

Event-shape-dependent heavy flavor analysis in small systems

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In collaboration with:

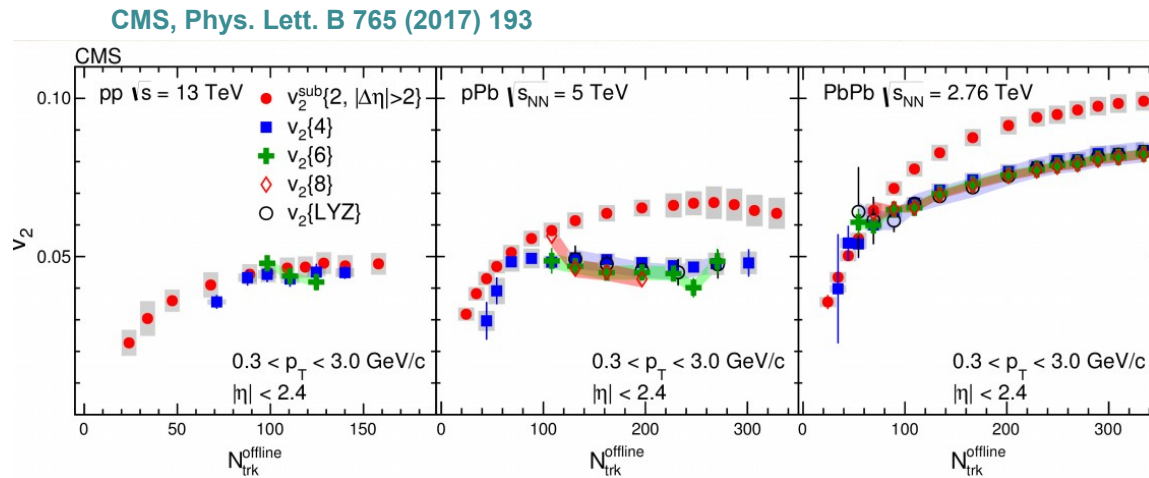
Zoltán Varga, Anett Misák, Lea Virág Földvári, Eszter Frajna, Anikó Horváth

...and the colleagues from ALICE



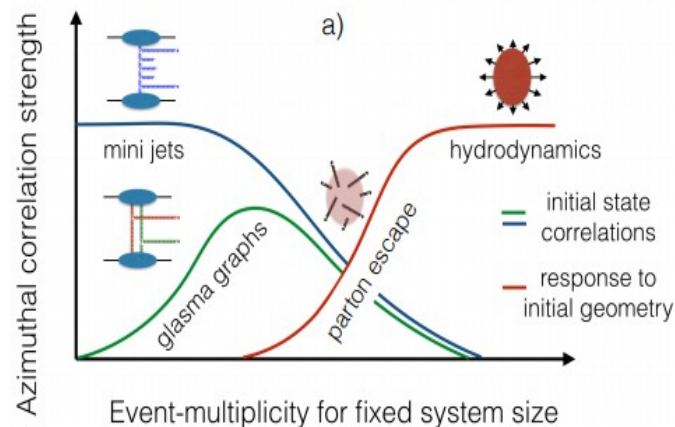
Motivation: collectivity in small systems

- In heavy-ion collisions a strongly coupled quark–gluon plasma forms and behaves as a near-perfect fluid
- At the LHC, collective-like patterns (long-range ridge, finite v_n) also appear in pp and p-Pb at high final-state multiplicity
- Open question: **does a QGP droplet form in small systems**, or do these patterns have another origin?



Hot QGP or vacuum-QCD?

- Collective behavior **does not necessarily require a thermalized QGP**
- Semi-soft vacuum-QCD processes at the soft–hard boundary can generate the same signatures:
 - Multi-parton interactions (MPI)**
eg. [Schlichting, arXiv:1601.01177](#)
 - Color-reconnection**
(part of some MPI models)
eg. [Ortiz-Bec di-Bello, J.Phys.G 44 \(2017\)](#)
 - Minijets** (semihard partons produced by incoming partons or bremsstrahlung)
eg. [Eskola, Nucl.Part.Phys. 22, 4, 185 \(1998\)](#)
- Strategy: use **event-shape-differential heavy-flavor observables** to expose the underlying mechanism rather than averaging over it

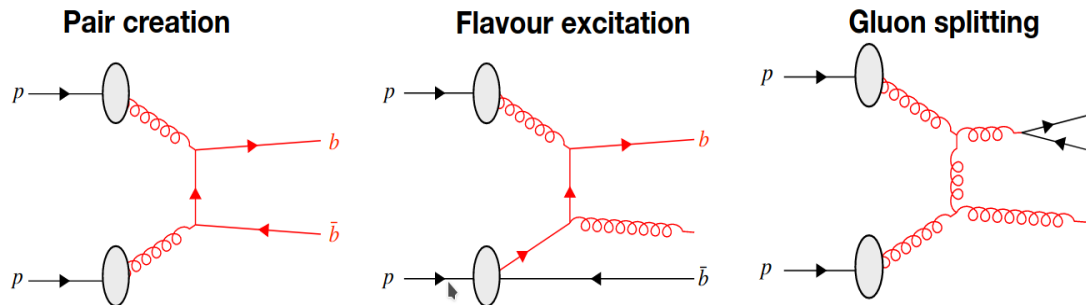
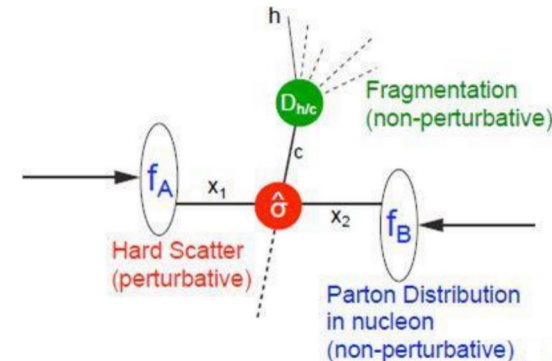


Heavy flavor: production and fragmentation

- Heavy-flavor cross-section in the **factorization** picture

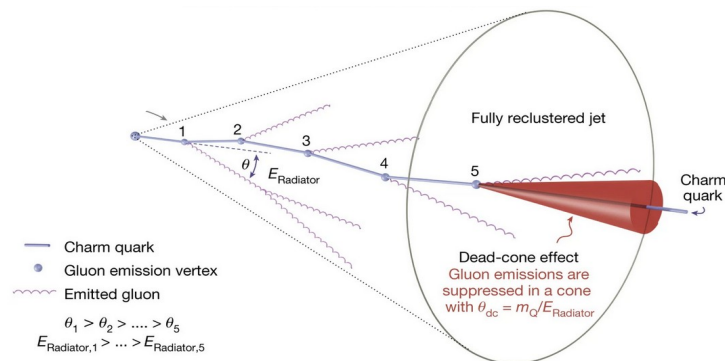
$$\sigma_{hh \rightarrow H} = f_a(x_1, Q^2) \otimes f_b(x_2, Q^2) \otimes \sigma_{ab \rightarrow q\bar{q}} \otimes D_{q \rightarrow H}(z_q, Q^2)$$

- Fragmentation functions are traditionally treated as universal (often fixed from e+e-)
- Heavy quarks ($m_c, m_b \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$)
→ produced early, perturbatively accessible
- LO**: Flavor creation (FLC)
- NLO**: Gluon splitting (GSP), flavor excitation (FEX)



Why heavy flavor is a good probe

- Color charge and dead cone effects:
→ Harder fragmentation than light flavor
- Early production:
 - Heavy quarks tag the early, hard part of the event, but also take part in semi-hard processes that are responsible for the underlying event
- This motivates systematic, event-shape-differential studies of correlations and baryon ratios

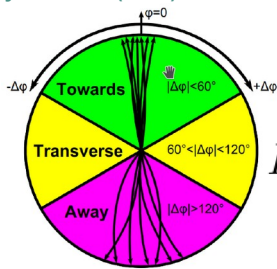


ALICE, Nature 605 (2022) 440

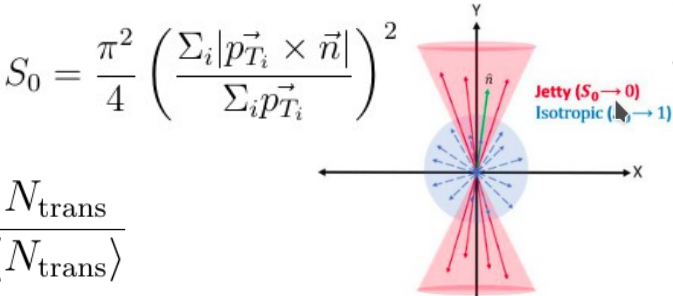
Categorizing events by activity

Classifier	What it captures	Trigger	Acceptance
N_{ch}	Central multiplicity	no	$ \eta < 1$
N_{fw}	Forward multiplicity	no	$2 < \eta < 5$
R_{T}	Underlying event activity	yes ($p_{\text{T}} > 5 \text{ GeV}/c$)	Transverse region
R_{NC}	Near-side jet cone activity	yes	Cone $R < 0.5$
S_0	Transverse sphericity (jetty vs. isotropic)	no	mid-rapidity
ρ	Flattenicity (hedgehog vs. jetty, full η)	no	$ \eta < 4$

T. Martin, P. Skands, S. Farrington,
Eur. Phys. J. C 76 (2016) 299



$$R_{\text{T}} = \frac{N_{\text{trans}}}{\langle N_{\text{trans}} \rangle}$$

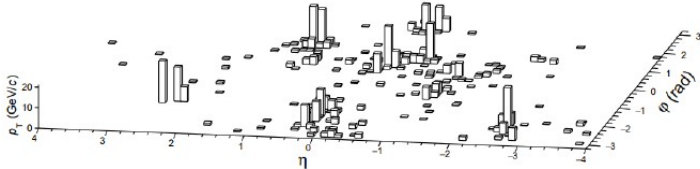


A. Ortiz, G. Paic, E. Cuautle,
Nucl. Phys. A 941 (2015) 78

$$\rho = \frac{\sigma_{p_{\text{T}}^{\text{cell}}}}{\langle p_{\text{T}}^{\text{cell}} \rangle}$$

A. Ortiz, G. Paic,
Rev. Mex. Fis. Suppl. 3 (2022), 040911

PYTHIA 8.303 (Monash 2013), pp $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$, $N_{\text{mpi}}=1$, $N_{\text{ch}}=235$, $p=1.56$



Results from the ALICE experiment

ElectroMagnetic Calorimeter
sampling scintillator calorimeter
electron identification
 $|\eta| < 0.7, 1.4 < \varphi < \pi$

Run-2 setup

Inner Tracking System
silicon detectors
charged-particle tracking,
secondary vertex

Time Projection Chamber:
gas detector
charged-particle tracking
and identification

V0: event
characterization

Time-of-Flight detector:
precise particle identification

central barrel: $|\eta| < 0.9$

Muon spectrometer:
forward: $-4 < \eta < -2.5$
muon trigger and tracking

Heavy-flavor production vs. multiplicity

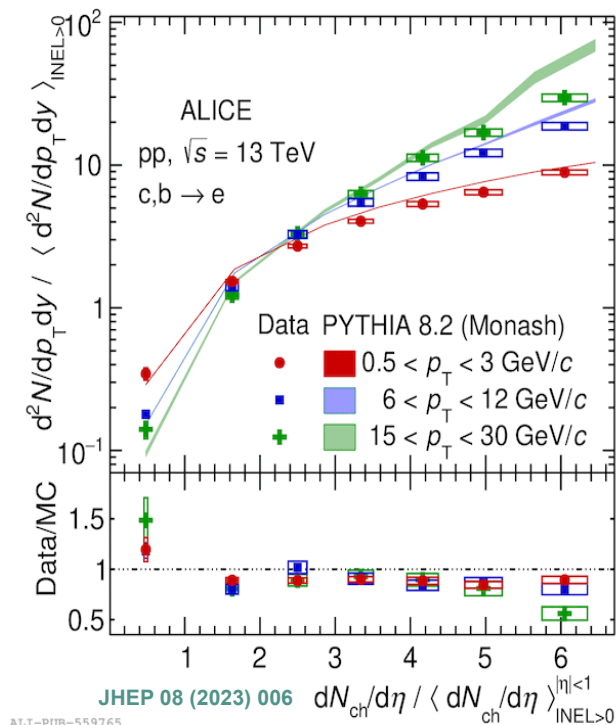
Steeper-than-linear dependence of self-normalized yields on multiplicity at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

- Strong constraints for models
- Sensitive to autocorrelation: good simultaneous description of jets and UE needed

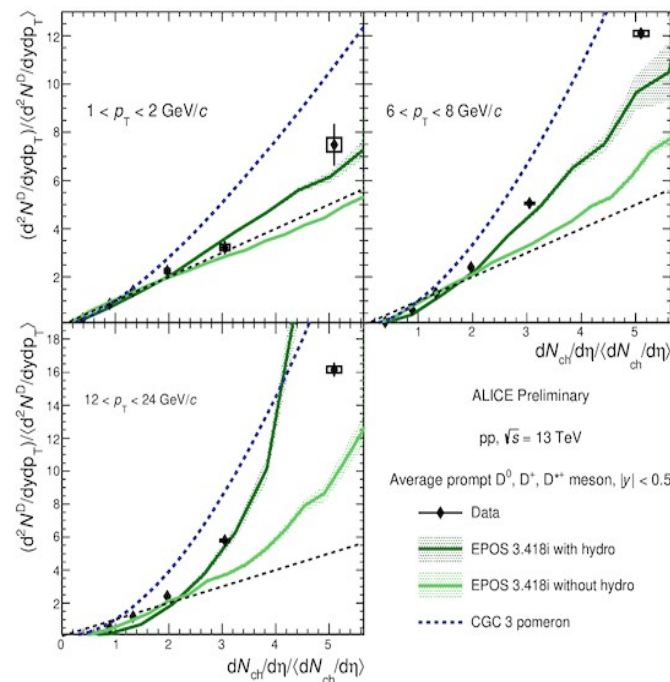
Performance of models:

