Measurement of emission-angle anisotropy via long-range angular correlations with high-$p_T$ hadrons in $d+Au$ and $p+p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

A. Adare, C. Adila, N.N. Ajitanand, Y. Akiba, H. Al-Bataineh, J. Alexander, M. Alfred, A. Angerami, K. Aoki, N. Apadula, Y. Aramaki, E.T. Atonnai, R. Averbeck, T.C. Awes, B. Azmoun, V. Babintsev, B. Bagoly, M. Bai, G. Baksay, L. Baksay, K.N. Barish, B. Basaallecke, A.T. Bayse, S. Bathe, L. Baublis, C. Baumann, A. Bazelevsky, S. Belikov, R. Belmont, R. Bennett, A. Berdnikov, Y. Berdnikov, J.H. Bhoum, D.S. Blau, D.S. Blau, M. Boer, J.S. Bok, K. Boyle, M.L. Brooks, J. Brylsawskyj, H. Buesching, V. Bunzlmann, G. Bunce, S. Butsyk, S. Campbell, V. Cancoa Roman, A. Caringi, C.-H. Chen, T.J. Chi, M. Chiu, I.J. Choi, J.B. Choi, R.K. Choudhury, P. Christiansen, T. Chujo, P. Chung, O. Chvala, V. Cianciolo, Z. Citron, B.A. Cole, Z. Conesa del Valle, M. Connors, M.S. Csanad, T. Csorgo, T. Dalnach, S. Dairaku, 6. Danchev, T.W. Danley, K. Das, A. Datta, M.S. Daugherity, G. David, M.K. Dayananda, K. DeBlasio, D. DeSimone, O. Dietzsch, A. Dion, J.H. Do, M. Donadelli, L. D'Orazio, O. Drapier, K.A. Drees, K.M. Durham, R. Durum, D. Dutta, S. Edwards, E.F. Efremenko, F. Ellinghaus, T. Engelmore, E. Enokizono, W. Enz, K. Esen, B. Fan, N. Fege, D.E. Fields, M. Finger, M. Finger, J.F. Fleuret, S.L. Fokin, Z. Fraenkel, J.E. Frantz, A.F. Frawley, K. Fujiiwa, Y. Fukao, Y. Fukuda, T. Fusayasu, C. Gal, P. Gallus, P. Garg, I. Garishvili, A. Glenn, H. Gog, M. Gom, Y. Goto, R. Granier de Cassagnac, N. Grau, S.V. Greene, G. Grim, M. Grosse Perdekamp, T. Gunji, H.-A. Gustafsson, T. Hachiya, J.S. Hagerty, K.I. Hahn, H. Hamagaki, J. Hambell, R. Han, S.Y. Han, J. Hanks, S. Hasegawa, T.O.S. Haseler, E. Hashum, R. Hayano, X. He, M. Heffner, T.K. Hemmick, T. Hester, J.C. Hill, K. Hill, A. Hodges, M. Hohlmann, W. Holzmann, K. Homma, B. Hong, T. Horaguchi, D. Hornback, H. Hoshino, N. Hotvedt, J. Huang, S. Huang, T. Ichihara, R. Ichimori, Y. Ikeda, K. Imai, J. Inrek, M. Inaba, D. Isenhower, M. Ishihara, M. Issah, D. Ivanishchev, Y. Iwana, B.V. Jacak, W. Ji, J. Jia, X. Jiang, J. Jin, B.M. Johnson, T. Jones, K.S. Joo, V. Jorjadze, D. Jouan, D.S. Juniper, K. Kajihara, J. Kamin, J.H. Kang, J. Kapustinsky, K. Karatas, S. Karthas, M. Kasa, D. Kavall, M. Kawashima, A.V. Kazantsiev, T. Kempel, V. Khachatryan, A. Khanzadeev, K.M. Kijima, K. Kikuchi, A. Kim, B.I. Kim, C. Kim, S.J. Kim, E.J.-ki. Kim, S. Kim, M.H. Kim, Y.-J. Kim, D. Kincses, E. Kinney, K. Kiss, E. Kistenev, D. Kleinjan, K. Kobesly, L. Kochenda, B. Komkov, M. Konno, J. Koster, D. Kotov, J. Král, A. Krayt, S. Kudo, G.J. Kunde, B. Kurgis, K. Kurita, M. Kurosawa, Y. Kwon, G.S. Kyle, R. Lacev, Y.S. Lai, J.B. Lajoie, A. Lebedev, D.M. Lee, J. Lee, K.B. Lee, K.S. Lee, S.H. Lee, M.J. Leitch, M.A.L. Leite, Y.H. Leung, N.A. Lewis, X. Li, X. Li, P. Lichtenwalner, P. Liebing, S.H. Lim, L.A. Linden Levy, H. Liu, M.X. Liu, T. Liška, S. Lind, H. Hamagaki, M. Grosse Perdekamp, J.J. I. A. G. M. H. H. B. K. W. K. H. L. K. A. J. K. M. L. K. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.
B.K. Schmoll,9 K. Sedgwick,5 J. Seele,13 R. Seidl,27,60,61 A. Sen,30,69 R. Seto,6 A. Sexton,44 D. Sharma,67,74 I. Shein,26 T.-A. Shibata,60,70 K. Shigaki,24 M. Shimomura,30,51,71 K. Shoji,36,60 P. Shukla,4 A. Sickles,7,27 C.L. Silva,30,40 D. Silvermyr,42,56 C. Silvestre,16 K.S. Sim,34 B.K. Singh,5 C.P. Singh,5 V. Singh,5 M.J. Skoby,46 M. Shmečka,9 R.A. Soltz,39 W.E. Sondheim,40 S.P. Sorensen,69 I.V. Sourikova,7 P.W. Stankus,56 E. Stenlund,42 S.P. Stoll,7 T. Sugitate,24 A. Sukhanov,7 J. Sziklai,75 E.M. Takagui,64 A. Taketa,51 A. Taketani,60,61 R. Tanabe,71 Y. Tanaka,50 S. Tanega,67 K. Tanida,51,36,60,61,65 M.J. Tannenbaum,7 S. Tarafdar,3,72 A. Taranenko,52,66 G. Tarnai,24 H. Themann,67 D. Thomas,53 R. Tieulent,43 A. Timilsina,30 M. Togawa,61 A. Toia,67 L. Tomášek,29 H. Torii,24 C.L. Towell,1 R.S. Towell,1 I. Tserurya,74 Y. Tsuchimoto,24 Y. Ueda,24 B. Ujvari,17 C. Vale,7 H. Valle,72 H.W. van Hecke,40 S. Vazquez-Carson,13 E. Vazquez-Zambrano,14 A. Veicht,14,27 J. Velkovská,72 R. Vértesi,75 M. Virtus,15 V. Vrba,15,29 E. Vznuzdav,50 X.R. Wang,54,61 Z. Wang,5 D. Watanabe,71 K. Watanabe,71 Y. Wei,60,61 F. Wei,30,54 R. Wei,66 J. Wessels,47 S.N. White,7 D. Winter,14 C.L. Woody,7 R.M. Wright,1 M. Wysocki,13,56 C. Xu,54 Q. Xu,72 Y.L. Yamaguchi,12,60,61,67 K. Yamamura,24 R. Yang,27 A. Yanovich,26 P. Yin,13 J. Ying,23 S. Yokkaichi,60,61 J.H. Yoo,34 Z. You,58 G.R. Young,56 I. Younus,38 H. Yu,54 I.E. Yushmanov,35 W.A. Zaje,14 S. Zharko,63 S. Zhou,11 and L. Zou8 (PHENIX Collaboration)

