



Recent heavy flavour measurements from ALICE



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for the ALICE Collaboration

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Introduction

- Heavy-ion collisions at the LHC → explore the state of matter in which quarks and gluons are deconfined,
→ **quark-gluon plasma, QGP**
- Heavy quarks (charm and beauty) are effective probes of the QGP;
 - ✓ predominantly produced in the initial hard scattering processes
 - ✓ experience the full evolution of medium created by heavy-ion collisions, and subsequently interact with the medium constituents
 - ✓ lose energy while traversing the medium via radiative and collisional processes, and participate in the collective expansion of the medium
- Production cross section in pp collisions can be calculated using a **factorisation approach**

$$\frac{d\sigma^H}{dp_T} = \boxed{PDF(x_1)PDF(x_2)} \times \boxed{\frac{d\sigma^q}{dp_T^q}} \times \boxed{D_{q \rightarrow H}(z = p_H/p_q)}$$

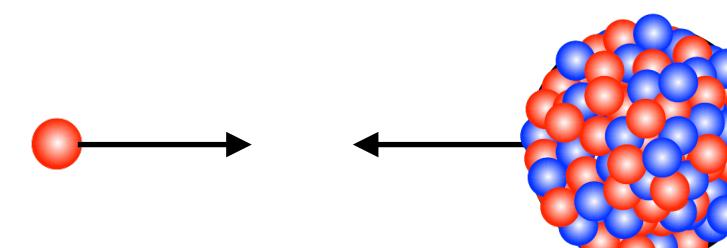
- non-perturbative
- initial condition from data - perturbative (pQCD)
- fit to data (e^-p , e^+e^-)

pp collisions



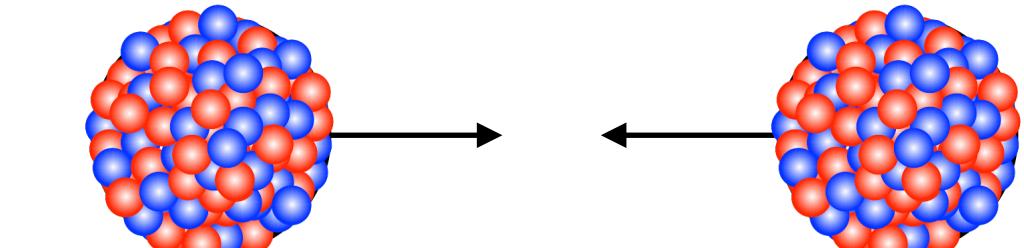
- Test and constraint pQCD calculations
- Reference for p-A and A-A collisions

p-A collisions



- Study cold nuclear matter (CNM) effects

A-A collisions



- Study transport properties of the QGP
- Hadronisation in the presence of QGP

ALICE detector in Run 2

Time-Of-Flight detector

- particle identification

Time Projection Chamber

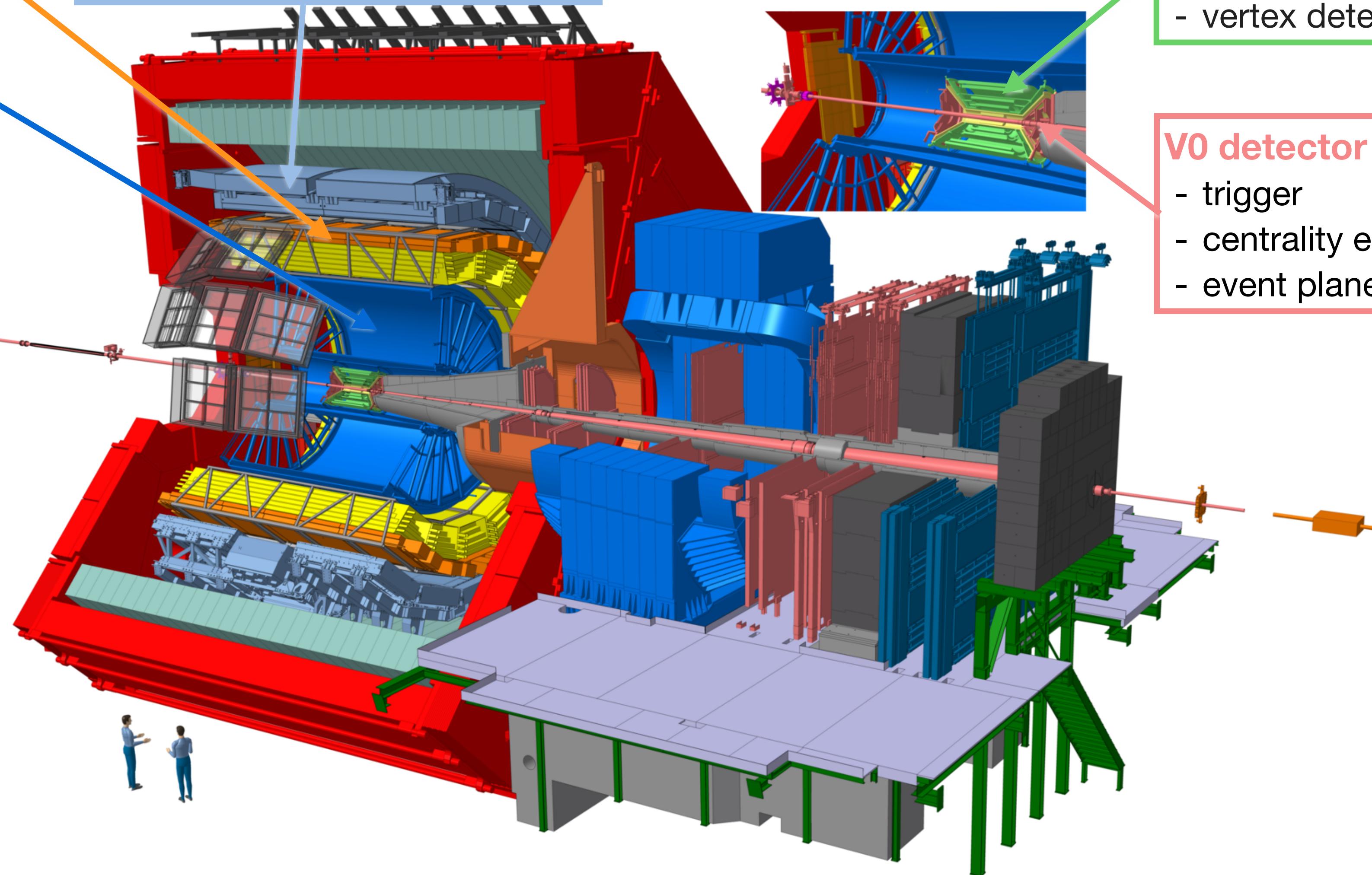
- track reconstruction
- particle identification

HF hadrons in ALICE

- $D^0 \rightarrow K^-\pi^+$
- $D^+ \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^+$
- $D_s^+ \rightarrow \phi\pi^0 \rightarrow K^+K^-\pi^+$
- $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0\pi^+ \rightarrow K^-\pi^+\pi^+$
- $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow pK^-\pi^+$
- $\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow pK_S^0 \rightarrow p\pi^+\pi^-$
- $\Xi_c^+ \rightarrow \Xi^-\pi^+\pi^+ \rightarrow \Lambda\pi^-\pi^+\pi^+$
- $\Xi_c^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\Xi^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\Lambda$
- $\Omega_c^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\Omega^- \rightarrow \pi^+K^-\Lambda$
- $\Sigma_c^{0,++} \rightarrow \pi^{-,+}\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow \pi^{-,+}pK_S^0$
- $\Sigma_c^{0,++} \rightarrow \pi^{-,+}\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow \pi^{-,+}pK^-\pi^+$
- $D_{s1}^+ \rightarrow D^{*+}K_S^0$
- $D_{s2}^{*+} \rightarrow D^+K_S^0$

ElectroMagnetic Calorimeter

- trigger
- particle identification



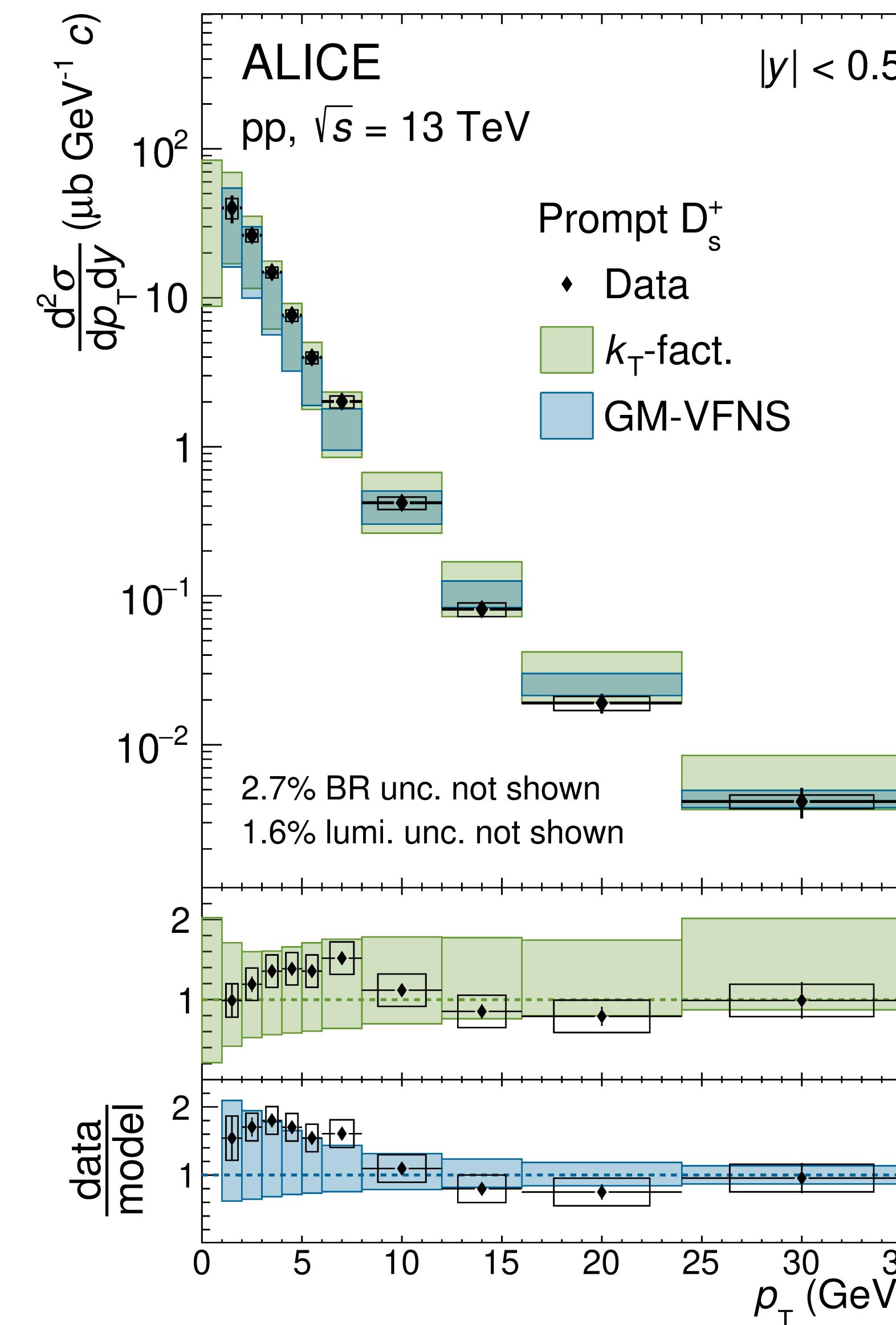
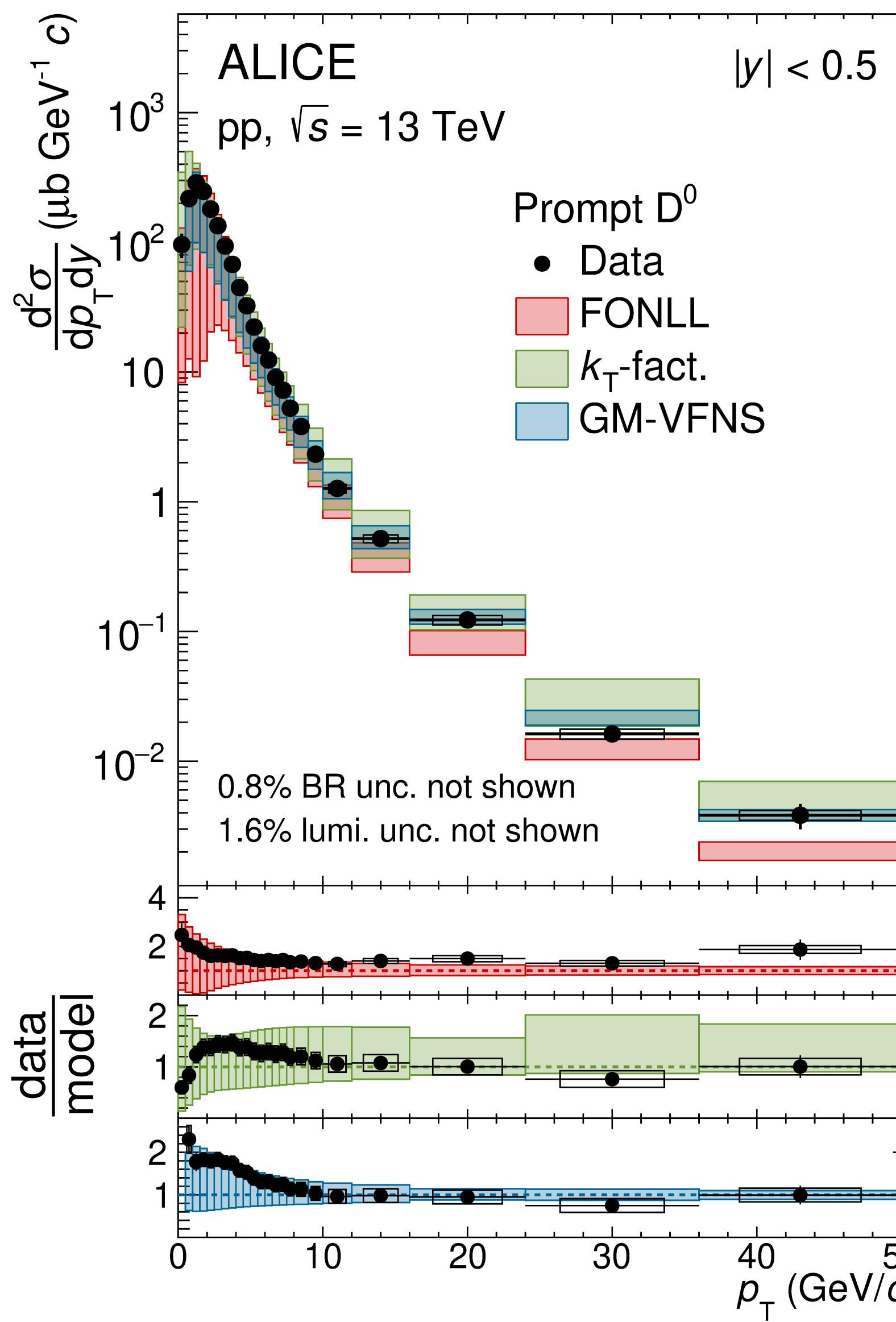
Inner Tracking System

- track reconstruction
- vertex determination

V0 detector

- trigger
- centrality estimation
- event plane estimation

Cross section of D mesons in pp collisions



[JHEP 12 \(2023\) 086](#)

Prompt charm hadron

hadrons from c-quark hadronisation or from the decay of excited charm hadrons

p_T -differential cross sections **described by pQCD calculations** (FONLL, k_T -factorization, GM-VFNS)

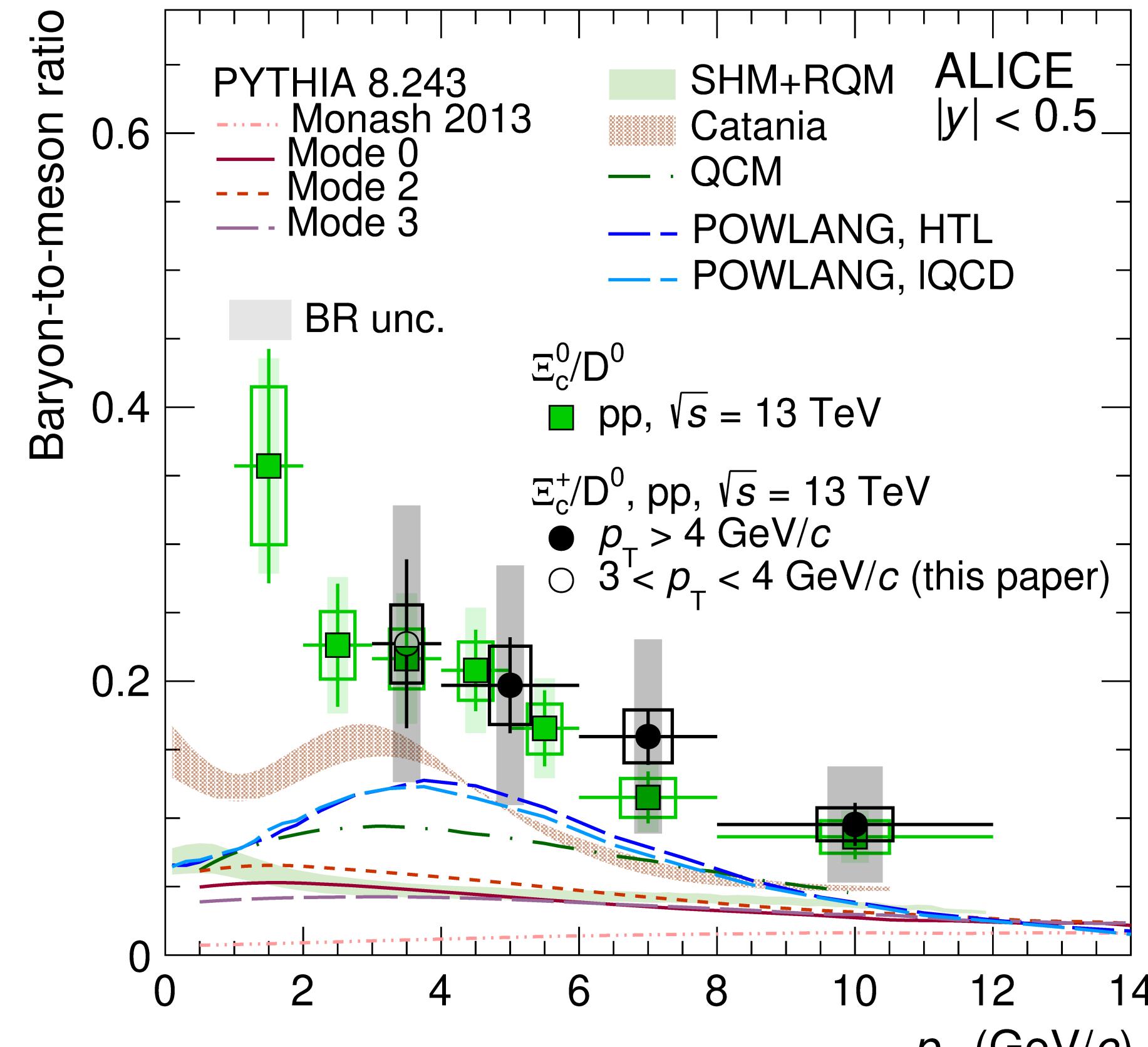
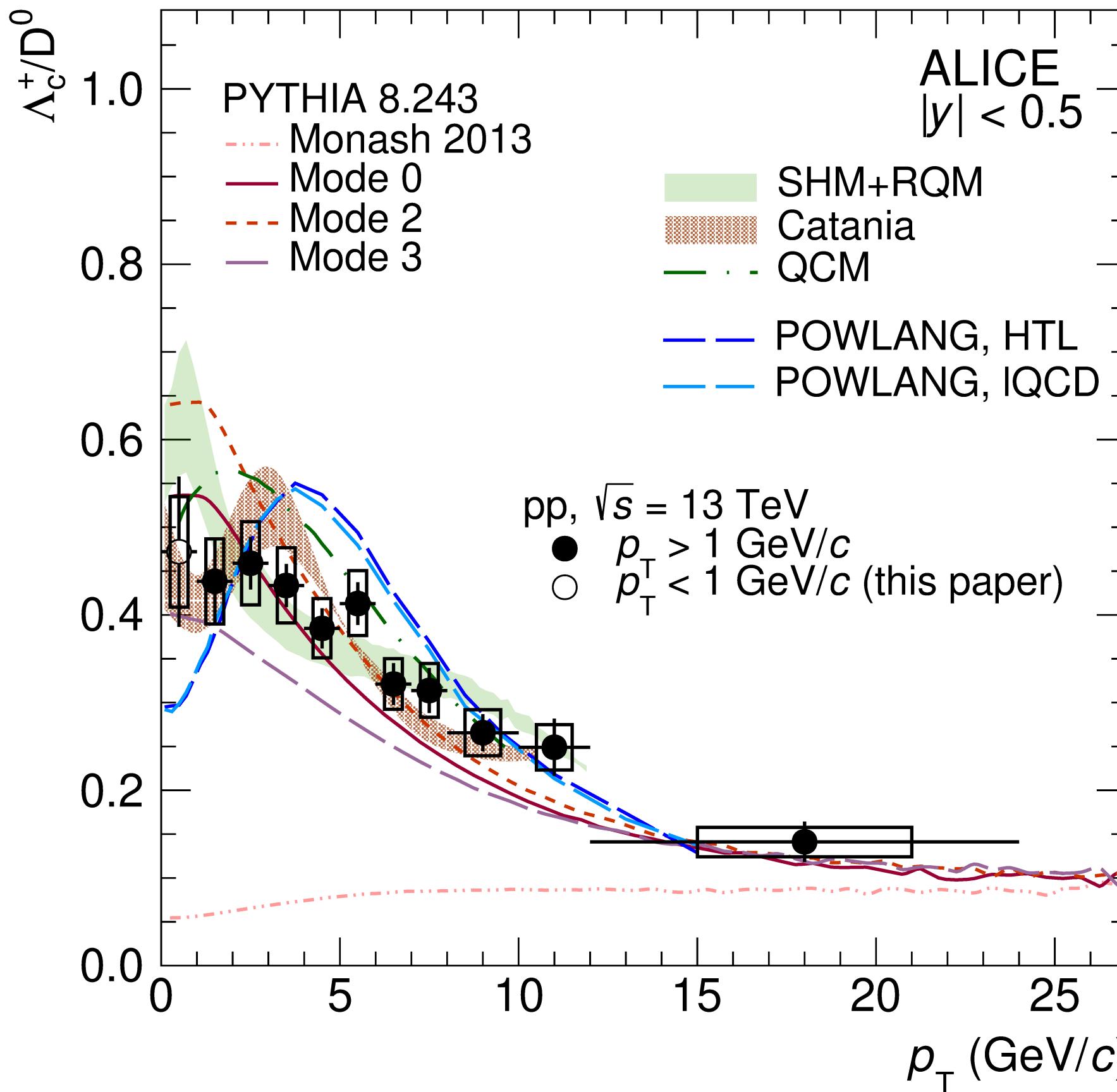
→ **Good agreement** within uncertainties

