

Electromagnetic Fields in Heavy-Ion Collisions: Evolution, Photon Signals, and Initial Conditions

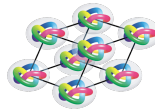
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Theoretical Particle and
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Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute
for the Origin of Particles and the Universe

C. NONAKA

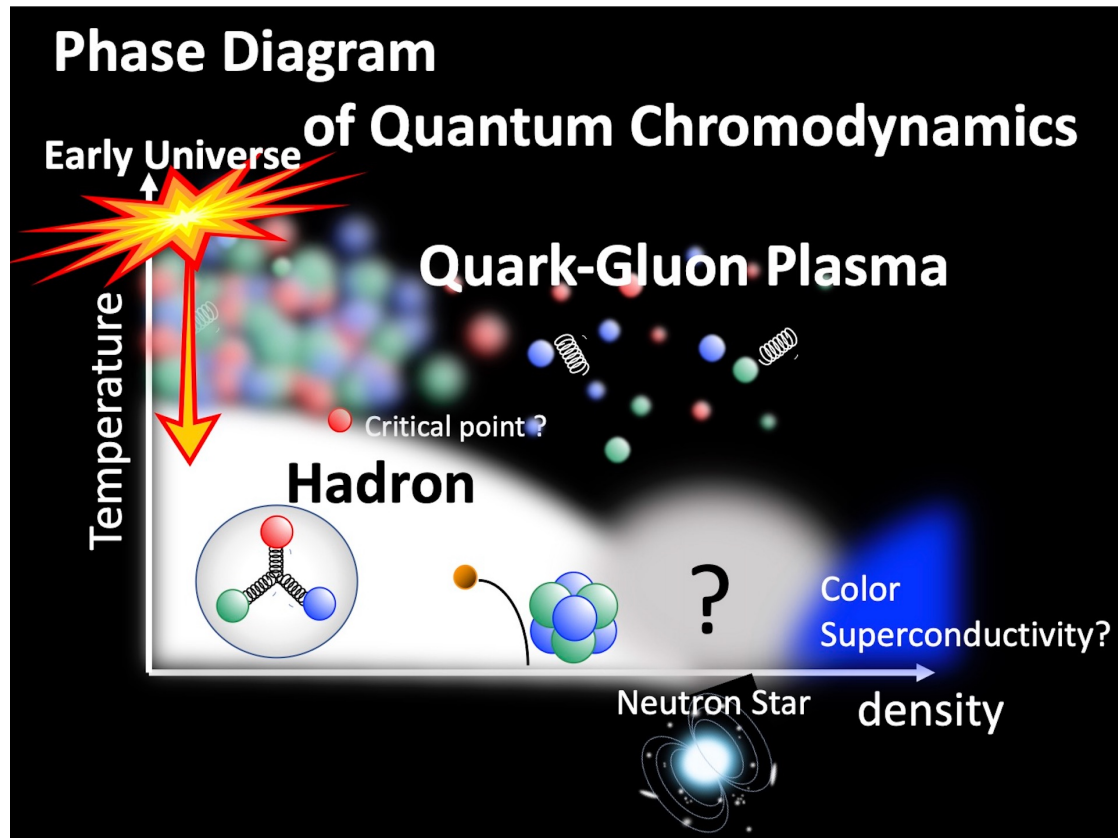
April 23, 2026 @TNP 2026, Yilan Jiaoxi, Taiwan

Contents

- Electromagnetic fields in high-energy heavy-ion collisions
- Relativistic resistive magnetohydrodynamics
 - Strong electromagnetic field after collisions
 - Construction of relativistic resistive magnetohydrodynamics
- Electric conductivity of QCD matter in heavy-ion Collisions
 - Charge dependent flow
 - Elliptic flow of photons
- Initial Conditions with electromagnetic fields
- Summary

Introduction

- High-Energy Heavy-Ion Collisions



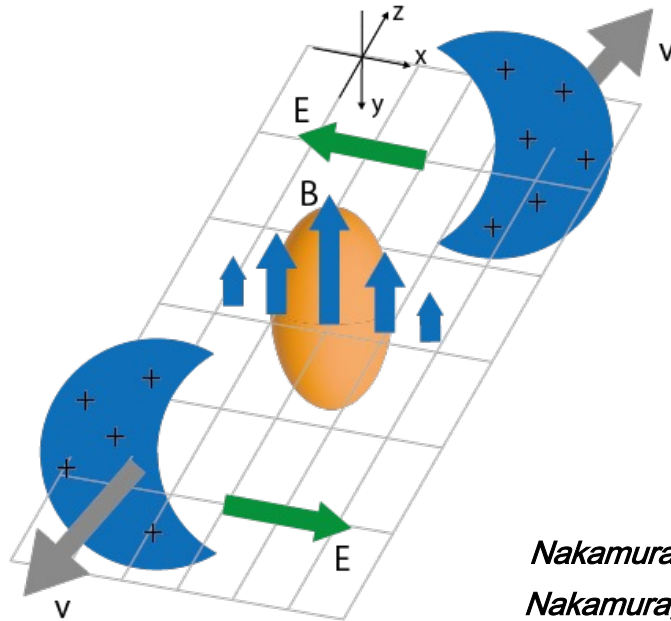
- QCD equation of state
- QGP structure
- The liquid QGP
- QCD critical point?
- Polarization & vorticity
- Thermalization
- Transport properties
- Jet showers
- Medium response

From slide by Berndt

Electromagnetic Fields?

Electromagnetic Fields in Heavy Ion Collisions ?

- Strong Electromagnetic fields and expansion? Observables?
 - Au + Au ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV) : 10^{14} T $\sim 10 m_{\pi}^2$
 - Pb + Pb ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV) : 10^{15} T



Nakamura, Miyoshi, C. N. and Takahashi, Phys. Rev. C 107, (2023) 014901
Nakamura, Miyoshi, C. N. and Takahashi, Eur.Phys.J.C 83 (2023) 3, 229.
Nakamura, Miyoshi, C. N. and Takahashi, Phys. Rev. C 107 (2023) 3, 034912
Benoit, Miyoshi, C. N., and Takahashi, Phys. Rev. C 112, 024911(2025)

Understanding of QGP Property

Charge conductivity of QGP from analysis of high-energy heavy-ion collisions

Physical property	Related Observables	Quantitative analysis
Charge conductivity	?	×
Shear viscosity	Azimuthal anisotropy v_n	○
Bulk viscosity	P_T distributions	○
Diffusion coefficient	Jet energy loss	○

Charge dependent directed flow

Asymmetric collisions → i.e., Hirono, Hongo, and Hirano, PRC 90, 021903 (2014).

