

# From particle emission at accelerator facilities to axion properties in neutron stars: results and implications of the latest femtoscopic studies involving pions by ALICE

**Marcel Lesch**

on behalf of the ALICE Collaboration

Technical University of Munich

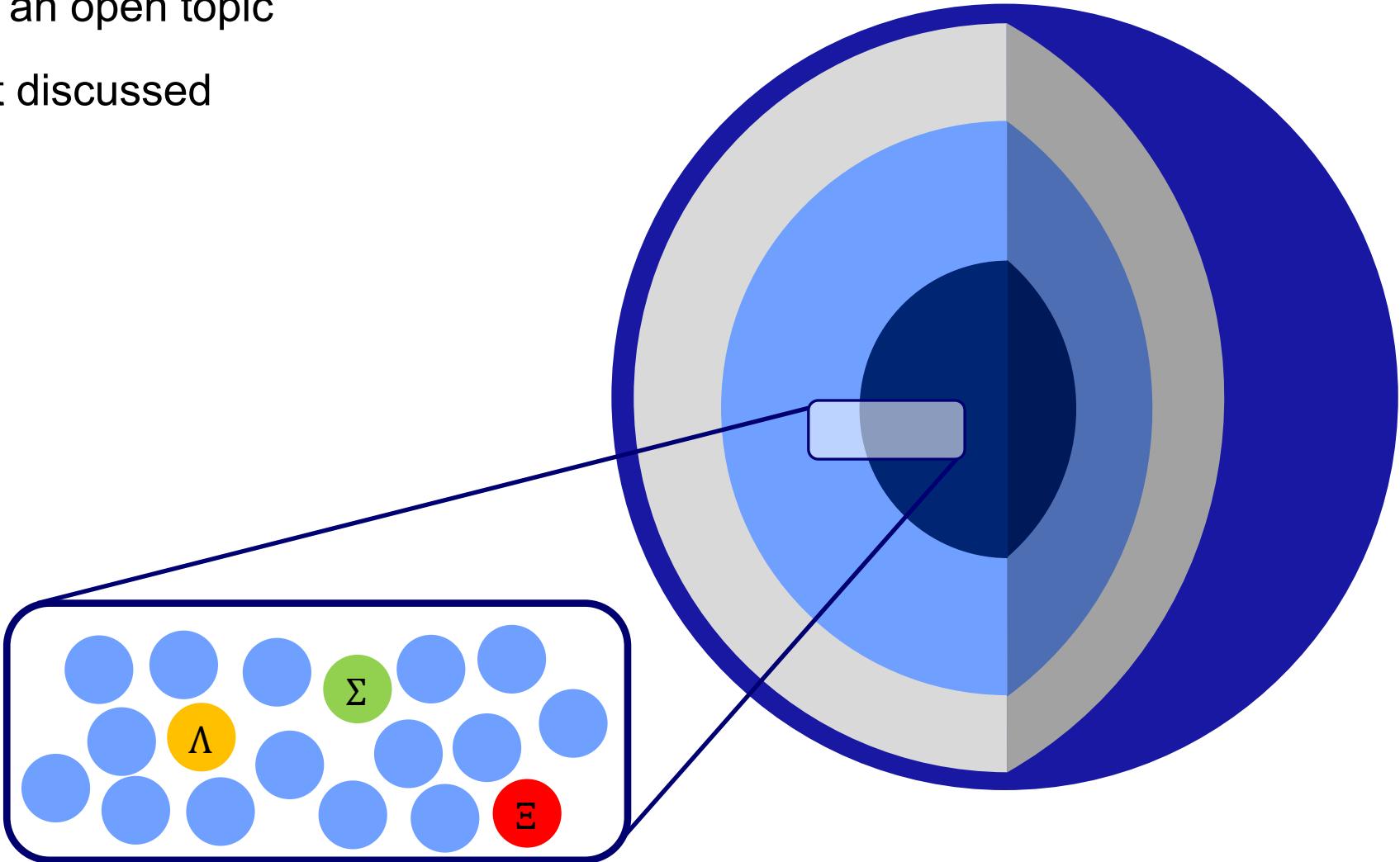
19<sup>th</sup> of June 2024

ICHEP 2024, Prague



# Neutron stars

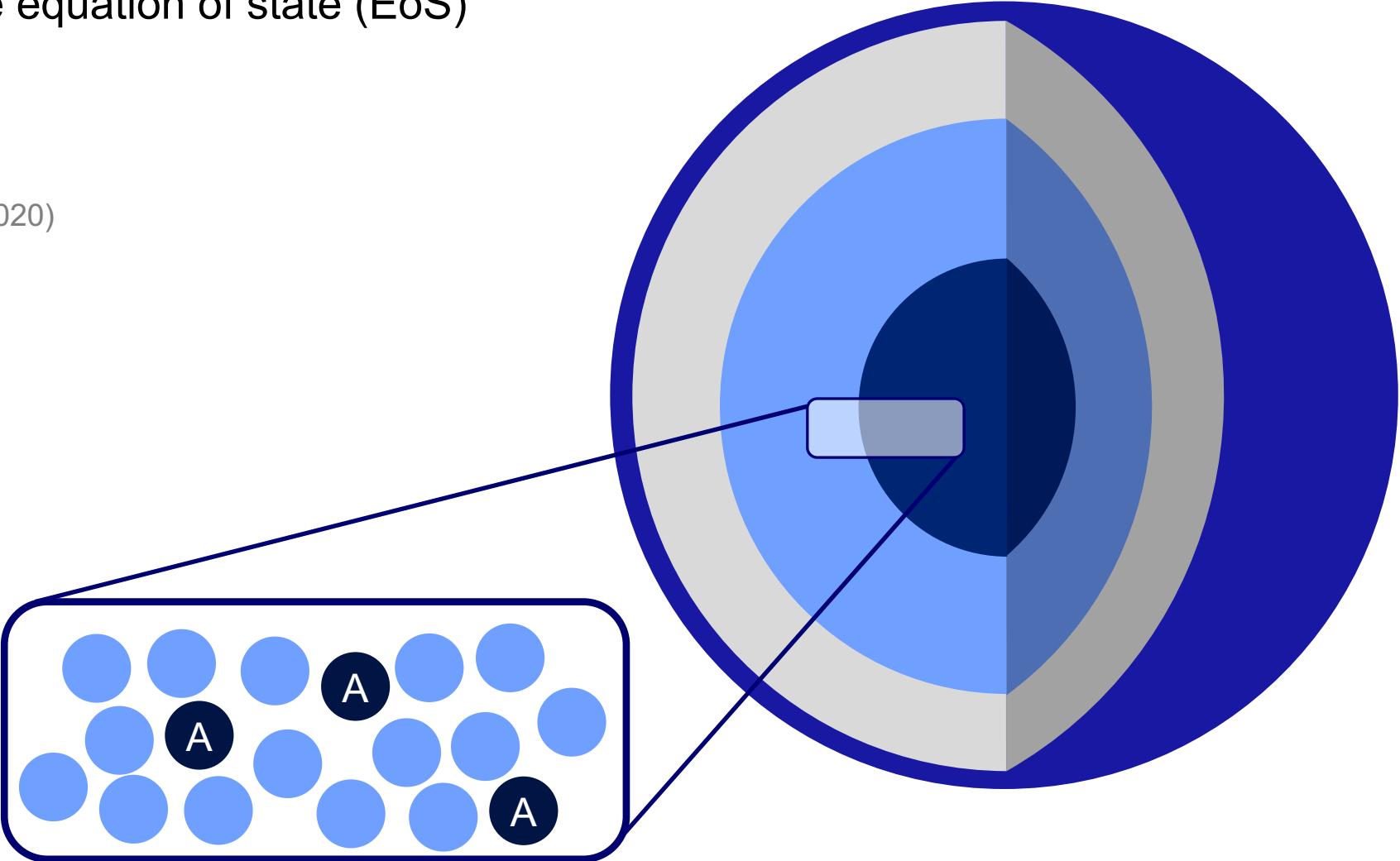
- Inside of neutron stars is still an open topic
- Hyperons as one of the most discussed scenarios (YN & YNN)



# Neutron stars and QCD axions

- Impact of QCD axions on the equation of state (EoS)  
→ Can lead to stiffer EoS

Reuven Balkin et al., JHEP 2020, 221 (2020)  
Reuven Balkin et al., arXiv 2307.14418

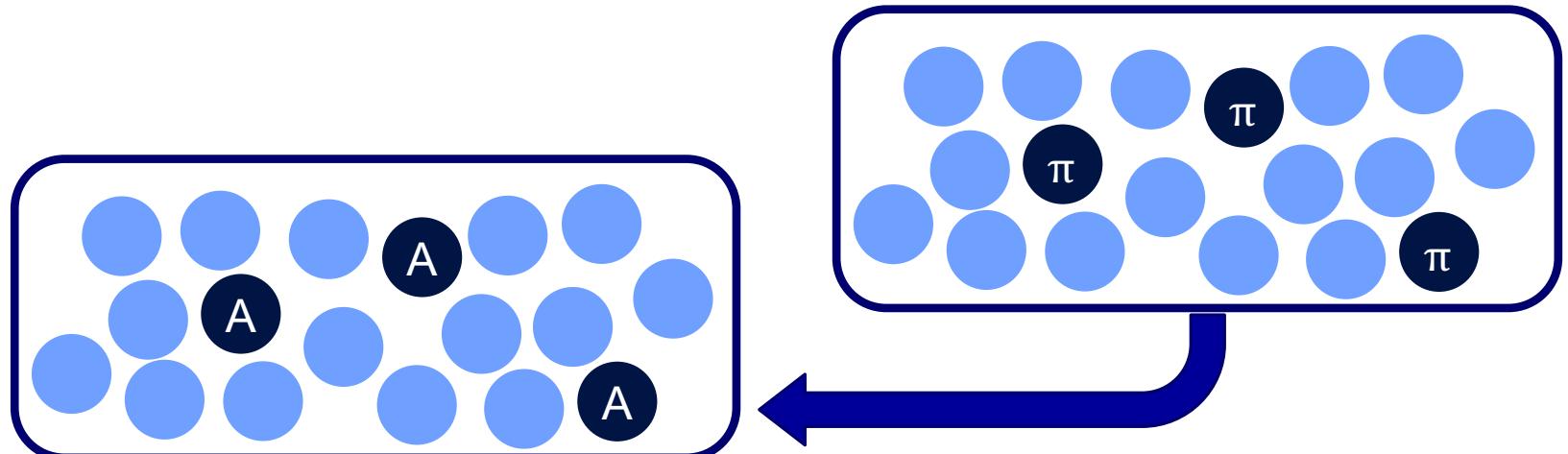


# Neutron stars and QCD axions

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- Axion properties linked to in-medium properties of pion

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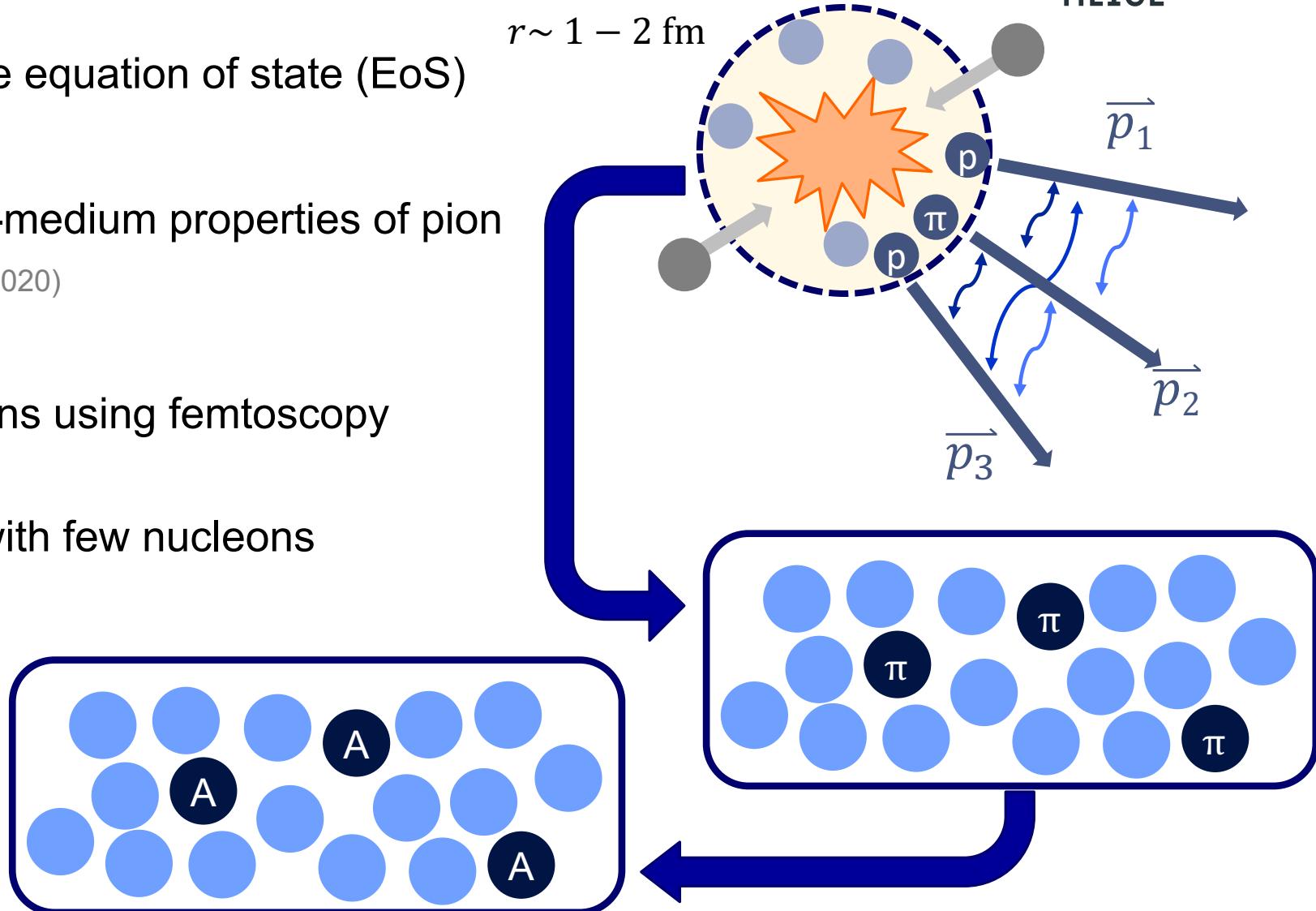
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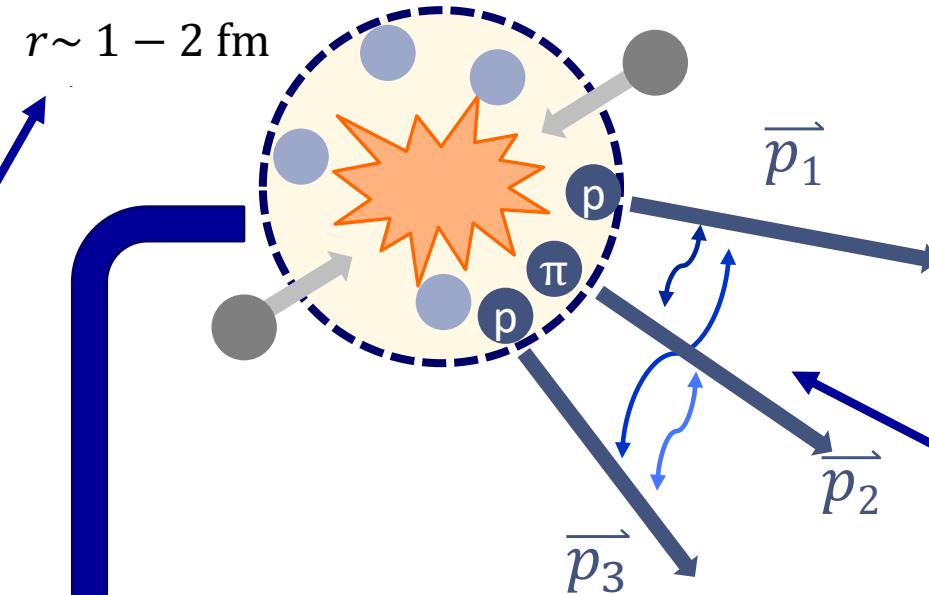
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**Goal:** Study of  $pp\pi^\pm$  interactions using femtoscopy  
in small colliding systems  
→ Access dynamics of pions with few nucleons

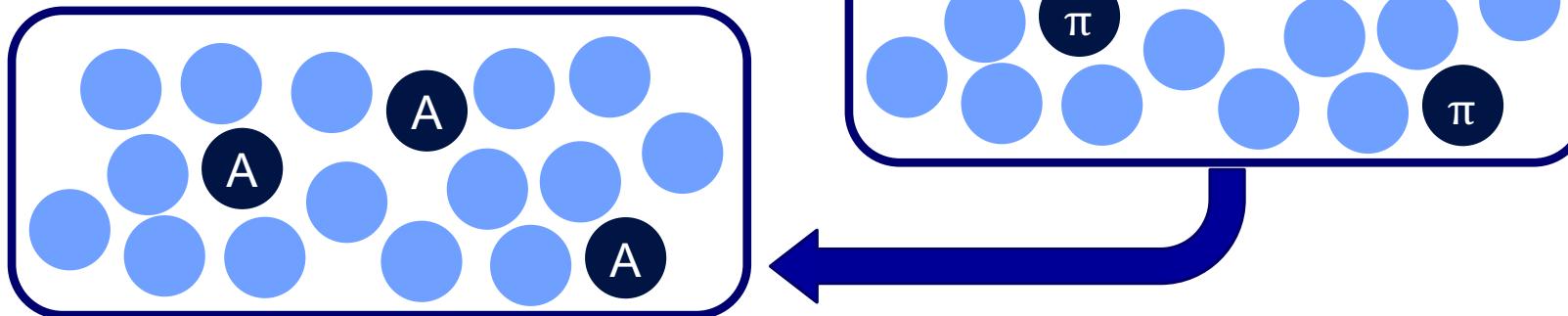


# On today's menu

Emission at small distances  
for  $p\pi^\pm$  systems?  
→ Probed via two-particle  
femtoscopy of  $p\pi^\pm$



Do we see effects beyond  
pairwise interactions in  
 $pp\pi^\pm$ ?



# Two-particle femtoscopy

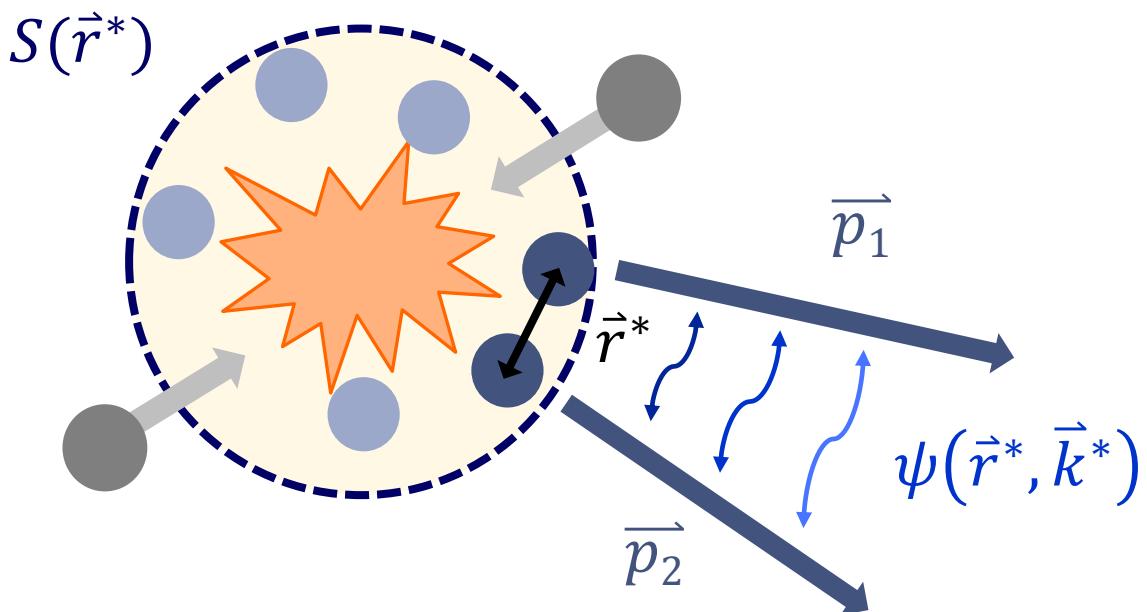
- Observed femtoscopic correlation functions depend on

- final-state interaction  $|\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2$
- particle emitting source  $S(\vec{r}^*)$

→ Talk by M. Korwieser (19<sup>th</sup> of July 17:00)

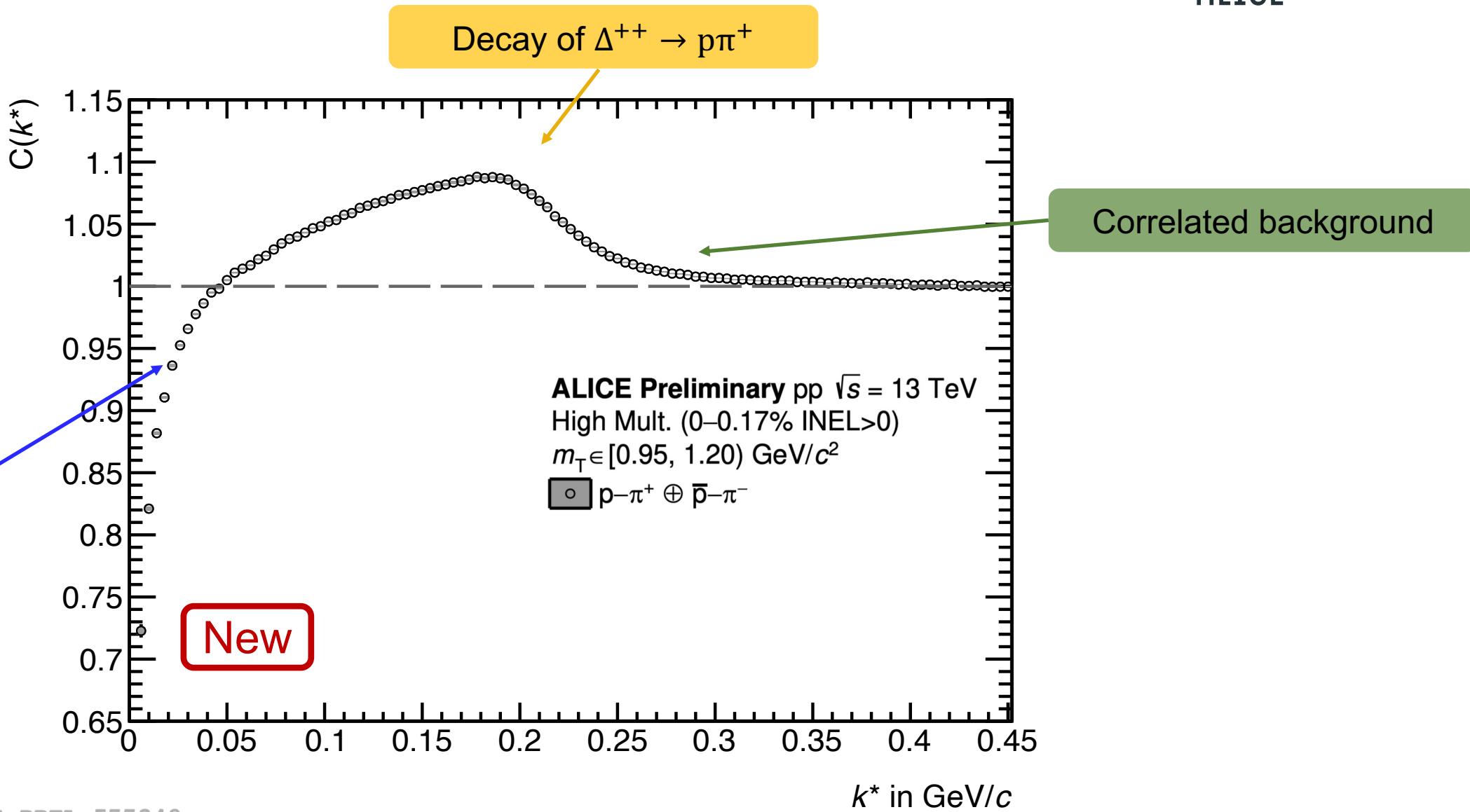
- The study of the interactions needs a well constrained source!
- Two-body  $p\pi^\pm$  interaction known from scattering experiments

L. Fabbietti, V. Mantovani Sarti and O. Vazquez Doce, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. (2021) 71:377-402



$$C(k^*) = \int S(\vec{r}^*) |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 \vec{r}^* = \mathcal{N} \frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)}$$

# Two-particle correlation function of p $\pi^+$



ALI-PREL-577249

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024

# Fitting of data of p $\pi^+$

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$$C_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{N} \times C_{\text{bckg}} \times [\lambda_{\text{Gen}} C_0 + (1 - \lambda_{\text{Gen}})] + N_\Delta PS(p_T, T) \times Sill(M_\Delta, \Gamma_\Delta)$$

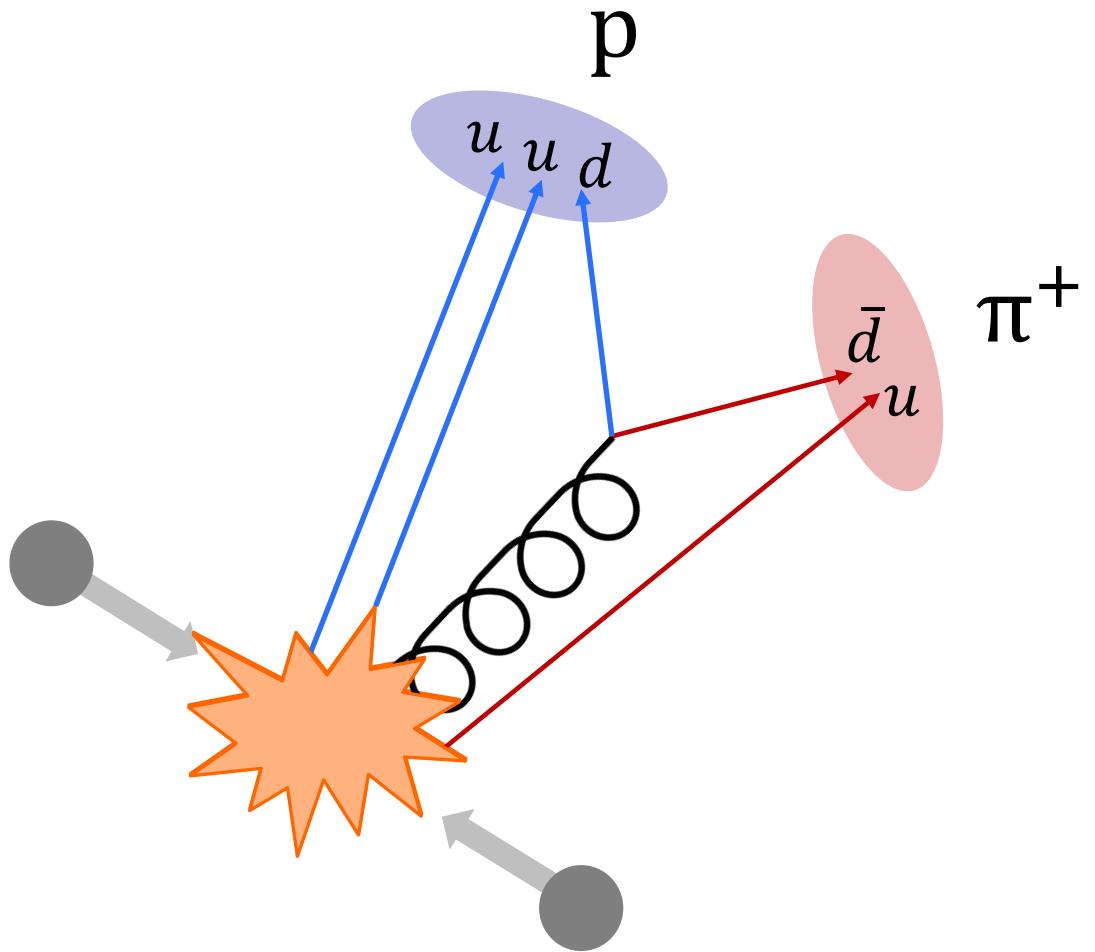
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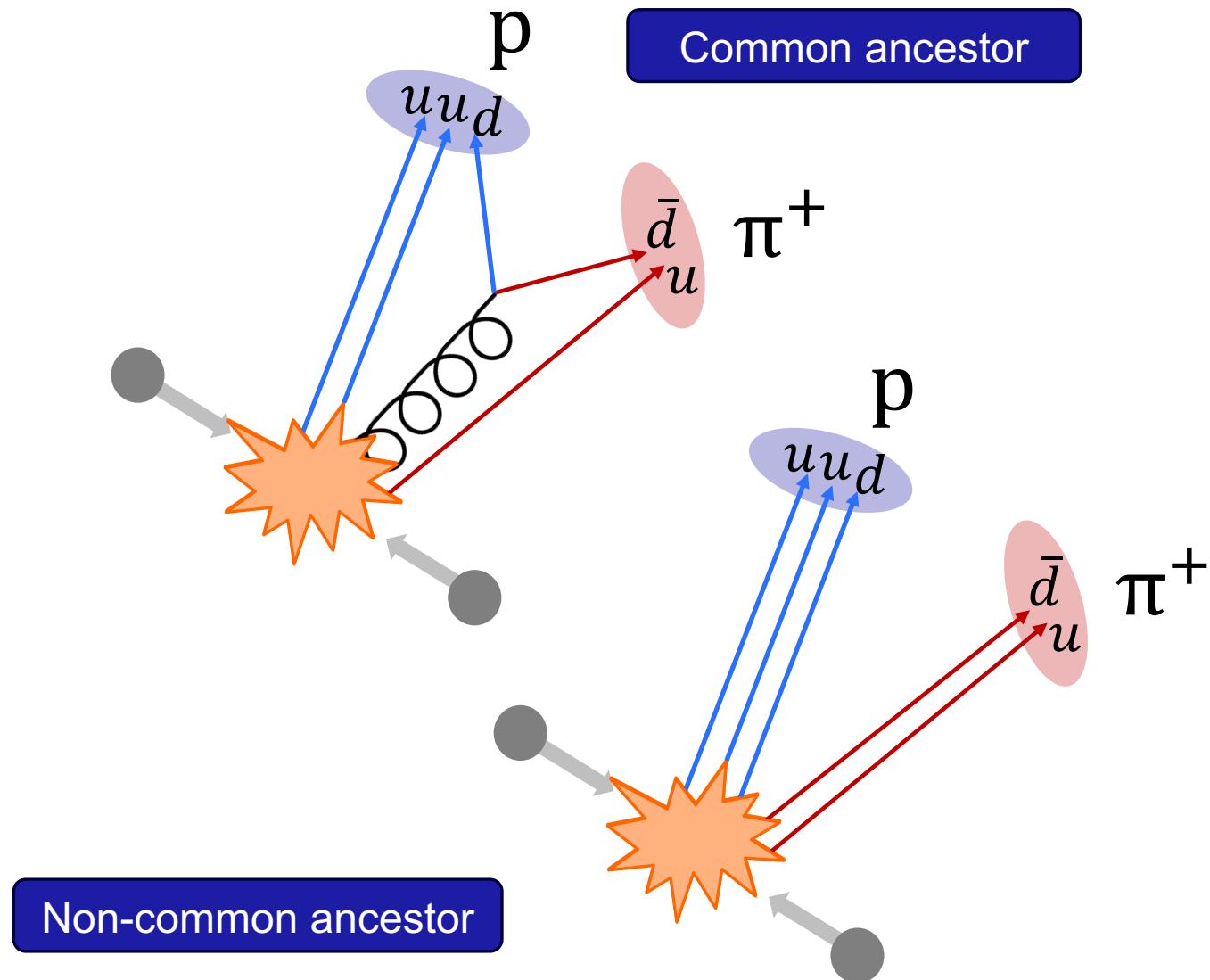
# Background contribution

- Correlated background due to “mini-jet” contribution from hadronization process



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- Correlated background due to “mini-jet” contribution from hadronization process
- Background modelled with MC simulations using Pythia:
  - Obtain MC correlation function for pairs with common and non-common partonic origin (ancestors) separately
  - Use common  $C_c$  and non-common  $C_{nc}$  as templates to build the background
  - $C_{bckg} = \mathcal{N} \times [w_c C_c + (1 - w_c) C_{nc}]$



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- Background  $C_{\text{bckg}}$  via MC templates, controlled by  $w_c$

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- Interaction  $C_0(r_{\text{core}})$  Coulomb + strong interaction  
(fixed from scattering lengths)

M. Hoferichter et al., Phys.Rept. 625 (2016) 1–88

M. Hennebach et al., EPJA 50 (2014) 12, 190

M. Hoferichter et al., Phys.Rept. 625 (2016) 1–88.

	p $\pi^+$	p $\pi^-$
Scattering Length	-0.125 fm	0.121 fm

# Fitting of Data $p\pi^+$

---

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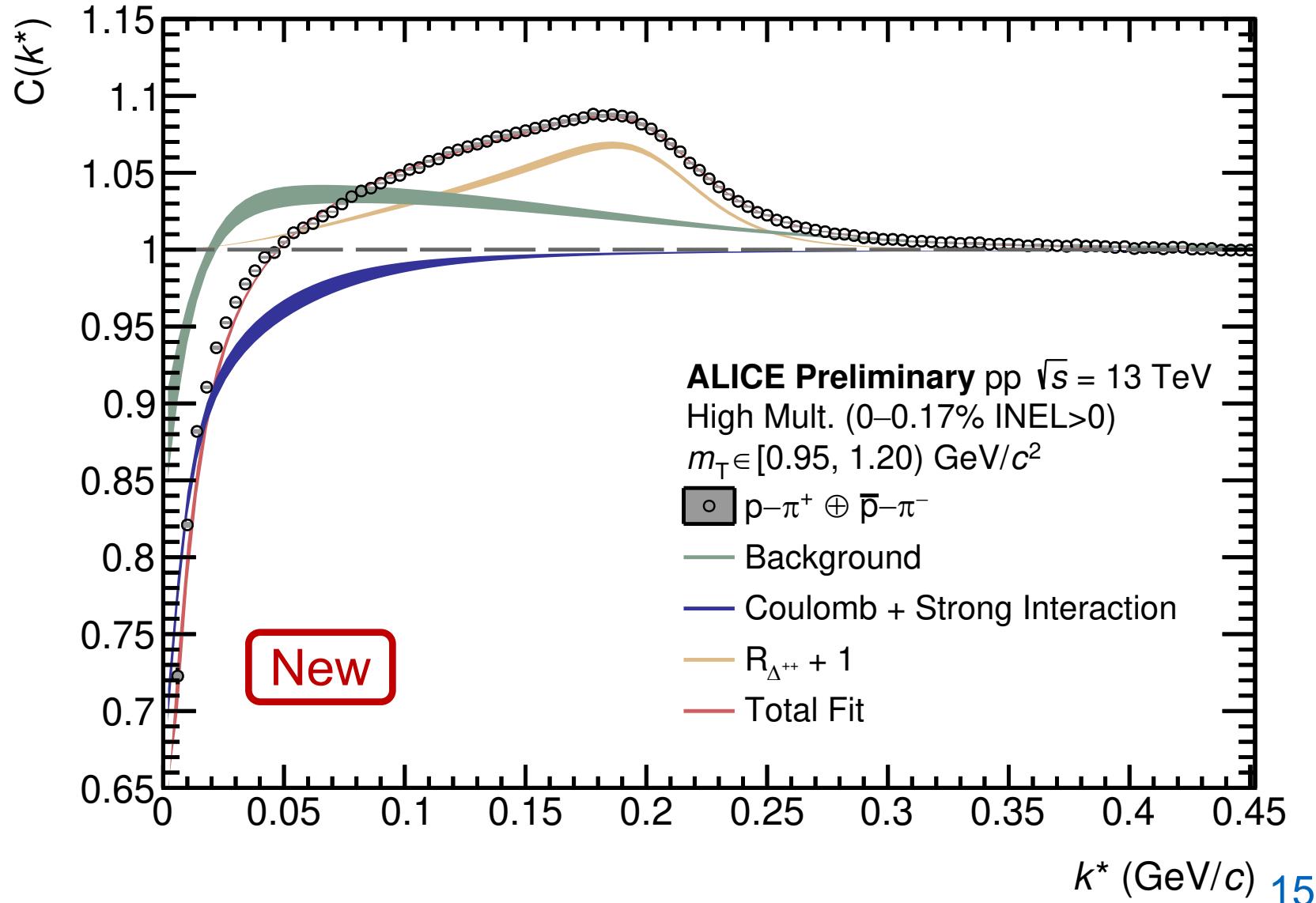
- Resonance description: **Sill distribution**  $Sill(M_\Delta, \Gamma_\Delta)$ ,  $M_\Delta$  fixed to 1215 MeV  
F. Giacosa et al., EPJA 57 (2021) 12
- $PS(p_T, T)$  phase-space factor

$$PS(p_T, T) \propto \frac{m}{\sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2}} \times \exp\left(-\frac{\sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2}}{T}\right)$$

