

# Measurements of charm hadron production and anisotropic flow in Au+Au collisions at 200 GeV with the STAR experiment at RHIC

Sooraj Radhakrishnan for the STAR Collaboration Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory







#### Heavy flavor quarks as probes of QGP and initial conditions



 $m_{c,b} \gg T_{QGP}$  —> Produced predominantly from initial hard scatterings  $m_{c,b} \gg \Lambda_{QCD}$  —> Production cross sections amenable to pQCD calculations ==> Ideal probes to study medium effects!!

#### Heavy flavor quarks as probes of QGP and initial conditions



 $m_{c,b} \gg T_{QGP}$  —> Produced predominantly from initial hard scatterings  $m_{c,b} \gg \Lambda_{QCD}$  —> Production cross sections amenable to pQCD calculations ==> Ideal probes to study medium effects!!





- Elliptic and triangular flow: heavy quark diffusion through medium —> medium properties
- Directed flow: impact of early time magnetic field

Production and hadrochemistry



- In medium energy loss
- $D_s,\,\Lambda_c$  yields: hadronization mechanism

## STAR Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT)



## STAR Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT)





- Excellent track pointing resolution
- Enables topological reconstruction of heavy flavor hadrons.



	w/o HFT	w/ HFT
	2010+2011	2014
#events(MB) analyzed	1.1 billion	~900 million
sig. per billion events	13	220

STAR: Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 142301 (2014)

STAR: Phys. Rev. Lett. 118, 212301 (2017)

#### Elliptic flow of D<sup>0</sup> mesons



- Large v<sub>2</sub> values, comparable to light hadrons, is seen for D<sup>0</sup> mesons
- Clear mass ordering seen below 2 GeV/c

- v<sub>2</sub> values of D<sup>0</sup> scaled with number of constituent quarks (NCQ) follow the same trend as light hadrons
- Suggest charm quarks flow with the QGP

## Theory comparisons



- 3D viscous hydro describes the data well below 4 GeV/c
  - suggest thermalized charm quarks in the medium
- Dynamic models with temperature dependent  $2\pi T D_s$  in the range 2 12 (in the range T<sub>c</sub> 2T<sub>c</sub>), also describe the data well

	2πTD <sub>HQ</sub>	χ²/N.D.F.	p value
SUBATECH	2-4	15.2/8	0.06
TAMU c diff.	5-12	10.0/8	0.26
TAMU no c diff.		29.5/8	2x10 <sup>-4</sup>
Duke	7	35.7/8	2x10 <sup>-5</sup>
LBT	3-6	11.1/8	0.19
PHSD	5-12	8.7/7	0.28
3D viscous hydro		3.6/6	0.73

# Triangular flow



- Non-zero D<sup>0</sup> v<sub>3</sub> values; comparable to light hadron v<sub>3</sub>
- Consistent with NCQ scaling within large error bars
- Also points to strong interactions between charm quarks and the QGP medium

# Directed flow, probe for early magnetic field?



- Large magnetic field (~10<sup>19</sup> Gauss) produced in early stages of heavy-ion collisions
- Heavy quarks predominantly produced during initial hard scatterings
  - Experience Lorentz deflection transverse to the direction of motion
  - Transient magnetic field ==> gives rise to a Faraday current; opposite to Lorentz deflection
  - Significant directed flow (v<sub>1</sub>) is predicted for D<sup>0</sup> mesons



### D<sup>o</sup> meson directed flow measurement

- Study of D<sup>0</sup> azimuthal distribution w.r.t. event plane that is determined from spectator neutrons detected by ZDC-SMD (η > 6.4)
- Pion v<sub>1</sub> values (with HFT used in tracking) are consistent with the published data





 Measurement of D<sup>0</sup> v<sub>1</sub> is ongoing using data (with HFT) from 2014+2016

