College of Integrative Sciences and Arts
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM
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ASU

Anomalous Quark-Gluon plasma

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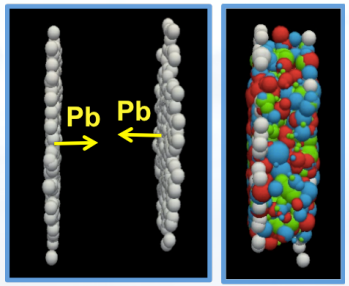
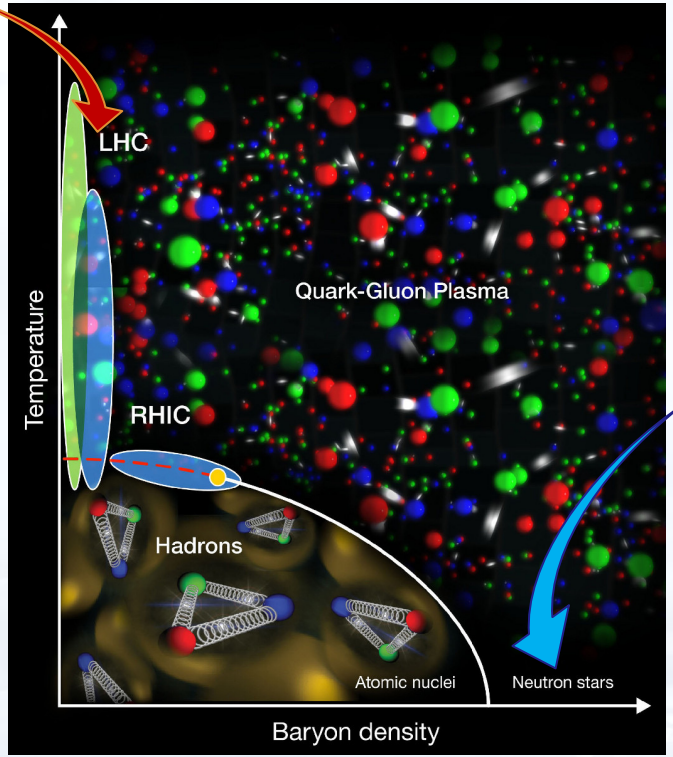
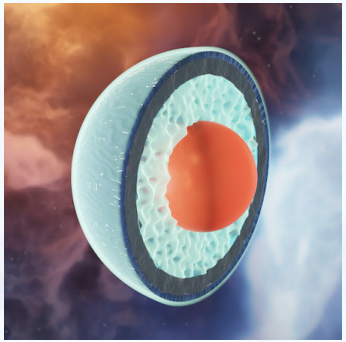
COLLOQUIUM

What is QGP?

- **Quark–gluon plasma** (QGP) is a state of (relativistic) matter at high energy density, made of *deconfined* quarks and gluons







Review: [Rischke, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **52**, 197 (2004)]

Relativistic Matter

- **Non-relativistic**
  - Particles move much slower than the speed of light
  - Kinetic energies are small compared to the rest energy ($E_{\text{rest}} = mc^2$)

$$E_{\text{kin}} \ll E_{\text{rest}}: \qquad E = \sqrt{m^2c^4 + c^2p^2} \approx mc^2 + \frac{p^2}{2m} + \cdots$$

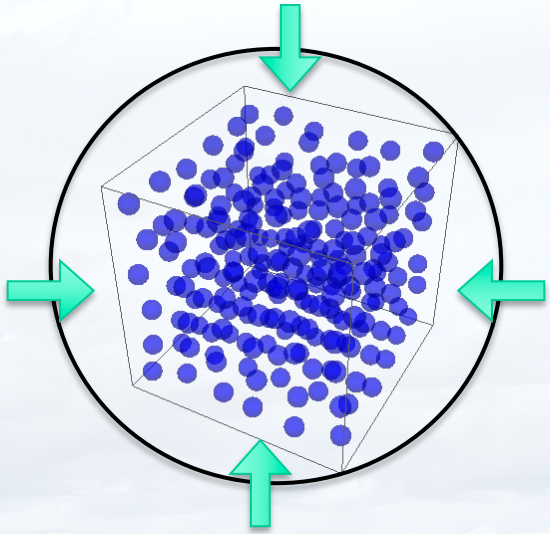
- **Relativistic**
  - Particle velocities approach the speed of light
  - Kinetic energies are comparable to or larger than E_{rest}

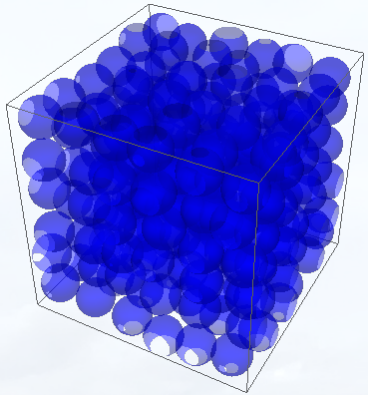
$$E_{\text{kin}} \gtrsim E_{\text{rest}}: \qquad E = \sqrt{m^2c^4 + c^2p^2} \approx cp + \frac{m^2c^3}{2p} + \cdots$$

Super-dense matter

- **What happens when you squeeze matter to very high density?**

  Pauli exclusion principle: fermions cannot occupy same quantum states (filling available states from $p_{\min} \approx 0$ to $p_{\max} \propto \hbar n^{1/3}$)

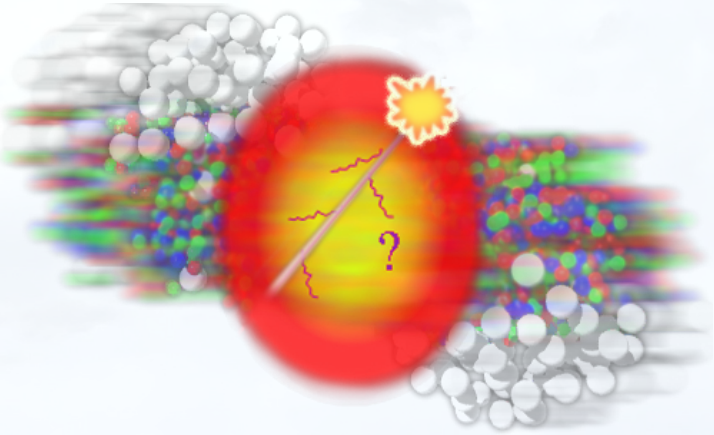


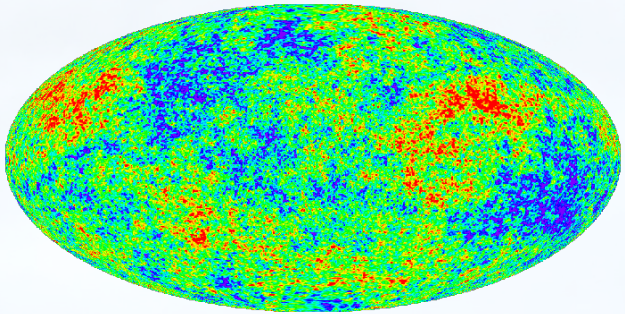


$$p_{\max} \approx 200 \left(\frac{n}{1\ \mathrm{fm}^3}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \mathrm{MeV/c}$$

Super-hot matter

- **What happens when you heat matter to very high temperature?** (e.g., matter in heavy ion collisions)



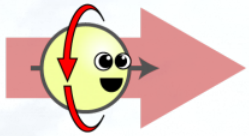


Average particle kinetic energy is determined by temperature:

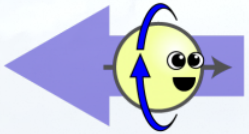
$$p \approx k_B T/c \propto 200 \left(\frac{k_B T}{200\ \text{MeV}}\right) \text{MeV/c} \quad \text{(assuming } p \gg mc\text{)}$$

Chirality

- Only *massless* Dirac fermions have a well-defined chirality ($\gamma^5\psi = \pm\psi$):



Right-handed (spin parallel to momentum)



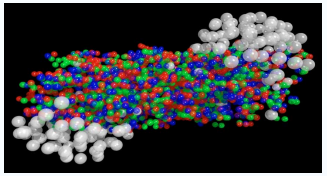
Left-handed (spin opposite to momentum)

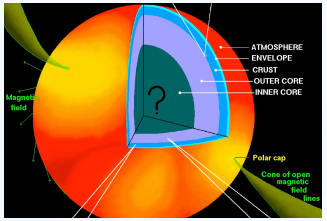
- *Massive* Dirac fermions have an *almost* well-defined chirality in the *ultrarelativistic* regime*
  - High temperature: $T \gg m$
  - High density: $\mu \gg m$

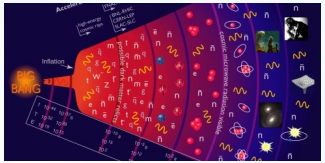
*Chirality flip rate is nonzero: $\Gamma_{\text{flip}} \propto \alpha^2 T (m/T)^2$