- Fit between 0 and 450 MeV in  $k^*$

# Fitting of the p $\pi^+$ correlation function

- Fit procedure repeated for different pair transverse mass ranges
- $m_T = \sqrt{\bar{m}^2 + k_T^2}$  and  
 $\vec{k}_T = \frac{1}{2} [\vec{p}_{T,1} + \vec{p}_{T,2}]$



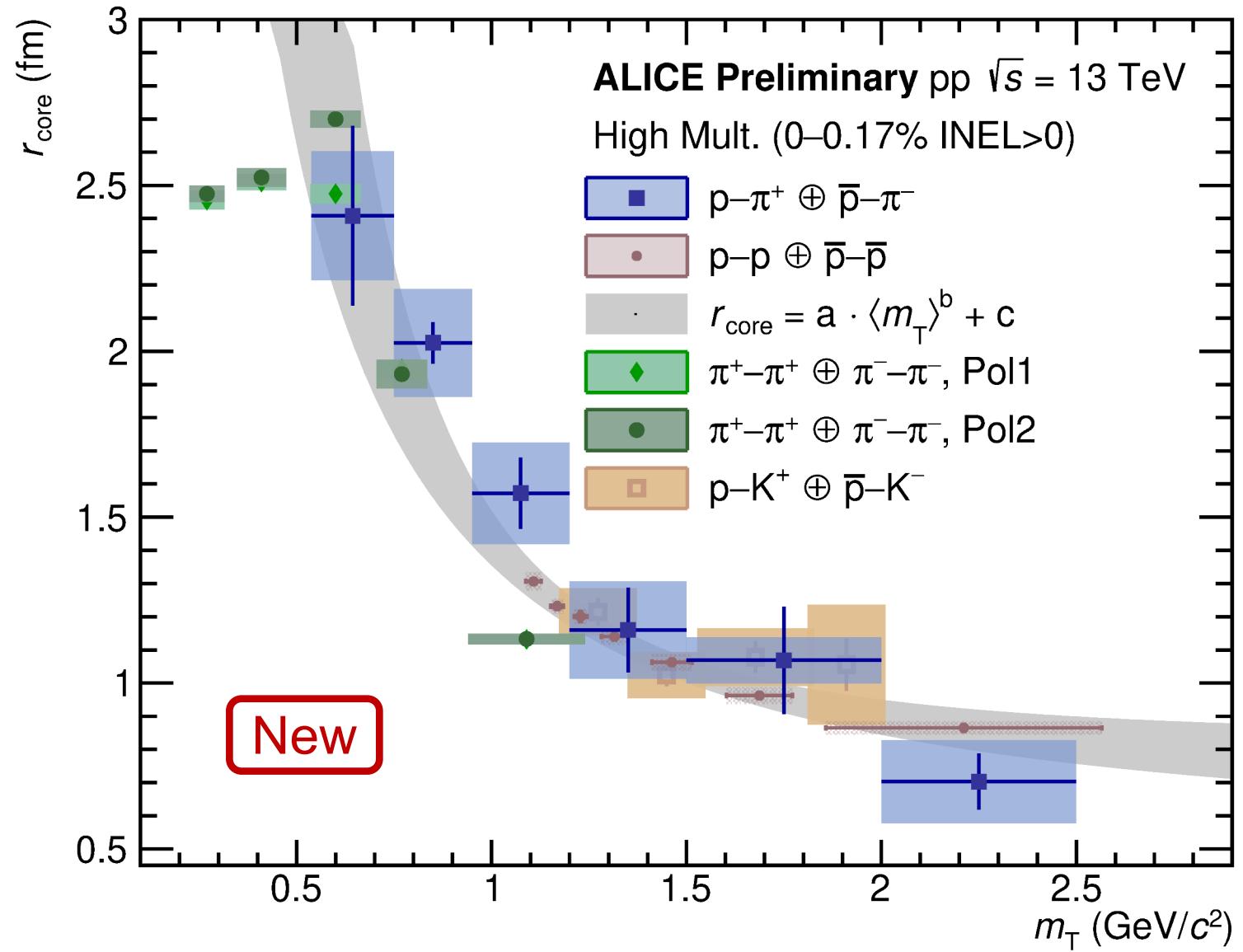
# Core radius scaling $p\pi^+$

- $r_{\text{core}}$ : size of emission source of **primordial** particles
- $r_{\text{core}}$  of  $p\pi^+$  follows common scaling of  $\text{pp}$ ,  $\text{pK}^+$ ,  $\pi^\pm\pi^\pm$  in  $\text{pp}$  collisions

ALICE, PLB, 811:135849, 2020

ALICE, arXiv:2311.14527, EPJC in press

→ Common emission source for all hadrons

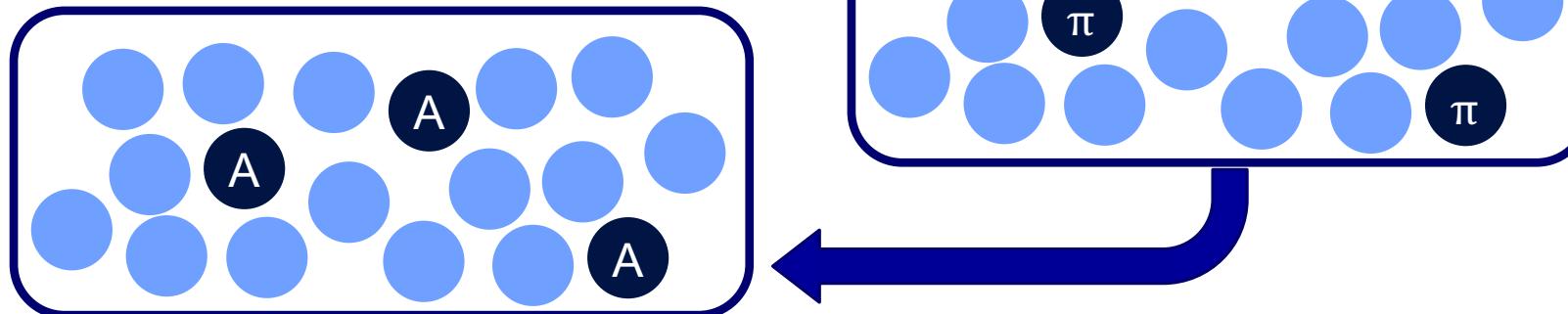
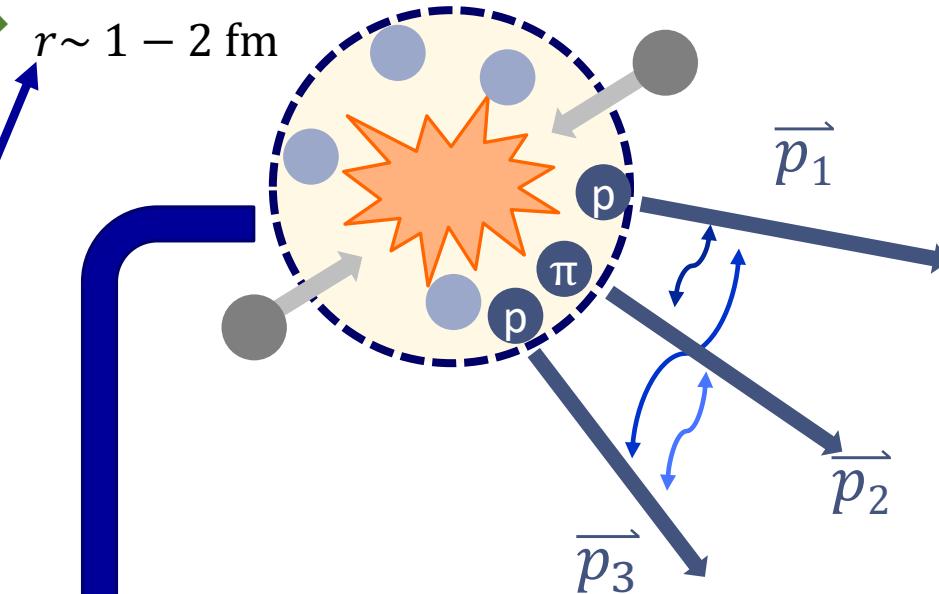


# On today's menu

Emission at small distances for  $p\pi^\pm$  systems!

Common source scaling observed in meson-meson, meson-baryon, and baryon-baryon systems

→ Common emission source for all hadrons



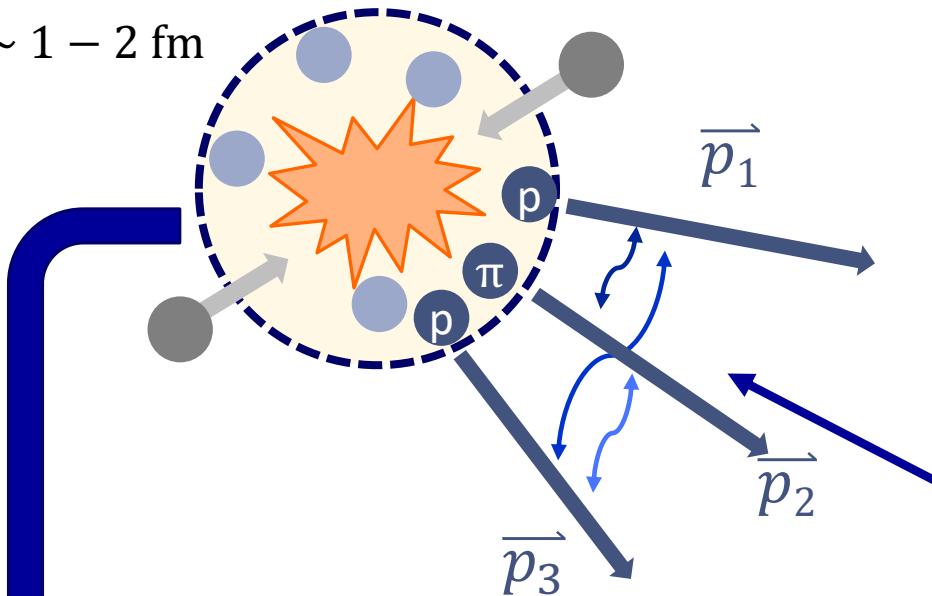
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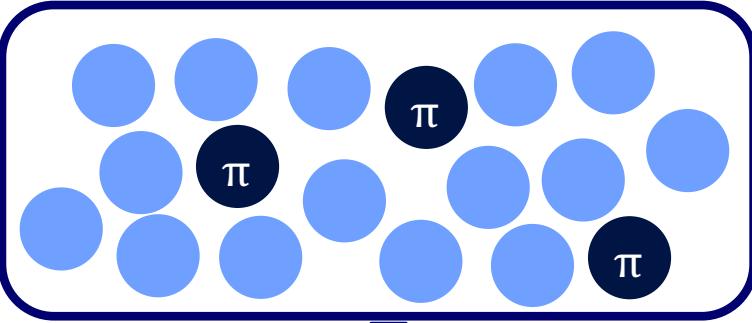
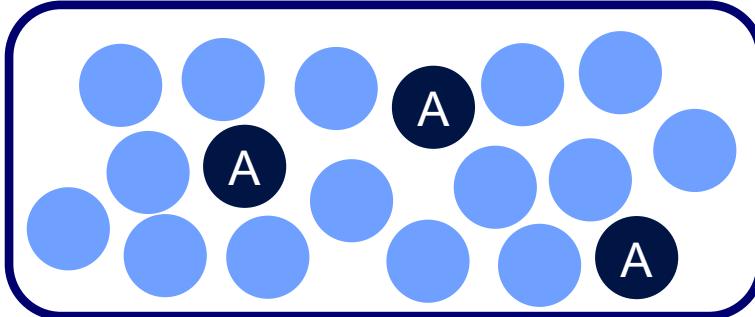
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$r \sim 1 - 2 \text{ fm}$



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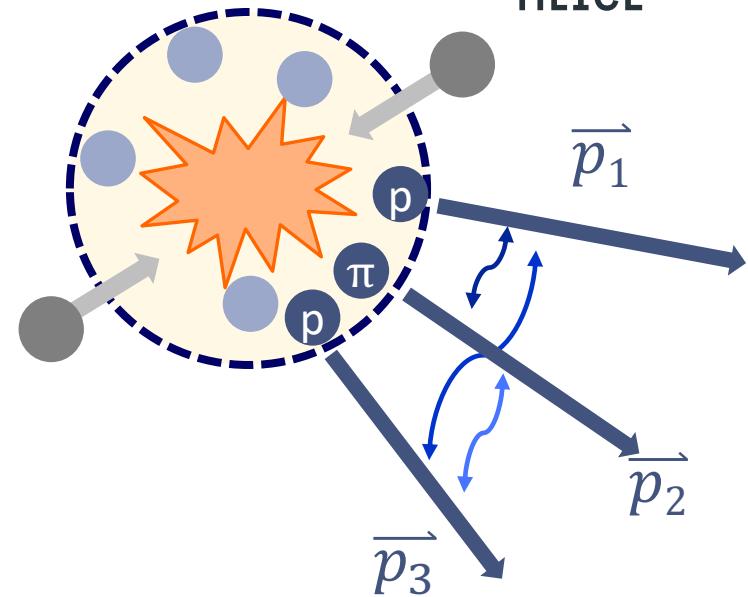


# Three-particle femtoscopy

- Pair relative momentum not applicable in three-body system  
→ Use Lorentz-invariant hyper-momentum  $Q_3$

$$Q_3 = \sqrt{-q_{12}^2 - q_{23}^2 - q_{13}^2}$$

ALICE, PRC 89 (2014) 2, 024911



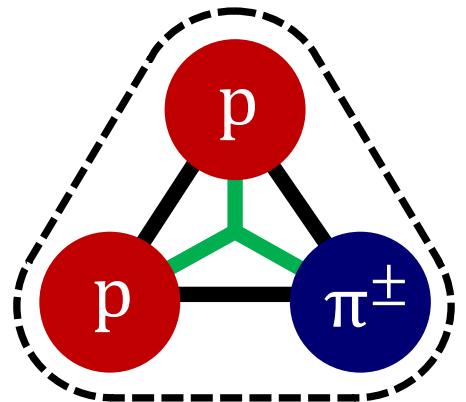
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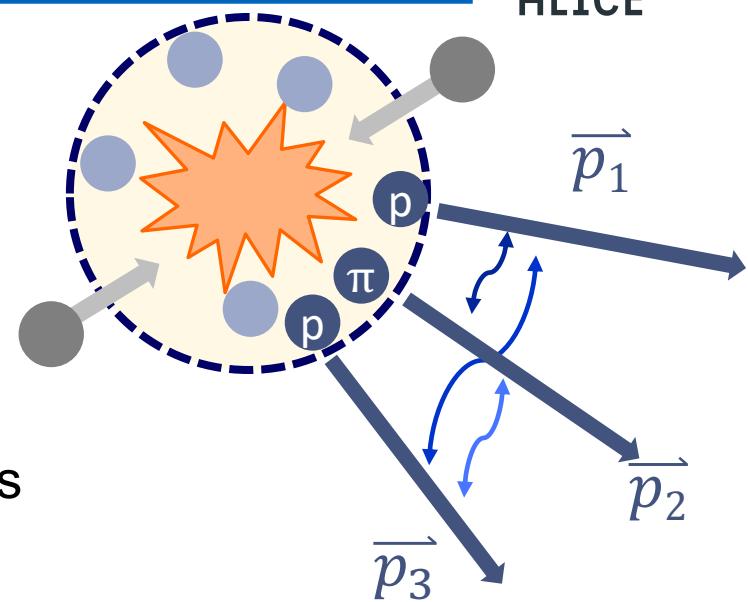
$$Q_3 = \sqrt{-q_{12}^2 - q_{23}^2 - q_{13}^2}$$

ALICE, PRC 89 (2014) 2, 024911

- Three-particle correlation functions:  $3 \rightarrow 3$  scattering processes



$$C(Q_3) = \mathcal{N} \frac{N_{\text{same}}(Q_3)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(Q_3)}$$



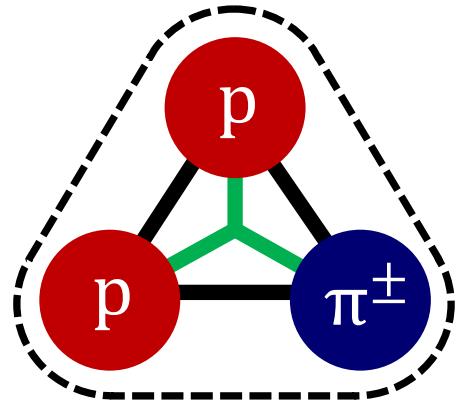
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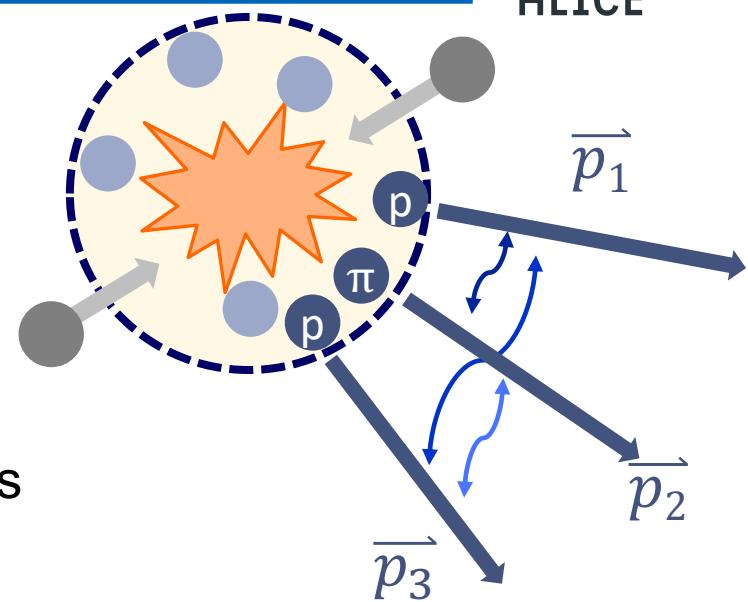
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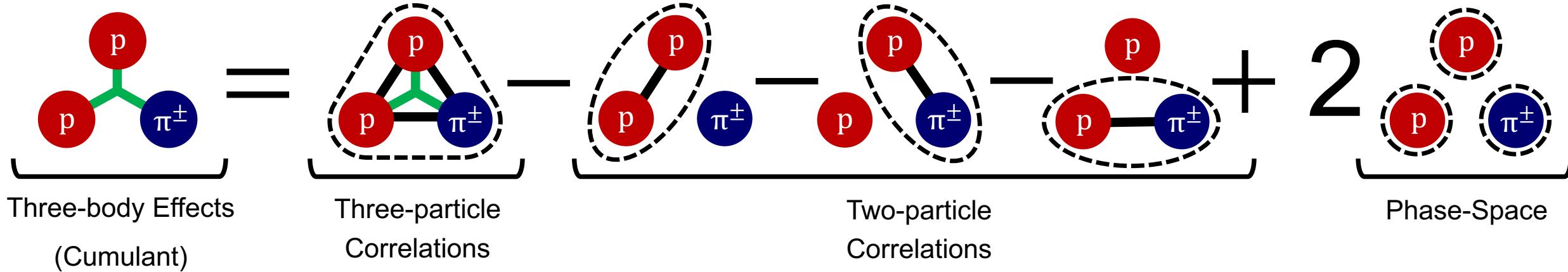
- Challenge of isolating three-body effects  
→ Effects of two-body and potential three-body interactions in the system



# Smoking guns of three-body interactions

- Cumulant decomposition:

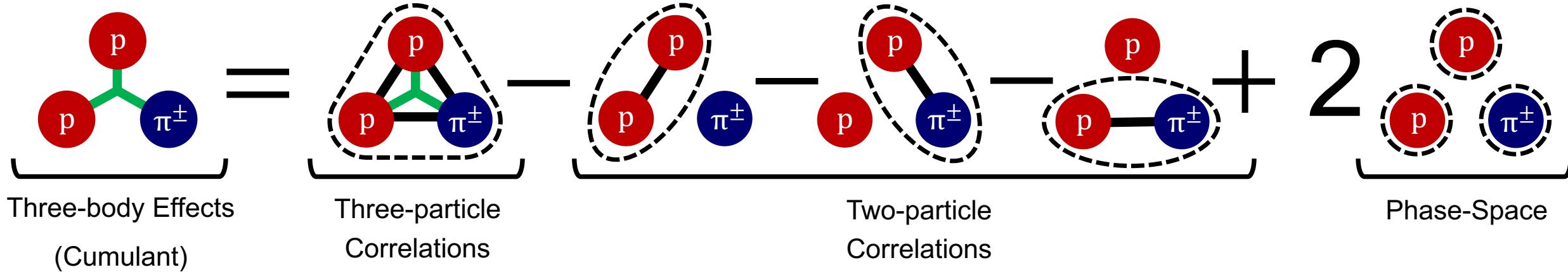
R. Kubo, Journal of the Physical Society of Japan 17 no. 7, (1962) 1100–1120



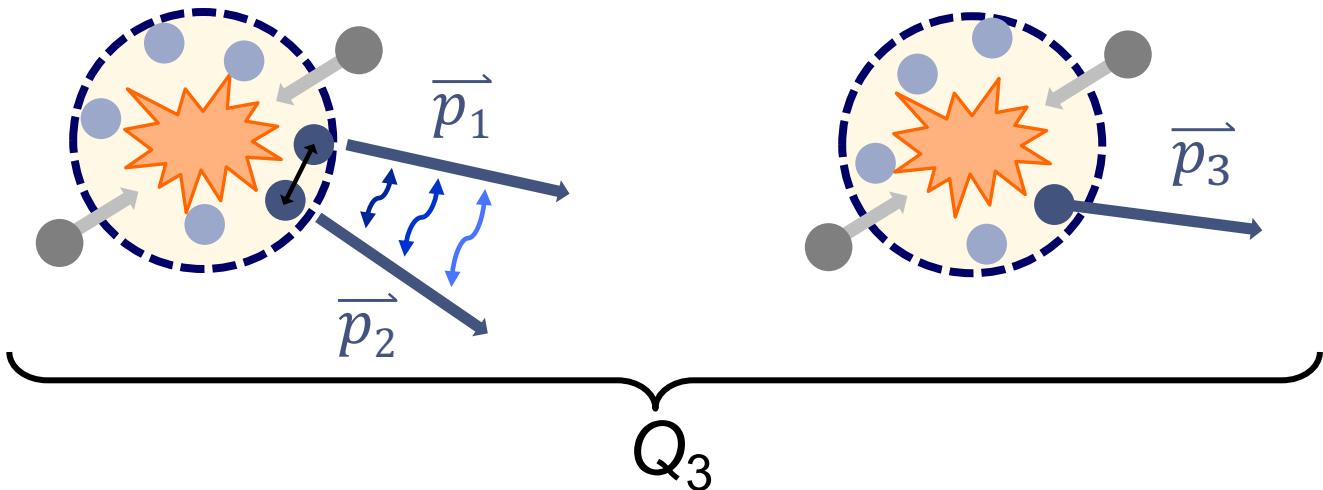
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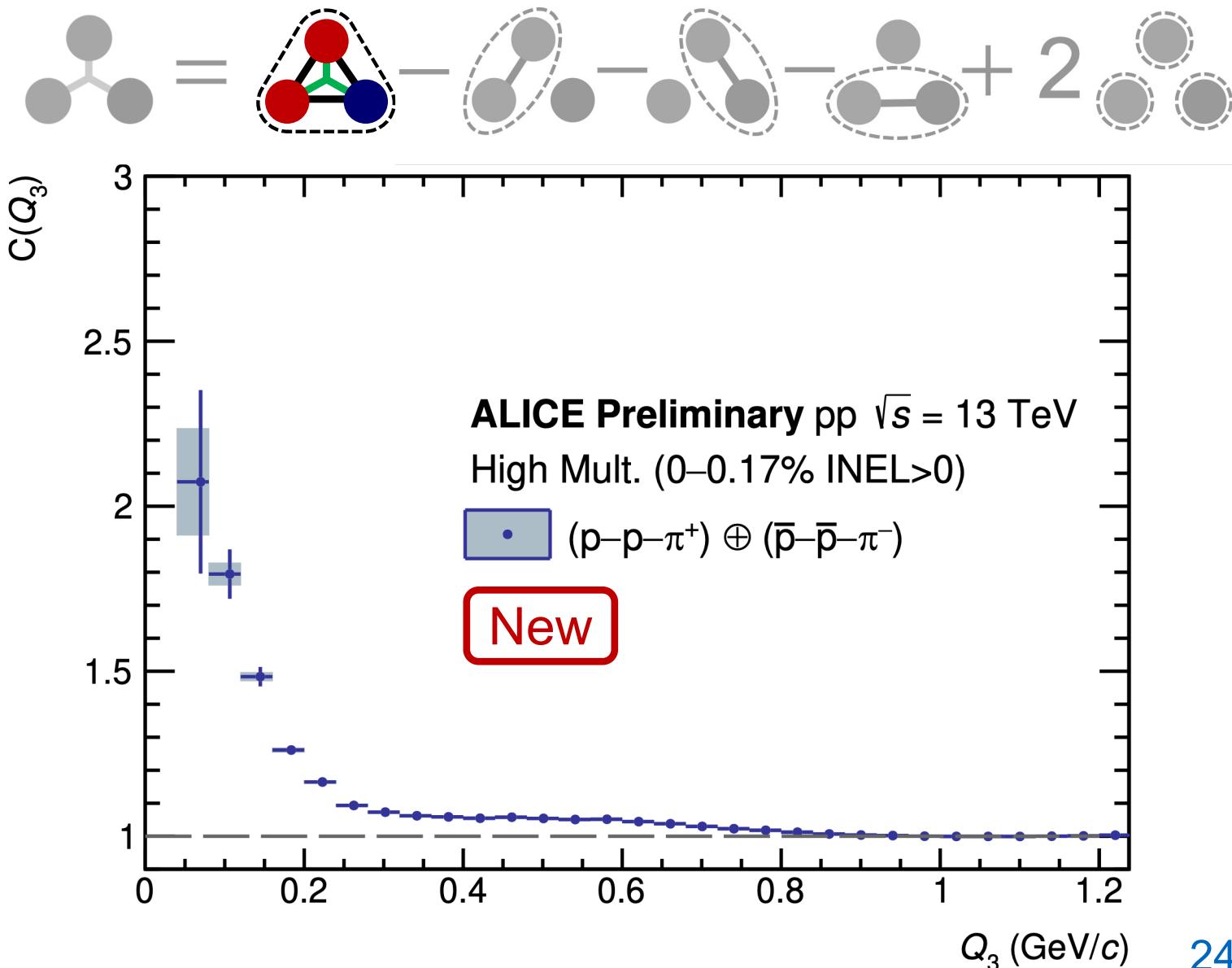


- Lower-order contributions estimated in a data-driven way using the same- and mixed-events distributions



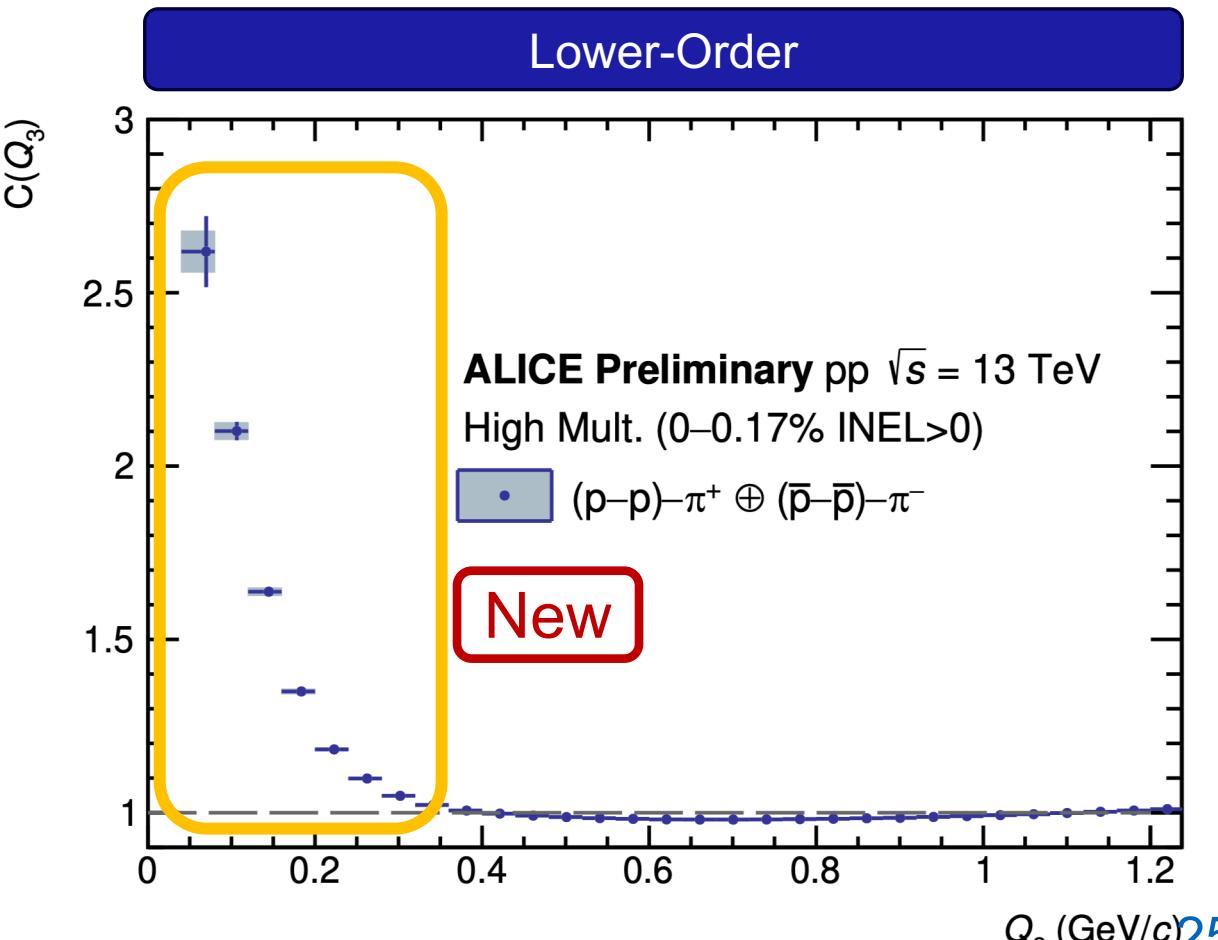
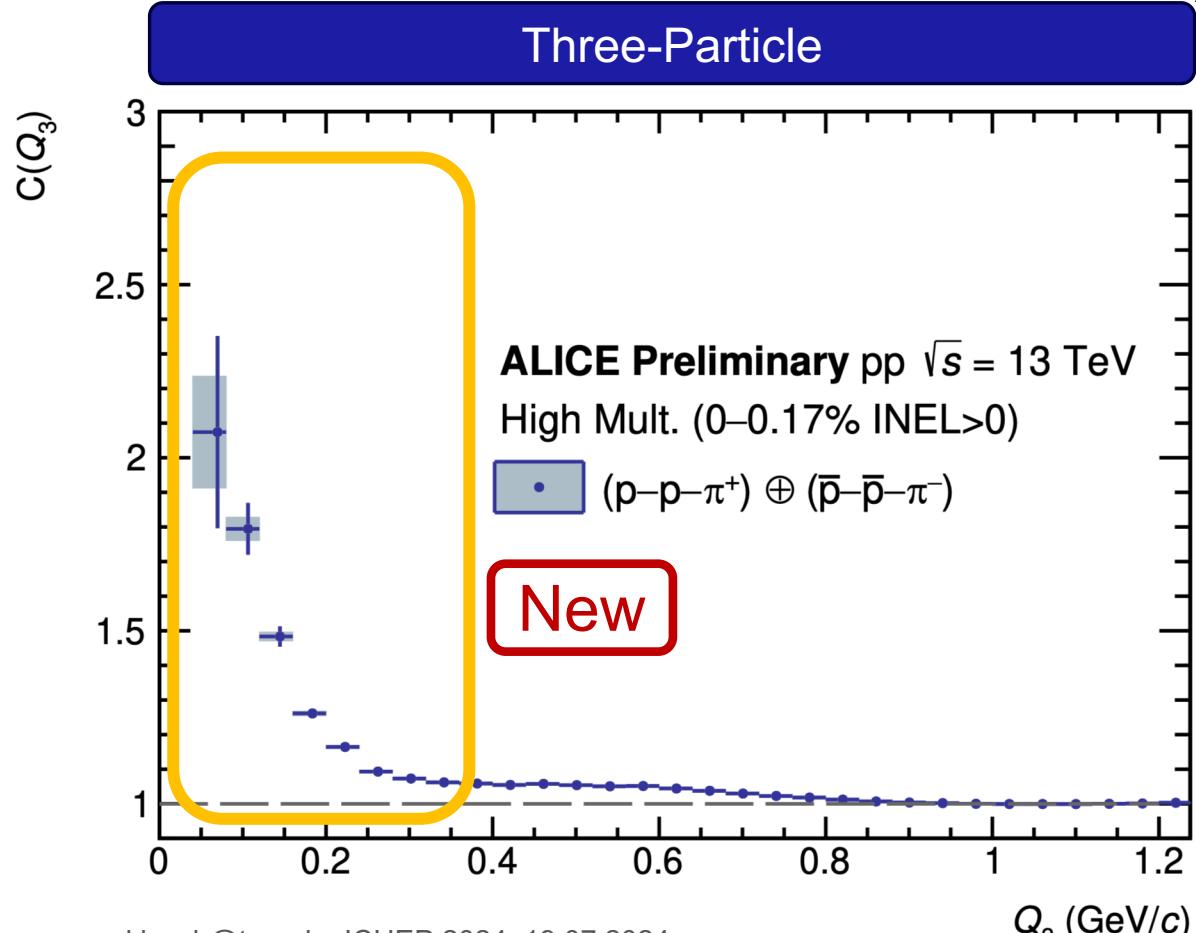
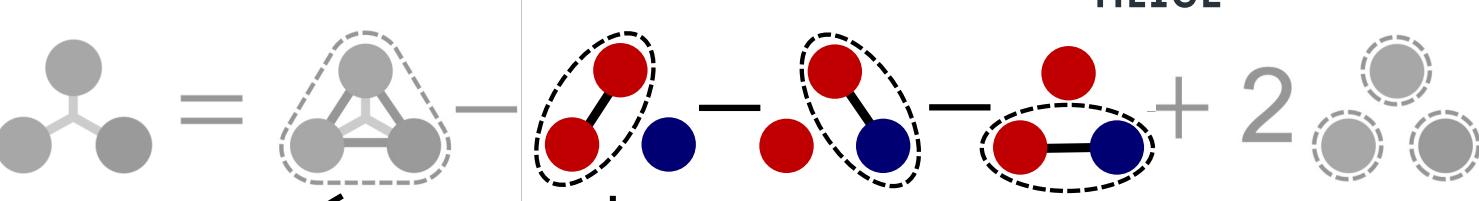
# Three-particle correlation function of $pp\pi^+$

- Overall attractive effects in triplet correlation function
- Signal consisting of two-body and potential three-body effects



