



Contribution ID: 85

Type: Poster

Early stage momentum anisotropies and electromagnetic probes of quark-gluon plasma

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 4:05 PM (1 minute)

Various microscopic models suggest that local rest frame momentum anisotropies can be large during the early stages of evolution of the quark-gluon plasma (QGP). In recent years, the framework of relativistic anisotropic hydrodynamics (aHydro) has been developed in order to incorporate momentum anisotropic distributions of the QGP constituents into the phenomenological studies of ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collision experiments. In this talk, the question of how much we can learn about the early-time momentum anisotropies by studying the yield and flow of electromagnetic probes will be addressed. In particular, we compare the sensitivity of hadronic and electromagnetic probes to the initial momentum anisotropy used in hydrodynamic calculations.

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Session Classification: Posters

Track Classification: Initial conditions for hydrodynamics & transport coefficients