

# Studies of low x physics and ultraperipheral collisions at LHCb

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on behalf of the LHCb Collaboration



**UFRJ**  
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL  
DO RIO DE JANEIRO



Diffraction  
and Low-X

# Outline

--- LHCb experiment overview

--- Results discussed in this talk

Coherent charmonium in ultra-peripheral lead-lead collisions - JHEP 06 (2023) 146

Diffractive exotic  $J/\psi\phi$  resonances in  $pp$  collisions - arXiv:2407.14301

Exclusive  $J/\psi$  and  $\psi(2S)$  production at 13 TeV - arXiv:2409.03496

Production of  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  mesons in  $pp$  and  $pPb$  collisions - Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 024907

Prompt  $D^0$  nuclear modification factor in  $pPb$  8.16 TeV - Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 (2023) 102301

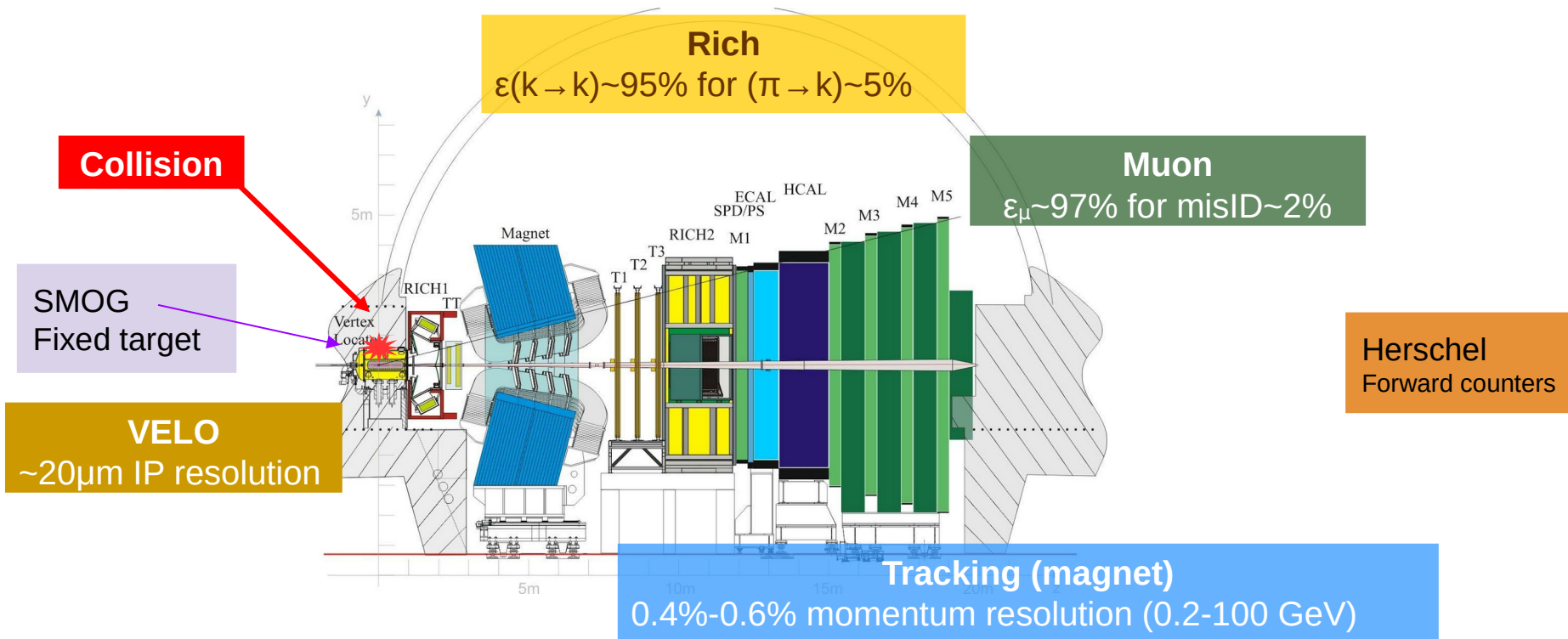
--- Summary

# LHCb experiment overview

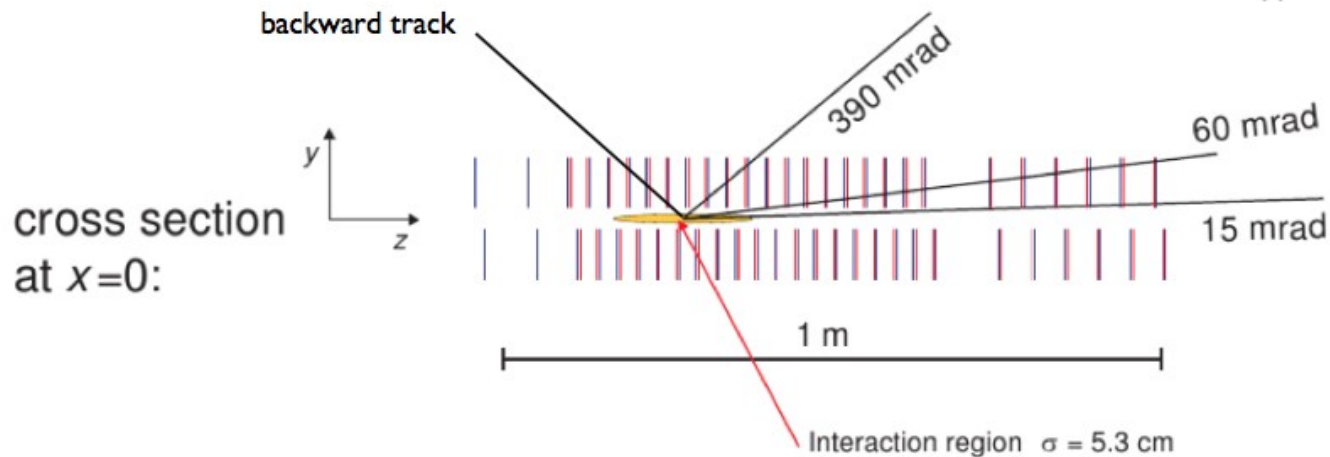
Single arm spectrometer fully **instrumented** in the forward region ( $2.0 < \eta < 5.0$ )

**Designed** for heavy flavour physics and also **exploited** for general purpose physics

[Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 30, 1530022 (2015)]



# VELO acceptance



## VELO (Vertex Locator)

- surrounds the interaction point
- no magnetic field
- reconstructs backward tracks ( $-3.5 < \eta < -1.5$ )





# High Rapidity Shower Counters for LHCb – HERSCHEL

- installed at the end of 2014 → increase pseudorapidity coverage
- 5 stations with 4 scintillators with PMT
- able to detect forward particle showers and veto events with these
- removed at the end of Run 2

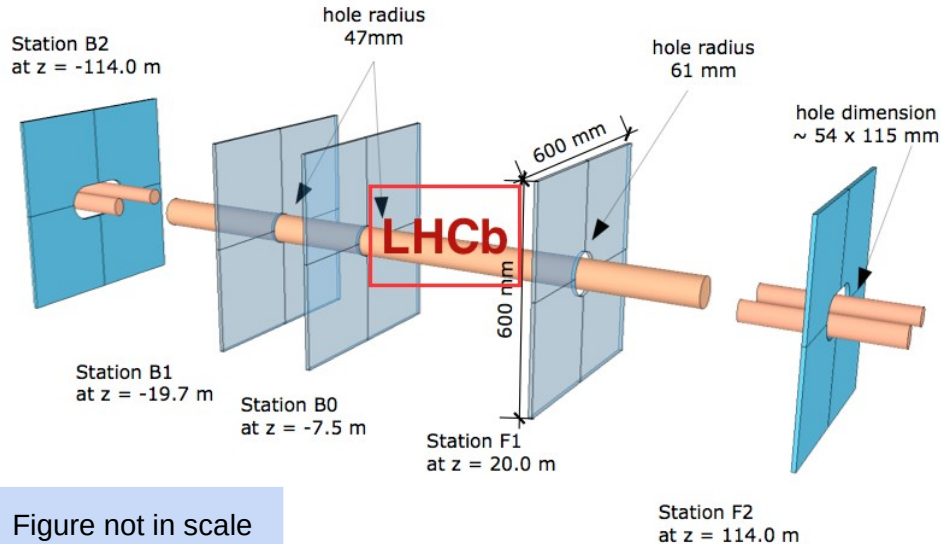
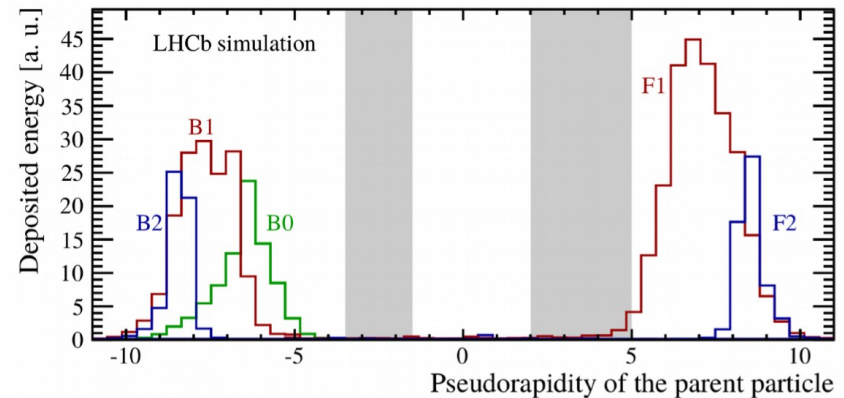
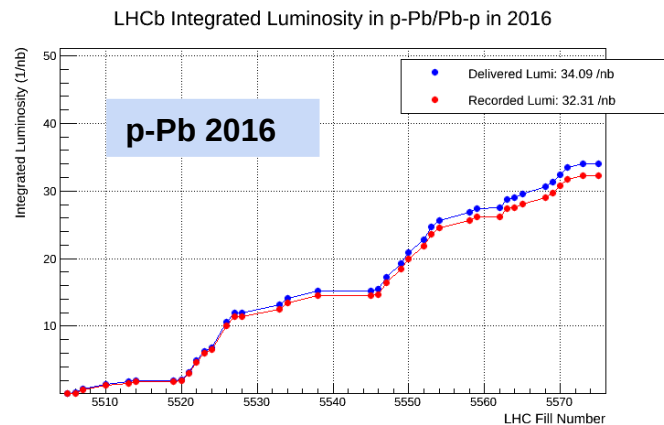
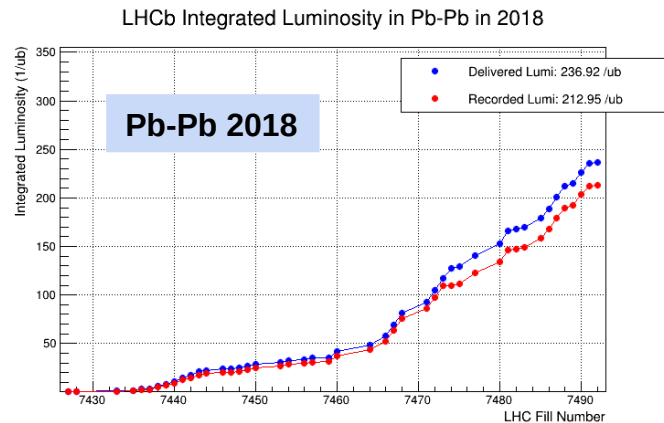
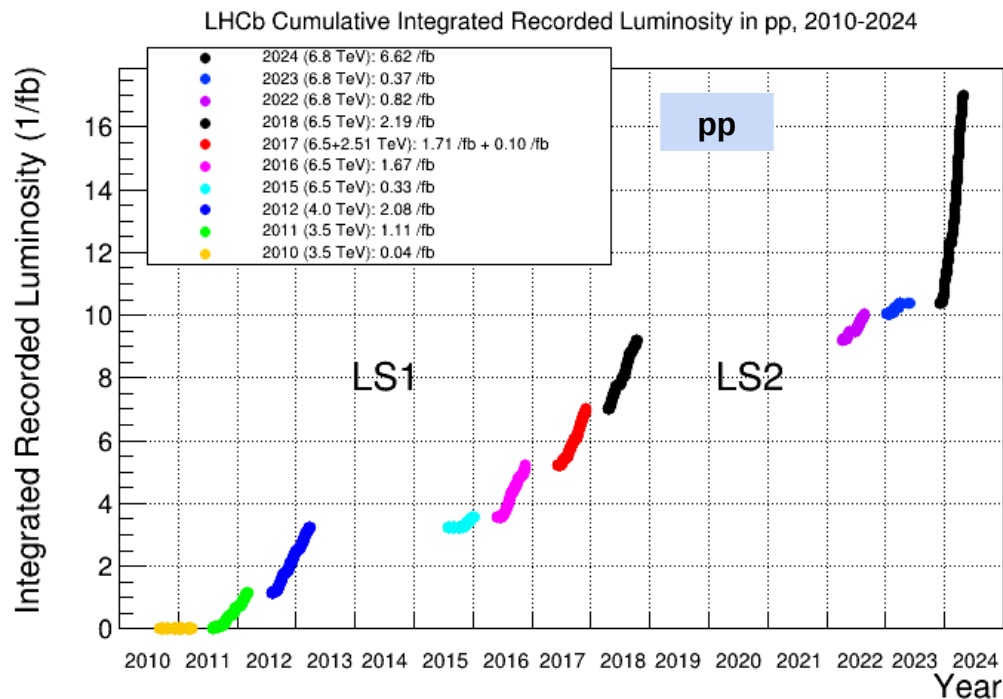


