First results from p–Pb collisions at the LHC

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Abstract. The first results from p–Pb collisions at \( \sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \) TeV are discussed.

1 Introduction

Proton–lead (p–Pb) collisions are an integral part of the nuclear program at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Their study provides the reference for the Pb–Pb data to disentangle initial from final state effects, as well as the potential to address the partonic structure of matter at low parton fractional momenta (small-\( x \)) [1].

The experimental results reported in these proceedings are obtained in a short low-luminosity run performed in September 2012 (with about 1/\( \mu \)fb recorded by each experiment), and a longer high-luminosity run in January/February 2013 (with about 30/\( \mu \)fb recorded by ATLAS and CMS, about 10/\( \mu \)fb by ALICE and about 2/\( \mu \)fb by LHCb). The setup of the beams, which is constrained by the two-in-one magnet design of the LHC imposing the same magnetic rigidity of the beams, consisted of protons at 4 TeV energy and of \( ^{208} \text{Pb} \) ions at \( 82 \times 4 \) TeV energy. This configuration produced collisions at \( \sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \) TeV in the nucleon–nucleon centre-of-mass system, shifted in rapidity relative to the laboratory system by \( \Delta y_{\text{NN}} = 0.465 \) in the direction of the proton beam. For clarity, the rapidity (\( y \)) as well as the pseudorapidity (\( \eta \)) are sometimes denoted as \( y_{\text{lab}} \) and \( y_{\text{cms}} \), as well as \( \eta_{\text{lab}} \) and \( \eta_{\text{cms}} \).

To investigate the role of nuclear effects in p–Pb collisions it is desirable to study experimental observables as a function of centrality of the collision. In nucleus–nucleus (A–A) collisions this is typically achieved by relating intervals of measured multiplicity (or energy) distributions (that correspond to certain fractions of the inelastic cross-section) to an average number of nucleon–nucleon collisions (\( \langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle \)) via a Glauber model [4]. In p–Pb collisions, however, the correlation between multiplicity and collision geometry is less strong than in A–A collisions, and more importantly dynamical biases introduced by the multiplicity estimation can strongly affect the observables under study. Therefore, so far, the experimental results are either reported for minimum-bias collisions (where \( \langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle = 208 \sigma_{pp}/\sigma_{\text{PbPb}} = 7.0 \pm 0.6 \), with \( \sigma_{pp} = 70 \pm 5 \text{mb} \) [2] and \( \sigma_{\text{PbPb}} = 2.09 \pm 0.12 \text{b} \) [5]), or as a

\[ \frac{dN_{\text{ch}}}{d\eta_{\text{lab}}} \]

\[ \eta_{\text{lab}} \]

\[ \eta_{\text{lab}} \]

\[ \eta_{\text{lab}} \]

\[ \eta_{\text{lab}} \]

\[ \eta_{\text{lab}} \]
function of multiplicity, i.e. in selected intervals of a measured multiplicity or energy distribution without relating to centrality explicitly. In the latter case, the selected intervals are typically characterized by the corresponding average charged-particle multiplicity at midrapidity. Potential biases introduced by the selection can be studied by varying the underlying multiplicity or energy distribution.

The results presented at the conference include the measurements of the charged-particle pseudorapidity [2] and transverse momentum ($p_T$) distributions [3], preliminary results on dijet [6] and $J/\psi$ [7, 8] production, multiple results on long-range correlations of charged particles using two-particle [9–11] and four-particle [12, 13] correlation analysis techniques, as well as results on identified particle $p_T$ distributions [14, 15].

2 Unidentified charged particles

The measurement of the charged-particle density provides constraints to improve the understanding of particle production and the role of initial state effects in QCD at small-$x$ [2]. The data are normalized to non-single diffractive collisions and reported in the laboratory system (Fig. 1). The systematic uncertainty of the measurement is about 3.8%. It is dominated by the uncertainty on the normalization, which is obtained by requiring that not all of the nucleon–nucleon collisions (as for example modeled in the DPMJET [16] generator) are single-diffractive. The charged-particle pseudorapidity density at midrapidity in the laboratory system ($|\eta_{\text{lab}}| < 0.5$) is found to be $17.4 \pm 0.7$, while the corresponding density in the nucleon–nucleon centre-of-mass system ($|\eta_{\text{cm}}| < 0.5$) to be $16.8 \pm 0.7$. The measured distribution is compared to various model predictions (references can be found in [2]) that broadly can be characterized as either two-component or saturation models. The two-component models combine perturbative QCD processes with soft interactions, and may include nuclear modification of the initial parton distributions. The saturation models typically employ coherence effects to reduce the number of soft gluons available for particle production below a given energy scale. The comparison with the data shows that most of the calculations predict the measured distribution to within 20%, with a tendency that the saturation models exhibit a steeper $\eta_{\text{lab}}$ dependence than the data (see also [17]).

