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Drell-Yan process at sPHENIX: a golden probe to study Cold Nuclear Matter effects

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The nuclear modification factor related to the Drell-Yan (DY) production cross-section is an excellent probe of the cold nuclear matter (CNM) properties. The acceptance of the sPHENIX detector allows detection of DY events in the dielectron channel for $p_{\perp} \boxtimes M$, where p_{\perp} is the dilepton transverse momentum and M its invariant mass. In this kinematic region, the DY cross-section is dominated by NLO gluon Compton scattering allowing access to the gluon density of the nucleus, xG(x). The DY events extraction requires a precise knowledge of the QCD background contributing to the dilepton invariant mass spectrum. A fit to the latter one is carried out including opencharm (OC), open-bottom (OB), charmonium (ψ) and bottomonium (Υ) simulations. The CNM effects are investigated via the rapidity and p_{\perp} distributions of the DY lepton pair, and the possible impact of sPHENIX DY data on the xG(x) extraction is discussed. In addition, energy loss and broadening calculations based on Landau-Pomeranchuk-Migdal (LPM) model are shown.

Category

Experiment

Collaboration (if applicable)

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