Suppression of high-p_t heavy-flavour particles in Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC, measured with ALICE



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Outline of the Talk



Introduction: heavy quarks as probes of QCD matter at LHC

- Heavy flavour in ALICE
 - D mesons at central rapidity
 - electrons at central rapidity

muons at forward rapidity



Compare Pb-Pb and pp \rightarrow Nuclear modification



Parton energy loss and the nuclear modification factor





Parton Energy Loss by

- medium-induced gluon radiation
- collisions with medium gluons

$$p' = p - \Delta E(\varepsilon_{medium})$$





Salgado, Wiedemann, PRD 68(2003) 014008.

ICHEP2012, Melbourne, 06.07.12

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Dokshitzer and Kharzeev, PLB 519 (2001) 199.



See e.g.:

Dokshitzer and Kharzeev, PLB 519 (2001) 199. Armesto, Salgado, Wiedemann, PRD 69 (2004) 114003. Djordjevic, Gyulassy, Horowitz, Wicks, NPA 783 (2007) 493.

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ALICE apparatus and datasets



V0

T0





D meson cross sections in pp 7 TeV





- Used as a reference for Pb-Pb studies (scaled to 2.76 TeV based on FONLL)
- Scaling validated with small dataset at 2.76 TeV

FONLL: Cacciari et al., arXiv:1205.6344 GM-VFNS: Kniehl et al., arXiv:1202.0439 Well described by perturbative QCD calculations: FONLL and GM-VFNS



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D p_t distributions in Pb-Pb





- wrt T_{AA} -scaled pp reference
- Significant suppression also in semiperipheral (40-80%) wrt T_{AA}-scaled pp reference

arXiv:1203.2160

D meson nuclear modification factor $^{2}E^{--1}$ $\frac{1}{dN}$



- Suppression for charm with respect to binary scaling is a factor 3-4 above 5 GeV/c
- Compatible among the three species
- Less suppression in peripheral collisions

ALICE Heavy Flavour detection: electrons, |y| < 0.5

 $D,B \rightarrow e+X$

TPC/TOF/TRD/EMCAL (e/π id)

TPC (tracking e/π id)

ITS (tracking & vertexing)



e

Inclusive electron spectrum

Subtract data-tuned cocktail of non-HF backgrounds

HF-decay electrons



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Cocktail-subtracted electron R_{AA}



Consider (inclusive electrons – cocktail) spectrum

- > low p_t : large systematic uncertainties (mainly from electron ID)
- > above 3-4 GeV/c: dominated by charm and beauty decays



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ALICE Heavy Flavour detection: muons, 2.5<y<





MUON (tracking, µ id)

Analysis strategy:
 remove hadrons and low mecondary muons by requiring a muon trigger signal
 remove decay muons:

 pp: MC, normalized to data at low pt
 Pb-Pb: from measured π/K yields at central rapidity

 muons from HF (charm and beauty)



- High-statistics measurement at both energies (muon trigger)
- FONLL describes the data and indicates beauty dominance above 8 GeV/c



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 Models with E-loss (Vitev and BDMPS-ASW) describe both D and μ

BAMPS model (elastic only) seems to over-suppress charm wrt beauty



Summary



Rich set of heavy-flavour production measurements with ALICE

- R_{AA} for D
 and B At high p_t for now (μ and e)
- Suppression of high-p_t heavy-flavour production (and charm azimuthal anisotropy → talk by C. Perez)
- Indicate strong medium effect on c and b quarks
- Consistent with expected energy loss mechanisms
 - **Pattern?** No clear pattern, data not conclusive yet

 Next step: extended Pb-Pb measurements with 2011 data and measurement of initial-state effects in forthcoming p-Pb run at the LHC







EXTRA SLIDES



 $R_{AA}(p_{T})$

0.0

HQs E loss: some expectations



Energy loss based predictions: factor 3-5 suppression for D mesons
 Significantly smaller suppression for B



• Shorter formation time of heavy hadrons → additional R_{AA} suppression due to inmedium dissociation? $\tau_{form}(p_T = 10 \text{ GeV})$ π D B

25 fm 1.6 fm 0.4 fm



Wicks, Gyulassy, "Last Call for LHC Predictions" workshop, 2007

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p_T (GeV)

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25

Vitev, et al, PRC80 (2009)

p_⊤ [GeV]

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Triggers and Pb-Pb Collision Centrality



- Minimum-bias (MB): combinations of the following detectors
 Pixel Fast-Or (1 or 2 hits)
 VZERO scintillators (one or both sides)
 → pp: 87% of σ_{inelastic}
 → Pb-Pb: fully efficient in 0-88% of σ_{hadronic}
- Single muon: MB + a muon with p_t>0.5 GeV/c and -4<η<-2.5

Pb-Pb centrality classes (percentiles of $\sigma_{hadronic}$) from the VZERO signal amplitude, which is well-described by the Glauber-model

•VZERO amplitude used also online for centrality-based triggering







arXiv:1203.216 GeV/c²)



- Inclusive electrons spectrum with two different PID analyses: TPC-TOF-TRD and TPC-EMCAL
- Cocktail of backgrounds
 - > "photonic" electrons (from γ "conversions"), based on measured π^0 cross section (m_t scaling for other mesons)
 - quarkonium decays, based on LHC data
 - from direct photons (pQCD)
- Inclusive Cocktail: electrons from c and b decays \rightarrow combine the two PID analyses

arXiv:1205.5423



Large suppression in central collisions (x3-4)

Less suppression towards peripheral collisions





The suppression of D mesons is comparable to that of pions



• Heavy-to-light ratio " $R_{D/\pi}$ ": a hint of $R_{AA}^{\nu} > R_{AA}^{\pi}$

- In the model calculations:
 - > High- p_t : $R_{D/\pi}$ > 1 due colour charge effects (c-quark vs gluon)
 - Low-p_t: additional increase to mass effects (c-quark mass)

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Comparisons: E-loss models



Several models based on E-loss and heavy-quark transport describe qualitatively the measured charm R_{AA}



- Models with E-loss (radiative, rad. + coll.) generally close to both D and charged RAA
 - Vitev rad + D dissoc

WHDG and CUJET1.0 rad + coll

 Model based on AdS/ CFT Drag oversuppresses charm



- Small effect expected from PDFs shadowing above 5 GeV/c
- Suggests that this is a hot medium effect
- p-Pb run at LHC crucial to measure initial-state effects