- **PYTHIA 8 with MPI**
(pQCD-based with PS and Lund fragmentation)
adequately describes data
- **EPOS** parton model with hydrodynamic evolution
captures trends

PYTHIA: Comput.Phys.Comm. 191 (2015) 159
EPOS: Nucl.Phys.B Proc.Suppl. 175 (2008) 81
CGC 3 pomeron: PRD 101 (2020) 094020



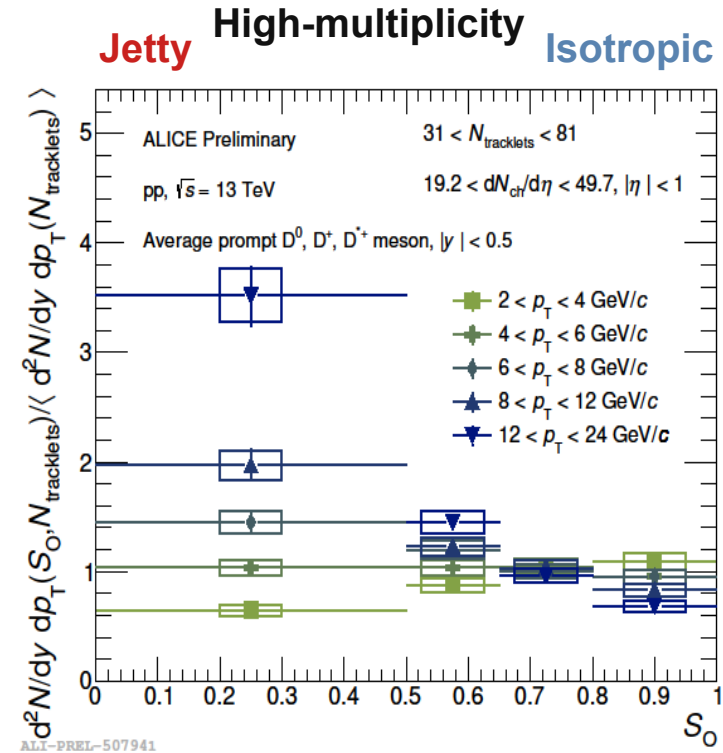
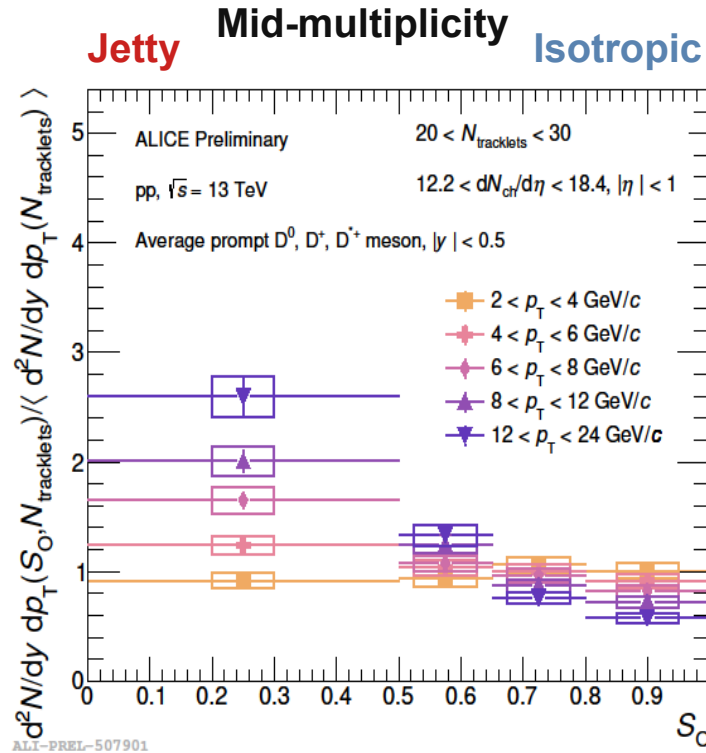
HF electrons (c + b)



D mesons (c)

ALI-PREL-488879

D-meson self-normalized yields vs. sphericity



- Hint of an enhanced D-meson production toward higher multiplicity in jetty events
- Effect of hard scatterings leading to average increase in charged-particle multiplicity

D-meson production vs. R_T

- Statistics allowed measurement only in **Toward** region:

High p_T : D^0 -meson production is independent of transverse activity – these hadrons are produced in connection to the leading process

Low p_T : a hint of transverse-activity dependence

PYTHIA 8 with Monash and CR-BLC mode 2 tunes describes the data within uncertainties

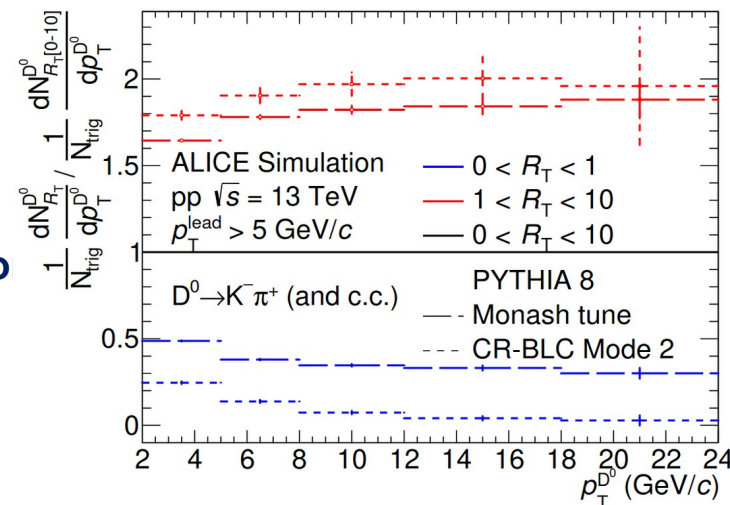
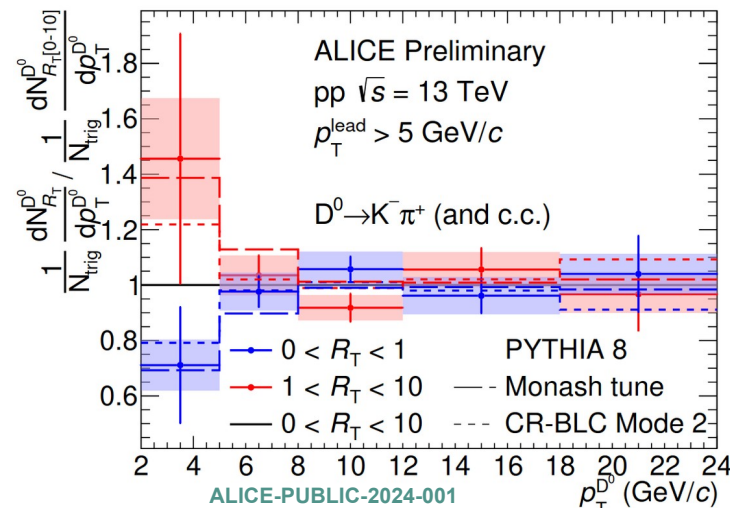
- Transverse** region:

PYTHIA 8 with Monash and CR-BLC Mode 2 tunes suggests dependence on transverse activity at any p_T

Heavy-flavor production is strongly influenced by UE

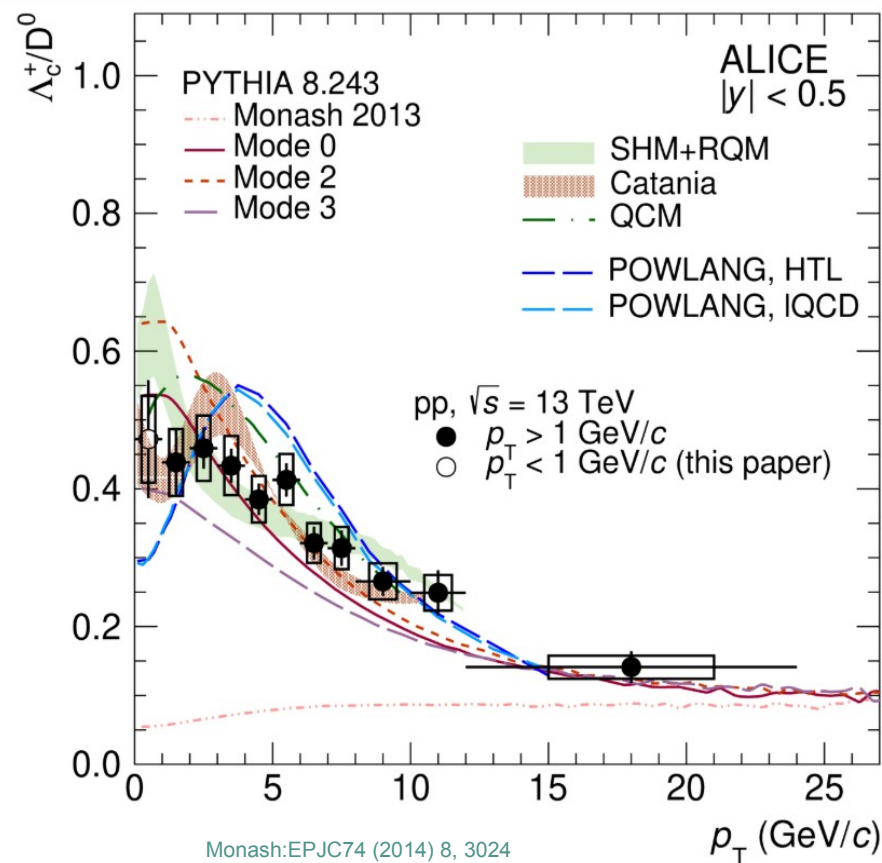
- Run 3 luminosity will make it feasible to measure D-meson production in the transverse region**

Monash: EPJC74 (2014) 8, 3024
CR-BLC: JHEP 08 (2015) 003



Charmed-baryon enhancement

- **charm baryon vs. meson**
- Significant enhancement in **prompt Λ_c^+** to D^0 ratio at low to intermediate p_T vs. e^+e^- and $e p$ collisions
 - PYTHIA 8 Monash tune (based on e^+e^- and $e p$ fragmentation) fails to describe the trends
- Several proposed models reproduce the behavior
 - Color-reconnection with color string junctions (CR-BLC modes 0, 2, 3)
 - Statistical hadronization model with extra charm-baryon resonances (SHM+RQM)
 - Quark coalescence models (Catania and QCM)
 - POWLANG (assuming QGP-like medium)

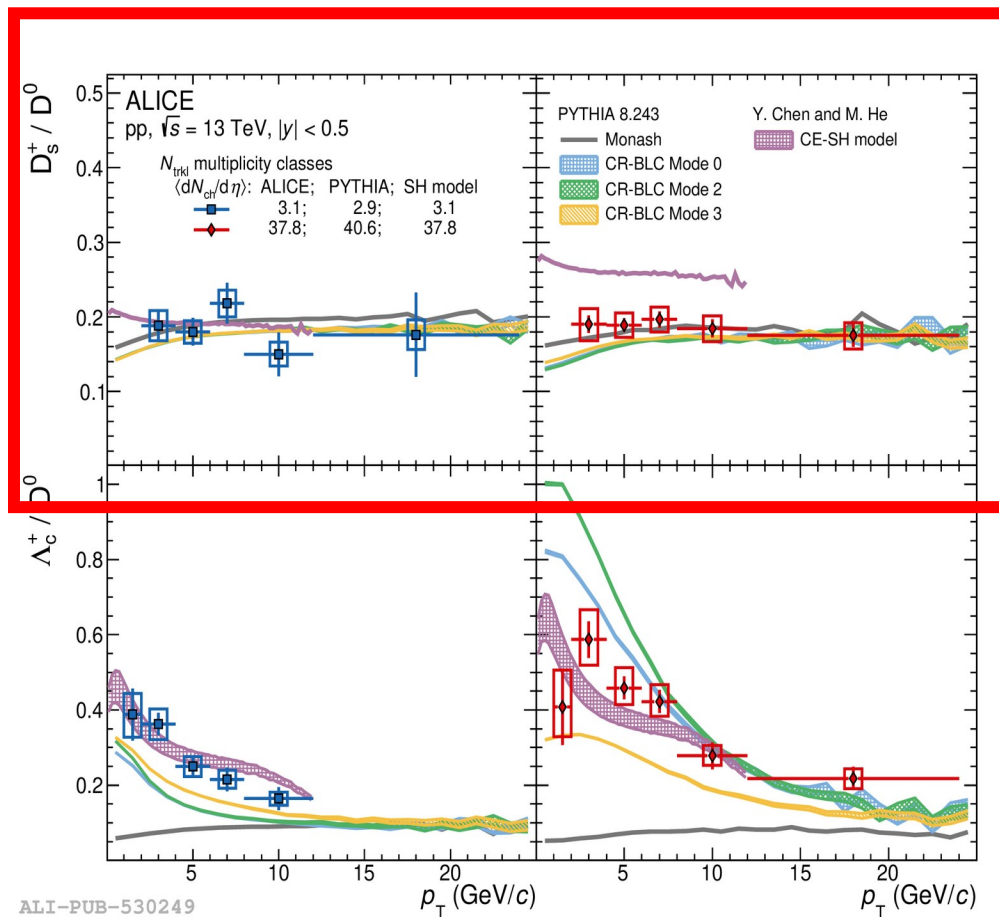


Monash: EPJC74 (2014) 8, 3024
CR-BLC: JHEP 08 (2015) 003
SHM+RQM: PLB 795 (2019) 117
Catania: EPJC 78 no. 4, (2018) 348
POWLANG: JHEP 03 (2016) 123
EPOS4: PRC 108 (2023) 064903