Symmetric collisions

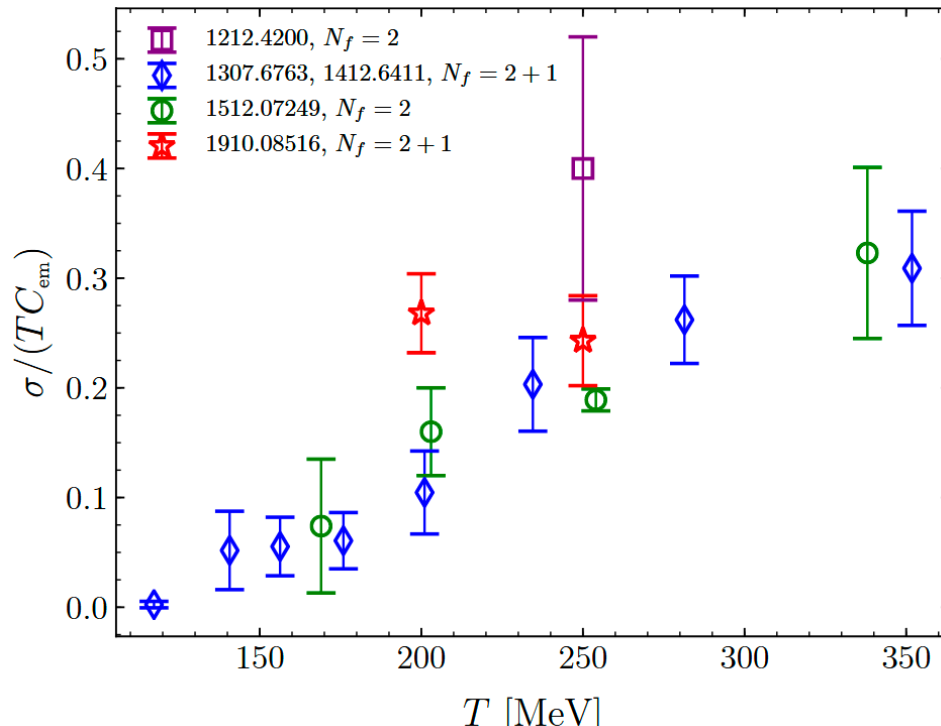
Proposed EM observables

Dileptons → i.e., Akamatsu, Hamagaki, Hatsuda, and Hirano, PRC 85, 054903 (2012).

Photons → i.e., Sun and Yan, PRC 109, 034917 (2024).

Electric Conductivity of QCD Matter

- Study by Lattice QCD



Aarts, Nikolaev, *EPJ.A* 57, 118 (2021); 2008.12326 [hep-lat]

Electric Conductivity on the Lattice

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{6} \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} \left(\int d^4x e^{i\omega t} \langle [j_\mu^{\text{em}}(t, x), j_\mu^{\text{em}}(0, 0)] \rangle \right) \Big|_{\omega=0}$$

- Does not include external magnetic field effects
- Uses approximately realistic pion mass
- General agreement among results using a variety of methods and parameters

Electromagnetic Fields and Property of QGP

- Electric Conductivity

- Dissipation of electric field

- Ampere's law: $\partial_t \vec{E} - \nabla \times \vec{B} = -\vec{j}$

\vec{B} : magnetic field
 \vec{E} : electric field

Ohm's law makes electric field dissipate

→ Dissipated energy to fluid

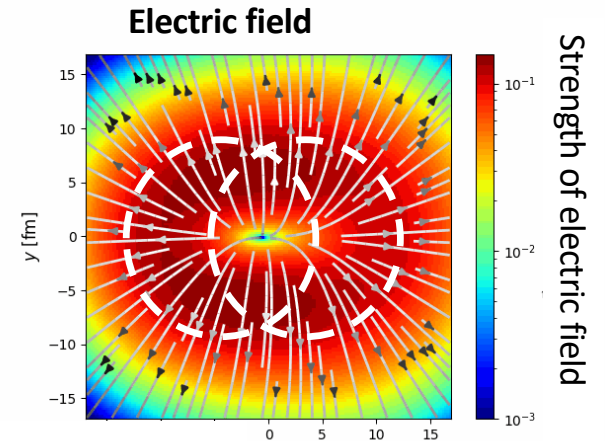
- Charge is induced.

- Charge is induced by electric field.
 - Induced charge depends on charge conductivity

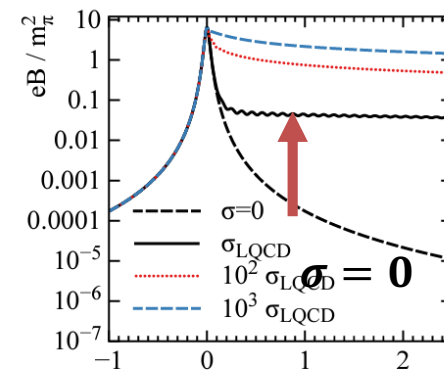
- Dissipation of magnetic field

Charge conductivity of QGP

← dissipation of electromagnetic fields and charge distribution QGP



Magnetic field



$\sigma \neq 0$
Suppresses of dissipation

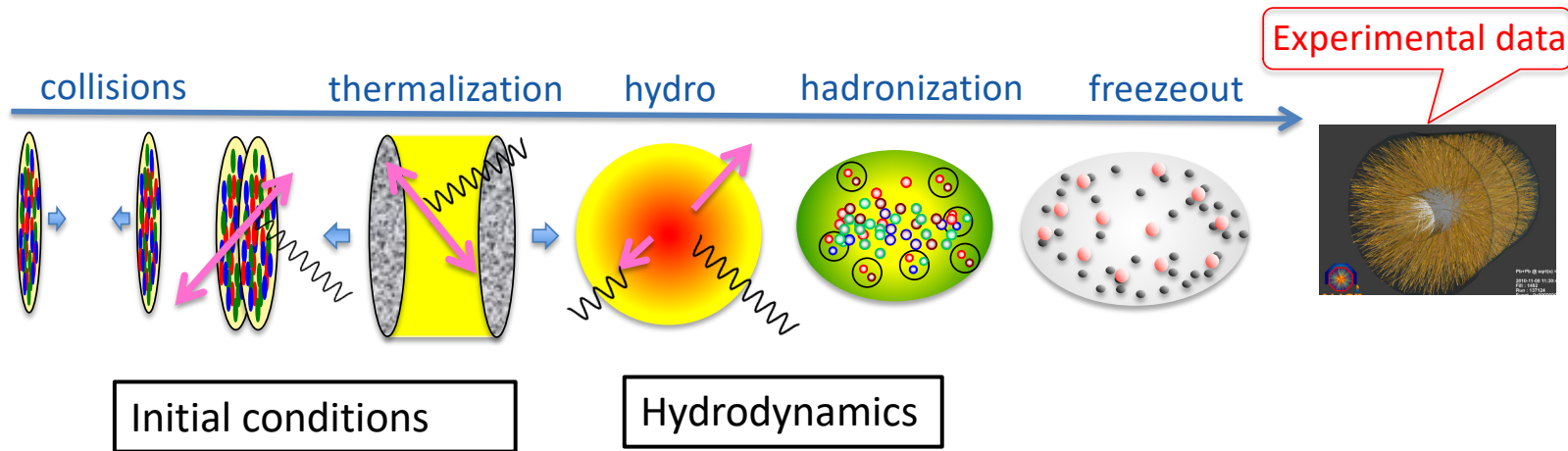
Electric field is dissipated.

L. McLerran and V. Skokov, Nucl. Phys. A 929 (2014) 184-190

Evolution: Relativistic Resistive Magnetohydrodynamics

Relativistic Resistive Magneto-Hydrodynamics (RRMHD)

Nakamura, Miyoshi, C. N. and Takahashi, PRC107, no.1, 014901 (2023)



Glauber model
+ approximate solutions of Maxwell eq.

