

Unravelling the partonic flow in small systems with an improved multi-phase transport model

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Precision measurements of transverse momentum-differential elliptic flow, $v_2(p_T)$, of identified particles have been done in proton-lead (p-Pb) collisions. The characteristic mass-ordering of $v_2(p_T)$ at low p_T and the grouping/splitting of $v_2(p_T)$ for mesons and baryons at intermediate p_T , which have been regarded as the smoking gun of QGP signal, are observed in p-Pb collisions. However, the exact physics mechanism is not entirely clear. A multi-phase transport (AMPT) model incorporating a partonic phase followed by quark coalescence hadronization can reproduce the flow measurements. The mass-ordering can be reproduced in p-Pb collisions by the standard AMPT, while the grouping/splitting remains challenging. This talk significantly improves the coalescence in AMPT by implementing a precise quark phase-space distribution, which reproduces the measured grouping/splitting of $v_2(p_T)$ in p-Pb collisions for the first time.

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