Performance of the PHENIX Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detector

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Abstract

Each of the central arms of the PHENIX experiment at RHIC contains a large Ring Imaging Cherenkov detector (RICH). The two RICH detectors are the main electron identifiers for PHENIX. The design goals of the PHENIX RICH will be described, along with the performance actually observed during the first RHIC physics run of Au+Au at $\sqrt{s} = 130 AGeV$ in the summer of 2000. The PHENIX RICH will be compared with existing electron RICH detectors.