

# New Systematics for Open Charm Production in High Energy Collisions

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- Modelling equation of state of hadronic phase  
From S-matrix Hadron Resonance Gas  
=> LQCD EoS  $\Leftrightarrow$  Particle Yields at LHC
- Charm hadron production probing QCD phase boundary (SHMc)
- Emergence of New Systematics for Open Charm Production in High Energy Collisions

Joint work with: A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel, et. al.

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]

N. Sharma, Pok Man Lo, & K.R. Phys. Rev. C107 (2023)

P. Braun-Munzinger, B. Friman, A. Rustamov, J. Stachel & K.R. Nucl. Phys. A 1008 (2021)

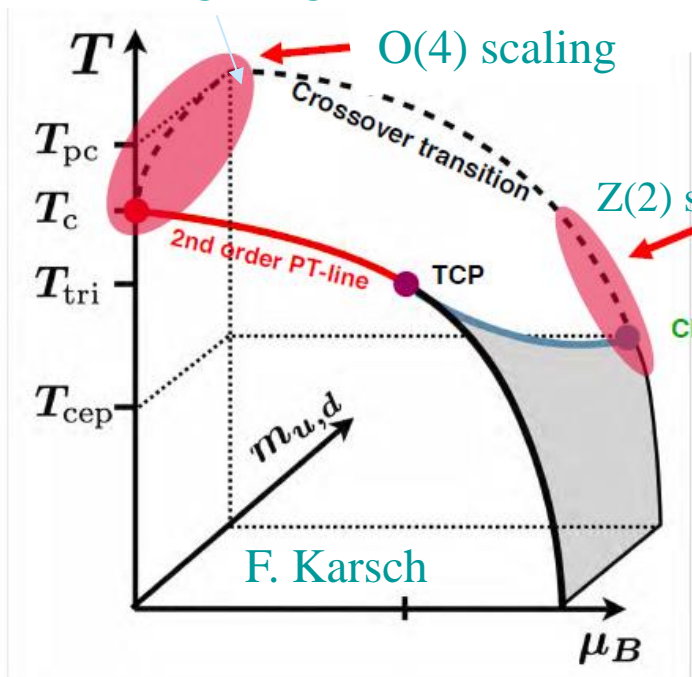
J. Cleymans, Pok Man Lo, N. Sharma & K.R. Phys. Rev. C103 (2021)

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, Pok Man Lo, B. Friman, J. Stachel & K.R. Phys. Lett. B 792 (2019)

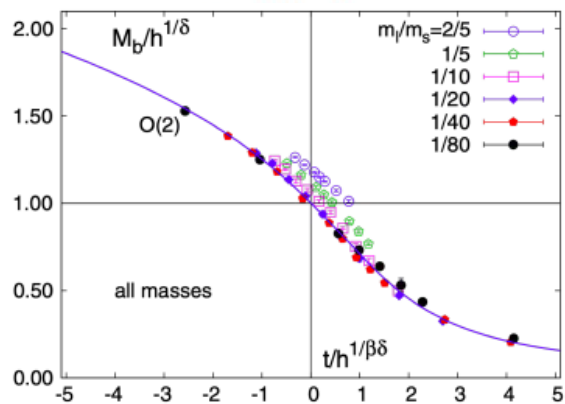
A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Stachel & K.R., Nature 561, 302 (2018)

# Linking LHC AA yields data with LQCD

HIC LHC



F. Karsch



S. Ejiri et al., PRD 80, 094505 (2009)

- Due to expected O(4) scaling of QCD free energy

$$F = F_R(T, \mu_q, \mu_I) + b^{-1} F_S(b^{(2-\alpha)^{-1}} t(\mu), b^{\beta\delta/\nu} h)$$

- Direct delineation of chiral symmetry restoration via higher order cumulants

$$\chi_B^{(n)} = \frac{\partial^n (F/T^4)}{\partial (\mu_B/T)^n} = \frac{1}{VT^3} \kappa_B^{(n)} = \chi_R^{(n)} + \chi_S^{(n)}$$

$$\chi_S^{(n)} \Big|_{\mu=0} \approx h^{(2-\alpha-n)/\beta\delta}$$

$$\chi_S^{(n)} \Big|_{\mu \neq 0} \approx h^{(2-\alpha-n)/\beta\delta}$$

At  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\chi_B^{(n \geq 6)}$  are singular at  $h \rightarrow 0$

At  $\mu \neq 0$ ,  $\chi_B^{(n \geq 3)}$  are singular at  $h \rightarrow 0$

M. A. Stephanov, K. Rajagopal, E. V. Shuryak  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 81 (1998) 4816, Phys.Rev.D 60 (1999) 114028

- CP: 2nd order point - critical fluctuations of net protons.**  
(Hatta, Stephanov PRL 91, 102003 (2003))
- Crossover: exhibits critical fluctuations in scaling regime**  
(Ejiri, Karsch, Redlich, PLB 633, 275 (2006))

M. Asakawa, K. Yazaki Nucl.Phys.A 504 (1989) 668

# Modelling QCD thermodynamic potential in hadronic phase

Pressure of an interacting,  $a+b \Leftrightarrow a+b$ , hadron gas in equilibrium

$$P(T) \approx P_a^{id} + P_b^{id} + P_{ab}^{int}$$

The leading order interactions, determined by the two-body scattering phase shift, which is equivalent to the second virial coefficient

$$P^{int} = \sum_{I,j} \int_{m_{th}}^{\infty} dM B_j^I(M) P^{id}(T, M)$$

$$B_j^I(M) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{d}{dM} \delta_j^I(M)$$

*Effective weight function*

*Scattering phase shift*

- Interactions driven by narrow resonance of mass  $M_R$   
 $B(M) = \delta(M^2 - M_R^2) \Rightarrow P^{int} = P^{id}(T, M_R) \Rightarrow HRG$

For finite and small width of resonance,  $B(M) \Rightarrow$  Breit-Wigner form

- For non-resonance interactions or for broad resonances  $P_{ab}^{int}(T)$  should be linked to the phase shifts

R. Dashen, S. K. Ma and H. J. Bernstein,  
Phys. Rev. 187, 345 (1969)

R. Venugopalan, and M. Prakash,  
Nucl. Phys. A 546 (1992) 718.

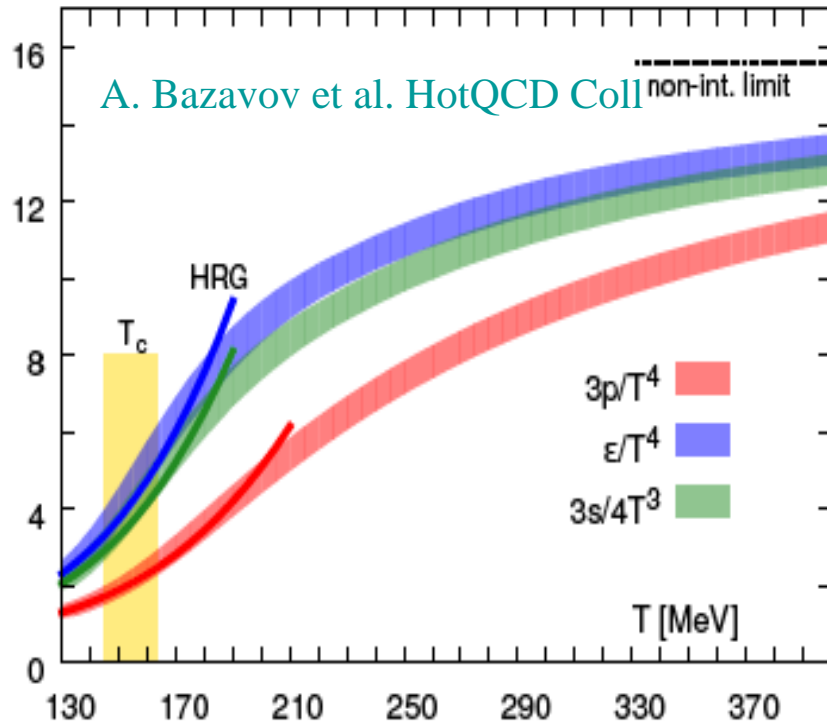
W. Weinhold, and B. Friman,  
Phys. Lett. B 433, 236 (1998).

Pok Man Lo, Eur. Phys.J. C77 (2017) no.8, 533

# Quark-Hadron duality near the QCD phase boundary

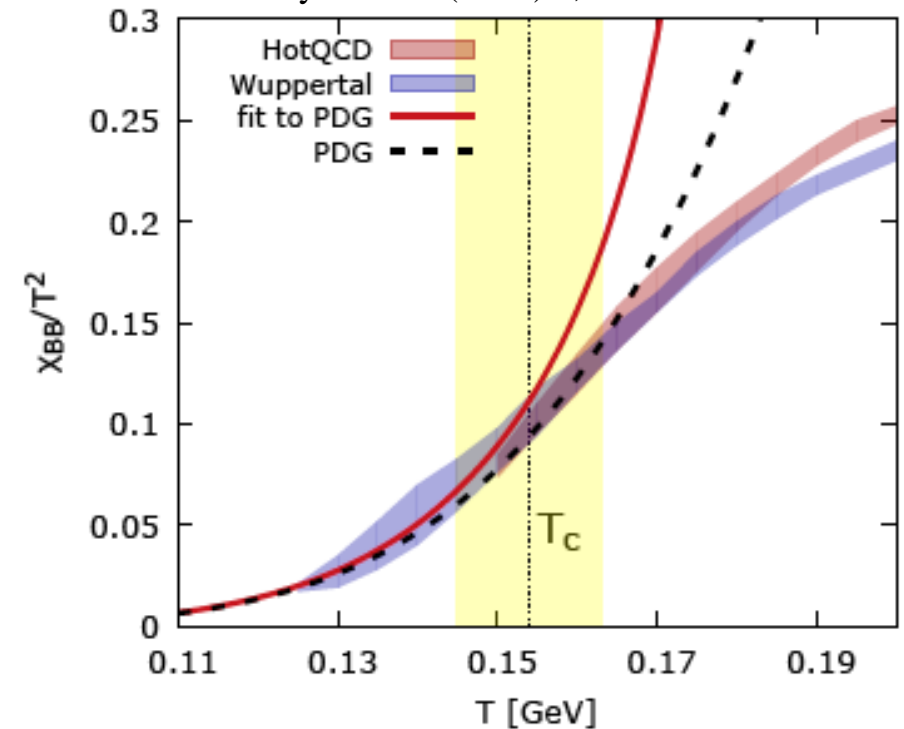
$$P(T, \vec{\mu}) \approx \sum_H P_H^{id} + \sum_R P_R^i$$

$$P_R^i = \pm \frac{T g_i}{2\pi^2} \int p^2 dp \int dM \ln(1 \pm e^{-\beta(E_i - \vec{q}_i \vec{\mu}_i)}) F_R^{BW}(M)$$



J. Goswami, et al., 2011.02812 [hep-lat]  
 R. Bellwied, et al. 2102.06625 [hep-lat]  
 S. Borsányi, et. al 2102.06660 [hep-lat]

Pok Man Lo, M. Marczenko et. al.  
 Eur.Phys.J.A 52 (2016) 8, 235

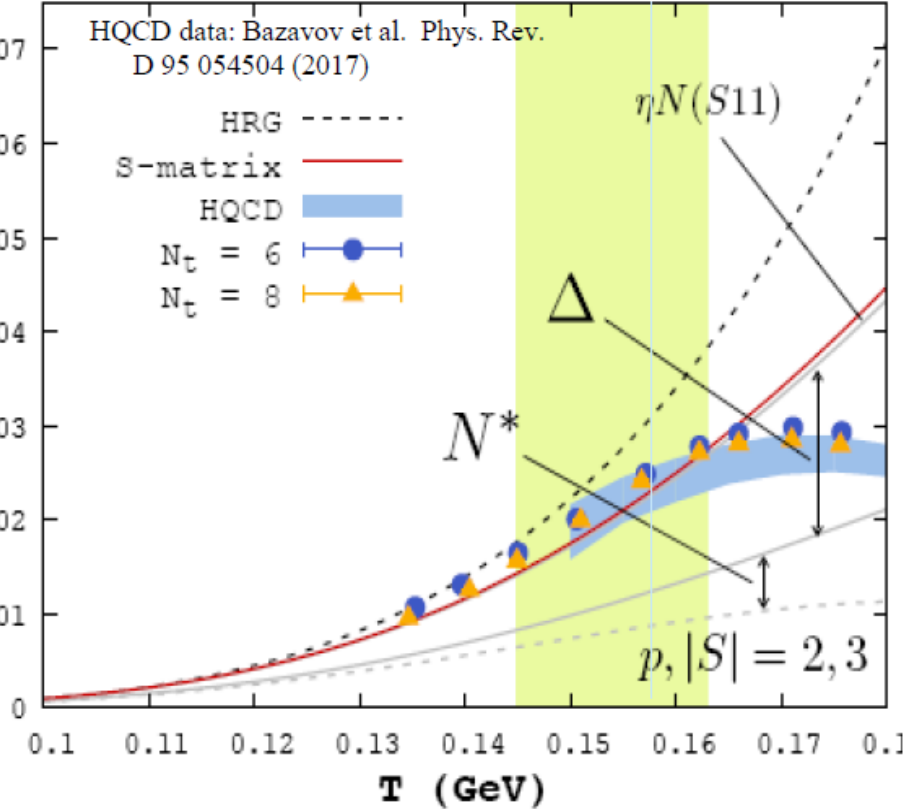


SM Hadron Resonance Gas thermodynamic potential provides good approximation of the QCD equation of states in confined phase

