

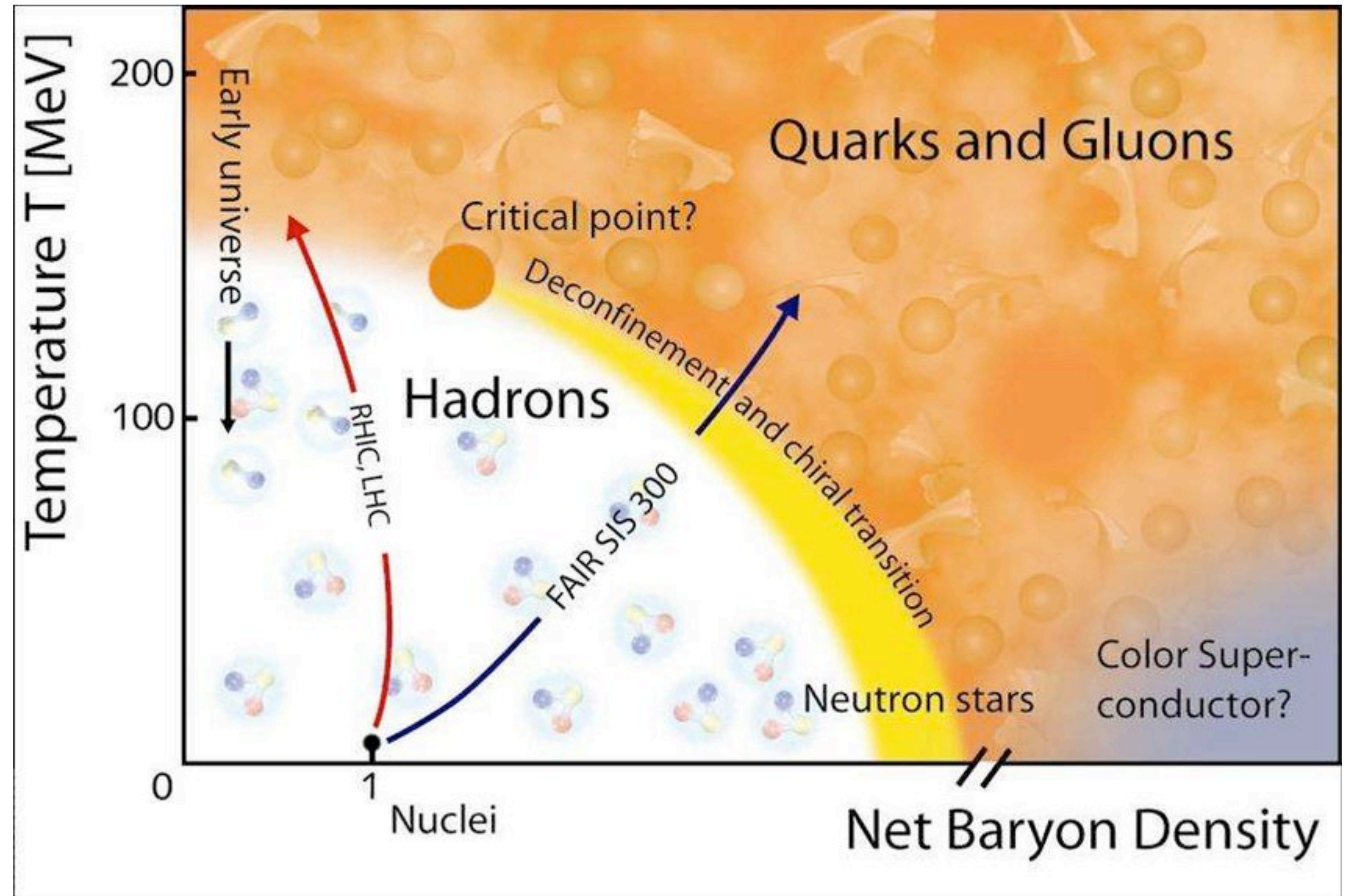
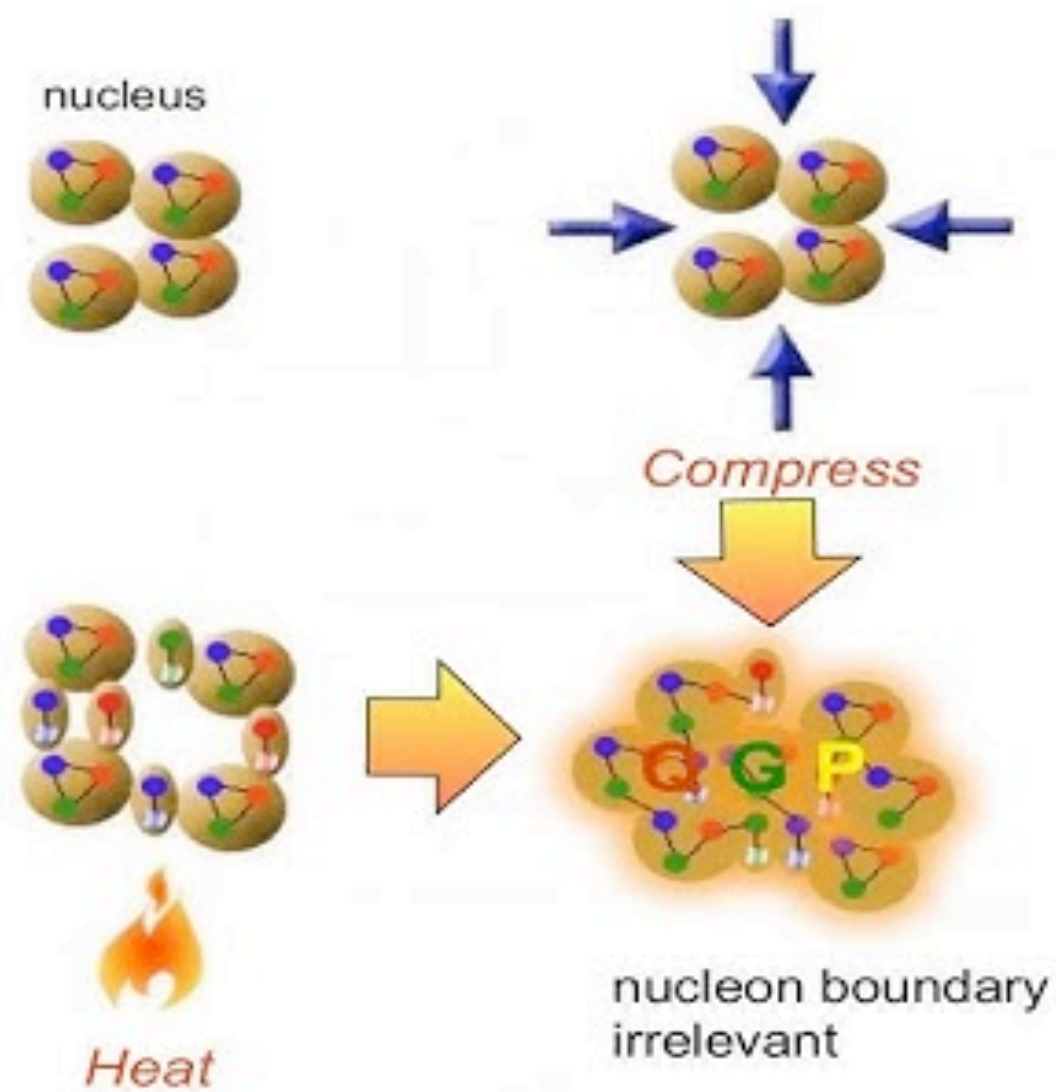
Probing the QGP: Recent Advances in Heavy-Flavour Physics with ALICE at the LHC

Samrangy Sadhu
University of Bonn



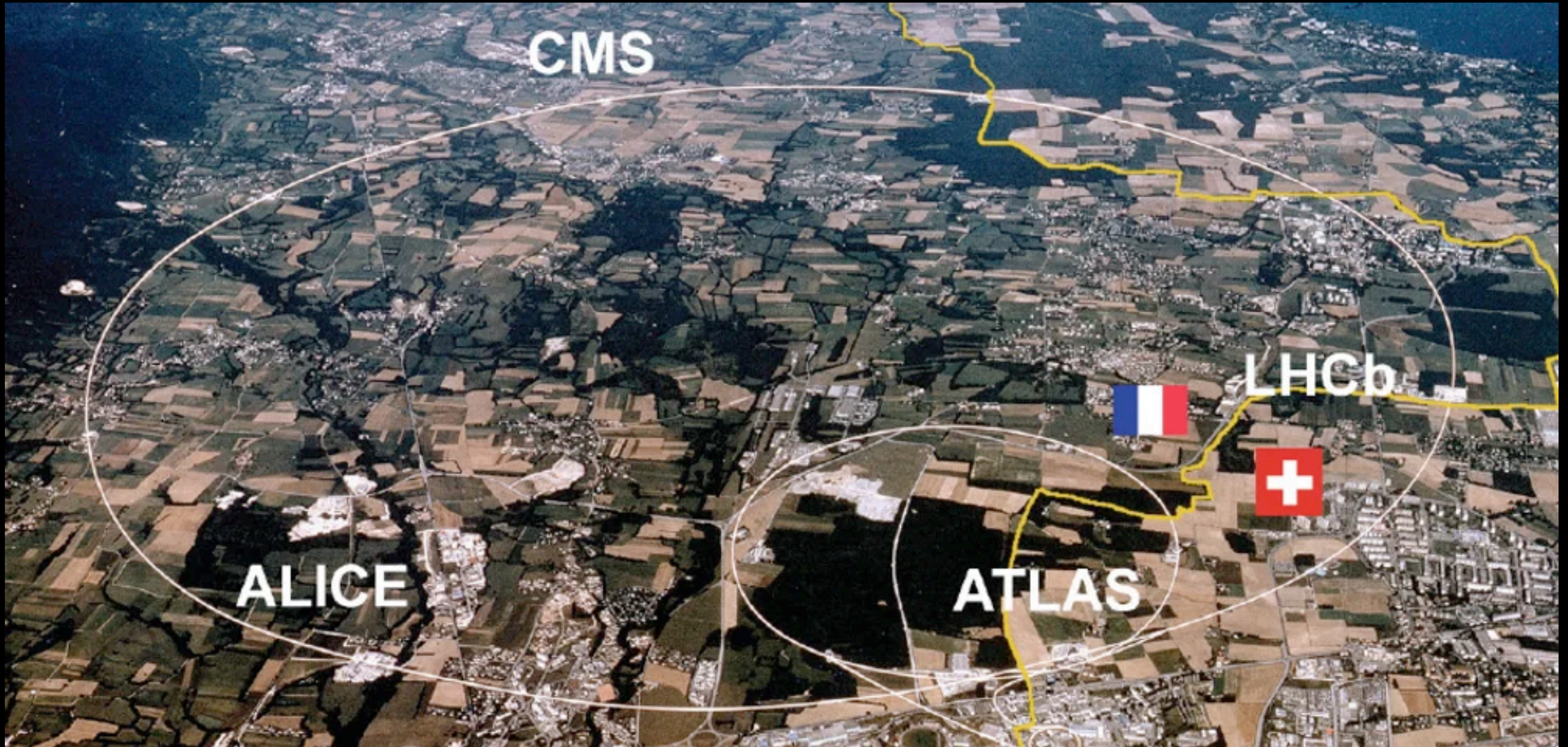
What is Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP) ?

At extreme temperature and energy density, QCD predicts a phase transition from hadronic matter to a deconfined partonic matter, the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)

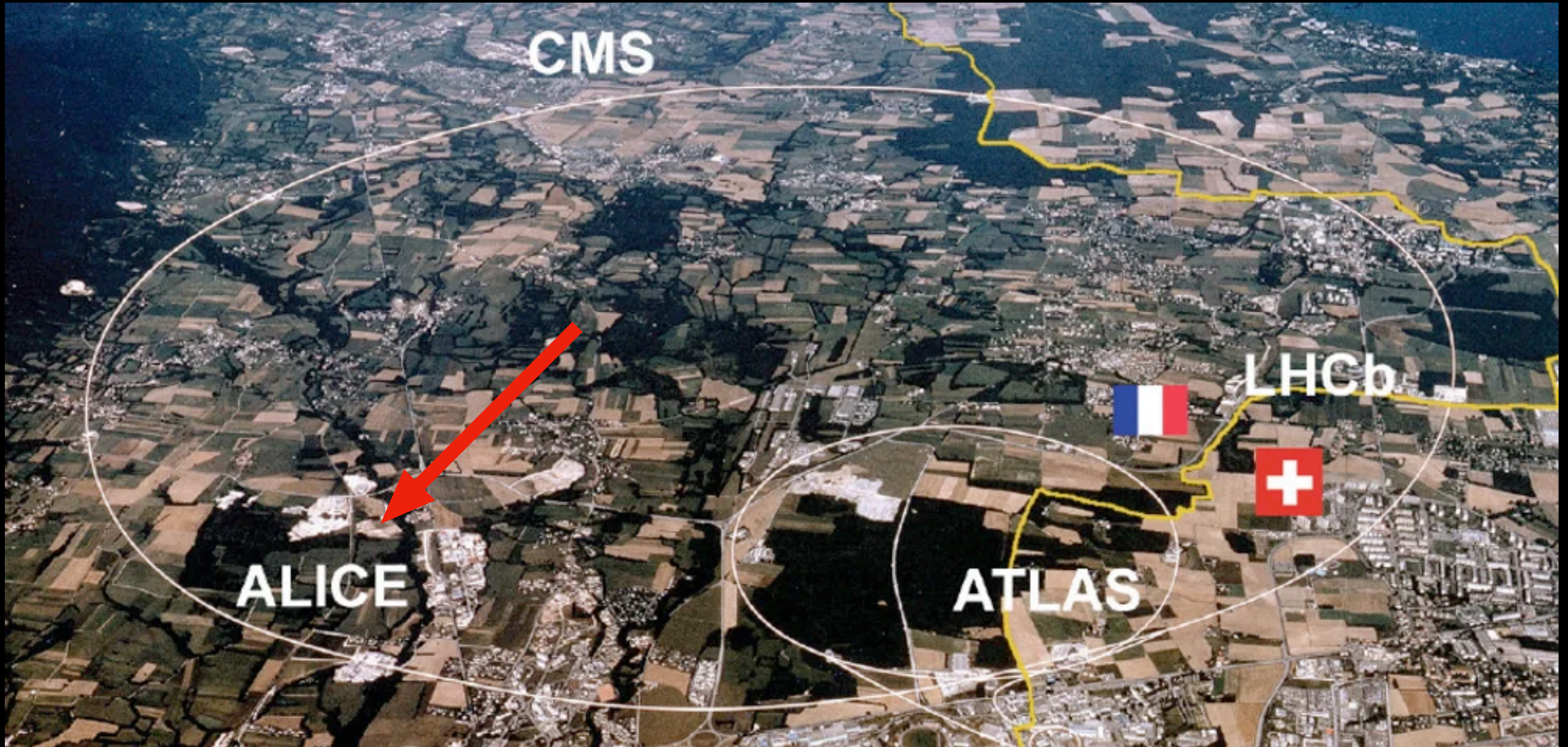


RHIC, LHC : high temperature, low baryon density
FAIR : moderate temperature, high baryon density

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

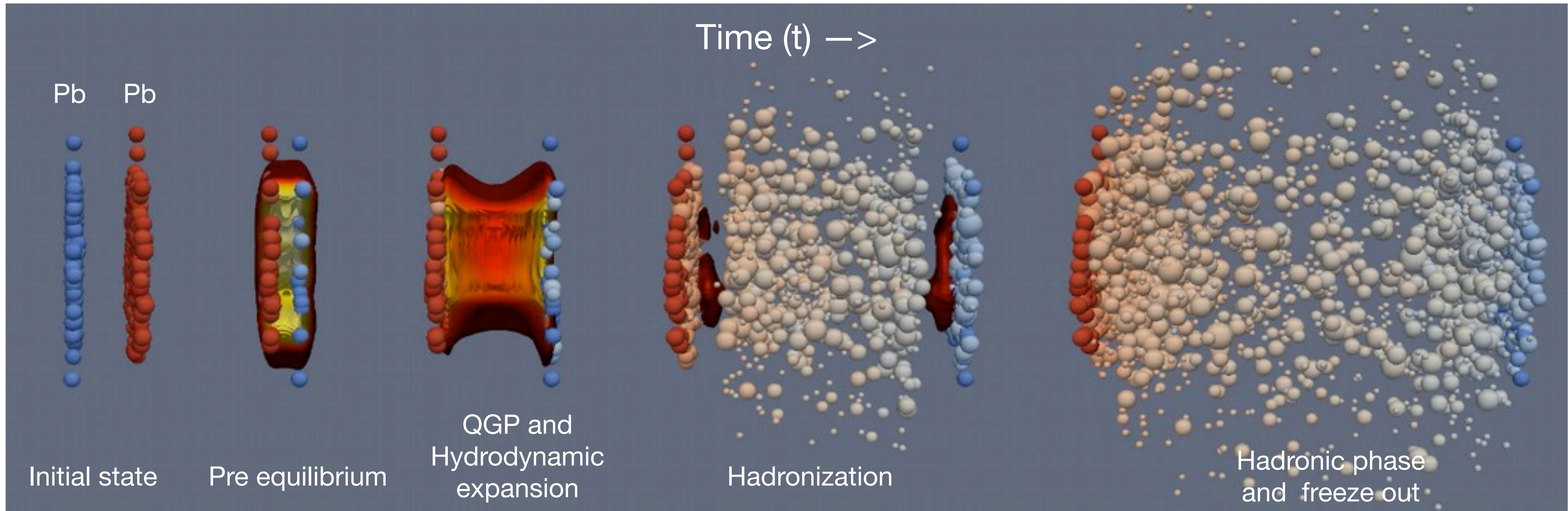


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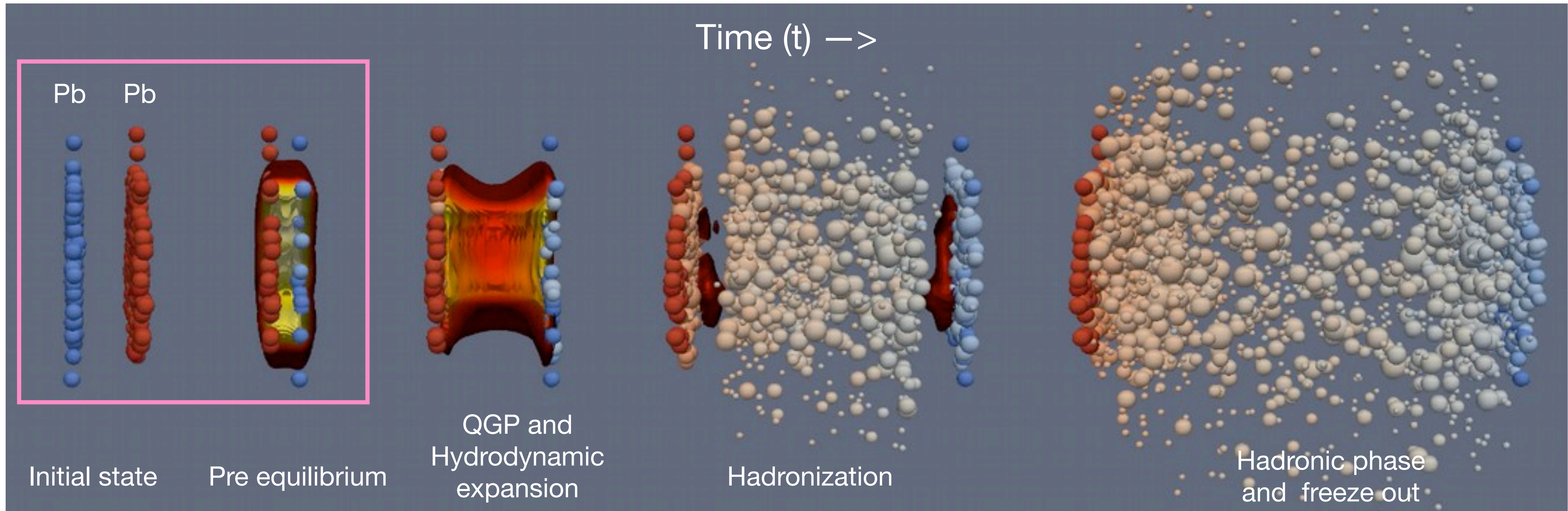
Heavy-ion collisions: Creating the QGP state

Schematic picture of the time evolution of Heavy-ion collisions :



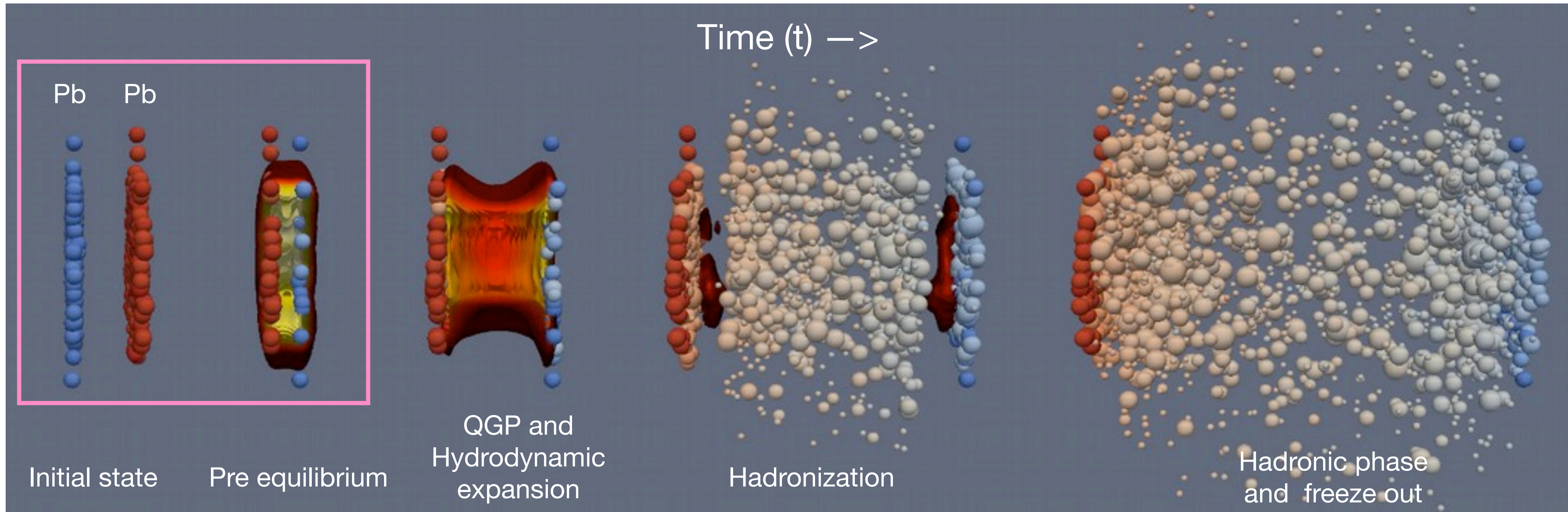
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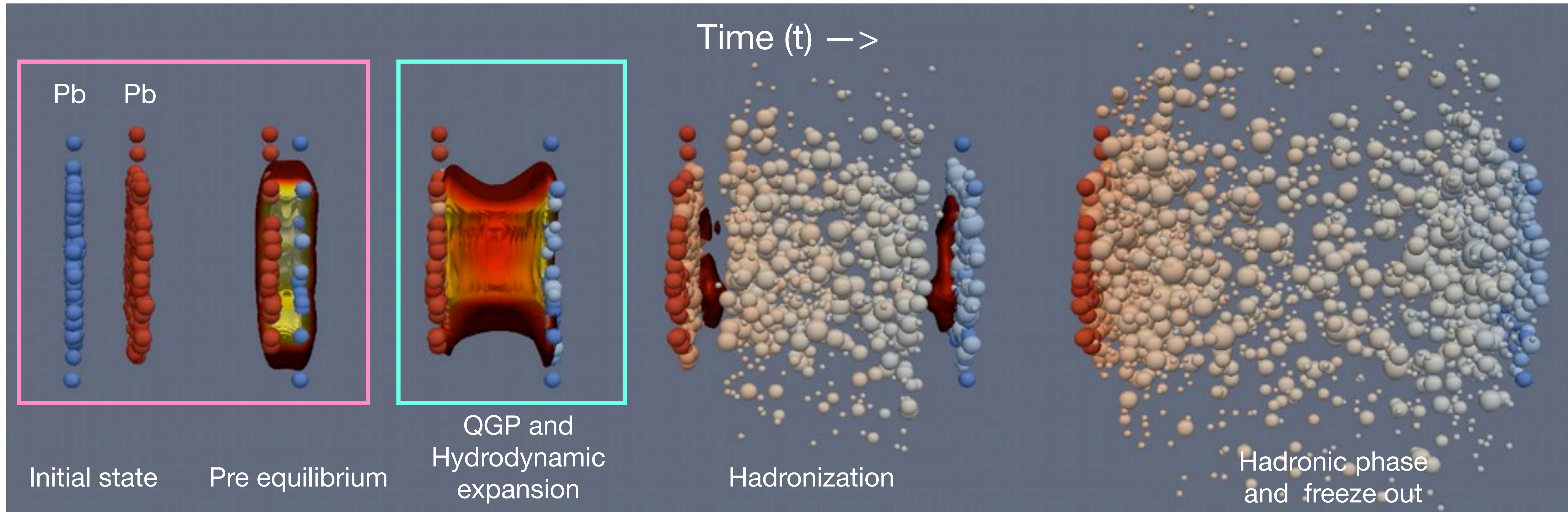


Initial state effects:

- Gluon saturation
- Modification of PDFs

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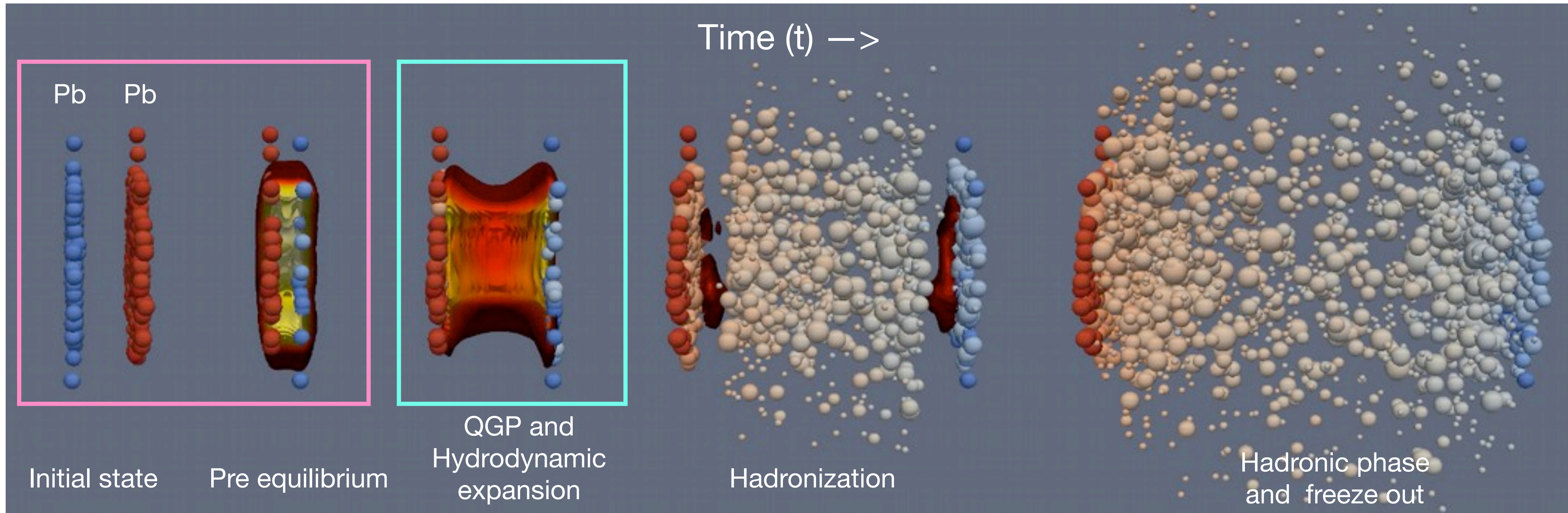


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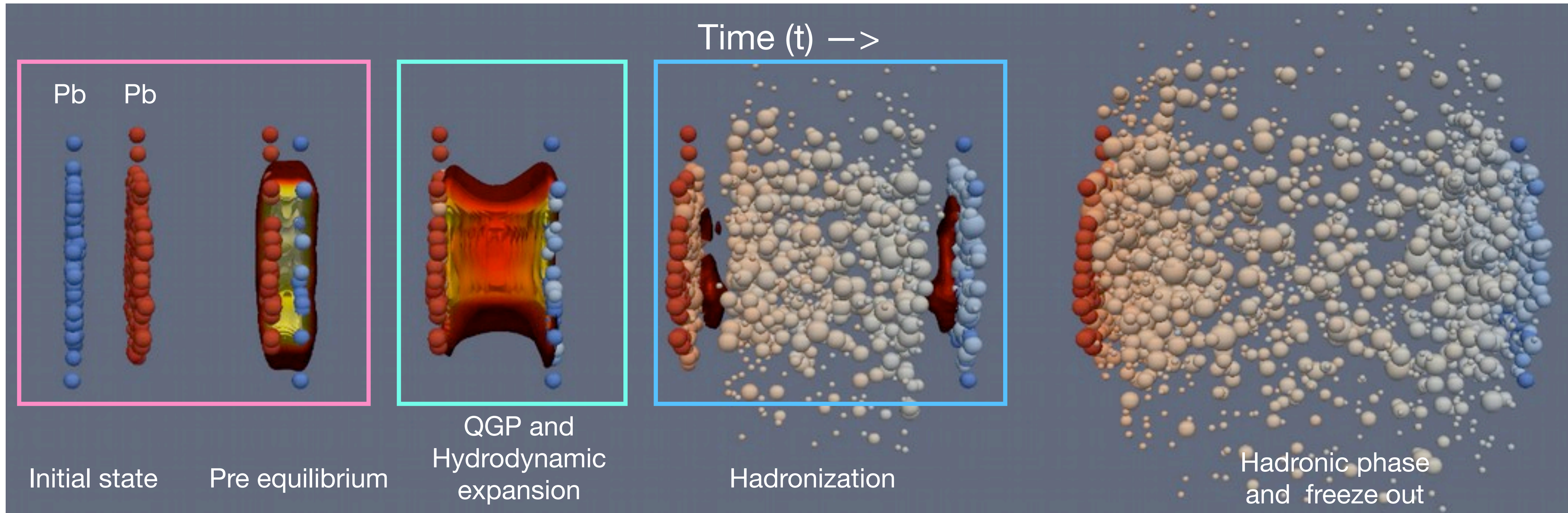
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- Energy loss
- Collectivity

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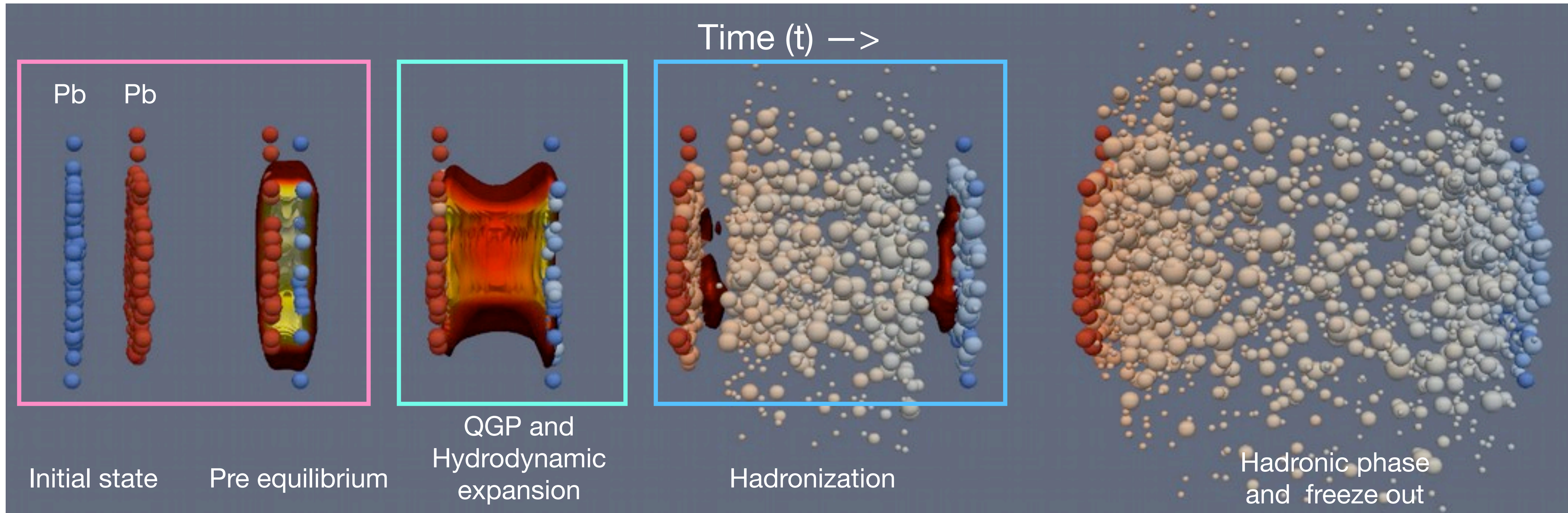
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- **Coalescence:** combination of quarks close in phase space
- **Fragmentation:** break up of colour strings connecting partons

