

Light-flavour measurements in Run 3 and 4 with ALICE

PHENOMenial Workshop

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1206467/>

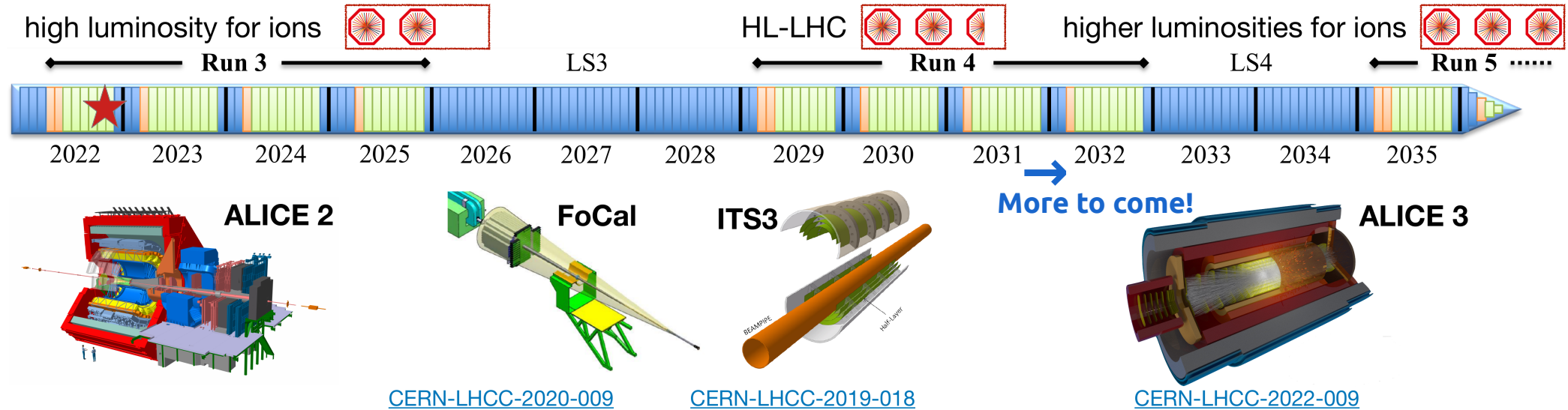
Building on the shoulder of giants

11/11/2022

Nicolò Jacazio (Bologna University)

<https://about.me/jacazio>

An evolving ALICE detector: Run 3 and 4 (and 5)



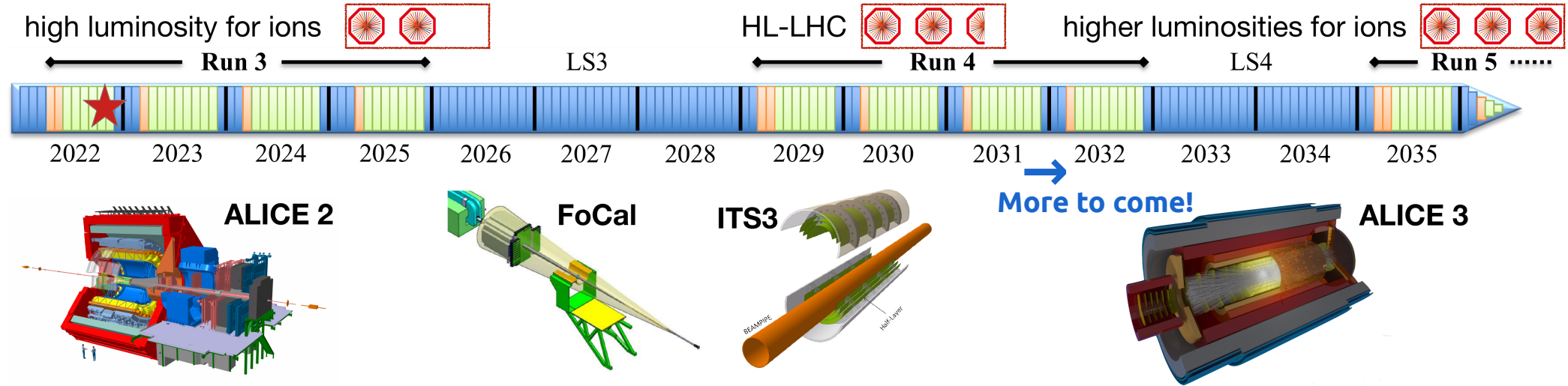
The heavy-ion experiment at the CERN LHC

- Unique PID capabilities among all LHC experiments
- Covers broad kinematic range
- Many different PID techniques
- Excellent performance in Run 1 and Run 2

Run 3+4 goals for data:

- Increase statistics
 - » 50 kHz in Pb-Pb → 13 nb⁻¹ in Run 3+4
 - » 200 pb⁻¹

An evolving ALICE detector: Run 3 and 4 (and 5)



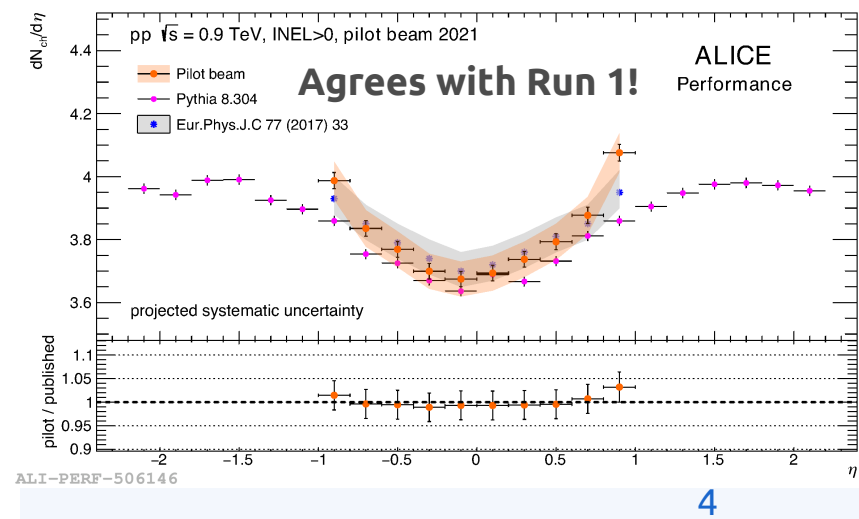
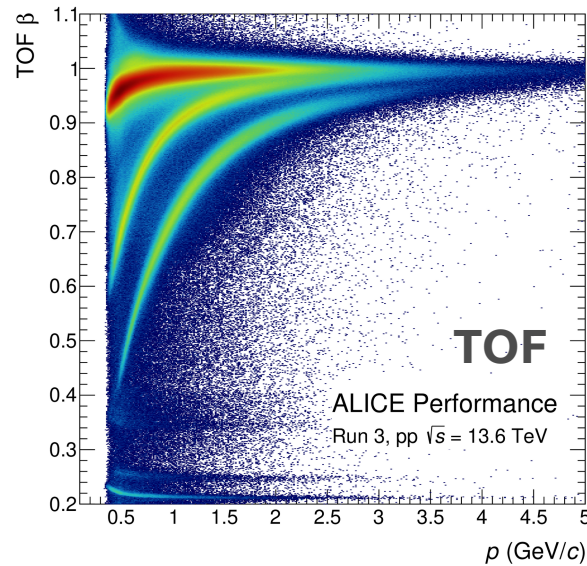
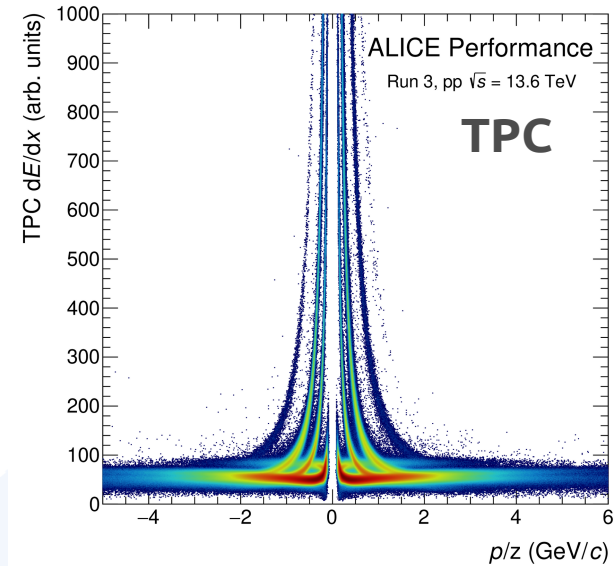
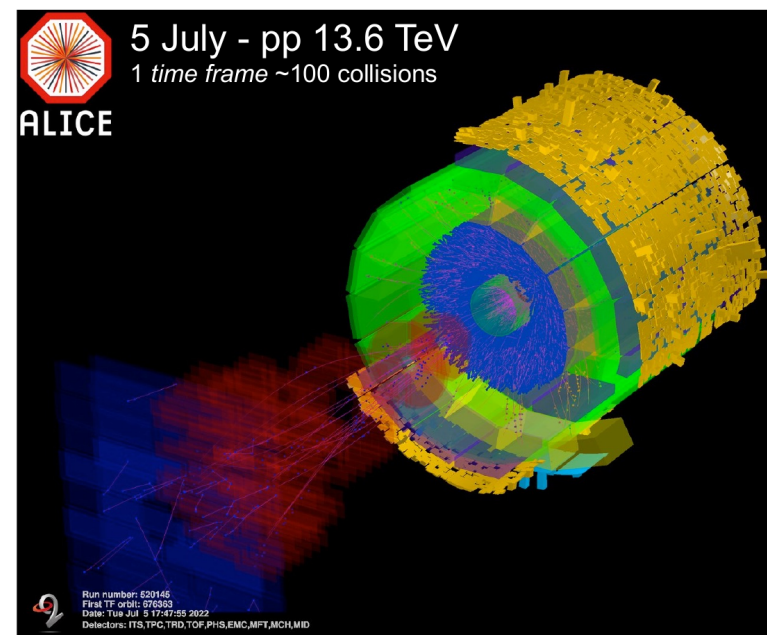
A new detector

- Upgraded of Time Projection Chamber (TPC) with GEM amplification in continuous readout → **improved readout rate**
- New Inner Tracking system (ITS) → **Improved resolution**, lower material budget nb^{-1} in Run 3+4
- New Muon Forward Tracker (MFT) → Vertex tracker at forward rapidity
- New Fast Interaction Trigger (FIT) → Centrality, event plane, luminosity, interaction time
- New data acquisition and reconstruction framework – (Online – Offline , O2)
- **Record minimum bias Pb-Pb data at 50 kHz (x50 maximum Run 2 rate)**

