

CHARGE-ASYMMETRY DEPENDENCE OF KAON ELLIPTIC FLOW IN Au+Au COLLISIONS AT $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ GeV FROM STAR



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Abstract

Theory predicts that a chiral magnetic wave (CMW) at finite baryon density can induce a charge-asymmetry dependence of elliptic flow (v_2) of particles produced in heavy-ion collisions. STAR has observed that pion Δv_2 exhibits a linear dependence on charge asymmetry with a positive slope in Au+Au collisions from 27 to 200 GeV [1]. This is consistent with the CMW picture. At lower collision energies, it was found that the charge-asymmetry integrated v_2 for negative pions is higher while for kaons, the positive charge is favored. Therefore, an observation of the same positive linear dependence of kaon v_2 difference on charge asymmetry will provide a further test on the CMW predictions in heavy-ion collisions. In this work, we present the kaon elliptic flow measurements as a function of charge asymmetry for Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ GeV.

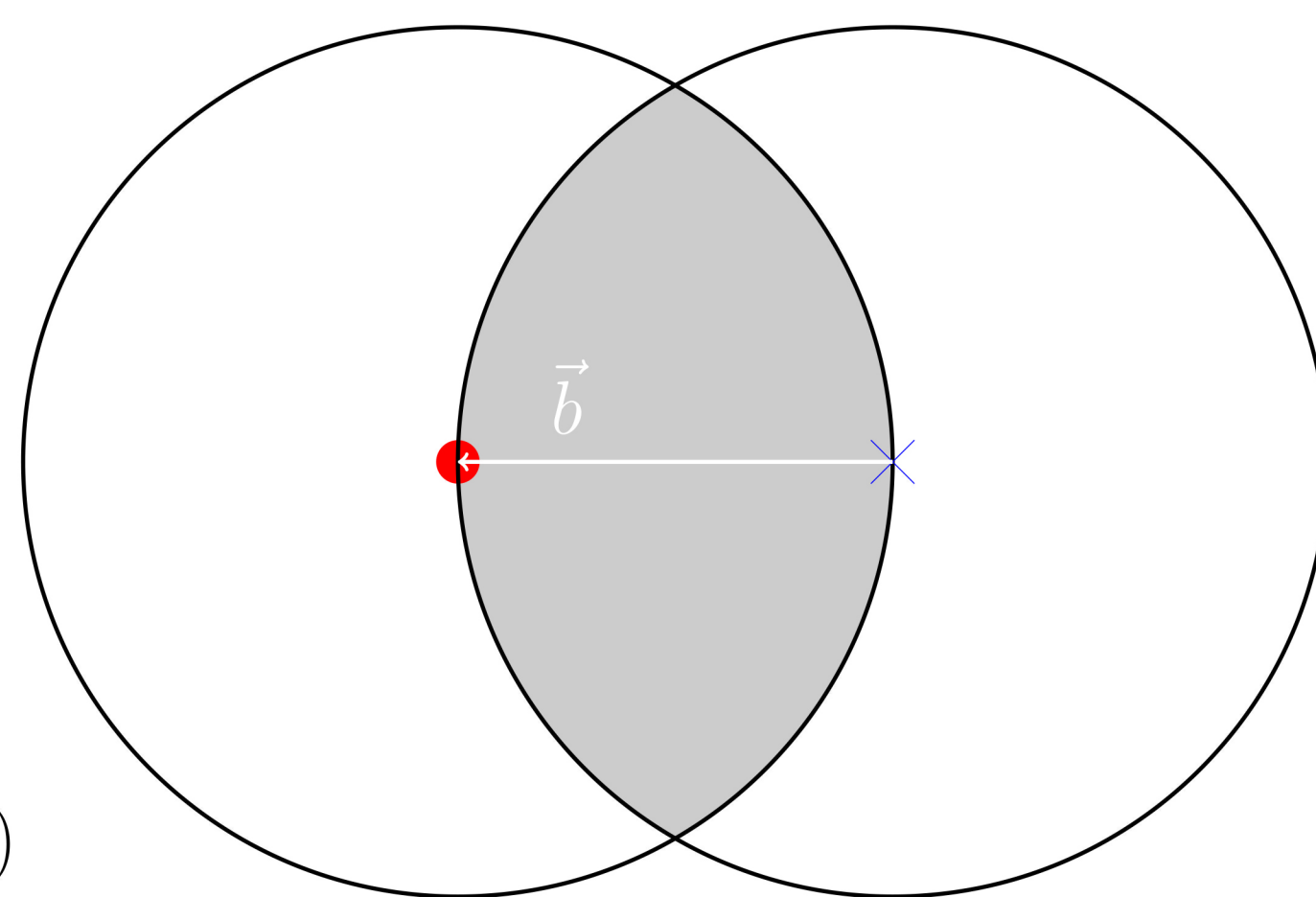
Introduction and Theory

Elliptic Flow (v_2)

