

# Probing QGP in Heavy Ion collisions with charm hadrons at ultra relativistic energies with ALICE

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**ALICE**

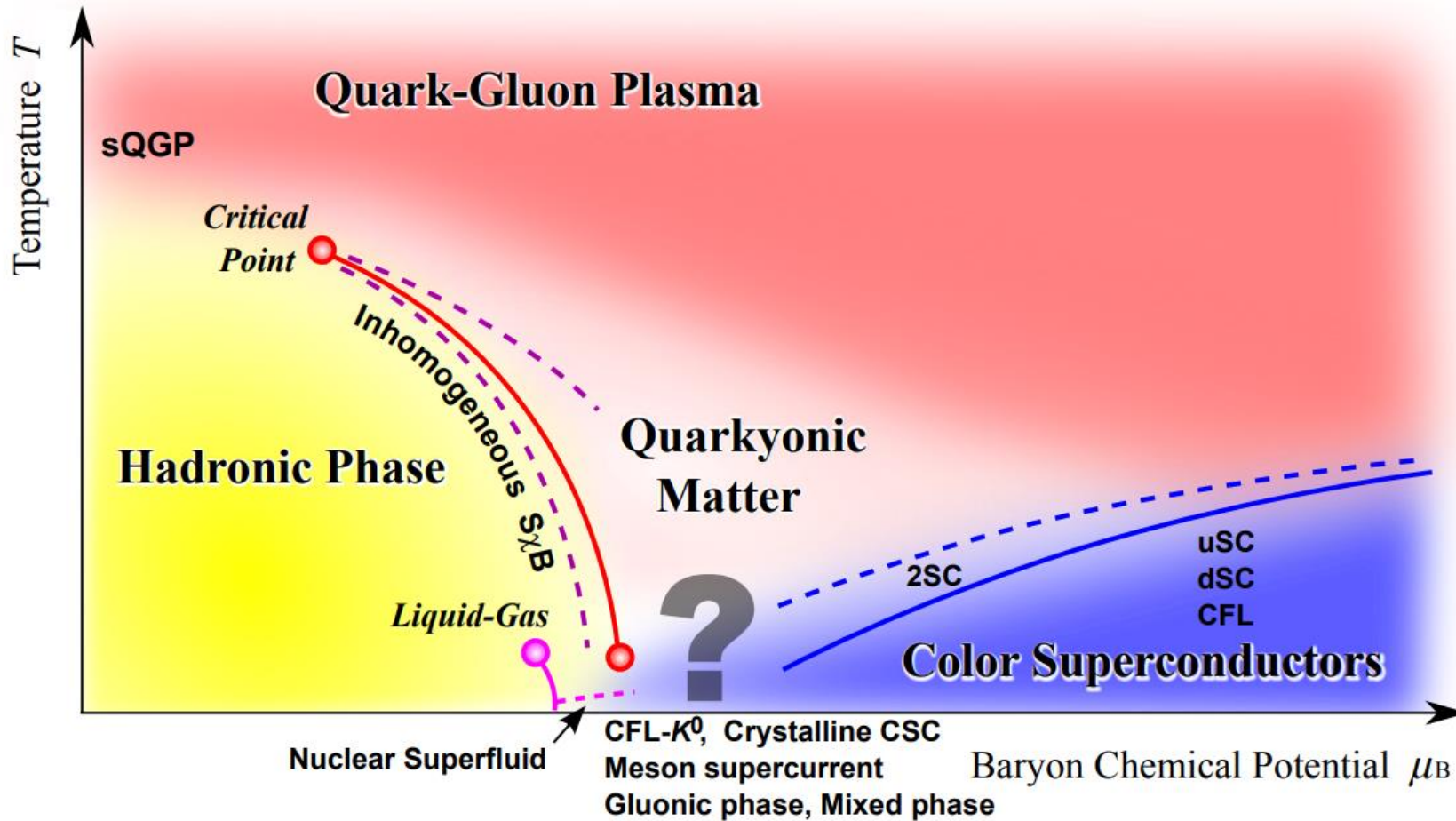


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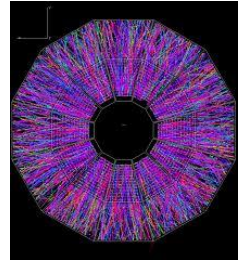
- QCD Phase diagram and evolution of heavy ion collisions
- QGP formation and properties
- Heavy quark production
- Charm hadron production in heavy ion collisions
- Polarisation measurements at high energies
- The ALICE spectrometer
- Novel methods of charm hadron reconstruction
- Summary

# QCD Phase diagram



LHC measurements are taken at  $\mu_b = 0$

- The diagram shows a rich structure
- QCD phase boundaries have not been established experimentally
- Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP) expected at high temperatures and densities (\*)



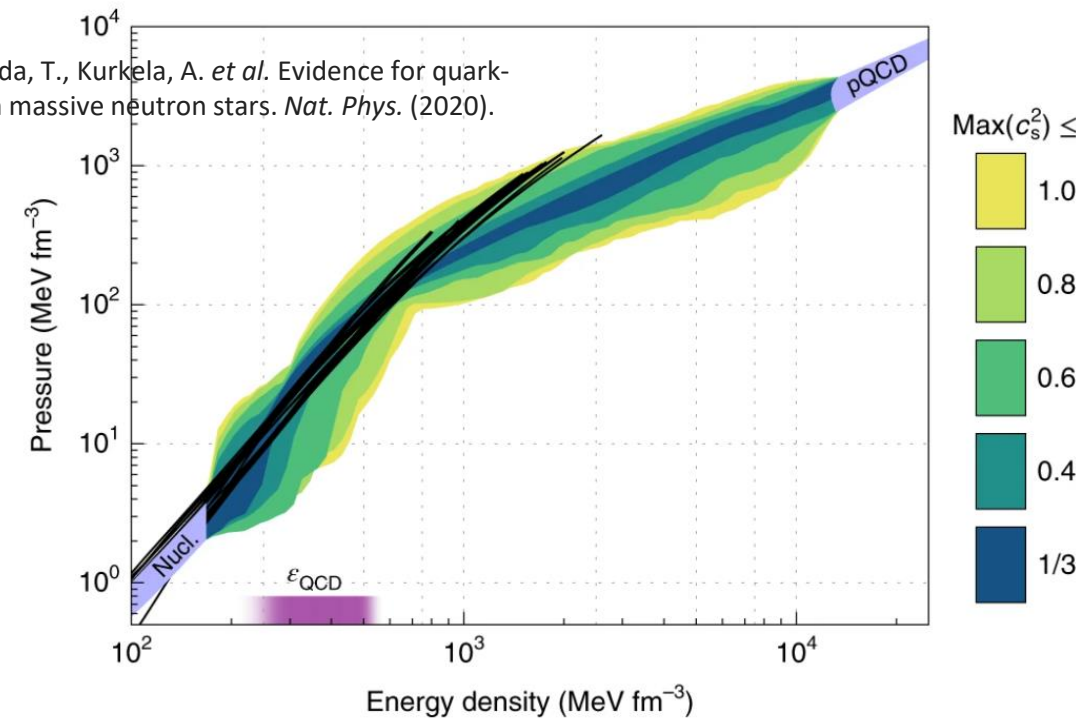
- first-order phase transition is expected up to a certain temperature and above it the phase boundary is supposed to be a smooth cross-over
- So called critical point is a topic of extensive theoretical and experimental studies

(\*) È. V. Shuryak, "Theory of hadron plasma", Sov. Phys. JETP 47 (1978) 212- 219 Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz. 74 (1978) 408-412.

