





Production of light nuclei and anti-nuclei at the LHC

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Light (anti-)nuclei chart

⁴He is the heaviest anti-nucleus observed so far Seen first by the STAR experiment in 2011 12.32 a anti-deuteron (d) 10.23min anti-triton (t) $\overline{p}\overline{n}$ <u>pnn</u> anti-alpha



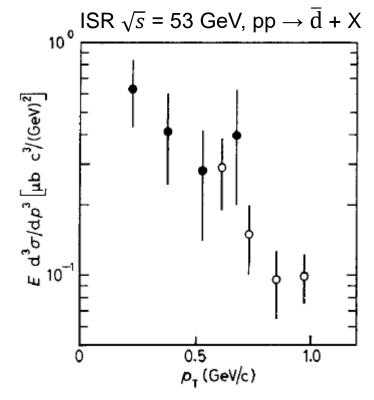




Why do we care so much?

Lack of experimental data in pp collisions

- anti-deuterons at CERN ISR
- anti-³He and anti-tritons never observed in pp



Lett. Nuovo Cim. 21 (1978) 198 Phys. Lett. 46B (1973) 265







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Testing model predictions e.g. hadron coalescence

High interest in Astroparticle Physics (e.g. AMS-02)

→ primordial anti-matter and Dark Matter searches

Nuclei probe last stages evolution of heavy-ion collisions

Testing fundamental symmetries

Search for strange matter







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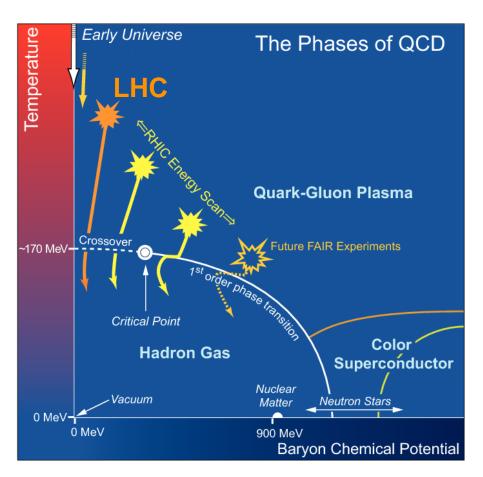
Search for strange matter







QCD phase diagram



Heavy-ion collisions at the LHC produce very hot and dense nuclear matter

High temperature and low net baryon density at the LHC similar to those of **early universe**

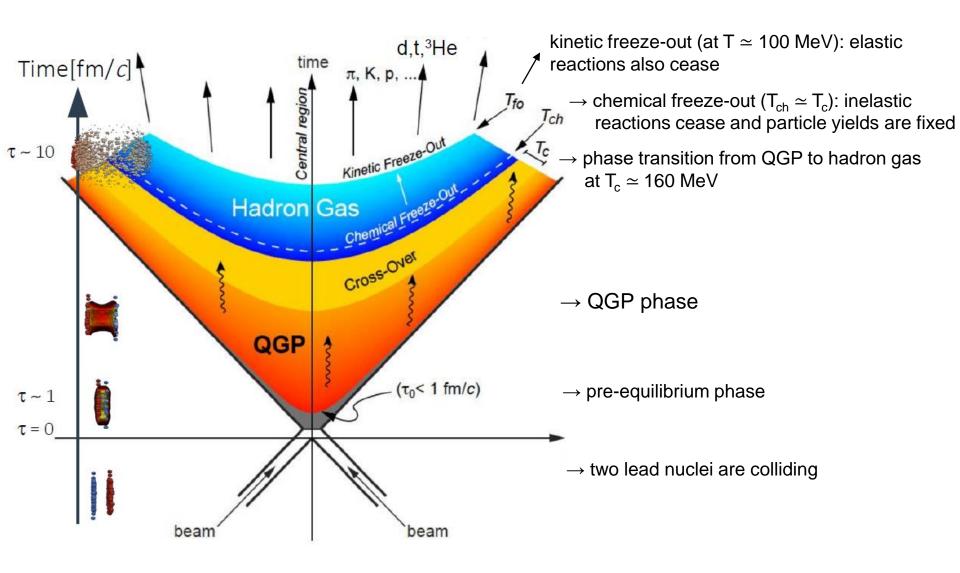
In the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) the partons move freely over distances larger than the typical size of hadrons







Evolution of a heavy-ion collision









Nuclei formation mechanisms

Thermal production Andronic et al, Nature 561 (2018) 321

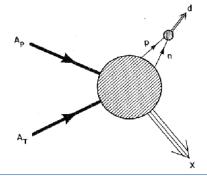
Thermodynamic approach to particle production extensively used in heavy-ion physics

- Hadrons emitted from the interaction region at the limiting temperature
- Abundances fixed at the chemical freeze-out
- - → strong sensitivity of nuclei (large m) on T_{ch}
- Nuclei are loosely bound objects ("snowballs in hell")
 - → nuclei might dissociate in the hadronic phase and re-formed later via coalescence

Coalescence

Nuclei form by coalescence of final-state nucleons after the kinetic freeze-out

Csernai and Kapusta, Phys. Rept. 131 (1986) 223

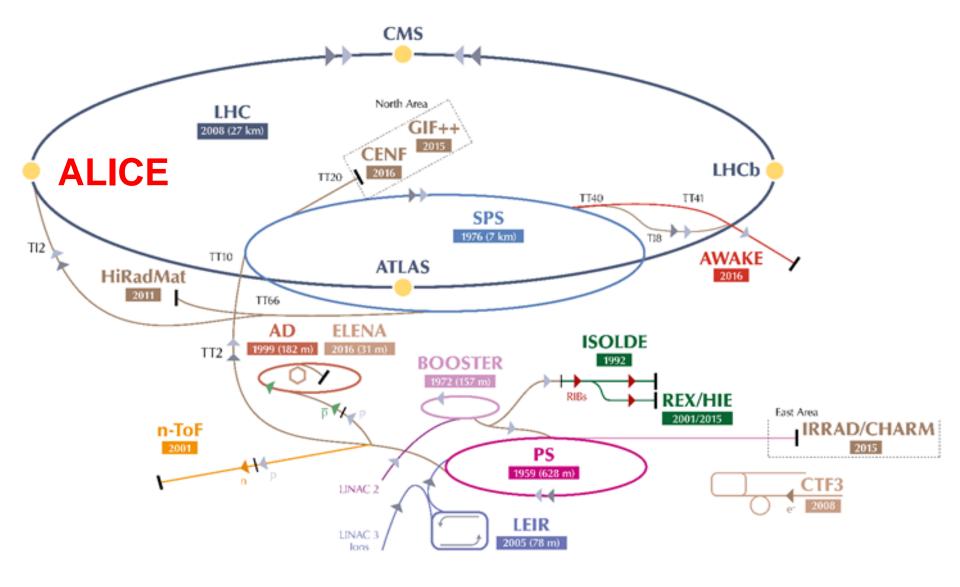








CERN accelerator complex

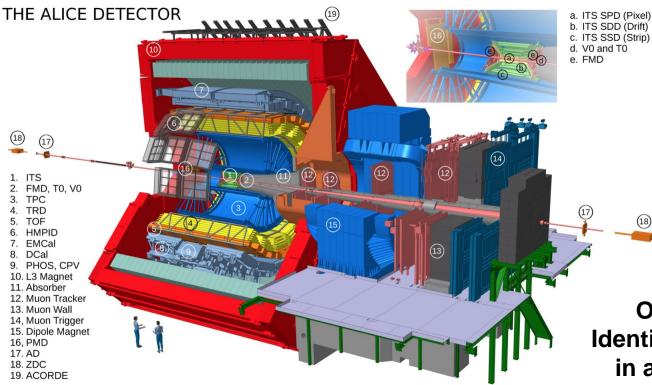








ALICE experiment



Run 1 (2009-2013)	Run 2 (2015-2018)
pp 0.9, 2.76, 7, 8 TeV	pp 5.02, 13 TeV
p-Pb 5.02	p-Pb 5.02, 8.16 TeV
Pb-Pb 2.76 TeV	Pb-Pb 5.02 TeV Xe-Xe 5.44 TeV

