



# Ideas related to testing coalescence

- An idea that can maybe work for both light and heavy flavour coalescence



# We are also a mix of explorers and gold diggers





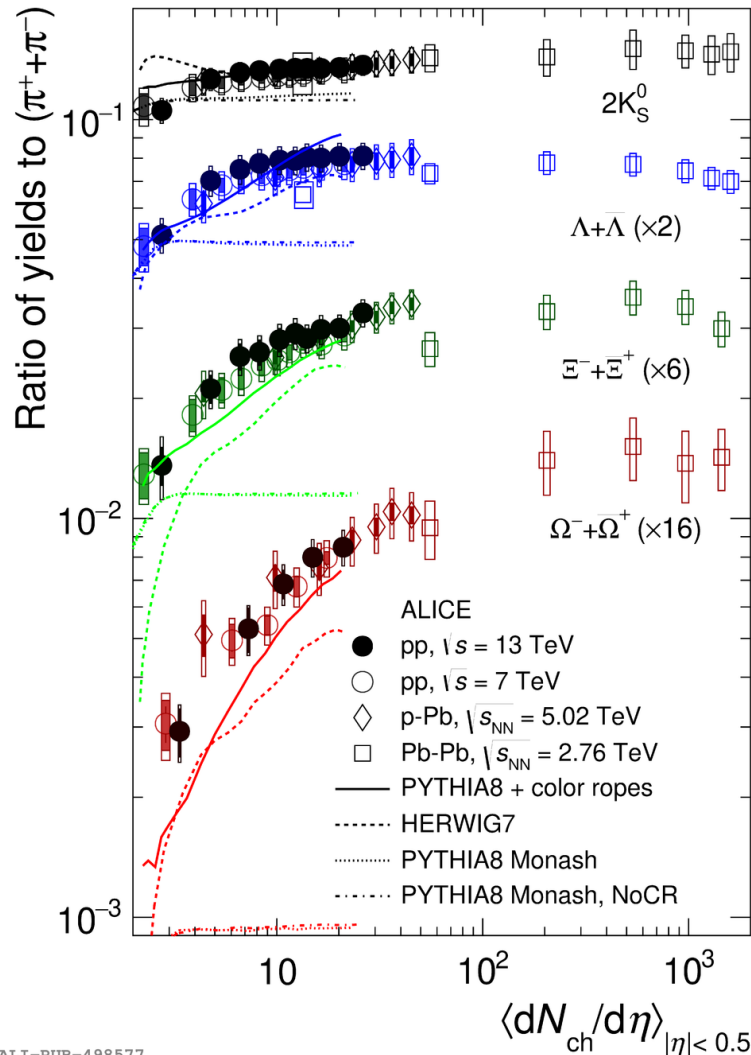
# We are also a mix of explorers and gold diggers



Sometimes, we need to use our intuition  
and guess

# General problem

ALICE, Eur. Phys. J. C 80 (2020) 693



- Many models – especially after some time – can describe the same data
- Not even clear if discrepancies are problematic or just due to a necessary approximation

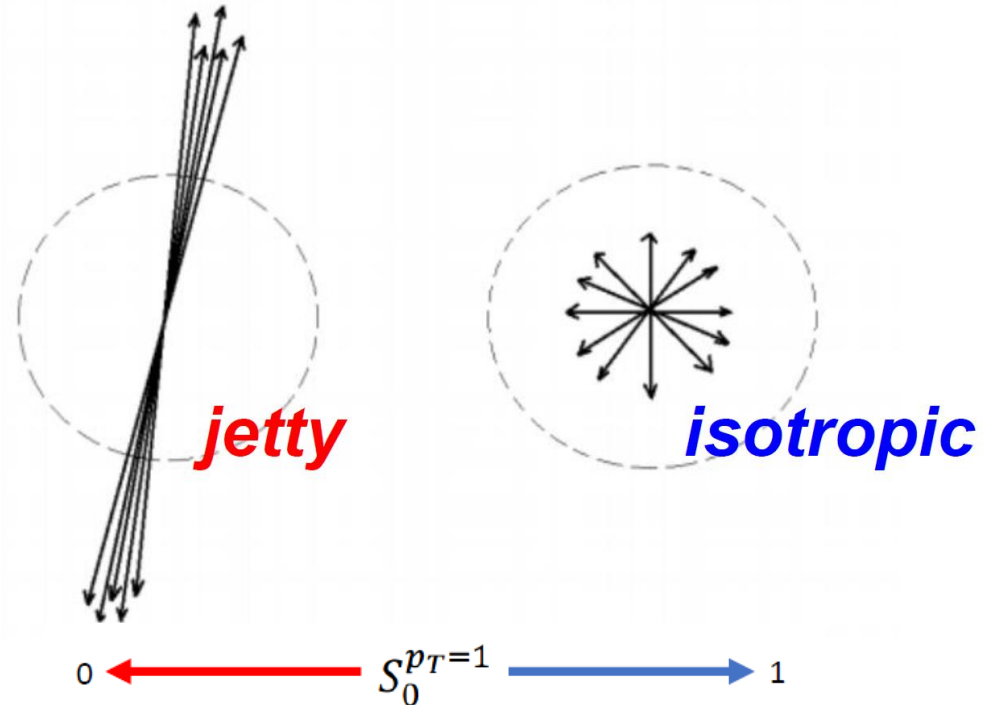




# Transverse Spherocity $S_0$

Define the unweighted transverse spherocity:

$$S_0^{p_T=1} = \frac{\pi^2}{4} \min_{\hat{n}} \left( \frac{\sum_{tracks} |\hat{p}_T \times \hat{n}|}{N_{tracks}} \right)^2$$

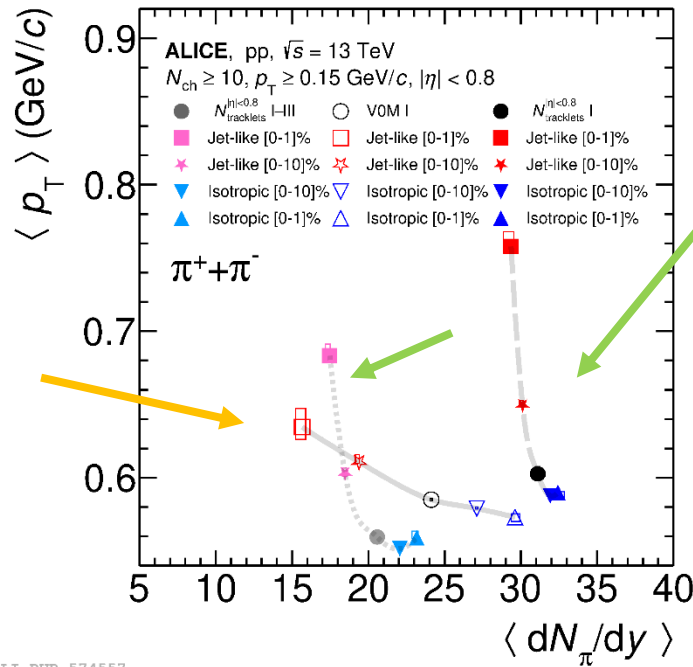


- Most other ALICE results were for the  $p_T$ -weighted  $S_0$ 
  - We need this change because we study shortlived and neutral particles
  - Will call it  $S_0$  in the following

# The effect of $S_0$ selection for different multiplicity estimators

## Forward estimator

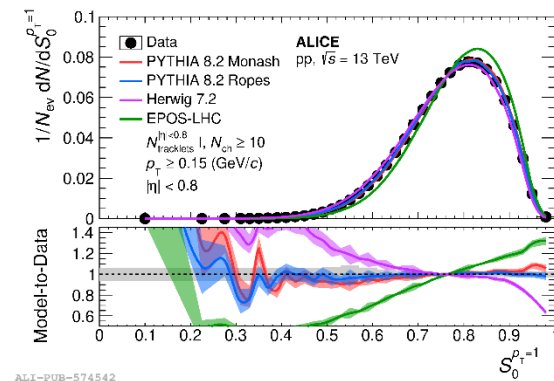
Different region than where we measure  $S_0$   
Shown for top 10%.  
(typically used in ALICE to avoid autocorrelations)