FONLL : [JHEP 05 \(1998\) 007](#), [JHEP 10 \(2012\) 137](#)

k_T -factorization : [Phys. Rev. D 104 \(2021\) 094038](#)

GM-VFNS : [JHEP 12 \(2017\) 021](#), [Nucl. Phys. B 925 \(2017\) 415–430](#)

Charm baryon-to-meson ratio in pp collisions



JHEP 12 (2023) 086

PYTHIA 8

Monash tune : [Eur. Phys. J. C 74 \(2014\) 3024](#)

Mode 0, 2, 3 : [JHEP 08 \(2015\) 003](#)

- Fragmentation tuned on e^+e^-
- Colour reconnection (Mode 0, 2, & 3)

SHM+RQM [Phys. Lett. B 795 \(2019\) 117–121](#)

- Presence of excited charm baryons

Catania [Phys. Lett. B 821 \(2021\) 136622](#)

- Fragmentation + recombination
- Assuming the formation of a small QGP

QCM [Eur. Phys. J. C 78 \(2018\) 344](#)

- Recombination with surrounding equal-velocity light quarks

POWLANG [arXiv:2306.02152 \[hep-ph\]](#)

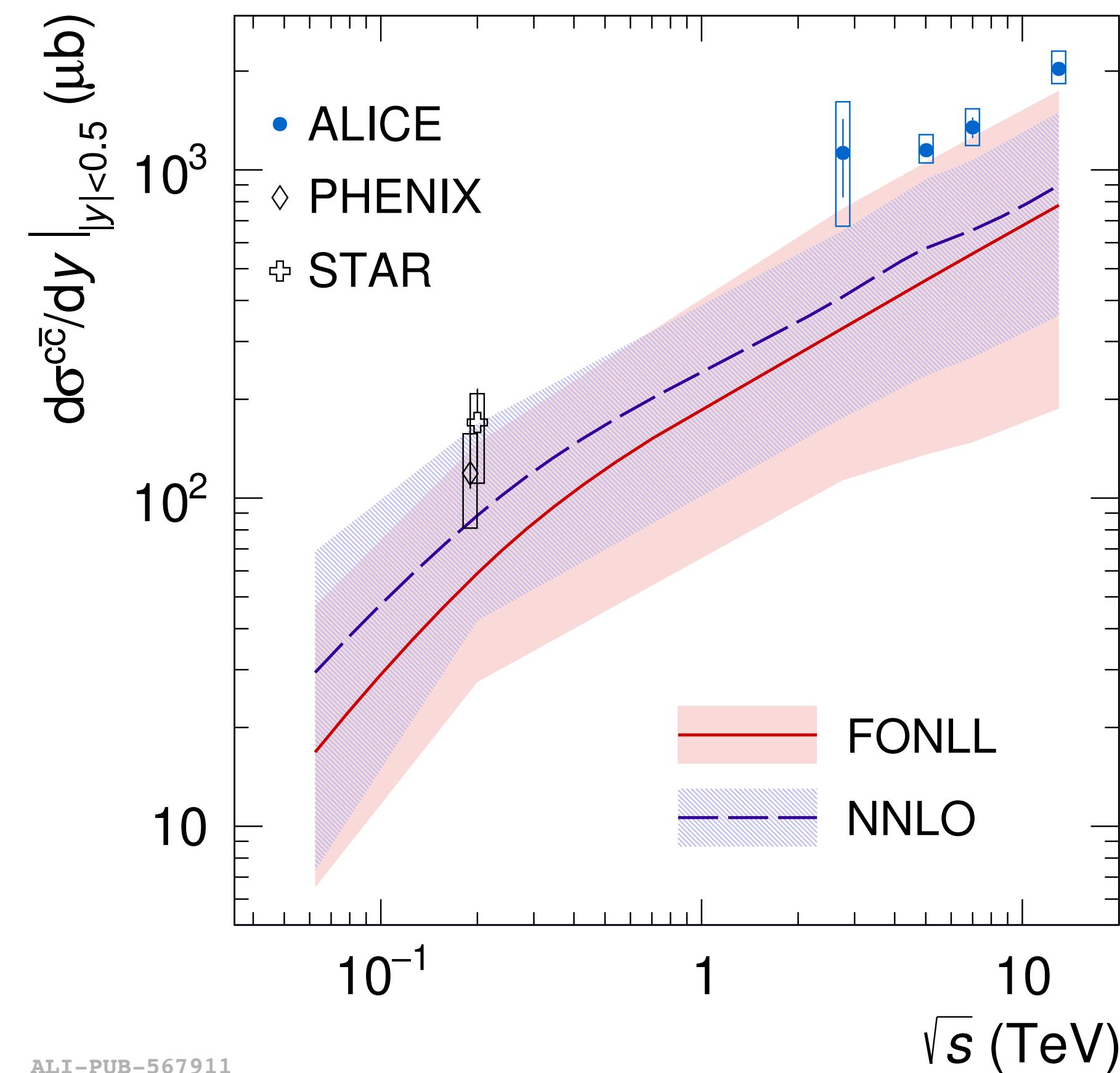
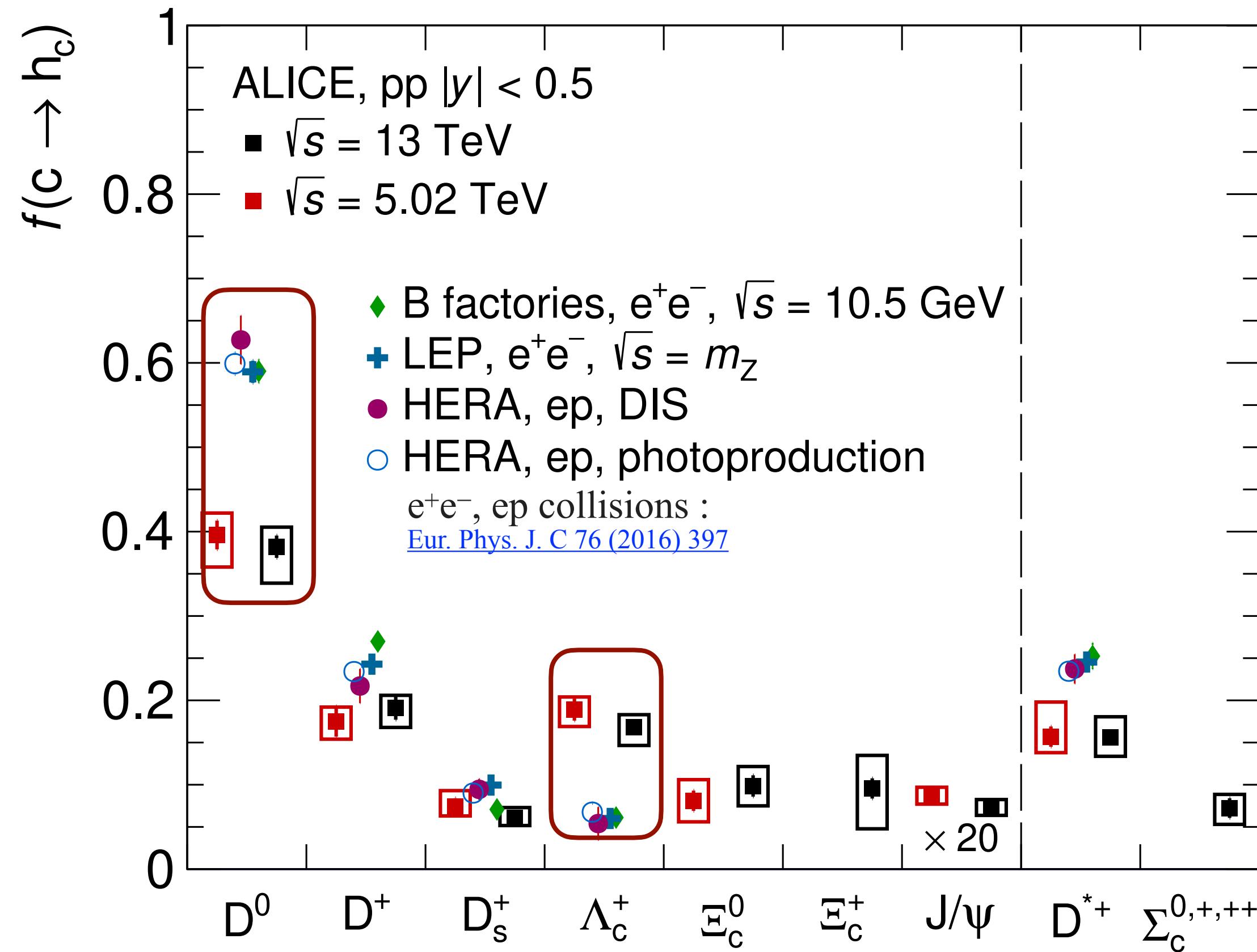
- Fragmentation + recombination
- Assuming the formation of a small QGP

ALI-PUB-567876

I-PUB-567881

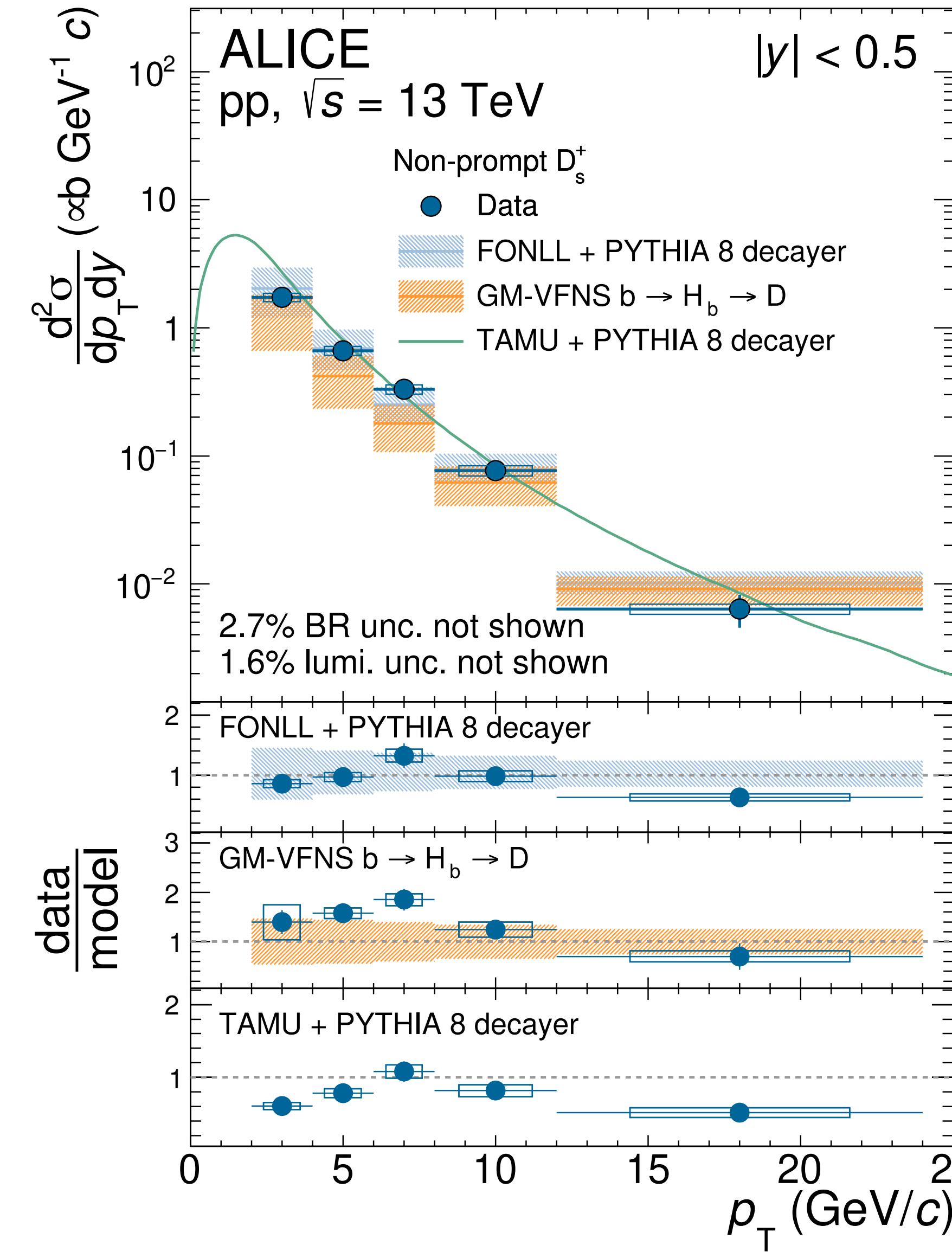
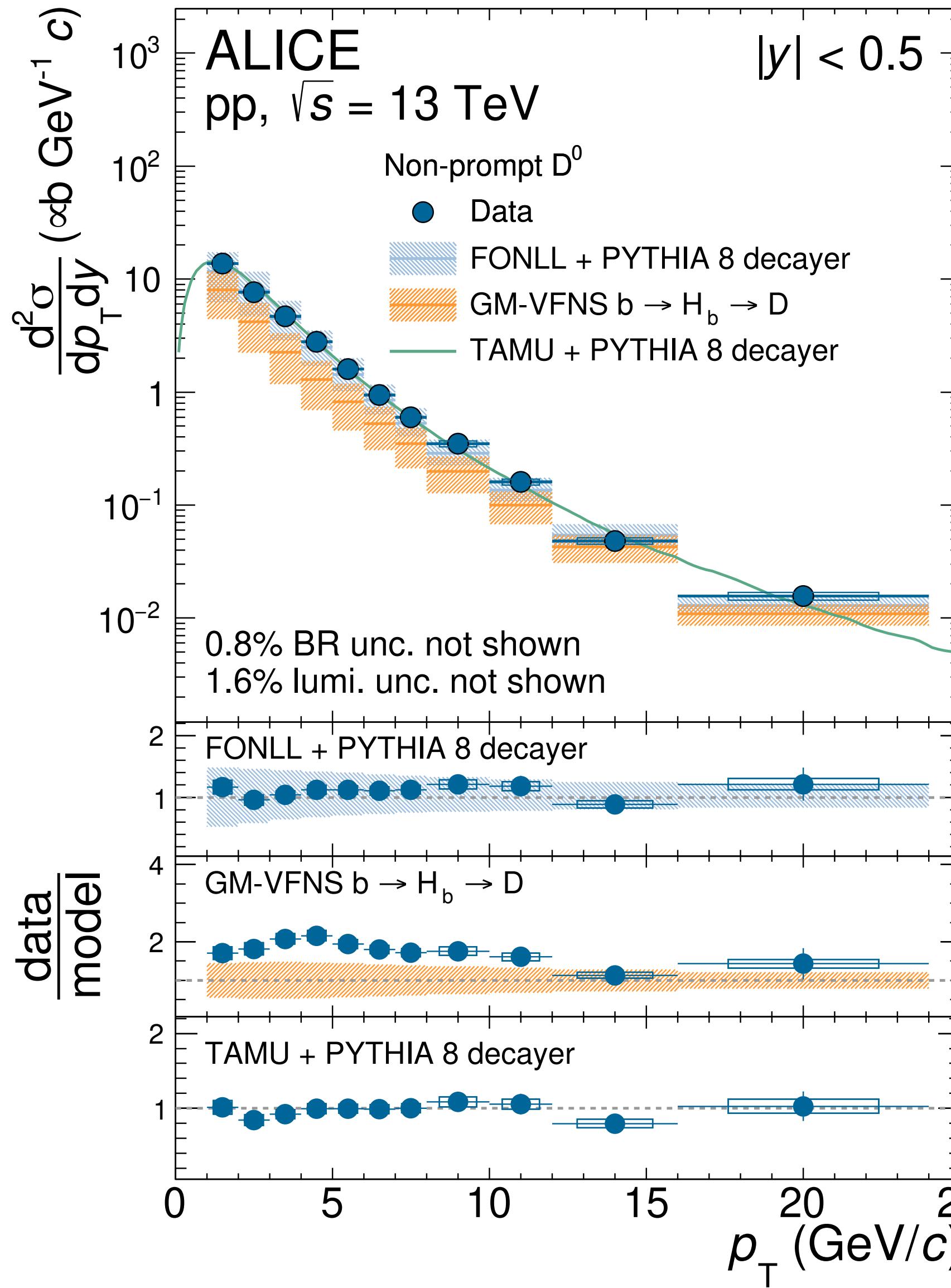
- Charm baryon-to-meson ratios compared to model predictions (PYTHIA 8, Catania, QCM, SHM+RQM, POWLANG)
 - ✓ The Λ_c^+/D^0 is not described by a model based on fragmentation function tuned on e^+e^- collisions
- Models underestimate the measured E_c^+/D^0 ratios, but **coalescence models provide better descriptions**

FF and total charm cross section in pp collisions



- Charm-quark fragmentation fractions $f(c \rightarrow h_c)$
 - ✓ **No significant energy dependence** at the LHC
 - ✓ **Enhancement of baryons → overall reduction of the D-meson abundance relative to e^+e^- and e^-p collisions**
- Total $c\bar{c}$ cross section from the sum of the production cross sections of D^0 , D^+ , D_s^+ , J/ψ , Λ_c^+ , Ξ_c^0 , and Ξ_c^+
 - ✓ Lie on the upper edge of FONLL and NNLO predictions

Cross section of non-prompt D mesons in pp collisions



[arXiv:2402.16417](https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.16417)

Non-prompt charm hadron

- Charm hadrons from beauty-hadron decays

PYTHIA 8

[Comput. Phys. Commun. 191 \(2015\) 159–177](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2015.01.017)
[Eur. Phys. J. C 74 \(2014\) 3024](https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10050-014-3024-2)

FONLL

[JHEP 05 \(1998\) 007](https://doi.org/10.1088/1126-6708/1998/05/007)
[JHEP 10 \(2012\) 137](https://doi.org/10.1088/1126-6708/2012/10/137)

- Consistent with data within uncertainties

TAMU

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 \(2023\) 012301](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.131.012301)

