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From the charm production asymmetry at LHCb to enhanced prompt atmospheric neutrino flux at IceCube

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We consider unfavoured light quark/antiquark to D meson fragmentation. We discuss nonperturbative effects for small transverse momenta. The asymmetry for D+ and D- production measured by the LHCb collaboration provides natural constraints on the parton (quark/antiquark) fragmentation functions. We find that already a fraction of fragmentation probability is sufficient to account for the measured asymmetry. Large D-meson production asymmetries are found for large xF which is related to dominance of light quark/antiquark fragmentation over the standard $c \to D$ fragmentation. As a consequence, prompt atmospheric neutrino flux at high neutrino energies can be much larger than for the conventional $c \to D$ fragmentation. The latter can constitute a sizeable background for the cosmic neutrinos claimed to be observed recently by the IceCube Observatory.

- R. Maciula and A. Szczurek, "D meson production asymmetry, unfavored fragmentation, and consequences for prompt atmospheric neutrino production," Phys. Rev. D97, no. 7, 074001 (2018)
- 2. V.P. Goncalves, R. Maciula and A. Szczurek, "From D_s^\pm production asymmetry at the LHC to prompt ν_τ at IceCube," arXiv:1809.05424 [hep-ph]

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