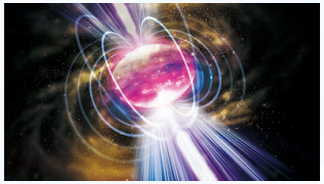
Examples of chiral matter

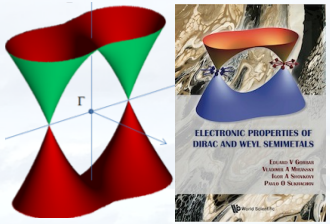
- **Heavy-ion collisions** (high temperature)
  [Kharzeev, Liao, Voloshin, Wang, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 88, 1 (2016)]
- **Super-dense matter in compact stars** (high density)
- **Early Universe** (high temperature)
- **Magnetospheres of magnetars**
  (electron-positron plasma at moderately high temperature)
- **Electron plasma in Dirac/Weyl (semi-)metals**
  [Gorbar, Miransky, Shovkovy, Sukhachov, *Electronic Properties of Dirac and Weyl Semimetals* (World Scientific, Singapore, 2021)]
- **Other: cold atoms, superfluid ^{3}He-A, etc.**
  [Volovik, JETP Lett. 105, 34 (2017)]

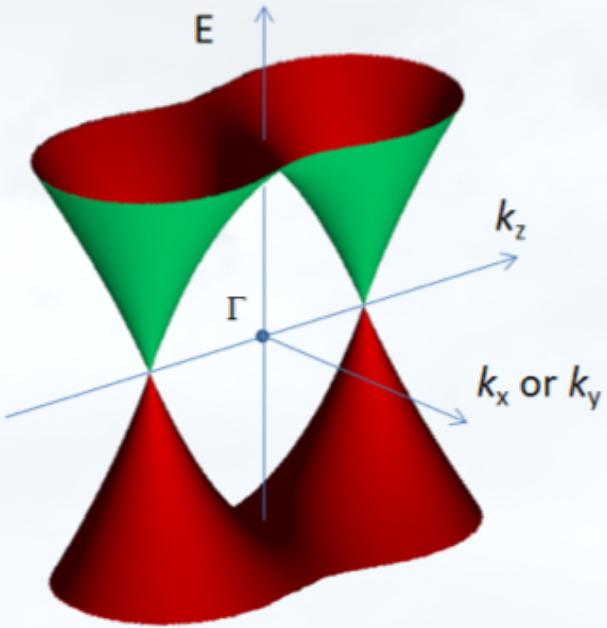








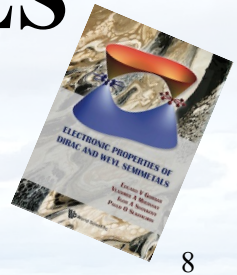




Credits: Borisenko et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 027603 (2014)

DIRAC & WEYL SEMIMETALS

[Gorbar, Miransky, Shovkovy, Sukhachov, *Electronic Properties of Dirac and Weyl Semimetals* (World Scientific, Singapore, 2021)]



Dirac/Weyl fermions

- Electron quasiparticles with a wide range of properties are possible
- They may even have the emergent spinor structure of *massless* Weyl fermions,

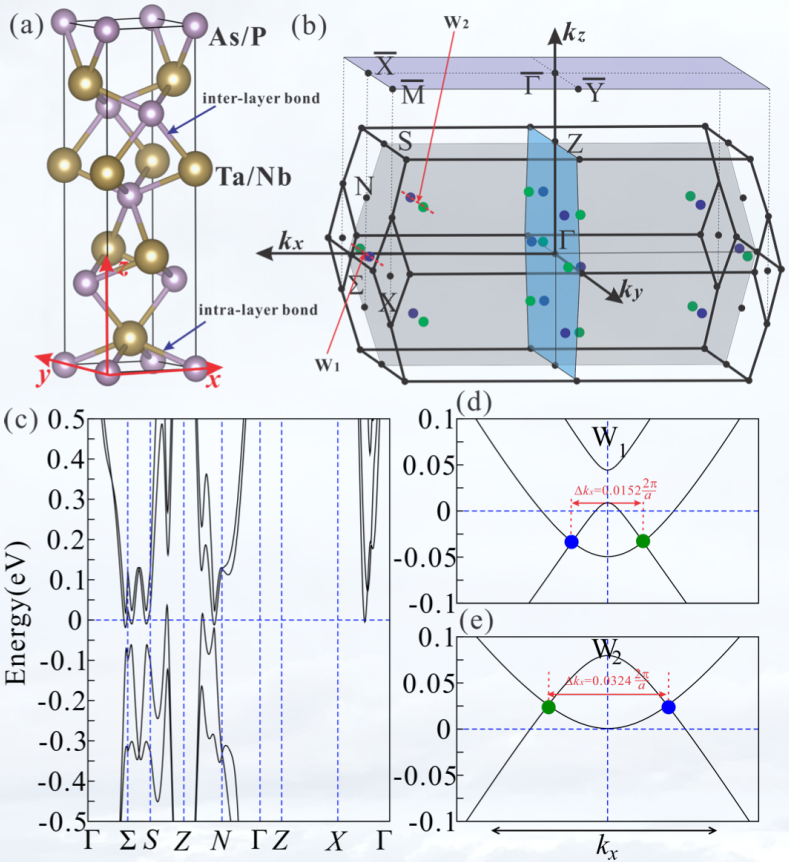
$$H_W \approx \pm v_F \left(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{k}}\right)$$

Such nodes are not uncommon!

Na_3Bi, Cd_3As_2, $ZrTe_5$, TaAs, NbAs, …

[Liu et al., Science **343**, 864 (2014)]
[Neupane et al., Nature Commun. **5**, 3786 (2014)]
[Borisenko et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **113**, 027603 (2014)]
[Li et al., Nature Physics **12**, 550 (2016)]
[S.-Y. Xu et al., Science 349, 613 (2015)]
[B. Q. Lv et al., Phys. Rev. X5, 031013 (2015)]
[S.-Y. Xu et al., Nature Physics 11, 748 (2015)]
[S.-Y. Xu et al., Science Adv. 1, 1501092 (2015)]
[F. Y. Bruno et al., Phys. Rev. B 94, 121112 (2016)]

Weyl semimetals TaAs, TaP, NbAs, and NbP



Sun, Wu & Yan, Phys. Rev. B **92**, 115428 (2015)

Anomalous chiral matter

- Relativistic matter made of chiral fermions may allow $n_L \neq n_R$ to persist on *macroscopic* time/distance scales

- The (collective) dynamics of $n_R + n_L$ and $n_R - n_L$ is controlled by the continuity equations

$$\frac{\partial(n_R + n_L)}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = 0$$

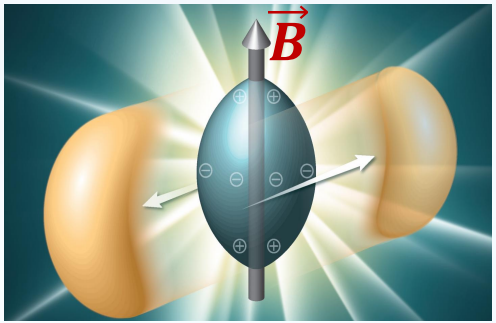
$$\frac{\partial(n_R - n_L)}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j}_5 = \frac{e^2 \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}}{2\pi^2 c} - \Gamma_{\text{flip}}(n_R - n_L)$$

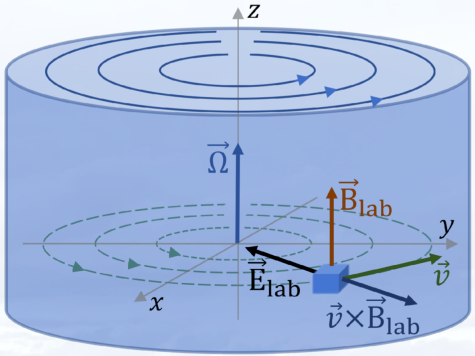
Question: Can chiral anomaly produce any *macroscopic* effects in ultra-relativistic matter?