- Good agreement for D^0
- Tend to overestimate the non-prompt D_s^+

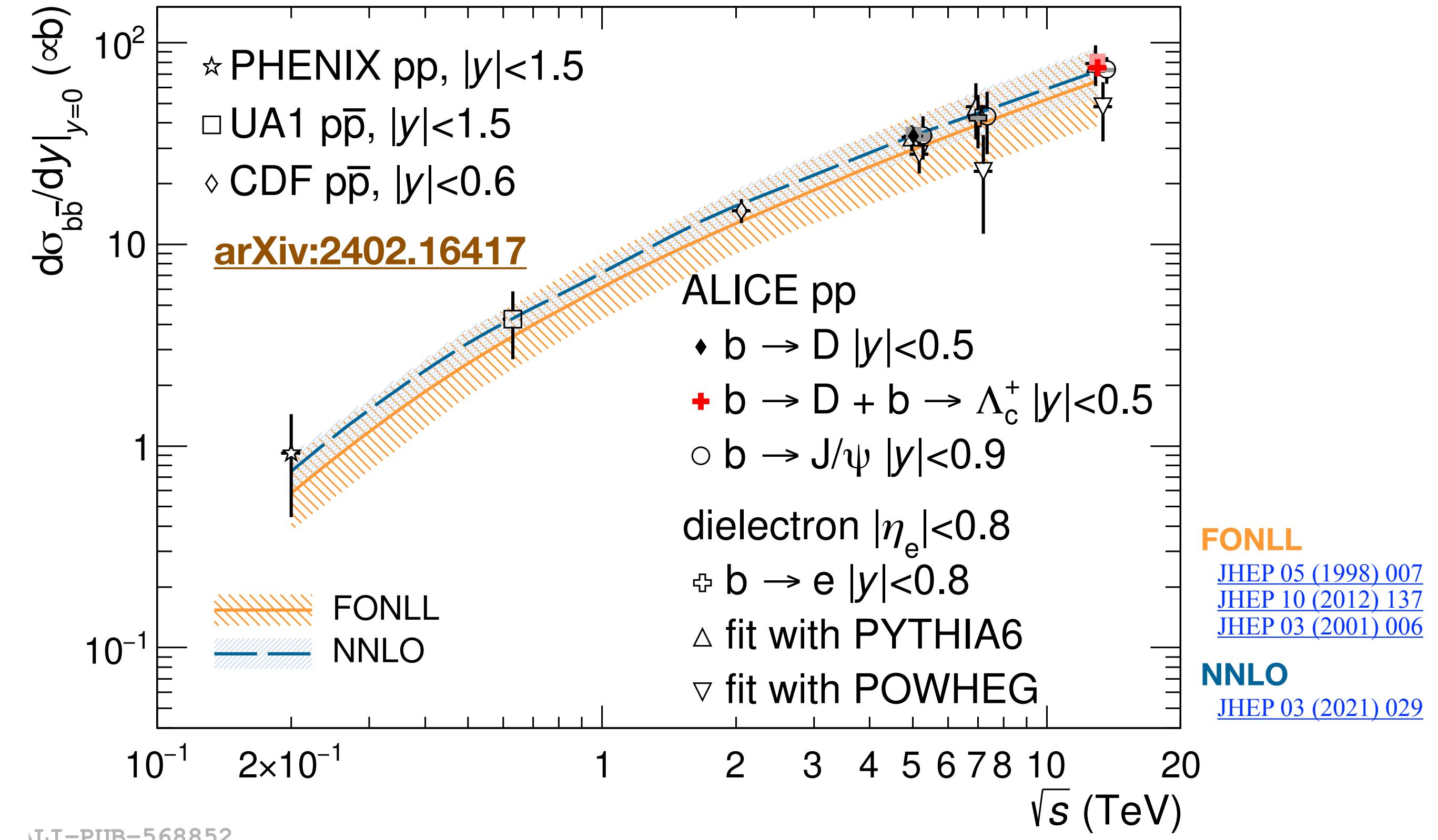
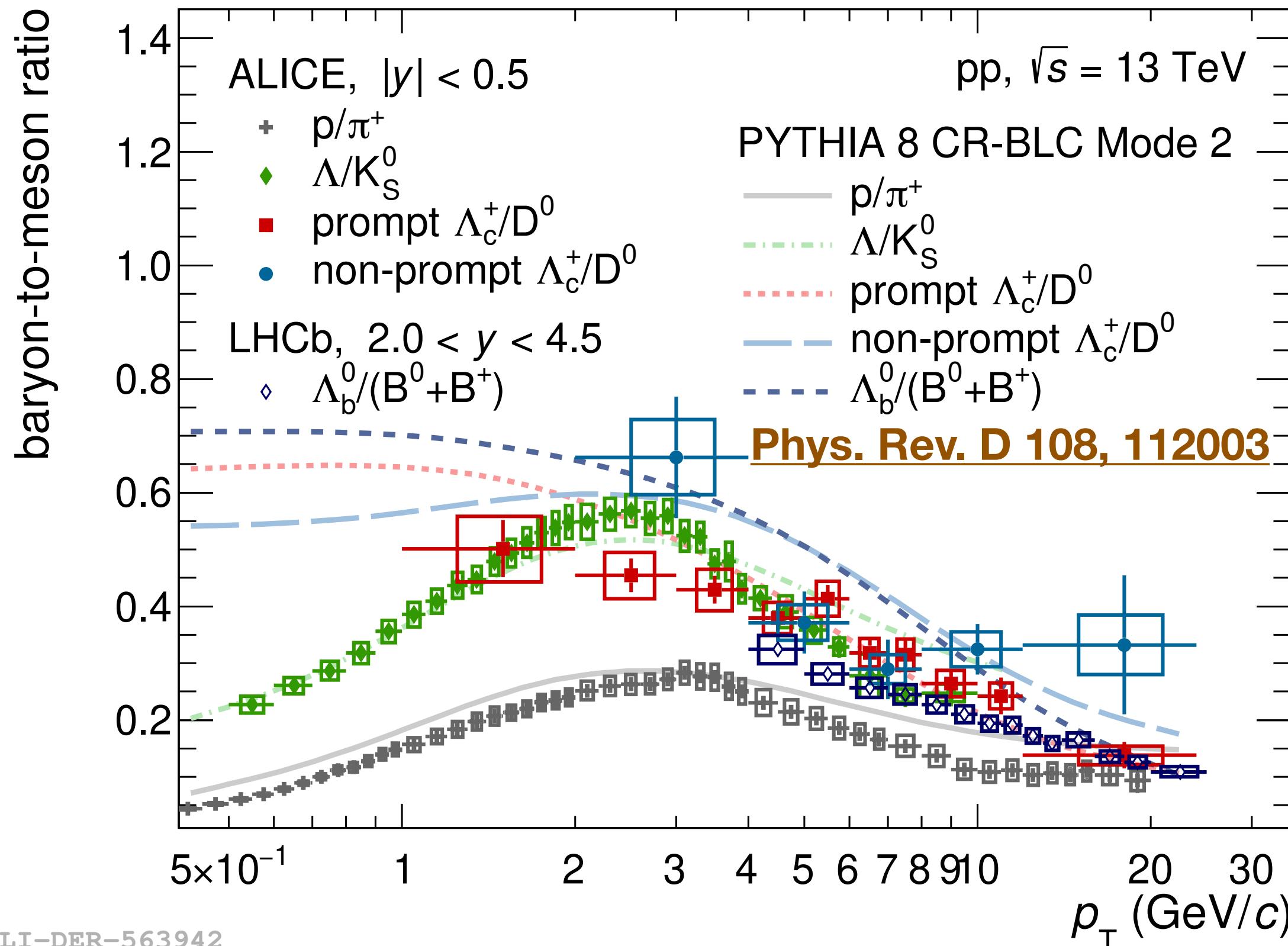
GM-VFNS

[JHEP 12 \(2017\) 021](https://doi.org/10.1088/1126-6708/2017/12/021)
[Nucl. Phys. B 925 \(2017\) 415–430](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2017.08.020)
[J. Phys. G 41 \(2014\) 075006](https://doi.org/10.1088/0954-3899/41/7/075006)

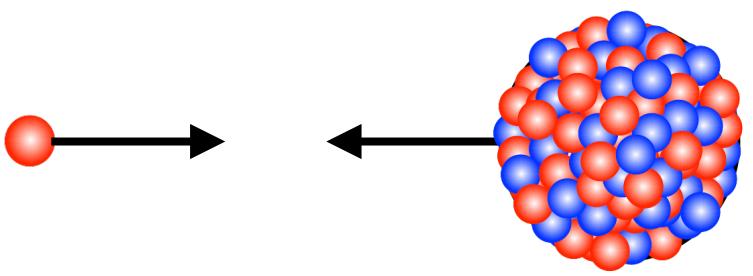
- Underestimate the data at low p_T , whereas a better description at high p_T

Non-prompt Λ_c^+/D^0 ratio and total cross section in pp collisions

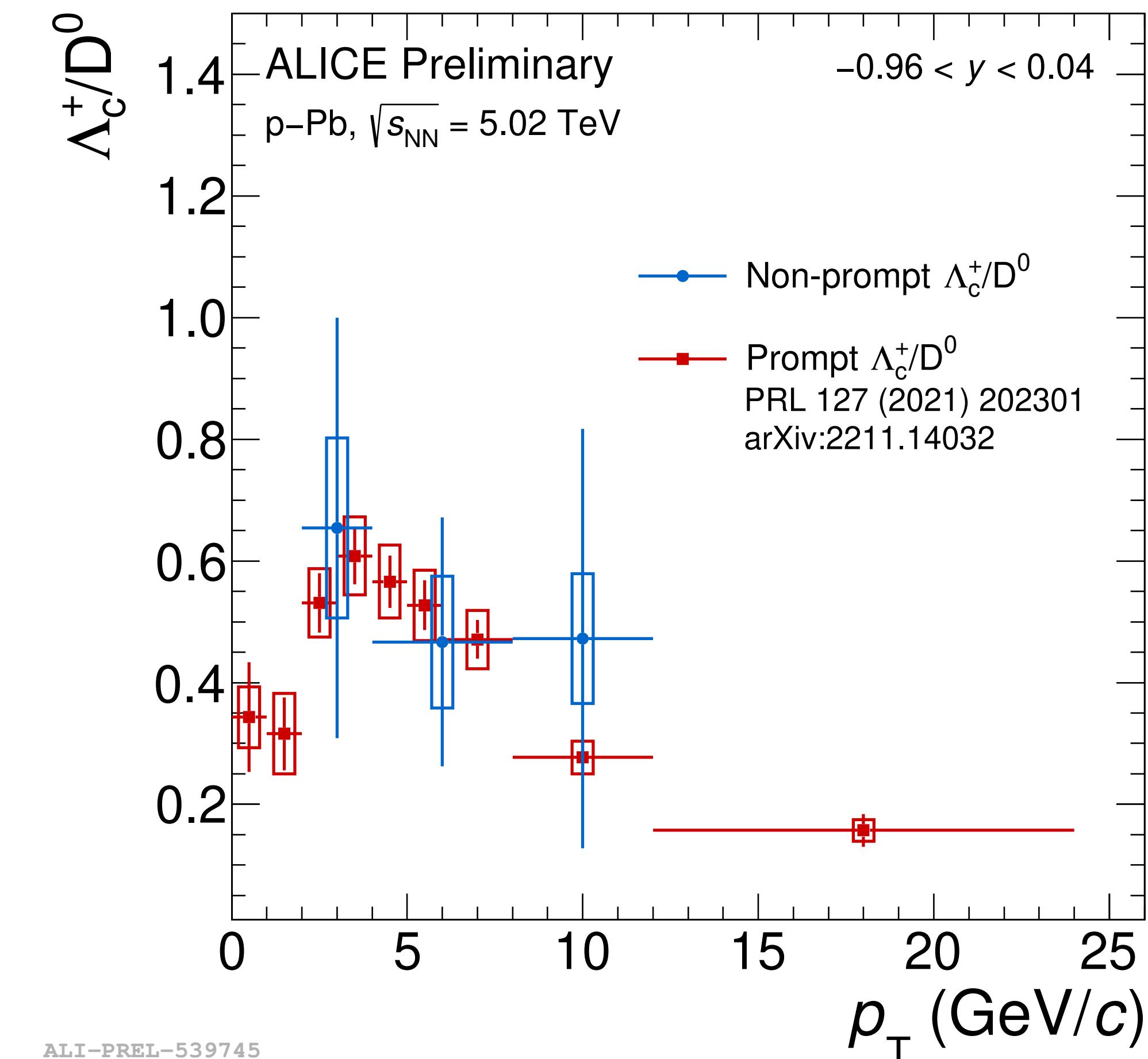
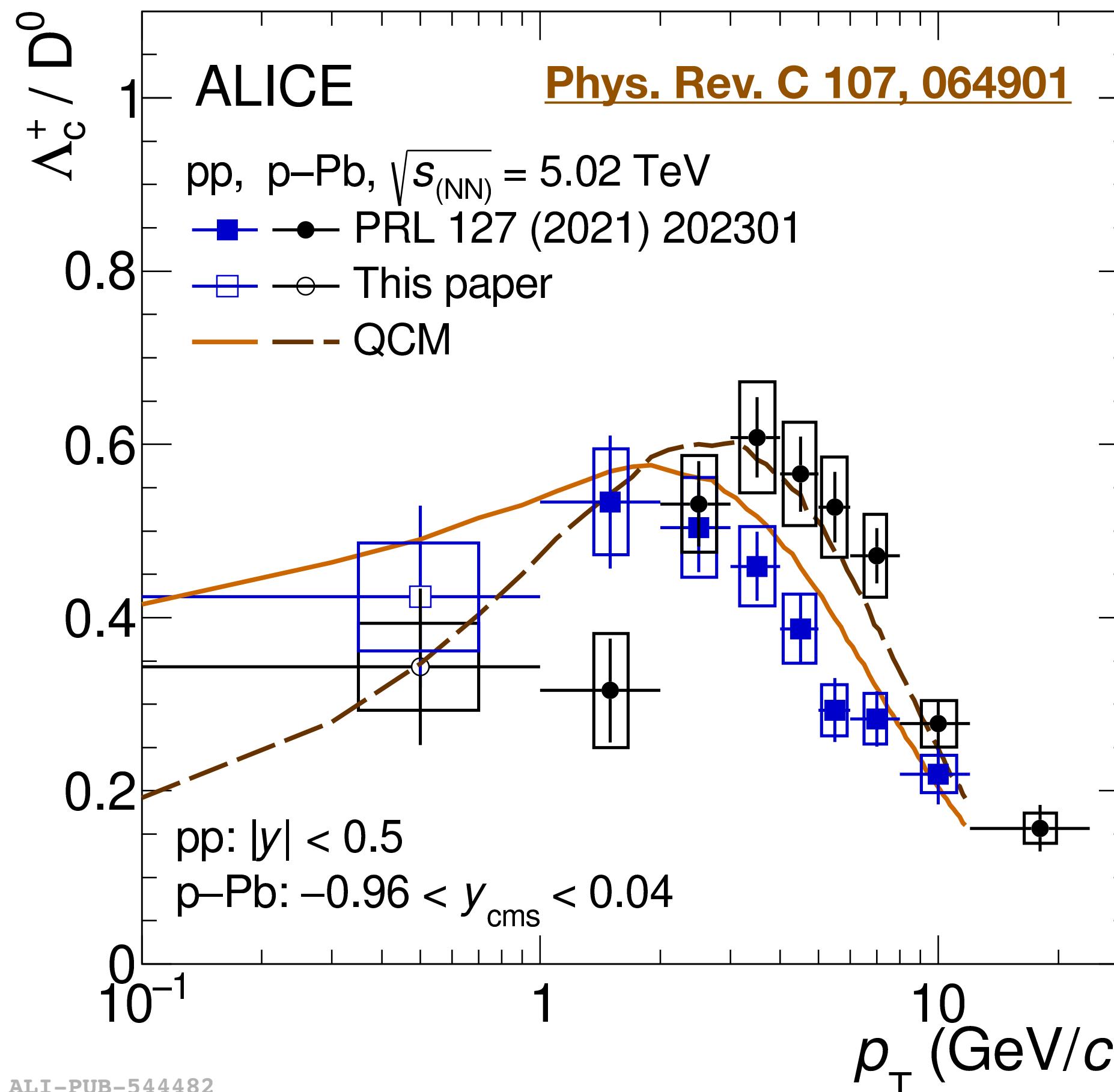
- Ratio of p_T -differential production cross section of non-prompt Λ_c^+ and D^0
 - ✓ Ratio, $\Lambda_b^0/(B^0 + B^+)$ is a bit lower than non-prompt Λ_c^+/D^0
 - ✓ Beauty, charm, and strange hadrons have a similar trend and are compatible within uncertainties
 - ✓ PYTHIA with CR-BLC tune describes the data for $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}/c$ and significantly higher at low p_T for heavy-flavour hadrons
- Total $b\bar{b}$ cross section as a function of \sqrt{s} → described by pQCD calculations (FONLL and NNLO) within uncertainties → NNLO is closer to data due to higher perturbative accuracy



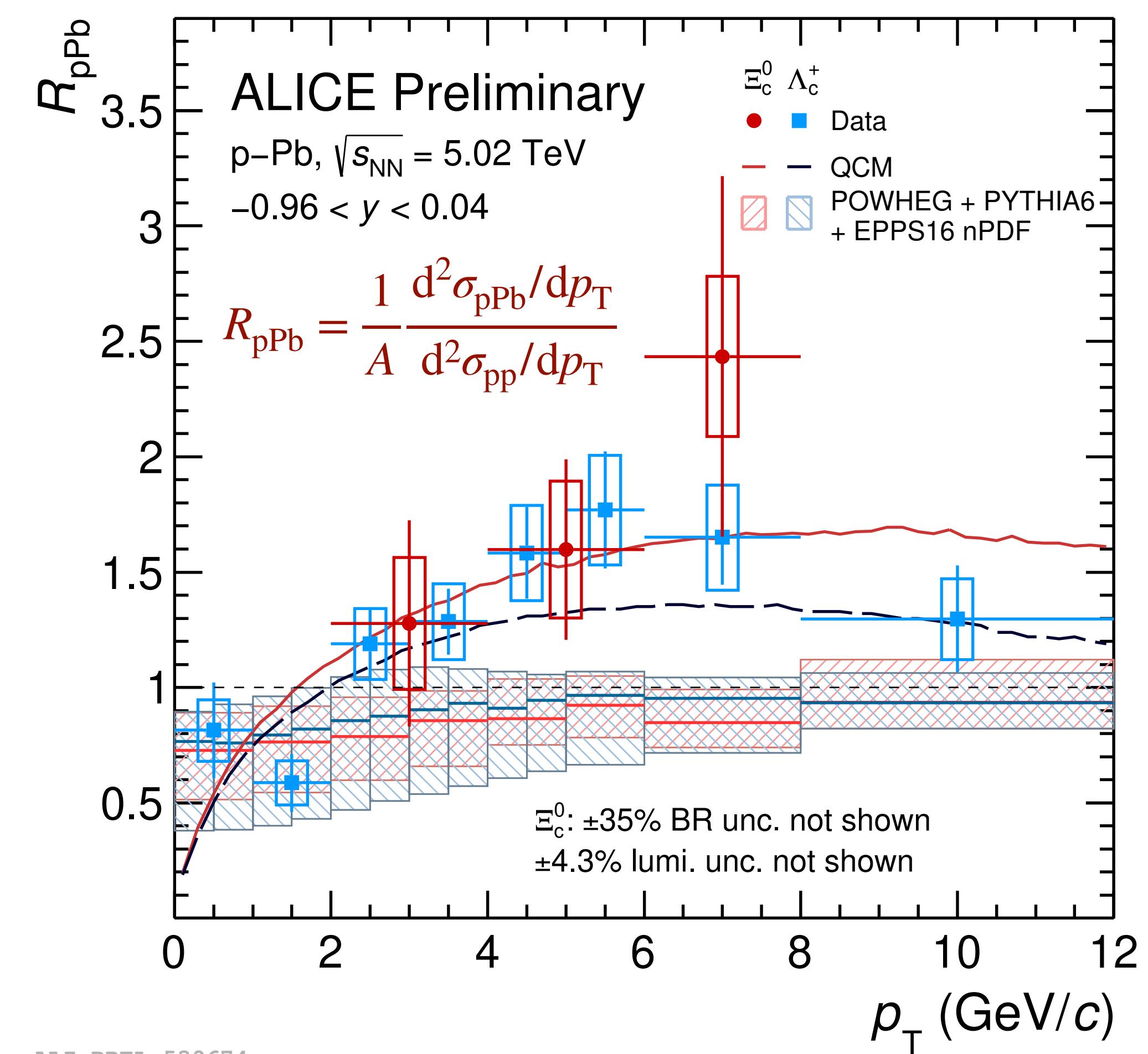
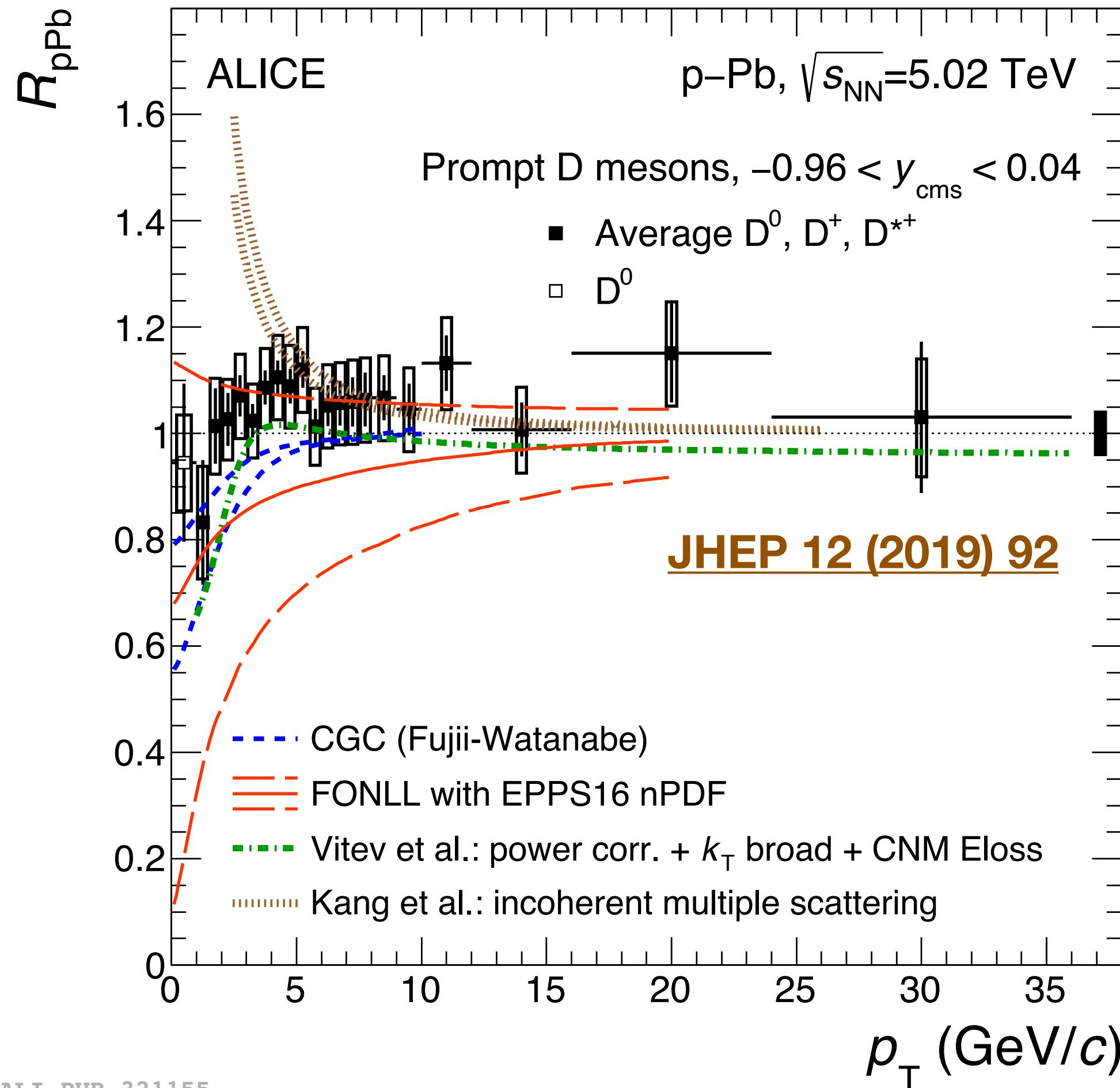
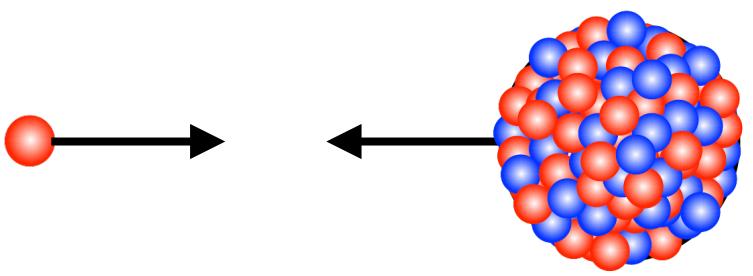
Prompt and non-prompt Λ_c^+/\bar{D}^0 ratio in p–Pb collisions



