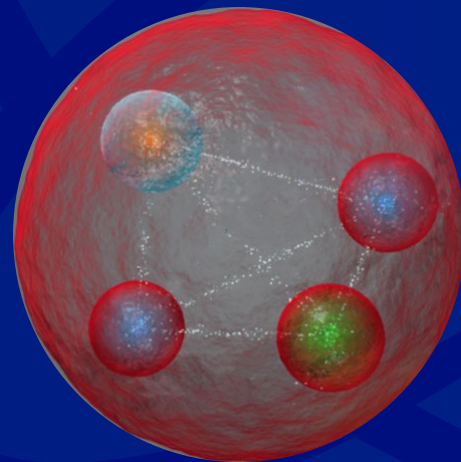


# Exotic hadron production in $pp$ and $pPb$ collisions at LHCb

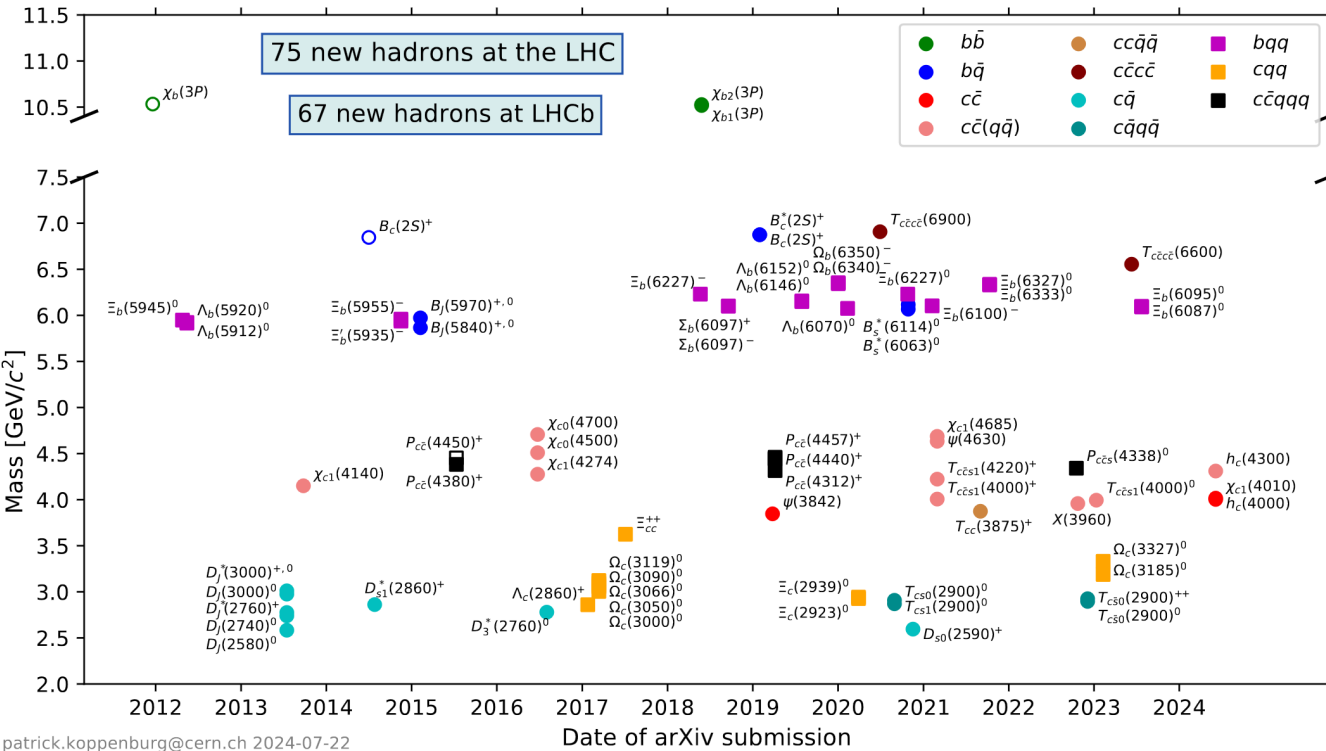
Matt Durham  
[durham@lanl.gov](mailto:durham@lanl.gov)



12th International Conference on Hard and Electromagnetic  
Probes of High-Energy Nuclear Collisions



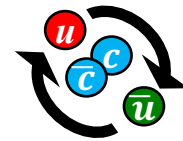
# New hadrons discovered at the LHC



**Compact tetraquark/pentaquark**

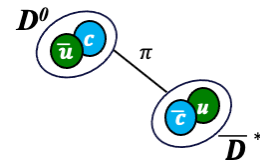


**Diquark-diantiquark**  
PRD 71, 014028 (2005)  
PLB 662 424 (2008)



**Hadrocharmonium/adjoint charmonium**  
PLB 666 344 (2008)  
PLB 671 82 (2009)

**Hadronic Molecules**



PLB 590 209 (2004)  
PRD 77 014029 (2008)  
PRD 100 0115029(R) (2019)

**Mixtures**

$$X = a |c\bar{c}\rangle + b |c\bar{c}q\bar{q}\rangle$$

PLB 578 365 (2004)  
PRD 96 074014 (2017)

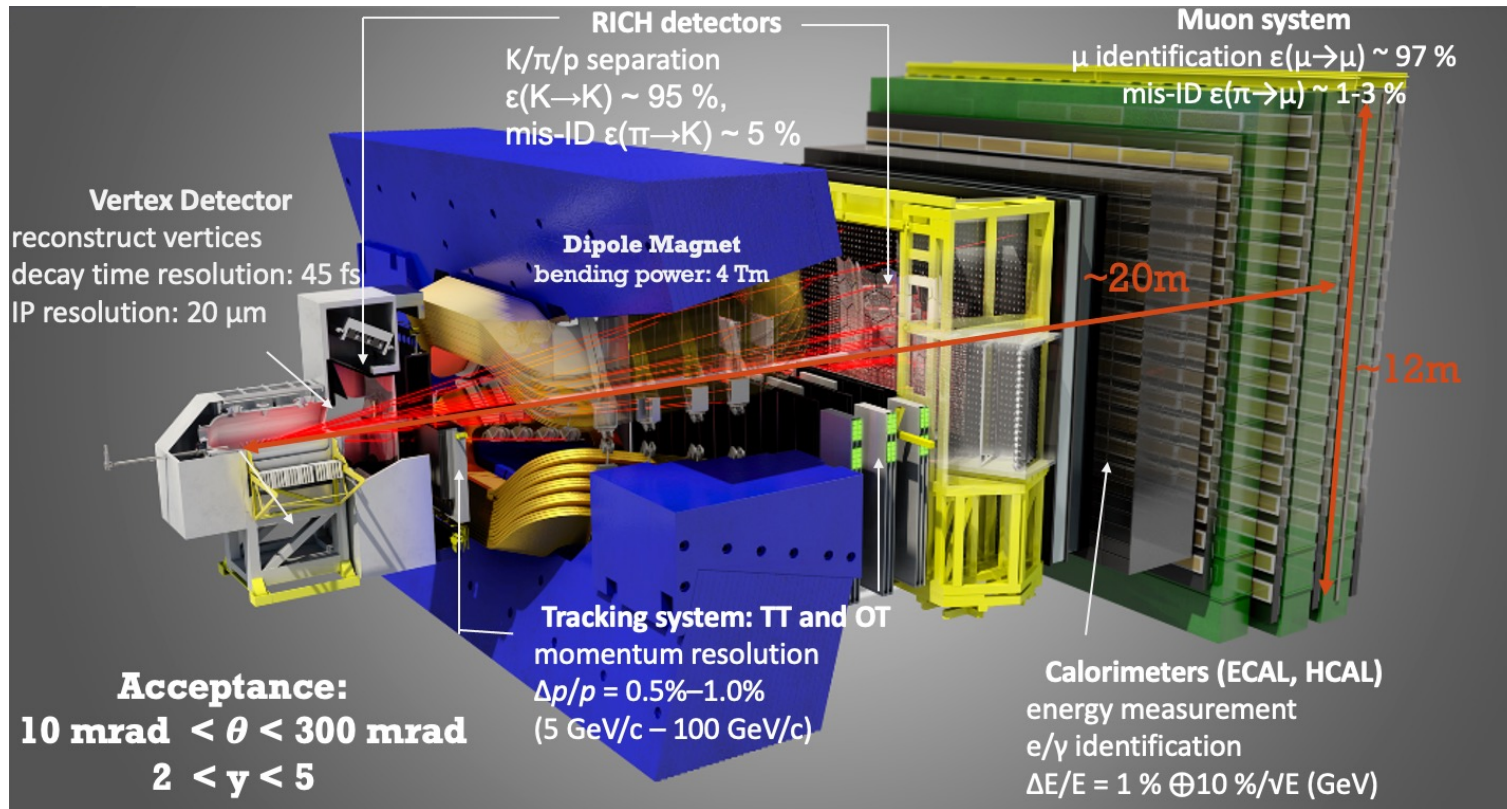
**~90% of the new particles were discovered by LHCb**

# The LHCb detector

JINST 3 (2008) S08005  
Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 30, 1530022 (2015)



Unique forward rapidity coverage at the Large Hadron Collider in p+p, p+A, A+A, fixed target collisions



# Production of exotic hadrons

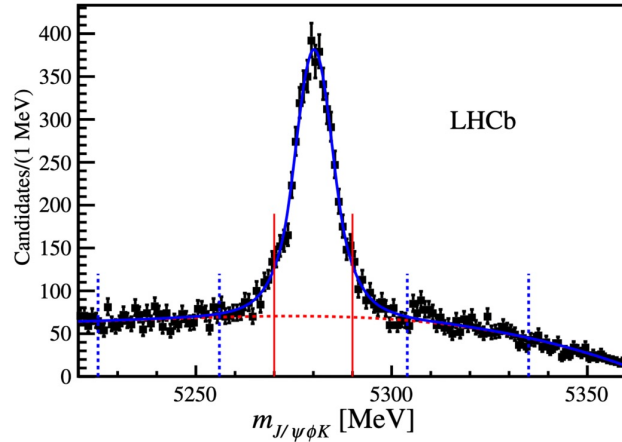
- Most common method of discovery:  $b$  hadron decays
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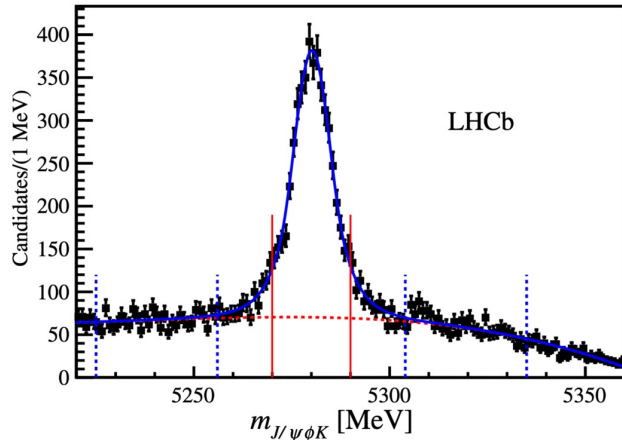
# $b$ hadron decays

- Reconstruct the decay  $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi\phi K^+$



