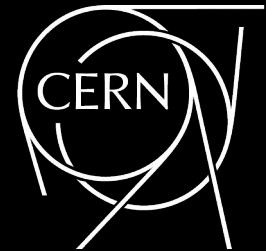




# The role of strangeness in heavy-quark hadronisation from small to large collision systems with ALICE

Mattia Faggin, CERN  
on behalf of the ALICE Collaboration

Strangeness in Quark Matter 2024  
Strasbourg, France  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2024



# Heavy quarks: a unique probe for high-density QCD

- **Charm** and **beauty** quarks:  $m_c \sim 1.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ,  $m_b \sim 4.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
- **Produced** in **hard scattering** processes among partons
- **Ultrarelativistic heavy-ion** collisions at the LHC: quark-gluon plasma (QGP)
  - state of matter expected in the first  $\sim 10 \mu\text{s}$  after the Big Bang
  - **heavy quarks** experience the **full evolution** of the system

**Charm- and beauty- quarks dynamic** tested via  
**measurements of charm- and beauty- hadron production**

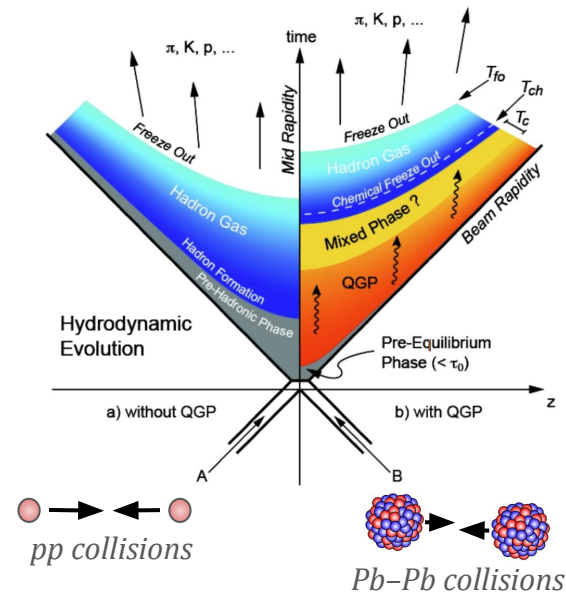
pp collisions

- **Test of pQCD calculations**
  - heavy-quark production
  - **hadronization**
  - parton distribution functions (PDFs)
- Reference for Pb-Pb collisions

p-Pb collisions

### Cold nuclear matter effects

- Modification in PDFs in bound nucleons



Pb-Pb collisions

### Hot nuclear matter effects

- Energy loss in the QGP
- Collective motion
- Modification of hadronization

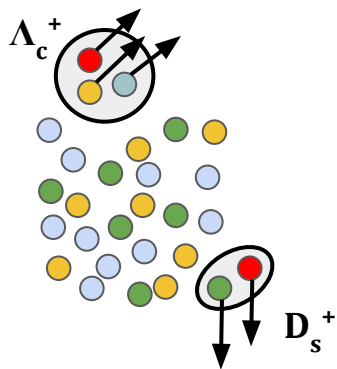
# Strange heavy-flavour hadron production vs. multiplicity

- **Strangeness enhancement (SE)**: yield-ratio between (multi)strange hadrons and  $\pi^\pm$  larger **in heavy-ion collisions** than minimum-bias pp collisions
- **Smooth increase vs. event multiplicity, without a clear collision-system dependence**
- Baryon production in Pb–Pb collisions at intermediate  $p_T$  enhanced by hadronization via **coalescence**

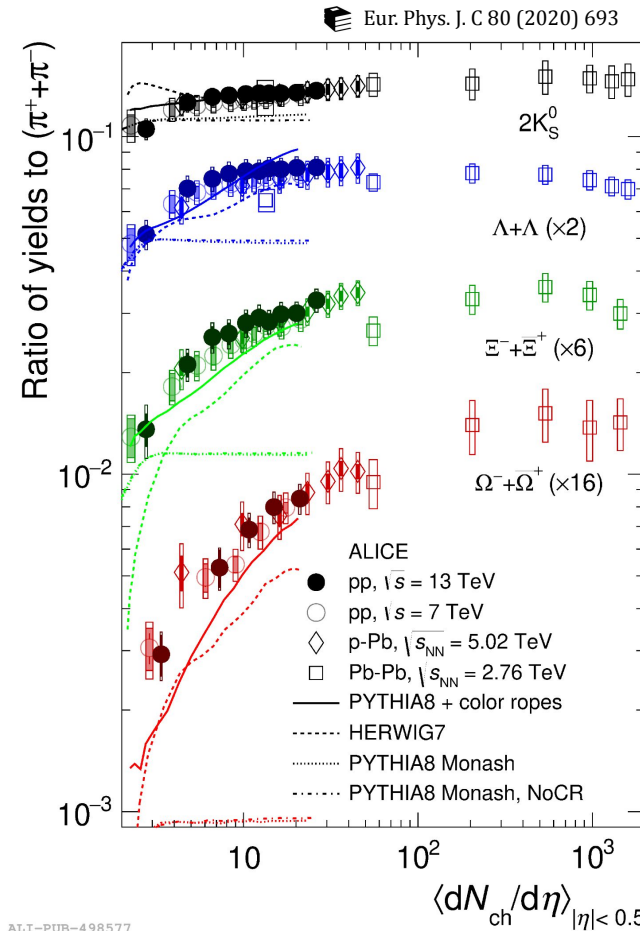
*"Measuring the system size dependence of the strangeness production with ALICE"*  
R. Nepeivoda, 04/06/2024

**Do not miss!**

● charm ● up  
● strange ● down



- What do **strange D-meson** production measurements teach us about heavy-quark **hadronization** at the LHC?
- Do their production **evolve vs. event multiplicity**?
- Are they **sensitive to QGP-induced effects** (e.g. strangeness enhancement, coalescence,  $E$ -loss, flow, ...)?



# The ALICE experiment in Run 1 and Run 2

Central barrel:  $|\eta| < 0.9$

Muon spectrometer:  $-4 < \eta < -2.5$

## Inner Tracking System (ITS)

Tracking, vertexing (primary, secondary HF)

## Time Projection Chamber (TPC)

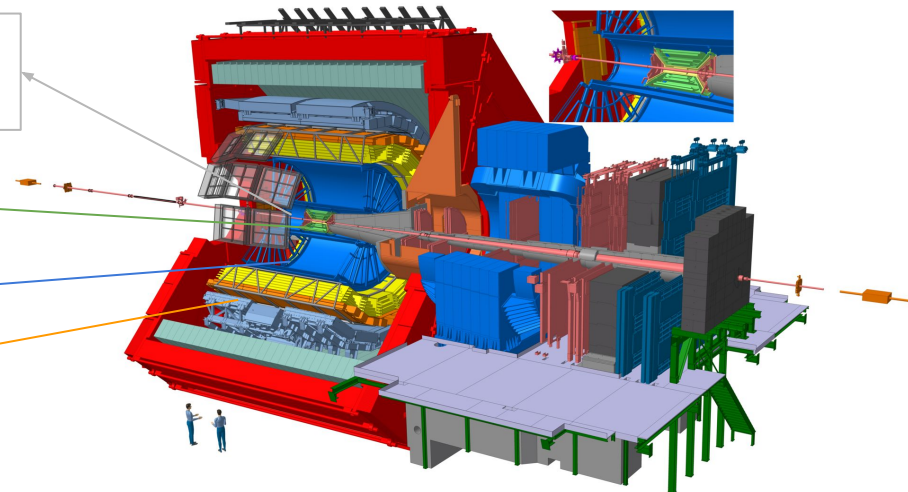
Tracking, PID via  $dE/dx$

## Time-Of-Flight (TOF)

PID via time of flight

V0

Trigger, centrality



## Charm-hadron decay channels

$$D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$$

$$D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0 \pi^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$$

$$D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$$

$$D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi \pi^+ \rightarrow K^+ K^- \pi^+$$

$$D_{s1}^+ \rightarrow D^{*+} K_s^0$$

$$D_{s2}^{*+} \rightarrow D^+ K_s^0$$

$$\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K^- \pi^+, p K_s^0$$

$$\Xi_c^0 \rightarrow \Xi^- e^+ \nu_e$$

$$\Xi_c^0 \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+$$

$$\Xi_c^+ \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+ \pi^+$$

$$\Sigma_c^{0,++} \rightarrow \Lambda_c^+ \pi^{-,+}$$

$$\Omega_c^0 \rightarrow \Omega^- \pi^+$$

*"Investigation of charm-quark hadronisation into baryons in hadronic collisions with ALICE"*  
J. Cho, 04/06/2024

**Do not miss!**

## Datasets

$$pp \sqrt{s} = 5.02 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 19 \text{ nb}^{-1} \text{ (MB)}$$

$$pp \sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 5.9 \text{ nb}^{-1} \text{ (MB)}$$

$$pp \sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 32 \text{ nb}^{-1} \text{ (MB)}$$

$$p\text{-Pb } \sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 287 \mu\text{b}^{-1} \text{ (MB)}$$

$$\text{Pb-Pb } \sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 130 \mu\text{b}^{-1} \text{ (0-10\%)}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 56 \mu\text{b}^{-1} \text{ (30-50\%)}$$

# The ALICE experiment in Run 3

1. Upgraded **ITS** detector
2. Gas Electron Multipliers (**GEMs**) in **TPC readout**
3. Data acquisition in **continuous readout** mode
4. New Fast Interaction Trigger (**FIT**) detector
5. Muon Forward Tracker  $\rightarrow 2.5 < \eta < 3.6$

