APR08-2008-000472

Abstract for an Invited Paper for the APR08 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Probing the QCD Plasma with High Energy Jets

PETER JACOBS, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

QCD jets - the collimated spray of hadronic fragments from hard-scattered quarks and gluons - are a ubiquitous feature of high energy collisions. Heavy ion experiments at colliders put jets to a new use, utilizing partonic energy loss and the resulting modification of jet fragmentation as a sensitive, penetrating probe of the QCD plasma. The initial RHIC discovery of jet quenching, via the suppression of high pT hadron yields and di-hadron correlations, has been followed by more detailed observations of its flavor dependence and the response of the medium to partonic energy loss. I will review recent experimental progress in this area, and the quantitative understanding of the QCD plasma that is emerging. I will also discuss new opportunities for such measurements at the LHC and upgraded RHIC.