

Introduction to the hydrokinetic approach.

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1. Introduction to the hydrokinetic approach.

The modern integrated hydrokinetic approach to A+A collisions will be presented. It includes a complete spatiotemporal picture of nucleus-nucleus collisions :

- 1) the formation of an initial nonthermal state of matter characterized by a certain distribution of the ultrahigh energy density;
- 2) a description of the process of thermalization of such an initial nonequilibrium state and the formation of (almost) locally-equilibrium initial conditions for the subsequent hydrodynamic expansion of the system;
- 3) viscous relativistic hydrodynamic chemically-equilibrium evolution of quark-gluon and then hadronic matter;
- 4) decay of a thermally and chemically (almost) locally-equilibrium medium into hadrons and resonances;
- 5) the evolution of the interacting hadron-resonant gas, and the formation of observable quantities.

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