

# Charm and Bottom hadron production with a coalescence plus fragmentation hadronization approach: AA system size scan down to pp collisions

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Heavy baryon production in pp, pA, and AA collisions from RHIC to top LHC energies presents a challenge for the theoretical understanding of heavy-quark hadronization. An hybrid approach of coalescence plus fragmentation has been successful in accurately predicting the large baryon-to-meson ratio  $\Lambda_c/D^0 \sim O(1)$  observed in both AA collisions at RHIC and LHC [1], as well as in pp collisions at 5.02 and 13; TeV [2]. Generally, the obtained ratio is significantly larger than those measured and expected in  $e^+e^-$  and  $ep$  collisions. Additionally, the same approach predicts a significant  $\Xi_c/D^0 \sim 0.15$  and  $\Omega_c/D^0 \sim 0.05$  enhancement in pp collisions at 5.02; TeV, showing promising agreement with early ALICE measurements [2]. Furthermore, we discuss the extension of the hadronization approach to provide the first predictions for the multi-charmed baryon:  $\Xi_{cc}$ ,  $\Omega_{cc}$  and  $\Omega_{ccc}$ . Furthermore, we explore the evolution of the yield over a wide system size scan from  $PbPb$  to  $KrKr$ ,  $ArAr$  and  $OO$  as planned by ALICE3 [3].

This study allow to investigate the impact on the production coming from non-equilibrium in the charm quark distribution. We find that, generally, the predicted yield in  $PbPb$  collision are quite similar to SHM if full thermalization is assumed, but on the other hand multi-charmed baryon, especially  $\Omega_{ccc}$ , are particularly sensitive to the degree of thermalization of the charm quark distribution. Finally, we present the predictions of the hybrid hadronization via coalescence and fragmentation for bottom hadrons  $B$  meson  $\Lambda_b$  and  $\Xi_b$  baryons and their ratios for PbPb and pp collision at top LHC energies [4].

The comparison between charm and bottom hadron production will provide a novel and more powerful insight not only into the hadronization mechanism but also into the charm and bottom quark equilibration dynamics versus the system size of colliding nuclei.

- [1] S. Plumari, V. Minissale, S.K. Das, G. Coci and V. Greco, Eur.Phys.J. C 78 (2018) no.4, 348
- [2] V. Minissale, S. Plumari and V. Greco, Physics Letters B 821 (2021) 136622.
- [3] V. Minissale, S. Plumari, Y. Sun and V. Greco, arXiv:2305.03687.
- [4] V. Minissale, S. Plumari and V. Greco, in preparation.

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