



p_T -dependent multiplicity fluctuations from PCA and initial conditions

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Abstract

We present a Principal Component Analysis for a hydrodynamic simulation and compare with CMS experimental data. While the results are reasonable for anisotropic flow, for multiplicity fluctuations they are qualitatively different. We argue that this is due to too large transverse momentum (p_T) fluctuations and $N - p_T$ covariance in the simulation than seen experimentally. In turn this is related to too large initial size fluctuations.

Keywords: Collective flow, Particle correlations and fluctuations

1. Introduction

The importance of initial state fluctuations to understand flow observables is now well established. The Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is used in many fields of science and tailored to study fluctuations. So in [1], it was suggested to use it to study event-by-event fluctuations in relativistic nuclear collisions. The advantage of the method compared to more traditional ones is that it incorporates all the information in two-particle azimuthal correlations in a single setting.

To carry on the PCA, the single particle distribution is expanded as

$$\frac{dN}{dydp_Td\phi} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathcal{V}_n(p_T)e^{-in\phi}, \quad (1)$$

where ϕ is the azimuthal angle of p_T . Then the covariance matrix is constructed, diagonalized and written in term of its eigenvectors (starting from the largest eigenvalue):

$$\mathcal{V}_{n\Delta}(p_T^a, p_T^b) \equiv \langle \mathcal{V}_n(p_T^a) \mathcal{V}_n^*(p_T^b) \rangle - \langle \mathcal{V}_n(p_T^a) \rangle \langle \mathcal{V}_n^*(p_T^b) \rangle = \sum_{\alpha} \mathcal{V}_n^{(\alpha)}(p_T^a) \mathcal{V}_n^{(\alpha)}(p_T^b), \quad (2)$$

where the average is performed over events, and $\mathcal{V}_n^{(\alpha)}(p_T)$ is the eigenvector. The principal components can be scaled in order to obtain the standard flow

$$v_n^{(\alpha)}(p_T) \equiv \frac{\mathcal{V}_n^{(\alpha)}(p_T)}{\langle \mathcal{V}_0(p_T) \rangle}. \quad (3)$$

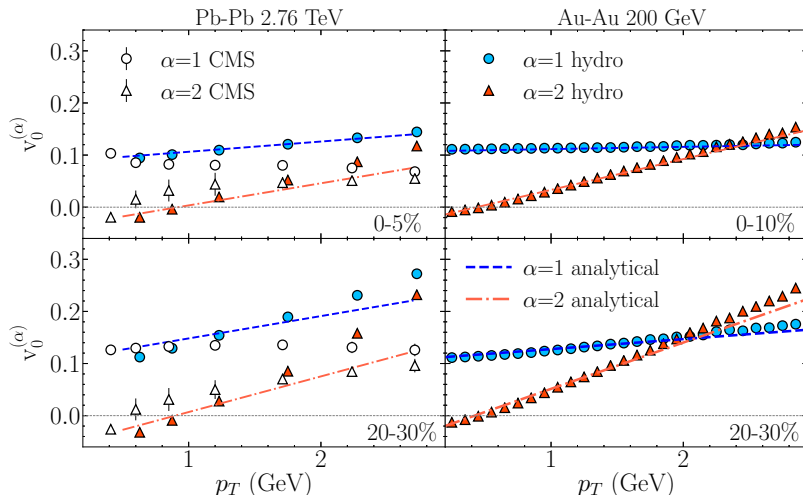


Fig. 1. First two scaled principal components for $n = 0$ (multiplicity fluctuations). For LHC, a comparison between our ideal fluid calculation, CMS data [2] and the approximate result from the toy model, eq. (5) (lines) is shown. For RHIC, our predictions from the hydrodynamic simulation and the analytical model are presented.

First experimental results on PCA have been presented by the CMS collaboration [2]. The physical meaning of the principal components was discussed in [1, 3, 4, 5] and further developments were obtained in [6, 7]. In [8], we argued that hydrodynamic simulations are in agreement with CMS data for anisotropic flow ($n=2,3$) but as far as we know, none reproduces, even qualitatively, multiplicity fluctuations ($n = 0$). We then investigated the origin of this discrepancy. In this contribution, we summarize the $n = 0$ PCA case and present some new development.

2. Results for multiplicity fluctuations

A comparison between our hydrodynamics results, coming from NeXSPheRIO 3+1D perfect ideal fluid [8], and CMS data as well as predictions for RHIC are displayed in figure 1. At LHC, the leading component of eq. (2), i.e the largest eigenvalue, is rather independent of p_T in experiment, while it increases with p_T in our hydrodynamic calculation. The increase is less strong at RHIC energies. The increase at LHC energies is not specific to our implementation, as it has been seen by other groups [4, 9].