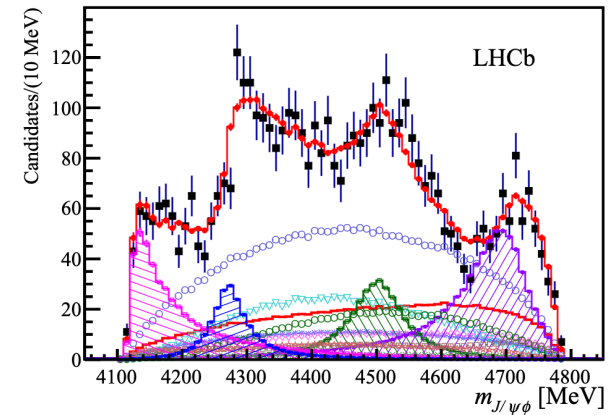
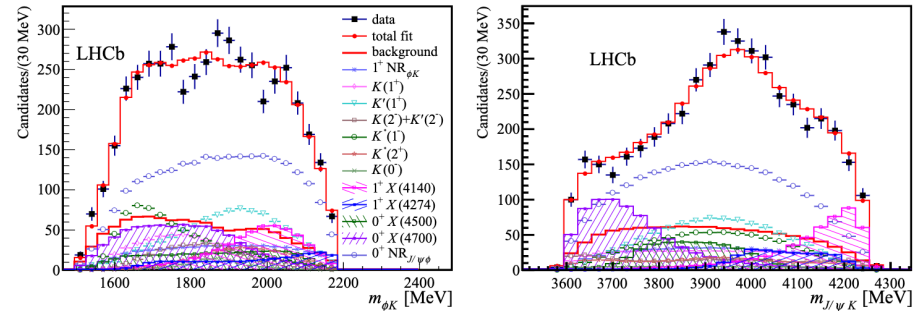
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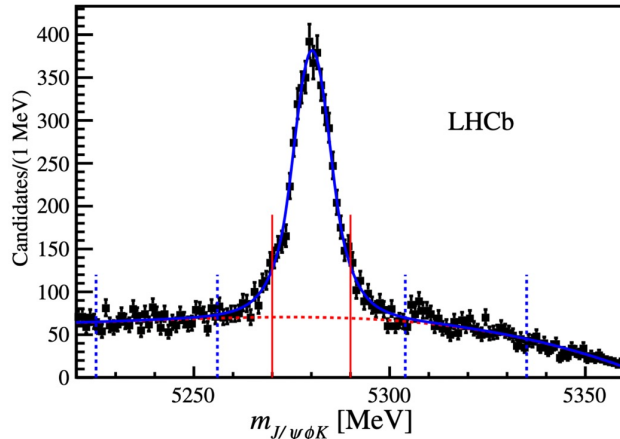
- Inspect combinations of daughter products for intermediate states

[PRL 118, 022003 \(2017\)](#), [PRD 95 012002 \(2017\)](#), [PRL 127, 082001 \(2021\)](#)



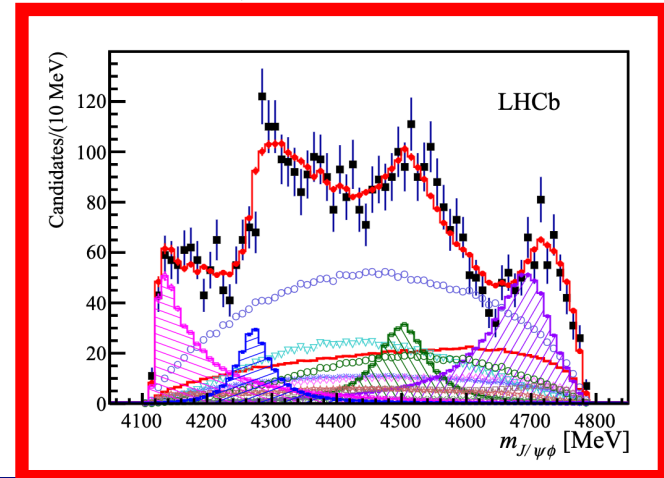
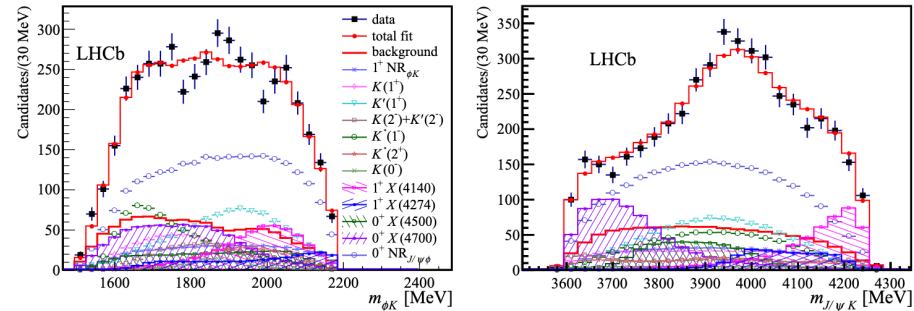
# *b* hadron decays

- Reconstruct the decay  $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi\phi K^+$



- Inspect combinations of daughter products for intermediate states
- Amplitude analysis requires four new  $J/\psi\phi$  resonances to describe data.

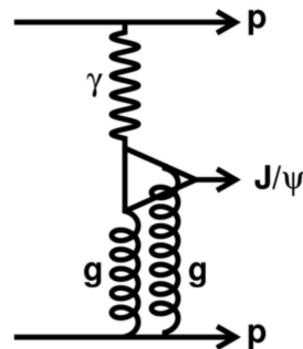
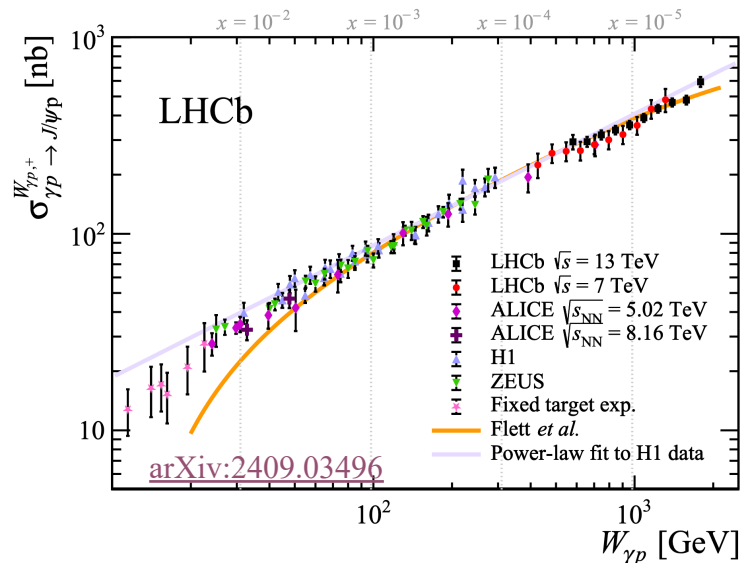
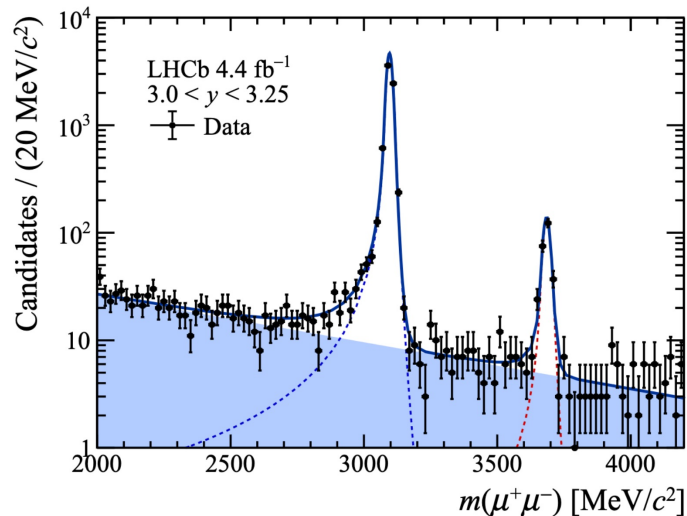
[PRL 118, 022003 \(2017\)](#), [PRD 95 012002 \(2017\)](#), [PRL 127, 082001 \(2021\)](#)





# Central Exclusive Production/Ultra-Peripheral Collisions

Conventional charmonia states  $J/\psi$ ,  $\psi(2S)$  have been studied extensively in CEP/UPC



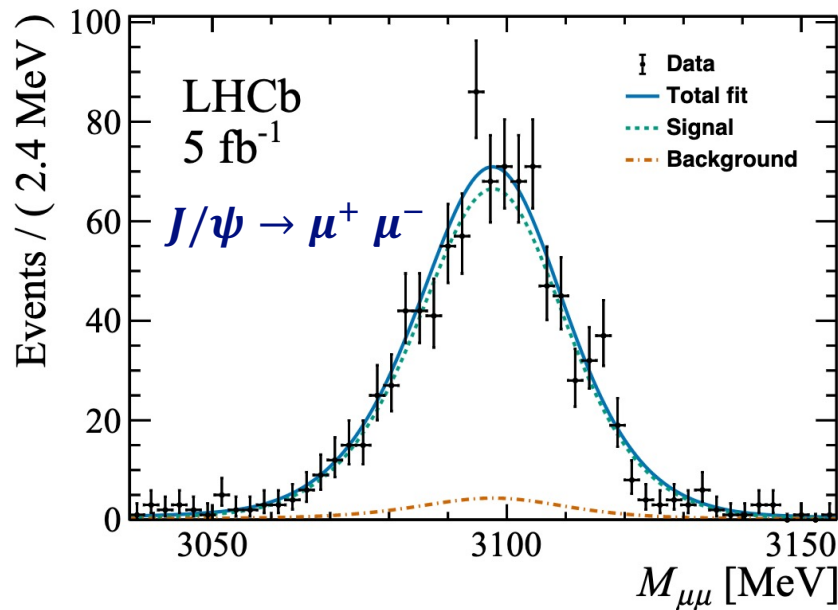
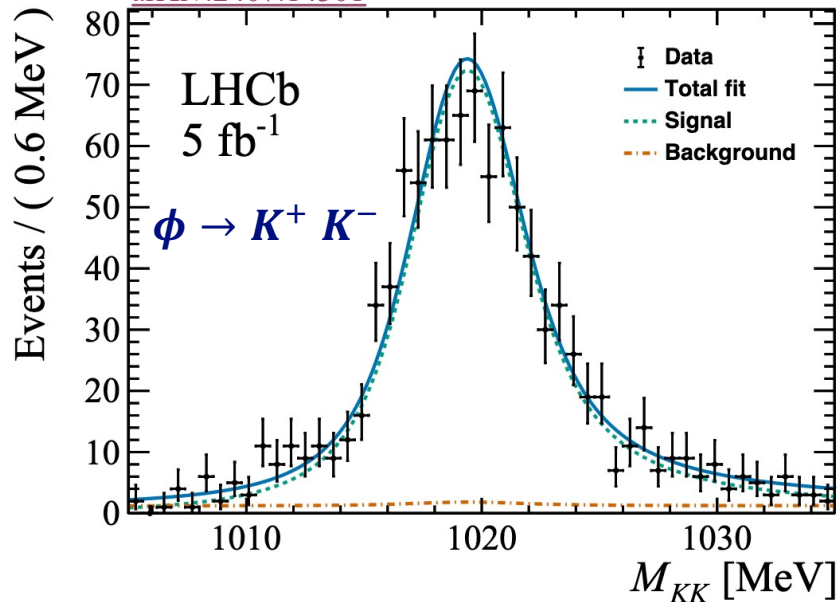
**Amanda Donohoe,**  
**Wednesday 9:20**

