The Tsallis Distribution and Transverse Momentum Distributions in High-Energy Physics.

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The Tsallis distribution has been used recently to fit the transverse momentum distributions of identified particles by the STAR collaboration [1] at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and by the ALICE [2] and CMS [3] collaborations at the Large Hadron Collider. Theoretical issues are clarified concerning the thermodynamic consistency of the Tsallis distribution in the particular case of relativistic high energy quantum distributions. An improved form is proposed for describing the transverse momentum distribution and fits are presented together with estimates of the parameter \( q \) and the temperature \( T \).

Keywords: Tsallis, Thermodynamics, Consistency, Heavy Ions

I. INTRODUCTION

The Tsallis distribution has gained prominence recently in high energy physics with very high quality fits of the transverse momentum distributions made by the STAR collaboration [1] at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and by the ALICE [2] and CMS [3] collaborations at the Large Hadron Collider.

In the literature there exists more than one version of the Tsallis distribution [4, 5] and we would like to investigate in this paper one version which we consider suited for describing results in high energy particle physics. Our main guiding criterium will be thermodynamic consistency which has not always been implemented correctly (see e.g. [6–8]). The explicit form which we use for the transverse momentum distribution in relativistic heavy ion collisions is:

\[
\frac{dN}{dp_T \ dy} = gV \frac{p_T m_T \cosh y}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ 1 + (q-1) \frac{m_T \cosh y - \mu}{T} \right]^{q/(1-q)} \tag{1}
\]

where \( p_T \) and \( m_T \) are the transverse momentum and mass respectively, \( y \) is the rapidity, \( T \) and \( \mu \) are the temperature and the chemical potential, the other variables are defined below. In the limit where the parameter \( q \) goes to 1 this reproduces the standard Boltzmann distribution:

\[
\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} \frac{dN}{dp_T \ dy} = gV \frac{p_T m_T \cosh y}{(2\pi)^2} \exp \left( - \frac{m_T \cosh y - \mu}{T} \right). \tag{2}
\]

In order to distinguish Eq. (1) from the form used by the ALICE and CMS collaborations [2, 3] we will refer to Eq. (1) as the Tsallis-B parameterization. Note in particular the extra power of \( q \) on the right hand side. The motivation for preferring this form is presented in detail in the rest of this paper, see in particular section VII.

Thermal models have been successful in describing particle yields at different beam energies [9–11], especially in heavy ion collisions. These models assume the formation of a system which is in thermal and chemical equilibrium in the hadronic phase and are characterized by a set of thermodynamical variables for the hadronic phase, most important among these are the chemical freeze-out temperature and baryon chemical potential. The deconfined period of the time evolution dominated by quarks and gluons remains hidden: full equilibration generally washes out and destroys large amounts of information about the early deconfined phase.
II. TSALLIS DISTRIBUTION FOR PARTICLE MULTIPLICITIES.

Several generalizations of the standard Fermi-Dirac distribution

\[ n^{FD}(E) \equiv \frac{1}{1 + \exp \left( \frac{E - \mu}{T} \right)} \]  \quad (3)

to a Tsallis form have been proposed in the literature, some of these have been shown not to be thermodynamically consistent. In the following we use the Tsallis form of Fermi-Dirac distribution proposed in [8, 12–15] which uses

\[ n^{FD}_{T}(E) \equiv \frac{1}{1 + \exp_{q} \left( \frac{E - \mu}{T} \right)} \] \quad (4)

where the function \( \exp_{q}(x) \) is defined as

\[
\exp_{q}(x) = \begin{cases} 
[1 + (q-1)x]^{1/(q-1)} & \text{if } x > 0 \\
[1 + (1-q)x]^{1/(1-q)} & \text{if } x \leq 0
\end{cases} \quad (5)
\]

and, in the limit where \( q \to 1 \) reduces to the standard exponential:

\[ \lim_{q\to1} \exp_{q}(x) \to \exp(x) \]

The form given in Eqs. (4) and (5) will be referred to as the Tsallis-FD distribution. The Bose-Einstein version (given below) will be referred to as the Tsallis-BE distribution [16] while the Boltzmann approximation will be referred to as Tsallis-B distribution. It should be noted that variations of the above have been presented previously in the literature. These will not be considered in this paper.

As is well-known, all forms of the Tsallis distribution introduce a new parameter \( q \). In practice this parameter is always close to 1, e.g. in the results obtained by the ALICE and CMS collaborations typical values for the parameter \( q \) can be obtained from fits to the transverse momentum distribution for identified charged particles [2] and are close to the value 1.1 (see below). The value of \( q \) should thus be considered as never being far from 1, deviating from it by 20% at most. An analysis of the composition of final state particles leads to a similar result [17] for the parameter \( q \).

