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Vlasov-Uehling-Uhlenbeck- approach
Different flow effects from the same theory?*

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Landau-Vlasov model versus Vlasov-Uehling-Uhlenbeck- approach Different flow effects from the same theory?

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Abstract: *Differences between the Nantes-Ganil-Grenoble (NGG) LV-model and the original VUU approach are analysed. It is found that the LV code tends to simulate - for small timesteps - a non viscous testparticle fluid.*

The Nantes-Ganil-Grenoble (NGG) collaboration has recently applied ¹ the Landau-Vlasov (LV) transport code ² to study collective flow effects in heavy ion collisions. It was found ¹ that "the LV model provides large flow even with a soft nuclear equation of state (eos), in strong contrast to the earlier work ⁴ based on the microscopic VUU calculations which shows evidence for a stiff eos." It was concluded that "these discrepancies between models based on similar approaches have certainly to be traced back to the treatment of two body collisions, which requires a closer study of the Uehling Uhlenbeck collision term."¹

In the present note we take up this task - the origin of the large differences between the LV and VUU predictions are explored. In the LV code nucleons are represented by a large collection (typically ~ 30) gaussian testparticles.¹⁻³ Collisions between the testparticles occur if the centroids of two gaussians approach each other with a distance of closest approach $d_{Test} < (\sigma_{Test}/\pi)^{1/2}$. The NGG collaboration chooses $\sigma_{Test} = \sigma_{NN}$.³ This has drastic consequences: the resulting classical * mean free path of such testparticles would be very short, $\lambda_{Test} = (\sigma_{Test} \cdot \rho_{Test})^{-1} \sim 1/20 fm$ for $\rho_{Test} = 30\rho_0$ and thus the testparticles would behave like a perfect, i.e. nonviscous, fluid. In order to re-introduce a longer mean free path into the model, the NGG collaboration decided to introduce the constraint that a given testparticle cannot undergo more than one collision per timestep. Consequently, the mean free path of the testparticle increases to $\lambda_{Test} \sim v_{ion} \cdot \Delta t$ which yields $\lambda_{Test} \sim 0.5 fm$ for the timesteps $\Delta t \sim 1 fm/c$ employed in the LV calculation. (These values of λ_{test} are, however, still too short as compared to the N-N mean free path $\lambda_{NN} \sim 2 fm$ at ρ_0 . A timestep of $\Delta t \sim 4 fm/c$ would be needed to simulate roughly the nonequilibrium effects $\sim \lambda/R$ but such a Δt is too long to ensure a reasonable accuracy in the numerical integration of the classical equations of motion.)

* for the sake of simplicity let us neglect the Pauli blocking in the qualitative discussion

Thus, the prescription chosen in ref. 1-3 introduces an explicit timestep dependence of the collision frequency and, therefore, of other physical observables. To obtain a quantitative feeling for this effect, we implemented these conditions ¹⁻³ into our VUU code ^{4,5}, i.e. the following results are obtained with Pauli blocking included. (Note that we employ ⁴ nonreduced σ_{NN} values and point-like testparticles in VUU, which is not relevant in the argument here.) The number of testparticle collisions versus the timestep Δt is shown for Ca (400 MeV/n, $b=2\text{fm}$) + Ca in fig. 1a. Note the $\sim 1/\Delta t$ dependence of N_{Coll} for the simulated LV case (triangles) as compared to the negligible dependence of N_{Coll} on Δt in the original VUU code (squares). Also note the factor of 3 - 6 times larger absolute value of N_{Coll} in the LV case. This means that the LV code approximates a nearly ideal testparticle "fluid" with a quite short mean free path $\lambda_{Test}/R \ll 1$ and therefore with a very small effective viscosity $\eta \rightarrow 0$. However, we know that the actual nuclear viscosity is substantial, $\eta \approx 50\text{MeV}/\text{fm}^2c$. ^{6,7} In fact, viscous fluid dynamical calculations⁶ have exhibited the strong dependence of the transverse flow on the viscosity: The ideal fluid ($\eta = 0$) predictions for the transverse momentum transfer $p_X(Y)$ exceed the viscous fluid results (with $\eta = 60\text{MeV}/\text{fm}^2c$) by about a factor of two. ⁶ It is therefore not surprising that this factor of two difference is indeed also observed in fig. 1b, which compares the values of the simulated LV code with our original VUU calculation. ^{4,5} Note that the LV values approach the VUU result for $\Delta t \approx 4\text{fm}/c$ i.e. $\lambda \approx 2\text{fm}$. For the LV case with $\Delta t \leq 2\text{fm}/c$ we indeed find - as it should be for a perfect, i.e. nonviscous, fluid - that the p_X values are nearly independent (within about 20 percent) of the rapidly changing value of $N_{Coll}(\Delta t)$ (The VUU approach gives per construction Δt independent results.)

