

# Strangeness production from large to small systems

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Particle Physics Seminar

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# Outline

## → Strangeness production

- in Quark Gluon Plasma
- in hadronic gas
- from the perspective of pp modeling

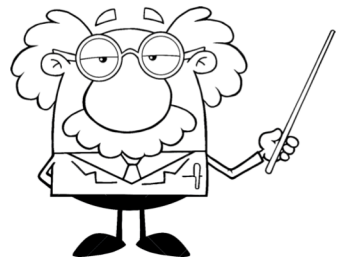
## → Experimental aspects

- Strange hadron reconstruction with ALICE
- Centrality and multiplicity in ALICE

## → Evidence of strangeness enhancement in heavy-ion collisions

## → Strangeness enhancement in high-multiplicity pp and p-Pb

## → Outlook



# Strangeness production

in Quark Gluon Plasma,  
in hadron gas,  
from the perspective of pp modeling

# What is so special about the strange quark

Strange quarks are created during the collision

The hadronic cross section of (multi-)strange hadrons is small  
 → carry information about production stages

The **s** quark is “light” (current mass)

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} m_u \approx 2.2 \text{ MeV} \\ m_d \approx 4.7 \text{ MeV} \\ m_s \approx 96 \text{ MeV} \end{array} \right\} < \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \ll m_c \approx 1.3 \text{ GeV}$$

[C. Patrignani et al. (Particle Data Group), *Chin. Phys. C.* 40, 100001 (2016) and 2017 update]

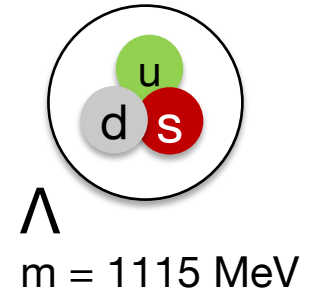
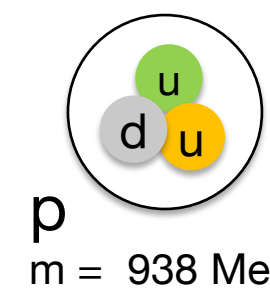
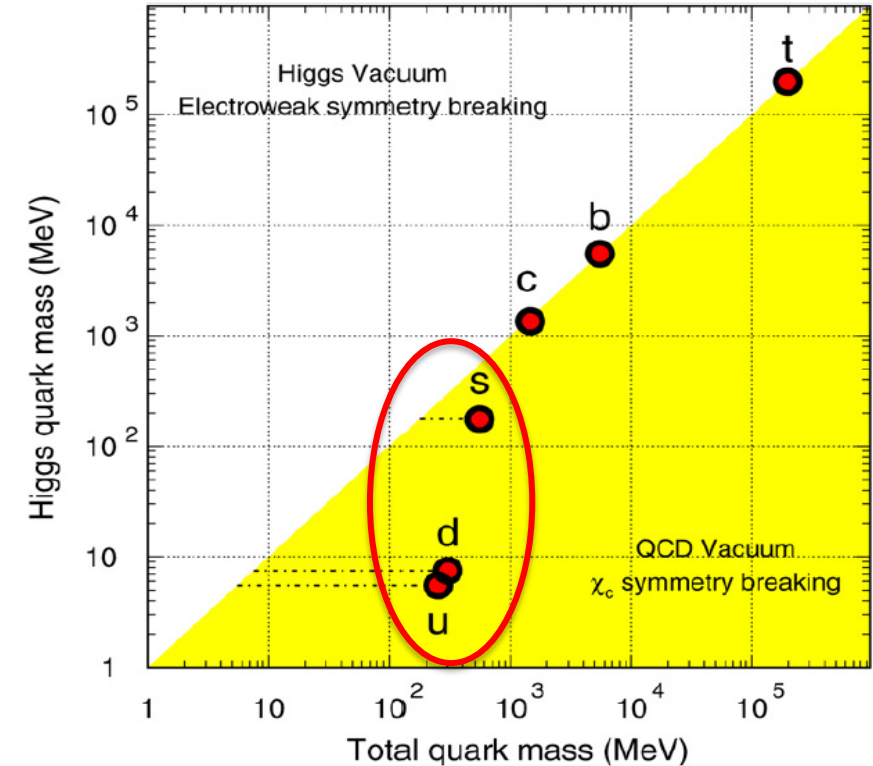
**Constituent light quarks** masses are dominated by spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry in QCD

→ **hadron mass generated “dynamically”**

Light quarks can recover their **bare current masses** if chiral symmetry is (partially) restored

→ **near the QCD phase-transition boundary**

K. Schweda et al., arXiv:nucl-ex/0610043



# The QCD phase transition (a very simplified picture)

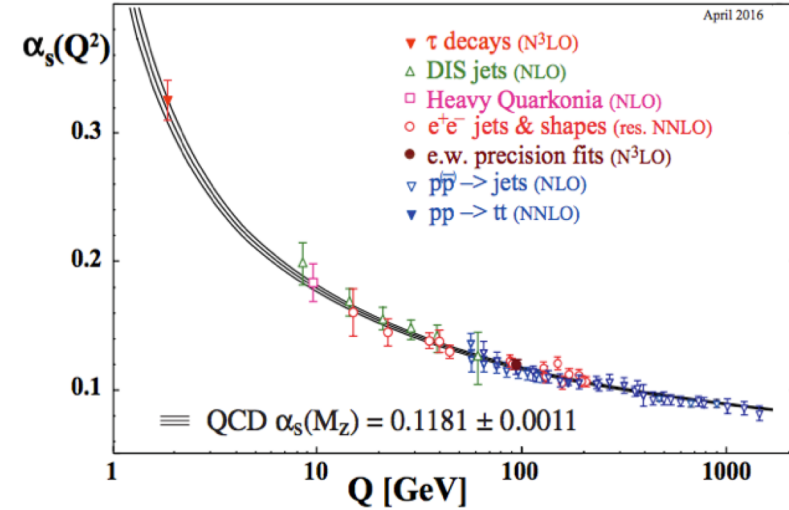
Quarks and gluons exist in nature as confined in colorless hadrons  $\rightarrow$  **confining property of QCD**

The strong coupling becomes weak for processes involving large momentum transfers  $\rightarrow$  **asymptotic freedom**

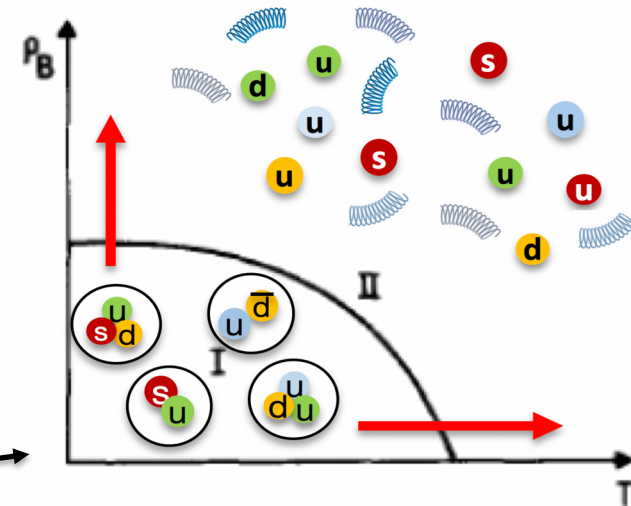
A deconfined state of matter (Quark Gluon Plasma) can be reached by compressing the system to a high-density ( $\rho_B$ ) and/or heating it up to a high-temperature (T)  $\rightarrow$  **ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collisions**

At the LHC:  $\mu_B \sim 0$ ,  $\epsilon \sim 16 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$

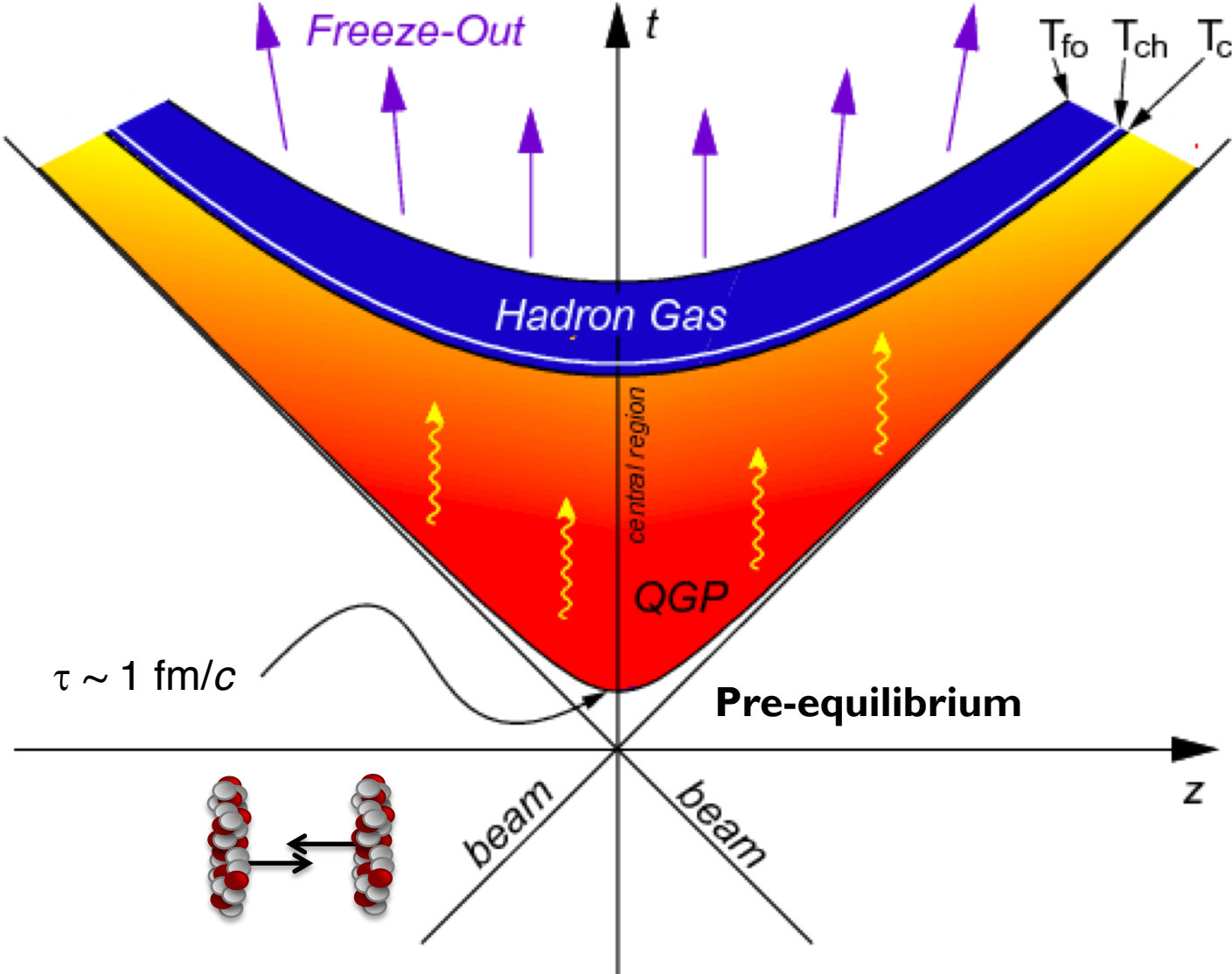
M. Tanabashi et al. (PDG), PRD 98, 030001 (2018)



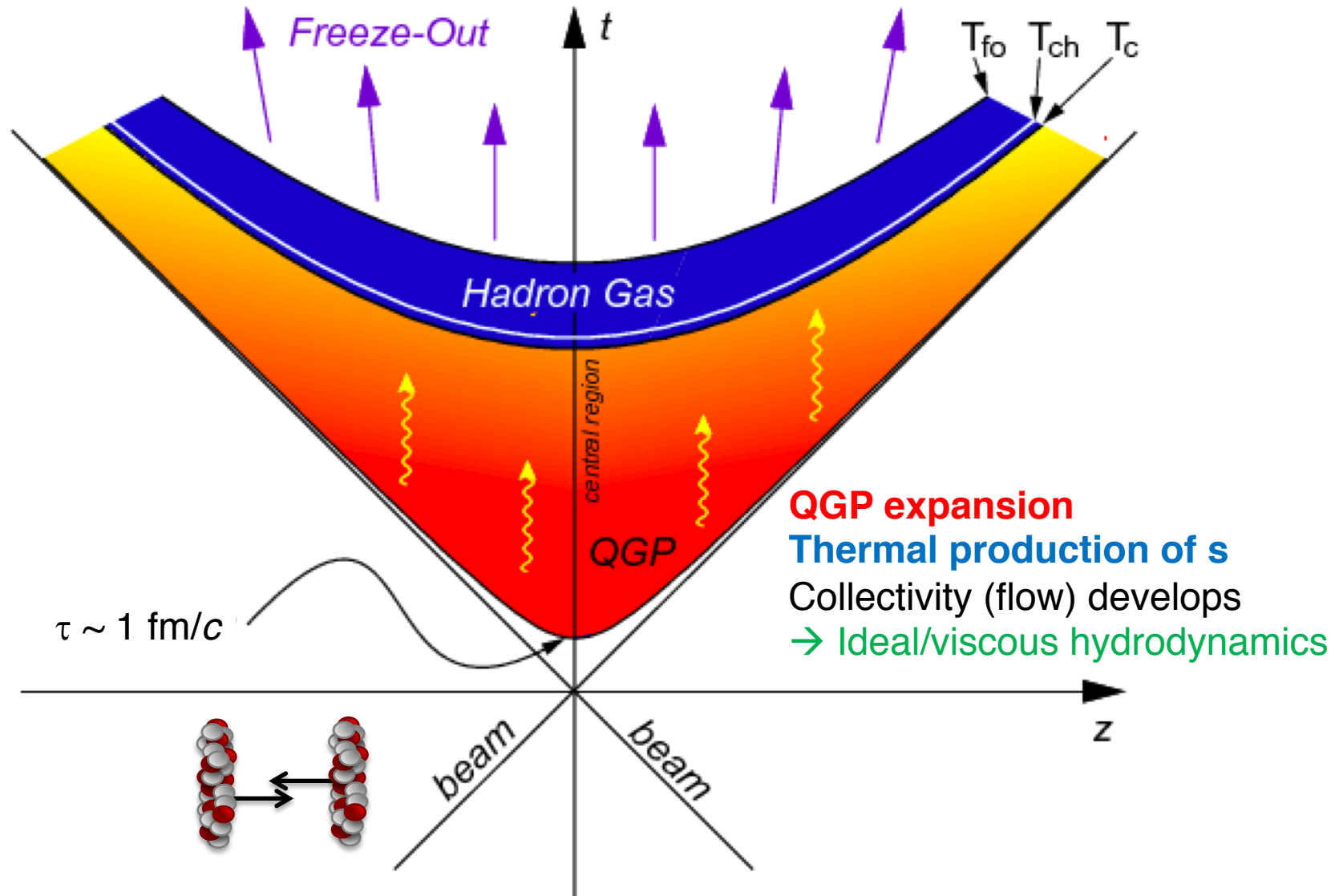
Cabibbo and Parisi, Phys. Lett. B 59, 67 (1975)



