

Thermodynamics of strongly interacting matter

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- Equation of state of QCD hadronic phase
 - From S-matrix Hadron Resonance Gas
 - \Leftrightarrow LQCD EoS
- QCD Eqs and hadron production yields in HIC
 - light quark hadron yields in AA collisions
- Charm hadron production: probing QCD phase boundary
 - emergence of new systematics for open charm production in high energy pp, pA and AA collisions

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., *JHEP* 04 (2025) 058

N. Sharma, Pok Man Lo, & K.R. *Phys. Rev. C* 107 (2023)

P. Braun-Munzinger, B. Friman, A. Rustamov, J. Stachel & K.R. *Nucl. Phys. A* 1008 (2021)

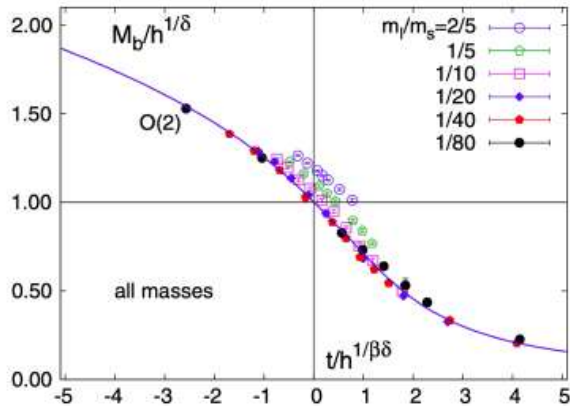
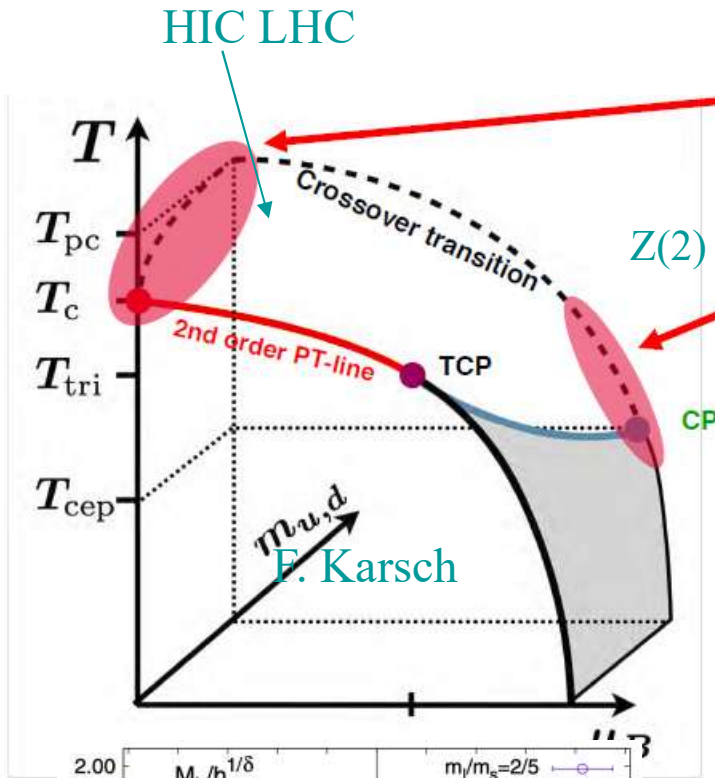
A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. K. Köhler, A. Mazeliauskas, K. R., J. Stachel & V. Vislavicius, *JHEP* 07 (2021) 035

J. Cleymans, Pok Man Lo, N. Sharma & K.R. *Phys. Rev. C* 103 (2021)

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, Pok Man Lo, B. Friman, J. Stachel & K.R. *Phys. Lett. B* 792 (2019)

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Stachel & K.R., *Nature* 561, 302 (2018)

Linking LHC AA yields data with LQCD



S. Ejiri *et al.*, PRD 80, 094505 (2009)

- Due to expected $O(4)$ scaling of QCD free energy

$$F = F_R(T, \mu_q, \mu_I) + b^{-1} F_S(b^{(2-\alpha)^{-1}} t(\mu), b^{\beta\delta/\nu} h)$$

- Fluctuations and correlations of conserved charges an excellent probe of QCD criticality and EQS in different sectors of quantum numbers

$$\chi_B^{(n)} = \frac{\partial^n (F/T^4)}{\partial (\mu_B/T)^n} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \kappa_B^{(n)} = \chi_R^{(n)} + \chi_S^{(n)}$$

$$\chi_S^{(n)} \big|_{\mu \neq 0} \approx h^{(2-\alpha-n)/\beta\delta}$$

At $\mu = 0$, $\chi_B^{(n \geq 6)}$ are singular at $h \rightarrow 0$

At $\mu \neq 0$, $\chi_B^{(n \geq 3)}$ are singular at $h \rightarrow 0$

M. A. Stephanov, K. Rajagopal, E. V. Shuryak
Phys.Rev.Lett. 81 (1998) 4816, Phys.Rev.D 60 (1999) 114028

- CP: 2nd order point - critical fluctuations of net protons.**
(Hatta, Stephanov PRL 91, 102003 (2003))
- Crossover: exhibits critical fluctuations in scaling regime**
(Ejiri, Karsch, Redlich, PLB 633, 275 (2006))

H.-T. Ding *et al.* Phys.Rev.D 109 (2024) 1

Modelling QCD thermodynamic potential in hadronic phase

Pressure of an interacting, $a+b \Leftrightarrow a+b$, hadron gas in equilibrium

$$P(T) \approx P_a^{id} + P_b^{id} + P_{ab}^{int}$$

The leading order interactions, determined by the two-body scattering phase shift, which is equivalent to the second virial coefficient

$$P^{int} = \sum_{I,j} \int_{m_{th}}^{\infty} dM B_j^I(M) P^{id}(T, M)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$B_j^I(M) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{d}{dM} \delta_j^I(M)$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

R. Dashen, S. K. Ma and H. J. Bernstein,
Phys. Rev. 187, 345 (1969)

R. Venugopalan, and M. Prakash,
Nucl. Phys. A 546 (1992) 718.

W. Weinhold,, and B. Friman,
Phys. Lett. B 433, 236 (1998).

Pok Man Lo, Eur. Phys.J. C77 (2017) no.8, 533

Effective weight function

Scattering phase shift

- Interactions driven by narrow resonance of mass M_R

$$B(M) = \delta(M^2 - M_R^2) \Rightarrow P^{int} = P^{id}(T, M_R) \Rightarrow HRG$$

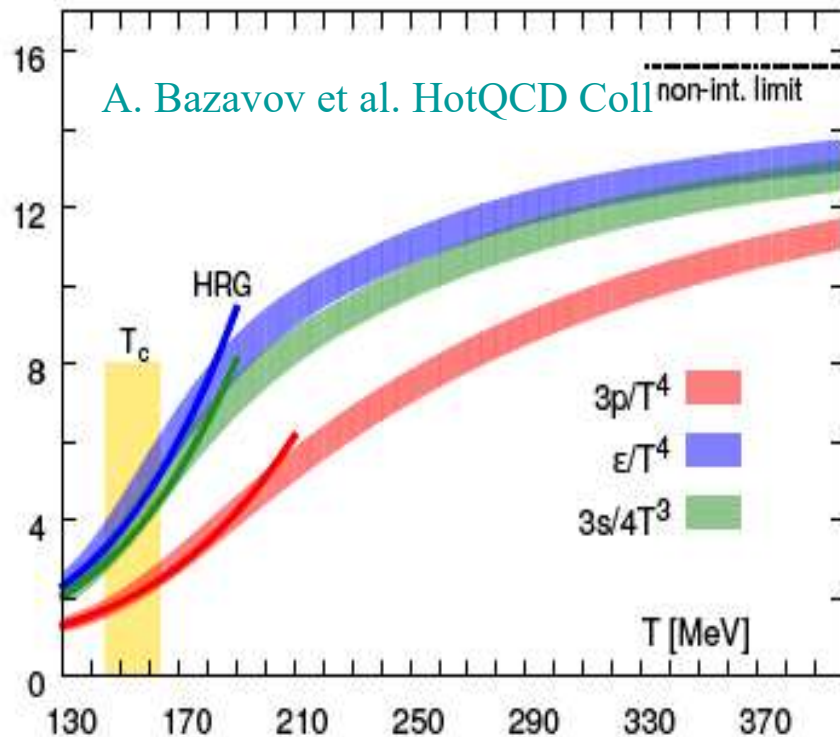
For finite and small width of resonance, $B(M) \Rightarrow$ Breit-Wigner form

- For non-resonance interactions or for broad resonances $P_{ab}^{int}(T)$ should be linked to the phase shifts

Quark-Hadron duality near the QCD phase boundary

$$P(T, \vec{\mu}) \approx \sum_H P_H^{id} + \sum_R P_R^i$$

$$P_R^i = \pm \frac{T g_i}{2\pi^2} \int p^2 dp \int dM \ln(1 \pm e^{-\beta(E_i - \vec{q}_i \vec{\mu}_i)}) F_R^{BW}(M)$$



- SM Hadron Resonance Gas thermodynamic potential provides good approximation of the QCD equation of states in confined phase

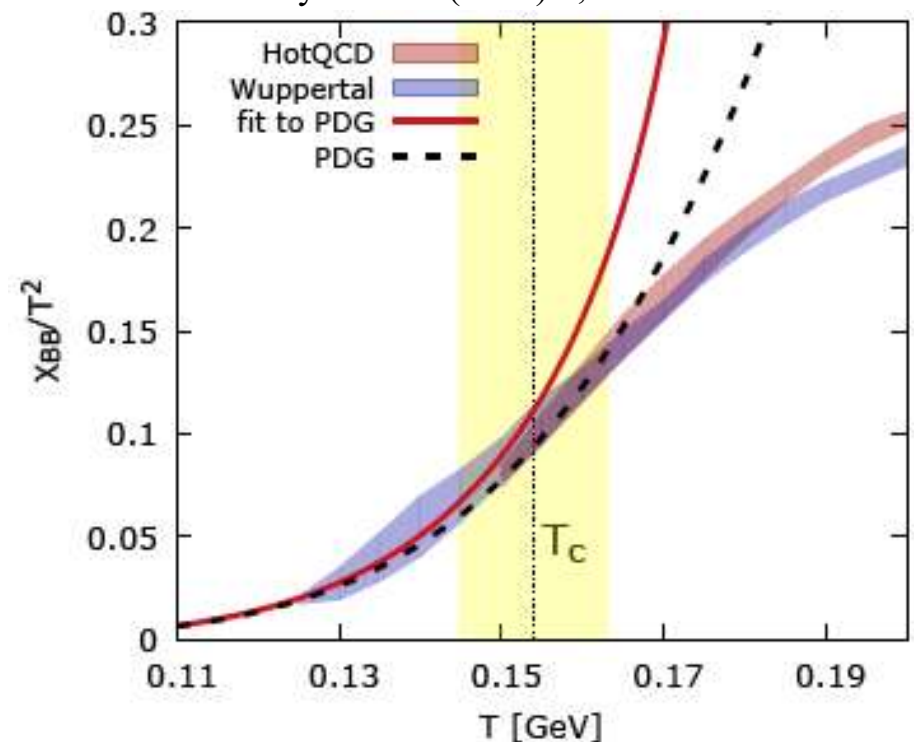
J. Goswami, et al., 2011.02812 [hep-lat]

R. Bellwied, et al. *Phys.Rev.D* 104 (2021) 7

S. Borsányi, et. al *Phys.Rev.D* 110 (2024)]

Pok Man Lo, M. Marczenko et. al.

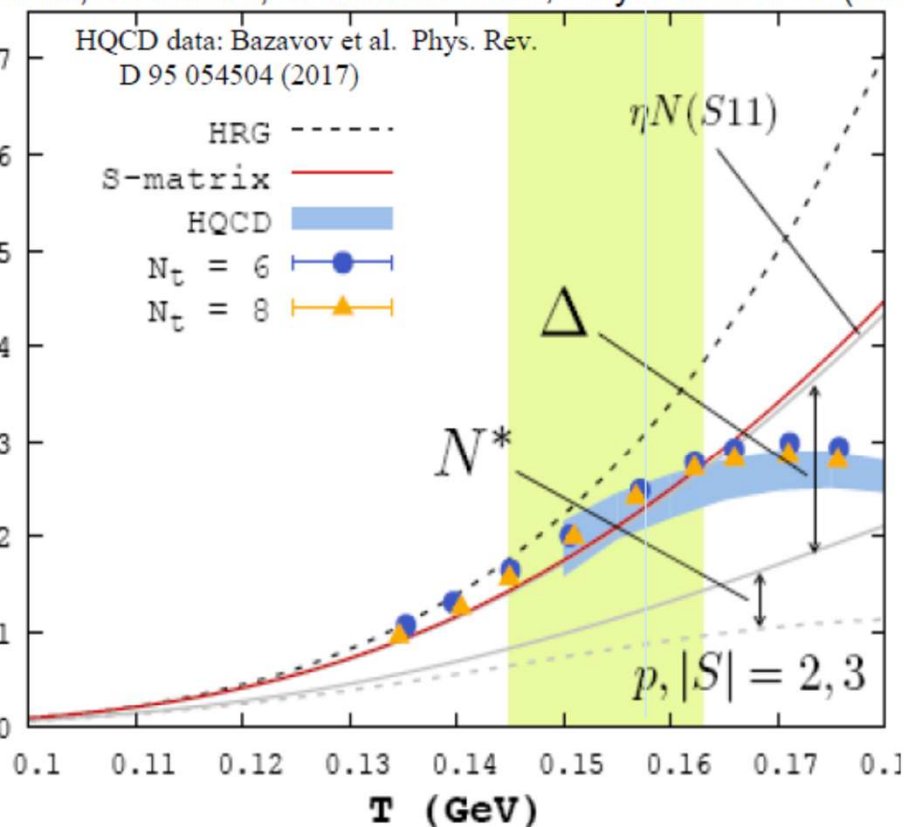
Eur.Phys.J.A 52 (2016) 8, 235



- Good description of net-baryon number fluctuations and in further sectors of hadronic quantum number on correlations and fluctuations

