

Comparison of yields of high-momentum particles from heavy-ion nuclear collisions. The earlier results from CERN-ISR and CERN-SPS are, respectively, for $\alpha + \alpha$ collisions at 31 GeV (green) and for Pb + Pb at 17 GeV (blue; the range of uncertainty is shown). The higher-energy results from RHIC for Au + Au collisions at 130 GeV (red) show greatly reduced yields, suggesting that the hot dense nuclear matter formed in these collisions is much more opaque than 'normal' nuclear matter. See article 022301.

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