Nuclear Modification of $\psi'$, $\chi_c$ and $J/\psi$ Production in $d+Au$ Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

A. Adare, C. Aidala, N.N. Ajitanand, Y. Akiba, H. Al-Bataineh, J. Alexander, A. Angerami, K. Aoki, N. Apadula, Y. Aramaki, E.T. Atomssa, R. Averbeck, T.C. Awes, B. Azmoun, V. Babintsev, M. Bai, G. Baksy, L. Baksys, K.N. Barish, B. Bassalleck, A.T. Basye, S. Bathe, V. Baublis, C. Baumann, A. Bazilevsky, S. Belikov, R. Belmont, R. Bennett, J.H. Bhm, D.S. Blau, J.S. Bok, K. Boyle, M.L. Brooks, H. Buesching, V. Bunmazhov, G. Bunce, S. Butsyk, S. Campbell, A. Caringi, C.-H. Chen, D.E. Fields, M. Finger, Jr., M. Finger, Z. Fraenkel, J.E. Frantz, A. Franz, A.D. Frawley, M. Grosse Perdekamp, M.A.L. Leite, T. Ichihara, Y. Iwanaga, Y. Ikeda, K. Imai, K. Imai, E. Ikeda, K. Imai, E. Iwamura, Y. Iwata, I.S. Ivanchik, V. Ivanchik, T.-A. Shibata, T. Iwasaki, T. Iwasa, Y. Iwasaki, T. Iwata, T. Ichihara, Y. Ichimura, Y. Ichihara, Y. Ichimura, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y. Ichikawa, K. Ichimura, Y.Ich.
R.M. Wright,1 M. Wysocki,13 Y.L. Yamaguchi,12 K. Yamaura,22 R. Yang,24 A. Yanovich,23 J. Ying,21 S. Yokkaichi,54,55 Z. You,52 G.R. Young,50 I. Younus,35,47 I.E. Yushmanov,32 W.A. Zajc,14 and S. Zhou11

(PhENIX Collaboration)

1Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas 79699, USA
2Department of Physics, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57197, USA
3Department of Physics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005, India
4Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay 400 085, India
5Baruch College, City University of New York, New York, New York, 10010 USA
6Collider-Accelerator Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973-5000, USA
7Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973-5000, USA
8University of California - Riverside, Riverside, California 92521, USA
9Charles University, 0511 1, Praha 1, 116 36, Prague, Czech Republic
10Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, 561-756, Korea
11Science and Technology on Nuclear Data Laboratory, China Institute of Atomic Energy, Beijing 102413, P. R. China
12Center for Nuclear Study, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan
13University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA
14Columbia University, New York, New York 10027 and Nevis Laboratories, Irvington, New York 10533, USA
15Czech Technical University, Zikova 4, 166 36 Prague 6, Czech Republic
16Dapnia, CEA Saclay, F-91191, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
17ELTE, Eötvös Loránd University, H - 1117 Budapest, Pázmány P. s. 1/A, Hungary
18Ewha Womans University, Seoul 120-750, Korea
19Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida 32901, USA
20Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, USA
21Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, USA
22Hiroshima University, Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima 739-8526, Japan
23HEP Protvino, State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, 142281, Russia
24University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA
25Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, prospekt 60-letiya Oktyabrya 7a, Moscow 117312, Russia
26Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Na Slovance 2, 182 21 Prague 8, Czech Republic
27Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, USA
28Advanced Science Research Center, Japan Atomic Energy Agency, 2-4 Shirakata Shirane, Tokai-mura, Ibaraki-ken 319-1195, Japan
29Helsinki Institute of Physics and University of Jyväskylä, P.O.Box 35, FI-40014 Jyväskylä, Finland
30KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0801, Japan
31Korea University, Seoul, 136-701, Korea
32Russian Research Center “Kurchatov Institute”, Moscow, 123098 Russia
33Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan
34Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, CNRS-IN2P3, Route de Saclay, F-91128, Palaiseau, France
35Physics Department, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan
36Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California 94550, USA
37Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, USA
38LPC, Université Blaise Pascal, CNRS-IN2P3, Clermont-Fd, 63177 Aubiere Cedex, France
39Department of Physics, Lund University, Box 118, SE-221 00 Lund, Sweden
40University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742, USA
41Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003-9337, USA
42Department of Physics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1040, USA
43Institut fur Kernphysik, University of Muenster, D-48149 Muenster, Germany
44Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104-5586, USA
45Mongi University, Yongin, Kyonggi-do 449-728, Korea
46Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki 851-0193, Japan
47University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131, USA
48New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003, USA
49Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701, USA
50Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA
51IPN-Orsay, Université Paris Sud, CNRS-IN2P3, BP1, F-91406, Orsay, France
52Peking University, Beijing 100871, P. R. China
53PNPI, Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, Leningrad region, 188300, Russia
54RIKEN Nishina Center for Accelerator-Based Science, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan
55RIKEN BNL Research Center, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973-5000, USA
56Physics Department, Rikkyo University, 3-34-1 Nishi-Ikebukuro, Toshima, Tokyo 171-8501, Japan
57Univesidad de São Paulo, Instituto de Física, Caixa Postal 66318, São Paulo CEP05315-970, Brazil
58Chemistry Department, Stony Brook University, SUNY, Stony Brook, New York 11794-3400, USA
59Department of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, SUNY, Stony Brook, New York 11794-3400, USA
Understanding the evolution of heavy quark-antiquark pairs into bound color singlet quarkonium states represents a challenge within QCD. An excellent tool for probing the time scale for this evolution is the measurement of production rates for multiple quarkonium states, with different physical sizes and binding energies, in proton (or deuteron) - nucleus collisions. The evolving quark-antiquark pair must traverse the target nucleus, and by varying the path length in the nucleus one can probe this time scale.

