Experimental results vs theory predictions

Volodymyr Vovchenko (University of Houston)



EMMI RRTF "Fluctuations and correlations of conserved charges"

GSI, Darmstadt, Germany

November 9, 2023





- Introduction
- Some remarks on subensemble acceptance method (SAM)
 - Charge conservation for any equation of state in thermodynamic limit
 - Quantifying finite volume corrections in ideal gas
- Multiple conserved charges
- Non-critical baseline from hydrodynamics
 - Low-order vs high-order cumulants
 - Ordinary vs factorial cumulants
 - Net protons vs protons vs antiprotons
 - Protons vs baryons

Introduction

Event-by-event fluctuations and statistical mechanics



Cumulants measure chemical potential derivatives of the (QCD) equation of state

• (QCD) critical point – large correlation length, critical fluctuations of baryon number



M. Stephanov, PRL '09, '11 Energy scans at RHIC (STAR) and CERN-SPS (NA61/SHINE)

$$\kappa_2 \sim \xi^2$$
, $\kappa_3 \sim \xi^{4.5}$, $\kappa_4 \sim \xi^7$
 $\xi \to \infty$

Holds both for ordinary and *factorial* cumulants

Looking for enhanced fluctuations and non-monotonicities

Critical opalescence



Example: Nuclear liquid-gas transition



VV, Anchishkin, Gorenstein, Poberezhnyuk, PRC 92, 054901 (2015)

Example: Critical fluctuations in a microscopic simulation

V. Kuznietsov et al., Phys. Rev. C 105, 044903 (2022)

Classical molecular dynamics simulations of the **Lennard-Jones fluid** near Z(2) critical point ($T \approx 1.06T_c$, $n \approx n_c$) of the liquid-gas transition

Scaled variance in coordinate space acceptance $|z| < z^{max}$





- Need coordinate space cuts (collective flow helps)
- Here no finite-time effects



Heavy-ion collisions: flow correlates p_z and z cuts $z (or \eta_s)$



Theory vs experiment: Challenges for fluctuations

Theory (lattice QCD, fRG/DSE,...)



 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ Lattice QCD@BNL

- Coordinate space
- In contact with the heat bath
- Conserved charges
- Uniform
- Fixed volume

Experiment



STAR event display

- Momentum space
- Expanding in vacuum
- Non-conserved particle numbers
- Inhomogenous
- Fluctuating volume

Some remarks on subensemble acceptance method

Baryon number conservation: Subensemble acceptance method

VV, Savchuk, Poberezhnyuk, Gorenstein, Koch, PLB 811, 135868 (2020)

Subensemble acceptance method (SAM) – method to correct *any* EoS (e.g. *lattice QCD, fRG, ideal HRG*) for **charge conservation**

Partition a thermal system with a globally conserved charge *B* (canonical ensemble) into two subsystems which can exchange the charge

Assume thermodynamic limit:

$$V, V_1, V_2 \to \infty; \quad \frac{V_1}{V} = \alpha = const; \quad \frac{V_2}{V} = (1 - \alpha) = const; \quad a = 0:$$
 grand-canonical ensemble $V_1, V_2 \gg \xi^3, \qquad \xi = correlation \ length \ (= 0 \ in \ ideal \ gas)$

 $V_1 + V_2 = V$



(a) Subensemble acceptance





The canonical partition function then reads:

$$Z^{ce}(T, V, B) = Tr e^{-\beta \hat{H}} \approx \sum_{B_1} Z^{ce}(T, V_1, B_1) Z^{ce}(T, V - V_1, B - B_1)$$

$$Z^{ce}(T, V, B) \stackrel{V \to \infty}{\simeq} \exp\left[-\frac{V}{T}f(T, \rho_B)\right] \quad \mu_B(T, \rho_B) = \partial f(T, \rho_B)/\partial \rho_B \quad \chi_n^B \equiv \partial^{n-1}(\rho_B/T^3)/\partial (\mu_B/T)^{n-1}$$

SAM: Computing the cumulants

VV, Savchuk, Poberezhnyuk, Gorenstein, Koch, PLB 811, 135868 (2020)