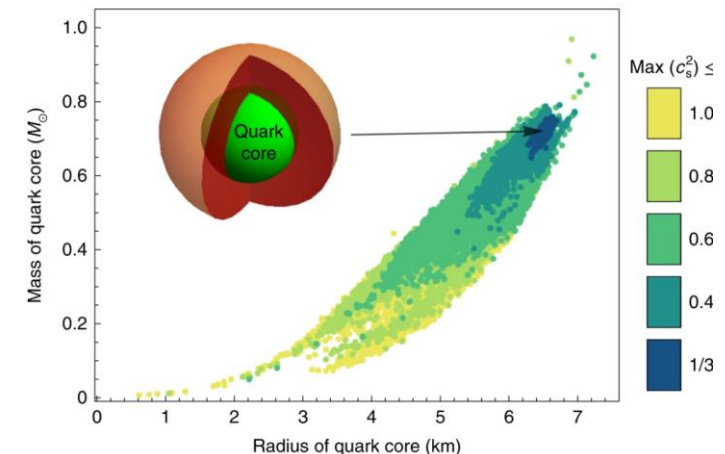
# Quark Gluon Plasma

- QCD predicts that matter under high pressure and temperature can exist as QGP
- In such conditions the quarks and the gluons are not confined in to hadrons
- It is expected that such conditions existed shortly after the BIG BANG in the formation of the early Universe
- Can we expect QGP in Heavy Ion collisions or in the core of a Neutron Star ?

Annala, E., Gorda, T., Kurkela, A. *et al.* Evidence for quark-matter cores in massive neutron stars. *Nat. Phys.* (2020).

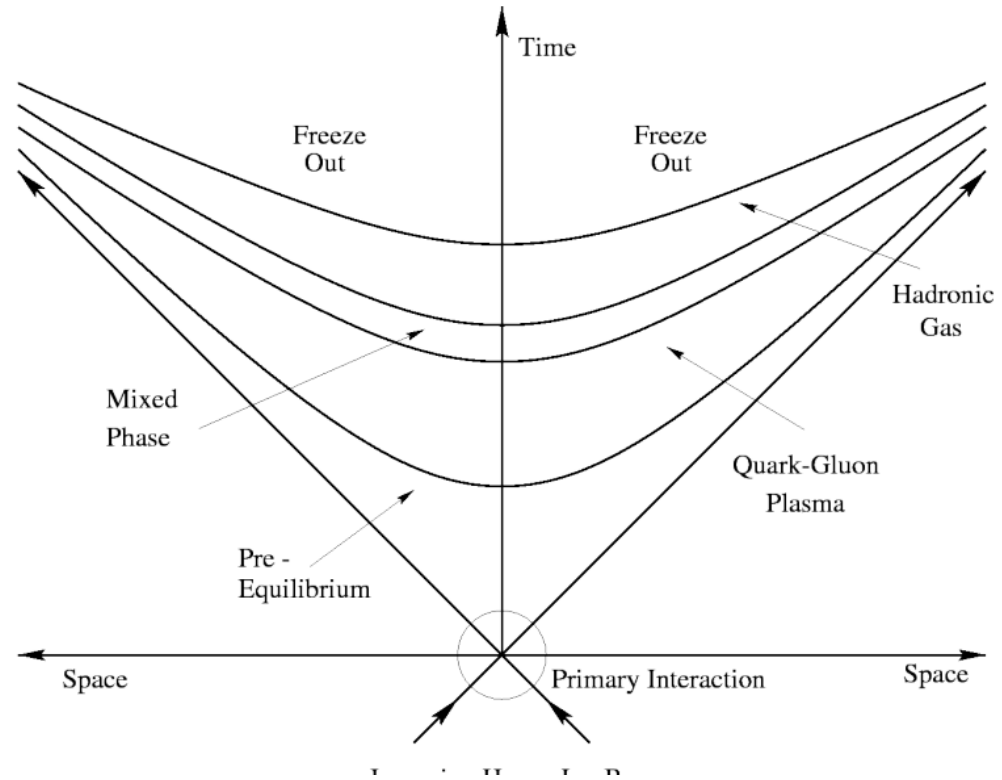


Speed of sound calculation for different equation of state,  $\epsilon$  – rough transition point in to QGP

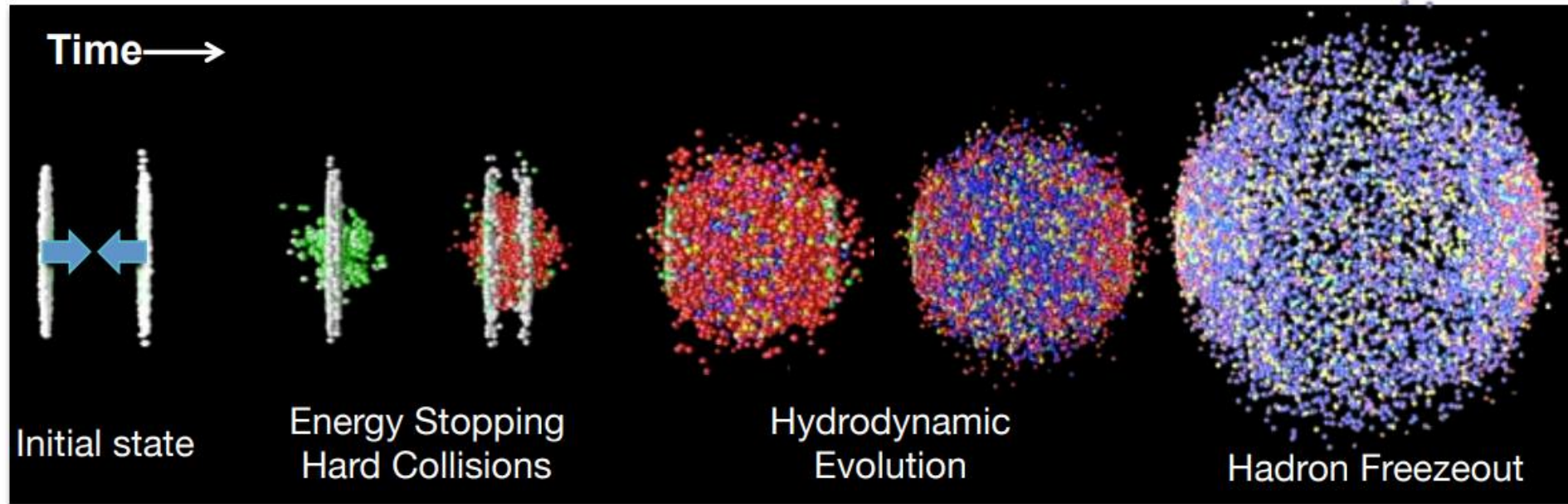


# Quark Gluon Plasma (Dynamic Model)

- Systems consisting of deconfined quarks and gluons, the fundamental constituents of matter and the mediators of the strong force
- It is expected that QGP can be the outcome of the thermalization process
- QGP is expanding while the temperature (energy) of the system drops (hydrodynamic models (ref))
- The system undergoes rapid thermalization, possible explanation is a rapid transition from CGC(ref) to the thermalized QGP?