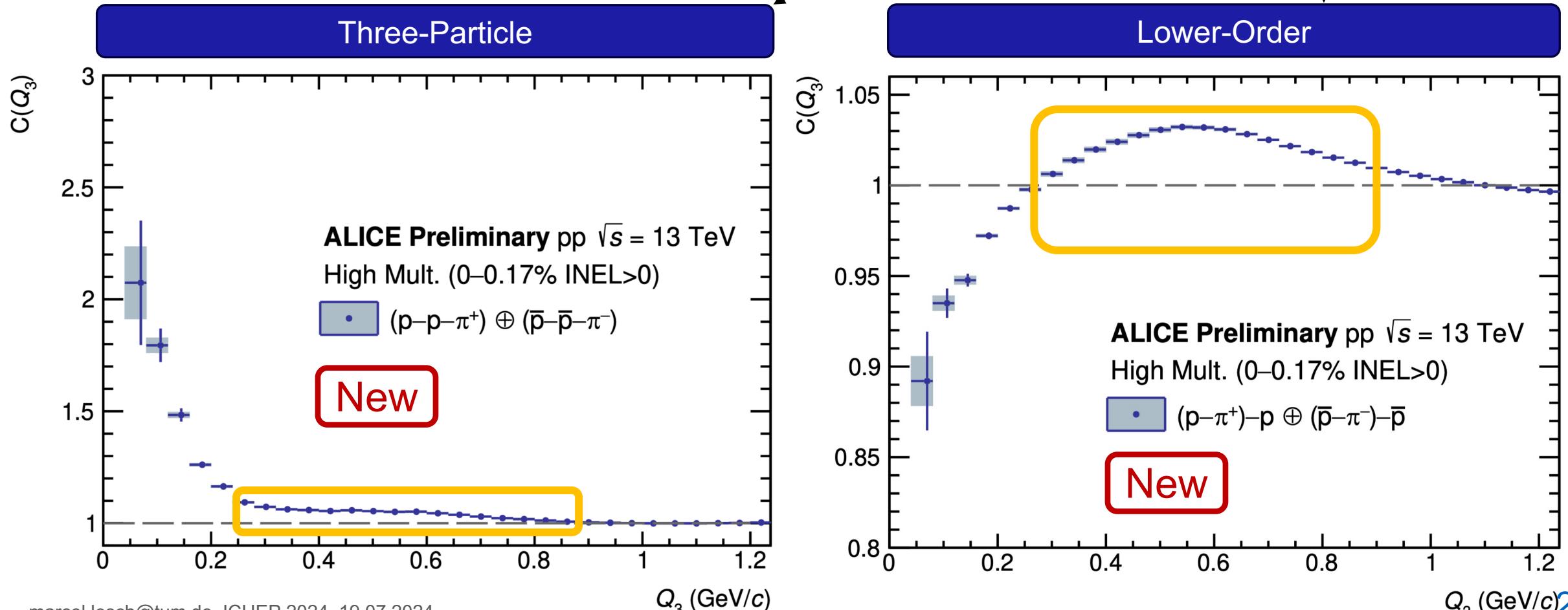
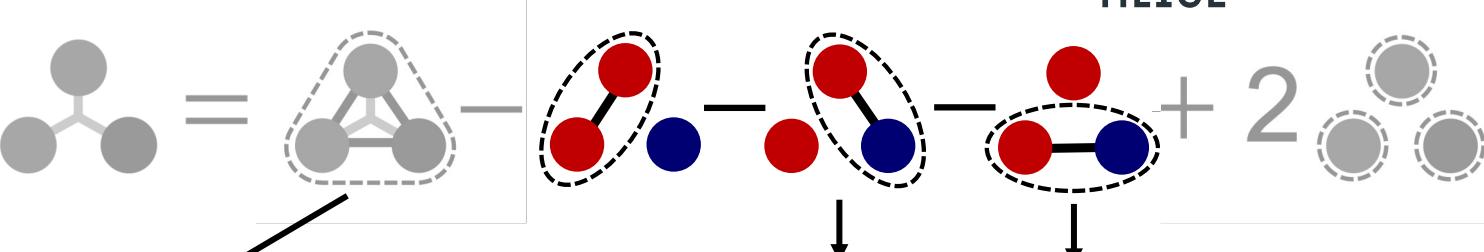
# Two-particle contributions of $p\bar{p}\pi^+$

- Contribution from attractive strong interaction of  $p\bar{p}$

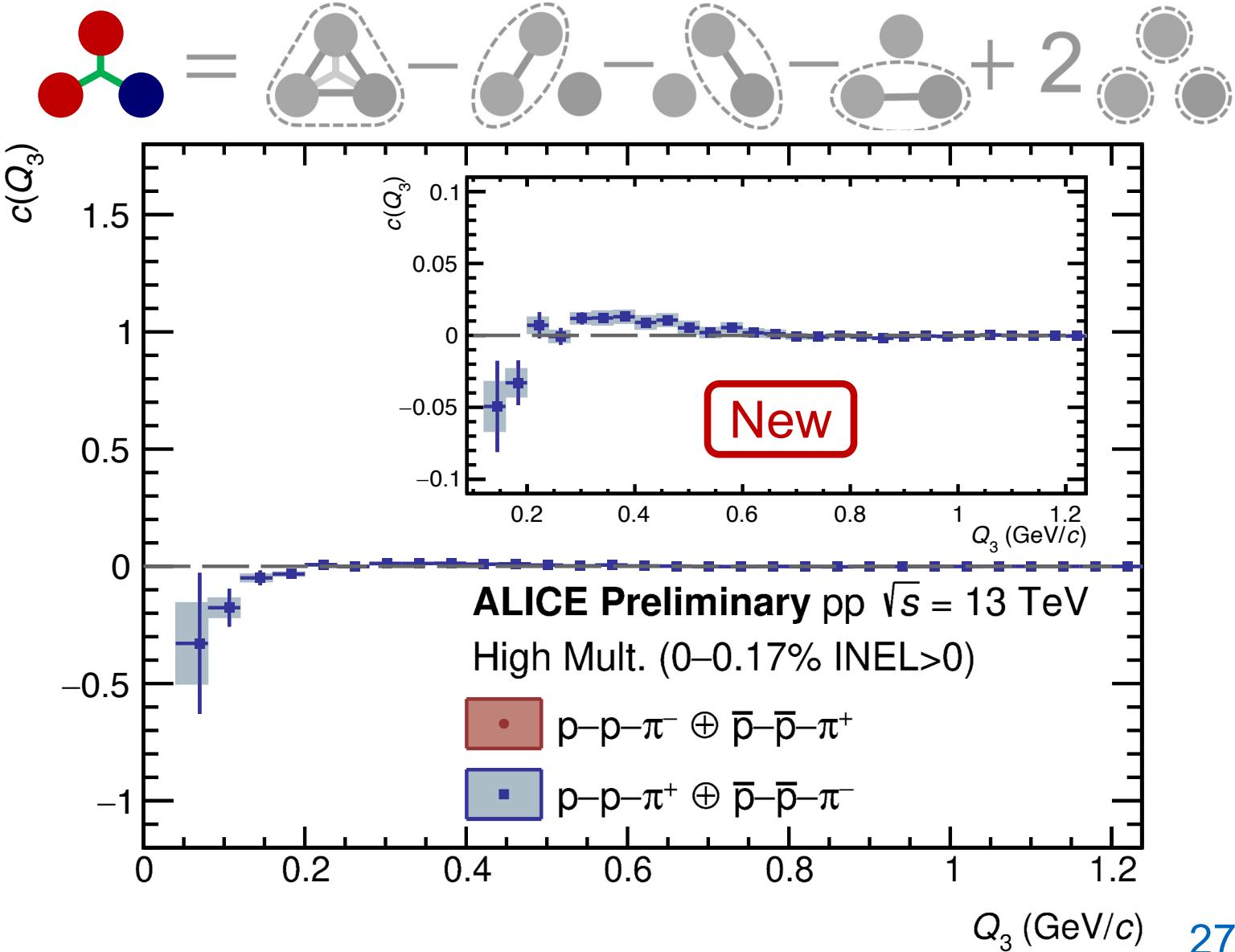


# Two-body contributions of $p\bar{p}\pi^+$

- Visible contribution from  
 $\Delta^{++}(1232) \rightarrow p\pi^+$

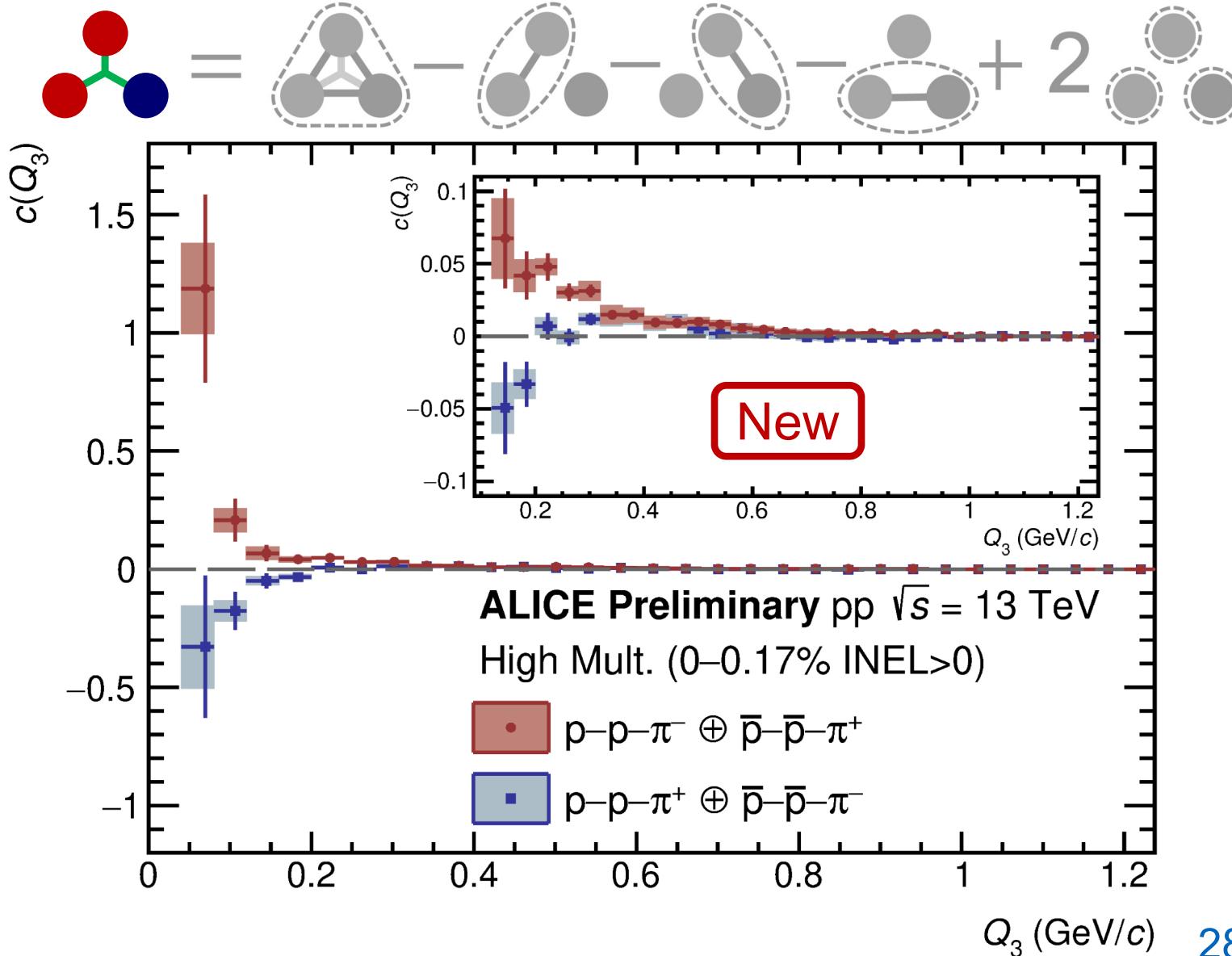


# Three-body effects in $pp\pi^\pm$

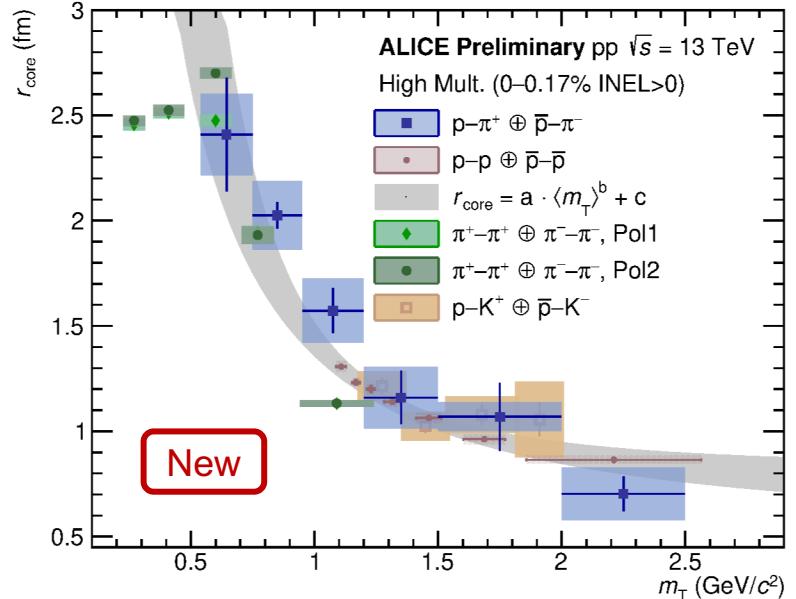


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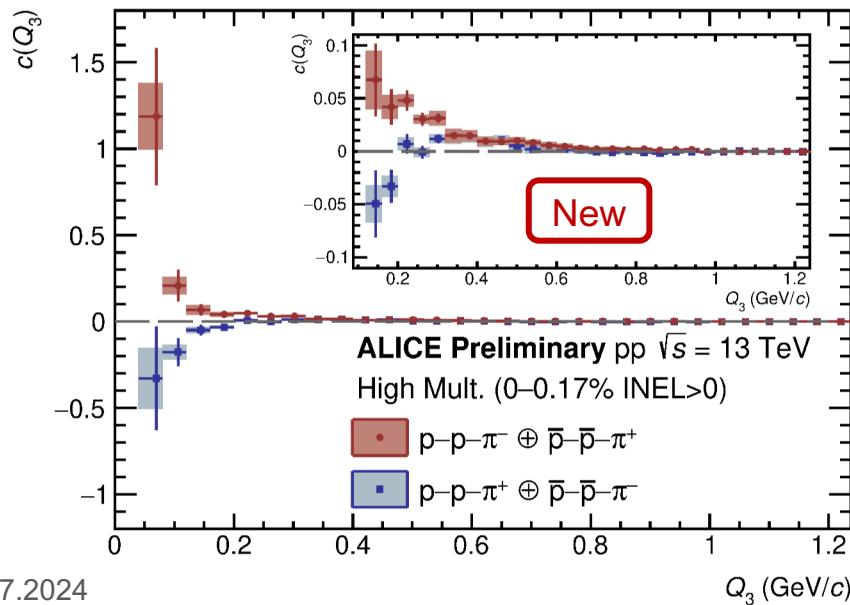
- In both cases cumulant compatible with zero for large  $Q_3$   
→ No three-body effects
- Three-body effects for small  $Q_3 < 200 \text{ MeV}/c$ 
  - Repulsion for  $pp\pi^+$
  - Attraction for  $pp\pi^-$



# What to take home

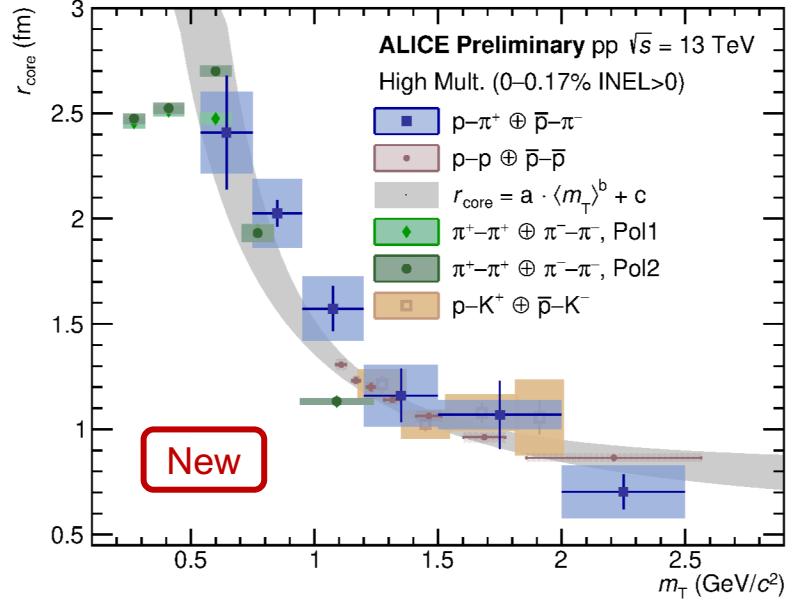


ALICE can access  
 $3 \rightarrow 3$  scattering  
processes of  $pp\pi^\pm$

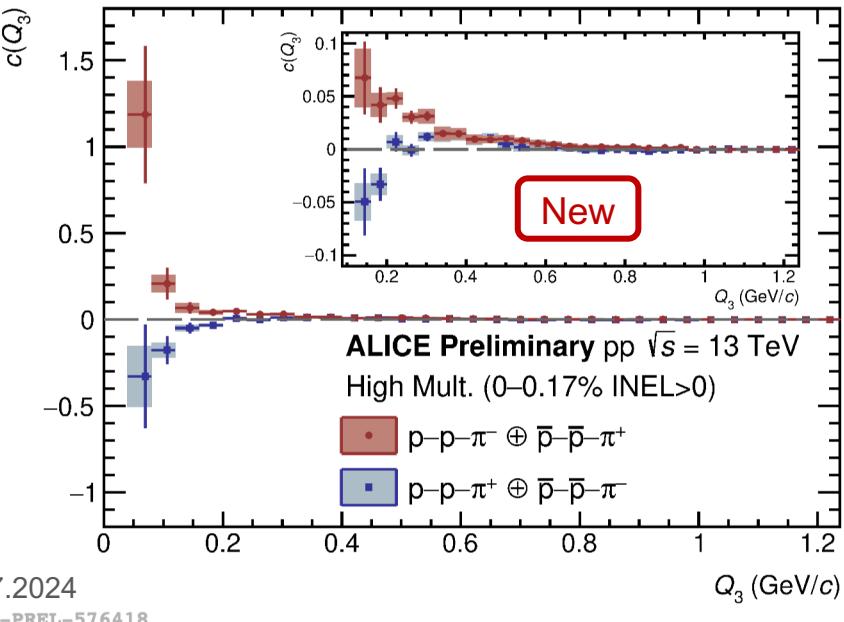


Common hadron emission  
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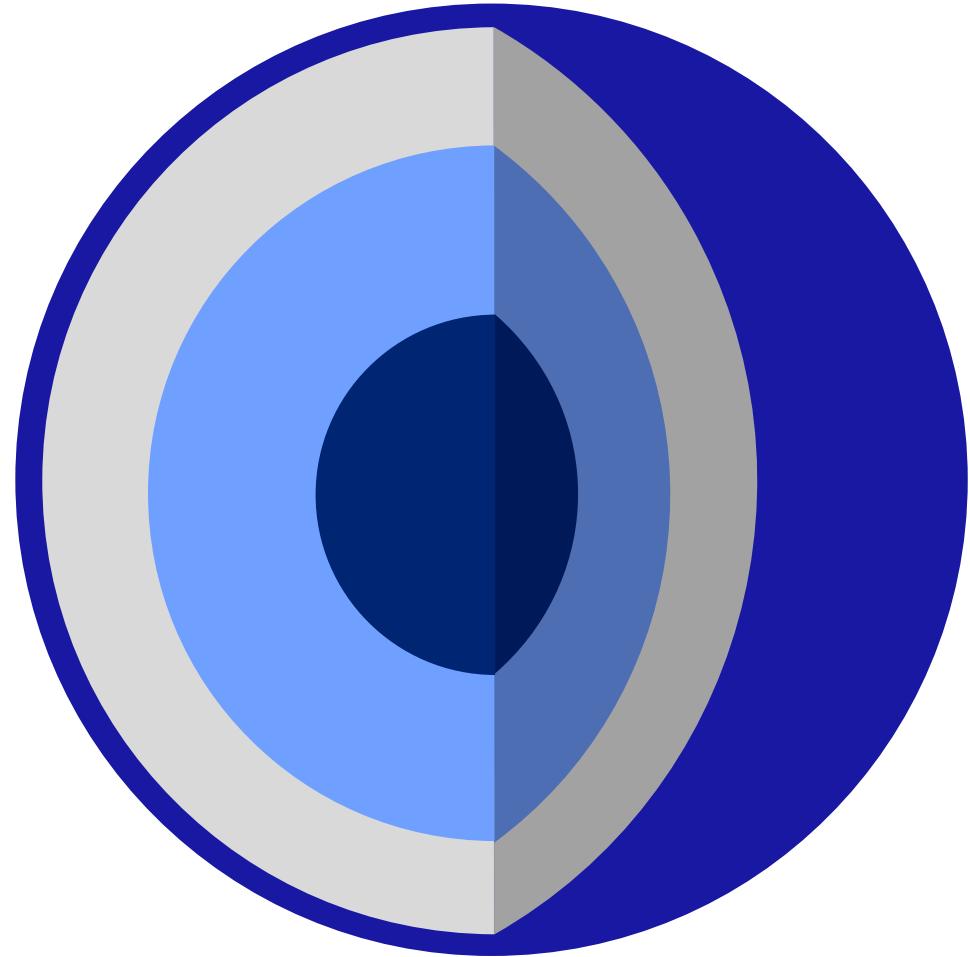
- More on femtoscopy by ALICE:
- S. Tomassini ([Poster](#), Hadron Physics, 18<sup>th</sup> of July)
  - M. Korwieser ([Talk](#), Hadron Physics, 19<sup>th</sup> of July at 17:00)
  - G. Romanenko ([Talk](#), Heavy Ions, 20<sup>th</sup> of July at 17:15 )

# Backup

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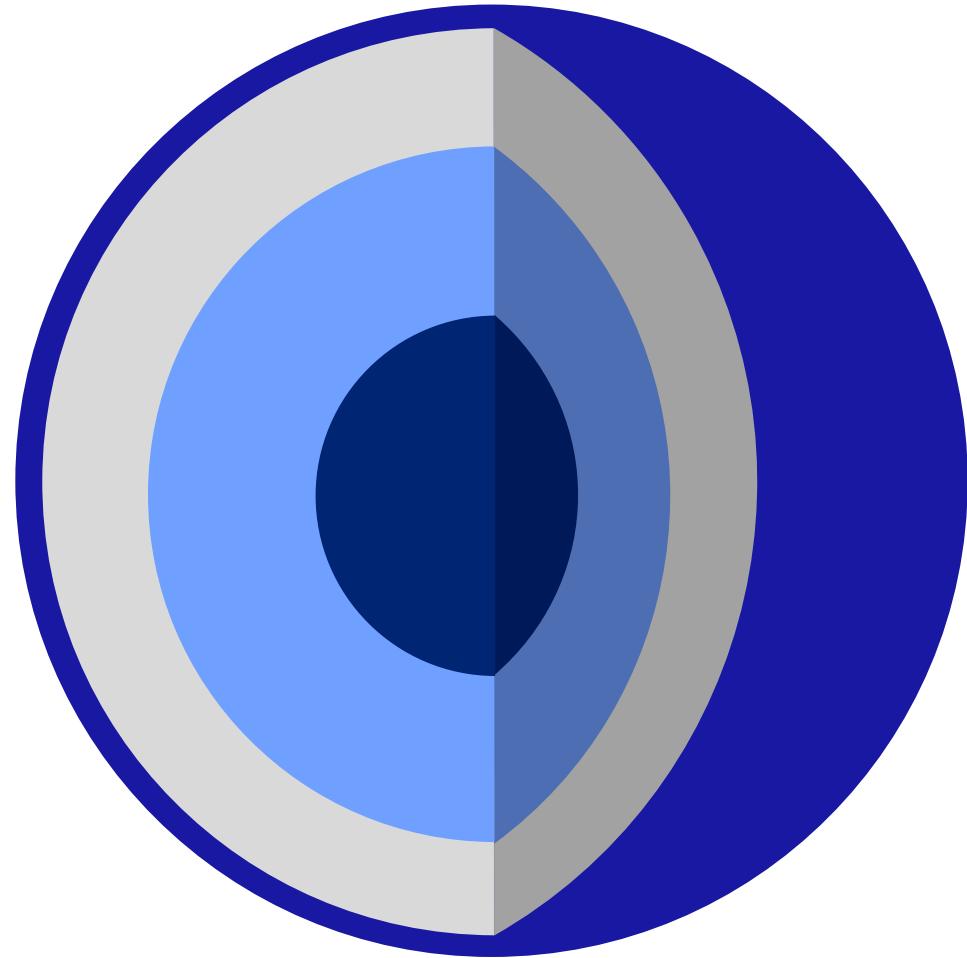
# Neutron Stars

- Final product of supernova explosions
- Very compact objects:
  - $M \approx 1-2 M_{\odot}$
  - $R \approx 10-15 \text{ km} (\sim \text{size of Munich area!})$



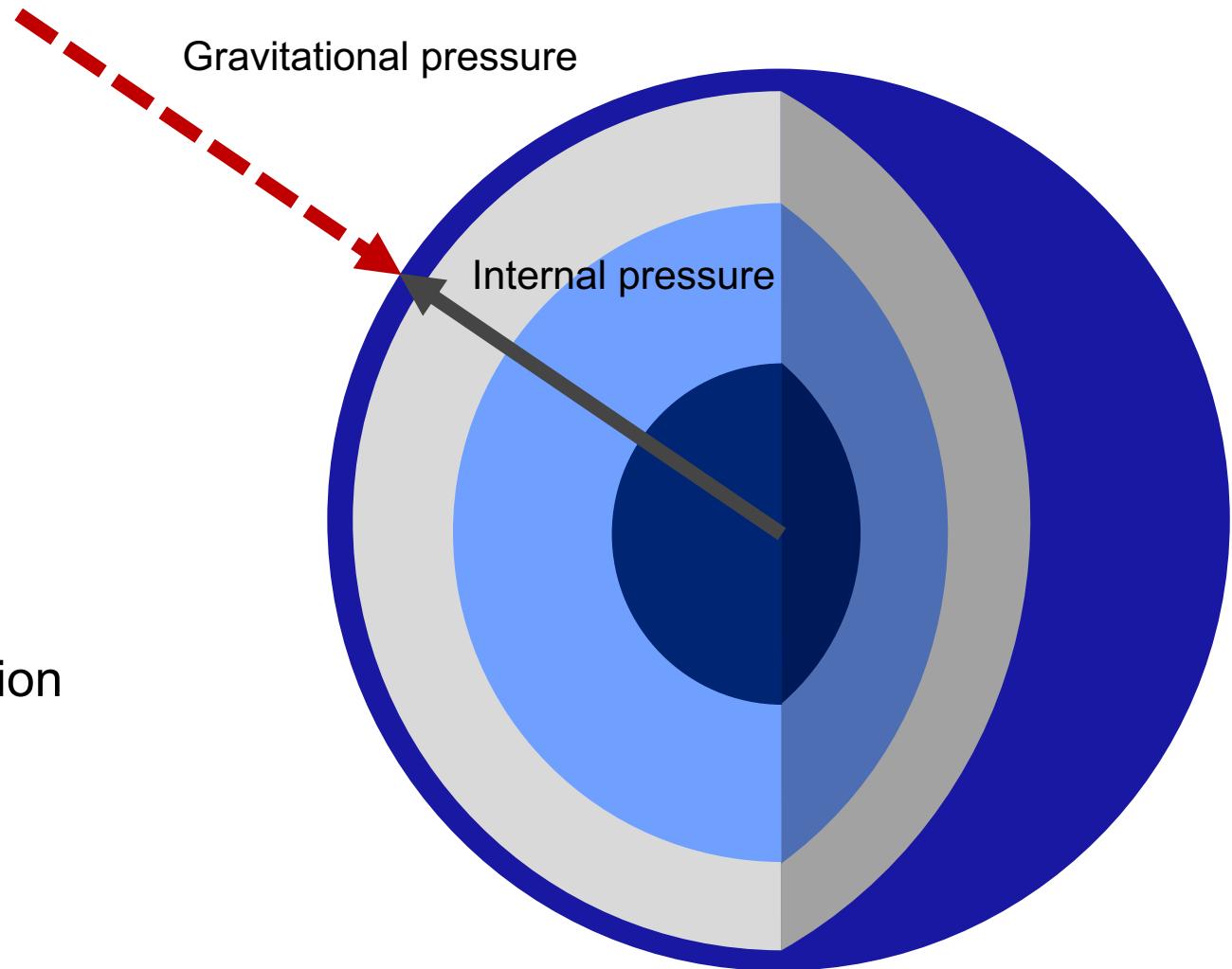
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  - extreme densities of several  $\rho_0$
  - $T_{\max} \sim \text{few MeV}$



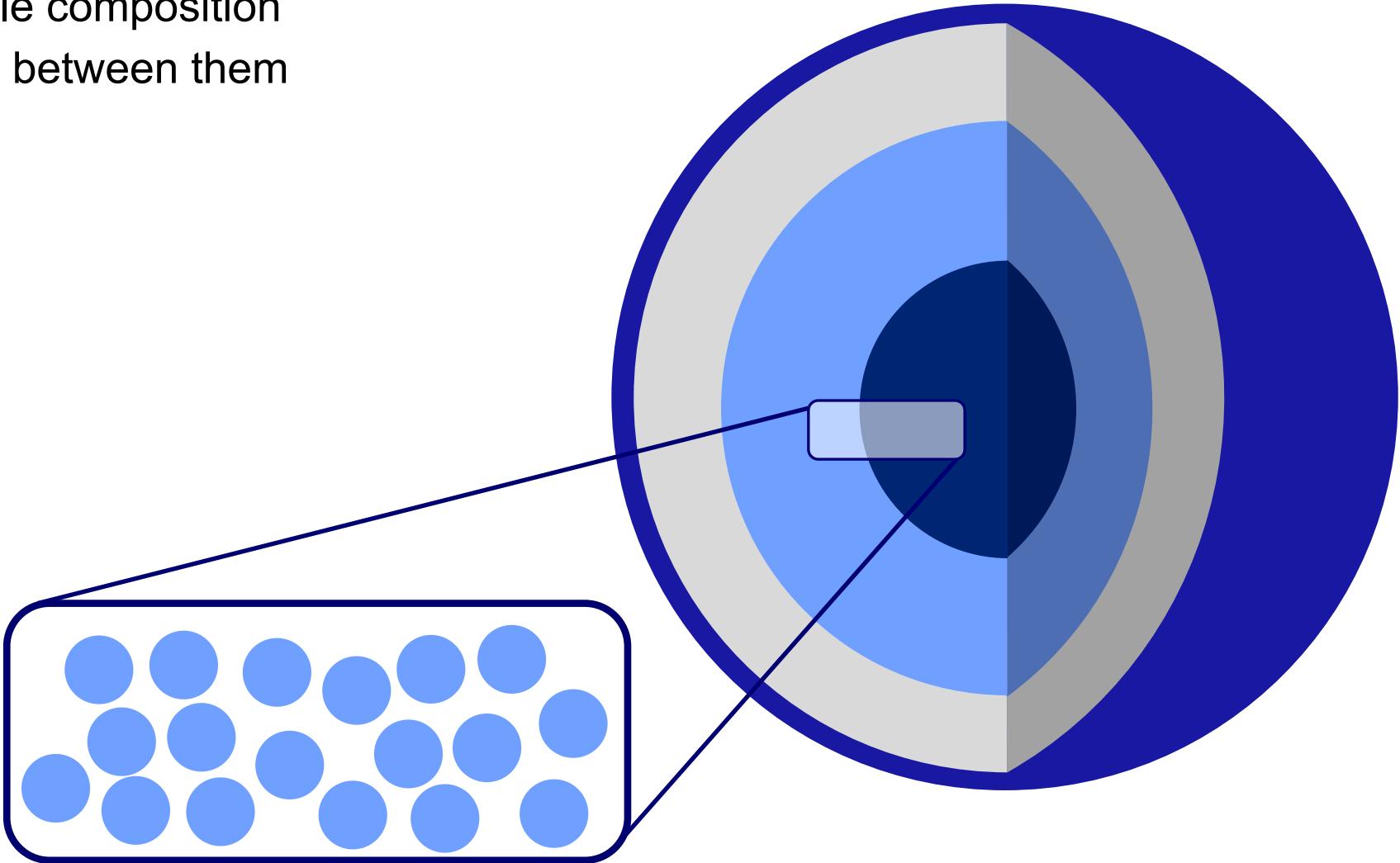
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- Physics of neutron stars driven by their equation of state (EoS)



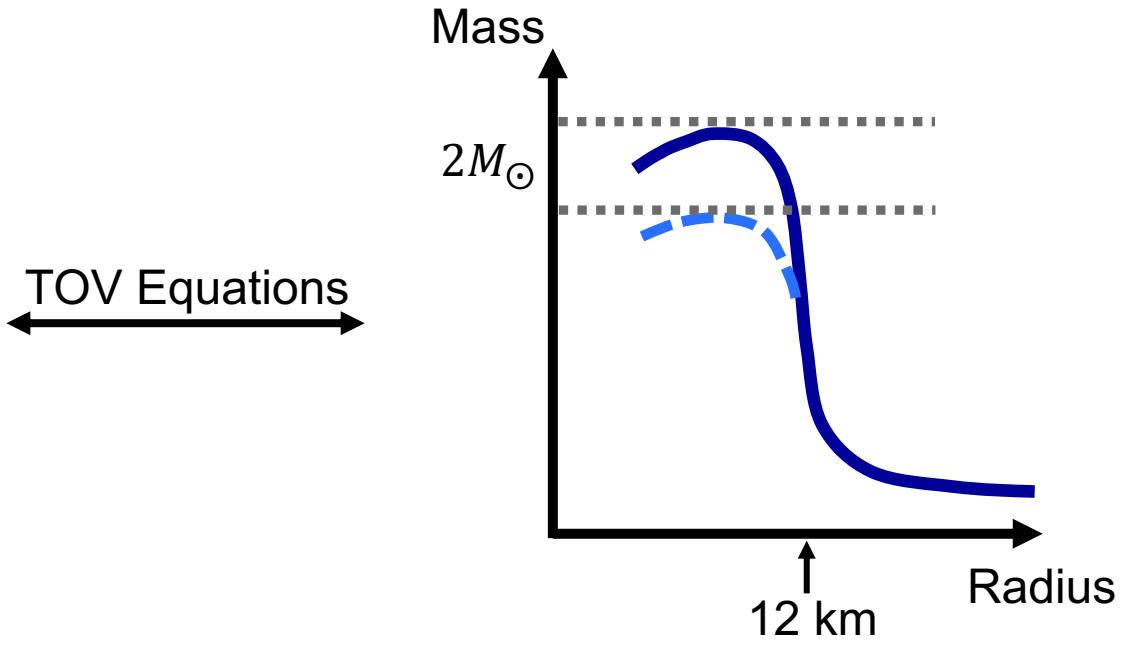
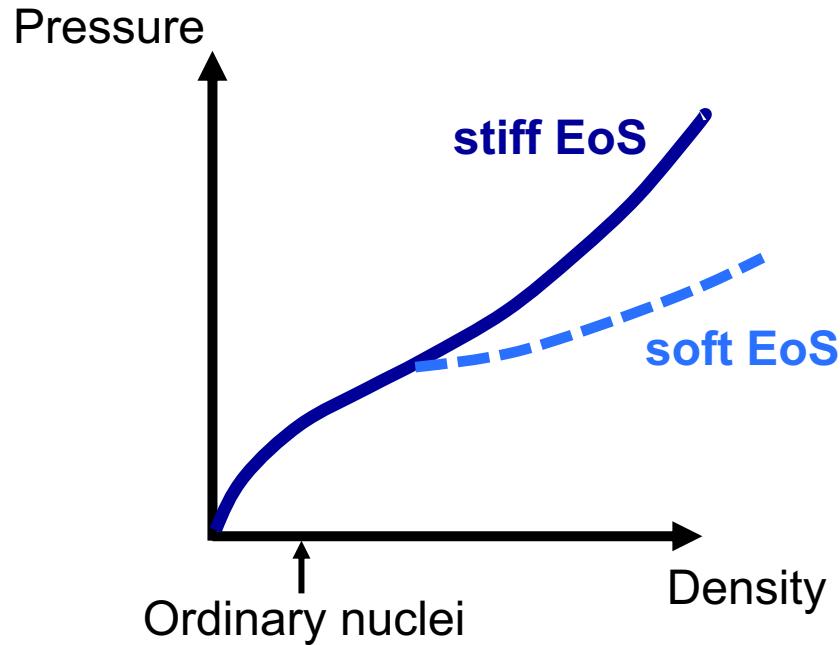
# Neutron Stars

- EoS dependent on the particle composition and the possible interactions between them



