

On Production of Hadrons in Proton-Proton Collisions at RHIC and LHC Energies and an Approach

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ABSTRACT

From the very early days of Particle Physics, both experimental and theoretical studies on proton-proton collisions had occupied the center-stage of attention for very simple and obvious reasons. And this intense interest seems now to be at peak value with the onset of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)-studies at TeV ranges of energies. In this work, we have chosen to analyze the inclusive cross-sections, the rapidity density, the K/π and p/π -ratio behaviours and the $\langle p_T \rangle$ -values, in the light of the Sequential Chain Model (SCM). And the limited successes of the model encourage us to take up further studies on several other aspects of topmost importance in particle physics with the same approach.

Keywords: Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions; Inclusive Production

1. Introduction

Proton-proton collisions are known to be the most elementary interactions and form the very basis of our knowledge about the nature of high energy collisions in general. Physicists, by and large, hold the view quite firmly that the perturbative quantum-chromodynamics (pQCD) provides a general framework for the studies on high energy particle-particle collisions [1]. Obviously, the unprecedented high energies attained at Large Hadron Collider (LHC) offer new windows and opportunities to test the proposed QCD dynamics with its pros and cons. Naturally the normal expectations run high that the bulk properties of the collision system such as all the momentum spectra and correlations of all produced hadrons should follow the strictures of QCD. But this not definite and concretely-shaped knowledge about how this actually happens and to what extent the process could be understood in the perturbative and non-perturbative domains. The issues involved here still remain, to a considerable extent, quite open [2,3]. Thus, having been somewhat repulsed by the so-called standard approach, we try here to explain some crucial aspects of measured data on pp reactions at the LHC range of energies with the help of some alternative approach. Our main thrust would be on the properties of time-tested familiar observables like transverse momenta spectra, rapidity distributions, the ratio-behaviours and average transverse momenta ($\langle p_T \rangle$) for the charged secondaries in high energy pp interactions. Comparison with some other model

would be made whenever possible.

The organisation of the paper is as follows: In Section 2, we provide a brief outline of the model chosen for study. In Section 3, the results obtained by the model-based study are presented. In Section 4, we end up with a discussion on the results and the observations made in Section 3 and the conclusions.

2. The Approach: An Outline

This section gives a brief overview of the model-based features for the production mechanism of the secondary hadrons in nucleon-nucleon ($p + p$) interaction in the context of the Sequential Chain Model (SCM). According to this Sequential Chain Model (SCM), high energy hadronic interactions boil down, essentially, to the pion-pion interactions; as the protons are conceived in this model as $p = (\pi^+ \pi^0 \mathcal{G})$, where \mathcal{G} is a spectator particle needed for the dynamical generation of quantum numbers of the nucleons [4-9]. The production of pions in the present scheme occurs as follows: the incident energetic π -mesons in the structure of the projectile proton (nucleon) emits a rho(ρ)-meson in the interacting field of the pion lying in the structure of the target proton, the ρ -meson then emits a π -meson and is changed into an omega(ω)-meson, the ω -meson then again emits a π -meson and is transformed once again into a ρ -meson and thus the process of production of pion-secondaries continue in the sequential chain of ρ - ω - π mesons. The two ends of the diagram contain the baryons exclusively

[4-9].

For $K^+(K^-)$ or $K^0\bar{K}^0$ production the model proposes the following mechanism. One of the interacting π -mesons emits a ρ -mesons; the ρ -mesons in its turn emits a ϕ^0 -meson and a π -meson. The π -meson so produced then again emits ρ and ϕ^0 mesons and the process continues. The ϕ^0 mesons so produced now decays into either K^+K^- or $K^0\bar{K}^0$ pairs. The ρ - π chain proceeds in any Feynman diagram in a line with alternate positions, pushing the ϕ^0 mesons (as producers of K^+K^- or $K^0\bar{K}^0$ pairs) on the sides. This may appear paradoxical as the ϕ^0 production cross-section is generally smaller than the $K\bar{K}$ production cross-section; still the situation arises due to the fact that the ϕ^0 resonances produced in the collision processes will quickly decay into $K\bar{K}$ pairs, for which the number of ϕ^0 will be lower than that of the $K\bar{K}$ pairs. Besides, as long as ϕ^0 mesons remain in the virtual state, theoretically there is no problem, for $\phi^0 K^+K^-$ (or $\phi^0 K^0\bar{K}^0$) is an observed and allowed decay mode, wherein the strangeness conservation is maintained with the strange-antistrange coupled production. Moreover, $\phi^0 K^+K^-$ (or $\phi^0 K^0\bar{K}^0$) coupling constant is well known and is measured by experiments with a modest degree of reliability. And we have made use of this measured coupling strength for our calculational purposes, whenever necessary. It is assumed that the K^+K^- and $K^0\bar{K}^0$ pairs are produced in equal proportions [4-9]. The entire production process of kaon-antikaons is controlled jointly by the coupling constants, involving ρ - π - ϕ and ϕ - K^+K^- or ϕ^0 - $K^0\bar{K}^0$.

