

LHCb highlights

**Saverio Mariani, on behalf of the LHCb collaboration
CERN**

Nagasaki, 23/09/2024

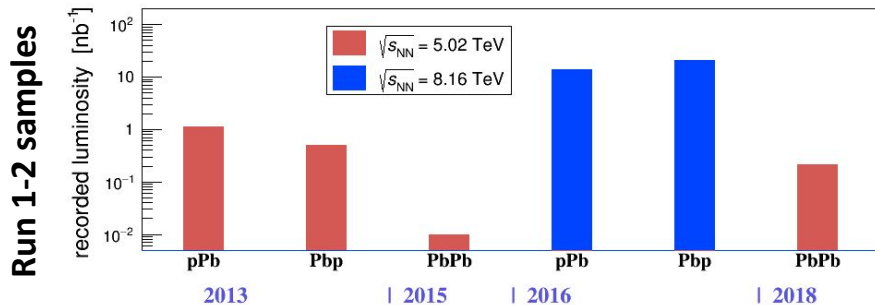
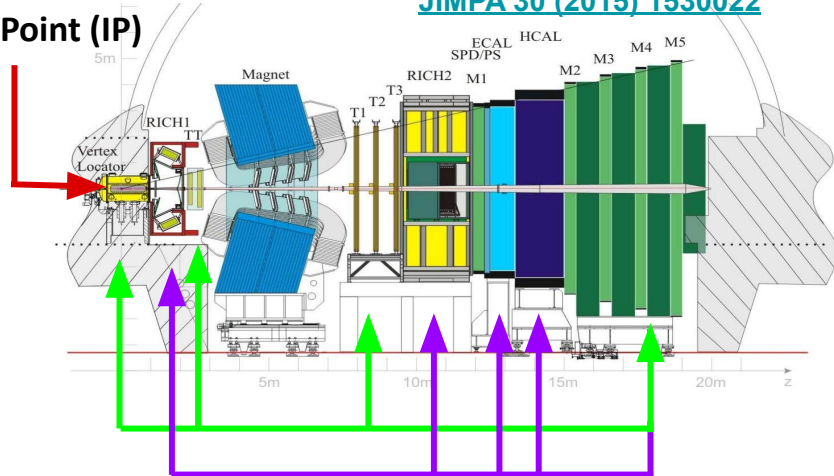
LHCb as a heavy-ion and fixed-target experiment

- Clear primary and decay vertex separation, **precise tracking**, **full PID**, flexible and fast trigger and a unique acceptance make of **LHCb a general-purpose forward detector and a unique facility for heavy-ion physics**
 → constraints to nPDFs down to $x \sim 10^{-6}$

[JINST 3 S08005 \(2008\)](#)

[JIMPA 30 \(2015\) 1530022](#)

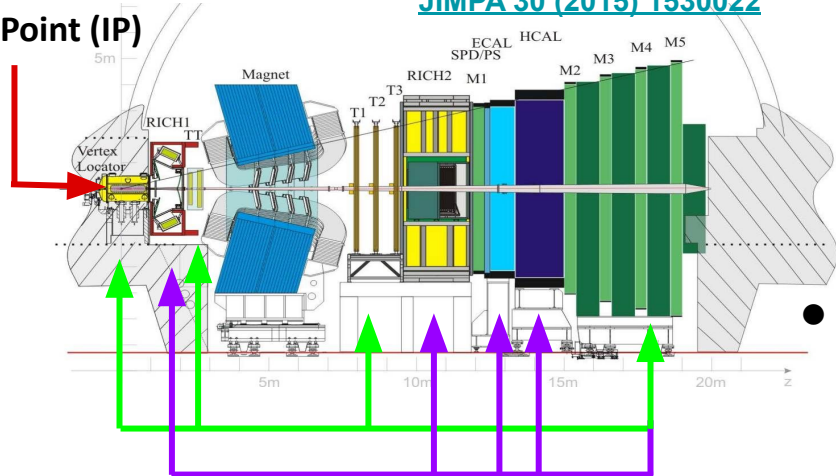
Nominal Interaction Point (IP)



LHCb as a heavy-ion and fixed-target experiment

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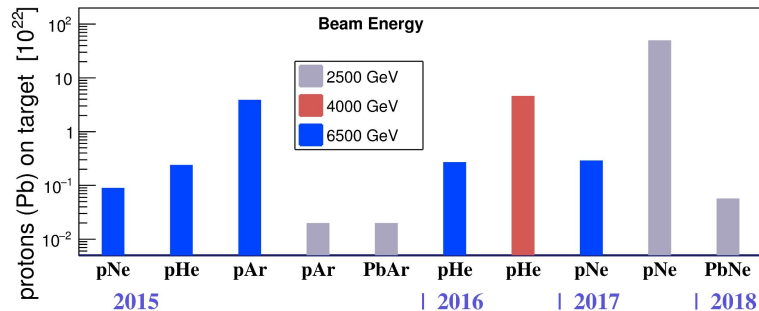
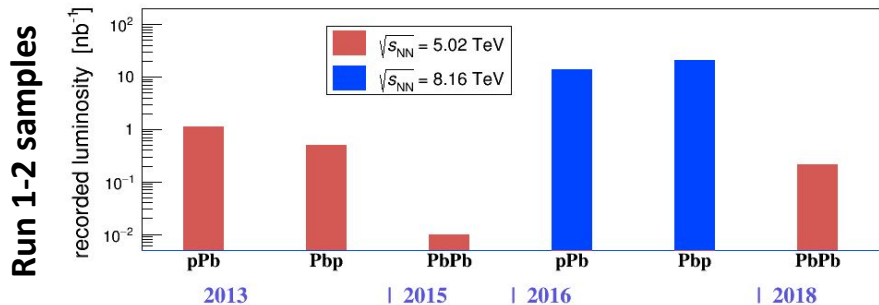
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→ constraints to nPDFs down to $x \sim 10^{-6}$

- By injecting gases in LHC, can acquire beam-gas (pA, PbA) data **at the highest energy in fixed-target mode** and **simultaneously** with beam-beam



10 parallel talks:

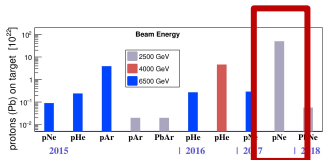
- Charm production in LHCb fixed-target mode, Oscar Boente Garcia, Mon. 15:00
- Polarization measurement and prospects at LHCb, Youen Kang, Mon 15:40
- Strangeness studies in LHCb fixed-target collisions, Federica Fabiano, Mon. 17:30
- Recent LHCb probes for b-quark hadronization studies, Julie Lane Marie Berkeley, Mon. 18:10
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8 posters:

- Bottomonium production measurements at LHCb, Chenzhi Dong
- Exploring hadronization with heavy-flavour jets at LHCb, Matt Durham
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- Studies of nucleon structure at LHCb, Cesar Luiz da Silva

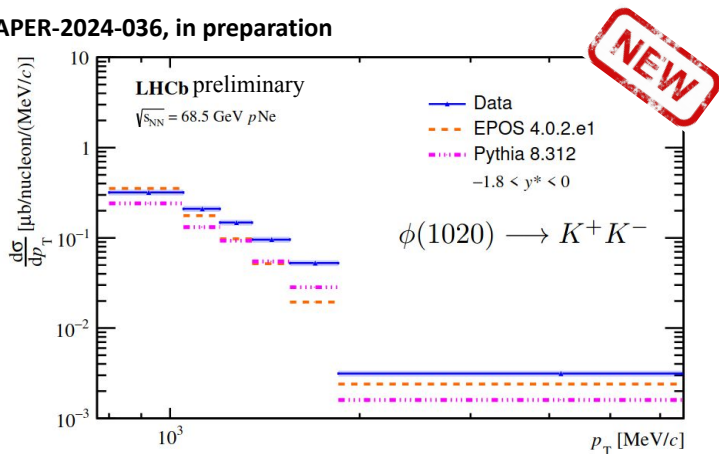
The highest LHCb representation in HP, reflecting our increasingly rich and attractive programme
Just showing a selection in this talk, please attend if interest in the details!

Strange and charm physics in fixed-target collisions



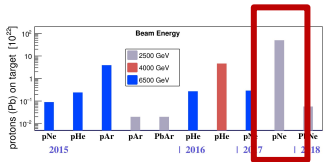
- $p\text{Ne}$ data with $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 68.5$ GeV, intermediate to SpS and RHIC top energy \rightarrow access to poorly explored high- x at moderate $Q^2 \Rightarrow$ **unique inputs** to models!
- **Discrimination of Quark Gluon Plasma from Cold Nuclear Matter effects** require precise measurements in different collision systems and c.m. energies

LHCb-PAPER-2024-036, in preparation



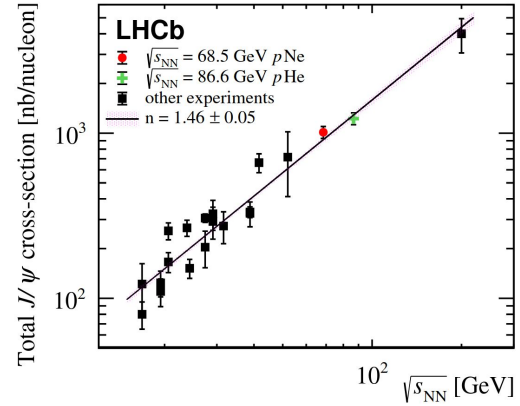
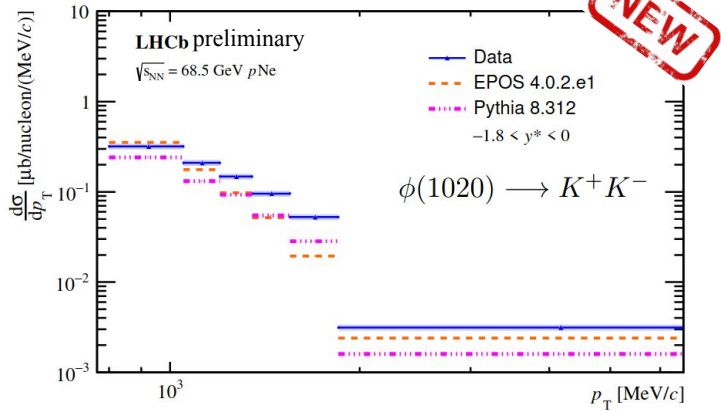
- Models found to **underestimate ϕ production** at this energy \rightarrow good constraining power for strangeness in phenomenological models

Strange and charm physics in fixed-target collisions

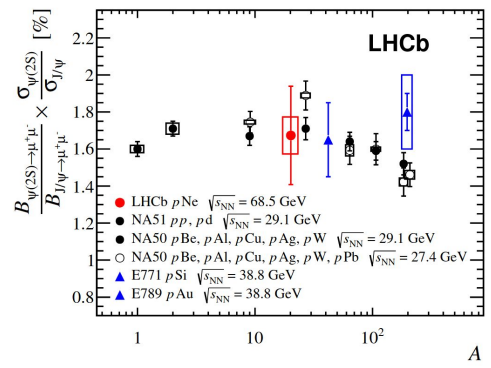


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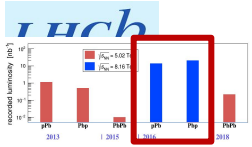