Charmed hadron yields vs. multiplicity

Charmed strange-to-nonstrange mesons

- Independent of p_T and multiplicity
- Described well by PYTHIA tunes
- CE-SH (canonical ensemble + statistical hadronization) model overestimates data at high multiplicities



Monash: EPJC74 (2014) 8, 3024
 CR-BLC: JHEP 08 (2015) 003
 CE-SH: PLB 815 (2021) 136144

PLB 829 (2022) 137065

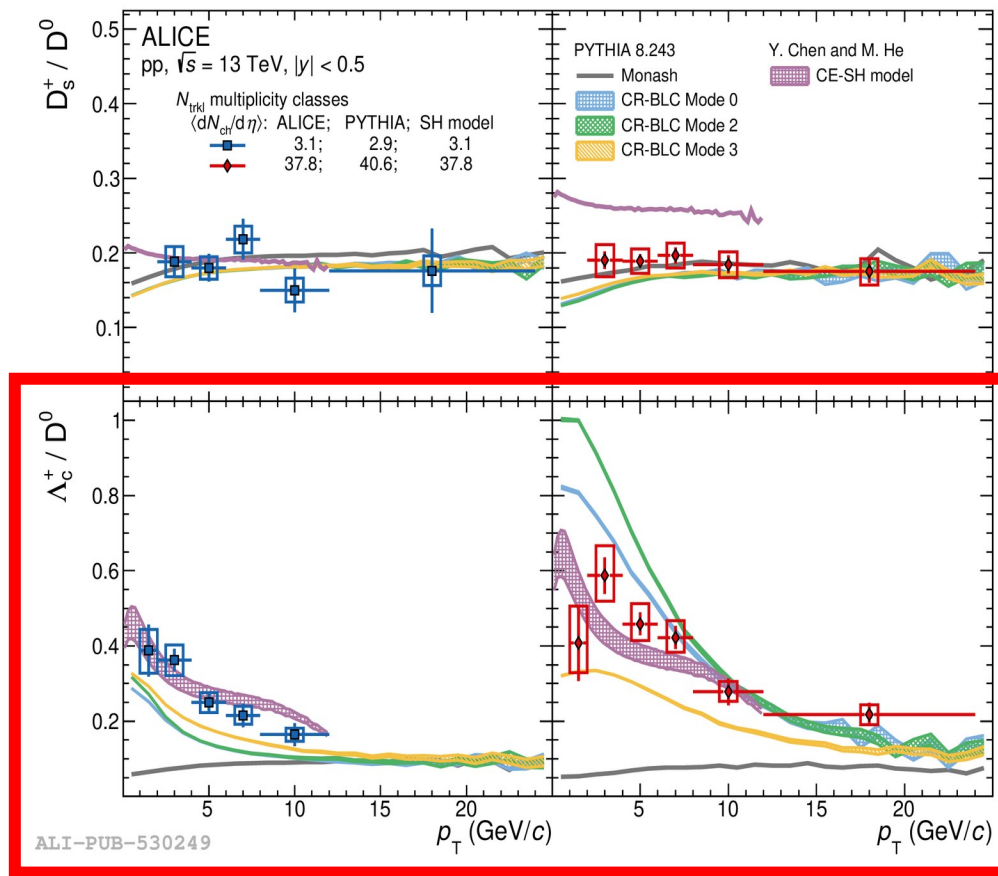
Charmed hadron yields vs. multiplicity

Charmed strange-to-nonstrange mesons

- Independent of p_T and multiplicity
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- CE-SH (canonical ensemble + statistical hadronization) model overestimates data at high multiplicities

Charmed baryon-to-meson ratio

- Significant dependence on multiplicity at low p_T (5.3σ difference)
- PYTHIA 8 with CR-BLC qualitatively describes the multiplicity dependence
- CE-SH model also describes the trends

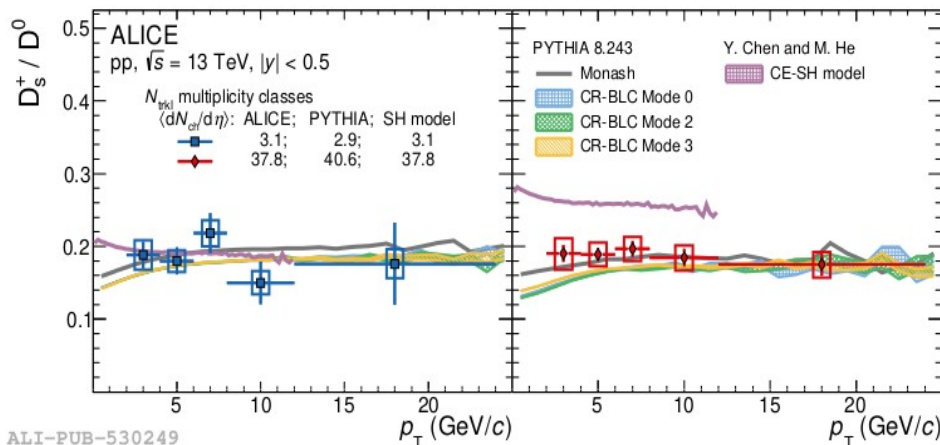


Monash: EPJC74 (2014) 8, 3024
CR-BLC: JHEP 08 (2015) 003
CE-SH: PLB 815 (2021) 136144

Charmed hadron yields vs. multiplicity

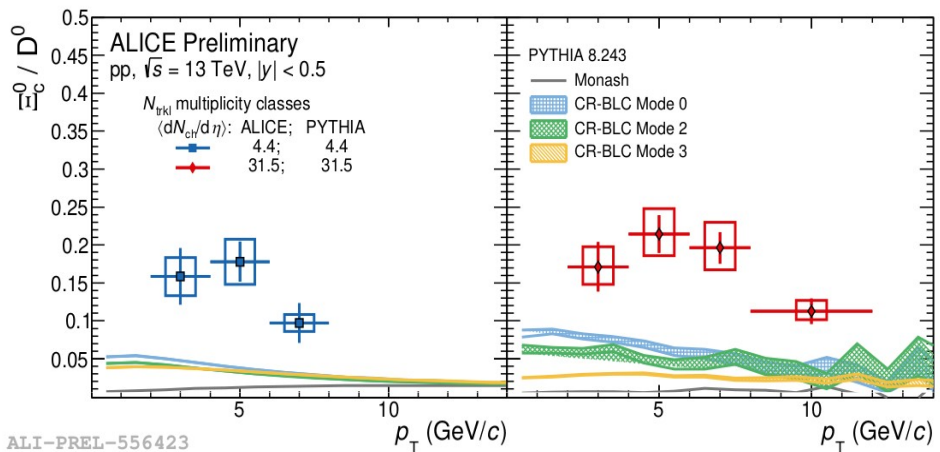
Charmed strange-to-nonstrange mesons

- Independent of p_T and multiplicity
- Described well by PYTHIA tunes
- CE-SH (canonical ensemble + statistical hadronization) model overestimates data at high multiplicities



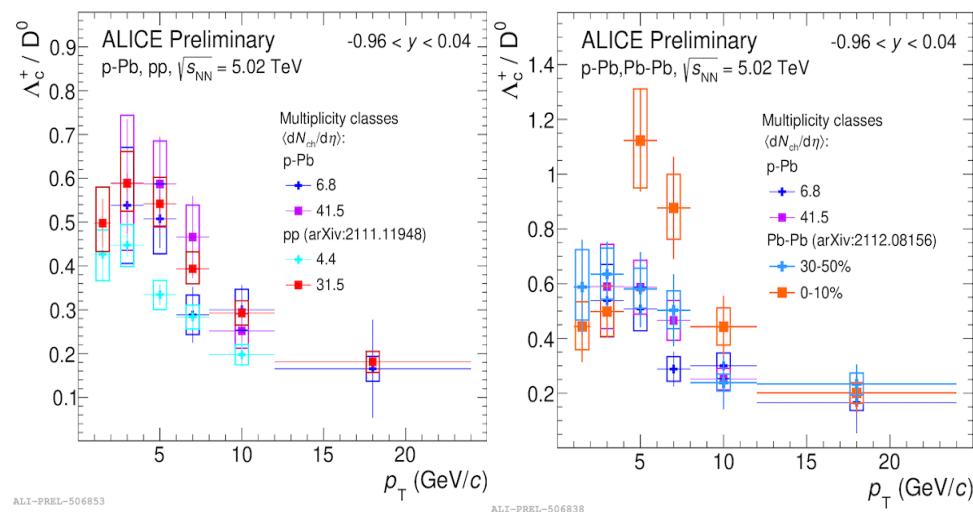
Charmed-strange baryon-to-meson ratio

- Hint of p_T -dependence
- no multiplicity dependence within uncertainties
- Significantly underestimated by PYTHIA CR-BLC at all multiplicities



Monash: EPJC74 (2014) 8, 3024
 CR-BLC: JHEP 08 (2015) 003
 CE-SH: PLB 815 (2021) 136144

Charm baryon-meson ratios in **HI collisions**



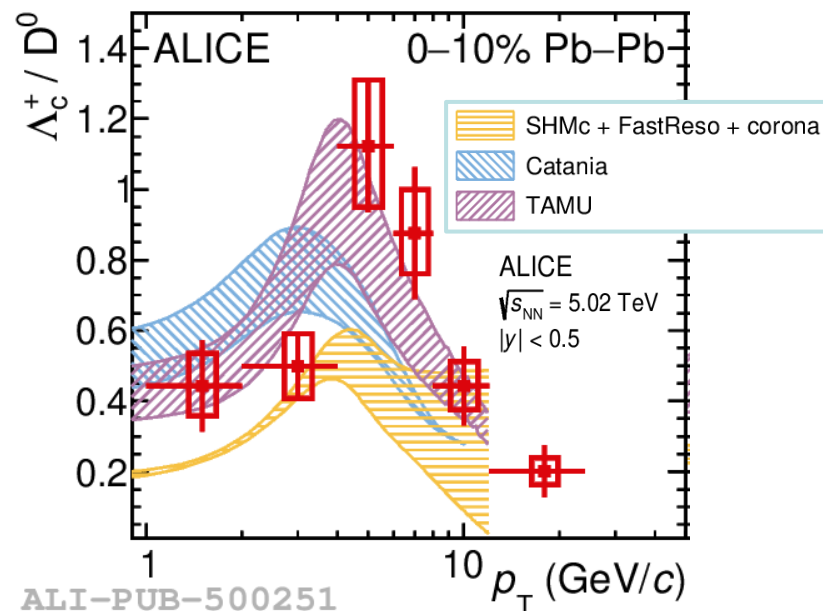
Multiplicity-dependence of the Λ_c^+ / D^0 ratio

- Similar enhancement pattern to that in light baryon-to-meson ratios
- High-multiplicity pp, low- and high-mult p-Pb, and semicentral Pb-Pb are similar
- Strong separation for low-multiplicity pp: Threshold effect?
- **Radial-flow-like pattern in central Pb-Pb**

Λ_c^+ / D^0 ratio in Pb-Pb collisions vs. models

- Data qualitatively described by TAMU and Catania, SHMc slightly underestimates it
- **Interplay of radial flow and recombination**
- Different p_T redistribution for mesons and baryons

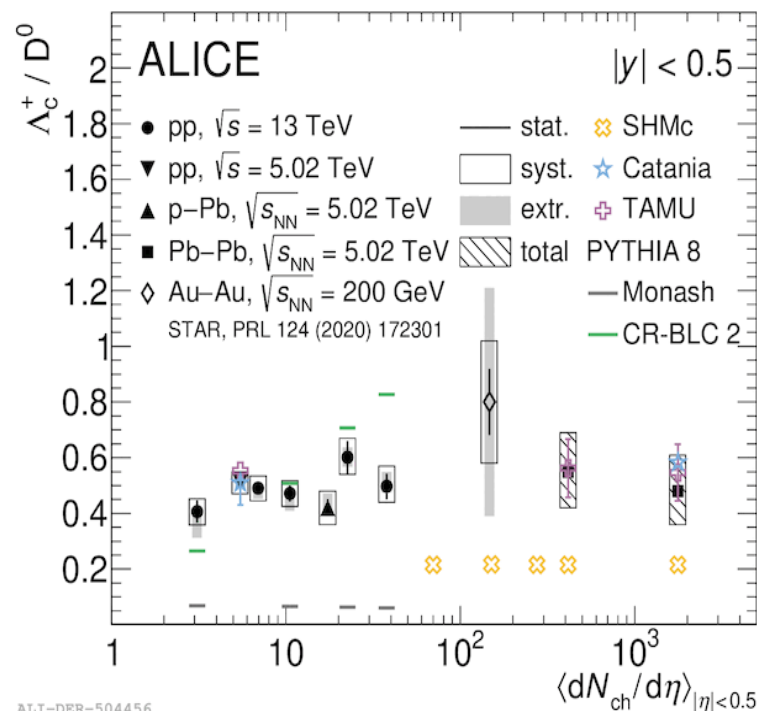
SHMc: JHEP 07 (2021) 03
Catania: EPJC 78 no. 4, (2018) 348
TAMU: PRL 110 (2013) 15