Now we describe here the baryon-antibaryon production. According to the SCM mechanism, the decay of the pion secondaries produces baryon-antibaryon pairs in a sequential chain as before. The pions producing baryons-antibaryons pairs are obviously turned into the virtual states. And the proton-antiproton pairs are just a part of these secondary baryon-antibaryon pairs. In the case of baryon-antibaryon pairs it is postulated that protons-antiprotons and neutrons-antineutrons constitute the major bulk, Production of the strange baryons-antibaryons are far less due to the much smaller values of the coupling constants and due to their being much heavier.

The field theoretical calculations for the average multiplicities of the π , K and \bar{p} -secondaries and for the inclusive cross-sections of those secondary particles deliver some expressions which we would pick up from [4-9].

The inclusive cross-section of the π -meson produced in the $p + p$ collisions given by

$$E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3} \Big|_{pp \rightarrow \pi^- x} \cong \Gamma_{\pi^-} \exp(-2.38 \langle n_{\pi^-} \rangle_{pp} x) \frac{1}{p_T \binom{N_R^{\pi^-}}{}} \times \exp\left(\frac{-2.68 p_T^2}{\langle n_{\pi^-} \rangle_{pp} (1-x)}\right) \quad (1)$$

with

$$\langle n_{\pi^+} \rangle_{pp} \cong \langle n_{\pi^-} \rangle_{pp} \cong \langle n_{\pi^0} \rangle_{pp} \cong 1.1s^{1/5}, \quad (2)$$

where Γ_{π^-} is the normalisation factor which will increase as the inelastic cross-section increases and it is different for different energy region and for various collisions, for example, $|\Gamma_{\pi^-}| \cong 90$ for Intersecting Storage Ring (ISR) energy region. The terms p_T , x in Equation (1) represent the transverse momentum, Feynman Scaling variable respectively. Moreover, by definition, $x = 2p_L/\sqrt{s}$ where p_L is the longitudinal momentum of the particle. The s in Equation (2) is the square of the c.m. energy.

$1/p_T^{N_R^{\pi^-}}$ of the expression (1) is the ‘‘constituent rearrangement term’’ arising out of the partons inside the proton which essentially provides a damping term in terms of a power-law in p_T with an exponent of varying values depending on both the collision process and the specific p_T -range. The choice of N_R would depend on the following factors: 1) the specificities of the interacting projectile and target; 2) the particularities of the secondaries emitted from a specific hadronic or nuclear interaction; and 3) the magnitudes of the momentum transfers and of a phase factor (with a maximum value of unity) in the rearrangement process in any collision. And this is a factor for which we shall have to parameterize alongwith some physics-based points indicated earlier. The parametrization is to be done for two physical points, viz., the amount of momentum transfer and the contributions from a phase factor arising out of the rearrangement of the constituent partons. Collecting and combining all these, we proposed the relation to be given by [10]

$$N_R = 4 \langle N_{part} \rangle^{1/3} \theta, \quad (3)$$

where $\langle N_{part} \rangle$ denotes the average number of participating nucleons and θ values are to be obtained phenomenologically from the fits to the data-points. In this context, the only additional physical information obtained from the observations made here is: with increase in the peripherality of the collisions the values of θ gradually grow less and less, and vice versa.

