

Radial flow via $v_0(p_T)$ in heavy-ion collisions at LHC energies

Saturday 6 September 2025 10:10 (20 minutes)

The transverse momentum dependent observable $v_0(p_T)$ has recently emerged as a novel probe of radial expansion in high-energy heavy-ion collisions. Using Pb–Pb collision data at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV recorded with the ALICE detector, measurements of $v_0(p_T)$ for pions, kaons, and protons are performed across a broad range of collision centralities. A pseudorapidity gap technique is employed to suppress short-range nonflow correlations and isolate collective dynamics. The results reveal clear mass ordering at low p_T and baryon-meson separation at higher p_T , reflecting hydrodynamic expansion and hadronization via quark recombination. Comparative modeling with a blast-wave framework, including event-by-event fluctuations of radial flow velocity and freeze-out temperature, shows consistency with parameters extracted from transverse momentum spectra. Moreover, the sensitivity of $v_0(p_T)$ to bulk-viscosity effects and the underlying equation of state highlights its potential as a complementary observable for constraining the transport properties and freeze-out dynamics of the quark–gluon plasma.

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Session Classification: Plenary Session