



Physics of Small Systems

An experimental summary

Jiayin Sun
INFN Cagliari





Small systems are the baseline for QGP studies

Assuming no QGP is formed in small systems

pp collisions:

Baseline in vacuum
QCD studies

pA collisions:

Cold Nuclear Matter (CNM) effects:

small- x physics and initial states:

nPDF and/or gluon saturation?

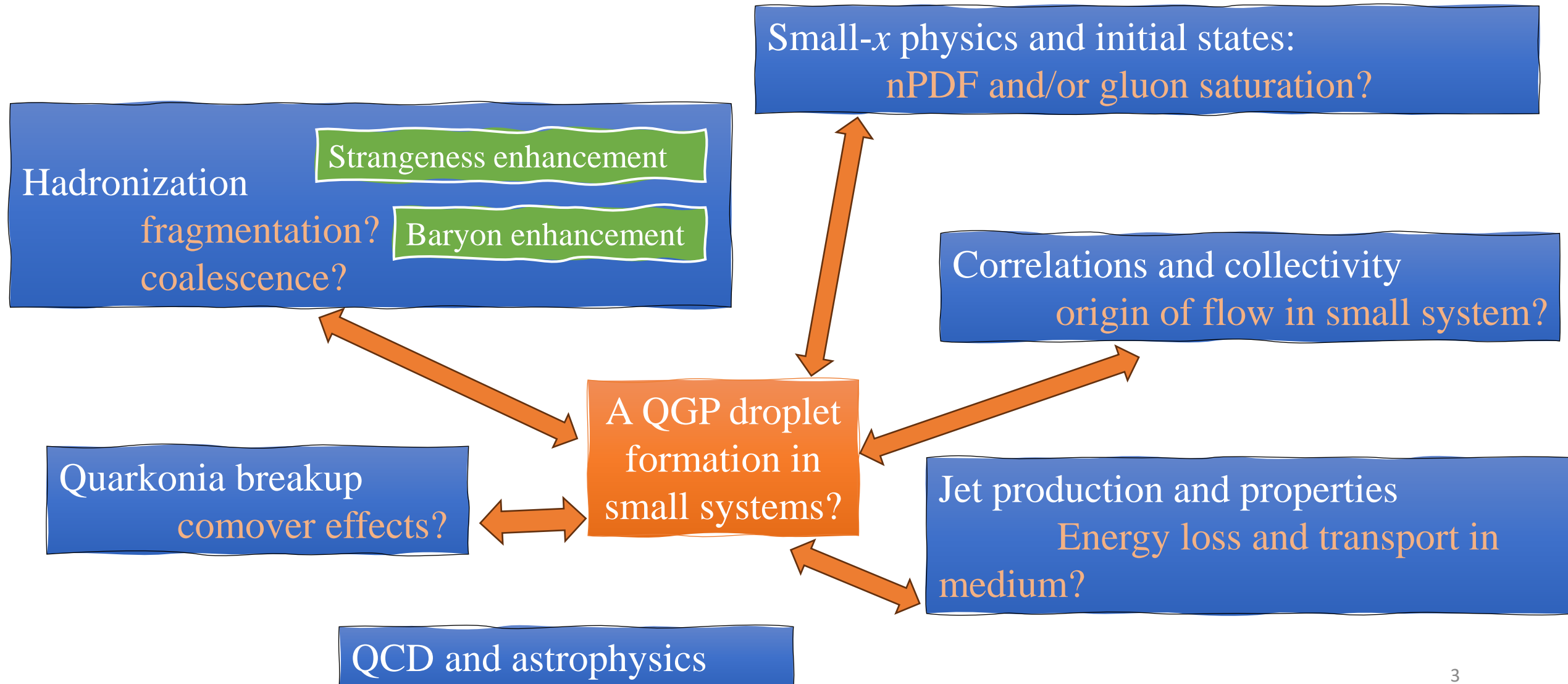
interactions with cold/dilute medium

Effects considered as signatures of QGP formation are found in small systems:

- ✓ collectivity
- ✓ strangeness enhancement
- ✓ baryon/meson enhancement
- ✓ quarkonia breakup in medium
- ✗ energy loss



CNM effects are the baseline for QGP studies





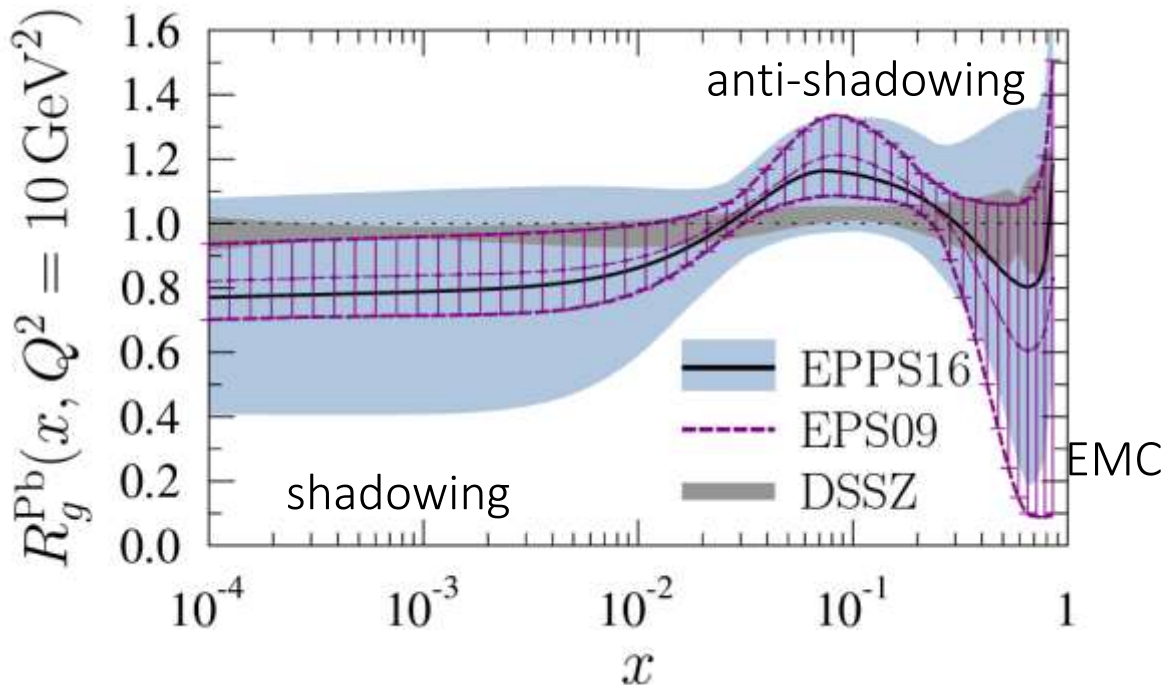
The big questions...

Small- x physics and initial states:
nPDF and/or gluon saturation?



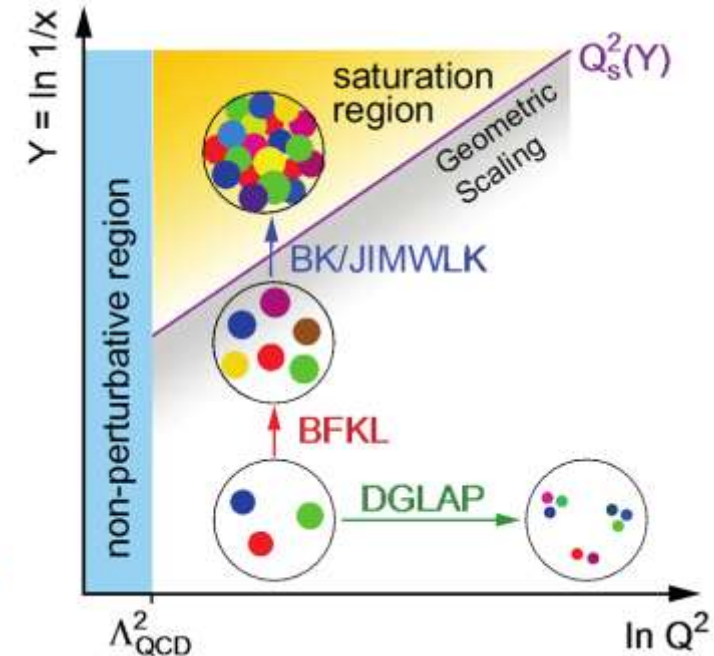
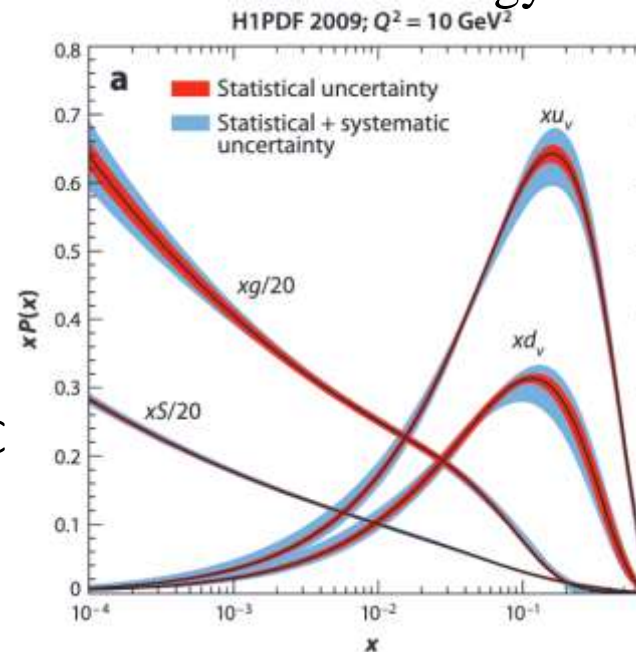
Initial state effects

- Parton densities are modified in nuclei
 - Shadowing: depletion of the effective number of gluons in low- x .
 - Antishadowing, EMC effects...
 - Poorly constrained from previous data



arXiv:1612.05741

- Large number of small- x gluons, leading to a very dense saturated wave function known as the Color Glass Condensate (CGC)
 - Saturation scale $Q_s^2 \propto A^{1/3}$ (Lorentz contraction)
 - Expected in small x and small Q^2 region
- Initial state energy loss

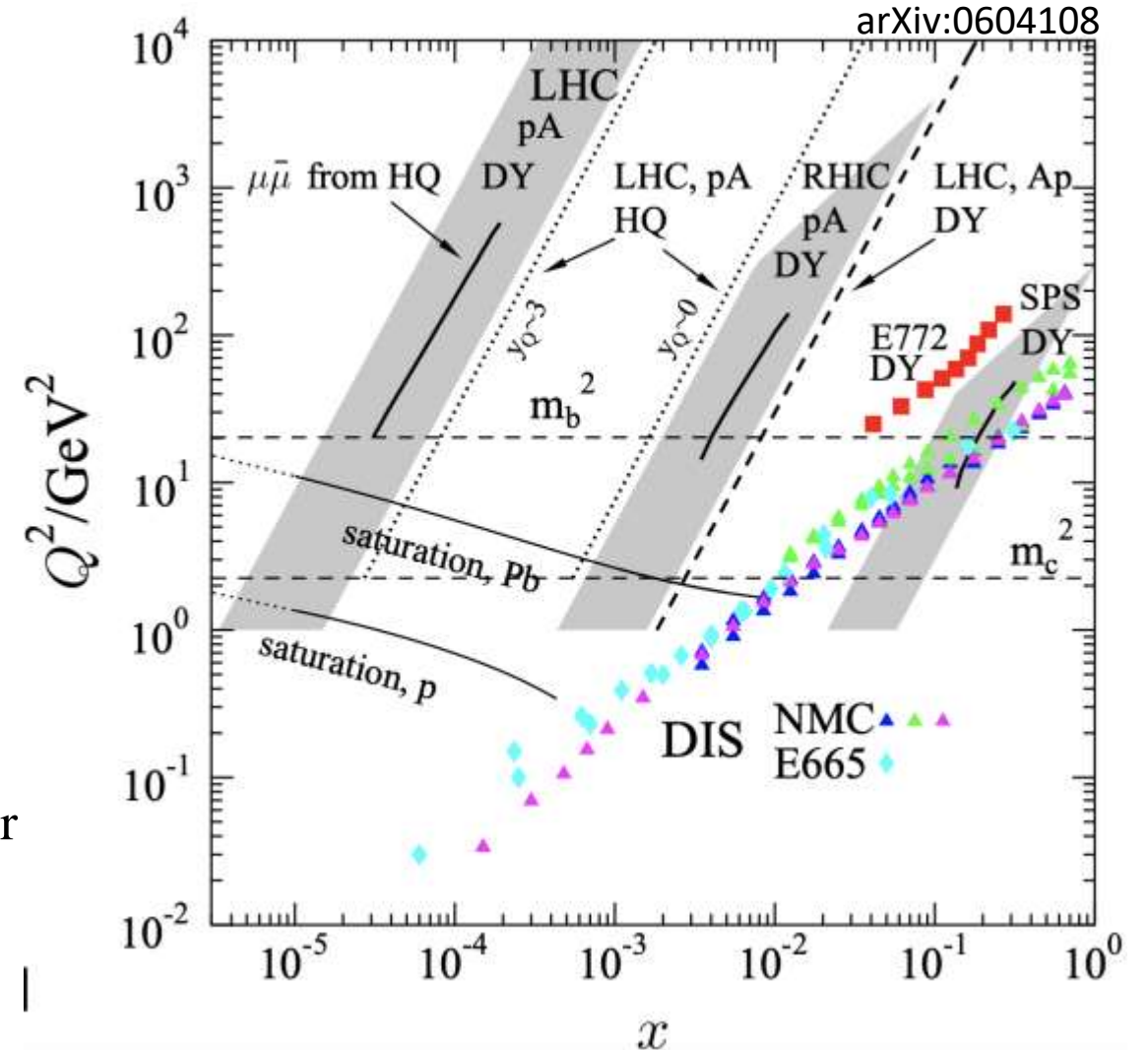


Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 60:463-89



Experimental approach

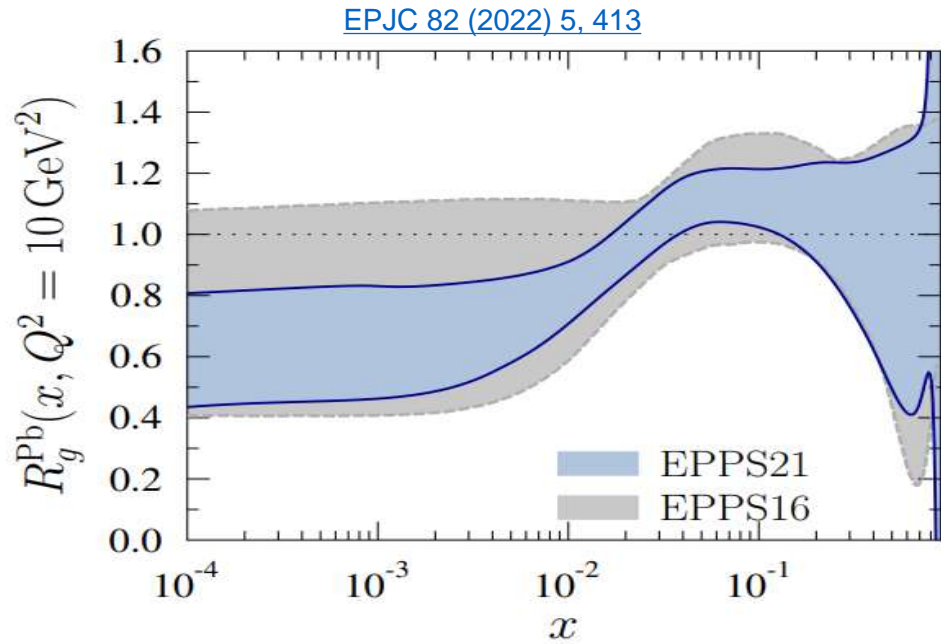
- Studied using pA collisions/ γA collisions
- Probes:
 - Dijets
 - Top quark
 - W/Z, Drell-Yan
 - Heavy flavor
 - Light hadrons
 - Direct photons
 - VM in Ultra-Peripheral AA Collisions
- Observables:
 - R_{pPb} , R_{FB} , production cross-section, angular correlations...



