

Xiaoming Zhang

# Brief introduction to the physics of ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collisions

# Standard model

Three Generations of Matter (Fermions)

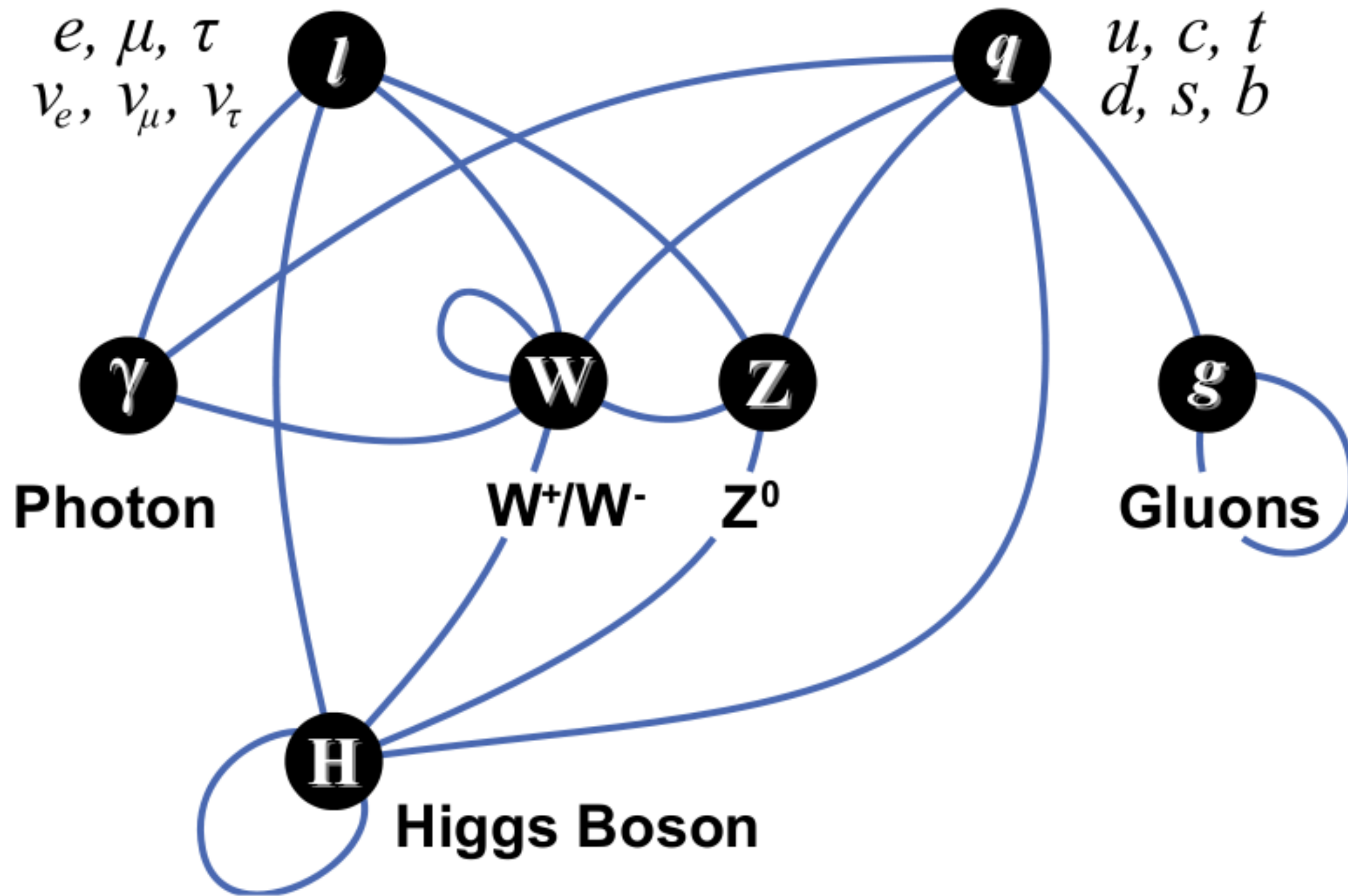
	I	II	III	
mass →	2.4 MeV	1.27 GeV	171.2 GeV	0
charge →	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	0
spin →	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
name →	<b>u</b> up	<b>c</b> charm	<b>t</b> top	<b><math>\gamma</math></b> photon
Quarks	4.8 MeV $-\frac{1}{3}$ <b>d</b> down	104 MeV $-\frac{1}{3}$ <b>s</b> strange	4.2 GeV $-\frac{1}{3}$ <b>b</b> bottom	0 0 <b>g</b> gluon
	<2.2 eV 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\nu_e</math></b> electron neutrino	<0.17 MeV 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\nu_\mu</math></b> muon neutrino	<15.5 MeV 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\nu_\tau</math></b> tau neutrino	91.2 GeV 0 1 <b><math>Z^0</math></b> Z boson
	0.511 MeV -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>e</b> electron	105.7 MeV -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\mu</math></b> muon	1.777 GeV -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ <b><math>\tau</math></b> tau	80.4 GeV $\pm 1$ 1 <b><math>W^\pm</math></b> W boson
Leptons				Gauge Bosons

## Leptons

$e, \mu, \tau$   
 $\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$

## Quarks

$u, c, t$   
 $d, s, b$

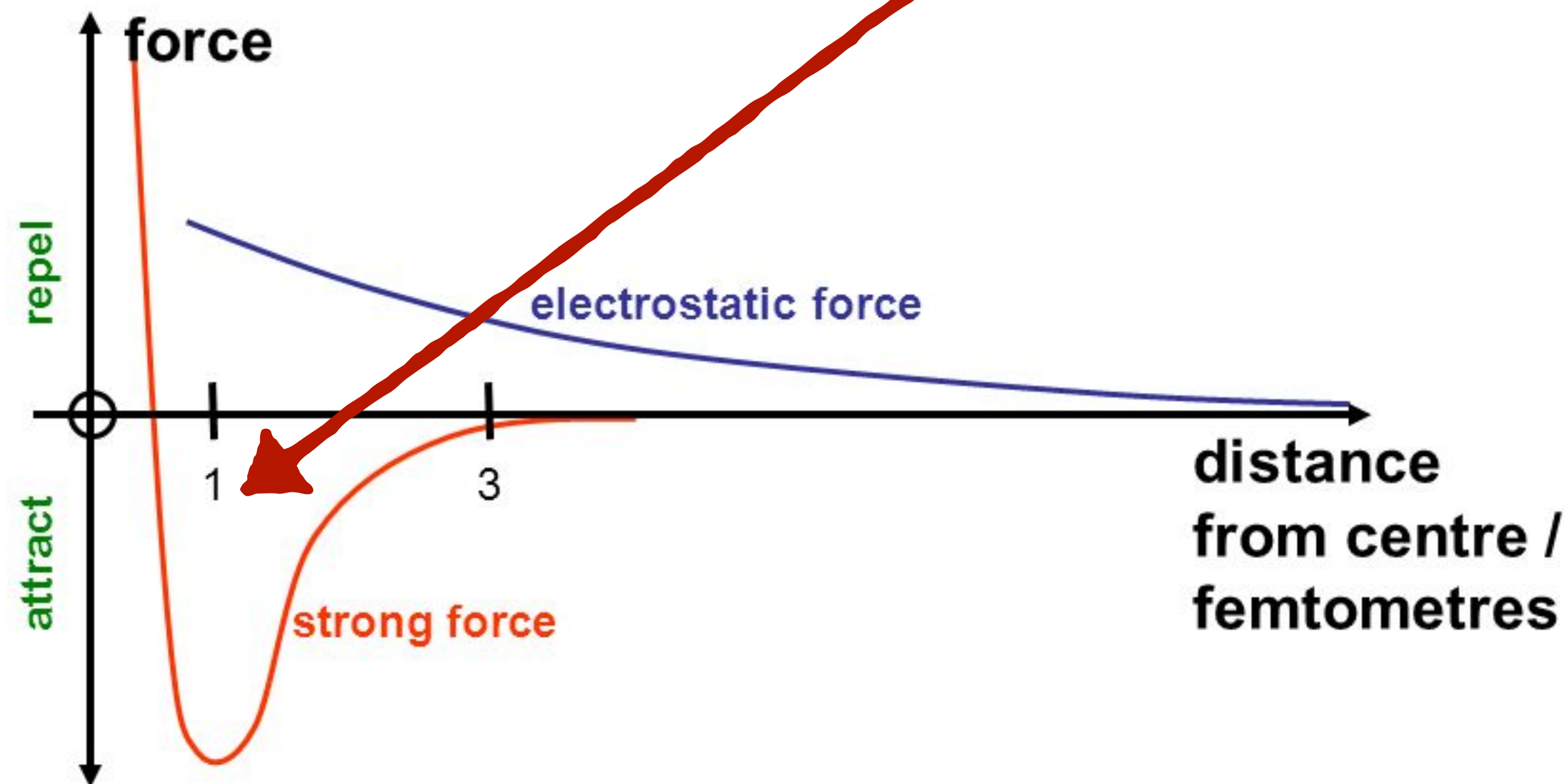


$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_q \bar{\psi}_{q,a} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \delta_{ab} - g_s \gamma^\mu t_{ab}^C \mathcal{A}_\mu^C - m_a \delta_{ab}) \psi_{q,b} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^A F^{A,\mu\nu}$$

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$$F_{\mu\nu}^A = \partial_\mu \mathcal{A}_\nu^A - \partial_\nu \mathcal{A}_\mu^A - g_s f_{ABC} \mathcal{A}_\mu^B \mathcal{A}_\nu^C$$

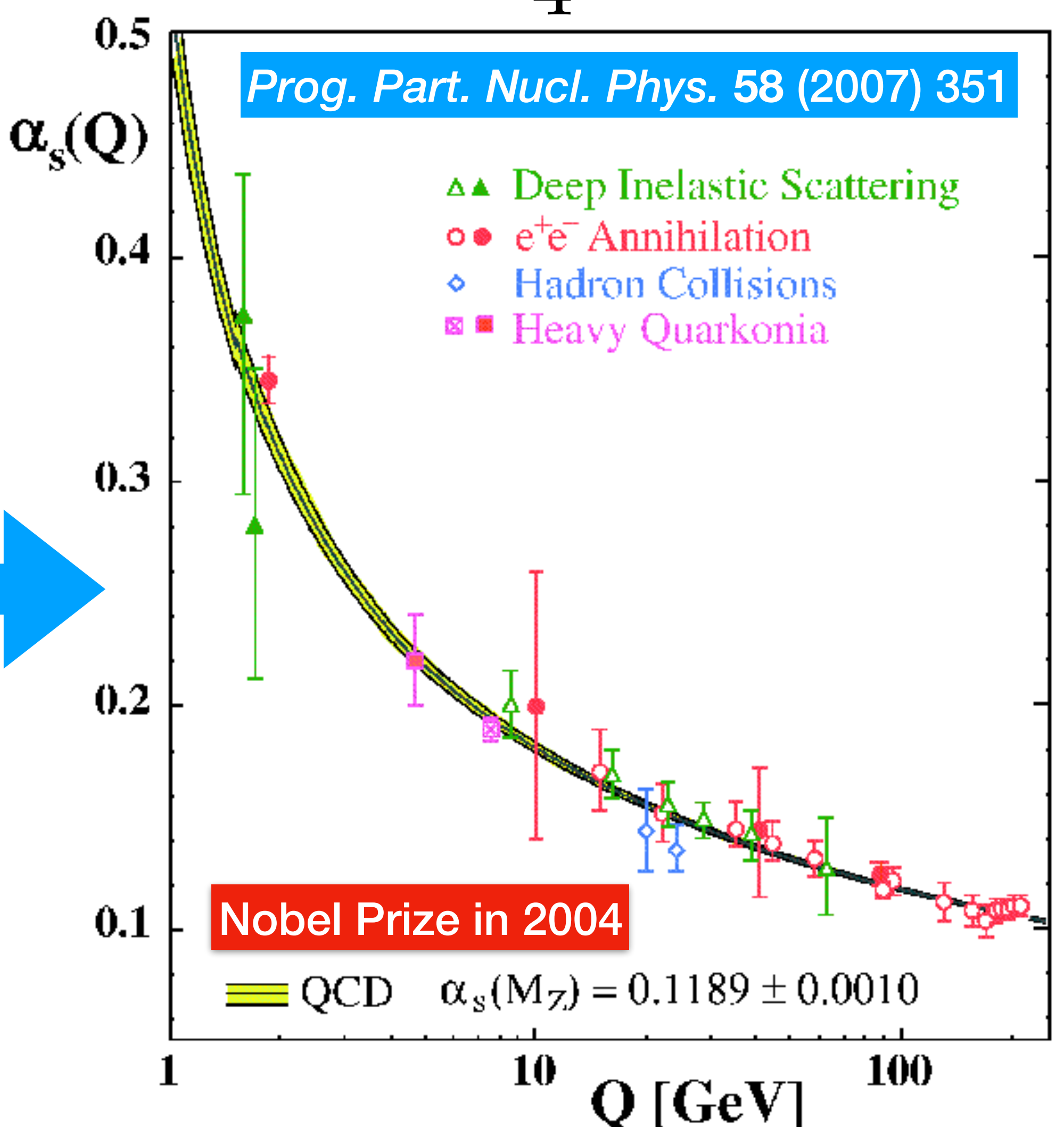
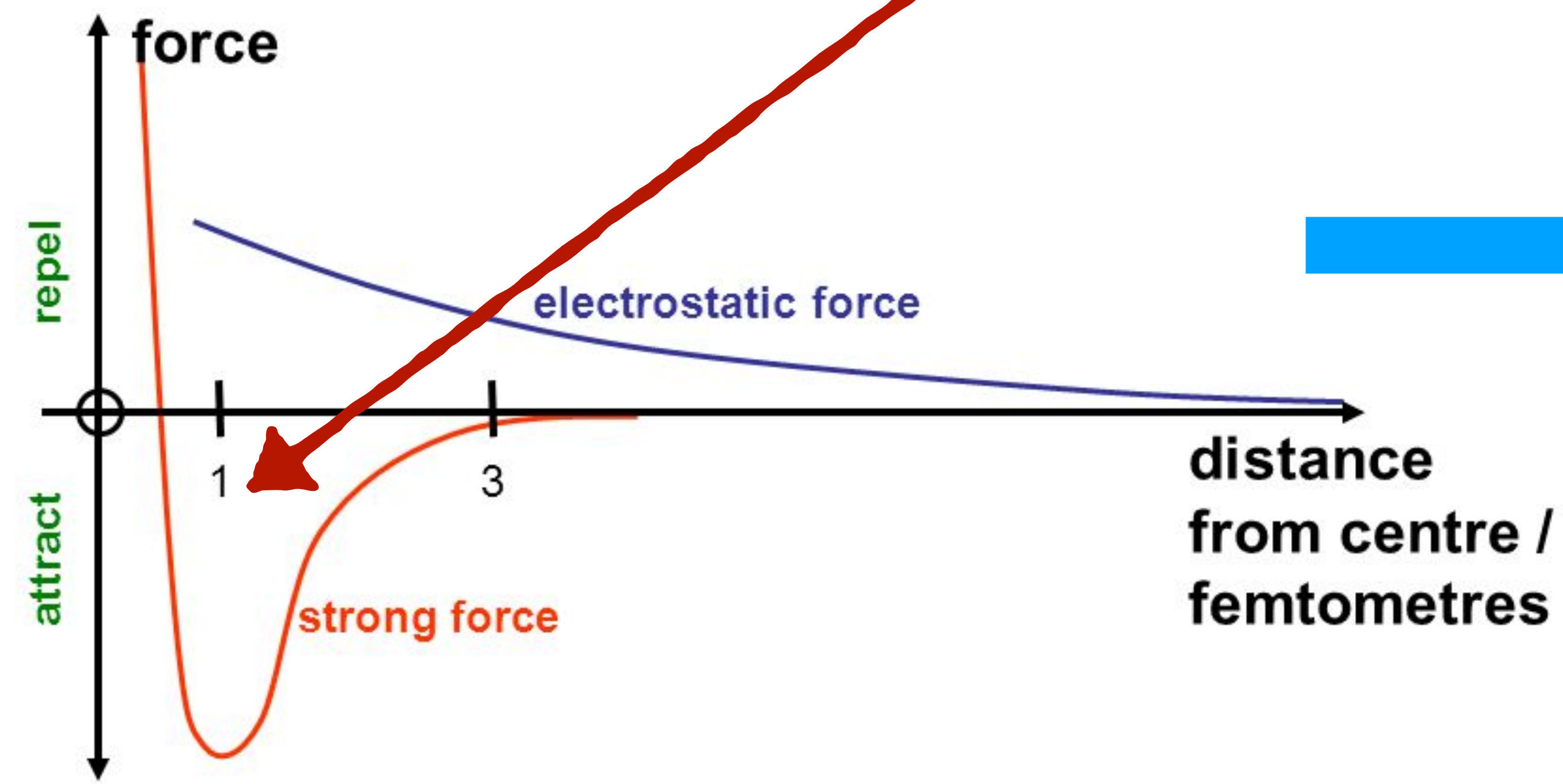
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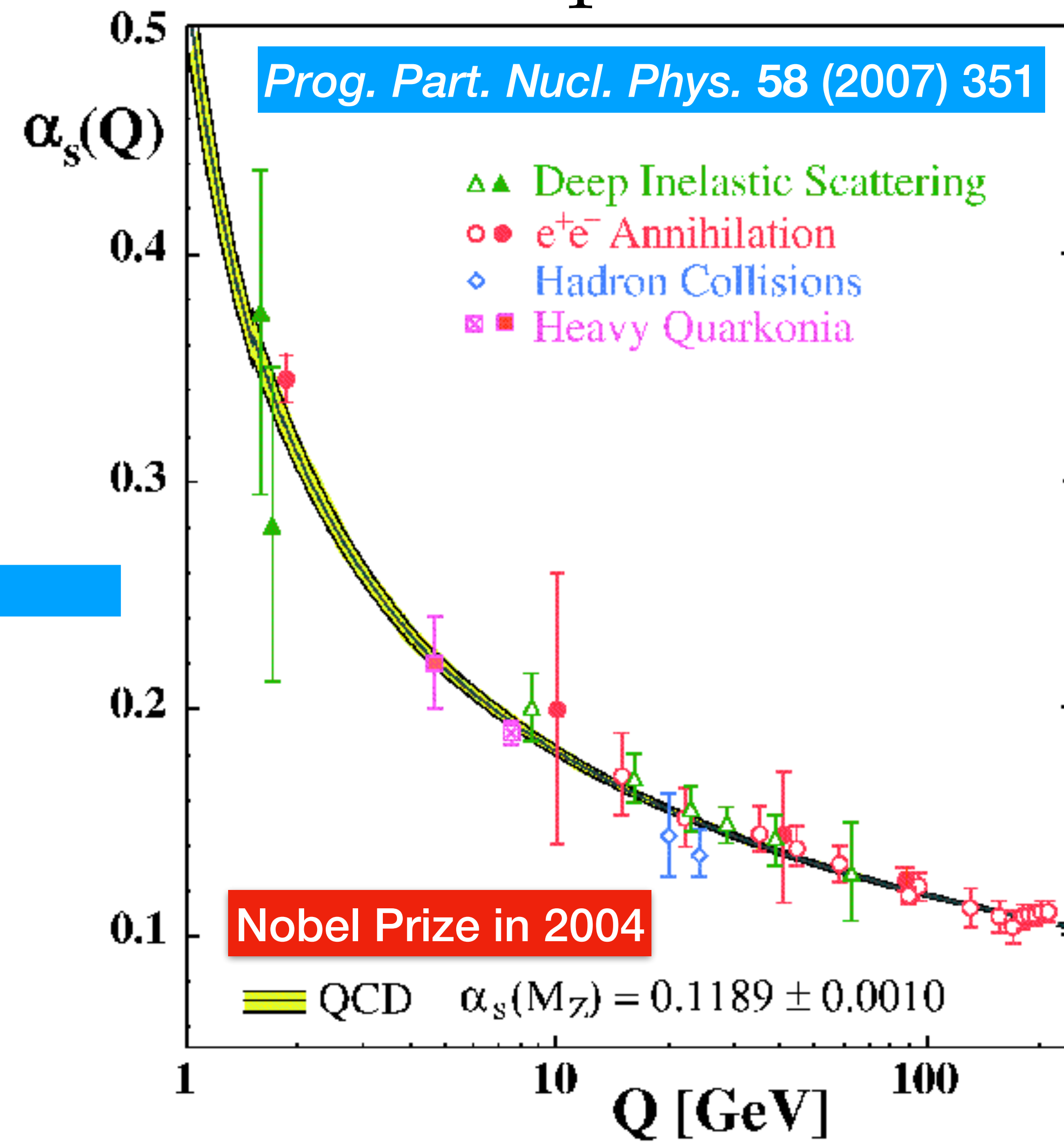
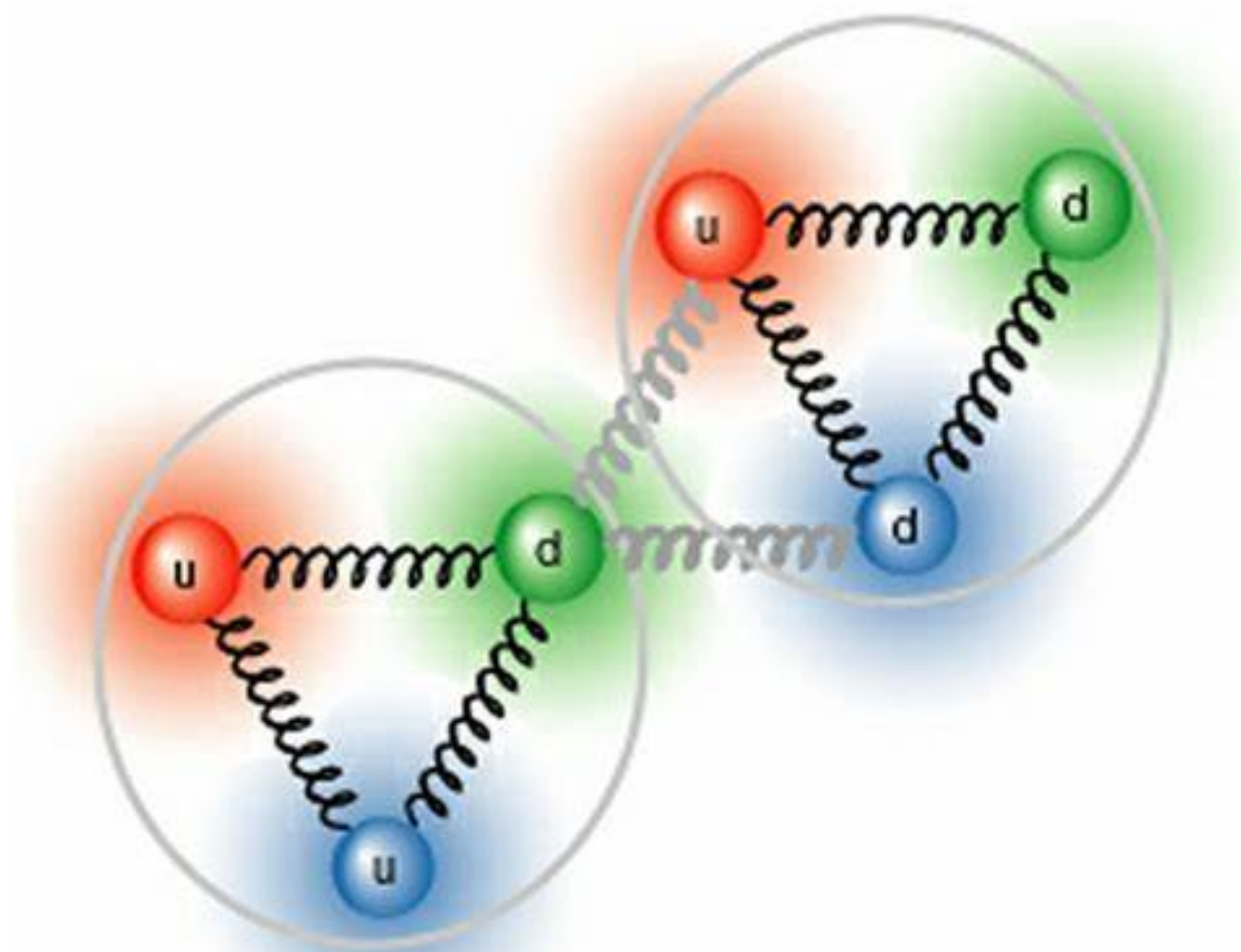
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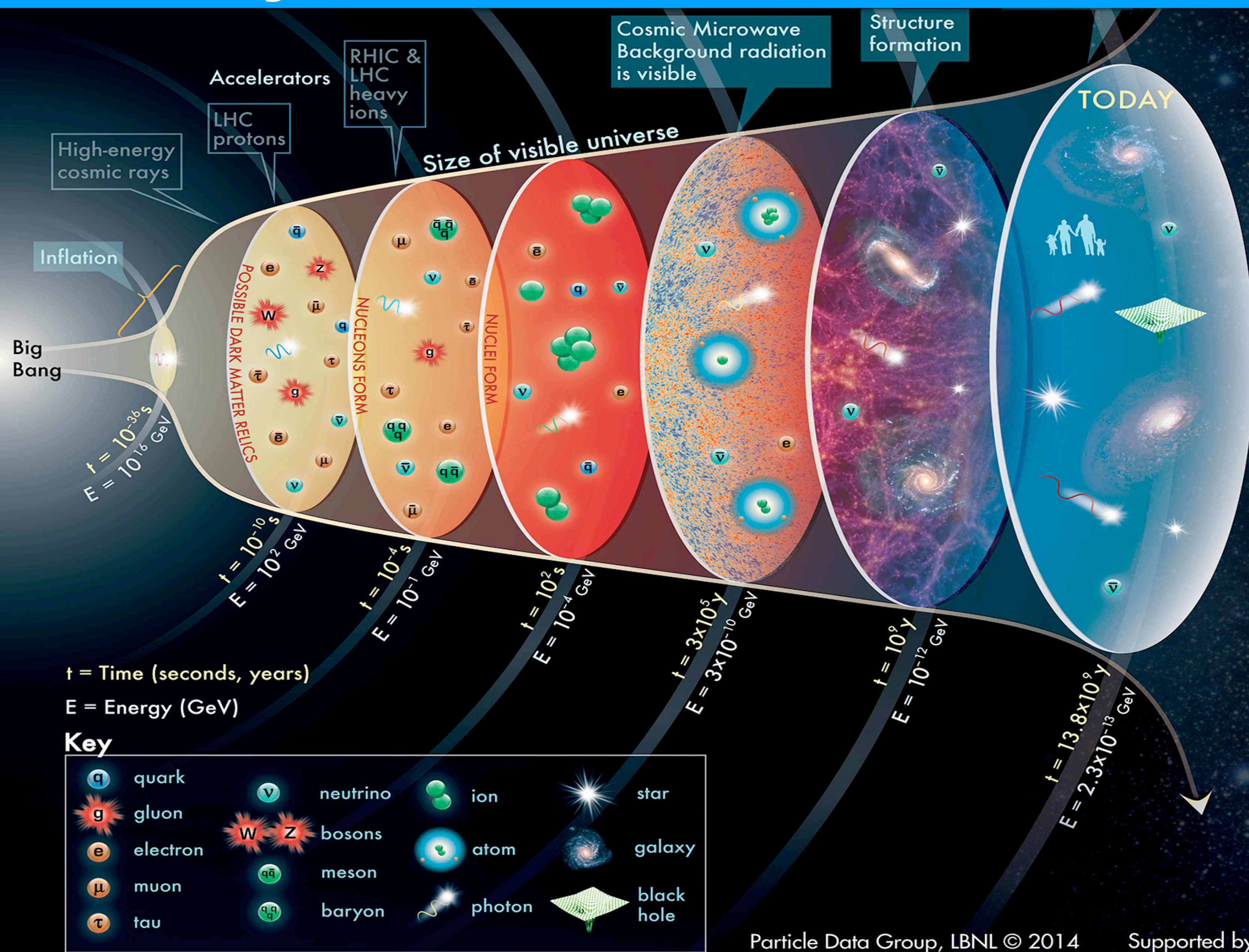


$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_q \bar{\psi}_{q,a} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \delta_{ab} - g_s \gamma^\mu t_{ab}^C A_\mu^C - m_a \delta_{ab}) \psi_{q,b} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^A F^{A,\mu\nu}$$

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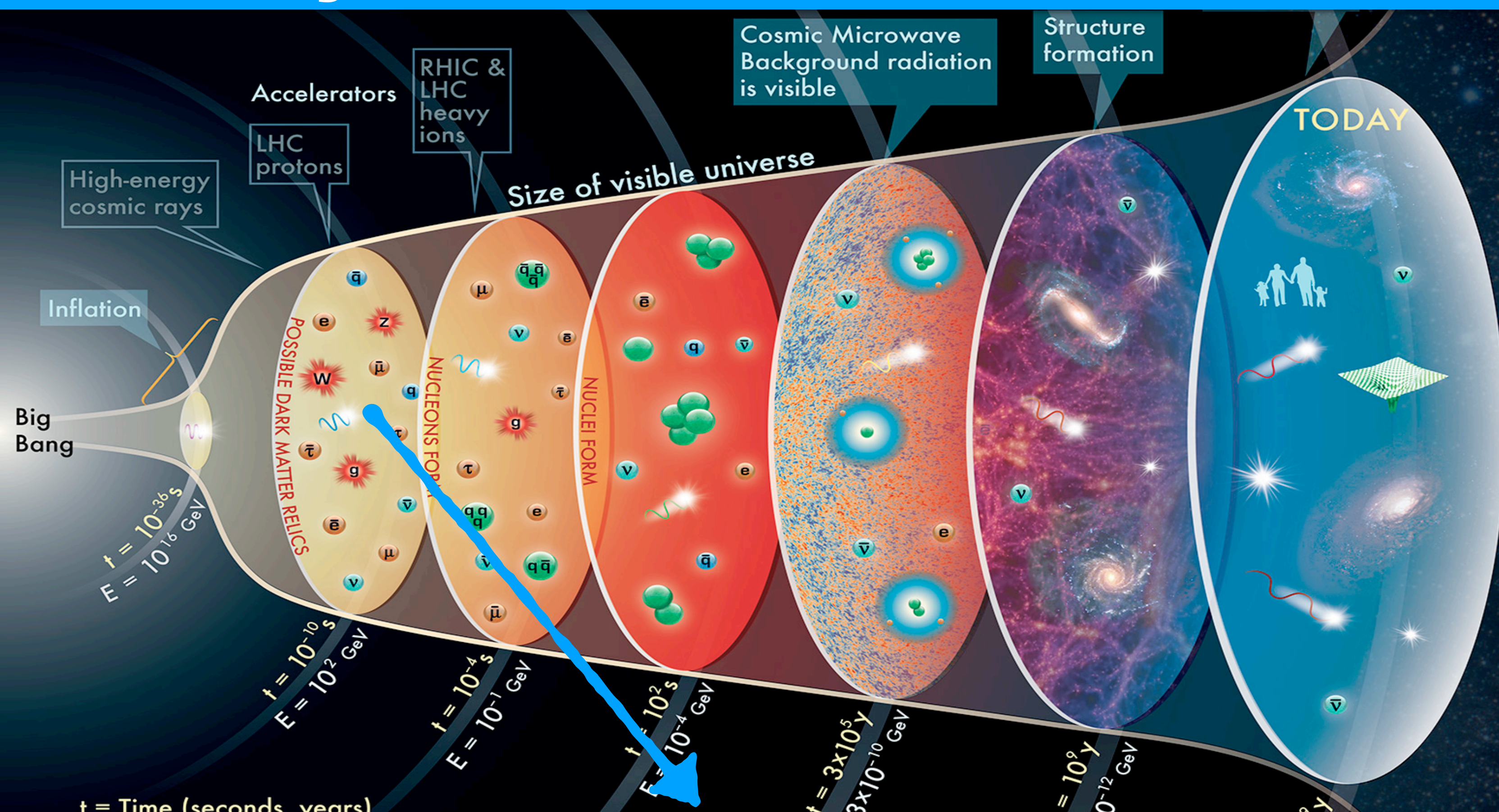


# History of the universe





# History of the universe



## A few $\mu$ s after the “big bang”

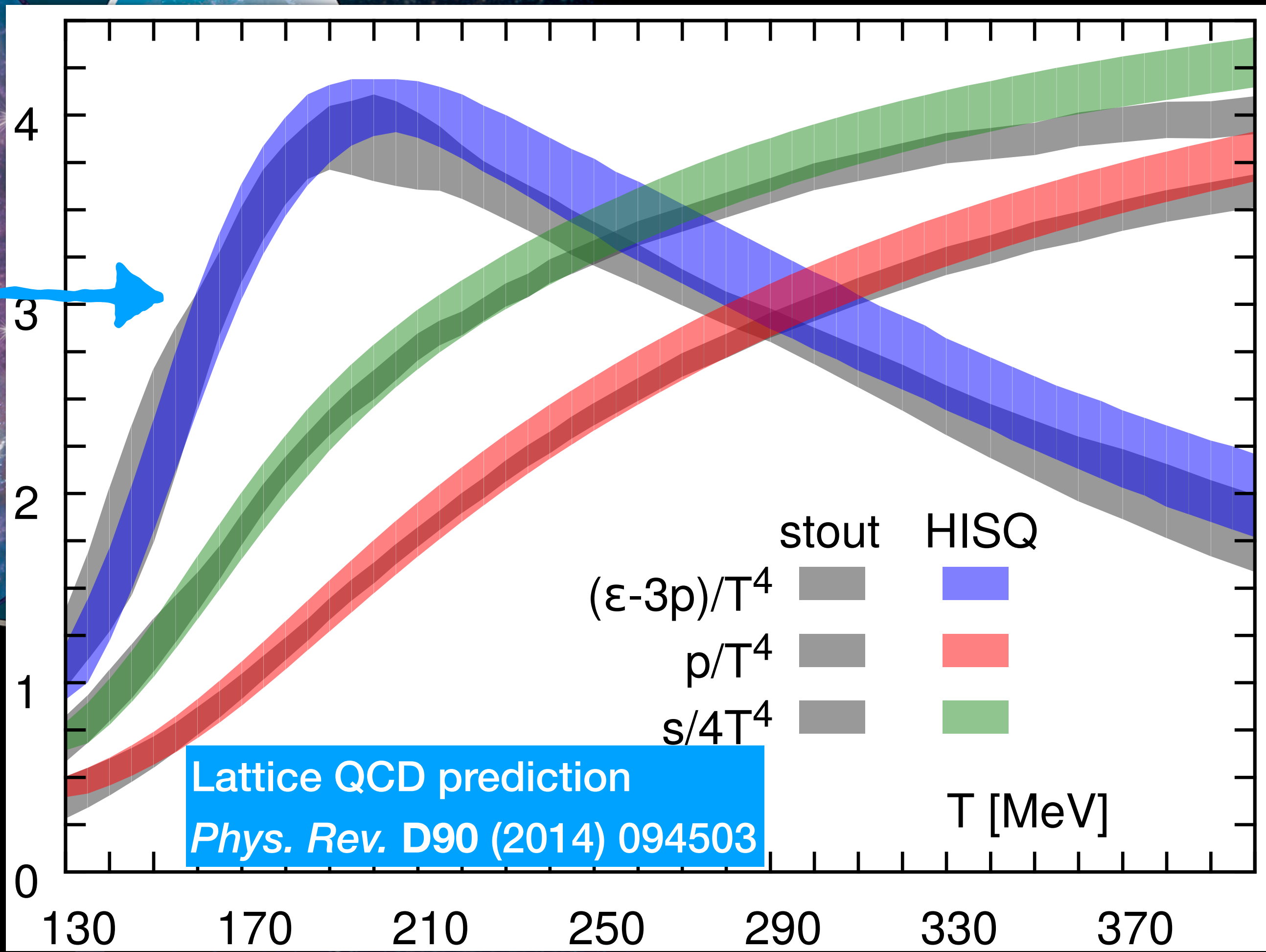
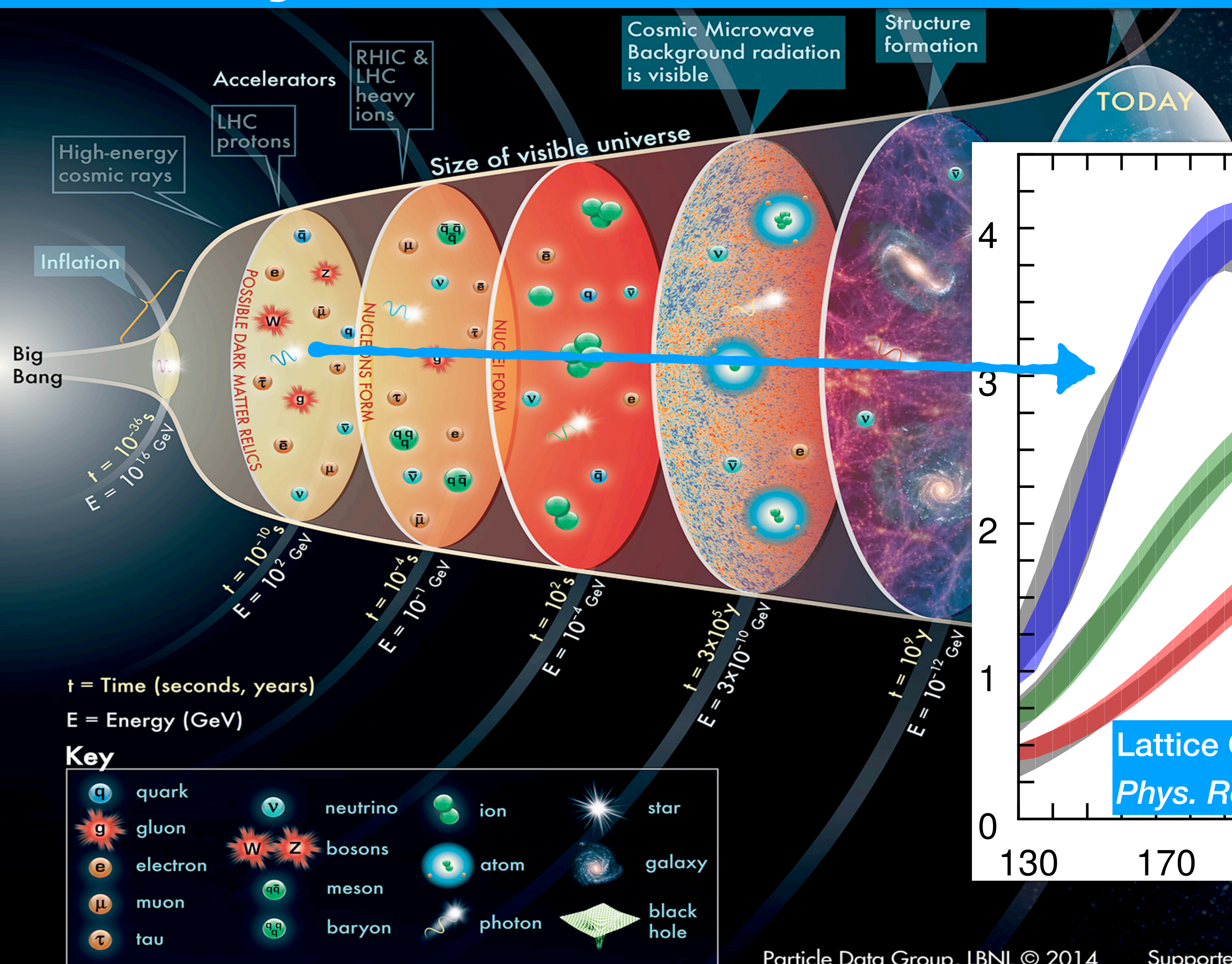
- Extremely high energy density and temperature
- Deconfined quarks and gluons — Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)

t = Time (seconds, years)  
E = Energy (GeV)