In the limit where \( q \to 1 \) the two forms coincide. Numerically the difference is small, as shown in Fig. 1 for a value of \( q = 1.1 \).

The Boltzmann approximation leads to the result [4, 5]

\[ n^{B}(E) = \left[ 1 + (q-1) \frac{E - \mu}{T} \right]^{-\frac{1}{q-1}} \] \quad (6)

A derivation of the Tsallis distribution, based on the Boltzmann equation, has been given in Ref. [18]. A comparison between the \( n^{FD}_{T} \) and \( n^{FD} \) distributions is shown in Fig. 1. For the Boltzmann approximation, the Tsallis distribution is always larger than the Boltzmann one if \( q > 1 \). Taking into account the large \( p_{T} \) results for particle production we will only consider this possibility in this paper. As a consequence, in order to keep the particle yields the same, the Tsallis distribution always leads to smaller values of the freeze-out temperature for the same set of particle yields [17]. The Tsallis distribution for quantum statistics has been considered in Ref. [12, 13, 16, 19, 20].

![Fig. 1. Comparison between the Fermi-Dirac and Tsallis-FD distributions as a function of the energy \( E \), keeping the Tsallis parameter \( q \) fixed, for various values of the temperature \( T \). The chemical potential is kept equal to one in all curves, the units are arbitrary.](image_url)
III. THERMODYNAMIC CONSISTENCY

The first and second laws of thermodynamics lead to the following two differential relations \[21\]
\[\begin{align*}
dc &= T ds + \mu d\nu, \quad (10) \\
dP &= s dT + n d\mu. \quad (11)
\end{align*}\]
where \(c = E/V\), \(s = S/V\) and \(n = N/V\). Since these are total differentials, thermodynamic consistency requires that the following relations be satisfied
\[\begin{align*}
T &= \frac{\partial c}{\partial s} \bigg|_n, \quad (12) \\
\mu &= \frac{\partial c}{\partial n} \bigg|_s, \quad (13) \\
n &= \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} \bigg|_T, \quad (14) \\
s &= \frac{\partial P}{\partial T} \bigg|_\mu. \quad (15)
\end{align*}\]
The pressure, energy density and entropy density are all given by corresponding integrals over Tsallis distributions and the derivatives have to reproduce the corresponding physical quantities. For completeness, in the next section, we derive Tsallis thermodynamics using the maximal entropy principle and discuss quantum \(q\)-statistics in particular Bose-Einstein and Fermi-Dirac distribution by maximizing the entropy of the system for quantum distributions. This follows partly the derivation of Ref. \[8\]. We will show that the consistency conditions given above are indeed obeyed by the Tsallis-FD distribution.

IV. QUANTUM STATISTICS

The entropy in standard statistical mechanics for fermions is given in the large volume limit by:
\[S^{FD} = -g V \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \ln^{FD} n^{FD} + (1 - n^{FD}) \ln(1 - n^{FD}), \quad (16)\]
where \(g\) is the degeneracy factor and \(V\) the volume of the system. For simplicity Eq. \[16\] refers to one particle species but can be easily generalized to many by summing over all of them. In the limit where momenta are quantized, which is given by:
\[S^{FD} = -g \sum_i \left[ n_i \ln n_i + (1 - n_i) \ln(1 - n_i) \right], \quad (17)\]
For convenience we will work with the discrete form in the rest of this section. The large volume limit can be recovered with the standard replacement:
\[\sum_i \to V \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \quad (18)\]
The generalization, using the Tsallis prescription, leads to \[12\] \[14\]
\[S_T^{FD} = -g \sum_i \left[ n_i^q \ln_q n_i + (1 - n_i)^q \ln_q(1 - n_i) \right], \quad (19)\]
where use has been made of the function
\[\ln_q(x) \equiv \frac{x^{1-q} - 1}{1-q}, \quad (20)\]
often referred to as q-logarithm. It can be easily shown that in the limit where the Tsallis parameter \(q\) tends to 1 one has:
\[\lim_{q \to 1} \ln_q(x) = \ln(x). \quad (21)\]
The maximization of the entropy \[19\] will give the \(n_i\)'s their Tsallis-type form. If we use the explicit form of the q-logarithms we obtain
\[S_T^{FD} = g \sum_i \left[ \left( \frac{n_i - n_i^q}{q - 1} \right) + \left( \frac{(1 - n_i) - (1 - n_i)^q}{q - 1} \right) \right], \quad (22)\]
In a similar vein, the generalized form of the entropy for bosons is given by
\[S_T^{BE} = -g \sum_i \left[ n_i^q \ln_q n_i - (1 + n_i)^q \ln_q(1 + n_i) \right], \quad (23)\]
by using a similar method, we can express equation \[23\] as
\[S_T^{BE} = g \sum_i \left[ \left( \frac{n_i - n_i^q}{q - 1} \right) - \left( \frac{(1 + n_i) - (1 + n_i)^q}{q - 1} \right) \right], \quad (24)\]
In the limit \(q \to 1\) equations \[19\] and \[23\] reduce to the standard Fermi-Dirac and Bose-Einstein distributions. Further, as we shall presently explain, the formulation of a variational principle in terms of equation \[22\] allows to prove the general relation of thermodynamics. One of the relevant constraints is given by the average number of particles,
\[\sum_i n_i^q = N. \quad (25)\]
Notice the unusual power of \(q\) on the left-hand side. As it turns out, it is necessary to have this power of \(q\) since otherwise there is no thermodynamic consistency.
Likewise, the energy of the system gives a constraint,
\[\sum_i n_i^q E_i = E. \quad (26)\]
again, it is necessary to have the power \(q\) on the left-hand side as no thermodynamic consistency would be achieved without it. The maximization of the entropic measure
equation (22) under the constraints equation (23) and (26) leads to the variational problem.