- Similar trend of Λ_c^+/\bar{D}^0 in both pp and p–Pb collisions
 - ✓ **Shift towards higher p_T in p–Pb collisions attributed to radial flow** (described by QCM prediction)
- Decreasing trend of non-prompt Λ_c^+/\bar{D}^0 at midrapidity with increasing p_T
 - ✓ **Baryon enhancement at low $p_T \rightarrow$ hadronisation effects apart from in-vacuum fragmentation**



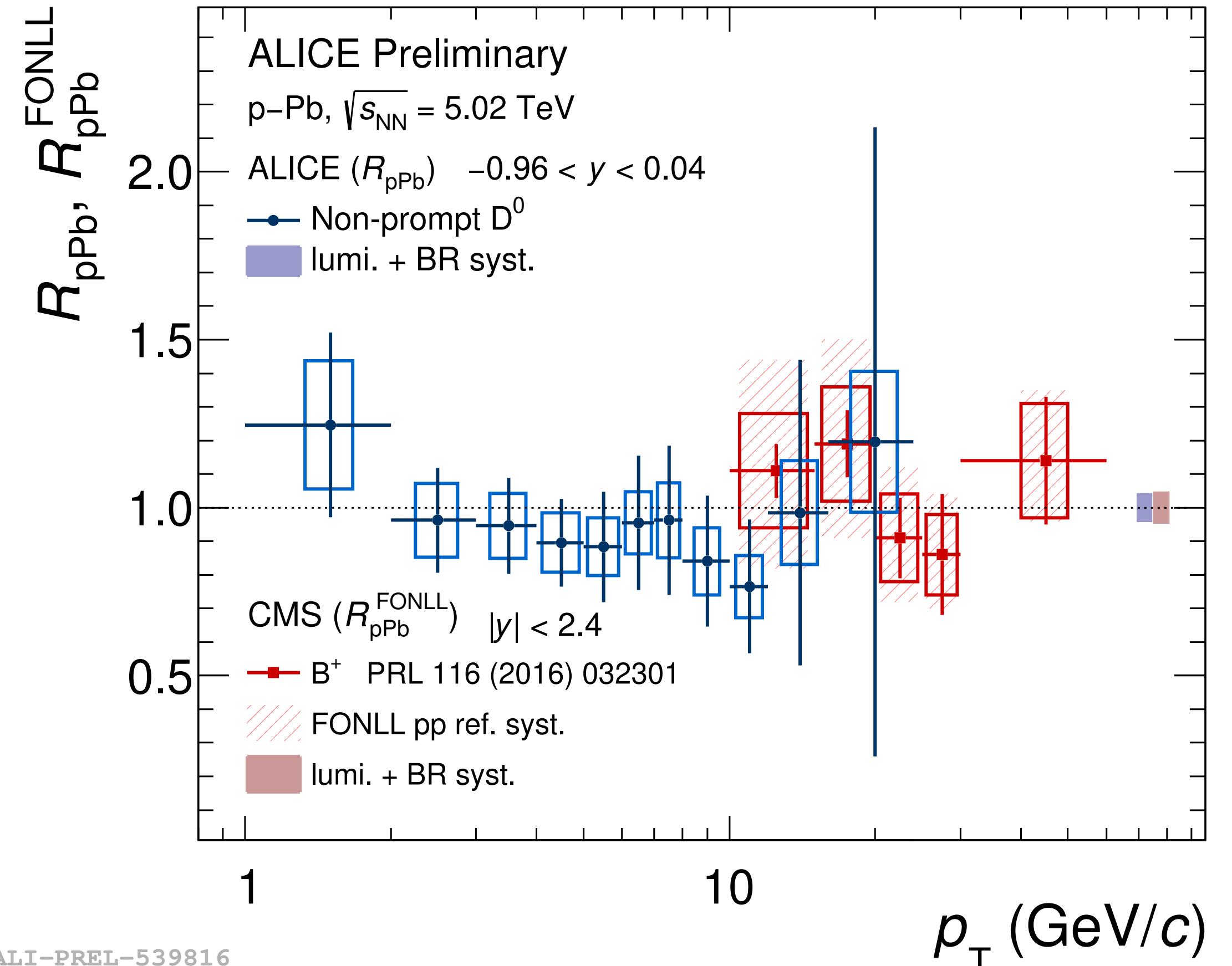
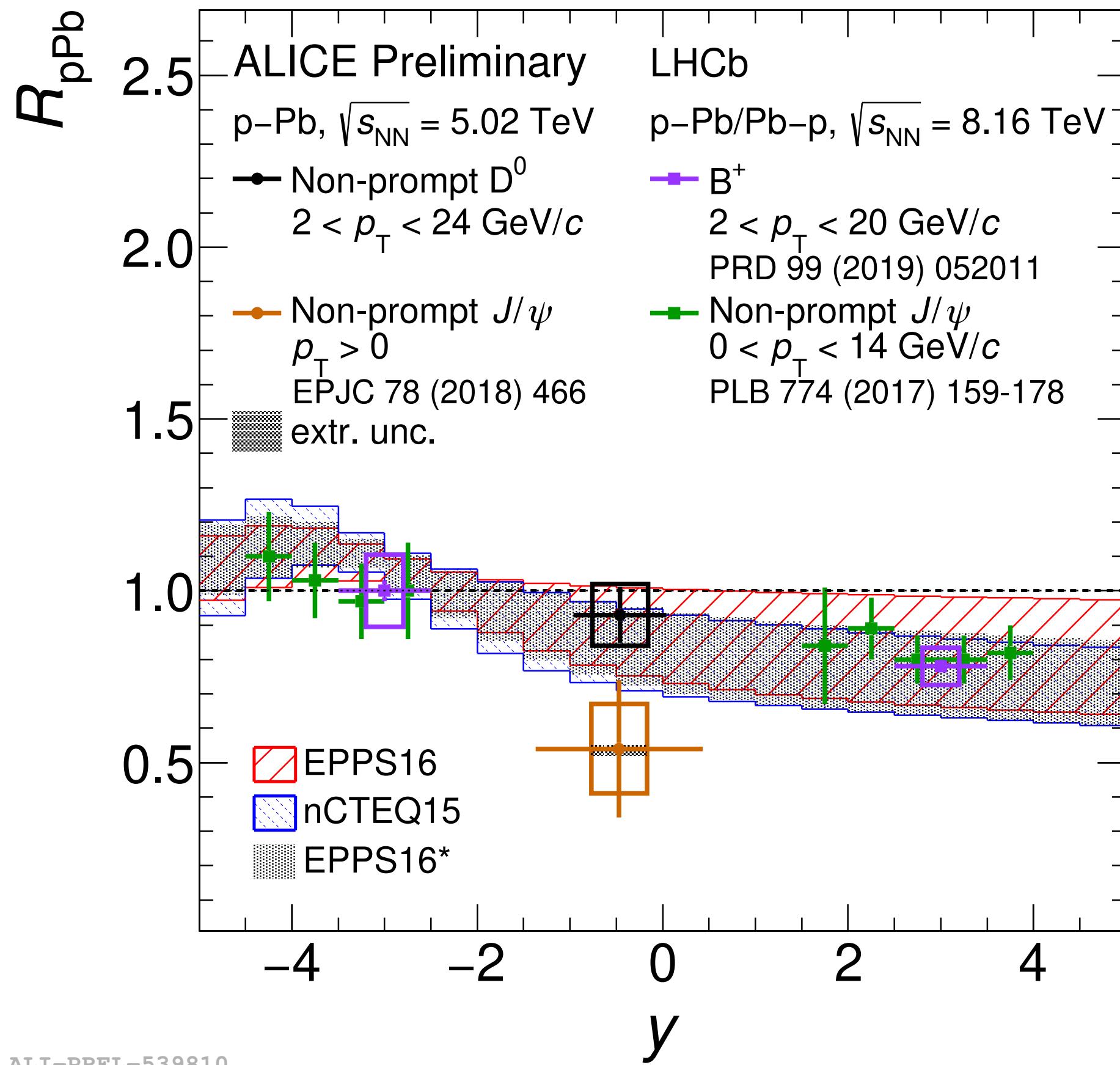
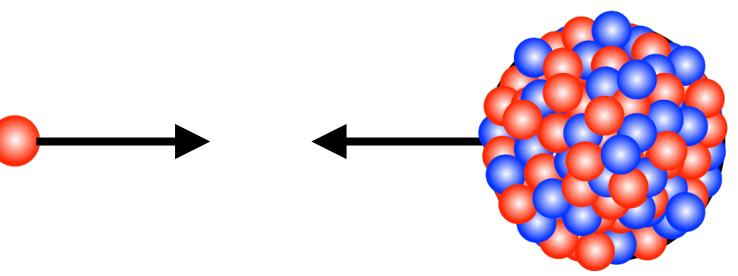
R_{pPb} of prompt charm hadrons in p–Pb collisions



- CGC**
[arXiv:1706.06728](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.06728)
- FONLL with EPPS16 nPDF**
[JHEP 10 \(2012\) 137](https://doi.org/10.1007/JHEP10(2012)137)
[EPJC 77 \(2017\) 163](https://doi.org/10.1007/JHEP05(2017)163)
- Vitev et al.**
[Phys. Rev. C 80 \(2009\) 054902](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.80.054902)
- Kang et al.**
[Phys. Lett. B 740 \(2015\) 23](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physlettb.2015.03.023)
- POWHEG**
[JHEP 09 \(2007\) 126](https://doi.org/10.1007/JHEP09(2007)126)
- PYTHIA 6**
[JHEP 05 \(2006\) 026](https://doi.org/10.1007/JHEP05(2006)026)
- EPPS16 nPDF**
[EPJC 77 \(2017\) 163](https://doi.org/10.1007/JHEP05(2017)163)
- QCM**
[Phys. Rev. C 97 \(2018\) 064915](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.97.064915)

- D-meson R_{pPb} is compatible with unity and compared to model predictions including CNM effects
- Both Λ_c^+ and $\Xi_c^0 R_{\text{pPb}}$ are compatible within uncertainties → **similar modification of the production in p–Pb collisions**
 - ✓ R_{pPb} of Ξ_c^0 is larger than unity → no conclusion of increasing trend with p_{T} due to large uncertainties
 - ✓ Models underestimate the data (only $\Lambda_c^+ R_{\text{pPb}}$ is described below 2 GeV/c)

R_{pPb} of non-prompt charm hadrons in p–Pb collisions

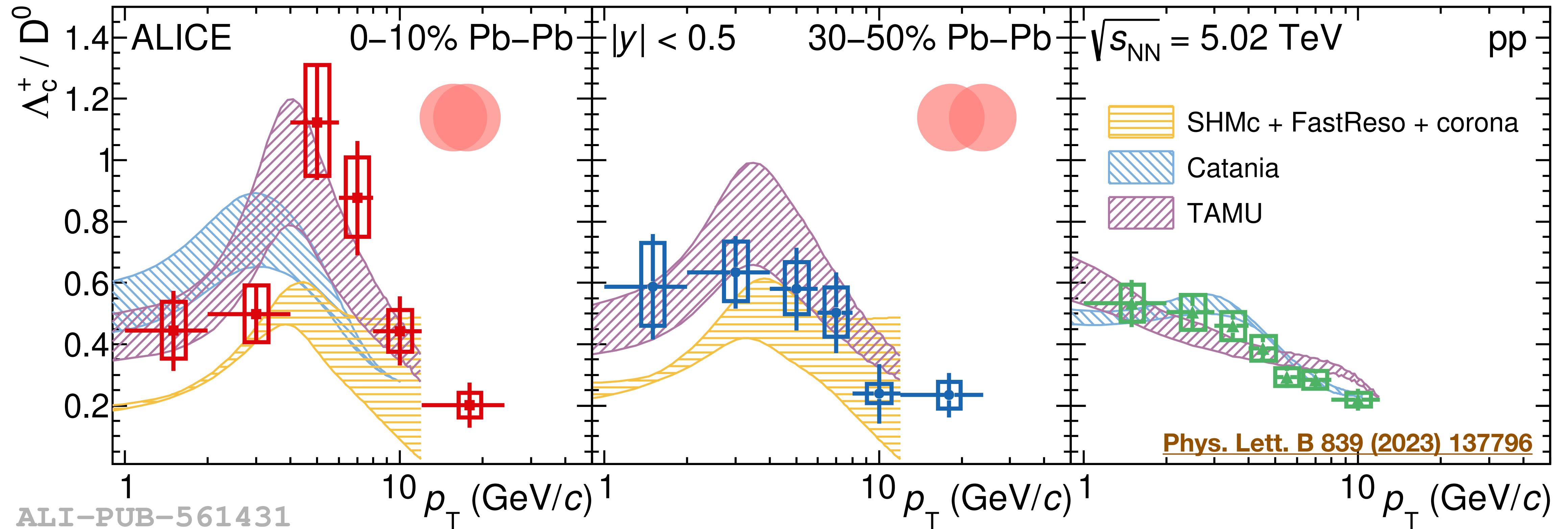
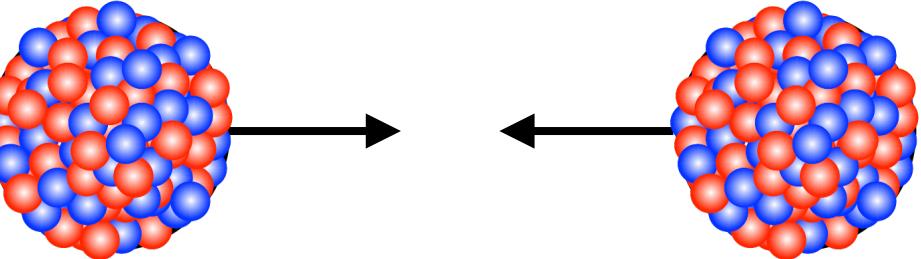


$$R_{\text{pPb}} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d^2\sigma_{\text{pPb}}/dp_{\text{T}}}{d^2\sigma_{\text{pp}}/dp_{\text{T}}}$$

- EPPS16
[EPJC 77 \(2017\) 163](#)
- nCTEQ15
[Phys. Rev. D 93 \(2016\) 085037](#)
- EPPS*
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 \(2018\) 052004](#)

- p_{T} -integrated R_{pPb} of non-prompt D^0 and J/ψ measured at midrapidity
 - ✓ Observed a **possible suppression for non-prompt J/ψ**
 - ✓ Suppression at forward rapidity whereas compatible with unity at backward rapidity
 - ✓ Good agreement with model predictions within uncertainties
- Consistent with B meson R_{pPb} result from CMS at high p_{T}

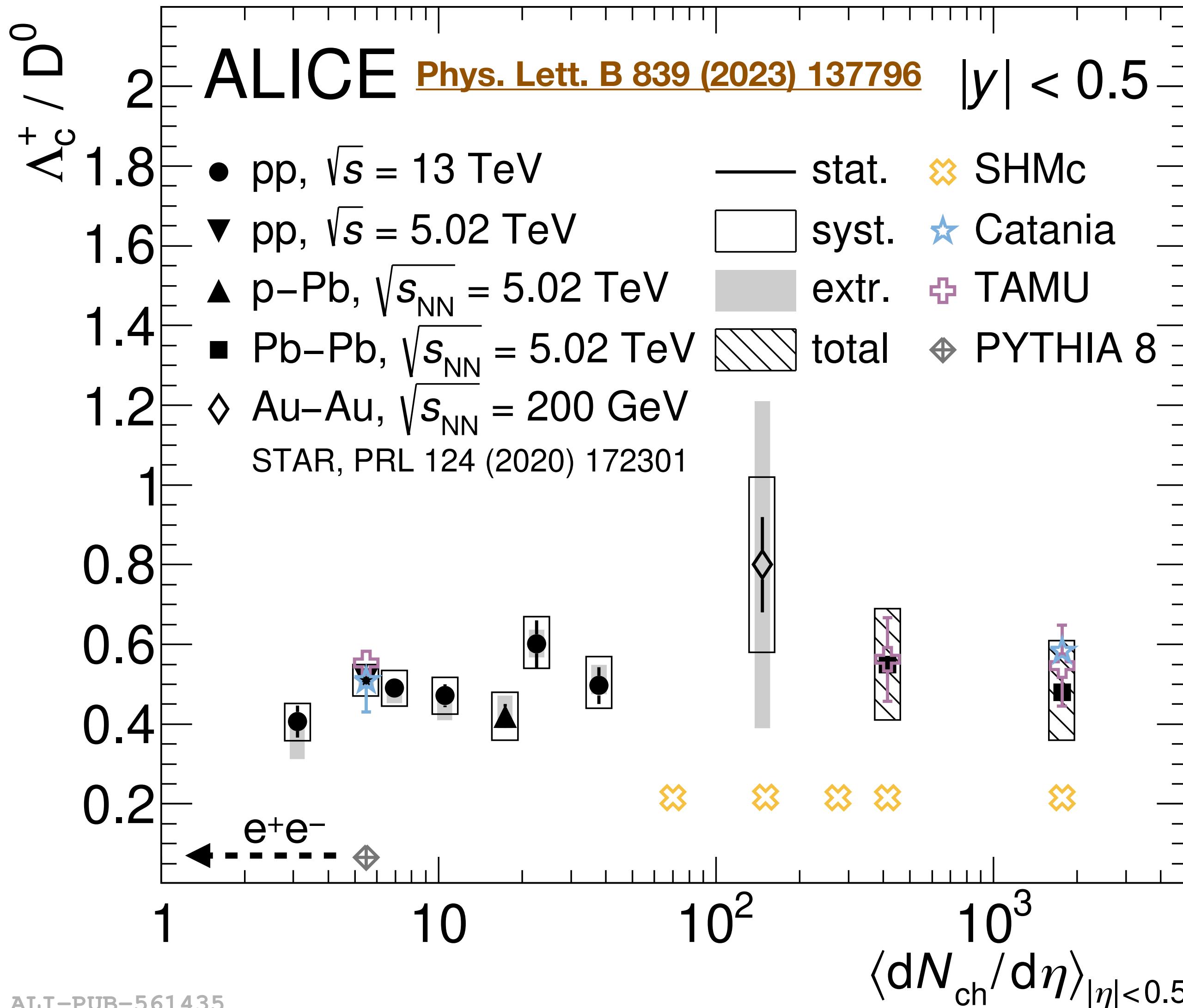
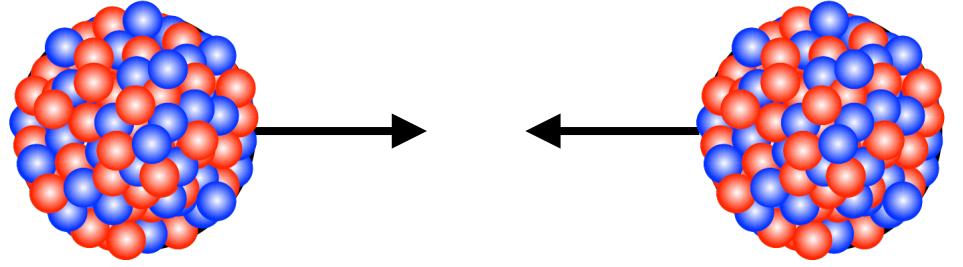
Λ_c/D^0 ratio in Pb–Pb collisions



SHMc : [JHEP 07 \(2021\) 035](#) Catania : [Phys. Lett. B 821 \(2021\) 136622 \(pp\)](#) EPJC 78 (2018) 348 (Pb–Pb) TAMU : [Phys. Lett. B 795 \(2019\) 117–121 \(pp\)](#) Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 042301 (Pb–Pb)

