

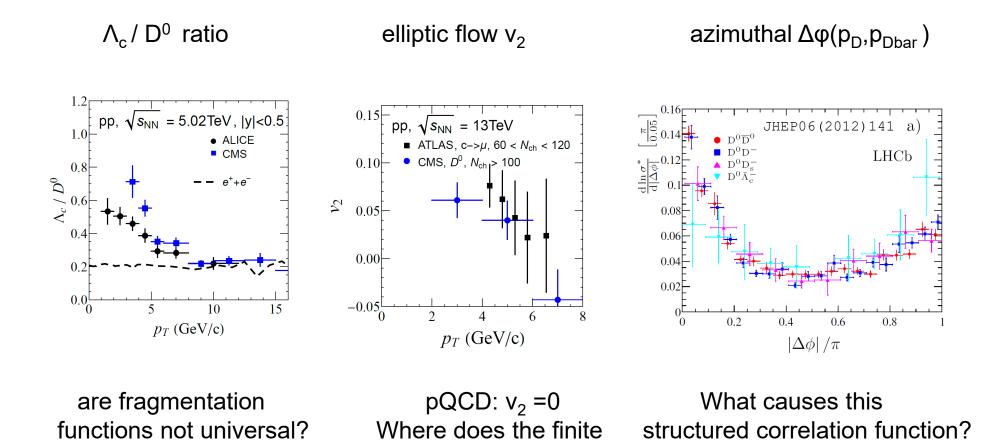


Heavy flavor correlations and Quarkonia production in high energy proton-proton collisions in the EPOS4 framework

J. Aichelin, J. Zhao, PB Gossiaux and K. Werner Subatech (Nantes)

EPS-HEP 2025 Marseille , July 6-11 2025

The study of heavy mesons in pp collisions offers big surprises

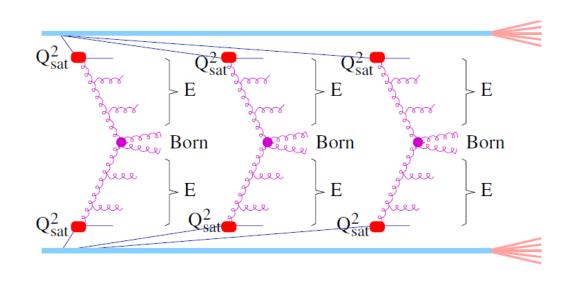


 v_2 come from?

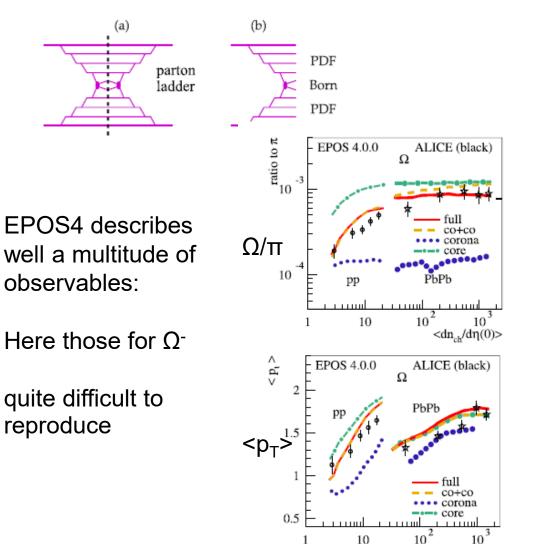
EPOS4 (\rightarrow see literature below)

EPOS4: general purpose event generator for heavy ion collisions at RHIC and LHC

All scattering are rigorously treated in parallel Overall energy conservation and factorisation Binary scaling for hard processes Saturation



EPOS4: PRC 108 (2023), 064903 PRC 108 (2023), 034904, 2310.09380 [hep-ph]



 $\langle dn_{cb}/d\eta(0) \rangle$

pp in EPOS4HQ

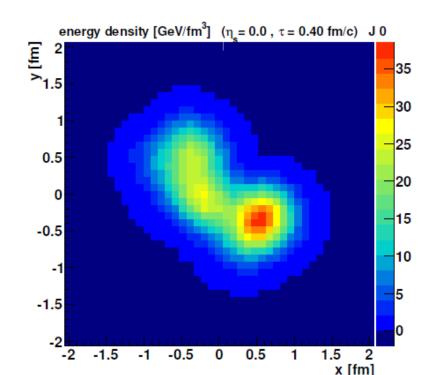
EPOS4(HQ) treats pp collisions like heavy-ion collisions: *