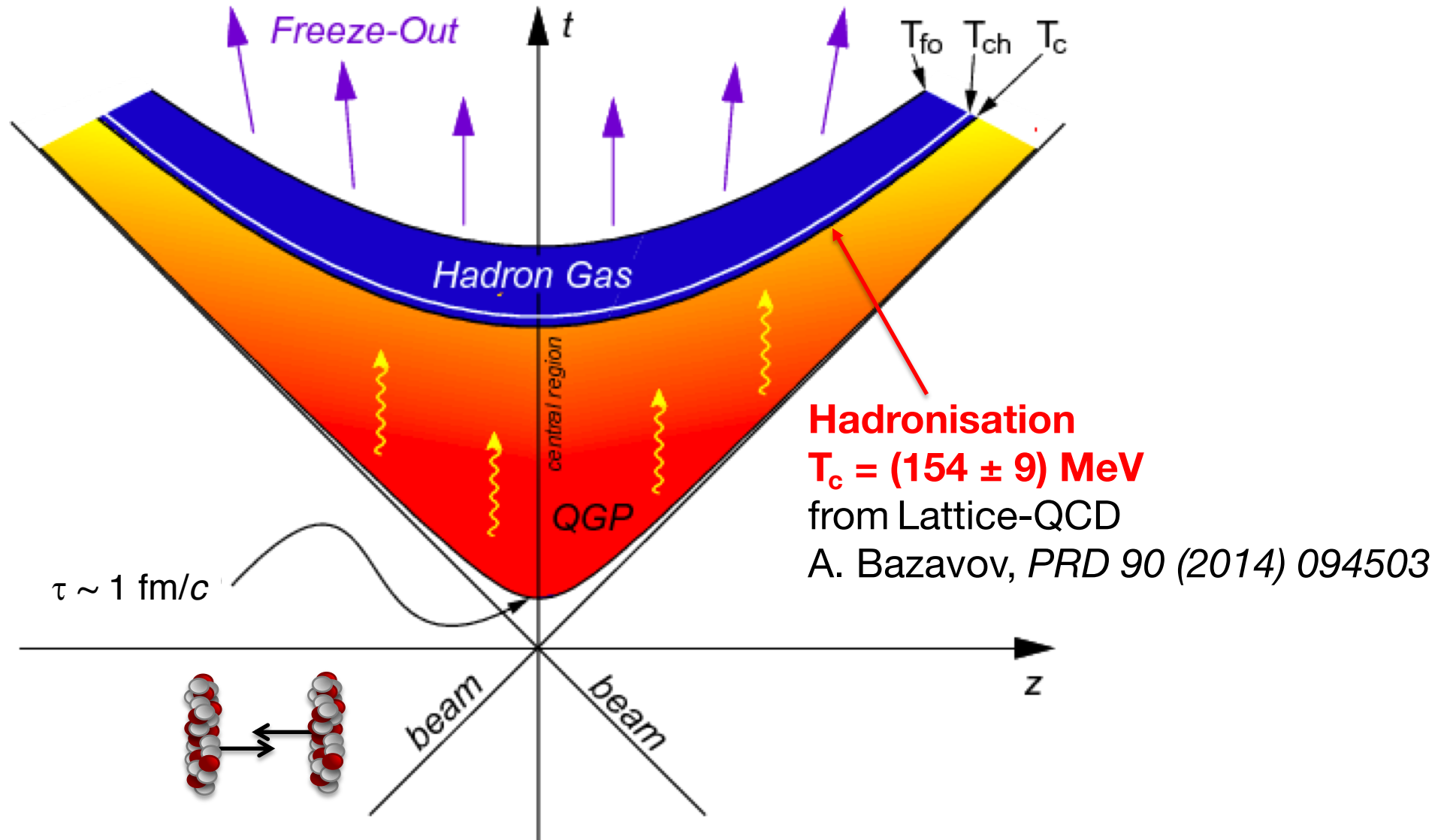
# Space-time evolution of heavy-ion collisions



# Space-time evolution of heavy-ion collisions

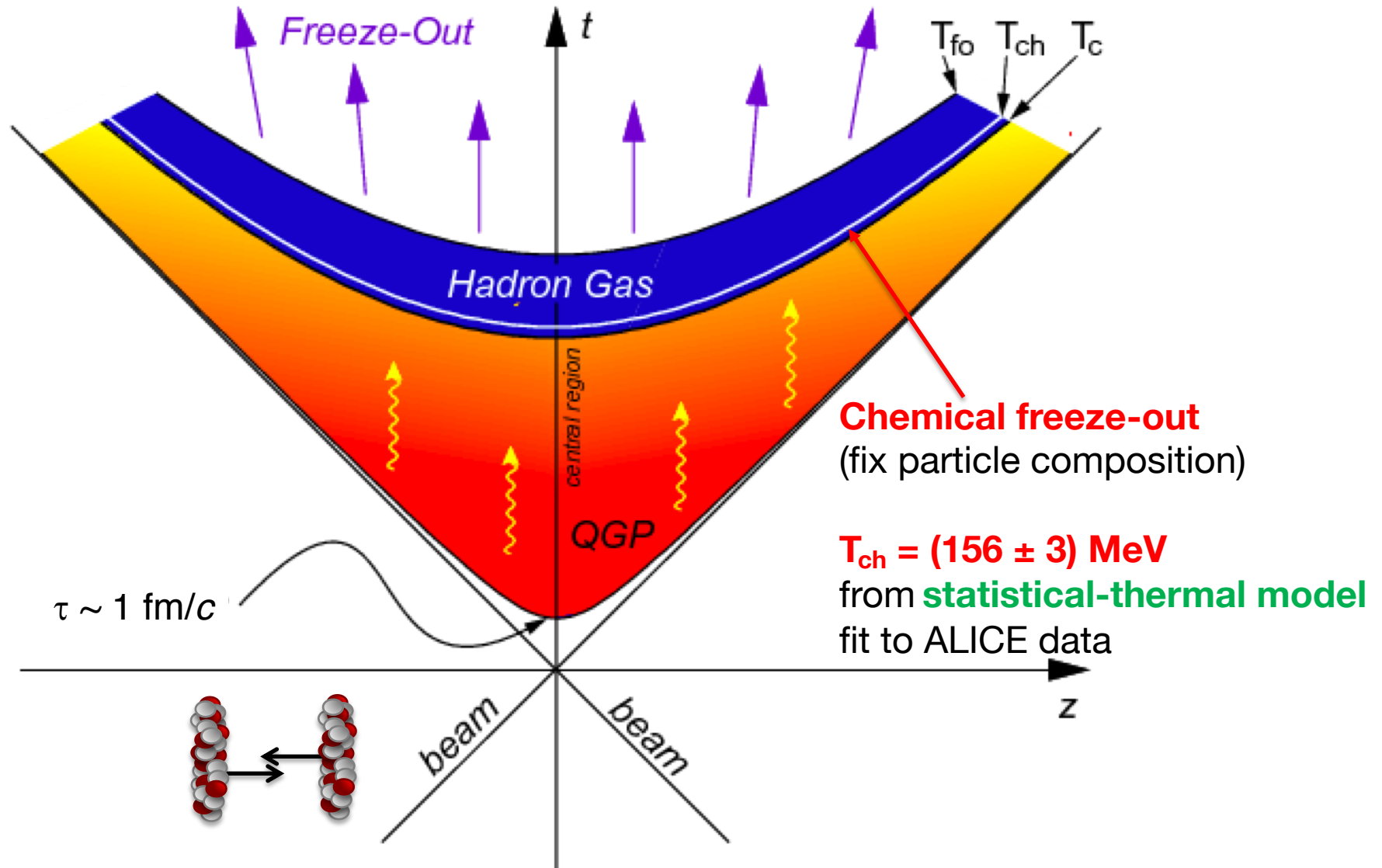


# Space-time evolution of heavy-ion collisions

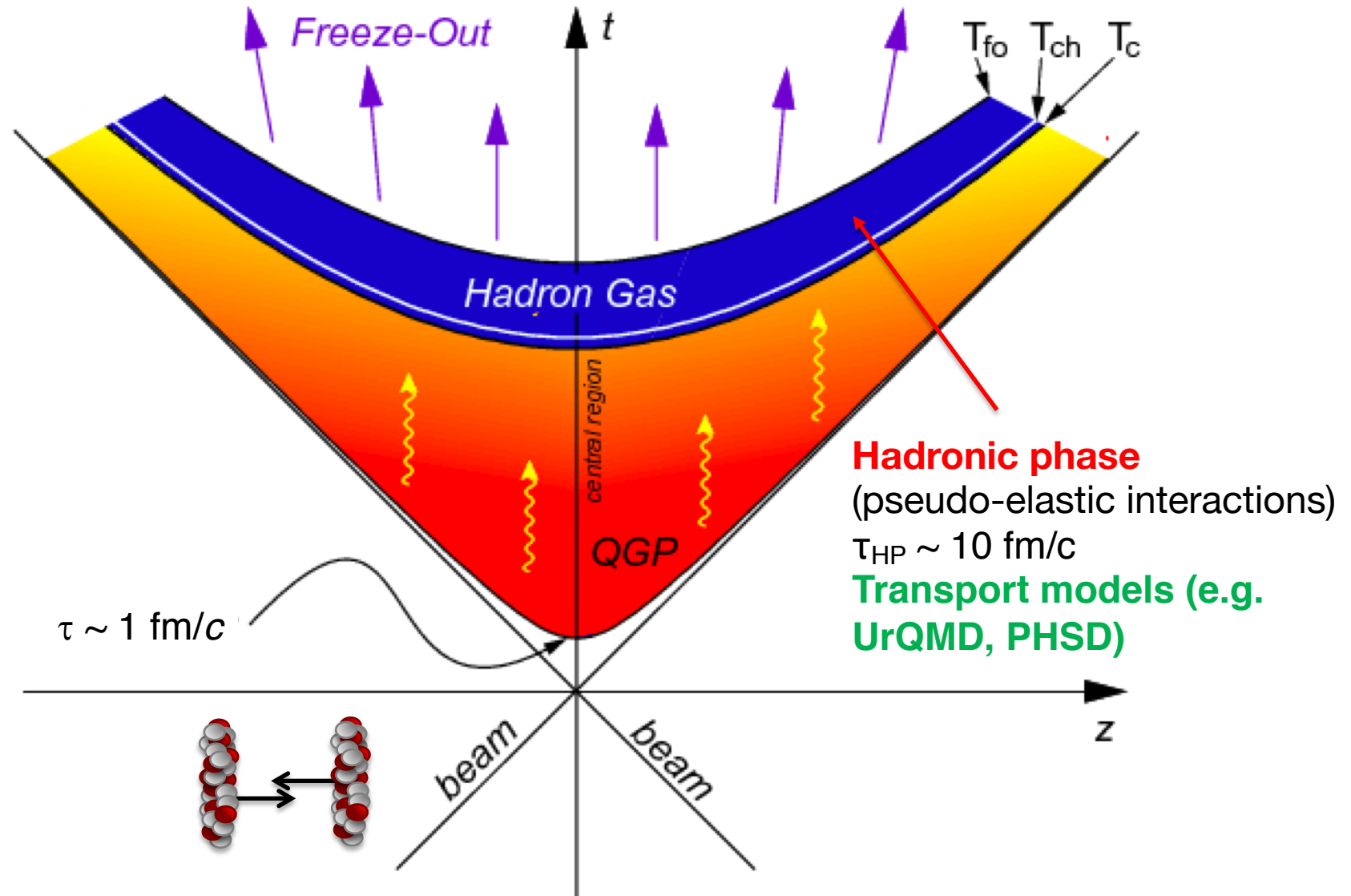




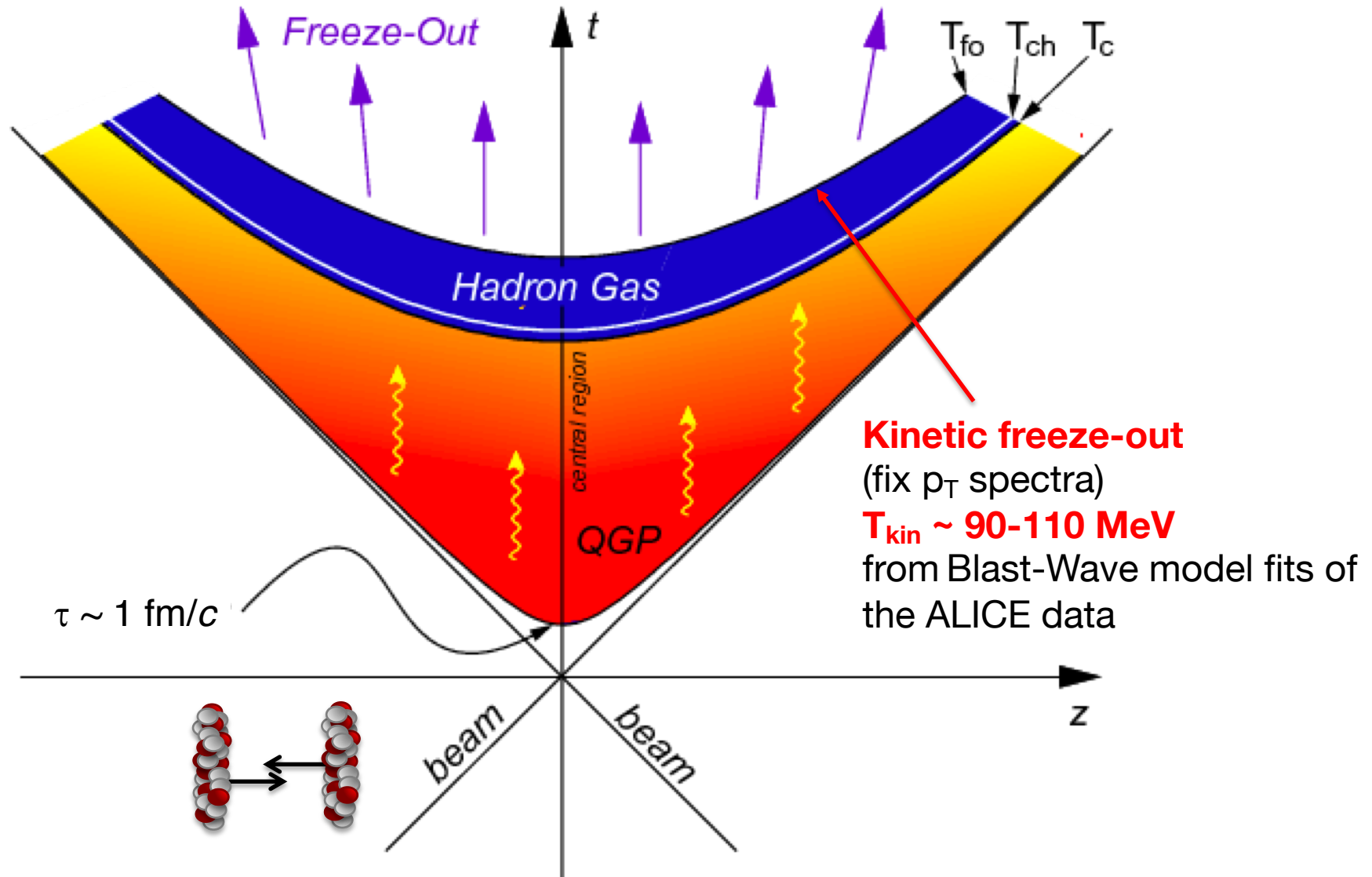
# Space-time evolution of heavy-ion collisions



# Space-time evolution of heavy-ion collisions



# Space-time evolution of heavy-ion collisions



# Strangeness production in QGP

**~300 MeV** (or less if  $m_s^{\text{QCD}} \rightarrow m_s^{\text{Higgs}}$  by restoration of chiral symmetry) are enough to **create an s-sbar pair**

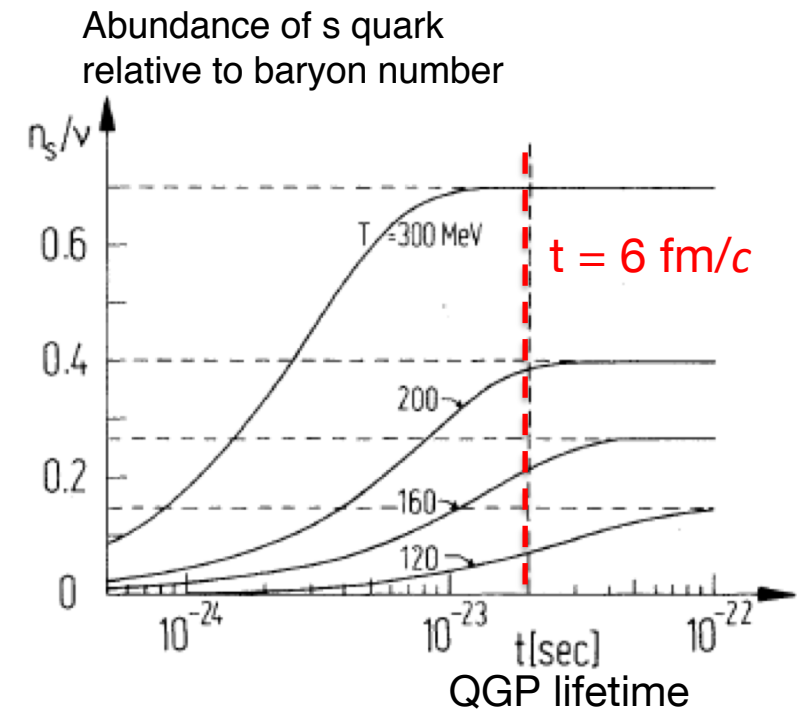
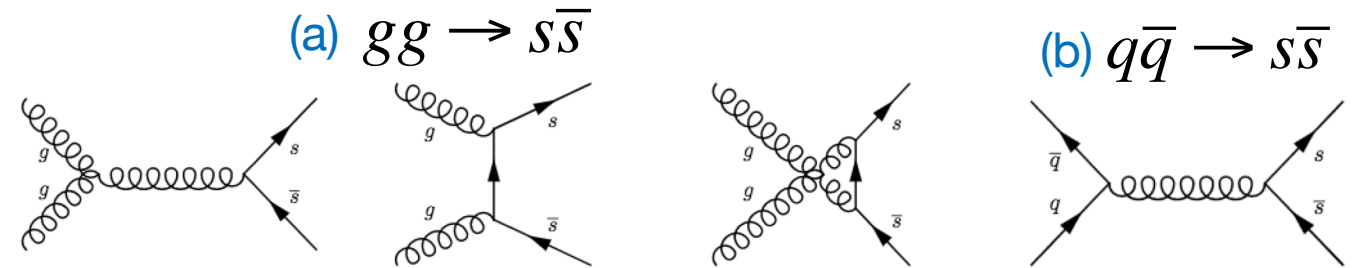
**Gluon fusion (a)** is the dominant mechanism for strangeness production over quark annihilation (b)