Anomalous effects

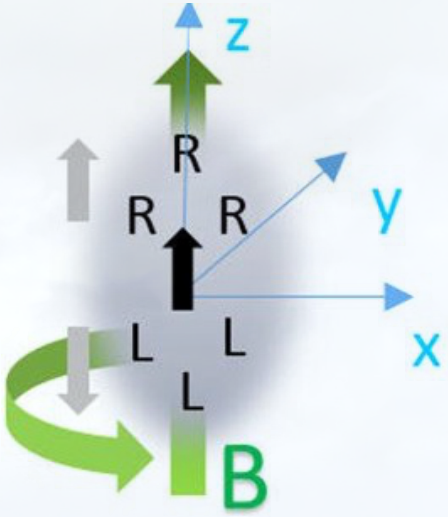
- **Theory**: Many *macroscopic* chiral anomalous effects were proposed
- Some are triggered by an external magnetic field
  - Chiral magnetic effect
  - Chiral separation effect
  - Chiral magnetic wave

  } this talk
  - Negative magnetoresistance
  - …
- Others are triggered by vorticity
  - Chiral vortical effect
  - Chiral vortical wave
  - …





Review: [Kharzeev, Liao, Voloshin, Wang, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 88, 1 (2016)]



CHIRAL SEPARATION EFFECT

$$\langle \vec{j}_5 \rangle = -\frac{e\vec{B}}{2\pi^2}\mu$$

[Vilenkin, Phys. Rev. D 22 (1980) 3067]
[Metlitski & Zhitnitsky, Phys. Rev. D **72**, 045011 (2005)]
[Newman & Son, Phys. Rev. D **73** (2006) 045006]

Landau levels

- Landau energy levels at $m = 0$

$$E_n^{\pm} = \pm\sqrt{2n|eB| + p_z^2}$$

where $n = \underbrace{k + \frac{1}{2}}_{\text{orbital}} + \underbrace{\text{sgn}(eB)s_z}_{\text{spin}}$

- Lowest Landau level is spin polarized

$$E_0^{\pm} = \pm p_z \qquad (k = 0,\ s_z = -\frac{1}{2})$$

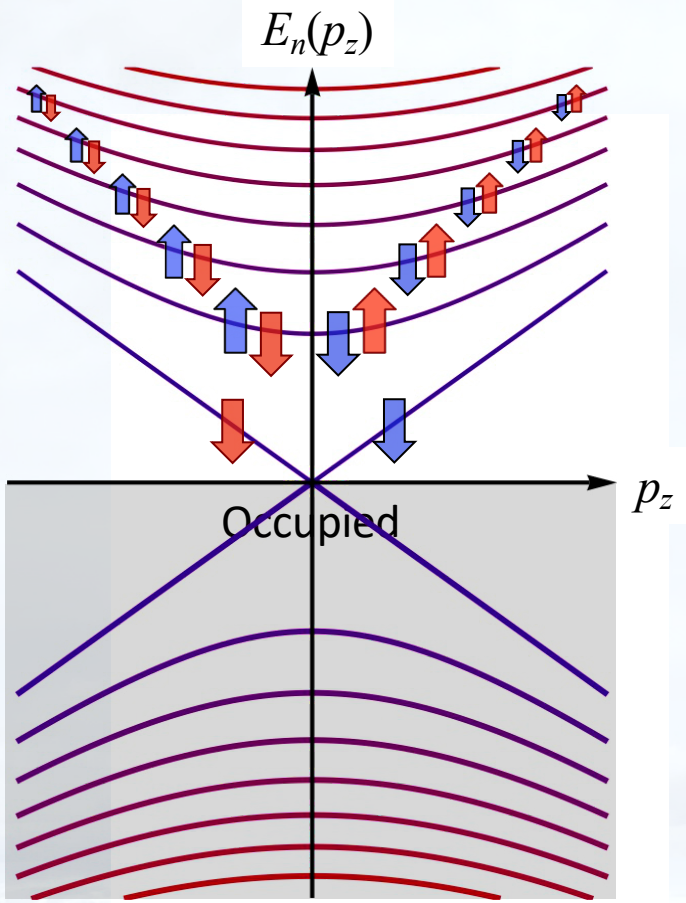
- Density of states at E=0:

$$\left.\frac{dn}{dE}\right|_{E=0} = \frac{|eB|}{4\pi^2}$$

- Higher Landau levels ($n \geq 1$) are twice as degenerate:

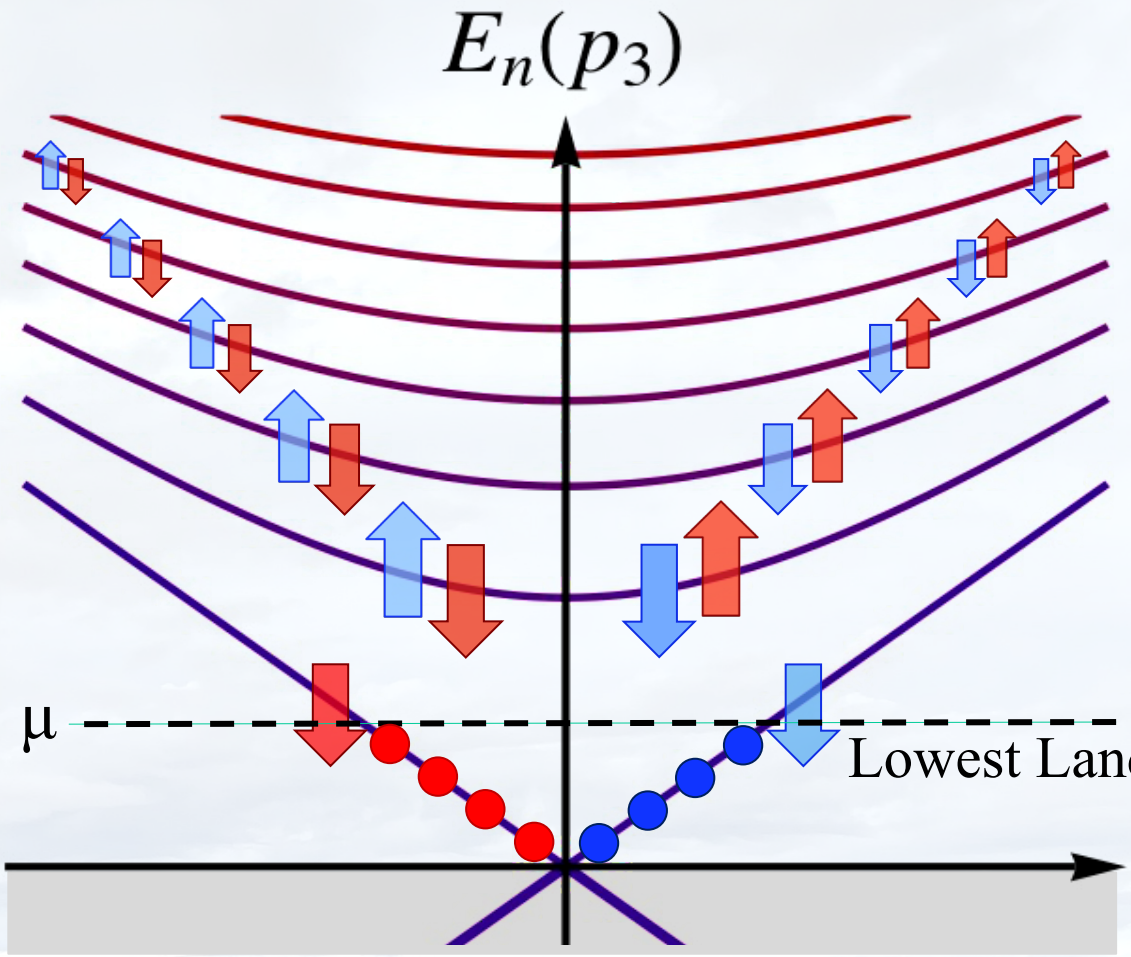
(i) $k = n$ & $s = -\frac{1}{2}$

(ii) $k = n - 1$ & $s = +\frac{1}{2}$



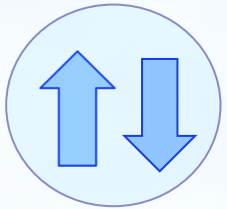
Review: [Miransky & Shovkovy, Phys. Rep. 576, 1 (2015)]

CSE: Landau spectrum & μ≠0



Right-handed:

Left-handed:



