

Strange meson production near threshold in nucleus-nucleus collisions

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Abstract content

Strange mesons are the rare probes of the nucleus-nucleus collisions investigated by the FOPI collaboration at the beam kinetic energy range of 1-2A GeV. This energy falls below (K^- , $\phi(1020)$) or near (K^+ , K^0) thresholds in the free nucleon-nucleon collision, therefore a considerable contribution to the production of these particles is expected to proceed via the secondary channels, involving mesons (π , ρ) and/or intermediate resonances (Δ , N^* , Σ^* , Λ^*) [1, 2]. A particularly interesting case is the K^* -meson. Its production in medium is predicted to proceed via the creation of the $\Sigma^*(1385)$ resonance [3]. However, K^* -is also produced in vacuum from the decay of ϕ mesons. Both these sources have been investigated by the FOPI Collaboration [4, 6]. Strange mesons propagate through the hot and dense collision zone, where their properties like effective mass, and production systems by means of comparing the flow observables and ratios of kinematic distributions to the predictions of transport calculations [7, 8, 9]. In this talk I will present the overview of the abovementioned findings.

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