# Evolution of heavy ion collisions



## Initial state:

- Dominated by N-N interaction
- Bremsstrahlung (low energies)
- Drell- Yan processes at high energies

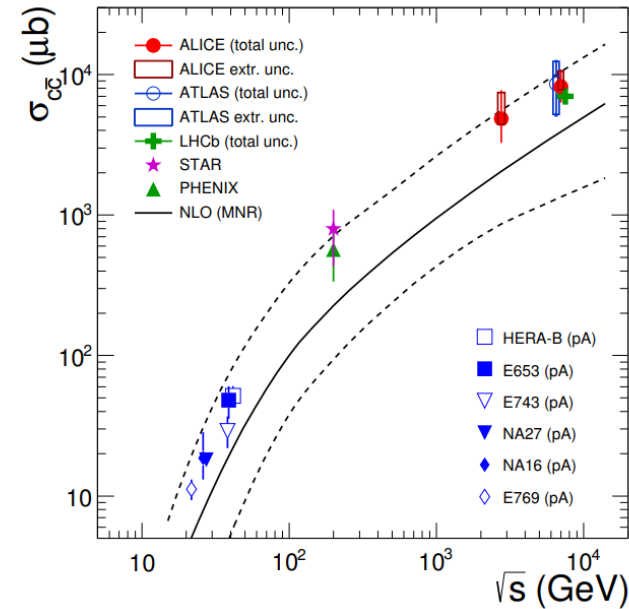
The system temperature increases and its density rises rapidly, possibly forming QGP

The production of hadrons from a "QGP" fireball occurs mainly by way of quark coalescence and gluon fragmentation, and there can be quark fragmentation as well

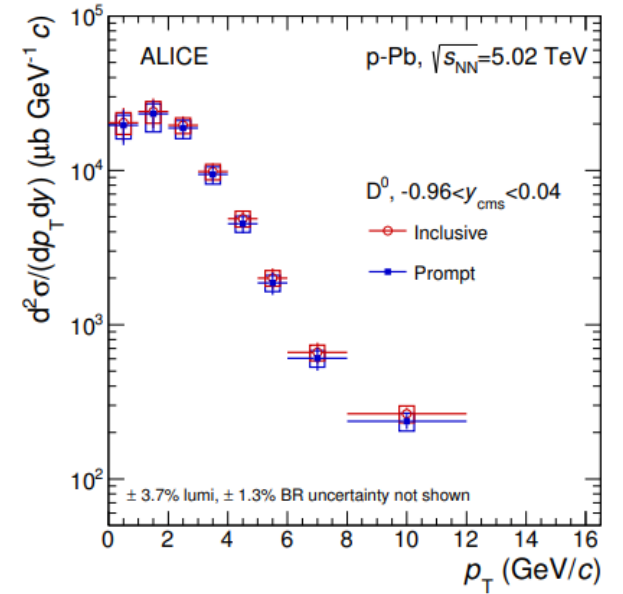
# Heavy quark production

Data are from pA collisions for  $\sqrt{s} < 100$  GeV and from pp collisions for  $\sqrt{s} > 100$  GeV. Data from pA collisions were scaled by 1/A

ALICE, PRC 94 (2016) 054908



Charmed quark production  
Cross section increases with the system energy



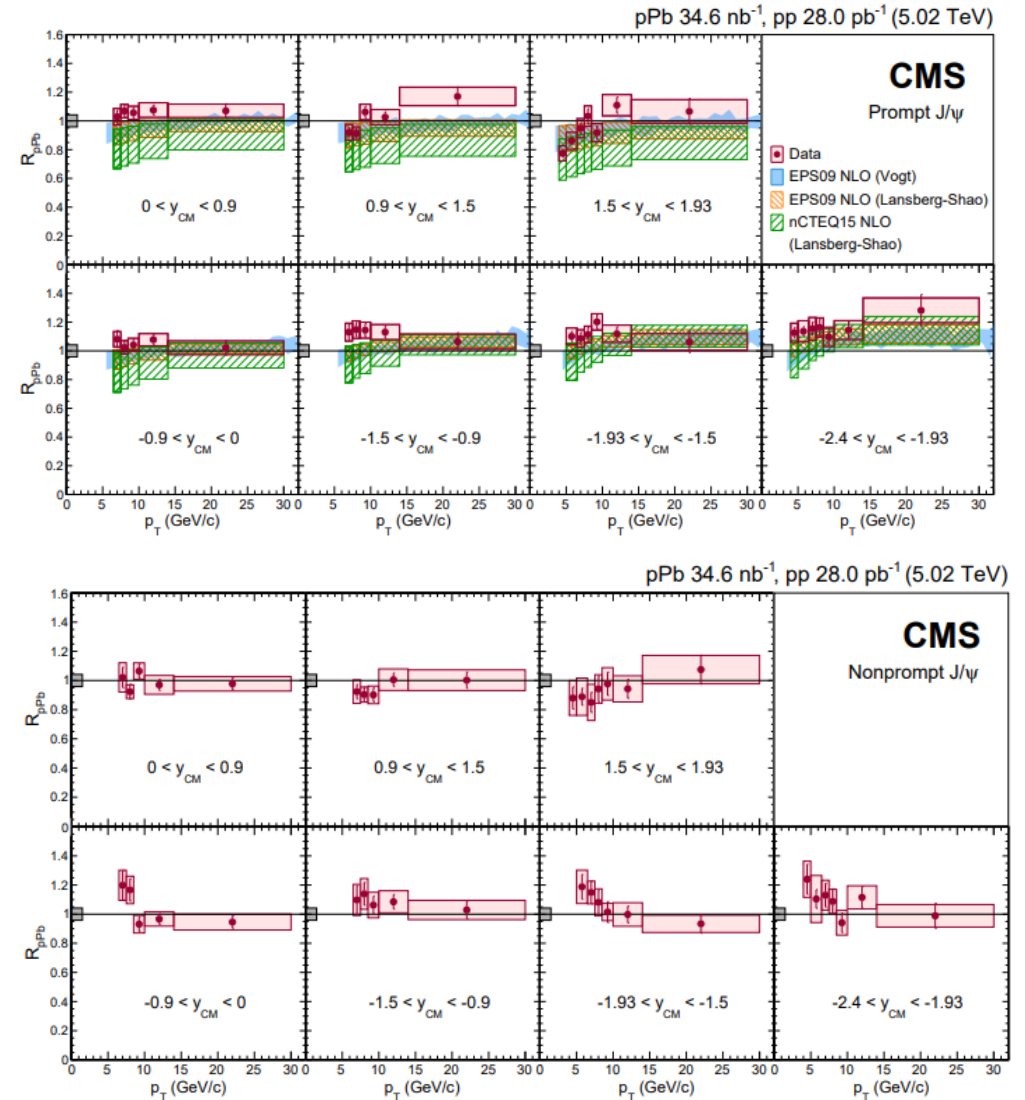
Strong  $p_t$  dependence of D-meson production cross section