Charm hadron ratios vs. multiplicity

p_T -integrated Λ_c^+/D^0 ratios:

- Dependence on multiplicity, from low- p_T pp up to central Pb-Pb collisions
- Despite strong N_{ch} -dependent trends at mid- p_T , **no evidence of p_T -integrated N_{ch} -dependence**
- Significantly higher values than in e^+e^- and ep
- Collision-energy dependence is weak: STAR 200 GeV and ALICE 5.02 TeV consistent
- Model performance:
 - Increase predicted by PYTHIA 8 CR-BLC is not supported
 - SHMc (Pb-Pb): flat trend, but underestimates data
 - TAMU, Catania: similar for pp and Pb-Pb



ALI-DER-504456

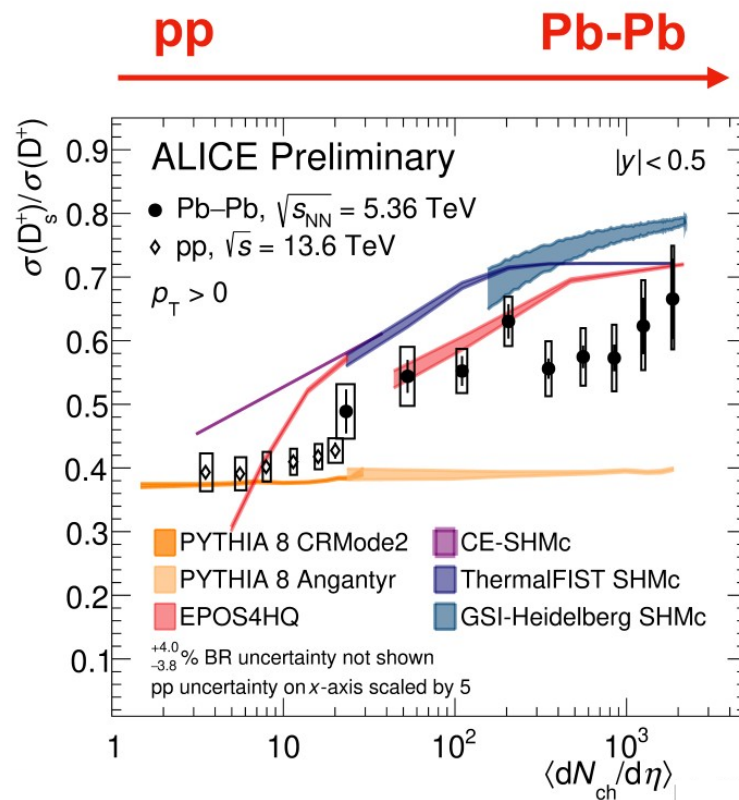
PLB 829 (2022) 137065

SHMc: JHEP 07 (2021) 03
 Catania: EPJC 78 no. 4, (2018) 348
 TAMU: PRL 110 (2013) 15
 Monash: EPJC74 (2014) 8, 3024
 CR-BLC: JHEP 08 (2015) 003

D_s^+/D^+ ratio as function of multiplicity

Slide based on: Alessandro Grelli, Beauty 2026

- **No evolution with multiplicity in pp collisions**
 - Ratio consistent with **LEP average**: 0.408 ± 0.040
 - Support hadronisation via fragmentation only in pp
- Total production of D_s^+ **increases with multiplicity in Pb-Pb collisions**
→ picture consistent with **coalescence** in a deconfined strangeness-enhanced medium.
- Models fail to describe the D_s^+/D^+ evolution across collision systems.
 - **Measurement in O-O needed** to complement the intermediate multiplicity region



Catania: V. Minissale et al., Phys. Lett. B 821 (2021) 136622

CE-SHMc: Y. Chen et al. PLB 815 (2021) 136144

GSI SHMc: A. Andronic et al. JHEP 07 (2021) 035

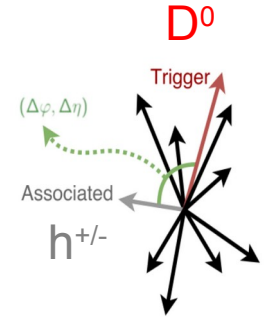
ThermalFIST SHMc: V. Vovchenko, PRC 100 (2019) 054906

EPOS4HQ, Zhao et al., PRC 110 024909

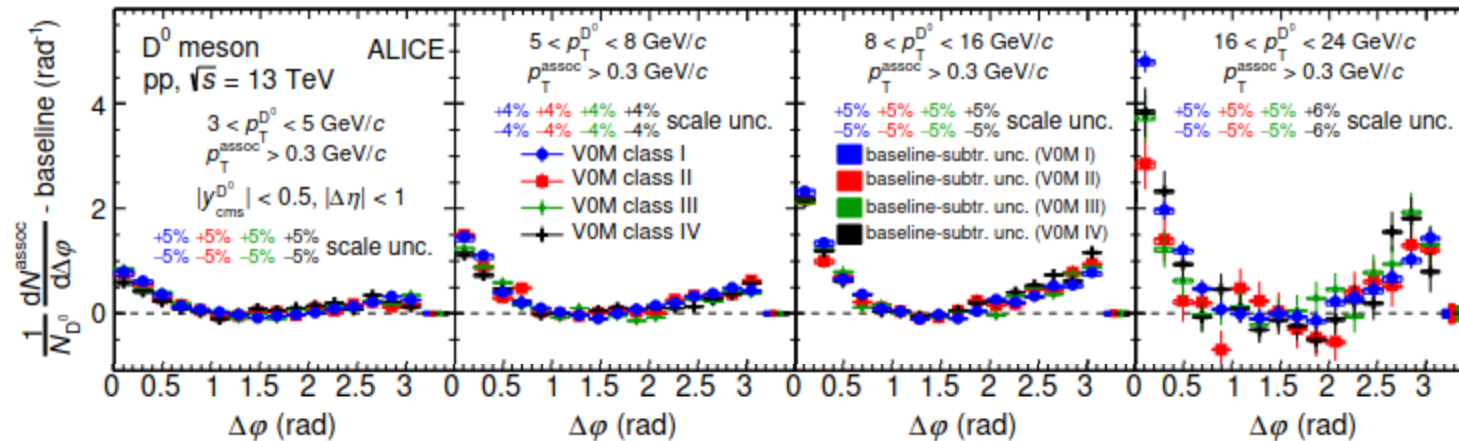
PYTHIA 8: T. Sjöstrand et al., Comput. Phys. Commun. 191 (2015), 159

Correlations: production & fragmentation

- **Azimuthal correlation:** jet structure without reconstruction + more
 - Can also be used at low momenta
 - **Near-side** azimuthal correlation: heavy-quark fragmentation
 - **Away-side** peak: recoil jet
 - Further influences: **underlying event, initial- and final-state radiations**



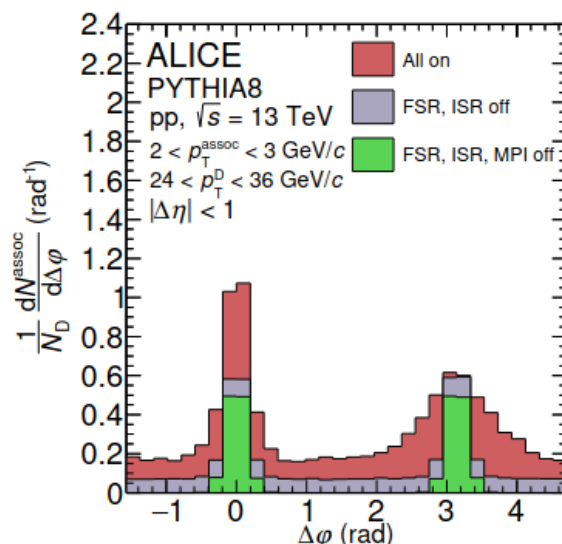
- **D-h correlations:** ALICE, EPJ C 82 (2022) 335



- **No significant dependence on the activity of the final state (V0 multiplicity)**

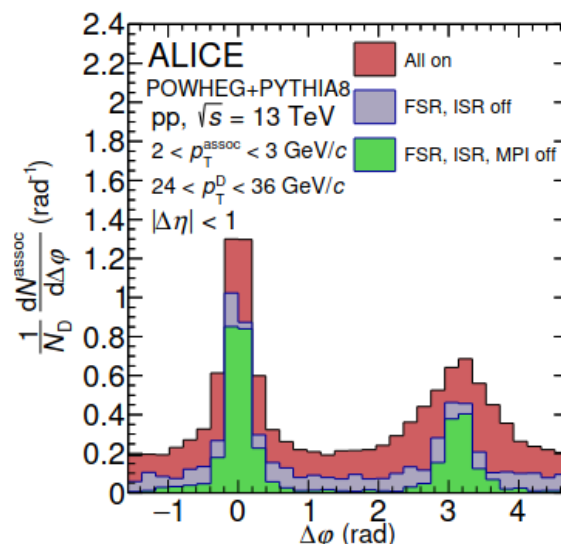
D-h correlations vs. partonic processes

ALICE, EPJ C 82 (2022) 335



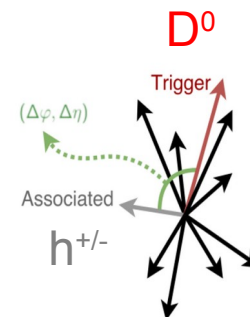
PYTHIA 8

LO matrix element + ISR + FSR



POWHEG+PYTHIA8

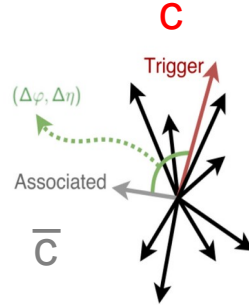
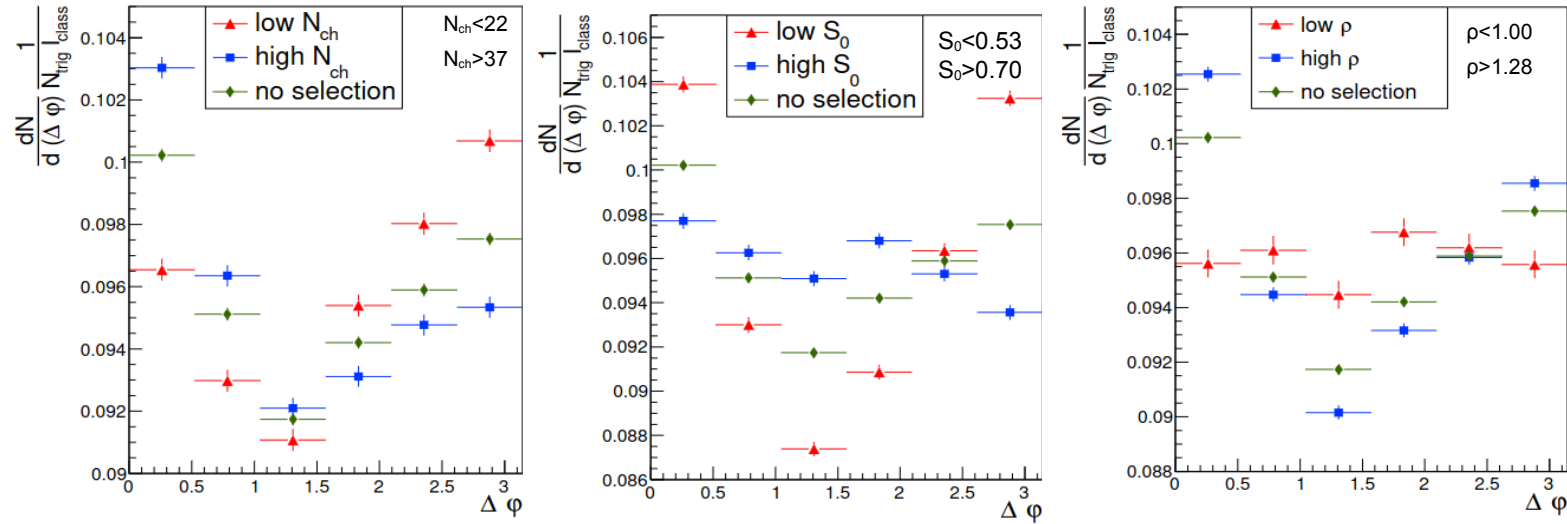
NLO matrix element + ISR + FSR



- Separate parton level processes with simulations (ISR, FSR, MPI)
- Peaks:** more contribution from **initial hard process** in NLO, more **FSR + ISR** in LO
- Underlying event:** Important role of **multiparton-interactions**
- D-h correlations do not restrict strongly the partonic processes**

c- $\bar{c}$ correlations vs. N_{ch} , sphericity, flattenicity

Universe 9 (2023) 7, 308



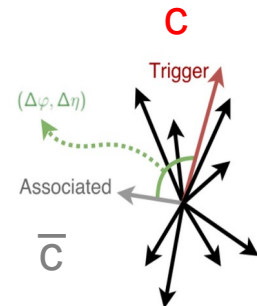
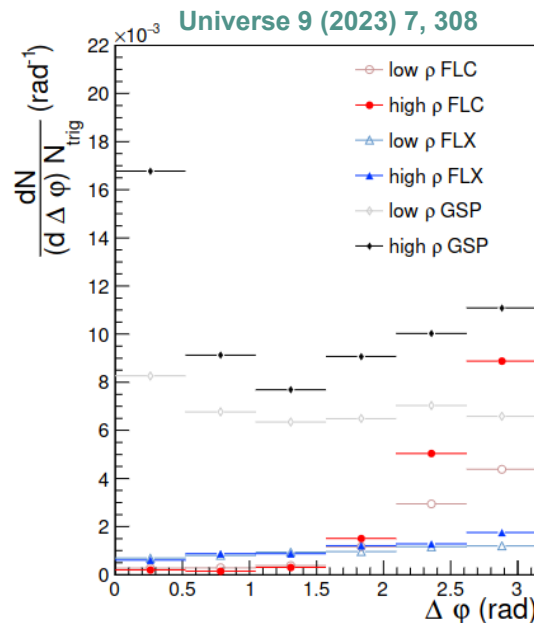
- **Multiplicity:** low-multiplicity events give a sharper away-side peak (simpler back-to-back topology); high-multiplicity events wash it out
- **Sphericity:** low- S_0 (jetty) events $\rightarrow$ stronger near- and away-side correlation.
high- S_0 (isotropic) events $\rightarrow$ more random
- **Flattenicity** highlights the correlation structure: high- ρ events give both a sharper near- and away-side peak
- Among N_{ch} , S_0 , ρ , **flattenicity is the most selective** for correlation structure.