Optimized for Particle
Identification at low momenta
in a very high-multiplicity
environment

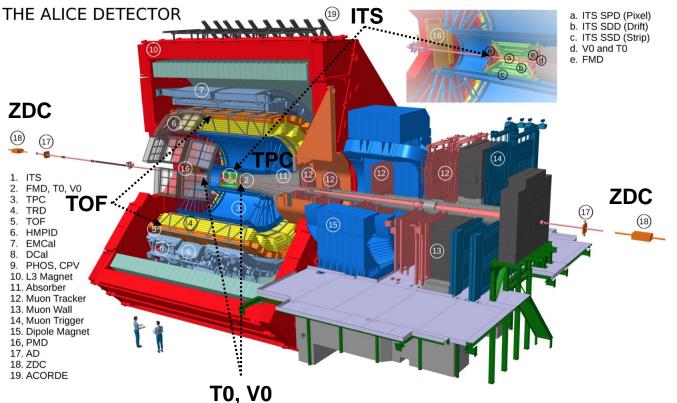
Many particle detection techniques employed (17 detectors) / low material budget







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Pb-Pb 2.76 TeV	Pb-Pb 5.02 TeV Xe-Xe 5.44 TeV

ITS ($|\eta| < 0.9$)

6 layers silicon detectors

Trigger, vertex, tracking, PID (dE/dx)

TPC ($|\eta| < 0.9$)

Gas-filled cylindrical barrel, MWPC readout

Tracking, PID (d*E*/d*x*)

TOF (|n|<0.9)

Multigap RPC

PID (time-of-flight)

T0 $(4.6 < \eta < 4.9 \text{ and } -3.3 < \eta < -3.0)$

2 arrays of Cherenkov's (T0A, T0C)

Luminosity, vertex, event collision time

V0 (2.8<η<5.1 and -3.7<η<-1.7)

Forward arrays of scintillators (V0A and V0C)

Trigger, beam gas rejection, multiplicity, centrality

ZCD centrality determination



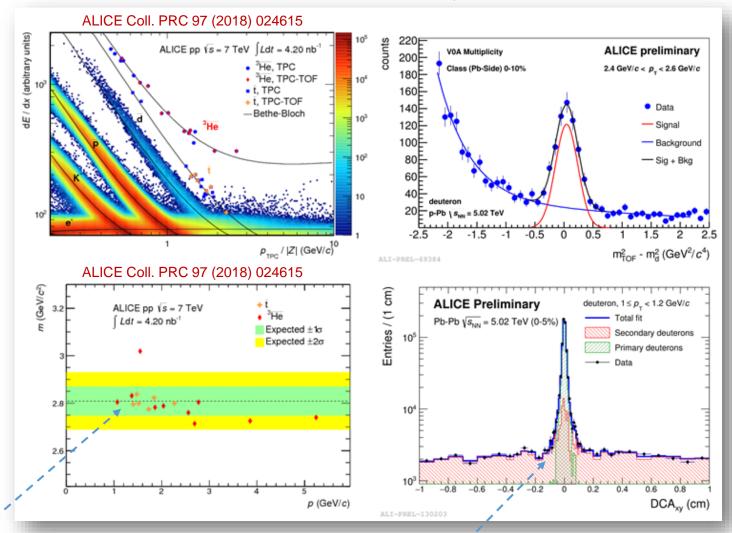






Low momenta: TPC (d*E*/d*x*)

Higher momenta: TOF (m^2)



TPC+TOF: 6 anti-tritons and 10 ${}^{3}\overline{\text{He}}$ candidates \rightarrow first ever observation in pp

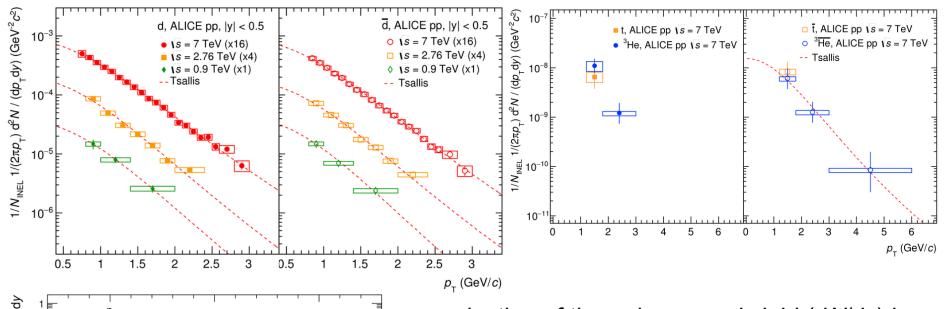
ITS: separation of primary and secondary nuclei (from material knock-out)

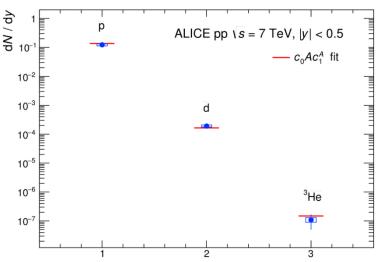






Deuterons, tritons and ³He ALICE Coll. PRC 97 (2018) 024615 and their anti-nuclei in pp at LHC Run 1





 \rightarrow reduction of the p_T integrated yield (d*N*/d*y*) is about 1000 for each additional nucleon in pp In p-Pb this penalty factor is about 600

~300 in Pb-Pb collisions ALICE Coll. NPA 971 (2018) 1

caveat: this penalty factor **may also depend on charged-particle multiplicity** → see e.g. d/p ratio