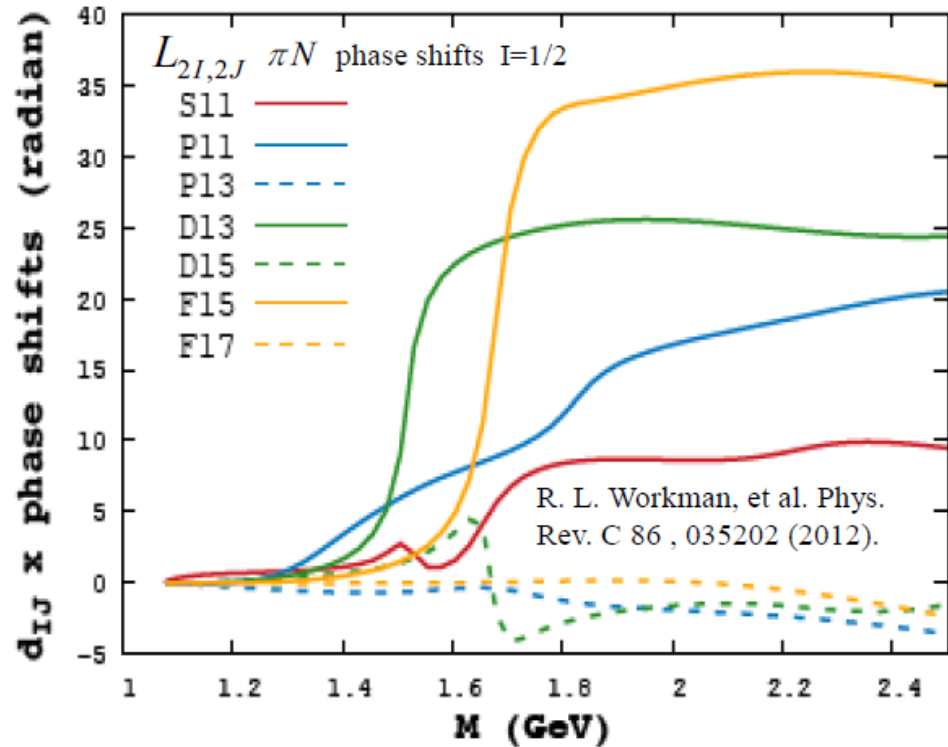
Good description of net-baryon number fluctuations and in further sectors of hadronic quantum number on correlations and fluctuations

# Probing non-strange baryon sector in $\pi N$ - system

Man Lo, B. Friman, C. Sasaki & K.R., Phys.Lett. B778 (2018)



$$\chi_{BQ} = (\chi_{BB} - |\chi_{BS}|) / 2$$

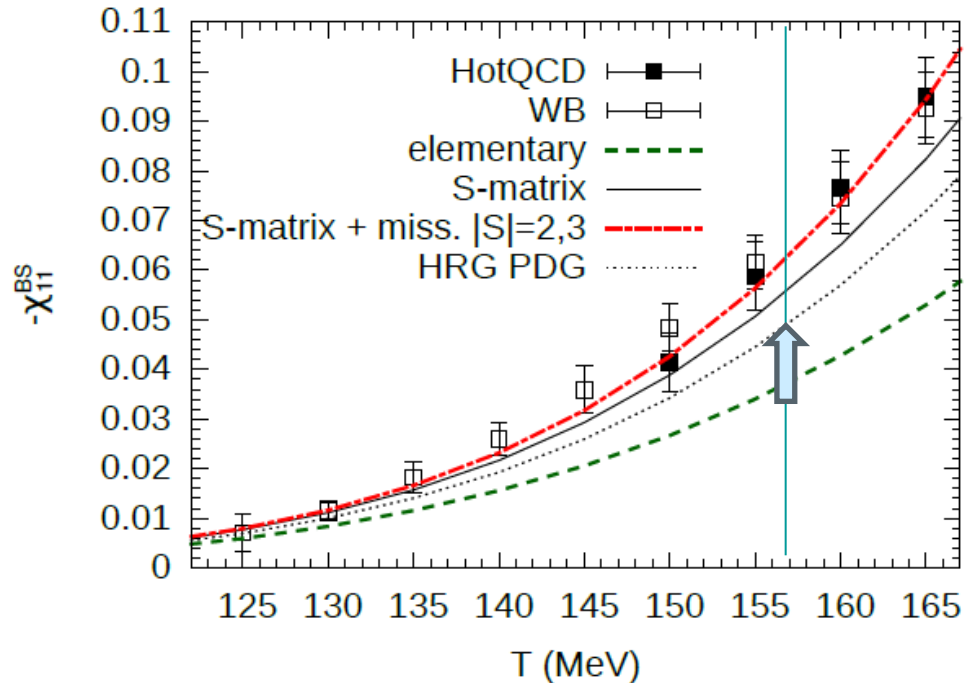


$$\Delta \chi_{BQ} \approx \sum_{I_z, j, B} d_j BQ \int dM \int d^3 p \frac{1}{T} \frac{d\delta_j^I}{dM} \times e^{-\beta \sqrt{p^2 + M^2}} (1 + e^{-\beta \sqrt{p^2 + M^2}})^{-2}$$

- Considering contributions of all  $\pi N$   $\delta_j^{I=(1/2), (3/2)}$  ( $N^*$ ,  $\Delta^*$  resonances) to  $\chi_{BQ}$  within S-matrix approach, reduces the HRG predictions towards the LQCD in the chiral crossover  $0.15 < T < 0.16 \text{ GeV}$

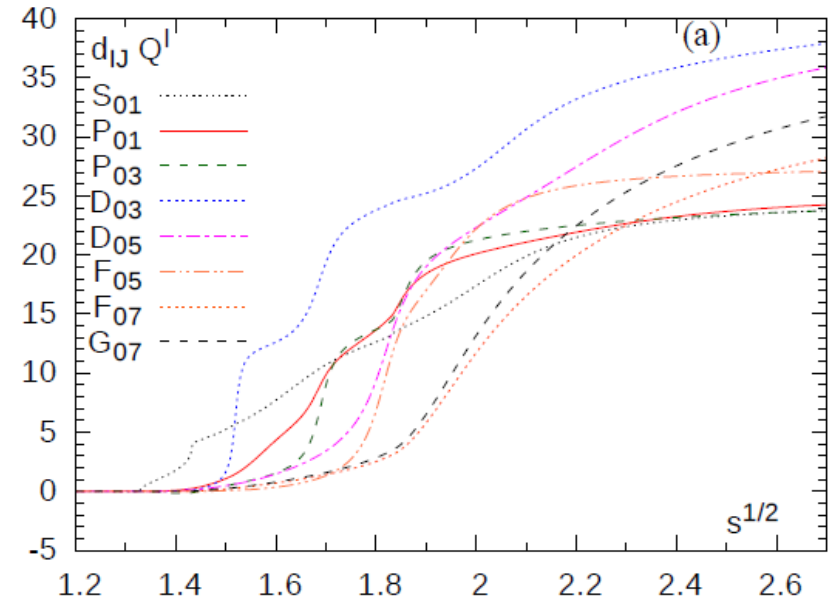
# S-matrix HRG in strange baryon channel and LQCD

Cesar Fernandez-Ramirez, Pok Man Lo,  
and Peter Petreczky PRC 98 (2018)



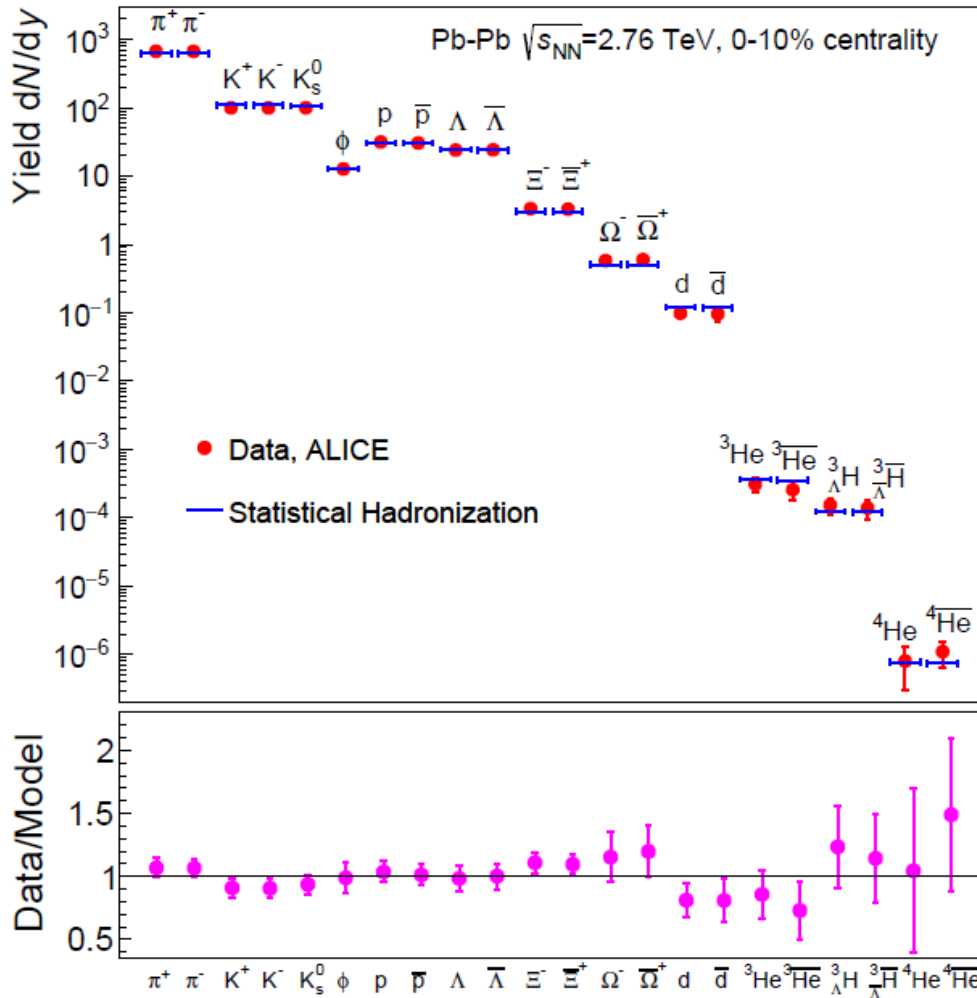
Joint Physics Analysis Center

C. Fernandez-Ramirez, I. V. Danilkin, D. M. Manley,  
V. Mathieu, and A. P. Szczepaniak (2018)



- Employing the coupled-channel study involving  $\bar{K}N$ ,  $\bar{K}^*N$ ,  $\pi\Lambda$ ,  $\pi\Sigma$ , interactions in the  $S = -1$  sector.
- Improvements of model description of LQCD results

# S-matrix HRG and particle yields in Pb-Pb collisions at the LHC



$$P^{regular}(T, \vec{\mu}) \approx \sum_H P_H^{id} + \sum_R P_R^i$$

The S-matrix HRG model formulated in GC ensemble that includes empirical information on pion-nucleon interactions provides a very good description of LHC yields data

- Measured yields reproduced at

$$T = 156.6 \pm 1.7 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\mu = 0.7 \pm 3.8 \text{ MeV}$$

$$V_{\Delta y=1} = 4175 \pm 380 \text{ fm}^3$$

$$\chi^2 / dof = 16.7 / 19$$

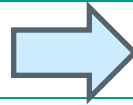
- A fireball in central Pb-Pb collisions is the matter created near the QCD phase boundary

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, Pok Man Lo, B. Friman, J. Stachel & K.R. Phys. Lett. B 792, 304 (2019)

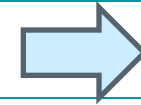
A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Stachel & K.R., Nature 561, 302 (2018)



