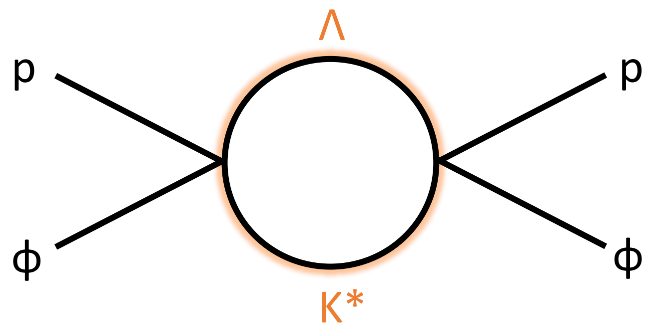
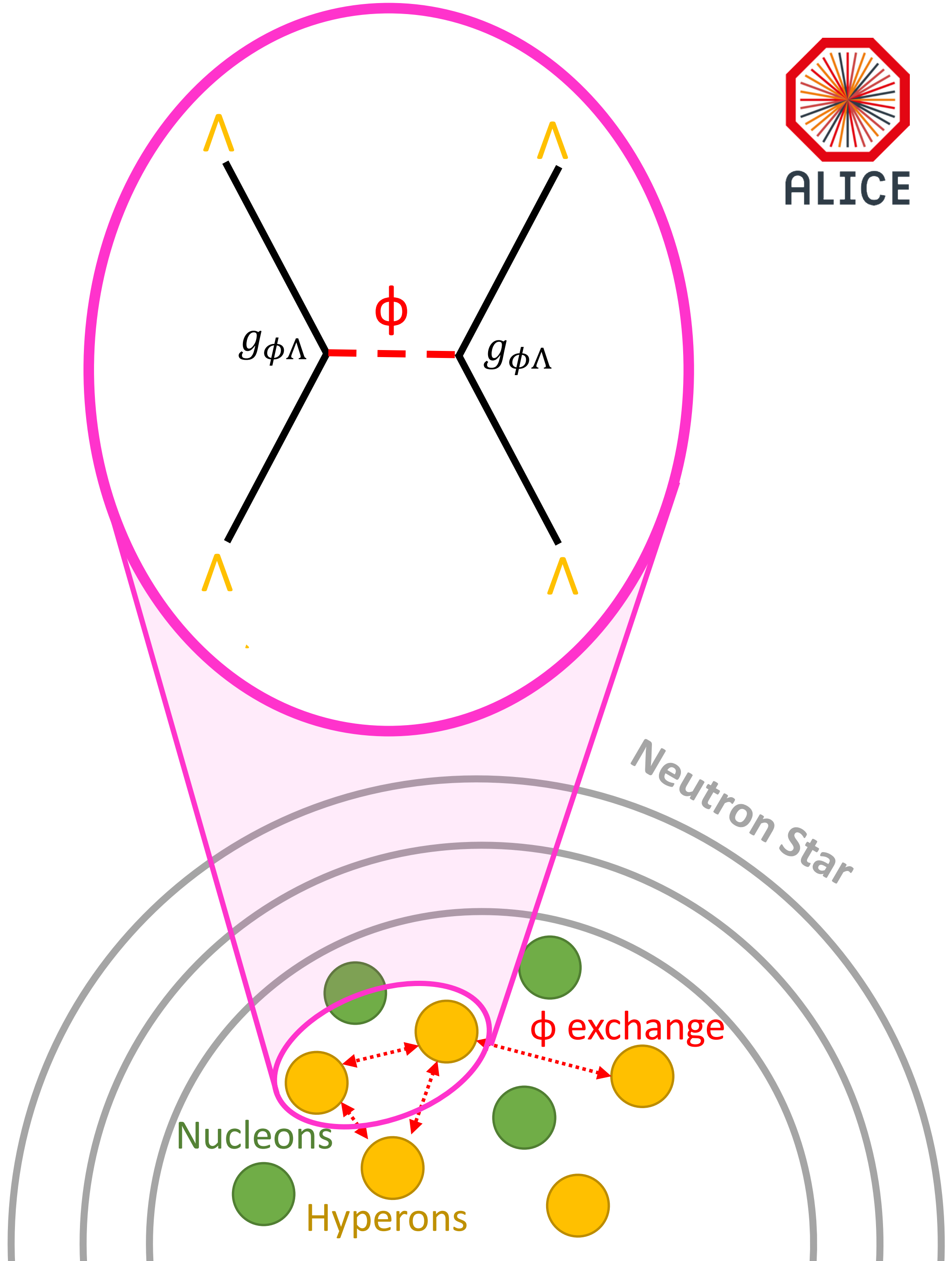
First experimental Evidence of an Attractive Proton-ϕ interaction

Emma Chizzali on behalf of the ALICE Collaboration
Technical University of Munich
Hadrons in dense matter at J-PARC
21/02/2022

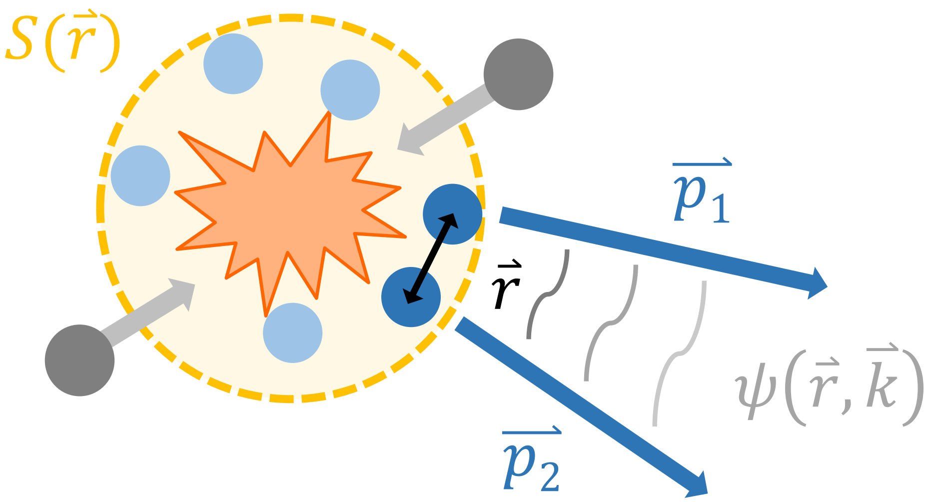
Genuine p–ϕ interaction

- Exchange meson within framework of relativistic mean field models → Access to interaction among hyperons
- Relevant for hadronic models used to describe ϕ-meson properties within nuclear medium
- Expected to be suppressed by OZI rule
    - Hinders processed with disconnected quark lines
- Interaction might be mediated via channel coupling
  Phys. Rev. C **96** (2019) 034618, *Phys. Rev. C* **95** (2017) 015201
- Experimental method needed to measure the interaction





Correlation function



$$C(k^*) = \underbrace{\mathcal{N}\frac{\mathrm{N}_{same}(k^*)}{\mathrm{N}_{mixed}(k^*)}}_{\text{experimental definition}} = \underbrace{\int S(\vec{r}^*)\left|\psi(\vec{k}^*,\vec{r}^*)\right|^2 d^3\vec{r}^*}_{\text{theoretical definition}} \xrightarrow{k^*\to\infty} 1$$

Relative momentum $\vec{k}^* = \frac{1}{2} \mid \vec{p}_1^* - \vec{p}_2^* \mid$ and $\vec{p}_1^* + \vec{p}_2^* = 0$

Relative distance $\vec{r}^* = \vec{r}_1^* - \vec{r}_2^*$

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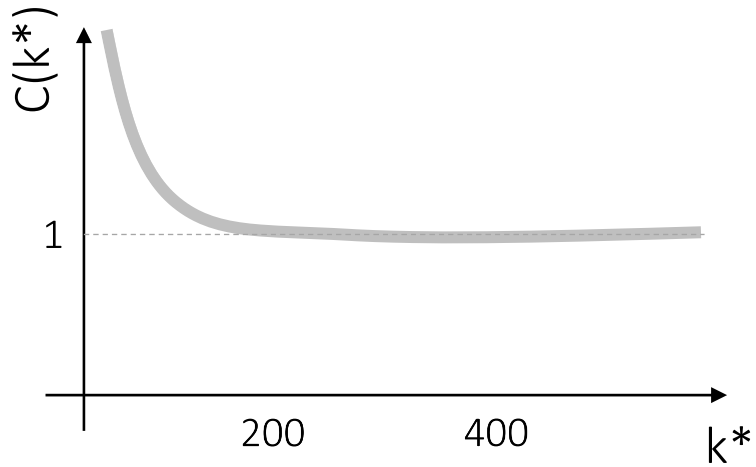

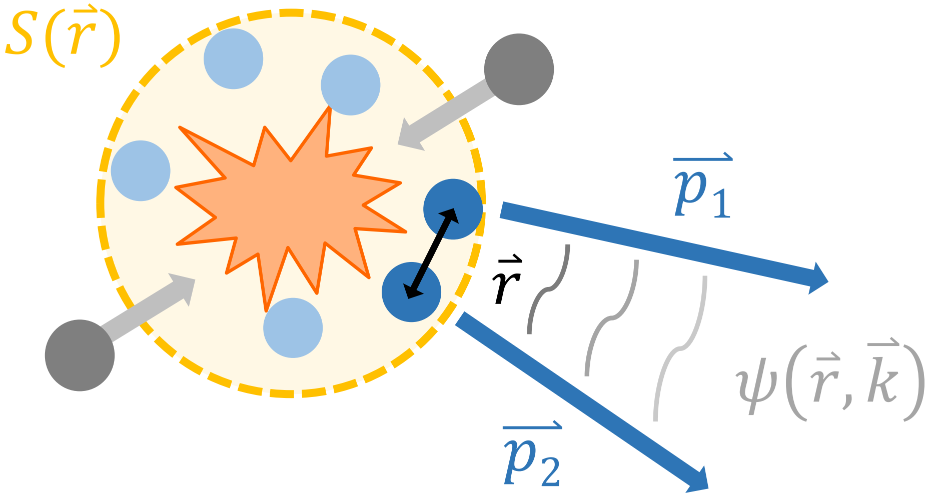

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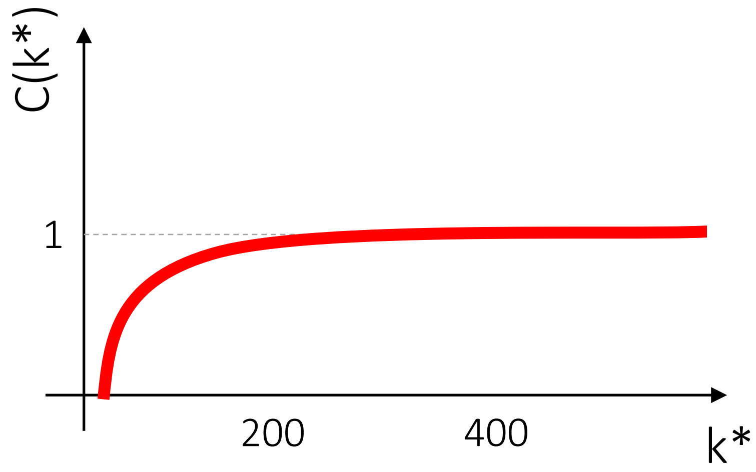

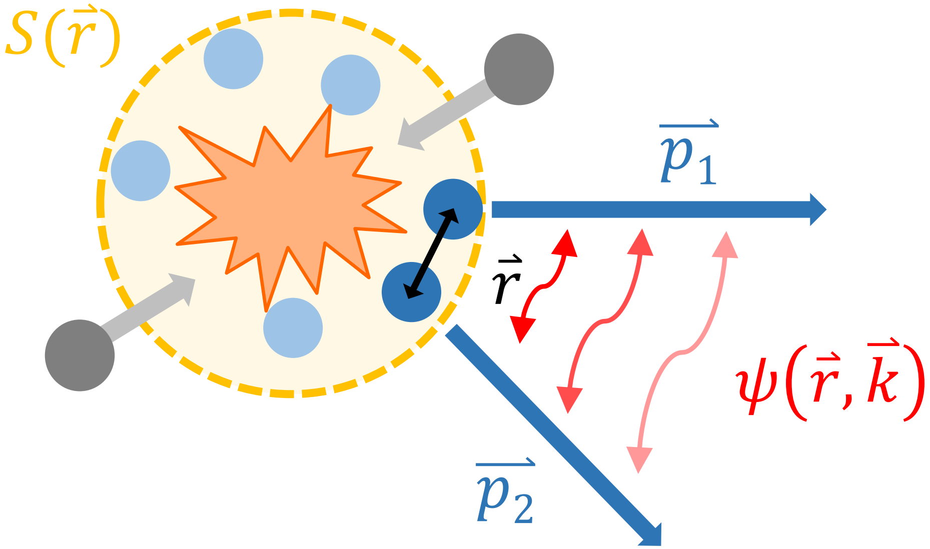

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repulsion

Relative momentum $\vec{k}^* = \frac{1}{2} \mid \vec{p}_1^* - \vec{p}_2^* \mid$ and $\vec{p}_1^* + \vec{p}_2^* = 0$