1 Ablene Christian University, Abilene, Texas 79699, USA
2 Department of Physics, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57197, USA
3 Department of Physics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005, India
4 Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay 400 085, India
5 Baruch College, City University of New York, New York, New York, 10010 USA
6 Collider-Accelerator Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973-5000, USA
7 Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973-5000, USA
8 University of California-Riverside, Riverside, California 92521, USA
9 Charles University, Ovocný trh 5, Praha 1, 116 36, Prague, Czech Republic
10 Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, 561-756, Korea
11 Science and Technology on Nuclear Data Laboratory, China Institute of Atomic Energy, Beijing 102413, People’s Republic of China
12 Center for Nuclear Study, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan
13 University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA
14 Columbia University, New York, New York 10027 and Nevis Laboratories, Irvington, New York 10533, USA
15 Czech Technical University, Zikova 4, 166 36 Prague 6, Czech Republic
16 Dapnia, CEA Saclay, F-91919, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
17 Debrecen University, H-4010 Debrecen, Egyetem tér 1, Hungary
18 ELTE, Eötvös Loránd University, H-1117 Budapest, Pázmány P. s. 1/A, Hungary
19 Eszterházy Károly University, Károly Róbert Campus, H-3200 Győr, Mátrai út 36, Hungary
20 Ewha Womans University, Seoul 120-750, Korea
21 Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida 32901, USA
22 Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, USA
23 Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, USA
24 Hiroshima University, Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima 739-8526, Japan
25 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Howard University, Washington, DC 20059, USA
26 IHEP Protvino, State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, 142281, Russia
27 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA
28 Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, prospekt 60-letiya Oktyabrya 7a, Moscow 117212, Russia
29 Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Na Slovance 2, 182 21 Prague 8, Czech Republic
30 Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, USA
31 Advanced Science Research Center, Japan Atomic Energy Agency, 2-4 Shirakata Shirane, Tokai-mura, Naka-gun, Ibaraki-ken 319-1195, Japan
32 Helsinki Institute of Physics and University of Jyväskylä, P.O.Box 35, FI-40014 Jyväskylä, Finland
33 KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0801, Japan
34 Korea University, Seoul, 136-701, Korea
35 National Research Center “Kurchatov Institute”, Moscow, 123098 Russia
36 Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan
37 Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, CNRS-IN2P3, Route de Saclay, F-91128, Palaiseau, France
38 Physics Department, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore 54792, Pakistan
39 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California 94550, USA
40 Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, USA
41 LPC, Université Blaise Pascal, CNRS-IN2P3, Clermont-Fd, 63177 Aubiere Cedex, France
42 Department of Physics, Lund University, Box 118, SE-221 00 Lund, Sweden
43 IPNL, CNRS/IN2P3, Univ Lyon, Université Lyon 1, F-69622, Villeurbanne, France
We present measurements of two-particle angular correlations between high-transverse-momentum (2 < p_T < 11 GeV/c) π^0 observed at midrapidity (|η| < 0.35) and particles produced either at forward (3.1 < η < 3.9) or backward (−3.7 < η < −3.1) rapidity in d+Au and p+p collisions at \( \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV} \). The azimuthal angle correlations for particle pairs with this large rapidity gap in the Au-going direction exhibit a characteristic structure that persists up to |Δη| ≈ 3. This structure is absent in the p-going direction as well as in p+p collisions, in the transverse-momentum range studied. The results indicate that the structure is shifted in the Au-going direction toward more central collisions, similar to the charged-particle pseudorapidity distributions.