Eur. Phys. J. C83 (2023) 625



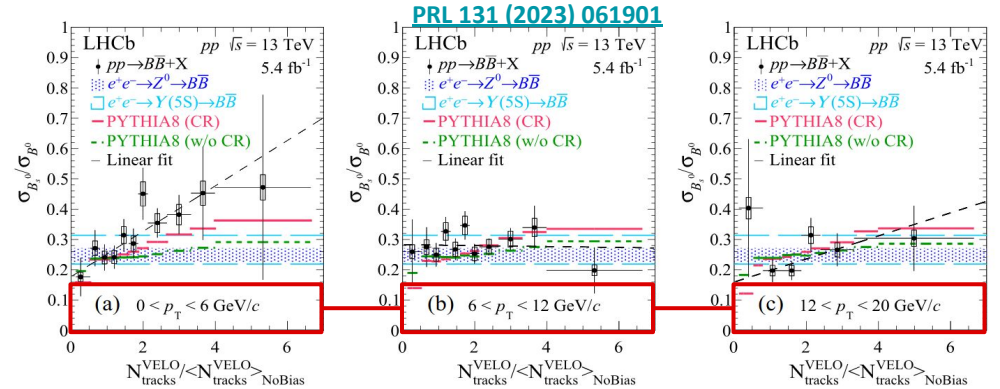
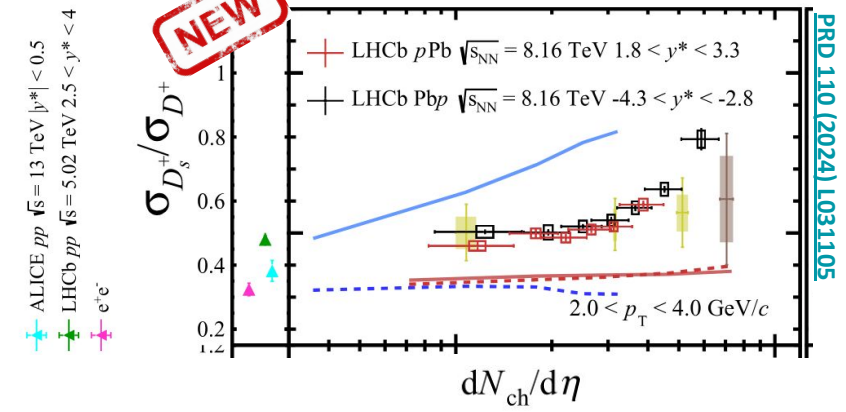
- Models found to **underestimate φ production** at this energy \rightarrow good constraining power for strangeness in phenomenological models

- Better precision wrt previous experiments for J/ψ, but **statistically dominated** for heavier probes
- Motivates **fixed-target system upgrade (SMOG2)**



Strangeness enhancement in charm and beauty

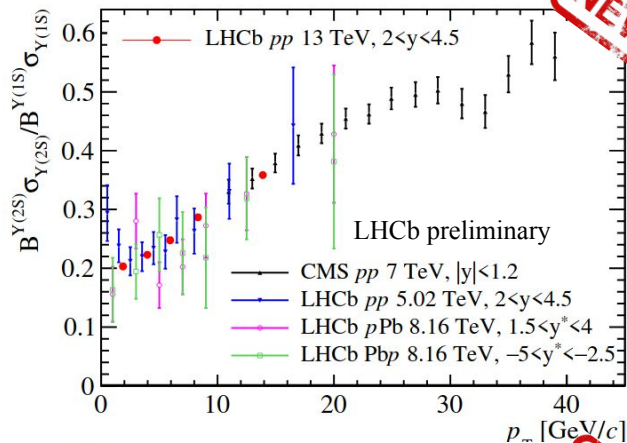
\pm ALICE pPb $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV $-0.96 < y^* < 0.04$ — Pythia8 CR — EPOS4HQ pp
 \pm ALICE PbPb $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV $|y^*| < 0.5$ - - - Pythia8 Monash - - - EPOS4HQ pp w/o coal



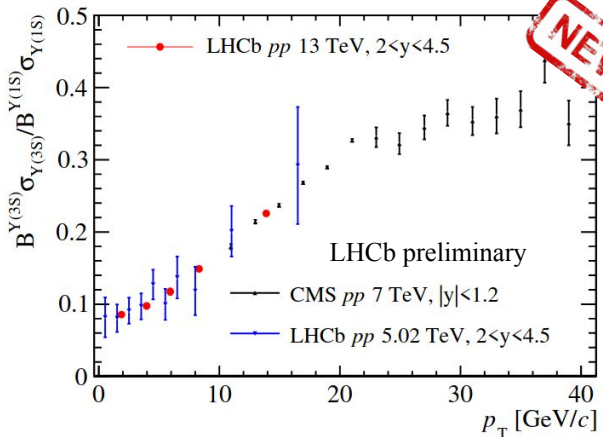
- By studying charm and beauty particle yields as a function of multiplicity, **observed clear indications of strangeness enhancement** in both the charm (left) and beauty (right) sectors, especially at low transverse momenta
- **Final state effects such as coalescence are important at low p_T and high multiplicity**, while the pure fragmentation limits from ee collisions are recovered elsewhere

Recent studies on charmonia and bottomonia

NEW

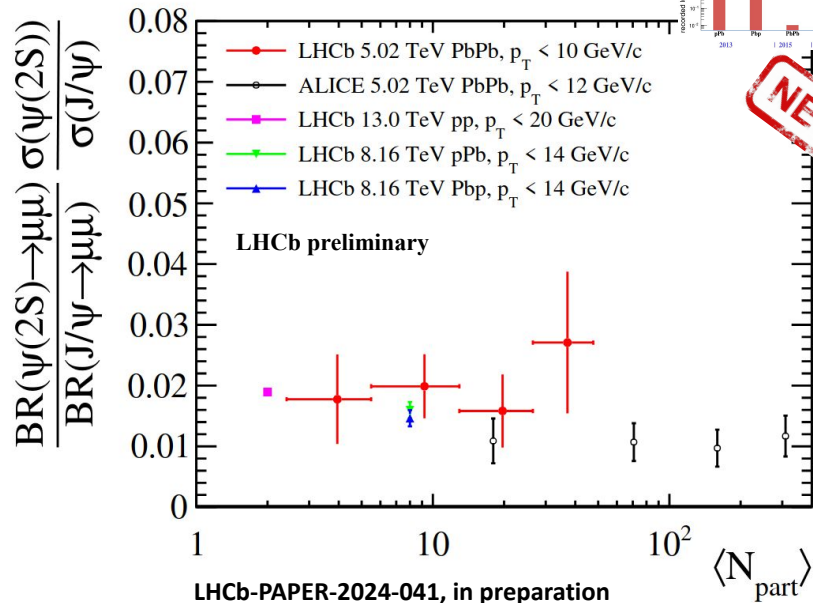
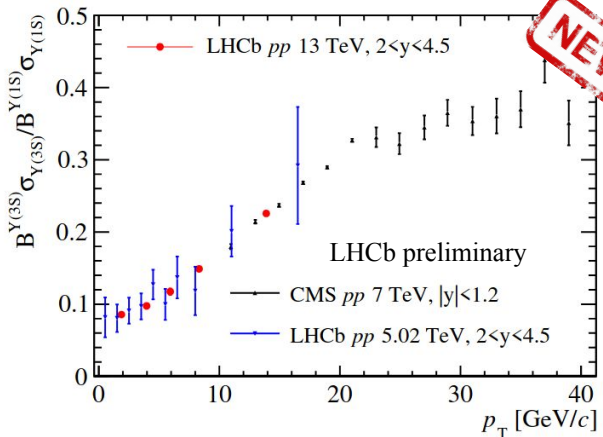
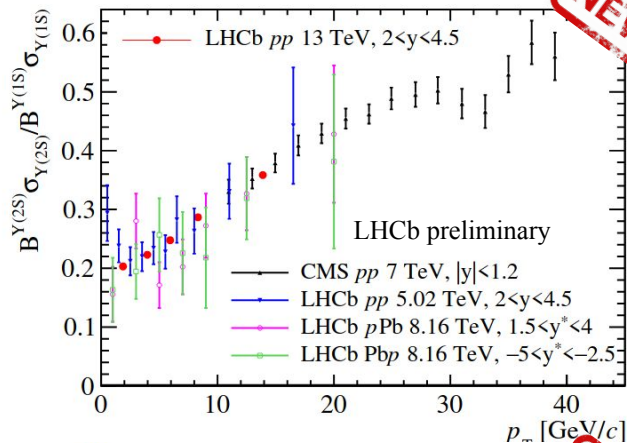


- New LHCb results for $Y(nS)$ production in pp as a function of multiplicity confirms **sequential suppression pattern**
- Comparison in line with previous LHCb and CMS results, with **remarkably small uncertainties** (smaller than the data points)



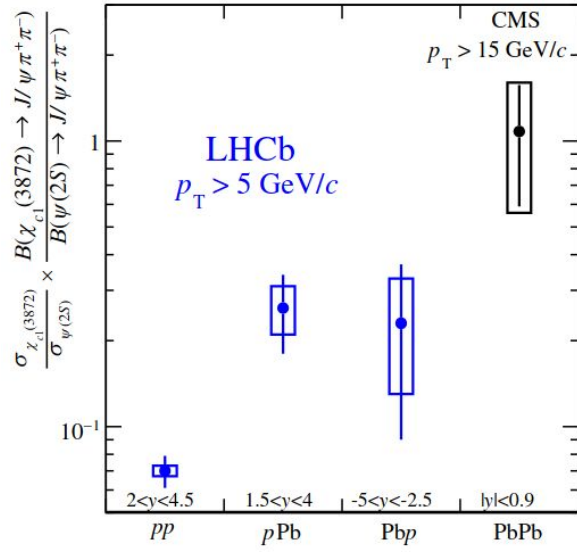
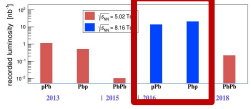
Recent studies on charmonia and bottomonia

LHCb-PAPER-2024-038, in preparation



- Charmonia measurement also performed in a large system
- Statistical uncertainty on $\psi(2s)$ dominant \rightarrow **will be extended and improved with Run3 data**

Exotic hadrons in pp and pPb collisions

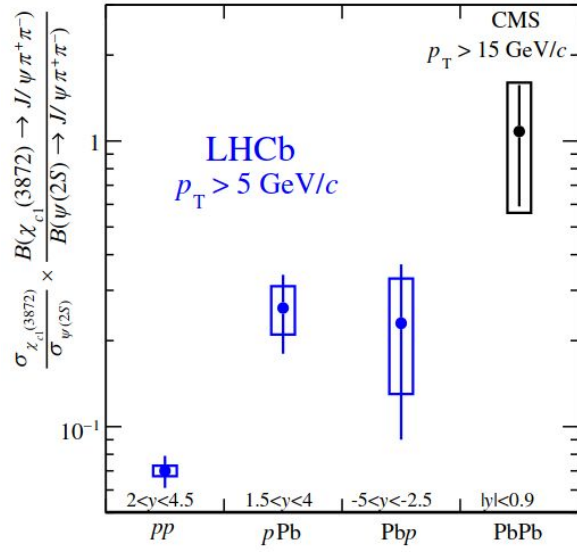
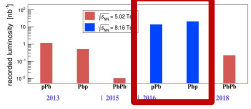


[PRL 132 \(2024\) 242301](#)

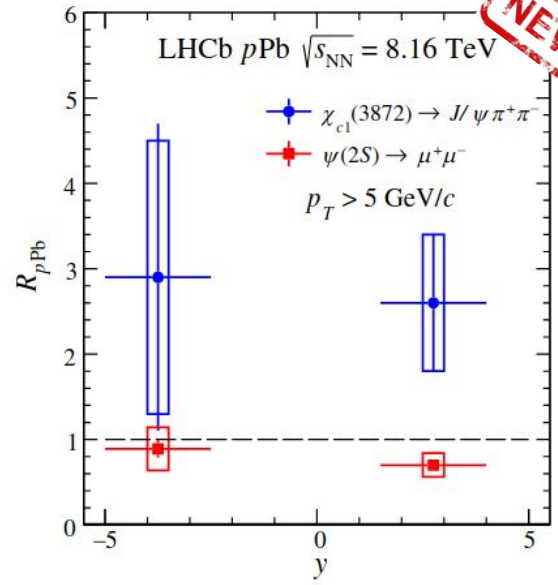
- Exotic multi-quark states also provide a unique view on hadronization mechanisms: does X(3872) have a **compact, a molecular or a hadrocharmonium structure**?
- X enhancement wrt $\psi(2s)$, despite \sim cancellation of initial state effects, hints at a different interaction with the medium \rightarrow is this X enhancement or $\psi(2s)$ suppression?