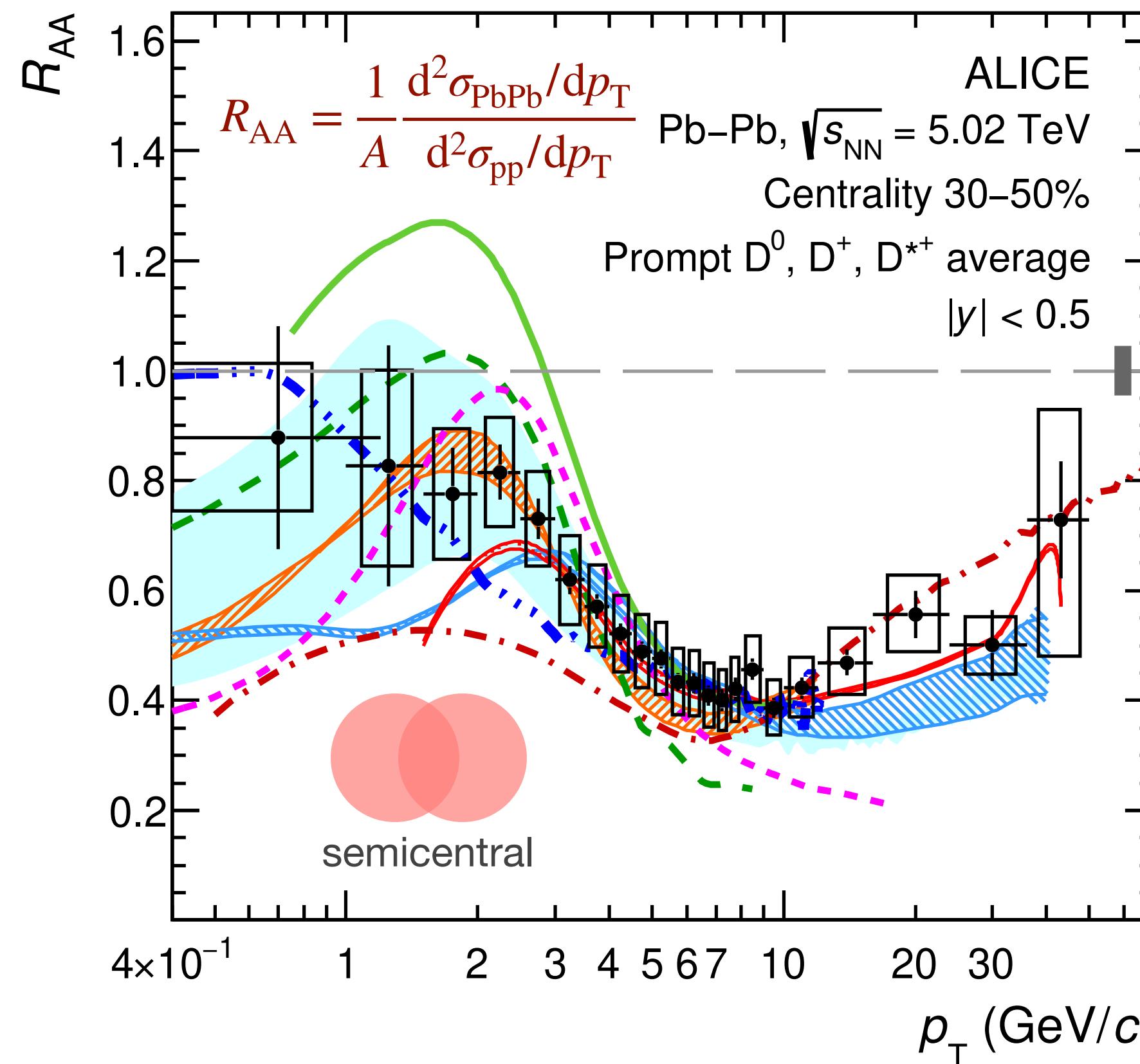
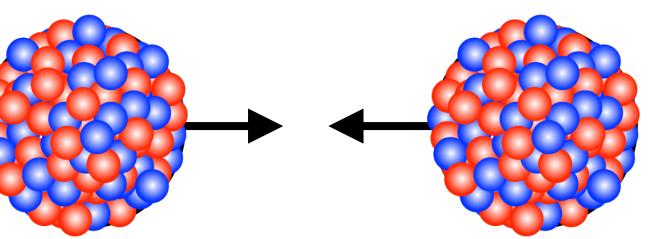
- Ratio of Λ_c^+/D^0 increases from pp to semicentral and central Pb–Pb collisions at the intermediate p_T region
- Compare to different model predictions
 - ✓ SHMc : describe the ratio in semicentral collisions and underestimate the data in $4 < p_T < 8 \text{ GeV}/c$ in central collisions
 - ✓ Catania : underestimate the data in the intermediate p_T region
 - ✓ TAMU : reproduce the magnitude and shape of the data, and better description within uncertainties

Λ_c/D^0 ratio in Pb–Pb collisions



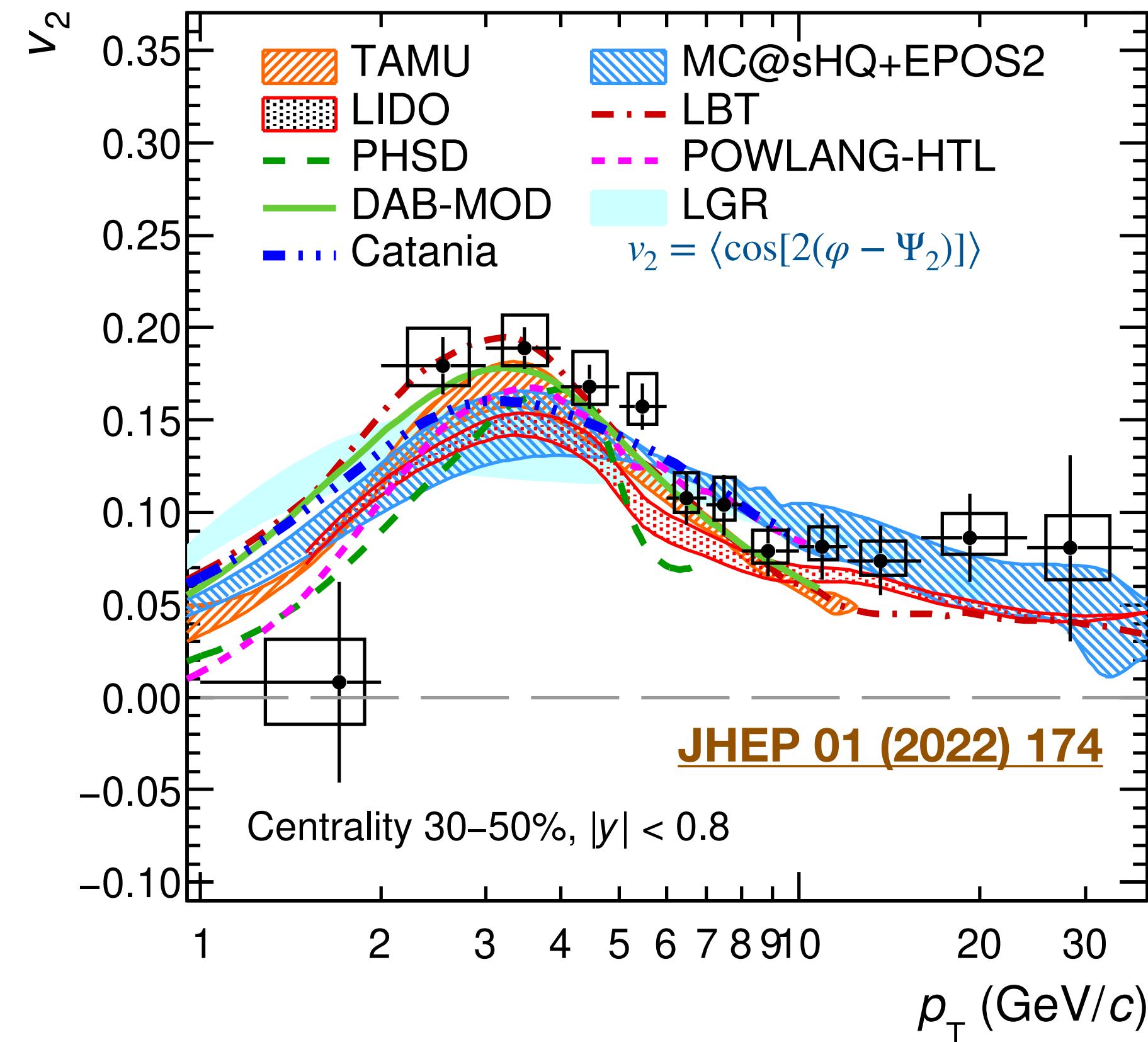
- p_T -integrated Λ_c^+ / D^0 ratio vs multiplicity from pp to Pb–Pb
 - ✓ **No multiplicity dependence observed**
 - Suggest a modified mechanism of hadronisation in all hadronic collisions w.r.t e^+e^- and e^-p collisions (PYTHIA 8)
 - Catania and TAMU describe the data, while SHMc underestimates the data
 - ✓ unobserved charm-baryon states need to be assumed in normalisation
- SHMc :** [JHEP 07 \(2021\) 035](#)
Catania : [Phys. Lett. B 821 \(2021\) 136622 \(pp\)](#) [EPJC 78 \(2018\) 348 \(Pb–Pb\)](#)
TAMU : [Phys. Lett. B 795 \(2019\) 117–121 \(pp\)](#) [Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 \(2020\) 042301 \(Pb–Pb\)](#)
PYTHIA 8 : [Comput. Phys. Commun. 191 \(2015\) 159–177](#)

R_{AA} and v_2 of non-strange D mesons in Pb–Pb collisions



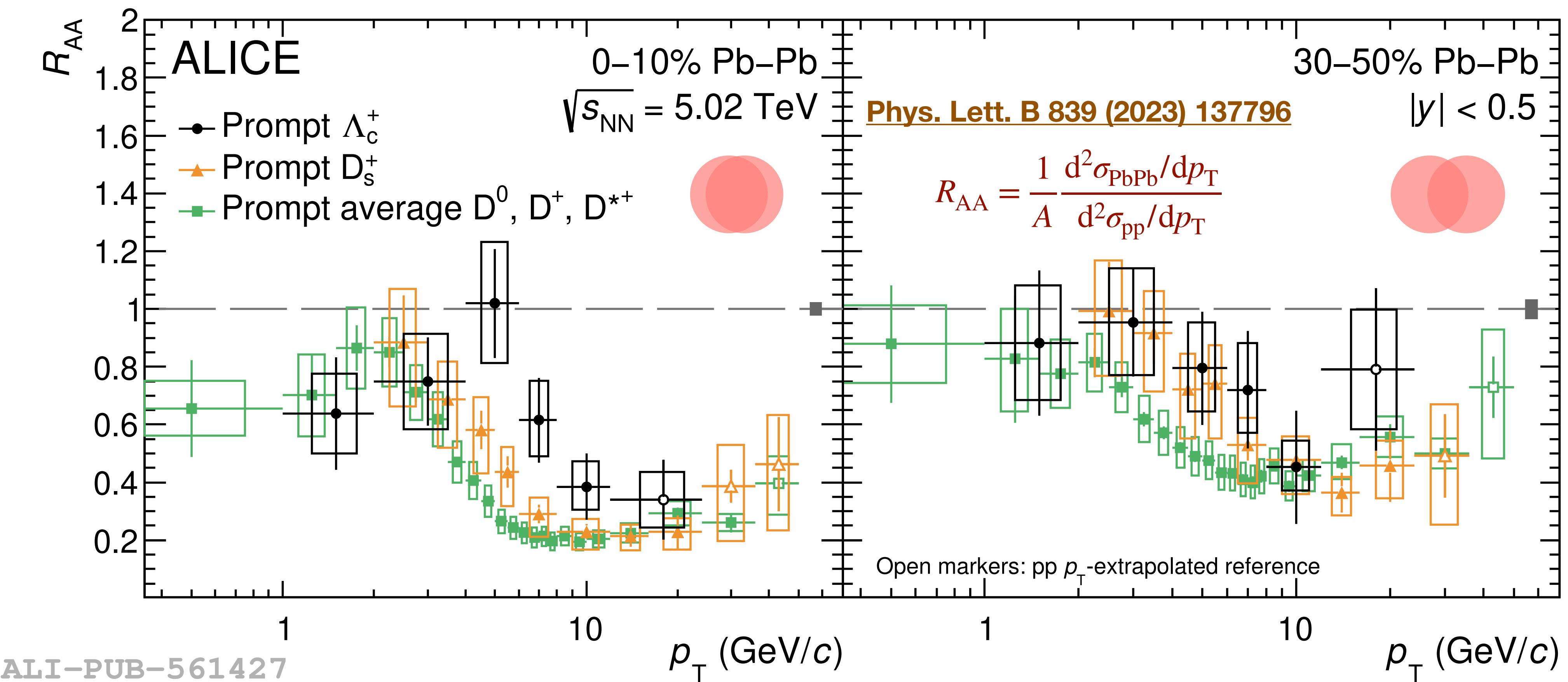
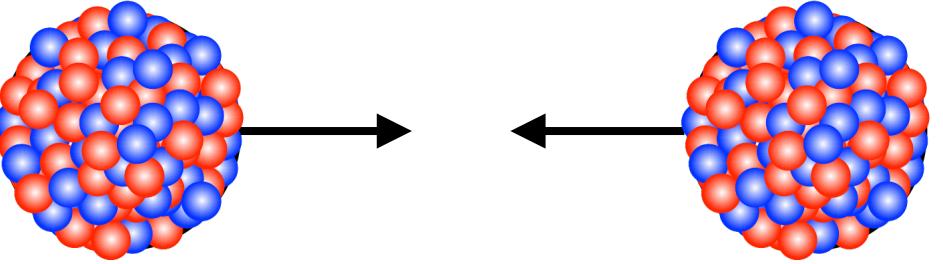
ALI-PUB-501956

- Understanding the heavy-quark interactions with the medium constitutes by comparing R_{AA} and v_2 with models
 - ✓ Models fairly describe the data, but challenging to describe the R_{AA} and v_2 simultaneously
 - ✓ Realistic QGP evolution, collisional/radiative energy loss, and hadronisation mechanisms (fragmentation/coalescence) are required to describe the data
- Sensitive to quark diffusion, thermalisation with the medium, and hadronisation mechanisms for $2 < p_T < 6$ GeV/c



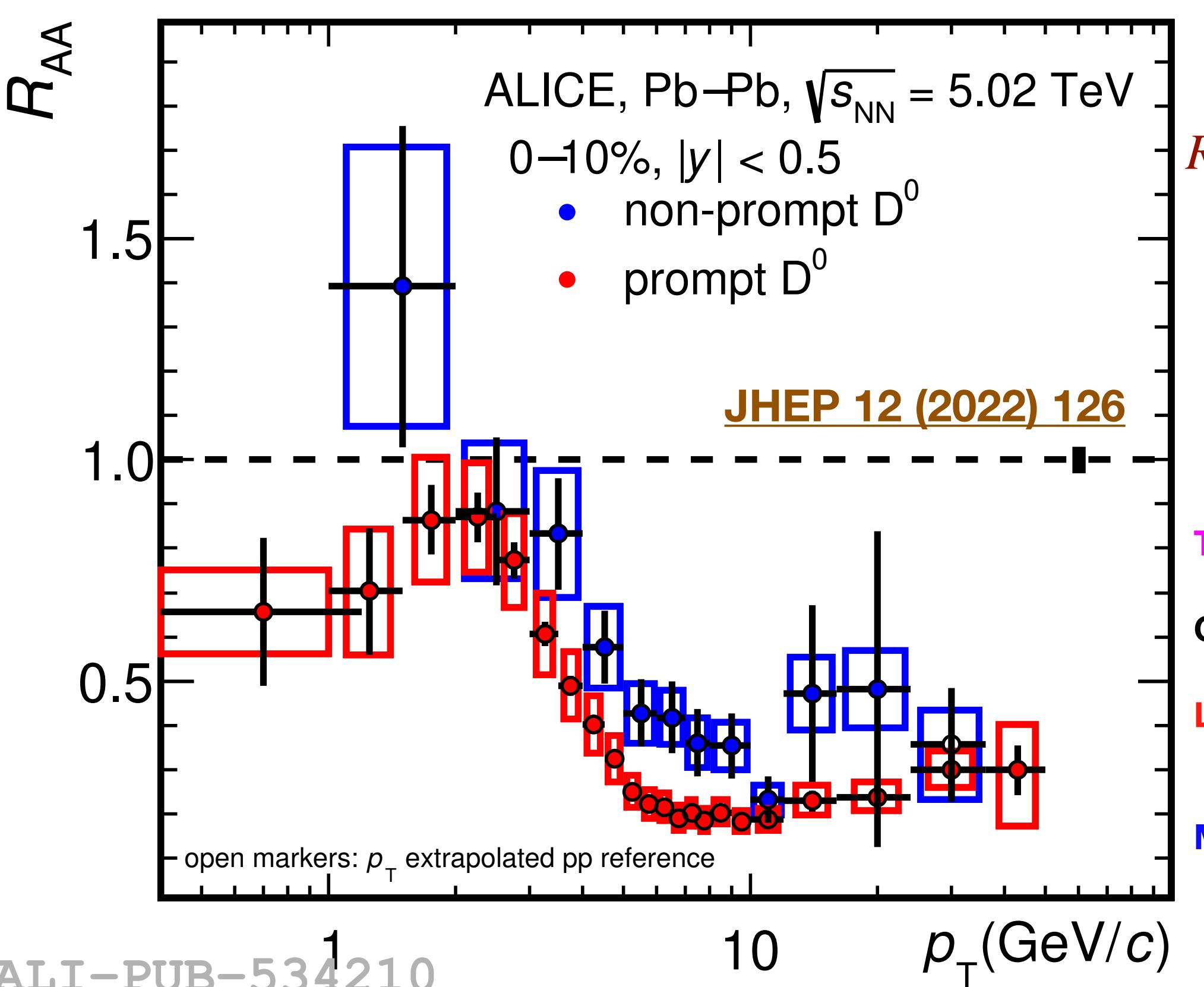
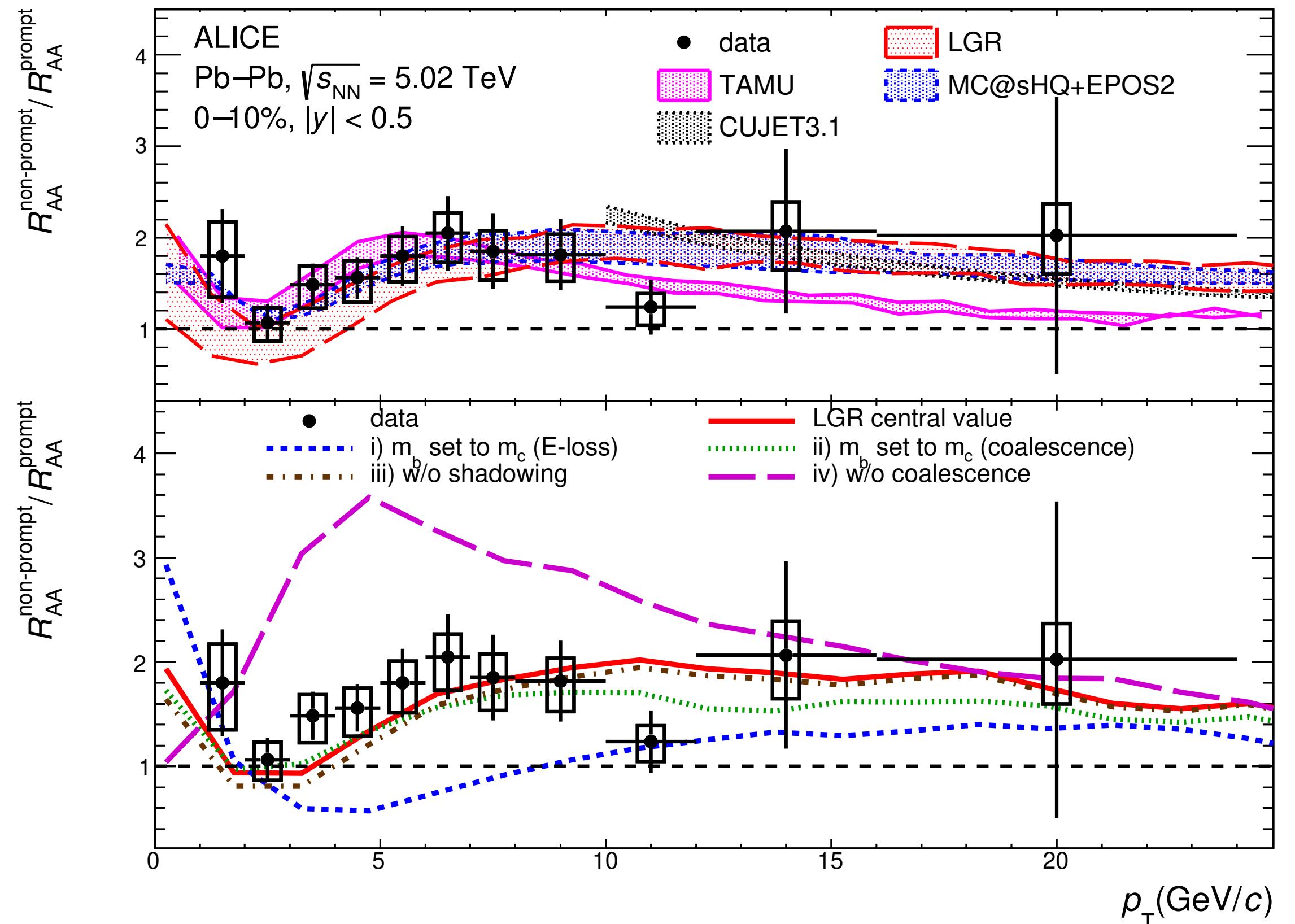
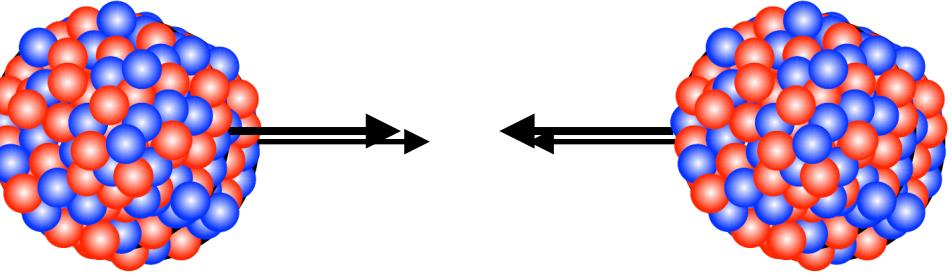
TAMU	Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 042301
LIDO	Phys. Rev. C 100 (2019) 064911
PHSD	Phys. Rev. C 92 (2015) 014910
DAB-MOD	Phys. Rev. C 102 (2020) 024906
Catania	Phys. Rev. C 96 (2017) 044905 Phys. Lett. B 805 (2020) 135460
MC@sHQ+EPOS2	Phys. Rev. C 89 (2014) 014905
LBT	Phys. Rev. C 94 (2016) 014909 Phys. Lett. B 777 (2018) 255
POWLANG+HTL	EPJC 75 (2015) 121 JHEP 02 (2018) 043
LGR	EPJC 80 (2020) 671