Figure not in scale

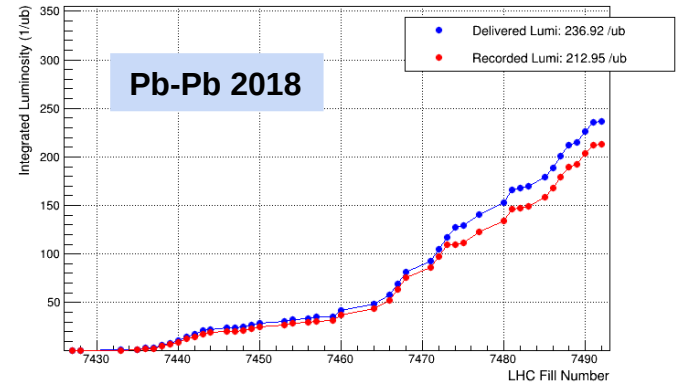
JINST 13 (2018) no.04, P04017



# Data samples

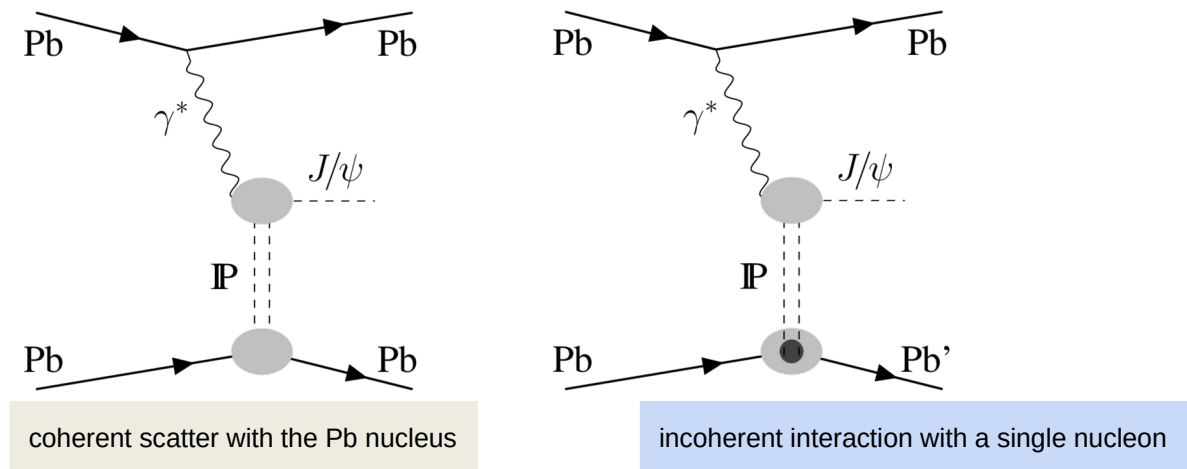


LHCb Integrated Luminosity in Pb-Pb in 2018



# Study of exclusive photoproduction of charmonium in ultra-peripheral lead-lead collisions

[JHEP 06 \(2023\) 146](#)



**Ultraperipheral collisions:** interaction of photons with gluons  
single object with vacuum quantum numbers - pomeron

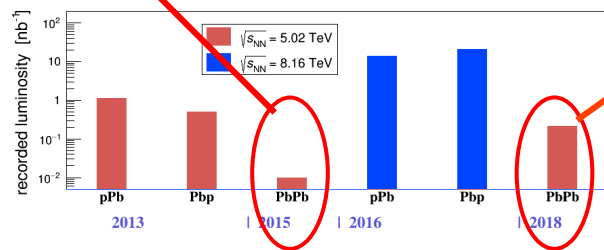
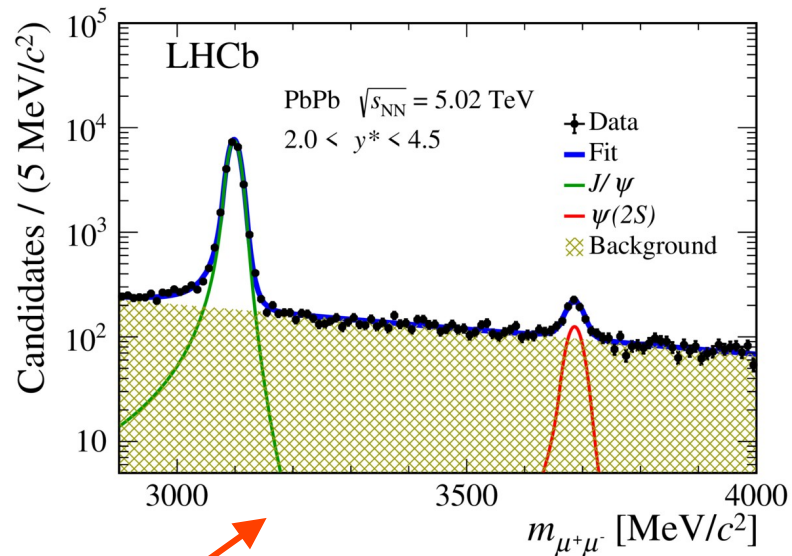
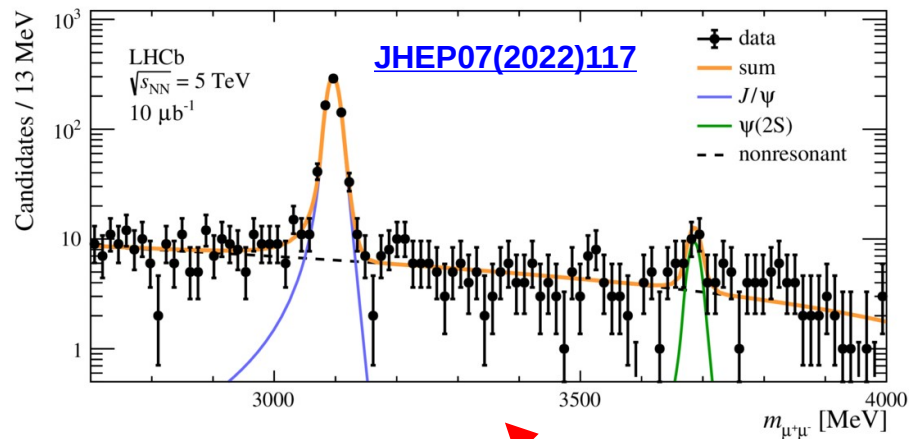
Values of the Bjorken variable can be studied down to  $10^{-5}$  (large theoretical uncertainties)

Experimental strategy: Two muons in very clean events - **VELO** and **Herschel**



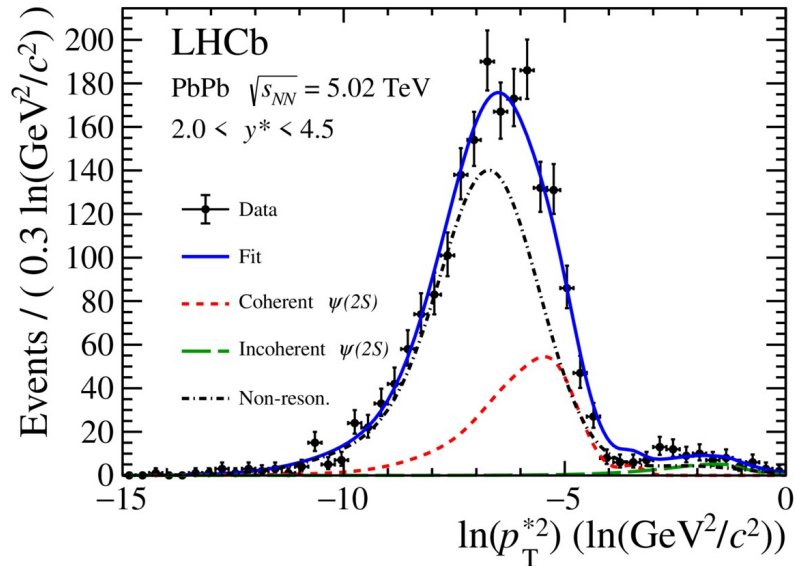
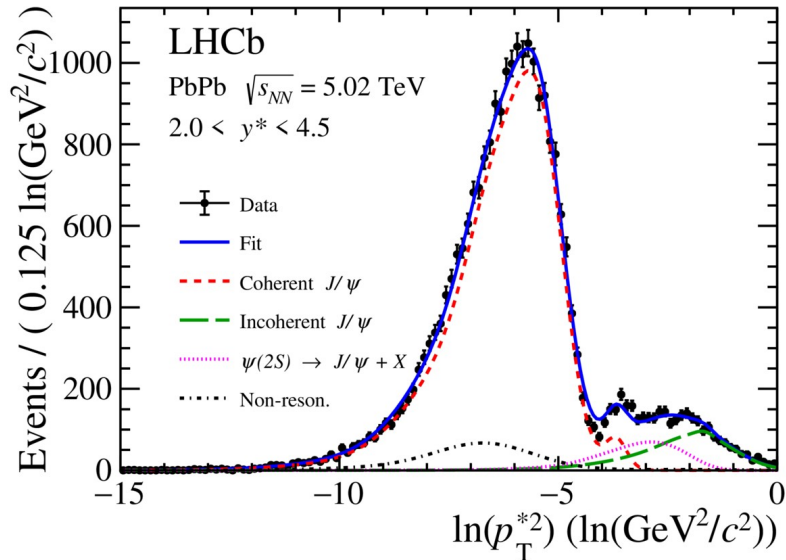
# Study of exclusive photoproduction of charmonium in ultra-peripheral lead-lead collisions

[JHEP 06 \(2023\) 146](#)



# Study of exclusive photoproduction of charmonium in ultra-peripheral lead-lead collisions

[JHEP 06 \(2023\) 146](#)

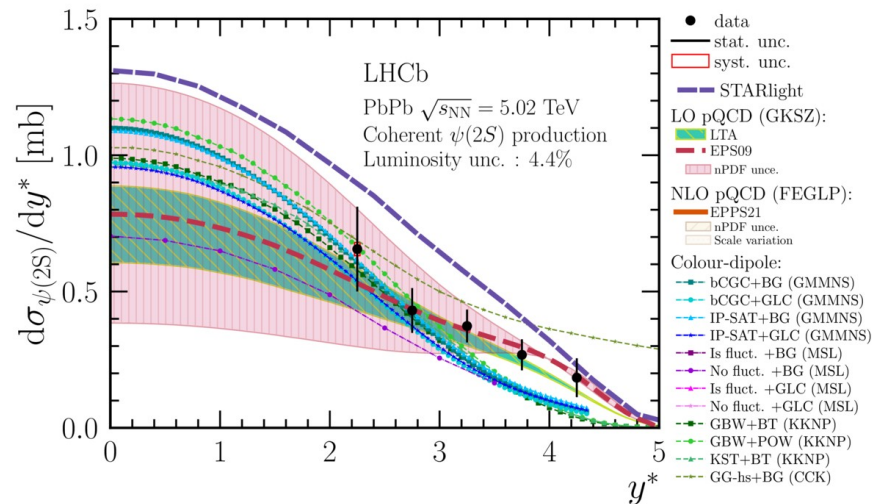
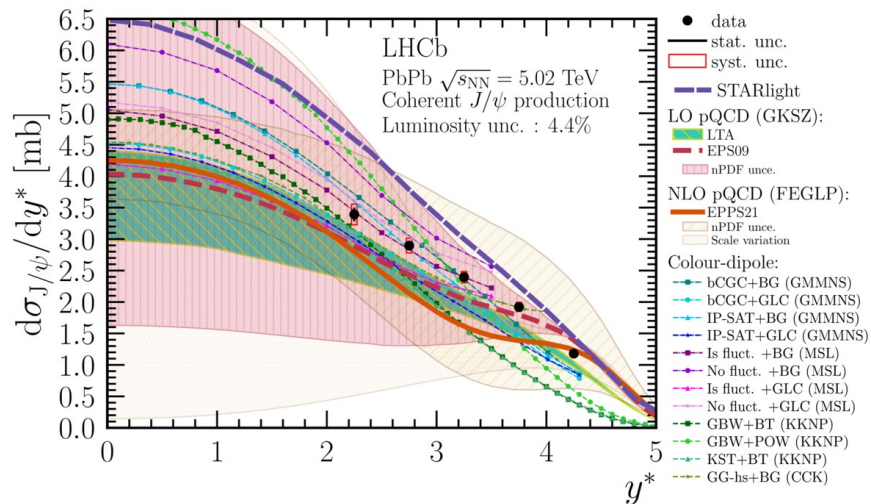


Charmonium PDFs are estimated using STARLight generator.

The shape of background taken from the side-band method, then the normalization is fixed from mass fit.

# Study of exclusive photoproduction of charmonium in ultra-peripheral lead-lead collisions

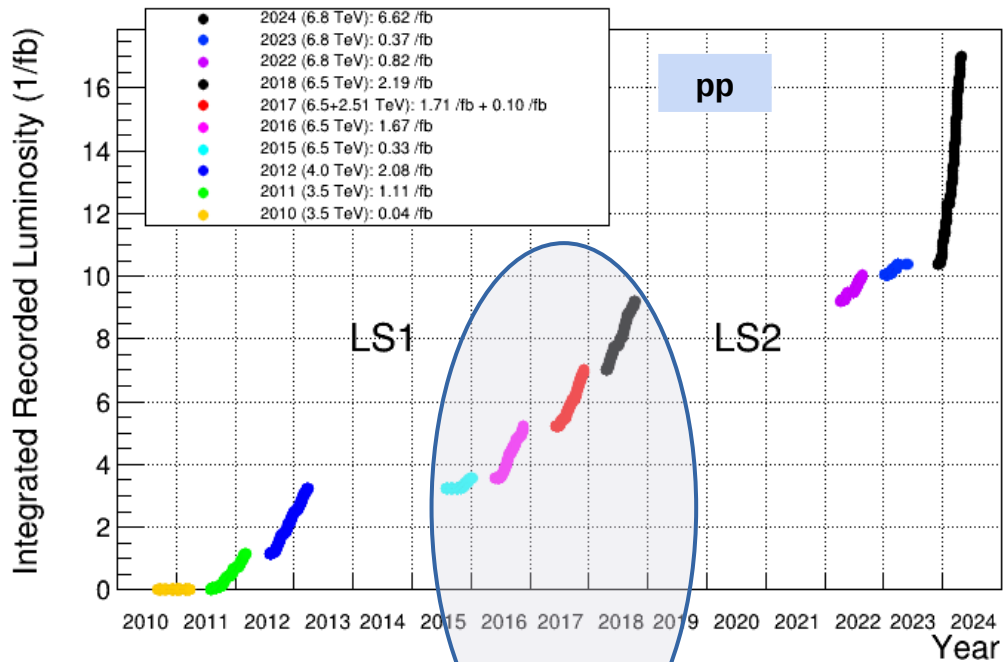
[JHEP 06 \(2023\) 146](#)



Differential cross-section as a function of rapidity results compared with color-dipole model (blue lines) pQCD model (red lines) theory predictions

The first coherent  $\psi(2S)$  measurement in forward rapidity region at the LHC

LHCb Cumulative Integrated Recorded Luminosity in pp, 2010-2024

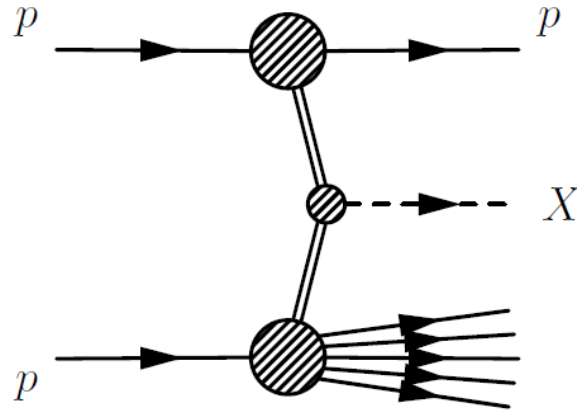


# Observation of diffractive exotic $J/\psi\phi$ resonances in $pp$ collisions

arXiv:2407.14301

The first study of  $J/\psi\phi$  production in diffractive processes in proton-proton collisions.