**Gluons quickly thermalise** in  $t < 1 \text{ fm}/c$   
 [E. Shuryak, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 68 (1992) 3270]

The backward reaction of (b) depends on the s quark density, thus on the **QGP lifetime**  
 → saturation of strangeness abundance

After hadronisation, the abundance of (multi)strange hadrons reflects that of strangeness in the partonic phase

- For short enough hadronic phase (no re-diffusion) and small hadronic cross sections



J. Rafelski, B. Müller, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 48 (1982) 1066

# Strangeness production in Hadron Gas

In a hadron gas at high temperature (e.g.  $T = 150 \text{ MeV} < T_c$ ), (multi-)strange hadron production is an **energy threshold problem**

## By multi-step hadronic processes

e.g.  $\pi + n \rightarrow K + \Lambda$ ,  $E_{\text{th}} \sim 540 \text{ MeV}$

$\pi + \Lambda \rightarrow K + \Xi$ ,  $E_{\text{th}} \sim 560 \text{ MeV}$

→ Requires longer medium lifetime

→ **under-saturation** of strangeness

## By direct production

e.g.  $\pi + \pi \rightarrow \pi + \pi + \Lambda + \Lambda\text{-bar}$ ,  $E_{\text{th}} \sim 2200 \text{ MeV}$

$\pi + \pi \rightarrow \pi + \pi + \Xi^- + \Xi^+\text{-bar}$ ,  $E_{\text{th}} \sim 2600$

MeV

→ have to happen **very early**

→ by non-thermalised hadrons

**Less efficient than production in QGP**

Harder to reach equilibrium

# Strangeness from the pp modeling perspective

## In the Lund string model

[Sjostrand, Mrenna, Skands, JHEP 0605 (2016) 026,  
N. Fischer, T. Sjostrand, JHEP 1701 (2017) 140]

- Confined colour fields described as **strings** with tension  $\kappa = 1 \text{ GeV/fm}$
- Hadrons given by **breaking of strings**
- Strangeness production determined by **(which?)  $m_s$**

$$\text{Prob}(m_q^2, p_{\perp q}^2) \propto \exp\left(\frac{-\pi m_q^2}{\kappa}\right) \exp\left(\frac{-\pi p_{\perp q}^2}{\kappa}\right)$$

Measurements of strange hadron production used as input for **tuning Monte Carlo generators**

→ Contribute to the **understanding of underlying event** arising from multi-parton interactions in pp, p-Pb collisions.

[P. Skands et al., EPJC 76(5) (2016) 1-12]

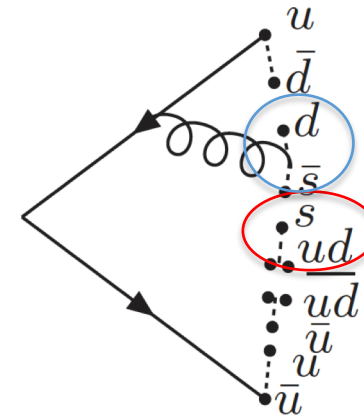
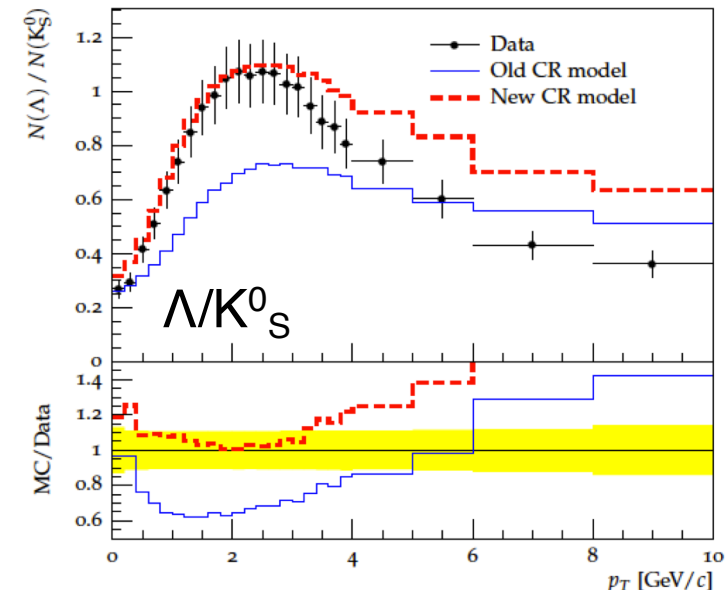


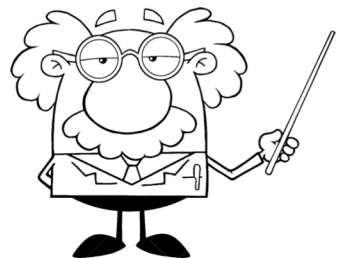
Figure by C. Bierlich

J.R. Christiansen, P. Skands, JHEP 08 (2015) 003



In heavy-ion collisions:  
thermal production of strangeness at the QCD phase boundary  
---> thermal properties of the medium

In pp collisions:  
energy threshold and conservation of (strangeness) quantum numbers  
---> production mechanisms and underlying event



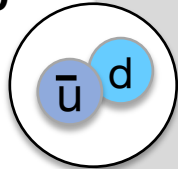
# Experimental aspects

Strange hadron reconstruction with ALICE  
Centrality and multiplicity in ALICE

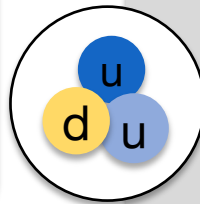


# Strange and identified hadrons in ALICE

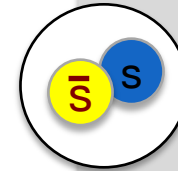
$|S| = 0$



$\pi^-$   
M = 140 MeV  
Primary\*

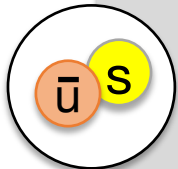


p  
M = 938 MeV  
Primary\*

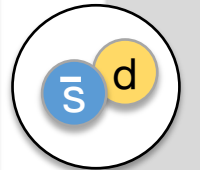


$\phi$   
M = 1020 MeV  
 $\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-$  (48.9%)  
 $c\tau = 45$  fm

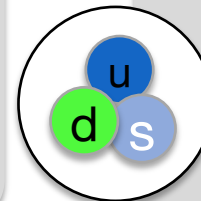
$|S| = 1$



$K^-$   
M = 494 MeV  
Primary\*

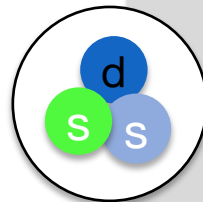


$K^0_S$   
M = 497 MeV  
 $K^0_S \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$  (69.2%)  
 $c\tau = 2.68$  cm



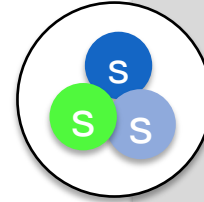
$\Lambda$   
M = 1115 MeV  
 $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$  (63.9%)  
 $c\tau = 7.98$  cm

$|S| = 2$



$\Xi^-$   
M = 1322 MeV  
 $\Xi^- \rightarrow \Lambda\pi^-$  (99.9%)  
 $c\tau = 4.91$  cm

$|S| = 3$

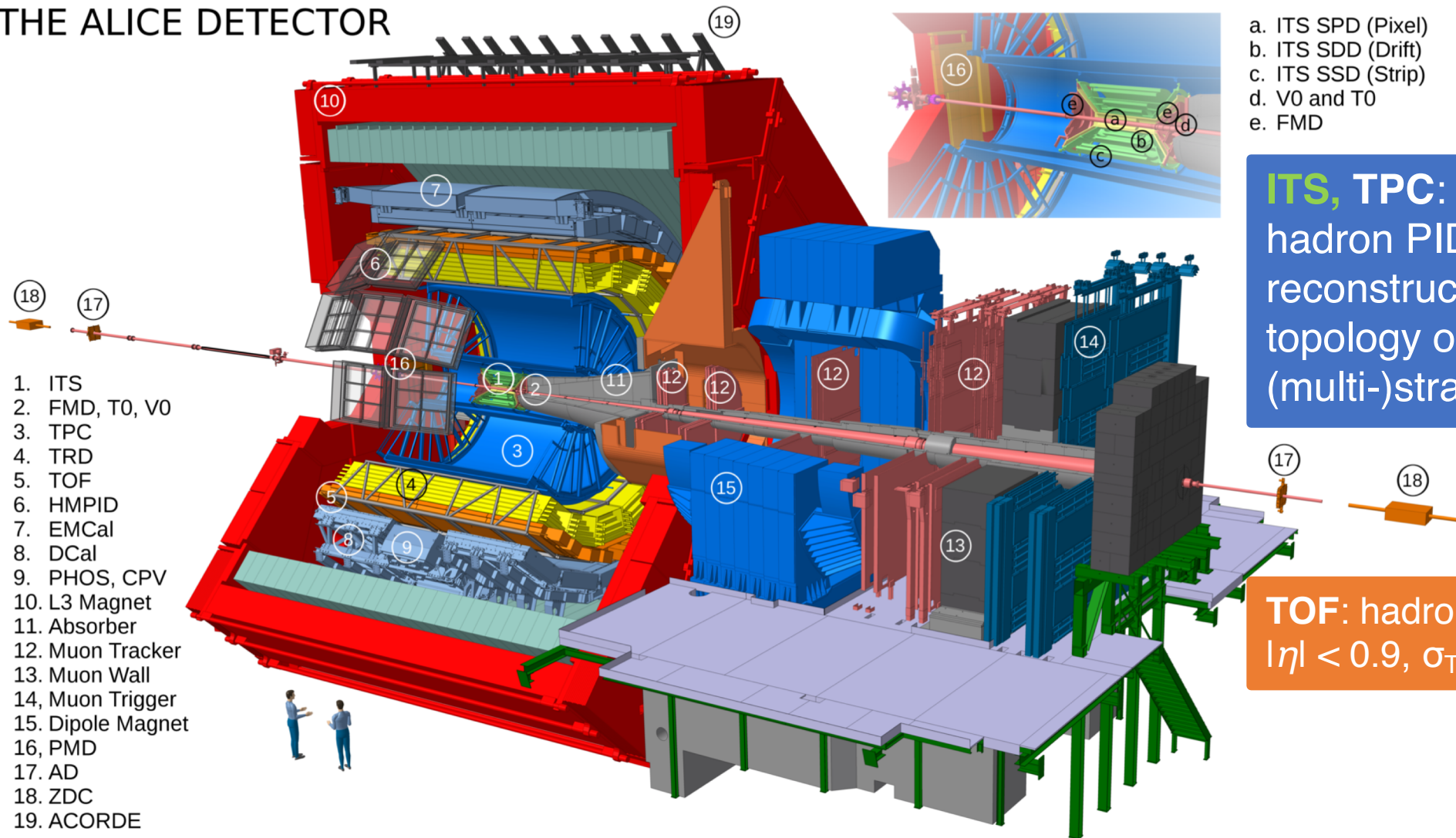


$\Omega^-$   
M = 1672 MeV  
 $\Omega^- \rightarrow \Lambda K^-$  (67.8%)  
 $c\tau = 2.46$  cm

+ antiparticles + resonances (not today's topic...)

# A Large Ion Collider Experiment at the LHC

## THE ALICE DETECTOR



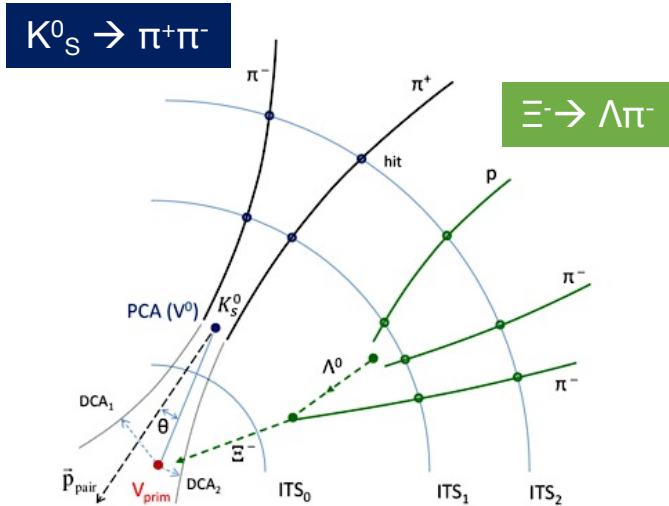
1. ITS
2. FMD, T0, V0
3. TPC
4. TRD
5. TOF
6. HMPID
7. EMCal
8. DCal
9. PHOS, CPV
10. L3 Magnet
11. Absorber
12. Muon Tracker
13. Muon Wall
14. Muon Trigger
15. Dipole Magnet
16. PMD
17. AD
18. ZDC
19. ACORDE

- a. ITS SPD (Pixel)
- b. ITS SDD (Drift)
- c. ITS SSD (Strip)
- d. V0 and T0
- e. FMD

**ITS, TPC:** tracking, vertexing, hadron PID via  $dE/dx$ ,  $|\eta| < 0.9$ , reconstruction of the decay topology of weakly-decaying (multi-)strange hadrons

**TOF:** hadron PID via Time-Of-Flight  $|\eta| < 0.9$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{TOF}} \sim 80$  ps

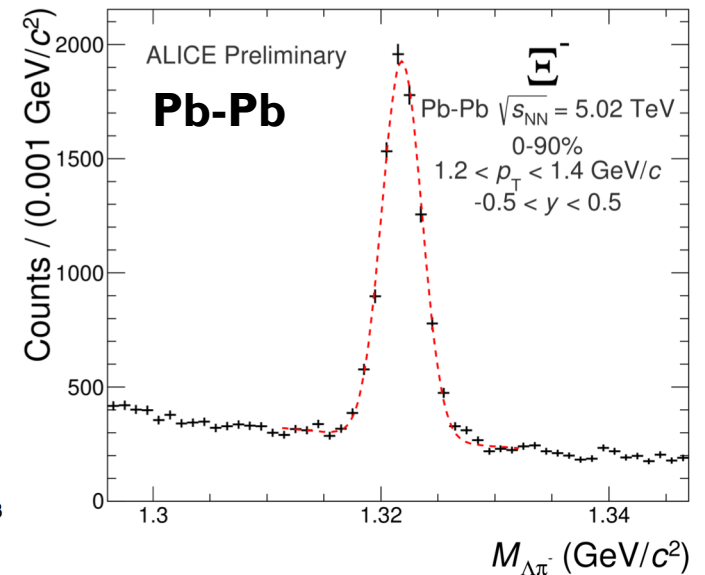
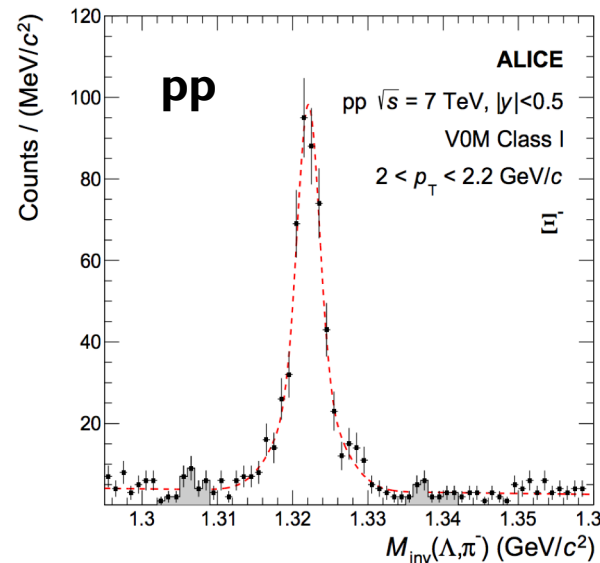
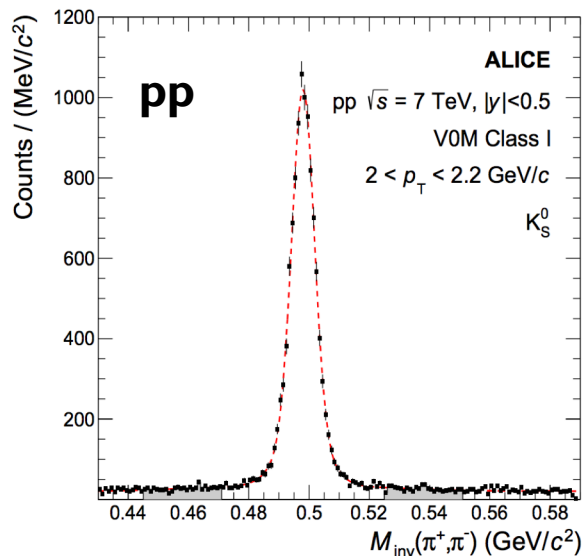
# Multi-strange hadron reconstruction details