- Heavy quarks can be a probe of QGP
- Produced in high energy hard partonic scattering process in the early stage of the collision
- Due to their long life time (in comparison to  $\Delta$  and N resonances) they can probe all of the steps of medium evolution interacting with the constituents via energy loss (gluon radiation and elastic collision)

# Heavy quark production

- Quarkonium production and polarisation is still a puzzle
- $J/\Psi$  (charm) production can occur directly (prompt) and via B-feed down (non-prompt)
- Suppression of  $J/\Psi$  production by Debye screening (QGP formation ? ) in pPb vs pp collisions
- depletion of nuclear gluon density at small values of the momentum fraction ( $x$ ), “shadowing” can suppress  $J/\Psi$  at forward  $y$

Cold nuclear medium

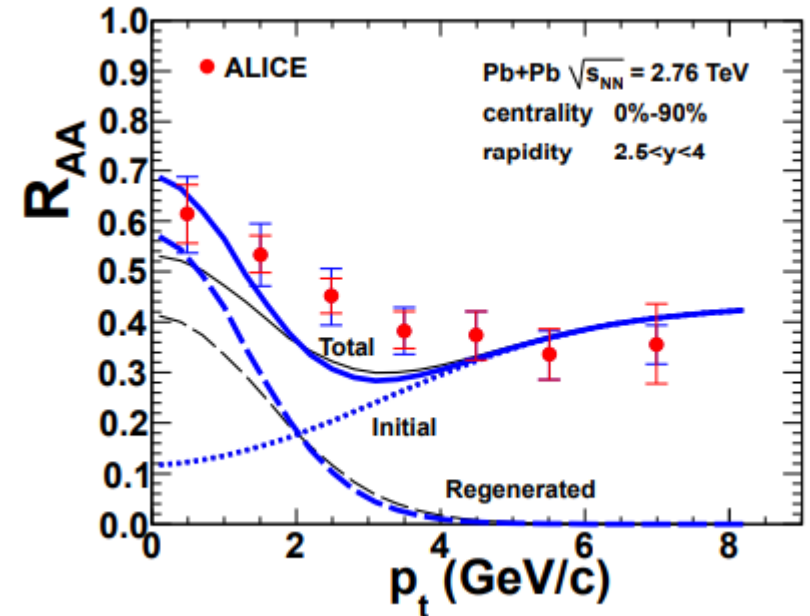




# Charm hadron production in heavy ion collisions

*Phys.Rev.C 86 (2012) 034906*

- In HI collisions charmonium production can be modified by regeneration (\*) and distortive (@) processes
- Shadowing reduces the regeneration process
- The initial production is not affected by the QGP formation in contrast to the regeneration process (?)
- High  $p_t$  region is mostly unaffected and dominated by non prompt J/ $\psi$



The initial production, the regeneration, and the total are shown by dotted, dashed and solid lines, and the thick and thin lines are the calculations with and without considering the mean field effect

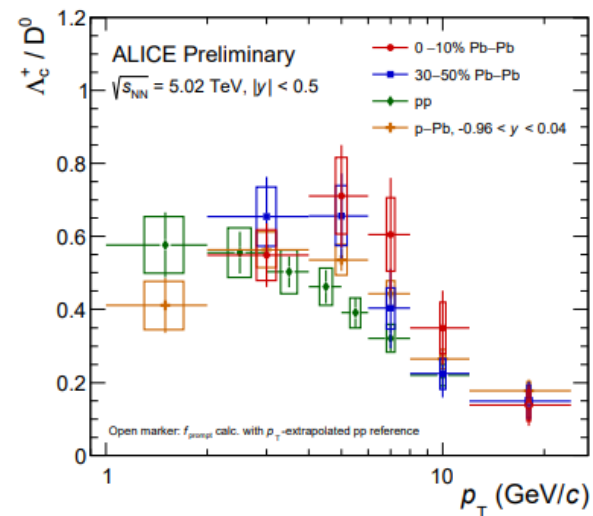
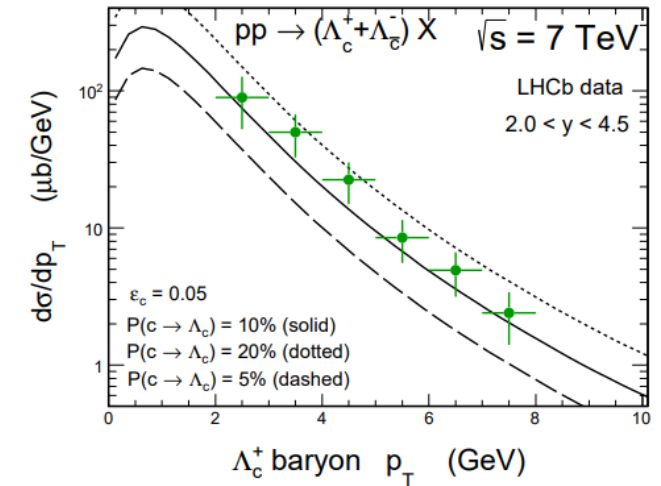
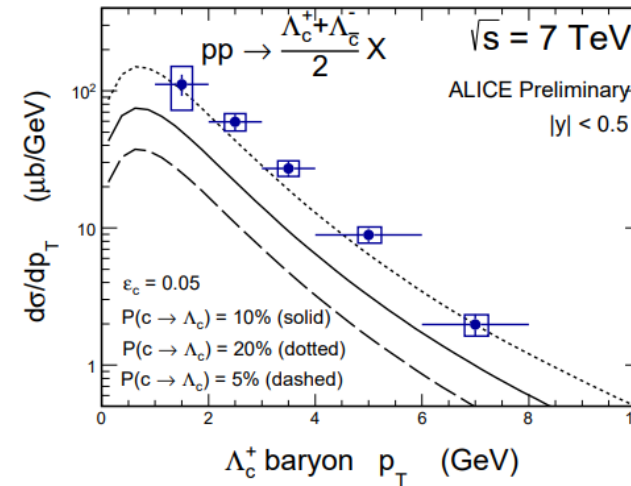
@T. Matsui and H. Satz, “J/ $\psi$  Suppression by Quark-Gluon Plasma Formation” Phys. Lett. B168 (1986) 415

\*P. Braun-Munzinger and J. Stachel, “(Non)Thermal Aspects of Charmonium Production and a New Look at J/ $\psi$  Suppression”, Phys. Lett. B490 (2000) 196

