Quarkonium in the quark-gluon plasma: an experimental overview

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EMMI Featured Talk / GSI-FAIR Colloquium, 16 July 2024





🖌 as a probe of quark-gluon plasma formation in heavy-ion collisions







🖌 as a probe of quark-gluon plasma formation in heavy-ion collisions



Quark-gluon plasma

Quark-gluon plasma is the QCD state of strongly interacting matter in which quarks and gluons are no more confined into hadrons



• QGP is formed at high temperatures and/or density

 experimentally, these conditions are reached in ultra-relativistic heavy ions collisions

QGP and heavy-ions



QGP and heavy-ions



Quarkonium in heavy-ions



Heavy quarks produced in the early collision stages

the original idea: quarkonium production suppressed sequentially via color screening in QGP

T.Matsui, H.Satz, PLB178 (1986) 416 > 3500 citations



J/ψ SUPPRESSION BY QUARK-GLUON PLASMA FORMATION

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ABSTRACT

If high energy heavy ion collisions lead to the formation of a hot quarkgluon plasma, then colour screening prevents $c\bar{c}$ binding in the deconfined interior of the interaction region. To study this effect, we compare the temperature dependence of the screening radius, as obtained from lattice QCD, with the J/ψ radius calculated in charmonium models. The feasibility to detect this effect clearly in the dilepton mass spectrum is examined. We conclude that J/ψ suppression in nuclear collisions should provide an unambiguous signature of quark-gluon plasma formation.

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Quarkonium states

Quarkonium exists in a large variety of states: charmonium



Quarkonium states

Quarkonium exists in a large variety of states: charmonium and bottomonium



Sequential melting

the original idea: quarkonium production suppressed sequentially via color screening in QGP

T.Matsui, H.Satz, PLB178 (1986) 416

sequential melting: differences in the quarkonium binding energies lead to a sequential melting with increasing temperature

Digal, Petrecki, Satz PRD 64(2001) 0940150 F. Karsch, D. Kharzeev, H. Satz, PB637 (2006) 75



This intuitive suppression picture assumes static in-medium states



quarkonium as a thermometer of the system

Recent theory developments introduce a dynamical approach

quarkonium survival depends on how strongly it interferes with the medium and on the time spent in the medium



medium as a "sieve" that filters quarkonia, over time, depending on the strength of their binding



modern dynamical picture



A. Rothkopf, Physics Reports 858 (2020)

First charmonium results from SPS



First observation of J/ψ anomalous suppression in central PbPb collisions



size of J/ ψ suppression quantitatively consistent with melting of ψ (2S) and χ_{c}

B. Alessandro et al., EPJC39 (2005) 335 R. Arnaldi et al., Nucl. Phys. A (2009) 345 R. Arnaldi, P. Cortese, E. Scomparin Phys. Rev. C 81, 014903

First charmonium results from SPS



B. Alessandro et al., EPJC39 (2005) 335 R. Arnaldi et al., Nucl. Phys. A (2009) 345 R. Arnaldi, P. Cortese, E. Scomparin Phys. Rev. C 81, 014903 First observation of J/ψ anomalous suppression in central PbPb collisions



 J/ψ feed-down

direct ~ 79.5% from $\psi(2S) \sim 6.5\%$ from $\chi_{c1}(1P) \sim 8\%$ from $\chi_{c2}(1P) \sim 6\%$ (at low p_T)

J.P. Lansberg, Phys. Rept. 889 (2020) 1

First charmonium results from SPS



First observation of J/ψ anomalous suppression in central PbPb collisions



size of J/ ψ suppression quantitatively consistent with melting of ψ (2S) and χ_{c}

First evidence of sequential suppression



 ψ (2S) anomalous suppression stronger than the J/ ψ one

Quarkonium in QGP: recombination

Increasing the energy of the collision the $c\overline{c}$ pair multiplicity increases

Central AA coll	Ncc	Nbb
SPS, 17 GeV	~0.2	0
RHIC, 200 GeV	~10	~1
LHC, 5.02 TeV	~115	~10

(re)combination: charmonium production enhanced at hadronization or in QGP

P. Braun-Munzinger, J.Stachel, PLB490(2000)196 R.Thews et al, PRC63:054905(2001)



Quarkonium: hot matter effects



The interplay of these hot matter effects

suppression(re)combination

depends on the

- collision energy
- quarkonium state

Quarkonium: cold matter effects

Quarkonium production can be affected also by cold matter effects (CNM)

the assessment of their size is fundamental to interpret quarkonium AA results

pA collisions allows us to understand

 role of the various CNM contributions, whose importance depends on kinematic and energy of the collisions

