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Event-by-event multi-harmonic correlations of different flow amplitudes in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76$ TeV

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Abstract

The genuine event-by-event correlations between three flow amplitudes are measured for the first time in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76$ TeV by the ALICE Collaboration at the Large Hadron Collider. The results are obtained with recently developed observables, the higher order Symmetric Cumulants (SC), in the midrapidity region $|\eta| < 0.8$ and the transverse momentum range $0.2 < p_{\text{T}} < 5.0$ GeV/ c . These higher order observables show the same robustness against systematic biases arising from nonflow effects as the two-harmonic SC. The new results cannot be interpreted in terms of lower order flow measurements, since they are dominated by different patterns of event-by-event flow fluctuations. The results are compared with expectations from initial state models such as T_RENTo and next-to-leading order perturbative-QCD+saturation model of initial conditions, followed by iEBE-VISHNU and EKRT viscous hydrodynamic calculations. Model comparisons provide an indication of the development of genuine correlations between the elliptic v_2 , the triangular v_3 and the quadrangular v_4 flow amplitudes during the collective evolution of the medium. The comparison with the predictions for the correlations between v_2 , v_3 and the pentagonal flow magnitude v_5 illustrate the need for further tuning of model parameterizations. Therefore, these results can provide new and independent constraints for the initial conditions and system properties of nuclear matter created in heavy-ion collisions, complementary to previous flow measurements.

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Under extreme values of temperature and/or baryon density, the fundamental theory of the strong nuclear force, quantum chromodynamics (QCD), predicts the existence of a quark–gluon plasma (QGP). In the QGP state, quarks are deconfined from ordinary hadrons, but contrary to the initial theoretical expectations, they remain strongly coupled with the other liberated quarks and form a liquid state [1]. Results extracted from heavy-ion collision data are consistent with the scenario in which the QGP undergoes collective expansion, during which the dominant feature is its hydrodynamic response to the anisotropies in the initial state geometry. This phenomenon is known as anisotropic flow [2]. The collective dynamics of the QGP is sensitive to η/s and ζ/s , where η and ζ are shear and bulk viscosities, and s the entropy density. The overall success of hydrodynamic models to describe the heavy-ion data was pivotal in determining that the value of η/s of the QGP is lower than that of any other liquid found in nature [3]. This conclusion established the perfect liquid paradigm, which is one of the most striking recent discoveries in high-energy physics [4–6].

In models that describe heavy-ion collisions the produced matter evolves collectively, with particles being emitted independently along the azimuthal direction with a distribution $f(\varphi)$. The Fourier series of this distribution is given by

$$f(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} v_n \cos[n(\varphi - \Psi_n)] \right], \quad (1)$$

where the flow amplitude v_n and the symmetry plane angle Ψ_n are two independent degrees of freedom to quantify anisotropic flow [7]. Experimental challenges of measuring these anisotropic flow observables are overcome with the development of multiparticle azimuthal correlations [8–12]. A great deal of additional information can be extracted from correlations between different flow amplitudes or different symmetry planes, or from observables which are sensitive to their intercorrelations [13–17].

The multiparticle observables which quantify the correlations between event-by-event fluctuations of two different flow amplitudes, the *Symmetric Cumulants* (SC), were studied in Refs. [12, 18]. That initial analysis focused only on the centrality dependence of correlations between lower order amplitudes using $SC(k, l) \equiv \langle v_k^2 v_l^2 \rangle - \langle v_k^2 \rangle \langle v_l^2 \rangle$, where the angular brackets denote an average over all events. It was later extended to higher orders (up to 5th order) as well as to the transverse momentum (p_T) dependence of correlations for the lower order amplitudes in Ref. [19]. These results revealed that correlations among different flow magnitudes depend on harmonic orders as well as the collision centrality, while showing moderate p_T dependence in semicentral collisions. It was found that the different $SC(k, l)$ observables have different sensitivities to the initial conditions of a heavy-ion collision and the properties of the created system, while providing discriminating power in separating the effects of η/s from the initial conditions in the final state particle anisotropies. In addition, the SC observables exhibit a better sensitivity to the temperature dependence $\eta/s(T)$ than the individual flow amplitudes, which are sensitive only to the average values $\langle \eta/s \rangle$ [18, 20].

