

The perturbative and non-perturbative interactions between heavy flavor quarks and Quasi-Particle Quark-Gluon Plasma.



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2025.10.27



- Background
- Heavy quark transport in the quasi-particle QGP
- The results of improved LBT-PNP model
- Summary

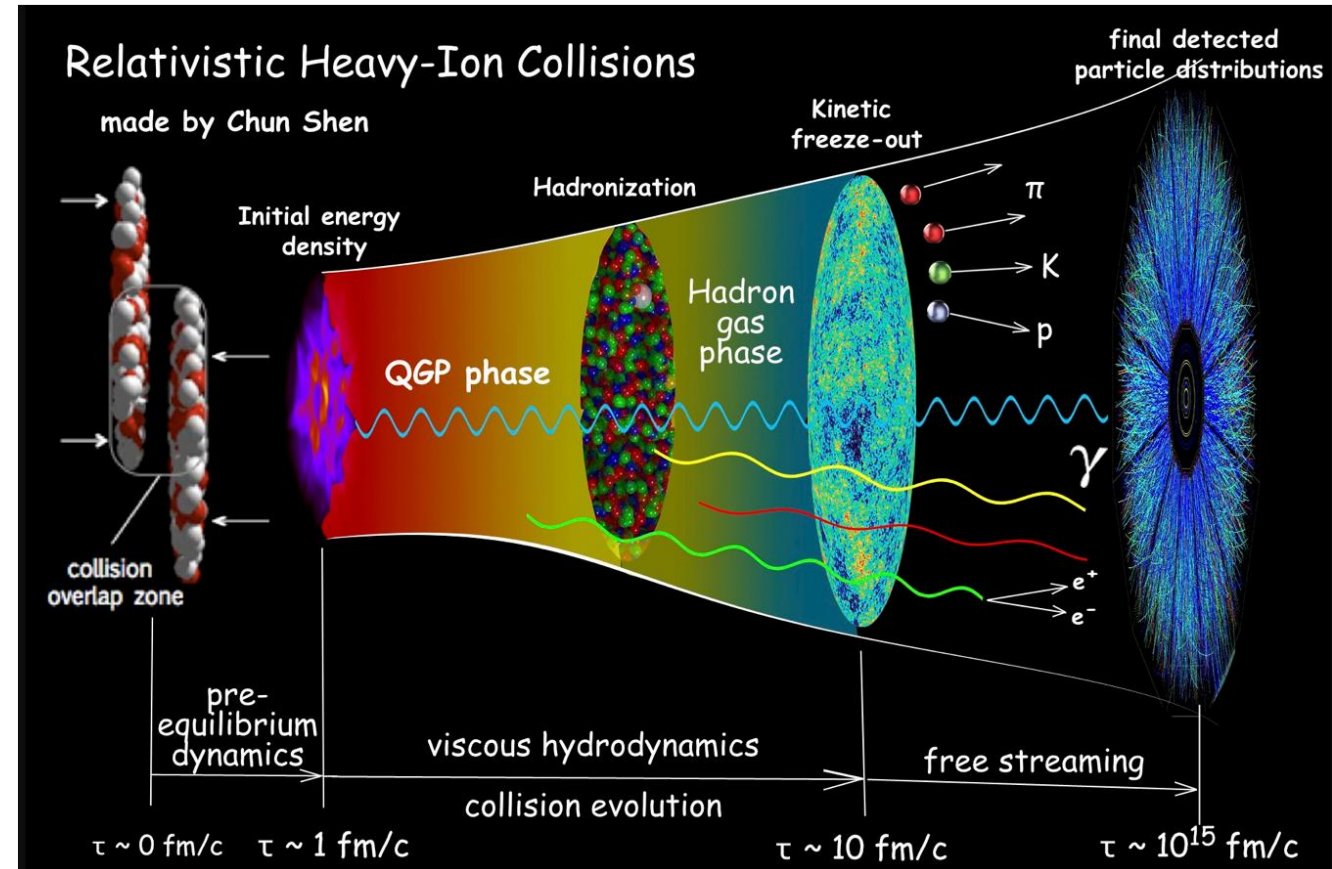
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The probe --- Heavy flavor



■ The hard probe: Heavy flavor

- Large mass: $m_Q > \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, m_Q > T_{\text{QGP}}$.
- It travels entire evolution of the QGP.
- Its production is calculable in pQCD.



The probe --- Heavy flavor

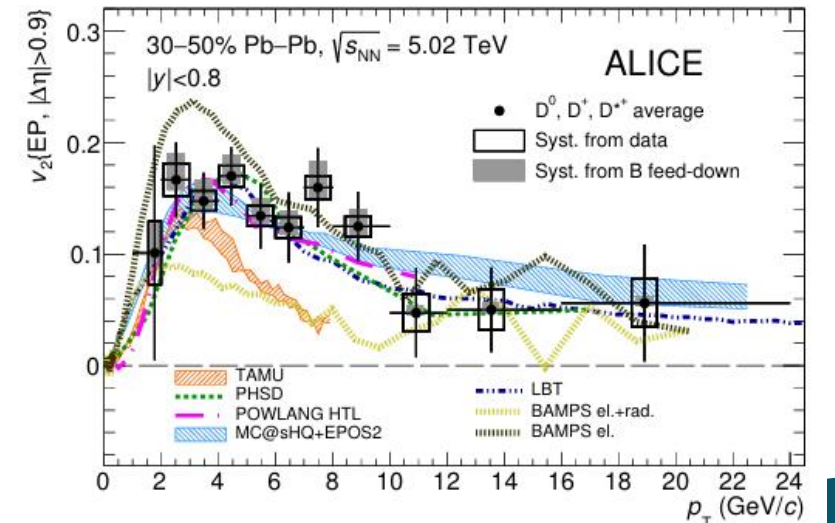
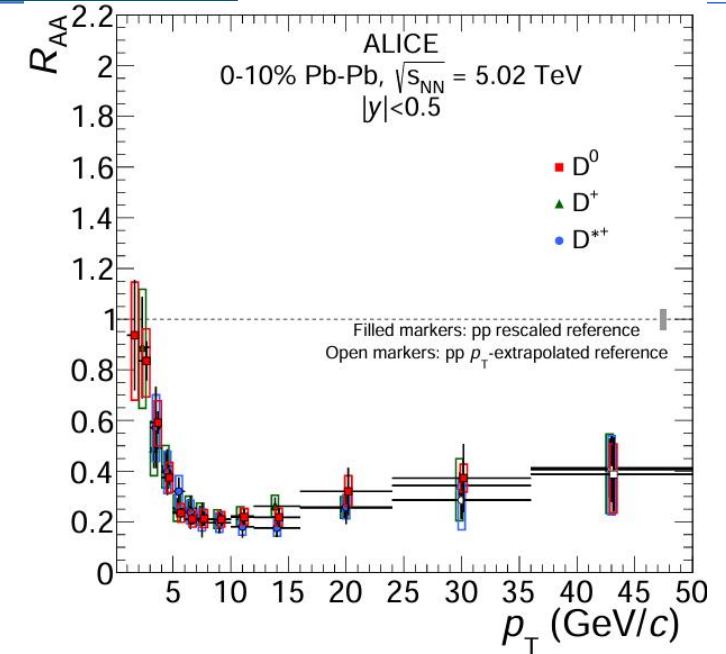


- The R_{AA} - quantify the strength of the energy loss effect:

$$R_{AA} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{coll}}} \frac{dN_{AA}/dyd^2p_T}{dN_{pp}/dyd^2p_T}.$$

- The v_2 - reveal momentum-space anisotropy:

$$v_2(p_T) = \langle \cos(2\phi) \rangle = \left\langle \frac{p_x^2 - p_y^2}{p_x^2 + p_y^2} \right\rangle.$$



The probe --- Heavy flavor



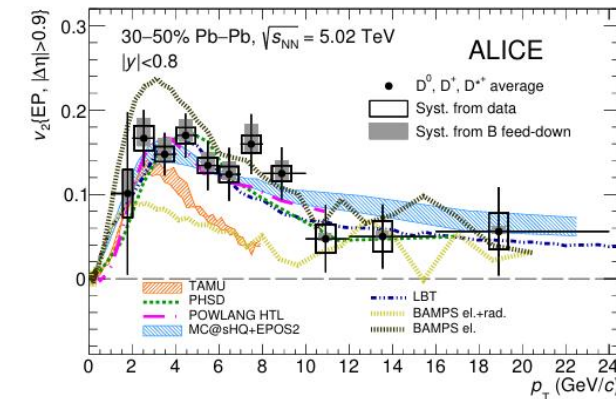
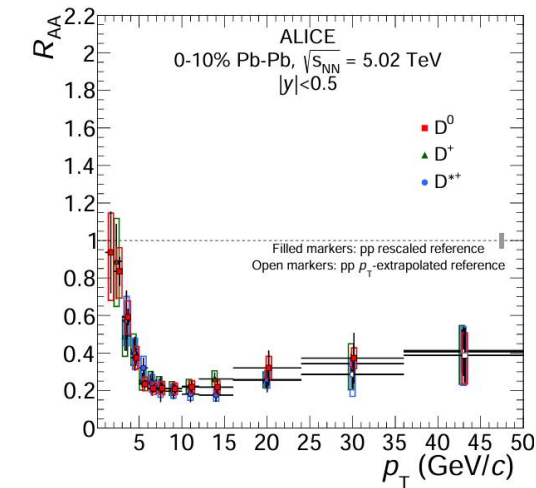
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- Can we better incorporate the **non-perturbative** nature of the QGP background?



- ☒ Background
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The Quasi-particle Model of the QGP



- The QGP is a strongly coupled system.
- Quasi-particle model of the QGP.

$$m_q = m_q(T)$$

$$m_g = m_g(T)$$

- Partition function:

$$\ln Z_g(T) = -\frac{16V}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty p^2 dp \ln \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{1}{T} \sqrt{p^2 + m_g^2(T)}\right) \right];$$
$$\ln Z_{q_i}(T) = \frac{12V}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty p^2 dp \ln \left[1 + \exp\left(-\frac{1}{T} \sqrt{p^2 + m_{q_i}^2(T)}\right) \right].$$

Chandra V, Ravishankar V. Phys. Rev. D 84, 074013.
Li F P, Lü H L, Pang L G, et al. [arXiv:2211.07994](https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.07994).