Relative distance $\vec{r}^* = \vec{r}_1^* - \vec{r}_2^*$

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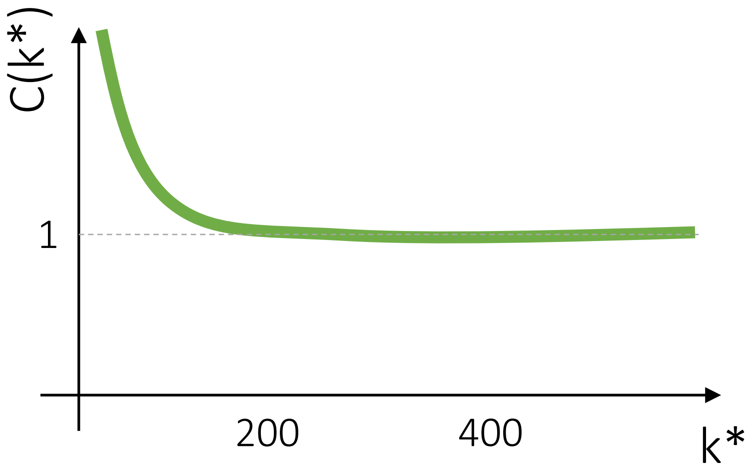

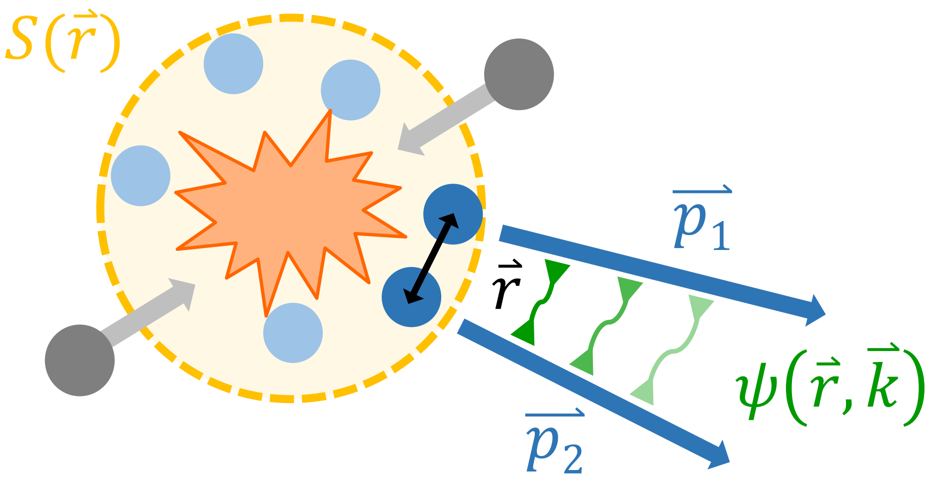

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attraction

Relative momentum $\vec{k}^* = \frac{1}{2} \mid \vec{p}_1^* - \vec{p}_2^* \mid$ and $\vec{p}_1^* + \vec{p}_2^* = 0$

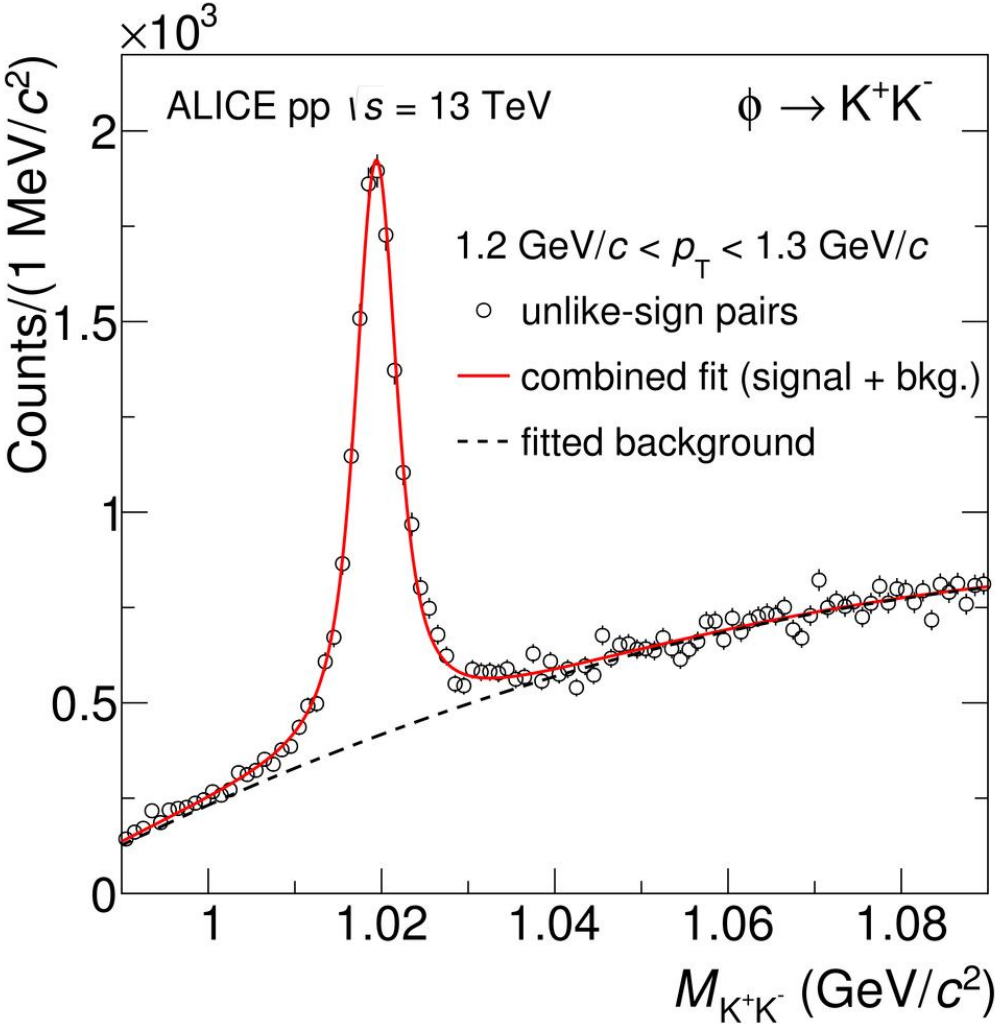
Relative distance $\vec{r}^* = \vec{r}_1^* - \vec{r}_2^*$

Analysis

- LHC Run 2 data (2016-2018)
- **High-multiplicity** (HM) pp collisions at √s = 13 TeV
  - About 1 billion events
  - Enhanced production of particles with hidden and open strangeness
- ALICE provides excellent PID by means of TPC and TOF
  - Proton detected directly
    - Proton purity of 99% with primary fraction 82%
      ALICE Collab., *Phys. Lett B* **811** (2020) 135849
  - ϕ candidates reconstructed from $\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-$
    - p_T integrated purity of 66%

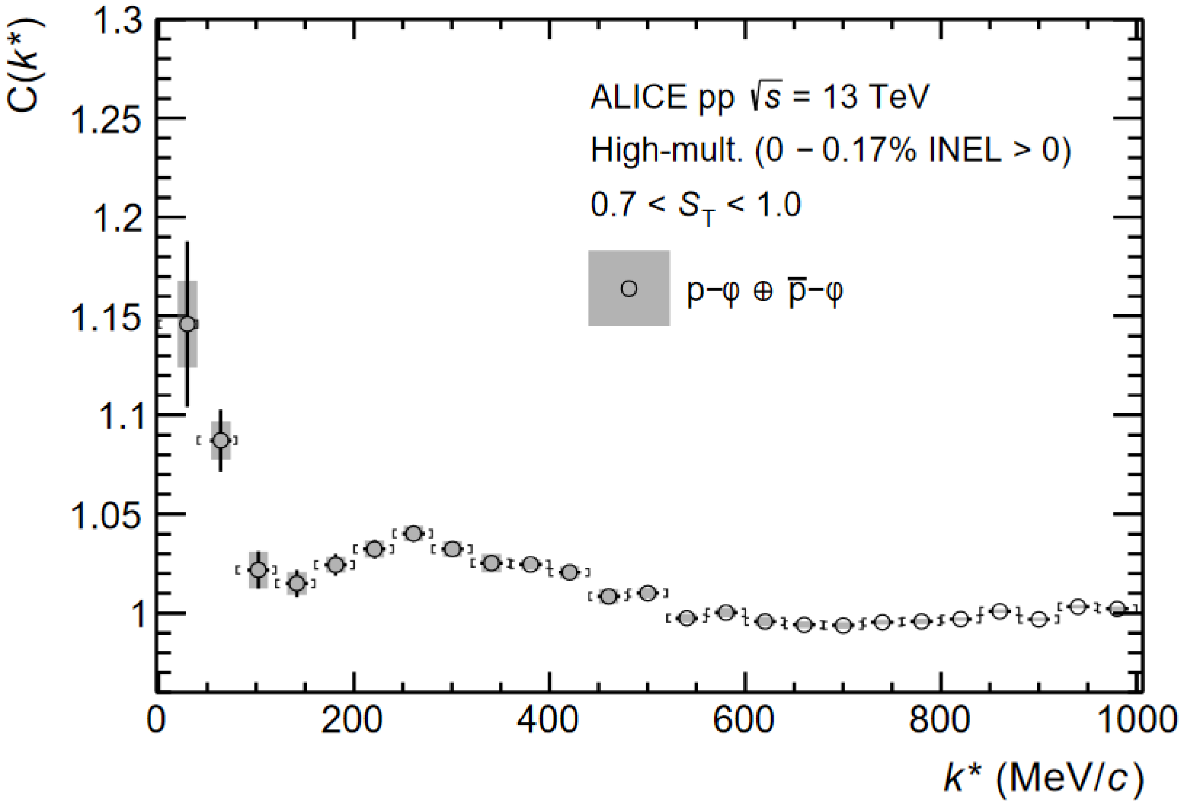
pair	yield with k*<200 MeV/c
$\bar{p}-\phi$	3.61 x 10^4
$p-\phi$	4.17 x 10^4

ALICE Collab., *Eur.Phys.J.C* **81** (2021) 3, 256



CF model

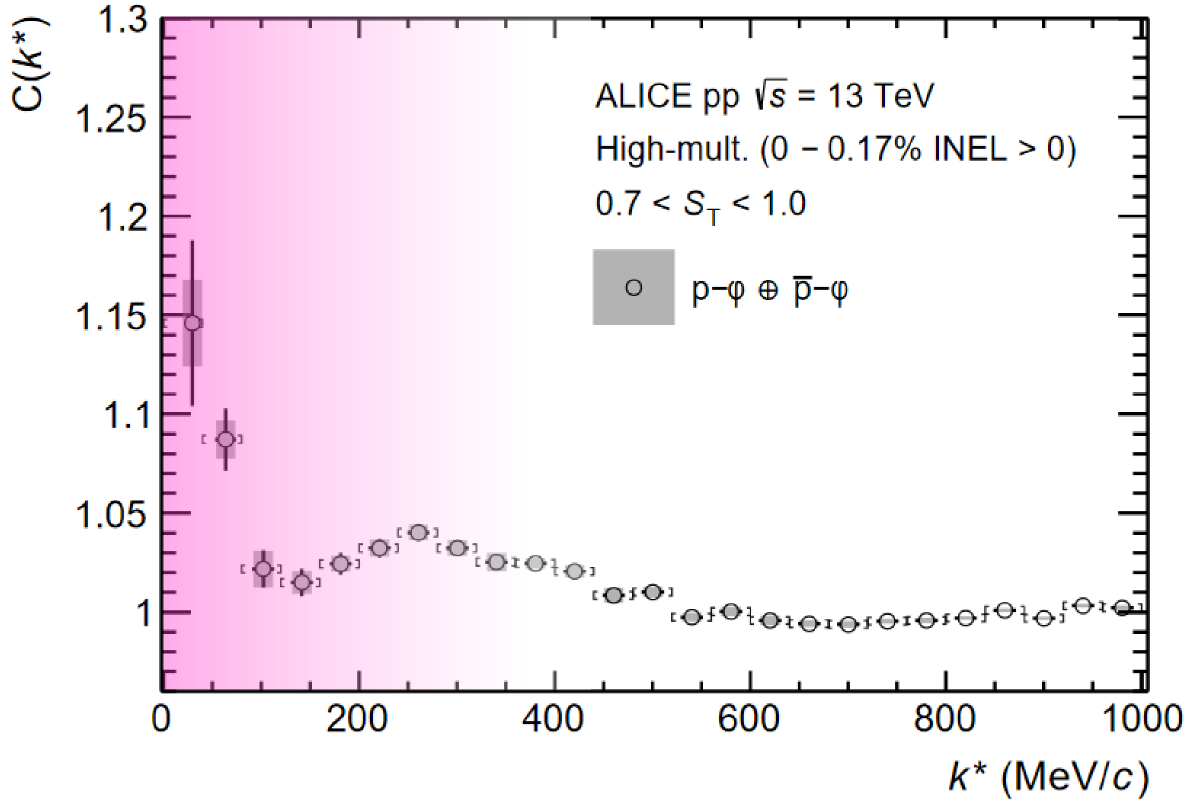
$$C_{exp}(k^*) = C_{femto}(k^*) \cdot C_{non-femto}(k^*)$$