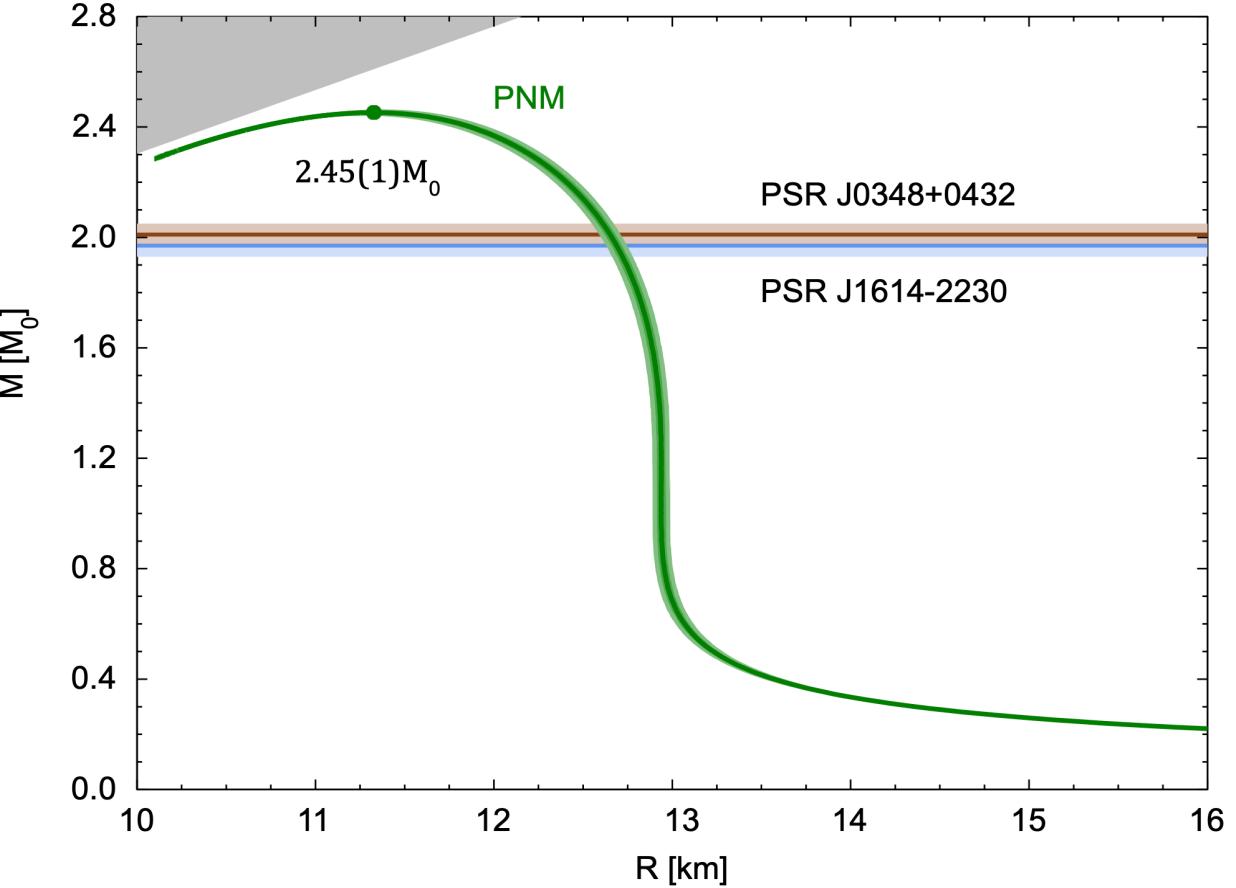
# Neutron Stars

- EoS dependent on the particle composition and the possible interactions between them
- EoS linked to masses and radii of neutron stars via TOV equations



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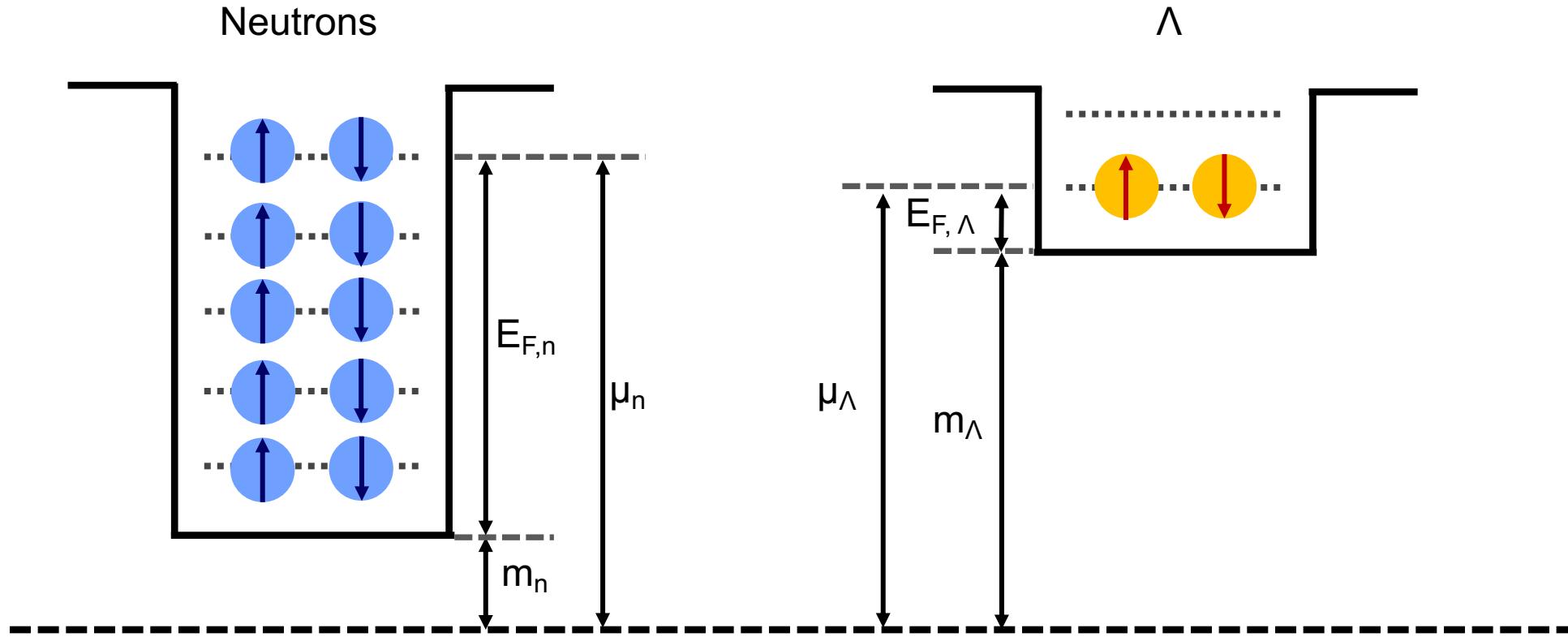
- EoS dependent on the particle composition and the possible interactions between them
- EoS linked to masses and radii of neutron stars via TOV equations
- Pure neutron matter (PNM) supports heavy neutron stars of  $2M_{\odot}$



Adapted from D. Lonardoni et al., PRL 114, 092301 (2015)

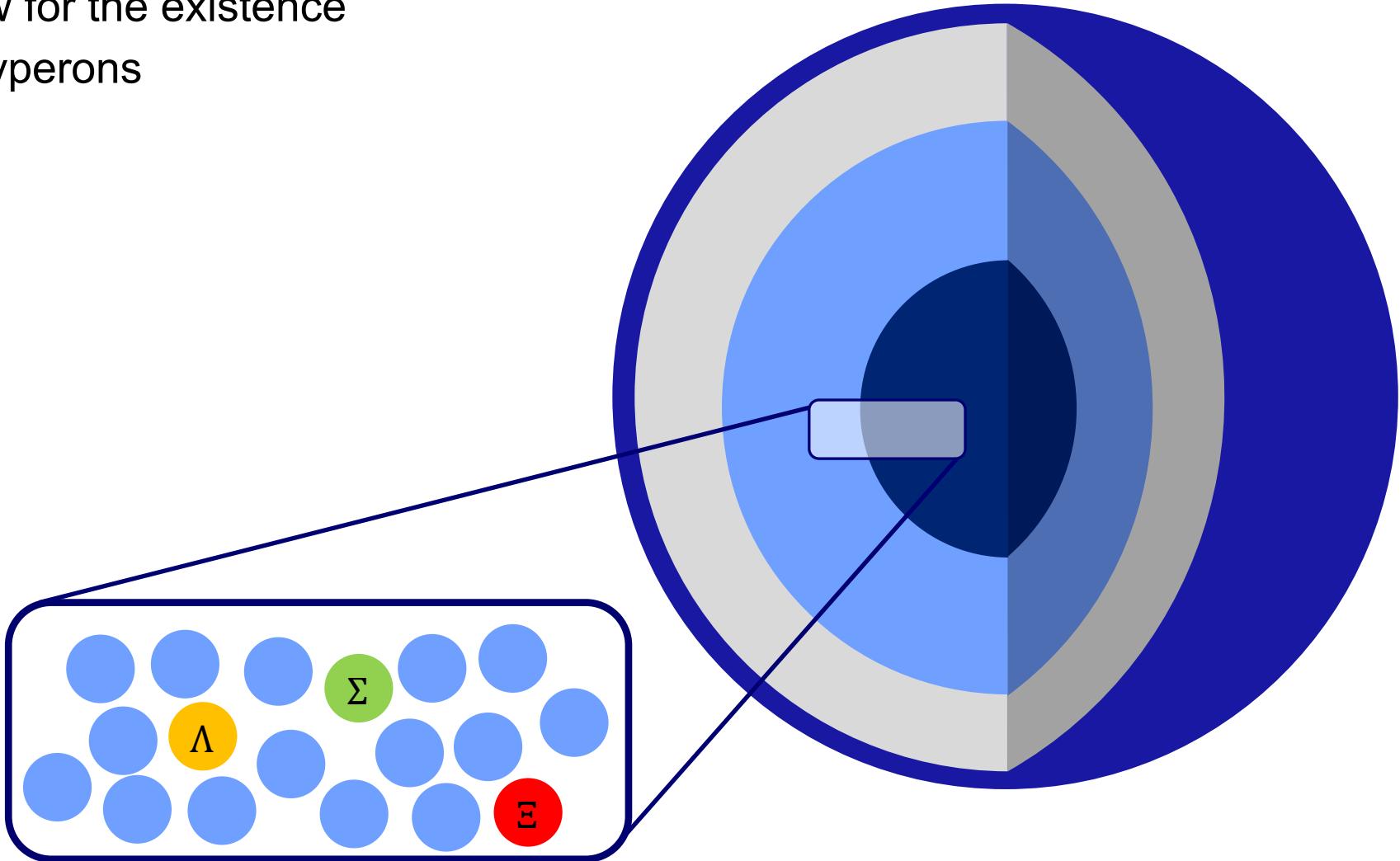
# Neutron Stars and the Hyperon Puzzle

- Chemical potential  $\mu = m + \text{Fermi energy}$
  - Fermi energy increases with density
- $\mu_n = \mu_\Lambda$ : conversion into baryons with strangeness (hyperons)



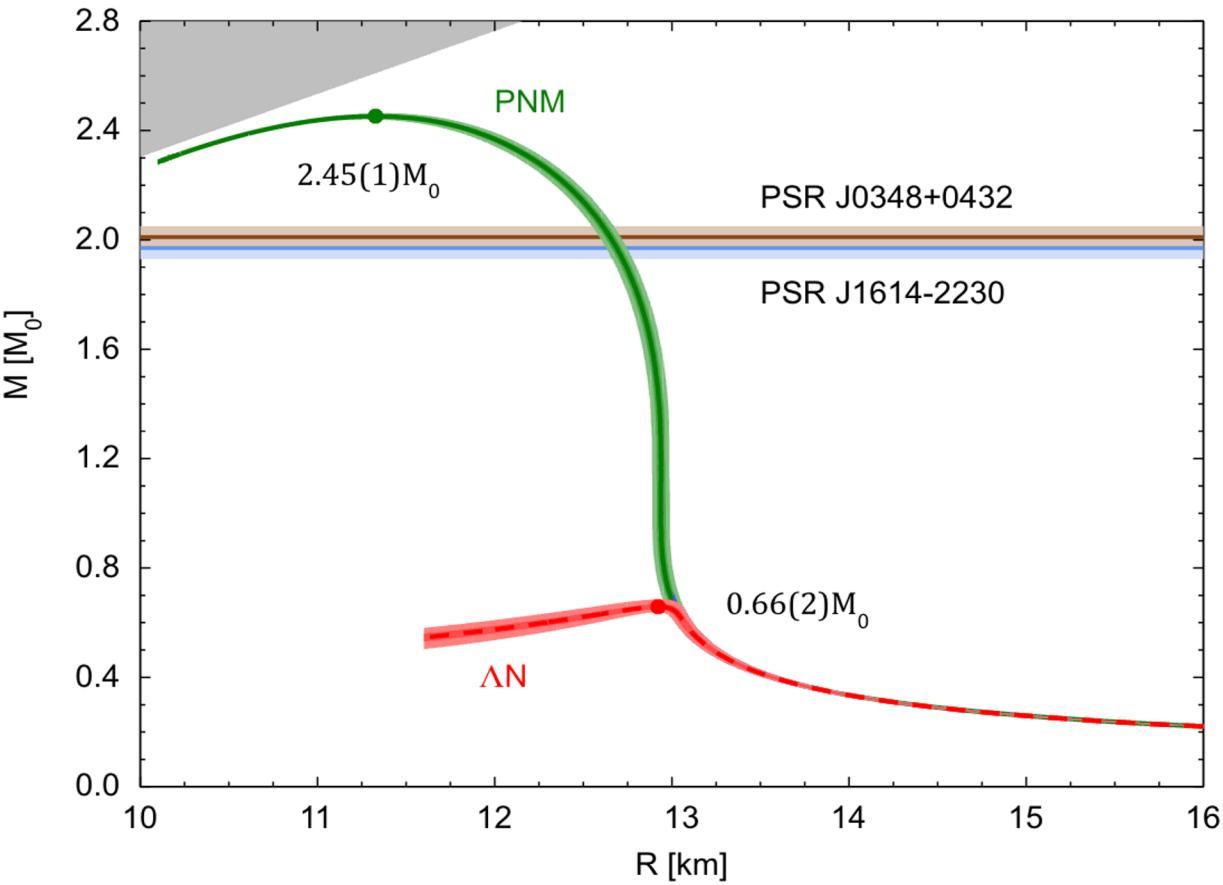
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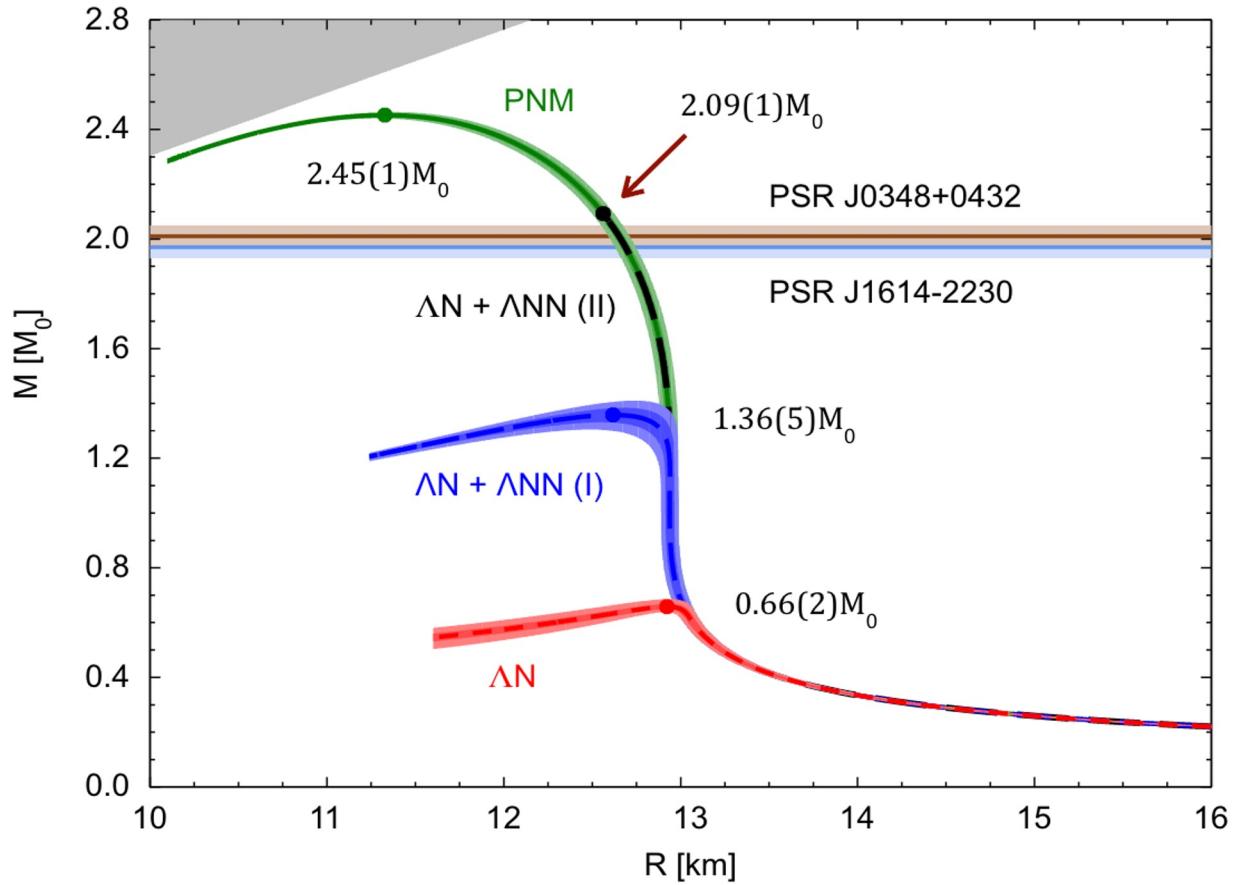
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- However: EoS softens with appearance of  $\Lambda$  hyperons  
→ cannot support heavy neutron stars



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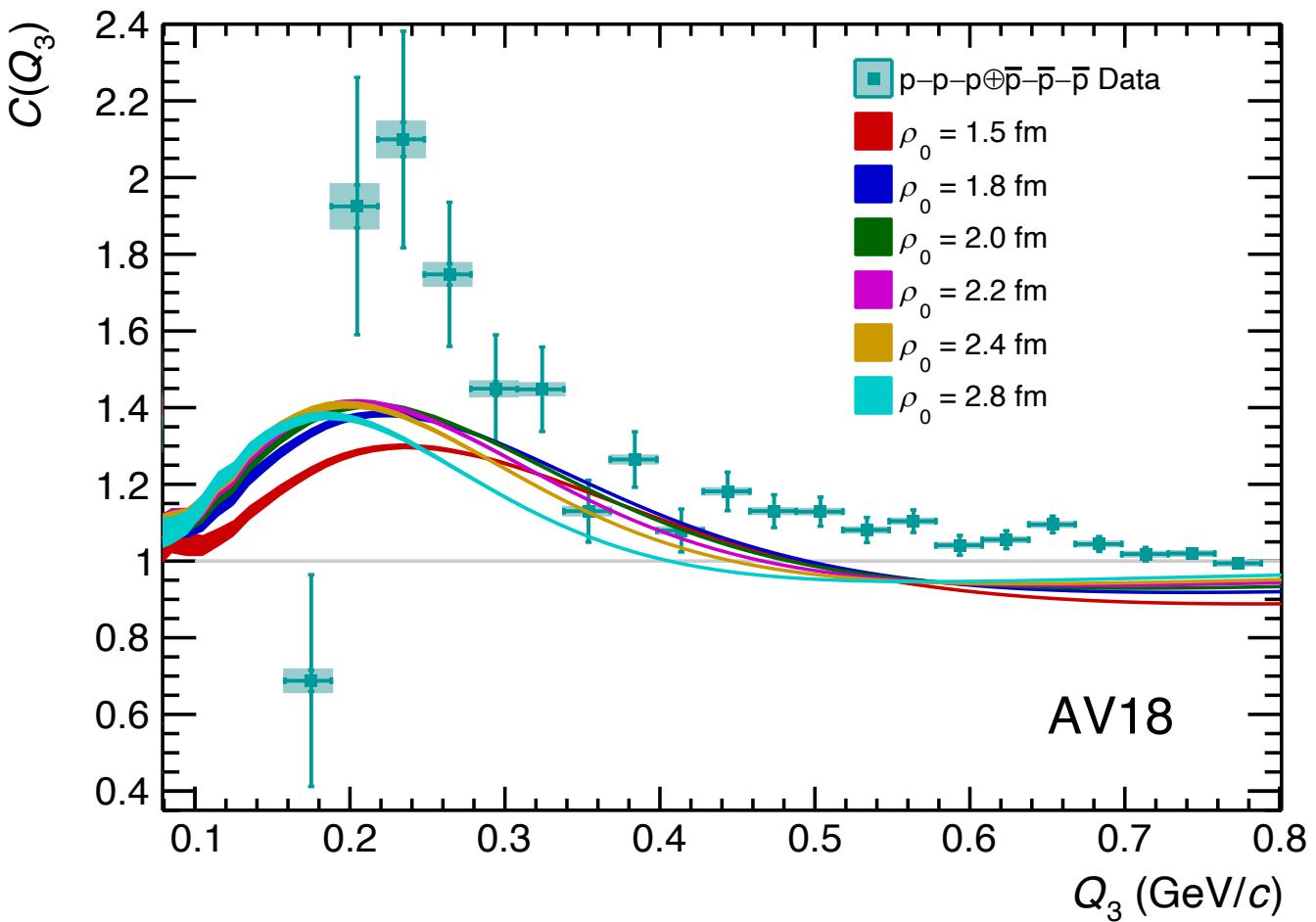
- High baryonic densities allow for the existence of strange particles, e.g.  $\Lambda$  hyperons
- However: EoS softens with appearance of  $\Lambda$  hyperons  
→ cannot support heavy neutron stars
- Three-body interactions such as  $\Lambda NN$  play an important role



Adapted from D. Lonardoni et al., PRL 114, 092301 (2015)

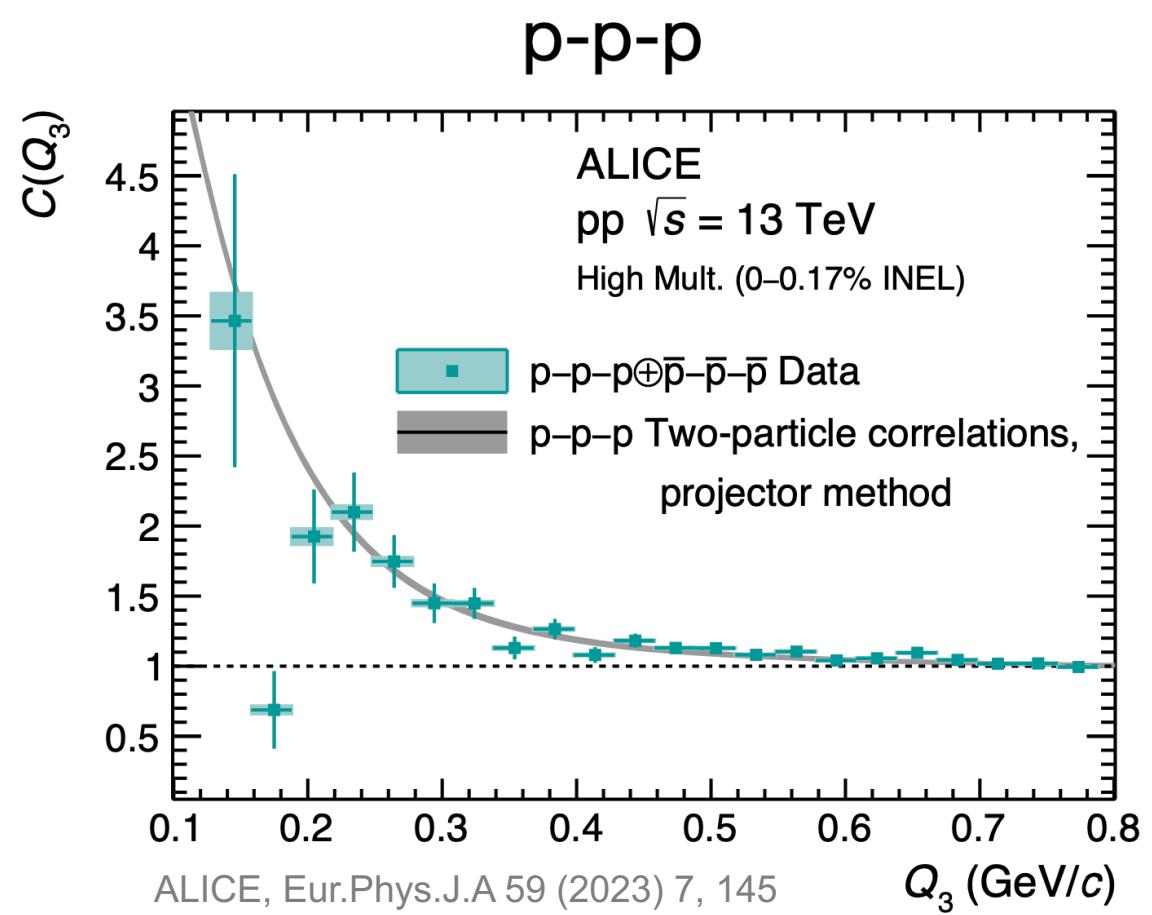
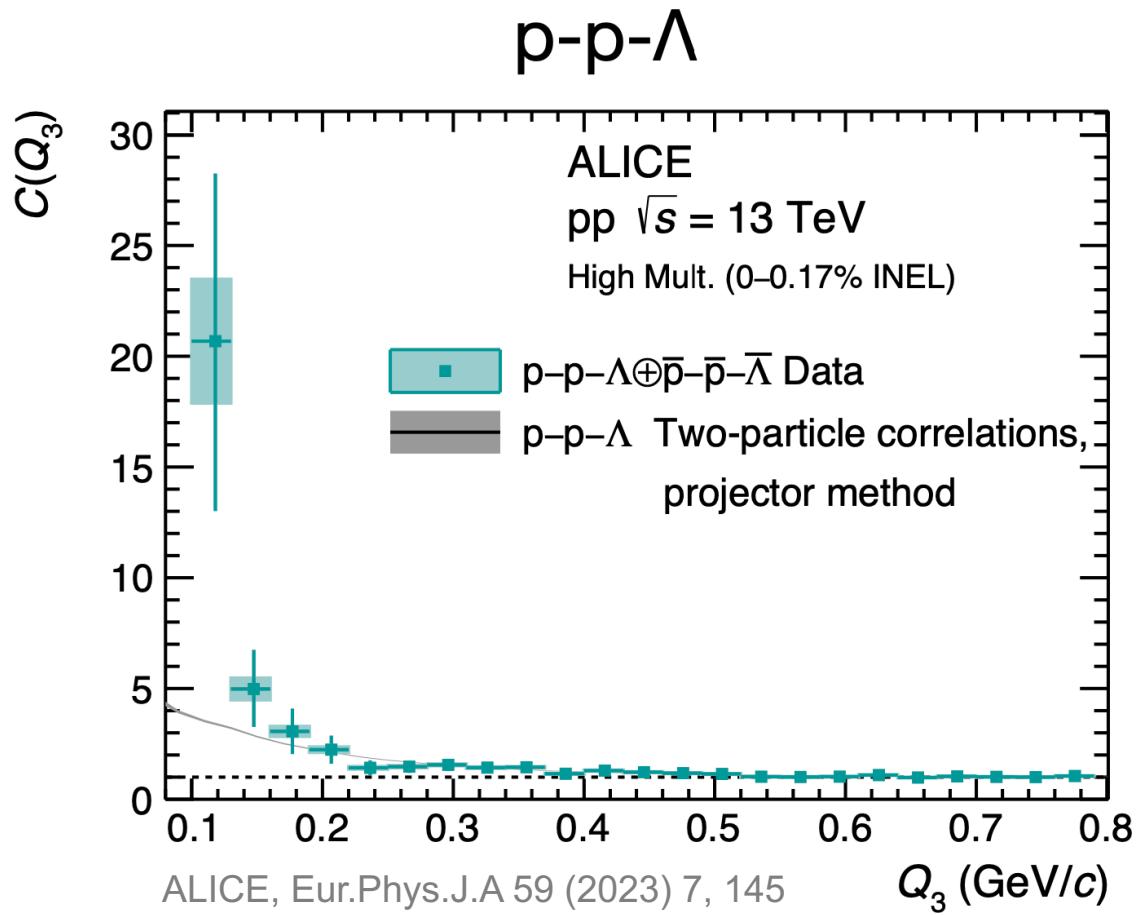
# Three-body hadronic interactions with ALICE

- Three-hadron interactions of  $ppp$  &  $pp\Lambda$  are currently studied in ALICE with femtoscopy  
ALICE, Eur. Phys. J. A 59 (2023) 145
- Results of  $ppp$  from Run2 have first comparisons with theory  
A. Kievsky, E. Garrido, M. Viviani, L.E. Marcucci, L. Serksnyte, R. Del Grande, [arXiv:2310.10428](https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.10428), accepted by PRC
- Calculations of  $pp\Lambda$  are currently on the way



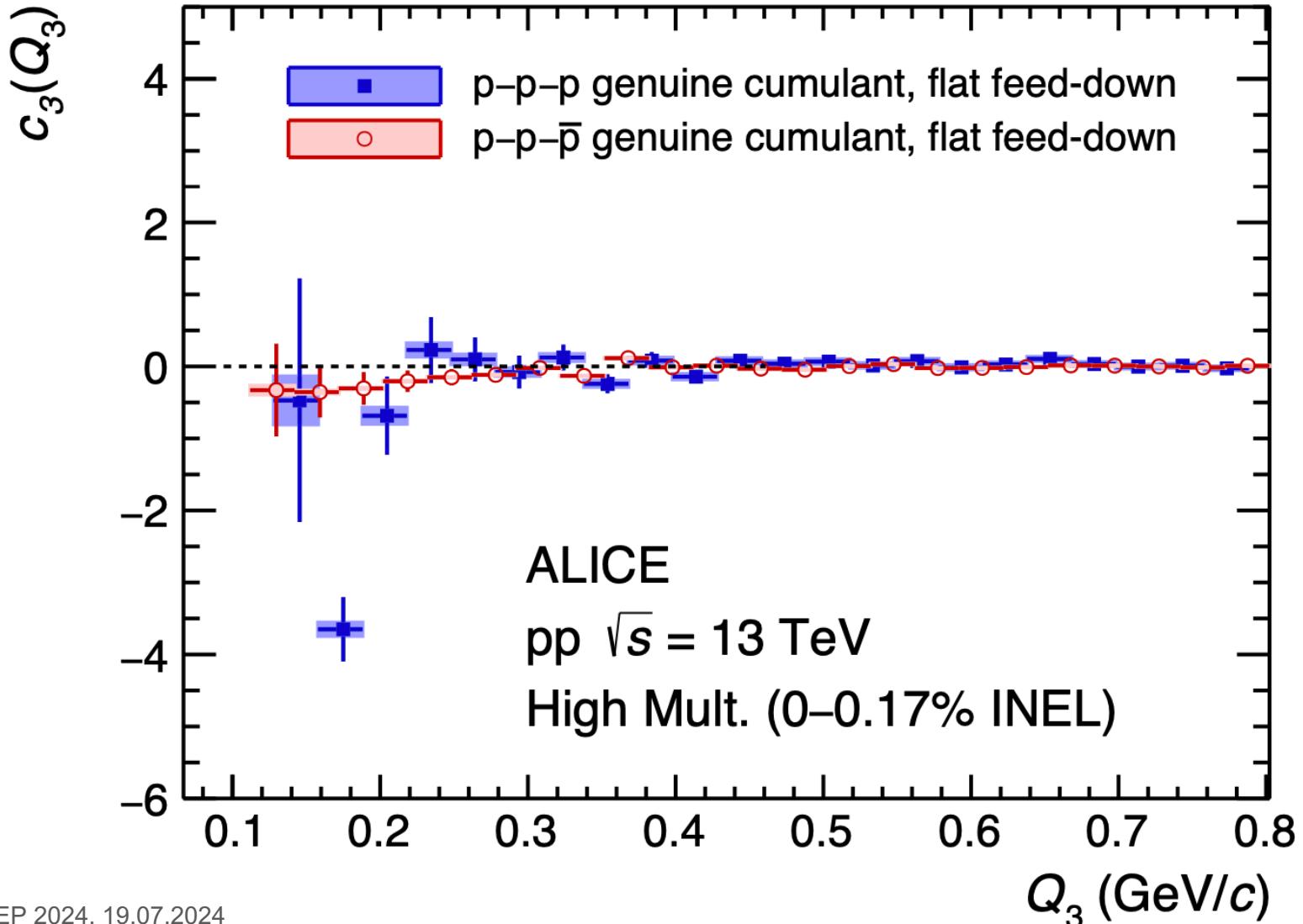
A. Kievsky, E. Garrido, M. Viviani, L.E. Marcucci, L. Serksnyte, R. Del Grande,  
[arXiv:2310.10428](https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.10428), accepted by PRC

# Other Three-Body Studies



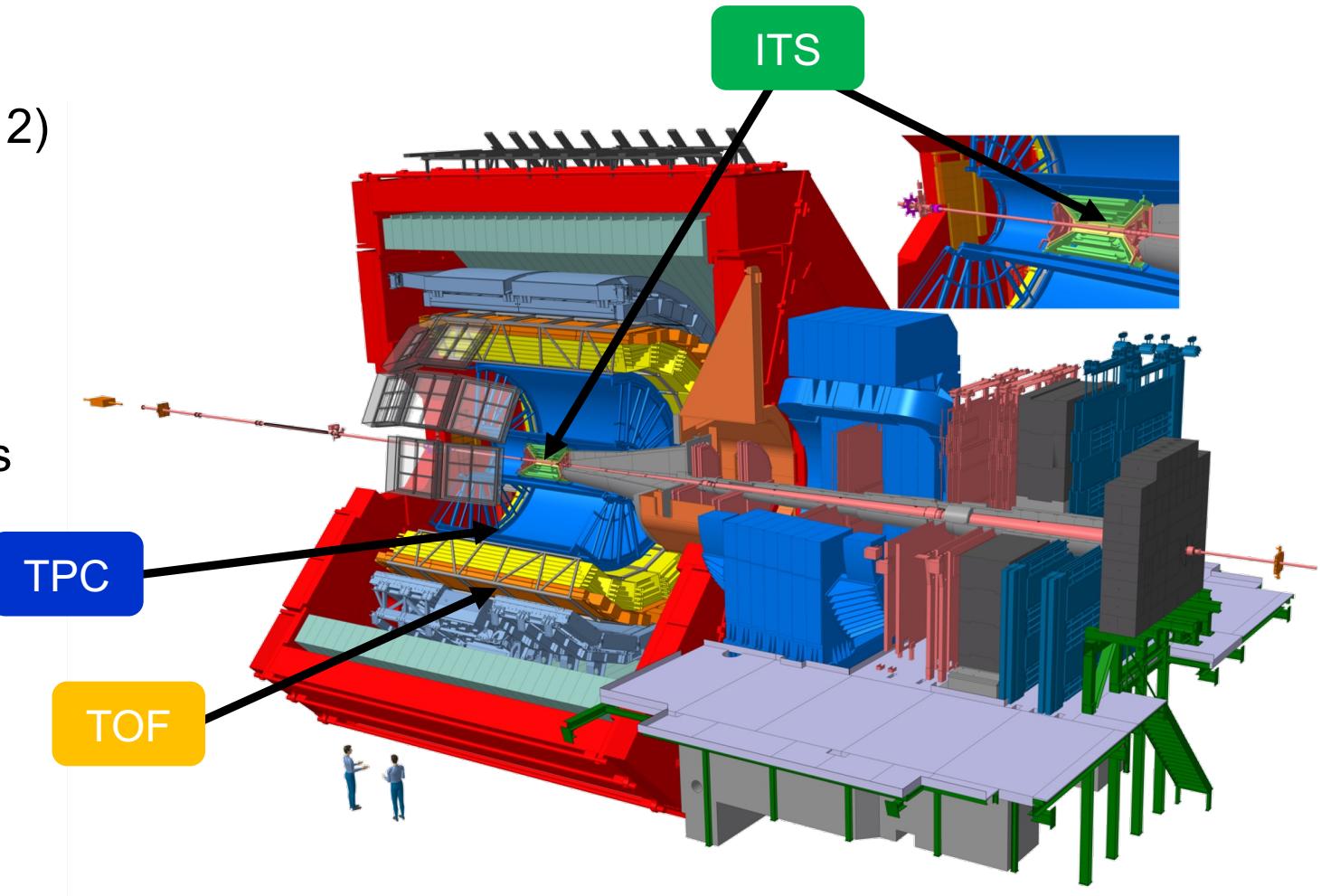
# Other Three-Body Studies

ALICE, Eur.Phys.J.A 59 (2023) 7, 145



# ALICE - A Large Ion Collider Experiment

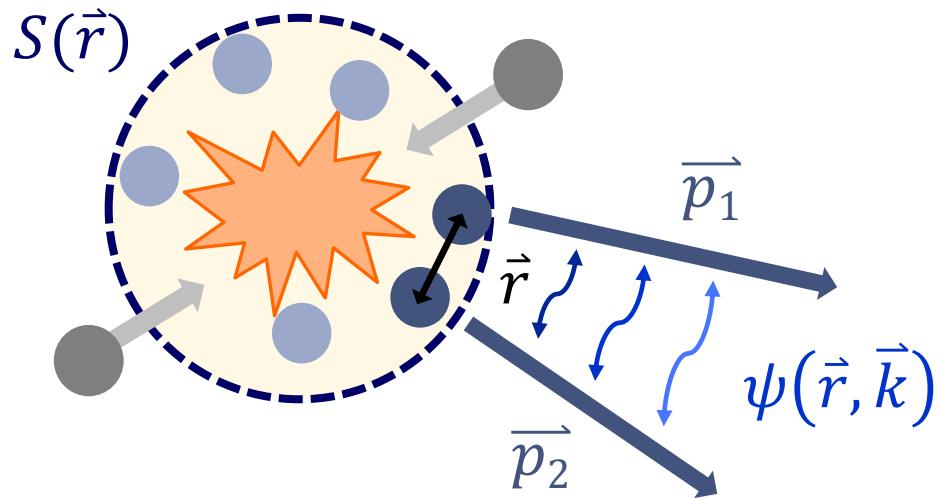
- pp at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV
- $10^9$  high-multiplicity (HM) events (Run 2)
- Direct detection of charged particles (protons, kaons, pions, deuterons)
- Very good PID capabilities of the detector resulting in very pure samples (protons ~ 98%, pions 99%)