Further information on particle production are provided by the charged particle $p_T$ distributions, which are measured in $0.5 < p_T < 20$ GeV/$c$ for 3 ranges of $\eta_{\text{cm}}$ near midrapidity normalized to non-single diffractive (NSD) collisions [3]. The systematic uncertainty of the measurement is about 8–10% including the uncertainty on the normalization. The spectra seem to soften with increasing pseudorapidity, although the effect is of the similar magnitude as the systematic uncertainty. It is found that most models that describe the $\eta_{\text{lab}}$ distribution, like the DPMJET or HIJING models, have difficulties in describing the $p_T$ distributions. One exception is the preliminary calculation from EPOS v3 [18], which includes parton saturation and a hydrodynamical evolution. Nuclear effects are usually quantified by the ratio of the yield extracted in p–Pb collisions relative to that in pp scaled by $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle$, which is expected to be unity in absence of nuclear effects. Since there are no pp data at $\sqrt{s} = 5.02$ TeV, the pp reference is constructed by interpolating pp data at 2.76 and 7 TeV [19]. Using this reference, the nuclear modification factor, $R_{\text{ppb}}$, at $|\eta_{\text{cm}}| < 0.3$ is found to be consistent with unity for $p_T > 2$ GeV/$c$, showing that there are no strong nuclear effects present in NSD ($\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle \approx 7$) p–Pb collisions (Fig. 2). Consequently, the measurement demonstrates that the high-$p_T$ suppression observed in central (0–5%, $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle \approx 1700$) and peripheral (70–80%, $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle \approx 16$) Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{\text{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV [20] is not due initial-state, but rather due to final-state interactions. It is interesting to note that the suppression in Pb–Pb is present already in 70–80% collisions, where $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle$ is only twice as large as in NSD p–Pb collisions. Therefore, final state effects could indeed play a role in more central p–Pb collisions (see Sections 5 and 6).

3 Dijet production

Complementary information is provided by a preliminary study of dijet production using an integrated luminosity of 18.5/nb [6]. High-energy jets are reconstructed with the anti-$k_T$ algorithm [21] for a resolution parameter of $R = 0.3$ in $\eta_{\text{lab}} < 3$, using combined informa-
tion from tracking and calorimetry. Dijet pairs are selected by requiring $p_{T,1} > 120$ GeV/c for the leading and $p_{T,2} > 30$ GeV/c for the subleading jet. Then, the azimuthal angle correlations between the two jets ($\Delta \phi_{1,2}$), the dijet momentum balance ($p_{T,1}/p_{T,2}$), and the mean and width of the dijet pseudorapidity distributions ($\langle n_{\eta} \rangle$) are measured for $\Delta \phi_{1,2} > 2\pi/3$ as a function of forward calibrator transverse energy (approximately spanning a range of $(N_{\text{coll}})$ between 5 to 15). The data are compared to PYTHIA simulations representing pp collisions, and to p–Pb simulations using HIJING, where dijet pp events from PYTHIA are embedded (Fig. 3). The width of the azimuthal angle difference distribution and the dijet momentum ratio is not sensitive to the forward activity of the collision, and comparable to the same quantity obtained from the simulations, confirming that the observed dijet asymmetry in Pb–Pb collisions [22, 23] is not originating from initial state effects. The pseudorapidity of the dijet system, however, changes monotonically with increasing forward calibrator activity in the nucleus direction, consistent with the expectation that low-$x$ partons in the nucleus are depleted by nuclear effects, possibly providing new constraints on nuclear Parton Distribution Functions (nPDFs) [24].