In this paper, a new set of observables, dubbed *higher order SC*, are analyzed [21]. These higher order observables extract the genuine correlation among multiple flow amplitudes, and provide new and independent constraints for both the initial conditions and the QGP properties. The genuine correlation (or cumulant) of three flow amplitudes can be obtained with the following expression [21, 22]:

$$SC(k, l, m) \equiv \langle v_k^2 v_l^2 v_m^2 \rangle - \langle v_k^2 v_l^2 \rangle \langle v_m^2 \rangle - \langle v_k^2 v_m^2 \rangle \langle v_l^2 \rangle - \langle v_l^2 v_m^2 \rangle \langle v_k^2 \rangle + 2 \langle v_k^2 \rangle \langle v_l^2 \rangle \langle v_m^2 \rangle. \quad (2)$$

The observable $SC(k, l, m)$ is, by definition, the 3rd order cumulant of three flow amplitudes v_k^2 , v_l^2 and v_m^2 . If the previously used low order flow observables, like $v_n\{2\}$, $v_n\{4\}$ [10] or $SC(k, l)$ [12], would be able to characterize all collective correlations and anisotropic flow in the system, $SC(k, l, m)$ would be identically zero. On the contrary, the non-vanishing results for $SC(k, l, m)$ provide access to the information to which these traditionally used flow observables are insensitive. A further refinement can be achieved with the

normalized versions of these observables defined as

$$\text{NSC}(k, l, m) \equiv \frac{\text{SC}(k, l, m)}{\langle v_k^2 \rangle \langle v_l^2 \rangle \langle v_m^2 \rangle}, \quad (3)$$

which makes it easier to identify the origin of the correlations, either from the initial stage or from the collective expansion [21].

Another important aspect is the sign of the $\text{SC}(k, l, m)$ observables which is not trivial and can be understood if the definition in Eq. (2) is rewritten as:

$$\text{SC}(k, l, m) = \langle (v_k^2 - \langle v_k^2 \rangle) (v_l^2 - \langle v_l^2 \rangle) (v_m^2 - \langle v_m^2 \rangle) \rangle. \quad (4)$$

For $\text{SC}(k, l, m) > 0$ there are the following two distinct possibilities: a) if in an event it was found that $v_k^2 > \langle v_k^2 \rangle$ and $v_l^2 > \langle v_l^2 \rangle$, then the probability to find $v_m^2 > \langle v_m^2 \rangle$ in that event is enhanced (this case is marked as $(+, +, +)$ pattern in the event-by-event flow fluctuations); b) if $v_k^2 > \langle v_k^2 \rangle$ and $v_l^2 < \langle v_l^2 \rangle$ in an event, that enhances the probability to find $v_m^2 < \langle v_m^2 \rangle$ in that event and this is marked as $(+, -, -)$ pattern. By using the same reasoning, it can be concluded that $\text{SC}(k, l, m) < 0$ permits only the $(+, +, -)$ and $(-, -, -)$ patterns. These persistent patterns of event-by-event flow fluctuations are invariant with respect to permutations of amplitudes of flow harmonics in the definition of $\text{SC}(k, l, m)$, and they are a direct imprint of genuine three-harmonic correlations.

Since the flow amplitudes cannot be measured directly in an experiment, Eq. (2) can be used only in theoretical studies.