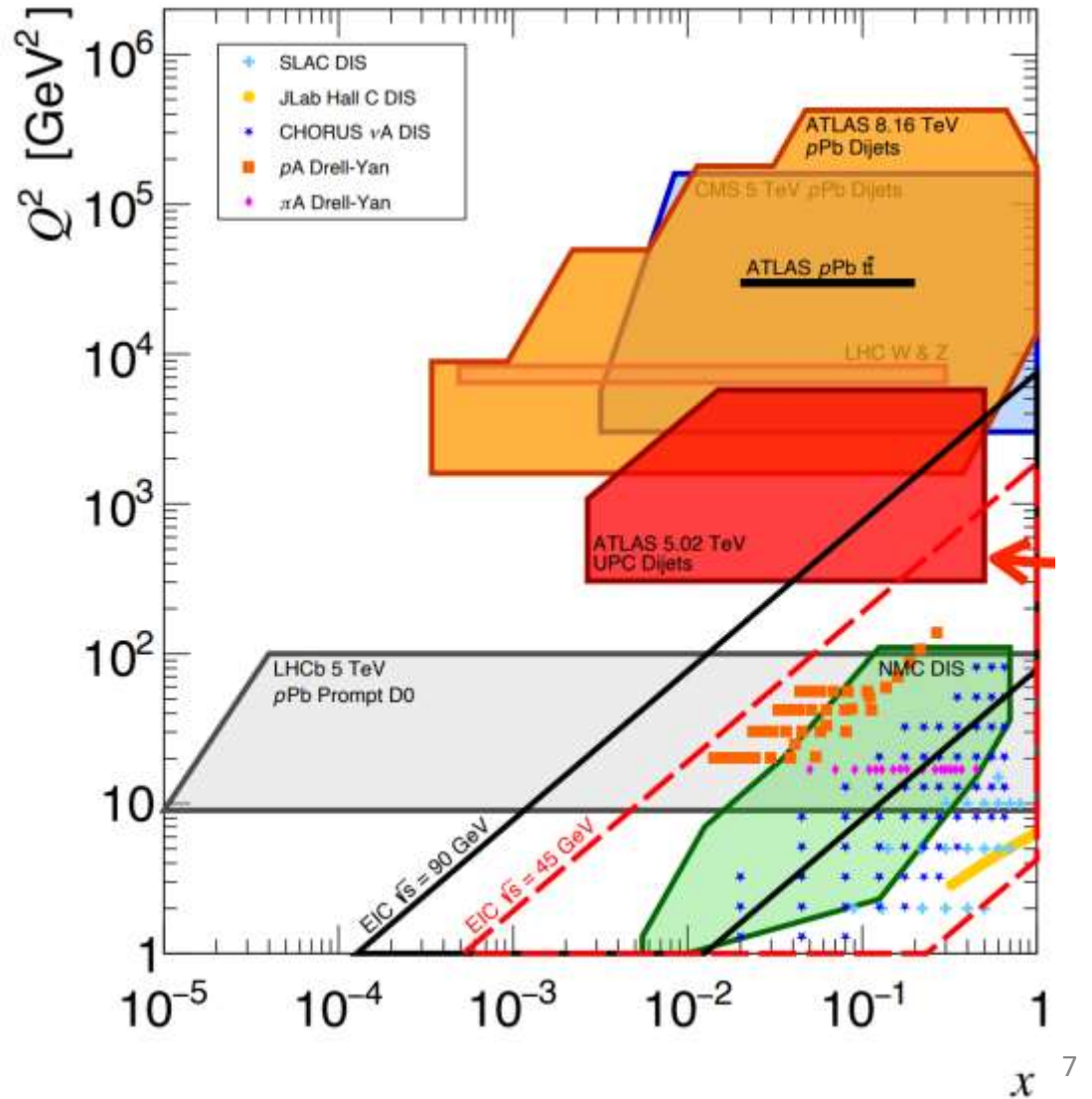


Experimental approach

- EPPS21 vs. EPPS16
- EPPS21 includes CMS dijets and LHCb D^0 at 5 TeV
- Significant progress on constraining nPDF



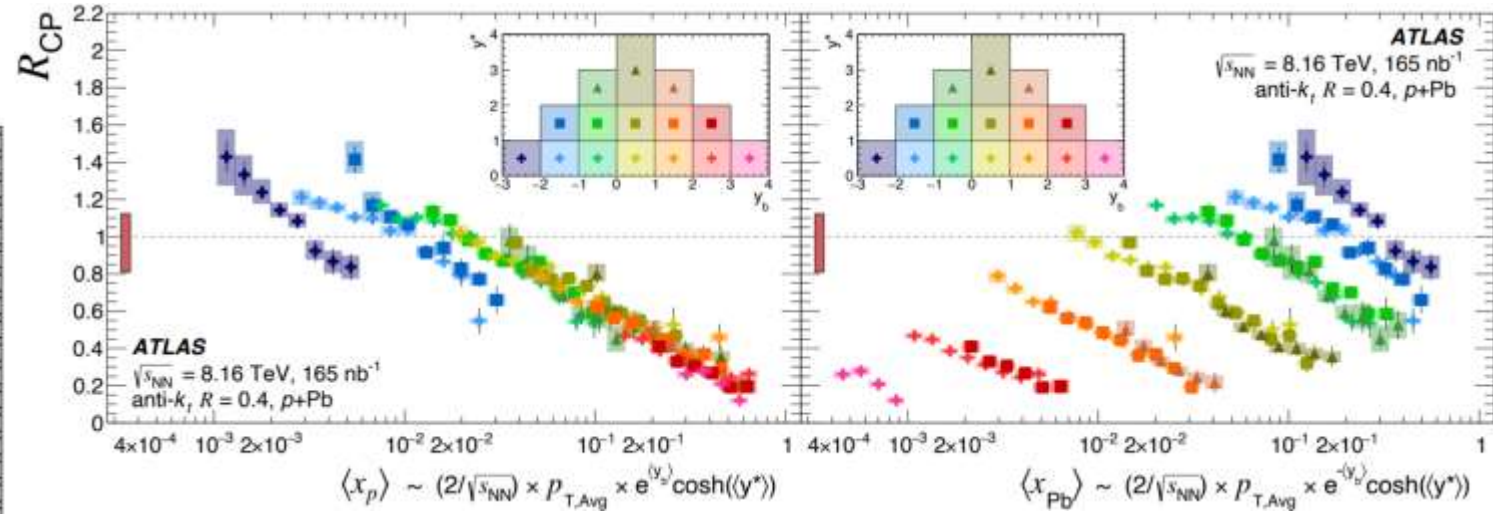
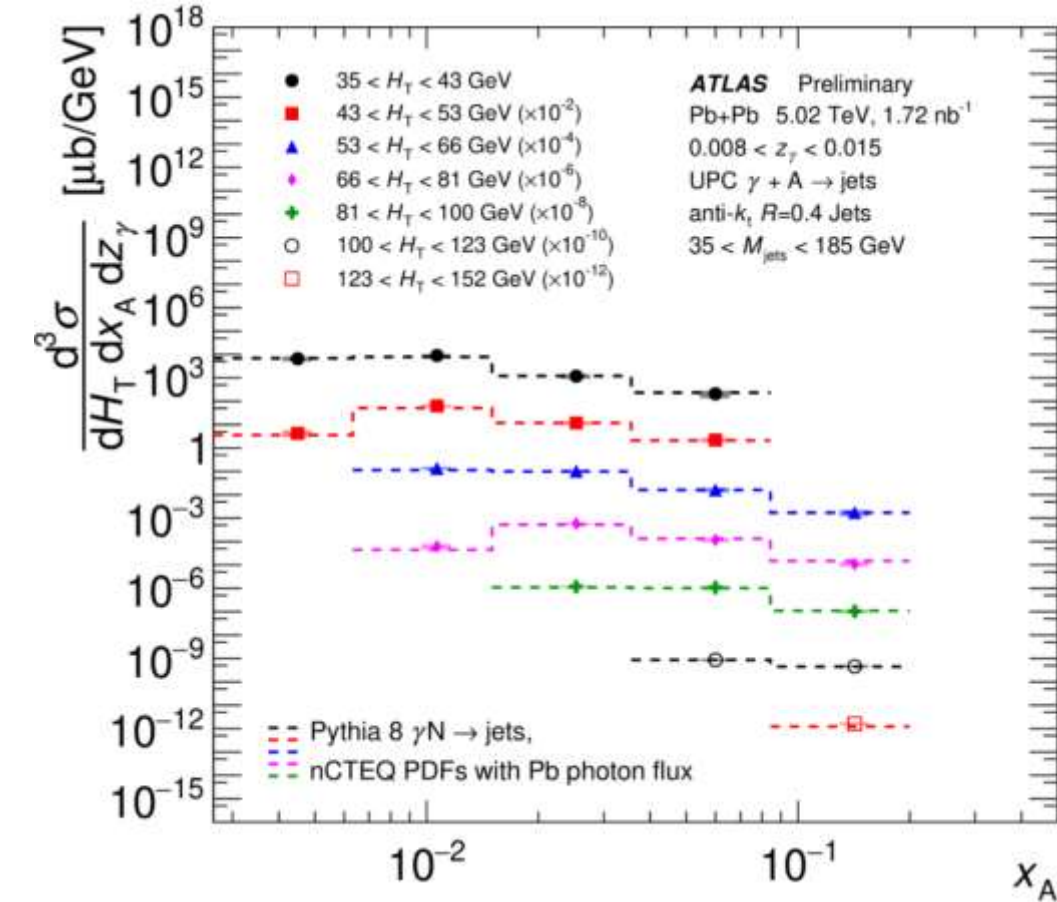
[B. Gilbert, QM23 talk](#)





Dijets in $p\text{Pb}$ and γPb collisions

B. Gilbert, QM23 talk

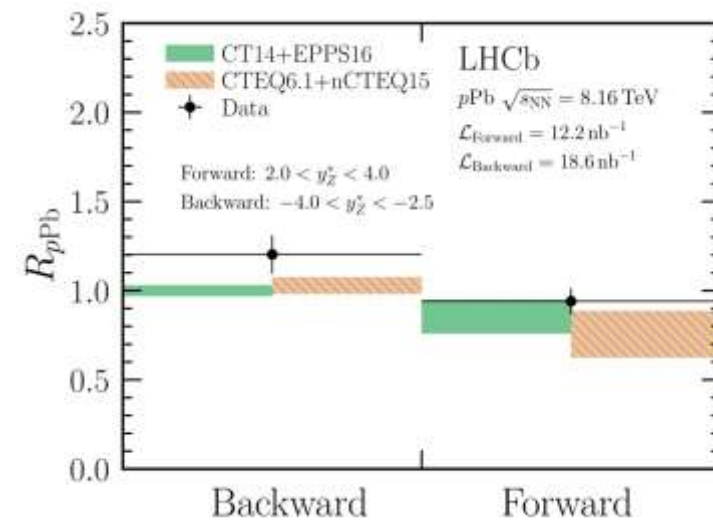
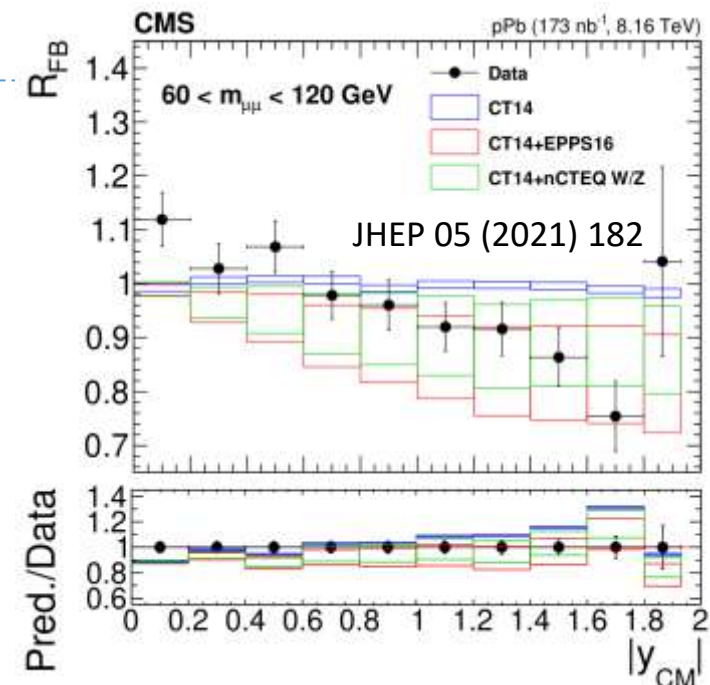
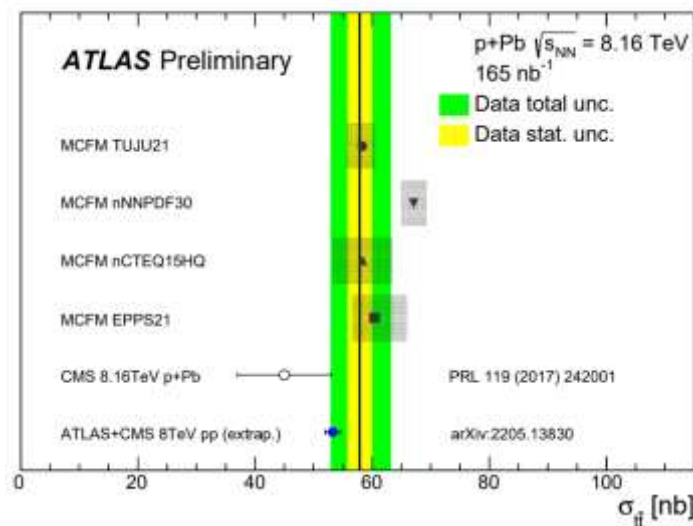
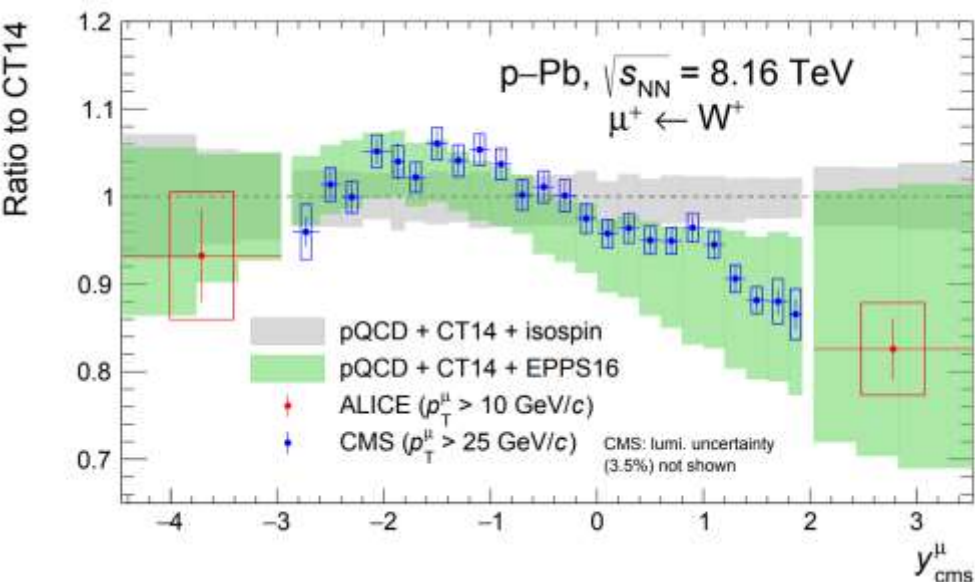


- γPb collisions
 - Photon energy allows access to low- x shadowing region
 - Results consistent with theoretical model
- $p\text{Pb}$ collisions
 - Measured centrality dependence of dijet yields
 - Triple-differential dijet yields \rightarrow detailed studies of partonic system
 - Trend R_{CP} consistent with model



W/Z, $t\bar{t}$, Drell-Yan production

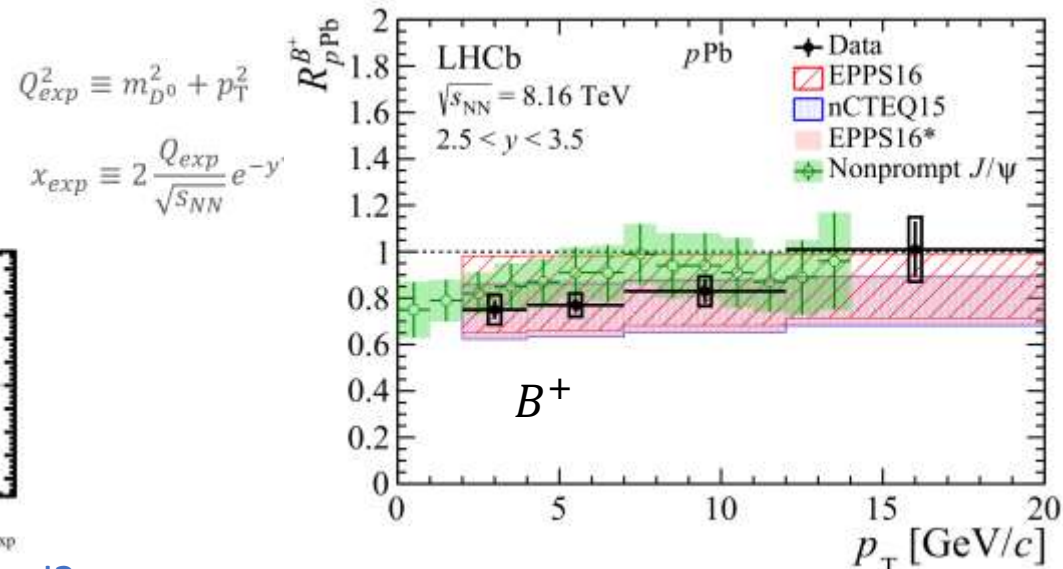
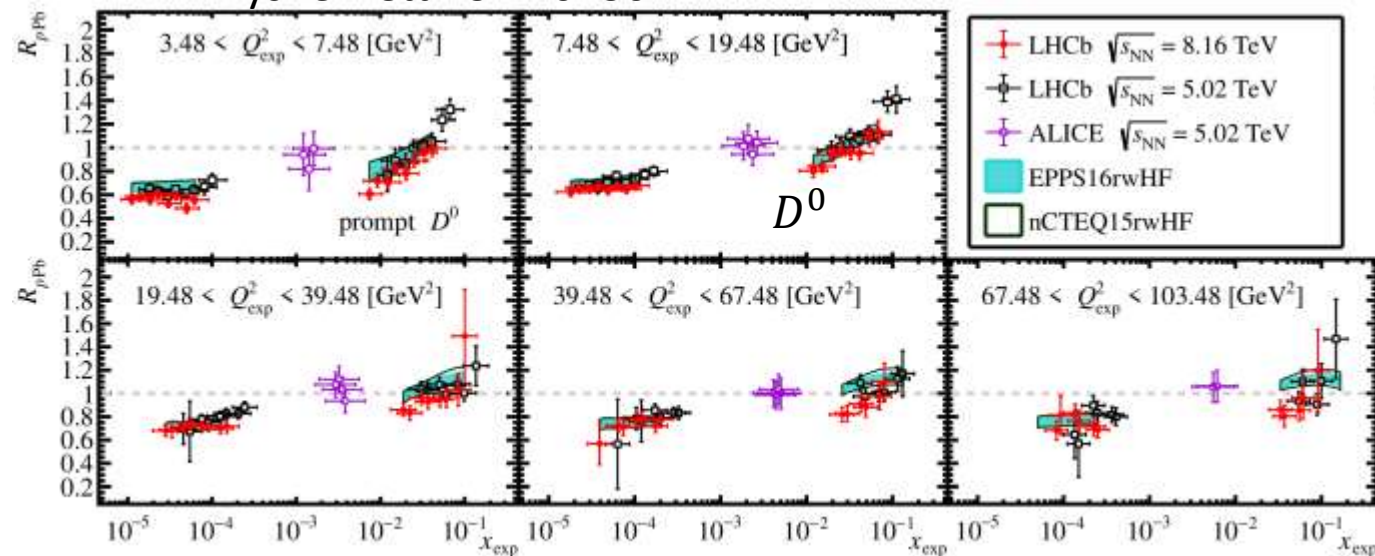
- W measurement reaches large $|y|$ region ($x \sim 10^{-4}$ at forward region)
- W suppression at large rapidity
 - extending into EMC region
 - Support shadowing of the nuclear PDFs
- Data more precise than nPDFs
- New measurement of the top-quark pair production cross section in $p\text{Pb}$