Synergy between LQCD

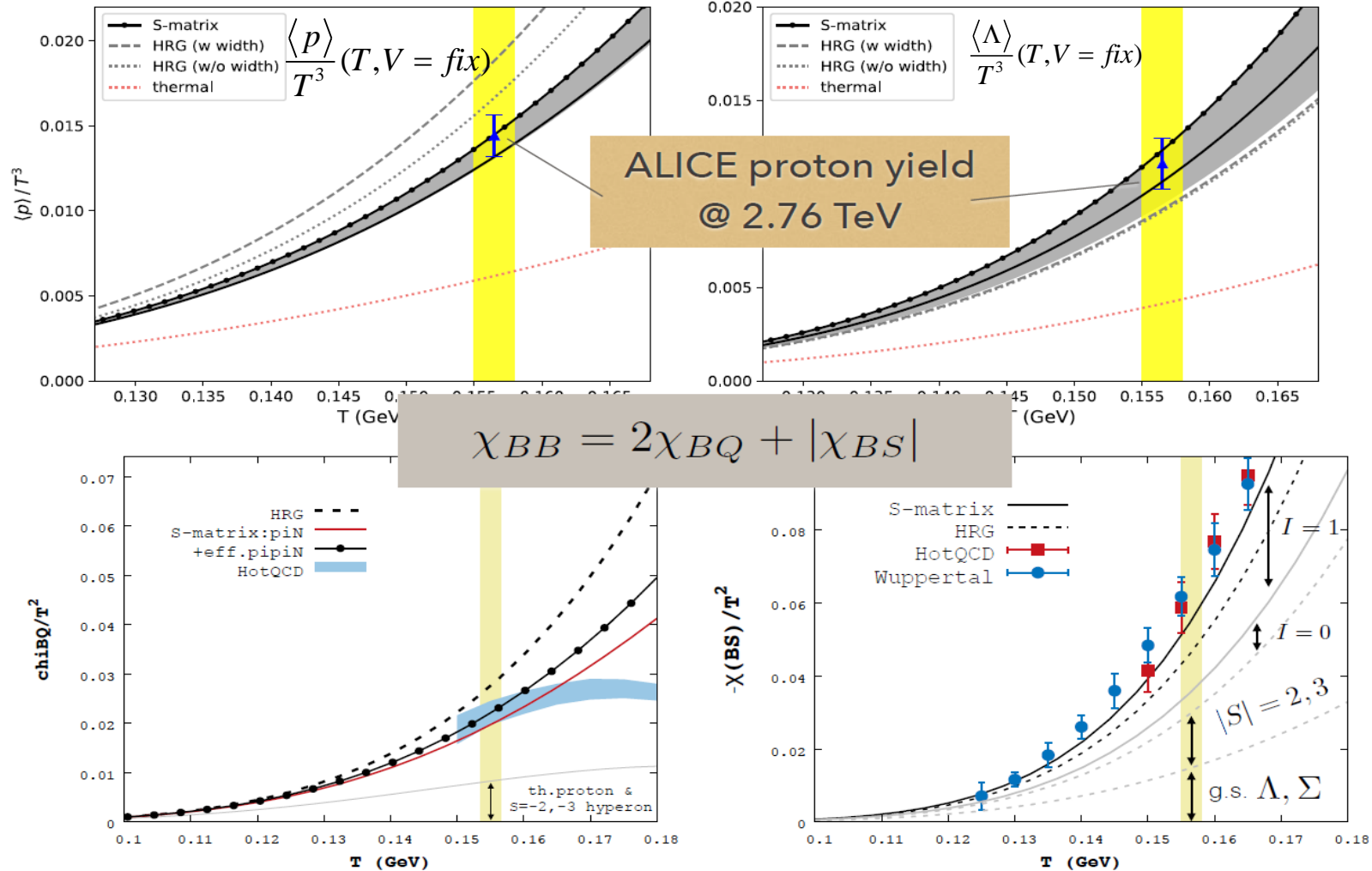


S-matrix HRG



ALICE data

J. Cleymans, Pok Man Lo, N. Sharma & K.R. Phys. Rev. C103 (2021)



S-matrix corrections in thermal model: needed to describe LQCD fluctuations at  $T_c$  and simultaneously proton and Lambda yields in central Pb-Pb collisions.



# The thermal model and Charm particle production

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger,  
J. Stachel & K.R, Nature (2018)

The yield of J/Psi differs by a huge  
factor 900 from model expectation:

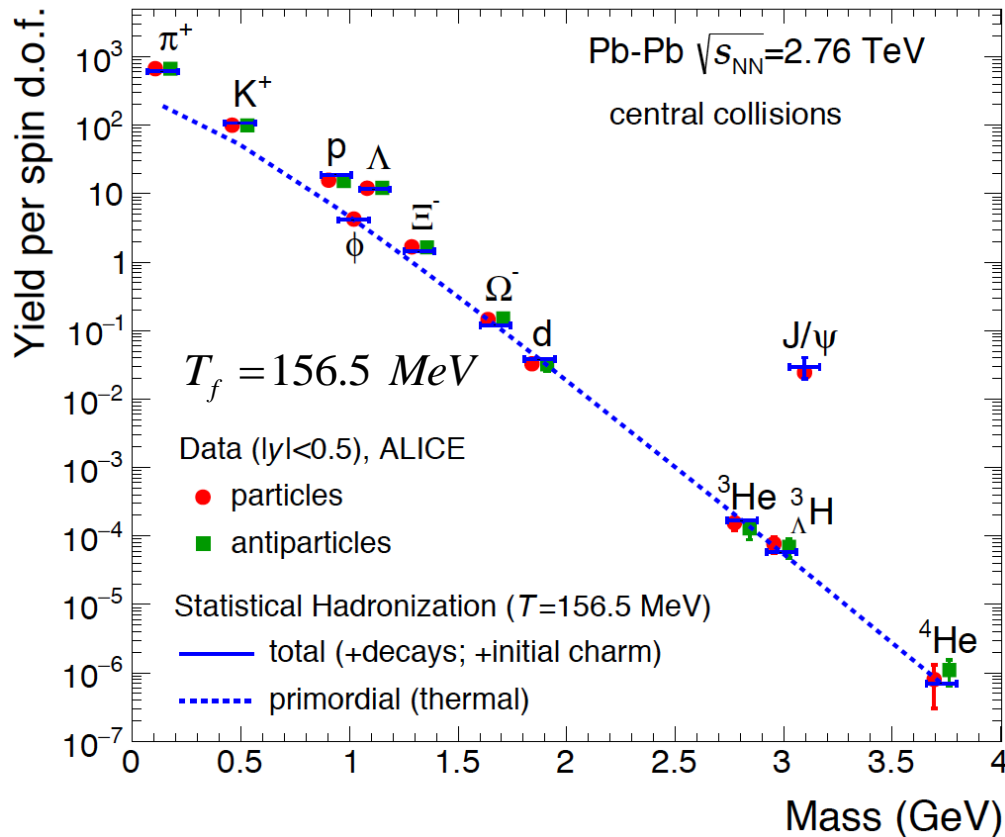
The way out: Statistical Hadronization Model  
of Charm (SHMc) introduced by:

Peter Braun-Munzinger & Johanna Stachel  
Phys. Lett. B490 (2000) 196.

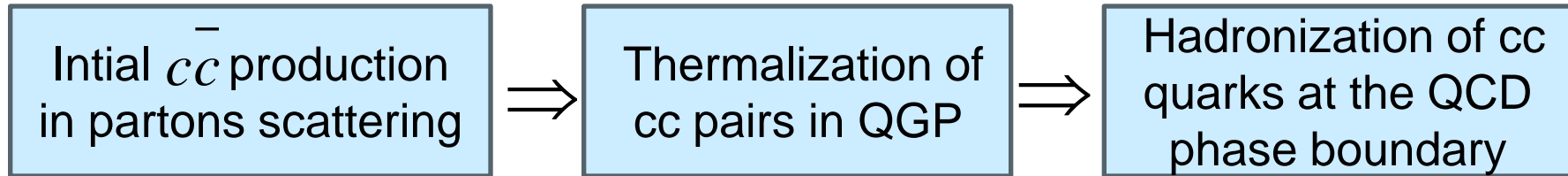
Also applies to b-quark hadrons and bottomonia

See also:

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Stachel & K.R,  
NPA 789 (2007) 334, *Phys.Lett.B* 652 (2007) 259



## SHMc charm statistical hadronization: Yields and Spectra of Open Charmed Hadrons



**Formation of  $c\bar{c}$  pairs** in hard initial scattering on time scale  $t_c \approx 1/2m_c$  with  $m_c = 1.3 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow t = 0.1 \text{ fm}$ : comparable to QGP formation and much shorter than charmed hadron production at few fm/c

**Charm quarks as external source in QGP:** annihilation and production of charm quarks in QGP negligible

**Charm quarks thermalize inside the QGP:** strong evidence through observed elliptic flow and energy loss within  $R_{AA}$

⇒ Justifying application of charm statistical hadronization

- The final number of charm-anticharm quark pairs bound in the produced hadrons is the same as in the initial state

# SHMc: linking initial with final state

- The charm balance equation to preserve  $N_{cc}$  quark pairs

$$2N_{cc} = g_c V \sum_{h_{oc,1}^i} n_i^{th} + g_c^2 V \sum_{h_{oc,2}^i} n_i^{th} + g_c^2 V \sum_{h_{hc}^i} n_i^{th} \quad \text{with } n_i^{th} \simeq d_{i,J} m_i^2 T K_2(m_i / T)$$

obtained from measured  
open charm cross section  
or from QCD+Glauber

thermal charm hadrons

- In general for small  $N$  one needs to include canonical suppression

$$2N_{cc} \simeq \sum_{\alpha=1,2} N_{oc,\alpha} \frac{I_\alpha(N_{oc,1})}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} + N_{hc}$$

defining:

$$N_{oc,1} = V g_c \sum_{h_{oc,1}^i} n_i^{th}$$

$$N_{hc} = V g_c^2 \sum_{h_{hc}^i} n_i^{th}$$

$$N_{oc,2} = V g_c^2 \sum_{h_{oc,2}^i} n_i^{th}$$

- For a given  $N_{cc}$  and knowing  $T, V$  from thermal analysis of light hadron yields:

→ solve the above balance equation to get  $g_c$ , consequently

# Heavy flavor particle yields in SHMc

- The rapidity density of open and hidden charm hadrons in SHMc:

$$\frac{dN_{i,\alpha=1,2}}{dy} = g_c^\alpha V n_i^{th} \frac{I_\alpha(2V g_c \sqrt{n_{c=1}^{tot} n_{c=-1}^{tot}})}{I_0(2V g_c \sqrt{n_{c=1}^{tot} n_{c=-1}^{tot}})}$$

$$\frac{dN_{i,hc}}{dy} = g_c^2 V n_i^{th}$$

Total thermal density of  $c = \pm 1$

$$n_{c=\pm 1}^{tot} = \sum_k n_{k,c=\pm 1}^{th}$$

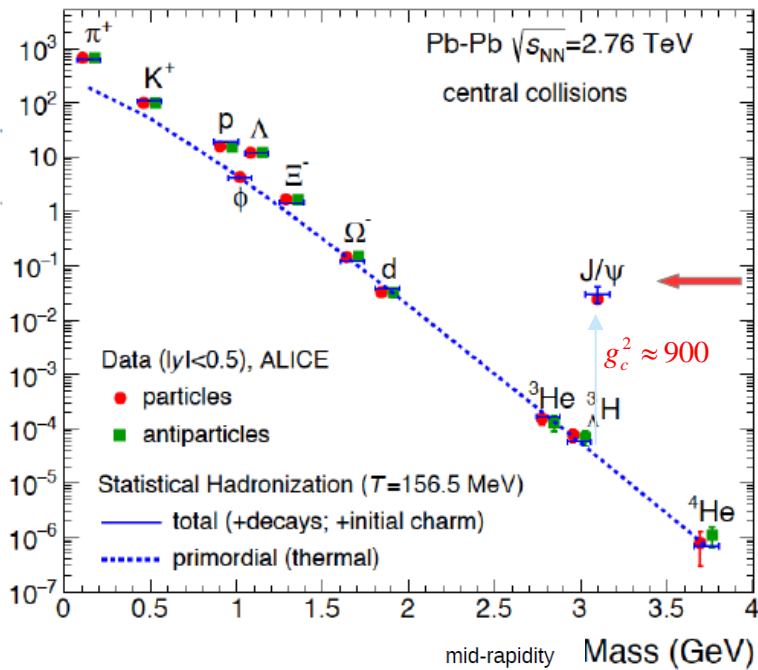
contribution of resonances:

$$n_i^{th} = n_i^{prompt} + \sum_j Br(j \rightarrow i) n_j^r$$

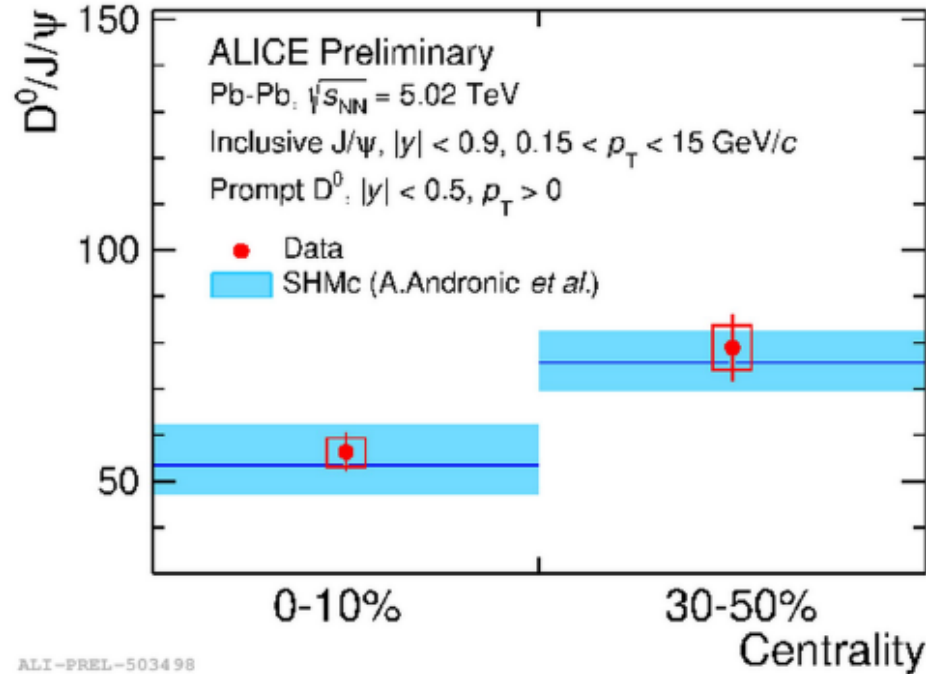
- The essential difference with light particle thermal yields is due to the fugacity factor  $g_c = g_c(N_{cc}, V, T, \bar{\mu})$  which guarantees conservation of  $N_{cc}$  pairs from the initial partonic to the final hadronic state.

# Model comparison with ALICE data

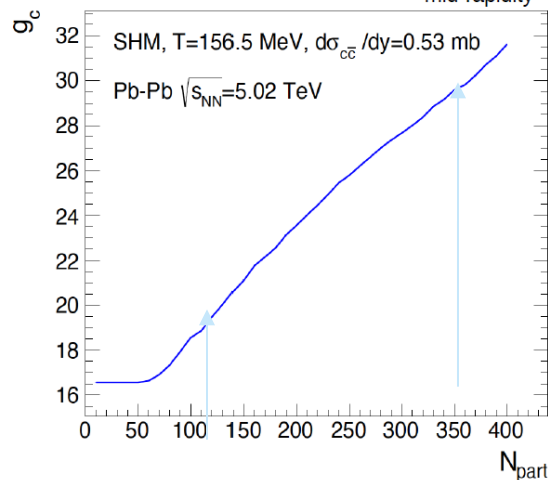
A.Andronic et al., PLB 797 (2019) 134836



arXiv:2303.13361



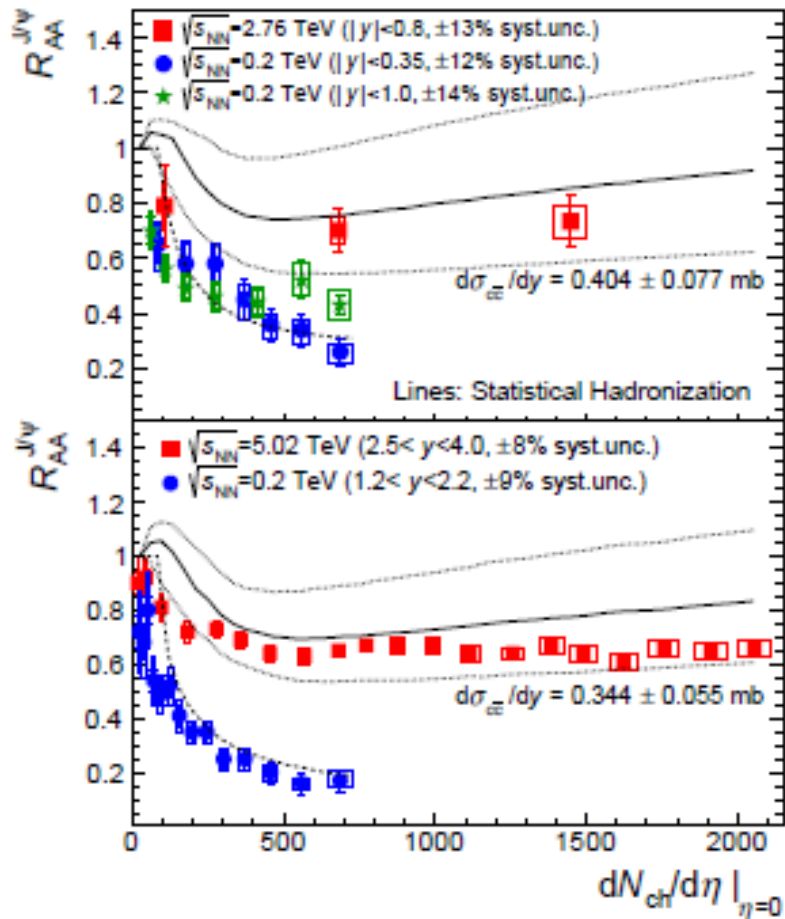
ALI-PREL-503498



- Strong increase of J/Psi yields due to off chemical equilibrium factor  $g_c^2 \approx 900$  in central collisions
- First data on  $D^0 / (J / \psi)$  and centrality dependence well described by SHMc. Increasing ratio towards non central collisions due to decreasing  $g_c$  since:

$$D^0 / (J / \psi) \sim f(T)(I_1 / I_0) g_c^{-1}$$

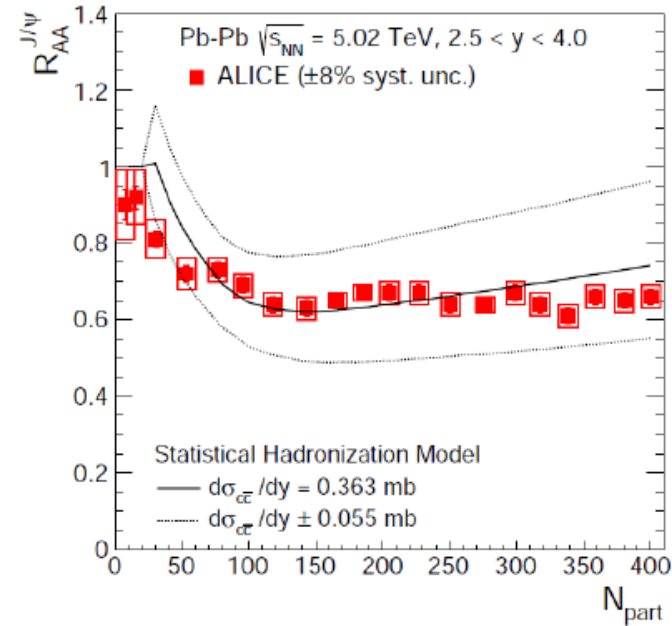
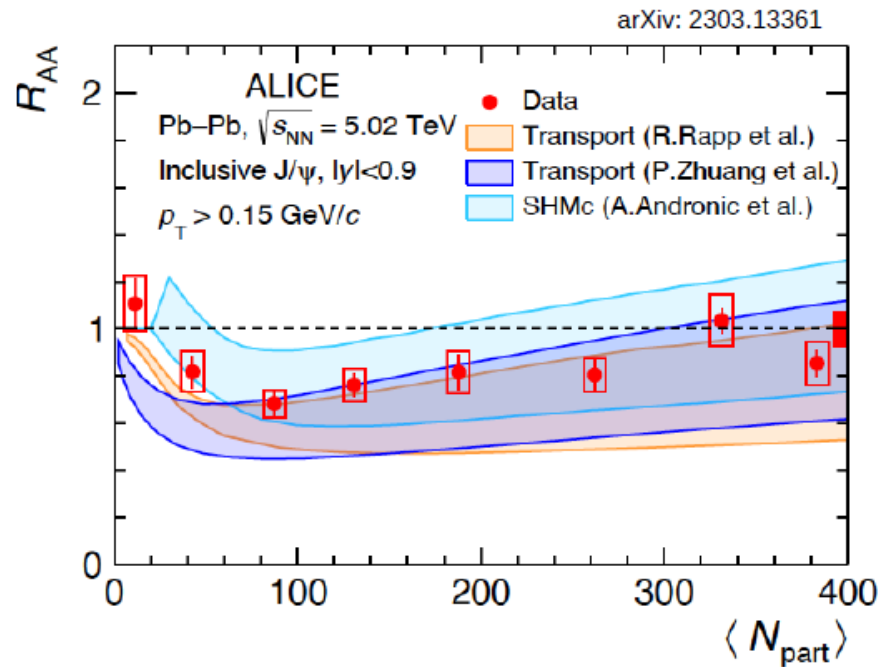
# Essential predictions of SHMc: J/Psi suppression



Model predictions successfully applied to quantify SPS, RHIC and LHC data: in particular due to SHMc thermal regeneration of J/Psi at the QCD phase boundary and increasing number of Ncc the J/Psi suppression observed at SPS decreases with increasing energy towards LHC contrary to the expectation of the sequential suppression concept due to Debye screening.

Melting scenario not observed but rather enhancement with increasing energy density from RHIC to LHC due to statistical/thermal hadronization of charm quarks at the QCD phase boundary described by SHMc

# Model comparison with ALICE data: $R_{AA}$

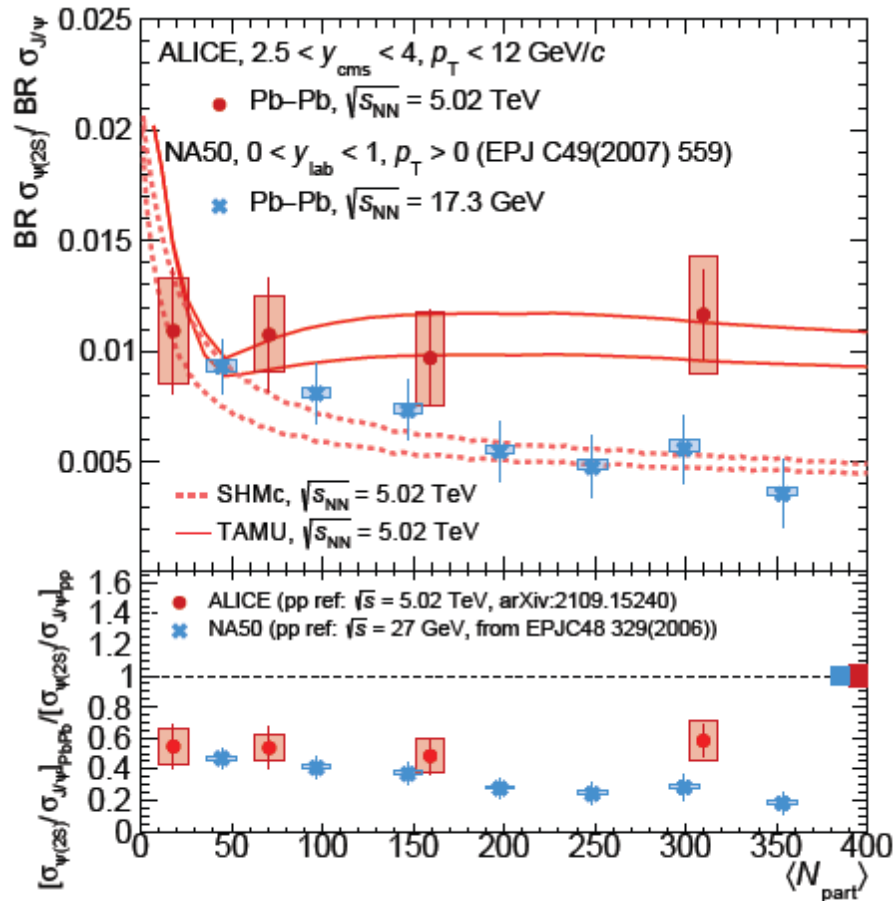


- Production in Pb-Pb collisions consistent with deconfinement in QGP and subsequent hadronization at the phase boundary. The main uncertainty of the model prediction due to open charm cross-section.



