Hadronization of the QGP

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ECT*, Trento, November 16th 2021

Heavy-ion collision evolution



- Hadronization of the QGP medium at the pseudo-critical temperature
 - Transition from a deconfined medium composed of quarks, antiquarks and gluons to color-neutral hadronic matter
 - The partonic degrees of freedom of the deconfined phase convert into hadrons, in which partons are confined
- No first-principle description of hadron formation
 - Non-perturbative problem, not calculable with QCD

→ Hadronisation from a QGP may be different from other cases in which no bulk of thermalized partons is formed

Independent fragmentation

- Inclusive hadron production from hard-scattering processes (large Q²):
 - Factorization of: PDFs, partonic cross section (pQCD), fragmentation function

$$\sigma_{pp \to hx} = PDF(x_a, Q^2)PDF(x_b, Q^2) \otimes \sigma_{ab \to q\bar{q}} \otimes D_{q \to h}(z, Q^2)$$

- Description of hadronisation effects (from quark to meson or baryon) must necessarily resort to models and make use of phenomenological parameters
- Fragmentation functions $D_{q \rightarrow h}$ are phenomenological functions to parameterize the non-perturbative parton-to-hadron transition

 \Rightarrow z = fraction of the parton momentum taken by the hadron h \Rightarrow Do not specify the hadronization mechanism

- Parameterized on data and assumed to be "universal"
- In A-A collisions:
 - Energy-loss of hard-scattered partons while traversing the QGP
 - \Rightarrow Modified fragmentation function $D_{q \rightarrow h}(z)$ by "rescaling" the variable z
 - ✓ Would affect all hadron species in the same way



Hadronization of parton showers

• On a microscopic level hadronisation of jets modeled with:

 \Rightarrow Perturbative evolution of a **parton shower** with DGLAP down to a low-virtuality cut-off Q₀ \Rightarrow Final stage of parton shower interfaced to a non perturbative hadronization model

- String fragmentation (e.g. Lund model in PYTHIA)
 - \Rightarrow Strings = colour-flux tubes between q and \overline{q} end-points
 - Gluons represent kinks along the string
 - Strings break via vacuum-tunneling of (di)quark-anti(di)quark pairs

• Cluster decay in HERWIG

- ⇒Shower evolved up to a softer scale
- \Rightarrow All gluons forced to split into $q\overline{q}$ pairs
- Identify colour-singlet clusters of partons following color flow
- Clusters decay into hadrons according to available phase space





Leading particle effect

- Measurements of charm production in pionnucleon collisions
- At **large x_F**: favoured production of hadrons sharing valence quarks with beam hadrons
 - D⁻ ([cd], leading meson shares the d quark with the π⁻ projectile) favored over D⁺ [cd]
 - Break-down of independent fragmentation



WA82, PLB 305 (1993) 402 E791, PLB 371 (1996) 157



 \rightarrow A reservoir of particles leads to significant changes in hadronisation

Colour reconnection



- Baryon/meson ratios underestimated by PYTHIA tuned on e⁺e⁻ (old CR model, Monash)
- Better description with Color Reconnection beyond the leading color (New CR model, CR mode 0,1,2)
 - Suggests that single-particle independent-fragmentation picture is not valid in a hadronic (colorrich) environment

Fragmentation universality?

ALICE, arXiv:2105.06335



ALI-PUB-488617

- Evidence of different fragmentation fractions in pp collisions at LHC and e⁺e⁻ (ep) collisions at lower √s
 - Indication that parton-to-hadron fragmentation depends on the collision system
 - Assumption of their universality not supported by the measured cross sections

 \rightarrow Independent fragmentation picture not valid in color-rich environment \rightarrow Break-down of universality of fragmentation functions

Quark recombination

- Phase space at the QGP hadronization is filled with (thermalized) partons
 - Single parton description may not be valid anymore
 - \Rightarrow No need to create $q\overline{q}$ pairs via splitting / string breaking
 - Partons that are <u>"close" to each other in phase space</u> (position and momentum) can simply **recombine** into hadrons (**coalescence**)
- Recombination vs. fragmentation:
 - \Rightarrow Competing mechanisms, dominant in different p_T regions
 - ➡ Recombination naturally enhances baryon/meson ratios at intermediate p_T
 - Recombination depends on "environment", i.e. density and momentum distribution of surrounding (anti)quarks