Reconstruction of the weak decay topology

Yield extraction in each  $p_T$  bin:

- Fit polynomial + gaussian to get signal mean,  $\sigma$
  - Bin counting in the signal region ( $3\sigma$ )
  - Fit background on side-bands
  - Integral of background fit
  - function in the signal region
- Signal = Bin counting - Integral

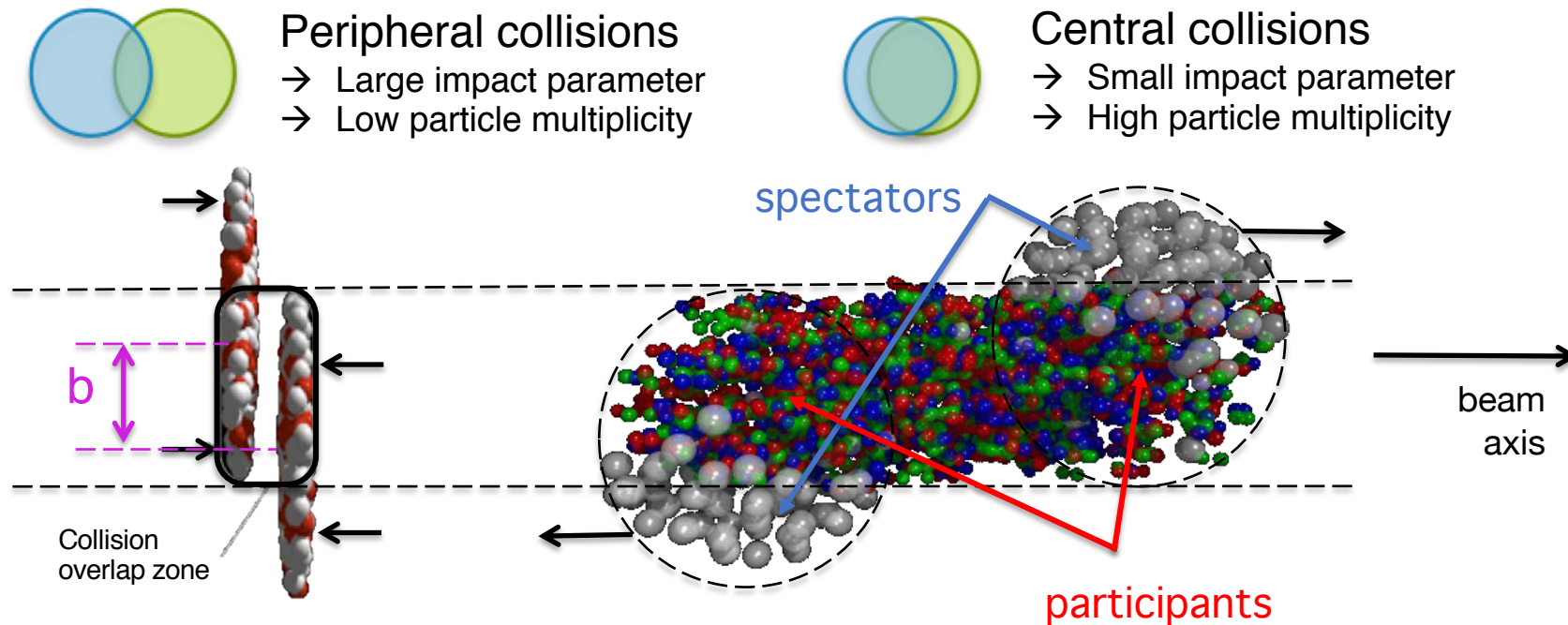


ALI-PREL-107591

# Centrality

**Centrality** = fraction of the total hadronic cross section of nucleus-nucleus collisions

→ can be quantified by the impact parameter (**b**)



Centrality variables:

- $N_{\text{coll}}$ , number of **binary nucleon-nucleon collisions**
- $N_{\text{part}}$  ( $N_{\text{wound}}$ ), **number of participating (wounded) nucleons** → energy available for particle production

# Event classes in Pb-Pb, p-Pb, pp

Event multiplicity/centrality classes are defined based on the amplitude measured in the **V0 scintillators**, placed at **forward rapidity**:  $2.8 < \eta < 5.1$  (V0A) and  $-3.7 < \eta < -1.7$  (V0C)

$\langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle$  is measured in **SPD** in  $|\eta| < 0.5$  to avoid “auto-correlation biases”

In **Pb-Pb** the Glauber\* model is used to relate the V0A&V0C (“V0M”) amplitude distribution to the geometry of the collision.

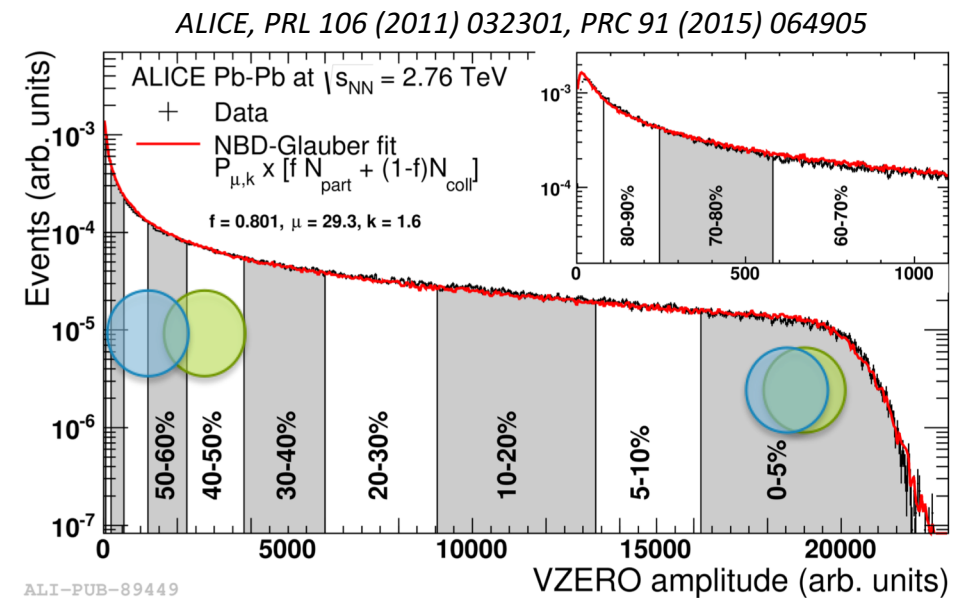
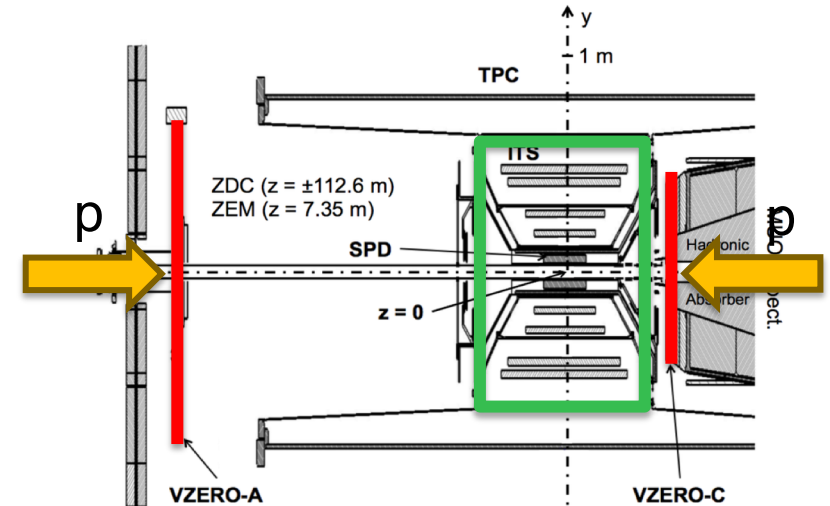
[\*M. L. Miller et al., An. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 57 (2007) 205-243]

At  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  TeV:

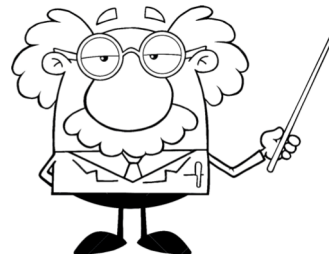
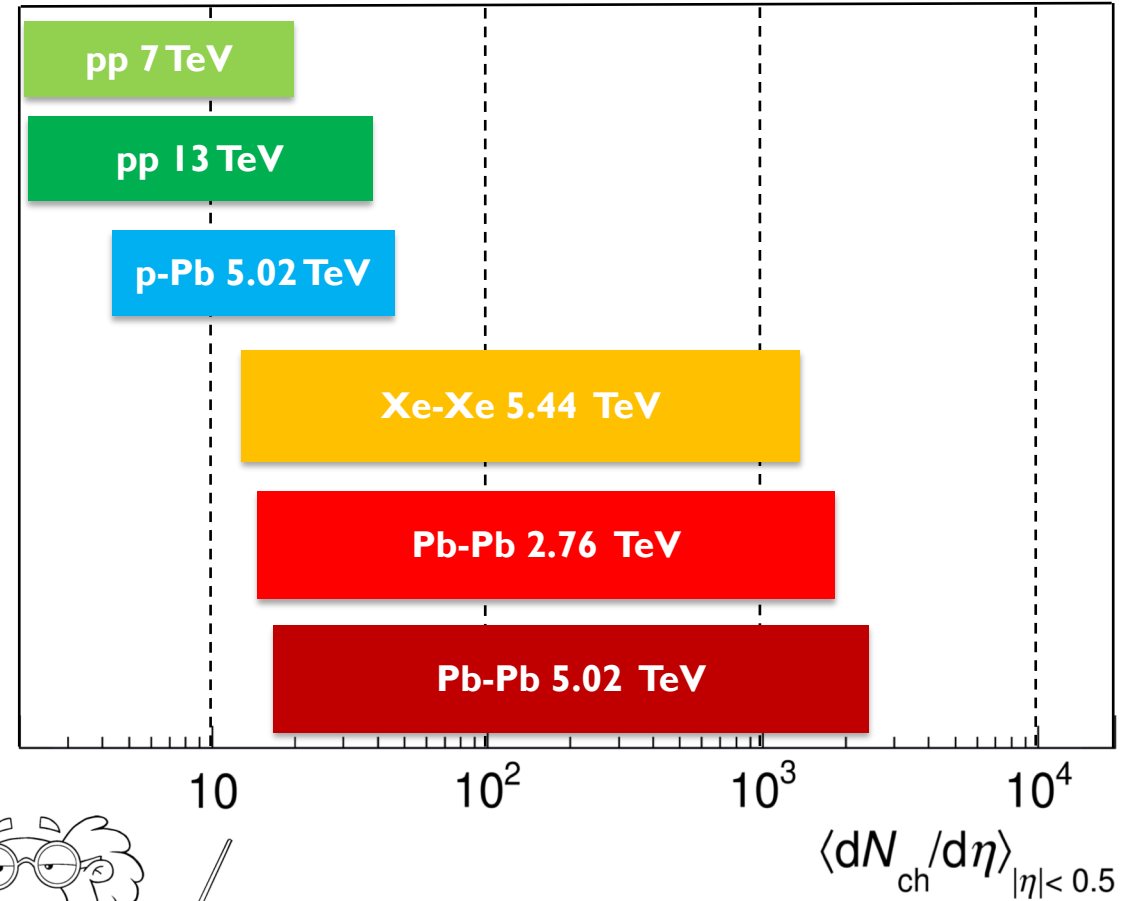
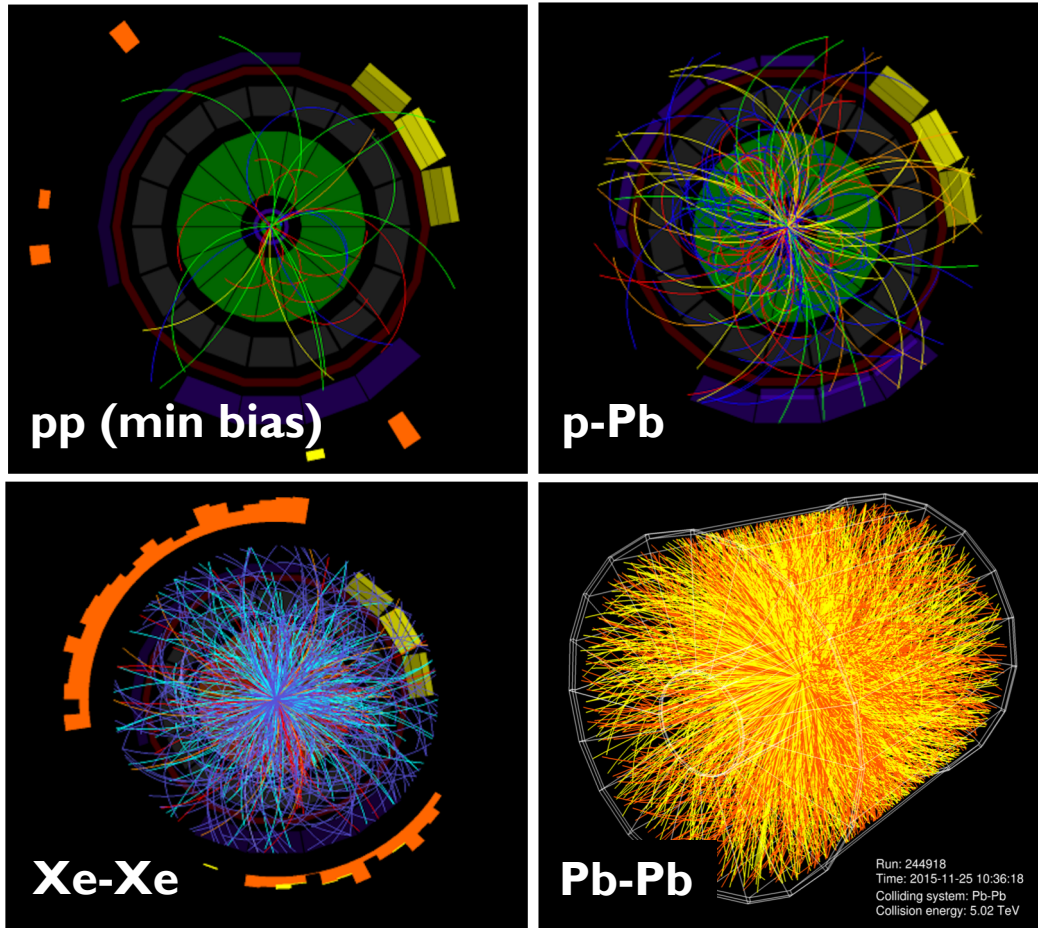
0-5%:  $\langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle = 1601 \pm 60$   
 $\langle N_{part} \rangle = 328.8 \pm 3.1$



70-80%:  $\langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle = 35 \pm 2$   
 $\langle N_{part} \rangle = 15.8 \pm 0.6$



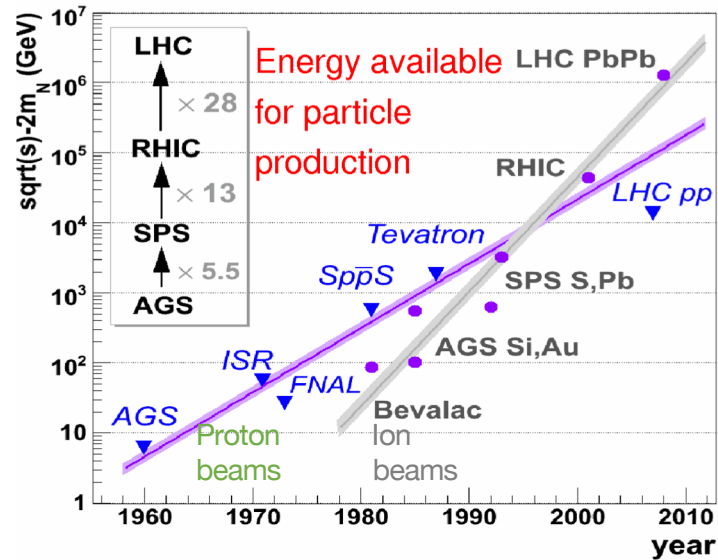
# System size $\Leftrightarrow$ charged particle multiplicity