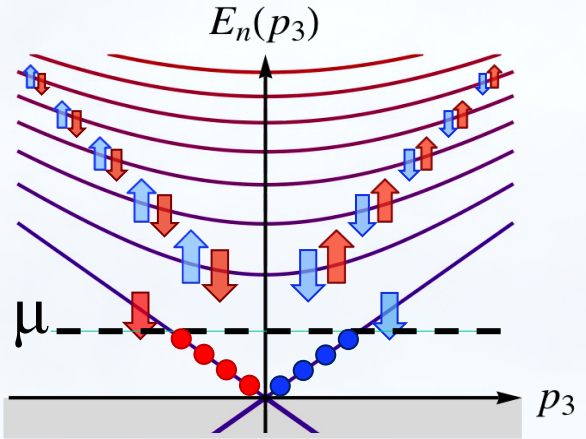
Lowest Landau Level is partially filled

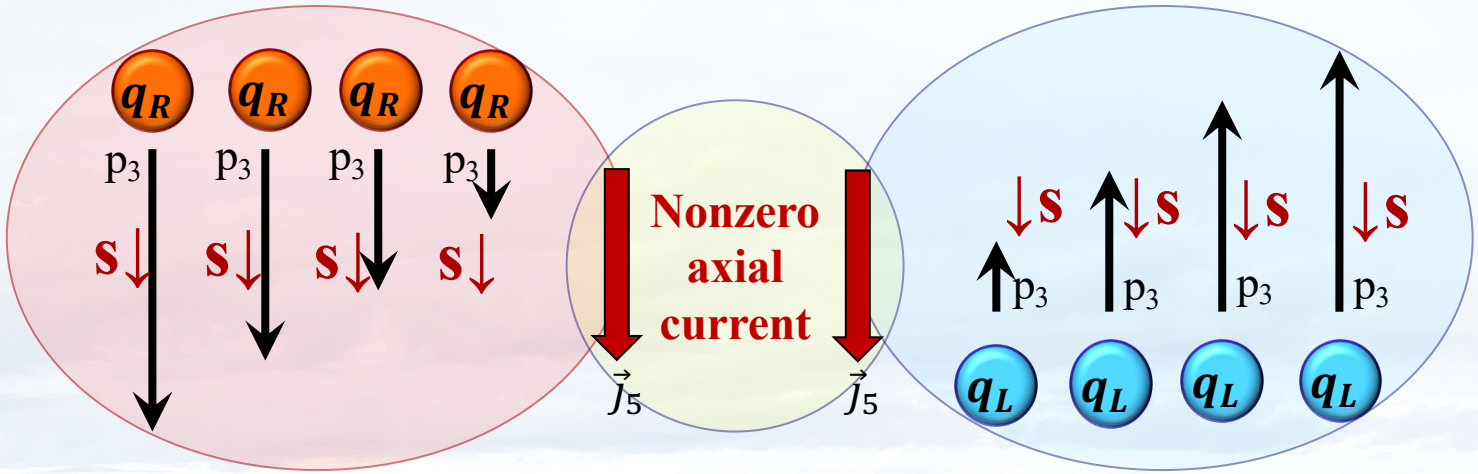
CSE: Partially filled LLL

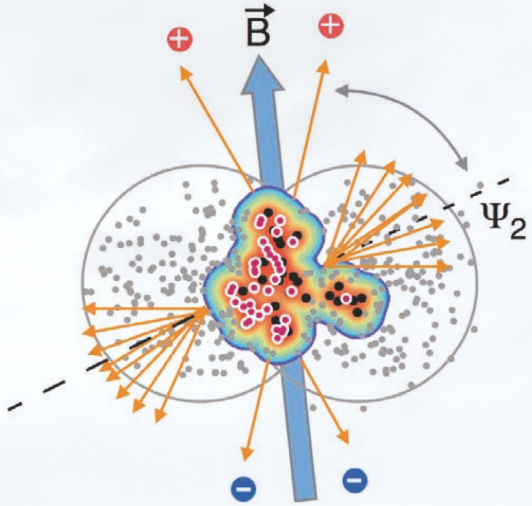
- **Spin polarized** LLL is chirally asymmetric
  - states with $p_3<0$ (and s=↓) are R-handed
  - states with $p_3>0$ (and s=↓) are L-handed

i.e., a nonzero **axial** current is induced

$$\langle \vec{j}_5 \rangle = -tr[\vec{\gamma}\gamma^5 S(x,x)] = -\frac{e\vec{B}}{2\pi^2}\mu$$







[Image credit: Kharzeev & Liao, Nucl. Phys. News **29**, 1 (2019)]

CHIRAL MAGNETIC EFFECT

$$\langle \vec{j} \rangle = \frac{e^2 \vec{B}}{2\pi^2} \mu_5$$

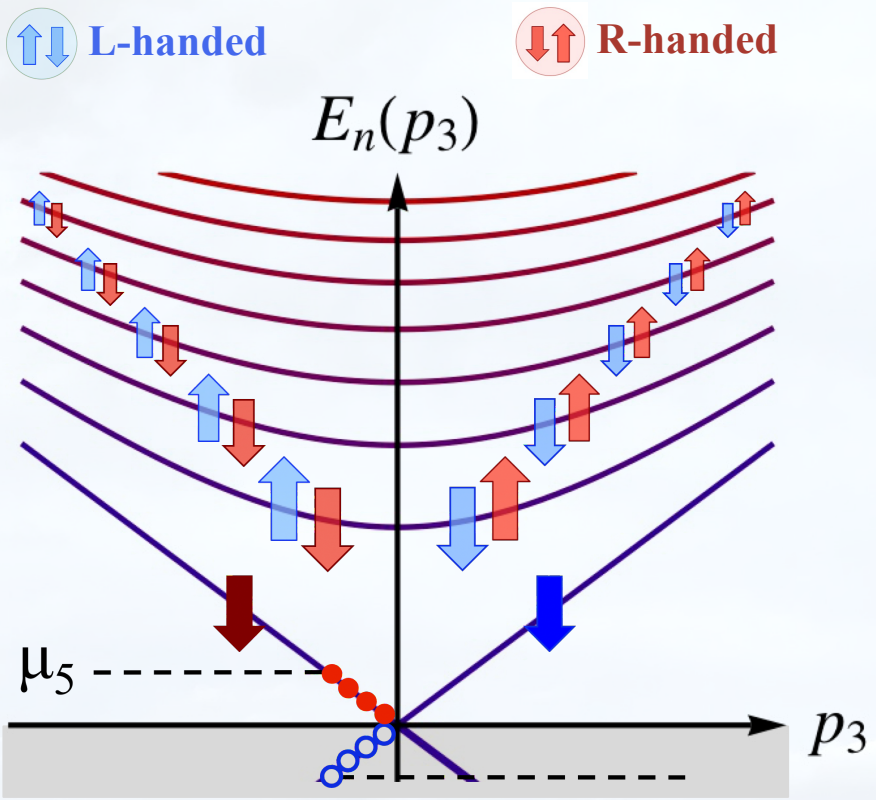
[Fukushima, Kharzeev, Warringa, Phys. Rev. D **78**, 074033 (2008)]

Chiral Magnetic Effect ($\mu_5 \neq 0$)

Assume that one created a *transient* state with a nonzero chiral charge ($\mu_5 \neq 0$)

Spin polarized LLL (s=↓ for particles of a *negative* charge):

- Some R-handed states ($p_3 < 0$ & $E < \mu_5$) are occupied
- Some L-handed states ($p_3 < 0$ & $|E| < \mu_5$) are empty (i.e., holes with $p_3 > 0$)



CME current: $\langle \vec{j} \rangle = -tr[\vec{\gamma} S(x,x)] = \frac{e^2 \vec{B}}{2\pi^2} \mu_5$

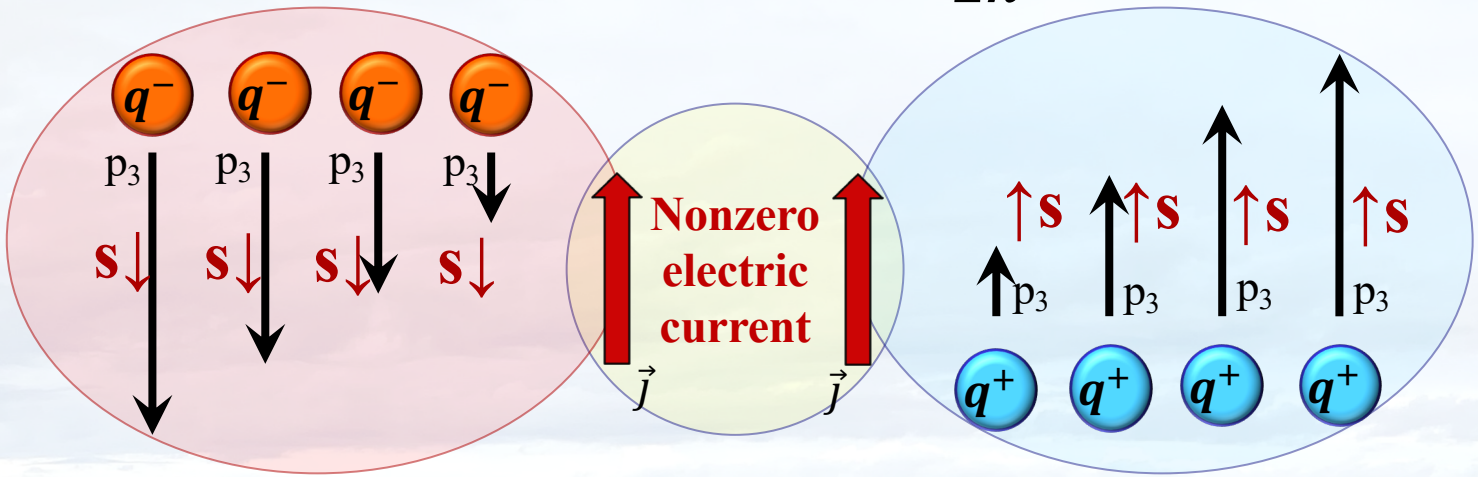
[Fukushima, Kharzeev, Warringa, Phys. Rev. D **78**, 074033 (2008)]