A. Tauro, "ALICE Schematics" (2017), [CERN CDS](#)

# Two-body femtoscopy

L. Fabbietti and V. Mantovani Sarti and O. Vazquez Doce, Study of the Strong Interaction Among Hadrons with Correlations at the LHC, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. (2021) 71:377-402



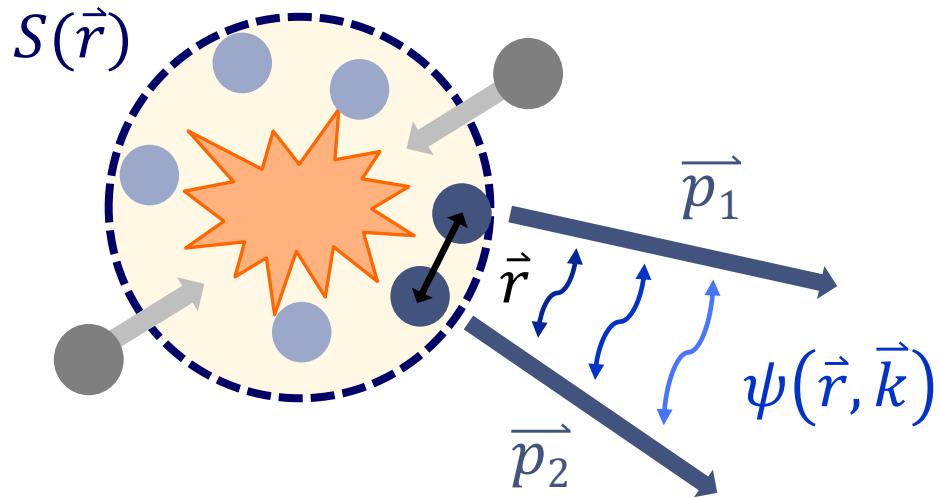
$$C(k^*) = \underbrace{\int S(\vec{r}^*) |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3\vec{r}^*}_{\text{theoretical definition}} = \mathcal{N} \underbrace{\frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)}}_{\text{experimental definition}}$$

Relative momentum  $\vec{k}^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_1^* - \vec{p}_2^*|$  and  $\vec{p}_1^* + \vec{p}_2^* = 0$

Relative distance  $\vec{r}^* = \vec{r}_1^* - \vec{r}_2^*$

# Two-body femtoscopy

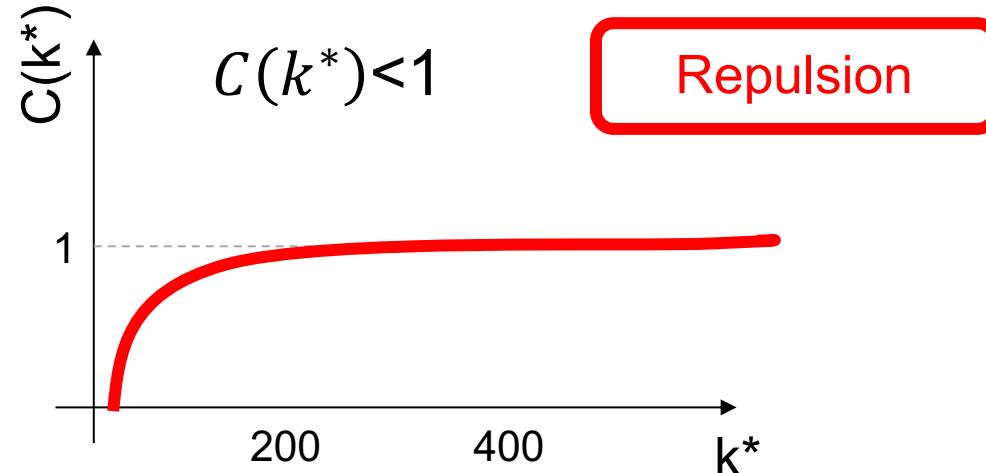
L. Fabbietti and V. Mantovani Sarti and O. Vazquez Doce, Study of the Strong Interaction Among Hadrons with Correlations at the LHC, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. (2021) 71:377-402



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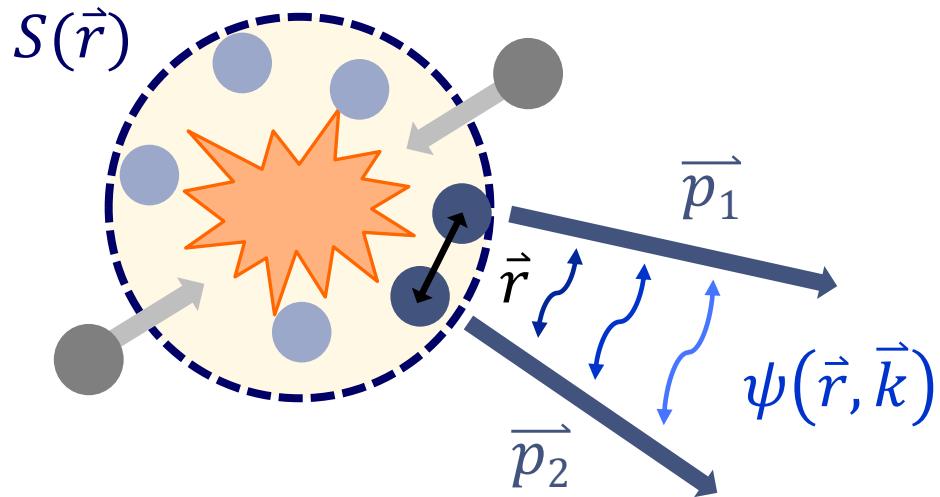
Relative momentum  $\vec{k}^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_1^* - \vec{p}_2^*|$  and  $\vec{p}_1^* + \vec{p}_2^* = 0$

Relative distance  $\vec{r}^* = \vec{r}_1^* - \vec{r}_2^*$



# Two-body femtoscopy

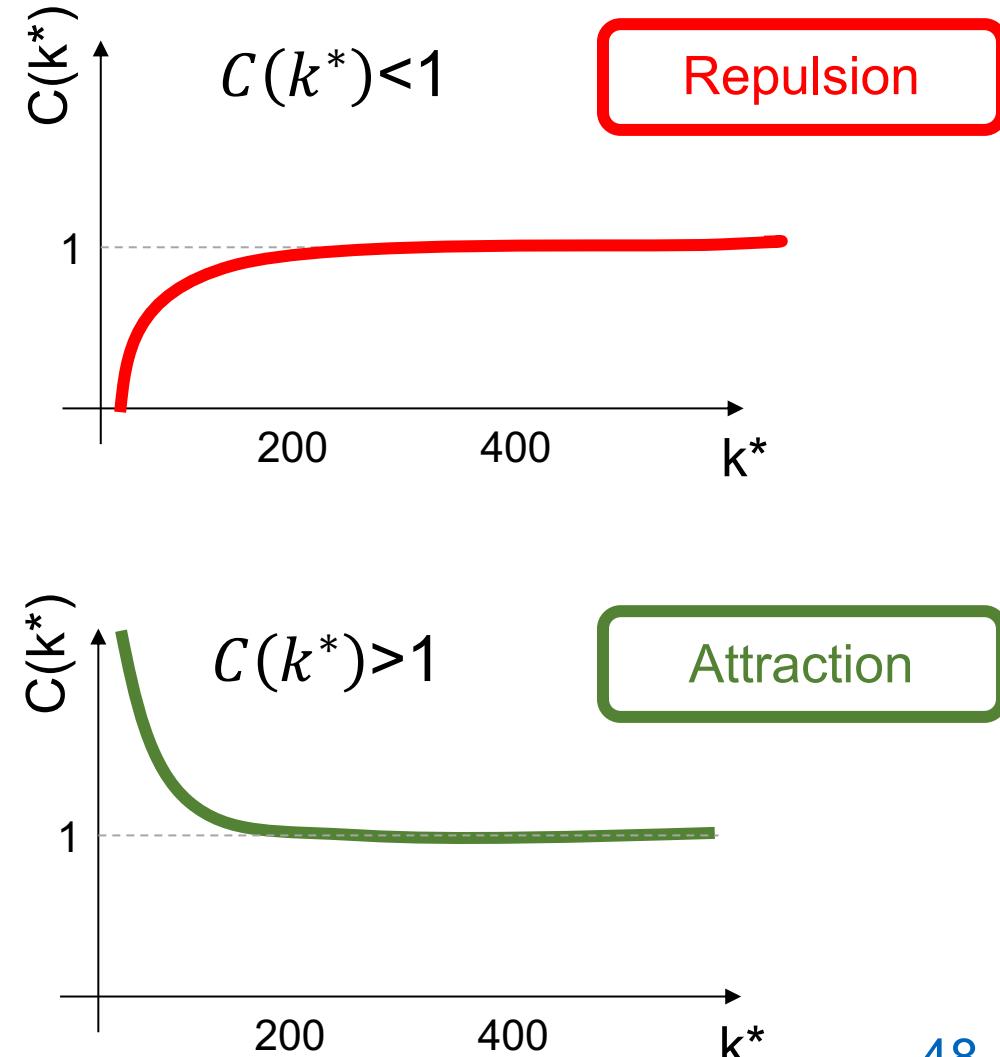
L. Fabbietti and V. Mantovani Sarti and O. Vazquez Doce, Study of the Strong Interaction Among Hadrons with Correlations at the LHC, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. (2021) 71:377-402



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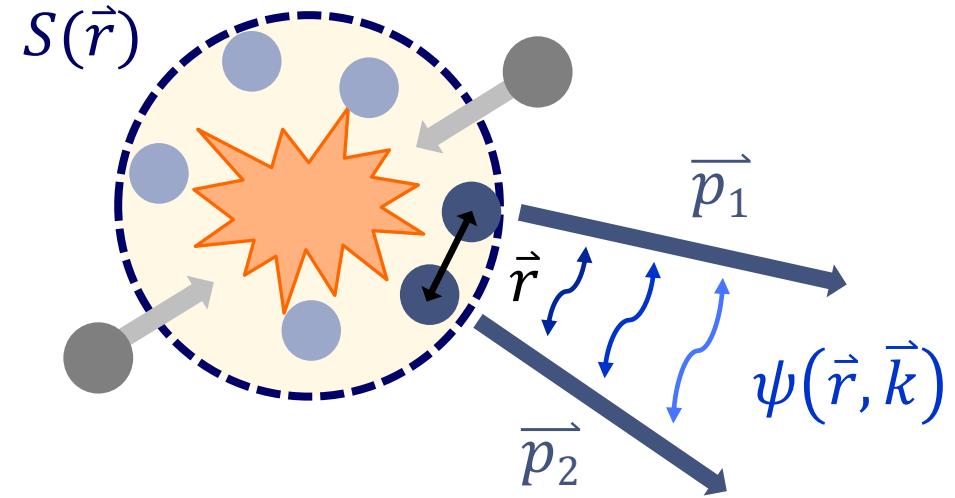
Relative momentum  $\vec{k}^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_1^* - \vec{p}_2^*|$  and  $\vec{p}_1^* + \vec{p}_2^* = 0$

Relative distance  $\vec{r}^* = \vec{r}_1^* - \vec{r}_2^*$



# Two-body Femtoscopy

- Observed femtoscopic correlation functions depend on
  - Final-state interaction  $|\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2$
  - Particle emitting source  $S(\vec{r}^*)$
- The study of the interactions, especially also of exotic pairs, need a well constrained source!



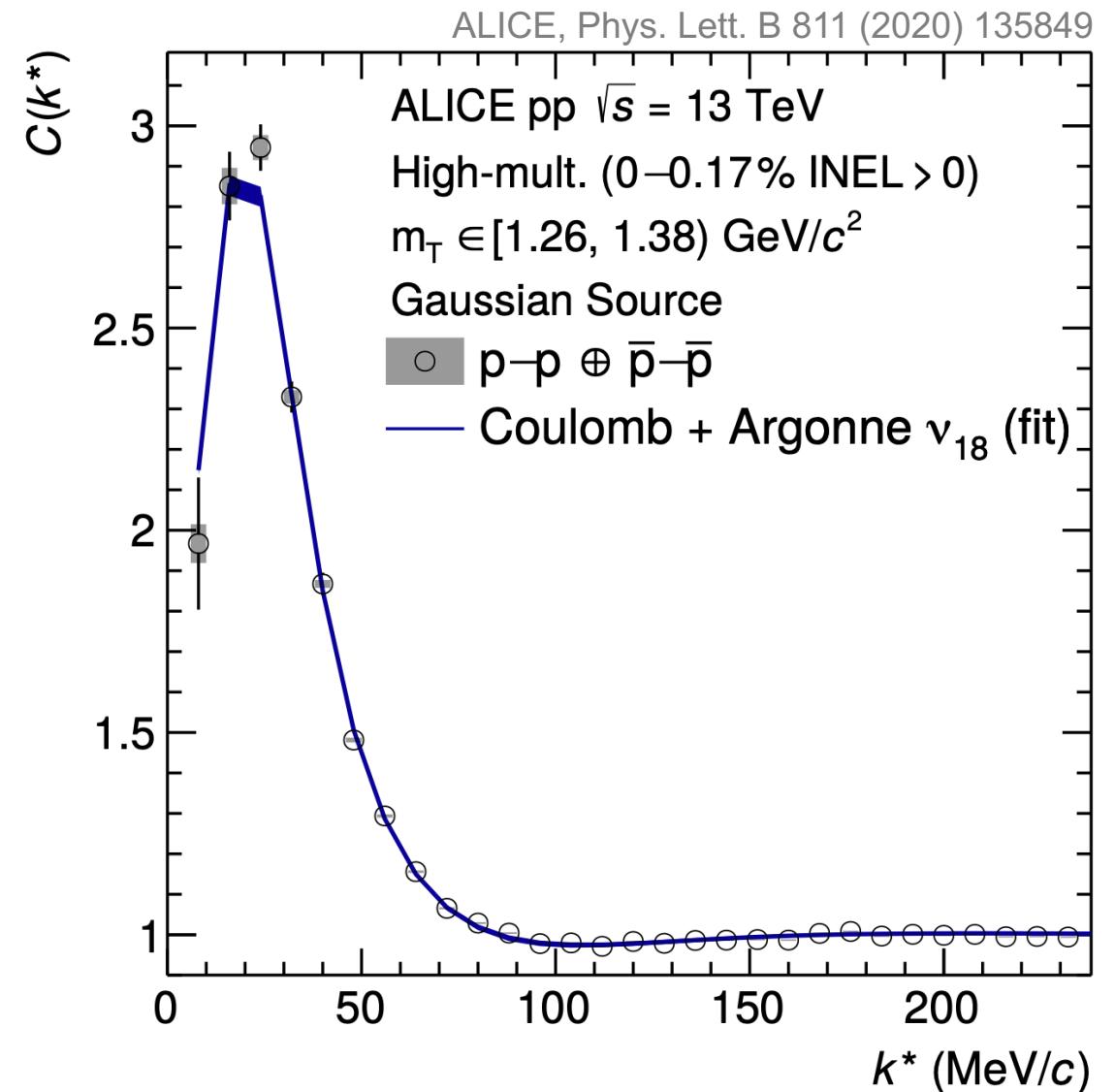
$$C(k^*) = \int S(\vec{r}^*) |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3\vec{r}^* = \mathcal{N} \frac{N_{same}(k^*)}{N_{mixed}(k^*)}$$

# The Source for Baryon Pairs

- $p\bar{p}$  and  $p\Lambda$  correlations in HM pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV
- Known interaction allows the extraction of the source size
- Source modelled as a gaussian

$$S(r) = \frac{1}{(4\pi r_{eff}^2)^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{4r_{eff}^2}\right)$$

- $r_{eff}$  as free fit parameter



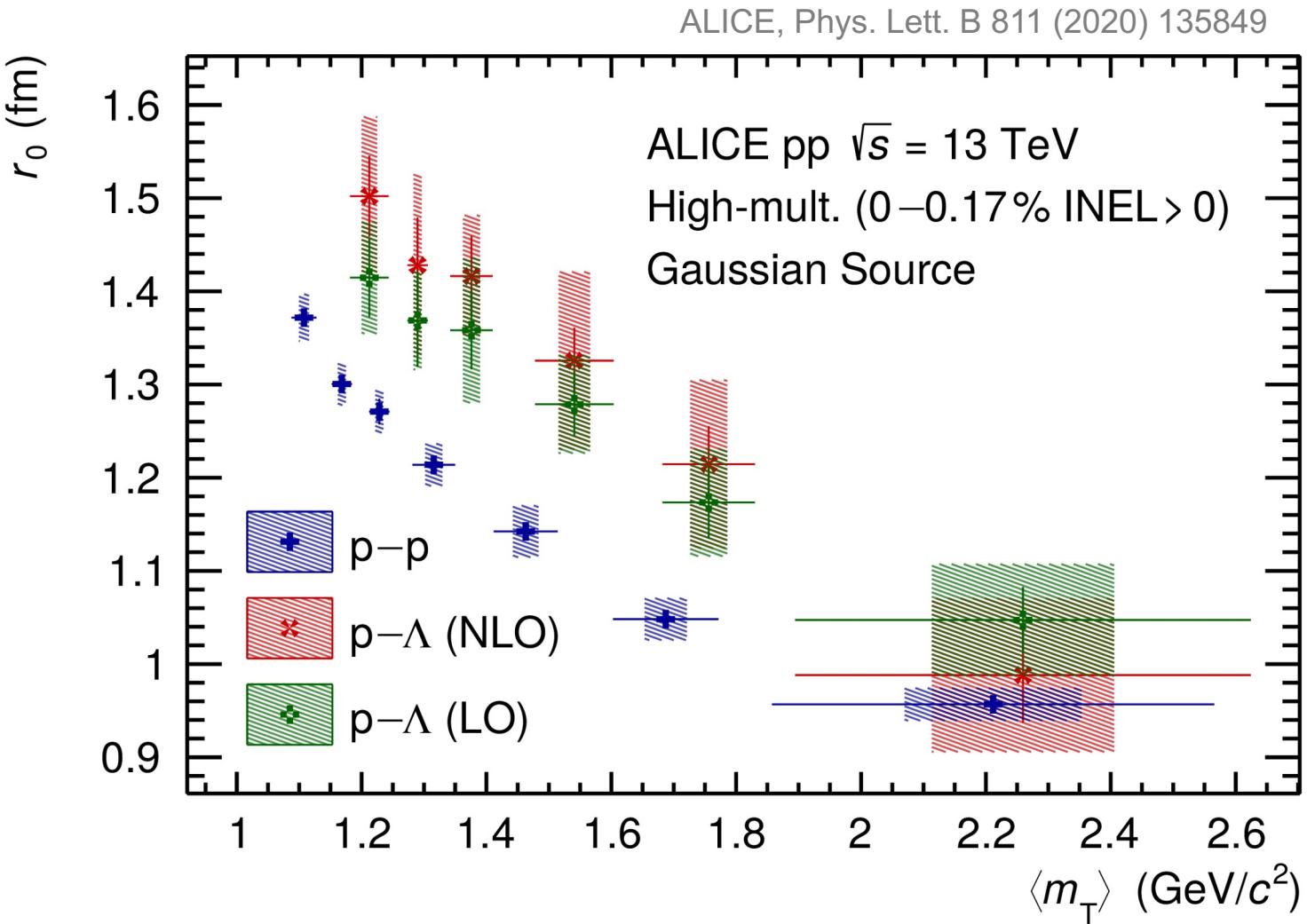
# A Common Baryon Source?

- Effective source size for different transverse mass bins, with

$$m_T = \sqrt{\bar{m}^2 + k_T^2}$$

and  $\vec{k}_T = \frac{1}{2} [\vec{p}_{T,1} + \vec{p}_{T,2}]$

- Different effective source size for  $pp$  and  $p\Lambda$  pairs!

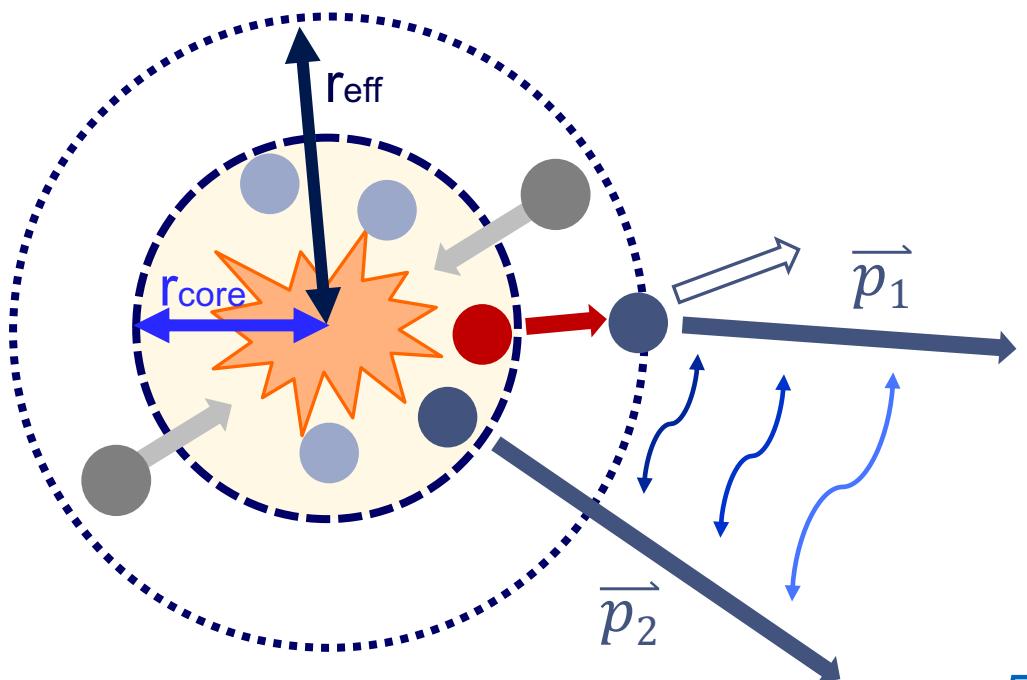
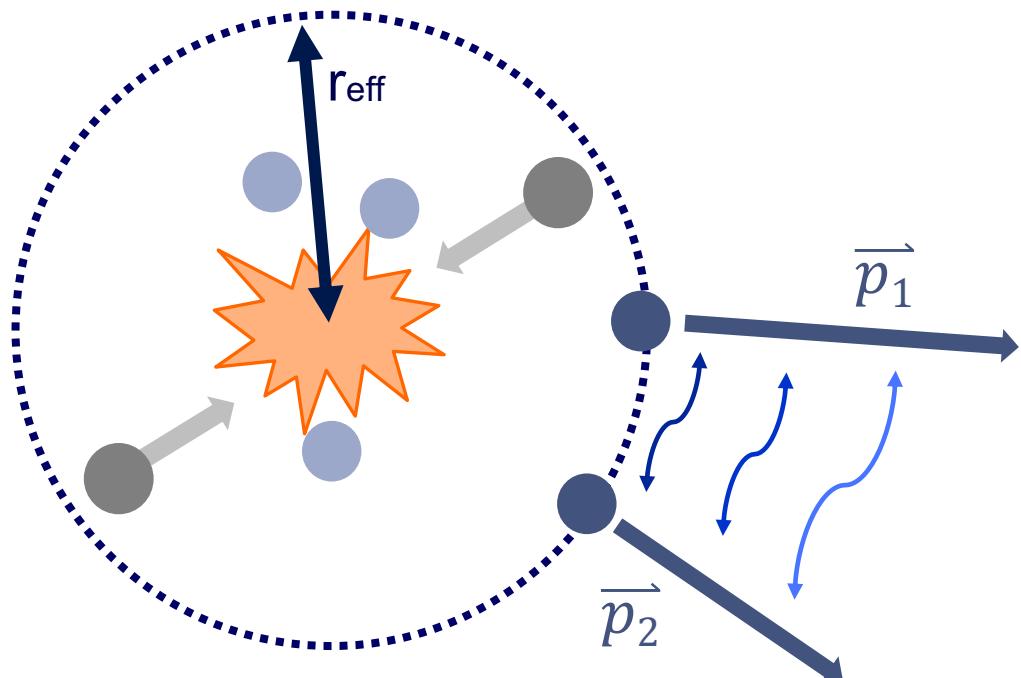


# A Common Baryon Source?

- Effective source not taking short-lived resonances into account
- Proper source modelling

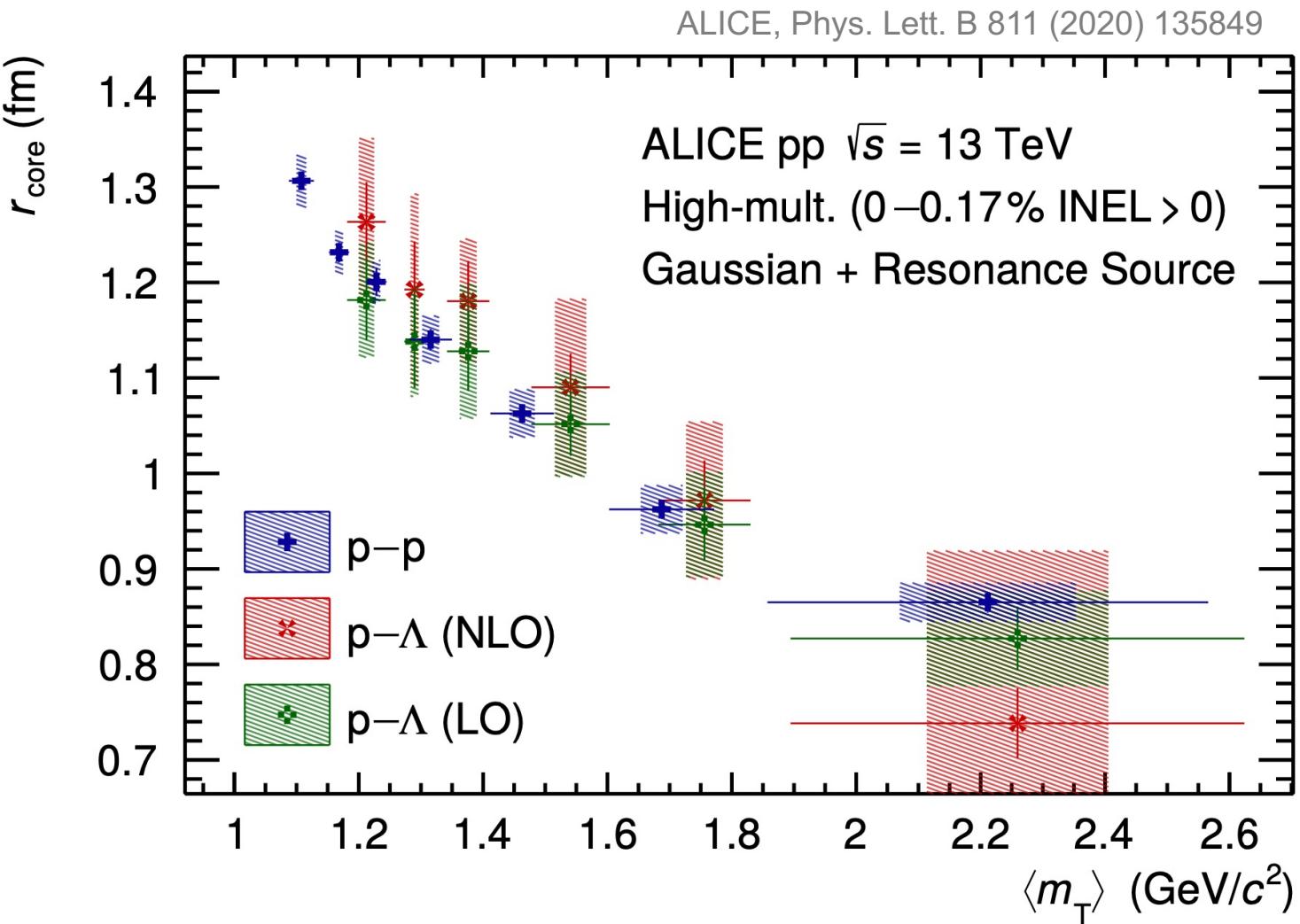
$$S(r) = \frac{1}{(4\pi r_{core}^2)^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{4r_{core}^2}\right) \otimes (\text{Resonance Contributions})$$

- Resonance contributions fixed from statistical hadronization model and EPOS



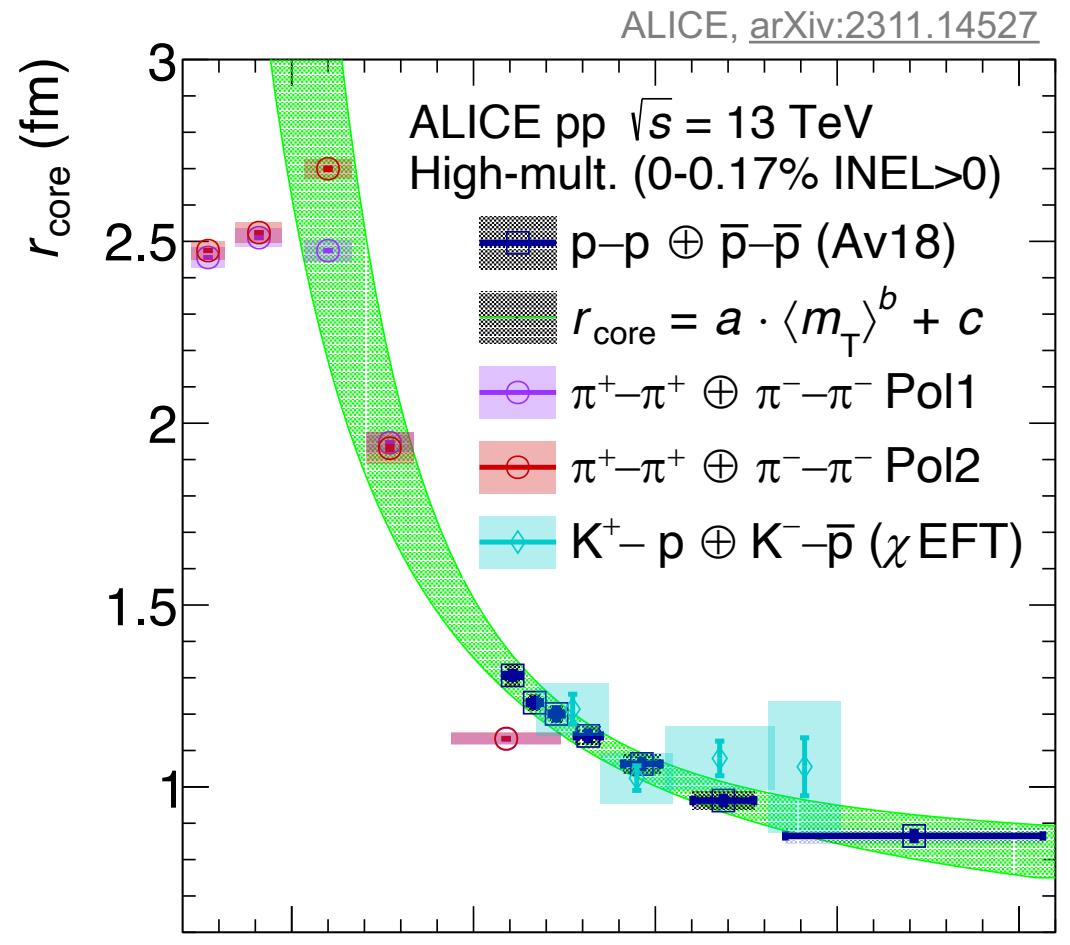
# A Common Baryon Source!

- Source distribution of particles from Gaussian core ( $r_{\text{core}}$ ) and decay of short-lived particles
- Different effective source size for  $pp$  and  $p\Lambda$  pairs **BUT**
- Common core source of primordial baryons!



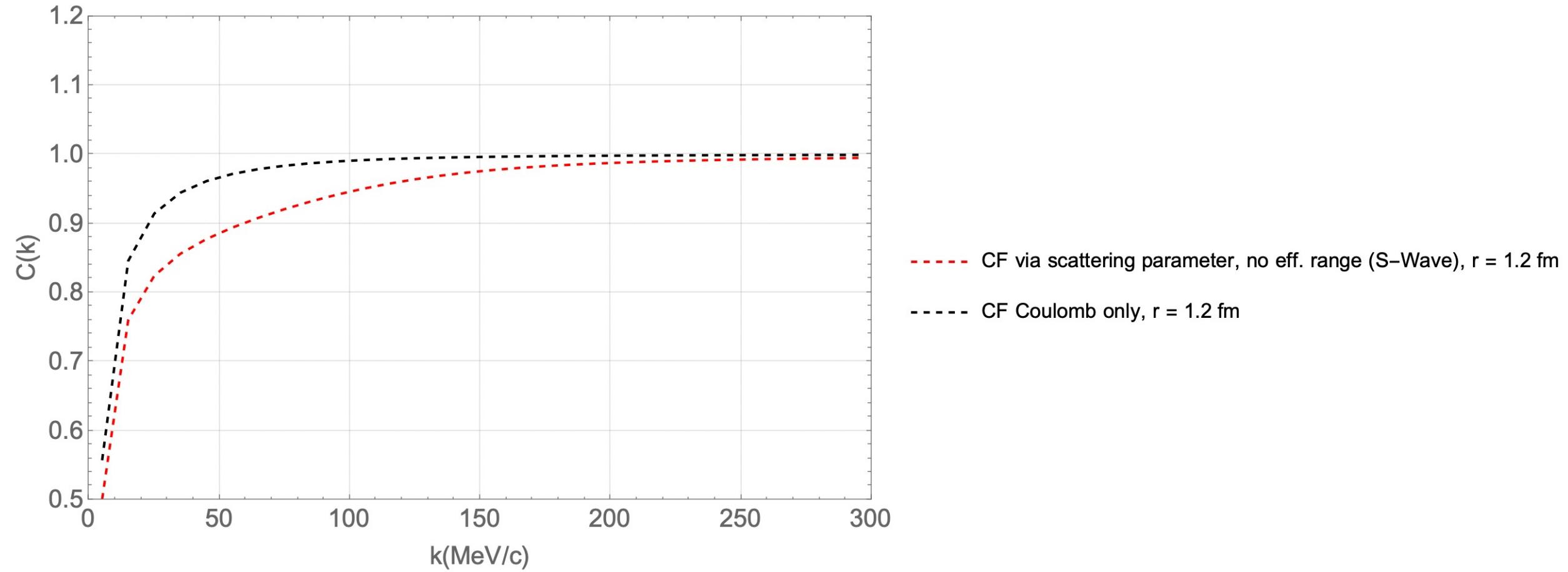
# A Common Baryon Hadron Source!