Similarly, for kaons of any specific variety (K^+ , K^- , K^0 or \bar{K}^0) we have

$$E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3} \Big|_{pp \rightarrow K^- x} \cong \Gamma_{K^-} \exp(-6.55 \langle n_{K^-} \rangle_{pp} x) \frac{1}{p_T \binom{N_R^{K^-}}{}} \exp\left(\frac{-1.33 p_T^2}{\langle n_{K^-} \rangle_{pp}^{3/2}}\right), \quad (4)$$

with $|\Gamma_{K^-}| \cong 11.22$ for ISR energies and with

$$\langle n_{K^+} \rangle_{pp} \cong \langle n_{K^-} \rangle_{pp} \cong \langle n_{K^0} \rangle_{pp} \cong \langle n_{\bar{K}^0} \rangle_{pp} \cong 5 \times 10^{-2} s^{1/4}. \quad (5)$$

And for the antiproton production in pp scattering at high energies, the derived expression for inclusive cross-section is

$$E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3} \Big|_{pp \rightarrow \bar{p}x} \cong \Gamma_{\bar{p}} \exp(-25.4 \langle n_{\bar{p}} \rangle_{pp} x) \frac{1}{p_T^{(N_{\bar{p}}^R)}} \times \exp \left(\frac{-0.66 \left((p_T^2)_{\bar{p}} + m_{\bar{p}}^2 \right)}{\langle n_{\bar{p}} \rangle_{pp}^{3/2} (1-x)} \right), \quad (6)$$

with $|\Gamma_{\bar{p}}| \cong 1.87 \times 10^3$ and $m_{\bar{p}}$ is the mass of the antiprotons. For ultrahigh energies

$$\langle n_{\bar{p}} \rangle_{pp} \cong \langle n_p \rangle_{pp} \cong 2 \times 10^{-2} s^{1/4}. \quad (7)$$

3. The Results

Now let us proceed to apply the chosen model to interpret some recent experimental results of charged hadrons production for $p + p$ collisions at different energies. Here, the main observables are the inclusive cross-sections or invariant yields, rapidity distributions, ratio behaviour and the average transverse momenta.

3.1. Inclusive Cross-Sections

The general form of our SCM-based transverse-momentum distributions for $p + p \rightarrow C + X$ -type reactions can be written in the following notation:

$$E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3} \Big|_{pp \rightarrow C^+x} = \alpha_{C^+} \frac{1}{p_T^{N_{C^+}^R}} \exp(-\beta_{C^+} \times p_T^2). \quad (8)$$

The value of α_{π^-} , for example, can be calculated from the following relation:

$$\alpha_{\pi^-} = \Gamma_{\pi^-} \exp(-2.38 \langle n_{\pi^-} \rangle_{pp} x) \quad (9)$$

The values of $(\alpha_{\pi^-})_{pp}$, $(N_{\pi^-}^R)_{pp}$ and $(\beta_{\pi^-})_{pp}$ for dif-

ferent energies are given in **Table 1**. The experimental data for the inclusive cross-sections versus p_T [GeV/c] for π^- production in $p + p$ interactions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV and 200 GeV are taken from Ref. [11] and they are plotted in **Figures 1(a)** and **(b)** respectively. The production of π^- , K^- and \bar{p} at mid-rapidity in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 900$ GeV has been plotted by lines in **Figure 1(c)**. Data are taken from [12]. For the data for charged particle distribution

$Ed^3N_{ch}/dp^3 = 1/(2\pi p_T) E/p (d^2N_{ch}/d\eta dp_T)$ at energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 546$ GeV and $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 900$ GeV we use references [3,13]. And for LHC data for charged particle distribution for energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 0.9$ TeV, 2.36 TeV and 7 TeV we use references [14,15]. They are plotted in **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** respectively. The solid lines in those figures depict the SCM-based plots. As the main variety of the charged particles coming out are the pions, we use here Equation (1) for calculational purposes. The ‘‘NSD’’-term, used by the experimentalists, has the meaning of non-single diffractive collisions [16].

Table 1. Values of $(\alpha_{\pi^-})_{pp}$, $(N_{\pi^-}^R)_{pp}$ and $(\beta_{\pi^-})_{pp}$ for π^- productions in $p + p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4, 200, 546, 900, 2380$ and 7000 GeV.