- There is HUGE interest in the production of exotic hadrons in these events:

[PRD94, 094024 \(2016\)](#), [PRC100, 024620 \(2019\)](#), [PLB 805135447 \(2020\)](#), [PLB 810 136249 \(2021\)](#),  
[EPJC 81 710 \(2021\)](#), [PRD 104 114029 \(2021\)](#), [PRD 109 016007 \(2024\)](#)

# Central exclusive production ( $pp$ ) of $J/\psi\phi$

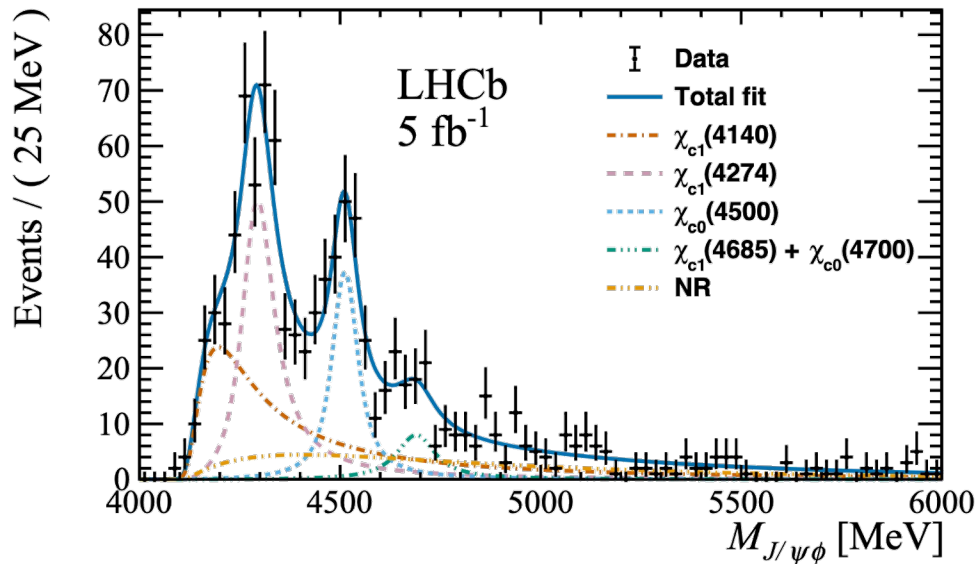
[arXiv:2407.14301](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.14301)



- Select events with exactly four tracks: two muons, two kaons
- Veto additional activity with forward/backward shower counters
- Clear signals for  $\phi(1020)$  and  $J/\psi$

# Central exclusive production ( $pp$ ) of $J/\psi\phi$

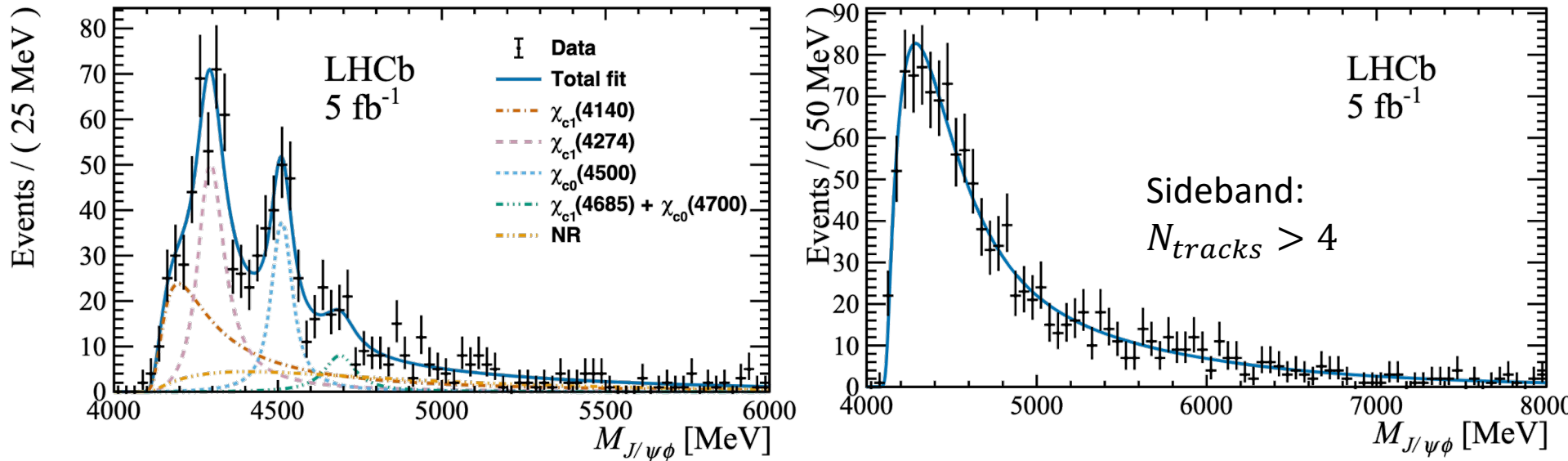
[arXiv:2407.14301](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.14301)



- Structures apparent in CEP data (exactly 4 tracks)

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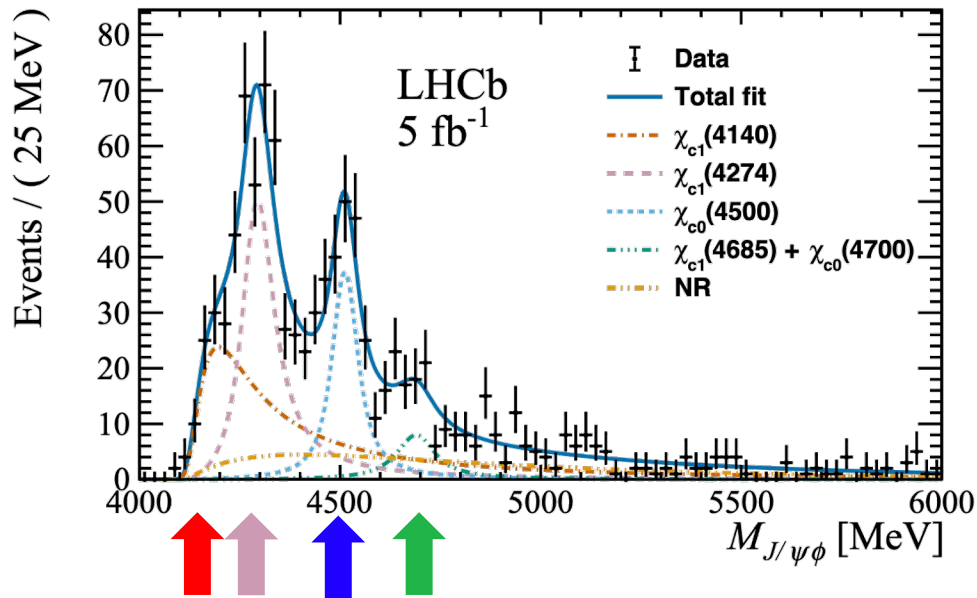
[arXiv:2407.14301](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.14301)



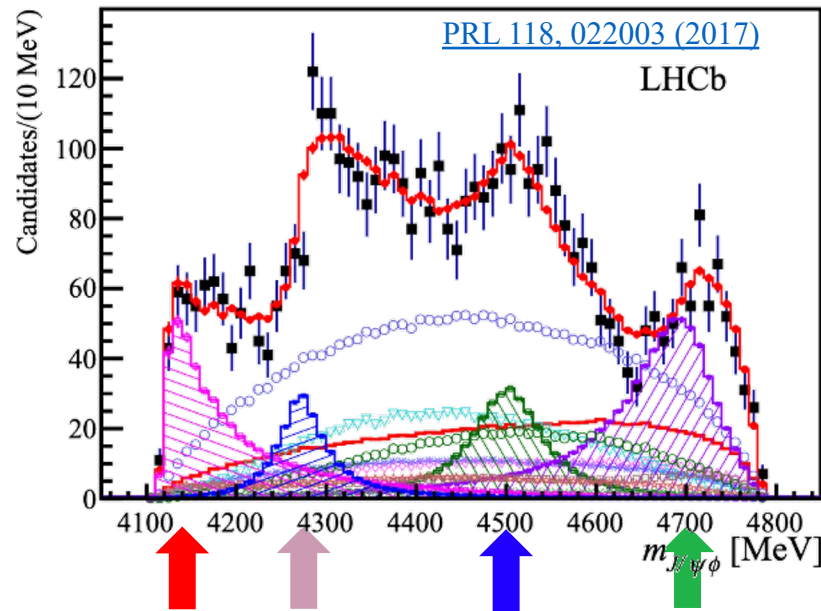
- Structures apparent in CEP data (exactly 4 tracks)
- Gone when looking at “sideband” of events with more activity

# Central exclusive production ( $pp$ ) of $J/\psi\phi$

[arXiv:2407.14301](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.14301)



$$B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi\phi K^\pm$$



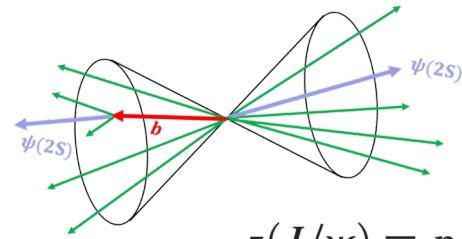
- Consistent with tetraquark candidates previously observed in  $B^\pm \rightarrow J/\psi\phi K^\pm$  decays  
CEP/UPCs provide totally new method to produce and study exotic hadrons

# Production of exotic hadrons

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# $J/\psi$ in jets

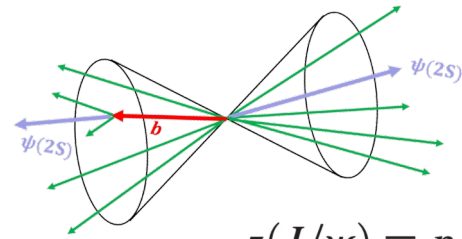
- Long-standing challenge with description of production and polarization
- Charmonia in jets provides new way to examine production mechanisms



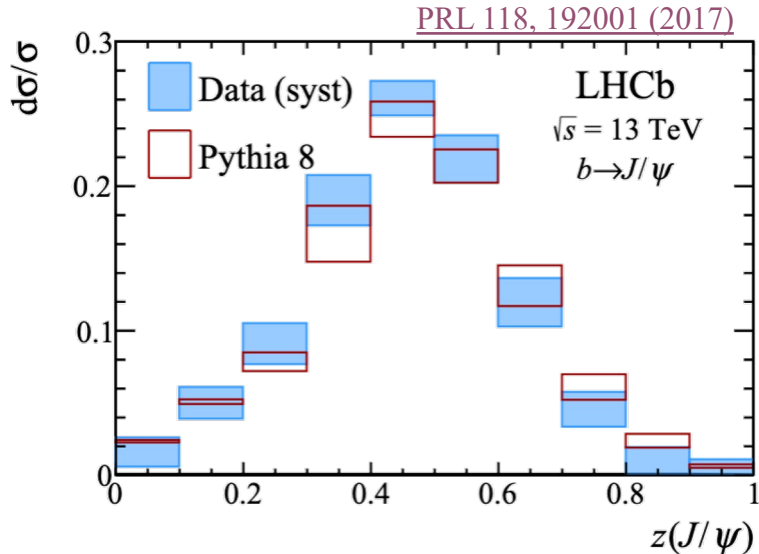
$$z(J/\psi) \equiv p_T(J/\psi) / p_T(\text{jet})$$

