

Femtoscropy-for-interactions: a new tool to study low energy QCD

Laura Fabbietti Technische Universität München



FSP ALICE
Erforschung von
Universum und Materie

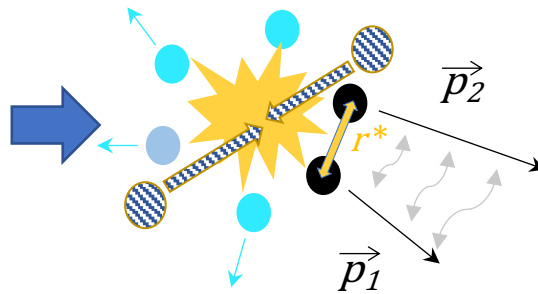
SFB 1258



ALICE at the LHC



Femtoscscopy in small systems

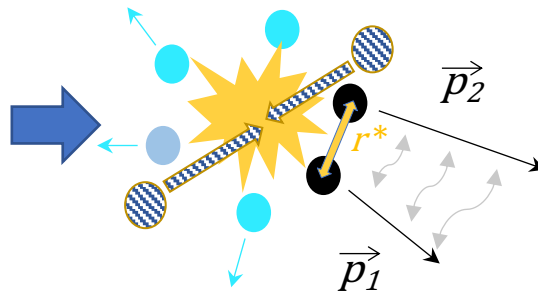


A new tool to study low energy QCD

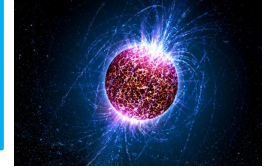
ALICE at the LHC



Femtoscopy in small systems



Study of Hyperon-nucleon,
Hyperon-hyperon interactions
relevant for Neutron Stars

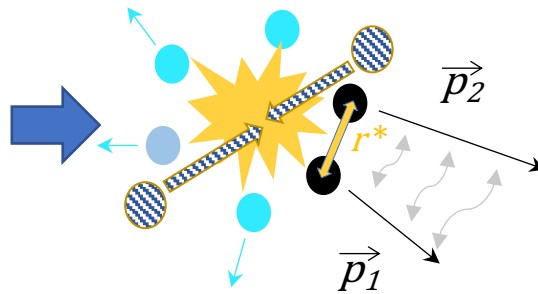


A new tool to study low energy QCD

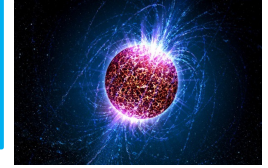
ALICE at the LHC



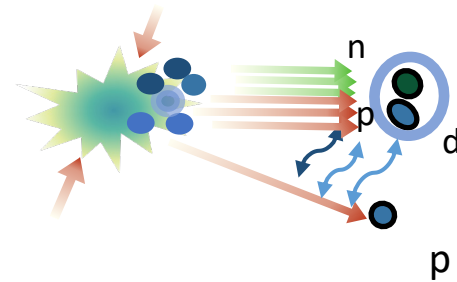
Femtoscoping in small systems



Study of Hyperon-nucleon,
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Nuclei formation

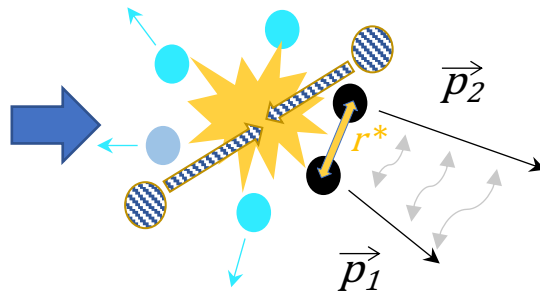


A new tool to study low energy QCD

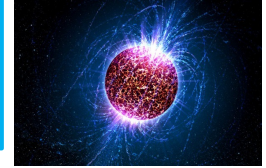
ALICE at the LHC



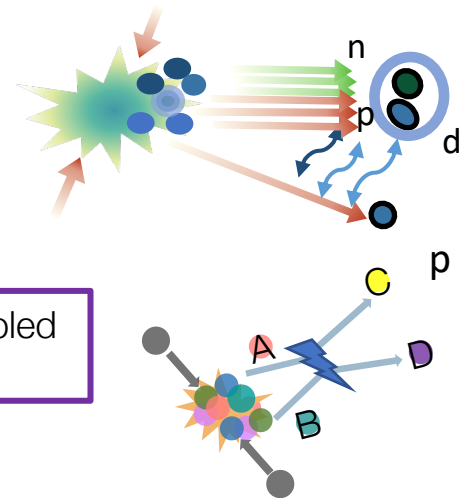
Femtoscopy in small systems



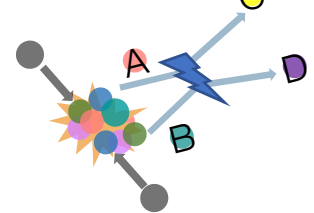
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Nuclei formation

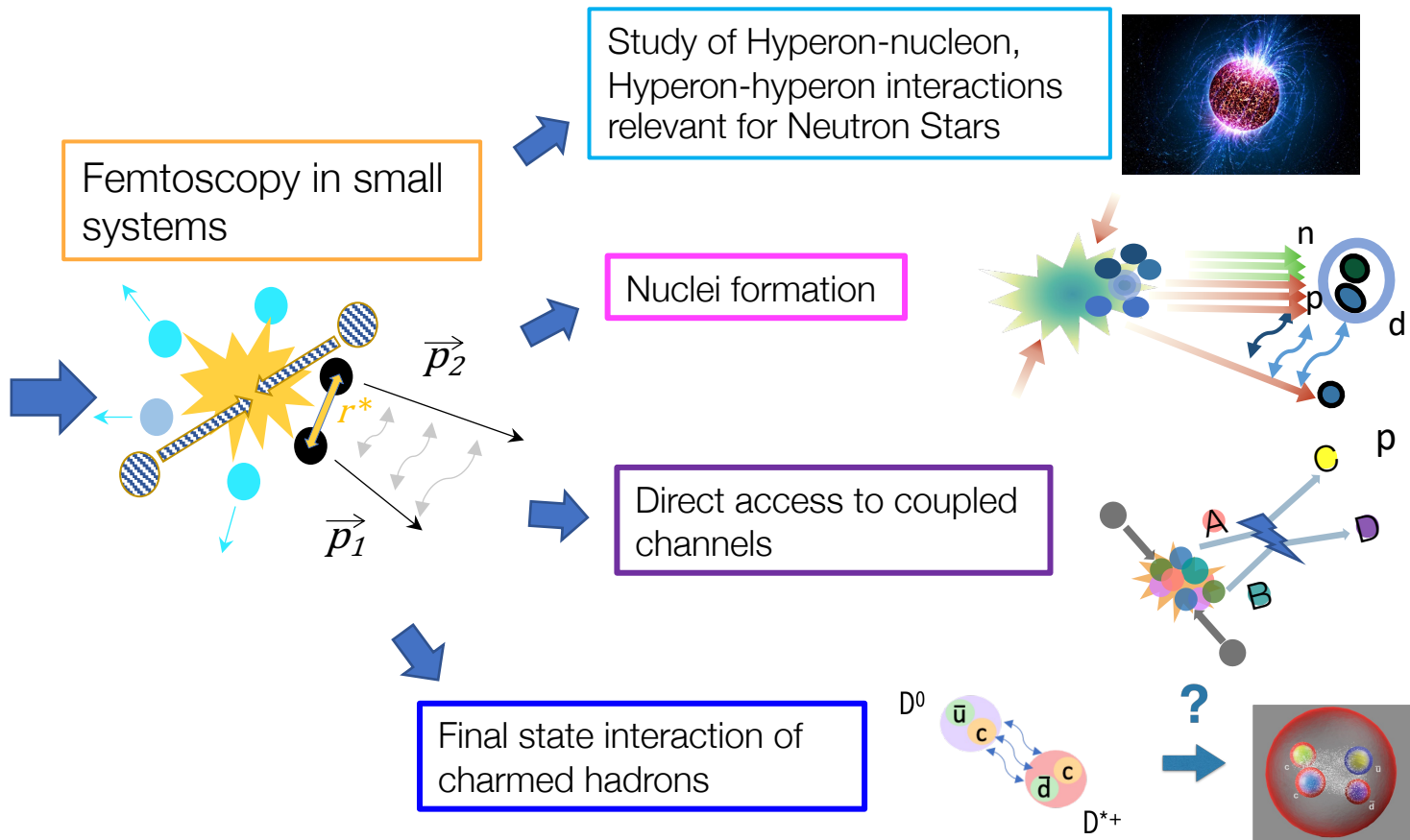


Direct access to coupled
channels



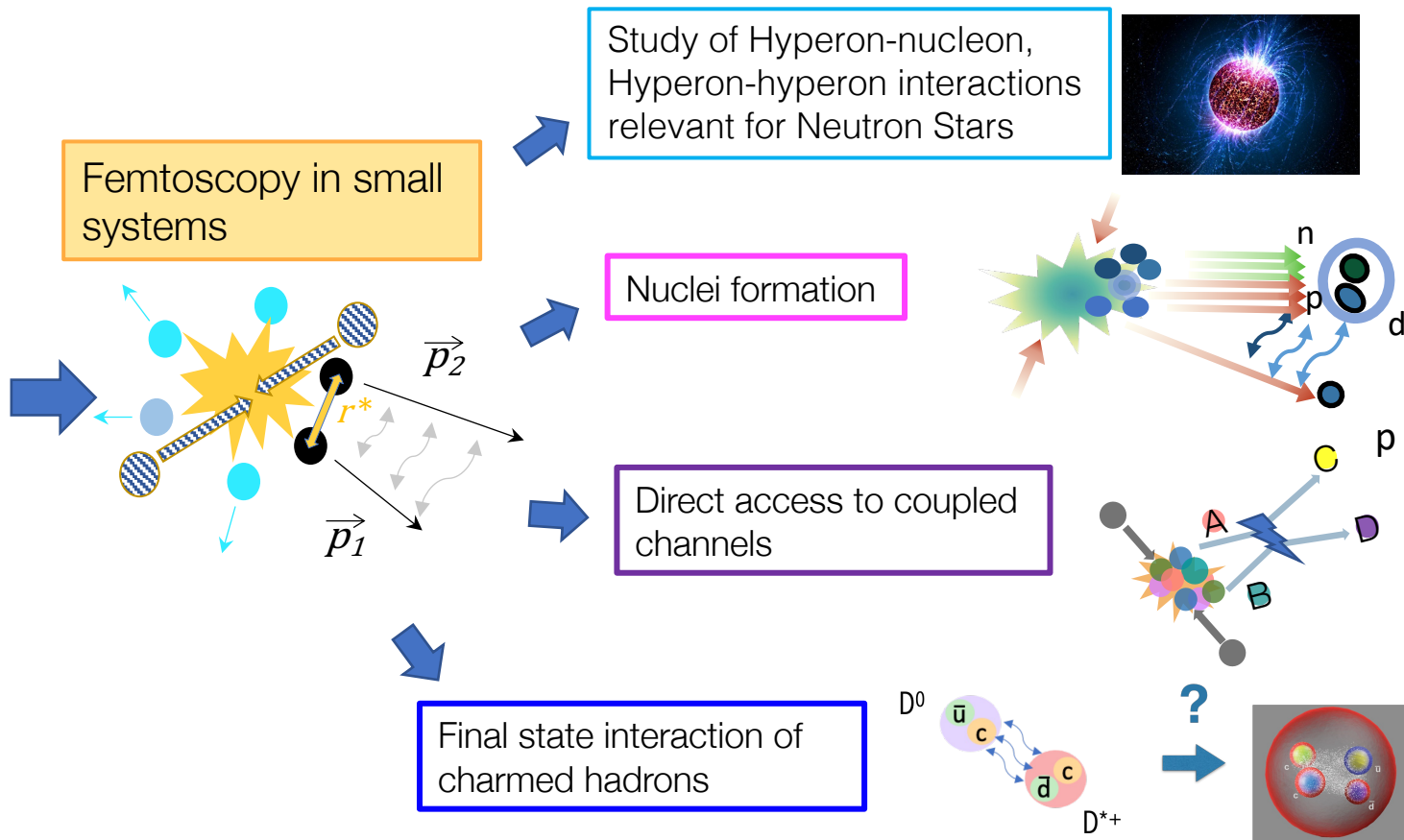
A new tool to study low energy QCD

ALICE at the LHC

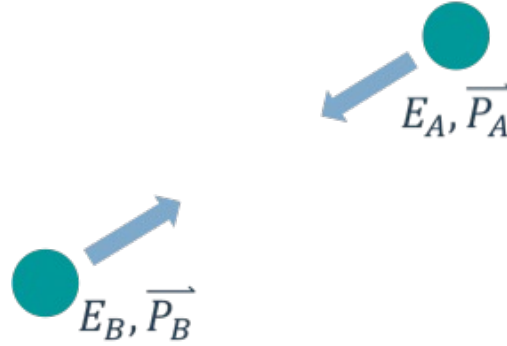


A new tool to study low energy QCD

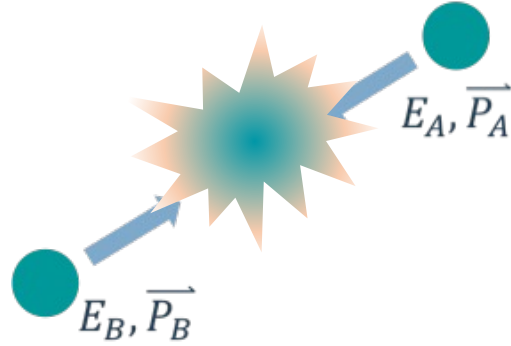
ALICE at the LHC

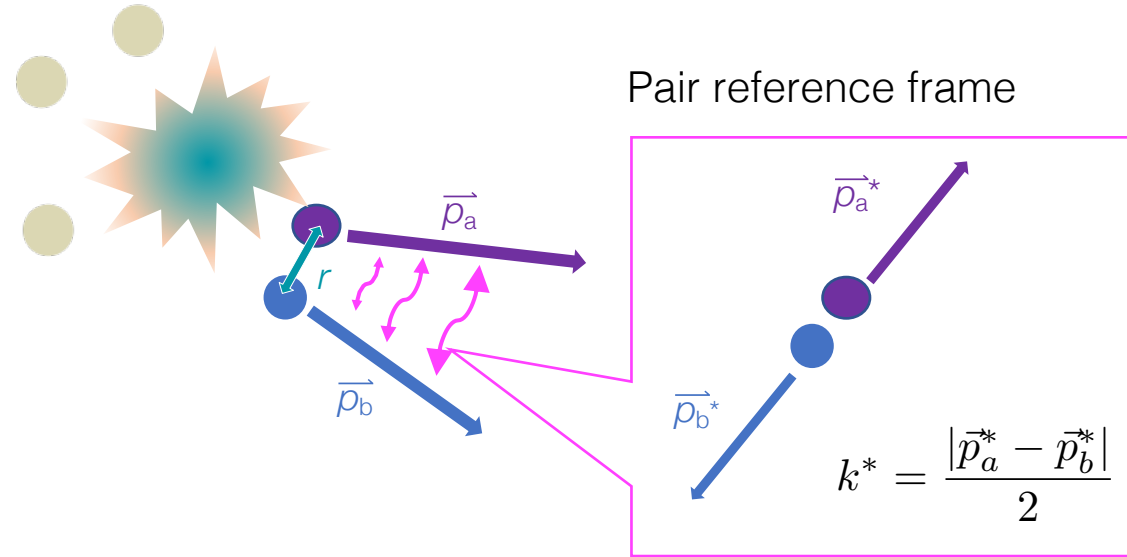


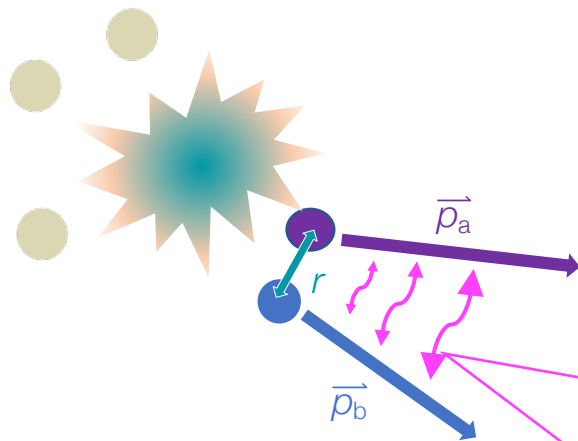
The femtoscopy technique



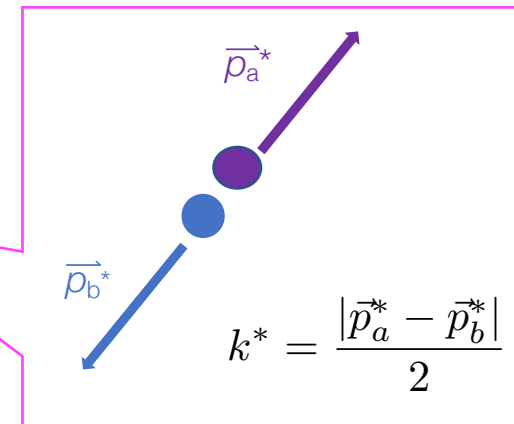
Nuclear collisions





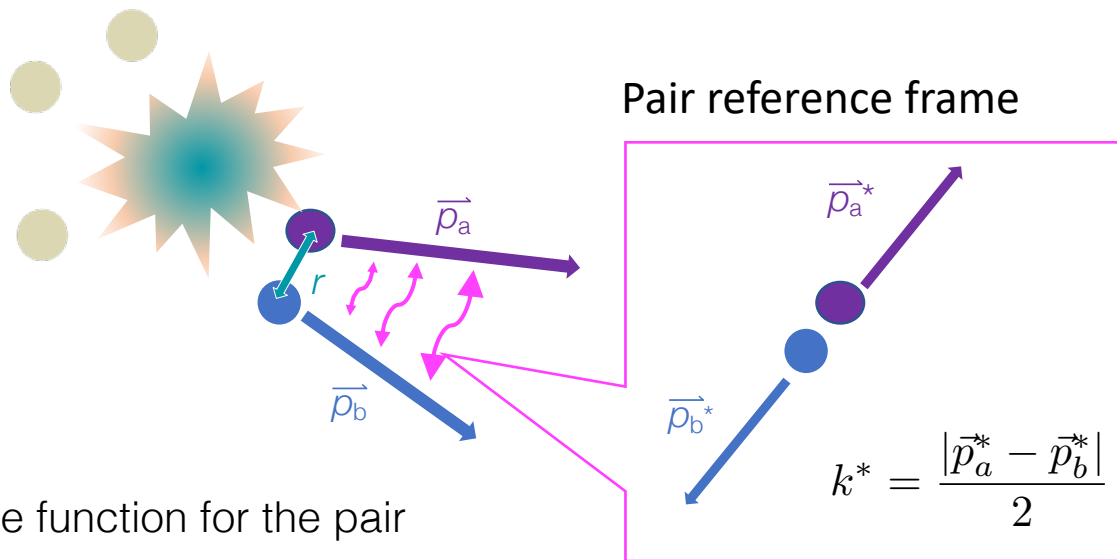


Pair reference frame



Schrödinger Equation:

$V(r) \rightarrow |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})|^2$ relative wave function for the pair



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$V(r) \rightarrow |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})|^2$ relative wave function for the pair

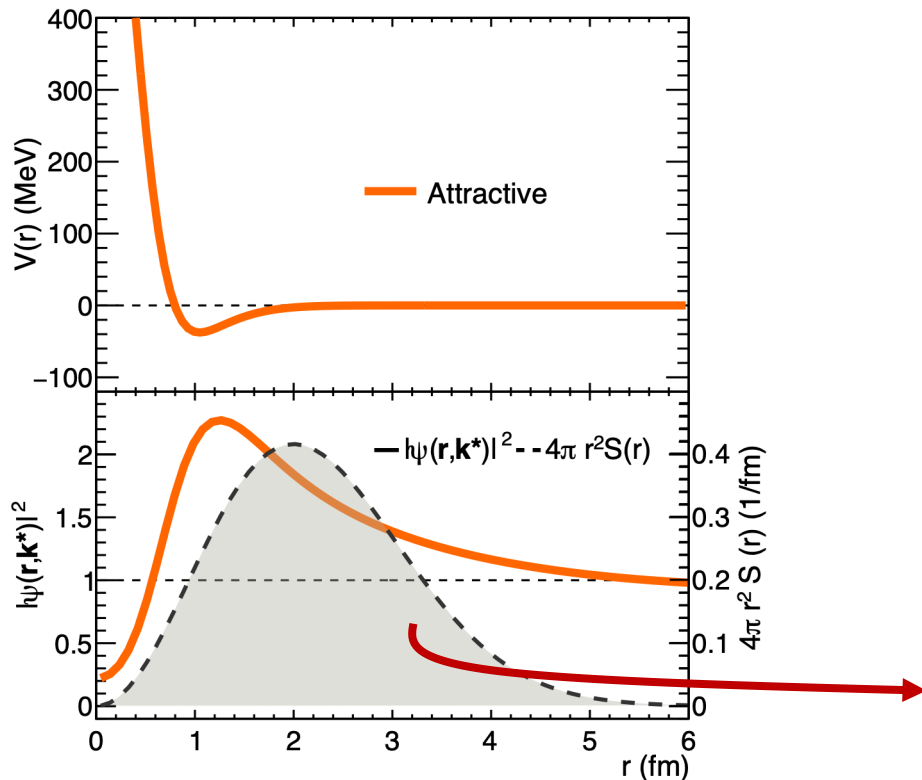
$$C(k^*) = \zeta(k^*) \cdot \frac{N_{same}(k^*)}{N_{mixed}(k^*)} = \int \mathcal{S}(r) |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})|^2 d^3r$$