**Key**

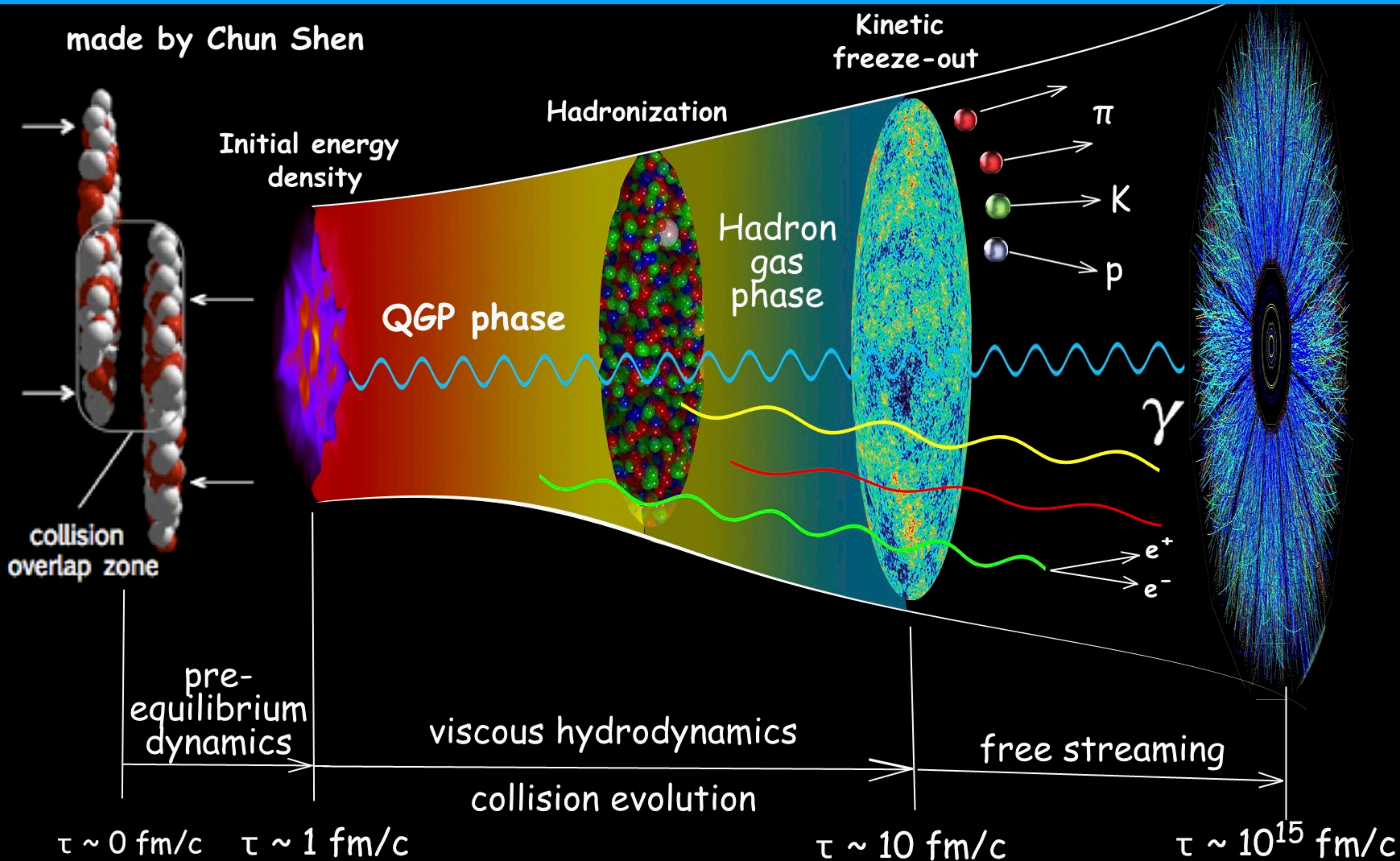
quark	neutrino	ion
gluon	bosons	atom
electron	meson	black hole
muon	baryon	
tau		

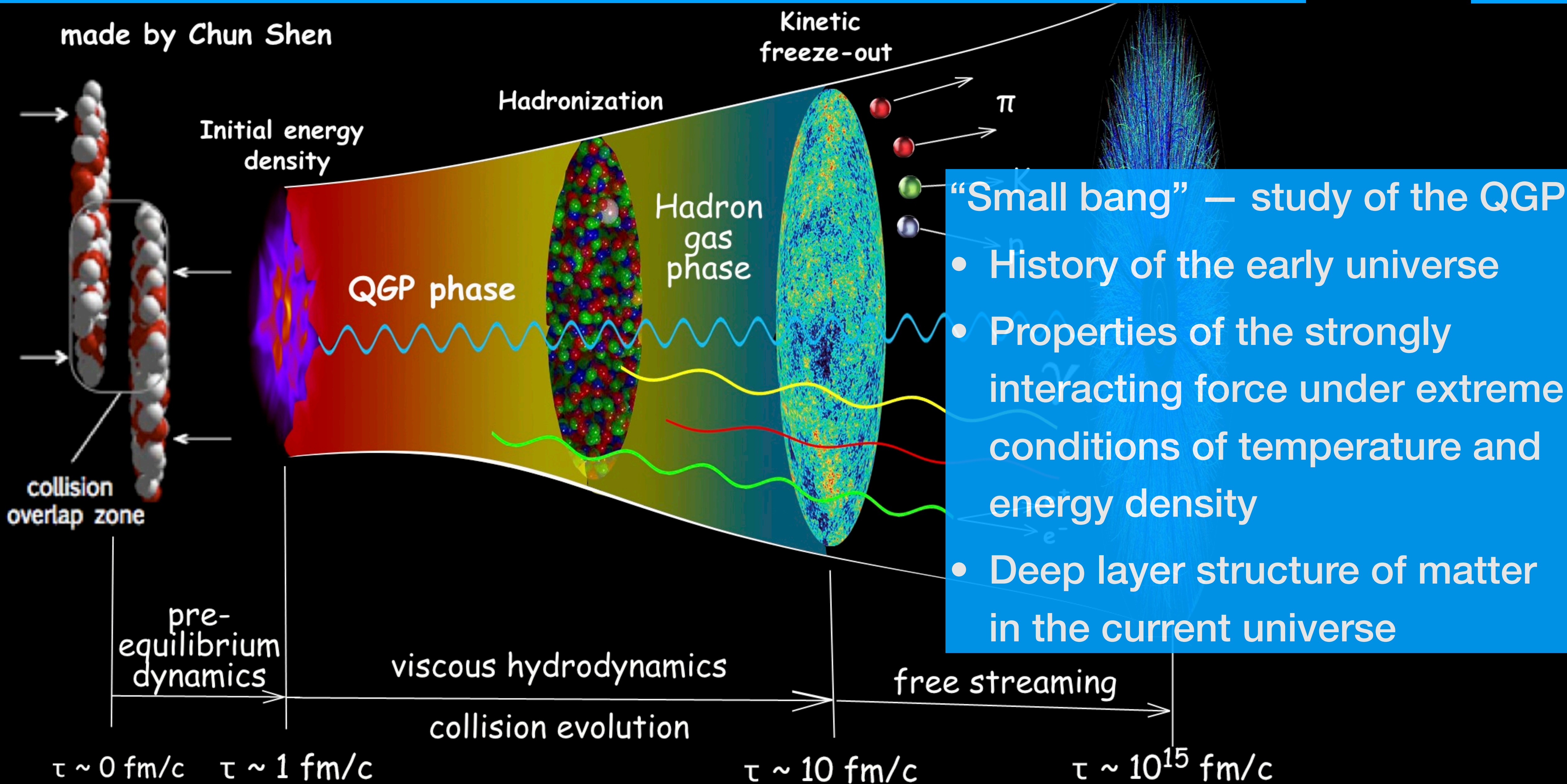
# History of the universe

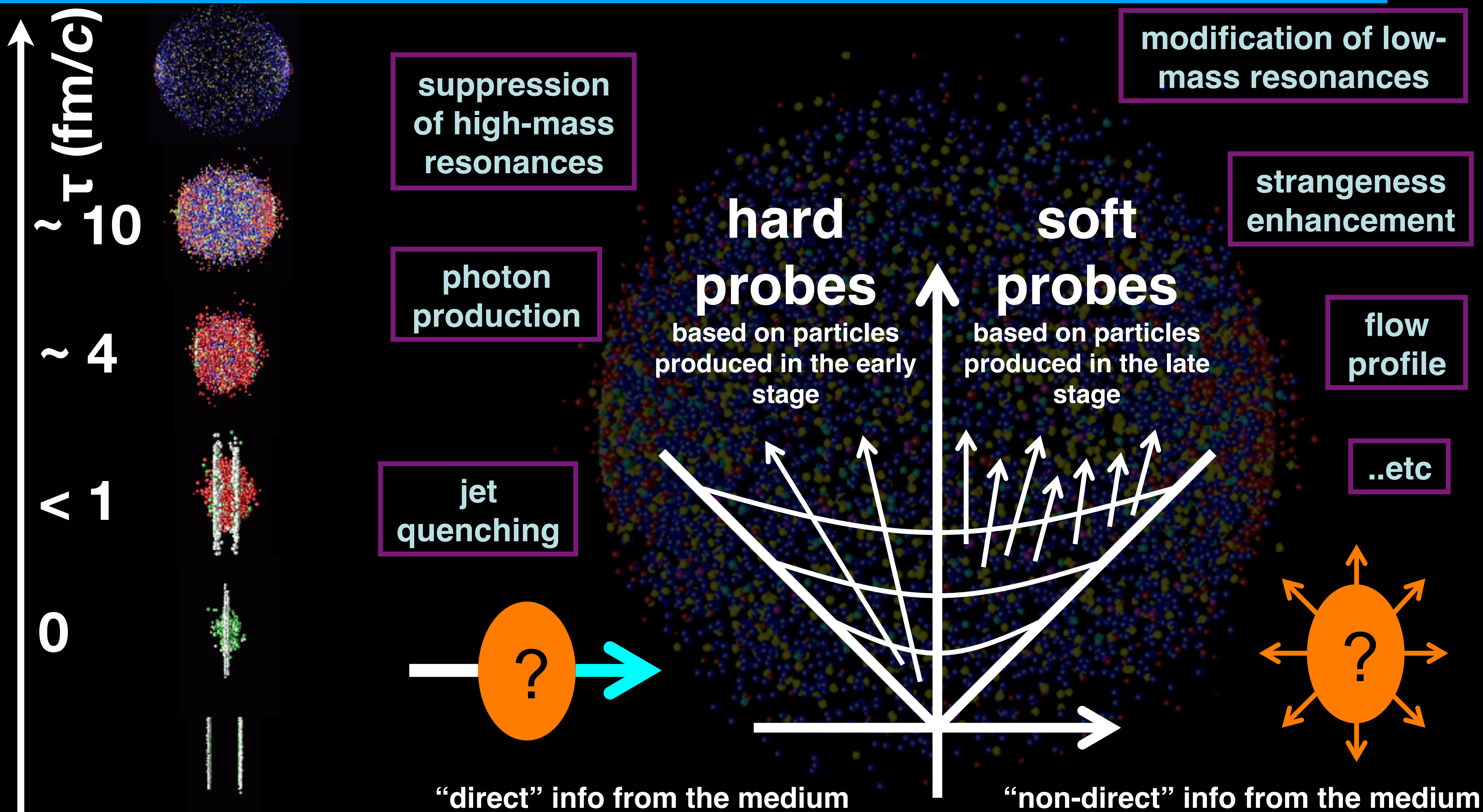


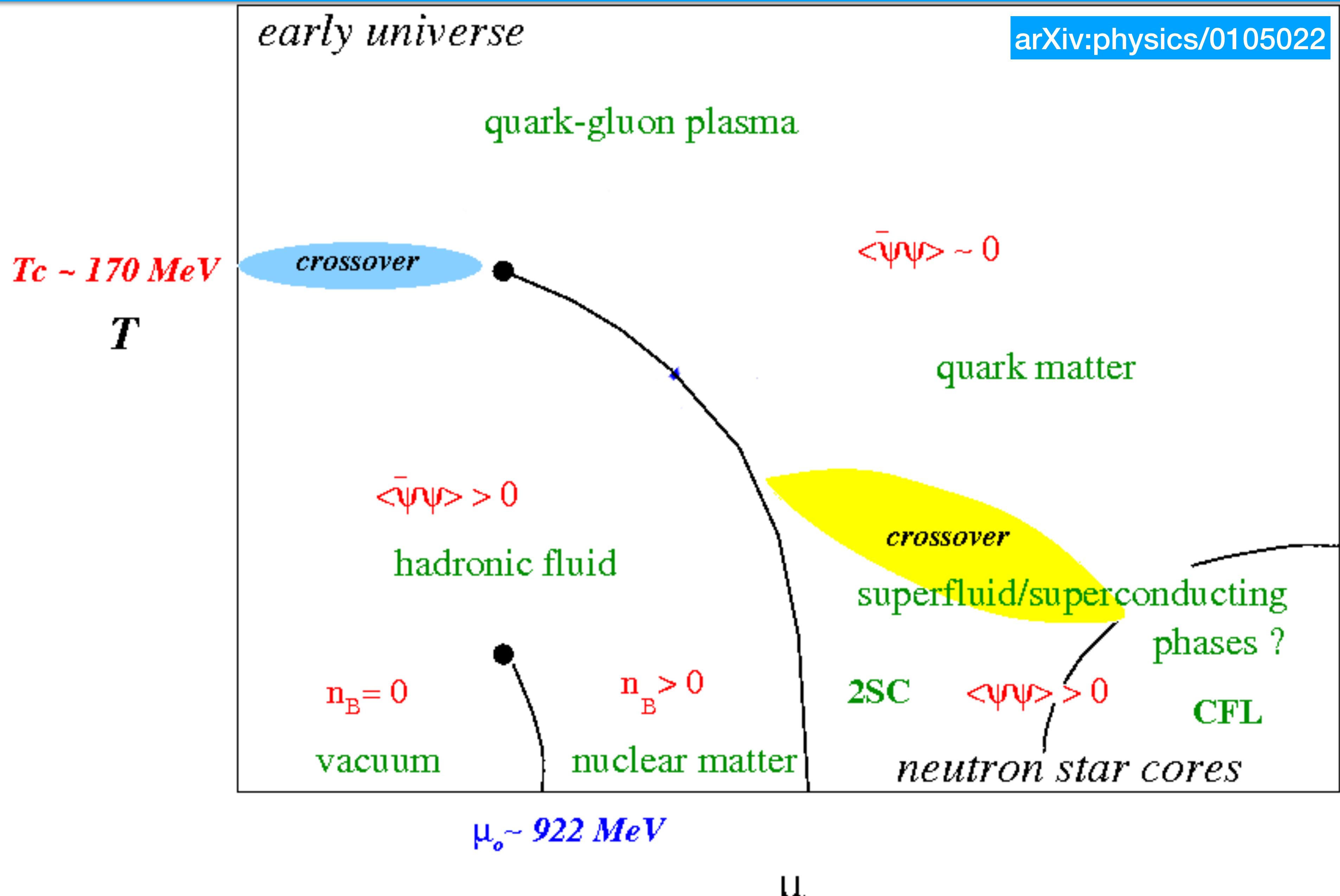
# Ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collisions

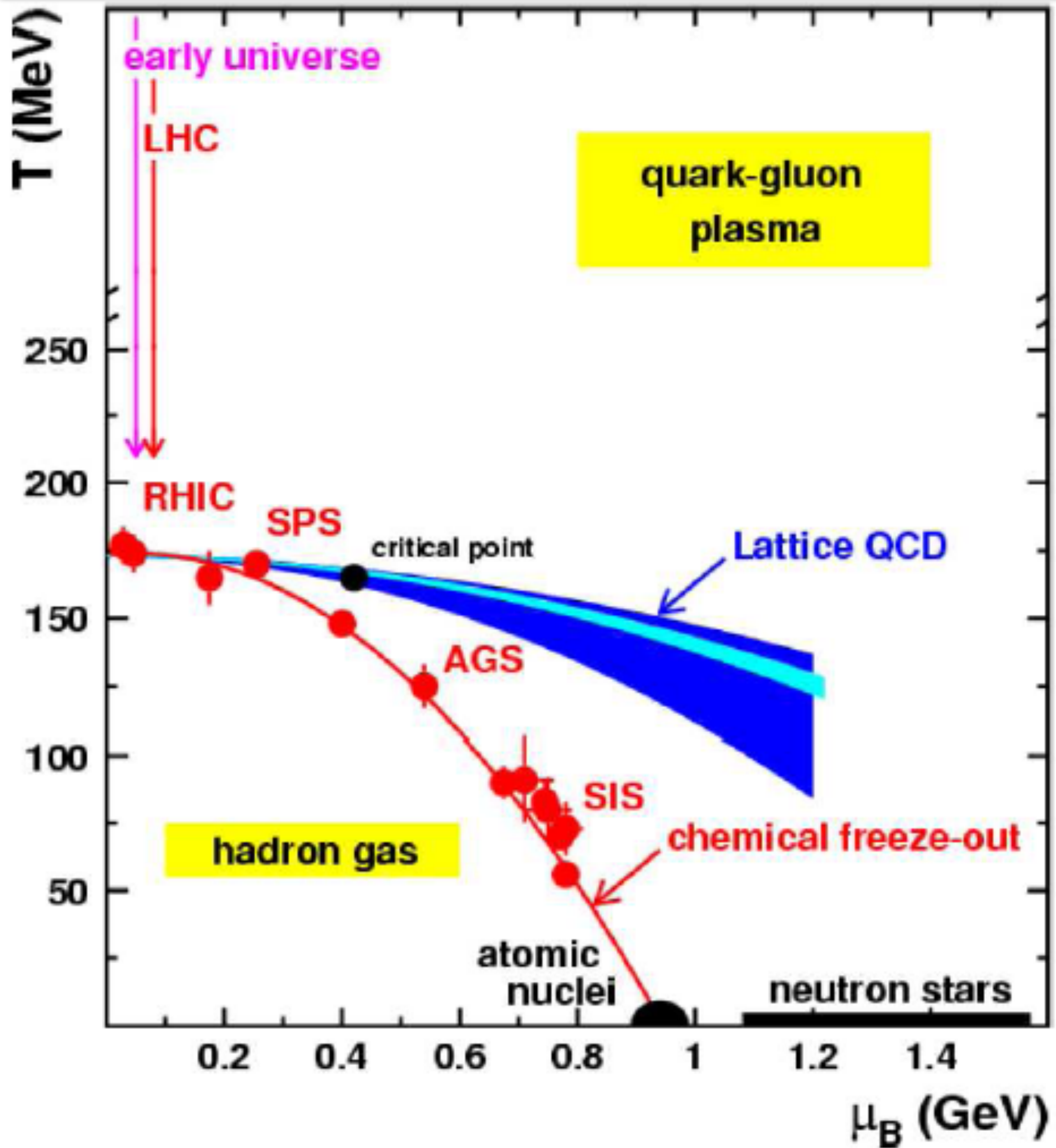
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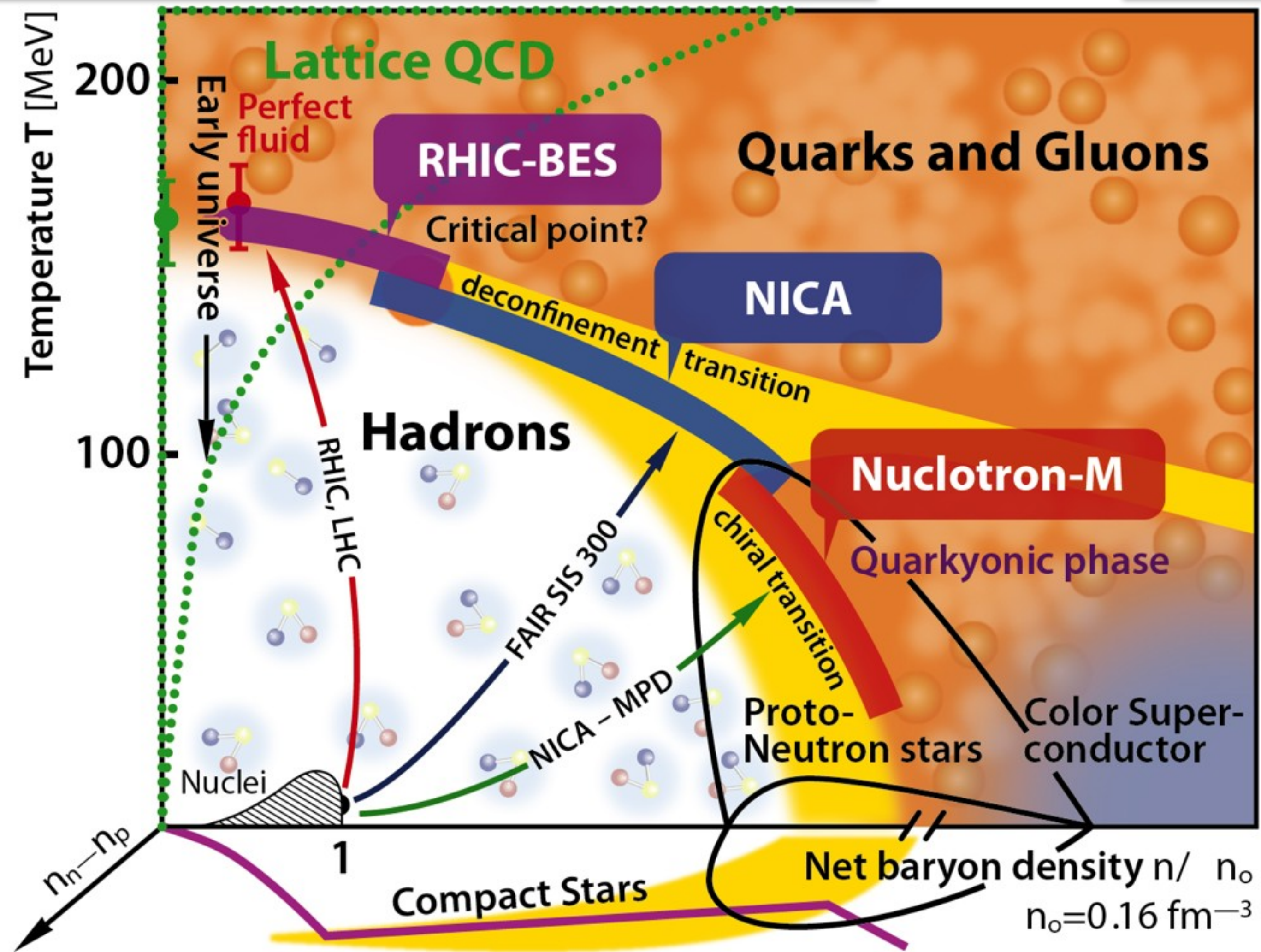
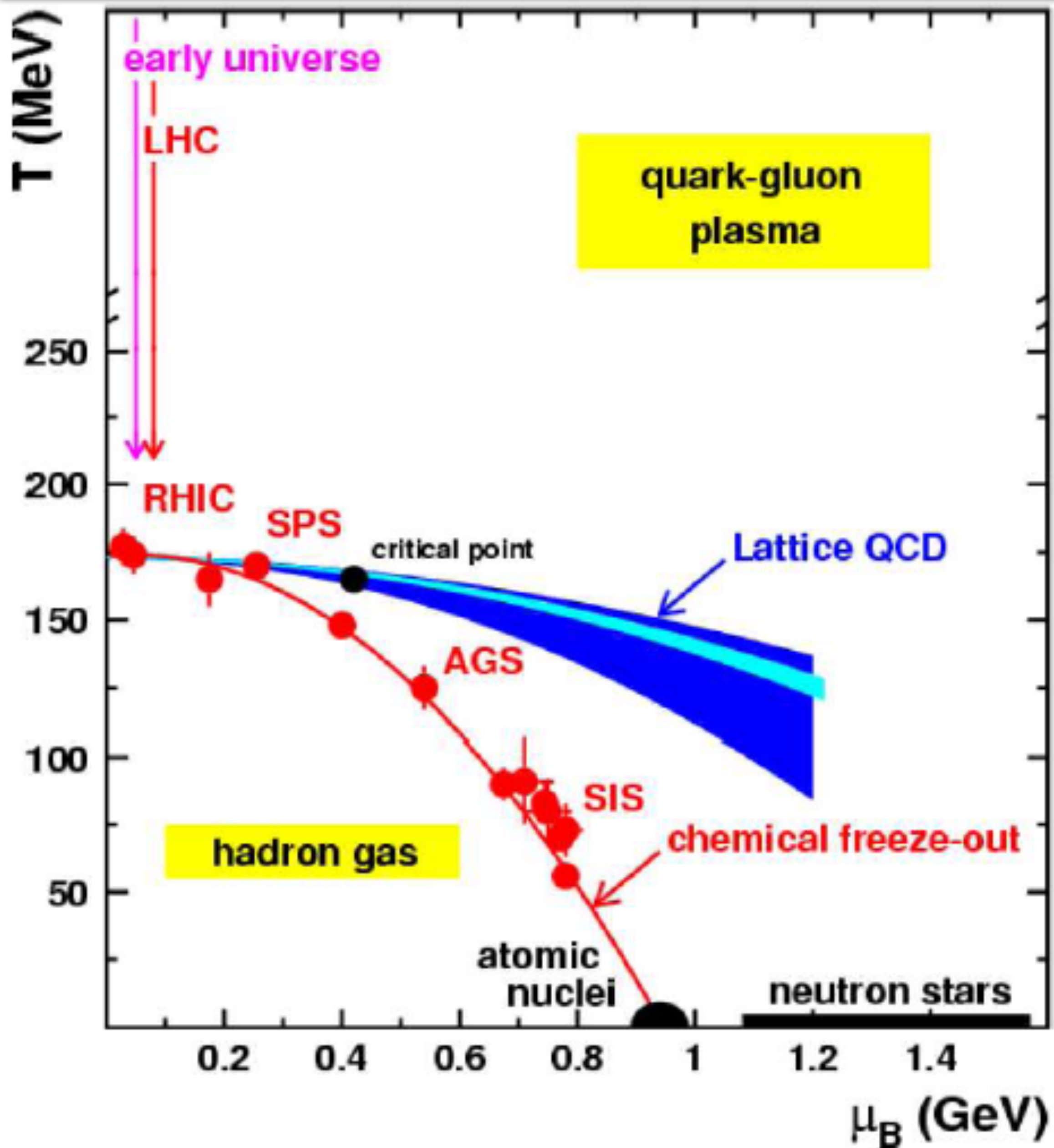








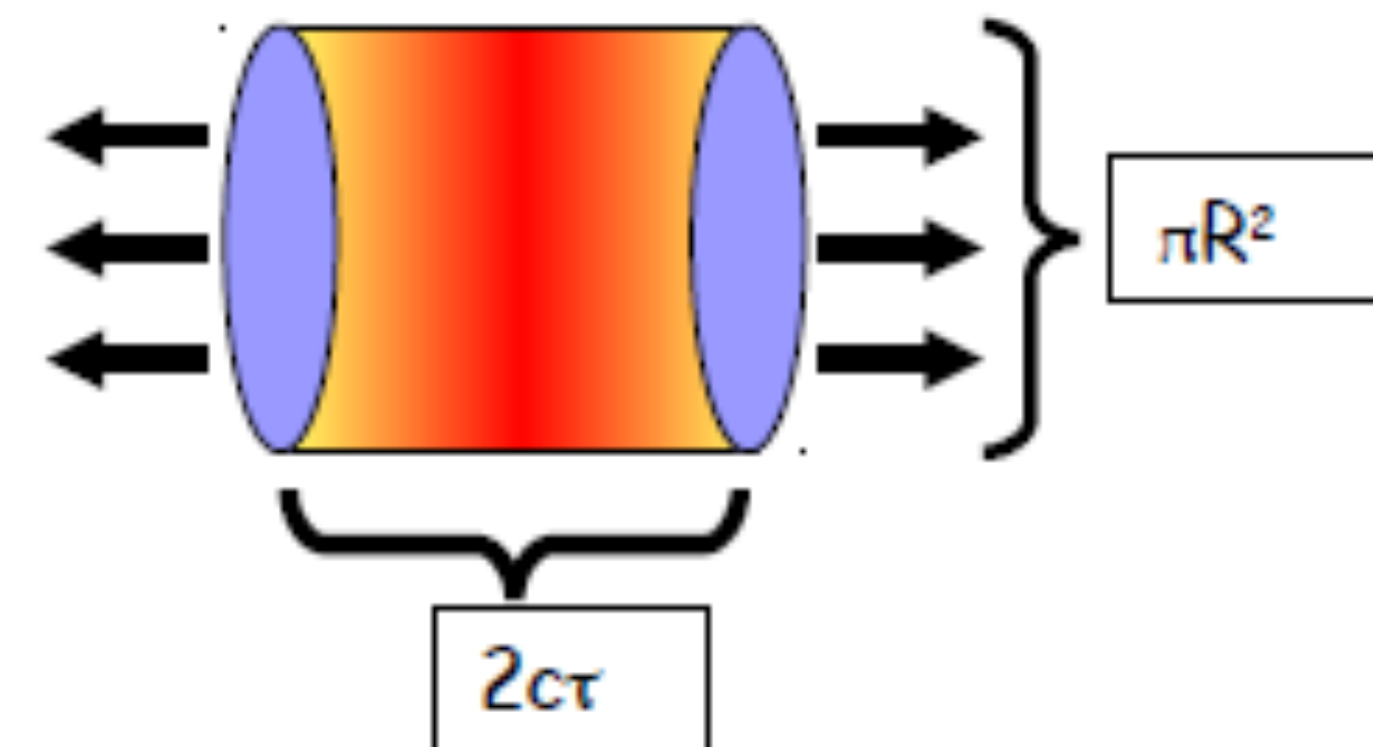






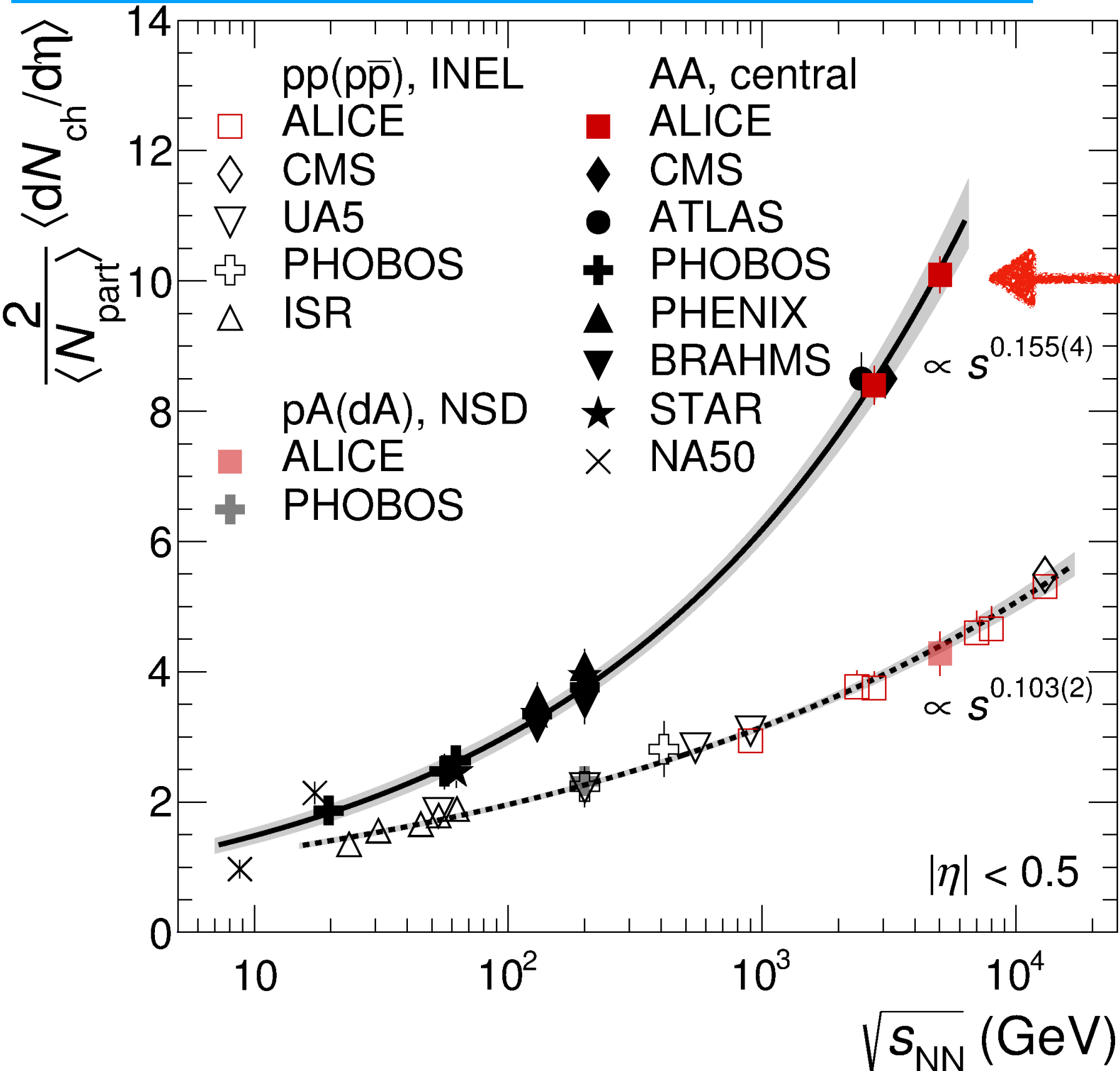
ALICE Phys. Rev. Lett. 116 (2016) 222302

Bjorken estimate:



