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# *Cherenkov detectors in the ALICE experiment at LHC: current status and perspective*

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## ALICE goal



ALICE is designed to study the physics of strongly interacting matter under extremely high temperature and energy **ALICE** densities to investigate the properties of the quark-gluon plasma.

- Proton-proton collisions:
	- high energy QCD reference.
- proton-nucleus collisions:
	- initial state/cold nuclear matter.
- nucleus-nucleus collisions:
	- quark-gluon plasma formation!



ALICE must measure the yields of produced charged pions, kaons and protons in a wide momentum range and in several colliding systems.

### ALICE apparatus







### ALICE apparatus



**ACORDE** | ALICE Cosmic Rays Detector

*ALICE exploits the combination of different particle identification (PID) techniques*

- Energy loss (ITS, TPC)
- Time of flight (TOF)
	- Cherenkov radiation (HMPID)
	- Transition radiation (TRD)
	- Calorimeters (EMCal/DCal, PHOS)
	- Topological PID





Barrel

Barrel

## Particle Identification in ALICE:

#### momentum ranges





• The ALICE-HMPID (High Momentum Particle Identification Detector) performs charged particle track-by-track identification by means of the measurement of the emission angle of Cherenkov radiation and of the momentum information provided by the tracking devices. charged particle

• It consists of seven identical proximity focusing RICH counters.

#### PHOTON CONVERTER

n ~ 1.2989 @ 175nm,  $\beta_{\text{th}}$  = 0.77

15 mm liquid  $C_6F_{14}$ ,

RADIATOR

Reflective layer of CsI QE ~ 25% @ 175 nm. The largest scale  $(11 \text{ m}^2)$  application of CsI photo-cathodes in HEP ≈ 5 % of TPC acceptance

#### PHOTOEL. DETECTOR

- MWPC with  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  at atmospheric pressure (4 mm gap) HV = 2050 V.

- Analogue pad readout

*The HMPID detector is installed in the ALICE cavern since September 2006!*

 $4 \, \text{mm}$ 



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### HMPID detector description



Six photo-cathodes per moduleMUON ARM CsI photo-cathode is 믑 segmented in 0.8x0.84 cm pads

## HMPID detector description

- FEE and RO electronics is based on GASSIPLEX and DILOGIC chips developed within the HMPID project
- GASSIPLEX: 16-channel analogue multiplexed low-noise signal processor, the noise level is 1000 *e- ,* dead/noisy pads are less than 200 out of 161280
- DILOGIC: individual threshold and pedestal setup
- 42 photo-cathodes are segmented into 3840 pads with individual analog readout.







## $C_6F_{14}$  circulation, purifying systems and transparency monitoring

**ALICE** 

- Safe  $C_6F_{14}$  circulation by gravity flow;
- Stable transparency to Cherenkov photons;
- Separated control for each radiator vessel;







Fig. 6 Location of the three units of the HMPID liquid system in the experimental cavern.

### Detector stability: MWPCs gain



- HV equalization (Sept. 2011) to set  $A_0 \approx 35$ ;
- Gain variations  $\approx \pm 15\%$ ;
- A reduction of 20% on A<sub>0</sub> -> photoelectron detection efficiency loss of 3% (A<sub>th</sub>/A<sub>0</sub>  $\approx$  4/35). No effects on the PID performance!

AL

:CE

### Detector stability: number of detected ph.e.





- Good  $N_{\text{ph}}$  stability infers a CsI QE stability;
- Except RICH2, where PC2 and PC3 show a drop of 30%. After cleaning, these PCs were re-evaporated during 2005, maybe procedure not optimised;
- Empty space between blobs represents LHC technical stops from 2010 up to 2015.

### Detector stability



#### Absorbed charge dose for HV sector, period 2010 - 2018



Full yellow bars: measured CsI charge dose end of RUN 2; Empty bars: total anode charge. **Bleu line**: dose limit for possible CsI QE loss: 0.2 mC/cm2; [NIM A553 (2015), NIM A574(2007)] **Orange line:** 0.44 mC/cm2 Expected charge dose end RUN 3. Possible CsI QE loss of 8%.