A near future

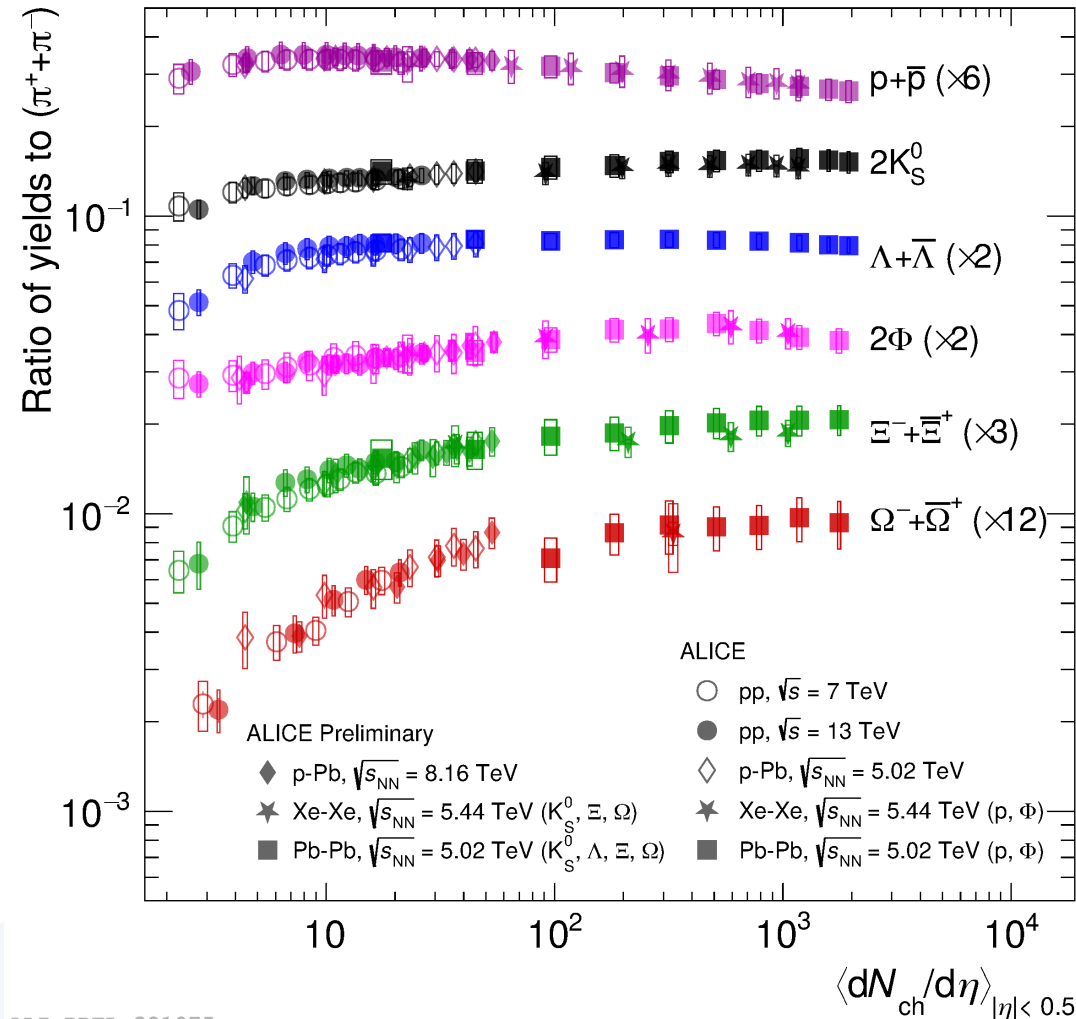
- Run 3 has started already since July
- Already recorded more pp collisions of Run 2!
- And performance is here!

Goal → better tracking and unchanged PID capabilities
and we are getting there



ALI-PERF-506146

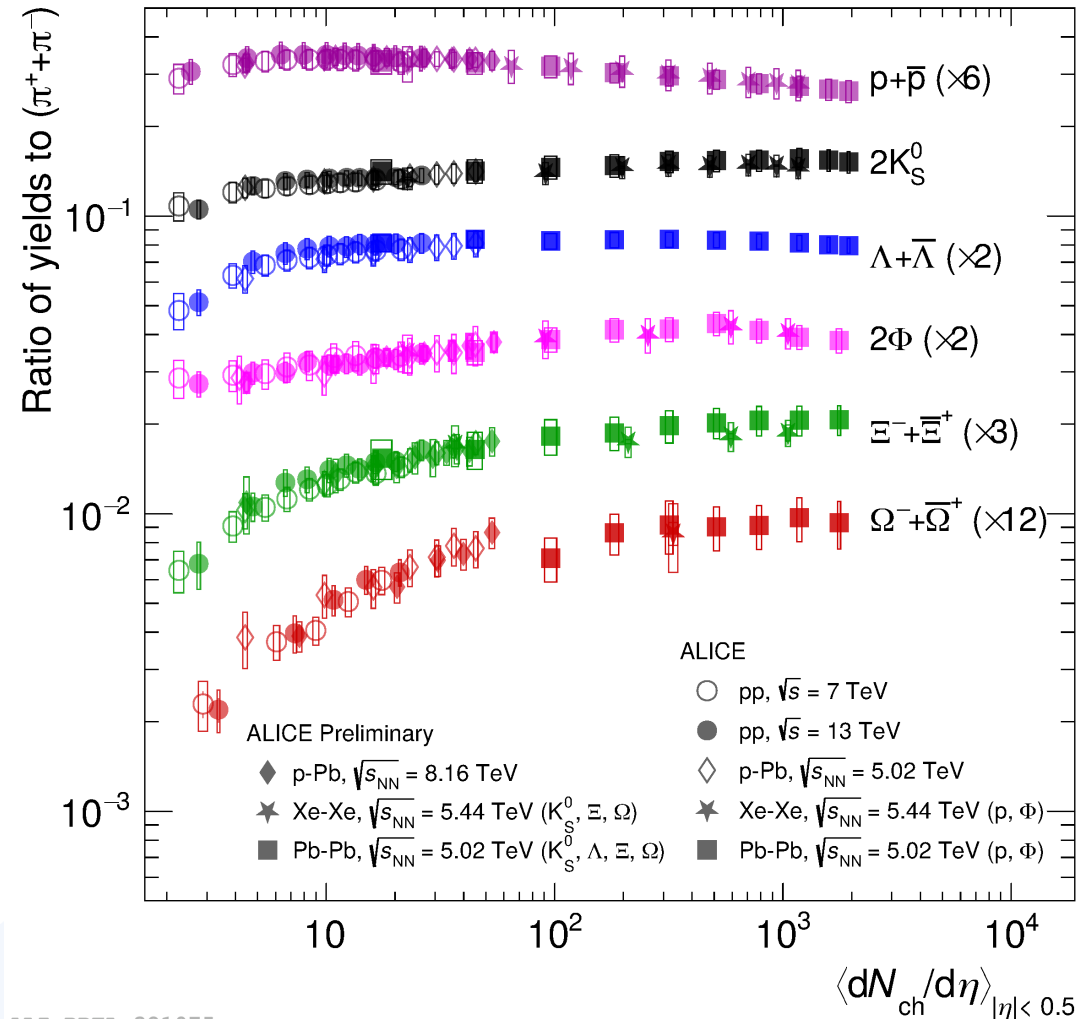
Filling the gap: from small to large systems



From Run 1+2:

- At LHC energies continuous evolution is observed also when considering small systems (pp and p-Pb)
- In pp, p-Pb, Xe-Xe and Pb-Pb the charged **particle multiplicity is a good scaling observable to describe particle production**
- Steeper increase in particles with more strangeness content indicating that the **strangeness enhancement starts at the charged-particle multiplicity reached in small systems**

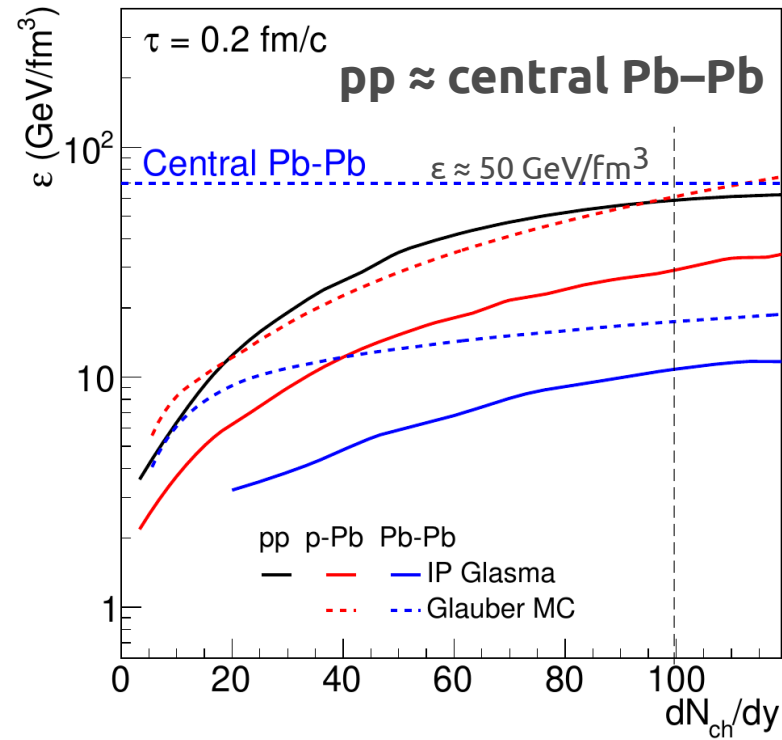
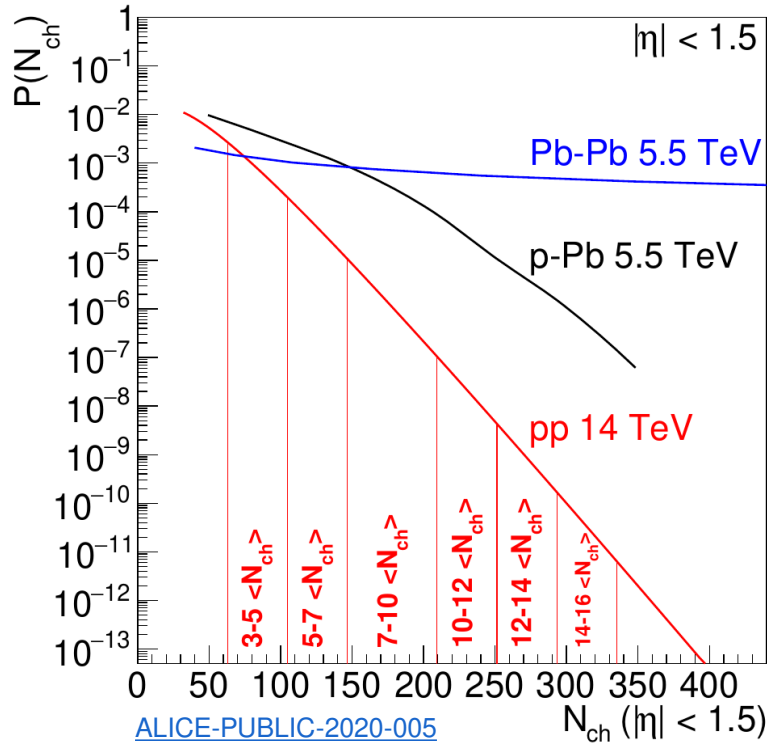
Filling the gap: from small to large systems



