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Shaping the quark-gluon plasma using measurements of anisotropic flow in Pb–Pb and Xe–Xe collisions with ALICE

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Measurements of azimuthal anisotropic flow provide valuable information on the properties of the quark-gluon plasma created in relativistic collisions of heavy ions. In addition, strong fluctuations of the anisotropic flow allow for an efficient selection of the events corresponding to a specific initial geometry. This selection technique, Event Shape Engineering, has been used to measure the elliptic and triangular flow of inclusive and identified particles (π , K, p, K_S^0 , Λ , Ξ) in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV recorded by the ALICE detector. The measurements are reported for a wide range of particle transverse momenta, p_T , within the pseudorapidity region $|\eta| < 0.8$. The effect of the event-shape selection is within uncertainties independent of particle species up to $p_T \sim 8$ GeV/c, and the origin of this observation is discussed. Strong constraints on the initial conditions of a collision and hydrodynamic medium response are placed comparing these results to those from Xe–Xe collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.44$ TeV.

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