Small systems: pp, pA  
Large systems: Pb-Pb, Xe-Xe

# Experimental evidence of strangeness enhancement in heavy-ion collisions

# 30 years of heavy-ion collision experiments



## Fixed target experiments:

Bevalac @ LBL (1975-1986)  $\sqrt{s} < 2.4$  GeV

SIS @ GSI (1989-)  $\sqrt{s} < 2.7$  GeV

AGS @ BNL (1986-1998)  $\sqrt{s} < 5$  GeV

SPS @ CERN (1986-2003)  $\sqrt{s} < 20$  GeV

FAIR @ GSI (u.c.)  $\sqrt{s} < 9$  GeV

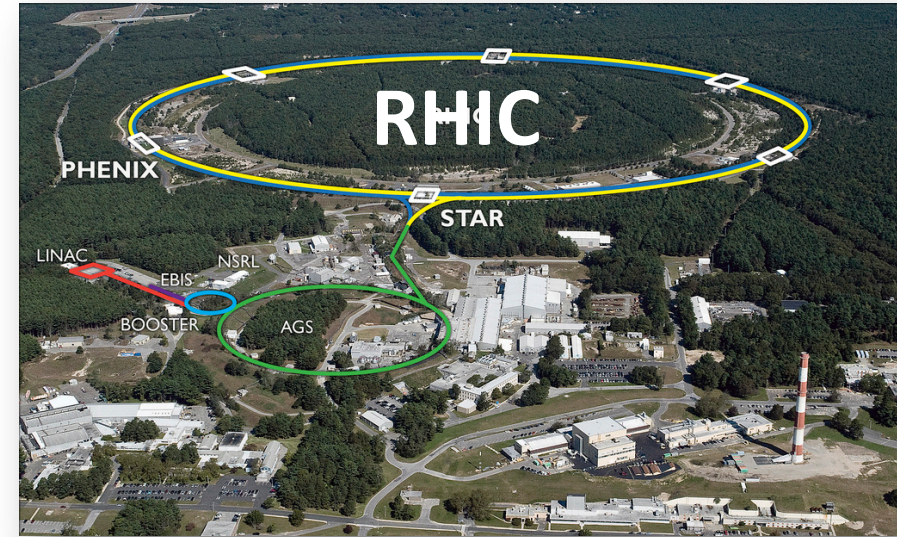
## Collider experiments:

RHIC @ BNL (2000-)  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} < 200$  GeV

[beam energy scan  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7, 11.5, 19.6, 27, 39,$  and  $62.4$  GeV]

LHC @ CERN (Run I, 2009-2013)  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  TeV

LHC @ CERN (Run II, 2015-2018)  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV





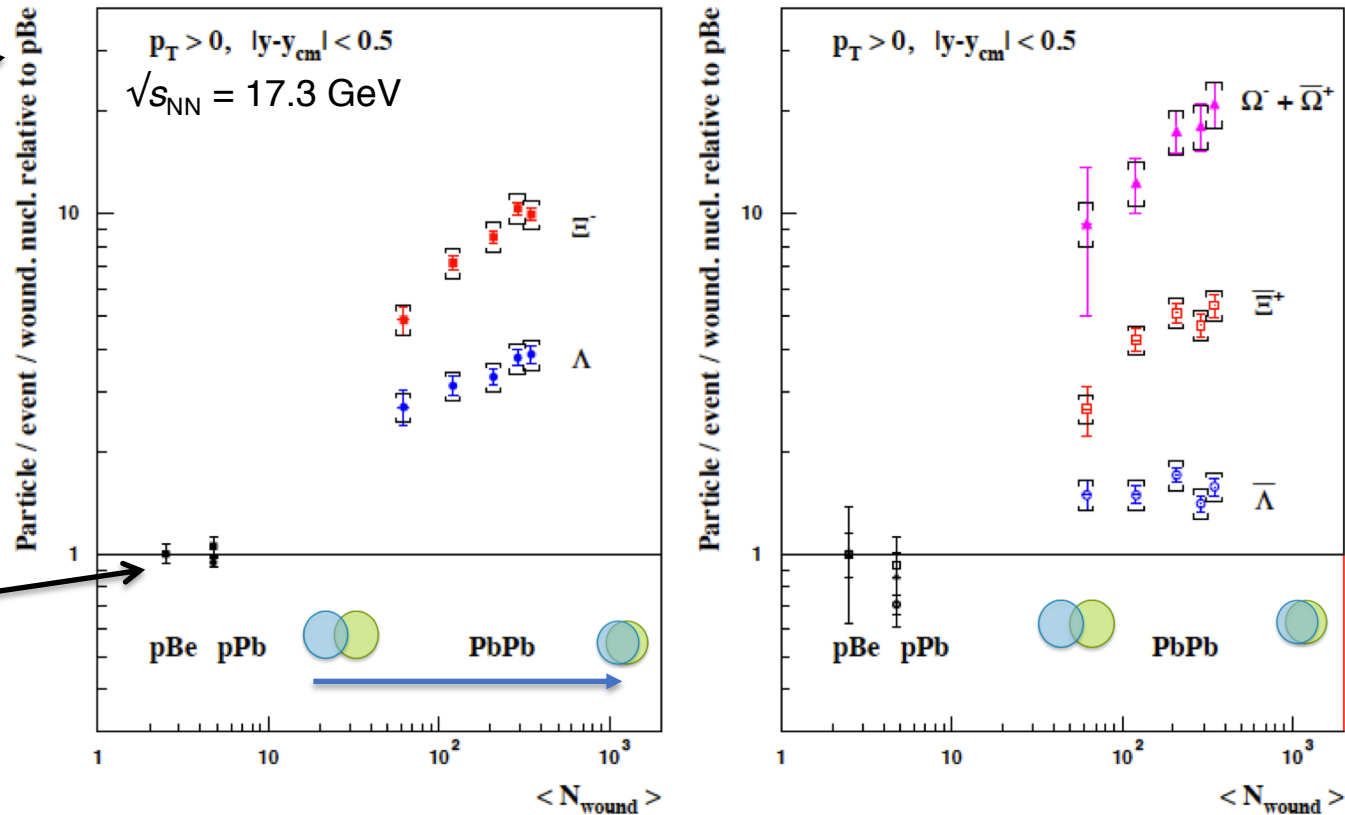
# Observation of strangeness enhancement at SPS

NA57, *J.Phys. G32* (2006) 427-442

Yields normalised to  $N_{\text{wound}}$  relative to p-Be

=> Not just an effect of having more participants in Pb-Pb!

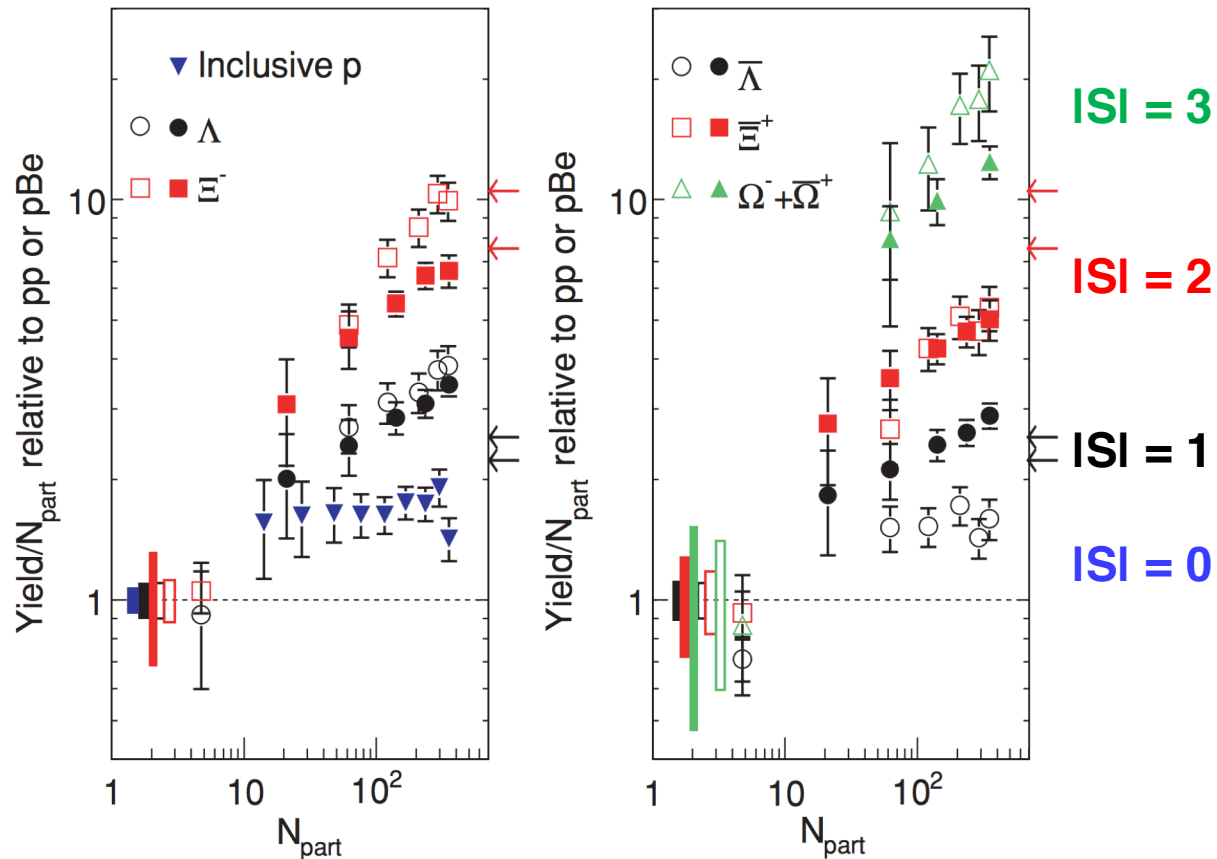
p-Be used as a proxy for pp since  $N_{\text{wound}}$  is close to 2 (as in pp)



- Enhancement observed in Pb-Pb collisions wrt p-Pb, p-Pb for multi-strange (anti)baryons
- Anti-baryons less enhanced than baryons → quarks (not anti-quarks!) in the initial stage
- **Hierarchy** of the enhancement with the strangeness content
- **Increase** of the enhancement with the **centrality** of the collision

# From SPS to RHIC

STAR, Phys. Rev. C 77, 044908 (2008)



Open symbols: NA57,  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 17.3$  GeV  
 Full symbols: STAR,  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 130$  GeV

**Enhancement observed also at RHIC**

Smaller effect for higher collision energy

Multiplicity per  $N_{\text{part}}$  saturates earlier in AA than in pp

# Enhancement vs canonical suppression

Strange quarks are more abundantly produced  
in nucleus-nucleus than in pp/pA collisions

## **Strangeness enhancement**

[J. Rafelski and B. Muller, PRL 48 (1982) 1066]

Historically proposed as a first signature of the presence of a deconfined Quark Gluon Plasma where **strangeness is produced thermally** (mainly) by equilibrated gluons

## **Canonical suppression**

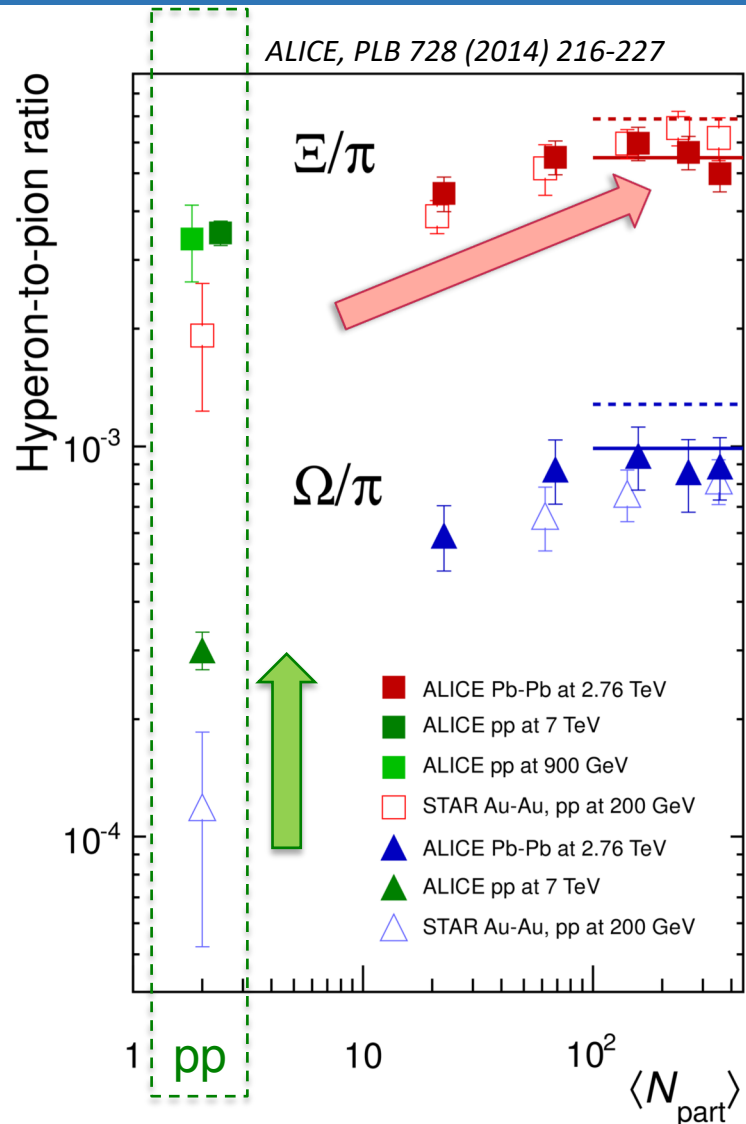
[K. Redlich, A. Tounsi, Eur. Phys. J. C 24, 589–594 (2002)]

suppression of production due to canonical quantum number conservation law i.e. **strangeness has to be conserved locally in a finite system**

→ Reduced phase space available for particle production

→ Relaxation of canonical suppression with increasing  $\sqrt{s}$  (and number of particles)

# From RHIC to LHC



RHIC:  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 200$  GeV  
 LHC:  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76$  TeV

In **pp collisions** the production of strangeness relative to  $\pi$  at LHC is larger than at RHIC

→ **crucial to understand the small system “reference”!**

From **pp to Pb-Pb** strangeness production increases

For  $N_{\text{part}} > 150$  the ratios saturate and match predictions from the grand-canonical statistical hadronisation models

— GSI-Heidelberg:  $T_{\text{ch}} = 164$  MeV [Andronic et al, PLB 673 (2009) 142]  
 - - - THERMUS:  $T_{\text{ch}} = 170$  MeV [Cleymans et al, PRC 74 (2006) 034903]

In addition, a more recent fit with  $T_{\text{ch}} = 156$  MeV...

