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The QGP shear viscosity -- elusive goal or

Chun Shen, Steffen A Bass, Tetsufumi Hirano, Pasi Huovinen, Zhi Qiu, Huichao Song, Ulrich W Heinz

(Submitted on 30 Jun 2011)

With the new viscous hydrodynamic + hadron cascade hybrid code VISHNU, a rather precise (O (25%)) extraction of the QGP shear viscosity (eta/s)_QGP from heavy-ion elliptic flow data is possible if the initial eccentricity of the collision fireball is known with <5% accuracy. At this point, eccentricities from initial state models differ by up to 20%, leading to an O(100%) uncertainty for (eta/s)_QGP. It is shown that a simultaneous comparison of elliptic and triangular flow, v_2 and v_3, puts strong constraints on initial state models and can largely eliminate the present uncertainty in (eta/s)_QGP. The variation of the differential elliptic flow v_2(p_T) for identified hadrons between RHIC and LHC energies provides additional tests of the evolution model.

Comments:	4 pages, 4 figures. Contribution to the proceedings for Quark Matter 2011, to appear in J. Phys. G
Subjects:	Nuclear Theory (nucl-th) ; High Energy Physics - Phenomenology (hep-ph); Nuclear Experiment (nucl-ex)
Journal reference:	J. Phys. G38, 124045 (2011)
DOI:	10.1088/0954-3899/38/12/124045
Cite as:	arXiv:1106.6350 [nucl-th]
	(or arXiv:1106.6350v1 [nucl-th] for this version)

Submission history

From: Ulrich Heinz [view email] [v1] Thu, 30 Jun 2011 19:38:20 GMT (894kb)

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