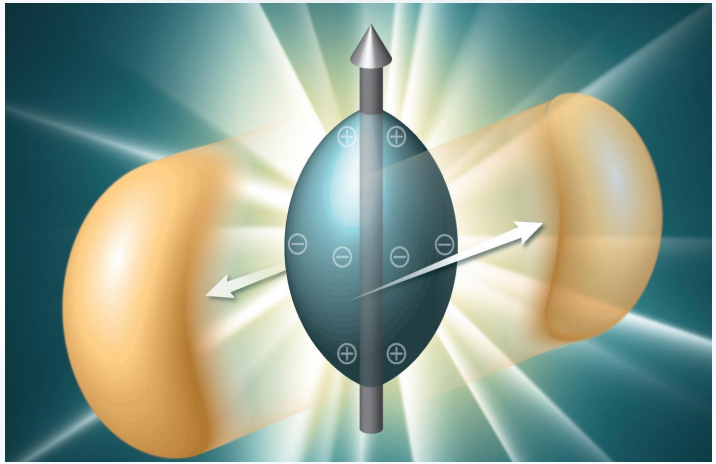
CME: Partially filled LLL ($\mu_5 \neq 0$)

- **Spin polarized** LLL is chirally asymmetric
  - states with $p_3 < 0$ (and s=↓) are R-handed **particles**
  - states with $p_3 > 0$ (and s=↓) are L-handed **antiparticles**

i.e., a nonzero **electric** current is induced

$$\langle \vec{j} \rangle = -tr[\vec{\gamma} S(x,x)] = \frac{e^2 \vec{B}}{2\pi^2} \mu_5$$

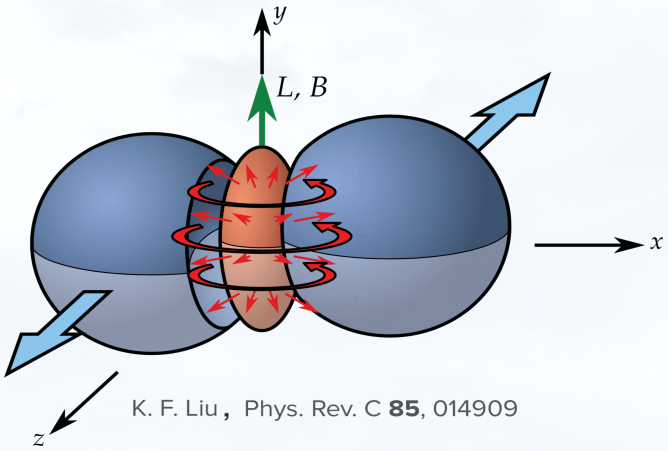




HEAVY-ION COLLISIONS

$\vec{B}$ and $\vec{\omega}$ in little Bangs

- Rotating & magnetized QGP created at RHIC/LHC
- Electromagnetic fields (Lienard-Wiechert potentials)



[Rafelski & Müller, PRL, 36, 517 (1976)],
[Kharzeev et al., arXiv:0711.0950],
[Skokov et al., arXiv:0907.1396],
[Voronyuk et al., arXiv:1103.4239],
[Bzdak &. Skokov, arXiv:1111.1949],
[Deng & Huang, arXiv:1201.5108], …

- Magnetic field estimate:

$$B \sim 10^{18} \text{ to } 10^{19} \text{ G } (\sim 100 \text{ MeV})$$

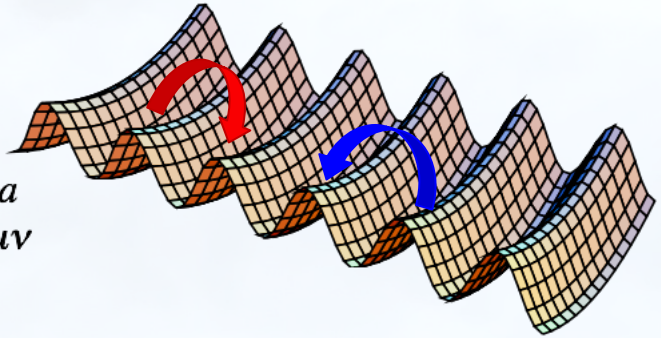
- Vorticity estimate: [Adamczyk et al. (STAR), Nature 548, 62 (2017)]

$$\omega \sim 9 \times 10^{21} s^{-1} \ (\sim 10 \text{ MeV})$$

Source of chirality in QCD

- Chiral charge can be produced by topological configurations in QCD

$$\frac{d(N_R - N_L)}{dt} = -\frac{g^2 N_f}{16\pi^2}\int d^3x\, F_a^{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^a_{\mu\nu}$$



- A random fluctuation with nonzero chirality could result in

$$N_R - N_L \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mu_5 \neq 0$$

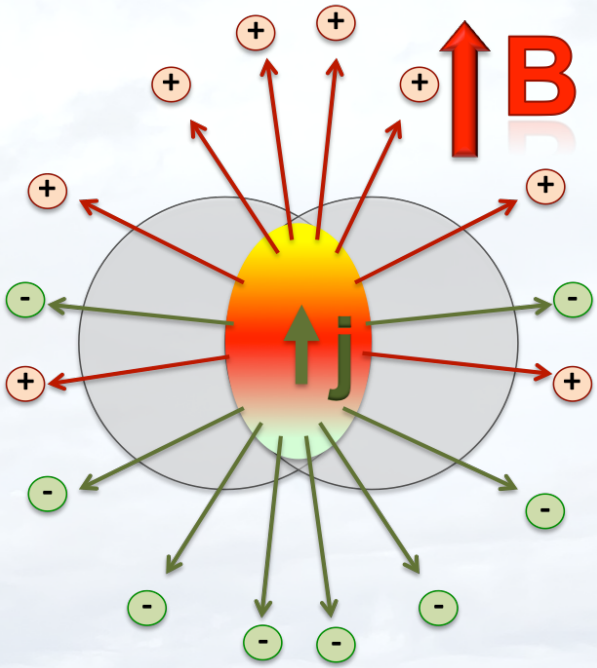
- This should lead to an electric current

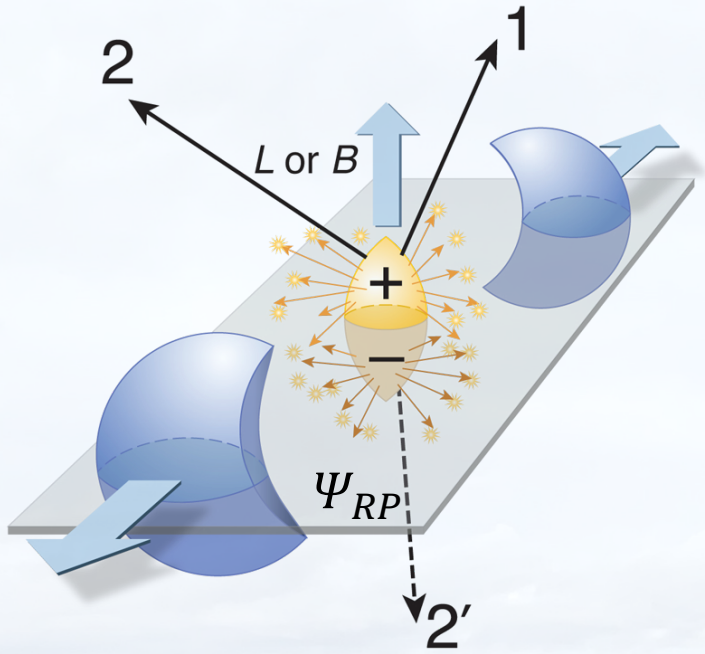
$$\langle \vec{j} \rangle = \frac{e^2 \vec{B}}{2\pi^2}\mu_5$$

Dipole CME

- Dipole pattern of *charged particle correlations* in heavy-ion collisions

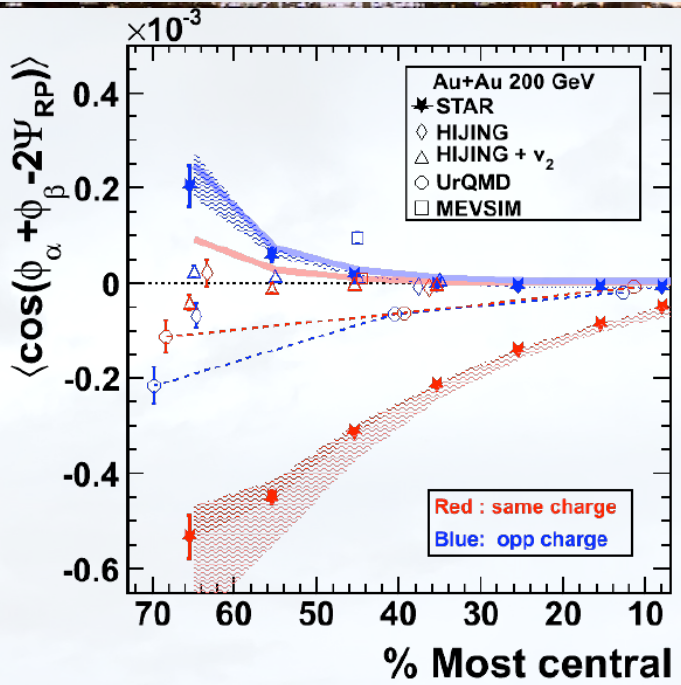
$$\langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha^{\pm} + \varphi_\beta^{\mp} - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle > 0 \quad \& \quad \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha^{\pm} + \varphi_\beta^{\pm} - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle < 0$$