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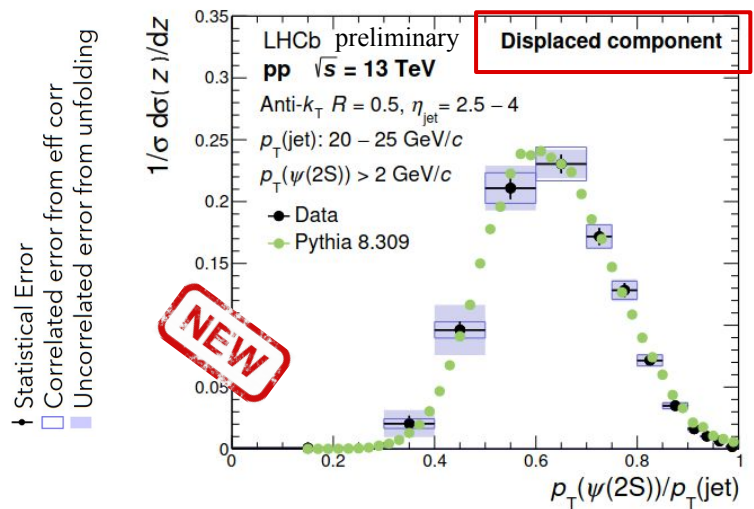
[PRL 132 \(2024\) 242301](#)



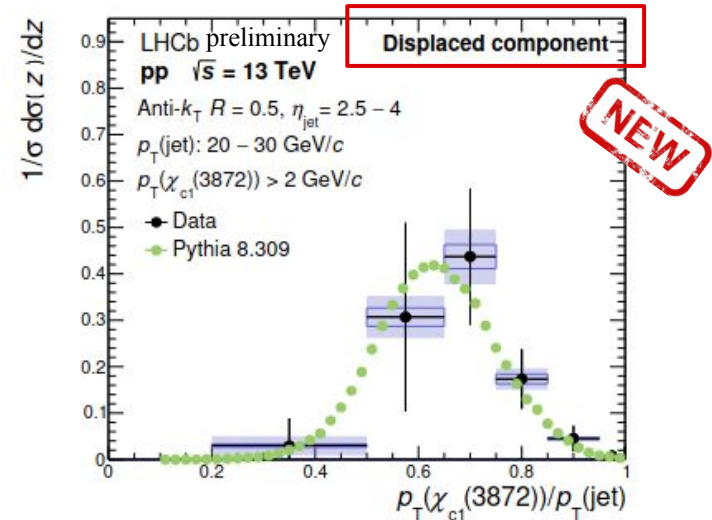
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- **Nuclear modification factor shows X enhancement** \rightarrow coalescence dominating over breakup?

Fragmentation in jets

- $X(3872)$ and $\psi(2s)$ also **reconstructed within jets** to learn more about their production mechanism



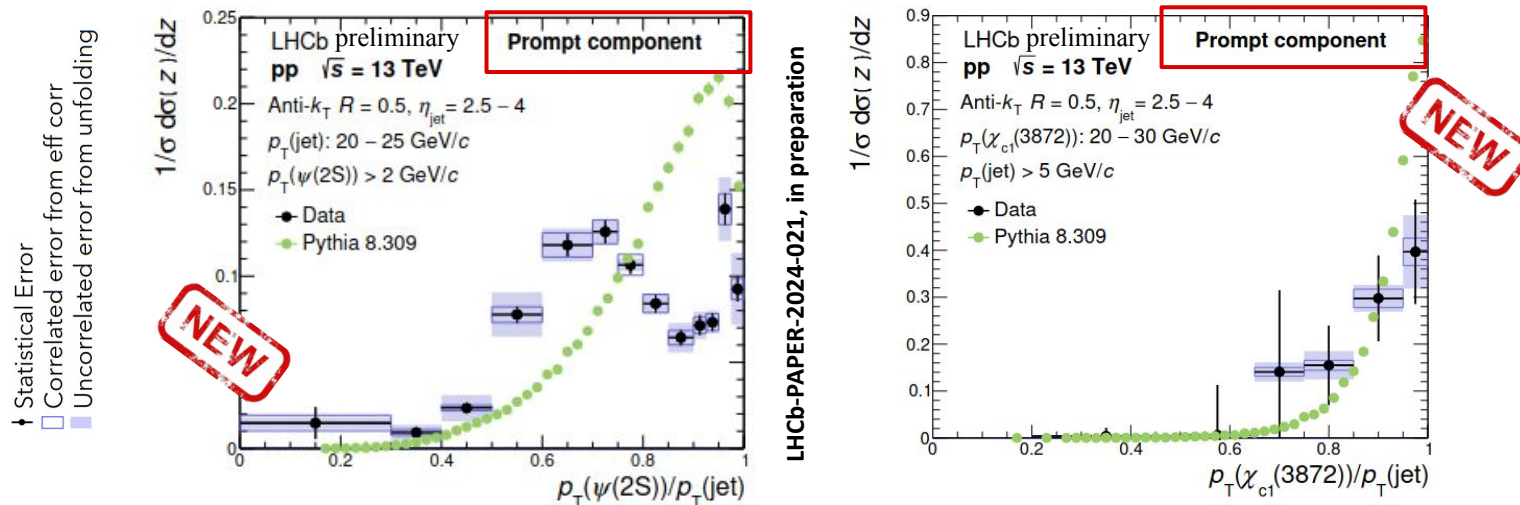
LHCb-PAPER-2024-021, in preparation



- Displaced (from b -decays) distributions of $\psi(2s)$ and $X(3872)$ similar and **well described by Pythia**

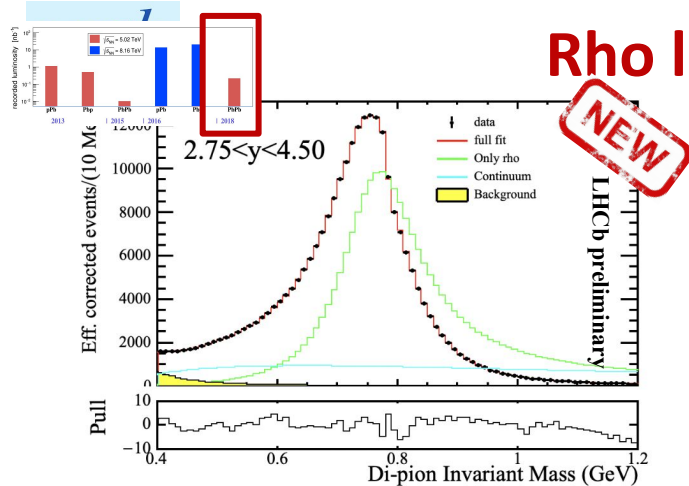
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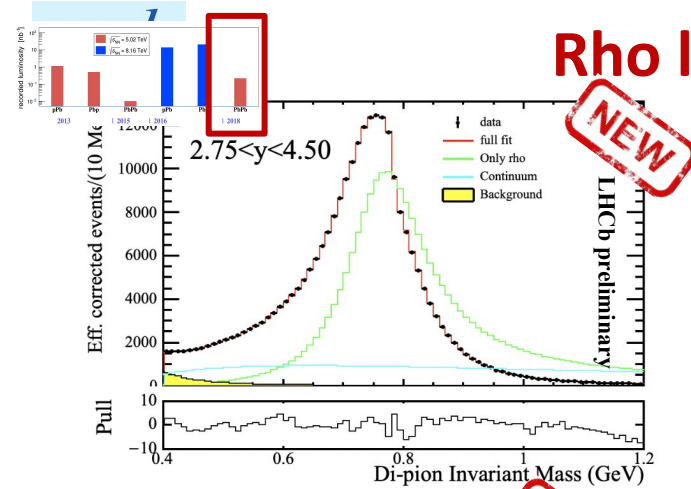
- Displaced (from b -decays) distributions of $\psi(2s)$ and $X(3872)$ similar and **well described by Pythia**
- **Two distinct components are found for prompt production**, especially for $\psi(2s)$ at low p_T , not reproduced by Pythia
- **Further development of theoretical models is needed** to explore the nature of the two components

Rho lineshape in UPC PbPb collisions

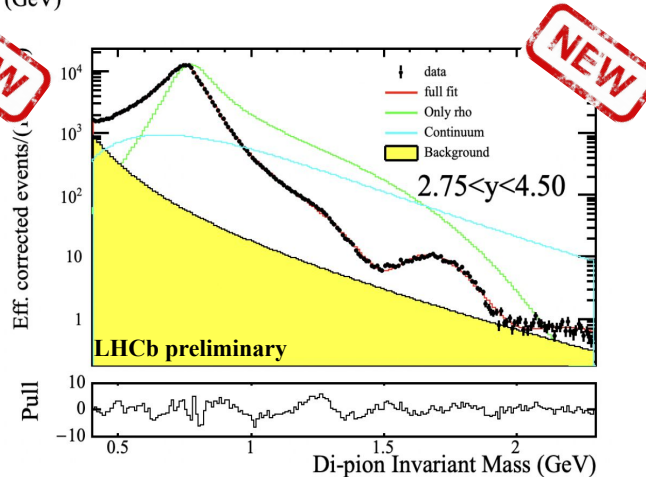
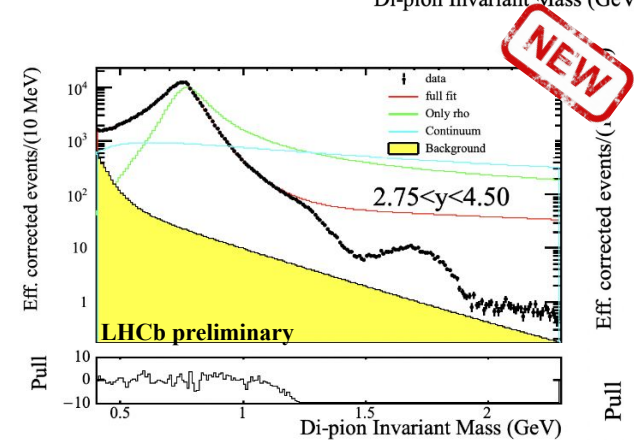


- Very clean sample of UPC di-pions selected by requiring no additional activity in the detector and with PID vetoes
- Fit model by H1 preferred wrt the STAR one in modelling the distribution and the $\rho - \omega$ interference

