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Correlations between flow and transverse momentum in Pb+Pb and Xe+Xe collisions with ATLAS

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Fluctuations of event-wise average transverse momentum ($\langle p_T \rangle$) and the harmonic flow (v_n) carry important information about initial-state geometry. Collisions of nuclei with large quadrupole deformation are predicted to produce an initial state with enhanced shape and size fluctuations, and result in a non-trivial correlation between v_n and $\langle p_T \rangle$ in the final state. In particular, the $v_2 - \langle p_T \rangle$ correlations are predicted to be different between collisions of spherical ^{208}Pb and collisions of deformed ^{129}Xe . This talk presents new measurements of $v_n - \langle p_T \rangle$ correlation in $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.44$ TeV Xe+Xe collisions and compared with Pb+Pb at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV for harmonics $n = 2, 3$ and 4 . The correlation strength is found to depend strongly on the centrality and also on the choice of transverse momentum range of the particles for all harmonics. Comparison with theoretical model calculations is used to shed light on the system-size dependence of this correlation and the influence of deformations. This measurement provides inputs for a better understanding of the initial-state nuclear geometry and dynamics of heavy-ion collisions.

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