The Quasi-particle Model of the QGP



- Quasi-particle quark and gluon masses m_q and m_g :

$$m_g^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_D^2,$$

$$m_{u,d}^2 = \frac{2}{9} m_D^2,$$

$$m_s^2 - m_{0s}^2 = \frac{2}{9} m_D^2,$$

$$m_D = m_D(T)$$



$$m_q = m_q(T)$$

$$m_g = m_g(T)$$

The Quasi-particle Model of the QGP



- Quasi-particle quark and gluon masses: m_q and m_g

$$m_g^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_D^2,$$

$$m_{u,d}^2 = \frac{2}{9} m_D^2,$$

$$m_s^2 - m_{0s}^2 = \frac{2}{9} m_D^2,$$

Neglect m_{0s}^2

$$m_D = m_D(T)$$

$$m_q = m_q(T)$$

$$m_g = m_g(T)$$

Parameterize $m_D = a \frac{1}{T} + c + bT$.

The Quasi-particle Model of the QGP



- Quasi-particle quark and gluon masses m_q and m_g :

$$m_g^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_D^2,$$

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- Simplifications to the quasiparticle effective masses:

(1) Neglect the strange quark current mass.

(2) Employ a parameterization for the Debye screening mass $m_D = a \frac{1}{T} + bT + c$.

The Quasi-particle Model of the QGP



- Quasi-particle quark and gluon masses m_q and m_g :

$$m_g^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_D^2,$$

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- Simplifications to the quasiparticle effective masses:

(1) Neglect the strange quark current mass.

(2) Employ a parameterization for the Debye screening mass $m_D = a \frac{1}{T} + c + bT$.

- For a system in thermal equilibrium:

$$P(T) = T \cdot \frac{\partial \ln Z(T)}{\partial V};$$

$$\epsilon(T) = \frac{T^2}{V} \cdot \frac{\partial \ln Z(T)}{\partial T};$$

$$\begin{aligned} s(T) &= \frac{\epsilon + p}{T}; \\ \Delta(T) &= \frac{\epsilon - 3p}{T^4}; \end{aligned}$$

Biro T S, Levai P, Muller B. Phys. Rev. D 42, 3078

The Bayesian analysis



Physics Model results: y_i

Experiment data: y_{exp}

Bayes' theorem

$$P(\theta | \text{data}) \propto P(\theta)P(\text{data} | \theta)$$

Prior distribution: uniform .
 $[a, b, c]$

Likelihood function: Gaussian distribution function.

$$P(\text{data} | \theta) = \prod_i \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} e^{-\frac{(y_i - y_{\text{exp}})^2}{2\sigma_i^2}}$$

Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

Random walk in the parameter space.

The Bayesian analysis



Physics Model results: y_i
Quasi-particle Model of QGP;
 s/T^3 and Δ/T^4

Experiment data: y_{exp}

Lattice data	Parameters	Prior
Hot QCD	a	(0,1)
Hot QCD	b	(0,2)
Hot QCD	c	(-0.2,0.8)

Bayes' theorem

$$P(\theta | \text{data}) \propto P(\theta)P(\text{data} | \theta)$$

Prior distribution: uniform .

$$[a, b, c] \in [(0, 1), (0, 2), (-0.2, 0.8)].$$

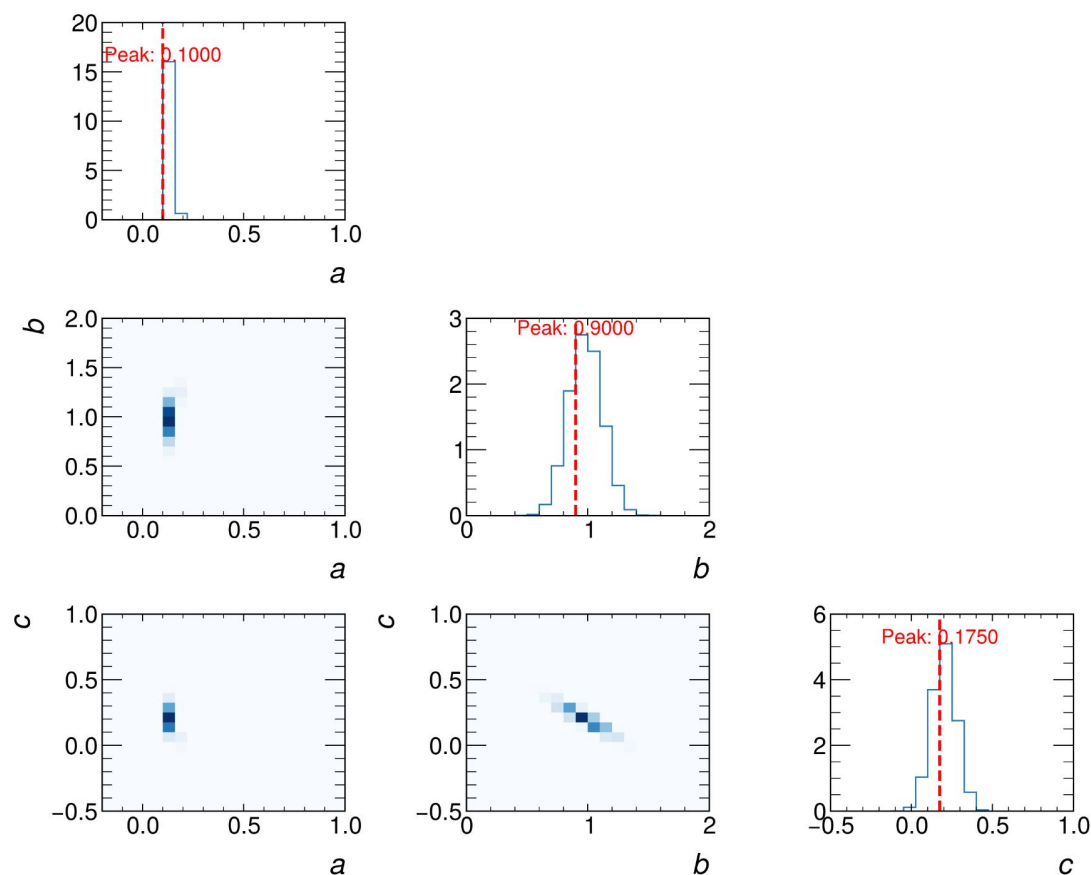
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Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

Random walk in the parameter space.

■ Bayesian analysis results.

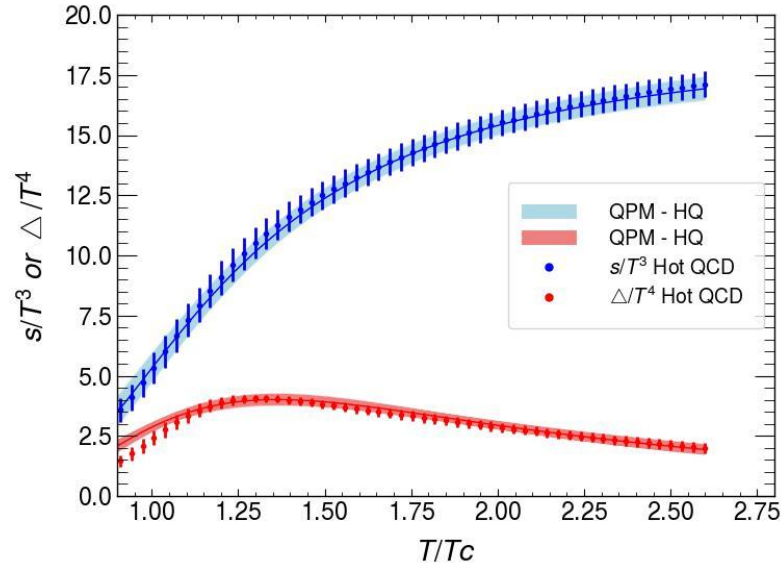


Lattice data	Parameters	Prior	Mean
Hot QCD	a	$(0,1)$	0.1410
Hot QCD	b	$(0,2)$	0.9853
Hot QCD	c	$(-0.2,0.8)$	0.1979