→ shadowing, coherent energy loss, break-up in nuclear matter or via hadronic/partonic comovers

2) presence of possible hot matter effects

Quarkonium highlights at LHC









 $\psi(2S) R_{AA}$









Medium effects are quantified comparing AA particle yield with pp cross section, scaled by a geometrical factor ($\propto N_{coll}$)

$$R_{AA} = \frac{Y_{AA}}{\langle T_{AA} \rangle \sigma_{pp}}$$

if there are medium effects

$$R_{AA} \neq 1$$

pp reference





Quarkonium kinematics



AA (pA for LHCb)

All experiments study quarkonium in its dilepton decay (dimuons and/or dielectrons)

 $(p_T reach based on the most recent most recent)$

Quarkonium kinematics







high $p_{\rm T} \longrightarrow$ very high $p_{\rm T}$

high $p_{\rm T}$

- suppression is the dominant process
 - similar *R_{AA}* independent on the rapidity range

very high p_{T} R_{AA} rise due to partonic energy loss as observed for hadrons?



low p_{τ}



low p_T the role of recombination depends on y, reflecting charm p_T and y distributions



Higher R_{AA} at mid-y wrt fw-y, in central events, as expected from a larger charm quark multiplicity

Theory models

Transport

Macroscopic rate equation including suppression and regeneration in the QGP

Suppression

 computed from modification of charmonium spectral functions, constrained by LQCD validated potentials

Regeneration

tuned from measured heavy quark yields

X. Du and R. Rapp, NPA 943(2015) 14P.7 P. Zhou et al., PRC89 (2014) 054911



both approaches fairly reproduce LHC experimental results on the J/ψ

Statistical hadronization

Charmonium yields determined at chemical freeze-out according to their statistical weights

Charm fugacity factor related to charm conservation and based on experimental data on production cross sections

> A. Andronic et al., Nature 561 (2018) 321 A. Andronic et al. **arXiv:2308.14821** [

Other approaches include "comover" models E. Ferreiro, PLB 731 (2014) 57

$J/\Psi R_{AA}$ vs p_T: comparison to theory



Model uncertainties dominated by

- open charm cross section
- initial state effects (shadowing)

SHM: A. Andronic et al. PLB797 (2019) 134836 Transport: P. Zhuang et al. PRC 89 (2014) 054911 TAMU: R. Rapp et al. PLB664 (2008) 253

suppression+regeneration mechanisms describe the data regeneration dominates at low p_{τ}



J/ψ in pA and AA



significant difference between J/ Ψ R_{pA} and R_{AA} over all the p_{T} range

CNM effects (i.e shadowing) not enough to explain the AA result



$J/\psi R_{AA} vs dN/d\eta$



Strong decrease of J/ψ suppression when moving from low to high energy experiments

At LHC, disappearance of suppression effects when going towards central collisions

> strong indication of (re)generation effects in the charmonium sector

ALICE, arXiv:2211.04384

charged hadron pseudorapidity density at mid-y ~ initial energy density

J/ψ flow

Azimuthal anisotropy v_2

Multiple interactions in the medium convert initial geometric anisotropy into particle momenta anisotropy

 \rightarrow elliptic flow (v₂) is the 2nd coeff. of the Fourier expansion of the azimuthal distributions of the produced particles, wrt the event plane

$$v_{2} = \langle \cos 2(\varphi_{\text{particle}} - \Psi_{\text{EP}}) \rangle$$



J/ψ flow

 v_2 provides complementary information on J/ ψ production

J/ψ from recombination should inherit thermalized charm flow

low p_{T} : evidence for non-zero flow (ALICE, 7σ effect in 4< p_{T} <6 GeV/*c*)

high p_{T} : $v_{2} \neq 0$ (ATLAS and CMS)



 $J/\psi v_2$ measured up to p_T = 30 GeV/c
J/ψ flow

$J/\psi v_2$ at RHIC is compatible with 0





consistent with increase of regeneration contribution from RHIC to LHC energies

J/ψ flow: models comparison

Transport model including (re)combination describe the data over the explored p_{τ} range





ALICE, arXiv:2211.04384

Quarkonium highlights at LHC



Suppression and recombination mechanisms are at play for J/**ψ**

Do we observe the sequential suppression in the charmonium sector at LHC?