Cumulant generating function for B_1 :

$$G_{B_1}(t) \equiv \ln \langle e^{t B_1} \rangle = \ln \left\{ \sum_{B_1} e^{t B_1} \exp \left[-\frac{\alpha V}{T} f(T, \rho_{B_1}) \right] \exp \left[-\frac{\beta V}{T} f(T, \rho_{B_2}) \right] \right\} + \tilde{C} \qquad \beta = 1 - \alpha$$

$$\tilde{\kappa}_1[B_1(t)] = \frac{\sum_{B_1} B_1 \tilde{P}(B_1; t)}{\sum_{B_1} \tilde{P}(B_1; t)} \equiv \langle B_1(t) \rangle \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{P}(B_1; t) = \exp\left\{tB_1 - V \frac{\alpha f(T, \rho_{B_1}) + \beta f(T, \rho_{B_2})}{T}\right\}.$$

Thermodynamic limit: $\tilde{P}(B_1; t)$ highly peaked at $\langle B_1(t) \rangle$

 $\langle B_1(t) \rangle$ is a solution to equation $d\tilde{P}/dB_1 = 0$:

$$t=\hat{\mu}_B[{\mathcal T},
ho_{B_1}(t)]-\hat{\mu}_B[{\mathcal T},
ho_{B_2}(t)]$$

where $\hat{\mu}_B \equiv \mu_B / T$, $\mu_B(T, \rho_B) = \partial f(T, \rho_B) / \partial \rho_B$



t = 0: $\rho_{B_1} = \rho_{B_2} = B/V$, $B_1 = \alpha B$, i.e. charge uniformly distributed between the subsystems

VV, Savchuk, Poberezhnyuk, Gorenstein, Koch, PLB 811, 135868 (2020)

$$\kappa_n[B_1] = \frac{\partial^{n-1} \tilde{\kappa}_1[B_1(t)]}{\partial t^{n-1}} \bigg|_{t=0} \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \quad t = \hat{\mu}_B[T, \rho_{B_1}(t)] - \hat{\mu}_B[T, \rho_{B_2}(t)]$$

$$\kappa_{1}[B_{1}] = \alpha VT^{3} \chi_{1}^{B} \qquad \beta = 1 - \alpha \qquad \text{scaled variance} \qquad \frac{\kappa_{2}[B_{1}]}{\kappa_{1}[B_{1}]} = (1 - \alpha) \frac{\chi_{2}^{B}}{\chi_{1}^{B}},$$

$$\kappa_{2}[B_{1}] = \alpha VT^{3} \beta \chi_{2}^{B} \qquad \text{skewness} \qquad \frac{\kappa_{3}[B_{1}]}{\kappa_{2}[B_{1}]} = (1 - 2\alpha) \frac{\chi_{3}^{B}}{\chi_{2}^{B}},$$

$$\kappa_{4}[B_{1}] = \alpha VT^{3} \beta \left[\chi_{4}^{B} - 3\alpha\beta \frac{(\chi_{3}^{B})^{2} + \chi_{2}^{B} \chi_{4}^{B}}{\chi_{2}^{B}}\right] \qquad \text{kurtosis} \qquad \frac{\kappa_{4}[B_{1}]}{\kappa_{2}[B_{1}]} = (1 - 3\alpha\beta) \frac{\chi_{4}^{B}}{\chi_{2}^{B}} - 3\alpha\beta \left(\frac{\chi_{3}^{B}}{\chi_{2}^{B}}\right)$$

$$\chi_n^B = \frac{\partial^n (p/T^4)}{\partial (\mu_B/T)^n}$$
 – grand-canonical susceptibilities, e.g. from lattice QCD!

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SAM vs ideal gas

Ideal gas of baryons and antibaryons:

$$VT^3\chi^B_n=N_B+(-1)^nN_{ar B}$$

SAM:

$$\kappa_{1} = \alpha B$$

$$\kappa_{2} = \alpha (1 - \alpha) N$$

$$\kappa_{3} = \alpha (1 - 2\alpha) B$$

$$\kappa_{4} = \alpha \beta \left[(1 - 3\alpha\beta) N - 3\alpha\beta \frac{B^{2}}{N} \right]$$

$$B = \langle N_{B} \rangle - \langle N_{\bar{B}} \rangle, \qquad N = \langle N_{B} \rangle + \langle N_{\bar{B}} \rangle$$

