

The 2nd International Conference on the Initial Stages in High-Energy Nuclear Collisions

Contribution ID: 46

Type: **not specified**

Bottom-up thermalization and heavy-ion collisions

Wednesday 3 December 2014 17:55 (20 minutes)

It is a commonly held belief that weak coupling dynamics are in contradiction with the apparently fast thermalization observed in heavy-ion collisions at RHIC and at the LHC. This belief is based on parametric estimates and naturalness arguments in the Bottom-up picture of thermalization of Baier, Mueller, Schiff, and Son. In my talk, I will discuss elevating this parametric picture into a numerical one through simulations in an effective kinetic theory. I discuss how the numerical factors play an important role and show that the Bottom-Up scenario results in rapid thermalization at realistic couplings.

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Session Classification: Wednesday PM-2