

Differential measurements of the particle-emitting source via proton-proton femtoscopy in pp and Pb-Pb collisions in LHC Run 3 with ALICE

Romanenko G. (University and INFN Bologna)

on behalf of the ALICE Collaboration



CosmicAntiNuclei



ALICE



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
Sezione di Bologna

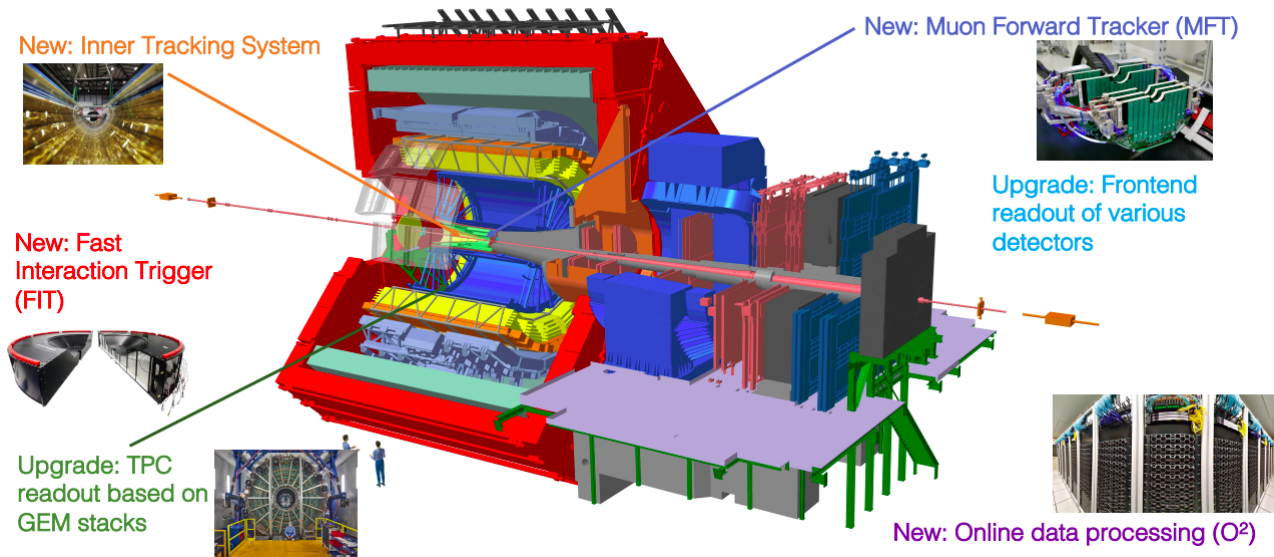


European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

This research has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No. 950692).

EPS-HEP 2025
Marseille, 7/07/2025

ALICE detector scheme and Run 3 upgrades



A Large Ion Collider Experiment (ALICE):

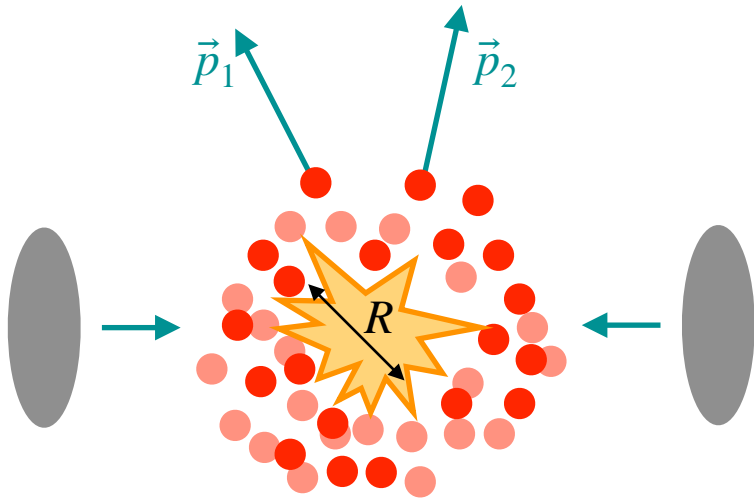
- one of the main LHC experiments
- designed for studying ultrarelativistic heavy-ion collisions (HIC)
- excellent tracking capabilities in high multiplicity events

Main tracking detectors:

- Inner Tracking System (ITS)
- Time Projection Chamber (TPC)

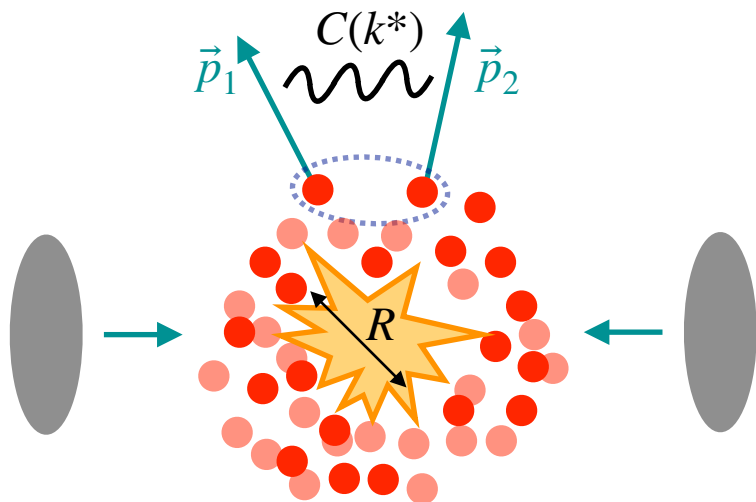
Main Particle Identification (PID) detectors:

- TPC
- Time-Of-Flight (TOF)



Knowing that particles interact with each other during system's evolution, one can access its properties by measuring particle **correlations in the final state**.

Femtoscscopy uses correlations in momenta which makes it an **excellent tool** for studying systems created in heavy-ion collisions since momentum is a quantity that we can measure.



$$2k^* = |\vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_2|$$

rel. momentum of a pair in its
centre of mass (or PRF — Pair
Rest Frame)

Knowing that particles interact with each other during system's evolution, one can access its properties by measuring particle **correlations in the final state**.

Femtoscropy uses correlations in momenta which makes it an **excellent tool** for studying systems created in heavy-ion collisions since momentum is a quantity that we can measure.

Thus, measuring **relative momentum distribution** of pairs from the **same event** $S(k^*)$ one obtains the signal, and by dividing it for **mixed event distribution** $B(k^*)$ (where any correlation is absent), one obtains the **femtoscopic correlation function**:

$$C(k^*) = N \cdot \frac{S(k^*)}{B(k^*)}$$

N — normalisation

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

▼ *macroscopic level*

The **source function** $S(r^*, R) \rightarrow$ **spatial distribution of particles in a particle-emitting source of a size R**
 $\rightarrow$ **study the source:**

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

▼ *macroscopic level*

The **source function** $S(r^*, R) \rightarrow$ spatial distribution of particles in a particle-emitting source of a size R
 $\rightarrow$ **study the source:**

1. Different **source structure:**

- symmetric/non-symm.
- Gaussian/non-Gaussian

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

▼ *macroscopic level*

The **source function** $S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow$ spatial distribution of particles in a particle-emitting source of a size $\mathbf{R}$
 $\rightarrow$ **study the source:**

1. Different **source structure:**

- symmetric/non-symm.
- Gaussian/non-Gaussian

2. Extracting $\mathbf{R}$ and **studying its dynamics:**

- mult./cent. dependence
- transverse pair momentum k_T dependence

3. etc.

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

▼ *macroscopic level*

The **source function** $S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow$ **spatial distribution of particles in a particle-emitting source of a size $\mathbf{R}$**
 $\rightarrow$ **study the source:**

1. Different **source structure:**

- **symmetric/non-symm.**
- **Gaussian/non-Gaussian**

2. Extracting $\mathbf{R}$ and **studying its dynamics:**

- **mult./cent. dependence**
- **transverse pair momentum k_T dependence**

3. etc.

▼
Test and constrain theoretical models.

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

↘ *macroscopic level*

↘ *microscopic level* ↘

The **wave function** $\Psi(r^*, k^*) \rightarrow$ **interaction between particles in a pair** $\rightarrow$ **study (for example) the strong interaction:**

Test and constrain theoretical models.

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

↘ *macroscopic level*

↘ *microscopic level* ↘

The **wave function** $\Psi(r^*, k^*) \rightarrow$ **interaction between particles in a pair** $\rightarrow$ **study (for example) the strong interaction:**

1. Testing different **strong interaction potential models**

↘
Test and constrain theoretical models.

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{th}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot |\Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*)|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

↘ *macroscopic level*

↘ *microscopic level* ↘

The **wave function** $\Psi(r^*, k^*) \rightarrow$ **interaction between particles in a pair** $\rightarrow$ **study (for example) the strong interaction:**

1. Testing different **strong interaction potential models**
2. Extracting parameters of the interaction — e.g. effective range parameters (*see Maximilian's talk at 09:21 10 July*)
3. etc.

Test and constrain theoretical models.

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{th}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

↓ *macroscopic level*

↓ *microscopic level*

The **wave function** $\Psi(r^*, k^*) \rightarrow$ **interaction between particles in a pair** $\rightarrow$ **study (for example) the strong interaction:**

1. Testing different **strong interaction potential models**
2. Extracting parameters of the interaction — e.g. effective range parameters (*see Maximilian's talk at 09:21 10 July*)
3. etc.

↓
Test and constrain theoretical models.