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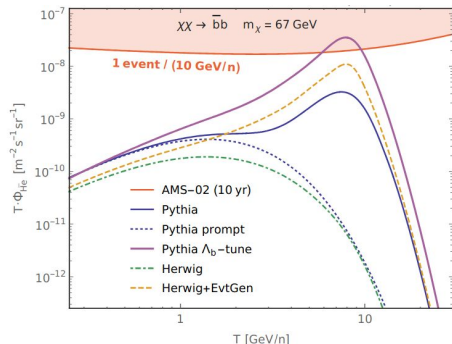
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- ...but extrapolating shows the model is clearly not correct
- **Unambiguous additional resonance**, confirming previous observation by ALICE and STAR
- Fit results **consistent with PDG ρ' particle**
- Cross-sections and p_T spectrum being measured

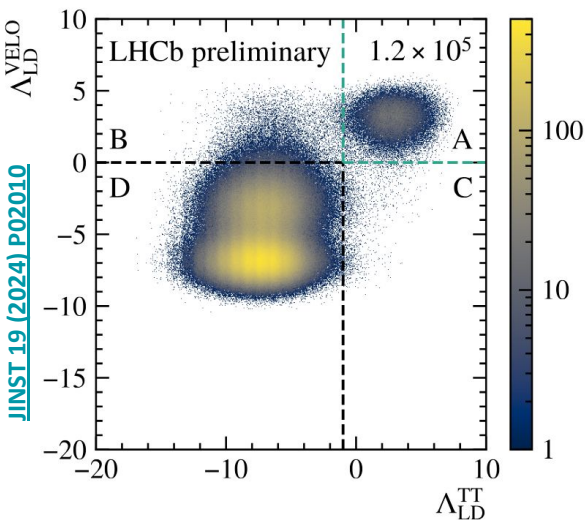
Nuclei production and identification at LHCb

PRL 126 (2021) 101101



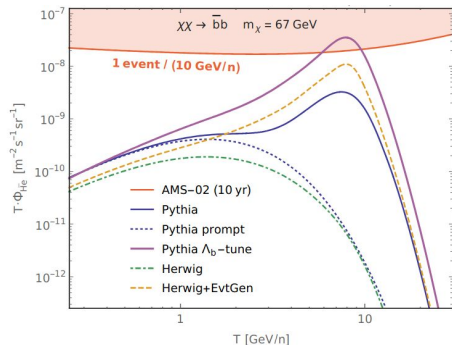
- Discussion ongoing about a **possible explanation of measured AMS He flux** due to $\Lambda_b \rightarrow \text{HeX}$ decays (if $\text{BR} \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$) [PRC 108 \(2023\) 024903](#)
- Innovative **He identification technique** via discriminators built from energy loss in LHCb detectors \rightarrow **very clean He samples (A)**

JINST 19 (2024) P02010



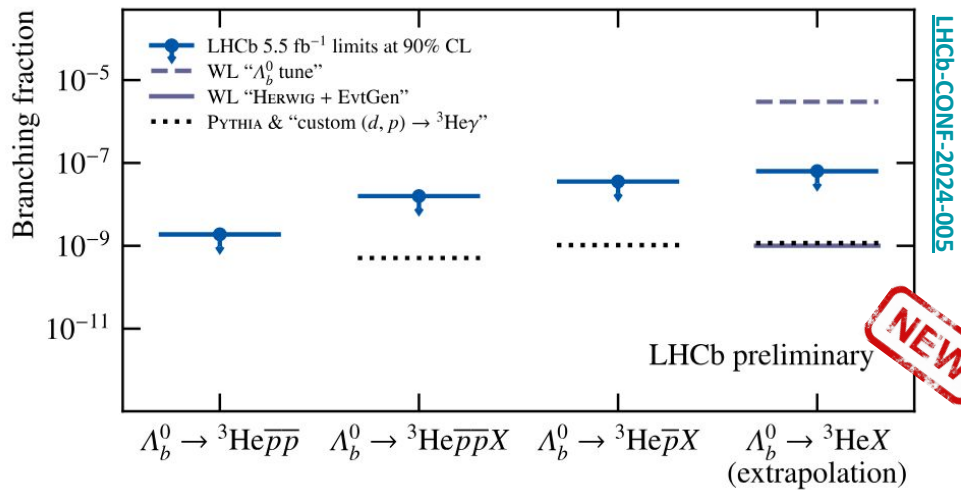
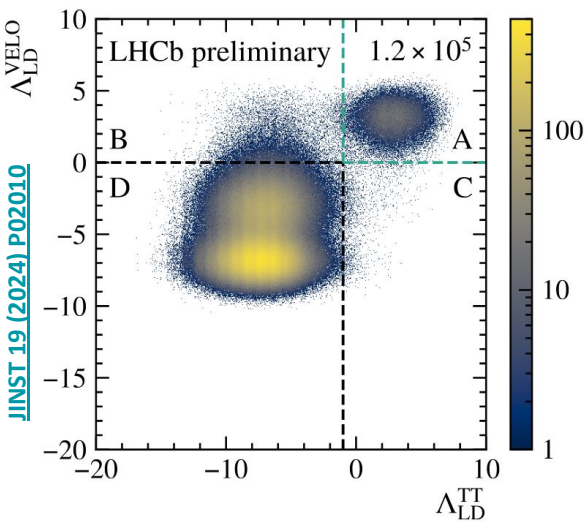
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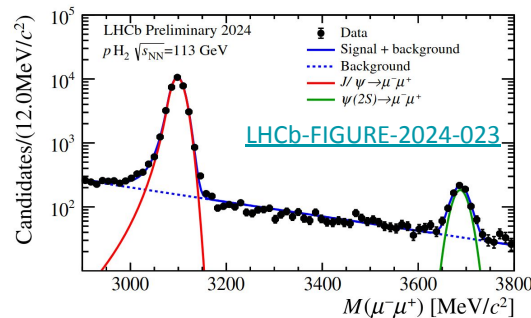
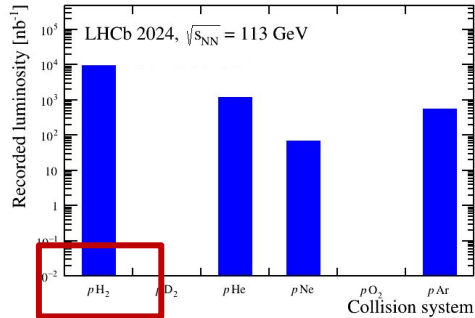
LHCb-CONF-2024-005

- $\Lambda_b^0 \rightarrow ^3\text{He}p\bar{p}$ decay fully reconstructed and extrapolated limits to inclusive channels **significantly restricts He abundance in cosmic rays**

New possibilities with the LHCb Upgrade I

- Now operating at x5 luminosity in pp wrt Run 2, with increased granularity, a software-only real-time data processing and a **continuous beam-gas data-taking (SMOG2)**

[arXiv:2407.14200](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.14200)

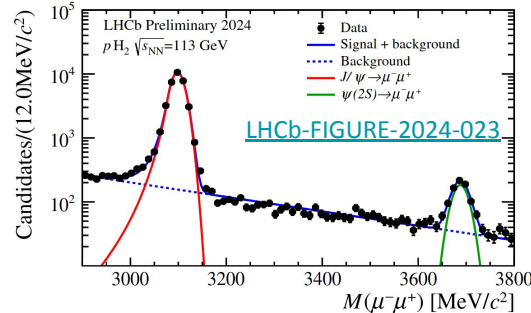
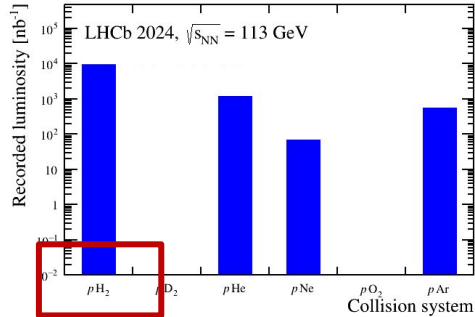


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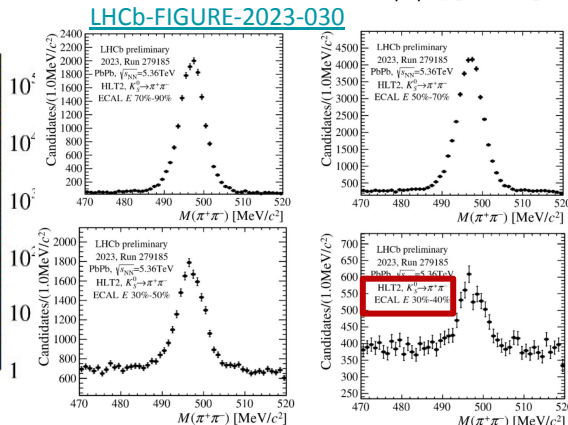
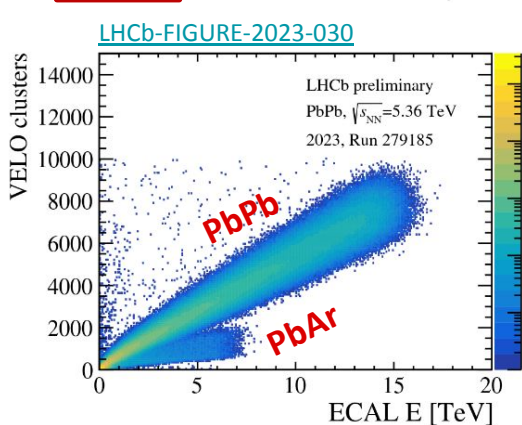
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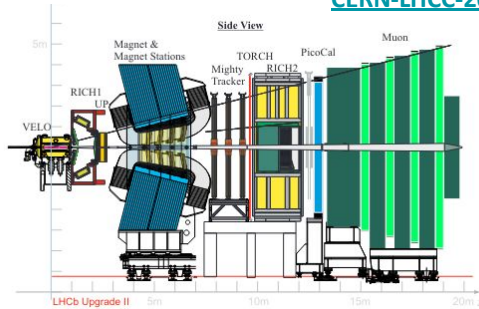
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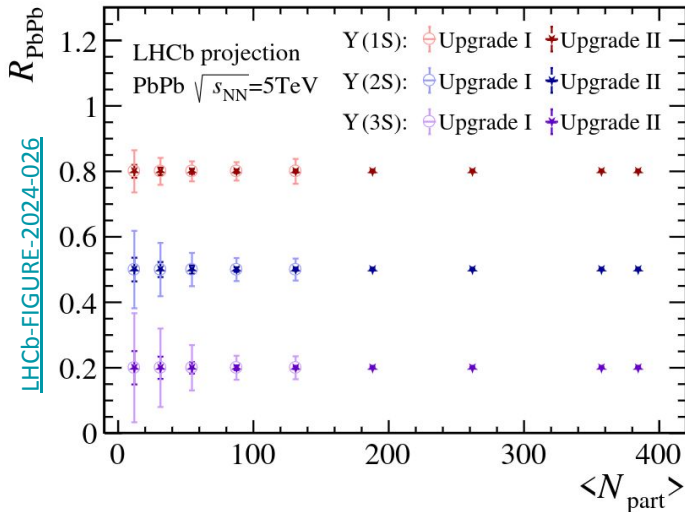
- Accessing full centrality PbA (SMOG2) and **up to semi-central PbPb**
- Several optimisations put in place for 2024 data-taking, with **+70% instantaneous luminosity wrt 2023**

... and even more with the LHCb Upgrade II

CERN-LHCC-2021-012



- Scoping scenarios recently submitted, with support for **full centrality PbPb reach** included by design
- Include **tracking stations in the magnet**, increasing acceptance down to 50 MeV p_T
- **Addition of timing** improves LHCb capabilities for nuclei ID



- **Unique prospects** recently discussed [in a workshop](#) with the theoretical community: from bulk physics to heavy-flavour, jets, high-statistics of exotica and electromagnetic probes, CEP and UPC
- In parallel, R&D ongoing to polarise the injected gas and open a new gate with the **study of polarised collisions at LHC** (highly complementary to EIC)

[arXiv:1901.08002](https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.08002)



Conclusions

- LHCb has a **unique** and continuously expanding heavy-ion and fixed-target programme
- Now embracing soft and hard probes production in small to large collisions systems, hadronization studies, UPC, collectivity and (hyper)nuclei production. **New ideas and interested people keep arriving**
- **Just started to exploit the Upgrade I detector**, i.e. semi-central PbPb collisions and high-statistics pA and PbA datasets at a unique energy scale
- **Upgrade II is on the horizon**, offering no centrality limitations, precise timing for nuclei identification and possibly a polarised fixed-target programme
- Stay tuned, **LHCb will keep surprising!**

Thanks for your attention!