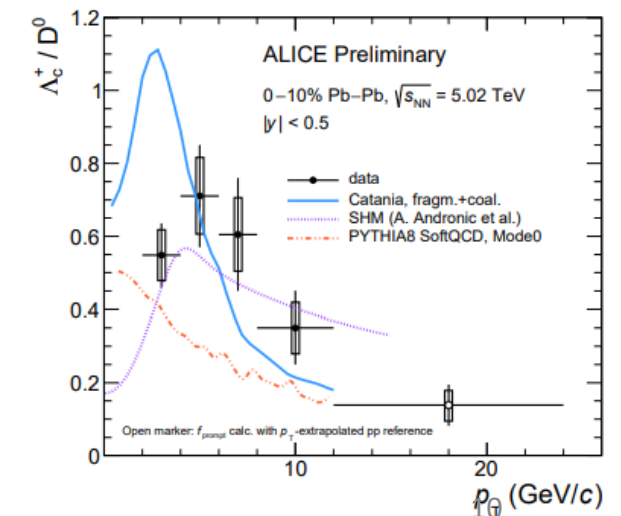
# Charm hadron production in heavy ion collisions

- What about baryons ( $\Lambda_c$ ) ?
- The models are based on independent parton fragmentation approach
- Strong enhancement in pp observed due to coalescence mechanism (formation in QGP)?
- Results for PbPb collisions seem to hint to the similar production mechanism as in pp

PoS DIS2019 (2019) 158



arXiv:1910.11738 [nucl-ex]



# Polarisation measurements at high energies

- Measurements of quarkonia polarisation preformed at ALICE in PbPb
- $(c\bar{c} \text{ \& } b\bar{b}) \rightarrow \mu\mu$
- There is no model describing the polarisation !

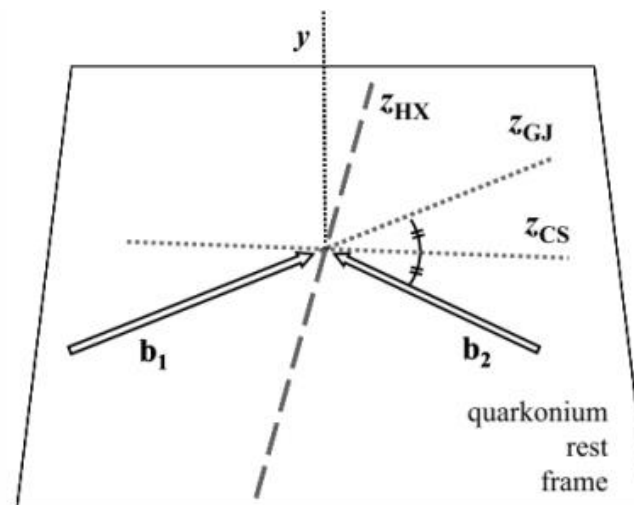
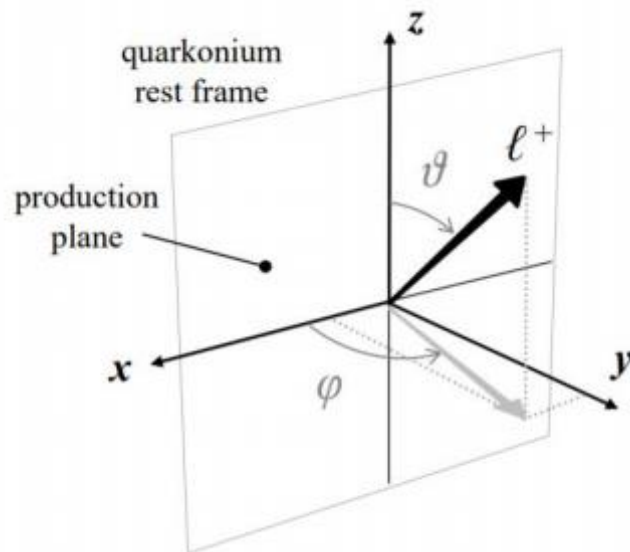
$$W(\theta, \phi) \propto \frac{1}{3 + \lambda_\theta} (1 + \lambda_\theta \cos^2 \theta + \lambda_\phi \sin^2 \theta \cos 2\phi + \lambda_{\theta\phi} \sin 2\theta \cos \phi),$$

Two body decay angular parametrization where:

$\theta$  – polar production angle in the quarkonium rest frame

$\phi$  – azimuthal production angle in the quarkonium rest frame

$\lambda$  – represents various polarization parameters depended on the quarkonium production spin density matrix elements



$\lambda_\theta, \lambda_\phi, \lambda_{\theta\phi} \rightarrow (0,0,0)$  no polarisation ☹

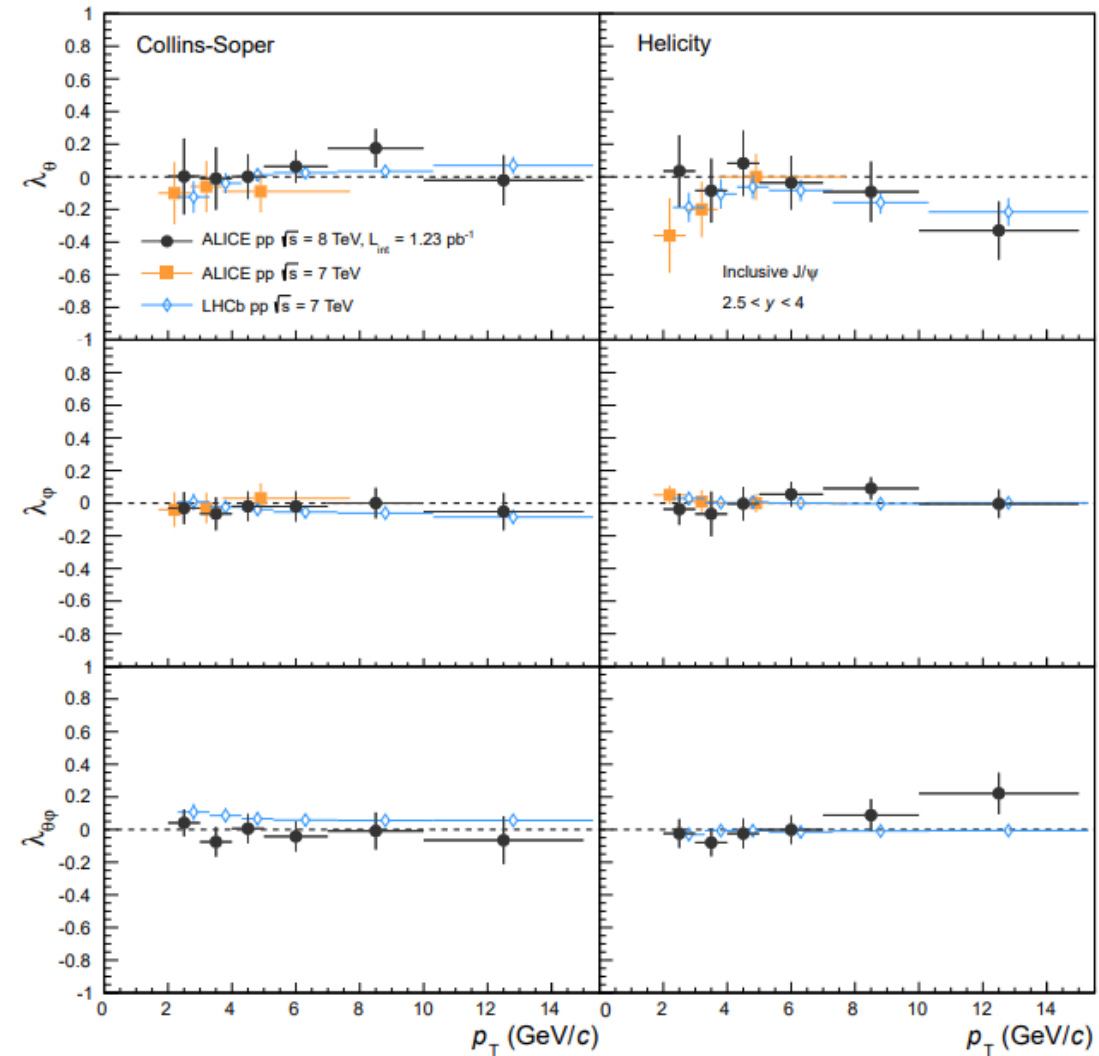
$\lambda_\theta, \lambda_\phi, \lambda_{\theta\phi} \rightarrow (-1,0,0)$  longitudinal polarisation

