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Electroweak-boson measurements from small to large collision systems with ALICE at the LHC

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Electroweak bosons produced in hard-scattering processes at the early stage of the collision, are efficient probes of the initial state of the collision. While the W measurements in pp collisions are a stringent test of perturbative QCD-based calculations and production mechanisms, they can constrain the nuclear parton distribution functions in p-Pb and Pb-Pb collisions.

Electroweak bosons are studied with ALICE in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s}=13$ TeV, p-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\rm NN}}=8.16$ TeV and Pb-Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\rm NN}}=5.02$ TeV via their leptonic decays in the muon and electron channels at forward rapidity ($-4.0<\eta<-2.5$) and midrapidity ($|\eta|<0.8$), respectively. The observations in p-Pb and Pb-Pb collisions at forward rapidity give access to low Bjorken-x values, a phase-space region poorly constrained by heavy-ion experiments.

The latest W-boson results concerning differential measurements of the normalised production yields, production cross sections, nuclear modification factors and lepton-charge asymmetry as a function of rapidity, transverse momentum, collision centrality and charged-particle multiplicity are presented. The production of W bosons in association with hadrons as a function of the charged-particle multiplicity in pp collisions is reported as well. Comparisons with model calculations are discussed.

Experiment/Theory

ALICE

Affiliation

ALICE

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