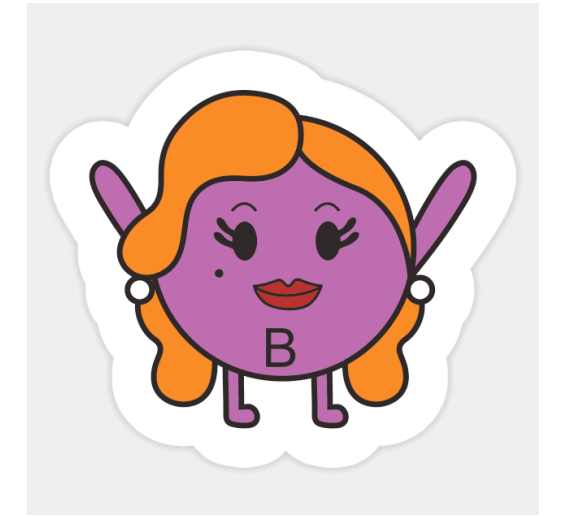
Heavy quarks: a unique probe of QGP

- Heavy quarks: **charm and beauty**, predominantly produced by the parton-parton hard scattering in heavy-ion collisions -> **perturbative QCD can be applied.**
- In heavy-ion collisions: a quark-gluon plasma (QGP) state is produced
 - > Heavy quarks are produced before QGP formation ($t_{\text{QGP}} \sim 1 \text{ fm}/c$ and $t_Q = 1/2m_Q \leq 0.1 \text{ fm}/c$)
 - > Identity is preserved while traversing the medium
 - > **Experience the complete evolution of QGP medium**



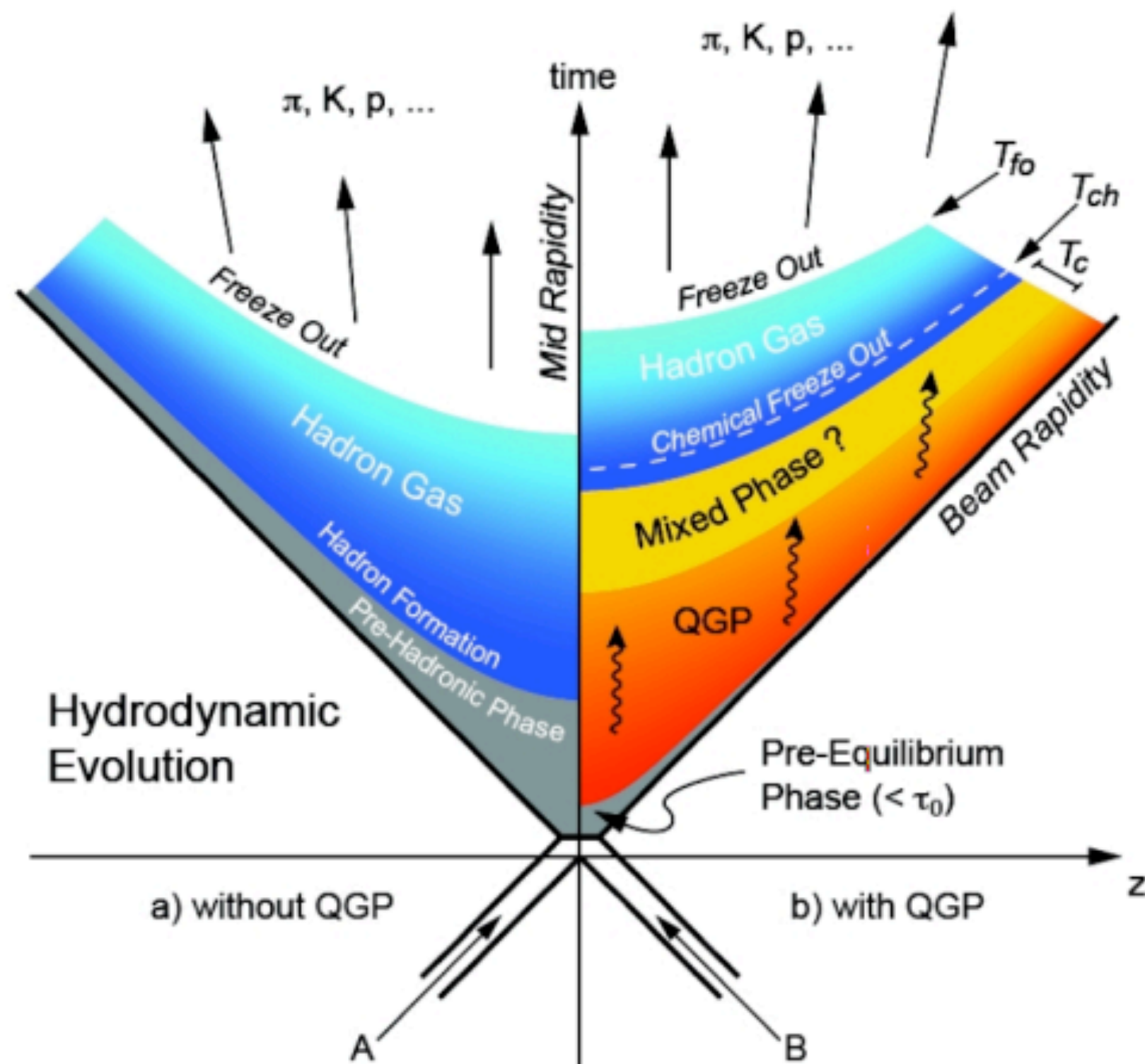
Charm

$m_c \sim 1.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
 $t_c \sim 0.08 \text{ fm}/c$



Beauty

$m_b \sim 4.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
 $t_b \sim 0.03 \text{ fm}/c$

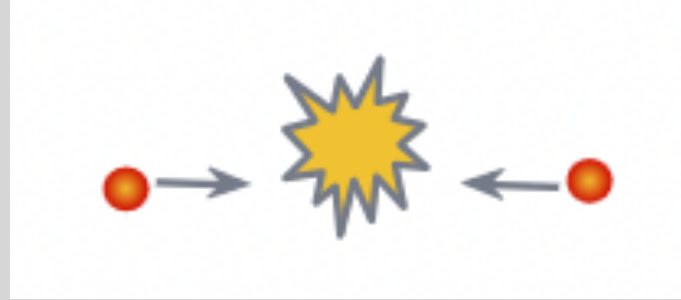


- Energy loss of partons traversing the QGP is expected to occur via both **inelastic** (radiative energy loss via medium-induced gluon radiation) and **elastic** (collisions with the QGP constituents) processes.

★ **Therefore, heavy quarks act as important tools for characterizing the medium formed in heavy-ion collisions.**

Physics motivation: Study of Heavy-Flavour physics

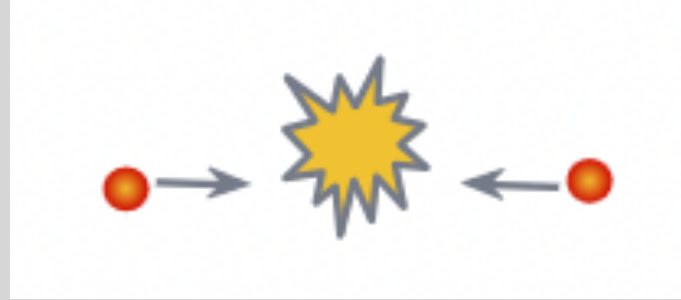
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pp collisions:

- Test pQCD calculations
- Study heavy-flavour quark production, fragmentation and hadronization
- Reference for p—Pb and Pb—Pb systems

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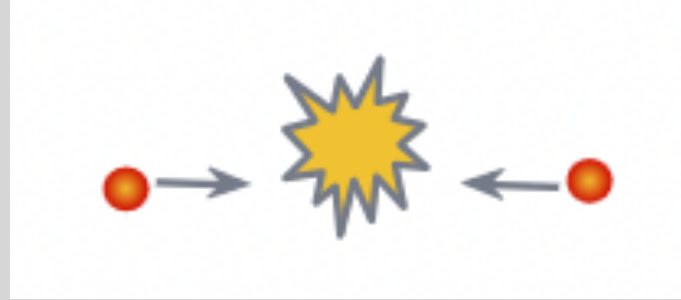
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p–Pb collisions:

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- Possible collective effects ?

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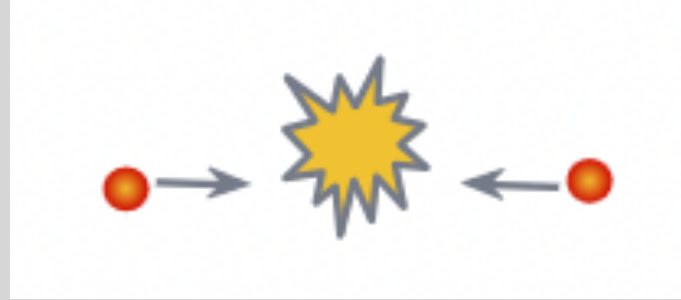
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Pb–Pb collisions:

- Sensitivity to the energy-loss mechanism of heavy quarks (collisional and radiative processes)
- Possible modification of the quark hadronization

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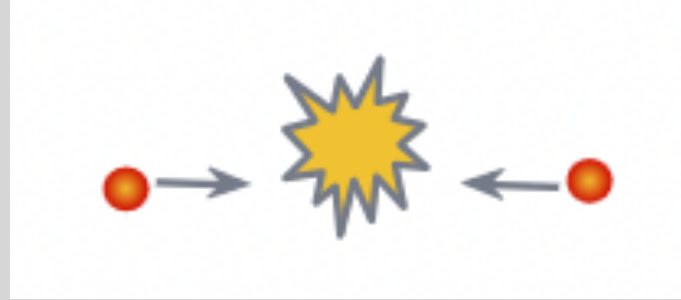


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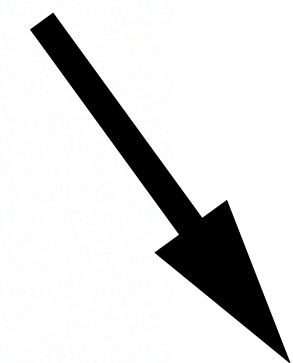


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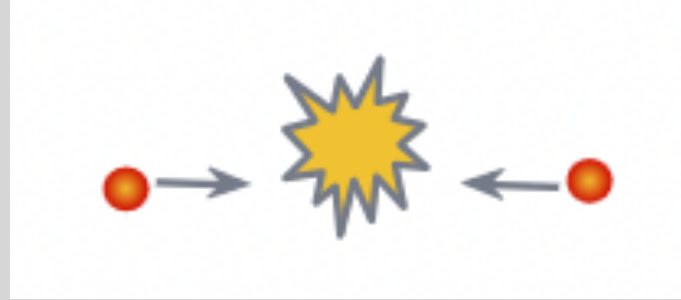
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$$\frac{d\sigma^{H_c}}{dp_T} (p_T; \mu_F, \mu_R) = \underbrace{\text{PDF}(x_1, \mu_F) \cdot \text{PDF}(x_2, \mu_F)}_{\text{Parton distribution functions (PDFs)}} \otimes \underbrace{\frac{d\sigma^c}{dp_T^c} (x_1, x_2; \mu_R, \mu_F)}_{\text{Hard scattering cross section (pQCD)}} \otimes \underbrace{D_{c \rightarrow H_c} \left(z = \frac{p_{H_c}}{p_c}, \mu_F \right)}_{\text{Fragmentation function (hadronisation)}}$$



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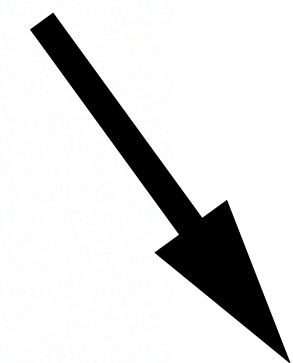


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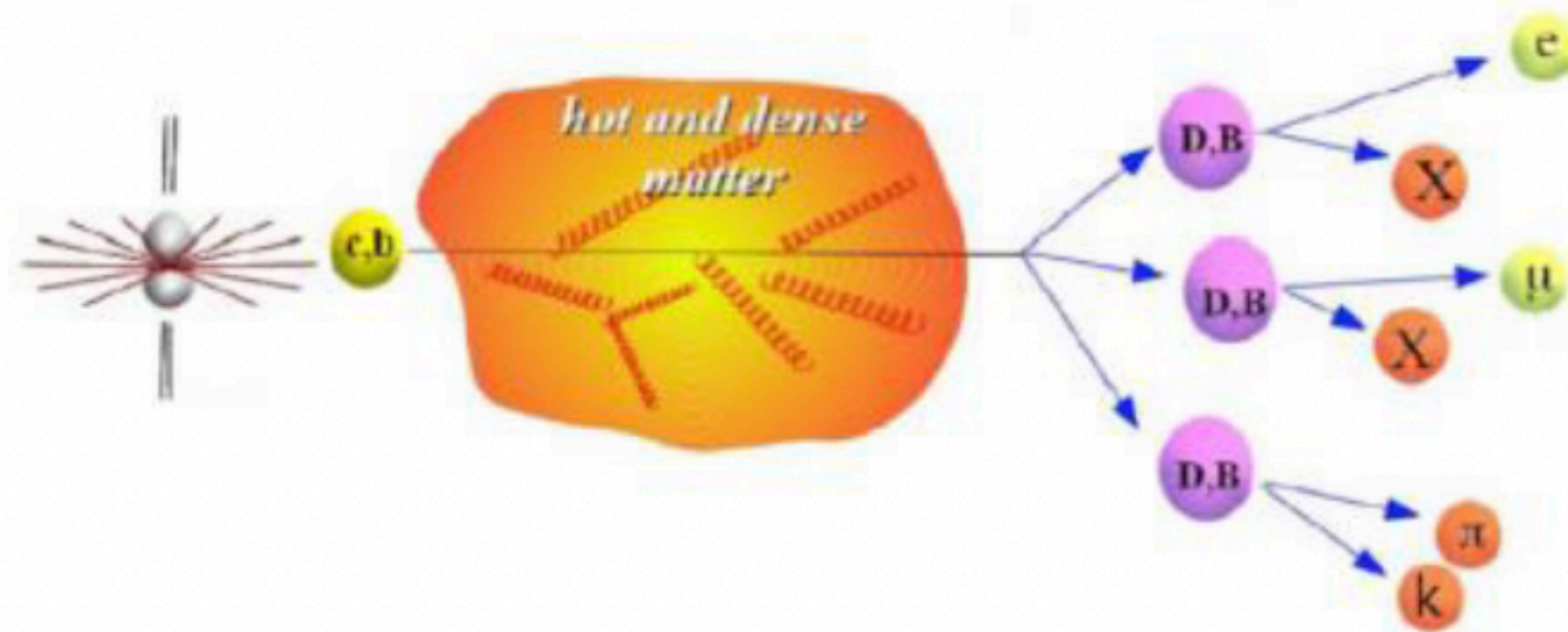


Assumed to be universal across collision systems

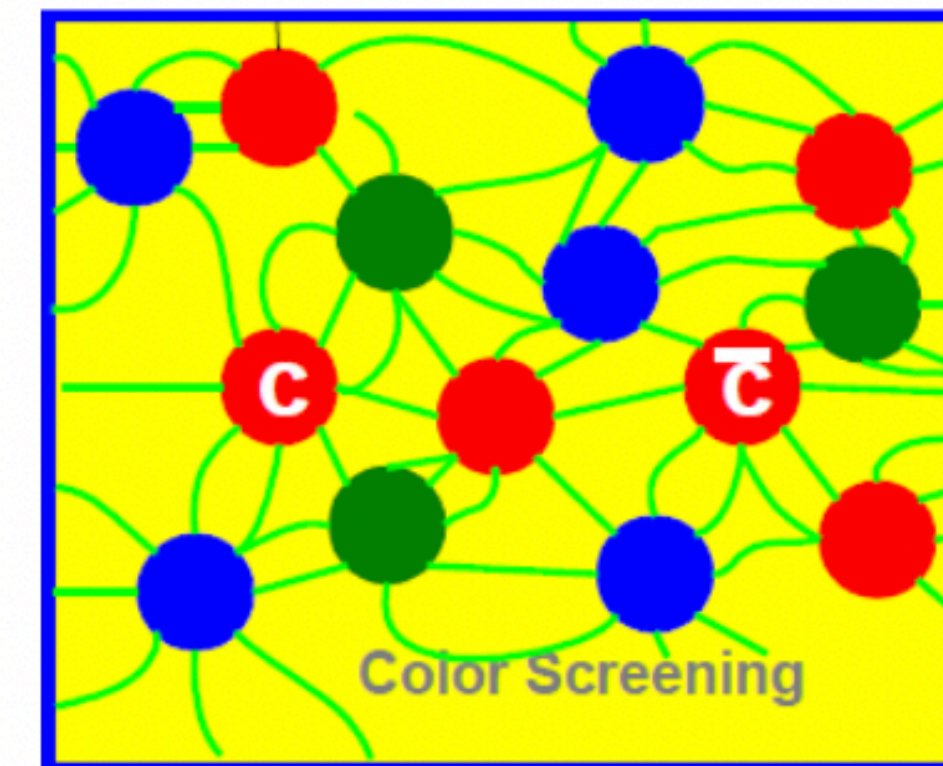
Two important probes

Open heavy flavour: Charm hadrons (D^0 , D^\pm , ...), bottom hadrons (B^0 , B^\pm , ...)

Quarkonia: charmonium ($c\bar{c}$): J/ψ , ψ' , ...,
bottomonium ($b\bar{b}$): Υ ..



Probe of QCD interaction dynamics in extended systems

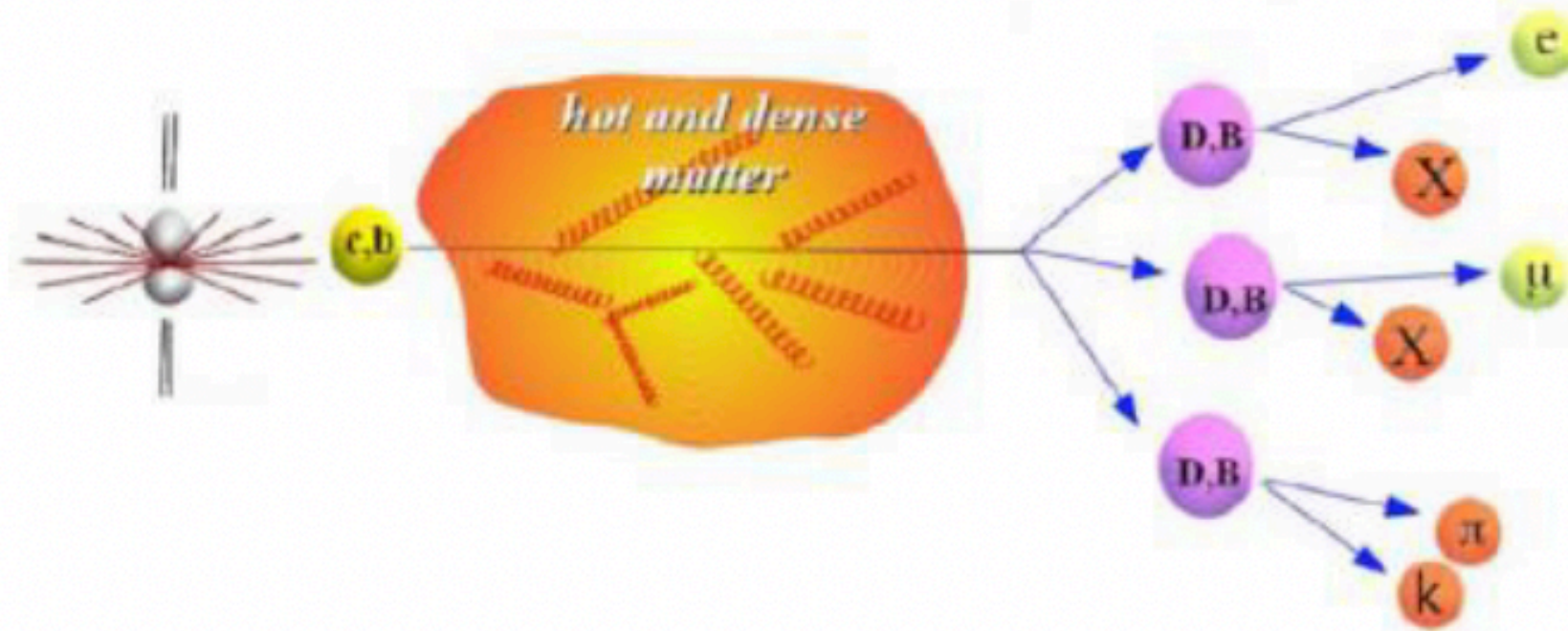


Probe of deconfinement & QGP medium temperature

- Both probe medium transport properties via, e.g. the collective expansion of the QGP
- Both pillars evolved and extended significantly over the years

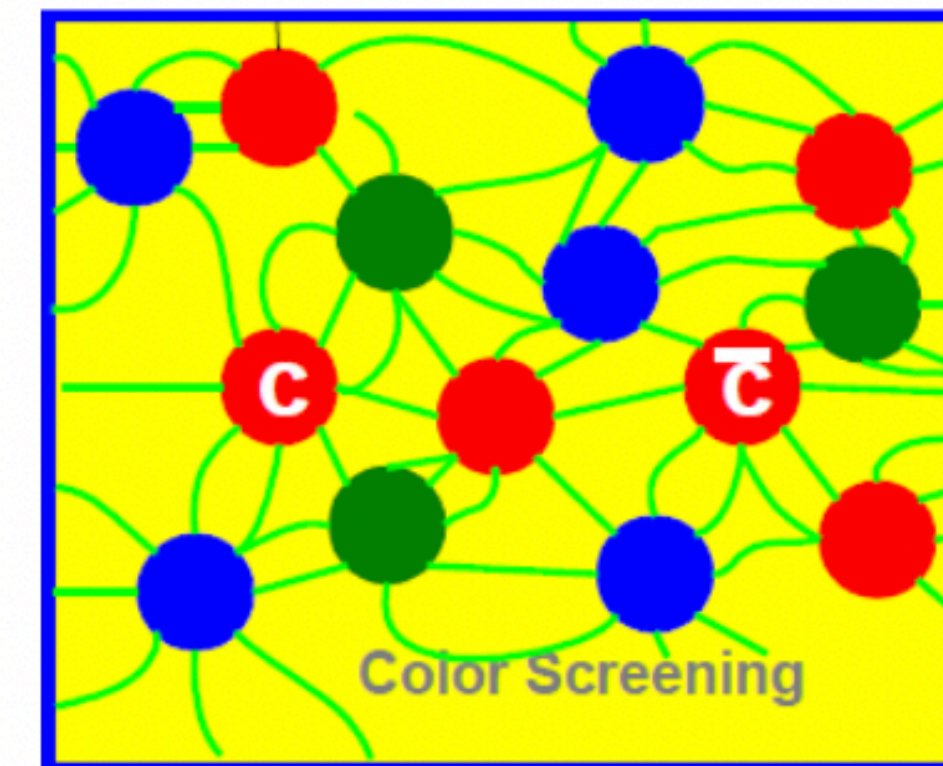
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Probe of QCD interaction dynamics in extended systems

Quarkonia: charmonium ($c\bar{c}$): $J/\psi, \psi', \dots$,
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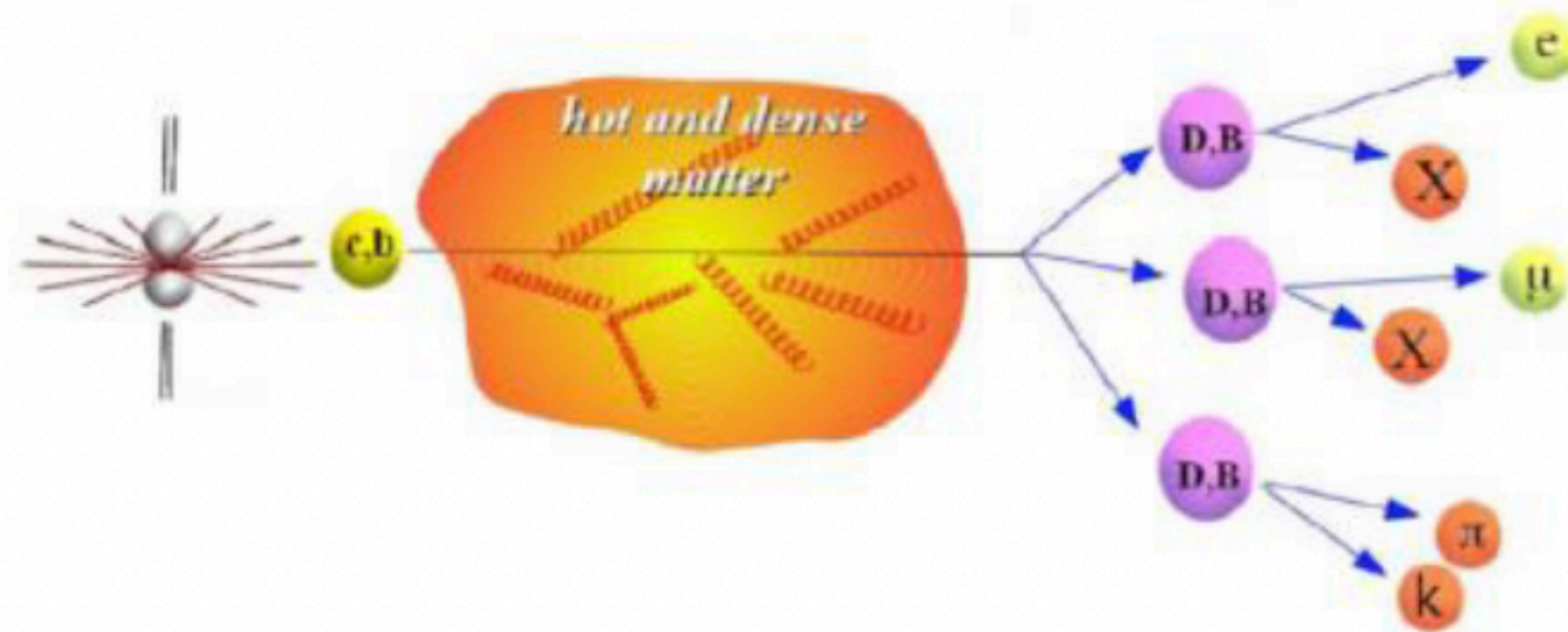
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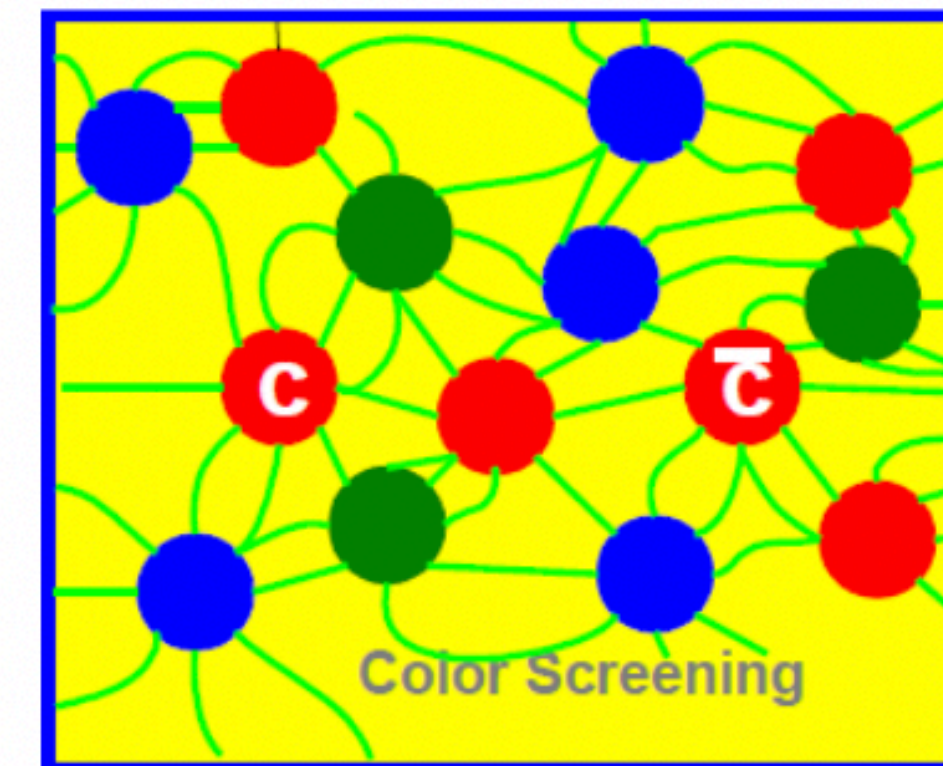
This talk

Open heavy flavour: Charm hadrons (D^0 , D^\pm , ...), bottom hadrons (B^0 , B^\pm , ...)