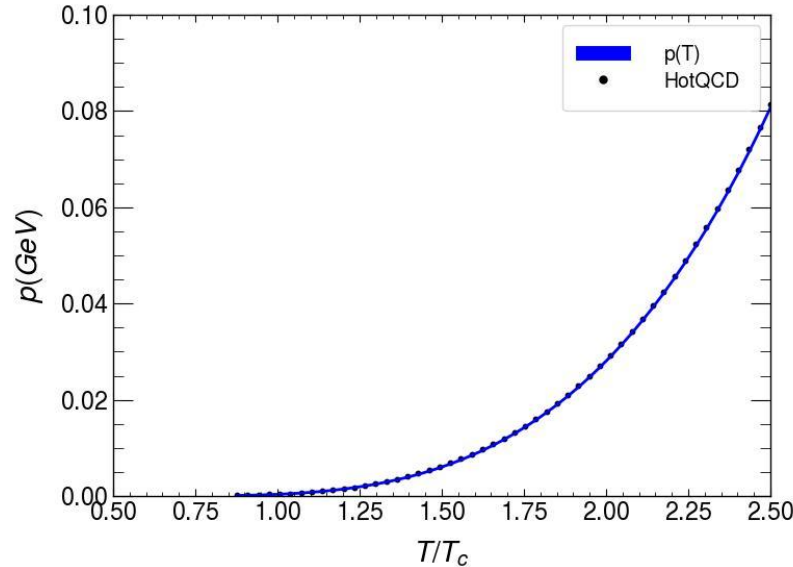
The Bayesian analysis results



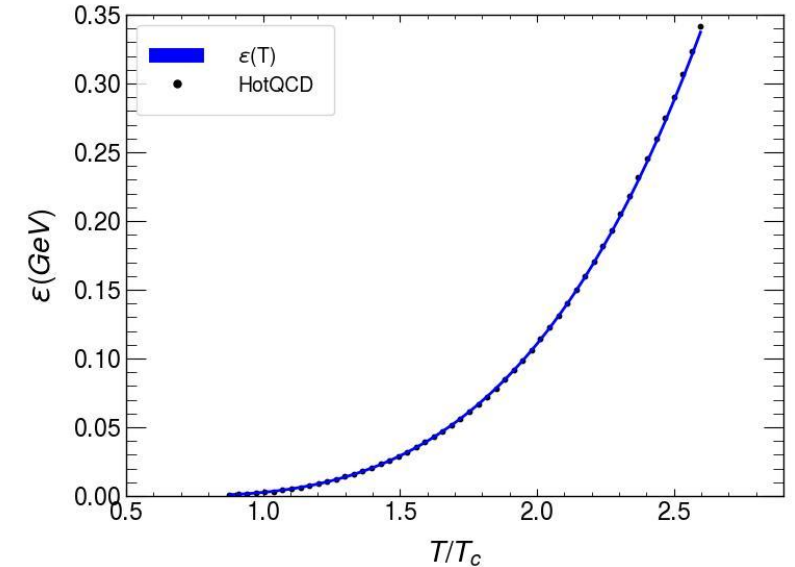
Entropy density & Trace anomaly



Pressure



Energy density

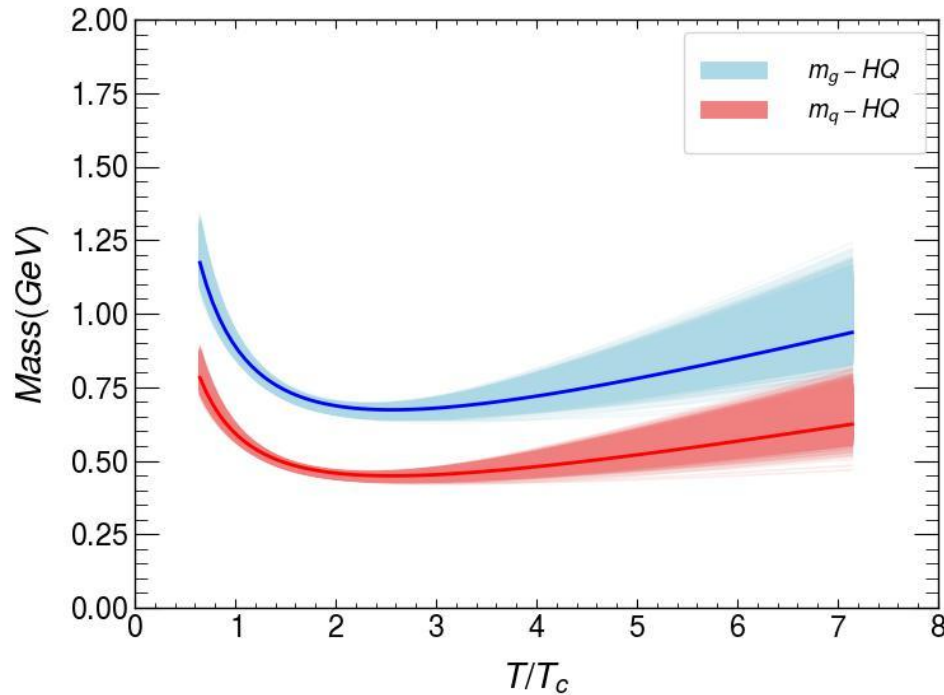


- The results obtained from the Bayesian analysis are consistent with the Hot QCD collaboration's data.

The Bayesian analysis results



Quasi-particle gluon & quark mass



$$m_D = 0.1410 \text{ GeV}^2 \frac{1}{T} + 0.1979 \text{ GeV} + 0.9853 T;$$

$$m_q = \sqrt{\frac{2}{9}} m_D;$$

$$m_g = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} m_D;$$

- $1 < T/T_c < 2$, quasi-particle's masses decrease with temperature increasing.
- $T/T_c > 2$, quasi-particle's masses increase with temperature increasing.

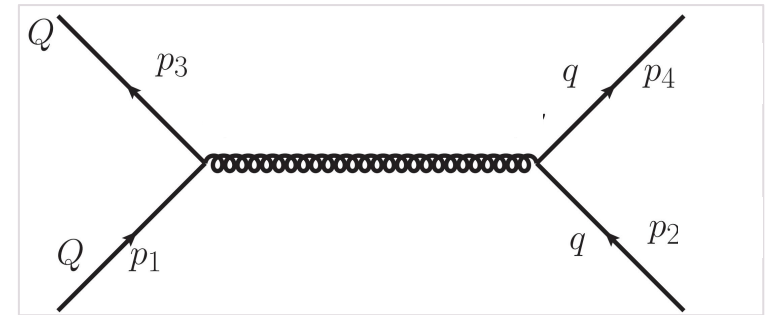
■ The Linear Boltzmann Transport Model, LBT Model.

■ Boltzmann Equation:

$$p_1 \cdot \partial f_1(x_1, p_1) = E_1 (C_{\text{inel}} + C_{\text{el}}).$$

■ For elastic process, the scattering rate:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{12 \rightarrow 34}(\vec{p}_1, T) = & \frac{\gamma_2}{2E_1} \int \frac{d^3 p_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_2} \frac{d^3 p_3}{(2\pi)^3 2E_3} \frac{d^3 p_4}{(2\pi)^3 2E_4} \\ & \times f_2(\vec{p}_2, T) \times [1 \pm f_3(\vec{p}_3, T)] [1 \pm f_4(\vec{p}_4, T)] \\ & \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(p_1 + p_2 - p_3 - p_4) \times S_2 \\ & \times |M_{12 \rightarrow 34}|^2. \end{aligned}$$



Cao S, Luo T, Qin G Y, et al , Phys. Rev. C 94, 014909

- Cornell potential as an effective gluon propagator:

$$V(r) = V_Y + V_S = -\frac{4}{3}\alpha_s \frac{e^{-m_D r}}{r} - \frac{\sigma e^{-m_s r}}{m_s}$$

Cornell potential in momentum-space:

$$V(\vec{q}) = V_Y + V_S = -\frac{4\pi C_F \alpha_s}{m_D^2 + |\vec{q}|^2} - \frac{8\pi\sigma}{(m_s^2 + |\vec{q}|^2)^2}$$

- Elastic scattering amplitude:

$$iM = iM_Y + iM_S$$

The Improved LBT-PNP Model



Quasi-particle QGP.

Background



LBT-PNP Model.



Transport

The Improved LBT-PNP Model.

The Improved LBT-PNP Model



A plasma of quasi quarks and gluons.

Background



LBT-PNP Model.



Transport

The Improved LBT-PNP Model.



Elastic scattering amplitude: iM .

Screening mass: $m_D = a \frac{1}{T} + c + bT$.

Factor: $S_2 = \theta[s \geq (M + m_{q/g})^2] \theta[-\frac{(s + M^2 - m_{q/g})^2}{s} + 4M^2 \leq t \leq 0]$

Re-calculation the scattering amplitude:



Heavy flavor with the **massless** gluon:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |M_{Qg}|^2 &= |M_Y|^2 + |M_S|^2 \\
 &= \frac{64\pi^2\alpha_s^2 (s - M^2)(M^2 - u) + 2M^2(s + M^2)}{9 (s - M^2)^2} \\
 &+ \frac{64\pi^2\alpha_s^2 (s - M^2)(M^2 - u) + 2M^2(u + M^2)}{9 (u - M^2)^2} \\
 &+ 8\pi^2\alpha_s^2 \frac{5M^4 + 3M^2t - 10M^2u + 4t^2 + 5tu + 5u^2}{(t - m_D^2)^2} \\
 &+ 8\pi^2\alpha_s^2 \frac{(M^2 - s)(M^2 - u)}{(t - m_D^2)^2} \\
 &+ 16\pi^2\alpha_s^2 \frac{3M^4 - 3M^2s - M^2u + s^2}{(s - M^2)(t - m_D^2)} \\
 &+ \frac{16\pi^2\alpha_s^2}{9} \frac{M^2(4M^2 - t)}{(s - M^2)(M^2 - u)} \\
 &+ 16\pi^2\alpha_s^2 \frac{3M^2 - M^2s - 3Mu + u^2}{(t - m_D^2)(u - M^2)} \\
 &+ \frac{C_A (8\pi\sigma)^2}{C_F N_c^2 - 1} \frac{t^2 - 4M^2t}{(t - m_s^2)^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Heavy flavor with the **massive** quasi-particle gluon:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |M_{Qg}|^2 &= |M_Y|^2 + |M_S|^2 \\
 &= \frac{64\pi^2\alpha_s^2 (s - (M^2 + m_g^2))((M^2 + m_g^2) - u) + 2M^2(s + M^2)}{9 (s - M^2)^2} \\
 &- \frac{64\pi^2\alpha_s^2 [-m_g^2(s + u) + 2m_g^4 + 6M^2m_g^2]}{9 (s - M^2)^2} \\
 &+ \frac{64\pi^2\alpha_s^2 (s - (M^2 + m_g^2))((M^2 + m_g^2) - u) + 2M^2(u + M^2)}{9 (u - M^2)^2} \\
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 &+ 8\pi^2\alpha_s^2 \frac{4M^2m_g^2 + 2m_g^2t}{(t - m_D^2)^2} \\
 &+ 8\pi^2\alpha_s^2 \frac{(M^2 - s)(M^2 - u)}{(t - m_D^2)^2} + m_g^4 \\
 &+ 16\pi^2\alpha_s^2 \frac{3M^4 - 3M^2s - M^2u + s^2 + 5m_g^4 + 2m_g^2(5M^2 - 2s - u)}{(s - M^2)(t - m_D^2)} \\
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 &+ \frac{C_A (8\pi\sigma)^2}{C_F N_c^2 - 1} \frac{t^2 - 4M^2t - 4m_g^2t + 16M^2m_g^2}{(t - m_s^2)^4}.
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Re-calculation the scattering amplitude:



Heavy flavor with the **massless** quark:

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The Improved LBT-PNP Model.