\[
\frac{\delta}{\delta n_i} \left[ S_{FD}^T + \alpha (N - \sum_i n_i^q) + \beta (E - \sum_i n_i^q E_i) \right] = 0,
\]

where \(\alpha\) and \(\beta\) are Lagrange multipliers associated, respectively, with the total number of particles and the total energy. Differentiating each expression in equation (27)

\[
\frac{\delta}{\delta n_i} \left( S_{FD}^T \right) = \frac{q}{q-1} \left[ \left( \frac{1-n_i}{n_i} \right)^{q-1} - 1 \right] n_i^{q-1},
\]

and

\[
\frac{\delta}{\delta n_i} \left( N - \sum_i n_i^q \right) = -qn_i^{q-1},
\]

(28)

(29)

then by substituting equation (28), (29) and (30) into (27), we obtain

\[
qn_i^{q-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{q-1} \left[ -1 + \left( \frac{1-n_i}{n_i} \right)^{q-1} \right] - \beta E_i - \alpha \right\} = 0.
\]

(30)

which can be rewritten as

\[
\frac{1}{q-1} \left[ -1 + \left( \frac{1-n_i}{n_i} \right)^{q-1} \right] = \beta E_i + \alpha,
\]

(31)

(32)

and, by rearranging equation (32), we get

\[
1 - \frac{n_i}{n_i} = \left[ 1 + (q-1)(\beta E_i + \alpha) \right]^{\frac{1}{q-1}},
\]

finally, we get the solution of generalized form of Fermi-Dirac distribution like this

\[
n_i = \frac{1}{\left[ 1 + (q-1)(\beta E_i + \alpha) \right]^{\frac{1}{q-1}} + 1},
\]

(33)

\[
= \frac{1}{\exp_q(\alpha + \beta E_i) + 1},
\]

Which is the expression for the Tsallis-FD distribution referred to earlier in this paper [12–14].

Using a similar approach one can also determine the Tsallis-BE distribution [16]. Starting from the extremum of the entropy subject to two conditions one has:

\[
\frac{\delta}{\delta n_i} \left[ S_{BE}^T + \alpha (N - \sum_i n_i^q) + \beta (E - \sum_i n_i^q E_i) \right] = 0,
\]

(34)

which leads to

\[
\frac{\delta}{\delta n_i} \left( S_{BE}^T \right) = \frac{q}{q-1} \left[ \left( \frac{1+n_i}{n_i} \right)^{q-1} - 1 \right] n_i^{q-1},
\]

(35)

and by using equations (33), (29) and (30) in (34), one gets

\[
\sum_i q n_i^{q-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{q-1} \left[ -1 + \left( \frac{1+n_i}{n_i} \right)^{q-1} \right] - \beta E_i - \alpha \right\} = 0.
\]

(36)

By rearranging equation (33), one obtains the expression for the Tsallis-BE distribution [16],

\[
n_i = \frac{1}{\left[ 1 + (q-1)(\beta E_i + \alpha) \right]^{\frac{1}{q-1}} - 1},
\]

(37)

where the usual identifications \(\alpha = -\mu/T\) and \(\beta = 1/T\) have been made.

