

Wigner function of spin-1/2 particles in equilibrium

by Sudip Kumar Kar¹

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At

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Outline

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- Introduction

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- ‘Spin’ thermodynamics

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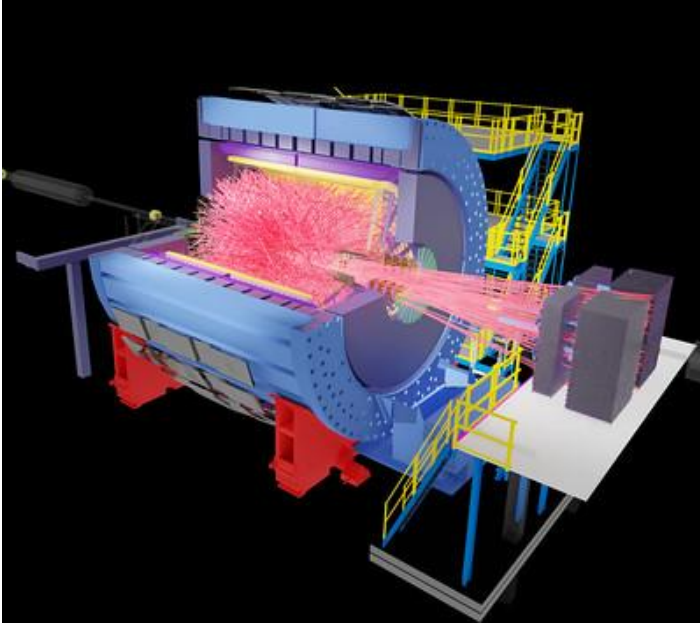
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- Conclusions

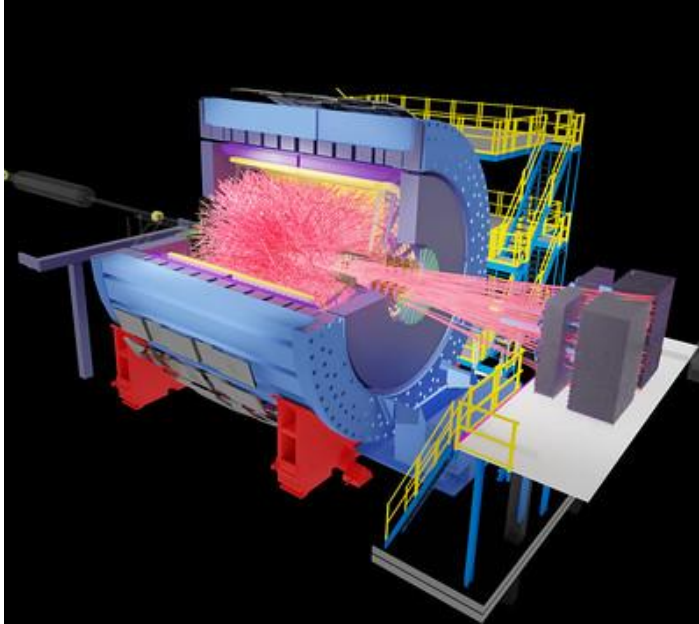
Spin hydrodynamics – a crucial tool to understand spin polarization in heavy ion collisions

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[Image from: Brookhaven National Laboratory]