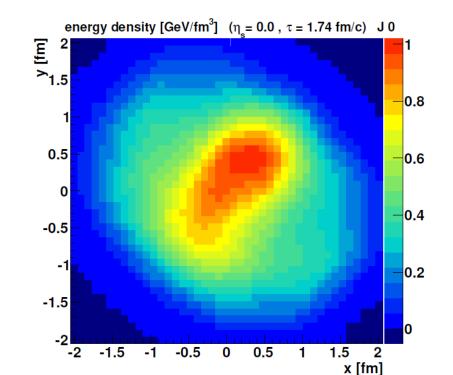
a Quark-Gluon-Plasma is created if energy density > 0.57 GeV/fm²

Energy density in the transverse plane of a typical pp event (each event looks differently)

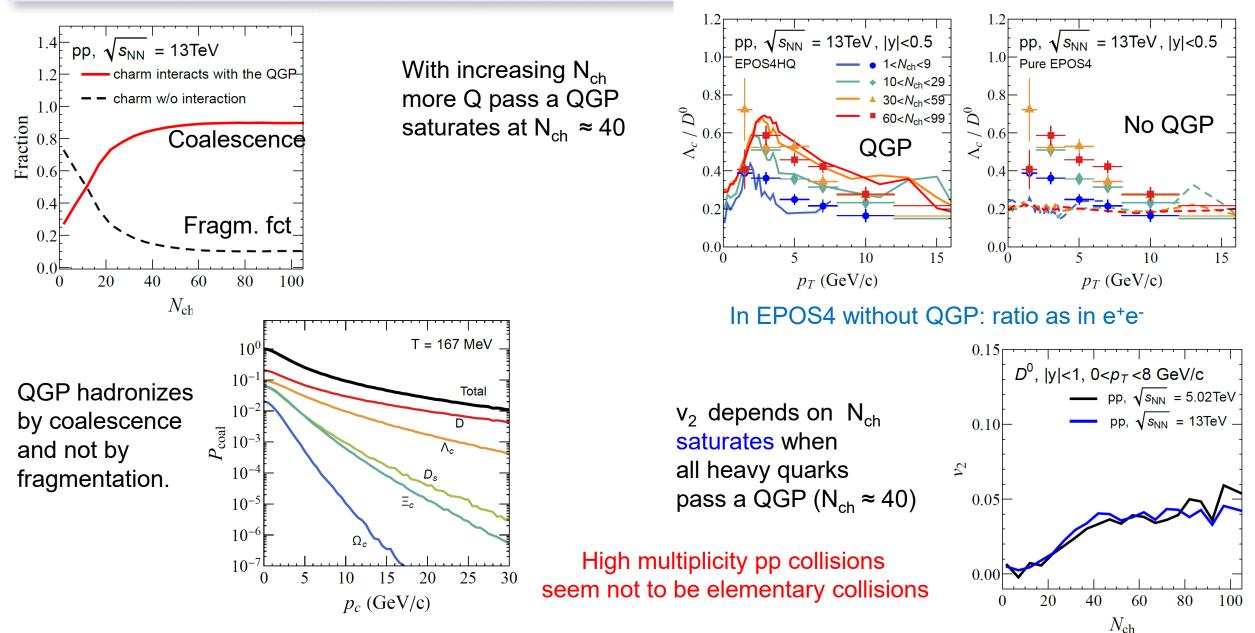
Initial

close to hadronization





In high multiplicity pp collisions the critial energy density is reached what makes several experimental observations understandable