ψ(2S) vs. J/ψ



Study of $\psi(2S)$ is more challenging wrt J/ ψ due to:

🖌 ~ 7.5 lower branching ratio to muon pairs

BR ($\psi(2S) \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$) = (0.80 ± 0.06) % BR ($J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$) = (5.96 ± 0.03) %

~ 6 times smaller production cross section in pp collisions at LHC energy

> $\sigma_{\psi(2S)} = 0.87 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.10 \ \mu b$ $\sigma_{J/\psi} = 5.88 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.34 \ \mu b$

(pp, 5.02 TeV, 2.5<y<4 ALICE, arXiv:2109.15240)



Expect much stronger dissociation effects for the weakly bound $\psi(2S)$ state

ψ(2S) vs. J/ψ



What is the impact of recombination on the ψ(2S)?

Larger size charmonium produced later in the evolution of the system

 \rightarrow recombination at play also when the system is more diluted (even hadronic?)

 \blacksquare Comparison between J/ ψ and ψ (2S) is an important test for models





- Stronger suppression for ψ(2S)
 compared to J/ψ
 → hint for sequential suppression
- Increasing trend of R_{AA} at low- p_T for both charmonium states \rightarrow hint of $\psi(2S)$ regeneration
- ✓ Good agreement between CMS and ALICE data in the common p_T range, regardless of the different rapidity coverage



$\psi(2S) R_{AA}$: model comparison

- TAMU model reproduces the results for both J/ψ and $\psi(2S)$
- SHMc describes J/ψ data but slightly underestimate the ψ(2S) result in central Pb–Pb collisions





ALICE, PRL 132 (2024) 042301

TAMU: X. Du and R. Rapp, NPA 943 (2015) 147 SHMC: A.Andronic et al. PLB 797 (2019) 134836, A.Andronic et al. Nature 561 (2018) 321–330

What about **x**c states?

So far, first $\chi_{\rm c}$ measurements only in pA collisions

 $\chi_{c1} + \chi_{c2}$ measured in the J/ $\psi \gamma$ decay channel





Double ratio to J/ψ close to unity \rightarrow no significant final state effects on χ_c in pA, in spite of the weaker binding energy

Quarkonium highlights at LHC



do we observe the sequential suppression also for bottomonium? Y(nS)

- three Y states with different sensitivity to the medium
- small, but not negligible, BR into dileptons (~2%)





Y(nS)

limited recombination and no B feed down, but large feed down from excited states \rightarrow important for results interpretation





Y(nS) R_{AA} vs centrality



Clear ordering in the sequential suppression of bottomonium

$$R_{AA} Y(1S) > R_{AA} Y(2S) > R_{AA} Y(3S)$$

(and first measurement of the Y(3S) in PbPb)



strong centrality suppression for all Υ (nS) (factor ~2.5 for Υ (1S), ~10 for Υ (2S), ~12 for Υ (3S)

Y(nS) R_{AA}: model comparison



Large variety of models

Several approaches can semi-quantitatively reproduce the experimental observations (also the p_{T} dependence)!

Look more in details into the excited states

Y(nS) R_{AA}: model comparison

TAMU

- kinetic rate equation approach
- includes regeneration, in-medium binding energies, lattice QCD based EOS for fireball evolution

Heidelberg

• screening and gluon dissociation

SHMb

- statistical hadronization of b-quarks
- partial thermalization of b-quarks \rightarrow arbitrary suppression of beauty pairs at phase boundary
- a thermalization fraction of ~50% of b-quarks explains the bottomonium data at the LHC

OQS + pNRQCD

- open quantum system framework, potential NRQCD approach
- includes quantum regeneration

Comovers

• includes shadowing and break-up from interactions with comoving particles

Coupled Boltzmann

- open quantum system framework, coupled transport equations and EPPS16 nPDF
- includes both correlated and uncorrelated recombination

Double ratio

$\frac{[\Upsilon(3S)/\Upsilon(2S)]_{PbPb}}{[\Upsilon(3S)/\Upsilon(2S)]_{pp}}$

- stronger suppression for Y(3S) compared to Y(2S) for more central collisions
- significant differences among models → these data can put constraints on models, in spite of large uncertainties



Y(1S) flow



Y(1S) v₂ closer to 0, even if with large uncertainties in the Y(1S) v₂

suggests smaller recombination role

Y(1S) in pA and AA



Y(1S) is clearly suppressed in PbPb collisions

Is this strong suppression compatible with the Y(1S) very large binding energy (~1.1 GeV)?