CF model

$$C_{femto}(k^*) = \sum \lambda_{ij} \cdot C_{ij}(k^*)$$

$$C_{exp}(k^*) = \underbrace{C_{femto}(k^*)}_{} \cdot C_{non-femto}(k^*)$$



<u>Contributions from FSI</u> (femto) quantified by purity ($\mathcal{P}_i$) and feed-down fractions (f_i) via $\lambda_{ij} = \mathcal{P}_1 \cdot f_{i_1} \cdot \mathcal{P}_2 \cdot f_{j_2}$

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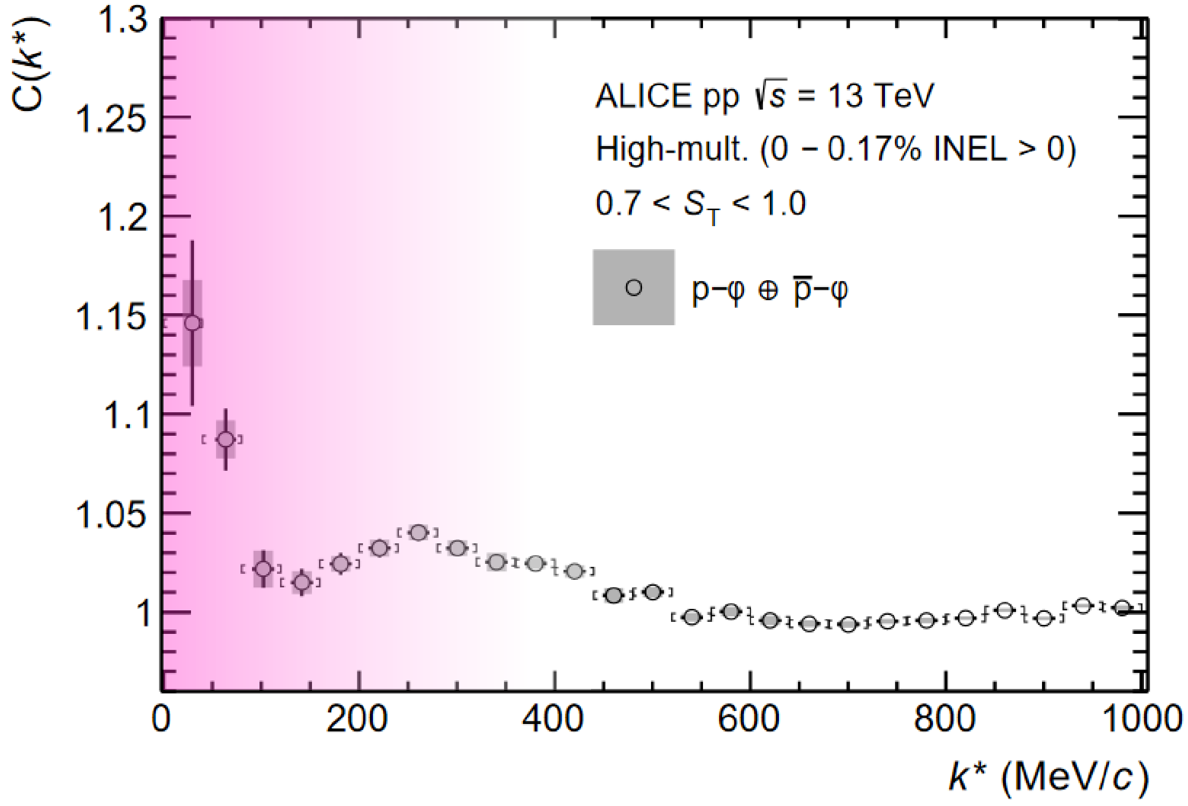

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- Genuine p–ϕ (46.3%)
- Flat contribution from misidentified and secondary protons (10.4%)
- Combinatorial background from misidentified ϕ mesons (43.3%)

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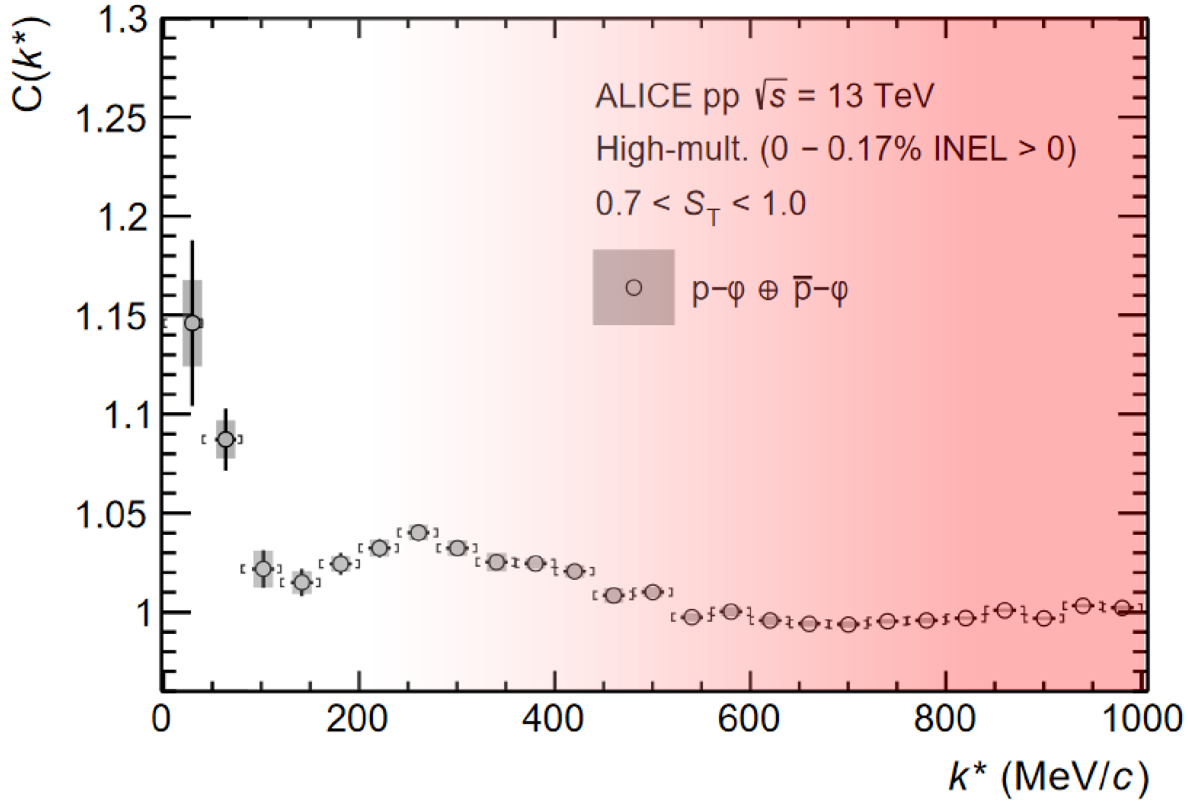
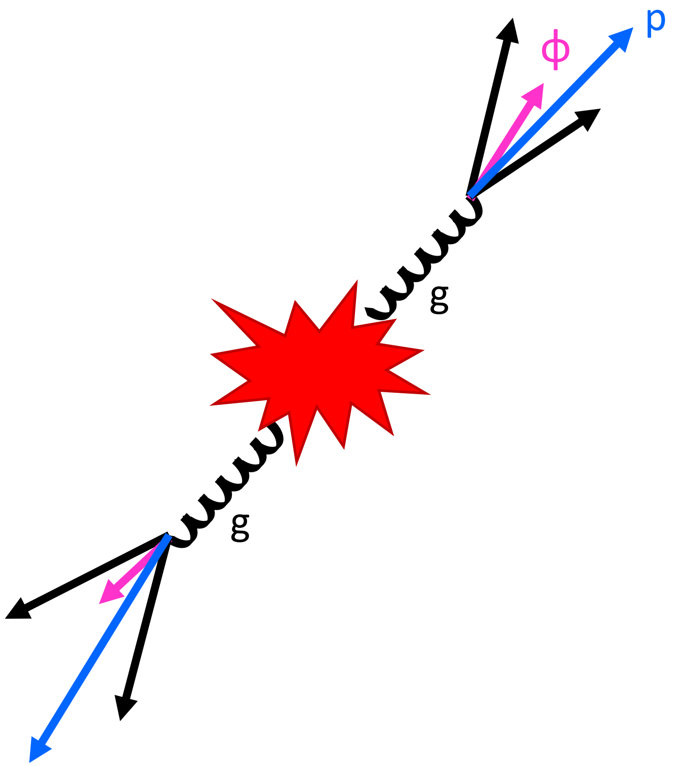


Background (non-femto)

- auto-correlations (minijets)
- energy-momentum conservation effects

Minijets

- Present In previous meson-meson and meson-baryon analyses
  ALICE Collab. Phys. Rev. Lett. **124** (2020) 092301
- Auto-correlated p and ϕ emitted in jet-like structures



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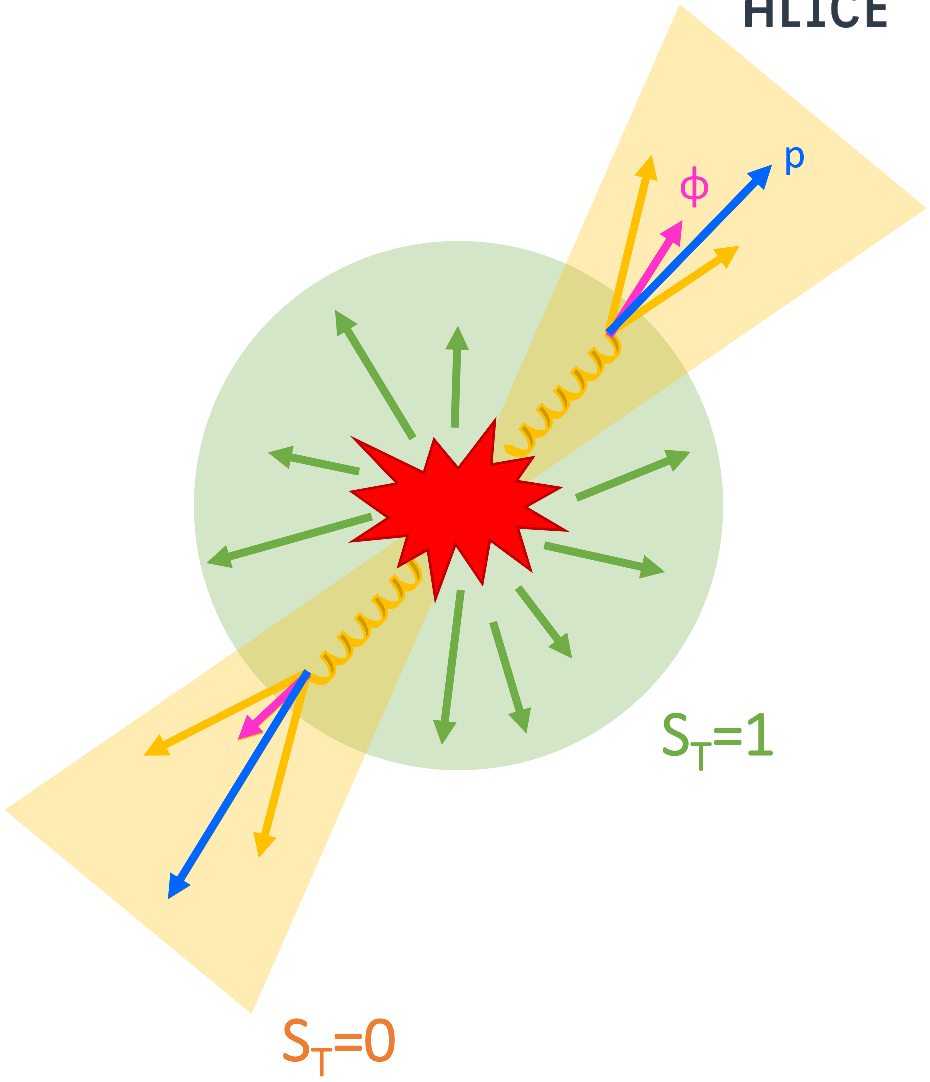
- Less pronounced in spherical events
  - Event shape classified by transverse Sphericity $S_T \in [0,1]$
    ALICE Collab., *JHEP* **09** (2019) 108
  - Caluclation from eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2$ of Transverse Momentum Matrix:

$$M_{xy} = \frac{1}{\sum_j p_{Tj}} \sum_i \frac{1}{p_{Ti}} \begin{bmatrix} p_{xi}^2 & p_{xi}p_{yi} \\ p_{xi}p_{yi} & p_{yi}^2 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow S_T = \frac{2\lambda_2}{\lambda_1+\lambda_2}, S_T \in [0,1]$$