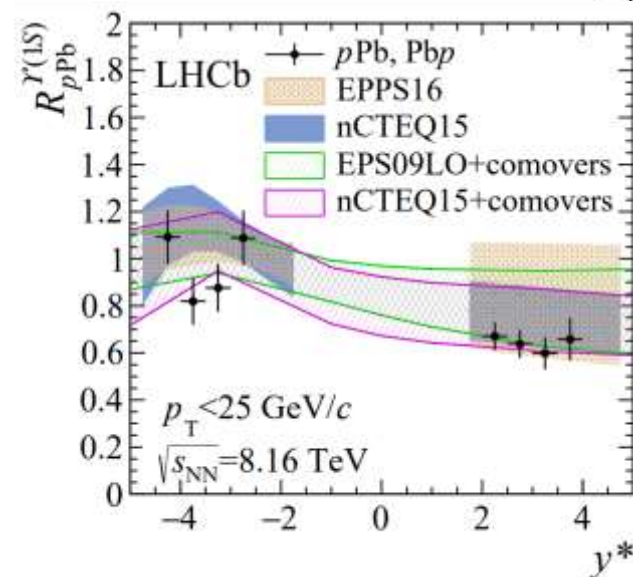
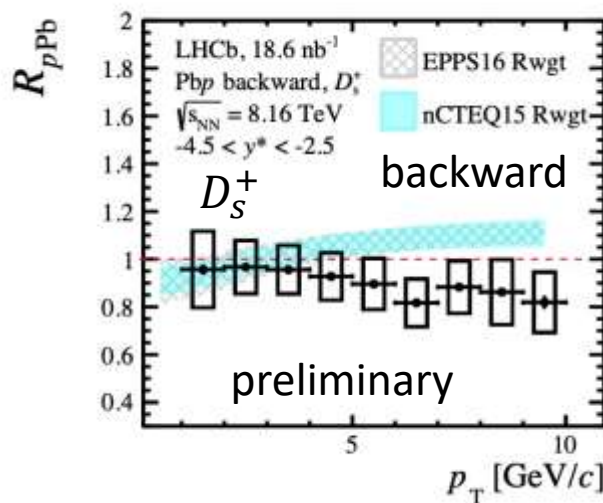
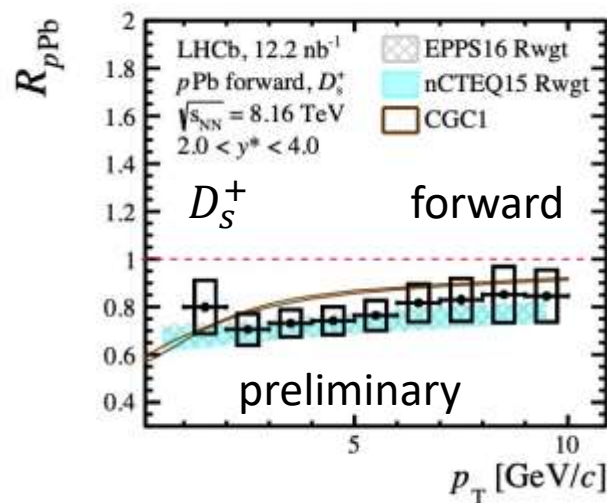


Heavy flavor production $p\text{Pb}$ collisions

PhysRevLett.131.102301



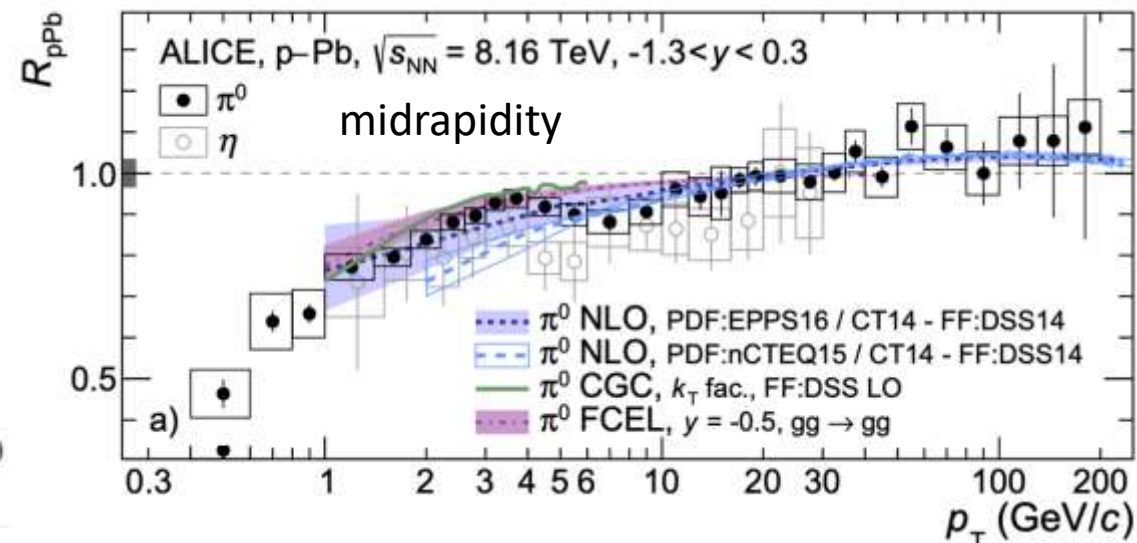
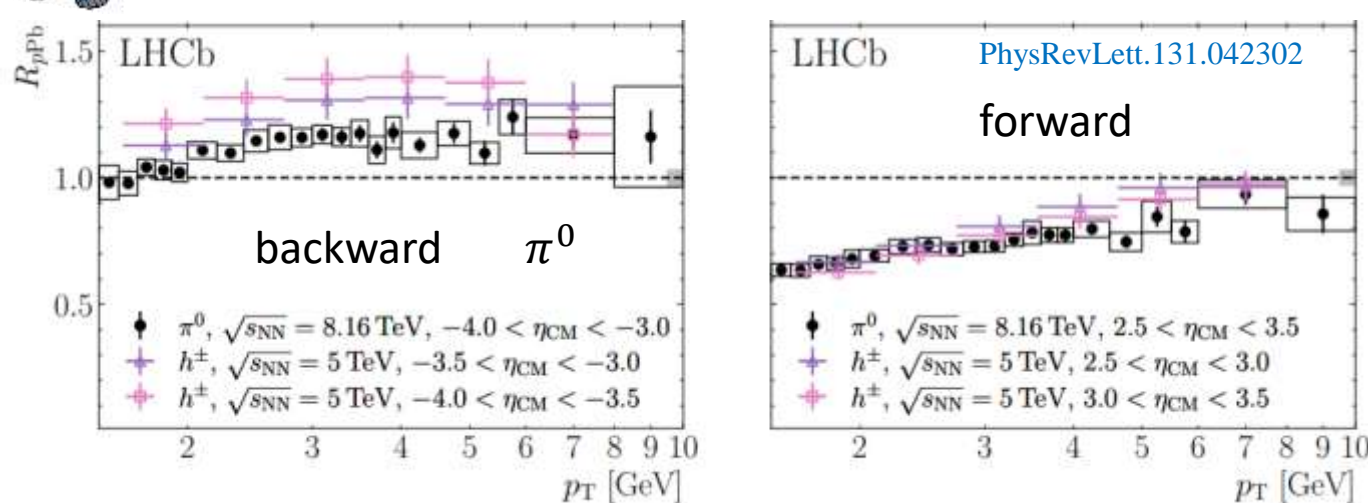
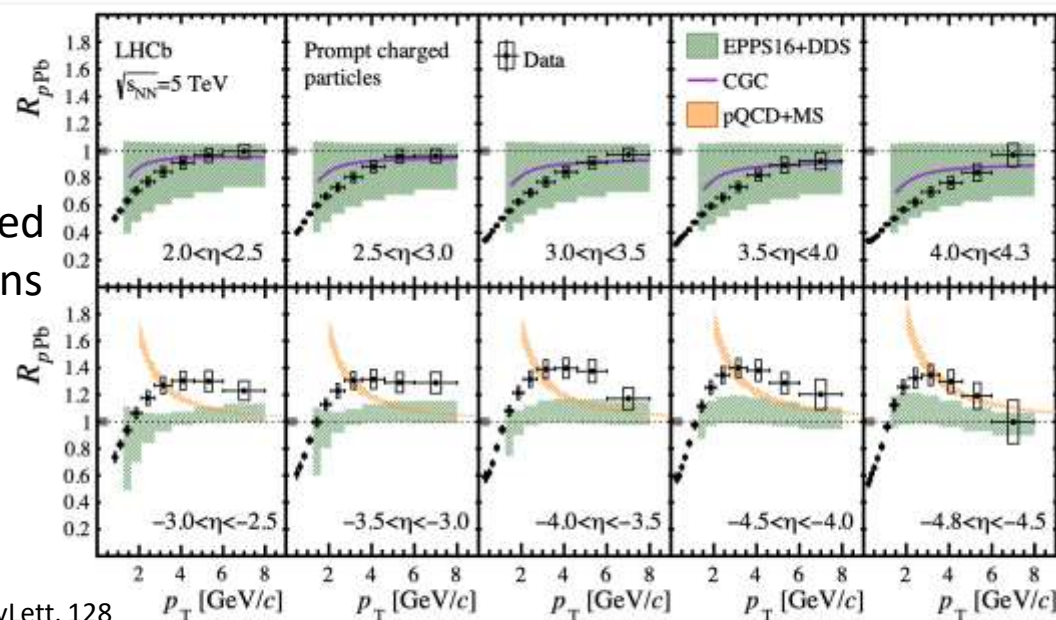
Data < nPDF in the backward?





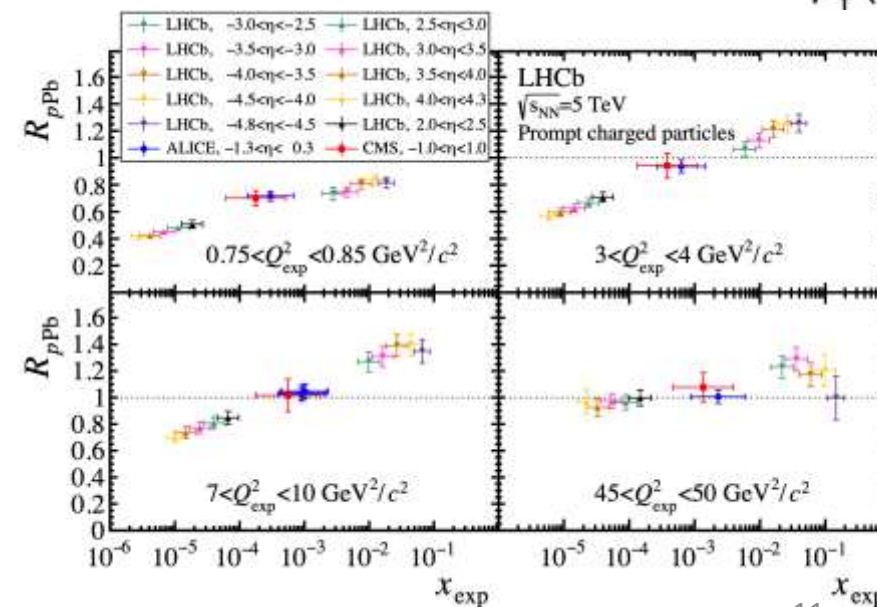
Light hadrons in p Pb collisions

Phys. Lett. B 827 (2022) 136943

Charged
hadrons

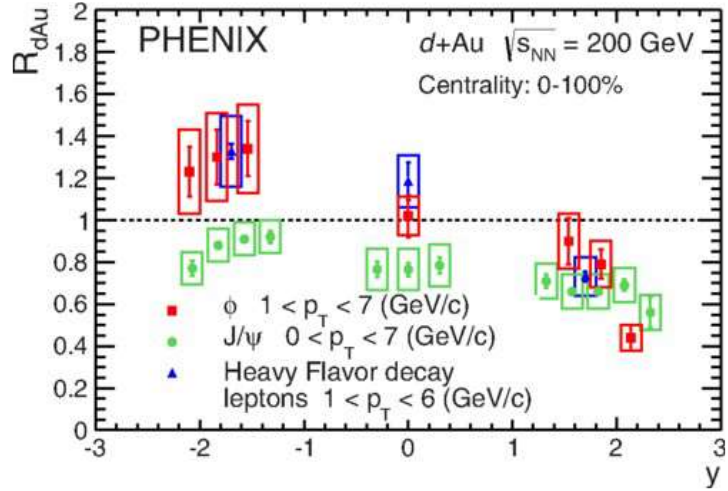
Forward:
suppression
Backward:
enhancement?

$$x_{exp} \equiv \frac{Q_{exp}}{\sqrt{s_{NN}}} e^{-\eta}$$
$$Q_{exp}^2 \equiv m^2 + p_T^2$$

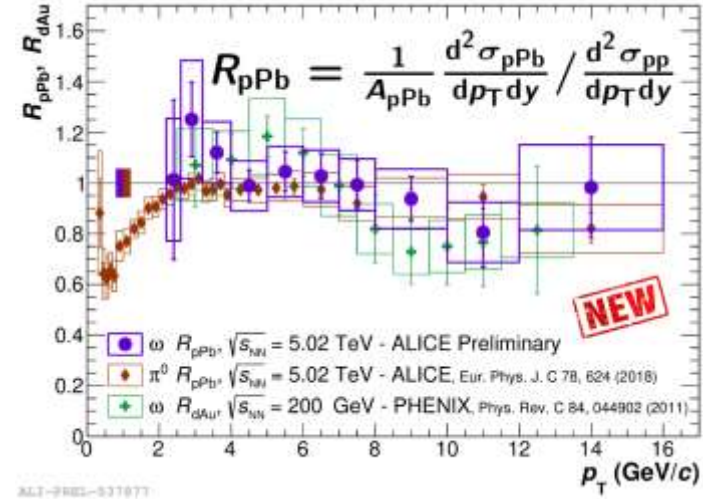




New light hadrons in dAu/pPb collisions

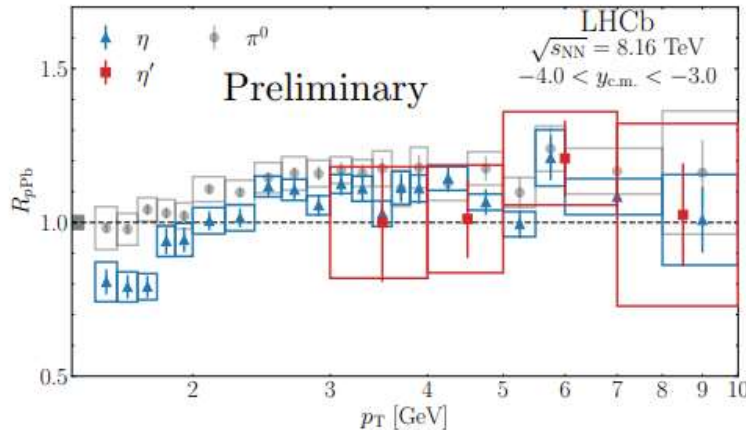
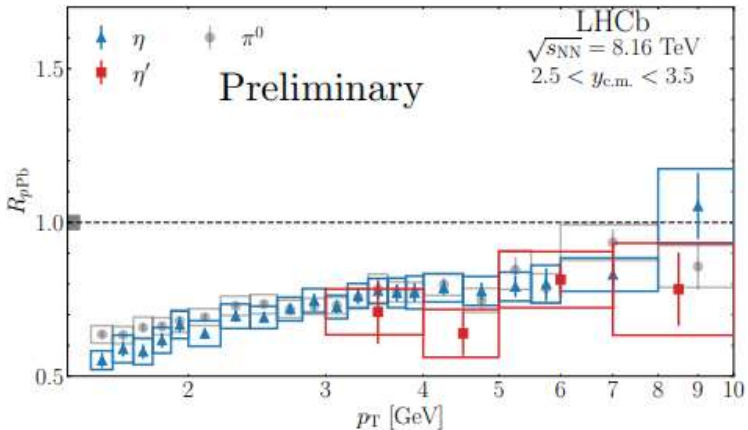


Hidden strange ϕ meson in dAu at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV
Enhancement in Au going direction



First measurement of ω meson in pPb collisions at LHC

No nuclear modification observed



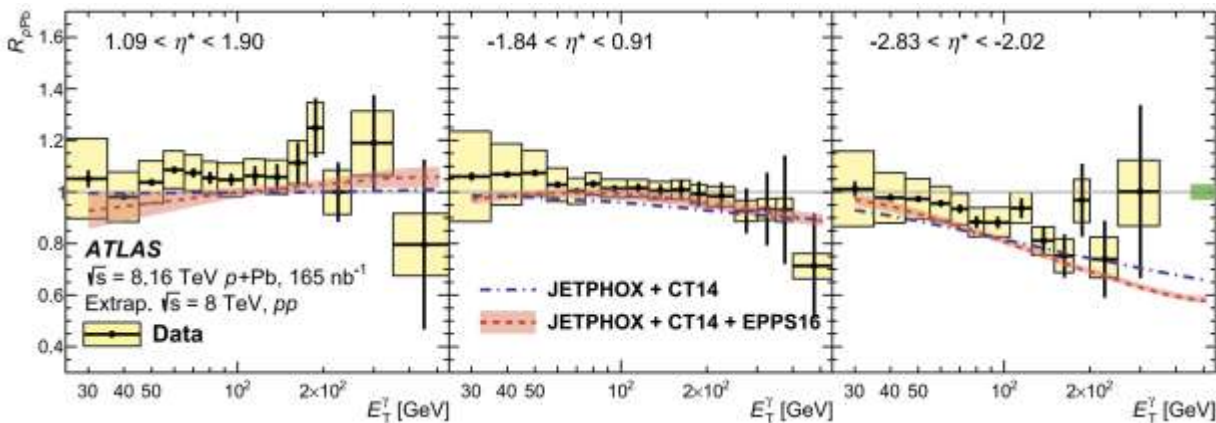
π^0 , η , and η' nuclear modification factors agree
No evidence of mass-dependent effects
First η meson production measurement at forward rapidity
First measurement of η' meson nuclear modification factor