## Run 3 upgrades

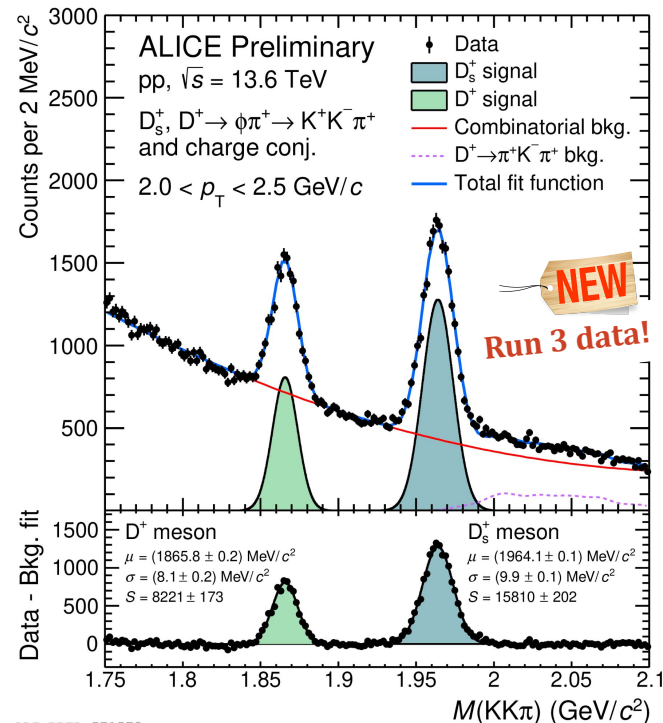
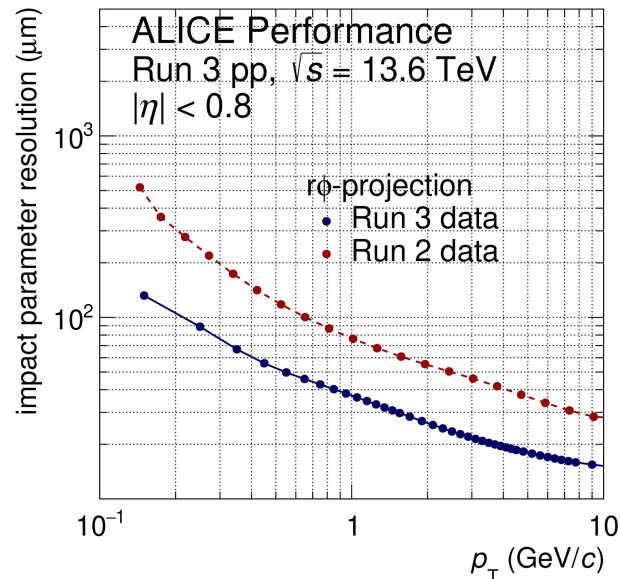
## Charm-hadron decay channels



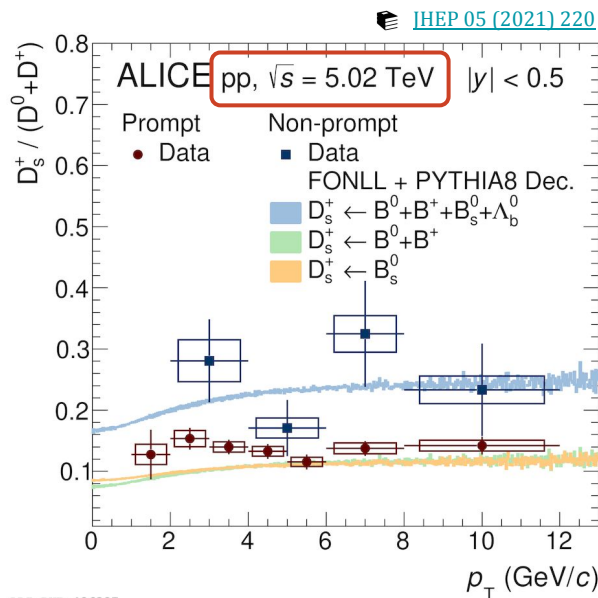
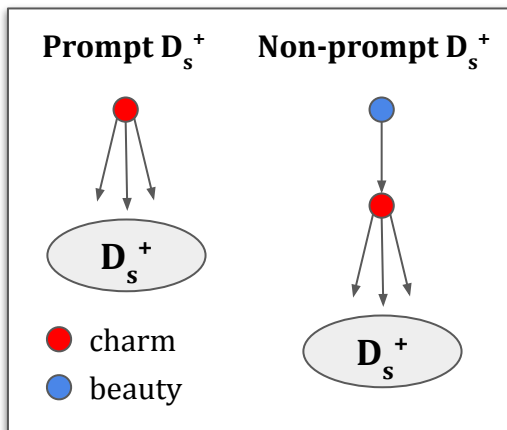
- $\rightarrow$  same decay **channel**, to **reduce** the **systematic** uncertainties on the  $D_s^+/D^+$  ratio
- $\rightarrow$  **better separation** between **primary vertex** and **HF decay points** to the **improved pointing resolution** to the primary vertex

## Datasets

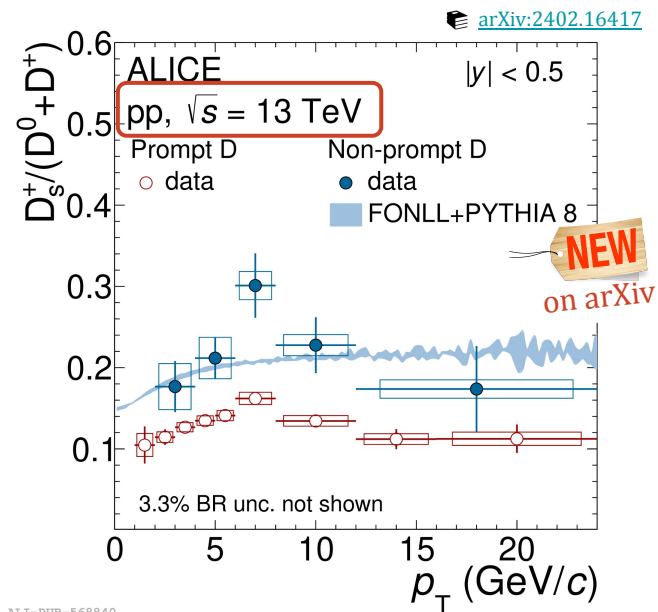
pp  $\sqrt{s} = 13.6$  TeV  $\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 1 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  (2022 MB)



# Strange/non-strange D-meson ratio



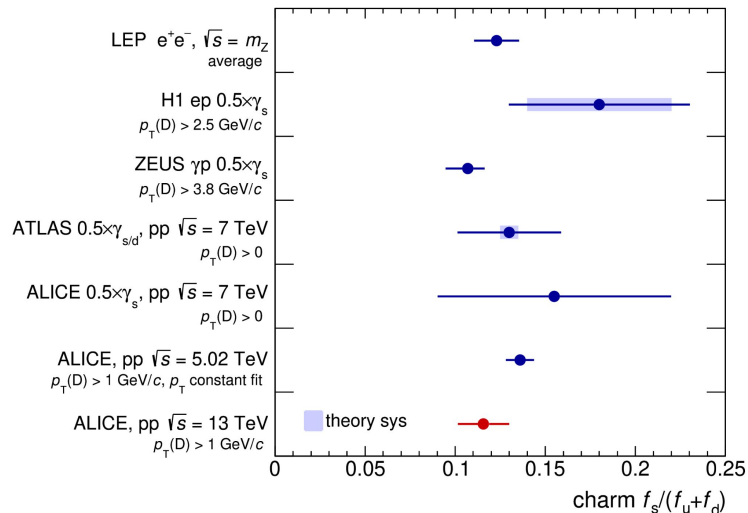
ALI-PUB-496387



ALI-PUB-568840

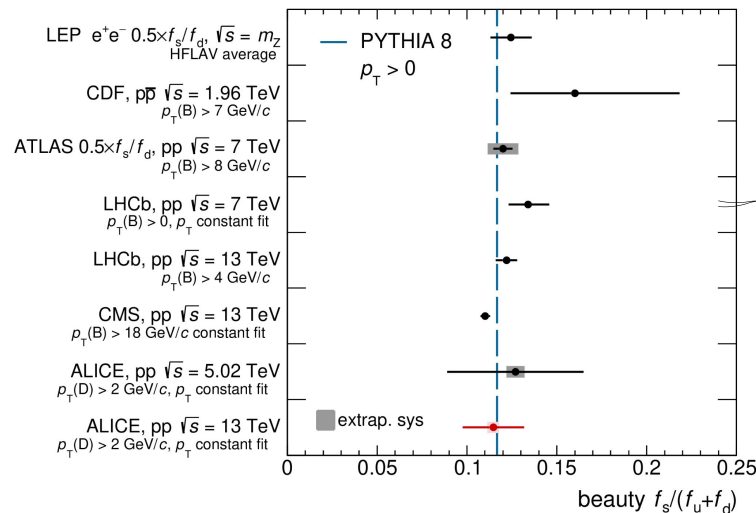
- Prompt and non-prompt  $D_s^+ / (D^+ + D^0)$  ratios in pp collisions do not depend significantly on  $p_T$  and collision energy

[JHEP12 \(2023\) 086](#)



ALI-PUB-567901

[arXiv:2402.16417](#)



