

# Study of the hadron gas phase using short-lived resonances with ALICE

EPS-HEP 21/08/23 Hamburg

Johanna Lömker - Nikhef/Universiteit Utrecht  
On behalf of the ALICE collaboration



Utrecht  
University

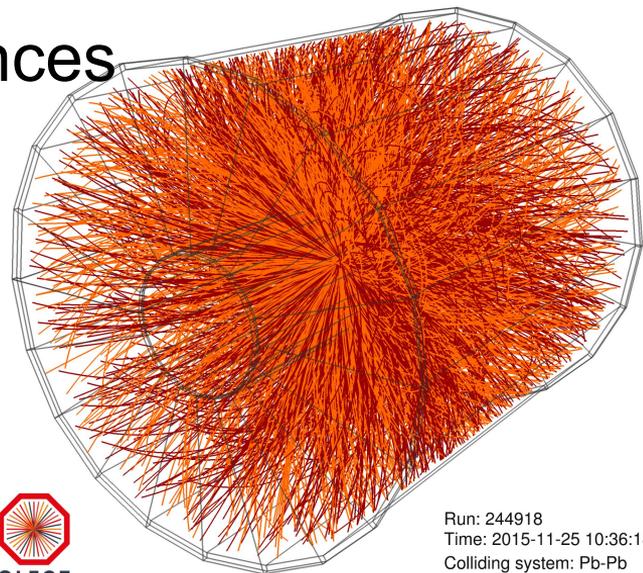


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# Status of light-flavour hadronic resonances

Resonance	$K^*(892)^0$	$\Lambda(1520)$	$\phi(1020)$
Quark composition	$d\bar{s}, \bar{d}s$	uds	$s\bar{s}$
$\tau$ (fm/c)	$\sim 4.1$	$\sim 12.6$	$\sim 46.3$
Decay channel	$\pi\pi$	$pK$	$KK$
B.R. (%)	$\sim 66.6$	$\sim 22.5$ <small>PHYSICAL REVIEW C 99, 024905 (2019)</small>	$\sim 49.2$
Mass (MeV)	$\sim 891$	$\sim 1519$	$\sim 1019$

M. Tanabashi et al. (Particle Data Group), Phys. Rev. D 98, 030001 (2018)



Run: 244918  
Time: 2015-11-25 10:36:18  
Colliding system: Pb-Pb  
Collision energy: 5.02 TeV

ALICE-PHO-GEN-2016-001-2

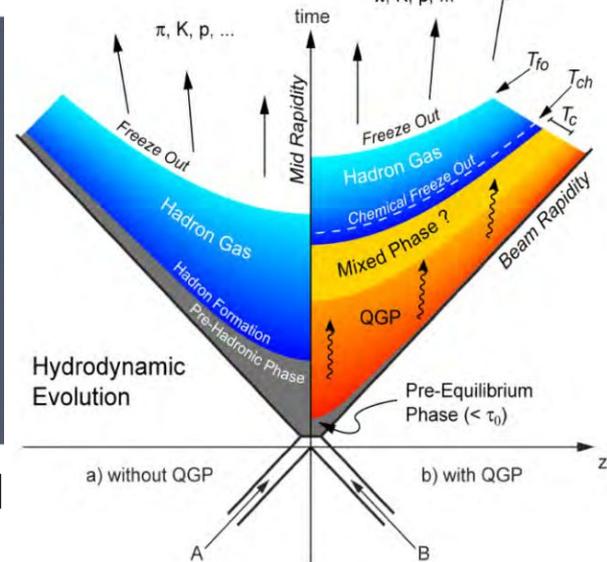
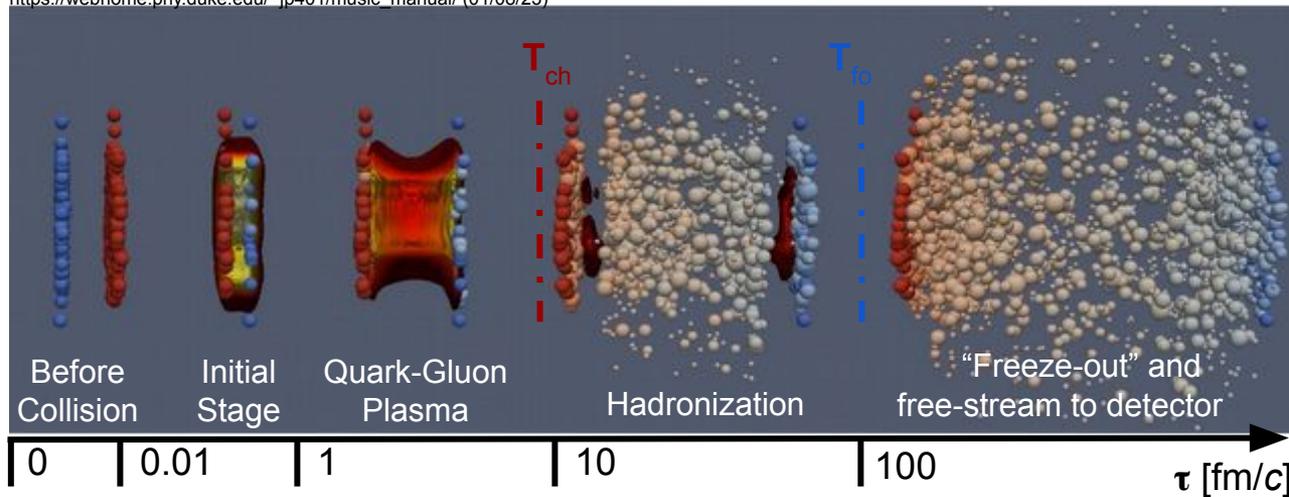
⇒ **Short lifetimes** study the properties of the hadronic phase in heavy-ion collisions

# Evolution of heavy-ion collisions



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[https://webhome.phy.duke.edu/~jp401/music\\_manual/\(01/08/23\)](https://webhome.phy.duke.edu/~jp401/music_manual/(01/08/23))

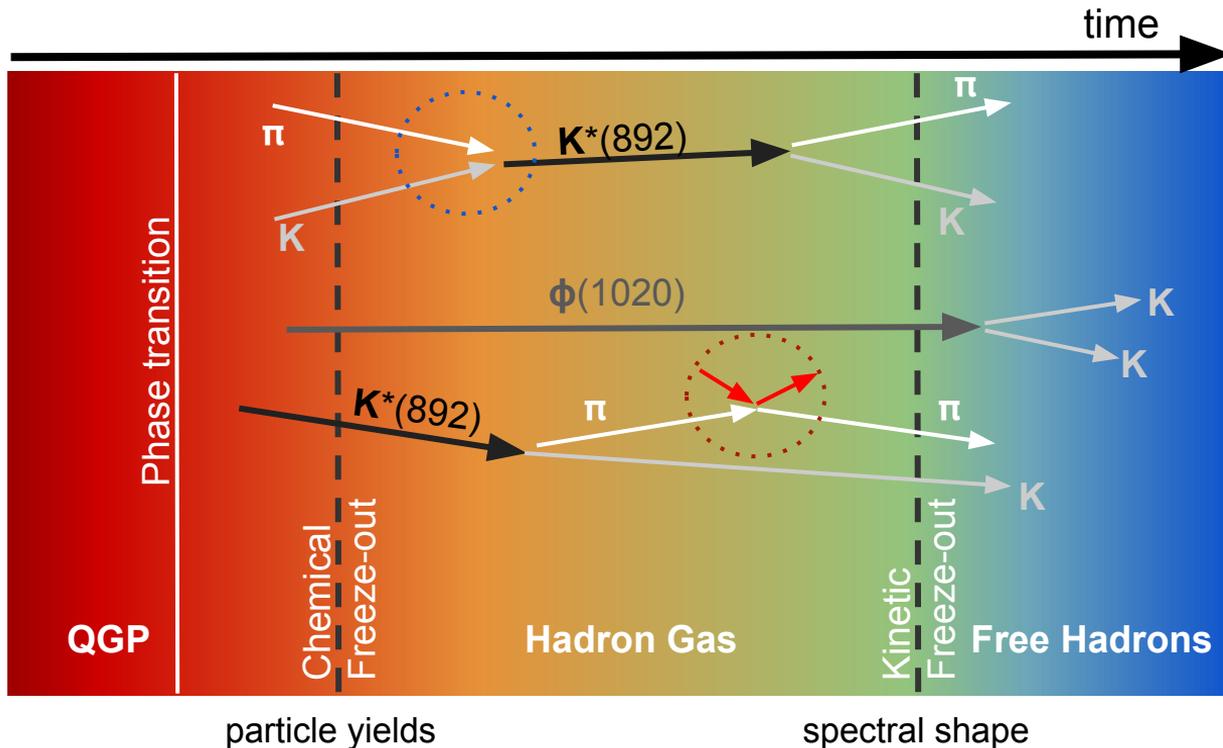


Doi: 10.22661/AAPPSbl.2019.29.4.16

## Hadronic-gas phase between **chemical** and **kinetic** freeze-out

- ⇒ Duration similar to lifetime of resonance ( $\phi(1020)$  has longer lifetime)
- ⇒ In medium modifications (pp vs. AA)
- ⇒ Insights on QCD phase structure ( $T_{ch}$ ,  $T_{fo}$ ,  $\mu_B$ )

# Resonances in the hadronic gas phase



## I) Regeneration

*Pseudo-elastic scattering of decay products*

⇒ Increases measured yield

## II) Rescattering

*Elastic scattering of decay products with other hadrons*

⇒ Smearing of mass peak (no more reconstruction from invariant mass)

⇒ Decreases measured yield

⇒ **Total yields** of  $K^*(892)$  and  $\phi(1020)$  are sensitive to rescattering and regeneration at low momenta ( $< 3$  GeV/c)

⇒ **Ratios to stable particles** study relation of resonance production and lifetime as quark content cancels out

# A Large Ion Collider Experiment

*Multi-purpose detector with unique particle identification capabilities and tracking down to low momenta*