Follow up? saverio.mariani@cern.ch

LHCb results at Hard Probes 2024

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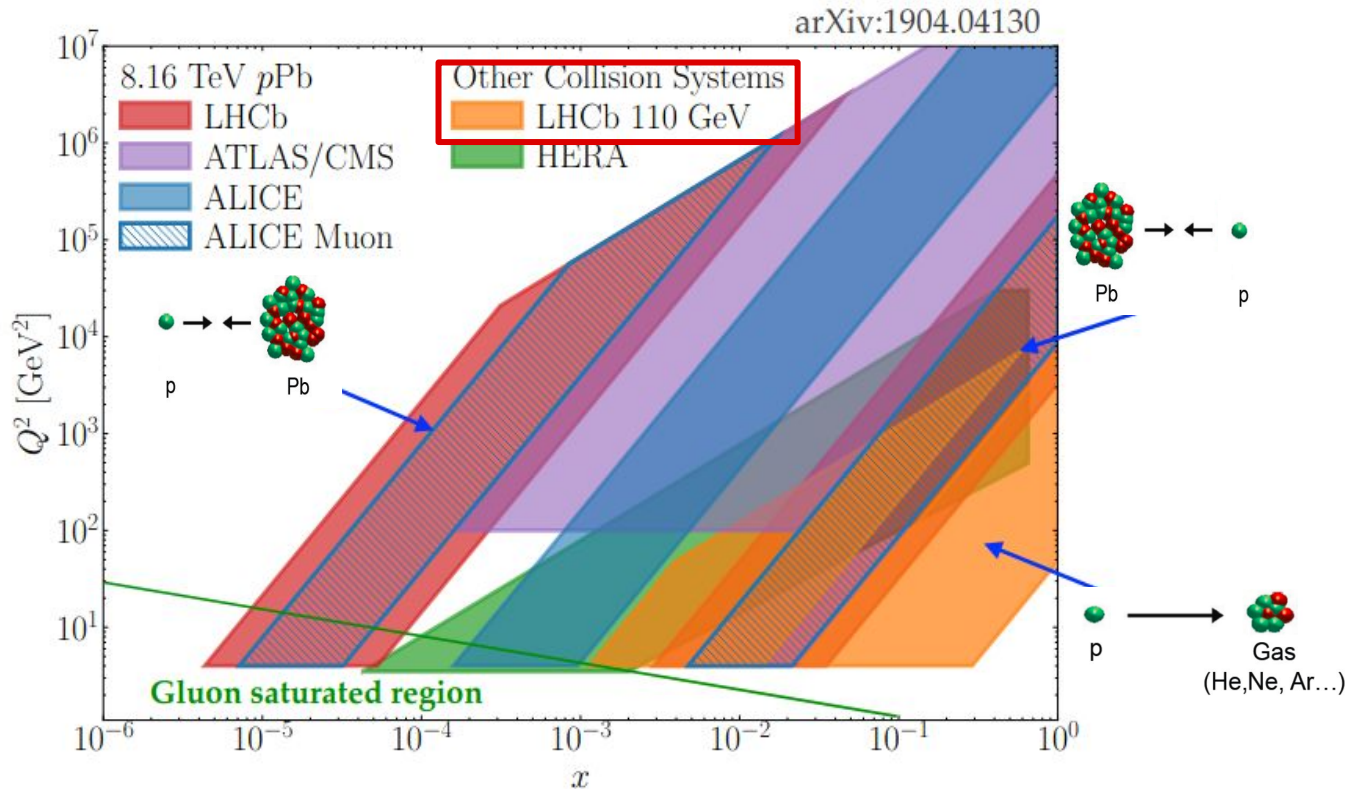
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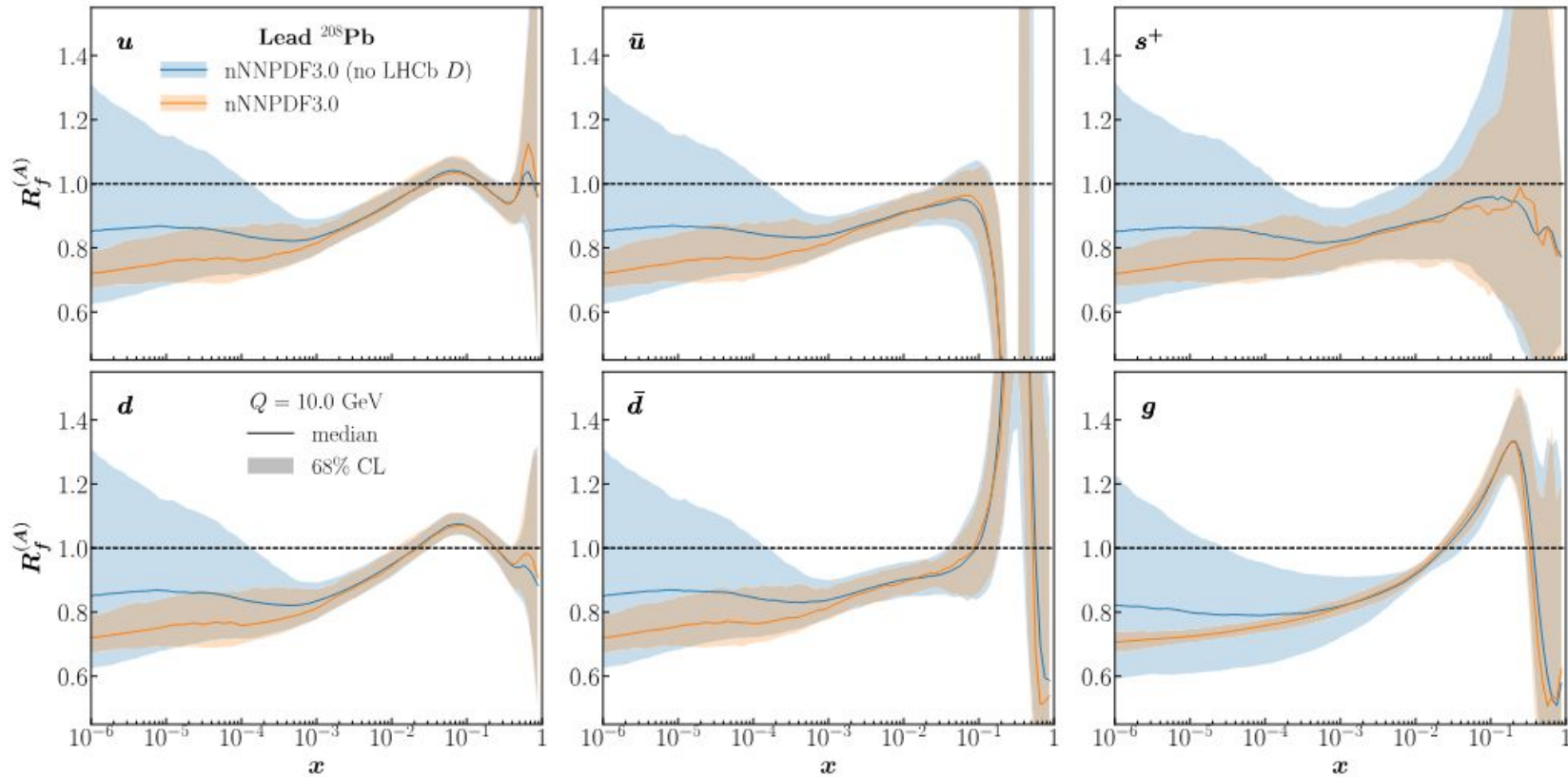
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Backup