From Run 1+2:

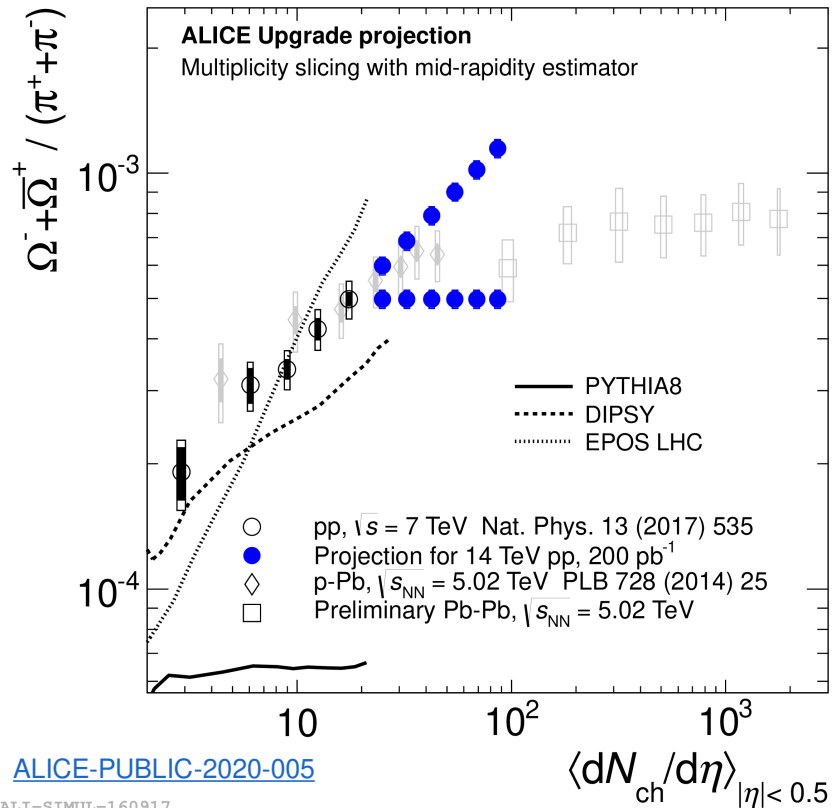
- At LHC energies continuous evolution is observed also when considering small systems (pp and p-Pb)
- In pp, p-Pb, Xe-Xe and Pb-Pb the charged **particle multiplicity is a good scaling observable to describe particle production** → **does it hold true?**
- Steeper increase in particles with more strangeness content indicating that the **strangeness enhancement starts at the charged-particle multiplicity reached in small systems** → **is it valid for extreme pp events?**

With large statistics comes great multiplicity



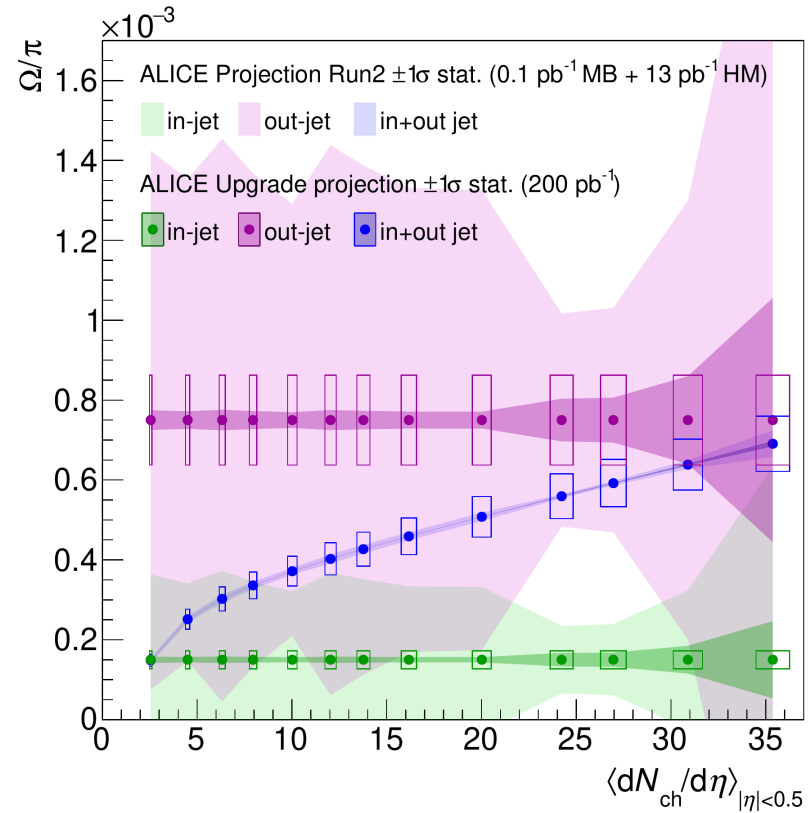
- For pp $dN_{ch}/d\eta \approx 100$ (**similar energy density** as found in central Pb-Pb collisions)
- Assuming an integrated luminosity of about 200 pb⁻¹ (interaction rate 0.5 MHz):
 $N_{ev}(dN_{ch}/d\eta|_{100}) = 2.8 \times 10^4 \rightarrow$ close to 65% most central Pb-Pb collisions
- Will be able to **fill the gap** between small and large systems and look for **rare events**

Strangeness production



ALICE-PUBLIC-2020-005

ALI-SIMUL-160917

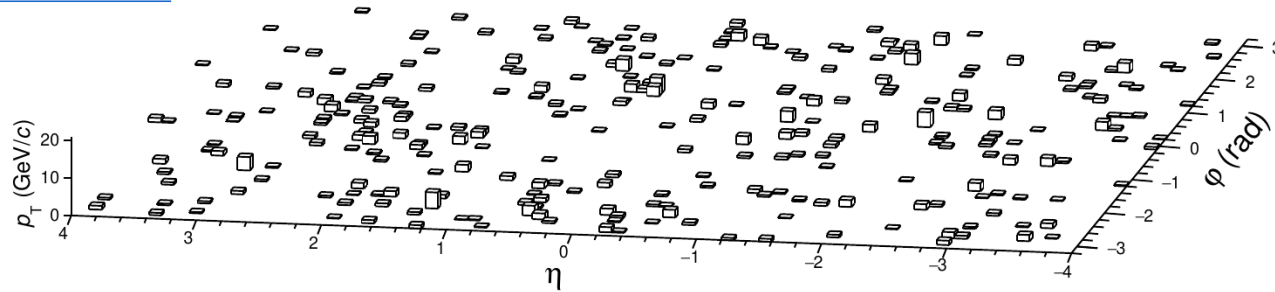


- Does strangeness production reach the thermal limit in high-multiplicity pp collisions?
- Measuring pp events with $dN_{ch}/d\eta > 100$ is a strong need!
- Going more differential is the key to give model constrains → high precision is a must!

Looking at rare pp events: flatenicity

PYTHIA 8.303 (Monash 2013), pp $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, $N_{\text{mpi}}=24$, $N_{\text{ch}}=325$, $\rho=0.58$

[Ortiz, Paic](#)
[arXiv:2204.13733](#)

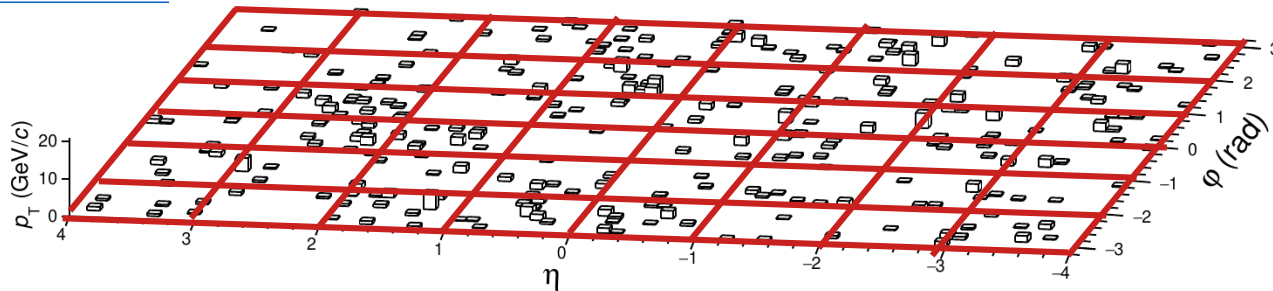


- More data means more differential measurements
- Going towards a very fine underlying event definition

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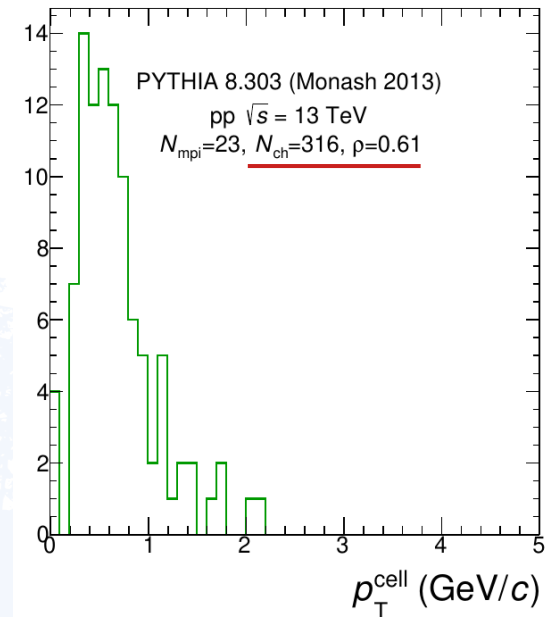
[Ortiz., Paic](#)
[arXiv:2204.13733](#)