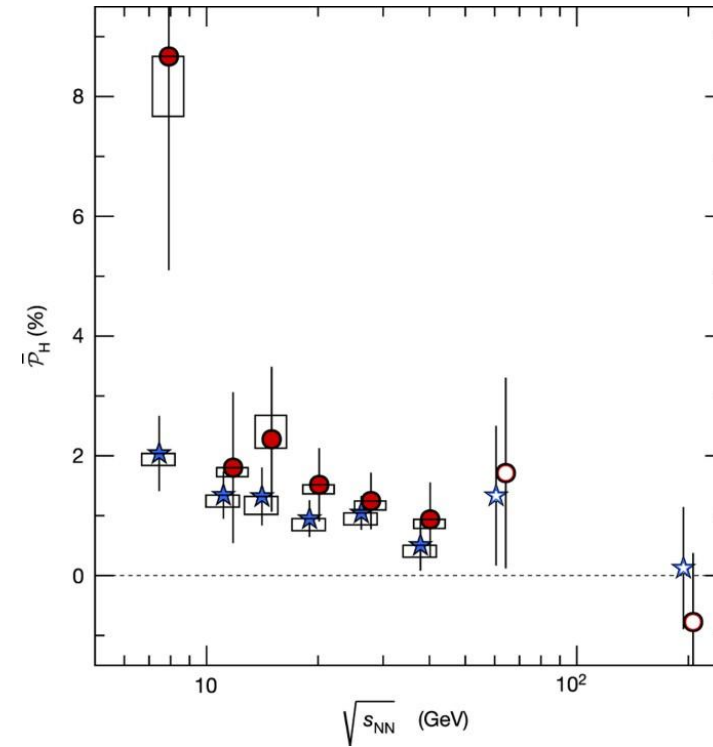
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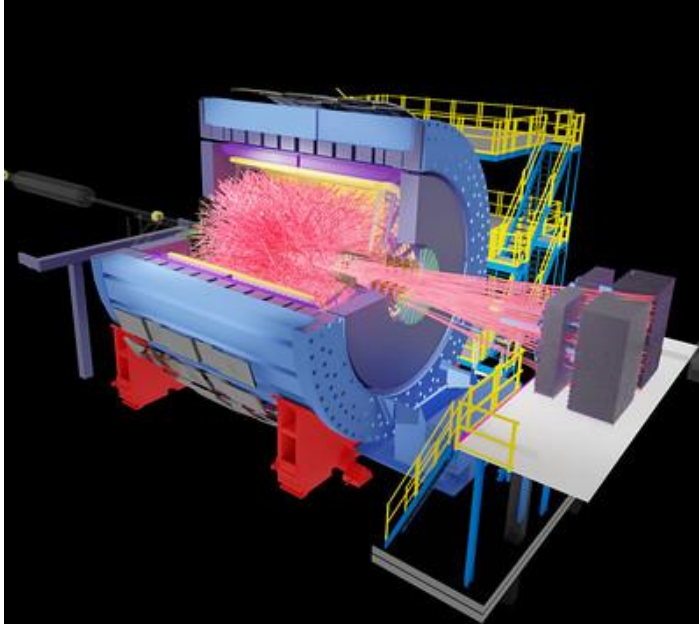


Global spin polarization in Λ hyperons



[L. Adamczyk, et al., Nature 548 (2017) 62–65]

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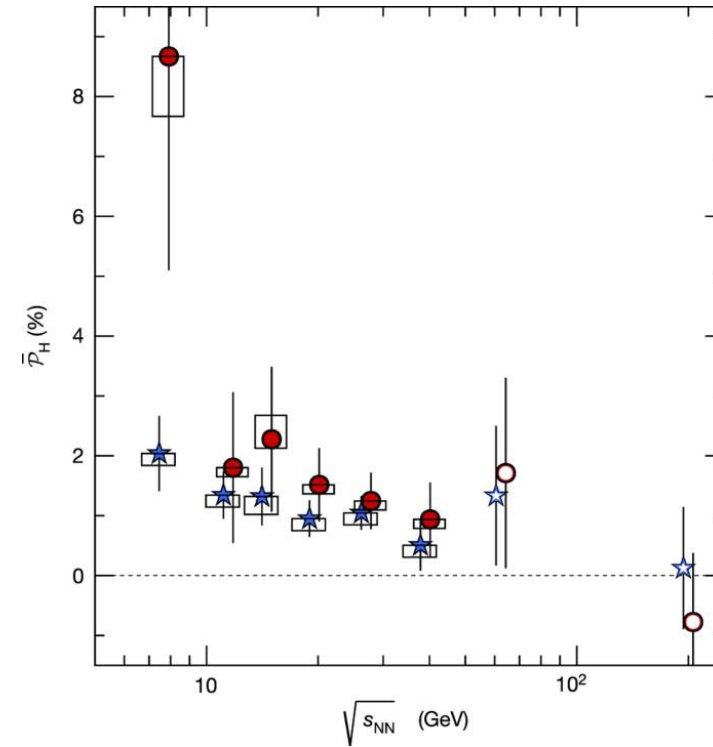