ALI-PUB-574557

## Mid-rapidity estimator

Same region where we measure  $S_0$



ALI-PUB-574542

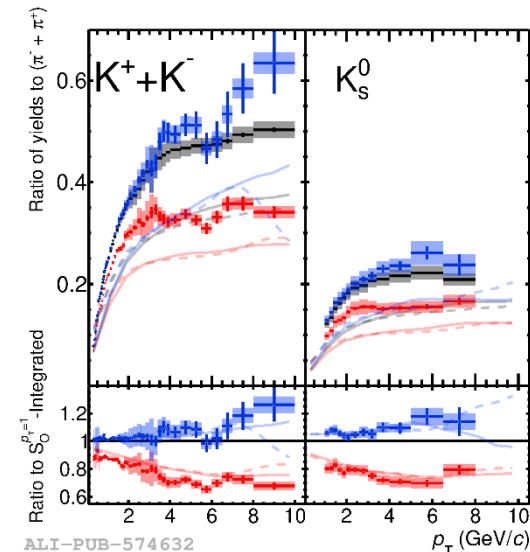
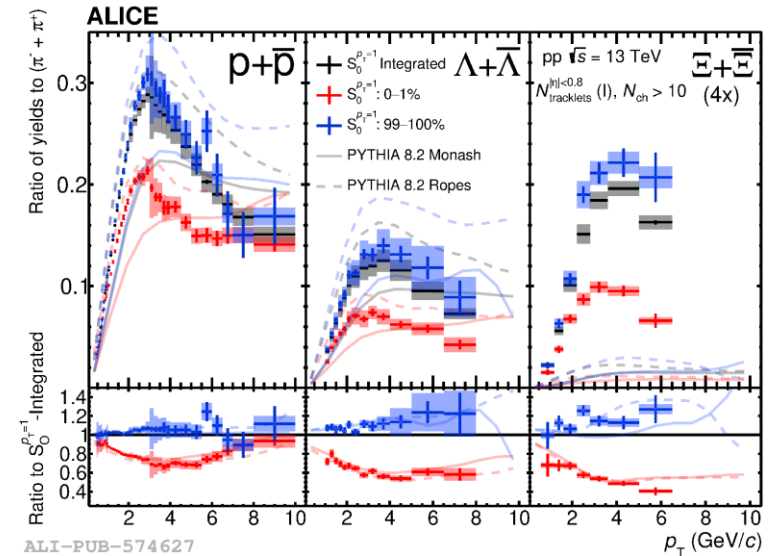
- Physics we can address with  $S_0$  depends on where we select the multiplicity
- The following results are all done with the mid-rapidity estimator
  - This ensures that multiplicity is almost constant so that we mainly select harder or softer events





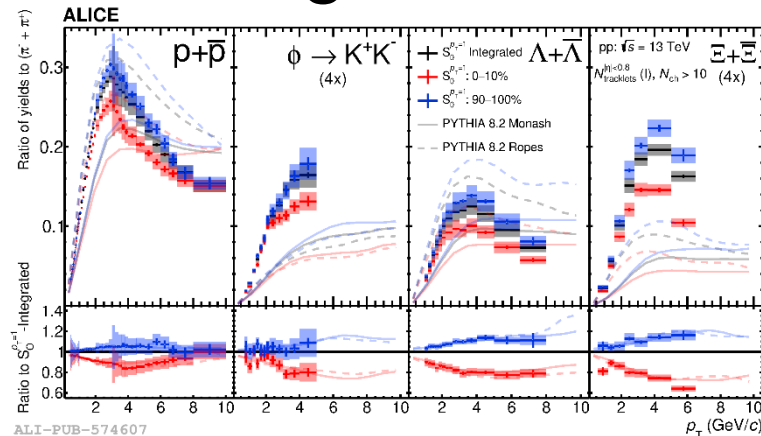
# Results top 1% multiplicity and top 1% $S_0$ (0.01% of events)

- Large differences between **jetty** and **isotropic** ratios ✓
- Events without  $S_0$  selection are similar to isotropic
  - QGP-like effects dominates
    - Perfect liquid?
  - Hard physics is outlier
- Jet-like events
  - Radial-flow “peaks” are reduced
  - Strangeness is significantly reduced at high  $p_T$

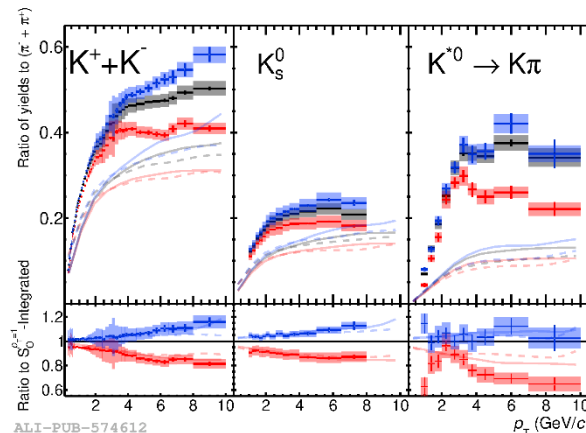


ALICE,  
JHEP 05  
(2024)  
184

# Results top 1% multiplicity and top 10% $S_0$ (0.1% of events)



ALICE,  
 JHEP 05 (2024) 184

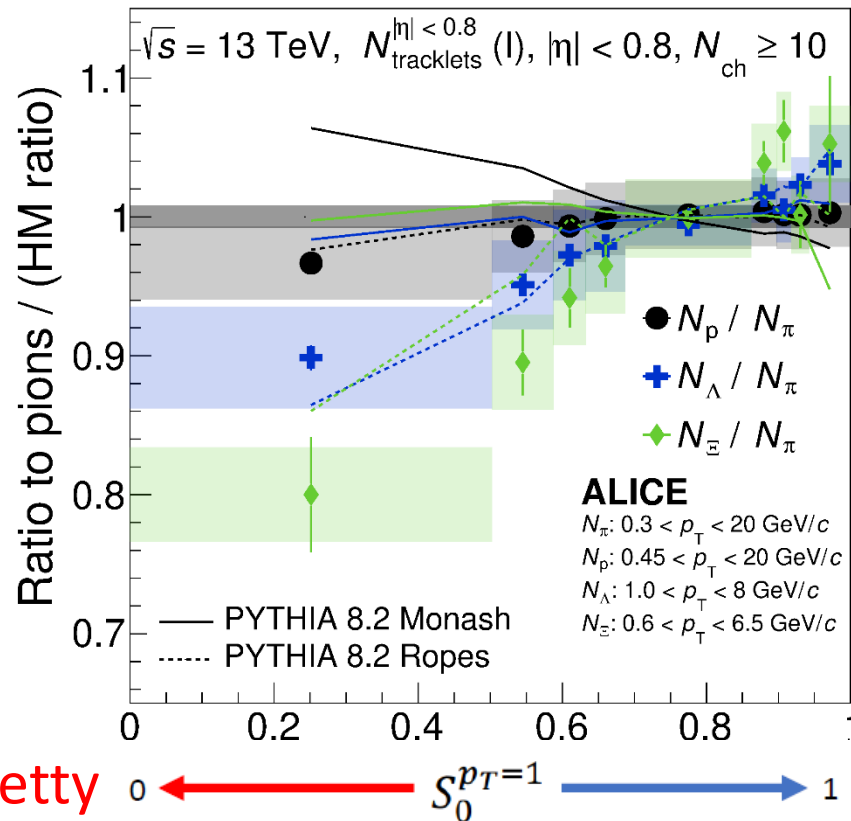


- For top 10% we also have resonances ( $\phi$  and  $K^{*0}$ )
  - Require more statistics due to event mixing background
- Vs top 1%: effects are reduced but trends are the same





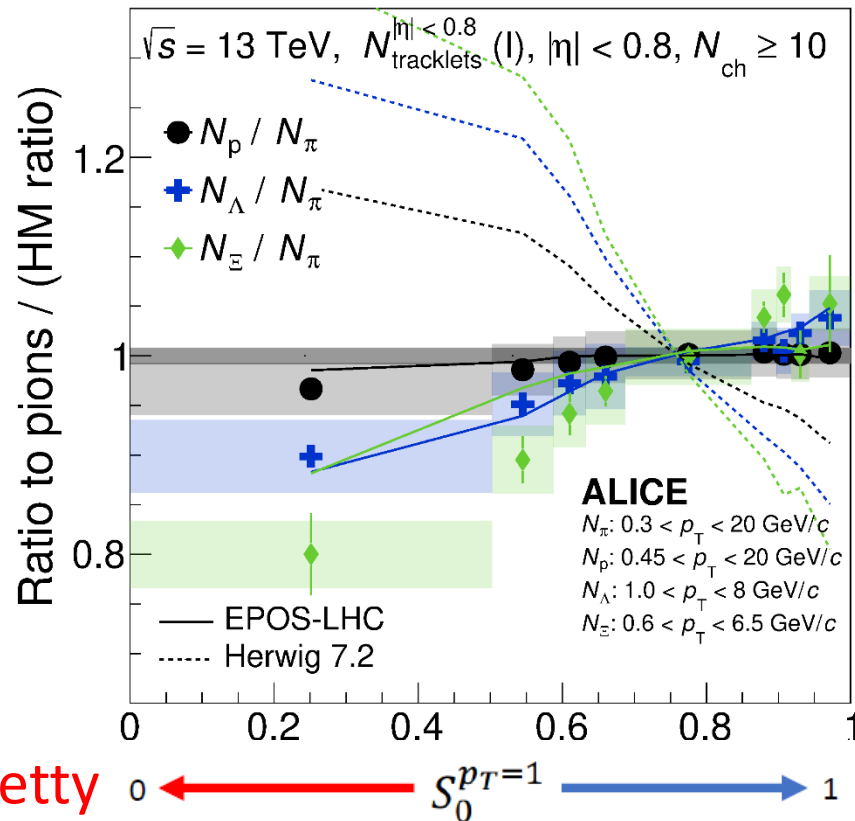
# Strangeness enhancement vs $S_0$ (top 1% multiplicity)



