A new approach to the properties of hot and dense nuclear matter

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Astrophysical interest:

- Evolution of the early universe
- > Supernovae explosions
- Formation and stability of neutron stars

Governed by properties of the nuclear matter at extreme conditions (high T, P, ρ).

Heavy-ion collisions at relativistic energies



>"Standard" experiments: Detection of nucleons, produced particles, very light fragments in large-acceptance experiments.

Shi, Danielewicz, Lacey, Phys. Rev. C 64 (2001) 034601:

Explosion of the participant zone influences the spectator matter.

Spectator response to the participant blast

Theory

BUU calculations of Shi, Danielewicz, Lacey, Phys. Rev. C 64 (2001) 034601



 \triangleright A measure of the momentum dependence of the nuclear mean field.

Experiment at the FRS - GSI



Experimental results - e.g. ²³⁸U + Pb 1 A GeV





Spectator response to the participant blast

Experiment

M.V. Ricciardi et al., PRL 90 (2003) 212302



- The postulated response of the spectators to the participant blast has been established experimentally.
- Valuable basis for general verification of transport calculations.



Ongoing studies on the influence of a <u>beam energy</u> (energy deposited in the participant zone) and of a <u>neutron-to-proton ratio</u> on the strength of the spectator response to the participant blast.

Dedicated calculations.