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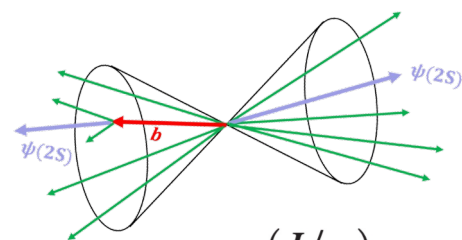


Non-prompt: well described by PYTHIA



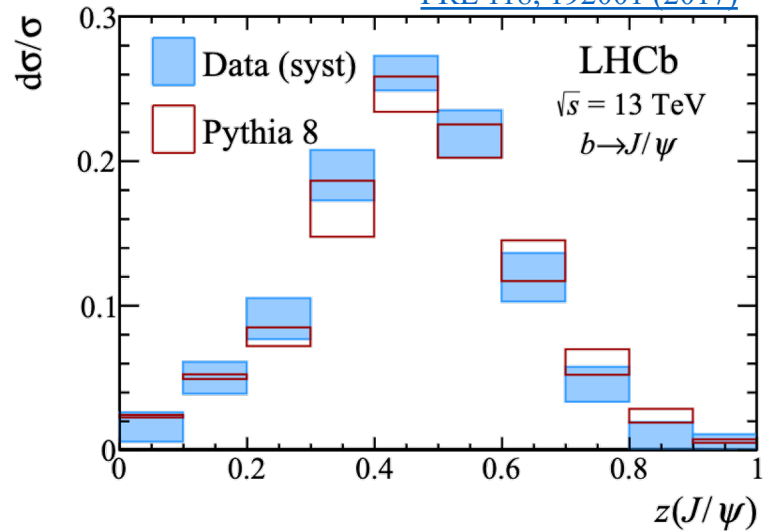
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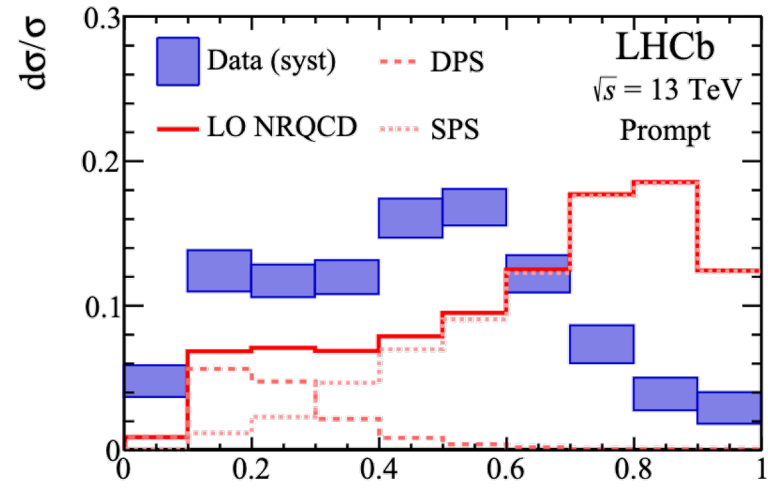


$$z(J/\psi) \equiv p_T(J/\psi) / p_T(\text{jet})$$

[PRL 118, 192001 \(2017\)](#)

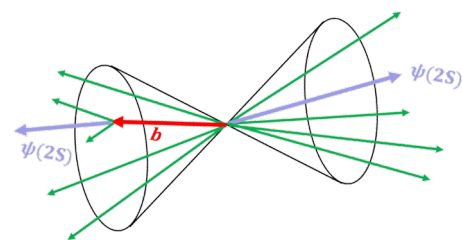


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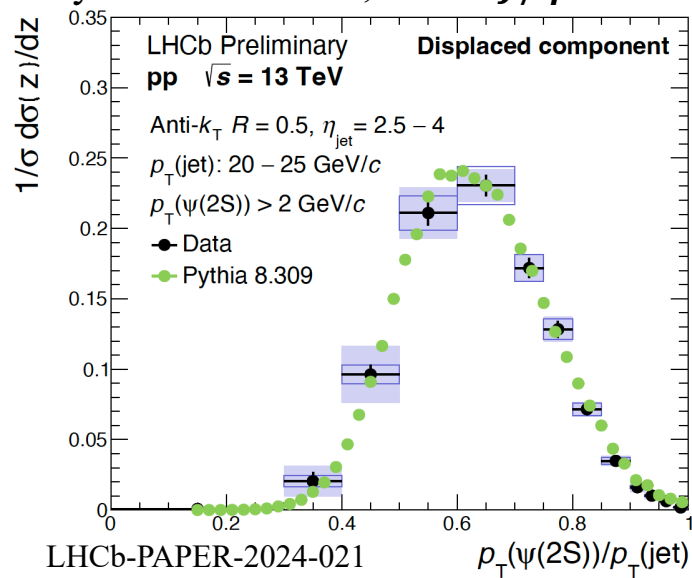


Prompt: significantly less isolated than NRQCD prediction

# $\psi(2S)$ in jets

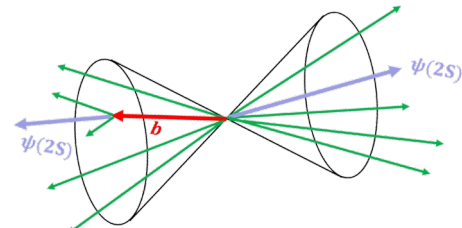


- The same measurement can also be done with  $\psi(2S)$ 
  - Very little feeddown, unlike  $J/\psi$

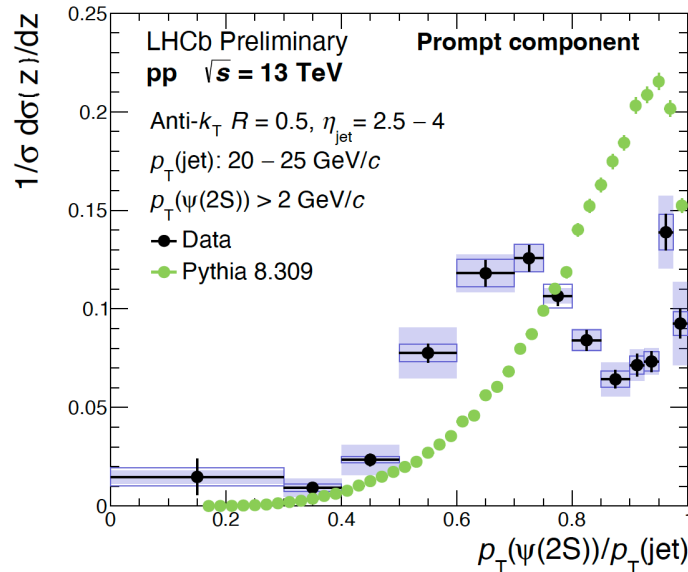
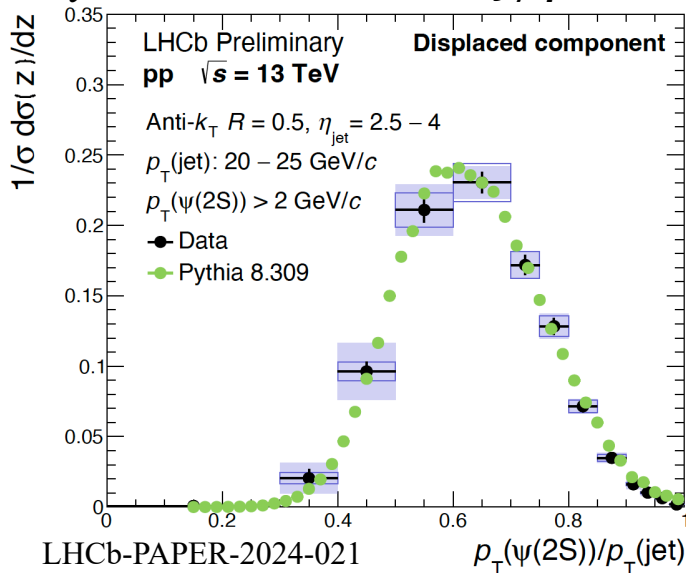


$b \rightarrow \psi(2S)$  : well described by PYTHIA  
 Very similar to  $b \rightarrow J/\psi$

# $\psi(2S)$ in jets



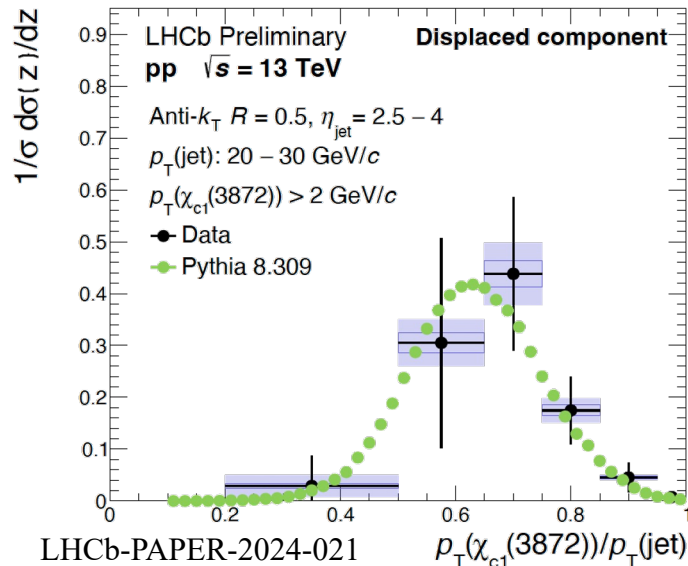
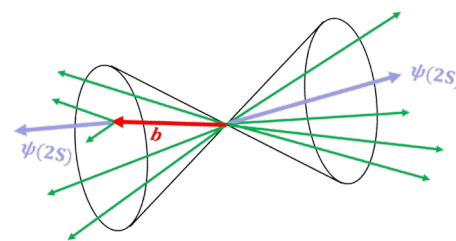
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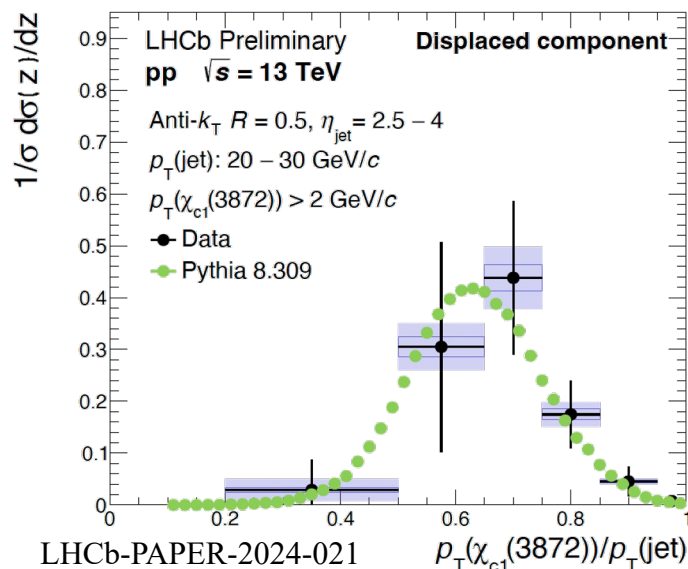
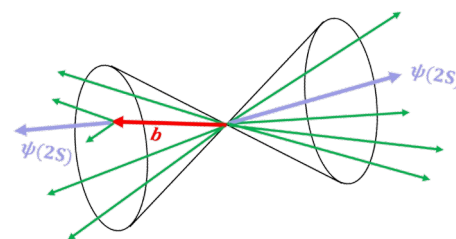
Prompt: less isolated than NRQCD prediction.  
Two different production mechanisms?