Measurements of $J/\psi$ and $\psi'$ production rates at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 38.7$ GeV, as a function of Feynman-$x$ ($x_F$), in proton-nucleus collisions by E866/NuSea [1] show a greater suppression of $\psi'$ production compared to $J/\psi$ production near $x_F \approx 0$, and a comparable suppression for $x_F > 0$. Similar measurements by NA50 [2] at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27.4$ GeV and $x_F \approx 0$ show a stronger suppression of $\psi'$ production, compared to $J/\psi$ production, for larger nuclei. This has been interpreted as an effect of the charmonia formation time [3]. When the time spent traversing the nucleus by the $c\bar{c}$ pair becomes longer than the charmonia formation time, the larger $\psi'$ meson will be further suppressed by a larger nuclear breakup effect. It is critical to test these assumptions at the collision energies provided by the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), where the time spent traversing the nucleus is expected to be much shorter than this formation time. Also, the binding energy of the the $\psi'$ ($\approx 0.05$ GeV) is significantly smaller than that of the $\chi_c$ ($\approx 0.20$ GeV) or $J/\psi$ ($\approx 0.64$ GeV) [2], and may play an important role in understanding the effects of producing quarkonia in a nuclear target.

The PHENIX experiment has previously reported measurements of $J/\psi$ production rates in $d$+$Au$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV using data collected in 2008 [4, 5]. Here we present measurements of $\psi'$ production rates, as well as the fraction of $J/\psi$ yield which comes from $\chi_c$ decays, in $d$+$Au$ collisions at midrapidity from the same data set. Using the corresponding measurements in $p$+$p$ collisions by PHENIX [7], we construct the nuclear modification factor, $R_{dAu}$, for $\psi'$ and $\chi_c$ production and compare it with the measurements of the $J/\psi R_{dAu}$ at the same energy.

The PHENIX detector is described in detail in Ref. [8]. The data presented here were collected using the two PHENIX central arms, each of which detect electrons, photons, and hadrons over $|y| < 0.35$ and $\Delta \phi = \frac{\pi}{2}$. The $d$+$Au$ data used in this analysis were recorded using a minimum bias (MB) trigger in coincidence with an additional electron Level-1 trigger. The MB trigger requires at least one hit in each of the two beam-beam counters (BBCs) covering 3 towers in the Electro Imaging Čerenkov counter. This MB selection covers 88±4% of the total $d$+$Au$ inelastic cross section of 2.26 barns [9]. The electron trigger requires a minimum energy deposited in any group of 2 towers in the Electromagnetic Calorimeter and an associated hit in the Ring Imaging Čerenkov counter. Thresholds of 600 and 800 MeV were used, each for roughly half of the data sample. The data set represents analyized integrated luminosities of 62.7 and 66.2 nb$^{-1}$ for the $\psi'$ and $\chi_c$ analyses respectively.