  - In this Analysis: $0.7 < S_T < 1.0$



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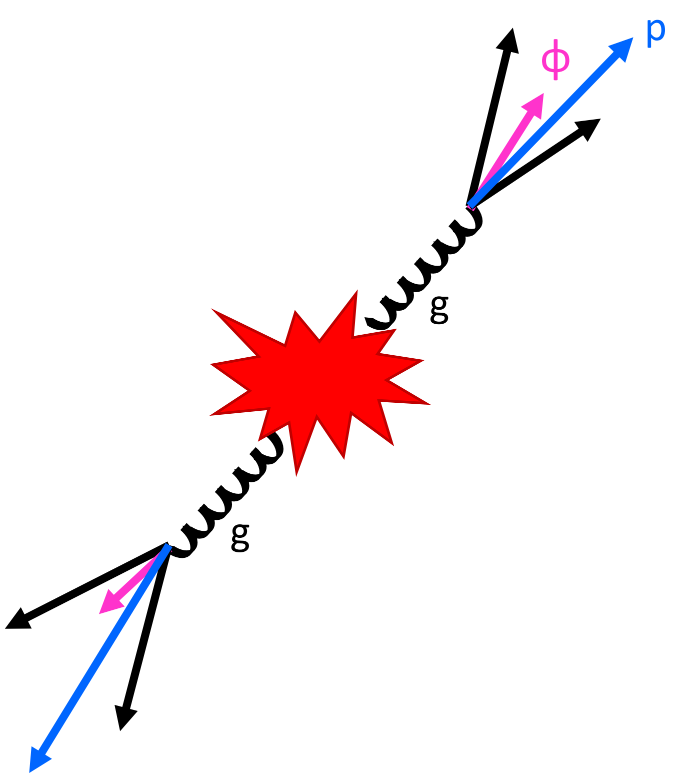
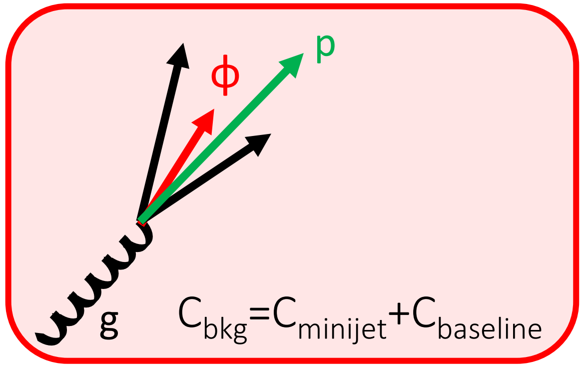
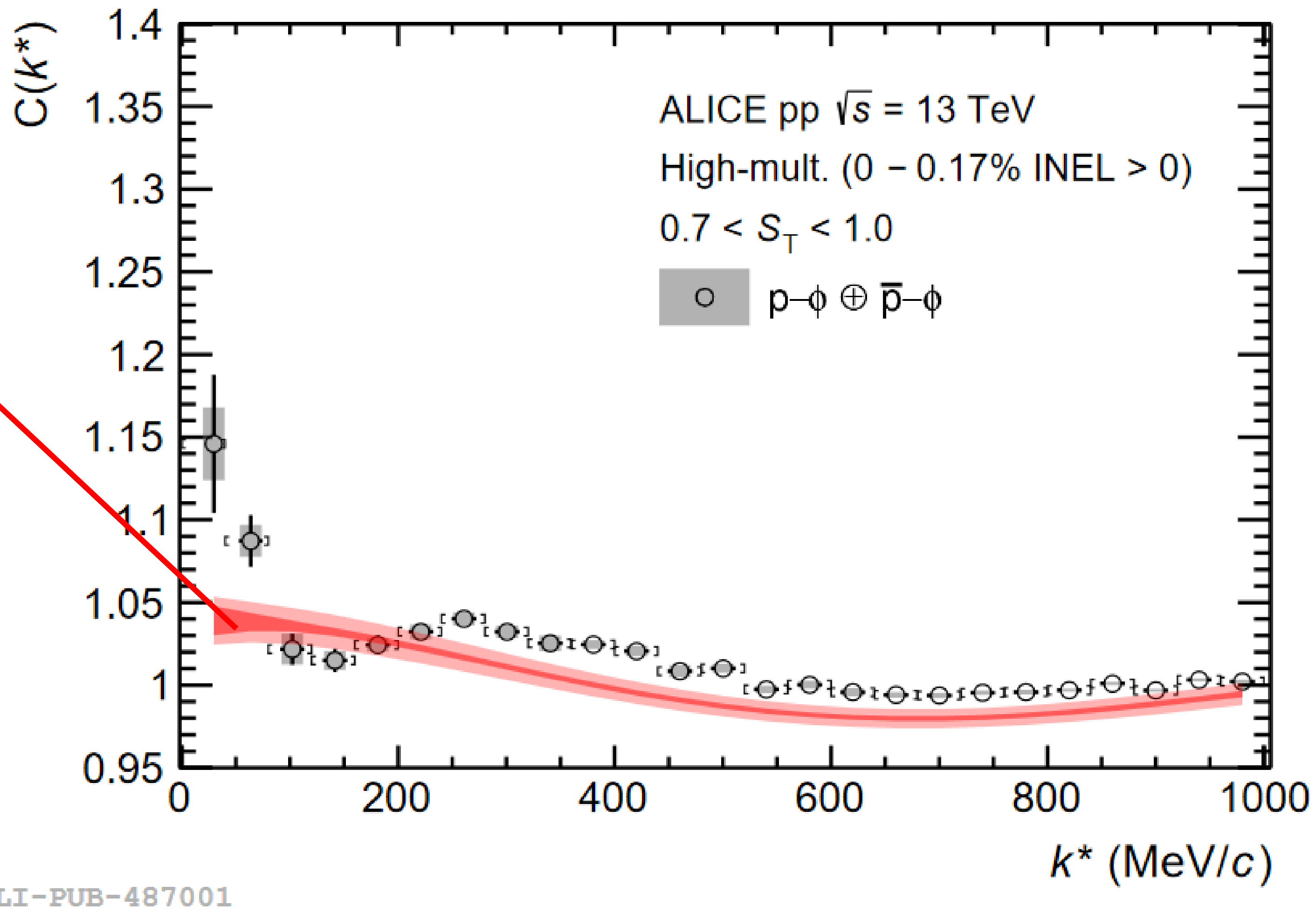
  - In this Analysis: $0.7 < S_T < 1.0$
- Residual minijet background well described by Pythia 8
  ALICE Collab., *Phys. Rev. D* **84** (2011) 112004



Non-femtoscpic background

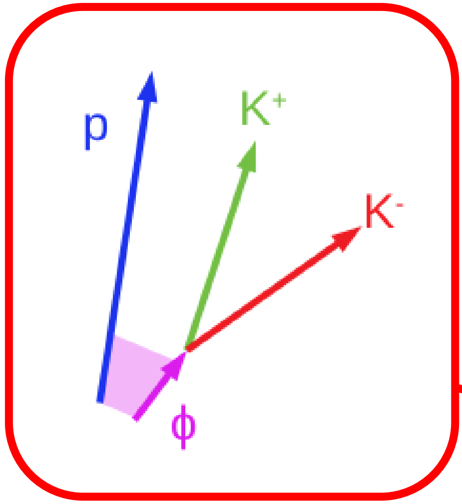


https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.05578

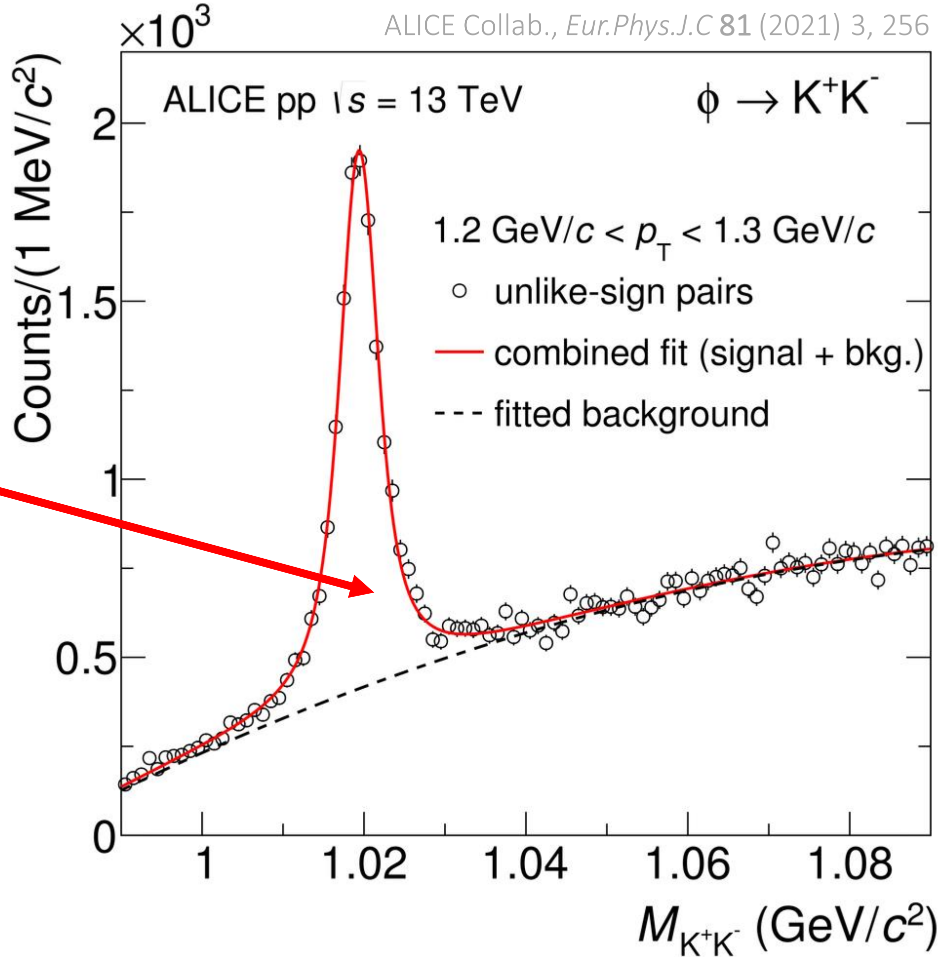


Combinatorial p-K$^+$K$^-$ background

- ϕ candidates reconstructed via invariant mass of K$^+$K$^-$



ALICE Collab., *Eur.Phys.J.C* **81** (2021) 3, 256



Combinatorial p-K⁺K⁻ background

- ϕ candidates reconstructed via invariant mass of K^+K^-
- purity of reconstructed ϕ mesons that go into the CF only ~57%
  → correlation signal from 2 and 3-body interaction between p, K^+ and K^-