### Detector upgrading for Run 3 (2022 - 2025)

• New RO firmware increased the read-out data rate

## Readout rate vs. occupancy



## Detector upgrading for Run 3 (2022 - 2025)

May 2021: installation of the absorbers to measure inelastic cross section of anti-deuterons



- Interesting for cosmic anti nuclei, multi-baryon state production...;
- Expected statistical precision 2-4% in the momentum interval 0.2 GeV/*c* < p < 1.4 GeV/*c* for Pb–Pb collisions at √sNN = 5.5 TeV (Run 3)
- A systematic uncertainties of 5.5% is expected based on conservative estimate (https://alice-notes.web.cern.ch/node/1015);



## Pattern recognition with HMPID



- $\Box$  A primary track extrapolated from the internal tracking devices has to match with a MIP cluster. This is mandatory for an efficient reconstruction in events with high occupancy in HMPID
- $\Box$  For every cluster in the event, the Cherenkov angle is evaluated (if exists)
- $\Box$  The photon emission angles are reconstructed using a backtracing loop method







## Pattern recognition with the HMPID



Background discrimination is performed exploiting the Hough Transform Method (HTM).

- HTM is an efficient implementation of a generalized *template matching* strategy for detecting complex patterns in binary images.
- The starting point of the analysis is a bi-dimensional map with the impact point  $(x_p, y_p)$  of the charged particles, hitting the detector plane with known incidence angles ( $\theta_p$ ,  $\varphi_p$ ), and the coordinates (*x*, *y*) of hits due to both Cherenkov photons and background sources.
- A "Hough counting space" is constructed for each charged particle, according to the following transform:  $(x, y) \rightarrow$  $((x_p, y_p, \theta_p, \varphi_p), \eta_c)$
- ( $x_p$ ,  $y_p$ ,  $\theta_p$ ,  $\varphi_p$ ) is provided by the tracking of the charged particle, so the transform will reduce the problem to a solution in a one-dimensional mapping space.
- A  $\eta_c$  bin with a certain width is defined. The Cherenkov angle  $\theta_c$  of the particle is provided by the average of the  $\eta_c$ values that fall in the bin with the largest number of entries

## Pattern recognition with the HMPID



The HMPID is located ~5 m from the primary vertex, hence tracks must be propagated through significant material budget after the TPC ( $\sim$  0.36  $X_0$ ,  $\sim$  0.46  $X_0$  from beam pipe) with respect to other RICH detectors. Precise knowledge of the track parameters is essential!

Reconstructed tracks are propagated up to the HMPID chambers by means of a dedicated algorithm. Below 2 GeV/c most of the track have a distance between the primary track's intersection points at HMPID plane and the corresponding MIP point, above 2 cm. In the tracking procedure, the running track is picked up at the last TPC point and propagated up to the HMPID through the TRD and TOF.

The extrapolation algorithm considers the energy loss and the dependence of the magnetic field value on the distance from the interaction point. It is possible to exploit the precise knowledge (1 mm precision) of the HMPID MIP information in the track fitting.



Using HMPID MIP clusters information in the tracking procedure improves the track angular resolution, **ALICE** bringing the resolution of the Cherenkov angle close to the design values.





### PID procedure with the HMPID

#### **Identification on statistical basis: low multiplicity events**



the particle yields are evaluated from a three-Gaussian fit to the Cherenkov angle distribution in a narrow transverse momentum range. The function used is the following:

$$
f(\theta) = \frac{Y_{\pi}}{\sigma_{\pi}\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{(\theta-\langle\theta_{\pi}\rangle)^2}{2\sigma_{\pi}^2}} + \frac{Y_{K}}{\sigma_{K}\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{(\theta-\langle\theta_{K}\rangle)^2}{2\sigma_{K}^2}} + \frac{Y_{p}}{\sigma_{p}\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{(\theta-\langle\theta_{p}\rangle)^2}{2\sigma_{p}^2}}
$$

- *<***θ***<sup>i</sup> >* = means of the Cherenkov angle distributions **σ**<sub>*i*</sub>, = standard deviation of the Cherenkov angle distributions.  $Y_i$  = integral of the single Gaussian functions
- 9 parameters to be calculated, the three mean values, the three sigma values and the three yields.
- Mean and sigma values are know and fixed in the fitting.





### PID procedure with the HMPID

#### **Identification** on statistical basis: high multiplicity events (central Pb-Pb collisions)

- the three Gaussian distributions in a given transverse momentum bins are convoluted with a background distribution;
- Such distribution increases with the Cherenkov angle value;
- It is due to mis-identification in the high occupancy events:
	- larger is the angle value larger is the probability to find background;
- In the yield extraction procedure, the background function has to be convoluted with the three-Gaussian one.