Ideal gas:
$$g(t) = \ln \left[\left(\frac{q_+}{q_-} \right)^{B/2} \frac{I_B(2z\sqrt{q_+q_-})}{I_B(2z)} \right],$$

where $q_+ = 1 - p_B + p_B e^t$ and $q_- = 1 - p_{\bar{B}} + p_{\bar{B}} e^{-t}.$
Bzdak, Koch, Skokov, PRC 87, 014901 (2013)
Braun-Munzinger, Rustamov, Stachel, NPA 960, 114 (2017)

$$\begin{array}{ll} c_{1} &= pB,\\ c_{2} &= p(1-p)\,\langle N\rangle_{C}\,,\\ c_{3} &= c_{1}(1-p)(1-2p),\\ c_{4} &= c_{2}+3(p^{2}q^{2}B^{2}-c_{2}^{2})+6pq(2z^{2}pq-c_{2}),\\ z &= \sqrt{\langle N_{B}\rangle\,\langle N_{\bar{B}}\rangle}.\qquad \langle N_{B,\bar{B}}\rangle_{C} = z\frac{I_{B\mp1}(2z)}{I_{B}(2z)},\\ c &\equiv \kappa, \qquad p \equiv \alpha, \qquad q = 1-\alpha \end{array}$$

Why are the expressions different, especially for κ_4 ?

$$g(t) = \ln\left[\left(\frac{q_+}{q_-}\right)^{B/2} \frac{I_B(2z\sqrt{q_+q_-})}{I_B(2z)}\right], \quad \text{Large volume limit: } N = \langle N_B \rangle + \langle N_{\bar{B}} \rangle \to \infty \text{ at fixed } r_B = \frac{B}{N}$$

Use asymptotic expansions:
$$I_{\nu}(\nu \tilde{z}) \stackrel{\nu \to \infty}{\sim} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\nu}} \frac{e^{\nu\eta}}{(1+\tilde{z}^2)^{1/4}} \left\{ 1 + O(\nu^{-1}) \right\}, \qquad I_0(z) \stackrel{z \to \infty}{\sim} \frac{e^z}{\sqrt{2\pi z}}$$
for $B = 0$

 $g(t) \sim \ln\{\exp[f(t)N] a_1(t)\}$ LO NLO

$$egin{aligned} f(t) &= rac{r_B}{2} \ln rac{q_+}{q_-} + \sqrt{r_B^2 + (1-r_B^2)q_+q_-} - 1 + |r_B| \ln \left[rac{(1+|r_B|)\sqrt{q_+q_-}}{|r_B| + \sqrt{r_B^2 + (1-r_B^2)q_+q_-}}
ight], \ a_1(t) &= rac{1}{[r_B^2 + (1-r_B^2)q_+q_-]^{1/4}} \end{aligned}$$

Ideal gas:

LO

$$\begin{split} \kappa_1^{\text{LO}} &= N \, \alpha r_B, \\ \kappa_2^{\text{LO}} &= N \, (1-\alpha) \alpha \\ \kappa_3^{\text{LO}} &= N \, \alpha (1-\alpha) (1-2\alpha) r_B \\ \kappa_4^{\text{LO}} &= N \, (1-\alpha) \alpha \left[1 - 3\alpha (1-\alpha) (1+r_B^2) \right] \end{split}$$

NLO

$$\begin{split} \kappa_1^{\rm NLO} &= 0, \\ \kappa_2^{\rm NLO} &= -\frac{1}{2} (1-\alpha) \alpha \left(1-r_B^2\right), \\ \kappa_3^{\rm NLO} &= 0, \\ \kappa_4^{\rm NLO} &= -\frac{1}{2} (1-\alpha) \alpha (1-r_B^2) \left[1-6 \alpha (1-\alpha) \left(1-r_B^2\right)\right]. \end{split}$$

SAM:

$$\begin{split} \kappa_1^{\text{SAM}} &= \alpha N r_B, \\ \kappa_2^{\text{SAM}} &= \alpha (1 - \alpha) N, \\ \kappa_3^{\text{SAM}} &= \alpha (1 - \alpha) (1 - 2\alpha) N r_B, \\ \kappa_4^{\text{SAM}} &= \alpha (1 - \alpha) N [1 - 3\alpha (1 - \alpha) (1 + r_B^2)]. \end{split}$$