- Because the quark-gluon plasma created in non-central collisions isn't spherically symmetric, the plasma does not expand uniformly. v_2 is a measure of this anisotropy of expansion.
- Characterized by the second order Fourier coefficient in the expansion of the azimuthal distribution of particles with respect to the event plane.

$$-E \frac{d^3N}{d^3p} = \frac{1}{2\pi p_T} \frac{d^2N}{dp_T dy} \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos[n(\phi - \Psi_r)] \right)$$

$$-v_2 = \langle \cos[2(\phi - \Psi_{RP})] \rangle$$



The Chiral Magnetic Wave

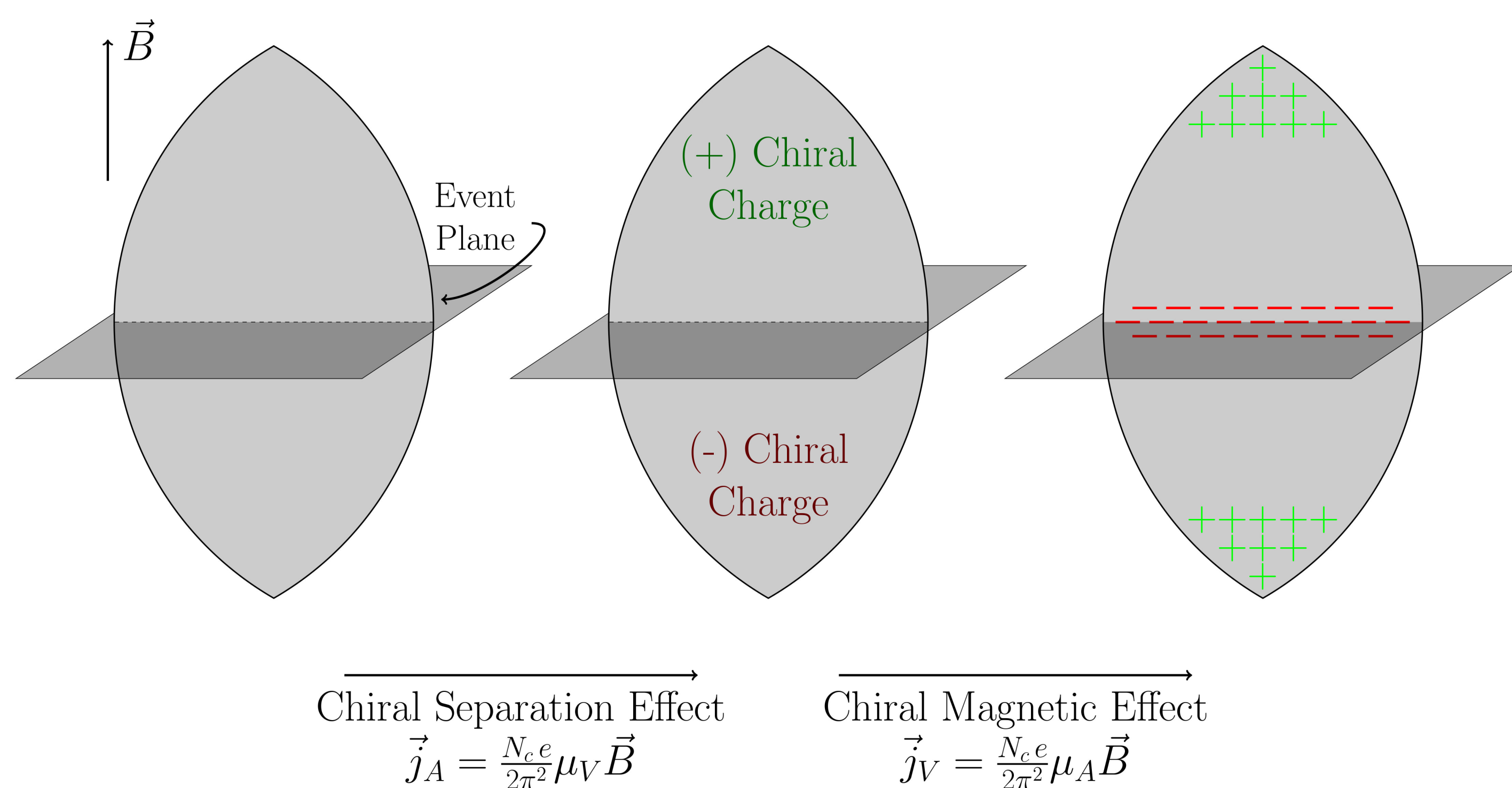


Fig. 2: A basic overview of the chiral magnetic wave effect. The magnetic field shown in the figure is incredibly strong and is created by the fast moving spectator nucleons.