Possible production of exotic states

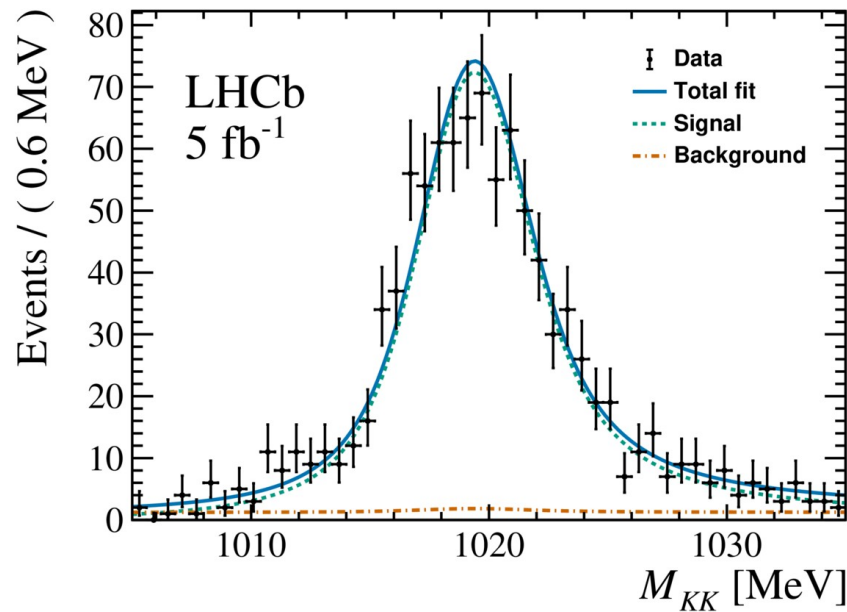
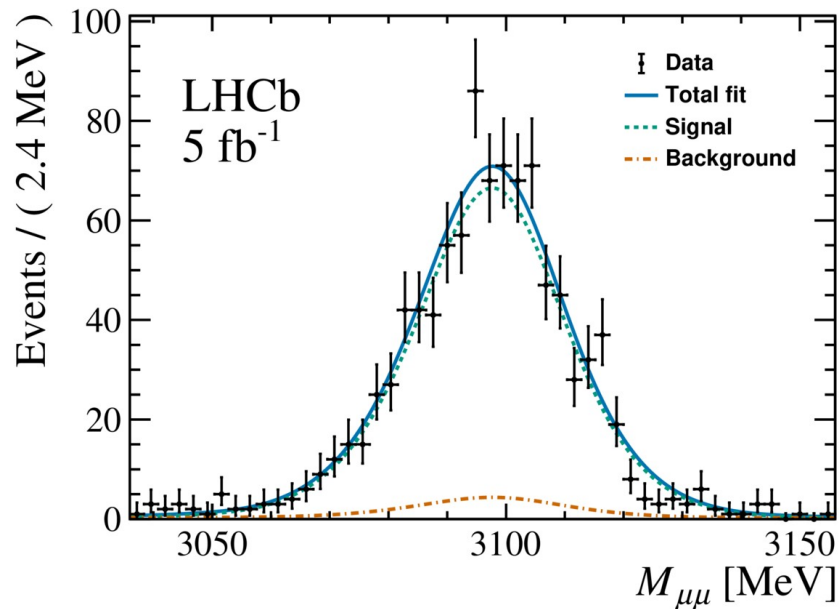


Experimental strategy: Selection of  $J/\psi(\rightarrow \mu\mu)\phi(\rightarrow KK)$  in low multiplicity events: Nb of **VELO** tracks must be 4

# Observation of diffractive exotic $J/\psi\phi$ resonances in $pp$ collisions

arXiv:2407.14301

Clear  $J/\psi$  and  $\phi$  signals - two-dimensional unbinned fit is performed to extract yields



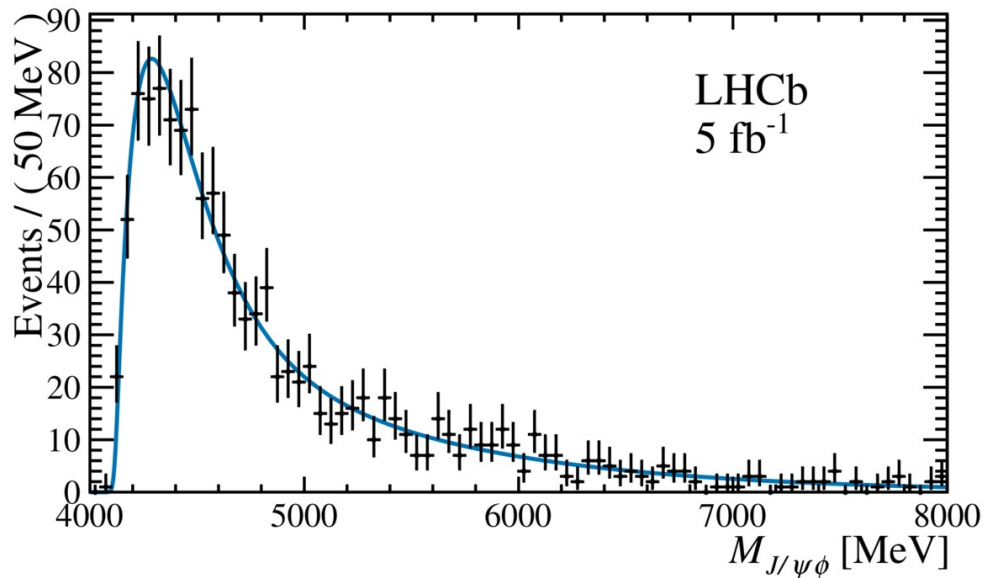


# Observation of diffractive exotic $J/\psi\phi$ resonances in $pp$ collisions

arXiv:2407.14301

## Sideband sample

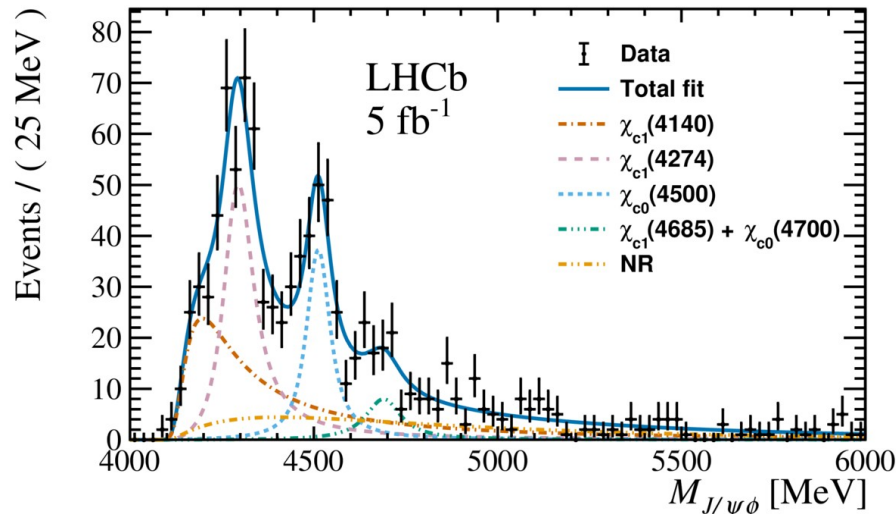
- all selection requirements, except for an inverted offline requirement of more than four VELO tracks.
- no clear mass structure



# Observation of diffractive exotic $J/\psi\phi$ resonances in $pp$ collisions

arXiv:2407.14301

After imposing the exclusivity requirement, a resonant structure appears



$$\sigma_{\chi_{c1}(4140)} \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{eff}}^{\chi_{c1}(4140)} = (0.80 \pm 0.15 \pm 0.28) \text{ pb},$$

$$\sigma_{\chi_{c1}(4274)} \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{eff}}^{\chi_{c1}(4274)} = (0.73 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.17) \text{ pb},$$

$$\sigma_{\chi_{c0}(4500)} \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{eff}}^{\chi_{c0}(4500)} = (0.42^{+0.09}_{-0.08} \pm 0.06) \text{ pb},$$

$$\sigma_{\chi_{c1}(4685) + \chi_{c0}(4700)} \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{eff}}^{\chi_{c1}(4685) + \chi_{c0}(4700)} = (0.14^{+0.07}_{-0.06} \pm 0.06) \text{ pb},$$

$$\sigma_{\text{NR}} \times \mathcal{B}_{\text{eff}}^{\text{NR}} = (0.43^{+0.24}_{-0.18} \pm 0.20) \text{ pb},$$

Fit performed with previously observed resonances in B decays.

- Turn-on derived from events with more than four VELO tracks
- Non-resonant is modeled by an exponential function
- No interference assumed

The significance for the resonances  $\chi_{c1}(4140)$ ,  $\chi_{c1}(4274)$  and  $\chi_{c0}(4500)$  are  $2.4 \sigma$ ,  $4.3 \sigma$  and  $5.5 \sigma$ .

Several clear resonant structures are observed well-described by resonant model

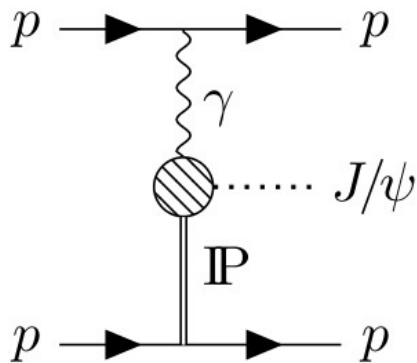
This is the first observation of  $X \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$  production in diffractive processes

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ production at 13 TeV

arXiv:2409.03496

Update measurement with full Run 2 data

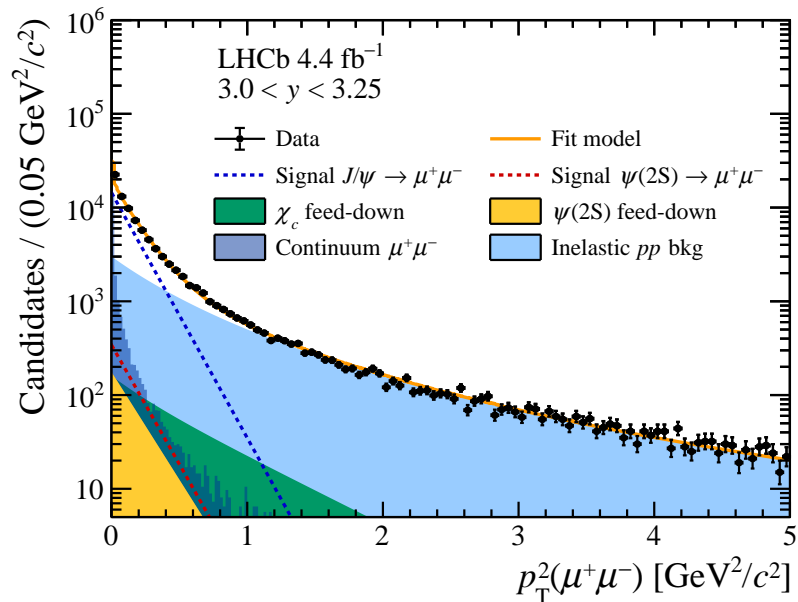
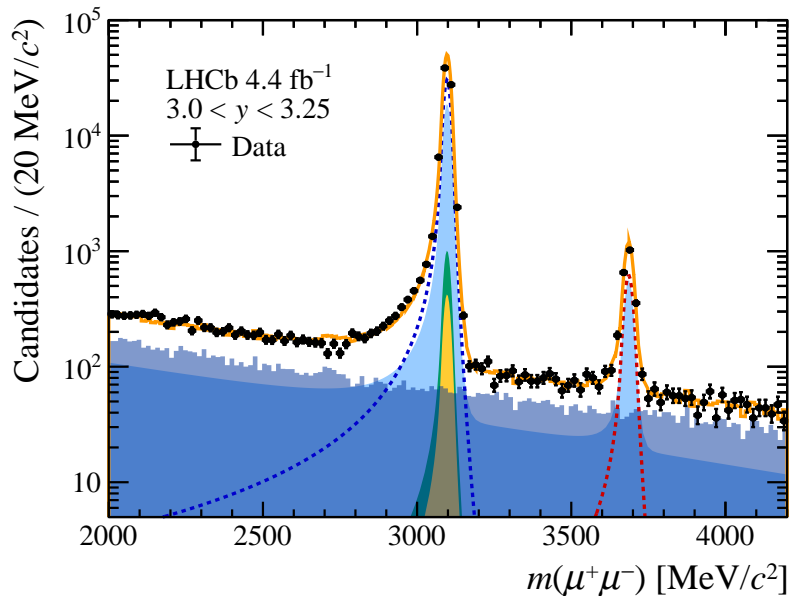
For the first time, the dependence of the  $J/\psi$  and  $\psi(2S)$  cross-sections on the total transverse momentum transfer is determined in pp collisions



Experimental strategy: Two muons in very clean events  
zero Photons, two **VELO** tracks and **Herschel requirement**