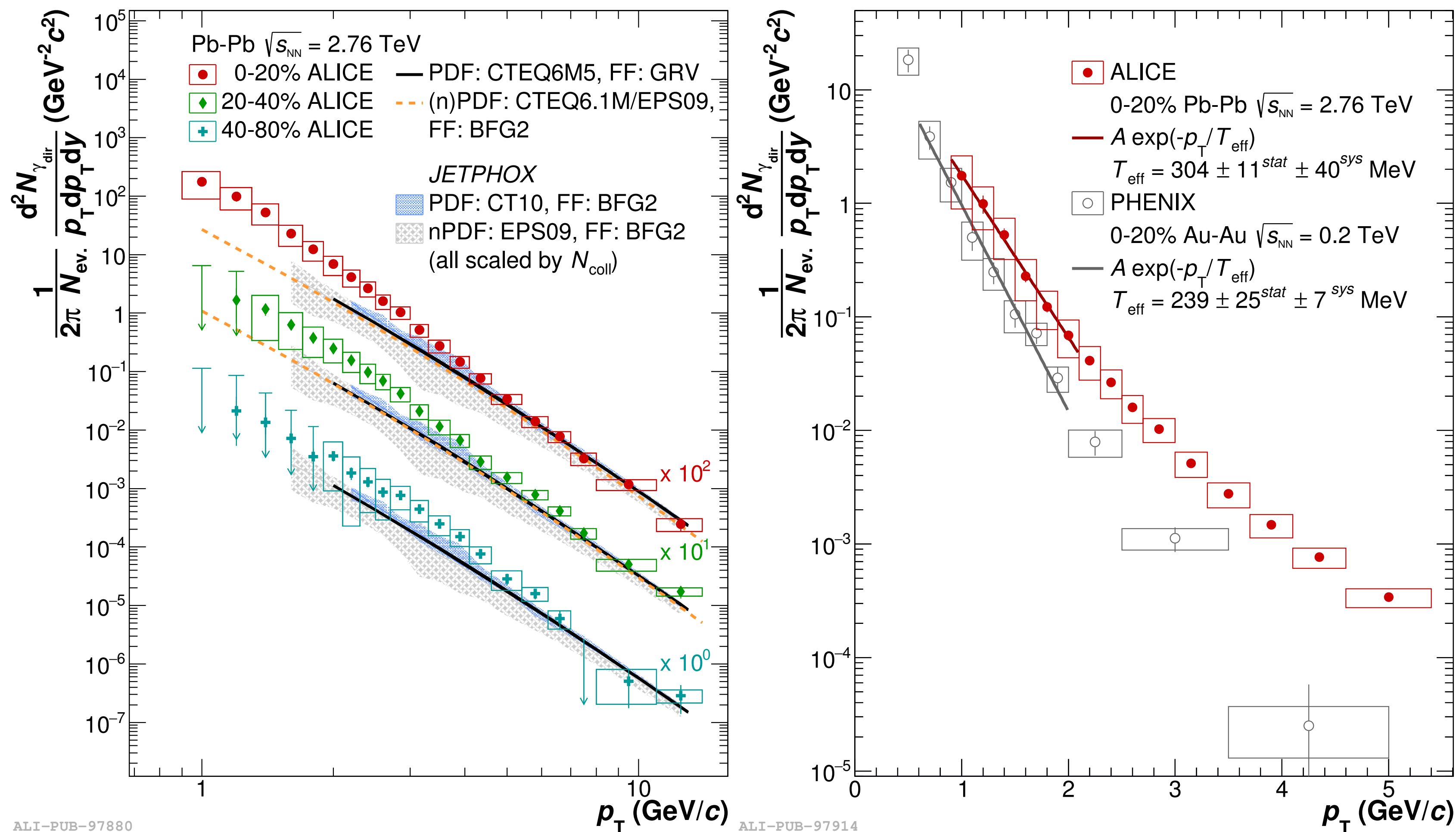
$$\langle \varepsilon \rangle (\tau) = \frac{1}{\tau \pi R^2} \frac{dE_T}{dy} \longleftrightarrow \boxed{dN/d\eta}$$

**ALICE Pb–Pb at 5.02 TeV**



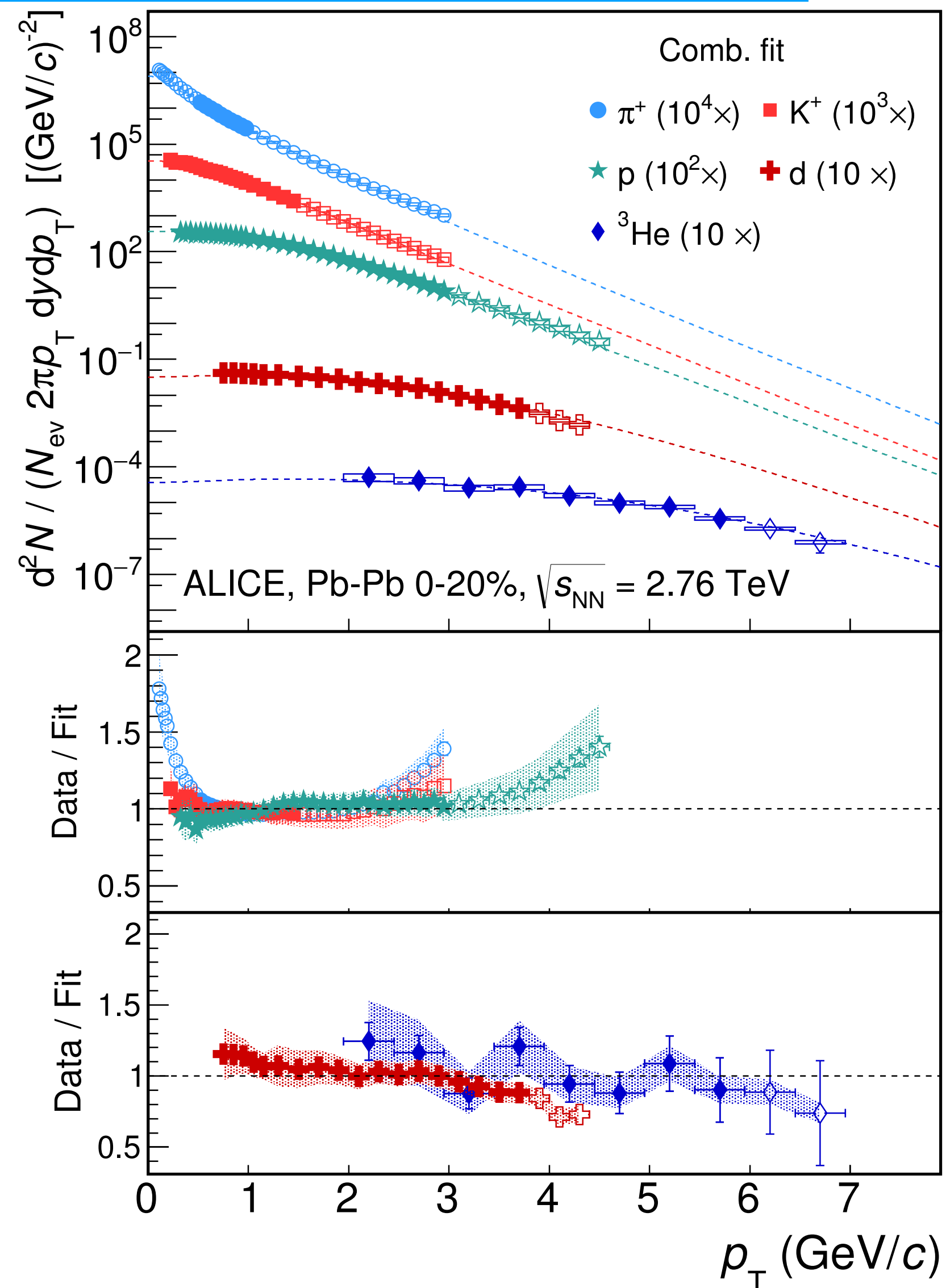
- Central Pb–Pb collisions at 5.02 TeV  $dN/d\eta \sim 2000$ 
  - ➔ Energy density  $\varepsilon \sim 18 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$
  - ➔ Above deconfinement transition ( $\sim 1 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$ )

- ALICE: Pb–Pb at 5.02 TeV — highest energy so far
  - ➔ For 0–5% most central collisions, confirms trend from lower energies



- Low- $p_T$ :  $2.6\sigma$  excess w. r. t. models in 0–20% central — thermal contribution
- $T_{eff} = 304 \pm 11$ (stat.)  $\pm 40$  (syst.) MeV in central collisions — way above  $T_c \sim 170$  MeV
- 30% higher than at RHIC (Au–Au at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$  GeV)

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**Blast-wave model:** simplified hydrodynamic model with 3 parameters

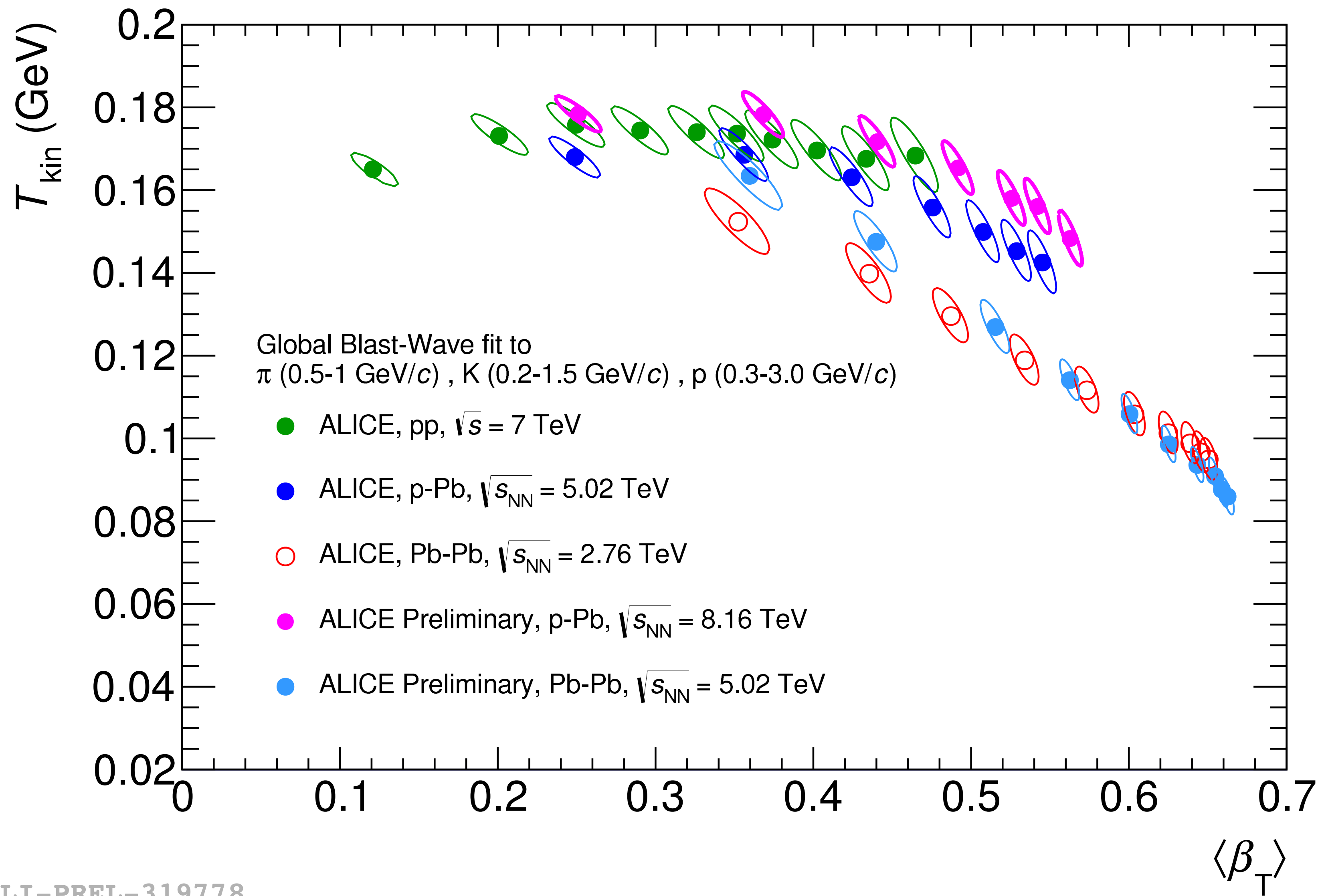
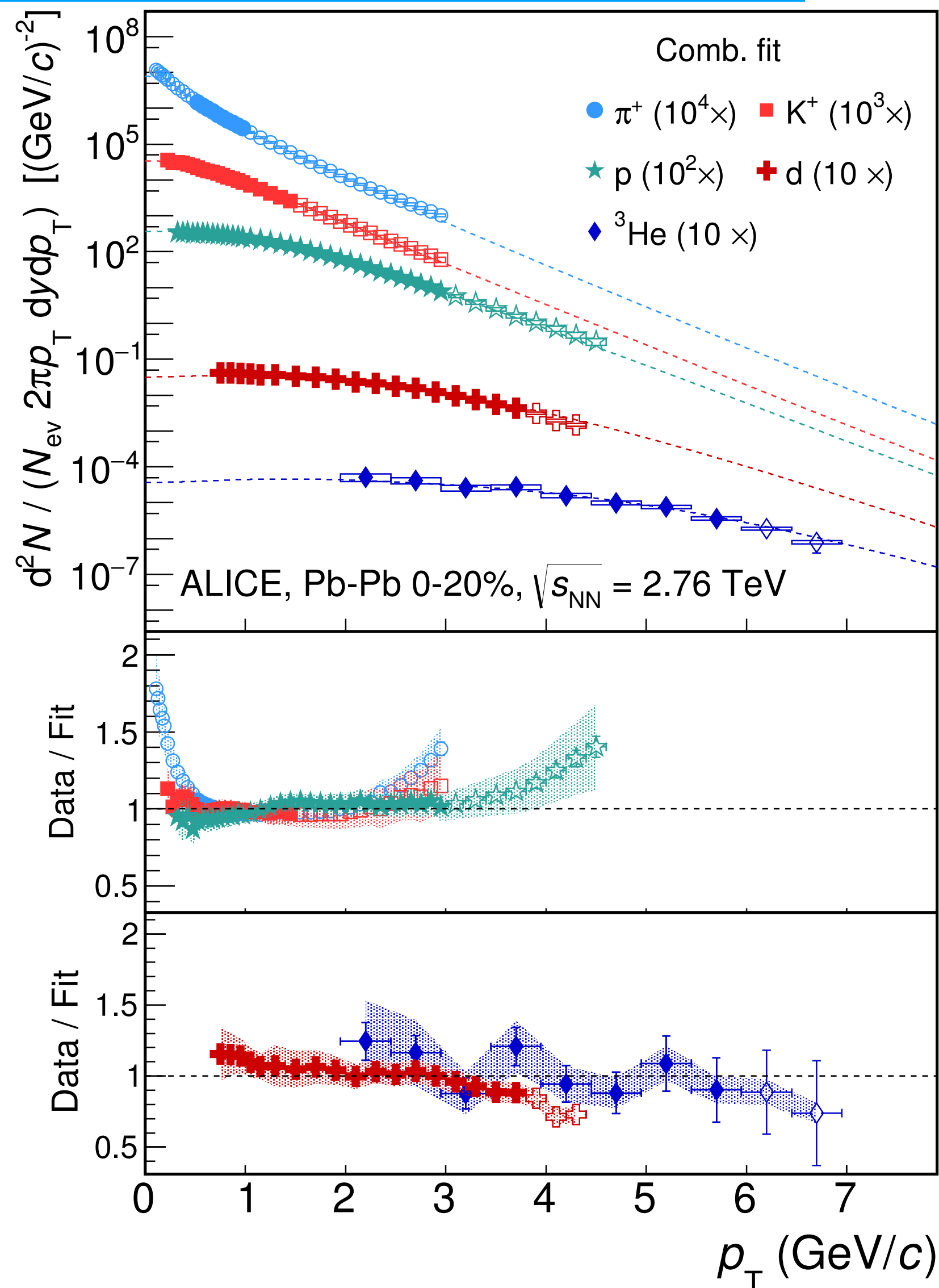
- $\beta_T$ : radial expansion velocity
- $T_{kin}$ : kinetic freeze-out temperature
- $n$ : velocity profile

$$E \frac{d^3 N}{d p^3} \propto \int_0^R m_T I_0 \left( \frac{p_T \sinh(\rho)}{T_{Kin}} \right) K_1 \left( \frac{m_T \cosh(\rho)}{T_{Kin}} \right) r dr$$

$$m_T = \sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2} \quad \rho = \tanh^{-1}(\beta_T) \quad \beta_T = \beta_s \left( \frac{r}{R} \right)^n$$

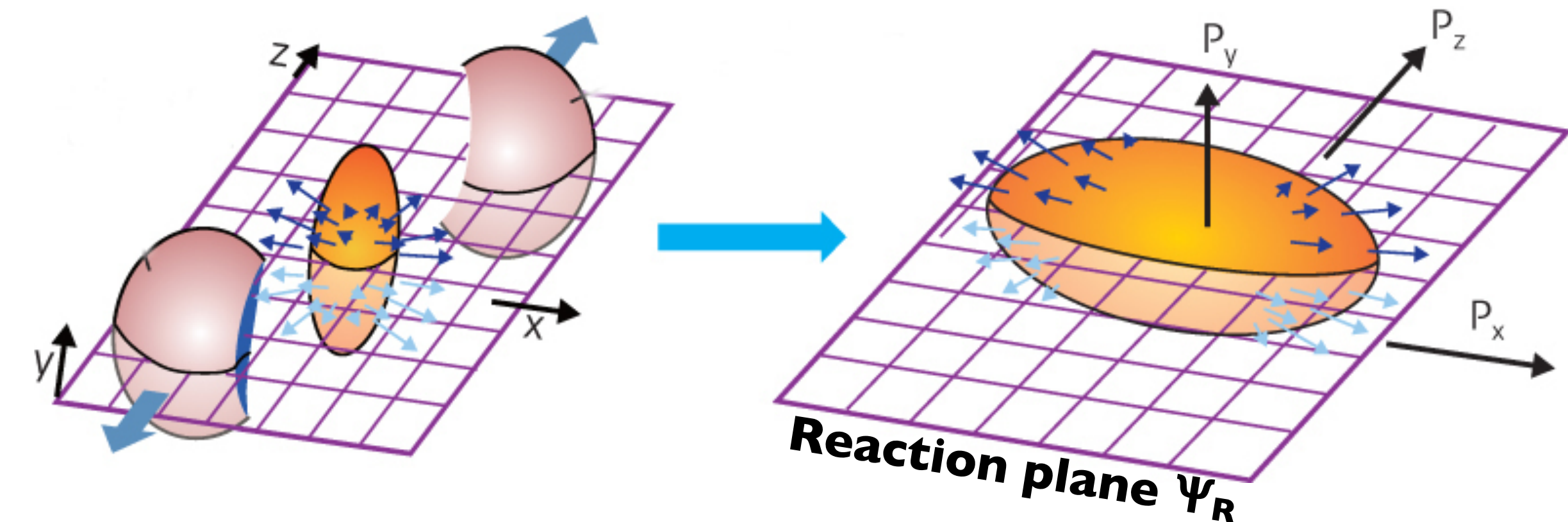
Schnedermann, Sollfrank and Heinz Phys. Rev. C 48, 2462

ALICE Phys. Rev. C93 (2015) 024917

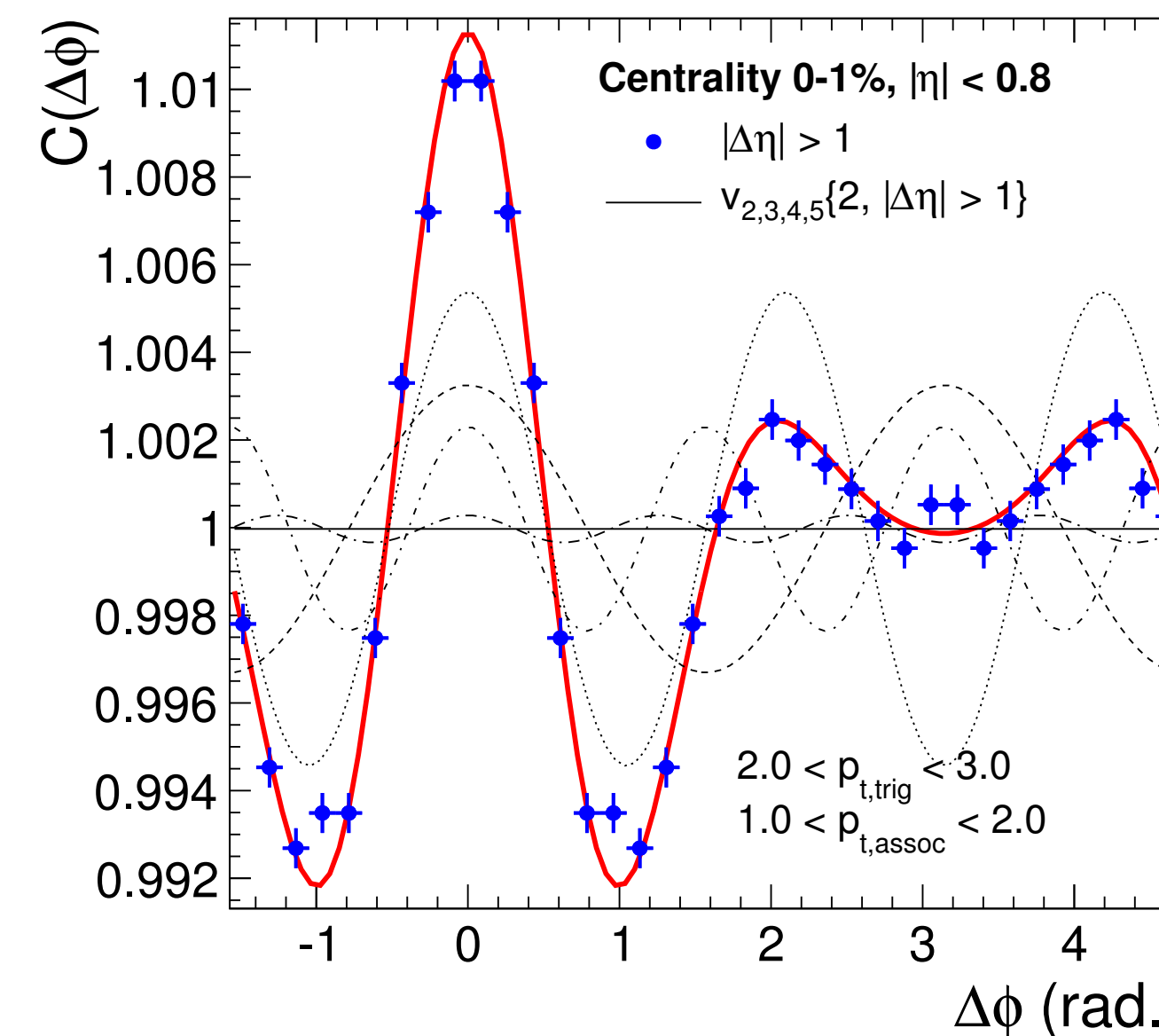


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ALICE Phys. Rev. Lett. 107 (2013) 032301



$$E \frac{d^3\sigma}{d^3\vec{p}} = \frac{d^2\sigma}{2\pi p_T dp_T dy} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos n(\varphi - \Psi_R) \right]$$

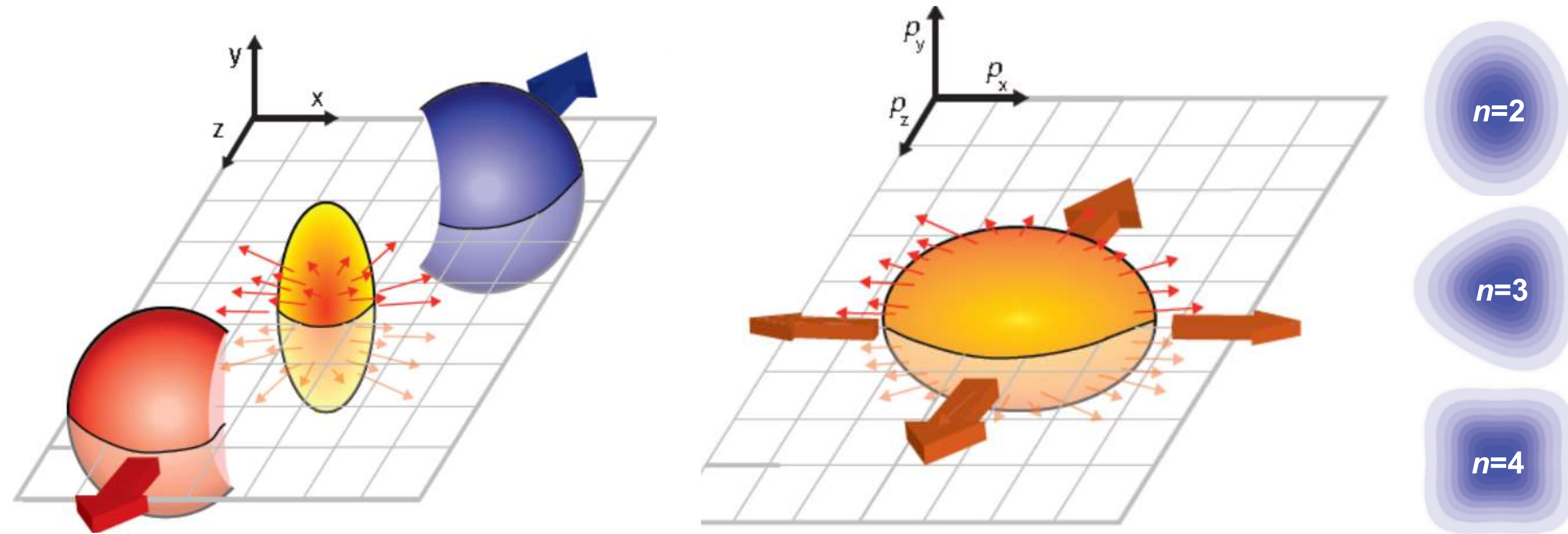
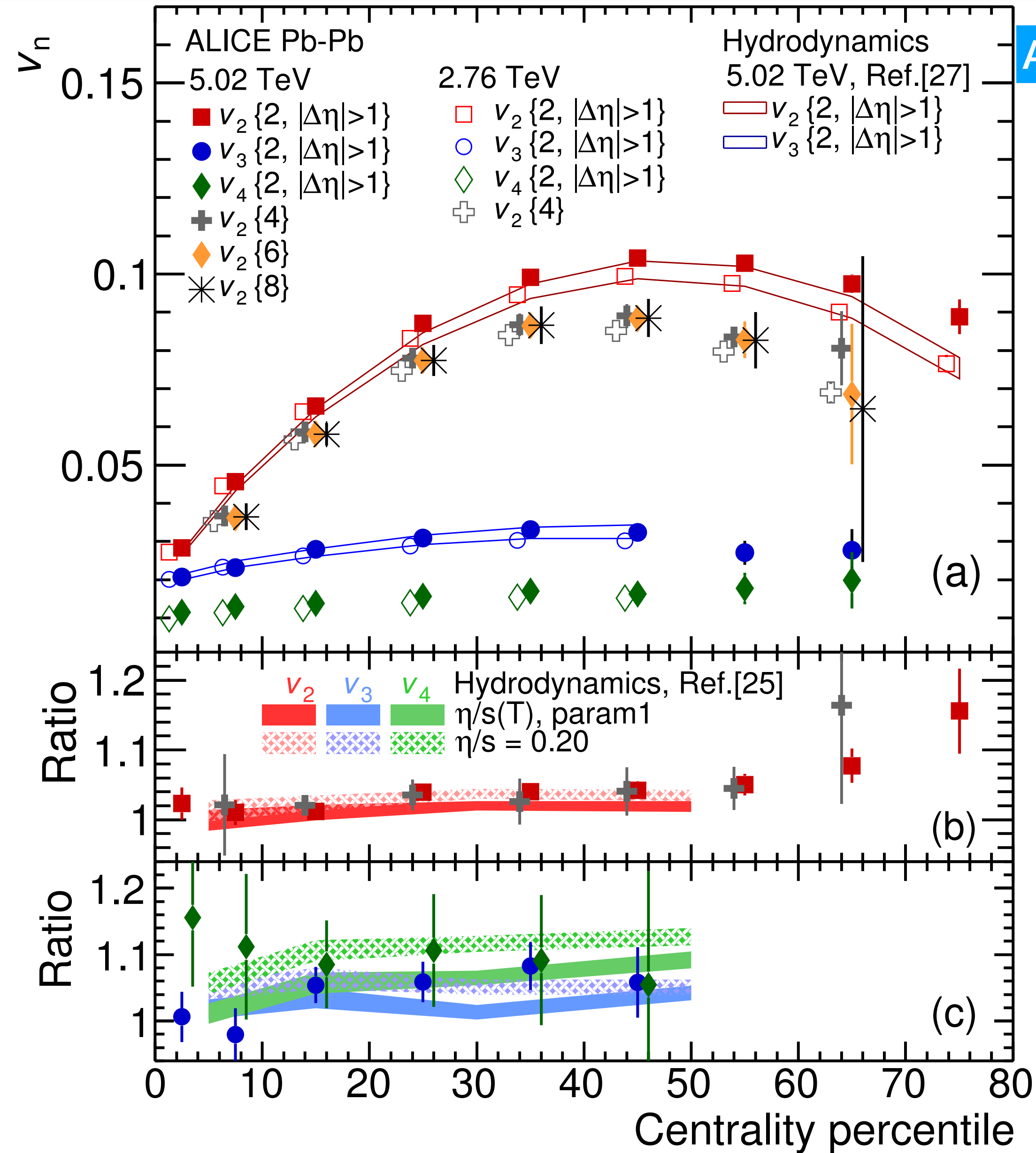


ALI-PUB-50350

- Quantify anisotropy: Fourier decomposition of particle azimuthal distribution relative to the reaction plane ( $\Psi_{RP}$ ) — coefficients  $v_2, v_3, v_4 \dots v_n$
- **Elliptic flow** ( $v_2$ ): spatial anisotropy — pressure gradients leads to momentum anisotropy — **hydrodynamics**
- **Higher order flow**: bring additional constraints on the **initial conditions,  $\eta/s$ , EoS, freeze-out conditions...**

ALICE *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 116 (2016) 132302

$$v_n = \langle \cos n(\varphi - \Psi_{RP}) \rangle$$



Measurements support a low value for  $\eta/s \sim 0.2$

- Produced in the early stage of heavy-ion collisions
  - ➔ Experience the full evolution of the QCD medium, and interact with particles in the medium and loss energy
- Efficient probes for understanding the transport properties of the medium

**Nuclear modification factor:**  $R_{AA}$  — sensitive to the presence of the medium

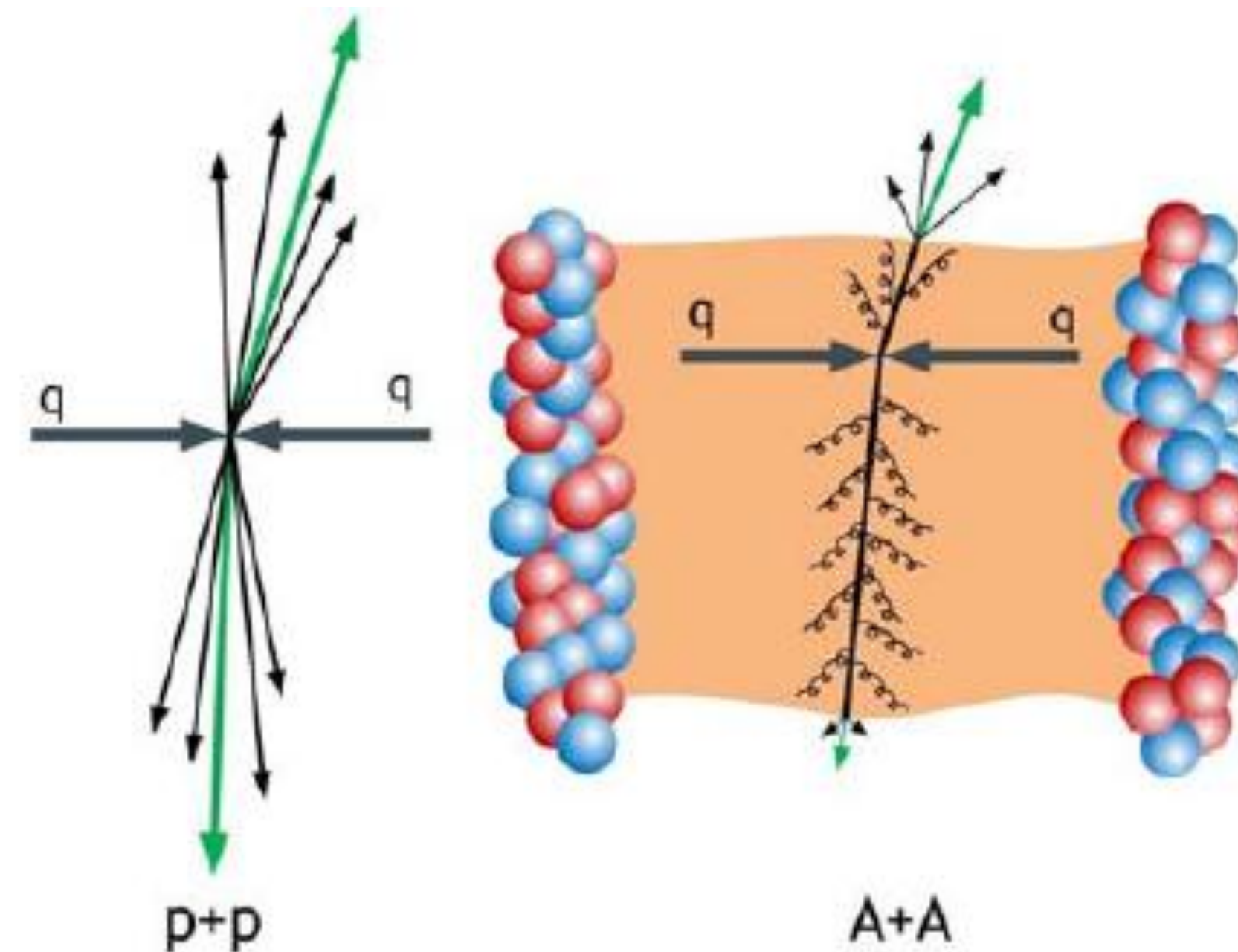
$$R_{AA}(p_T) = \frac{dN_{AA}/dp_T}{\langle T_{AA} \rangle d\sigma_{pp}/dp_T}$$

**QCD medium**  
**QCD vacuum**

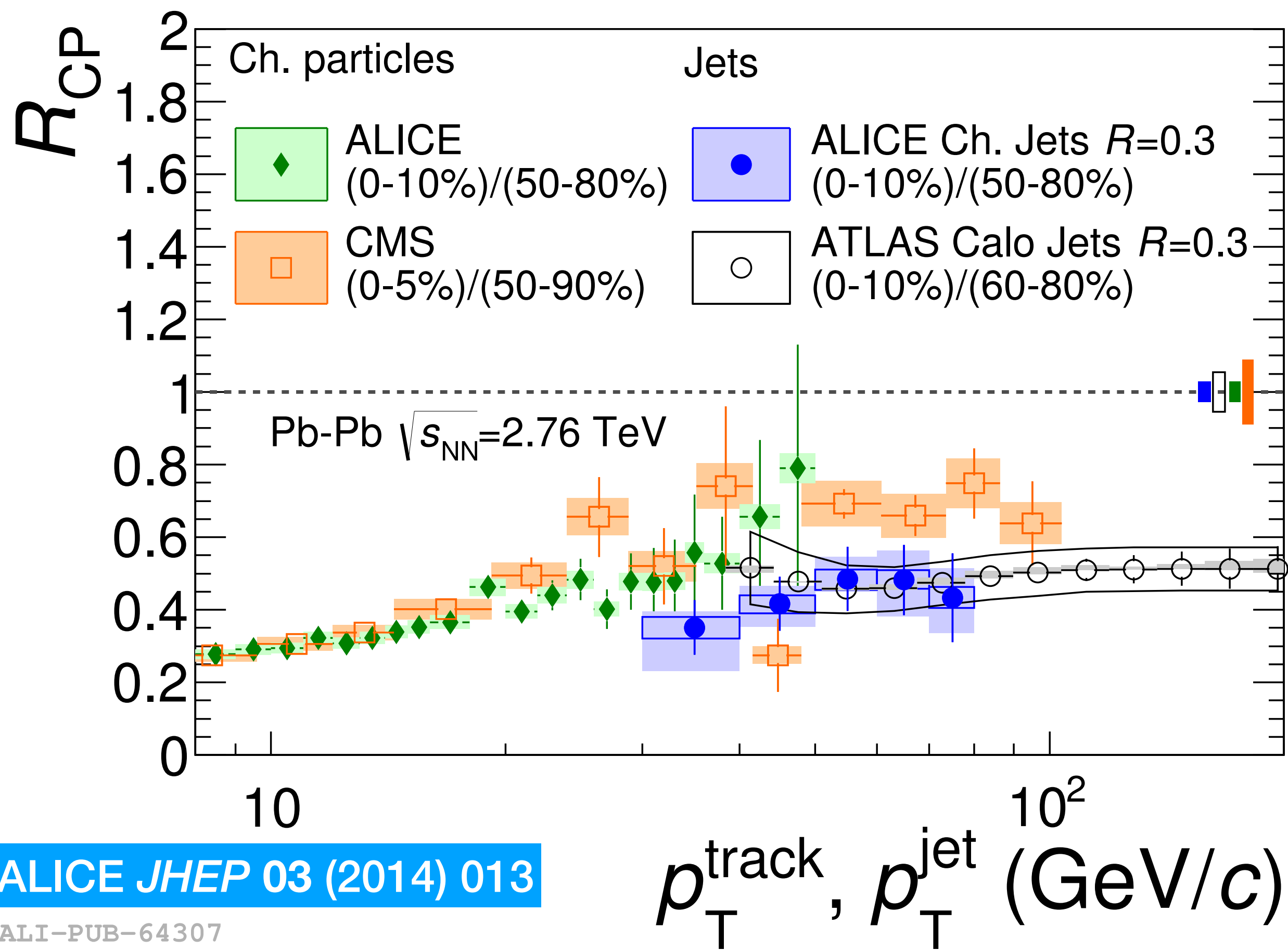
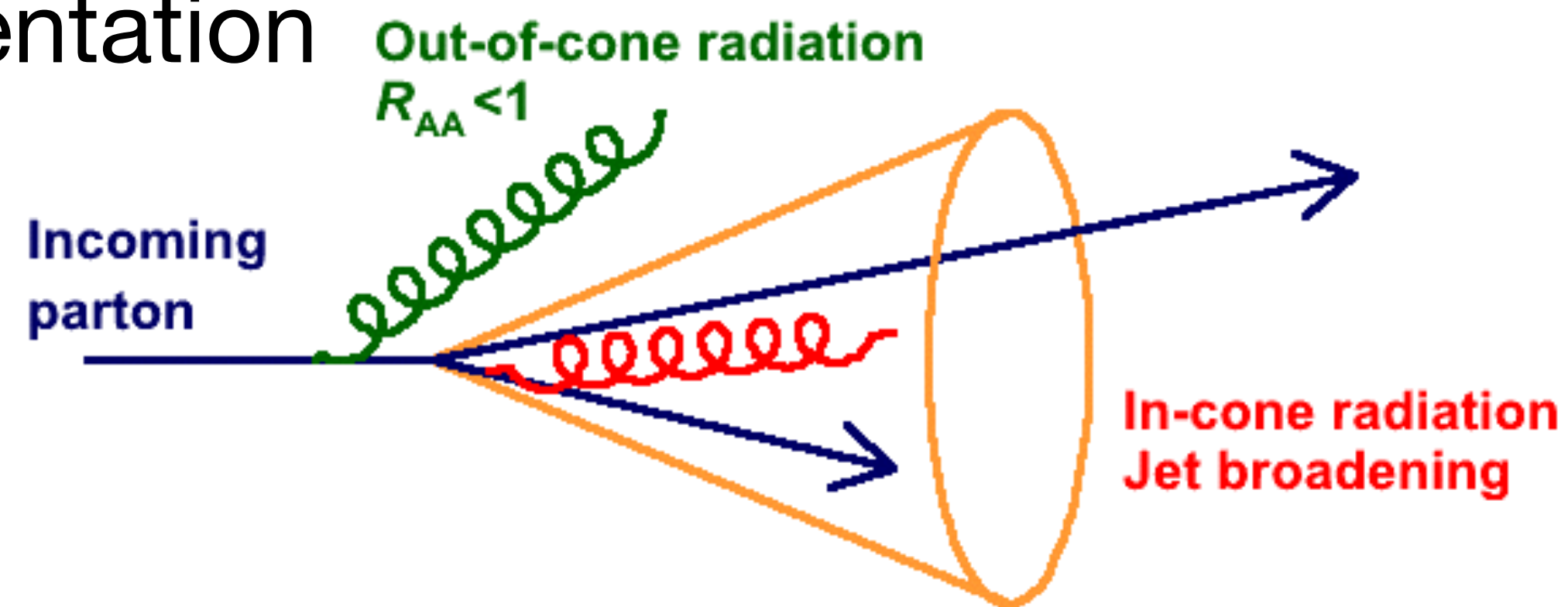
- $R_{AA} = 1$ , if there is no medium modification

## Shopping list

- High  $p_T$  particles, jets
- Open heavy flavours, quarkonia ( $J/\psi$ ,  $\psi'$ ...  $Y$ ...)