Emission source Two-particle wave function

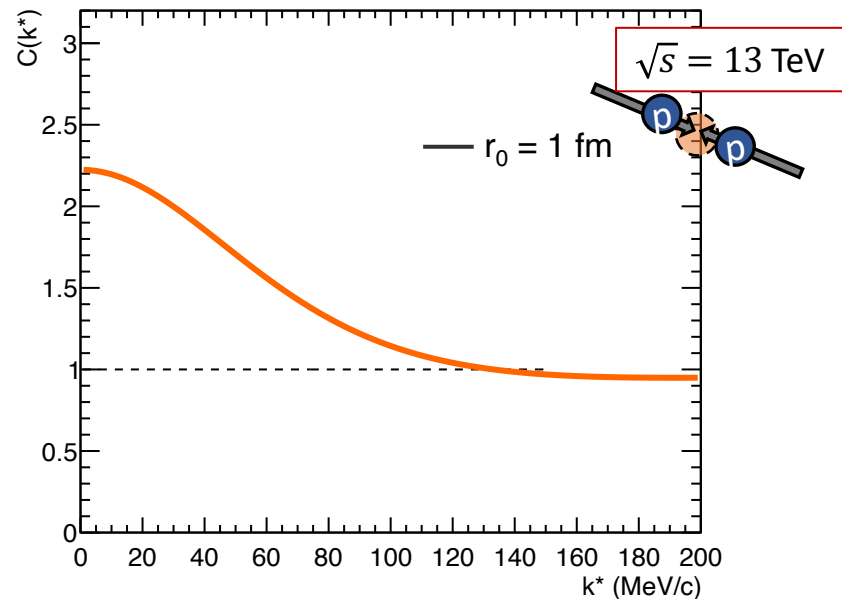
CATS (Correlation Analysis Tool using the Schödinger equation)

D. Mihaylov et al., Eur. Phys. J. C78 (2018) 394

Predictions obtained using CATS

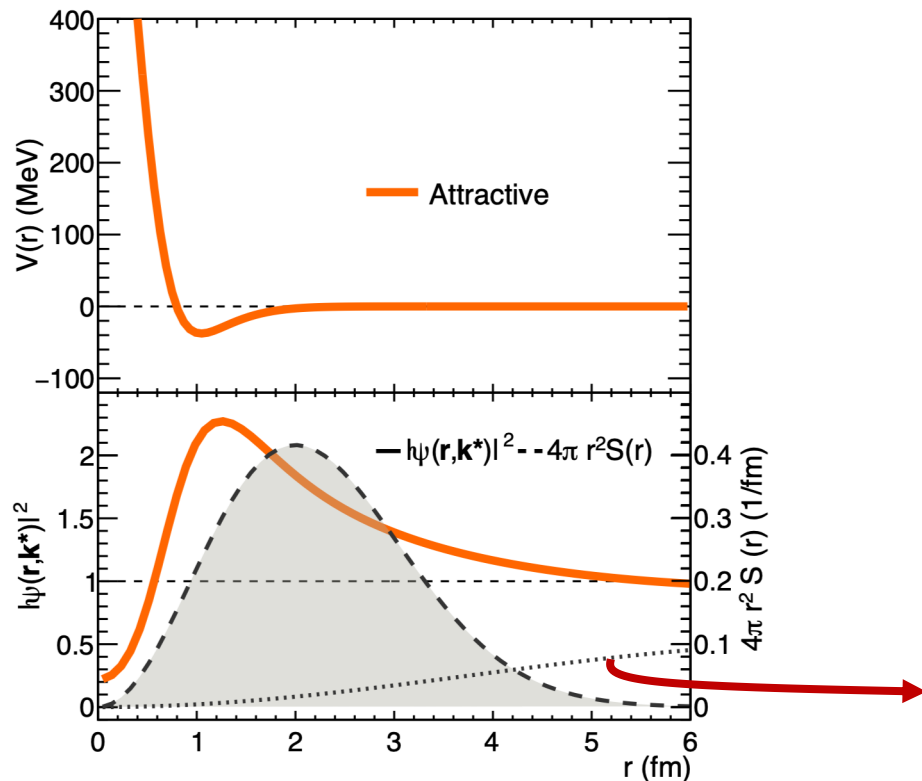


$$C(k^*) = \int S(\vec{r}^*) |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 \vec{r}^*$$

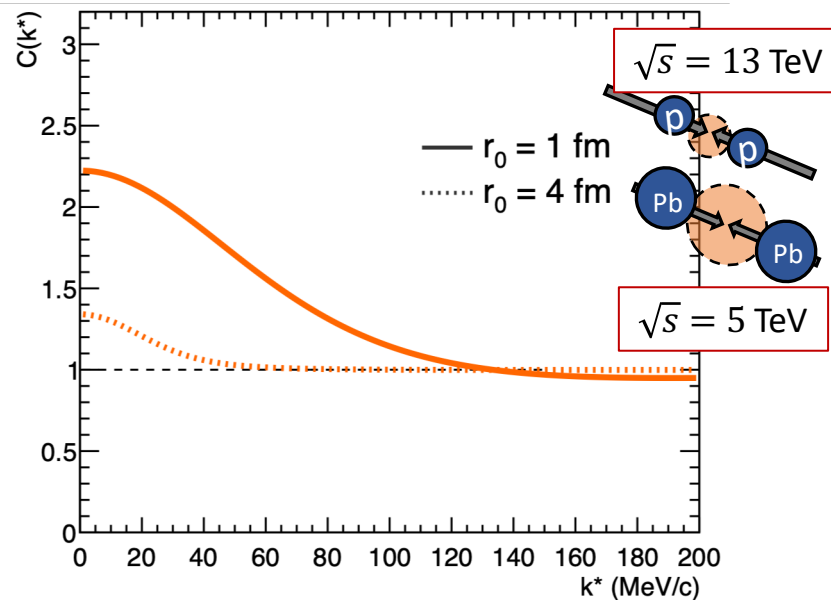


Accessing short-range dynamics
in pp collisions

Predictions obtained using CATS

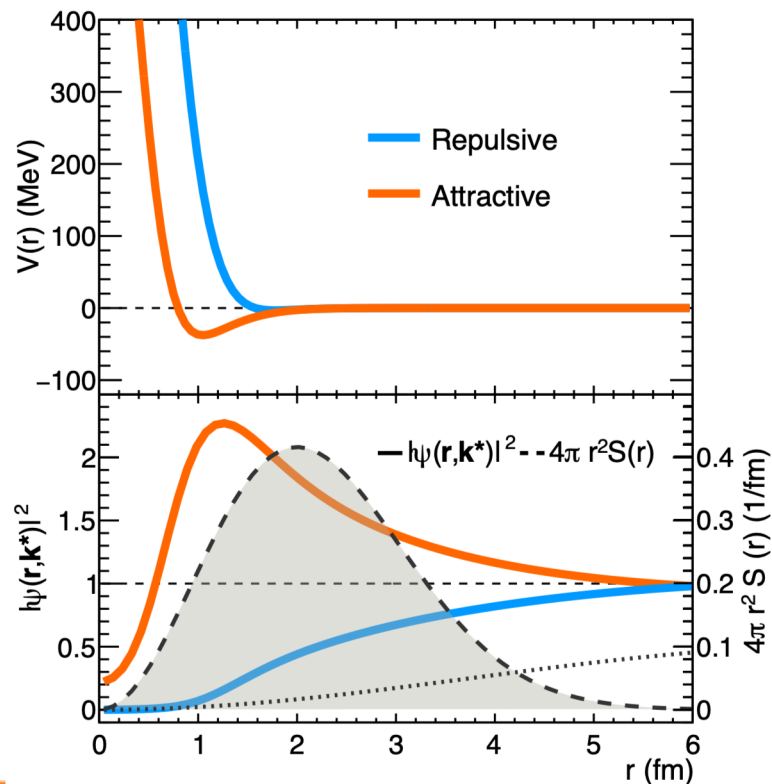


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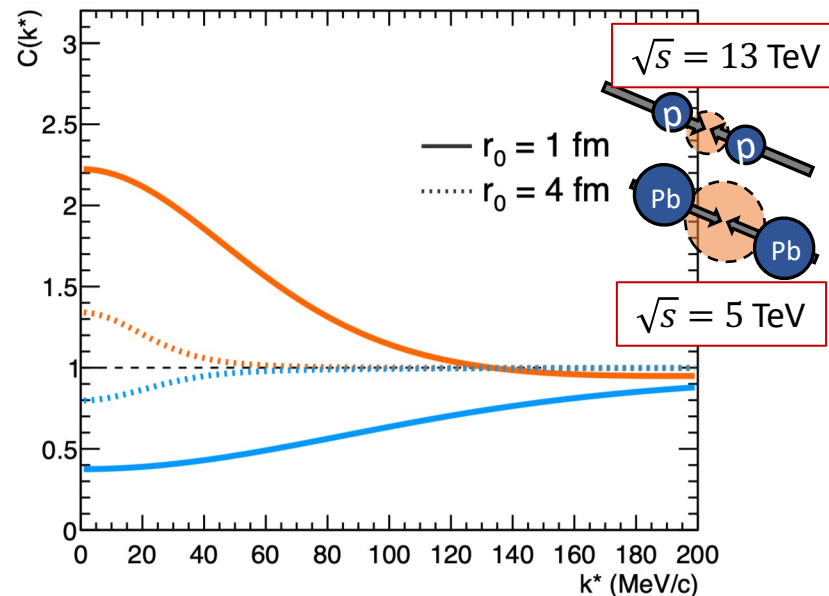


Decrease of signal strength for large source sizes

Predictions obtained using CATS

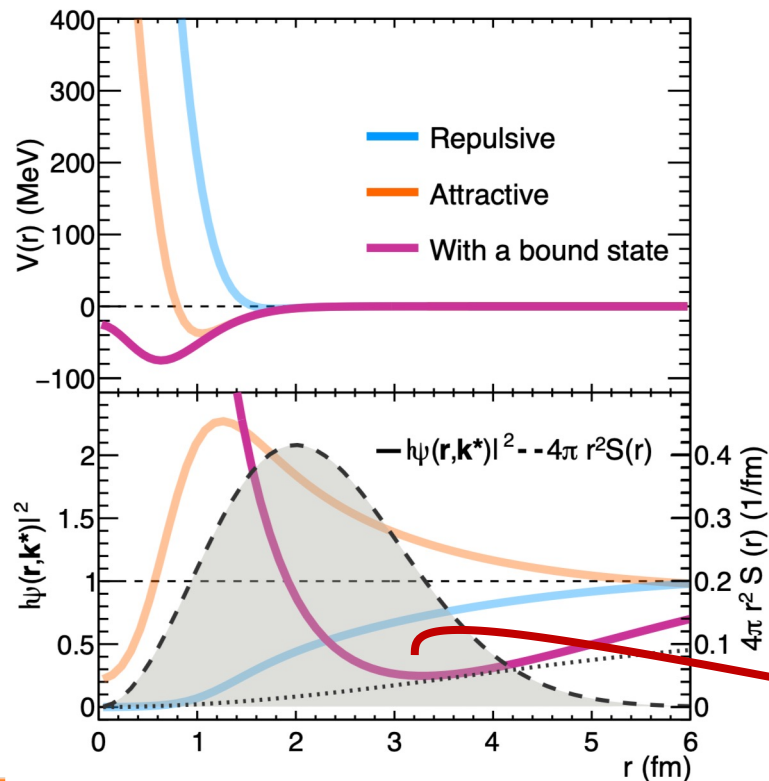


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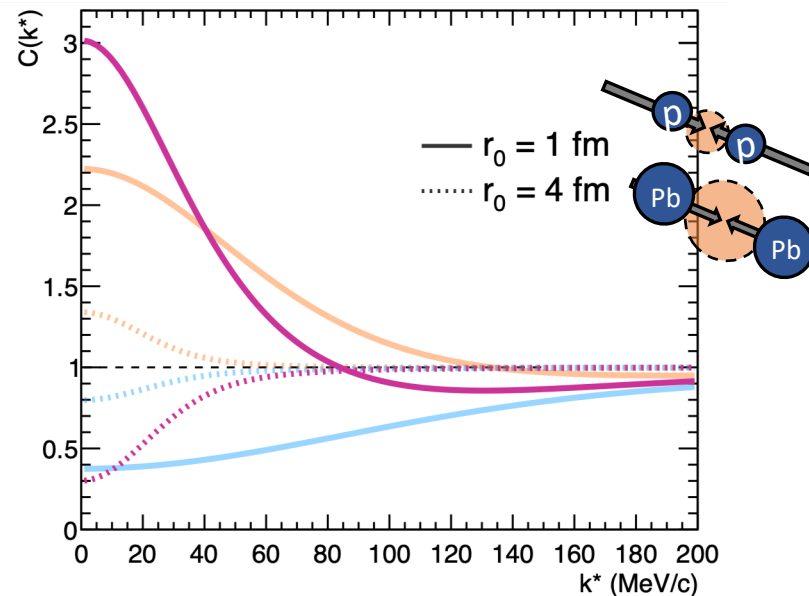


$$C(k^*) \begin{cases} > 1 & \text{Attractive (no BS)} \\ < 1 & \text{Repulsive} \end{cases}$$

Predictions obtained using CATS

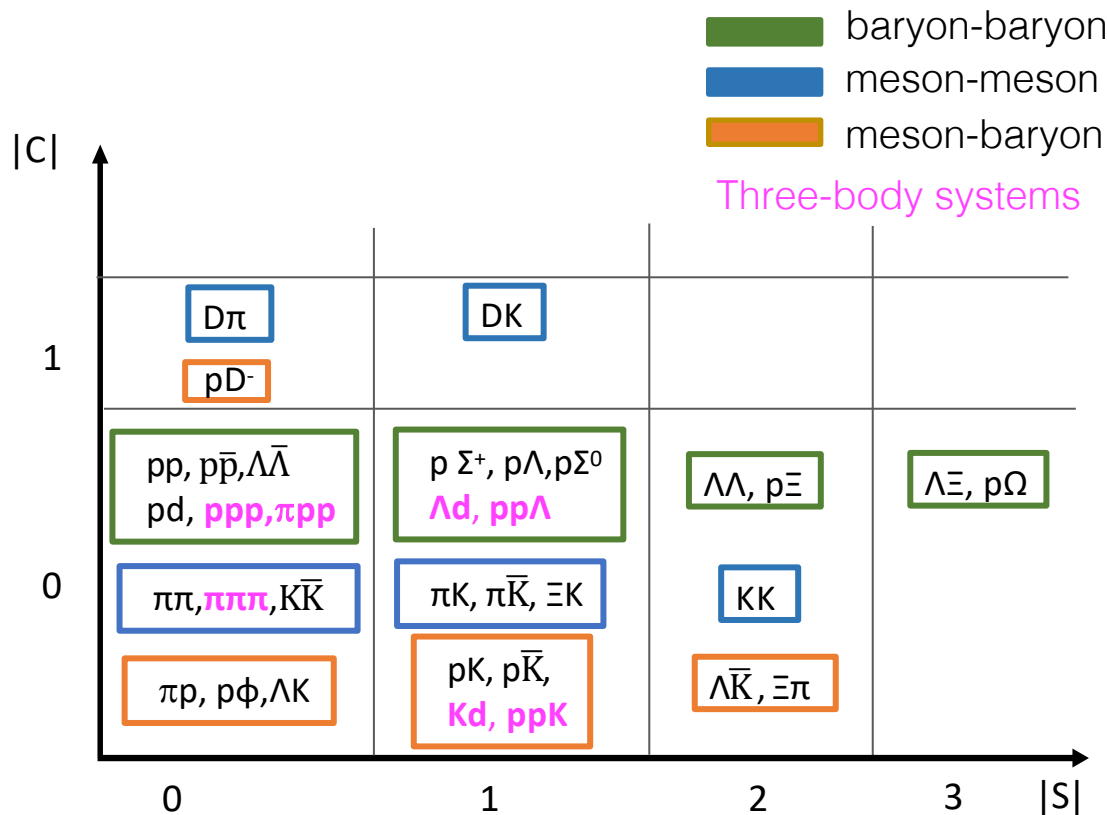


$$C(k^*) = \int S(\vec{r}^*) |\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 \vec{r}^*$$



Correlation flips around unity when a bound state is present!

What was measured in the last 5 years?



p - K : PRL 124 (2020) 9, 092301
 PLB 822 (2021) 136708,
 EPJC 83 (2023) 4, 340
 p - p , p - Λ , Λ - Λ : PRC 99 (2019) 024001
 Λ - Λ : PLB 797 (2019) 134822
 p - Ξ^- : PRL 123 (2019) 112002
 p - Ξ^- , p - Ω^- : Nature 588 (2020) 232–238
 p - Σ^0 : PLB 805 (2020) 135419
 p - ϕ : PRL 127 (2021) 172301
 Baryon-Antibaryon: PLB 829 (2022) 137272
 p - Λ : PLB 832 (2022) 137272
 $\Lambda\Xi$: PLB 844 (2023) 137223
 D - p : PRD **106**, 052010 (2022)
 p - p - p , p - p - Λ : EPJA 59 (2023) 7, 145
 ppK : EPJA 59 (2023) 12, 298
 D - π , D - K : PRD 110 (2024) 3, 032004
 Λ - K : PLB 845 (2023) 138145
 p - d , K - d : PRX 14 (2024) 3, 031051
 π - p , πpp : arXiv:2502.20200v1
 Source studies: PLB 811 (2020) 135849
 arXiv:2311.14527

- Excellent tracking and particle identification (PID) capabilities
- Most suitable detector at the LHC to study (anti-)nuclei production and annihilation
- Results in this talk refer to pp HM at 13 TeV, Run2
- Major upgrade of the TPC (GEM read out) and ITS2
- Factor 100 in data taking rate w.r.t to Run 2
- Run 3 started in 2022-(2025)

Inner Tracking System

Tracking, vertex, PID (dE/dx)

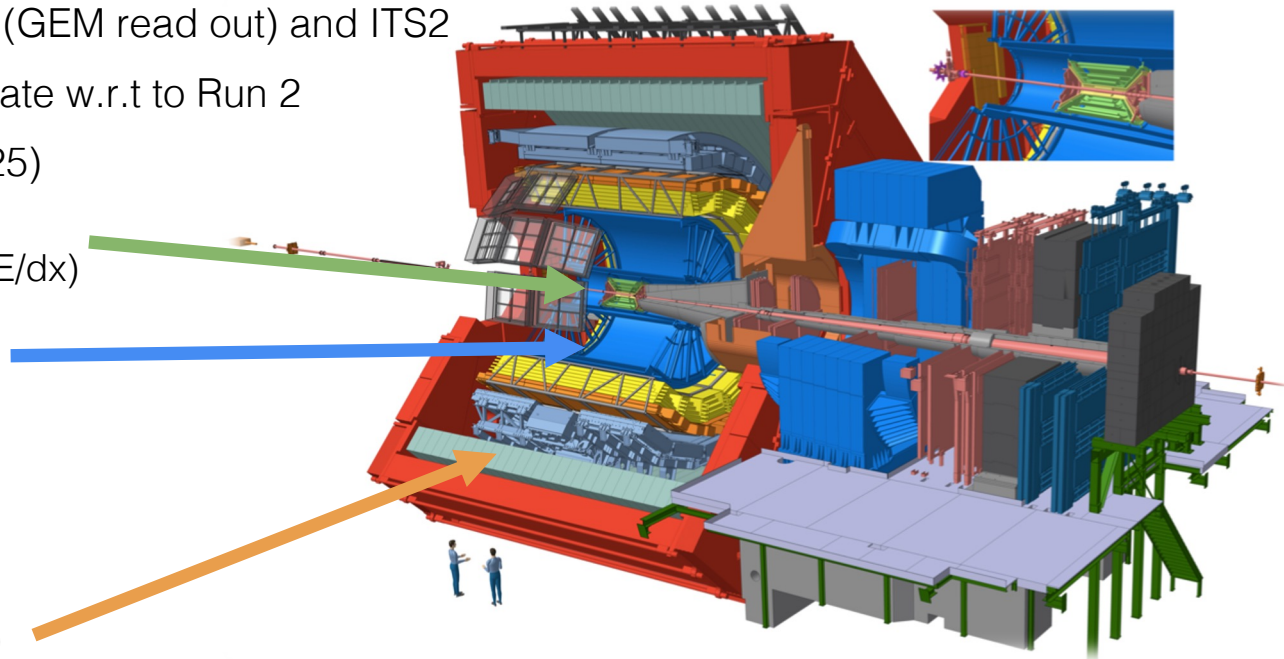
Time Projection Chamber

Tracking, PID (dE/dx)

Transition Radiation Detector

Time Of Flight detector

PID (TOF measurement)



