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#### Understanding the nature of $f_0(980)$ with ALICE at the LHC

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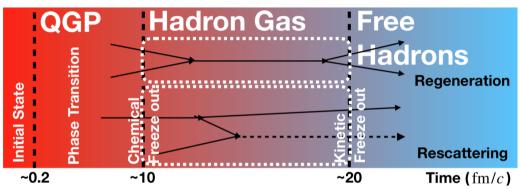
June 14, 2022 2022 Strangeness in Quark Matter

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### Short-lived resonances



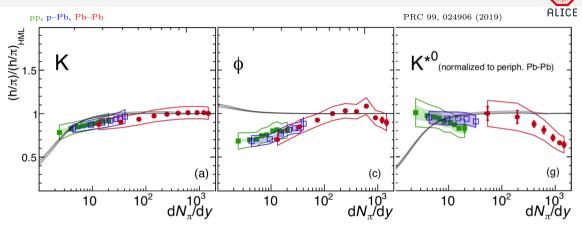


• Resonance yields can be modified in the hadronic gas via regeneration and rescattering.

• Short-lived resonances are powerful probes to study the properties of the hadronic gas.



# Particle yield ratio



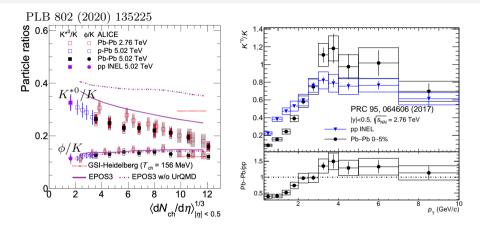
- Strangeness enhancement is seen in the  $(K/\pi)$  and  $(\phi/\pi)$  ratios.
- $(K^{*0}/\pi)$  is flat with increasing multiplicity in pp and p–Pb collisions, possibly due to two competing effects.
  - Strangeness enhancement
  - Suppressions due to the short lifetime of  $K^{*0}$  ( $\tau_{K^{*0}} \sim 4.2 \text{ fm/}c$ )  $\rightarrow$  hint for rescattering effects

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 $K^{*0}/K$ 



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- Strangeness enhancement effect is not expected in  $(K^{*0}/K)$  ratio.
- Rescattering effects dominate the decreasing trend.
  - EPOS+UrQMD can qualitatively reproduce the  $(K^{*0}/K)$  ratio from small to large collision systems.
  - Strong suppression at low  $p_{\rm T}$  + no suppression at high  $p_{\rm T}$

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# $f_0(980)$ resonance



- Scalar meson whose quark content and structure are still unresolved.
  - $q\bar{q}$  state: PRD 67, 094011 (2003)
  - Tetraquark  $(q\bar{q}s\bar{s})$  state: PRD 103, 014010 (2021)
  - $K\overline{K}$  molecule state: PRD 101 094034 (2020)
- Measured f<sub>0</sub>(980) yield in hadron-hadron collisions can be largely modified because of its short lifetime  $(\tau_{f_0} \sim 2-20 \text{ fm}/c)$ .
- Particle yield ratios and nuclear modification factor  $(Q_{\rm pPb})$  of  $f_0(980)$  allow to
  - Study the hadronic gas
  - Explore internal structure of  $f_0(980)$

	$ ho^0$	$K^*$	$f_0(980)$	$\phi$
Mass $(MeV/c^2)$	775	892	990	1020
$J^P$	$1^{-}$	$1^{-}$	$0^+$	1-
Contents	$\frac{u\bar{u} + dd}{\sqrt{2}}$	$d\bar{s}$	???	$s\bar{s}$
lifetime $(fm/c)$	1.3	4.2	$\sim$ 2–20	46.2

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\rm pPb}(p_{\rm T}, {\rm cent}) &= \\ \frac{{\rm d}^2 N_{\rm pPb}^{\rm cent} / {\rm dyd} p_{\rm T}}{< T_{\rm pPb}^{\rm cent} > {\rm d}^2 \sigma_{\rm pp}^{\rm INEL} / {\rm dyd} p_{\rm T}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\langle T_{\rm pPb}^{\rm cent} \rangle = N_{\rm coll}^{\rm cent} / \sigma_{\rm NN}$ 