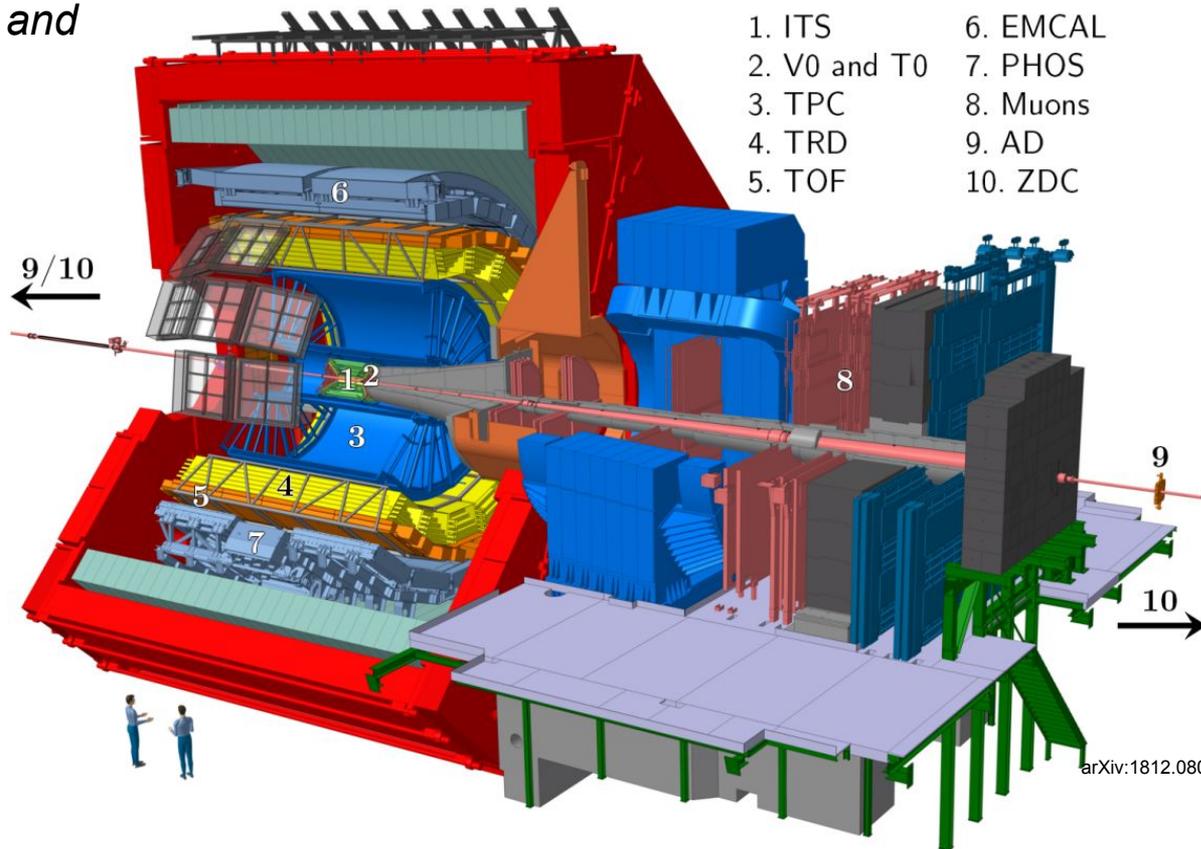
## Central barrel detectors

**ITS:** Silicon detector for tracking and vertexing

**TPC:** Time Projection Chamber for PID and tracking

**TOF:** Time-of-flight for PID

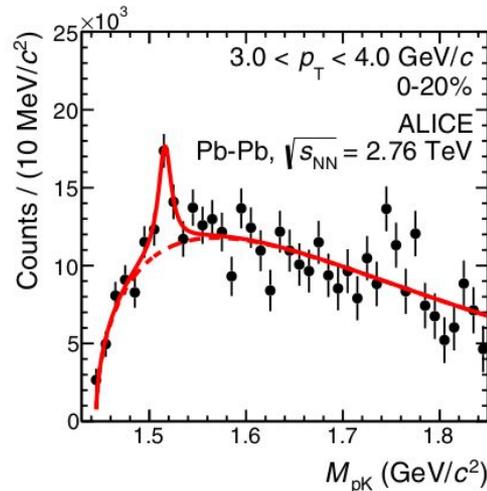
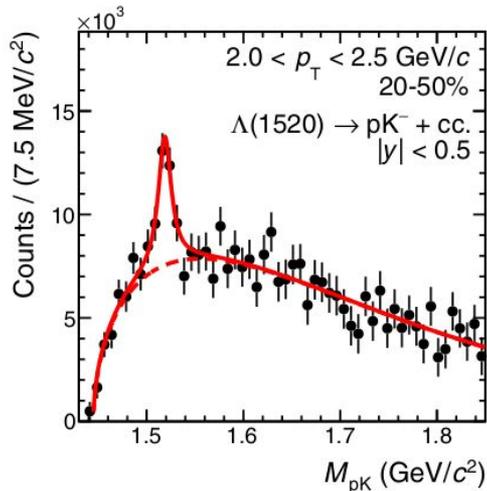
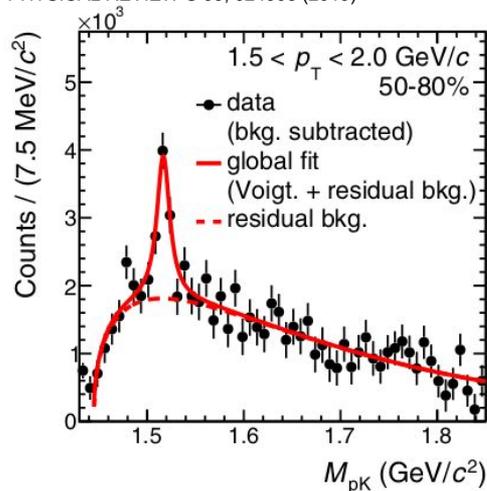
**V0:** Scintillator detector for triggering and multiplicity estimation



# Example: Invariant mass reconstruction $\Lambda(1520) \rightarrow pK$



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\*Particle and anti-particle states are combined for larger statistics

## 1. Mixed-event technique: rejection of combinatorial background

- Combining unlike-sign p and K tracks from different events with similar characteristics
- Normalization and correction for mixing distortions through fit to mixed/same-event ratio of like-sign pairs

## 2. Global Fit:

- **Signal** convolution of non-rel. Breit-Wigner function with Gaussian detector resolution
- **Residual background** ~ Maxwell-Boltzmann

## 3. Corrections of raw yields: HIJING MC simulations with additional $\Lambda(1520)$ and GEANT3 for transport

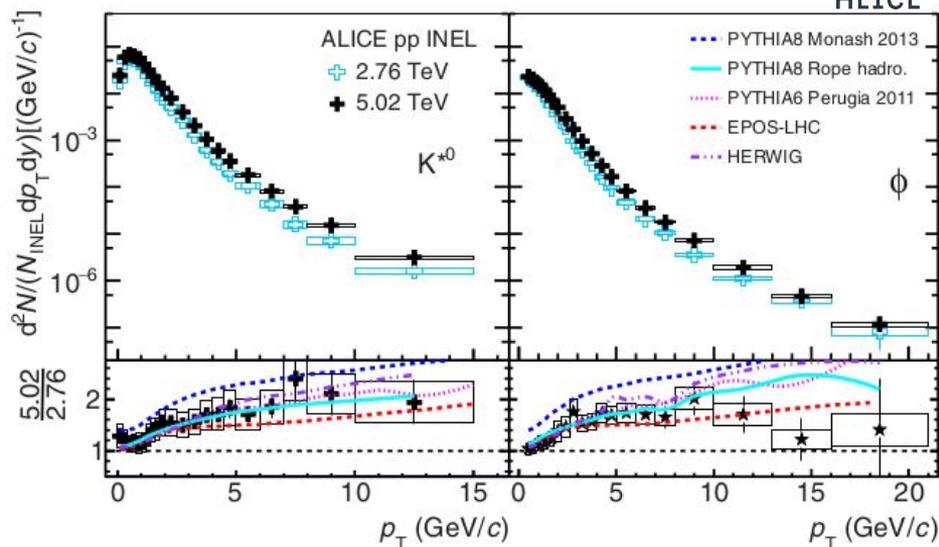
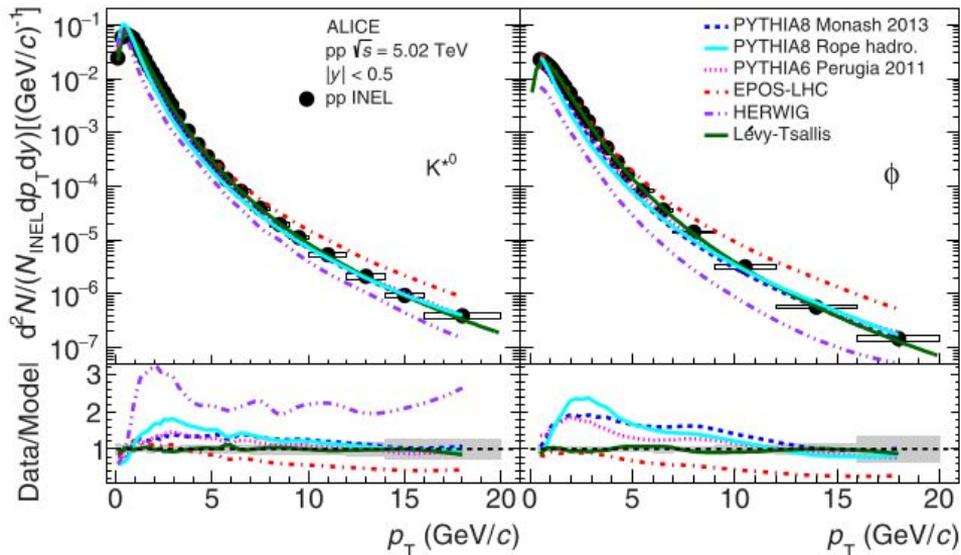
- Decay branching fraction, detector acceptance, reconstruction efficiency, track selection, PID efficiency

# Spectral shapes $K^*(892)$ and $\phi(1020)$ in pp

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- **HERWIG** does not describe the data
- **EPOS-LHC** overestimates  $\phi$  and  $K^{*0}$  for  $p_T > 5$  GeV/c
- **PYTHIA** reasonable above 10 GeV/c
  - $K^*(892)^0$  overestimated/underestimated at low/intermediate  $p_T$
  - $\phi(1020)$  overestimated at low and intermediate  $p_T$