- We can control the strangeness enhancement with  $S_0$  ✓
  - The effect is bigger for  $\Xi$  ( $S=2$ ) than for  $\Lambda$  ( $S=1$ )
- Pythia ropes can describe the enhancement qualitatively



# Strangeness enhancement vs $S_0$ (top 1% multiplicity)



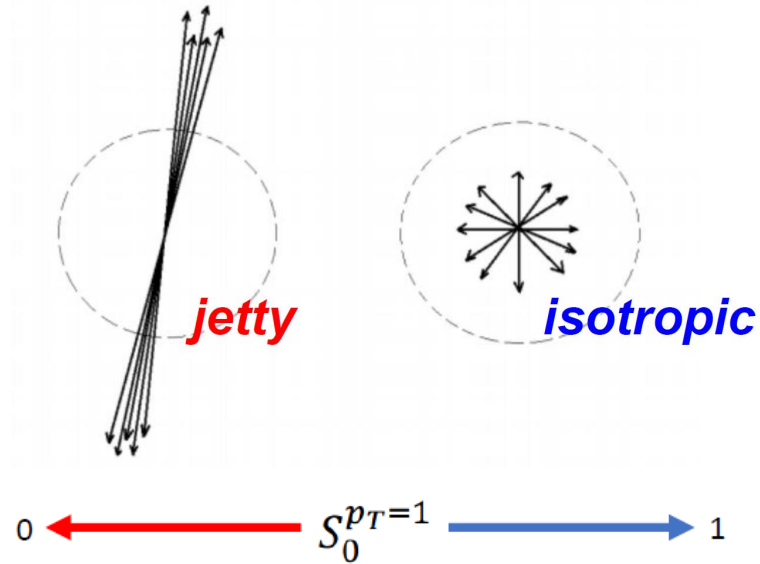
- EPOS LHC captures the trend
  - The QGP core is reduced in jetty events
- HERWIG has opposite trend?! (next slide)





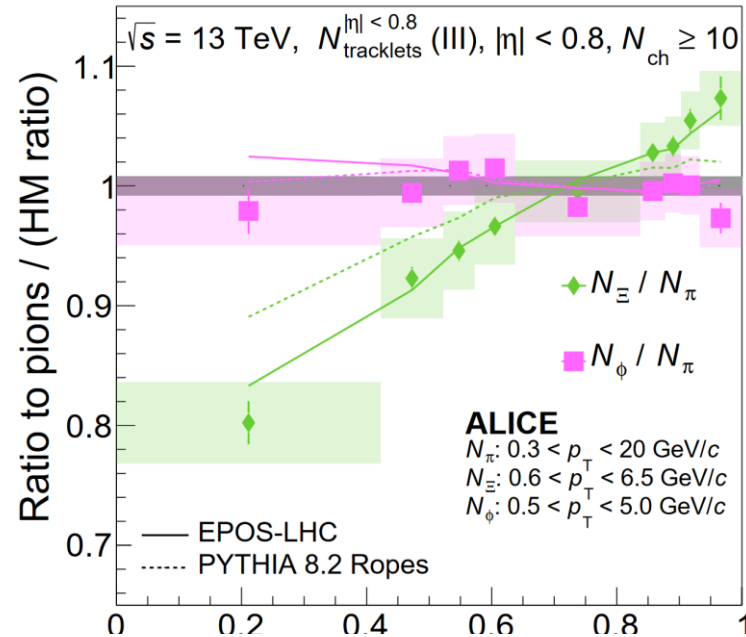
# Why Herwig is wrong

S. Gieseke,  
P. Kirchgaesser,  
S. Platzer  
Eur.Phys.J.C 78  
(2018) 2, 99



- Herwig produces a baryon enhancement by allowing 3 mesons close in phase space to form a baryon-antibaryon pair
  - But this will be more likely to happen in pencil-like events!
  - **What about quark coalescence models?**

# Strangeness enhancement vs $S_0$ (top 10% multiplicity)



Jetty 0  $\leftarrow S_0^{p_T=1} \rightarrow$  1 Isotropic

- $\phi$  ( $\approx s\bar{s}$ ) and  $\Xi$  ( $ssd$ ) follows different trends
- Data and models agree





# Several potential challenges to coalescence models

- Jetty events, which are here not defined with a  $p_T$  cut, appears to be those where partons must be close in phase space
- But
  - No flow peak:  $p/\pi$  flat vs  $p_T$
  - No strangeness enhancement
  - Different pattern for  $\phi$  and  $\Xi$
- Problem: is there a generator implementation where we can test this?