We have also studied the dependence of the observables on the number of testparticles used in the LV code. Since $\lambda_{Test} \sim (N_{Test}/A)^{-1}$ we expect again that e.g. p_X should approach the asymptotic "ideal fluid" value for N_{Test} large enough to ensure $\lambda_{Test} \ll R$. Fig. 2 shows that this is indeed the case: The p_X value at 50 MeV even changes sign when λ_{Test} is decreased.

We would like to conclude by noting that we have found similar effects of Δt and N_{Coll} also at lower energies where the LV code has been employed extensively before ² (see fig. 2). The effects are also observed for a cascade version (i.e. no potential, no Pauli blocking) of the simulated LV code. G. Peilert has observed analogous results in a modified QMD program.

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Figures

Fig.1: Comparison of the dependence of the number of unblocked collisions (divided by N_{Test}/A) from the timestep Δt for VUU and LV (with $N_{Test}/A = 25$)

Fig.2: Comparison of the dependence of the flow p_X at projectile rapidity from the timestep Δt for VUU and LV (with $N_{Test}/A = 25$)

Fig.3: Dependence of the flow p_X at projectile rapidity from the number of Testparticles N_{Test}/A for LV at low energies (with $\Delta t = 2.5$)

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Fig. 1a

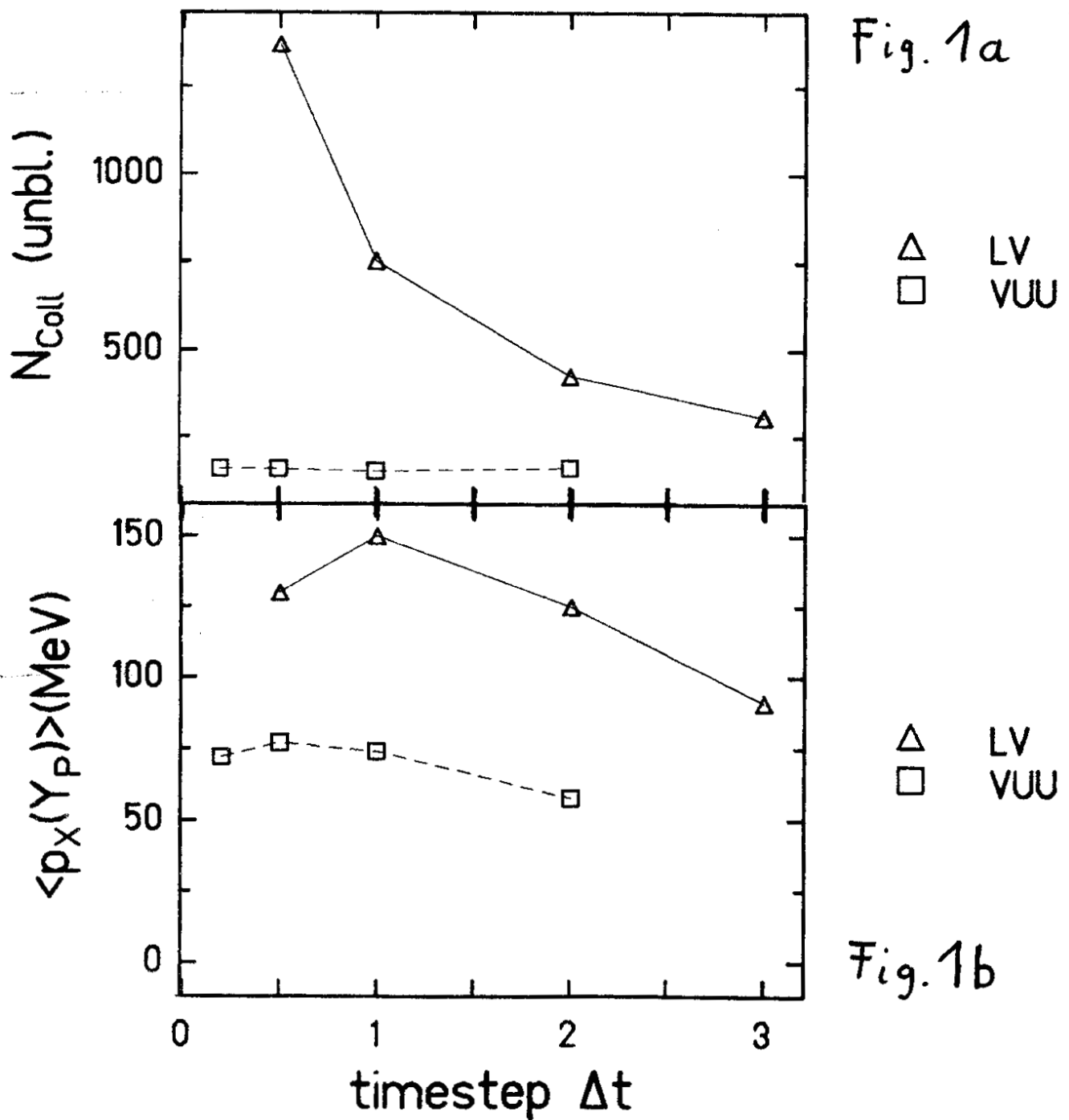


Fig. 1b

Ca(50MeV)+Ca LV Hard

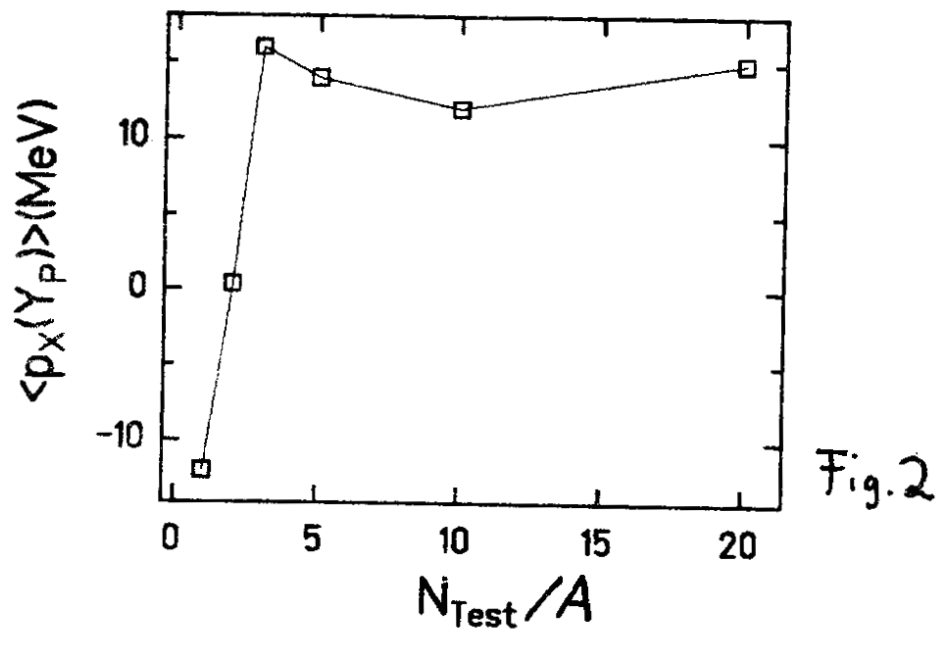


Fig. 2