A = mass number

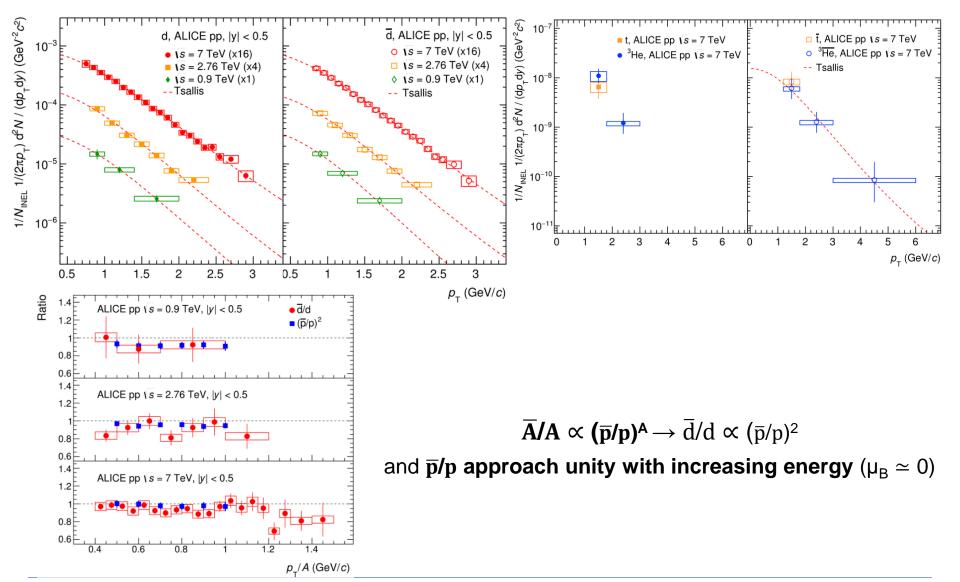






Deuterons, tritons and ³He ALICE Coll. PRC 97 (2018) 024615

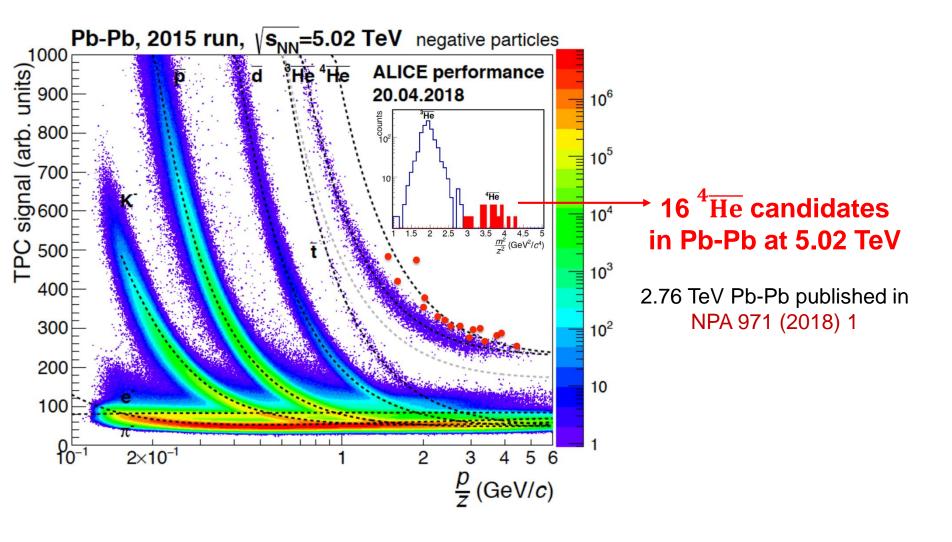
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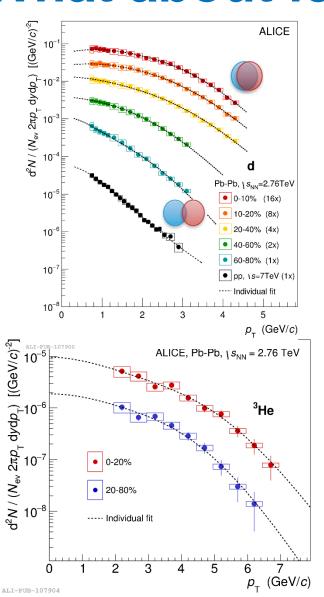




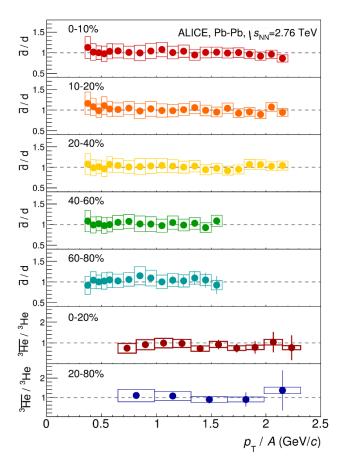








ALICE Coll. PRC 93 (2016) 024917



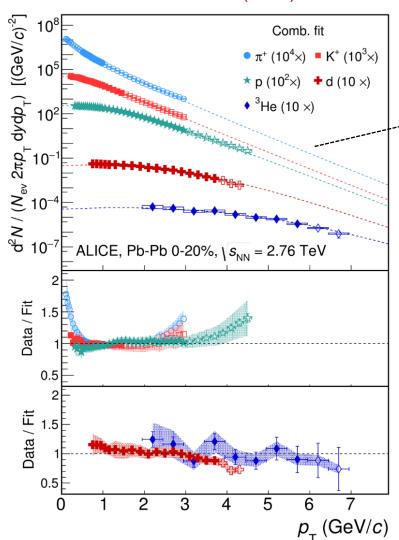
anti-nuclei/nuclei ratio consistent with unity independently of $p_{\rm T}$ and centrality







ALICE Coll. PRC 93 (2016) 024917



→ Blast-Wave (BW) PRC 48 (1993) 2462: hydrodynamic-inspired model describing particle production assuming a radially expanding thermalized source

BW fits simultaneously π , K, p and d, 3 He

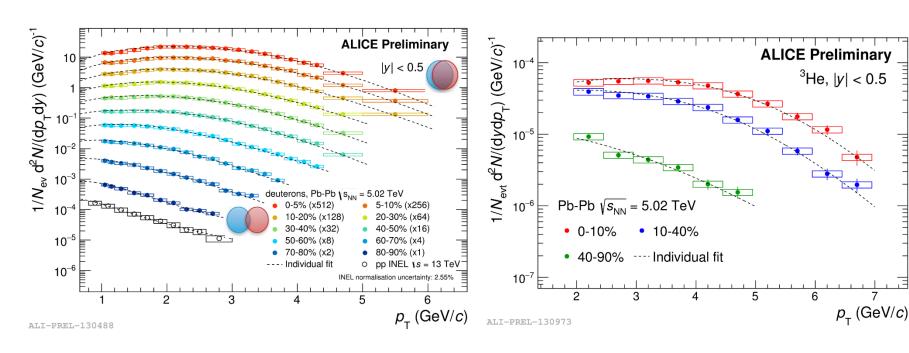
→ kinetic freeze-out conditions for nuclei identical to those of other light flavor hadrons







Preliminary 5.02 TeV Pb-Pb published in ALICE-PUBLIC-2017-006









Thermal model

see Andronic et al, Nature 561 (2018) 321

Thermodynamic approach to particle production extensively used in heavy-ion physics

- starting point: grand-canonical partition function Z for a relativistic ideal quantum gas of hadrons
- once the partition function is known all other thermodynamic quantities (such as the particle density *n*) can be calculated

$$n = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial (T \ln Z)}{\partial \mu} P = \frac{\partial (T \ln Z)}{\partial V} s = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial (T \ln Z)}{\partial T}$$

- only two free parameters are needed ($T_{\rm ch}$, $\mu_{\rm B}$). V cancels if particle ratios ($n_{\rm i}/n_{\rm i}$) are considered
- macroscopic model → internal structure of nuclei is ignored







Thermal model

Light nuclei are fragile objects i.e. they have a small binding energy (2.2 MeV for deuteron) then it is not clear if thermal model applies to nuclei