#### Pb-Pb event display

**ALICE** 

#### Low multiplicity events :  $B = 0.2$  and 0.5 Tesla comparison

B = 0. 5 Tesla





#### Low multiplicity events:  $B = 0.2$  and 0.5 Tesla comparison







### High multiplicity events :  $B = 0.2$  and 0.5 Tesla comparison

#### B = 0. 5 Tesla



#### B = 0. 2 Tesla





#### High multiplicity events:  $B = 0.2$  and 0.5 Tesla comparison





### PID procedure with the HMPID

#### **Identification on track-by-track basis**

- From the knowledge of the expected Cherenkov angle value and the expected theoretical standard deviation, it is possible to calculate the values of two PID estimators:
	- the probability to be one of the charged hadron specie;
	- the difference between the measured angle value and the expected theoretical one in sigma units;





#### ALICE charged hadrons yields evaluation strategy

- To measure the production of pions, kaons, protons and light nuclei over a wide  $p<sub>T</sub>$  range, results from five different independent PID techniques/detectors, namely ITS, TPC, TOF, HMPID and kink-topology (for kaons), are combined.
- In their overlap  $p_{\tau}$  regions the spectra from the different PID techniques are consistent within uncertainties:
	- the results are combined in the overlapping ranges using a weighted mean with the independent systematic uncertainties as weights.
- The HMPID constrains the uncertainty of the measurements in the transition region between the TOF and TPC relativistic rise methods (around  $p_T = 3$  GeV/c). It both improves the precision of the measurement and validates the other methods in the region where they have the worst PID separation.

## Some physics results from Run 1 and 2 with HMPID contribution

π, K, p and light nuclei spectra, resulting from the combination of the information provided by 5 different  $AICE$ analyses (dE/dx, TOF, Cherenkov, kinks topology for kaons).



## Preliminary results from Run 3

#### MIP cluster charge distribution



More results on perfomance and physics from Run 3 data avilable soon:

- Light favor hadrons and light nuclei  $p<sub>T</sub>$  spectra
- Anti-deuteron inelastic cross section

Perspective: ALICE 3

## ALICE roadmap

- Ideas for dedicated **heavy-ion programme for Run 5 and 6 at the LHC**
	- developed within ALICE in the course of 2018/19
	- Letter of Intent: review concluded with very positive feedback by the LHCC in March 2022  $(htips://cds.cern.ch/record/2803563)$
	- **Scoping Document:** submission at the beginning of 2024







Protons physics Ions Commissioning with beam Hardware commissioning/magnet training **ALICE** 

## ALICE 3 detector requirements





## ALICE 3 detector requirements





## The ALICE 3 RICH detector

#### **Requirements**

- Extend charged PID beyond TOF limits
	- $e/\pi$  up to  $\approx$  2GeV/c
	- $\pi/K$ upto ≈ 10GeV/ $c$
	- $K/p$  up to  $\approx 16$  GeV/c
- Cherenkov threshold:  $p \ge m/(n 1)^{1/2}$ 
	- $n = 1.03$  (barrel),  $n = 1.006$  (forward)

#### ⇒ *Aerogel radiator*

• Angular resolution:  $\sigma_{\text{ring}} \approx 1.5$  mrad

#### **Implementation**

- 1(barrel)+1⋅2(disk) layers
- Barrel RICH at  $R \approx 0.90$  m,  $|z| < 3.5$  m
- Forward RICH at  $z \approx 4.10$  m,  $R < 1.70$ m
- **Silicon Photomultipliers** (SiPMs) as photon detector

#### **R&D challenges**

- Projective bRICH to improve coverage at large  $|\eta|$  while saving on overall photosensitive area
- Merged oTOF+bRICH system using a common SiPM layer coupled to a thin radiator window







#### First prototype tested on beam in October 2022



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## Summary & outlook

 $\triangleright$  The HMPID detector has exhibited satisfactory performance.