Greco et al., PRL 90 (2003) 202302
 Fries et al., PRL 90 (2003) 202303
 Hwa, Yang, PRC 67 (2003) 034902

Coalescence/recombination

 Back in 2003: hadronisation via recombination of quarks from a thermalized QGP provides a simple explanation of <u>unexpected features</u> of RHIC data:

 \Rightarrow Different R_{AA} of π and p

VOLUME 90, NUMBER 20

Apparent scaling of identified particle v₂ with number of constituent quarks

> week ending 23 MAY 2003

week ending 23 MAY 2003







IBER 20 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS Parton Coalescence and the Antiproton/Pion Anomaly at RHIC

V. Greco,¹ C. M. Ko,¹ and P. Lévai^{1,2} ¹Cyclotron Institute and Physics Department, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-3366, USA ²KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, PO. Box 49, Budapest 1525, Hungary (Received 28 January 2003; published 22 May 2003)

Coalescence of minijet partons with partons from the quark-gluon plasma formed in relativistic heavy ion collisions is suggested as the mechanism for production of hadrons with intermediate transverse momentum. The resulting enhanced antiproton and pion yields at intermediate transverse momenta give a plausible explanation for the observed large antiproton to pion ratio. With further increasing momentum, the ratio is predicted to decrease and approach the small value given by independent fragmentations of minigit partons after their energy loss in the quark-gluon plasma.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.90.202302 PACS numbers: 25.75.Dw, 12.38.Bx, 25.75.Nq

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 67, 034902 (2003

Scaling behavior at high p_T and the p/π ratio

Rudolph C. Hwa¹ and C. B. Yang^{1,2} ¹Institute of Theoretical Science and Department of Physics, University, of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-5203 ²Institute of Particle Physics, Hua-Zhong Normal University, Wuhan 430079, People's Republic of China (Received 7 November 2002; published 10 March 2003)

We first show that the pions produced at high p_T in heavy-ion collisions over a wide range of high energies exhibit a scaling behavior when the distributions are plotted in terms of a scaling variable. We then use the recombination model to calculate the scaling quark distribution just before hadronization. From the quark distribution, it is then possible to calculate the proton distribution at high p_T , also in the framework of the recombination model. The resultant p/π ratio exceeds one in the intermediate- p_T region where data exist, but the scaling result for the proton distribution is not reliable unless p_T is high enough to be insensitive to the scale-breaking mass effects.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevC.67.034902

PACS number(s): 25.75.Dw, 24.85.+p

VOLUME 90, NUMBER 20 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

Hadronization in Heavy-Ion Collisions: Recombination and Fragmentation of Partons

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S. A. Bass Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA and RIKEN BNL Research Center, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA (Received 28 January 2003; published 22 May 2003)

We argue that the emission of hadrons with transverse momentum up to about 5 GeV/c in central relativistic beavy ion collisions is dominated by recombination, rather than fragmentation of partons. This mechanism provides a natural explanation for the observed constant baryon-to-meson ratio of about one and the apparent lack of a nuclear suppression of the baryon yield in this momentum range. Fragmentation becomes dominant at higher transverse momentum, but the transition point is delayed by the energy loss of fast partons in dense matter.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.90.202303

PACS numbers: 25.75.Dw, 24.85.+p

VOLUME 91, NUMBER 9 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

Elliptic Flow at Large Transverse Momenta from Quark Coalescence

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We show that hadronization via quark coalescence enhances hadron elliptic flow at large p_{\perp} relative to that of partons at the same transverse momentum. Therefore, compared to earlier results haved on covariant parton transport theory, more moderate initial parton densities $dN/d\eta(b=0) \sim 1500-3000$ can explain the differential elliptic flow $v_{\perp}(p_{\perp})$ data for Au + Au reactions at $d_{\perp} = 130$ and 200A GeV from BNL RHIC. In addition, $v_{\perp}(p_{\perp})$ could saturate at about 30% higher values for baryons than for mesons. If strange quarks have weaker flow than light quarks, hadron v_{\perp} at high p_{\perp} decreases with relative strangeness content.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.91.092301 PACS numbers: 12.38

week ending 29 AUGUST 2003

Light-flavour hadron yield and v₂ vs. p_T



• Low p_T (<~2 GeV/c) :

