EPS HEP 2013 Stockholm





Contribution ID: 825 Type: Talk presentation

Heavy-quarkonium suppression in p-A collisions from parton energy loss in cold QCD matter

Friday, 19 July 2013 09:16 (20 minutes)

The effects of parton energy loss in cold nuclear matter on heavy-quarkonium suppression in p-A collisions are studied. It is shown from first principles that at large quarkonium energy E and small production angle in the nucleus rest frame, the medium-induced energy loss scales as E. Using this result, a phenomenological model depending on a single free parameter is able to reproduce J/psi and Upsilon suppression data in a broad xF and pT range and at various center-of-mass energies. These results strongly support energy loss as the dominant effect in heavy-quarkonium suppression in p-A collisions. Predictions for J/psi and Upsilon suppression in p-Pb collisions at the LHC are made.

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Track Classification: Ultrarelativistic Heavy Ions