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ production at 13 TeV

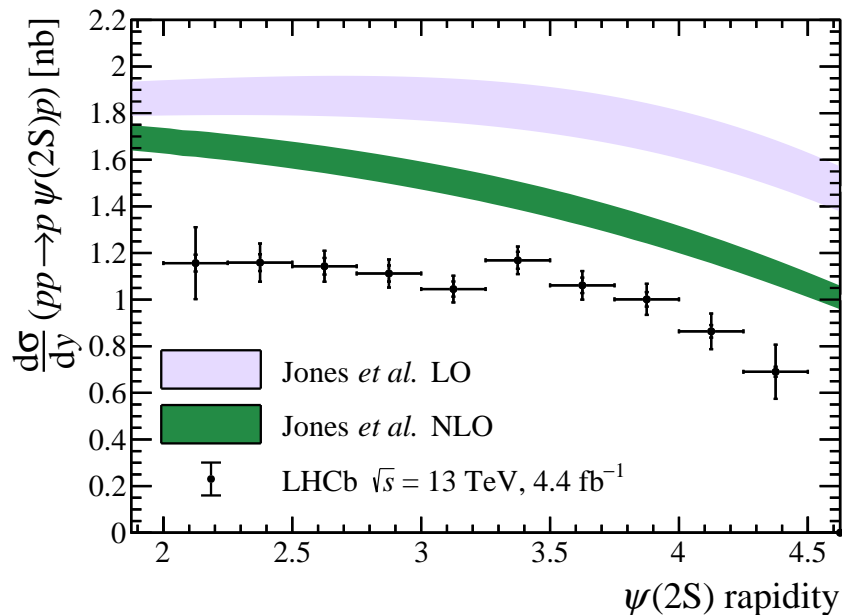
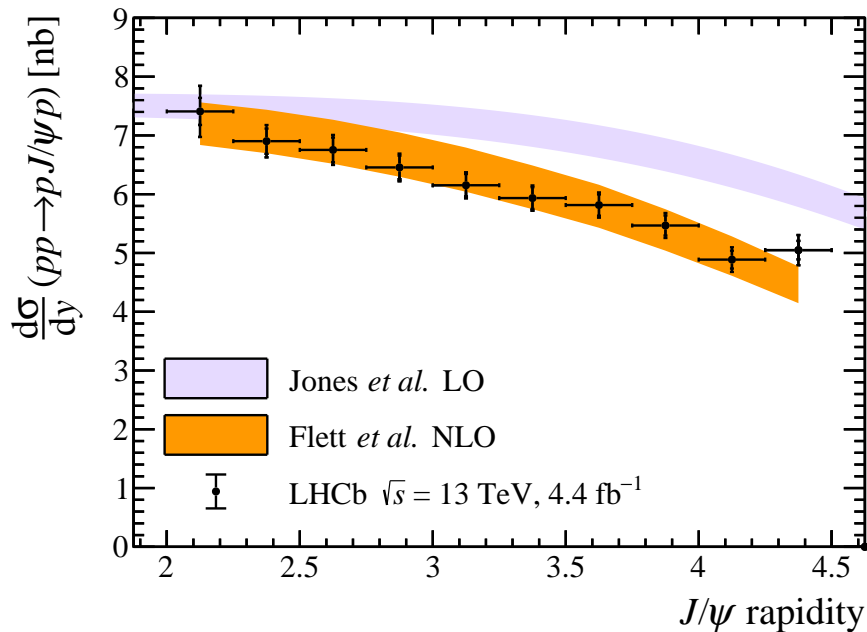
arXiv:2409.03496



- Signal yields determined in each rapidity interval by a 2D unbinned extended maximum-likelihood fit
- Signal model by a Gaussian function, modified to have power-law tails on both sides
- $\psi(2S)$  feed-down normalised by the  $\psi(2S)$  yield in each rapidity interval
- Normalisation of the feed-down from  $\chi_c$  decays is determined by reconstructing  $J/\psi$  candidates in data

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ production at 13 TeV

arXiv:2409.03496

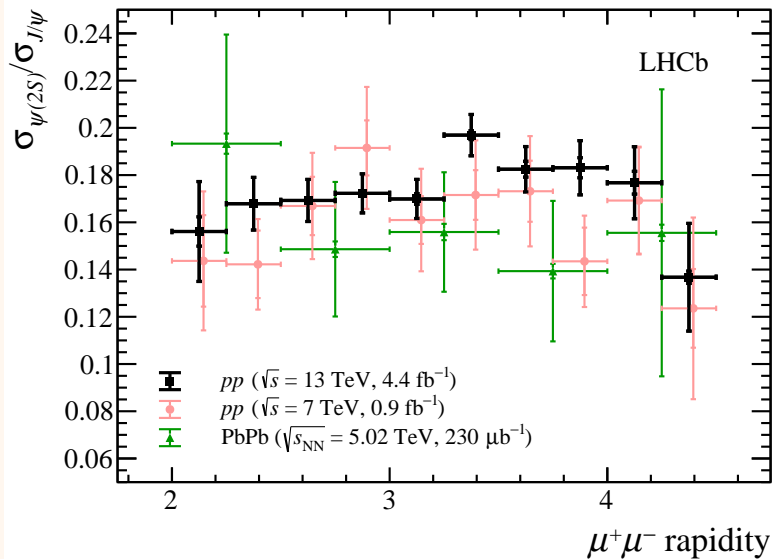


- $J/\psi$  cross-section agrees with the NLO prediction
- $\psi(2S)$  cross-section is significantly lower than both the LO and NLO predictions

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ production at 13 TeV

arXiv:2409.03496

$$\frac{\sigma_{\psi(2S)}}{\sigma_{J/\psi}} = 0.1763 \pm 0.0029 \pm 0.0008 \pm 0.0039$$



Ratio average is consistent with other LHCb measurements H1 and ZEUS results

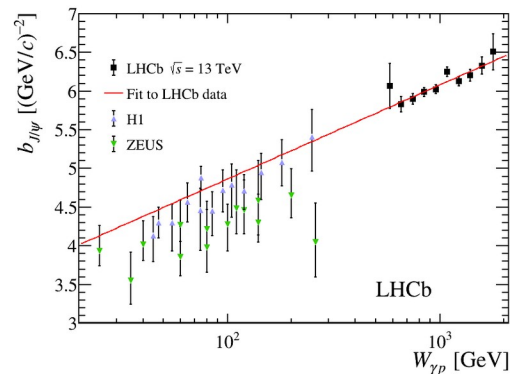
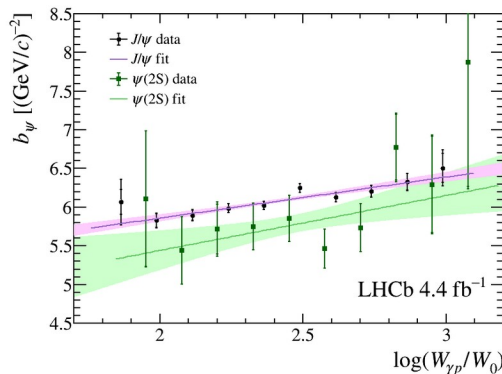
Photoproduction cross-section can be calculated

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy}(pp \rightarrow p\psi p) = S^2(W_{\gamma p,+}) \left( k_+ \frac{dn}{dk_+} \right) \sigma_{\gamma p \rightarrow \psi p}^{W_{\gamma p,+}} + S^2(W_{\gamma p,-}) \left( k_- \frac{dn}{dk_-} \right) \sigma_{\gamma p \rightarrow \psi p}^{W_{\gamma p,-}}$$

And exponential behavior can be measured

$$d\sigma/dp_T^2 \sim e^{-bp_T^2}$$

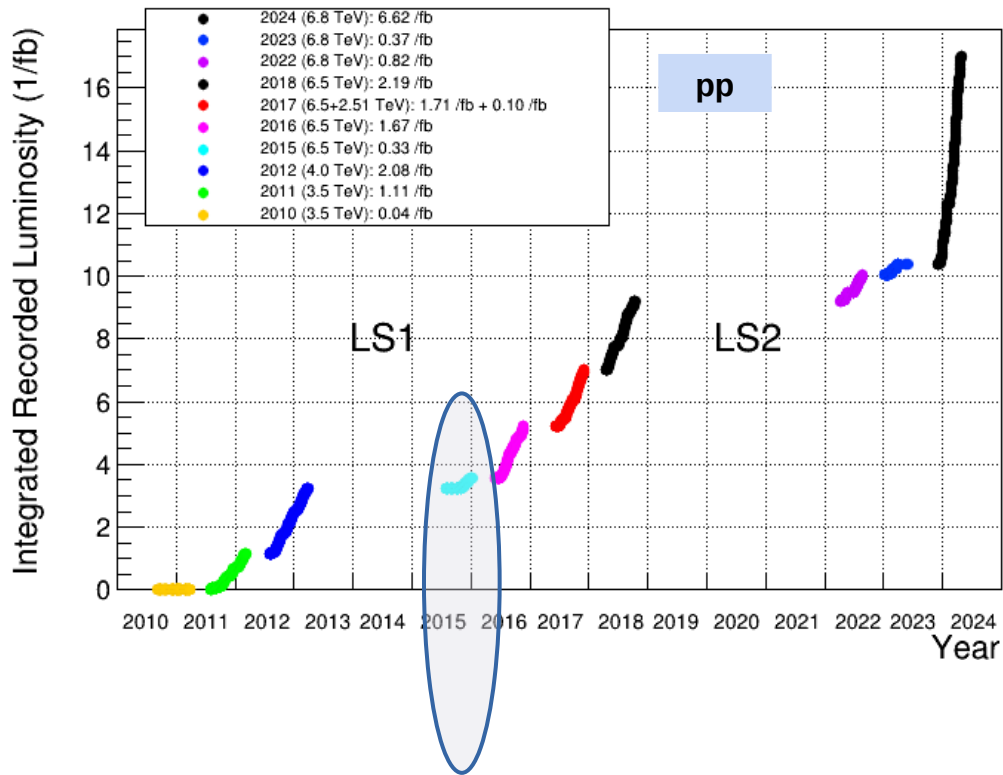
$$b = b_0 + 4\alpha' \log \left( \frac{W_{\gamma p}}{W_0} \right)$$



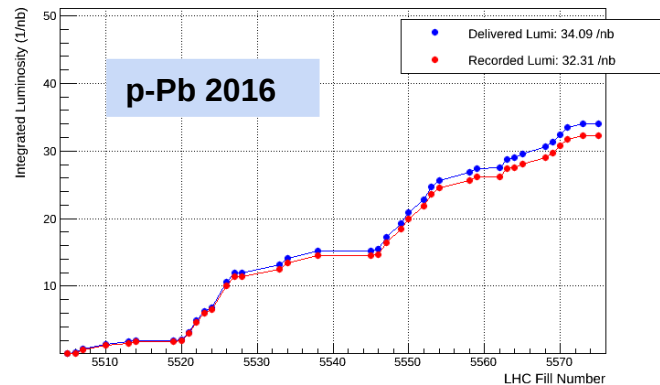
$J/\psi$  behavior agrees with data from ep collisions



LHCb Cumulative Integrated Recorded Luminosity in pp, 2010-2024



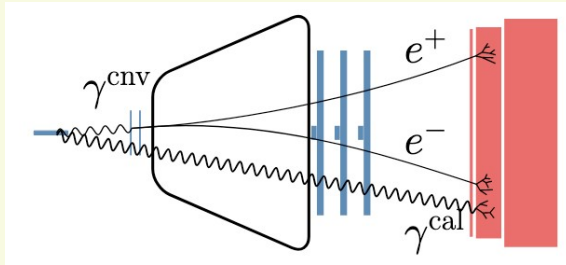
LHCb Integrated Luminosity in p-Pb/Pb-p in 2016



# $\eta$ and $\eta'$ production in pp and pPb collisions

Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 024907

- pPb data at 8.16 TeV
- pp samples at 5 TeV and 13 TeV (8 TeV is constructed by interpolating both samples)
- $\eta$  ( $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ) and  $\eta'$  ( $\rightarrow \eta\pi\pi$ ) candidates reconstructed with two ECAL cluster photons
- Reconstruction efficiencies are calibrated using candidates with one converted photon



- $\eta/\eta'$  yield is obtained using binned maximum likelihood fits in each  $p_T$  region.

**Background:**

**combinatorial background** (using mixing events)

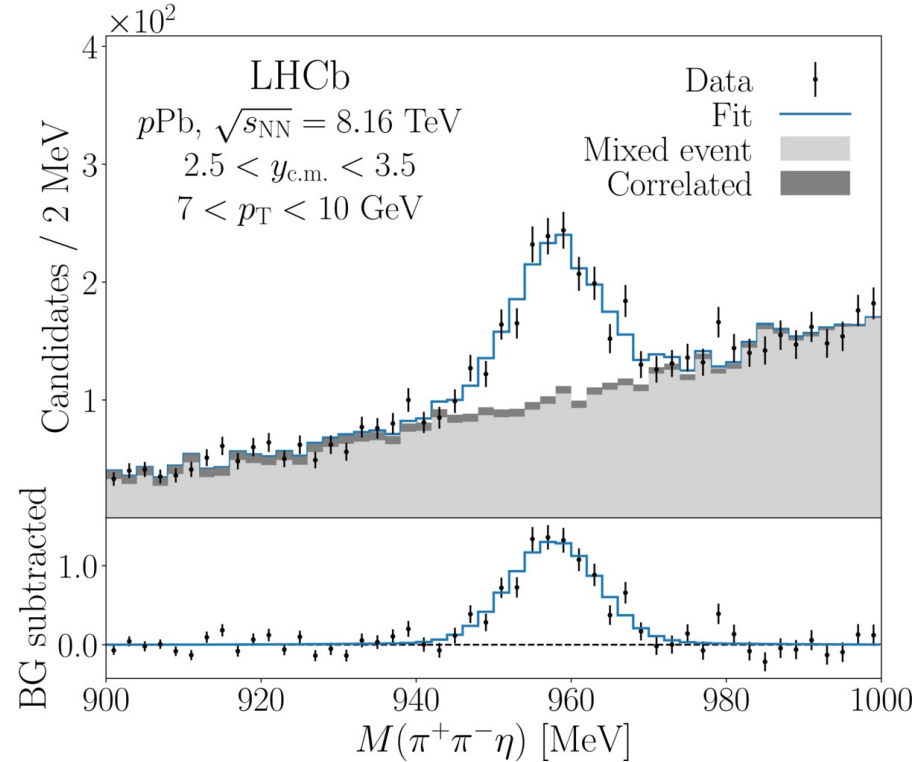
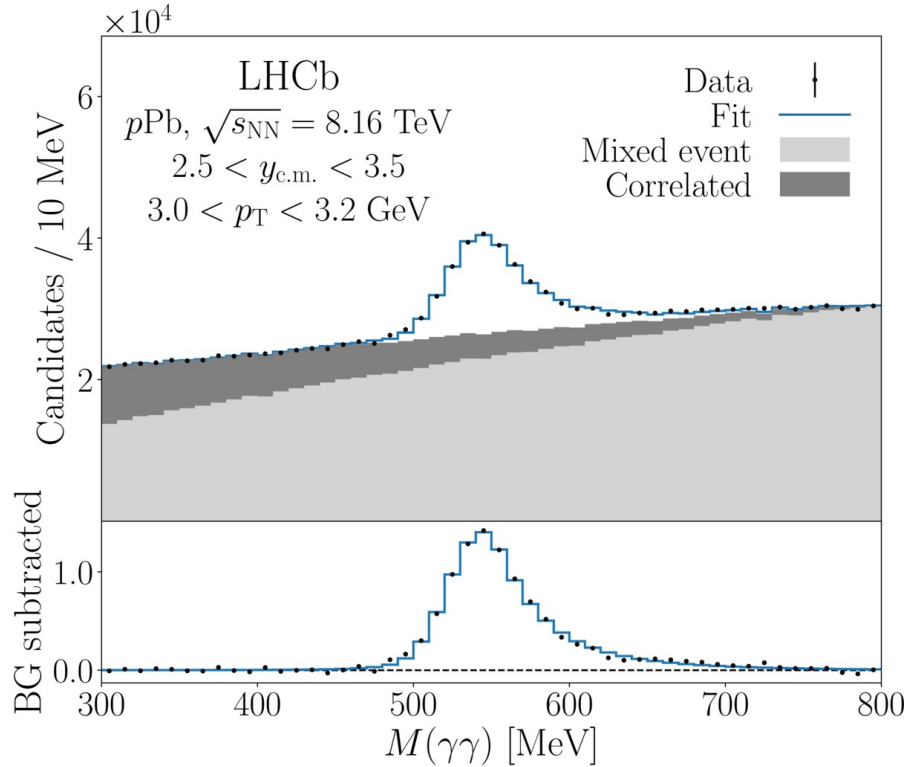
**correlated production:** photons nearby in the detector (function to model)