# $X(3872)$ in jets

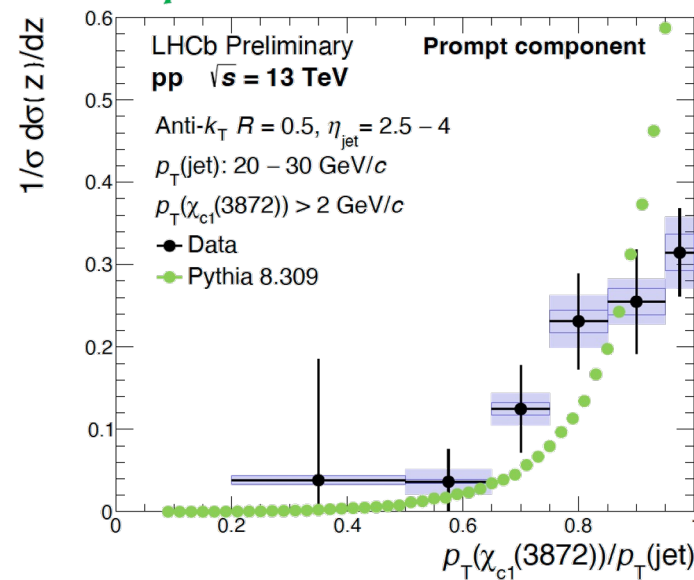


$b \rightarrow X(3872)$  : well described by PYTHIA  
Very similar to  $b \rightarrow J/\psi, \psi(2S)$

# $X(3872)$ in jets



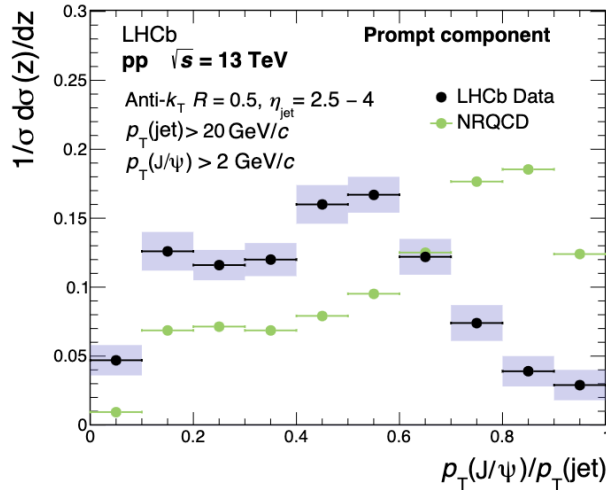
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Very similar to  $b \rightarrow J/\psi, \psi(2S)$



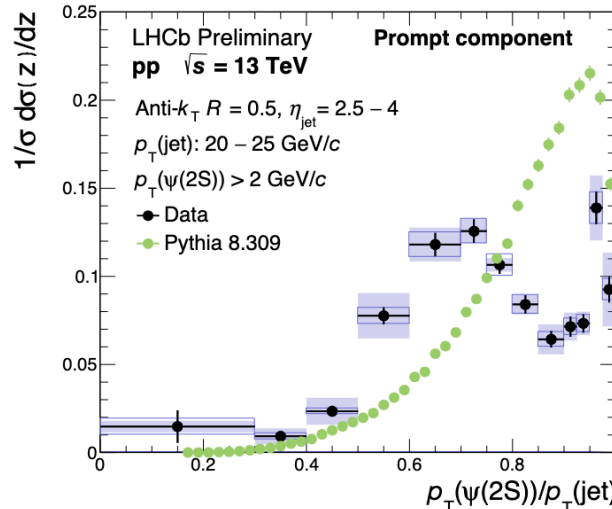
Prompt: Rises towards isolation, very different from conventional  $c\bar{c}$  state  $\psi(2S)$

# Compare: prompt $J/\psi$ , $\psi(2S)$ , $X(3872)$

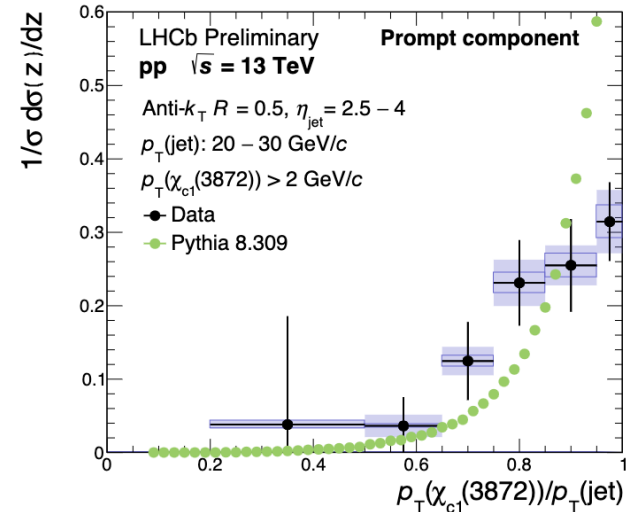
Ezra Lesser, Wednesday 11:30



Prompt  $J/\psi$ : less isolated than expected



Prompt  $\psi(2S)$ :  
Two component structure:  
Different production mechanisms?



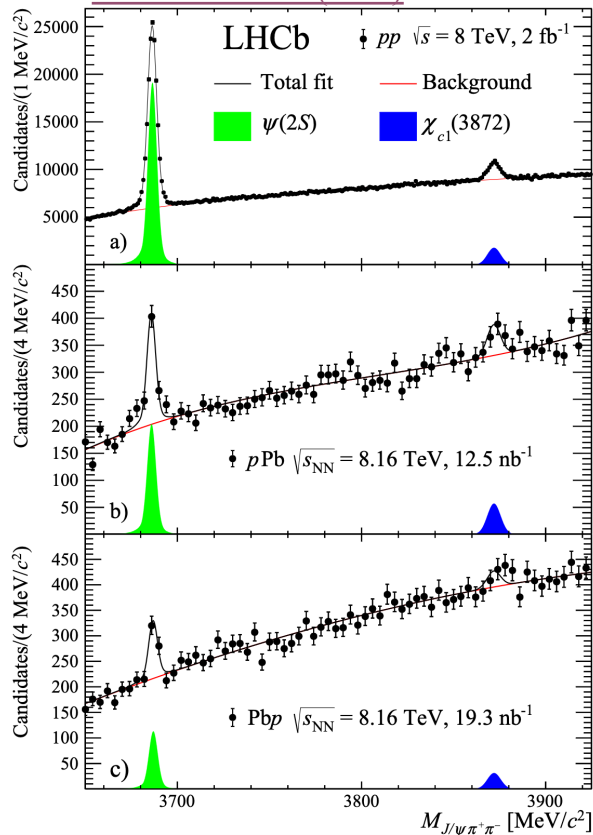
Prompt  $X(3872)$ :  
More isolated than conventional charmonia

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# X(3872) in pPb

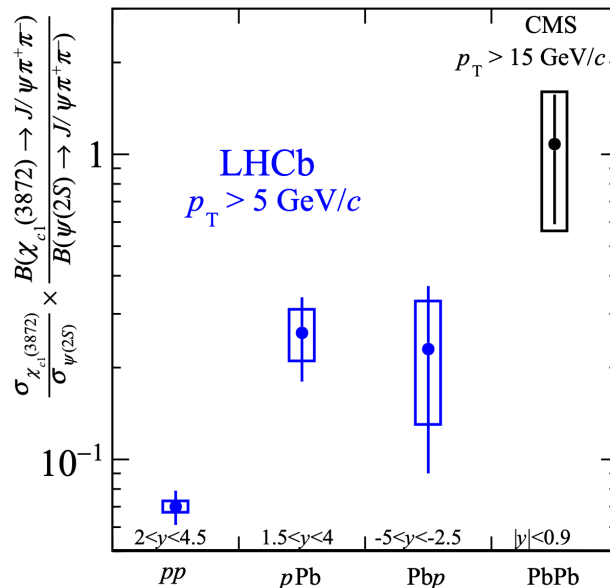
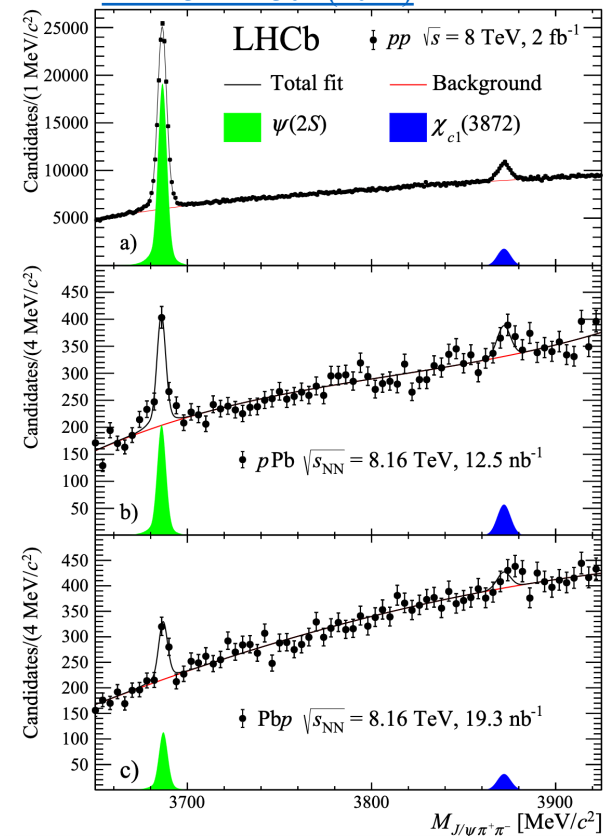
PRL 132 242301 (2024)





# X(3872) in pPb

[PRL 132 242301 \(2024\)](#)

