

**Onset of radial flow in  $p + p$  collisions**Kun Jiang,<sup>1</sup> Yinying Zhu,<sup>1</sup> Weitao Liu,<sup>1,\*</sup> Hongfang Chen,<sup>1</sup> Cheng Li,<sup>1</sup> Lijuan Ruan,<sup>2</sup> Zebo Tang,<sup>1,†</sup> and Zhangbu Xu<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>*Department of Modern Physics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China*<sup>2</sup>*Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA*

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It has been debated for decades whether hadrons emerging from  $p + p$  collisions exhibit collective expansion. The signal of the collective motion in  $p + p$  collisions is not as clear or as clean as in heavy-ion collisions because of the low multiplicity and large fluctuation in  $p + p$  collisions. The Tsallis blast-wave (TBW) model is a thermodynamic approach, introduced to handle the overwhelming correlation and fluctuation in the hadronic processes. We have systematically studied the identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions from the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) to the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) using TBW and have found no appreciable radial flow in  $p + p$  collisions below  $\sqrt{s} = 900$  GeV. At the LHC higher energy of 7 TeV in  $p + p$  collisions, the radial flow velocity achieves an average value of  $\langle\beta\rangle = 0.320 \pm 0.005$ . This flow velocity is comparable to that in peripheral (40–60%) Au + Au collisions at the RHIC. Breaking of the identified particle spectra  $m_T$  scaling was also observed at the LHC from a model-independent test.

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

The searches for a quark-gluon plasma (QGP) have been conducted in hadron collisions at all collision energies and in all collision species. Many have argued that some features observed in  $p + p$  collisions at high multiplicity and/or high energy resemble a QGP. The most acclaimed evidence has been the observation of a collective expansion [1–3]. However, what constitutes a collective expansion when the particles that reach our detectors are free streaming by nature? While it is seemingly trivial to argue that flow is a mass effect and therefore a systematic enhancement of heavier particles at higher momentum [4–7] would be a signature of flow, large fluctuations in temperature and/or the creation of minijets in semihard processes can produce similar qualitative features [8–10]. Hydrodynamic simulation with small viscous correction has been successful in interpreting many phenomena observed in heavy-ion collisions. However, its applicability to  $p + p$  collisions with large fluctuation and viscosity is not obvious.

With increasing colliding energy in  $p + p$  collisions, two possible phenomena emerge: color glass condensates (CGCs) and a holographic pomeron model mathematical equivalence to black hole radiation in 5 + 5 dimensions [11]. At the energies currently available at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a model incorporating CGCs [12] correctly describes the CMS Collaboration data on dihadron correlation [13] without flow while the argument from black hole radiation predicts large radial flow in  $p + p$  collisions at high multiplicity [11,14]. Recently, ongoing debates focus on whether hydrodynamics are applicable to a small system when such a system has a large shear viscous effect by design. It is therefore problematic for the elliptic flow to be quantitatively

interpreted in a hydrodynamic evolution for  $p + p$  collisions. However, radial flow is expected to be less affected by the viscous correction. Anisotropic flow is by definition a relative quantity while radial flow velocity is an absolute velocity. Extracting this radial velocity has been at a qualitative level and is model dependent in both  $p + p$  and  $A + A$  collisions. The main reason of the failure is that radial flow is not the dominant feature in identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions and to a progressively lesser degree in  $A + A$  collisions.

Although it is known that fragmentation from hard processes and hadronization in QCD contribute significantly to the particle production at low momentum, it has been a subject of investigation to find an elegant approach to incorporate these phenomena in a thermodynamic or statistical approach. The framework allows application of a hydrodynamic-inspired blast-wave model [15] to extract flow velocity while being able to correctly fit the available data with very good  $\chi^2$  per degree of freedom (ndf) in a large transverse momentum range. This is the philosophy presented in this article. We use a nonextensive thermodynamic model, Tsallis statistics [16], to describe the particle production from QCD hadronization including jet contribution. We incorporate it into the blast-wave expansion to fit data and extract flow velocity and other thermodynamic parameters [17–19]. The model can be vetted by its simplicity in interpreting physics phenomena and by achieving the best  $\chi^2$  description of the data. We emphasize that this is not to replace the more fundamental QCD theory or hydrodynamic simulation. On the contrary, the method resembles an “experimental” approach to extract physical quantities from data, which can then be concisely used to compare with elaborated theories.