- Jet: a spray of particles from hard parton fragmentation
- ➔ Get closer access to parton energy

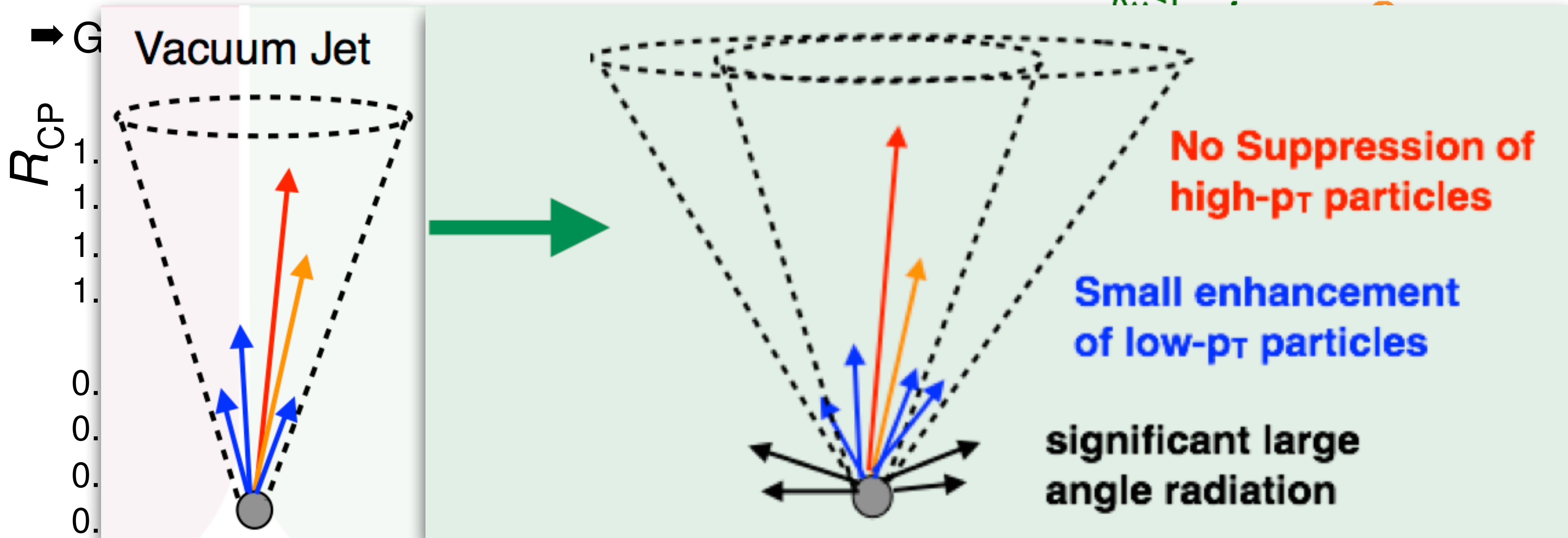


- Agreement between ALICE and ATLAS
- ➔ Contribution of low momentum jet fragments to jet energy is small
- $R_{CP}$  of jets and single hadrons are compatible
- ➔ Indication that the momentum is redistributed to larger angles



- Jet: a spray of particles from hard parton fragmentation

Out-of-cone radiation  
 $R_{AA} < 1$



ation ng  
 LAS

compatible

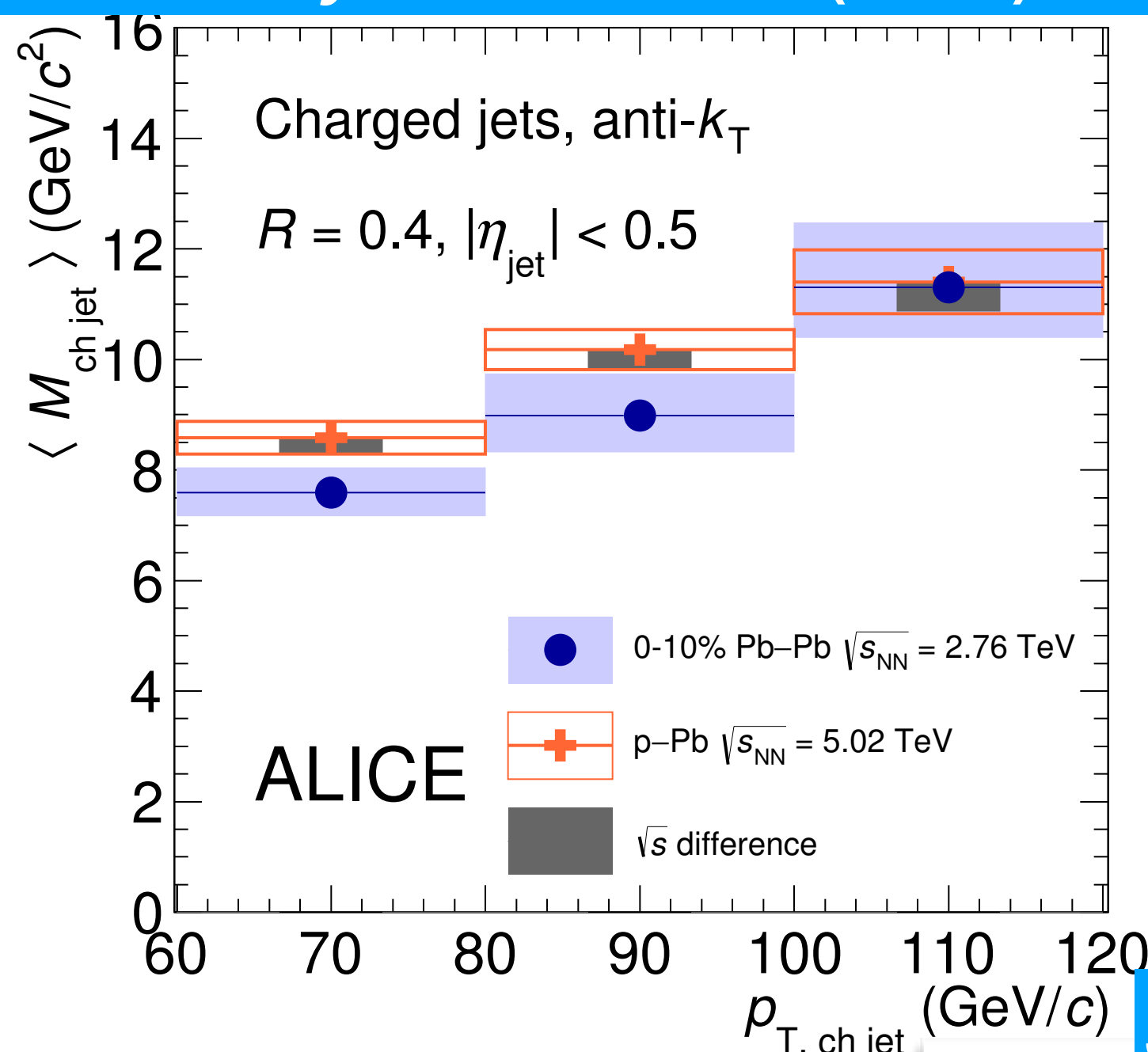
➔ Indication that the momentum is redistributed to larger angles

ALICE JHEP 03 (2014) 013

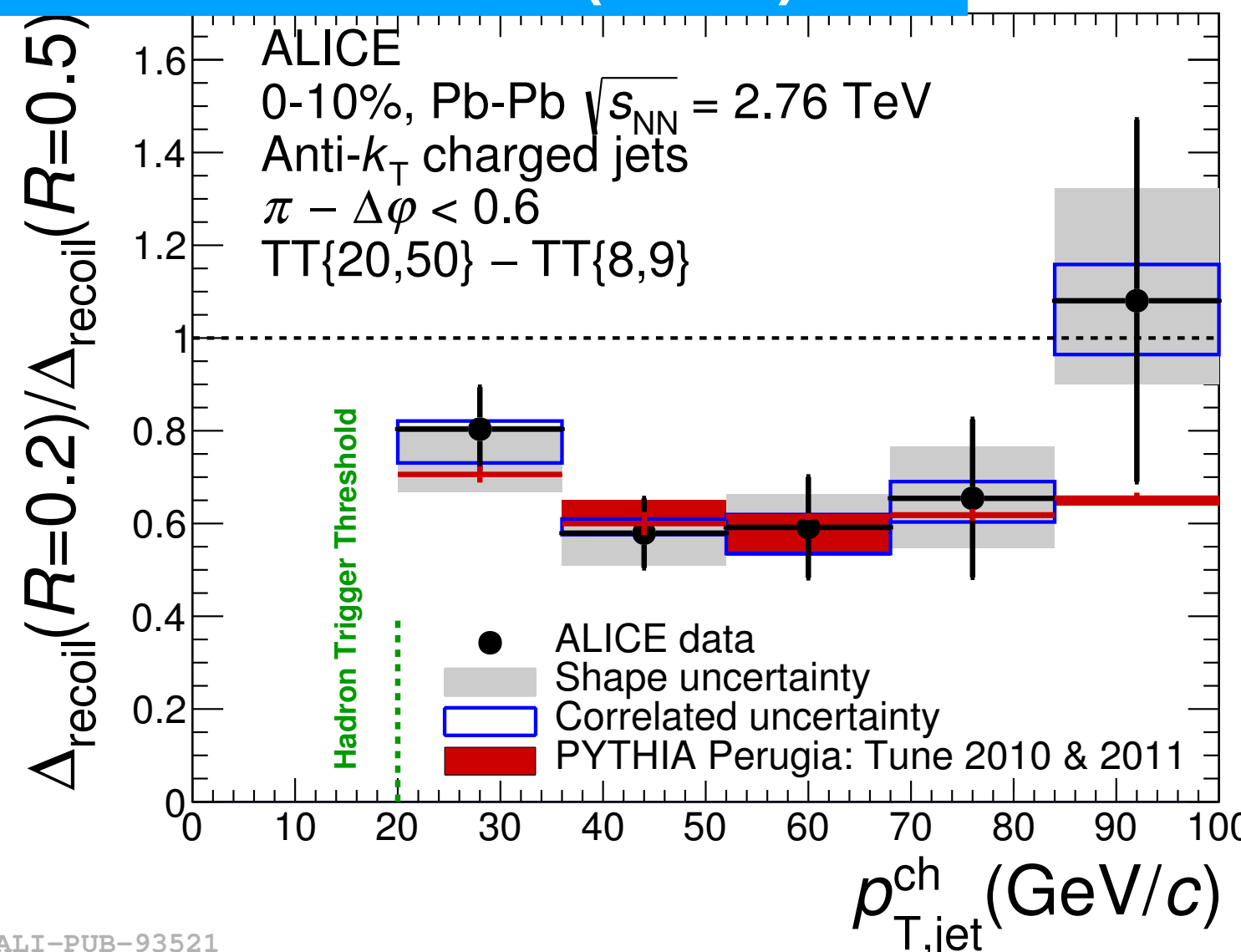
ALI-PUB-64307

$p_T^{\text{track}}, p_T^{\text{jet}}$  (GeV/c)

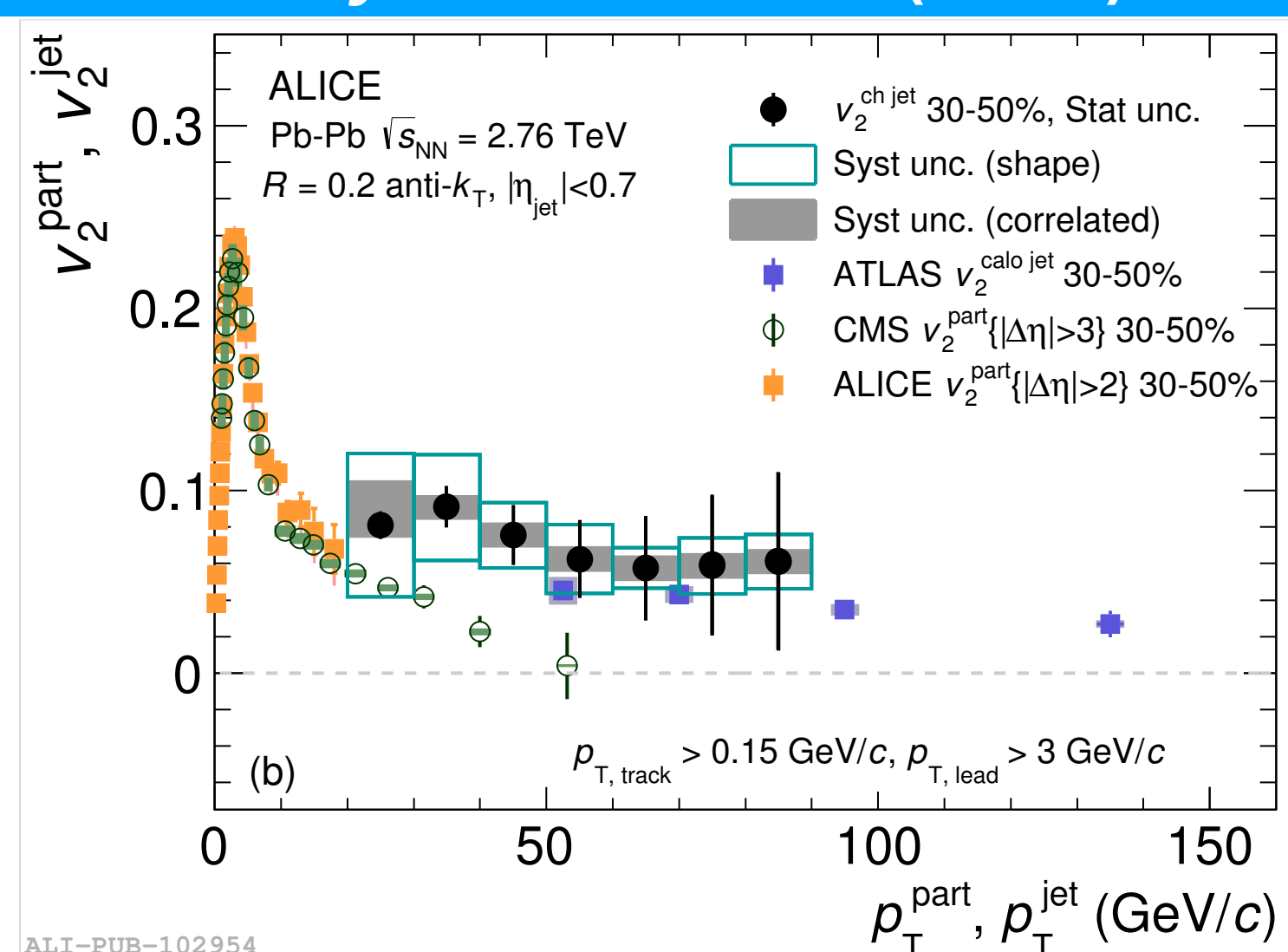
ALICE Phys. Lett. B776 (2018) 249



ALICE JHEP 09 (2015) 170



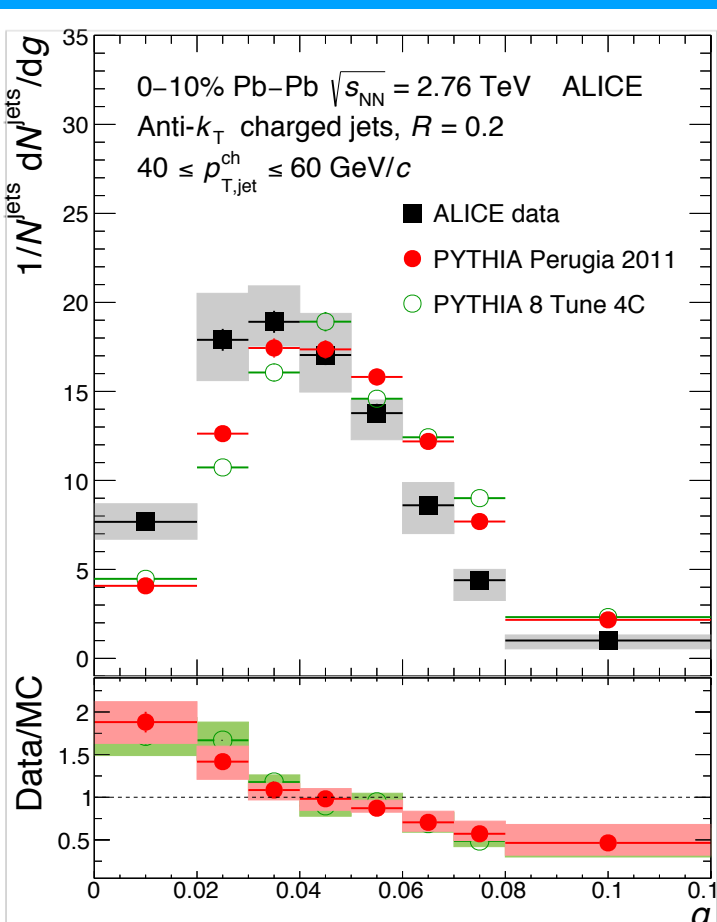
ALICE Phys. Lett. B753 (2016) 511



## Splitting function

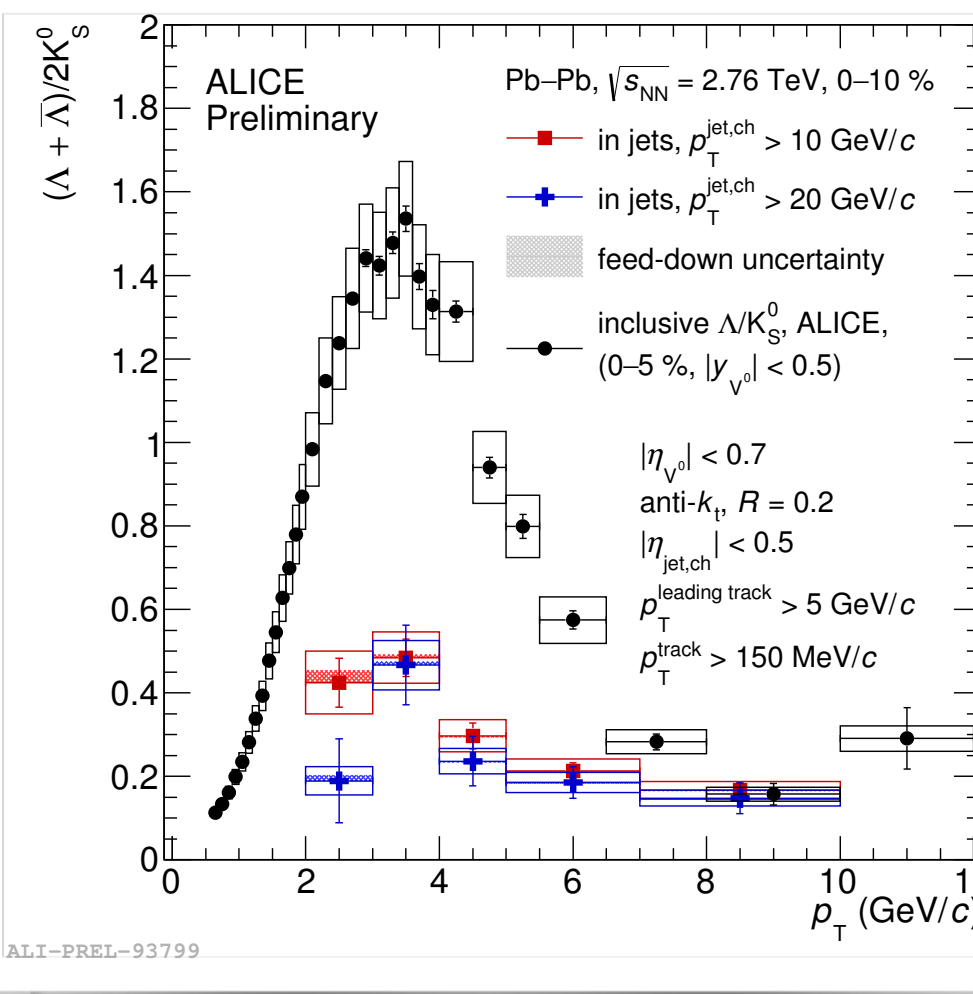
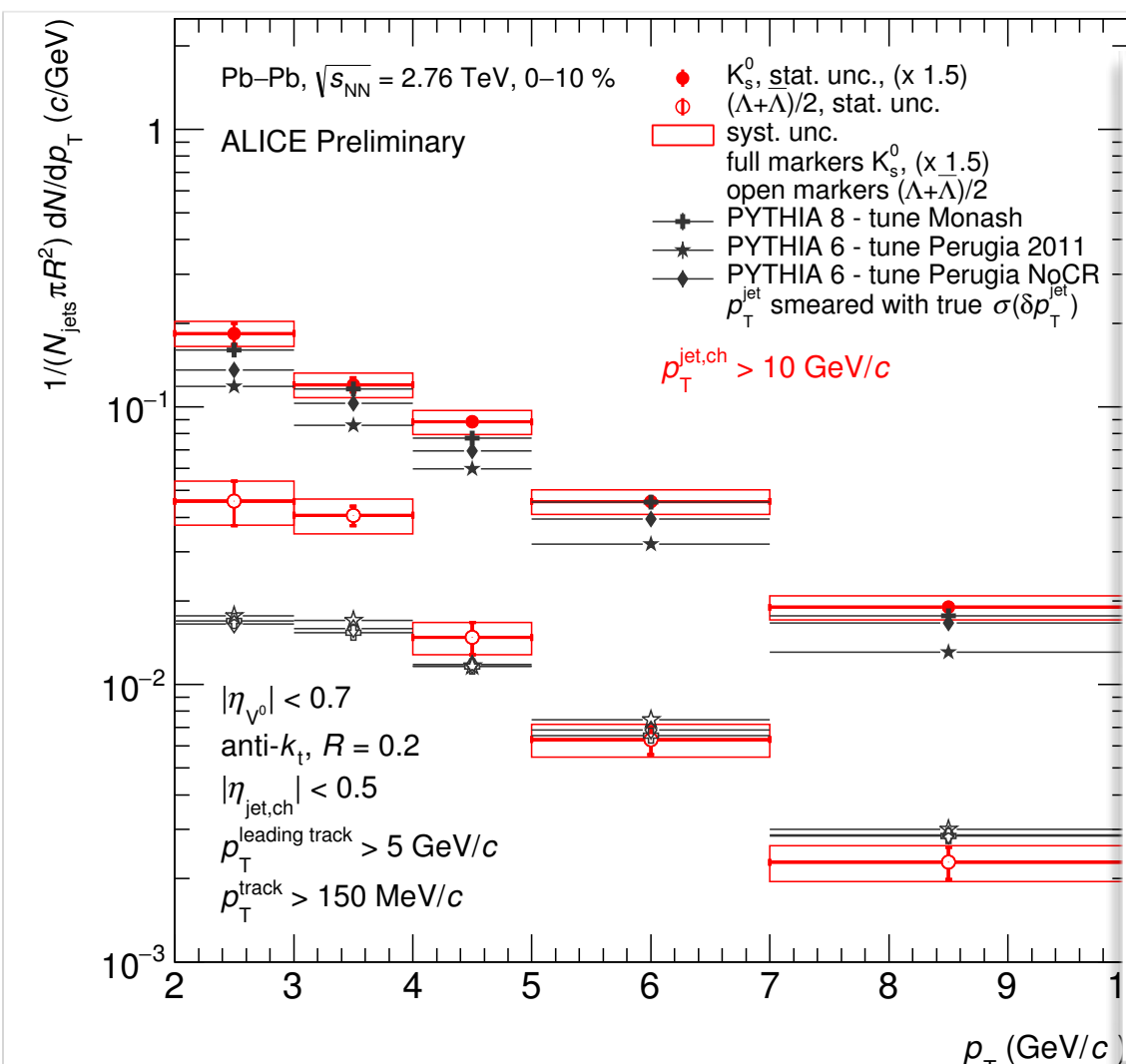
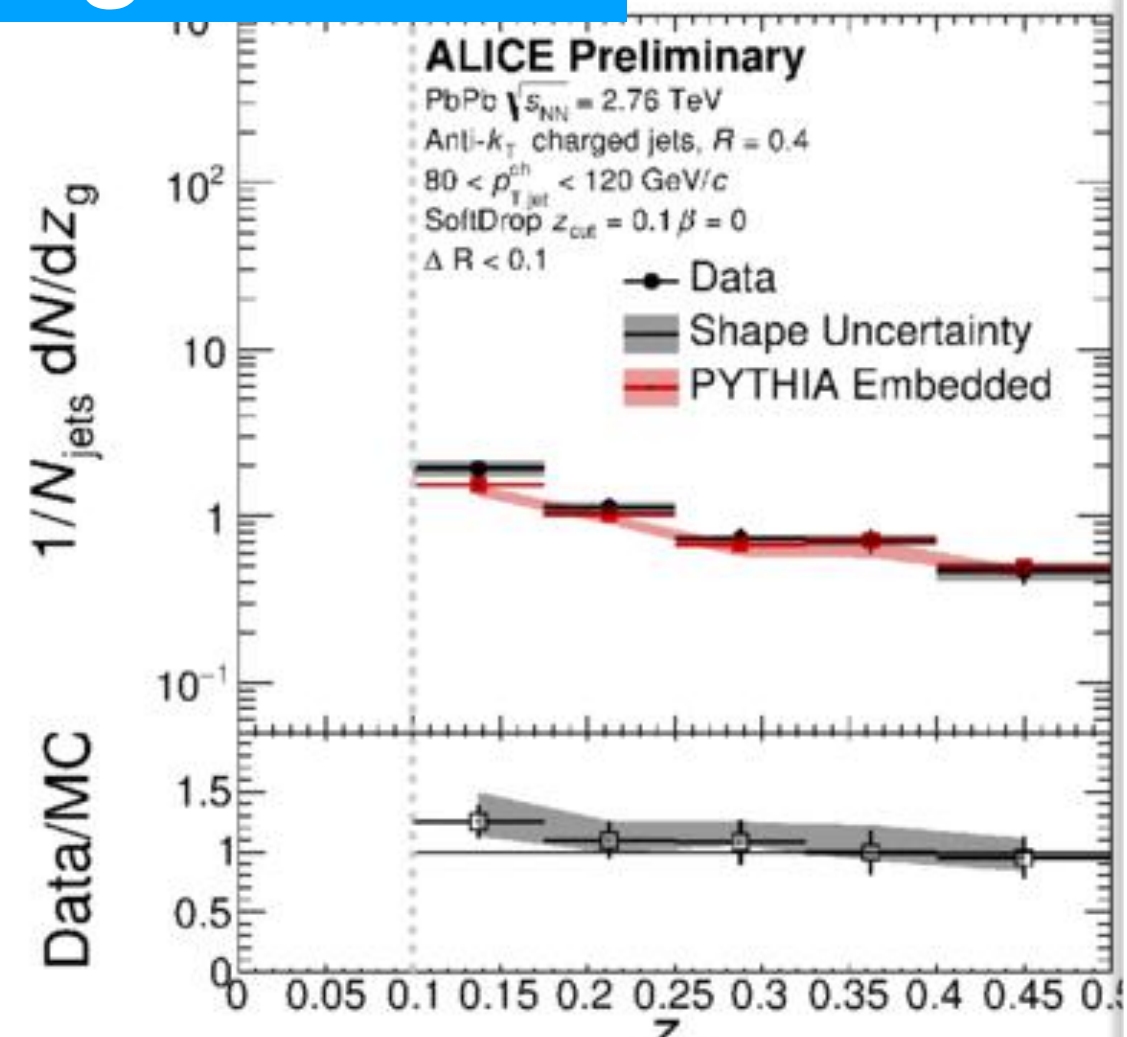
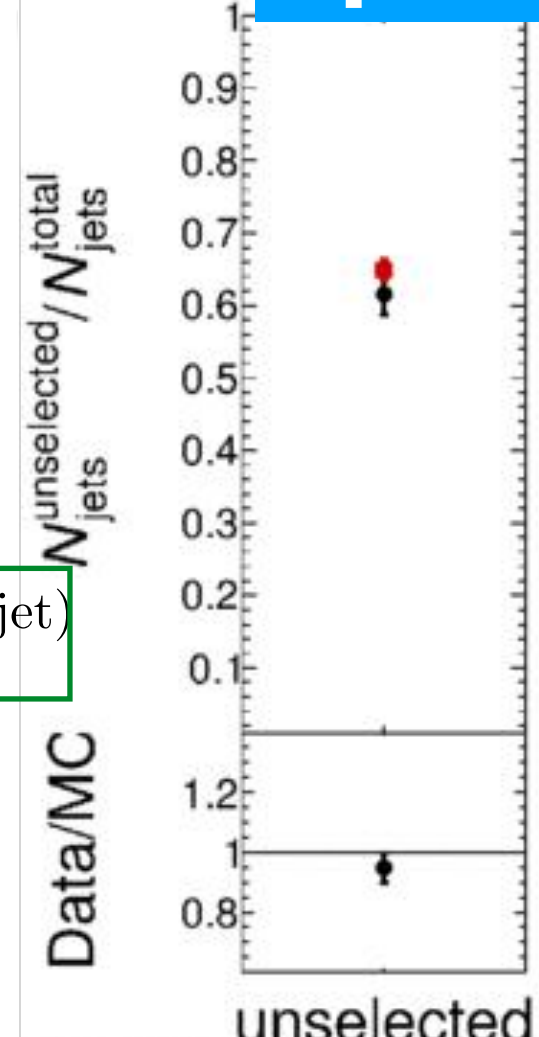
## Strangeness production in jets

ALICE JHEP 10 (2018) 139

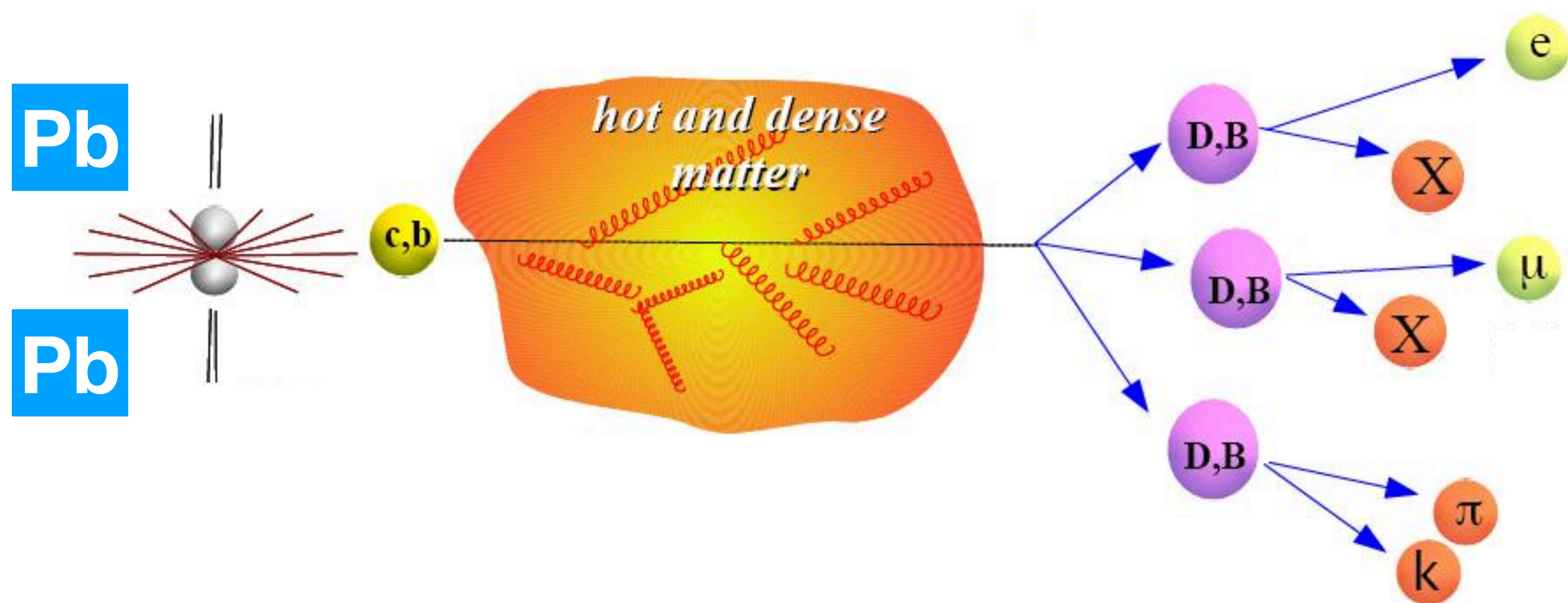


## Profile

$$g = \sum_{i \in jet} \frac{p_{T,i}}{p_{T,jet}} \Delta R(i, jet)$$



**Heavy quarks (charm and beauty): powerful probes of the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)**

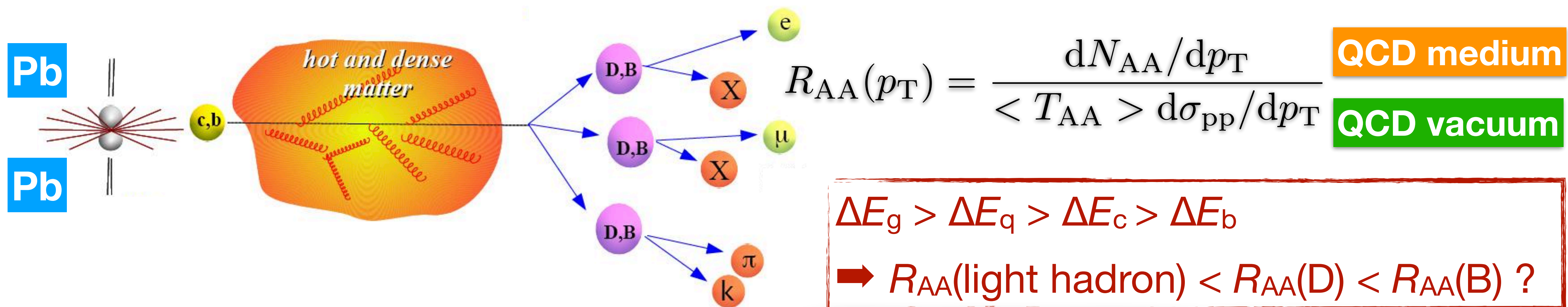


Charm Hadron		Cross Section $d\sigma/dy$ ( $\mu\text{b}$ )
Au+Au 200 GeV (10-40%)	$D^0$	$41 \pm 1 \pm 5$
	$D^+$	$18 \pm 1 \pm 3$
	$D_s^+$	$15 \pm 1 \pm 5$
	$\Lambda_c^+$	$78 \pm 13 \pm 28^*$
	<b>Total</b>	<b><math>152 \pm 13 \pm 29</math></b>
p+p 200 GeV	<b>Total</b>	<b><math>130 \pm 30 \pm 26</math></b>