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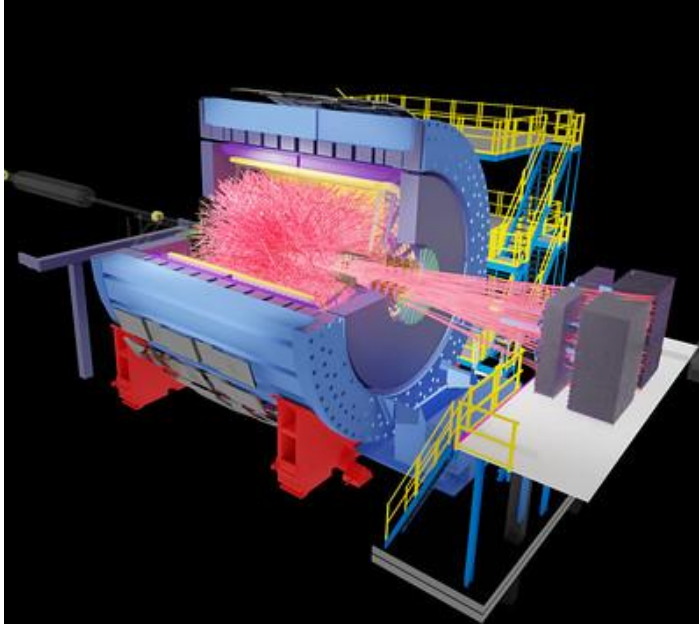


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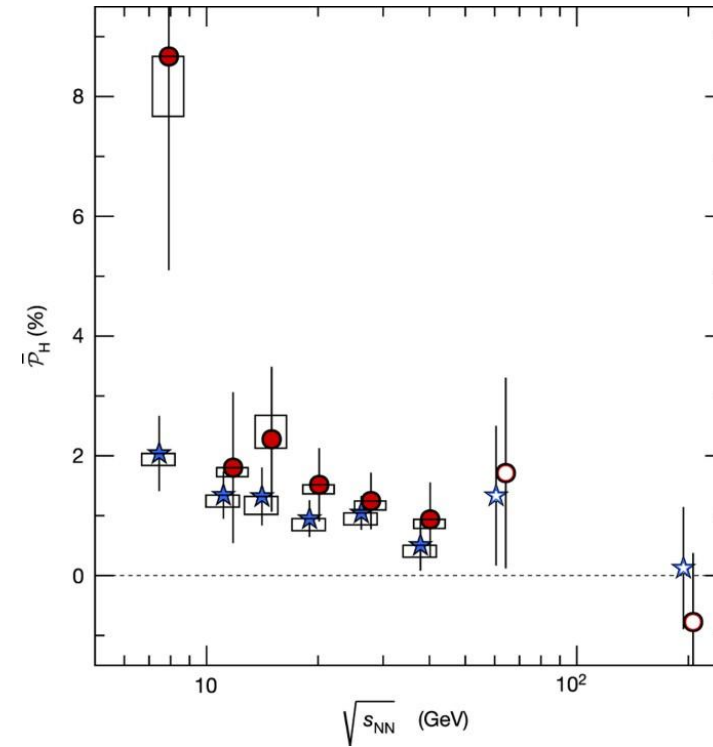
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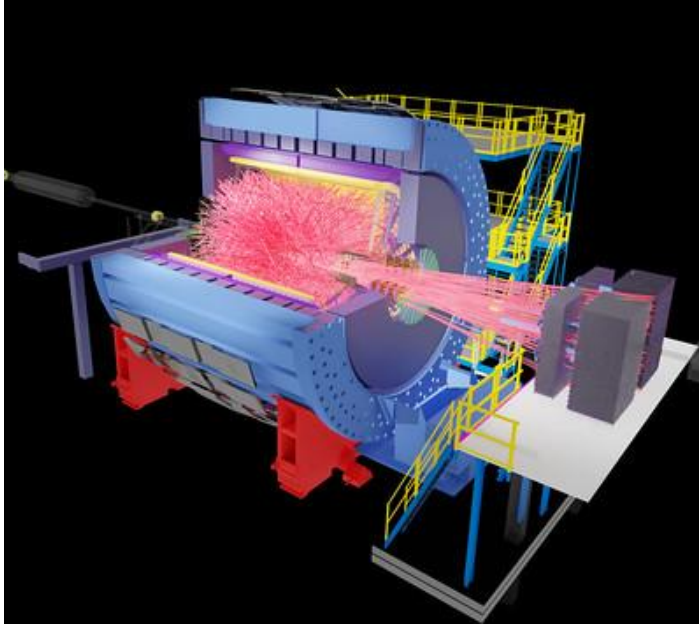
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- Azimuthal dependence of the longitudinal spin polarization ?