SAM at NLO: Barej, Bzdak, PRC 107, 034914 (2023)

$$\begin{split} \kappa_1^{\text{SAM,NLO}} &= 0, \\ \kappa_2^{\text{SAM,NLO}} &= -\frac{1}{2}(1-\alpha)\alpha \left(1-r_B^2\right), \\ \kappa_3^{\text{SAM,NLO}} &= 0, \\ \kappa_4^{\text{SAM,NLO}} &= -\frac{1}{2}(1-\alpha)\alpha (1-r_B^2) \left[1-6\alpha (1-\alpha) \left(1-r_B^2\right)\right] \end{split}$$

$$\frac{\kappa_2^{LO}}{\kappa_2} = 1 + \frac{1 - r_B^2}{N} + O(N^{-2})$$

Total number of baryons is at least 400, therefore $\delta \kappa_2 \sim 0.25\%$ or less

For comparison, LO error due to Fermi statistics is
$$\delta \kappa_{2,FD}^{\text{gce}} \propto \frac{K_2(2m/T)}{K_2(m/T)} \frac{\cosh(2\mu_B/T)}{\cosh(\mu_B/T)} \sim 0.2\%$$
 at $\mu_B = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\kappa_4}{\kappa_2} &= [1 - 3\alpha(1 - \alpha)(1 + r_B^2)] & \frac{\kappa_6}{\kappa_2} = 1 - 15\alpha(1 - \alpha)[1 + r_B^2 - \alpha(1 - \alpha)](3 + 6r_B^2 - r_B^4) \\ &+ \frac{3\alpha(1 - \alpha)(1 - 4r_B^2 + 3r_B^4)}{2N} + O(N^{-2}), & + \frac{15\alpha(1 - \alpha)(1 - r_B^2)[1 - 3r_B^2 - \alpha(1 - \alpha)(5 - 22r_B^2 + 9r_B^4)]}{2N} + O(N^{-2}) \end{aligned}$$

When LO corrections might be sizable?

- Strangeness conservation at low energies
- pp collisions

Comparison

Ideal gas of baryons and antibaryons: $\chi^B_{2n} \propto \langle N_B \rangle + \langle N_{\bar{B}} \rangle$, $\chi^B_{2n-1} \propto \langle N_B \rangle - \langle N_{\bar{B}} \rangle$



SAM-2.0: apply the correction for *arbitrary* distributions inside and outside the acceptance that are peaked at the mean

- Inhomogeneous systems (e.g. RHIC and below)
- Momentum space and unequal acceptances
- Map "grand-canonical" cumulants inside and outside the acceptance to the "canonical" cumulants inside the acceptance

 $\nu^{ce} = S \Delta M [\nu^{gce} \nu^{gce}]$

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_{1}^{\text{SAM2.0}} &= \kappa_{1,in}^{\text{gce}}, \\ \kappa_{2}^{\text{SAM2.0}} &= \frac{\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} \kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}}}{\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} + \kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}}}, \\ \kappa_{3}^{\text{SAM2.0}} &= \frac{\kappa_{3,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} (\kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}})^{3} - \kappa_{3,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}} (\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}})^{3}}{\left(\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} + \kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}}\right)^{3}}, \\ \kappa_{4}^{\text{SAM2.0}} &= \frac{1}{\left(\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} + \kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}}\right)^{5}} \times \left\{\kappa_{4,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} (\kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}})^{5} + \kappa_{4,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}} (\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}})^{5} + (\kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}})^{4} \left[\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} \kappa_{4,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} - 3(\kappa_{3,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}})^{2}\right] \\ &\quad + (\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}})^{4} \left[\kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}} \kappa_{4,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}} - 3(\kappa_{3,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}})^{2}\right] - 6(\kappa_{2,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}})^{2} (\kappa_{2,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}})^{2} \kappa_{3,\text{in}}^{\text{gce}} \kappa_{3,\text{out}}^{\text{gce}}\right\}. \end{aligned}$$