I. INTRODUCTION

Azimuthal anisotropy in the multiparticle production from high-energy nucleus-nucleus collisions has been the subject of a great deal of study. These final-state momentum anisotropies are believed to be the result of both spatial anisotropies in the initial geometry and hydrodynamic-like behavior in the subsequent evolution of the medium. The final-state patterns that can be modeled this way are thus often referred to as flow-like correlations, for which a central characteristic is that the majority of produced light-flavor hadrons will exhibit correlations with the initial collision geometry. The measurement of azimuthal correlations of particles with a large rapidity gap (e.g. |Δη| > 3) is particularly useful to extract the signal of the true flow contribution. The near-side enhancement of the long-range correlation function is often called a “ridge” structure, where the large relative pseudorapidity cut suppresses other sources of angular correlations, such as resonance decays or jet fragmentation, that are usually confined within |Δη| ≈ 3.

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* Deceased

† PHENIX Spokesperson: akiba@rcf.rhic.bnl.gov
Analysis of flow-like correlations with hydrodynamical models has provided strong evidence for the creation of the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) state in the high-energy collisions of large nuclei, such as Au+Au and Cu+Cu at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), and Pb+Pb at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) \[1\] [2]. Great interest was sparked when flow-like behavior was first observed in small collision systems, including high-multiplicity p+p and p+Pb at the LHC [3] [8] and d+Au at RHIC [9] [11]. Previously, these systems had been regarded as control systems where only non-QGP effects would be present. Since then, similar flow-like observations have also been made in other small systems, including p+Au and \(^3\)He+Au. The debate continues over whether the QGP is actually being created in this class of collisions [12] [13], and even at lower \(\sqrt{s_{NN}}\) [14] [15]. Possible explanations of these observations include hydrodynamics [16] [19] and Color-Glass-Condensate (CGC) models [20]. The hydrodynamic models include both initial and final state effects, while the CGC-motivated models are based mainly on physics present in the initial state. Interestingly, the kinetic transport model AMPT [21] also reproduces the observed flow structure fairly well [15] [15]. Similarly to hydrodynamics, AMPT can translate the initial geometry into final-state momentum anisotropy, but via a very different mechanism, namely the anisotropic probability of partons to escape the partonic scattering stage [22].

The PHENIX experiment has previously measured azimuthal correlations in d+Au and p+p between charged particles produced at midrapidity (pseudorapidity \(\eta \approx 0\)) and energy deposits in a forward calorimeter (\(\eta \approx 3.5\)) [10]. In those analyses, the reach in charged particle \(p_T\) was statistically limited to \(p_T < 3.5 \text{ GeV}/c\). Measurements of azimuthal anisotropy at low \(p_T\) are useful to study the collective behavior of the QGP medium. However, at high \(p_T\), azimuthal anisotropy signals can no longer be attributed to the collective expansion of the bulk. Measurements in p+Pb at the LHC [7] [23] have shown that \(v_2\) decreases sharply between 4 \(\lesssim p_T \lesssim 8 \text{ GeV}/c\), reaching a small near-constant value above that point. It has been suggested that this high-\(p_T\) behavior might originate from jet quenching. Therefore, the present paper extends the measurements of two-particle correlations at RHIC to this kinematic region where nonhydrodynamic effects dominate. We use the PHENIX high-energy photon trigger in the midrapidity region, and explore mid-forward(backward) correlations in d+Au and p+p up to \(p_T = 11 \text{ GeV}/c\) with identified \(\pi^0\) at midrapidity.

In large collision systems, the appearance of a near-side enhancement in azimuthal two-particle correlations is considered a hallmark signature of QGP collectivity. Thus, early searches for collectivity in small collision systems focused on observing near-side enhancement. However, unlike in A+A collisions, elementary processes cannot be neglected when analyzing small systems. Thus, even if collectivity exists, it may not be necessarily observed as a near-side enhancement because the ratio of quadrupole to dipole contributions is decreasing with multiplicity. This is particularly true for p+p and peripheral d+Au collisions, as the “smallest” of the small systems considered in the present analysis. In light of this, the paper presents a wealth of data and attempts to characterize the shape of the two-particle correlation functions by investigating the behavior of the coefficients of the Fourier series fit, in relation to the appearance of a near-side enhancement.