# Charm baryon production at very low multiplicity

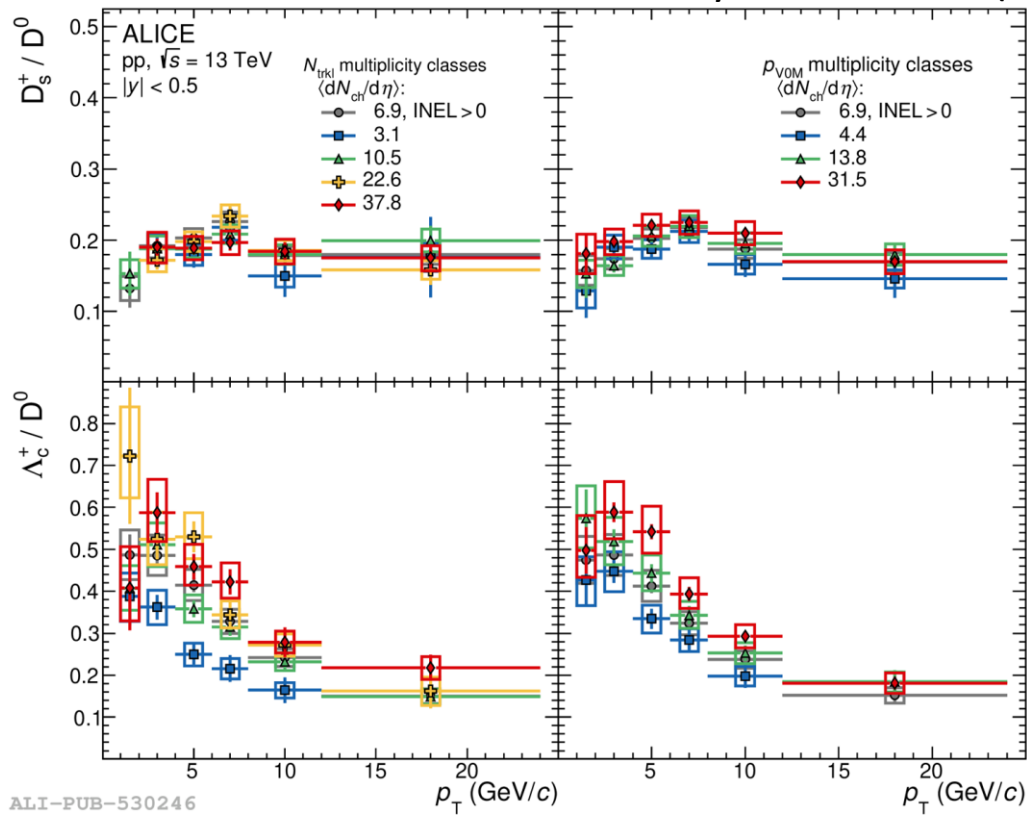




# Ratios vs $p_T$

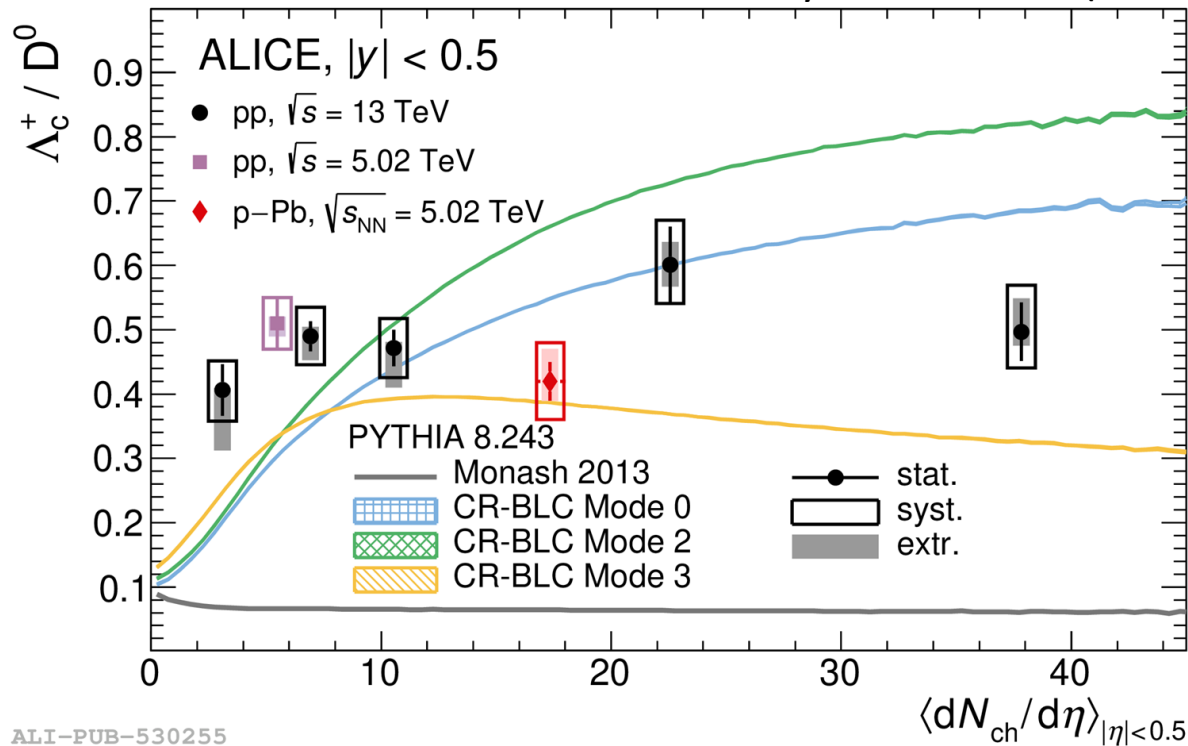
ALICE

Phys. Lett. B 829 (2022) 137065



# What is the limit at low mult?

ALICE, Phys. Lett. B 829 (2022) 137065



- Can models explain this?
  - And why does it not approach  $e+e^-$ ?!
    - Unlike strangeness enhancement



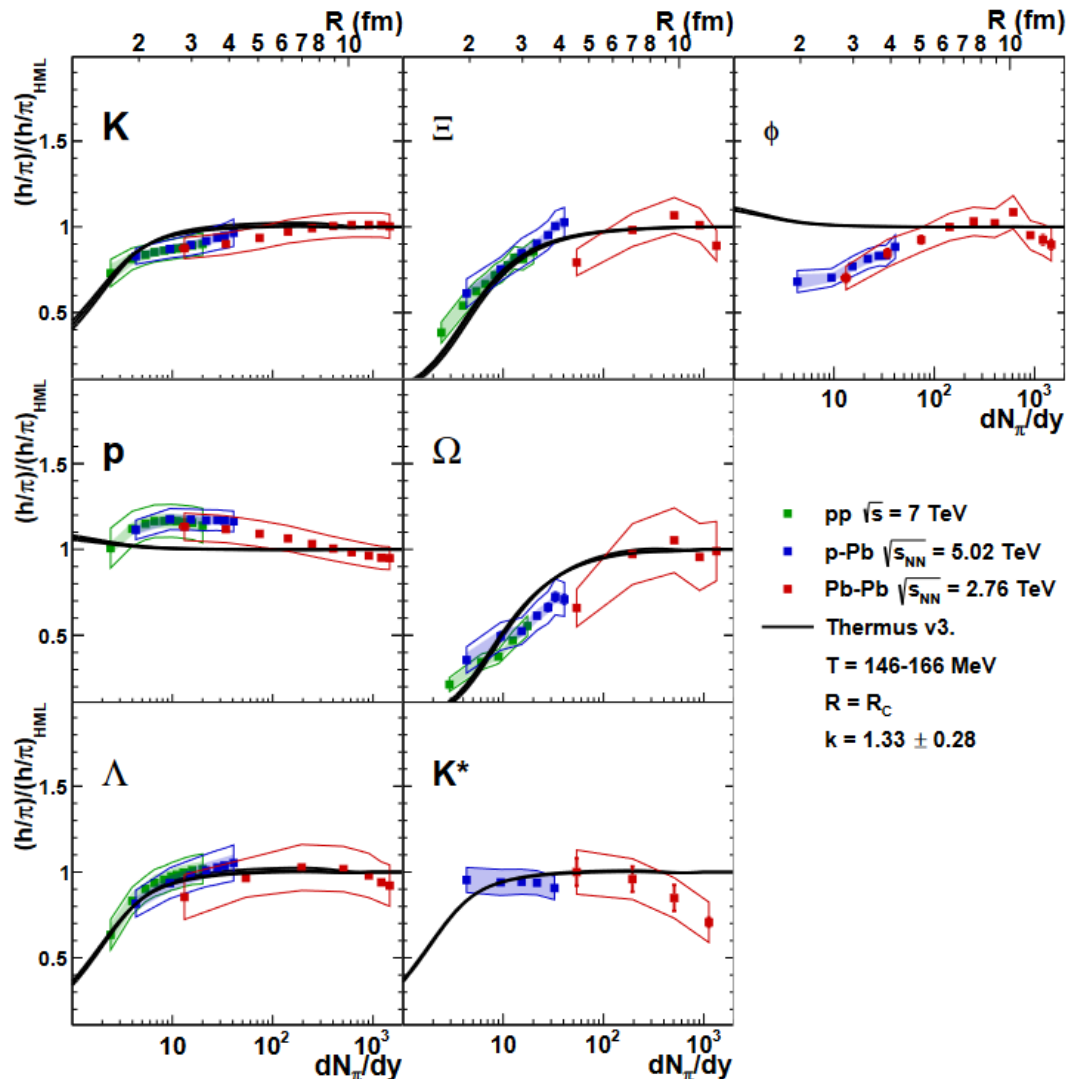




# Is strangeness suppressed in small systems or enhanced in large systems?

- Outline
  - Show some examples of “suppressed in small systems” data
  - Show some results on how  $\Xi$  is balanced by (anti)protons
  - Show some completely fresh results on balance in FIST