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

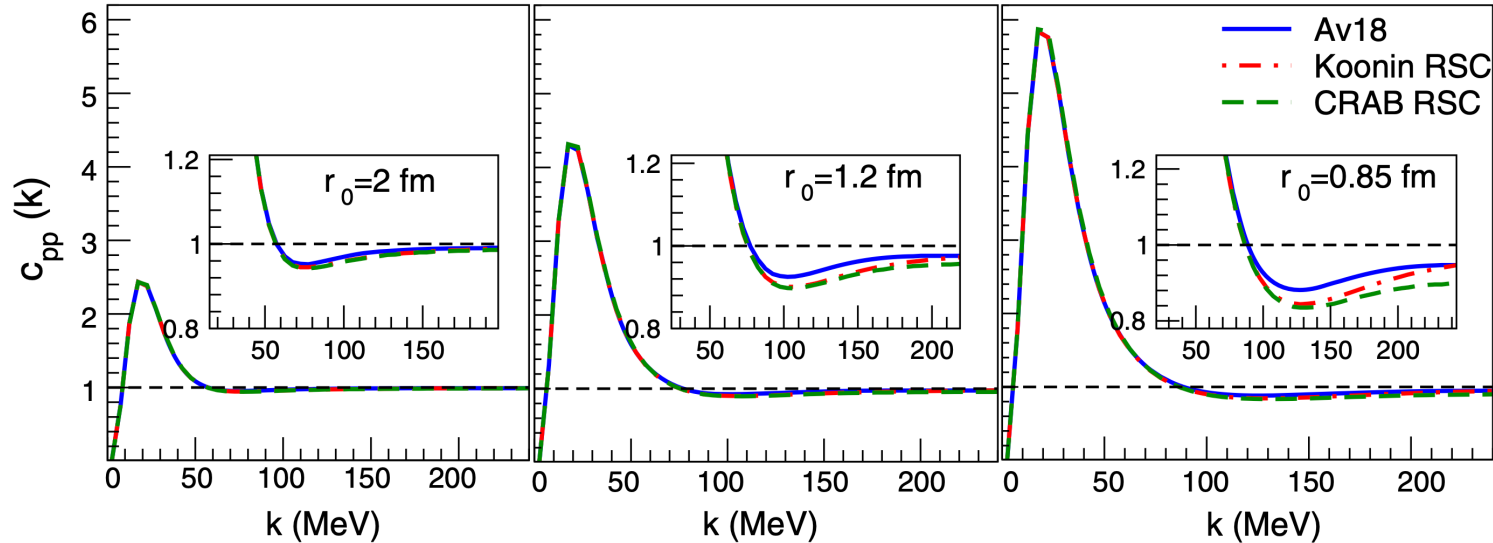
↓ *macroscopic level*

↓ *microscopic level*

1. Testing different **strong interaction potential models**
2. Extracting parameters of the interaction — e.g. effective range parameters (*see Maximilian's talk at 09:21 10 July*)
3. etc.

↓
Test and constrain theoretical models.

Protons are the most abundant hadrons produced in the collision for which taking into account the **strong interaction is crucial** (not dominant for pion and kaon pairs).



- Different source size → different signal



- Different collision systems

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{th}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}) \cdot |\Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*)|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

▼ **macroscopic level**

1. Different **source structure**:
 - symmetric/non-symm.
 - Gaussian/non-Gaussian
2. Extracting R_{inv} and **studying its dynamics**:
 - **mult./cent. dependence**
 - **transverse pair momentum k_T dependence**
3. etc.

▼ **microscopic level**

1. Testing different **strong interaction potential models**
2. Extracting parameters of the interaction — e.g. effective range parameters (*see Maximilian's talk at 09:21 10 July*)
3. etc.

Test and constrain theoretical models.

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}_{\text{inv}}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}_{\text{inv}}) \cdot \left| \Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*) \right|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{th}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}_{inv}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}_{inv}) \cdot |\Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*)|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

Gaussian source: $S(r^*, R_{inv}) \sim \exp(-\frac{r^{*2}}{4R_{inv}^2})$

QS + Coulomb + strong

Theoretical description of the **femtoscopic correlation function** is given by the Koonin-Pratt equation:

$$C_{th}(\mathbf{k}^*, \mathbf{R}_{inv}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}^* S(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{R}_{inv}) \cdot |\Psi(\mathbf{r}^*, \mathbf{k}^*)|^2$$

M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005)

Gaussian source: $S(r^*, R_{inv}) \sim \exp(-\frac{r^{*2}}{4R_{inv}^2})$

QS + Coulomb + strong

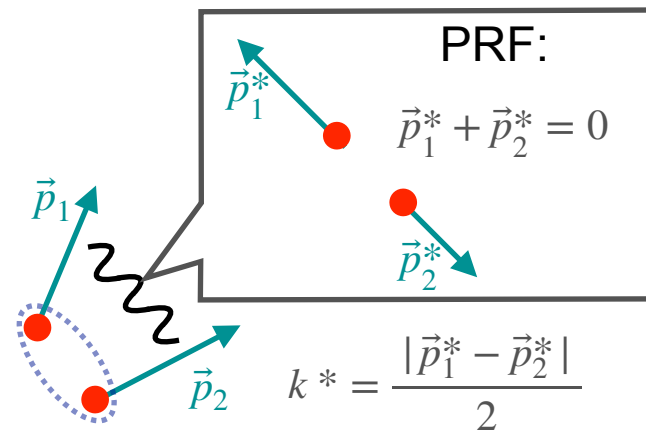
1D parametrisation of the experimental CF in Pair Rest Frame (PRF*):

$$C_{exp}(R_{inv}, k^*) = N \left[1 - \lambda \left(C_{th}(R_{inv}, k^*) - 1 \right) \right]$$