In addition to measuring flow by the correlation of individual particles to the reaction plane, it is also possible to measure flow by the correlation of two-particles to each other. The advantage of this method is that one does not have to determine the reaction plane. If we write the azimuthal angle distribution of two particles \(A\) and \(B\), which are correlated to a reaction plane as:

\[
\frac{dN^A}{d\phi^A} \propto 1 + \sum_n 2v_n^A \cos(n(\phi^A - \Psi_n))
\]

\[
\frac{dN^B}{d\phi^B} \propto 1 + \sum_n 2v_n^B \cos(n(\phi^B - \Psi_n))
\]

then the azimuthal angle distributions for the two particle correlations can be written as:

\[
\frac{dN^{AB}}{d\phi^{AB}} \propto 1 + \sum_n 2v_n^A v_n^B \cos(n(\phi^A - \phi^B))
\]

Instead of measuring \(v_n\), this paper presents measurements of \(c_n\), the coefficient of the Fourier fit to the correlation functions, because the factorization \(c_n = v_n^A v_n^B\) holds only at low \(p_T\), where the two particles are correlated with the same event plane [24]. This relation breaks down when considering high \(p_T\) particles that are coming from the nonflow contributions such as jet fragmentation.

II. EXPERIMENT AND DATASET

A detailed description of the PHENIX detector system can be found elsewhere [25]. The principal detectors used in this analysis are the beam-beam counters (BBC), the muon-piston calorimeter (MPC) and the electromagnetic calorimeter (EMCal). The BBCs are located north (BBCN, 3.1\(<\eta<3.9\), d-going) and south (BBCS, -3.9\(<\eta<-3.1\), Au-going) of the interaction point, covering the full azimuth and are sensitive to charged particles. In d+Au collisions, the Au ions are accelerated in the Au-going direction. The MPCs, which are high resolution electromagnetic calorimeters, are also located north (MPCN, 3.1\(<\eta<3.9\)) and south (MPCS, -3.7\(<\eta<-3.1\)) of the interaction point, in front of the BBCs, and cover the full azimuth. The south (north) MPC comprises 192 (220) PbWO\(_4\) crystal towers with 20.2 \(X_0\) or 0.89 \(\lambda_\text{l}\) [26]. The EMCal is located in the central (CNT)
arms with pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 0.35$ and covering two $\pi/2$ segments of the full azimuth. Figure 1 shows the acceptance of each relevant PHENIX detector subsystem in $\phi$-$\eta$ coordinates.

The $d+Au$ and $p+p$ collision data used in this analysis were recorded in 2008 at RHIC. The events triggered by a high energy deposit in a 4x4 tower region of the EMCal in coincidence with the minimum bias (MB) requirement were selected in both the $p+p$ and $d+Au$ data sets. The MB trigger was defined as the coincidence of at least one hit in the BBCS and BBCN. A z-vertex cut of $|z| < 30 \text{ cm}$ is applied, using the vertex calculated from the BBC timing information. The energy threshold of the 4x4 towers is set to be 2.8 GeV, however, due to the energy smearing effect, the towers also sample hits with lower energies but with lower efficiency. The number of recorded events was $2.85 \times 10^8$ (9.64 $\times 10^{10}$ MB equivalent) for the $p+p$ and $6.51 \times 10^8$ (1.40 $\times 10^{11}$ MB equivalent) for the $d+Au$ collisions, which made it possible to measure the $\pi^0$-triggered long-range correlations up to $p_T = 11 \text{ GeV}/c$. In the case of $d+Au$ collisions, centrality was defined by the total charge deposited in BBCS (Au-going direction). Seven partially overlapping centrality bins have been considered, from the most central (0%–5%) to the most peripheral (60–88%) collisions [27].

### III. ANALYSIS

The long-range two-particle correlation functions are constructed by pairing a high $p_T \pi^0$ (“trigger” particle) found in the PHENIX EMCal with the energy deposit $E_{\text{dep}}$ in each tower of one of the MPCs (“associated” hit). In the following sections we describe (i) the $\pi^0$ identification, (ii) construction of the initial azimuthal correlation functions, (iii) correction for combinatoric background in the $\pi^0$ sample, and (iv) fitting the corrected correlation functions with a harmonic expansion. Throughout this paper the results for central-MPC south (CNT-MPCS) and central-MPC north (CNT-MPCN) correlations are shown separately.

#### A. $\pi^0$ selection

Each trigger $\pi^0$ was measured in the EMCal via the $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ decay channel using photon showers reconstructed using the standard PHENIX method [28,30]. The photon showers were identified using a shower-shape cut [31]. A cut on the energy asymmetry of the photon pair $\alpha = |E_1 - E_2|/(E_1 + E_2) < 0.7$ has been applied to reduce the combinatoric background. A sample $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass plot is shown in Fig. 2 for pairs with $p_T > 3 \text{ GeV}/c$. The $\pi^0$ mass region was defined as $0.12 < m_{\gamma\gamma} < 0.16 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, and every measured pair in this range was used in compiling the initial correlation.
functions, binned according to pair $p_T$.

![Graph showing S/B dependence on $p_T$ for $m_{\gamma\gamma} < 0.16$ GeV/c$^2$](image)

As shown in Fig. 2 the $\pi^0$ peak is quite prominent in the pair mass spectrum, on top of a small background continuum due primarily to combinatoric pairs. We estimated the level of this background in terms of the signal/background ratio $S/B$ within the chosen $\pi^0$ mass window as shown in Fig. 3. The ratio was used for subtracting the combinatoric background contribution in the correlation functions as explained in the section [III C].