Hydrodynamic eq. + Maxwell eq. + Ohm's law

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = F^{\nu\lambda} J_\lambda \quad J^\mu = \sigma e^\mu$$

Relativistic Resistive Magneto-Hydrodynamics (RRMHD)

Nakamura, Miyoshi, C. N. and Takahashi, PRC107, no.1, 014901 (2023)

■ RRMHD equation

➤ Conservation law + Maxwell eq. + Ohm's law

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = F^{\nu\lambda} J_\lambda$$

$$J^\mu = J_c^\mu + qu^\mu$$

e : energy density

p : pressure

$$p_{em} = (E^2 + B^2)/2$$

$$\varepsilon = (e + p)\gamma^2 - p + p_{em}$$

$$m^i = (e + p)\gamma^2 v^i + \epsilon^{ijk} B_j E_k$$

$$\Pi^{ij} = (e + p)\gamma^2 v^i v^j + (p + p_{em})g^{ij} - E^i E^j - B^i B^j$$

Energy Conservation

$$\partial_t \varepsilon + \nabla \cdot m = 0$$

Momentum conservation

$$\partial_t m^i + \nabla \cdot \Pi^i = 0$$

Faraday's law

$$\partial_t \vec{B} + \nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$$

Ohm's law

$$\vec{J} = q\vec{v} + \sigma\gamma[\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B} - (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{E})\vec{v}]$$

Ampere's law

$$\partial_t \vec{E} - \nabla \times \vec{B} = -\vec{j}$$

$$\partial_t \vec{E} - \nabla \times \vec{B} = q\vec{v}$$

$$\partial_t \vec{E} = \vec{j}_c \quad \text{operator splitting}$$

- Integration with quasi-analytic solutions

$$\vec{E}_\perp = -\vec{v} \times \vec{B} + (E_\perp^0 + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}) \exp(-\sigma\gamma t)$$

$$\vec{E}_\parallel = E_\parallel^0 \exp(-\sigma t/\gamma)$$

Komissarov, Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 382, 995-1004 (2007)

RRMHD Equation in Milne Coordinates

New

- Milne coordinates
 - Expanding systems in the longitudinal direction $(\tau, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \eta_s)$
 - Strong expansion in the longitudinal direction is effectively included.
 - Number of grid of fluid is saved.

$$\tau = \sqrt{t^2 - z^2}$$

$$\eta_s = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{t+z}{t-z}$$

RRMHD Equation

$$\partial_\tau(\tau U) + \partial_i(\tau F^i) = \tau S$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} D \\ m_j \\ \varepsilon \\ B^j \\ E^j \\ q \end{pmatrix}, F^i = \begin{pmatrix} Dv^i \\ \Pi^j \\ m^i \\ \varepsilon^{jik} E_k \\ \varepsilon^{jik} B_k \\ J^i \end{pmatrix}, S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} T^{ik} \partial_j g_{ik} \\ -\frac{1}{2} T^{ik} \partial_0 g_{ik} \\ 0 \\ J_c^i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

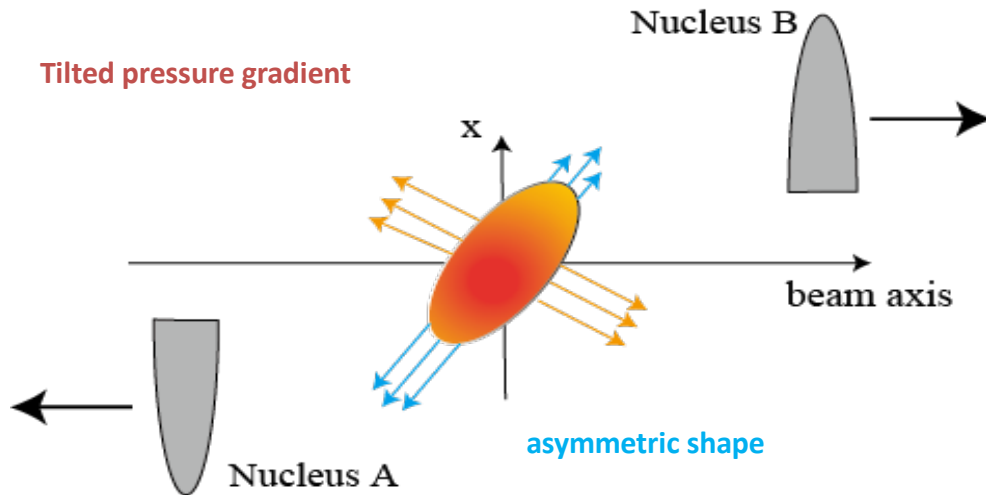
The first RRMHD code in Milne coordinates

Initial Condition: QGP Medium

■ Tilted Glauber model

- Energy density is scaled by n_p and n_c
- Tilted distribution in the longitudinal direction

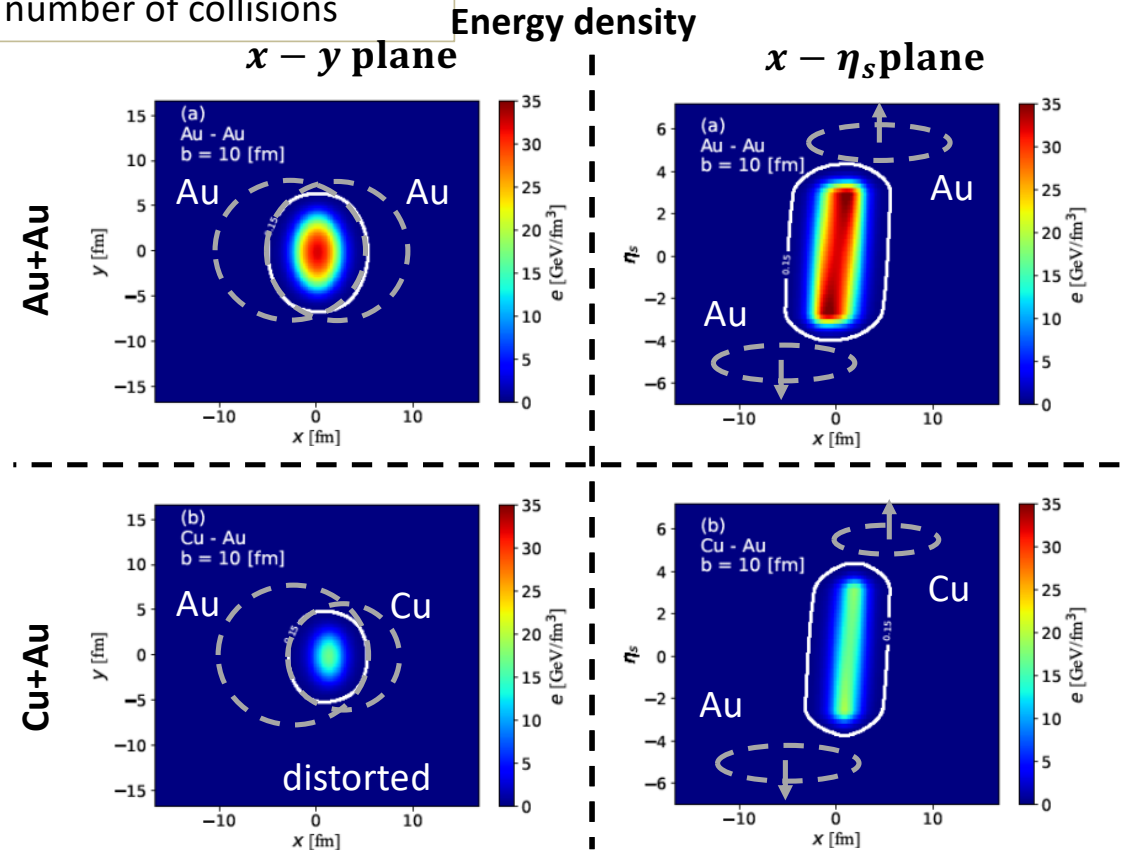
For directed flow v_1



n_p : number of participants
 n_c : number of collisions

Bozek, et al, Phys. Rev. C 81, 054902(2010)

Freezeout hypersurface



Initial Condition : Electromagnetic Fields

■ Asymptotic solution of Maxwell eq.