# Unexpected result in the SHMc:

ALICE: *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 132 (2024) 4, 042301



- Within SHMc and in central collisions the ratio depends only on temperature,

$$\frac{\psi(2s)}{J/\psi} = \frac{n_{\psi(2s)}(T)}{n_{J/\psi}(T)}$$

consequently since freezeout temperature at SPS is similar as in LHC, the ratio should coincide at these energies

- The observed deviation by  $1.8\sigma$  at LHC from SHMc in central collisions is unexpected and there is little room to be accommodated in likely physical scenario
- The only space could be due to unknown contributions from b-hadrons or exotic baryons decay

# Emergence of New Systematics of Open Charm production at High Energy Collisions

- Consider SHMc balance equation and its approximation:

$$2N_{cc} \approx Vg_c n_{oc,1}^{tot} \frac{I_1(N_{oc,1}(g_c, V))}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} + N_{oc,2} \frac{I_2(N_{oc,1}(g_c, V))}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} + N_{hc}$$

However, contributions of  $c = \pm 2$  and hidden charm hadrons less than 3% thus can be neglected to extract  $g_c$

- Consequently:

$$Vg_c \frac{I_1(N_{oc,1})}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} \approx \frac{2N_{cc}}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}}$$

and since

$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} = Vg_c \frac{I_1(N_{oc,1})}{I_0(N_{oc,1})} n_i^{th}$$

- the open charm hadron rapidity density with  $c = \pm 1$ , reads

$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \approx 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc}$$

$$n_i^{th} = n_i^{prompt} + \sum_j Br(j \rightarrow i) n_j^r$$

$$n_{c=\pm 1}^{tot} = \sum_k n_{k,c=\pm 1}^{th}$$

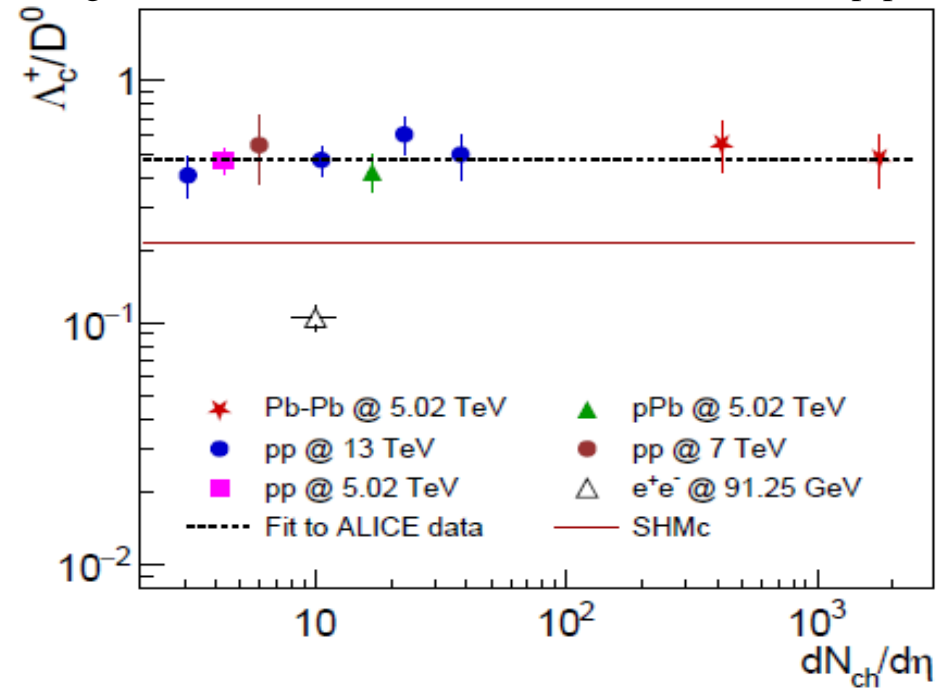
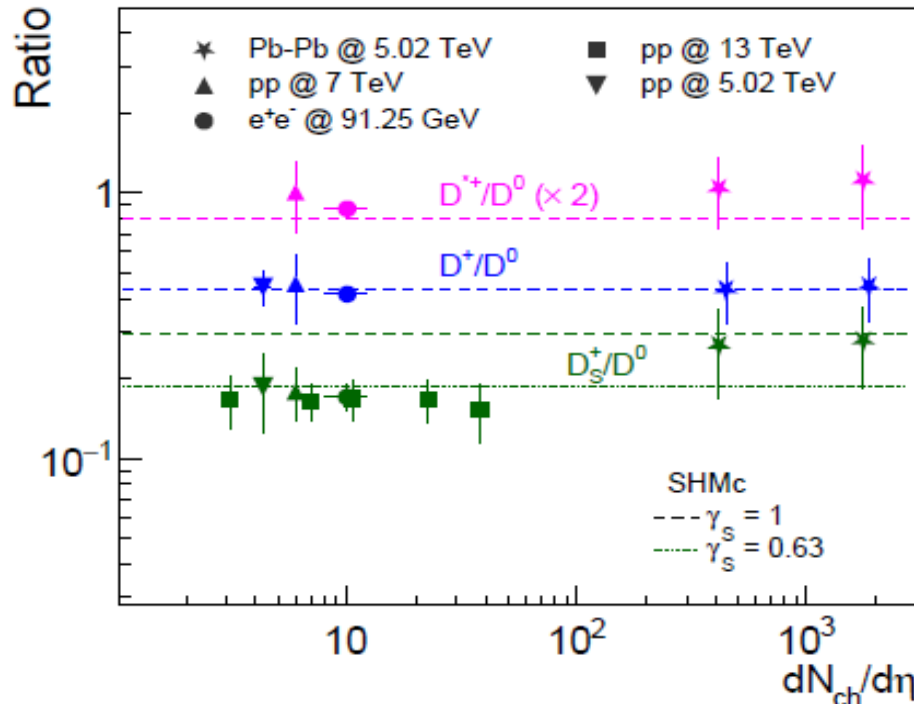
is fully determined by  $N_{cc}$  (from experiment or model) and the temperature, which at high energy collisions  $T = T_c = 156.5$  MeV. Yield is independent of the volume i.e. system size and canonical suppression factor.

# Basic properties for different open charm yield ratios

$$N_{i,c=\pm 1} / N_{k,c=\pm 1} = n_i^{th}(T) / n_k^{th}(T)$$

Ratios entirely determined by T

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



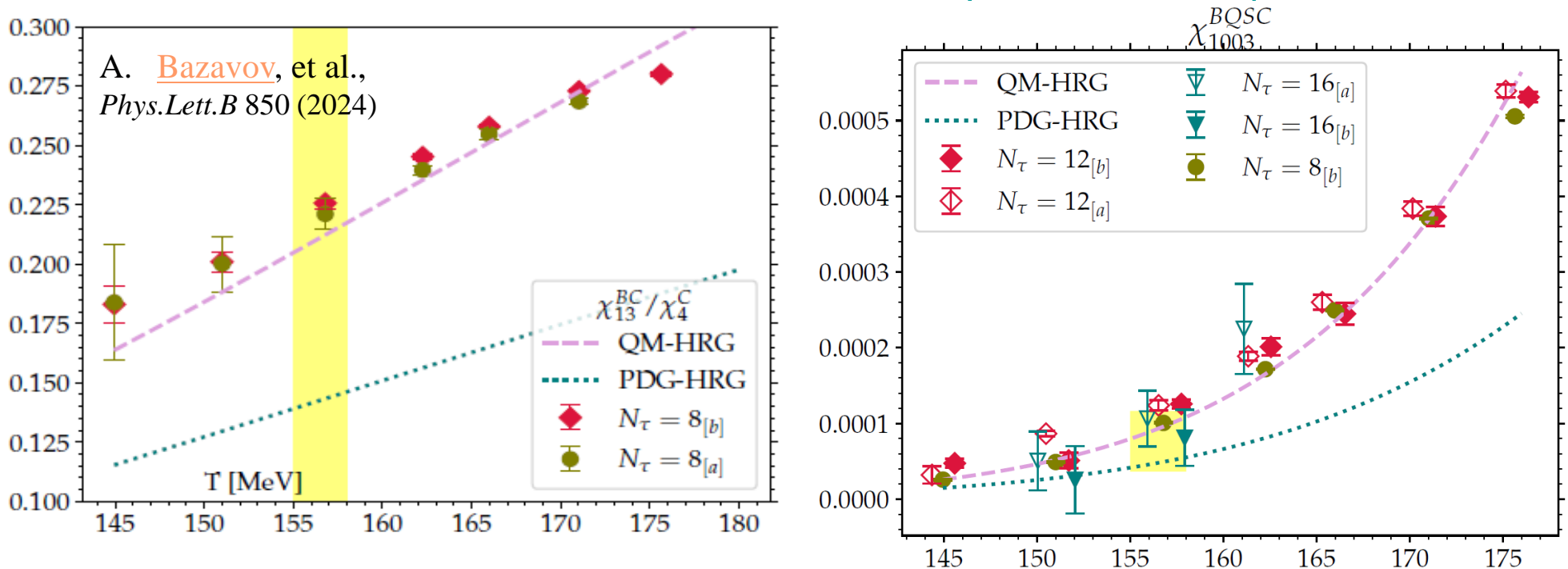
Ratios in pp, pA and AA collisions are within uncertainties the same and independent of associated charged particle pseudo-rapidity density, as expected in SHM.

An increase of  $D_s^+ / D^0$  from pp to AA is possible and needs more data.

Quantitative agreement of  $D^{*+}$  and  $D^+$  to  $D^0$  ratios with SHMc, however suppression of  $D_s^+ / D^0$  from AA to pp.  $\Lambda_c^+ / D^0$  Larger by a factor  $2.2 \pm 0.15$  than SHMc =>

# Missing baryonic resonances in charm sector

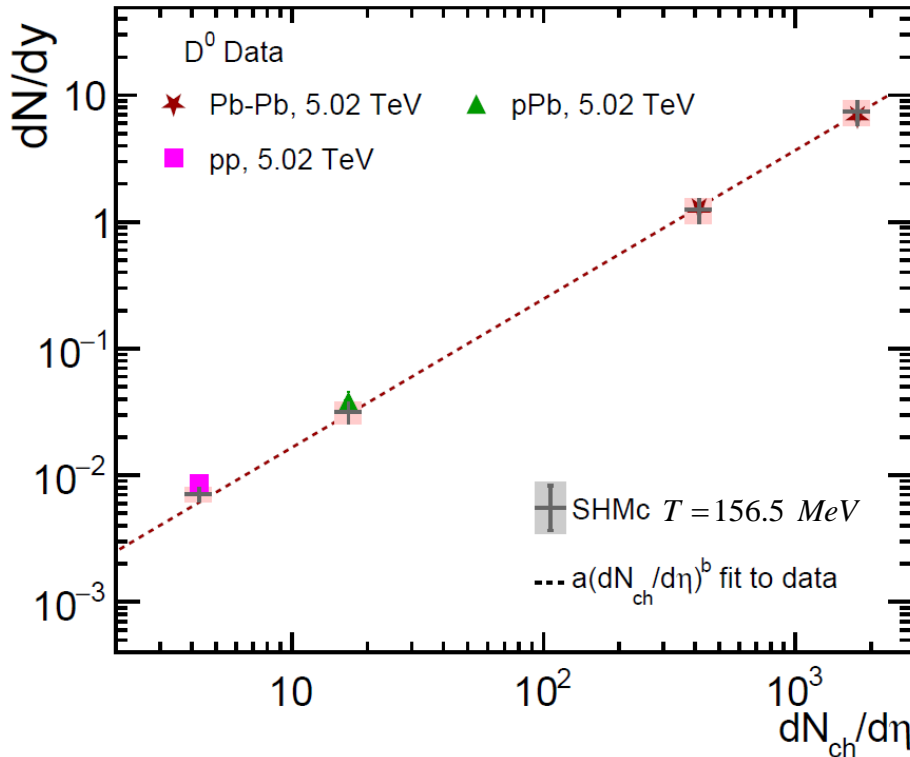
Charm fluctuations calculated in the framework of Lattice QCD receive enhanced contributions relative to PDG due the existence of not-yet-discovered open-charm states



Charm baryon susceptibilities are better described by the quark model of hadrons which indicates an increase of charm baryonic resonances relative to PDG at  $T_c$  by a factor 1.9. We include this missing states by rescaling  $\Lambda_c$  density by 2.2.