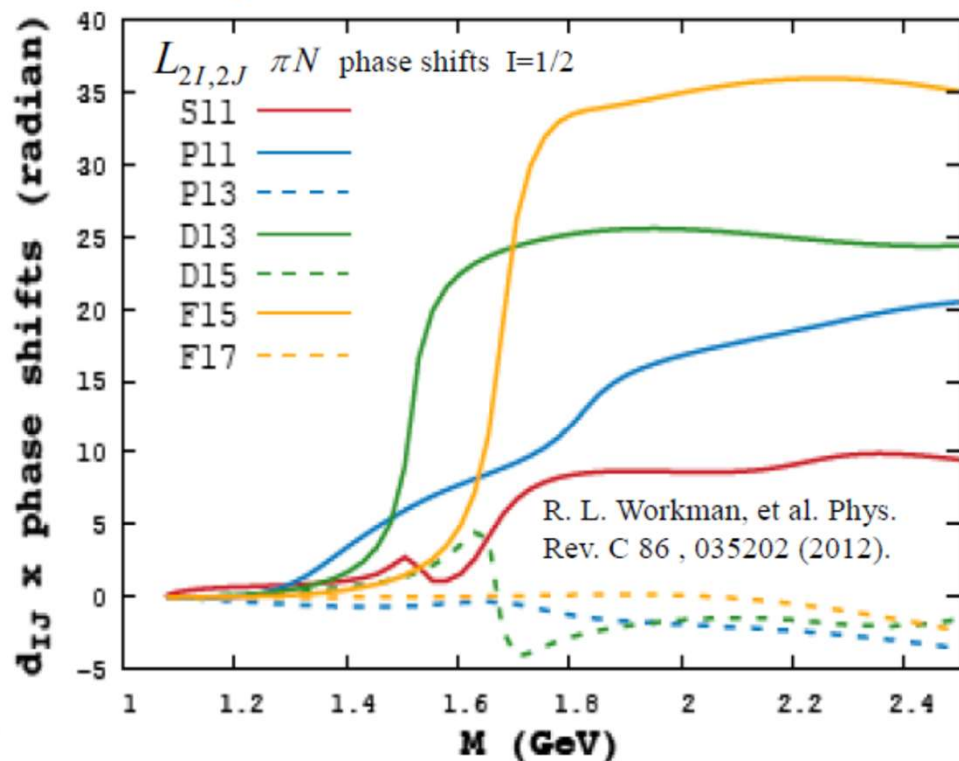
Probing non-strange baryon sector in πN - system

an Lo, B. Friman, C. Sasaki & K.R., Phys.Lett. B778 (2018)



$$\chi_{BQ} \approx \sum_{I_z, j, B} d_j BQ \int dM \int d^3 p \frac{1}{T} \frac{d\delta_j^I}{dM} \times e^{-\beta \sqrt{p^2 + M^2}} (1 + e^{-\beta \sqrt{p^2 + M^2}})^{-2}$$

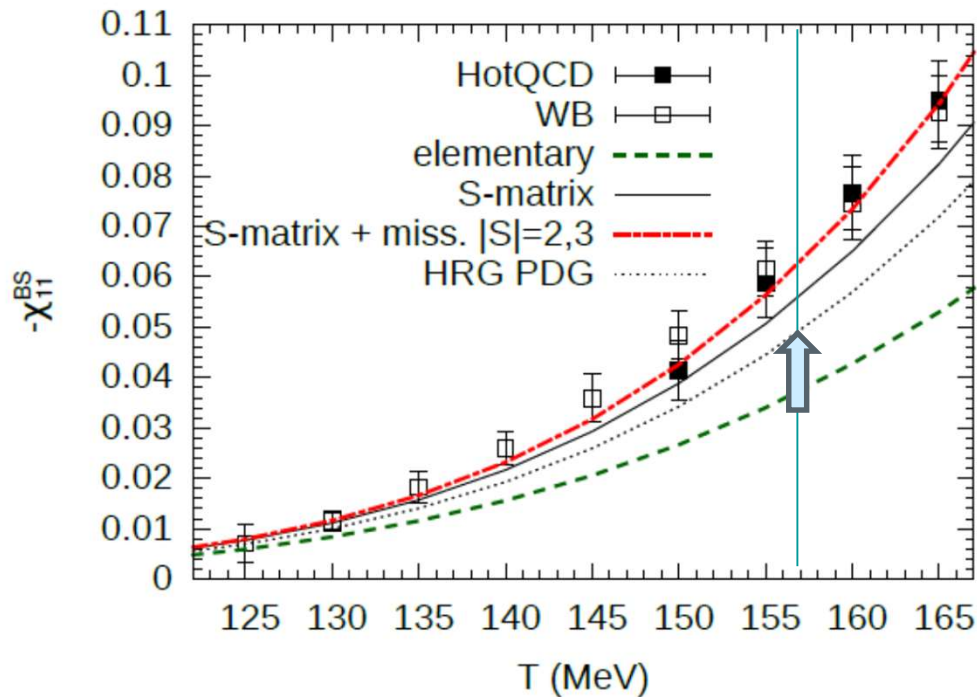
$$\chi_{BQ} = (\chi_{BB} - |\chi_{BS}|) / 2$$



- Considering contributions of all πN $\delta_j^{I=(1/2), (3/2)}$ (N^*, Δ^* resonances) to χ_{BQ} within S-matrix approach, reduces the HRG predictions towards the LQCD in the chiral crossover $0.15 < T < 0.16 \text{ GeV}$

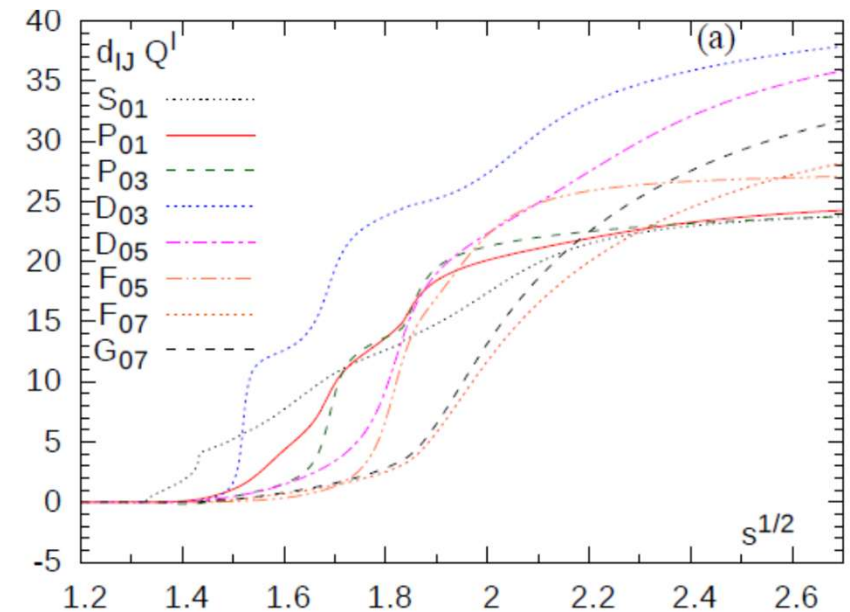
S-matrix HRG in strange baryon channel and LQCD

Cesar Fernandez-Ramirez, Pok Man Lo,
and Peter Petreczky PRC 98 (2018)



Joint Physics Analysis Center

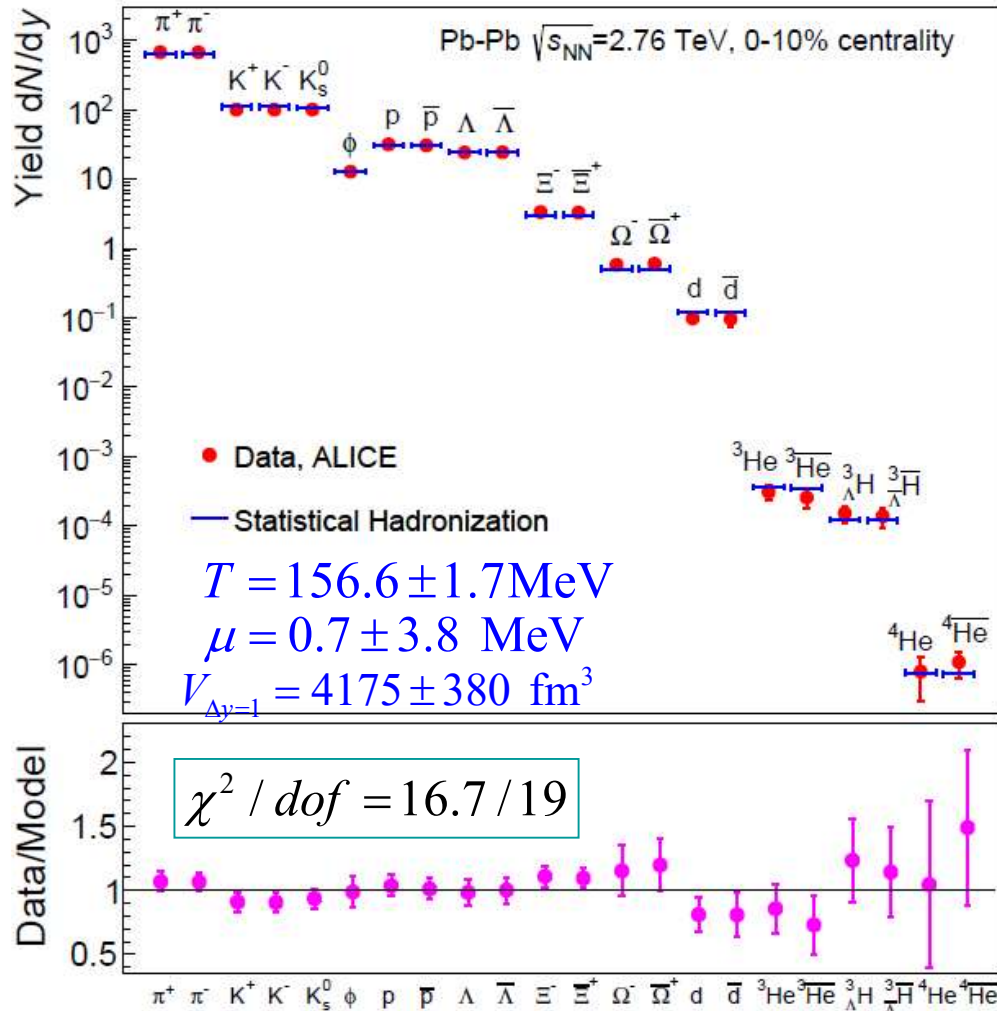
C. Fernandez-Ramirez, I. V. Danilkin, D. M. Manley,
V. Mathieu, and A. P. Szczepaniak (2018)



- Employing the coupled-channel study involving $\bar{K}N$, \bar{K}^*N , $\pi\Lambda$, $\pi\Sigma$, interactions in the $S = -1$ sector.
- Improvements of model description of LQCD results

S-matrix HRG and particle yields in Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC

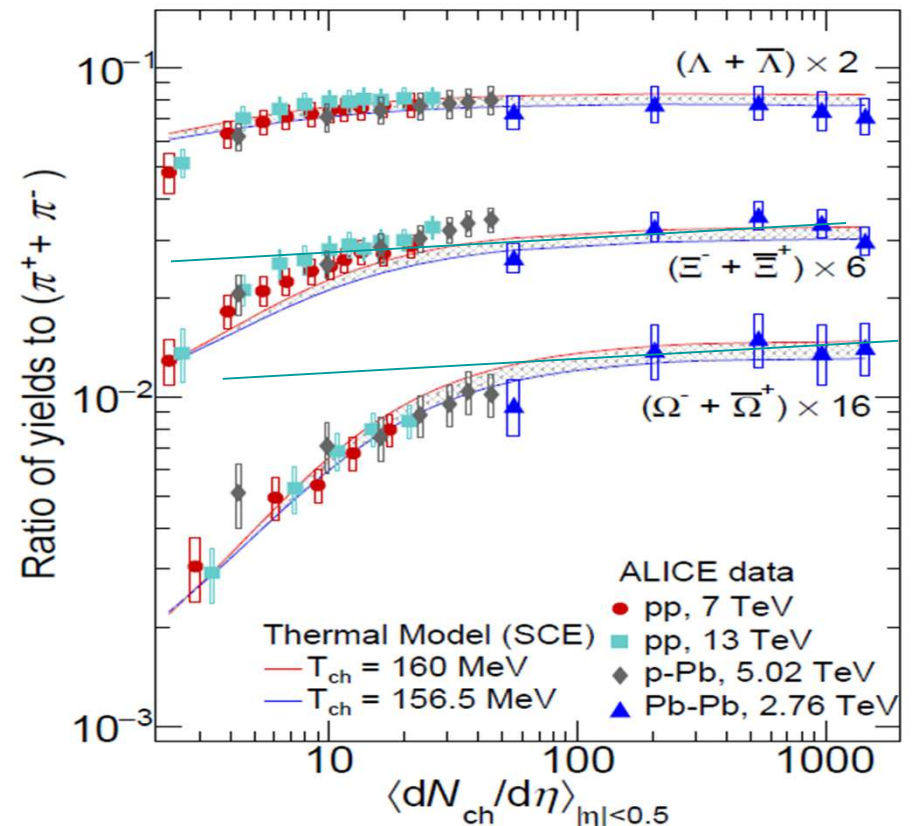
Measured yields reproduced at $T \approx T_c$