$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	$(\alpha_{\pi^-})_{pp}$	$(N_{\pi^-}^R)_{pp}$	$(\beta_{\pi^-})_{pp}$
62.4 GeV	0.545	3.327	0.468
200 GeV	0.907	3.867	0.293
546 GeV	0.153	3.931	0.172
900 GeV	0.135	4.154	0.128
2380 GeV	0.166	4.235	0.085
7000 GeV	0.355	4.366	0.075

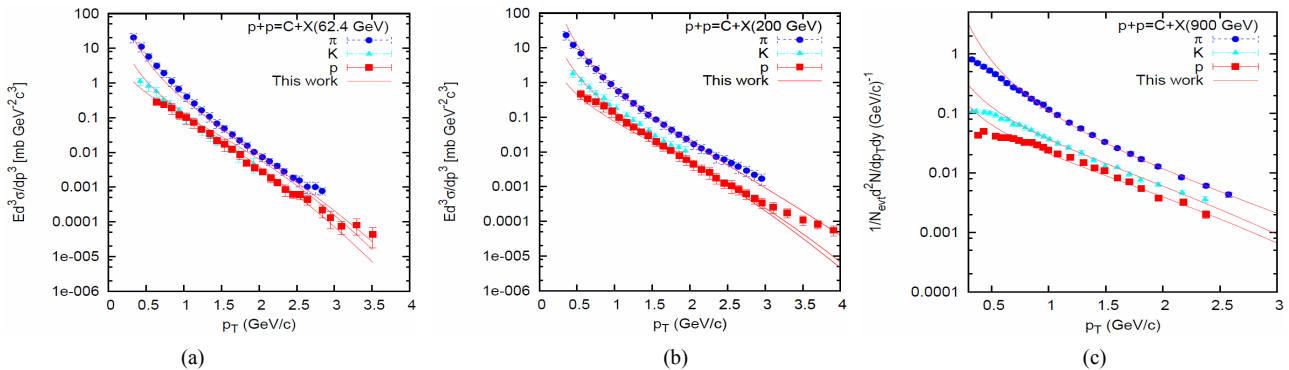


Figure 1. Plots for π , K and proton-production in $p + p$ collisions at RHIC energies (a) $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV; (b) $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV; and (c) $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 900$ GeV. Data are taken from Ref. [11] for Figures (a)-(b), while for Figure (c) from Ref. [12]. Solid lines in the figures show the SCM-based plots.

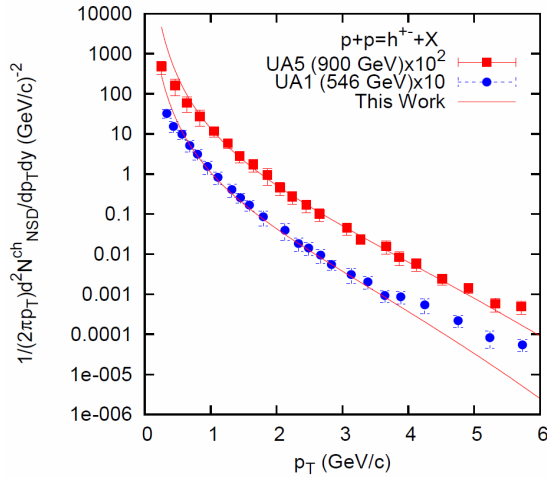


Figure 2. Transverse momentum distributions of the invariant cross section of charged particles in NSD $p + p$ collisions at $|y| \leq 2.5$ for energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 546$ GeV and 900 GeV. Experimental data are taken from [3,13]. Lines show the theoretical plots.