Probe of QCD interaction dynamics in extended systems

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The ALICE detector (Run 2)

Time-Of-Flight detector

- particle identification

Time Projection Chamber

- track reconstruction
- particle identification

HF hadrons in ALICE

- $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$
- $D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$
- $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \pi^0 \rightarrow K^+ K^- \pi^+$
- $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0 \pi^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$
- $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K^- \pi^+$
- $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K_S^0 \rightarrow p \pi^+ \pi^-$
- $\Xi_c^+ \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+ \pi^+ \rightarrow \Lambda \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^+$
- $\Xi_c^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \Xi^- \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \Lambda$
- $\Omega_c^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ \Omega^- \rightarrow \pi^+ K^- \Lambda$
- $\Sigma_c^{0,++} \rightarrow \pi^{-,+} \Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow \pi^{-,+} p K_S^0$
- $\Sigma_c^{0,++} \rightarrow \pi^{-,+} \Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow \pi^{-,+} p K^- \pi^+$
- $D_{s1}^+ \rightarrow D^{*+} K_S^0$
- $D_{s2}^{*+} \rightarrow D^+ K_S^0$

ElectroMagnetic Calorimeter

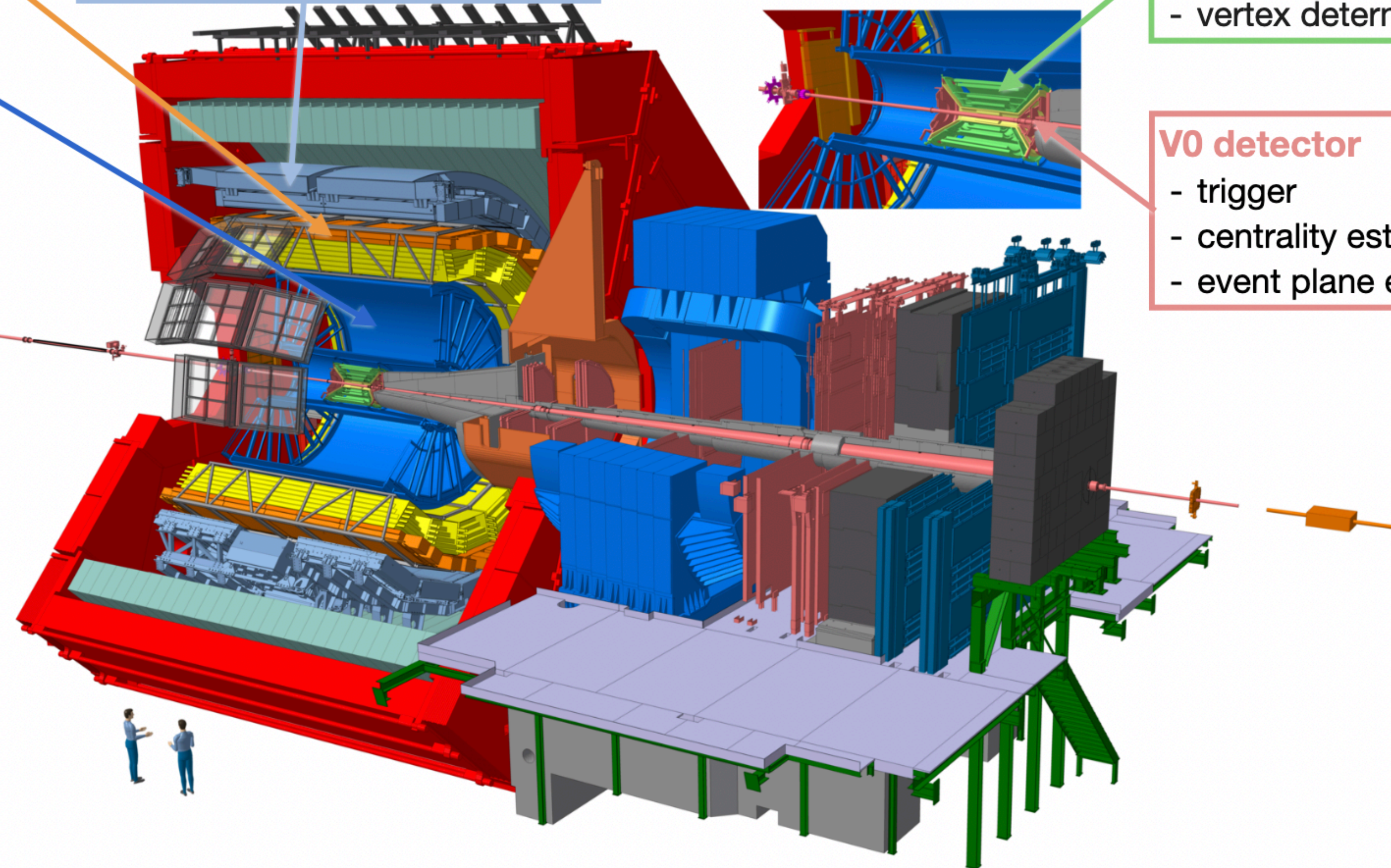
- trigger
- particle identification

Inner Tracking System

- track reconstruction
- vertex determination

V0 detector

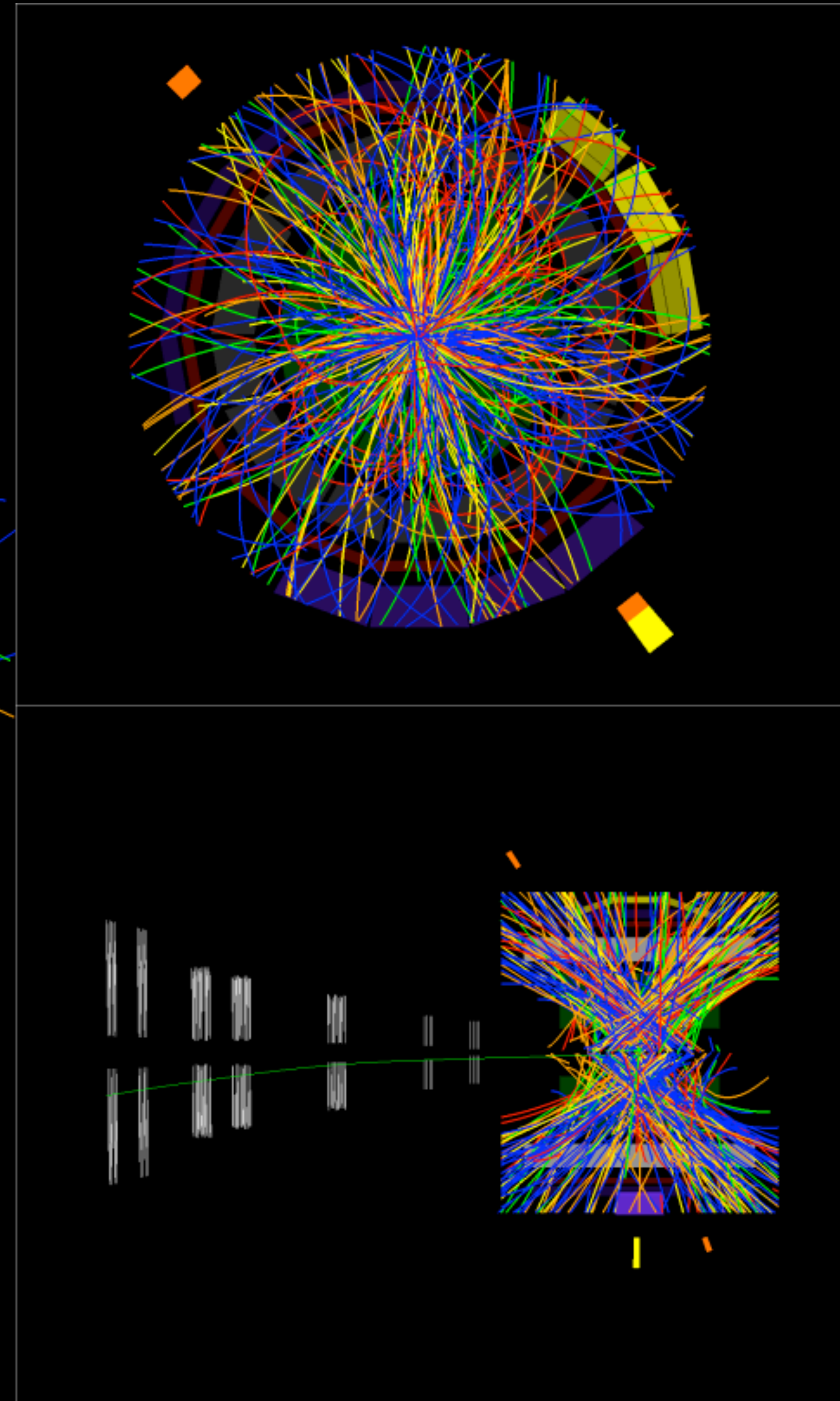
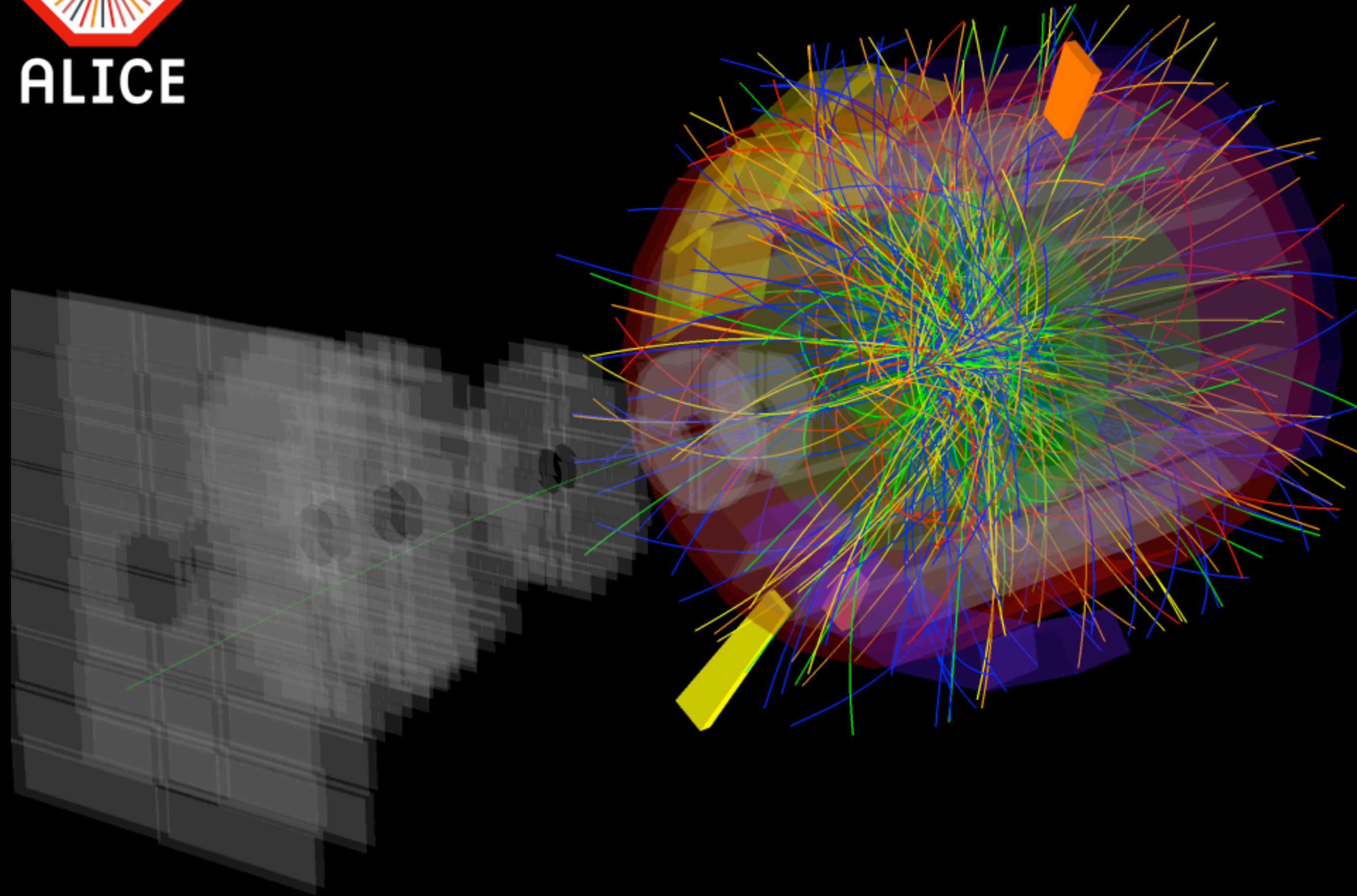
- trigger
- centrality estimation
- event plane estimation



Results in pp collisions



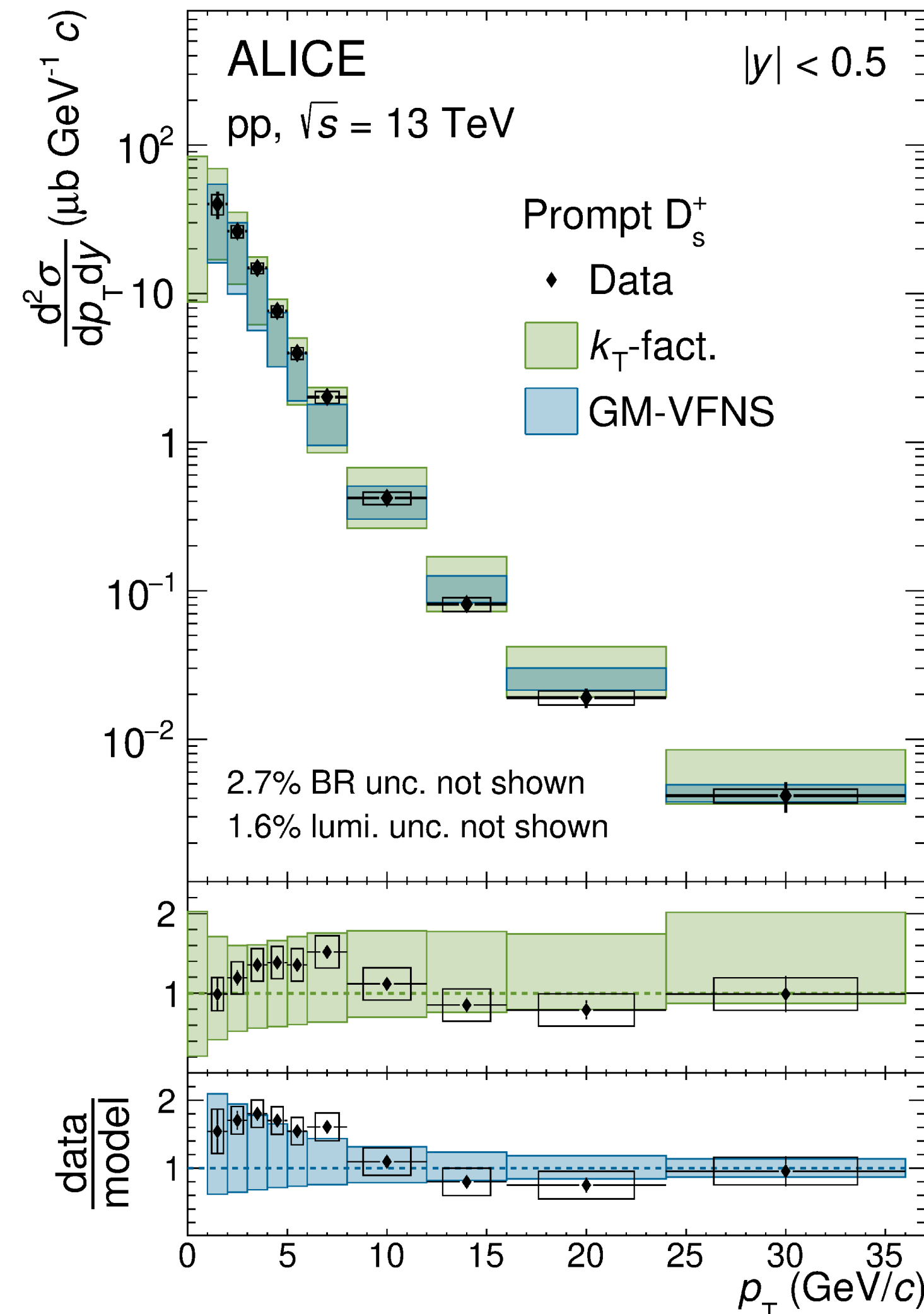
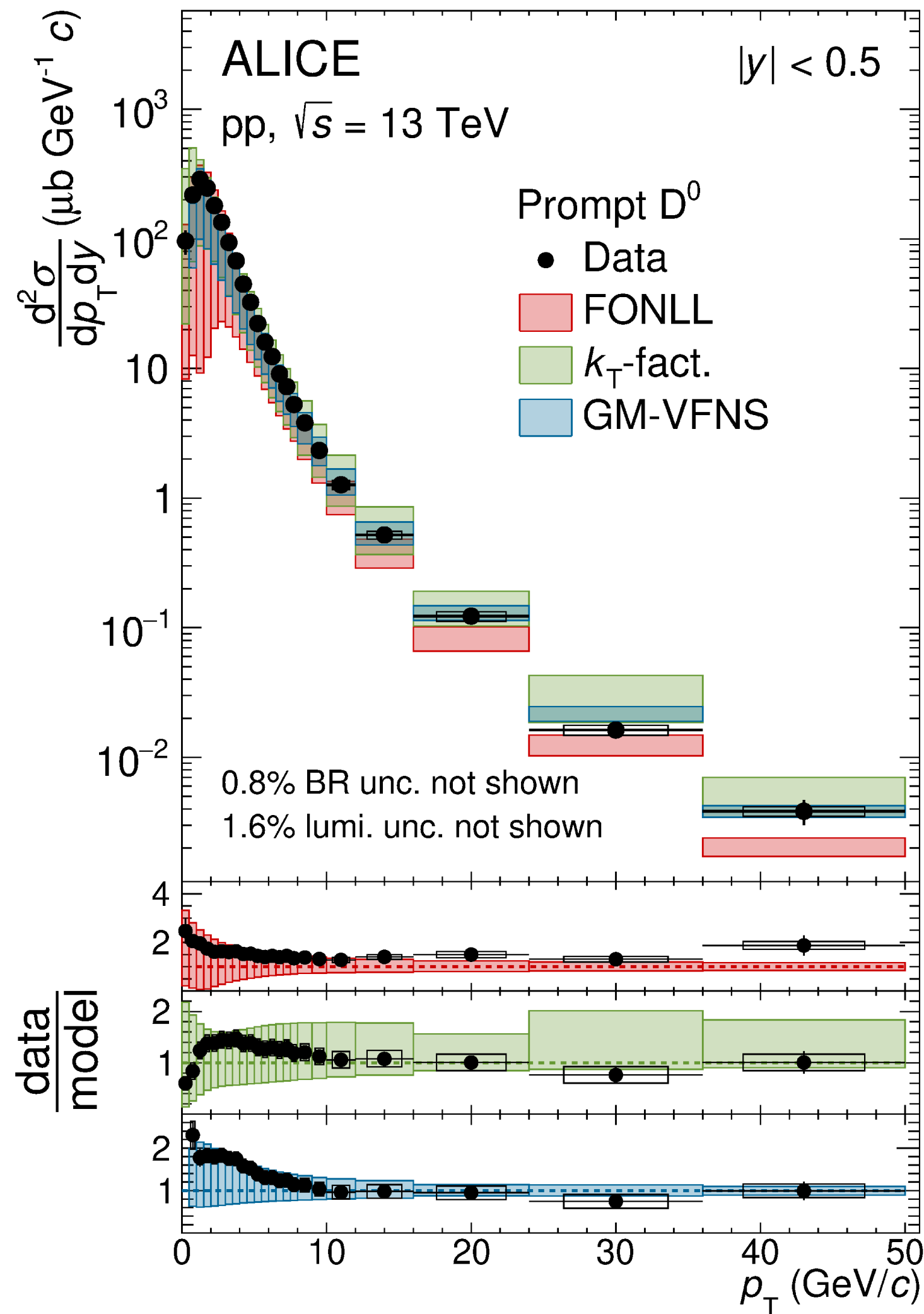
ALICE



Run:285602
Timestamp:2018-04-30 08:13:04(UTC)
Colliding system:p-p
Energy: 13 TeV

Cross section of D mesons

JHEP 12 (2023) 086



**Prompt charm hadron :
hadrons from c-quark hadronisation or
from the decay of excited charm hadrons**

- **p_T -differential cross sections described by pQCD calculations (FONLL, k_T -factorization, GM-VFNS) \Rightarrow Good agreement within uncertainties**

FONLL :

[JHEP 05 \(1998\) 007, JHEP 10 \(2012\) 137](#)

k_T -factorization :

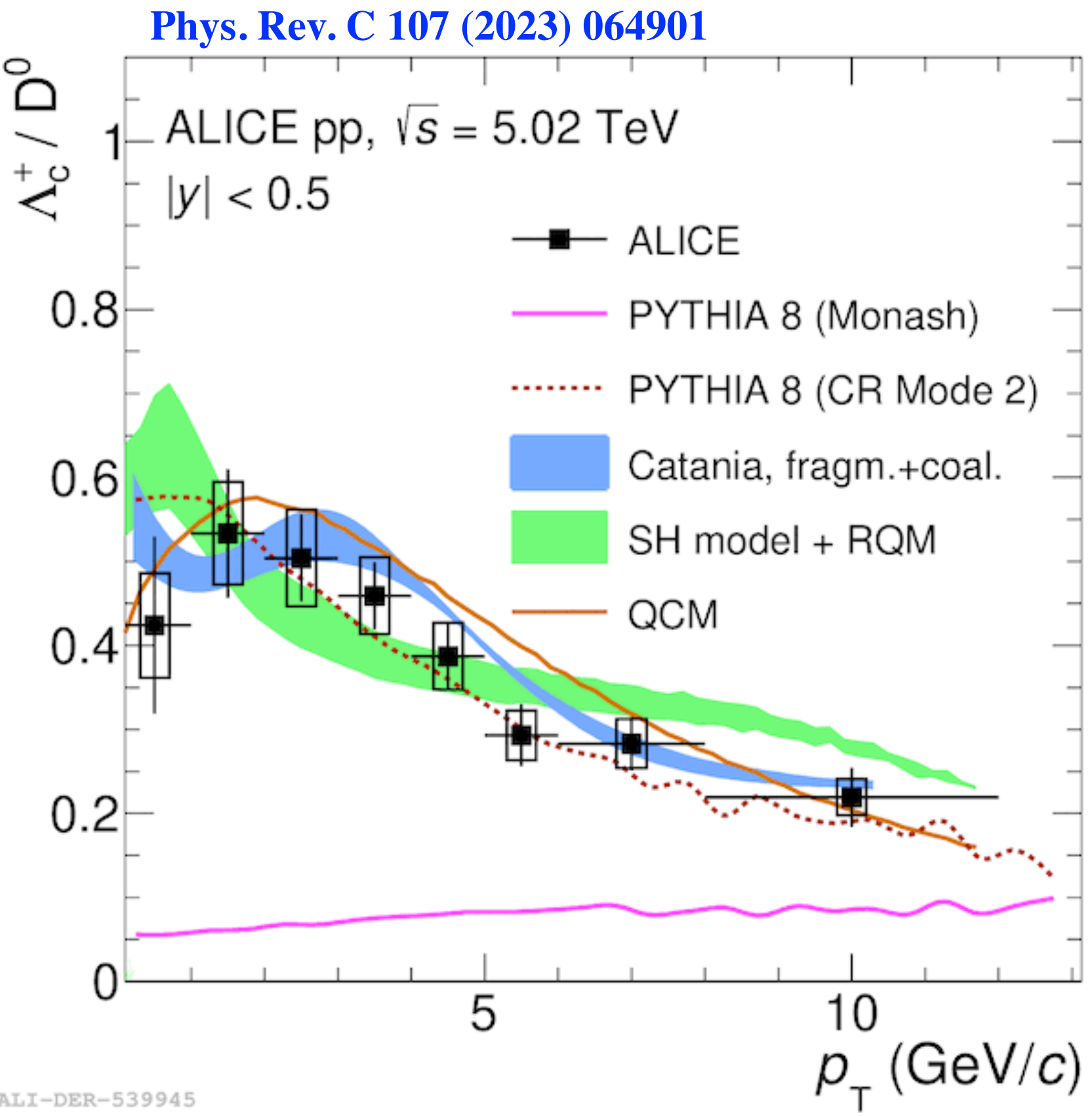
[Phys. Rev. D 104 \(2021\) 094038](#)

GM-VFNS :

[JHEP 12 \(2017\) 021, Nucl. Phys. B 925 \(2017\) 415–430](#)

Prompt Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio : Questioning the Universality

Measurements of the baryon-to-meson yield ratio -> p_T -dependent enhancement of Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio in pp w.r.t. e^+e^-



ALI-DER-539945

LEP: $(0.113 \pm 0.013 \pm 0.006)$ EPJC 75 (2015) 19

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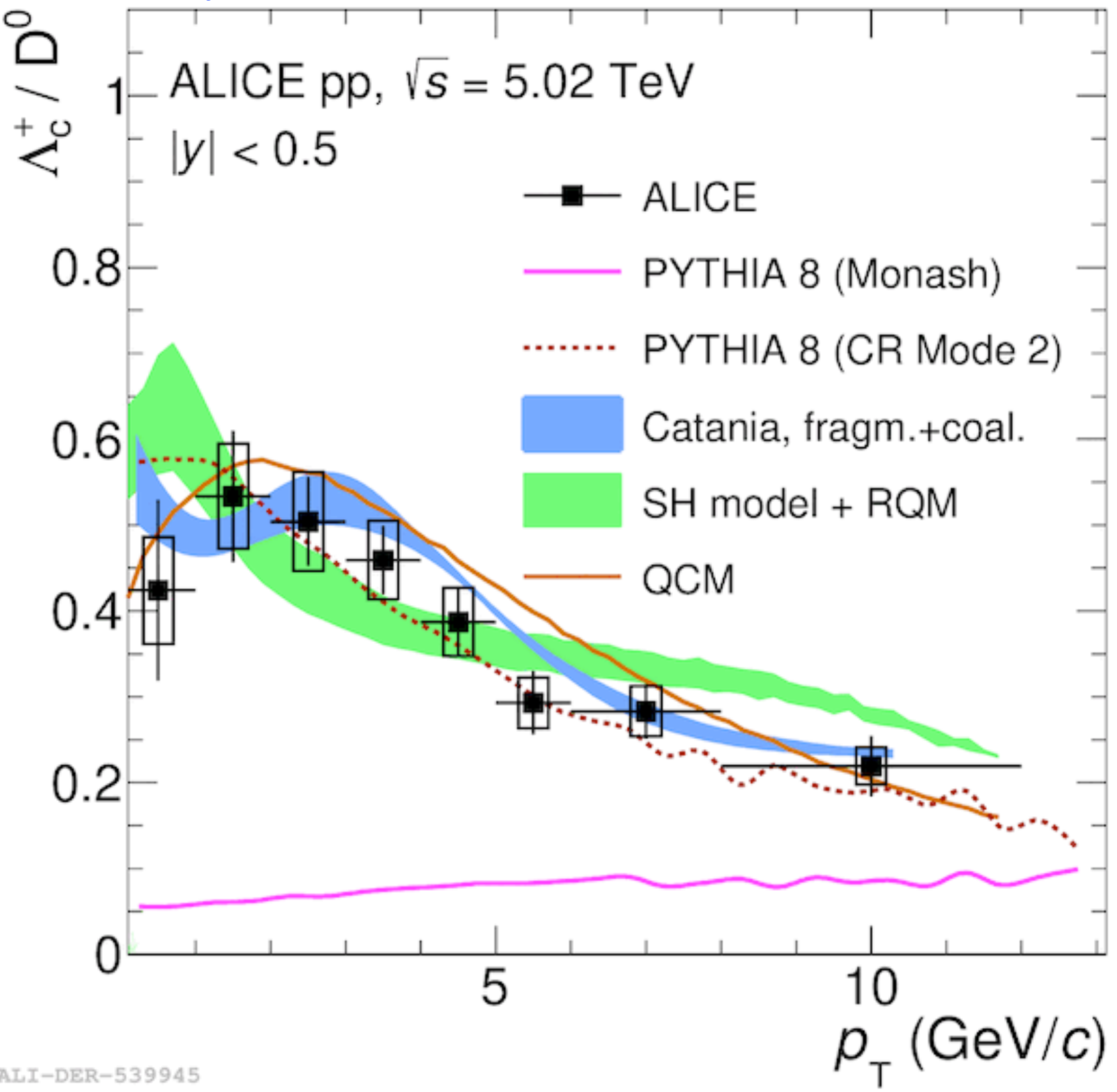
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Models based on fragmentation functions evaluated from e^+e^- collisions underestimate the data (PYTHIA 8 Monash)



Phys. Rev. C 107 (2023) 064901



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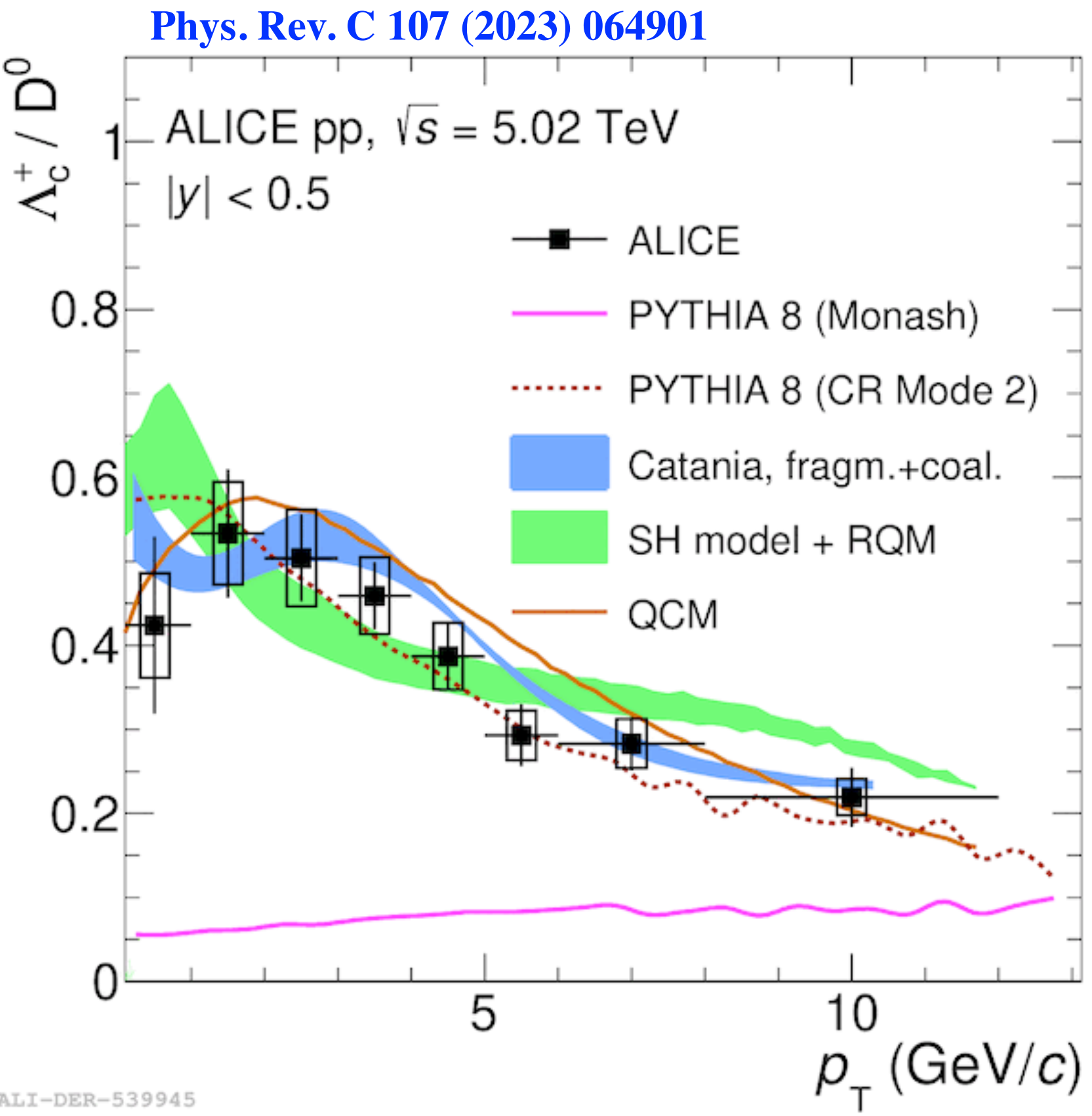
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Different hadronization mechanisms proposed:



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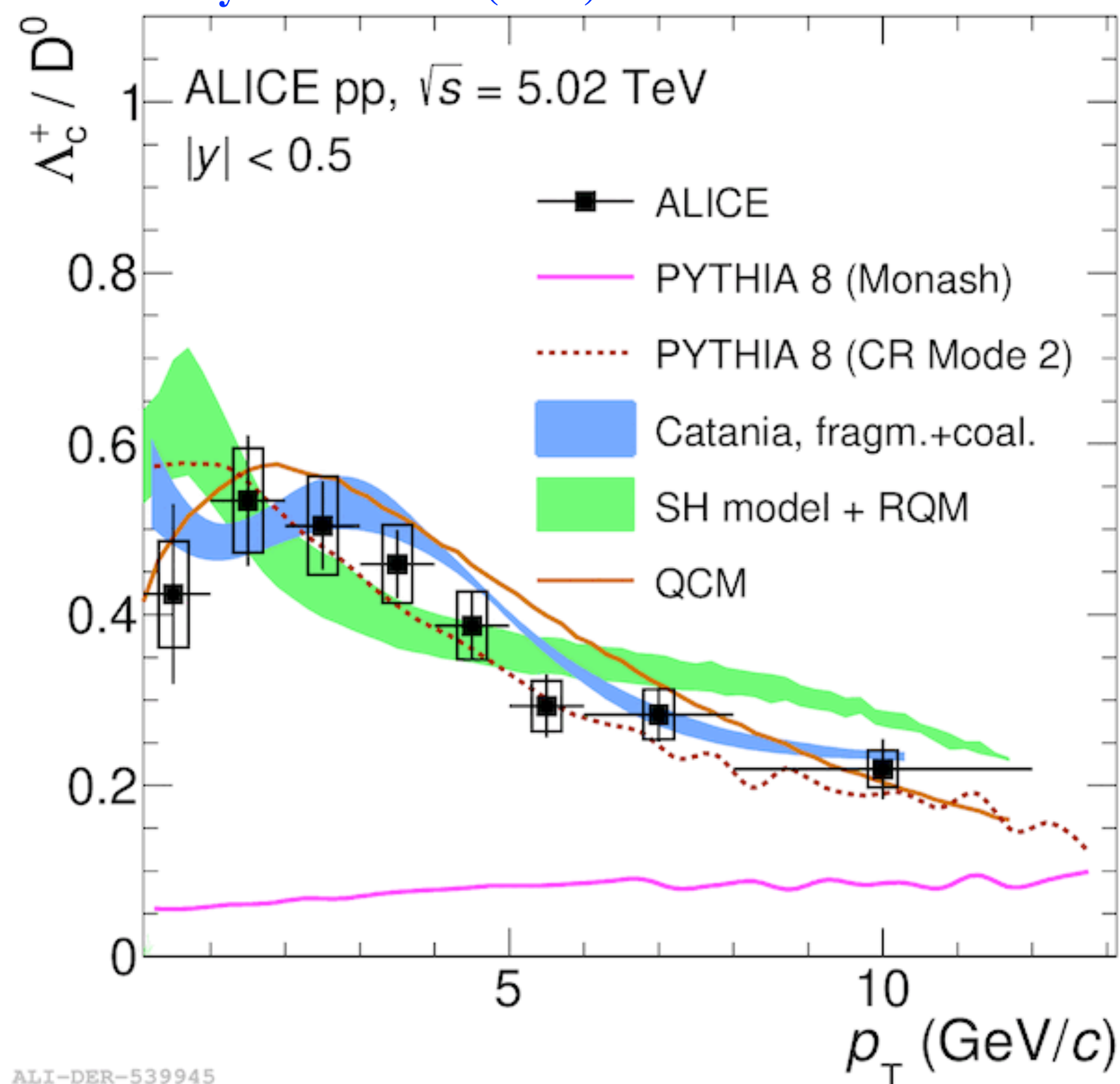
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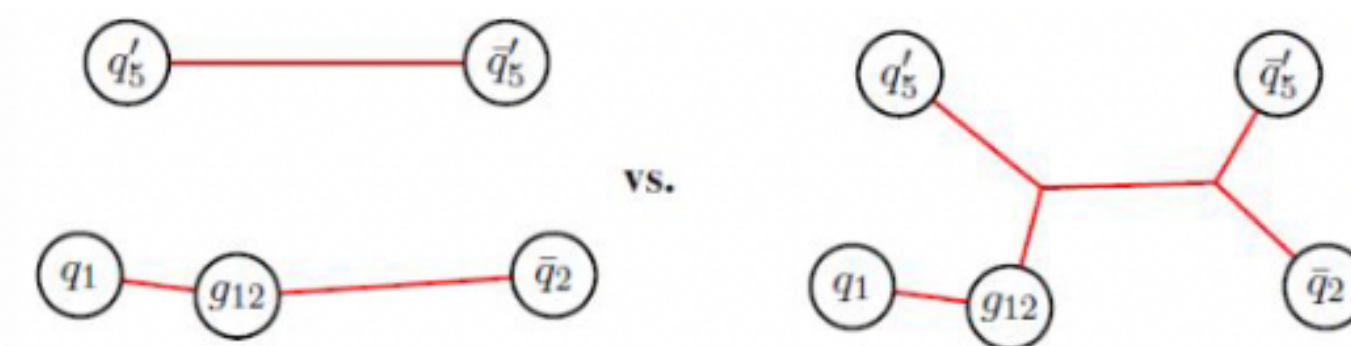