# Quantifying rapidity densities of open charm hadrons

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \approx 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc}$$

$$N_{cc} = \begin{cases} \sigma_{cc}^{pp} / \sigma_{inel}^{pp} & \text{in pp} \\ \sigma_{cc}^{pA} / \sigma_{inel}^{pA} & \text{in pA} \\ \alpha_A \sigma_{cc}^{pp} T_{AA} & \text{in AA} \end{cases}$$

Cross sections from data:  $T=156.5 \text{ MeV}$

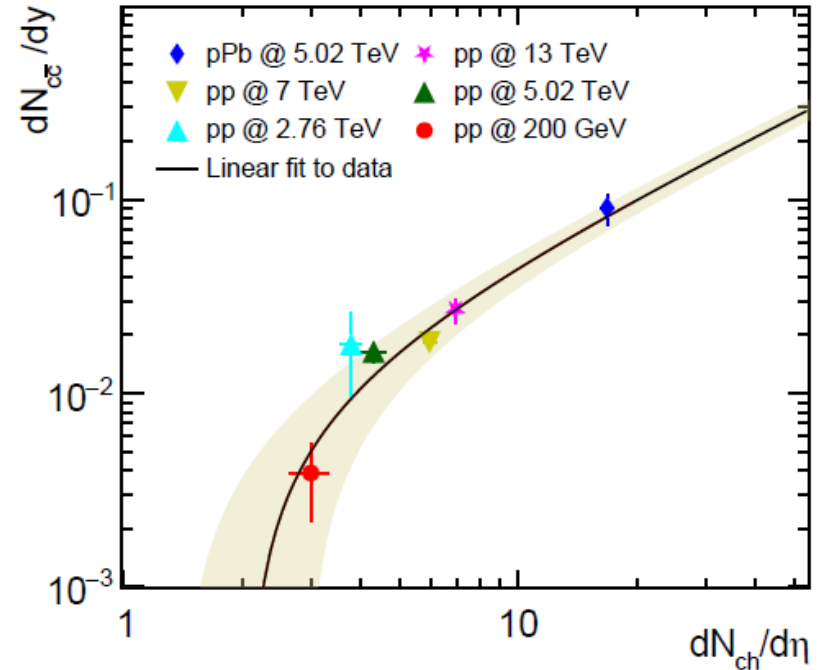
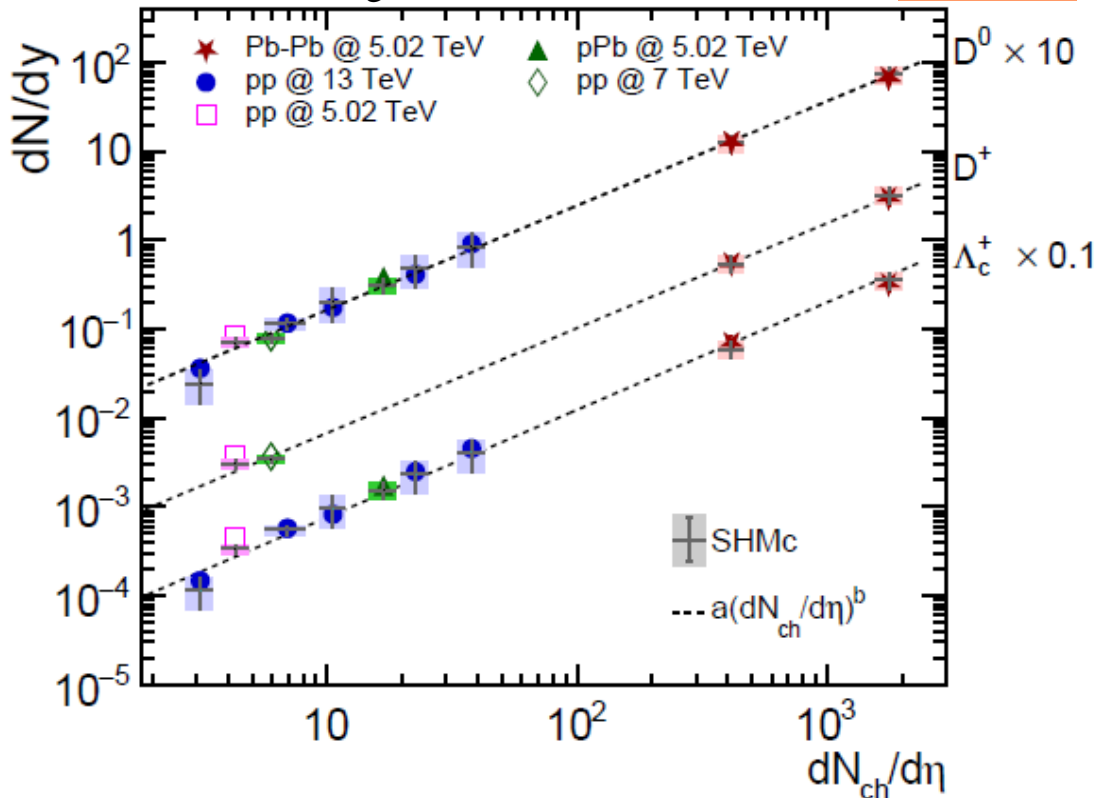
Thickness function from Glauber model.

Factor  $\alpha_A$  accounts for nuclear modification effects such as shadowing, energy loss or saturation.

- Rapidity density at RHIC obtained from the fit to  $p_t$  with Tsallis function
- SHMc provides consistent description of data from pp, pA and AA
- Data at LHC exhibit power law scaling:  $dN/dy = a(dN_{ch}/d\eta)^b$  with  $b = 1.2 \pm 0.02$  and  $a = (1.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$  At RHIC data consistent  $b \approx 1.2$  and  $a = 3.8 \times 10^{-4}$ .

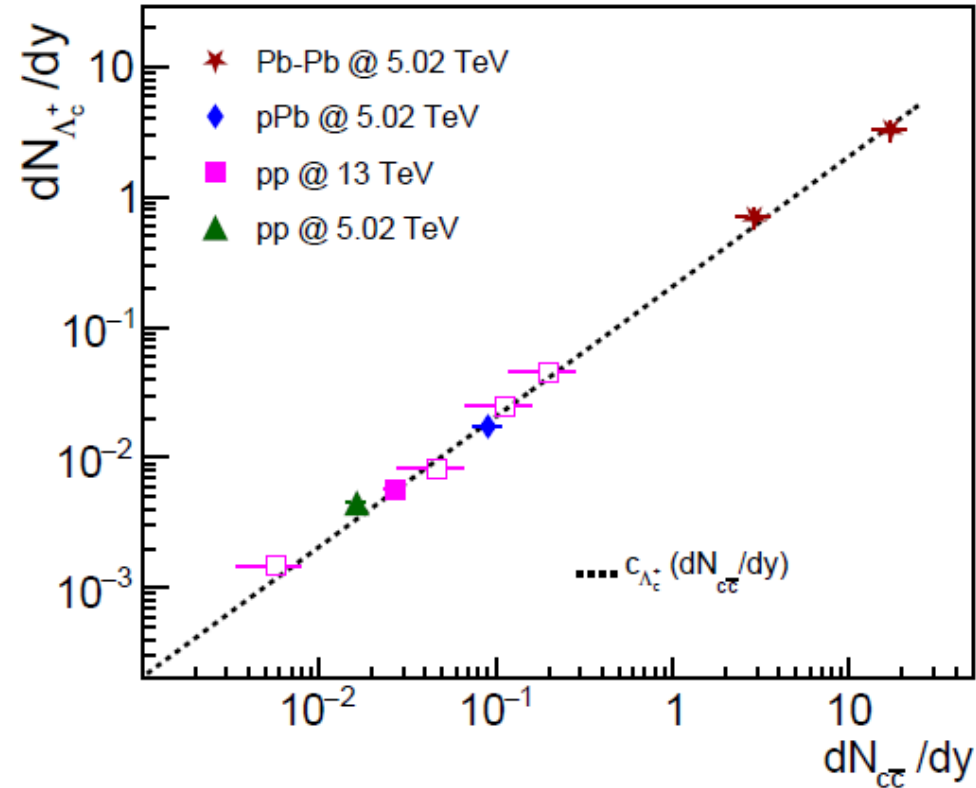
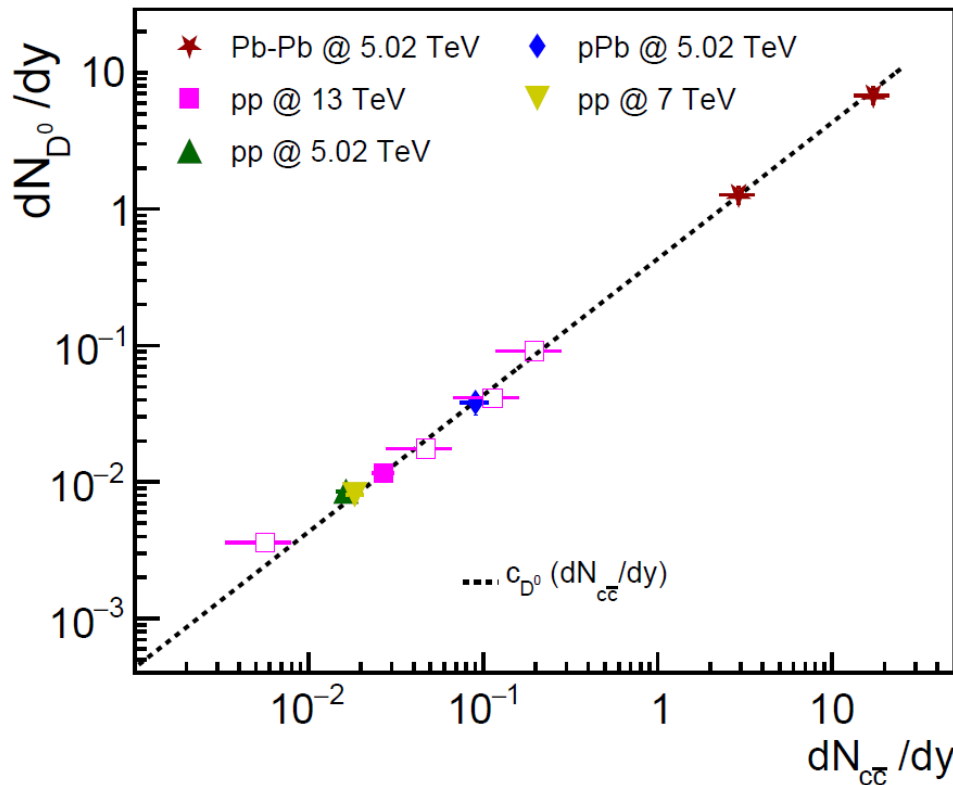
# Including predictions for pp at different $N_{ch}$

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



- In a narrow rapidity window  $N_{cc}$  fitted with a linear function of  $N_{ch}$ . This allows to extract experimentally unknown values of  $N_{cc}$  at  $N_{ch} = 3.1, 10.5, 22.6, 37.8$  where  $D^0$  and  $\Lambda_c$  were measured in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ .
- All data follow the observed power law scaling with  $N_{ch}$ . The yields are also well quantified by the SHMc.

# Charm quarks fragmentation/hadronization in the SHMc



- In SHMc the rapidity density of open charm hadrons in high energy pp, pA and AA collisions should closely follow the proportional scaling with rapidity density of the number of cc pairs:

$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \simeq 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc} \rightarrow T = 156.5 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow \frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} = \begin{cases} 0.43 \times N_{cc} & \text{for } D^0 \\ 0.21 \times N_{cc} & \text{for } \Lambda_c^+ \end{cases}$$

- Data follow SHMc model expectations indicating that it provides a good description of charm fragmentation/hadronization in high energy collisions.