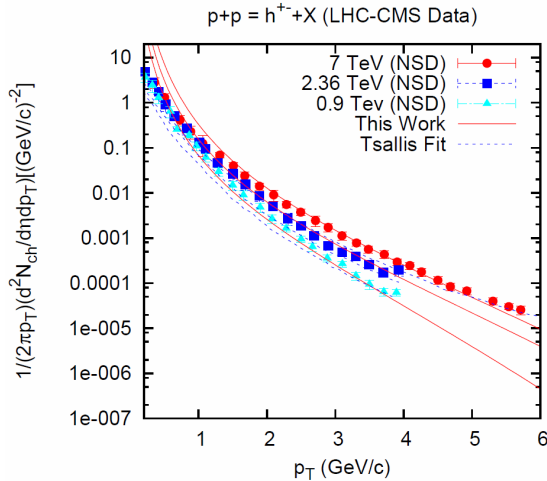


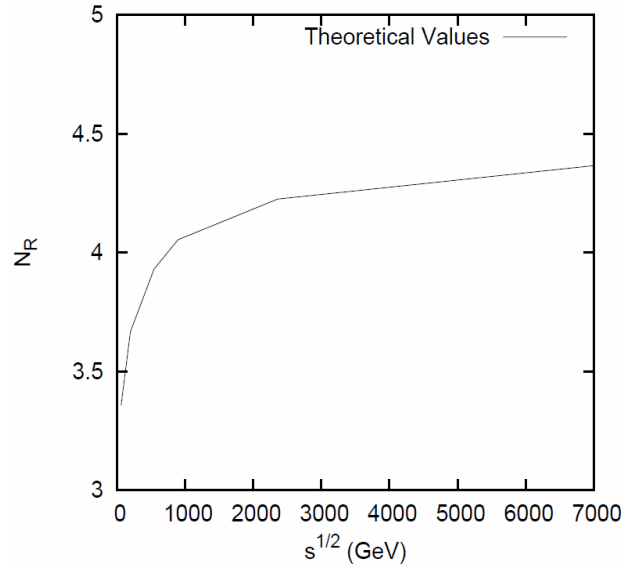
Figure 3. Charged-hadron yield for energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 0.9$ TeV, 2.38 TeV and 7 TeV in the range $\eta < 2.4$ in NSD events as a function of p_T ; Data are taken from CMS collaboration [14,15]. Solid lines in the figure represent SCM based results while the dashed lines show Tsallis fit.

A comparison between the SCM-based results and the Tsallis parametrization is done for energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 0.9$ TeV, 2.36 TeV and 7 TeV. The Tsallis parametric equation [17,18] is given hereunder

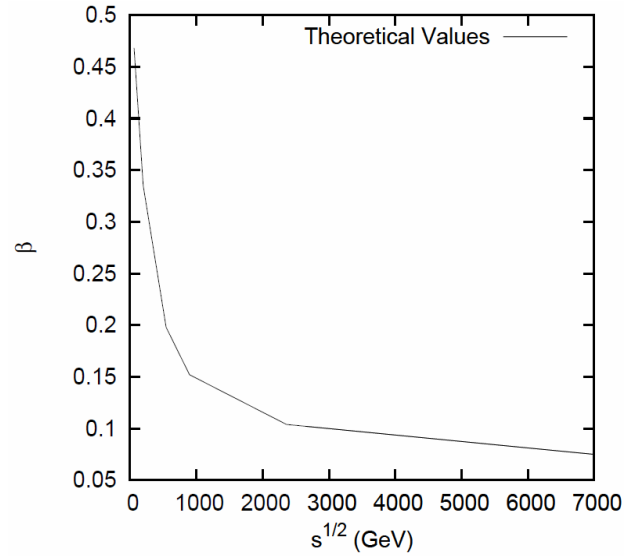
$$E \frac{d^3 N_{ch}}{dp^3} = \frac{1}{2\pi p_T} \frac{E}{p} \frac{d^2 N_{ch}}{d\eta dp_T} = C \frac{dN_{ch}}{dy} \left(1 + \frac{ET}{nT}\right)^{-n}, \quad (10)$$

with $y = 0.5 \ln \left[\frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z} \right]$, $E_T = \sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2} - m$ and m is the charged pion mass. The dotted lines in **Figure 3** depict the Tsallis parametrization.

Moreover, in **Figures 4(a)** and **(b)**, we have plotted theoretical values N_R and β versus $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ respectively. Similarly, by using Equations (4), (5) and (7), the values of $(\alpha_{K^-})_{pp}$, $(N_R^{K^-})_{pp}$, $(\beta_{K^-})_{pp}$ and $(\alpha_{\bar{p}})_{pp}$, $(N_R^{\bar{p}})_{pp}$, $(\beta_{\bar{p}})_{pp}$ are given in **Table 2**. The experimental data for the inclusive cross-sections versus p_T [GeV/c] for K^- and \bar{p} production in $p + p$ interactions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV, 200 GeV are taken from Ref. [11] and for $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 900$ GeV we have used Ref. [12]. They are plotted in **Figures 1(a)-(c)** respectively. The solid lines in those figures depict the SCM-based plots.



(a)



(b)

Figure 4. Plots of theoretical (a) N_R and (b) β -values versus \sqrt{s} .