Origin of correlations: QCD creation processes

Low- p : $p < 1.00$

High- p : $p > 1.28$

$p_T > 4 \text{ GeV}/c$

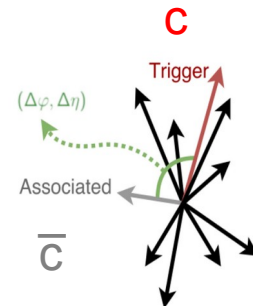
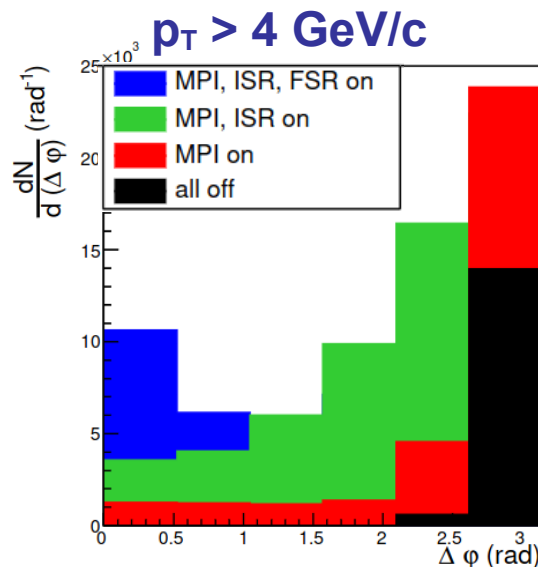
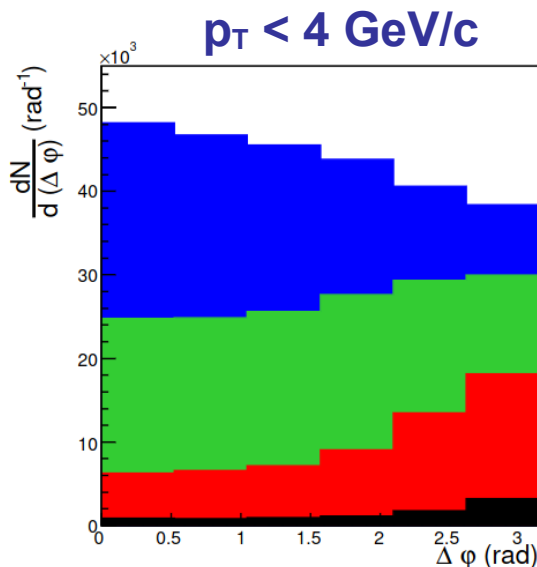


- Trace each trigger c back to its first c ancestor $\rightarrow$ tag FLC / FLX / GSP
 - GSP dominates at the near-side peak
 - FLC produces a sharp away-side peak
 - FLX adds less visibly to the away side
- **Flattenicity cut geometrically separates GSP** (near-side, high- p) from the mostly random away-side (low- p)

Origin of correlations: parton-level processes

High- p
($p > 1.28$)

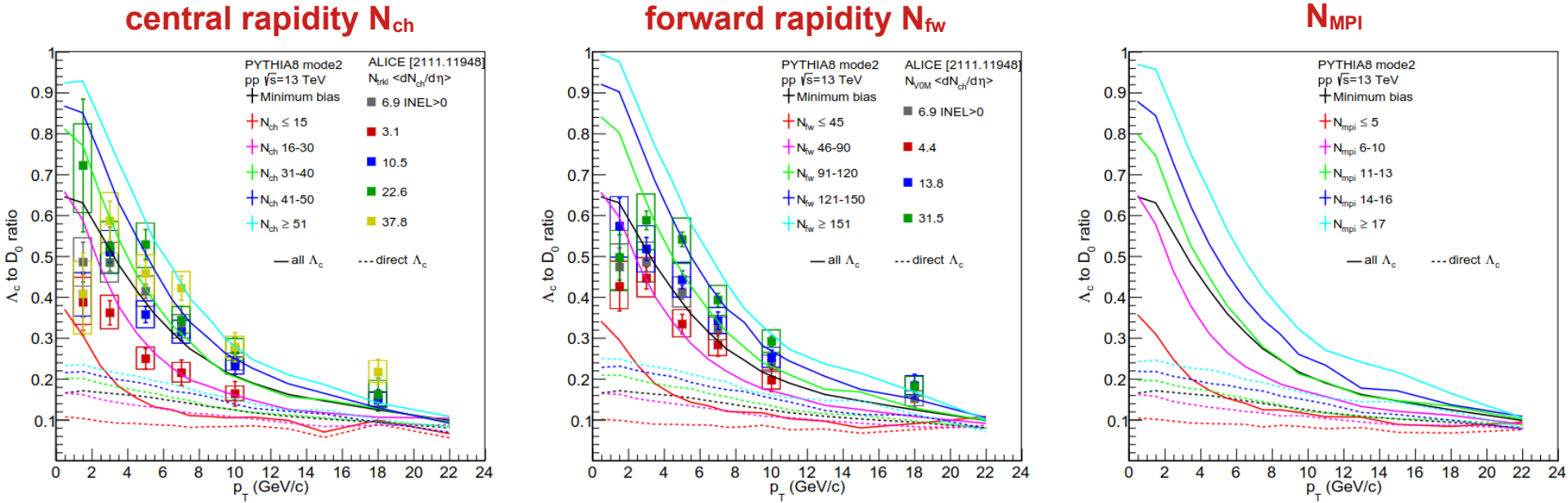
Universe 9 (2023) 7, 308



- Decompose by PYTHIA parton-level stage (ISR, FSR, MPI), split by momentum
 - Away side: initial hard process + ISR + MPI
 - Near side: mostly FSR
- A flattenicity selection isolates the FSR contribution from MPI/ISR
 - → **Flattenicity is a practical handle to select specific QCD processes** in future D^0 - D^0 / jet-jet correlations

Charm baryons in simulations: Λ_c^+/D^0 ratios

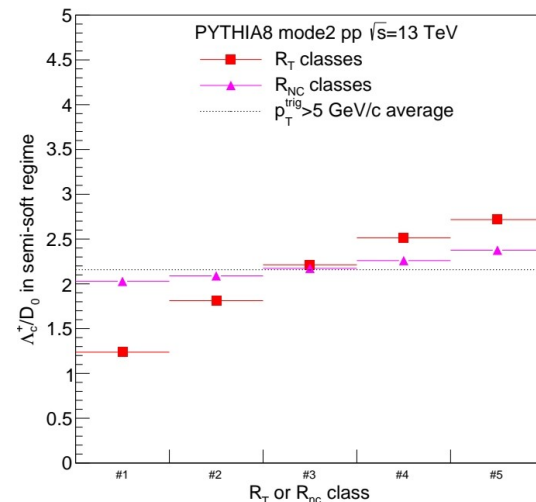
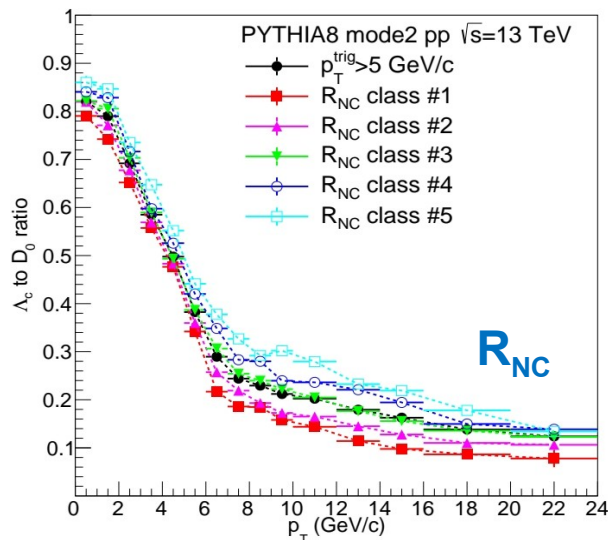
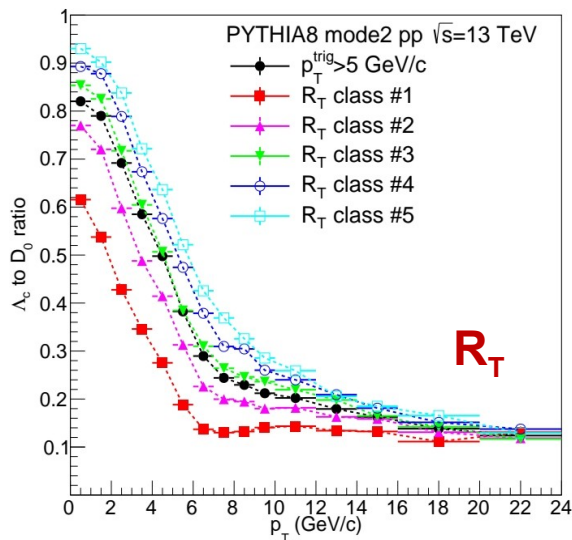
J. Phys. G 49 (2022) 7, 075005, J. Phys. G 50 (2023) 7, 075002



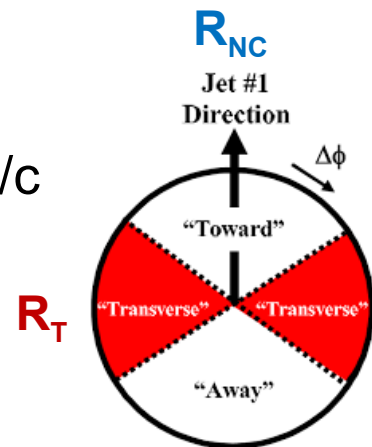
- PYTHIA 8.303 **CR-BLC mode2** (reproduces Λ_c^+/D^0), 1 B pp $\sqrt{s}=13$ TeV
- Λ_c^+/D^0 rises with both central (N_{ch}) and forward (N_{fw}) multiplicity; simulations reproduce the ALICE trends.
- N_{fw} imposes a rapidity gap ($2 < |\eta| < 5$) $\rightarrow$ reduces autocorrelation between the charmed jet and the multiplicity estimator. Same enhancement with the gap $\Rightarrow$ hint that the multiplicity dependence is not driven by charm production inside jets

Λ_c^+/D^0 ratios vs. UE and jet activity (triggered)

J. Phys. G 49 (2022) 075005

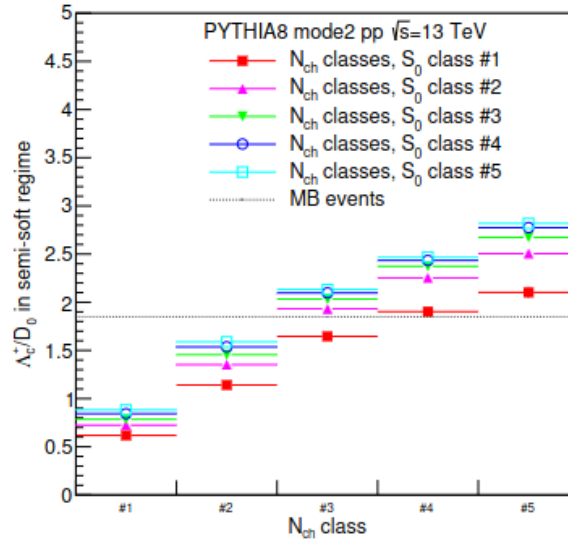
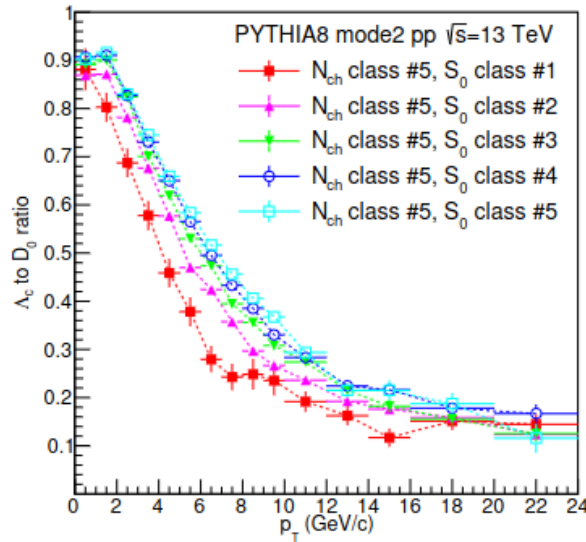