This article is organized as follows: we present the analysis method of all the identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200, 540, 900,$  and  $7000$  GeV. A two-particle correlation function is also introduced in this article based on the Tsallis blast-wave (TBW) model. The results from the TBW model fits to the data are presented in the subsequent section. The result provides an onset of beam energy where radial

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flow has been developed in minimum-bias  $p + p$  collisions. At the end, possible improvement and more data collection and analyses are discussed.

## II. ANALYSIS METHOD

Similar to what has been presented in the literature [5,15,17–21], we have used the TBW model to extract thermodynamic and hydrodynamic quantities from data. The single-particle spectrum can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \left. \frac{d^2 N}{2\pi m_T dm_T dy} \right|_{y=0} \\ &= A \int_{-y_b}^{+y_b} e^{\sqrt{y_b^2 - y_s^2}} m_T \cosh(y_s) dy_s \\ & \quad \times \int_0^R r dr \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left[ 1 + \frac{q-1}{T} E_T \right]^{-1/(q-1)} d\phi, \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$m_T = \sqrt{p_T^2 + m^2}, \quad (2)$$

$$y_b = \ln(\sqrt{s_{NN}}/m_N), \quad (3)$$

$$E_T = m_T \cosh(y_s) \cosh(\rho) - p_T \sinh(\rho) \cos(\phi). \quad (4)$$

$A$  is a normalization factor,  $m$  is the mass of the particle,  $m_N$  is the mass of the colliding nucleon,  $y_s$  is the rapidity of the emitting source,  $y_b$  is the beam rapidity, and  $\phi$  is the azimuthal angle between the flow velocity and the emitted particle velocity in the rest frame of the emitting source. The emitting source is boosted with the boost angle

$$\rho = \tanh^{-1} \left[ \beta_S \left( \frac{r}{R} \right)^n \right], \quad (5)$$

where  $r$  is the radius of the emitting source,  $\beta_S$  is the velocity of the source at the outermost radius ( $r = R$ ), and  $n$  ( $=1$ ) determines the source velocity profile.

One of the significant advantages of TBW in comparison to the Boltzmann-Gibbs blast-wave model is the capability of describing a system with large fluctuation and correlation, which is the case with  $p + p$  collisions. Based on the nonextensive Tsallis statistics, the temperature distribution of the nonequilibrium system is characterized by the parameters  $q$  and  $T$ , where  $T$  is related to the average of the inverse temperature and the nonextensivity parameter  $q$  can be interpreted as its fluctuation [22–24]. The Tsallis distribution converges to the Boltzmann-Gibbs distribution when  $q$  tends to unity. When  $q - 1$  is small, the TBW approach is not different from many treatments on dissipative hydrodynamics with a small perturbation around the Boltzmann distribution [25–28]. In the TBW model, the free parameters required to predict the  $p_T$  spectra of a given particle species are  $\beta_S$ ,  $T$ ,  $q$ , and  $A$ . If only the shape is concerned, the normalization factor  $A$  is not needed.

In recent theory development, the correlations originated from initial gluon scattering could be enhanced by the radial pressure from the bulk flow [29,30]. Dusling and Venugopalan [31] presented a schematic description of the enhancement. It

has been argued that significant radial flow has been ruled out by the dihadron correlation from the CMS Collaboration [13]. It is therefore imperative to study the correlation effect in the present of radial flow in  $p + p$  collisions. To implement such an effect in the TBW model, we have introduced an anisotropic emission of particles from the source to account for the particles produced from the initial correlated gluon fragmentation. The anisotropic emission is described as

$$\frac{dN}{d\phi} \propto 1 + 2p_2 \cos(2\phi), \quad (6)$$

where  $\phi$  represents the angle between the individual emitted particle and the back-to-back axis. The TBW formula becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \left. \frac{d^2 N}{2\pi m_T dm_T dy} \right|_{y=0} = A \int_{-y_b}^{+y_b} e^{\sqrt{y_b^2 - y_s^2}} m_T \cosh(y_s) dy_s \\ & \quad \times \int_0^R r dr \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [1 + 2p_2 \cos(2\phi)] \\ & \quad \times \left[ 1 + \frac{q-1}{T} E_T \right]^{-1/(q-1)} d\phi. \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