# A purely statistical description of yields vs multiplicities



V. Vislavicius,  
A. Kalweit,  
arXiv:1610.03001

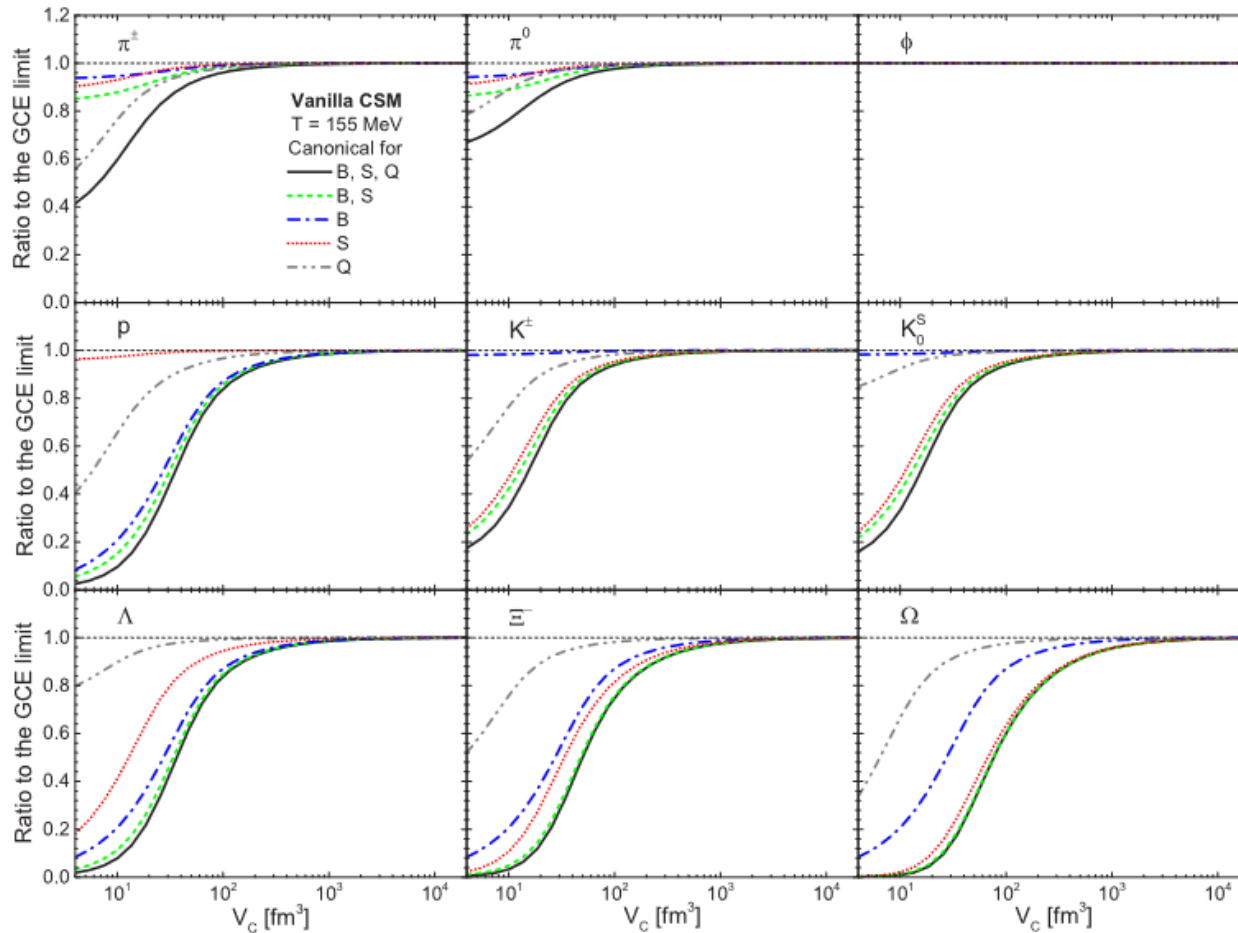




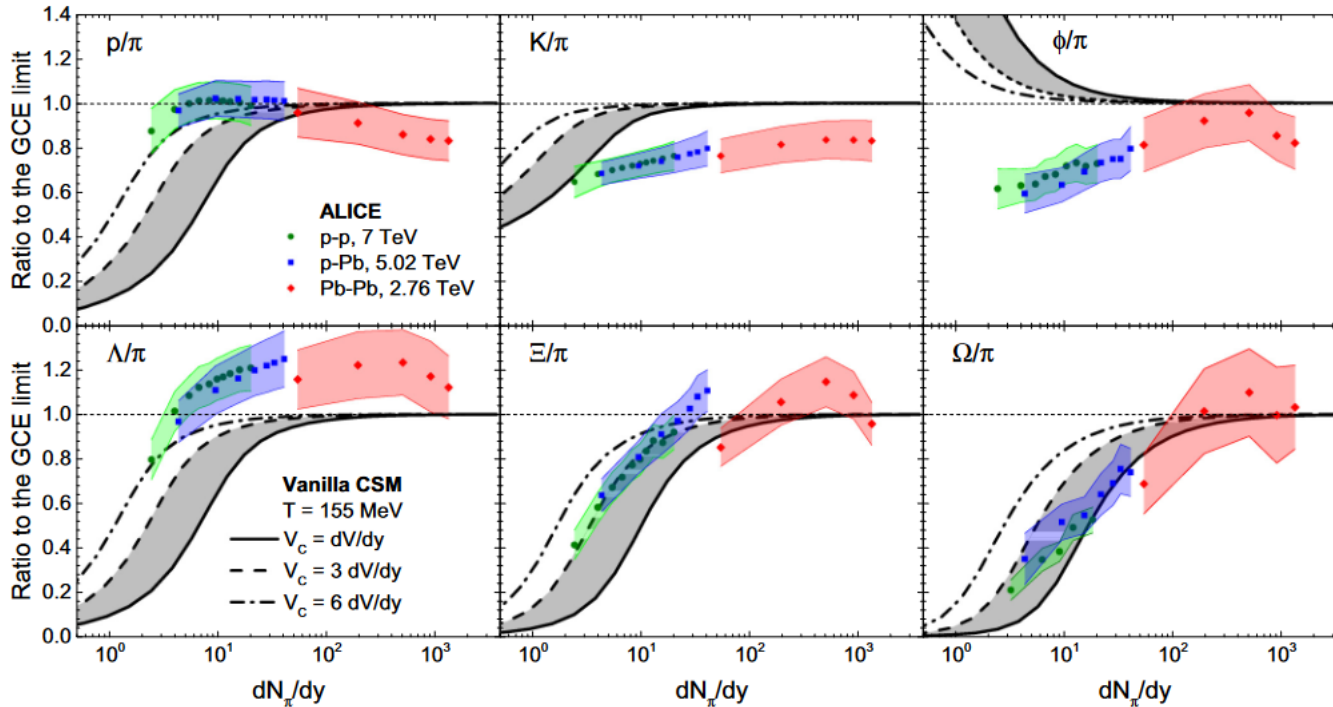
# FIST

## Full canonical treatment

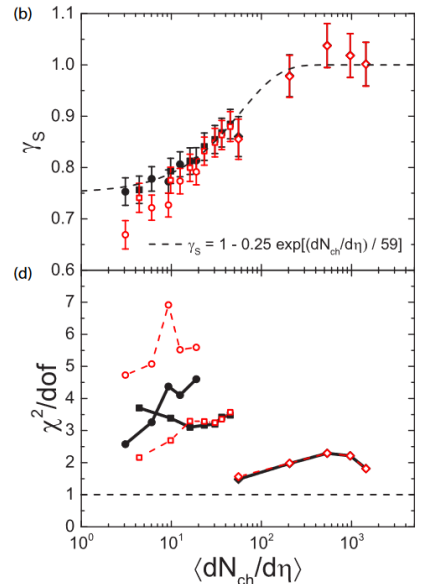
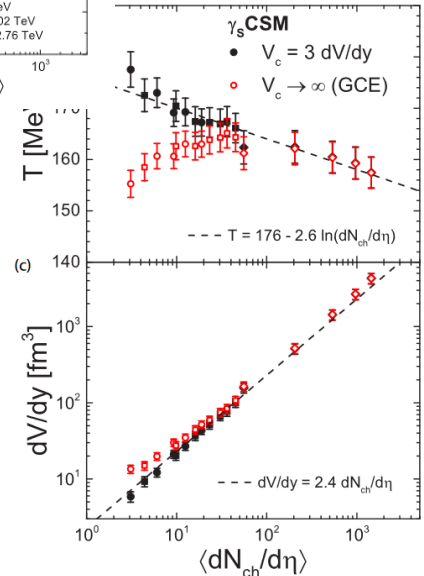
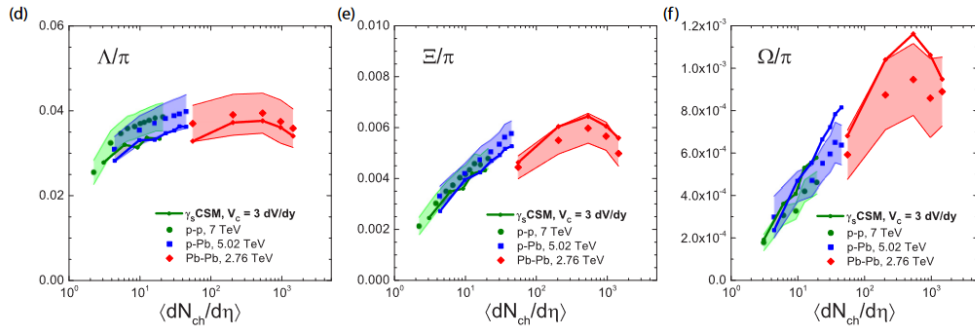
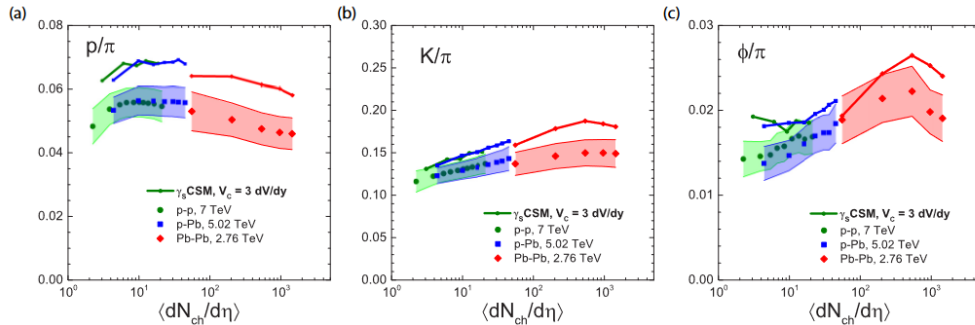
V. Vovchenko,  
B. Dönigus,  
H. Stoecker,  
Phys.Rev.C 100 (2019)  
5, 054906



# FIST: canonical description (no $\gamma_s$ )



# FIST: canonical description (with $\gamma_s$ )



Peter's questions (P. Christiansen, Lund)





# How to kill Pythia: two lessons from CLASH

1. No chemical or thermal equilibration
  - Kinetic equilibration via shoving but never chemical or thermal
  - However, this IMO also challenges the QGP paradigm: where is the direct microscopic evidence for chemical/thermal equilibration?
2. Quarks and hadrons are mainly produced together: it is not possible to have a large phase-space separation of balancing quantum numbers
  - This goes against some of the claims of ALICE of long-range balancing of baryon number. However, these are IMO only indirect claims.