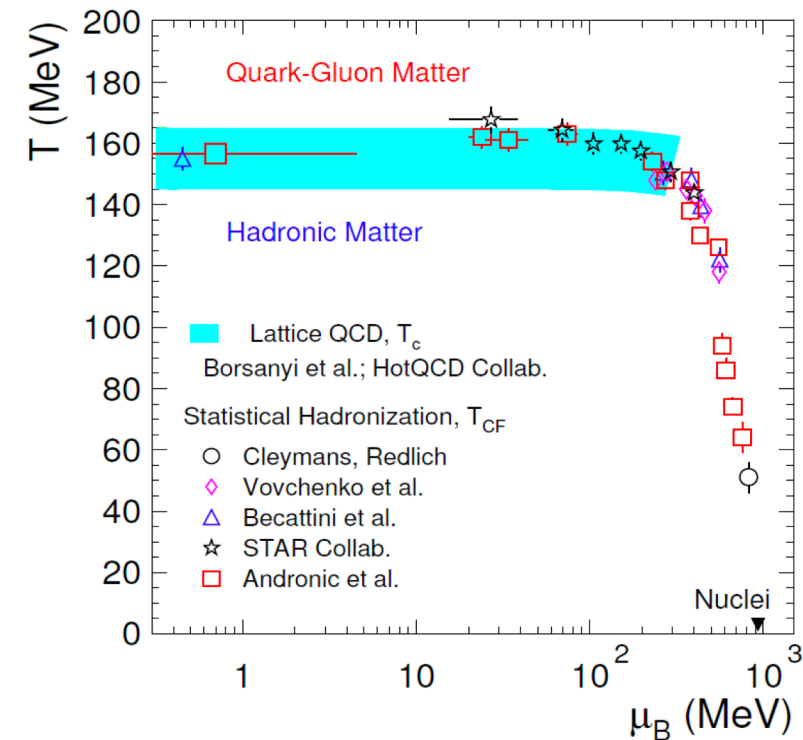
# Statistical hadronisation model in a nutshell

Thermal fits map heavy-ion collisions to the QCD phase diagram and allow for comparison with lattice-QCD

Conventional picture: (ideal) hadron-resonance gas model in **chemical equilibrium** (based on **Grand Canonical ensemble**)

$$n_i = N_i/V = -\frac{T}{V} \frac{\partial \ln Z_i}{\partial \mu} = \frac{g_i}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{p^2 dp}{\exp[(E_i - \mu_i)/T] \pm 1}$$

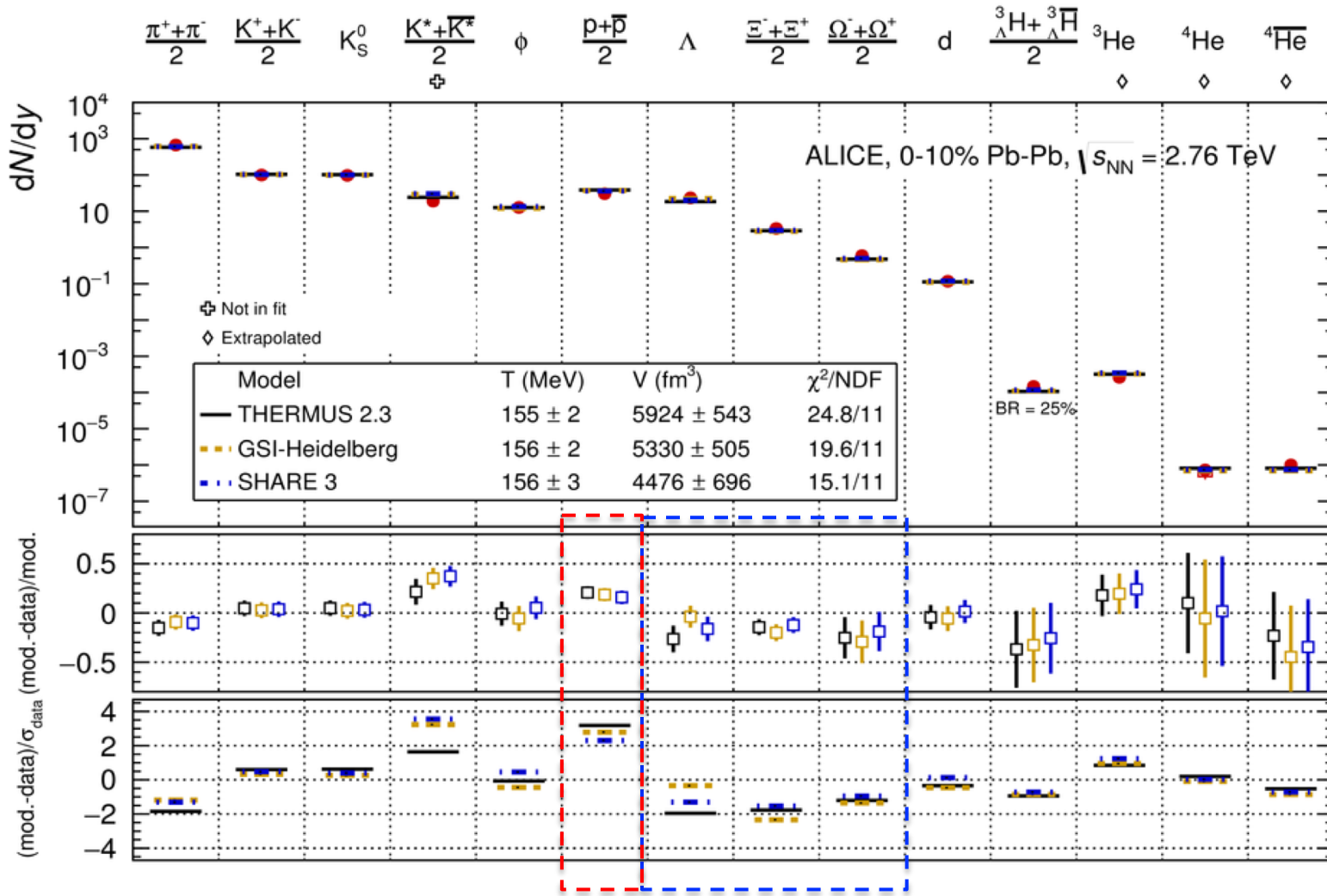
- **Measured particle yields (or ratios) are input to the fits**
- Fit to yields: parameters  $\mu_B$ ,  $T_{ch}$ ,  $V$
- Thermal model fit to yield ratio:  $V$  cancels out
- Fits based on minimization of  $\chi^2$
- Deviations from (GC) equilibrium through empirical under(over)-saturation parameters for strange, charm or light quarks ( $Y_s$ ,  $Y_c$ ,  $Y_q$ )



A. Andronic et al., *Nature* 561, 321 (2018)

V. Vovchenko, *LIGHT UP workshop 2018*

# Thermal model fit to Pb-Pb 2.76 TeV (0-10%)

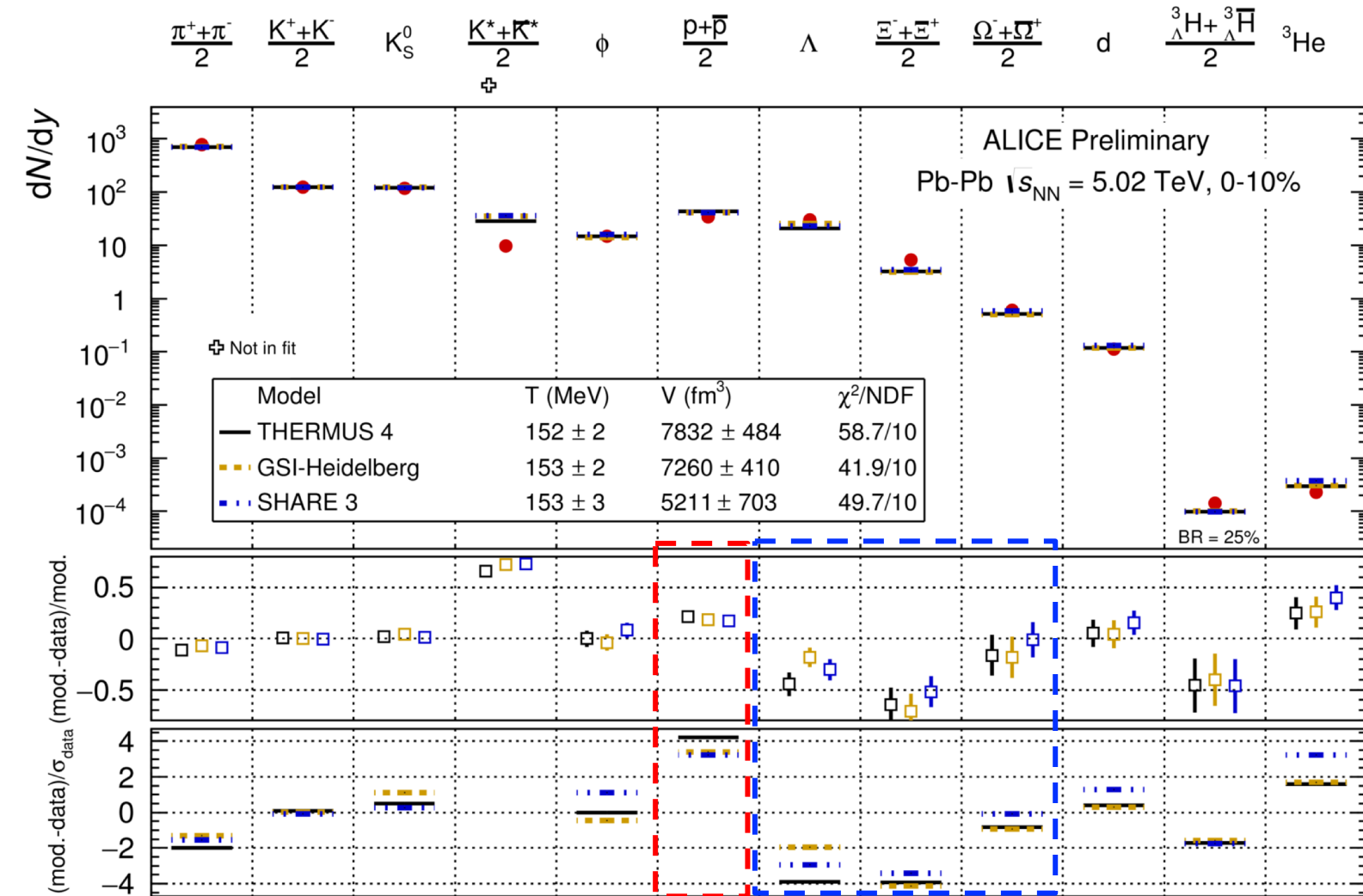


Production of (most) light-flavour hadrons (and anti-nuclei) described ( $\chi^2/ndf \sim 2$ ) by thermal models with a **single chemical freeze-out** temperature,  $T_{ch} \approx 156$  MeV

→ Tensions between **protons** and **multi-strange** (tend to drive  $T_{ch}$  in opposite directions)

Figure from ALICE, Nucl. Phys. A 971 (2018) 1-20  
 THERMUS: Wheaton et al, Comput.Phys.Commun, 180 84  
 GSI-Heidelberg: Andronic et al, Phys. Lett. B 673 (2011) 142  
 SHARE: Petran et al, arXiv:1310.5108

# Thermal model fit to Pb-Pb 5.02 TeV (0-10%)



Preliminary ALICE data in **0-10% Pb-Pb at 5.02 TeV** can be fitted with a slightly lower temperature,  
 **$T \approx 153$  MeV**  
 and higher  $\chi^2/ndf \sim 4-6$

**Tensions between protons and multi-strange** are confirmed at the new energy

**→ Strange particles prefer a higher temperature?**

Figure from FB talk at Quark Matter 2018

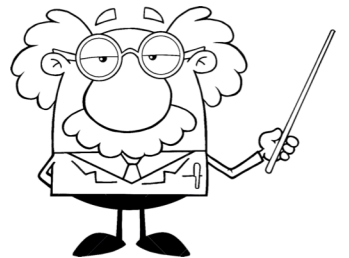
THERMUS: Wheaton et al, *Comput.Phys.Commun.*, 180 84

GSI-Heidelberg: Andronic et al, *Phys. Lett. B* 673 (2011) 142

SHARE: Petran et al, *arXiv:1310.5108*

Strange quarks are observed to be more abundantly produced in nucleus-nucleus than in pp/pA collisions  
→ strangeness enhancement in AA or canonical suppression in pp/pA?

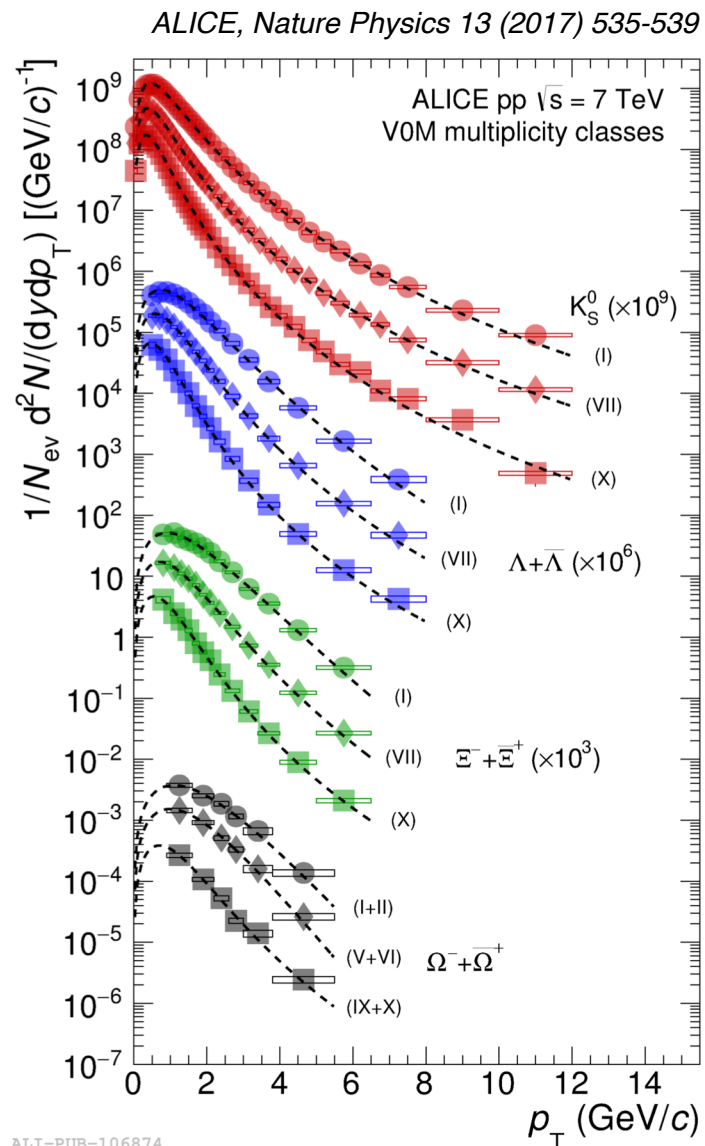
In thermal model fits with a single chemical freeze-out temperature, some tension is observed between protons and strangeness





# Observation of strangeness enhancement in high-multiplicity pp, p-Pb collisions

# Strange hadron $p_T$ spectra - Multiplicity dependence



$p_T$  differential yields of strange and multi-strange measured in 10 multiplicity bins

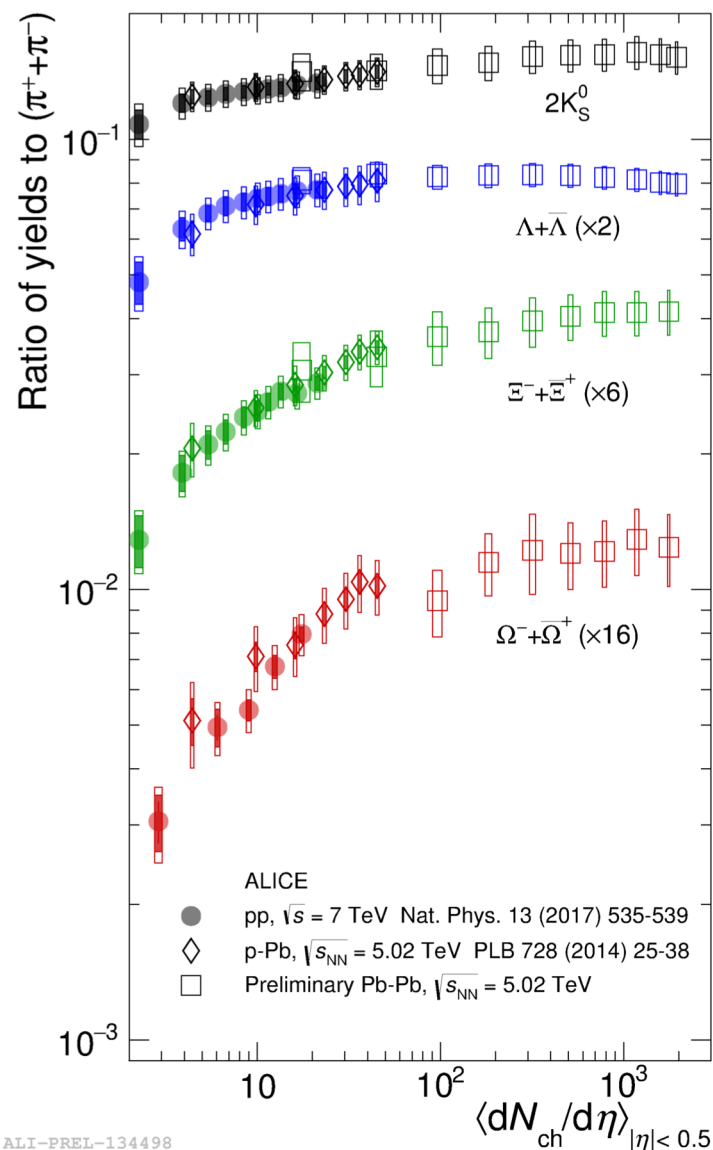
$$\begin{cases} I \rightarrow \langle dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta \rangle \approx 3.5 \times \langle dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta \rangle^{\text{INEL}>0} \\ \vdots \\ X \rightarrow \langle dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta \rangle \approx 0.4 \times \langle dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta \rangle^{\text{INEL}>0} \end{cases}$$

$$\left[ \langle dN_{\text{ch}}/d\eta \rangle^{\text{INEL}>0} \approx 6.0 \right]$$