**Signal:** two-sided Crystal Ball function (tails fixed from simulation)

# $\eta$ and $\eta'$ production in pp and pPb collisions

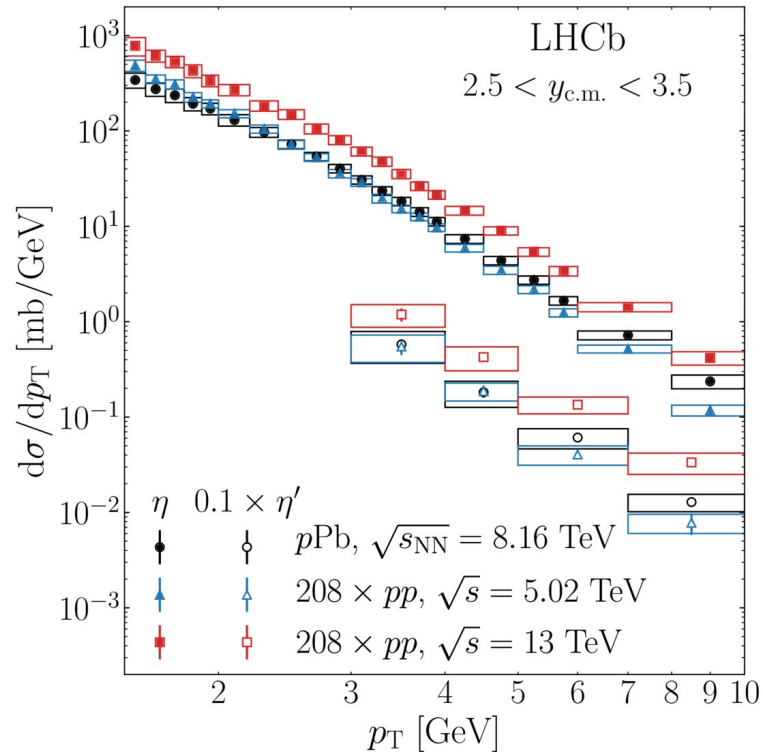
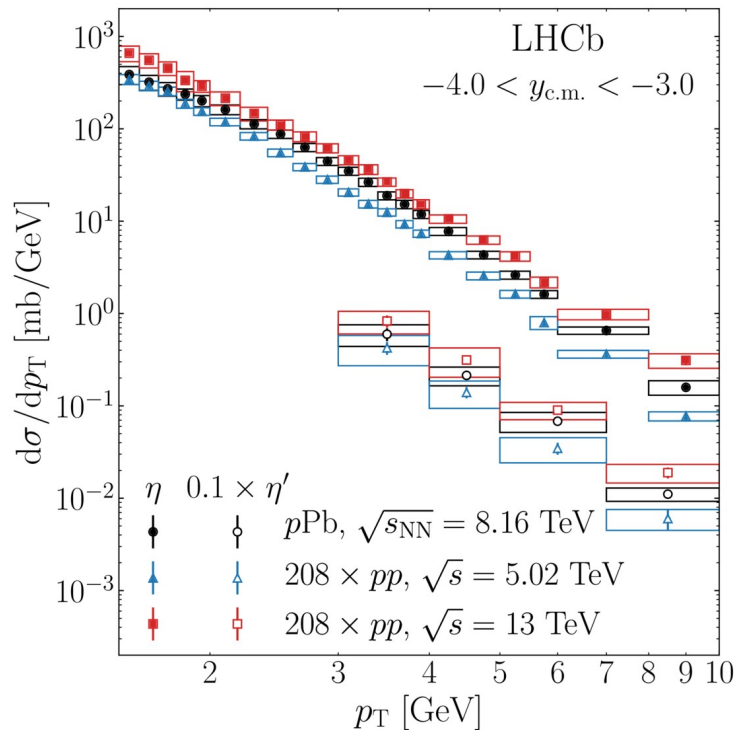
Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 024907

$$y_{\text{CM}} = y_{\text{lab}} - 0.465$$



# $\eta$ and $\eta'$ production in pp and pPb collisions

Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 024907



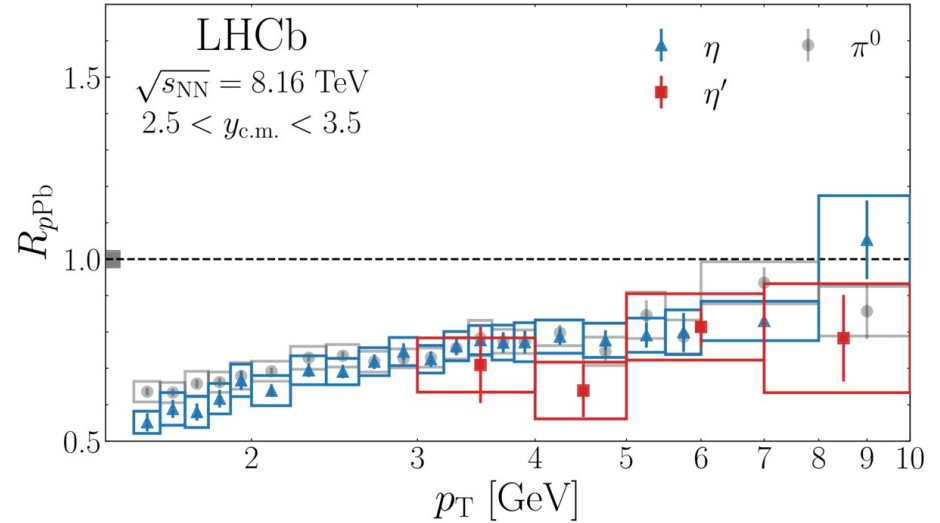
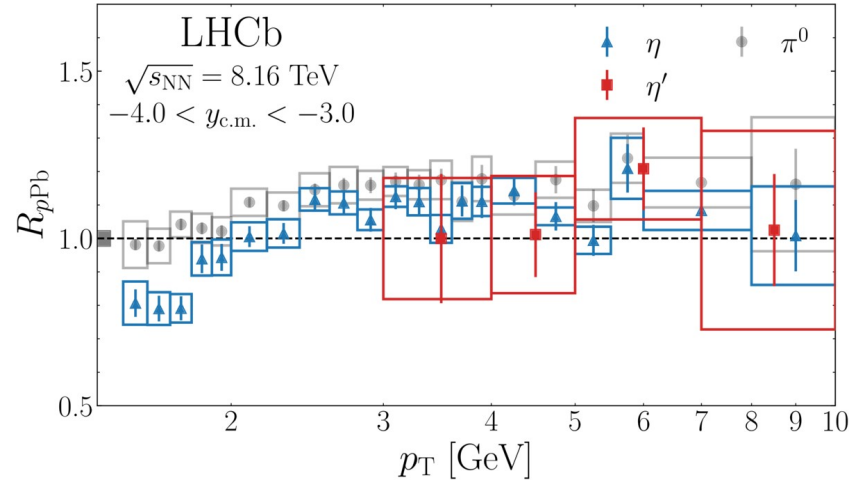
# $\eta$ and $\eta'$ production in pp and pPb collisions

Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 024907

Forward



Backward

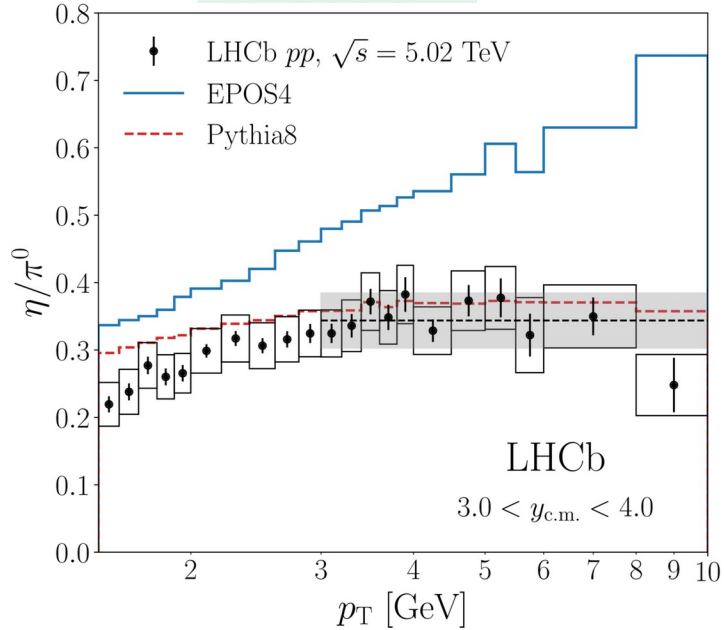


- Observed suppression consistent with the effects of nuclear shadowing
- Small deviations at low  $p_T < 3$  GeV.
- No significant evidence for mass dependence of the nuclear modification factor of light neutral mesons.

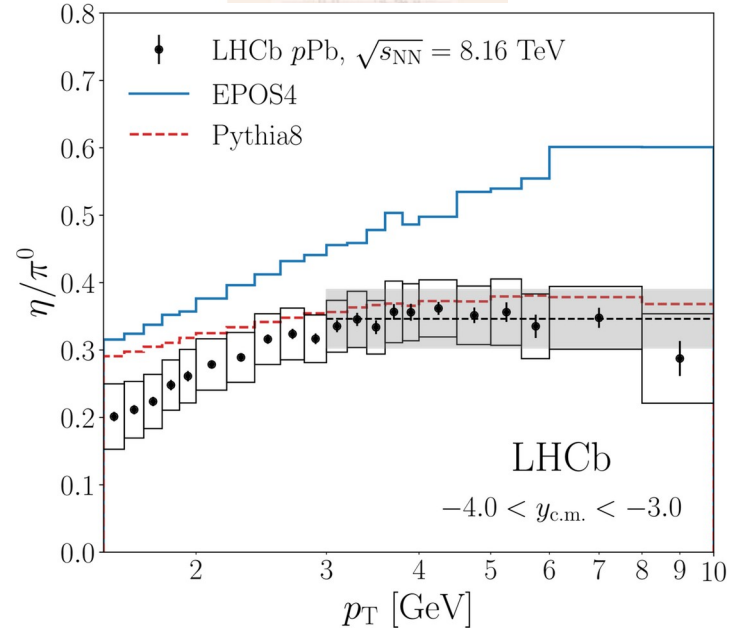
# $\eta$ and $\eta'$ production in pp and pPb collisions

Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 024907

Backward



Forward



Pythia8 generally describes the data well  
EPOS4 generally overestimates the  $\eta/\pi^0$  ratio, especially at high  $p_T$ .

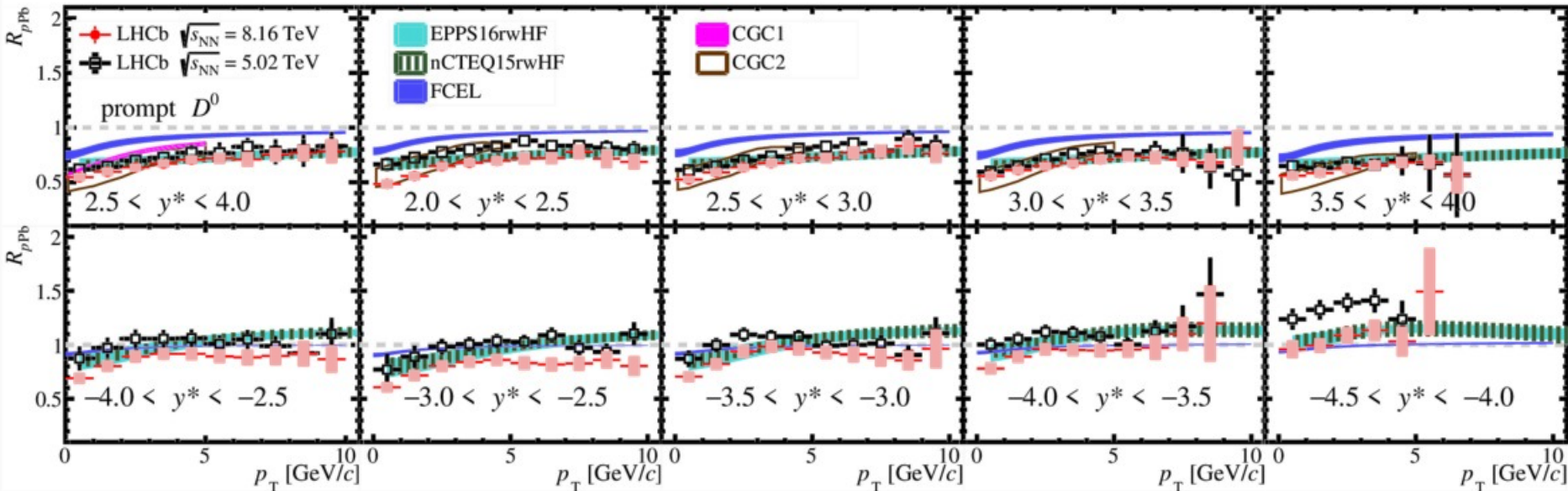
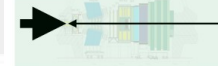


# Prompt $D^0$ production in pPb at 8.16 TeV

Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 (2023) 102301

- pPb data at 5 TeV → Prompt  $D^0$  decaying into  $K^\pm \pi^\mp$
- Nuclear modification factor in different rapidity bins

Backward



- ++  $R_{pPb}$  in forward regions in general agreement with CGC and nPDF models
- ++ Stronger suppression for  $R_{pPb}$  at lowest  $p_T$  in forward rapidity than nPDF prediction
- ++ More suppressed  $R_{pPb}$  at high  $p_T$  in backward region than nPDF models