The observed scaling with $\langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle_{|y|<0.5}$ requires exact strangeness conservation

$$n_s^C(T, V_c) \approx n^{GC}(T) \cdot \frac{I_s(2V_c n_{s=1}^{th}(T))}{I_0(2V_c n_{s=1}^{th}(T))}$$

$$V_c = V_c(dN_{ch}/d\eta)$$

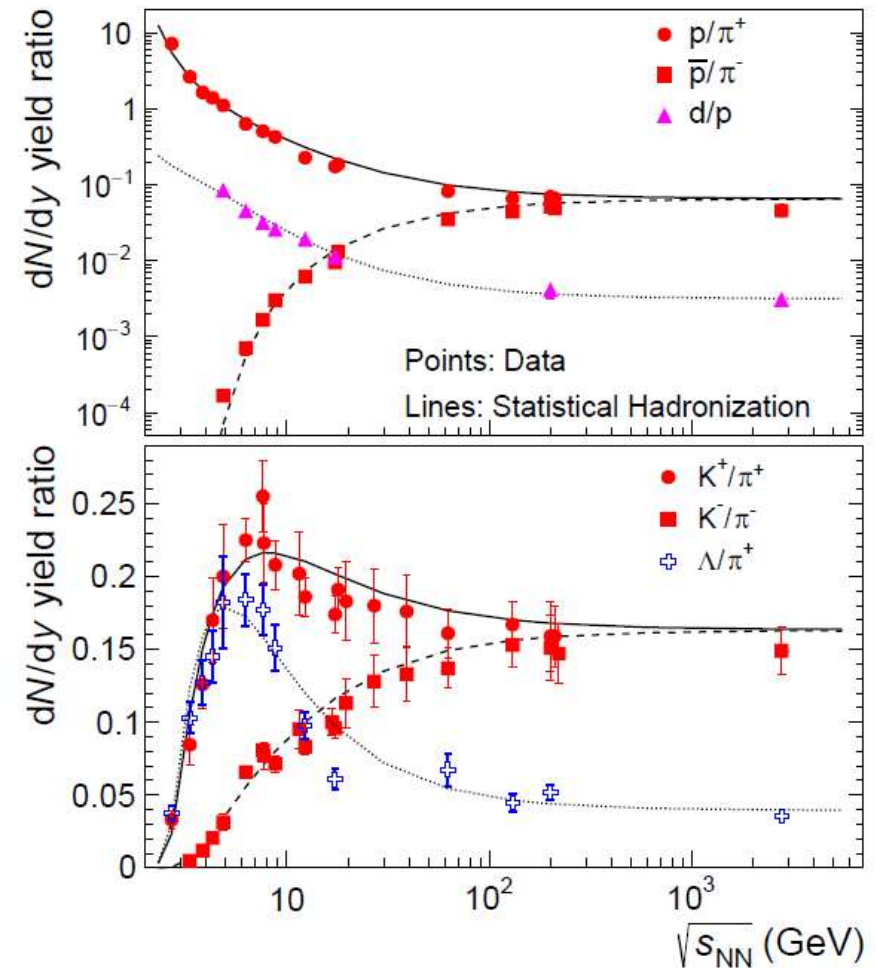
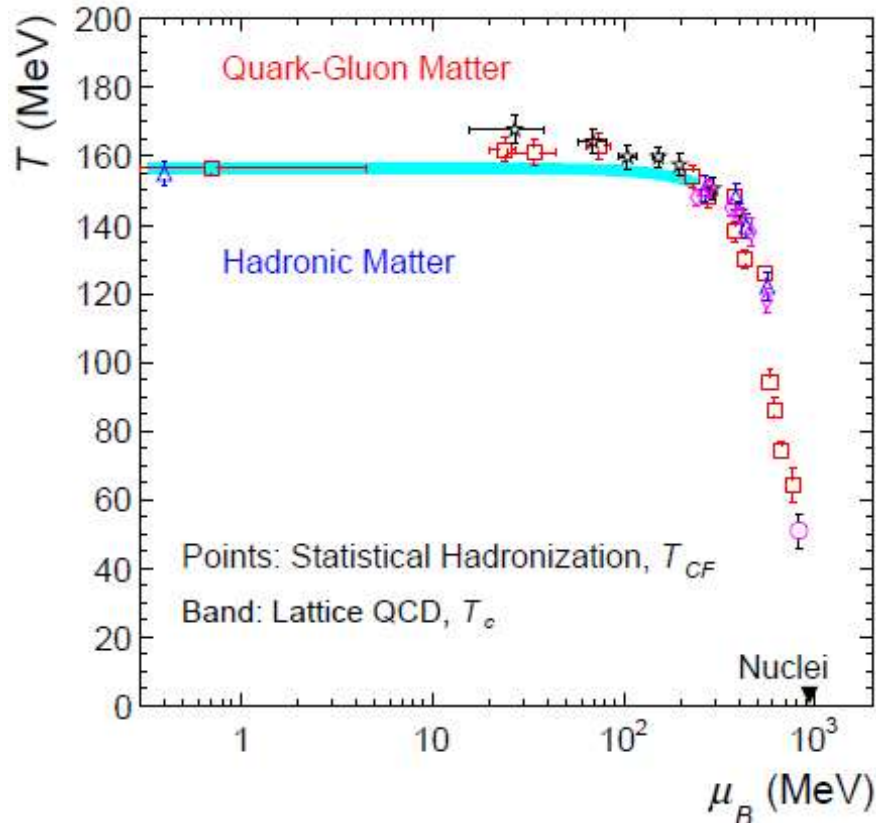


A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, Pok Man Lo, B. Friman, J. Stachel & K.R. Phys. Lett. B 792, 304 (2019)
 A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Stachel & K.R., Nature 561, 302 (2018)

A fireball in central Pb-Pb collisions is the matter created near the QCD phase boundary

Thermal origin of light flavors in HIC: Beam Energy dependence

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Stachel, K.R.
Nature 561 (2018) (720 citations)



- Hadron yields in heavy-ion collisions from SIS to LHC are consistent with the SHM in C-ensemble. Particle produced at QCD phase-boundary from hadronizing QGP!
- A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger and J. Stachel Nucl. Phys. A772 (2006) 167
- A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger and J. Stachel Phys. Lett. B673 (2009) 142

The thermal model and Charm particle production

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger,
J. Stachel & K.R, Nature (2018)

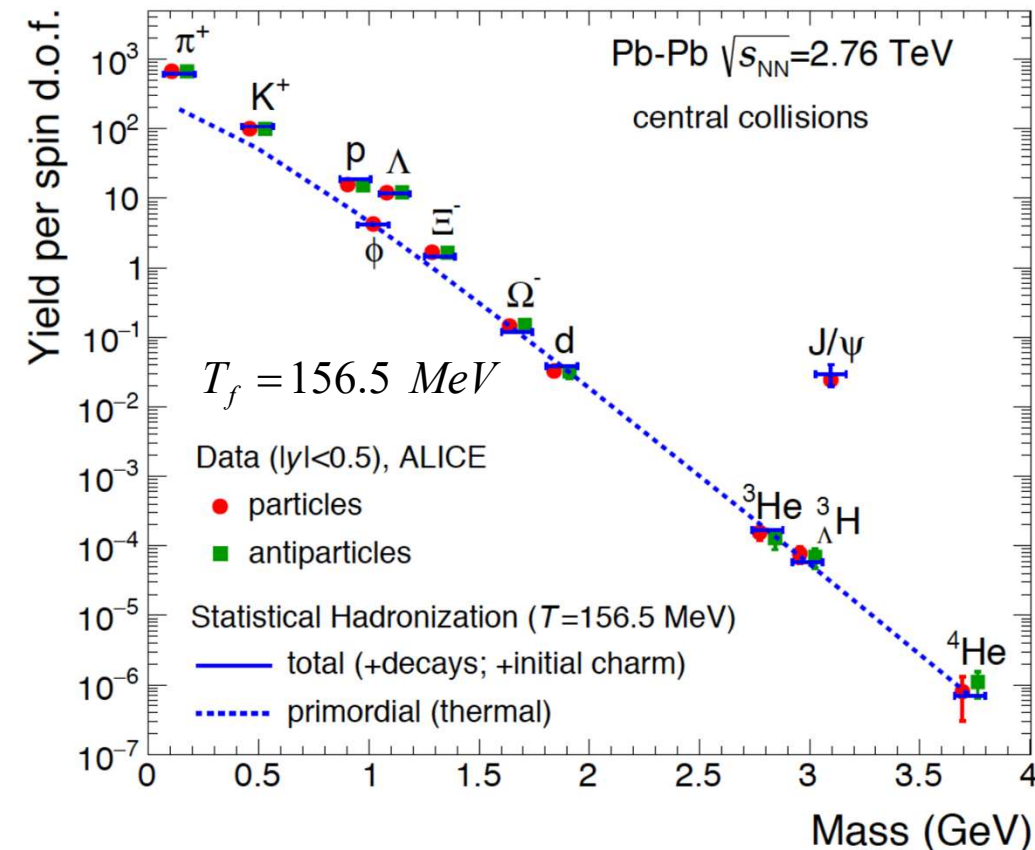
The yield of J/ψ differs by a huge factor 900 from model expectation:
There are too few charm quark pairs in equilibrium QGP at T_c !

The way out: Statistical Hadronization Model of Charm (SHMc) introduced by:

Peter Braun-Minzinger & Johanna Stachel
Phys. Lett. B490 (2000) 196.

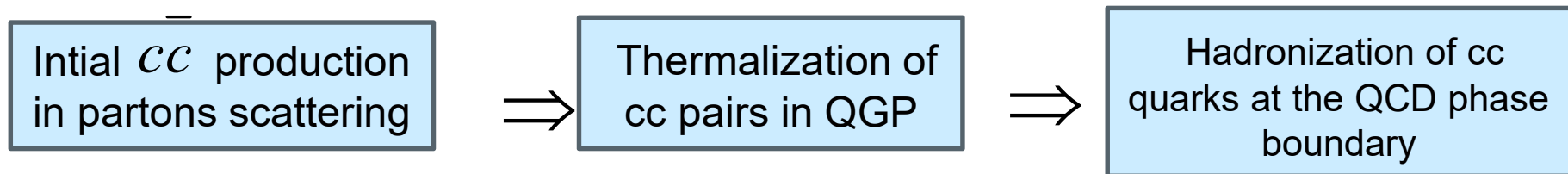
See also:

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Stachel & K.R,
NPA 789 (2007) 334, *Phys.Lett.B* 652 (2007) 259



- Light quark hadrons produced at the QCD phase boundary during hadronization of QGP and their yields are consistent with QCD EQS

SHMc charm statistical hadronization: Yields and Spectra of Open Charmed Hadrons



Formation of cc pairs in hard initial scattering on time scale $t_c \approx 1/2m_c$ with $m_c = 1.3$ GeV \rightarrow $t = 0.1$ fm: comparable to QGP formation and much shorter than charmed hadron production at few fm/c

Charm quarks as external source in QGP: annihilation and production of charm quarks in QGP negligible

Charm quarks thermalize inside the QGP: strong evidence through observed elliptic flow and energy loss

\Rightarrow Justifying application of charm statistical hadronization

- The final number of charm-anticharm quark pairs bound in the produced hadrons is the same as in the initial state

SHMc: linking initial with final state

- The charm balance equation to preserve N_{cc} quark pairs

$$2N_{cc} = g_c V \sum_{h_{oc,1}^i} n_i^{th} + g_c^2 V \sum_{h_{oc,2}^i} n_i^{th} + g_c^2 V \sum_{h_{hc}^i} n_i^{th} \quad \text{with } n_i^{th} \simeq d_{i,J} m_i^2 TK_2(m_i / T)$$

obtained from measured
open charm cross section
or from QCD+Glauber

thermal charm hadrons

- In general for small N one needs to include canonical suppression

$$2N_{cc} \simeq \sum_{\alpha=1,2} N_{oc,\alpha} \frac{I_\alpha(N_{oc,1})}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} + N_{hc}$$

defining:

$$N_{oc,1} = V g_c \sum_{h_{oc,1}^i} n_i^{th}$$

$$N_{oc,2} = V g_c^2 \sum_{h_{oc,2}^i} n_i^{th}$$

$$N_{hc} = V g_c^2 \sum_{h_{hc}^i} n_i^{th}$$



- For a given N_{cc} and knowing T, V from thermal analysis of light hadron yields:
solve the above balance equation to get g_c , consequently



Heavy flavor particle yields in SHMc

- The rapidity density of open and hidden charm hadrons in SHMc:

$$\frac{dN_{i,\alpha=1,2}}{dy} = g_c^\alpha V n_i^{th} \frac{I_\alpha(2V g_c \sqrt{n_{c=1}^{tot} n_{c=-1}^{tot}})}{I_0(2V g_c \sqrt{n_{c=1}^{tot} n_{c=-1}^{tot}})}$$

$$\frac{dN_{i,hc}}{dy} = g_c^2 V n_i^{th}$$

Total thermal density of $c = \pm 1$

$$n_{c=\pm 1}^{tot} = \sum_k n_{k,c=\pm 1}^{th}$$

contribution of resonances:

$$n_i^{th} = n_i^{prompt} + \sum_j Br(j \rightarrow i) n_j^r$$

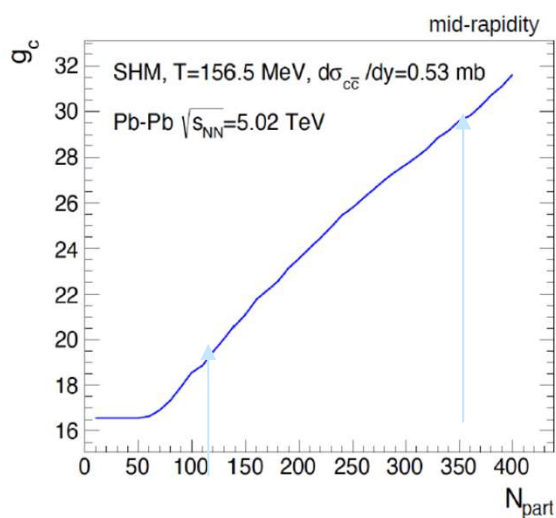
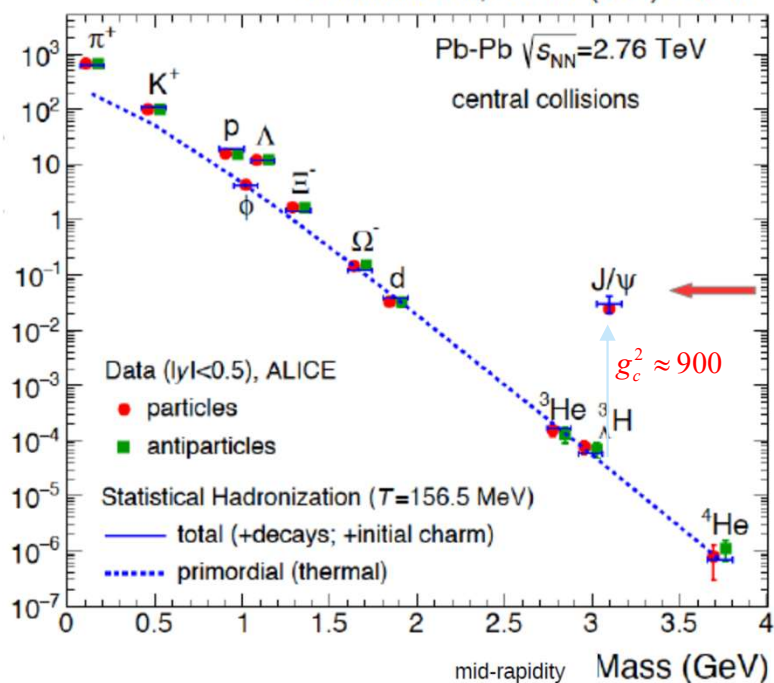
- The essential difference with light particle thermal yields is due to the fugacity factor $g_c = g_c(N_{cc}, V, T, \vec{\mu})$ which guarantees conservation of N_{cc} pairs from the initial partonic to the final hadronic state.