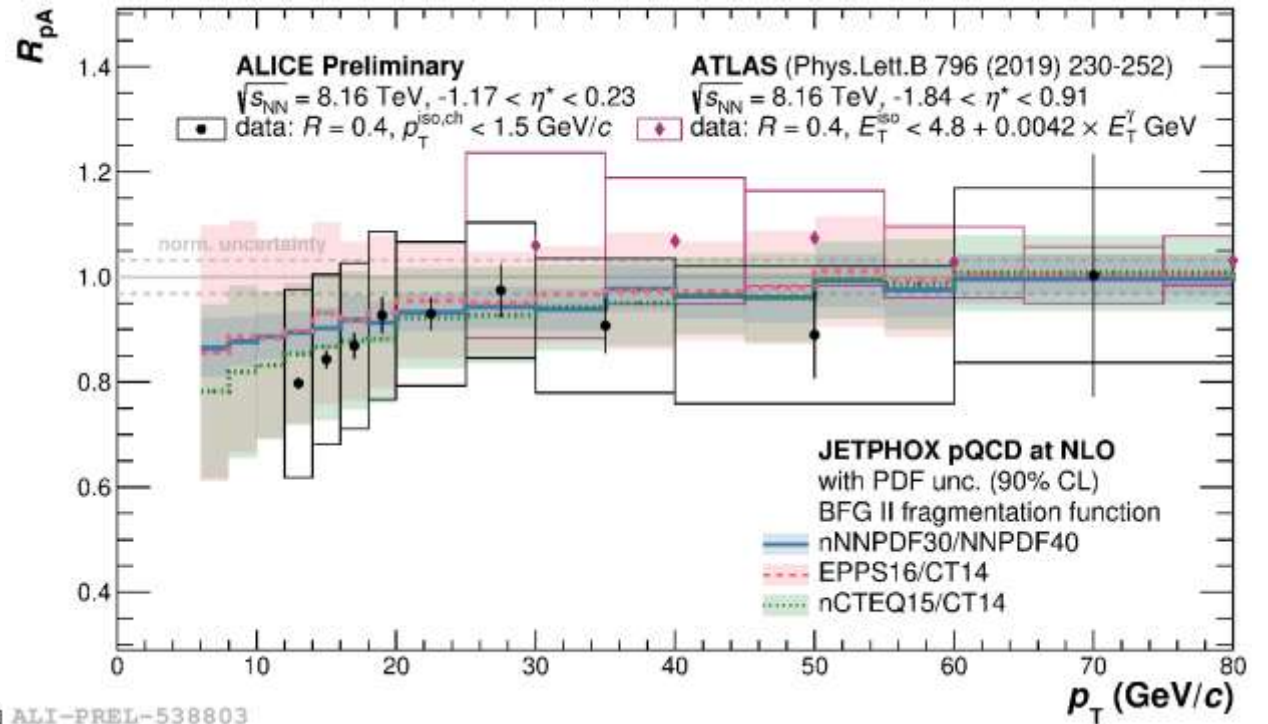
Direct photons in $p\text{Pb}$ collisions

- Hints of suppression at lower p_T
- Agreement between ALICE and ATLAS results
- Comparable suppression in nPDFs including gluon shadowing

$$20 < E_T^\gamma < 500 \text{ GeV/c} \quad 3 \times 10^{-3} < x < 4 \times 10^{-1}$$

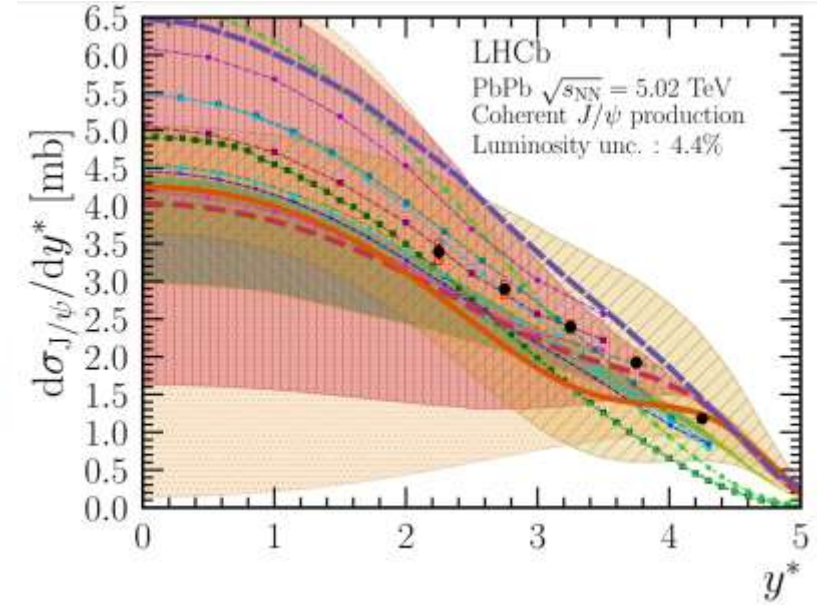
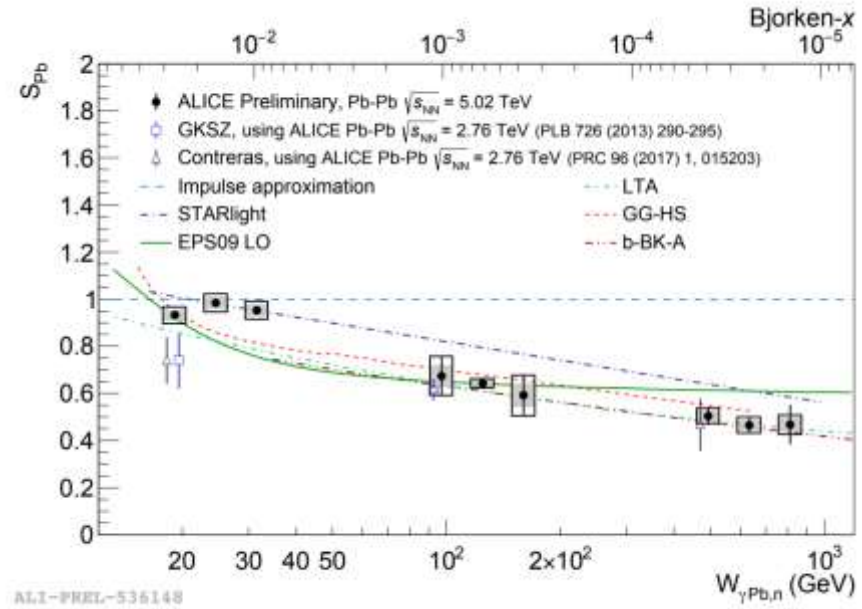
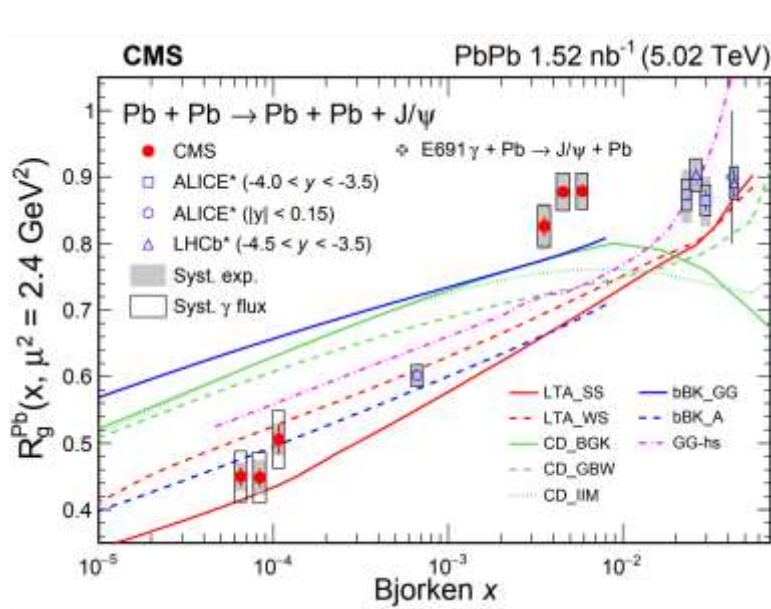


Physics Letters B 796 (2019) 230–252





Charmonia in PbPb ultraperipheral collisions



- Nuclear suppression factor at Bjorken-x of $O(10^{-5})$ in UPC PbPb with neutron emission
- Strong constraint on nPDF at small Bjorken-x



The big questions...

Hadronization

fragmentation?
coalescence?

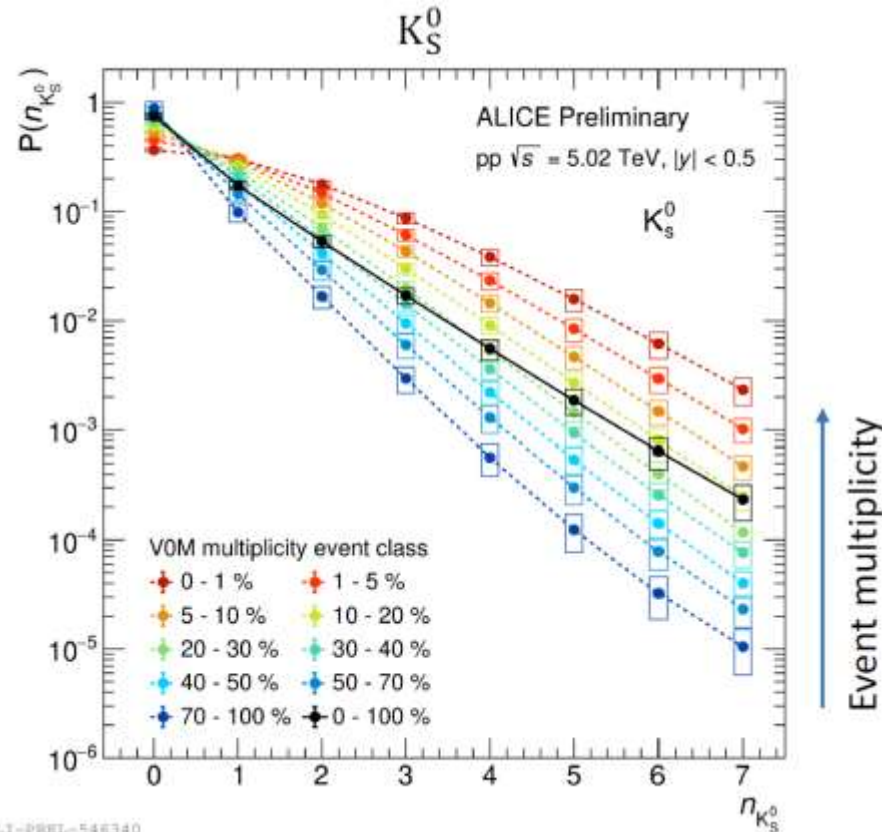
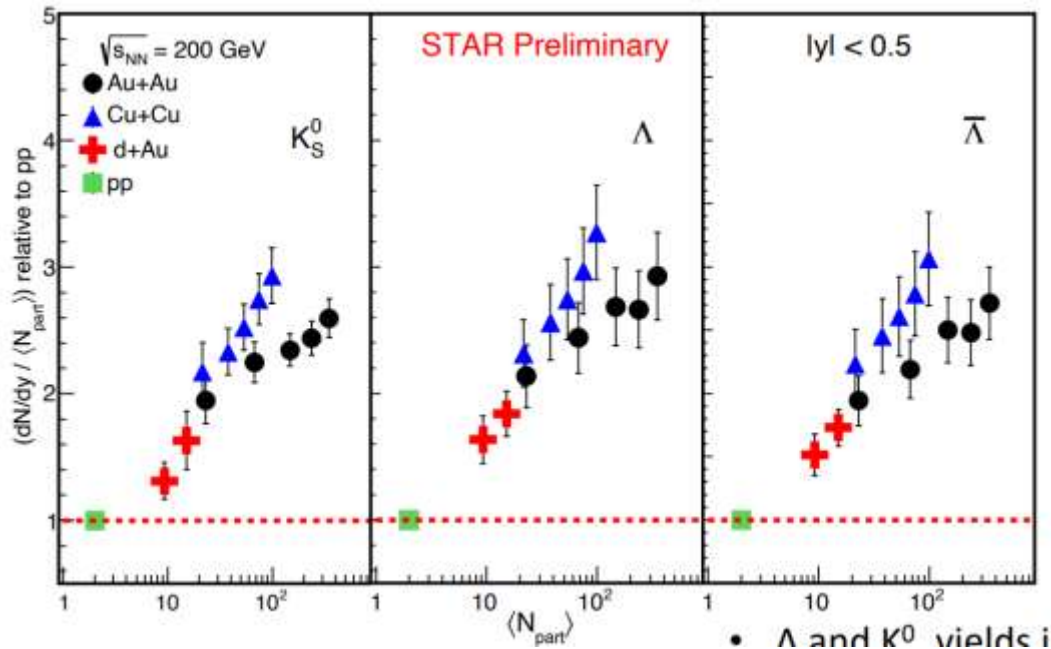
Strangeness enhancement

Baryon enhancement



Strangeness enhancement in small systems

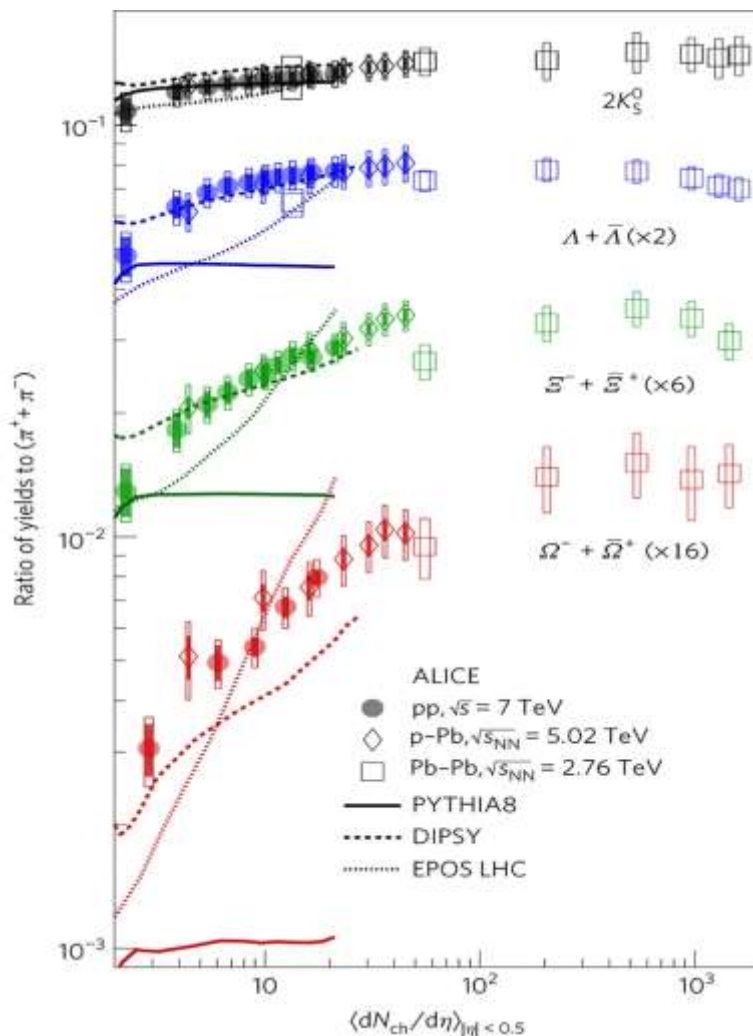
- Λ and K_S^0 production in dAu collisions are enhanced
- The full Probability Density Function (PDF) for (multi-)strange hadrons is measured in pp collisions
- The PDF expresses the probability to produce n particles of a given species per event
- The probability to produce $n \geq 1$ strange hadron per event increases with the event charged-particle multiplicity



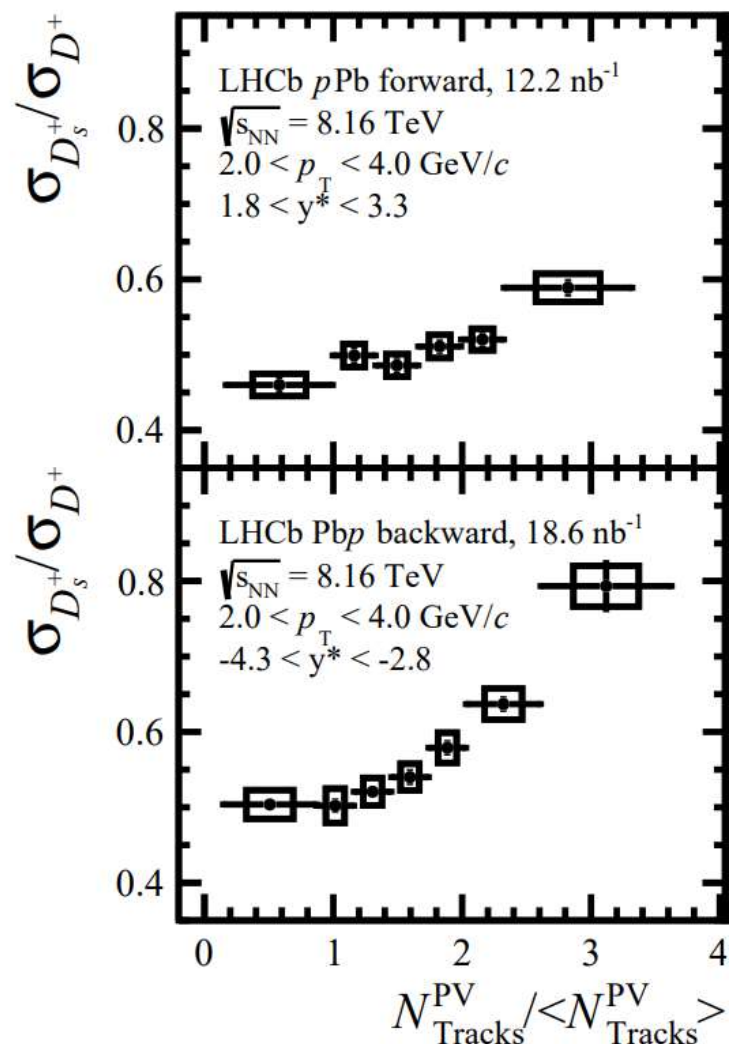


Strangeness enhancement with heavy flavor

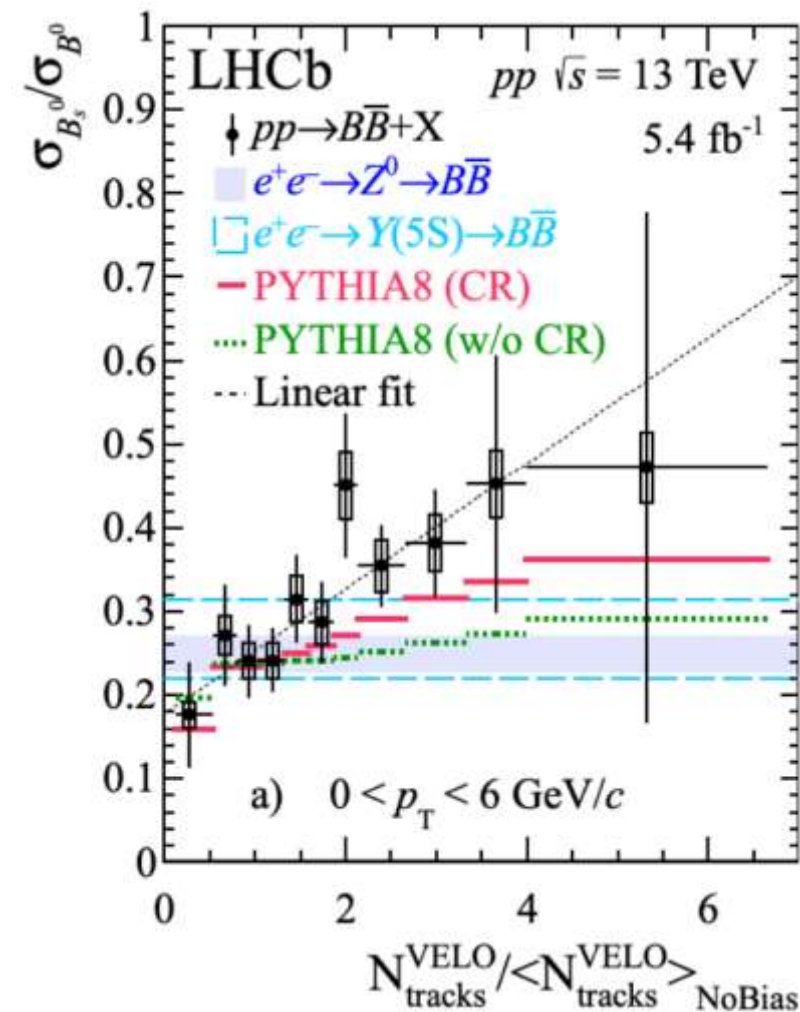
- Observed with light flavor, charm and beauty