- The CMW is “a gapless collective excitation of QGP in the presence of [an] external magnetic field that stems from the interplay of Chiral Magnetic (CME) and Chiral Separation Effects (CSE)” [2].
- The CMW induces an electric quadrupole moment in the QGP that favors the elliptic flow of negative hadrons ($v_2^- > v_2^+$).
- In the presence of a CMW effect, the difference in elliptic flow between negative and positive hadrons is predicted to exhibit a linear dependence with positive slope on charge asymmetry $A_{ch} = \frac{N_+ - N_-}{N_+ + N_-}$.

The goal of this investigation is to determine the presence of the CMW effect by analysis of kaons. If we can determine that $v_2(K^-) - v_2(K^+) = \Delta v_2$ exhibits a positive linear dependence on A_{ch} , this is strong support for the effect.

Experiment

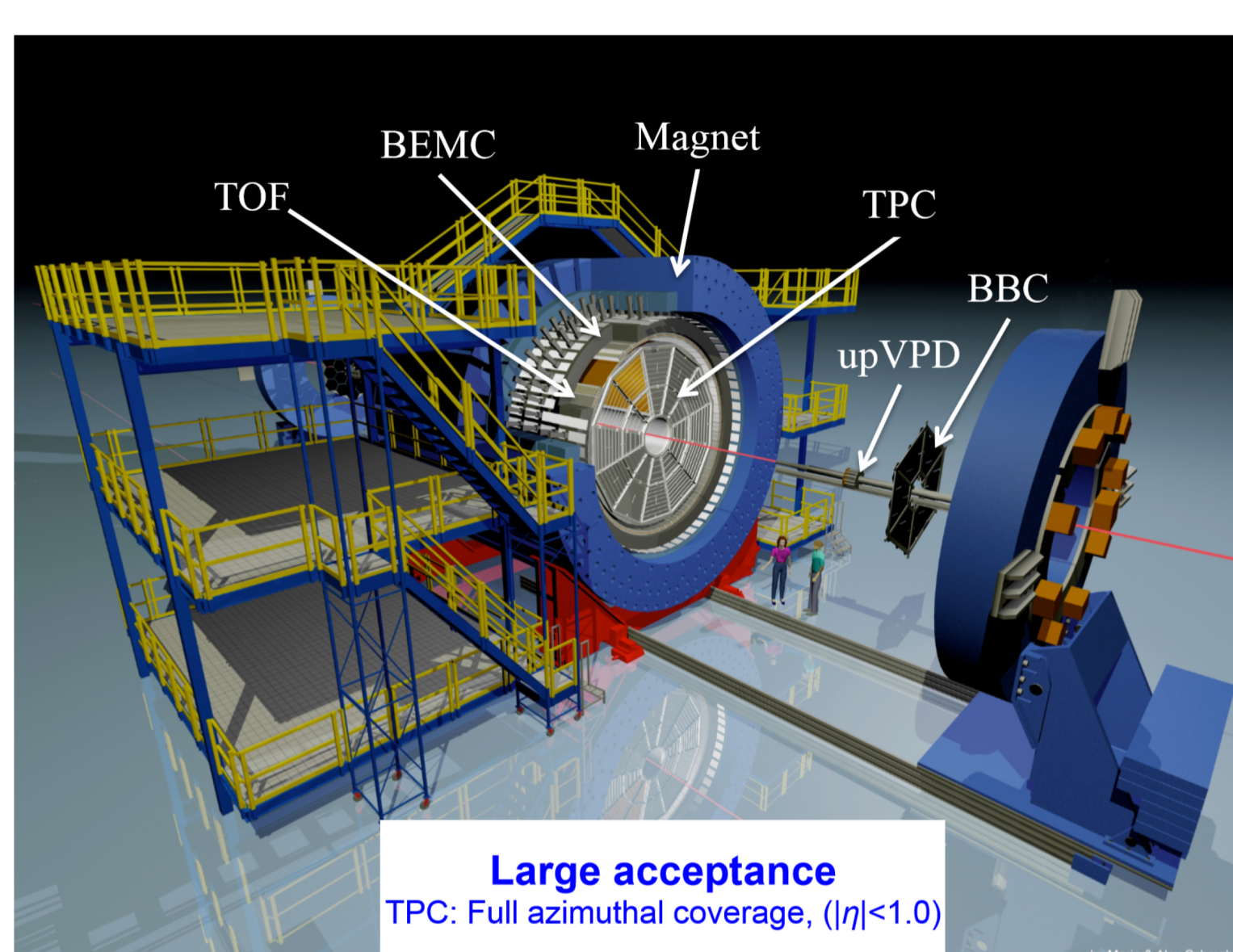


Fig. 3: A computer-generated cross section of the detector.