It was demonstrated in Ref. [21] that $\text{SC}(k, l, m)$, as defined in Eq. (2), can be estimated reliably in an experiment with the following combination of azimuthal correlators:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SC}(k, l, m) &= \langle \langle \cos[k\varphi_1 + l\varphi_2 + m\varphi_3 - k\varphi_4 - l\varphi_5 - m\varphi_6] \rangle \rangle \\ &- \langle \langle \cos[k\varphi_1 + l\varphi_2 - k\varphi_3 - l\varphi_4] \rangle \rangle \langle \langle \cos[m(\varphi_5 - \varphi_6)] \rangle \rangle \\ &- \langle \langle \cos[k\varphi_1 + m\varphi_2 - k\varphi_5 - m\varphi_6] \rangle \rangle \langle \langle \cos[l(\varphi_3 - \varphi_4)] \rangle \rangle \\ &- \langle \langle \cos[l\varphi_3 + m\varphi_4 - l\varphi_5 - m\varphi_6] \rangle \rangle \langle \langle \cos[k(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)] \rangle \rangle \\ &+ 2 \langle \langle \cos[k(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)] \rangle \rangle \langle \langle \cos[l(\varphi_3 - \varphi_4)] \rangle \rangle \langle \langle \cos[m(\varphi_5 - \varphi_6)] \rangle \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The double average notation indicates that in the first step averaging is performed over all distinct combinations of 2, 4, or 6 particles within the same event, and then these results are averaged over all events. Each azimuthal correlator in the above estimator can be measured efficiently and exactly with the Generic Framework published in Ref. [12]. By definition, this estimator ensures that large systematic biases from self-correlations and symmetry planes Ψ_n are eliminated. In the absence of nonflow (correlations between a few particles unrelated to collective phenomena and anisotropic flow), it reduces analytically to Eq. (2), even for the case of large event-by-event flow fluctuations [21].

The results presented in this paper are obtained with the data sample from Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76$ TeV collected with the ALICE detector in 2010. After the event and track selection criteria are applied, the data sample corresponds to about 8.2×10^6 minimum bias events for the 0–50% centrality range.

A detailed description of the ALICE detector and its performance can be found in Refs. [23–26]. The time projection chamber (TPC) was used to reconstruct charged particles and measure their momenta with full azimuthal coverage in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 0.8$ [27]. The inner tracking system (ITS) was also used in the reconstruction to improve the vertex determination and the momentum resolution, while its innermost part, the silicon pixel detector (SPD) [28, 29], provided the default centrality estimator in this analysis. Two scintillator arrays (V0A and V0C), which cover the pseudorapidity ranges

$2.8 < \eta < 5.1$ and $-3.7 < \eta < -1.7$, respectively, were used for triggering and for an alternative determination of centrality [30–32]. The trigger conditions are identical to those described in Refs. [30, 33].

The event and track selection criteria are based on the previous lower order SC analyses [18, 19]. A requirement that the reconstructed primary vertex (PV) is within ± 10 cm from the nominal interaction point along the beam axis is applied. The main analysis is performed using tracks reconstructed only with the TPC (referred to as TPC-only further in the text) in the kinematic range $0.2 < p_T < 5.0$ GeV/c and $|\eta| < 0.8$. The low p_T cutoff decreases the biases from the smaller reconstruction efficiency, while the high p_T cutoff reduces the anisotropic contaminations in the azimuthal distributions emerging from the jets. The selected tracks are reconstructed with a minimum of 70 space points out of the maximum of 159 in TPC and the χ^2/NDF of their momentum fit is required to be $0.1 < \chi^2/NDF < 4.0$. Furthermore, only tracks with a maximum distance of closest approach (DCA) to the primary vertex of 2.4 cm in the transverse plane and 3.2 cm along the beam axis are kept for the analysis. This choice of selection for the DCA reduces the contributions from secondary tracks. These criteria have already been used in Ref. [18] with hybrid tracks, for which the tracking information is combined from both the TPC and the ITS detectors to achieve the best transverse momentum resolution and to correct for the non-uniform azimuthal acceptance due to dead zones in the SPD [26, 34]. The tracks that appear to change abruptly the direction, e.g. due to multiple scattering or K^\pm decays, are rejected. Using the previous selection criteria, the contamination from secondaries in TPC-only tracks varies from about 16% at 0.2 GeV/c to about 7% at 5 GeV/c. The track reconstruction efficiency is almost constant at about 80–88% as a function of transverse momentum.

