

Reaction–diffusion equations in ultra–high energy heavy–ion and pp collisions: Effective first order quark–hadron transition and DCC formation

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Reaction-diffusion equations with suitable boundary conditions have special propagating solutions which very closely resemble the moving interfaces in a first order transition. We show that the dynamics of chiral order parameter in heavy-ion collisions, with dissipative dynamics, is governed by one such equation, specifically, the Newell-Whitehead equation. The chiral transition is, therefore, completed by a propagating interface, exactly as for a first order transition, even though the transition actually is a crossover for relativistic heavy–ion collisions. Same thing also happens when we consider the initial confinement–deconfinement transition with Polyakov loop order parameter. We next consider the case of high multiplicity pp collisions at LHC energy where a transient stage of quark-gluon plasma, where chiral symmetry is restored, may be achieved. We study the dynamics of chiral field for such an event using reaction–diffusion equation approach and show that the interior of such a rapidly expanding system is likely to lead to the formation of a single large domain of disoriented chiral condensate (DCC).

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