- Particle emission source studied with
    - $pp$  ALICE, PLB, 811 135849, 2020
    - $pK^+$  ALICE, [arXiv:2311.14527](#)
    - $\pi^\pm\pi^\pm$  ALICE, [arXiv:2311.14527](#)
  - Common source for all hadrons!
  - Scaling allows to extract the source size of particle pairs with unknown interaction
- Possibility to study interaction for exotic pairs (strange and charm sector)



$$m_T = \sqrt{\bar{m}^2 + k_T^2} \text{ and } \langle m_T \rangle (\text{GeV}/c^2)$$

$$\vec{k}_T = \frac{1}{2} [\vec{p}_{T,1} + \vec{p}_{T,2}]$$



# Fitting of data $p\pi^+$

$$C_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{N} \times C_{\text{bckg}} \times [\lambda_{\text{Gen}} C_0 + (1 - \lambda_{\text{Gen}})] + N_\Delta PS(p_T, T) \times Sill(M_\Delta, \Gamma_\Delta)$$

- Background  $C_{\text{bckg}}$  via MC templates, controlled by  $w_c$
- Interaction  $C_0(r_{\text{core}})$  Coulomb + strong interaction  
(fixed from scattering lengths)

M. Hoferichter et al, Phys.Rept. 625 (2016) 1-88

M. Hennebach et al, Eur.Phys.J.A 50 (2014) 12, 190

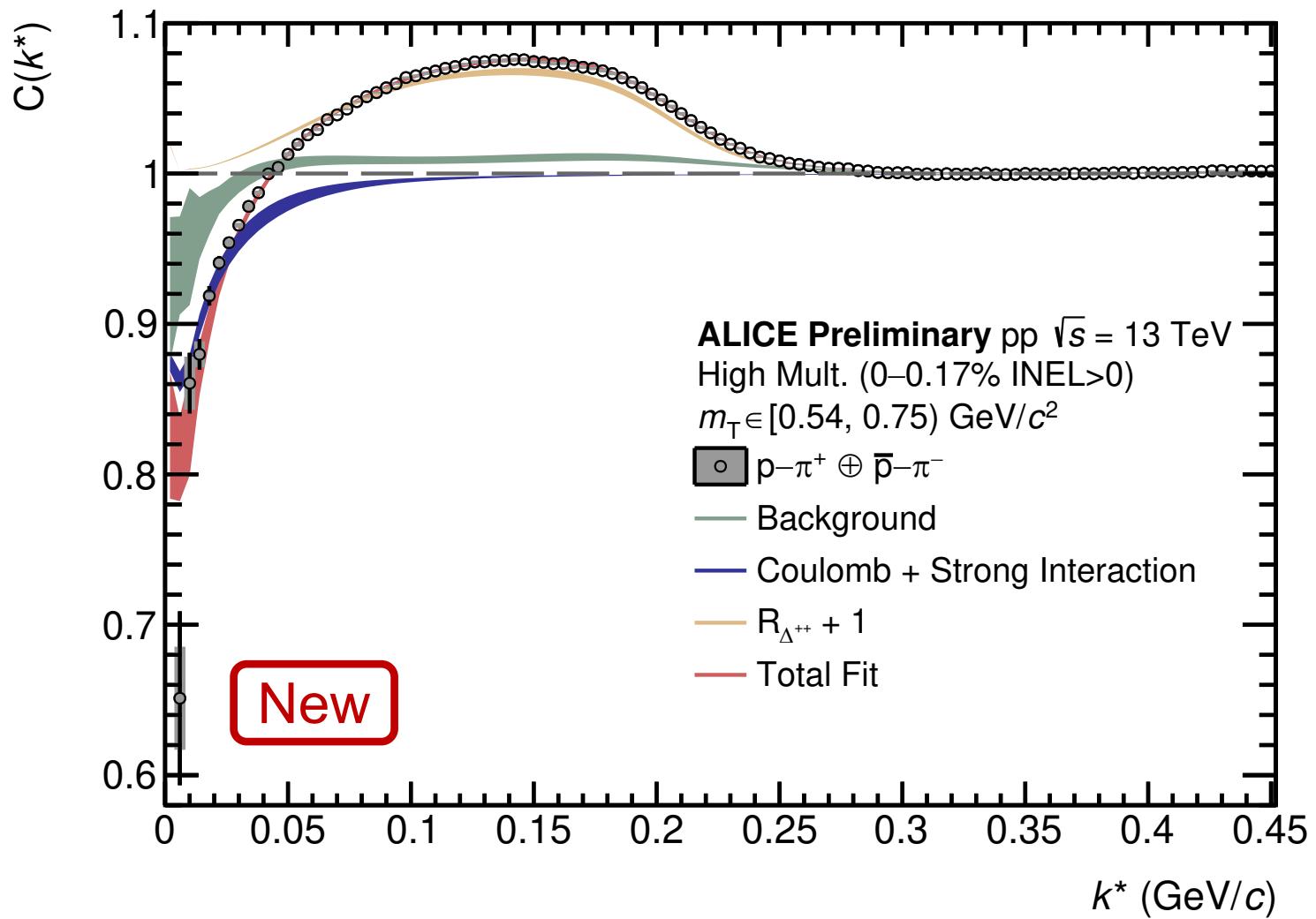
- Sill distribution  $Sill(M_\Delta, \Gamma_\Delta)$ ,  $M_\Delta$  fixed to 1215 MeV  
F. Giacosa et al, Eur.Phys.J.A 57 (2021) 12
- $PS(p_T, T)$  phase-space factor

$$PS(p_T, T) \propto \frac{m}{\sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2}} \times \exp\left(-\frac{\sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2}}{T}\right)$$

- Fit between 0 and 450 MeV in  $k^*$

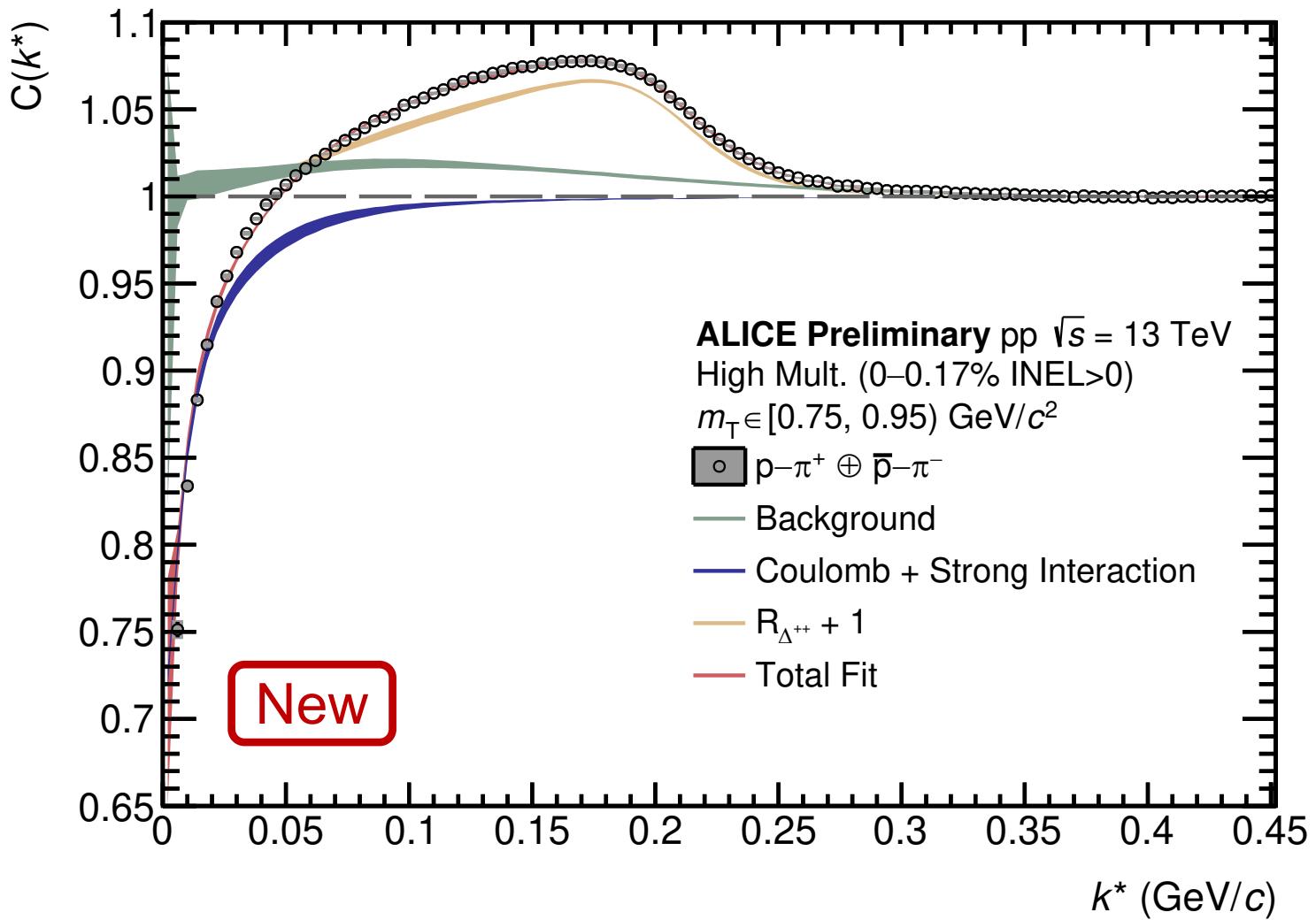
Free Parameters of the fit:

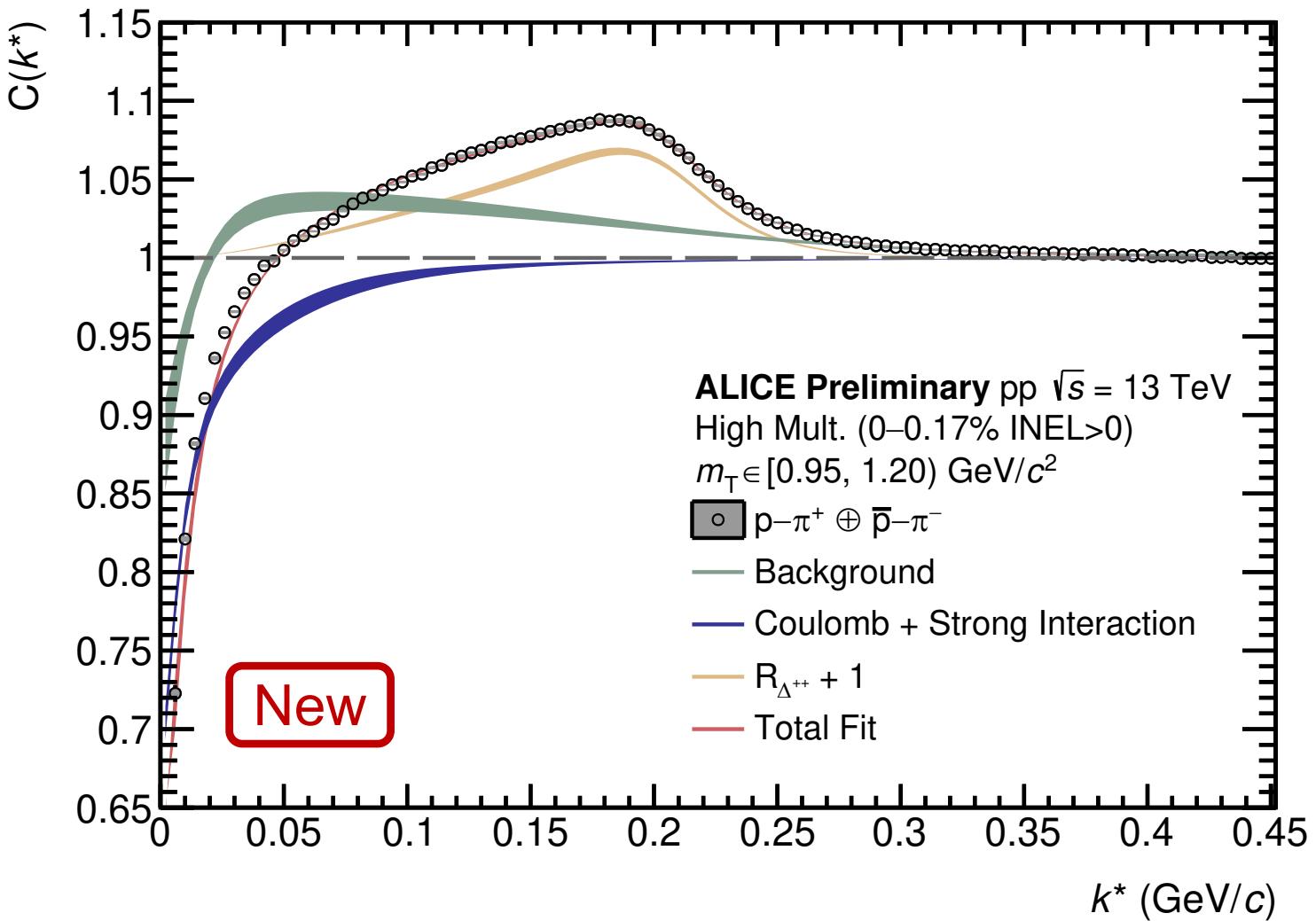
- Overall normalisation  $N$
- $w_c$
- $r_{\text{core}}$
- Scaling of  $\Delta^{++}$   $N_\Delta$
- $T$  (kinetic decoupling temp.)
- Width of  $\Delta^{++}$



ALI-PREL-577239

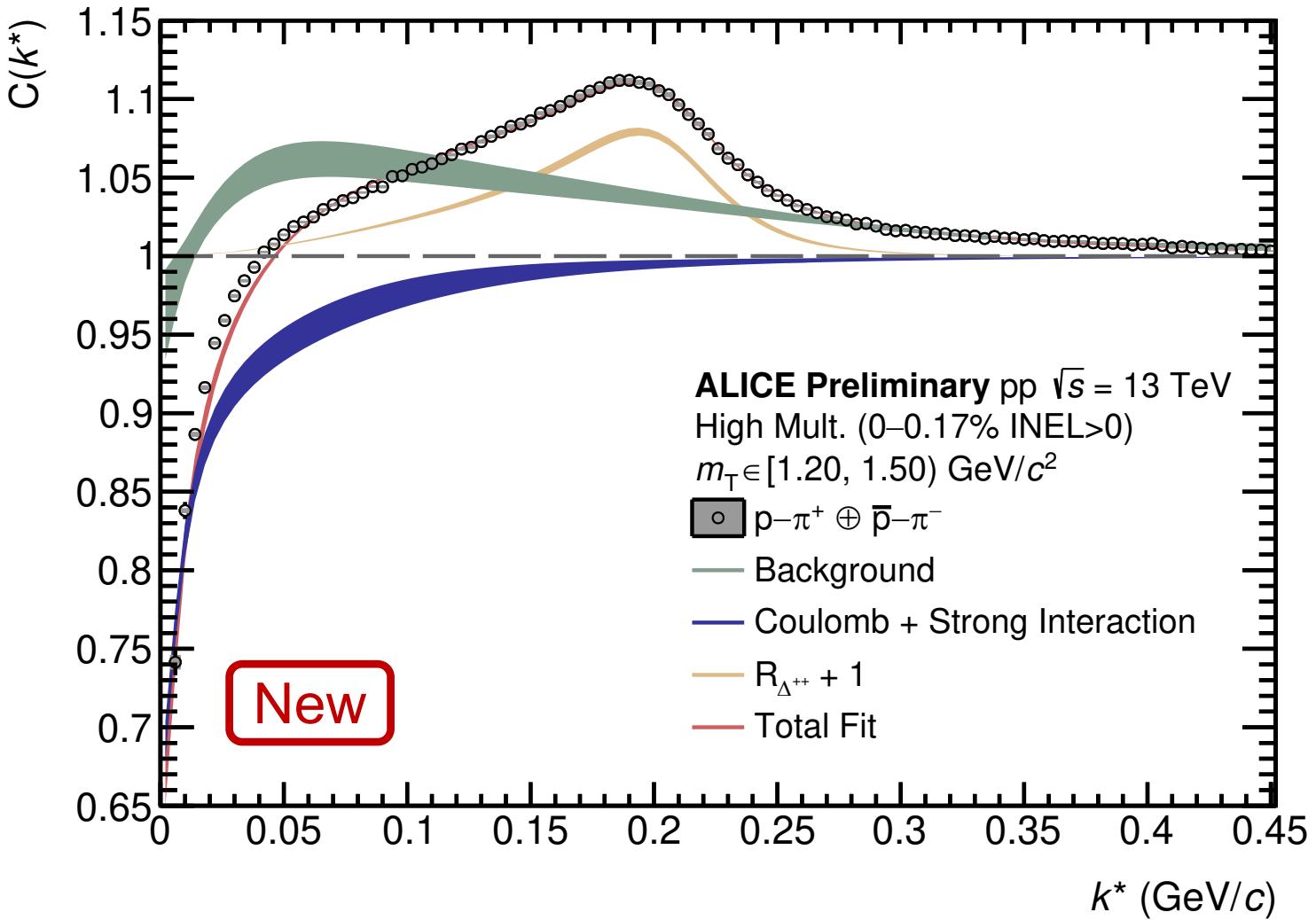
marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024





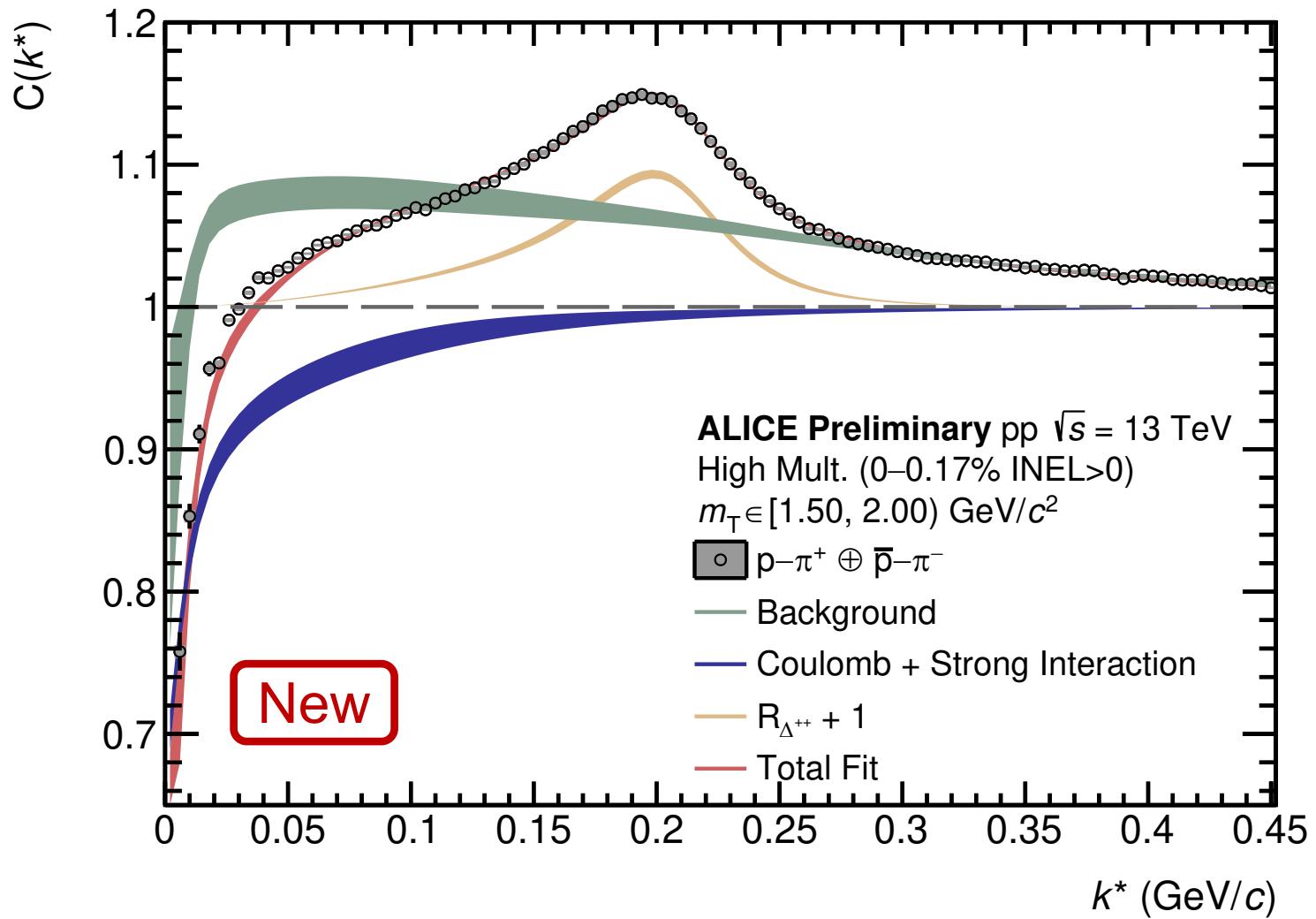
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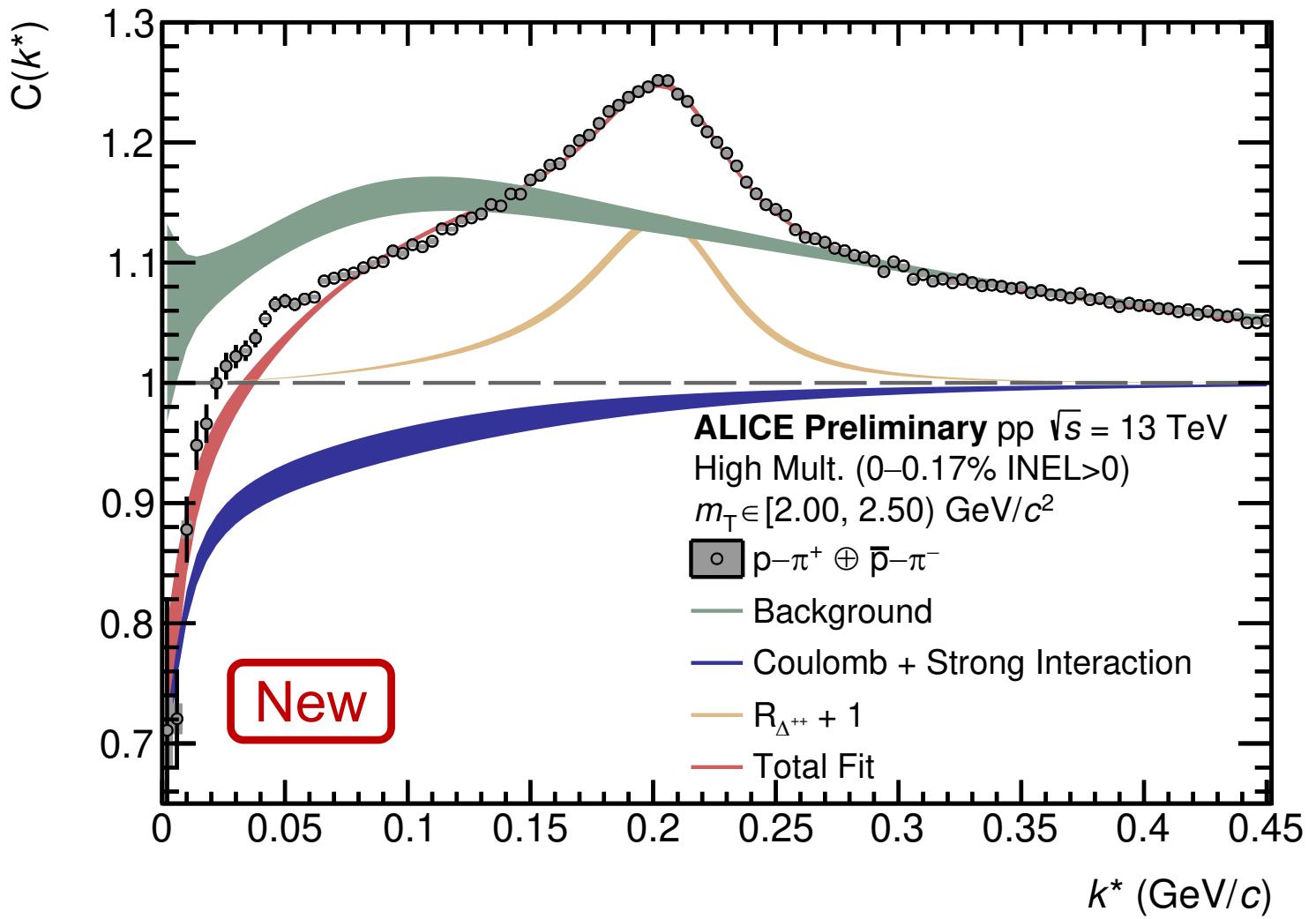
marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024



ALI-PREL-577254

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024

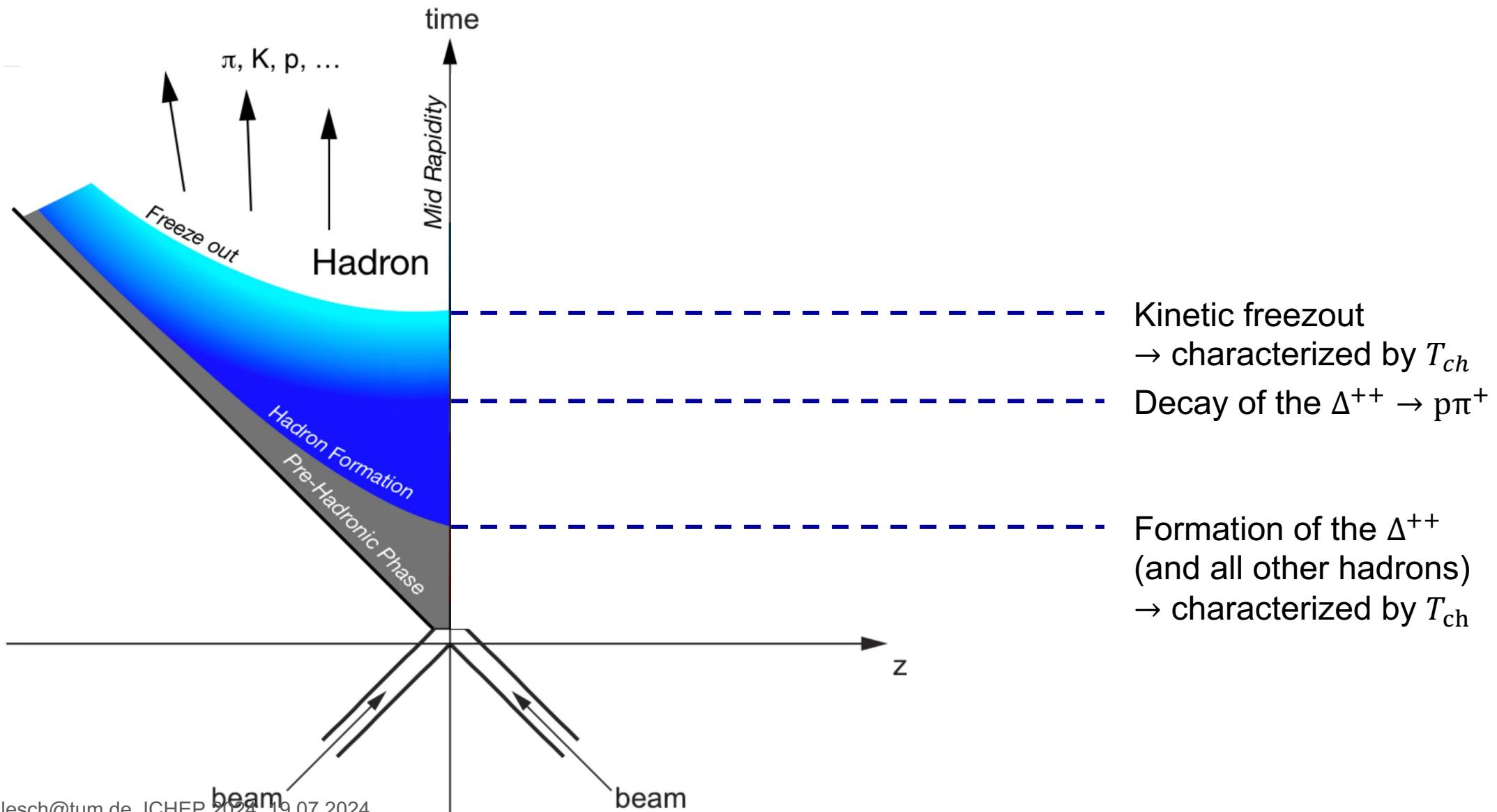




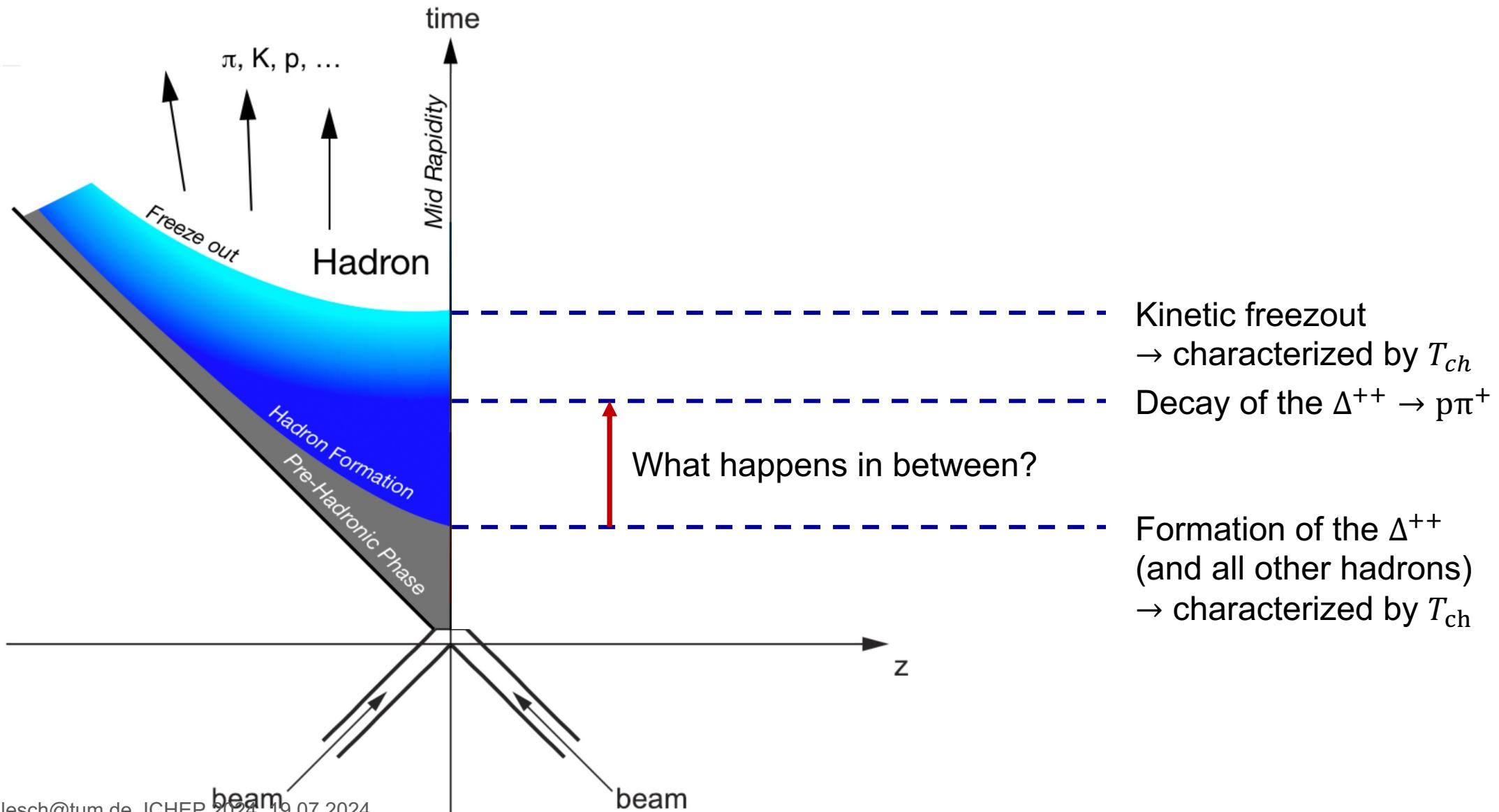
ALI-PREL-577264

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024

# About the life of the $\Delta^{++}$

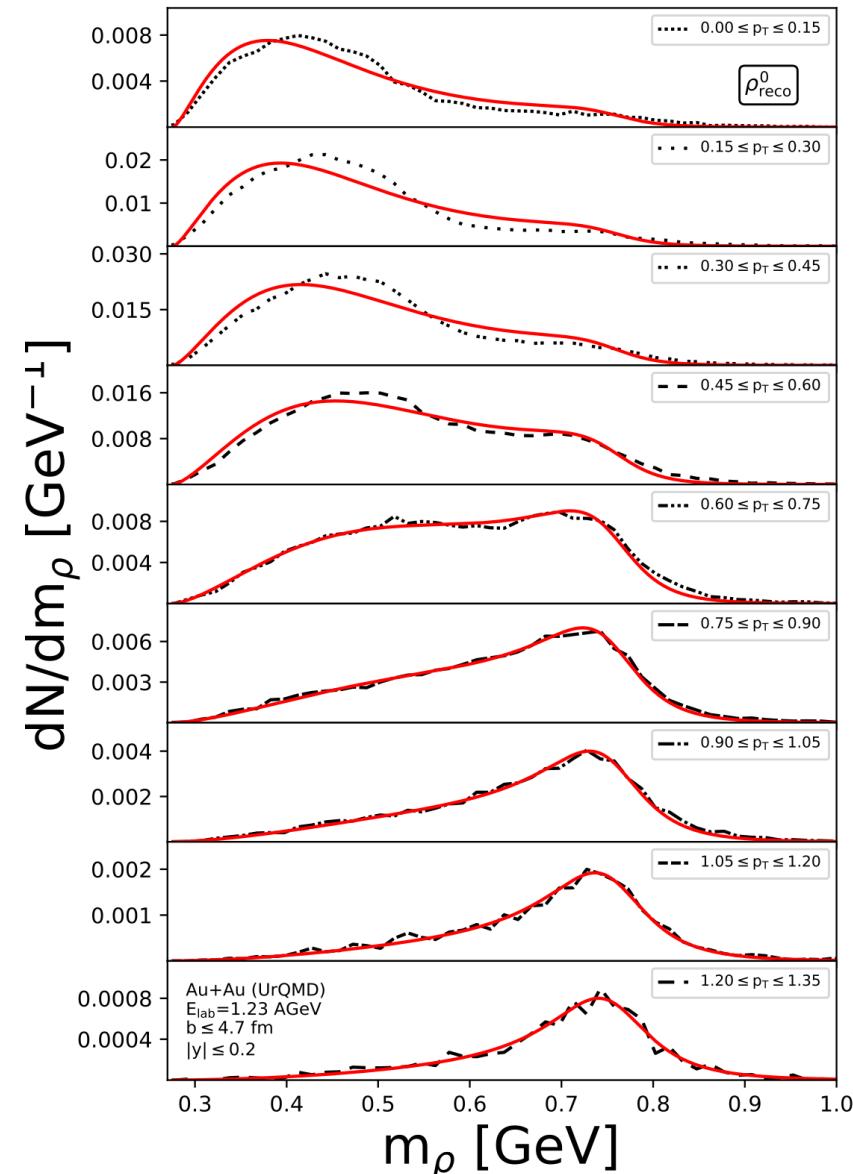


# About the life of the $\Delta^{++}$



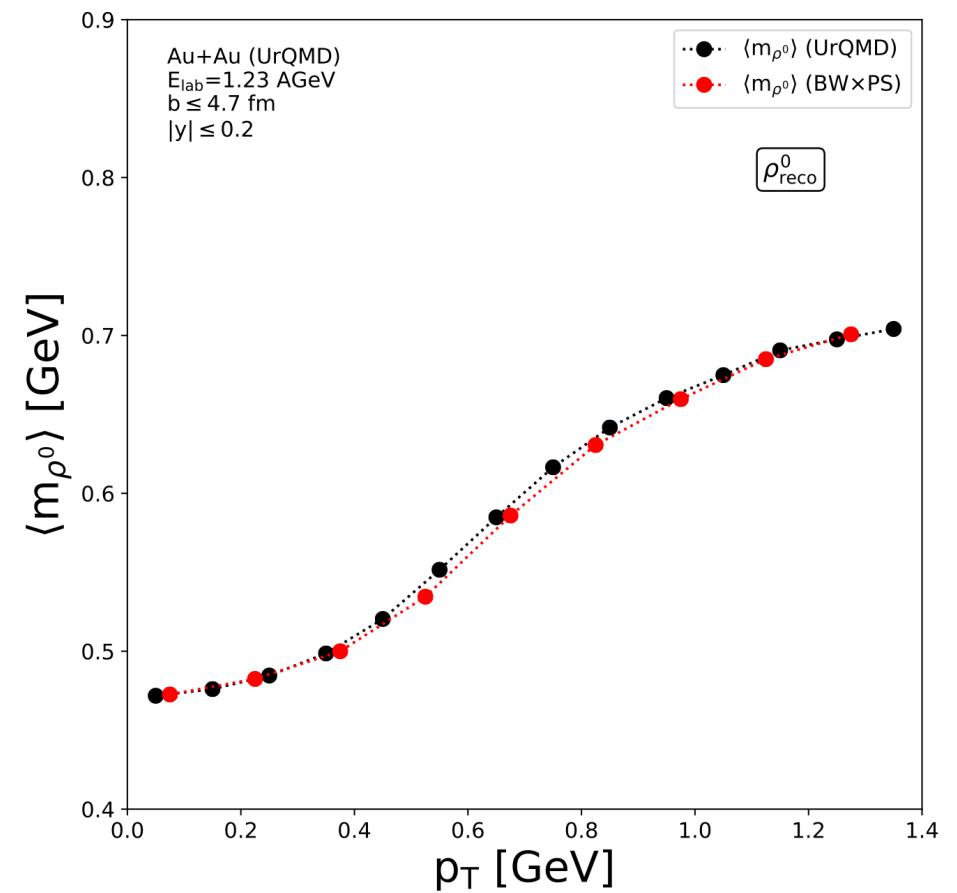
# Rescattering of the $\Delta^{++}$

- Paper: Tom Reichert, Marcus Bleicher, [Nucl.Phys.A 1028 \(2022\) 122544](#)
- Study of kinetic mass shifts of  $\rho(770)$  and  $K^*(892)$  in Au+Au reactions at  $E_{\text{beam}} = 1.23 \text{ AGeV}$  with UrQMD
- Fitting of Data with PS x BW
- However: Temperature not fixed to chemical freezout but free parameter