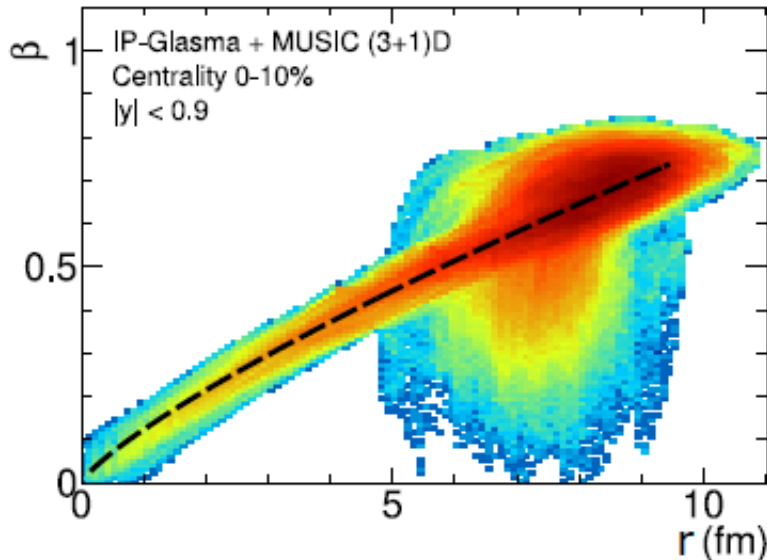


# Spectra of charm hadrons established at QCD phase boundary

- Charm quarks in QGP follow collective flow and are hadronized at  $T_c=156.5$  MeV
- Use blast-wave parametrization of particle spectra with the input from 3+1 dim hydrodynamics

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, A. Mazeliauskas, K. Redlich J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, JHEP 07 (2021) 035

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, K. Redlich J. Stachel, PLB 797 (2019) 134836



Radial velocity profile on the freezeout surface of central Pb-Pb coll.

$$\frac{d^2N}{2\pi p_T dp_T dy} = \frac{2J+1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d\sigma_\mu p^\mu f(p)$$

For boost-inv. and azimuthally sym. freezeout surface

$$= \frac{2J+1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^{r_{\max}} dr \tau(r) r \left[ K_1^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) - \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial r} K_2^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) \right]$$

the freezeout kernels:  $K_1^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) = 4\pi m_T I_0 \left( \frac{p_T u^r}{T} \right) K_1 \left( \frac{m_T u^r}{T} \right)$

$$K_2^{\text{eq}}(p_T, u^r) = 4\pi p_T I_1 \left( \frac{p_T u^r}{T} \right) K_0 \left( \frac{m_T u^r}{T} \right)$$

with freezeout hypersurface

$$\tau(r) = r_{\max} + \frac{r\beta(r)}{n+1}$$

4-velocity

$$u^r = \beta(r) / \sqrt{1 - \beta^2(r)}$$

$r_{\max}$ : fixed to reproduce extracted volume at freezeout

$$\beta(r) = \beta_{\max} (r / r_{\max})^n$$

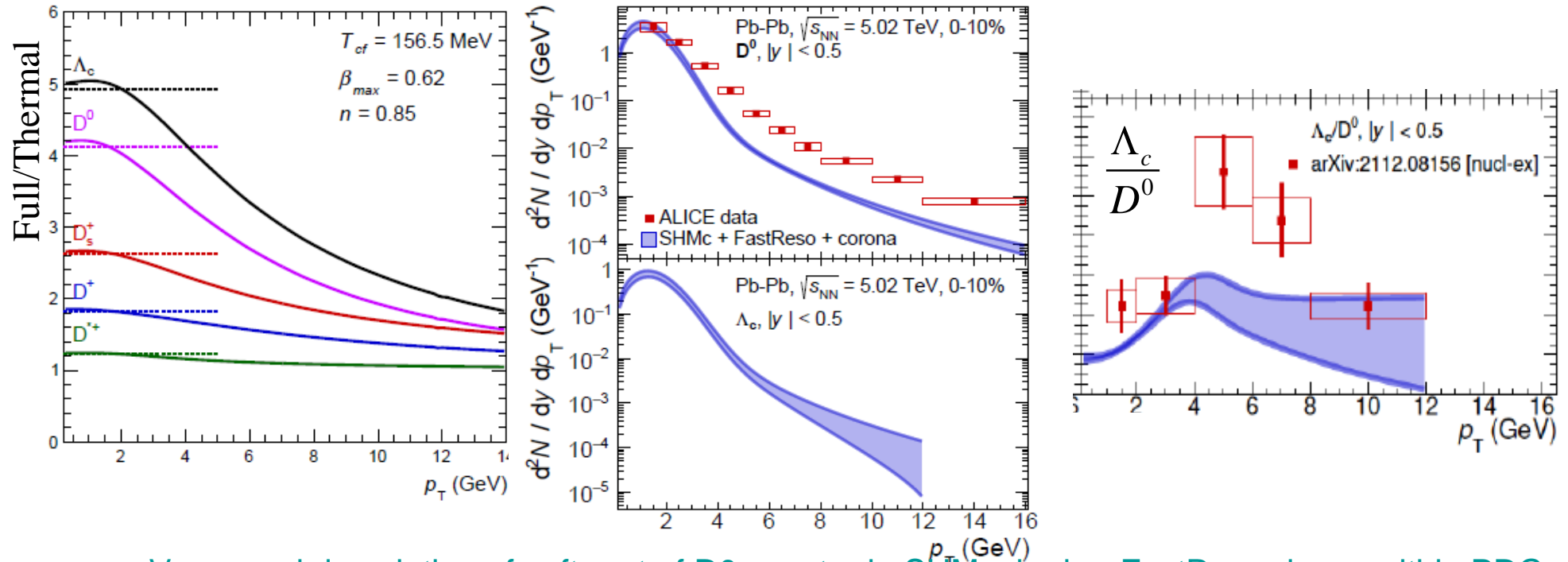
Use hydro velocity profile at  $T_c$  from MUSIC (3+1) D

to fit:  $\beta_{\max} = 0.62$ ,  $n = 0.85$  for central coll.

# Spectra of open charm mesons and baryons

- The final spectra of open charm hadrons required proper determination of resonance contributions
- Including all known charm hadron resonances summarized in PDG the decay spectra for  $D^0$  and  $\Lambda_c$  were computed with an efficient FastReso algorithm accounting of 76 2-body and 10 3-body decays based on A. Mazeliauskas, S. Floerchinger, E. Grossi, EPJ C79 (2019) 284

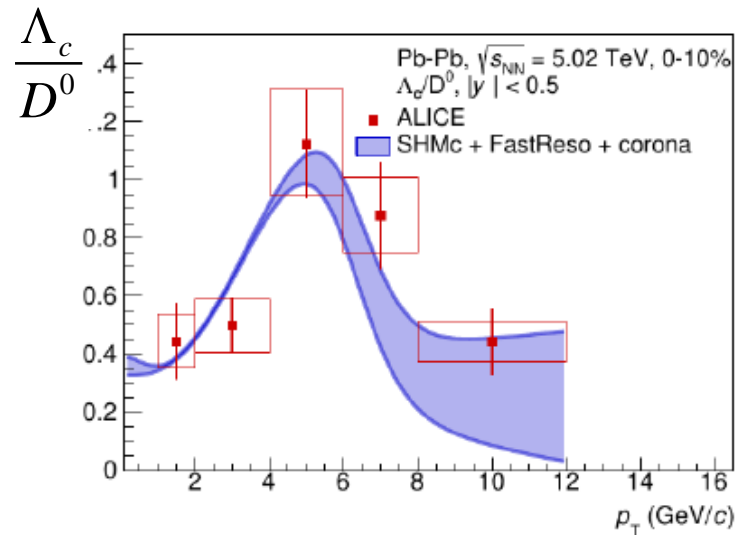
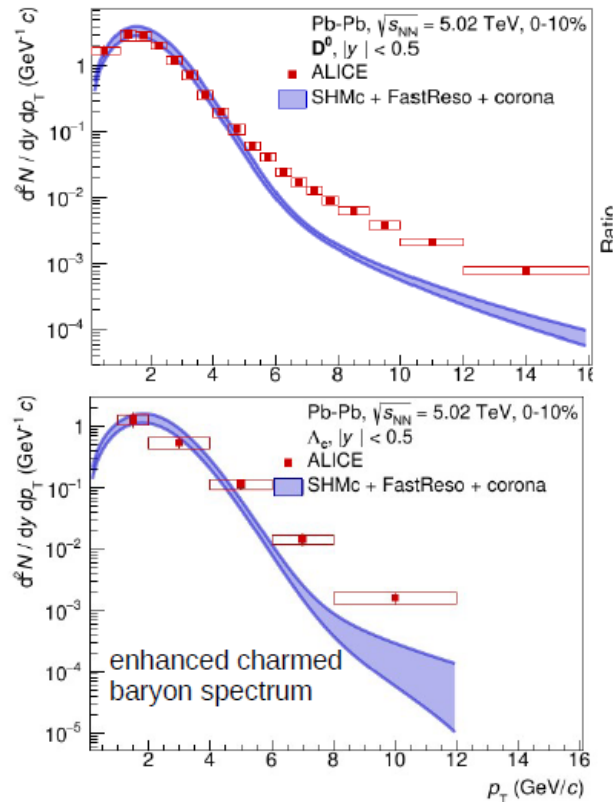
A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, A. Mazeliauskas,  
K. Redlich J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, JHEP 07 (2021) 035



- Very good description of soft part of  $D^0$  spectra in SHMc+hydro+FastReso decay within PDG
- Too low strength for  $\Lambda_c$ : However missing baryon resonances not yet included

# Open charm spectra: with more complete description of freezeout conditions from 3D hydro

A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, J. Brunßen,  
J. Crkovska, J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, M. Völkl,  
arXiv: 2308.14821

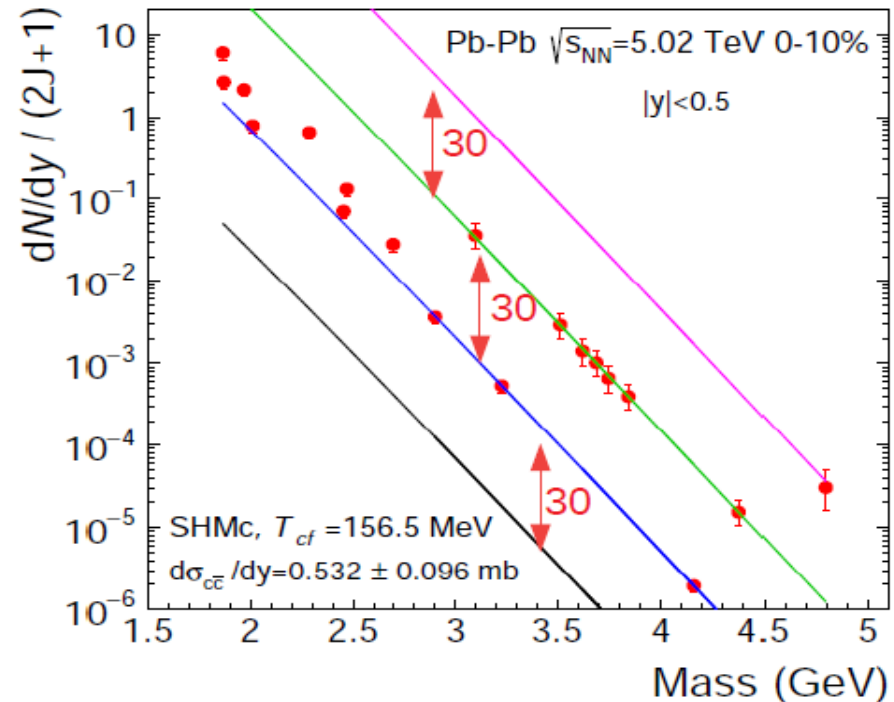
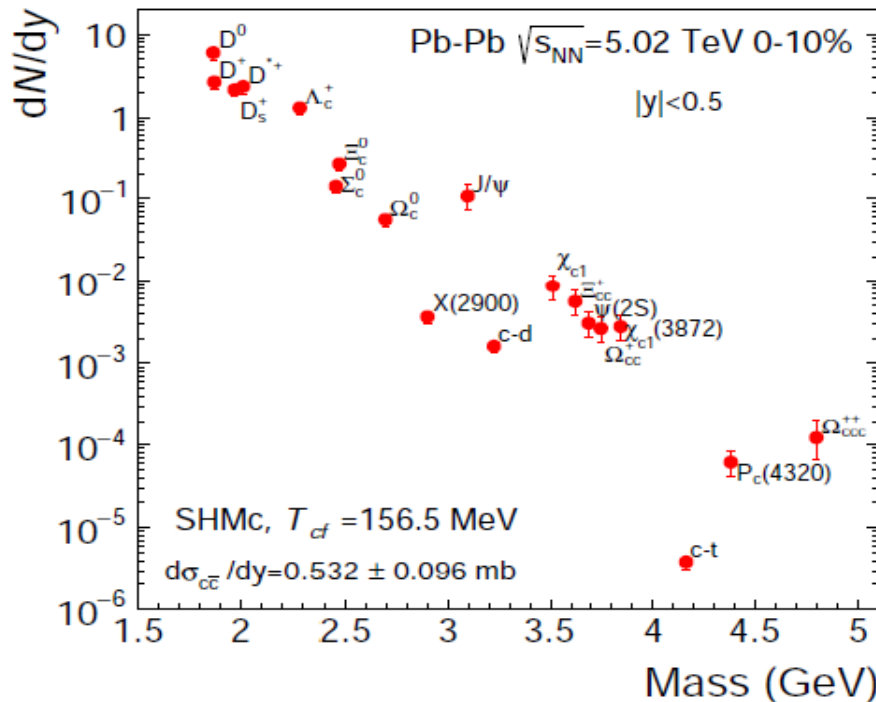


- Maximum in ratio appears due to transverse expansion and mass difference between particles

- With optimally matched blast wave parameters to MUSIC hydro and including contributions of missing baryonic resonances in charm sector a very good description of low and intermediate  $p_t$  spectra is reached.

