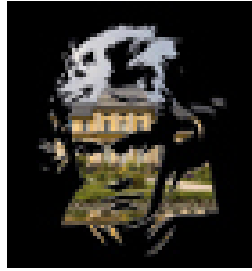


XX International Workshop on Deep-Inelastic Scattering and Related Subjects



Contribution ID: 130

Type: **not specified**

Open heavy flavor production in pp collisions with ALICE at LHC

Tuesday, 27 March 2012 09:54 (18 minutes)

ALICE is the LHC experiment dedicated to the study of the Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP) in Pb-Pb collisions. Heavy quarks are ideal probes to explore the QGP formation and properties, since they experience the full collision history and are expected to be abundantly produced at the LHC. It is of great importance to measure the heavy flavor cross section not only in Pb-Pb collisions, but also in pp collisions. In fact, the measurement in the latter is used both as a reference for the Pb-Pb results and as test of the pQCD predictions in a new energy domain.

ALICE measures heavy quark production both at central and forward rapidity, reconstructing heavy flavour particles, both exclusively, using a selection of hadronic decay channels, and inclusively, using single leptons. Since the start up of the LHC, ALICE has been collecting Pb-Pb data at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV and pp data at $\sqrt{s} = 2.76$ and 7 TeV. We present results on the measurement of heavy quark production through the hadronic decay channels of D mesons and via single leptons, with emphasis on the results obtained with pp data.

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Session Classification: Heavy flavours

Track Classification: Heavy flavours