**Total charm cross section in HIC is expected to scale w. r. t. the number of binary collisions in pp-like collisions**

- Produced in initial hard scatterings (high  $Q^2$ ) at the early stage of heavy-ion collisions:  
 $\tau_{c/b} \sim 0.01 - 0.1 \text{ fm}/c < \tau_{\text{QGP}} (\sim 0.3 \text{ fm}/c)$
- Production cross section calculable with pQCD ( $m_c, m_b \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ )
- Experience the entire evolution of the QCD medium — probe transport properties of the deconfined medium

**Heavy quarks (charm and beauty):** powerful probes of the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)

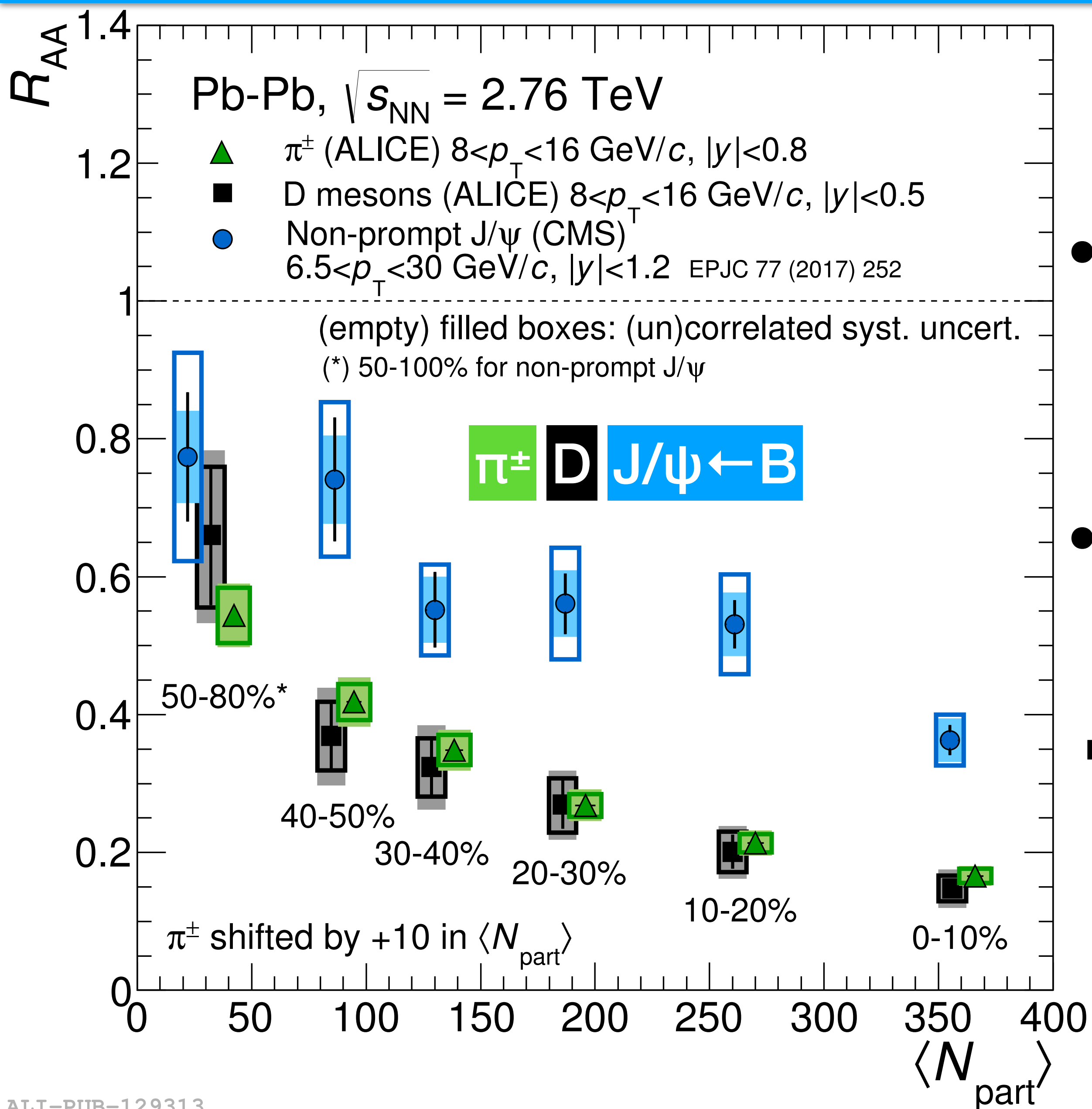


**Nuclear modification factor ( $R_{AA}$ ):** heavy quark in-medium energy loss

- Elastic (radiative) vs. inelastic (collisional) processes
- Color charge (Casimir factor) and mass (eg dead-cone effect) dependence

**Medium modification of heavy-flavour hadron production**

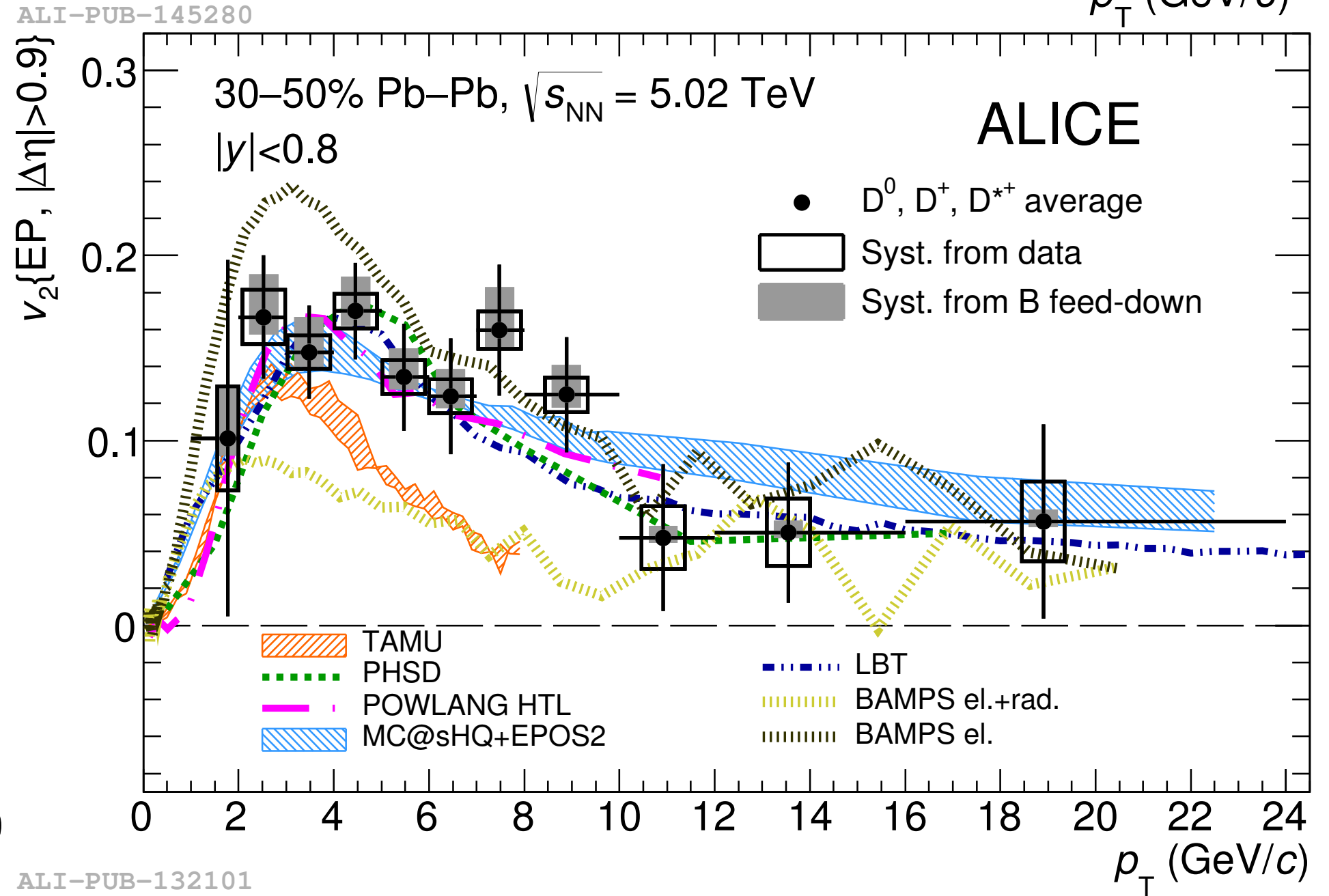
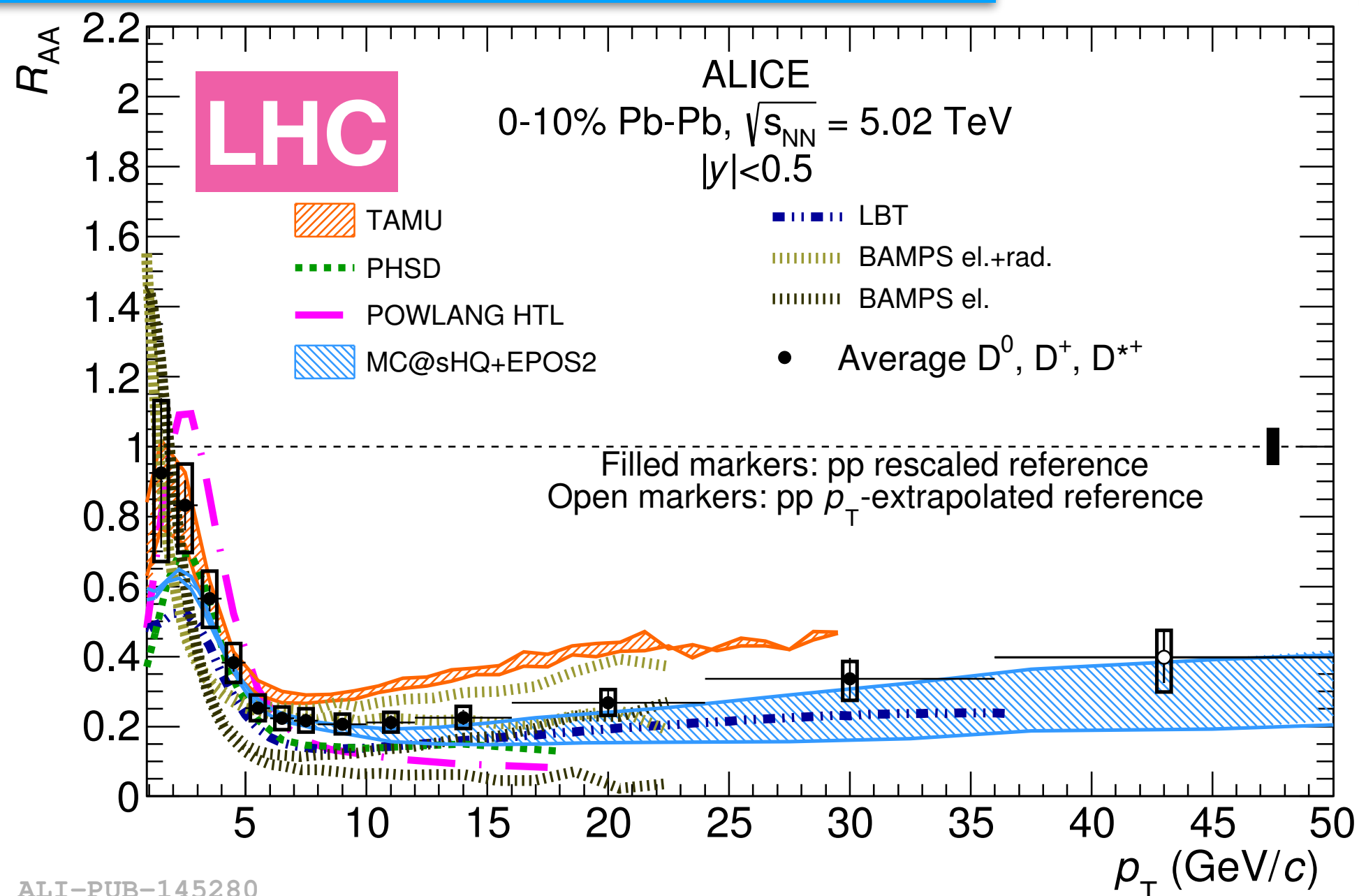
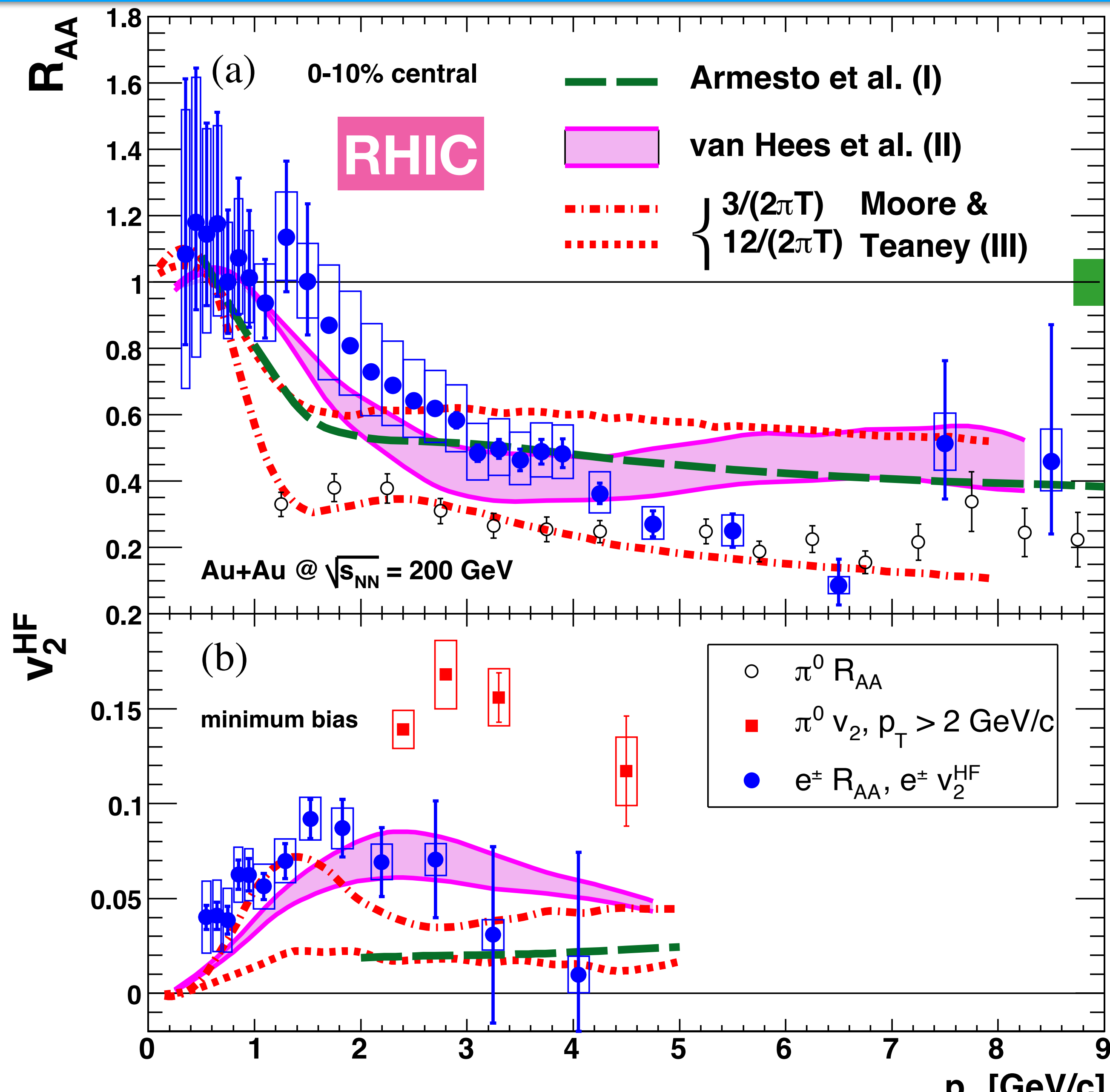
- Hadronization via coalescence may modify the  $D_s^+$  / non-strange D and  $\Lambda_c$  / D ratios

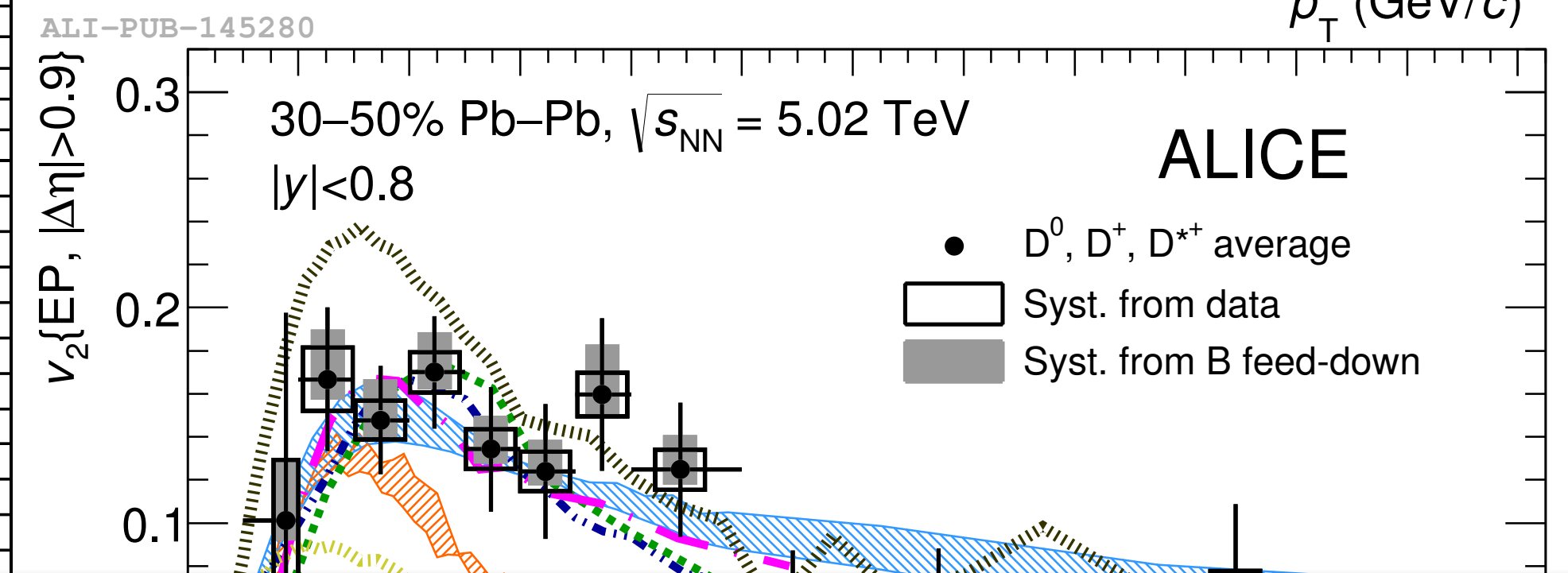
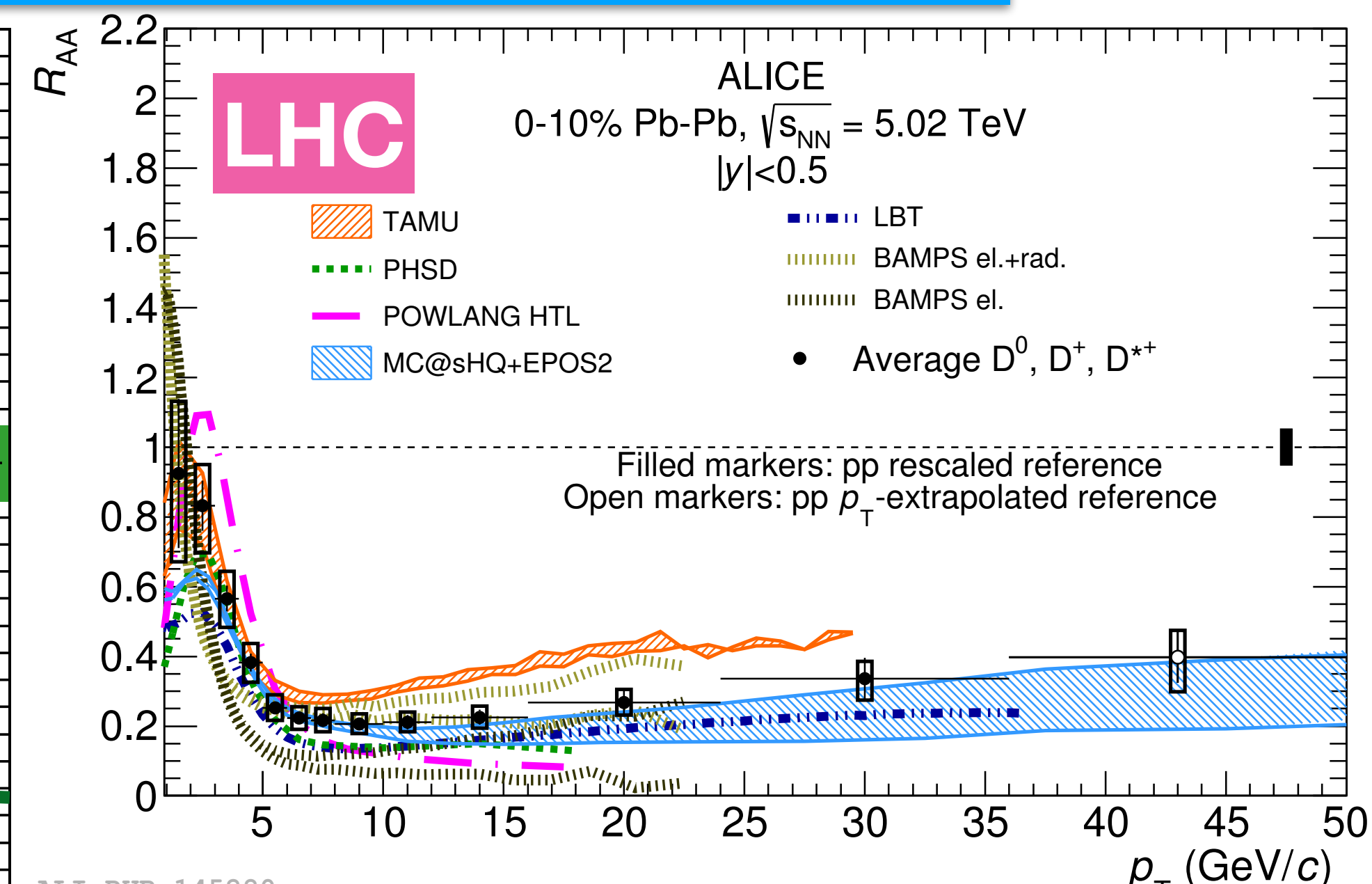
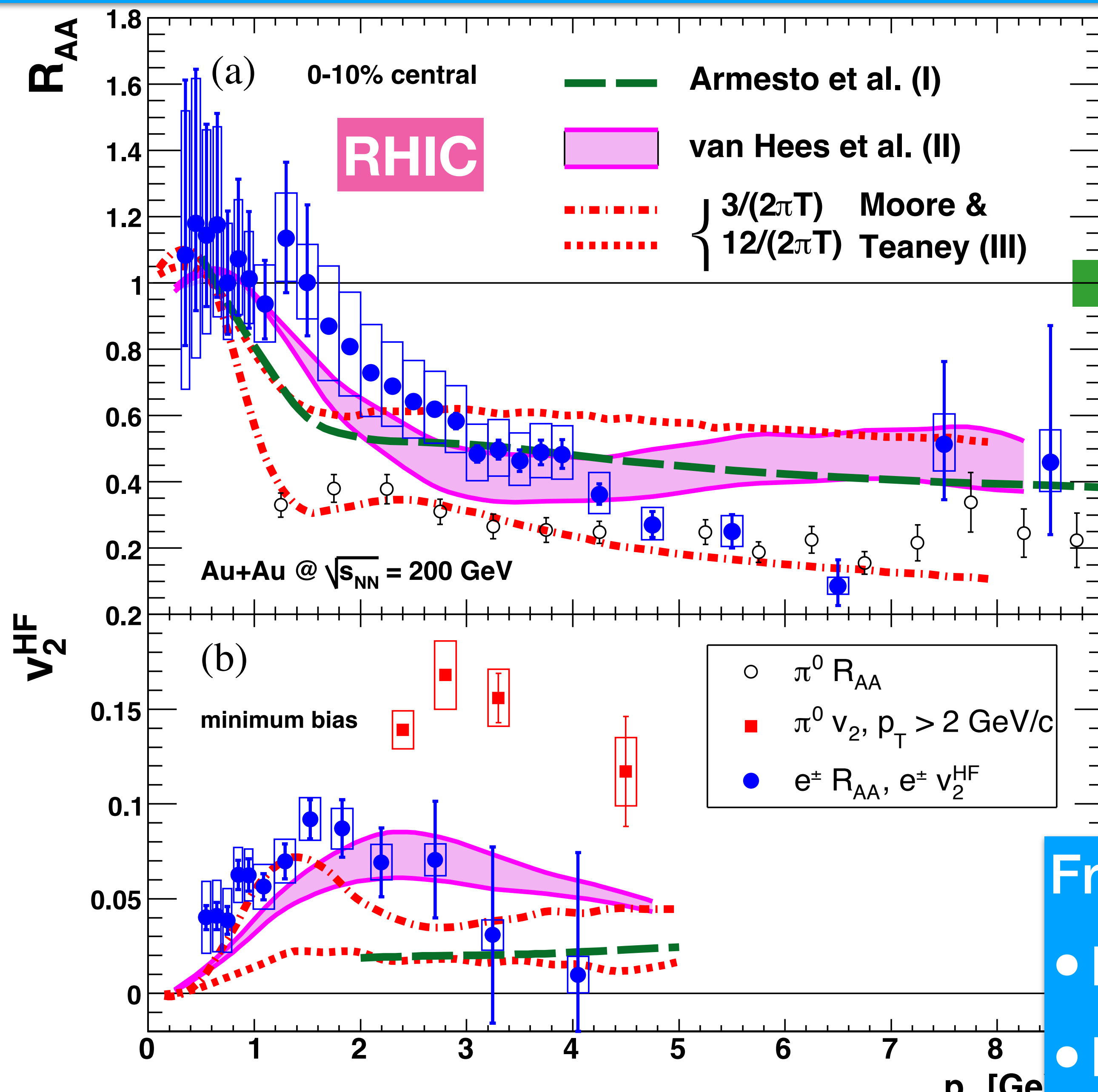


- Indication of  $R_{AA}(D) < R_{AA}(J/\psi \leftarrow B)$  at the LHC

- $R_{AA}$  of open heavy-flavour particles at the RHIC — hint of  $R_{AA}(D) < R_{AA}(B)$

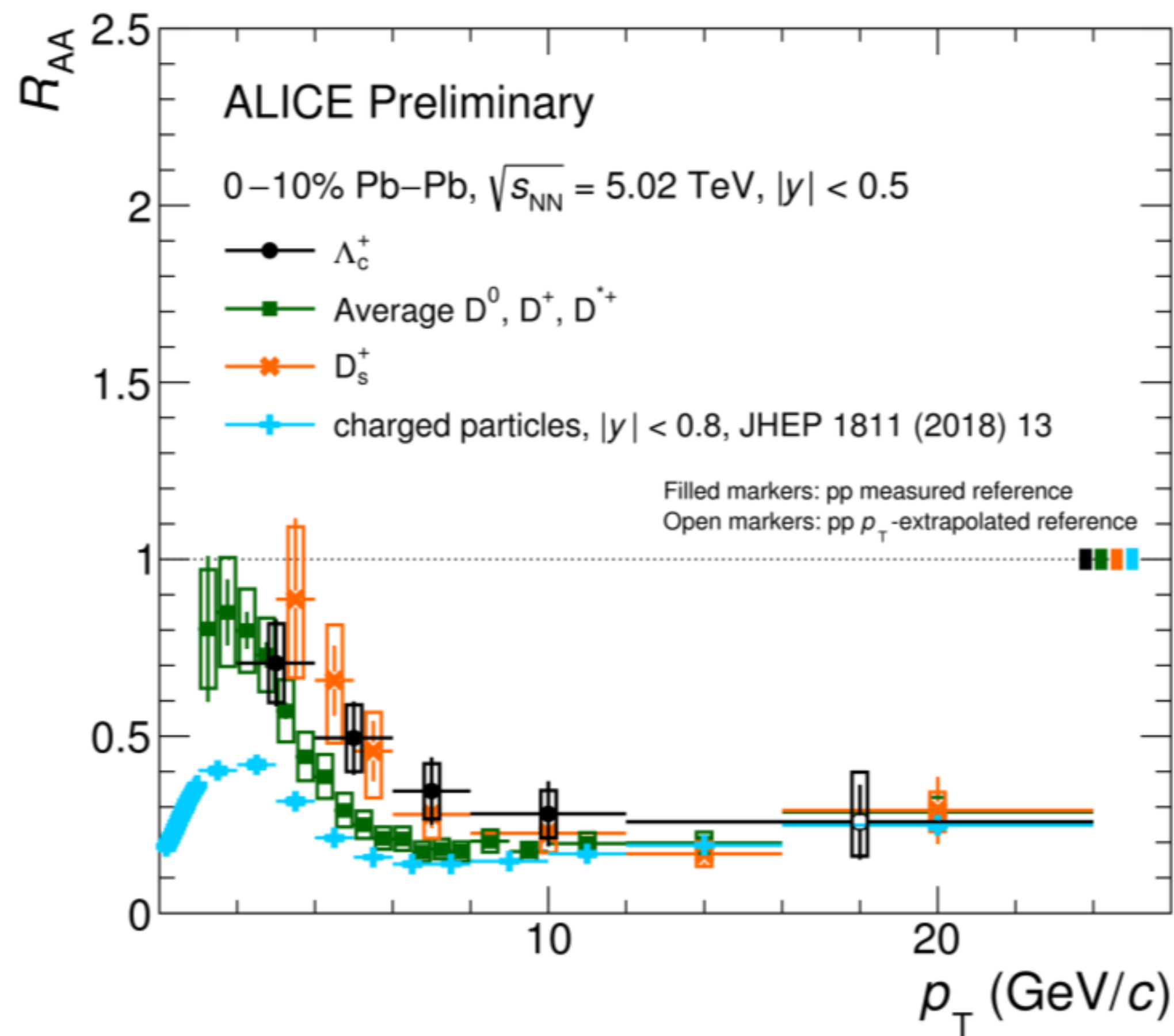
➔ Indication of mass dependence of heavy-quark energy loss:  $\Delta E_c > \Delta E_b$



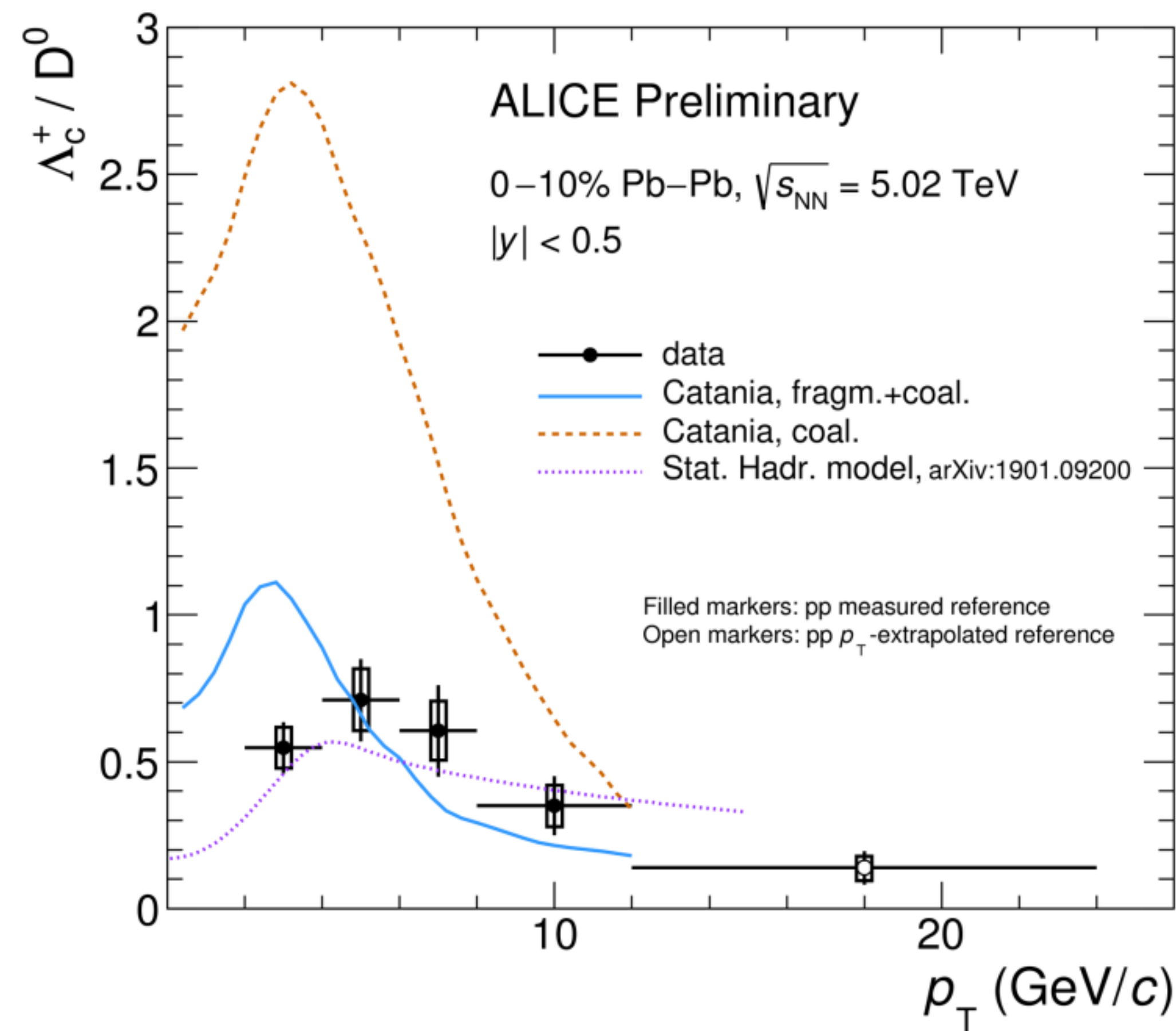


From Heavy quark diffusion coefficient

- RHIC:  $(4 - 6) / 2\pi T$  for  $0.2 < T < 0.4$  GeV
- LHC:  $(1.5 - 7) / 2\pi T$  for  $T = T_c$