R_{AA} of charm hadrons in Pb–Pb collisions



- **Suppression of all charm species** from $p_T > 6 \text{ GeV}/c$ for 0–10% and from $p_T > 4 \text{ GeV}/c$ for 30–50%
 - ✓ Interaction of charm quarks with the medium
- **Hint of a hierarchy** $R_{AA}(D^0) < R_{AA}(D_s^+) < R_{AA}(\Lambda_c^+)$ in $4 < p_T < 8 \text{ GeV}/c$ in 0–10%, while less pronounced in 30–50%
- For $p_T > 10 \text{ GeV}/c$, all R_{AA} are compatible within uncertainties

R_{AA} ratio of prompt D^0 in Pb–Pb collisions

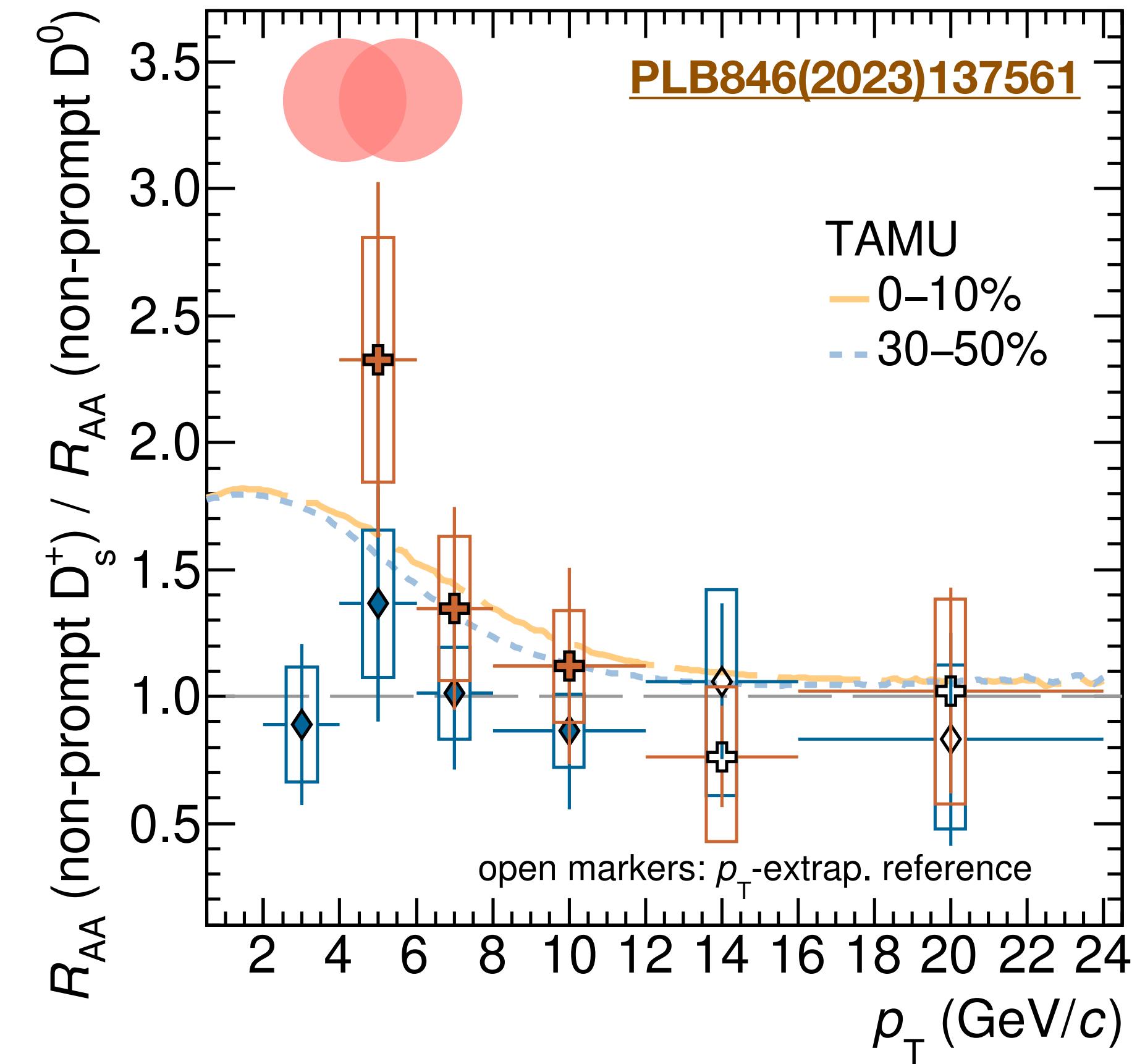
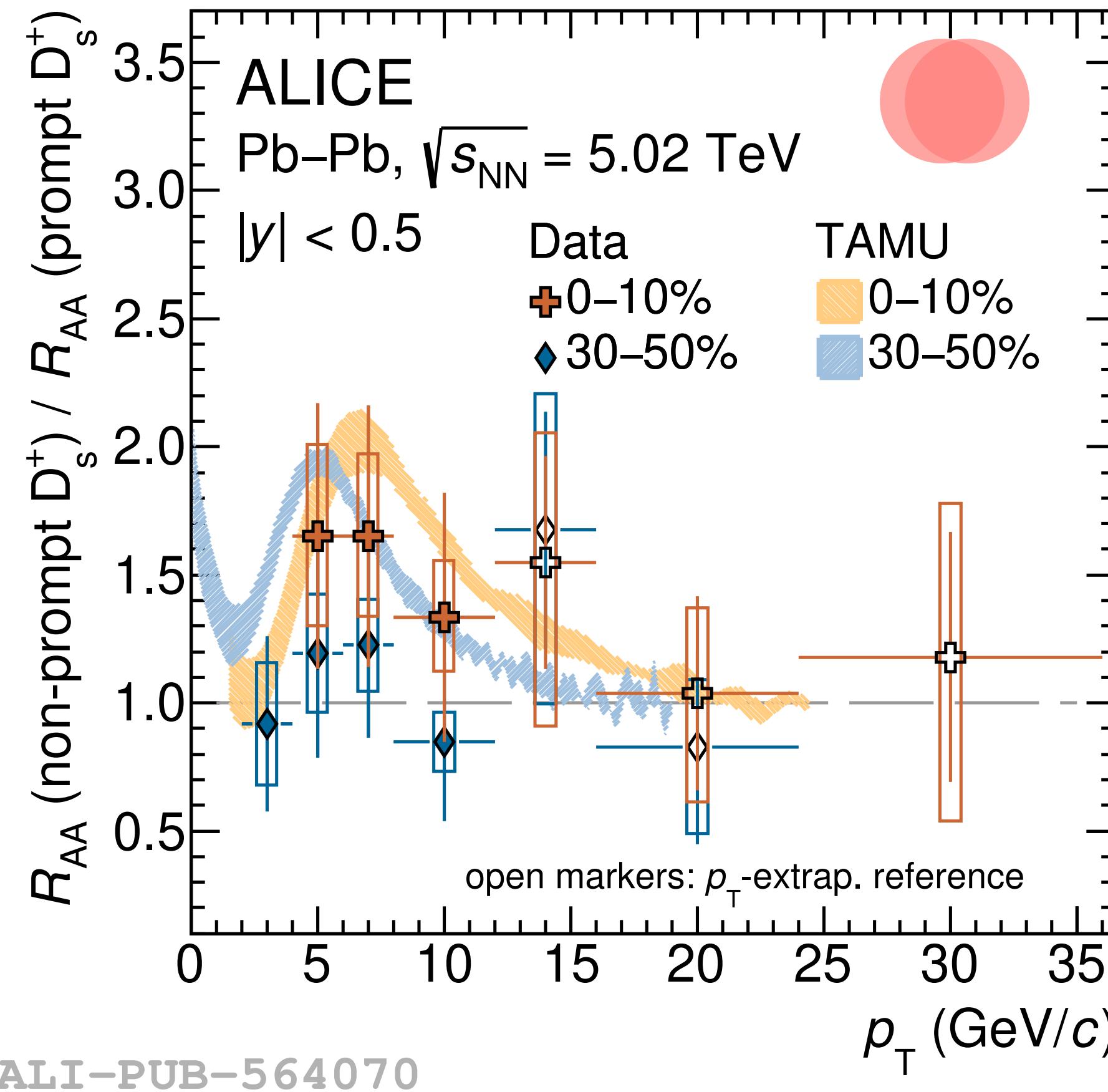
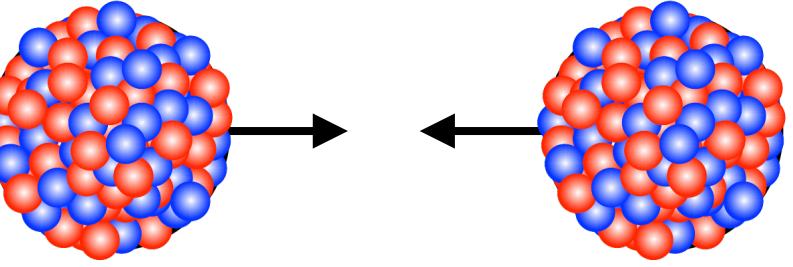


$$R_{AA} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d^2\sigma_{PbPb}/dp_T}{d^2\sigma_{pp}/dp_T}$$

TAMU
[Phys. Lett. B 735 \(2014\) 445](#)
CUJET3.1
[Chin. Phys. C 43 \(2019\) 044101](#)
LGR
[EPJC 80 \(2020\) 671](#)
[Phys. J. C 80 \(2020\) 1113](#)
MC@sHQ+EPOS2
[Phys. Rev. C 89 \(2014\) 014905](#)

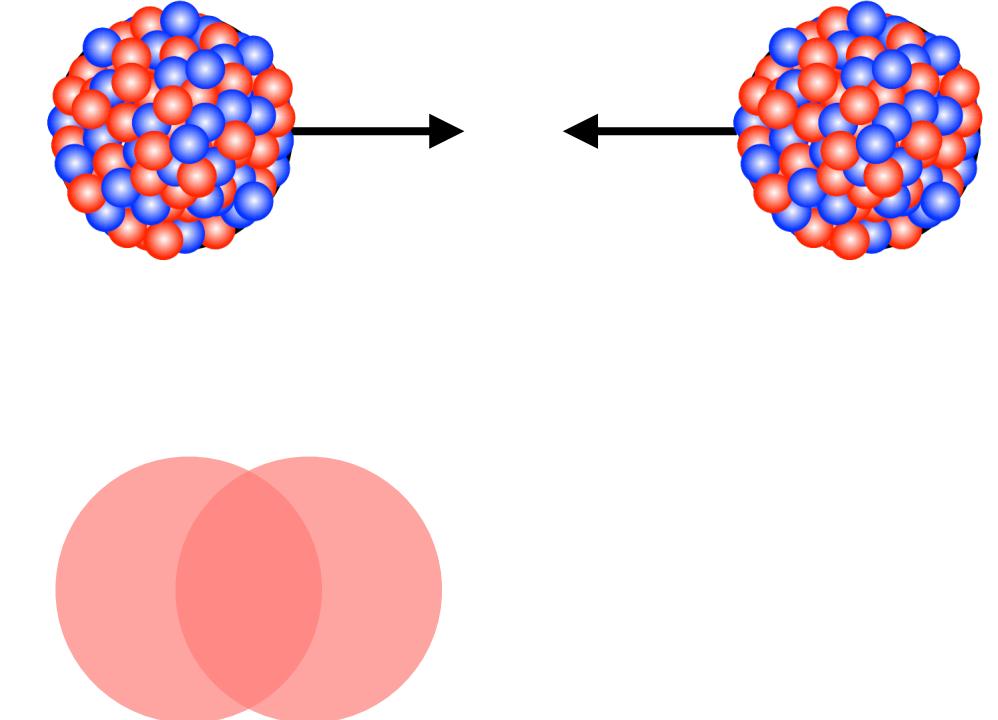
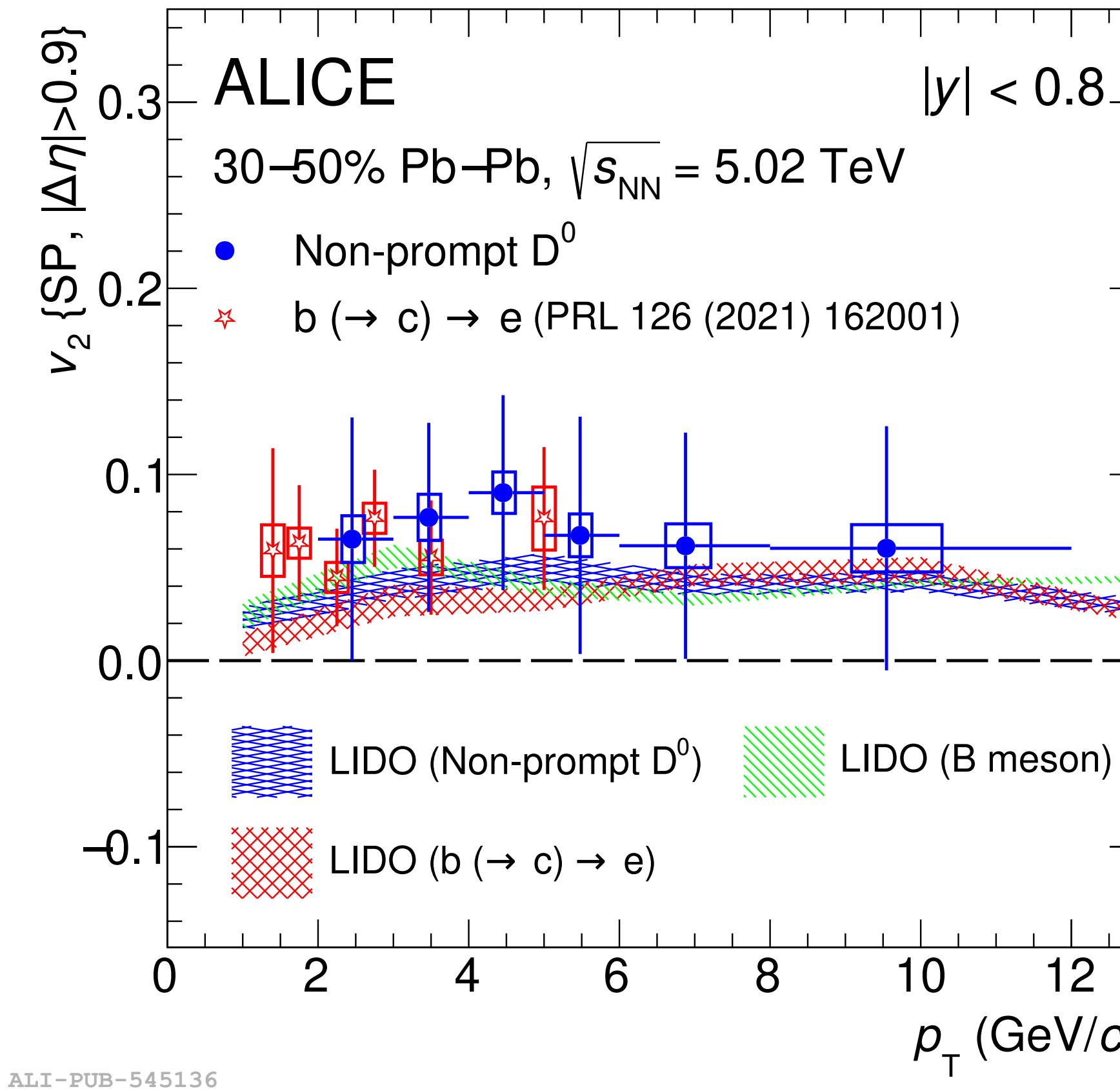
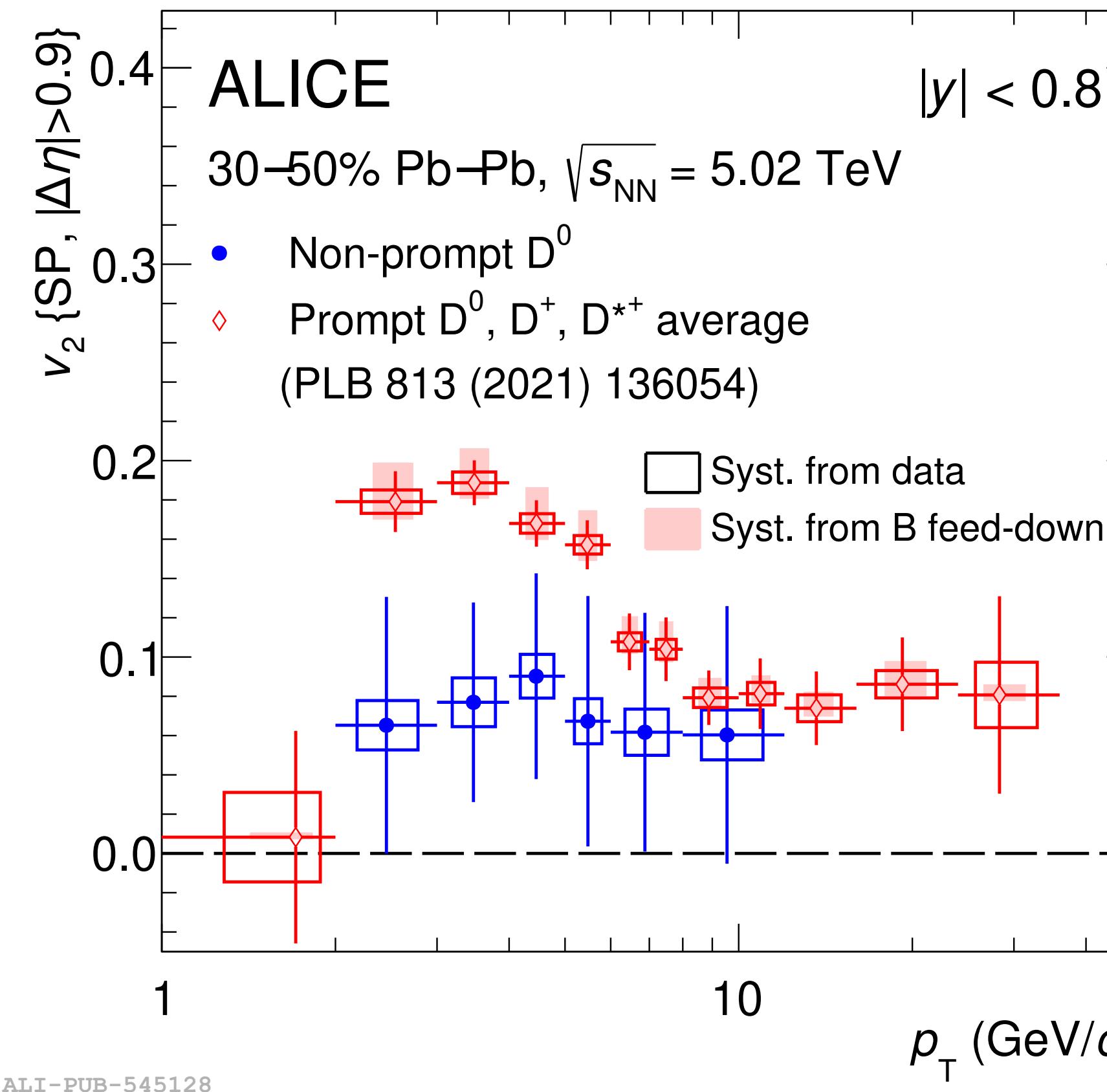
- Non-prompt $D^0 R_{AA}$ is systematically higher than that of prompt D^0 for $p_T > 5$ GeV/c
 - ✓ Hint of a mass dependent in-medium energy loss**
- R_{AA} ratio of non-prompt D^0 to prompt D^0 as a function of p_T in 0–10% centrality compared to model predictions
 - ✓ At low p_T , formation of D mesons via **coalescence makes a hardening of the prompt D^0 meson p_T****
 - ✓ At high p_T , beauty quarks lose less energy than charm quarks via radiative processes**

R_{AA} ratio of non-prompt D mesons in Pb–Pb collisions



$$R_{AA} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d^2\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}/dp_T}{d^2\sigma_{\text{pp}}/dp_T}$$

Elliptic flow of non-prompt D mesons in Pb–Pb collisions



EPJC 83 (2023) 1123

LIDO

- [Phys. Rev. C 98 \(2018\) 064901](#)
- [Phys. Rev. C 100 \(2019\) 064911](#)
- beauty quark transport
- collisional+radiative
- fragmentation+coalescence

- Non-prompt $D^0 v_2$ is lower than that of prompt non-strange D meson v_2
 - ✓ **Different degree of participation between charm and beauty quarks in the medium expansion**
- Compatible with the v_2 of beauty-decay electrons within uncertainties
 - ✓ Good agreement with LIDO predictions
 - ✓ **No significant difference of decay kinematics between B meson and non-prompt D^0 meson**

Summary

Heavy flavour (charm & beauty) measurements in pp, p–Pb, and Pb–Pb collisions with ALICE detector

In pp collisions :

- Production cross section described by pQCD calculations
- Fragmentation function universality is violated in pp collisions
 - ✓ Hadronisation via recombination is dominant at low p_T