Model comparison with ALICE data

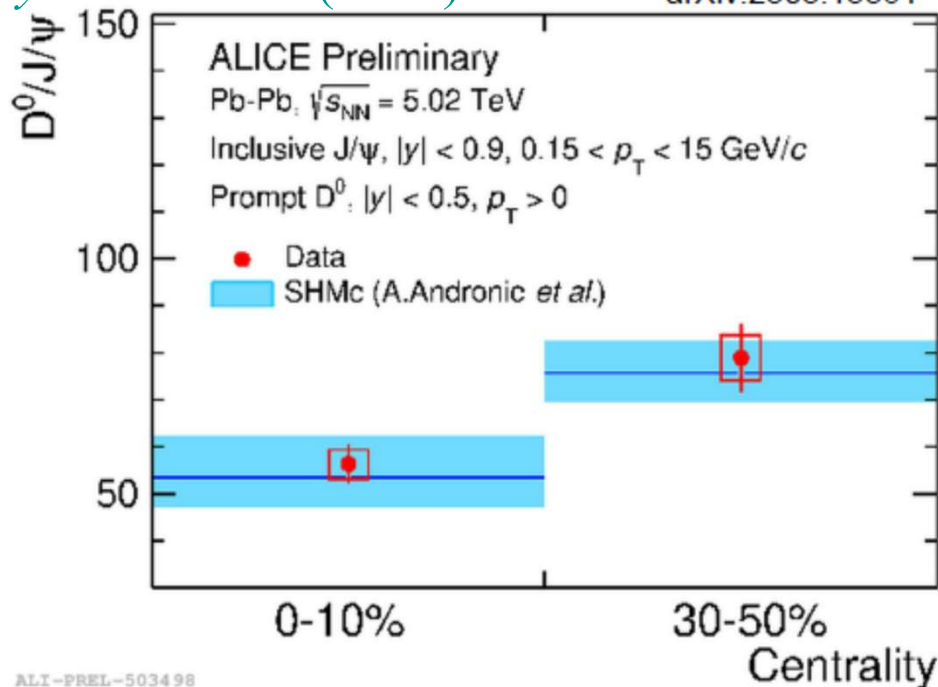
Phys.Lett.B 849 (2024) 138451

arXiv:2303.13361

A.Andronic et al., PLB 797 (2019) 134836



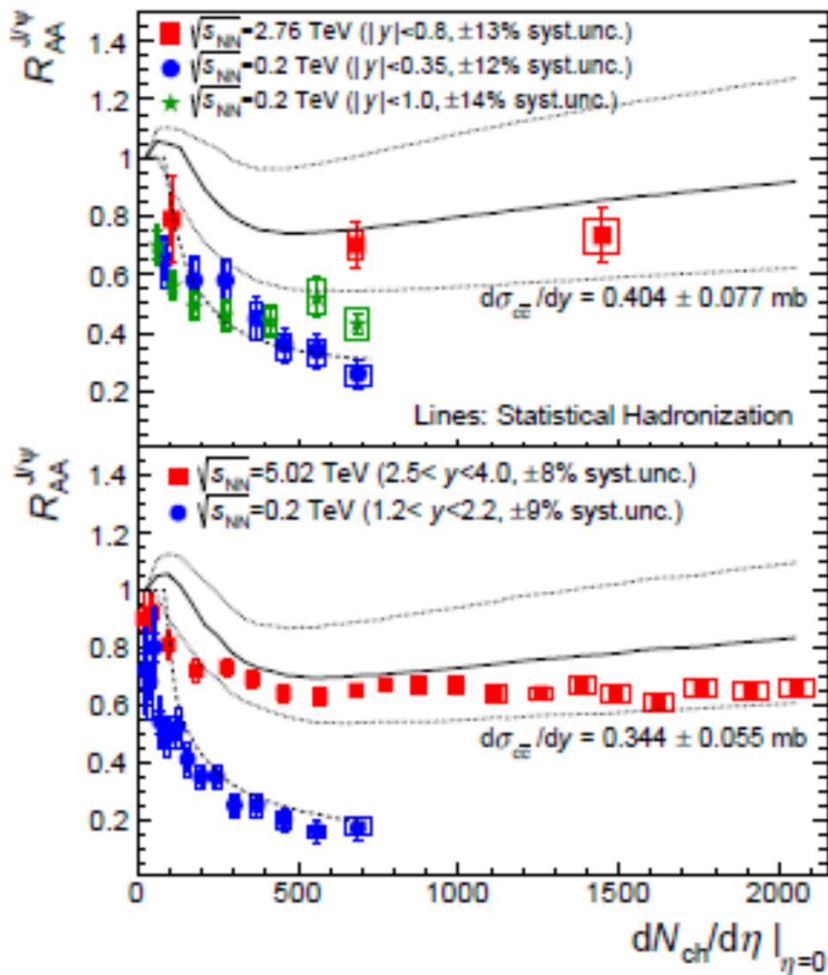
ALI-PREL-503498



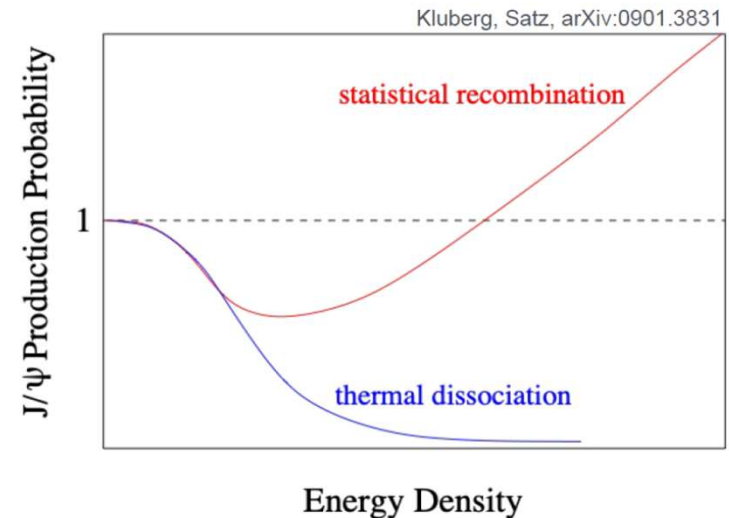
- Strong increase of J/ψ yields due to off chemical equilibrium factor $g_c^2 \approx 900$ in central collisions
- First data on $D^0 / (J/\psi)$ and centrality dependence well described by SHMc. Increasing ratio towards non central collisions due to decreasing g_o since:

$$D^0 / (J/\psi) \sim f(T)(I_1 / I_0) g_c^{-1}$$

Essential predictions of SHMc: J/Psi suppression



Predictions successfully applied to quantify SPS, RHIC and LHC data: **Regeneration of J/Psi at the QCD phase boundary and increasing number of N_{cc} with energy imply that the J/Psi suppression observed at SPS decreases with increasing energy towards LHC**



Melting scenario at the LHC not observed

Emergence of New Systematics of Open Charm production at High Energy Collisions

- Consider SHMc balance equation and its approximation:

$$2N_{cc} \simeq Vg_c n_{oc,1}^{tot} \frac{I_1(N_{oc,1}(g_c, V))}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} + N_{oc,2} \frac{I_2(N_{oc,1}(g_c, V))}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} + N_{hc}$$

However, contributions of $c = \pm 2$ and hidden charm hadrons less than 3% thus can be neglected to extract g_c

- Consequently:

$$Vg_c \frac{I_1(N_{oc,1})}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} \approx \frac{2N_{cc}}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}}$$

and since

$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} = Vg_c \frac{I_1(N_{oc,1})}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} n_i^{th}$$

- the open charm hadron rapidity density with $c = \pm 1$,

$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \simeq 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc}$$

$$n_i^{th} = n_i^{prompt} + \sum_j Br(j \rightarrow i) n_j^r$$

$$n_{c=\pm 1}^{tot} = \sum_k n_{k,c=\pm 1}^{th}$$

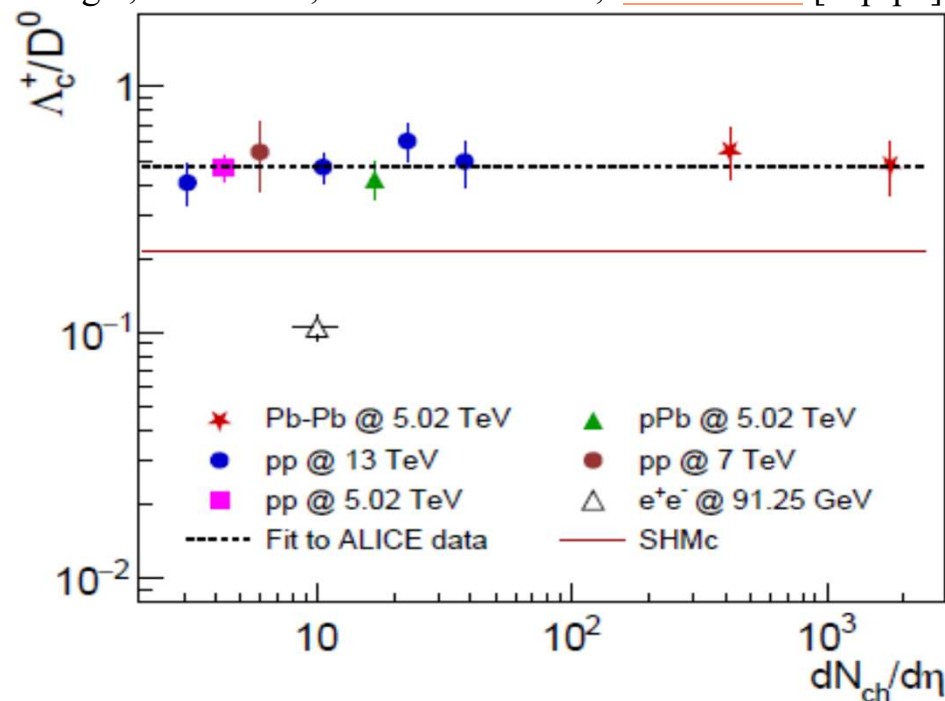
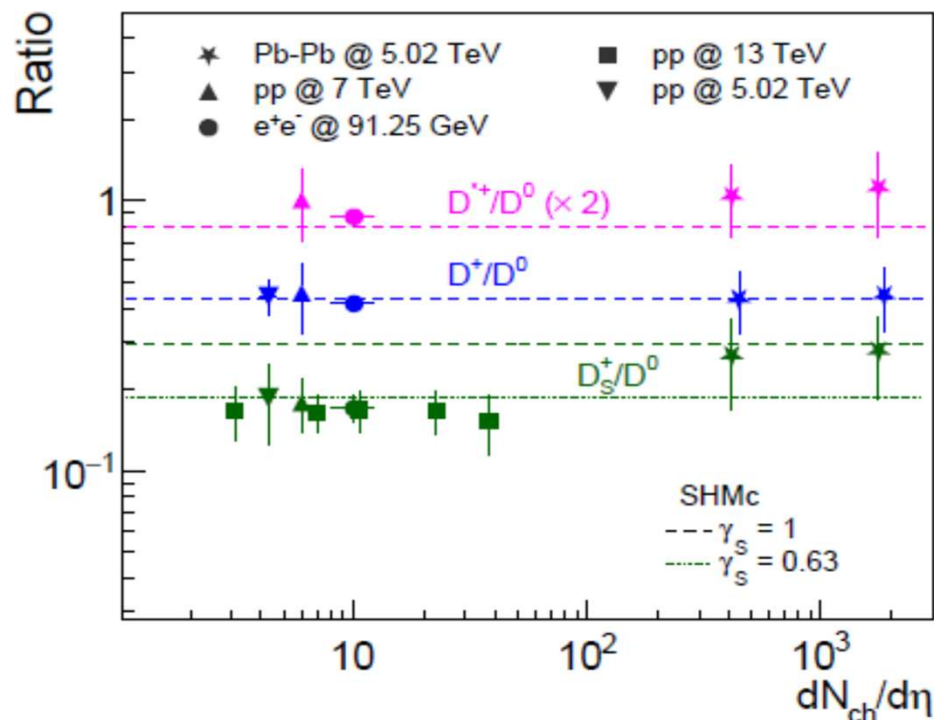
is fully determined by N_{cc} (from experiment or model) and the temperature, which at high energy collisions $T = T_c = 156.5$ MeV. Yield is independent of the colliding systems i.e. pp, pA and AA and collision centrality.

Basic properties for different open charm yield ratios

$$N_{i,c=\pm 1} / N_{k,c=\pm 1} = n_i^{th}(T) / n_k^{th}(T)$$

Ratios entirely determined by T

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



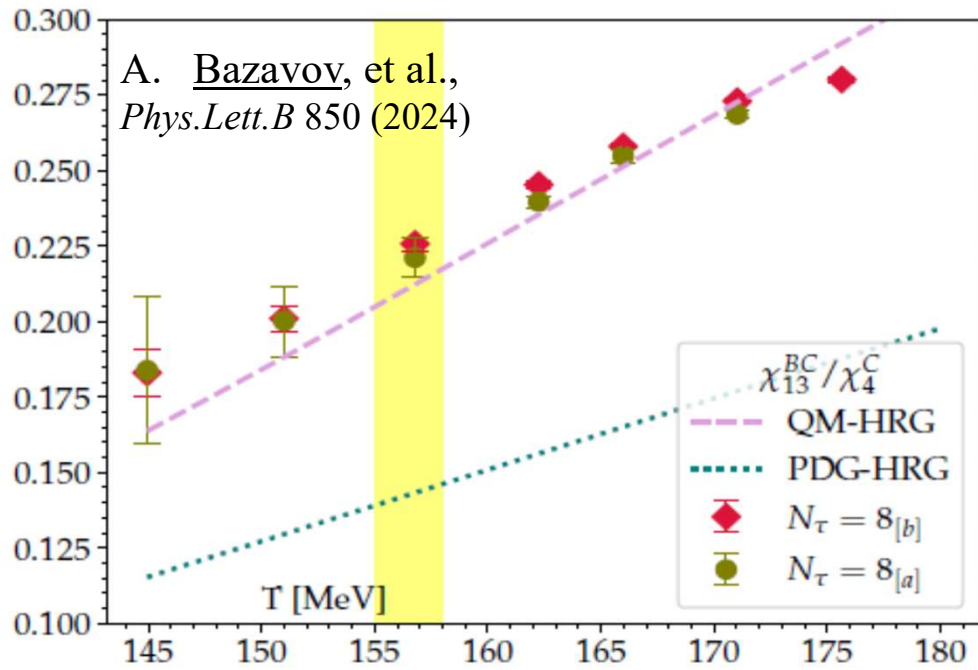
Ratios in pp, pA and AA collisions are within uncertainties the same and independent of associated charged particle pseudo-rapidity density, as expected in SHM.

