

Measurements of the Initial stages of heavy-ion collisions

Dr. Michael Winn

CERN, Genf

Collisions between two heavy ions at hadron colliders, the LHC at CERN and RHIC at BNL, are a laboratory for thermodynamic systems governed by the strong interaction. Despite the relatively small particle numbers of $O(100-10000)$ and the very short process time scales $O(0.1 \text{ fm}/c - 10 \text{ fm}/c)$, the created systems can be described by close-to-ideal hydrodynamics and thermodynamic concepts. After an introduction to the field and its open questions, this talk will focus on recent progress on the exploration of the largely unconstrained initial state of heavy-ion collisions. Finally, a way to measure the speed of the emergence of hydrodynamics is discussed.