#### Quantifying properties of liquid nuclei Or how I built my undergraduate army Christine Nattrass, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

#### **Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider**

BRAHMS

PHOBOS

SPHENIX





# How to make a Quark Gluon Plasma



#### The phase transition in the laboratory



#### Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider



#### Large Hadron Collider



Geneva, Switzerland 8.6km diameter p+p, p+Pb, Pb+Pb $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  GeV, 5.5 TeV

#### **Particle Detectors**





#### p+p collisions



#### Pb+Pb collisions



#### Forming the QGP

### How can we estimate the energy density?

- Transverse energy  $(E_T)$ 
  - sum of particle energies in transverse direction
- Volume  $V = A_T \tau c$
- $\tau =$  formation time
- Energy density ε

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{V} \frac{dE_T}{dy} = \frac{J}{A_T \tau c} \frac{dE_T}{d\eta}$$

• QGP formation for  $\epsilon > 0.5 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$ 





# Energy dependence from $dE_{T}/dy$



Higher than extrapolations of RHIC data

# Energy dependence from $dE_{T}/dy$



Higher than extrapolations of RHIC data

### **QGP** Chemistry





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#### **QGP** Thermometers

### Measuring temperature





#### Building a quarkonium-thermometer



### Building a quarkonium-thermometer



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### **QGP** Spectroscopy



#### Want a probe which traveled through the collision QGP is very short-lived (~1-10 fm/c) → cannot use an external probe

#### Probes of the Quark Gluon Plasma



# Want a probe which traveled through the medium QGP is short lived $\rightarrow$ need a probe created in the collision

#### Probes of the Quark Gluon Plasma



Want a probe which traveled through the medium QGP is short lived  $\rightarrow$  need a probe created in the collision We expect the medium to be dense  $\rightarrow$  absorb/modify probe



Jets – hard parton scattering leads to back-to-back quarks or gluons, which then fragment as a columnated spray of particles

#### Jet reconstruction





- Identify all of the particles in the jet  $\rightarrow$  parton energy, momentum
- Difficult in heavy ion collisions but possible!



Phys.Rev.Lett. 105 (2010) 252303





- One of the jets is absorbed by the medium
- The quark or gluon has equilibrated with the medium
- Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 252303 (2010)





#### Nuclear modification factor

- Measure spectra of probe (jets) and compare to those in p+p collisions or peripheral A+A collisions
- If high- $p_T$  probes (jets) are suppressed, this is evidence of jet quenching



#### Nuclear modification factor



# Nuclear modification factor R<sub>AA</sub> RHIC



ChEteotromagnetion beis ersignsistentowith no hood ification - medium4

#### Towards quantitative understanding



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#### Bayesian Statistical Analysis Models and Data Analysis Initiative













### JETSCAPE Event generator

Jet Energy-loss Tomography with a Statistically and Computationally Advanced Program Envelope http://jetscape.wayne.edu/



## Event Generator + Bayesian Statistical analysis



### JETSCAPE Event generator

Jet Energy-loss Tomography with a Statistically and Computationally Advanced Program Envelope http://jetscape.wayne.edu/







Undergraduates!\*

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#### Course-based undergraduate research experience Ask me if you want more info!

#### CBE—Life Sciences Education, Vol. 15, No. 2 Articles

Free Ac

#### Early Engagement in Course-Based Research Increases Graduation Rates and Completion of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Degrees

Stacia E. Rodenbusch, Paul R. Hernandez, Sarah L. Simmons, and Erin L. Dolan Jennifer Knight, Monitoring Editor:

Published Online: 13 Oct 2017 | https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.16-03-0117

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🌶 Tools 🛛 < Sha

#### Abstract

National efforts to transform undergraduate biology education call for research experiences to be an integral pmponent learning for all students. Course-based undergraduate research experiences, or CUREs, have been championed for engagi students in research at a scale that is not possible through apprenticeships in faculty research laboratories. Yet there are f if any studies that examine the long-term effects of participating in CUREs on desired student outcomes, such as graduatir from college and completing a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) major. One CURE program, the Freshman Research Initiative (FRI), has engaged thousands of first-year undergraduates over the past decade. Using propensity score-matching to control for student-level differences, we tested the effect of participating in FRI on students' probability of graduating with a STEM degree, probability of graduating within 6 yr, and grade point average (GPA) at graduation. Students who completed all three semesters of FRI were significantly more likely than their non-FRI peers to earn a STEM degree and graduate within 6 yr. FRI had no significant effect on students' GPAs at graduation. The effects were similar for diverse students. These results provide the most robust and best-controlled evidence to date to support calls for early involvement of undergraduates in research.

Phys 494 - Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience in Relativistic Heavy Ion Physics

#### Instructor: Dr. Christine Nattrass Office: SERF 609 Phone: 974-6211 Email: <u>christine.nattrass@utk.edu</u> Office hours: TBA

#### Teaching assistant: N/A

Class time & Location: TR 12:40-1:55 SERF 210

#### **Course Description:**

This course will incorporate undergraduates into a research project in high energy nuclear physics in a course setting. Each student will be responsible for implementing a heavy ion analysis in the program RIVET so that it can be used by the JETSCAPE collaboration to make comparisons between Monte Carlo models and data. Each student's project will be incorporated into a public software repository so that it is available to the field and, if possible, it will be validated by the relevant experiment and incorporated into the official RIVET software.

3 semesters15 students8 women3 minorities3 non-traditional

All Rivet students 22 students 11 women 7 minorities 4 non-traditional





# Skills

- Overview of high energy nuclear physics and how particle detectors work
- Read a technical paper and understand it well enough to implement an analysis
- Work well in a group where you are evaluated by the group's success

- Proficiency with the command line
- Write a piece of code in C++
- Code management with git
- Write a paper in latex
- Give a presentation

## Keys to success

- The right project
  - High physics emphasis, few prerequisite skills
  - Useful output for the PI
  - Low cost for project failure
  - Not time-sensitive
  - Feasible in ~135 hours
- Diverse group of student skills, levels
- Previous PI experience supervising UG research
  - Especially on the topic of research

# Diversity

- Results definitely sensitive to the instructor
- Provides easy access to research
- Lowers effort/student to supervising undergraduates
  - Allows C students to demonstrate skills
  - Develops faculty connections to students

## Take home messages

- If we get nuclear matter dense enough, we make a new phase of matter, which we produce in high energy heavy ion collisions.
- This medium is extremely hot and dense...
- ...and opaque to colored probes and translucent to electromagnetic probes.
- Build your own undergraduate army!







## More information

- Introductory lectures on the QGP
- Overview of jets in heavy ion collisions
- My syllabus