SAM-2.0: Ideal gas

Grand-canonical cumulants read:

$$\kappa_{n,in}^{\text{gce}} = \alpha_B \langle N_B \rangle_{GC} + (-1)^n \alpha_{\bar{B}} \langle N_{\bar{B}} \rangle_{GC}$$
$$\kappa_{n,out}^{\text{gce}} = (1 - \alpha_B) \langle N_B \rangle_{GC} + (-1)^n (1 - \alpha_{\bar{B}}) \langle N_{\bar{B}} \rangle_{GC}$$

$$\begin{split} \kappa_{1}^{\mathrm{SAM2.0}} &= N \, \frac{1}{2} \left[\alpha_{B}(r_{B}+1) + \alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1) \right], \\ \kappa_{2}^{\mathrm{SAM2.0}} &= -N \, \frac{1}{4} \left(\alpha_{B}^{2}(r_{B}+1)^{2} - 2\alpha_{B} \left(\alpha_{\bar{B}} \left(r_{B}^{2}-1 \right) + r_{B}+1 \right) + \alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1) (\alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1)+2) \right) \\ \kappa_{3}^{\mathrm{SAM2.0}} &= -N \, \frac{1}{8} \left(\alpha_{B}^{3}(r_{B}-3)(r_{B}+1)^{3} - 3\alpha_{B}^{2}(r_{B}+1)^{2} \left(\alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1)^{2}-2 \right) \right. \\ &+ \alpha_{B} \left(3\alpha_{\bar{B}}^{2} \left(r_{B}^{2}-1 \right)^{2} - 4(r_{B}+1) \right) - \alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1) \left(\alpha_{\bar{B}}^{2}(r_{B}+3)(r_{B}-1)^{2} + 6\alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1) + 4 \right) \right) \\ \kappa_{4}^{\mathrm{SAM2.0}} &= -N \, \frac{1}{16} \left(3\alpha_{B}^{4} \left(r_{B}^{2}-4r_{B}+5 \right) (r_{B}+1)^{4} - 12\alpha_{B}^{3}(r_{B}+1)^{3} \left(\alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1)^{3}-r_{B}+3 \right) \right. \\ &+ 2\alpha_{B}^{2}(r_{B}+1)^{2} \left(3\alpha_{\bar{B}}^{2} \left(3r_{B}^{2}-1 \right) \left(r_{B}-1 \right)^{2} - 6\alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1)^{2} + 14 \right) \\ &- 4\alpha_{B} \left(3\alpha_{\bar{B}}^{3} \left(r_{B}^{2}-1 \right)^{3} + 3\alpha_{\bar{B}}^{2} \left(r_{B}^{2}-1 \right)^{2} + 2\alpha_{\bar{B}} \left(r_{B}^{2}-1 \right) + 2(r_{B}+1) \right) \\ &+ \alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1) \left(3\alpha_{\bar{B}}^{3} \left(r_{B}^{2}+4r_{B}+5 \right) \left(r_{B}-1 \right)^{3} + 12\alpha_{\bar{B}}^{2} \left(r_{B}-3 \right) \left(r_{B}-1 \right)^{2} + 28\alpha_{\bar{B}}(r_{B}-1) + 8 \right) \right), \end{split}$$

in agreement with LO results from finite volume calculation

Comparison at RHIC-BES

Using α_B and $\alpha_{\bar{B}}$ at different energies from Braun-Munzinger et al. NPA 1008, 122141 (2021)



Ideal gas: using <u>https://github.com/e-by-e/Cumulants-CE</u>

No visible difference to SAM-2.0

Multiple conserved charges

VV, Poberezhnyuk, Koch, JHEP 10, 089 (2020)

Key findings:

 Cumulants up to 3rd order factorize into product of binomial and grand-canonical cumulants

$$\kappa_2^{B,Q,S} = (1 - \alpha) VT^3 \chi_2^{B,Q,S} \qquad \kappa_3^{B,Q,S} = (1 - \alpha)(1 - 2\alpha) VT^3 \chi_3^{B,Q,S}$$

• Ratios of second and third order cumulants of **conserved charges** are NOT sensitive to charge conservation (requires same acceptance)

e.g. $\kappa^B_2/\kappa^Q_2 = \chi^B_2/\chi^Q_2$

- Also true for the measurable ratios of covariances involving one non-conserved charge, such as κ_{pQ}/κ_{kQ}
- For order n > 3 charge cumulants "mix". Effect in HRG is tiny

$$\kappa_{4}^{B} = \kappa_{4}^{B,\text{gce}} \beta \left[\left(1 - 3\alpha\beta \right) \chi_{4}^{B} - 3\alpha\beta \frac{(\chi_{3}^{B})^{2}\chi_{2}^{Q} - 2\chi_{21}^{BQ}\chi_{11}^{BQ}\chi_{3}^{B} + (\chi_{21}^{BQ})^{2}\chi_{2}^{B}}{\chi_{2}^{B}\chi_{2}^{Q} - (\chi_{11}^{BQ})^{2}} \right]$$