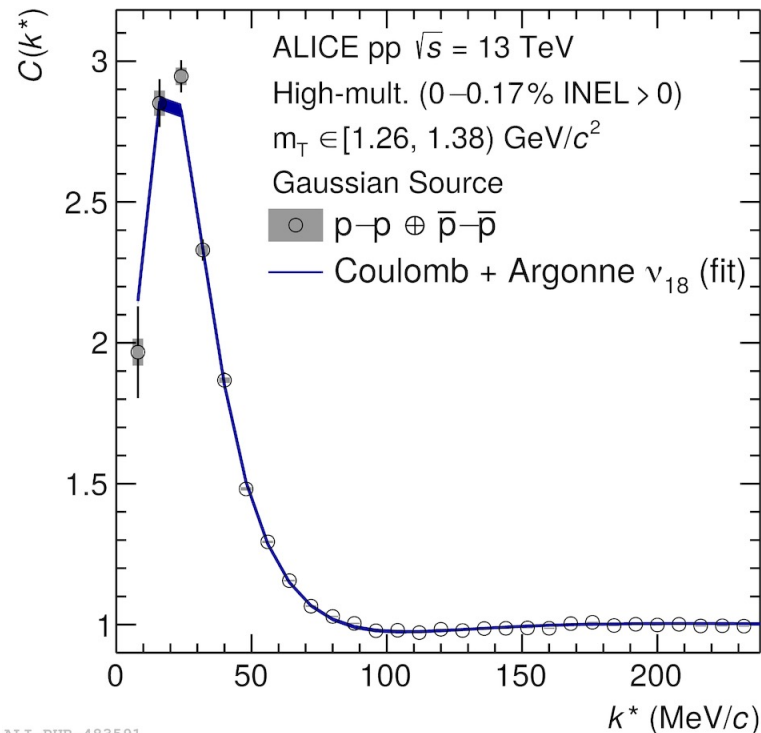
- Emitting source function anchored to p-p correlation function

$$C(k^*) = \int \underset{\text{measured}}{S(\vec{r})} |\underset{\text{known interaction}}{\psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})}|^2 d^3\vec{r}$$

- Gaussian parametrization

$$S(r) = \frac{1}{(4\pi r_{\text{core}}^2)^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{4r_{\text{core}}^2}\right) \times \text{Effect of short lived resonances } (c\tau \sim 1 \text{ fm})$$

ALICE Coll., PLB, 811 (2020), 135849



ALI-PUB-483591

ALICE Coll., PLB, 811 (2020)

- Emitting source function anchored to p-p correlation function

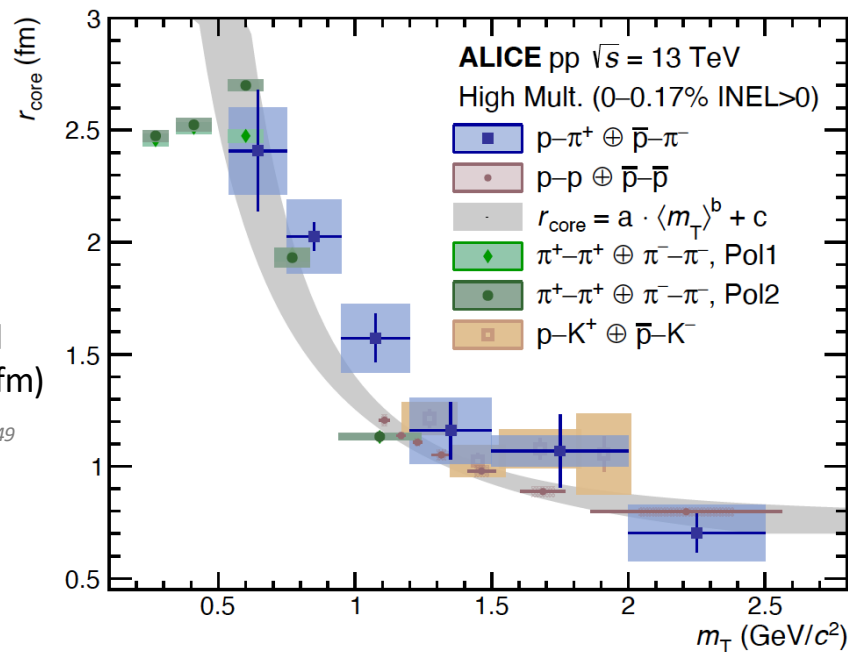
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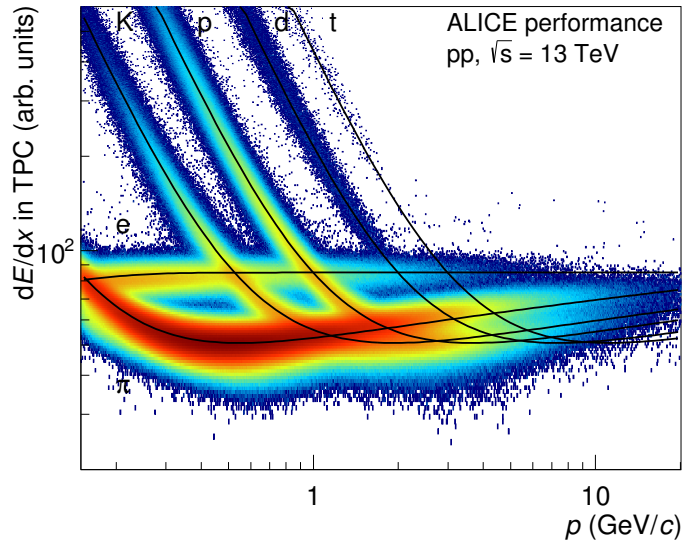
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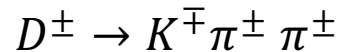
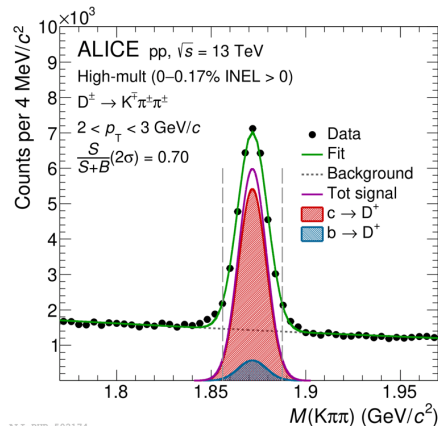
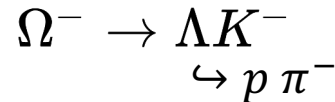
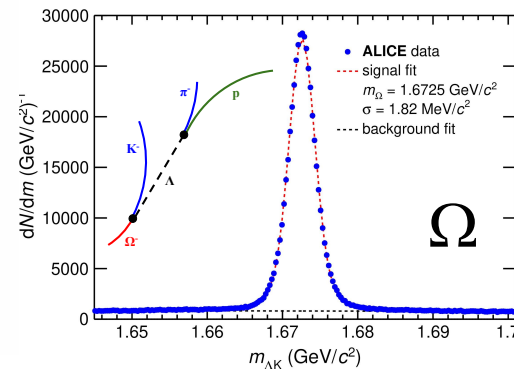
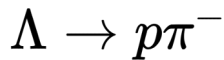
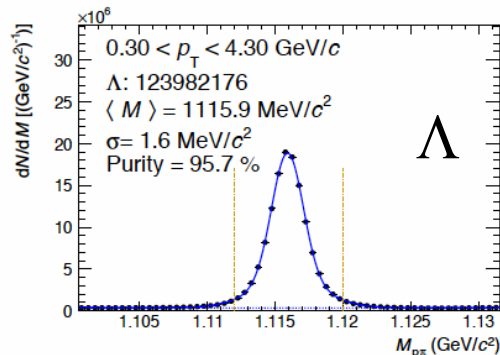
ALICE Coll., PLB, 811 (2020), 135849

- Cross-check with $K^+\text{-p}$, $\pi\text{-}\pi$, $p\text{-}\Lambda$, $p\text{-}\pi$
- One source that describes all systems with very different final state interactions



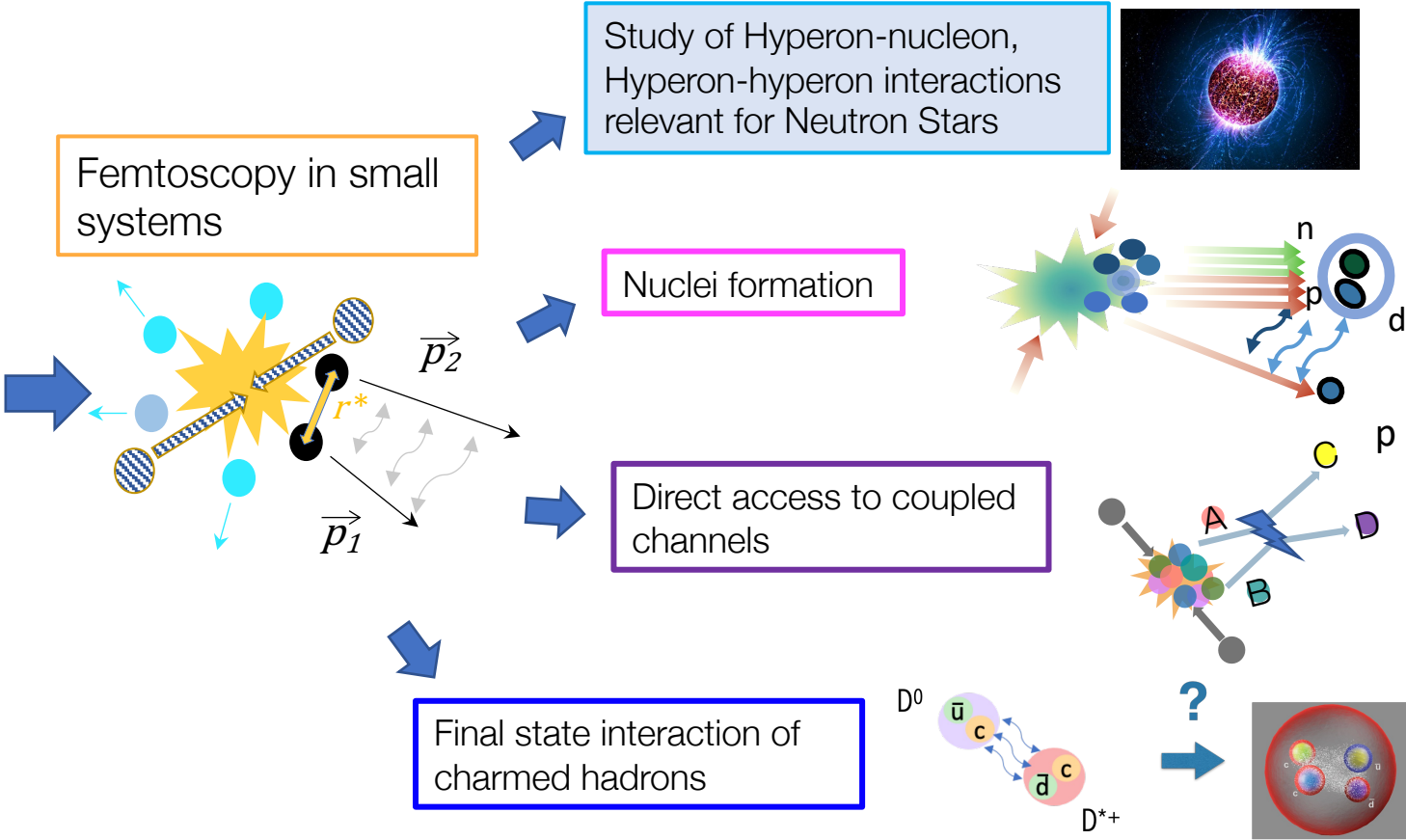


Λ , Ω : decay length $\sim$ cm
D meson: decay length $\sim$ 100 μ m

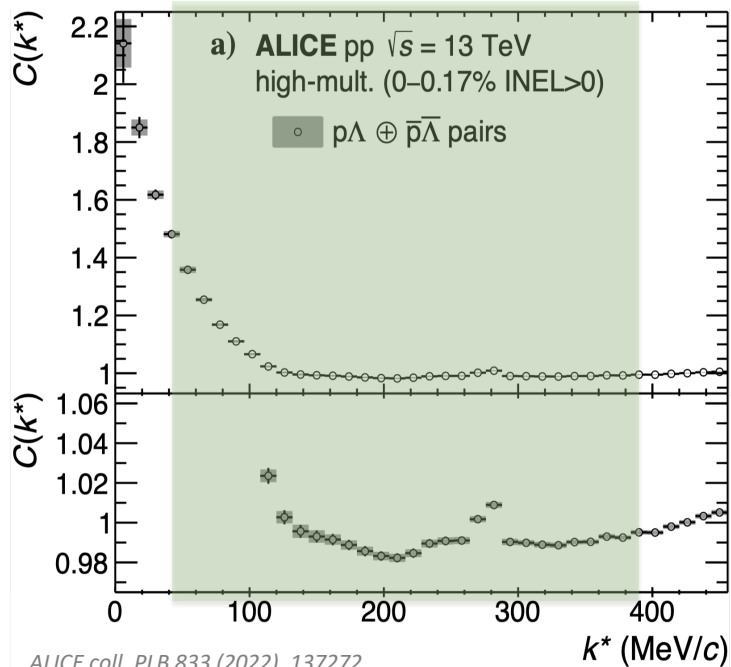


A new tool to study low energy QCD

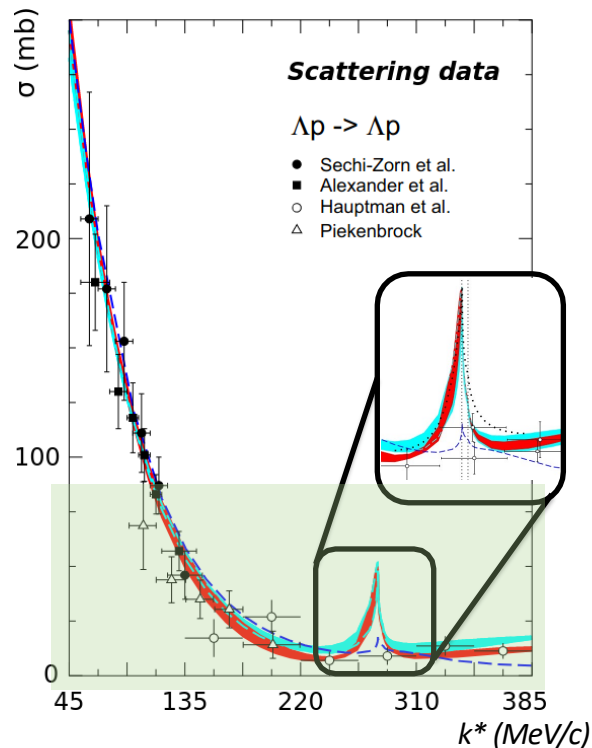
ALICE at the LHC



$\sim 7 \cdot 10^5$ $p\Lambda$ pairs with $k^* < 200$ MeV/c



- Measurement down to zero momentum
- Factor >20 improved precision (<1%)
- First experimental evidence of ΛN - ΣN opening in 2-body channel

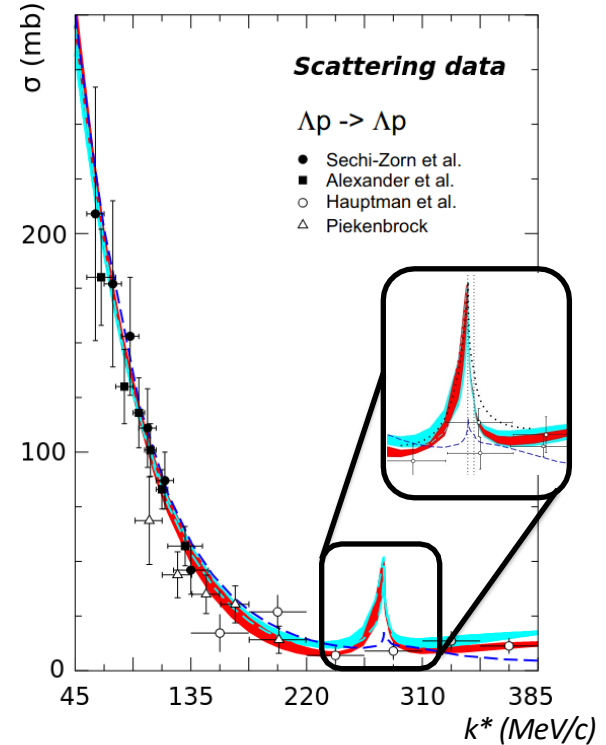
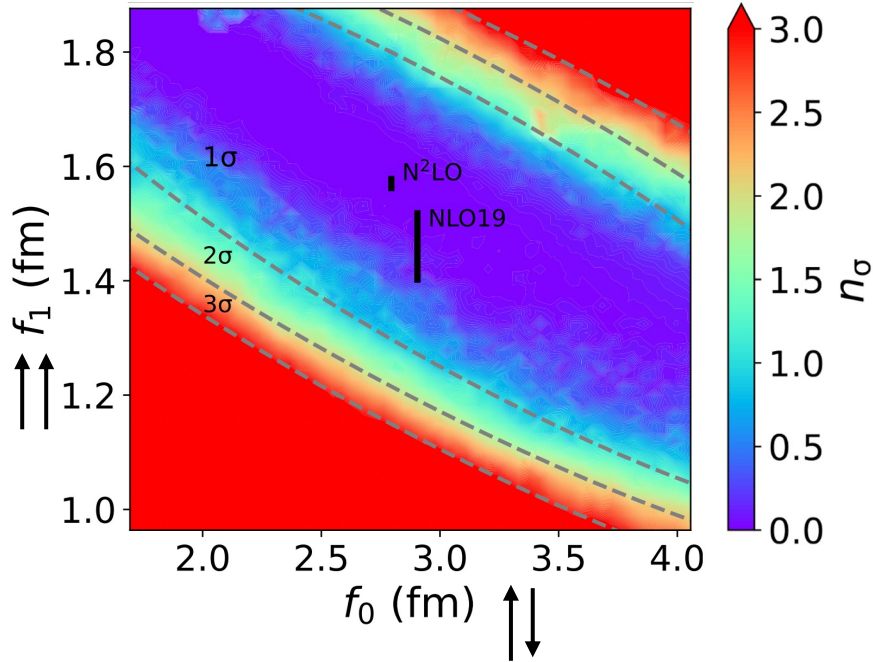


NLO19: J.Haidenbauer, U. Meißner, EPJA 56 (2020), 3, 91

NLO13: J.Haidenbauer, N.Kaiser et al., NPA 915, 24 (2013)

- Spin-0 and Spin-1 scattering length from scattering data
- Agreement with N²LO and NLO19

D. Mihaylov, J. Haidenbauer and V. Mantovani Sarti, PLB 850 (2024) 138550



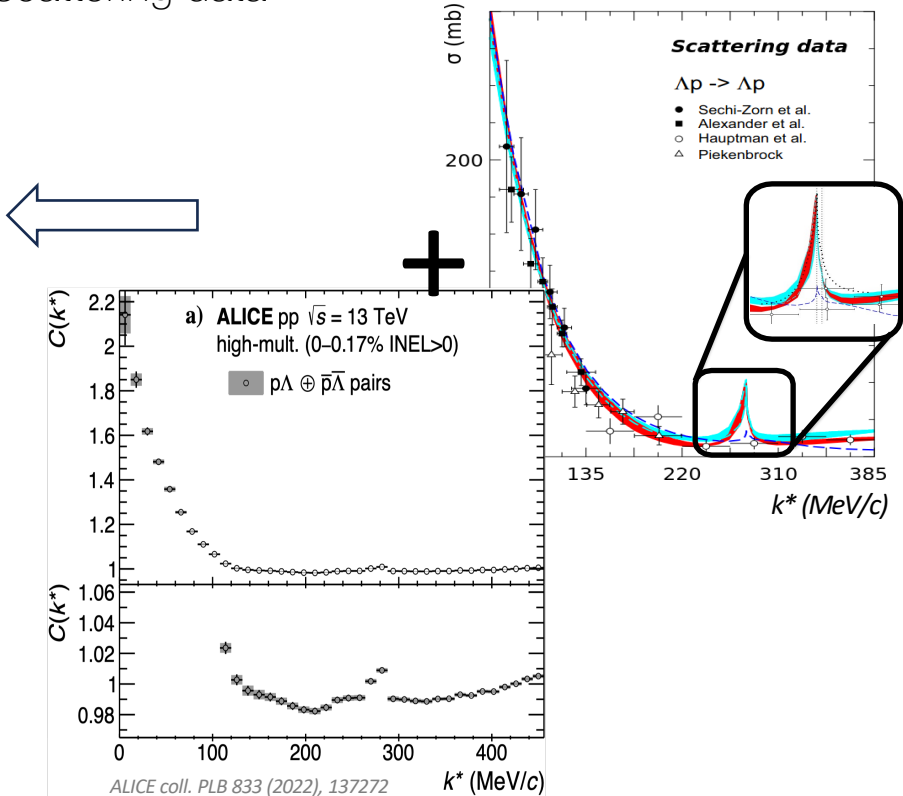
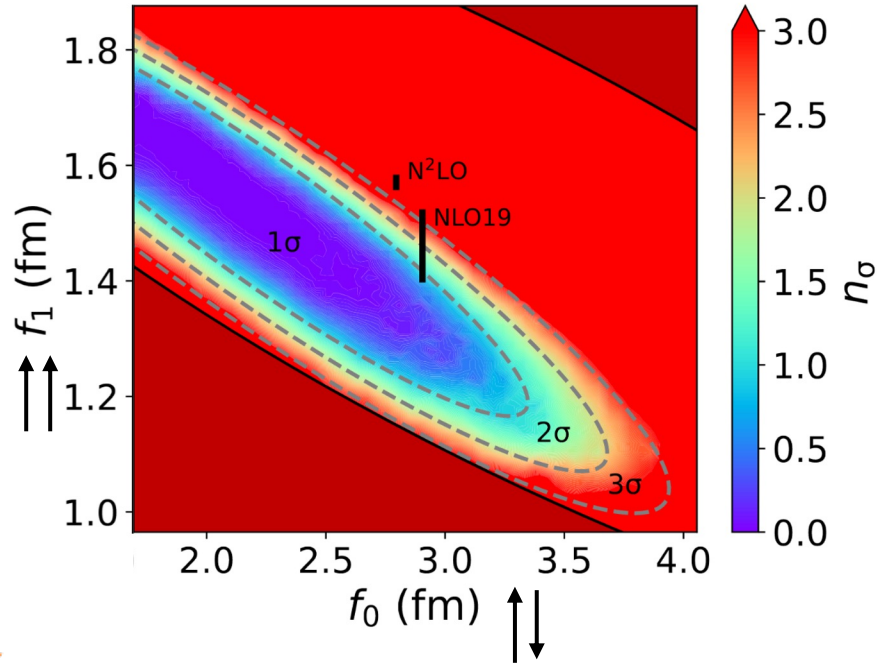
NLO19: J.Haidenbauer, U. Meißner, EPJA 56 (2020), 3, 91

NLO13: J.Haidenbauer, N.Kaiser et al., NPA 915, 24 (2013)

FIRST simultaneous Fit of scattering and femto data

- NEW: combined analysis of femtoscopic and scattering data
- Less attractive ΔN interaction

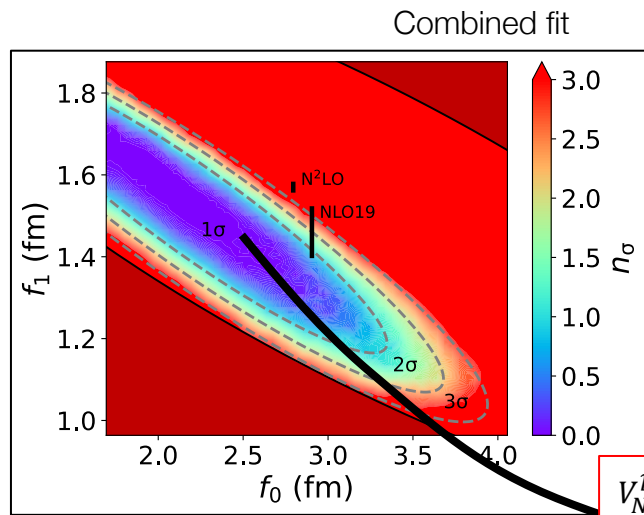
D. Mihaylov, J. Haidenbauer and V. Mantovani Sarti, PLB 850 (2024) 138550



WHAT about Neutron stars ?