Nature Phys 13, 535–539 (2017)



LHCb-PAPER-2023-021

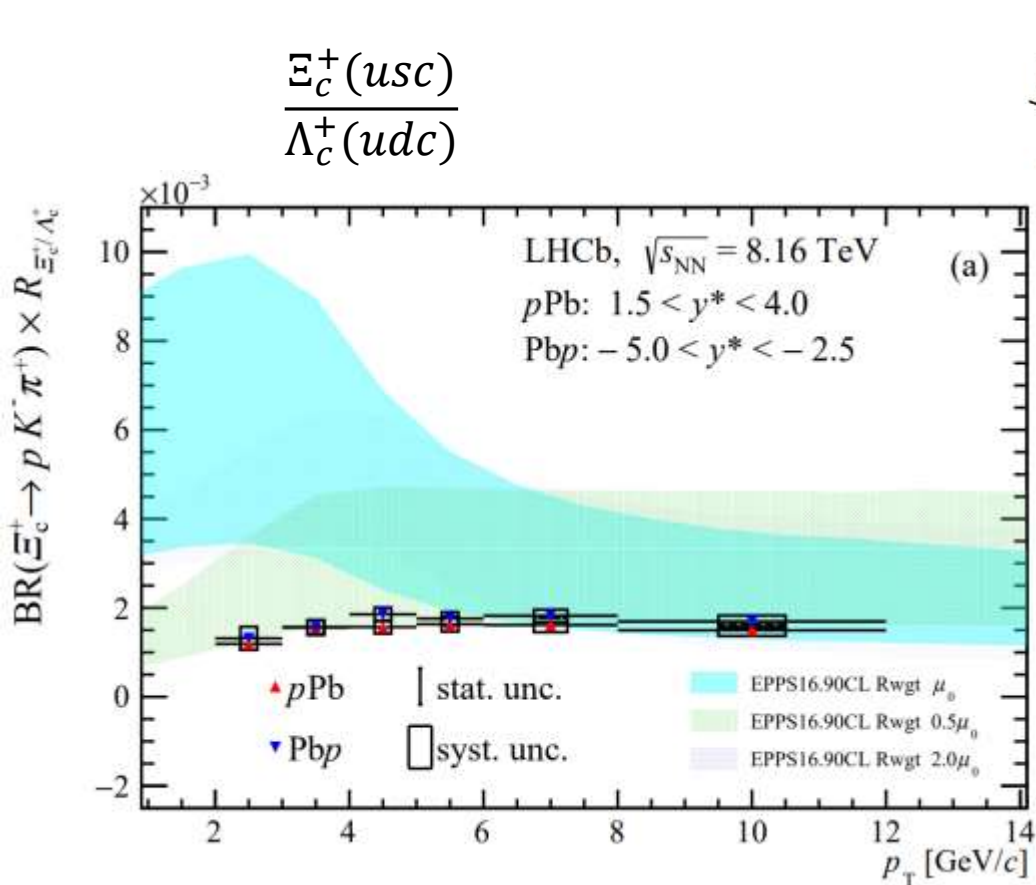


[arXiv:2204.13042](https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.13042)

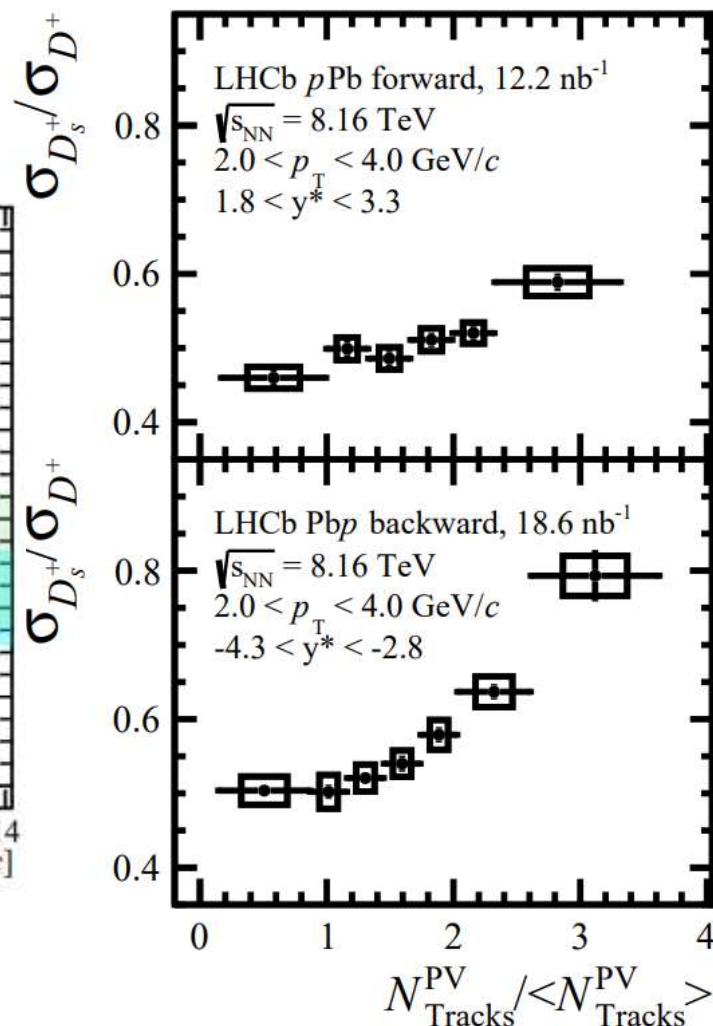


Strangeness enhancement with heavy flavor

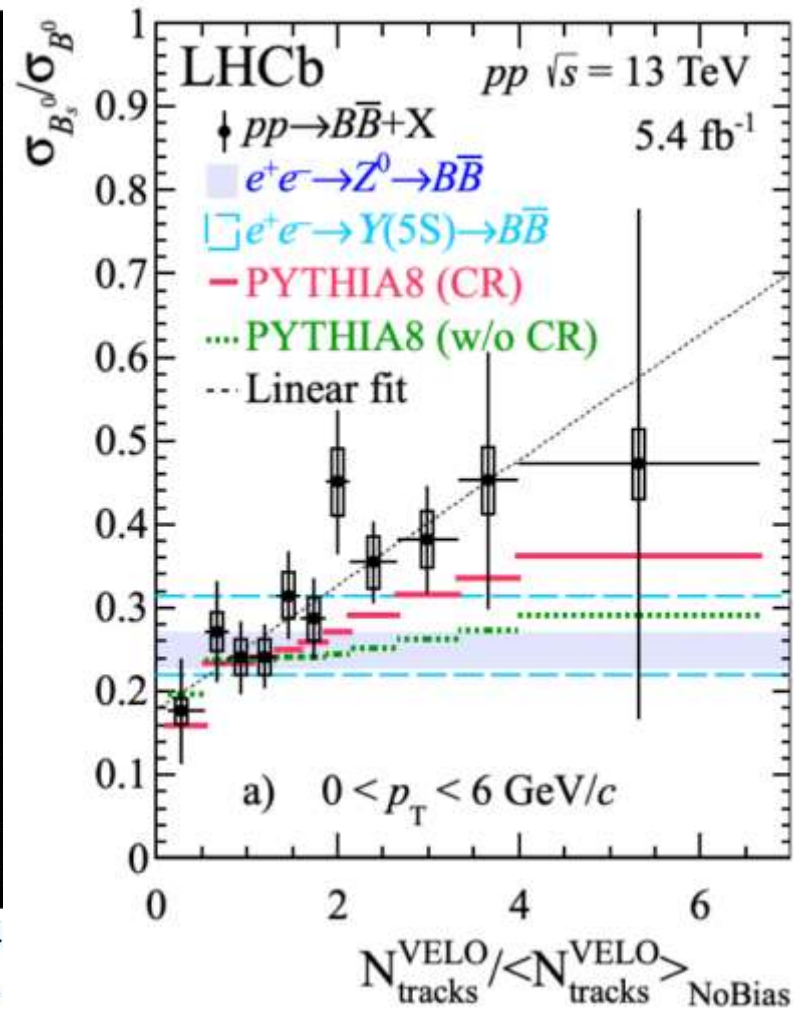
- New observable: charm baryon ratio



[arXiv:2305.06711](https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.06711)



LHCb-PAPER-2023-021

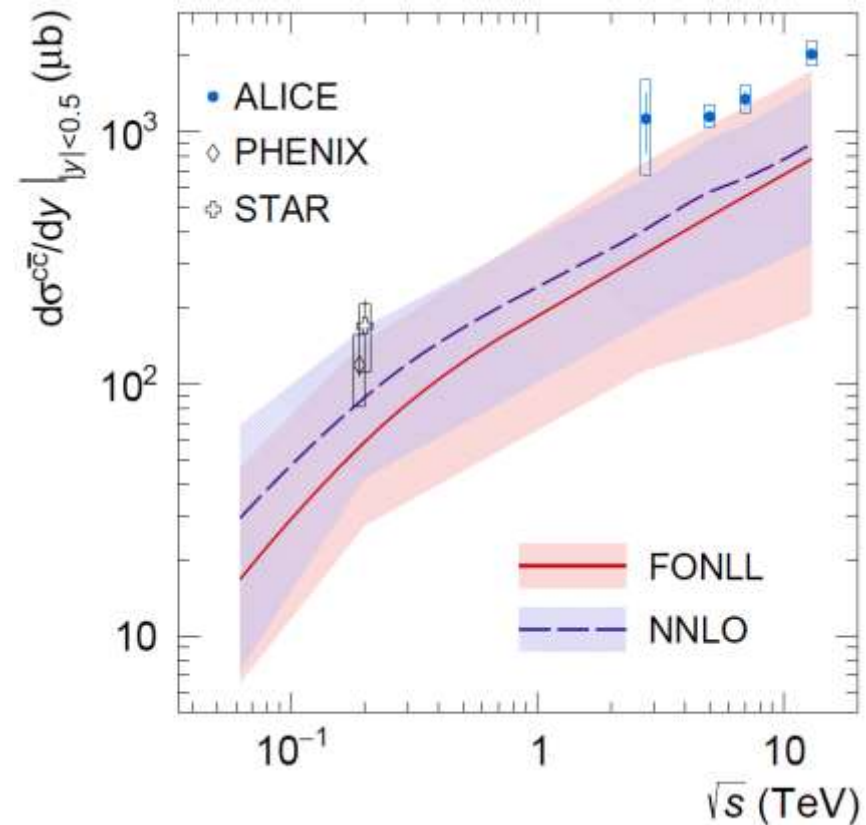
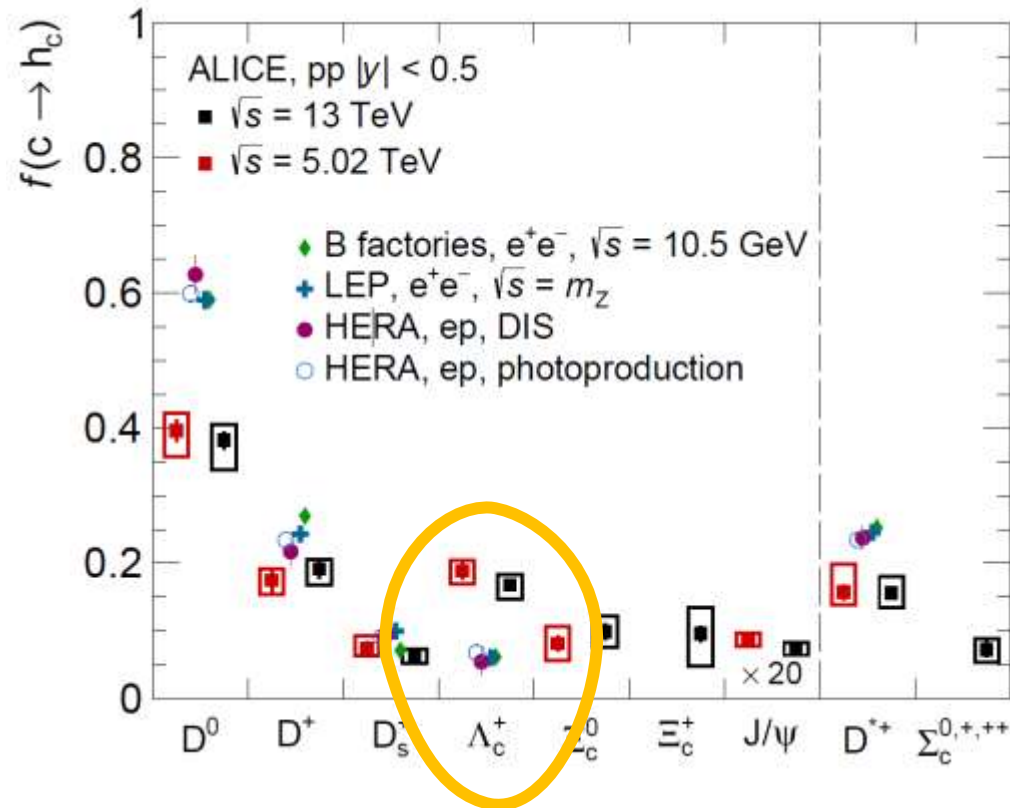


[arXiv:2204.13042](https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.13042)



Charm hadronization and production in pp collisions

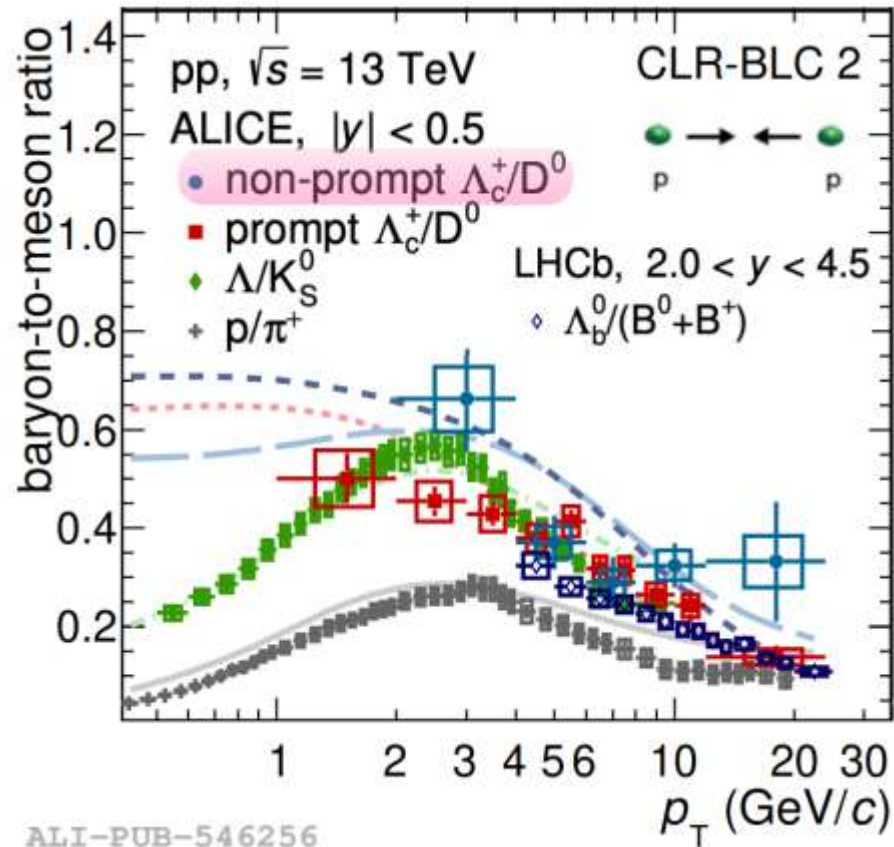
- all ground-state charm hadron fragmentation fractions
 - Λ_c^+ , Ξ_c^+ enhanced compared to e^+e^- and ep collisions
- $c\bar{c}$ cross section calculated from sum of D^0 , D^+ , D_s^+ , J/ψ , Λ_c^+ , Ξ_c^0 , and Ξ_c^+ hadrons at midrapidity