- Events require $p_T > 5$ GeV/c **hadron trigger**
- Integrate over the semi-soft /coalescence regime $2 < p_T < 6$ GeV/c
- **R_T (UE activity)**: nearly threefold rise from low to high class
- **R_{NC} (jet activity)**: only a slight dependence (UE-residual)
- Excess Λ_c^+/D^0 production linked to the **UE**, not the jet

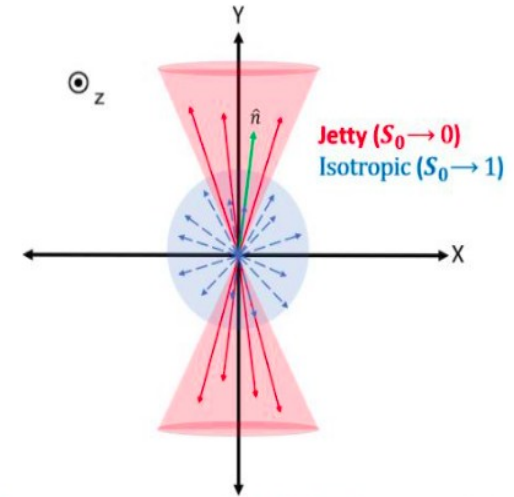


Λ_c^+ / D^0 ratios vs. sphericity (minimum bias)

J. Phys. G 49 (2022) 075005

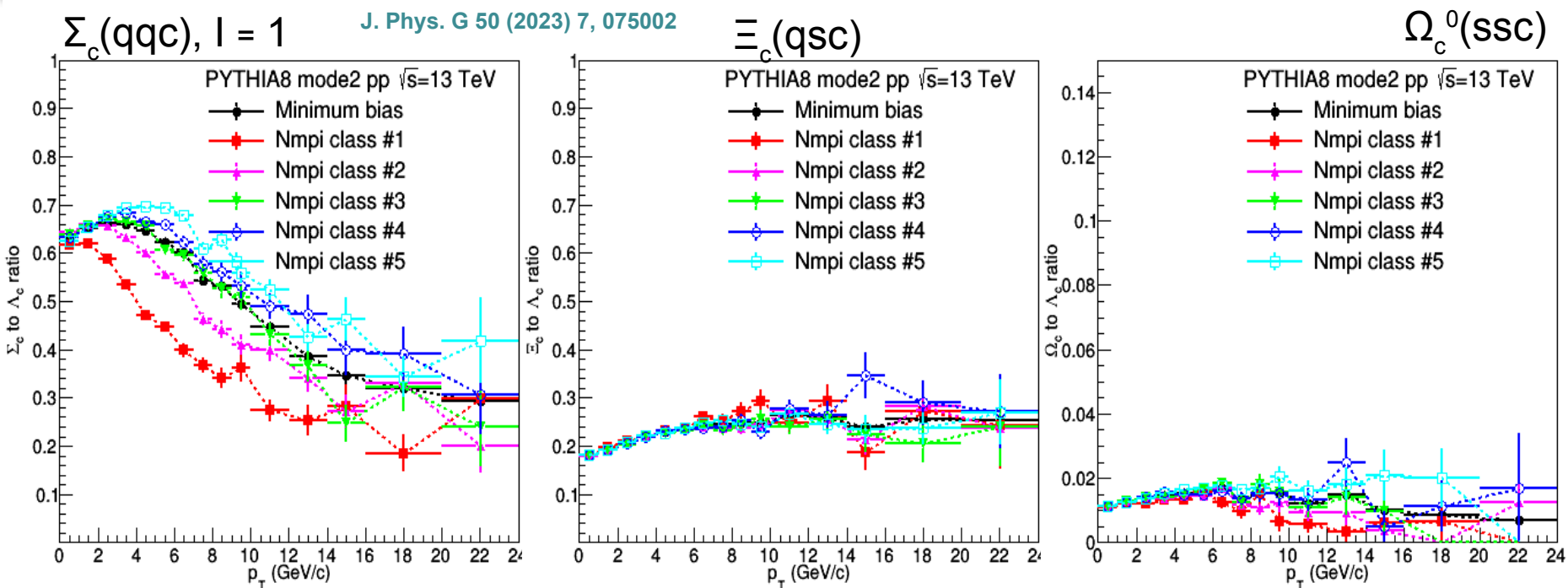


$N_{CH} > 50$



- **S_0 needs no trigger** $\rightarrow$ avoids the bias and statistics loss of triggered samples
- At high N_{ch} : clear separation between **jetty** (low S_0) and **isotropic** (high S_0)
— isotropic events show the larger enhancement.
- At low N_{ch} : little room for the UE $\rightarrow$ dependence is weaker
- $\rightarrow$ Enhancement is a UE phenomenon; S_0 , R_T are discriminating handles, R_{NC} is not.

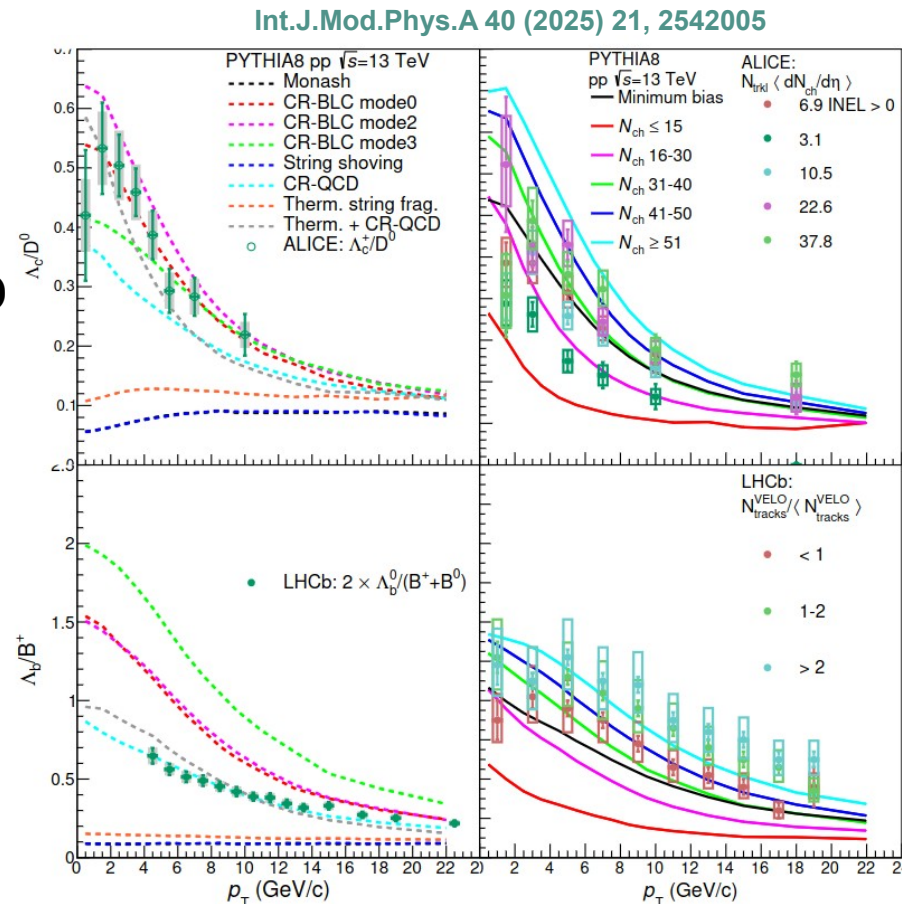
Isospin and strangeness: B-to-B ratios



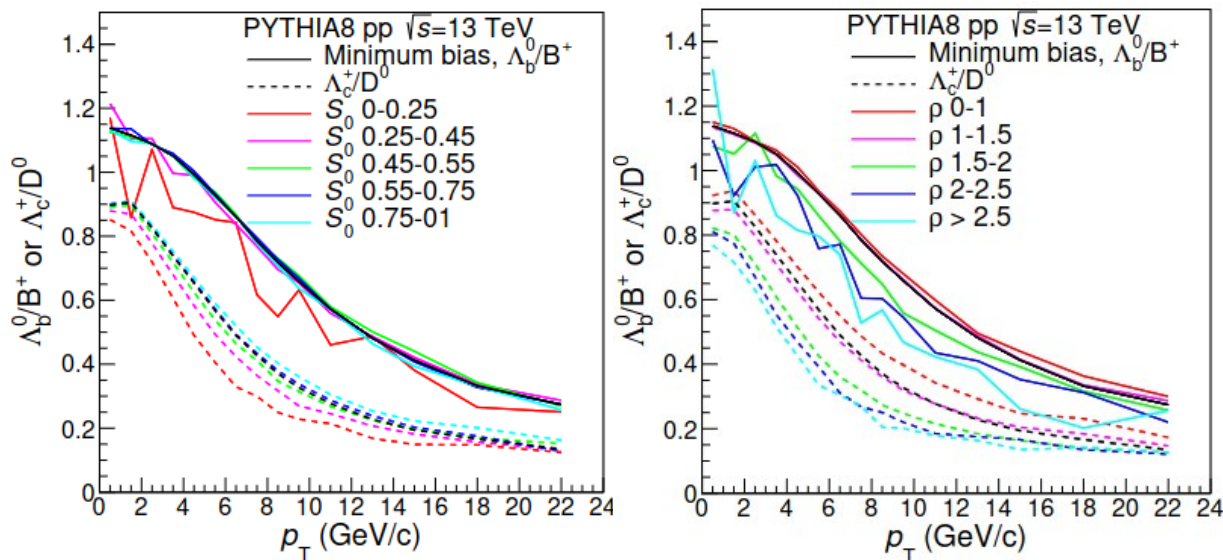
- There is a low p_T enhancement in the ratio connected to the isospin of the **charm content**
 - The enhancement is connected to event activity
- No significant event-activity dependence comes with **strange content**

From charm to beauty

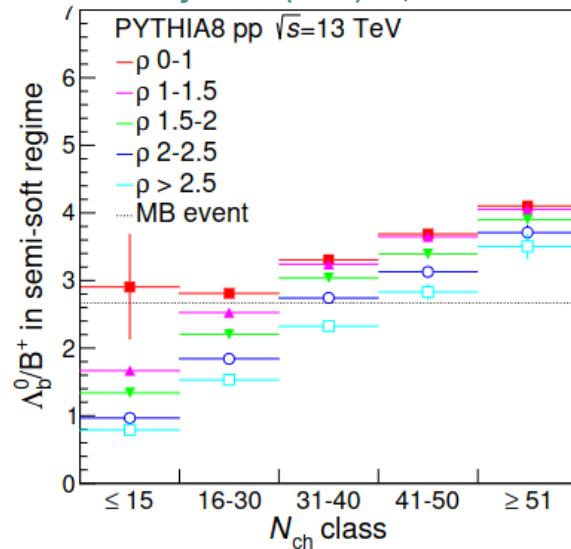
- LHCb and ALICE: beauty baryon-to-meson ratios (Λ_b^0/B^+) show charm-like low- p_T enhancement
- PYTHIA 8.309: **CR-BLC** (charm) + **CR-QCD** with color junctions (beauty); also thermodynamical & rope/shoving fragmentation tested
- Λ_c^+/D^0 best described by **CR-BLC mode 2**; Λ_b^0/B^+ extent reproduced by CR-QCD (CR-BLC overshoots low- p_T LHCb by $\sim 2\times$)
- Both flavors rise with multiplicity**



Flattenicity as the universal UE proxy



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- **Spherocity**: separation is much weaker for beauty
→ S_0 is an insensitive UE measure here
- **Flattenicity**: clean separation for **both** charm and beauty, in **every** N_{ch} bin
→ multiplicity-independent
- Broad rapidity range $\Rightarrow$ free from mid-rapidity jet bias
→ **effective proxy for UE/MPI activity**
- Cross-flavor consistency: **heavy-flavor baryon enhancement stems from MPI/UE**

Summary and outlook

ALICE event-activity-dependent heavy-flavor measurements:

- Opportunity to understand the complexity of pp collisions
→ **Fragmentation is not universal**
- Examine the interplay of hot and cold nuclear, and vacuum effects
→ Λ_c^+/D^0 : **Large systems can still be described within the standard thermal equilibrium + hydrodynamical evolution picture**
- → Models fail to describe the D_s^+/D^+ evolution across collision systems

Simulations

- **Correlations:** flattenicity separates parton-level processes; isolates FSR; selects QCD creation channels
- **Charm-baryon enhancement:** In the frames of the CR-BLC model, it is an UE/MPI effect (R_T , S_0 sensitive; R_{NC} not)
- **Beauty:** Flattenicity is the robust, trigger-free UE classifier across flavors
- Simulations provide predictions and sensitivity — **ultimately verified only by detailed data**
- LHC Run 3 (high-precision Λ_b^0/B^+ ratios) and ALICE 3 (D^0 - D^0 correlations) will test predictions directly

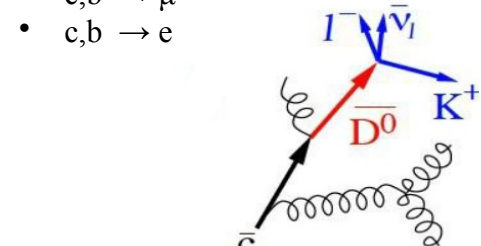
A nighttime photograph of the Mole Antonelliana in Turin, Italy. The dome is illuminated with warm lights, and a vertical line of red lights runs up its side. The spire is also lit, with red lights at its base. In the background, the snow-capped Alps are visible under a dark blue sky. The city lights of Turin are visible in the foreground and middle ground.