- More data means more differential measurements
- Going towards a very fine underlying event definition
- **Flatenicity** \rightarrow track distribution divided into 2D cells
- Straightforward implementation into the detector acceptance

$$\rho = \frac{\sigma_{p_T^{\text{cell}}}}{\langle p_T^{\text{cell}} \rangle}$$

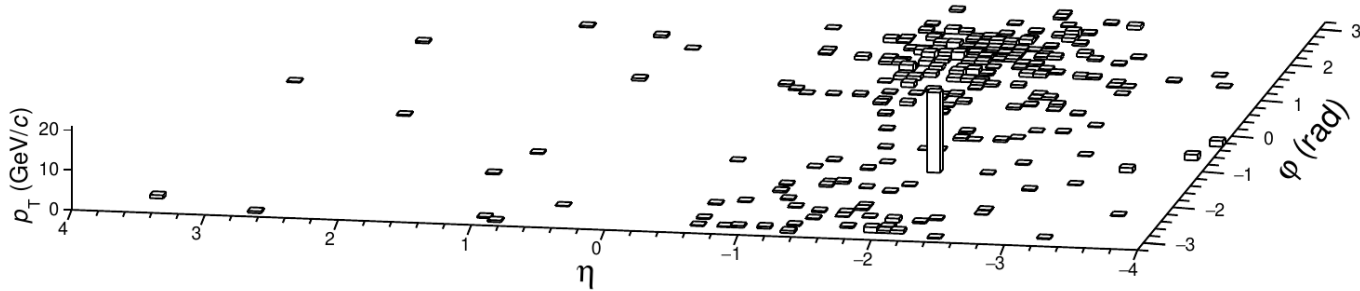
ρ : 0 (jetty) to 1 (isotropic)



Looking at rare pp events: flatenicity

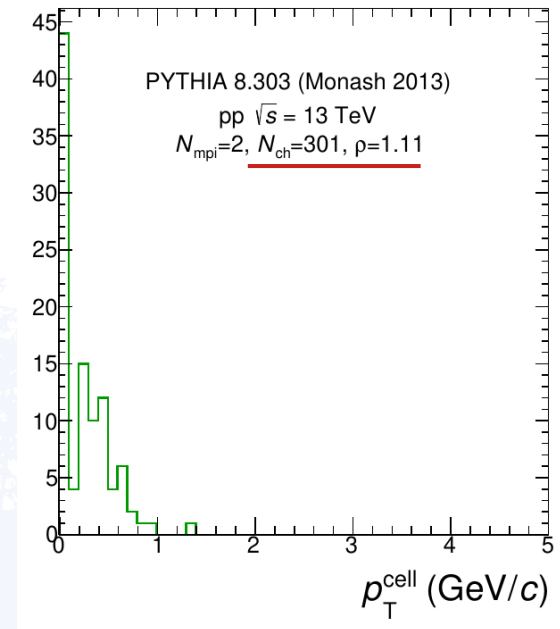
PYTHIA 8.303 (Monash 2013), pp $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, $N_{\text{mpi}}=2$, $N_{\text{ch}}=301$, $\rho=1.11$

[Ortiz., Paic](#)
[arXiv:2204.13733](#)



$$\rho = \frac{\sigma_{p_T^{\text{cell}}}}{\langle p_T^{\text{cell}} \rangle}$$

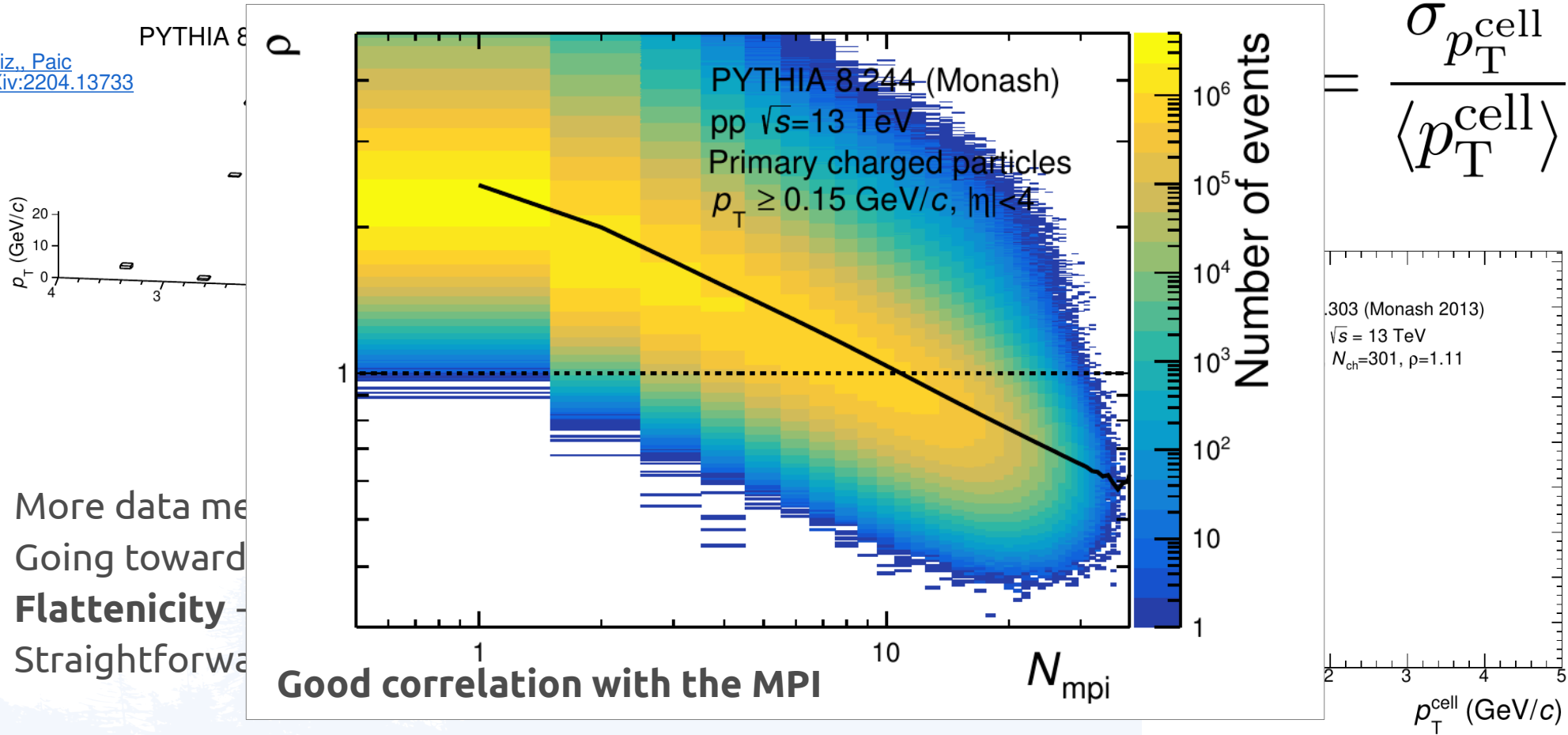
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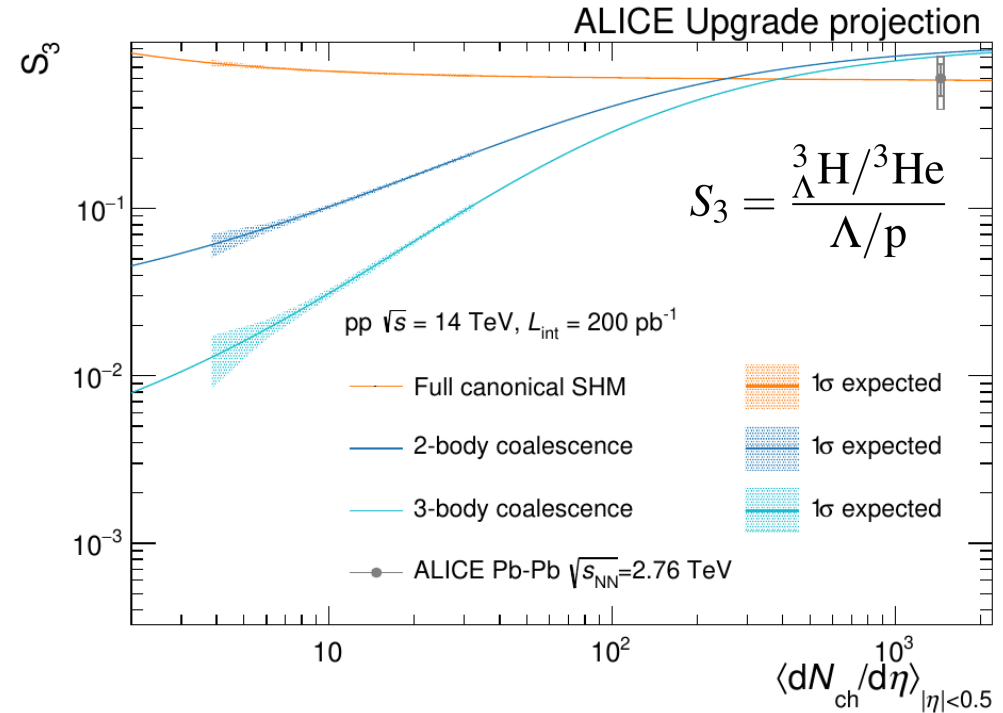
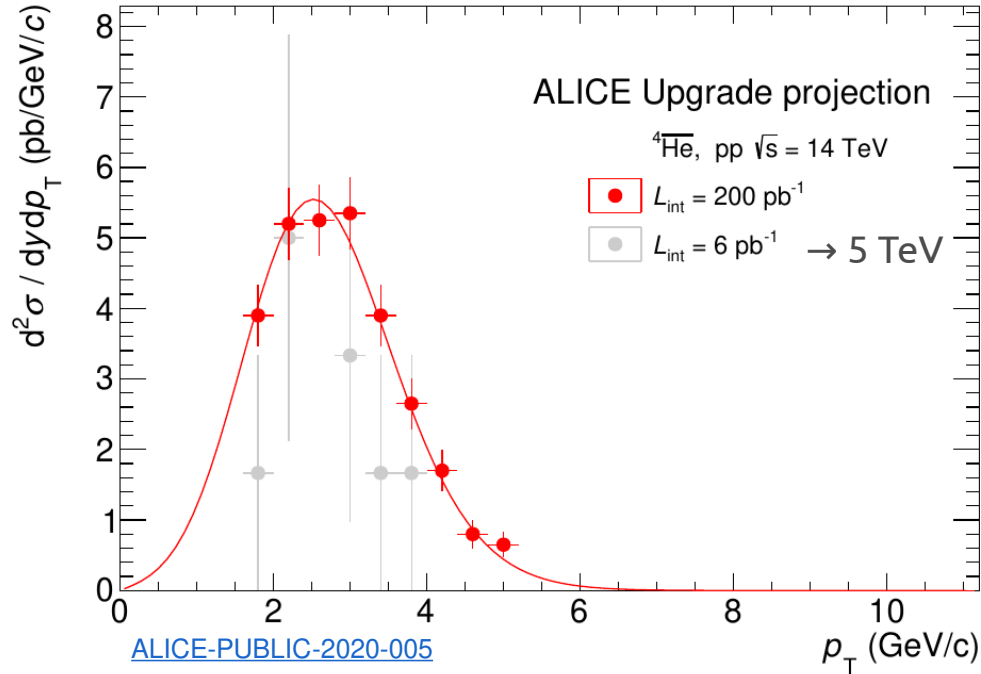
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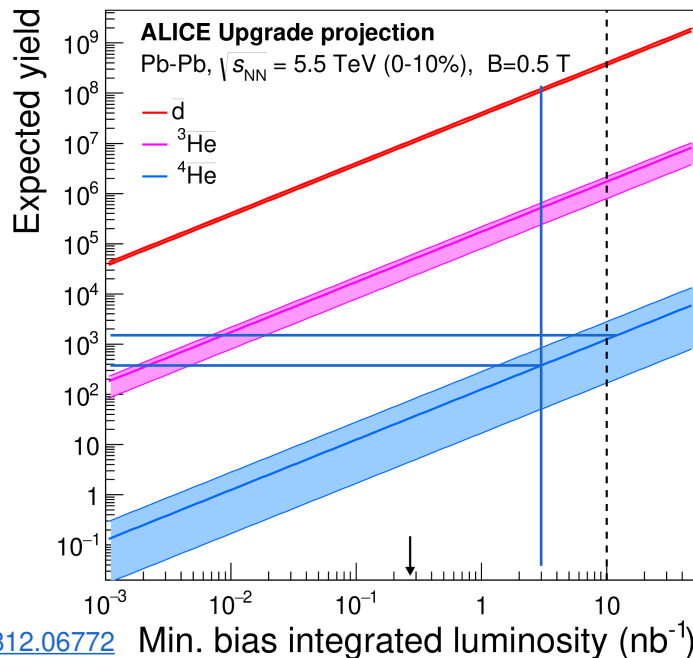
- More data me
- Going toward
- **Flattenicity**
- Straightforward