- \rightarrow indeed light nuclei might dissociate in the hadronic phase at $T_{ch} \simeq 160 \text{ MeV}$
 - → however it is the entropy per baryon that determines nuclei production yield and this is fixed at the chemical freeze-out Siemens and Kapusta, PRL 43 (1979) 1486
 - → agreement with thermal model is a sign for an adiabatic (isentropic) expansion in the hadronic phase

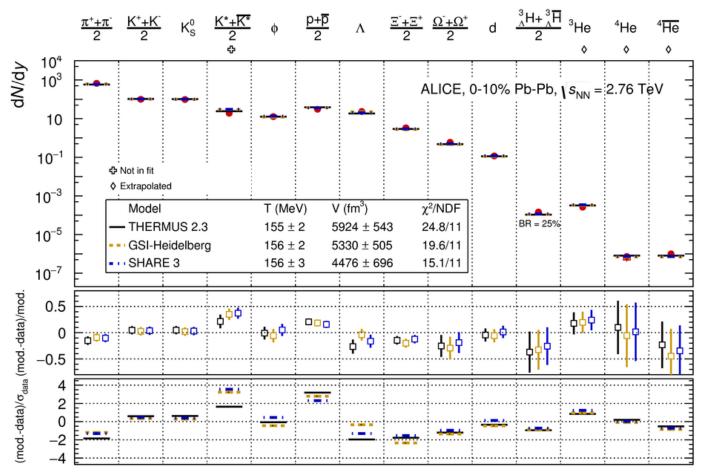






Thermal model fit

ALICE Coll. PRC 97 (2018) 024615



Thermal model is successfully reproducing particle yields in Pb-Pb at 2.76 TeV

different model implementation fit nuclei and even hypertriton

if only nuclei are fitted, the temperature is $154 \pm 4 \text{ MeV}$

> → hint for nuclei production at the hadronization

THERMUS: Weaton et al. CPC 180 (2009) 84

GSI-Heidelberg: Andronic et al., Nature 561 (2018) 321

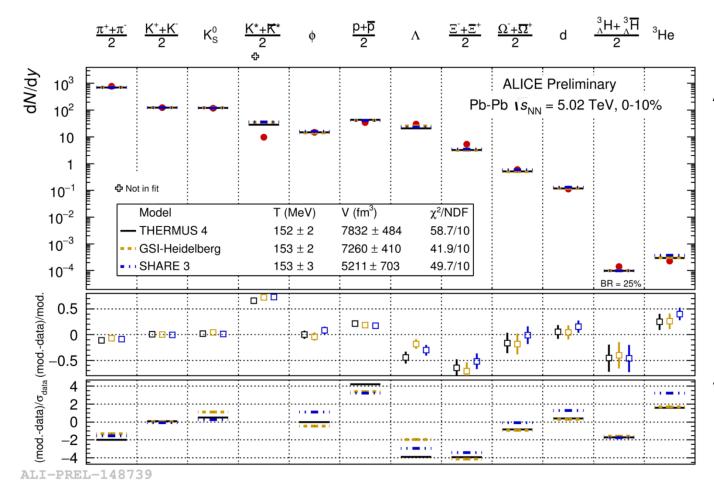
SHARE 3: Torrieri et al., CPC 185 (2014) 2056







Thermal model fit



At the LHC Run 2 improved reconstruction and analysis technique reduced the uncertainties

Tensions with thermal model are larger THERMUS 5.7σ GSI-Heidelberg 4.3σ SHARE 3 5σ

→ does the model need further tuning? Eigen volume corrections, particle lists and BR, rescattering, S-matrix etc.

THERMUS: Weaton et al. CPC 180 (2009) 84

GSI-Heidelberg: Andronic et al., Nature 561 (2018) 321

SHARE 3: Torrieri et al., CPC 185 (2014) 2056





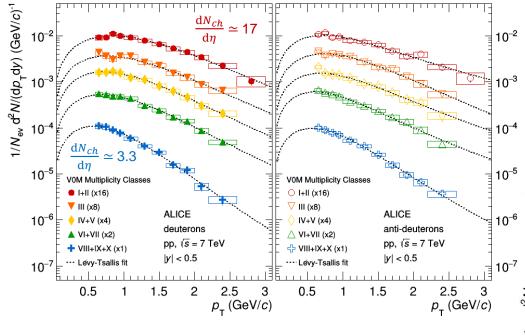


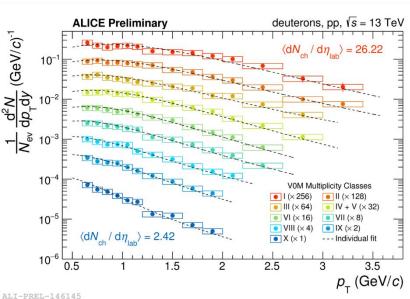
p_T spectra vs multiplicity

new results in pp based on multiplicity selection

arXiv:1902.09290v1 [nucl-ex] 25 Feb 2019

submitted to PLB











Testing Coalescence models Coalescence parameter B_A

 B_A relates the formation of composite nuclei to the one of primary protons and neutrons through a simple power law

$$E_A \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 N_A}{\mathrm{d} p_A^3} = B_A \left(E_\mathrm{p} \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 N_\mathrm{p}}{\mathrm{d} p_\mathrm{p}^3} \right)^A$$

where $p_p = p_A/A$.



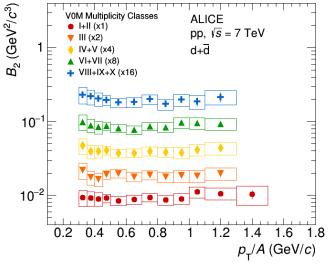


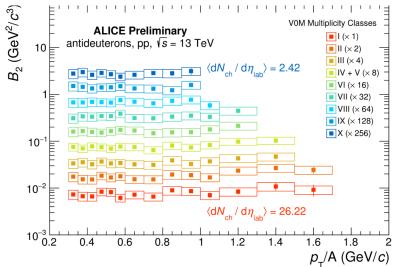


Testing Coalescence models

Coalescence parameter B₂







$$E_A \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 N_A}{\mathrm{d} p_A^3} = B_A \left(E_\mathrm{p} \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 N_\mathrm{p}}{\mathrm{d} p_\mathrm{p}^3} \right)^A$$

i.e. deuteron $\propto B_2$ x proton²

 \rightarrow B_2 doesn't show p_T dependence in agreement with simplest coalescence model

Butler and Pearson, PR 129 (1963) 836 see also Csernai and Kapusta, PR 131 (1986) 223

- "point-like" particle-emitting source (i.e. hadronic emission region smaller than the nucleus size)
- no correlations in the proton and neutron momentum distributions







Testing Coalescence models

Still on p_T dependence

when integrating over all multiplicities B_2 is observed to increase with p_T

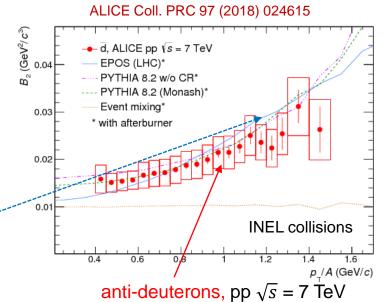
result was reproduced by QCDinspired event generators (PYTHIA/EPOS)