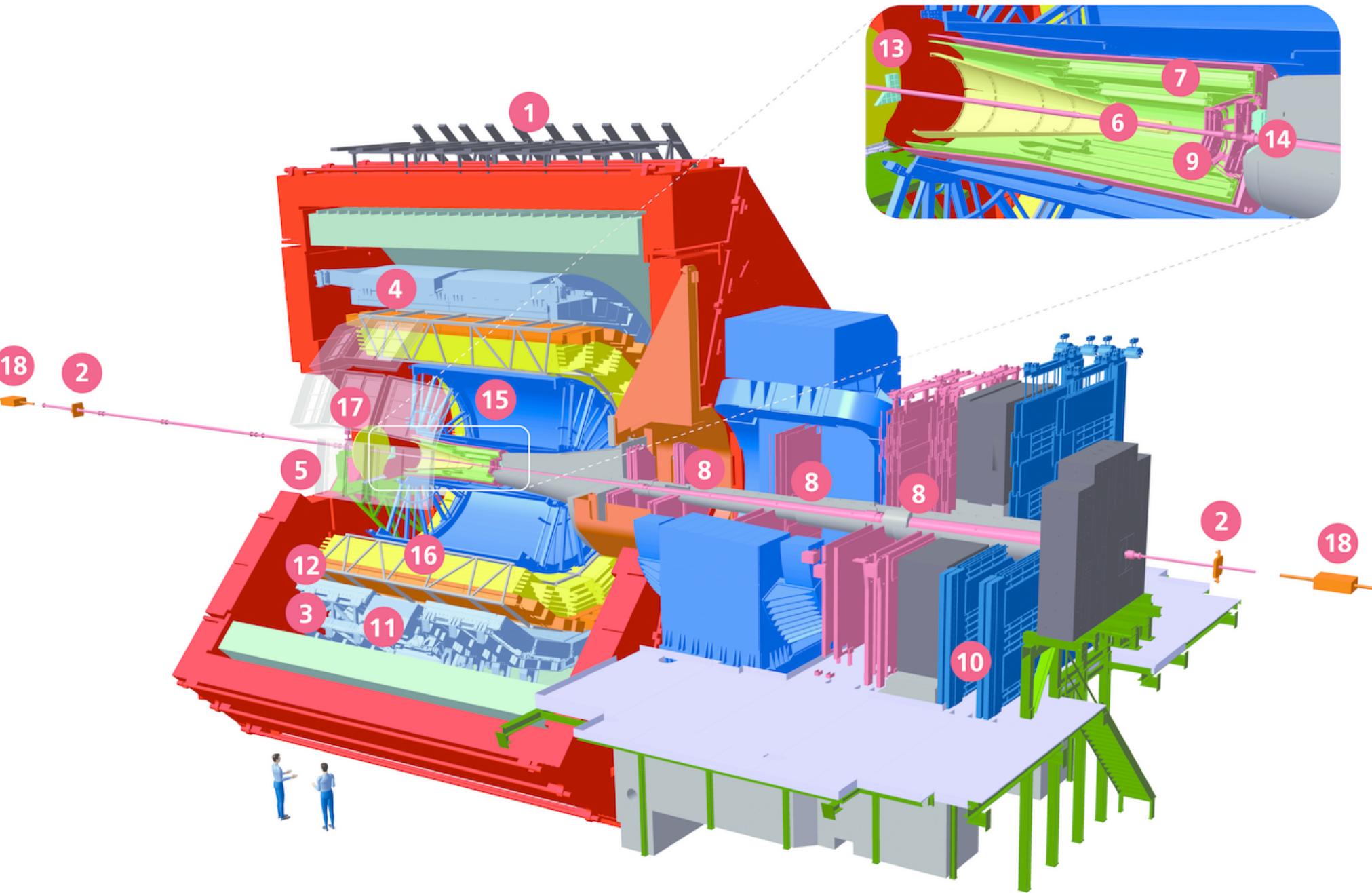
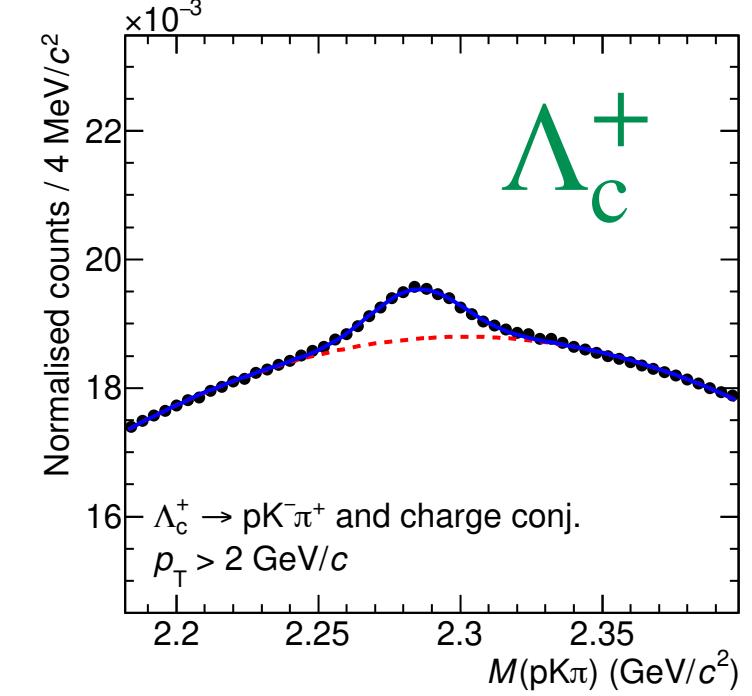
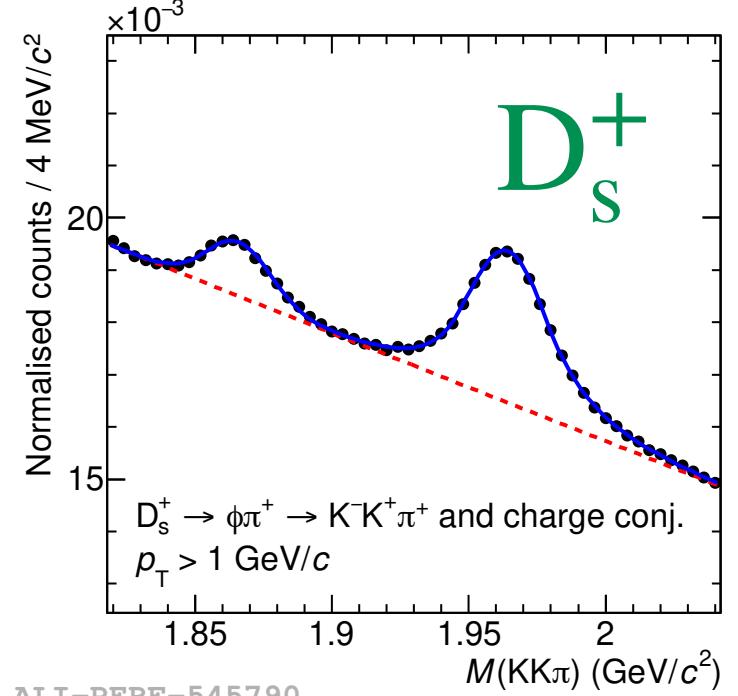
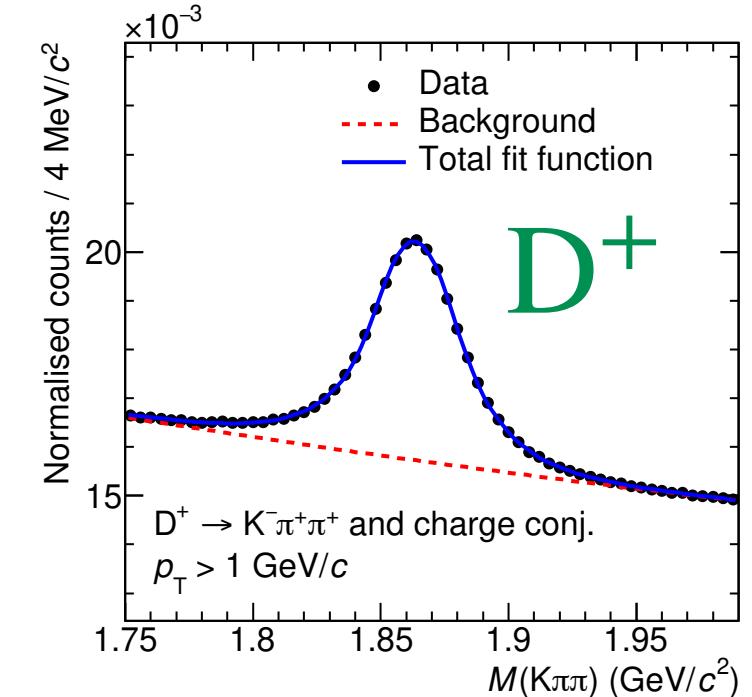
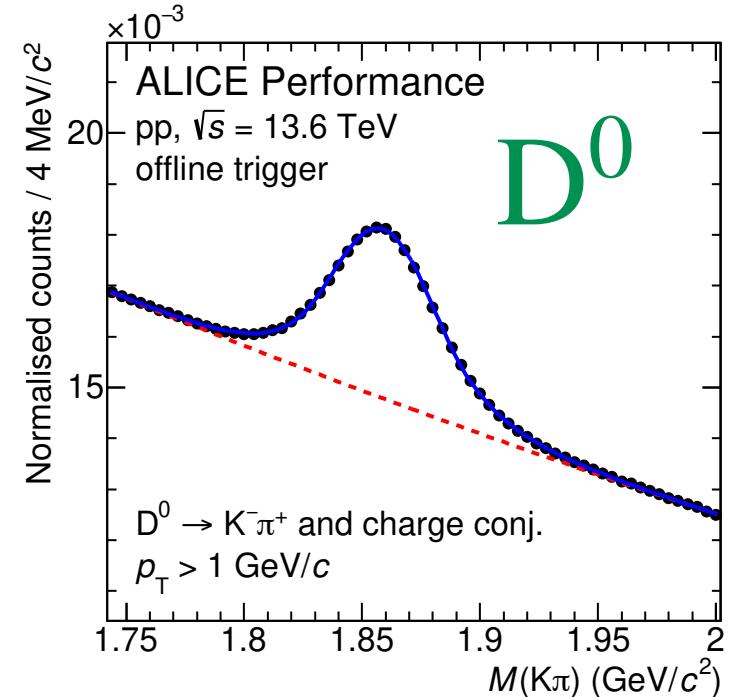
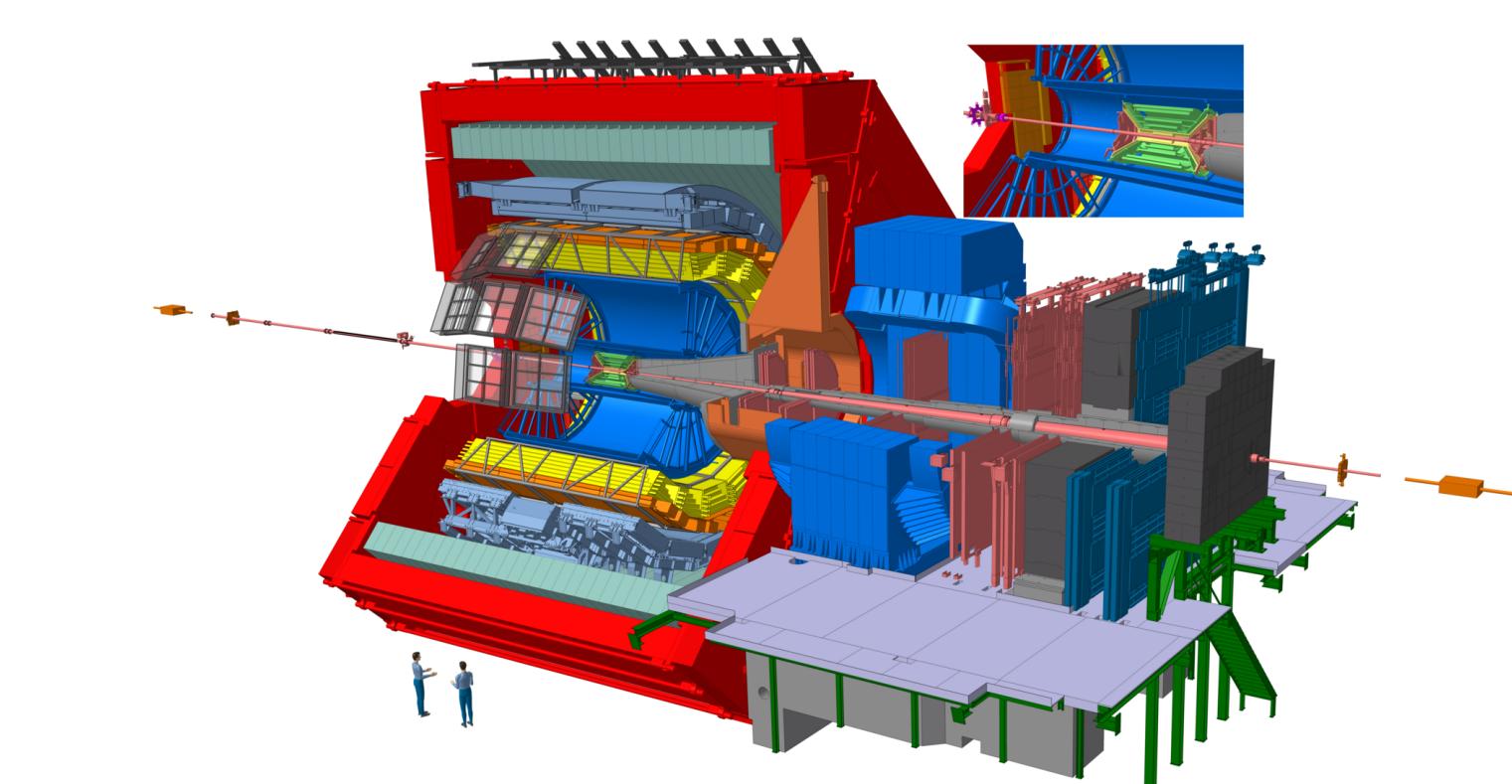
In p–Pb collisions :

- Heavy-quark production is not significantly affected by CNM effects
- Enhanced baryon production in p–Pb collisions w.r.t pp collisions in the intermediate p_T region

In Pb–Pb collisions :

- Baryon enhancement depends on the event multiplicity, while p_T -integrated baryon-to-meson ratio is consistent across collision systems
- Both charm and beauty quarks lose energy in the medium
 - ✓ Beauty quarks lose less energy than charm quarks
- Heavy quarks participate in a hydrodynamically expanding medium, $v_2(\text{HF}) > 0$
 - ✓ $v_2(c) > v_2(b)$

Outlook in Run 3



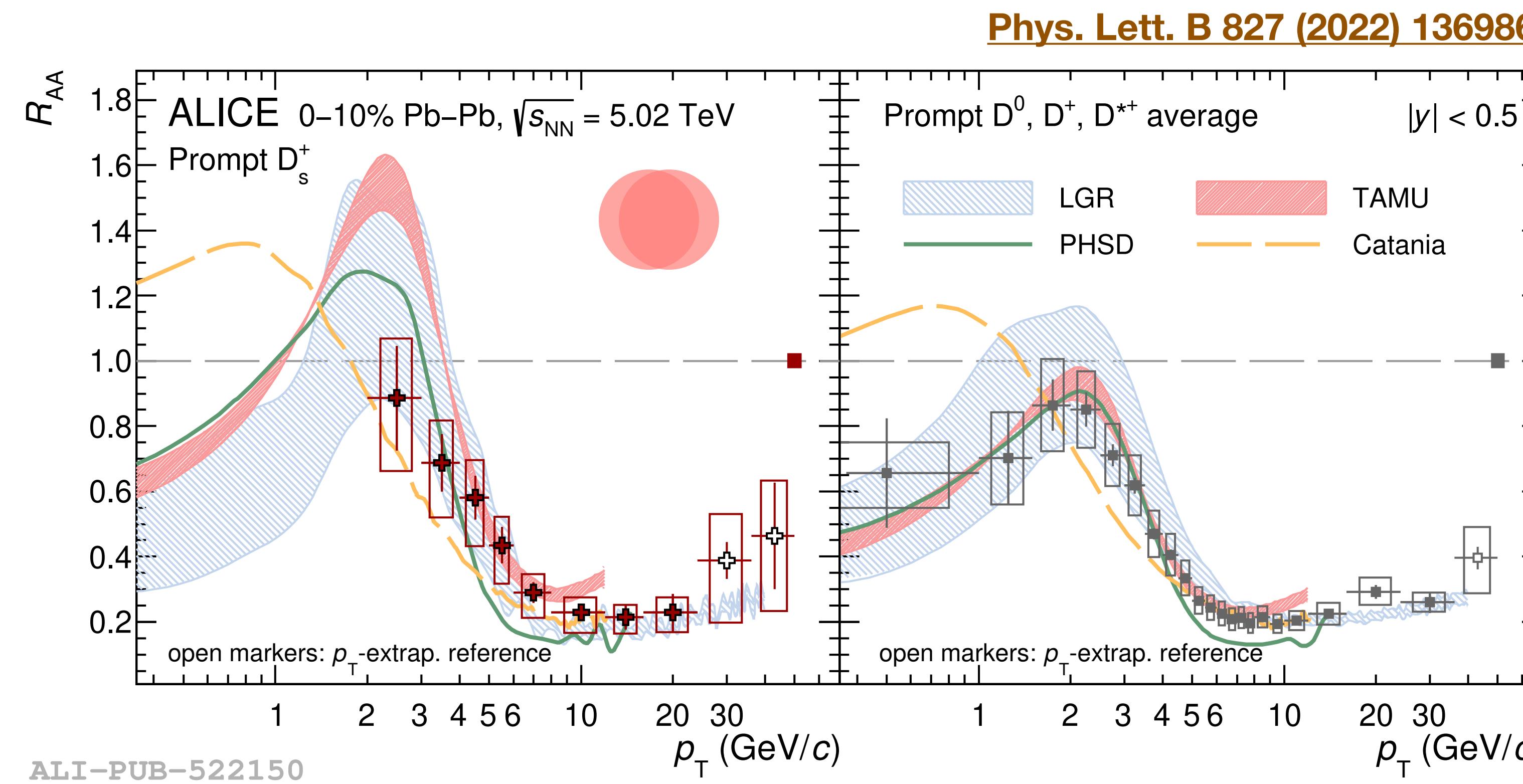
- 1 ACORDE | ALICE Cosmic Rays Detector
- 2 AD | ALICE Diffractive Detector
- 3 DCal | Di-jet Calorimeter
- 4 EMCal | Electromagnetic Calorimeter
- 5 HMPID | High Momentum Particle Identification Detector
- 6 ITS-IB | Inner Tracking System - Inner Barrel
- 7 ITS-OB | Inner Tracking System - Outer Barrel
- 8 MCH | Muon Tracking Chambers
- 9 MFT | Muon Forward Tracker
- 10 MID | Muon Identifier
- 11 PHOS / CPV | Photon Spectrometer
- 12 TOF | Time Of Flight
- 13 T0+A | Tzero + A
- 14 T0+C | Tzero + C
- 15 TPC | Time Projection Chamber
- 16 TRD | Transition Radiation Detector
- 17 V0+ | Vzero + Detector
- 18 ZDC | Zero Degree Calorimeter

- New Inner Tracking System
 - ✓ 2 pixels + 2 drifts + 2 strips → 7 pixels (3 inners + 4 outers)
 - ✓ Based on MAPS, pixel size + material budget reduction, and fast readout
 - ✓ Improve vertexing and tracking
- New readout for most sub detectors
 - ✓ Higher statistics and performance

New observables in addition to precise measurements on HF sector

Backup

R_{AA} of D_s mesons in Pb–Pb collisions



A-A collisions

$$R_{AA} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d^2\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}/dp_T}{d^2\sigma_{\text{pp}}/dp_T}$$

TAMU
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 \(2020\) 042301](#)

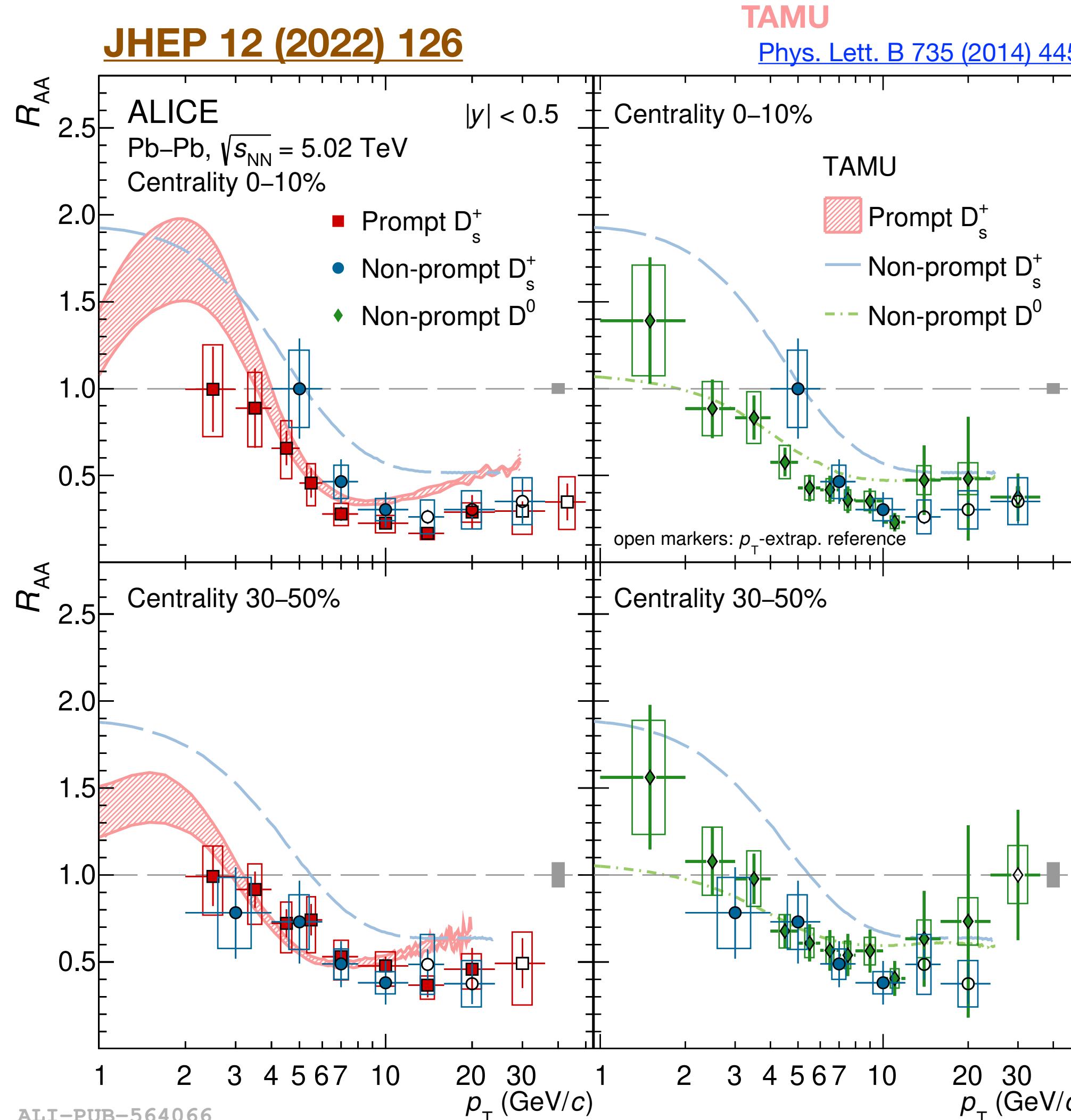
PHSD
[Phys. Rev. C 92 \(2015\) 014910](#)
[Phys. Rev. C 93 \(2016\) 034906](#)

