

# Quark Matter 2019 - the XXVIIIth International Conference on Ultra-relativistic Nucleus-Nucleus Collisions



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## Influence of the neutron skin effect on nuclear isobar collisions at RHIC

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The unambiguous observation of a Chiral Magnetic Effect (CME)-driven charge separation is the core aim of the isobar program at RHIC consisting of  ${}^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}+{}^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$  and  ${}^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}+{}^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV. We quantify the role of the isobars spatial distributions on both the eccentricity and the magnetic field strength within a relativistic hadronic transport approach (SMASH). In particular, we introduce isospin-dependent nucleon-nucleon spatial correlations in the geometric description of both nuclei, deformation for  ${}^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$  and the so-called neutron skin effect for the neutron-rich isobar i.e.  ${}^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$ . The main result of this study is a reduction of the magnetic field strength difference between  ${}^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}+{}^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$  and  ${}^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}+{}^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$  from 10% to 5% in peripheral collisions when the neutron-skin effect is included. Further, we find an increase up to 10% of the eccentricity when deformation is taken into account while neither the neutron skin effect nor the nucleon-nucleon correlations result into a significant modification of this observable with respect to the traditional Woods-Saxon modeling. Our results suggest a smaller CME signal to background ratio for the experimental charge separation measurement in peripheral collisions with the isobar systems than previously expected.

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