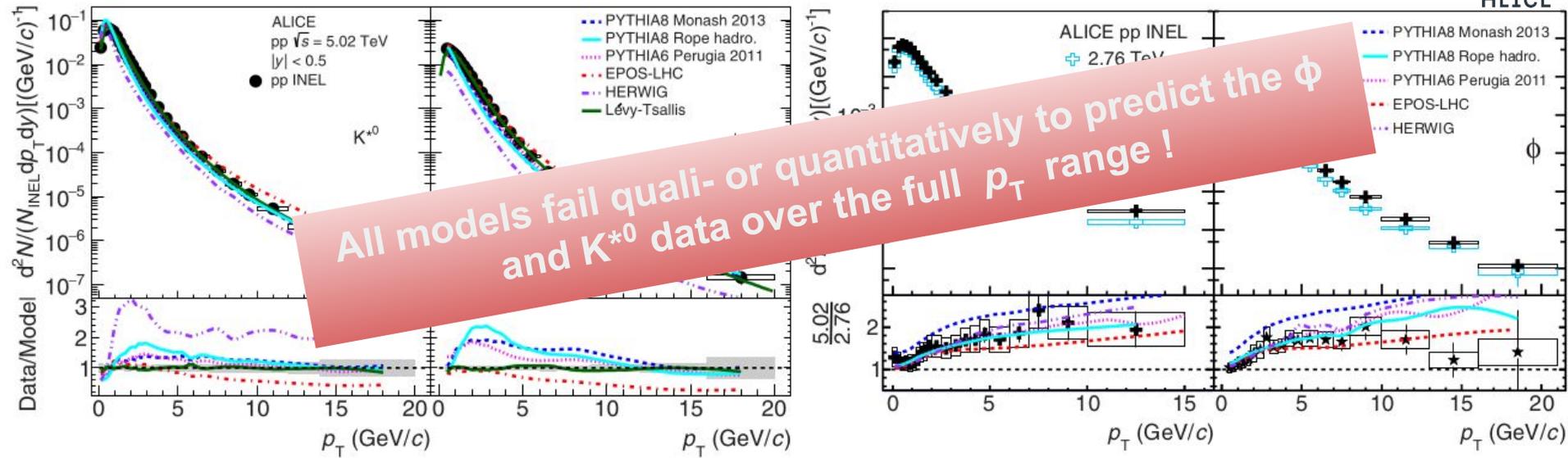
- **Resonance yield increase with collision energy**
- **Energy ratio increases with  $p_T$**  (saturation ?)
- **PYTHIA8 Monash 2013** overestimates yields
- $K^{*0}$  described by models within uncertainties
- $\phi(1020)$  in agreement with models for  $p_T < 8$  GeV/c

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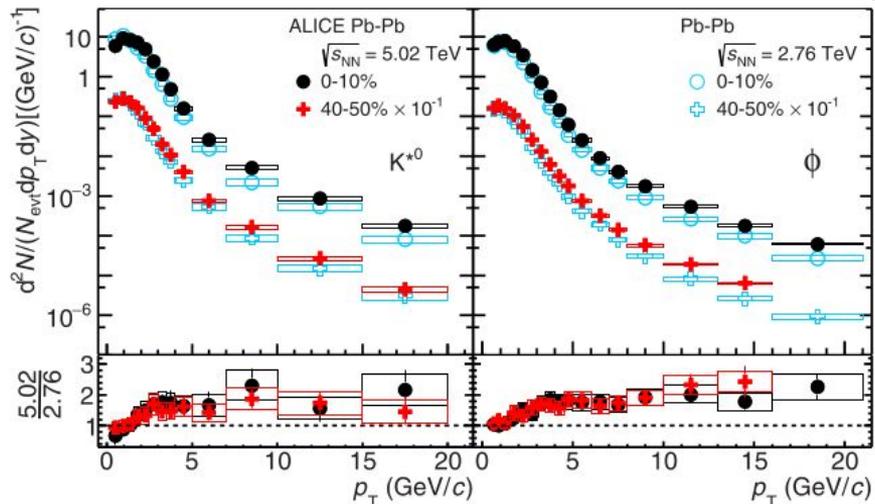
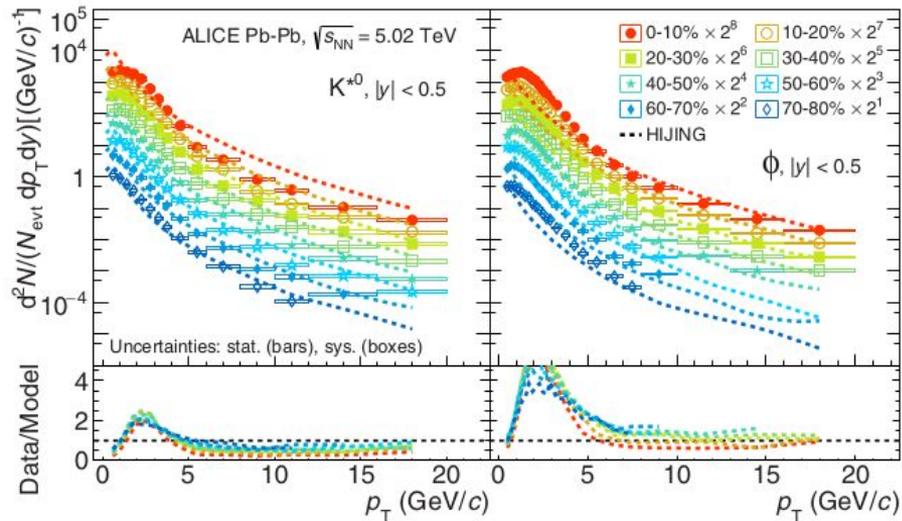


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# Spectral shapes $K^*(892)$ and $\phi(1020)$ in Pb-Pb

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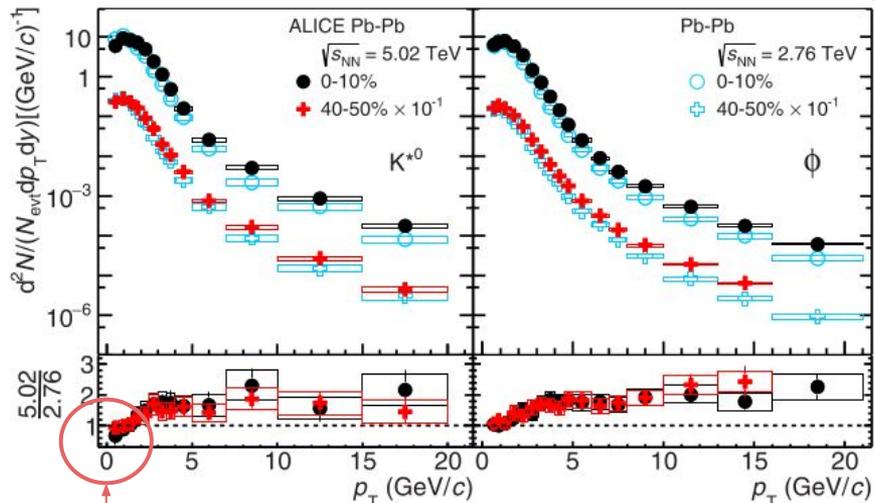
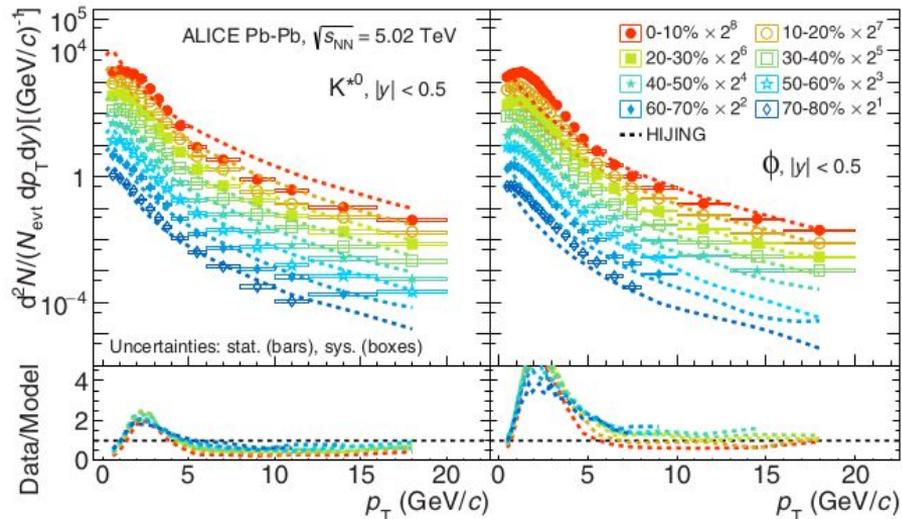


- **Increasing resonance yields with collision centrality** (increasing charged particle multiplicity)
- **HIJING** cannot describe the data over the full  $p_T$  range
  - $K^{*0}$  better approximated in limited  $p_T$  range for **mid-central to peripheral collisions**
  - $\phi(1020)$  in agreement with predictions for **mid-central collisions** for  $p_T > 7$  GeV/c

- **Resonance yield increase with collision energy**
- **Ratio increases with  $p_T$**  (saturation !) for **central and peripheral collisions**
- $\phi(1020)$  yield at  $\sqrt{s} = 5.02$  TeV below  $K^{*0}$  for  $p_T < 3$  GeV/c
- $K^{*0}$  collision energy ratio below unity for  $p_T < 3$  GeV/c

# Spectral shapes $K^*(892)$ and $\phi(1020)$ in Pb-Pb

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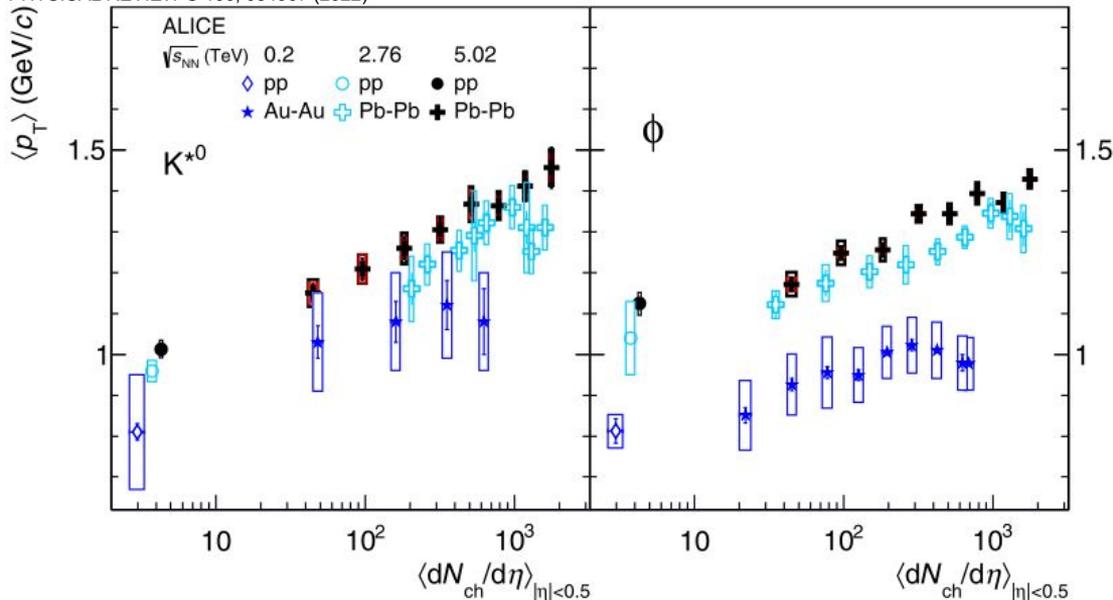
Rescattering phenomena expected for  $K^{*0}$  with  $p_T < 3$  GeV/c !