Phys. Rev. C 107 (2023) 064901



Different hadronization mechanisms proposed:

Color reconnection beyond leading color (PYTHIA 8 CR Mode 2)



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EPJC 75 (2015) 19

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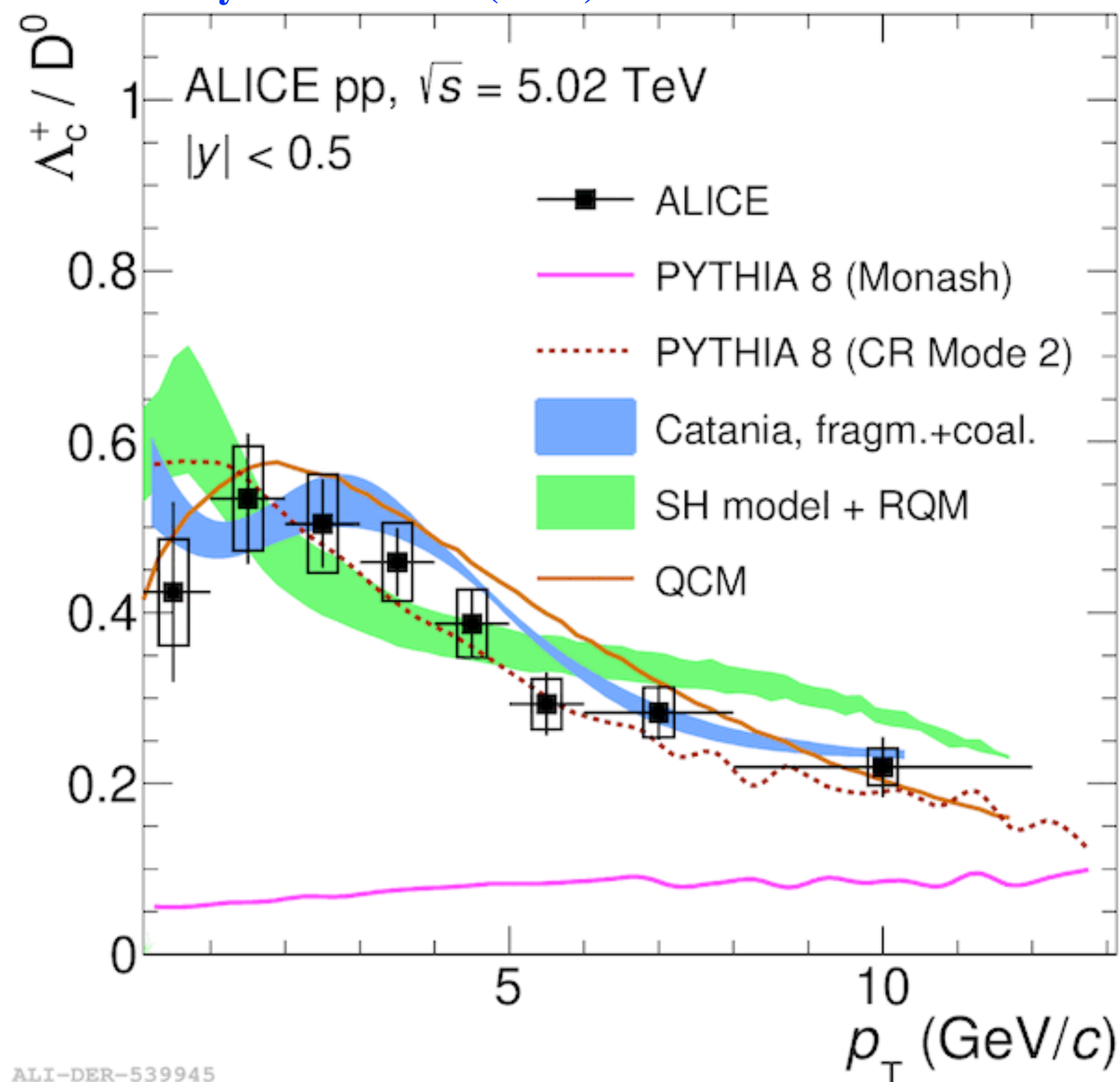
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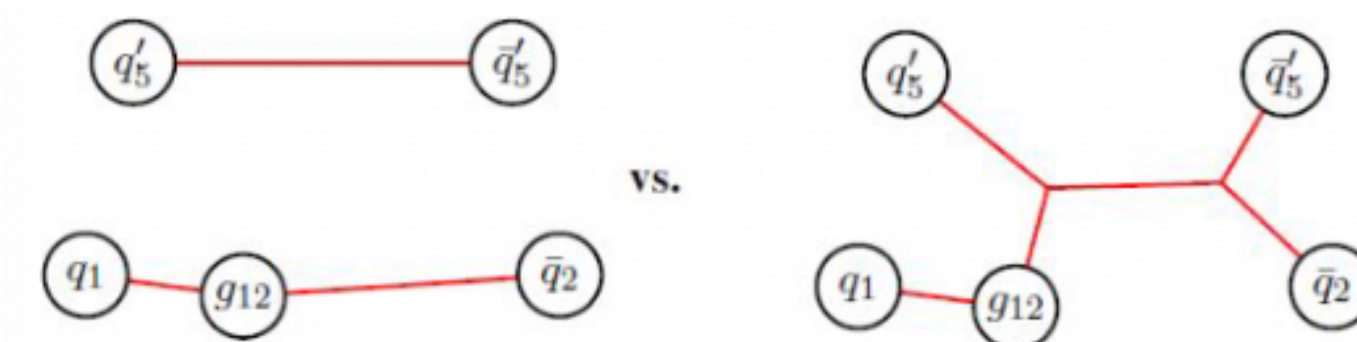


Phys. Rev. C 107 (2023) 064901



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Increased feed-down from an augmented set of excited charm baryons (Statistical Hadronisation model + Relativistic Quark model)

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EPJC 75 (2015) 19

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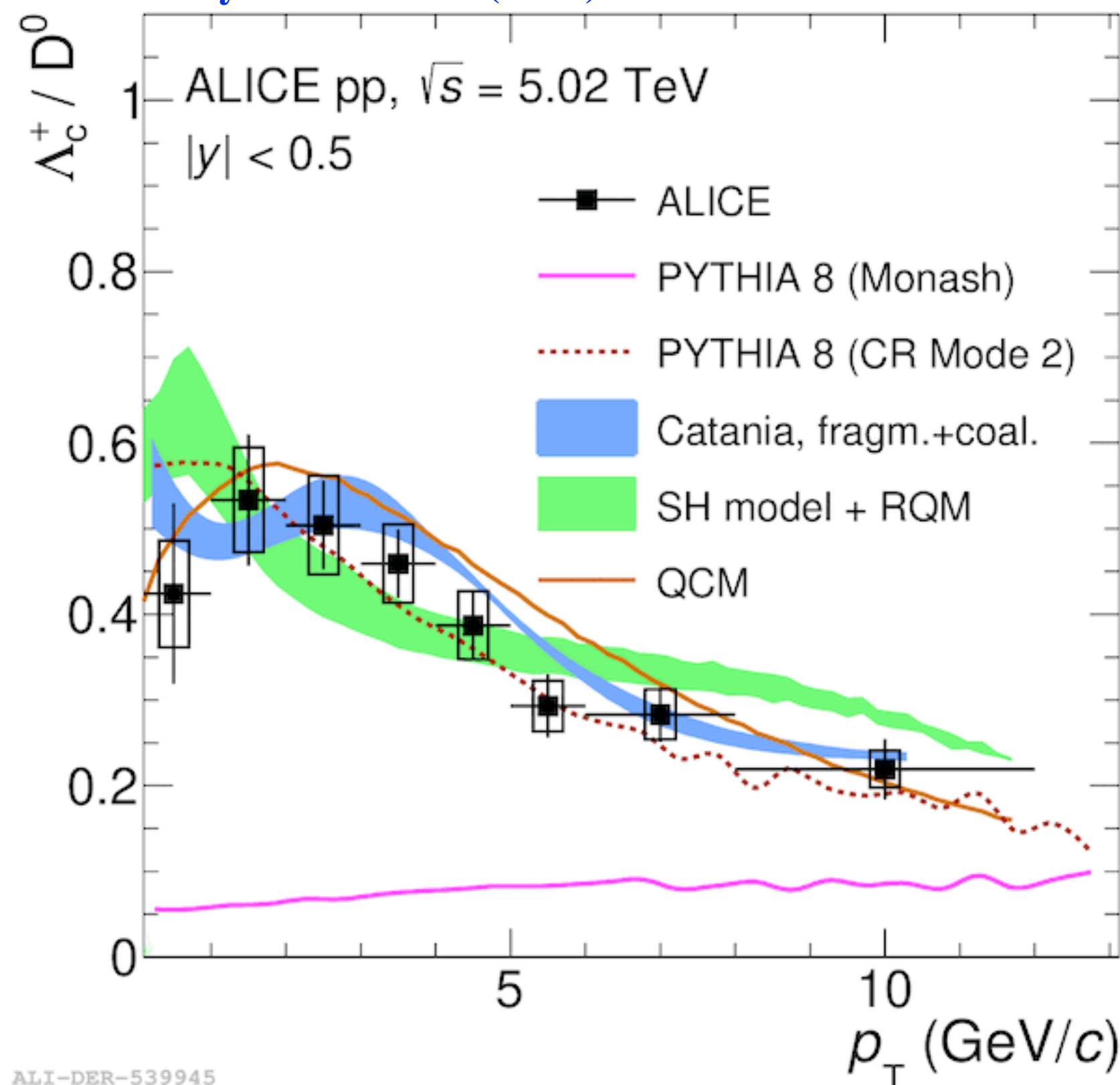
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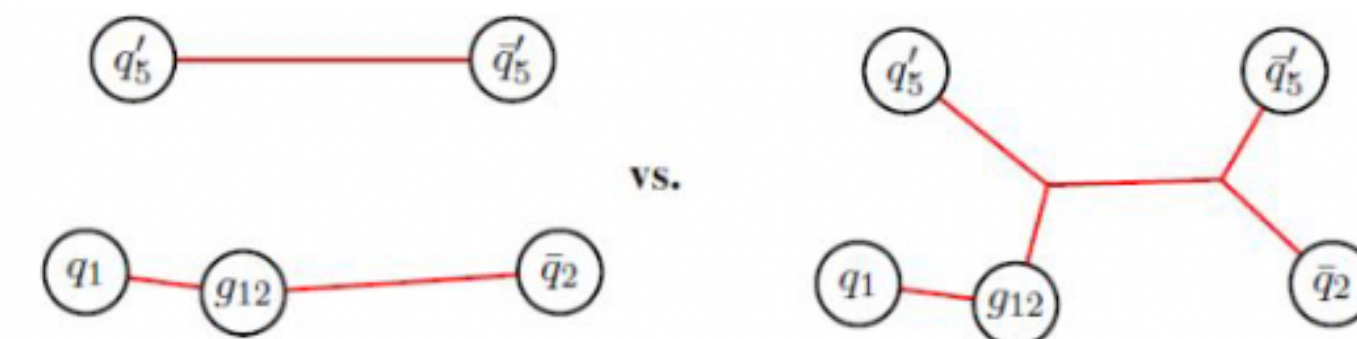


Phys. Rev. C 107 (2023) 064901



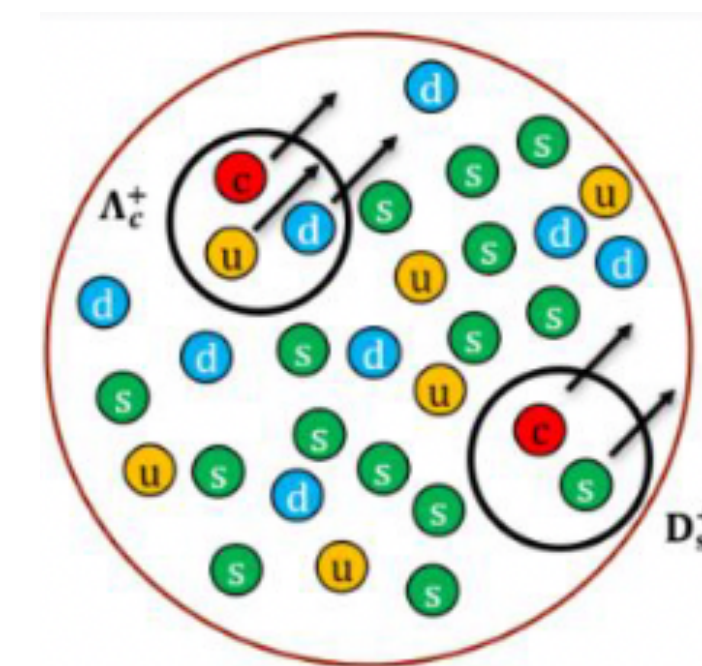
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Hadronization via coalescence and fragmentation in a thermalised system of gluons, light quarks and antiquarks (Catania, Quark (re)Combination Model)

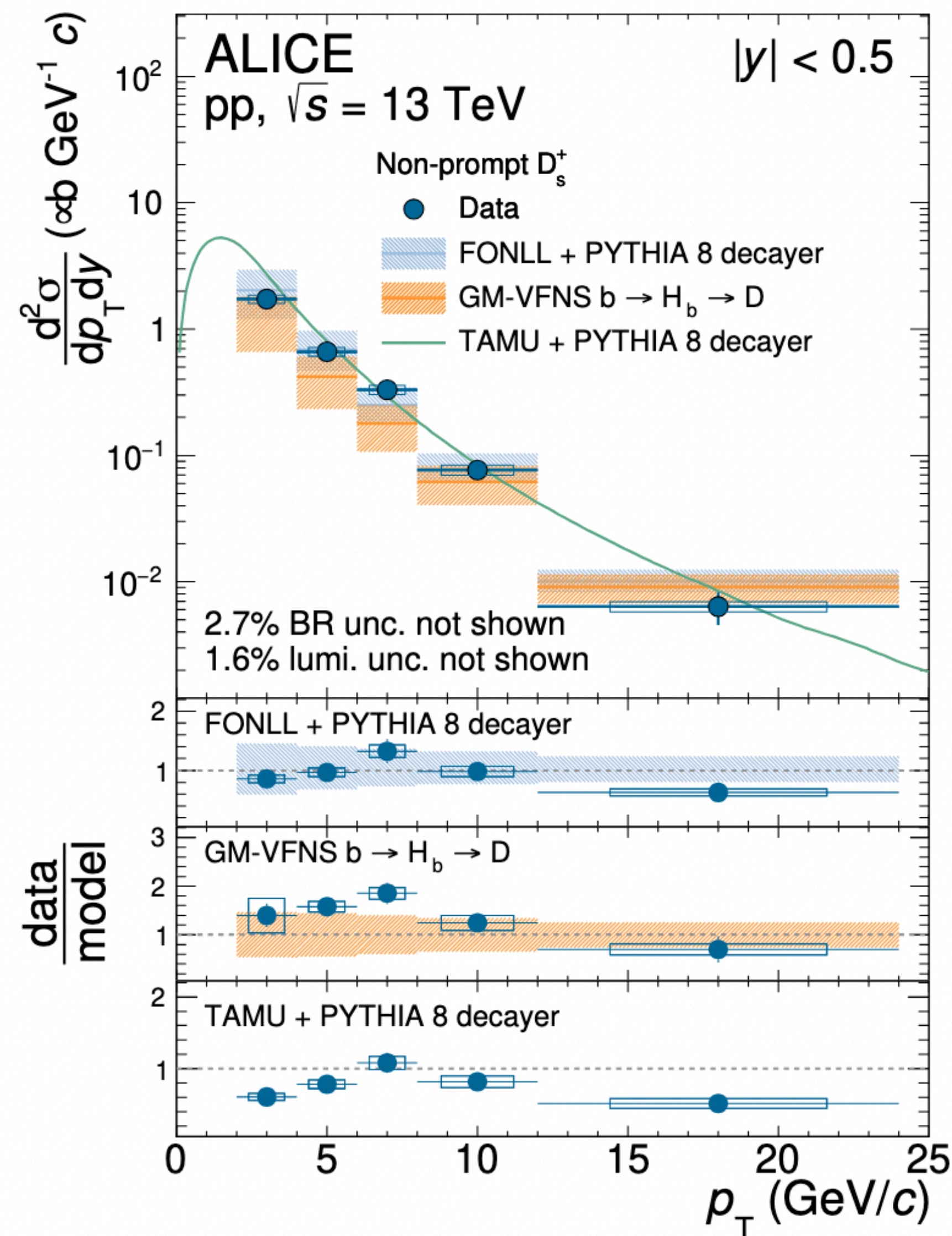
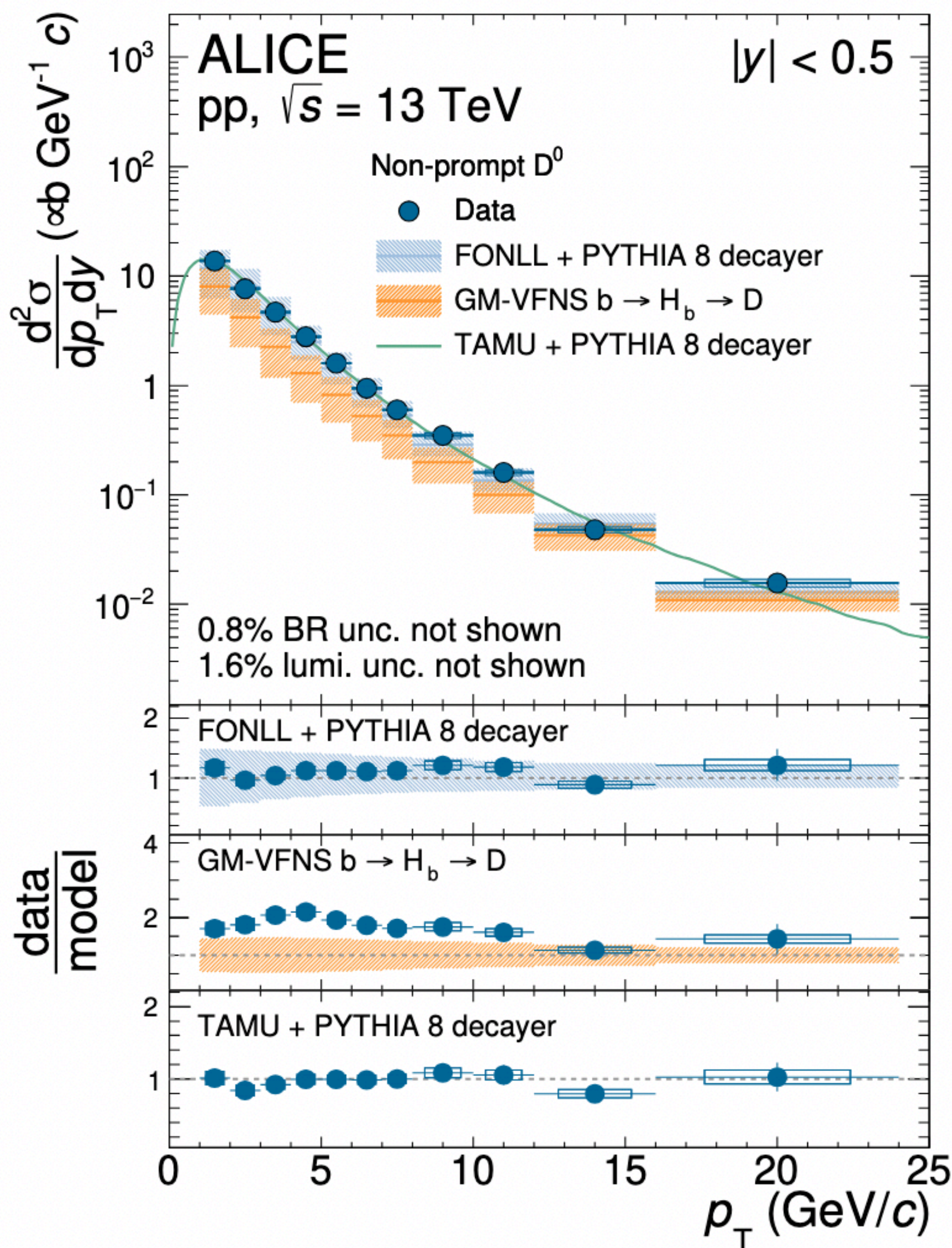


LEP: $(0.113 \pm 0.013 \pm 0.006)$

EPJC 75 (2015) 19

Cross section of non-prompt D mesons

arXiv:2402.16417



**Non-prompt charm hadron :
Charm hadrons from beauty-
hadron decays**

PYTHIA 8

[Comput. Phys. Commun. 191 \(2015\) 159–177](#)

[Eur. Phys. J. C 74 \(2014\) 3024](#)

FONLL

[JHEP 05 \(1998\) 007](#)

[JHEP 10 \(2012\) 137](#)

- **Consistent with data within uncertainties**

TAMU

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 \(2023\) 012301](#)

- **Good agreement for D^0**

- **Tend to overestimate the D_s^+**

GM-VFNS

[JHEP 12 \(2017\) 021](#)

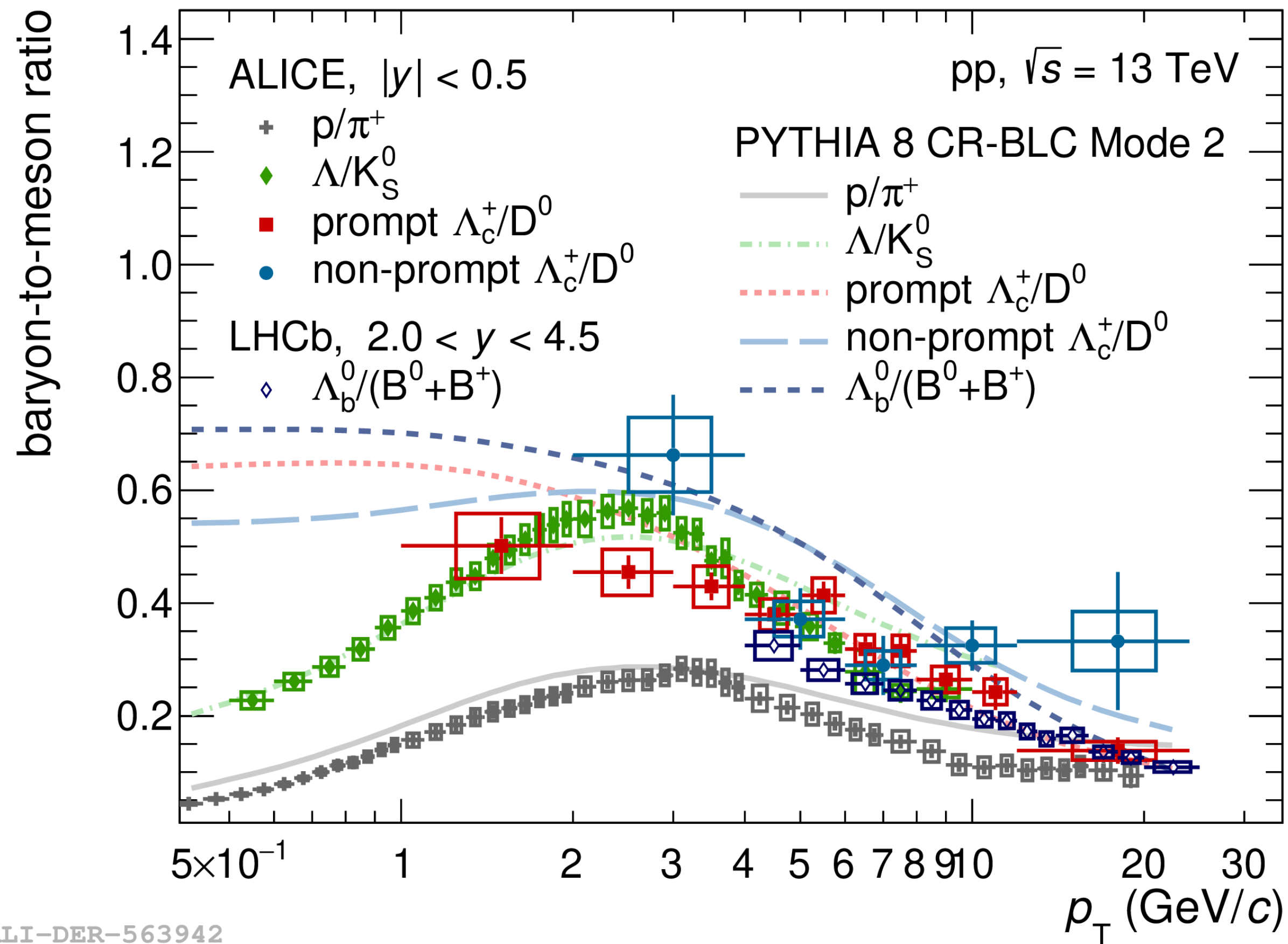
[Nucl. Phys. B 925 \(2017\) 415–430](#)

[J. Phys. G 41 \(2014\) 075006](#)

- **Underestimate the data at low p_T , whereas a better description at high p_T**

Non-prompt Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio

Phys. Rev. D 108, 112003

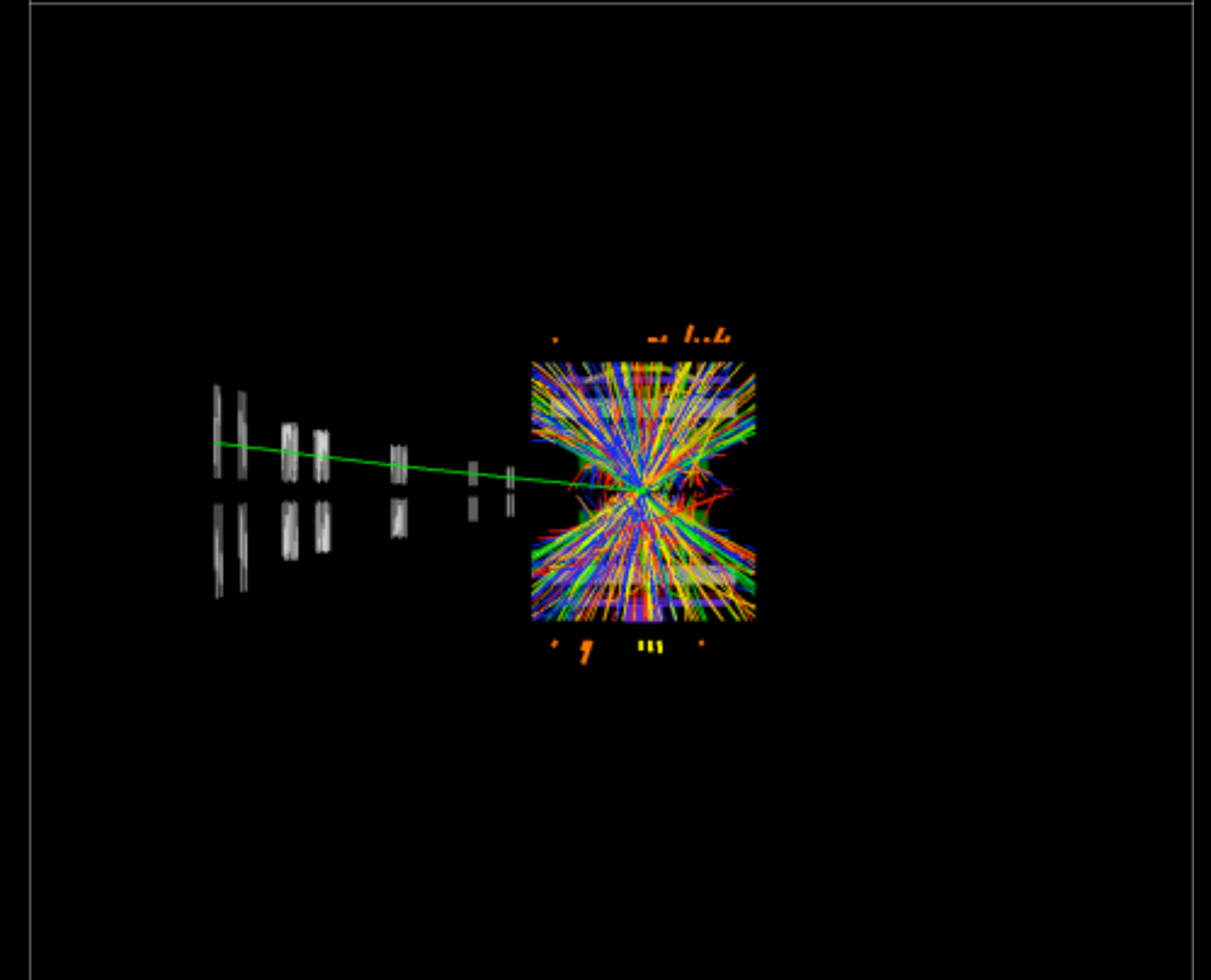
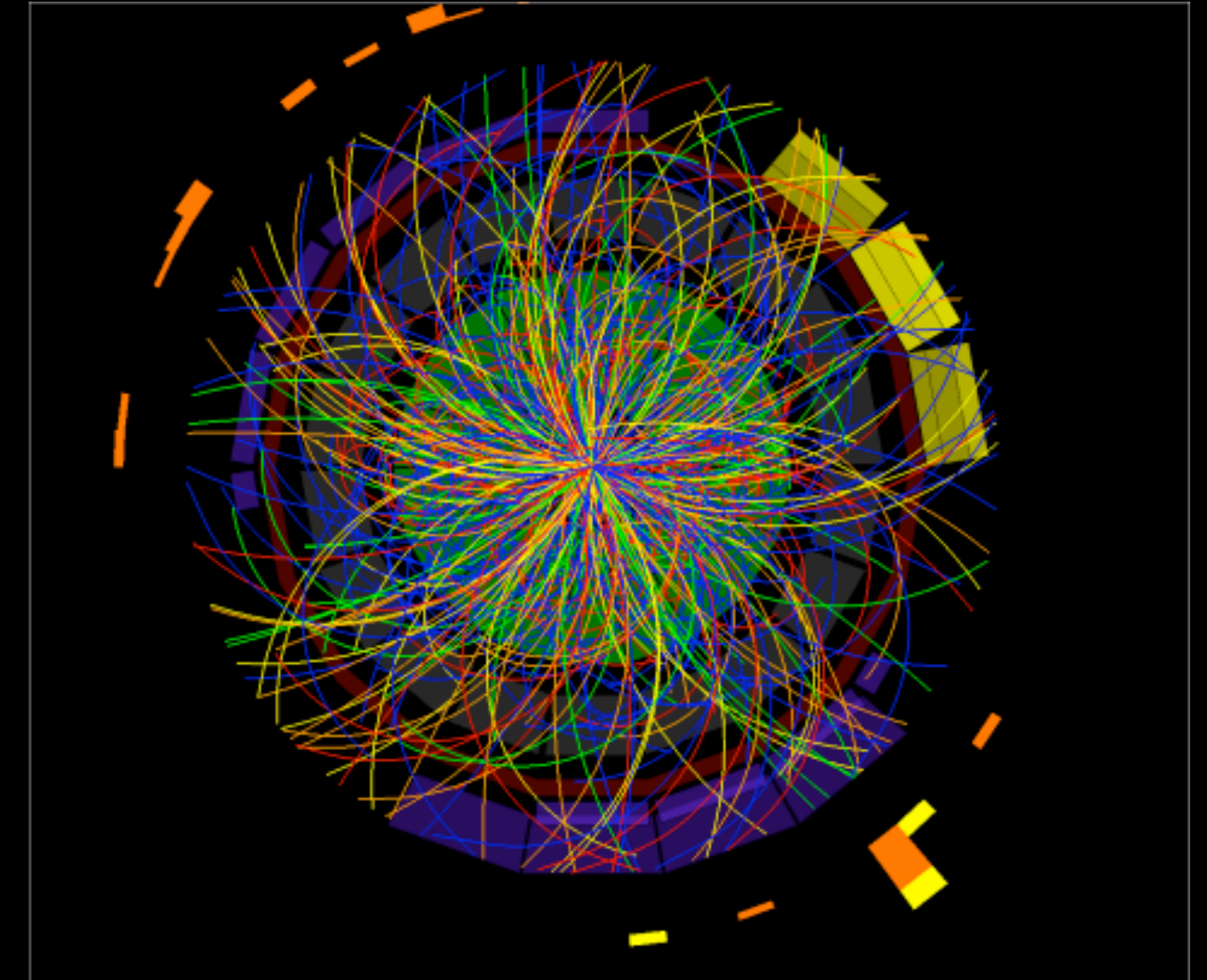
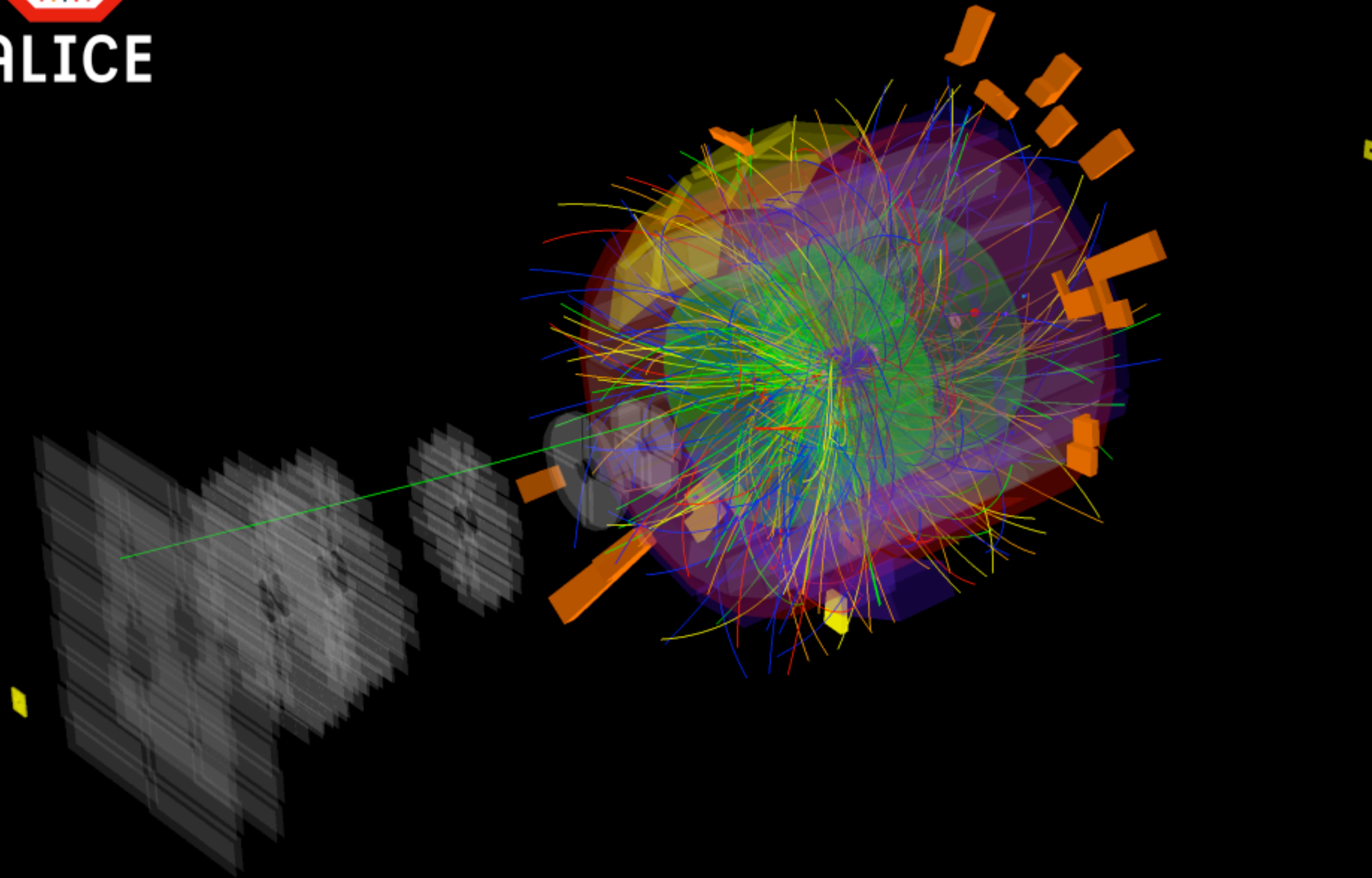