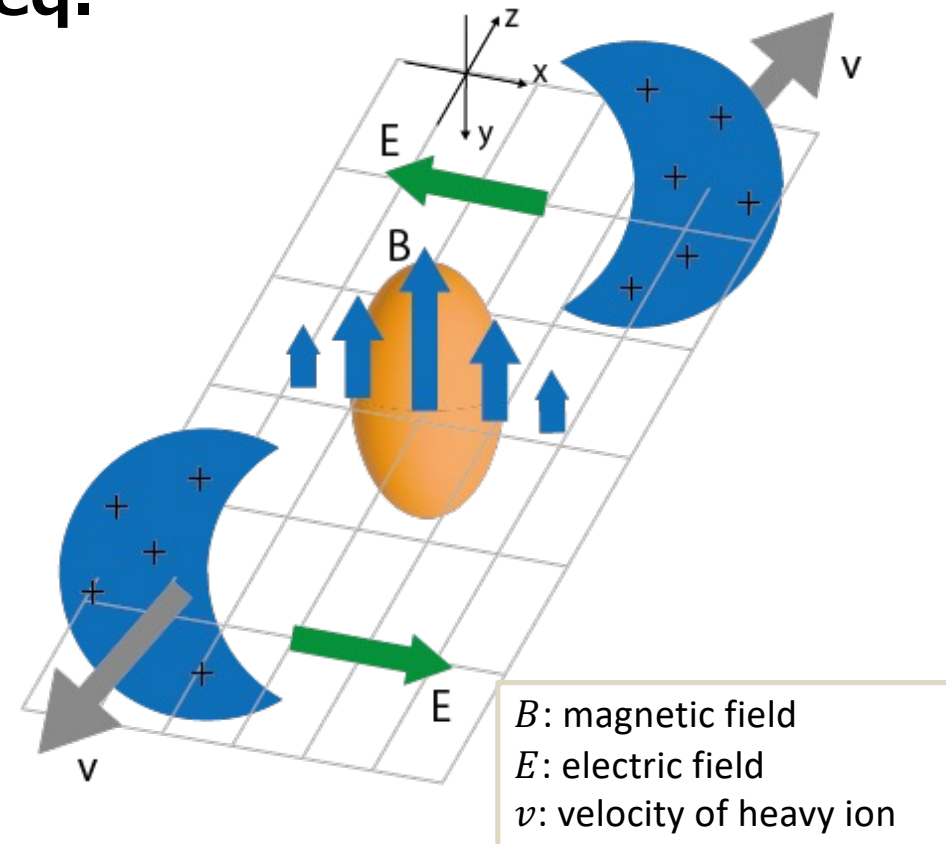
➤ Electromagnetic field made by point charge moving in the longitudinal axis

- Proton distribution in nucleus : uniform sphere
- Constant charge conductivity ($\sigma = 0.023 \text{ fm}^{-1}$)

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0, & \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} &= e\delta(z - vt)\delta(b), \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{H} &= \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} + \sigma \mathbf{E} + ev\hat{z}\delta(z - vt)\delta(b)\end{aligned}$$

Integration of the asymptotic solutions over the charge distribution inside of nucleus

Tuchin, Phys.Rev.C88,024911(2013)

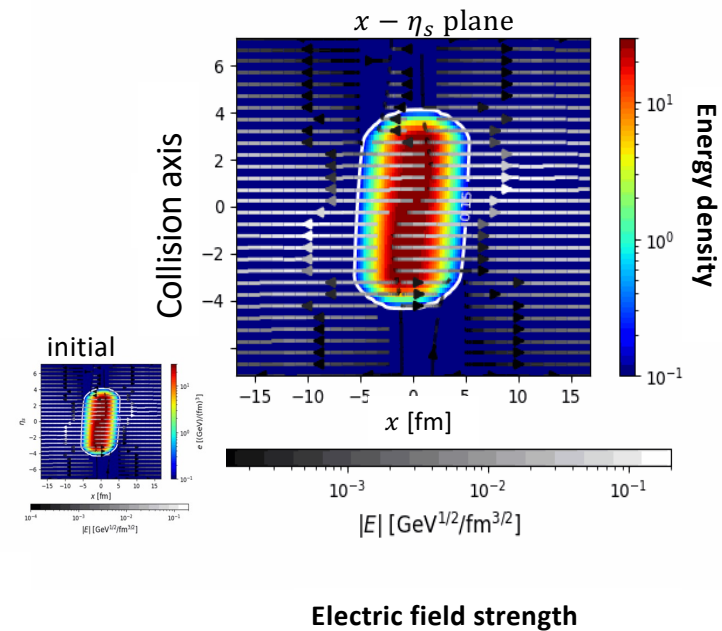
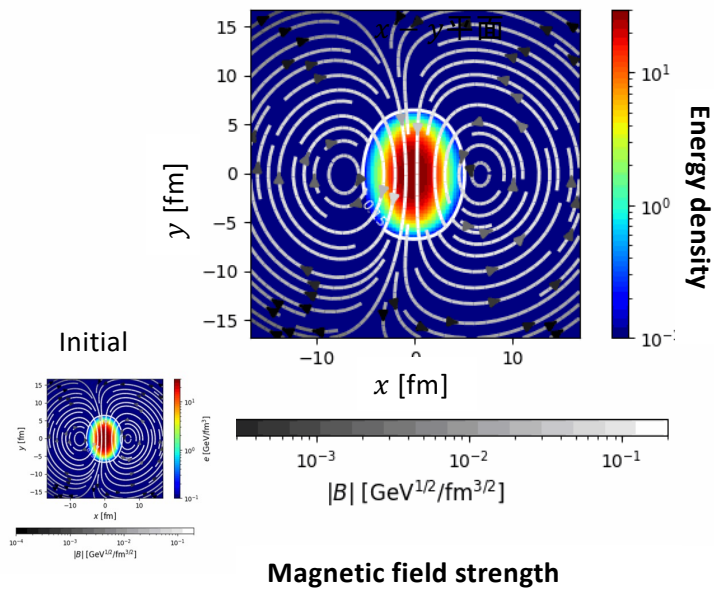


Space-time Evolution

Nakamura, Miyoshi, C. N. and Takahashi, PRC 107, no.1, 014901 (2023)