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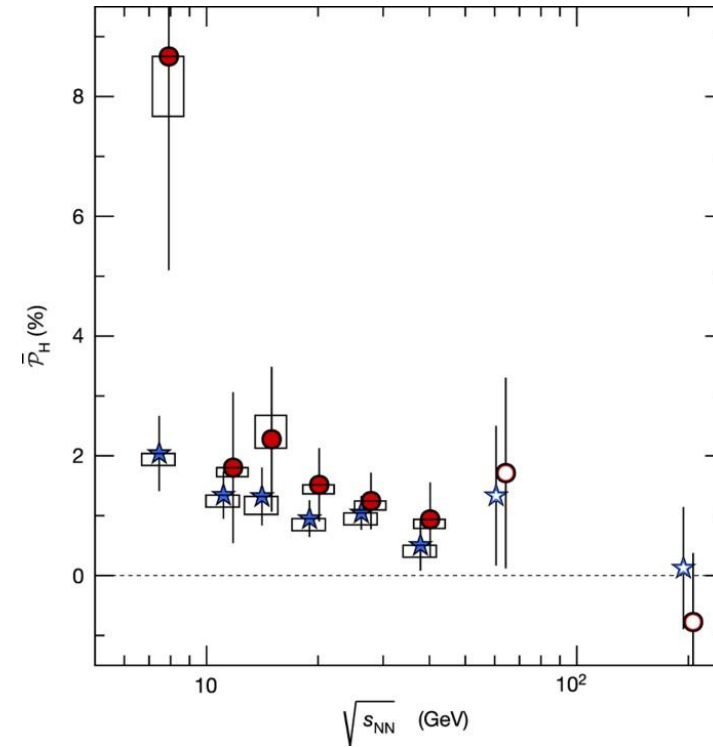
Spin hydrodynamics – a crucial tool to understand spin polarization in heavy ion collisions



[Image from: Brookhaven National Laboratory]

- Global spin polarization ✓
- Azimuthal dependence of the longitudinal spin polarization ?
- Need to build spin hydrodynamics: hydrodynamics with spin degrees of freedom

Global spin polarization in Λ hyperons



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Wigner functions – a quantum approach to spin hydrodynamics

