10th International Workshop on High-pT Physics in the RHIC/LHC era



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Geometry and event activity in very asymmetric collisions

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Recent results at RHIC and LHC on centrality dependence of various high pT observables in very asymmetric collisions (p/d+A) raised a lively discussion on the ways event-by-event geometry is determined experimentally. In other words: are the methods based on average soft production still applicable once a truly hard scattering occurs in a very asymmetric system? In the kinematic limit the answer is obviously no; at some point the naive factorization of soft and hard processes should break down. We will compare strength, weaknesses and limitations of the original Glauber MC and some alternative procedures suggested so far, and explore whether at least part of the model assumptions can be verified or falsified, which would lead to a reduction of the ambiguities in basic quantities like impact parameter, number of participants and collisions.

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