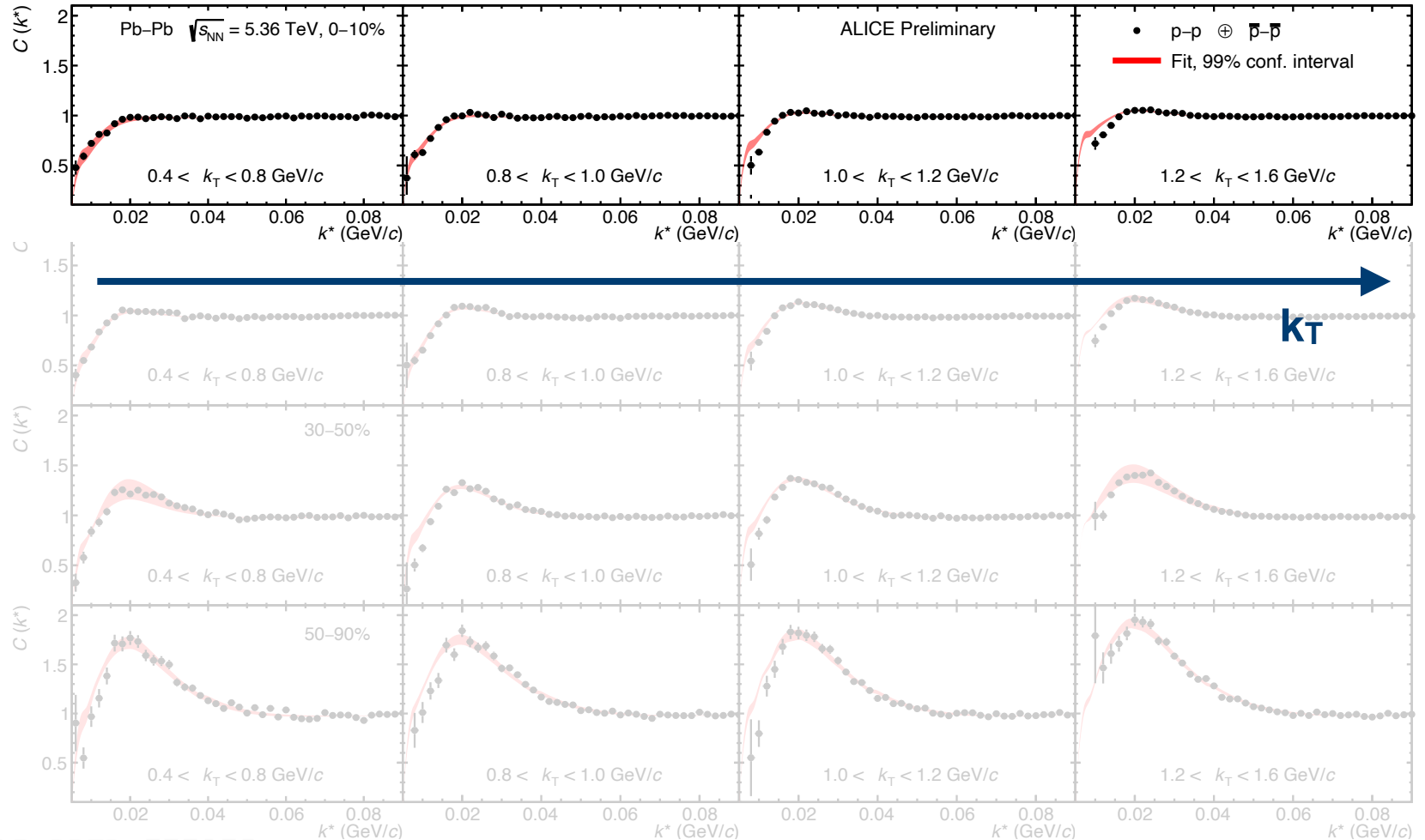
λ — correlation strength

N — normalisation

R_{inv} — 1D radius — corresponds to geometrical size of the source

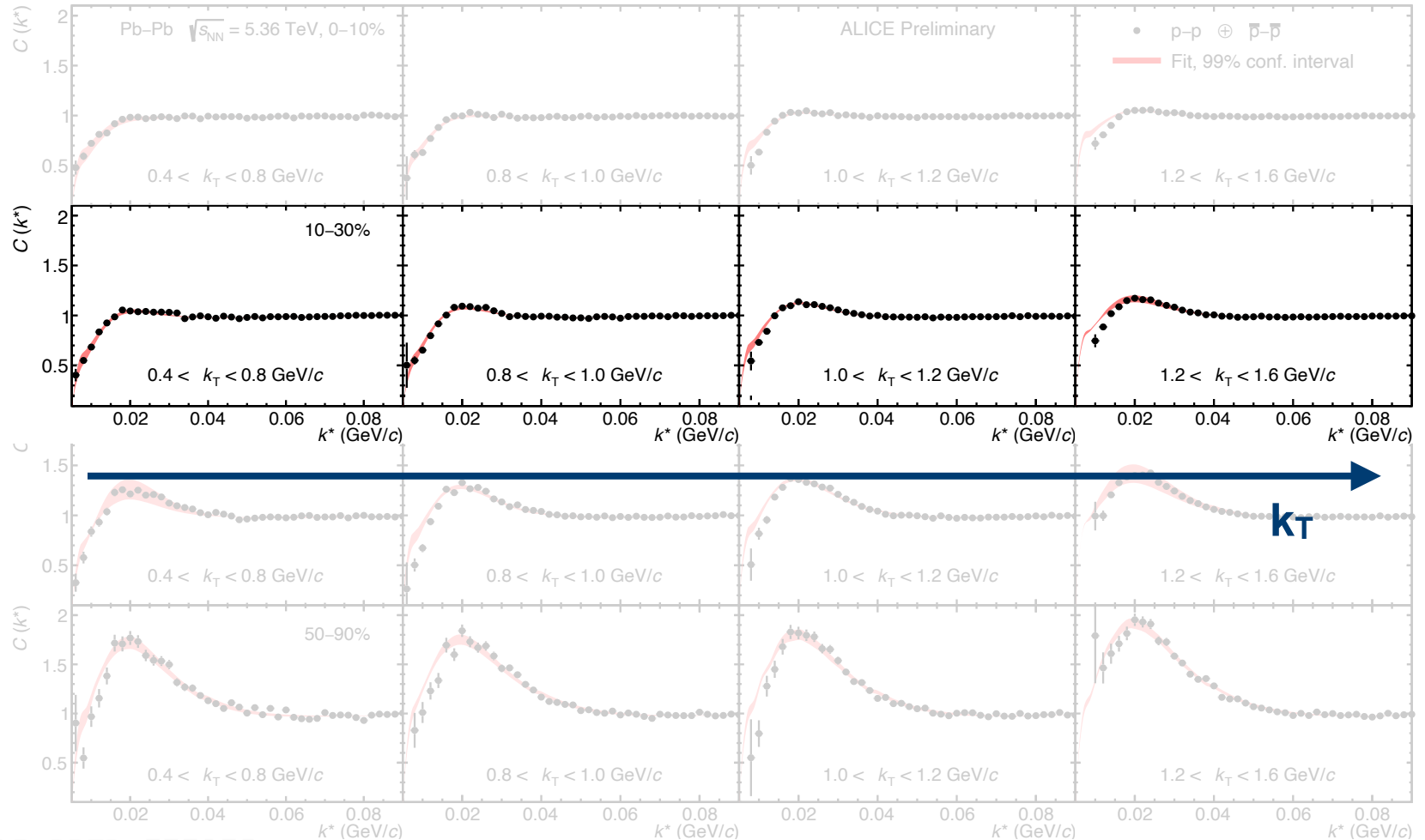


0-10%

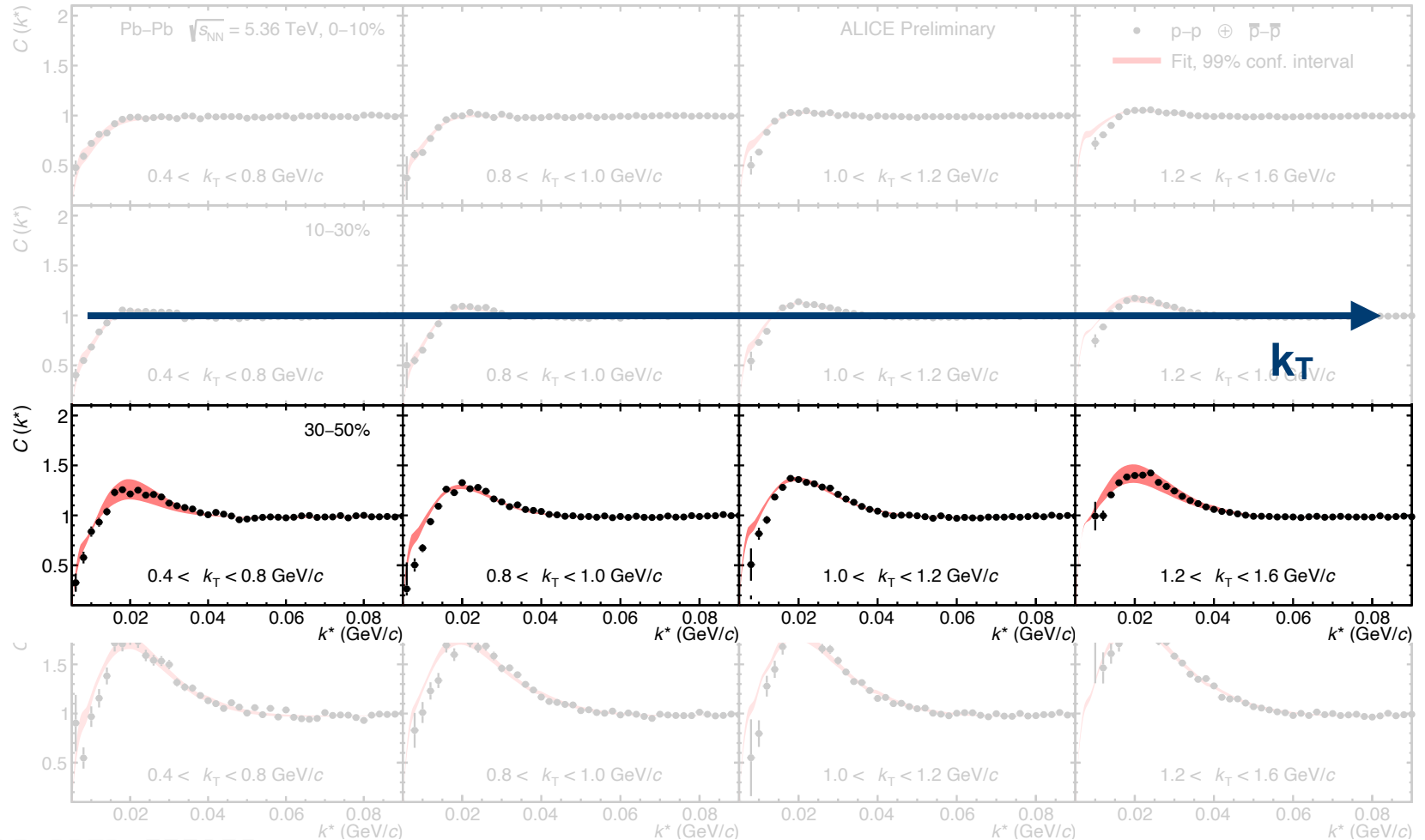


$$k_T = \frac{|\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2|}{2}$$

10-30%



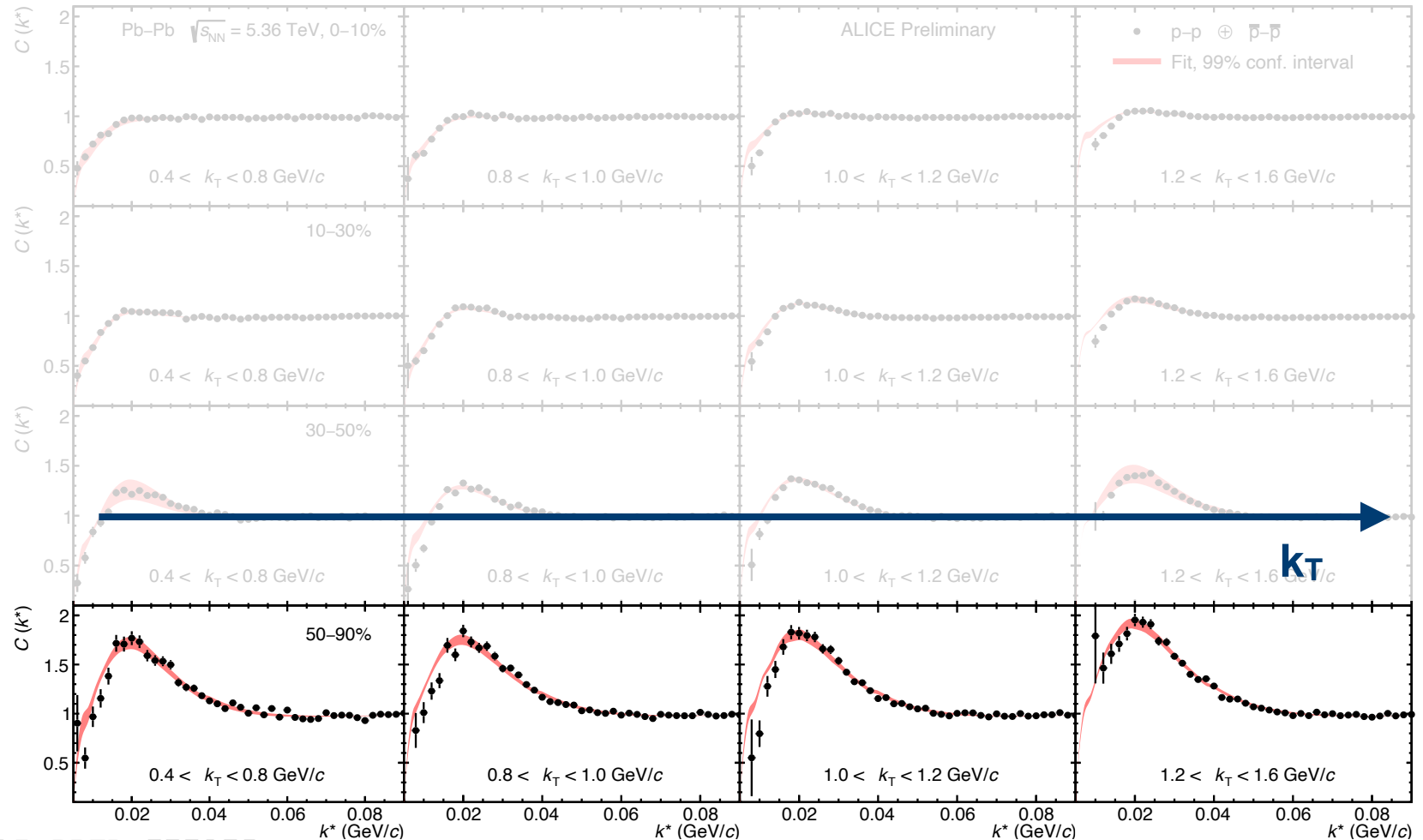
30-50%





Proton CFs in Pb–Pb at 5.36 TeV

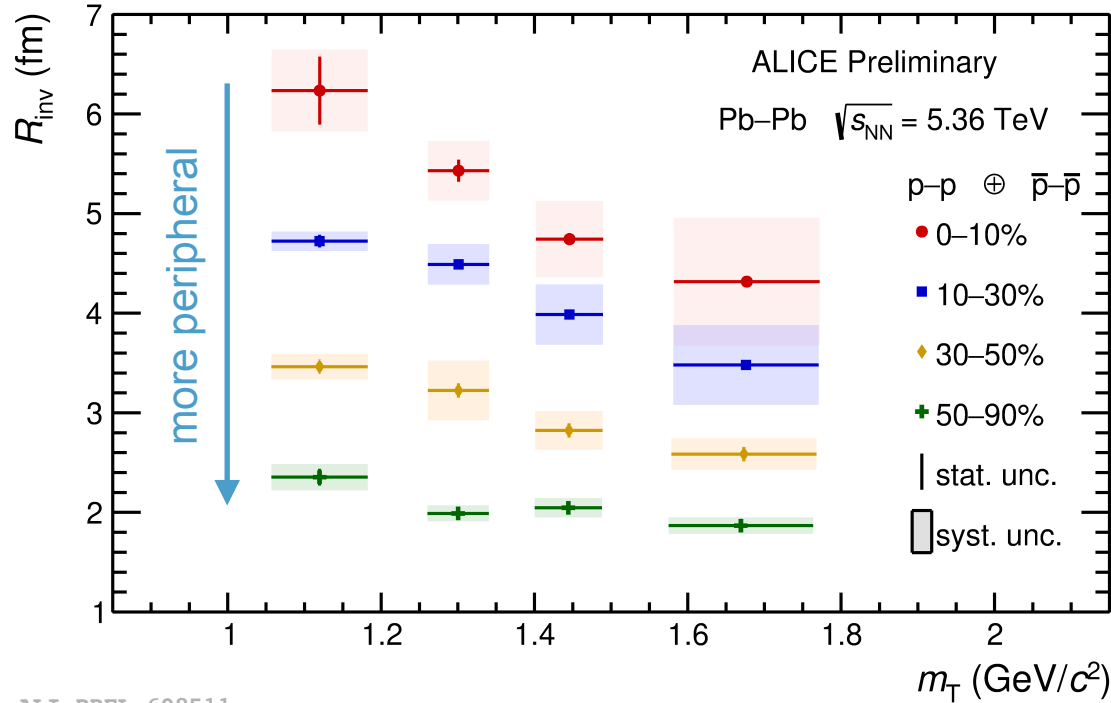
8