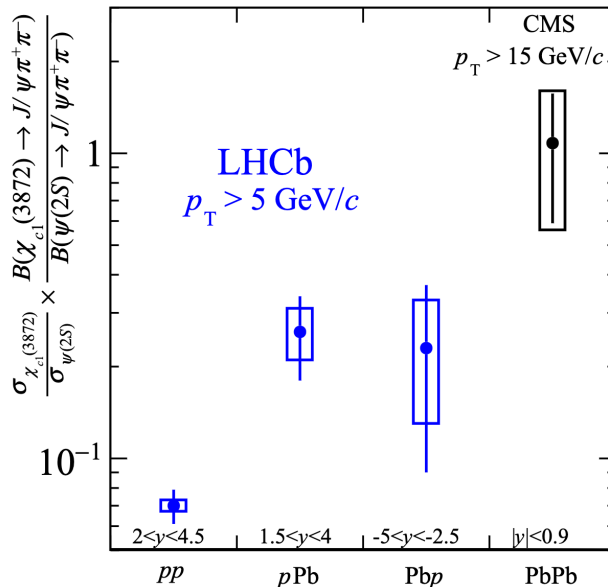
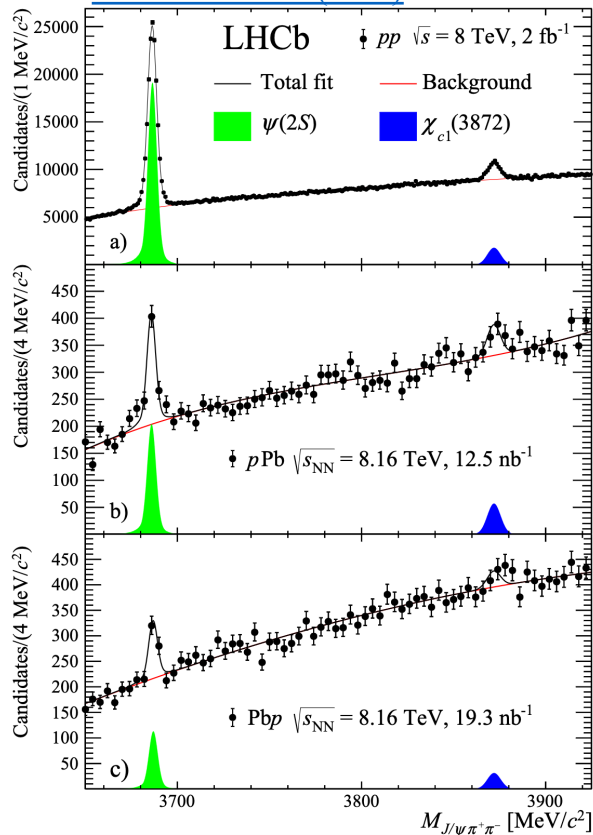


Comparison between X(3872) and  $\psi(2S)$  suggests *something different* may be happening to exotic vs conventional hadrons in medium

Initial state effects (shadowing etc) should largely cancel in ratio

# X(3872) in pPb

PRL 132 242301 (2024)



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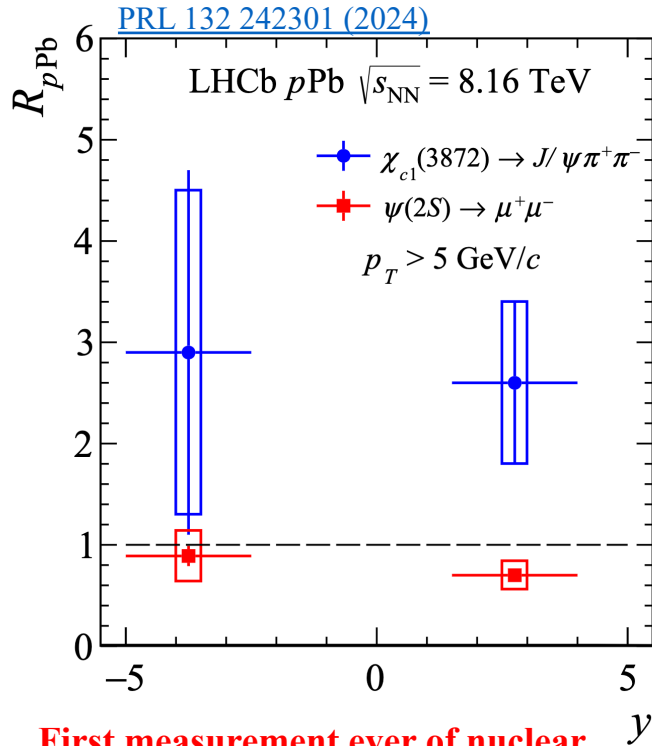
Initial state effects (shadowing etc) should largely cancel in ratio

We know  $\psi(2S)$  is suppressed in pPb

**Cesar da Silva, Tuesday 14:40**

**AMBIGUITY between X(3872) enhancement and  $\psi(2S)$  suppression**

# X(3872) in pPb

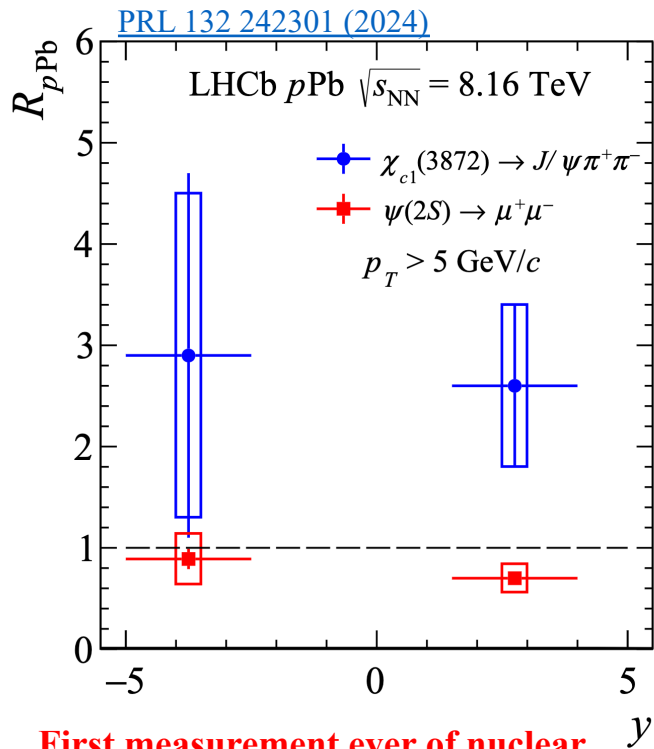


**First measurement ever of nuclear modification factor of a tetraquark!**

Ambiguity lifted by measuring nuclear modification factor:

$$R_{pA}^{\chi_{c1}(3872)} = \frac{\sigma_{pA}^{\chi_{c1}(3872)}}{208 \times \sigma_{pp}^{\chi_{c1}(3872)}}$$

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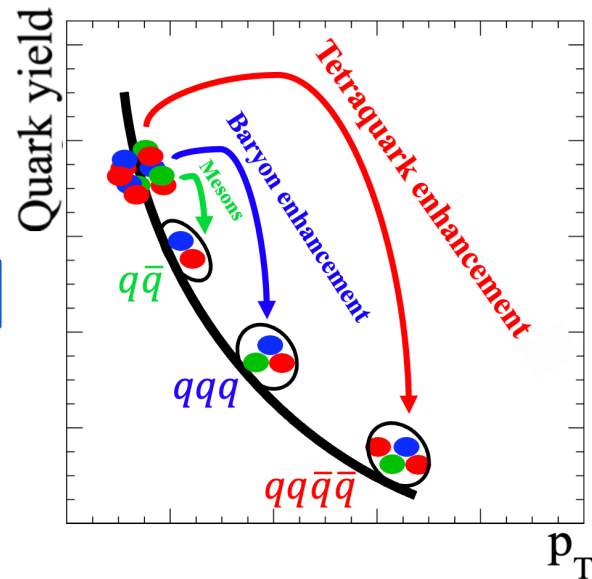
$$R_{pA}^{\chi_{c1}(3872)} = \frac{\sigma_{pA}^{\chi_{c1}(3872)}}{208 \times \sigma_{pp}^{\chi_{c1}(3872)}}$$

Evidence for enhancement of X(3872) in pPb:  
Coalescence dominating over breakup?

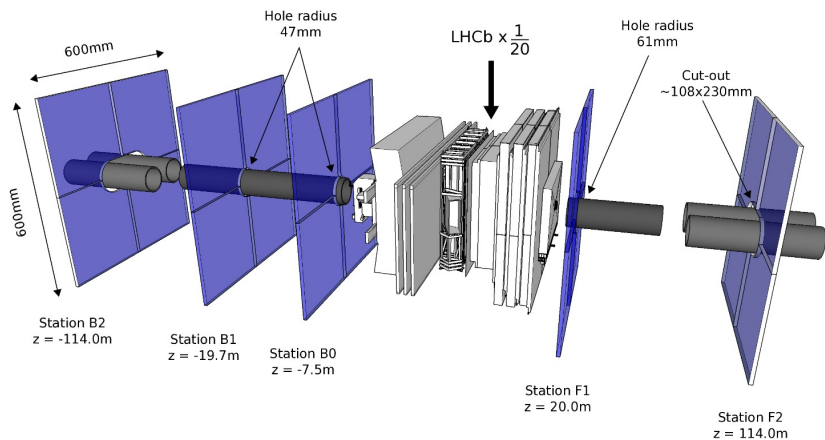
We know heavy baryon production grows with multiplicity:

**Julie Napora, Monday 18:10**

**Similar mechanisms should also increase tetraquark production**



# LHCb upgrades – directly improving the HI physics program

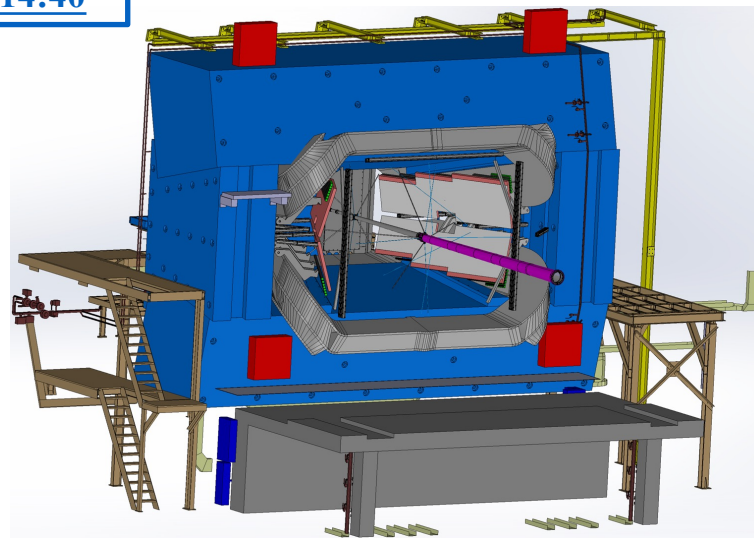
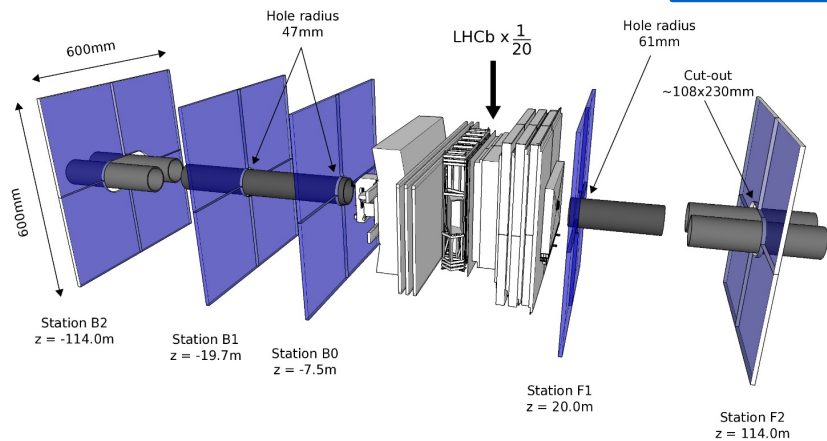


Herschel detector: used to characterize CEP/UPC events by measuring far forward/backward activity. Removed after Run 2 due to radiation damage.

