



Contribution ID: 89

Type: **Oral Presentation**

Performance of the present ALICE Inner Tracking System and studies for the upgrade

Wednesday 14 September 2011 11:10 (20 minutes)

The Inner Tracking System (ITS) of the ALICE experiment is made out of six layers of silicon detectors exploiting three different technologies (pixel, drift and strip). It covers the central pseudorapidity range of $|\eta| < 0.9$ and its distance from the beam line ranges from $r = 3.9$ cm for the innermost pixel layer up to $r = 43$ cm for the outermost strip layer. The main tasks of the ITS are to reconstruct the primary and secondary vertices, to track and identify charged particles with a low p_t cutoff and to improve the momentum resolution at high p_t . In this talk I will present the performance of the ITS in p-p and Pb-Pb collisions in 2010, both from the hardware point of view, with a brief overview of the features of the system, and the physics achievements for what concerns the vertexing, the tracking and the particle identification.

Furthermore, I will give also an outlook on a possible upgrade of the ALICE ITS which is presently being studied, in order to extend its physics performance by improving the measurements of charmed hadrons and accessing new physics items like the measurement of the beauty hadrons.

Preferred medium (Oral/poster)

Oral

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Session Classification: Detectors for Particle Physics

Track Classification: Applications in Particle Physics