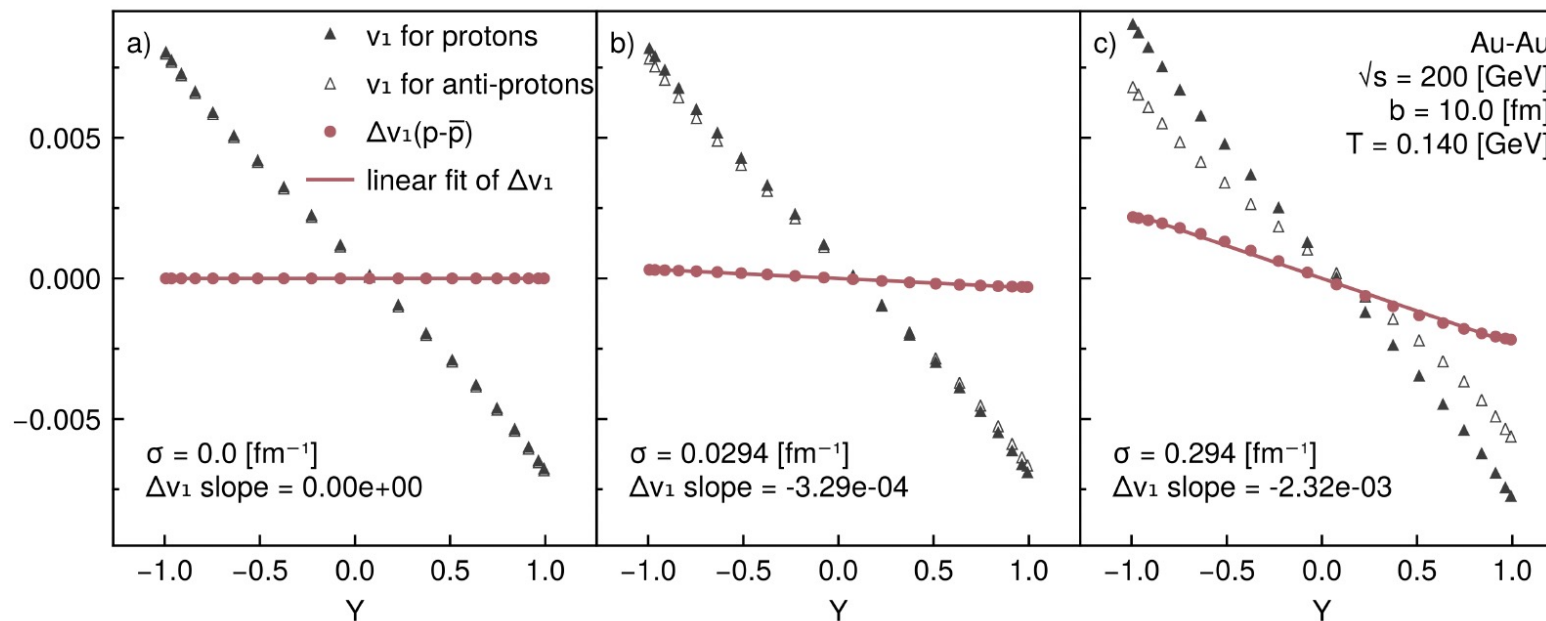
Au+Au collision system

First calculation in HIC with RRMHD code



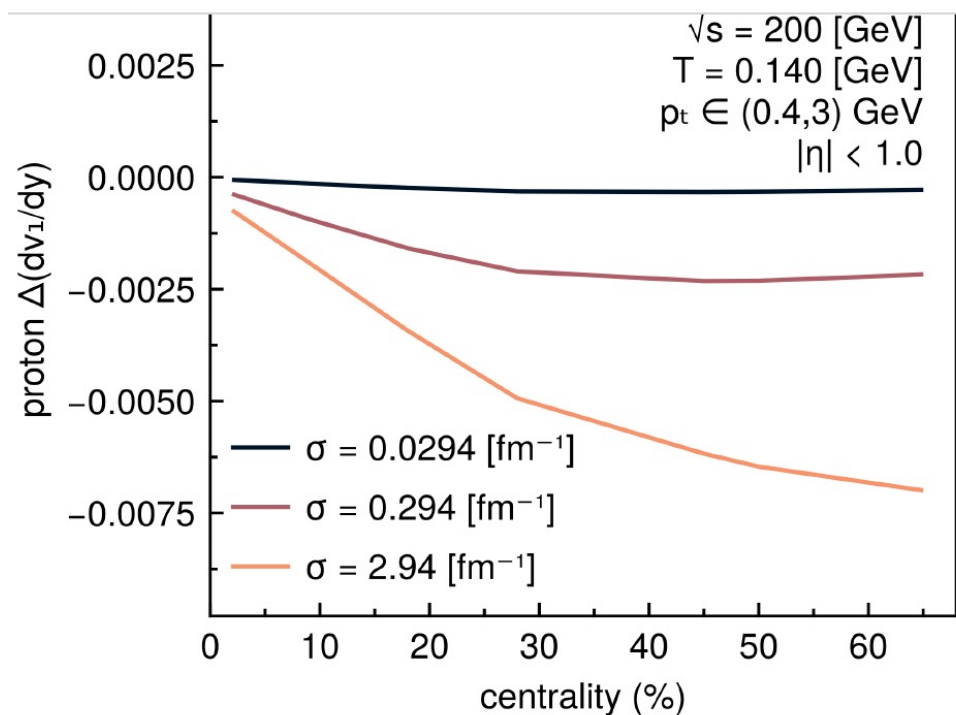
Analysis of Heavy Ion Collisions

Charge Dependent Directed Flow

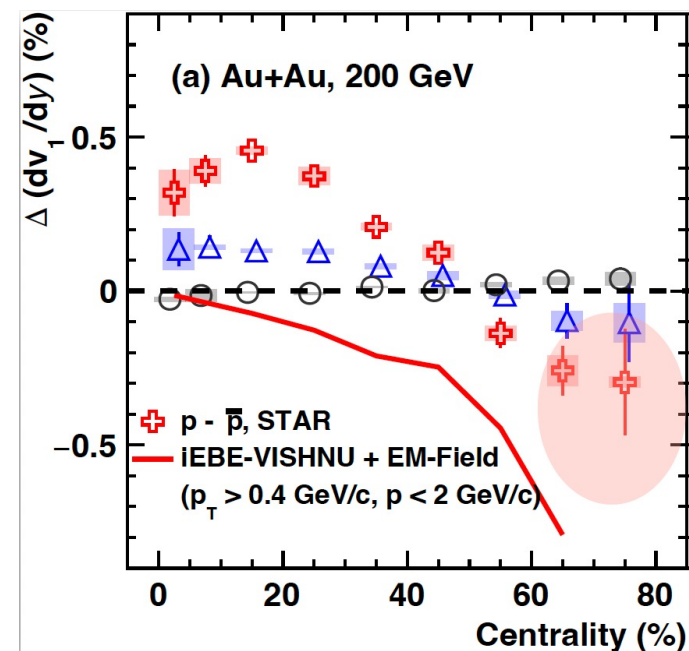


Benoit, Miyoshi, C. N., and Takahashi, Phys. Rev. C 112, 024911(2025)

Charge Dependent Flow



Benoit, Miyoshi, C. N., and Takahashi, Phys. Rev. C 112, 024911(2025)



Caveat:

No baryon current

Initial condition

EoS

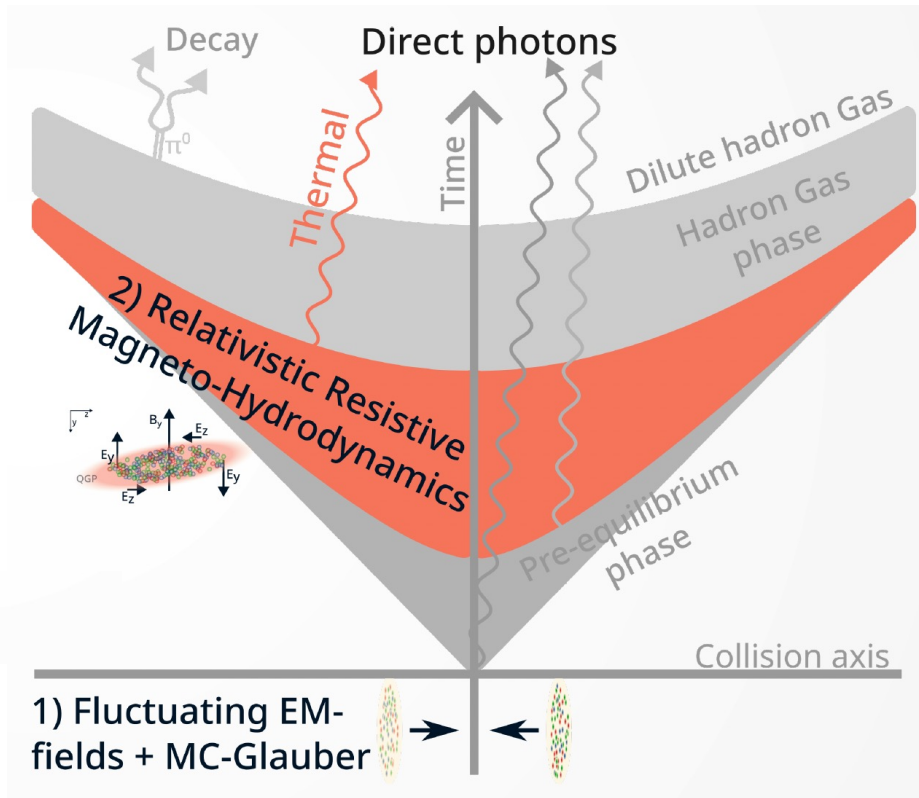
Final state interactions

Photon

Snapshot of the EM fields

Nicholas J. Benoit, Takahiro Miyoshi, CN, Hiroyuki Takahashi

Photon

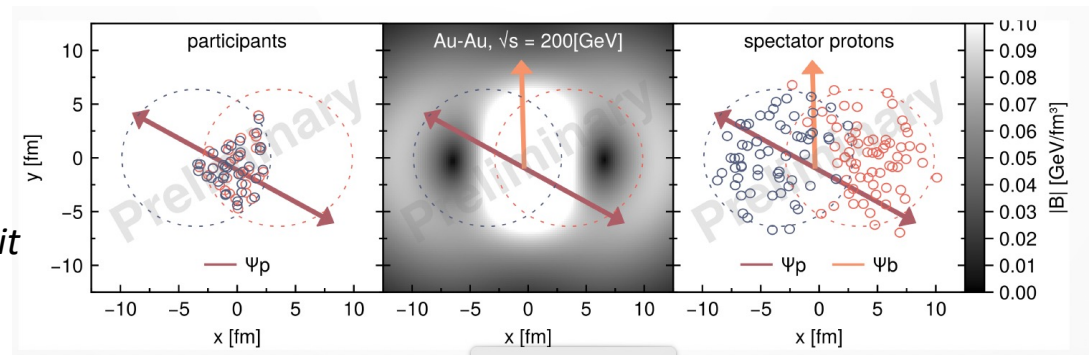


By courtesy of Benoit

- A photon carries information from the early stages through to the final stage
- It is affected by EM field.



- P_T spectra and elliptic flow of photon
- Including event by event fluctuations in initial conditions
- Consider the direction of the lab frame EM fields



Electromagnetic Dissipation for QGP Photon

- Electromagnetic fields inside QGP
 - The fluid + EM field contributions from hydrodynamics
 - All of those values can be calculated self-consistently using relativistic resistive magneto-hydrodynamics (RRHMD)

Temperature and four velocity

$$\delta f_{a,EM}^{(1)}(X, k) = - \frac{-f_{a,eq}(1 - f_{a,eq})}{T \chi_{el} k^\mu u_\mu} \underline{e} \sigma Q_a \underline{e}^\mu k_\mu$$

conductivity

Electric susceptibility of QGP

$$\chi_{a,el} = -\frac{1}{3} \int \frac{d\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3 E_p} (p^\sigma p^\nu \Delta_{\sigma\nu}) \frac{-f_{a,eq}(1 - f_{a,eq})}{p^\mu u_\mu}$$

Spacetime dependent EM fields in QGP medium

$$e^\mu = (\gamma v_k E^k, \gamma E^i + \gamma \epsilon^{ijk} v_j B_k)$$

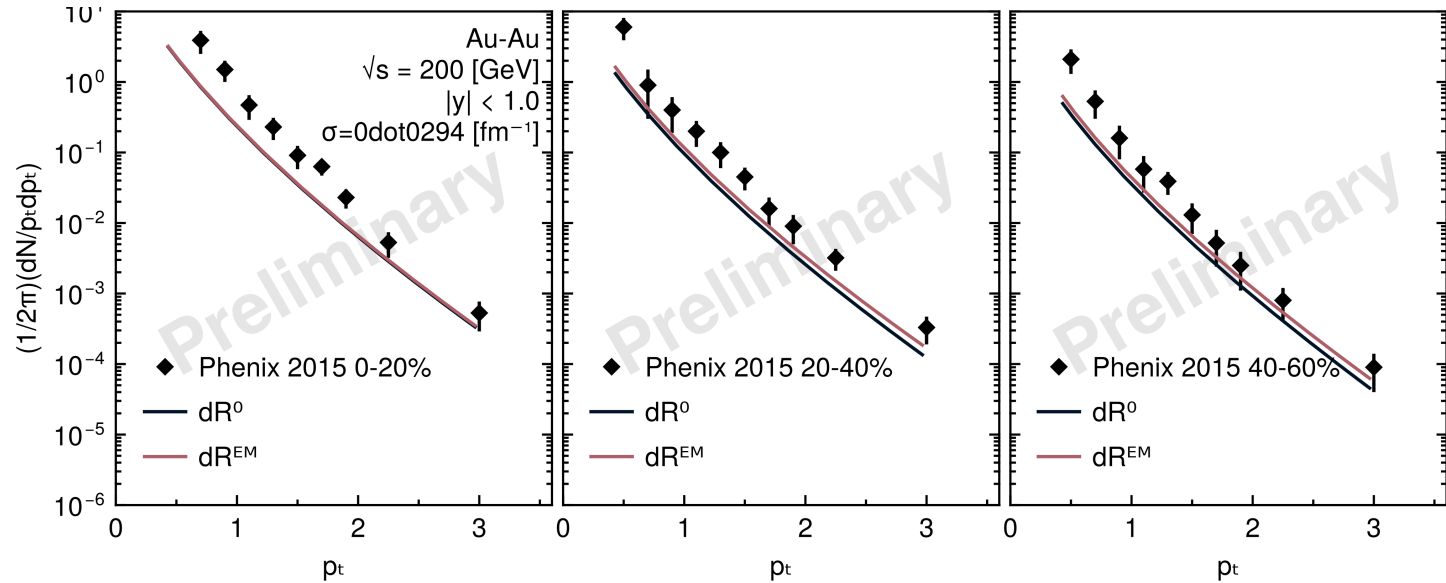
P_T Spectra of Photon

- Au+Au $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

– Set normalization
of initial conditions
from charge π rapidity
distribution

$$\sigma = 0.0294 \text{ fm}^{-1}$$

$T \sim 220$ MeV (lattice QCD)



- EM fields create mild increase in photon yield
- Larger p_t (~ 3 GeV) has greater increase