Large Area Scintillator Array for UPCs (LASARUS): Resurrect this capability at LHCb.

# LHCb upgrades – directly improving the HI physics program

Sam Belin, Tuesday 14:40



Herschel detector: used to characterized CEP/UPC events by measuring far forward/backward activity. Removed after Run 2 due to radiation damage.

Large Area Scintillator Array for UPCs (LASARUS): Resurrect this capability at LHCb.

Magnet Station: tracks very soft particles that terminate in dipole.

Especially useful for UPC and complex hadronic decay channels of exotics

# Summary

- QCD creates a rich spectrum of bound states - our knowledge of the allowed configuration of quarks inside hadrons is rapidly growing
- LHCb has unequalled capabilities to explore exotic hadrons with multiple production mechanisms across a wide range of hadronic environments
- Exploring exotic hadrons give us new ways to test some of our favorite models of heavy quark production, hadronization, and transport in nuclear collisions
- New capabilities from upgrades directly improve the heavy ion physics program



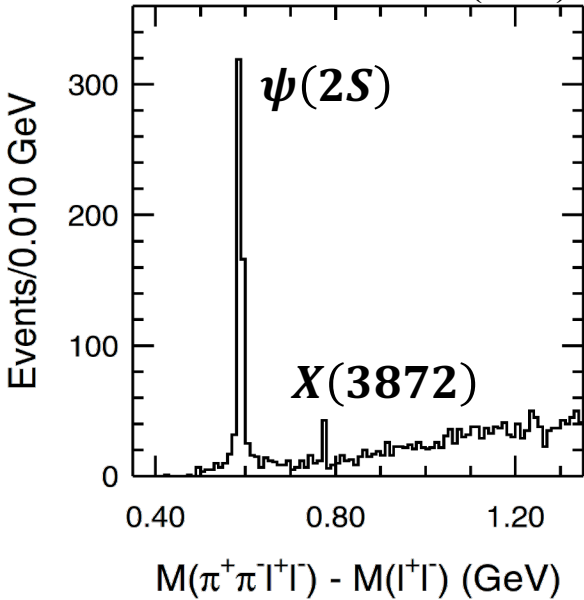
**Los Alamos is supported by the US Dept. of Energy/Office of Science/Office of Nuclear Physics  
and DOE Early Career Awards program**

# BACKUPS



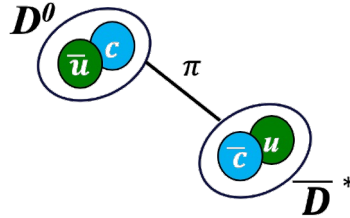
# An enduring puzzle: X(3872)

Belle Collaboration  
PRL 91 262001 (2003)



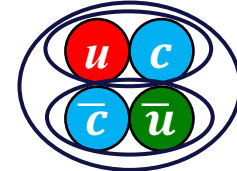
- The first exotic hadron, discovered in  $J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-$  mass spectrum from B decays by Belle in 2003
- LHCb measured quantum numbers (PRL 110 222001 2013)
  - **Incompatible** with expected charmonium states
- Mass is consistent with sum of  $D^0$  and  $\bar{D}^{*0}$  masses:
 
$$(M_{D^0} + M_{\bar{D}^{*0}}) - M_{\chi_{c1}(3872)} = 0.07 \pm 0.12 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$
- Large prompt production fraction ( $\sim 80\%$ ) – potentially inconsistent with D meson coalescence in  $pp^*$

*$D^0 \bar{D}^{*0}$  Molecule*



*VERY small binding energy  
VERY large radius,  $\sim 10$  fm*

*Compact tetraquark*



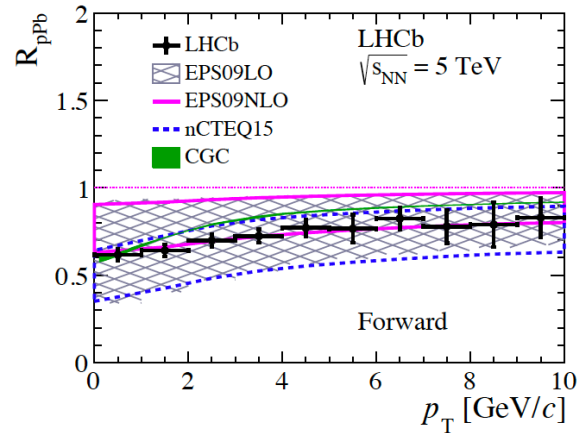
*Tightly bound via color exchange between diquarks  
Small radius,  $\sim 1$  fm*

\*Tension in theoretical literature:

c.f. Bignamini, Grinstein et al  
PRL 103 162001 (2009)  
Artoisenet, Braaten  
PRD 81 114018 (2010)

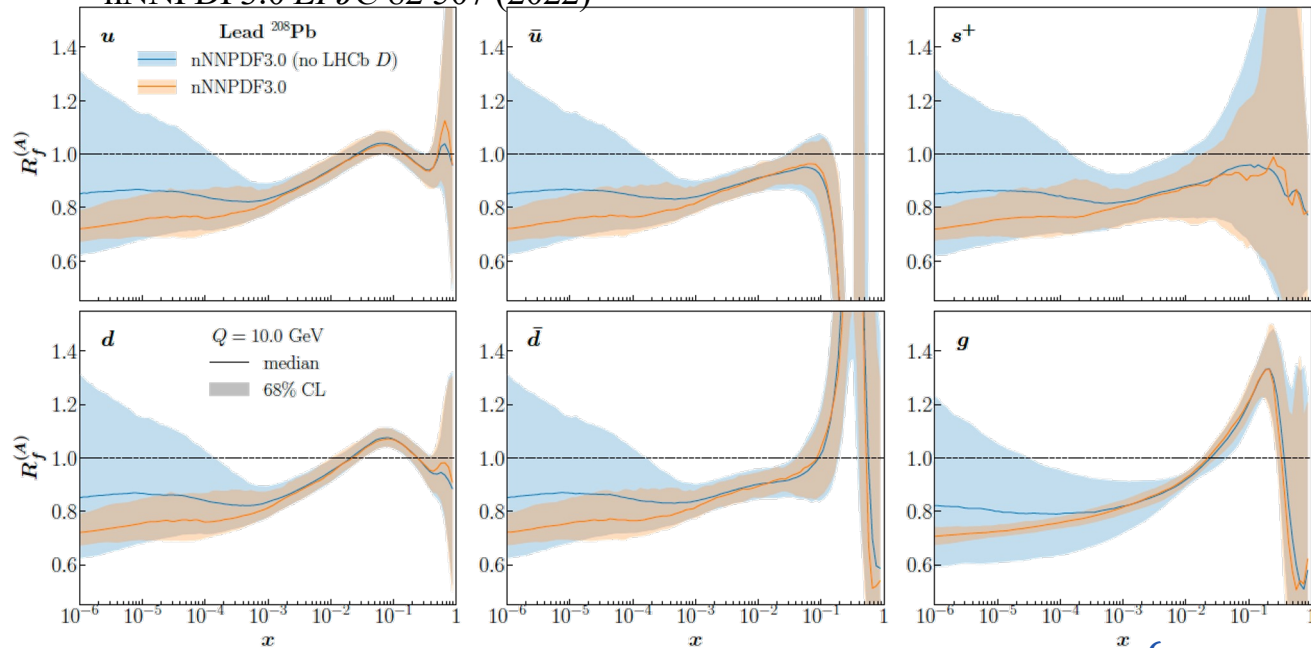
# Constraining nPDFs with D mesons

*JHEP* 1710 (2017)



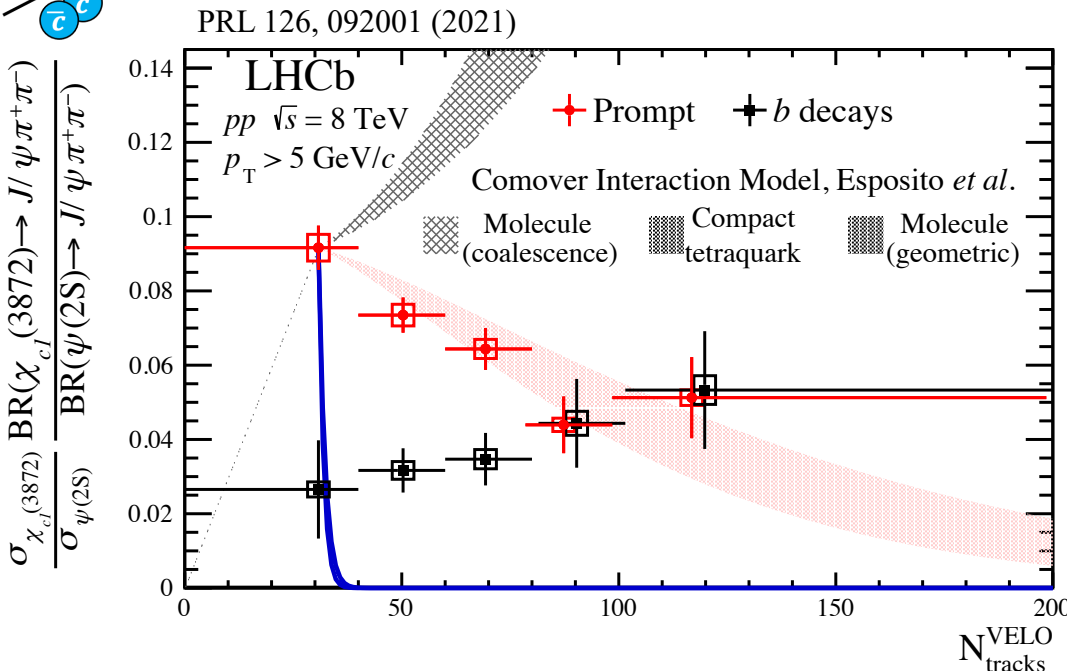
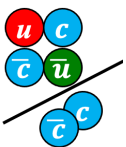
- LHCb D meson data: significantly more precise than calculations from older nPDF sets
- Now included as constraint in updated nPDF sets

nNNPDF3.0 *EPJC* 82 507 (2022)



LHCb data currently constrains nPDFs down to  $x \sim 10^{-6}$   
Places especially stringent bounds on gluon nPDF

# X(3872)/ $\psi(2S)$



**Prompt component:**  
 Increasing suppression of X(3872) production relative to  $\psi(2S)$  as multiplicity increases

**b-decay component:**  
 Totally different behavior: no significant change in relative production, as expected for decays in vacuum. Ratio is set by  $b$  decay branching ratios.