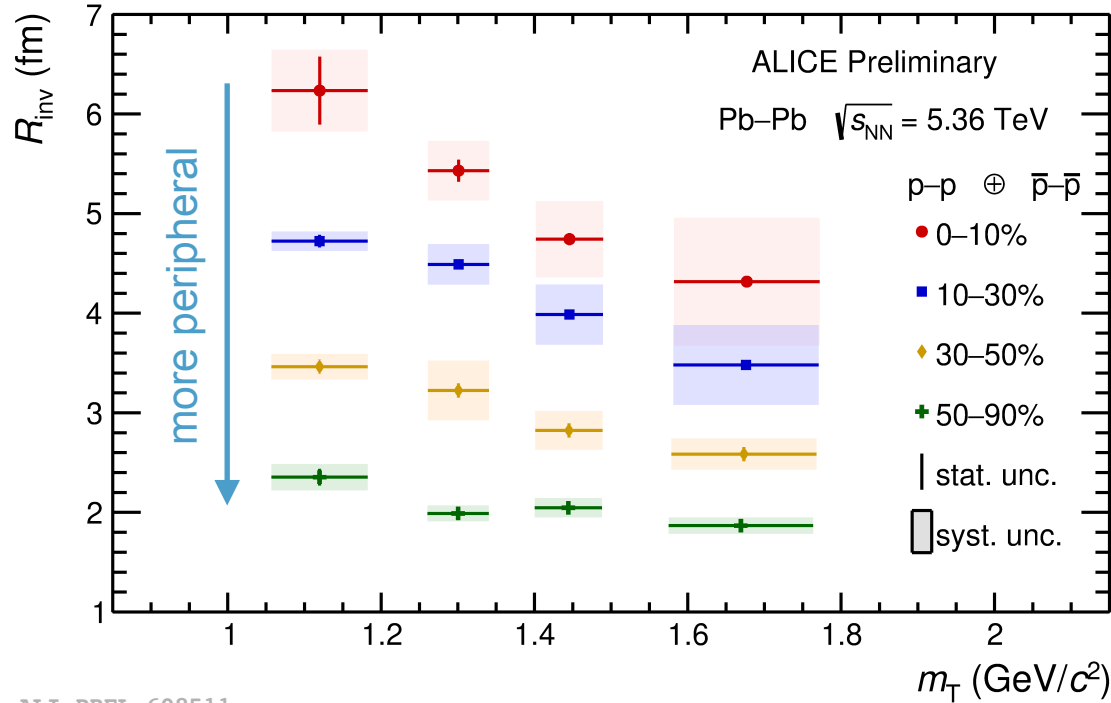


50-90%

ALI-PREL-577158

Proton 1D radii in Pb–Pb at 5.36 TeV

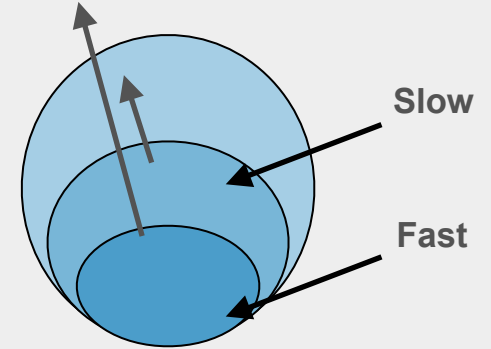


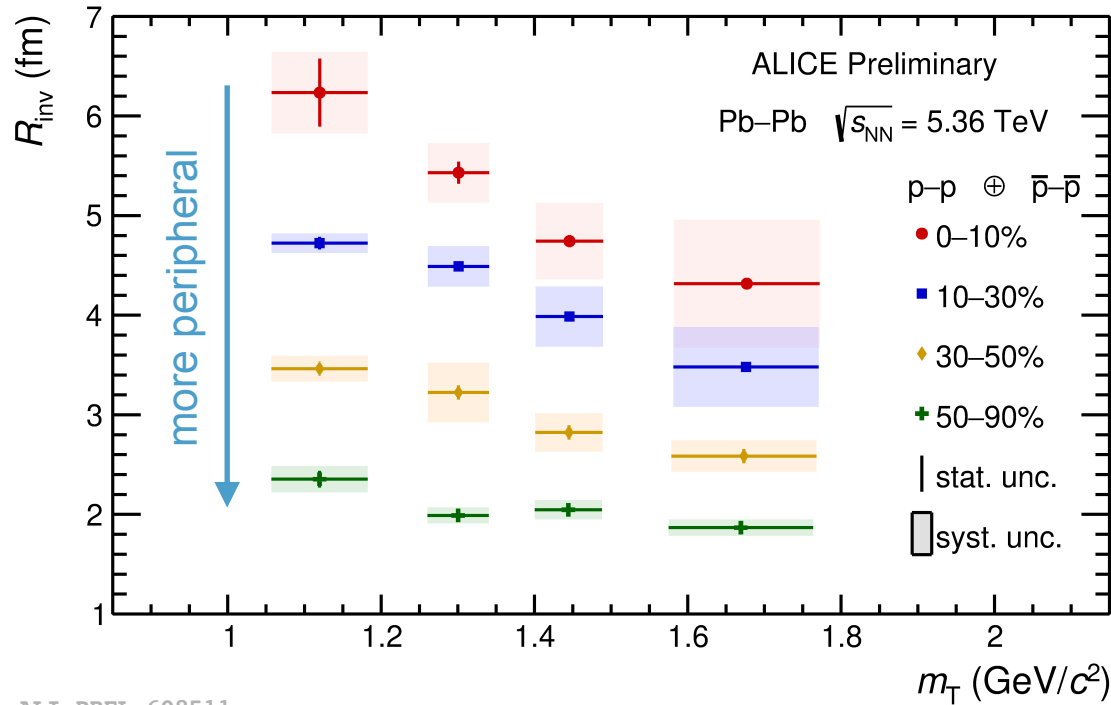


ALI-PREL-608511

Radial expansion of the source $\rightarrow$ coordinate-momentum correlation

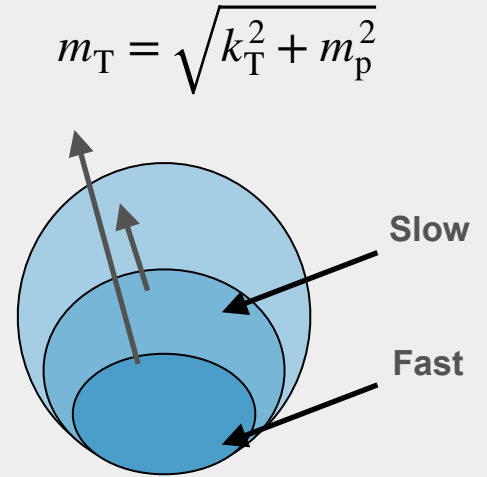
$$m_T = \sqrt{k_T^2 + m_p^2}$$





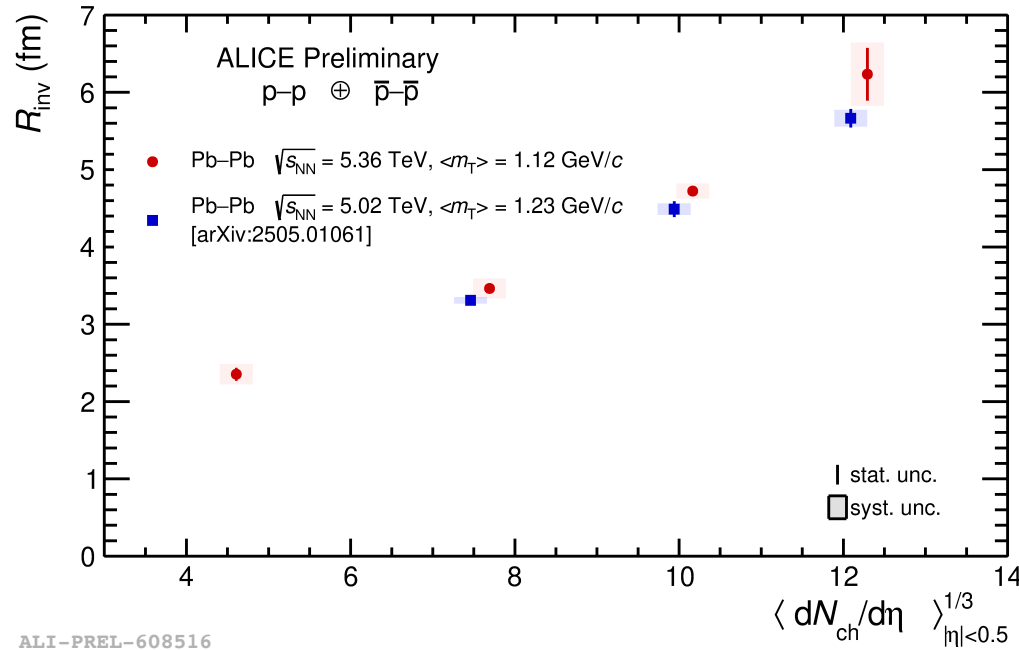
ALI-PREL-608511

Radial expansion of the source $\rightarrow$ coordinate-momentum correlation