Thank you!

Reconstruction of heavy flavor decays

Semileptonic decays

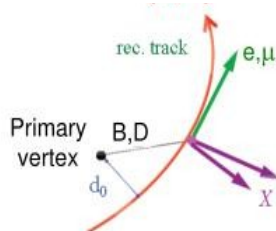
- $c, b \rightarrow \mu$
- $c, b \rightarrow e$



Hadronic decays

(in measurements shown)

- $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$
- $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0 (\rightarrow K^- \pi^+) \pi^+$
- $D^+ \rightarrow K^- \pi^+ \pi^+$
- $D_s^+ \rightarrow \Phi (\rightarrow K^+ K^-) \pi^+$
- $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K^- \pi^+$
- $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K_s^0 (\rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-)$
- $\Xi_c^0 \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+$
- $\Xi_c^+ \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+ \pi^+$



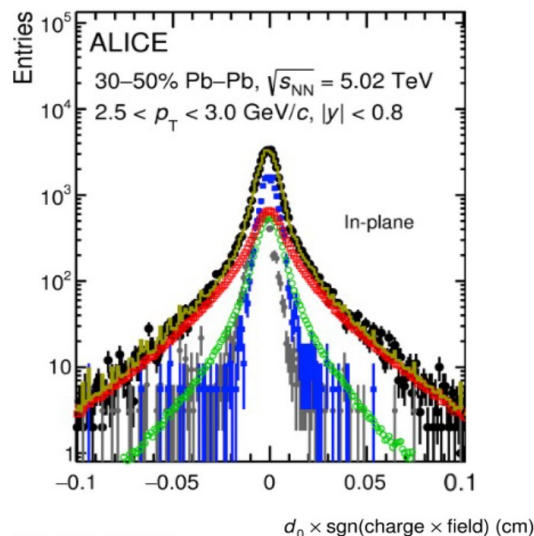
Identification

- PID of daughter hadrons
- Topological selection
- Secondary vertex in the ITS

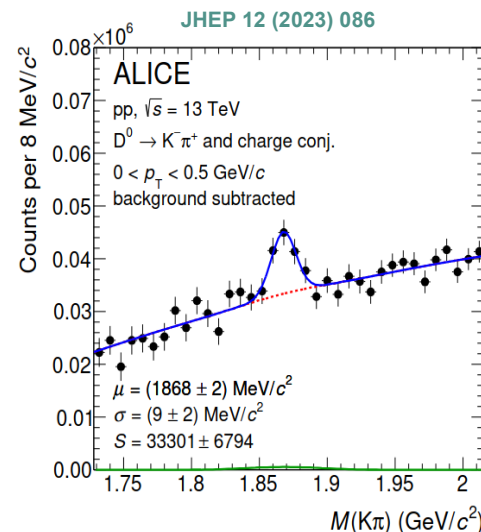
Lifetime of heavy flavor: $c\tau (D) \sim 100\text{-}300 \mu\text{m}$

$c\tau (B) \sim 400\text{-}500 \mu\text{m}$

Secondary vertex resolution: $< 100 \mu\text{m}$



ALI-PUB-347958



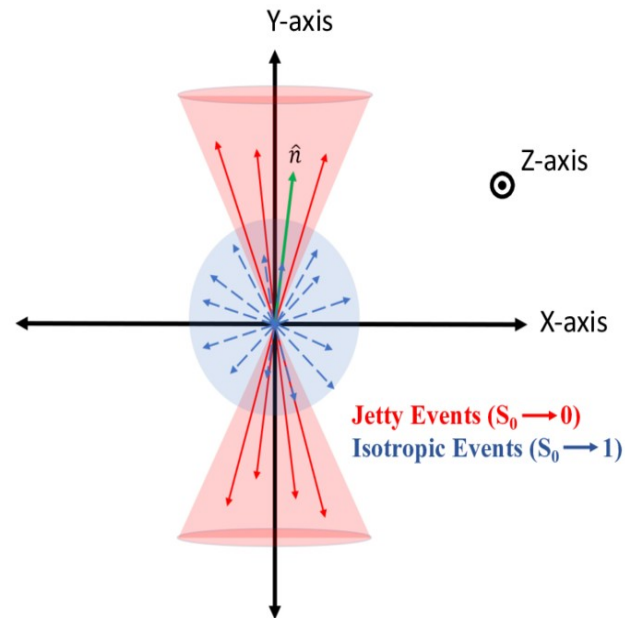
Peak extraction
(D^0 example)

Transverse sphericity S_0

- Event-shape observable to express jettiness vs. isotropy

$$S_0 = \frac{\pi^2}{4} \left(\frac{\sum_i |\vec{p}_{Ti} \times \hat{n}|}{\sum_i p_{Ti}} \right)^2$$

- Sensitive to initial hard scatterings and underlying event
- Jetty events** ($S_0 \rightarrow 0$)
dominated by hard QCD processes
- Isotropic events** ($S_0 \rightarrow 1$)
dominated by soft QCD processes



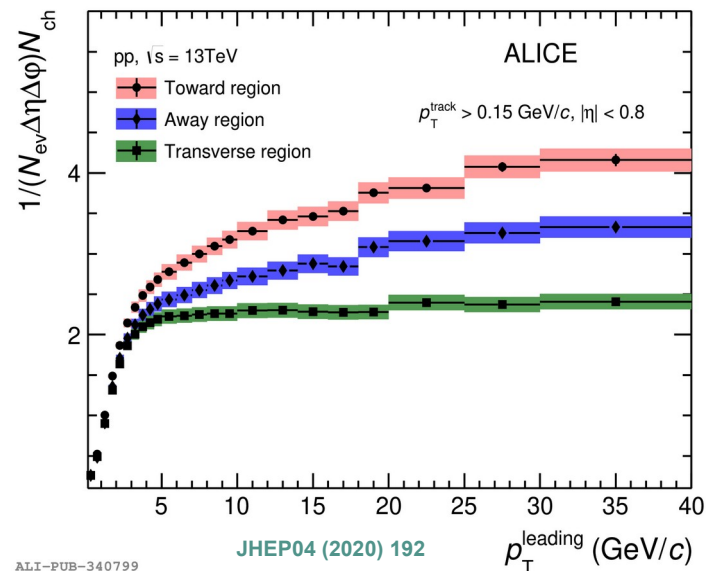
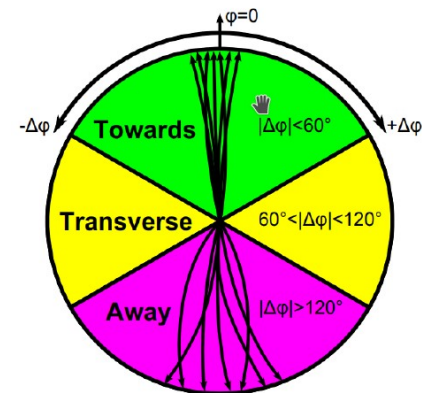
Transverse event activity R_T

- Event-activity observable representing the underlying event (UE)

$$R_T = \frac{N_T^{\text{ch}}}{\langle N_T^{\text{ch}} \rangle}$$

N_T^{ch} : event multiplicity
in the transverse region

- High- p_T leading particle required
- Toward** and **Away** regions typically contain the leading and subleading jet
- Transverse** region is mostly independent of the hard scattering process for leading particle $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV}/c$, and mostly contains the UE
- ~ $R_T < 1$: low underlying-event activity
- ~ $R_T > 1$: high underlying-event activity
- In models with multiple-parton interactions (MPI), R_T is strongly correlated with the number of MPIs



ALI-PUB-340799

JHEP04 (2020) 192

Flattenicity

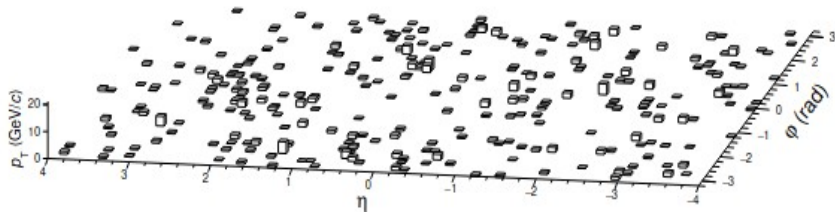
A. Ortiz, G. Paic, Rev. Mex. Fis. Suppl. 3 (2022) 040911

- Motivated by rare “hedgehog” events in pp collisions (first noted by UA1 and CDF) with no jetty structure
- **Flattenicity** (ρ): the relative standard deviation of the p_T^{cell} distribution (event-by-event):

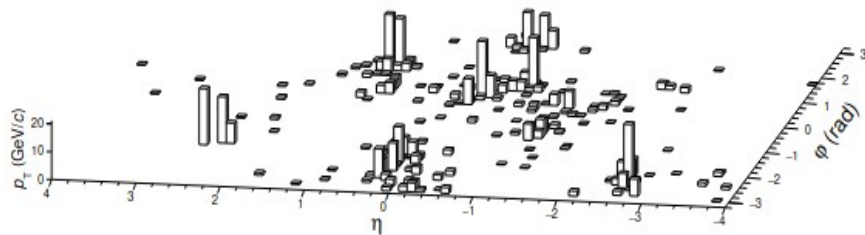
$$\rho = \sigma_{p_T^{\text{cell}}} / \langle p_T^{\text{cell}} \rangle .$$

- The whole phase space is divided into 80 elementary cells (10 η bins, 8 ϕ bins).
- Charged particles within $|\eta| < 4$ and $p_T > 0.15$ GeV/c (ALICE 3 acceptance).

PYTHIA 8.303 (Monash 2013), pp $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, $N_{\text{mp}}=24$, $N_{\text{ch}}=325$, $\rho=0.58$



PYTHIA 8.303 (Monash 2013), pp $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, $N_{\text{mp}}=1$, $N_{\text{ch}}=235$, $\rho=1.56$



Event descriptor classes

- All five activity classifiers binned into classes #1–#5, chosen to hold ~equal event counts (so a "class" is a percentile, not a fixed physics scale)

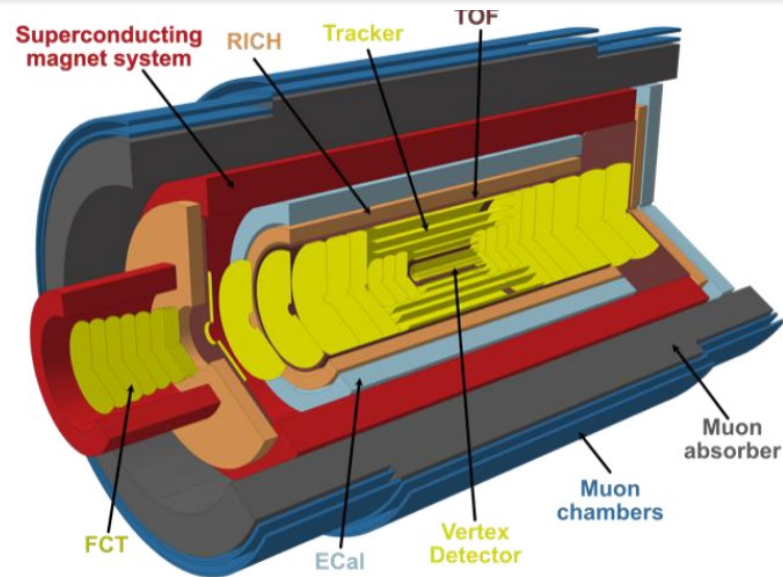
class	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
N_{ch}	≤ 15	16–30	31–40	41–50	≥ 51
N_{fw}	≤ 45	46–90	91–120	121–150	≥ 151
R_{T}	< 0.5	0.5–1	1–1.5	1.5–2	> 2
R_{NC}	< 0.5	0.5–1	1–1.5	1.5–2	> 2
S_0	0–0.25	0.25–0.45	0.45–0.55	0.55–0.75	0.75–1
$ \rho $	0–1	1–1.5	1.5–2	2–2.5	> 2.5

Charm-charm correlations: ALICE 3

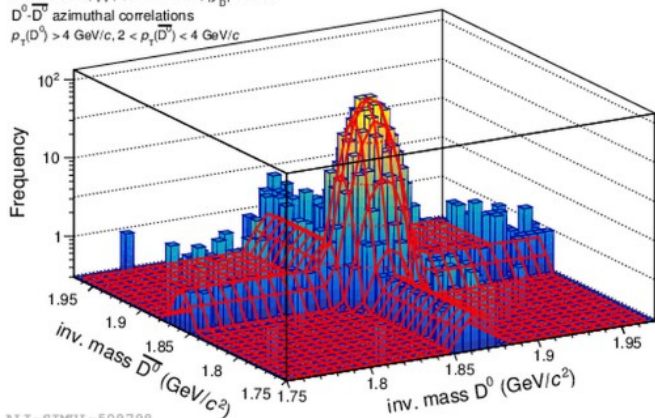
ALICE 3: the detector of the future

ALICE, arXiv:2211.02491 (LoI)