NEW  
on arXiv

ALI-PUB-568844

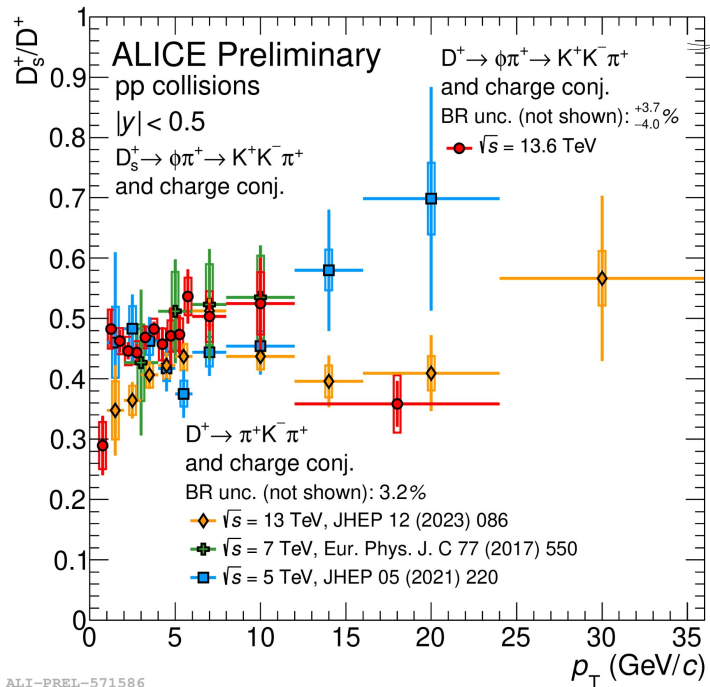
- Prompt and non-prompt  $D_s^+/(D^+ + D^0)$  ratios in pp collisions do not depend significantly on  $p_T$  and collision energy

- No significant collision system and energy dependence of charm quark fragmentation ratios into strange and non-strange D mesons

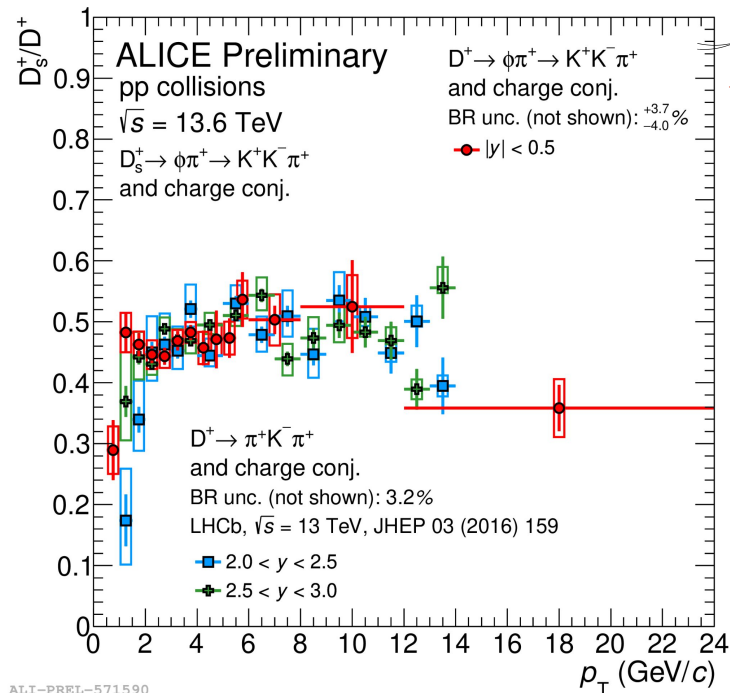
- Charm and beauty  $f_s/(f_u + f_d)$  fragmentation-fraction ratio from prompt and non-prompt  $D_s^+/(D^0 + D^+)$  ratio, respectively

- Beauty: FONLL+PYTHIA correction for  $D_s^+$  from non-strange B-meson decays

- Beauty  $f_s/(f_u + f_d) =$  charm  $f_s/(f_u + f_d)$



**NEW**  
Run 3 data!



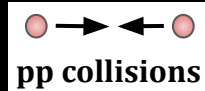
**NEW**  
Run 3 data!

- **First measurement** of prompt  $D_s^+ / D^+$  ratio in **pp collisions** at  $\sqrt{s} = 13.6$  TeV
  - x2 improvement in granularity for  $1 < p_T < 6$  GeV/c
  - down to  $p_T = 0.5$  GeV/c

- **No significant energy dependence** observed
- **No significant rapidity dependence** observed



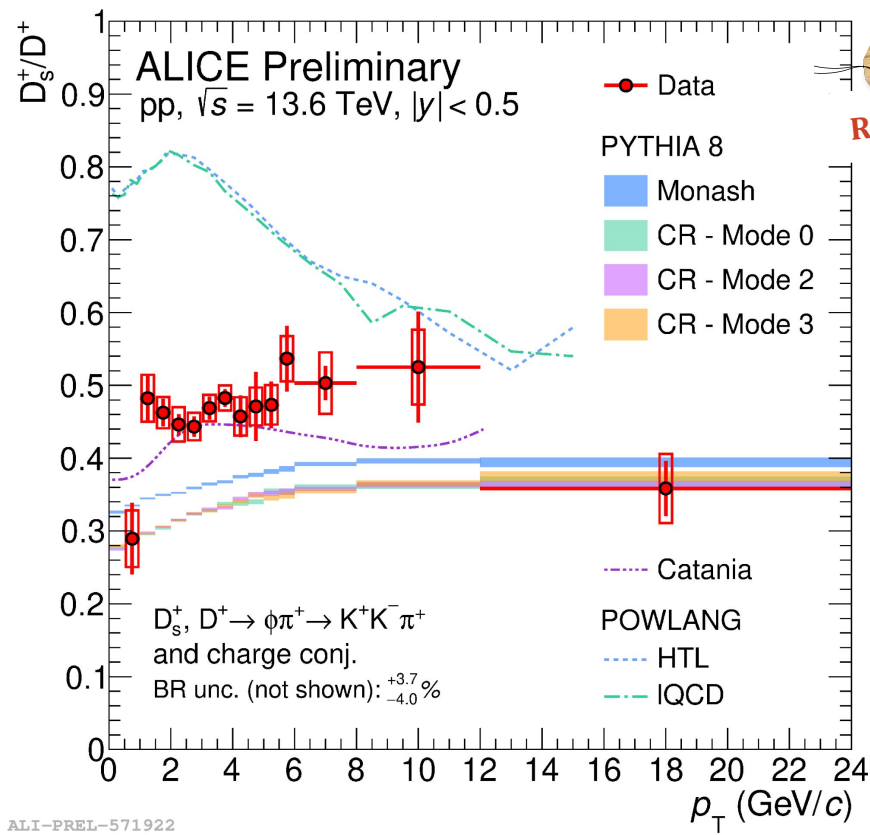
# Prompt $D_s^+ / D^+$ in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13.6$ TeV



• PYTHIA 8 (J. R. Christiansen, P. Z. Skands): [JHEP 08 \(2015\) 003](#)

• POWLANG (A. Beraudo et al.): [arXiv:2306.02152](#)

• CATANIA (V. Minissale et al.): [Phys. Lett. B 821 \(2021\) 136622](#)

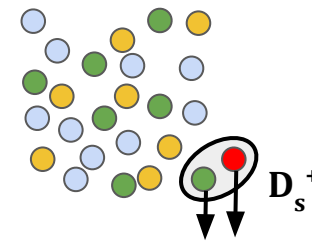
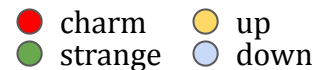


## • PYTHIA 8

- **Monash: colour reconnection (CR)** among different multiparton interactions (MPIs) only with **leading-colour** topology
- **CR - Mode 0, 2, 3: colour reconnections** among MPIs allowed also **beyond leading-colour** topologies  $\rightarrow$  baryon enhancement
- Measurement underestimated  
 $\rightarrow D^+$ -meson production overestimated

## • POWLANG and Catania

- fireball/thermalised system formation already assumed in pp collisions
- heavy-quark hadronization also via coalescence
- Measurement overestimated by POWLANG
- Catania better describes it



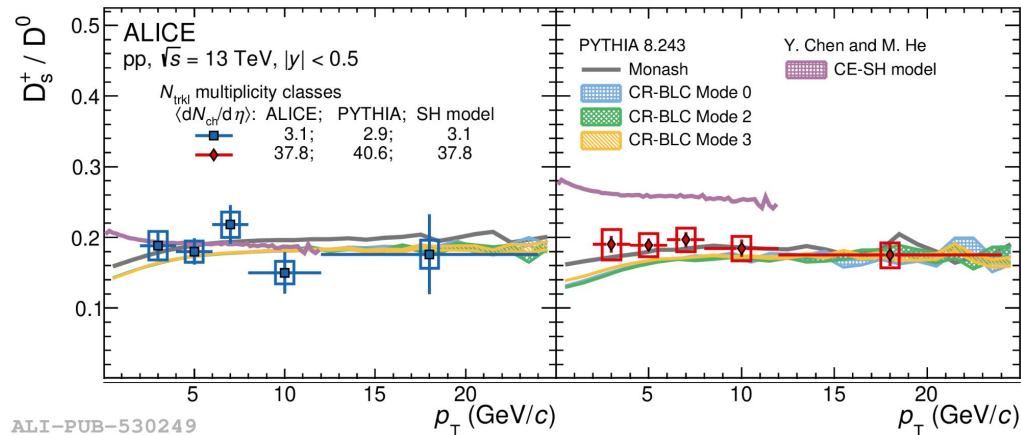
# Strange charm hadrons vs. multiplicity