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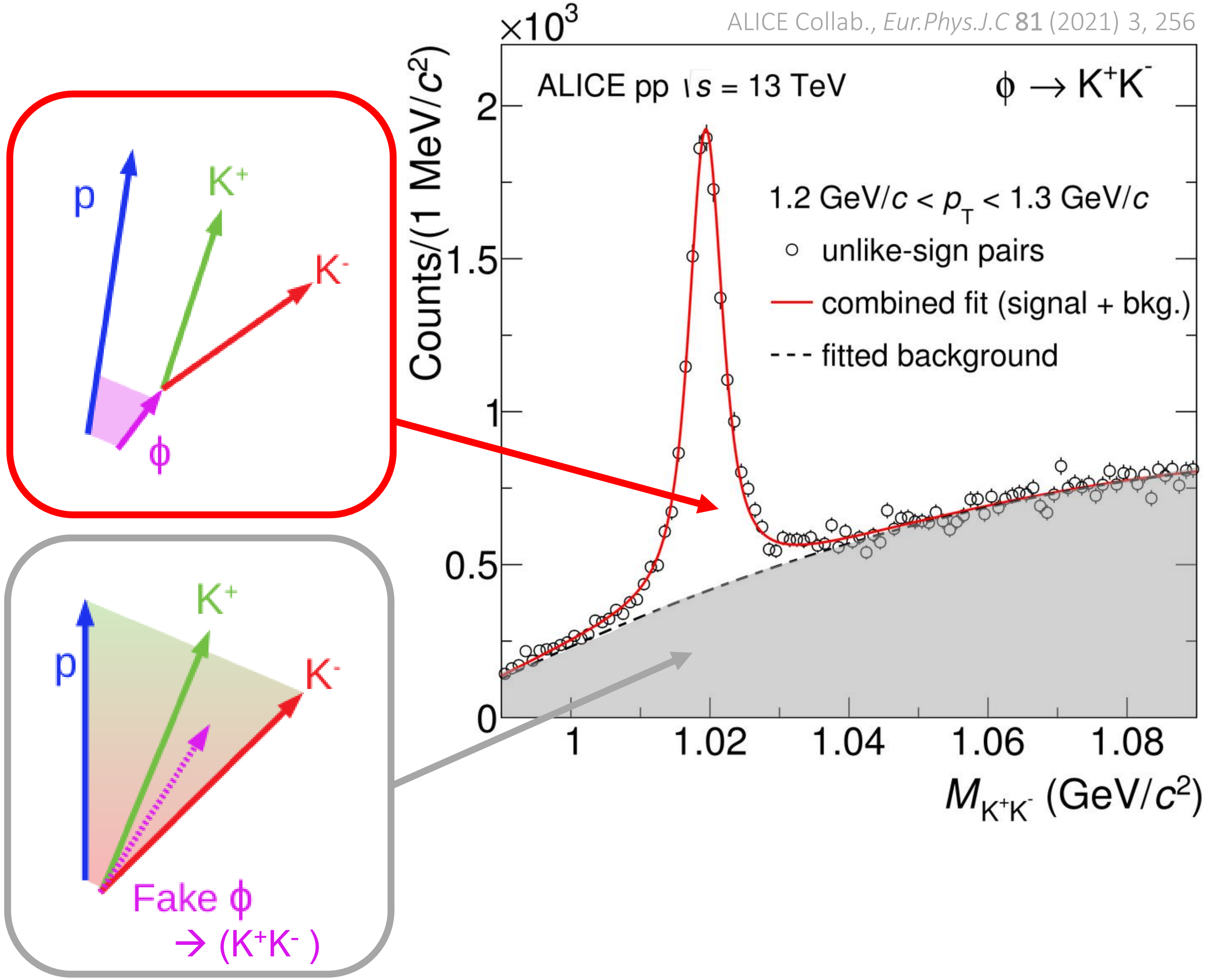

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- ϕ candidates reconstructed via invariant mass of K^+K^-
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  → correlation signal from 2 and 3-body interaction between p, K^+ and K^-
- Sideband analysis

Phi Peak: $M_\phi \pm 8$ MeV/c^2

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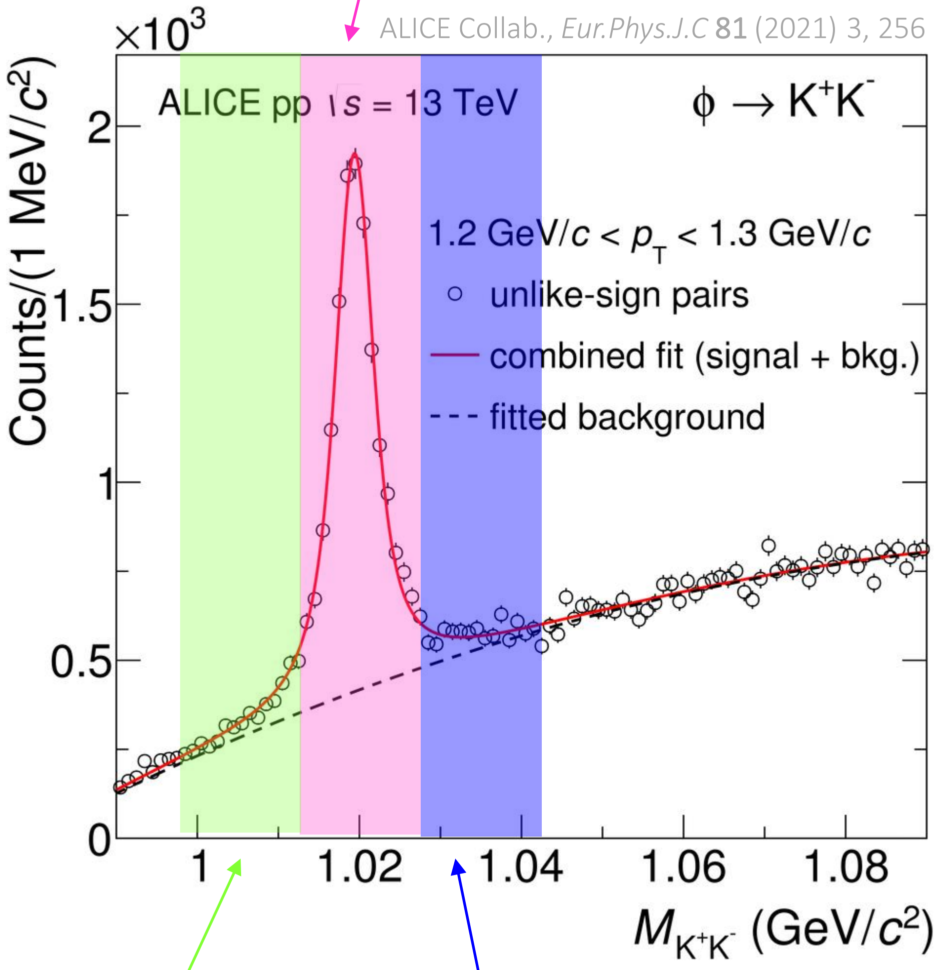
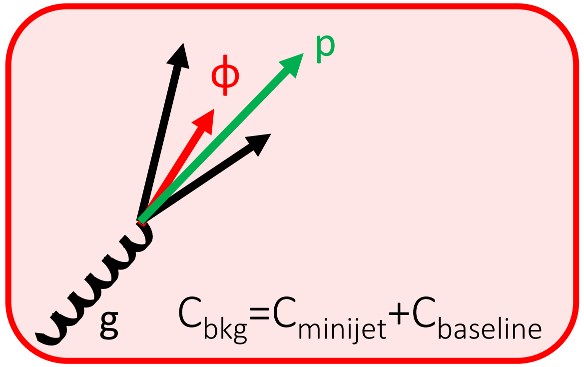
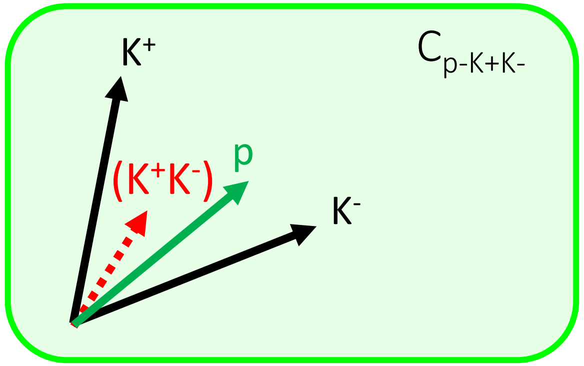


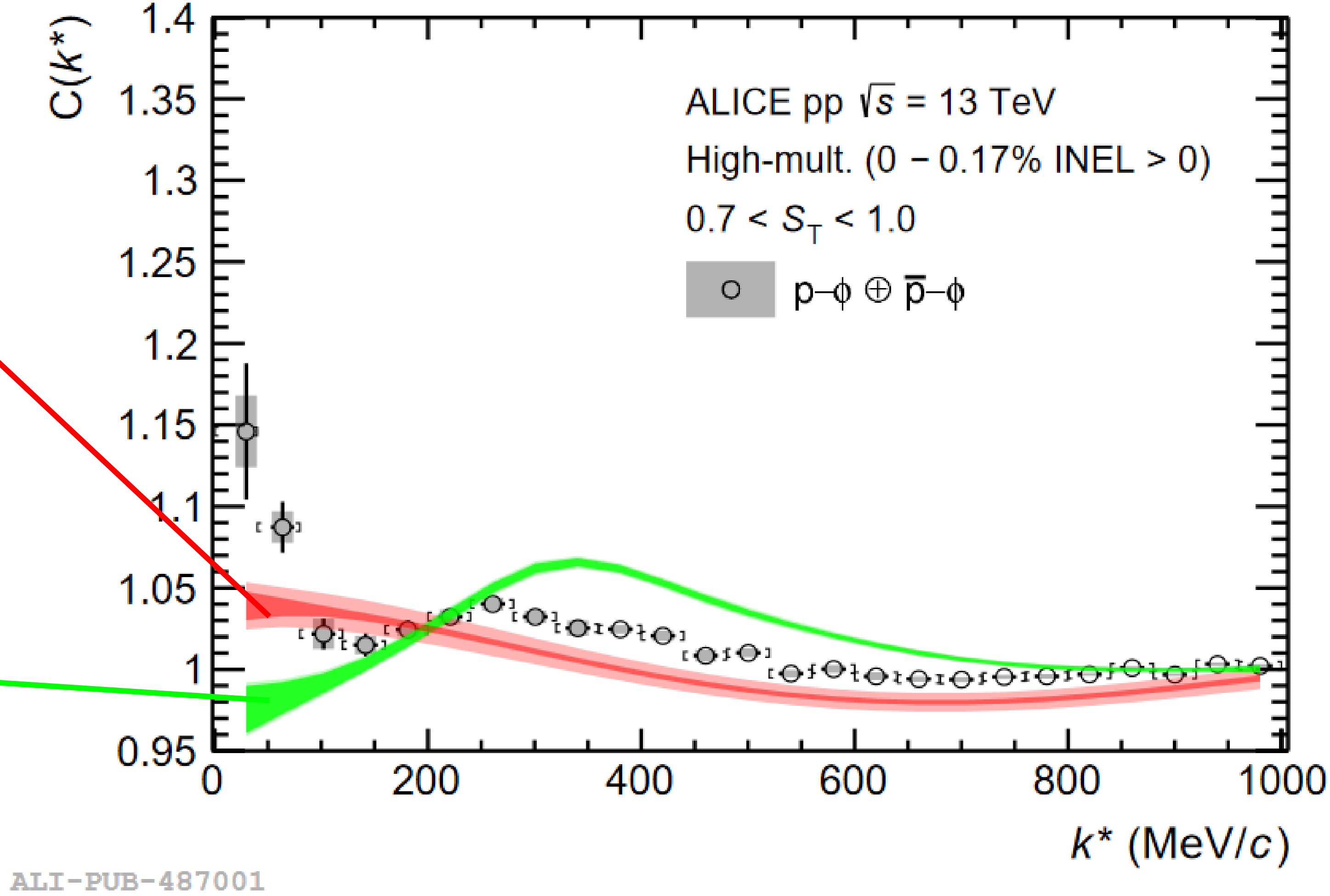
Left SB: 0.995-1.011 GeV/c^2 **Right SB:** 1.028-1.044 GeV/c^2