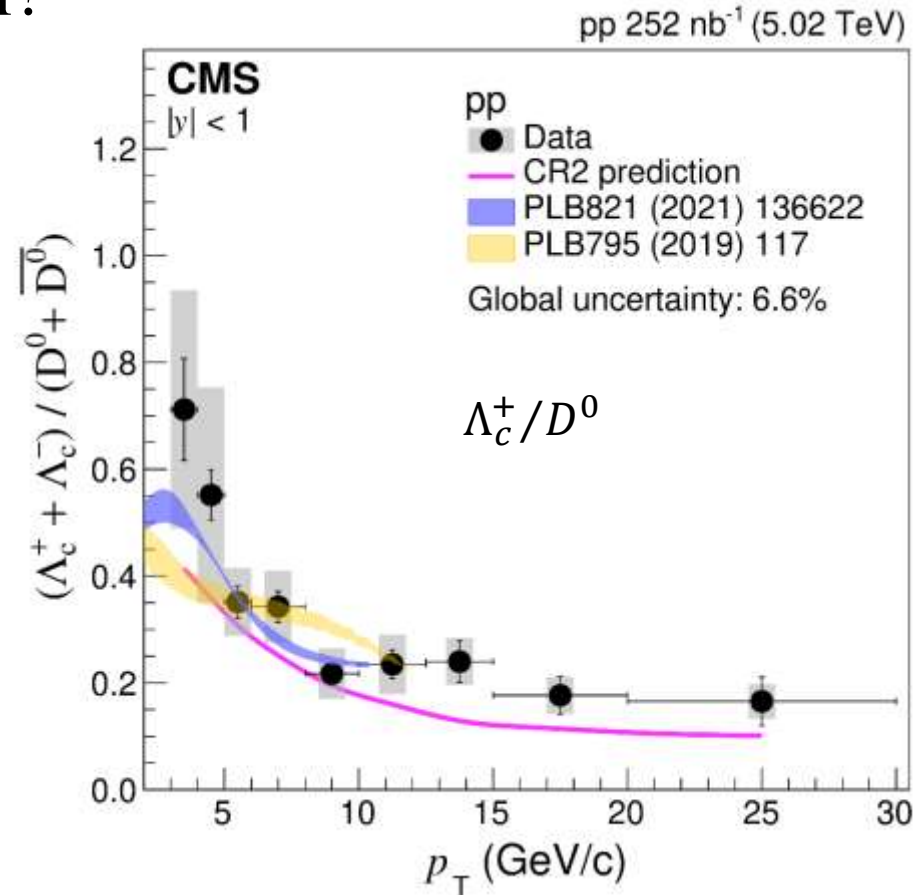


Charm baryon enhancement in pp collisions

- Different baryon to meson ratio show similar shape
- \rightarrow similar formation mechanism?



arXiv: 2308.04873

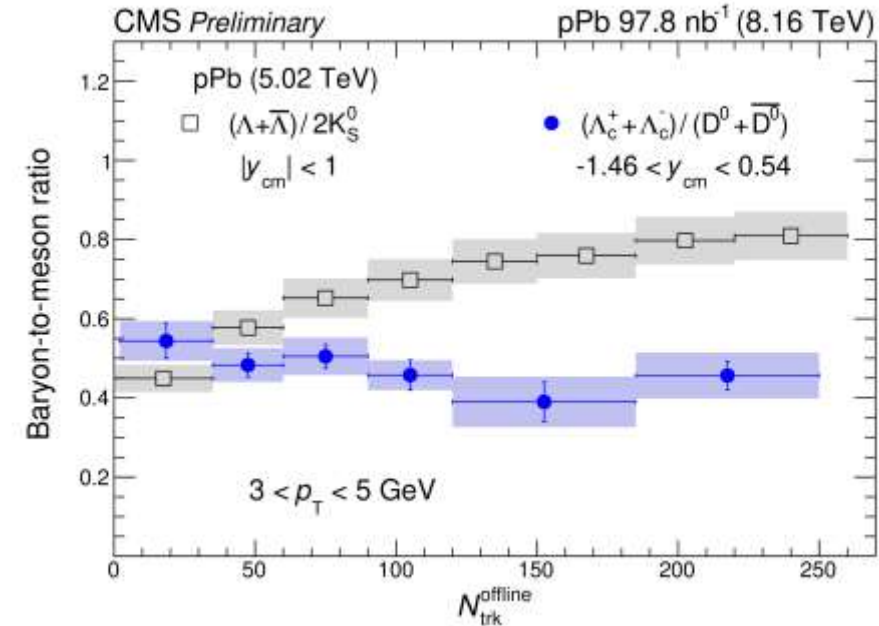
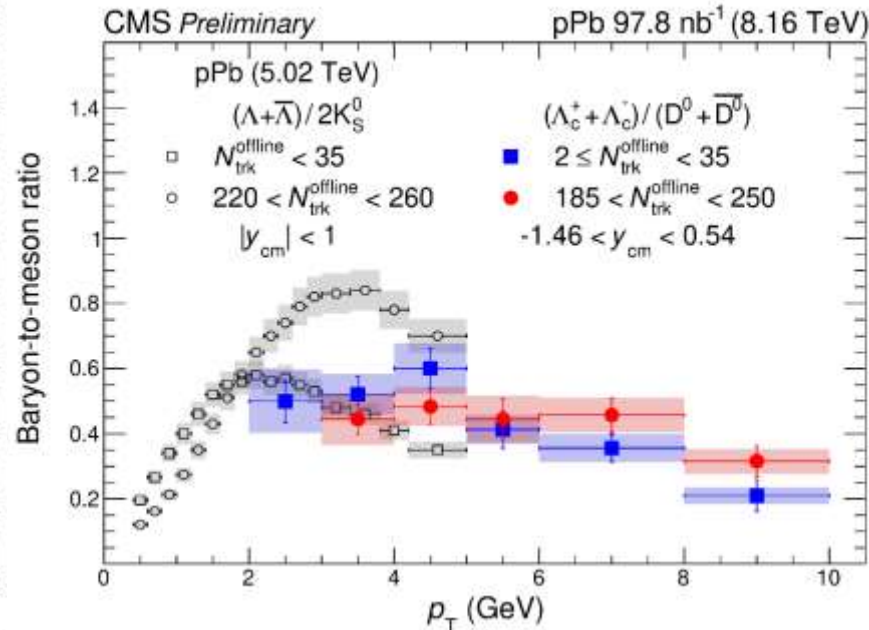
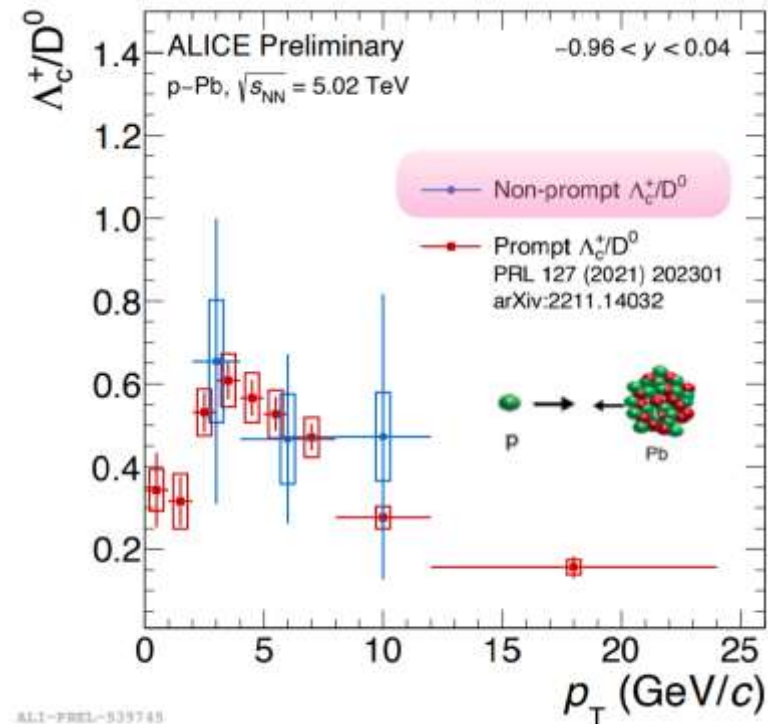


arXiv:2307.11186



Charm baryon enhancement in p Pb collisions

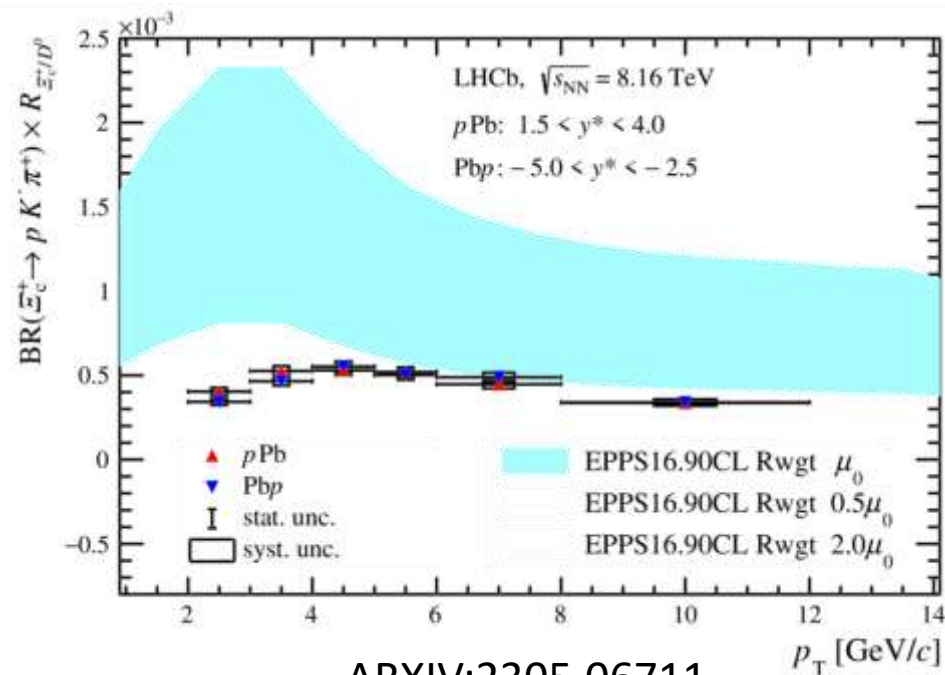
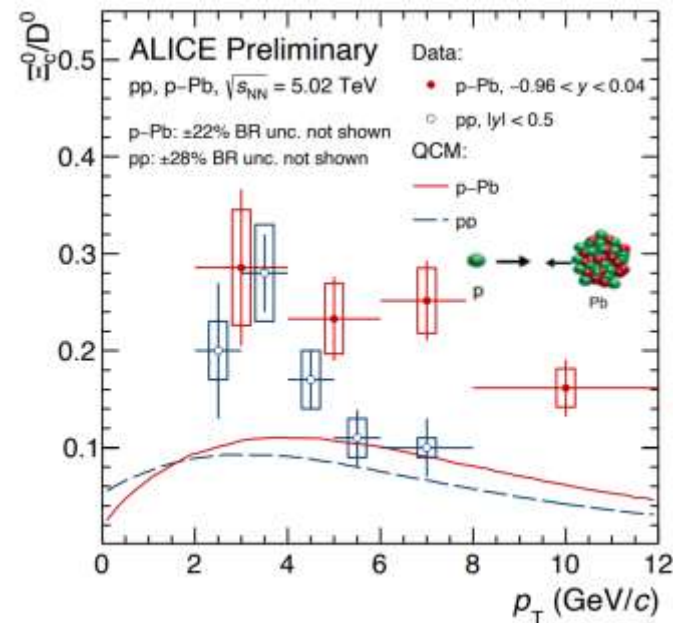
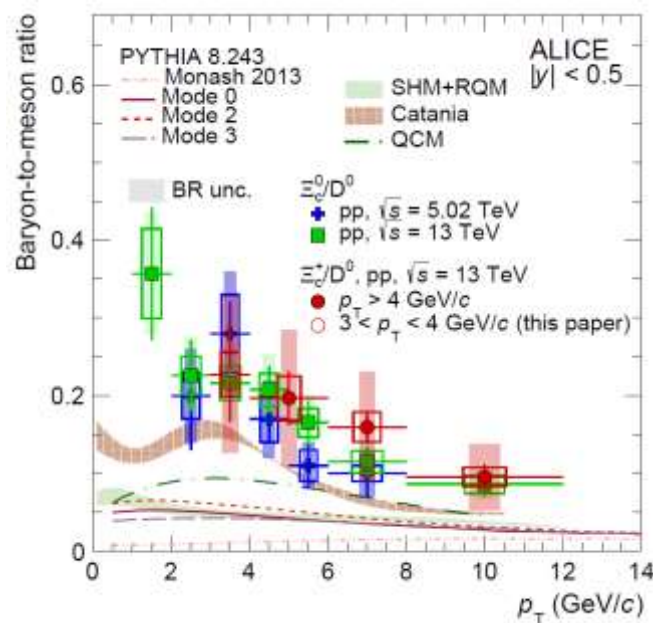
- Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio down to $p_T = 0$, prompt compatible with non-prompt ratio
- New CMS measurement consistent with ALICE result
- No multiplicity dependence observed





More charm baryons in pp and $p\text{Pb}$ collisions

- First measurements of $\Xi_c^0(\text{dsc})/D^0$ and $\Xi_c^+(\text{usc})/D^0$ ratios in $p\text{Pb}$ collisions
- Hint of enhancement of $\Xi_c^0(\text{dsc})/D^0$ in $p\text{Pb}$ compared to pp
- Ξ_c^+/D^0 ratio compatible between forward and backward rapidities

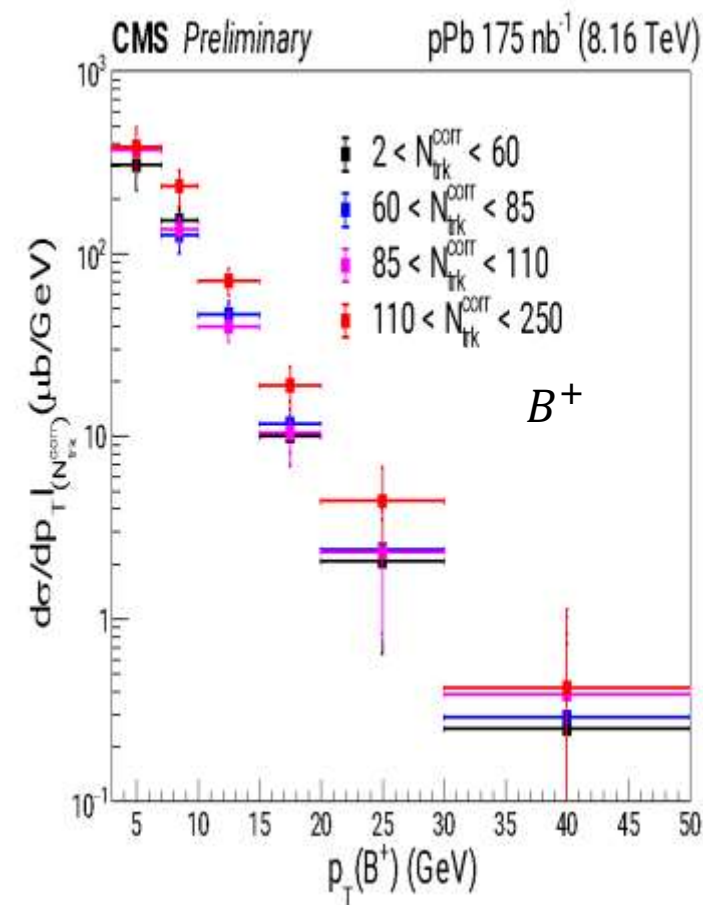
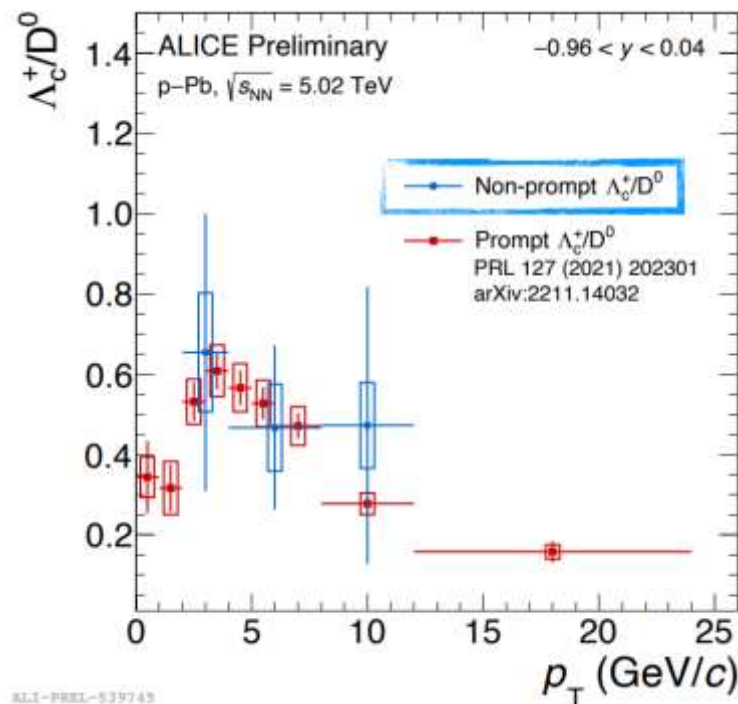
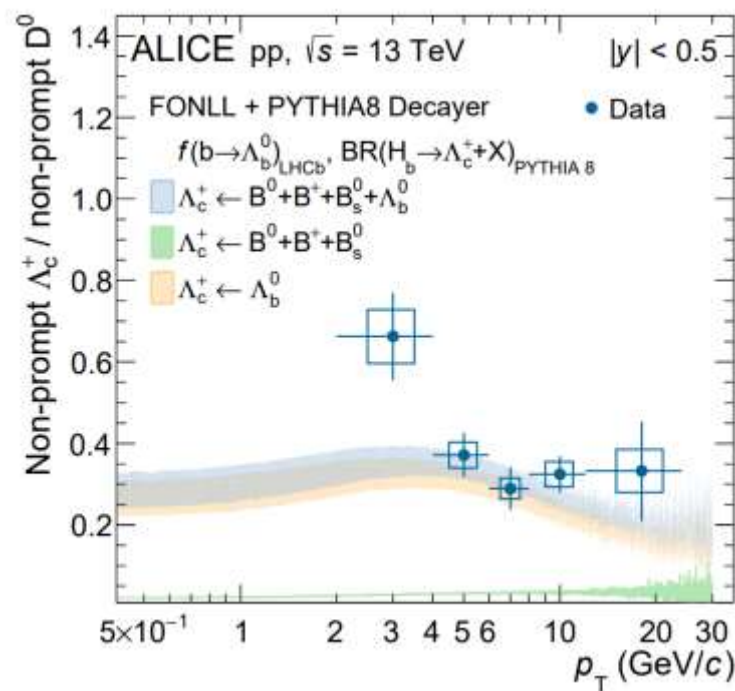


ARXIV:2305.06711



How about beauty?

