



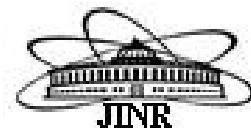
TWENTY-SECOND LOMONOSOV CONFERENCE August, 21-27, 2025 ON ELEMENTARY PARTICLE PHYSICS MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY

Self-similarity of cumulative high- p_T hadron production in heavy ion collisions at high energies

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*JINR, Dubna, Russia

**NPI, Řež, Czech Republic



- Motivation
- High- p_T hadron production in $p+p$
- Cumulative production in $p+A$ at U70, FNAL
- Spectra of charged hadrons in $Au+Au$ in non- and cumulative range at STAR in BES-I
- Cumulative production in collider and fixed target mode at RHIC and NICA: perspectives
- Conclusion



Search for new symmetries in Nature

Systematic analysis of inclusive cross sections of particle production in $p+p$, $p+A$ and $A+A$ collisions to search for general features of constituent structure, interaction and fragmentation over a wide scale range.

z -Scaling as a tool in high energy physics

Development of z -scaling approach for description of cumulative hadron production in inclusive $p+A$ and $A+A$ collisions and verification of self-similarity principle.

The approach can be used to search for and study

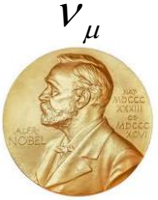
- Symmetry of constituent interactions at small scales
- Origin of flavor, spin,...
- Similarity and difference of u, d, s, c, b, t quark fragmentation
- Strangeness as a probe to search for new physics
- Phase transitions in $p+p$, $p+A$ and $A+A$ systems
-





"Fundamental symmetry principles dictate the basic laws of physics, control the structure of matter and define the fundamental forces in nature."

Leon M. Lederman



1988

M. Schwartz
J. Steinberger

"...for every conservation law there must exist a continuous symmetry..."

Emmy Nöether

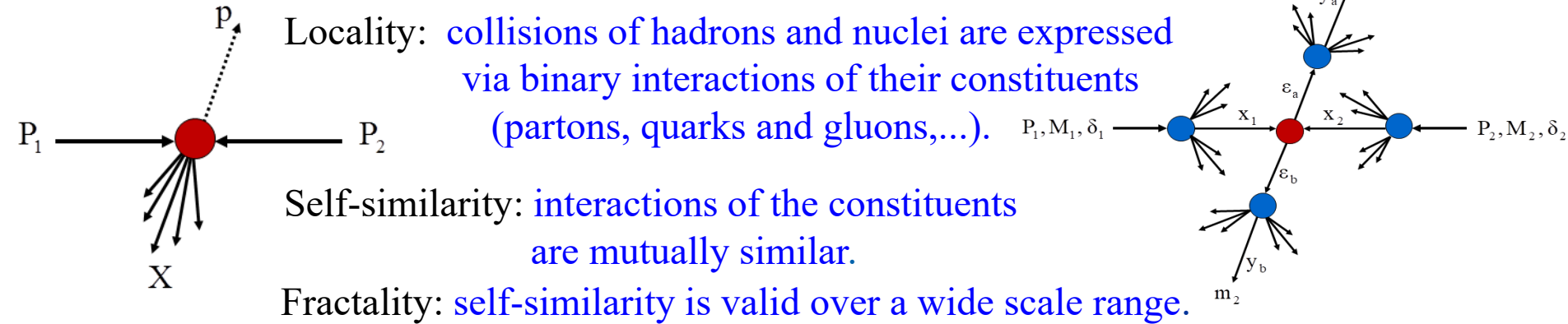


Self-similarity is a property of physical phenomena
and principle to construct theories

- Self-similarity is the **symmetry** of repeatability of structures and processes with change in a scale.
- The self-similarity **principle** states that structures and processes repeats with change of a scale.
- Self-similarity is the **unifying concept** for theories of fractals and chaos.
- **Phenomenon** that is self-similar looks the same or behaves the same when viewed at different magnifications.



Principles: locality, self-similarity, fractality



- The principles are reflected as **regularities** in measurable observables and can be usually expressed as **scalings** in a suitable representation of data.
- **z-Scaling** of differential cross sections of inclusive particle production in p+p, p+A and A+A is used as a tool to search for and study of principles and symmetries that reflect properties of interactions at constituent level.
- **z-Scaling** is based on the principles of *locality, self-similarity, fractality*.

The assumption of **self-similarity** of hadron interactions at a constituent level transforms to the requirement of universal description of inclusive spectra by a **scaling function** $\Psi(z)$ that depends on a **self-similarity parameter** z .

Hypothesis of z -scaling :

$s^{1/2}, p_T, \theta_{\text{cms}}$ Inclusive particle distributions can be described in terms of constituent sub-processes and parameters characterizing general properties of the system. x_1, x_2, y_a, y_b
 $\delta_1, \delta_2, \epsilon_a, \epsilon_b, c$

$Ed^3\sigma/dp^3$ Scaled cross section $\Psi(z)$ of inclusive particle production depends in a self-similar way on a single scaling variable z . $\Psi(z)$

The self-similarity parameter z is a dimensionless quantity, expressed through the dimensional values $P_1, P_2, p, M_1, M_2, m_1, m_2$, characterizing the process of inclusive particle production.

Procedure to construct function $\Psi(z)$ based on maximum fractal entropy was suggested.

Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 32 (2017) 1750029.
Physics 5(2) (2023) 537.





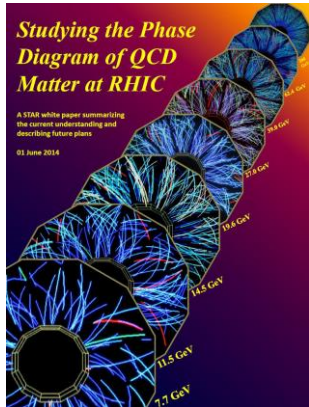
“Scaling” and “Universality” are concepts developed to understanding critical phenomena. **Scaling means that systems near the critical points exhibiting self-similar properties are invariant under transformation of a scale.** According to universality, quite different systems behave in a remarkably similar fashion near the respective critical points. Critical exponents are defined only by symmetry of interactions and dimension of the space.



Harry E. Stanley, Grigory I. Barenblatt,...

Beam Energy Scan program at RHIC to search for and study

phase transition and critical phenomena in nuclear matter

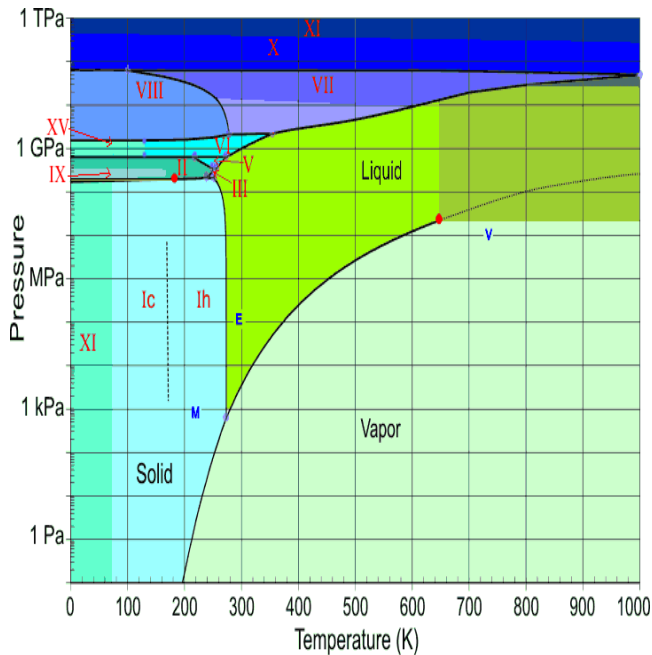


- The idea is to vary the collision energy and look for the signatures of QCD **phase boundary** and QCD **critical point** i.e. to span the phase diagram from the top RHIC energy (lower μ_B) to the lowest possible energy (higher μ_B).
- To look for the phase boundary, we would study the established signatures of QGP at 200 GeV as a function of beam energy. Turn-off of these signatures at particular energy would suggest the crossing of phase boundary.
- Near a critical point, there would be **enhanced fluctuations** in multiplicity distributions of conserved quantities (net-charge, net-baryon).

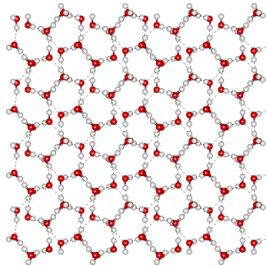
STAR collaboration



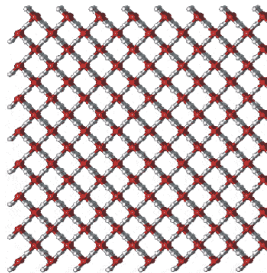
The phase diagram of water is established



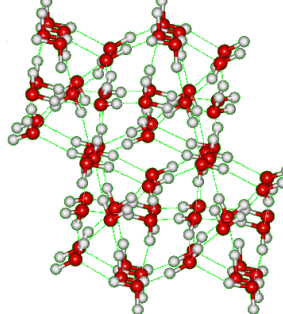
Ice III



Ice X

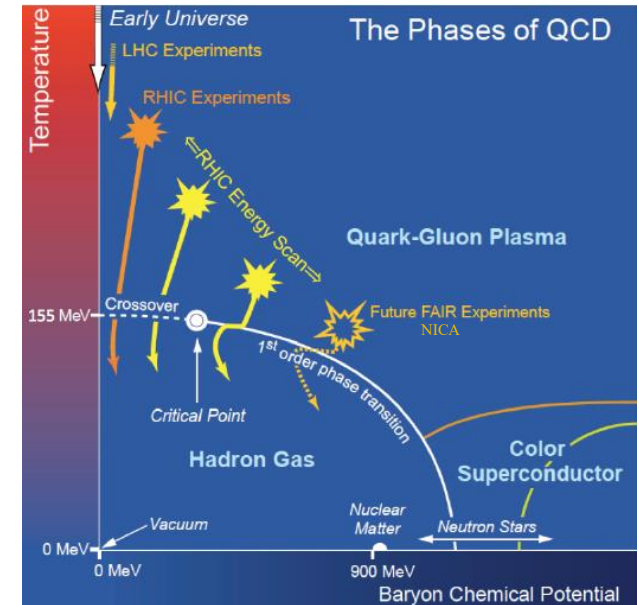


Ice XIII



- Phases (ice I-XV, liquid, vapor)
- Phase boundaries
- Phase transitions
- Triple Point (16)
- Critical Point (1)

The phase diagram of strongly interacting nuclear matter is under study

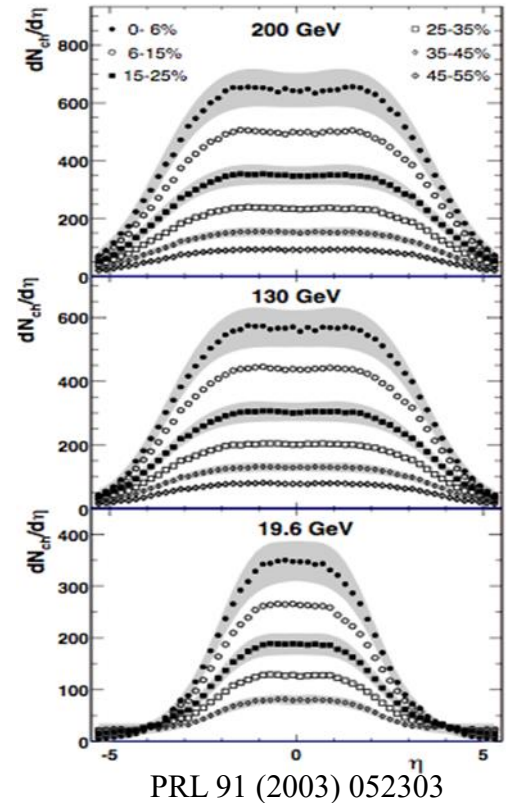


- Phases - ?
- Phase boundaries - ?
- Phase transitions - ?
- Triple Point - ?
- Critical Point - ?

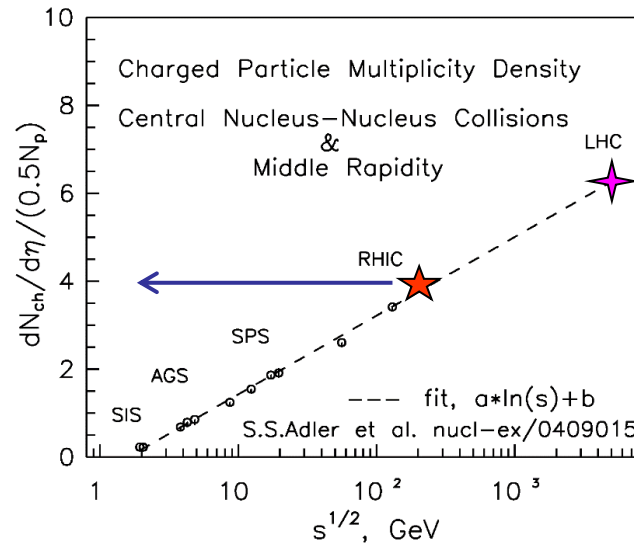
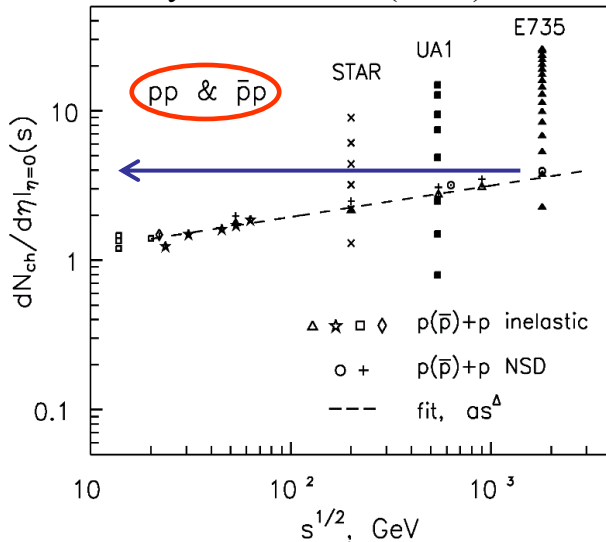


- Particle multiplicity N_{ch}
- Multiplicity density $dN_{ch}/d\eta$
- Mean transverse momentum $\langle p_T \rangle$
- Energy density $\epsilon_{Bj} = 1/(\pi R^2 \tau) dE_T/dy$

RHIC & PHOBOS



Phys.At.Nucl.70 (2007)1294



- Multiplicity density $dN_{ch}/d\eta$ in pp & $\bar{p}p$ collisions is much larger than $dN_{ch}/d\eta/(0.5N_p)$ in central AA collisions at AGS, Sp̄pS and RHIC.
- Is medium produced in pp at high $dN_{ch}/d\eta$ similar one than in AA ?
- Are there common properties of hadron production in pp & AA ?