### B. Initial correlation functions

The procedure used to construct the initial $\pi^0$-MPC correlation functions is essentially the same as was used in our earlier analysis of central-arm charged track–MPC correlations in $d+Au$ and $p+p$ collisions [10]. Over a selected event sample and $\pi^0 p_T$ bin, we compile the relative azimuthal angle distribution, $S(\Delta\phi, p_T)$, between $\gamma\gamma$ pairs in a given mass window and MPC towers in the same event

\[ S(\Delta\phi, p_T) = \frac{d(w_{\text{tower}} N_{\gamma\gamma(p_T)-\text{tower}})}{d\Delta\phi}, \]  

where $\Delta\phi = \phi_{\gamma\gamma} - \phi_{\text{tower}}$ is the azimuthal opening angle between the $\gamma\gamma$ pair-sum momentum direction and a line to the center of the MPC tower. We choose the weighting for each tower to be the transverse energy $w_{\text{tower}} = E_{\text{dep}} \sin(\theta_{\text{tower}})$, where $E_{\text{dep}}$ is the energy deposit in that tower, and $\theta_{\text{tower}}$ is the angular position of the tower with respect to the beam line. The $w_{\text{tower}}$ introduces a $p_T$ spectrum weight on the hit frequency in the MPC. The MPC towers with deposited energy $E_{\text{dep}} > 0.3$ GeV were selected to avoid the background from noncollision noise sources ($\approx$75 MeV) and to cut out the deposits by minimum ionizing particles ($\approx$245 MeV). To maximize statistics the energy is lowered compared to the one used in a previous publication [10].

In addition to physical pair correlations from the collisions, the shape of the same-event distribution $S(\Delta\phi, p_T)$ will reflect the effects of detector acceptance, detector inefficiencies, and kinematic cuts. We estimated these instrumental effects by constructing a mixed-event distribution $M(\Delta\phi, p_T)$ [Eq. 2], but using $\gamma\gamma$ pairs from one event and MPC towers from a different event in the same event class (centrality and $\pi^0 p_T$). We then correct for instrumental effects by constructing the correlation function $C^X(\Delta\phi, p_T)$, for any particular choice $X$ of $\gamma\gamma$ pair selection criterion

\[ C^X(\Delta\phi, p_T) = \frac{S^X(\Delta\phi, p_T) \int M^X(\Delta\phi, p_T) d\Delta\phi}{\int S^X(\Delta\phi, p_T) d\Delta\phi} \]  

Both the same-event numerator and the mixed-event denominator have been normalized by their respective integrals.

### C. Combinatoric sideband correction

The initial correlation function is constructed using all pairs in the $\pi^0$ mass window, which necessarily includes an admixture of both true $\pi^0$ pairs and background pairs. Therefore, it will not reflect simply the true $\pi^0$-MPC correlation but rather a weighted average of the correlations of true $\pi^0$ pairs and those of background pairs. Though the background is typically a small fraction of the signal,
as shown in Fig. 3 we carried out the following correction to remove any influence from the background pairs.

We denote the initial correlation function constructed using all photon pairs in the $\pi^0$ mass peak region as $C^{S+B}(\Delta \phi, p_T)$, because it contains correlations from both signal and background pairs. We then approximate the correlation function $C^B(\Delta \phi, p_T)$ that would result from using the background pairs only, by constructing a correlation function according to Eq. 6 but with pairs chosen from the “sideband” mass region $0.20 < m_{\gamma\gamma} < 0.25 \text{GeV}/c^2$ [see Fig. 2]. We then derive the true $\pi^0$-MPC correlation function $C(\Delta \phi, p_T)$, which would result from including only the true $\pi^0$ decay pairs, by inverting the weighted average via

$$C(\Delta \phi, p_T) = \left(1 + \frac{B}{S}\right)C^{S+B}(\Delta \phi, p_T) - \frac{B}{S}C^B(\Delta \phi, p_T)$$

(7)

where $B/S$ is the background-to-signal ratio in the peak region, which is the reciprocal of the number shown in Fig. 3. In practice, this correction for background pairs is very small; it does not change the harmonic amplitudes of the correlation function (see Section III D) by more than a few percent of their value in the lowest $S/B$ cases and becomes negligible as $S/B$ increases toward higher $p_T$.

D. Harmonic expansion fitting

Our objective in this analysis is to examine the shapes of the $\pi^0$-MPC correlation functions across $\pi^0 p_T$ and collision system centrality classes. We quantify each correlation function by fitting them to an expansion in Fourier terms up to fourth order via

$$C(\Delta \phi, p_T) = B_0 \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{4} 2c_n(p_T) \cos(n\Delta \phi)\right)$$

(8)

The fits were optimized using only the statistical errors in the final correlation functions. The fit for each $p_T$ and event class combination has five parameters: the four $c_n$ and an overall normalization. Each correlation function was compiled in 20 bins of $\Delta \phi$, leaving 15 degrees of freedom (NDF) for each fit. The $C(\Delta \phi, p_T)$ with fit functions are shown in section IV and in the Appendix. The $\chi^2$/NDF goodness-of-fit values are compiled and shown in Fig. 4. There is no particular structure seen with $\pi^0$ $p_T$ or event class, and the distribution agrees with what would be expected for a $\chi^2$ estimator.

When we fit the correlation functions with $c_2$ fixed to zero, the $\chi^2$/NDF’s are found to be as high as $\approx 40$ around $p_T = 3 \text{GeV}/c$, and don’t reach $\chi^2$/NDF$\approx 4$ before $p_T \approx 6 \text{GeV}/c$, for both $0\%$–$5\%$ central $d+Au$ and $p+p$ collisions. This shows that the correlation functions have a significant second-order component.