Catania
[Phys. Rev. C 96 \(2017\) 044905](#)
[EPJC 78 \(2018\) 348](#)

LGR
[EPJC 80 \(2020\) 671](#)

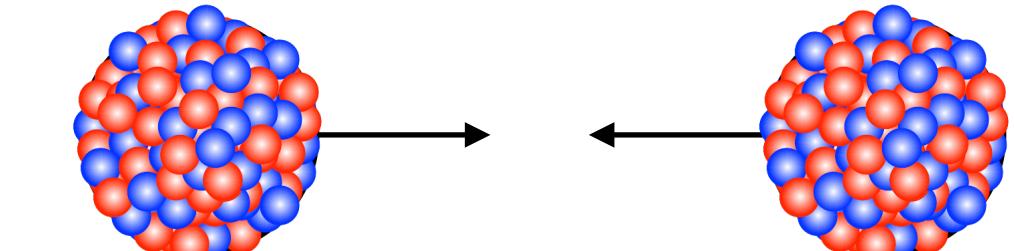
- Compared to model predictions implementing charm quark transport in the medium
 - ✓ Include an enhancement of the strangeness in the medium and the hadronisation either via fragmentation and coalescence
- Models qualitatively reproduce the measured R_{AA}
 - ✓ LGR model including both collisional and radiative interactions, gives a better description of the data up to high p_T

R_{AA} of non-prompt D mesons in Pb–Pb collisions



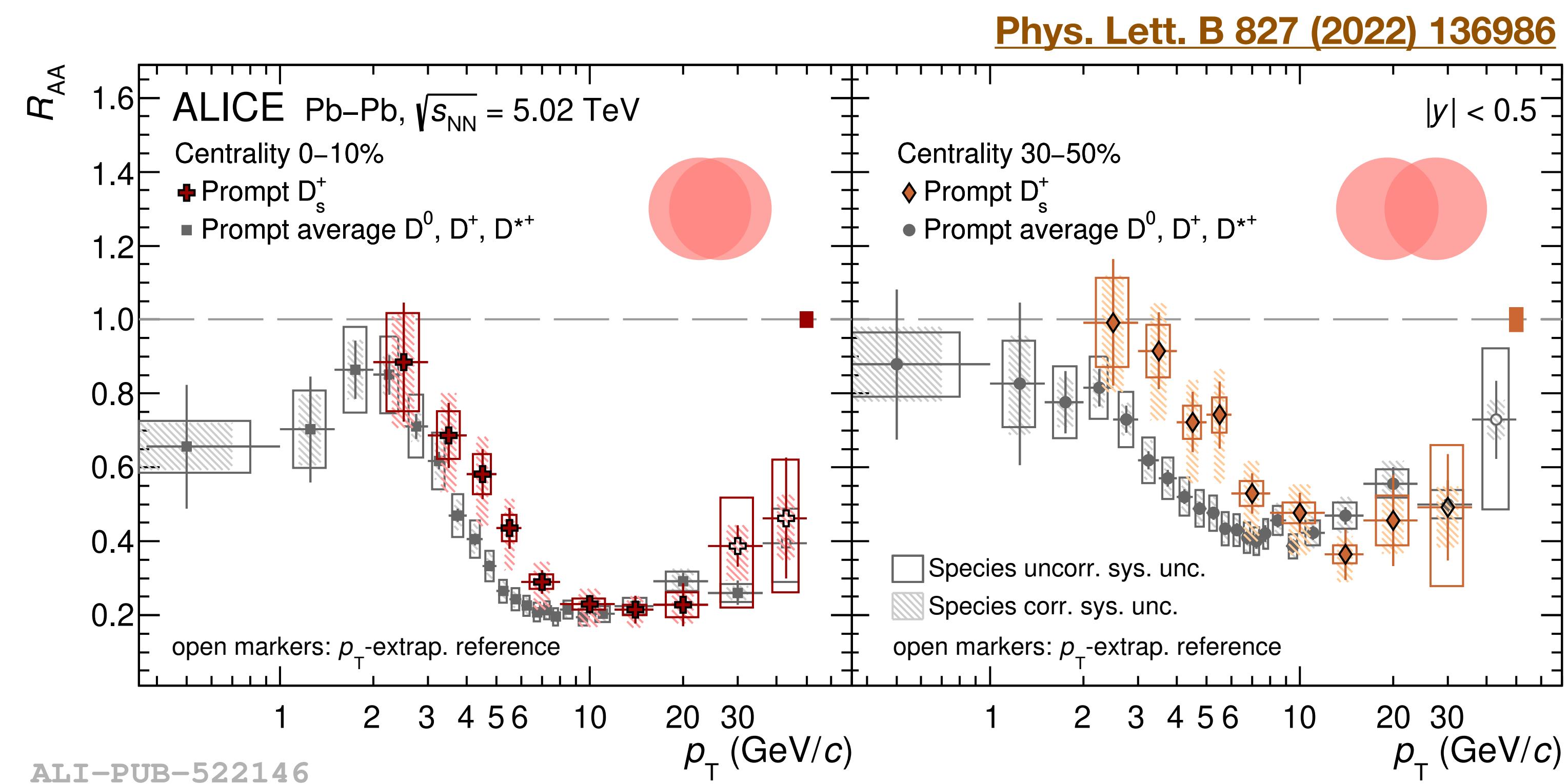
$$R_{AA} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d^2\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}/dp_T}{d^2\sigma_{\text{pp}}/dp_T}$$

A-A collisions



- Comparison of non-prompt D_s^+ R_{AA} to ones of prompt D_s^+ and non-prompt D^0 mesons
 - ✓ Give a hint of the interaction of heavy quarks with medium and of the beauty quark hadronisation mechanism
- Non-prompt D_s^+ R_{AA} vs prompt D_s^+ R_{AA}
 - ✓ Mass dependence of the in-medium energy loss
- Non-prompt D_s^+ R_{AA} vs non-prompt D^0 R_{AA}
 - ✓ Effect of hadronisation via recombination and a strangeness-rich environment
- In semicentral collisions, consistent within uncertainties
- Compare to model prediction and qualitatively describes the p_T trend, although the model overestimates the data

R_{AA} of D_s mesons in Pb–Pb collisions

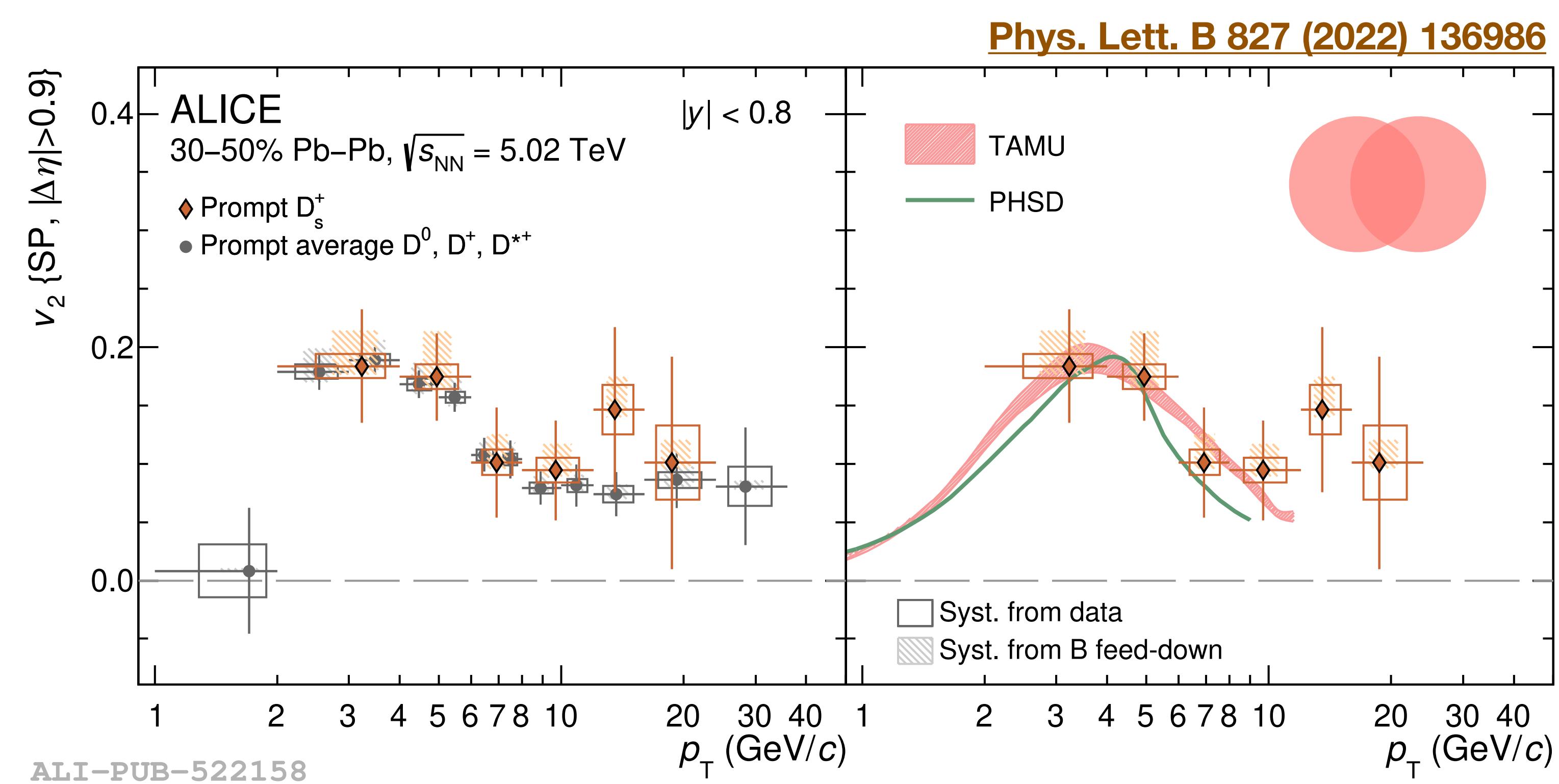


A-A collisions

$$R_{AA} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d^2\sigma_{\text{PbPb}}/dp_T}{d^2\sigma_{\text{pp}}/dp_T}$$

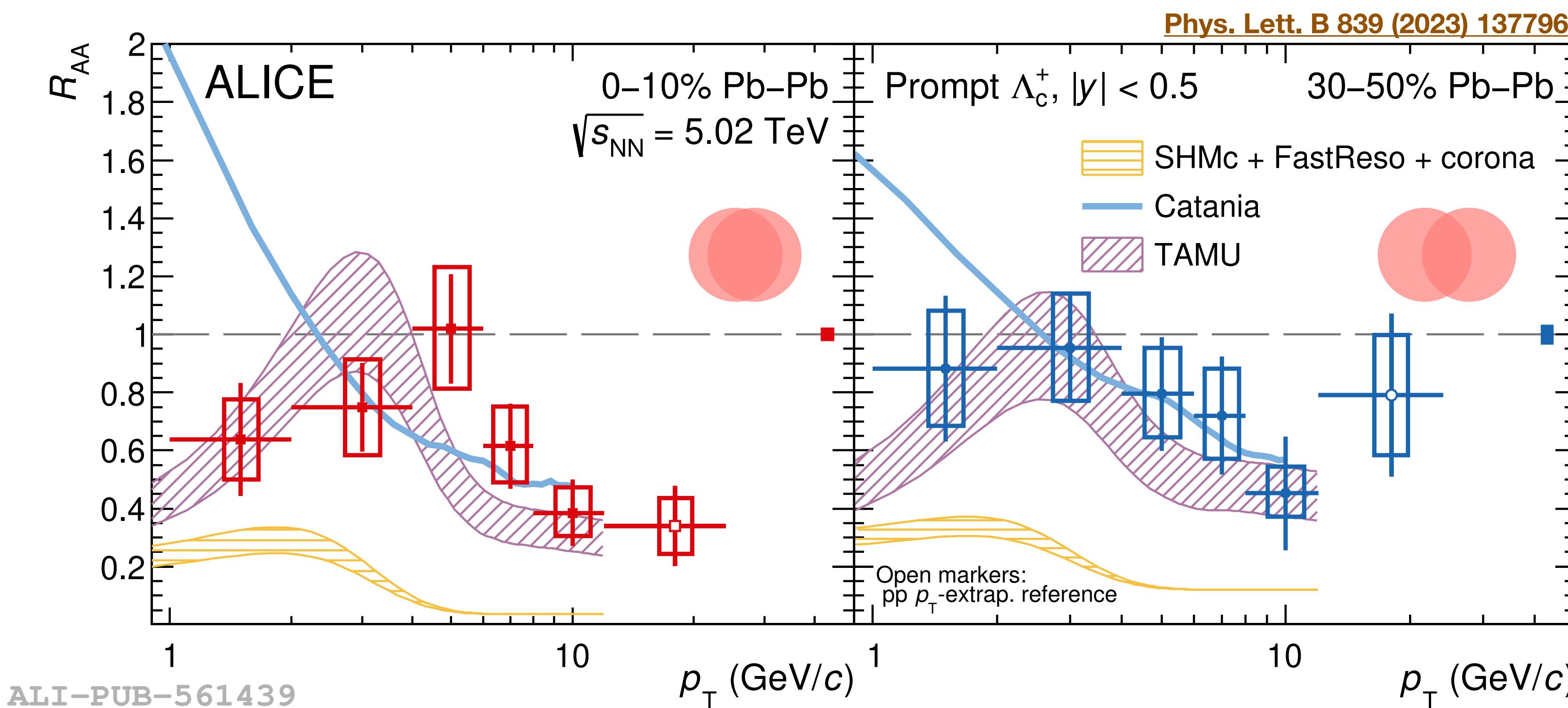
- Both D_s^+ and non-strange D mesons have a minimum value of R_{AA} around $10 \text{ GeV}/c$
- For $p_T < 10 \text{ GeV}/c$, $D_s^+ R_{AA}$ is systematically higher than that of non-strange D mesons
 - Hadronisation via recombination with abundantly produced strange quarks in the medium
- For $p_T > 10 \text{ GeV}/c$, both R_{AA} are compatible within uncertainties
 - Hadronisation via fragmentation is dominant

Elliptic flow of prompt D mesons in Pb–Pb collisions

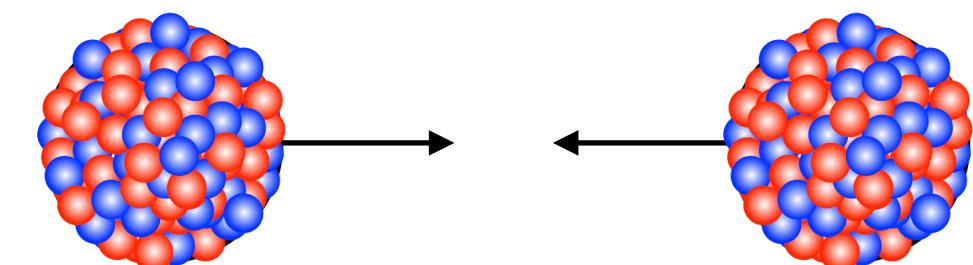


- Comparison of v_2 between strange and non-strange D mesons
 - ✓ No differences within uncertainties
 - ✓ Different mass, hadronisation via recombination with strange vs light quarks, possible differences in hadronic phase
- Models, including charm quark coalescence with strange quarks in the medium, describe the data within uncertainties

R_{AA} of Λ_c in Pb–Pb collisions



A-A collisions

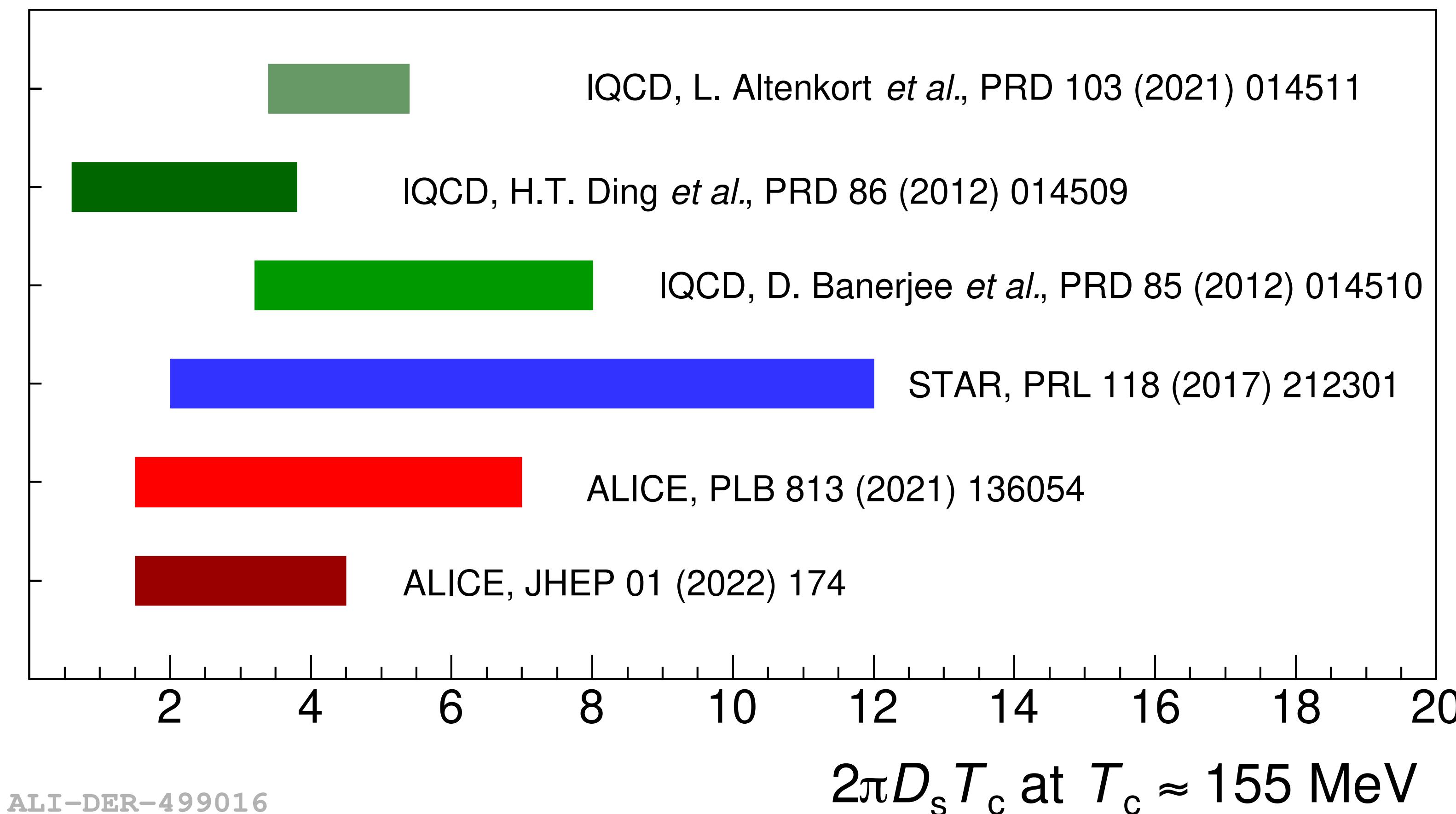


$$R_{AA} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d^2\sigma_{PbPb}/dp_T}{d^2\sigma_{pp}/dp_T}$$

- SHMc
[JHEP 07 \(2021\) 035](#)
- Catania
[EPJC 78 \(2018\) 348](#)
- TAMU
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 \(2020\) 042301](#)

Heavy-flavour transport coefficients

- Compute χ^2/ndf between data and models to constrain model parameters
- Heavy-quark spatial diffusion coefficient ($2\pi D_s T_c$) at 155 MeV $\rightarrow 1.5 < 2\pi D_s T_c < 4.5$
- Imply a charm quark relaxation time : 3–8 fm/c



- Compute χ^2/ndf between data and models to constrain model parameters
- Heavy-quark spatial diffusion coefficient ($2\pi D_s T_s$) at 155 MeV $\rightarrow 1.5 < 2\pi D_s T_s < 4.5$
 - ✓ Imply a charm quark relaxation time : 3–8 fm/c
 - ✓ charm quark can be fully thermalized with medium (QGP lifetime $\sim 10 \text{ fm/c}$)