Self-similarity of negative hadron production in $p+p$ collisions

$p+p$ is of interest by itself:

- verification and search for new features
- search for a phase transition with different probes

$p+p$ interaction is a reference for $p+A$ and $A+A$ physics

V.V. Abramov et al., Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 31 (1980) 484.

V.V. Abramov et al., JETP Lett. 33 (1981) 289.

J.W. Cronin et. al., Phys. Rev. D11 (1975) 3105.

D. Antreasyan, J.W Cronin et al., Phys. Rev. D 19 (1979) 764.

D.E. Jaffe et al., Phys. Rev. D 40 (1989) 2777.

I.Zborovský & MT, Int. J. Mod. Phys. (2015) 1560103.



Self-similarity parameter

$$z = z_0 \Omega^{-1}$$

$$z_0 = \frac{s_{\perp}^{1/2}}{(dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0)^c m_N}$$

$$\Omega = (1-x_1)^{\delta} (1-x_2)^{\delta} (1-y_a)^{\varepsilon_F} (1-y_b)^{\varepsilon_F}$$

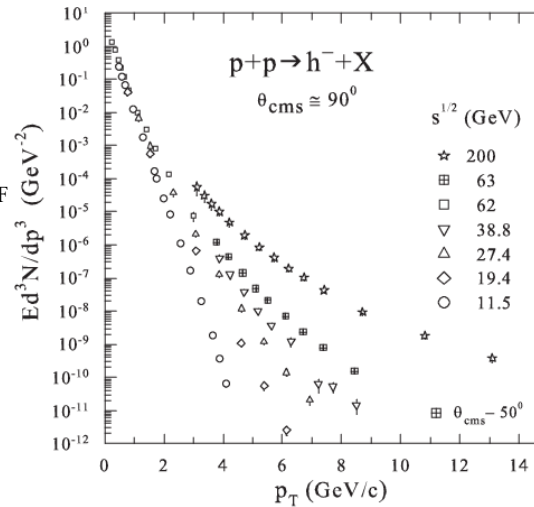
- $dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0$ - multiplicity density
- c - “specific heat” of bulk matter
- δ - proton fractal dimension
- ε_F - fragmentation fractal dimension

Scaling function

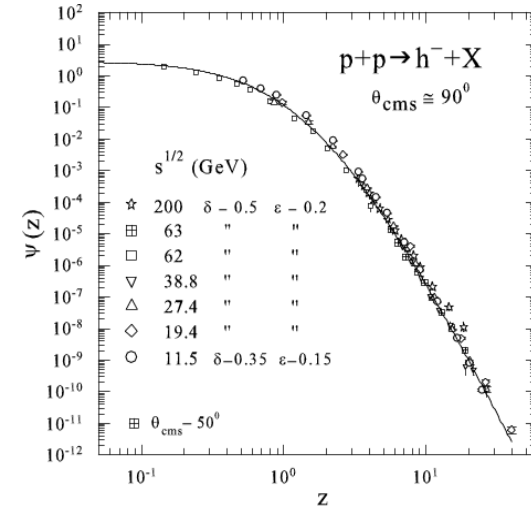
$$\Psi(z) = \frac{\pi}{(dN/d\eta) \cdot \sigma_{inel}} \cdot J^{-1} \cdot E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3}$$

- Universality: the same shape of $\Psi(z)$ vs. $\sqrt{s}$, p_T
- Asymptotic behavior of $\Psi(z)$ at high z – power law.

Strong sensitivity of data point to $\sqrt{s}$ at high p_T



“Collapse” of data point onto a single curve

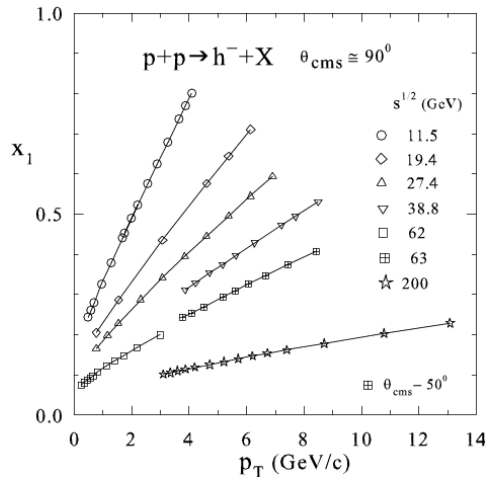


- Energy independence of $\Psi(z)$
- Centrality independence of $\Psi(z)$
- Power law at high z
- Saturation at low z



Constituent level of particle production in terms of

Momentum fraction x_1

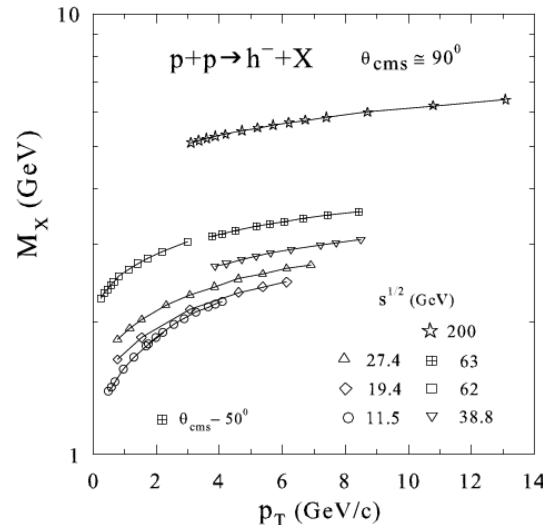


x_1

- increases with p_T
- decreases with $\sqrt{s}$

$$(x_1 P_1 + x_2 P_2 - p/y_a)^2 = M_X^2$$

Recoil mass M_X

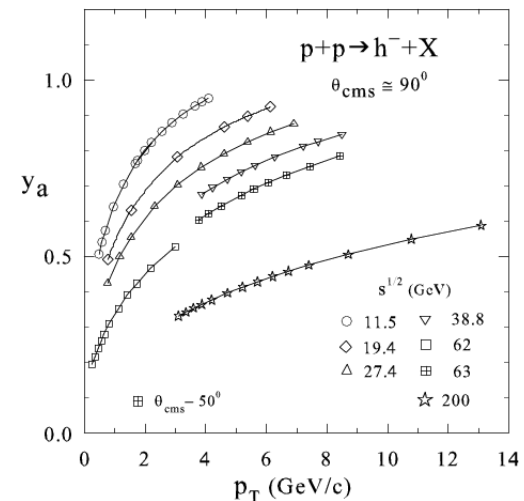


M_X

- increases with p_T
- increases with $\sqrt{s}$

$$M_X = x_1 M_1 + x_2 M_2 + m_2/y_b$$

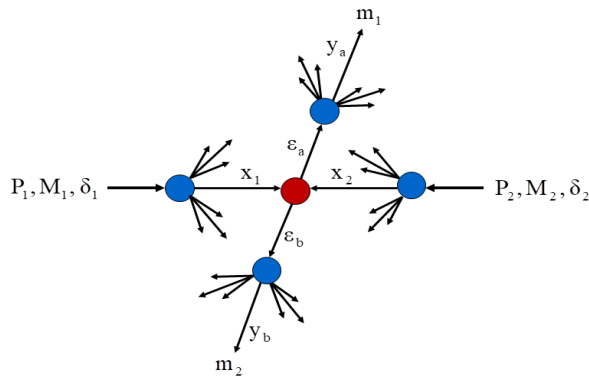
Energy loss $\Delta E/E = (1 - y_a)$



$\Delta E/E$

- decreases with p_T
- increases with $\sqrt{s}$

- $p+p$ is a reference for $p+A$ and $A+A$
- high x_1 and p_T – physics nearby kinematic boundary



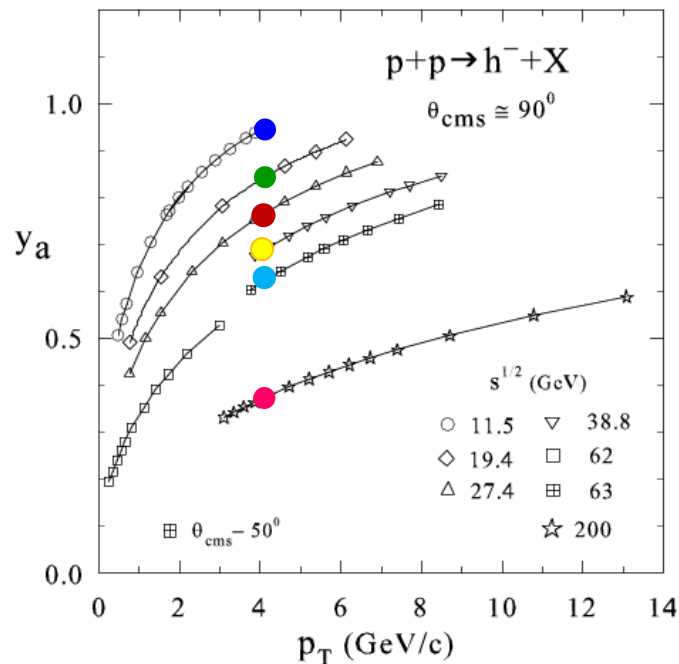
$$(x_1 P_1 + x_2 P_2 - q)^2 = M_X^2$$

$$q = p / y_a$$

p – momentum of produced hadron

q – momentum of scattered constituent

Energy loss $\Delta E/E = (1 - y_a)$



$\Delta E/E$

- decreases with p_T
- increases with $\sqrt{s}$

$p_T = 4 \text{ GeV/c}$

5 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 4.2 \text{ GeV/c}$

17 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 4.8 \text{ GeV/c}$

25 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 5.3 \text{ GeV/c}$

32 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 5.9 \text{ GeV/c}$

38 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 6.5 \text{ GeV/c}$

68 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 12.5 \text{ GeV/c}$

Conclusions I

- Self-similarity of particle structure, constituent interactions and fragmentation process of hadron production in $p+p$ collisions was found.
- Properties of the scaling function were described.
- Model parameters – structural and fragmentation dimensions and specific heat, were determined from data analysis.



- Energy independence of $\Psi(z)$ ($s^{1/2} > 20$ GeV)
- Angular independence of $\Psi(z)$ ($\theta_{\text{cms}} = 3^\circ - 90^\circ$)
- Multiplicity independence of $\Psi(z)$ ($dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta = 1.5 - 26$)
- Saturation of $\Psi(z)$ at low z ($z < 0.1$)
- Power law, $\Psi(z) \sim z^{-\beta}$, at high z ($z > 4$)
- Flavor independence of $\Psi(z)$ ($\pi, K, \phi, \Lambda, \dots, D, J/\psi, B, Y, \dots, \text{top}$)

These properties reflect **self-similarity**, **locality**, and **fractality** of hadron interactions at a constituent level.

It concerns the **structure** of the colliding objects, constituent interactions and fragmentation process.