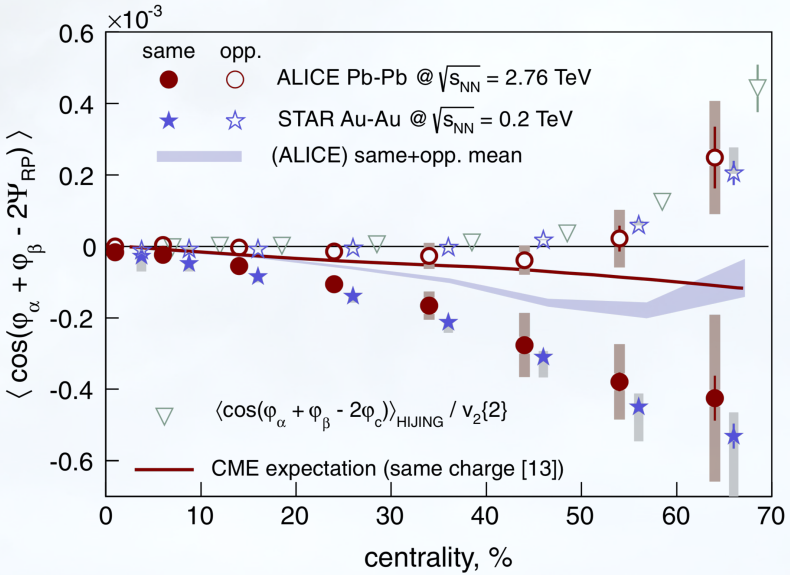




[Kharzeev, McLerran, Warringa, Nucl. Phys. A **803**, 227 (2008)]
[Fukushima, Kharzeev, Warringa, Phys. Rev. D **78**, 074033 (2008)]

CME: Experimental evidence





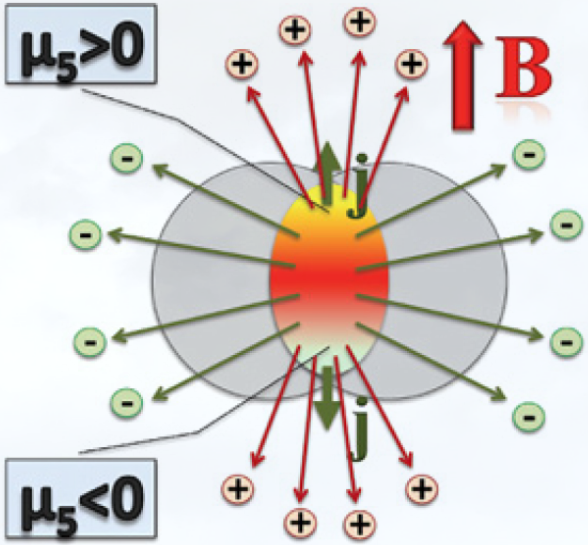
Correlations of same & opposite charge particles:

$$\begin{cases} \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha^{\pm} + \varphi_\beta^{\mp} - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle > 0 \\ \langle \cos(\varphi_\alpha^{\pm} + \varphi_\beta^{\pm} - 2\Psi_{RP}) \rangle < 0 \end{cases}$$

[Abelev et al. (STAR), PRL **103**, 251601 (2009)]
[Abelev et al. (STAR), PRC **81**, 054908 (2010)]
[Abelev et al. (ALICE), PRL **110**, 012301 (2013)]
[Adamczyk et al. (STAR), PRC **88**, 064911 (2013)]
[Adamczyk et al. (STAR), PRL **113**, 052302 (2014)]
[Khachatryan et al. (CMS), PRL **118**, 122301 (2017)]

Large background effects!

[Belmont & Nagle, PRC **96**, 024901 (2017)]
[ALICE Collaboration, Phys. Lett. B**777**, 151 (2018)]

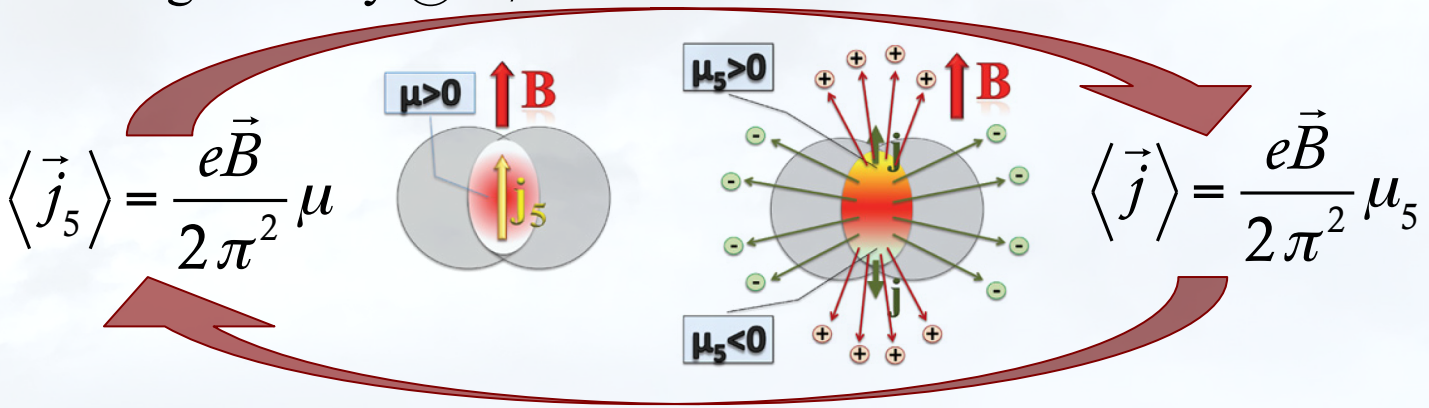


CHIRAL MAGNETIC WAVE

[Gorbar, Miransky, Shovkovy, Phys. Rev. D **83**, 085003 (2011)]
[Burnier, Kharzeev, Liao, Yee, Phys. Rev. Lett. **107** (2011) 052303]
[Rybalka, Gorbar, Shovkovy, arXiv:1807.07608, Phys. Rev. D 99, 016017 (2019)]
[Shovkovy, Rybalka, Gorbar, arXiv:1811.10635, PoS (Confinement2018) 029]

Chiral Magnetic Wave

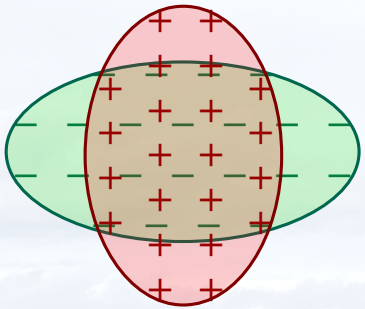
- Nonzero charge density @ B≠0 → CMW



[Gorbar, Miransky, Shovkovy, Phys. Rev. D **83**, 085003 (2011)]

- Back-to-back electric currents, or quadrupole charge correla-tions (i.e., difference in elliptic flows of in π^+ and π^-)

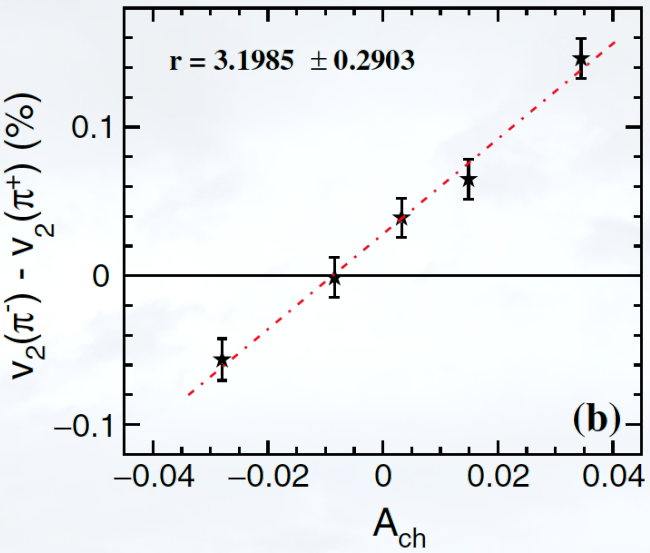
$$\frac{dN_\pm}{d\phi} \approx \bar{N}_\pm[1 + 2v_2\cos(2\phi) \mp A_\pm r\cos(2\phi)]$$