## Strangeness and baryon enhancements

- How do charm quarks hadronize in QGP?
- In case of coalescence hadronization of charm, one expects for intermediate p⊤ (2-6 GeV/c):
  - enhancement of strange relative to non-strange charmed mesons
  - enhancement of charmed baryon/meson ratio

Ko: Phys.Rev.C 79 (2009) 044905 Greco: Phys.Rev.D 90 (2014) 054018 SHM: Phys.Rev.C 79 (2009) 044905



 Magnitudes of enhancement also depend on degree of charm quark thermalization, extent of strangeness enhancement, presence of diquarks

## D<sub>s</sub> enhancement at RHIC



- Strong enhancement is seen for the D<sub>s</sub>/D<sup>0</sup> yields ratio relative to PYTHIA
  => charm quarks in QGP hadronize very differently than in vacuum
- Enhancement is larger than in the TAMU model (uses coalesence mechanism) prediction.
- Similar enhancement as for the light hadrons for p<sub>T</sub> > 3.5 GeV/c. Smaller values in 2.5 3.5 GeV/c

### $\Lambda_c$ production in heavy-ion collisions



- $\Lambda_c (c\tau \sim 60 \mu m)$  reconstructed in  $\pi K p$  channel
- First measurement in heavy-ion collisions!

## $\Lambda_c$ production in heavy ion collisions



- Significant baryon/meson enhancement in the charm sector
- Magnitude is consistent with that of light hadrons
- Coalescence models with thermalized charm quarks in medium agree with the measurement

# Summary

- Elliptic and triangular flow of D<sup>0</sup>:
  - Follow mass ordering; NCQ scaled values agree with those for light hadrons
  - Model calculations with the temperature dependent charm quark diffusion coefficient describe v<sub>2</sub> data
  - Can be described by 3D viscous hydro at low  $p_T$  (< 4 GeV/c)
  - Suggest near thermalized charm quarks flowing with the QGP
- Significant enhancement of  $D_s/D^0$  and  $\Lambda_c/D^0$  ratios
  - Similar enhancements with those for light hadrons
  - For  $\Lambda_c$  the coalescence model with thermalized charm quarks agrees with data
- Measurements suggest strongly interacting and thermalized charm quarks in QGP medium
- Results are from 2014 data. New results are coming soon with the improved precision from 2014+2016 data combined

# Back Up

## Heavy flavor suppression at RHIC

 Energy loss of color charged partons through medium: radiative and collisional energy loss



• Expect  $\Delta E_g > \Delta E_{u,d,s} > \Delta E_c > \Delta E_b$ 

- Strong suppression of  $D^0$  and  $D^{\text{+/-}}$  at high  $p_{\text{T}}$
- $R_{AA}$  values for  $D^0$  are consistent with those for pions (for  $p_T > 4$  GeV)
  - values depend on the spectrum shape
  - not R<sub>AA</sub> of charm quarks (hadronization)
- Models with strong charm medium interaction describe the data.

### Elliptic flow and charm quark diffusion



SUBATECH: pQCD + hard thermal loop

P. B. Gossiaux, J. Aichelin, T. Gousset, and V. Guiho, Strangeness in quark matter **TAMU: T-matrix, non-perturbative, internal energy potential** M. He, R. J. Fries, and R. Rapp, PRC86, 014903 (2012) **Duke: free constant Ds, fit to LHC high p<sub>T</sub> R<sub>AA</sub>** S. Cao, G.-Y. Qin, and S. A. Bass, PRC88, 044907 (2013) **hydro: A 3D viscous hydrodynamic model** L.-G. Pang, Y. Hatta, X.-N. Wang, and B.-W. Xiao, PRD91, 074027 (2015) **PHSD: Parton-Hadron-String Dynamics, a transport model** H. Berrehrah et al. PRC90 (2014) 051901 **LBT: A Linearized Boltzmann Transport model** S. Cao, T. Luo, G.-Y. Qin, and X.-N. Wang, PRC94, 014909 (2016)