# SHMc predictions for different charm states

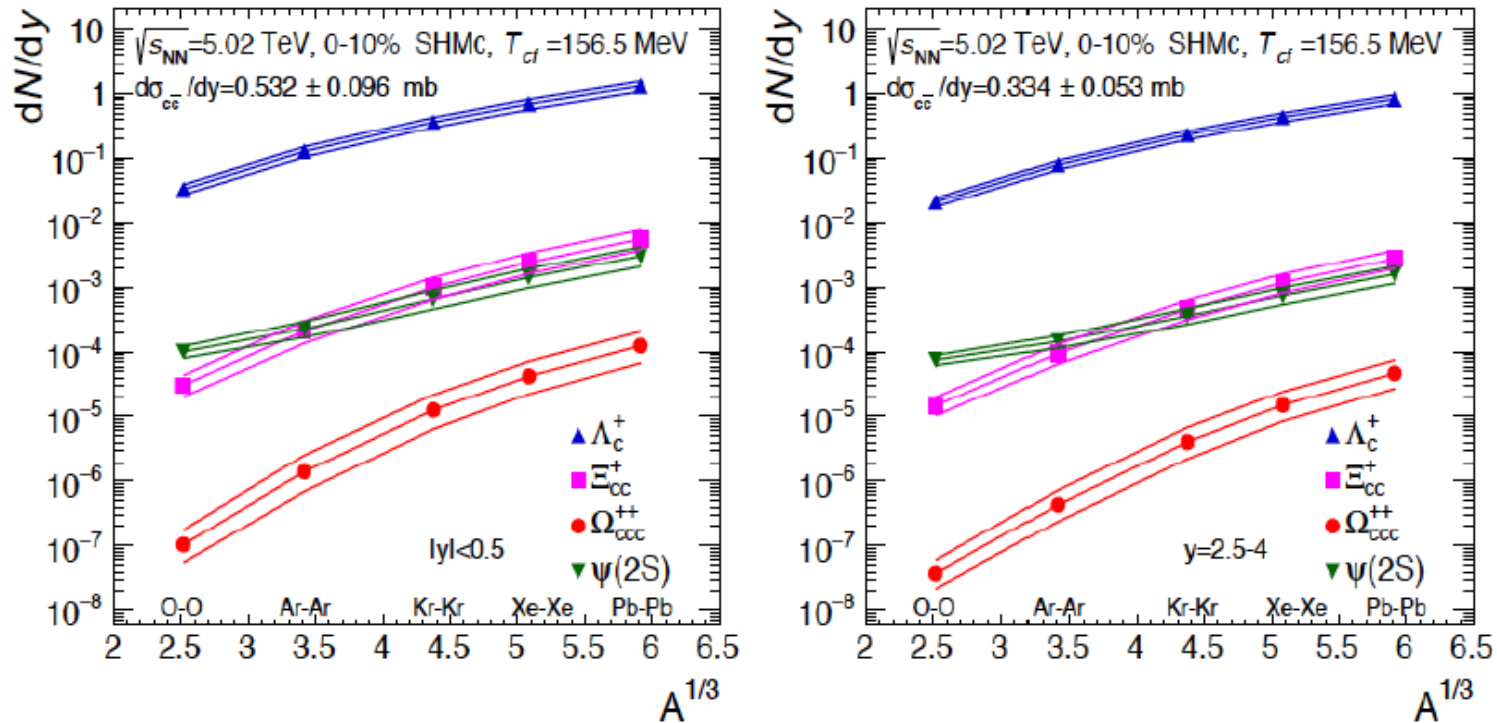
A. Andronic, P. Braun-Munzinger, M. Koehler, A. Mazeliauskas, K. Redlich J. Stachel, V. Vislavicius, JHEP 07 (2021) 035



- Within SHMc model we can also make predictions for yet unmeasured charm and multi-charm hadron species and exotic states like e.g. X-state.
- There are also interesting systematics of particle yields and hierarchy, not only with a mass but also with the charm quark content of hadron due to the  $g_c=30$  fugacity factor.

# System size dependence of multi-charm hadrons

A. Andronic, et. Al., JHEP 07 (2021) 035



- Similar suppression pattern for multicharm states as in strangeness sector due to exact conservation of charm and resulting canonical effect. This implies that measuring multicharm states in light collision systems is not favored.

## CONCLUSIONS:

- IQCD thermodynamic potential is encoded in nuclear collisions
- S-matrix (Hadron Resonance Gas) thermodynamic potential provides an excellent approximation of LQCD equation of states, 2<sup>nd</sup> order fluctuations and correlations, and ALICE hadron yields data originating from thermal source at  $T_c=156$  MeV.
- Strong experimental evidence for charm thermalization in Pb-Pb and parameter free description of charmonium and open charm yields (SHMc) and spectra with the only input of total charm cross section
  - Interesting scaling of open charm data with  $N_{ch}$  and  $N_{cc}$  in pp and AA for all energies and centralities

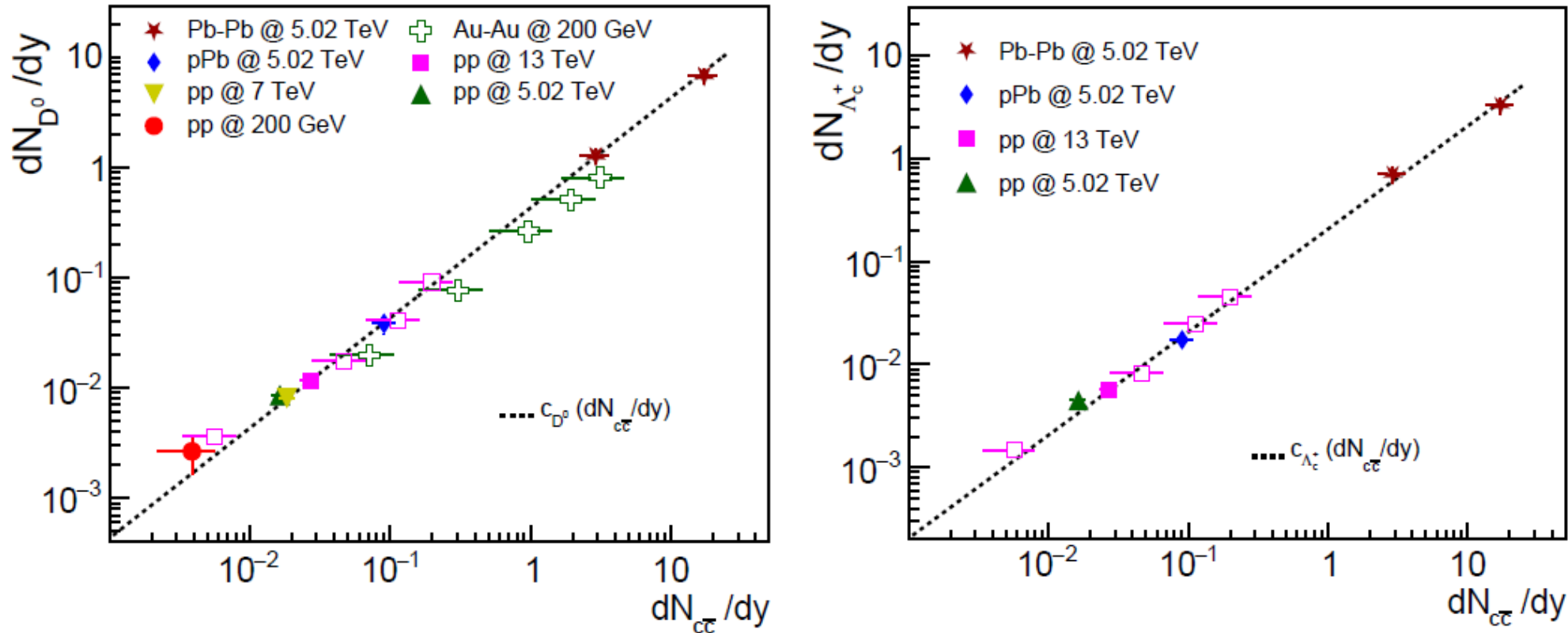
Puzzling and interesting results requiring more data:

- Enhanced production of  $D_s/D_0$  in AA relative to pp collisions
- $\Psi(2s)/\Psi(1s)$  in central AA at LHC larger than at SPS
- Missing charm-baryon resonances

Answer may come with much increased luminosity in ALICE Run 3 and 4

# Charm quarks fragmentation/hadronization in the SHMc

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



- In SHMc the rapidity density of open charm hadrons in high energy pp, pA and AA collisions should closely follow the proportional scaling with rapidity density of the number of cc pairs:

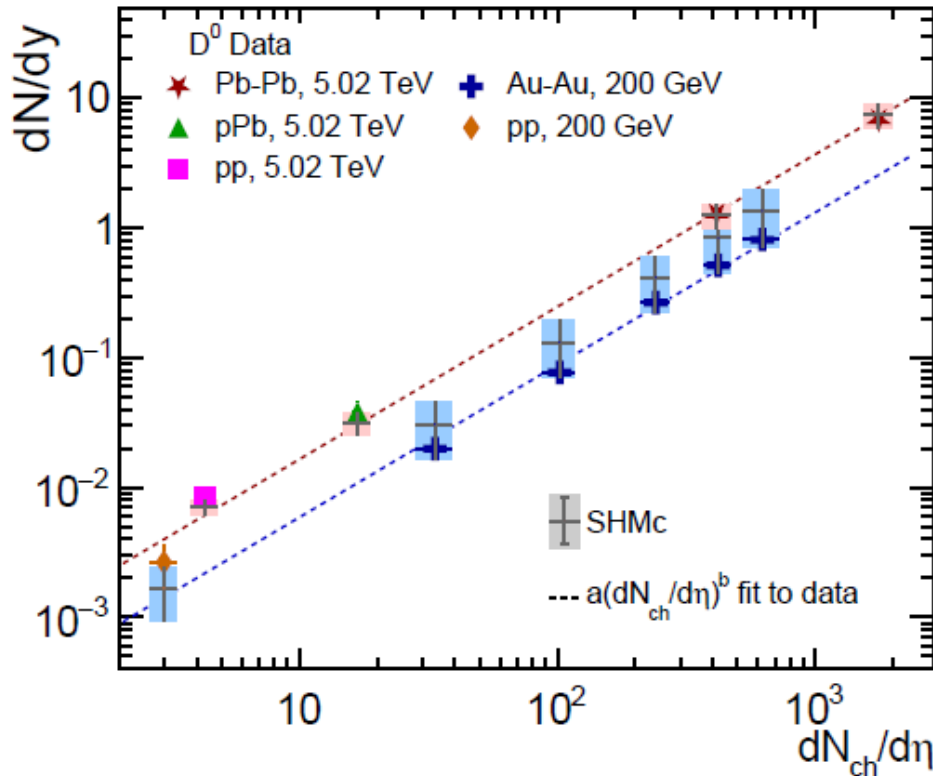
$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \simeq 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc} \rightarrow T = 156.5 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow \frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} = \begin{cases} 0.43 \times N_{cc} & \text{for } D^0 \\ 0.21 \times N_{cc} & \text{for } \Lambda_c^+ \end{cases}$$

- Data follow SHMc model expectations indicating that it provides a good description of charm fragmentation/hadronization in high energy collisions.



# Quantifying rapidity densities of open charm hadrons

P. Braun-Munzinger, N. Sharma, J. Stachel & K.R., [2408.07496](#) [hep-ph]



$$\frac{dN_{i,c=\pm 1}}{dy} \approx 2 \frac{n_i^{th}(T)}{n_{oc,1}^{tot}(T)} N_{cc}$$

$$N_{cc} = \begin{cases} \sigma_{cc}^{pp} / \sigma_{inel}^{pp} & \text{in pp} \\ \sigma_{cc}^{pA} / \sigma_{inel}^{pA} & \text{in pA} \\ \alpha_A \sigma_{cc}^{pp} T_{AA} & \text{in AA} \end{cases}$$

Cross sections from data:  $T=156.5$  MeV

Thickness function from Glauber model.

Factor  $\alpha_A$  accounts for nuclear modification effects such as shadowing, energy loss or saturation.

- Rapidity density at RHIC obtained from the fit to  $p_t$  with Tsallis function
- SHMc provides consistent description of data from pp, pA and AA
- Data at LHC exhibit power law scaling:  $dN/dy = a(dN_{ch}/d\eta)^b$  with  $b = 1.2 \pm 0.02$  and  $a = (1.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$ . At RHIC data consistent  $b \approx 1.2$  and  $a = 3.8 \times 10^{-4}$ .