The azimuthal anisotropy coefficient  $c_2$  can be obtained through

$$c_2(p_T) = \langle \cos(2\phi) \rangle. \quad (8)$$

The correlated distribution is on top of a large isotropic underlying event background. Taking this contribution into account,  $c_2$  becomes

$$c_2(p_T) = s_2 \langle \cos(2\phi) \rangle, \quad (9)$$

where  $s_2$  depicts the fraction of the anisotropic emitting source ( $0 \leq s_2 \leq 1$ ). The dihadron correlation can be obtained from the  $c_2$  of hadrons through

$$\frac{dN^{\text{Assoc}}}{N^{\text{Trig}} d(\Delta\phi)} = \frac{N^{\text{Assoc}}}{2\pi} [1 + c_2^{\text{Trig}} c_2^{\text{Assoc}} \cos(2\Delta\phi)]. \quad (10)$$

It is important to note that this procedure is different from the implementations of elliptic flow in the blast-wave model (e.g. [19,21]). Here we focus on the collimation of the initial azimuthal correlation by radial flow.

The STAR and PHENIX Collaborations at the RHIC; the UA1, UA2, and UA5 Collaborations at Sp $\bar{p}$ S; the E735 Collaboration at FermiLab; and the CMS and ALICE Collaborations at LHC have published a comprehensive collection of identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions at 200, 540, and 900 GeV and 7 TeV. Table I lists the available data from each reference from the collaborations. They are all from minimum bias (non-single-diffractive or nondiffractive) events. The particle  $p_T$  spectrum from different types of minimum bias events only differs by an overall normalization factor. The shape is the same.

Figure 1(c) shows the  $m_T$  spectra of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $\pi^0$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p$ ,  $\bar{p}$ ,  $\Lambda$  ( $\bar{\Lambda}$ ), and  $\Xi^\pm$  and inclusive charged hadrons in  $p + p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 900$  GeV. The  $p_T$  spectra of these particles are fit simultaneously with the TBW model [Eq. (1)]. The fit parameters and the best  $\chi^2$  per fitting degree of freedom

TABLE I. Summary of the data references.

|        | $\pi^\pm, K^\pm, p$ | $\pi^0, \eta$ | $K_S^0, \Lambda, \Xi^\pm, \Omega$ | $K^{*0}, \phi$ | $h^\pm$ |
|--------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| STAR   | [32]                |               | [33]                              |                | [34]    |
| PHENIX | [35]                | [36,37]       |                                   |                |         |
| UA1    |                     |               |                                   |                | [38]    |
| UA2    | [39]                | [40,41]       | [39]                              |                |         |
| UA5    | [42]                |               | [42]                              |                |         |
| E735   | [1]                 |               |                                   |                |         |
| CMS    | [6]                 |               | [43]                              |                | [44]    |
| ALICE  | [45]                | [46]          | [47,48]                           | [49]           | [50]    |
| ATLAS  |                     |               |                                   |                | [51]    |

(ndf) are listed in Table II. The parameters  $\langle\beta\rangle = 2\beta_S/3$  and  $T$  are common to all of the particle species. The parameters  $q_M$  and  $q_B$  are common to all of the mesons and baryons, respectively. In addition to these four common parameters, each particle species has its own normalization factor  $A$ . The

fit function for the inclusive charged hadron is the sum of that for  $\pi^\pm, K^\pm, p$ , and  $\bar{p}$ . We perform a least- $\chi^2$  fit of the 24  $p_T$  spectra simultaneously with the TBW functions controlled by the 4 + 24 parameters. Then the  $p_T$  spectra are converted to  $m_T$  spectra and rescaled to have the same value at  $m_T = 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  as  $\pi^+$ , as shown in Fig. 1(c). The pion mass is applied for inclusive charged hadrons when we do the  $p_T$  to  $m_T$  spectra conversion. The data and fit curve have the same rescale factor. Figure 1(d) and Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) show the rescaled identified hadron and inclusive charged hadron  $m_T$  spectra in  $p + p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$  and  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  and 540 GeV, respectively. The TBW model fit curves are shown for all the particles as well.