**Spectra harden towards higher multiplicity** (as observed in p-Pb and Pb-Pb)

$p_T$  integrated yields extracted from measured points and extrapolation function at low  $p_T$  (dashed line = Lévy-Tsallis function)

# Strange hadron-to- $\pi$ ratio - Multiplicity dependence



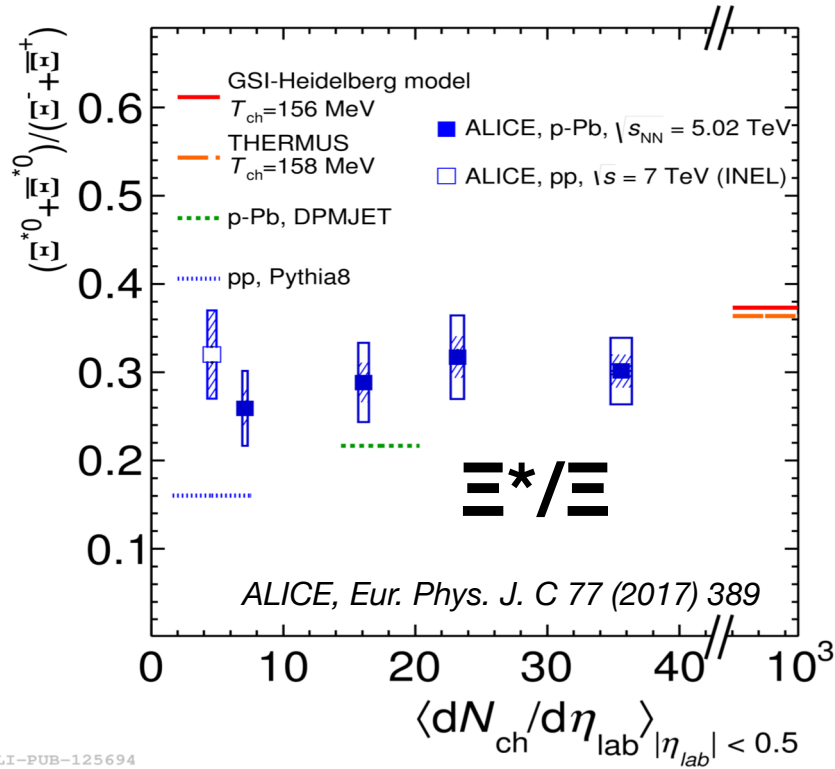
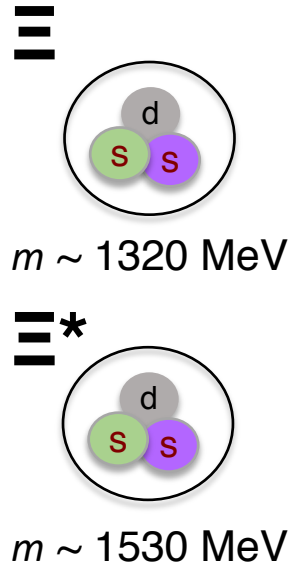
Multi-strange to non-strange yield ratios **increase significantly and smoothly with multiplicity** in pp and p-Pb collisions until saturation in Pb-Pb  
[ALICE, *Nature Physics* 13 (2017) 535-539]

pp and p-Pb trends are remarkably consistent at similar multiplicities

→ *What is driving the increase in small systems (mass, baryon/meson, strangeness content)?*

→ *Can models reproduce the observations?*

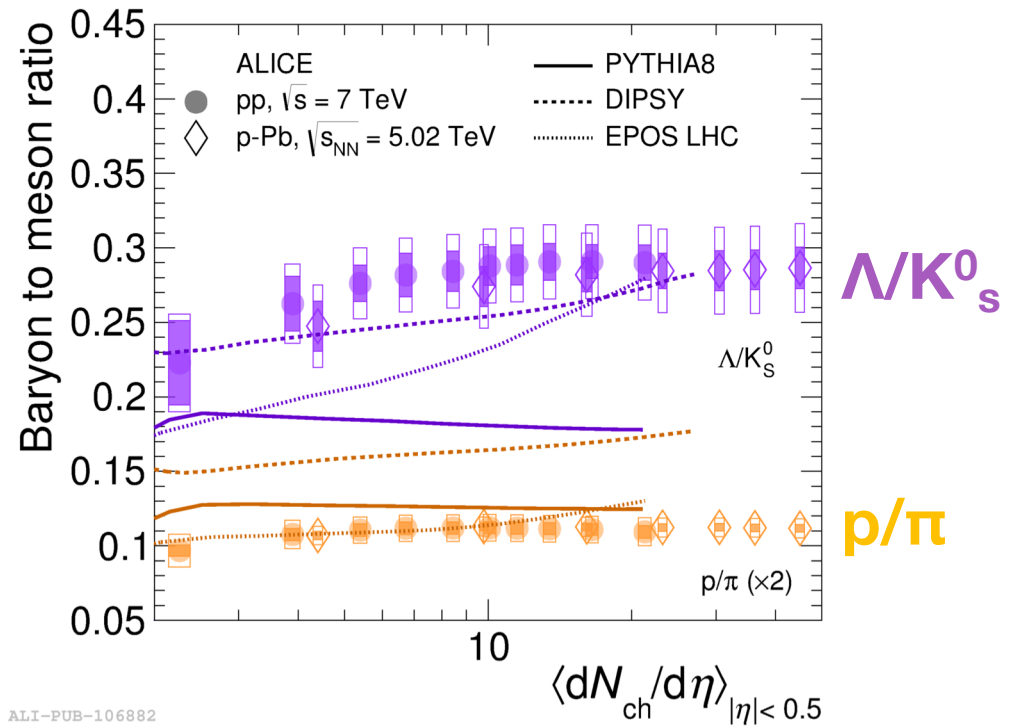
# Not a mass nor baryon/meson effect



ALI-PUB-125694

$\Xi(1530)^0$  relative to  $\pi$  exhibits same increase with multiplicity in p-Pb as  $\Xi/\pi$  ( $\Xi^*/\Xi$  flat)

→ Strangeness content more relevant than mass

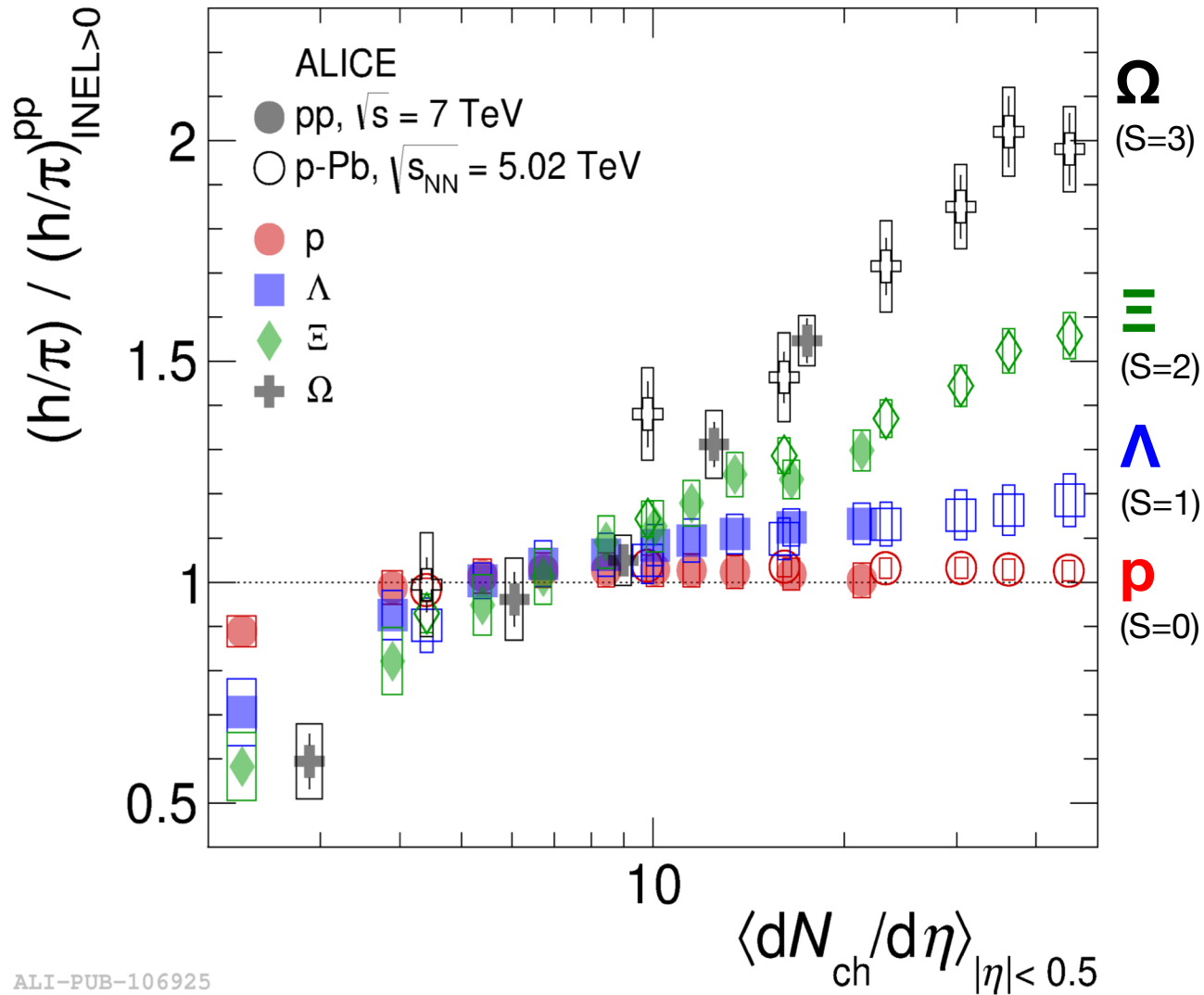


ALI-PUB-106882

Baryon-to-meson ratios where the net strangeness content is zero, as  $p/\pi$  and  $\Lambda/K_s^0$ , are flat with multiplicity

→ Not a baryon/meson effect

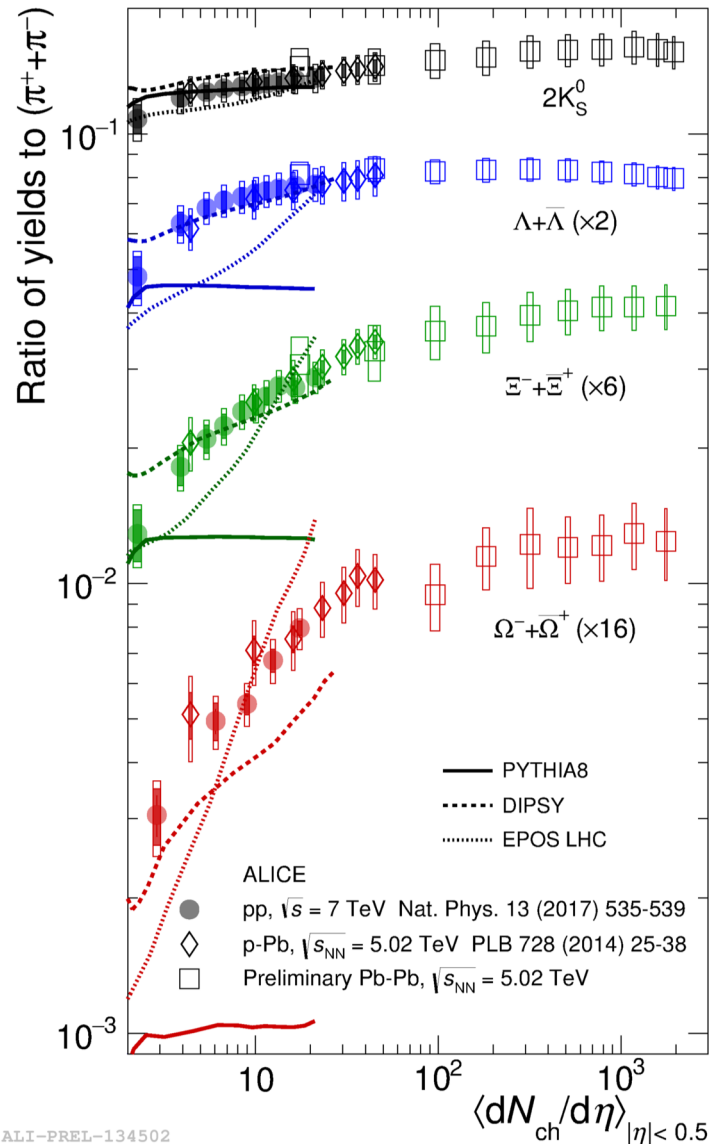
# Strangeness enhancement in pp



No increase for p/ $\pi$  is observed

**Hierarchy** of the increase associated with the strangeness content

# A "crack" in conventional pp generators



QCD-inspired models as

- PYTHIA8 (color reconnection)  
*[T. Sjöstrand et al, Comput. Phys. Commun. 191 (2015) 159]*
- DIPSY (color ropes)  
*[C. Bierlich et al., JHEP 1503 (2015) 148]*
- EPOS LHC (core+corona)  
*[K. Werner et al., NPA 931 (2014) 83]*

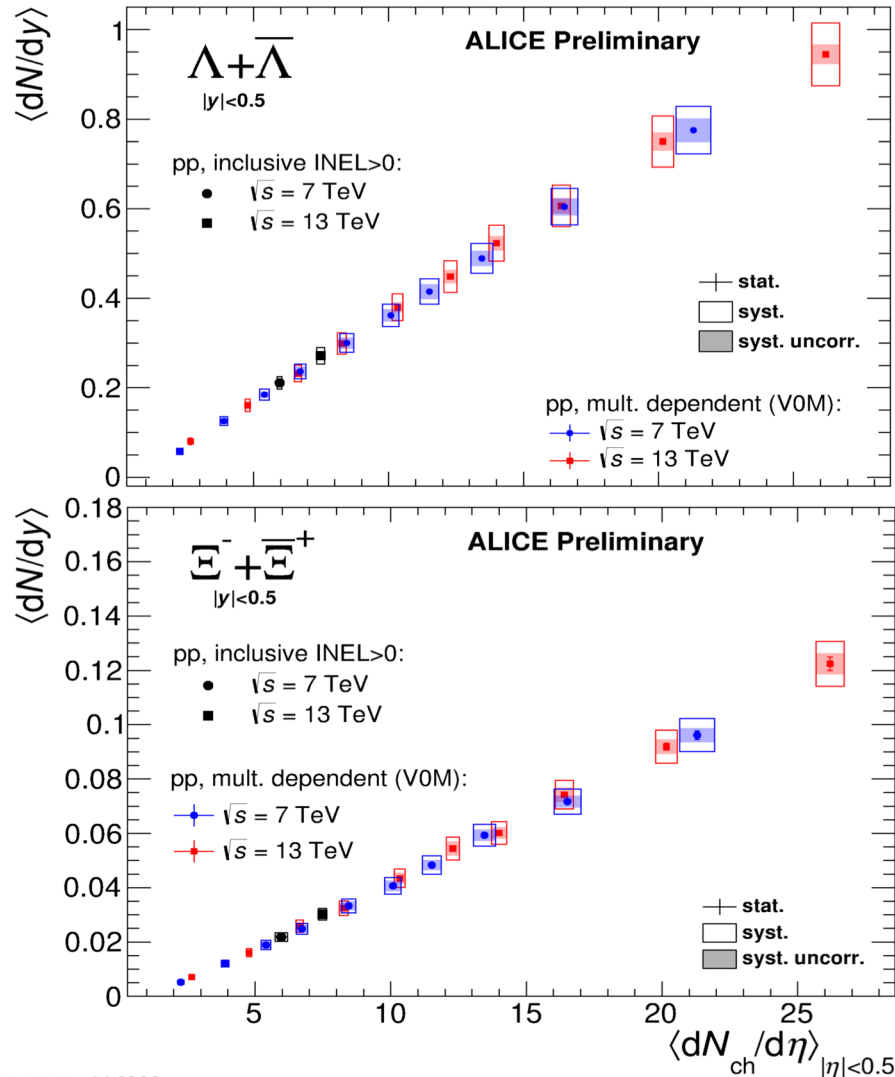
exhibit a trend with multiplicity but may still **need tuning to reproduce all ratios simultaneously**

- Conventional pp generators successful, with MPI + CR generating some collectivity, but now cracks.
- **Need new framework for baryon production.**

