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Coherent photoproduction of J/ ψ vector mesons in peripheral and ultra-peripheral Pb-Pb collisions

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The electromagnetic fields of lead nuclei at the LHC are an intense source of quasi-real photons. The coherent photonuclear production of J/ ψ provides information about the intial state of nuclei at a perturbative scale related to the mass of the charm quark. Using data from Run 1 at the LHC, the ALICE Collaboration has published cross section measurements of coherent photoproduction of J/ ψ in peripheral (with nuclear overlap) and ultra-peripheral (without nuclear overlap) Pb-Pb collisions. Coherent photoproduction is characterized by very low $p_{\rm T}$ of the produced J/ ψ ($p_{\rm T}\sim 1/R=30~{\rm MeV}/c$), and in this region of phase space photoproduction dominates over hadroproduction in collisions down to at least 50% centrality. These results will be reviewed here. In addition, new results from Run 2 data for peripheral collisions at mid rapidity, as well as for ultra-peripheral collisions at forward rapidities will be presented.

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