At all the energies, all the spectra display power-law behavior at high  $m_T$  with grouping of baryons and mesons. The TBW model describes the shape of the  $m_T$  spectra of more than ten particles over a broad  $m_T$  range (0–10  $\text{GeV}/c^2$ ) at each energy, with only four quantities, as listed in Table II. The quality of the fits is very good; the ratio of  $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$  is between 1.00 and 1.22. At the energies available at the LHC,

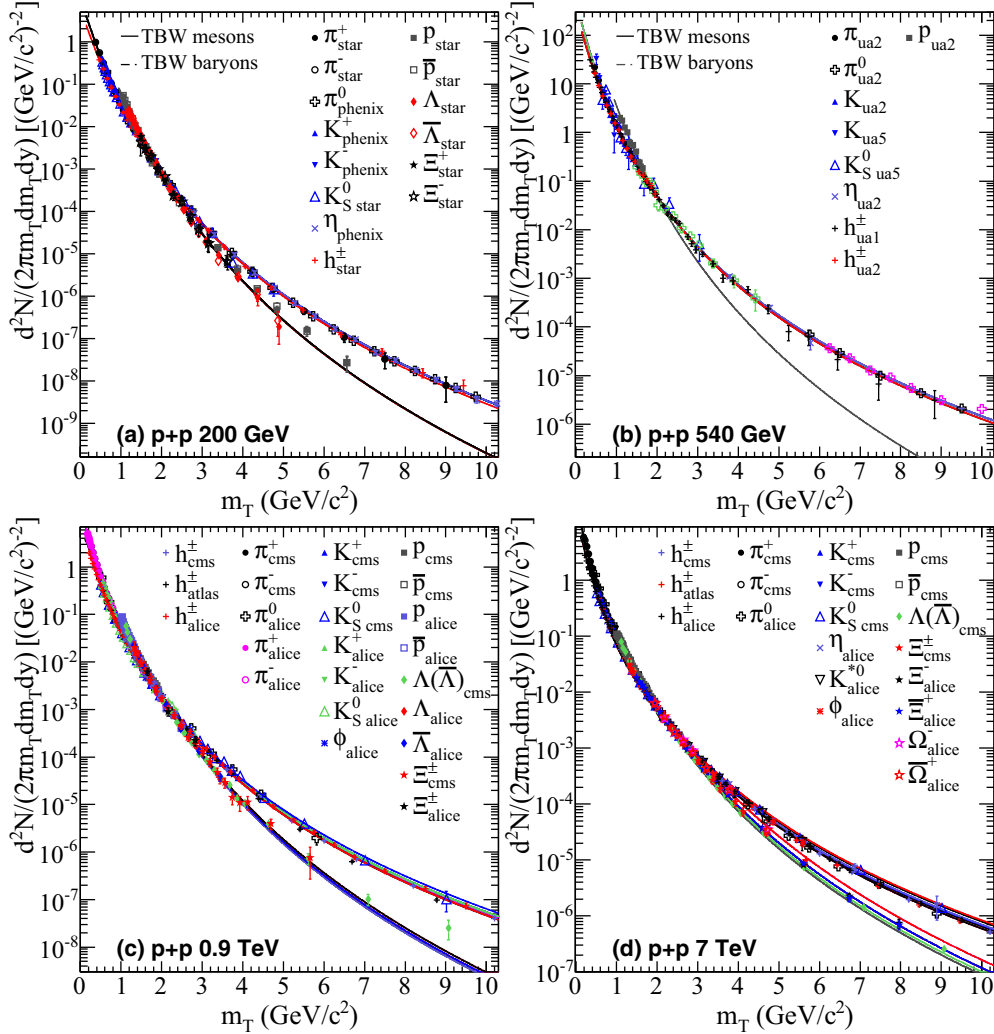


FIG. 1. (Color online) Identified particle  $m_T$  spectra in  $p + p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV}$  (a), 540 GeV (b), 0.9 TeV (c), and 7 TeV (d). The symbols represent experimental measurements and the curves represent the TBW model fit results. At each energy, all of the  $m_T$  spectra are rescaled to have the same value at  $m_T = 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  as  $\pi^+$ . The references of the experimental measurement are summarized in Table I.