4 J/ψ production

The production of J/ψ in proton–nucleus collisions is expected to be sensitive to several initial and final state effects related to the presence of cold nuclear matter, such as the suppression of low-$x$ gluons and initial state energy loss [17]. Preliminary results in p–Pb collisions are available for inclusive J/ψ in $2 < y_{\text{cm}} < 3.5$ and $-4.5 < y_{\text{cm}} < -3.0$ using about 10/mb [7]. To obtain the nuclear modification factor, the pp reference at forward rapidity is constructed by interpolating lower beam energy data at midrapidity with a power law and in rapidity with a Gaussian [25]. At forward rapidity the inclusive J/ψ production is suppressed (with a mild rapidity dependence), compared to the backward rapidity (Fig. 4). The uncertainties related to tracking and trigger efficiency are regarded to be uncorrelated (red boxes), while those related to the $\sqrt{s}$ dependence of pp reference and $\langle N_{\text{coll}} \rangle$ to be fully correlated (gray bar), and those related to the $y$ dependence of the pp reference and the signal extraction to be partially correlated (open boxes). The data are compared to various calculations (see the legend of Fig. 4 for references). Within the uncertainties, the models including shadowing or coherent energy loss are able to reproduce the data, while the prediction based on the Color Glas Condensate (CGC) overestimates the observed suppression. It should be noted that the preliminary measurement from LHCb for prompt (and non-prompt) J/ψ in $2 < y_{\text{cm}} < 4.5$ and $-5.0 < y_{\text{cm}} < -2.5$ using about 1/mb [8] leads to a $R_{\text{pPb}}$ result that is lower by about 30%. Understanding the discrepancy between the two measurements is ongoing. A part is due to different way, in which the pp references are constructed, and a part is due to a difference in the p–Pb measurement itself.

Indeed, the pp reference is not needed when studying the ratio ($R_{FB}$) of J/ψ produced in a forward over a backward rapidity interval taken symmetric around $y_{\text{cm}} = 0$. In this way, the uncertainties which are uncorrelated between backward and forward rapidity enter quadratically combined in the ratio, while for signal extraction the uncertainty can be directly calculated on the ratio of the num-

![Figure 4](image-url) Preliminary nuclear modification factor for inclusive J/ψ as a function of $y_{\text{cm}}$ in $0 < p_T < 15$ GeV/c in NSD p–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV compared to calculations [7].

![Figure 5](image-url) Preliminary forward-to-backward ratio for inclusive J/ψ as a function of $y_{\text{cm}}$ in $0 < p_T < 15$ GeV/c in NSD p–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV compared to calculations [7].

![Figure 6](image-url) Preliminary forward-to-backward ratio for inclusive J/ψ as a function of $p_T$ in $3.0 < y_{\text{cm}} < 3.5$ in NSD p–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV compared to calculations [7].
5 Two- and four-particle correlations

