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Neutral meson production in pp and Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC measured with ALICE

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Identified hadron spectra are considered to be sensitive to transport properties of strongly interacting matter produced in high-energy nucleus-nucleus collisions.

We present measurements of π^0 and η mesons at mid-rapidity in a wide transverse momentum range in pp and Pb-Pb collisions at LHC energies measured with the ALICE detector. The mesons are reconstructed via their two-photon decays by two complementary methods, using the electromagnetic calorimeters and the central tracking system for photons converted to electron-positron pairs on the material of the inner ALICE barrel tracking detectors.

The spectrum and the nuclear modification factor (R_{AA}) of the π^0 production measured in Pb-Pb collisions at different collision centralities show a clear pattern of strong suppression with respect to pp collisions. The azimuthal anisotropy (v_2) of the π^0 production is consistent with v_2 for other hadron species. Comparison of the ALICE results on neutral mesons with those of lower-energy experiments is discussed.

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