- Also interaction between other hyperons (Σ (uds), Ξ (ssd)) and nucleons, or between two hyperons ($\Lambda\Lambda$) are relevant for neutron stars.
- We have measured all the relevant two-baryon interactions with femtoscopy!

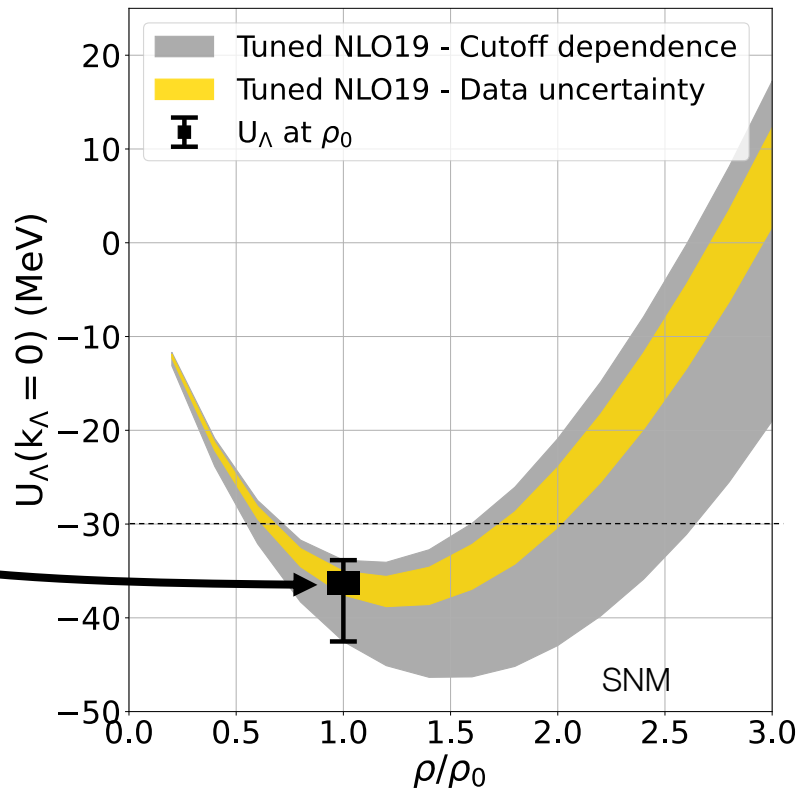


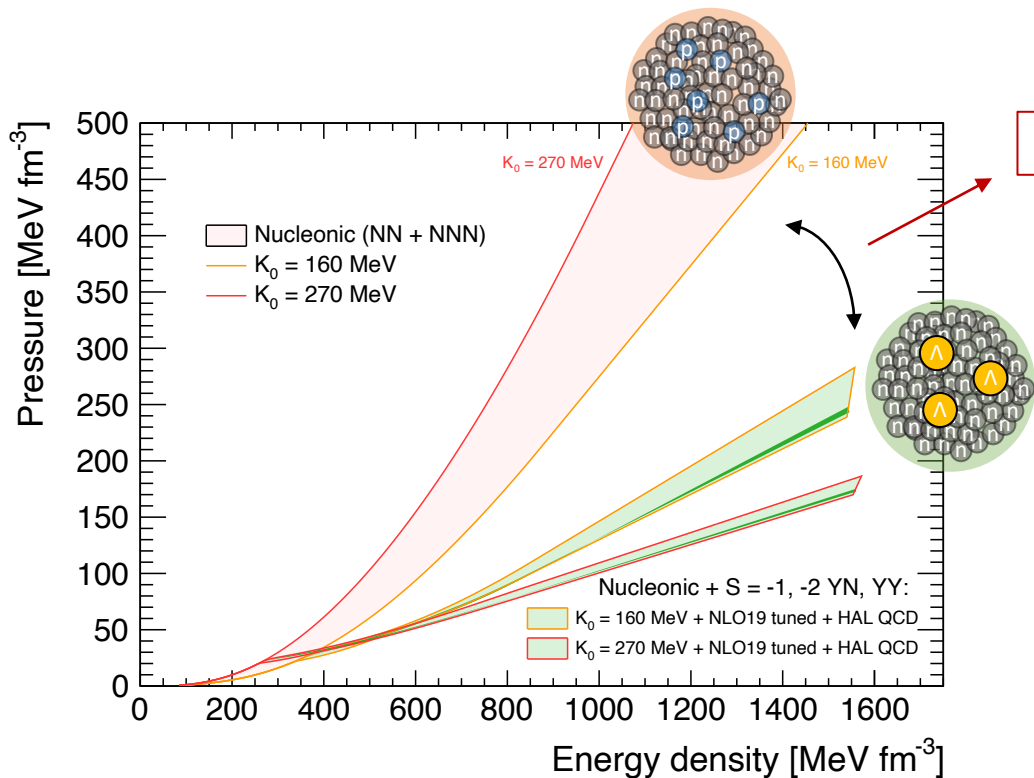


$V_{NLO19}^{p\Lambda}$ in mom. space
via G-matrix approach

$$U_{\Lambda}^{2BF}(\rho_0) = -36.3 \pm 1.3(stat)^{+2.5}_{-6.2}(syst) \text{ MeV}$$

Quantitative estimate of repulsion from 3BF ANN at ρ_0 !





Inclusion of S=-1, -2 YN softens the EoS!

Light shade: theoretical uncertainty (cut-off)

Dark shade: experimental uncertainty (comb. fit scatt. + femto)

Experiment

D. Mihaylov
TUM/Sofia
Uni



V. Mantovani
Sarti
TUM



Theory

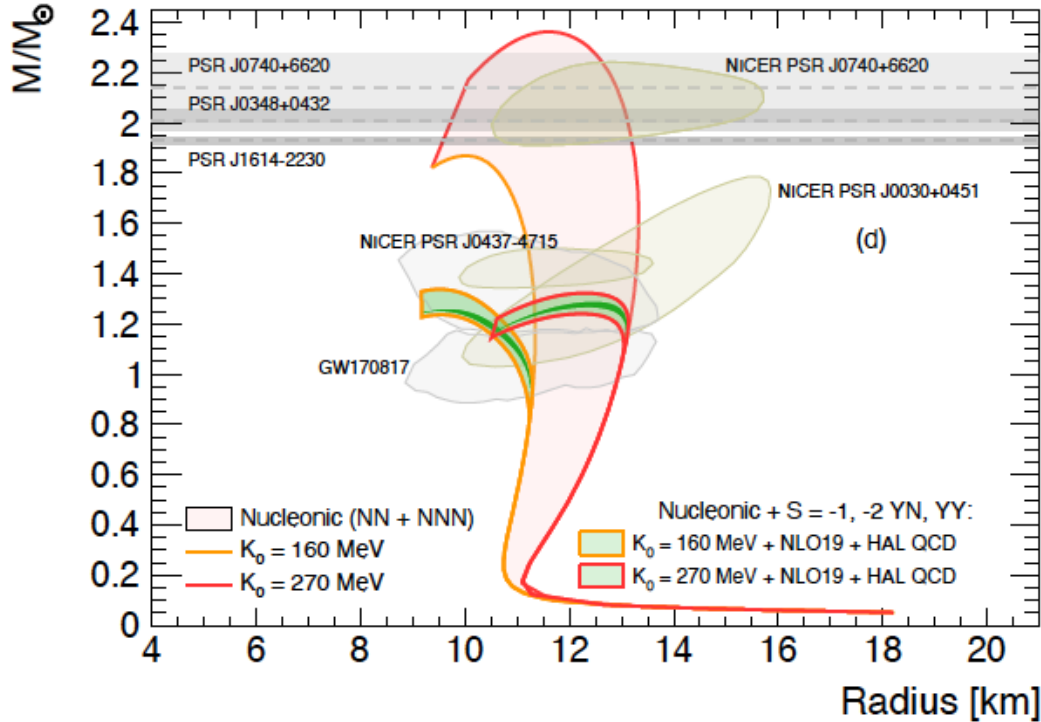
J. Haidenbauer



I. Vidana
INFN Catania



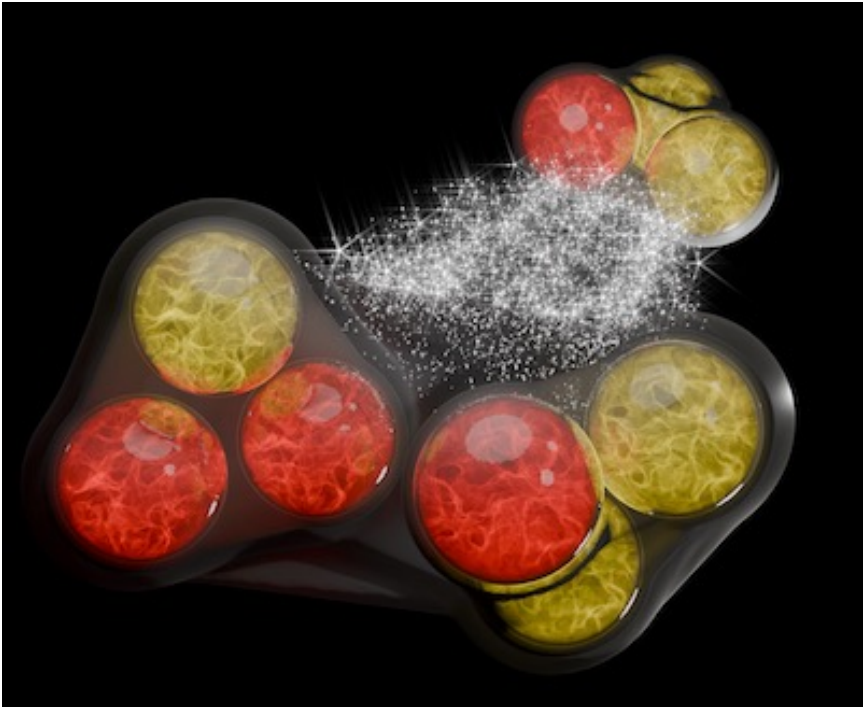
I. Vidana, V. Mantovani Sarti, J. Haidenbauer, D. L. Mihaylov, LF arXiv:2412.12729v1



Upper limit of EoS with hyperons is too soft to reach $2M_\odot$

Additional repulsion among hadrons or new degree of freedom is needed

Three body hyperon nucleon interactions?



Two methods are currently studied

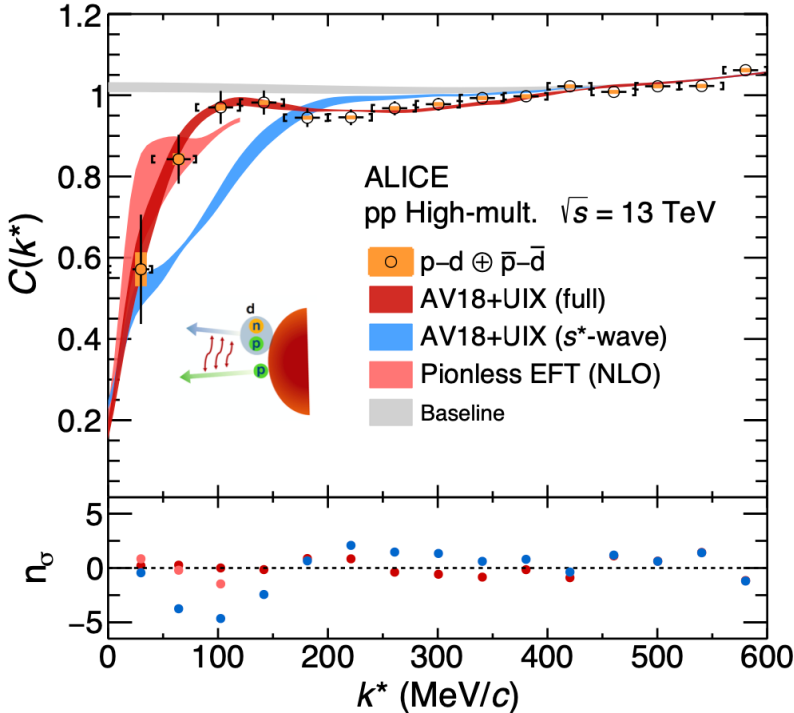
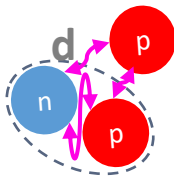
- Deuteron-baryon correlations
- Three-baryons correlations

$$C(k^*) = \int S(r) |\psi(k^*, r)|^2 4\pi r^2 dr$$

$$C(Q_3) = \int S(\rho) |\psi(Q_3, \rho)|^2 \rho^5 d\rho$$

$$Q_3 = \sqrt{-q_{ij}^2 - q_{ik}^2 - q_{kj}^2}$$

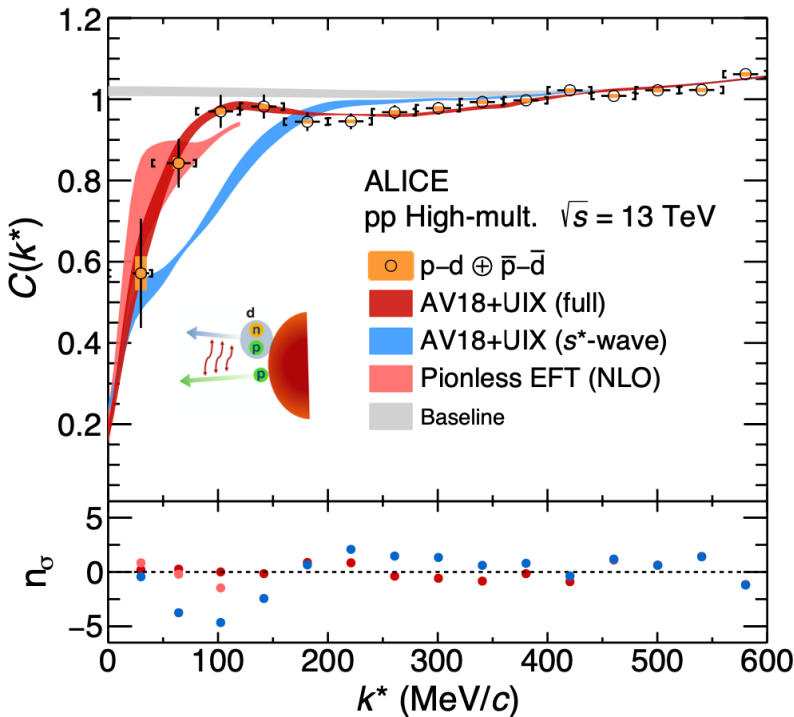
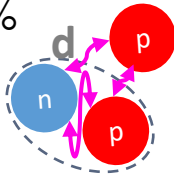
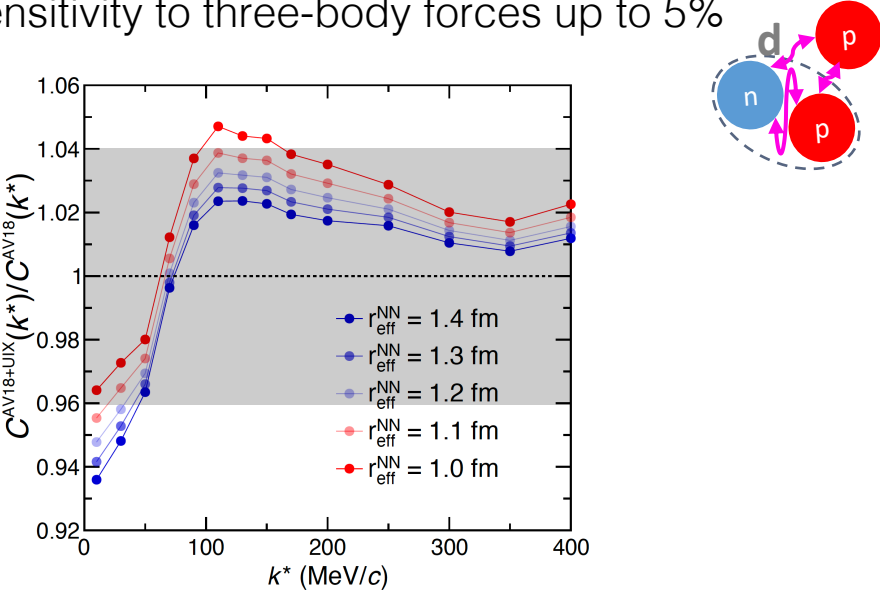
- Full three-body calculations are required (NN + NNN + Quantum Statistics)



ALICE Coll., PRX 14 (2024) 3, 031051

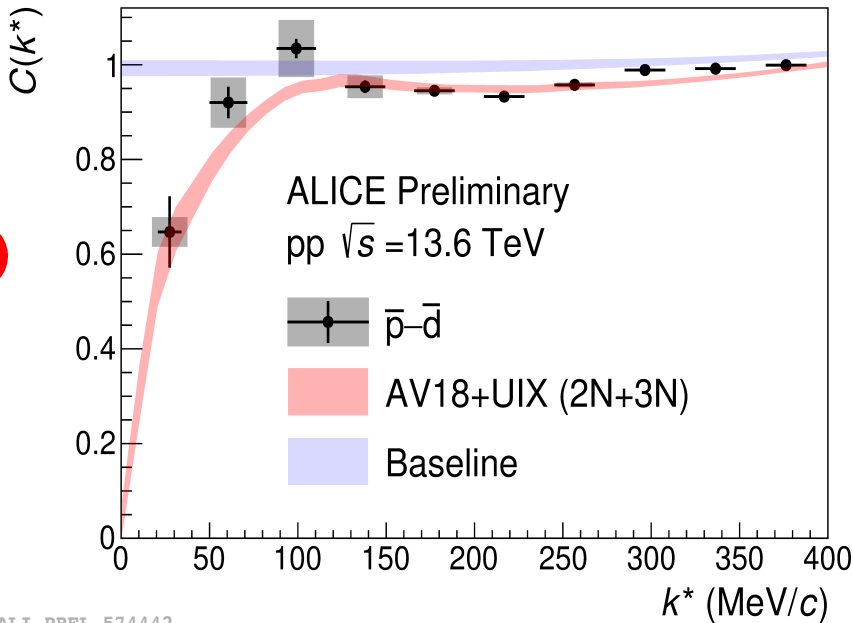
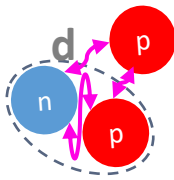
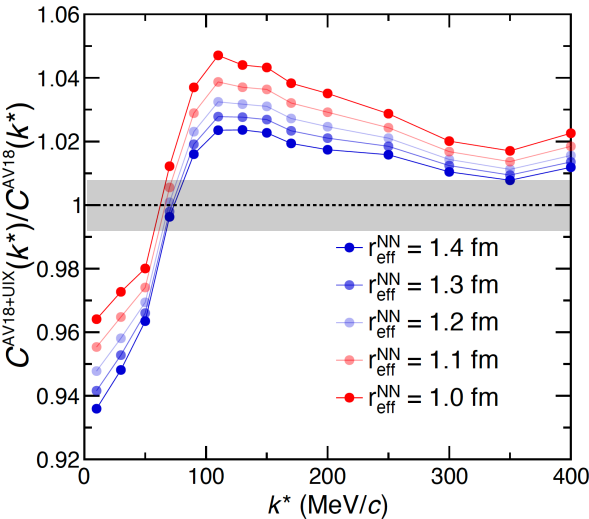
M. Viviani et al, Phys.Rev.C 108 (2023) 6, 064002

- Full three-body calculations are required (NN + NNN + Quantum Statistics)
- Hadron-nuclei correlations at the LHC can be used to study many-body dynamics
- Sensitivity to three-body forces up to 5%