Corrections both for non-uniform reconstruction efficiency (NUE) as a function of transverse momentum and non-uniform acceptance (NUA) as a function of azimuthal angle are computed in form of particle weights to each individual azimuthal correlator in Eq. (5), by following the prescription outlined in Ref. [12]. Particle weights for NUE were obtained with the Monte Carlo generator HIJING (Heavy-Ion Jet Interaction Generator) [35], by comparing the p_T yields at reconstructed and generated level. On the other hand, particle weights for NUA are data driven, since due to random event-by-event fluctuations of the impact parameter vector (which is defined as a vector connecting two centers of colliding heavy-ions), the azimuthal distribution of produced particles averaged over all events must be flat for a detector with uniform azimuthal acceptance. Only corrections for NUE as a function of p_T are applied to all the tracks selected for the main analysis using the default selection criteria. Effects of NUA in the distribution of azimuthal angles of TPC-only tracks were also checked, but found to be negligible.

The estimator in Eq. (5) can be systematically biased due to nonflow correlations, which can be estimated with HIJING. This is a widely used Monte Carlo model to study particle production and jets in nuclear collisions that implements all relevant sources of nonflow correlations (jet production and fragmentation, particle decays, etc.), but has no collective effects like anisotropic flow. Therefore, it is an ideal realistic model to estimate the nonflow contribution in the $SC(k, l, m)$ observables. The overall nonflow contribution to $SC(k, l, m)$ exhibits the generic scaling as a function of multiplicity M , which can be parameterized as $\delta_3^{SC} = \frac{\alpha}{M^3} + \frac{\beta}{M^4} + \frac{\gamma}{M^3}$, where α, β and γ are three constants [21]. In heavy-ion collisions, characterized by large values of multiplicity, such contribution is well suppressed. For all $SC(k, l, m)$ observables reported in this paper, HIJING results are compatible with zero for the centrality range 0–50% (for instance, predictions for $SC(2,3,4)$ and $SC(2,3,5)$ can be found in Fig. 7 of Ref. [21]).

The remaining systematic uncertainties are estimated by varying each criterion of the event and track selection independently. The values of $SC(k, l, m)$ obtained after the variation are compared in each centrality interval with the ones from the default selection. The variation contributes to the systematic uncertainty if the difference between the two results lie more than one σ away from zero. In the previous, σ is the uncertainty of the difference, calculated considering the correlation between the two results. The total systematic uncertainty is obtained as the quadratic sum of all sources. The importance of each trial depends on the observable under consideration. The data sample was collected with two configurations