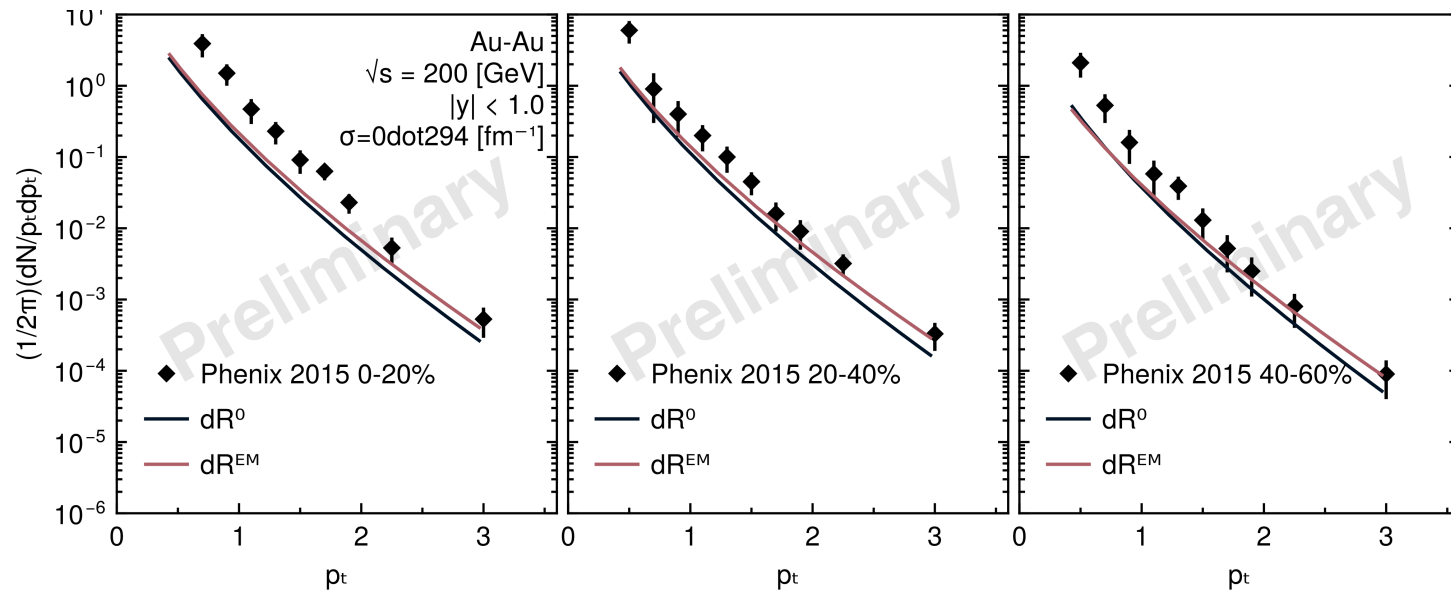
P_T Spectra of Photon

- Au+Au $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

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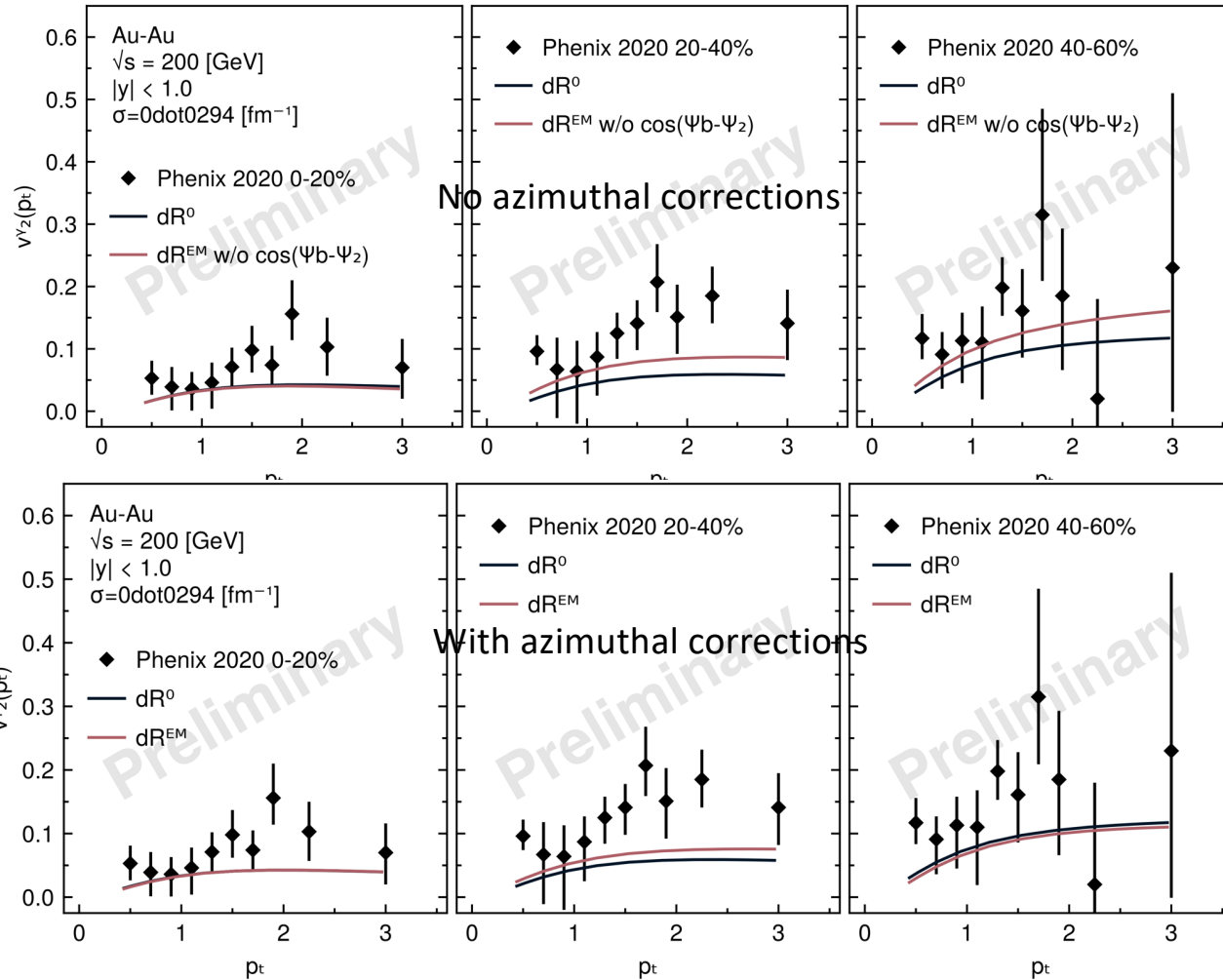
$$\sigma = 0.294 \text{ fm}^{-1}$$

$T \sim 340$ MeV (lattice QCD)



- EM fields create mild increase in photon yield
- Larger p_T (~ 3 GeV) has greater increase
- O(10) larger QGP conductivity σ increases the higher P_T yield

Elliptic Flow of Photon



Including the azimuthal fluctuations

- The elliptical flow is not always increased by EM fields (depends on centrality)
- Suggests the geometry of the EM can be probed, but effects become smaller.