# Mean $p_T$ $K^*(892)$ and $\phi(1020)$

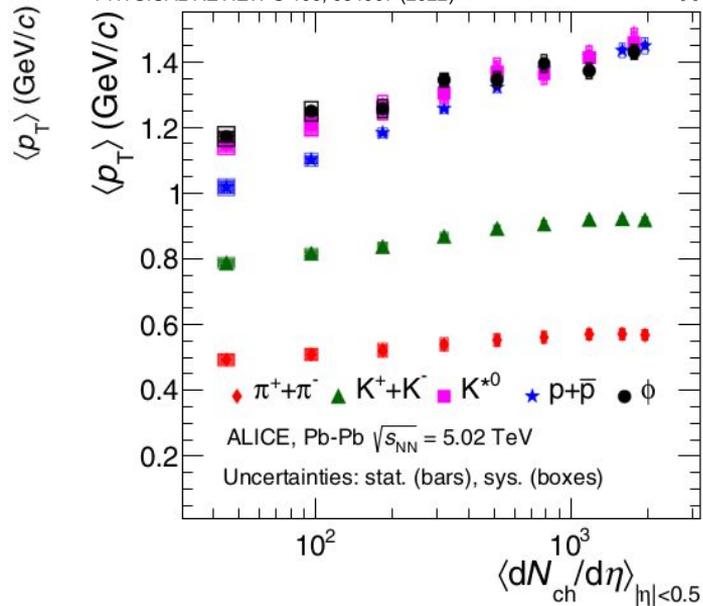


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- Increasing  $\langle p_T \rangle$  with charged particle multiplicity and collision energy
- Similar masses lead to similar  $\langle p_T \rangle$  for  $K^{*0}$  and  $\phi(1020)$

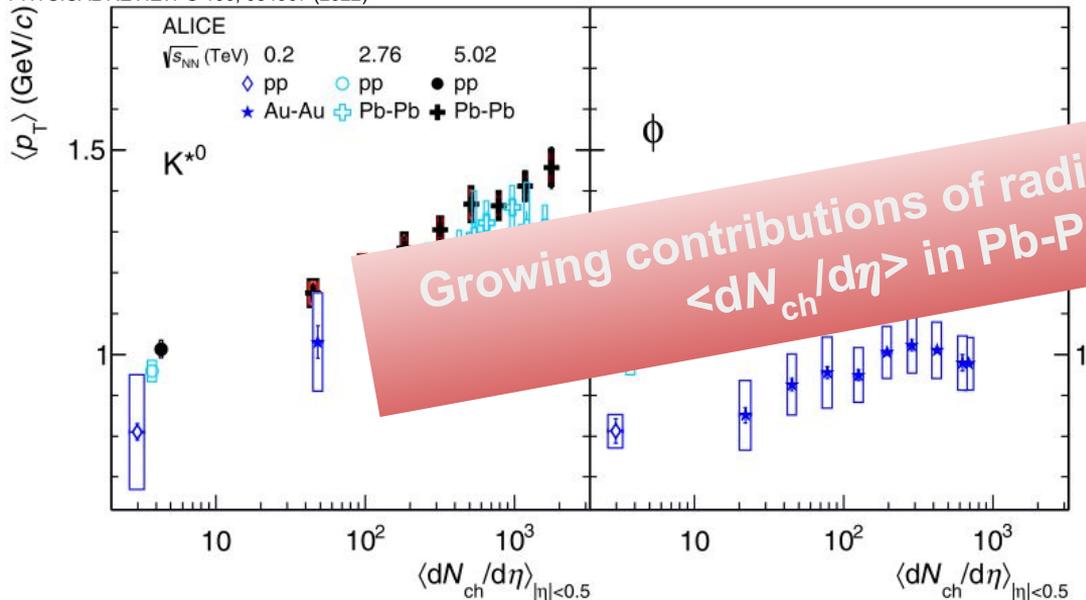
- Steeper increase of  $\langle p_T \rangle$  with charged particle multiplicity for **heavier particles** (radial flow)
- **Breaking of mass ordering** for less central collisions  $\langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle < 300$

# Mean $p_T$ $K^*(892)$ and $\phi(1020)$



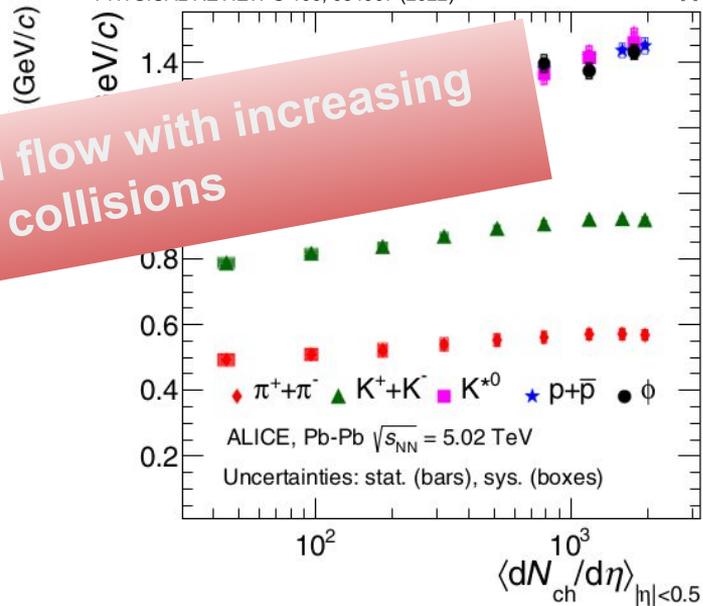
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Growing contributions of radial flow with increasing  $\langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle$  in Pb-Pb collisions

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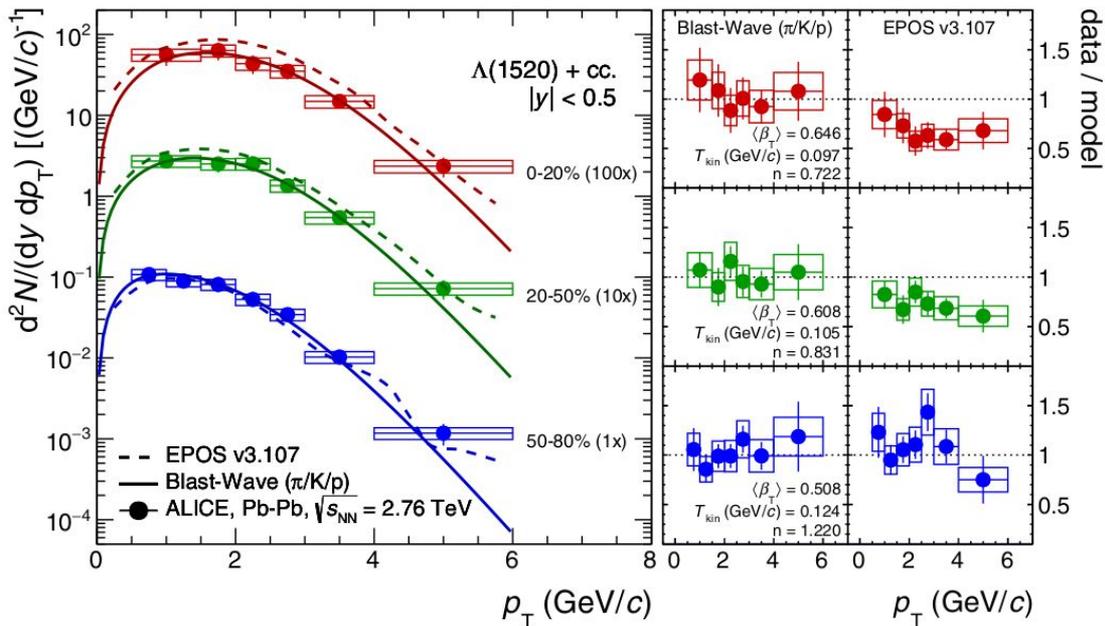
- Increasing  $\langle p_T \rangle$  with charged particle multiplicity and collision energy
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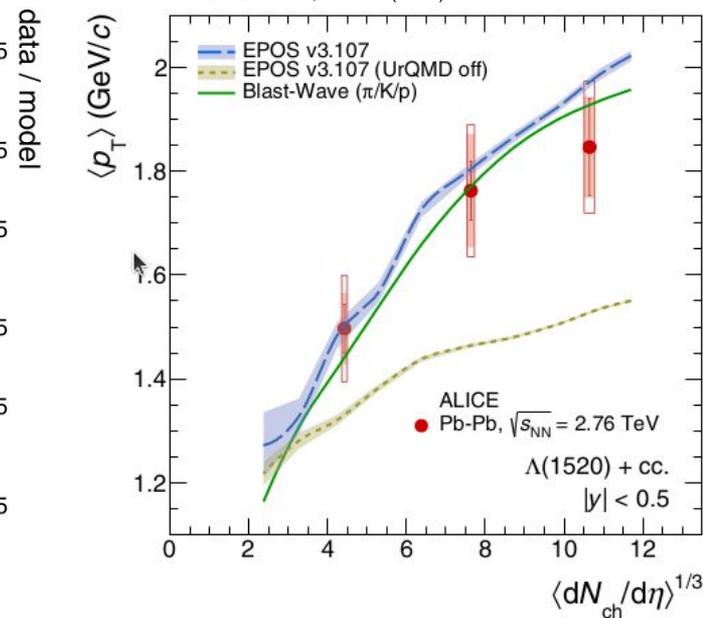
# Spectral shapes and mean $p_T$ $\Lambda(1520)$ in Pb-Pb