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Spin-1/2 Fluid

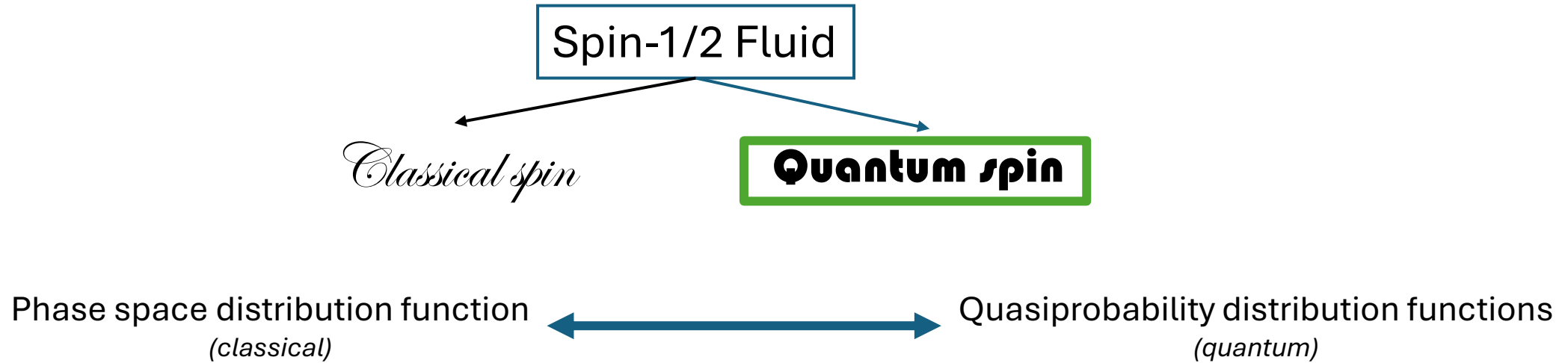
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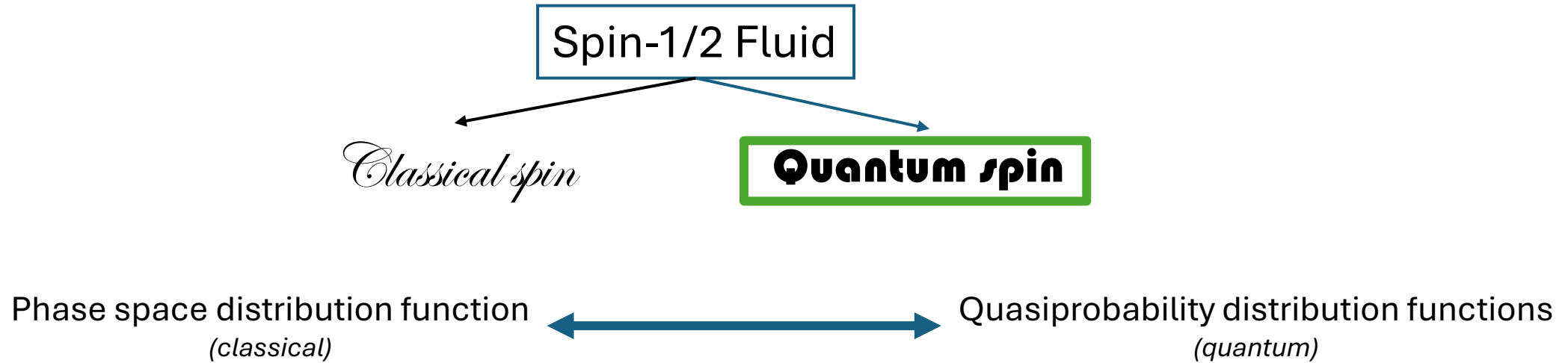
Classical spin

Phase space distribution function
(classical)

Wigner functions – a quantum approach to spin hydrodynamics



Wigner functions – a quantum approach to spin hydrodynamics



To formulate the quantum approach, we employ one such quasiprobability distribution function called the **Wigner function**.

[De Groot, Relativistic Kinetic Theory. Principles and Applications (1980)]

Wigner function for spin-1/2 particles

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- The definition of the Wigner function for a spin-1/2 particle is

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$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{eq}}^+(x, k) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,s=1}^2 \int dP \delta^{(4)}(k - p) u_r(p) \bar{u}_s(p) f_{rs}^+(x, p),$$
$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{eq}}^-(x, k) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,s=1}^2 \int dP \delta^{(4)}(k + p) v_s(p) \bar{v}_r(p) f_{rs}^-(x, p).$$