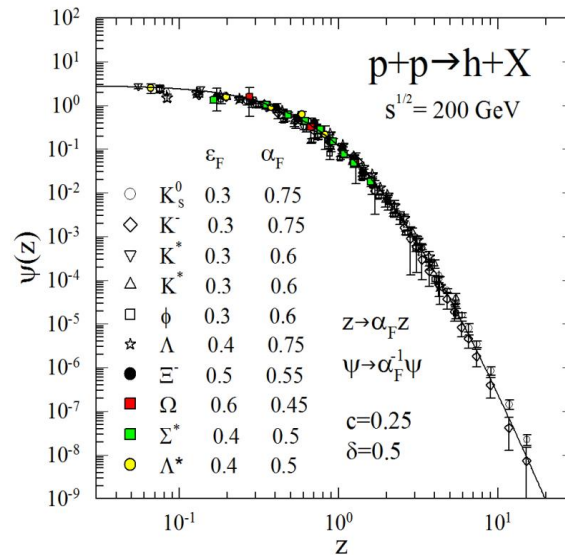
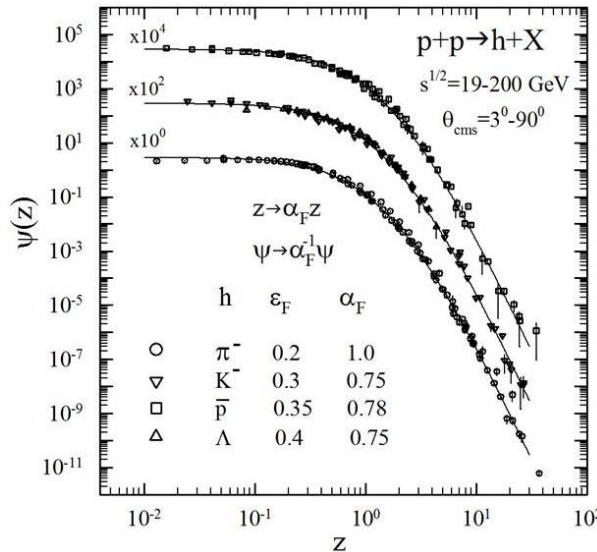


Universality: flavor independence of the scaling function

$$K_S^0, K^-, K^*, \phi, \Lambda, \Xi, \Omega, \Sigma^*, \Lambda^*$$

“Collapse” of data points onto a single curve

M.T.& I.Zborovský
Int. J. Mod. Phys.
A24,1417(2009)
A32,1750029 (2017)
Phys. Part. Nucl.
51, 141 (2020)



STAR:

PRL 92 (2004) 092301
PRL 97 (2006) 132301
PLB 612 (2005) 181
PRC 71 (2005) 064902
PRC 75 (2007) 064901
PRL 108 (2012) 072302

PHENIX:

PRC 75 (2007) 051902
PRD 83 (2011) 052004
PRC 90 (2014) 054905

Solid line for π^- meson
is a reference frame

$$\epsilon_\pi = 0.2, \quad \alpha_\pi = 1$$

- Energy independence
- Angular independence
- Flavor independence
- Saturation for $z < 0.1$

- Power law $\Psi(z) \sim z^{-\beta}$ at large z
- ϵ_F, α_F independent of $p_T, s^{1/2}$



Self-similarity of cumulative hadron production in $p+A$ collisions

$p+A$ is of interest by itself:

- verification of scaling and search for new phenomena
- search for a phase transition with different probes

$p+A$ interaction is a reference for $A+A$ physics

I. Zborovský, MT, Phys. Rev. D75 (2007) 094008.

I. Zborovský, MT et. al., Int. J. Mod. Phys. A16 (2001) 1281.

A. Aparin, MT, Nucl. Phys. B 245 (2013) 149-152.

A. Aparin, MT, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett., 11 (2014) 91-100;
11 (2014) 381-390; 11 (2014) 391-403.



A.M.Baldin & V.S.Stavinsky (1971,1973)

The cumulative particle is a particle produced in the region forbidden for free nucleon kinematics:

$$P_1 + P_2 \rightarrow p + X$$

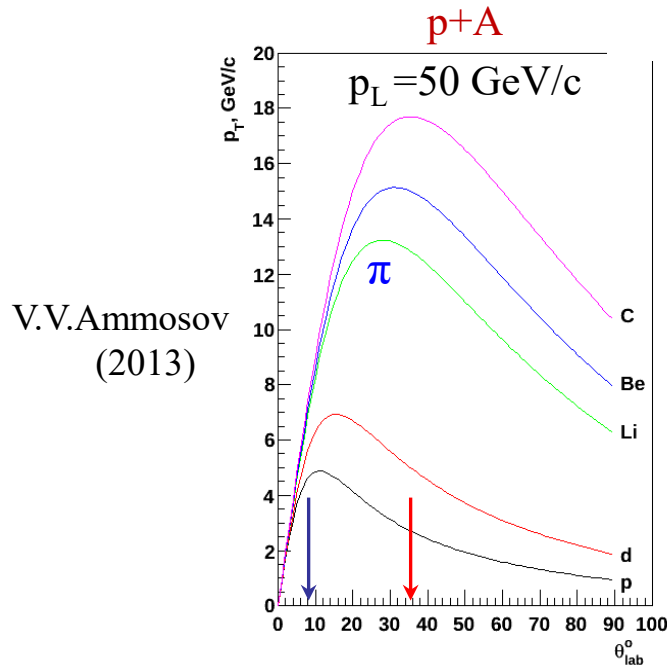
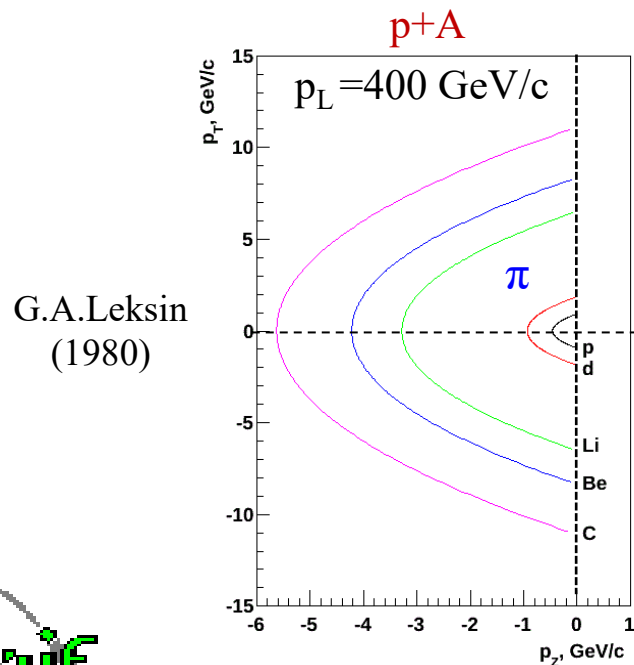
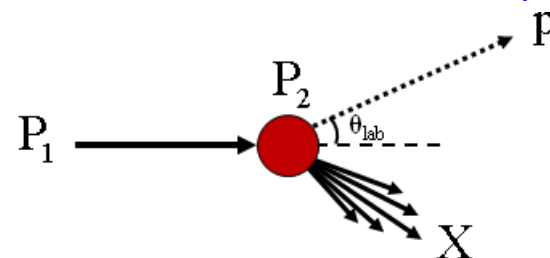
$$(P_1 + P_2 - p)^2 = M_X^2 \quad \min M_X \longrightarrow p_{\max}^A > p_{\max}^p$$



A.M.Baldin



V.S.Stavinsky

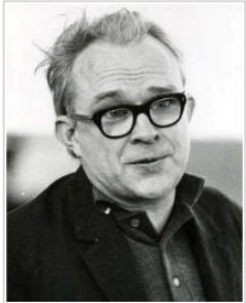


Conservation laws:

- 4-momentum
- electric charge
- baryon number
- flavor

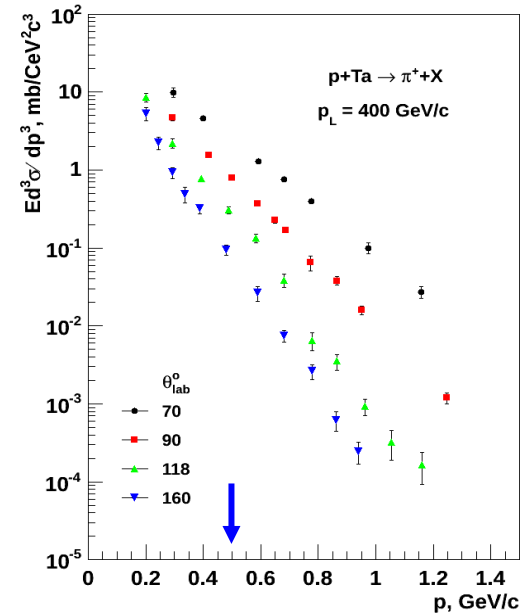
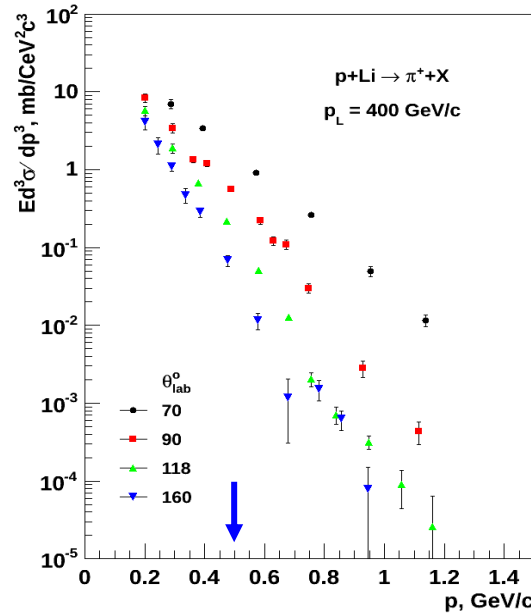
Cumulative pion spectra in $p+A$ at FNAL

19



G. Leksin

$p_L = 400$ GeV/c, $A = \text{Li, Be, C, Al, Cu, Ta}$ $\theta_{\text{lab}} = 70, 90, 118, 160$ deg.



- Spectra in cumulative region: $p > 0.5$ GeV/c.
- Smooth behavior of spectra vs. p .
- Strong angular dependence with p .
- A -dependence of spectra ($A=7-181$).

N.A. Nikiforov et al., Phys. Rev. C22 (1980)700.

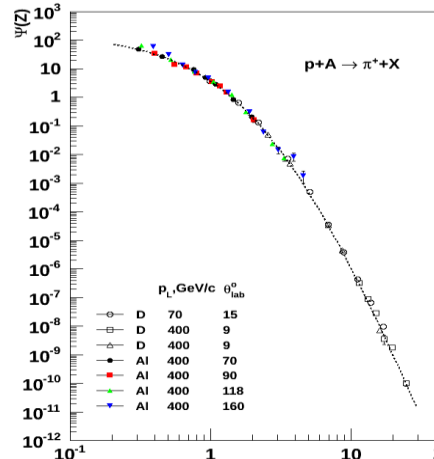
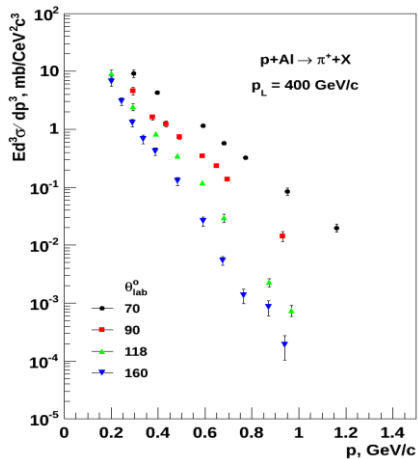
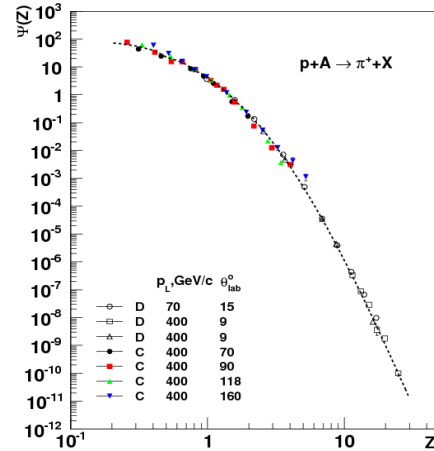
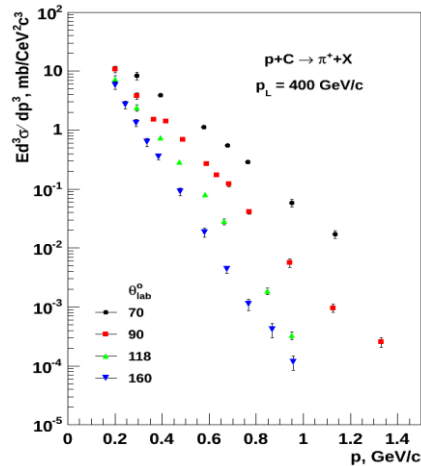
M.Tokarev

Lomonosov'22, MSU, Russia, 2025



High- p_T and low- p_T pion production in $p+A$

20



C, Al & D

- Collapse of data points
- Universal shape of $\Psi(z)$
- Self-similarity over a wide kinematic range

	$\theta_{lab}^0 = 180^\circ$				p_L
	p	D	C	Al	(GeV/c)
p_{max}^π (GeV/c)	0.447	0.905	5.13	10.6	70
	0.456	0.928	5.53	12.2	400

Cumulation
under nucleus compression

N.A. Nikiforov et al., Phys. Rev. C22 (1980) 700.

&

J.W. Cronin et al., Phys. Rev. D11 (1975) 3105.

D. Antreasyan et al., Phys. Rev. D19 (1979) 764.

V.V. Abramov et al., Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 41 (1985) 357.

D.E. Jaffe et al., Phys. Rev. D40 (1989) 2777.