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## Blast-Wave model

- Reproduces spectral shapes
- Hydrodynamic evolution with increasing  $\langle \beta_T \rangle$  towards central collisions

## EPOS v3.107 (with UrQMD)

- Reproduces spectral shapes qualitatively
- Overestimates yield in **central** and **semi-central** collisions

## Increasing $\langle p_T \rangle$ with system size (and centrality)

### Blast-Wave model

- In agreement with measurements

### EPOS v3.107 (with UrQMD)

- Describes evolution within uncertainties

### EPOS v3.107 (without UrQMD)

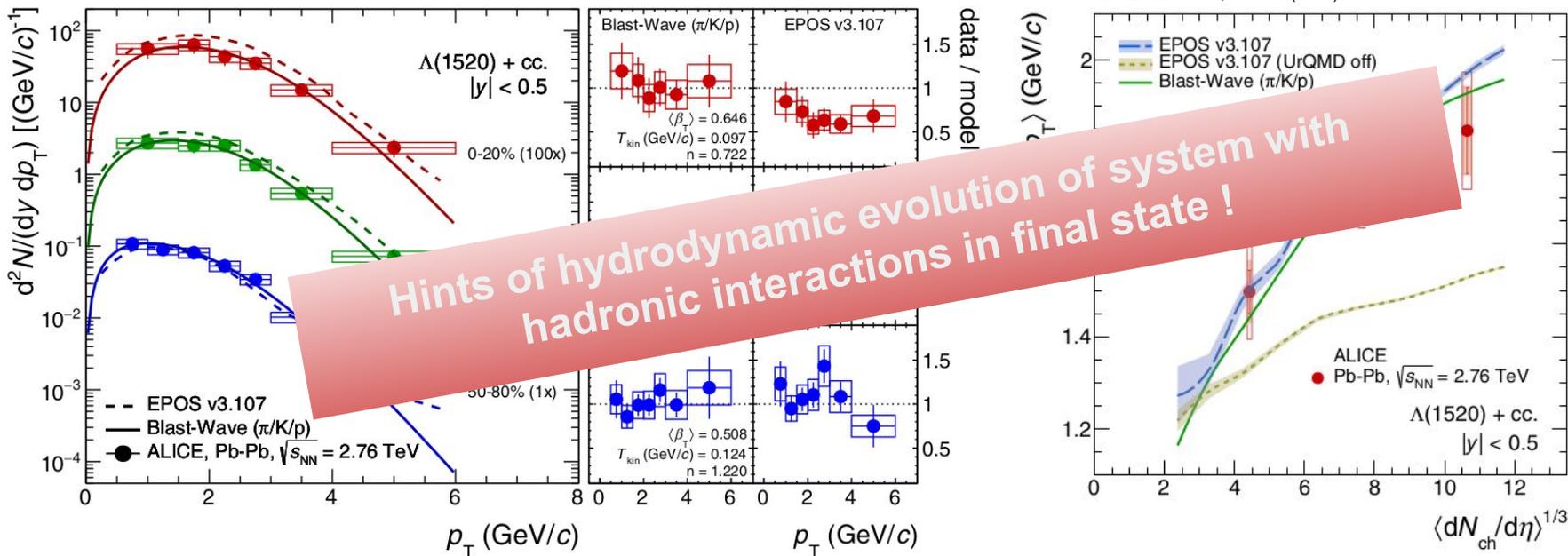
- Fails to approximate the data !

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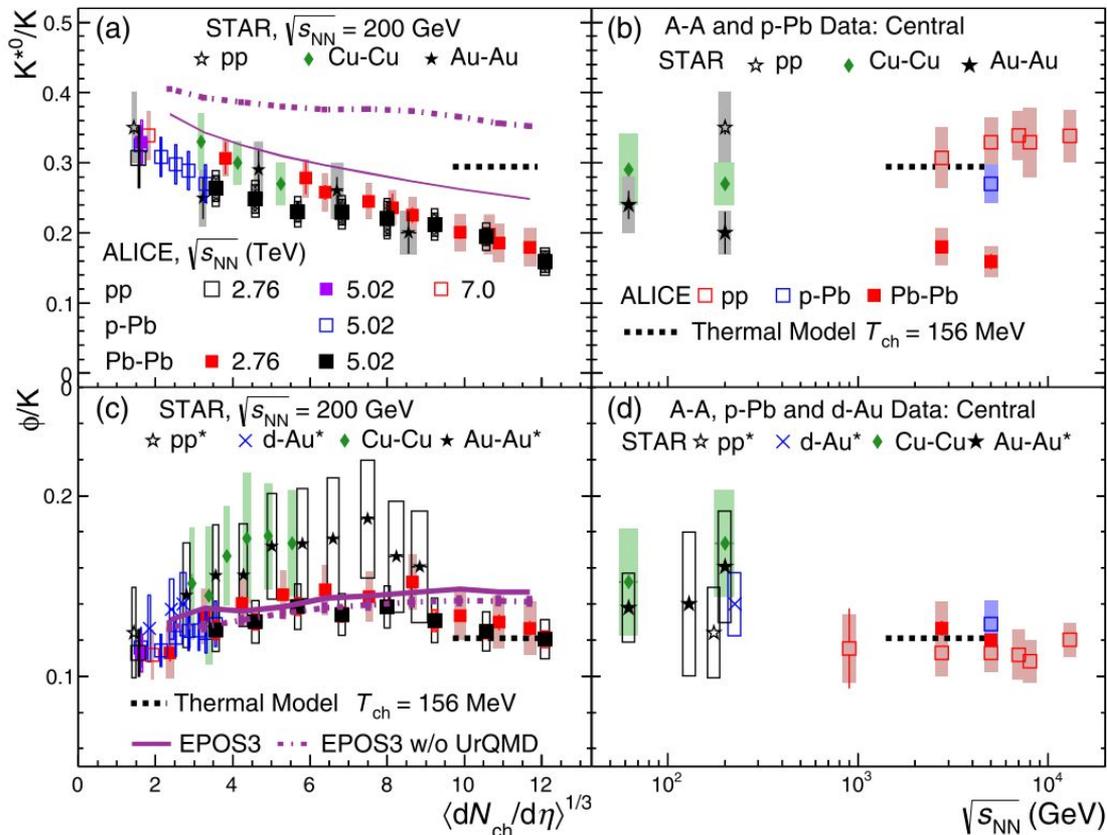
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# Ratios to stable particles ( $\phi$ , $K$ )

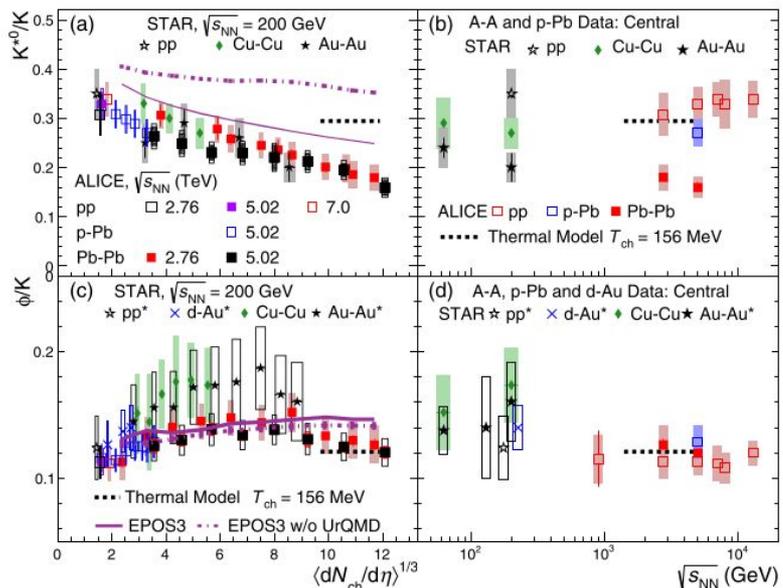
PHYSICAL REVIEW C 106, 034907 (2022)



- $K^{*0}/K$  larger for pp wrt. Pb-Pb, Au-Au
- $K^{*0}/K$  suppression (for larger system size)
- $\phi(1020)/K$  approximately constant as function of system size
- - **Thermal model**
  - $K$  ratio overestimated in central Pb-Pb collisions
  - $\phi$  ratio in good agreement
  - Fair description of energy dependence for both ratios
- - **EPOS3** (without UrQMD)
  - **Fails to reproduce  $K^{*0}/K$  suppression**
- — **EPOS3** (with UrQMD)
  - **Good description for the trends of both ratio !**

# Ratios to stable particles ( $\phi$ , $K$ , $\Lambda$ )

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-  $K^{*0}/K$  suppression (for larger system size)

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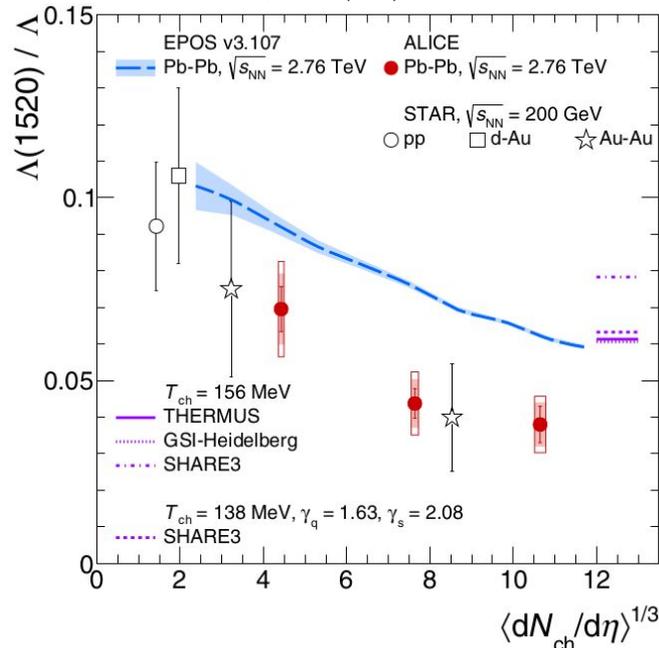
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-  $\Lambda(1520)/\Lambda$  suppression (for larger system size)