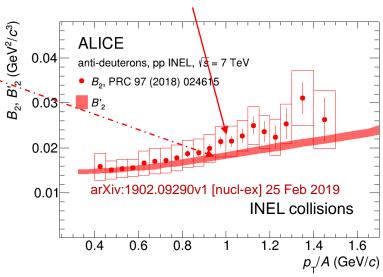
+ coalescence-based afterburner model accounting for correlations between nucleons

Simple Coalescence also predicts observed trend

→ evolution of the primary proton spectra across multiplicity can also explain the result

> → no need to introduce hard scattering effects



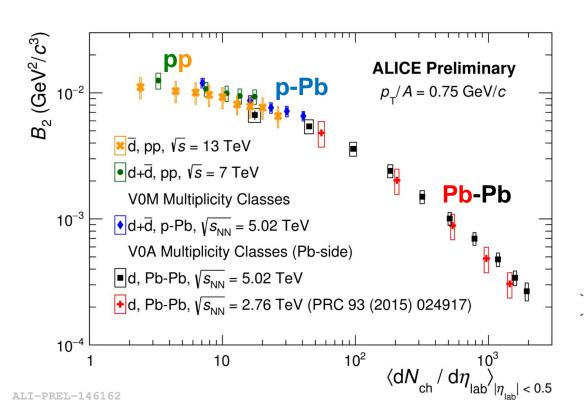






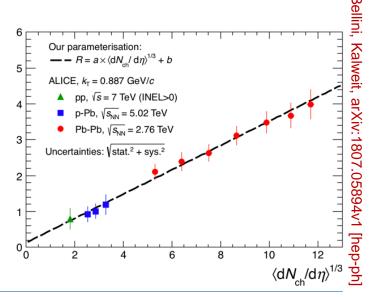


Testing Coalescence models Multiplicity dependence of B_2



Coalescence probability
suppressed with
multiplicity by the
increasing size of the
hadronic emission region
(quantified by HBT radii)

$$B_A \propto V^{1-A} \longrightarrow B_2 \propto \frac{1}{V}$$

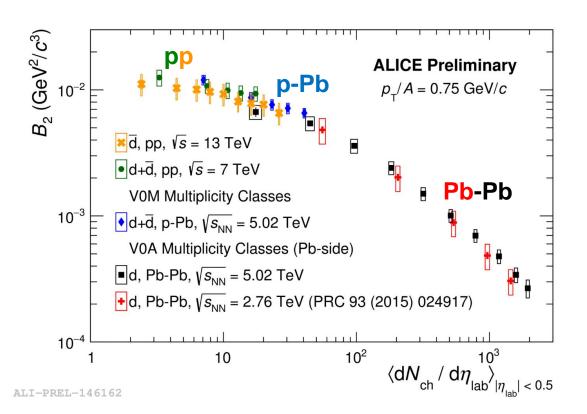








Testing Coalescence models Multiplicity dependence of B_2



Coalescence probability suppressed with multiplicity by the increasing size of the hadronic emission region (quantified by HBT radii)

→ effect predicted in refined Coalescence models:

Scheibl and Heinz, PRC 59 (1999) 1585

$$B_2 = \frac{3 \pi^{3/2} \langle \mathcal{C}_d \rangle}{2 m_t \mathcal{R}_{\perp}^2(m_t) \mathcal{R}_{\parallel}(m_t)}$$

Blum et al., PRD 96 (2017) 103021

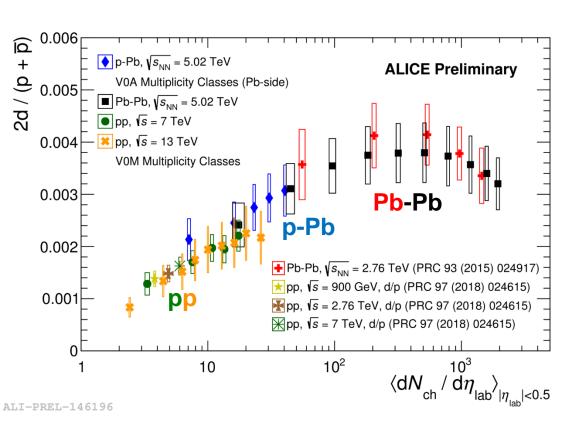
$$\frac{B_2}{\text{GeV}^2} \approx 0.068 \left(\left(\frac{R(p_t)}{1 \text{ fm}} \right)^2 + 2.6 \left(\frac{b_2}{3.2 \text{ fm}} \right)^2 \right)^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$







deuteron/proton ratio



d/p higher for about a factor 2 in Pb-Pb w.r.t pp

d/p increases with multiplicity from **pp** to peripheral Pb-Pb

→ trend explained in Coalescence approaches as a result of enhanced nucleon multiplicity/density

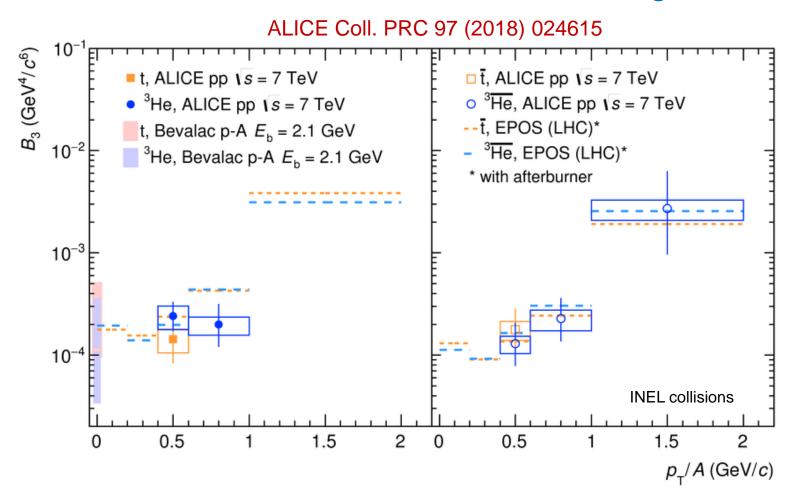
thermal model predicts a flat ratio in central Pb-Pb → work in progress for estimating correlation in uncertainties







Coalescence parameter B₃



 \rightarrow First ever determination of B_3 of (anti-)³He and (anti-)tritons in pp collisions





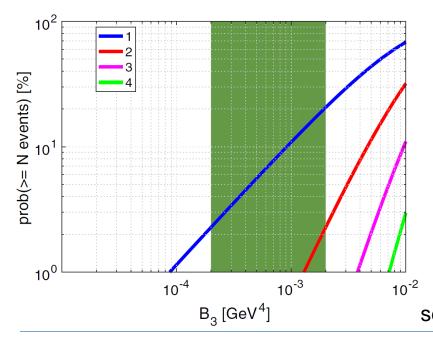


Looking to the Sky Blum et al., PRD 96 (2017) 103021

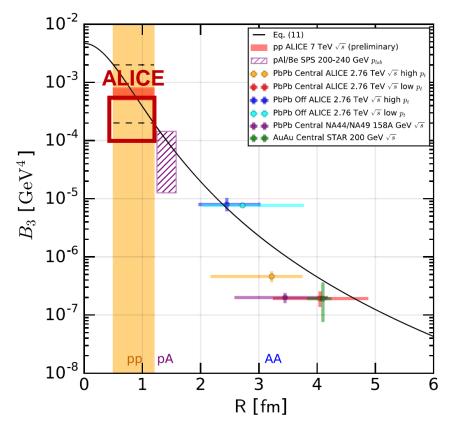
 B_3 (B_2) at LHC can constrain secondary anti-nuclei flux near Earth induced by CRs interactions with interstellar matter (H, ³He mainly)