$\lambda_\theta, \lambda_\phi, \lambda_{\theta\phi} \rightarrow (+1,0,0)$  Transvers polarisation

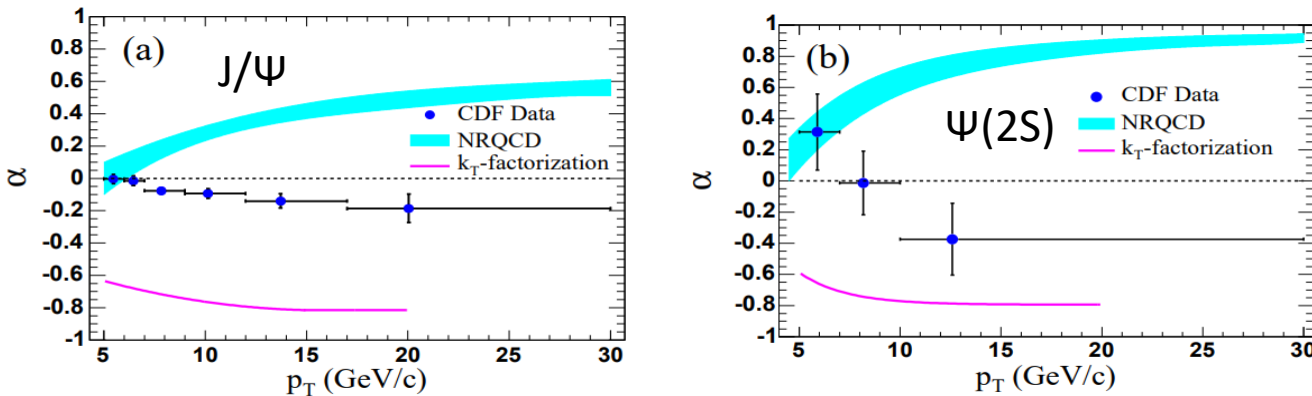
# Polarisation measurements at high energies

- $J/\psi$  Inclusive polarisation measurements in pp collisions in the forward rapidity bins
- Calculations done in two reference frames, Collins Soper and Helicity
- LHCb and ALICE follow the same trend in CS frame
- Discrepancies can be observed in HX frame, the polarization is non zero in high  $p_t$  bins (dominated by non-prompt  $J/\psi$ )
- Measurements obtained by CDF from  $p\bar{p}$  show a different pattern
- High  $p_t$   $J/\psi$  may come from jets ?

$J/\psi \rightarrow \mu\mu$



Prompt

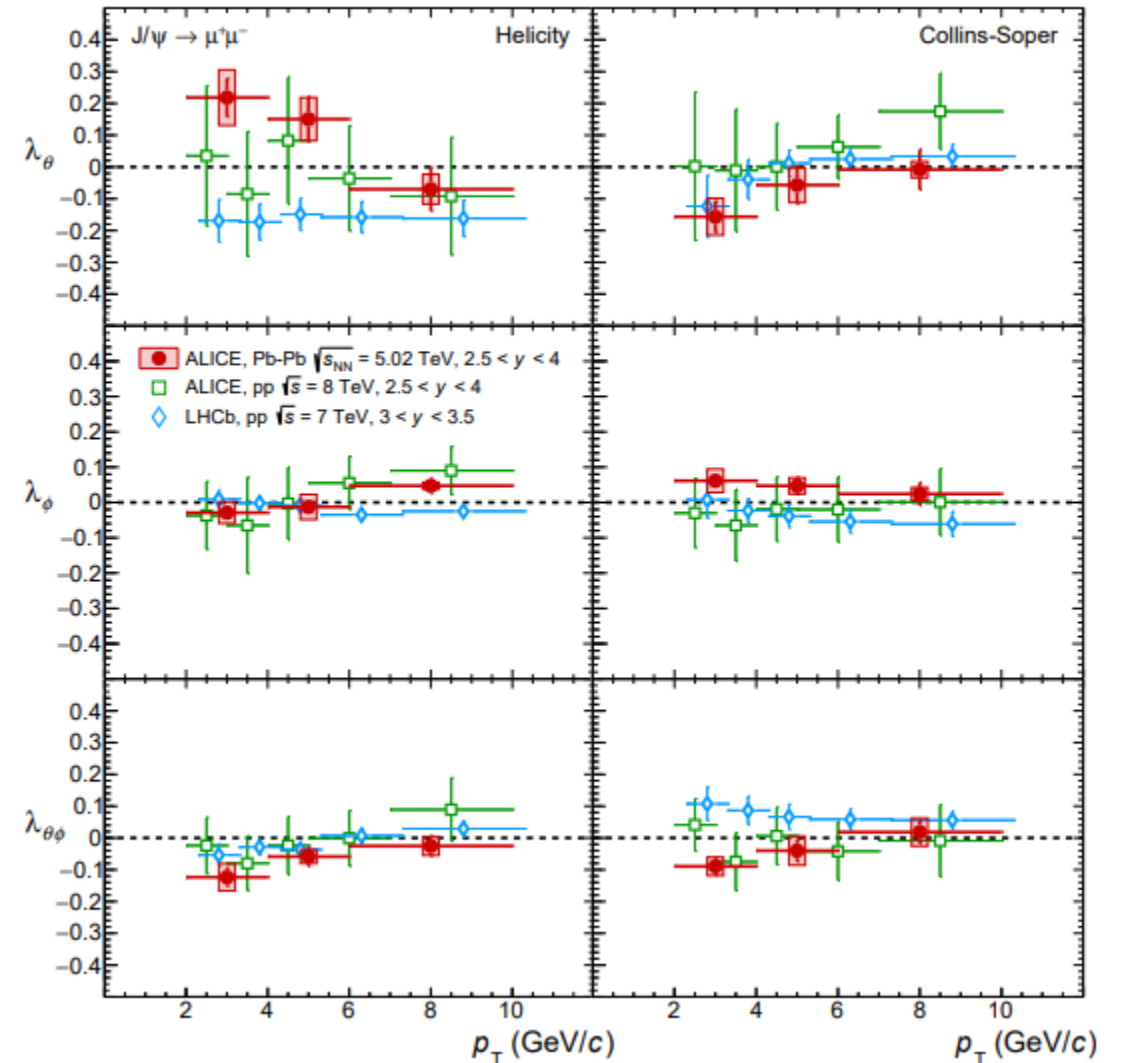


$$I(\cos\theta^*) = \frac{3}{2(\alpha + 3)}(1 + \alpha \cos^2\theta^*) \quad \text{Phys.Rev.Lett.85:2886-2891,2000}$$