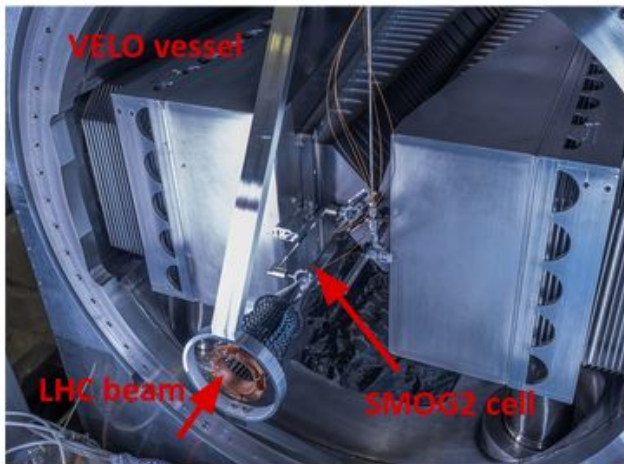
LHCb acceptance for HI and fixed-target



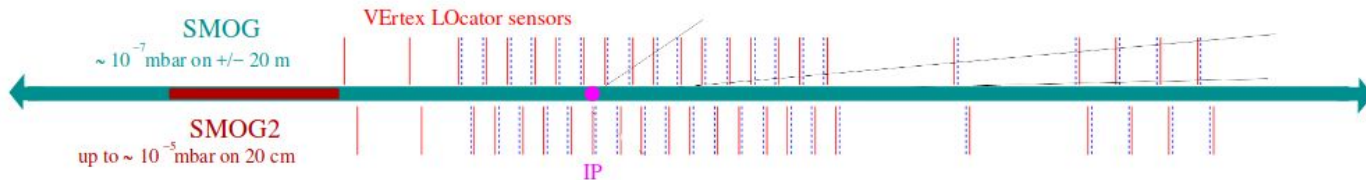
LHCb power in constraining nPDFs



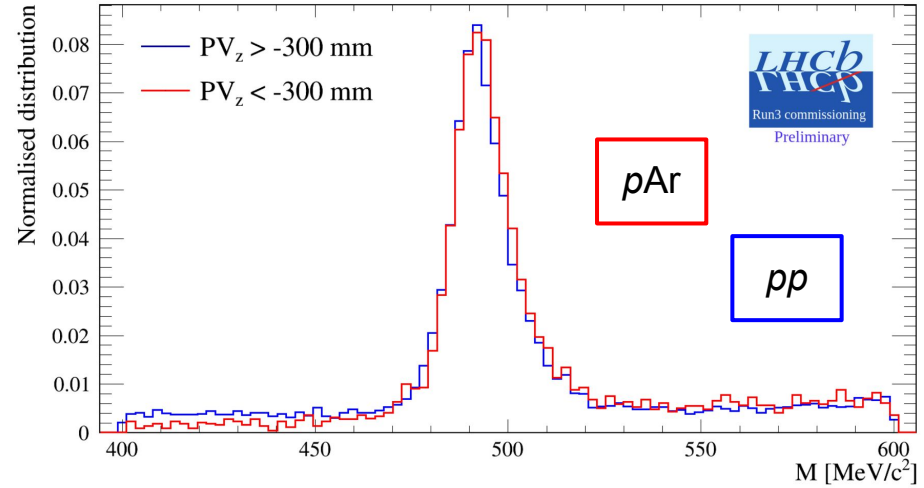
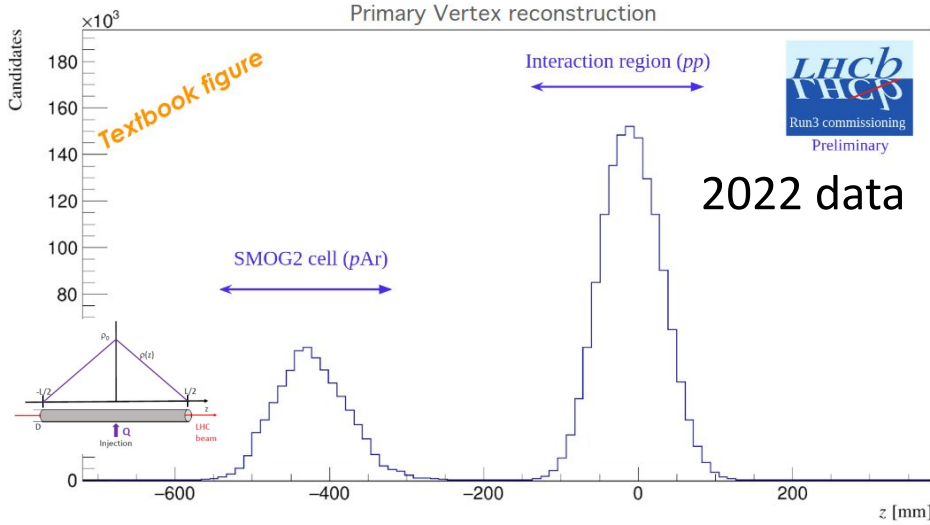
The SMOG2 system



- **SMOG2:** gas confinement in a cell upstream of the LHCb IP ($z \in [-541, -341]$ mm), installed in 2020
 - Cell made up of two halves, to be opened and closed together with the VELO
 - Up to x100 density wrt SMOG for the same gas flow
 - Simultaneous beam-beam beam-gas data-taking
 - Heavy noble (Kr, Xe) and non-noble gases (H_2 , D_2 , O_2 , $N_2 \dots$) can be injected
- **New Gas Feed System**
 - Precise flow control → direct lumi measurement
 - More gas recipients → fast gas replacement



The SMOG2 system (II)



- **SMOG2 working simultaneously and continuously** with beam-beam operations, collecting two datasets in two different collision systems at two different cm energies
- Reconstruction performance and momentum resolution **similar between pp and pA**

Physics opportunities with the SMOG2 system

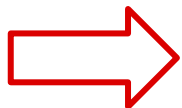
- The **wider choice of gases, the increase in injected pressure** and the simultaneous beam-beam and beam-gas data-taking open new possibilities

LHCb-PUB-2018-015

	SMOG largest sample p-Ne@68 GeV	SMOG2 example p-Ar@115 GeV
Integrated luminosity	$\sim 100 \text{ nb}^{-1}$	100 pb^{-1}
syst. error on J/ψ x-sec.	6-7%	2-3 %
J/ψ yield	15k	35M
D^0 yield	100k	350M
Λ_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

- Precision studies of **charm sequential suppression**, bottomonia, low-mass DY

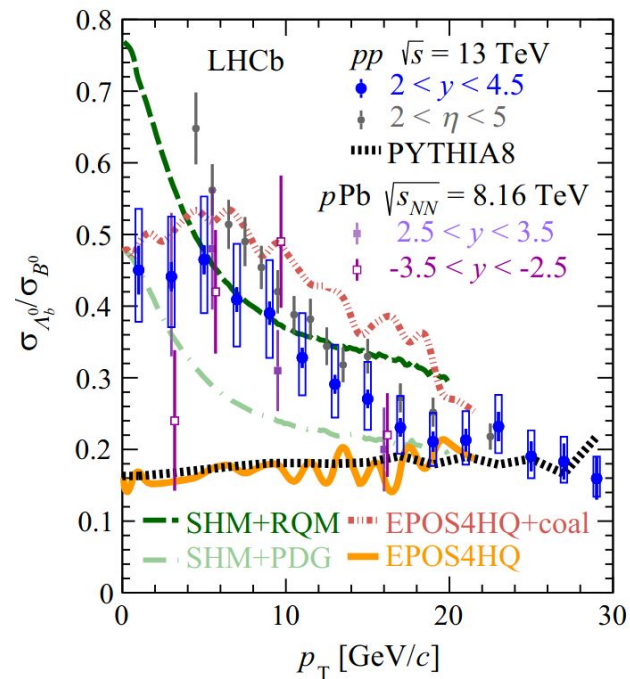
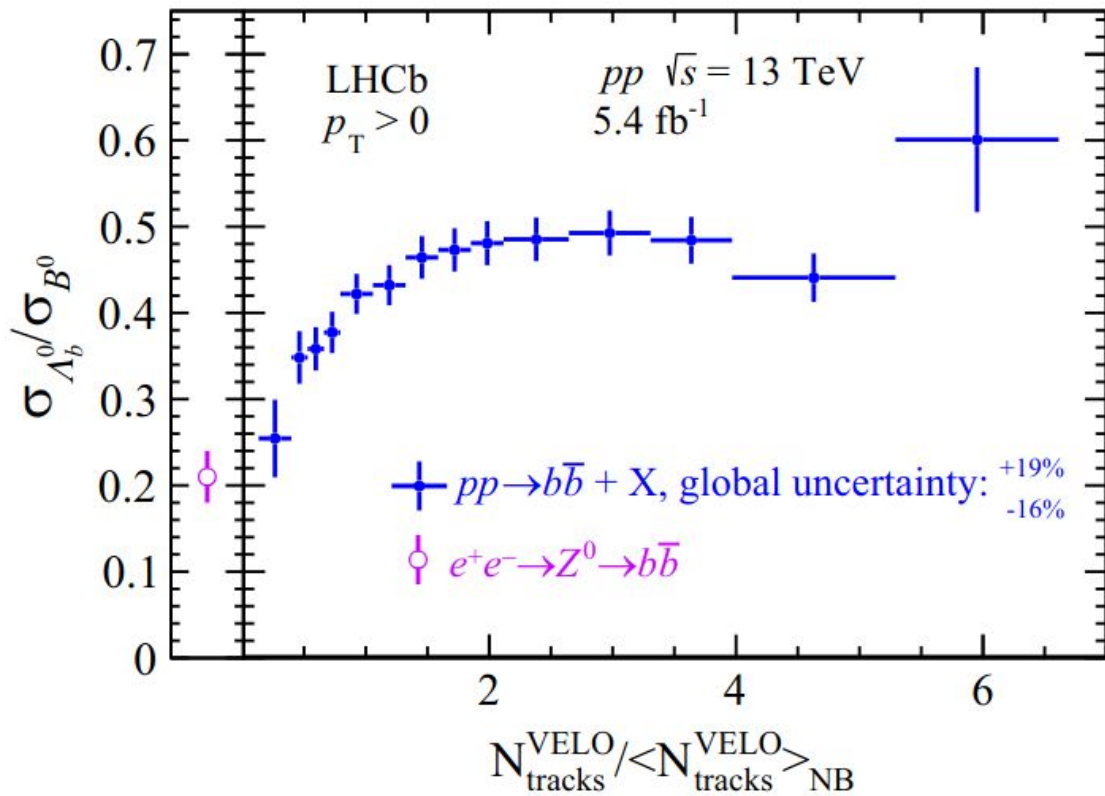
- Detailed study of the high-x **parton PDFs and probes for TMDs**
- High-statistics ultra-peripheral ρ , ω , charmonia and bottomonia states with **high-Z targets**
- Extension of the programme of cosmic rays interest: antimatter production in the galaxy **with H_2 , D_2 , He; atmospheric showers with N_2 , O_2**

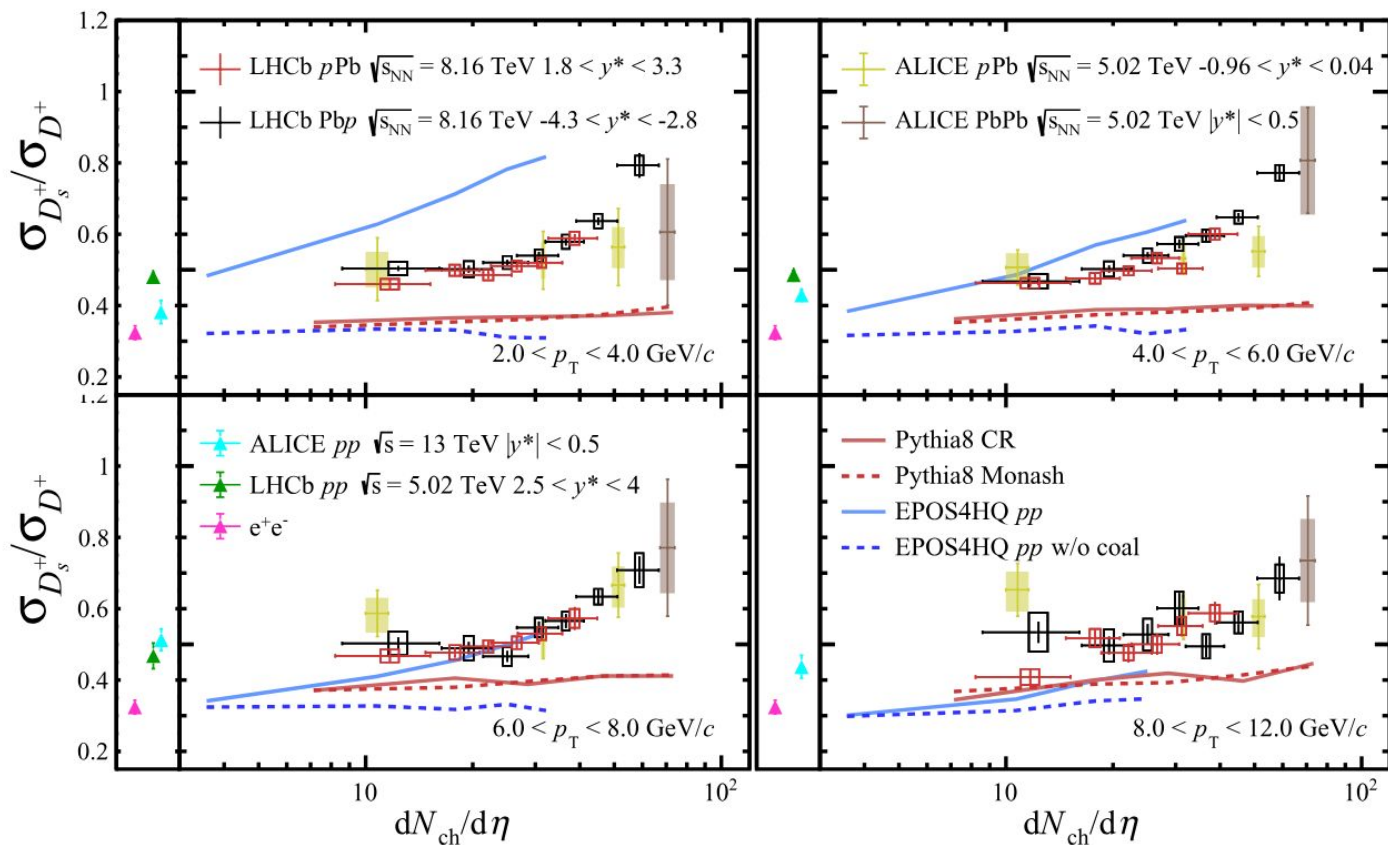


A unique laboratory for many and diverse QCD studies at the LHC!