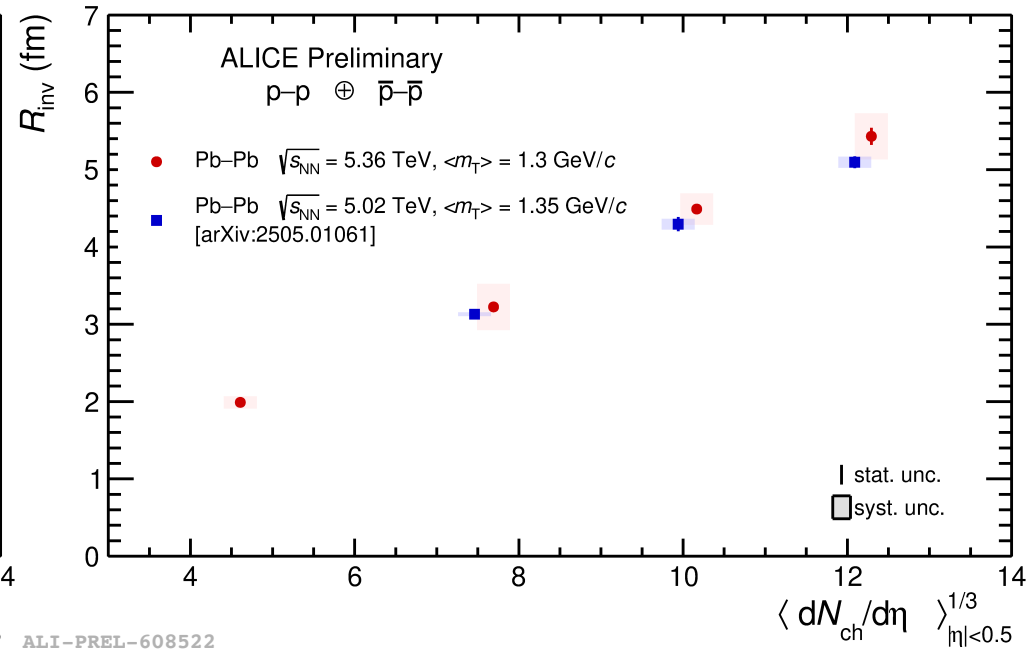


- Proton radii exhibit the dynamics that is typical for heavy-ion collisions
- Smaller effective size for more peripheral events
- R_{inv} decreases with increasing $m_T \rightarrow$ **collective (radial) flow** — “explosive” behaviour (weaker for more peripheral)

Proton 1D radii: comparison with Run 2 (1/2) 10



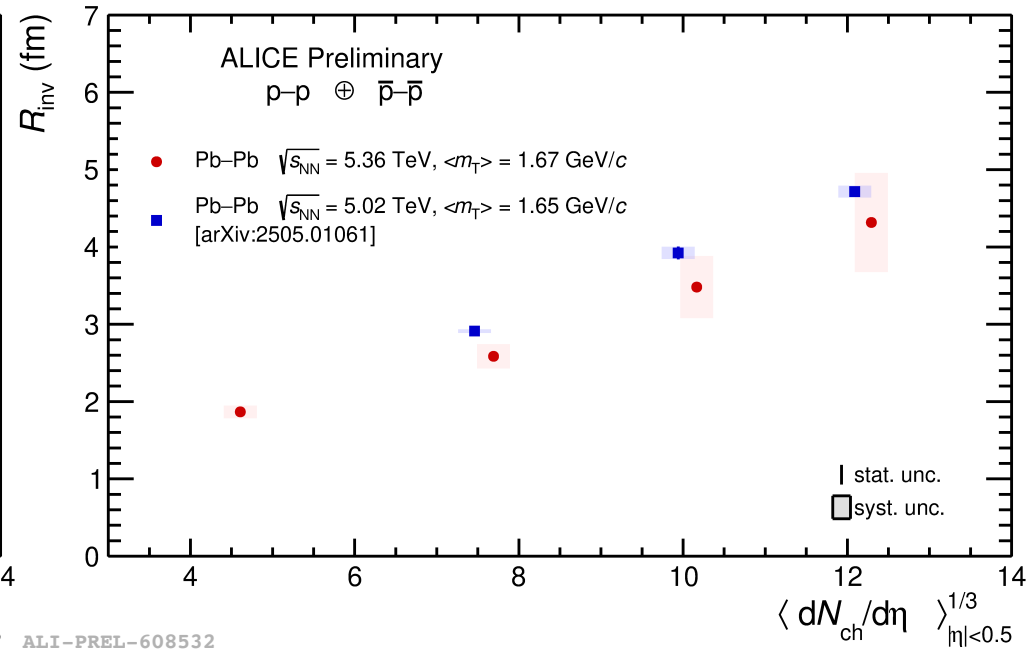
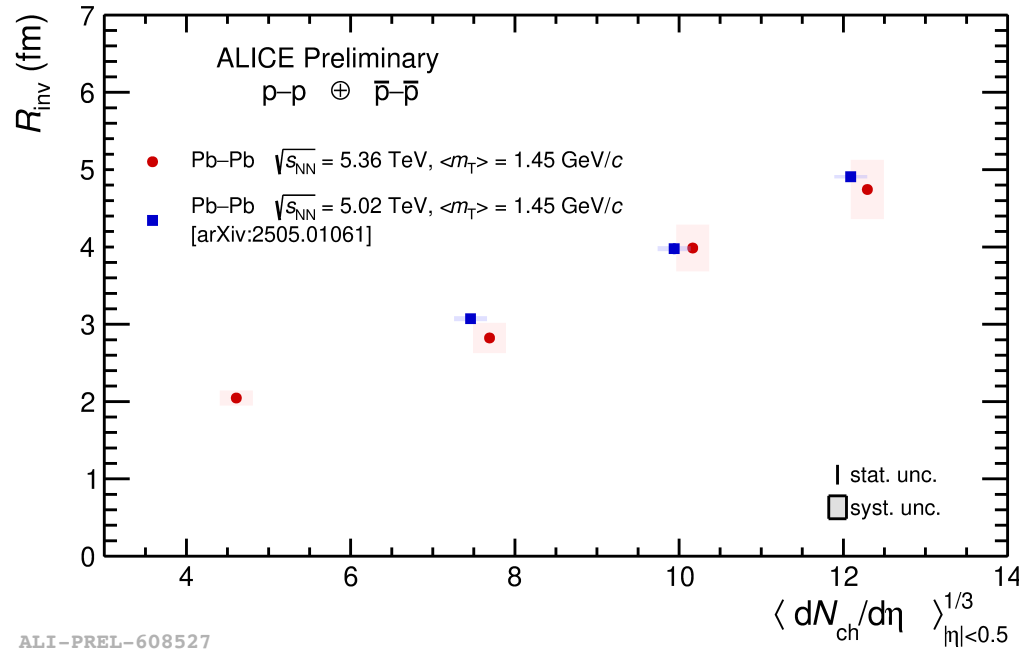
ALI-PREL-608516