- $\alpha = 1$  Transvers polarization
- $\alpha = 0$  No polarization ☹️
- $\alpha = -1$  Longitudinal polarization

# Polarisation measurements at high energies

- First polarization measurement of inclusive  $J/\psi$  in Heavy Ion Collisions (PbPb)
- Parameter values are close to zero both in the HX and CS frames
- It is expected that HI collisions have a different prompt / non prompt ratio in comparison to  $pp$  or  $p\bar{p}$  data sets



# Polarisation measurements at high energies

- The polarization is somewhat sensitive to the production mechanism when one compares pp, PbPb and  $p\bar{p}$  ?
- Is polarization sensitive to the formation of QGP ?
- Is there a difference between prompt and non prompt J/ $\Psi$  polarisation ?
- What about the data for low  $p_t$  ex. J/ $\Psi \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  ?
- Is there a magnetic field influence ?

System	Magnetic Field in Tesla
Human brain	$10^{-12}$
Earth's magnetic field	$10^{-5}$
Refrigerator magnet	$10^{-3}$
Loudspeaker magnet	1
Strongest field in lab	$10^3$
Neutron star	$10^6$
<b>Heavy-ion collisions</b>	<b><math>10^{15} - 10^{16}</math></b>

Spin alignment of vector mesons measured in Pb-Pb collisions with ALICE

Bedanga Mohanty

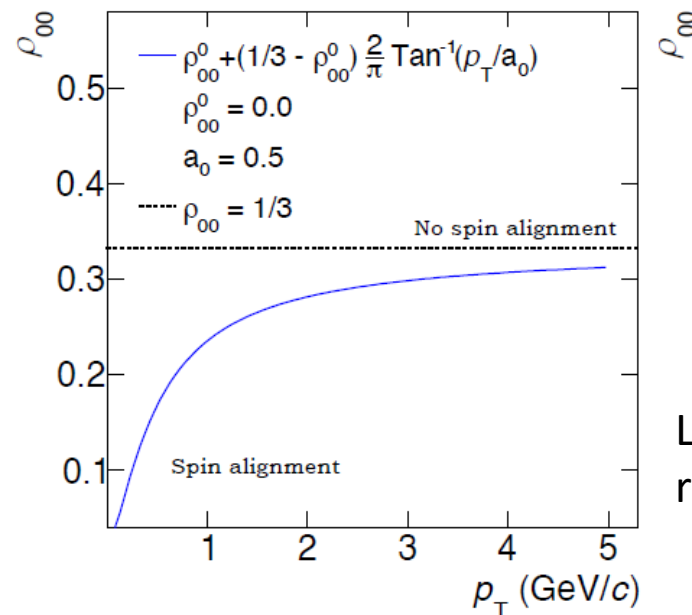
# Polarisation measurements at high energies (Angular momentum)

*K. Schilling et al., Nucl. Phys. B 15 (1970) 397*

$$\frac{dN}{d\cos\theta d\phi} = \langle \theta, \phi, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 | M \rho M^\dagger | \theta, \phi, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \rangle$$

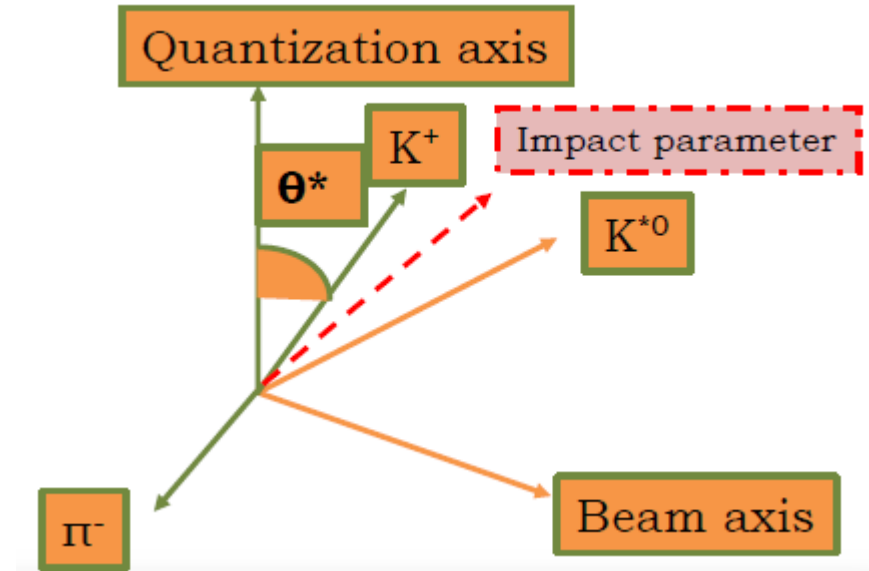
$$= \sum_{\lambda_V} \sum_{\lambda_{V'}} \langle \theta, \phi, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 | M | \lambda_V \rangle \langle \lambda_V | \rho | \lambda_{V'} \rangle \langle \lambda_{V'} | M^\dagger | \theta, \phi, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \rangle$$

$\lambda$  = Helicities  
 $\rho$  = spin density matrix  
 $M$  = Decay amplitude