**Thermal models**

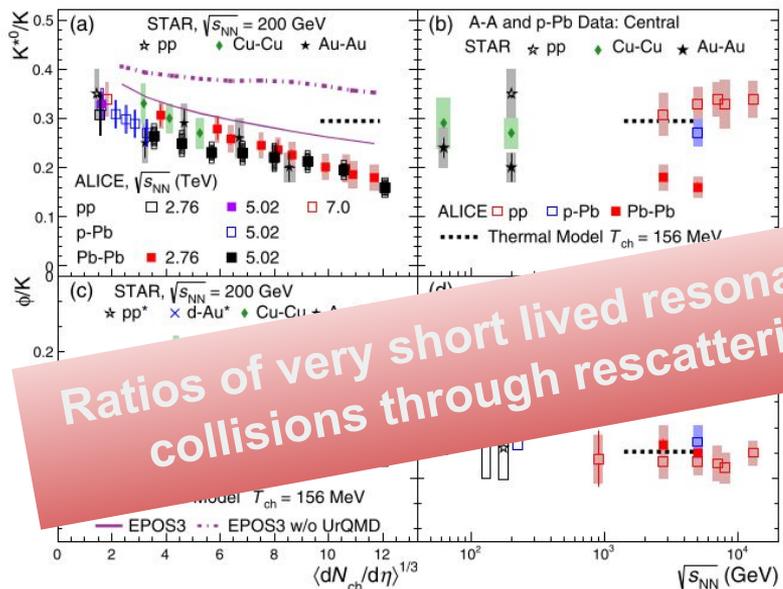
- Poor approximation of ratio

**EPOS3 (with UrQMD)**

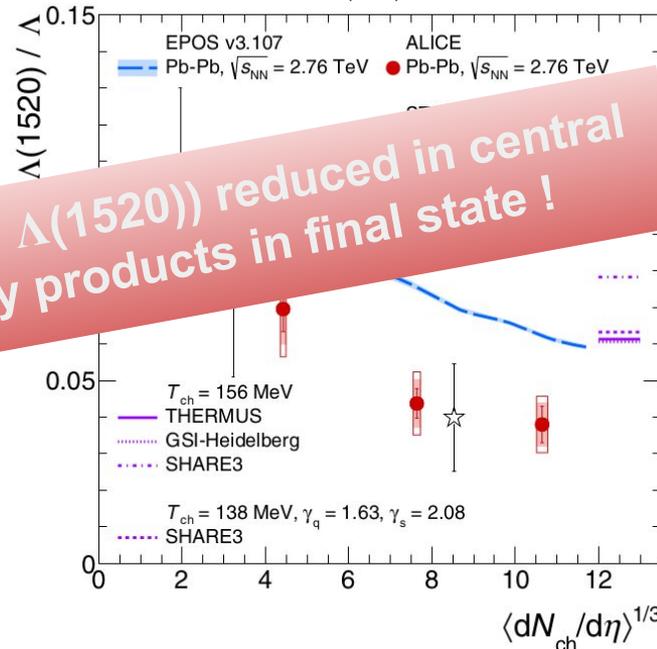
- Fair description of evolution with system size
- Overestimated yields

# Ratios to stable particles ( $\phi$ , $K$ , $\Lambda$ )

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Ratios of very short lived resonances ( $K^{*0}$ ,  $\Lambda(1520)$ ) reduced in central collisions through rescattering of decay products in final state!

- $K^{*0}/K$  suppression (for larger system size)
- - - Thermal model fair description of energy dependence
  - $K$  ratio overestimated in central Pb-Pb
  - $\phi$  ratio in good agreement
- - - EPOS3 (without UrQMD)
  - Fails to reproduce  $K^{*0}/K$  suppression
- EPOS3 (with UrQMD)
  - GOOD approximation for the trends of both ratio!

- $\Lambda(1520)/\Lambda$  suppression (for larger system size)
- Thermal models
  - Poor approximation of ratio
- EPOS3 (with UrQMD)
  - Fair description of evolution with system size
  - Overestimated yields

# Summary...



- ★ **Resonance production is driven by the event multiplicity**, independent of the collision energy
  - Growing contributions of radial flow with increasing  $\langle dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta \rangle$  in Pb-Pb collisions
  - Ratios of very short lived resonances ( $\mathbf{K}^{*0}$ ,  $\Lambda(1520)$ ) suppressed in central collisions
  - Rescattering is a dominant effect for short-lived resonances at low momenta
- ★ **Presented models fail to predict the resonance production** over the full  $p_T$  range
  - Multiple indications of importance of hadronic interactions in the final state for the system created in heavy-ion collisions

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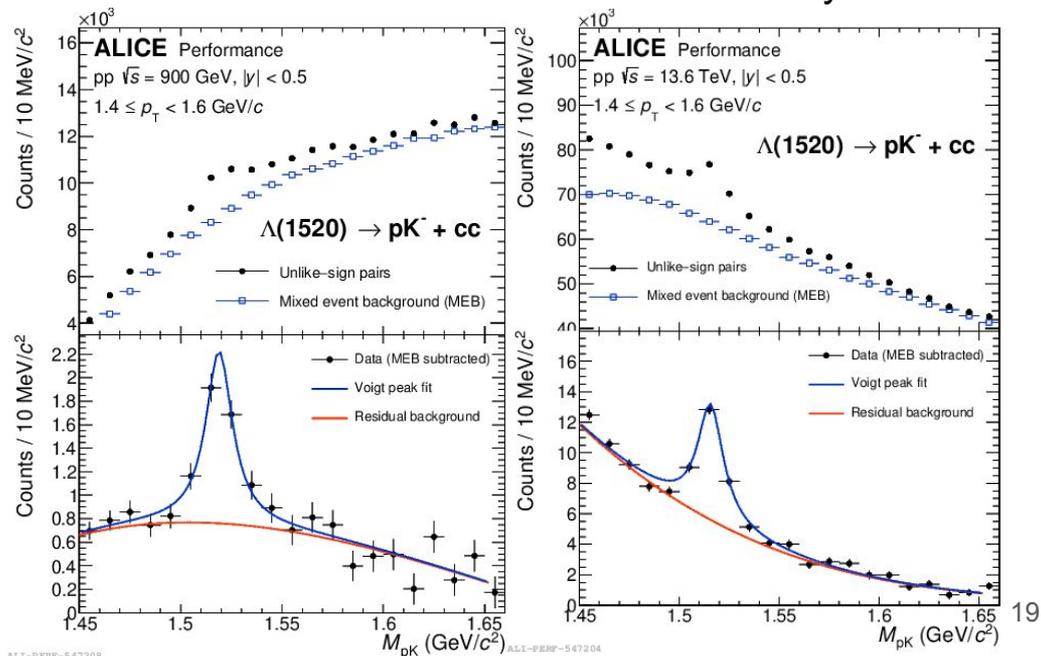
★ **Presented models fail to predict the resonance production** over the full  $p_T$  range

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## ...and Outlook

★ **Run3 studies of hadronic resonances**

- Increased statistics wrt. run2
- pp analysis at different collision energies





**Thank you !**

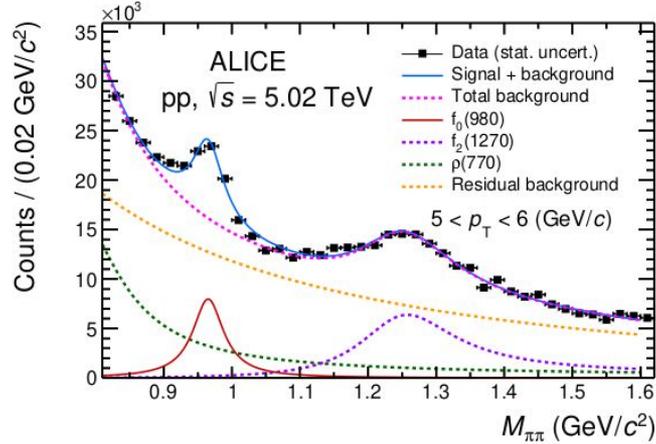
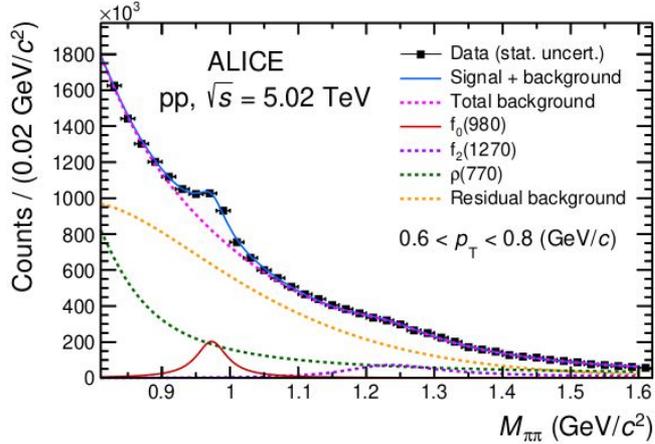
**Backup**

**...**

**some more details and model summaries**

# Resonance reconstruction $f_0(980)$

arXiv:2206.06216v1 [nucl-ex] 13 Jun 2022



Like-sign method: rejection of combinatorial background from uncorrelated hadrons

- combining like-sign pion pairs from same event for like-sign invariant mass distribution as geometric mean of positive and negative pair distributions:  $2\sqrt{(N^{++} N^{-})}$

Global Fit: width of (additional) signal(s) fixed to  $\text{GeV}$ , masses and background parameter free !

