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Holographic thermalization patterns

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Understanding the process driving the complicated field dynamics during a relativistic heavy ion collision presents and exceptionally difficult problem, where

the early onset of hydrodynamical behaviour of the produced matter points towards the system being strongly coupled.

An important aspect concerns the thermalization pattern with which the plasma constituents of different energies approach their final thermal distribution.

In the limit of of weak coupling, the thermalization pattern is of the bottom-up type, with the soft excitations reaching thermal equilibrium first. In contrast, holographic studies in the infinite coupling limit point towards top-down thermalization, indicating a transition at intermediate coupling between the two behaviours.

Using a simplified model of holographic thermalization it is possible to go away from the infinite coupling limit. In this talk I will discuss the finite coupling effects on the thermalization pattern of the different plasma constituents, where indeed a shift towards the weak coupling scenario is visible.

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