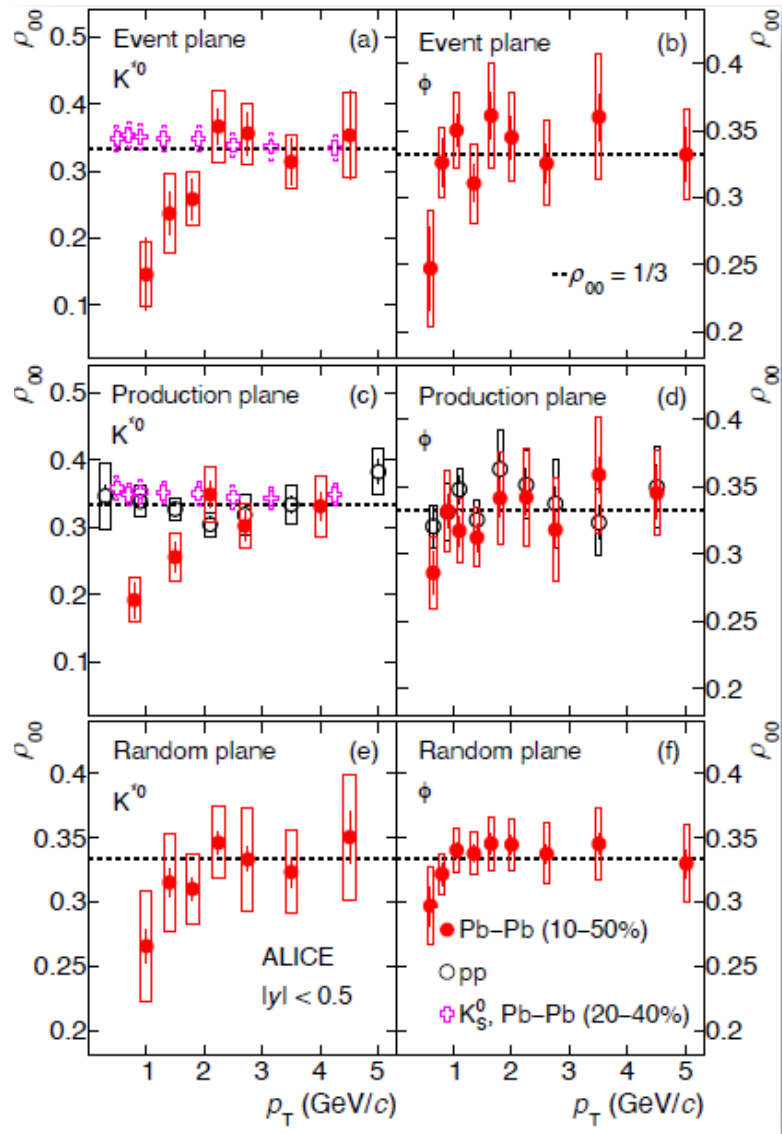


Low  $p_t$  dominated by recombination effects

Z. Liang et. al., Phys. Lett. B629, 20 (2005)



# Polarisation measurements at high energies (Spin alignment of vector mesons)

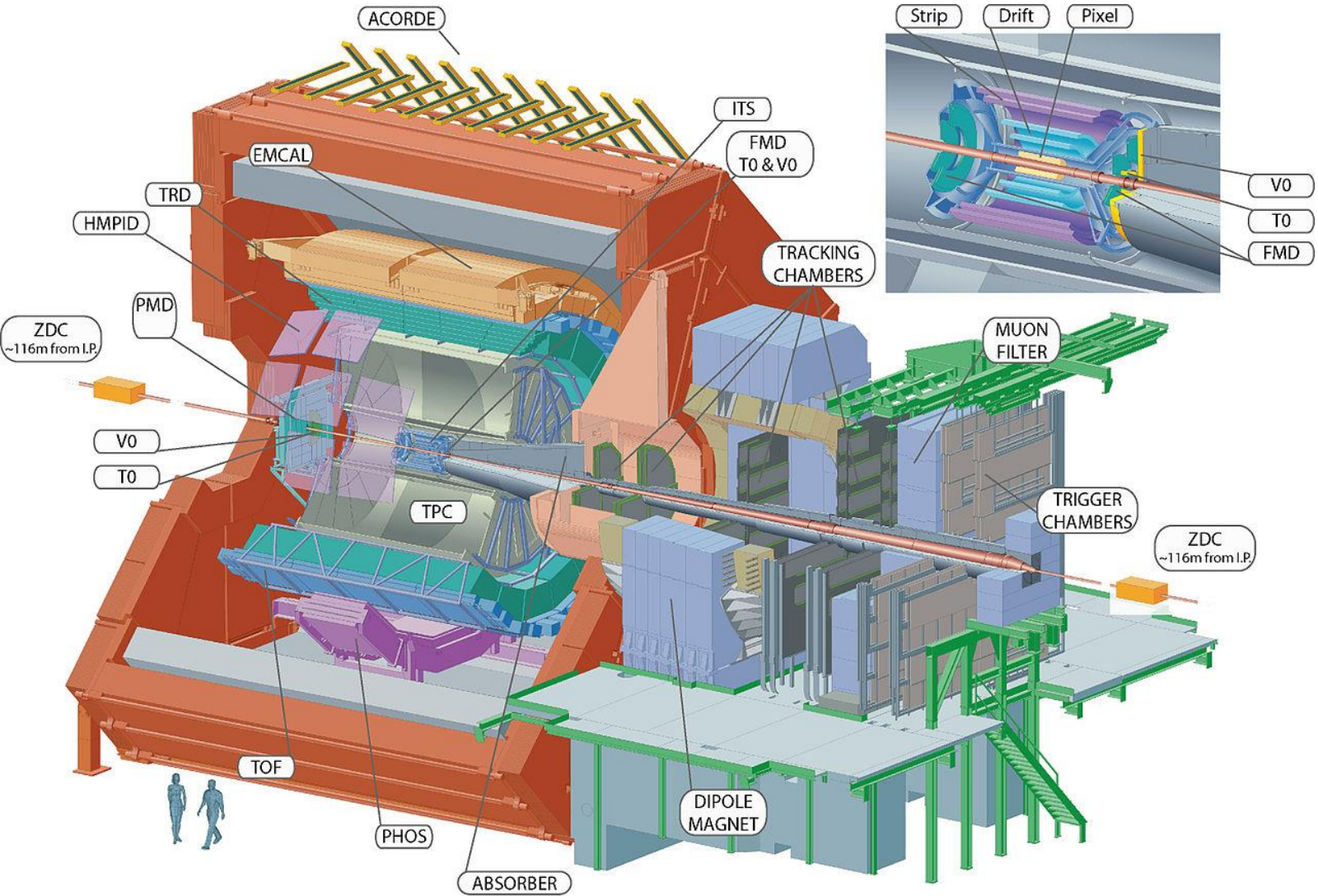


Spin alignment for vector mesons (spin 1) in PbPb

*arXiv:1910.14408 (ALICE)*

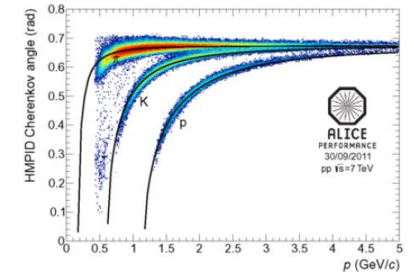
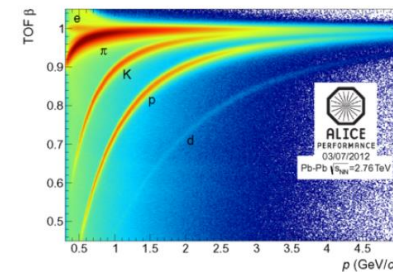
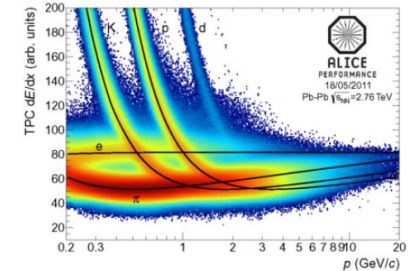
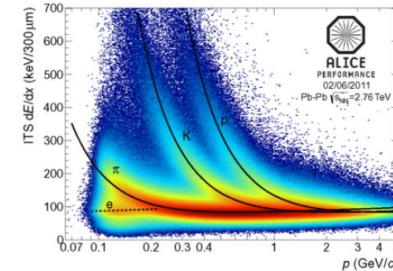


# The ALICE experiment



## Key features:

- Excellent PID capabilities
- High resolution tracking for low  $p_t$  tracks
- Low magnetic field (only 0.5 T)



# Novel methods

- TBA

Bac