E. Estimation of systematic errors

The systematic uncertainties of the measurement have been estimated as follows. The width of the $\pi^0$ extraction window as well as the location and width of the sideband have been varied in five different combinations as listed in Table 1. Note that the case-0 corresponds to the standard windows in this analysis.

| Case | $\pi^0$ window (GeV/$c^2$) | sideband window (GeV/$c^2$) |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0    | 0.12–0.16                | 0.20–0.25                 |
| 1    | 0.12–0.16                | 0.25–0.30                 |
| 2    | 0.12–0.16                | 0.06–0.09                 |
| 3    | 0.12–0.16                | 0.06–0.09 + 0.20–0.30     |
| 4    | 0.10–0.18                | 0.20–0.25                 |
| 5    | 0.13–0.15                | 0.20–0.25                 |

In the sixth case the original windows were kept as case-0 but the asymmetry cut was changed to $\alpha < 0.5$. Following the exact same procedure for obtaining the true $\pi^0$-MPC correlation functions as described in the previous sections, the correlation functions for the six cases were obtained and the values of $c_2$ and $-c_2/c_1$ were recalculated. The deviations for the case-0 values, with respect to the standard result, were calculated and averaged over the six cases. The averaged deviations are the systematic uncertainties. The resulting uncertainties on $c_2$ are $2\%$ for $pp$ (all $p_T$), and for the $0\%$–$5\%$ $d+Au$ (worst case) they are $8\%$ at $2 \text{GeV}/c$ and $3\%$ at $6 \text{GeV}/c$ for CNT-MPC (Au-going). The uncertainty for the $-c_2/c_1$ is very similar to that of $c_2$ owing to a smaller uncertainty of $c_1$. This study was also performed for CNT-MPCN ($d$-going) correlations, obtaining $4\%$ ($2 \text{GeV}/c$) and $2\%$ ($6 \text{GeV}/c$) for $pp$ and $12\%$ ($2 \text{GeV}/c$) and $3\%$ ($6 \text{GeV}/c$) for the $0\%$–$5\%$ $d+Au$. Both CNT-MPC and CNT-MPCN show consistent systematic uncertainties given the large statistical uncertainties in the CNT-MPCN correlations. Considering the better statistical precision for the CNT-MPCS correlations, we quoted the errors for them as the systematic uncertainties for the final results. There is a possible systematic uncertainty associated with the mixed event distributions $M(\Delta \phi, p_T)$. This uncertainty is effectively folded during the procedure of the systematic uncertainty estimate described above.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

We present the corrected correlation functions [Eq. 7], together with the four-term Fourier fit functions [Eq. 8], across a range of collision systems and $\pi^0$ $p_T$ bins, for
FIG. 4. (a) Goodness-of-fit parameter $\chi^2$/NDF for the harmonic fits in Eq. 8 to the corrected $\pi^0$-MPCS correlation functions, for different centrality and $\pi^0$ $p_T$ selections, and (b) their projection to the $y$-axis.

FIG. 5. Centrality dependence of correlation functions for $d$+Au and $p$+p collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV for $\pi^0$ in $|\eta_{\text{trig}}| < 0.35$ (CNT). (a, c, e) $\pi^0$ are associated with the towers in MPCS (Au-going direction) and (b, d, f) MPCN (d-going direction), for $3 < p_T < 3.5$ GeV/c.

FIG. 6. The same as Fig. 5 except for $5 < p_T < 6$ GeV/c.
both CNT-MPCS (Au-going) and CNT-MPCN (d-going) combinations. Representative samples for the bins $3 < p_T < 3.5 \text{ GeV/c}$ and $5 < p_T < 6 \text{ GeV/c}$ appear in Figs. 5 and 6, while the full sets are shown in the Appendix.

The correlation functions are largely dominated by a dipole component ($n = 1$), and higher components ($n > 1$) contribute to form a near-side enhancement structure in the near-side ($\Delta \phi \approx 0$) of the functions. The dipole component is usually attributed to the back-to-back dijet contribution and momentum conservation in the system. With the large pseudorapidity gap employed ($|\Delta \eta| > 3$), the near-side particles of the dijet triggered by $\pi^0$ ($|\eta| < 0.35$) will not form a peak at $\Delta \phi \approx 0$ in the MPCs ($3.1 < |\eta| < 3.9$). Therefore, the near-side enhancement is formed by other sources, possibly a quadrupole flow from a bulk medium. The characteristic structure is clearly visible for CNT-MPCS (Au-going), but not for CNT-MPCN (d-going). In addition, the structure is more prominent in the more central collisions (e.g. see the first plot in the Appendix), and it gradually disappears with both decreasing centrality and increasing $p_T$. The trend in the CNT-MPCS correlation hints that the characteristic structure has a similar characteristic as the hydrodynamical particle flow in A+A collisions. Looking at the evolution of the individual Fourier-components $c_1$ with centrality and $p_T$ provides a richer and more quantitative picture. As seen in Figs. 5 and 6, the $c_3$ and $c_4$ are both very small, and are found to be consistent with zero within uncertainties. Therefore, we discuss here only the centrality- and $p_T$-dependence of the dipole ($c_1$) and quadrupole ($c_2$) coefficients.