*T. Sjostrand, [talk](#) at Quark Matter 2018*

ALI-PREL-134502

# Disentangle multiplicity and energy dependence



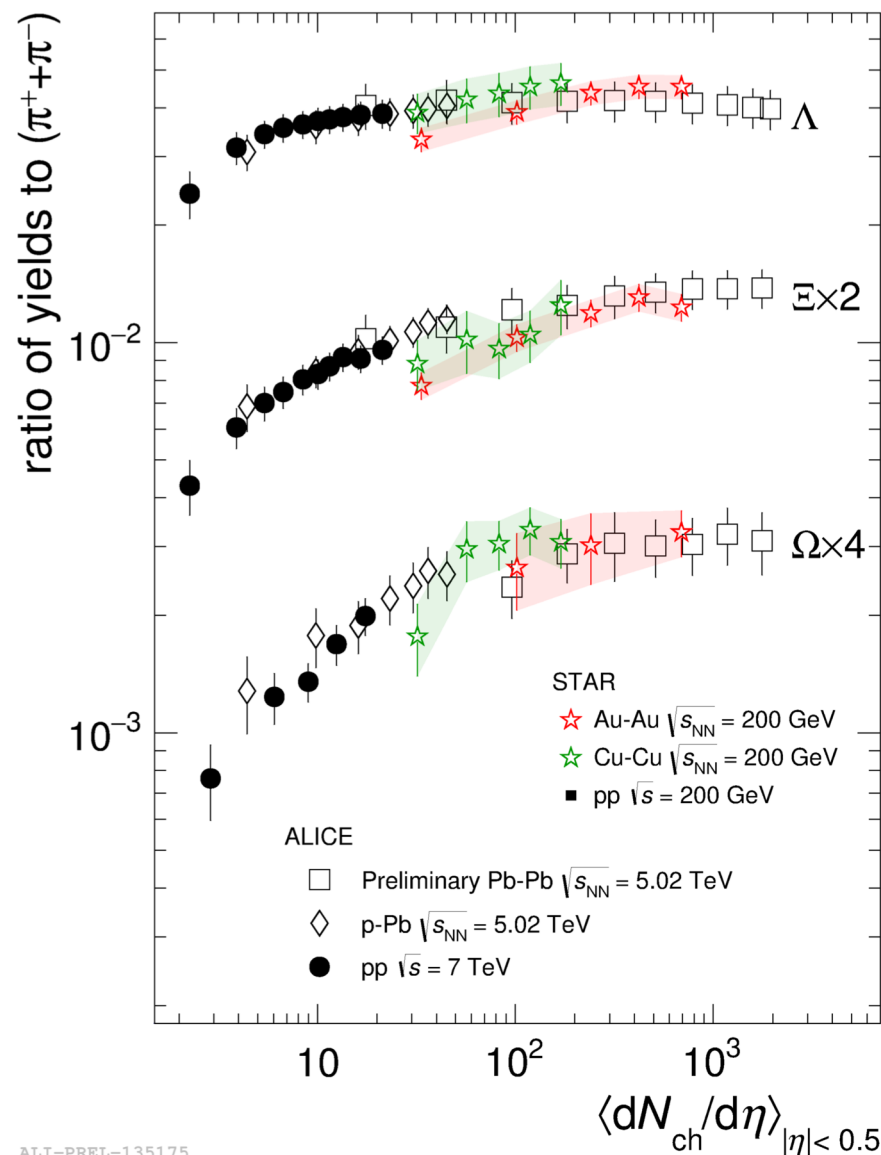
ALI-PREL-116302

Measurements in pp at 13 TeV can be used to disentangle multiplicity and energy dependence of particle production

Yields of (multi-)strange particles measured in pp 13 TeV as a function of multiplicity lie on the same trend as the 7 TeV data

→ **Event activity drives particle production, irrespective of collision energy**

# Disentangle multiplicity and colliding-nucleus dependence



ALI-PREL-135175

At RHIC, different colliding nuclei have been used  
(**Cu** and **Au**)

[STAR, Phys. Rev. Lett. 108 (2012) 72301]

Particle ratios in Cu-Cu, Au-Au, Pb-Pb and high multiplicity p-Pb are consistent at similar multiplicities

→ Event activity drives particle production, irrespective of colliding-nucleus species

→ New data in Xe-Xe collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.44$  TeV from ALICE being analysed

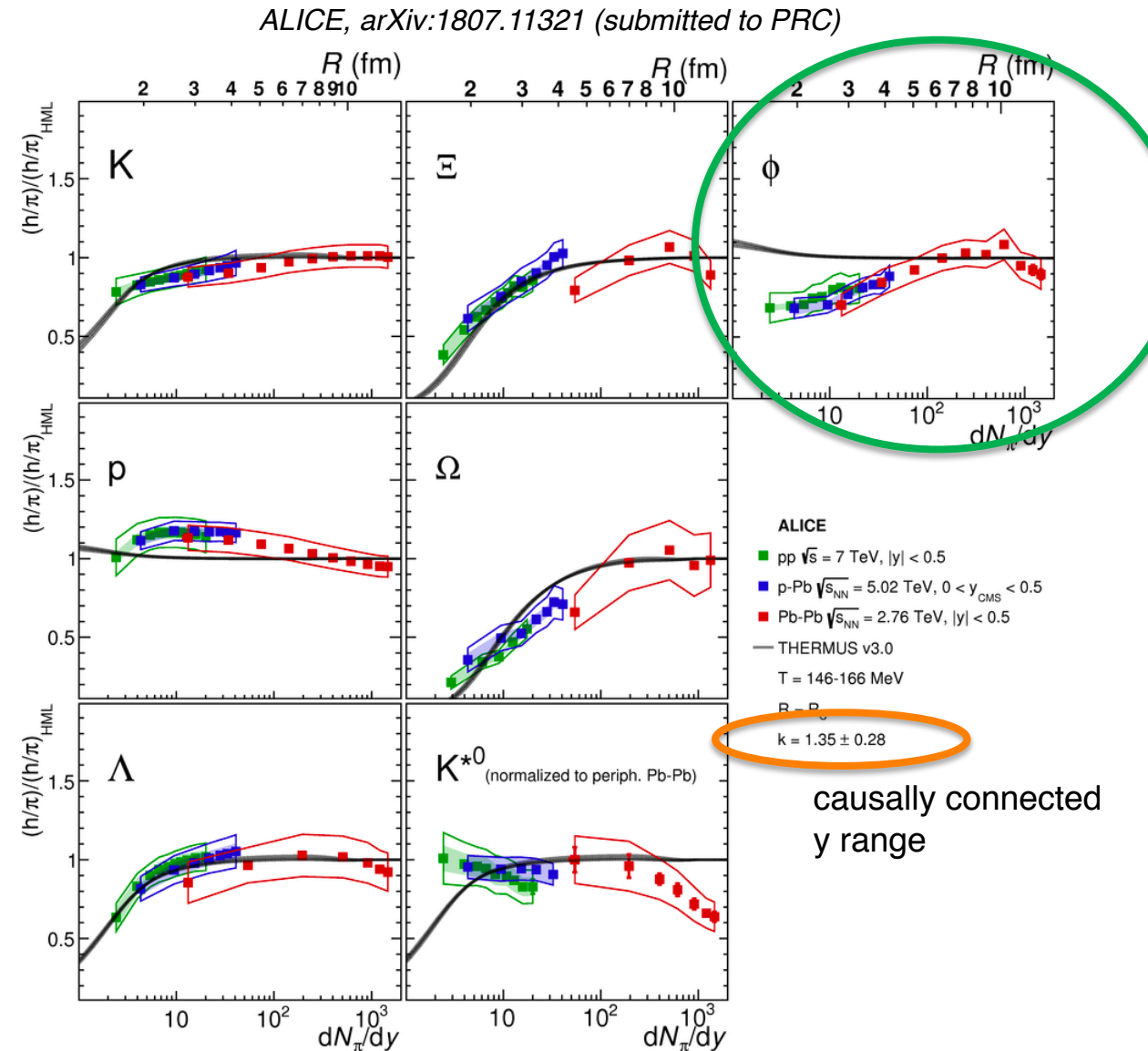


# Strangeness canonical suppression

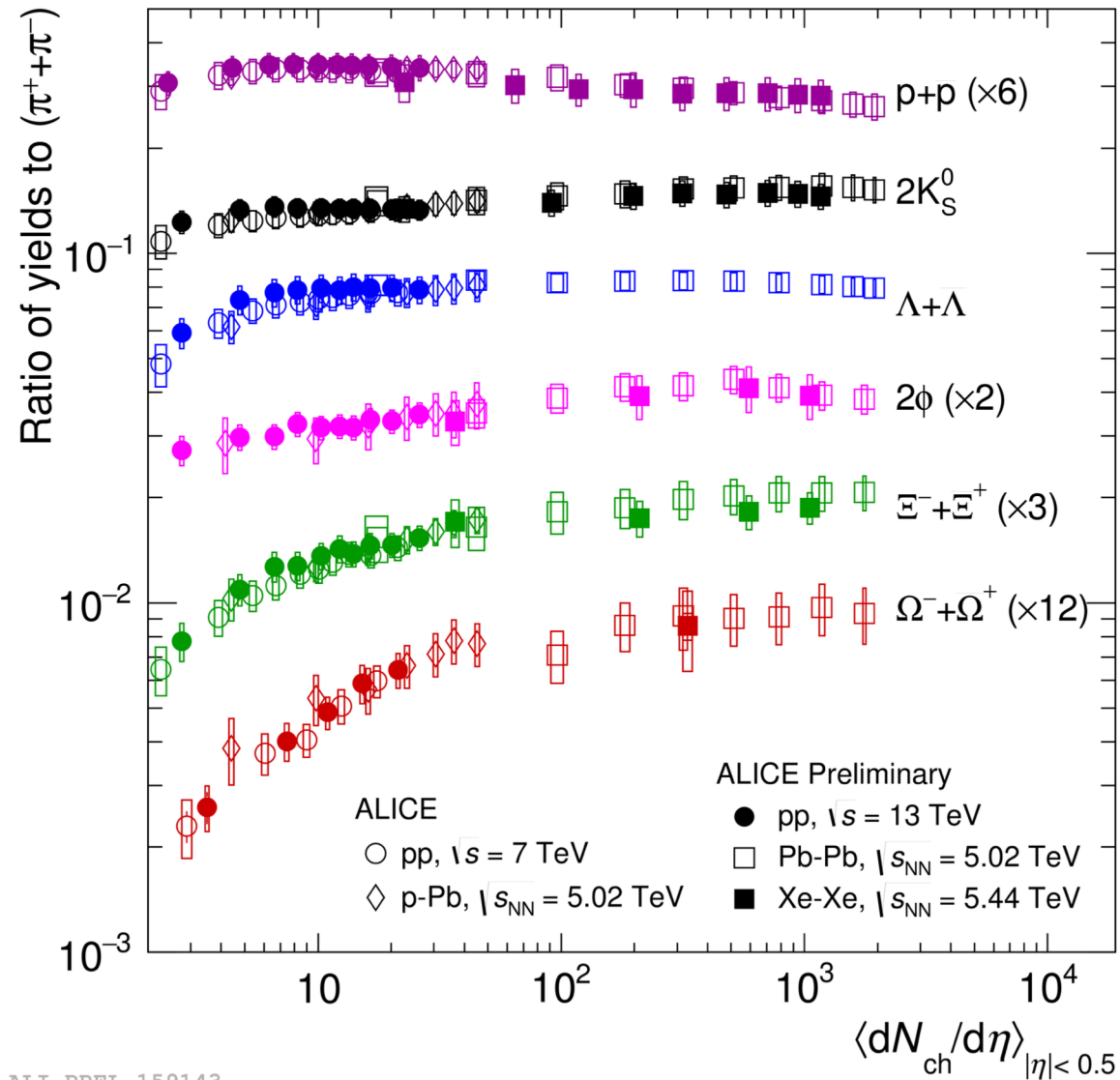
In equilibrium SHM models strangeness enhancement is a result of the **canonical suppression of strangeness production in small systems** due to the explicit conservation of the strangeness quantum number in a finite system

Comparison to model calculations based on THERMUS code

→ agreement with data within uncertainties, **except for  $\phi$  meson** (also “immune” to canonical suppression)



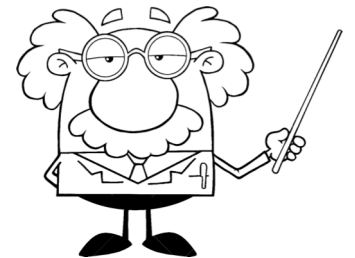
# System size evolution of hadrochemistry



ALI-PREL-159143

Particle composition evolves smoothly across collision systems, depending on charged particle multiplicity.  
→ Common origin in all systems?

For MC generators, work is still needed to reproduce evolution with system size in view of a unified description of all collision systems



# Outlook

# What's next?

## Does strangeness keep increasing with multiplicity in pp or saturate?

→ Measure in high multiplicity-triggered data sample of pp 13 TeV (2016, 2017), in p-Pb at 8.16 TeV

→ Bridge with Xe-Xe at 5.44 TeV, more differential in peripheral Pb-Pb collisions (2018)

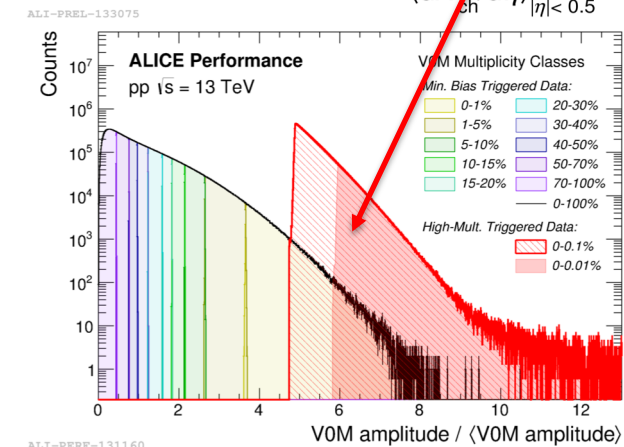
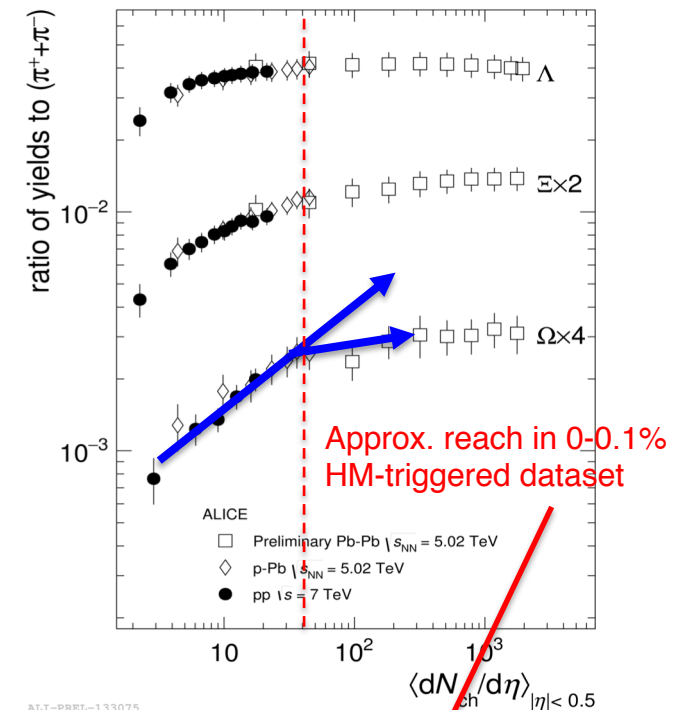
## Can we relate high multiplicity with soft- or hard-QCD dominated processes?

→ Use event shapes as tools to select jetty/isotropic events in high multiplicity pp

## Can the $\phi$ meson provide further insights on strangeness production vs multiplicity?

→ Measure more differential (event shapes?), improve precision

## New observables...



# A personal outlook...

The **intriguing similarities** among different systems do not end here but **extend to the dynamics** (see e.g. *FB, talk at LHCP 2018*):

- Presence of collectivity (flow) is established in Pb-Pb
- we observe collectivity in small systems, whose origin and phenomenology is under investigation

What is next?

- Go to higher multiplicity in pp (more “extreme” events) and
- Go more differential

→ **Do we have an handle on the onset of deconfinement?**

pp used to be a reference for p-Pb and Pb-Pb collisions, now they look more alike than we thought

→ **Shall we “re-think” the reference (and how)?**

→ **Can we describe pp, p-Pb and Pb-Pb with a common framework?**

“From small to large systems” OR “from large to small systems”?

→ **QCD at high energy and density!**

*Thank you*

For more discussion:  
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