Non-femtoscpic background

https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.05578







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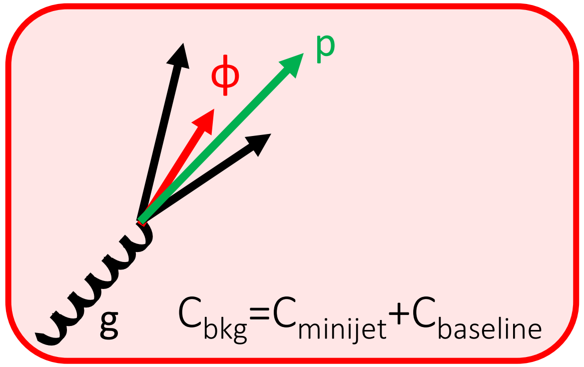
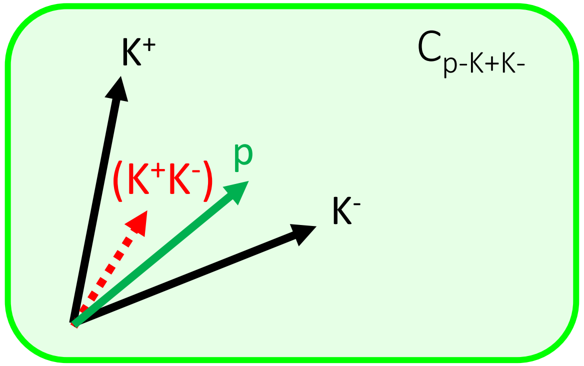
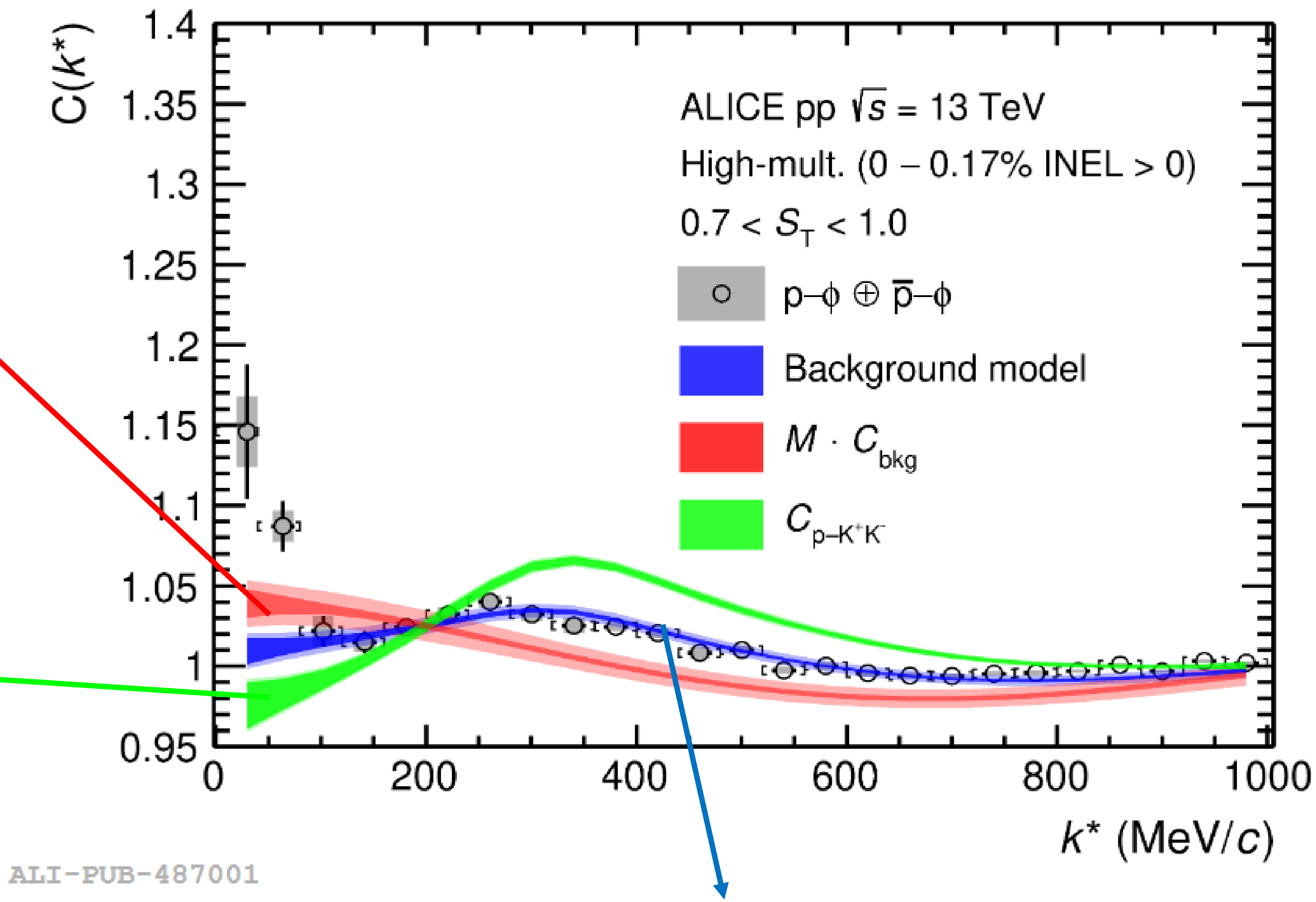




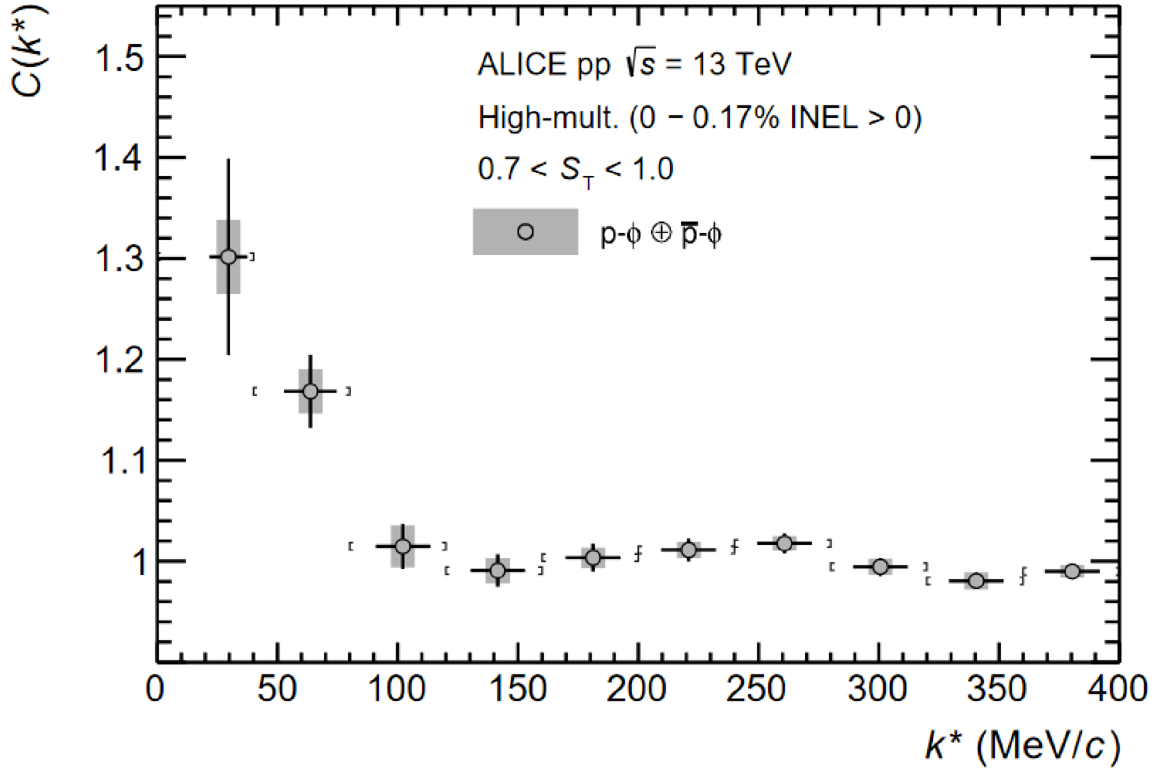


Combine contributions to get description of **total background**, used to derive genuine p–ϕ CF

Results p–ϕ

- Observation of **attractive** p–ϕ interaction

https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.05578



Results p–ϕ

- Observation of **attractive** p–ϕ interaction
- CF tool to study coupled channels (CC)
  J. Haidenbauer, Nucl.Phys.A 981 (2019) 1
  Y. Kamiya et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 124 (2020) 13
- Above-threshold channels ($m_{channel} > m_{pair}$) can lead to cusp structure at channel opening k* in p–ϕ system e.g. K*–Λ, K*–Σ

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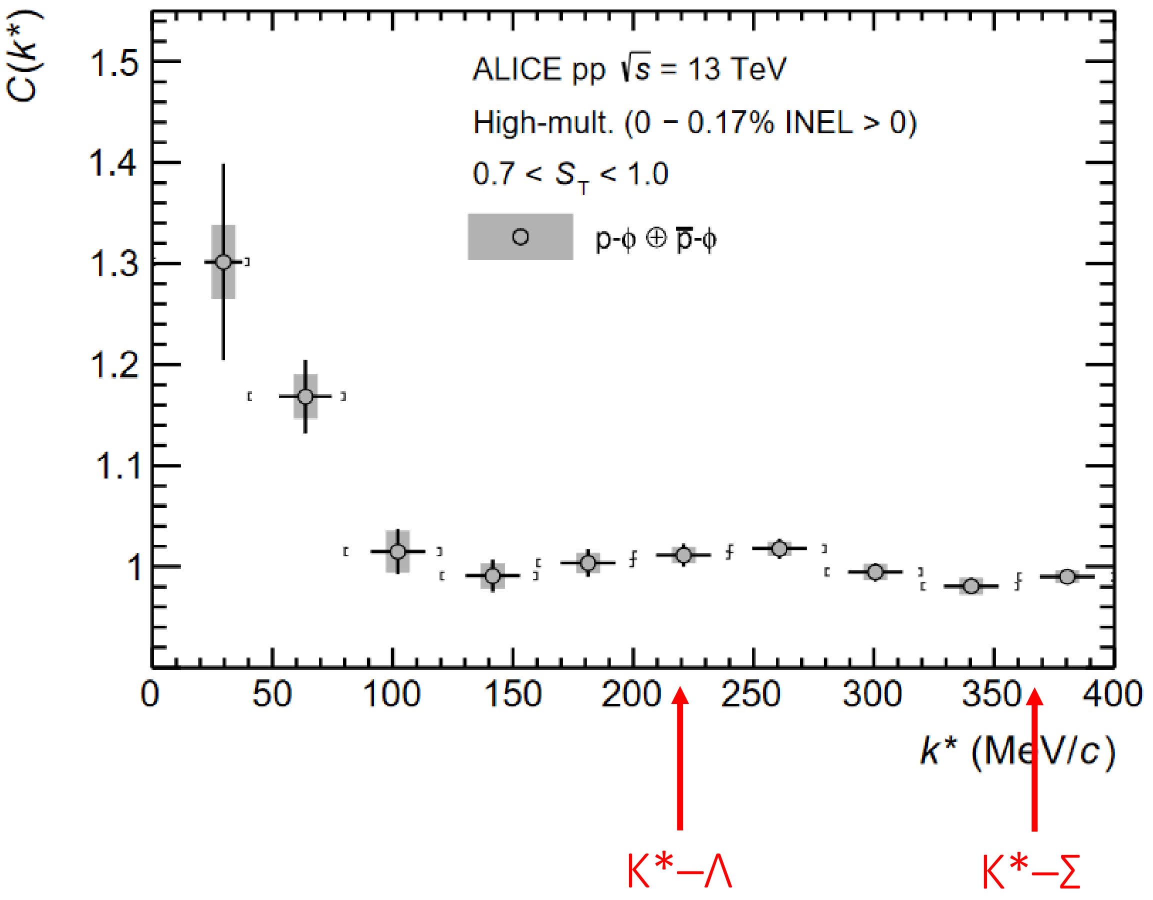

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- Above-threshold channels ($m_{channel} > m_{pair}$) can lead to cusp structure at channel opening k* in p–ϕ system e.g. K*–Λ, K*–Σ
- Below-threshold channels effectively increase CF e.g. K–Λ, K–Σ, K–Λ (1405)