Calculations from EPJ C 81, 669 (2021)

Break-up cross section:

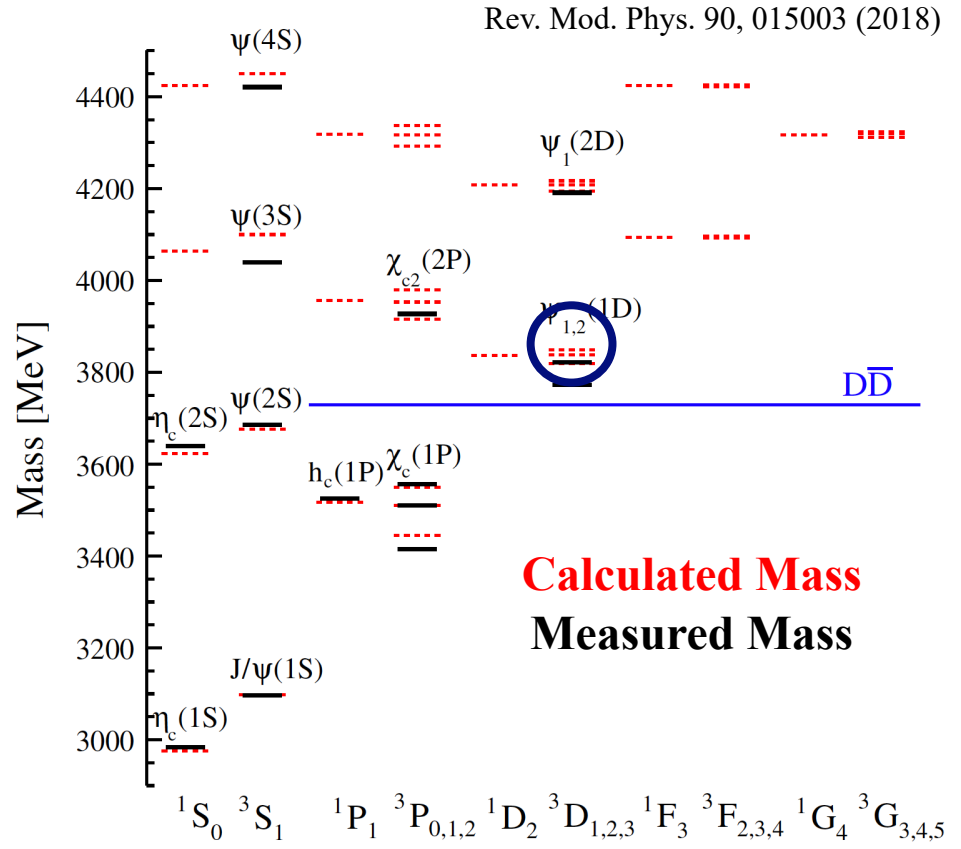
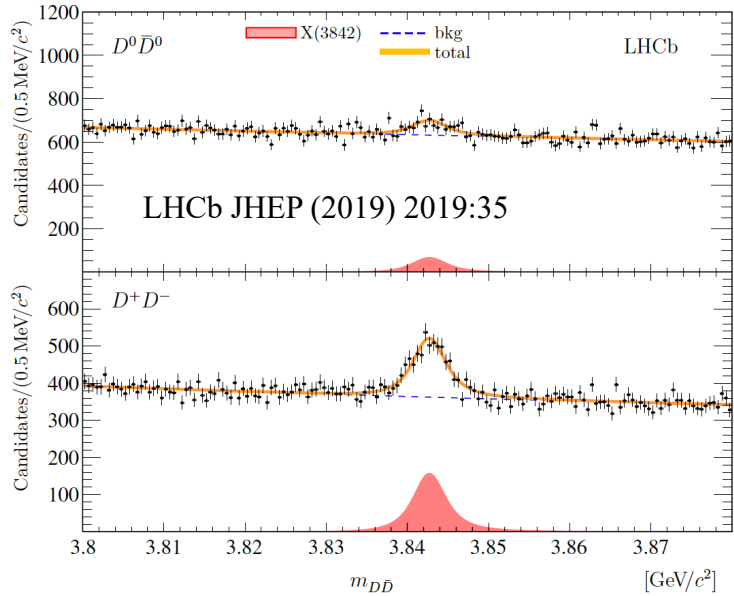
$$\langle v\sigma \rangle_Q = \sigma_Q^{\text{geo}} \left\langle \left( 1 - \frac{E_Q^{\text{thr}}}{E_c} \right)^n \right\rangle$$

**Molecular X(3872) with large radius and large comover breakup cross section is immediately dissociated**

**Coalescence of D mesons into molecular X(3872) increases ratio**

**Compact tetraquark of size 1.3 fm gradually dissociated as multiplicity increases – consistent with data**

# Quarkonia – bound states of heavy quarks



The most recently discovered charmonium state:  $\psi_3(1^3D_3)$

Measured mass:  $3842.71 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.12$  MeV  
 Predicted mass: 3849 MeV

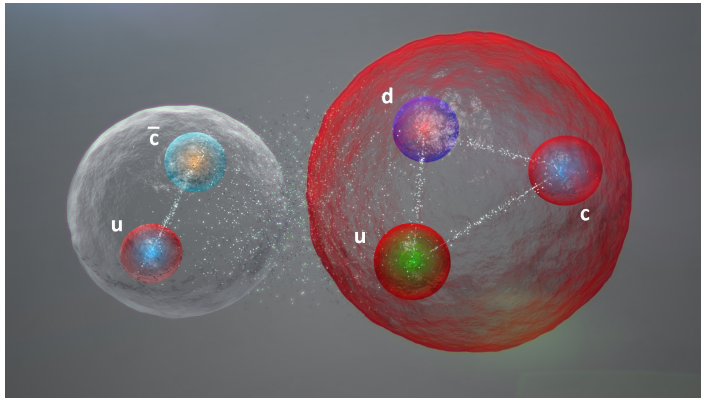
**Incredibly rich structure, accessible theoretically and experimentally**

# Example: $P_c^\pm$ pentaquarks

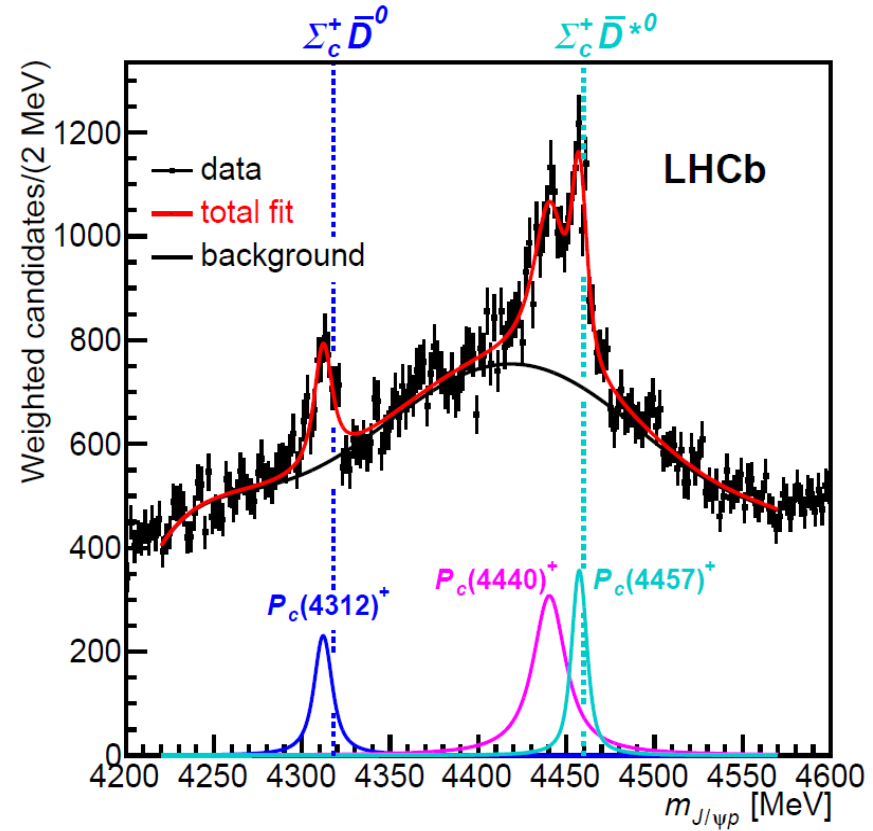
Select daughters from the decay



Masses are close to meson+baryon thresholds – candidate hadronic molecule

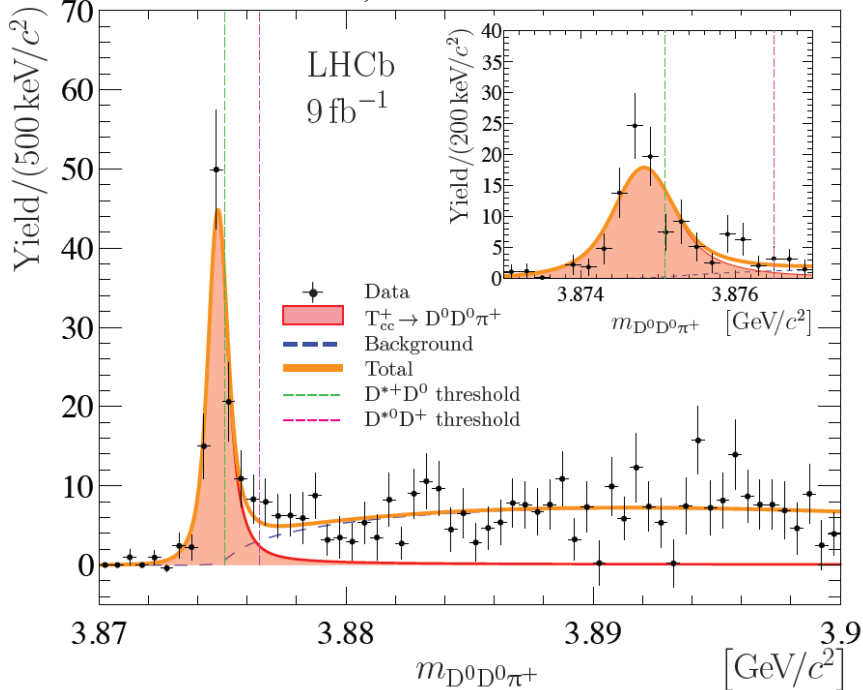


PRL 122 222001 (2019)



# $T_{cc}^+$

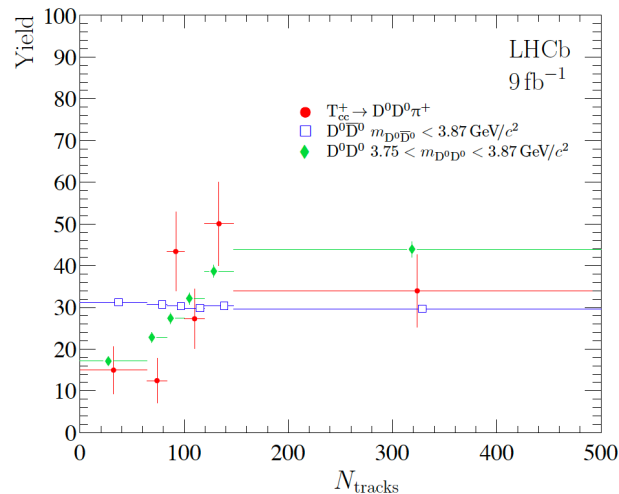
arXiv: 2109.01038, 2109.01056



New state consistent with  $cc\bar{u}\bar{d}$  tetraquark recently found:

Similar to X(3872), mass quite close to DD threshold

Big difference: contains  $cc$  or  $\bar{c}\bar{c}$ , rather than  $c\bar{c}$



Yield favors higher multiplicity collisions, reminiscent of deuteron.

Evidence for hadronic molecule structure?