 \Rightarrow Thermal regime, hydrodynamic expansion driven by pressure gradients \rightarrow mass ordering

- High p_T (>8-10 GeV/c):
 - $\Rightarrow \text{Partons from hard scatterings} \rightarrow \text{energy loss in QGP} \rightarrow \text{hadronisation via fragmentation} \rightarrow \text{same R}_{AA} \text{ and } v_2 \text{ for all species}$
- Intermediate p_T (window sensitive to hadronization via recombination?):
 - → Kinetic regime, not described by hydro
 - Different R_{AA} for different hadron species, baryon/meson enhancement, baryon / meson grouping of v₂

Statistical hadronization



Andronic et al, Nature 561 (2018) 7723, 321

- Abundances of light and strange hadrons (dominated by low- p_T particles) follow the equilibrium populations of a hadronresonance gas in chemical and thermal equilibrium at a freeze-out temperature $T_{ch} \sim 155$ MeV
 - Thermal origin of particle production
 - Macroscopic description of the hadron gas in terms of thermodynamic variables
- Statistical hadronisation models (SHM)
 - Yields depend on hadron masses (and spins), chemical potentials, temperature and volume of the fireball

SHM with charm

- Charm quarks produced in initial hard scatterings and conserved while traversing the QGP
 - ⇒ Initial production from pQCD
 - Total yield determined by charm cross section, not by the fireball temperature.
 - Accounted for by charm balance equation leading to a fugacity g_c, which ensures that all initially produced charm quarks are distributed into hadrons at the phase boundary
- Charm quarks thermalize in the QGP
 - Charm hadrons formed at phase boundary according to thermal weights
 - ➡ Relative yields depend on: hadron mass, temperature, and µ_B
- NOTE: significant impact of possible yetundiscovered excited charm baryon states



 \rightarrow talk by A. Andronic

Baryon/meson ratio in pp vs. models



• Λ_c/D^0 ratio in pp captured by:

- PYTHIA (pp paradigm) with CR beyond leading colour
 - ✓ i.e. including "interactions" among partons from different partonic scatterings (MPIs)
- Extensions of models typically used for A-A (QGP paradigm)
 - ✓ SHM (with additional baryonic states, important to describe the data)

 \Rightarrow Recombination

• More insight from: Ξ_c/D^0 , Σ_c/D^0 and Ω_c/D^0 \square ALICE, arXiv:2106.08278

→ talk by M. Faggin
→ Talk by A. Rossi

Considerations and "links"

• Color reconnections beyond the leading colour are essentially an "interaction" between partons produced in different hard scatterings (MPIs)

Analogy with the recombination/coalescence mechanism

- Recombination has aspects in common with cluster hadronization model of HERWIG
- Recombination/coalescence can be seen as a <u>"dense" limit of hadronization</u>, as opposed to single parton fragmentation
- The recombination models are essentially a <u>statistical combination of quarks at the</u> <u>phase boundary</u>
 - ⇒ Microscopic realisation of the statistical limit for hadron production?
 - Recombination mechanism connecting a thermal parton phase with the observed thermal hadron phase?
 Fries et al., PRC 68 (2003) 044902
- "Statistical" approach in common between coalescence and SHM but:
 - Degrees of freedom are different: hadrons in SHM vs. quarks in coalescence
 - → No assumption of full thermalization of quarks in coalescence approach
 - Even though light-quark spectra in the region where coalescence dominates are commonly taken from a thermal spectrum

Heavy quarks

Quarkonium

• Quarkonium production in A-A collisions:

- Quarkonium dissociation in the QGP due to colour screening of the qq potential
 - ✓ Different quarkonium states melt at different temperatures, depending on their binding energy → sequential suppression
 ▲ Matsui, Satz, PLB178 (1986) 416

Matsui, Satz, PLB178 (1986) 416
 Digal et al., PRD64 (2001) 094015



Quarkonium production can occur also via quark
 (re)combination in the QGP or at the phase boundary

- ✓ Charm and beauty production cross section increase with \sqrt{s} → higher recombination contribution with increasing \sqrt{s}
- Smaller recombination contribution for bottomomium than for charmonium