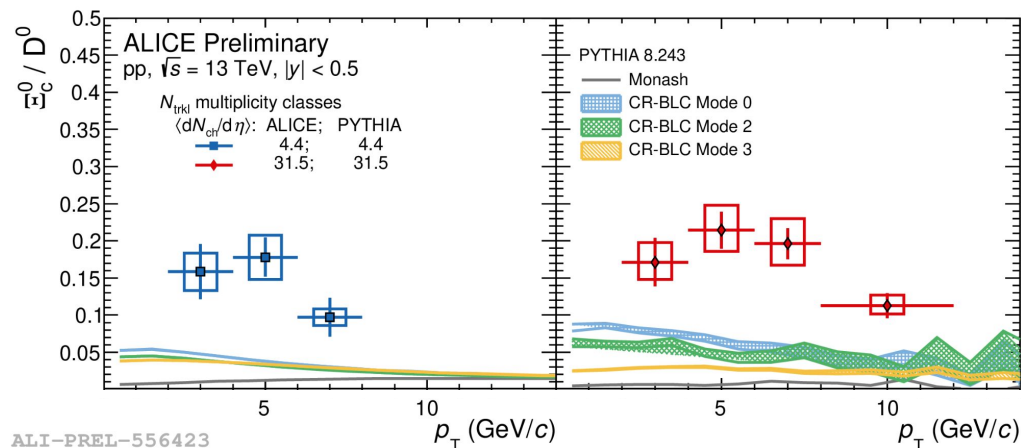
• PYTHIA 8 (J. R. Christiansen, P. Z. Skands): [JHEP 08 \(2015\) 003](#)

• CE-SH (J. Y. Chen, M. He): [Phys. Lett. B 815 \(2021\) 136144](#)

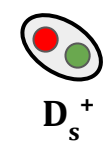
• [Phys.Lett.B 829 \(2022\) 137065](#)



ALI-PUB-530249



ALI-PREL-556423



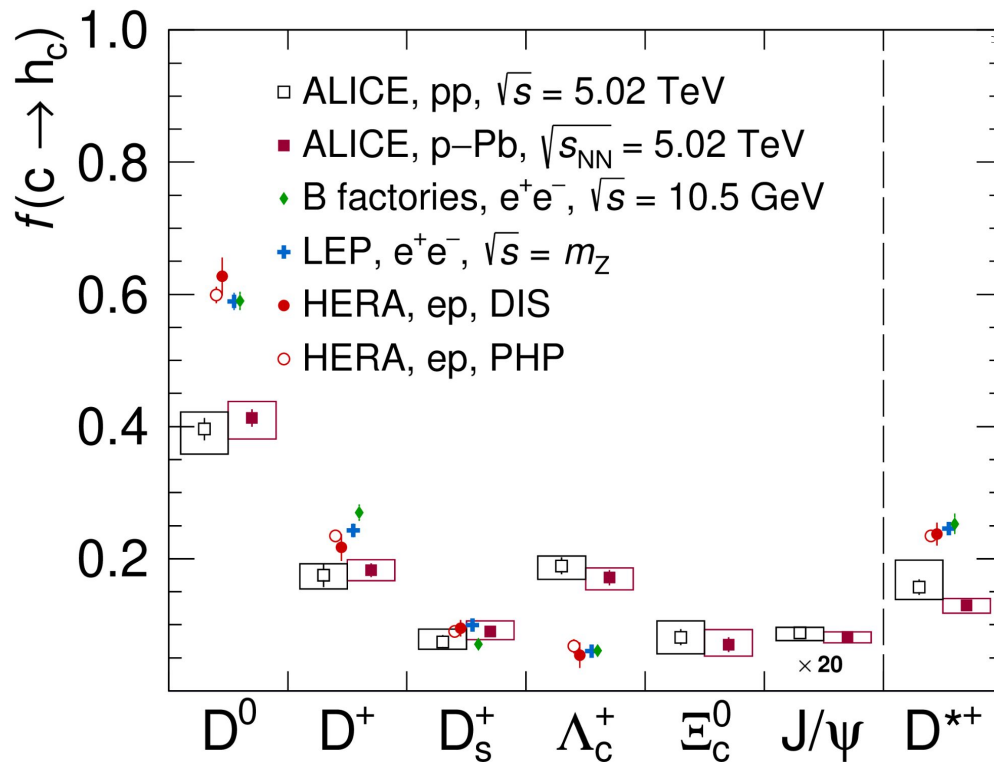
- up
- down
- charm
- strange

- $D_s^+ / D^0$  ratio in pp collisions at midrapidity does not show any significant dependence vs.  $p_T$  and event multiplicity

- $D_s^+ / D^0$  ratio described by PYTHIA 8 predictions at both low and high multiplicity
- $D_s^+ / D^0$  ratio not described by canonical-ensemble statistical hadronization model (CE-SH) at high event multiplicity

- $\Xi_c^0 / D^0$  ratio significantly underestimated by PYTHIA 8 predictions

[arXiv:2405.14571](https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.14571)



NEW  
on arXiv



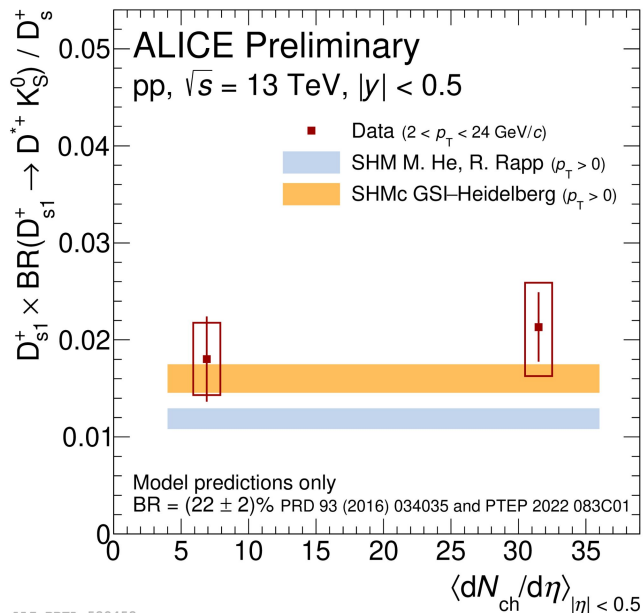
- up
- down
- charm
- strange

- Enhanced production of baryons at midrapidity relative to that of mesons at the LHC compared to  $e^+e^-$  collisions
- No significant differences in the charm fragmentation fractions  $f(c \rightarrow h_c)$  between pp and p-Pb collisions
- Comparable production of  $D_s^+$  mesons and  $\Xi_c^0, \Xi_c^+$  baryons

*"Investigation of charm-quark hadronisation into baryons in hadronic collisions with ALICE"*  
J. Cho, 04/06/2024

Do not miss!

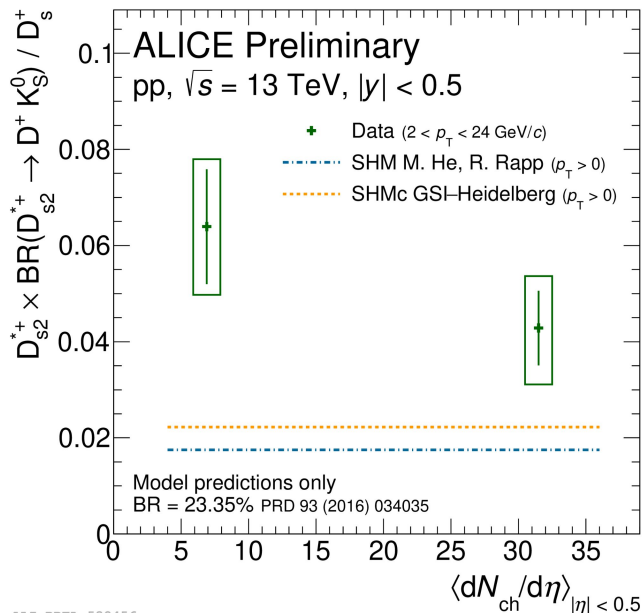
$D_s^+$  in pp at 13 TeV: [Phys.Lett.B 829 \(2022\) 137065](#)



ALI-PREL-538453

- No multiplicity dependence on D-meson ratios in pp collisions
- No differences compared to  $e^+e^-$  collisions

→ What about charm-resonances?



ALI-PREL-538456

- No multiplicity dependence on  $D_{s1}^+/D_s^+$  ratio
- Hint of **tension** with SHM predictions for  $D_{s2}^{*+}/D_s^+$  ratio
  - SHM predictions  $p_T$  integrated, measurement for  $p_T > 2$  GeV/c
  - BR not measured

[R.L. Workman et al. \(Particle Data Group\), Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. 2022, 083C01 \(2022\) and 2023 update](#)

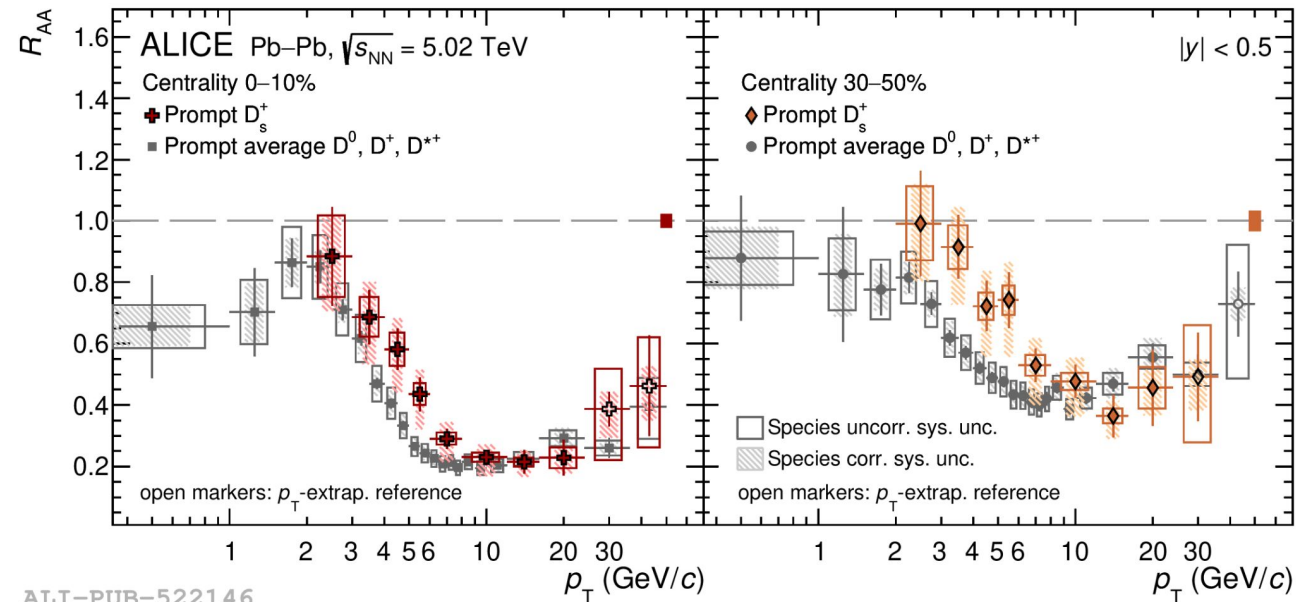
$$\tau(D_{s1}^{*+}(2573)) \sim 12 \text{ fm}/c$$

$$\tau(D_s^+(2536)) \sim 214 \text{ fm}/c$$

**First measurement of  $D_s$ -resonance production in pp collisions**

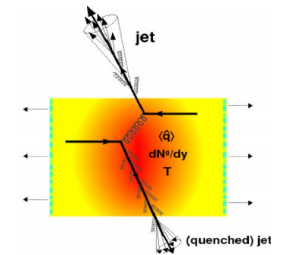
→ measurement to be improved with Run 3 data!