ALI-PREL-321872

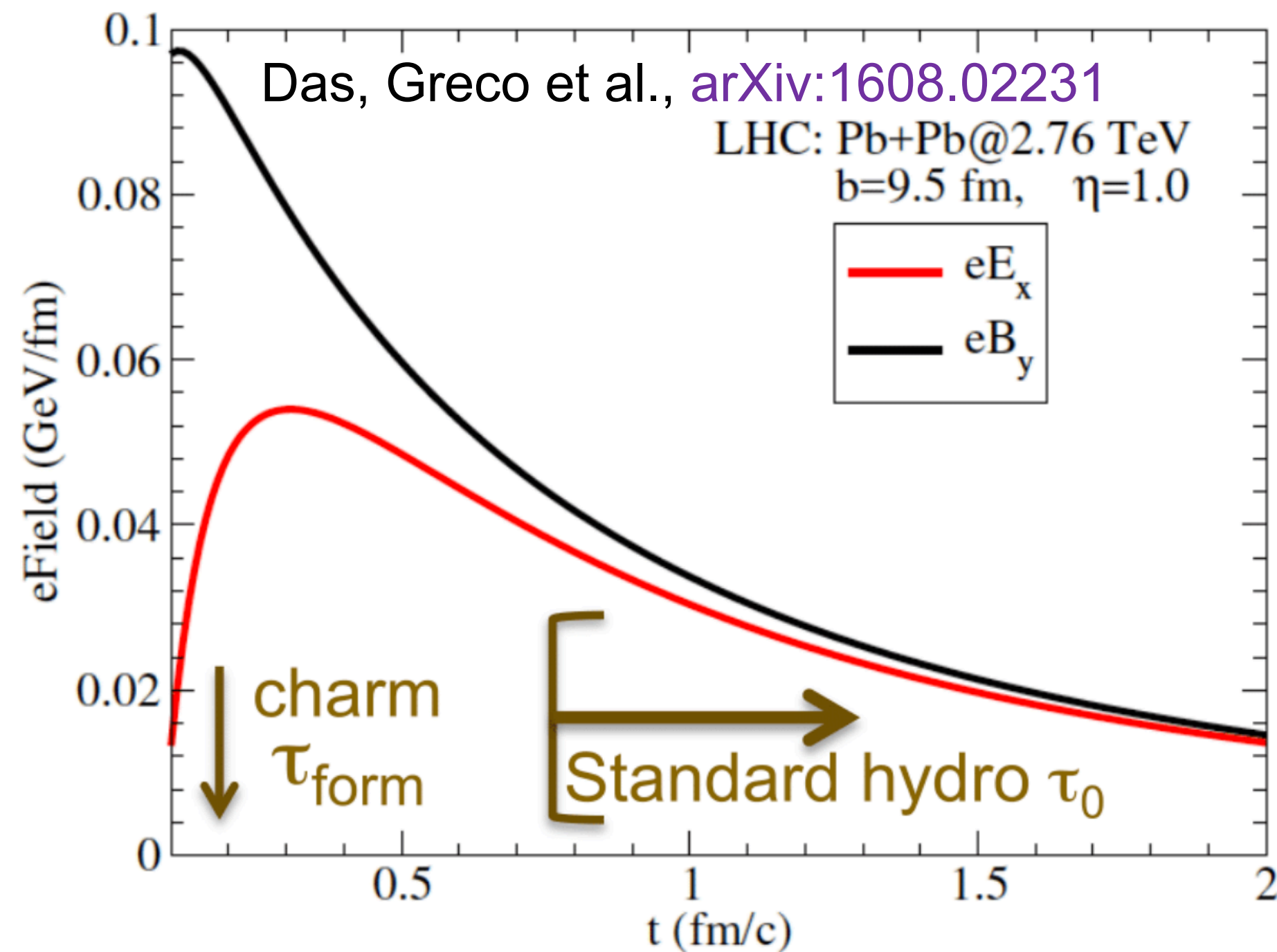


ALI-PREL-321682

- New  $\Lambda_c$   $R_{AA}$  in 2018 Pb-Pb data, similar suppression as  $D_s^+$
- Hint of higher  $\Lambda_c / D^0$  ratio in Pb-Pb collisions than small systems
- ➔ Described by model including both coalescence and fragmentation

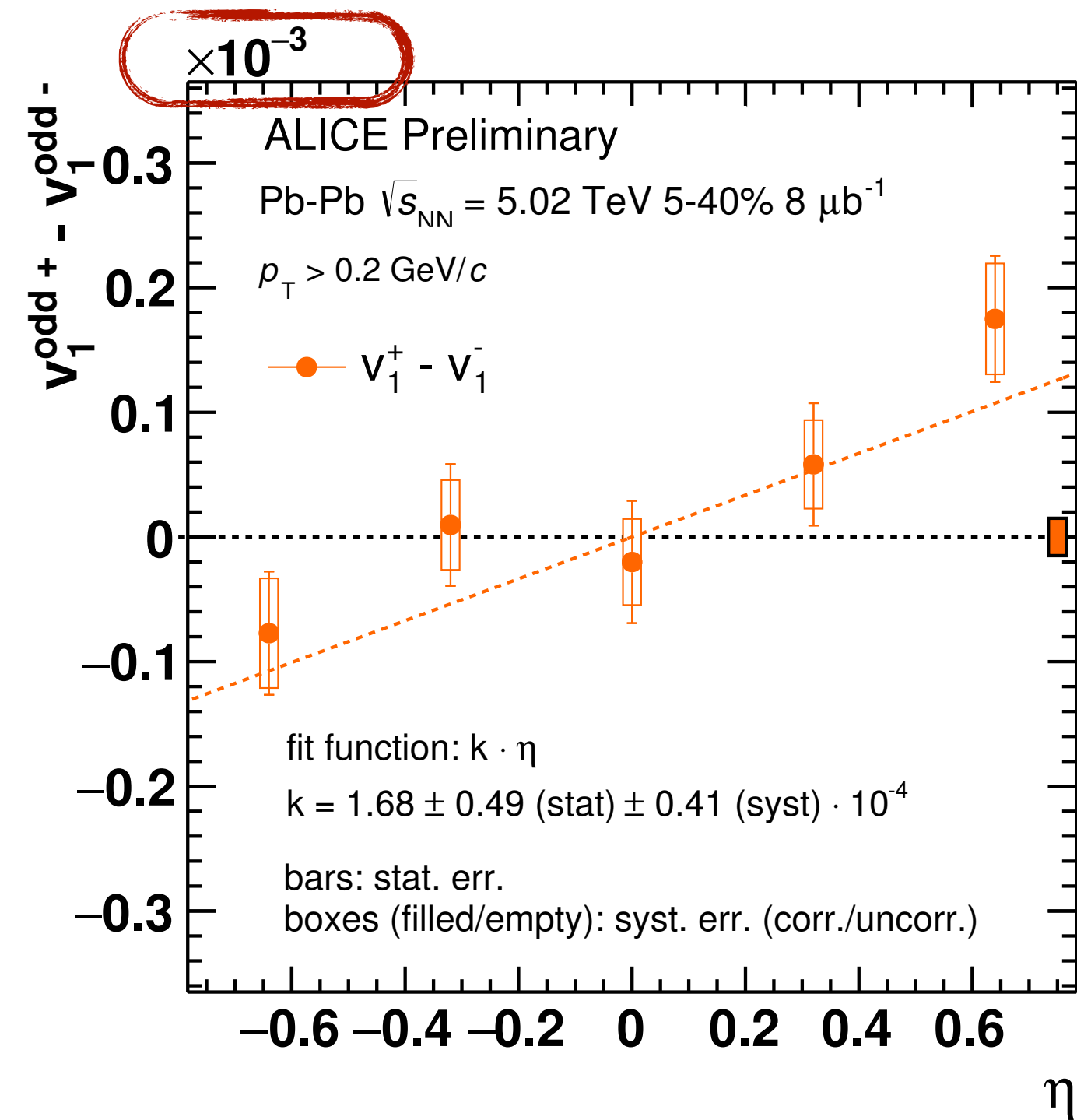
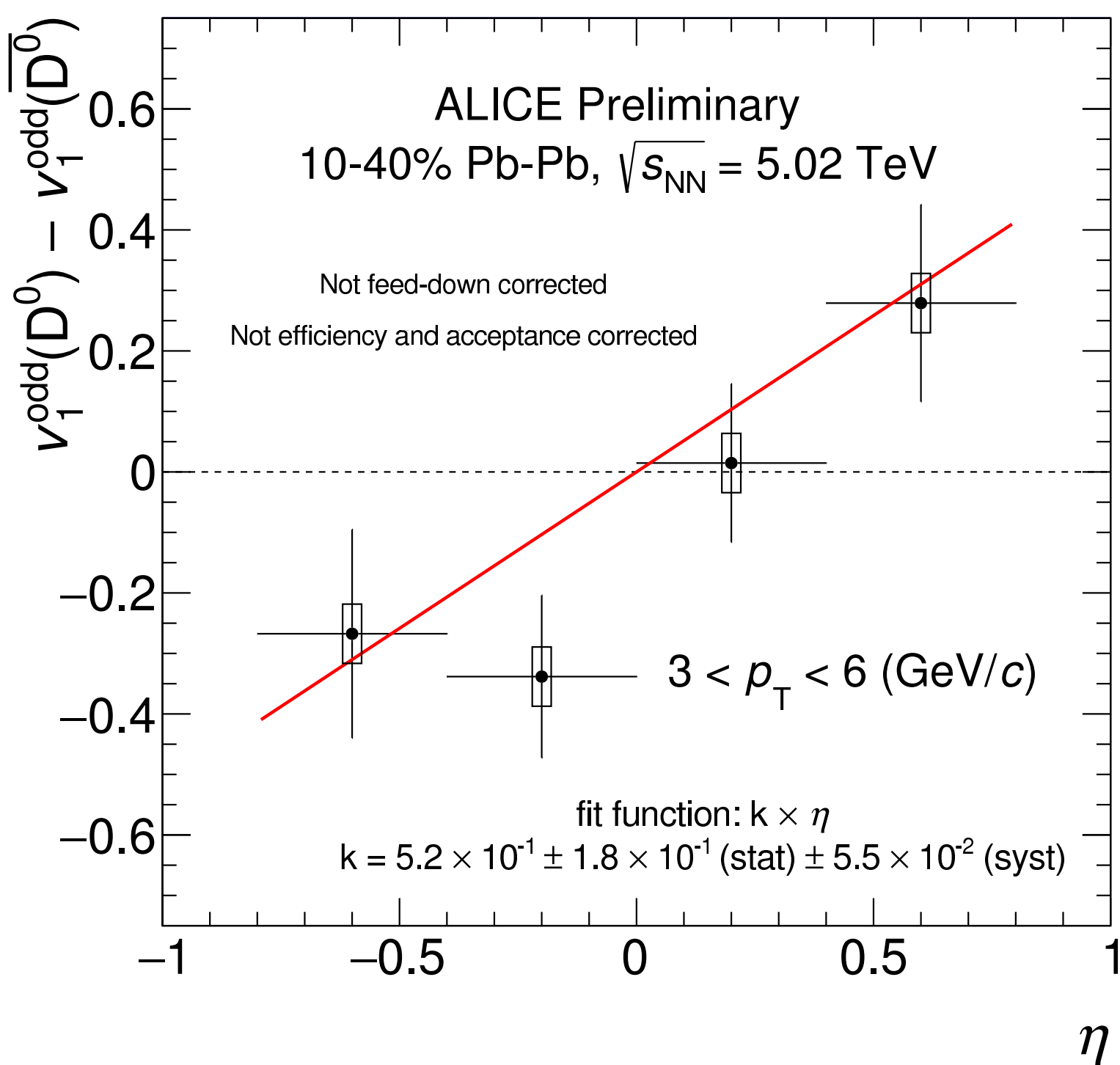


- Sensitive to the early time EM fields in the collisions
  - ➔ Provide constraint for CME related physics
- Charm dragged by tilted bulk
  - ➔ Larger  $v_1$  for D mesons, probe the longitudinal profile of the initial matter

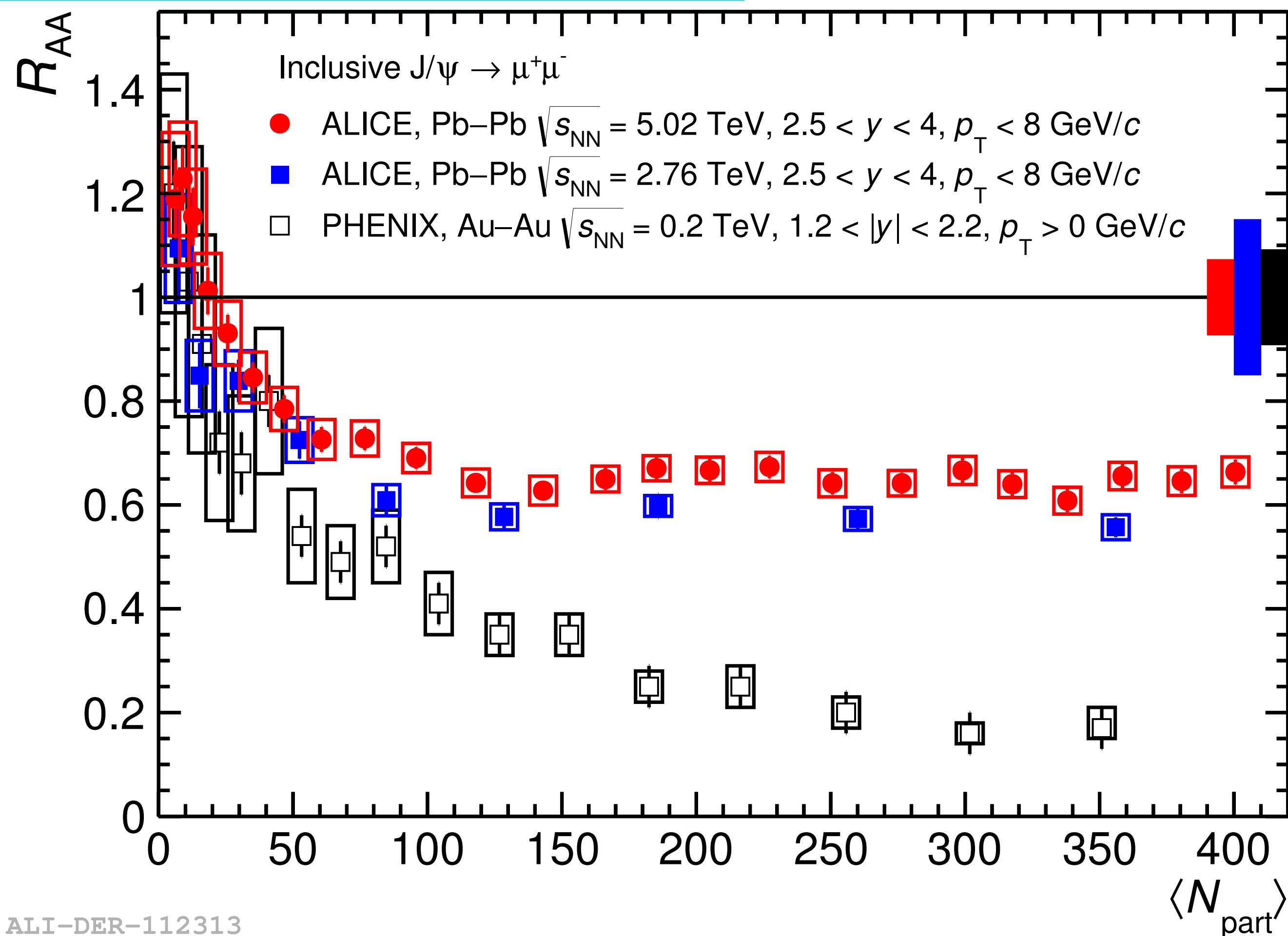


Hint of positive slope with a significance of  $2.7\sigma$  at low  $p_T$

Similar trend observed for charged particles, but different magnitude



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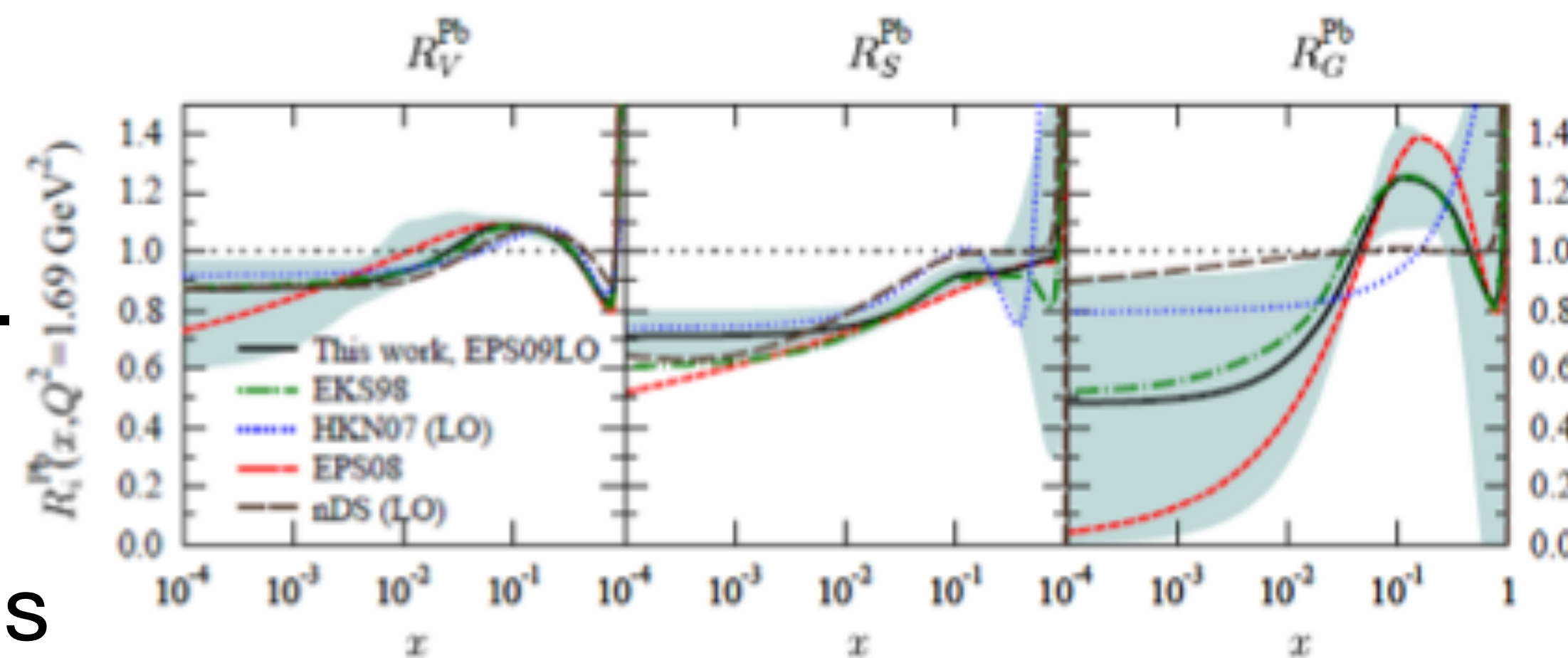
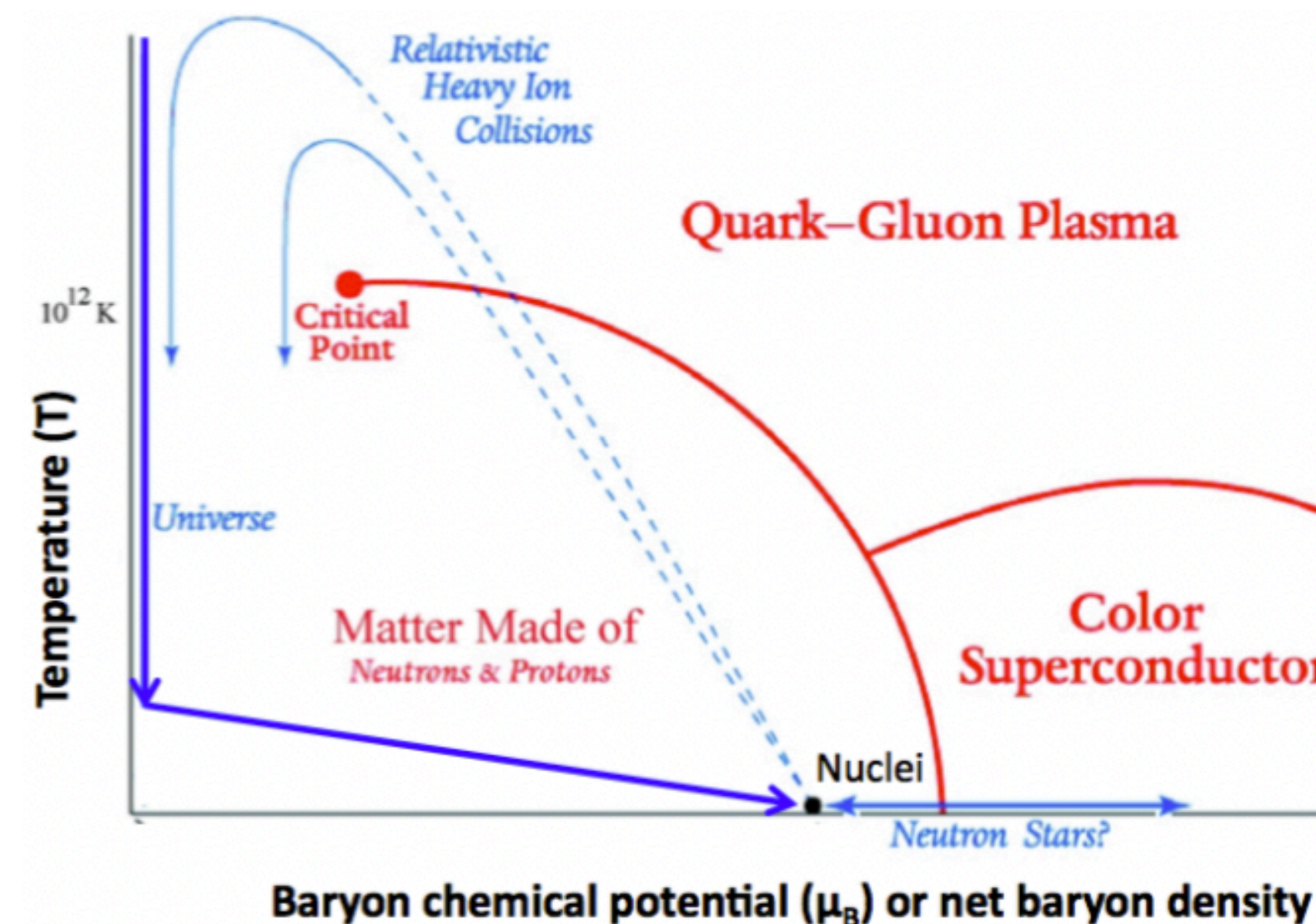
- Suppression is insensitive on centrality in central and semi-central collisions
- Recombination plays important roles on J/ψ production on top of the Debye screening at the LHC energies

## Heavy-ion collisions

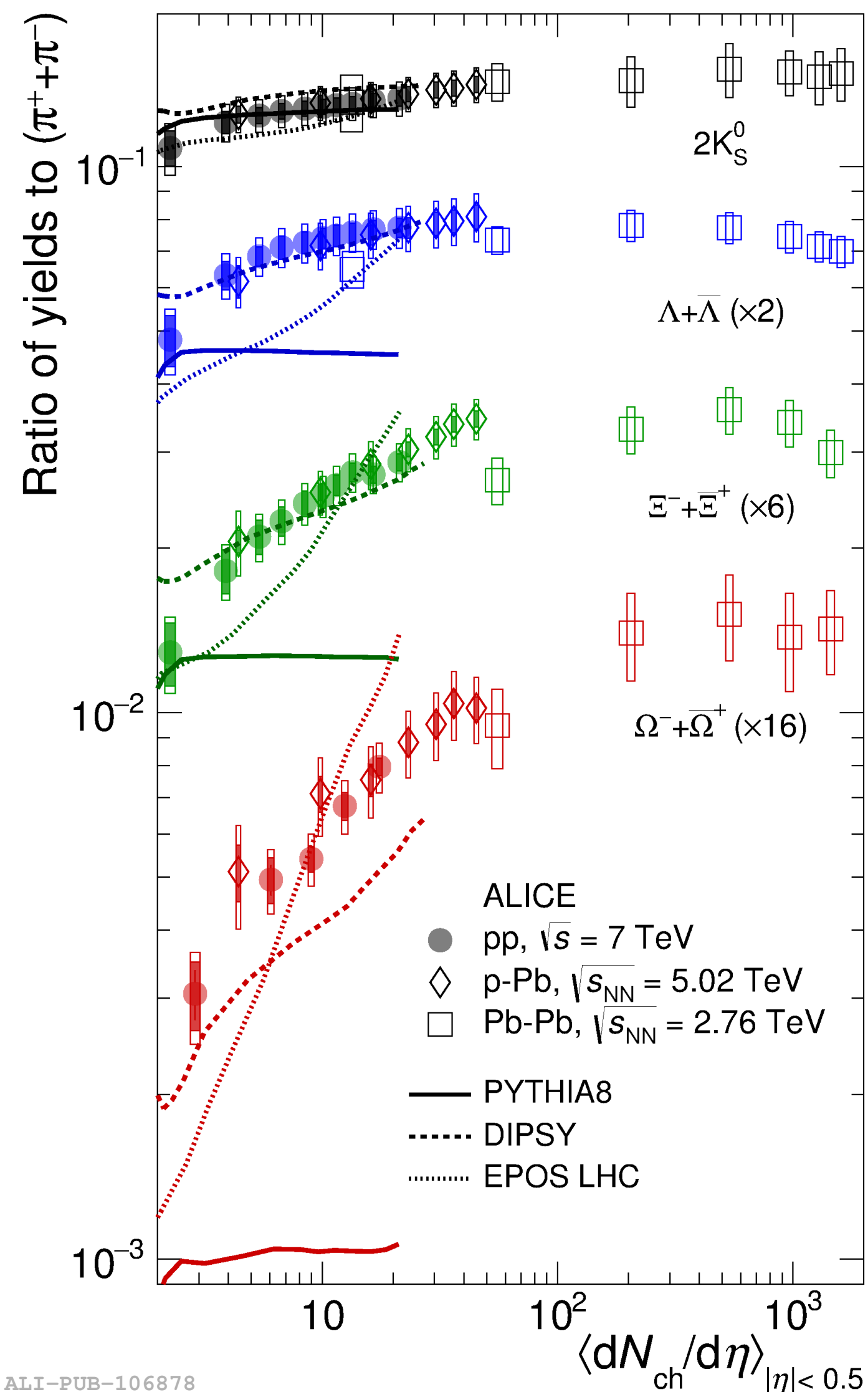
- Probe in details the properties of high density and temperature nuclear matter
  - ➔ Hot nuclear matter effects — the QGP

## Control experiment

- **p–Pb collisions**: investigation of cold nuclear matter (CNM) effects
  - ➔ nPDF, Saturation, Color Glass Condensate...
- **pp collisions**
  - ➔ Important baseline to compare other systems
  - ➔ Test pQCD calculations at TeV domain, parton hadronization in vacuum



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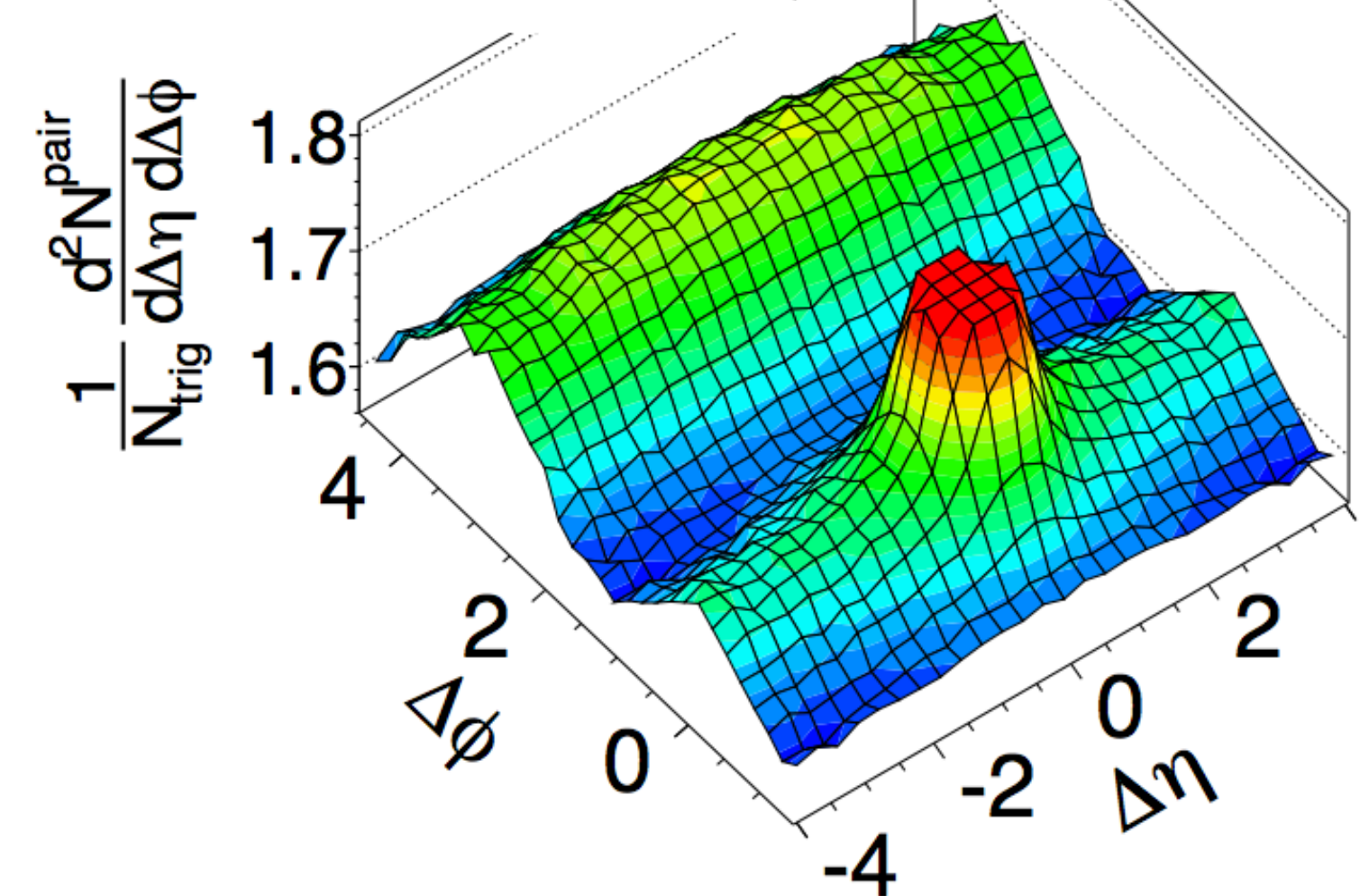


- Smooth evolution of particle production from small to large systems vs charge multiplicity
  - ➔ Strangeness enhancement considered defining feature of heavy-ions — now seen in high-multiplicity pp / p-Pb!
  
- Where all this comes from?
  - ➔ Initial stages effects?
  - ➔ Better understanding of the observables we use in heavy-ion for small systems?
  - ➔ Common mechanism of particle production?
  - ➔ Final state effects?

CMS pPb  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV,  $N_{trk}^{offline} \geq 110$

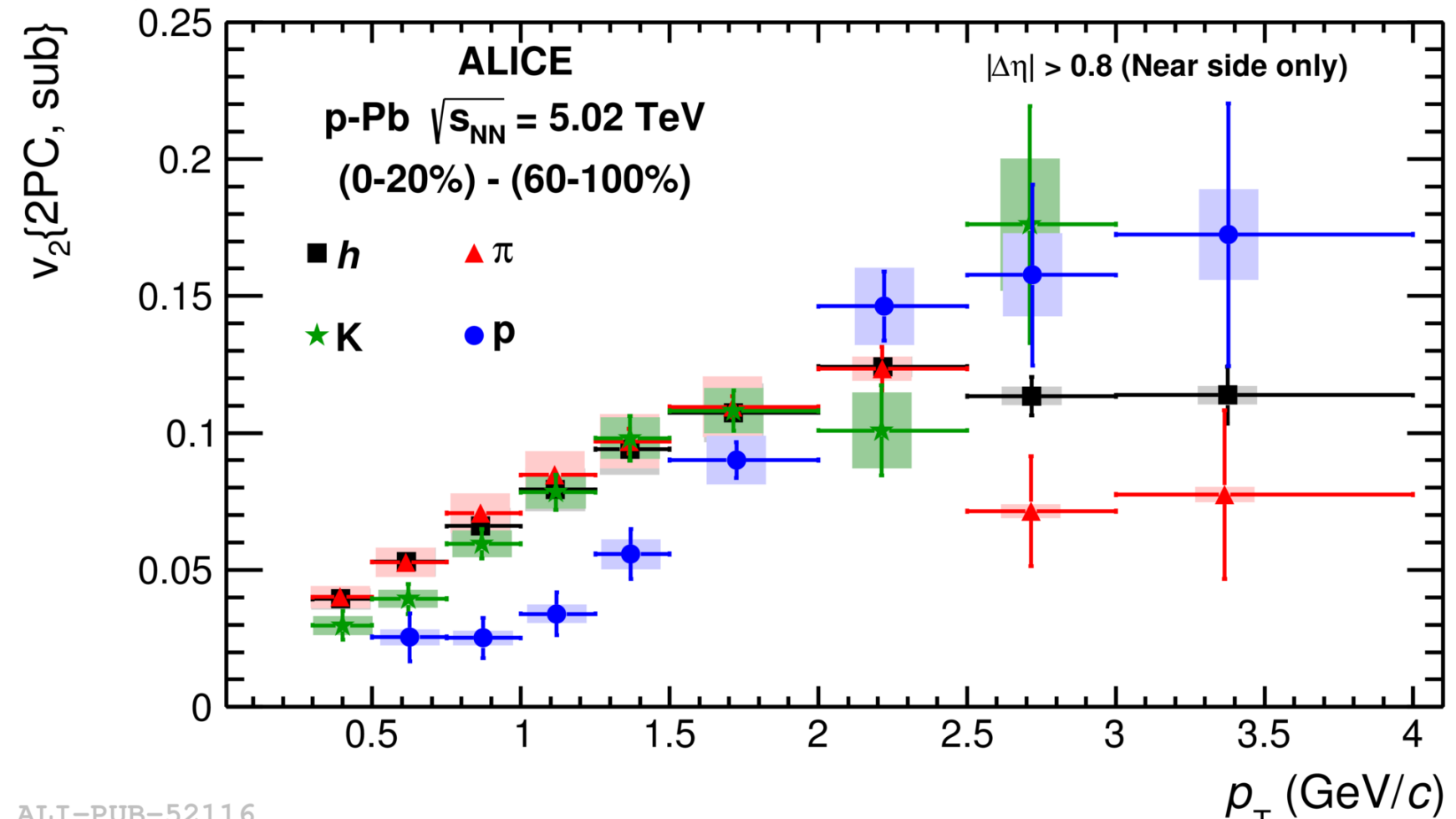
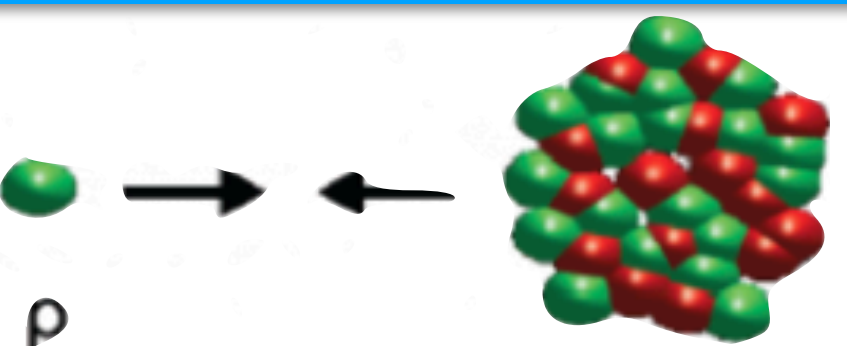
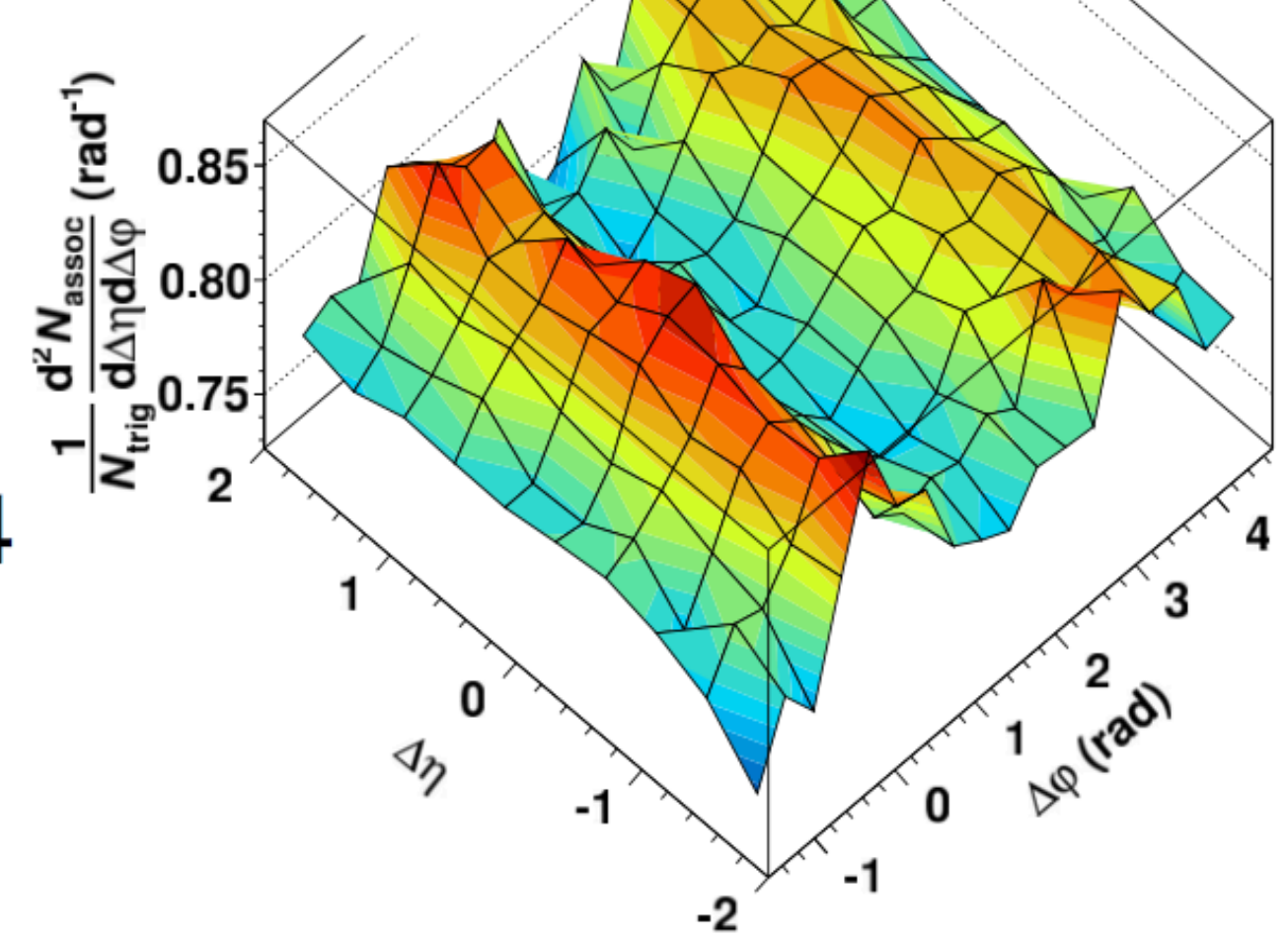
$1 < p_T < 3$  GeV/c