3.2. The Rapidity Distribution

For the calculation of the rapidity distribution we can make use of a standard relation as given below:

$$\frac{dN}{dy} = \int \left(E \frac{d^3 N_{ch}}{dp^3} \right) dp_T \quad (11)$$

In **Table 3** we had made a comparison between experimentally found dn/dy for π^- , K^- and \bar{p} in $p + p$ collisions for RHIC and LHC energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV, 200 GeV and 900 GeV and the SCM-based calculated results. Data are taken from Refs. [11,12]. The theoretically calculated results are coming out with the help of Equations (1), (4), (6) and (11).

Similarly, for LHC-energies, by using Equation (1) and Equation (11), the SCM-based $dN_{ch}/d\eta$ will be given hereunder

Table 2. Values of $(\alpha_{K^-})_{pp}$, $(N_R^{K^-})_{pp}$, $(\beta_{K^-})_{pp}$ and $(\alpha_{\bar{p}})_{pp}$, $(N_R^{\bar{p}})_{pp}$ and $(\beta_{\bar{p}})_{pp}$ for K^- , \bar{p} productions in $p + p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4, 200$ GeV and 900 GeV.

$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	$(\alpha_{K^-})_{pp}$	$(N_R^{K^-})_{pp}$	$(\beta_{K^-})_{pp}$
62.4 GeV	0.245	2.527	0.591
200 GeV	0.235	3.017	0.417
900 GeV	0.047	1.544	0.248
$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	$(\alpha_{\bar{p}})_{pp}$	$(N_R^{\bar{p}})_{pp}$	$(\beta_{\bar{p}})_{pp}$
62.4 GeV	0.215	1.527	0.618
200 GeV	0.115	2.117	0.426
900 GeV	0.027	1.344	0.248

$$\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} = 3.64 \exp(-0.007 \sinh \eta) \text{ for } \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 0.9 \text{ TeV}, \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} = 4.75 \exp(-0.009 \sinh \eta) \text{ for } \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.38 \text{ TeV}, \quad (13)$$

and

$$\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} = 6.28 \exp(-0.011 \sinh \eta) \text{ for } \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7 \text{ TeV}. \quad (14)$$

In **Figure 5** we have plotted $dN_{ch}/d\eta$ vs η at three LHC-energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 0.9$ TeV, 2.38 TeV and 7 TeV. The reconstructed data points for **Figure 5** are from Refs. [14,16,19]. Lines in the Figure are the outcomes of Equations (12), (13) and (14) respectively.

Table 3. Comparisons of experimental dn/dy with the SCM-based theoretical ones for π^- , K^- , \bar{p} productions in $p + p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV, 200 GeV and 900 GeV.

$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	Particle	dn/dy	dn/dy
		(Experimental)	(Theoretical)
62.4 GeV	π^-	0.900 ± 0.063	0.840
	K^-	0.103 ± 0.005	0.100
	\bar{p}	0.037 ± 0.003	0.035
200 GeV	π^-	0.824 ± 0.053	0.841
	K^-	0.067 ± 0.003	0.065
	\bar{p}	0.022 ± 0.002	0.018
900 GeV	π^-	1.485 ± 0.004	1.241
	K^-	0.182 ± 0.004	0.175
	\bar{p}	0.079 ± 0.002	0.068