The $\psi'$ invariant yield is calculated as

$$B_{ee} \frac{dN_{\psi'}}{dy} = \frac{cN_{\psi'}}{N_{MB} e A \Delta y},$$

where $B_{ee}$ is the $\psi' \rightarrow e^+e^-$ branching ratio, $N_{\psi'}$ is the measured $\psi' \rightarrow e^+e^-$ yield, $N_{MB}$ is the number of sampled MB events, and $\Delta y$ is the width of the rapidity bin. A GEANT-3 based model of the PHENIX detector combined with measurements of the momentum dependence
of the single electron trigger efficiency, as described in Ref. [6], is used to calculate the product of the acceptance and efficiency, $\epsilon A$, which includes the Level-1 trigger efficiency. This model is also used to estimate the detector effects on the simulated signal and background line shapes when fitting the measured dielectron signal. Following the procedures described in Ref. [3], $\epsilon A$ is found to have an average value of 0.91% with a relative systematic uncertainty of 6.4%. The correction factor $c$ accounts for the trigger and centrality bias present in events which contain a hard scattering. The track multiplicity dependence of the reconstruction efficiency is negligible in $d+Au$ collisions. The line shape for Drell-Yan decays was generated using three different MC generators, including $pythia-6$ [11]. Line shapes for open heavy flavor decays were generated using three different MC generators, including $pythia-6$ in both hard scattering and forced charm (or bottom) production modes as well as the MC@NLO generator [12].

After applying the detector acceptance and efficiency effects, the line shapes are fit to the invariant mass distributions. It was found that the heavy flavor line shapes generated using $pythia-6$ set to hard scattering mode gave the lowest $\chi^2$ per degree of freedom (68.5/68), while those generated using $pythia-6$ set to charm(bottom) production as well as those generated using MC@NLO provided slightly poorer agreements with a $\chi^2$ per degree of freedom of 79.1/68 and 83.4/68 respectively. The different line shapes resulted in changes in the extracted $\psi'$ yield of less than 20% in peripheral events. In central events there is a very small signal which varies by up to 83% within the different assumed shapes. In all cases, the continuum line shapes were generated for $p+p$ collisions, and may be modified in $d+Au$ collisions. The effect of nuclear shadowing on the Drell-Yan and open heavy flavor line shapes using the EPS09s parametrization [13] was found to change the extracted $\psi'$ yield by less than 5%.

Figure 1 shows the results of the fit for central and peripheral $d+Au$ collisions. The shaded bands represent the combined uncertainty in the fit normalizations, as well as changes in the shape of the correlated background obtained using the three different sets of open heavy flavor line shapes.

The resulting invariant yields are used, in conjunction with the measured values in $p+p$ collisions [3], to calculate the nuclear modification factor, $R_{dAu}$. The $\psi'$ $R_{dAu}$ is calculated as

$$R_{dAu}^{\psi'} = \frac{dN_{dAu}^{\psi'}/dy}{N_{coll}dN_{pp}^{\psi'}/dy}$$

where $N_{coll}$ is the mean number of nucleon-nucleon collisions, and $dN_{dAu}^{\psi'}/dy$ and $dN_{pp}^{\psi'}/dy$ are the measured invariant yields in $d+Au$ and $p+p$ collisions, respectively. The value of $N_{coll}$ is calculated using a Glauber Monte Carlo model coupled with a simulation of the PHENIX BBC response (see [6] for details). We find a value for the $\psi'$ nuclear modification factor of $R_{dAu}^{\psi'} = 0.54 \pm 0.11(\text{stat})_{-0.16}^{+0.19}(\text{syst})$ in 0–100% centrality integrated $d+Au$ collisions.