of the magnetic field polarity in the solenoid magnet in which the ALICE central barrel detectors are embedded, giving two samples with similar numbers of events. As the main analysis uses both samples, the systematic effect is estimated individually for each orientation of the field polarity. No significant impact is seen in this case. In the next paragraph, the ranges of relative variations observed in semicentral collisions for each trial are reported. It has to be noted that the variations observed in collisions with a centrality up to 20%, and for SC(2,4,6) and SC(3,4,5) in the range 20–30%, can be larger than the ones indicated due to the small size of the signal and are therefore not reported. The systematic uncertainties are represented by the shaded boxes around each data point in all figures. On the other hand, there are variations which impact some, if not all, of the analysed combinations of SC(k, l, m). For example, the distance of the PV to the nominal interaction point along the beam direction when changed to ± 6 cm and to ± 12 cm does not impact half of the combinations, i.e. SC(2,3,5), NSC(2,3,5) and SC(3,4,5), but results to an uncertainty of about 3.2% for SC(2,3,4) and NSC(2,3,4). For the tightening the DCA criterion in the plane transverse to the beam direction from 2.4 cm to 1 cm and 2 cm, only SC(2,4,6) is not affected, while there is an effect of about 12% for NSC(2,3,4) to about 36% for SC(2,3,5). The default analysis uses the centrality estimated from the particle multiplicity in the SPD, while the systematic check is based on the determination of the centrality with the V0 detector. This change impacts the final results for all combinations with the exception of SC(3,4,5), with values ranging from about 15% for SC(2,3,4) and its normalised version to 21% for SC(2,3,5). The variation of the number of space points in the TPC, from at least 70 points to 50 and then to 100, leads to systematic bias in the final results in SC(2,3,4), SC(2,3,5) and NSC(2,3,5) ranging from 5% for SC(2,3,4) to 14% for SC(2,3,5). This is also the case for the quality of fit χ^2/NDF , when the default range of $0.1 < \chi^2/NDF < 4.0$ is changed into $0.3 < \chi^2/NDF < 4.0$ and $0.1 < \chi^2/NDF < 3.5$. This leads to significant differences for SC(2,4,6), SC(3,4,5) and NSC(2,3,5) (about 12% for NSC(2,3,5)), and for the tightening of the DCA criterion along the beam axis from 3.2 cm to 2.1 cm with SC(2,3,5) and its normalised version (about 8–10%). Finally, non-negligible systematic effects can be seen using hybrid tracks, which also contain smaller contamination from secondaries, leading to an estimation of their systematic effects in the default selection. For this last systematic check, all combinations see significant changes (between 4% and 19% for SC(2,3,4) and NSC(2,3,5), respectively).

The centrality dependence of SC(k, l, m) and NSC(k, l, m) for the different combinations of flow amplitudes is shown in Fig. 1 (a) and Fig. 1 (b), respectively. When moving from central to semicentral collisions, the deviation from zero of both SC(2,3,4) and SC(2,3,5) becomes stronger, albeit with opposite sign. These non-zero values for semicentral collisions are the first experimental indications of genuine correlations between three flow amplitudes. The results for SC(2,3,5) provide new and independent constraints on the non-linear response contribution in v_5 from v_2 and v_3 , which for the first time do not require any assumption in the derivation on the nature of two-harmonic correlations [36]. For the higher order flow amplitudes, the measurements for SC(2,4,6) and SC(3,4,5) are compatible with zero for all centralities. The negative increasing trend observed for SC(2,3,4) is also present for NSC(2,3,4) (Fig. 1(b)). However, this is not the case for the pair SC(2,3,5) and NSC(2,3,5). The increase seen in the former cannot be found in the latter, which shows a decrease for semicentral events. This different behavior originates from the fact that the non-linear response introduces a genuine correlation among all three amplitudes in SC(2,3,5), while such contribution is not present in SC(2,3,4). The signatures of all observables hold for the whole centrality range within uncertainties.

The results for the higher order SC observables are compared with the event-by-event Eskola-Kajantie-Ruuskanen-Tuominen (EKRT)+viscous [20] and T_RENTo + iEBE-VISHNU hydrodynamic models [37]. In the EKRT model, the initial energy density profiles are calculated using a next-to-leading order perturbative-QCD+saturation model [38, 39]. The subsequent space–time evolution is described by relativistic dissipative fluid dynamics with different temperature parameterizations $\eta/s(T)$. This state-of-the-art model gives a good description of the charged hadron multiplicity and the low- p_T region of the charged hadron spectra at BNL’s Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and at CERN’s Large Hadron Collider

