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Reconstruction and first observation of the charmed baryon Λc in pp collisions at √s = 7 TeV with ALICE

ALICE is the dedicated LHC experiment to identify and characterize the quark gluon plasma in high-energy nuclear collisions. Due to their large mass and their generation at the early collision stage, heavy quarks are ideal probes. It is still an open question whether the baryon over meson enhancement at intermediate momentum as observed at RHIC also holds for the heavy-quark sector.
We report on the analysis strategy to reconstruct the charmed baryon Λc in its hadronic decay channel Λc -> p K- π+ and first results on the p-p data sample at 7 TeV recorded by the ALICE detector in 2010. Both topological selections and particle identification are exploited. The Λc signal in several pT intervals will be shown.

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