The $c_1$ (dipole) values for CNT-MPCS correlations are summarized in Fig. 7(a). They exhibit a definite ordering with system size: the largest negative values are observed in $p+p$, the smallest ones in the most central $d+Au$. Similar ordering, albeit with smaller absolute differences, can be seen for CNT-MPCN in Fig. 8. This trend is similar to the decrease of the absolute value of $c_1$ with increasing multiplicity that was observed in [11]. If the negative $c_1$ at large $\Delta \eta$ is indeed a consequence of a dijet fragmentation into the CNT and MPC regions, then we would expect the effect to be diluted as the underlying event multiplicity increases. Because the overall multiplicity on the d-going side is smaller we would also expect a larger magnitude for $c_1$ there compared with the Au-going direction, as seen in the data. Interestingly, the $c_1$ coefficients vary with $p_T$ and have a maximum magnitude around 4–5 GeV/c. It may be related to the fact that this is the $p_T$ region where hard scattering becomes dominant over bulk phenomena that govern particle production at lower $p_T$.

The $p_T$ and centrality dependence of $c_2$ (quadrupole) values in CNT-MPCS and CNT-MPCN correlations are shown in panel (b) of Figs. 7 and 8 along with their $p_T$-correlated systematic uncertainties in panel (d). For $p+p$ collisions the two distributions are compatible, as expected for the symmetric system. The $c_2$ in $p+p$ collisions are roughly double those seen in $d+Au$ (including the most peripheral bin), and the $p_T$-dependence of their magnitudes is similar to that of the $c_1$. For $d+Au$ the $c_2$ for CNT-MPCN and CNT-MPCS correlations are similar in magnitude, but with the CNT-MPCN showing a greater spread with centrality. The $c_2$ are small and decreasing as a function of $p_T$, but nonvanishing in the available $p_T$ range, proving that the quadrupole component is present.

To gauge the magnitude of characteristic-structure correlations as a measure of a bulk property of the system, we calculated $-c_2/c_1$, the ratio of $c_2$ (quadrupole) to $-c_1$ (dipole), for all $p+p$ and $d+Au$ systems, as shown in Fig. 7(c). For the CNT-MPCS correlations [Fig. 7(a)] the data exhibit a well-defined ordering with system centrality, within errors, from the most central $d+Au$ down to the most peripheral (60%–88%) which is consistent with the $p+p$. We then see a smooth evolution from the most central collisions observed at lowest $p_T$, where the near-side correlations are most prominent and which would be expected to have the largest contribution from a collective source, to the more peripheral and higher $p_T$ limit, where the near-side correlation vanishes and elementary processes are expected to dominate. The trend is very different for CNT-MPCN correlations [Fig. 7(b)]. Here all the $-c_2/c_1$ ratios are consistent for both $d+Au$ and $p+p$ collisions, indicating no additional near-side correlations in $d+Au$ over $p+p$ collisions for any system across the entire $\pi^0$ $p_T$ range studied here. There is also no visible ordering of $-c_2/c_1$ with system centrality for $p_T > 2.5 \text{ GeV/c}$, in contrast to the CNT-MPCS case, within uncertainties.

The $c_1$ and $c_2$ for the symmetric $p+p$ collisions are somewhat different between CNT-MPCS and CNT-MPCN, which results from the difference of pseudorapidity coverage in MPCN ($3.1 < \eta < 3.9$) versus MPCS ($-3.7 < \eta < -3.1$). The fact that the $-c_1/c_2$ are very consistent indicates that the same phenomena is observed in each direction.

Recently, attempts have been made to develop methods that effectively subtract the nonflow contributions present in two-particle correlations, as measured in $p,d+Au$ collisions [4,8,32,33]. Despite their differences, all of these methods rely on the assumption that one can identify a class of events (usually $p+p$ or peripheral $p/d+Au$) with low enough multiplicity such that the corresponding correlation function can be attributed entirely to nonflow. However, there is currently no consensus in the field regarding how the subtraction procedure should be carried out. This paper therefore focuses on the shape analysis of the correlation functions, leaving nonflow subtraction outside of the scope. However, we point out that the quantity $-c_2/c_1$ encodes some information about the relative strength of nonflow, and its comparison between collision systems can provide useful insight.

Another shape study of the near-side correlations can be performed by examining the second derivative of $dN/d(\Delta \phi)$. If we approximate the $n > 2$ coefficients as negligible ($c_3 \approx c_4 \approx 0$) then the condition of having...
a local maximum at $\Delta \phi = 0$ corresponds to

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \Delta \phi^2}\right)\frac{dN}{d\Delta \phi} \propto -c_1 - 4c_2 < 0 \quad (9)$$

The observed positive $c_2$ and negative $c_1$ lead us to use the threshold of $-c_2/c_1 > 0.25$ as the condition indicating that a near-side correlation with a local maximum is present in the correlation function, as also pointed out in the literature [24]. The dotted lines in panel (c) in Figs. 7 and 8 indicate this threshold. For the CNT-MPCS correlations the data are clearly above the threshold for the more central $d$-$\text{Au}$ collisions, out to 20%, and for lower $p_T < 6 \text{ GeV}/c$, indicating that the shapes have a local maximum. For the CNT-MPCN correlations, all the $-c_2/c_1$ ratios consistently lie below 0.25 for both $d$-$\text{Au}$ and $p+p$ collisions, indicating no local maximum. It should be noted that the absence of a local maximum doesn’t necessarily imply that the near-side contribution is absent.