Forward

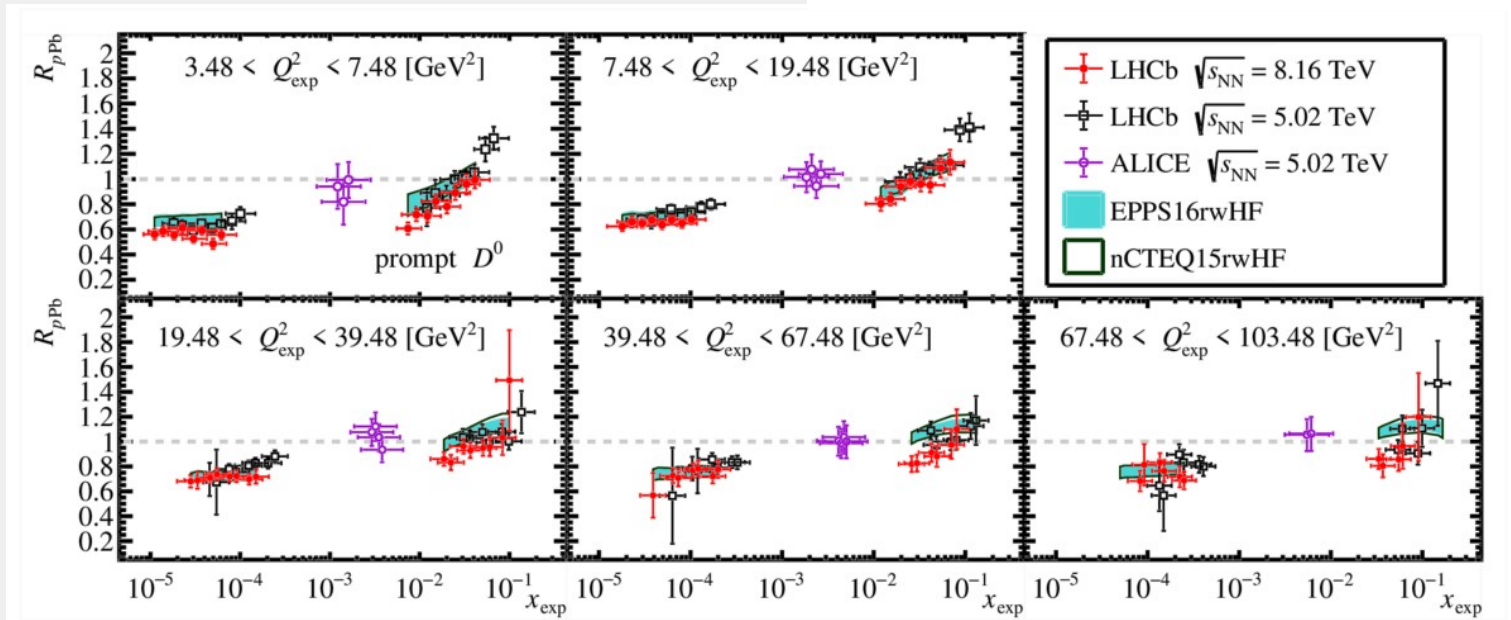


# Prompt $D^0$ production in pPb at 8.16 TeV

Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 (2023) 102301

→ Experimental proxies for comparing results in different energy and kinematic regions

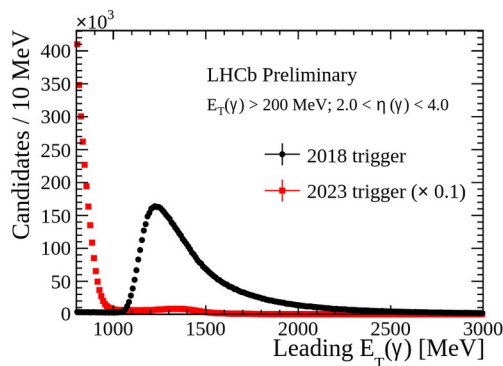
$$x_{\text{exp}} \equiv 2 \frac{\sqrt{p_{\text{T}}^2(D^0) + M^2(D^0)}}{\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}}} e^{-y^*} \quad \text{and} \quad Q_{\text{exp}}^2 \equiv p_{\text{T}}^2(D^0) + M^2(D^0)$$



Consistency between LHCb results at 5.02 TeV and 8.16 TeV

Stronger suppression than nPDF calculations in  $x \sim 0.01$  at larger  $Q^2$

- LHCb experiment collected data in pp/pA/PbA collisions with unique coverage
- Measurements already can constrain models in low-x regions and nuclear effects
- New results in the pipeline with Run 2 data
- Run 3 data collection on-going → interesting results ahead with better trigger lines

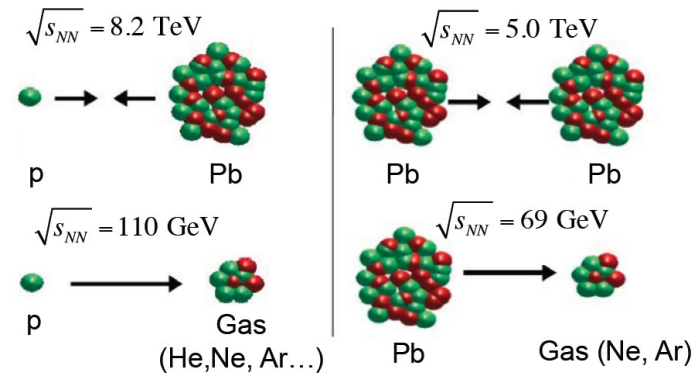
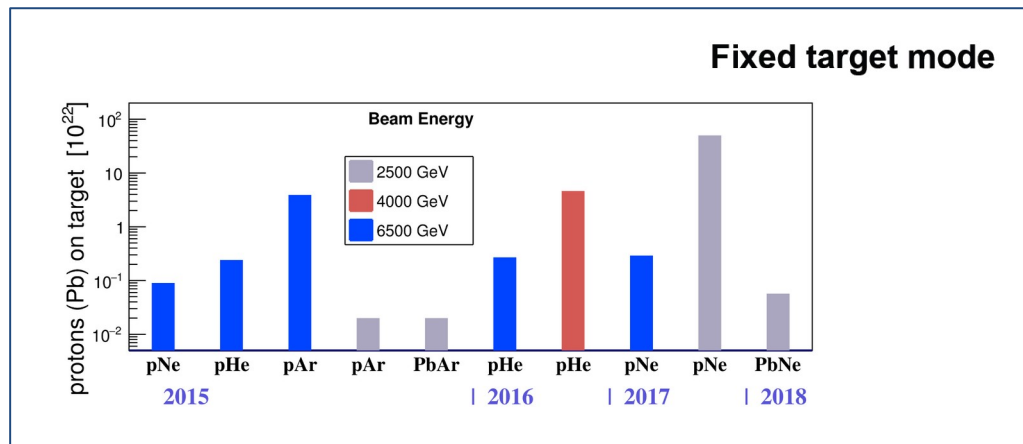
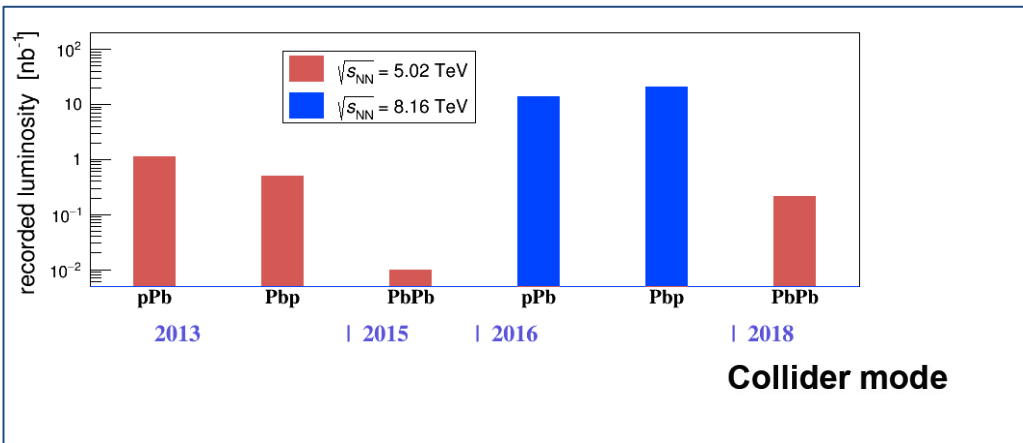


2023 UPC photon trigger line is able to select lower  $E_T$  photons than 2018

<https://cds.cern.ch/record/2898822/files/LHCb-FIGURE-2024-012.pdf>

- Other measurements not shown can be found <https://bfence.cern.ch/alcm/public/analysis>

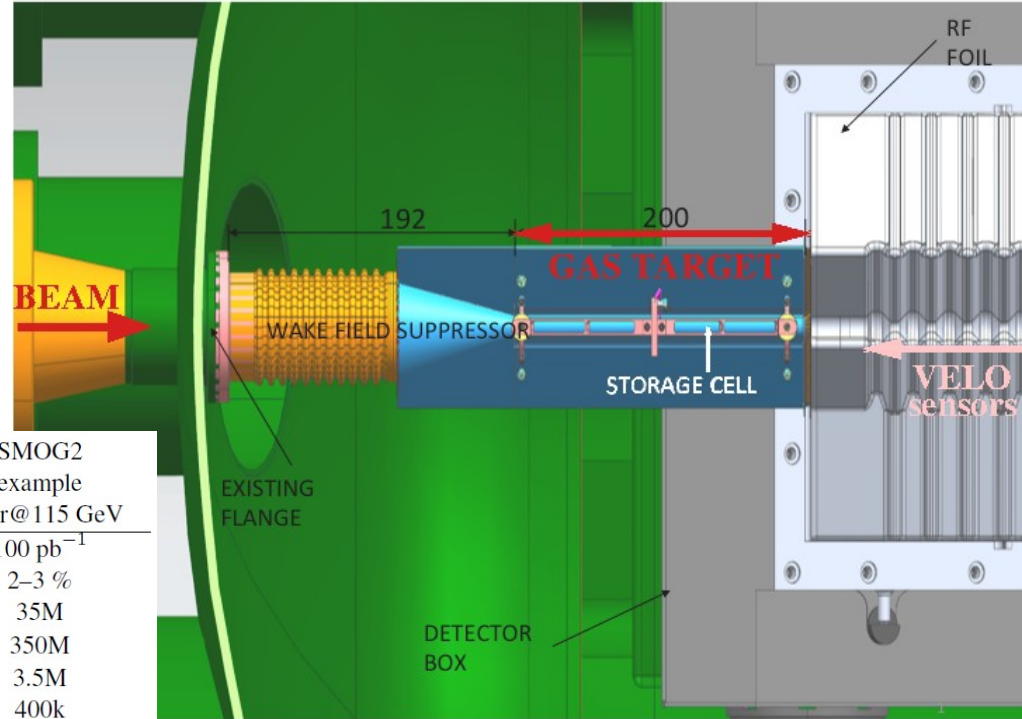
**THANK YOU**



# The gas target upgrade - SMOG2

[LHCC-2019-0051/LHCb TDR 20](#)

- o 20cm long storage cell, 5mm radius around the beam, just upstream the VELO
- o possibly inject other gases
- o Up to **x100** higher gas density with same gas flow of current SMOG
- o Faster switch between gas species

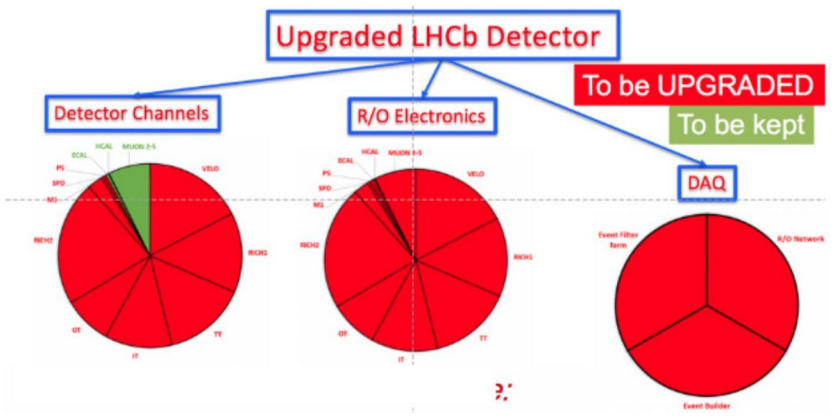
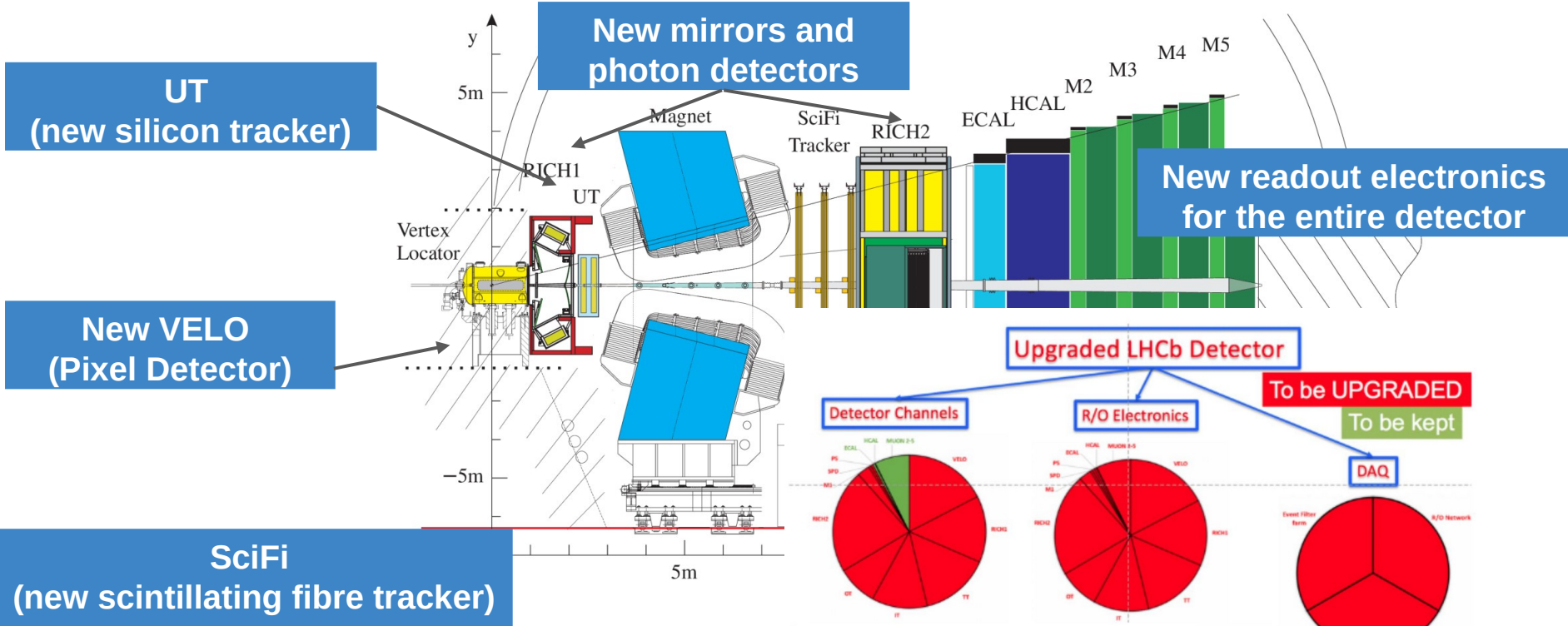


	SMOG largest sample p-Ne@68 GeV	SMOG2 example p-Ar@115 GeV
Integrated luminosity	$\sim 100 \text{ nb}^{-1}$	$100 \text{ pb}^{-1}$
syst. error on $J/\psi$ x-sec.	6-7%	2-3%
$J/\psi$ yield	15k	35M
$D^0$ yield	100k	350M
$\Lambda_c$ yield	1k	3.5M
$\psi(2S)$ yield	150	400k
$Y(1S)$ yield	4	15k
Low-mass ( $5 < M_{\mu\mu} < 9 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ) Drell-Yan yield	5	20k



# LHCb Upgrade I

[CERN-LHCC-2012-007](https://cds.cern.ch/record/1202007)



# LHCb Upgrade I

[CERN-LHCC-2012-007](https://cds.cern.ch/record/1254471)

\* Increase instantaneous luminosity:

$$4 \times 10^{32} \rightarrow 2 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

\* Replacement of tracking detectors

# finer granularity to cope with higher particle density

# new front-end electronics compatible with 30 MHz

readout

\* Remove hardware trigger stage and operate software trigger at 30 MHz input rate with 5 x more pileup than Run 2.