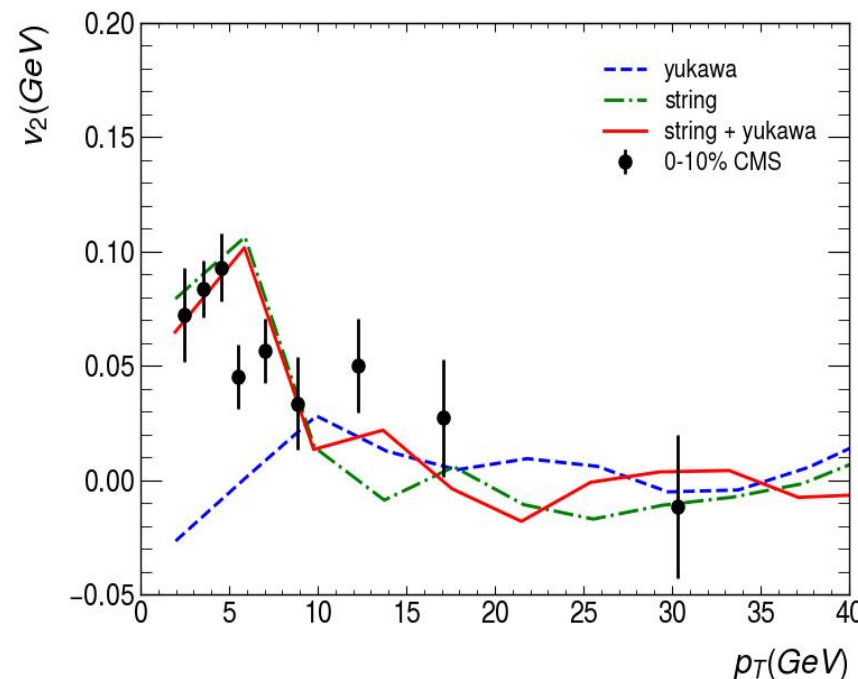
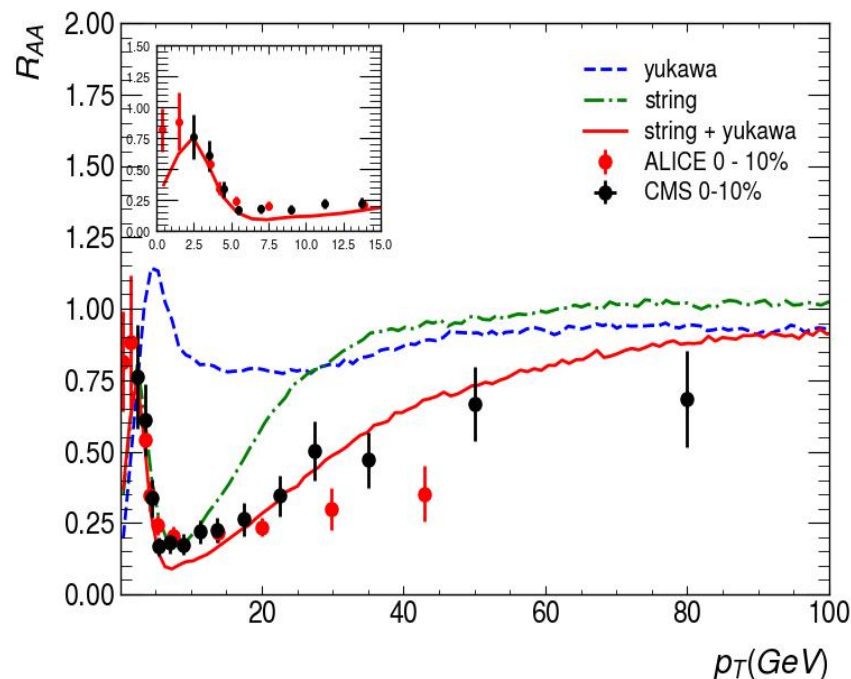
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Result I: PbPb 0 - 10%



Phys. Rev. Lett., 2018, 120(20).
JHEP, 2018, 10: 174.

☑ D_0 R_{AA} and v_2 .

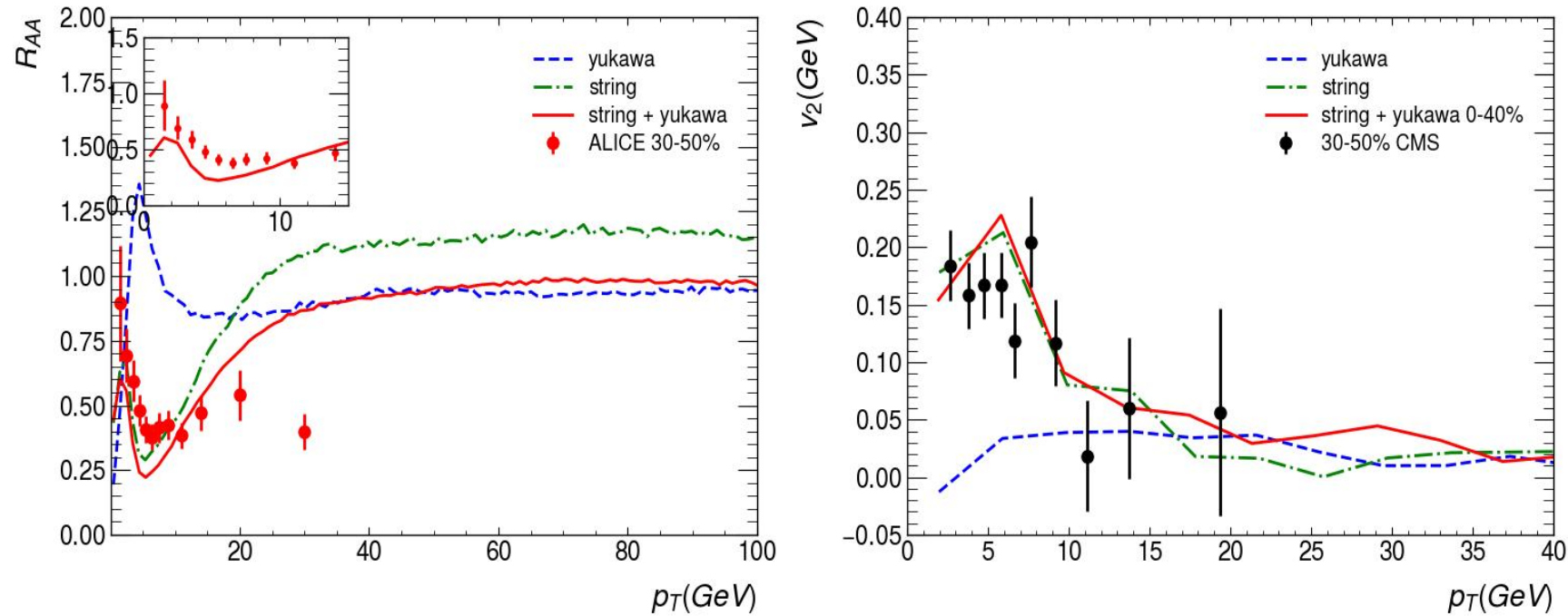


➤ The non-perturbative term dominates in the low transverse momentum region, while the perturbative Yukawa term dominates in the high transverse momentum region.

Result I: PbPb 30 - 50%



☑ R_{AA} and v_2 .



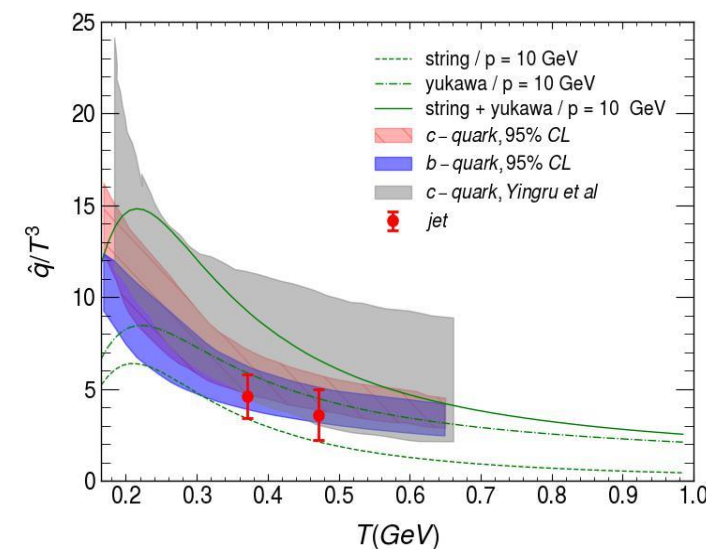
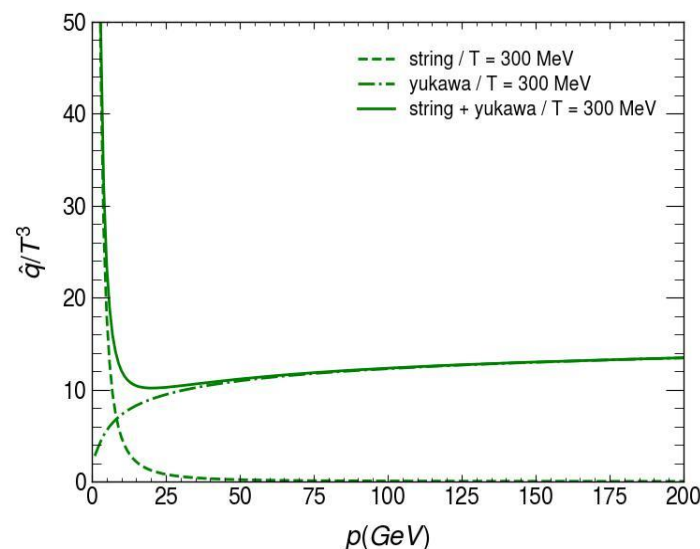
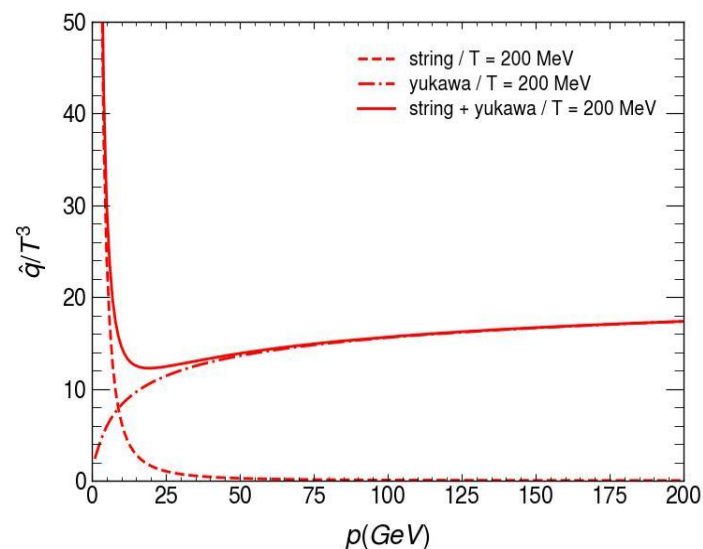
- The improved LBT-PNP model can describe the experimental data better, especially low transverse momentum region.

Result II: Jet quenching coefficient



$$\hat{q} = \langle (\vec{p}_3 - \hat{p}_1 \cdot \vec{p}_3)^2 \rangle ;$$

Shu H T. DOI: arXiv:2401.08040.
Ke W, Xu Y, Bass S A. Phys. Rev. C 98, 064901.



- At a fixed momentum, the $\hat{q}/T^3$ is slightly higher than the result from the JET Collaboration, and its trend is consistent with the Bayesian statistical analysis.