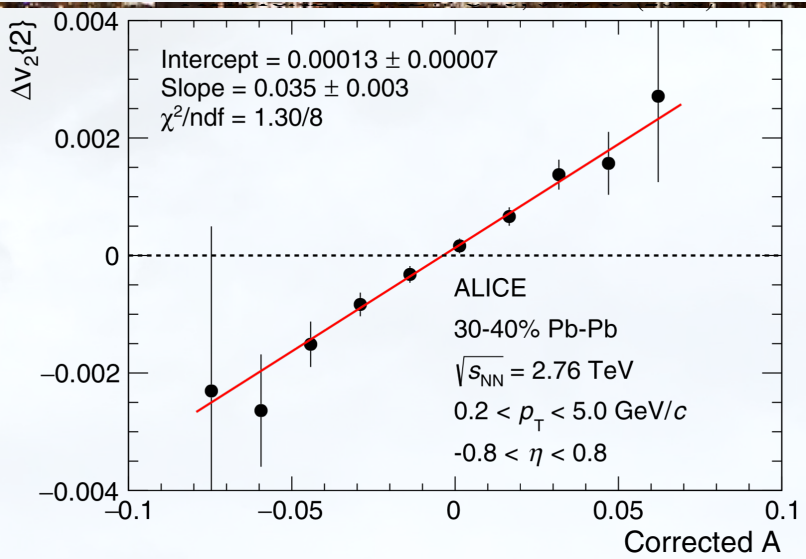


where $A_\pm$ is the charge asymmetry

[Burnier, Kharzeev, Liao, Yee, Phys. Rev. Lett. **107** (2011) 052303]

CMW: Experimental evidence





[Ke (for STAR) J. Phys. Conf. Series **389**, 012035 (2012)]
[Adamczyk et al. (STAR), Phys. Rev. Lett. **114**, 252302 (2015)]
[Adam et al. (ALICE), Phys. Rev. C **93**, 044903 (2016)]

Background effects may dominate over the signal!

[CMS Collaboration, arXiv:1708.08901]

Theory: the chiral magnetic wave might be overdapmed…

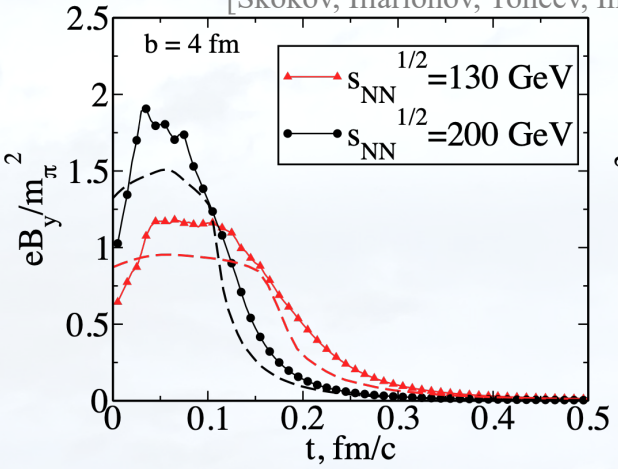
[Rybalka, Gorbar, Shovkovy, arXiv:1807.07608, Phys. Rev. D 99, 016017 (2019)]
[Shovkovy, Rybalka, Gorbar, arXiv:1811.10635, PoS (Confinement2018) 029]

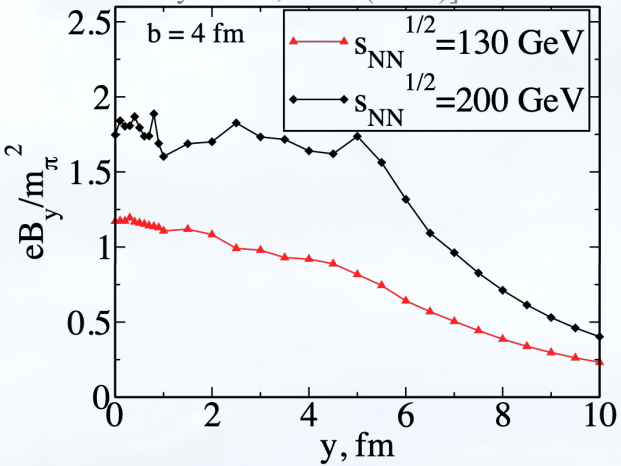
Fresh ideas

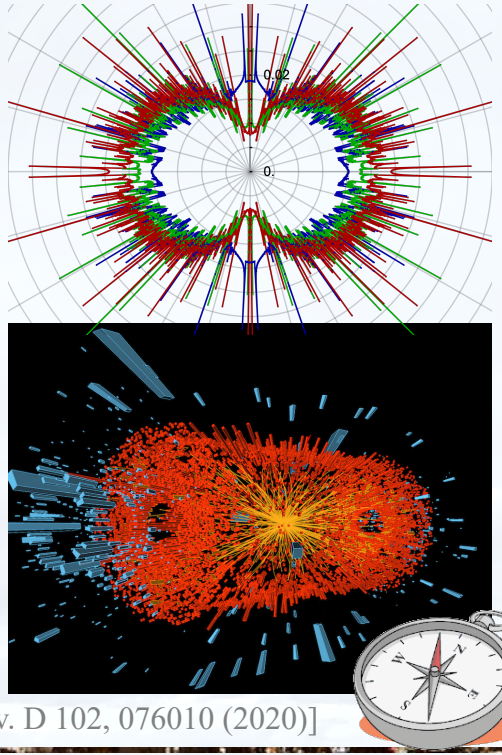
Find "knobs" to control/measure magnetic field $\vec{B}$?

- Exploit the beam-energy dependence of the field (?)

[Skokov, Illarionov, Toneev, Int. J. Mod. Phys. **A24**, 5925 (2009)]







- Try to measure $\vec{B}$ more directly (?)
  - thermal photons (?)
  - dilepton rates (?)

[Wang, Shovkovy, Yu, Huang, Phys. Rev. D 102, 076010 (2020)]

Isobar collisions

Utilize collisions of isobars, e.g., [Deng et al. PRC **94**, 041901(R) (2016)]

$^{96}_{40}Zr + {}^{96}_{40}Zr$ vs. $^{96}_{44}Ru + {}^{96}_{44}Ru$

$^{130}_{52}Te + {}^{130}_{52}Te$ vs. $^{130}_{56}Ba + {}^{130}_{56}Ba$

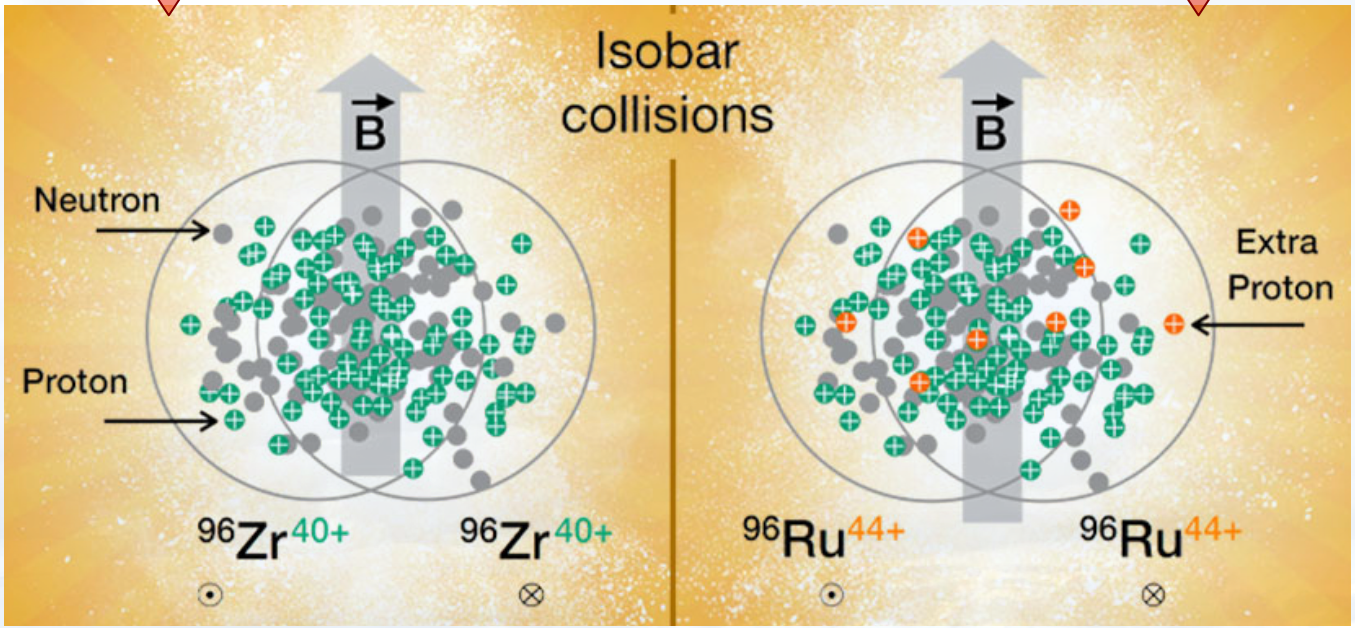
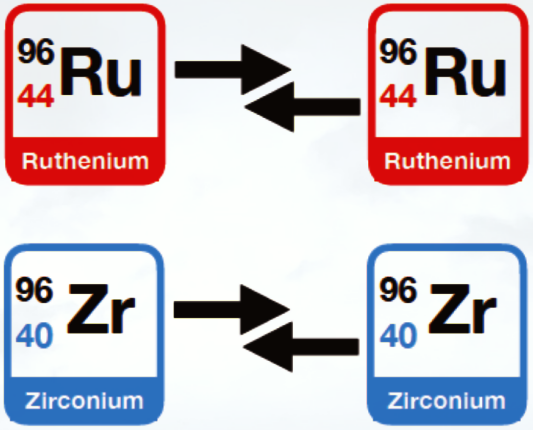
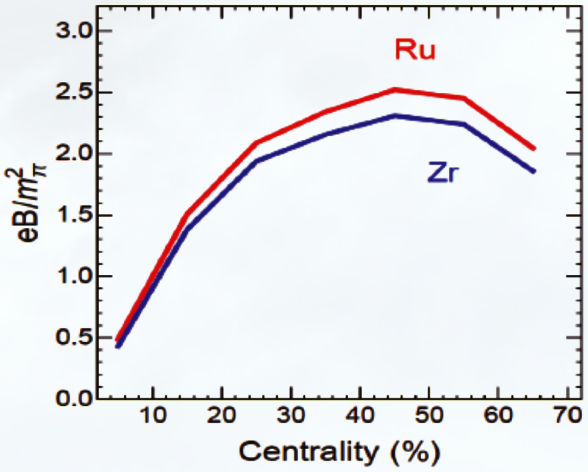