Phys. Lett. B 827 (2022) 136986



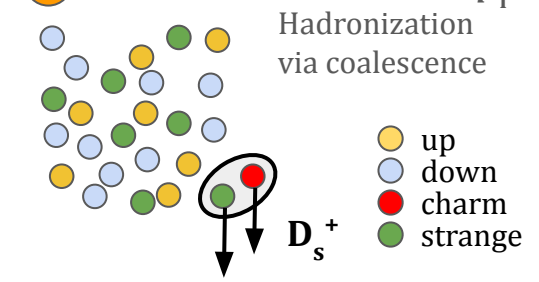
1

High  $p_T$   
 In-medium  $E$ -loss  
 (jet quenching)



2

Intermediate  $p_T$   
 Hadronization  
 via coalescence



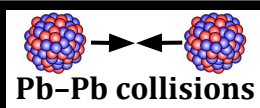
ALI-PUB-522146

$$R_{AA}(p_T, y) = \frac{1}{\langle T_{AA} \rangle} \frac{d^2 N_{AA} / dp_T dy}{d^2 \sigma_{PP} / dp_T dy}$$

Nuclear modification factor sensitive to QGP-induced effects on (heavy) quark dynamics

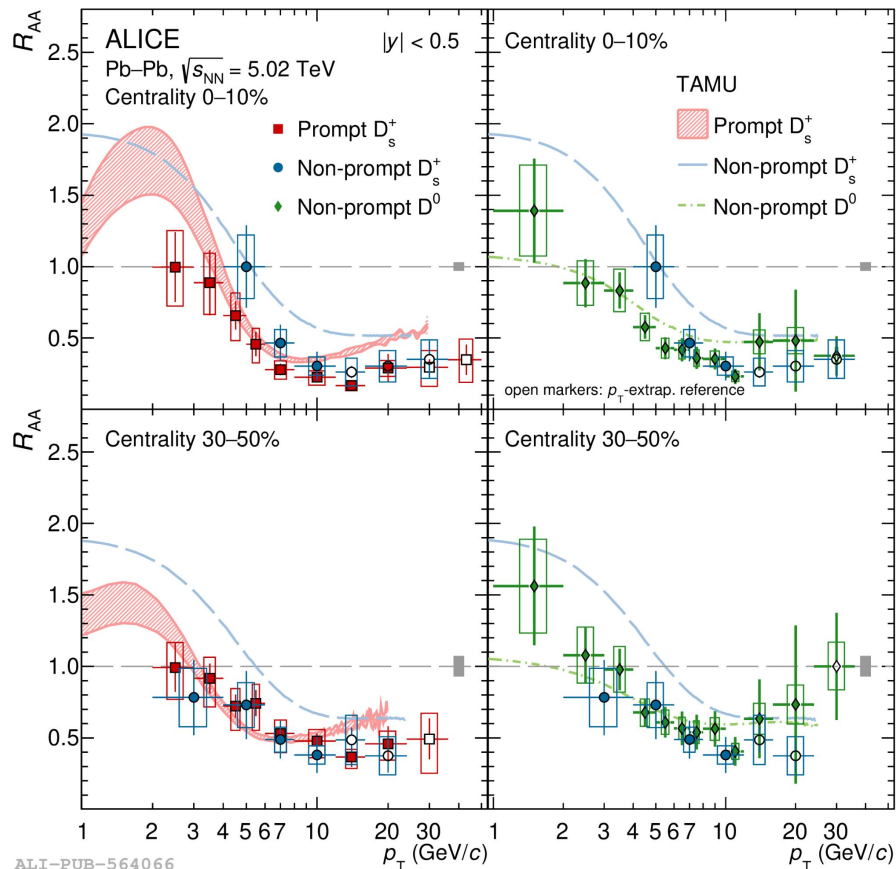
1.  $R_{AA}$  of strange and non-strange D-mesons significantly lower than 1 at high  $p_T$ 
  - in-medium parton energy loss
2. Hint of  $R_{AA}(D_s^+) > R_{AA}(\text{non-strange D mesons})$  for  $p_T < 6$  GeV/c
  - hadronization via coalescence + strangeness enhancement in the QGP

# Prompt and non-prompt $D_s^+$ -meson $R_{AA}$



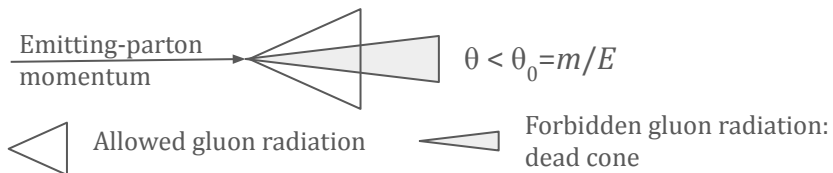
TAMU: (M. He et al.) Phys. Lett. B 735 (2014) 445–450  
(M. He, R. Rapp) Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 042301

Phys. Lett. B 846 (2023) 137561



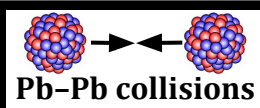
ALI-PUB-564066

- Hint of  $R_{AA}(\text{non-prompt } D_s^+) > R_{AA}(\text{non-prompt } D^0)$  for  $p_T < 6$  GeV/c
  - hadronization via **coalescence + strangeness enhancement** in the QGP
- Hint of  $R_{AA}(\text{non-prompt } D_s^+) > R_{AA}(\text{prompt } D_s^+)$  for  $p_T < 6$  GeV/c
  - sensitivity to different in-medium diffusion (collisional  $E$ -loss) for charm and beauty quarks ( $D_s \sim 1/m_Q$ )
  - At higher  $p_T$ :  $m_b > m_c$  and dead-cone effect  
→ uncertainties still too large



- TAMU: transport model with
  - hadronization via fragmentation and **coalescence**
  - $E$ -loss only via elastic **collisional** processes only  
→ **measurement overestimated at high  $p_T$**

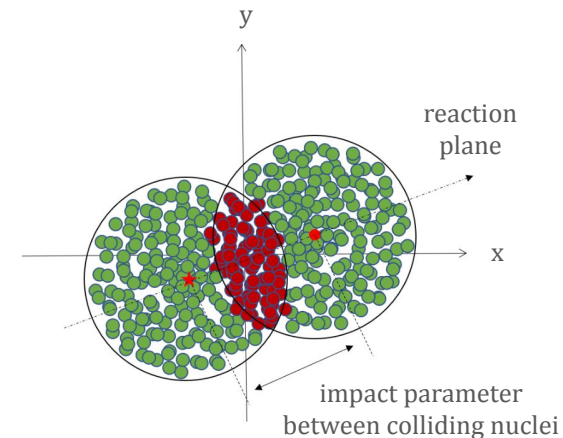
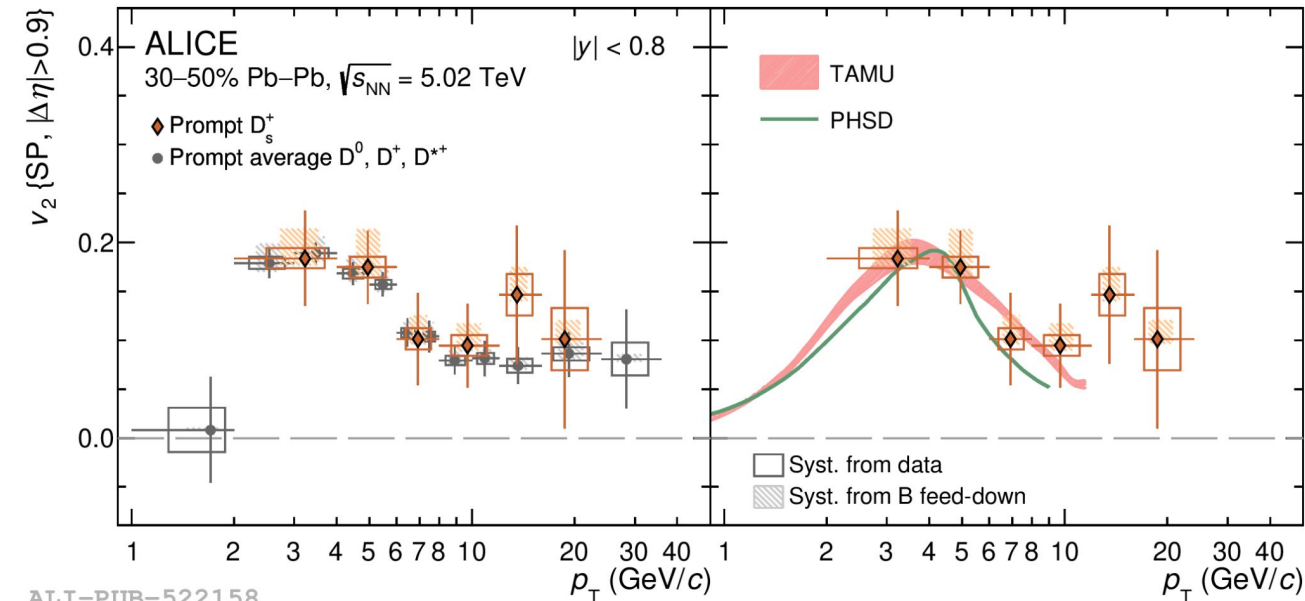
# Strange and non-strange D-meson elliptic flow