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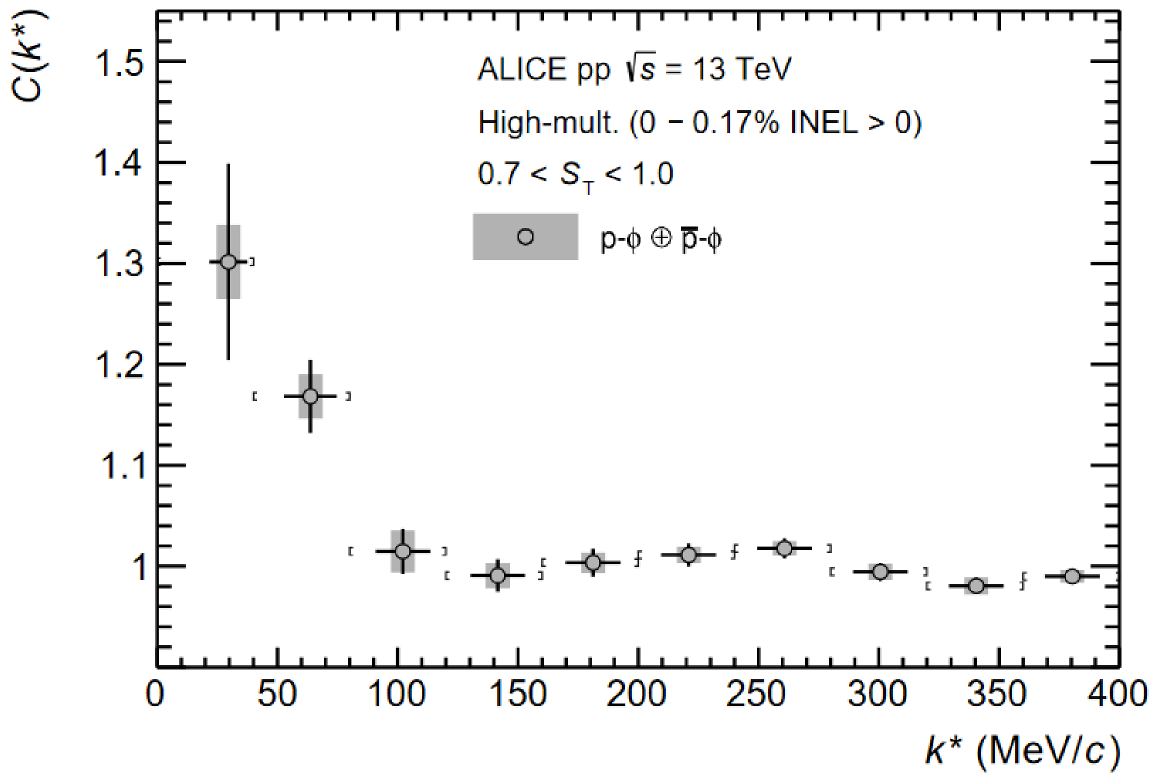

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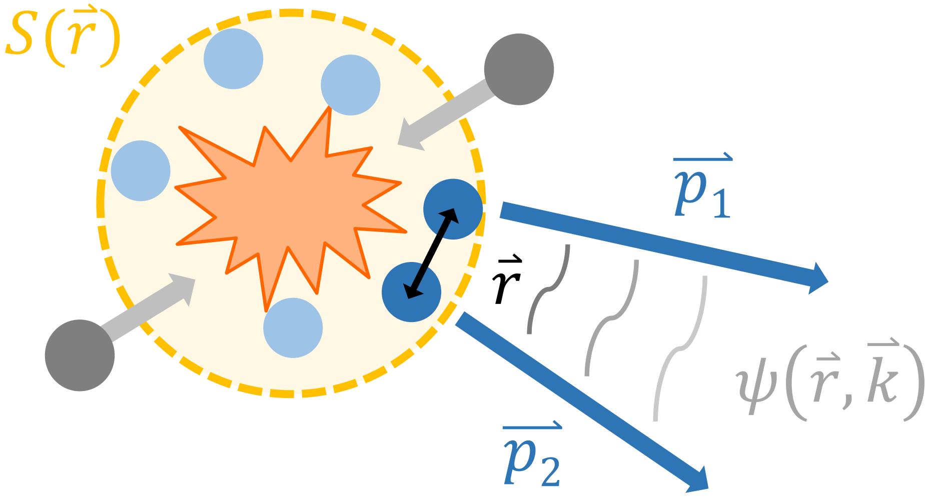

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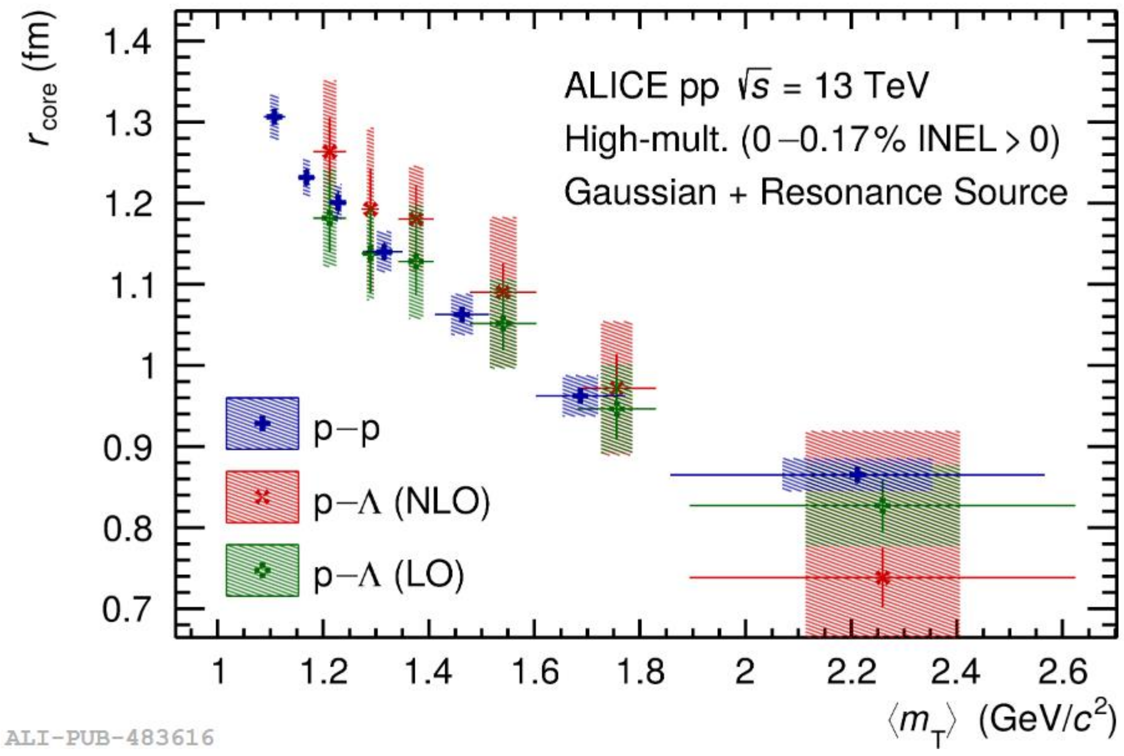
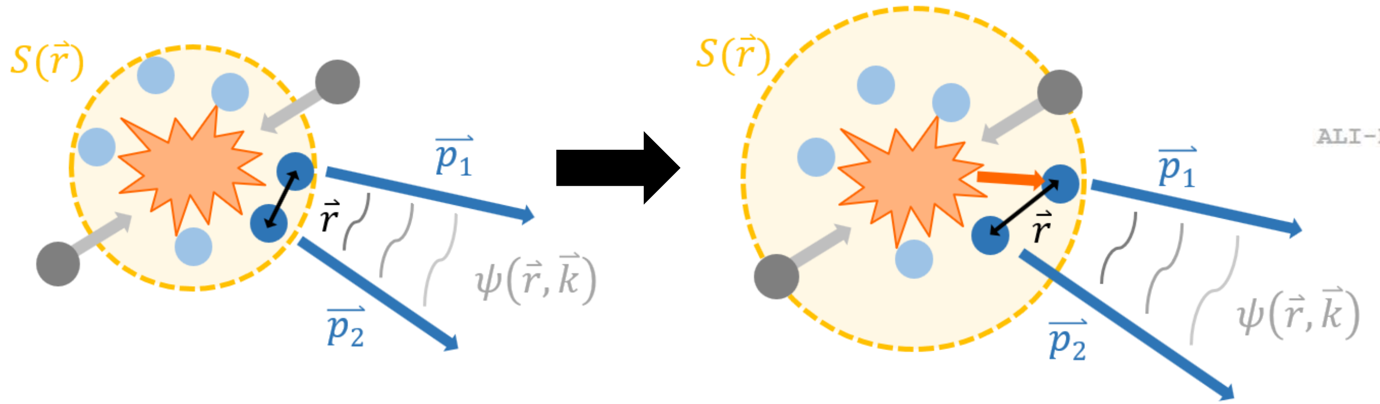
The source

- Source constrained from pp pairs (well known interaction)
  - **Gaussian core** from which particles are emitted is effectively increased by short-lived strongly decaying **resonances** ($c\tau \approx r_{core}$)
  - Use universal source model to get p- ϕ source

ALICE Collab., *Physics Letters B*, **811** (2020) 135849





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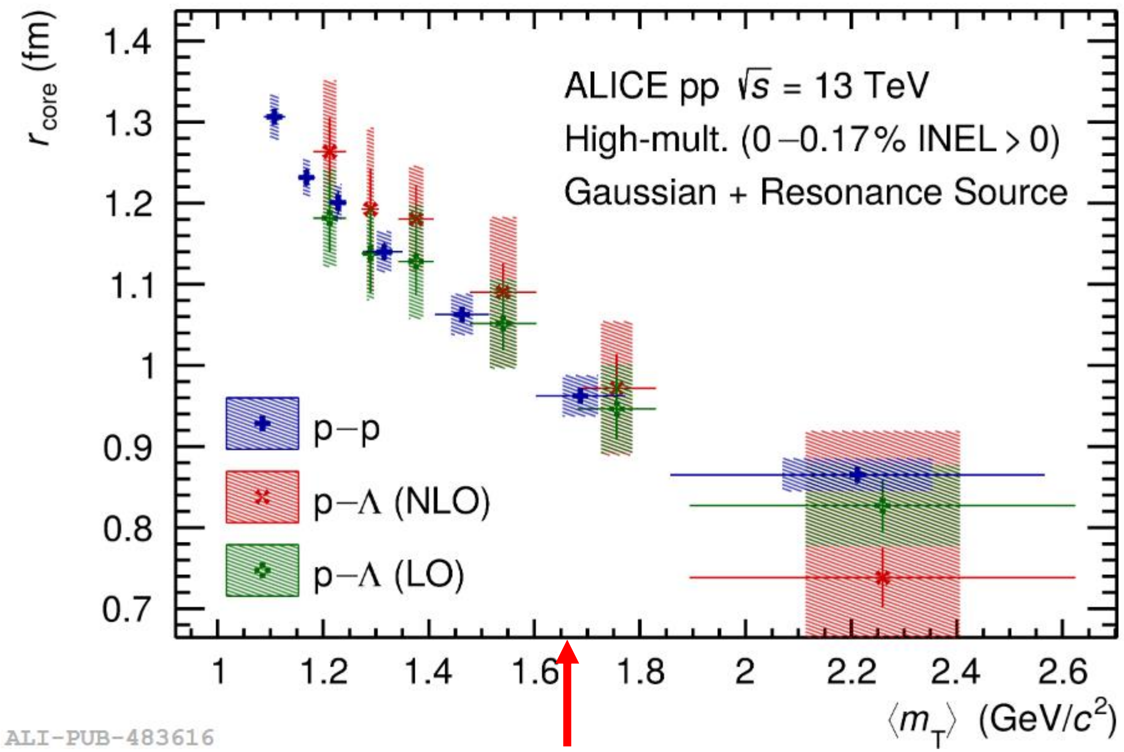
- Gaussian core source scales with $\langle m_T \rangle$
  - $r_{core} = 0.98 \pm 0.04$ fm
- Exponential tail from resonances
  - no relevant contribution from strongly decaying resonances feeding to the ϕ
  - Sizable amount of protons from decay of e.g. Delta resonances (only ~33% primordial protons)
  - effective Gaussian size: $\boldsymbol{r_{eff}} = 1.08 \pm 0.05$ fm



$\langle m_{T,p\phi} \rangle = 1.66$ GeV/c^2

Lednicky-Lyuboshits approach

$$C(k^*) = \sum_S \rho_S \left[\frac{1}{2}\left|\frac{f(k^*)}{r_{eff}}\right|^2 \left(1 - \frac{d_0}{2\sqrt{\pi} r_{eff}}\right) + \frac{2\Re f(k^*)}{\sqrt{\pi} r_{eff}} F_1(2k^* r_{eff}) - \frac{\Im f(k^*)}{r_{eff}} F_2(2k^* r_{eff})\right]$$

Analytical approach to model CF for strong final state interaction within effective range expansion

R. Lednicky and V.L. Lyuboshits, *Sov. J. Nucl. Phys*. **53** (1982) 770

- isotropic source of Gaussian profile $S(r^*)$
- scattering amplitude: $f(k^*) = \left(\frac{1}{f_0} + \frac{1}{2} d_0 k^{*2} - i k^*\right)^{-1}$
    - Effective range d_0 and scattering length f_0
- spin averaged scattering parameters

