- Baryon number transport, baryon ”stopping” is often quoted in studies of heavy ion collisions. The change of final state baryon distributions can be studied with varying impact parameter, so called ”centrality”.
- In NA49, we carry out a study of baryon stopping in more elementary reactions as well: in proton+proton (p+p), and centrality selected proton+lead (p+Pb). This comparative study reveals a similar behavior in case of p+A and A+A reactions.
- We use the mean number of elementary collisions to quantify how central a collision is, this way the results of different reactions can be compared on a common scale.
- A new attempt is made to separate contributions of net protons originating from the target and projectile side, using pion beams as experimental, and a two-component picture as interpretational tools.