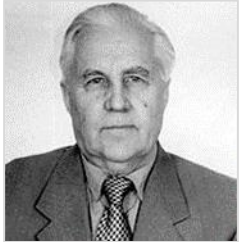
D.Toivonen, M.T. (2003)

A. Aparin, M.T. (2014)

M.Tokarev

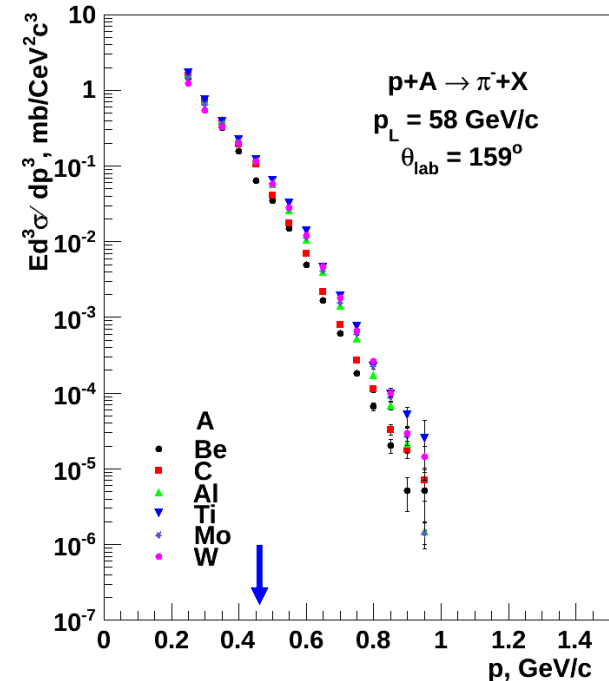
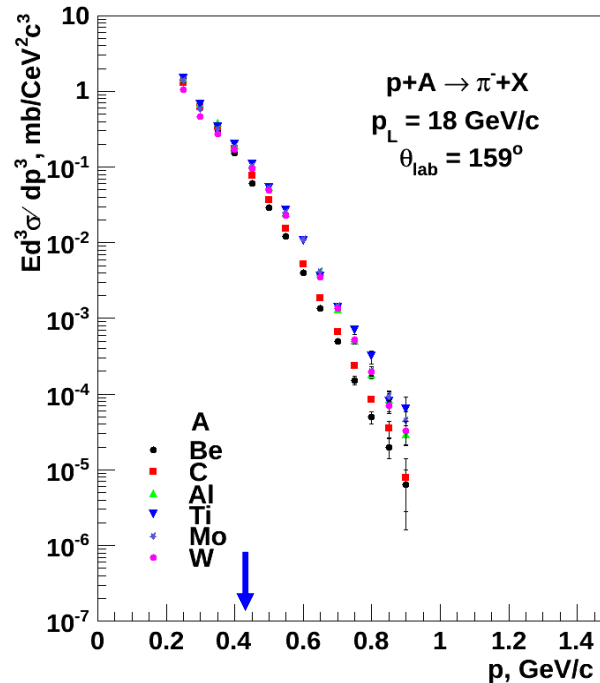
Lomonosov'22, MSU, Russia, 2025





L. Zolin

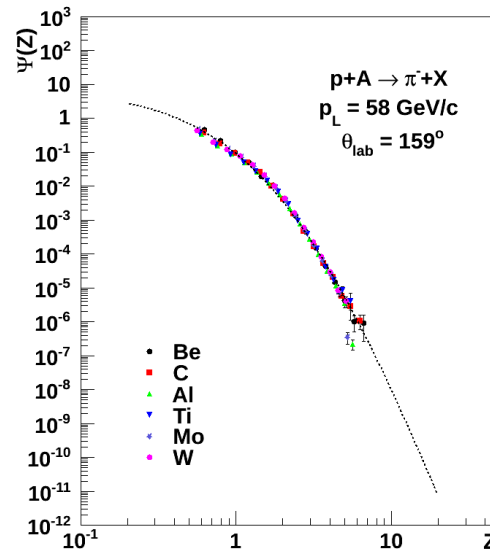
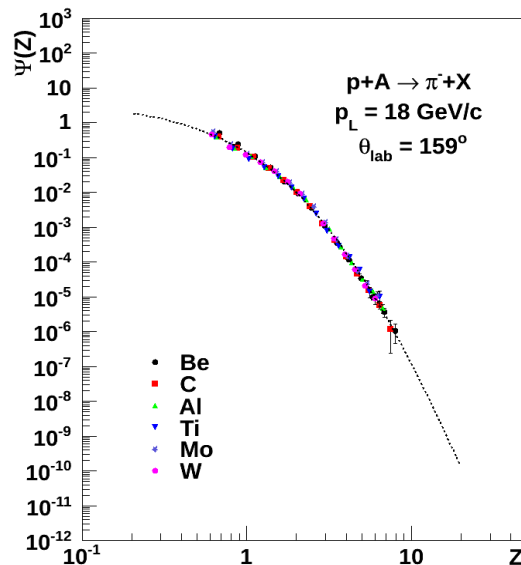
$p_L = 17, 58 \text{ GeV/c}$, $A = \text{Be, C, Al, Ti, Mo, W}$, $\theta_{\text{lab}} = 159^\circ$.



- Spectra in cumulative region: $p > 0.5 \text{ GeV/c}$.
- Smooth behavior of spectra vs. p .
- A -dependence of spectra ($A = 9-184$).

O.P. Gavrishchuk et al., Nucl. Phys. A523 (1991) 589.

z -presentation of spectra U70 (L. Zolin)



Be, C, Al, Ti, Mo, W & D

- Collapse of data points
- Universal shape of $\Psi(z)$
- Self-similarity over a wide kinematic range

$\theta_{\text{lab}} = 159^\circ$				p_L
	p	C	Ti	W
p_{max}^π	0.43	4.1	9.56	14.1
(GeV/c)	0.46	5.2	16.3	34.5
				18
				58

Cumulation
under nucleus compression

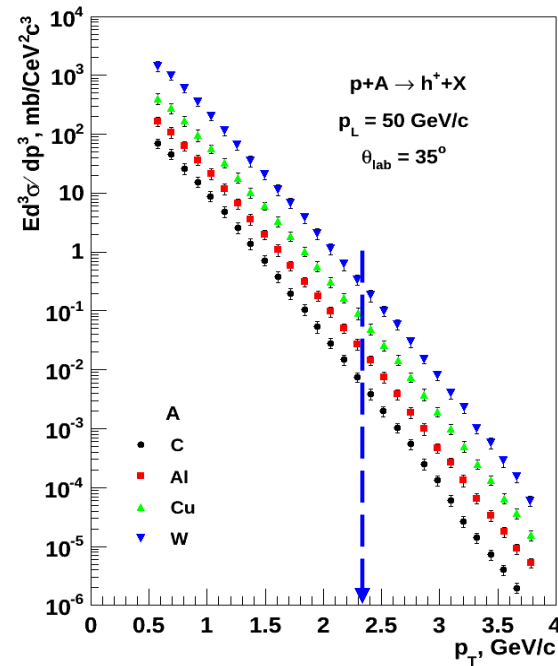
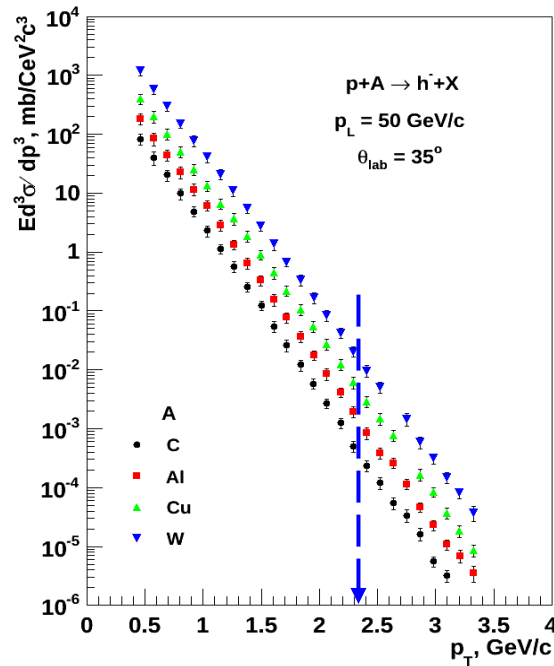
Self-similar properties
of nuclear matter
 $A=9-184$

- “Universal shape “ of $\Psi(z)$
- Power law for $z > 4$
- No discontinuity of δ_A



V. Gapienko

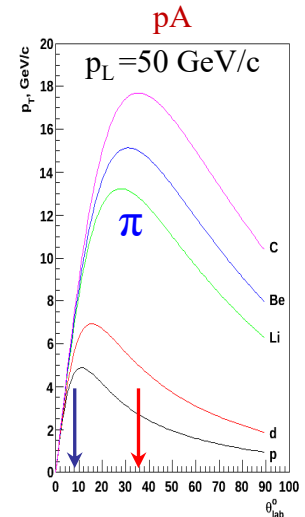
$p_L = 50$ GeV/c, $A = C, Al, Cu, W$, $\theta_{lab} = 35$ deg.



- Spectra in cumulative region: $p_T > 2.5$ GeV/c.
- Smooth behavior of spectra vs. p_T .
- A -dependence of spectra ($A=12-184$).



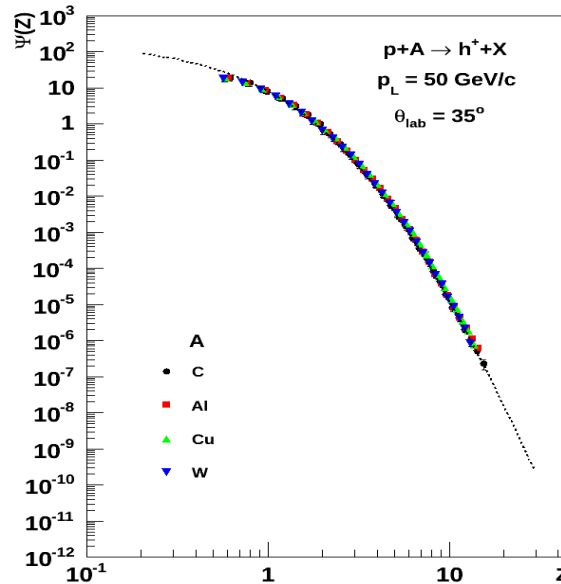
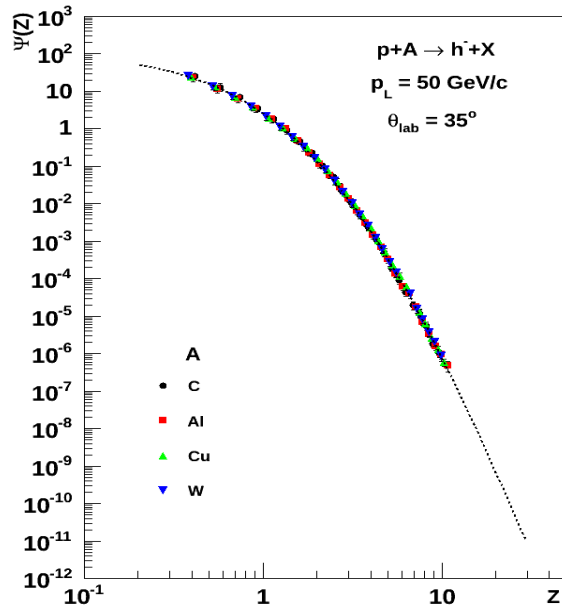
V. Ammosov



N.N.Antonov et al. (IHEP, Protvino) "Physics of Fundamental Interactions",
Russian Academy of Science, ITEP, Moscow, Russia, 21-25 November, 2011.
V.V.Ammosov et al., Yad.Fiz. 76 (2013) 1276.

z -presentation of spectra

FNAL (J.Cronin, D.Jaffe) & U70 (R.Sulyaev, V.Gapienko)



- Universal shape of $\Psi(z)$
- Power law for $z > 4$
- No discontinuity of δ_A

C, Al, Cu, W & D

- Collapse of data points
- Universal shape of $\Psi(z)$
- Self-similarity over a wide kinematic range

$p_L = 50 \text{ (GeV/c)}$ $\theta_{\text{lab}} = 35^\circ$

$p_{T \text{ max}}^h$
(GeV/c)

p	C	Al	Cu	W
2.62	15.6	20.7	24.4	26.7

Cumulation
under nucleus compression

Self-similar properties
of nuclear matter

$A=12-184$

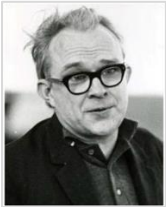
A.Aparin, MT

Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett., 11 (2014) 381.

M.Tokarev

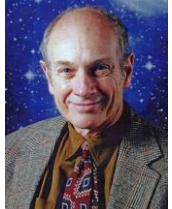
Lomonosov'22, MSU, Russia, 2025





G. Leksin

FNAL (J.Cronin, G.Leksin, D.Jaffe) & U70 (R.Sulyaev)



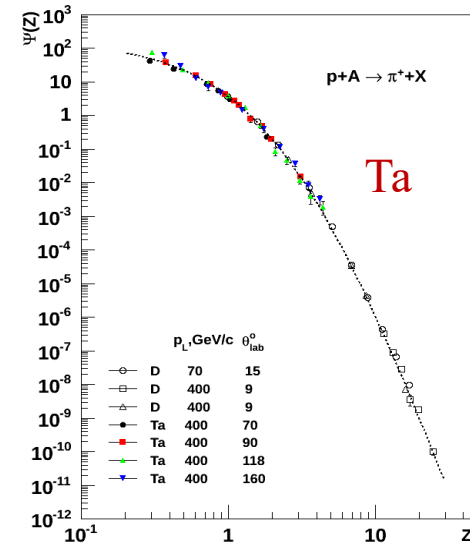
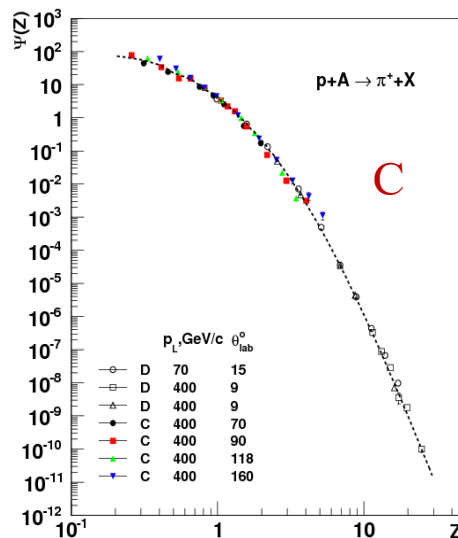
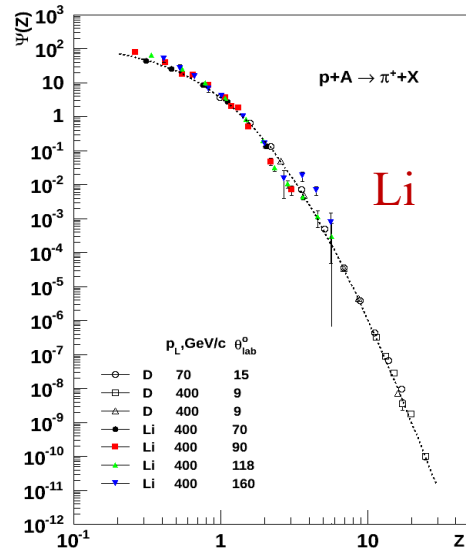
J. Cronin



