

Strangeness enhancements in heavy-ion collisions from SPS to LHC

The study of strange and multi-strange particle production in high-energy collisions of heavy nuclei is considered as a unique tool to investigate the properties of the hot and dense matter created in the course of collision. These processes are sensitive to the reaction dynamics, as there is no net strangeness content in the initial state of colliding nuclei. In particular, an enhanced production of strange particles in A-A with respect to p-p interactions was one of the earliest proposed signatures of a deconfined QGP creation. The results of strangeness enhancement measurements from the WA97/NA57 (SPS), STAR (RHIC) and ALICE (LHC) experiments are briefly reviewed. The energy, centrality and strangeness content dependencies of enhancements are discussed.

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