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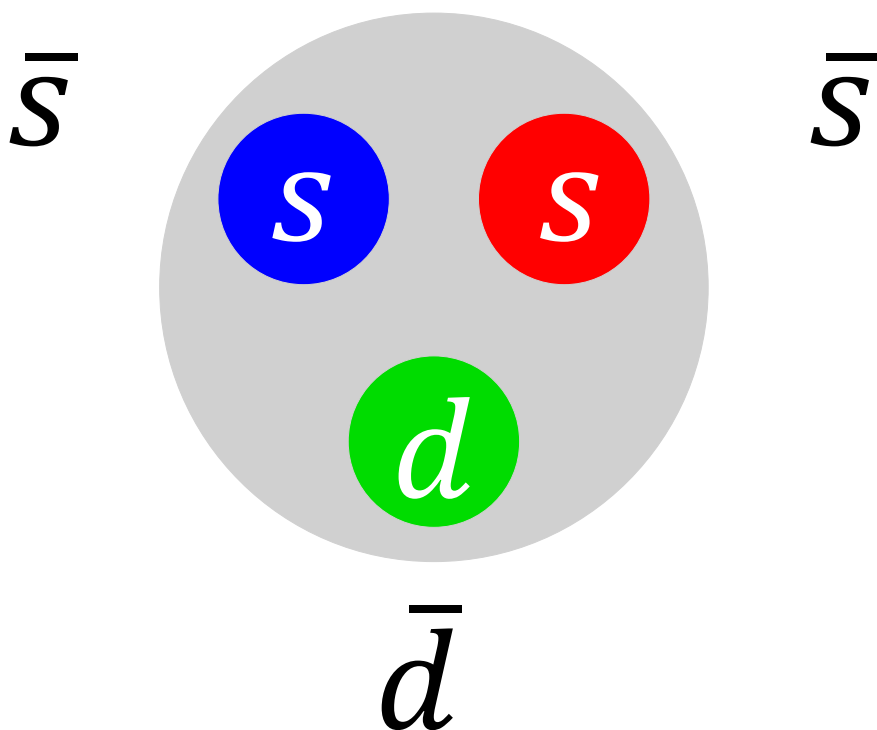
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# Idea: look at the how the strange quarks are balanced

$\Xi$  (Xi) baryon



QGP:

We naively expect that in a QGP the quarks will be deconfined and so eventually the quark pairs will drift apart in phase space.

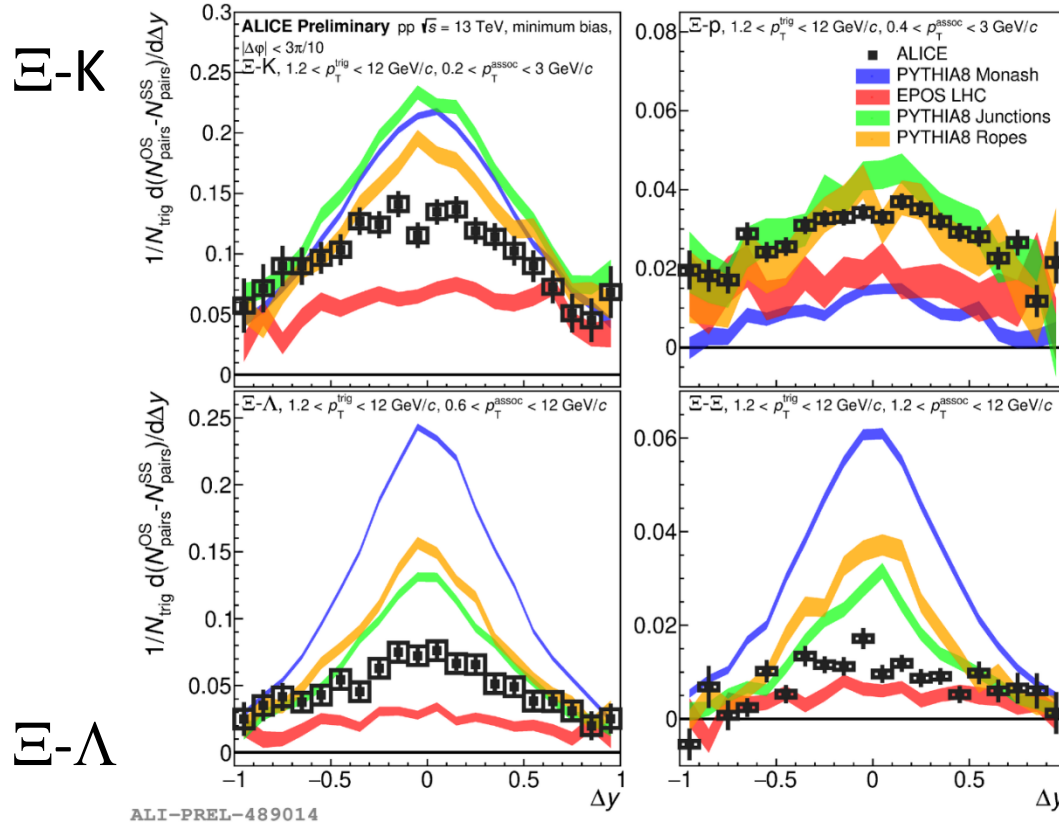
Lund string:

Most quarks and antiquarks are produced together during hadronization.





# Part of the work of Jonatan Adolfsson's PhD Thesis



E-p

ALICE congratulates its PhD thesis award winner

2 JULY, 2021

Jonatan Adolfsson (LU)



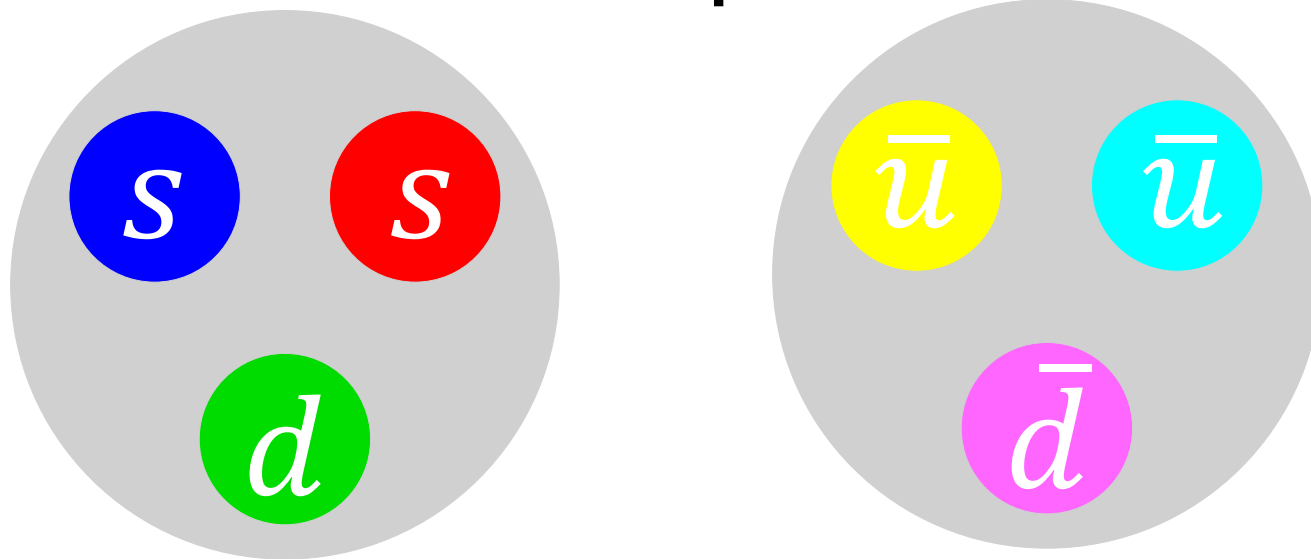
ALICE Spokesperson Luciano Musa (left) awards the prize to Jonatan Adolfsson (right) in the virtual presence of Collaboration Board Chair Silvia Masciocchi and the Chairs of the Thesis Award Committee, Giuseppe Bruno and Philippe Crochet (Image: CERN)

<https://home.cern/news/news/cern/alice-congratulates-its-phd-thesis-award-winner>

E-E

- He studied many combinations, see arXiv:2308.16706 (accepted by JHEP)

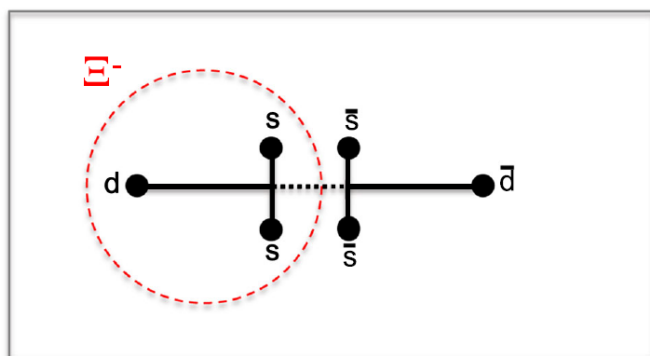
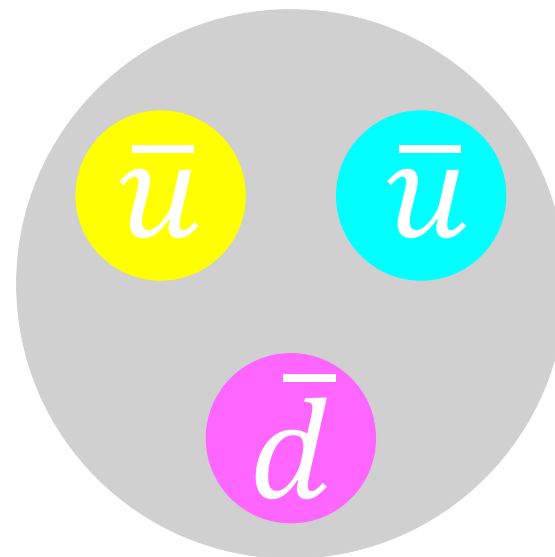
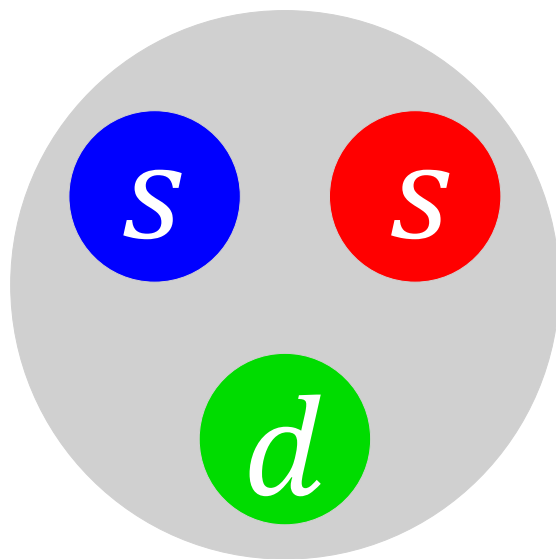
# Focus on $\Xi$ balanced by antiproton