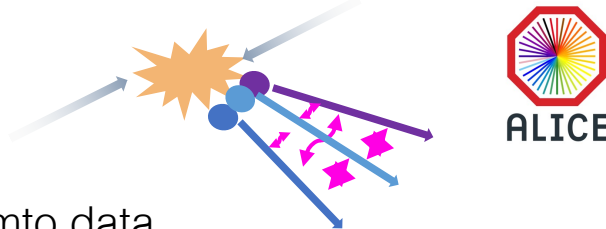


ALICE Coll., PRX 14 (2024) 3, 031051
M. Viviani et al, Phys.Rev.C 108 (2023) 6, 064002

- Full three-body calculations are required (NN + NNN + Quantum Statistics)
- Hadron-nuclei correlations at the LHC can be used to study many-body dynamics
- Sensitivity for Run 3 ~1%



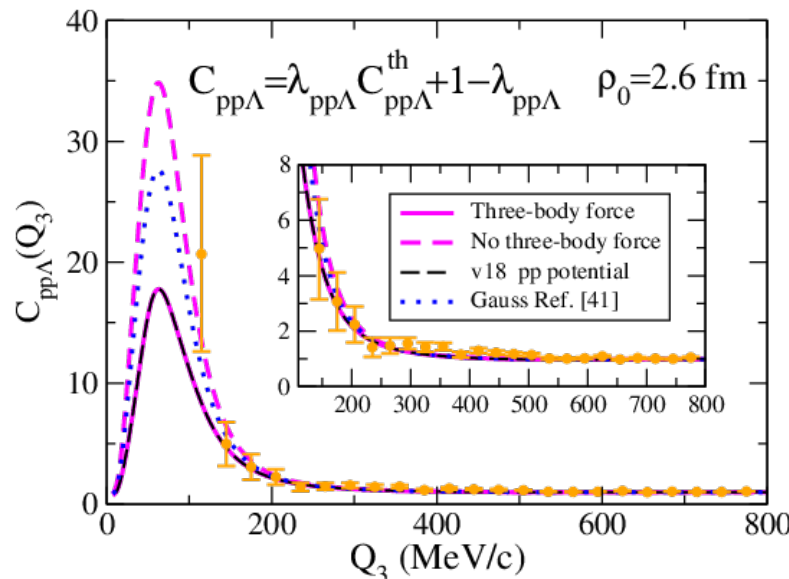
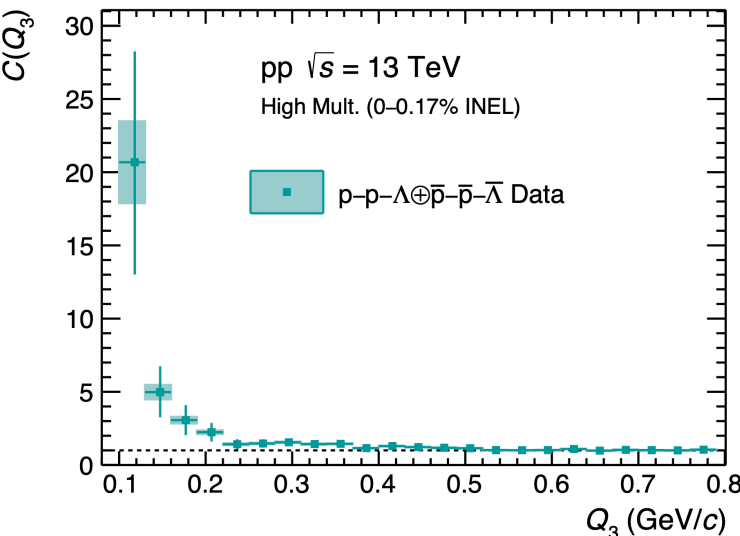
ALI-PREL-574442



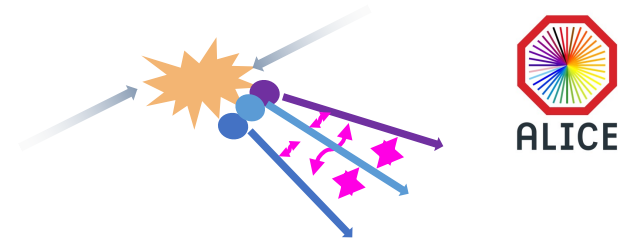
Run 2 data limited in statistics

First calculation : $\rightarrow$ N Λ interaction from fit of scattering & femto data

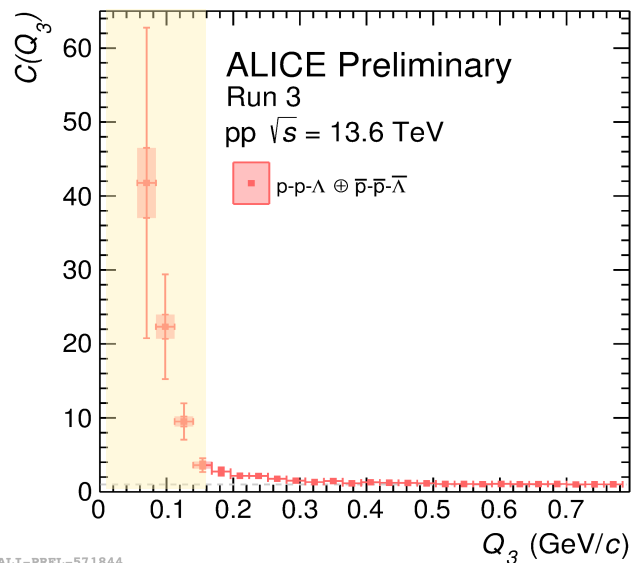
$\rightarrow$ hypertriton BE reproduced with 2B interaction



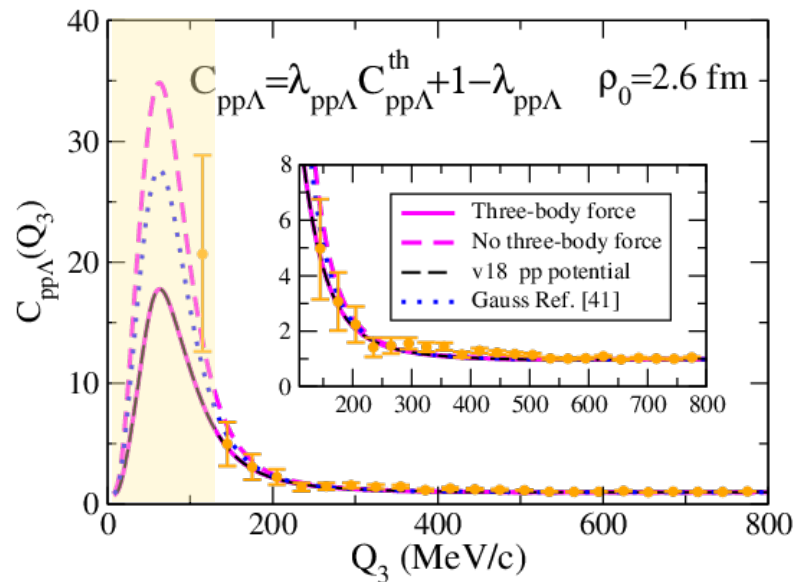
pp Λ correlation



Dedicated three body triggers for pp collisions at Run 3
By the end of 2026 100 times more statistics

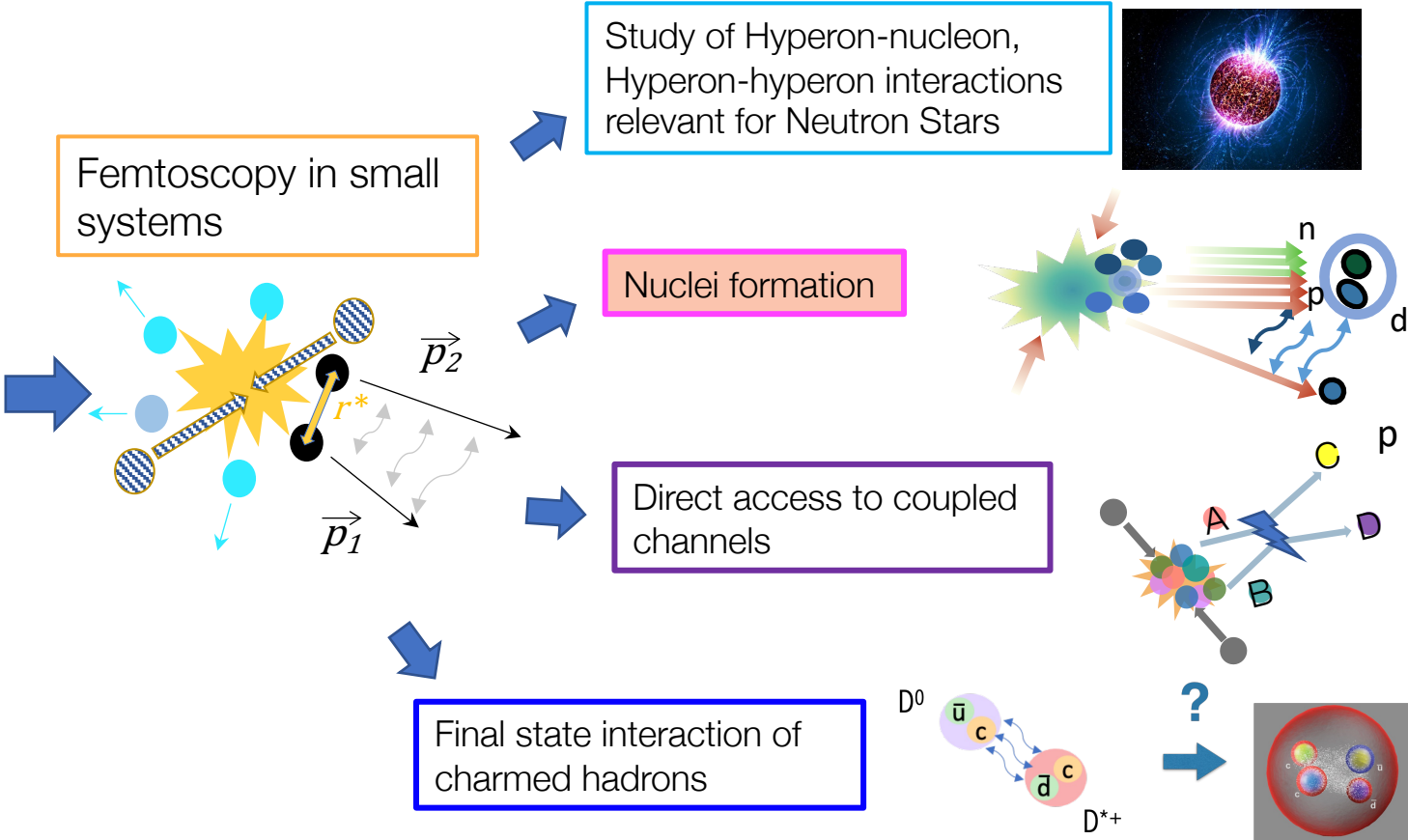


ALICE-PREL-571844



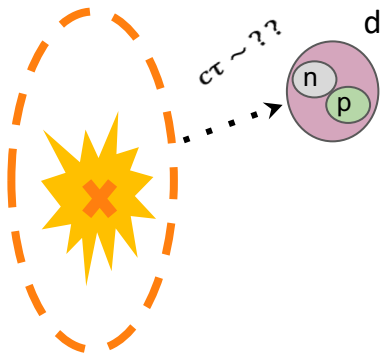
A new tool to study low energy QCD

ALICE at the LHC



Motivation

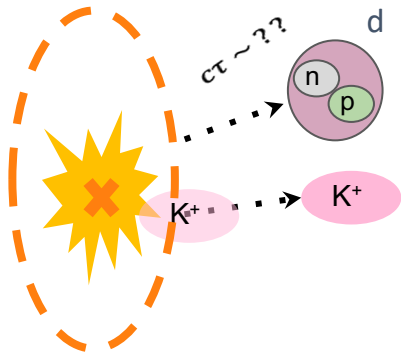
Solve a long-standing puzzle about the nuclei production mechanism in relativistic hadron-hadron collisions



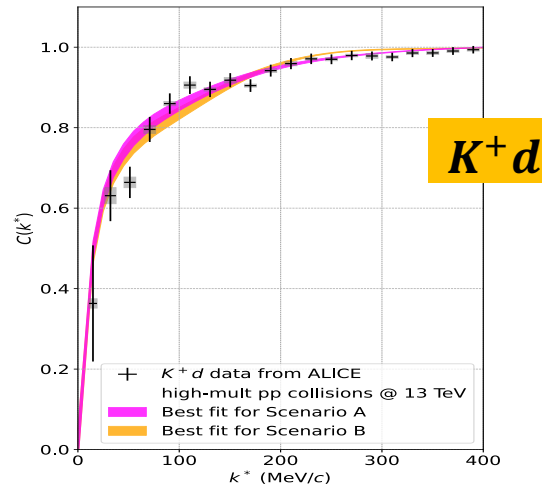
Motivation

Solve a long-standing puzzle about the nuclei production mechanism in relativistic hadron-hadron collisions

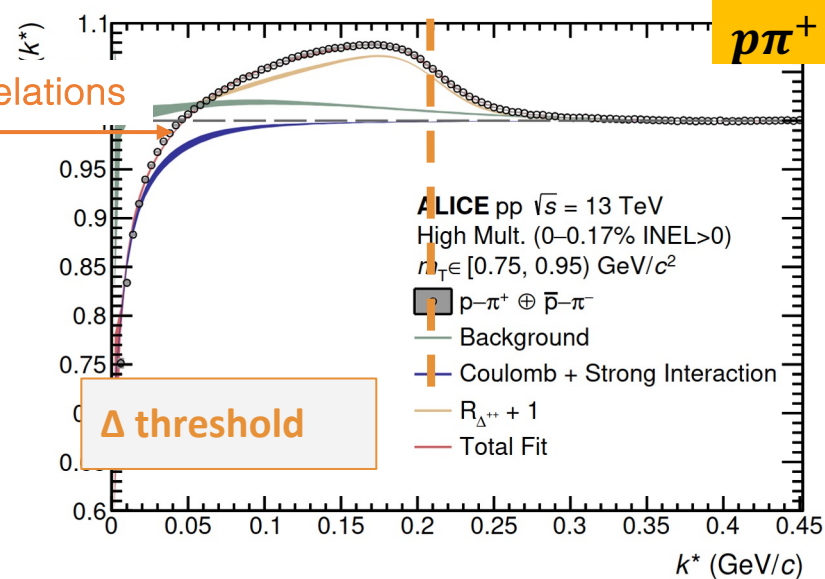
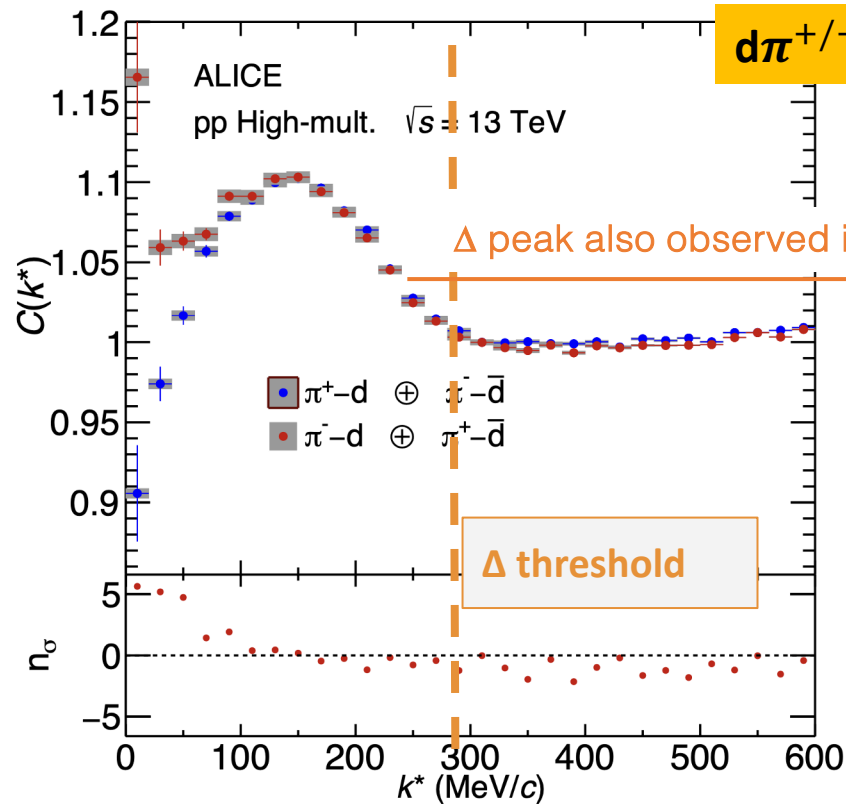
Evidence of K^+ -d strong interaction at short distances

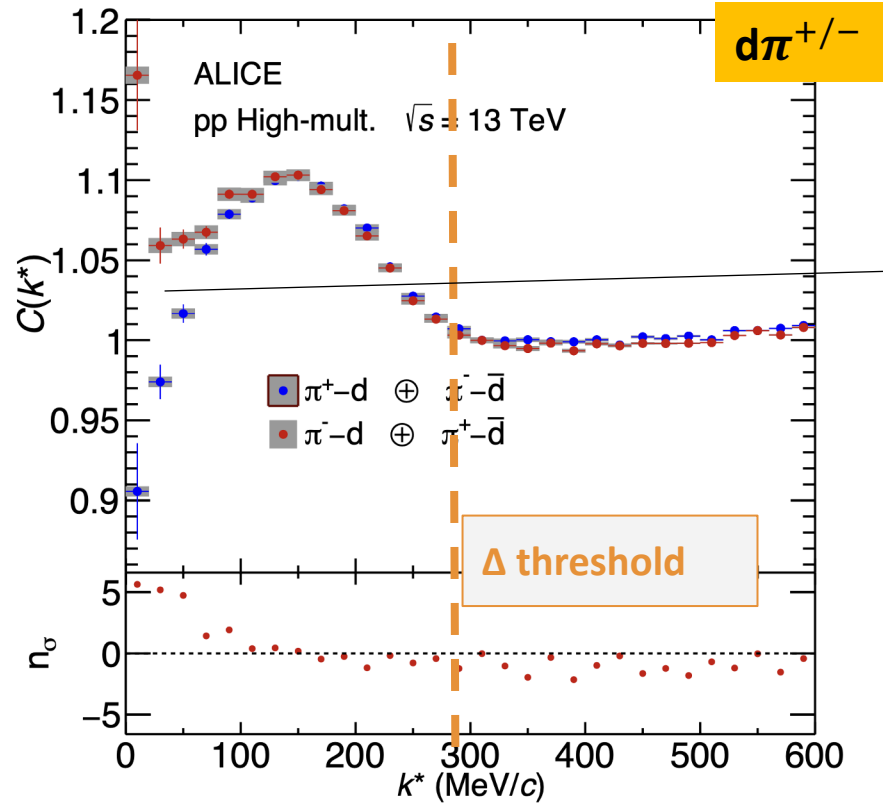


Data from ALICE Coll. Phys. Rev. X 14, 031051 (2024)
O. Vazquez Doce, D. Mihaylov, LF arXiv: 2412.04562

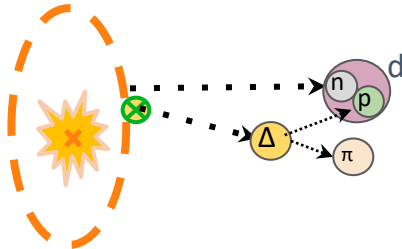
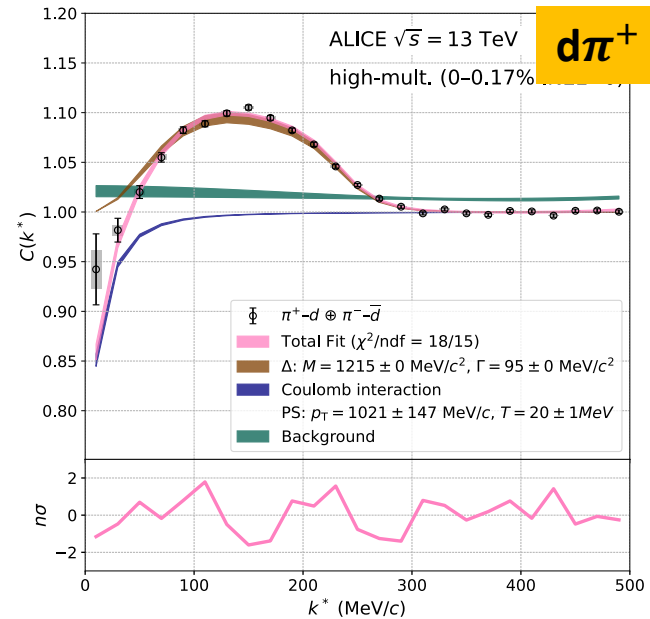
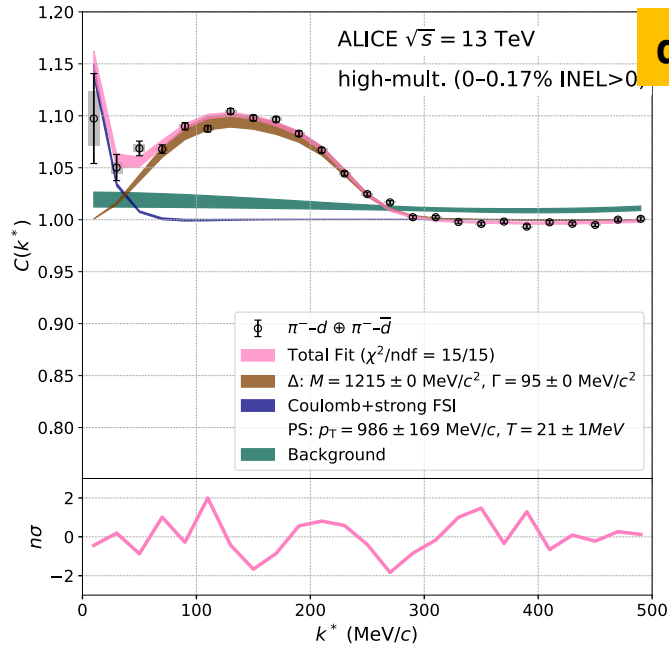


