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Inclusive J/psi production in p-Pb collisions with ALICE at the LHC

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Production of charmonia, bound state of c and cbar quarks, is an intense research activity, both experimentally and theoretically. In addition, the peculiar properties of some of the charmonium states, like their small size (< 1 fm) and strong binding energy (several hundred MeV), make them ideal probes of the strongly interacting matter, the so-called Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP), formed in heavy-ion collisions.

ALICE is dedicated to the study of QGP properties in heavy-ion collisions at the LHC. It measured J/psi suppression in Pb-Pb collisions at the energy of 2.76 TeV per nucleon pair. At the beginning of 2013, p-Pb collisions at the energy of 5.02 TeV per nucleon pair have been studied at the LHC, in order to measure the effects related to cold nuclear matter which, for charmonia, include gluon shadowing (or gluon saturation), energy loss and nuclear absorption. Their evaluation is important in order to be able to disentangle, in Pb-Pb collisions, hot and cold nuclear matter effects. First results on the J/psi production in p-Pb collisions, in the dimuon decay channel at forward rapidity, will be presented and compared to theoretical models.

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