**CMS**



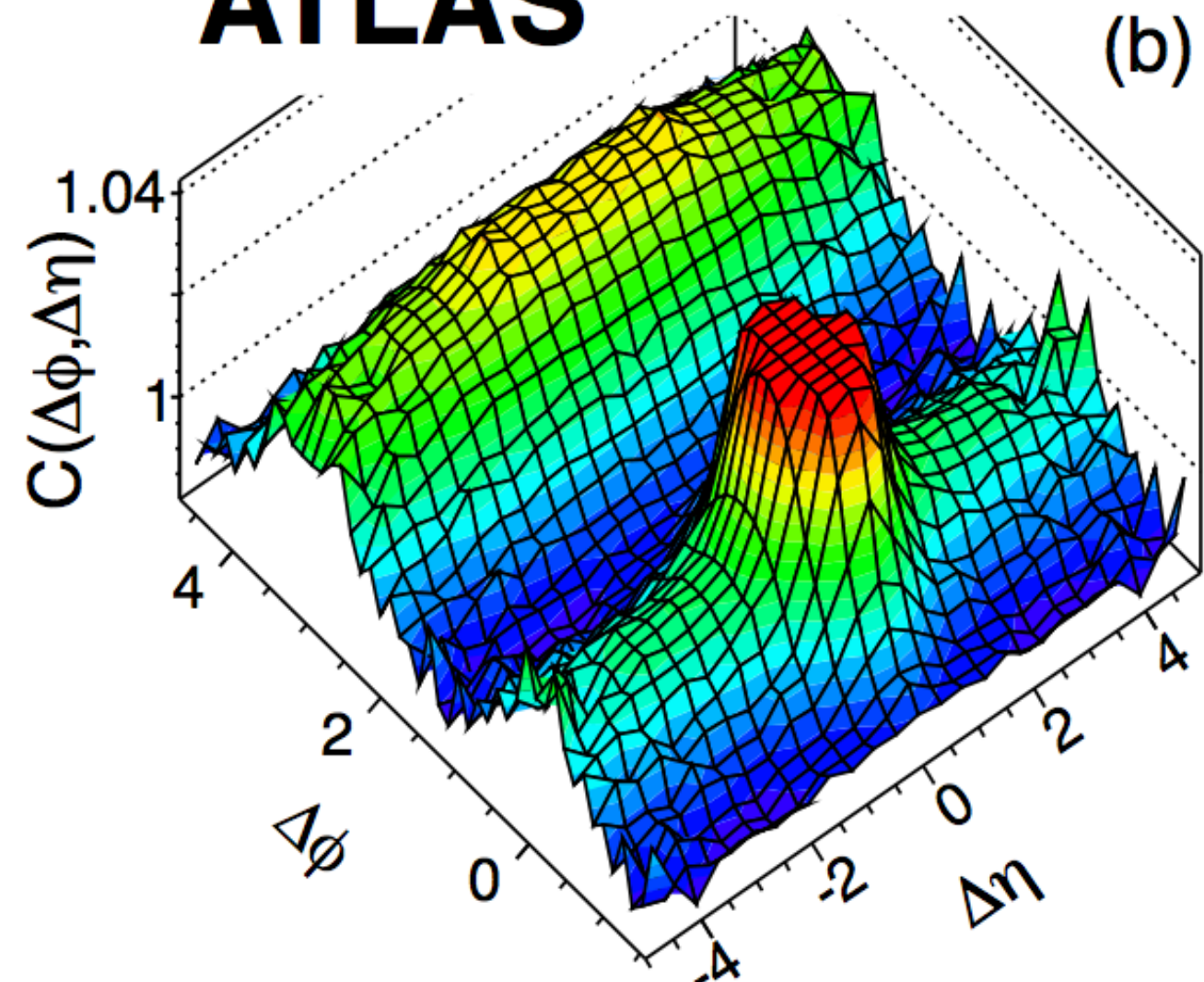
(b)  $2 < p_{T,trig} < 4$  GeV/c  
 $1 < p_{T,assoc} < 2$  GeV/c  
 p-Pb  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV  
 (0-20%) - (60-100%)

**ALICE**

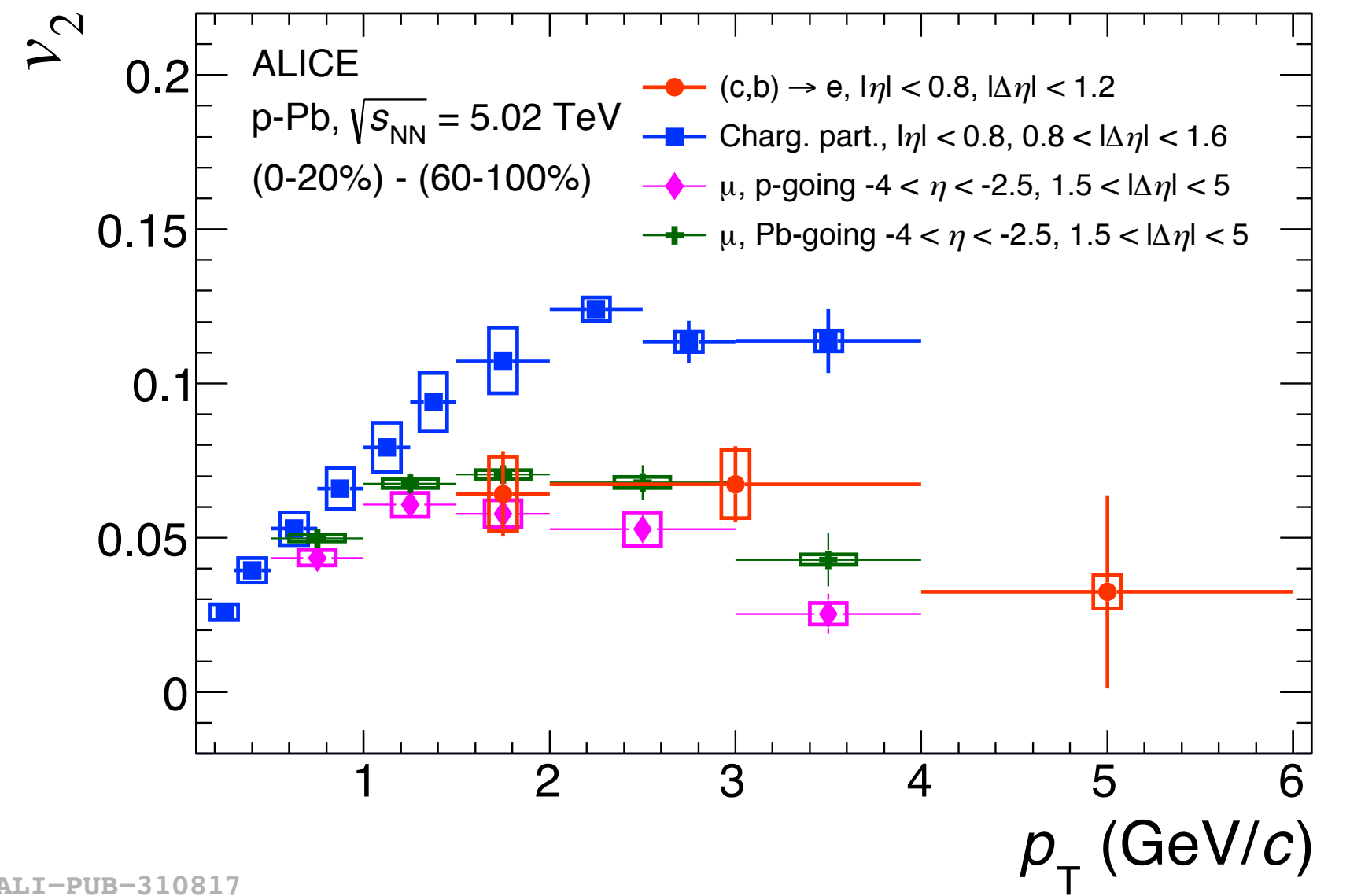
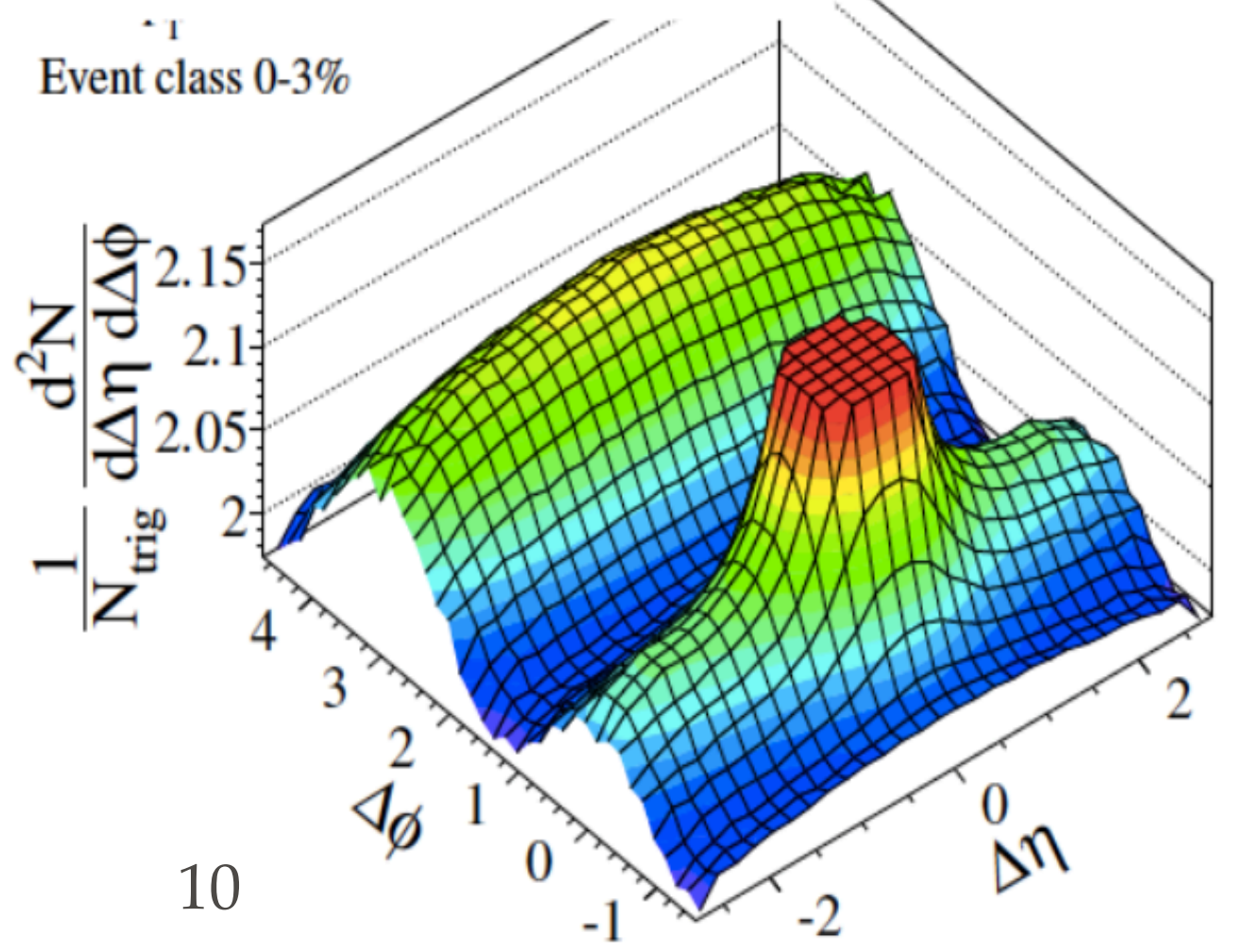


ALI-PUB-52116

**ATLAS**

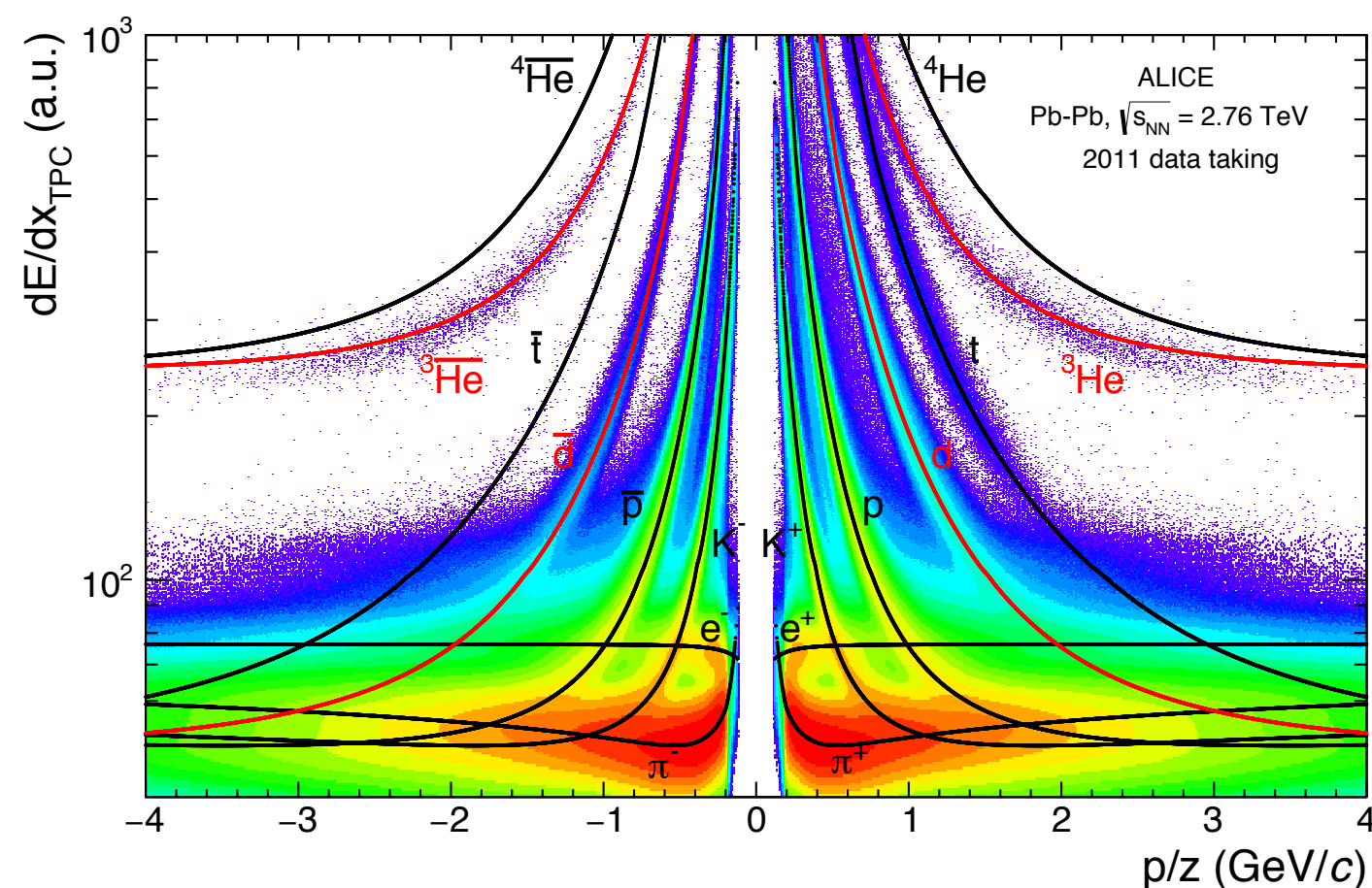


**LHCb (new!)**



ALI-PUB-310817

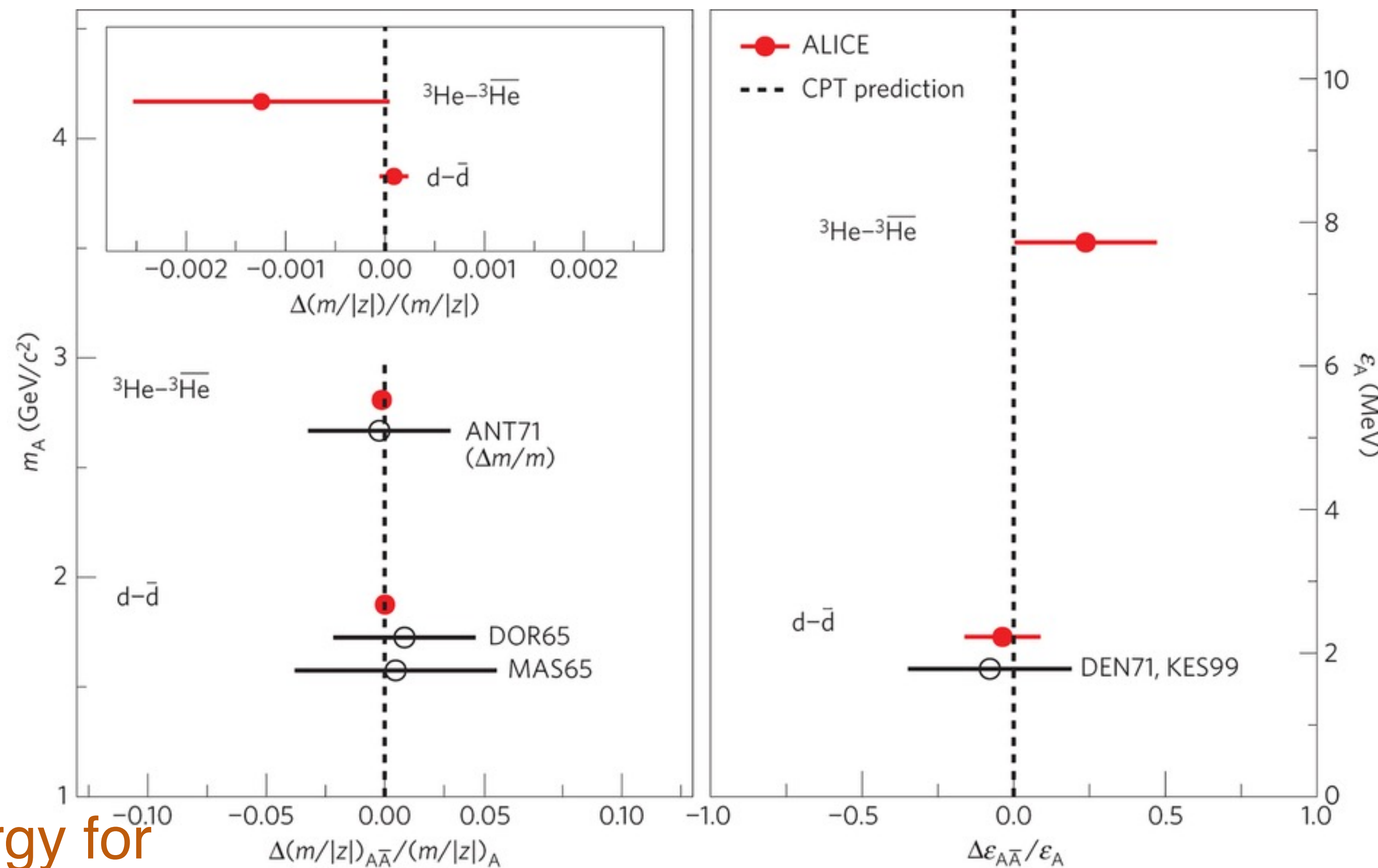
- Test of CPT invariance of residual nuclear force by measuring mass difference in the nuclei sector ( ${}^3\text{He}$  and deuterons)



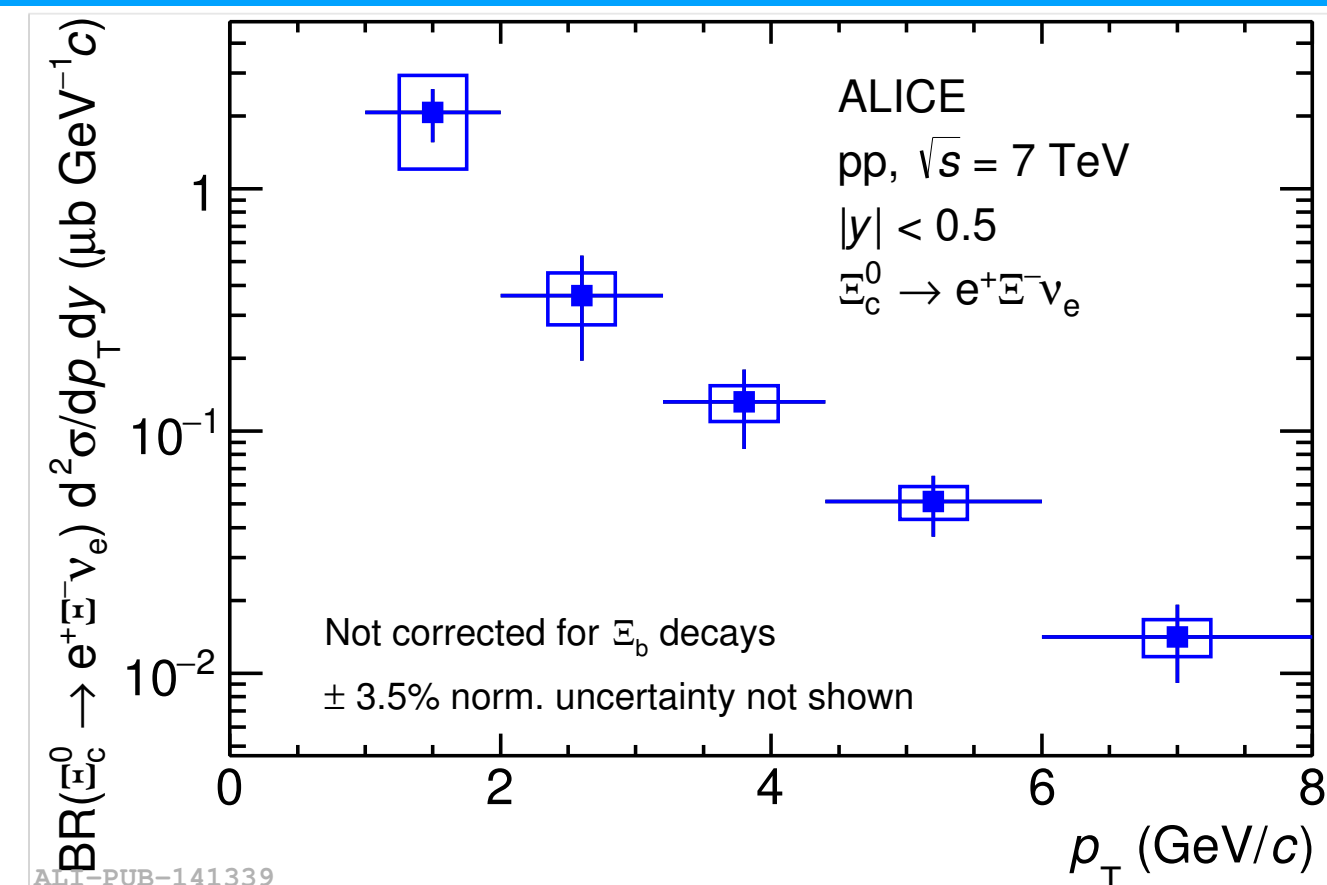
- Improved by one to two orders of magnitude compared to earlier measurements

- First measurement of binding-energy for (anti-) ${}^3\text{He}$

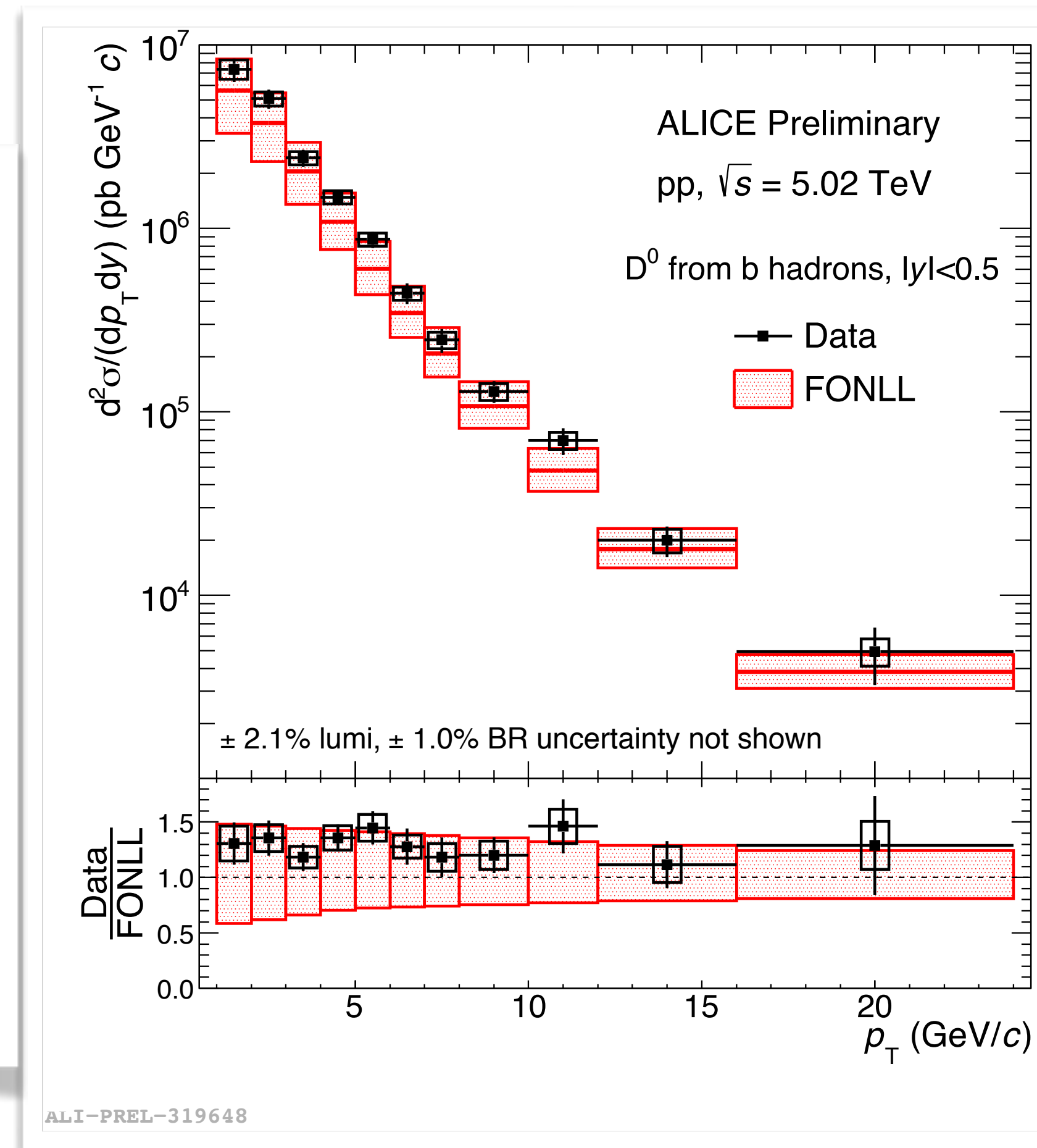
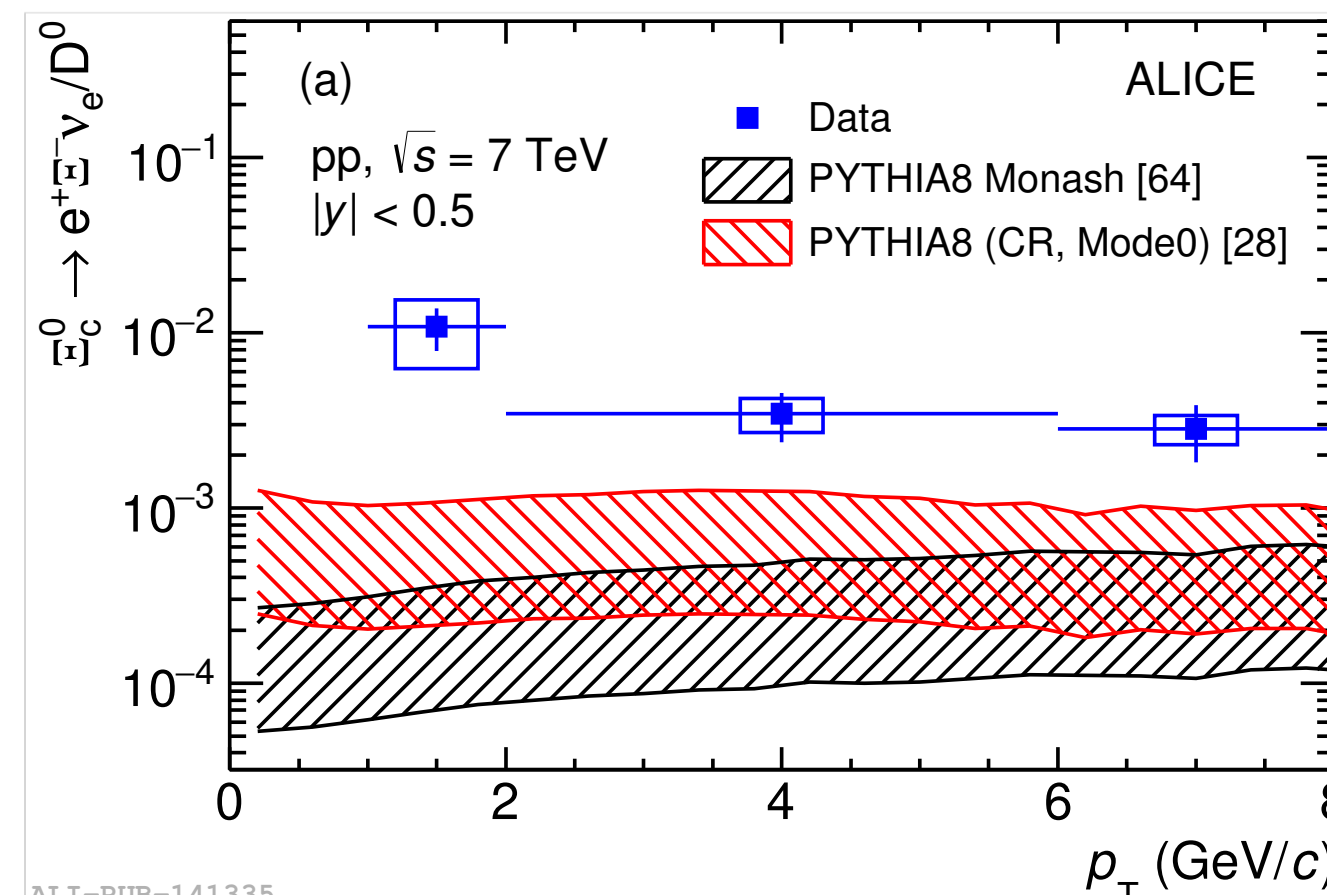
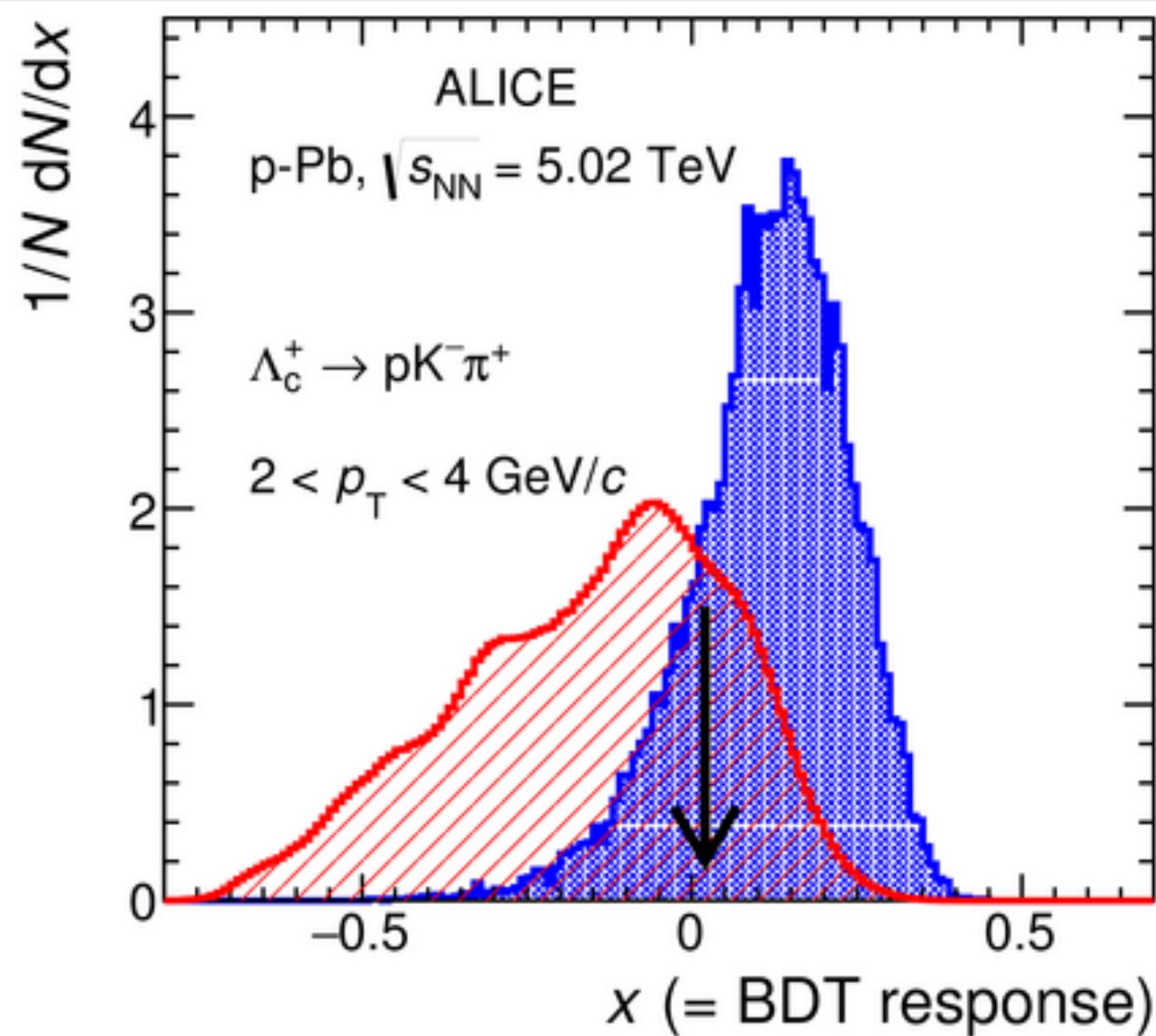
- Confirms CPT invariance for light nuclei



ALICE *Phys. Lett. B* 781 (2018) 8



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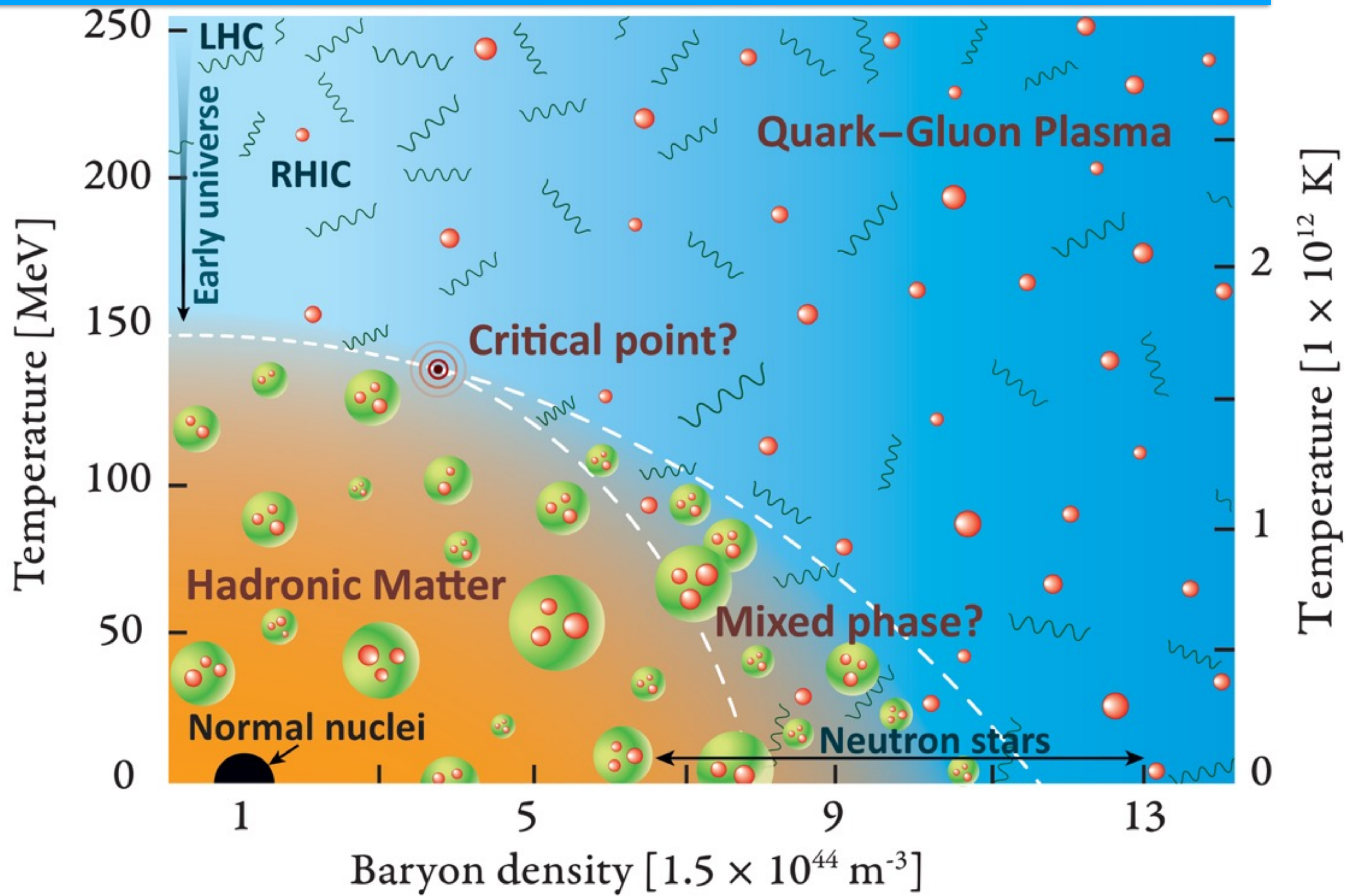
- Study of rare probes, non-prompt D mesons,  $\Sigma_c$ ,  $\Xi_c$ ... are on the road
- Exploring new techniques, such as machine learning...