Considering K^+ d correlations and the CECA source model it is possible to calculate an **upper limit** for the deuteron formation time : **4.75 fm/c**





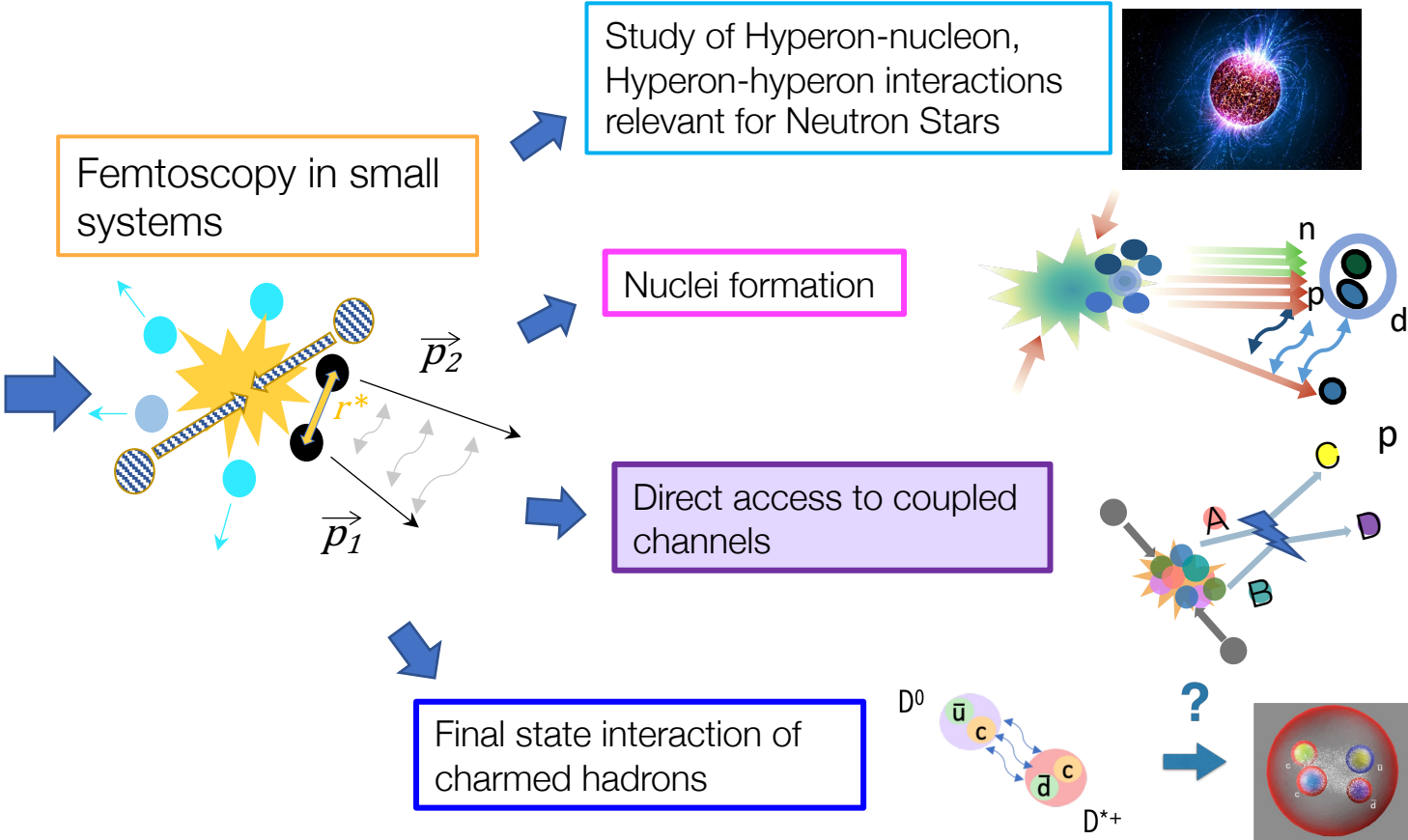
Attractive ($\pi^- d$)
 Repulsive ($\pi^+ d$) final state interactions
 Mainly Coulomb

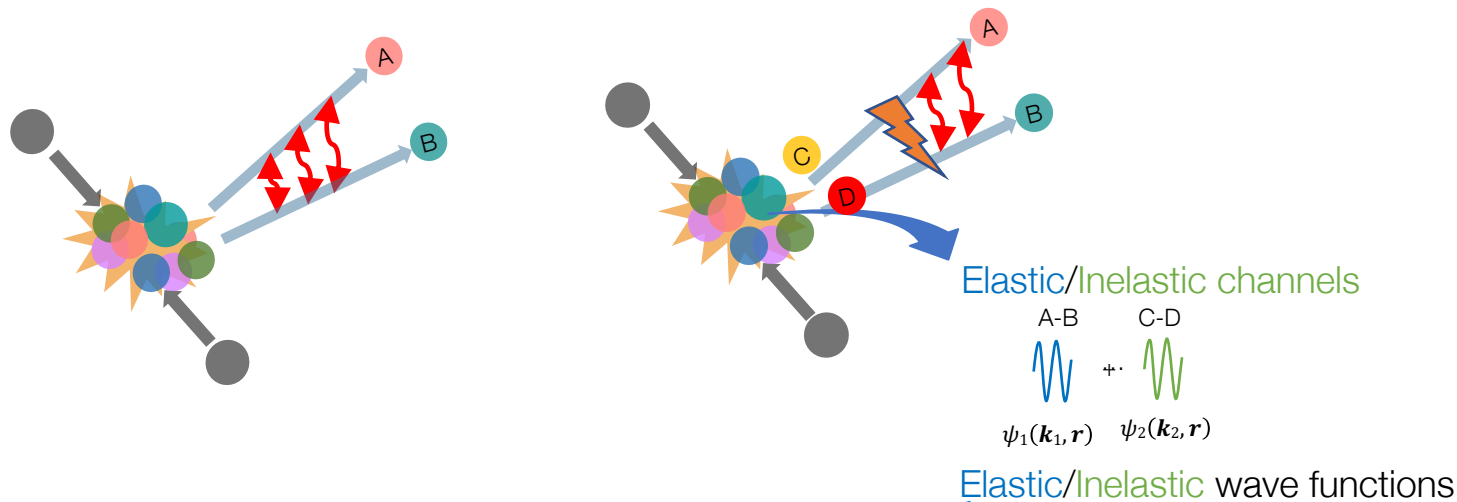


- The Δ peak in πd can only be explained as the residual correlation that is retained between the pion and the nucleon stemming from the same Δ decay
- This means that the deuteron formation occurs after the Δ decay and through rescattering/coalescence with an additional nucleon

A new tool to study low energy QCD

ALICE at the LHC

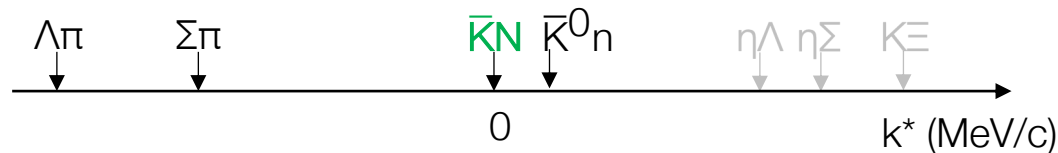
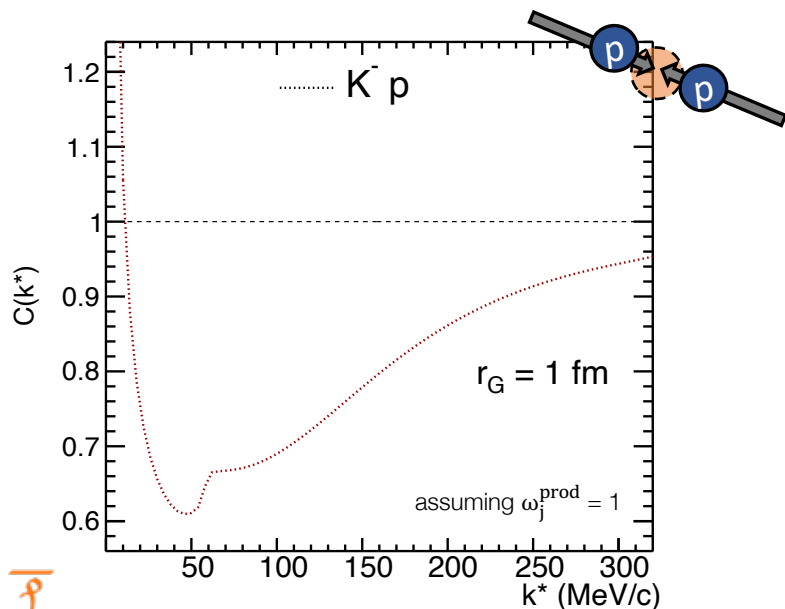
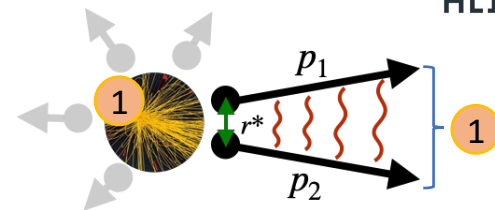




$$C_{A-B}(k^*) = \underbrace{\int S(\mathbf{r}) |\psi_{1 \rightarrow 1}(k^*, \mathbf{r})|^2 d^3r}_{\text{elastic A-B} \rightarrow \text{A-B}} + \sum_{j \neq 1} w_j \underbrace{\int S(\mathbf{r}) |\psi_{j \rightarrow 1}(k_j^*, \mathbf{r})|^2 d^3r}_{\text{inelastic C-D} \rightarrow \text{A-B, ...}} = \mathcal{N}(k^*) \frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)}$$

Coupled-channels dynamics in femtoscopy

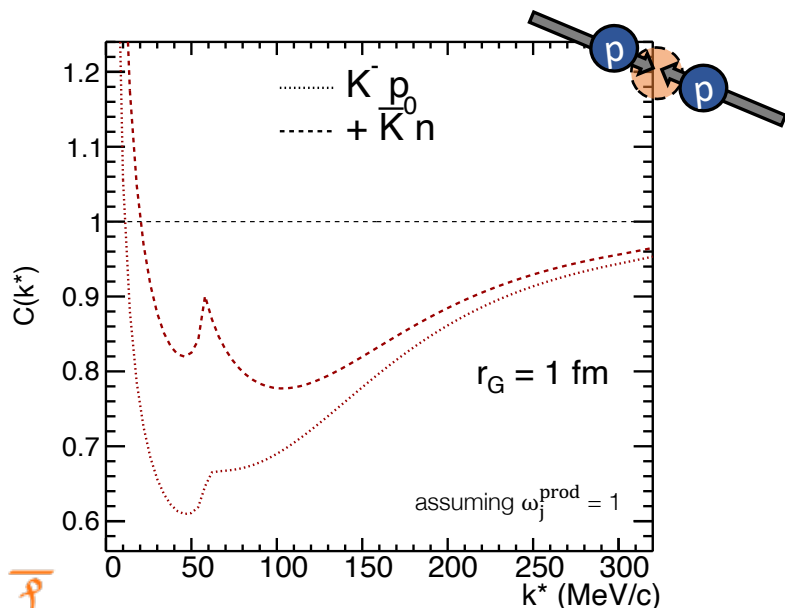
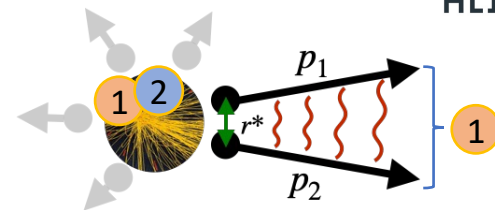
$$C(k^*) = \underbrace{\int S_1(\vec{r}^*) |\psi_{1 \rightarrow 1}(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 r^*}_{\text{elastic } 1 \rightarrow 1}$$



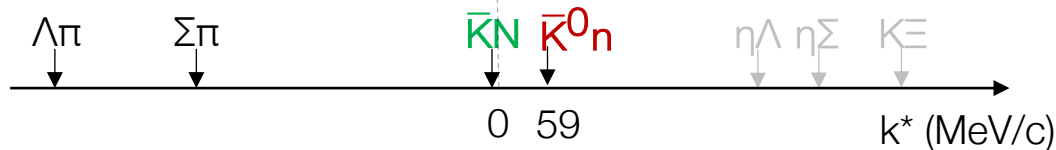
For more details: J. Haidenbauer NPA 981 (2019), Y. Kamiya et al. PRL 124 (2020)
L. Fabbietti, VMS, O. Vazquez Doce Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 71 (2021)

Coupled-channels dynamics in femtoscopy

$$C(k^*) = \underbrace{\int S_1(\vec{r}^*) |\psi_{1 \rightarrow 1}(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 r^*}_{\text{elastic } 1 \rightarrow 1} + \underbrace{\sum_{j \neq 1} \omega_j^{\text{prod}} \int S_j(\vec{r}^*) |\psi_{j \rightarrow 1}(\vec{k}_j^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 r^*}_{\text{inelastic } 2, \dots \rightarrow 1}$$



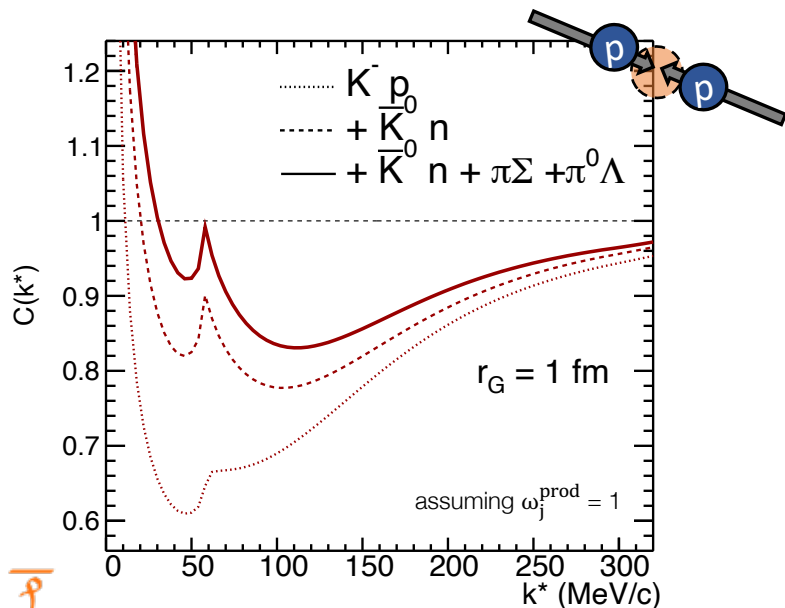
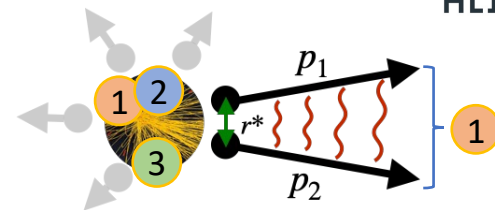
Above threshold:
modify the shape of CF
→ cusp structure e.g. $\bar{K}^0 n$



For more details: J. Haidenbauer NPA 981 (2019), Y. Kamiya et al. PRL 124 (2020)
L. Fabbietti, VMS, O. Vazquez Doce Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 71 (2021)

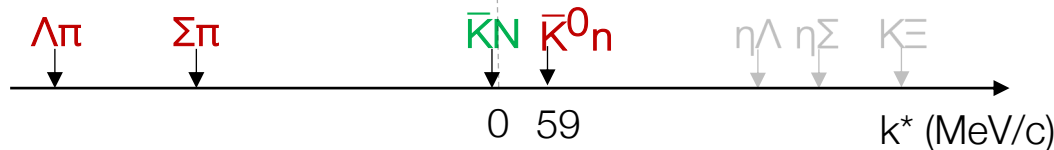
Coupled-channels dynamics in femtoscopy

$$C(k^*) = \underbrace{\int S_1(\vec{r}^*) |\psi_{1 \rightarrow 1}(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 r^*}_{\text{elastic } 1 \rightarrow 1} + \underbrace{\sum_{j \neq 1} \omega_j^{\text{prod}} \int S_j(\vec{r}^*) |\psi_{j \rightarrow 1}(\vec{k}_j^*, \vec{r}^*)|^2 d^3 r^*}_{\text{inelastic } 2, 3, \dots \rightarrow 1}$$



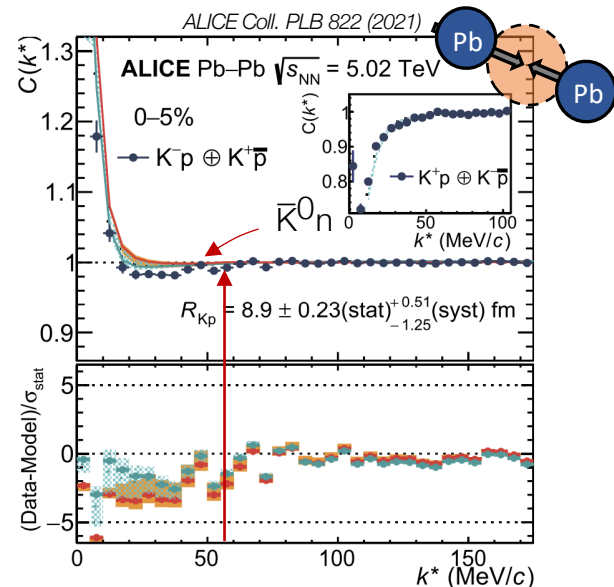
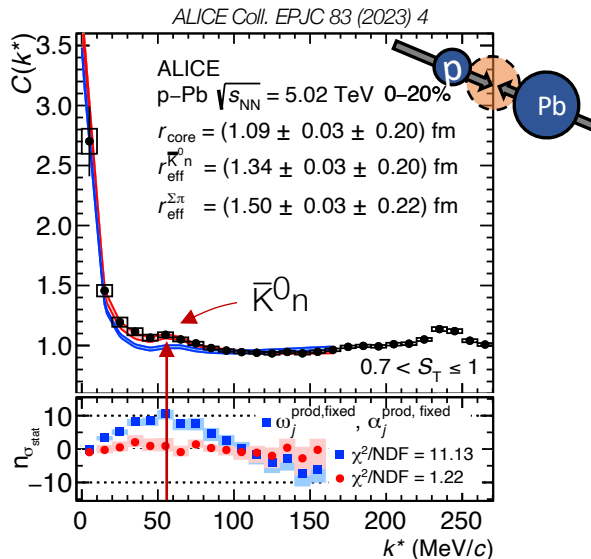
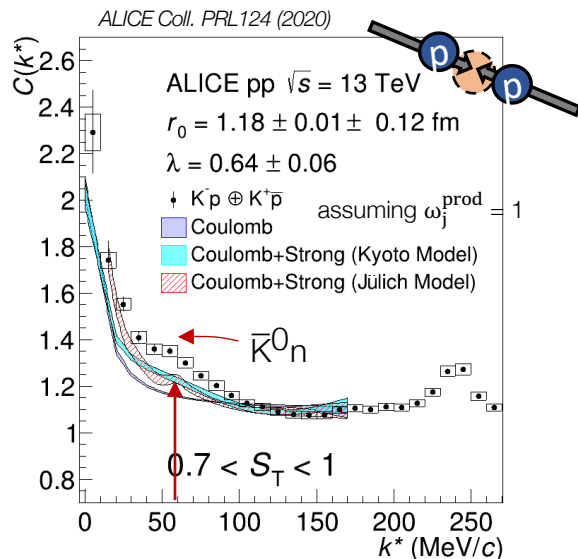
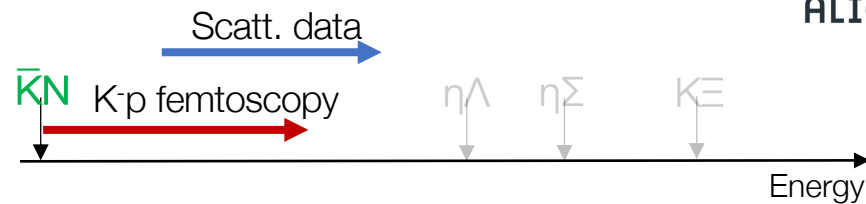
Below threshold:
increase the strength of CF
→ shift upward of CF e.g. $\Sigma \pi$

Above threshold:
modify the shape of CF
→ cusp structure e.g. $\bar{K}^0 n$



For more details: J. Haidenbauer NPA 981 (2019), Y. Kamiya et al. PRL 124 (2020)
L. Fabbietti, VMS, O. Vazquez Doce Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 71 (2021)

- Most precise data above K^*p threshold with sensitivity to channels below threshold!
- Input for low-energy chiral effective potentials



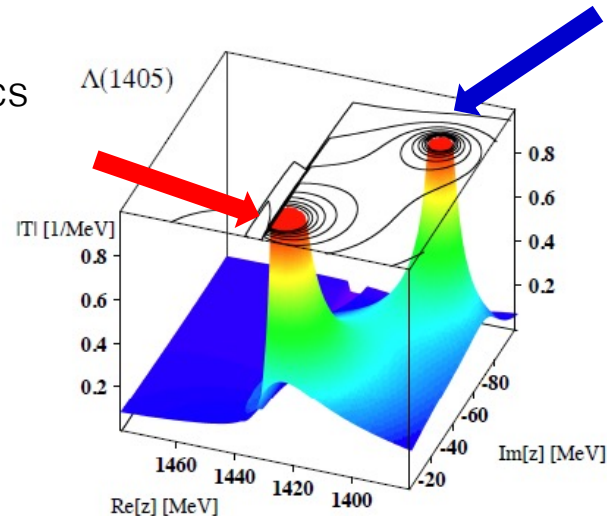
$\Lambda(1405)$ is a dynamically generated resonances obtained solving coupled channel equation based on chiral dynamics (hadrons are the degrees of freedom)

