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## Probing the longitudinal matter distribution in heavy ion collisions with heavy flavor

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Non-central relativistic heavy ion collisions break longitudinal boost invariance due to forward-backward asymmetry in local participant densities. This gives rise to the observed rapidity-odd directed flow of charged particles. We demonstrate that the heavy flavor

 $v_1$  due to the forward-backward asymmetric drag of the bulk is several times larger than that of the bulk  $v_1[1]$ . This makes the heavy flavor  $v_1$  slope at mid-rapidity, a sensitive probe of the initial longitudinal distribution of the thermalized medium. Further, the electromagnetic fields of the initial stage can also give rise to rapidity-odd  $v_1$  but of opposite signs for D and  $\overline{D}$  mesons, unlike the tilt mechanism which provides same sign  $v_1$  to both D and  $\overline{D}$ . We show that the measurement of the  $v_1$  sum as well as difference of D and  $\overline{D}$  can provide simultaneous constraint on the initial longitudinal asymmetry in matter distribution as well as the electromagnetic field

produced by the passage of the heavy nuclei.

[1]. S. Chatterjee and P. Bożek (2017), arXiv:1712.01189 [nucl-th]

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