R. Sulyaev



D. Jaffe



Scale invariance
Independence of the shape of the curve
on $\{z, \Psi\}$ plane on scale quantities $\sqrt{s}, p_T, \theta$

- Universal shape of $\Psi(z)$
- Power law for $z > 4$
- No discontinuity of $\delta_A = A_2 \delta$

N.A. Nikiforov et al., Phys. Rev. C22 (1980) 700.
A.Aparin, MT, Phys. Part. Nucl., Lett. 11 (2014) 91

$$z \rightarrow \alpha(A)z$$

$$\Psi \rightarrow \alpha^{-1}(A)\Psi$$

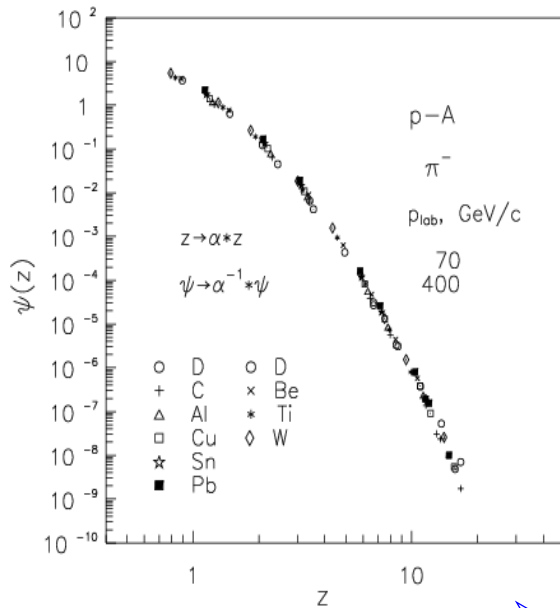


Self-similarity of hadron production in $p+A$

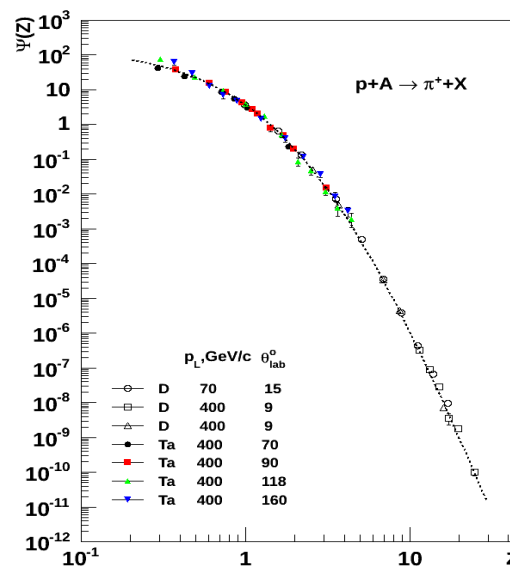
26

FNAL (J.Cronin, G.Leksin, D.Jaffe) & **U70** (R.Sulyaev, V.Gapienko)

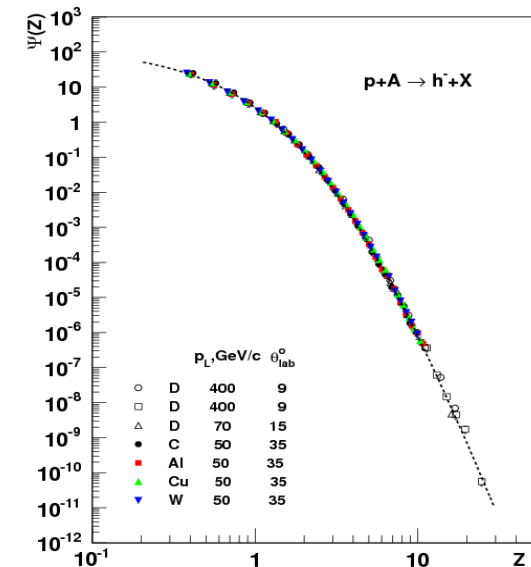
high- p_T & non-cumulative



low- p_T & cumulative



high- p_T & cumulative



- Beam Energy Scan in $p+A$
- Spectra of cumulative identified particles
- Multiplicity density $dN_{ch}/d\eta$ vs. $\sqrt{s}$ and η
- Centrality dependence of spectra

- Verification of z -scaling in cumulative range
- Smooth transition from high- p_T to cumulative range



Conclusions II

- Self-similarity of particle structure, constituent interactions and fragmentation process of hadron production in non-cumulative and cumulative regions in $p+A$ collisions were verified.
- Smooth behavior of $\Psi(z)$ in the overlapping range was found.



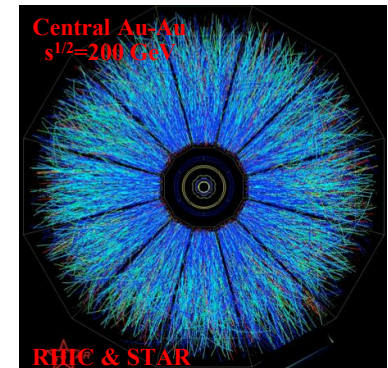
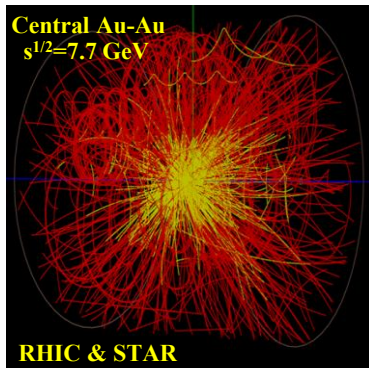
Scaling features of hadron production in Au+Au at RHIC

Probing microscopic structure of the hot- and high-density nuclear matter at multiple length scales

Self-similarity of hadron production

RHIC beam energy scan with Au+Au:

$$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7, 11.5, 14.5, 19.6, 27, 39, 62, 130, 200 \text{ GeV}$$



Int. J. Mod. Phys. (2015) 1560103

Nucl. Phys. A993 (2020) 121646

Nucl. Phys. A1025 (2022) 122492

Self-similarity parameter

$$z = z_0 \Omega^{-1}$$

$$z_0 = \frac{s_{\perp}^{1/2}}{(dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0)^{c_{AA}} m_N}$$

$$\Omega = (1-x_1)^{\delta_{A1}} (1-x_2)^{\delta_{A2}} (1-y_a)^{\varepsilon_{AA}} (1-y_b)^{\varepsilon_{AA}}$$

- $dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0$ - multiplicity density
- c_{AA} - “specific heat” of bulk matter
- δ_A - nucleus fractal dimension
- ε_{AA} - fragmentation dimension

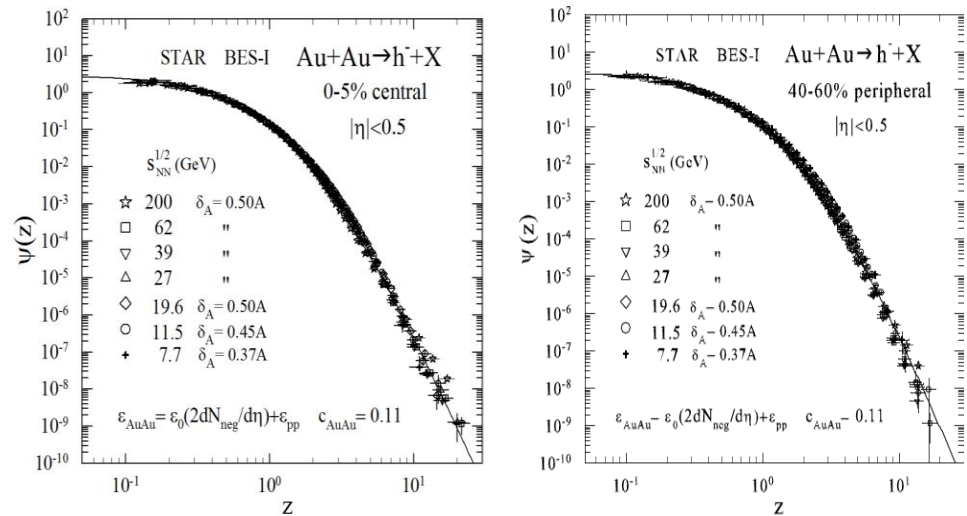
A+A collisions:

$$\delta_A = A\delta$$

$$\varepsilon_{AA} = \varepsilon_0 (dN_{AA}/d\eta) + \varepsilon_{pp}$$

$$\Psi(z) = \frac{\pi}{(dN/d\eta) \sigma_{inel}} J^{-1} E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3}$$

“Collapse” of data points onto a single curve



- Energy independence of $\Psi(z)$
- Centrality independence of $\Psi(z)$
- Dependence of ε_{AA} on multiplicity
- Power law at low- and high- z regions

Indication of a decrease
of δ for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} < 19.6$ GeV

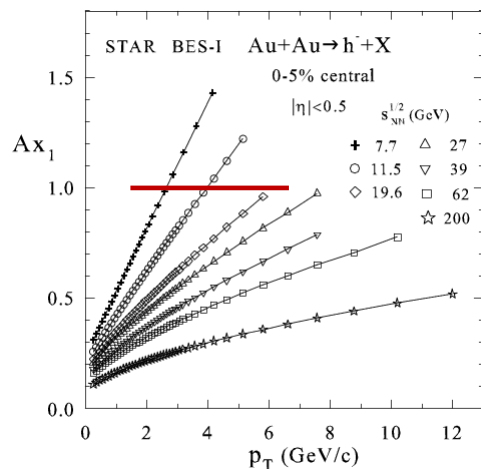


Constituent sub-process in terms of

Momentum fraction Ax_1

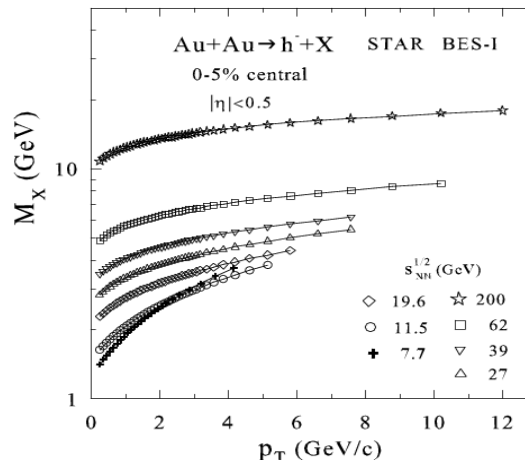
Recoil mass M_X

Energy loss $\Delta E/E = (1 - y_a)$



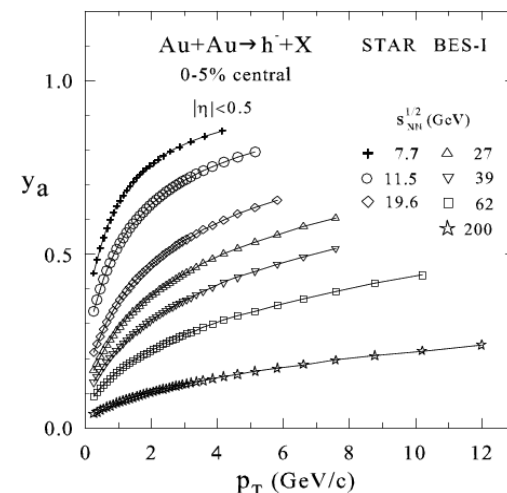
Ax_1

- increases with p_T
- decreases with $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$



M_X

- increases with p_T
- increases with $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$



$\Delta E/E$

- decreases with p_T
- increases with $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$

Smooth behavior of x_1 , y_a , M_X vs. p_T , centrality, collision energy

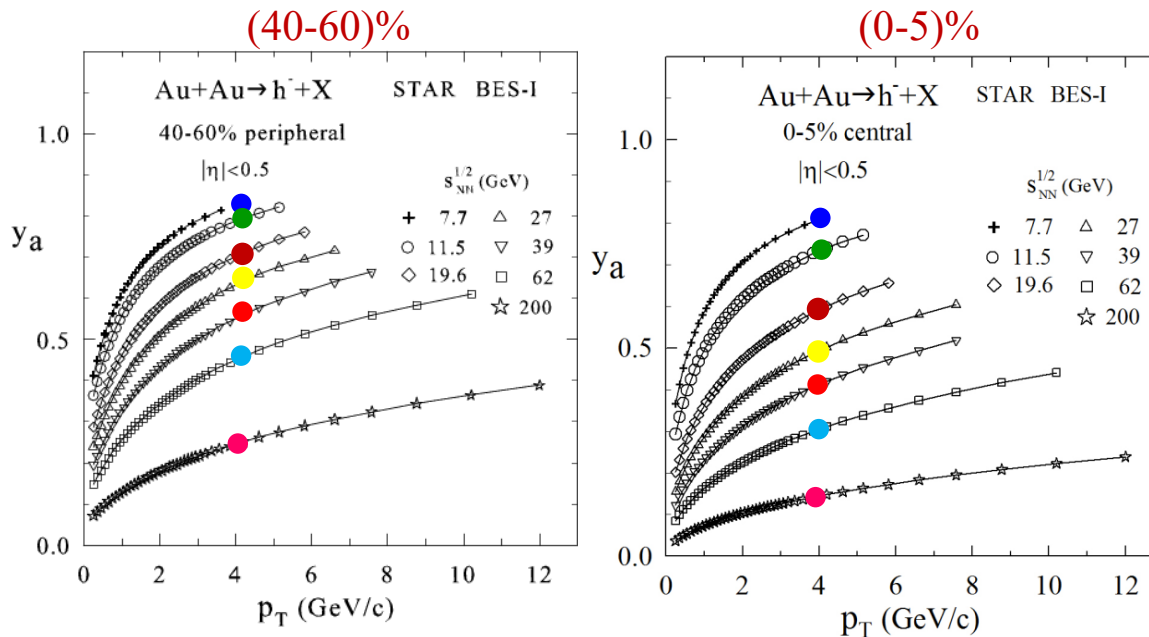
- High x_1 and p_T → compressed matter
- Large M_X → high density recoil system
- High y_a → small energy loss