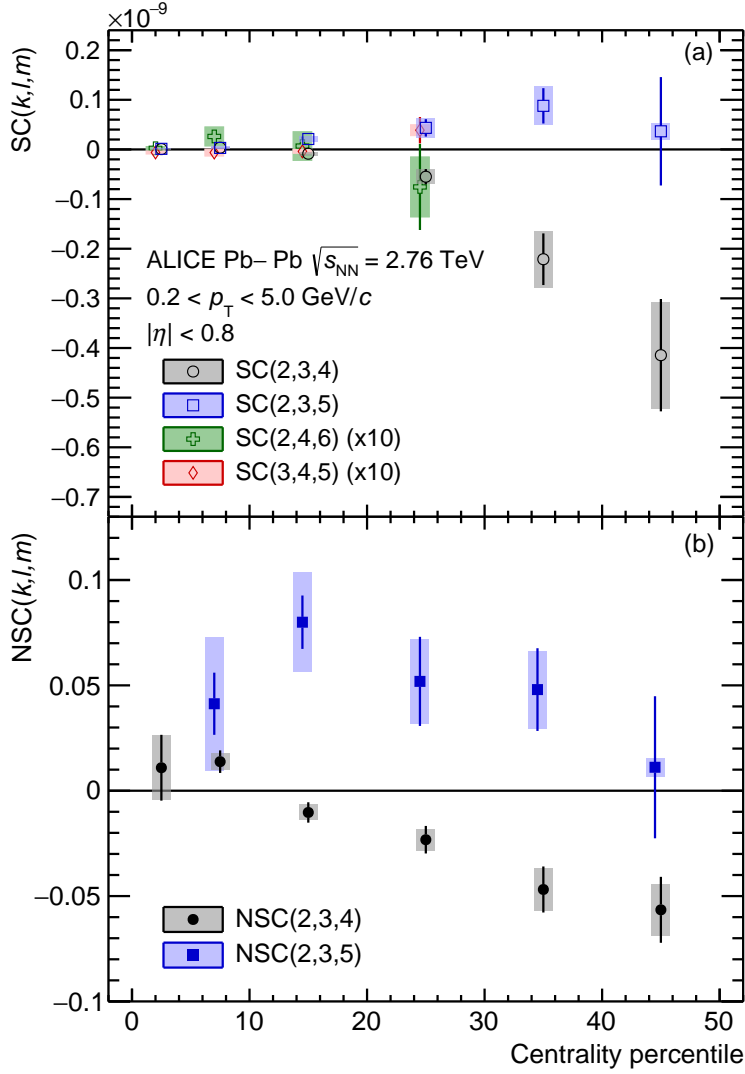


Figure 1: Centrality dependence of $SC(2,3,4)$, $SC(2,3,5)$, $SC(2,4,6)$ and $SC(3,4,5)$ (a) and of $NSC(2,3,4)$ and $NSC(2,3,5)$ (b) in Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV. The statistical (systematic) uncertainties are shown with the lines (boxes).

(see Figs. 11–13 in Ref. [20]). Each of the $\eta/s(T)$ parameterizations is adjusted to reproduce the measured v_n from central to semiperipheral collisions (see Fig. 15 in Ref. [20] and Fig. A.2 in Ref. [19]). For the “param1” parameterization of $\eta/s(T)$, the phase transition from the hadronic to the QGP phase occurs at the lowest temperature, around 150 MeV [20]. This parameterization is also characterized by a moderate slope in $\eta/s(T)$ which decreases (increases) in the hadronic (QGP) phase. The model calculations in which the temperature of the phase transition is larger than for “param1” parameterization are ruled out by the previous measurements [18, 19]. In the study presented in this paper, the EKRT prediction for the centrality dependence of $SC(k,l,m)$ was obtained from a sample consisting of 40k events in the 0–100% centrality range.

The calculations for the $\eta/s(T)$ = “param1” parametrisation, which gives a good description of the lower order SC results, are thus compared to our new results for higher order SC in Fig. 2. They can describe the overall trends of all combinations in the centrality dependence. However, $SC(2,4,6)$ is found to be strictly positive in models.