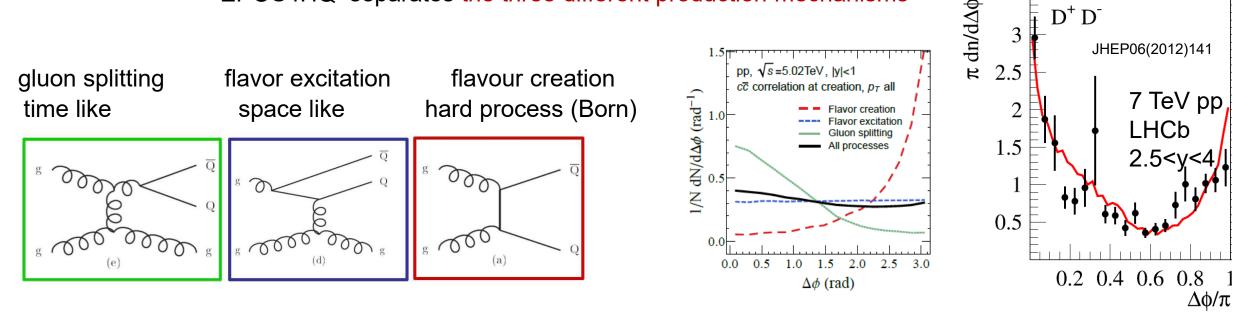


Correlations between Q and Qbar

Correlations between Q and Qbar are important

if one wants to study/understand D Dbar correlation if one wants to study hidden heavy flavour mesons like J/ψ if one wants to understand the p_T distributions of heavy hadrons

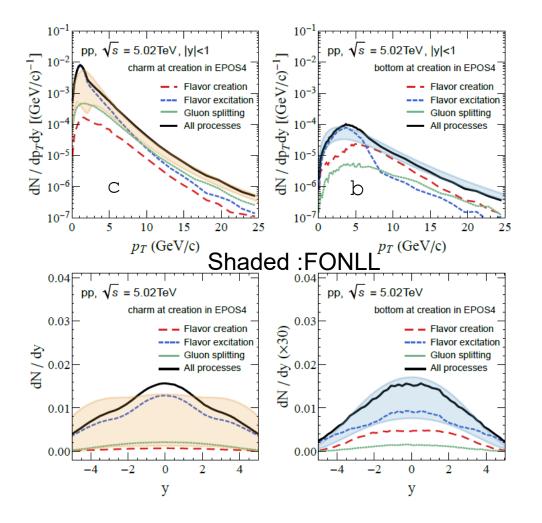
FONLL only single particle p_T spectrum Pythia ISR and FSR can be added EPOS4HQ separates the three different production mechanisms



Different QCD processes \rightarrow different correlations \rightarrow seen in data

Correlations between Q and Qbar

\boldsymbol{p}_{T} and y distributions depend on creation mechanism



For b and c quarks the importance of different contributions are different

High $p_T c \rightarrow$ gluon splitting

High p_T b \rightarrow flavor creation (more energy avail.)

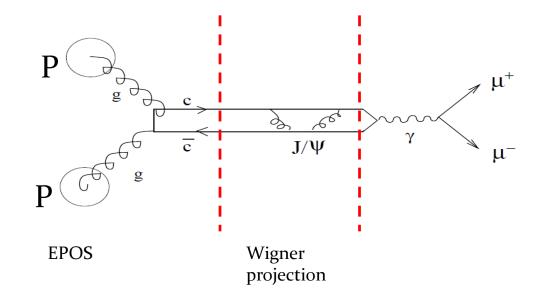
low p_T flavor excitation dominating

Spectra (sum of all contributions) agree with FONLL (shaded area)

Formation of bound $Q\bar{Q}$ states

Correlations between Q and Qbar show also up in quarkonium production

How to describe a **bound** state like a c-cbar in QCD? It involves low momenta and needs **non perturbative** input → assumptions. Our approach: Wigner density formalism (as successful at lower energies)



Formation of bound QQ states

Wigner Density Formalism

c-cbar interaction depends on relative p and r only, \rightarrow plane wave of CM Starting point: Wave function (w.f.) of the relative motion of state i: $|\Phi_i\rangle$

 $|\mathbf{T}\rangle / \mathbf{T}$ w.f. \rightarrow density matrix

$$\rho_i = |\Phi_i\rangle\langle\Phi_i|$$

Wigner density of : $\Phi_i^W(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = \int d^3 y e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{y}} < \mathbf{r} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{y}|\Phi_i\rangle < \Phi_i|\mathbf{r} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{y}\rangle$.