To pinpoint the origin of this discrepancy, an analytical model can be built. Assuming the p_T spectrum as

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{dN}{dy dp_T} = \mathcal{V}_0(p_T) = \frac{2p_T N}{\pi \bar{p}_T^2} e^{-\frac{2p_T}{\bar{p}_T}}, \quad (4)$$

we can let multiplicity N deviate from mean multiplicity $\langle N \rangle$ as $N = \langle N \rangle + \delta N$, and momentum from average momentum as $\bar{p}_T = \langle \bar{p}_T \rangle + \delta \bar{p}_T$. Using eq. (4) on the covariance matrix, eq. (2), the eigenvectors can be computed analytically when $\mathcal{V}_{n\Delta}(p_T^a, p_T^b)$ is diagonalized. The first two components, leading $\alpha = 1$ and subleading $\alpha = 2$, are

$$v_0^{(1)}(p_T) \simeq \frac{\sigma_N}{\langle N \rangle} + \left[\frac{-\left(\frac{\sigma_{p_T}}{\langle \bar{p}_T \rangle}\right)^2 + 2\frac{\langle \delta N \delta \bar{p}_T \rangle}{\langle N \rangle \langle \bar{p}_T \rangle}}{\left(\frac{\sigma_N}{\langle N \rangle}\right)} \right] \frac{p_T}{\langle \bar{p}_T \rangle} \quad \text{and} \quad v_0^{(2)}(p_T) \simeq -\frac{3}{2} \frac{\sigma_{p_T}}{\langle \bar{p}_T \rangle} \left(1 - \frac{4}{3} \frac{p_T}{\langle \bar{p}_T \rangle} \right). \quad (5)$$

Using values obtained from our hydro simulation for $\sigma_N/\langle N \rangle$, $\sigma_{p_T}/\langle \bar{p}_T \rangle$, $\langle \delta N \delta \bar{p}_T \rangle / (\langle N \rangle \langle \bar{p}_T \rangle)$, we can evaluate the analytical model eigenvectors above and compare with the hydrodynamic results in figure 1. There is a good agreement and this allows us to extract some information:

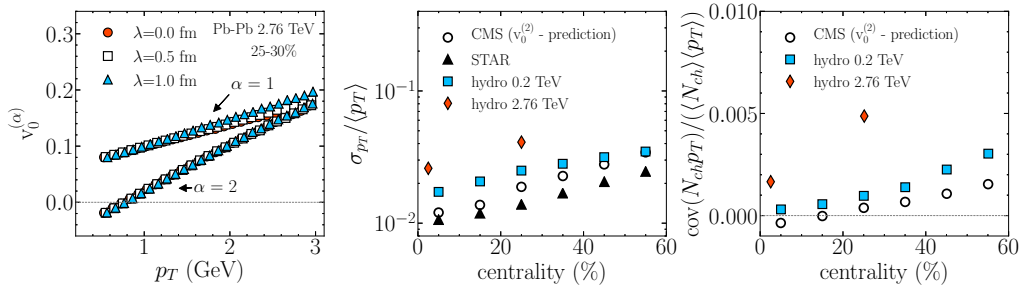


Fig. 2. Left: Effect of increasing initial granularity size (corresponds to increasing λ [11]). Center: Comparison of p_T fluctuations from hydrodynamic simulation at RHIC and LHC with data from STAR [10] and an estimate from CMS data (see text). Right: $N - p_T$ covariance from hydrodynamic simulation at LHC and prediction using CMS data (see text).

- $v_0^{(1)}(p_T) \simeq \sigma_N / \langle N \rangle$ is in agreement with CMS data, (so multiplicity fluctuations are correct in our hydrodynamic simulation).
- The $v_0^{(2)}(p_T)$ crossing of the horizontal axis is almost independent of centrality, in agreement with CMS data. This little dependence on centrality arises from the fact that p_T is also almost independent of centrality.
- $v_0^{(2)}(p_T) \propto \sigma_{p_T} / \langle \bar{p}_T \rangle$, i.e., the physical meaning of the second component is connected with the p_T fluctuations (see also [4]).
- The anomalous $v_0^{(1)}(p_T)$ increase in our (and we expect others) hydrodynamic simulation comes from the fact that the $N - p_T$ covariance, and so the p_T fluctuations are too large.

We also checked to what extent the size of initial inhomogeneities in the system affects the principal components, smoothing out these inhomogeneities with minimal effect on global properties, as done in Ref. [11]. The left plot of figure 2 shows the leading and subleading components have small dependency on the granularity size of the initial condition, parameterized by λ . A large value of λ means that the granularity was smoothed.

Hydro p_T fluctuations can be compared to data from STAR [10], as well as an estimate from CMS, using the subleading component from the analytical model eq. (5) (center plot of figure 2). At the same time, we can also predict the covariance between N and p_T using CMS data. One can see the covariance is zero for central collisions and increases for peripheral collisions, right panel figure 2. This pattern is the same coming from hydrodynamics.

3. Conclusion

We compared a Principal Component Analysis for a hydrodynamic simulation with CMS data. While hydro results are reasonable for $n = 2$ and 3 [8], for $n = 0$ the scaled leading component rises with p_T while data are flat for 2.76 TeV. At 200 GeV, hydrodynamics $v_0^{(1)}$ is flatter than LHC energy. We found that this is due to too large $N - p_T$ covariance and p_T variance in the simulation. A natural question is why are these quantities too large? At a given centrality, a smaller size implies a larger density and temperature, hence larger gradients and mean transverse momentum. A simple argument allows to relate p_T fluctuations and initial size fluctuations [12, 13, 14]: $\sigma_{p_T} / \langle \bar{p}_T \rangle \propto \sigma_r / \langle \bar{r} \rangle$.

So the origin of the anomalous $v_0^{(1)}(p_T)$ increase is the too large size of the initial size fluctuations (in our case generated by NeXus). We checked that modifying the size of the initial hot spots (using the method in [11]) has no substantial effect as shown in figure 2. In fact there are many models of initial conditions that lead to too large p_T fluctuations [13, 15]. Since the principal components are sensitive not just to N

and p_T fluctuations but their covariance, we expect that the $n=0$ PCA will provide a stringent test on initial granularity.

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