ALICE upgrades



Exploring Quark-Gluon Plasma through soft and hard probes

Belgrade - May the 31st 2023

ALICE upgrades



ALICE Timeline





ALICE upgrades during the LHC Long Shutdown 2











This project has received funding













- Improvement of pointing resolution by:
 - drastic reduction of material **budget** $(0.3 \rightarrow 0.05\%)$ X0/layer)
 - being **closer** to the interaction point (24 \rightarrow 18 mm)
 - thinner and smaller **beam pipe** $(700 \rightarrow 500 \ \mu\text{m}; 18 \rightarrow 16 \ \text{mm})$
- Directly boosts the ALICE core physics program that is largely
 - low momenta
 - secondary vertex reconstruction
- E.g. Λ_c S/B improves by factor 10, significance by factor 4







ALICE 3

LS5

Run 6

2035-2038

Run 5



FoCal-H

- Cu-scintillator: direct γ isolation and jets
- Metal/scintillating calorimeter with high granularity of up to 2.5 x 2.5 cm²

FoCal-E

- Optimized for γ and π⁰ reconstruction
- Segmented in 18 layers of tungsten and silicon pads with low granularity (~ 1 cm)
- Two layers of tungsten and silicon pixels with high granularity (~ 30 x 30 µm²)



FoCal Letter of Intent: CERN-LHCC-2020-009 https://inspirehep.net/literature/1805025

Energy resolution: ~ <5% (EM) ~12% (hadron)

Position resolution: ~ 5 mm (EM shower)

Required for two shower separation

S/B ratio > 0.1 for p_T > 4 GeV/c

FoCal



ALICE 3: Run 5 and beyond



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ALICE 3: vertex detector

"Iris" vertex detector

- In vacuum, *retractable,* tracker (**3 layers + 3 disks**): in closed position first layer at **5 mm** from the beam
- Wafer-size sensors based on CMOS MAPS technology (synergy with ITS3 R&D)
- Pixel pitch of about 10 μm (2.5 μm intrinsic resolution) and ~0.1%
 X0/layer
- Max. radiation load per operational year ~ 1.5 10¹⁵ 1 MeV neq/cm²
- Cooling on the outer surface of the 3rd layer (micro-channel) while the layer 0 and 1 cooled via conduction on the petals

R&D challenges: rad. hardeness, mechanics, cooling & services



ALICE 3: PID systems

Time-of-flight

- Barrel TOF: two layers at 19 cm and at 85 cm. Time resolution 20 ps, |η|<1.75. Total surface ~ 31.5 m²
- Two forward disks: $1.75 < |\eta| < 4$ with $r_{in} = 15$ cm, $r_{out} = 50$ cm at $z = \pm 405$ cm Tot. surface ~ 14 m²

R&D challenges: depends on technology If MAPS uniform and fast charge collection + fast readout electronics and high S/N ratio

RICH for higher p_{T} reach

- 2 cm thick aerogel tile and photodetection layer (SiPMs) at 20 cm from the radiator
- Aerogel radiator refraction index n = 1.03 (barrel) and n= 1.006 (forward)
 → determine the p_T reach

R&D challenges: quality of the aerogel over production cycle, digital SiPMs radiation resistant

CERN-LHCC-2022-009



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CERN-LHCC-2022-009



Multi-charm baryons: why?

different models to describe charm equilibration and hadronisation:

- H. He et al. PLB 746 (2015) 59
- A. Andronic et al. JHEP 07 (2021) 035
- J. Zhao et al. PLB 771 (2017) 349
- X. Yao et al. PRD 97 (2018) 074003
- S. Cho et al. PRC 101 (2020) 024902
- etc...

study of multi-charm baryons over different collisions systems (e.g. from O-O to Pb-Pb) very sensitive to the nonequilibrium features of charm quarks

V. Minnisale et al. arXiv:2305.03687



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824093.

Multi-charm baryons



ALICE Coll. arXiv:2211.02491

Also **exotic nuclei** are abundantly produced

- ALICE 3 can shed light on the sector of hyperon-nucleon and charmed-baryon nucleon interactions.
- Anti-hyper nuclei with A>5 as ⁵/_AHe or ⁶Li yet to be discovered
- ALICE 3 apparatus well suited for the study of ⁴_AHe or ⁵_AHe
- Discovery potential for charmnuclei like c-deuteron, c-triton and c-³He



- $D^0 \overline{D^0}$ azimuthal correlation
- measure angular (de)correlation
 - direct probe of HF interaction with the QGP
- Strongest signal at low p_T
- Very challenging measurement:
 - good purity, efficiency and η coverage







$D^0 - \overline{D^0}$ azimuthal correlation

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In heavy-ion collisions doable only

- Very challenging measurement:
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ALICE Coll. arXiv:2211.02491

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with ALICE 3

Thermal radiation and chiral symmetry restoration



Thermal radiation and chiral symmetry restoration

- access to time evolution of the QGP temperature
- □ Spectral function of low mass dielectrons determined with 6-8% unc. in the region 0.4≤ m_{ee} ≤1.3 GeV/c²
- Chiral mixing would produce a 20-25% change versus vacuum spectral functions (0.8≤ m_{ee} ≤1.2 GeV/c2)



ALICE Coll. arXiv:2211.02491

Conclusions and outlook

- ALICE came a long way in the investigation of QCD in extreme conditions
 much more is to come with LHC Run 3 and later on with ITS3 and FoCal in Run 4.
- obtained results pose additional fundamental questions that call for a new detector @ LHC ready for Run 5: ALICE 3 letter of intent published in 2022. Next steps are :
 - Scoping Document (2024)
 - Technical Design Reports (2027)



EXTRA





BSM searches in UPCs

- Ultra-peripheral collisions (UPCs) are dominated by photonphoton and photon-nucleus interactions. Provide for a clean environment for axion-like particles (ALP) studies
- Searches via γγ→a→γγ process. Signal would be visible as a peak in the diphoton mass distribu1on
 - Performance on the estimated production cross-sec1on given as mass and recast limit in the plane $(m_a, 1/\Lambda_a)$



ALICE Coll. arXiv:2211.02491

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