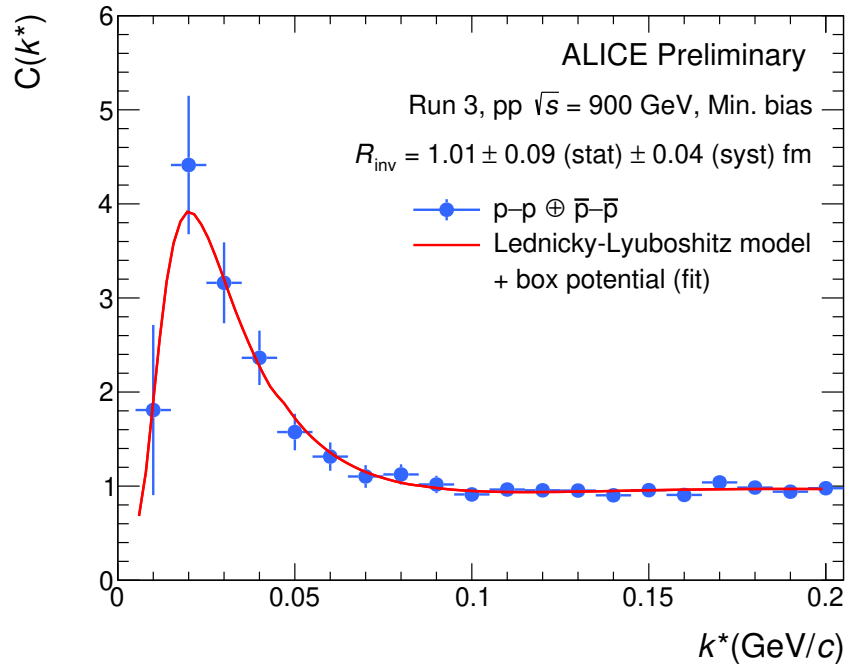
ALI-PREL-608522

- The new Run 3 results (red) are consistent with Run 2 data (blue)
- More peripheral events are accessed w.r.t. Run 2
- More improvements for Run 3 is expected

Proton 1D radii: comparison with Run 2 (2/2) 11

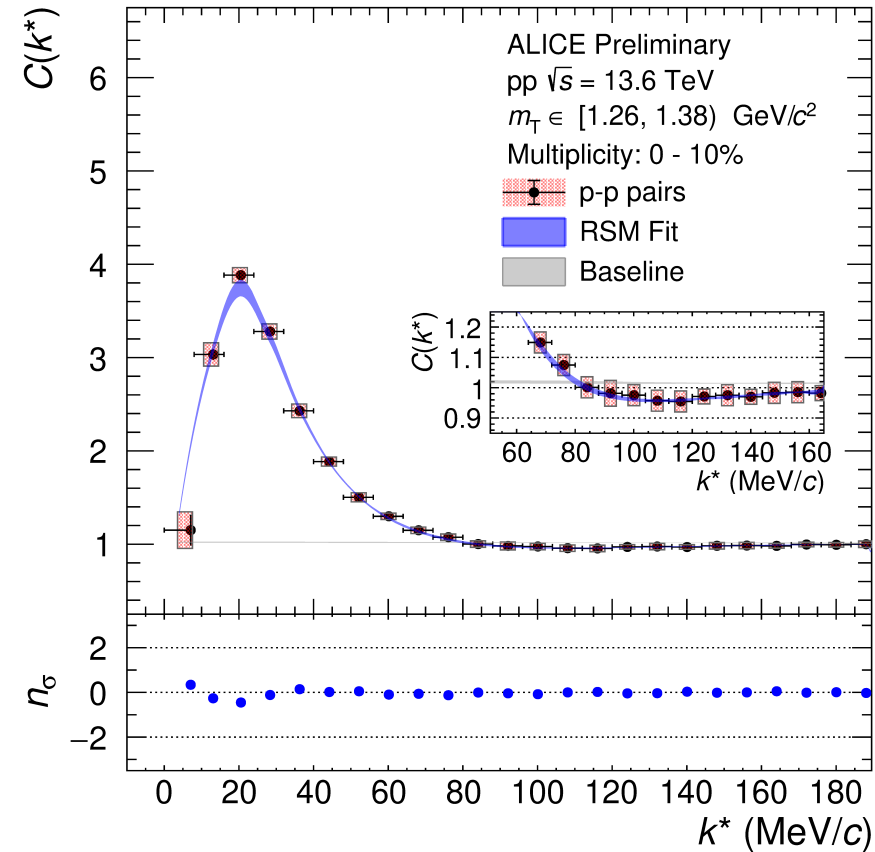


- The new Run 3 results (red) are consistent with Run 2 data (blue)
- More peripheral events are accessed w.r.t. Run 2
- More improvements for Run 3 is expected

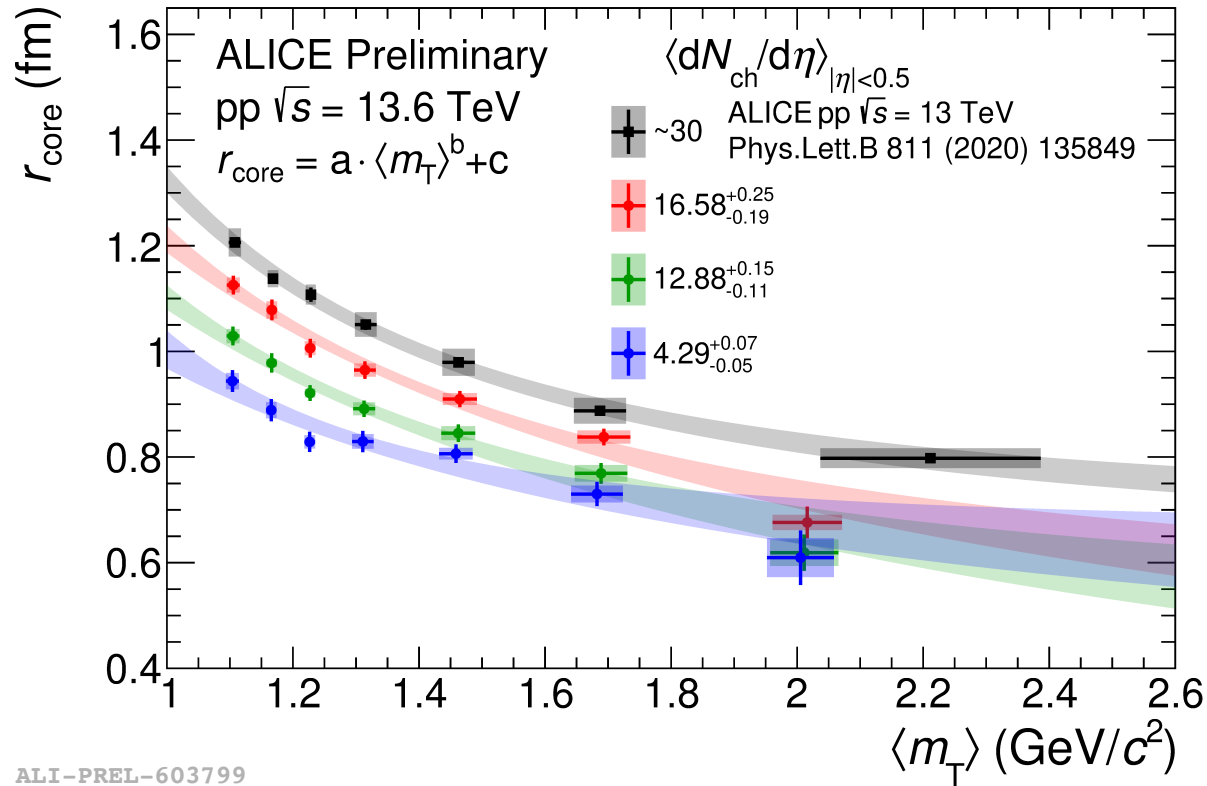


ALI-PREL-572546

- Femtoscopic CF at the lowest LHC energy is obtained
- Data from pp at 13.6 TeV have more statistics and can provide more precise and detailed measurements