Enhanced production of Λ_b baryons

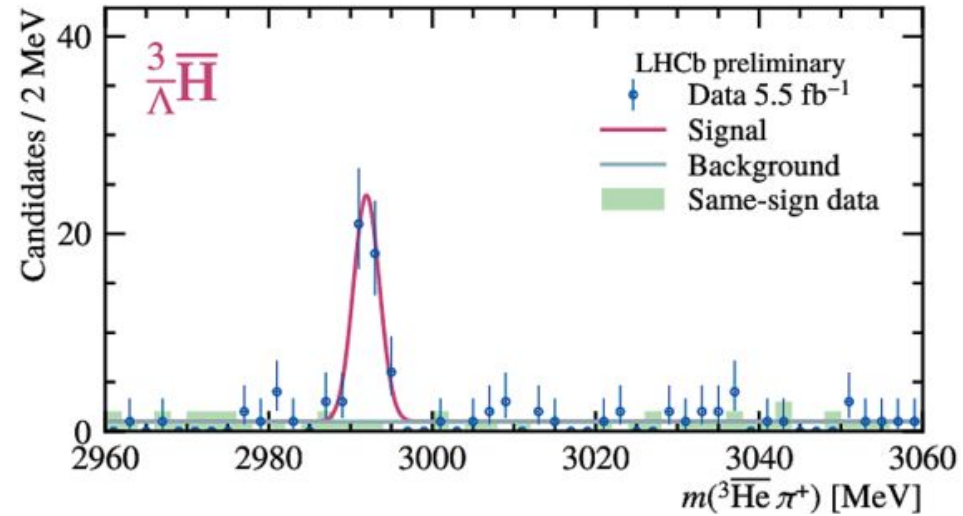
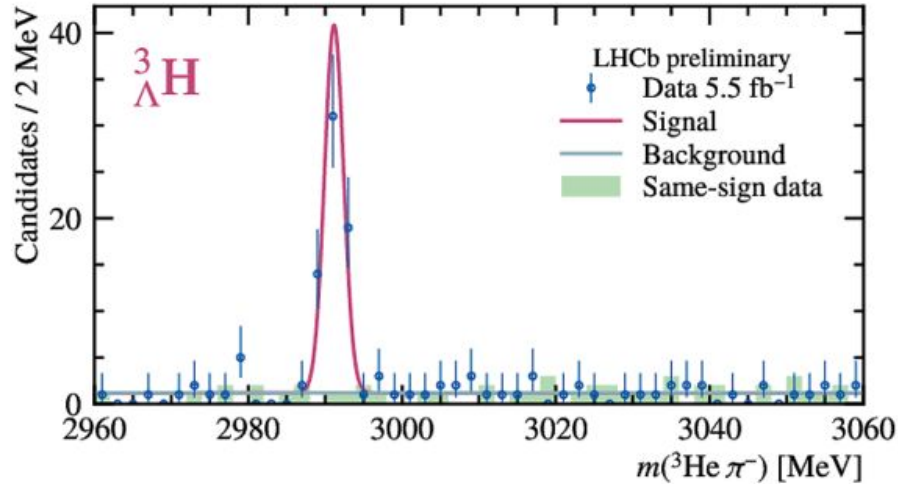
PRL 132 (2024) 081901





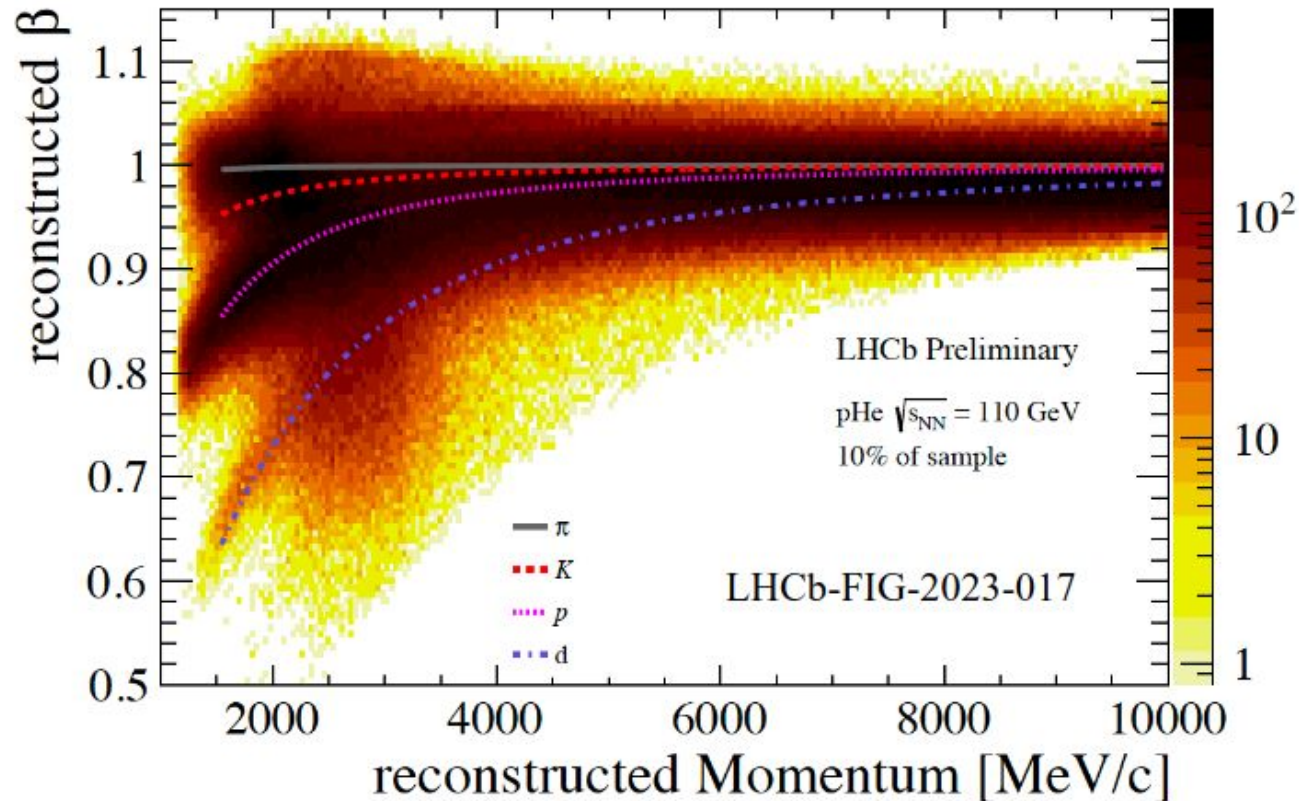
PRD 110 (2024) L031105

(Anti)hypertriton studies at LHCb



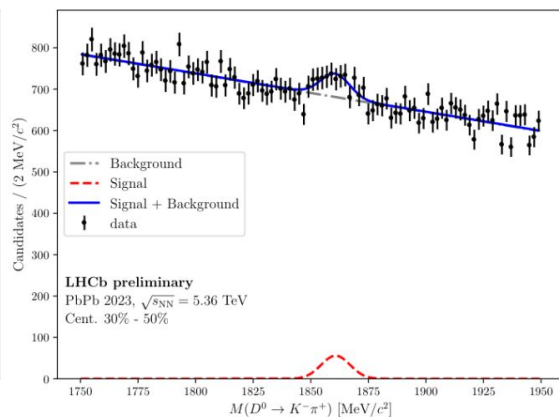
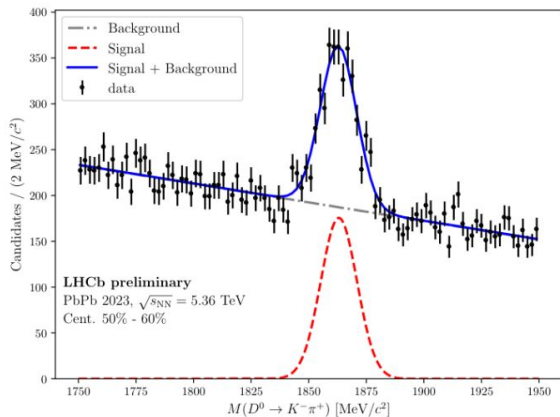
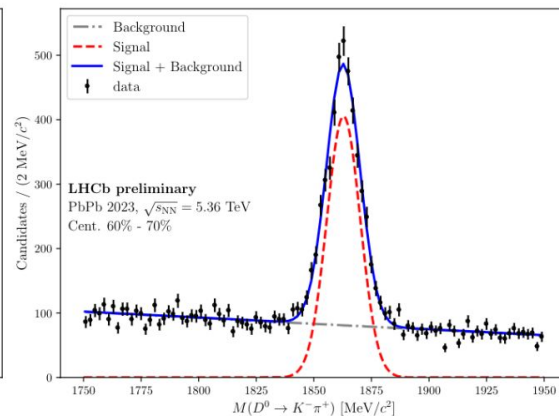
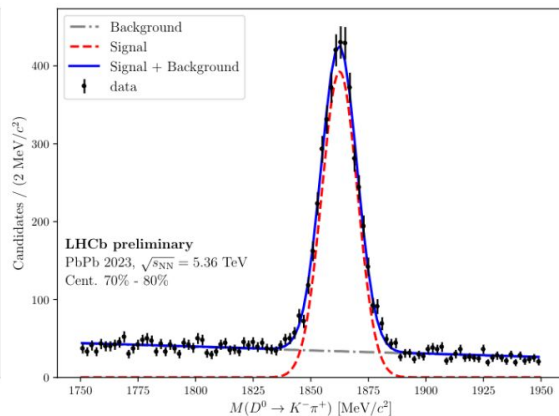
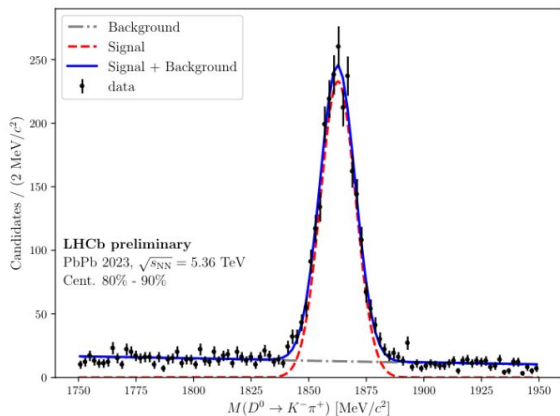
- Very clean sample of selected (anti)Helium nuclei + VELO pointing resolutions → very clean **anti-hypertriton peaks!**

Deuteron identification technique



- With SMOG p He data, deuteron nuclei identified via LHCb TOF capabilities
- First measurement of d production in p He collisions, largely impactful for the searches CR