Braun-Munzinger, Stachel, PLB 490 (2000) 196
 Thews et al., PRC 63 (2001) 054905



J/w yield in A-A collisions



 \rightarrow as expected in a scenario with dissociation + $\overline{c}c$ recombination

J/ψ yield in A-A collisions



• Data described by:

 \Rightarrow SHM: melting of initially produced cc pairs + combination at phase boundary \Rightarrow Transport models with in-medium charmonium dissociation + regeneration

J/y elliptic flow in A-A collisions



• Significant J/ ψ elliptic flow observed at the LHC

 \Rightarrow Confirms the contribution of J/ ψ production from recombination

- \clubsuit Low p_T charm quarks thermalize in the QGP and flow with the medium before recombining into J/ψ
- J/ψ v₂ at intermediate p_T (>6 GeV/c) not described by transport models
 ⇒ Missing component in the models?
 □ Du, Rapp NPA943 (2015) 147

Description of the second seco

Bottomonium yield and v₂ in A-A collisions



• Sequential suppression pattern: $R_{AA}^{\Upsilon(3S)} < R_{AA}^{\Upsilon(2S)} < R_{AA}^{\Upsilon(1S)}$

- Elliptic flow of Y compatible with zero and smaller than $J/\psi v_2$
- Described by transport models
 - ⇒ Small contribution from bb recombination
 - ✓ Beauty quarks less abundant than charm quarks

ALICE, PRL 123 (2019) 192301
CMS, PLB790 (2019) 270
CMS, PLB819 (2021) 136385
Du et al., PRC96 (2017) 054901

Open heavy flavours

Recombination of heavy quarks with light quarks from the QGP affects:

- Momentum distributions
 - HF hadrons pick-up the radial and elliptic flow of the light quark
- Hadrochemistry (i.e. relative abundances of meson and baryon species)
 ⇒ Enhanced production of baryons relative to mesons
 ⇒ Enhanced D_s (B_s) yield relative to non-strange mesons
- Different implementations in different transport models:
 - Instantaneous coalescence at phase boundary based on Wigner function
 Scheibl and Heinz, PRC 59 (1999) 1585
 - Resonance recombination model Ravagli. Rapp, PLB655 (2007) 126
 - In-medium string formation between heavy quark and a thermal light quark from the bulk
 Beraudo et al., EPJ C75 (2015) 121
- Features:

 - Recombination for beauty extends up to higher p_T with respect to charm



Charm R_{AA} and v₂ phenomenology

- Heavy-quark hadronization mechanism is an important ingredient to the phenomenology of heavy flavour R_{AA} and v_2 $$\square$ Van Hees et al., PRC73 (2006) 034907$$
- Recombination with light quarks enhances R_{AA} and v_2 at intermediate p_T
 - \rightleftharpoons Needed to describe the data at low and intermediate p_{T}

 \Rightarrow D-meson v₂ and radial flow peak in R_{AA}



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ALICE, arXiv:2110.09420

Open charm hadrochemistry: D_s/D

- Strange/non-strange meson (D_s/D⁰) ratios in A-A collisions at LHC and RHIC hint at an enhancement at low/mid p_T relative to pp
 - Consistent with the recombination picture
 - Strange quarks abundant in QGP, D_s yield relative to non-strange D enhanced by recombination

Kuznetsova, Rafelski, EPJ C51 (2007) 113
 Andronic et al., PLB659 (2008) 149





Open charm hadrochemistry: baryon/meson

- Baryon/meson (Λ_c/D^0) ratios in A-A collisions at LHC and RHIC hint at an enhancement at low/mid p_T relative to pp
 - Consistent with the recombination picture
 - Described by different models including hadronization via recombination
 - ✓ Role of diquarks and sequential vs instantaneous coalescence

⇒Crucial to understand production in pp collisions!