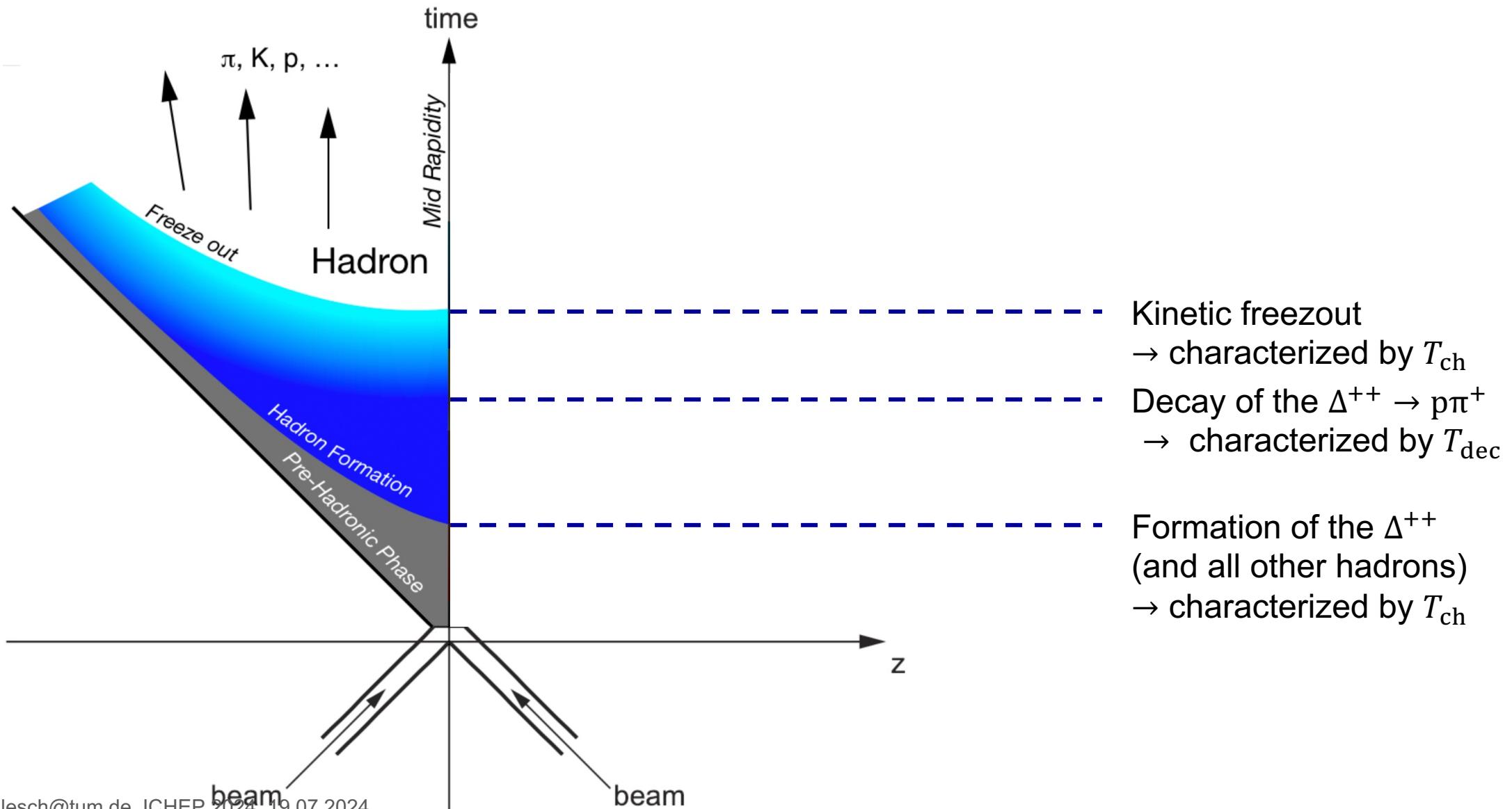


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- Fitting of Data with PS x BW
- However: Temperature not fixed to chemical freezout but free parameter (“Kinetic Decoupling Temperature”)  
→ good agreement between UrQMD and fit

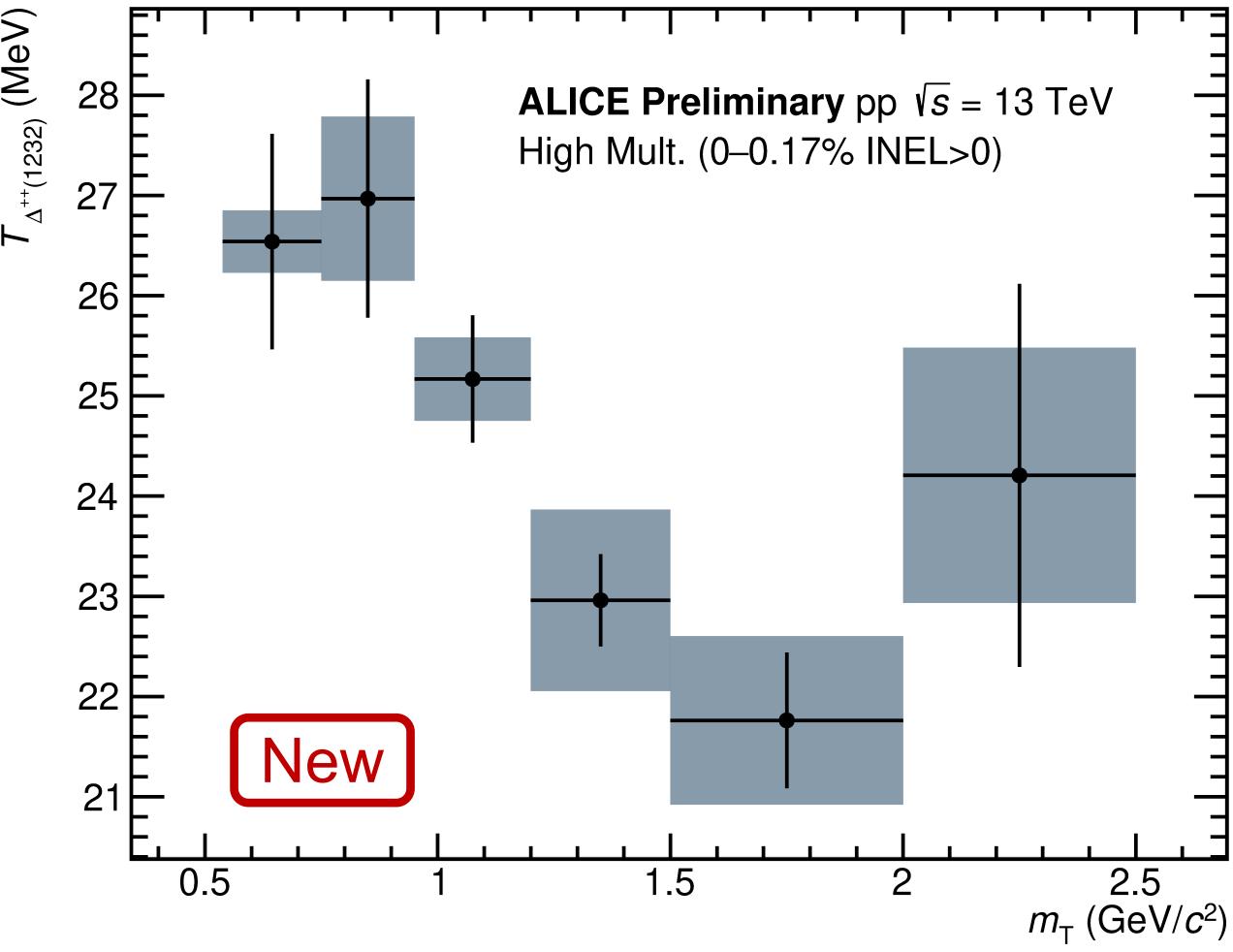


# About the life of the $\Delta^{++}$



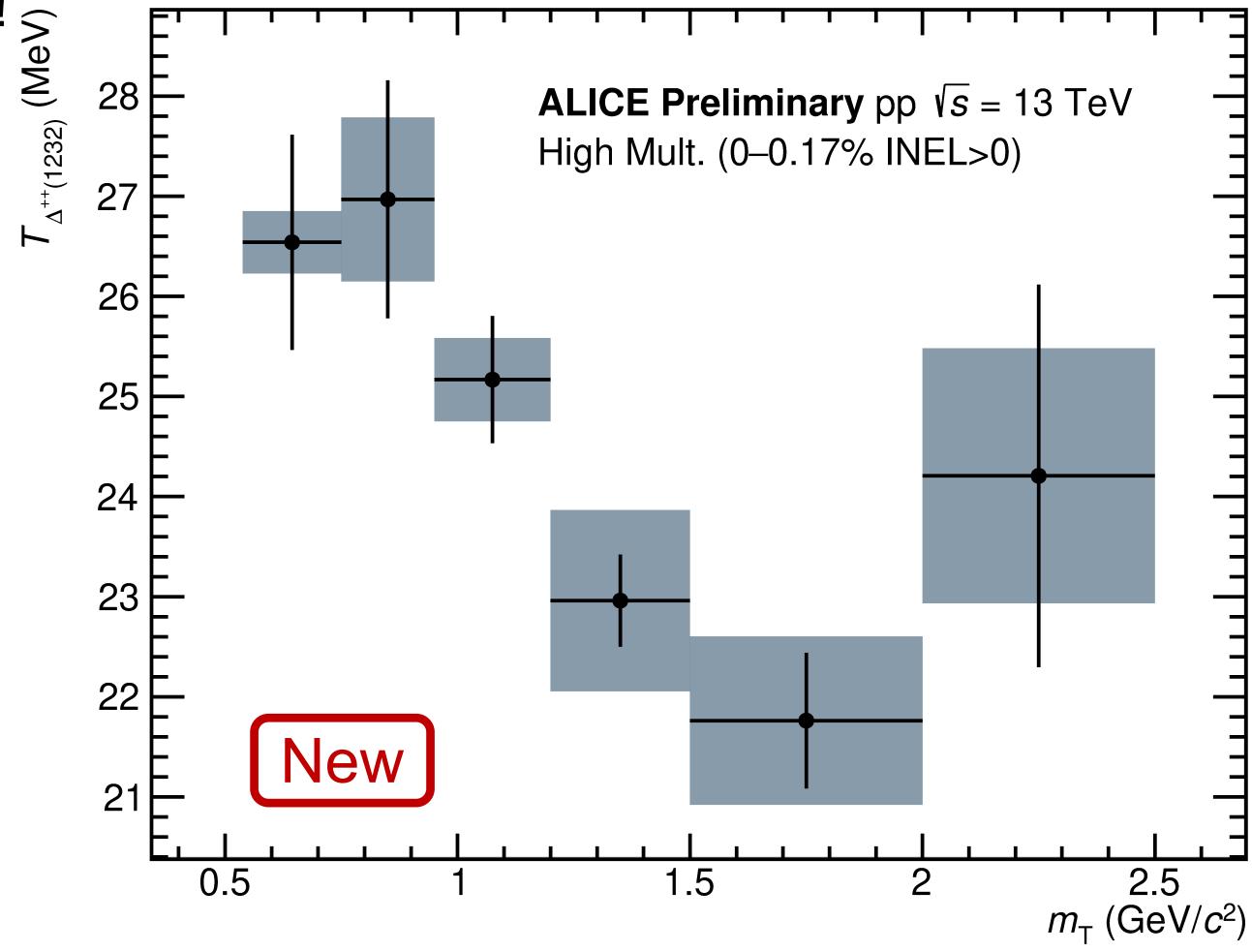
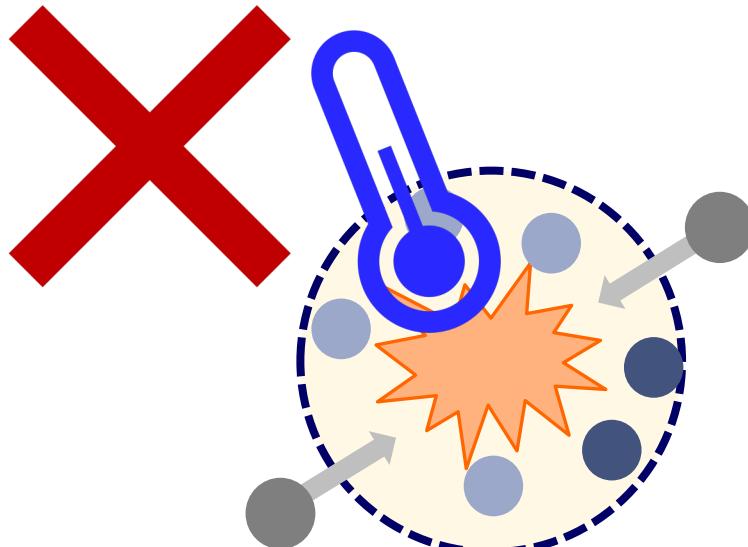
# Kinetic decoupling temperature $\Delta^{++}$

- Low “decoupling temperature” of about 25 MeV



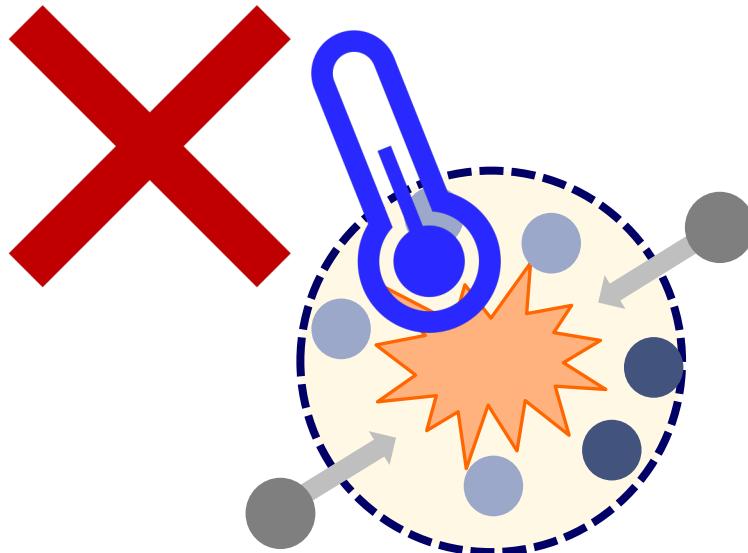
# Kinetic decoupling temperature $\Delta^{++}$

- Low “decoupling temperature” of about 25 MeV
- This does not mean that pp collisions are cold!



# Kinetic decoupling temperature $\Delta^{++}$

- Low “decoupling temperature” of about 25 MeV
  - This does not mean that pp collisions are cold!
  - We see a modification of the phase space of resonance
- hadronic moshpit for the  $\Delta^{++}$



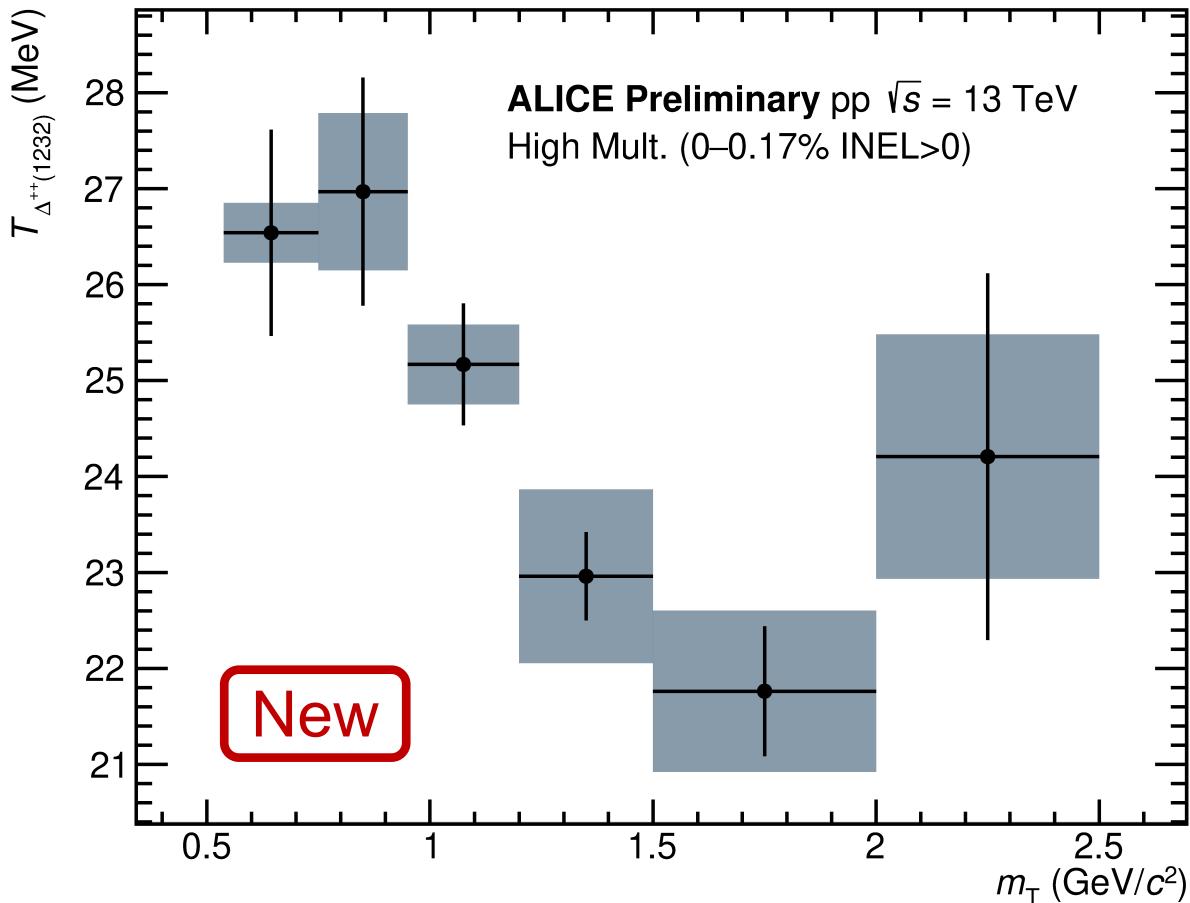
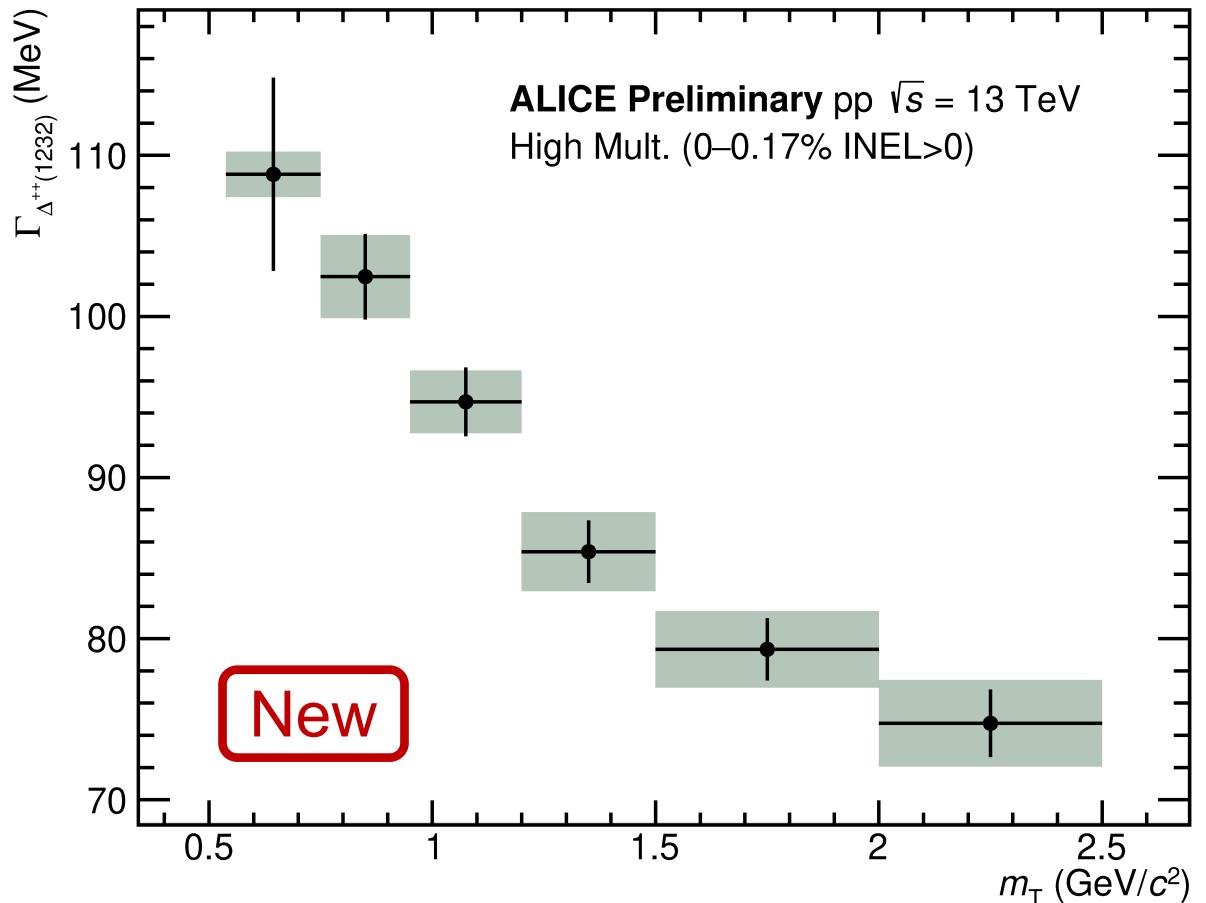
Thanks to Berkin and his AI friends!



Hadronic Moshpit

# Width & kinetic decoupling temperature $\Delta^{++}$

- Width constant  $\sim 90$  MeV
- Low “decoupling temperature”  $\rightarrow$  modification of the phase space of resonance



# Fitting of data $p\pi^-$

$$C_{\text{total}} = N \times C_{\text{bckg}} \times [\lambda_{\text{Gen}} C_0 + (1 - \lambda_{\text{Gen}})] + N_\Delta PS(p_T, T) \times Sill(M_\Delta, \Gamma_\Delta) + N_\Lambda Gaus(M_\Lambda, \Gamma_\Lambda)$$

- Background  $C_{\text{bckg}} = [1 + N_B(w_c C_c + (1 - w_c) C_{\text{NC}} - 1) + Sill(M_2, \Gamma_2) + Sill(M_3, \Gamma_3)]$
- Interaction  $C_0$  Coulomb + strong interaction  
(fixed from scattering lengths)

M. Hoferichter et al, Phys.Rept. 625 (2016) 1-88.

M. Hennebach et al, Eur.Phys.J.A 50 (2014) 12, 190

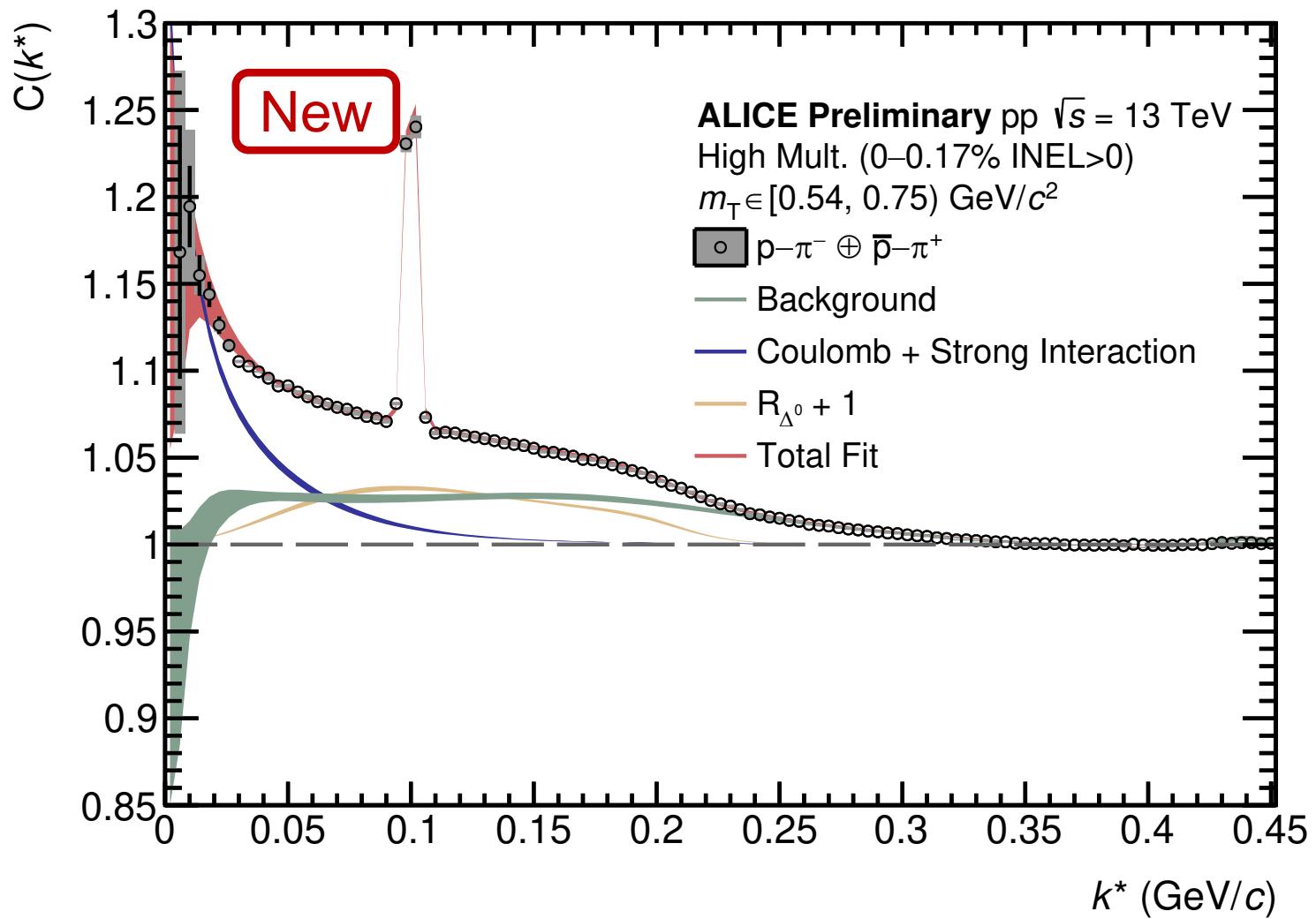
- $Sill(M_\Delta, \Gamma_\Delta)$  Sill distribution,  $M_\Delta$  fixed to 1215 MeV  
F. Giacosa et al, Eur.Phys.J.A 57 (2021) 12
- $PS(p_T, T)$  phase-space factor

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- Fit between 0 and 450 MeV in  $k^*$

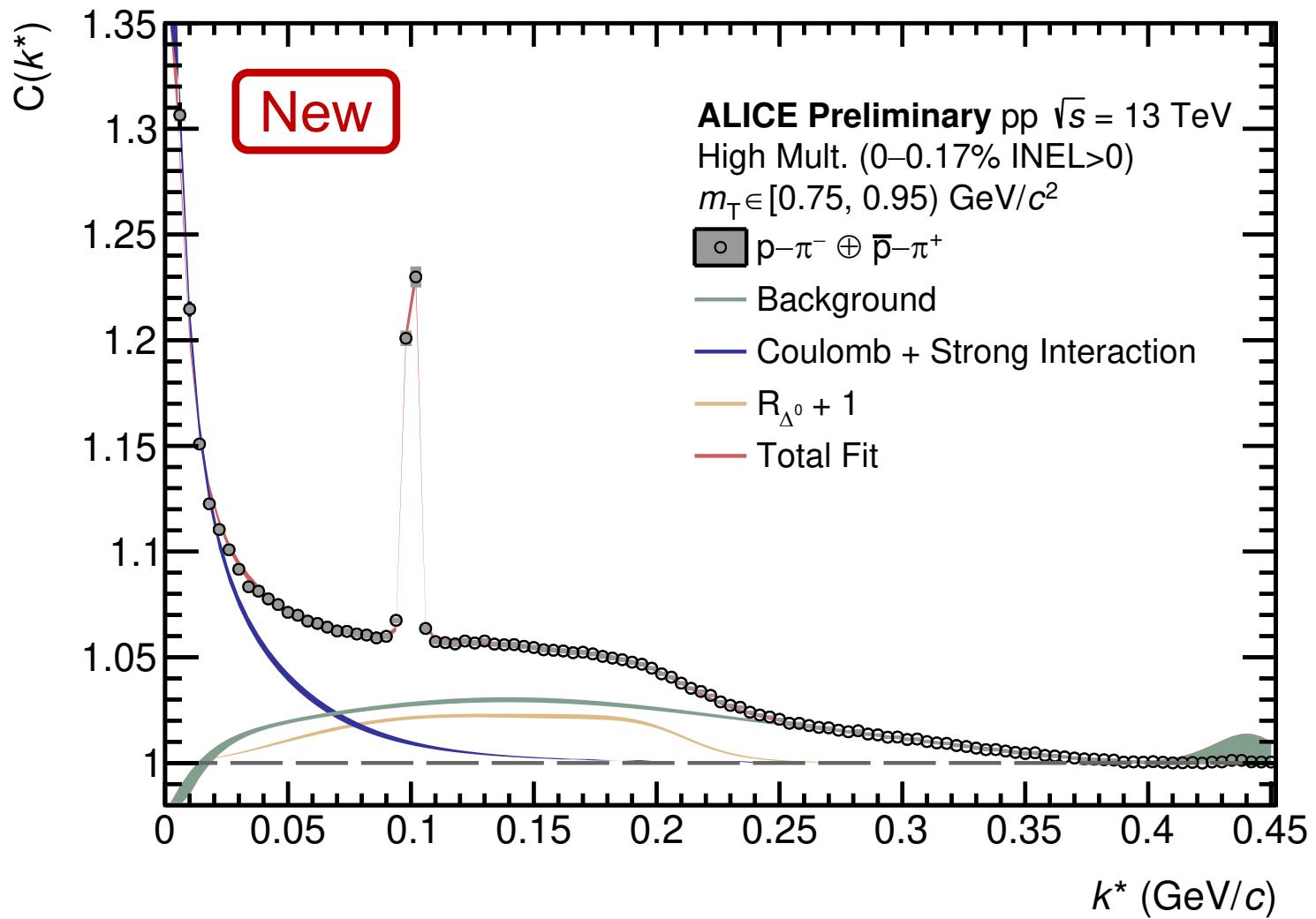
Free Parameters of the fit:

- Overall normalisation
- $w_c$  &  $N_B$
- $r_{\text{core}}$
- Scaling of  $\Delta^0$   $N_\Delta$
- $T$  (kinetic decoupling temp.)
- Width of  $\Delta^0$
- Scaling of  $\Lambda$   $N_\Lambda$
- Mass of  $\Lambda$
- Width of  $\Lambda$