For $I=0$ $\bar{K}N$ and $\Sigma\pi$ are the main contributor

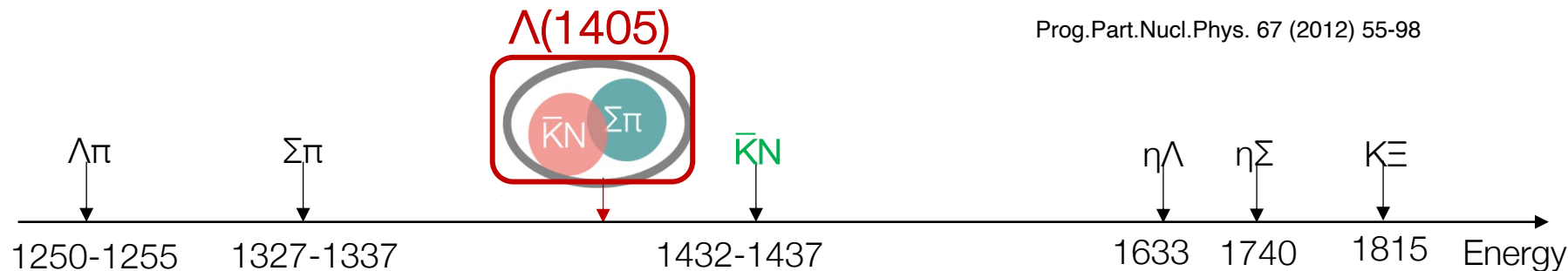
Two poles in complex energy plane:

$m_1=1420$ MeV (narrow quasi bound $\bar{K}N$ state)

$m_2=1390$ MeV (broad resonance in $\Sigma\pi$)

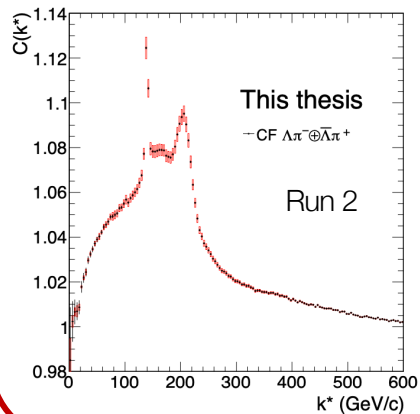


Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 67 (2012) 55-98

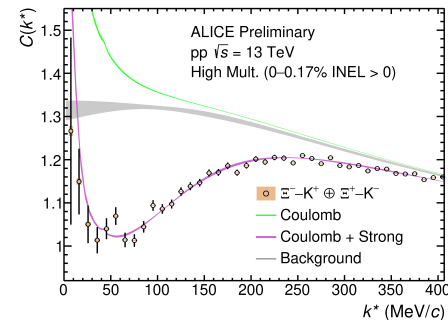
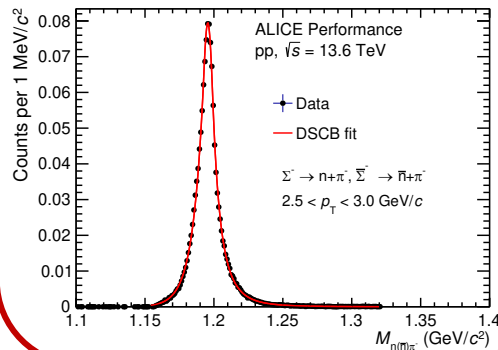


Currently work in progress and outlooks for Run 3

Very preliminary!



Possibility to reconstruct $\Sigma^\pm$
 via kink-topology method
 with ITS2 in Run 3



ALI-PREL-574336

$\Lambda\pi$

$\Sigma\pi$

$\Lambda(1405)$



$\bar{K}N$

$\eta\Lambda$

$\eta\Sigma$

$K\Xi$

1250-1255

1327-1337

1432-1437

1633

1740

1815

Energy

Pentaquark states in S=-3 sector with $K\Xi$?
 Feijoo, Vidaña arXiv: 2411.18248

ALICE at the LHC



Femtoscscopy in small systems

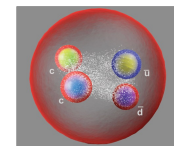
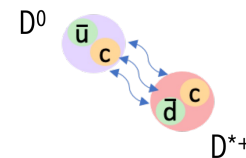
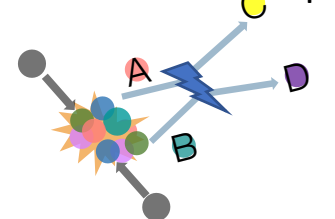
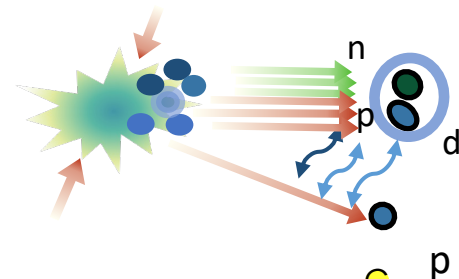
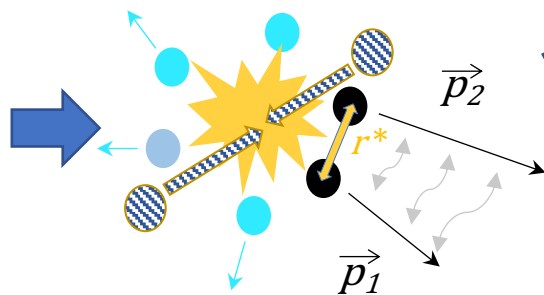
Study of Hyperon-nucleon, Hyperon-hyperon interactions relevant for Neutron Stars



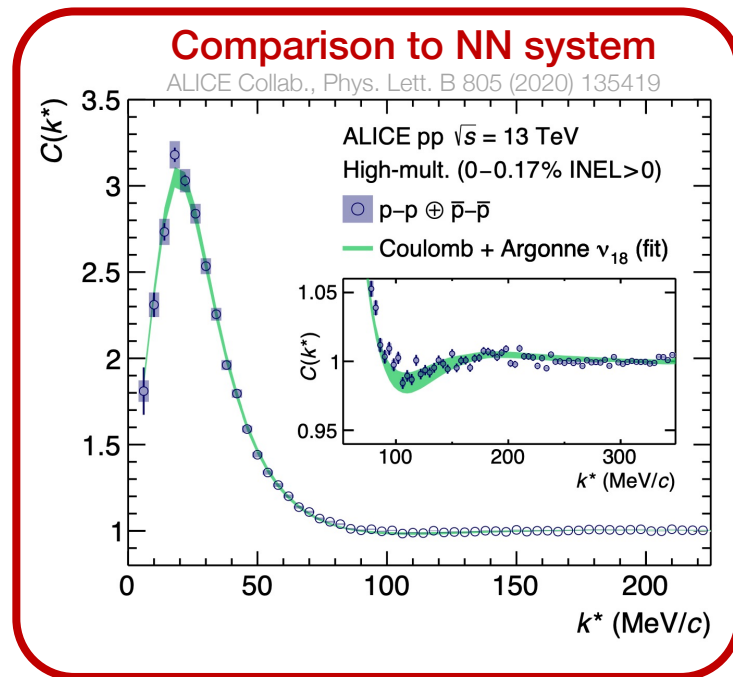
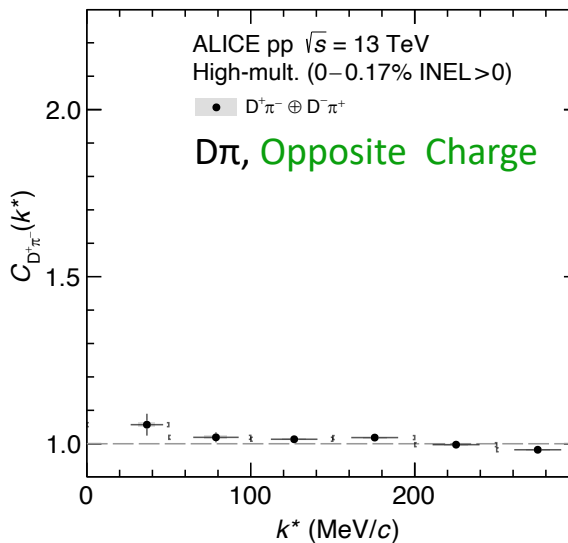
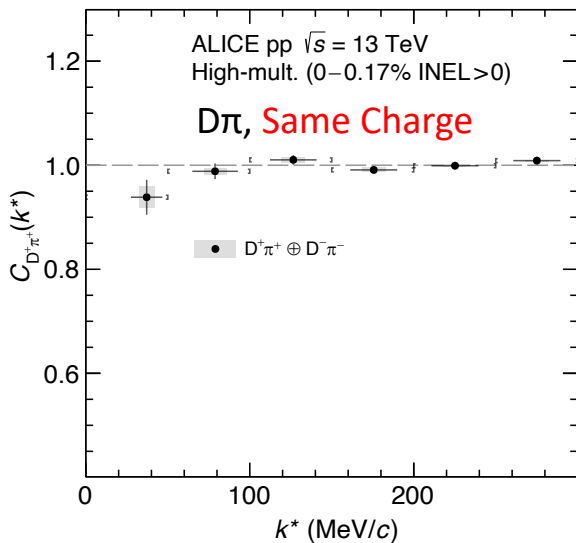
Nuclei formation

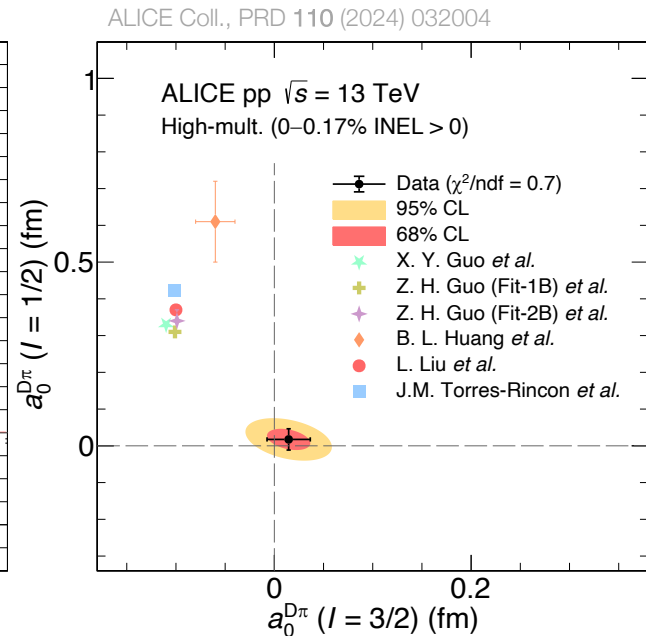
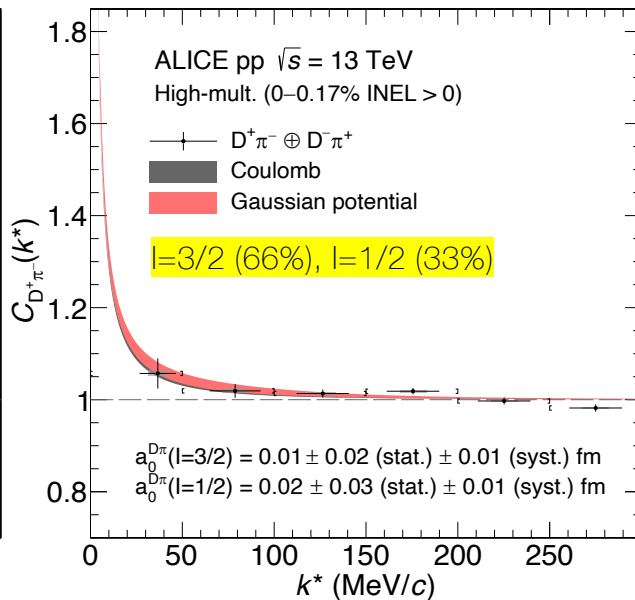
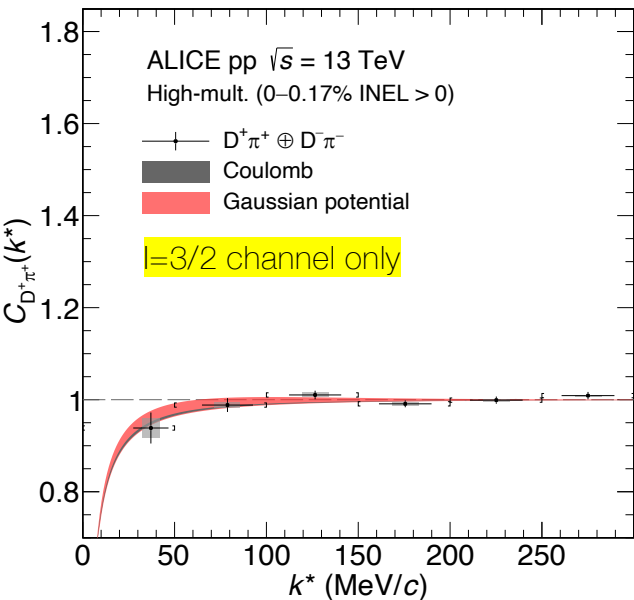
Direct access to coupled channels

Final state interaction of charmed hadrons



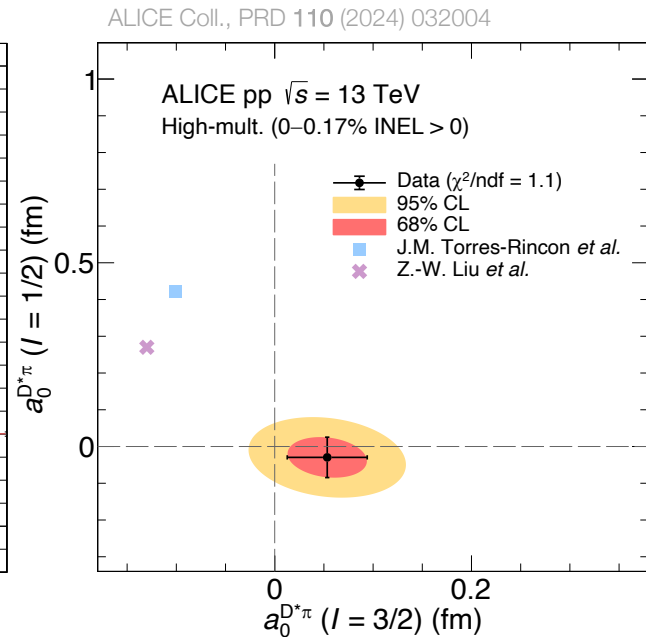
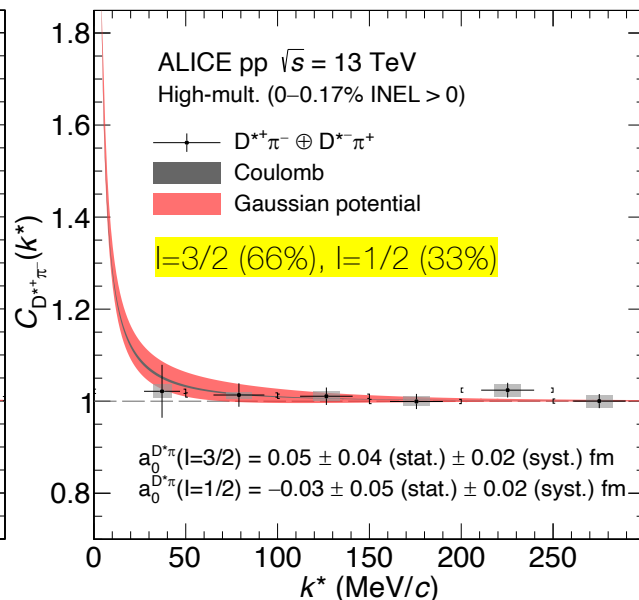
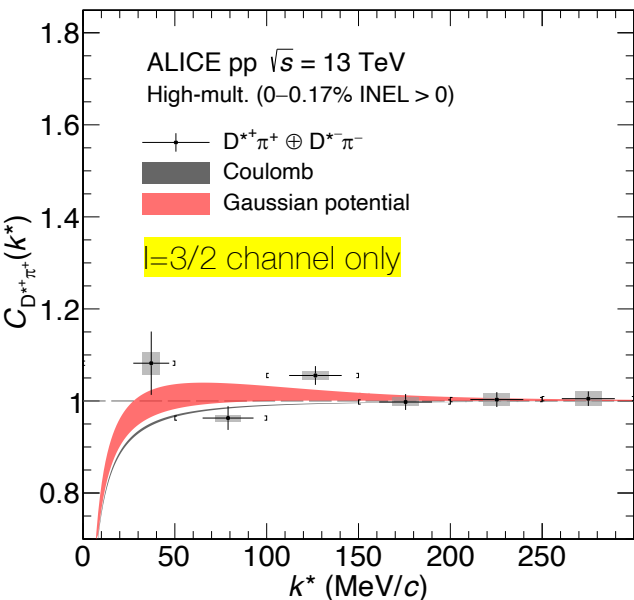
- Measurement of D^(*)-K and D^(*)- π correlation functions for same charge (SC) and opposite charge (OC) configuration
- Correction for feed-down, misidentifications etc. to extract **genuine CF** from data
- Sensitive to **Coulomb** and **strong** interaction





- Vanishing scattering parameters in both isospin channels
- Tension with theory especially in $l=1/2$ channel

D* π correlation function fit



- Vanishing scattering parameters within uncertainties
- Scattering parameters compatible with $D\pi$ results $\rightarrow$ Heavy-quark spin symmetry

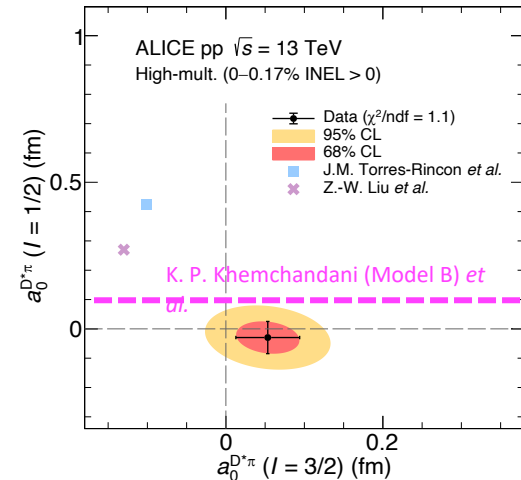
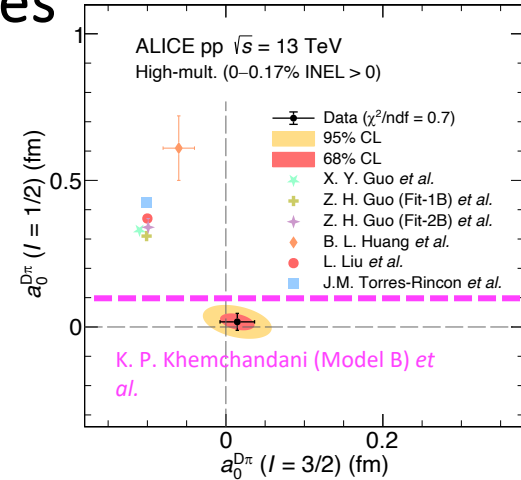
- Data inspired new theoretical calculations
- Smaller scattering length obtained $a_{D^*\pi}(l=1/2)=0.1$ fm, when considering molecular nature of D1 states (D1(2420) and D1(2430))

K. P. Khemchandani, L. M. Abreu, A. Martinez Torres, and F. S. Navarra, arXiv:2312.11811

- Hidden gauge formalism with unitarization in coupled channels
- D1(2430) explicitly added as bare quark-model pole structure to better accommodate it within experimental observations

Belle Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 69 (2004) 112002

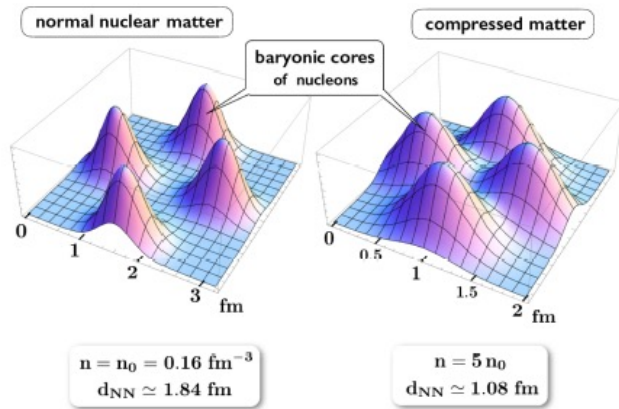
LHCb Collaboration Phys. Rev. D 92 (2015) 012012



- The feasibility of the measurement of any hadron-hadron interaction at the LHC was demonstrated
- Three body systems are currently under investigation
- ALIC2@RUN3 : factor 100 more statistics in all channels

Stay tuned for much more to come...