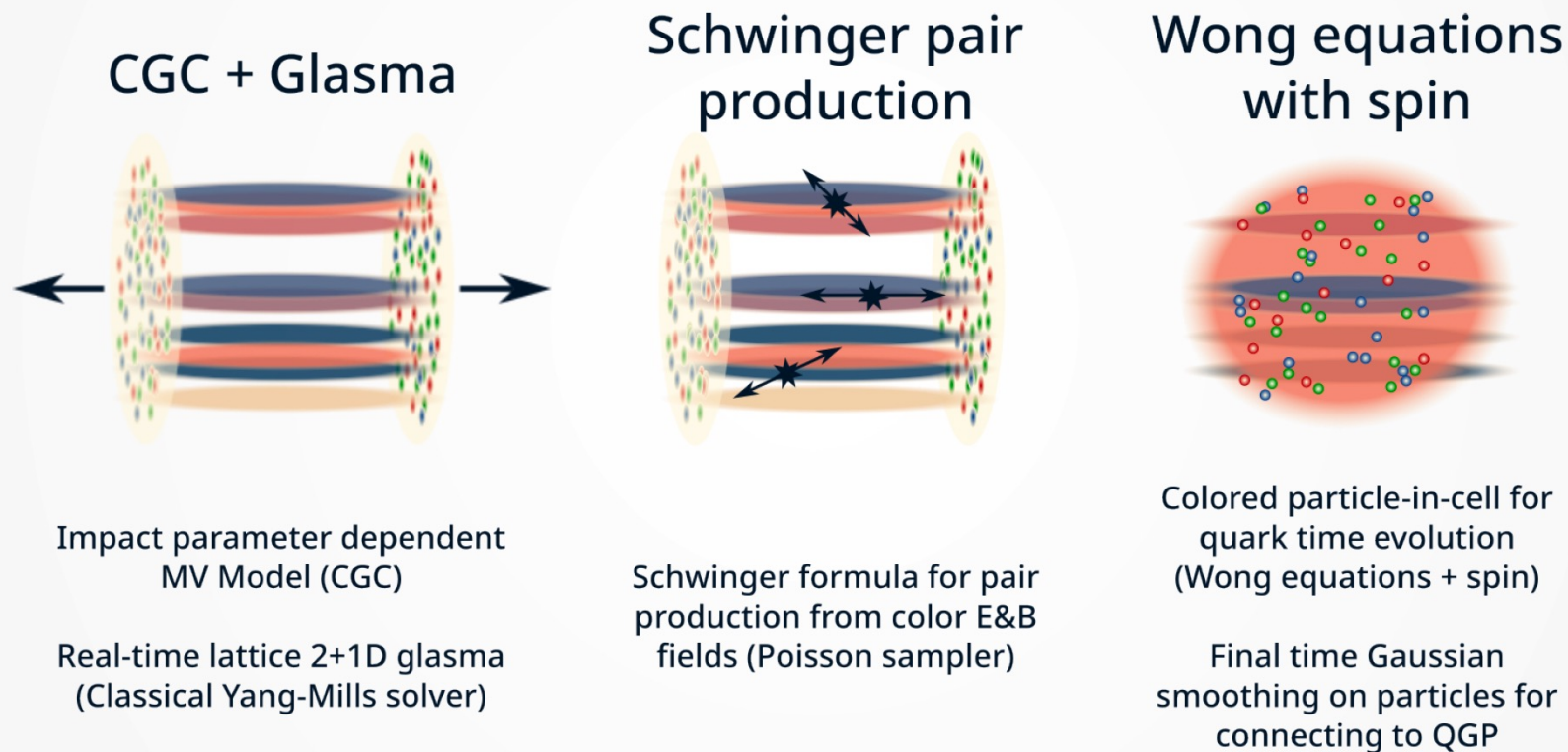
Photons can carry a local snapshot of the EM fields (Magnetometer)
 possibility to constrain field lifetime
 (the electric conductivity σ of the QGP)

Initial Conditions

Nicholas J. Benoit and Hidetoshi Taya

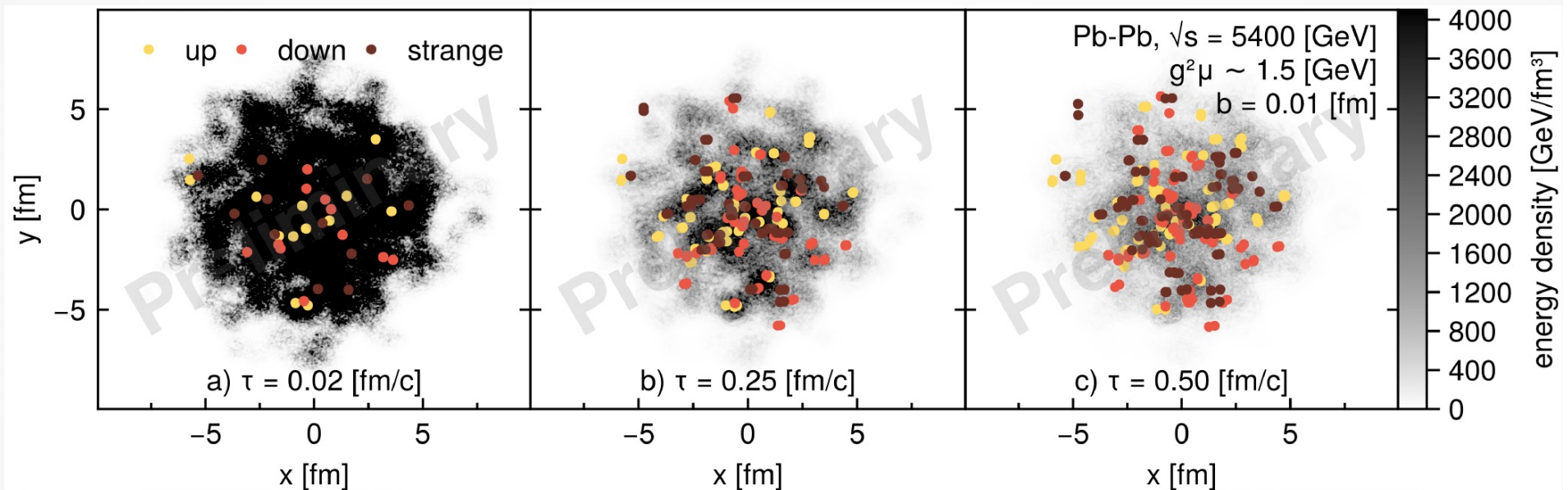
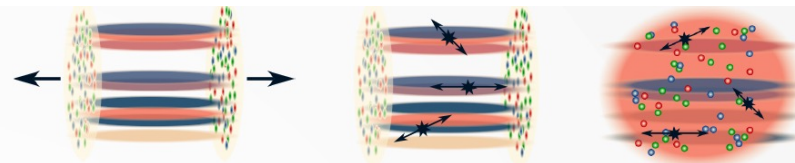
Quark Pair Production from Initial Strong Color Fields

Model framework



By courtesy of Benoit

Putting it all together



Our model simulates the real-time dynamics and non-perturbative production of particles from the glasma

By courtesy of Benoit

Summary

Electromagnetic Fields and QGP properties in High-Energy Heavy-Ion Collisions

- Relativistic Resistive Magnetohydrodynamics (RRMHD)
 - Coupled hydrodynamics + Maxwell equations + Ohm's law
 - Implemented in expanding Milne coordinates
- Key results
 - EM fields modify charge-dependent directed flow
 - Photon production is slightly enhanced
 - Possible constraint on QGP conductivity and EM fields lifetime
- Initial conditions
 - Towards getting more realistic EM fields in initial stage