- Compact multi-purpose detector
- “Ultra-thin” semiconductor technology
- 20-50x higher luminosity



ALICE 3 study, $L_{\text{int}} = 3 \text{ nb}^{-1}$
PYTHIA 8.2, pp, $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}$, $|y_{\text{D}^0}| < 1.44$
 $\text{D}^0\text{-}\bar{\text{D}}^0$ azimuthal correlations
 $p_{\text{T}}(\text{D}^0) > 4 \text{ GeV}/c$, $2 < p_{\text{T}}(\bar{\text{D}}^0) < 4 \text{ GeV}/c$



ALI-SIMUL-509798

E.Frajna (ALICE), Quark Matter 2022

- Measurements of $\text{D}^0\text{-}\bar{\text{D}}^0$ correlations
- **Separation of individual pQCD processes** (pair production, gluon splitting, flavor excitation) will be possible

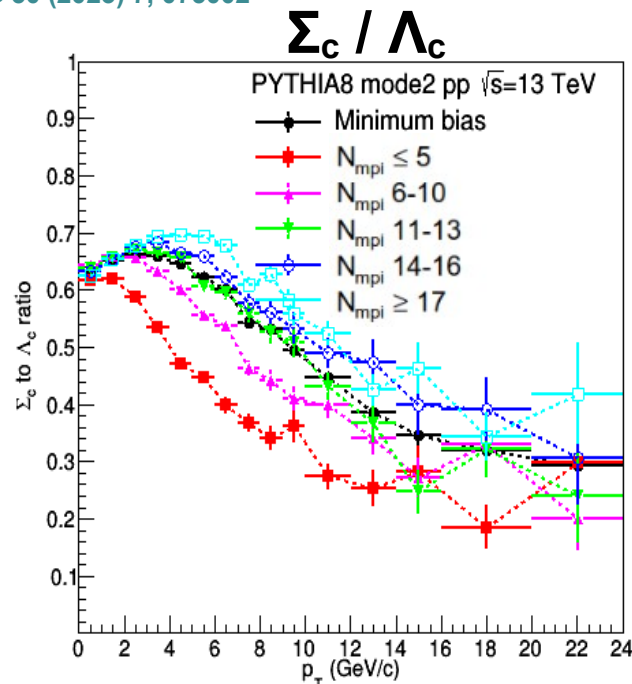
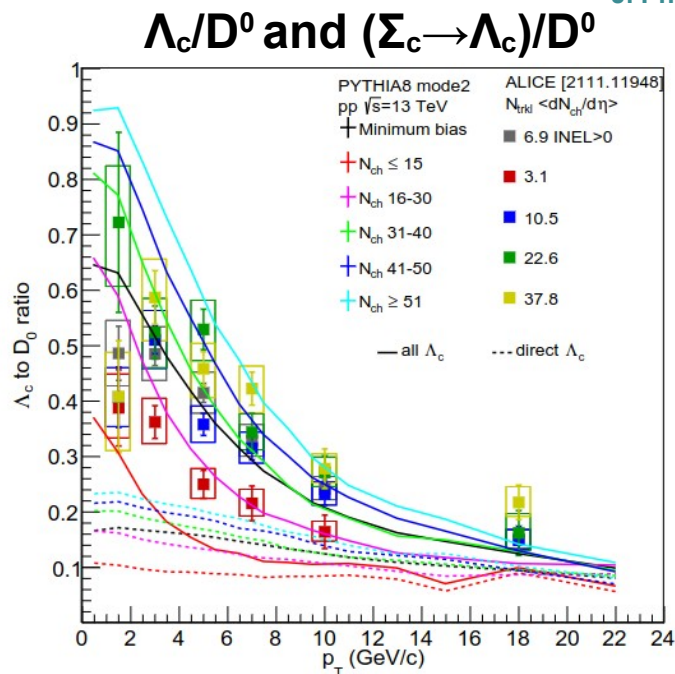
How the $c\text{--}\bar{c}$ creation process is tagged

- Trace the trigger charm back to the **first charm in its ancestry**, then read the **PYTHIA status codes of its parents**:
 - only **gluon parents not tied to the hardest process** → **gluon splitting (GSP)**
 - gluon parents **and** the quark is incoming to the hardest sub-process → **flavor excitation (FLX)**
 - both parents incoming light quarks/gluons of the hardest process producing the c → **flavor creation (FLC)**
- Charm not from the hardest process (rare, subsequent soft processes) is grouped into **GSP**

Norrbín–Sjöstrand EPJ C 17 (2000) 137

Σ_c vs. Λ_c : Isospin of charmed baryons

J. Phys. G 50 (2023) 7, 075002



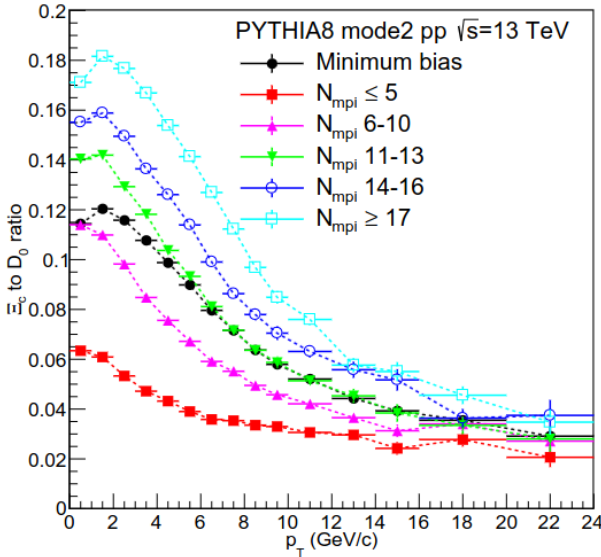
Σ_c (qqc, $I=0$)
 Λ_c (qqc, $I=1$)

- Λ_c^+ gets a **large feed-down**, mostly from Σ_c^0 , decay Λ_c^+ **dominates at low- p_T** , direct Λ_c^+ is flat and dominates high p_T
- Both ordered by event activity $\rightarrow$ not a kinematics artifact
- Σ_c/Λ_c ordered by $N_{MPI} \Rightarrow$ enhancement is isospin-sensitive

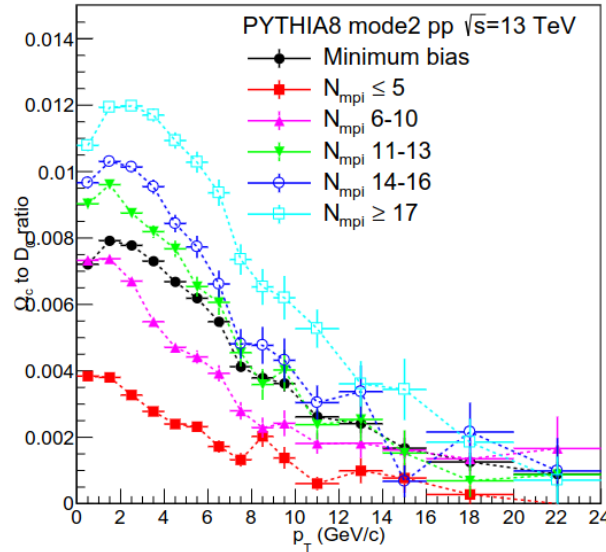
Ξ_c and Ω_c : Strangeness in charmed baryons

J. Phys. G 50 (2023) 7, 075002

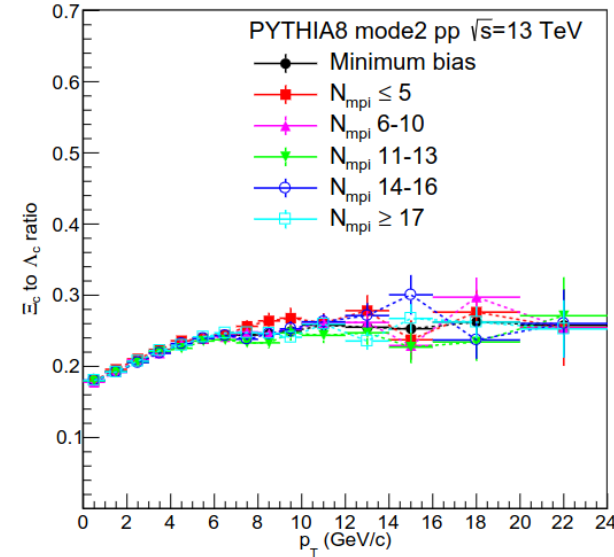
$\Xi_c(qsc) / D^0$



$\Omega_c^0(ssc) / D^0$



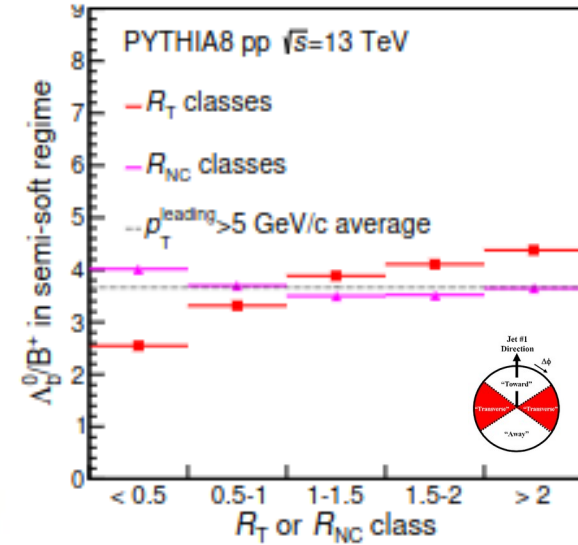
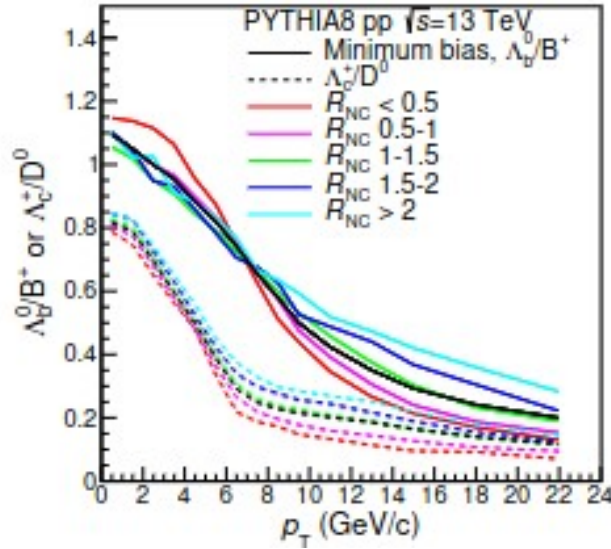
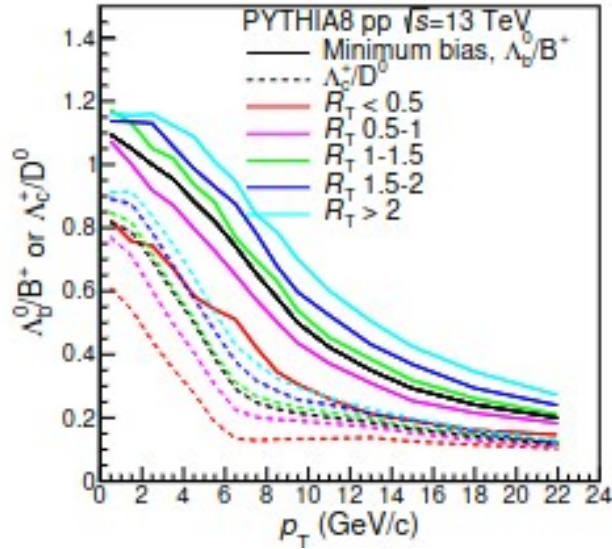
$\Xi_c(qsc) / \Lambda_c(qqc)$



- There is a **low p_T enhancement** connected to the **charm content**
- There is a **high p_T enhancement** connected to the **strange content** (above that of the charm enhancement)

Beauty R_T / R_{NC}

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- The charm result repeats for beauty: Λ_b^0/B^+ rises with R_T , is essentially flat in R_{NC} below ~ 6 GeV/c.
- Confirms the UE-not-jet origin across flavors.

Model dependence and known limitations

- **CR-BLC modes**: mode 2 reproduces $\Lambda c^+/D^0$; mode 0 gives slightly less enhancement; mode 3 overestimates the UE
- **Charm vs beauty**: $\Lambda c^+/D^0$ best by **CR-BLC mode 2**, $\Lambda b^0/B^+$ by **CR-QCD** — no single tune describes both; CR-BLC overshoots low- p_T LHCb beauty by $\sim 2\times$
- N_{MPI} is not an observable — used only as the model's internal UE proxy; physical classifiers (R_T , ρ) are what's measurable.
- Simulation multiplicity classes **don't map exactly** onto the experimental ones (e.g. ALICE forward V0A/V0C η ranges differ from N_{fw})

Christiansen–Skands 1505.01681

Altmann–Skands 2404.12040