Light nuclei in pp collisions

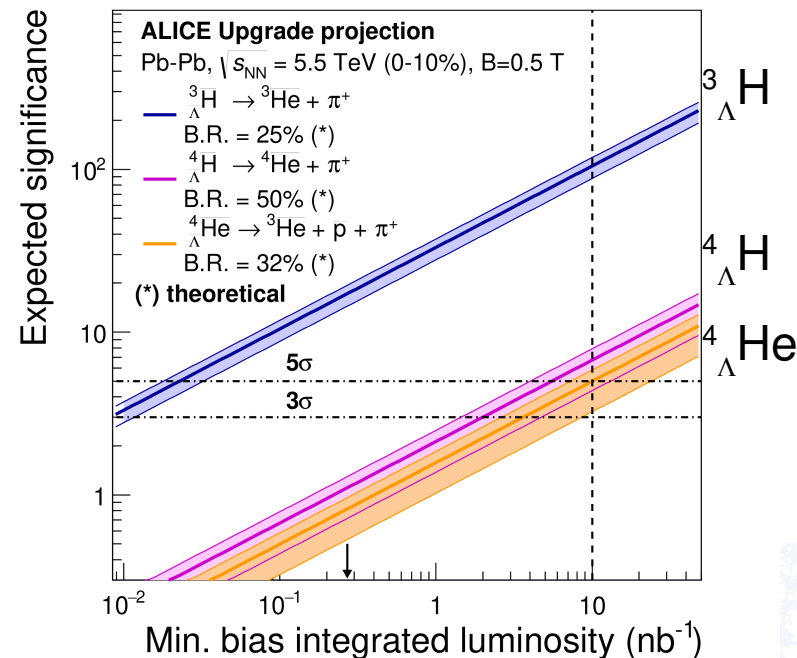


- First measurement of (anti) ${}^4\text{He}$ and (anti)- ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ in pp
- More insight into the particle production mechanisms

Going to AA → nuclei production projections



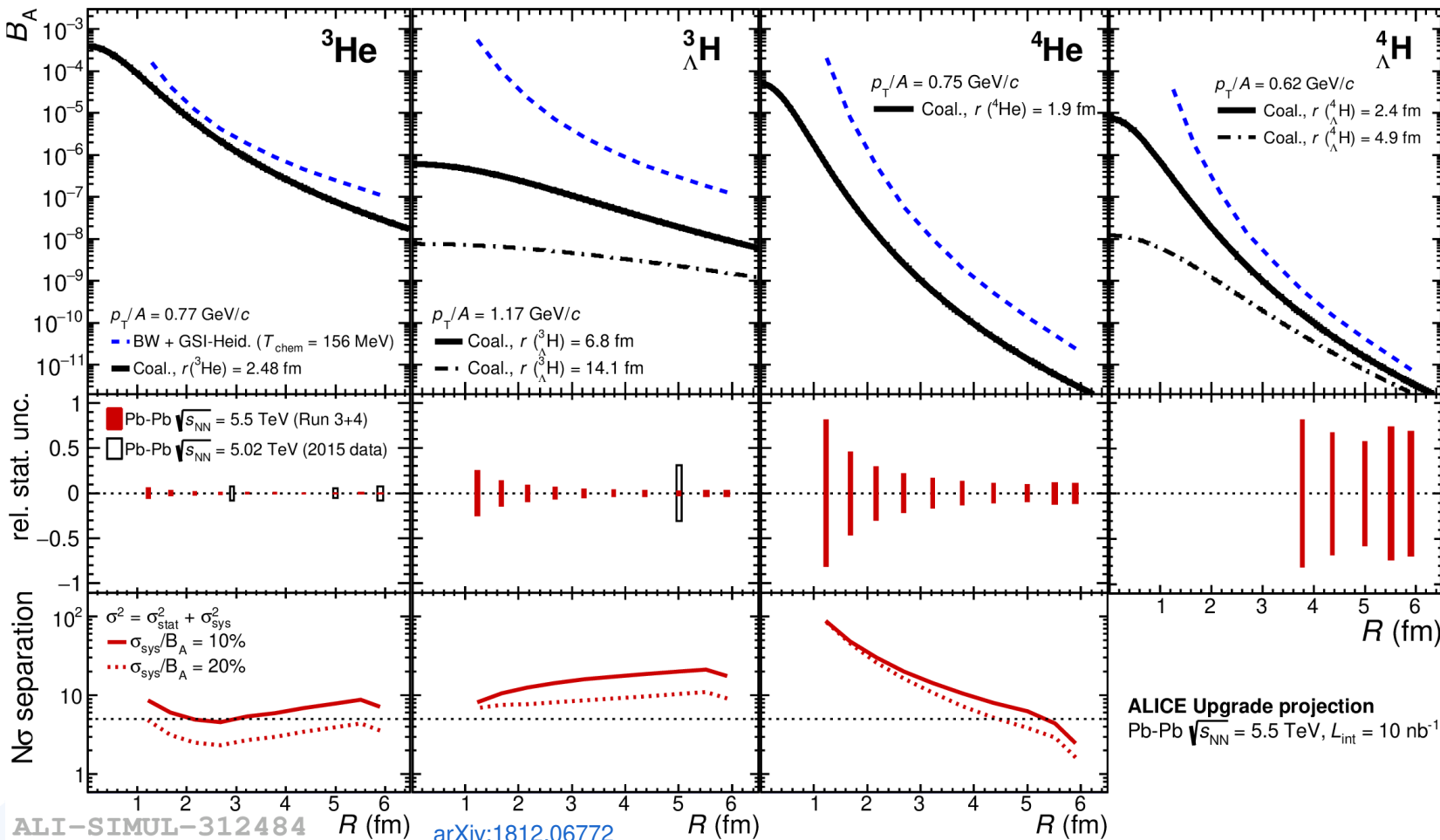
ALI-SIMUL-312336



ALI-SIMUL-312332

- Nuclei production yield in Run 3 increased by a factor 100 due to the increased statistics
- Compensating for the penalty factor of ~ 300 in Pb-Pb → **A=3 tomorrow will be A=2 today**
- Possible **first observation** of (anti-) $^4\Lambda\text{H}$ and (anti-) $^4\Lambda\text{He}$