 $\kappa_{XY} = (1 - \alpha) \kappa_{XY}^{\text{gce}} + \alpha \kappa_{XY}^{\text{ce}}$

- Mixed cumulants involving one conserved charge e.g. pQ have $\kappa_{pQ}^{ce} = 0$ thus they scale like second order charge cumulants
 - p and Q, again, must have the same a
- Cancellation does NOT occur for two non-conserved quantities, such as κ_{pK}





Net-proton and net- Λ fluctuations

$$\kappa_{pp} = (1 - \alpha) \, \kappa_{pp}^{\sf gce} + \alpha \, \kappa_{pp}^{\sf ce}$$

• Allows for corrections due to electric charge (protons) or strangeness (Λ) conservation in addition to baryon number conservation.



Truth lies in between the "naïve" corrections Likely bigger effect for higher orders

Quantitative calculation with blast-wave model

 Large effect from resonance decays for pions and kaons + exact conservation of electric charge/strangeness

• D-measure $D = \frac{\langle \delta Q^2 \rangle}{\langle N_{ch} \rangle}$

ALICE Pb-Pb, 2.76 TeV $0.2 < p_{\tau} < 5.0 \text{ GeV}/c$, centrality 0-5% 3 **HRG**: $D \sim 3 - 4$ \Box 2 (EV-)HRG - D (grand-canonical) ---- D' (BQS-canonical) **QGP?:** *D*~1 – 1.5 - D" (BQS-canonical) ALICE data 0.5 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 0.0 1.0 $\Delta \eta_{acc}$

Hadronic description with global conservation challenging



VV, Koch, Phys. Rev. C 103, 044903 (2021) 24

Baryon annihilation

- Net protons described within errors and consistent with either
 - global baryon conservation without $B\overline{B}$ annihilations
 - or local baryon conservation with $B\overline{B}$ annihilations



- $\kappa_2[p-\bar{p}]/\langle p+\bar{p}\rangle$: Interplay of baryon annihilation(\nearrow) and local conservation(\checkmark)
 - Additional measurement of $\kappa_2[p+\bar{p}]$ can resolve it
- $\kappa_2[p+\bar{p}]/\langle p+\bar{p}\rangle$: Insensitive to baryon conservation at LHC, $cov(p+\bar{p}, B-\bar{B})=0$
 - Good measure for volume fluctuations?

Multiple conserved charges as fct. of collision energy

Schematic calculation in HRG model along the chemical freeze-out line, $\alpha = 0.1$



- LHC: Dominant effect from baryon conservation
- Very low energies: net-p \approx net-Q \implies electric charge conservation dominates
- Simultaneous treatment of B and Q conservation is important

Quantitative calculation for BES energies

Canonical sampling of HRG over MUSIC Cooper-Frye hypersurfaces – FIST sampler



- Effect of charge conservation in addition to baryon conservation becomes visible as energy is decreased
- Becomes dominant effect at 2.4 & 3 GeV?

Non-critical baseline from hydrodynamics

Calculation of non-critical contributions

VV, V. Koch, C. Shen, Phys. Rev. C 105, 014904 (2022)

- (3+1)-D viscous hydrodynamics evolution (MUSIC-3.0)
 - Collision geometry-based 3D initial state [Shen, Alzhrani, PRC 102, 014909 (2020)]
 - Crossover equation of state based on lattice QCD
 [Monnai, Schenke, Shen, Phys. Rev. C 100, 024907 (2019)]
 - Cooper-Frye particlization at $\epsilon_{sw} = 0.26 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$

- Non-critical contributions are computed at particlization
 - Cumulants matched to QCD at $\mu_B = 0$ via excluded volume b = 1 fm³ [VV, V. Koch, Phys. Rev. C 103, 044903 (2021)]
 - Exact global baryon conservation* (and other charges)
 - SAM-2.0 [VV, Phys. Rev. C 105, 014903 (2022)]
 - or FIST sampler (Monte Carlo) [VV, Phys. Rev. C 106, 064906 (2022)] https://github.com/vlvovch/fist-sampler