ALI-DER-563942

Ratio of p_T -differential production cross section of non-prompt Λ_c^+ and D^0

- ✓ Ratio $\Lambda_b^0/(B^0+B^+)$ is a bit lower than non-prompt Λ_c^+/D^0
- ✓ Beauty, charm, and strange hadrons have a similar trend and are compatible within uncertainties
- ✓ PYTHIA with CR-BLC tune describes the data for $p_T > 2$ GeV/c and significantly higher at low p_T for heavy-flavour hadrons

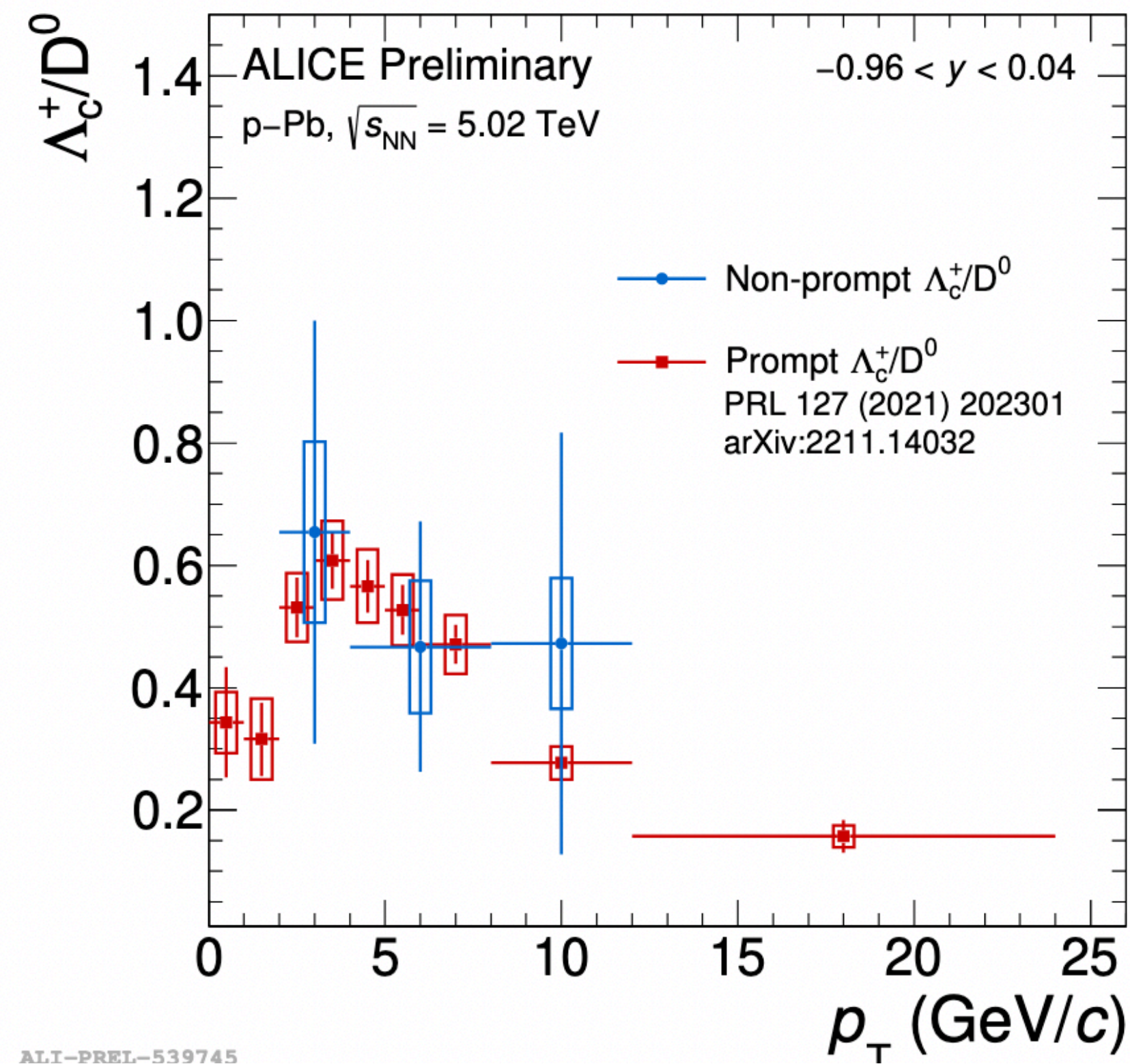
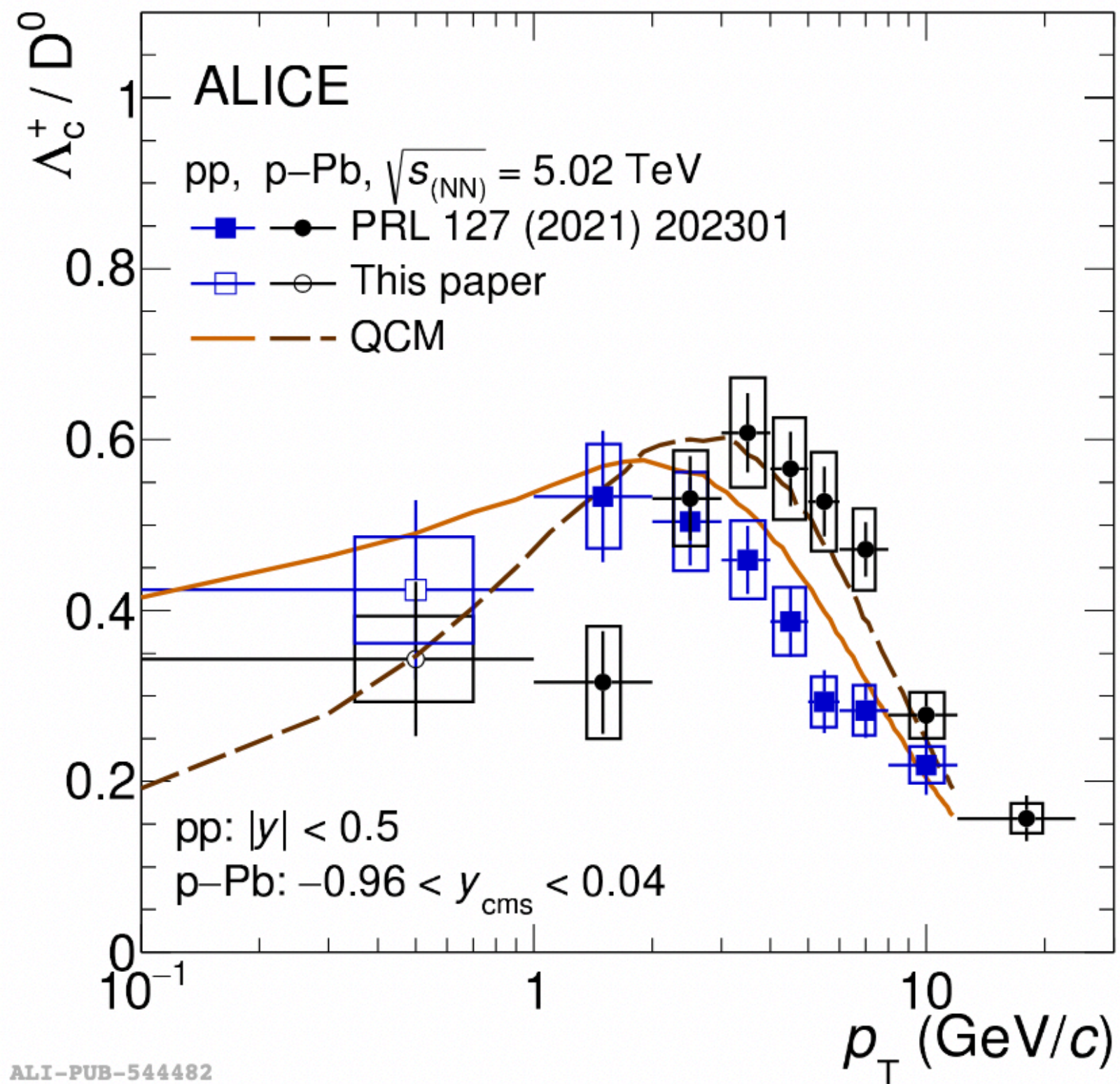
Results in p-Pb collisions



Run:265338
Timestamp:2016-11-11 02:02:08(UTC)
Colliding system:p-Pb
Energy: 5.02 TeV

Prompt and non-prompt Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio

Phys. Rev. C 107, 064901



Similar trend of in both pp and p-Pb collisions

- Shift towards higher p_T in p-Pb collisions attributed to radial flow (described by QCM prediction)

Decreasing trend of non-prompt at midrapidity with increasing p_T

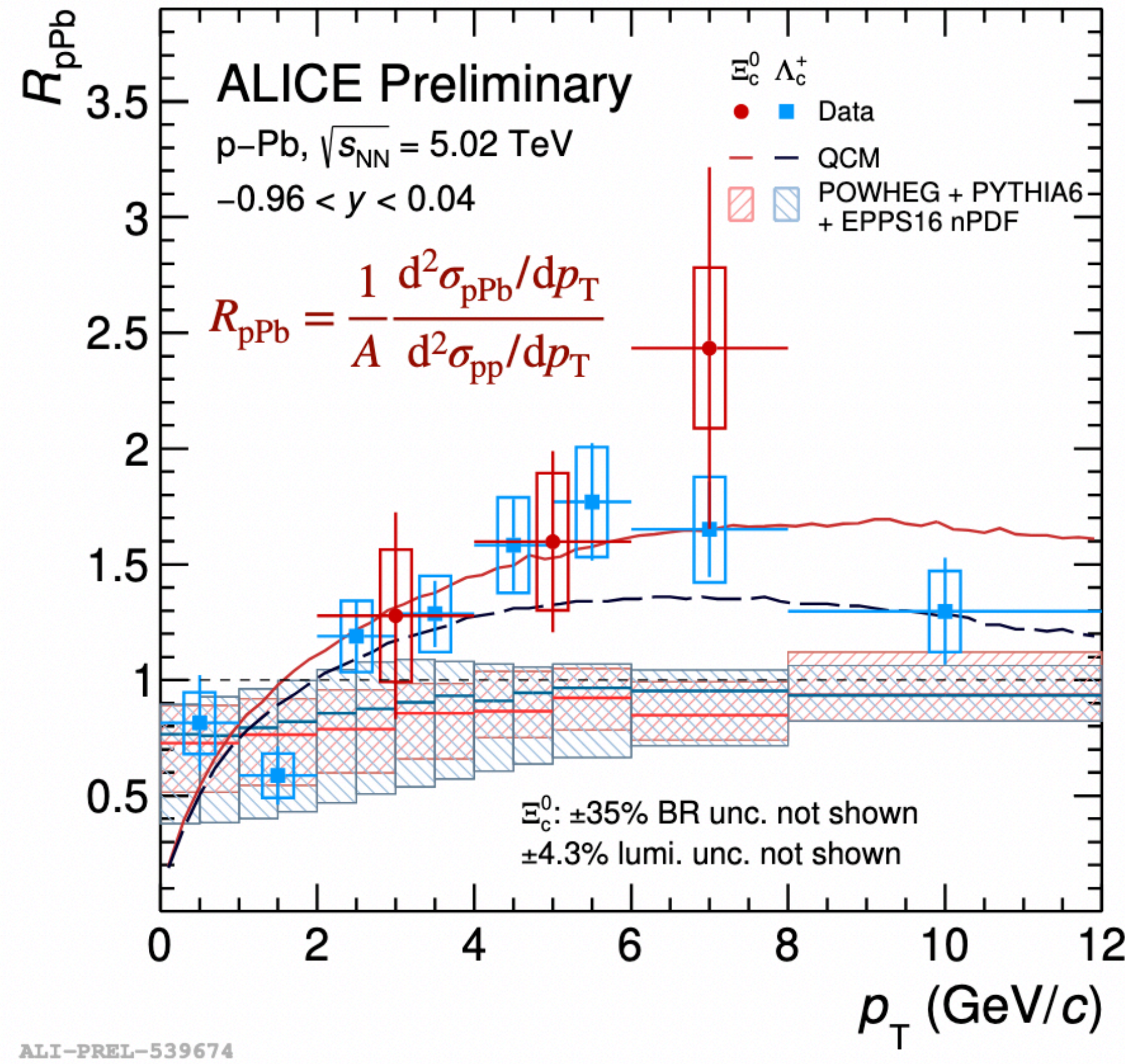
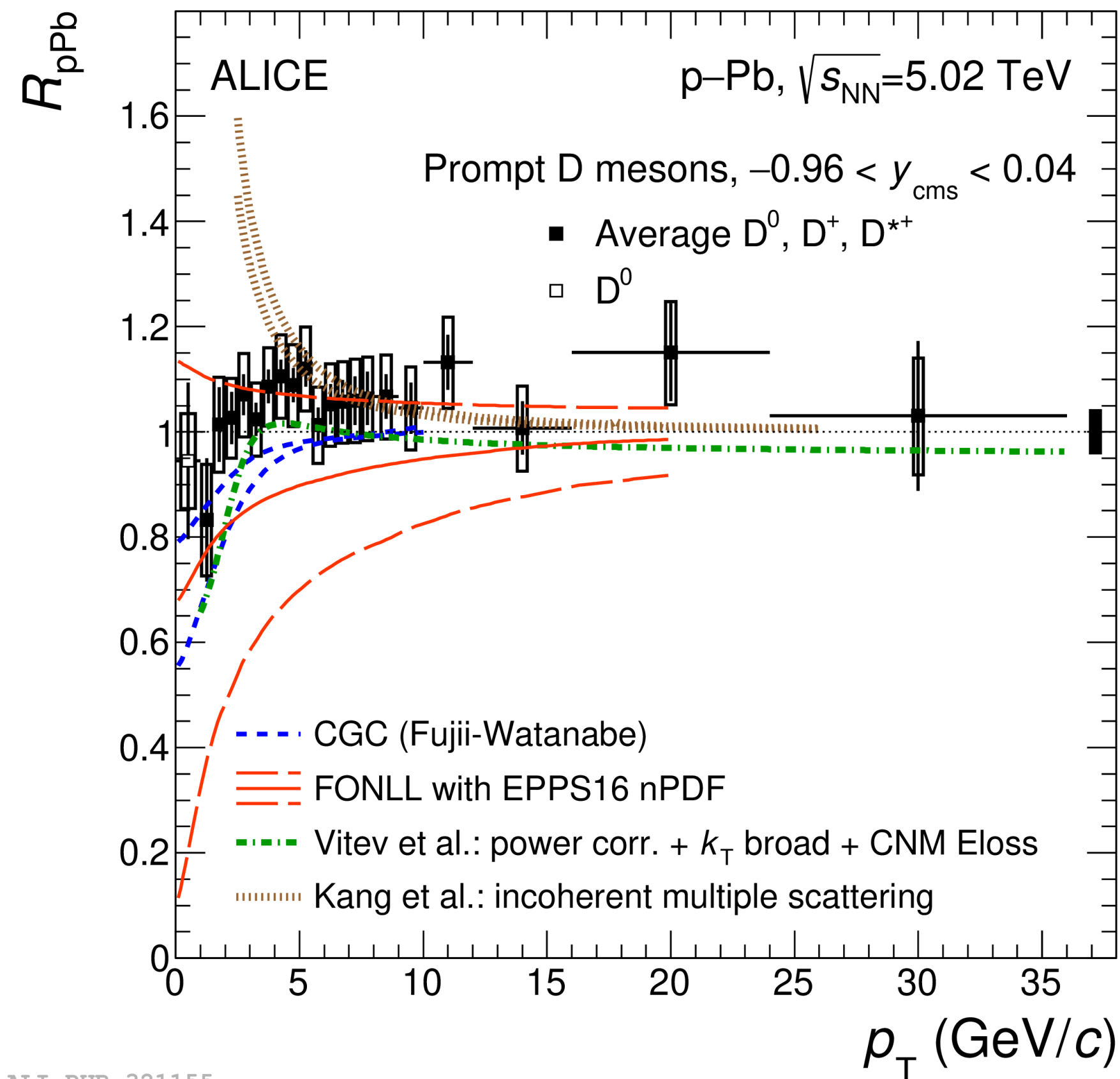
- Baryon enhancement at low $p_T \rightarrow$ hadronisation effects apart from in-vacuum fragmentation

QCM

pp : [Chin. Phys. C 45 \(2021\) 113105](#)

p-Pb : [Phys. Rev. C 97 \(2018\) 064915](#)

R_{pPb} of prompt charm hadrons in p-Pb collisions

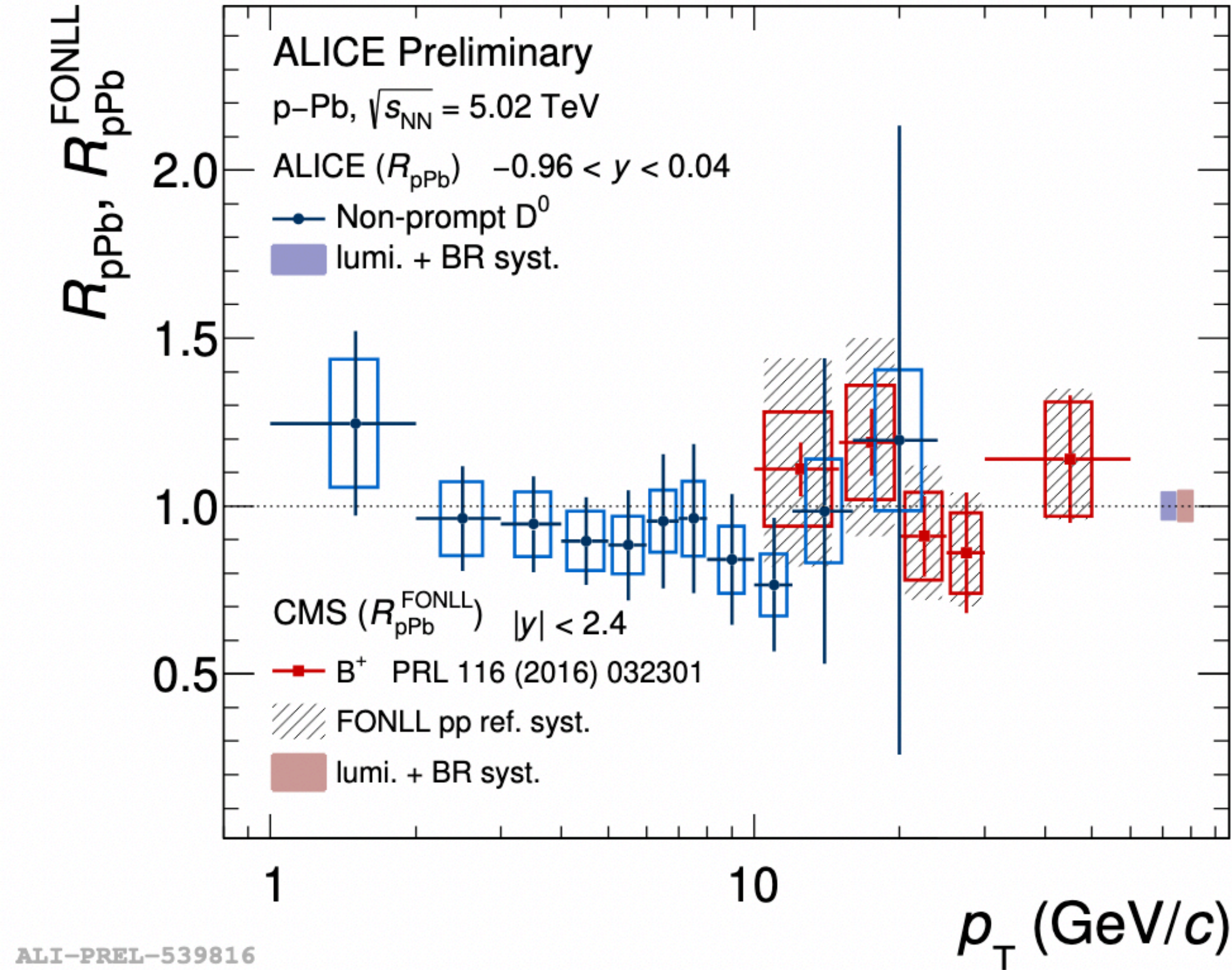
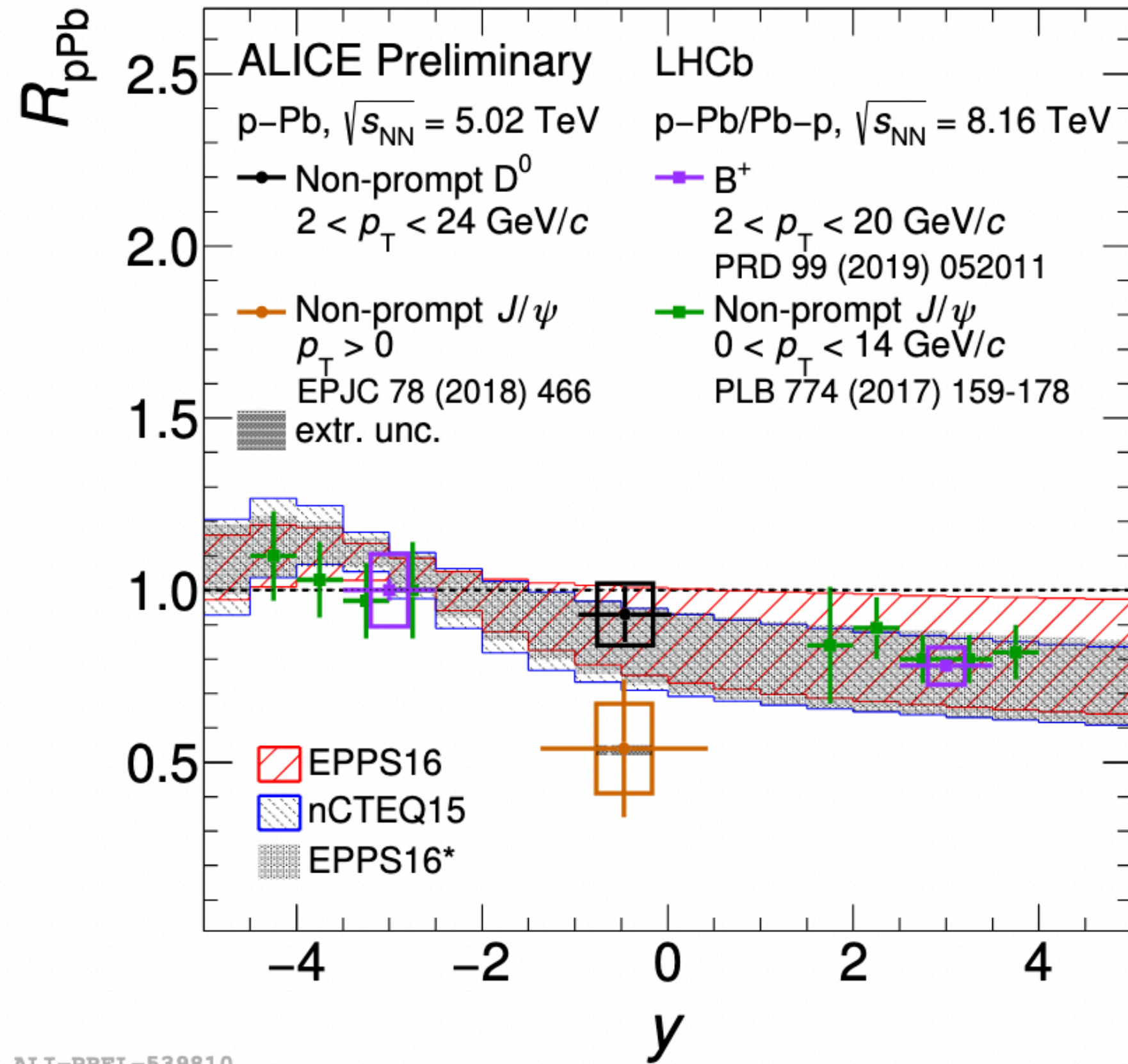


D-meson R_{pPb} is compatible with unity and compared to model predictions including CNM effects

Both Λ_c^+ and Ξ_c^0 R_{pPb} are compatible within uncertainties
 → **similar modification of the production in p-Pb collisions**

✓ R_{pPb} of Ξ_c^0 is larger than unity → no conclusion of increasing trend with p_T due to large uncertainties
 ✓ Models underestimate the data (only Λ_c^+ R_{pPb} is described below 2 GeV/c)