- $\Xi$  (s, s, d) balanced by p-bar (u-bar, u-bar, d-bar)
  - Requires at least two mesons to balance strangeness, e.g., 2K+ (u, s-bar) => Balance requires min. 3 particles
- I think one would expect this should be suppressed in a small system because one could balance with 1 or 2 particles only



# $\Xi$ balanced by antiproton: Monash

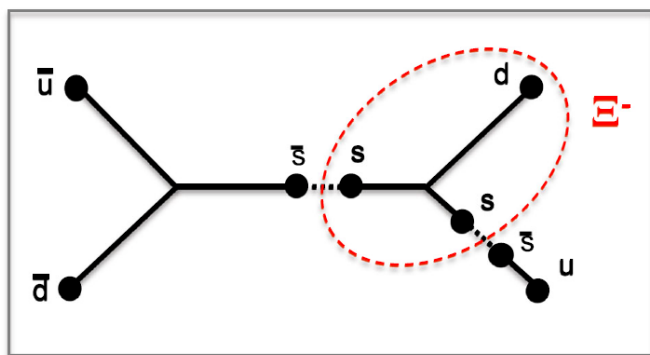
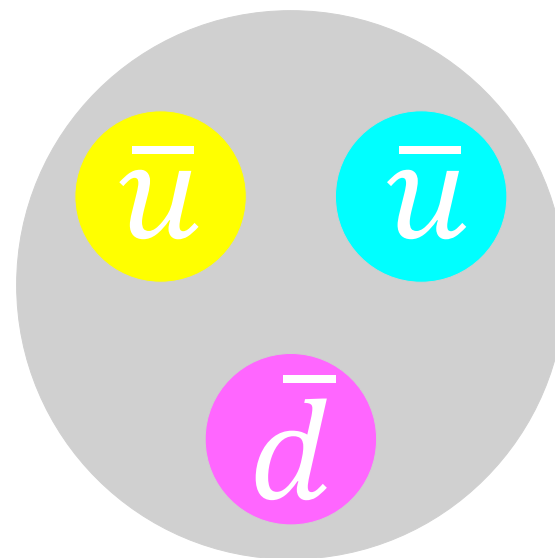
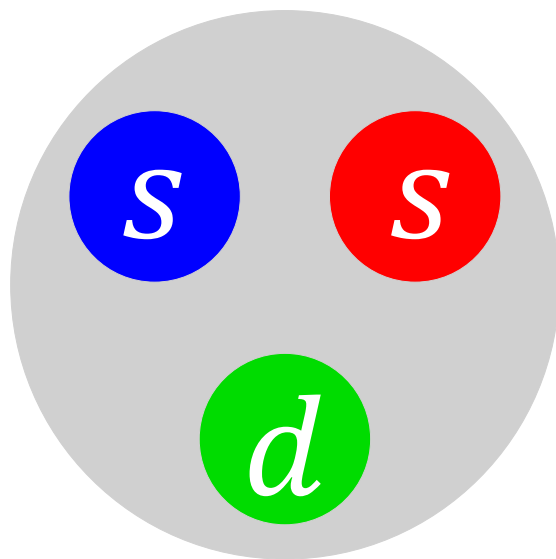


Normal Lund string and ropes:  
 $\Xi$  almost never balanced by  
antiproton but instead typically  
by antistrange baryons and  
even anti- $\Xi$ !

Idea from CLASH workshop write up: J. Adolfsson et al, Eur. Phys. J. A 56 (2020) 11, 288,  
"QCD challenges from pp to A–A collisions"



# $\Xi$ balanced by antiproton: Junction



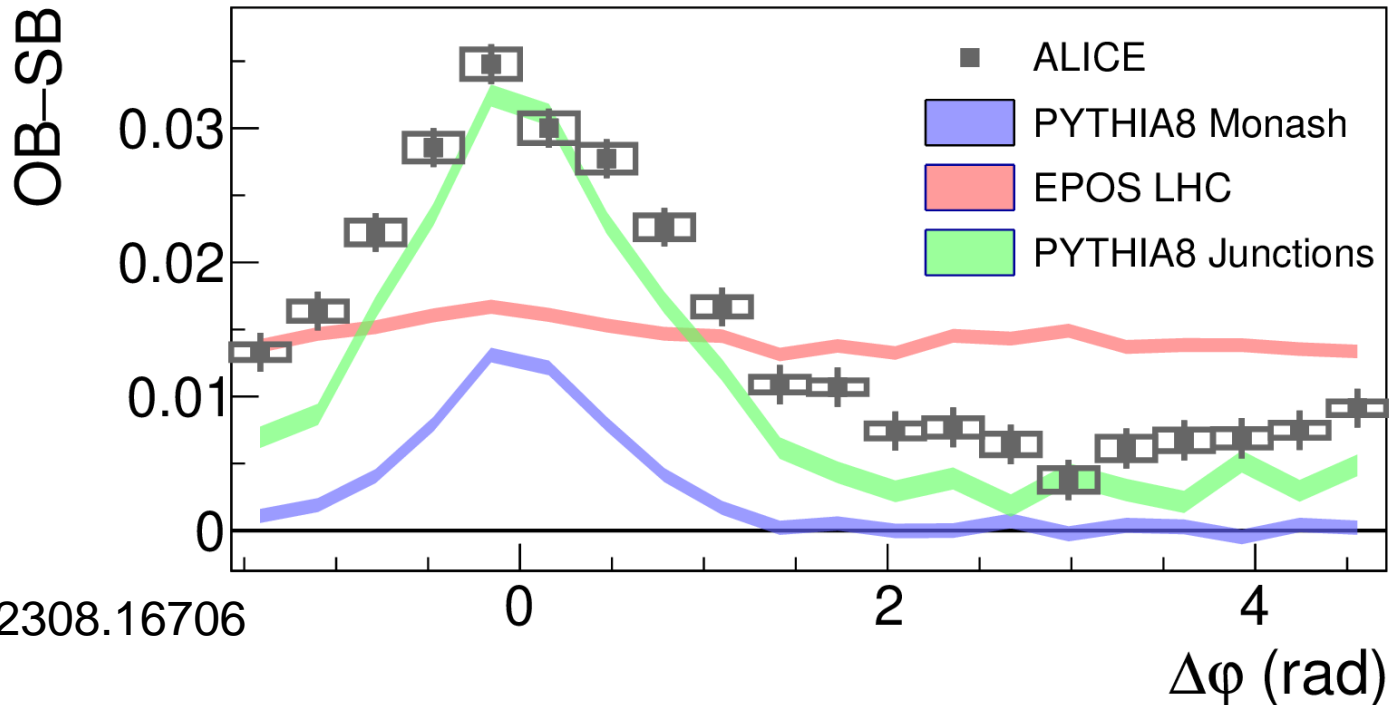
Junction:

$\Xi$  balanced more by kaons and  
less by antistrange baryons.  
Broader correlations in rapidity.