An increase of D_s^+ / D^0 from pp to AA is possible and needs more data.

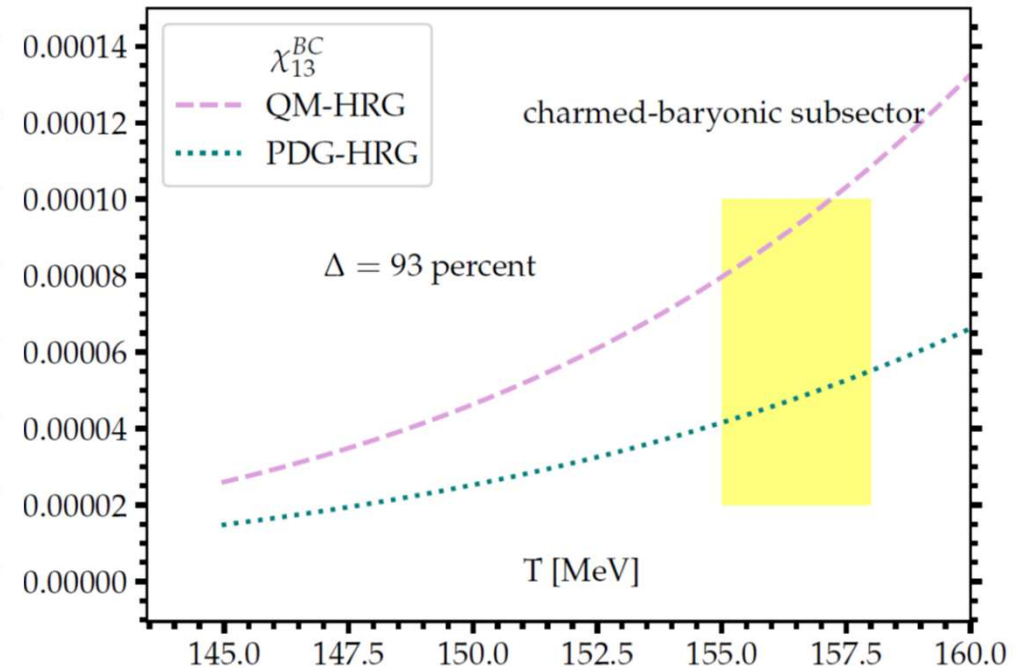
Quantitative agreement of D^{*+} and D^+ to D^0 ratios with SHMc, however suppression of D_s^+ / D^0 from AA to pp. Λ_c^+ / D^0 Larger by a factor 2.2 ± 0.15 than SHMc =>

Missing baryonic resonances in charm sector

Charm fluctuations calculated in the framework of Lattice QCD receive enhanced contributions relative to PDG due the existence of not-yet-discovered open-charm states



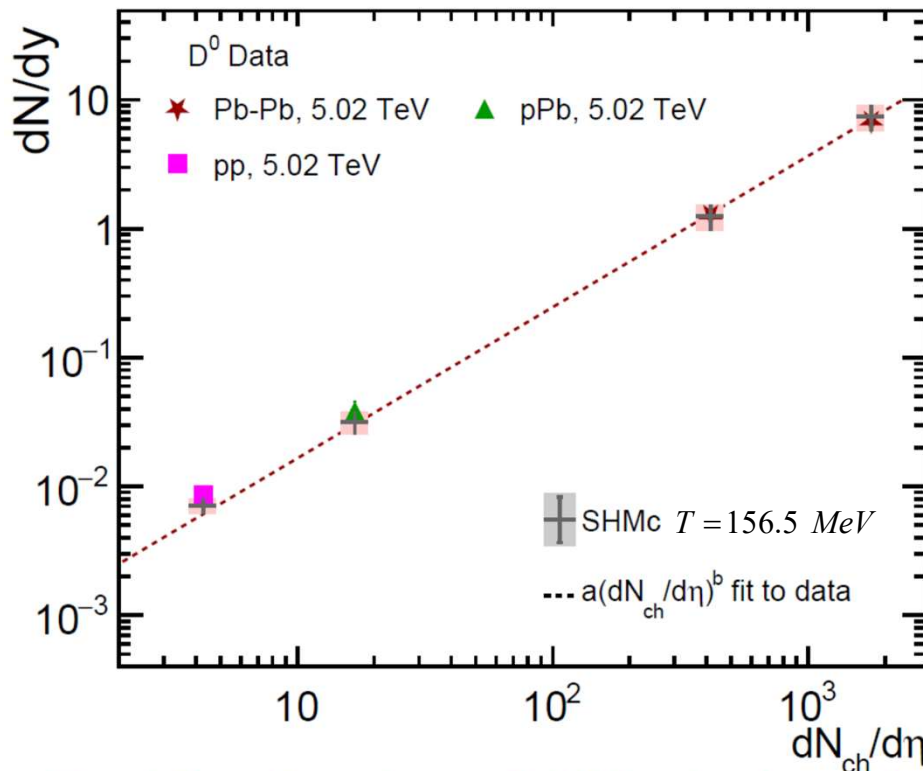
Sipaz Sharma, F. Karsch, P. Petreczky *J.Sub. Part.Cos.* 3 (2025)



Charm baryon susceptibilities are better described by the quark model of hadrons which indicates an increase of charm baryonic resonances relative to PDG at T_c by a factor >1.9 . We include this missing states by rescaling Λ_c density by 2.2.

Quantifying rapidity densities of open charm hadrons

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \simeq 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc}$$

$$N_{cc} = \begin{cases} \sigma_{cc}^{pp} / \sigma_{inel}^{pp} & \text{in pp} \\ \sigma_{cc}^{pA} / \sigma_{inel}^{pA} & \text{in pA} \\ \alpha_A \sigma_{cc}^{pp} T_{AA} & \text{in AA} \end{cases}$$

Cross sections from data: $T=156.5$ MeV

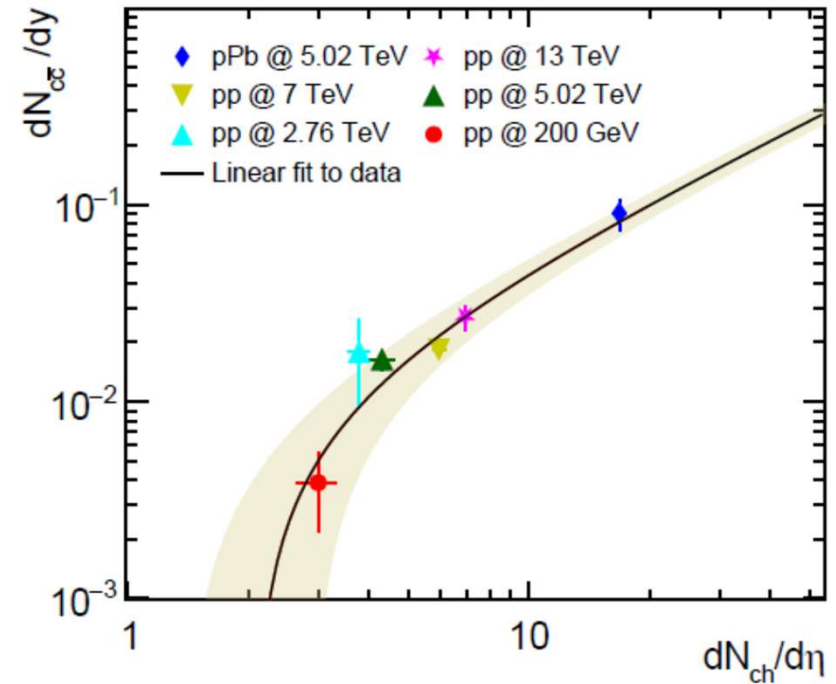
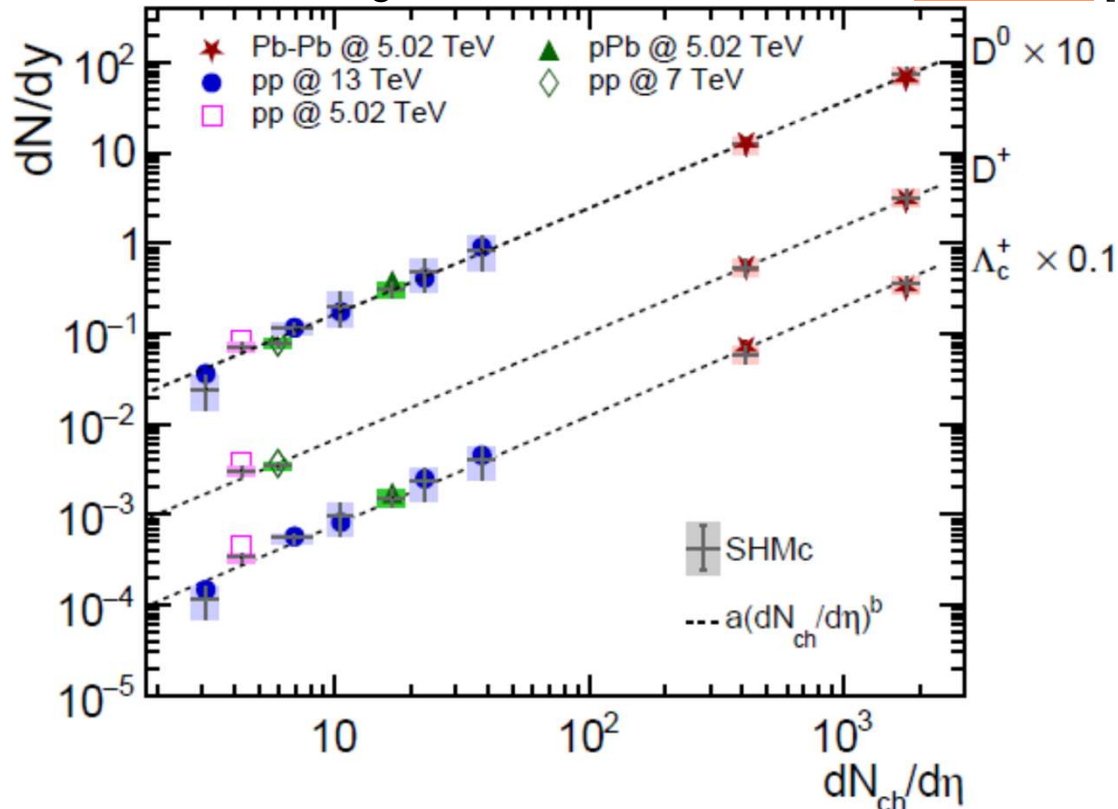
Thickness function from Glauber model.

Factor α_A accounts for nuclear modification effects such as shadowing, energy loss or saturation.

- Rapidity density at RHIC obtained from the fit to p_t with Tsallis function
- SHMc provides consistent description of data from pp, pA and AA
- Data at LHC exhibit power law scaling: $dN / dy = a(dN_{ch} / d\eta)^b$ with $b = 1.2 \pm 0.02$ and $a = (1.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$ At RHIC data consistent $b \approx 1.2$ and $a = 3.8 \times 10^{-4}$.

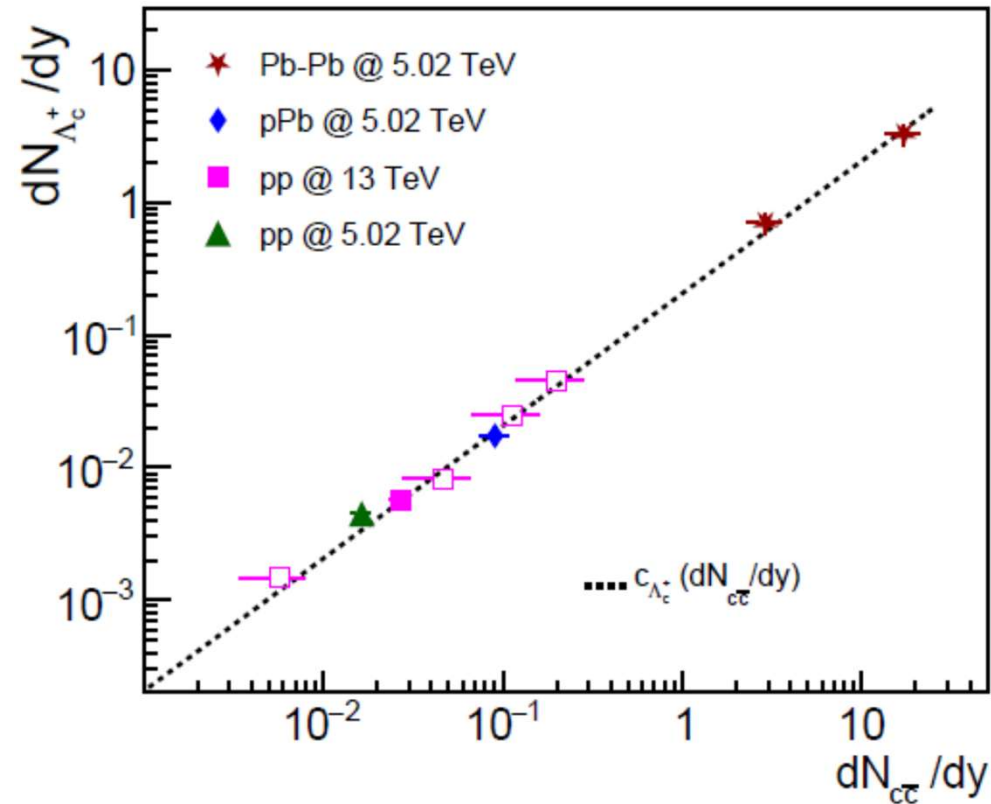
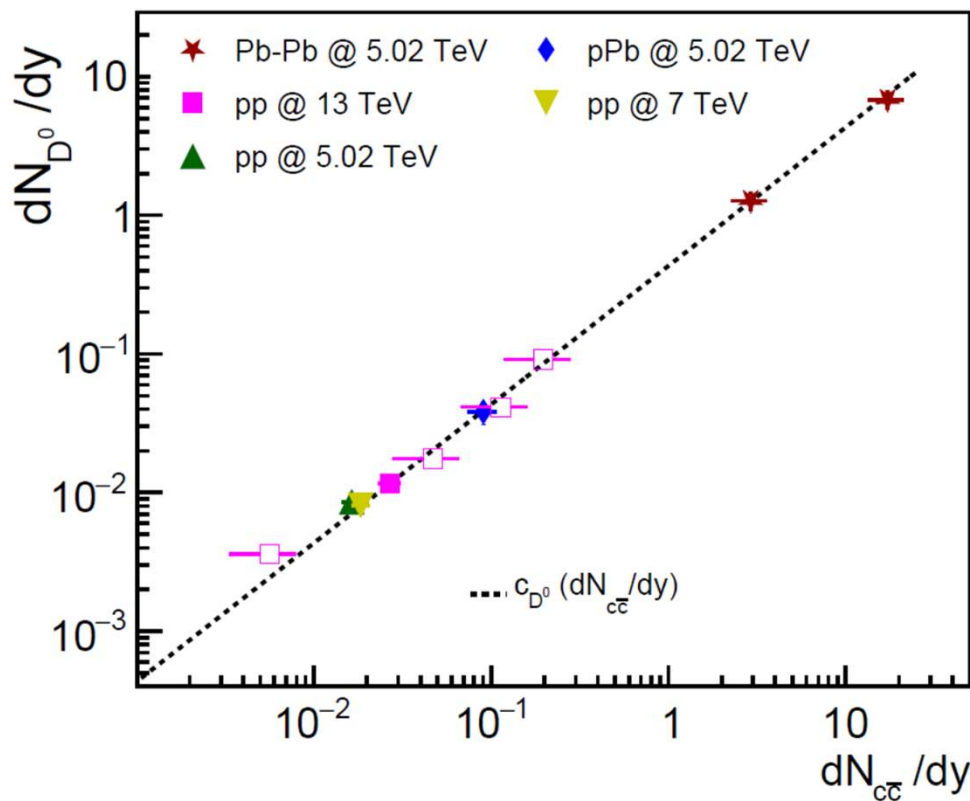
Including predictions for pp at different N_{ch}

