

System size dependence of particle production in pp, p-Pb and Pb-Pb collisions at 5.02 TeV

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The ALICE collaboration has measured the production of light-flavour hadrons in pp, p-Pb and Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV over a wide range of transverse momentum (p_T). The results on π , K, p, K^{*0} and ϕ p_T spectra, ratios of the p_T -integrated yields and mean transverse momentum will be presented for the three colliding systems at the same energy ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV), and compared as a function of average charged particle multiplicity measured at mid-rapidity. It will be shown that the production of these particles follows a continuous trend as a function of multiplicity across the three systems. Identified particle ratios provide information on the composition and the thermal properties of the medium. The measurement of short-lived hadronic resonance production and their ratio to stable hadron species, such as ϕ/K and K^{*0}/K , is used to infer information on the hadronic phase.

Parton energy loss is investigated by determining the nuclear modification factor (R_{AA}). The production of light-flavour hadrons in the most central Pb-Pb collisions relative to pp collisions is found to be strongly suppressed at high p_T (> 8 GeV/c), whereas in p-Pb collisions the nuclear modification factors are consistent with unity. This indicates that the strong suppression of high- p_T hadrons measured in central Pb-Pb collisions is not due to an initial state effect but instead to the energy loss of partons traversing a hot and dense QCD medium. A similar suppression is observed for all the measured light-flavour hadrons at $p_T > 8$ GeV/c. This suggests that the partonic energy loss in the medium for light quark flavors (u, d, s) is independent of flavour.

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