TABLE II. Summary of the parameters.

| $\sqrt{s}$ | $\langle\beta\rangle$     | $T$ (MeV)      | $q_M - 1$           | $q_B - 1$           | $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ |
|------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 7 TeV      | $0.320 \pm 0.005$         | $70.3 \pm 0.8$ | $0.1314 \pm 0.0003$ | $0.1035 \pm 0.0008$ | 490/431             |
| 900 GeV    | $0.264 \pm 0.005$         | $74.6 \pm 0.5$ | $0.1127 \pm 0.0003$ | $0.0827 \pm 0.0008$ | 545/501             |
| 540 GeV    | $0.000^{+0.105}_{-0.000}$ | $81.8 \pm 0.6$ | $0.1158 \pm 0.0007$ | $0.0841 \pm 0.0036$ | 205/168             |
| 200 GeV    | $0.000^{+0.124}_{-0.000}$ | $92.3 \pm 2.7$ | $0.0946 \pm 0.0006$ | $0.0743 \pm 0.0015$ | 268/268             |

the radial flow velocity achieved an average value of  $\langle\beta\rangle = 0.320 \pm 0.005$  and  $0.264 \pm 0.005$  in  $p + p$  collisions at 7 TeV and 900 GeV, respectively. The velocity is comparable to that in peripheral (40–60%) Au + Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 200$  GeV at the RHIC ( $0.282 \pm 0.017$  [17]). While at  $\sqrt{s} = 540$  GeV and 200 GeV, the velocity in  $p + p$  collisions is consistent with zero ( $\langle\beta\rangle = 0.000^{+0.105}_{-0.000}$  and  $0.000^{+0.124}_{-0.000}$ , respectively). The parameter  $q$  is found to increase with increasing beam energy, and it is significantly higher for mesons than for baryons at all of the energies.  $T$  shows a reverse dependence

on beam energy. The experimental observation of meson and baryon grouping [33] is described by the TBW model with two different  $q$  parameters, but the extract physics implication is to be understood.

The  $m_T$  spectra of identified hadrons was found to have a universal behavior in high-energy  $p + p$  collisions, known as  $m_T$  scaling. Equations (1)–(5) show that if there is a nonzero radial flow, the shape of the  $m_T$  spectra depends not only on  $m_T$  but also on  $p_T$ . This means the  $m_T$  scaling will be broken if there is a nonzero radial flow. To have a closer look at the