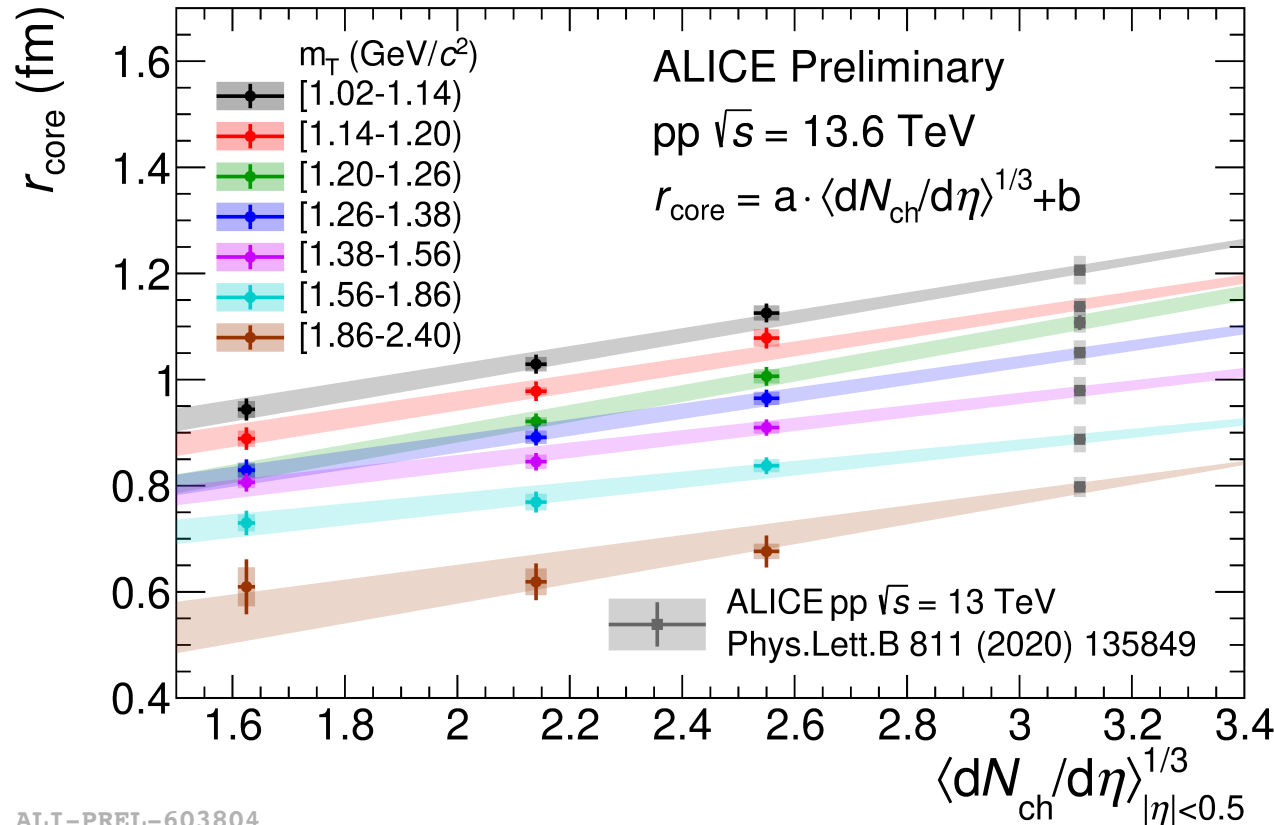


ALI-PREL-603794



- Scaling with multiplicity — smaller effective source size for events with lower mult.
- m_T dependence — manifestation of a similar “explosive” behaviour as in HIC?
- Source size saturates with increasing m_T

$$m_T = \sqrt{k_T^2 + m_p^2}$$



The extracted radii vs. the cube root of charged particle multiplicity density $\langle dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta \rangle^{1/3}_{|\eta|<0.5}$ exhibit the **linear scaling** prediction

(M. Lisa et al., Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402(2005))

Summary

- **Femtoscopy is a useful tool** for studying heavy-ion collision physics on both macro- and microscopic levels
- **Pb—Pb at 5.36 TeV results:**
 - Proton radii demonstrate the dynamics typical for heavy-ion collisions → radial expansion;
 - New Run 3 results are in a good agreement with Run 2 ones;
- **pp at 13.6 TeV results:**
 - Opportunity to check different strong potential models;
 - m_T dependence — manifestation of a similar “explosive” behaviour as in HIC?
 - The extracted radii seem to follow linear scaling with the cube root of charged particle multiplicity density



Don't miss other ALICE's femto results!

- Investigating excited N states via the measurement of p^0 -p final-state interaction with ALICE, Maximilian Korwieser, T05 at 09:21 on 10 July
- Accessing Three-Body Dynamics with p-d and Λ -d Correlations in pp Collisions at 13.6 TeV with ALICE, Anton Albert Riedel, Poster session T05 at 18:23 on 9 July

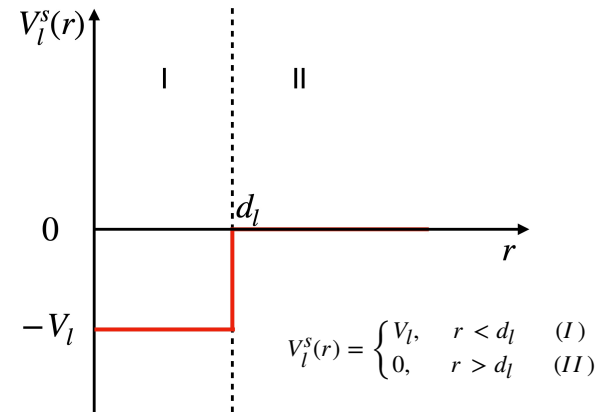


Backup slides

Using partial wave expansion and solving the radial Schrodinger's equation with a simple box potential as strong (+Coulomb) one can obtain

$$\psi_{c+s}(k, r) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (2l+1) i^l e^{i\sigma_l} u_l(k, r) P_l(\cos \theta)$$

$$u_l(k, r) = \begin{cases} \frac{F_l(\tilde{\eta}_l, \tilde{k}_l r)}{F_l(\tilde{\eta}_l, \tilde{k}_l d)} \left(\frac{F_l(\eta, kd)}{k} + f_l(k) (G_l(\eta, kd) + i F_l(\eta, kd)) \right), & r < d \\ \left(\frac{F_l(\eta, \rho)}{k} + f_l(k) (G_l(\eta, \rho) + i F_l(\eta, \rho)) \right), & r \geq d \end{cases}$$



where $\tilde{k}_l = \sqrt{k^2 - \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} V_l}$, $\tilde{\eta}_l = \frac{1}{\tilde{k}_l a_B}$, $\tilde{\rho}_l = \tilde{k}_l r$ and $\tilde{\sigma}_l = \arg \Gamma(l+1 + i\tilde{\eta}_l)$

F_l and G_l — regular and irregular Coulomb functions

The potential parameters (depth and width) are obtained from the fit of the phase shifts with a formula coming from the matching conditions. Total WF for $l=[0, 1]$:

$$\psi(k, r) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{A_c(\eta)} e^{i\sigma_0} e^{i\vec{k}\vec{r}} {}_1F_1(-i\eta, 1, i(kr - \vec{k}\vec{r})) + \sum_{l=0}^n (2l+1) i^l e^{i\sigma_l} \left[\frac{F_l(\tilde{\eta}_l, \tilde{k}_l r)}{F_l(\tilde{\eta}_l, \tilde{k}_l d)} \left(\frac{F_l(\eta, kd)}{kr} + f_l(k) \frac{G_l(\eta, kd) + i F_l(\eta, kd)}{r} \right) - \frac{F_l(\eta, \rho)}{kr} \right] P_l(\cos \theta) & r < d \\ \sqrt{A_c(\eta)} e^{i\sigma_0} e^{i\vec{k}\vec{r}} {}_1F_1(-i\eta, 1, i(kr - \vec{k}\vec{r})) + \sum_{l=0}^n (2l+1) i^l e^{i\sigma_l} f_l(k) \frac{G_l(\eta, \rho) + i F_l(\eta, \rho)}{r} P_l(\cos \theta) & r \geq d \end{cases}$$

General expression:

$$C(k, R_{inv}) = \int d^3r \cdot S(r, R_{inv}) \cdot |\psi(\vec{k}, \vec{r})|^2$$

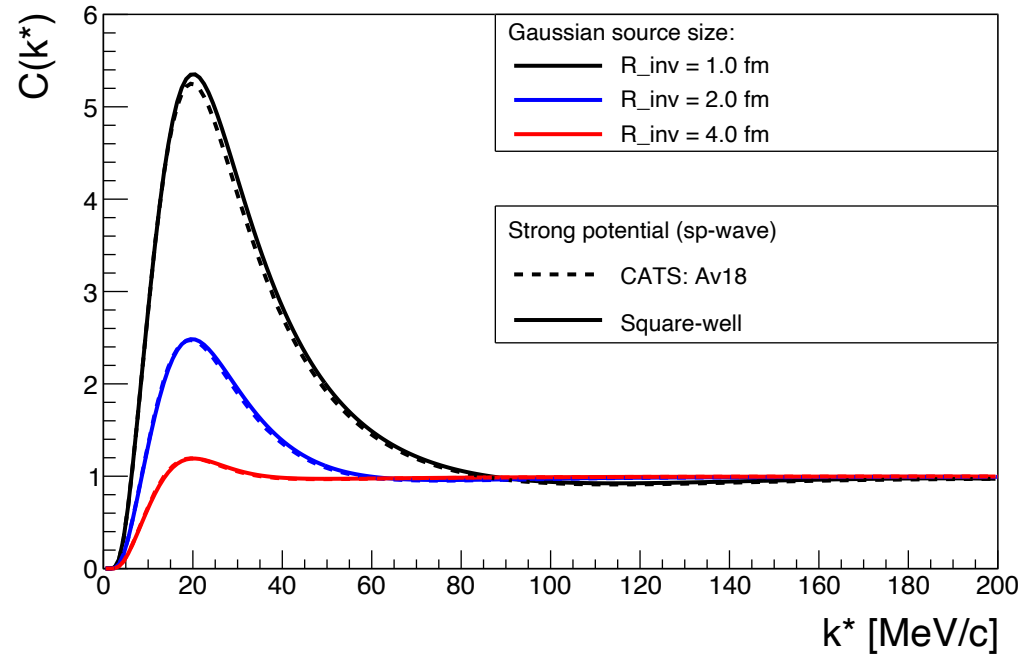
$\psi(\vec{k}, \vec{r})$ — solution to the Schrodinger's equation for a pair

$$S(r, R_{inv}) = \frac{1}{8\pi^{\frac{3}{2}}R_{inv}^3} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{4R_{inv}^2}\right) \quad \text{— assuming Gaussian source}$$

For a pair of protons with $L=[0, 1]$. Corresponding states: $^{2S+1}L_J : \quad {}^1s_0, {}^3p_0, {}^3p_1, {}^3p_2$

