

Kinetic effects in nonequilibrium electron-positron plasmas

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In astrophysics optically thick electron-positron plasma is a source of emission from compact objects. Attempts to create relativistic plasma are made in large projects such as ELI and XCELS. Short time-scales of variability and non-thermal spectra of observed radiation in astrophysical sources, as well as small spatial dimensions in laboratory experiments imply absence of equilibrium. We review kinetic effects in relativistic plasmas in the process of thermalization.

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