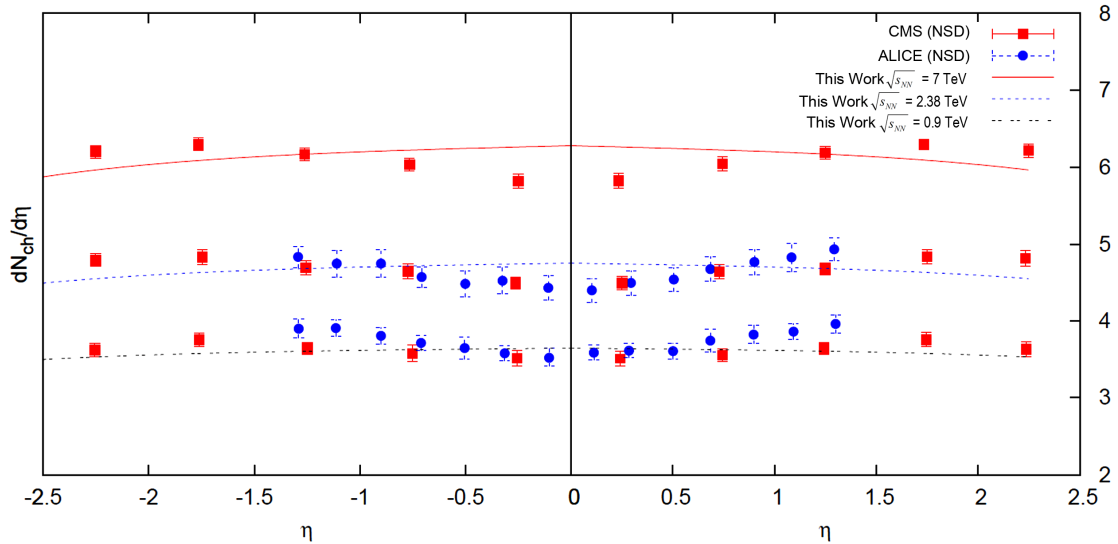


Figure 5. Plot of $dN_{ch}/d\eta$ vs η for $p + p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 0.9$ TeV, 2.38 TeV and 7 TeV. The reconstructed data points are from Refs. [14,16,19]. The lines in the figure depict the theoretical results for different energies.

3.3. The Ratio-Behaviours for Different Secondaries

The nature of the relation of K/π ratios with the SCM, presented in the previous work [20], would be written in the following form

$$\frac{K}{\pi} = 5.4 \times 10^{-2} (\sqrt{s})^{0.1}. \quad (15)$$

Figure 6(a) shows the nature of rise of K/π ratio in the light of SCM-based above relation (Equation (15)). Data are taken from Ref. [21].

Similarly, in **Figure 6(b)**, we have presented the p/π ratio for the RHIC and LHC-data [21]. The SCM-based calculations are done on the basis of Equation (1) and **Table 1**.

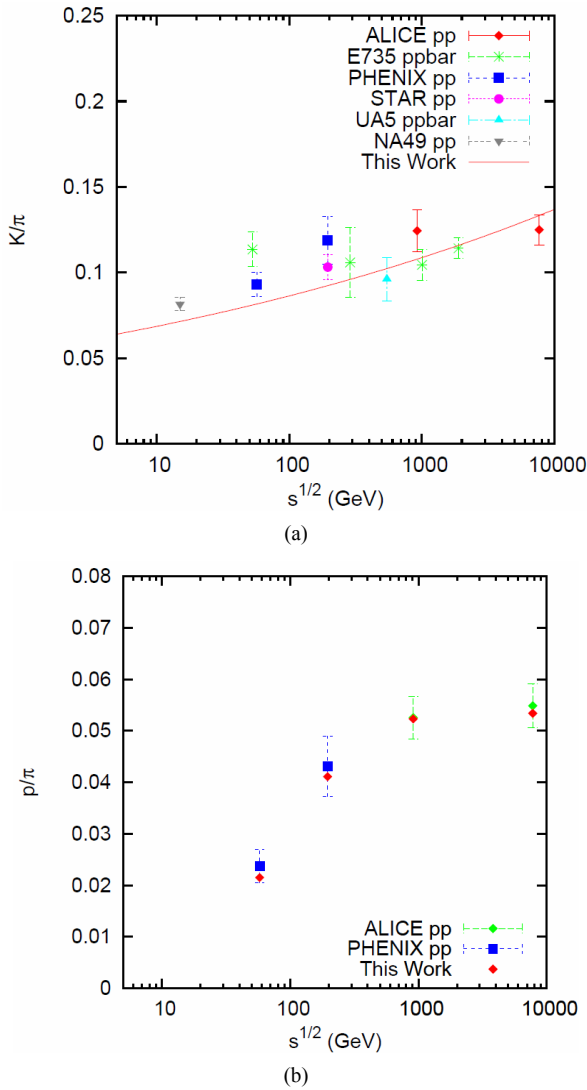


Figure 6. Presentation of plots of (a) K/π and (b) p/π at different center-of-mass energies. Line and rhombus represent the SCM-based results in (a) and (b) respectively against the data sets taken from Ref. [21].

3.4. $\langle p_T \rangle$ Values

Next we attempt at deriving model-based expression for $\langle p_T \rangle$.