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# Signal extraction for $f_0(980)$

• The position of each resonance is corrected by the phase space correction,

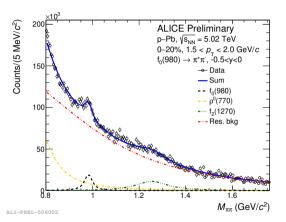
$$PS(M_{\pi\pi}) = \frac{M_{\pi\pi}}{\sqrt{M_{\pi\pi}^2 + p_{\rm T}^2}} \exp(-\sqrt{M_{\pi\pi}^2 + p_{\rm T}^2}/T).$$

• After the combinatorial background subtraction, the residual background can be described by  $f_{\rm BG}(M_{\pi\pi}) = (M_{\pi\pi} - 2m_{\pi})^n A \exp(BM_{\pi\pi} + CM_{\pi\pi}^2).$ 

 $\bullet\,$  In total,

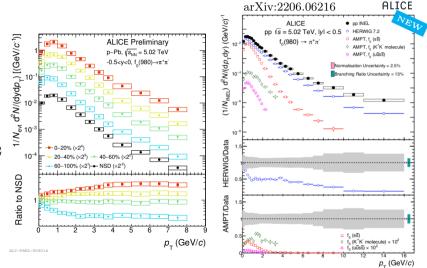
 $\frac{f(M_{\pi\pi}) = (N_{\rho} \mathrm{rBW}_{\rho^{0}}(M_{\pi\pi}) + N_{f_{0}} \mathrm{rBW}_{f_{0}}(M_{\pi\pi}) + N_{f_{2}} \mathrm{rBW}_{f_{2}}(M_{\pi\pi})) \times PS(M_{\pi\pi}) + f_{\mathrm{BG}}(M_{\pi\pi})$ 

• The estimated  $f_0(980)$  width is 55  $MeV/c^2$  (~ 4 fm/c)



# $p_{\rm T}$ spectra for $f_0(980)$

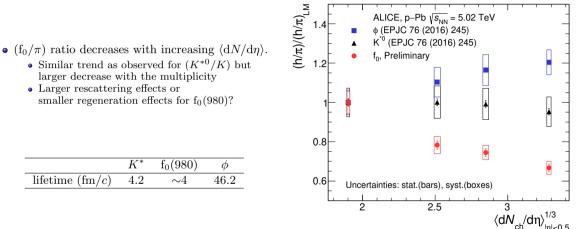
- Fully corrected  $p_{\rm T}$  spectra for f<sub>0</sub>(980) down to  $p_{\rm T} = 0$ in different multiplicity classes
- f<sub>0</sub>(980) p<sub>T</sub> spectra cannot be reproduced by HERWIG
   7.2 model and AMPT+coalescence model in three configurations (ss̄, uūss̄, and KK molecule).



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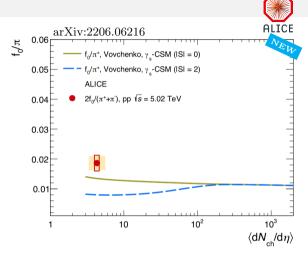
# Particle yield ratios





#### Particle yield ratios: model comparison

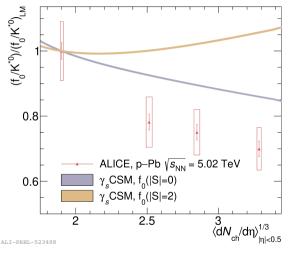
- Canonical statistical model (CSM) with multiplicity dependent  $\gamma_s \leq 1$  [1] is used to predict (f<sub>0</sub>/ $\pi$ ) ratio for strangeness content hypotheses.
- |S| = 2: Increasing trend predicted
- |S| = 0: Decreasing trend predicted
  - [1] V. Vovchenko et al, PRC 100 (2019) 5, 054906



## Particle yield ratios: model comparison

- Canonical statistical model (CSM) with multiplicity dependent  $\gamma_s \leq 1$  [1] is used to predict  $(f_0/K^{*0})$  ratio for strangeness content hypotheses.
- CSM predicts a flat behavior for |S| = 2 while a decreasing trend (qualitatively similar to what seen in data) is expected for |S| = 0.
  - N.B.: No rescattering effects in CSM
  - [1] V. Vovchenko et al, PRC 100 (2019) 5, 054906