Energy loss $\Delta E/E = (1 - y_a)$

p_T – transverse momentum of produced hadron

q – momentum of scattered constituent

$$p_T = 4 \text{ GeV/c}, \quad q = p_T / y_a$$



$\Delta E/E$

- decreases with p_T
- increases with $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$
- increases with centrality

20 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 5 \text{ GeV/c}$

22 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 5.1 \text{ GeV/c}$

30 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 5.7 \text{ GeV/c}$

35 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 6.2 \text{ GeV/c}$

45 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 7.3 \text{ GeV/c}$

55 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 8.9 \text{ GeV/c}$

75 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 16 \text{ GeV/c}$

20 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 5 \text{ GeV/c}$

25 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 5.3 \text{ GeV/c}$

40 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 6.7 \text{ GeV/c}$

50 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 8 \text{ GeV/c}$

60 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 10 \text{ GeV/c}$

70 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 13.3 \text{ GeV/c}$

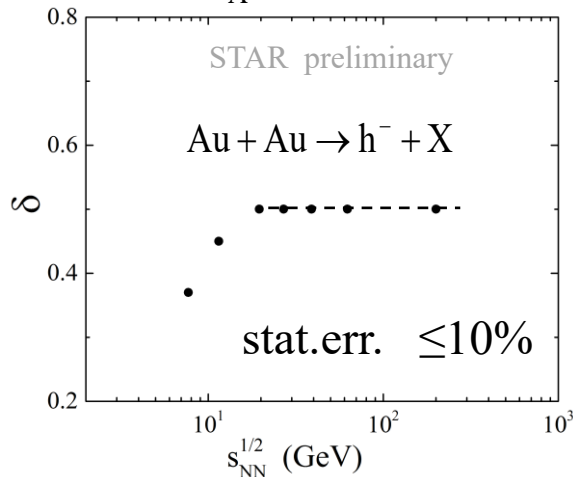
85 %
energy loss
 $q \approx 26.6 \text{ GeV/c}$



Parameters δ_A , ε_{AA} , c_{AA} are determined from the requirement of scaling behavior of Ψ as a function of self-similarity parameter z

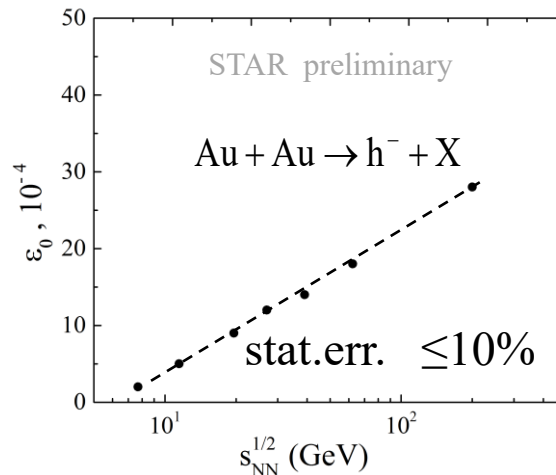
Nucleus fractal dimension

$$\delta_A = A \cdot \delta$$



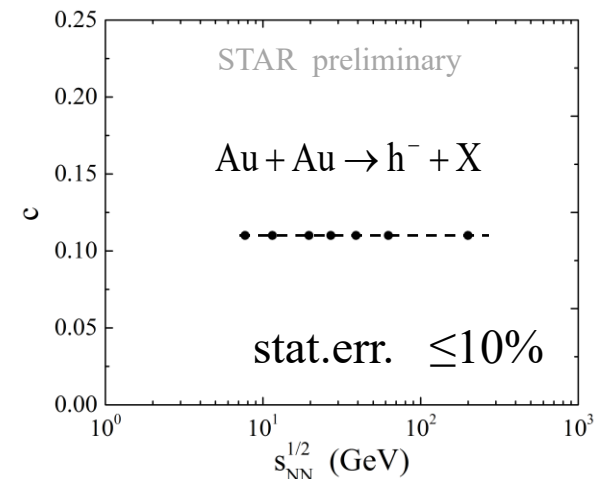
Fragmentation dimension

$$\varepsilon_{AA} = \varepsilon_0 (dN_{AA}/d\eta) + \varepsilon_{pp}$$



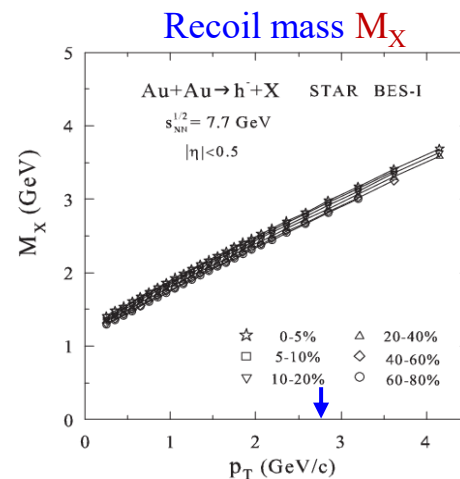
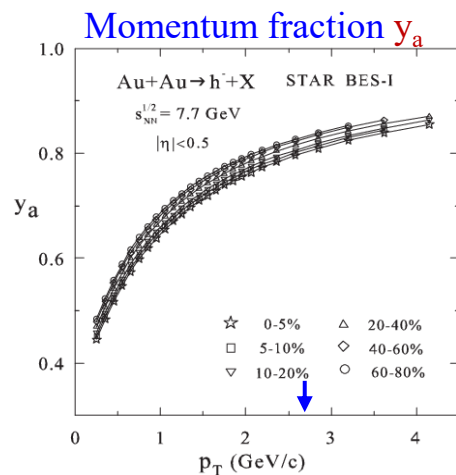
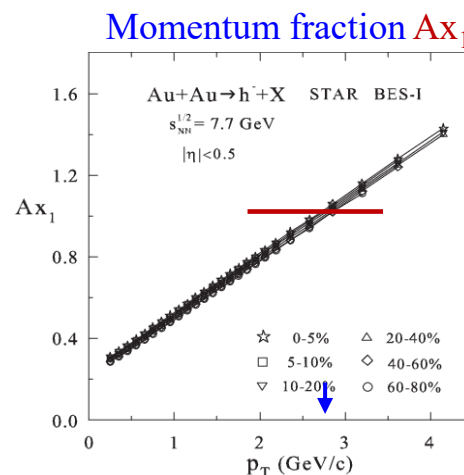
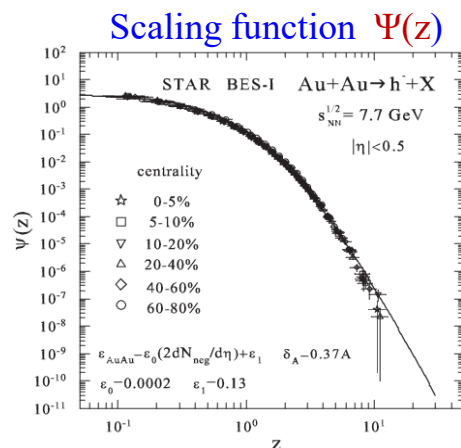
“Specific heat”

$$c_{AA}$$



- δ_A decreases with energy for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \leq 20$ GeV
- δ_A is independent of energy for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \geq 20$ GeV
- ε_{AA} increases with energy
- c_{AA} is independent of energy

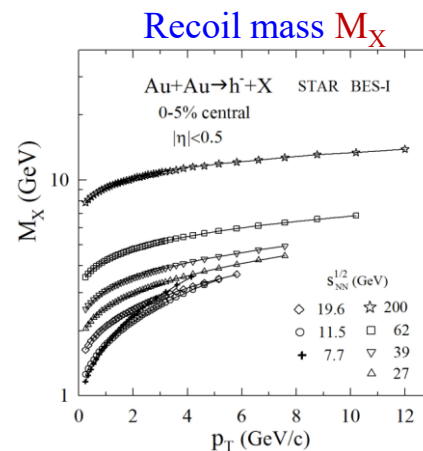
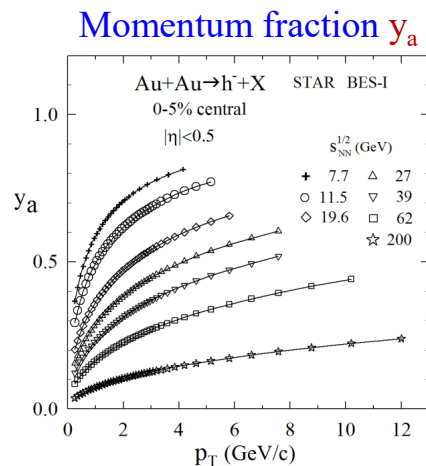
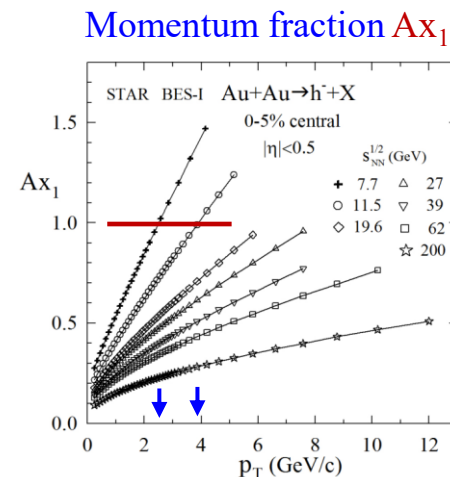
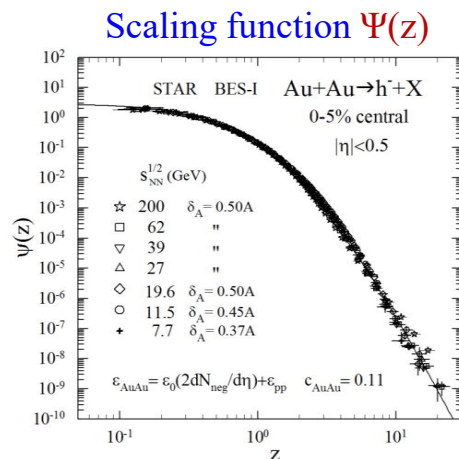
Search for discontinuity and correlations of the model parameters as signatures of Phase Transition and Critical Point.



Smooth behavior of $\Psi(z)$, Ax_1 , y_a , M_X vs. p_T



Central Au+Au at STAR & $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7 - 200$ GeV 34



Cumulative region was only reached at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} < 11.5$ GeV



- The **STAR BES-I** data on negative hadrons produced in **Au+Au** collisions cover cumulative region at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=7.7, 11.5$ GeV.
- Results of analysis demonstrate smooth behavior in **z**-presentation vs. collision energy, centrality over a wide range of **p_T**.
- **z**-Scaling of particle production manifests self-similarity, locality and fractality of hadron interactions at a constituent level.

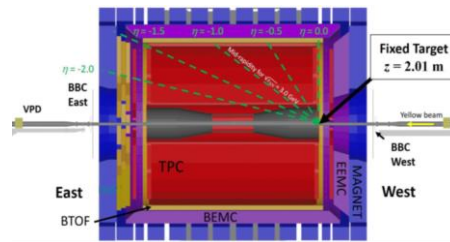


Self-similarity of cumulative production in collider and fixed target mode at RHIC & NICA ?

RHIC & STAR

CM: two beams, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7\text{-}200$ GeV

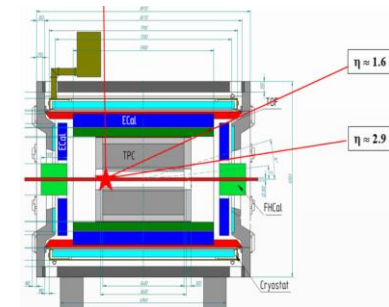
FXT: one beam, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3.0\text{-}7.7$ GeV



NICA & MPD

CM: two beams, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 4\text{-}11$ GeV

FXT: one beam, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.4\text{-}3.5$ GeV



We consider that:

- Smaller energy losses is better for localization of a Critical Point.
- High- p_T region is most preferable region to search for a Critical Point.
 - Colliding ions should be not very heavy.
 - Collision energy $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ should be not very high.

G.A.Leksin

Phys. At. Nucl.
65 (2002) 1985.

I.Zborovský, MT

Phys. Part. Nucl., Lett.
7 (2010) 271.

I.Zborovský, MT, A.Aparin

Phys. Part. Nucl., Lett.
12 (2015) 221.