Charm hadron yields vs SHM

Yield of D-meson and J/ψ at midrapidity integrated over p_T published by ALICE
 ⇒ No extrapolation to p_T=0 needed for D⁰ and J/ψ
 ⇒ For D⁺, D_s and D^{*+} the extrapolation was based on the ratios to D⁰ in the measured p_T intervals

• SHMc describes the data within uncertainties

- Under the hypothesis of charm quark thermalisation in the fireball
- ⇒ <u>NOTE</u>: SHMc predictions used $(d\sigma_{cc}/dy)_{PbPb}=0.532\pm0.096$ mb to calculate the charm content of the fireball
 - ✓ Based on measured charm cross section in pp collisions and parameterization of nPDFs
 - The pp measurements used as input did not include (yet) the information on enhanced baryon production in pp at LHC as compared to e⁺e⁻
 - ✓ The SHMc yields would increase if the recent measurement of $d\sigma_{cc}/dy$ in pp were used as input



Open beauty hadrochemistry

- B_s and B⁺ mesons measured in Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC
 - ⇒ B_s / B⁺ in Pb-Pb tend to lie systematically above the pp value, but uncertainties prevent from concluding on the enhancement expected from b-quark recombination



- Non-prompt D⁰ and non-prompt D_s in Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC
 - ➡ Hint for increased non-prompt D_s yield relative to non-prompt D⁰
 - ➡ Non-prompt D_s originating 50% from B_s decays and 50% from B⁰ and B⁺ decays



Outlook: multi heavy-flavours



- B_c and baryons containing multiple charm quarks (Ξ_{cc}⁺, Ξ_{cc}⁺⁺, Ω_{cc}⁺, Ω_{ccc}⁺⁺, and T_{cc}⁺)
 ⇒ Production in single-parton scattering strongly disfavoured
 - \Rightarrow Large enhancement in A-A collisions predicted by SHM and recombination models (x100 for Ξ_{cc})
- Multi-charm baryons in SHMc:
 - ⇒ Emergence of unique pattern due to dependence on fugacity and mass hierarchy
 - Unique testing ground for charm deconfinement, thermalisation and hadronization
- Accessible with future data samples at the LHC

→ talk by G.M. Innocenti

Summary and prospects

- Lot of progress from experiment and phenomenology with latest RHIC and LHC results
- Light flavour production at intermediate p_T
 - Transition from thermal (hydro) to kinetic regime -> window on hadronization mechanism?
 - ⇒ Quark coalescence captures many features of the data
 - \checkmark Modelling of several aspects needed for a quantitative description
- Heavy flavours
 - \Rightarrow Clear signs of recombination in J/ ψ and open charm results
 - Assessing the role of recombination in hadronization relevant for:
 - ✓ Proper comparison of the B, D and π R_{AA} to get insight into the colour charge and quark mass dependence of parton in-medium energy loss
 - ✓ Extraction of medium transport coefficients via data-to-model comparison
 - Charm-hadron yields vs SHMc provide complementary information on charm quark thermialization

• Outlook:

- \Rightarrow Beauty mesons, Λ_b , B_c and multi-charm hadrons can provide further insight into QGP hadronization
 - ✓ Accessible with precision with future large A-A data sets
- ⇒ Hadronisation in (high-multiplicity) p-A (d-A) and pp collisions
 - ✓ Link between color-reconnection in string models and recombination?

→ talk by G.M. Innocenti
→ talk by Z. Conesa



Hadronisation via quark coalescence

• Instantaneous coalescence approach:

Formalism originally developed for light-nuclei production from coalescence of nucleons on a freeze-out hypersurface
Scheibl and Heinz, PRC 59 (1999) 1585

Extended to describe meson and baryon formation from the quarks of a hadronising a QGP through 2-1 and 3-1 recombination processes



Bottomonium R_{AA}



- Sequential suppression pattern: $R_{AA}^{\Upsilon(3S)} < R_{AA}^{\Upsilon(2S)} < R_{AA}^{\Upsilon(1S)}$ \Rightarrow Ordered by binding energy, as expected from dissociation in QGP
- Described by transport models

Small contribution from bb recombination

✓ Beauty quarks less abundant than charm quarks

CMS, PLB790 (2019) 270
Du et al., PRC96 (2017) 054901

Bottomonium v₂ in A-A collisions

• Elliptic flow of Y compatible with zero and smaller than $J/\psi v_2$



ALICE, PRL 123 (2019) 192301

CMS, PLB819 (2021) 136385

X(3872)

• X(3872) yield expected to be enhanced by hadronization via recombination

- Formation and dissociation rates depend on the spatial configuration of the exotic state
 - ✓ Tetraquark vs molecular state



CMS, arXiv:2102.13048