V. PROOF OF THERMODYNAMICAL CONSISTENCY

In order to use the above expressions it has to be shown that they satisfy the thermodynamic consistency conditions. To show this in detail we use the first law of thermodynamics [21]

\[
P = -E + TS + \mu N,
\]

(38)

and take the partial derivative with respect to \(\mu\) in order to check for thermodynamic consistency, it leads to

\[
\frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} \bigg|_T = \frac{1}{V} \left[ -\frac{\partial E}{\partial \mu} + T \frac{\partial S}{\partial \mu} + N + \frac{\partial N}{\partial \mu} \right],
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{V} \left[ N + \sum_i \frac{T}{q-1} \left( 1 + (q-1) \frac{E_i - \mu}{T} \right) \frac{\partial n_i^q}{\partial \mu} + T q (1-n_i)^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu} \right],
\]

(39)

then, by explicit calculation

\[
\frac{\partial n_i^q}{\partial \mu} = \frac{q n_i^{q+1}}{T} \left[ 1 + (q-1) \frac{E_i - \mu}{T} \right]^{-1+\frac{1}{q-1}},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu} = \frac{n_i^2}{T} \left[ 1 + (q-1) \frac{E_i - \mu}{T} \right]^{-1+\frac{1}{q-1}},
\]

and

\[
(1 - n_i)^{q-1} = n_i^{q-1} \left[ 1 + (q-1) (E_i - \mu) \right].
\]
Introducing this into equation (39), yields
\[ \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} \bigg|_T = n, \] (40)
which proves the thermodynamical consistency (14).

We also calculate explicitly the relation in equation (42) can be rewritten as
\[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial S} \bigg|_n = \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial S}, \]
\[ = \frac{\partial E}{\partial S} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial T} \] (41)
since \( n \) is kept fixed one has the additional constraint
\[ \frac{dn}{dT} + \frac{dn}{\mu} d\mu = 0, \]
leading to
\[ \frac{d\mu}{dT} = -\frac{\partial n}{\partial T}. \] (42)

Now, we rewrite (41) and (42) in terms of the following expressions
\[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} = \sum_i qE_i n_i^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T}, \]
\[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mu} = \sum_i qE_i n_i^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu}, \]
\[ \frac{\partial S}{\partial T} = \sum_i q \left[ -n_i^{q-1} + (1 - n_i)^{q-1} \right] \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T}, \]
\[ \frac{\partial S}{\partial \mu} = \sum_i q \left[ -n_i^{q-1} + (1 - n_i)^{q-1} \right] \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu}, \]
\[ \frac{dn}{dT} = \frac{1}{V} \left[ \sum_i qn_i^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T} \right], \]
and
\[ \frac{dn}{\mu} = \frac{1}{V} \left[ \sum_i qn_i^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu} \right]. \]

By introducing the above relations into equation (41),
\[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial T} = \sum_i qE_i n_i^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T}, \]
\[ \sum_i q^2 E_i (n_i n_j)^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_j}{\partial T} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu}, \]
\[ \sum_i qE_i (n_i n_j)^{q-1} C_{ij}, \]
where the abbreviation
\[ C_{ij} = (n_i n_j)^{q-1} \left[ \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T} \frac{\partial n_j}{\partial \mu} - \frac{\partial n_j}{\partial T} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial \mu} \right], \] (44)
has been introduced. One can rewrite the denominator part of equation (41) as
\[ \frac{\partial S}{\partial T} + \frac{\partial S}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial T} = \sum_i q \left[ -n_i^{q-1} + (1 - n_i)^{q-1} \right] n_i^{q-1} C_{ij}, \]
\[ = \sum_j n_j^{q-1} \frac{\partial n_j}{\partial \mu}, \] (45)
where
\[ -n_i^{q-1} + (1 - n_i)^{q-1} = \frac{(E_i - \mu) n_i^{q-1}}{T}, \]
hence, by substituting equation (43) and (45) in to (41), we find
\[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial S} \bigg|_n = T \sum_{i,j} E_i C_{ij}, \]
\[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial S} \bigg|_n = T \sum_{i,j} (E_i - \mu) C_{ij}, \] (46)
since \( \sum_{i,j} C_{ij} = 0 \), this finally leads to the desired result
\[ \frac{\partial E}{\partial S} \bigg|_n = T. \] (47)
Hence thermodynamic consistency is satisfied.