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



- In a narrow rapidity window N_{cc} fitted with a linear function of N_{ch} . This allows to extract experimentally unknown values of N_{cc} at $N_{ch} = 3.1, 10.5, 22.6, 37.8$ where D^0 and Λ_c were measured in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 13$ TeV.
- All data follow the observed power law scaling with N_{ch} . The yields are also well quantified by the SHMc.

Charm quarks fragmentation/hadronization in the SHMc



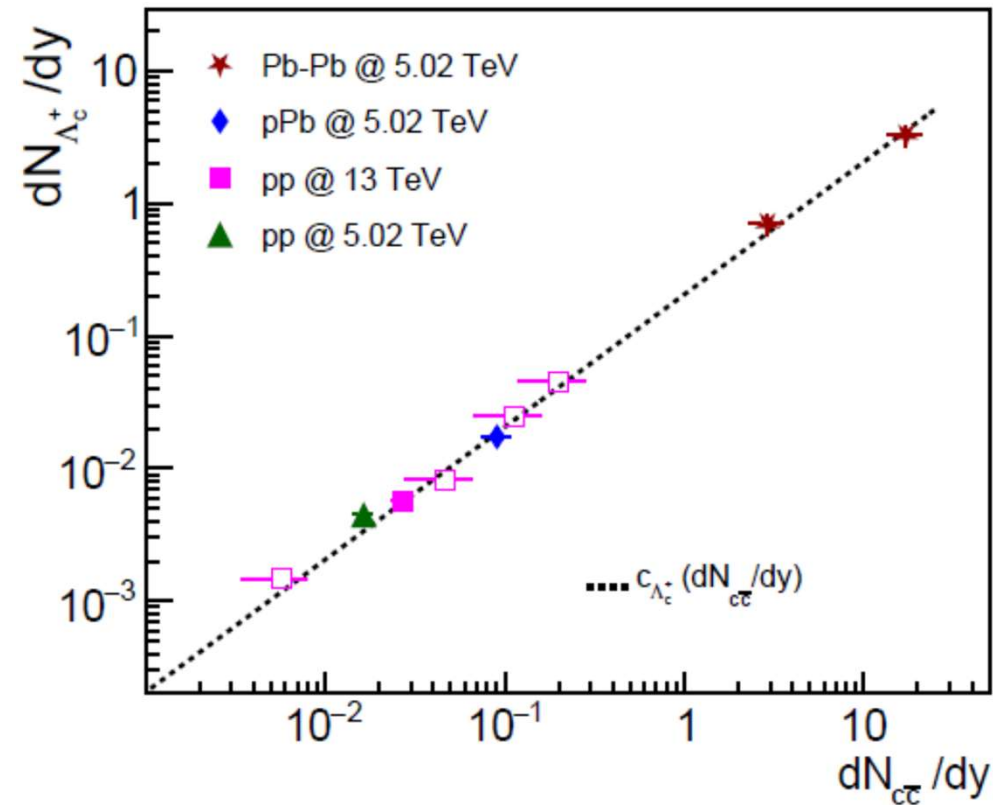
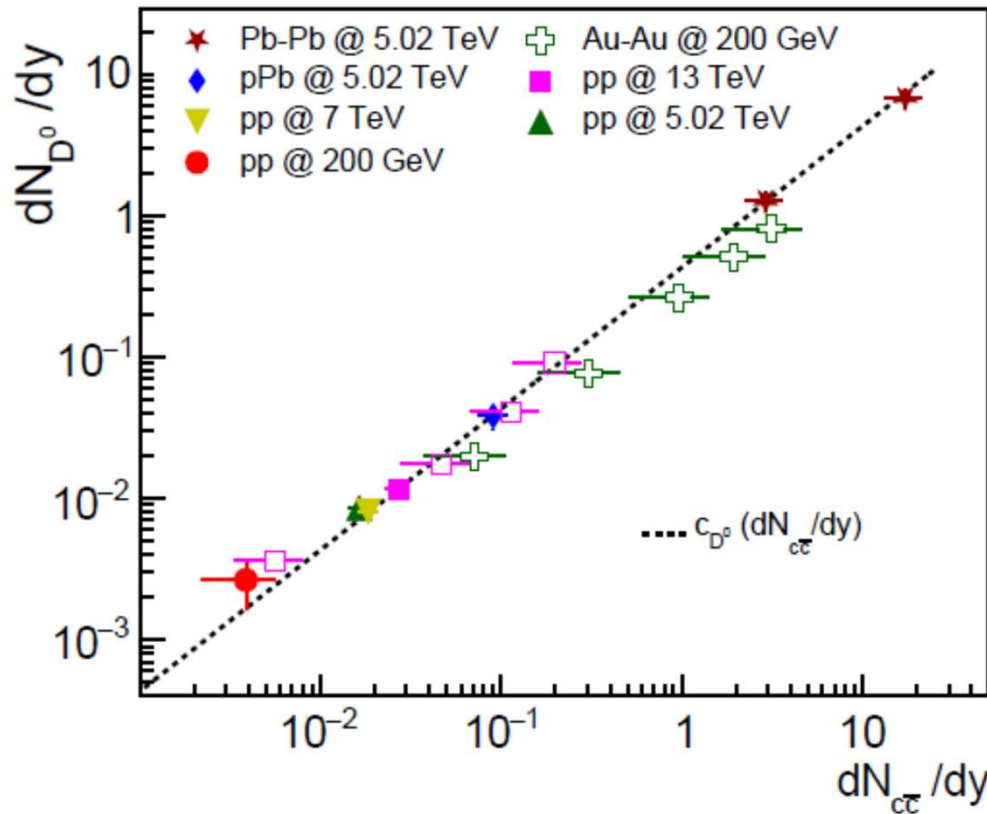
- In SHMc the rapidity density of open charm hadrons in high energy pp, pA and AA collisions should closely follow the proportional scaling with rapidity density of the number of $c\bar{c}$ pairs:

$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \simeq 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc} \rightarrow T = 156.5 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow \frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} = \begin{cases} 0.43 \times N_{cc} & \text{for } D^0 \\ 0.21 \times N_{cc} & \text{for } \Lambda_c^+ \end{cases}$$

- Data follow SHMc model expectations indicating that it provides a good description of charm fragmentation/hadronization in high energy collisions.

Charm quarks fragmentation/hadronization in the SHMc

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



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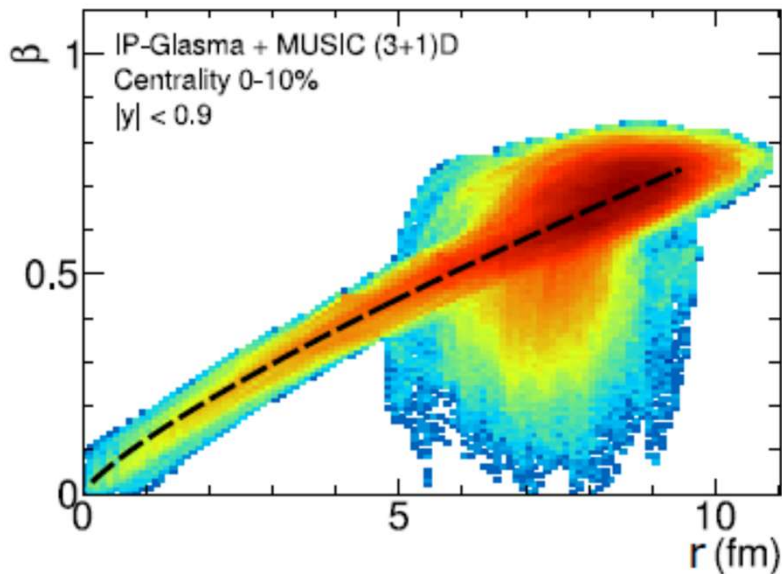
- Data follow SHMc model expectations indicating that it provides a good description of charm fragmentation/hadronization in high energy collisions.

Spectra of charm hadrons established at QCD phase boundary

- Charm quarks in QGP follow collective flow and are hadronized at $T_c=156.5$ MeV
- Use blast-wave parametrization of particle spectra with the input from 3+1 dim hydrodynamics

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, A. Mazeliauskas, K. Redlich J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, JHEP 07 (2021) 035

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, K. Redlich J. Stachel, PLB 797 (2019) 134836



Radial velocity profile on the freezeout surface of central Pb-Pb coll.

$$\frac{d^2N}{2\pi p_T dp_T dy} = \frac{2J+1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d\sigma_\mu p^\mu f(p)$$

For boost-inv. and azimuthally sym. freezeout surface

$$= \frac{2J+1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^{r_{\max}} dr \tau(r) r \left[K_1^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) - \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial r} K_2^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) \right]$$

the freezeout kernels: $K_1^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) = 4\pi m_T I_0 \left(\frac{p_T u^r}{T} \right) K_1 \left(\frac{m_T u^r}{T} \right)$
 $K_2^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) = 4\pi p_T I_1 \left(\frac{p_T u^r}{T} \right) K_0 \left(\frac{m_T u^r}{T} \right)$

with freezeout hypersurface

$$\tau(r) = r_{\max} + \frac{r \beta(r)}{n+1}$$

velocity

$$u^r = \beta(r) / \sqrt{1 - \beta^2(r)}$$

r_{\max} : fixed to reproduce extracted volume at freezeout

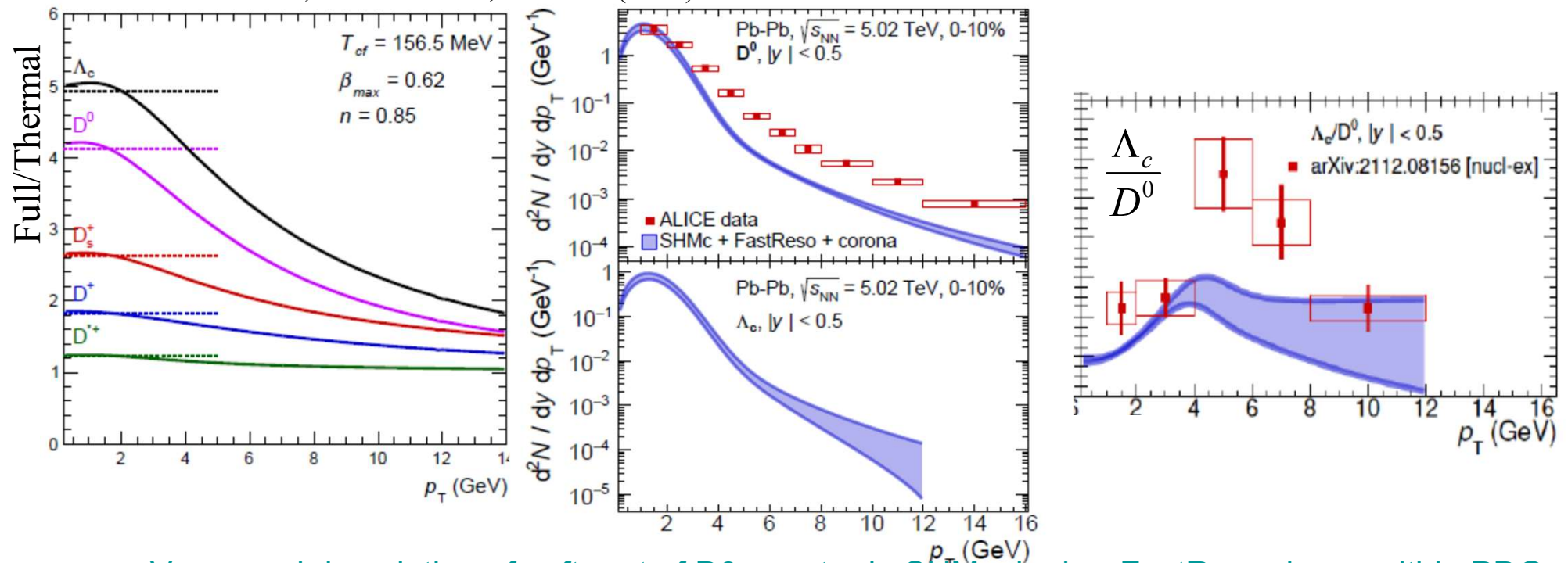
$$\beta(r) = \beta_{\max} (r / r_{\max})^n$$

Use hydro velocity profile at T_c from MUSIC (3+1) D to fit: $\beta_{\max} = 0.62$, $n = 0.85$ for central coll.