Results p–ϕ

- Scattering parameters extracted by employing the **analytical** Lednicky-Lyuboshits approach
  R. Lednicky and V.L. Lyuboshits, *Sov. J. Nucl. Phys*. **53** (1982) 770
- Imaginary contribution to the scattering length f_0 accounts for inelastic channels

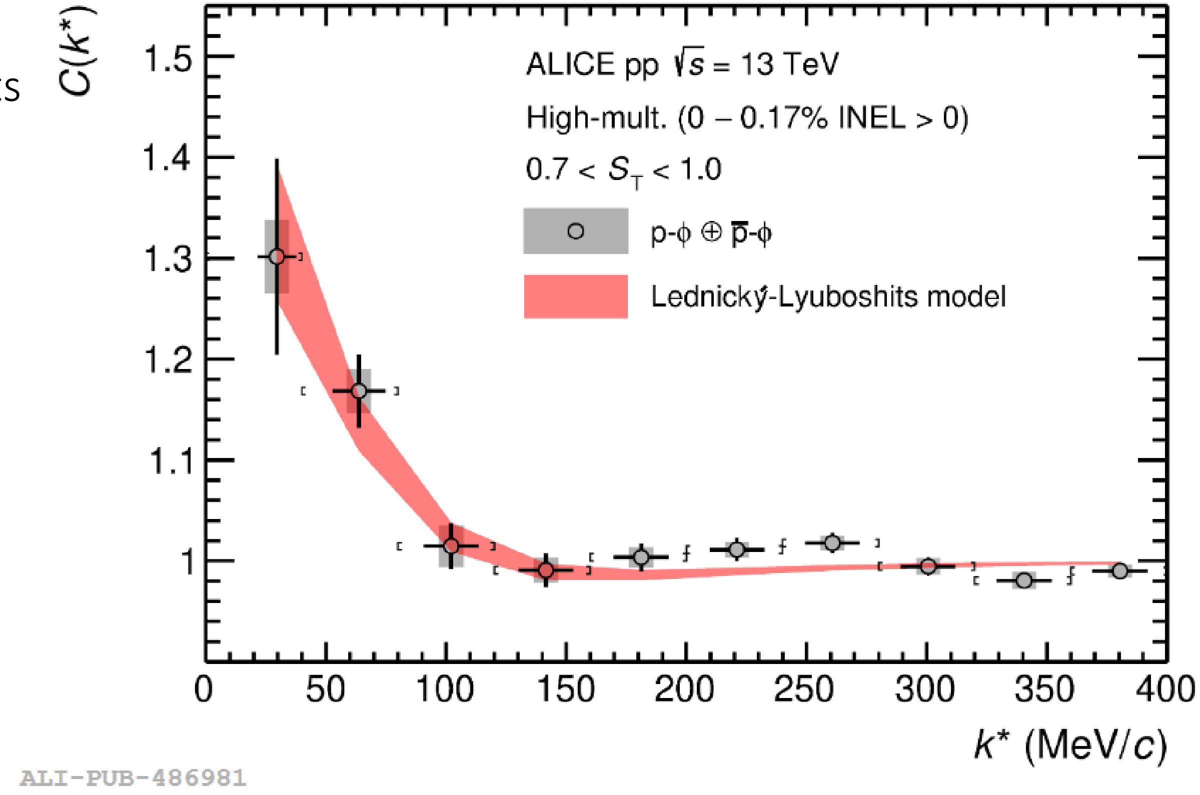
d_0=7.85±1.54(stat.) ±0.26(syst.) fm

Re(f_0)=0.85±0.34(stat.) ±0.14(syst.) fm

Im(f_0)=0.16±0.10(stat.) ±0.09(syst.) fm

- Elastic p–ϕ coupling dominant contribution to the interaction in vacuum

ALICE Collab., *PRL* **127** (2021) 172301



Results p–ϕ

- Yukawa-type of potential with real parameters
  Phys. Rev. Lett. **98** (2007) 042501
  - $V(r) = -A \cdot \frac{e^{-\alpha r}}{r}$
- CF obtained **numerically** using CATS framework
  D.L. Mihaylov et al, *Eur. Phys. J.* **C78** (2018) no.5, 394

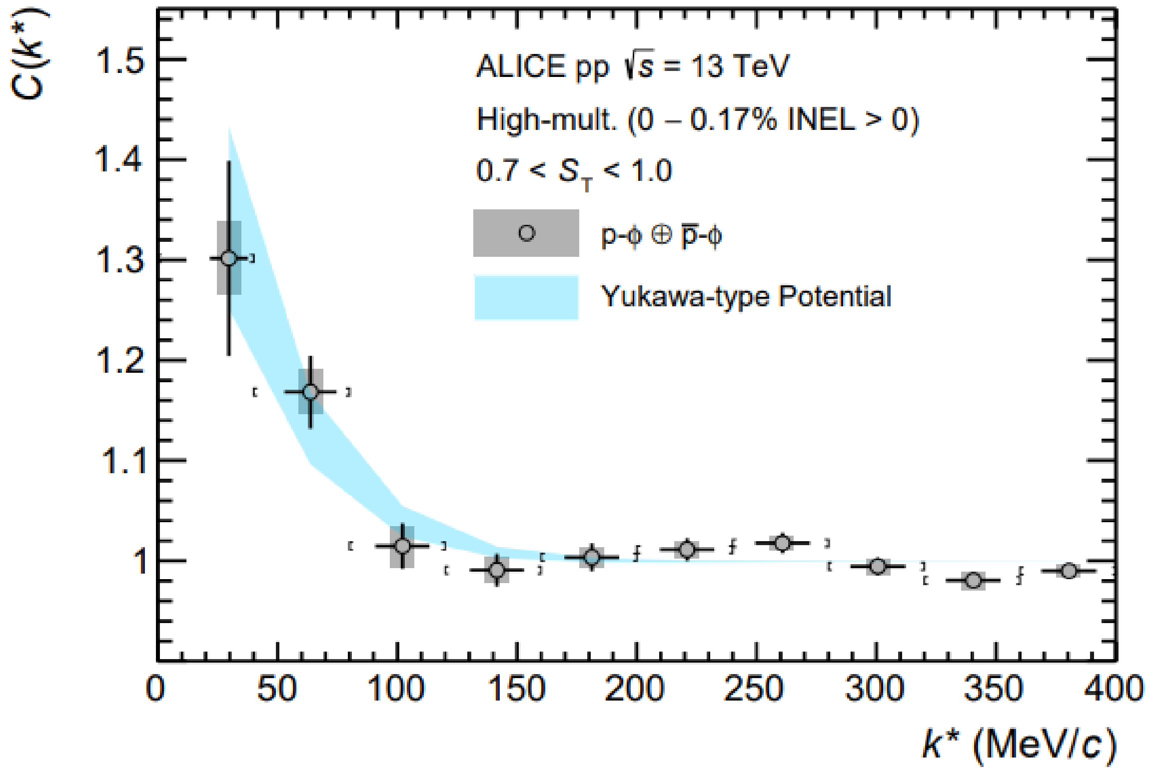
Strength A = 0.021 ± 0.009(stat.) ± 0.006(syst.)

Inverse range α = 65.9 ± 38.0(stat.) ± 17.5(syst.)MeV

- Extraction of N–ϕ coupling constant as $\sqrt{A}$

$g_{\phi N}$=0.14±0.03(stat.)±0.02(syst.)

  - Link to Y–Y interaction $g_{\phi Y} \propto g_{\phi N}$ and NS
    S. Weissborn et al., *Nuclear Physics A*, **881** (2012) 62-77



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- Gaussian-type potential with real parameters
  Phys. Rev. Lett. **98** (2007) 042501
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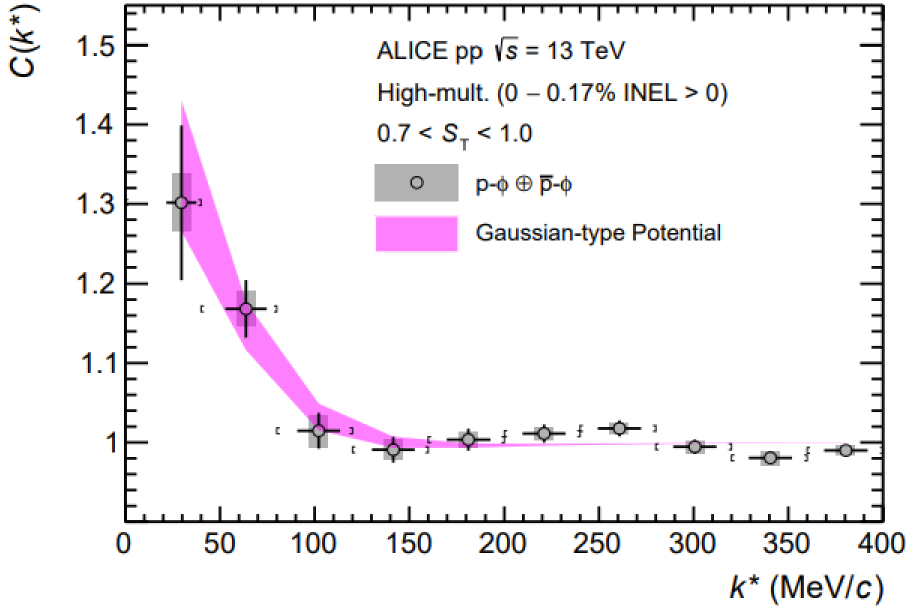
- CF obtained **numerically** using CATS framework
  D.L. Mihaylov et al, *Eur. Phys. J.* **C78** (2018) no.5, 394

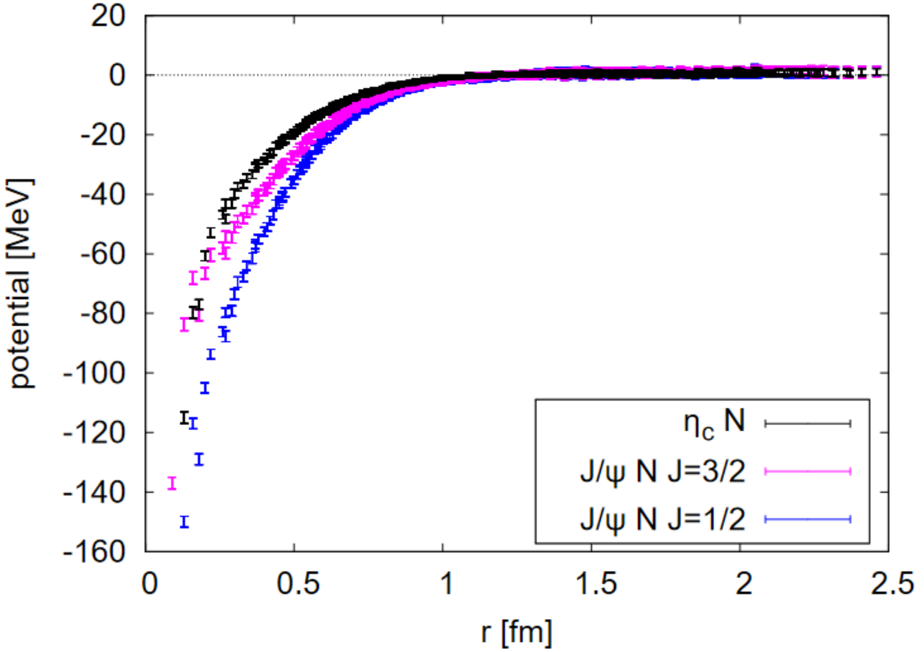
V_{eff} = 2.5±0.9(stat.) ± 1.4(syst.) MeV

μ = 0.14 ± 0.06(stat.) ± 0.09(syst.) fm−2

- Very shallow potential depth found
- Much shallower than Lattice QCD potential for N–J/ψ strong interaction (indirect comparison)
  T. Sugiura, Y. Ikeda, and N. Ishii, *PoS* **LATTICE2018** (2019) 093



T. Sugiura, Y. Ikeda, and N. Ishii, *PoS* **LATTICE2018** (2019) 093



Summary

- First measurement of the p–ϕ correlation function
- Attractive p–ϕ interaction dominated by elastic contributions in vacuum
- Extraction of $g_{\phi Y} \propto g_{\phi N}$ → Relevant for meson exchange between hyperons in Neutron Stars
- PRL Editor's selection
  ALICE Collab., *PRL* **127** (2021) 172301

ALICE Collab., *PRL* **127** (2021) 172301