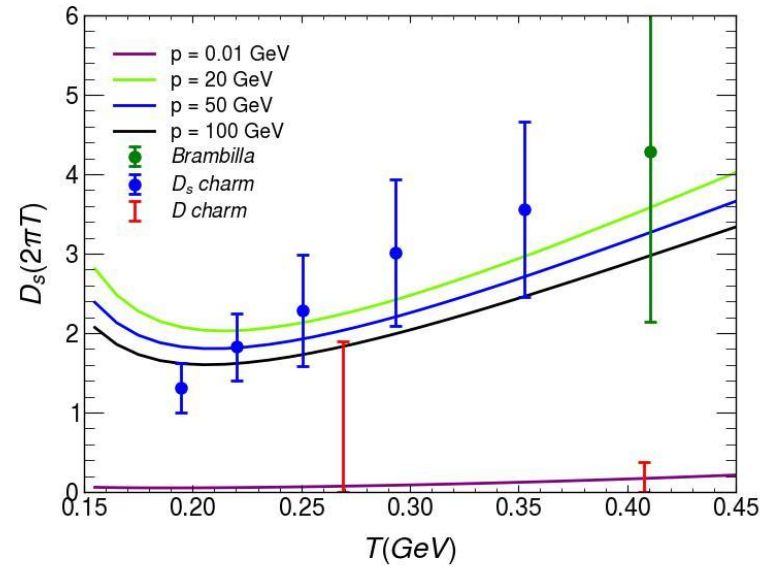
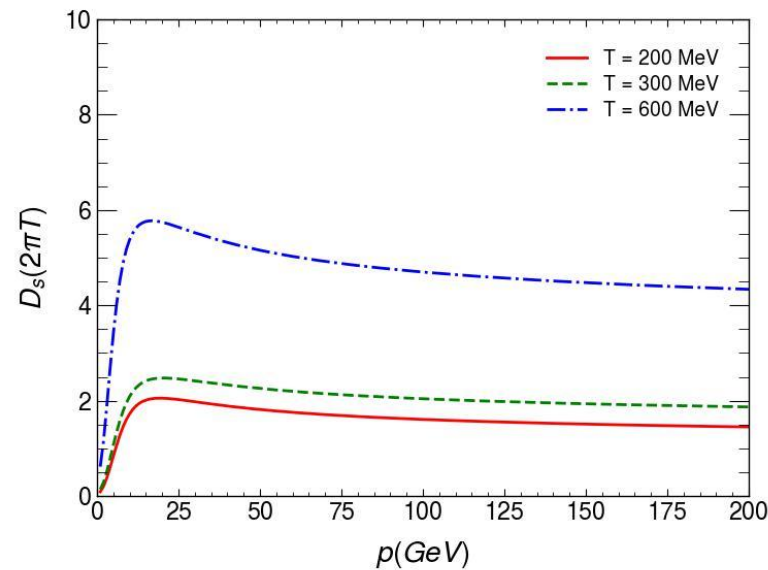
Result II: Diffusion coefficient



$$D_s(2\pi T) = 8\pi/(\hat{q}/T^3)$$

Shu H T. DOI: arXiv:2401.08040.

Ke W, Xu Y, Bass S A. Phys. Rev. C 98, 064901.



- At **fixed temperature**, the $D_s(2\pi T)$ initially increases, then slightly decreases, and finally saturates with momentum increasing.
- At **fixed momentum**, the $D_s(2\pi T)$ first decreases and then increases linearly with temperature rising.

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□ Summary

- ☑ The quasi-particle model is added to the LBT framework, improving the treatment of non-perturbative effects in heavy quark scattering.
- ☑ The improved LBT-PNP model describes the R_{AA} and v_2 of heavy-flavor mesons in Pb-Pb collisions simultaneously, especially at low-to-medium transverse momentum.
- ☑ The transport coefficients $\hat{q}$ and $D_s(2\pi T)$ consistent with results from the JET Collaboration and lattice QCD.

□ Outlook

- Other observables: higher-order flow, baryon-to-meson ratios, and azimuthal correlations.



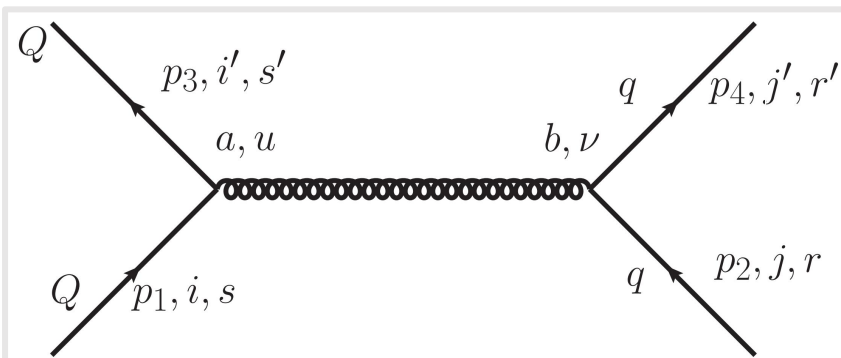
Thanks for your attention !



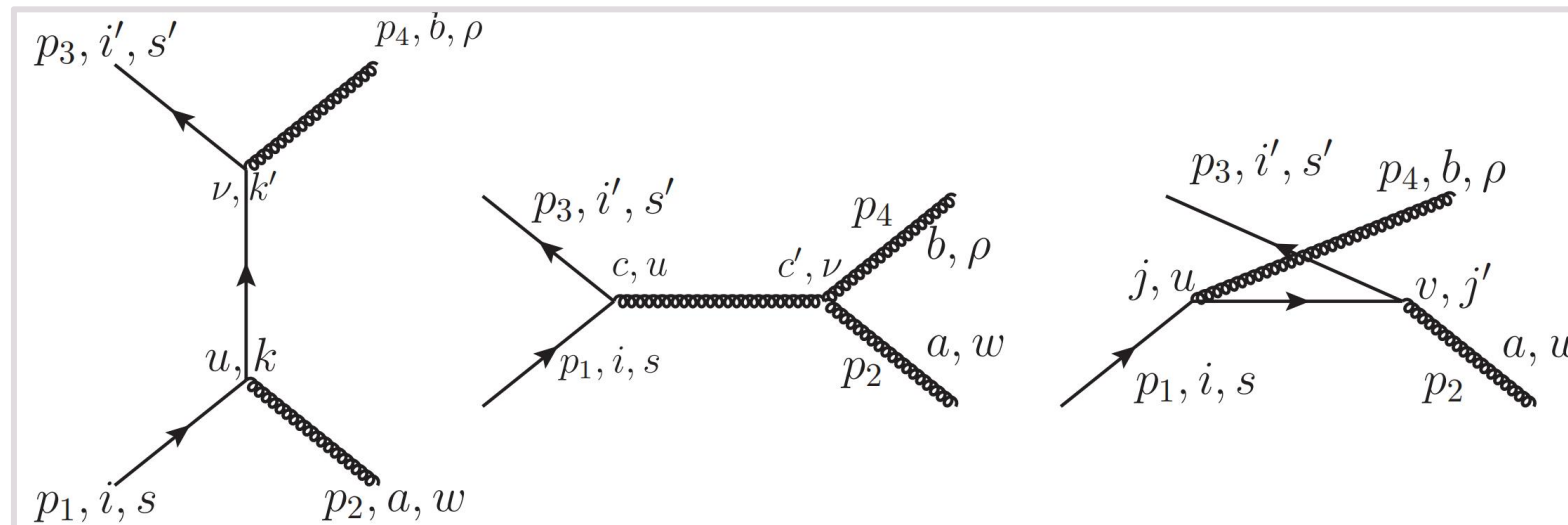
back up

■ Leading order:

$Qq \rightarrow Qq$



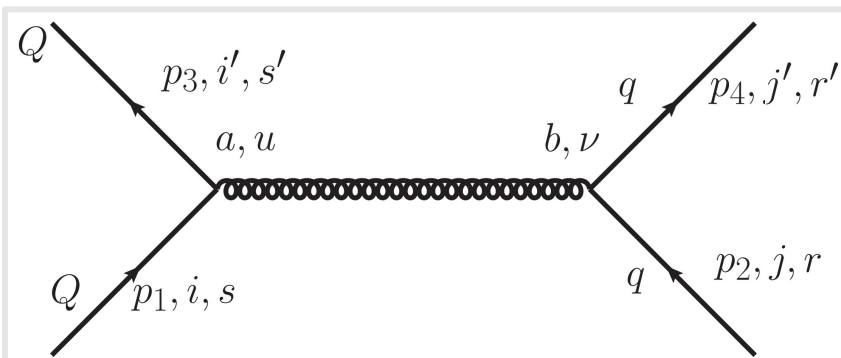
$Qg \rightarrow Qg$



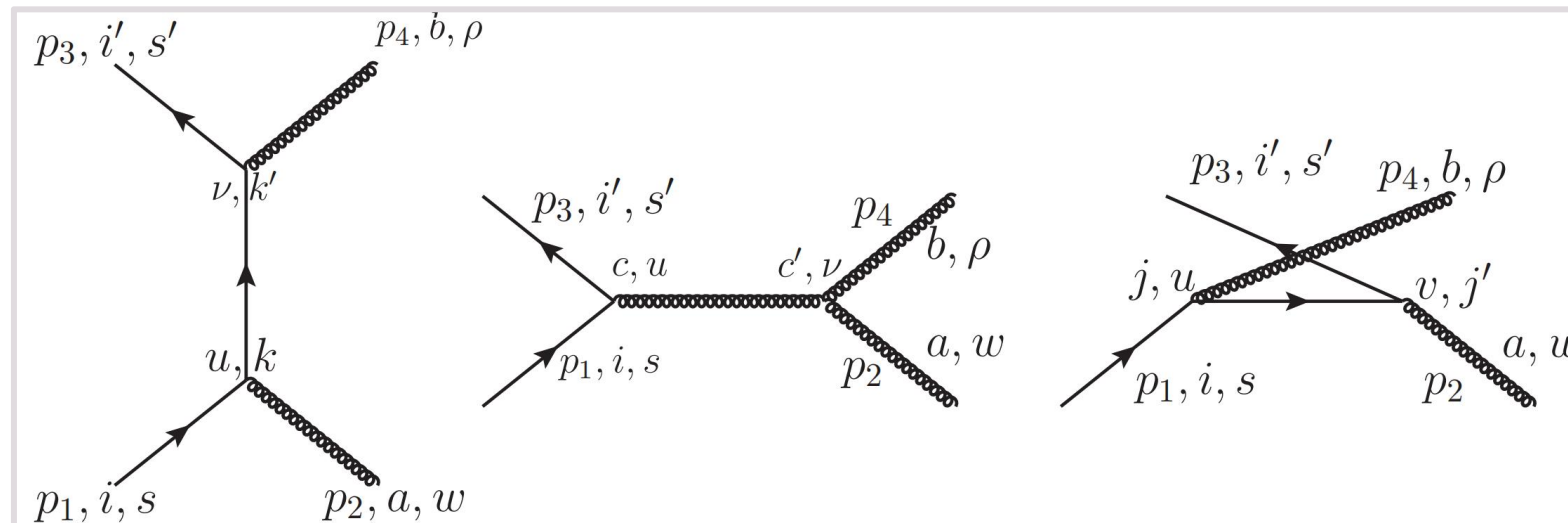
$$\begin{aligned}
 iM &= M_Y + M_S \\
 &= \bar{u}^{s'}(p_3) \gamma^\mu u^s(p_1) V_Y \bar{u}^{r'}(p_4) \gamma^\nu u^r(p_2) \\
 &\quad + \bar{u}^{s'}(p_3) u^s(p_1) V_S \bar{u}^{r'}(p_4) u^r(p_2).
 \end{aligned}$$