Essential for primordial anti-matter and Dark Matter searches

→ CR anti-deuterons and anti-3He suggested as probe of DM annihilation



$$\frac{B_3}{\text{GeV}^4} \approx 0.0024 \left(\left(\frac{R(p_t)}{1 \text{ fm}} \right)^2 + 0.8 \left(\frac{b_3}{1.75 \text{ fm}} \right)^2 \right)^{-3}$$



← Poisson probability for detecting N (1, 2, ...) secondary ${}^{3}\overline{\text{He}}$ events in 5-yr analysis of AMS-02

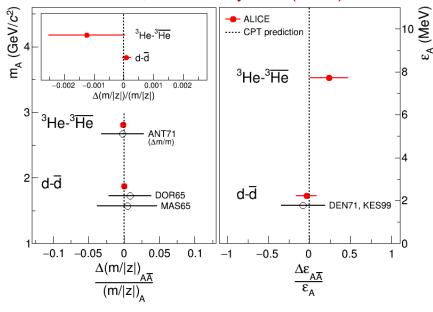


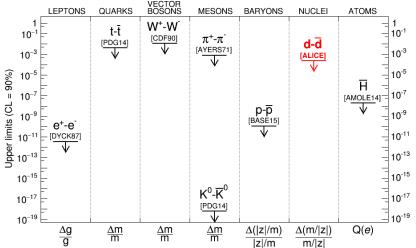




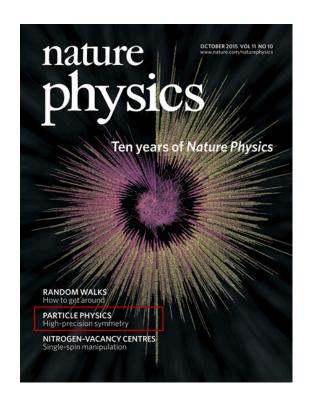
Rare CPT test provided







Mass difference nuclei/anti-nuclei constraints CPT symmetry in nucleon-nucleon interactions



→ these tests independently verify each distinct prediction of CPT symmetry







Hypertriton

Hypertriton ($^3_{\Lambda}$ H) is the lightest strange nucleus (pn Λ)

- ${}_{\Lambda}^{3}H$ seen for the first time in 1952 in cosmic rays
- anti-³H observed first by the STAR experiment in 2010 Science 328 (2010) 58

 $^3_{\Lambda}$ H

m = 2.991 GeV

 $B_{\wedge} = 0.13 \pm 0.05 \text{ MeV}$

unstable, (week) decay modes:

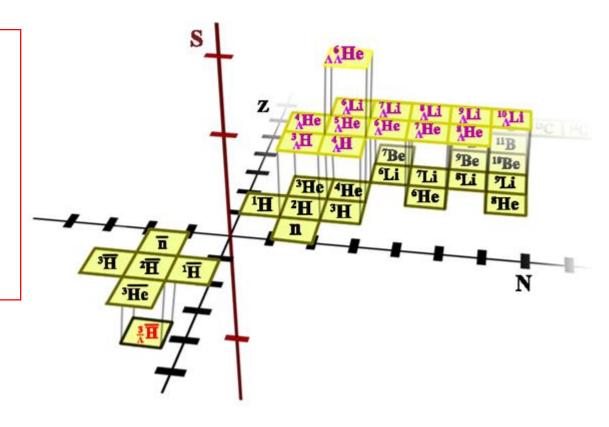
$$^{3}_{\Lambda}\text{H} \rightarrow ^{3}\text{He} + \pi^{-} \text{ (+ c.c.)} \text{ (B.R. 25\%)}$$

$${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H \rightarrow {}^{3}H + \pi^{0}$$
 (B.R. 13%)

$${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H \rightarrow d + p + \pi^{-}$$
 (B.R. 41%)

$${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H \rightarrow d + p + \pi^{0}$$
 (B.R. 21%)

B. R. not well known only few theoretical calculations available Kamada et al., PRC 57 (1998) 4









$(^{3}_{\Lambda}H)^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ identification in ALICE

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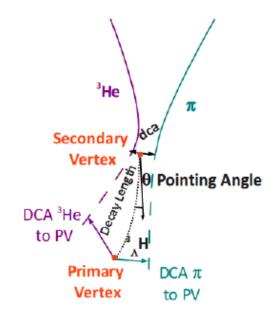
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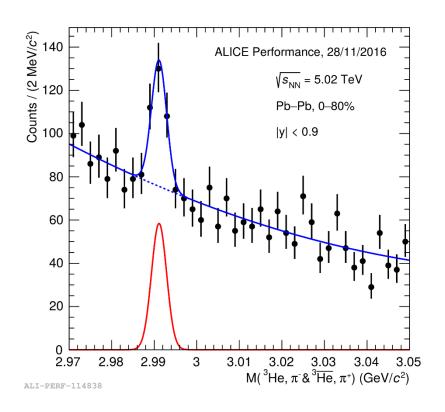
$^3_{\Lambda} \text{H} \rightarrow$	3 He + π^{-}	(+ c.c.)	(B.R. 25%)

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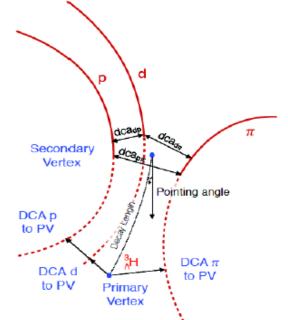
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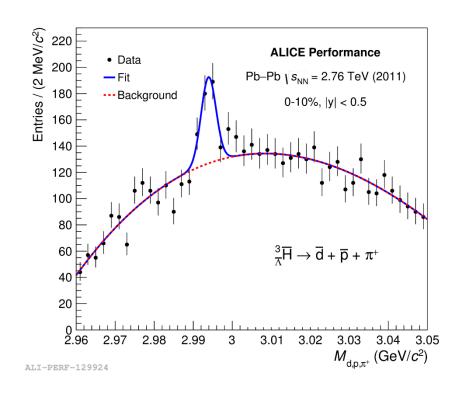
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 (B.R. 41%)

 $^3_{\Lambda}\text{H} \rightarrow \text{d} + \text{p} + \pi^0$

(B.R. 21%)