Production of large nuclear states



Potential to discriminate between different production mechanisms

More exotic states

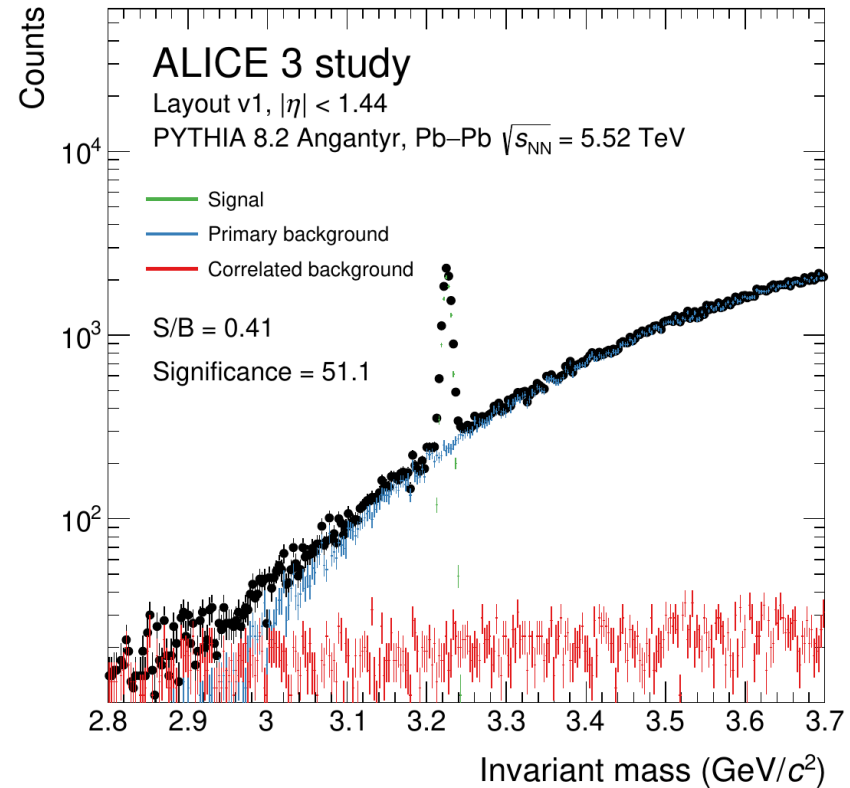
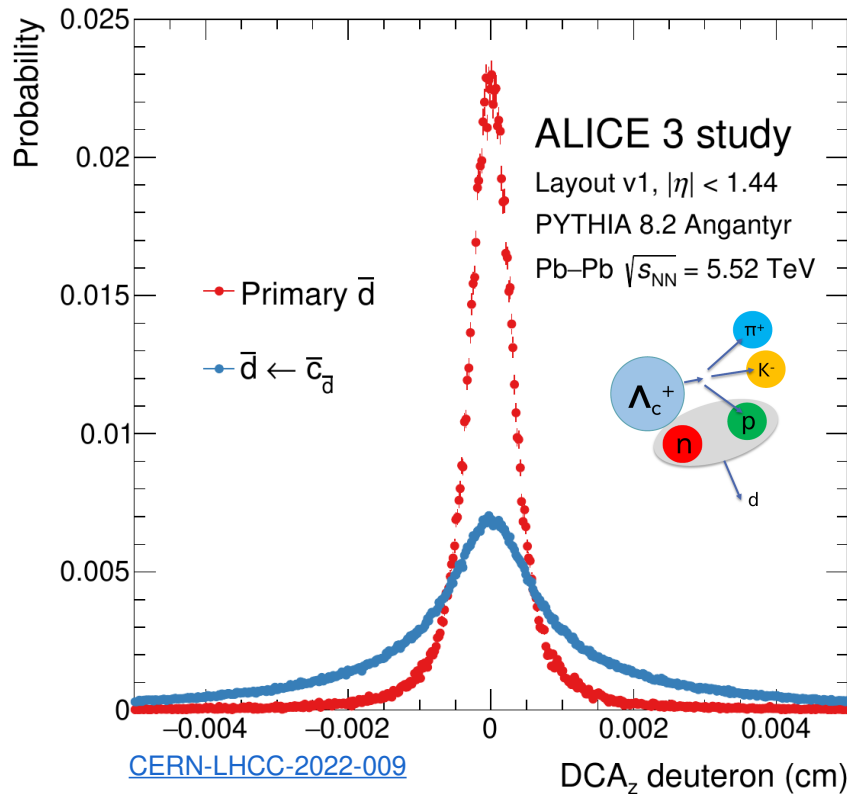
| | Model | $f_0(980)$ | $N(1875)$ | $N\Xi$ | $N\Omega$ | $N\Lambda_c$ |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Structure | | $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$ or $K\bar{K}$ | hadron molecule | dibaryon | dibaryon | dibaryon |
| $(\frac{dN}{dy})_{th}$ | q-coal. | 5.4×10^{-2} | - | - | 1.8×10^{-3} | 1.5×10^{-3} |
| | h-coal. | 3.2^\dagger | - | - | 1.6×10^{-3} | 5×10^{-3} |
| | thermal | 10 | 3×10^{-1} | 8.7×10^{-3} | 5.7×10^{-3} | 4×10^{-3} |
| Decay channel | | $\pi\pi / K\bar{K}$ | $\Sigma^*(\rightarrow \Lambda\pi)K$ | $\Xi \rightarrow \Lambda\pi$ | $\Omega \rightarrow \Lambda K$ | $\Lambda_c \rightarrow \pi K p + \Lambda_c \rightarrow K_{SP}^0$ |
| B.R. (%) | | dominant / seen [†] | unknown (87) | 99.9 | 67.8 | $6.2 + 1.58$ |
| Mass (MeV/c ²) | | 990 | 1850 – 1920 | - | - | - |
| Width (MeV/c ²) | | 10 – 100 | 120 – 250 | - | - | - |
| S_{raw} | q-coal. | 1.8×10^8 | - | - | 6.2×10^4 | 1.5×10^4 |
| | h-coal. | 6.4×10^6 [†] | - | - | 5.5×10^4 | 5.1×10^4 |
| | thermal | 3.6×10^{10} | 5.5×10^7 | 6.7×10^5 | 1.9×10^5 | 4.1×10^4 |
| $\frac{S}{\sqrt{S+B}}$ | q-coal. | 130-3.5 | - | - | - | - |
| | h-coal. | - | - | - | - | - |
| | thermal | 2600-70 | 520-360 | - | - | - |

[arXiv:1812.06772](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.06772)

Yields of exotic states in 0–10% central Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.5$ TeV

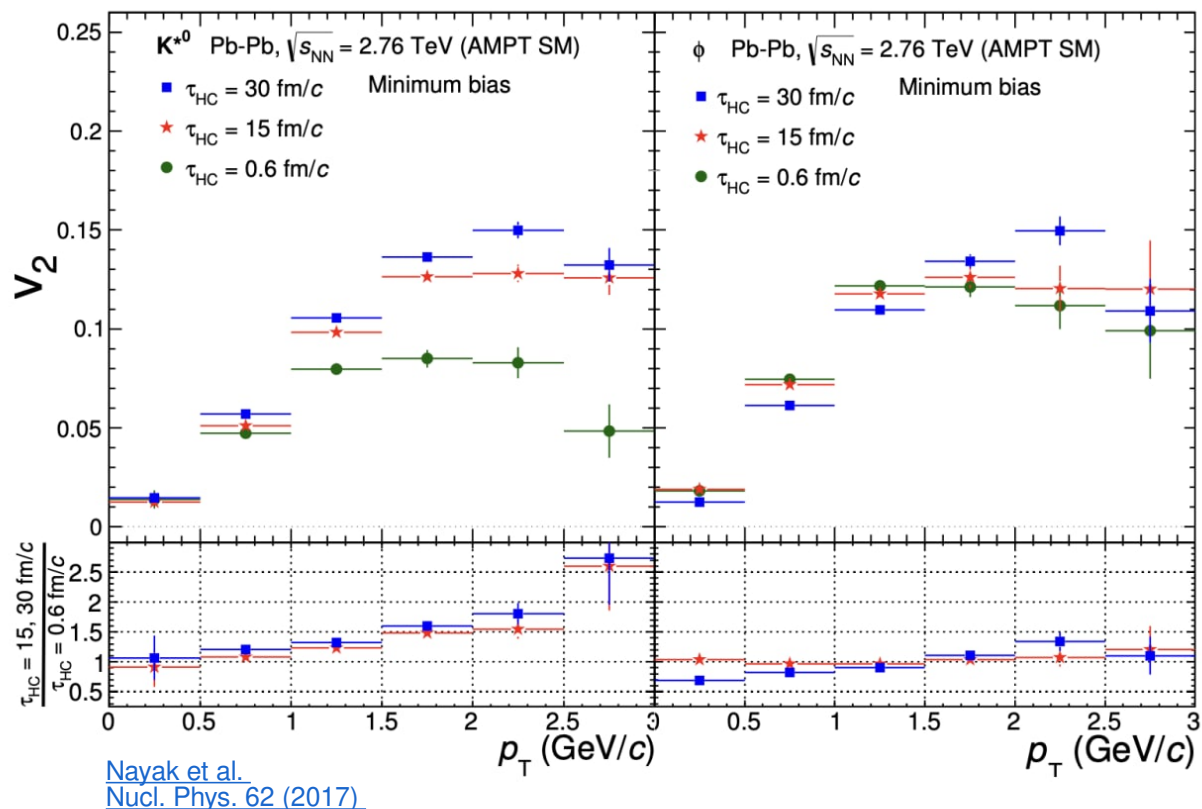
- Hadron identification, including topological reconstruction of weak decays, are particularly suited for these studies → ALICE's special
- Potential for discovery of new bound states
- Bound state properties and potentials depend on basic QCD properties