The feed-down fraction of the inclusive $J/\psi$ yield from $X_c$ decays in $d+Au$ collisions ($F_{X_c\rightarrow J/\psi}^{dAu}$) is measured via the $X_c \rightarrow J/\psi + \gamma \rightarrow e^+e^- + \gamma$ decay channel, where the $e^+e^-\gamma$ is fully reconstructed in the PHENIX central arms. The procedure for extracting $F_{X_c\rightarrow J/\psi}^{dAu}$ is the same as that presented for $p+p$ collisions in [7] for a data sample of comparable statistical precision. The final feed-down fraction is found to be $F_{X_c\rightarrow J/\psi}^{dAu} = 0.32 \pm 0.09(\text{stat}) \pm 0.03(\text{syst})$.

Using the measured feed-down fraction in $p+p$ coll-
sions and the $J/\psi$ $R_{dAu}$, the $\chi_c$ $R_{dAu}$ is calculated as

$$R_{dAu}^{\chi_c} = \frac{R_{dAu}^{J/\psi}}{R_{dAu}^{\psi'}} \frac{F_{dAu}^{\chi_c \rightarrow J/\psi}}{F_{pp}^{\chi_c \rightarrow J/\psi}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

The nuclear modification of $\chi_c$ production in $d+Au$ collisions is found to be $R_{dAu}^{\chi_c} = 0.77 \pm 0.41$(stat) $\pm 0.18$(syst).

With the $\psi'$ and $\chi_c$ nuclear modification in hand, it is possible to correct the measured modification of inclusive $J/\psi$ production for their feed-down effects, thus giving a closer representation of the modification of direct $J/\psi$ production. Here we use the $\psi'$ and $\chi_c$ feed-down fractions in $p+p$ collisions measured by PHENIX in Ref. [7]. The corrected $J/\psi$ modification is calculated as

$$R_{dAu}^{\text{direct } J/\psi} = \left( \frac{R_{dAu}^{\text{incl } J/\psi} - F_{pp}^{\psi' \rightarrow J/\psi} R_{dAu}^{\psi'} - F_{pp}^{\chi_c \rightarrow J/\psi} R_{dAu}^{\chi_c}}{1 - F_{pp}^{\psi' \rightarrow J/\psi} - F_{pp}^{\chi_c \rightarrow J/\psi}} \right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where $R_{dAu}^{\text{incl } J/\psi} = 0.77 \pm 0.02$(stat) $\pm 0.16$(syst) is the modification of inclusive $J/\psi$ production, reported in Ref. [5]. This gives a feed-down-corrected $J/\psi$ modification of $R_{dAu}^{\text{direct } J/\psi} = 0.81 \pm 0.12$(stat) $\pm 0.23$(syst). While there still remains a contribution from $B \rightarrow J/\psi + X$ decays, its value is expected to be small ($\approx 2.7\%$ [14]).

Figure 2 plots the nuclear modification as a function of the quarkonia binding energy. The $\chi_c$ measurement has large statistical and systematic uncertainties, but the $J/\psi$ and $\psi'$ modifications suggest there is a decrease in suppression with increasing binding energy.

Figure 3 compares the PHENIX results to data taken at different collision energies and species by plotting the relative modification of $\psi'$ to $J/\psi$ production ($R_{dAu}^{\psi'}/R_{dAu}^{J/\psi}$) as a function of charged particle multiplicity. When taking the $\psi'$ to $J/\psi$ ratio, a number of uncertainties cancel or are reduced, such as the uncertainty in $\epsilon A$. Nuclear effects that are common between the $J/\psi$ and $\psi'$ (such as nuclear shadowing) will also cancel. As there are currently no measurements available of $dN_{ch}/d|y|_{y=0}$ for the majority of the data shown in Fig. 3, we use HIJING [15] to calculate the $dN_{ch}/d|y|_{y=0}$ values for all points. The consistent trend of results at the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS), Hadron-Electron Ring Accelerator (HERA), and RHIC, suggests that interactions with final-state hadrons may play a role. The $\psi'$ $R_{dAu}$ is further calculated for different centrality bins matched to those used in the previous $J/\psi$ analyses [4, 6].