[Phys. Lett. B 827 \(2022\) 136986](#)

TAMU: (M. He, R. Rapp) Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 042301

PHSD: (T. Song et. al.) Phys. Rev. C 92, 014910

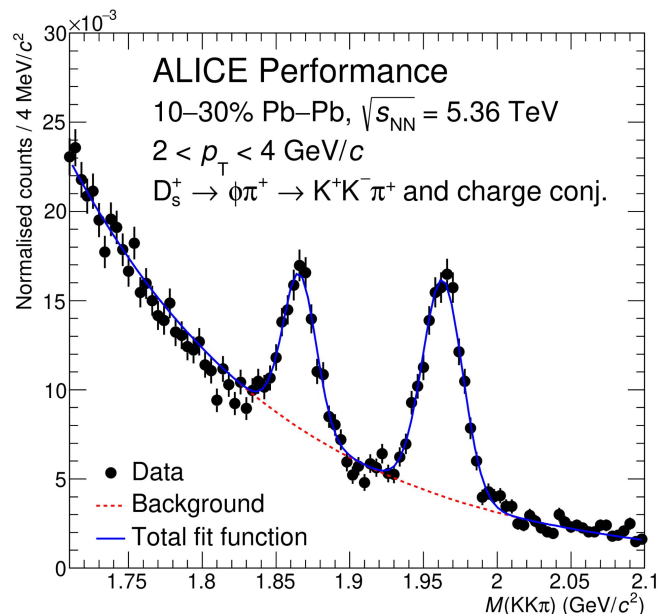


$$v_n(p_T) = \langle \cos[n(\varphi - \Psi_n)] \rangle$$

*Elliptic flow  $v_2$  sensitive to charm-quark thermalization and hadronization in the QGP*

- $v_2(D_s^+) > 0$  by  $\sim 6.4 \sigma$ 
  - charm-quark participation to collective motion
- No significant difference between  $v_2(D_s^+)$  and  $v_2(\text{non-strange D mesons})$
- $v_2(D_s^+)$  in  $p_T < 10$  GeV/c described by models implementing charm-quark hadronization via coalescence and strange-quark  $v_2$

# Summary and outlook



we are here!

- Prompt and non-prompt **strange D-meson production** measurements in **pp** collisions useful to **probe** the **charm-** and **beauty-quark fragmentation**
- Prompt and non-prompt **strange D-meson production** measurements in **Pb–Pb** support scenarios with **charm-** and **beauty-quark** hadronization via **coalescence** and **charm-quark thermalization** in the **QGP**



*“Study of charm fragmentation with charm meson and baryon angular correlation measurements with ALICE”*

A. Palasciano, 04/06/2024

**Do not miss!**

***Thank you very much for the attention***



Backup

# Heavy-flavour hadron production at large $Q^2$ in pp collisions



## Factorization approach

$$\frac{d\sigma^{H_c}}{dp_T^{H_c}}(p_T; \mu_F, \mu_R) = \text{PDF}(x_1, \mu_F) \cdot \text{PDF}(x_2, \mu_F) \otimes \frac{d\sigma^c}{dp_T^c}(x_1, x_2, \mu_F, \mu_R) \otimes D_{c \rightarrow H_c}(z = p_{H_c}/p_c, \mu_F)$$

Parton distribution functions (PDFs)

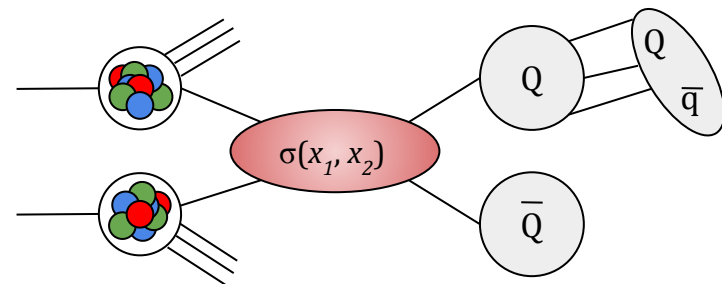
Hard scattering cross section (pQCD)

Fragmentation function (hadronization)

- No first-principle description of **hadronization**
  - Non-perturbative problem, pQCD calculations not applicable
  - Necessary to resort to models and make use of phenomenological parameters
- Charm-hadron production typically described by models via a **factorisation approach**

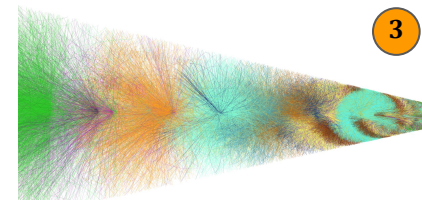
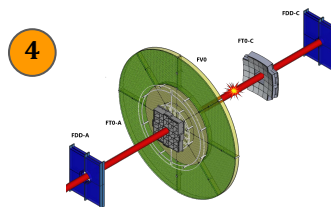
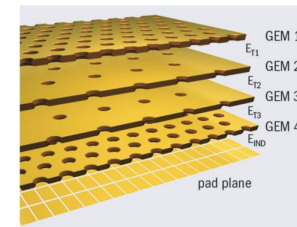
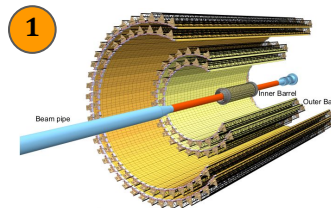
*Independent fragmentation*

- **Fragmentation functions** assumed **universal** across collision systems and **constrained** from  $e^+e^-$  and  $e^-p$  measurements

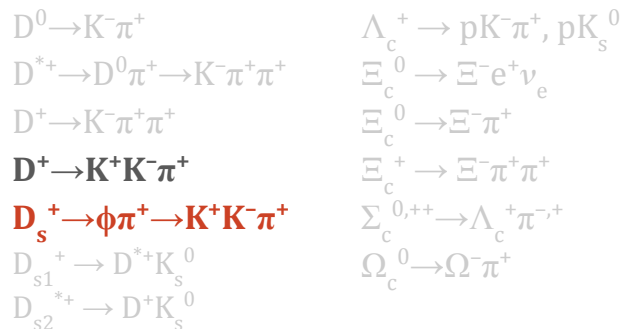


# The ALICE experiment in Run 3

1. Upgraded **ITS** detector *Run 3 upgrades*
  - up to **~100x** higher **readout rate** than Run 2
  - **~3x** lower **material budget** than Run 2 (1<sup>st</sup> layer)
2. Gas Electron Multipliers (**GEMs**) in **TPC readout**
3. Data acquisition in **continuous readout** mode
4. New Fast Interaction Trigger (**FIT**) detector
  - **excellent time resolution** ( $\sigma \leq 18$  ps)
5. Muon Forward Tracker  $\rightarrow 2.5 < \eta < 3.6$ 
  - Secondary vertex reconstruction at forward-y



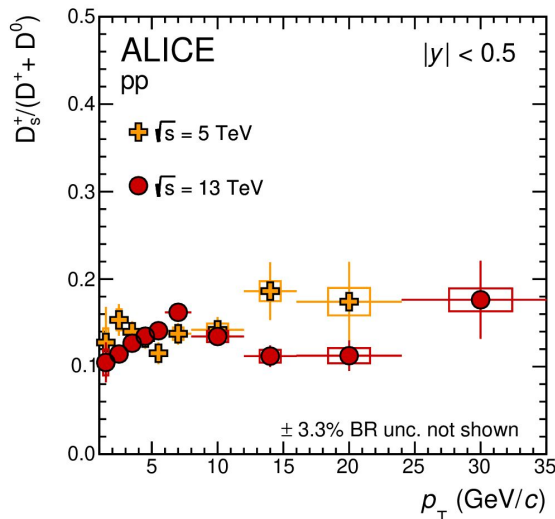
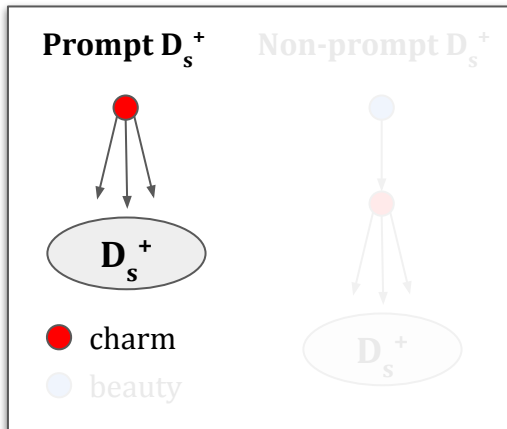
## Charm-hadron decay channels