(close to classical phase space density) The probability to form a state $|\Phi_i\rangle$ if the system is described by $\rho^N = |\psi^N\rangle\langle\psi^N|$

$$P = Tr[\rho^N \rho_i] = \int \prod d^3 p_i d^3 r_i W^i(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) W^N(\mathbf{r}_1 ... \mathbf{r}_N, \mathbf{p}_1 ... \mathbf{p}_N)$$

Where \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p} are relative coordinates.

Formation of bound $Q\bar{Q}$ states

Step 1: solution of $Q\bar{Q}$ Schrödinger eq.

Step 2: Conversion into a 3d harmonic oscillator wave fct with same spin and rms radius $\psi^{HO}(\mathbf{r})$

$$\left[-\frac{1}{2\mu}\left(\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{2}{2}\frac{d}{dr}\right) + \frac{l(l+1)}{2\mu r^2} + V(r)\right]R_{nl}(r) = ER_{nl}(r)$$

 $V(r) = -\alpha/|\mathbf{r}| + \sigma|\mathbf{r}| \text{ with } \alpha = 0.513 , \sigma = 0.17 \text{GeV}^2, m_c = 1.5 \text{GeV}, m_b = 5.2 \text{GeV}.$ $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j$ $\psi(\mathbf{r}) = R_{nl}(r) Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi).$

and conversion into a 2 body Wigner density:

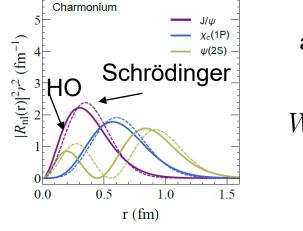
$$V_{nl}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = \int d^3y \ e^{i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{y}} \langle \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{y}/2 | \psi^{HO} \rangle \langle \psi^{HO} | \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{y}/2 \rangle$$

Step 3: Probability that a quarkonium with quantum numbers n,l is produced is given by the overlap integral

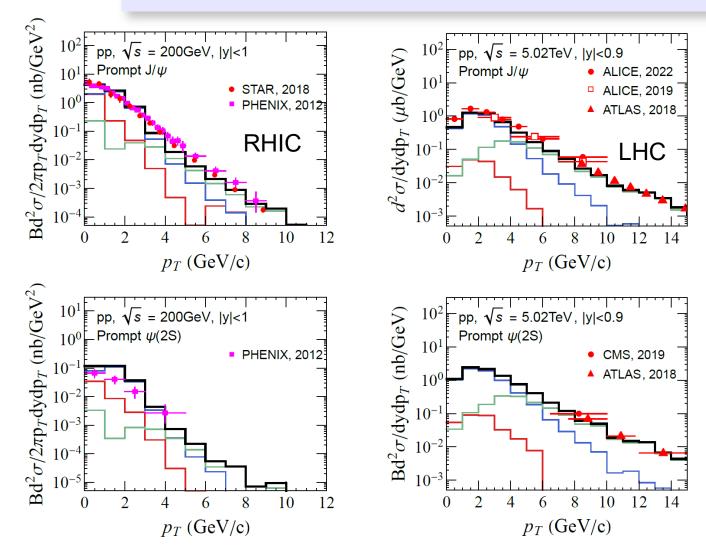
$$\frac{dP_{nl}^{m}}{d^{3}\mathbf{P_{cm}}} = \sum \int \frac{d^{3}r d^{3}p}{(2\pi)^{6}} W_{nl}^{m}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) W^{(2)}(\mathbf{P_{cm}}, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) \qquad W^{(2)}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) \sim r^{2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^{2}}{2\sigma_{\mathbf{Q}\bar{\mathbf{Q}}}^{2}}\right) f_{\mathbf{Q}\bar{\mathbf{Q}}}^{\mathrm{EPOS4}}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{p})$$