The study of angular correlations (in $\phi$ and $\eta$) of two or more particles provides important information for the characterization of the underlying mechanism of particle production in collisions of hadrons and nuclei at high energy. For example, it is well known that in minimum-bias pp collisions the correlation at $(\Delta \phi \approx 0, \Delta \eta \approx 0)$, the “near-side” peak, and at $\Delta \phi \approx \pi$, the “away-side” structure, originates from particle production correlated to jets. In A–A collisions additional long-range structures along the $\Delta \eta$ axis emerge on the near- and away-side, whose shape in $\Delta \phi$, typically quantified by Fourier coefficients $c_n$, can be related to the collision geometry and density fluctuations of the colliding nuclei in hydrodynamic models (see [28] for a review). In pp collisions at a centre-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV a similar long-range ($2 < |\Delta \eta| < 4$) structure, so called ridge, emerges on the near-side in events with significantly higher-than-average particle multiplicity [29]. Its origin has been attributed either to initial-state effects (such as gluon saturation and colour connections forming along the longitudinal direction) or to final-state effects (such as parton-induced interactions, and collective effects arising in a high-density system (see [30] for a review). A qualitatively similar ridge, but with stronger correlation strength than in pp, also appears on the near-side in high-multiplicity p–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{\text{s}_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$ TeV [9]. Subsequent measurements [10, 11], which removed jet-induced correlations by subtracting the correlations extracted from low-multiplicity events, reveal that the near-side ridge is accompanied by essentially the same ridge on the away-side (Fig. 7). Due to a bias on the jet fragmentation the subtraction of the jet peak is less complete, when the event selection is performed at midrapidity (SPD) than at forward.
and backward rapidity (VOM) or at beam rapidity (ZNA). The \( p_T \) dependence of the extracted \( v_2 \) and \( v_3 \) coefficients from two-particle correlations is found to be similar to that measured in Pb–Pb collisions (Fig. 8). This is in particular the case for \( v_3 \), where the \( p_T \)-integrated \( v_3 \) turns out to be the same in Pb–Pb collisions and in p–Pb collisions at the same multiplicity (Fig. 9). Differences between the two systems become apparent for \( v_2[4] \), which is obtained by extracting the genuine four-particle correlations using cumulants [31]. The integrated \( v_2[4] \), as well as \( v_2[2] \), are smaller (by up to about 35%) than in Pb–Pb collisions at the same multiplicity (Fig. 10). It is interesting to note that \( v_2[4] \) and \( v_3[2] \) set in at about the same multiplicity (\( N_{\text{ch}}^{\text{off}} \approx 50 \)) which only is slightly larger than the average value for minimum bias Pb–Pb collisions. The interpretation of the correlation data focuses on two different approaches: either quantum interference between rapidly-separated gluons enhanced by gluon saturation in the CGC model [32, 33], or collective dynamics induced by strong final-state interactions [34–36], as commonly applied in hydrodynamical models of A–A collision data. The interpretation of the \( v_3 \) data so far is only achieved with the hydrodynamical approaches.

### 6 Identified particles

Further experimental information expected to clarify whether final state effects play a role in high-multiplicity Pb–Pb collisions is provided by the measurement of identified particles. So far, two measurements are available:

- the \( p_T \) spectra of \( \pi^\pm, K^\pm \) and \( p(\bar{p}) \) measured by CMS via the energy loss in the silicon tracker using \( 1 \mu b \) for \(|y_{lab}| < 1 \) in the \( p_T \) ranges of 0.1–1.2, 0.2–1.05 and 0.4–1.7 GeV/c, respectively, as a function of corrected track multiplicity (\( N_{\text{ch}}^{\text{track}} \)) in \(|y_{lab}| < 2.4 \) [14];

- the \( p_T \) spectra of \( \pi^\pm, K^\pm, K^0_S \), \( p(\bar{p}) \) and \( \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) \) measured by ALICE via the energy loss in the barrel tracking systems and via the time-of-flight information using \( 15 \mu b \) for \( 0 < y_{lab} < 0.5 \) in the \( p_T \) ranges of 0.1–3, 0.2–2.5, 0–8, 0.3–4 and 0.6–8 GeV/c, respectively, as a function of midrapidity \( dN_{\text{ch}}/dy \) selected in intervals of forward multiplicity (V0A) [15].

To obtain the integrated yield and average \( p_T \), the spectra are fitted for the extrapolation to zero and high \( p_T \) in the unmeasured \( p_T \) region. In the case of CMS, a Tsallis-Pareto distribution is used with the unmeasured fraction of yield of about 15–30% for \( \pi^\pm \), 40–50% for \( K^\pm \), and 20–35% for \( p(\bar{p}) \). In the case of ALICE, a blast–wave function is used with the unmeasured fraction of yield of about 8–9% for \( \pi^\pm \), 10–12% for \( K^\pm \), 7–13% for \( p(\bar{p}) \) and 17–30% for \( \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) \). The measured \( p_T \) spectra become harder for increasing multiplicity, with the change being most pronounced for \( p(\bar{p}) \) and \( \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) \) (see Fig. 6 in [14] and Fig. 1.
in [15]). This evolution is strongly reflected in the extracted average $p_T$, which is found to increase with particle mass and the charged multiplicity of the event (Fig. 11 and Fig. 12). This effect, called "radial flow" in a hydrodynamic scenario [37], is well known in A–A collisions (e.g. see [38] for Pb–Pb at $\sqrt{S_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV). Comparisons with calculations of Monte Carlo event generators reveal that EPOS LHC [39], which (unlike HIJING or AMPT) includes an hydrodynamic evolution of the created system, is able to reproduce the trend of the data (Fig. 11).

7 Summary

The first results from p–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{S_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV are discussed.

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