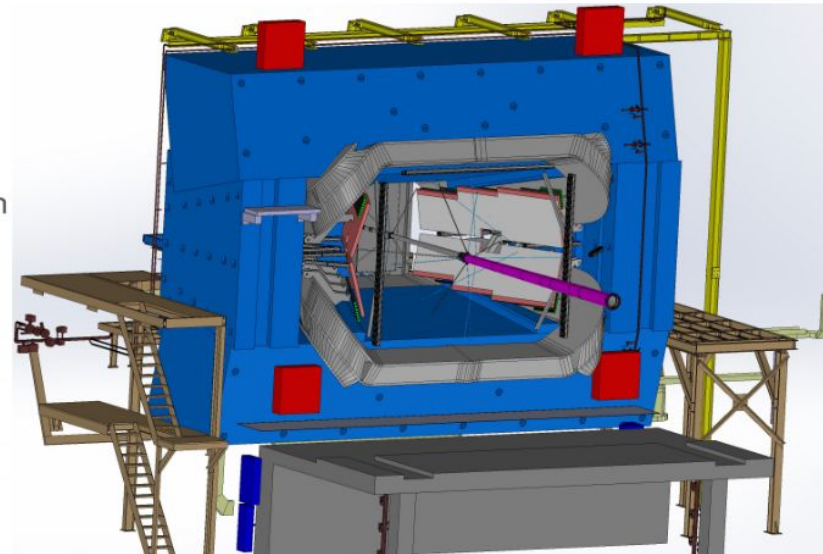
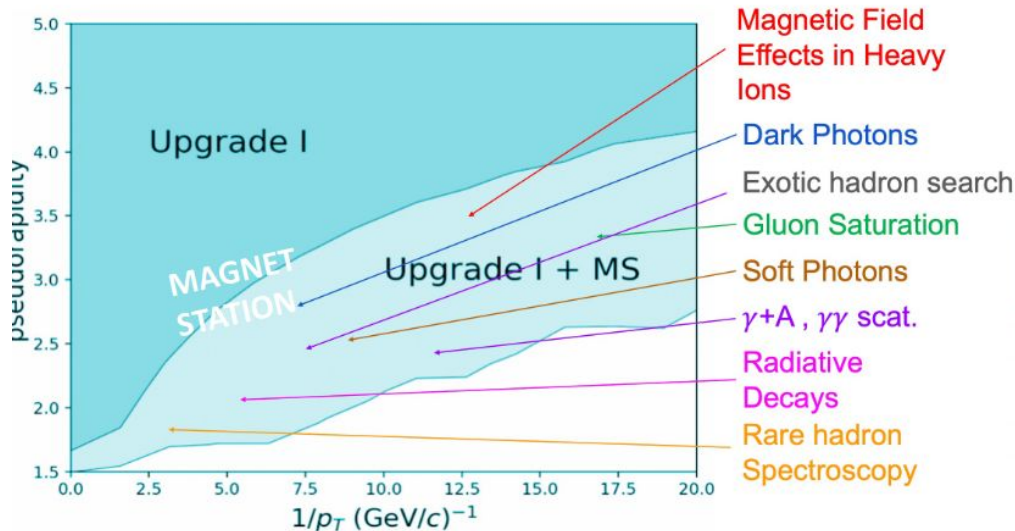
Charm mass peak in PbPb 2023



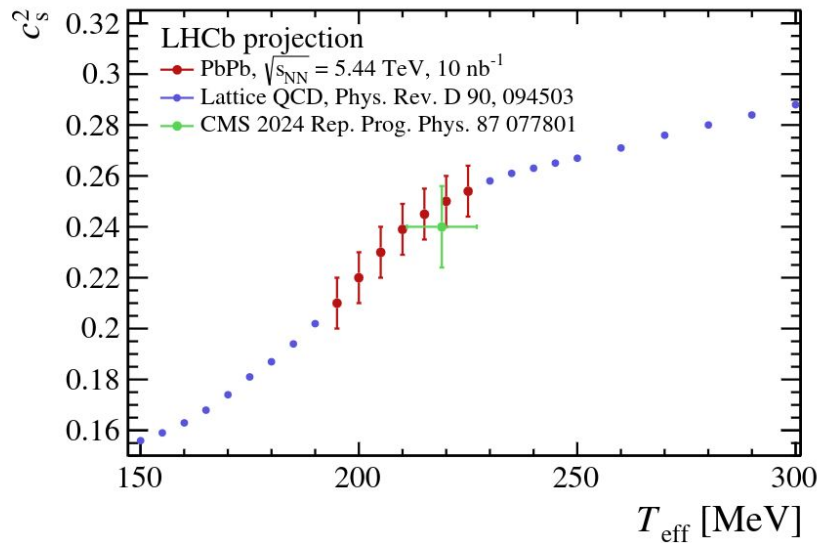
- Despite the challenging 2023 PbPb conditions (VELO open, no UT), D^0 at larger centralities wrt Run 2 already observed!
- Very good prospects for 2024

Magnet stations

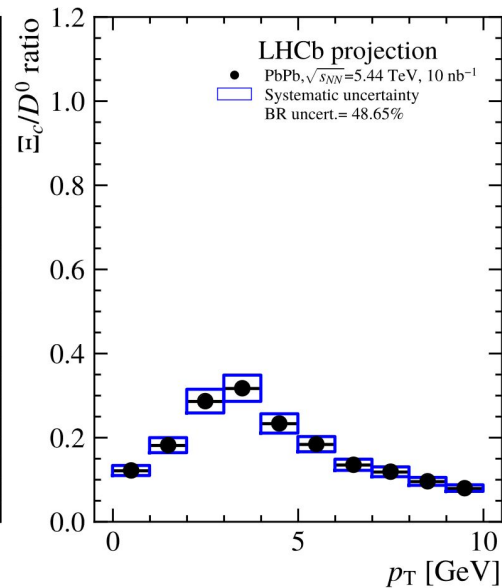
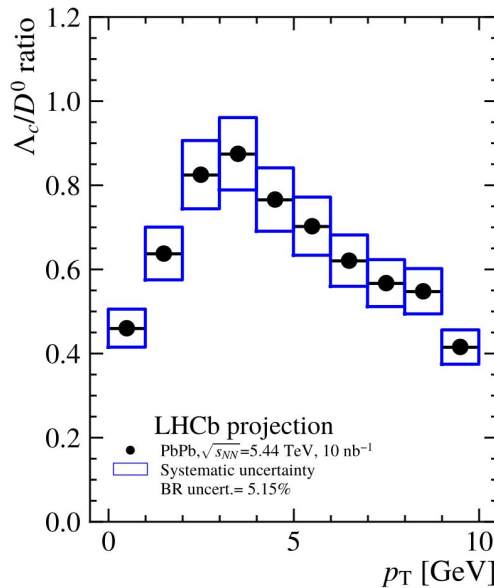
- Scintillating bar tracker for very soft particles at LHCb, start installation LS3
- Expands soft physics channels previously unreachable at the LHC.
- Allows access to very low x , Q^2 region where gluon saturation may exist in nuclei.



Some other opportunities for LHCb UII



- bulk physics \rightarrow speed of sound



- open charm baryon-to-meson ratios

Prospects for LHCSpin (I)

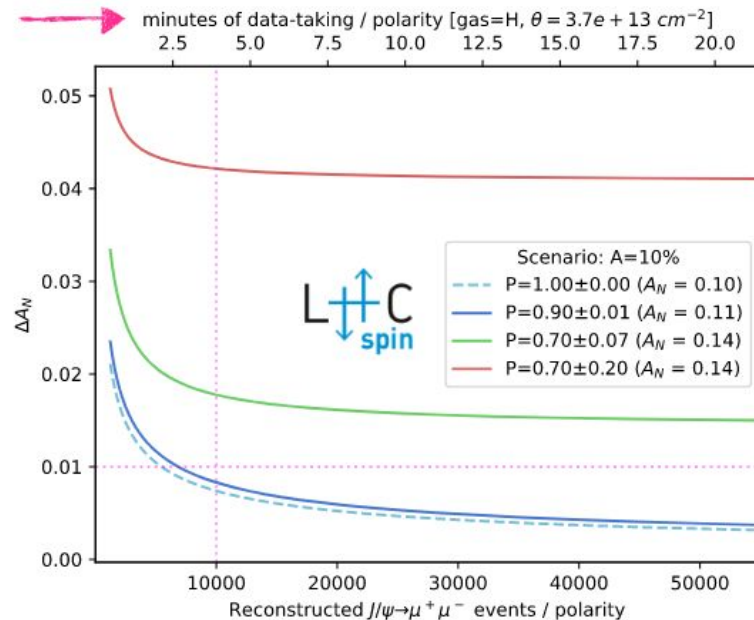
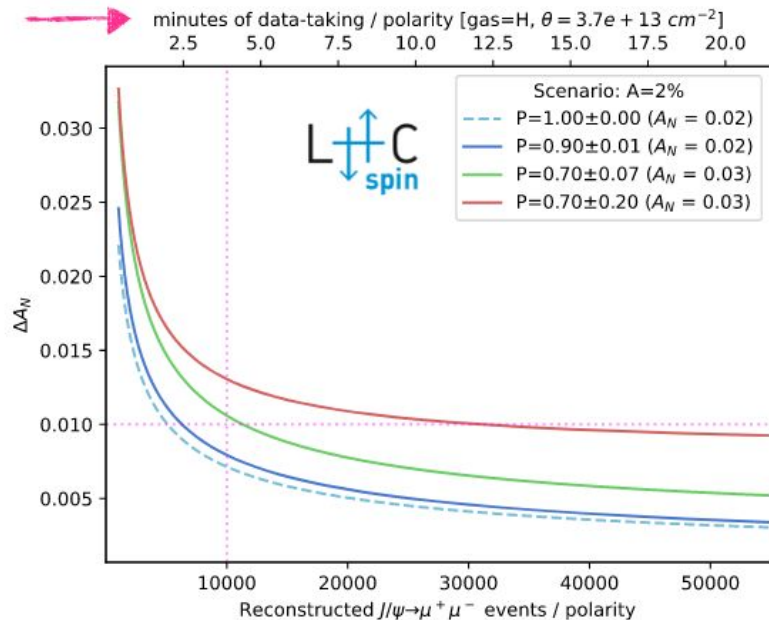
Channel	Events / week	Total yield
$J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	1.3×10^7 !!	1.5×10^9
$D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$	6.5×10^7	7.8×10^9
$\psi(2S) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	2.3×10^5	2.8×10^7
$J/\psi J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \mu^+ \mu^-$ (DPS)	8.5	1.0×10^3
$J/\psi J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \mu^+ \mu^-$ (SPS)	2.5×10^1	3.1×10^3
Drell Yan ($5 < M_{\mu\mu} < 9$ GeV)	7.4×10^3	8.8×10^5
$\Upsilon \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	5.6×10^3	6.7×10^5
$\Lambda_c^+ \rightarrow p K^- \pi^+$	1.3×10^6	1.5×10^8

- **Unique prospects for TMD models!**

- By scaling 2022 performance (during commissioning) and assuming Run3 beam, 120 weeks of data-taking with 84h/week and expected LHCSpin areal density ($3.7 \cdot 10^{13}/\text{cm}^2$)
- **Very large statistics of fully-reconstructed and selected events!**
- Lighter states also fine with the jet target option (x0.4 factor to be considered), challenging to get double J/ψ production

Prospects for LHCSpin (II)

$$A_N = \frac{1 N^\uparrow - N^\downarrow}{P N^\uparrow + N^\downarrow}$$



- Can reach very precise measurement in a few minutes of data-taking!