\* Prospects for integrated luminosity for heavy-ion

<b>PbPb</b>	<b>0.5/nb</b>
<b>pPb</b>	<b>150/nb</b>

## LHCb Upgrade Trigger Diagram

**30 MHz inelastic event rate  
(full rate event building)**

### Software High Level Trigger

Full event reconstruction, inclusive and exclusive kinematic/geometric selections

Buffer events to disk, perform online detector calibration and alignment

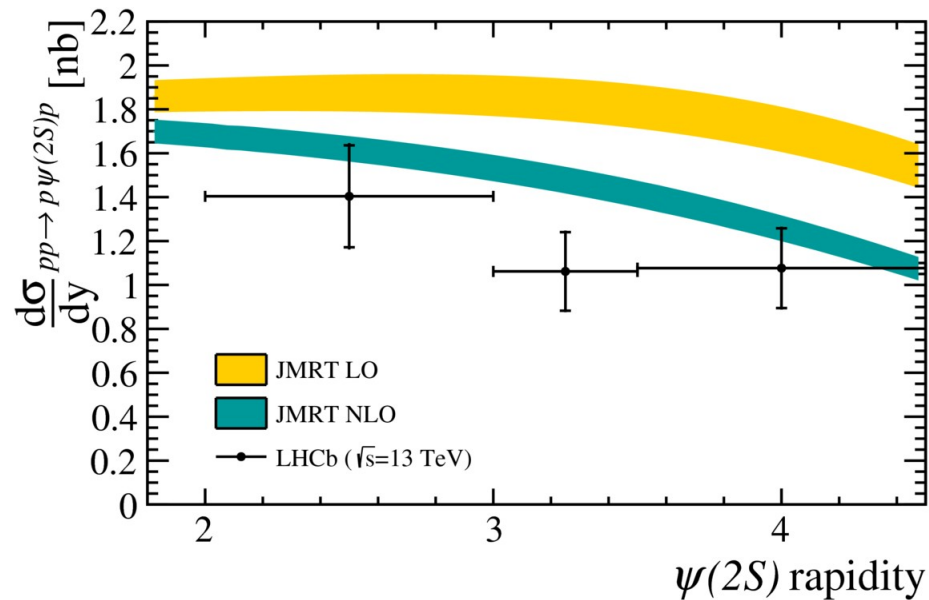
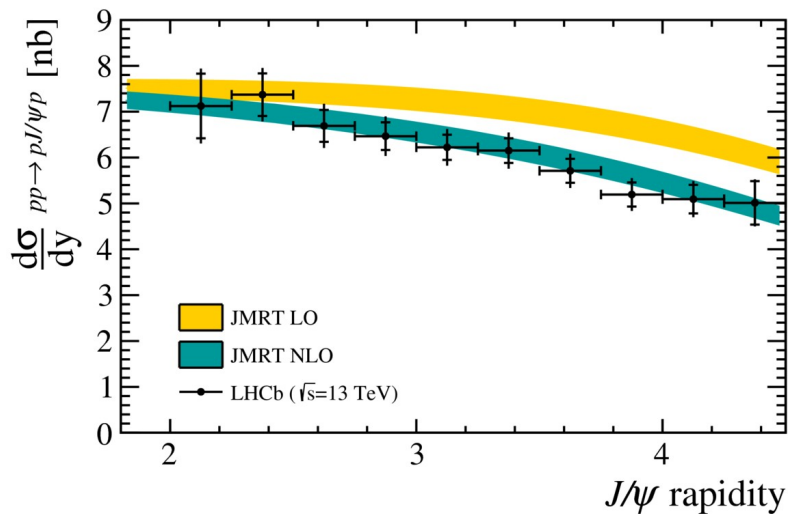
Add offline precision particle identification and track quality information to selections  
Output full event information for inclusive triggers, trigger candidates and related primary vertices for exclusive triggers

**2-5 GB/s to storage**

LHCB-PUB-2014-0

# $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ - 13 TeV

JHEP 10 (2018) 167



$N \rightarrow$  candidate events

$P \rightarrow$  signal purity

$\epsilon \rightarrow$  efficiencies

$\Delta y \rightarrow$  rapidity bin width

$L \rightarrow$  luminosity

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-}}{dy}(2.0 < \eta_\mu < 4.5) = \frac{\mathcal{P}N}{\epsilon_{\text{rec}} \epsilon_{\text{sel}} \Delta y \epsilon_{\text{single}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}}$$

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## Selection

- 2 reconstructed muons ( $2 < \eta < 4.5$ )
- No additional tracks or photons
- **Herschel requirement (next slide)**
- Mass window requirements
- $p_T^2 < 0.8 \text{ GeV}^2$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-}}{dy} (2.0 < \eta_\mu < 4.5) = \frac{\mathcal{P}N}{\epsilon_{\text{rec}} \epsilon_{\text{sel}} \Delta y \epsilon_{\text{single}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}}$$

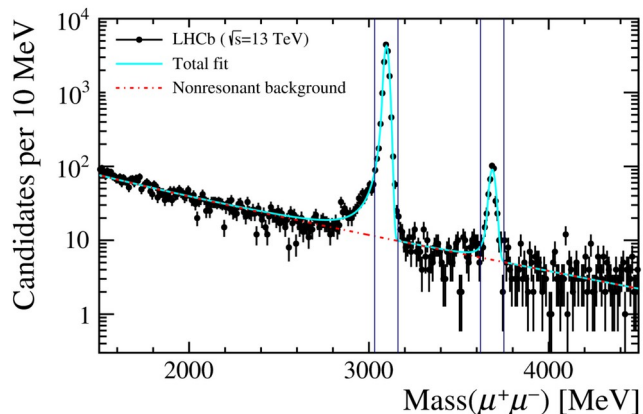
$N$  → candidate events

$P$  → signal purity

$\epsilon$  → efficiencies

$\Delta y$  → rapidity bin width

$L$  → luminosity



$L = 204 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  (2015)  
14753  $J/\psi$  candidates  
440  $\psi(2S)$  candidates

# $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ - 13 TeV

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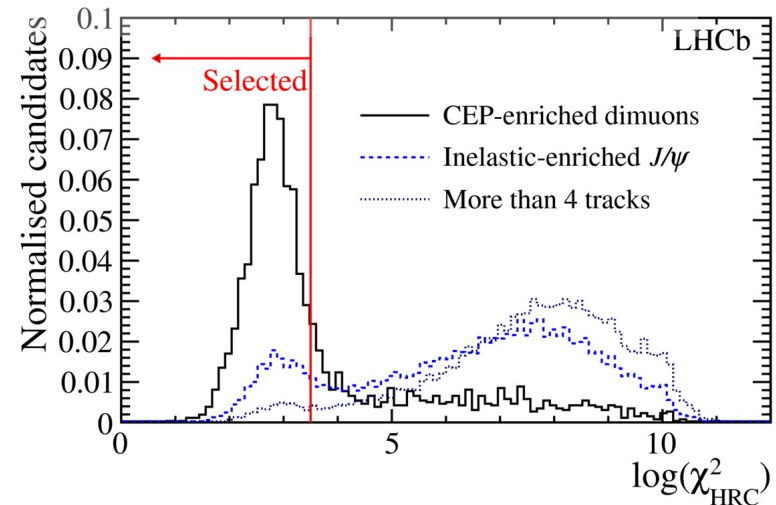
The HeRSChEL response is described using a variable  $\chi_{HRC}^2$  that quantifies the activity **above** noise, taking account of correlations between the counters.

Clear discrimination observed when comparing:

+CEP-enriched dimuons:  $p_T^2 < 0.01 \text{ GeV}^2$

+More than four tracks

+Inelastic-enriched  $J/\psi$ :  $p_T^2 > 1 \text{ GeV}^2$



# $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ - 13 TeV

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-}}{dy}(2.0 < \eta_\mu < 4.5) = \frac{\mathcal{P}N}{\epsilon_{\text{rec}} \epsilon_{\text{sel}} \Delta y \epsilon_{\text{single}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{tot}}}$$

## Background fractions for $J/\psi$ ( $\psi(2S)$ )

→ Non-resonant estimated from DiMuon mass: 0.009 (0.161)

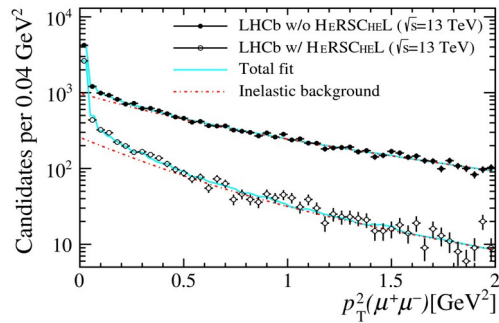
→ Feed-down estimated using data: 0.06 (neglected)

→ Proton dissociation with a new technique (see next slide): 0.175 (0.11)

## Efficiencies

≫ reconstruction and selection → data driven methods

≫ fraction of single interaction beam crossings →  $0.3662 \pm 0.0003$



Fits to the  $p_T^2$  distributions give the non-resonant CEP events with and without the HeRSChEL veto  
The ratio of these gives the efficiency of the veto  $0.723 \pm 0.008$

New Technique:

$$N_{\text{HRC}} = \epsilon N_{\text{sig}} + \beta(p_T) N_{\text{bkg}}$$

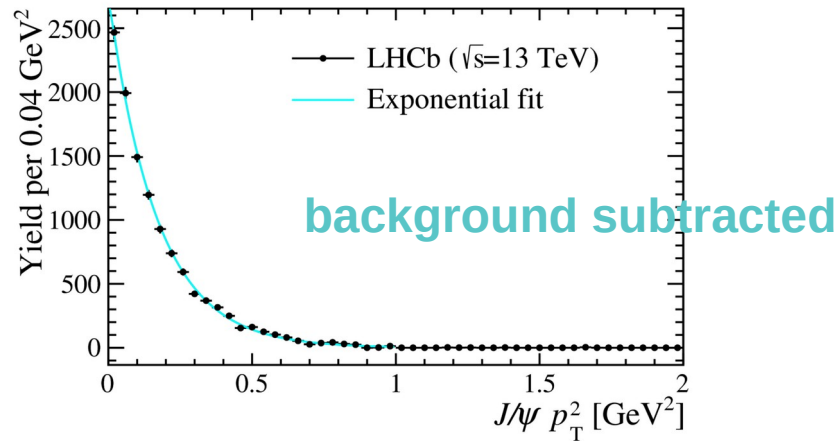
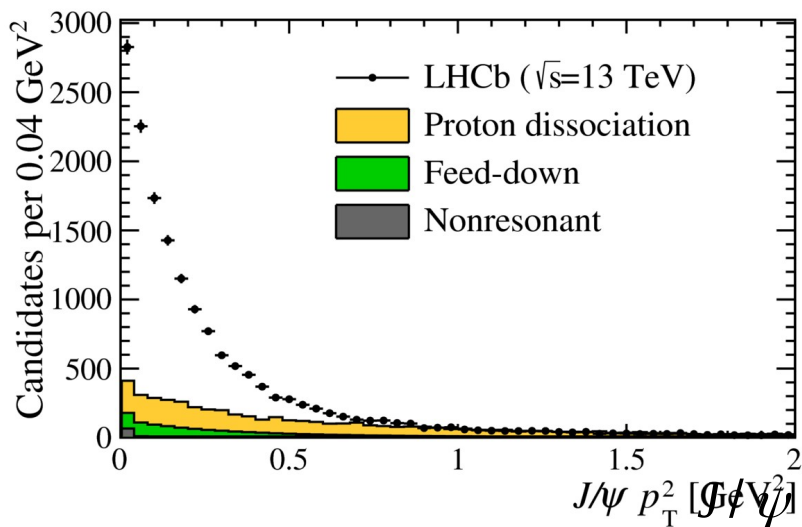
$$N_{\text{anti-HRC}} = [1-\epsilon] N_{\text{sig}} + [1-\beta(p_T)] N_{\text{bkg}}$$