Y(1S) in pA and AA



Y(1S) is clearly suppressed in PbPb collisions

- CNM are not negligible, even if Y(1S) R_{PA} is higher than R_{AA} over the whole p_{T} range
- 30% of the Y(1S) comes from feed down

understanding of direct Y(1S) suppression requires a very precise assessment of

- size of CNM effects
- feed-down from S and P states

Quarkonium highlights at LHC



More exotic states: X(3872)

- ✓ First observed in 2003 by BELLE
- ✓ Quantum numbers: $J^{PC} = 1^{++}$
- ✓ Nature of this state not yet understood:



Can its production in heavy ions provide insight on the X(3872) inner structure?

More exotic states: X(3872)

Screening and recombination mechanisms can affect also the X(3872)



A coherent description from pp to AA is also needed!

Hint of prompt X(3872) to ψ (2S) enhancement in Pb-Pb, at very high p_T (15< p_T <50 GeV/c)

 \triangleright extension to low p_{τ} is crucial!



What's next?



sPHENIX @ RHIC

- The first "new" heavy-ion experiment since more than a decade
- Now taking data at RHIC!

- Run24: transversely polarized pp and short AuAu run → finish commissioning, pp program
- Run25: high-lumi AuAu run \rightarrow heavy flavour measurements



sPHENIX @ RHIC

The first "new" heavy-ion experiment since more than a decade

Now taking data at RHIC!





Aims to bottomonium precision measurements
clear distinction of the three Y states
kinematic range will allow comparison with LHC

NA60+ @ SPS

New fixed-target experiment proposed at CERN SPS

Aims to explore the QCD phase diagram at high baryon chemical potential

- beam energy scan between $\sqrt{s_{_{\rm NN}}} \sim 6 17$ GeV, exploring the $\mu_{_{\rm B}}$ range ~220 550 MeV
- high luminosities (PbPb interactions rates > 10⁵ Hz, reachable with 10⁶ Pb/s in a fixed target environment)
- aims to data taking in 2029, after LS3





NA60+ @ SPS

New fixed-target experiment proposed at CERN SPS





Precise evaluation of J/ψ suppression within reach even at low energy
 → no charmonium results available below top SPS energy (√s_{NN}=17 GeV)

CBM @ FAIR

ightarrow CBM is dedicated to the study of the high μ_B region of the QCD phase diagram

Unprecedented interaction rates up to 10 MHz in HI collisions provide access to rare probes





- Sub-threshold production (rare but feasible)
- Production threshold might be exceeded with SIS100 beam of N=Z nuclei

Both $\mu^+\mu^-$ and e^+e^- decay channels accessible

C. Blume, ECT* Workshop 2021

CBM @ FAIR



 $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu\mu$ AuAu ~30k J/ ψ in 4 weeks at 10 MHz interaction rate pAu ~500 J/ ψ in 4 weeks at 10 MHz interaction rate

J/ ψ →ee pAu ~450 J/ ψ in 4 weeks at 10 MHz int. rate

 $pA \rightarrow$ lower statistics, but very clean signal

ALICE 3

New experiment proposed at LHC after LS4 (2035)

Excellent vertexing, PID and large acceptance

Vertexing precision: ~ 10 μ m at p_T = 200 MeV Acceptance: $|\eta| < 4$ (with particle ID)

High efficiency for reconstruction of

- quarkonium states down to $p_{T} = 0$
- low energy photons (0.5 GeV and below)



LOI: arXiv:2211.02491

ALICE 3

New experiment proposed at LHC after LS4 (2035)

- Aim at studying quarkonium spectroscopy in QGP
 - pseudoscalar (η_c, η_b) and P-wave (χ_c, χ_b) states largely unexplored in heavy-ions
 - exotic state as X(3872) not yet measured at low p_T



Access

- $\chi_c \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma$, $\chi_b \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$
- $\eta_c \rightarrow pp, \eta_c \rightarrow \Lambda \Lambda$ (performance under study)
- X(3872) → J/ψ ππ

Good significance for χ_c down to $p_T \sim 2$ GeV/c



Conclusions

Very precise quarkonium results are now available, in pA and AA, at several collision energies and over a broad kinematic range



Results from all the LHC experiments show an overall good compatibility in similar kinematic ranges and point to a coherent picture

Quarkonium still a very interesting topic after ~40 years! ...with a bright future in front!

Thank you!