	$K^*$	$f_0(980)$	$\phi$
lifetime $(fm/c)$	4.2	$\sim 4$	46.2

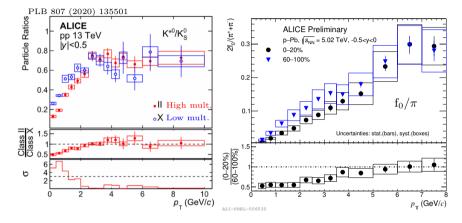






# $p_{\rm T}\text{-differential yield ratios of f}_0(980)$ to $\pi$





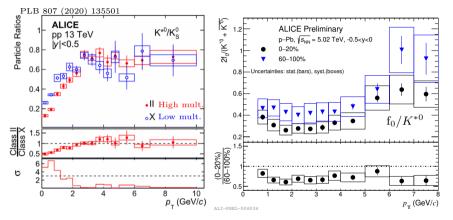
•  $(f_0/\pi)$ : Significant modification at low  $p_T$  (< 3 GeV/c) and no modification at high  $p_T$  (> 4 GeV/c)

- Similar  $p_{\rm T}$  dependence between (pp<sub>high</sub>/pp<sub>low</sub>) and (Pb–Pb/pp) for  $(K^{*0}/K)$
- Similar  $p_{\rm T}$  dependence between double ratio of  $(K^{*0}/K)$  and  $(f_0/\pi)$

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# $p_{\rm T}$ -differential yield ratios of f<sub>0</sub>(980) to $K^{*0}$



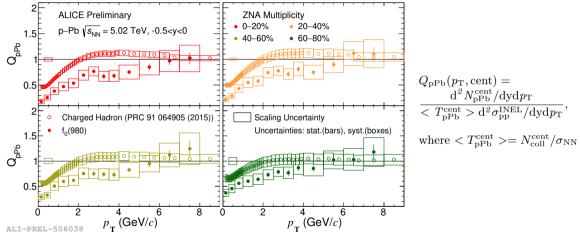
- Rescattering effects should be comparable between  $f_0(980)$  and  $K^{*0}$  as they have comparable lifetime.
- Different behavior between  $(K^{*0}/K)$  and  $(f_0/K^{*0})$  in the full measured  $p_T$  interval
- $(f_0/K^{*0})$ : Modification in the entire  $p_T$  range.
  - $\rightarrow$  due to different quark content for the two particles?

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• Multiplicity dependent suppression for  $f_0(980)$  at the low  $p_{\rm T}(< 4 {\rm ~GeV}/c)$ 

• Rescattering effects observed in all the centrality intervals

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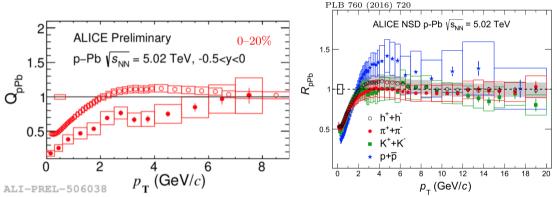
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Cronin peak



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• No Cronin peak is observed for  $f_0(980)$  in contrast to what is observed for baryons.

# Summary



- Multiplicity dependence of  $f_0(980)$  in pp and p–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{\rm NN}} = 5.02$  TeV has been measured to understand the nature of  $f_0(980)$ .
  - Particle yield ratios and nuclear modification factor in different multiplicity classes to study hadronic gas and  $f_0(980)$  structure.
- Decreasing  $(f_0/\pi)$  at low  $p_T$ 
  - Evidence of rescattering-like effects for the  $f_0(980)$
- Decreasing  $(f_0/K^{*0})$  in the full measured  $p_T$  range
  - due to different quark content for  $f_0(980)$  and  $K^{*0}$ ?
- Multiplicity dependence of  $Q_{\rm pPb}$  of  $f_0(980)$ 
  - Stronger suppression of  $f_0(980)$  at low  $p_T$ : rescattering effects
  - No Cronin peak for  $Q_{\rm pPb}$  of  $f_0(980)$  in high-multiplicity events.
- Models with different quark contents or structures are needed to shed light on  $f_0(980)$  structure.



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