## Datasets

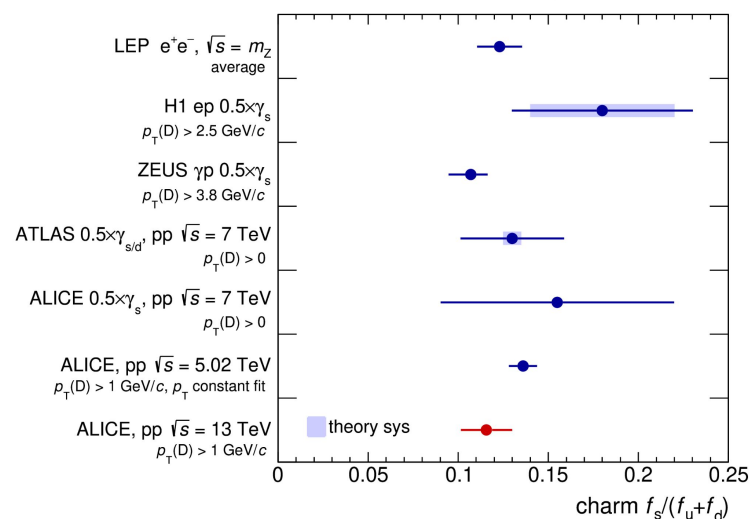
$pp \sqrt{s} = 5.02$ TeV	$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 19 \text{ nb}^{-1}$ (MB)
$pp \sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV	$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 5.9 \text{ nb}^{-1}$ (MB)
$pp \sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV	$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 32 \text{ nb}^{-1}$ (MB)
<b><math>pp \sqrt{s} = 13.6</math> TeV</b>	<b><math>\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 1 \text{ pb}^{-1}</math> (2022 MB)</b>
$p\text{-Pb } \sqrt{s}_{\text{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV	$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 287 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$ (MB)
$\text{Pb-Pb } \sqrt{s}_{\text{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV	$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 130 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$ (0-10%)
	$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \sim 56 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$ (30-50%)

# Prompt strange/non-strange D-meson ratio



ALI-PUB-567861

ALI-PUB-567901



HEP12 (2023) 086

- No strong  $p_T$  dependence for strange/non-strange D-meson ratios
- The measured yield ratios do not depend significantly neither on collision system nor collision energy

No significant collision system and energy dependence of charm quark fragmentation function ratios into strange and non-strange D mesons

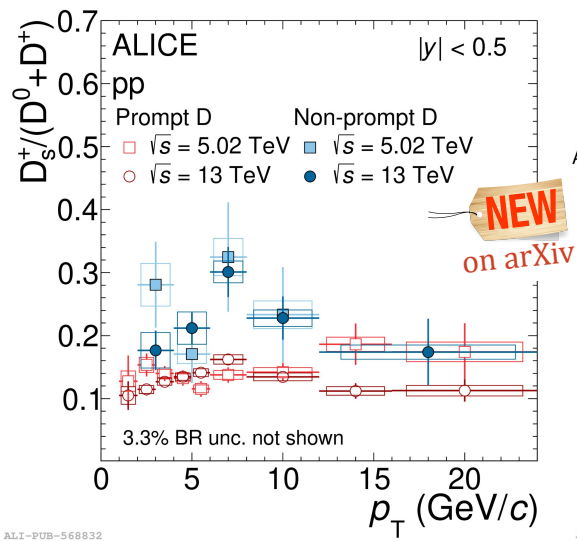
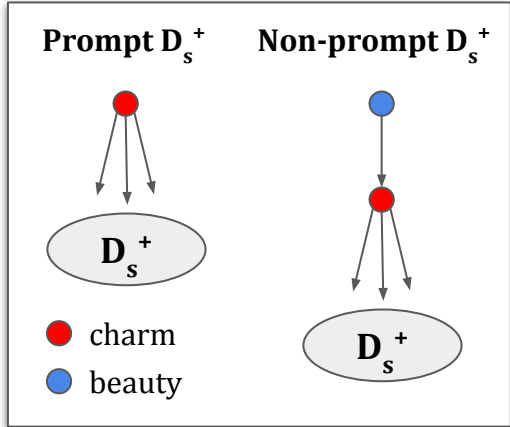
from factorization ...

$$\frac{d\sigma_{H_c^1}}{dp_T^{H_c^1}}(p_T; \mu_F, \mu_R) \sim \frac{D_{C \rightarrow H_c^1}(z = p_{H_c^1}/p_c, \mu_F)}{d\sigma_{H_c^2}}(p_T; \mu_F, \mu_R) \sim \frac{D_{C \rightarrow H_c^2}(z = p_{H_c^2}/p_c, \mu_F)}{d\sigma_{H_c^2}}$$

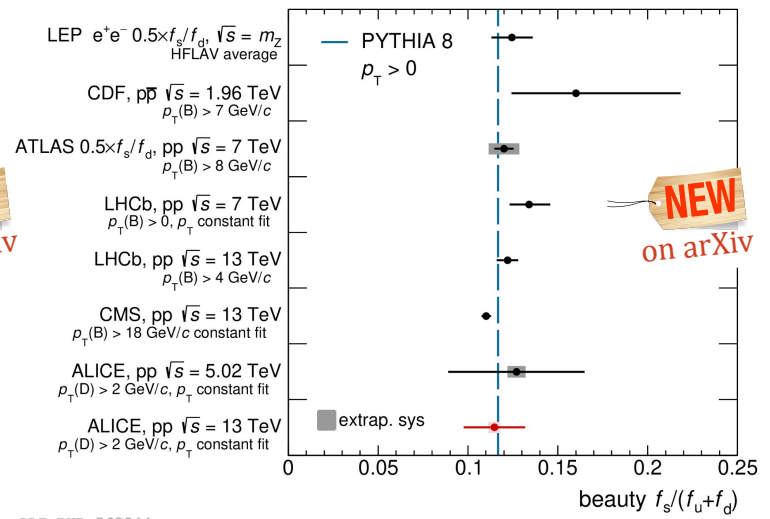
# Non-prompt strange/non-strange D-meson ratio



arXiv:2402.16417



ALI-PUB-568832

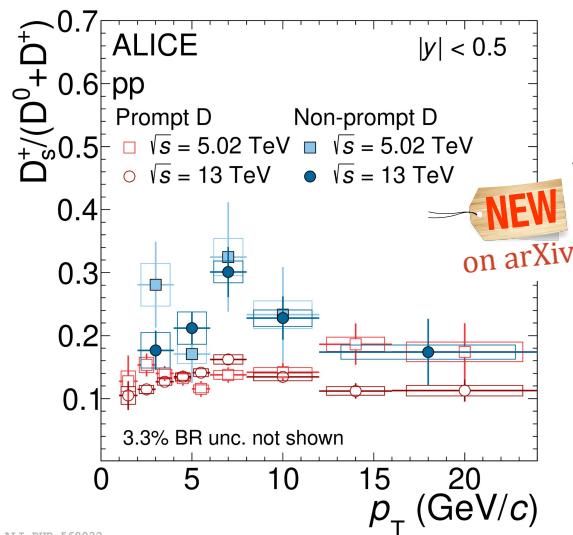
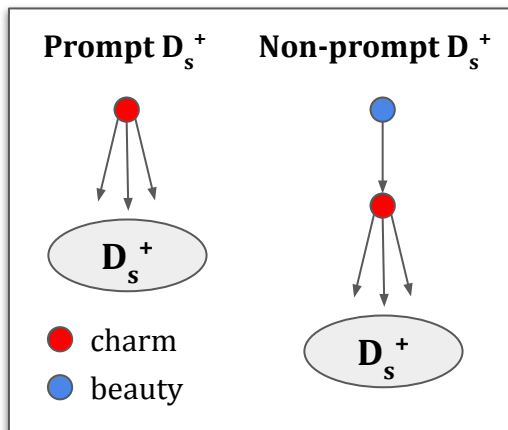


ALI-PUB-568844

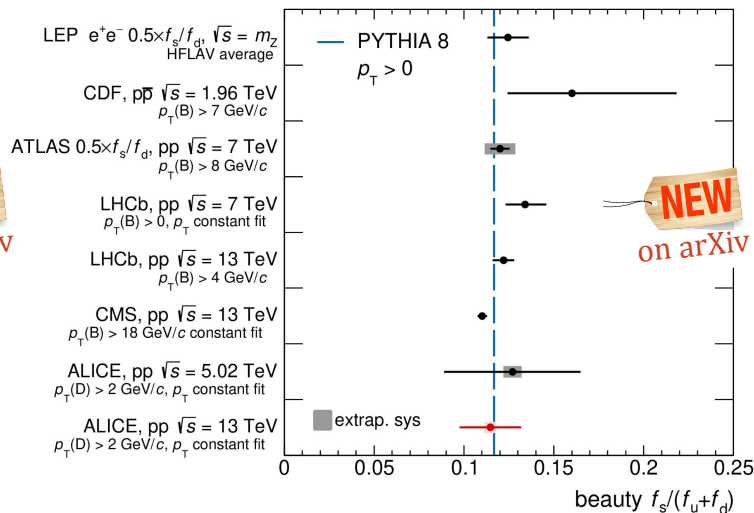
- No strong  $p_T$  dependence for strange/non-strange D-meson ratios
- The measured yield ratios do not depend significantly neither on collision system nor collision energy

- Beauty  $f_s/(f_u + f_d)$  fragmentation-fraction ratio from non-prompt  $D_s^+/(D^0+D^+)$ 
  - FONLL+PYTHIA correction for  $D_s^+$  from non-strange B-meson decays
- Beauty  $f_s/(f_u + f_d) =$  charm  $f_s/(f_u + f_d)$
- Beauty  $f_s/(f_u + f_d)$  in line with SHM ( $\sim 0.1$ ) and PYTHIA 8

Valid for both prompt and non-prompt D mesons!