Spectra of open charm mesons and baryons

- The final spectra of open charm hadrons required proper determination of resonance contributions
- Including all known charm hadron resonances summarized in PDG the decay spectra for D^0 and Λ_c were computed with an efficient FastReso algorithm accounting of 76 2-body and 10 3-body decays based on A. Mazeliauskas, S. Floerchinger, E. Grossi, EPJ C79 (2019) 284

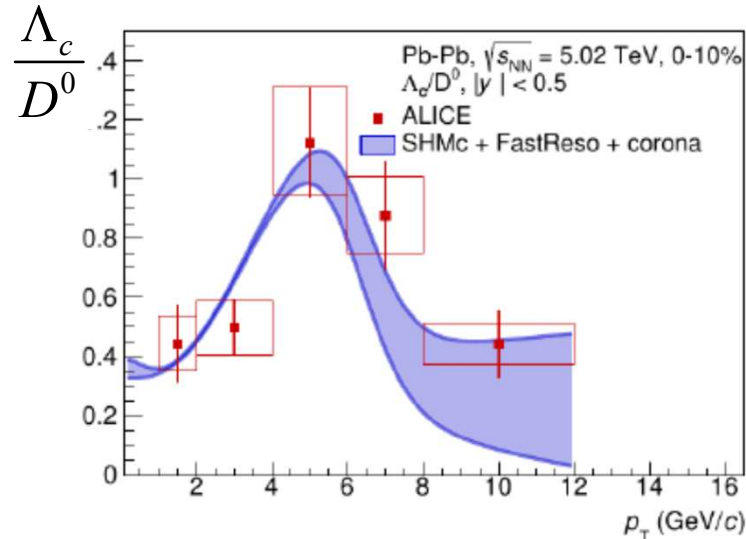
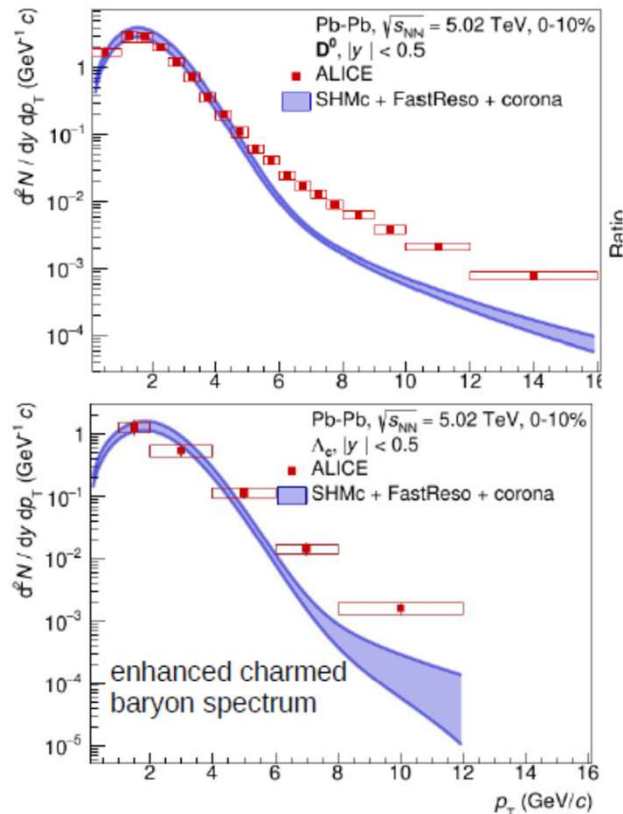
A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, A. Mazeliauskas,
K. Redlich J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, JHEP 07 (2021) 035



- Very good description of soft part of D^0 spectra in SHMc+hydro+FastReso decay within PDG
- Too low strength for Λ_c : However missing baryon resonances not yet included

Open charm spectra: with more complete description of freezeout conditions from 3D hydro

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Brunßen, J. Crkovska, J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, M. Völkl, arXiv: 2308.14821, HEP (2024)

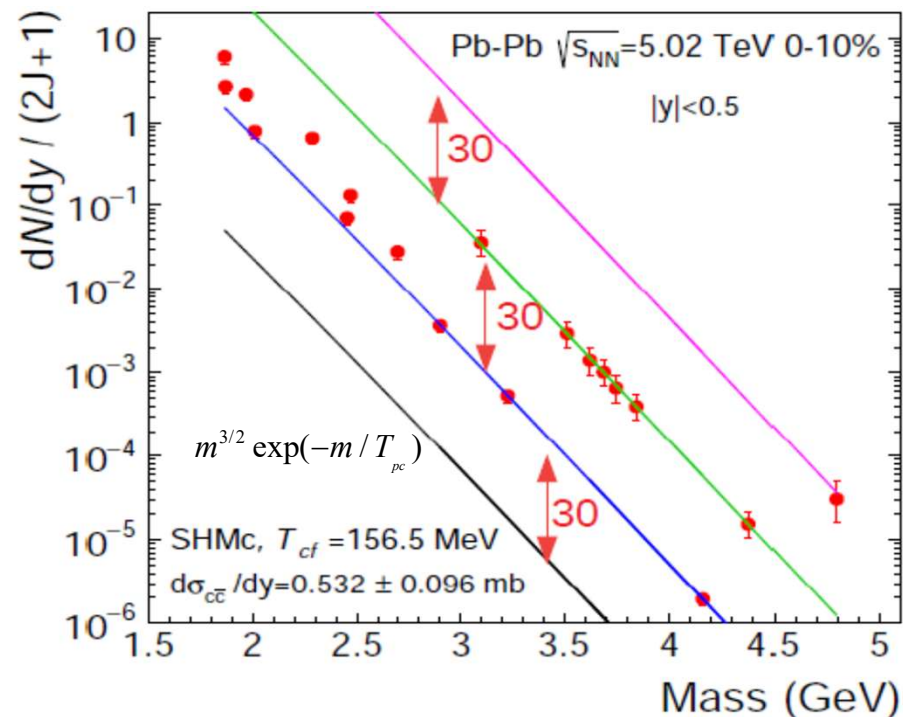
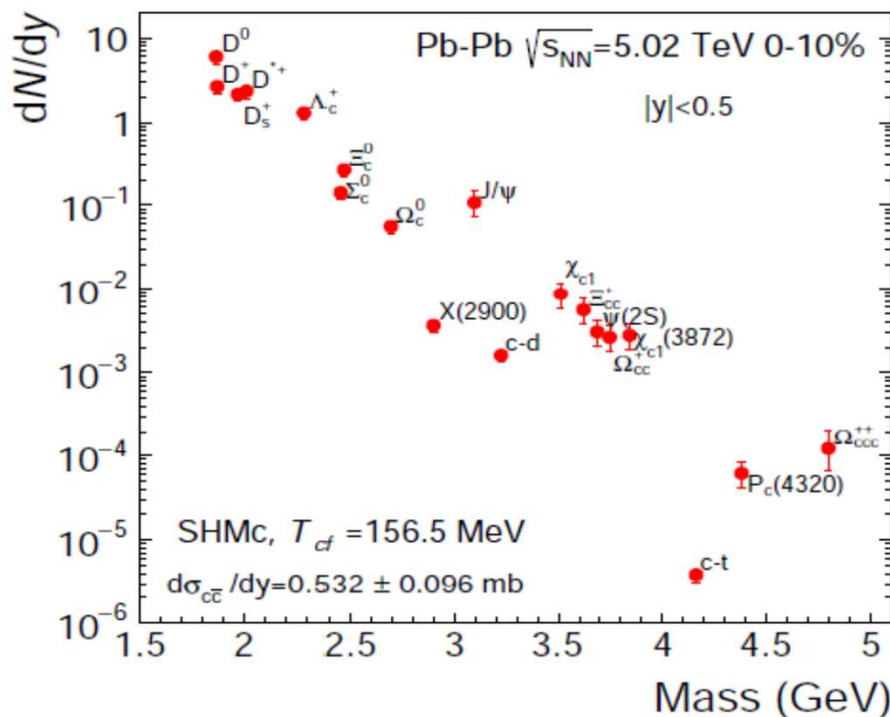


- Maximum in ratio appears due to transverse expansion and mass difference between particles

- With optimally matched blast wave parameters to MUSIC hydro and including contributions of missing baryonic resonances in charm sector a very good description of low and intermediate p_T spectra is reached.

SHMc predictions for different charm states

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, A. Mazeliauskas, K. Redlich J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, JHEP 07 (2021) 035



- Within SHMc model we can also make predictions for yet unmeasured charm and multi-charm hadron species and exotic states like e.g. X-state.
- There are also interesting systematics of particle yields and hierarchy, not only with a mass but also with the charm quark content of hadron due to the $g_c = 30$ fugacity factor.

CONCLUSIONS:

- S-matrix (Hadron Resonance Gas) thermodynamic potential provides good approximation of LQCD equation of states and 2nd order fluctuations and correlations
- The QCD thermodynamic potential is encoded in nuclear collisions
- LHC hadron yields data originating from thermal source at $T_c=156$ MeV and their yields are consistent with LQCD Eqs.
- Strong experimental evidence for charm thermalization in Pb-Pb and parameter free description of charmonium and open charm yields (SHMc) and spectra with the only input of total charm cross section
 - New scaling of open charm data with N_{ch} and N_{cc} in pp, pA and AA col. for all energies and centralities predicted by SHMc

Puzzling and interesting results requiring more data:

- Enhanced production of D_s/D_0 in AA relative to pp collisions
- $\Psi(2s)/\Psi(1s)$ in central AA at LHC larger than at SPS
- Missing charm-baryon resonances

Answer may come with much increased luminosity in ALICE Run 3 and 4

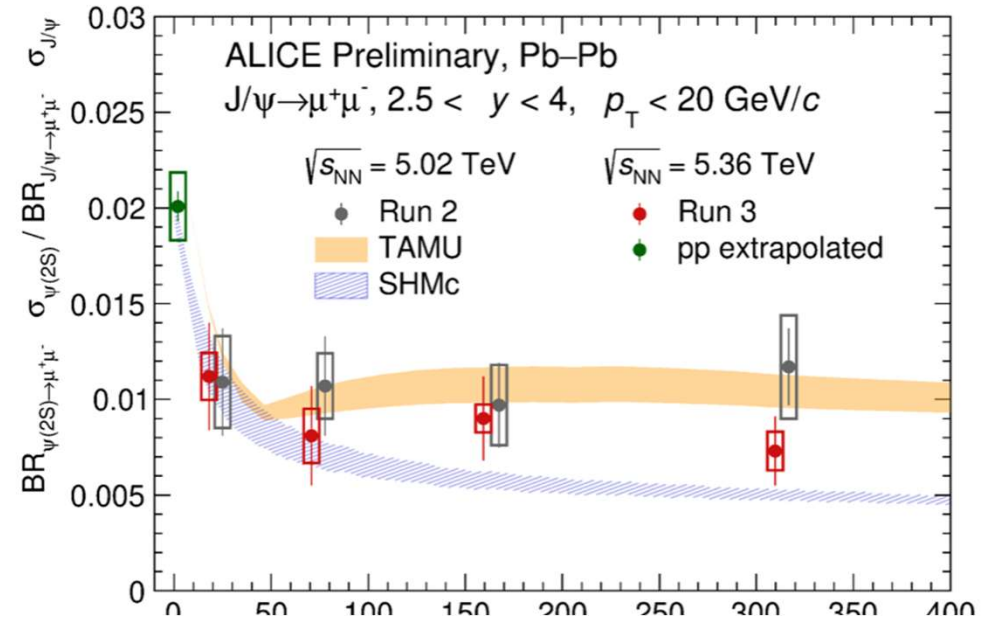
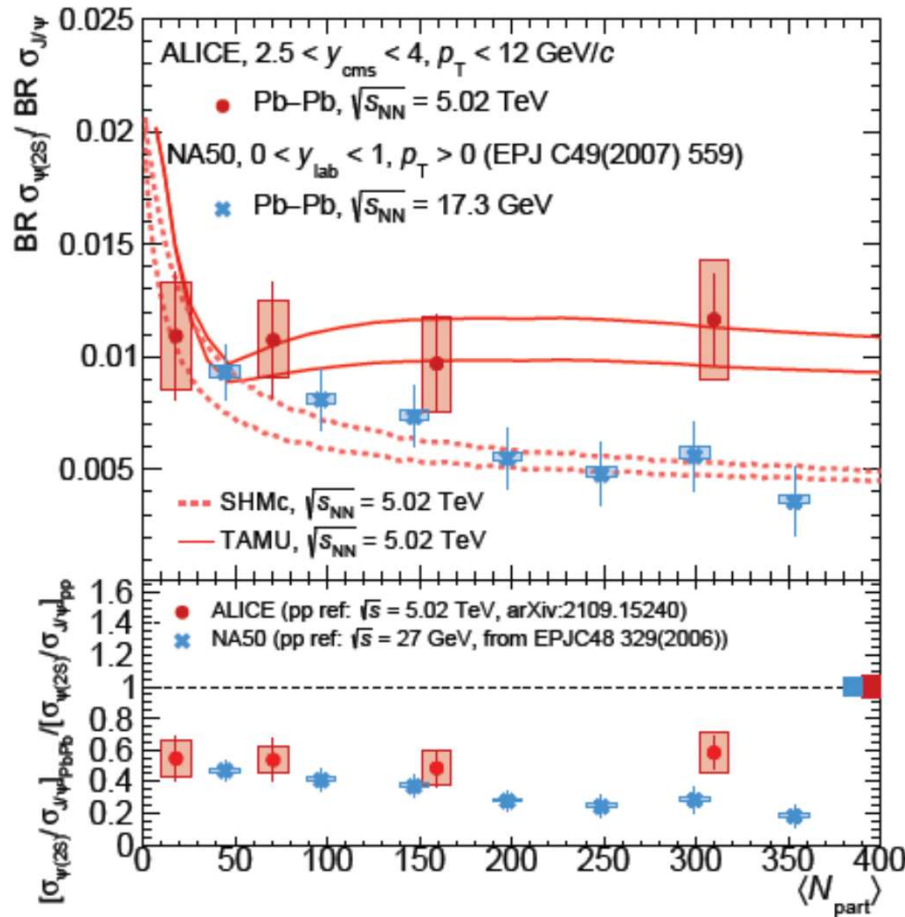
Unexpected result in the SHMc:

ALICE: *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 132 (2024) 4, 042301

- Within SHMc and in central collisions the ratio depends only on temperature,

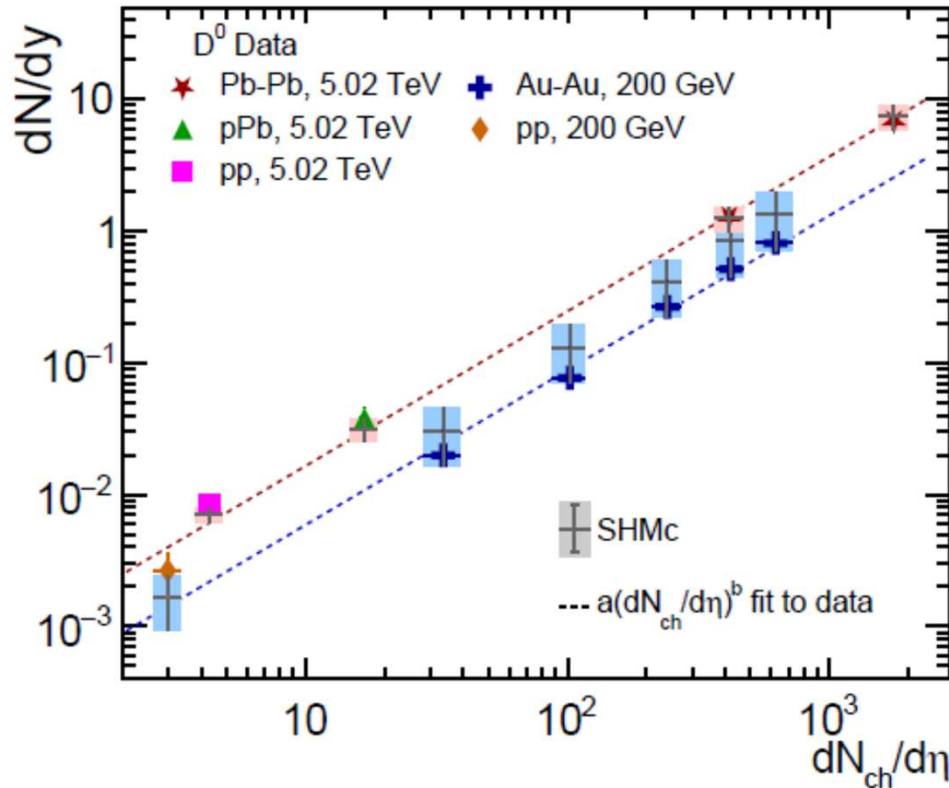
$$\frac{\psi(2s)}{J/\psi} = \frac{n_{\psi(2s)}(T)}{n_{J/\psi}(T)}$$

consequently since freezeout temperature at SPS is similar as in LHC, the ratio should coincide at these energies



Quantifying rapidity densities of open charm hadrons

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \approx 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc}$$

$$N_{cc} = \begin{cases} \sigma_{cc}^{pp} / \sigma_{inel}^{pp} & \text{in pp} \\ \sigma_{cc}^{pA} / \sigma_{inel}^{pA} & \text{in pA} \\ \alpha_A \sigma_{cc}^{pp} T_{AA} & \text{in AA} \end{cases}$$

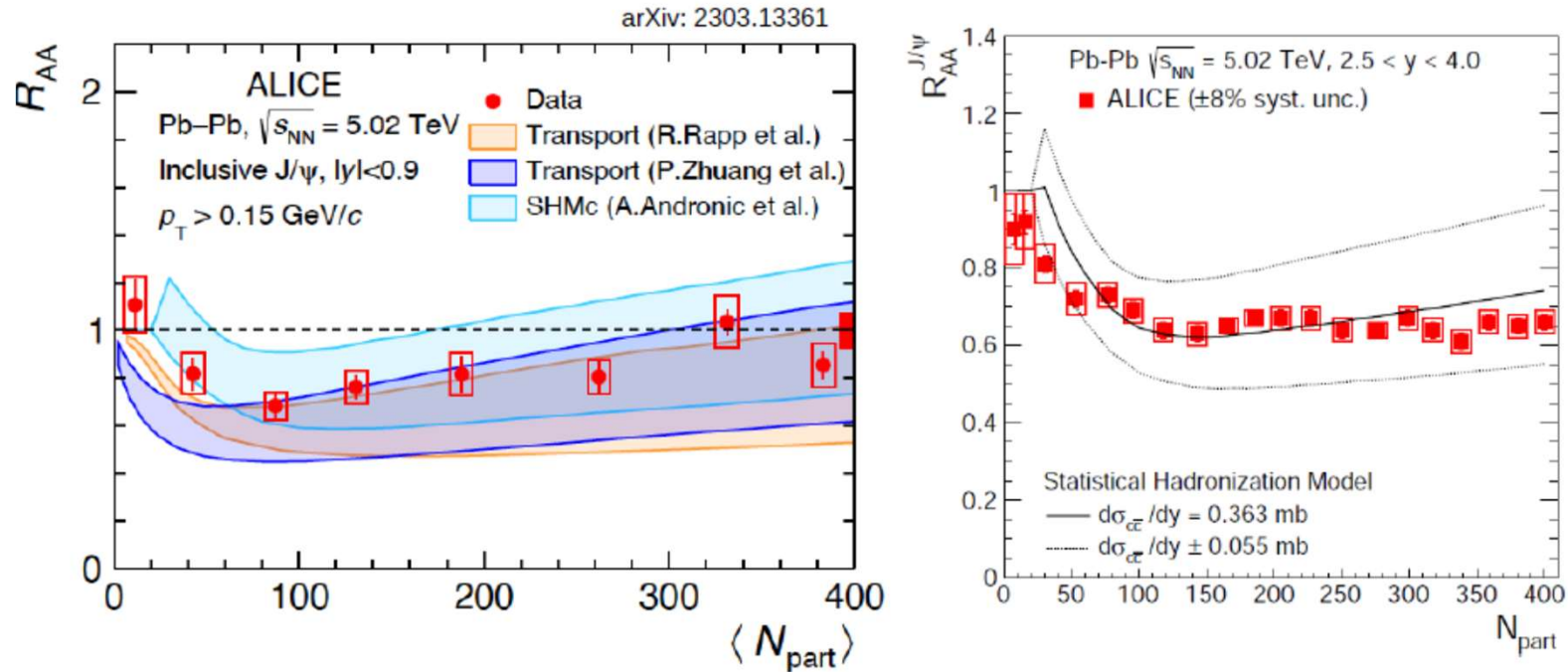
Cross sections from data: $T=156.5$ MeV

Thickness function from Glauber model.

Factor α_A accounts for nuclear modification effects such as shadowing, energy loss or saturation.

- Rapidity density at RHIC obtained from the fit to p_t with Tsallis function
- SHMc provides consistent description of data from pp, pA and AA
- Data at LHC exhibit power law scaling: $dN/dy = a(dN_{ch}/d\eta)^b$ with $b = 1.2 \pm 0.02$ and $a = (1.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$. At RHIC data consistent $b \approx 1.2$ and $a = 3.8 \times 10^{-4}$.

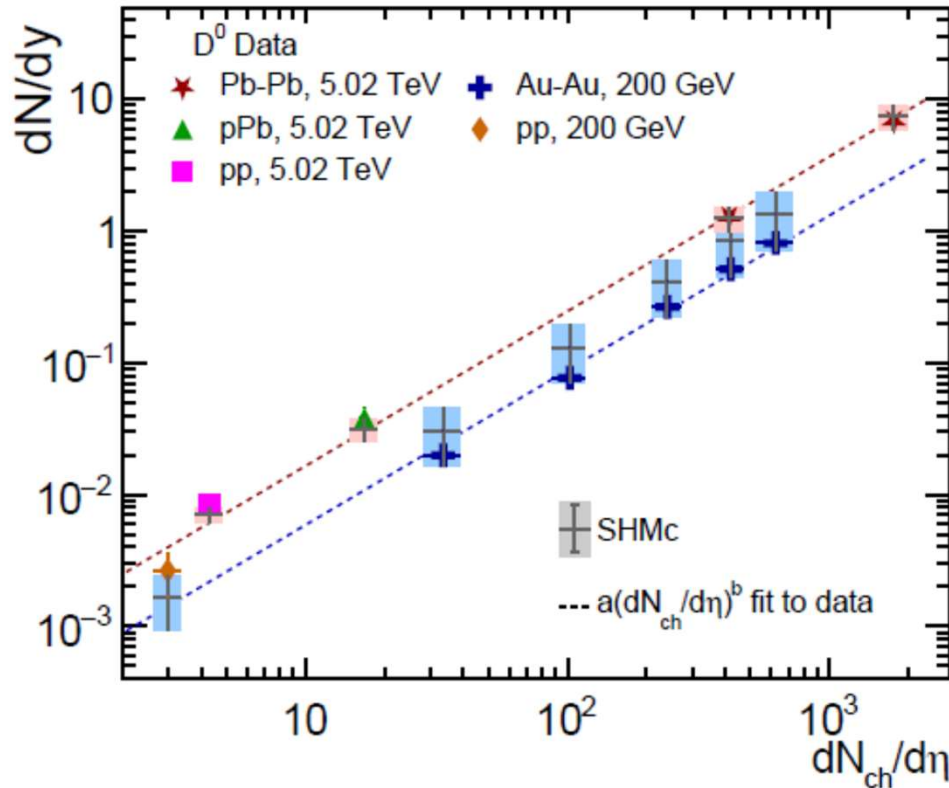
Model comparison with ALICE data: R_{AA}



- Production in Pb-Pb collisions consistent with deconfinement in QGP and subsequent hadronization at the phase boundary. The main uncertainty of the model prediction due to open charm cross-section.

Quantifying rapidity densities of open charm hadrons

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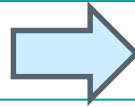
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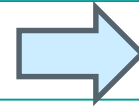
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Synergy between LQCD

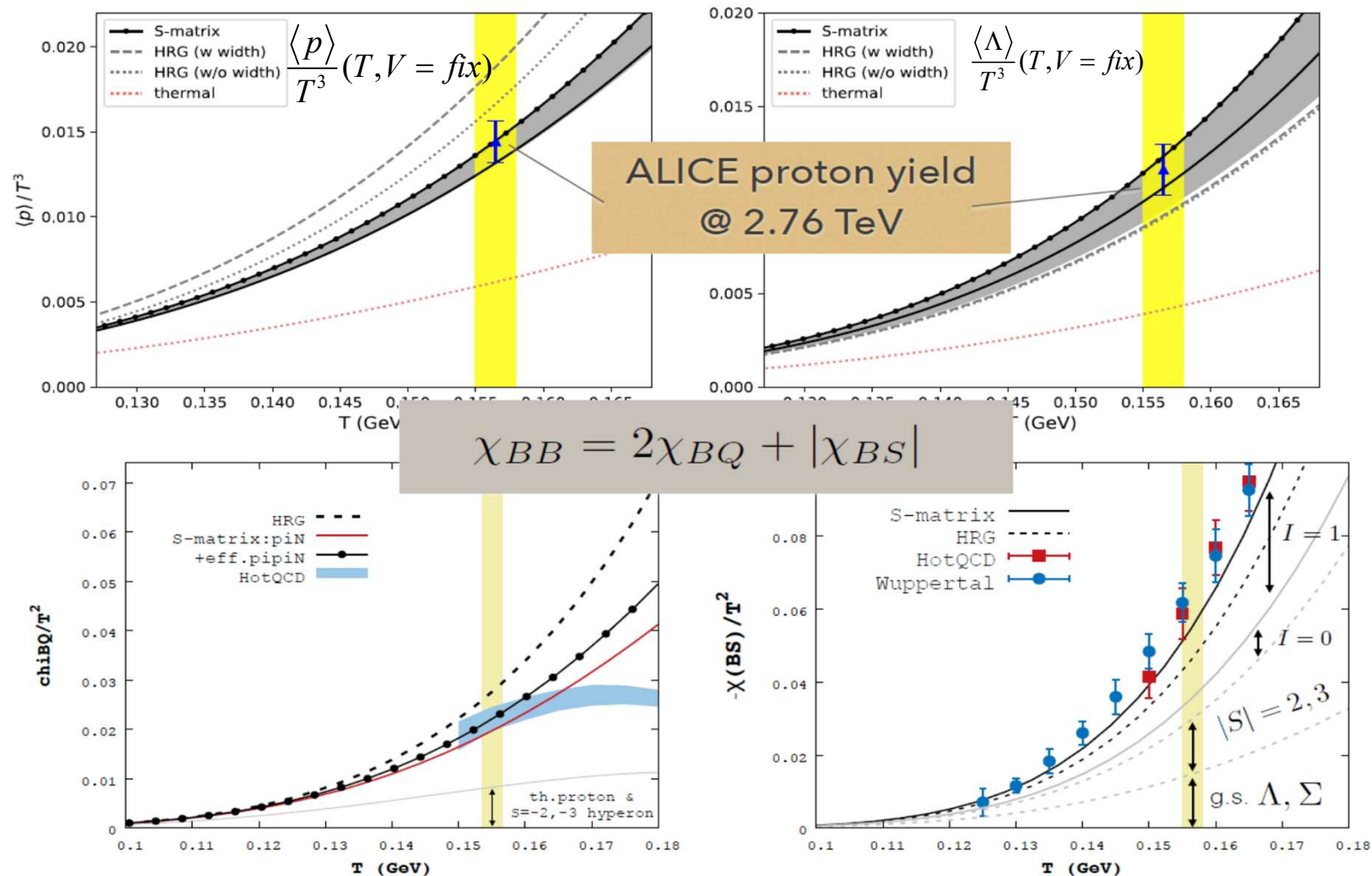


S-matrix HRG



ALICE data

J. Cleymans, Pok Man Lo, N. Sharma & K.R. Phys. Rev. C103 (2021)



S-matrix corrections in thermal model: needed to describe LQCD fluctuations at T_c and simultaneously proton and Lambda yields in central Pb-Pb collisions.