■ Leading order:

Qq → Qq



Qg → Qg



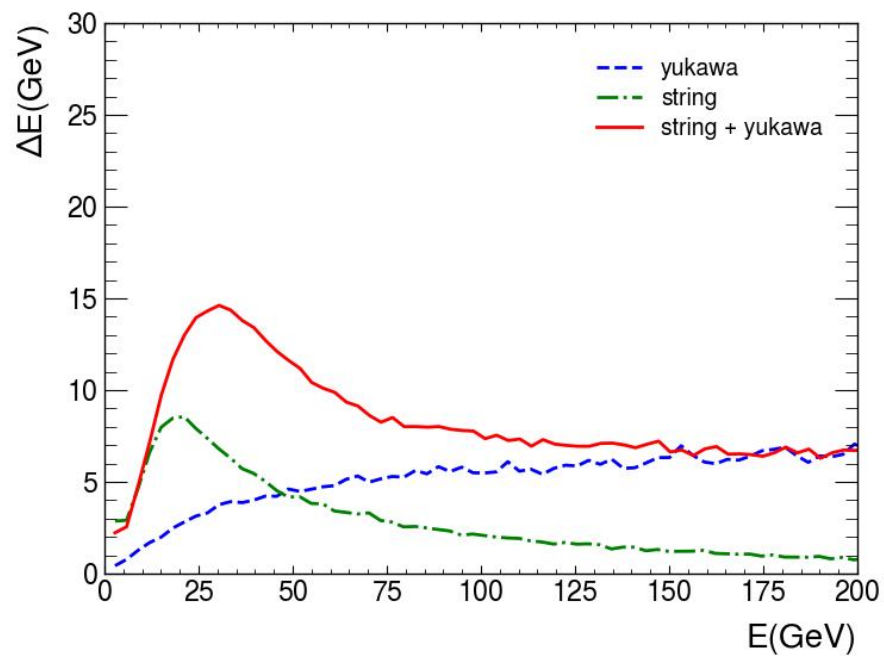
■ time step Δt , the possibility of the elastic scattering:

$$\Delta N_{\text{el}} = \Gamma_{12 \rightarrow 34} \cdot \Delta t$$

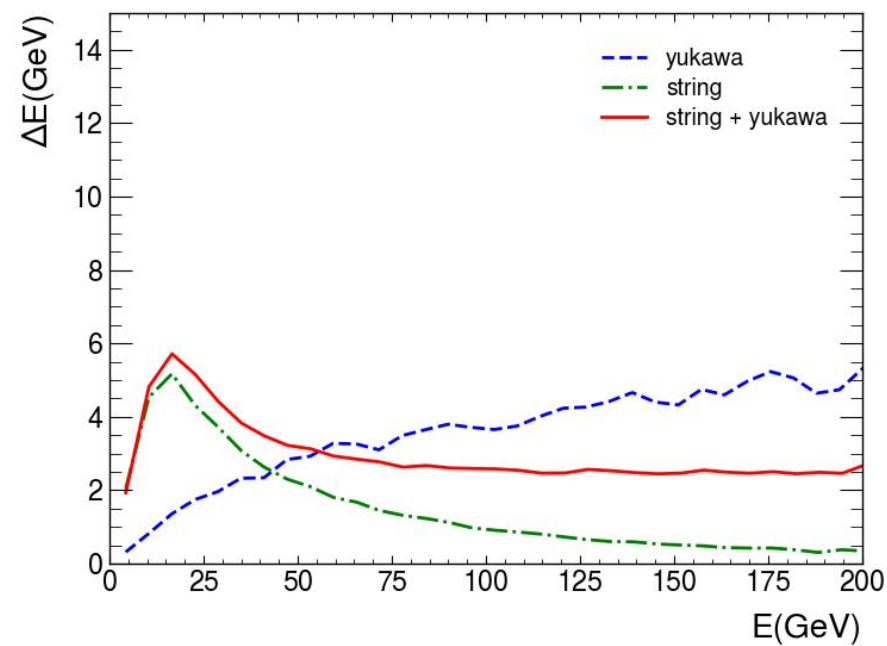
$$P_{\text{el}} = \frac{\Delta N_{\text{el}}^n}{n!} e^{-\Gamma_{12 \rightarrow 34} \cdot \Delta t}.$$



PbPb, 0-10%, parton level:

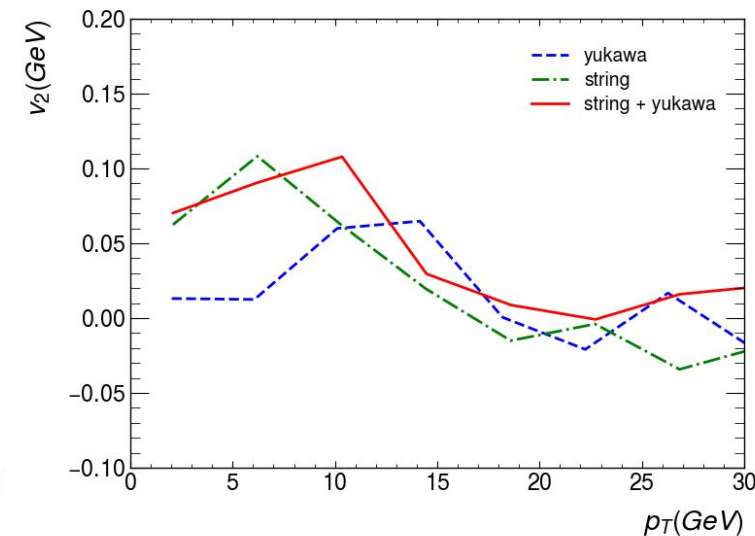
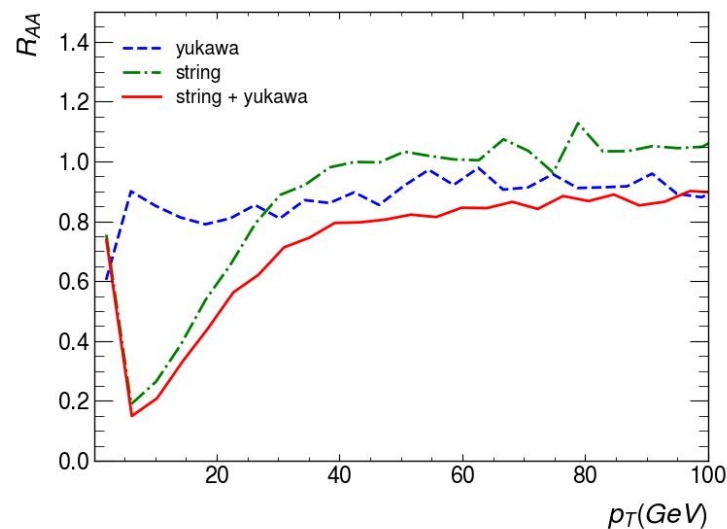
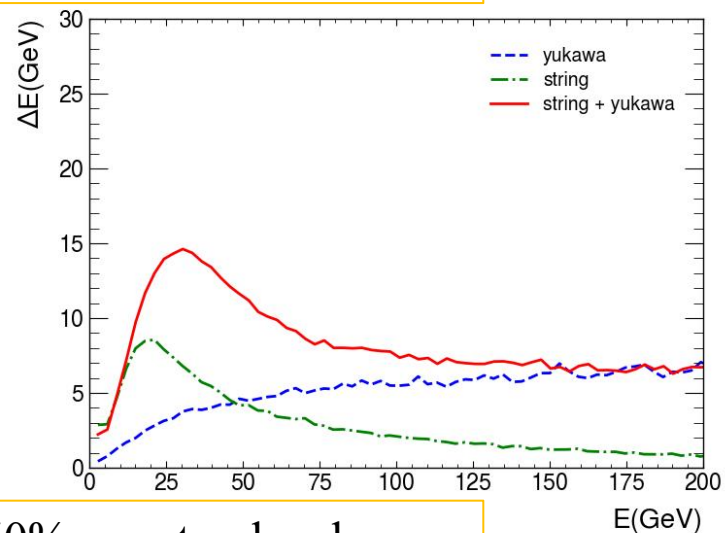


PbPb, 30-50%, parton level:

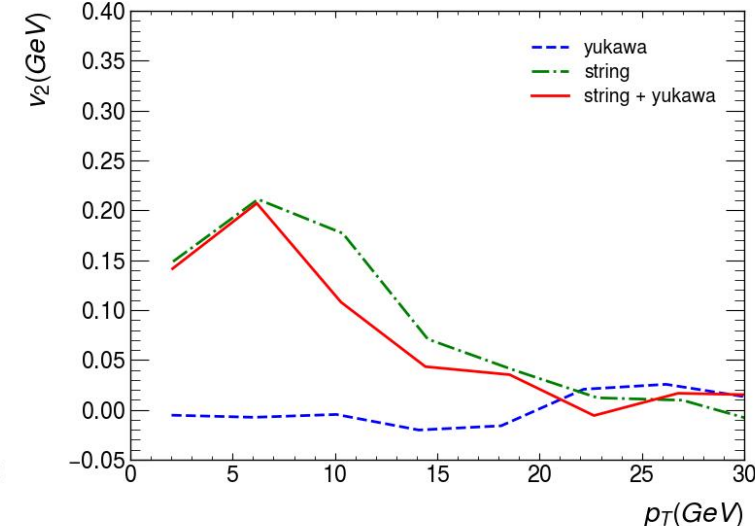
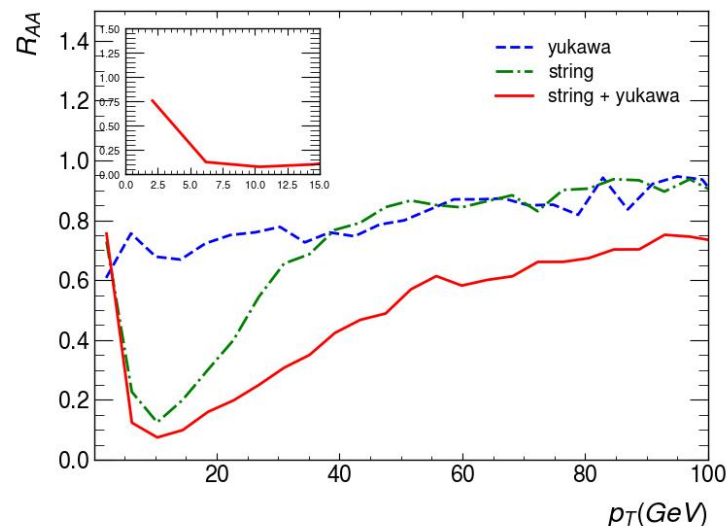
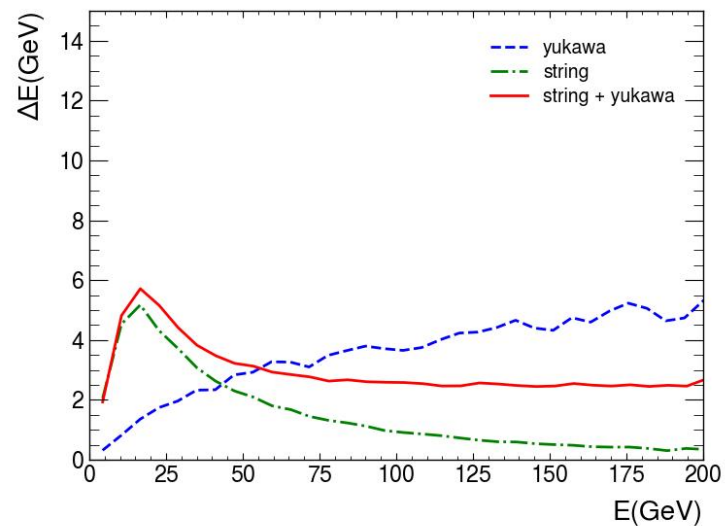




PbPb, 0-10%, parton level:



PbPb, 30-50%, parton level:

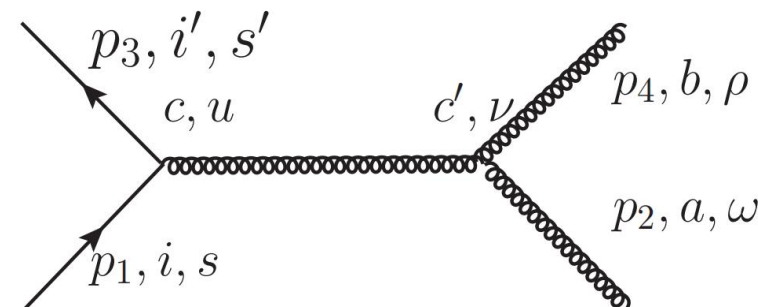
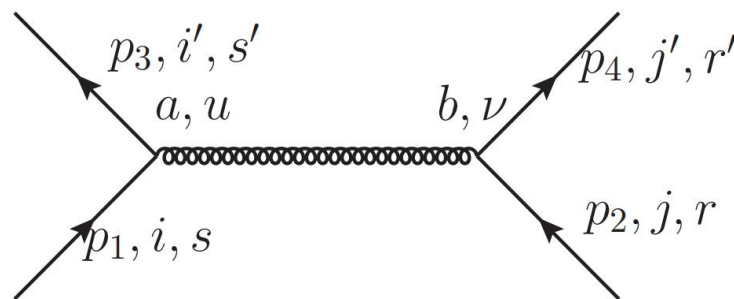


- Cornell potential:

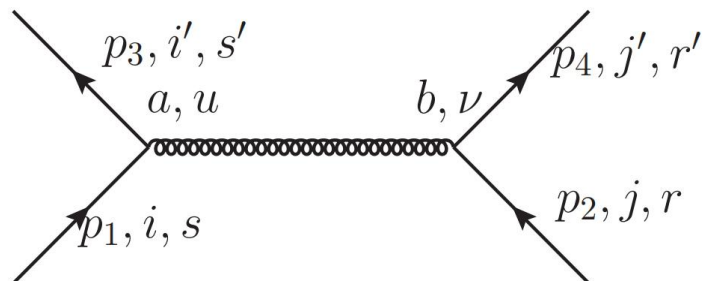
$$V(\vec{q}) = V_Y + V_S = -\frac{4\pi C_F \alpha_s}{m_D^2 + |\vec{q}|^2} - \frac{8\pi\sigma}{(m_s^2 + |\vec{q}|^2)^2}.$$

- elastic:

$$\begin{aligned} iM &= M_Y + M_S \\ &= \bar{u}^{s'}(p_3)\gamma^\mu u^s(p_1)V_Y\bar{u}^{r'}(p_4)\gamma_\mu u^r(p_2) \\ &\quad + \bar{u}^{s'}(p_3)u^s(p_1)V_S\bar{u}^{r'}(p_4)u^r(p_2). \end{aligned}$$

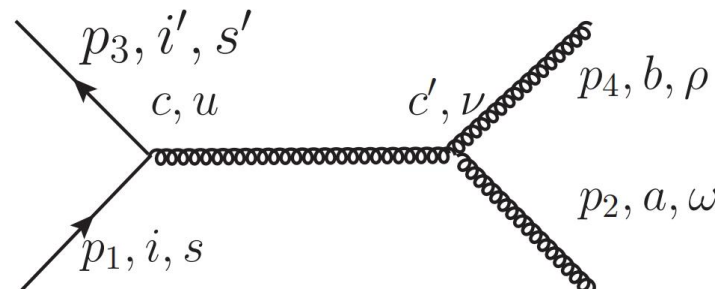


● $cq \rightarrow cq$ color factor:



$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c} \cdot \sum (t_{i'i}^a t_{j'j}^b) \delta^{ab} (t_{i'i}^a t_{j'j}^b)^* \delta^{ab} \\ &= \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c} \cdot \sum_{i', i, j, j'} (t_{i'i}^a t_{j'j}^a) (t_{ii'}^b t_{jj'}^b) \\ &= \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c} \cdot \text{Tr} [t^a t^b] \cdot \text{Tr} [t^a t^b] \\ &= \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c} \cdot (C(r) \delta^{ab}) (C(r) \delta^{ab}) \\ &= \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c} \cdot \frac{N_c^2 C_F^2}{(N_c^2 - 1)^2} \cdot (N_c^2 - 1) \\ &= \frac{C_F}{N_c^2 - 1} \cdot C_F. \end{aligned}$$

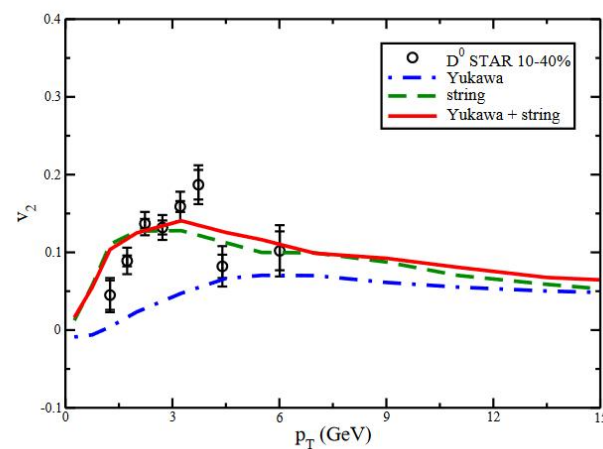
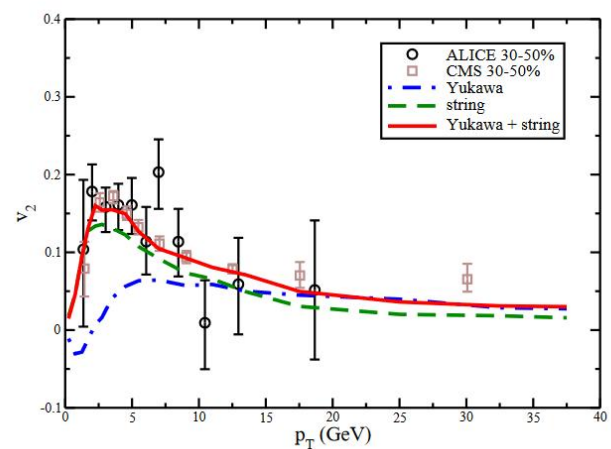
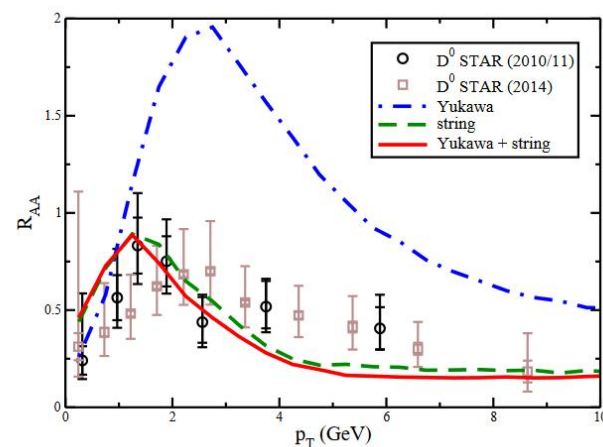
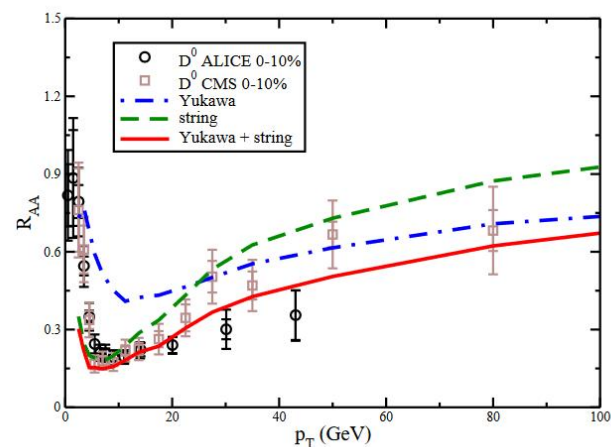
● $cg \rightarrow cg$ color factor:



$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1} \cdot \sum (t_{i'i}^c \delta^{cc'} f^{c'ab}) (t_{i'i}^c \delta^{cc'} f^{c'ab})^* \\ &= \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1} \cdot \sum (t_{i'i}^c f^{cab}) (t_{i'i}^c f^{cab})^* \\ &= \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1} \cdot \frac{N_c C_F}{N_c^2 - 1} C_A (N_c^2 - 1) \\ &= \frac{C_A}{N_c^2 - 1} \cdot C_F. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} iM &= M_Y + M_S \\ &= \bar{u}^{s'}(p_3) \gamma^\mu u^s(p_1) V_Y \bar{u}^{r'}(p_4) \gamma^\nu u^r(p_2) \\ &\quad + \bar{u}^{s'}(p_3) u^s(p_1) V_S \bar{u}^{r'}(p_4) u^r(p_2). \end{aligned}$$

Xing W J, Qin G Y, Cao S DOI: 10.1016/j.physletb.2023.137733.