- Data for Au + Au collisions were collected by the STAR Detector at RHIC

• Kaon Identification

- The TPC (Time Projection Chamber) measures the ionization energy loss per unit arc length ($\frac{dE}{dx}$), which is used to identify kaons [3,4].
- To further increase purity, the ToF (Time of Flight) detector is used to calculate the mass squared of detected particles, allowing further identification of Kaons [3,4].

Results

Δv_2 is first determined using two different methods:

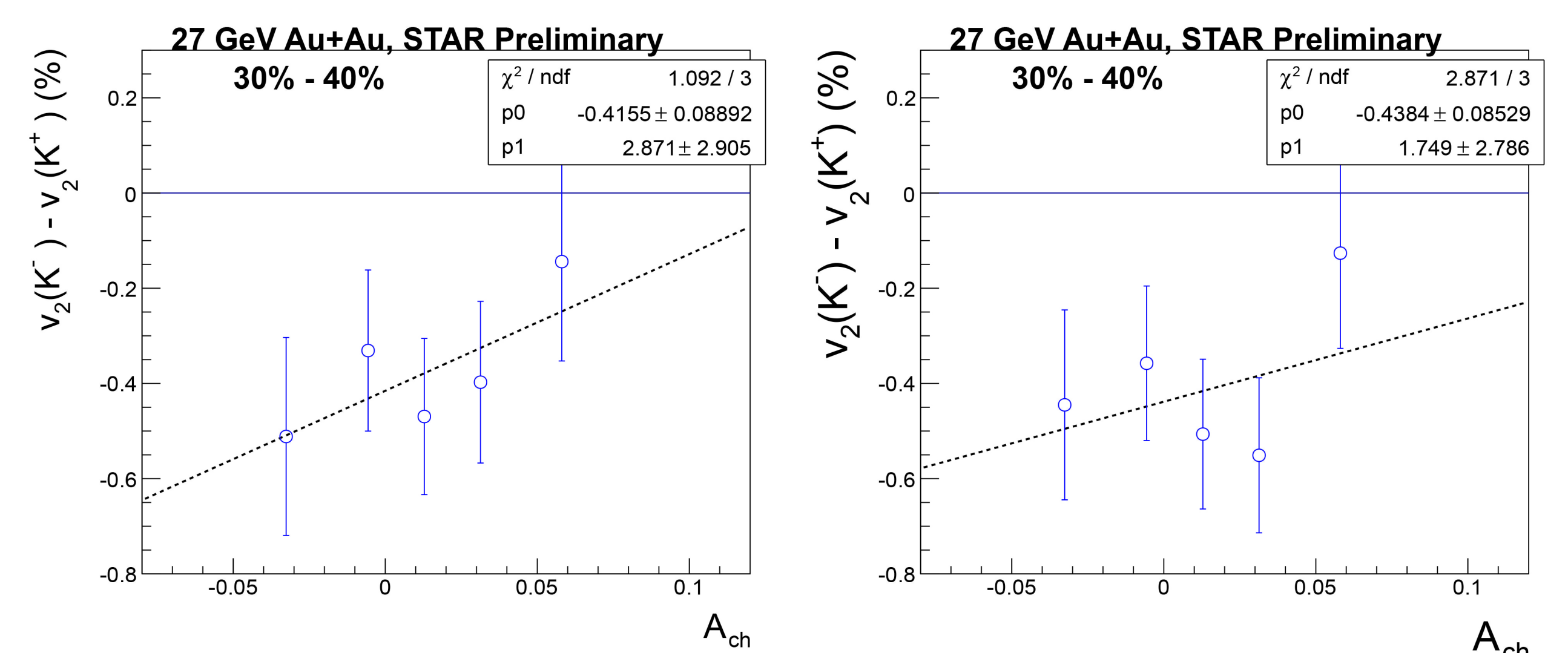


Fig. 4: Fitting Method: Δv_2 determined by fitting a plot of Δv_2 vs p_T with a constant fit. Fig. 5: Integral Method: Δv_2 determined by finding the difference between p_T -integrated v_2 .