R_{pPb} of non-prompt charm hadrons



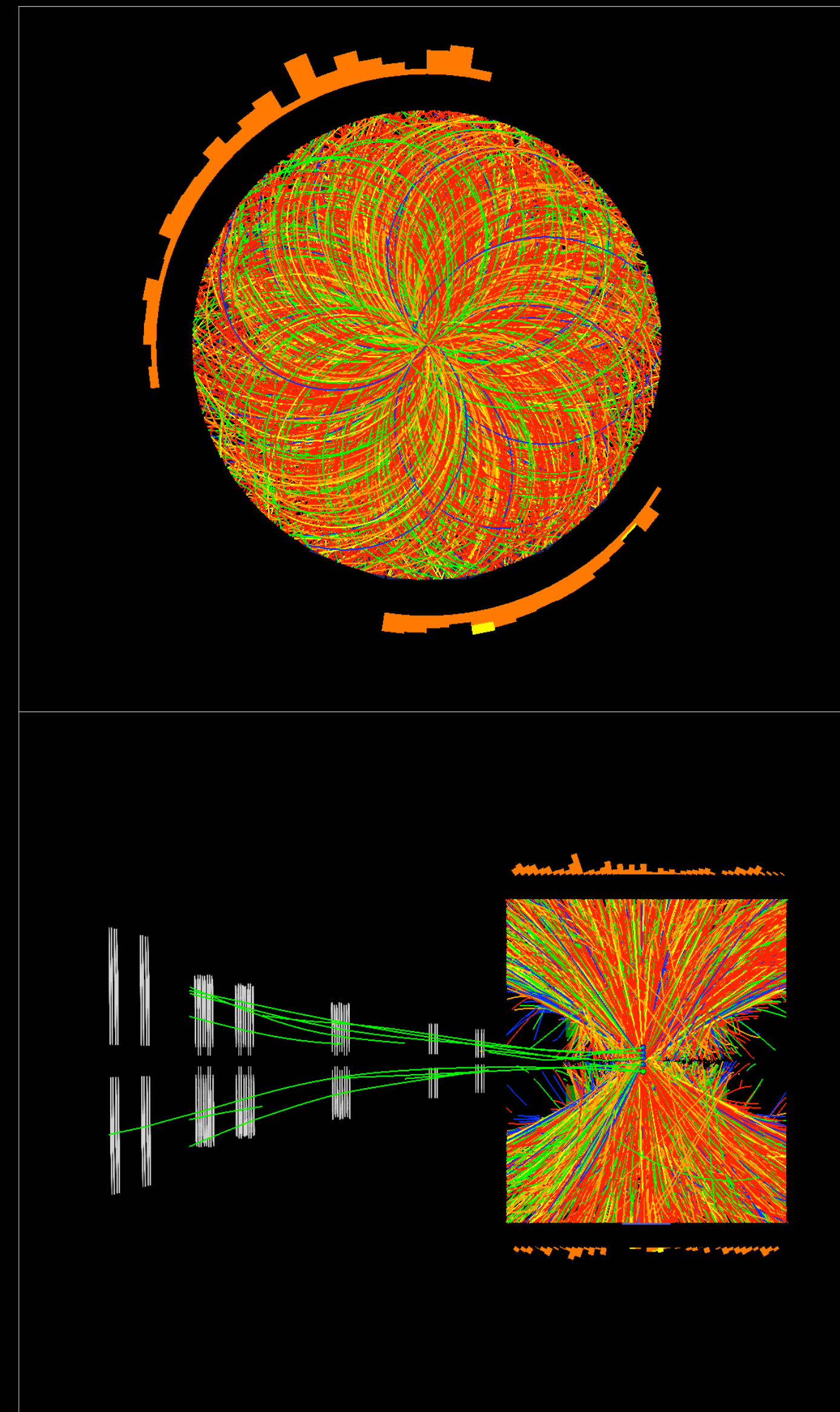
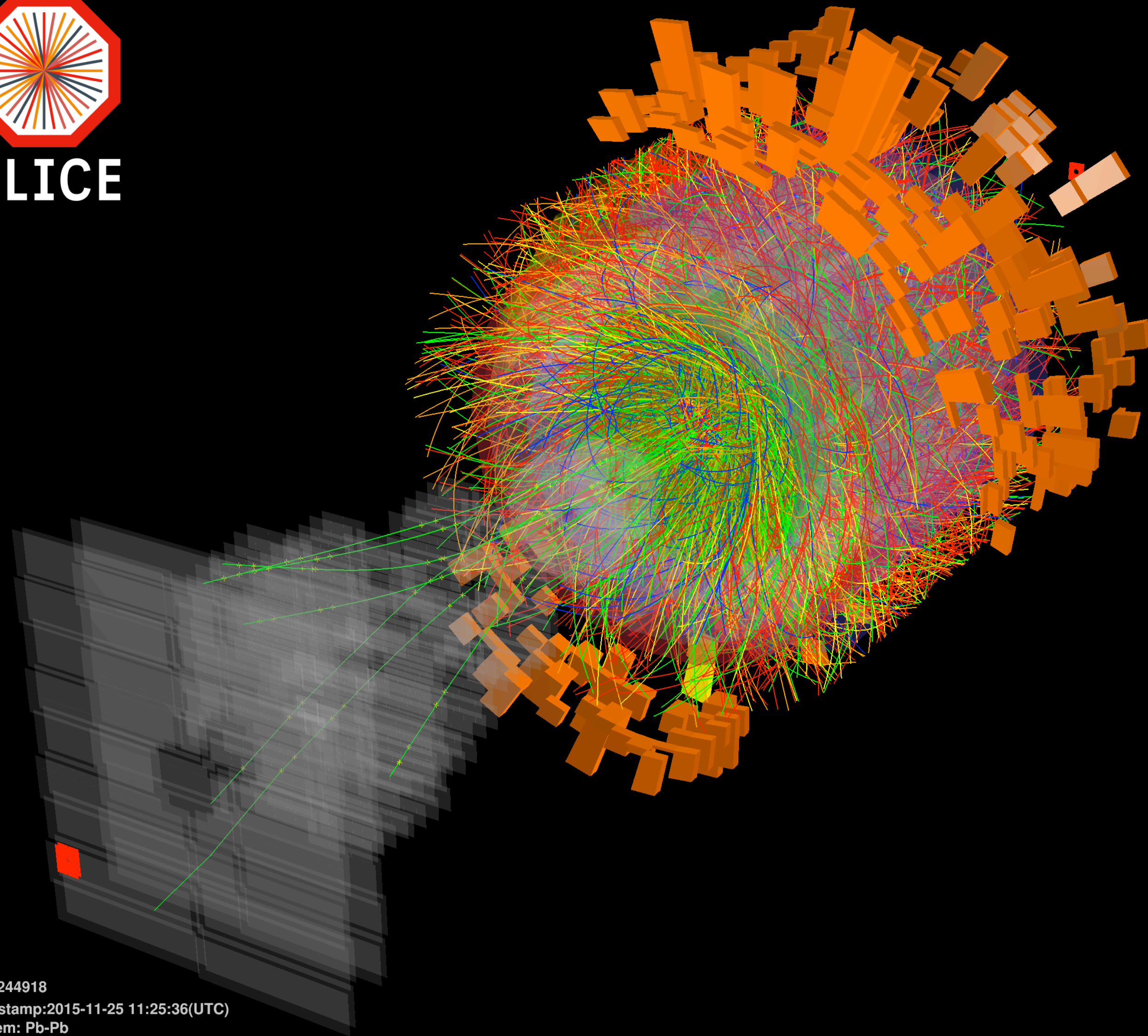
EPPS16
[EPJC 77 \(2017\) 163](#)
 nCTEQ15
[Phys. Rev. D 93 \(2016\) 085037](#)
 EPPS*
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 \(2018\) 052004](#)

- p_T -integrated R_{pPb} of measured at midrapidity
- ✓ Observed a possible suppression for non-prompt J/ψ
- ✓ Suppression at forward rapidity whereas compatible with unity at backward rapidity
- ✓ Good agreement with model predictions within uncertainties
- **Consistent with B meson R_{pPb} result from CMS at high p_T**

Results in Pb–Pb collisions



ALICE



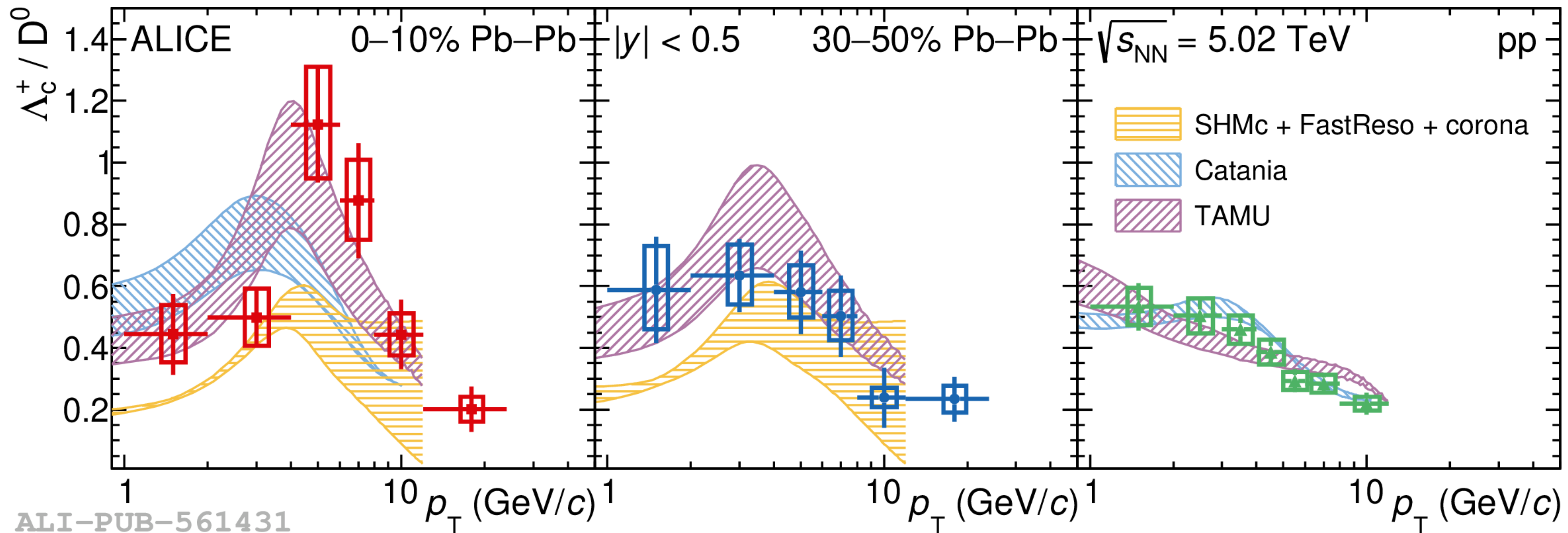
Run:244918
Timestamp:2015-11-25 11:25:36(UTC)
System: Pb-Pb
Energy: 5.02 TeV

Λ_c^+ / D^0 ratio

SHMc : JHEP 07 (2021) 035

Catania : Phys. Lett. B 821 (2021) 136622 (pp) EPJC 78 (2018) 348 (Pb–Pb)

TAMU : Phys. Lett. B 795 (2019) 117–121 (pp) Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 042301 (Pb–Pb)



Ratio increases from pp to semicentral and central Pb–Pb collisions at the intermediate p_T region

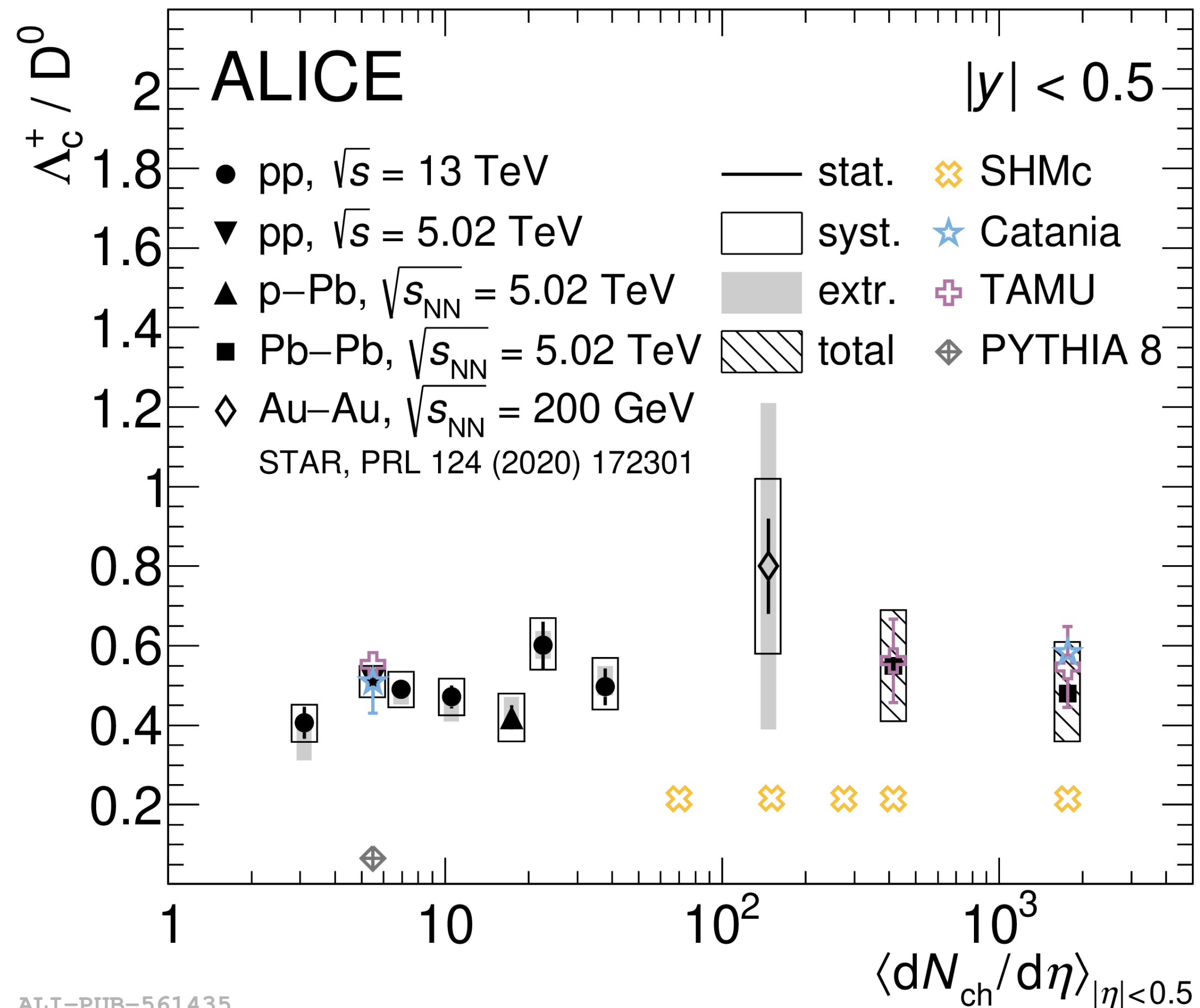
● **Compare to different model predictions**

✓ **SHMc** : describe the ratio in semicentral collisions and underestimate the data in $4 < p_T < 8$ GeV/c in central collisions

✓ **Catania** : underestimate the data in the intermediate p_T region

✓ **TAMU** : reproduce the magnitude and shape of the data, and better description within uncertainties

Λ_c^+ / D^0 ratio



p_T -integrated ratio vs multiplicity from pp to Pb-Pb

✓ No multiplicity dependence observed

Suggest a modified mechanism of hadronization in all hadronic collisions w.r.t e^+e^- and $e-p$ collisions (PYTHIA 8)

Catania and TAMU describe the data, while SHMc underestimates the data

✓ unobserved charm-baryon states need to be assumed in normalisation

ALI-PUB-561435

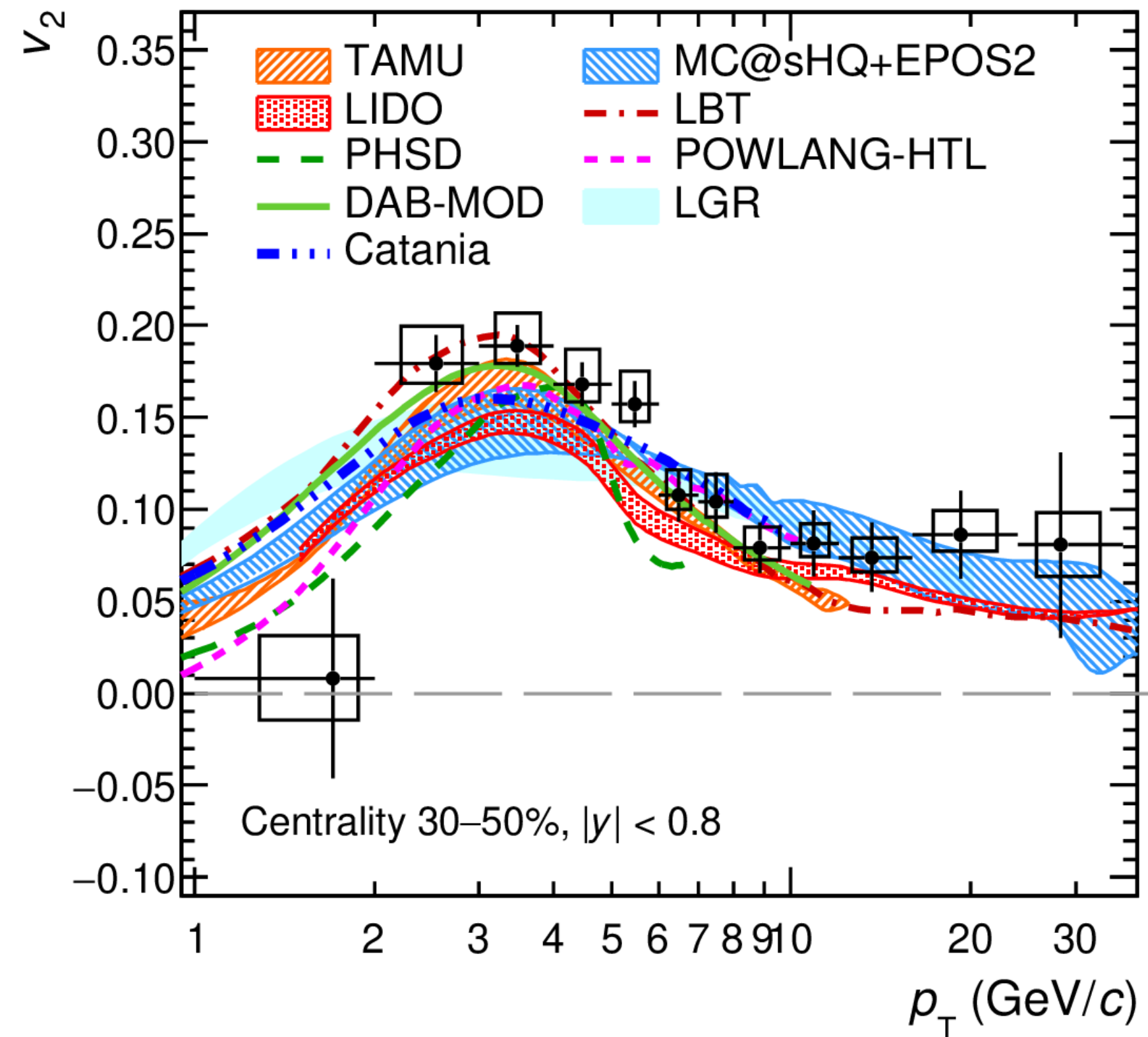
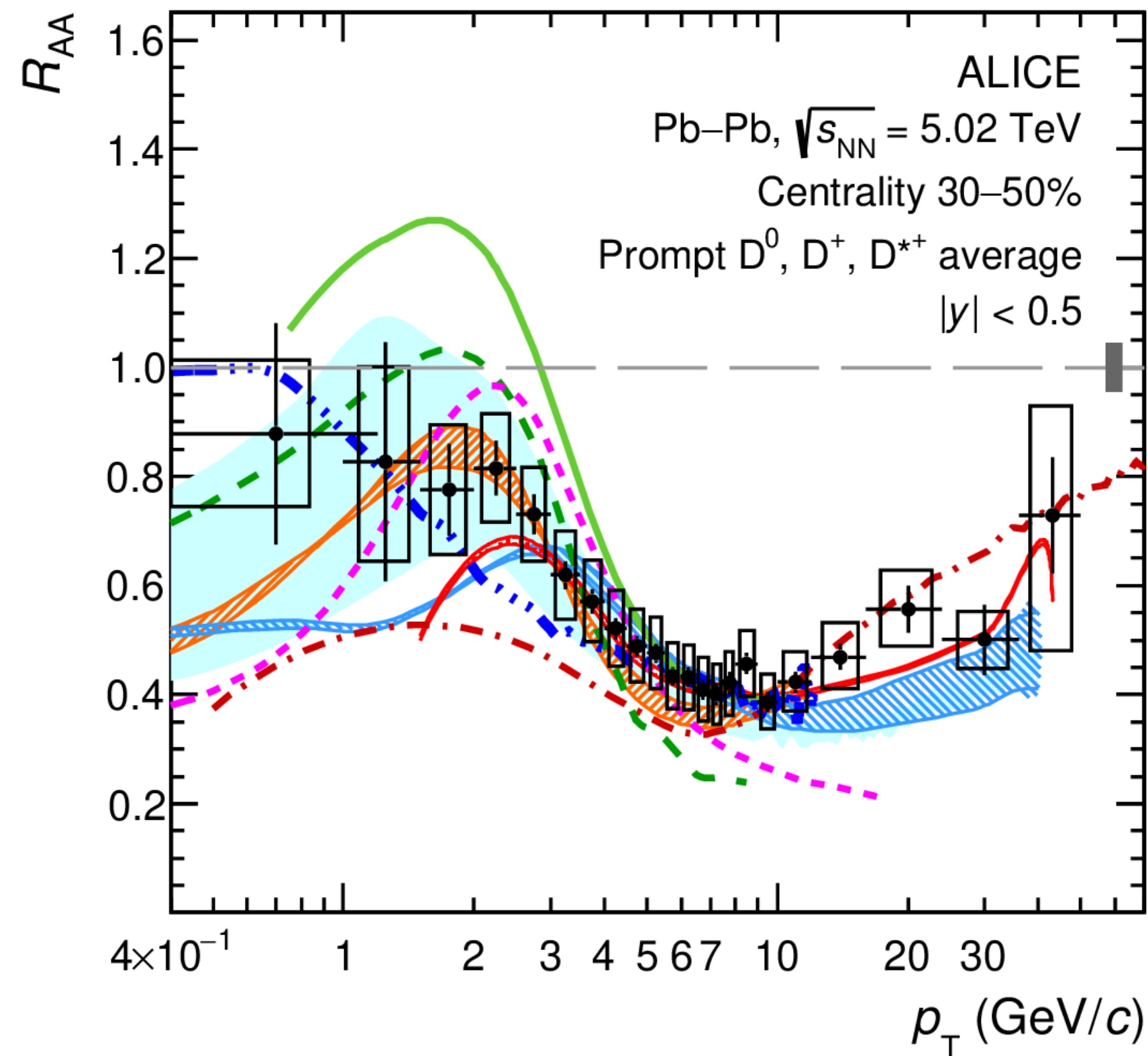
SHMc : [JHEP 07 \(2021\) 035](#)

Catania : [Phys. Lett. B 821 \(2021\) 136622 \(pp\)](#) [EPJC 78 \(2018\) 348 \(Pb-Pb\)](#)

TAMU : [Phys. Lett. B 795 \(2019\) 117-121 \(pp\)](#) [Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 \(2020\) 042301 \(Pb-Pb\)](#)

PYTHIA 8 : [Comput. Phys. Commun. 191 \(2015\) 159-17](#)

R_{AA} and v_2 of non-strange D mesons



TAMU
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 \(2020\) 042301](#)
 LIDO
[Phys. Rev. C 100 \(2019\) 064911](#)
 PHSD
[Phys. Rev. C 92 \(2015\) 014910](#)
 DAB-MOD
[Phys. Rev. C 102 \(2020\) 024906](#)
 Catania
[Phys. Rev. C 96 \(2017\) 044905](#)
[Phys. Lett. B 805 \(2020\) 135460](#)
 MC@sHQ+EPOS2
[Phys. Rev. C 89 \(2014\) 014905](#)
 LBT
[Phys. Rev. C 94 \(2016\) 014909](#)
[Phys. Lett. B 777 \(2018\) 255](#)
 POWLANG+HLT
[EPJC 75 \(2015\) 121](#)
[JHEP 02 \(2018\) 043](#)
 LGR
[EPJC 80 \(2020\) 671](#)

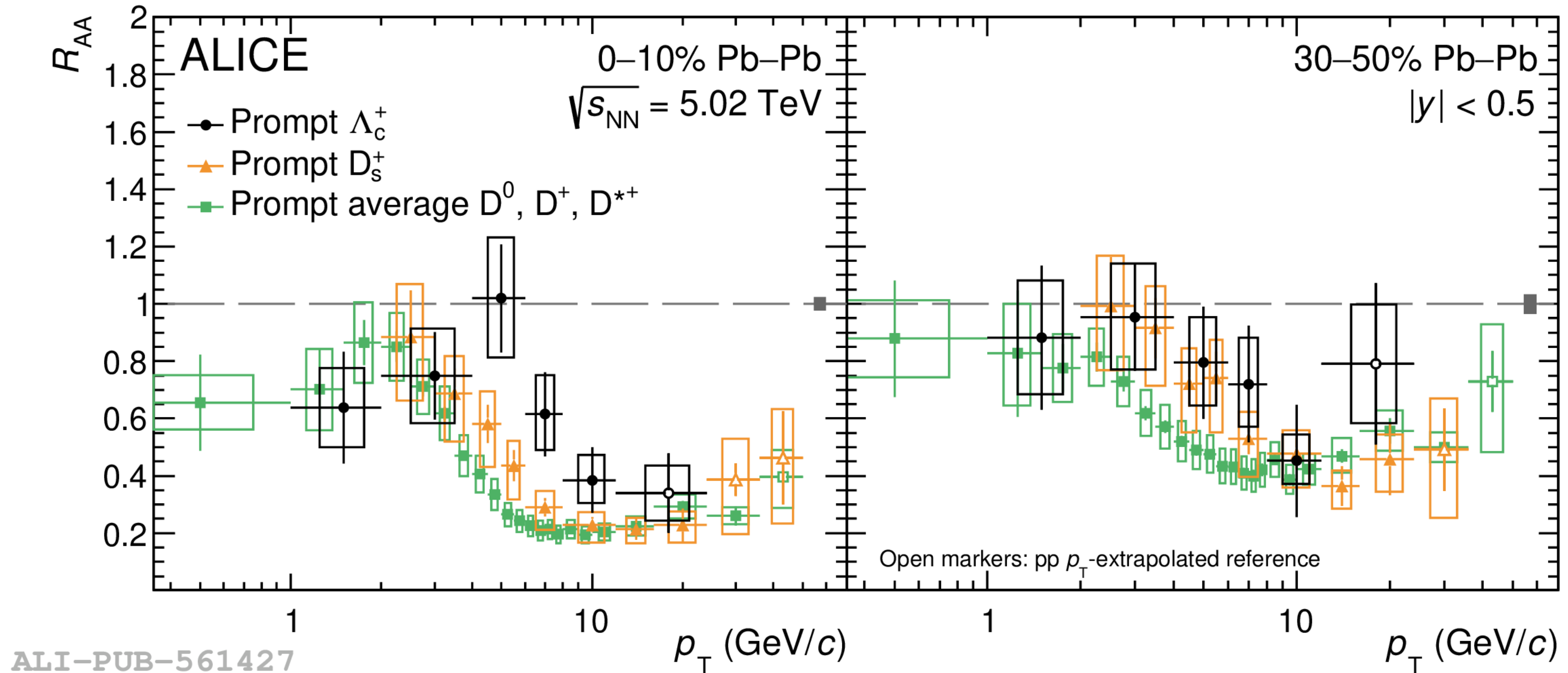
ALI-PUB-501956

Understanding the heavy-quark interactions with the medium constitutes by comparing R_{AA} and v_2 with models

- ✓ Models fairly describe the data, but challenging to describe the R_{AA} and v_2 simultaneously
- ✓ Realistic QGP evolution, collisional/radiative energy loss, and hadronization mechanisms (fragmentation/coalescence) are required to describe the data

Sensitive to quark diffusion, thermalisation with the medium, and hadronization mechanisms for $2 < p_T < 6$ GeV/c

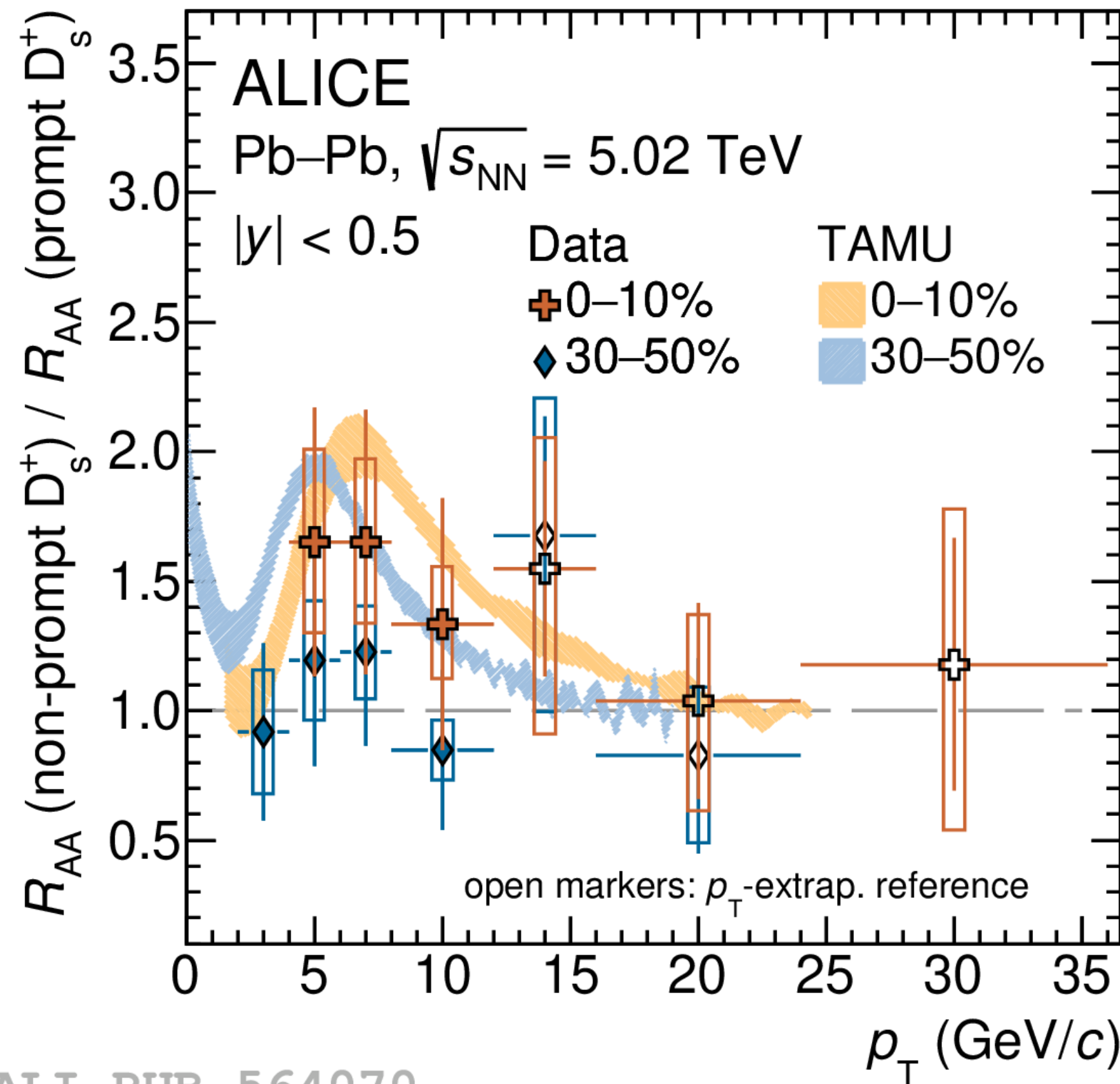
R_{AA} of charm hadrons



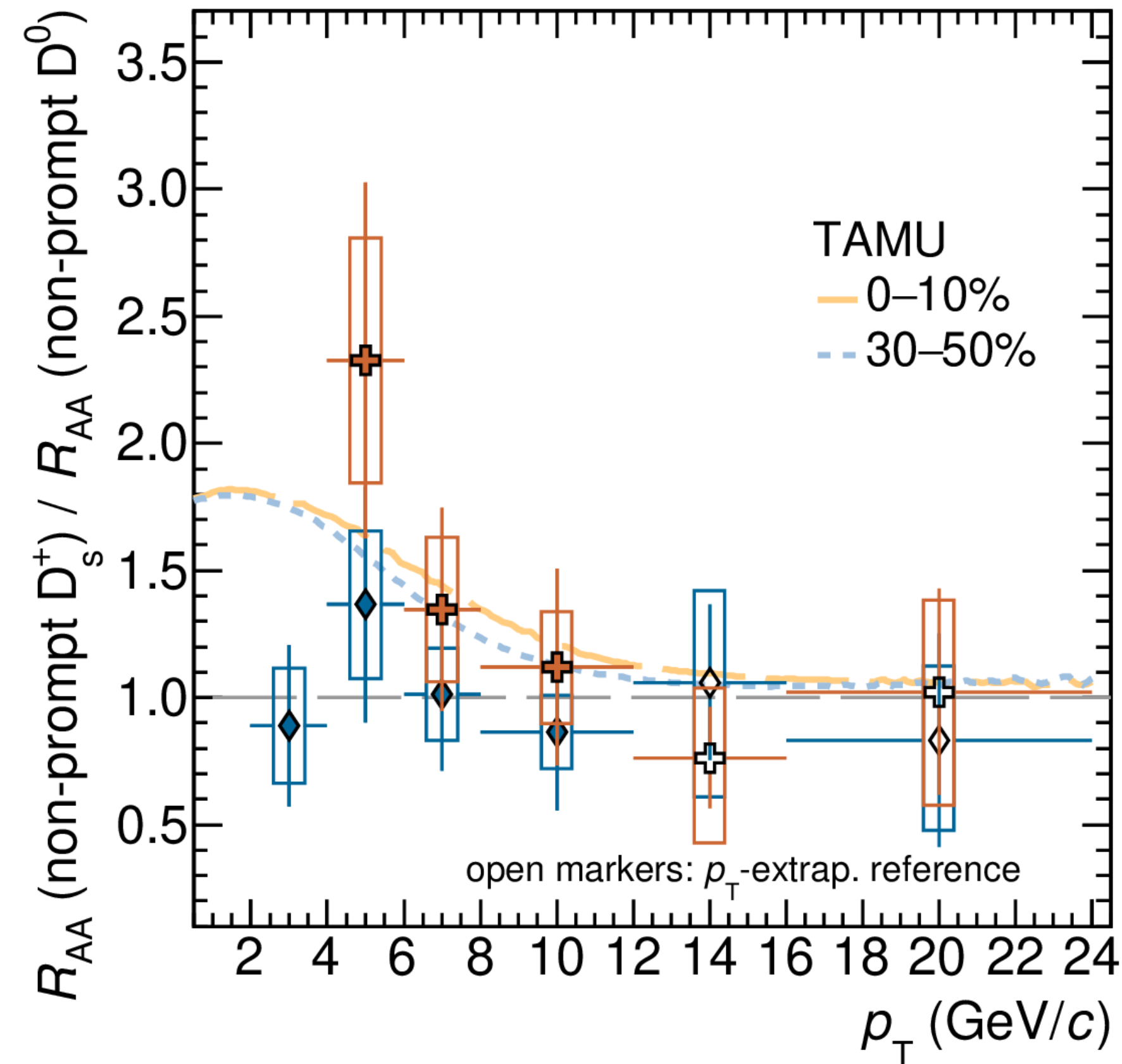
ALI-PUB-561427

- **Suppression of all charm species from $p_T > 6$ GeV/c for 0–10% and from $p_T > 4$ GeV/c for 30–50% -> Interaction of charm quarks with the medium**
- **Hint of a hierarchy $R_{AA}(D^0) < R_{AA}(D_s^+) < R_{AA}(\Lambda_c^+)$ in $4 < p_T < 8$ GeV/c in 0–10%, while less pronounced in 30–50%**
- **For $p_T > 10$ GeV/c, all R_{AA} are compatible within uncertainties**