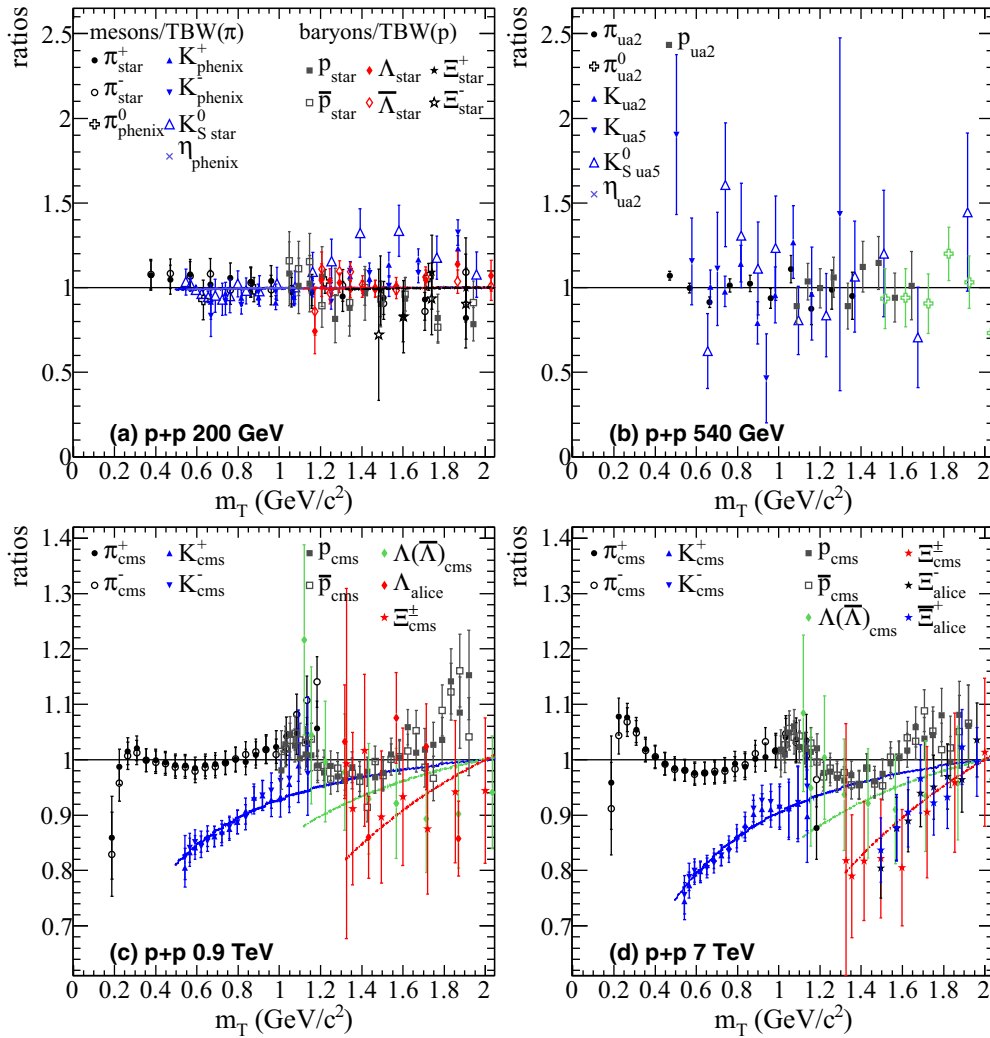


FIG. 2. (Color online)  $m_T$  scaling behavior of the identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV (a), 540 GeV (b), 0.9 TeV (c), and 7 TeV (d). For mesons (baryons), the data points represent the ratio of rescaled  $m_T$  spectra shown in Fig. 1 to the corresponding TBW curve of  $\pi^+$  ( $p$ ).



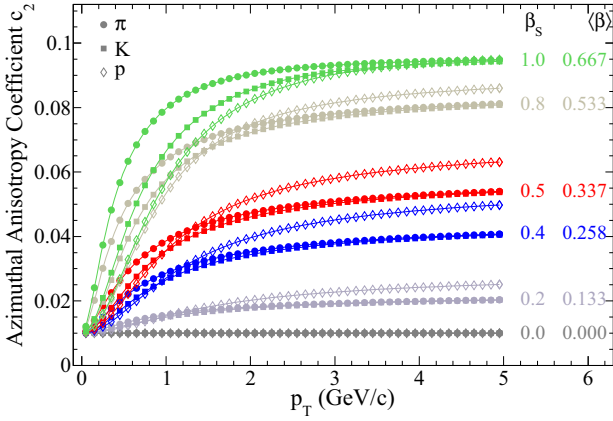


FIG. 3. (Color online) The azimuthal anisotropy coefficient  $c_2$  versus  $p_T$  for pions (solid circles), kaons (solid squares), and protons (open diamonds), illustrating the radial flow effect in Eq. (9). Both  $p_2$  and  $s_2$  are assumed to be 10%.  $T$ ,  $q_M$ , and  $q_B$  are fixed to the values extracted from 7 TeV data (67.9 MeV, 1.1315, and 1.1009, respectively). The points with different colors correspond to different radial flow velocities.