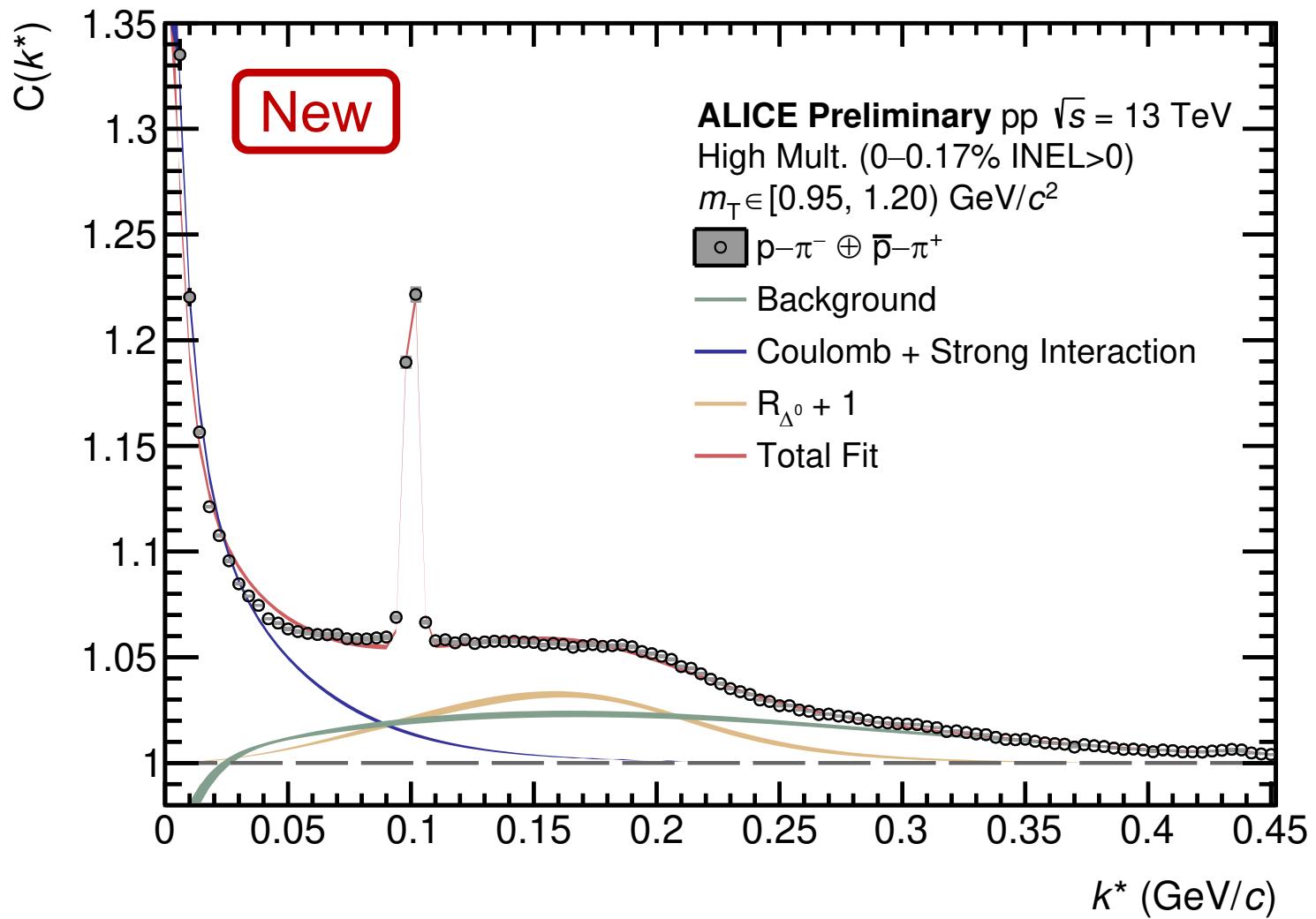
ALI-PREL-577269

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024



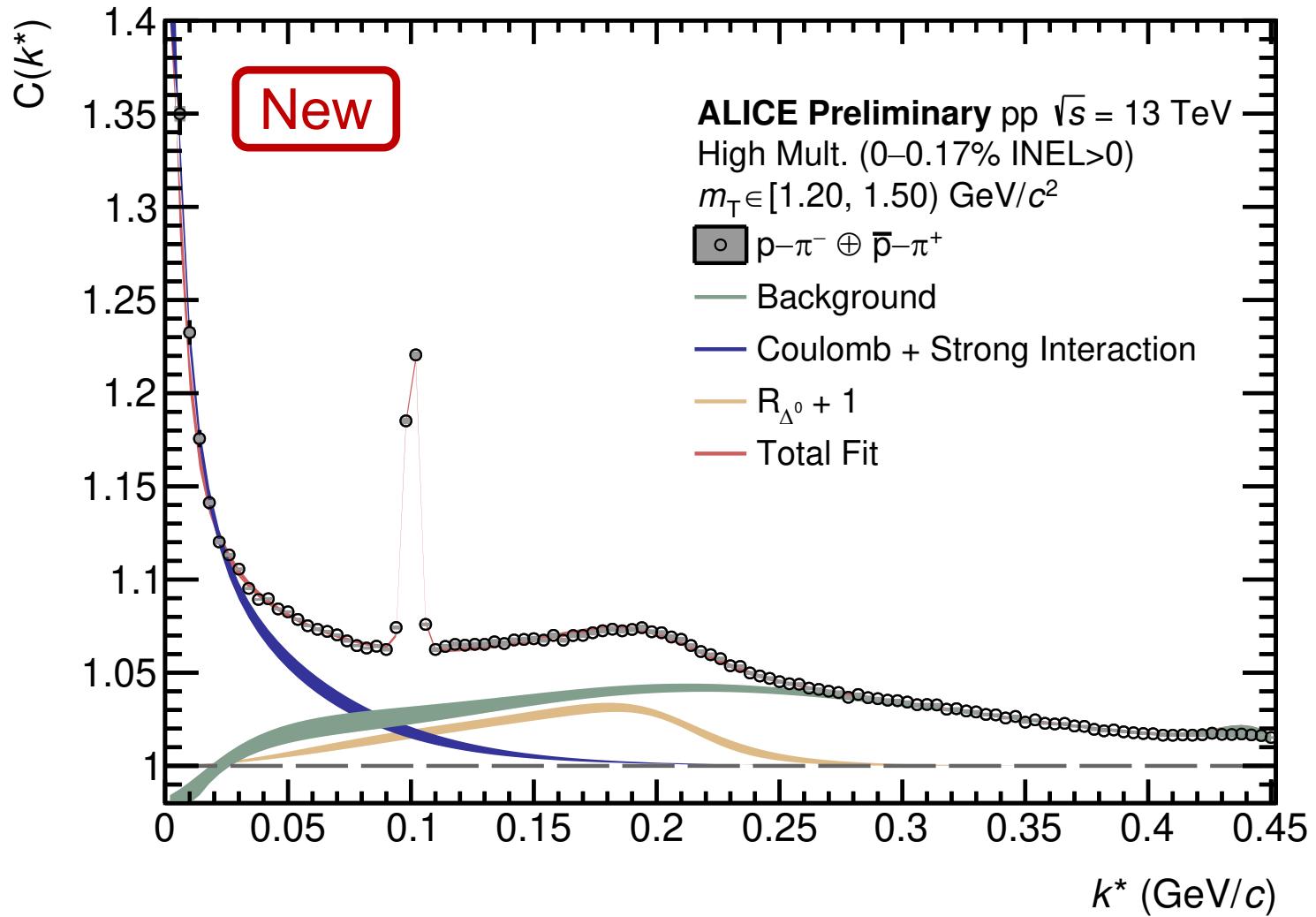
ALI-PREL-577274

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024



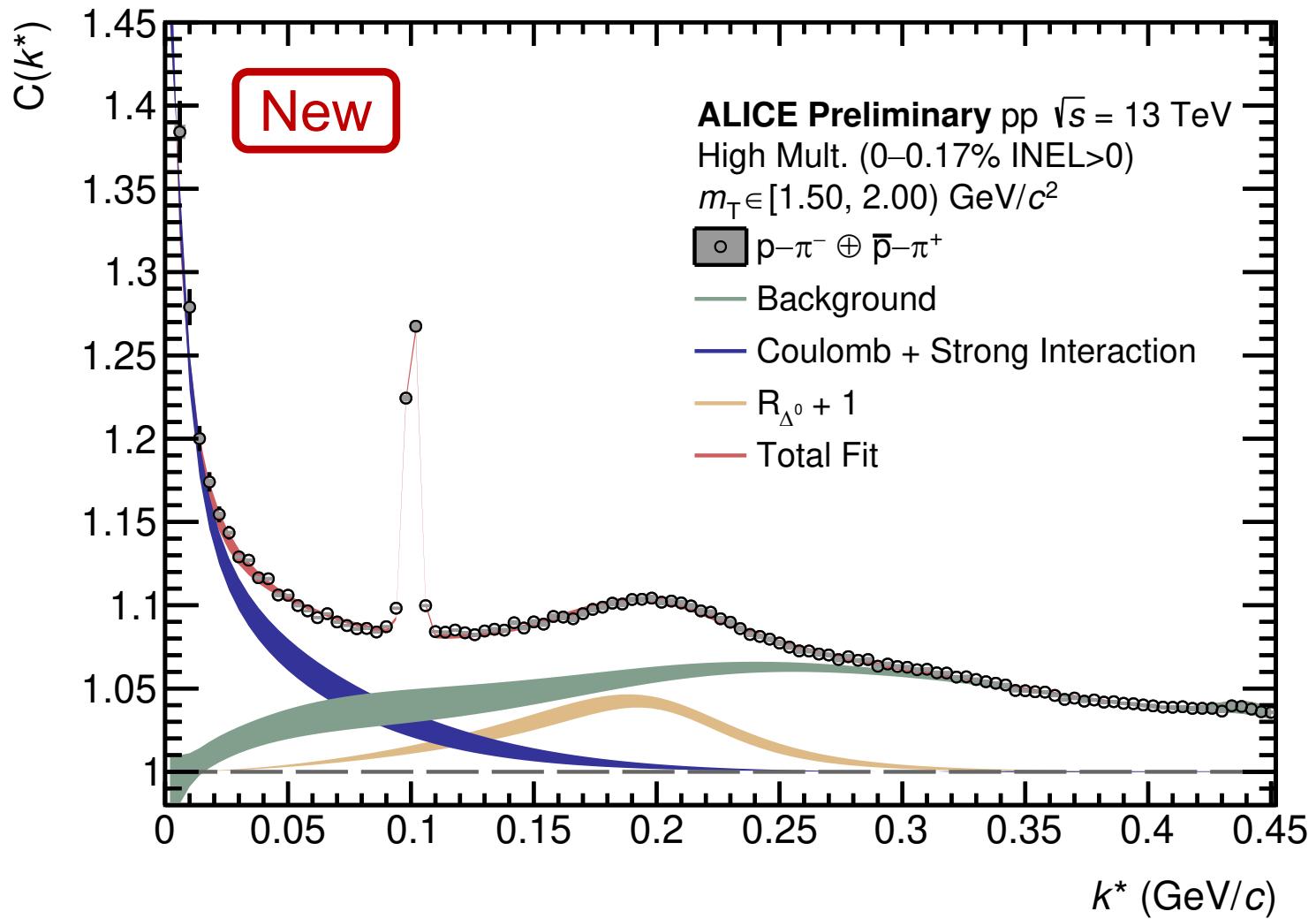
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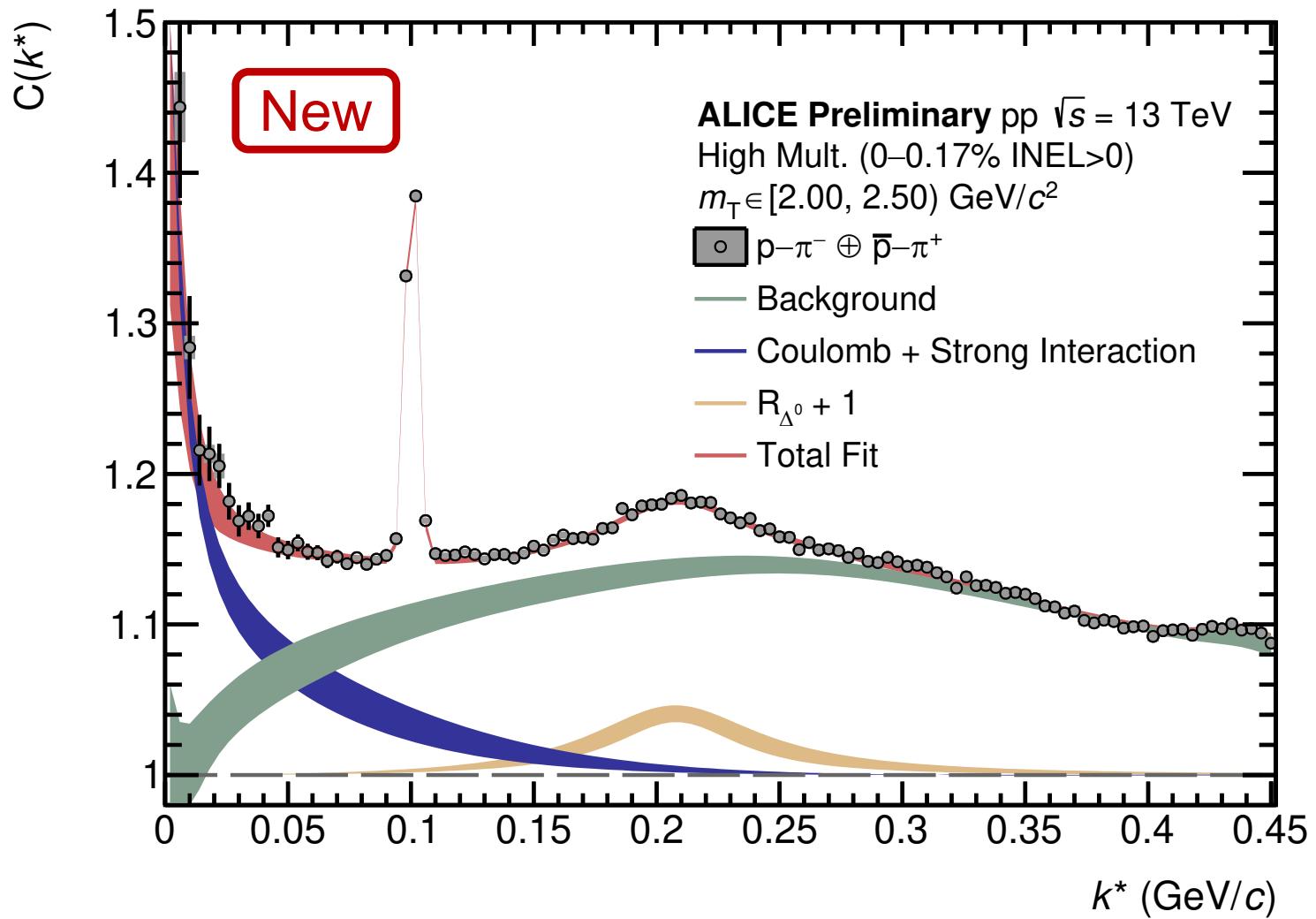
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ALI-PREL-577289

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024

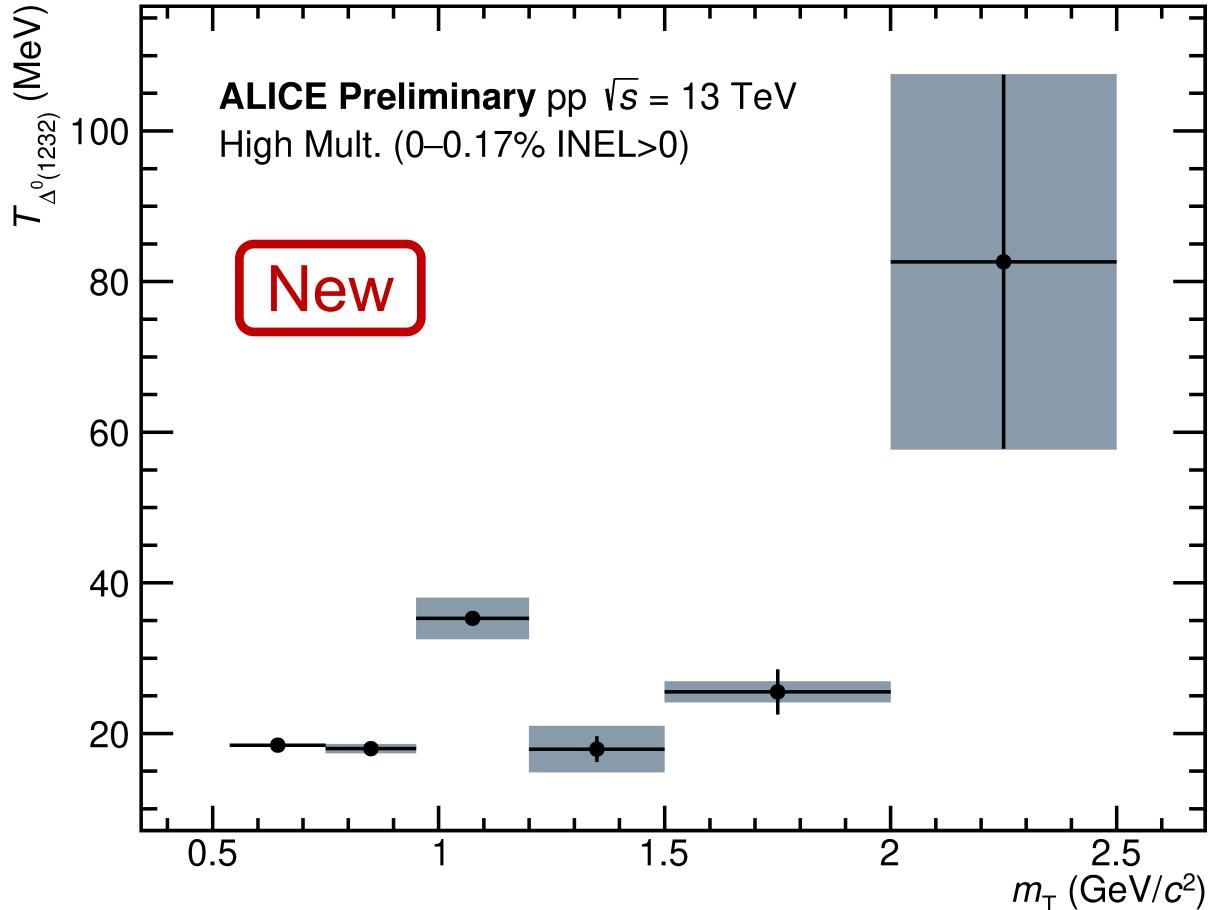
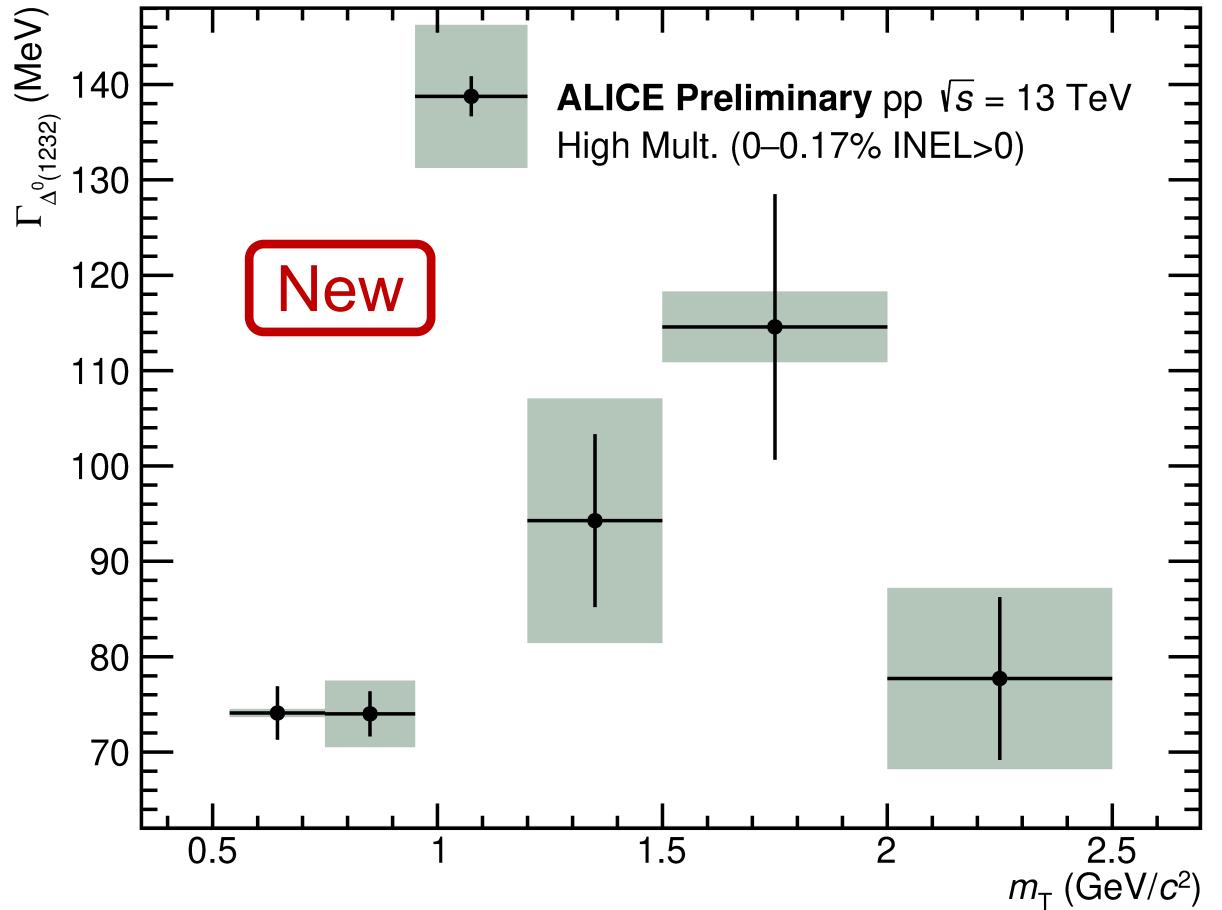


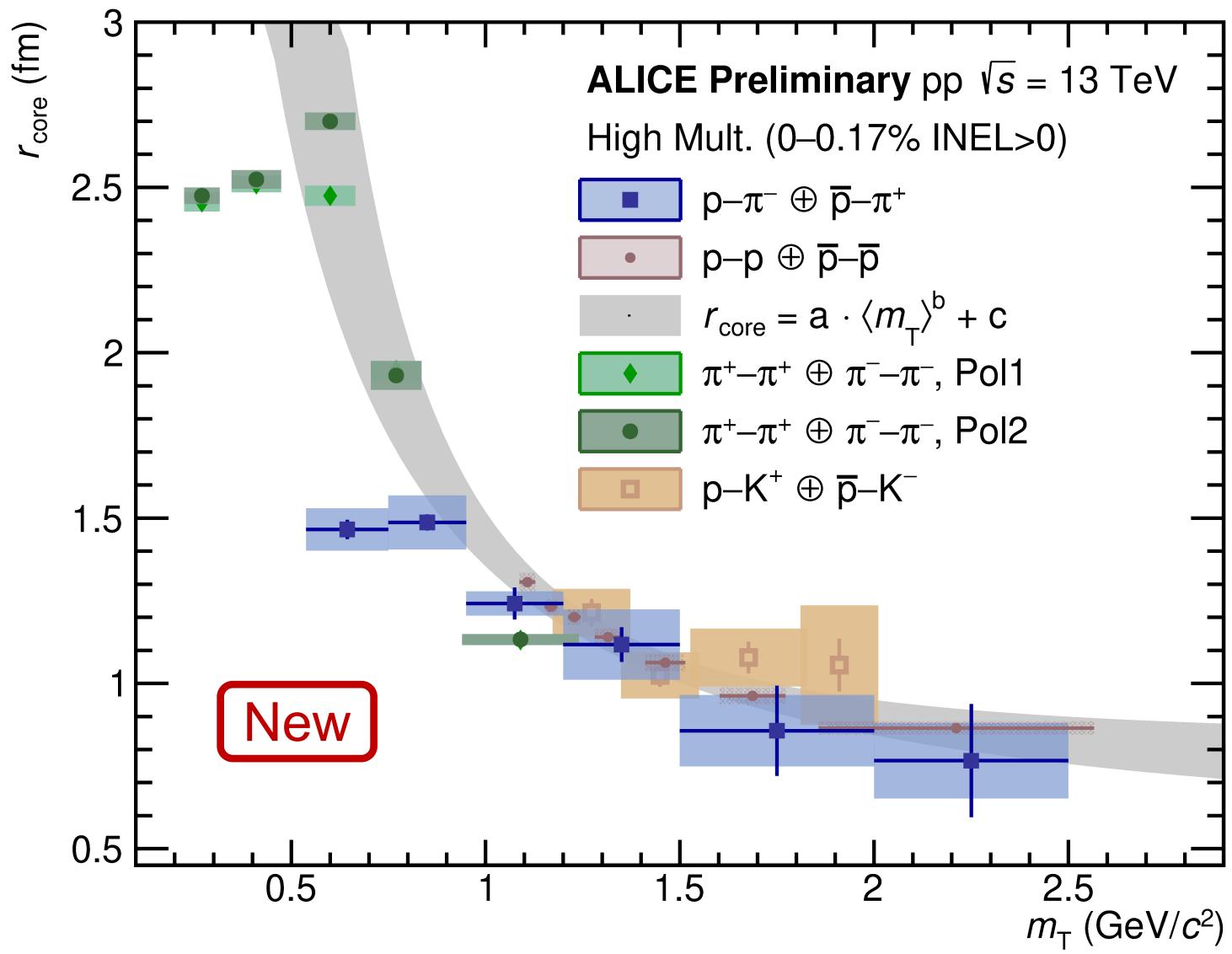
ALI-PREL-577294

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024

# Width & kinetic decoupling temperature $\Delta^0$

- Width constant  $\sim 90$  MeV
- Low “decoupling temperature”  $\rightarrow$  modification of the phase space of resonance





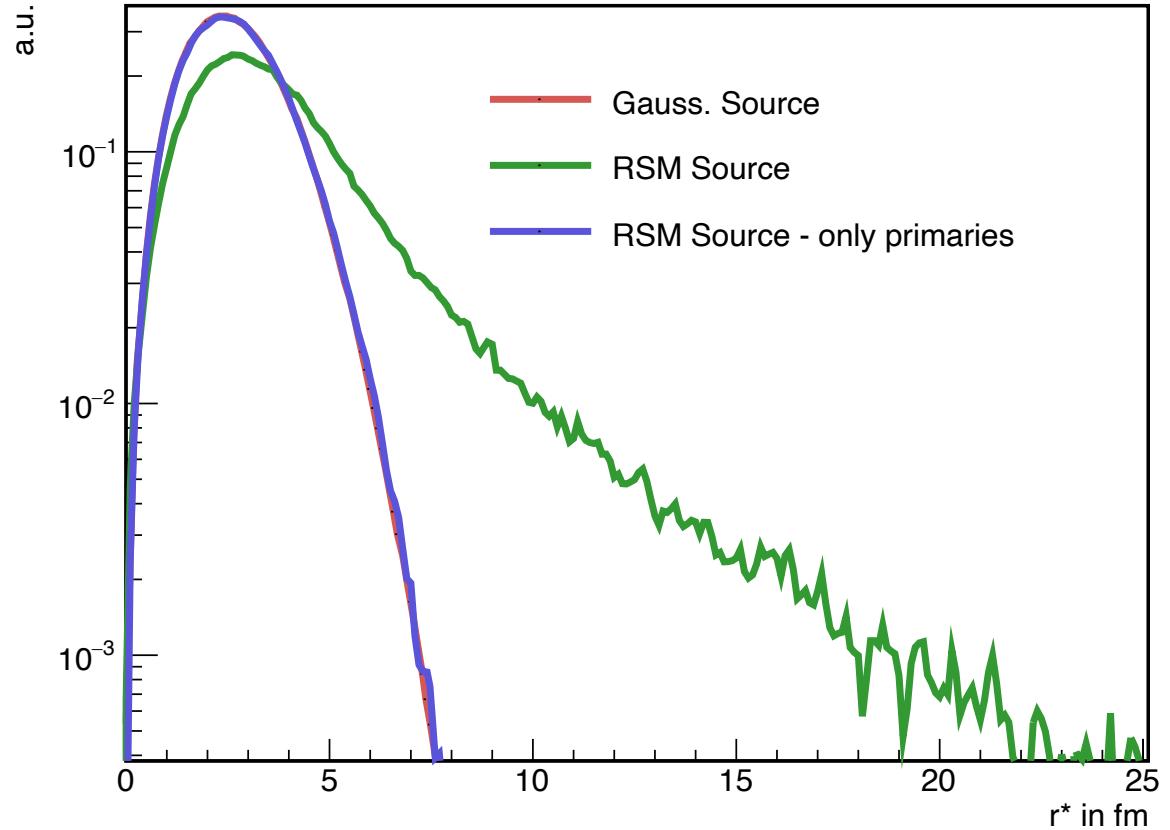
ALI-PREL-576368

marcel.lesch@tum.de, ICHEP 2024, 19.07.2024

# Source

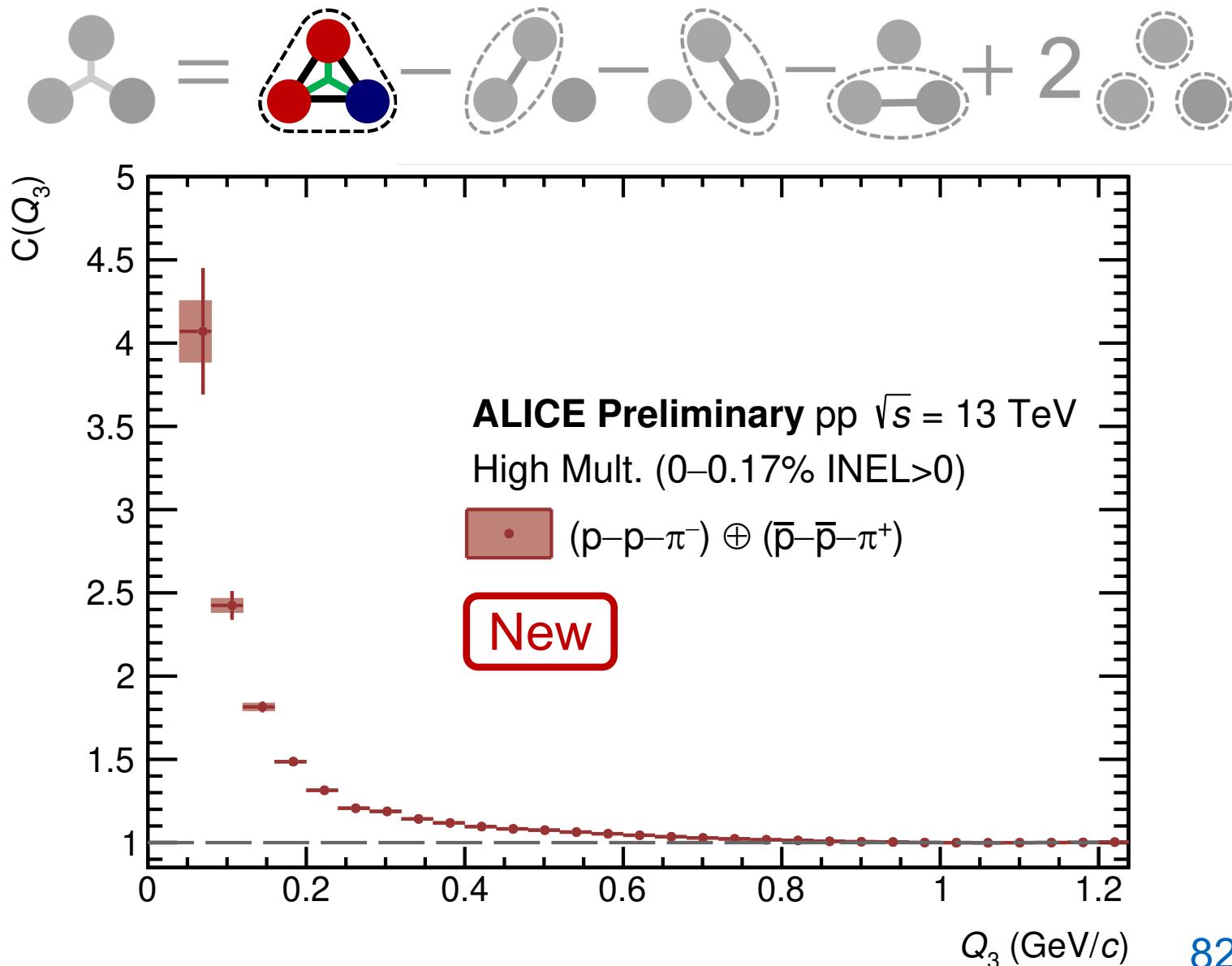
- Source from resonance source model

Property	Value
Proton Effective Resonance mass $\langle m \rangle_{eff,p}$	1.360 GeV
Proton Effective Resonance life-time $\langle \tau \rangle_{eff,p}$	1.65 fm
Proton Primordial Fraction	0.357
Pion Effective Resonance mass $\langle m \rangle_{eff,\pi}$	1.124 GeV
Pion Effective Resonance life-time $\langle \tau \rangle_{eff,\pi}$	1.5 fm
Pion Primordial Fraction	0.39



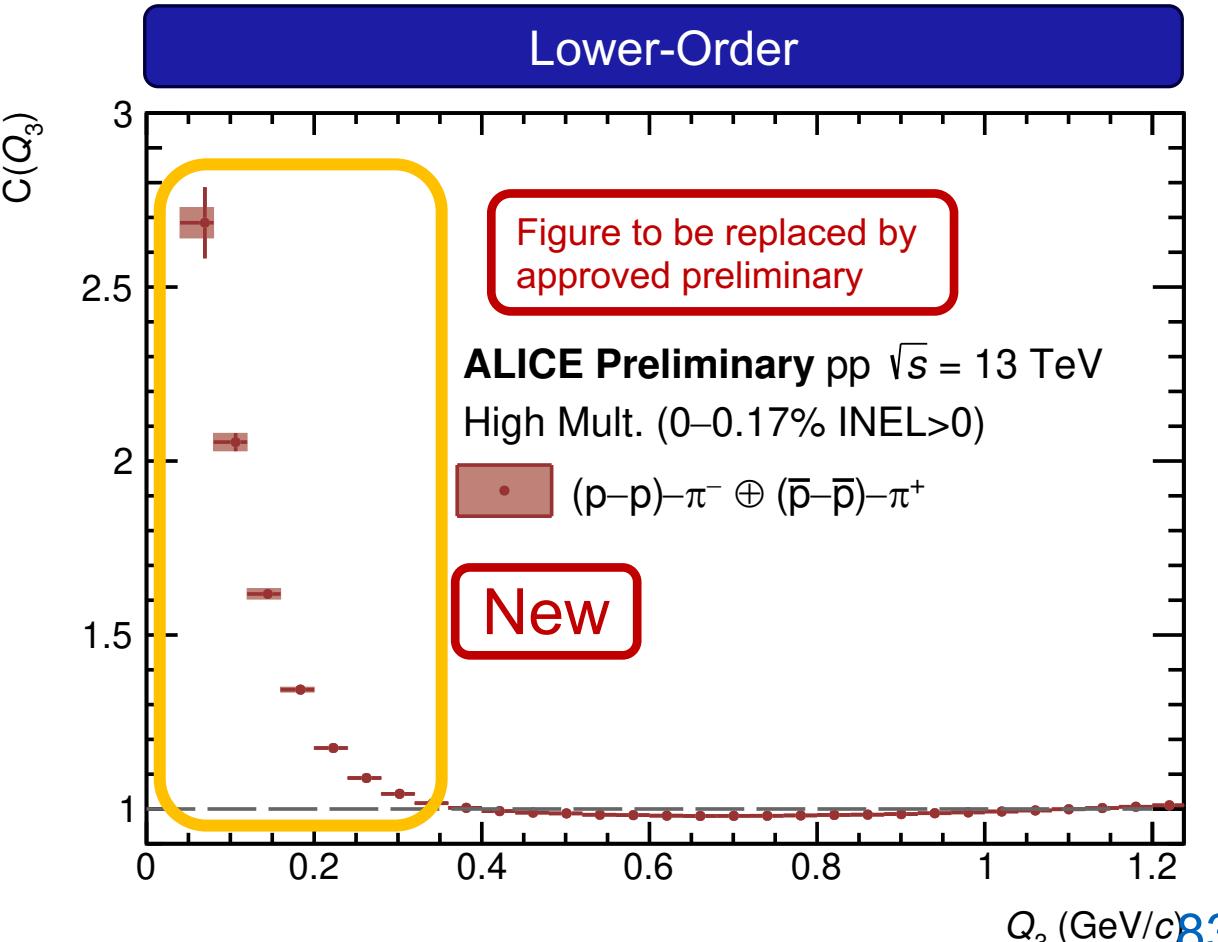
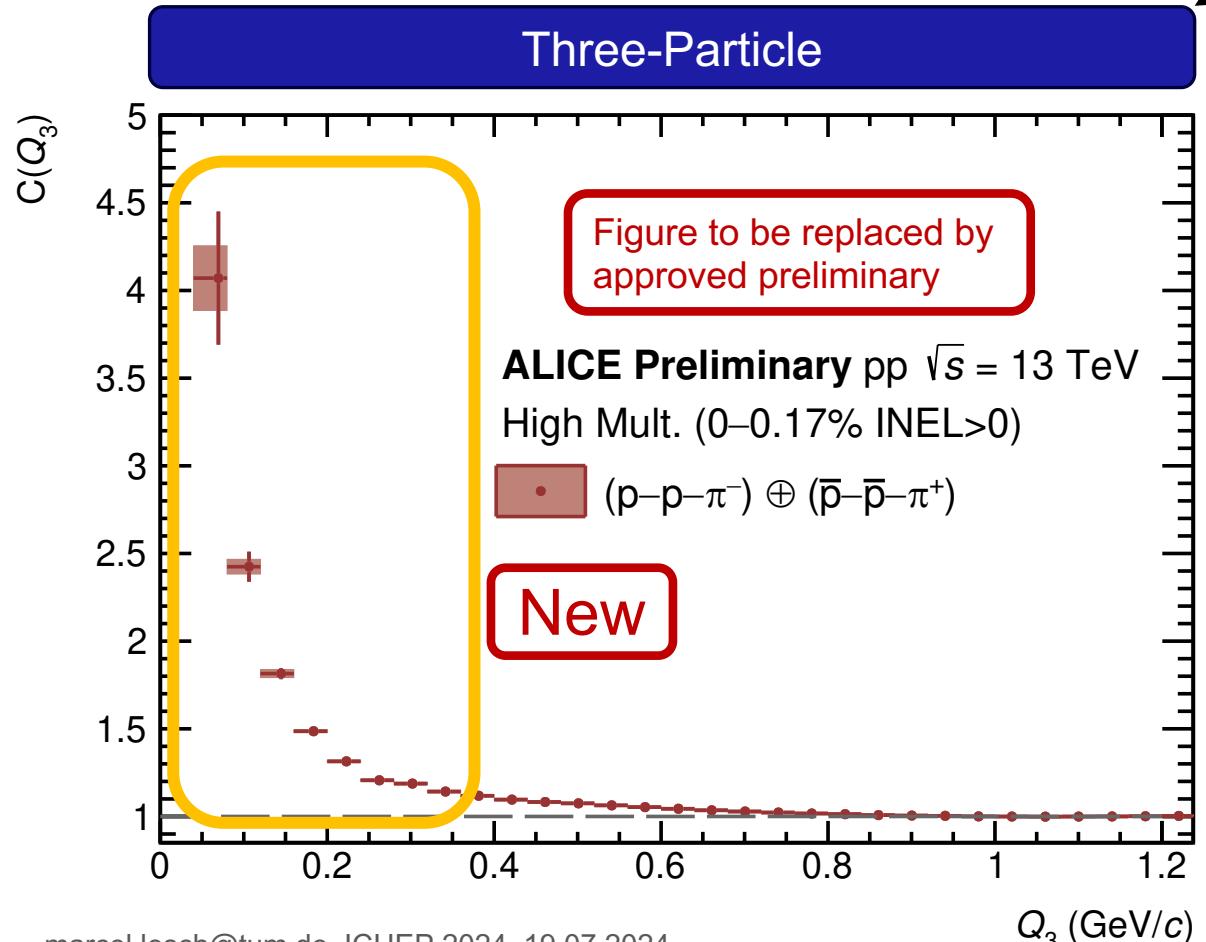
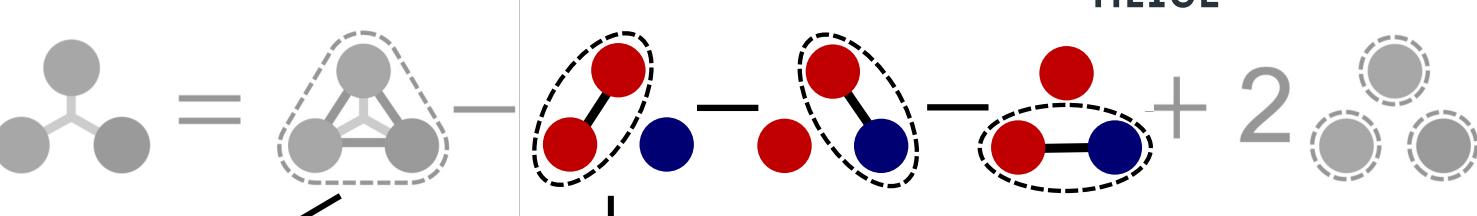
# Three-particle correlation function of $pp\pi^-$

- Overall attractive effects in triplet correlation function
- Signal consisting of two-body and potential three-body effects



# Two-particle contributions of $p\bar{p}\pi^-$

- Contribution from attractive strong interaction of  $p\bar{p}$



# Two-body contributions of $p\bar{p}\pi^-$

- Visible contribution from  
 $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$