We now examine the system and centrality dependence of the correlation functions. Figure 9 shows the $c_1$, $c_2$, and $-c_2/c_1$ as a function of the mean number of collision participants $N_{\text{part}}$ [27] for the two selected $p_T$ ranges 3–3.5 GeV/$c$ and 5–6 GeV/$c$.

The values for both CNT-MPCS and CNT-MPCN are shown. The smooth decrease of $c_1$ with $N_{\text{part}}$ is clearly seen for both $p_T$ selections, but the decrease of $c_1$ for the CNT-MPCS is more rapid compared to that of CNT-MPCN. In contrast, the $c_2$ is flat or exhibits little increase (decrease) as a function of $N_{\text{part}}$ for CNT-
MPCN (CNT-MPCS) correlations, except for the lowest $N_{\text{part}}$. In $-c_2/c_1$, where individual $-c_1$ and $c_2$ trends are combined, the data for CNT-MPCS show a smooth rising trend, stronger for the lower $p_T$ selection, while the $-c_2/c_1$ for CNT-MPCN correlations displays no evolution with $N_{\text{part}}$ at all from $p+p$ to the most central $d+Au$ collisions. This observation clearly shows again that the characteristic structure is clearly seen in Au-going direction, rather than in d-going direction, and ceases at high $p_T$ which is a similar characteristic as the hydrodynamical particle flow in $A+A$ collisions.

The centrality dependence of $-c_1/c_2$ can be understood in terms of the asymmetry of the charged particle pseudorapidity distributions with respect to $\eta = 0$ in $d+Au$ collisions. When going to greater centrality, the results indicate that the characteristic structure is shifted in the Au-going direction, similar to the charged-particle pseudorapidity distributions. This is consistent with the findings of the STAR experiment in the region where the $p_T$ ranges overlap. There is a possible fluctuation of the event plane as a function of pseudorapidity as observed by the CMS experiment at the LHC. Although this may partly explain the centrality-dependent difference between CNT-MPCN and CNT-MPCS, our measurements lack the precision to gauge the effect. These results provide a strong argument for studying long-range correlations in asymmetric systems separately in the forward/backward directions.

V. SUMMARY

We have measured long-range azimuthal correlations between high-transverse-momentum ($2 < p_T < 11\,\text{GeV/c}$) $\pi^0$ observed at midrapidity ($|\eta| < 0.35$) and particles produced either at forward ($3.1 < \eta < 3.9$) and backward ($-3.7 < \eta < -3.1$) rapidity in $d+Au$ and $p+p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200\,\text{GeV}$. The centrality and $p_T$-dependent two-particle correlations were fitted with a Fourier-series up to the fourth term. While the 3rd and 4th coefficients ($c_3, c_4$) were consistent with zero within uncertainties, the $c_1$ (dipole) values exhibit a definite ordering with the system size both in the Au-going and d-going directions. The $c_2$ (quadrupole) values exhibit similar magnitudes for both directions. However, $-c_2/c_1$ values exhibit well-defined ordering with system centrality and decrease with increasing $p_T$ in the Au-going direction, while the values are consistent over all systems and $p_T$ in the d-going direction. This implies that the characteristic structure clearly exists in the Au-going direction, rather than in the d-going direction, and ceases at high $p_T$ which is a similar characteristic as the hydrodynamical particle flow in $A+A$ collisions. The difference of the behavior in the Au-going and the d-going direction can be understood from the fact that the characteristic structure is shifted in the Au-going direction toward more central collisions, similar to the charged-particle pseudorapidity distributions. This suggests that looking at two directions in asymmetric systems is essential.

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APPENDIX

Figures 10–13 show data points of the normalized correlation functions in CNT-MPCS and CNT-MPCN for all $d+Au$ centralities and in $p_T$ bins of the trigger $\pi^0$ in CNT ($|\eta_{\text{trig}}| < 0.35$), along with the fitted Fourier-components and their sum. Note the changes in $y$-scale from Figs. 10 and 12 to Figs. 11 and 13. Although the correlation functions are shown up to $p_T = 11\text{ GeV}/c$, it is clear that the statistical precision is poor for the 9–11 GeV/$c$ data. Therefore, the $c_1$, $c_2$ and $-c_2/c_1$ in this paper are shown only up to 9 GeV/$c$. 
FIG. 10. CNT-MPCS correlation functions for 0%–5%, 5%–10%, 10%–20%, 0%–20% d+Au collisions for $2.0 < p_T < 11$ GeV/c.
FIG. 11. CNT-MPCS correlation functions for 20%–40%, 40%–60%, 60%–88% d+Au collisions and p+p collisions for $2.0 < p_T < 11$ GeV/c.
FIG. 12. CNT-MPCN correlation functions for 0%–5%, 5%–10%, 10%–20%, 0%–20% d+Au collisions for $2.0 < p_T < 11$ GeV/c.
FIG. 13. CNT-MPCN correlation functions for 20%–40%, 40%–60%, 60%–88% d+Au collisions and p+p collisions for 2.0 < $p_T$ < 11 GeV/c.
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