$\epsilon$  known from QED sample

Pure bkg sample obtained

Subtract bkg from total => Signal derived

$$\beta = S_{\bar{H}} - ((1 - \epsilon_H)/\epsilon_H) S_H$$

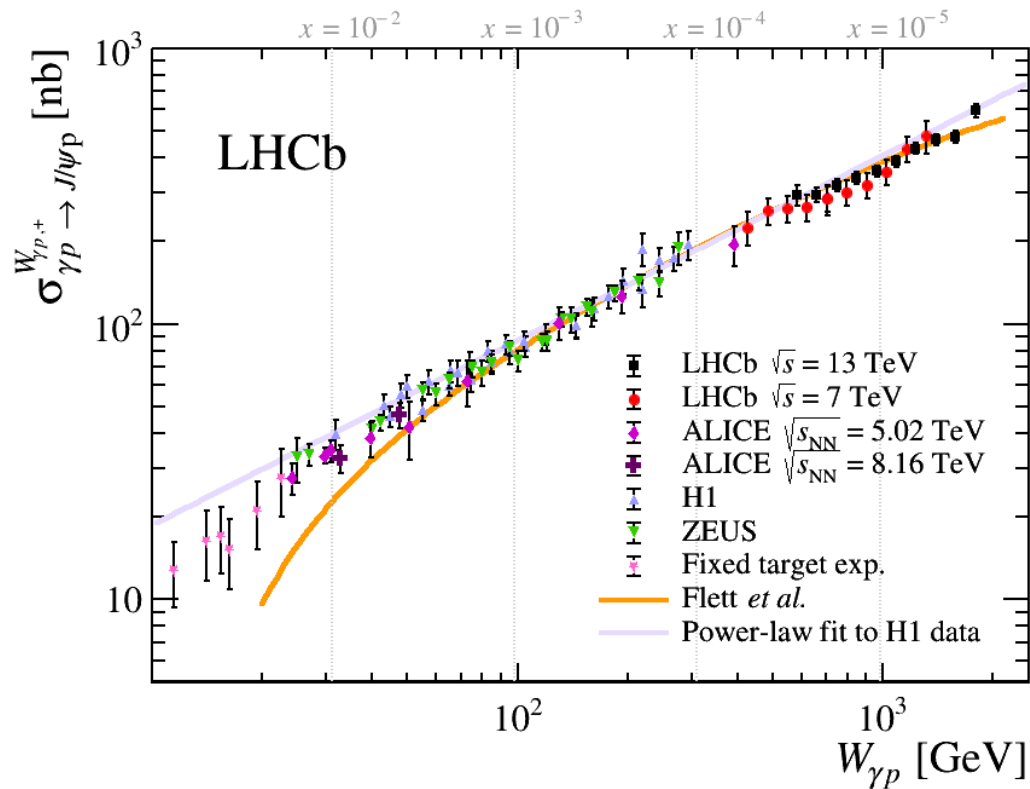


$J/\psi$

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ and $\psi(2S)$ production at 13 TeV

arXiv:2409.03496

Marker	Experiment	collision	Energy	Refs.
•	LHCb	$pp$	$\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV	[33]
◆	ALICE	$pPb$	$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV	[102, 103]
+	ALICE	$pPb$	$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16$ TeV	[39]
▲	H1	$ep$	$40 < W_{\gamma p} < 305$ GeV	[95]
▲	H1	$ep$	$25 < W_{\gamma p} < 110$ GeV	[89]
▼	ZEUS	$ep$	$20 < W_{\gamma p} < 290$ GeV	[96]
*	E87	$\gamma Be$	$0 < E_{\gamma} < 250$ GeV	[104]
*	E401	$\gamma H$ and $\gamma^2 H$	$60 < E_{\gamma} < 300$ GeV	[105]
*	E516	$\gamma H$	$60 < E_{\gamma} < 160$ GeV	[106]

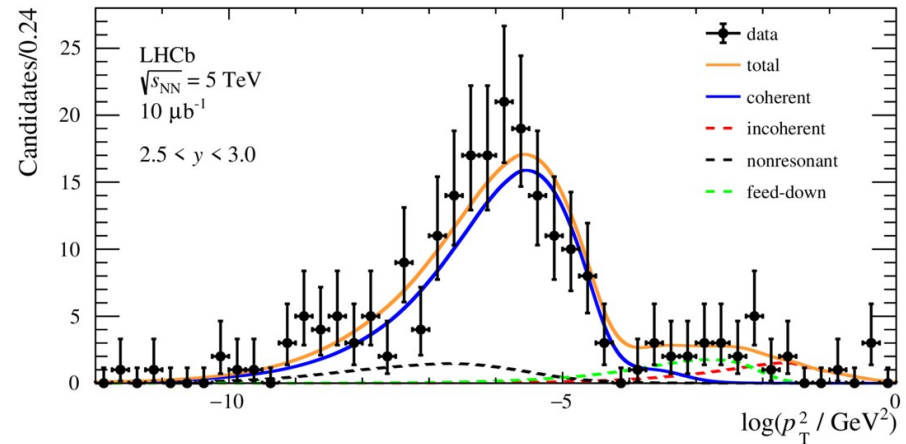
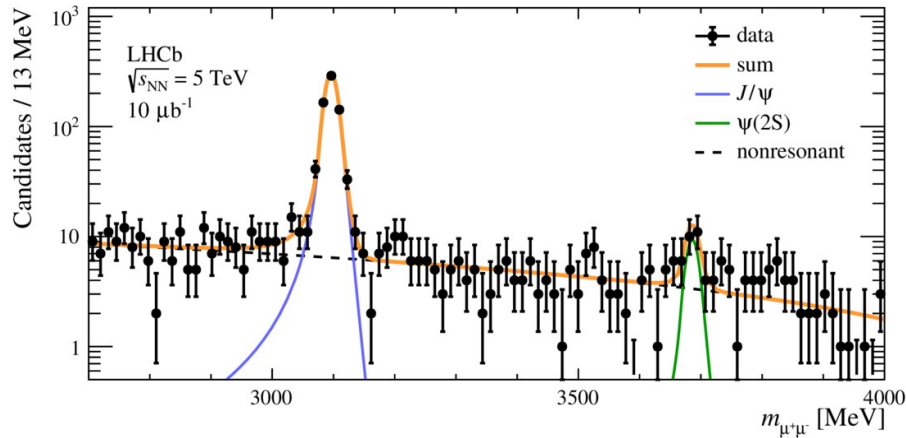




# Study of coherent $J/\psi$ production in ultraperipheral PbPb collisions

[JHEP07\(2022\)117](#)

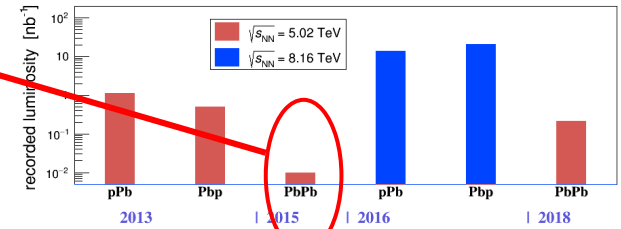
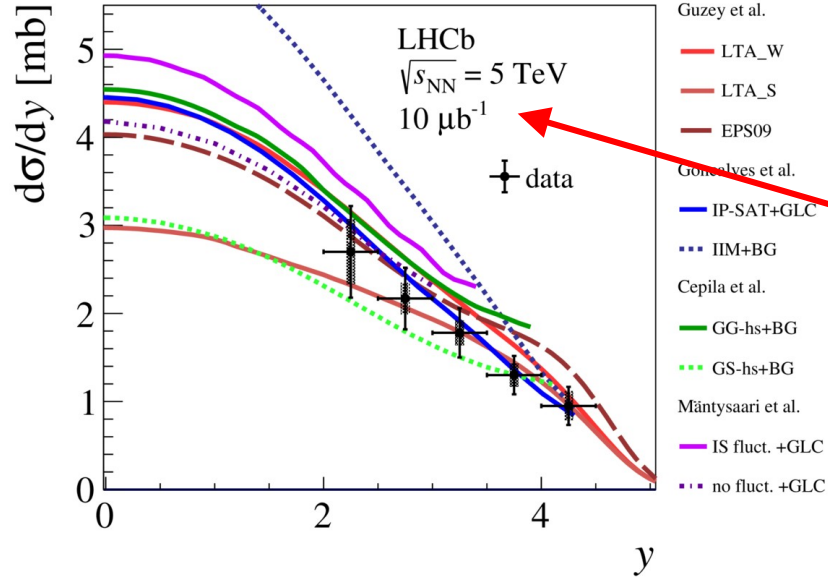
$J/\psi$  Coherent yields are obtained from a fit to the  $m_{\mu\mu}$  and  $\log(p_T^2)$  distribution



Good signal to background ratio assuming only coherent includes only intact Pb interactions.

# Study of coherent $J/\psi$ production in ultraperipheral PbPb collisions

[JHEP07\(2022\)117](#)

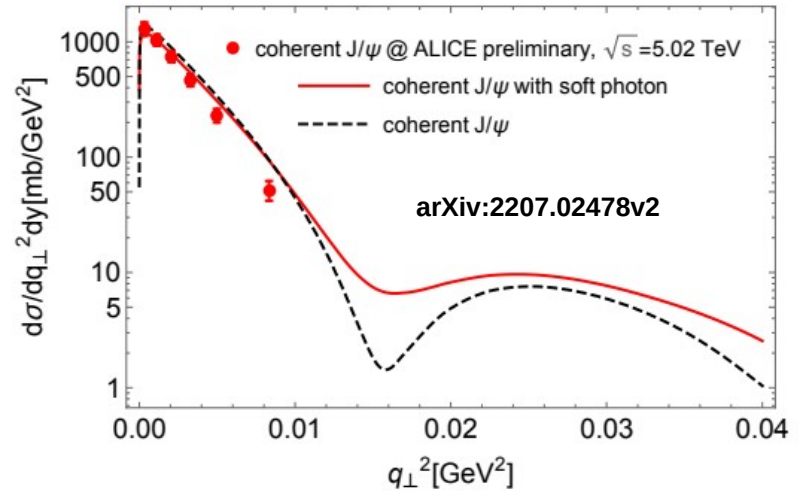
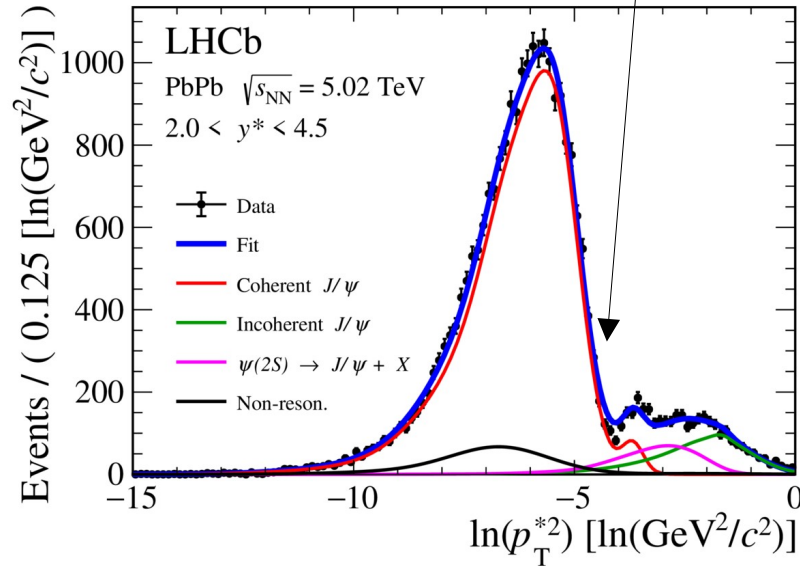
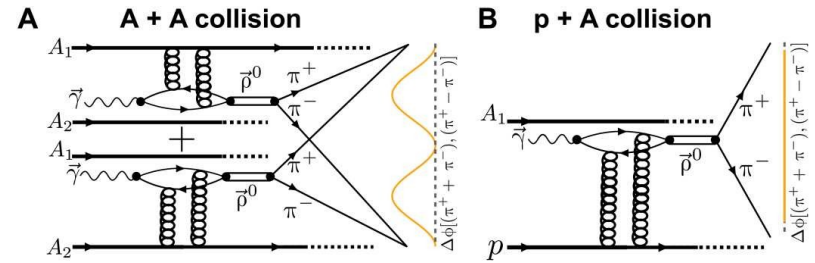


Differential cross-sections are compared to predictions from different phenomenological models

Some prescriptions are disfavored by data

# Discussion - Tomography studies

- explore interference for PbPb collisions
- “Double-slit” interference for J/Psi already observed?



# Observation of diffractive exotic $J/\psi\phi$ resonances in $pp$ collisions

arXiv:2407.14301

Source	$\chi_{c1}(4140)$	$\chi_{c0}(4700)$	$\Delta M$	$\delta_1$	$\delta_2$	$\delta_3$	Total
$M_{\chi_{c1}}(4274)$ [MeV]	1.7	0.2	1.5	8.0	0.2	2.9	8.9
$\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}}(4274)$ [MeV]	10	0.3	0.7	56	0.8	6.2	57
$M_{\chi_{c0}}(4500)$ [MeV]	0.4	0.4	1.4	0.6	1.6	2.0	3.0
$\Gamma_{\chi_{c0}}(4500)$ [MeV]	1.7	0.2	2.0	3.4	4.4	31	32
$\sigma_{\chi_{c1}}(4140)$	31%	1.5%	0.9%	11%	1.5%	8.3%	35%
$\sigma_{\chi_{c1}}(4274)$	19%	1.6%	0.8%	11%	1.6%	5.8%	24%
$\sigma_{\chi_{c0}}(4500)$	3.2%	0.7%	0.2%	6.5%	11%	5.1%	15%
$\sigma_{\chi_{c1}}(4685)$ + $\chi_{c0}(4700)$	5.3%	18%	7.3%	3.1%	13%	31%	41%

# Observation of diffractive exotic $J/\psi\phi$ resonances in $pp$ collisions

arXiv:2407.14301

Parameter [MeV]	Current analysis	Ref. [13]
$M_{\chi_{c1}(4274)}$	$4298 \pm 6 \pm 9$	$4294 \pm 4_{-6}^{+3}$
$\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(4274)}$	$92_{-18}^{+22} \pm 57$	$53 \pm 5 \pm 5$
$M_{\chi_{c0}(4500)}$	$4512.5_{-6.2}^{+6.0} \pm 3.0$	$4474 \pm 3 \pm 3$
$\Gamma_{\chi_{c0}(4500)}$	$65_{-16}^{+20} \pm 32$	$77 \pm 6_{-8}^{+10}$

# $\eta$ and $\eta'$ production in pp and pPb collisions

Phys. Rev. C109 (2024) 024907

Systematic uncertainties are dominated by photon efficiency, fit model and interpolation.

Source (%)	$d\sigma^\eta/dp_T$	$R_{pPb}^\eta$	$d\sigma^{\eta'}/dp_T$	$R_{pPb}^{\eta'}$
Fit model	0.7–22.9	0.5–12.3	6.0–33.8	2.5–26.4
Unfolding	0.1–2.9	0.1–2.5	0.1–0.3	0.1–0.4
Interpolation	...	0.5–7.5	...	0.1–9.1
Material budget	8.0	...	10.8	...
Photon efficiency	2.5–4.5	1.9–4.7	5.8–10.5	10.1–11.5
Tracking efficiency	...	...	0.2–0.5	0.2–0.4
Luminosity	2.0–2.6	2.2–2.3	2.0–2.6	2.2–2.3
Total systematic	9.1–24.6	3.4–14.8	16.4–36.6	10.8–29.1
Statistical	1.6–13.1	2.7–10.6	4.8–26.1	6.8–16.4