

Rescattering effect on the measurement of K^* spin alignment in heavy-ion collisions with UrQMD

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In non-central relativistic heavy ion collisions, the created matter possesses a large initial orbital angular momentum. Particles produced in the collisions could be polarized globally in the direction of the orbital angular momentum due to spin-orbit coupling. The measurement of vector mesons K and ϕ can provide information of the large vorticity of the hot, dense medium created in non-central heavy-ion collisions. Due to short lifetime of K which is comparable to the time between chemical freeze-out and kinetic freeze-out, the reconstructed K suffers from the rescattering effect (A K can not be reconstructed experimentally via the invariant mass method if the K decays in the medium and one or more daughters is scattered in the medium). Because of the anisotropy of the medium in coordination space, the rescattering effect on K could depend on $\cos\theta^*$ thus result in non-uniform $\cos\theta^*$ distribution for reconstructed K . It could be a very important background for the study of global polarization via the K spin alignment measurements in non-central heavy-ion collisions.

In this talk, we will present the study of measurement of K spin alignment in heavy-ion collisions using the UrQMD model. We use the history file to identify K decays and select the reconstructable K^* . The $\cos\theta^*$ distribution is studied and the spin alignment parameter ρ_{00} is extracted and plotted against transverse moment and centrality.

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Primary author: LI, Ziyang (University of Science and Technology of China)

Presenter: LI, Ziyang (University of Science and Technology of China)

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