• Absent: critical point, local conservation, initial-state/volume fluctuations

*If baryon conservation is the only effect (no other correlations), non-critical baseline can be computed without hydro Braun-Munzinger, Friman, Redlich, Rustamov, Stachel, NPA 1008, 122141 (2021)

RHIC-BES: Net proton cumulant ratios (MUSIC)



- Data at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \ge 20$ GeV consistent with non-critical physics (BQS conservation and repulsion)
- Effect from baryon conservation is stronger than repulsion but both are required at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \ge 20$ GeV
- Reduced errors to come from BES-II

Can we learn more from the more accurate data available for κ_2 and κ_3 ?

Removing the "net" part: Proton variance



• Data at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \ge 20$ GeV consistent with non-critical physics (BQS conservation and repulsion)

• Clear excess of proton variance at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} < 20$ GeV – hint of attractive interactions?

VV, V. Koch, C. Shen, Phys. Rev. C 105, 014904 (2022); VV, Phys. Rev. C 106, 064906 (2022) 30

Correlation Functions (factorial cumulants)

- Factorial cumulants \hat{C}_n [Bzdak, Koch, Strodthoff, PRC 95, 054906 (2017)]
 - Remove the Poisson contribution and probe genuine correlations

$$\hat{C}_1 = \kappa_1, \qquad \hat{C}_3 = 2\kappa_1 - 3\kappa_2 + \kappa_3, \\ \hat{C}_2 = -\kappa_1 + \kappa_2, \quad \hat{C}_4 = -6\kappa_1 + 11\kappa_2 - 6\kappa_3 + \kappa_4.$$

- **Expectation:** High-order (n > 3) factorial cumulants
 - have small contributions from non-critical effects (baryon cons. or excluded volume)
 [Bzdak, Koch, Skokov, EPJC '17; VV et al, PLB '17]
 - are as singular as ordinary cumulants near the critical point [Ling, Stephanov, PRC '16]
- Observations from STAR data:
 - $\hat{C}_3 \& \hat{C}_4$ are largely consistent with zero within (large) errors
 - Reanalyze (non-)monotonic energy dependence for \hat{C}_4/\hat{C}_1 instead of κ_4/κ_2 ?
 - Statistically significant effects appear to be driven by two-proton correlations in \hat{C}_2



Two-proton correlations

- Protons
 - Consistent with non-critical physics above 20 GeV
 - Enhancement at lower energies
- Antiproton description has issues
 - Correlations in data underestimated by \sim factor 2

Differences:

- Produced vs stopped?
- Annihilation?



• Changing y_{max} slope at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \le 14.5$ GeV?



- Changing y_{max} slope at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \le 14.5$ GeV?
- Volume fluctuations? [Skokov, Friman, Redlich, PRC '13]
 - $C_2/C_1 += C_1 * \Delta v^2$



- Changing y_{max} slope at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \le 14.5$ GeV?
- Volume fluctuations? [Skokov, Friman, Redlich, PRC '13]
 - $C_2/C_1 += C_1 * \Delta v^2$
 - Can improve low energies but spoil high energies?



- Changing y_{max} slope at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \le 14.5$ GeV?
- Volume fluctuations? [Skokov, Friman, Redlich, PRC '13]
 - $C_2/C_1 += C_1 * \Delta v^2$
 - Can improve low energies but spoil high energies?
- Attractive interactions?
 - Could work if baryon repulsion turns into attraction in the high- μ_B regime
 - Critical point?



Baryon cumulants from protons

- net baryon \neq net proton
 - protons are a *subset* of all baryons
 - effectively amounts to additional efficiency correction
 - \rightarrow "Poissonizer" of proton cumulants relative to baryons
 - loss: ~50% in \hat{C}_2 , ~75% in \hat{C}_3 , ~87.5% in \hat{C}_4
- Baryon cumulants can be reconstructed from proton cumulants based on isospin randomization [Kitazawa, Asakawa, Phys. Rev. C 85 (2012) 021901]
 - Requires the use of joint factorial moments