Image credit: Brookhaven National Laboratory, https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=119062

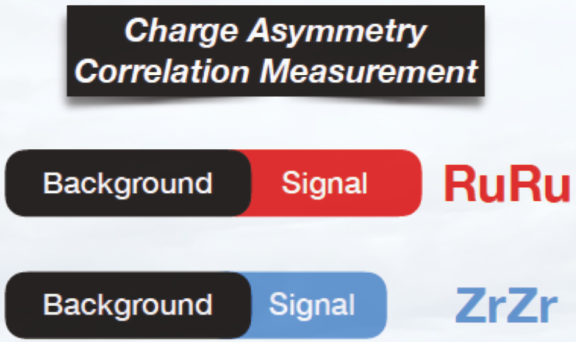
Isobar collisions (theory)



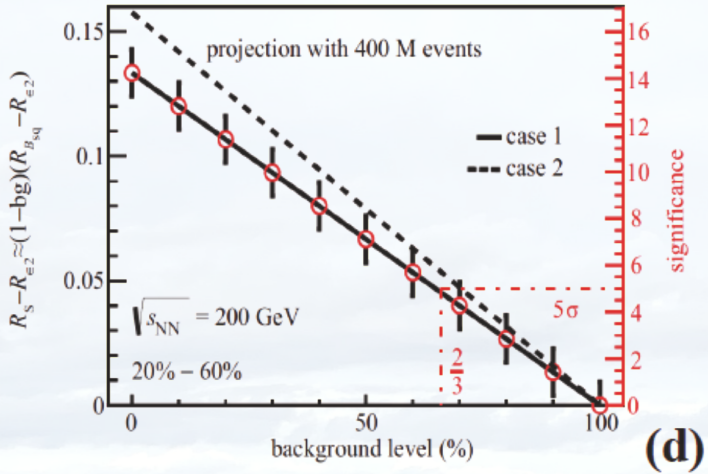
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

[Kharzeev and Liao, Nucl. Phys. News **29**, 26 (2019)]

Isobar collisions (experiment)

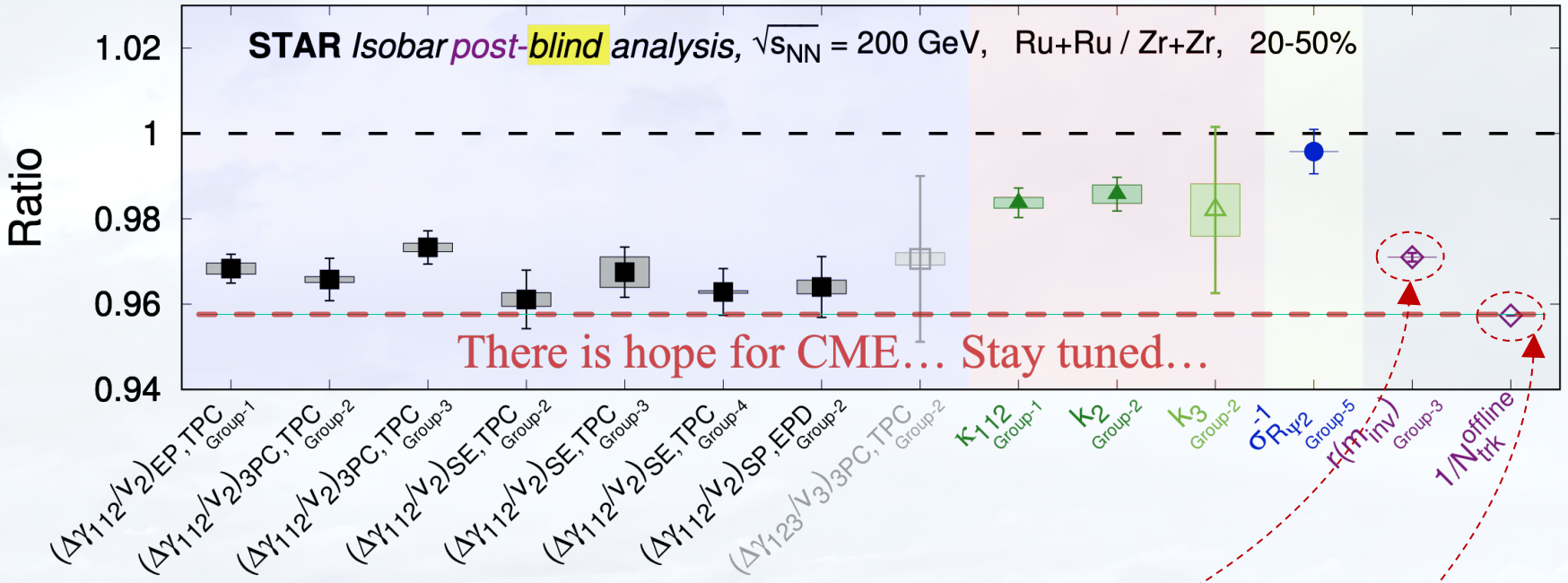
- Isobar run was completed by STAR in May 2018
- $\approx$ 3.8 billion collisions of ^{96}Ru+ ^{96}Ru and ^{96}Zr+ ^{96}Zr at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV
- Blind analysis by five groups of the STAR Collaboration
- Report announced on Aug. 31, 2021 (online event @ BNL)
- Preprint posted on the same day

[STAR Collaboration, arXiv:2109.00131]

the STAR Collaboration performed a blind analysis of a large data sample of approximately 3.8 billion isobar collisions of $^{96}_{44}$Ru+$^{96}_{44}$Ru and $^{96}_{40}$Zr+$^{96}_{40}$Zr at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV. Prior to the blind analysis, the CME signatures are predefined as a significant excess of the CME-sensitive observables in Ru+Ru collisions over those in Zr+Zr collisions, owing to a larger magnetic field in the former. A precision down to 0.4% is achieved, as anticipated, in the relative magnitudes of the pertinent observables between the two isobar systems. Observed differences in the multiplicity and flow harmonics at the matching centrality indicate that the magnitude of the CME background is different between the two species. No CME signature that satisfies the predefined criteria has been observed in isobar collisions in this blind analysis.

Isobar collisions (results)

- Compilation of post-blinding results [STAR Collaboration, arXiv:2109.00131]



- Note two extra data points (open markers):
  - the ratio of inverse multiplicities
  - the ratio of relative pair multiplicity difference

Summary

- Chiral anomaly may have macroscopic implications
- Anomaly may have observable signatures in quark-gluon plasma (and other forms of relativistic matter)
- (Dipole) chiral magnetic effect (CME) can be seen via charged particle correlations in heavy-ion collisions
- Latest isobar measurements are not conclusive yet (active studies are underway)
- Chiral magnetic wave is another phenomenon that may affect quark-gluon plasma (if not overdamped)
- Signatures of CME are tested/observed in Dirac and Weyl semimetals (and other physical systems too)