Self-similarity parameter

$$Z = Z_0 \Omega^{-1} s_{\perp}^{1/2}$$

$$Z_0 = \frac{s_{\perp}^{1/2}}{(dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0)^{c_{AA}} m_N}$$

$$\Omega = (1-x_1)^{\delta_{A1}} (1-x_2)^{\delta_{A2}} (1-y_a)^{\varepsilon_{AA}} (1-y_b)^{\varepsilon_{AA}}$$

- $dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0$ - multiplicity density
- c_{AA} - “specific heat” of bulk matter
- δ_A - nucleus fractal dimension
- ε_{AA} - fragmentation dimension

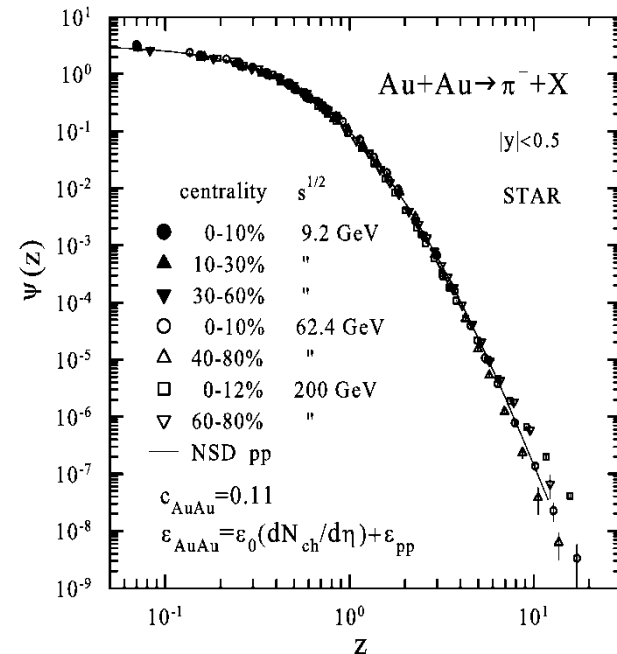
A+A collisions:

$$\delta_A = A\delta$$

$$\varepsilon_{AA} = \varepsilon_0 (dN_{AA}/d\eta) + \varepsilon_{pp}$$

$$\Psi(z) = \frac{\pi}{(dN/d\eta) \sigma_{inel}} J^{-1} E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3}$$

“Collapse” of data points onto a single curve



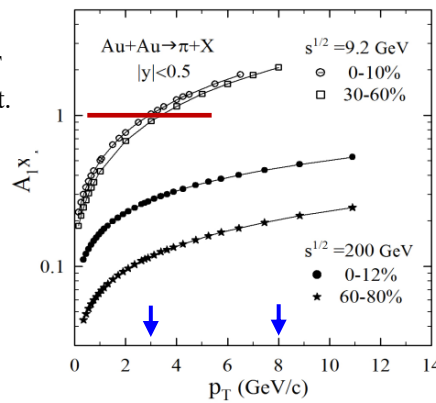
- Energy independence of $\Psi(z)$
- Centrality independence of $\Psi(z)$
- Power law at high z
- Saturation at low z

I. Zborovský, MT

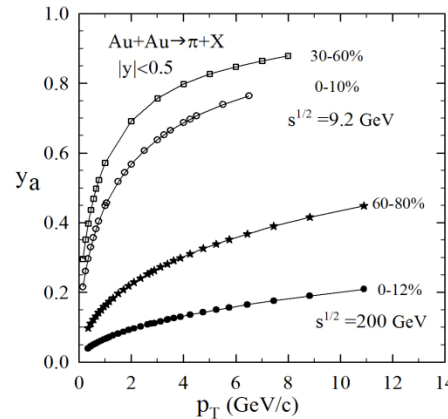
Phys. Part. Nucl., Lett. 7 (2010) 271

Momentum fractions x_1, x_2, y_a & recoil mass M_X

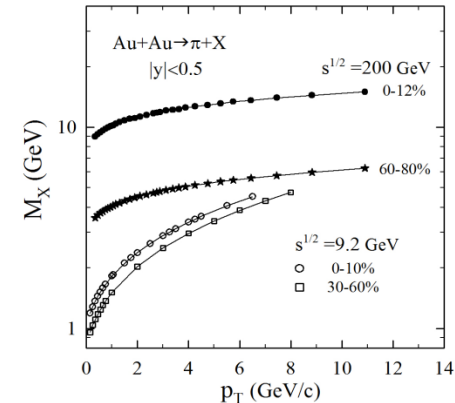
I.Zborovský & MT
Phys.Part.Nucl.,Lett.
7 (2010) 271



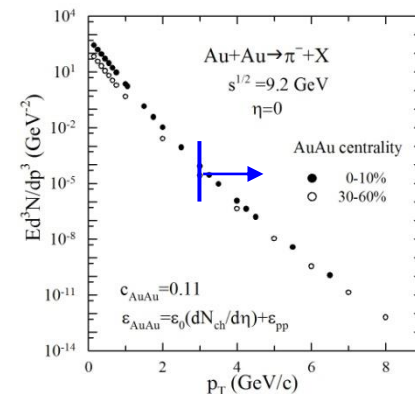
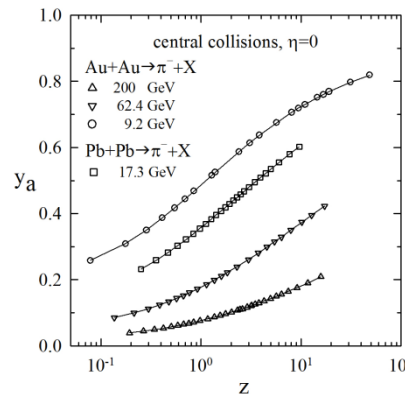
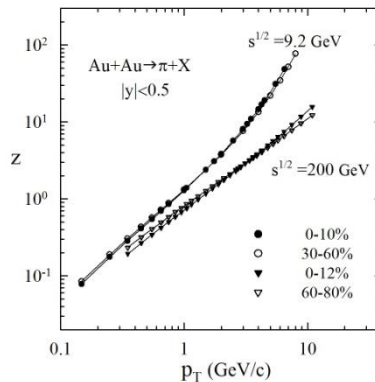
z - p_T plot



y_a - z plot



p_T -spectra



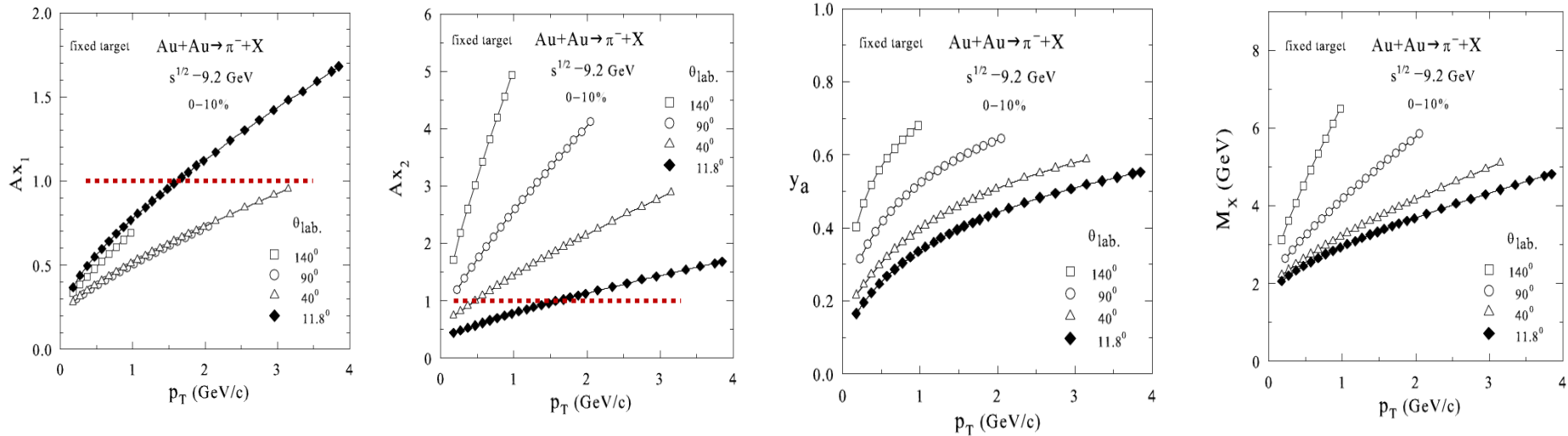
Cumulative region: $A_1 x_1 > 1$, $p_T > 3$ GeV/c $\rightarrow$ $A_1 x_1 = 2$, $p_T = 8$ GeV/c

Energy loss: $\Delta E/E < 40\%$ $\rightarrow$ 20%

Recoil mass: $M_X > 2$ GeV $\rightarrow$ 4 GeV



Momentum fractions x_1, x_2, y_a & recoil mass M_X



Kinematics and event selection

- Cumulative range: $Ax_2 > 1$
- Small energy loss : $\Delta E/E = (1 - y_a)$
- Probe with high p_T
- Events with high multiplicity

In cumulative region

- Nuclear matter compressed
- Phase transition not smeared



Clear signatures
of phase transition and critical point

- Pion production in collider and fixed target modes in **Au+Au** collisions in the framework of **z**-scaling approach were analyzed.
- Dependence of momentum fractions **x_1 , x_2 , y_a** and recoil mass **M_X** on transverse momentum and angle of inclusive particle was studied.
- Verification of self-similarity of cumulative high- p_T pion production in **Au+Au** collisions was suggested.
- Discontinuity of fractal dimensions of nuclei and fragmentation process and “heat capacity “ is proposed to be considered as a signature of a phase transition .



- Data on cumulative hadron spectra obtained by G.Leksin, L.Zolin and V.Gapienko groups in $p+A$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 11.5 - 27.4$ GeV were reviewed in the framework of z -scaling approach.
- Results of this analysis were compared with previous data obtained by J.Cronin, R.Sulyaev and D.Jaffe groups.
- Indication on self-similarity of hadron production in $p+A$ collisions at high energies in the cumulative region were found.
- Universality of the shape of $\Psi(z)$ was used to predict pion spectra in $Au+Au$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 9.2$ GeV in cumulative range.
- Cumulative production in collider and fixed target mode is “window” to search for signatures of phase transitions of nuclear matter.

The results can be used to develop programs to search for new physics phenomena in $p+A$ and $A+A$ collisions at $U70$, RHIC, LHC & NICA, FAIR.



22st Lomonosov Conference on Elementary Particle Physics

MSU, Moscow, Russia, August 21 - 27, 2025

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Faculty of Physics
Moscow State University

Dedicated to the 270th Anniversary of
Moscow State University

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Moscow, August 21 - 27, 2025

Mikhail Lomonosov
1711-1765

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Theories Beyond Standard Model
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Astrophysics, MSU

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Thank You for Your Attention !

M.Tokarev

Lomonosov'22, MSU, Russia, 2025



Back-up slides

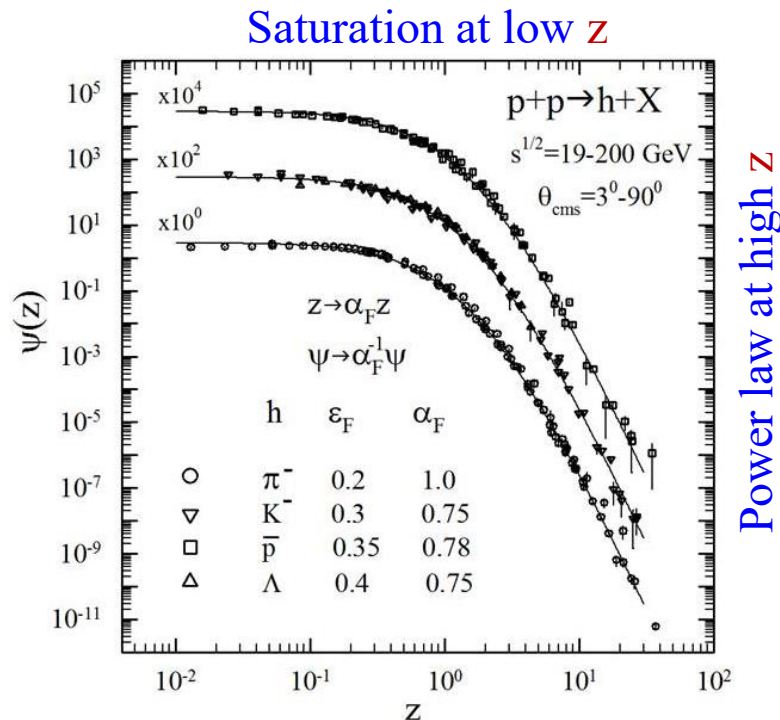


Inclusive cross sections of π^- , K^- , $\bar{p}$, Λ in pp collisions

FNAL:
PRD 75 (1979) 764

ISR:
NPB 100 (1975) 237
PLB 64 (1976) 111
NPB 116 (1976) 77
(low p_T)
NPB 56 (1973) 333
(small angles)

STAR:
PLB 616 (2005) 8
PLB 637 (2006) 161
PRC 75 (2007) 064901



- Energy & angular independence
- Flavor independence (π , K , $\bar{p}$, Λ)
- Saturation for $z < 0.1$
- Power law $\Psi(z) \sim z^{-\beta}$ for high $z > 4$

Energy scan of spectra at U70, ISR, $\bar{S}ppS$, SPS, HERA, FNAL(fixed target), Tevatron, RHIC, LHC