Idea from CLASH workshop write up: J. Adolfsson et al, Eur. Phys. J. A 56 (2020) 11, 288,  
"QCD challenges from pp to A–A collisions"



# Microscopic balance of $\Xi$ by antiprotons: MB results

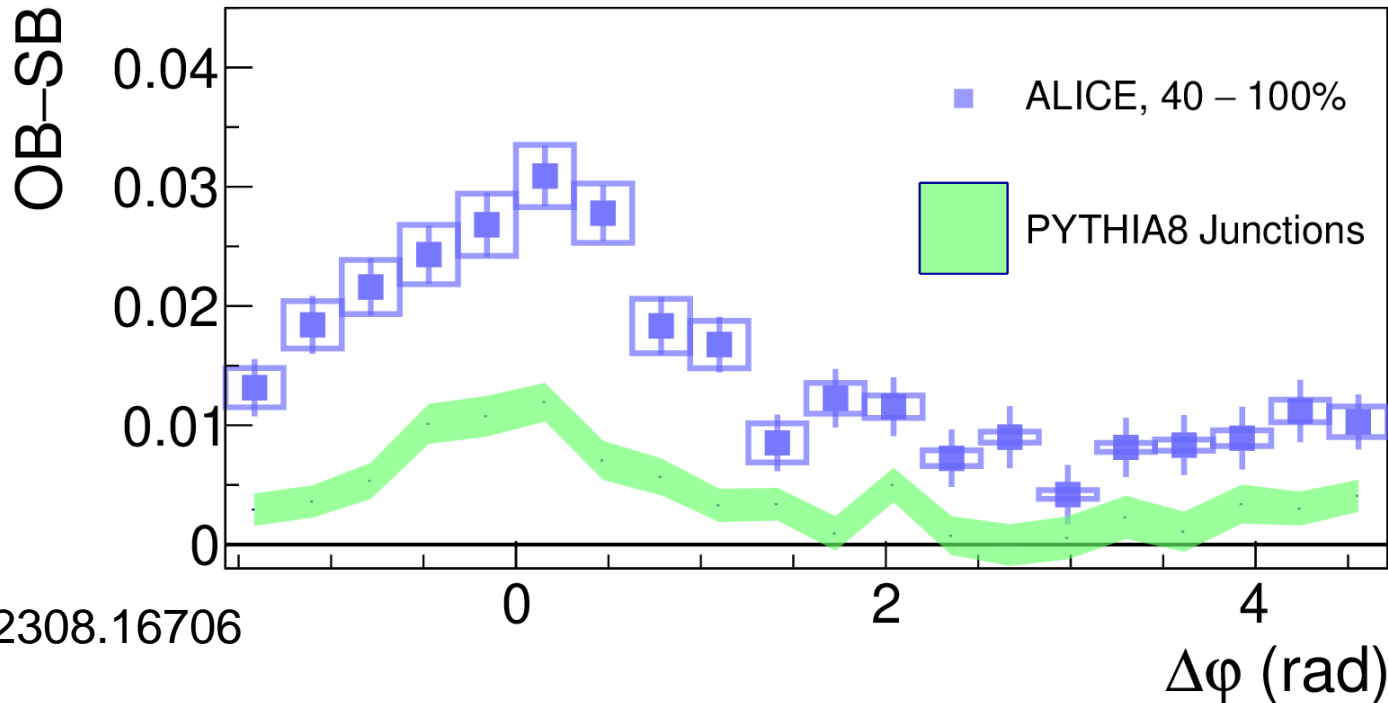


arXiv:2308.16706

- EPOS (QGP) model: no structure due to extreme assumption of grand-canonical ensemble
- Pythia8 Monash: fails since this almost never happens
- Pythia8 Junctions: describes well the data



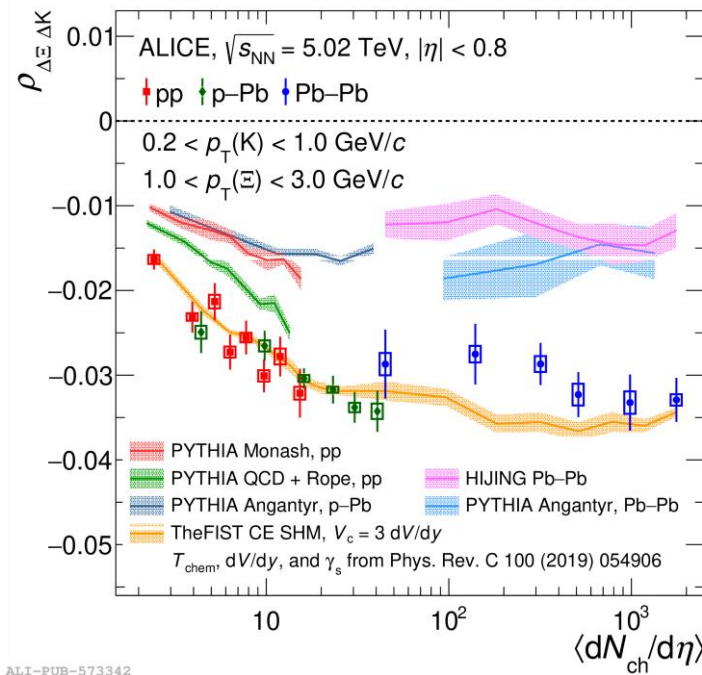
# Microscopic balance of $\Xi$ by antiprotons: low mult results



arXiv:2308.16706

- Pythia8 Junctions: fails to describe the data since in the low multiplicity limit it must agree with Monash (no CR)
- But why does nature prefer such a complicated process where strangeness is balanced by two mesons?

# New simulation results from this morning



ALICE, arXiv:2405.19890

- Extract balance function in FIST
- Use the same simulations as done in paper above. Trigger on  $\Xi$  (same  $|\eta|$  and  $p_T$  cuts). No eta or  $p_T$  cut on balancing particle.

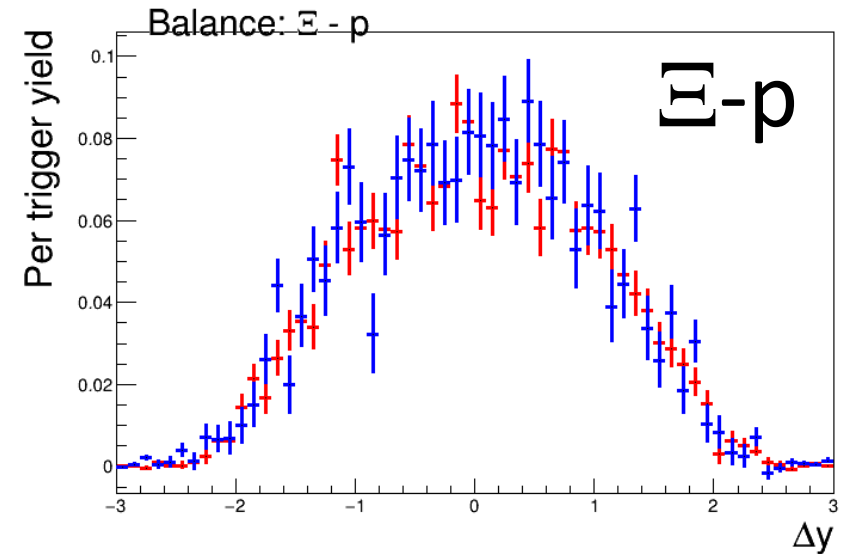
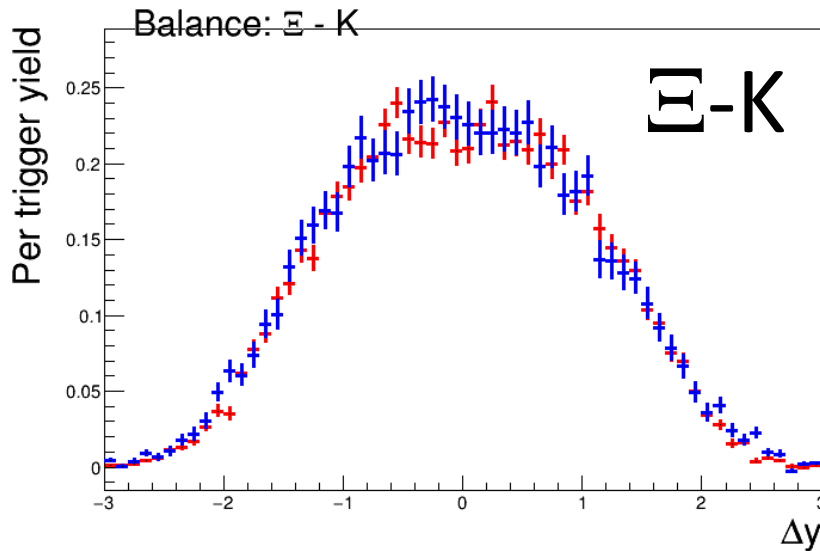






# Balance functions:

## 0-1% vs 40-50% pp 13 TeV



- No difference observed even if I calculate the ratio  $\Xi/K$  I get  $\sim 2$  times difference.  
( $|\eta| < 0.8$  and  $p_T$  cut on  $\Xi$  but not on  $K$ )
  - 0.1%: 0.018173282
  - 40-50%: 0.0098870056



# My comments

- Clearly too wide: correlation volume is too large to describe data
  - Is this a problem?
- But why does the balance not change: every time I create a  $\Xi$  I do it in the same way independent of system size...

# Backup





# Example:

## $\Xi$ -K correlation functions

Trigger on :  $\Xi$  ( $ssd$ )

Measure where  
balancing QN ends up:

$K^+$  ( $u\bar{s}$ ),  $\bar{p}$  ( $\bar{u}\bar{u}\bar{d}$ ),  
 $\bar{\Lambda}$  ( $\bar{u}\bar{d}\bar{s}$ ),  $\bar{\Xi}$  ( $\bar{s}\bar{s}\bar{d}$ )

Subtract the uncorrelated  
production via the same QN  
correlations:

$K^-$  ( $s\bar{u}$ ),  $p$  ( $uud$ ),  $\Lambda$  ( $uds$ ),  
 $\Xi$  ( $ssd$ )