Discovery potential for charmed nuclei



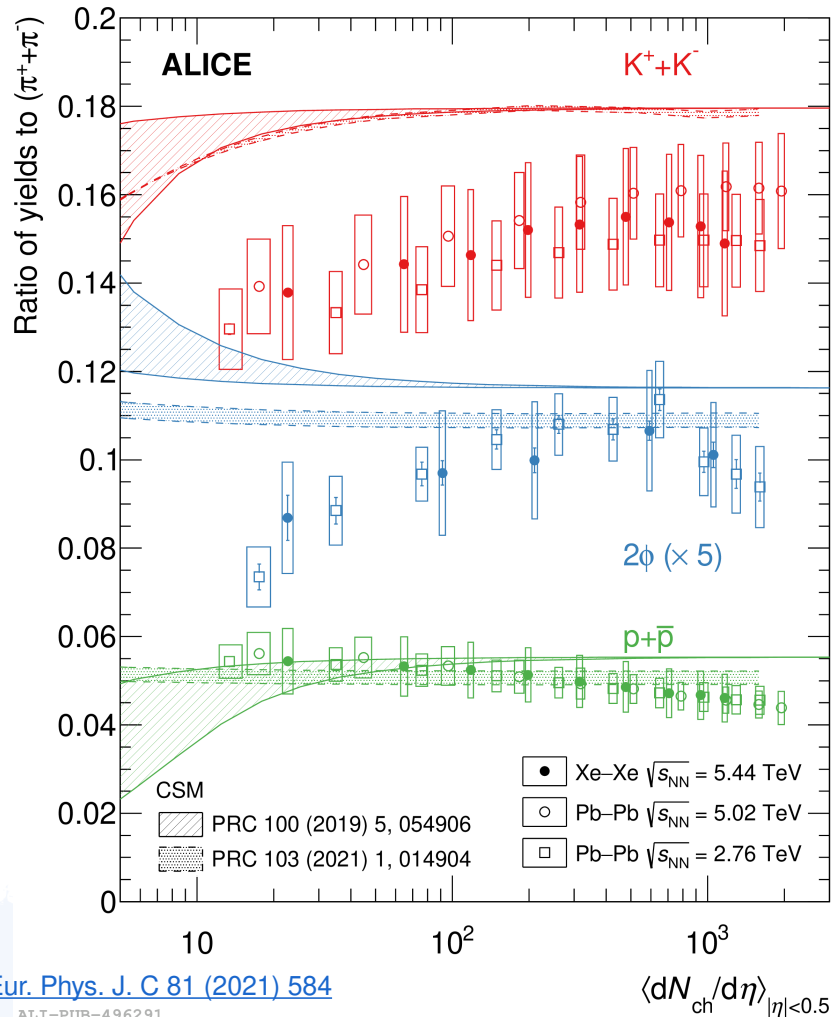
- c-nuclei are on the frontier between light and heavy flavours → extension of hyper-nuclei
- ALICE in Run 4 will start to become sensitive to c-deuteron production (if it exists)
- Run 5 with ALICE 3 will give the definitive answer

Resonances constraining the hadronic phase



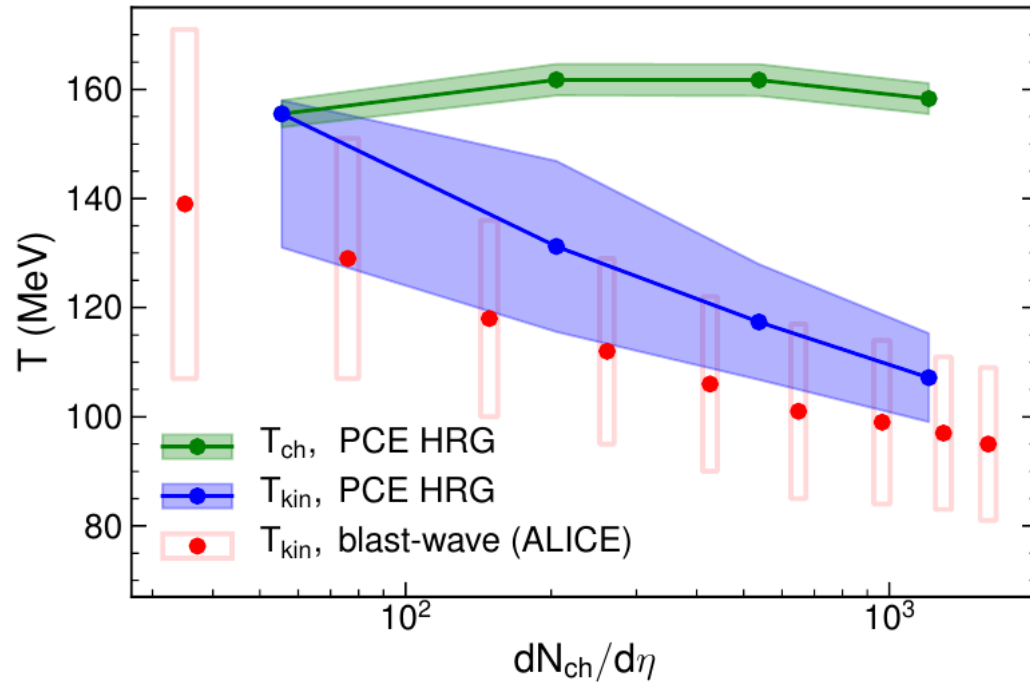
- Precision measurements of resonances flow will be the way to constrain the duration of the hadronic phase

Looking at hadrochemistry in detail

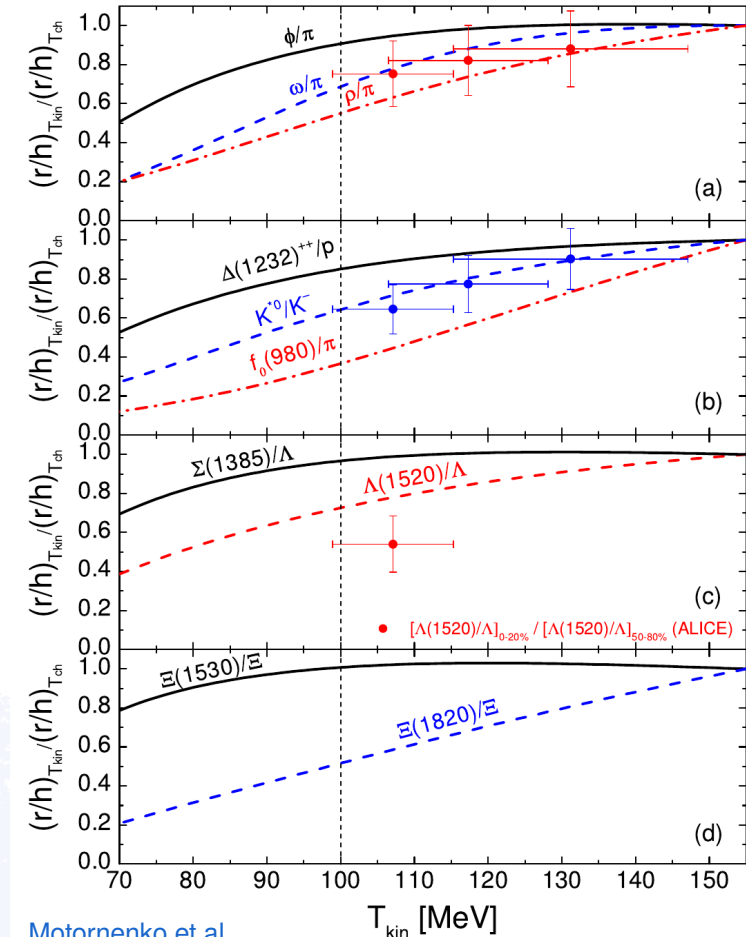


- What happens for the most central collisions?
 - » Decreasing trend ?
- More statistics \rightarrow more bins, more precise, more particle species
 - » Will resolve these behaviors
- Multiple light nuclei probes \rightarrow learn from Xe-Xe in Run 2

Nuclear chemistry: exotic states

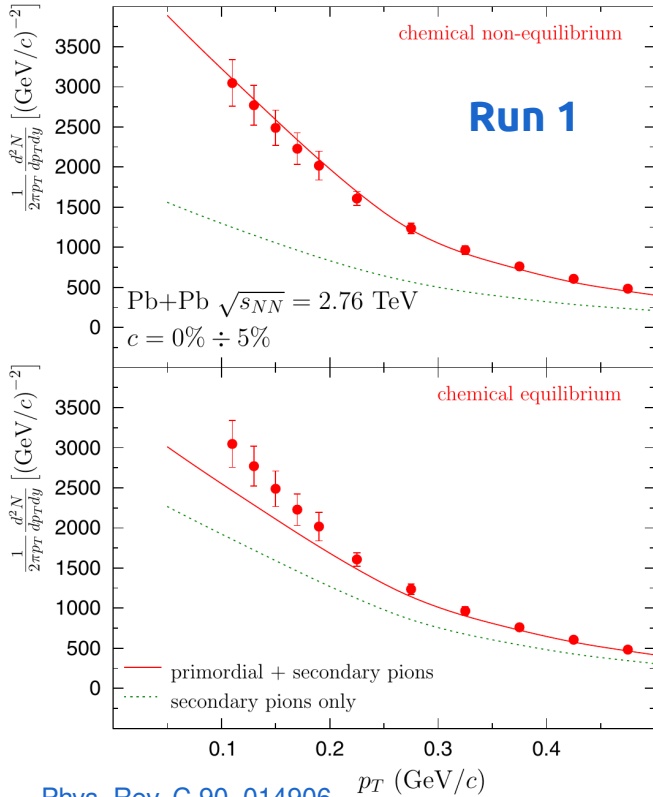


- Use the sensitivity of short-lived resonance yields to extract the kinetic freeze-out temperature
- Give stronger constrains with high precision measurements

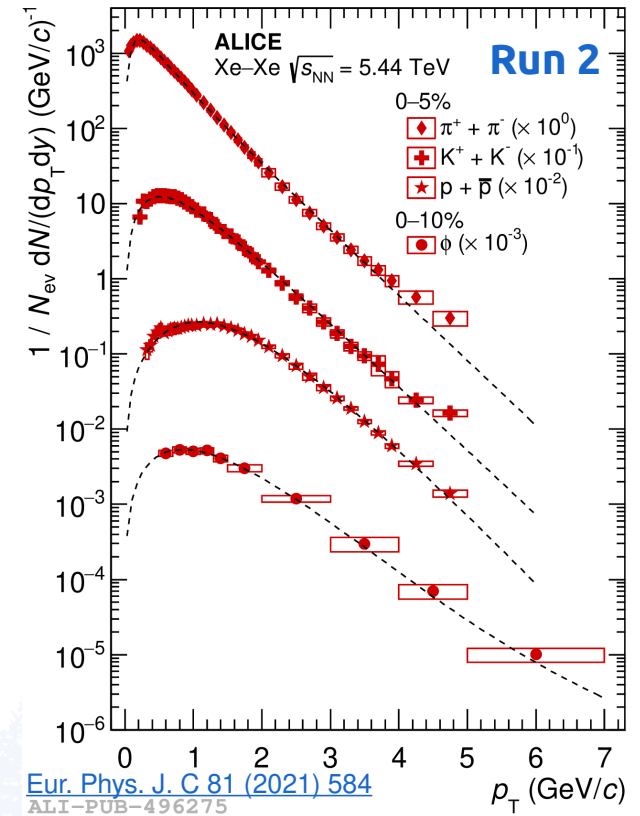


[Motornenko et al](#)
[arXiv:1908.11730](#)