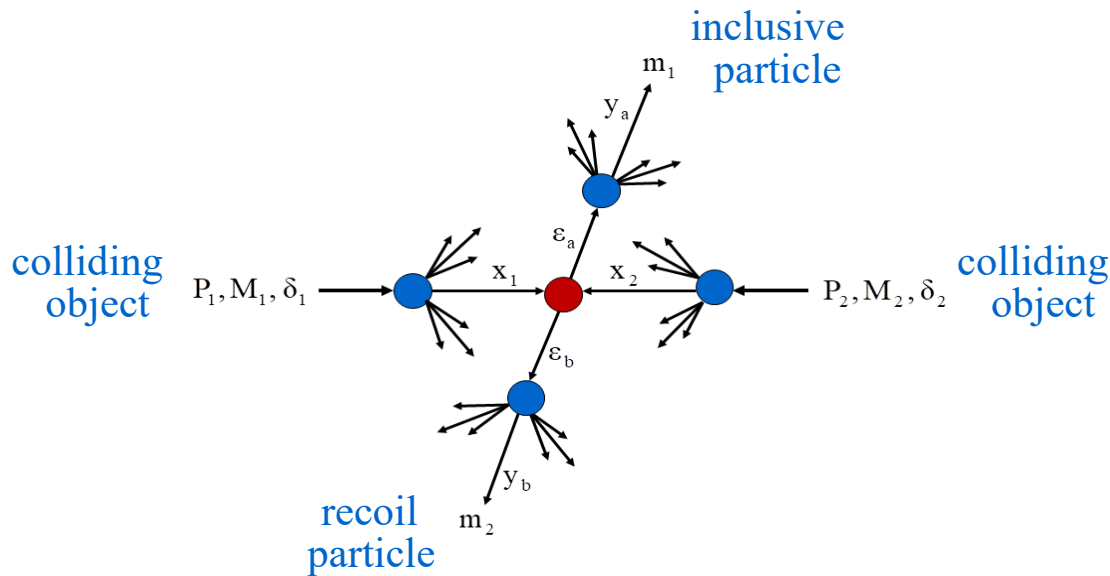
MT & I.Zborovsky
T.Dedovich

Phys.Rev.D75,094008(2007)
Int.J.Mod.Phys.A24,1417(2009)
J. Phys.G: Nucl.Part.Phys.
37,085008(2010)
Int.J.Mod.Phys.A27,1250115(2012)
J.Mod.Phys.3,815(2012)
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Nucl. Phys. A993 (2020) 121646

Scaling – “collapse” of data points onto a single curve.
Universality classes – hadron species (ϵ_F , α_F).



Collisions of colliding objects
are expressed via interactions of their constituents



P_1, P_2, p – momenta of colliding and produced particles

M_1, M_2, m_1 – masses of colliding and produced particles

x_1, x_2 – momentum fractions of colliding particles carried by constituents

y_a, y_b – momentum fractions of scattered constituents carried by inclusive particle and its recoil

δ_1, δ_2 – fractal dimensions of colliding particles

ϵ_a, ϵ_b – fractal dimensions of scattered constituents (fragmentation dimensions)

m_2 – mass of recoil particle

Elementary sub-process:

$$(x_1 M_1) + (x_2 M_2) \rightarrow (m_1 / y_a) + (x_1 M_1 + x_2 M_2 + m_2 / y_b)$$

Momentum conservation law for sub-process

$$(x_1 P_1 + x_2 P_2 - p / y_a)^2 = M_X^2$$

Mass of recoil system

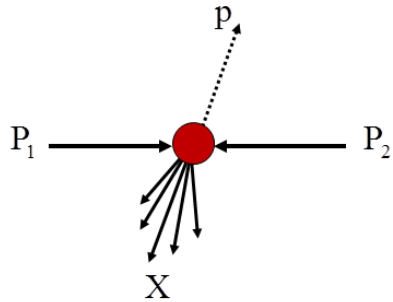
$$M_X = x_1 M_1 + x_2 M_2 + m_2 / y_b$$

M.T., I.Zborovský
Yu.Panebratsev, G.Skoro
Phys.Rev.D54 5548 (1996)
Int.J.Mod.Phys.A16 1281 (2001)



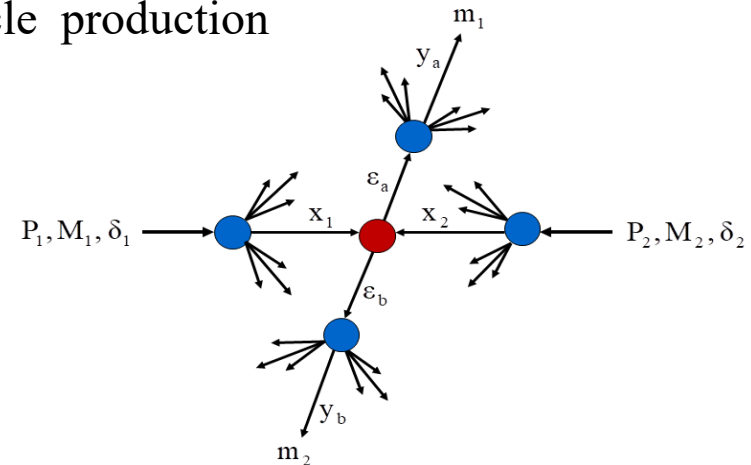
Interactions of constituents are mutually similar

The self-similarity parameter z is a dimensionless variable, expressed through the dimensional quantities $P_1, P_2, p, M_1, M_2, m_1, m_2$, characterizing the process of inclusive particle production



$$z = z_0 \cdot \Omega^{-1}$$

$$z_0 = \frac{s_{\perp}^{1/2}}{(dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0)^c m_N}$$



- Ω^{-1} is the minimal resolution at which a constituent sub-process can be singled out of the inclusive reaction
- $s_{\perp}^{1/2}$ is the transverse kinetic energy of the sub-process consumed on production of m_1 & m_2
- $dN_{ch}/d\eta|_0$ is the multiplicity density of charged particles at $\eta = 0$
- c is a parameter interpreted as a “specific heat” of created medium
- m_N is an arbitrary constant (fixed at the value of nucleon mass)

Self-similarity over a wide scale range

Fractal measure

$$z = z_0 \cdot \Omega^{-1}$$

$$\Omega = (1 - x_1)^{\delta_1} (1 - x_2)^{\delta_2} (1 - y_a)^{\varepsilon_a} (1 - y_b)^{\varepsilon_b}$$

$$0 < x_1, x_2 < 1$$

$$0 < y_a, y_b < 1$$

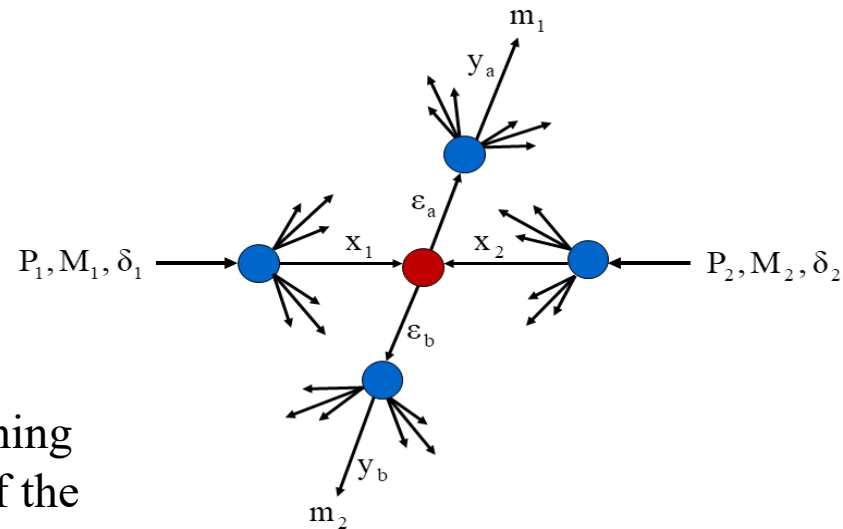
Ω is relative number of configurations containing a sub-process with fractions x_1, x_2, y_a, y_b of the corresponding 4-momenta

$\delta_1, \delta_2, \varepsilon_a, \varepsilon_b$ are parameters characterizing structure of the colliding objects and fragmentation process, respectively

$\Omega^{-1}(x_1, x_2, y_a, y_b)$ characterizes resolution at which a constituent sub-process can be singled out of the inclusive reaction

The fractal measure z diverges as the resolution Ω^{-1} increases.

$$z(\Omega) \Big|_{\Omega^{-1} \rightarrow \infty} \rightarrow \infty$$



Principle of minimal resolution: The momentum fractions x_1, x_2 and y_a, y_b are determined in a way to minimize the resolution Ω^{-1} of the fractal measure z with respect to all constituent sub-processes taking into account 4-momentum conservation law:

Momentum conservation law

$$(x_1 P_1 + x_2 P_2 - p/y_a)^2 = M_X^2$$

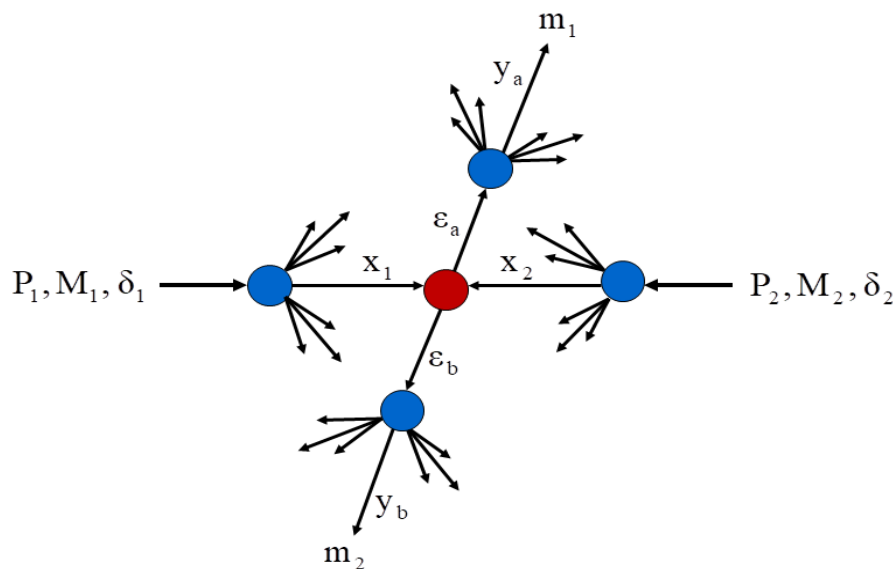
$$\begin{cases} \partial \Omega / \partial x_1 |_{y_a=y_a(x_1, x_2, y_b)} = 0 \\ \partial \Omega / \partial x_2 |_{y_a=y_a(x_1, x_2, y_b)} = 0 \\ \partial \Omega / \partial y_b |_{y_a=y_a(x_1, x_2, y_b)} = 0 \end{cases}$$

Resolution of sub-process

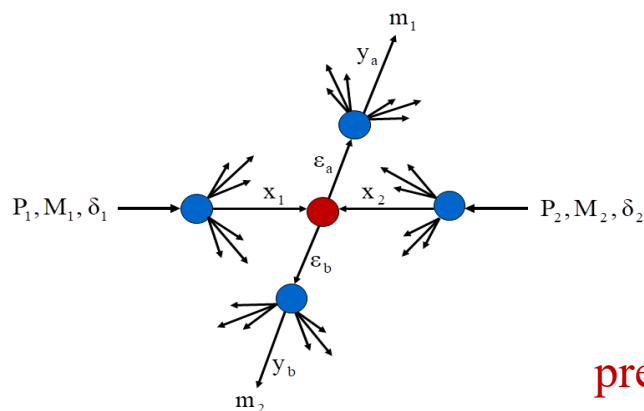
$$\Omega^{-1} = (1 - x_1)^{-\delta_1} (1 - x_2)^{-\delta_2} (1 - y_a)^{-\varepsilon_a} (1 - y_b)^{-\varepsilon_b}$$

Mass of recoil system

$$M_X = x_1 M_1 + x_2 M_2 + m_2 / y_b$$



Fractions x_1, x_2, y_a, y_b are expressed via Lorentz invariants – scalar products of 4-D momenta and particle masses.



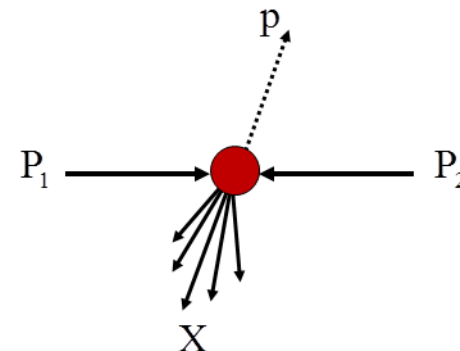
Normalization condition

$$\int_0^{\infty} \Psi(z) dz = 1$$

Scale transformation

$$z \rightarrow \alpha_F \cdot z \quad \Psi \rightarrow \alpha_F^{-1} \cdot \Psi$$

preserves the normalization condition



$$\Psi(z) = \frac{\pi}{(dN/d\eta) \cdot \sigma_{\text{inel}}} \cdot J^{-1} \cdot E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \int E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3} dy d^2p_{\perp} = \sigma_{\text{inel}} \cdot \langle N \rangle$$

- σ_{in} - the inelastic cross section
- $\langle N \rangle$ - the average multiplicity
- $dN/d\eta$ - the multiplicity density
- $J(z, \eta; p_T^2, y)$ - the Jacobian
- $E d^3\sigma/dp^3$ - the inclusive cross section

The scaling function $\Psi(z)$ is a probability density to produce the inclusive particle with the corresponding value of self-similarity variable z .