The fit parameters from the integral method are then plotted as a function of centrality, with the discrepancy between this and first method included in the systematic errors.

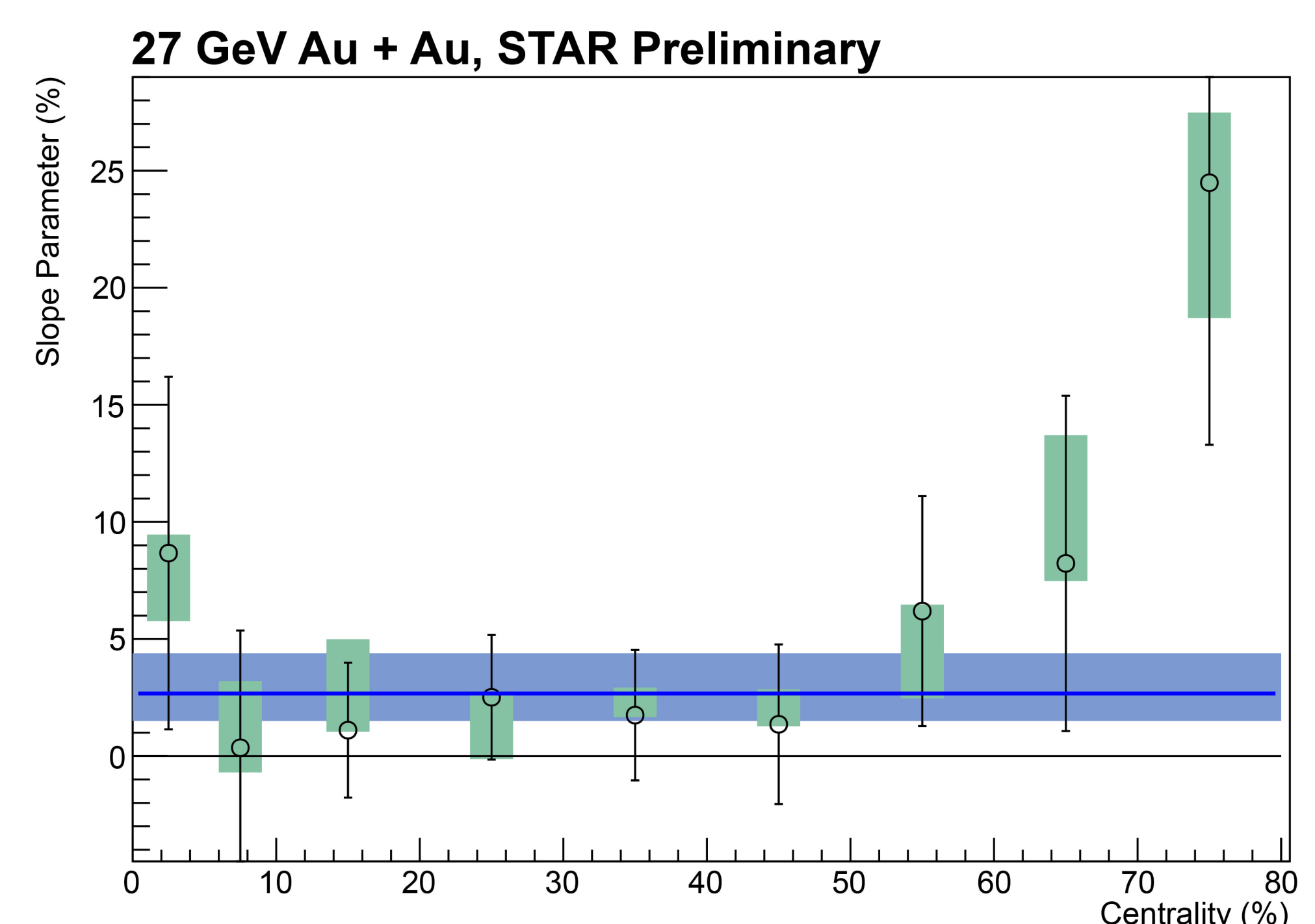


Fig. 6: A plot of the slope parameter as a function of centrality. The error bars are statistical only, while the green shaded boxes indicate the systematic errors. The systematic errors include contributions from tracking efficiency, kaon identification cuts and the difference between the two methods

Conclusion

- We have carried out the v_2 measurements of charged kaons as a function of charge asymmetry in Au+Au collisions at 27 GeV.
- We have determined the presence of a positive linear dependence of v_2 difference on A_{ch} . This is consistent with the CMW picture.
- Error bars are very large.
- More data is needed to extract a statistically significant result.

References

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