- First measurement of non-prompt Λ_c^+ / D^0
- CMS B^+ production in multiplicity bins



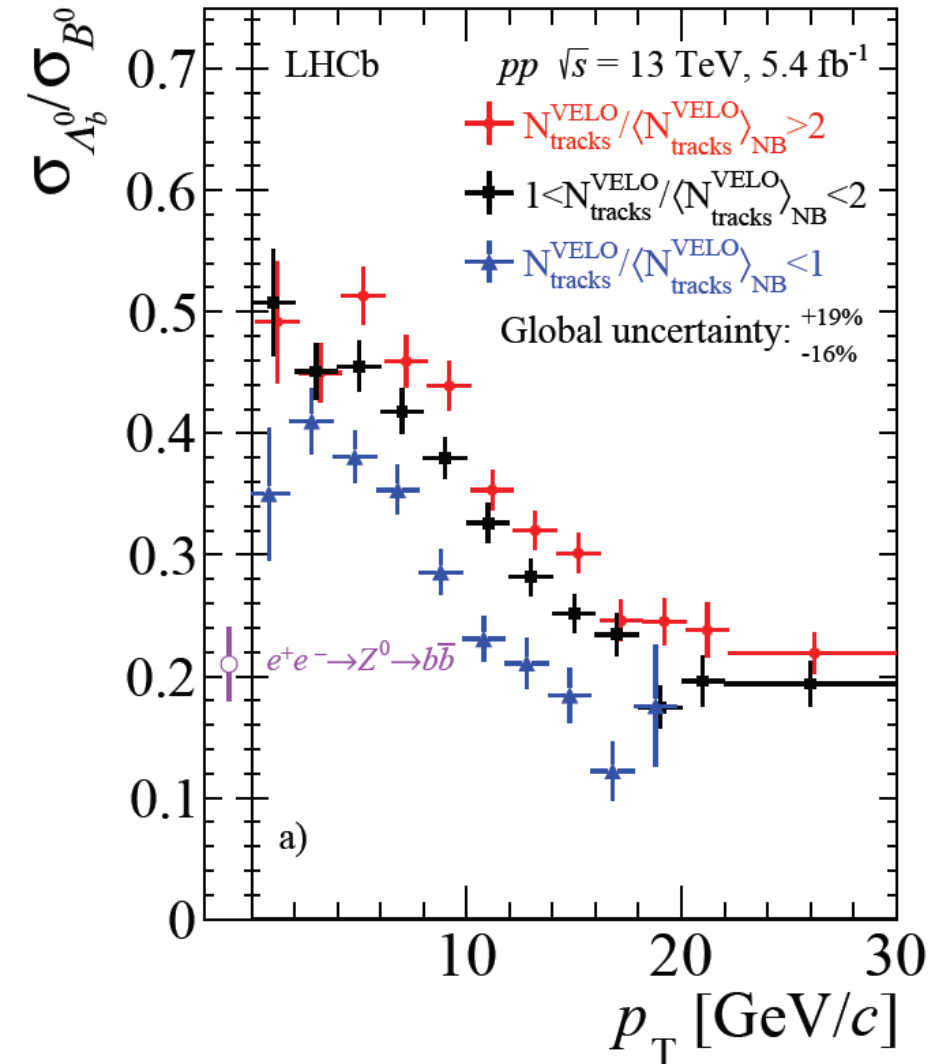
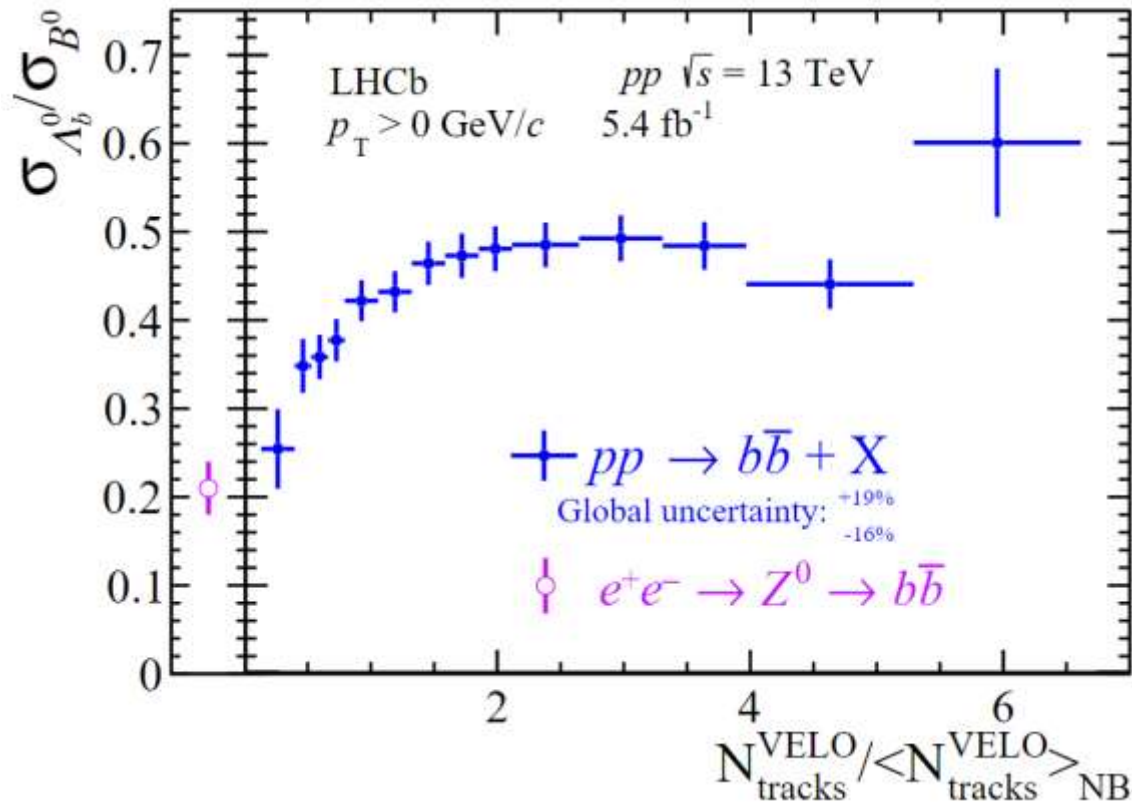


Λ_b^0/B^0 in pp collisions at 13 TeV

baryon/meson

LHCb-PAPER-2023-027

- Λ_b^0/B^0 ratio increases with multiplicity
- Higher than e^+e^- value at low p_T
- Consistent with e^+e^- value at lowest multiplicity and high p_T





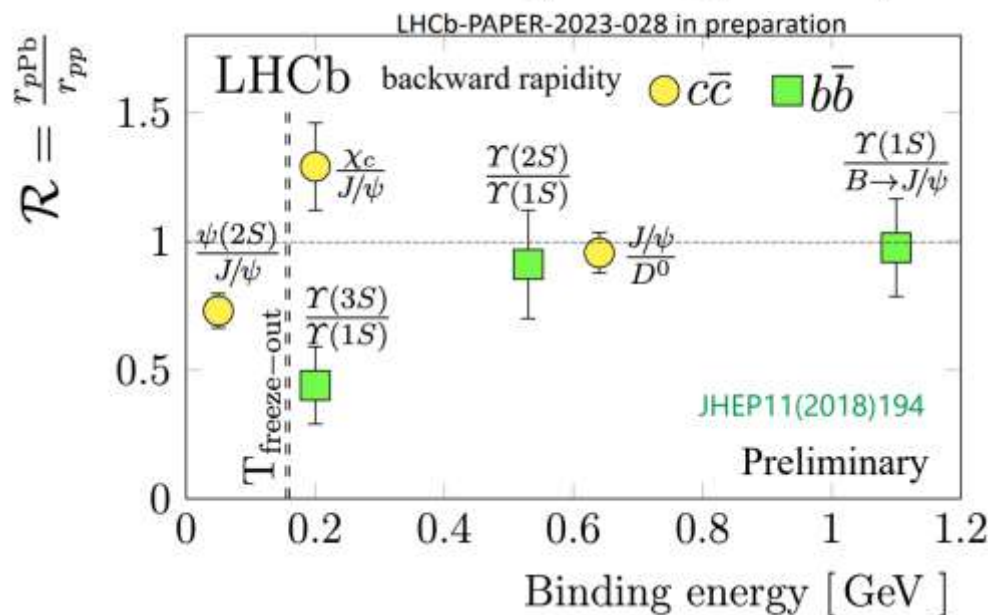
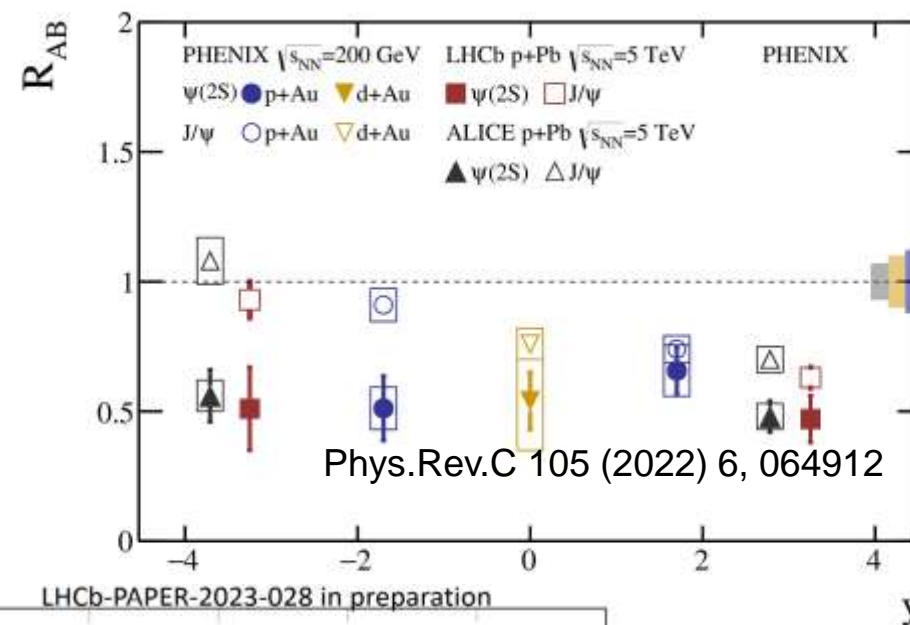
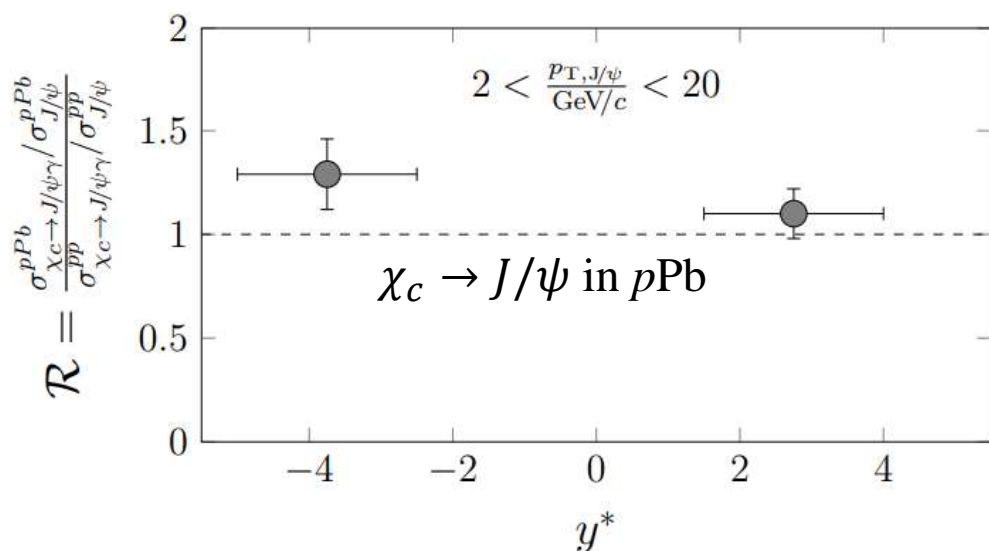
The big questions...

Quarkonia breakup
comover effects?



Quarkonia in $p\text{Pb}$ collisions

- First measurement: $\chi_{c1} + \chi_{c2}$ measured in the $J/\psi \gamma$ decay channel.
- No final-state dissociation of χ_c states in $p\text{Pb}$ collisions





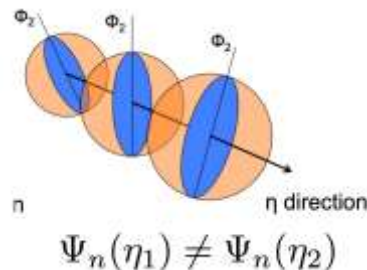
The big questions...

Correlations and collectivity
origin of flow in small system?

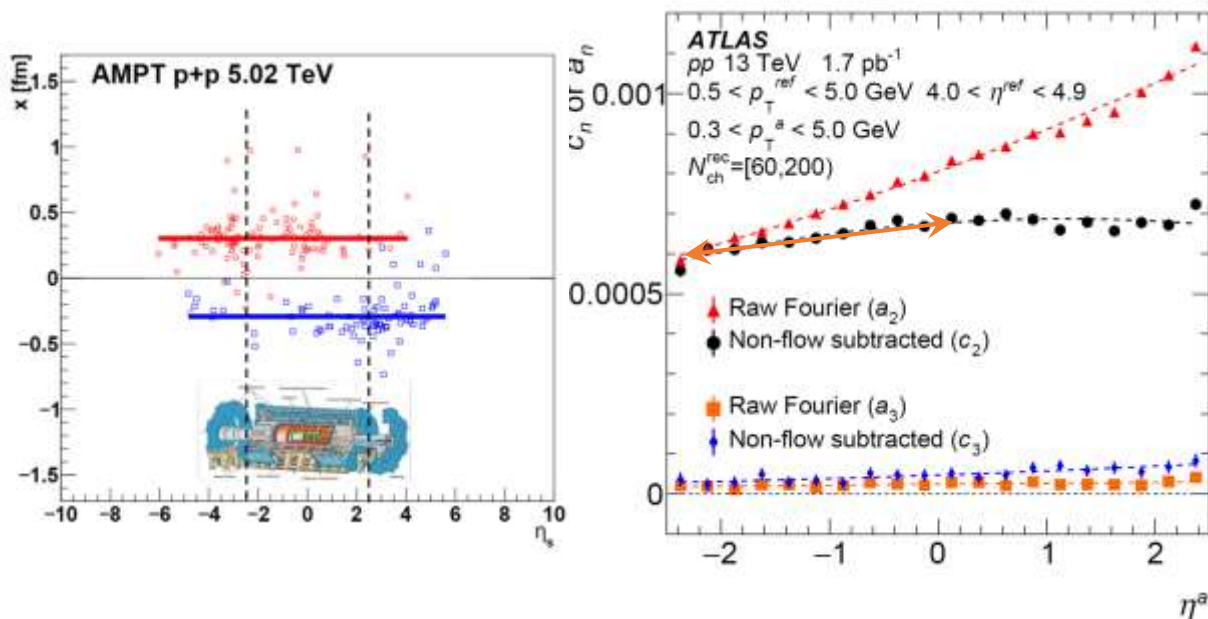


Flow in pp system suggests proton sub-nucleon structure

- Flow decorrelation in η
- Simple model of proton-proton collisions
 - A string per participant
 - No variation in geometry
 - No longitudinal decorrelation



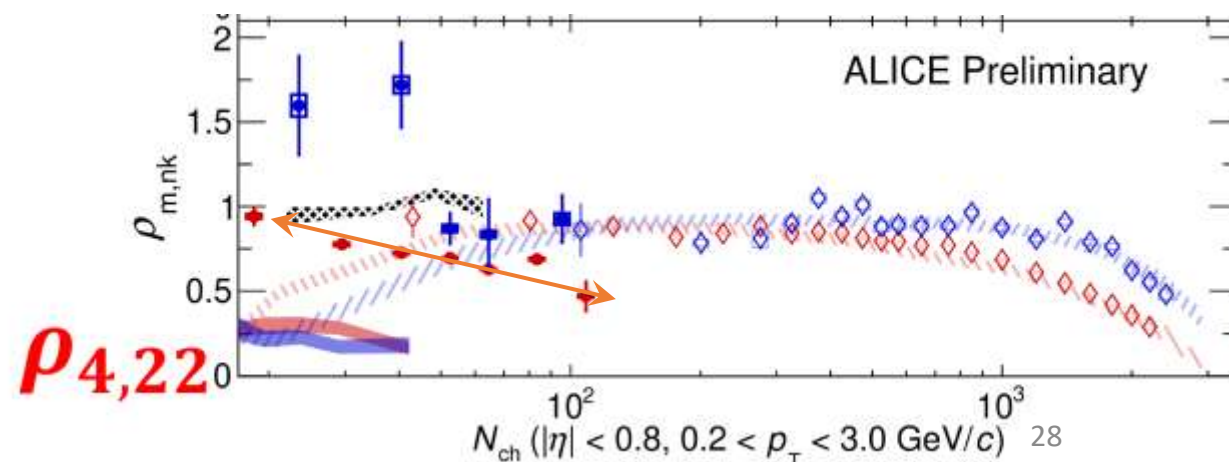
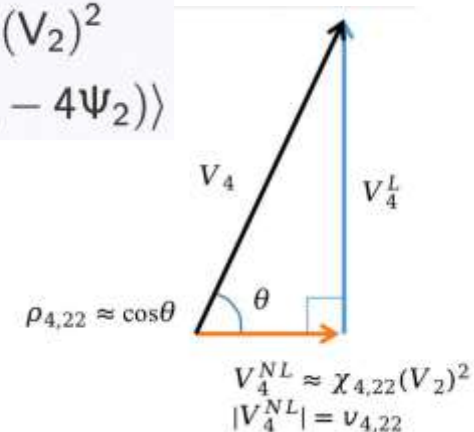
- Need for sub-nucleonic structure to explain data



- Nonlinear flow response
- $\rho_{4,22}$ decreasing trend indicates sub-nucleon structure of proton

$$V_4 = V_4^L + V_4^{NL} = V_4^L + \chi_{4,22}(V_2)^2$$

$$\rho_{4,22} = v_{4,22}/v_4\{2\} = \langle \cos(4\Psi_4 - 4\Psi_2) \rangle$$





Flow in single jet ($pp@13\text{TeV}$)

collectivity

Observation of enhanced long-range elliptic anisotropies inside high-multiplicity jets in pp collisions at the LHC

- From how small of a system can collectivity emerge?
- Collectivity from a fragmenting parton?