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where,

$$[f^+(x, p)]_{rs} \equiv f_{rs}^+(x, p) = \frac{1}{2m} \bar{u}_r(p) X^+(x, p) u_s(p),$$
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where,

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Spin distribution} \\ \text{functions} \\ (2 \times 2 \text{ Hermitian} \\ \text{matrices}) \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} [f^+(x, p)]_{rs} \equiv f_{rs}^+(x, p) = \frac{1}{2m} \bar{u}_r(p) X^+(x, p) u_s(p), \\ [f^-(x, p)]_{rs} \equiv f_{rs}^-(x, p) = -\frac{1}{2m} \bar{v}_s(p) X^-(x, p) v_r(p), \end{array} \right.$$

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- X^\pm are 4×4 matrices called spinor distribution functions

Conserved currents from Wigner function

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$$X^{\pm}$$

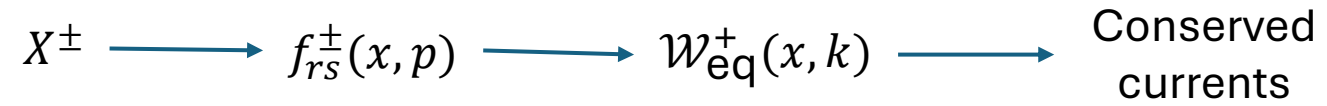
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$$X^\pm \longrightarrow f_{rs}^\pm(x, p) \longrightarrow \mathcal{W}_{\text{eq}}^+(x, k) \longrightarrow \text{Conserved currents}$$

The conserved currents in terms of the spin distribution function are given as

[De Groot, Relativistic Kinetic Theory. Principles and Applications (1980)]

Conserved current	Lagrange multipliers
$N^\mu(x) = \sum_{r=1}^2 \int dP p^\mu [f_{rr}^+(x, p) - f_{rr}^-(x, p)]$	$\xi = \frac{\mu}{T}$
$T^{\mu\nu}(x) = \sum_{r=1}^2 \int dP p^\mu p^\nu [f_{rr}^+(x, p) + f_{rr}^-(x, p)]$	$\beta^\mu = \frac{u^\mu}{T}$
$S^{\lambda, \mu\nu}(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r,s=1}^2 \int dP p^\lambda [\sigma_{sr}^{+\mu\nu} f_{rs}^+(x, p) + \sigma_{sr}^{-\mu\nu} f_{rs}^-(x, p)]$	$\omega^{\mu\nu}$

Where,

$$\sigma_{rs}^{+\mu\nu} = \frac{\bar{u}_r(p) \sigma^{\mu\nu} u_s(p)}{2M}$$

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$$\sigma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu]$$

Conserved currents from Wigner function

$$X^\pm \longrightarrow f_{rs}^\pm(x, p) \longrightarrow \mathcal{W}_{\text{eq}}^+(x, k) \longrightarrow \text{Conserved currents}$$

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The particle current in terms of the spin distribution function is given as

$$\mathcal{N}^\mu(x) = \sum_{r=1}^2 \int dP p^\mu [f_{rr}^+(x, p) + f_{rr}^-(x, p)],$$

Anti-symmetric nature of the spin Lagrange multiplier

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$$S^{\lambda, \mu\nu}(x)$$



Anti symmetric in μ and ν

Anti-symmetric nature of the spin Lagrange multiplier



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$$\underbrace{S^{\lambda,\mu\nu}(x)}_{\text{Anti symmetric in } \mu \text{ and } \nu} \longleftrightarrow \underbrace{\omega^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Anti symmetric in } \mu \text{ and } \nu}$$

We construct the matrix of this ‘spin’ chemical potential in a manner similar to electrodynamics

$$\omega_{\mu\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & e^1 & e^2 & e^3 \\ -e^1 & 0 & -b^3 & b^2 \\ -e^2 & b^3 & 0 & -b^1 \\ -e^3 & -b^2 & b^1 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