The hybrid hydrodynamic model T_RENTO+iEBE-VISHNU has successfully described the previous AL-

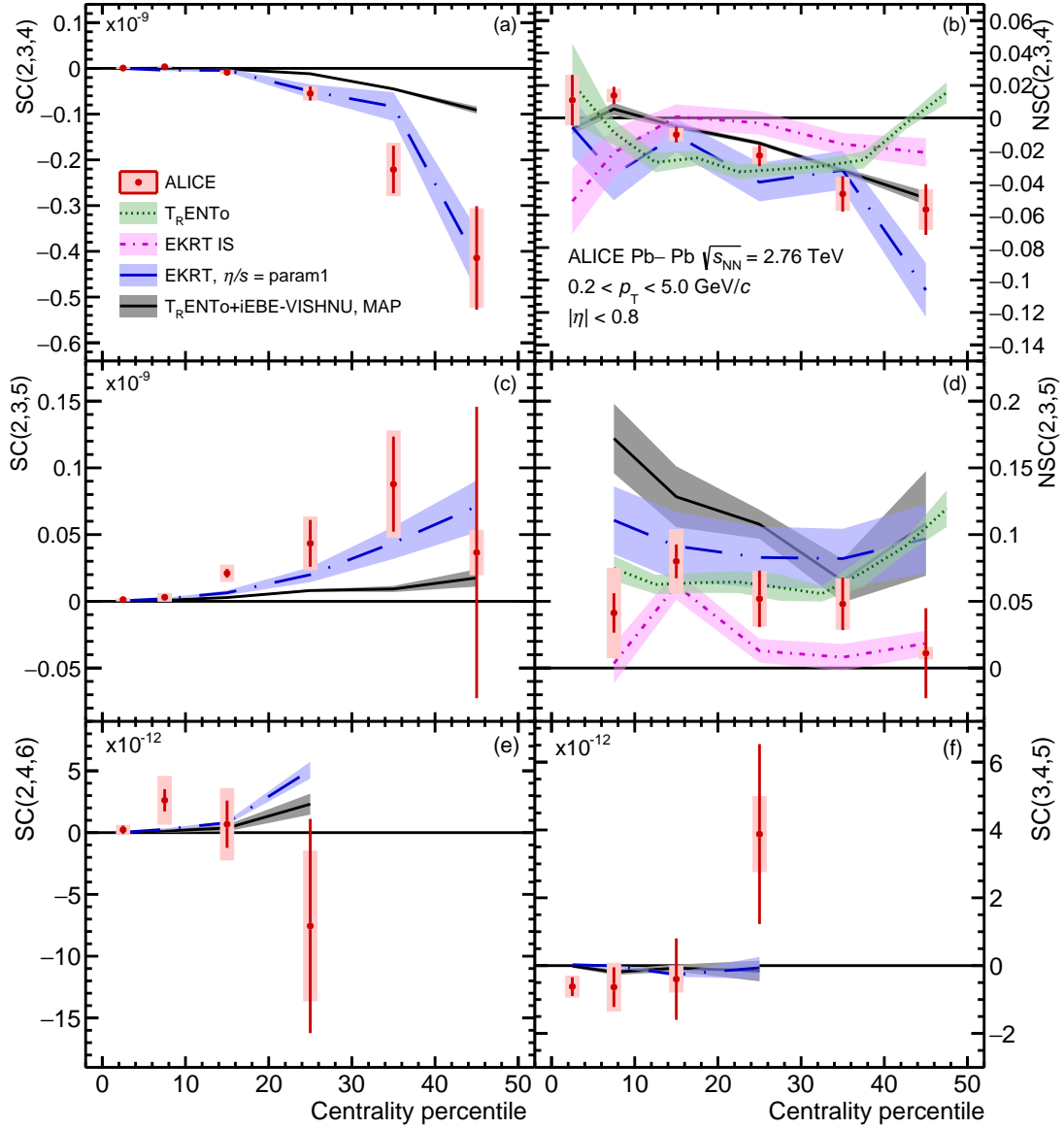


Figure 2: Predictions from the hydrodynamical models for the centrality dependence for the $SC(k, l, m)$ [panels (a), (c), (e) and (f)] and $NSC(k, l, m)$ [panels (b) and (d)] in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV. The statistical uncertainties are shown with coloured bands. The predictions are compared with the ALICE results from Fig. 1 shown with red markers.