Exploring the bose condensate in AA

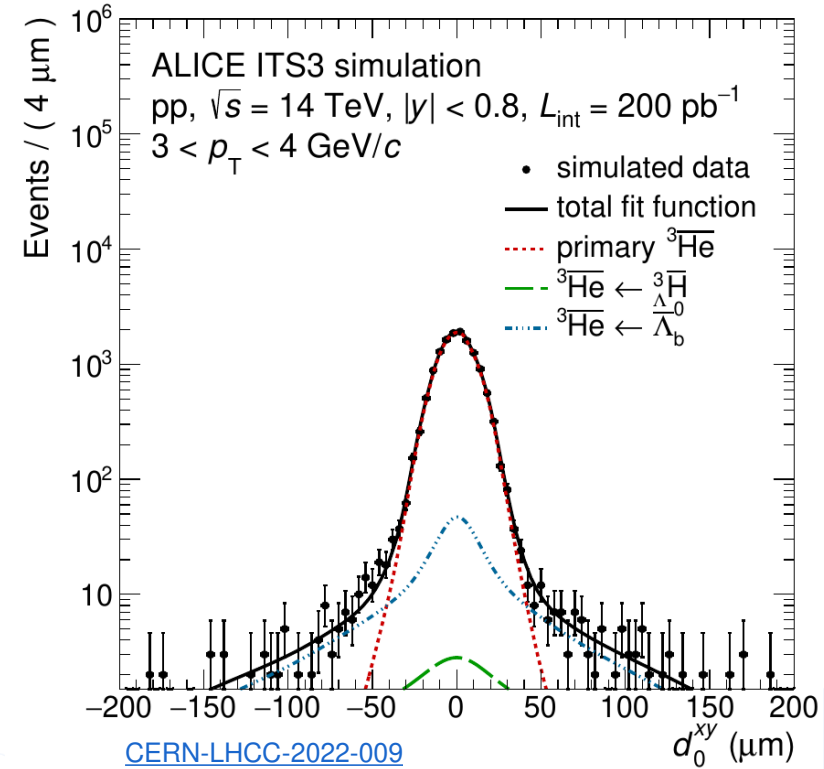
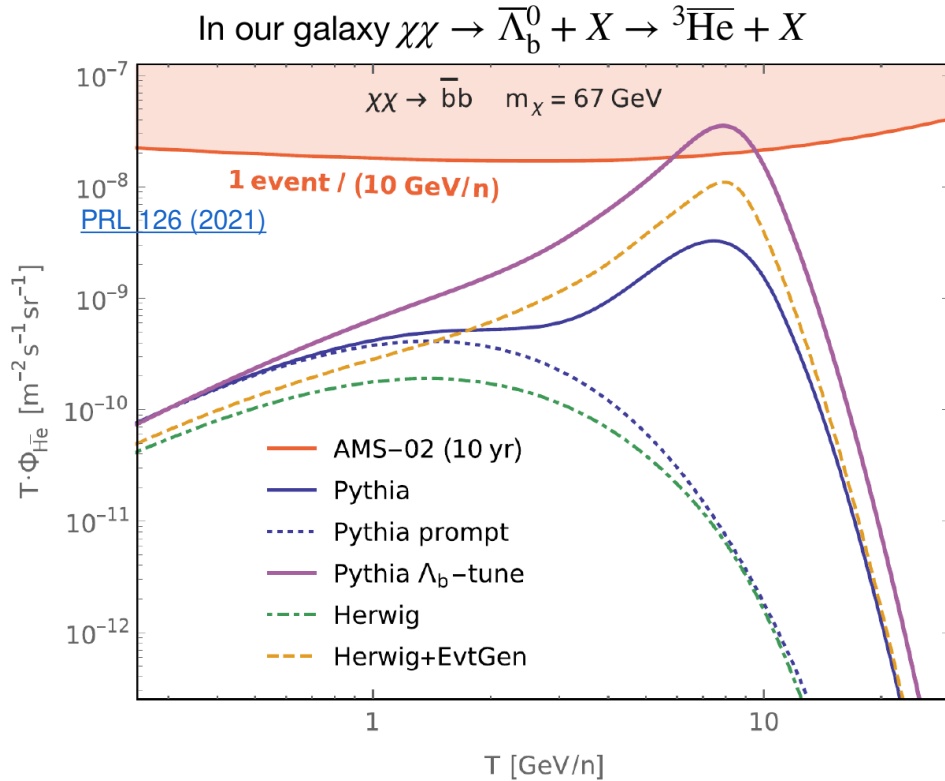


In Run 2:
 →
 extended momentum reach
 to 50 MeV/c



- Low B-field data taking are foreseen → discovery potential for the condensate in AA
- Lower material budget, closer to the interaction point → further extend momentum reach
- Lighter ions to explore initial state effect

Antinuclei production in b-quark decays

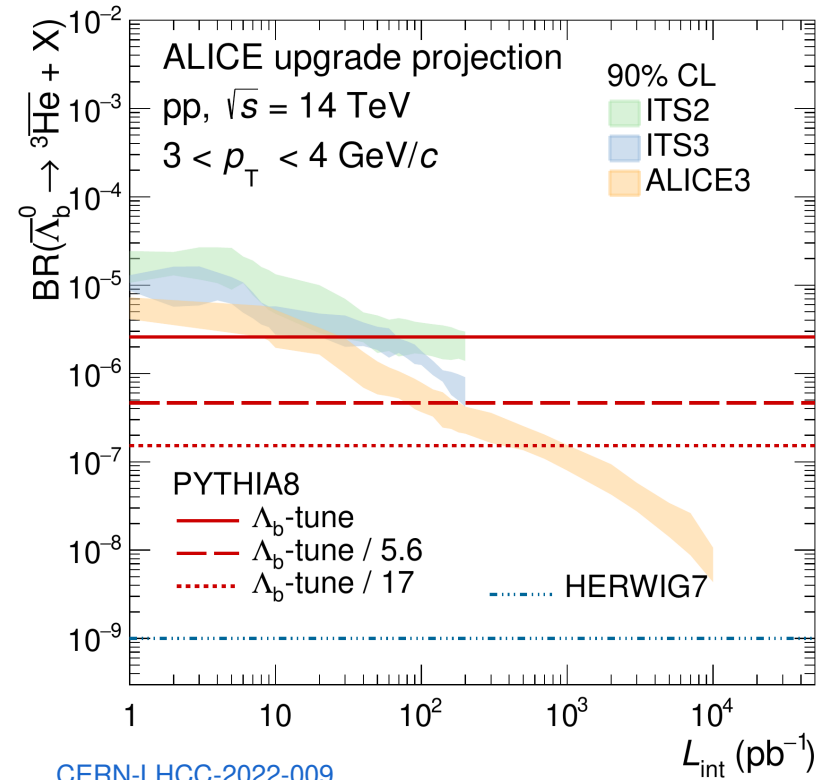
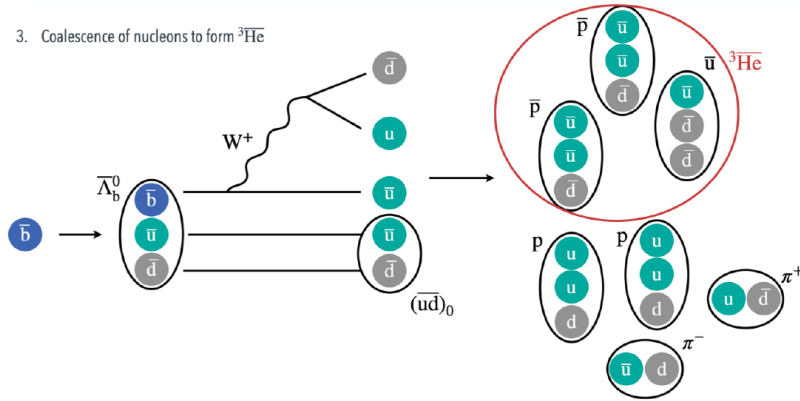


- Anti- ${}^3\text{He}$ originating from Λ_b decays from dark matter annihilation might lead to an enhanced flux of anti- ${}^3\text{He}$ near earth
- Accelerator based experiments like ALICE are in the best position to determine the branching ratios of these rare decays

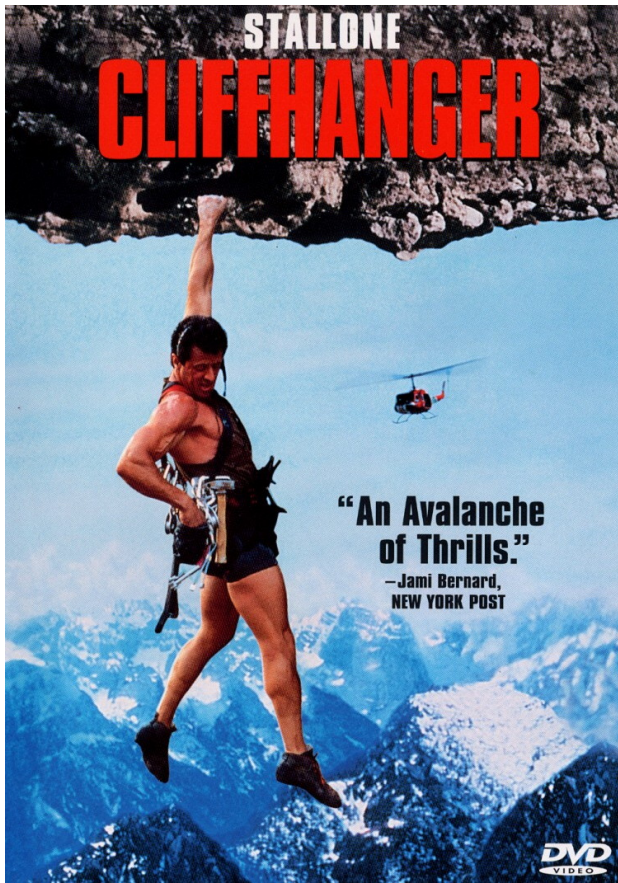
Antinuclei production in b-quark decays

$$\chi\chi \rightarrow b\bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}_b^0 + X \rightarrow {}^3\bar{\text{He}} + X$$

3. Coalescence of nucleons to form ${}^3\bar{\text{He}}$



- After LHC Run 3 & 4, we will have understood the formation mechanisms of $A < 5$ anti- and hyper-nuclei from collisions, but will only start to probe their production in b-quark decays
- Run 5 & 6 will provide the definitive answer



Thank you!

And for the discussion: F. Bellini, A. Caliva', A. Kalweit, R. Lea, A. Ortiz, S. Tripathy