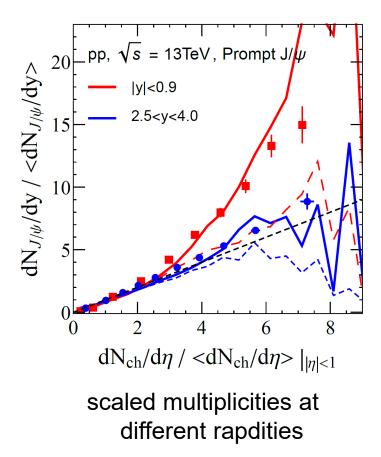
10

= 2-body $Q\bar{Q}$ phase space distr. by EPOS4



J/ψ and $\psi(2s)$ spectra at RHIC and LHC

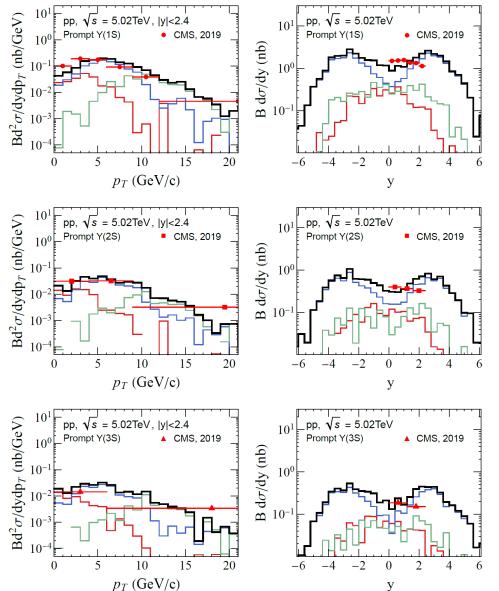




high p_T spectra dominated by gluon splitting low p_T by flavor excitation

Without understanding of the QCD processes we do not understand the spectra

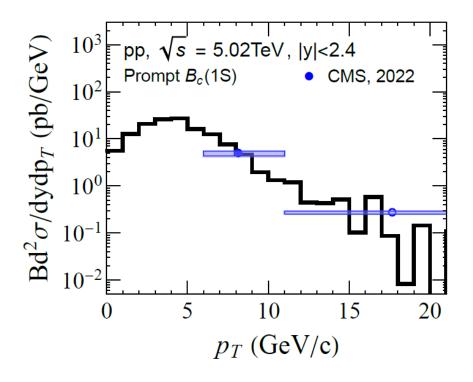
Y(1),Y(2),Y(3) and B_c



high p_T spectra dominated by gluon splitting

in difference to the

high p_T spectra of B mesons, dominated by flavor production



Coming from different production vertices -> tests the spacial structure of the interaction zone

Conclusion

astonishing heavy flavor results in pp collisions (finite v_2 , $\Lambda_c/D(p_T)$) can be understood if one assumes that in (high multiplicity) pp events, as in heavy ions, a quark gluon plasma is formed if

 $\epsilon > \epsilon_0 = 0.57 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$

The azimuthal $D\bar{D}$ correlation points towards $D\bar{D}$ production by different QCD processes:

In EPOS4HQ The different QCD production processes contribute to the p_T spectra in different ways high p_T spectra dominated by gluon splitting low p_T spectra by flavor excitation the sum of all processes compatible with FONLL

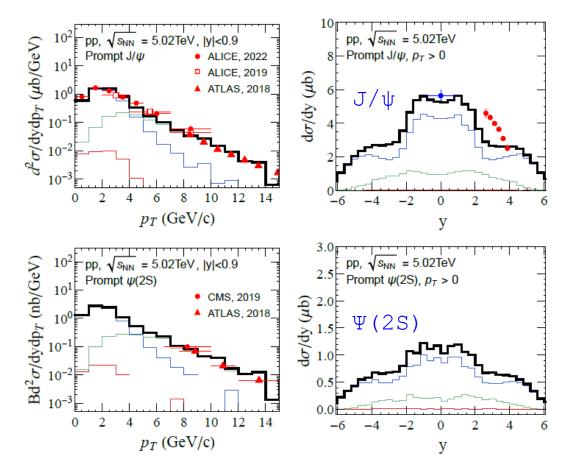
Describing of the production of hidden heavy flavor mesons by a density matrix approach we reproduce the experimental spectra of J/ ψ , ψ (2S), Y(n) and B_c

Detailed analysis shows that the contribution of the QCD processes varies with y and p_T so

run 3 data: perspective to study different aspects of QGP/QCD in detail

Correlations between Q and Qbar

Prompt J/ ψ spectrum and contribution of the different Q Qbar creation processes



high p_T : dominated by gluon splitting

flavor creation does not play a role

low p_{T} : Dominated by flavor excitation

Without understanding the correlations one cannot understand J/ψ production