The definition for average transverse momentum is $\langle p_T \rangle$ given below:

$$\langle p_T \rangle^C = \frac{\int_{p_T(\min)}^{p_T(\max)} p_T E \frac{d^3 \sigma^C}{dp^3} dp_T^2}{\int_{p_T(\min)}^{p_T(\max)} E \frac{d^3 \sigma^C}{dp^3} dp_T^2} \quad (16)$$

The line in the **Figure 7** depicts the SCM-based calculated results of the average transverse momentum $\langle p_T \rangle$ versus the c.m. energy $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$. The theoretical calculations are done on the basis of uses of Equation (1), **Table 1**. Data are taken from [3,14,22,23].

4. Discussions and Conclusions

Let us make some general observations and specific comments on the results arrived at and shown by the diagrams on a case-to-case basis.

1) The measures of inclusive cross-sections against transverse momenta (p_T) obtained on the basis of the SCM for the pions, kaons and protons for the RHIC energies $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4, 200$ GeV and for LHC energy $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 900$ GeV are depicted in **Figure 1**. They describe a modest degree of success.

Of the various types particles produced, the π -mesons, constitute, the near totality of the secondaries. So, in calculating the charged hadrons yields for different transverse momenta, on the basis of the model, for different energies ranging from $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 546$ GeV to 7 TeV, we use Equation (1). The results are shown in the **Figure 2**

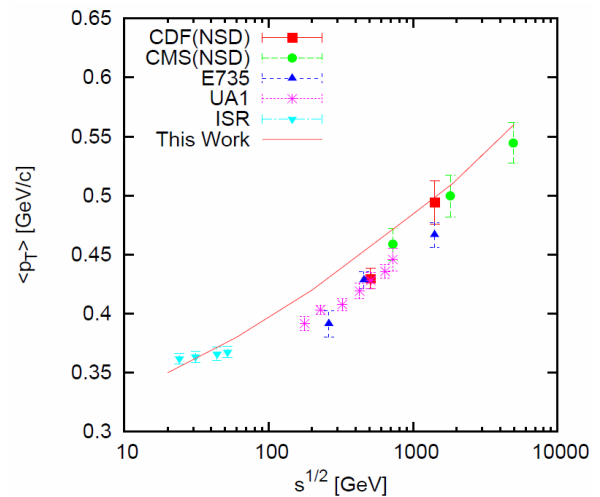


Figure 7. Plot of average transverse momentum as function of \sqrt{s} . Data are taken from [3,14,22,23]. Line shows the SCM-based calculations.

and **Figure 3**. Moreover, we have compared the Model-based results with Tsallis parametrization in **Figure 3**. The outcomes of these plots are fairly satisfactory.

2) The theoretically calculated N_R and β -factors of Equation (8) for different $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$'s have been plotted in **Figure 4**. With the inclusion of the power law form arising due to the physics of partonic rearrangement factor, the model has turned effectively into a mixed model. And these two factors corroborate effectively the “soft” and “hard” regimes without any extra effort.

3) The calculations of rapidity distributions for pions, kaons and protons at different RHIC and LHC energies, on the basis of the model, have been done with the help of Equation (11). The calculated values are compared with the experimental ones and they are shown in **Table 3**. The theoretical values are in fair agreement with the experimental data.

Similarly, in **Figure 5**, we have plotted the pseudorapidity distributions for different LHC energies. Here, the model modestly reproduce data consistently.

4) The agreements between the measured data on K/π and p/π ratio and the theoretical SCM plots (shown in **Figure 6**) for different energies are strikingly encouraging.

5) **Figure 7** shows the plots of $\langle p_T \rangle$ vs $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$. The initial indication of the SCM-based theoretical plot shows a modest agreement with the data.

Finally, we conclude from the analysis of the results given above with the following statements: The model applied here gives fair descriptions of the p_T -spectra of all the light secondaries or charged hadron. Some disagreements are observed at pseudorapidity distributions at LHC energies. The model might require some finer adjustments to cope with the data for very high energy nuclear collisions. However, on an overall basis, our model is in fair agreement with the latest pp -collision results obtained from the upto-date LHC experiments. This factor is really of high importance to us. Furthermore, the observables or the physical aspects that we have reckoned herewith form a clear continuum from the old ISR experiments to the recent Large Hadron Collider studies via the intermediary BNL-RHIC results cropped up over the 1st decade of this century. In so far as the rolls of the other models (including QCD versions) are considered, the results do neither speak very high about them; rather they cast doubts on the suitability of them in applying at this LHC energy band. And this certainly spurs us on to take up further studies on the SCM proposed earlier and applied in the present study.

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