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With electric-like and magnetic-like vectors given as follows

$$\mathbf{e} = (e^1, e^2, e^3)$$

$$\mathbf{b} = (b^1, b^2, b^3)$$

The traditional distribution function: a review of its use and limitations

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$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{-1}{2} \tanh \left[\frac{\sqrt{\mathbf{b}_* \cdot \mathbf{b}_* - \mathbf{e}_* \cdot \mathbf{e}_*}}{2} \right] \frac{\mathbf{b}_*}{\sqrt{\mathbf{b}_* \cdot \mathbf{b}_* - \mathbf{e}_* \cdot \mathbf{e}_*}},$$

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may exceed the desired range of $0 \leq |\mathbf{P}| \leq 1/2$, restricting its use to only cases where \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{e} are small.

A new spin distribution function derived from general principles

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Any 2×2 Hermitian matrix may be written as

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Define $\zeta_*^{\pm\mu} = (0, \boldsymbol{\zeta}_*^{\pm}) \xrightarrow{\text{Boost}} \zeta_{\pm}^{\mu} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\nu}(\mathbf{v}_p) \zeta_{\pm*}^{\nu} = \left(\frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \boldsymbol{\zeta}_*^{\pm}}{m}, \boldsymbol{\zeta}_*^{\pm} + \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \boldsymbol{\zeta}_*^{\pm}}{m(E_p + m)} \mathbf{p} \right),$

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Furthermore,

$$\bar{u}_r(p) \gamma_5 \zeta_{\mu}^{+} \gamma^{\mu} u_s(p) = 2m \boldsymbol{\zeta}_*^{+} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{rs},$$

$$\bar{v}_s(p) \gamma_5 \zeta_{\mu}^{-} \gamma^{\mu} v_r(p) = -2m \boldsymbol{\zeta}_*^{-} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{rs}.$$

The new spin distribution function

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Note that, $\exp(\gamma_5 \gamma_\mu a_\pm^\mu) =$
 $\cosh \sqrt{-a_\pm^2} \left[1 + \frac{\gamma_5 \gamma_\mu a_\pm^\mu}{\sqrt{-a_\pm^2}} \tanh \sqrt{-a_\pm^2} \right].$
Where, $(a_\pm^2 < 0)$.

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$$X_s^\pm(x, p) = \exp[\pm \xi(x) - \beta_\mu(x) p^\mu + \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu a^\mu].$$

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The spin Lagrange multiplier enters as

$$a_\mu(x, p) = -\frac{1}{2m} \tilde{\omega}_{\mu\nu}(x) p^\nu,$$

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[Florkowski et al. PRD 97, 116017 (2018)]

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Consequently,

$$S^\mu = T^{\mu\alpha} \beta_\alpha - \frac{1}{2} \omega_{\alpha\beta} S^{\mu, \alpha\beta} - \xi N^\mu + \mathcal{N}^\mu,$$

[Florkowski, Hontarenko, PRL 134 (2025)]

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The theory is non-linearly causal and symmetric hyperbolic if and only if the ‘test’ quantity *[R. Geroch, L. Lindblom, Annals Phys. 207 (1991) 394-416]*

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Please note that,

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Hence, our theory is non linearly causal and symmetric hyperbolic.

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- Refer the work done by my colleague : *[Zbigniew Drogosz, arXiv:2509.06014 [hep-ph]]*

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Thank you for your attention

$$\boldsymbol{b}_{* \cdot} = \frac{1}{m} \left[E_p \boldsymbol{b} - \boldsymbol{p} \times \boldsymbol{e} - \frac{\boldsymbol{p} \cdot \boldsymbol{b}}{E_p + m} \boldsymbol{p} \right],$$

The perfect spinfluid

Nick Abboud,^{1,*} Lorenzo Gavassino,^{2,†} Rajeev Singh,^{3,‡} and Enrico Speranza^{4,5,§}

$$E^\lambda = \frac{1}{2} M^{\lambda AB} \delta\zeta_A \delta\zeta_B + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3),$$

If the information current is spacelike, the information flows at a speed faster than light leading to acausality in the quadratic deviations in the field