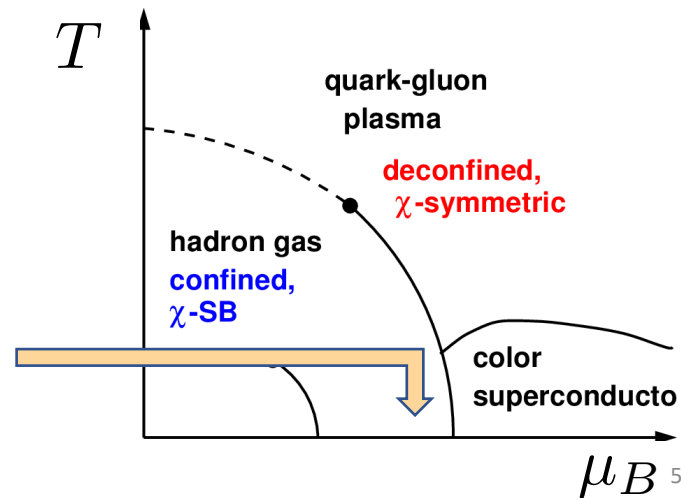
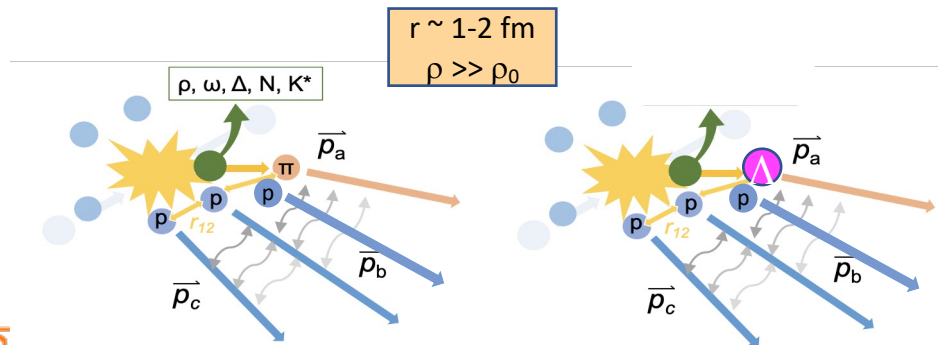




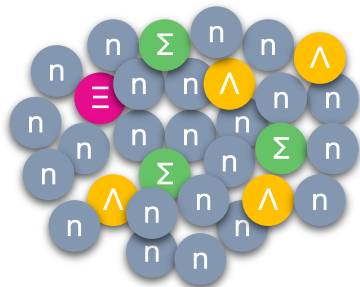
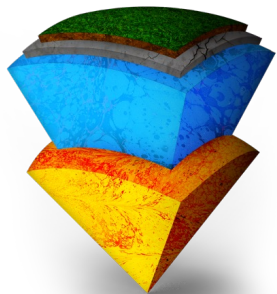
Future perspective:

Three- and four-body interactions measured and intra-particle distances of $\sim 1\text{-}1.5 \text{ fm}$ will provide access to interaction at high densities and very low (?) temperature

We can access the region of large μ_B at low temperatures

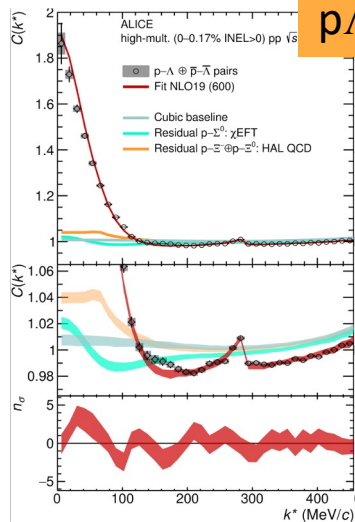


What is inside neutron stars?

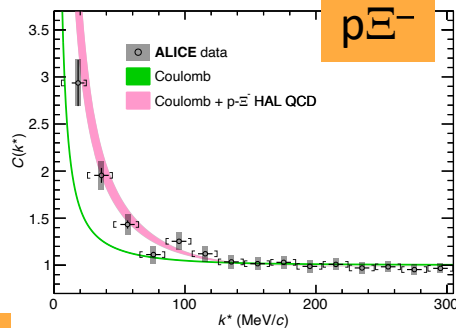


?

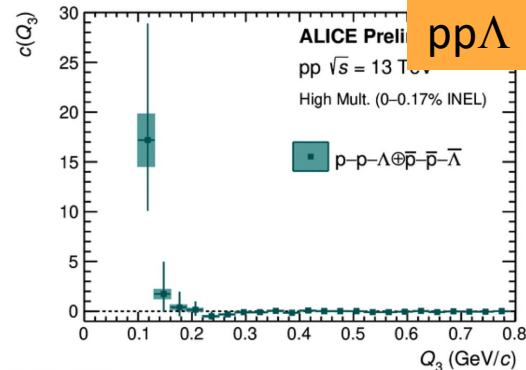
All two- and three-particle strong interactions can be measured at the LHC!



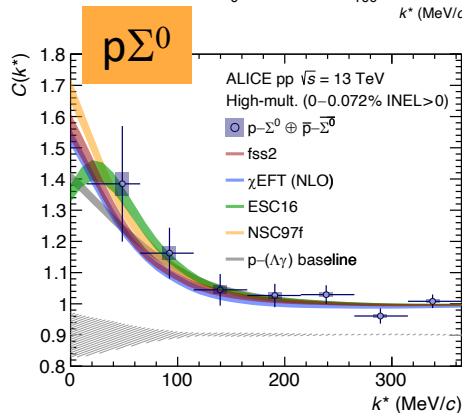
$p\Lambda$



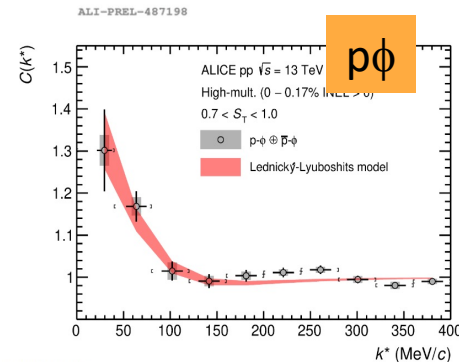
$p\Xi^-$



$pp\Lambda$

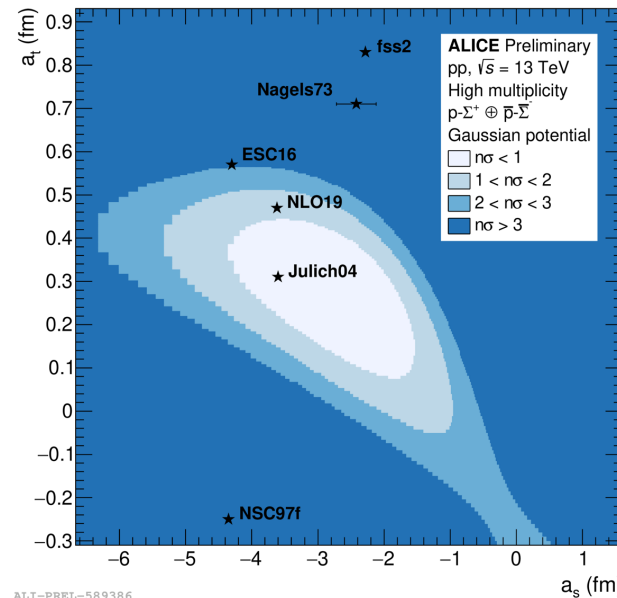
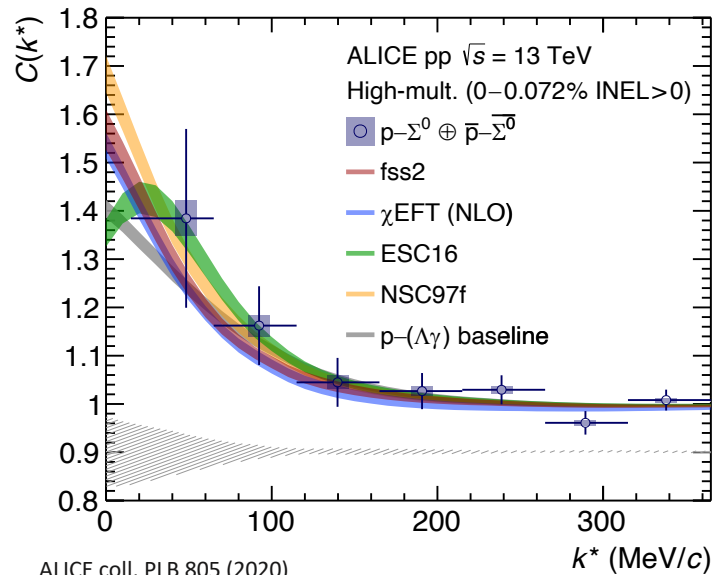
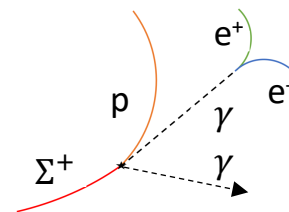
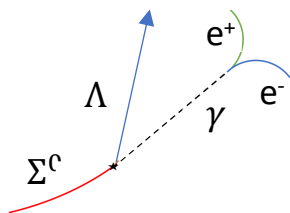


$p\Sigma^0$



$p\phi$

$|S|=1: P\Sigma^0$ and $P\Sigma^+$



A. Mathis
TUM



B. Heybeck
Uni. Frankfurt



D-light meson scattering lengths

Pair	(S,l)	L. Liu et al.	X.-Y. Guo et al.	Z.-H. Guo et al. Fit-1B	Z.-H. Guo et al. Fit-2B	B.-L. Huang et al.	J. M. Torres-Rincon et al.	Z.-W. Liu et al.
$D^{(*)}\pi$	(0,3/2)	-0.10 fm	-0.11 fm	-0.101 fm	-0.099 fm	-0.06 fm	-0.101 fm	-0.12-i0.00036 fm
	(0,1/2)	0.37 fm	0.33 fm	0.31 fm	0.34 fm	0.61 fm	0.423 fm	0.27-i0.00036i fm
$D^{(*)}K$	(1,1)	0.07+i0.17 fm	-0.05 fm	0.06+i0.30 fm	0.05+i0.17 fm	-0.01 fm	-0.027+i0.083 fm	-0.22+i0.18 fm
$D^{(*)}\bar{K}$	(-1,0)	0.84 fm	0.46 fm	0.96 fm	0.68 fm	1.81 fm	0.399 fm	-0.19-i1.7*10 ⁻⁶ fm
	(-1,1)	-0.20 fm	-0.22 fm	-0.18 fm	-0.19 fm	-0.24 fm	-0.233 fm	0.29+i5.2*10 ⁻⁶ fm

D-mesons

D*-mesons

L. Liu et al., Phys. Rev. D 87 (2013) 014508

X.-Y. Guo et al., Phys. Rev. D 98 (2018) 014510

Z.-H. Guo et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 79 (2019) 13

B.-L. Huang et al., Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 036016

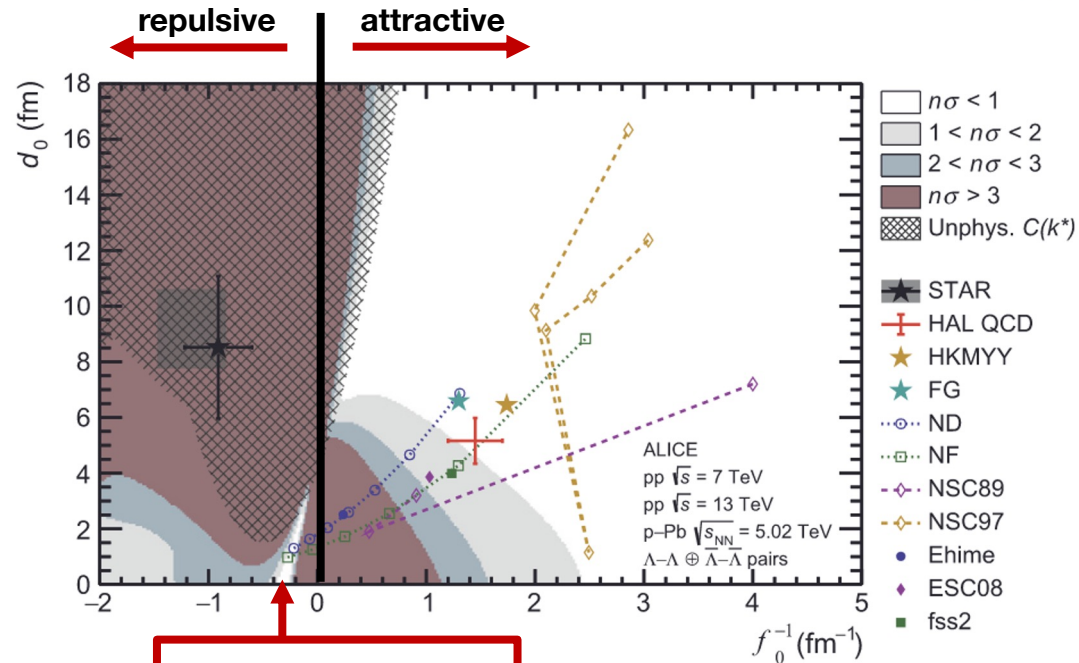
J. M. Torres-Rincon et al., Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 096008

Z.-W. Liu et al., Phys. Rev. D 84 (2011) 034002

Go from isospin (theory) to charge (data) basis using Clebsch-Gordan coefficients

$|S|=2$: $\Lambda\Lambda$ scattering parameters

- Important for existence of H-dibaryon
- $\Lambda\Lambda$ correlation measured in pp MB 7, 13 TeV and p-Pb 5.02 TeV
- Scan in scattering parameter space (f_0^{-1} , d_0) and express agreement data/model in number of σ deviations
 - Agreement with hypernuclei data and lattice predictions
- Most precise upper limit on the binding energy of the H-dibaryon
 $B_{\Lambda\Lambda} = 3.2_{-2.4}^{+1.0}(\text{stat})_{-1.0}^{+1.0}(\text{syst}) \text{ MeV}$



Room for a shallow bound state

ALICE Coll. Phys.Lett.B 797 (2019) 134822

D.Mihaylov
TUM/Sofia Uni

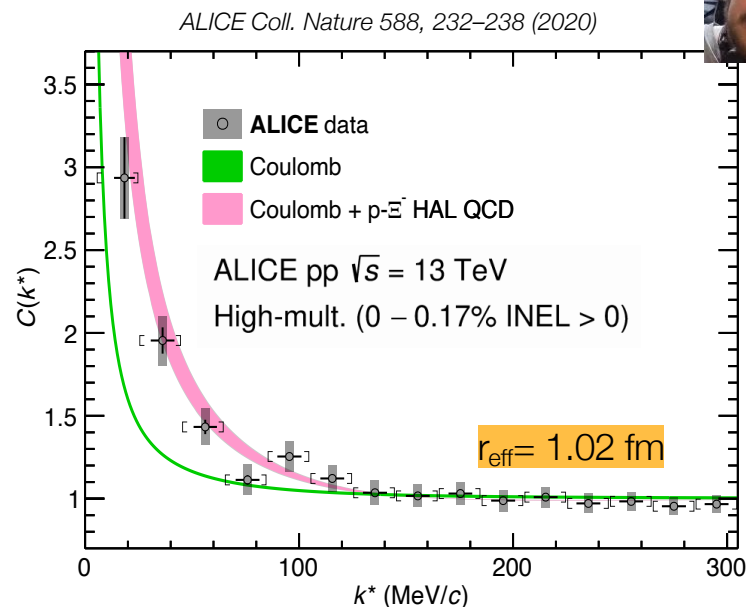
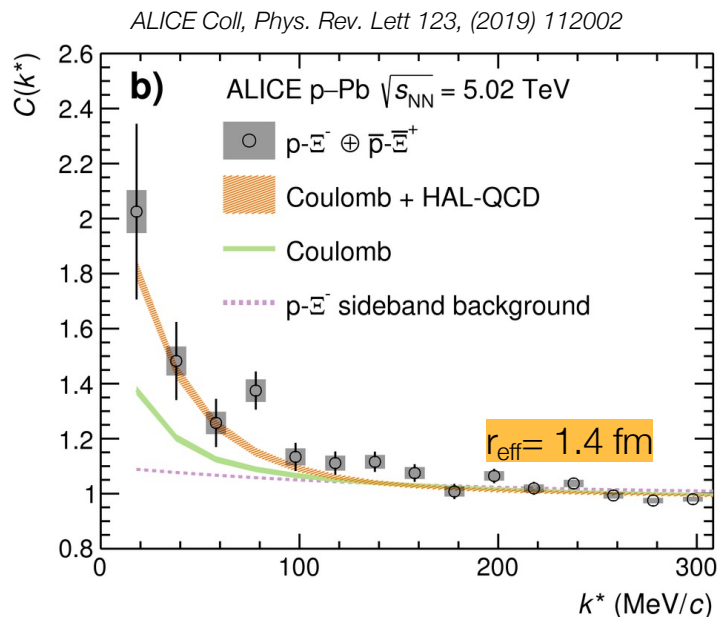


- Observation of the strong interaction beyond Coulomb
- Agreement with lattice calculations confirmed in pp and p-Pb colliding systems

O. Vazquez-Doce
INFN Frascati



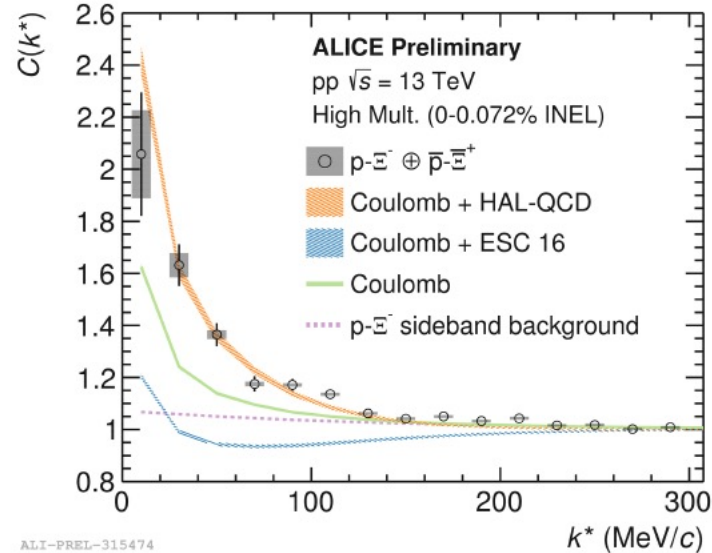
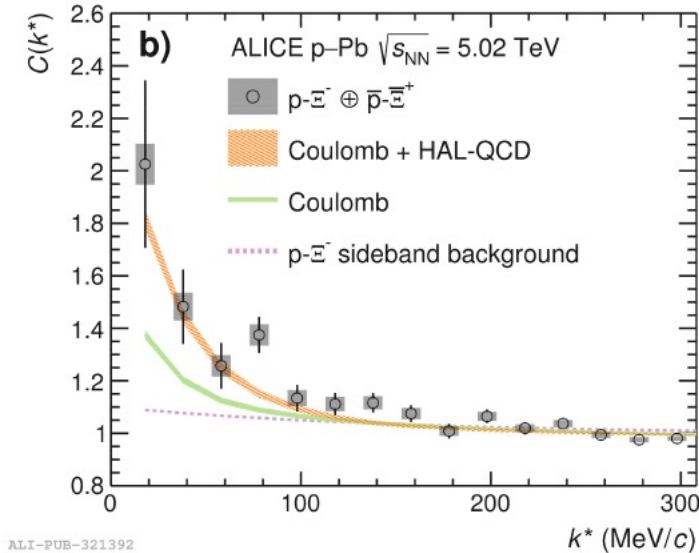
B. Holweger
TUM

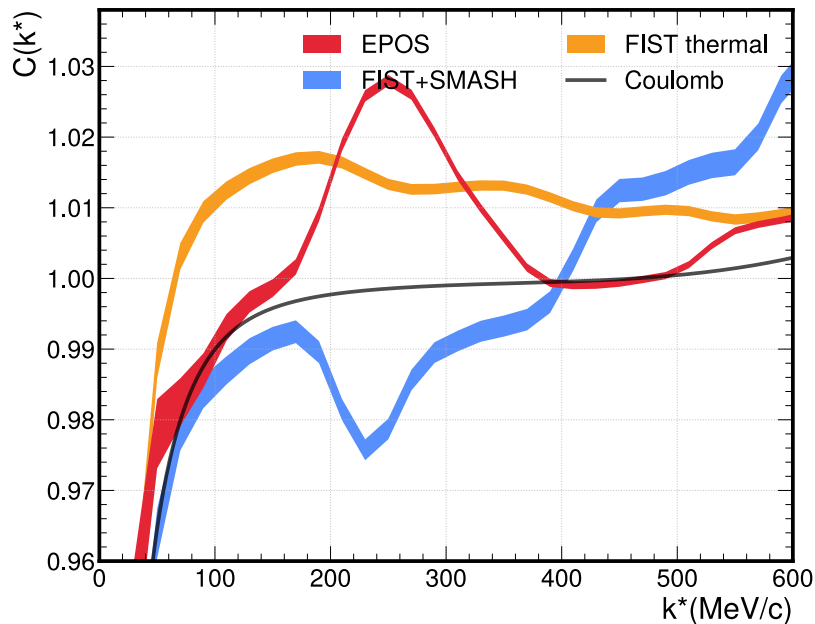


(*) HAL QCD Coll., PoS INPC2016 (2016) 277 62

p Ξ^- Comparisons to ESC08

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- Predictions of π d correlation function using thermal and coalescence models
- **Coalescence[1]** model that reproduces the deuteron spectra from the same data set without any free fit parameter is employed.
- **EPOS+ Coalescence[1]** clear bump (Δ -yields tuned to ThermalFIST)
- **Thermal FIST** input leads to a trivial baseline
- **Removing pairs** where the π and one Nucleon stem from a Δ removed the bump entirely
- **Only elastic** interaction: no enhancement. Due to momentum conservation **no change in k^* is expected**
- **Elastic+Inelastic**: massive reduction due to deuteron **destruction**