R_{AA} ratio of non-prompt D mesons



ALI-PUB-564070



TAMU
Phys. Lett. B 735
(2014) 445

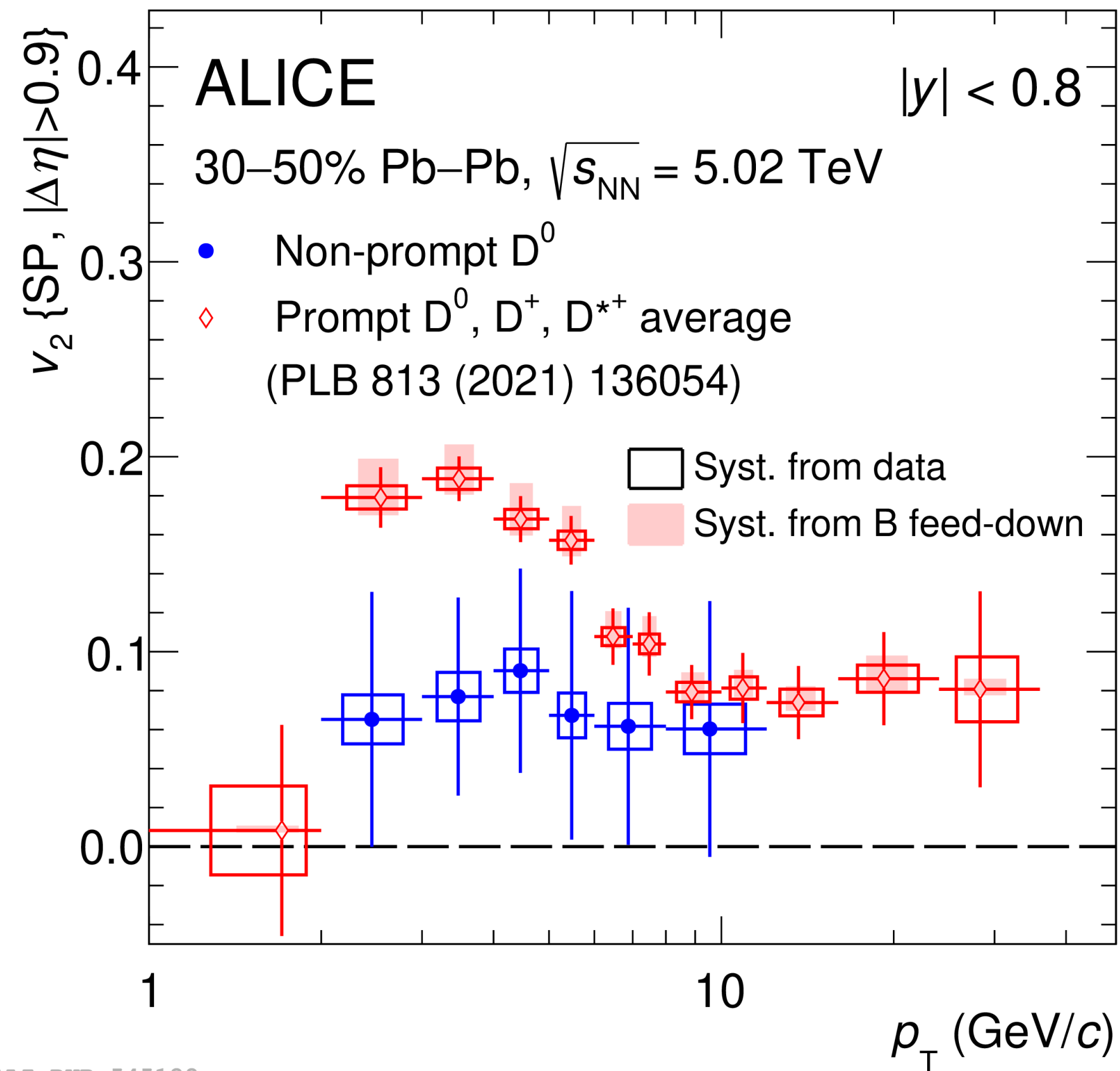
R_{AA} ratio of non-prompt D_s^+ to prompt D_s^+ and non-prompt D^0

- ✓ Larger energy loss of charm quark with respect to beauty quark in central collisions
- ✓ Consistent with unity in semicentral collisions

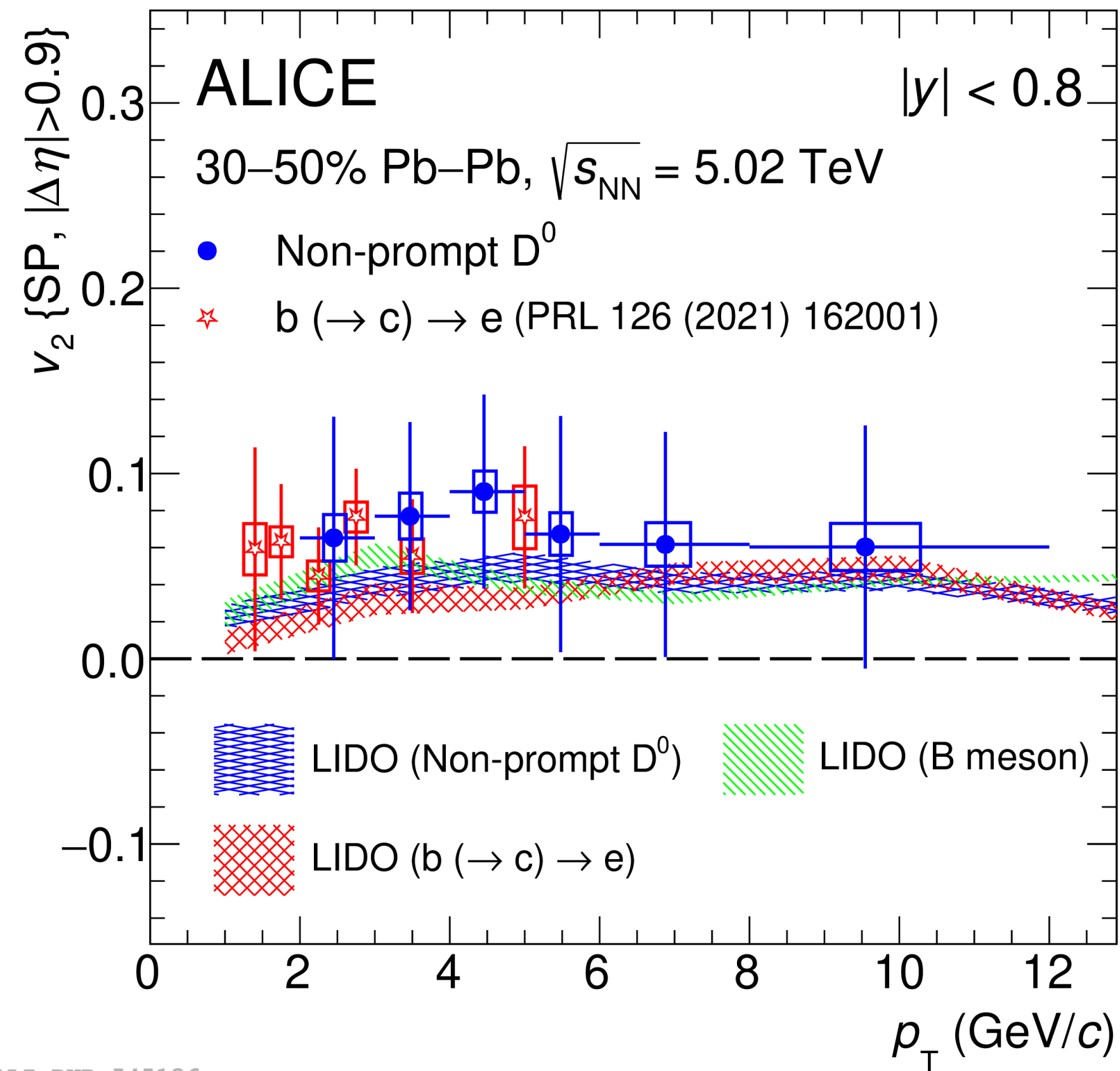
TAMU model describes the data for central collisions while overestimates for semicentral collisions

- ✓ Possible enhancement at low p_T → the abundance of strange quarks and the hadronisation via recombination

Elliptic flow of non-prompt D mesons



ALI-PUB-545128



ALI-PUB-545136

LIDO

[Phys. Rev. C 98 \(2018\) 064901](#)

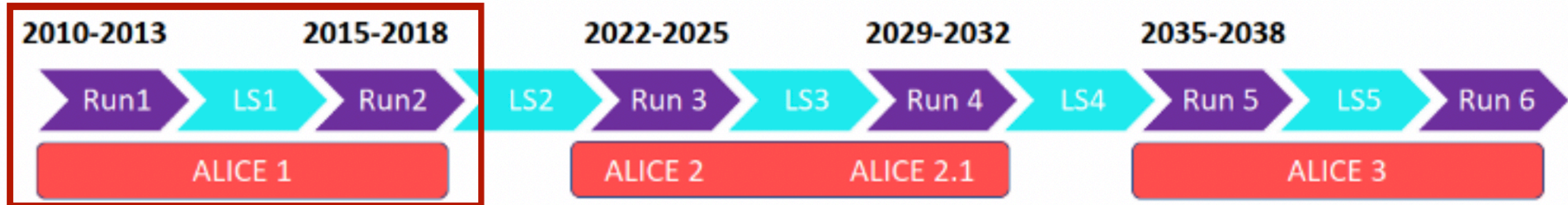
[Phys. Rev. C 100 \(2019\) 064911](#)

- beauty quark transport
- collisional+radiative
- fragmentation+coalescence

Non-prompt D^0 v_2 is lower than that of prompt non-strange D meson v_2

- ✓ Different degree of participation between charm and beauty quarks in the medium expansion Compatible with the v_2 of beauty-decay electrons within uncertainties
- ✓ Good agreement with LIDO predictions
- ✓ No significant difference of decay kinematics between B meson and non-prompt D^0 meson

Summary



In pp collisions :

- Production cross section described by pQCD calculations
- Fragmentation function universality is violated in pp collisions
 - ✓ Hadronisation via recombination is dominant at low p_T

In p–Pb collisions :

- Heavy-quark production is not significantly affected by CNM effects
- Enhanced baryon production in p–Pb collisions w.r.t pp collisions in the intermediate p_T region

In Pb–Pb collisions :

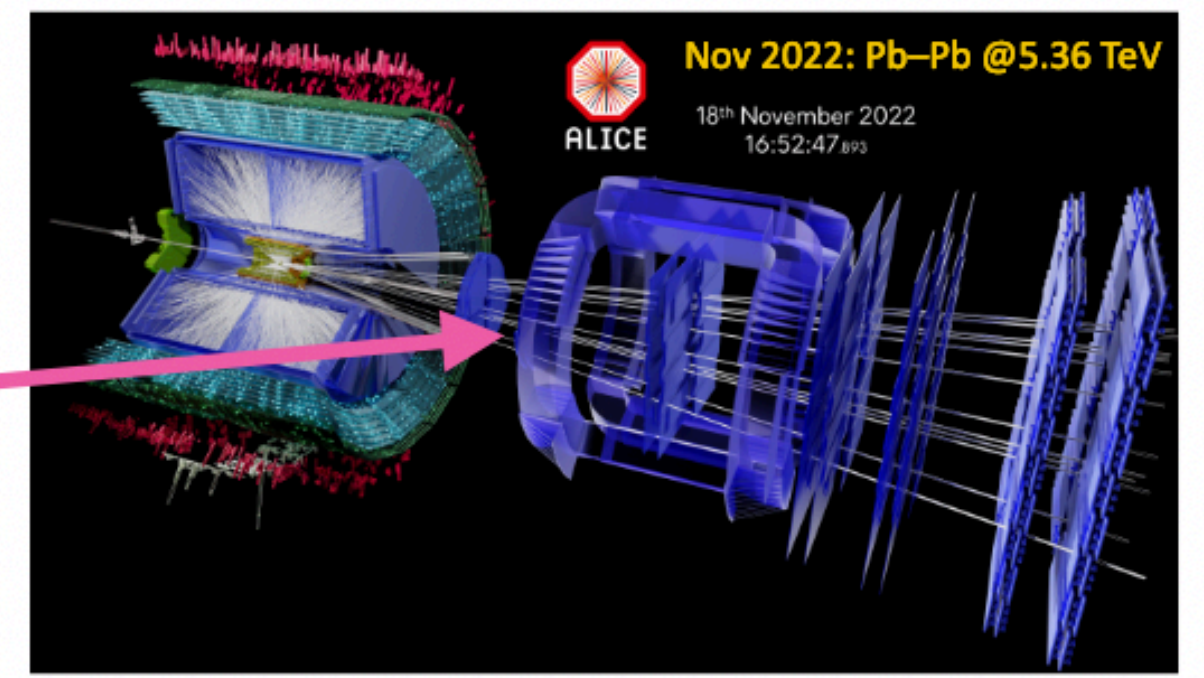
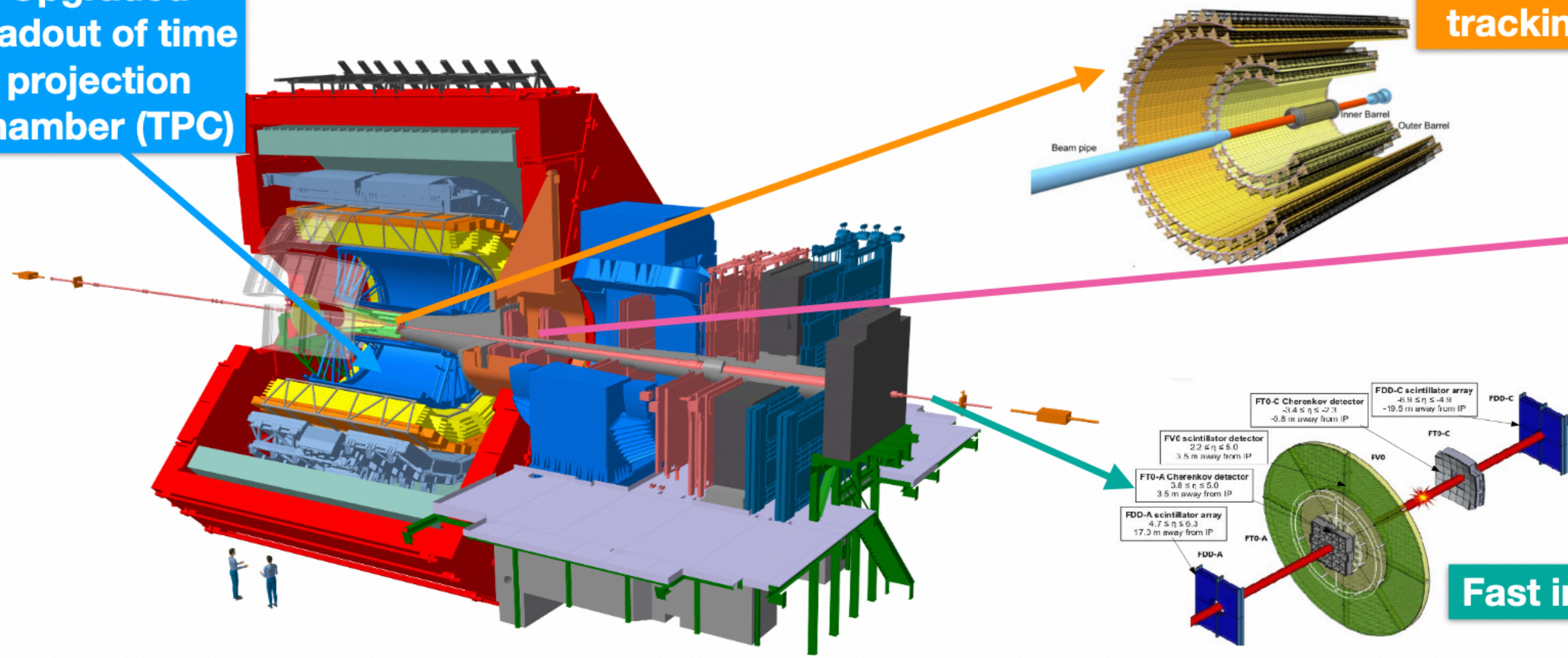
- Baryon enhancement depends on the event multiplicity, while p_T -integrated baryon-to-meson ratio is consistent across collision systems
- Both charm and beauty quarks lose energy in the medium
 - ✓ Beauty quarks lose less energy than charm quarks
- Heavy quarks participate in a hydrodynamically expanding medium, $v_2(\text{HF}) > 0$
 - ✓ $v_2(\text{c}) > v_2(\text{b})$

What's going on ?



Upgraded readout of time projection chamber (TPC)

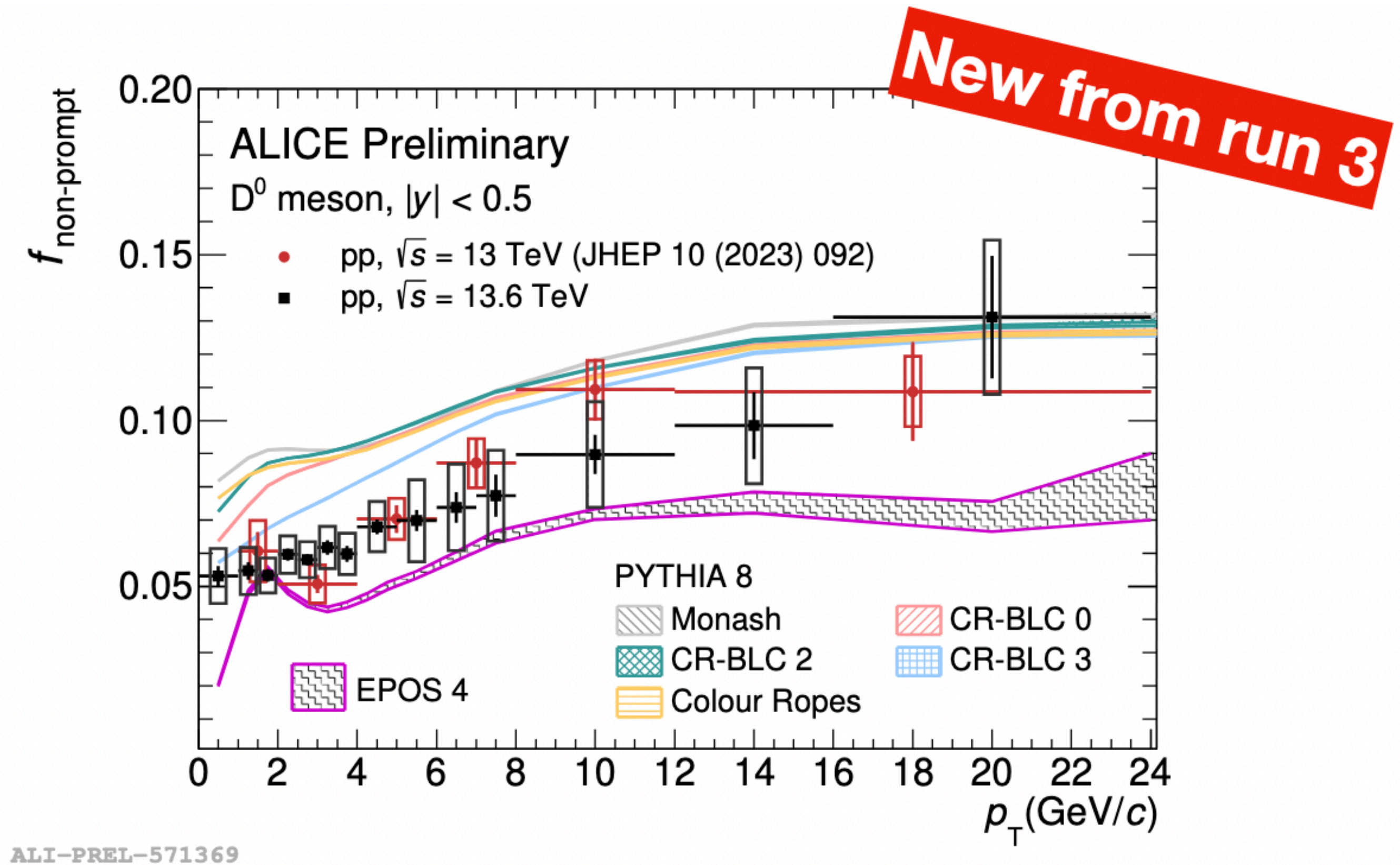
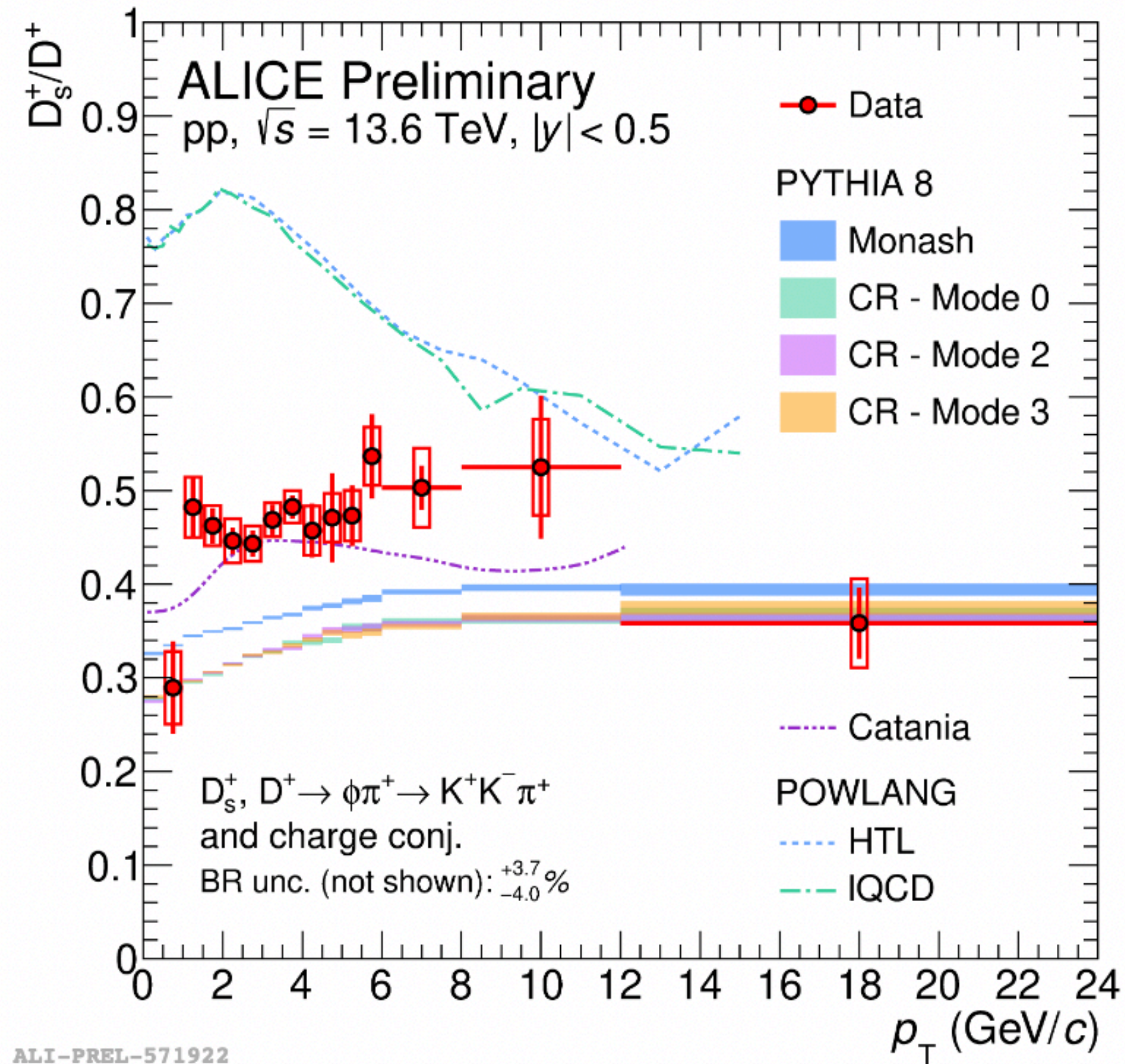
The 2nd generation inner tracking system (ITS2)



Muon forward tracker (MFT)

Fast integrated trigger (FIT)

Recent results from Run3 : D_s^+ and $b \rightarrow D^0$ production



- Measurements are extended to lower p_T and more granular w. r. t. run 2
- ➔ Stronger constraints on the modelling of charm-quark hadronization

What's next?

2010-2013

2015-2018

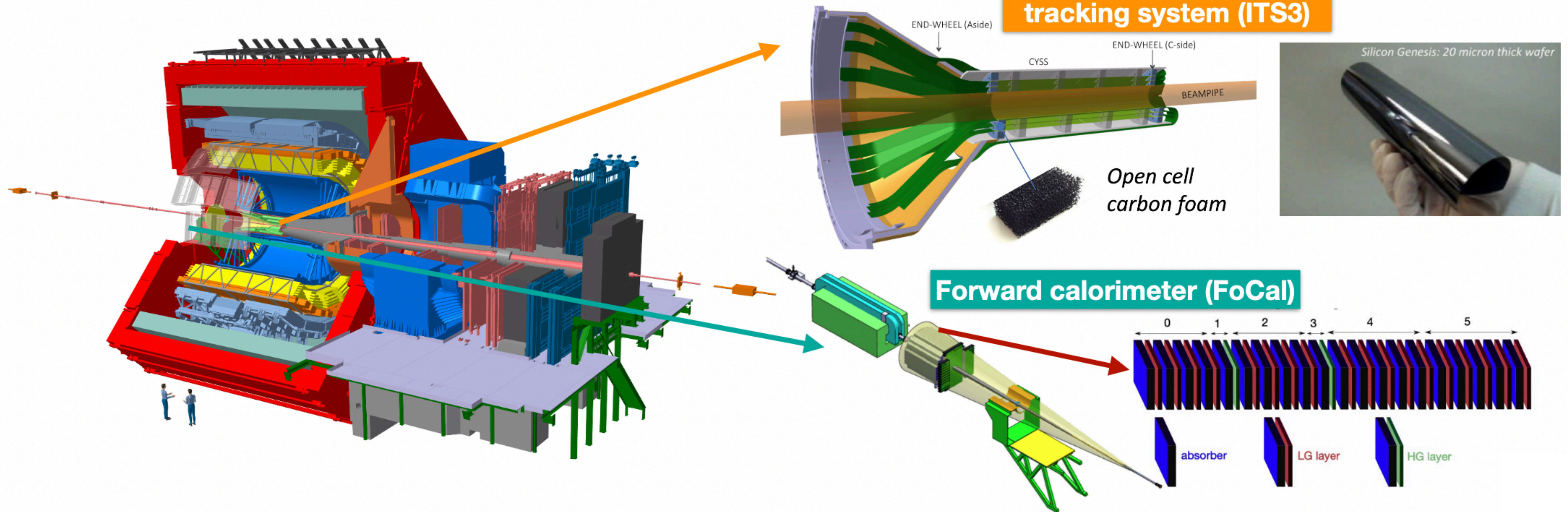
2022-2025

2029-2032

2035-2038



The 3rd generation inner tracking system (ITS3)



What's next?



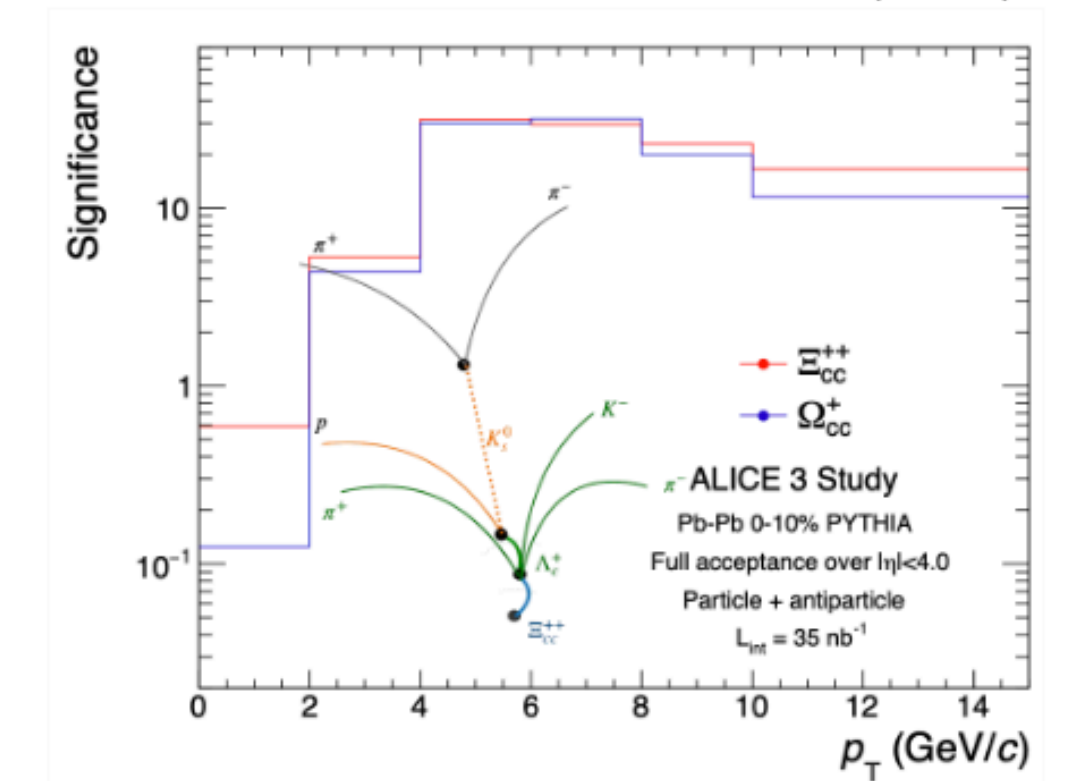
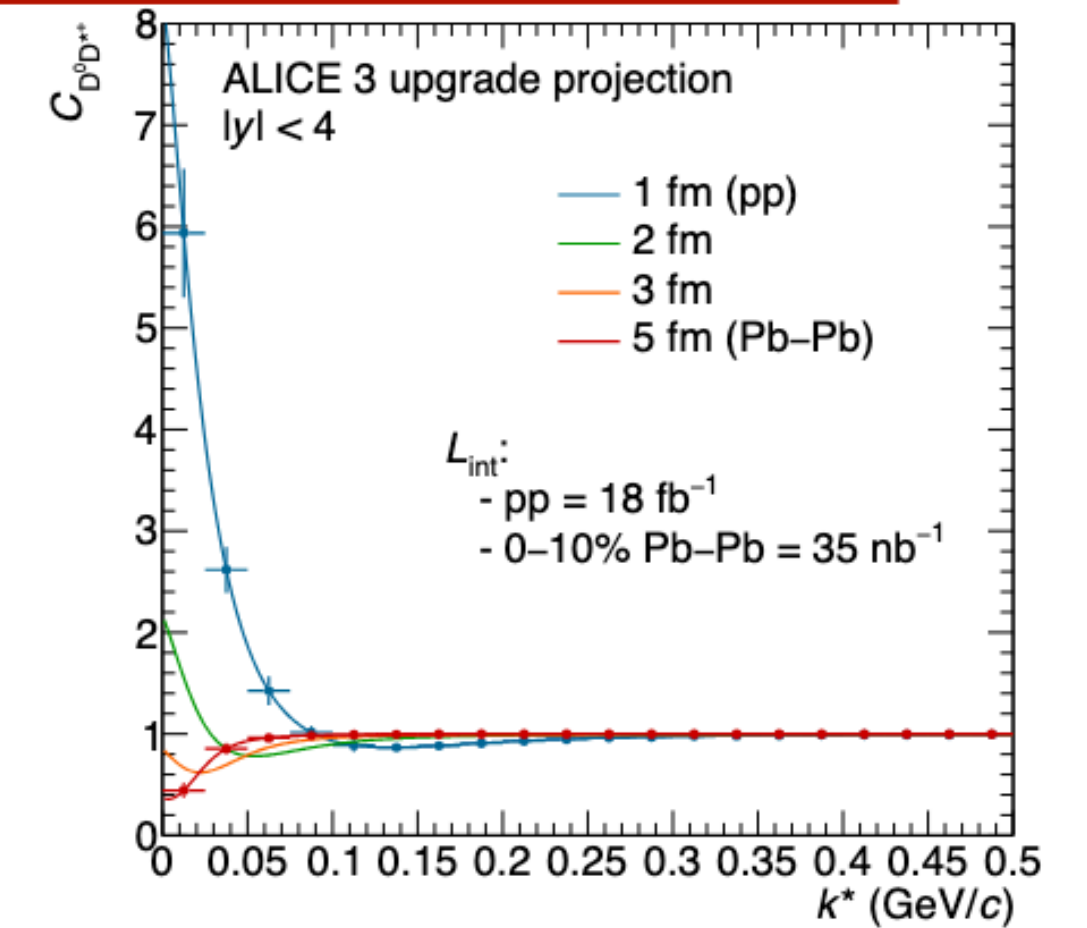
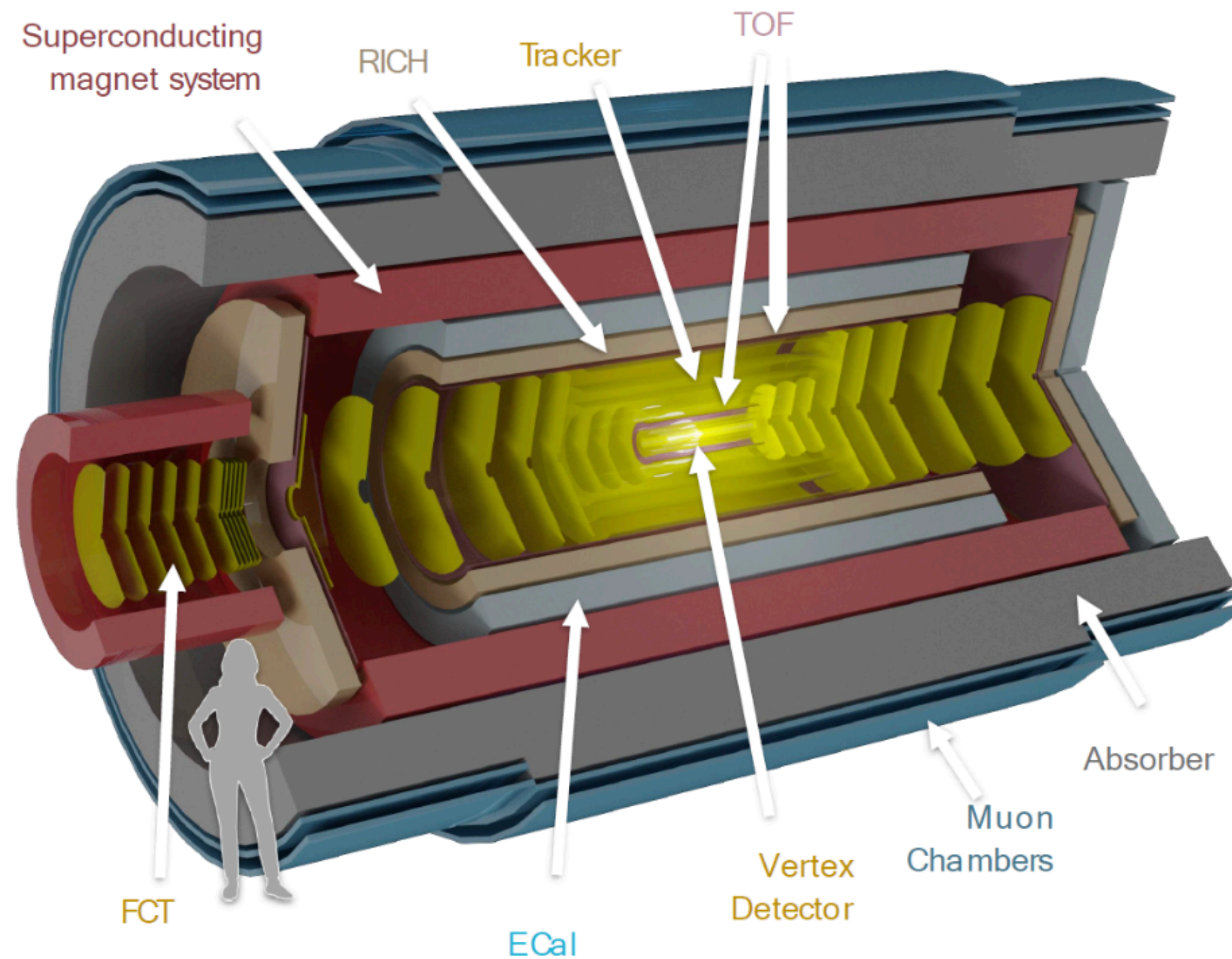
ALICE 3
Letter of intent