VI. BOLTZMANN APPROXIMATION

Due to its practical relevance and importance we devote a section to the Tsallis-B distribution. In this case
the entropy is obtained from equation (45) by assuming
the \( n_i \ll 1 \), this leads to

\[
S^B = g \sum_{i=1}^{W} \frac{n_i - n_i^q}{q - 1} + n_i,
\]

(48)

The \( n_i \) are given explicitly as

\[
n_i = \left[ 1 + (q - 1) \frac{E_i - \mu}{T} \right]^\frac{1}{q - 1},
\]

(49)

where \( n_i \) denotes the number of particles in the \( i \)th en-
ergy level with energy \( E_i \). The maximum of the above entropy is looked for under the constraints imposed by
fixing the total number of particles \( N \) and the total en-
ergy of the system \( E \), as given in equation (25) and (26).

As in the previous section, it should satisfy thermody-
namic consistency which is given in equation (12). The
total number of particles is given by the integral

\[
\int g V \partial \mu = \sum_{i,j} \left[ 1 + \frac{1 - q n_i^{q-1}}{q - 1} \right] \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T},
\]

(51)

Similarly, the denominator part of equation (41) can be
written as

\[
\frac{\partial E}{\partial T} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mu} = \sum_i \left[ 1 + \frac{1 - q n_i^{q-1}}{q - 1} \right] \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial T},
\]

(52)

where

\[
1 + \frac{1 - q n_i^{q-1}}{q - 1} = \frac{q(E_i - \mu)}{T} n_i^{q-1},
\]

by combining the expressions in equation (51) and (52)
into (41), we find as before

\[
\frac{\partial E}{\partial S} \bigg|_n = T.
\]

(53)

It has thus been shown that the definitions of tempera-
ture and pressure within the Tsallis formalism for non-
extensive thermostatistics lead to expressions which sat-
ify consistency with the first law of thermodynamics.

VII. THERMAL FIT DETAILS

The total number of particles is given by the integral
version of (25),

\[
N = gV \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ 1 + (q - 1) \frac{E - \mu}{T} \right]^{q/(1-q)},
\]

(54)
The extra power of \( q \) is necessary for thermodynamic consistency. The corresponding (invariant) momentum distribution is given by

\[
E \frac{dN}{d^3p} = gV E^2 \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ 1 + (q - 1) \frac{E - \mu}{T} \right]^{q/(1-q)},
\]

which, in terms of the rapidity and transverse mass variables, becomes

\[
\frac{dN}{d\eta \, m_T \, dm_T} = gV \frac{m_T \cosh \eta}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ 1 + (q - 1) \frac{m_T \cosh \eta - \mu}{T} \right]^{q/(1-q)},
\]

or, introducing the transverse momentum:

\[
\frac{dN}{dp_T \, d\eta} \bigg|_{\eta=0} = gV \frac{p_T m_T}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ 1 + (q - 1) \frac{p_T m_T}{T} \right]^{q/(1-q)}. \tag{58}
\]

Fits using the above expressions based on the Tsallis-B distribution to experimental measurements published by the CMS collaboration are shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4 and are comparable with those shown by the CMS collaboration but the resulting parameters are considerably different and are collected in Table I. The most striking feature is that the values of the parameter \( q \) are fairly stable around the value \( q \approx 1.11 \) for all cases considered, whether 7 TeV or 0.9 TeV. The same cannot be said about the temperature \( T \) which is around 100 MeV with considerable deviations, it is however well below the values quoted by the CMS collaboration. The analytic expression used in Refs. 2, 3 corresponds to identifying \( n \rightarrow \frac{q}{q - 1} \) an additional factor of the transverse mass on the right-hand side and a shift in the mass.

### VIII. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we have presented a detailed derivation of the quantum form of the Tsallis distribution and considered in detail the thermodynamic consistency of the resulting distribution. It was emphasized that an additional power of \( q \) is needed to achieve consistency with the laws of thermodynamics. The resulting distribution, called Tsallis-B, was compared with recent measurements from the CMS collaboration and good agreement was obtained. The resulting parameter \( q \) which is a measure for the deviation from a standard Boltzmann distribution was found to be around 1.11. The resulting values of the temperature show a wider spread around 100 MeV.

Whether or not the Tsallis distribution provides a valid interpretation of high energy collision data will need further theoretical work.

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FIG. 2. Comparison between the measured transverse momentum distribution for $K_0^0$ as measured by the CMS collaboration [3] and the Tsallis-B distribution as given by Eq. (5.7) using the parameters listed in Table I.
FIG. 3. Comparison between the measured transverse momentum distribution for Λ as measured by the CMS collaboration [3] and the Tsallis-B distribution as given by Eq. (57) using the parameters listed in Table I.
FIG. 4. Comparison between the measured transverse momentum distribution for Λ as measured by the CMS collaboration [3] and the Tsallis-B distribution as given by Eq. (57) using the parameters listed in Table I.