$N_{\text{ch}} \sim 26$

CMS Preliminary

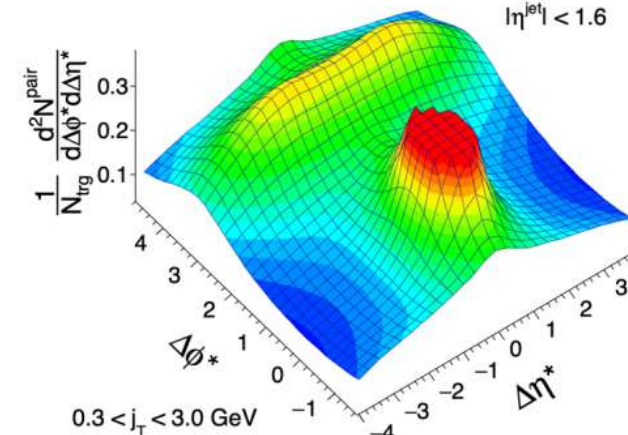
138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)

$\langle N_{\text{ch}}^j \rangle = 26$

Anti $k_T R=0.8$

$p_T^{\text{jet}} > 550$

$|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$



CMS Preliminary

138 fb⁻¹ (pp 13 TeV)

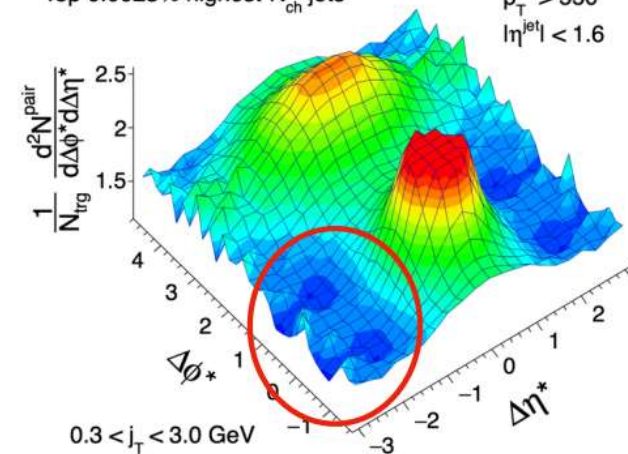
$\langle N_{\text{ch}}^j \rangle = 101$

Top 0.0023% highest- N_{ch}^j jets

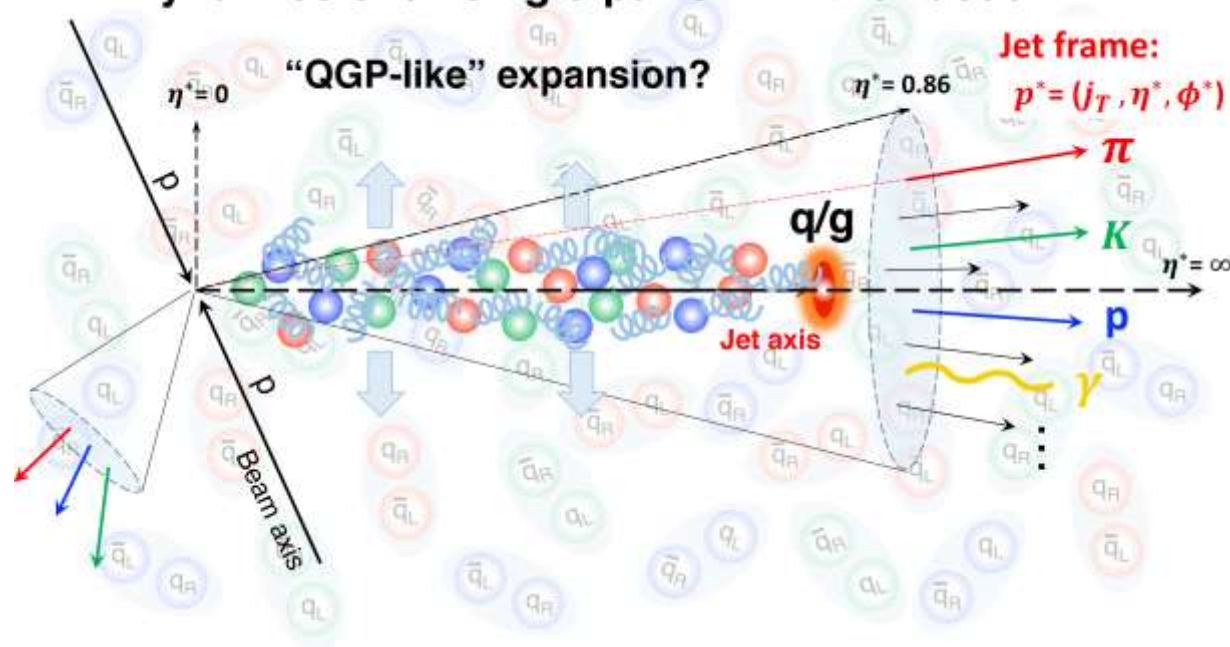
Anti $k_T R=0.8$

$p_T^{\text{jet}} > 550$

$|\eta^{\text{jet}}| < 1.6$



Dynamics of a “single-parton” in the vacuum

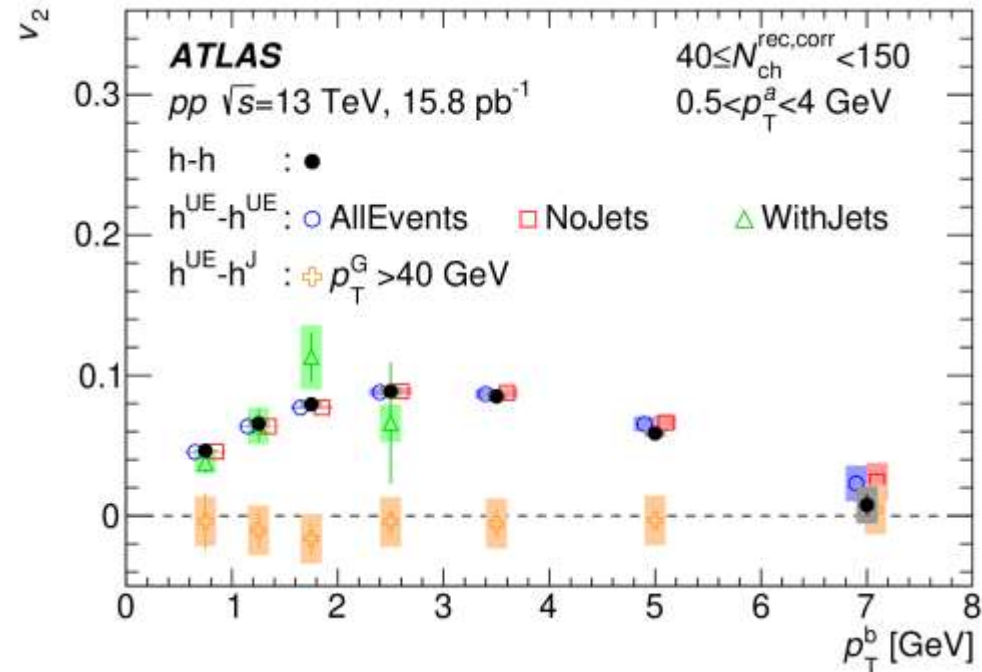
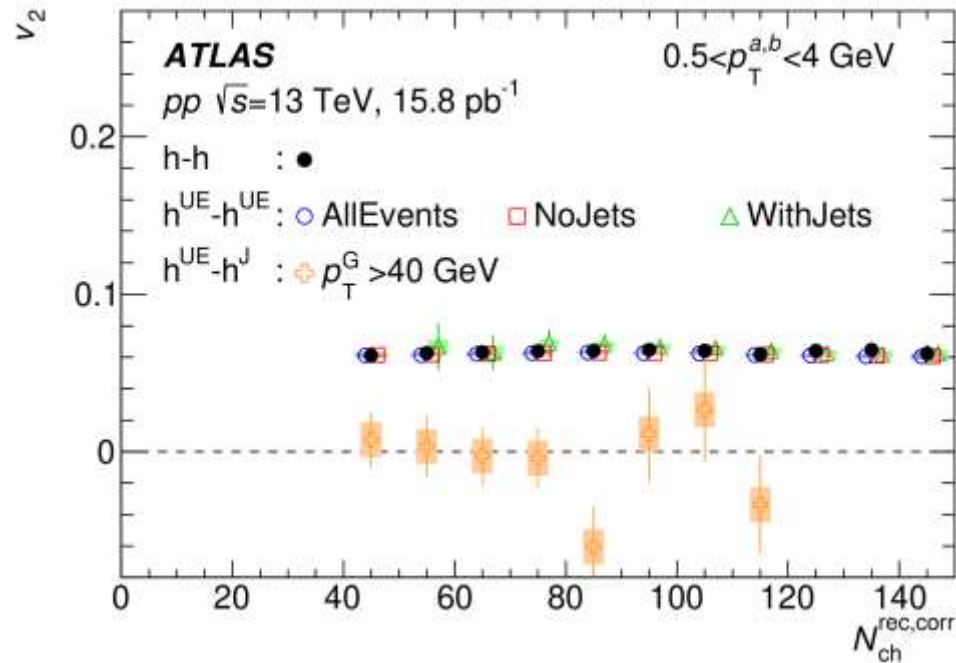


$N_{\text{ch}} \sim 100$



Hard-soft correlations: 2PC in pp with jets and Underlying Event (UE)

- Is the ridge associated with jet production?
- v_2 from jet-UE pairs and UE-UE pairs
- No significant correlation between jets and UE
→ ruling out hard processes contributing to the ridge



arXiv:2303.17357



The big questions...

Jet production and properties
Energy loss and transport in
medium?



π^0 energy loss in dAu collisions?

- Experimental measure N_{coll} using direct photon

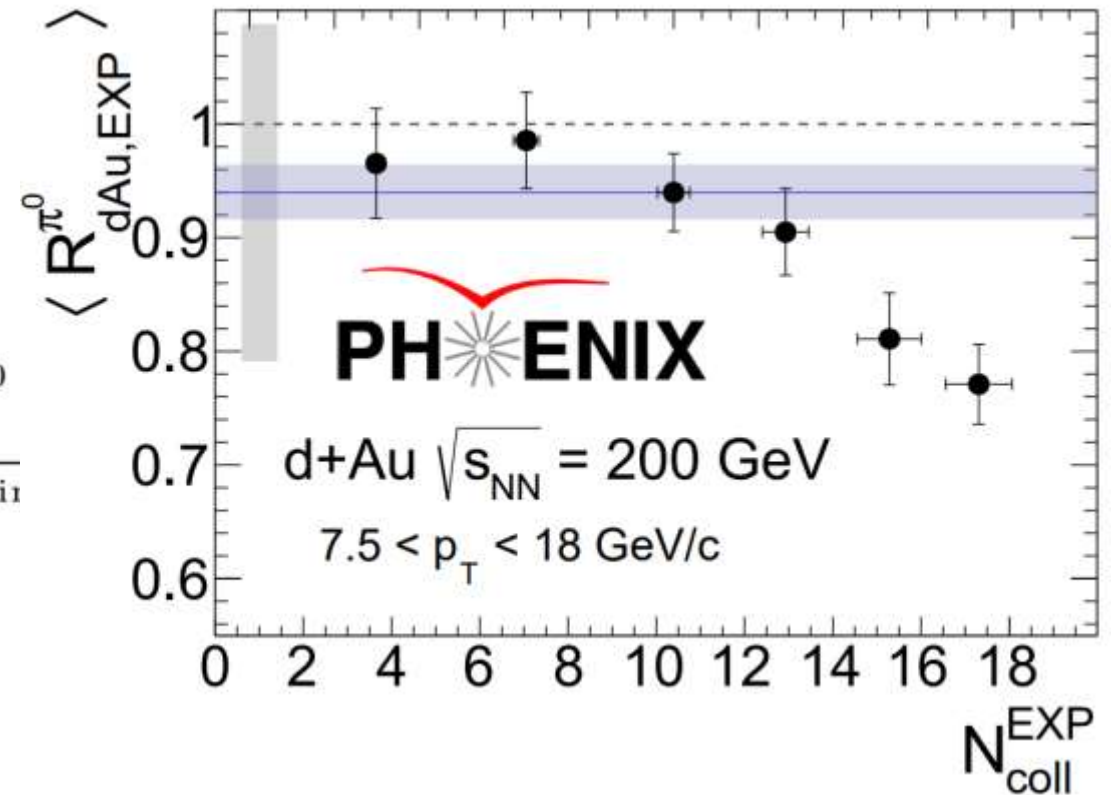
$$N_{coll}^{EXP}(p_T) = \frac{Y_{dAu}^{\gamma^{dir}}(p_T)}{Y_{pp}^{\gamma^{dir}}(p_T)}$$

- π^0 Nuclear modification factor

$$R_{dAu,EXP}^{\pi^0} = \frac{Y_{dAu}^{\pi^0}}{N_{coll}^{EXP} Y_{pp}^{\pi^0}} = \frac{Y_{dAu}^{\pi^0}/Y_{pp}^{\pi^0}}{Y_{dAu}^{\gamma^{dir}}/Y_{pp}^{\gamma^{dir}}}$$

- Suppression in central collisions

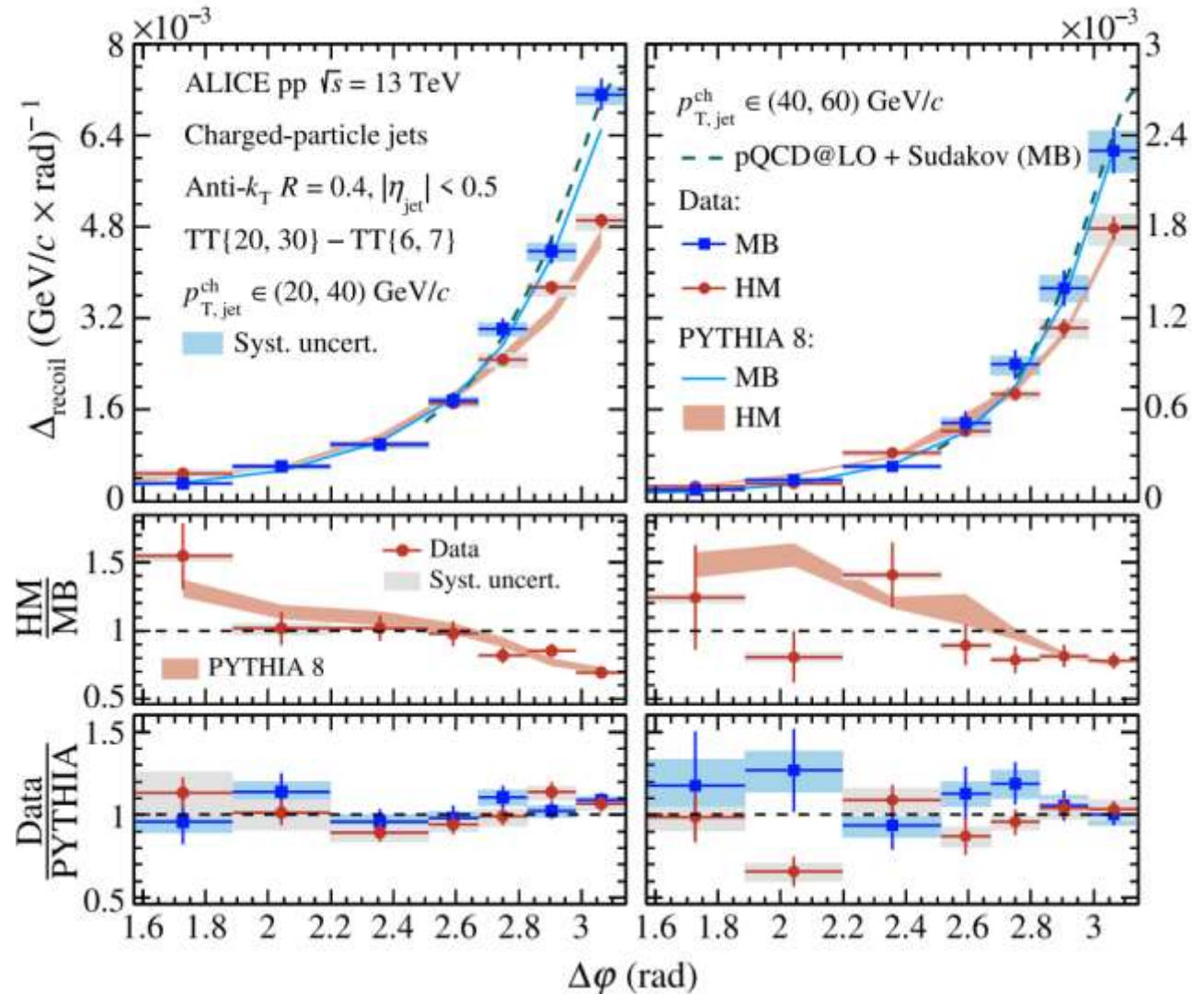
arXiv: 2303.12899





Searching for jet quenching in small systems

- Recoil jet widening and yield suppression in HM events
- Pythia8 (without jet quenching) reproduces effects
- Originates from bias induced by the HM event selection
 - Multiplicity estimator in the forward + hard process in midrapidity
 - Bias towards multi-jet final states
- Effect of the bias mimics suppression





Summary

- Initial state:
 - Significant progress on constraining nPDF at small and large x
 - Tension with nPDF
 - Still looking for gluon saturation
- Strangeness enhancement:
 - D_s^+/D^+ ratio enhanced in high multiplicity p Pb collisions
- Baryon/meson ratio:
 - Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio flat dependence on multiplicity
 - Λ_b^0/B^0 ratio rises with increasing multiplicity
- Collectivity:
 - Ridge in HM single jet
- Energy loss: ?
- More
- What's next?
 - LHC Run3 + special OO run
 - LHCb SMOG2 program (high stat. proton-Gas data, [talk by Saverio Mariani](#))
 - Electron-Ion Collider ([talk by Xuan Li](#))

