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The role of strangeness in heavy quark hadronisation from small to large collision systems with ALICE

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Production measurements of strange hadrons originating from the hadronisation of charm quarks (prompt) and from beauty-hadron decays (non-prompt) offer a unique tool to study the heavy-quark hadronisation across different collision systems. The comparisons between the measurements of charm hadrons with and without a strange valence quark in proton-proton (pp) and proton-lead (p-Pb) collisions provide important tests for pQCD calculations and the possible influence of cold nuclear matter effects, respectively. In Pb-Pb collisions, the production of heavy-flavour hadrons with strange-quark content is sensitive to the hadronisation mechanisms of charm and beauty quarks in the quark-gluon plasma and to final-state effects.

This contribution discusses the final results of the ALICE Collaboration obtained by measuring strange D mesons in pp, p–Pb, and Pb–Pb collisions collected during the LHC Run 2. Additionally, the production measurements of prompt and non-prompt $\mathrm{D_s}^+$ mesons are compared to those of non-strange mesons across the different collision systems. The first measurements of the production of orbitally excited charm-strange mesons $\mathrm{D_{s1}^+}$, $\mathrm{D_{s2}^{*+}}$ in pp collisions and the measurement of prompt Ξ_c^0 -baryon production are also reported. To conclude, the first studies of strange and non-strange D mesons with the data sample of pp collisions at $\sqrt{s}=13.6$ TeV harvested from the start of LHC Run 3 are presented.

Category

Experiment

Collaboration

ALICE

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