CERN-LHCC-2022-009 (LHCC-I-038)
4 November 2022

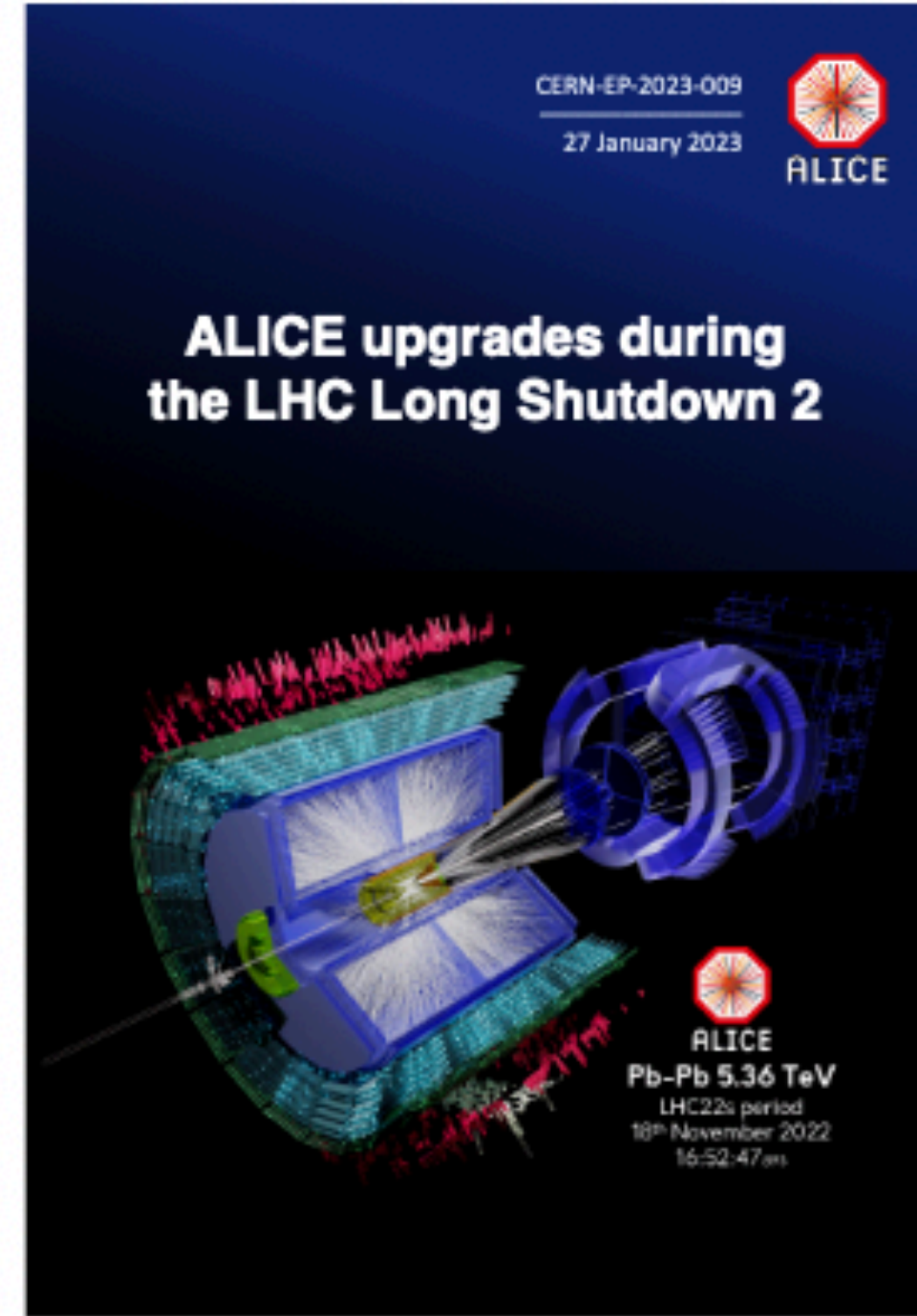
ALICE arXiv:2211.02491

A next-generation heavy-ion experiment at the LHC

VERSION 2



Find out more



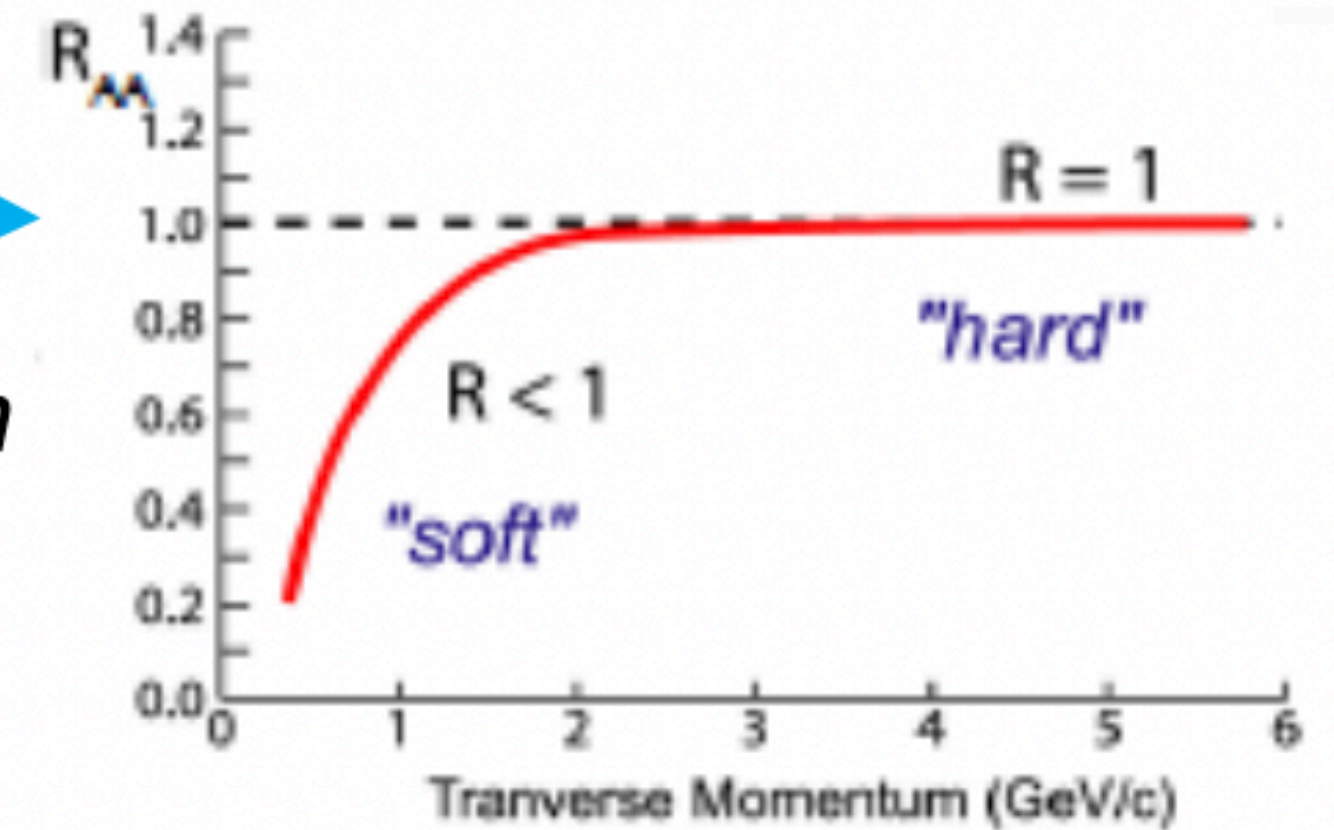
Thank you

Backup

➤ **Nuclear modification factor:**

$$R_{AA} = \frac{AA}{\text{rescaled } pp} = \frac{d^2 N_{AA} / dp_T dy}{\langle N_{binary} \rangle d^2 N_{pp} / dp_T dy}$$

$R_{AA} = 1$
if no medium effects

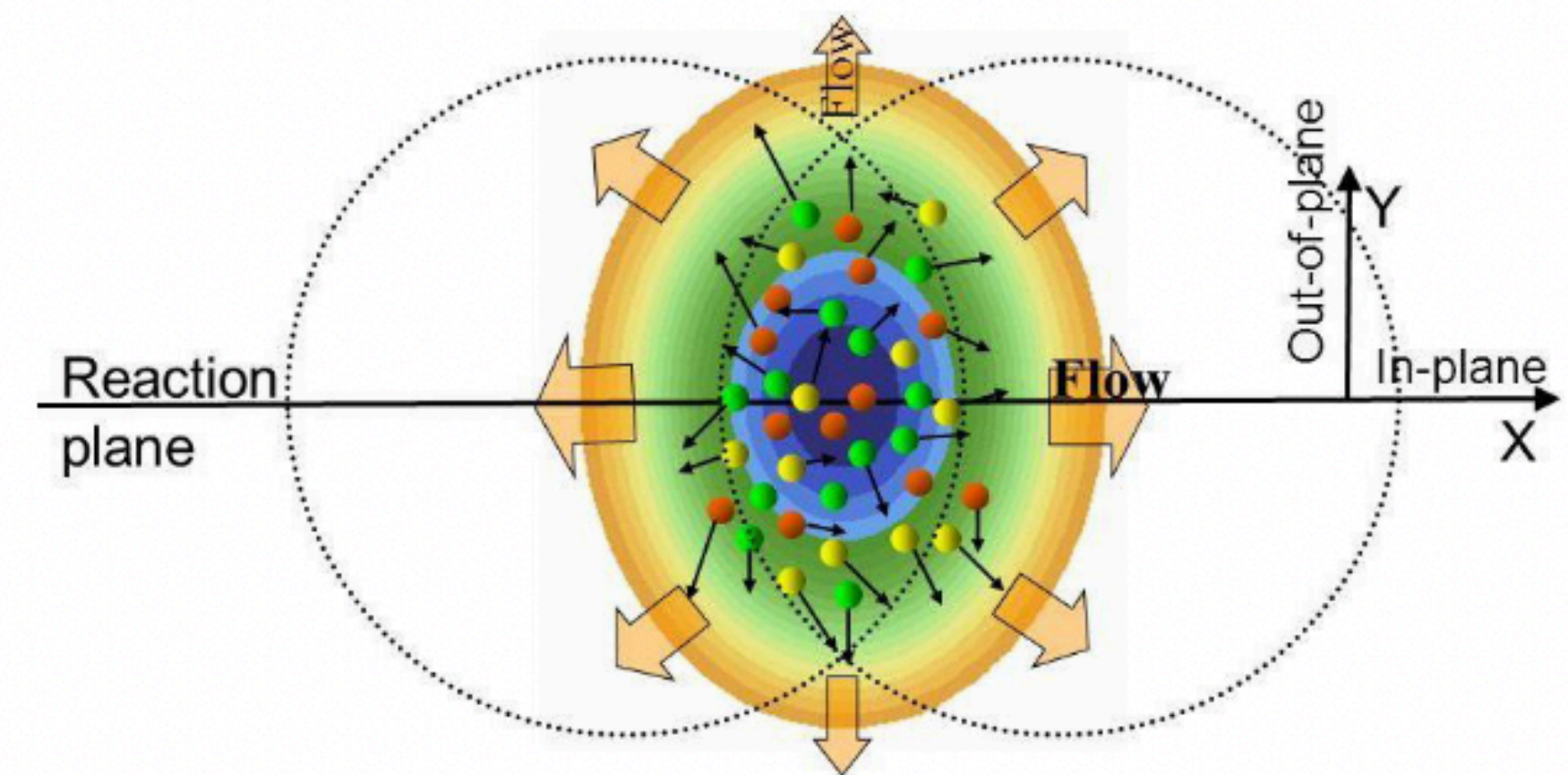


➤ **Elliptic flow:** initial spatial anisotropy+ hydro = final momentum anisotropy

Quantified by the second Fourier coefficient, v_2

$$\frac{dN}{d\varphi} = \frac{N}{2\pi} \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos(n(\varphi - \Psi_R)) \right]$$

$$v_2 = \langle \cos 2(\varphi_{part} - \Psi_{EP}) \rangle$$

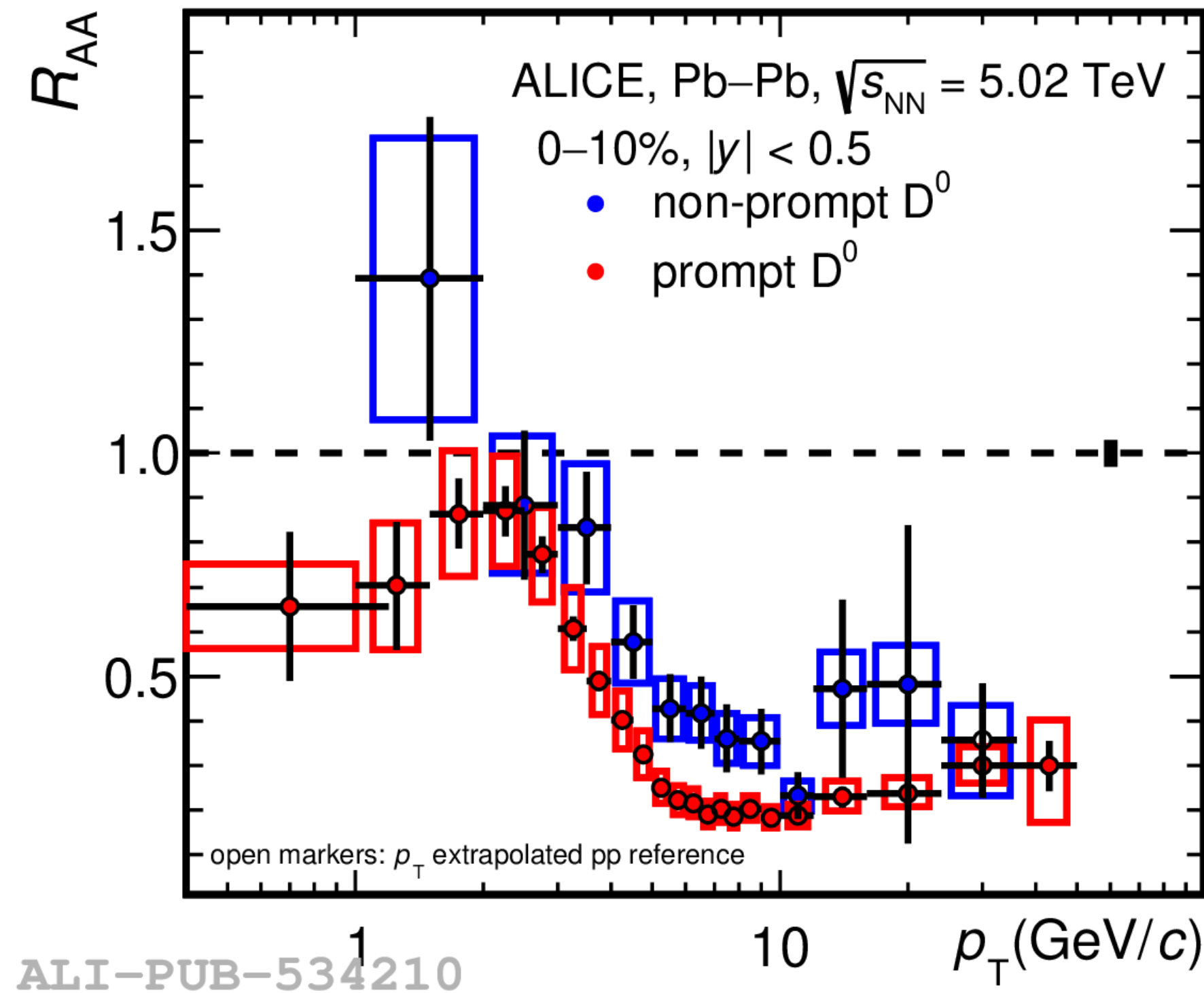
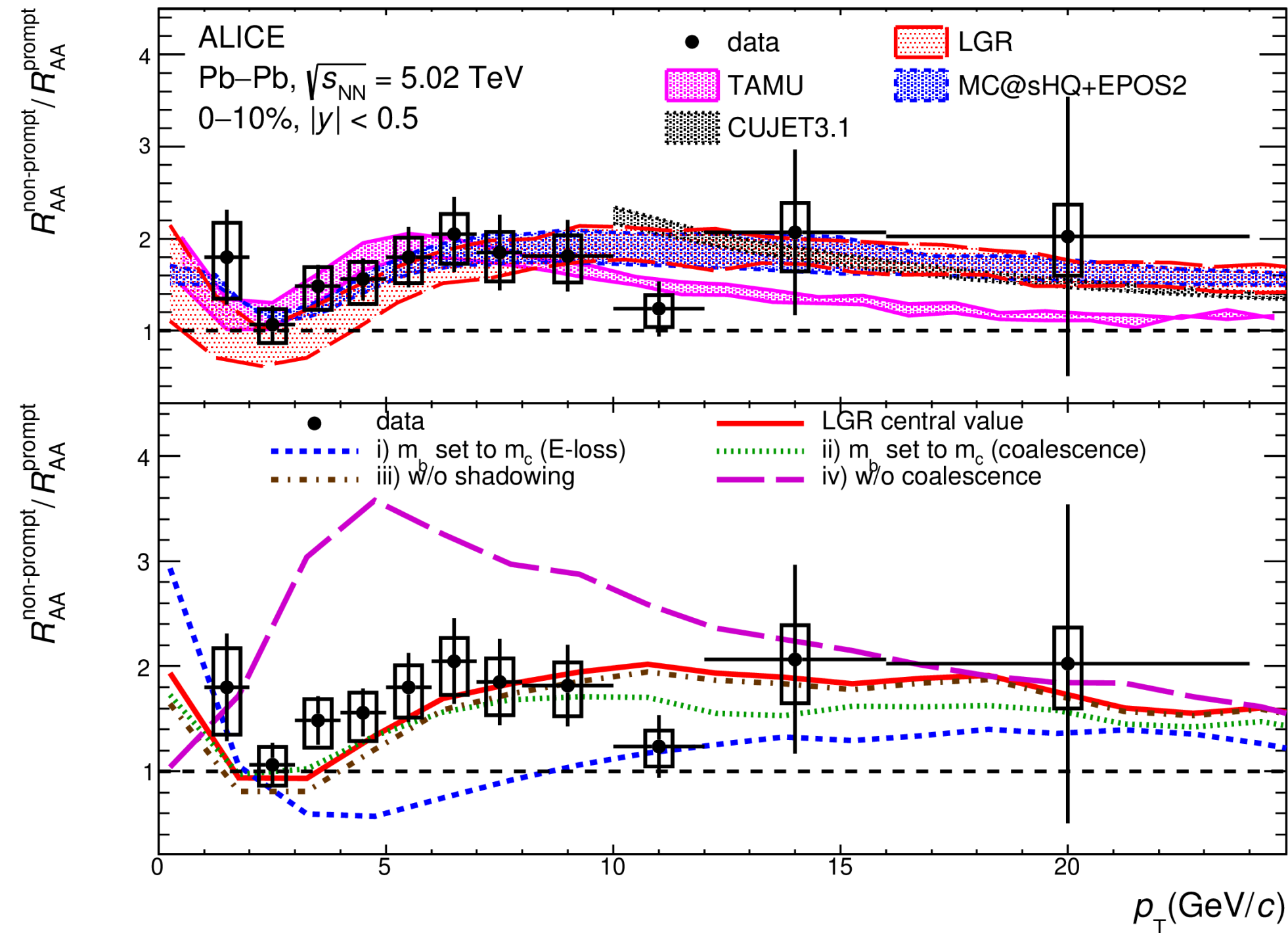


Driven by overlap geometry

→ Related to pressure gradients & shear viscosity to entropy ratio (η/s)

→ Sensitive to thermalization of the system

R_{AA} ratio of prompt D^0



ALI-PUB-534213

ALI-PUB-534210

TAMU
Phys. Lett. B 735 (2014) 445
CUJET3.1
Chin. Phys. C 43 (2019) 044101
LGR
EPJC 80 (2020) 671
Phys. J. C 80 (2020) 1113
MC@sHQ+EPOS2
Phys. Rev. C 89 (2014) 014905

Non-prompt D^0 R_{AA} is systematically higher than that of prompt D^0 for $p_T > 5$ GeV/c in both centrality classes

✓ Hint of a mass dependent in-medium energy loss

R_{AA} ratio of non-prompt D^0 to prompt D^0 as a function of p_T in 0-10% centrality compared to model predictions

✓ At low p_T , formation of D mesons via coalescence makes a hardening of the prompt D^0 meson p_T

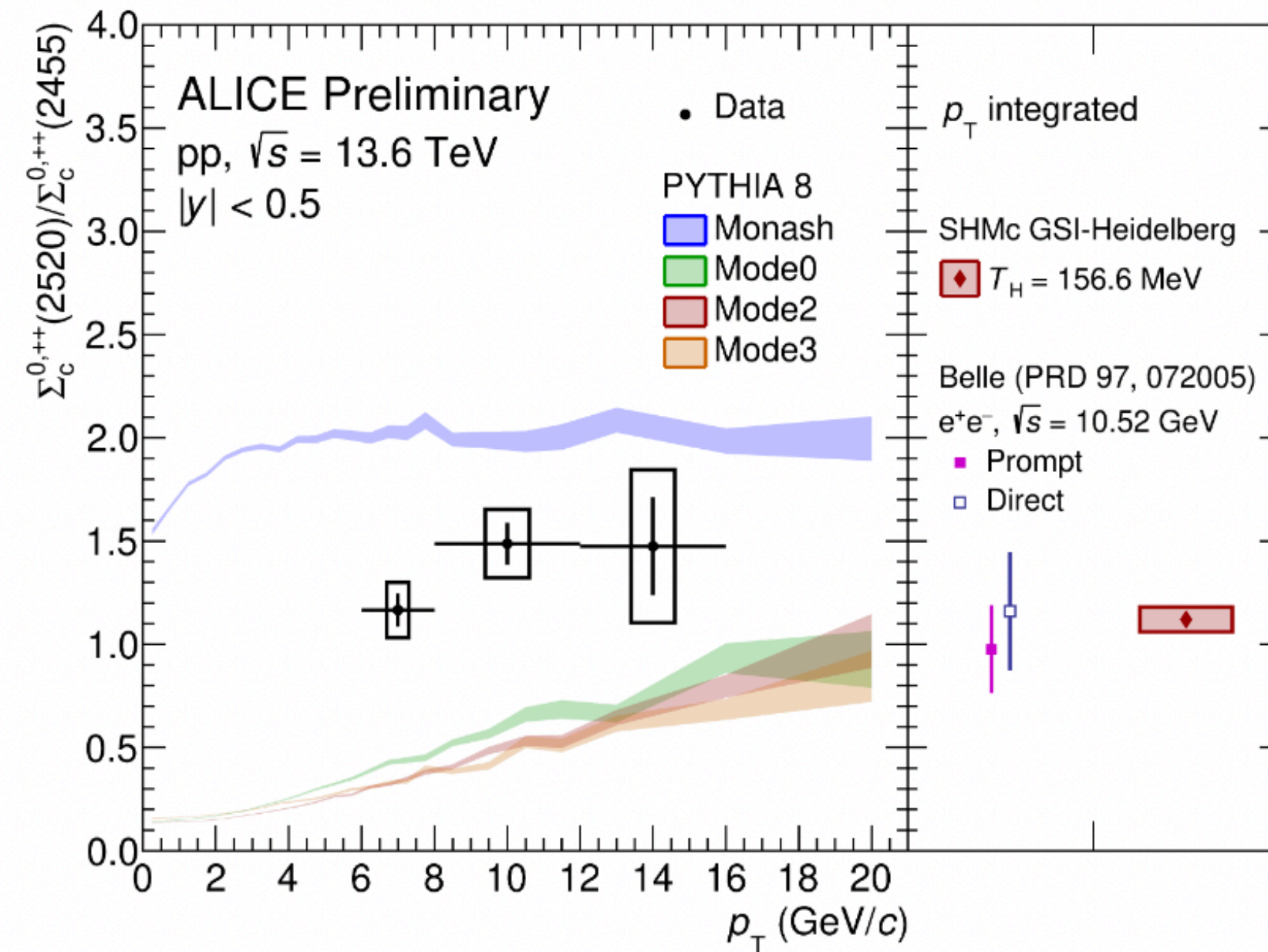
✓ At high p_T , beauty quarks lose less energy than charm quarks via radiative processes

Recent results from Run3 : $\Sigma_c^{0,++}(2520)/\Sigma_c^{0,++}(2455)$

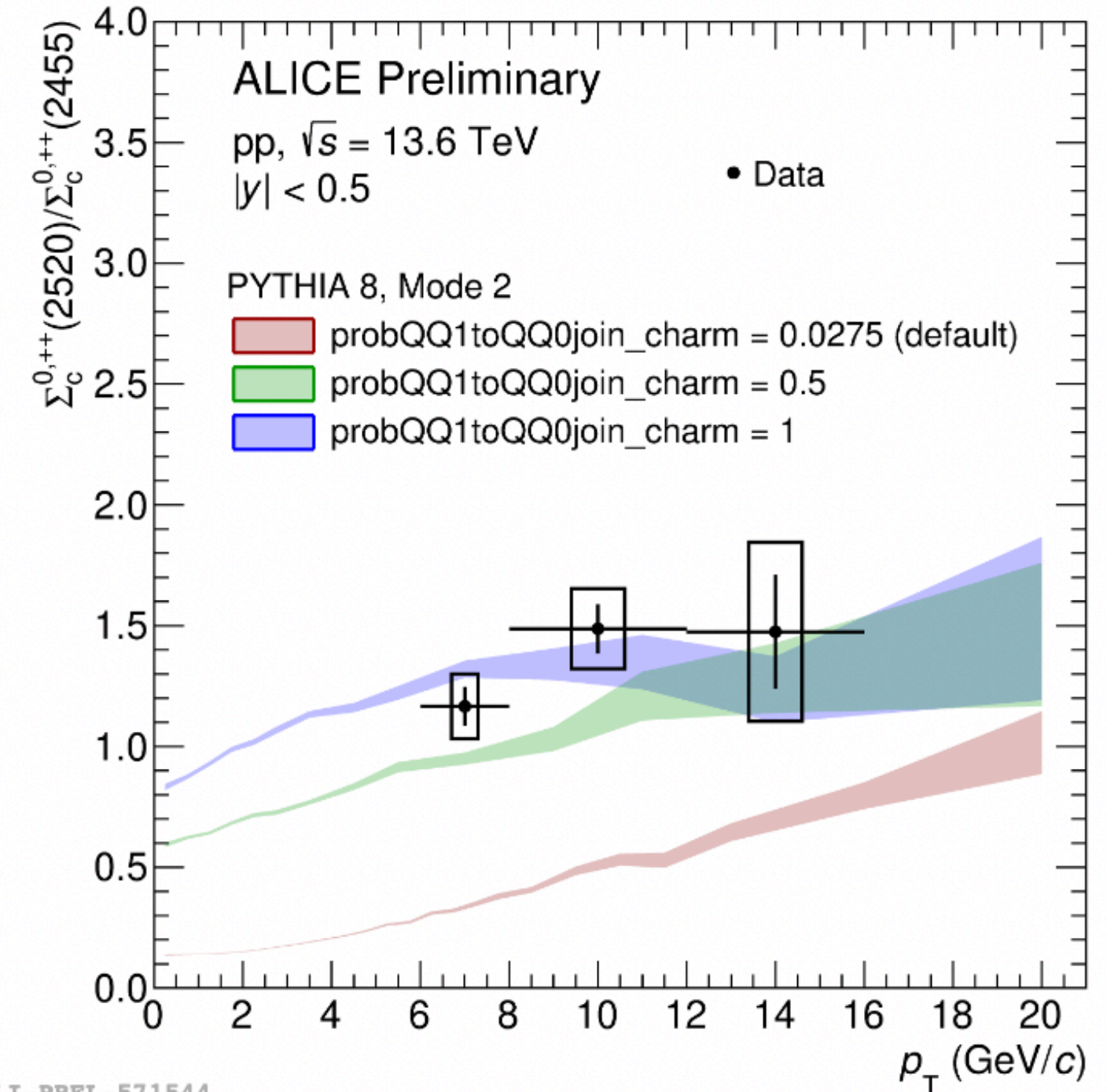
New from run 3

First $\Sigma_c^{0,++}(2520)$ measurement at the LHC

$\Sigma_c^{0,++}(2520), J = 3/2$
 $\Sigma_c^{0,++}(2455), J = 1/2$



ALI-PREL-571539



ALI-PREL-571544

- SHM agrees with data within uncertainties
- PYTHIA with neither Monash nor CR-BLC reproduces data
- Ratio sensitive to c-diquark spin-1 to spin-0 suppression factor