**Signal  $f_0 \rightarrow \pi\pi$** : Sum of three Breit-Wigner functions

**Residual background**  $\sim$  Maxwell-Boltzmann

Corrections of raw yields: PYTHIA8 MC simulations and GEANT3 for transport

- pp: detector acceptance, reconstruction efficiency, trigger efficiency, vertex reconstruction, signal loss

# Model summaries for $K^*(892)$ and $\phi(1020)$

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## PYTHIA tunes

- hadronization of light and heavy quarks through Lund string fragmentation model

### Perugia tune of PYTHIA6

- revised set of fragmentation and flavor parameters for Tevatron; extrapolated to LHC data
- takes minimum bias and underlying events from LHC at 0.9 TeV and 7TeV into account

### PYTHIA8 Monash 2013 (updated set of hadronization parameters wrt. PYTHIA6)

- independent string fragmentation
- good description for mesons, but poor for baryon yields at LHC

### Rope Hadronization PYTHIA8

- no independent string fragmentation
- overlap of strings to form ropes in high multiplicity area
- large, dense collisions systems form color ropes that hadronize with larger string tension to enhance strangeness production with increasing multiplicity

## EPOS-LHC

- build on parton-based Gribov Regge Theory
- implements a type of radial flow for pp collisions where a very dense system is created in a small volume
- utilizes color exchange mechanism of string excitation and is tuned to LHC data

### 'Core':

High string or parton density that allow to create the QGP

Increasing strangeness production with multiplicity

### 'Corona':

Dilute region around core where fragmentation occurs as in the vacuum case

## HERWIG

- includes coherent parton showers from initial and final state QCD radiation
- eikonal multiple parton-parton interactions model for underlying event
- cluster hadronization model for formation of hadrons from quarks and gluons produced in parton shower

## Thermal model

(SHM with  $\mu_B \sim 0$  at  $T_{ch} = 156$  MeV)

## EPOS3 (w/o UrQMD)

- based on 3+1D viscous hydrodynamic evolution
- initial stage treated via multiple scattering approach based on pomerons and strings
- reaction volume is split into 'core'- and 'corona'-region
- hadrons from both regions fed into UrQMD where chemical and kinetic freeze-out occur (hadronic interactions are included in this approach)

### 'Core':

Dense region with initial conditions for QGP evolution

### 'Corona':

Dilute region composed of hadrons from string decays

# Model summaries for $\Lambda(1520)$

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 99, 024905 (2019)



## Blast-Wave model

- assumes particle production from thermal source which expands with a common transverse velocity
- parameters extracted from fit to stable counterparts

EPOS v3.107 (with UrQMD), EPOS v3.107 (without UrQMD)

- MC generator that employs parton-based Gribov-Regge theory
- describes full evolution of heavy-ion collisions
- describes expansion of the bulk parton matter through viscous hydrodynamics
- incorporates UrQMD transport model for interactions among particles in the hadronic phase in a microscopic approach

## Thermal models

- SHM variations with ( $\mu_B \sim 0$  at  $T_{ch} = 156$  MeV)

### SHARE3

- configuration without over/undersaturation parameter ( $\mu_B \sim 0$  at  $T_{ch} = 156$  MeV)
- non equilibrium configuration with over/undersaturation parameter ( $\mu_B \sim 0$  at  $T_{ch} = 138$  MeV,  $\gamma_s = 1.63$  and  $\gamma_q = 2.08$ )

# Model summaries for $f_0(980)$

arXiv:2206.06216v1 [nucl-ex] 13 Jun 2022



## Herwig 7.2 (includes $f_0(980)$ generation by default)

- QCG inspired event generator that includes initial and final state QCD radiation
- description of underlying event via eikonal multiple parton-parton interaction model
- cluster hadronization model for formation of hadrons from quarks and gluons produced in the parton shower

## Canonical statistical hadronization model CSM:

- hadrons formed from source in chemical equilibrium ( $\mu_B \sim 0$  at  $T_{ch} = 155$  MeV)
- yields determined by partition function of the canonical ensemble
- multiplicity dependence driven by canonical suppression (exact conservation of baryon number, electrical charge and strangeness over the correlation volume)
- at high multiplicity: strangeness saturation in presence of the QGP

→ **Incomplete equilibrium of strangeness through strangeness saturation factor  $\gamma_s$**

$\gamma_s$ -CSM ( $|S| = 2$ ) double strangeness

$\gamma_s$ -CSM ( $|S| = 0$ ) no strangeness

Best fit to data with  $|S| = 1 - 2$  !

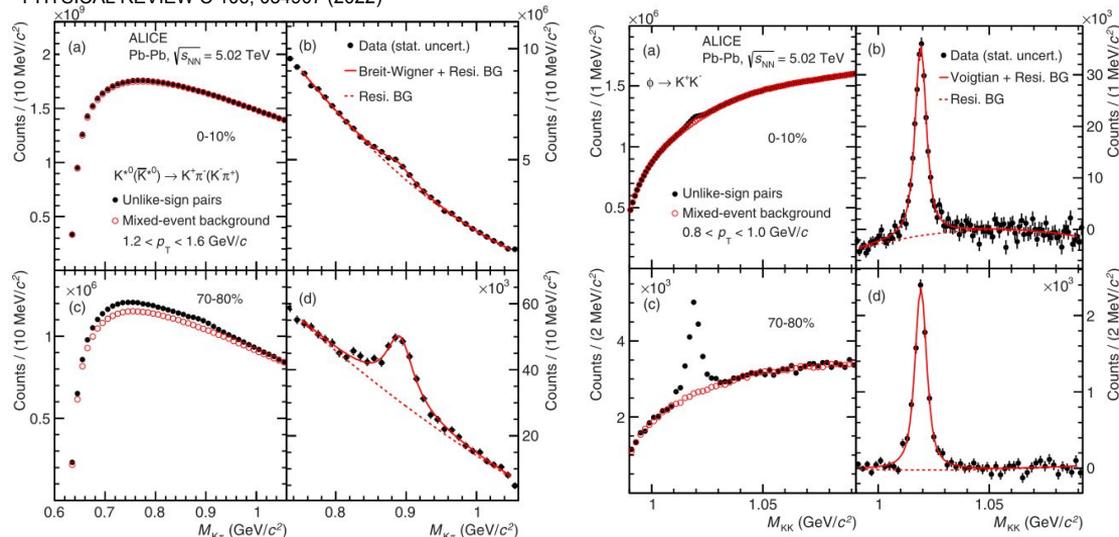
## Coalescence calculations (that use AMPT)

- multiphase transport model coupled with coalescence afterburner with Gaussian Wigner function to generate  $f_0(980)$  in three configurations **AMPT** (ss-meson), **AMPT** (KK-molecule), **AMPT** (uuss-tetraquark)
1. initial conditions from HIJING model
  2. partonic interactions from Zhang's parton cascade model (phase space information to implement quark coalescence with s anti-s and tetra-quark configuration)
  3. conversion to hadronic matter
    - **default AMPT version:** conversion with Lund string fragmentation
    - **string melting:** quark coalescence used to combine partons into hadrons
    - generation of kaon phase-space information which goes into the afterburner for the molecular state
  4. interactions amongst hadrons
    - based on a relativistic transport model (ART)

# Resonance reconstruction $K^*(892)^0$ and $\phi(1020)$



PHYSICAL REVIEW C 106, 034907 (2022)



Mixed-event technique: rejection of combinatorial background from uncorrelated hadrons

- combining unlike-sign pion and K tracks from different events with similar characteristics
- pairs required to have:  $|\Delta v_{tx}| < 1\text{cm}$   $|\Delta n| < 5$
- mixing each event with 5 others to reduce stat. uncertainties
- normalization in region outside of mass peak

Global Fit: width of signals fixed to bev., sigma (detector resolution) and background parameter free !

**Signal  $\phi \rightarrow KK$** : convolution of non. rel. Breit-Wigner function with Gaussian detector resolution

**Signal  $K^* \rightarrow \pi\pi$** : Breit-Wigner function

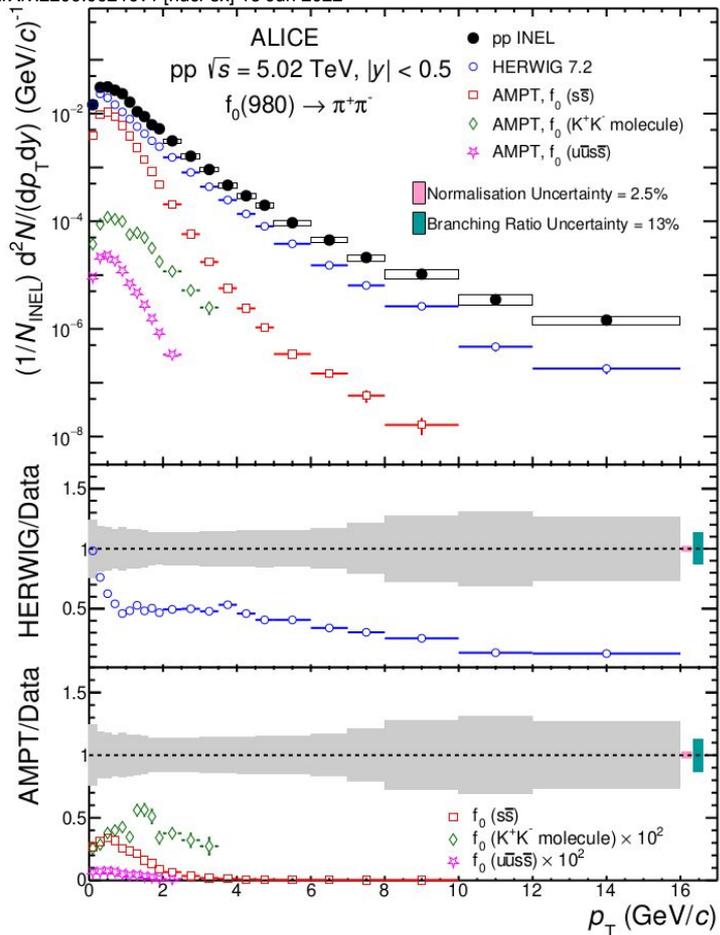
**Residual background** Second order polynomial (correlated pairs from real resonance decays where daughters are misidentified as K or pi)

Corrections of raw yields: HIJING (PbPb) and PYTHIA Monash2013 (pp) MC simulations and GEANT for transport

- pp: detector acceptance, reconstruction efficiency, trigger efficiency, vertex selection, decay branching fraction (signal loss)
- Pb-Pb: detector acceptance, reconstruction efficiency