- $\triangleright$  By means of statistical unfolding HMPID provides charged hadrons production measurements, successfully participating to the ALICE physics program.
	- $\triangleright$  Highlights of the results from LHC Run 1 and 2 data has been presented.
- $\triangleright$  In LHC Run 3 the HMPID readout rate is 20 KHz in pp collisions and 9 KHz in Pb-Pb, 10 times higher the rate limited by the triggered TPC in Run 1 and 2.
- $\triangleright$  The Detector is compliant with the new Online and Offline ALICE data taking and analysis environment (O<sup>2</sup>). Now the TPC is on continuous RO!!
- $\triangleright$  Good perspective for the HMPID operation in LHC Run 3.
	- $\triangleright$  Light nuclei identification: deuteron, triton, <sup>3</sup>He, <sup>4</sup>He.
- $\triangleright$  The ALICE collaboration has presented a Letter of Intent for a possible future detector to be ready by 2034 LHC Run 5 (ALICE3).
- $\triangleright$  Currently, preparations for the ALICE3 Scoping Document are underway, with an expected completion date at the beginning of next year.
- $\triangleright$  The RICH system studied and presented in the ALICE 3 LoI was conceived to fulfill the preliminary PID requirements.
	- $\triangleright$  An intense R&D activities is ongoing.

Backup

### The Detector Control System

- Detector Control System (DCS) developed in the PVSS SCADA provided a full detector monitoring, archiving of condition data and remote operation.
- The user interface (UI) of the HMPID DCS. The command execution is based on a Finite State Machine (FSM).



## Sub-system segmentation in one RICH module



- 6 CsI pad Photocathodes (PC's);
- 6 x HV sector of 48 anodic wires (HV's);
- 6 x FEE sectors (FEE's);
- 2 RO sectors (ROR-L)
- Details : CERN/LHCC 98-19 ALICE TDR 1 14 of August 1998.



## $C_6F_{14}$  leaks in the radiator vessels



<sup>3</sup> radiator vessels  $1330x$  413 mm<sup>2</sup> x 15 mm /module C6F14 inlet fitting (chicane element)

- 21 quartz-NEOCERAM radiator vessels 1330x 413 mm<sup>2</sup> x 15 mm for the 7 modules. All the elements are glued with Araldite 2011;
- Left photo: final assembly and layout in the backplane of one RICH module;
- right photo: stainless steel inlet fitting (chicane element) glued on the NEOCERAM element of the vessels;

#### Current detector status





Faulty sub-system segments: Combining leaking vessels and failing HV sectors, the detector acceptance is  $\sim$  65%



#### Deuterons identification: Pb-Pb 5.02 ATeV



$$
m^2 = p^2 (n^2 \cos^2 \theta_{ckov} - 1)
$$

*n* = refractive index



#### Charged hadrons spectra: pp 7 TeV



### Charged hadrons spectra: pp 7 TeV



#### Charged hadrons spectra: Pb-Pb 2.76 ATeV



#### Charged hadrons spectra: Pb-Pb 2.76 ATeV



### Charged hadrons spectra: Pb-Pb 2.76 ATeV

- For  $p_T < 3$  GeV/c a hardening of the spectra is observed going from  $\frac{\sqrt{1}}{6}$ peripheral to central events. This effect  $\frac{1}{\omega}$ is mass dependent and is characteristic of hydrodynamic flow.
- For high  $p_T$  (>10 GeV/c) the spectra follow a power law shape as expected  $\frac{Q^{-10}}{Q}$ <br>from pQCD. from pQCD.



**PHYSICAL REVIEW C 93, 034913 (2016)**



$$
R_{AA} = \frac{d^2 N_{\rm id}^{AA} / dyd p_{\rm T}}{\langle T_{AA} \rangle d^2 \sigma_{\rm id}^{\rm pp} / dyd p_{\rm T}}
$$

- *For p*<sub>T</sub> < ≈ 8 10 GeV/*c*:  $R_{AA}$  for π and K are compatible and are smaller than  $R_{AA}$  for p.
- At high  $p_T$ :  $R_{AA}$  for π, K and p are compatible.

#### Charged hadrons spectra: p-Pb 5.02 TeV



### Charged hadrons spectra: p-Pb 5.02 TeV



#### Charged hadrons spectra: Pb-Pb 5.02 ATeV



**PHYSICAL REVIEW C 101, 044907 (2020)** 



#### Deuteron identification: Pb-Pb 2.76 ATeV



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#### Deuteron identification: Pb-Pb 2.76 ATeV



#### Inclusive hadrons spectra: pp 2.76 TeV



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### Charged particle PID in ALICE (central barrel)