ICE measurements [37]. It consists of the $T_{R}ENTo$ model [40] for the initial condition, which is connected with a free streaming to a 2+1 dimensional causal hydrodynamic model VISH2+1 [41, 42]. The evolution is continued after particlization via the UrQMD model [43, 44]. The initial conditions, $\eta/s(T)$, $\zeta/s(T)$ and other free parameters of the hybrid model are extracted by the global Bayesian analysis. We perform a model calculation with the best-fit parameter points chosen by maximum a posteriori (MAP) for Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV as they are reported in Ref. [37]. All the kinematic cuts such as transverse momentum and pseudorapidity intervals are matched with the data reported in this article.

In heavy-ion collisions, the main source of anisotropy in the azimuthal distribution in the final state originates from anisotropies in the initial state geometry. The initial state geometry can be described by quantities called eccentricities ε_n which are the moments of the initial energy (or entropy) density. For

instance, the values of ε_2 and ε_3 indicate to what extent the initial geometry is elliptical and triangular, respectively. For small values of eccentricities, one can approximate the response of the collective evolution to the initial state as a linear relation $v_n = k_n \varepsilon_n$ [45, 46]. For $n = 2, 3$, this linear approximation is more accurate than for higher harmonics where non-linear terms play a non-negligible role [13]. If the higher order eccentricity cumulants are normalized by their averages (analogous to Eq. (3)), the response coefficients k_n can cancel between numerator and denominator. Therefore, any difference in the NSC values calculated from the eccentricities in the initial state to those obtained from the measured flow amplitudes in the final state is an indication of a hydrodynamic non-linear response.

The comparison to the T_RENTo+iEBE-VISHNU calculation is shown in Fig. 2. The overall trends in the centrality dependence are captured by this model. Both SC(2,3,4) and SC(2,3,5) are clearly underestimated, while NSC(2,3,4) and NSC(2,3,5) are in a better agreement with the data. In the case of NSC(k,l,m), predictions from T_RENTo for the initial state are also shown in Fig. 2. As iEBE-VISHNU uses T_RENTo as input, the comparisons between the two sets of predictions can give insights about the development of correlations in the system. The relative change in NSC(2,3,4) for iEBE-VISHNU calculations from the ones from T_RENTo for 10–30% centralities indicates that the correlations have developed during the hydrodynamic evolution of the medium. The same phenomenon is hinted within uncertainties in NSC(2,3,5). In this latter case, this can be explained by the non-linear response contribution to v_5 induced by the low order v_2 and v_3 found in Refs. [47, 48]. For SC(2,4,6) and SC(3,4,5), iEBE-VISHNU is in agreement with the predictions from EKRT within uncertainties.

Recent Bayesian analyses [37, 49] show that the T_RENTo model reproduces certain features of EKRT models with the energy deposition parameter, $p \approx 0.0$. However, as it is shown in Fig. 2 (b) and Fig. 2 (d), the T_RENTo model shows stronger correlations than the EKRT model in semicentral collisions and the resulting SC(k,l,m) show differences as well. Since the EKRT-hydro model does not include effects from bulk viscosity yet and the extracted bulk viscosities from two different Bayesian analyses give sizeable differences, more theoretical studies will be necessary to get any firm conclusions. In summary, we have presented the first measurements of event-by-event correlations between three flow amplitudes, obtained with higher order SC observables in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV. The non-zero values of SC(k,l,m) for semicentral collisions are the first experimental indication of genuine correlations between three flow amplitudes. The relative changes between T_RENTo and iEBE-VISHNU for NSC(2,3,4) and NSC(2,3,5) are consistent with the development of correlations during the collective evolution of the medium. A similar indication can be extracted from the EKRT model. These results provide new constraints on the non-linear response contribution in v_5 from v_2 and v_3 . The new results for SC(k,l,m) provide independent constraints for the initial conditions, system properties, non-linear response and possible patterns of event-by-event flow fluctuations.

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