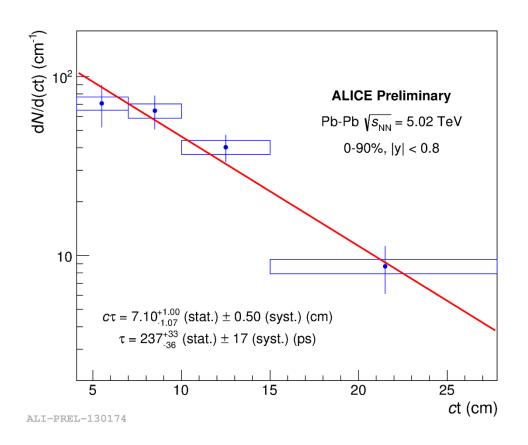












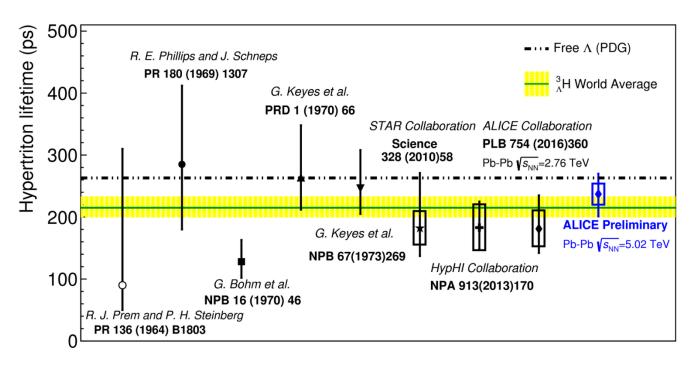
Fit to the corrected ${}^3_\Lambda H$ dN/d(ct) spectrum for estimating the lifetime $N(t) = N(0) \exp(-L/\beta \gamma c \tau)$ where $c\tau = mLc/p$











free Λ lifetime (PDG) 262 \pm 2 ps

 $^{3}_{\Lambda}$ H world average 216^{+16}_{-19} ps

ALI-PREL-130195

- very small B_{Λ} (130 keV) led to the hypothesis that the $^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ lifetime is slightly below the free Λ
- few theoretical predictions available
 - first one by Dalitz and Rayet (1966) $\rightarrow \tau$ range 239.5 255.5 ps
 - more recent by Congleton (1992) and Kamada (1998) $\rightarrow \tau$ range 232 256 ps
- higher ALICE accuracy can be reached in the near future
 - → latest 2018 Pb-Pb run is being analyzed and 3-body decay channel may also help







... few words about the upgrade

ALICE has started a huge upgrade in preparation of LHC Run3 and Run4

→ expected Pb-Pb L_{DEL} = 10 nb⁻¹ at 50 kHz collision rate

Quantity	design	achieved			upgrade	
Year	(2004)	2010	2011	2015	2018	≥2021
Weeks in physics	-	4	3.5	2.5	3.5	-
Fill no. (best)		1541	2351	4720	7473	-
Beam energy $E[Z\mathrm{TeV}]$	7	3.	.5	6.37	6.37	7
Pb beam energy $E[A~{ m TeV}]$	2.76	1.3	38	2.51	2.51	2.76
Collision energy $\sqrt{s_{_{\mathrm{NN}}}}[\mathrm{TeV}]$	5.52	2.:	51	5.02	5.02	5.52
Bunch intensity N_b [10 ⁸]	0.7	1.22	1.07	2.0	2.2	1.8
No. of bunches k_b	592	137	338	518	733	1232
Pb norm. emittance $\epsilon_N [\mu \mathrm{m}]$	1.5	2.	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.65
Pb bunch length σ_z m	0.08	0.07-0.1		0.08		
β^* [m]	0.5	3.5	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.5
Pb stored energy MJ/beam	3.8	0.65	1.9	8.6	13.3	21
Luminosity $L_{AA} [10^{27} cm^{-2} s^{-1}]$	1	0.03	0.5	3.6	6.1	7
NN luminosity $L_{\mathrm{NN}}[10^{30}\mathrm{cm}^{-2}\mathrm{s}^{-1}]$	43	1.3	22.	156	264	303
Integrated luminosity/experiment [μb^{-1}]	1000	9	160	433,585	900,1800	10^4
Int. NN lumi./expt. [pb^{-1}]	43	0.38	6.7	19,25.3	39,80	4.3×10^5



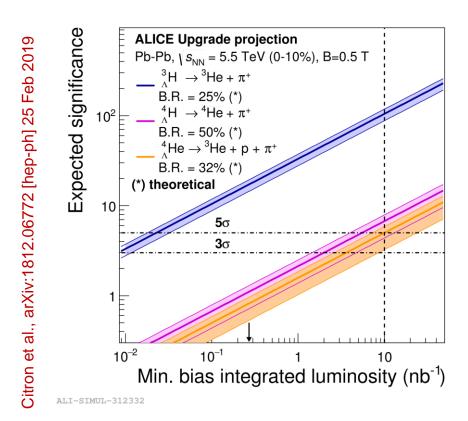


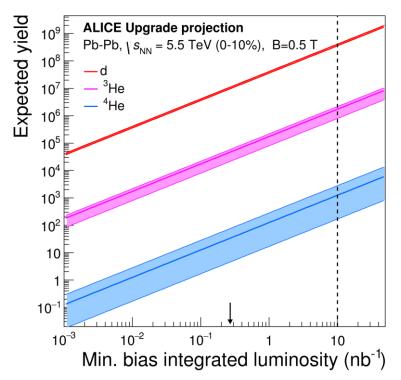


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Possibility to investigate A=4 (anti-)hypernuclei and A=5 nuclei (?) and improve accuracy for A=3 (hyper)nuclei





LI-SIMUL-312336







Conclusions

Unique tracking/PID capability of ALICE allows one to clearly identify rare composite particles as light nuclei and anti-nuclei at LHC

Thermal statistical model describes quite well also loosely bound objects

Validity of hadron-coalescence model LHC tested

→ it is clear now we need refined models
to fully account for observations (also) in pp

Inputs (B_2 and B_3) for Astroparticle Physics provided

Rare CPT test reported

One of the most accurate lifetime measurement carried out

and ... let's cross the fingers for future LHC runs!







Thanks for your attention







Backup







Spare slide

System	Year(s)	√s _{NN} (TeV)	L _{int}
	2010-2011	2.76	~75 µb ⁻¹
Pb-Pb	2015	5.02	~250 µb ⁻¹
	2018	5.02	~0.9 nb ⁻¹
Xe-Xe	2017	5.44	~0.3 µb ⁻¹
p-Pb	2013	5.02	~15 nb ⁻¹
	2016	5.02, 8.16	~3 nb ⁻¹ , ~25 nb ⁻¹
	2009-2013	0.9, 2.76, 7, 8	~200 µb ⁻¹ , ~100 nb ⁻¹ , ~1.5 pb ⁻¹ , ~2.5 pb ⁻¹
pp	2015,2017	5.02	~1.3 pb ⁻¹
	2015-2017	13	~25 pb ⁻¹







ALICE in Run 3 and Run 4



New Inner Tracking System (ITS)

Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor (CMOS) Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor (MAPS) technology

- Improved resolution, less material, faster readout

New Muon Forward Tracker (MFT)

CMOS Pixels, MAPS technology

Vertex tracker at forward rapidity



New TPC Readout Chambers (ROCs)

Gas Electron Multiplier (GEM) technology

- New electronics (SAMPA), continuous readout

New Fast Interaction Trigger detector (FIT)

Centrality, event plane

FoCal proposal (Run 4)