● E4:

$$E_4 = \begin{cases} \frac{B(E_1+E_2) + \sqrt{A^2 [B^2 + m_{q/g}^2 A^2 - m_{q/g}^2 (E_1+E_2)^2]}}{(E_1+E_2)^2 - A^2}, & A > 0; \\ \frac{B(E_1+E_2) - \sqrt{A^2 [B^2 + m_{q/g}^2 A^2 - m_{q/g}^2 (E_1+E_2)^2]}}{(E_1+E_2)^2 - A^2}, & A < 0. \end{cases}$$

while,

$$A = p_1 \cos \theta_4 + p_2 \cos \theta_{24};$$

$$B = E_1 E_2 + m^2 - p_1 p_2 \cos \theta_2.$$

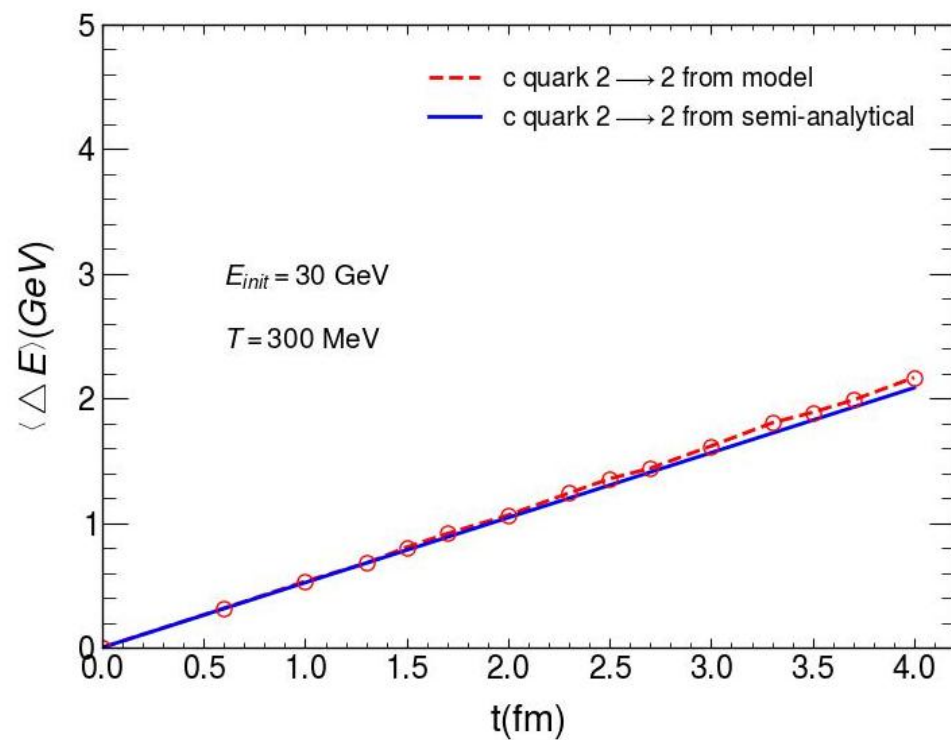
● qhat:

$$\langle X(\vec{p}_1, T) \rangle = \frac{\gamma_2}{2E_1} \int \frac{d^3 p_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_2} \frac{d^3 p_3}{(2\pi)^3 2E_3} \frac{d^3 p_4}{(2\pi)^3 2E_4} \\ \times f_2(\vec{p}_2, T) \times [1 \pm f_3(\vec{p}_3, T)] [1 \pm f_4(\vec{p}_4, T)] \times S_2 \\ \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(p_1 + p_2 - p_3 - p_4) |M_{12 \rightarrow 34}|^2 \cdot \langle X(\vec{p}_1, T) \rangle$$

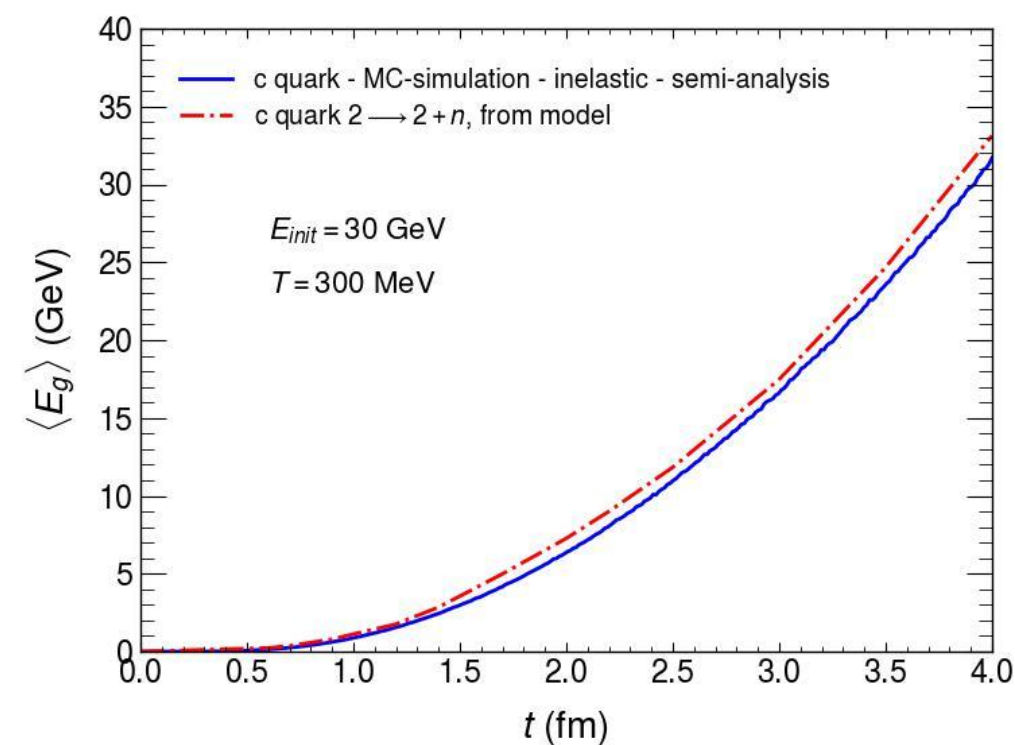
$$\hat{e} = \langle (E_1 - E_3) \rangle.$$

$$\hat{q} = \langle (\vec{p}_3 - \hat{p}_1 \cdot \vec{p}_3)^2 \rangle;$$

$$\hat{e} = \langle (E_1 - E_3) \rangle.$$



$$\langle E_g \rangle (E, T, t) = \int_0^t dt \int_{\frac{\omega_0}{E}}^1 dx \int_0^{(xE)^2} dk_{\perp}^2 x E \frac{dN_g}{dx dk_{\perp}^2 dt}.$$



Cao S, Luo T, Qin G Y, et al. DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevC.94.014909.



- inelastic:

$$\langle N_g(t, \Delta t) \rangle = \Delta t \int dx dk_{\perp}^2 \frac{dN_g}{dx dk_{\perp}^2 dt}.$$

$$P_{\text{inel}}(n) = \frac{\langle N_g \rangle^n}{n!} e^{-\langle N_g \rangle}.$$

- thermal mass:

$$m_g^2(T) = \frac{1}{6}g^2 \left[(N_c + \frac{1}{2}N_f)T^2 + \frac{N_c}{2\pi^2}\mu^2 \right];$$

$$m_{u,d}^2(T) = \frac{N_c^2 - 1}{8N_c}g^2(T^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{\pi^2});$$

$$m_s^2 - m_{0s}^2 = \frac{N_c^2 - 1}{8N_c}g^2(T^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{\pi^2}).$$

$$m_D^2(T) = \frac{1}{3}(N_c + \frac{1}{2}N_f)g^2T^2$$



碎裂-重组强子化模型

- 碎裂强子化：由一个高能部分子碎裂成不同动量分数的多个强子的过程。
- 重组强子化：部分子与其静止系中的一个或两个临近夸克重组生成一个介子或重子的过程。
- 碎裂函数是反应过程的长程部分，无法用pQCD计算，其关于能标 Q^2 的依赖可以用DGLAP方程描述：

$$\frac{d}{d\ln Q^2} D_i^h(z, Q^2) = \sum_{j=-n_f}^{n_f} \int_z^1 \frac{dz'}{z'} P_{ij}\left(\frac{z}{z'}\right) \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} D_j^h(z', Q^2)$$

z, z' , P_{ij} 分别是强子相对于部分子 i 的动量分数；强子相对于部分子 j 的动量分数以及部分子 i 劈裂为 j 的领头阶劈裂函数。为碎裂函数指定一个参数化的形式：

$$D_i^h(z, Q^2) = N_i z^{a_i} (1 - z)^{b_i}$$



● LBT-PNP:

$$V(\vec{q}) = V_Y + V_S = -\frac{4\pi C_F \alpha_s}{m_D^2 + |\vec{q}|^2} - \frac{8\pi\sigma}{(m_s^2 + |\vec{q}|^2)^2}.$$

$$\text{where, } \sigma = 0.45\text{GeV}, \quad m_s = \sqrt{0.1T}, \quad m_D = 0.1410\frac{1}{T} + 0.9853T + 0.1979, \quad \alpha_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi} = \frac{m_g^2 + m_q^2}{T^2 \left[\frac{1}{6}(N_c + \frac{1}{2}N_f) + \frac{N_c^2 - 1}{8N_c} \right]}.$$



Thanks for your attention !