# Studying the quark composition of $f_0(980)$

arXiv:2206.06216v1 [nucl-ex] 13 Jun 2022



**Herwig 7.2** (includes  $f_0(980)$  by default)

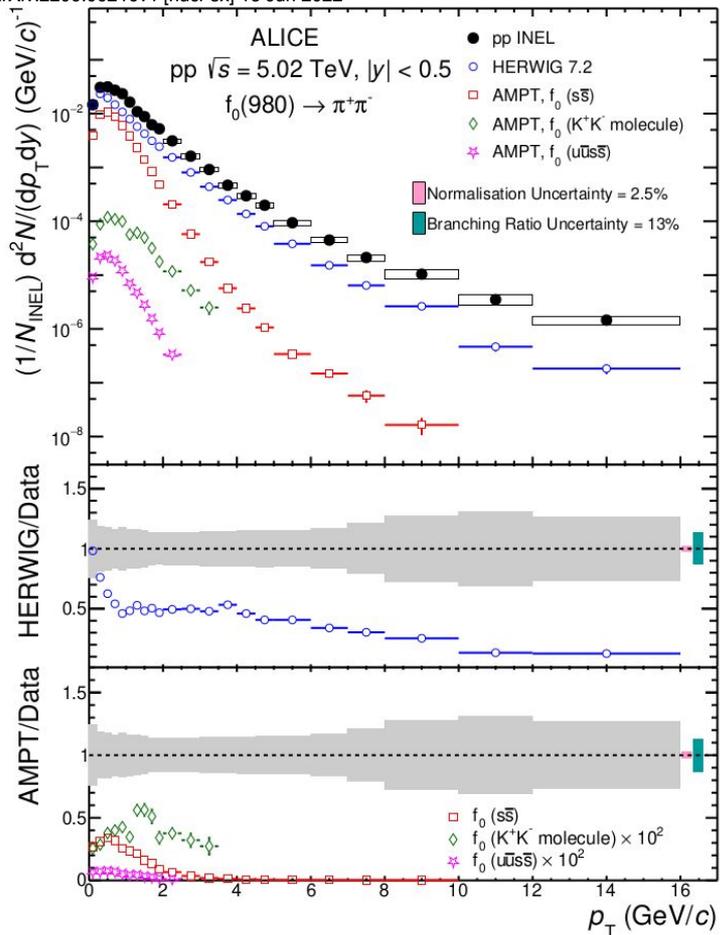
- reproduces spectral shape for  $p_T < 3$  GeV/c
- underestimates the data by a factor of 2 (and more)

**AMPT** ( $s\bar{s}$ -meson), **AMPT** ( $KK$ -molecule), **AMPT** ( $u\bar{u}s\bar{s}$ -tetraquark)

- spectral shapes too steep
- underestimate the data by a factor  $> 2$  (ratios rescaled !)

# $f_0(980)$ How strange can it be ?

arXiv:2206.06216v1 [nucl-ex] 13 Jun 2022

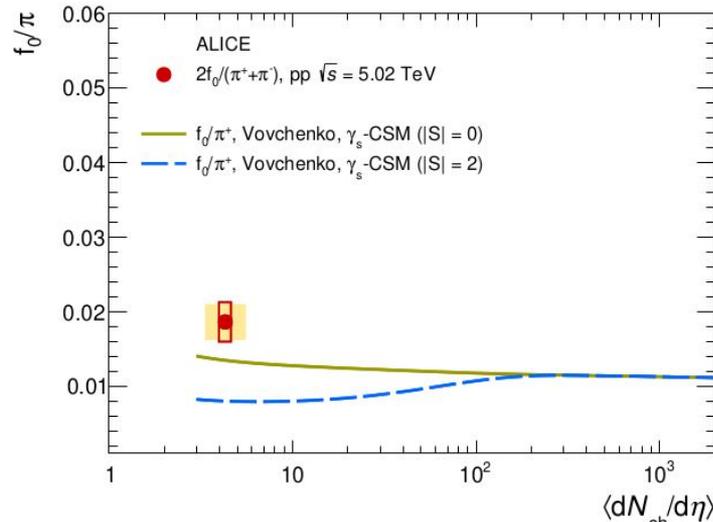


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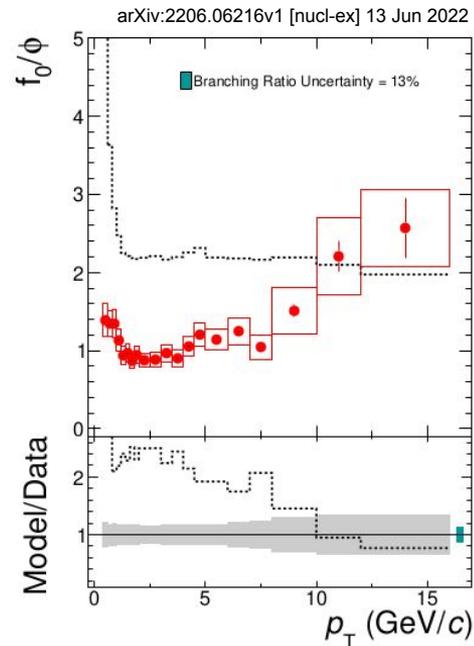
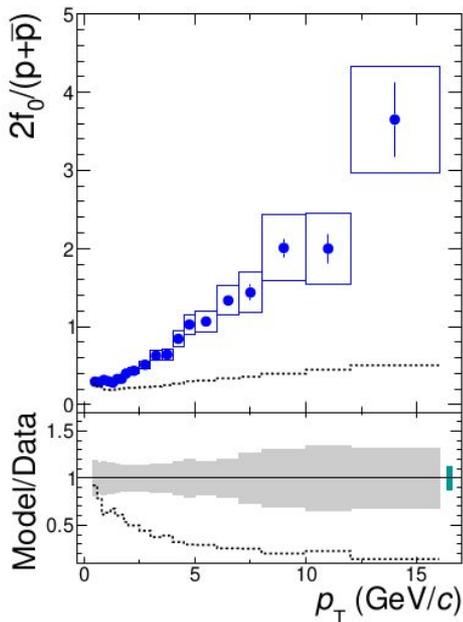
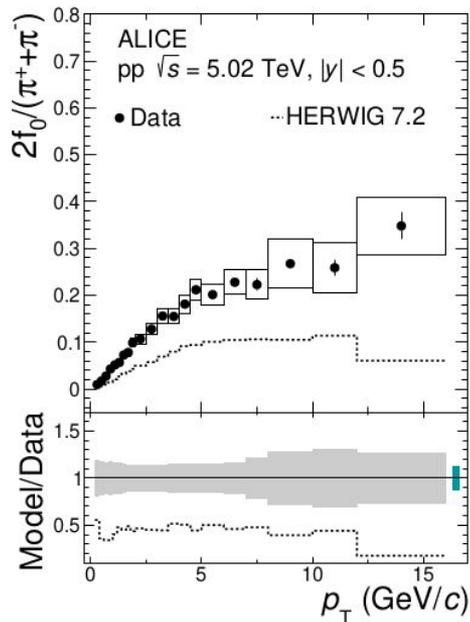
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$\gamma_s$ -CSM both configurations converge at grand canonical limit

- $\gamma_s$ -CSM ( $|\mathcal{S}| = 0$ ) favored at low charged particle multiplicity

# $f_0(980)$ How strange can it be ?



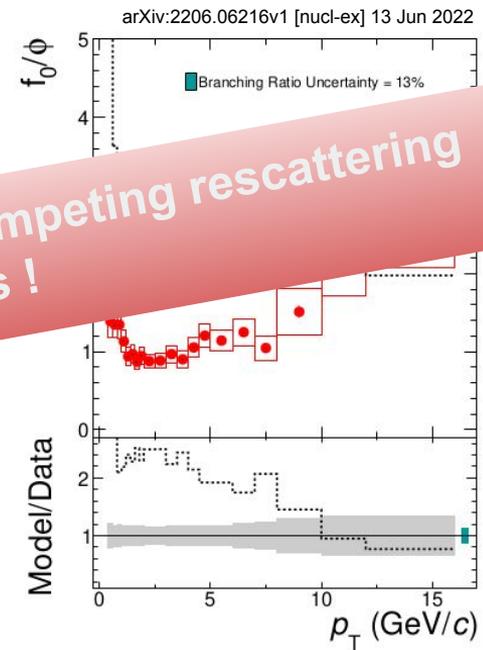
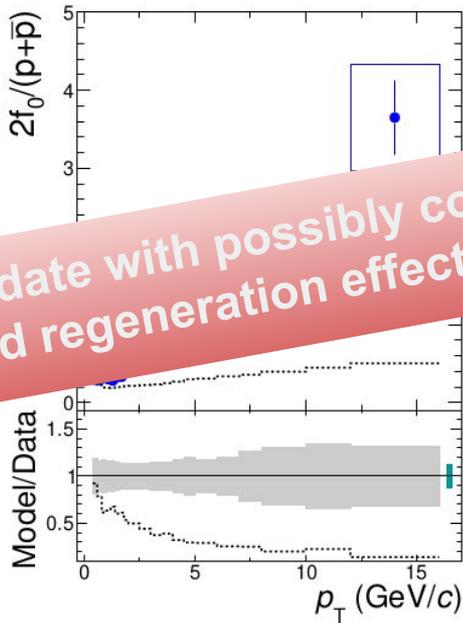
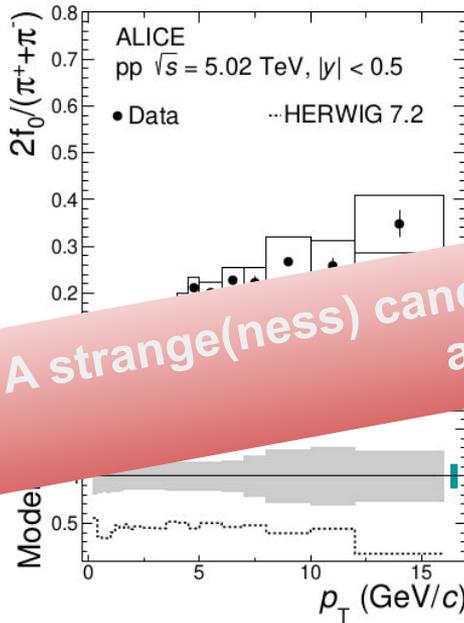
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- shape **well** reproduced by HERWIG
- increasing trend as function of  $p_T$  with saturation above 5 GeV/c
- suppressed ratio at low  $p_T$  hints at **rescattering effects**

## Yield ratios to particles of similar masses ( $p$ , $\phi$ )

- **proton ratio** increase as function of  $p_T$  is **not** reproduced by HERWIG
- **phi ratio** is **qualitatively** reproduced by HERWIG
- ppectral shapes rather determined by **strangeness content** than mass of the reference particle

# $f_0(980)$ How strange can it be ?



A strange(ness) candidate with possibly competing rescattering and regeneration effects !

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