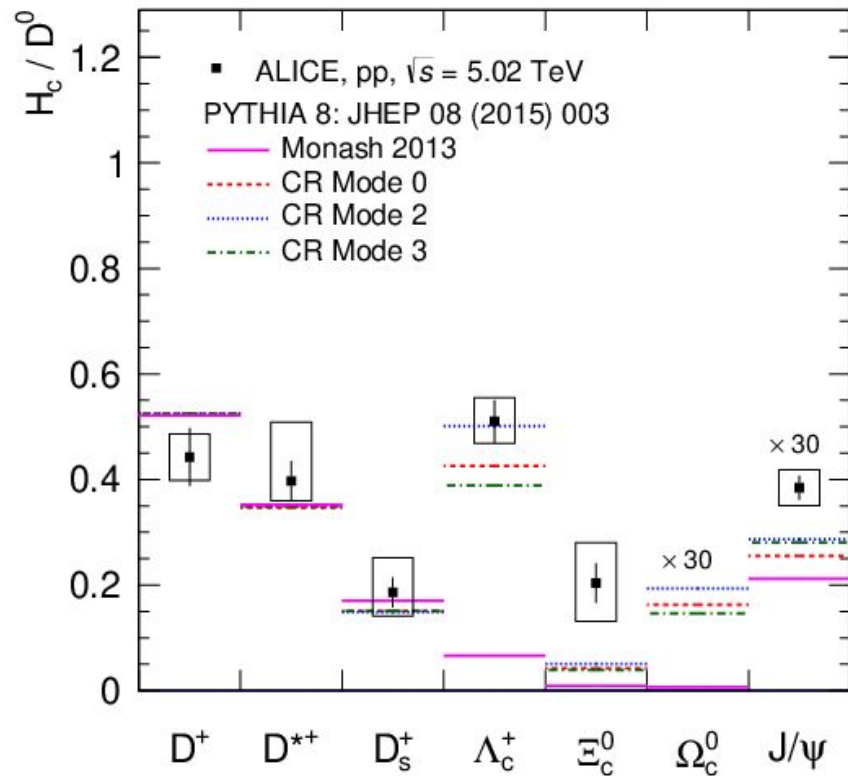


ALI-PUB-568832

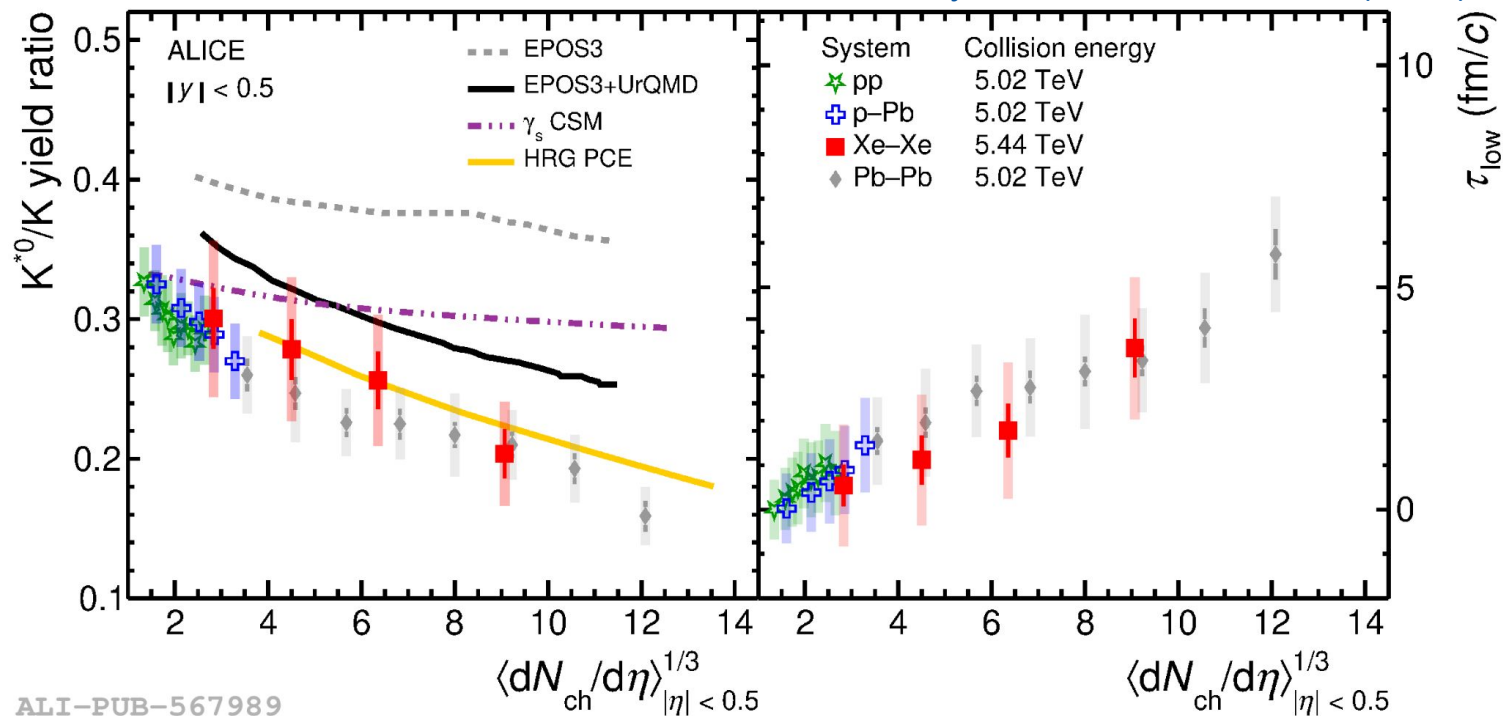


ALI-PUB-568844

- Prompt and non-prompt  $D_s^+/(D^0+D^+)$  ratios do not depend significantly on  $p_T$  collision system or energy
- No significant collision system and energy dependence of charm quark fragmentation function ratios into strange and non-strange D mesons
- Charm and beauty  $f_s/(f_u + f_d)$  fragmentation-fraction ratio from prompt and non-prompt  $D_s^+/(D^0+D^+)$  ratio, respectively
  - Beauty: FONLL+PYTHIA correction for  $D_s^+$  from non-strange B-meson decays
- Beauty  $f_s/(f_u + f_d) = \text{charm } f_s/(f_u + f_d)$



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ALI-PUB-567989

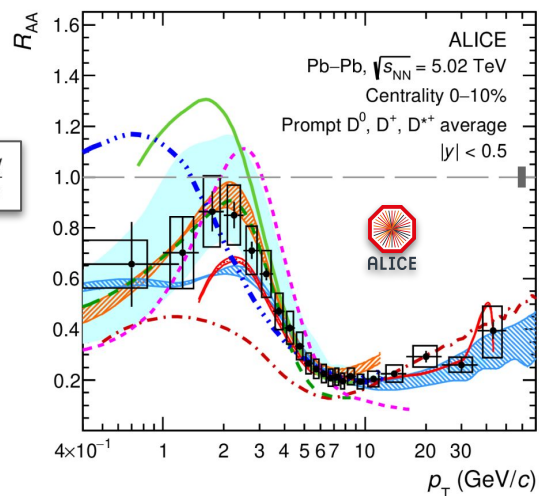
$$\tau(D_{s,2}^{*+}) \sim 7 \tau(K^*)$$



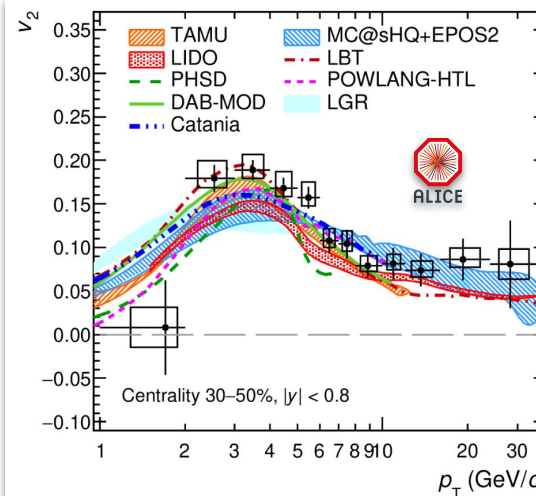
# $R_{AA}$ and $v_2$ compared to transport models

## $R_{AA}$

$$R_{AA}(p_T, y) = \frac{1}{\langle N_{coll} \rangle} \cdot \frac{d^2 N_{AA} / d p_T dy}{d^2 N_{pp} / d p_T dy}$$



ALI-PUB-501952

ALICE: [JHEP 01 \(2022\) 174](#)

ALI-PUB-501956

## $v_2$

$$v_n(p_T) = \langle \cos[n(\varphi - \Psi_n)] \rangle$$

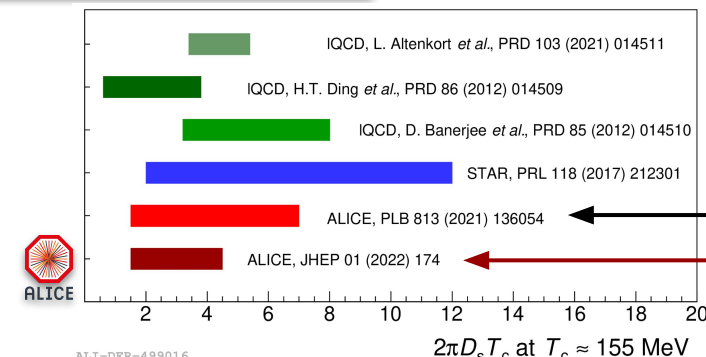
## $v_2$ only

## $R_{AA}$ and $v_2$

Measured  $R_{AA}$  and  $v_2$  described by transport models

- **understanding of relevant effects** in different  $p_T$  intervals (next slides)
- sensitivity to transport regime (and charm-quark thermalization) at low  $p_T$ 
  - **stronger constraint** to the **charm quark spatial diffusion coefficient** based on **data-to-model agreement**

$$1.5 < 2\pi D_s T_c < 4.5 \leftrightarrow \tau_{charm} \approx 3-8 \text{ fm}/c$$



ALI-DER-499016

 $2\pi D_s T_c$  at  $T_c \approx 155 \text{ MeV}$