effects on the  $m_T$  spectra induced by the nonzero radial flow, we tested the  $m_T$  scaling behavior of the identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions as shown in Fig. 2. To illustrate the effect in linear scale, all of the data points and fit curves (shown in Fig. 1) for mesons are divided by the fit curve of  $\pi^+$ ; those for baryons are divided by the fit curve of  $p$ . In  $p + p$  collisions at 900 GeV, as shown in Fig. 2(c), the ratio for  $K^\pm$  is significantly below unity and decreases with decreasing  $m_T$ . The  $\Xi^\pm$  data points are also systematically below unity despite the large uncertainties. At higher beam energy, the deviation from the  $m_T$  scaling for  $K^\pm$  and  $\Xi^\pm$  is larger and more clear. It is clearly seen that the  $m_T$  scaling of identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions is broken at beam energies above 900 GeV. This breaking can be described by the TBW model with nonzero radial flow velocity very well. At lower energies, all the spectra still follow the  $m_T$  scaling, as shown in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b).

To illustrate how radial flow boosts the particle collinear emission and enhances a pre-existing angular correlation, we assume that there is an existing correlation originating from the initial condition and manifesting itself as anisotropic emission from its source at rest with  $p_2$ , and only a fraction of all emission sources ( $s_2$ ) possess this characteristic and are driven by the later stage bulk radial flow. The scenarios are independent of hadron  $p_T$  and source

location, and only serve for illustration purpose and are likely not realistic. Figure 3 shows the azimuthal anisotropy coefficient  $c_2$  as a function of  $p_T$  for pions, kaons, and protons, predicted by the TBW model according to Eq. (9). The parameters  $p_2$  and  $s_2$  are assumed to be 10%. This means the fraction of the initial anisotropic source is 10%, and the particles emitted from the anisotropic source have  $c_2 = 10\%$ . The parameters  $T$ ,  $q_M$ , and  $q_B$  are fixed to the values obtained from the fit to the  $p_T$  spectra at 7 TeV. The radial flow velocity  $\beta_S$  varies from 0.0 to 1.0 (from bottom to top). When there is no radial flow ( $\beta_S = 0$ ),  $c_2$  is a constant of  $10\% \times 10\% = 1\%$ . Once there is a nonzero radial flow,  $c_2$  is enhanced depending on the magnitude of the radial flow velocity and  $p_T$ . It increases rapidly at low- $p_T$  ( $p_T \lesssim 1$  GeV/c) and then tends to saturate. The mass ordering at low- $p_T$  and baryon and meson grouping at intermediate- and high- $p_T$  ranges are reproduced. In the whole  $p_T$  range, the predicted  $c_2$  increases with increasing radial flow velocity. For the radial flow velocity of what we extracted from the 7 TeV data ( $\langle\beta\rangle = 0.320$ ), the saturated  $c_2$  at  $p_T \gtrsim 2$  GeV/c is predicted to be about 4.7% and 5.2% for light mesons and baryons, respectively. As a consequence, the associated particle yield from the dihadron correlation is predicted to be enhanced by a factor of  $\sim 25$  at this  $p_T$  range. The enhancement could be even larger if we take into account the “blue shift” of  $p_T$  spectra induced by radial flow.

In summary, we have applied the TBW model to all the identified particle spectra in  $p + p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200, 540, 900,$  and  $7000$  GeV. The TBW function fits the data quite well over a broad transverse momentum range (0–10 GeV/c). The average radial flow velocity extracted from the fit is consistent with zero in  $p + p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  and  $540$  GeV and increases to  $0.264 \pm 0.005$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 900$  GeV and  $0.320 \pm 0.005$  at 7 TeV. We have also tested the  $m_T$  scaling behavior of the particle spectra. The particle spectra were found to obey  $m_T$  scaling at 200 and 540 GeV, but significantly deviate from  $m_T$  scaling at beam energies above 900 GeV. The breaking of the  $m_T$  scaling at high-energy  $p + p$  collisions may be attributed to radial flow. This is suggestive of an onset of radial flow at certain beam energies where sufficient energy density could generate collective motion to be observed in minimum bias  $p + p$  collisions.

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