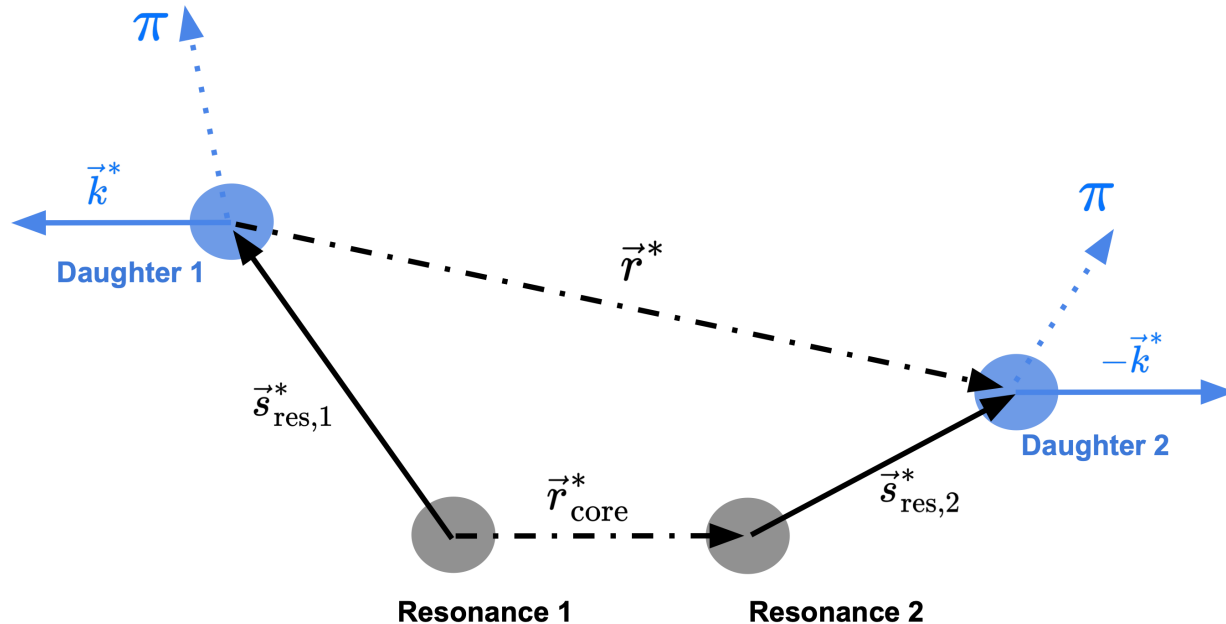
$$C_{pp}(k^*, R_{inv}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{S=0}^1 \frac{2S+1}{(2s_p+1)^2} \sum_{L,J} \omega_{LJ} \int d^3r S(r, R_{inv}) |\psi_{-\vec{k}}^S(\vec{r}) + (-1)^S \psi_{\vec{k}}^S(\vec{r})|^2$$

$$\omega_{LJ} = \frac{2J+1}{(2L+1)(2S+1)}$$

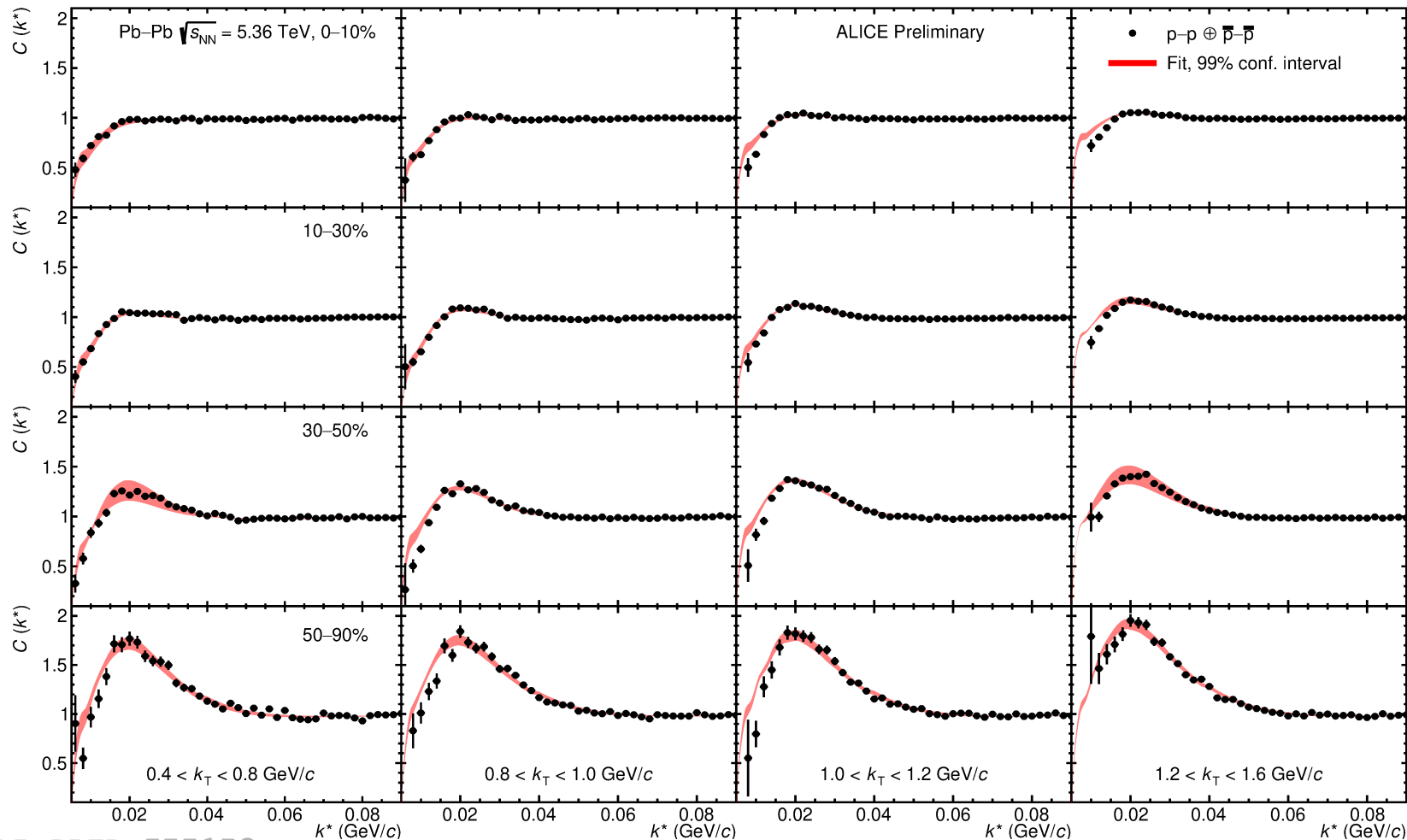


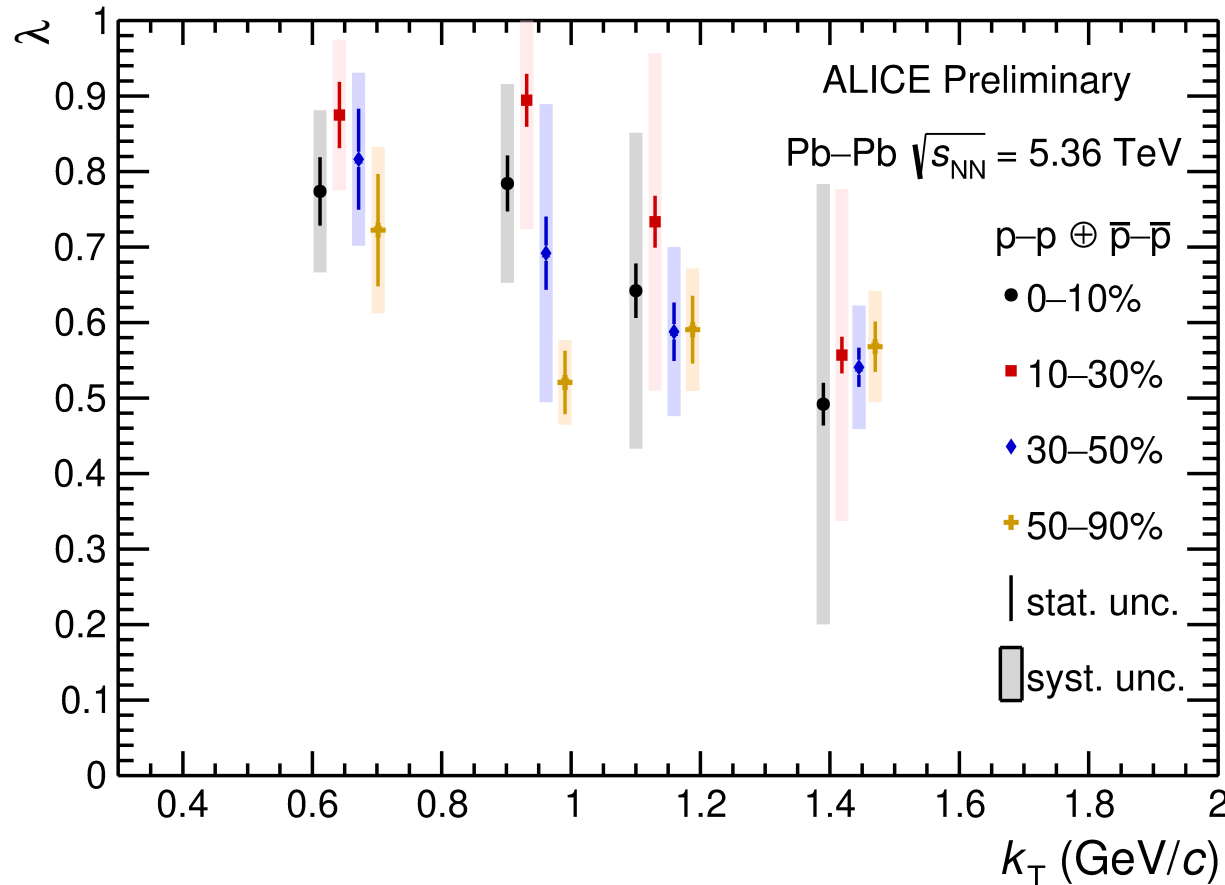
- **Square-well** analytical approach results in **close** CFs w.r.t. exact calculations* for such an advanced strong potential model as **Argonne v18**.

*Mihaylov, D.L. et al., *Eur. Phys. J. C* 78, 394 (2018)



Modelling the resonance decays to apply a source size correction since there is always a part of protons coming not primarily from the “source” but as product of resonance decays





- The extracted λ parameters are **consistent** throughout all the centrality bins
- The decreasing trend with increasing the k_T is caused by decrease in purity