Figure 3 shows $\psi'$ $R_{dAu}$ as a function of $N_{coll}$ and also shows the previously published $J/\psi$ $R_{dAu}$ [8], here integrated over the full rapidity coverage of the central arm. We observe a strong suppression of $\psi'$ production with increasing $N_{coll}$. The observed suppression in central $d+Au$ collisions (large $N_{coll}$) is a factor of $\approx 3$ times larger than the observed suppression for inclusive $J/\psi$ production.
Once the time spent by the $\tau$ the average proper time, observed by E866/NuSea. The quarkonia (or $\psi$ nucleus becomes larger than the $J/\psi p$ in the rest frame of the target nucleus. Here the $J/\psi = 200$ GeV. Us-
derived nuclear modification factor, $R_{dAu}$, as a function of $N_{\text{coll}}$. Also included are the previously measured $J/\psi R_{dAu}$ as a function of $N_{\text{coll}}$. Note that the $J/\psi R_{dAu}$ plotted here is not corrected for $\psi'$ and $\chi_c$ feed-down, and the $N_{\text{coll}}$ values are shifted slightly to aid in clarity.

Ref. \[2\] presents a model that explains the lower energy E866/NuSea and NA50 results using an expanding color neutral $c\bar{c}$ pair. As the $c\bar{c}$ expands, it has an increased nuclear absorption due to its larger physical size. Once the time spent by the $c\bar{c}$ pair traversing the nucleus becomes larger than the $J/\psi$ formation time, the $\psi'$ will see a larger nuclear absorption due to its larger size ($r_0 \approx 0.9$ fm for the $\psi'$ and $r_0 \approx 0.5$ fm for the $J/\psi$). This explains the transition from a similar level of suppression between the $J/\psi$ and $\psi'$ at high $x_F$ to a larger suppression of the $\psi'$ relative to the $J/\psi$ at $x_F \approx 0$ observed by E866/NuSea.

This idea is tested at RHIC energies by calculating the average proper time, $\tau$, spent in the nucleus by the quarkonia (or $c\bar{c}$ precursor). This is calculated as $\tau = \beta \langle L \rangle$, where $\langle L \rangle$ is the mean thickness of the target nucleus, and $\beta$ is the average velocity of the quarkonia in the rest frame of the target nucleus. Here the $J/\psi p_T$ is neglected. The $\langle L \rangle$ values for each centrality bin are calculated as the average center to edge distance using the same Glauber Monte Carlo model used to determine $N_{\text{coll}}$.

Figure 4 shows the relative modification of the $\psi'$ to the $J/\psi$ as a function of $\tau$, where the E866/NuSea and NA50 results have also been included. The solid curve is the calculation by Arleo et al. \[2\], which is consistent with the trends observed by E866/NuSea and NA50.

The values of $\tau$ for the PHENIX data are similar to the $c\bar{c}$ formation and color neutralization time of $\approx 0.05$ fm/c, indicating the presence of different effects that modify charmonium production at short time scales. The PHENIX data further indicate that there are effects at short crossing time scales that can differentially suppress the $\psi'$ relative to the $J/\psi$.

In summary, we have presented measurements of $\psi'$ production, as well as the $J/\psi$ feed-down fraction from $\chi_c$ decays, in $d+Au$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV. Using the corresponding measurements in $p+p$ collisions, we have obtained the nuclear modification factor, $R_{dAu}$, for $\psi'$ and $\chi_c$ production. We find that the relative modification of $\psi'$ to inclusive $J/\psi$ measured by PHENIX follows the same approximate scaling with the charged particle multiplicity measured at midrapidity as lower energy data. We further find that $\psi'$ production is heavily suppressed in central $d+Au$ collisions relative to $J/\psi$ production. Because the nuclear crossing time is very short, this cannot be explained by the difference in size of the fully-formed $\psi'$ and $J/\psi$. It instead suggests that there is a process occurring on the time scale of $c\bar{c}$ formation that differentially suppresses the $\psi'$.

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* Deceased
† PHENIX Co-Spokesperson: morrison@bnl.gov
‡ PHENIX Co-Spokesperson: jamie.nagle@colorado.edu

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