Quarkonium and QGP



Heavy quarks produced in the early stages of the collisions

the original idea:

quarkonium production suppressed sequentially via color screening in QGP

(T.Matsui,H.Satz, PLB178 (1986) 416) > 3500 citations





arXiv:1706.08670v2




Double ratio



- stronger suppression for $\Upsilon(3S)$ compared to $\Upsilon(2S)$ for more central collisions
- significant differences among models → these data can put constraints on models, in spite of large uncertainties

Quarkonium kinematics



Y flow



Clear ordering: low p_T: $v_2(h) > v_2(D) > v_2(J/\psi) \sim v_2(b) > v_2(\Upsilon)$ high p_T: $v_2(h) \sim v_2(D) \sim v_2(J/\psi)$

PA AND AA: J/W



SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN $J/\psi R_{PA}$ and R_{AA} over <u>All the</u> P_T range

UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT SHADOWING IS THE MAIN CNM EFFECT AT MID-Y: $R_{AA}^{CNM} = R_{PA}^2$



PA AND AA: Y(1S)



Y(1S) R_{PA} is higher than R_{AA} over the whole Y and P_T range

IF SHADOWING IS THE MAIN CNM EFFECT AT MID-Y:

 $R_{AA}^{CNM} = R_{PA}^2$

SIZEABLE CNM EFFECTS OVER ALL THE P_T RANGE R_{PA} always higher than R_{AA} , i.e. there is an additional suppression at all P_{T} on top of CNM effects

direct $\Upsilon(1S)$

Y(1S) is clearly suppressed in PBPB collisions TO UNDERSTAND IF DIRECT $\Upsilon(1S)$ are suppressed, we need a \Rightarrow precise assessment of • size of CNM effects

• FEED-DOWN FROM S AND P STATES

Y(1S) INCLUSIVE R_{AA} (MID-Y, 0-90%): 0.38 +/- 0.04 (STAT+SYST) (CMS PLB790,270)



DIRECT $\Upsilon(1S)$ R_{AA} : 0.38/0.7 ~0.54 +/~ 0.05 (ASSUMING NO UNCERTAINTY ON FEED-DOWN) CNM EVALUATED FROM (CMS HIN-2018-005) $R_{PA} = 0.77 + - 0.07 \text{ (stat+syst)}$ $R_{PA} = 0.07 + - 0.06 \text{ (stat+syst)}$

Observed $\Upsilon(1S)$ suppression compatible with cNM and suppression of higher states?



Lattice calculations and potentials



➤ Gradual transition from a Cornell to a Debye-screened behaviour for the (real part of) the potential → color screening in a deconfined medium

- Potential also has a finite imaginary part (not shown)
 - \rightarrow decaying of quark-antiquark correlation due to gluonic damping in the plasma

Quantifying non-QGP effects

BOTH initial and final state non-QGP effects may lead to a decreased charmonium production
The relative size depends quite a lot on collision energy (keep in mind for later)



Initial state effects: moderate anti-shadowing $x \sim 10^{-1} (y=0)$



LHC

Initial state effects: shadowing $x \sim 10^{-5} (y \sim 3)$ $x \sim 10^{-3} (y=0)$ $x \sim 10^{-2} (y \sim -3)$

(Final state) CNM effects: - negligible, extremely short crossing time $\tau = L/(\beta_z \gamma) \sim 7 \ 10^{-5} \text{ fm/c} (\gamma \sim 3)$ $\tau = L/(\beta_z \gamma) \sim 4 \ 10^{-2} \text{ fm/c} (\gamma \sim -3)$

(Final state) CNM effects: break-up in nuclear matter can be sizeable $\tau = L/(\beta_{\tau}\gamma) \sim 0.5$ fm/c (y=0)



X(3872): yield vs multiplicity in pp

At the LHC, high-multiplicity pp collisions create a dense hadronic environment
LHCb studied the ratio X(3872)/ψ(2S) as a function of hadronic multiplicity

LHCb, PRL 126 (2021) 092001 (2021)



Data described by comover interaction model assuming X(3872) to be a tetraquark
→ breakup reaction rate approximated by the geometric cross section
> However, using a different ansatz for CIM can also favour X(3872) being a molecule

→ scattering of comoving pions from the charm-meson constituents of X(3872) (no coalescence effects assumed)

X(3872): first measurement in Pb-Pb

CMS, Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 3, 032001



Coalescence model (AMPT): much larger yields for molecular option, with strong centrality dependence (ccbar more likely separated in space at freeze-out)

Transport model: moderate difference between yields, larger reaction rates associated with the loosely bound molecule structure imply that it is formed later in the fireball evolution than the tetraquark and thus its final yields are generally smaller

X(3872): current experimental status



$pp \rightarrow p\text{-Pb} \rightarrow Pb\text{-Pb}$

from suppression to enhancement?



First attempts at a coherent description of yields vs system size

> Extension of measurements toward low p_T badly needed \rightarrow LHC run 3/4

E. Scomparin – INFN Torino

Guo

et

al.,

arXiv:2302.03828