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Coherent Photoproduction in Heavy-Ion Collisions

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Electromagnetic Field in Heavy-Ion Collisions

• Strong EM field accompanies the nuclei in relativistic heavy-ion collisions

 $B \sim \gamma Zeb/R^3 \sim O(10^{18} Gauss)$ @RHIC

• The Lorentz contracted EM field can be expressed in terms of equivalent photon flux E. Fermi, Z. Phys. 29, 315 (1924)

$$k_T <\sim 1/R \sim 0.03 \text{ GeV} @RHIC/LHC$$

$$k_0 <\sim \gamma/R \sim 3 \text{ GeV} @RHIC$$

$$80 \text{ GeV} @LHC$$

$$n(\vec{k}, \vec{x}_T) \propto Z^2 \alpha_{em}$$



 The quasi-real photons can initiate γA or γγ collisions in relativistic heavy-ion collisions

Coherent Photoproduction



γγ

Traditionally studied in Ultra-Peripheral Collisions (UPC, $b > R_A + R_B$)

 $< R_{\rho} > \sim 40$ fm in Au+Au @ 200 GeV

No hadronic interaction



Physics Today 70, 10, 40 (2017)

Vector Meson Photoproduction



- Colorless "Pomeron" exchange
- Dominantly produced at very-low p_T ($p_T < 0.1 \text{ GeV/c}$)
- *t* slope reflects nucleus form factor (radius)

Vector Meson Photoproduction



- t distribution tells more
- Diffraction
- Destructive interference Even w/ nucleus breakup



Photon-photon Interaction in UPC

() 0.03 () 0.025 () 0.025 **EPA Calculation** Dilepton production measured by (a) **QED** Calculation **STAR** ອ⁸ 0.02 ອີ 0.015 Mass range limited by electron ID 0.01 Being (sig.ly) improved by EMC/TOF 0.005 0.14 0.18 0.16 0.2 0.22 0.24 0.26 Pair Invariant Mass M_{ee} (GeV) Meson production also possible STAR, PRC70, 031902 (2004 Dielectron counts / (55 MeV/c² STAR Preliminary -1.0 < v < 1.0AuAu@200 GeV p_ < 0.17 GeV/c yy production observed by ATLAS 120 UPC sample unlike sign ike siar Fit model Crystal Ball 100 Background Events / 3 GeV - Data, 480 μb⁻¹ **ΑΤLAS** ___γγ →γγ MC Pb+Pb vs.nn=5.02 TeV 10 γγ→e⁺e⁻ MC CEP γγ MC Signal selection *Nature Phys.* with Aco < 0.01 13, 852 (2017) 20 3 15 20 25 30 1.5 2 2.5 5 10 m,, [GeV] m_{e*e⁻} (GeV/c²

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Coherent Photoproducts in QGP



Very-low-p_T J/ψ Enhancement at ALICE



Originate from coherent photoproduction in non-UPC?

Very-low-p_T J/ψ Enhancement at STAR



Significant enhancement of J/ ψ yield at p_T<0.2 GeV/c in (semi-)peripheral Au+Au and U+U collisions

R_{AA}(**p**_T) in Au+Au and U+U Collisions



 $R_{AA} \sim 30-40$ at $p_T < 0.05$ GeV/c in 60-80% central Au+Au and U+U

Centrality and *-t* **Dependence**



Excess yield has no obvious centrality dependence

t distribution consistent with interference

slope similar to that from UPC

Modeling Coh. J/ ψ Photo-prod. in Non-UPC

$$\sigma(AA \to AAJ/\psi) = \int d\omega_{\gamma} \frac{dN_{\gamma}(\omega_{\gamma})}{d\omega_{\gamma}} \sigma(\gamma A \to J/\psi A)$$

Photon flux:

$$\frac{d^{3}N_{\gamma}(\omega_{\gamma},\vec{x}_{\perp})}{d\omega_{\gamma}d\vec{x}_{\perp}} = \frac{4Z^{2}\alpha}{\omega_{\gamma}} \int \frac{d^{2}\vec{k}_{\gamma\perp}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \vec{k}_{\gamma\perp} \frac{F_{\gamma}(\vec{k}_{\gamma})}{|\vec{k}_{\gamma}|^{2}} e^{i\vec{x}_{\perp}\cdot\vec{k}_{\nu\perp}}|^{2}$$
Spectators
EM form factor \leftarrow Woods-Saxon distribution $\sim^{15\text{fm}}$

From entire nucleus or spectator?

Photonuclear scattering:

$$\sigma(\gamma A \to J/\psi A) = \frac{d\sigma(\gamma A \to J/\psi A)}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} \times \int |F_P(\vec{k}_P)|^2 d^2 \vec{k}_{P\perp}$$

Form factor for Pomeron \leftarrow Nuclear density distribution

From entire nucleus or spectator?

Participants

Data vs. Model



W. Zha, S. Klein, R. Ma, et. al, PRC97, 044910 (2018)

- All scenarios describe data at b~2R
- "Nucleus+Spectator" and "Spectator+Nucleus" are favored
- Extending to more central collisions is crucial

Azimuthal Angular Distribution



Significant anisotropy for coherent photoproduced J/ψ

Very-low-p_T ee Enhancement at STAR



Excess Yield vs. Invariant Mass



Well described by theoretical calculations

Zha et al.: Woods-Saxon, entire nucleus as emitter *W. Zha et al, PLB 781, 182 (2018)* STARlight: point-like charge, ignore x_T>R *S. Klein, PRC97, 054903 (2018)*

Very-low- p_T dilepton dominantly produced by $\gamma\gamma$ in peri. collisions

ee p_T Distribution



- Significant excesses at $p_T < 0.15 \text{ GeV/c}$
- Consistent with hadronic cocktail above 0.15 GeV/c

Transverse Momentum Broadening



 p_T^2 in data broader than in both models

Bending by the magnetic field in QGP?

Acoplanarity of Very-low-p_T Di-muon



Acoplanarity of high-mass muon pair Broadening in central collisions compared to peripheral collisions

QGP effect?

Summary

- Significant enhancement of very-low- $p_T J/\psi$ and ee observed in hadronic heavy-ion collisions
- Consistent with expectation of coherent photoproduction
- Broadening of p_T and angular correlation of dilepton
- Provide novel probes of QGP
 Outlook:
- $_{44}^{96}$ Ru+ $_{44}^{96}$ Ru, $_{40}^{96}$ Zr+ $_{40}^{96}$ Zr vs. $_{79}^{197}$ Au+ $_{79}^{197}$ Au
- Beam energy dependence
- UPC
- Other photoproducts



Zebo Tang (USTC)