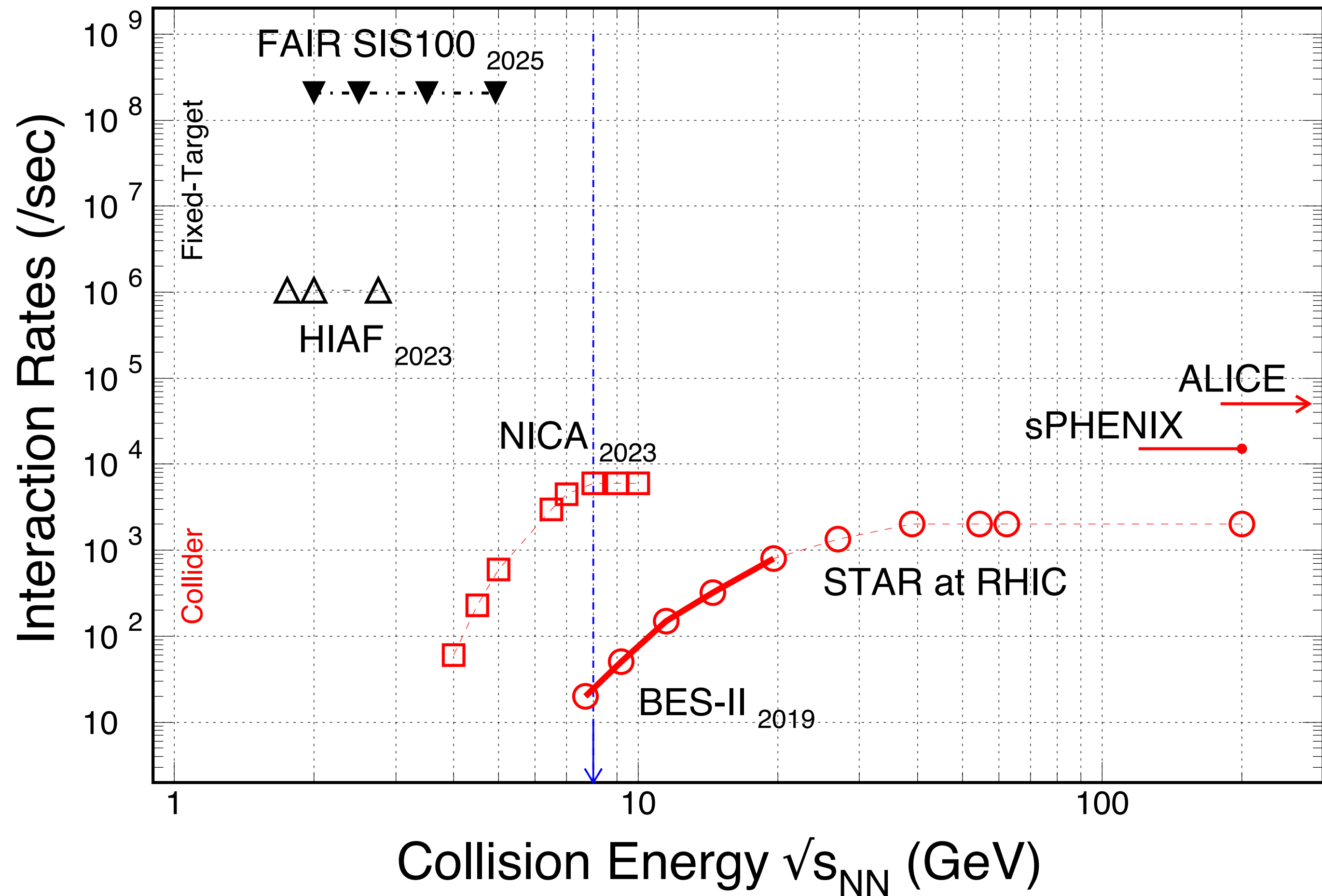
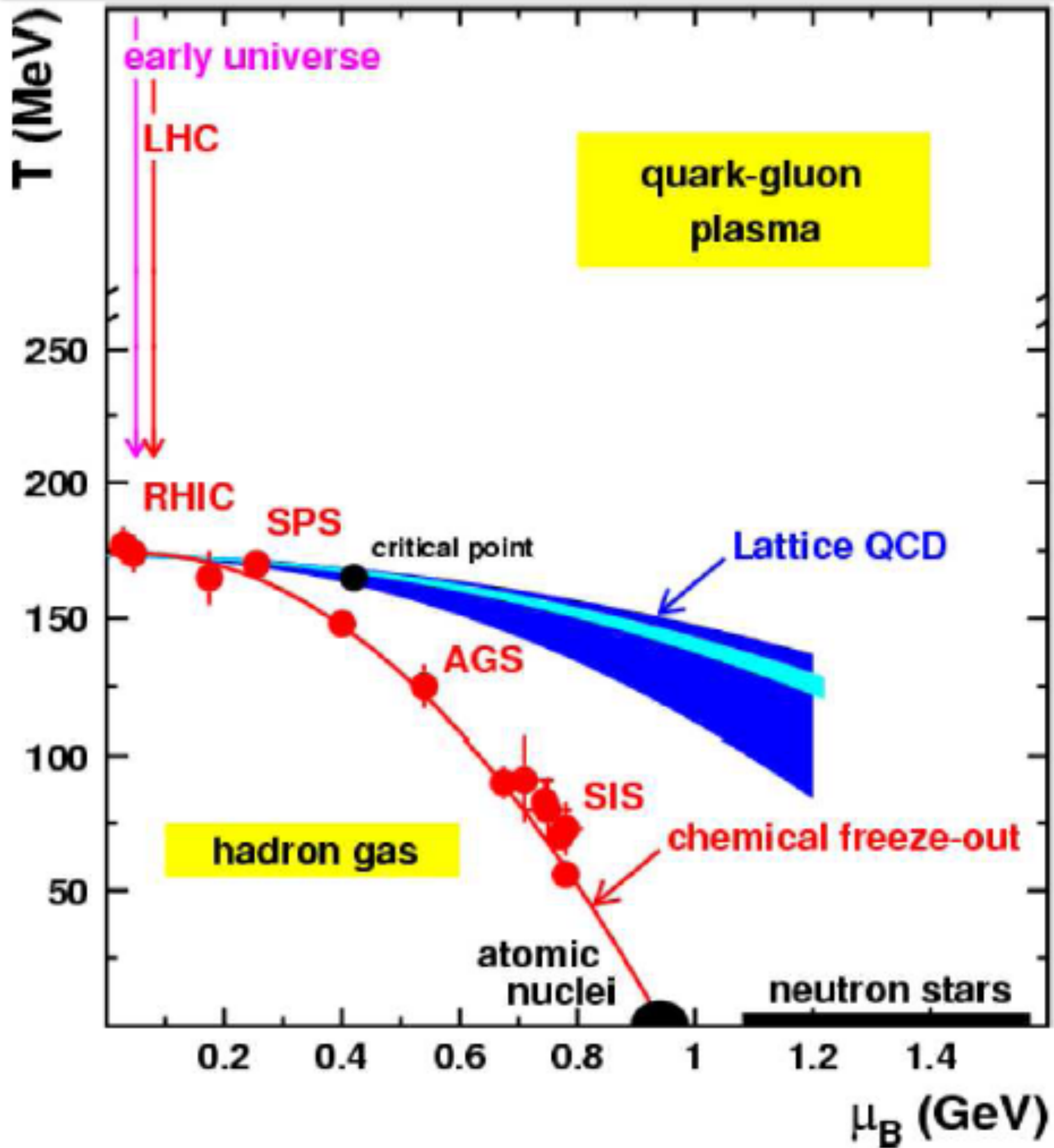
**Backup**



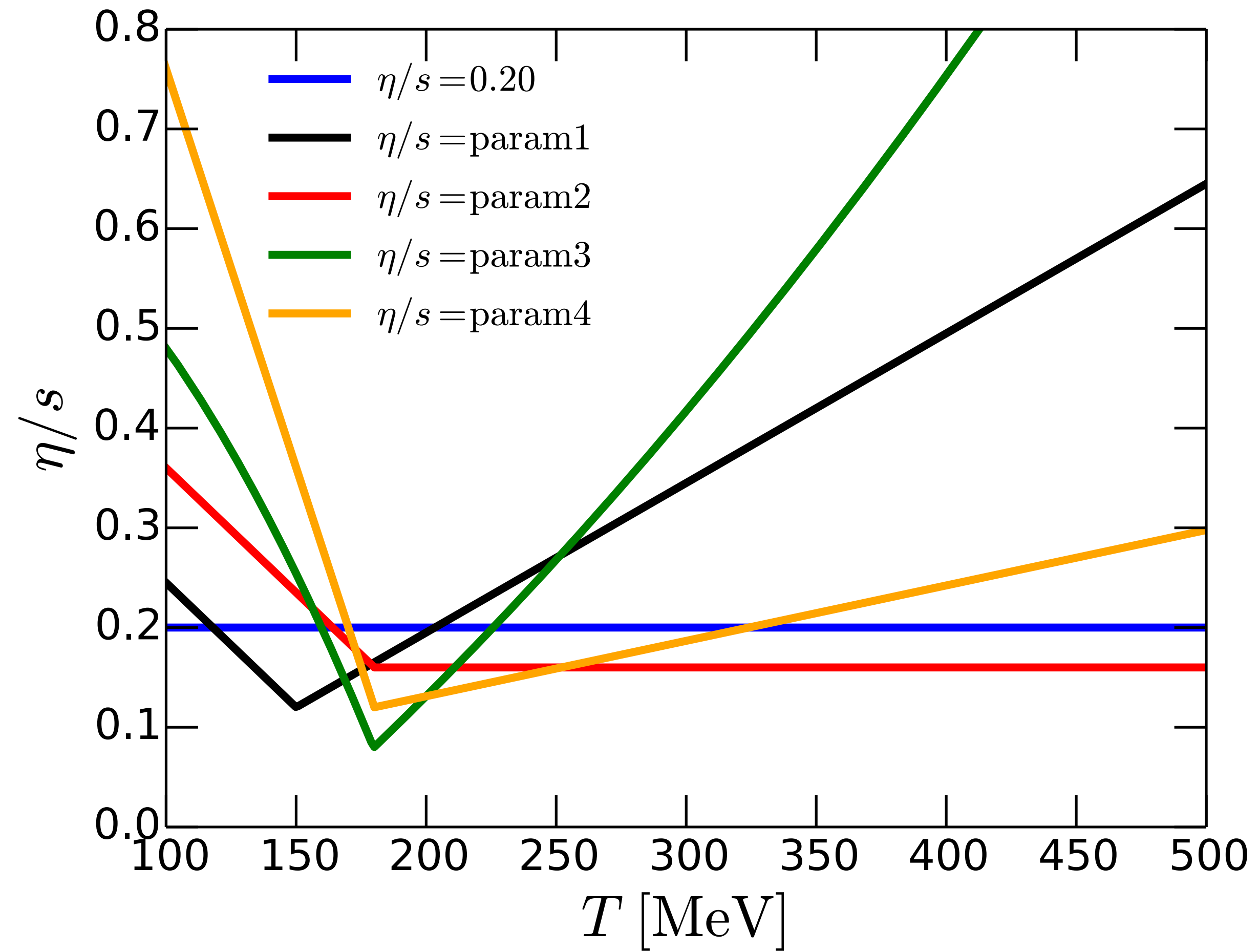
# QCD phase diagram

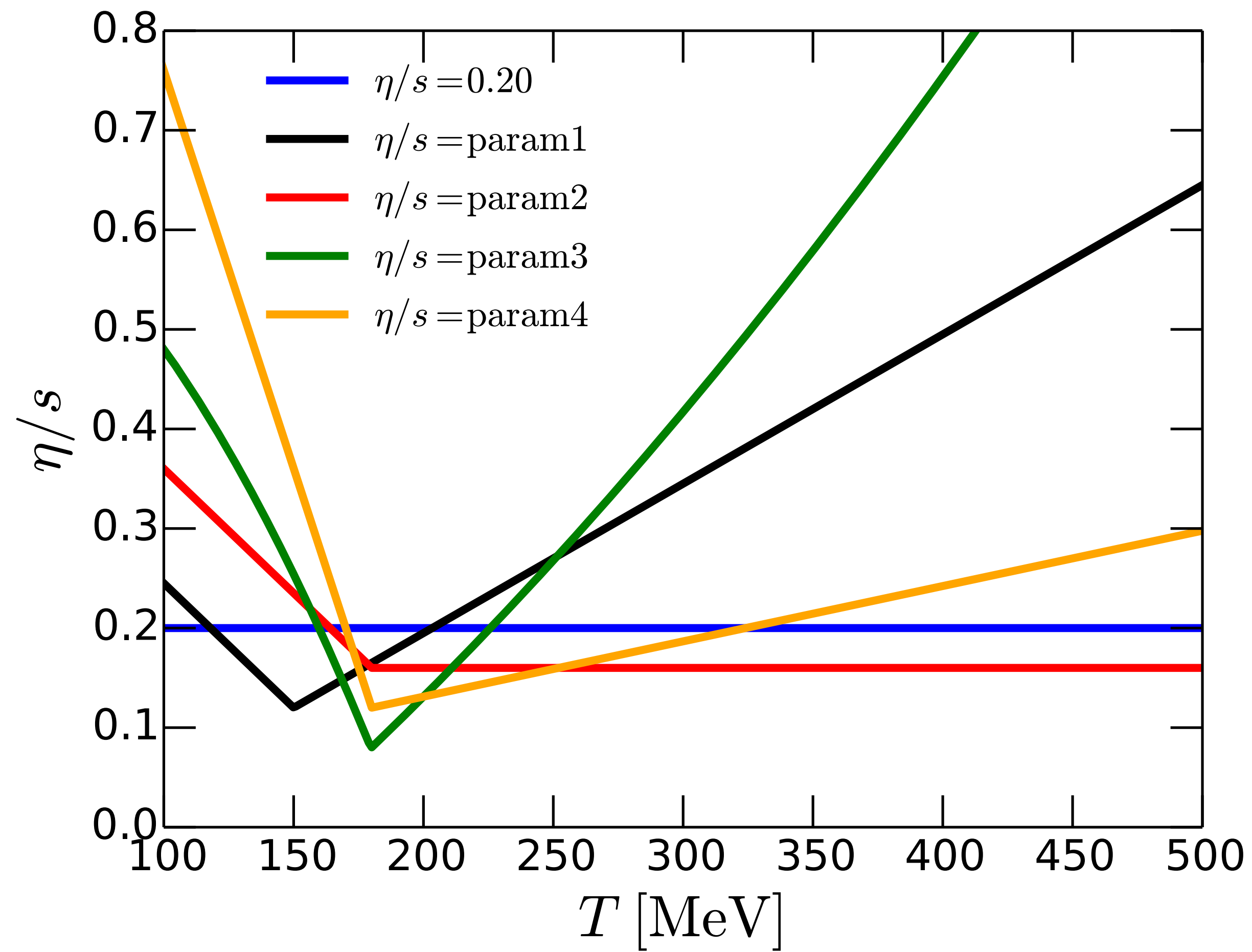
41



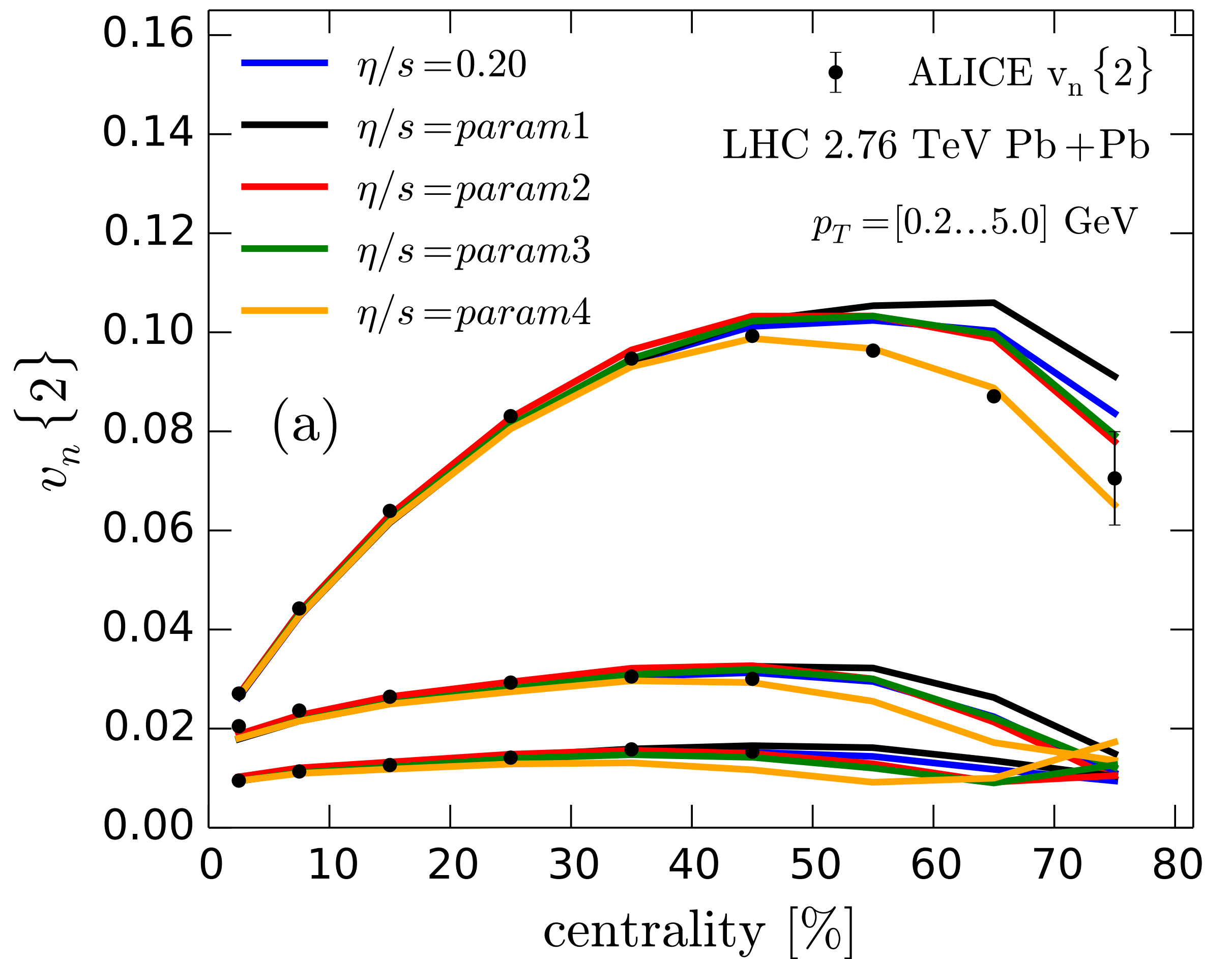


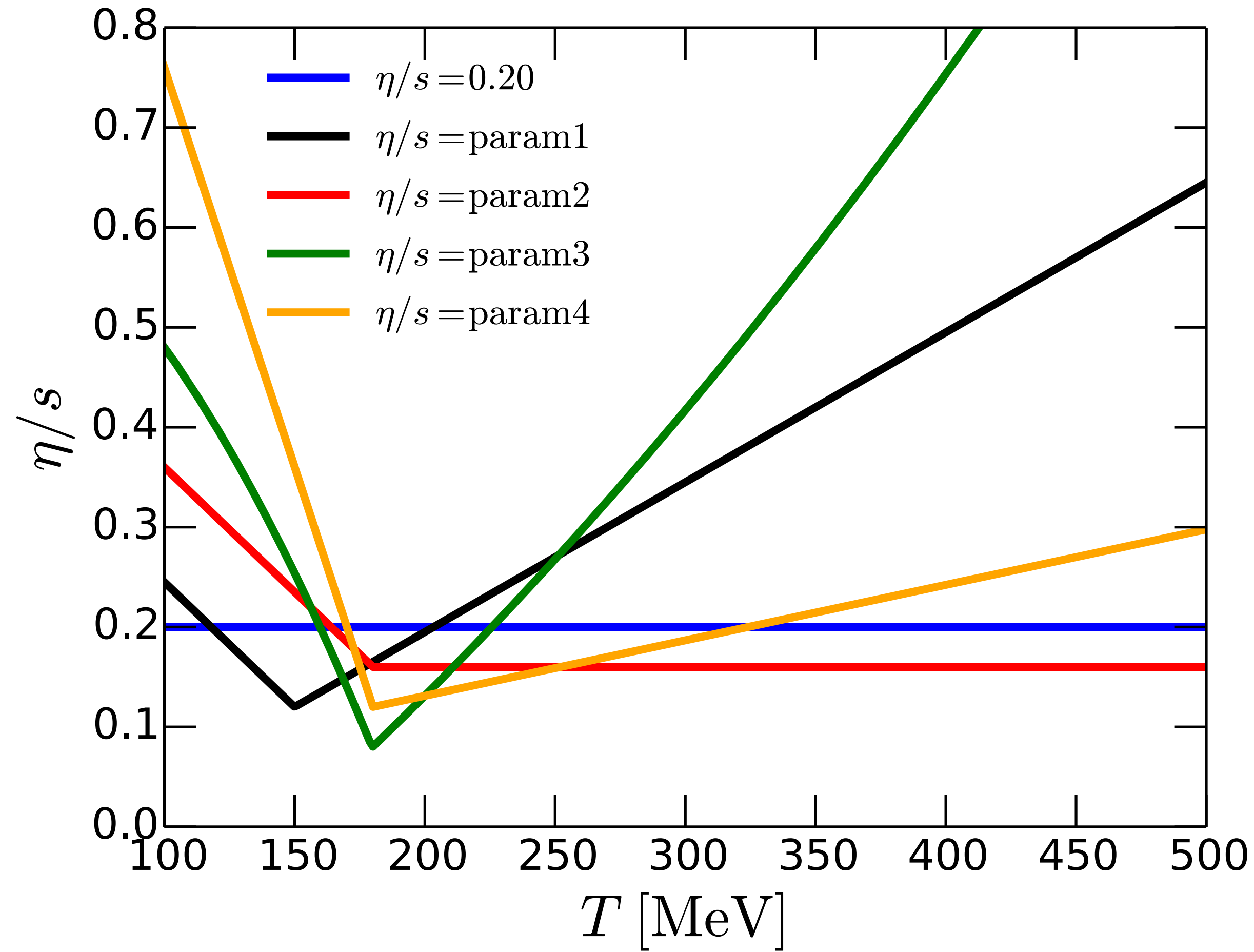
From study of the QGP signatures to that of the QCD phase diagram



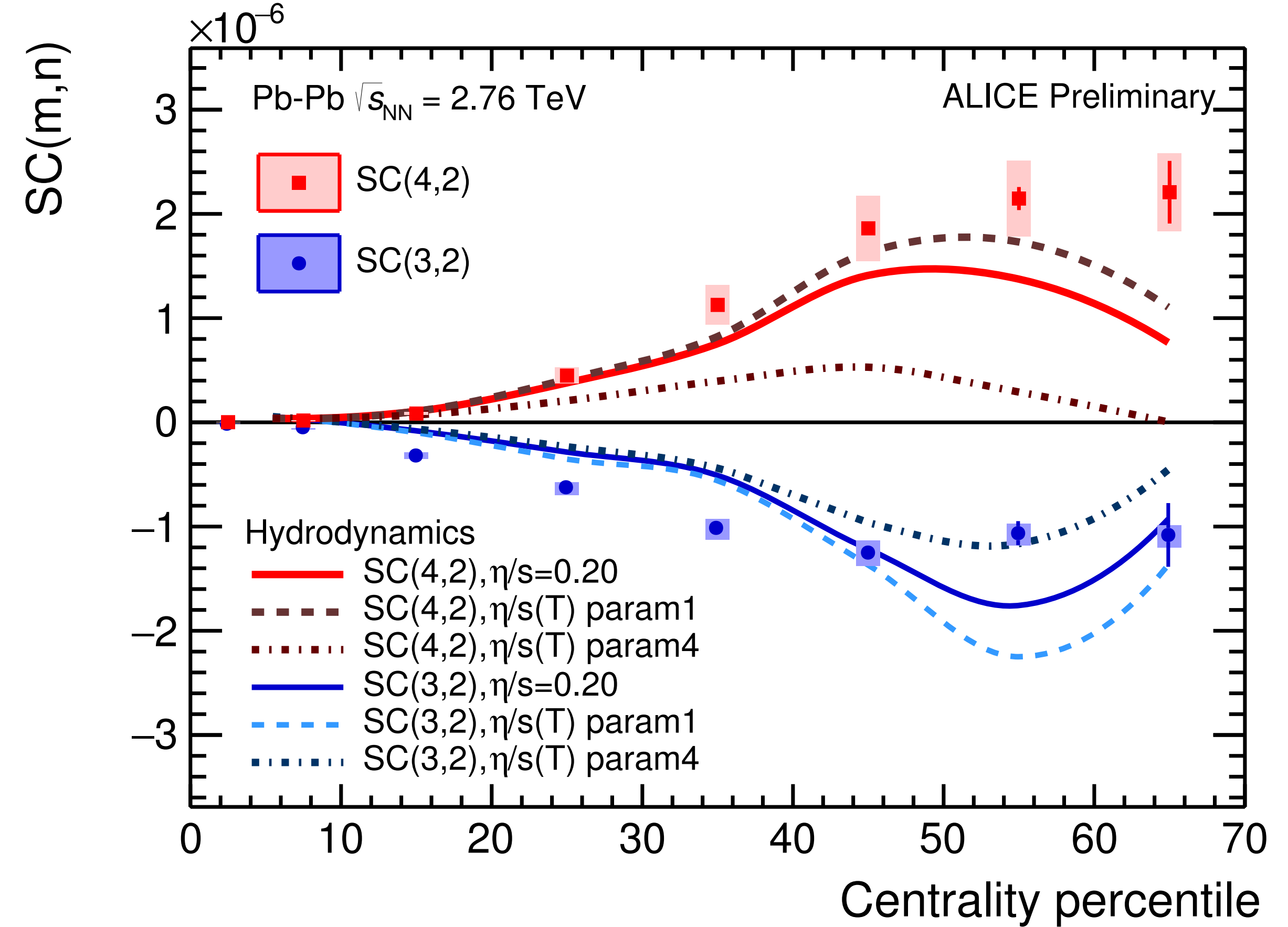


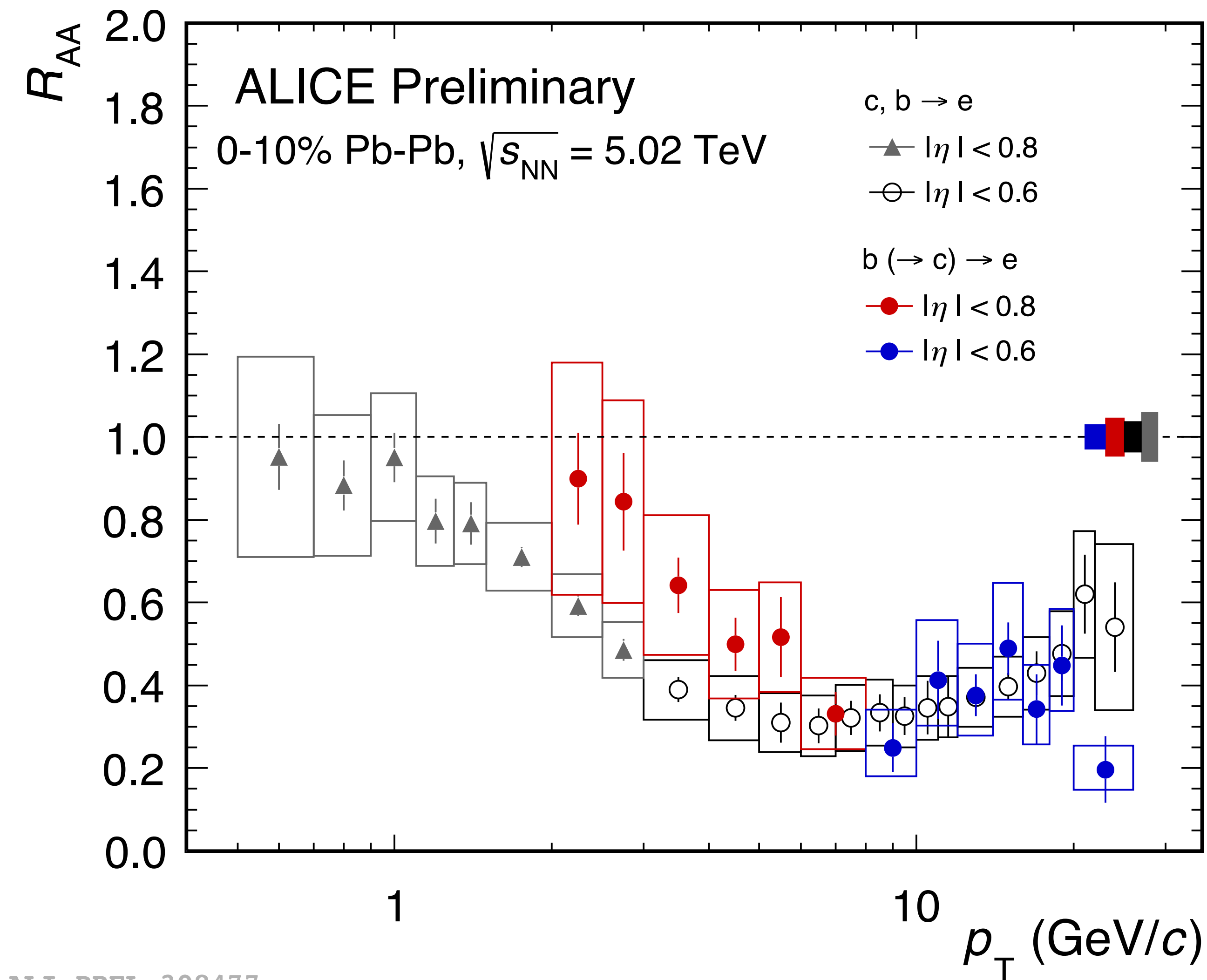
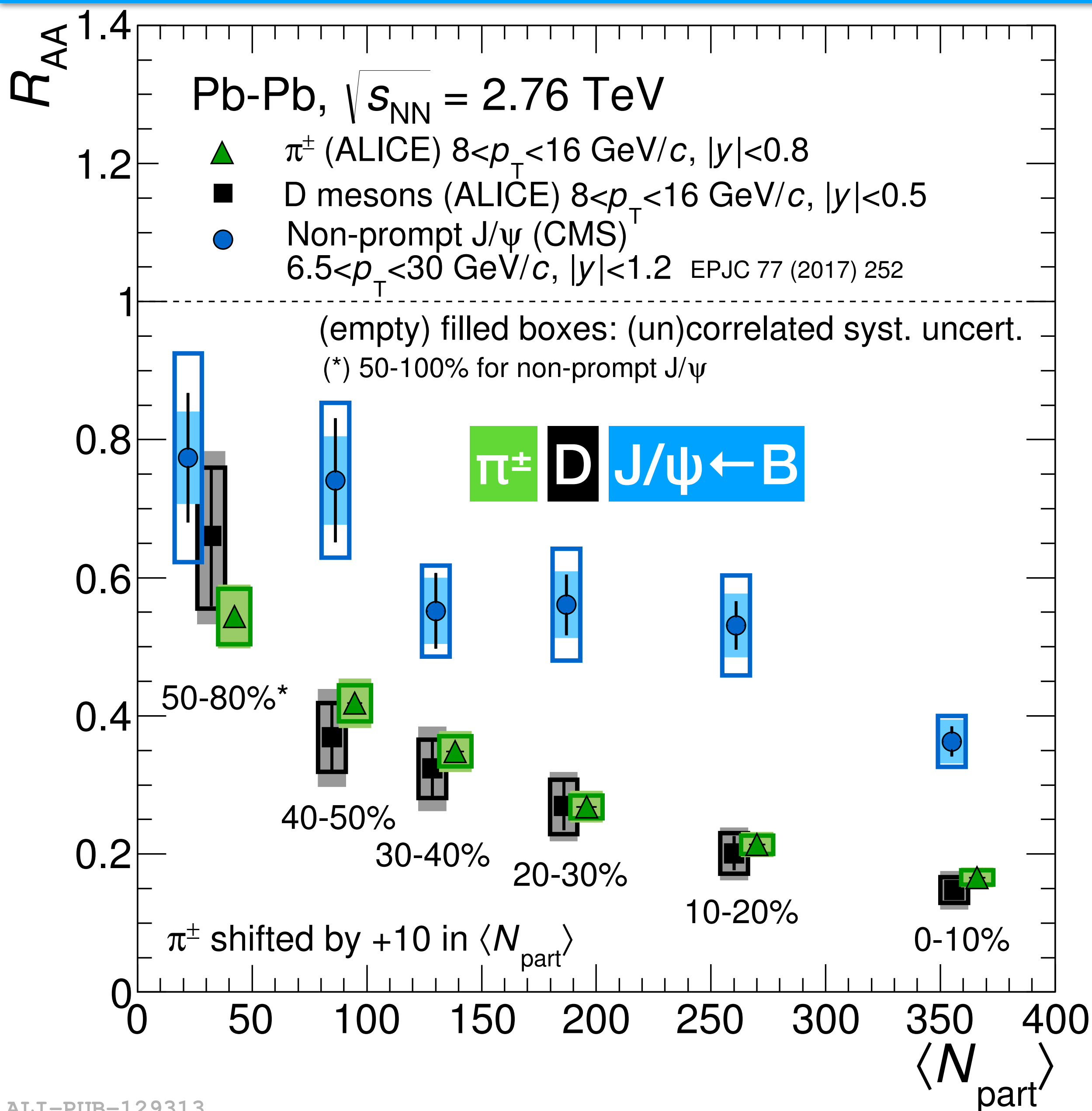
ALICE Phys. Rev. Lett. 107 (2011) 032301





$$SC(m, n) = \langle v_m^2 v_n^2 \rangle - \langle v_m^2 \rangle \langle v_n^2 \rangle$$





ALI-PREL-308477

ALICE Phys. Rev. Lett. 122 (2019) 072301