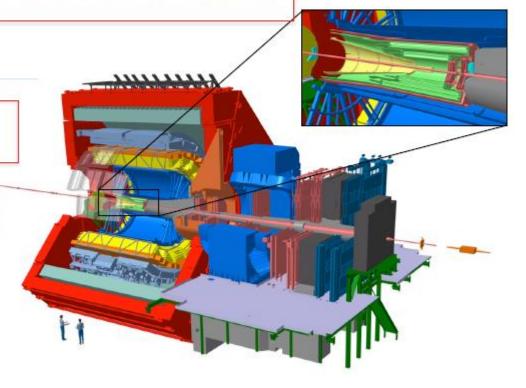
Measure forward direct photons

Readout upgrade

TOF, TRD, MUON, ZDC, Calorimeters

Integrated Online-Offline system (O2)

Record MB Pb-Pb data at 50 kHz

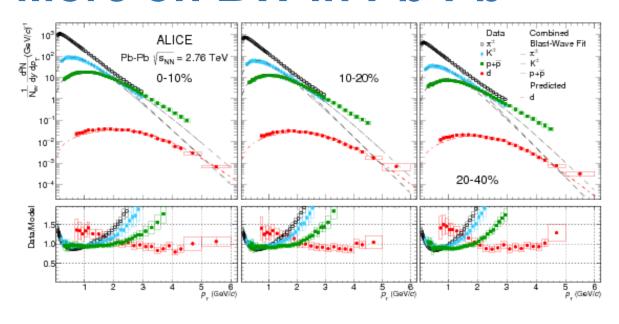




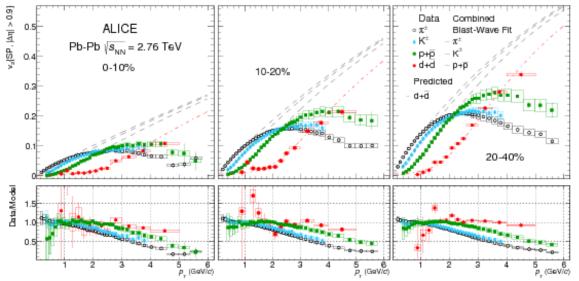




More on BW in Pb-Pb





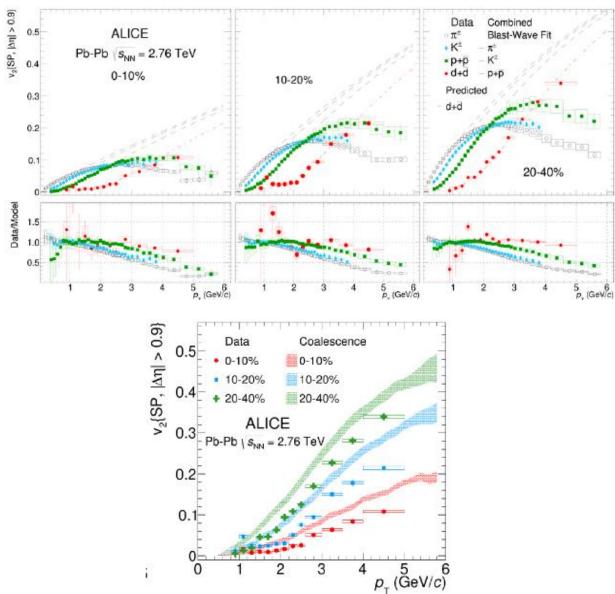








Spare slide

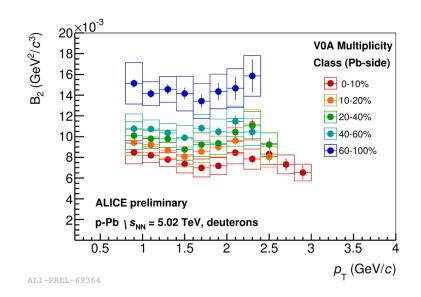






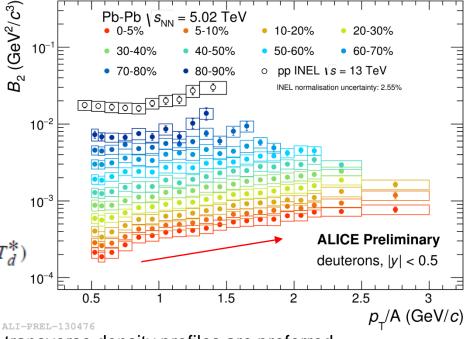


B₂ (p-Pb and Pb-Pb)



Scheibl and Heinz, PRC 59 (1999) 1585

$$B_{2} = \frac{3 \pi^{3/2} \langle \mathcal{C}_{d} \rangle}{2 m_{t} \mathcal{R}_{\perp}^{2}(m_{t}) \mathcal{R}_{\parallel}(m_{t})} e^{2(m_{t} - m)(1/T_{p}^{*} - 1/T_{d}^{*})}$$



more boxlike transverse density profiles are preferred in heavy-ion collisions...

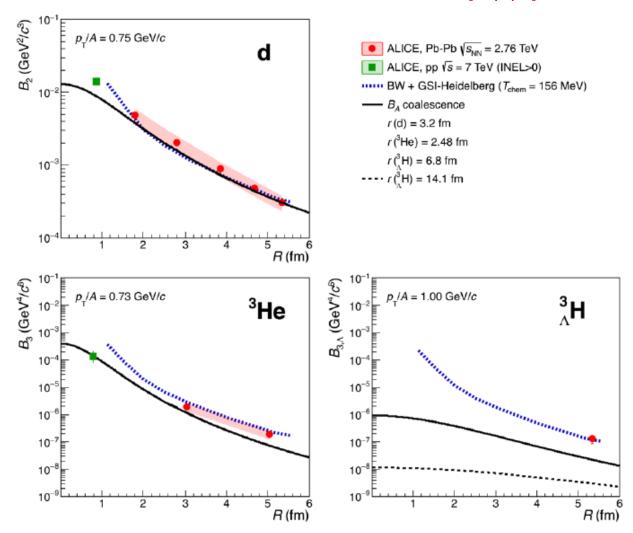






Spare slide

Bellini, Kalweit, arXiv:1807.05894v1 [hep-ph]

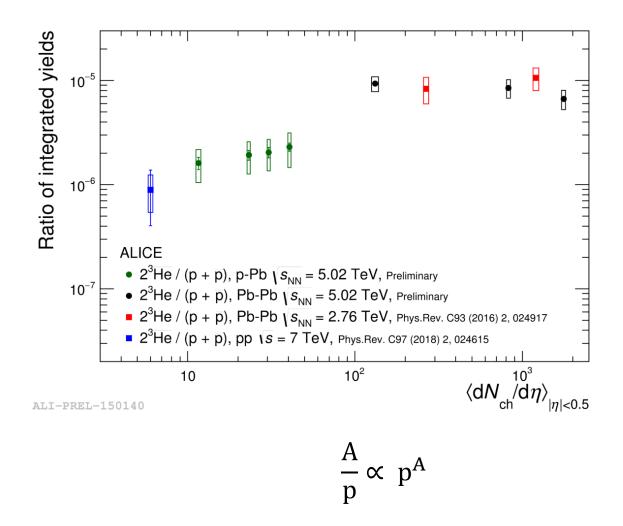








³He/p ratio (first look)



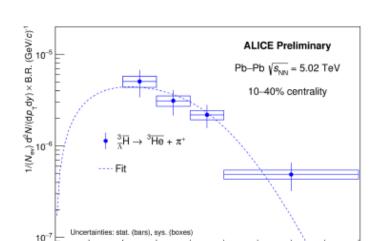


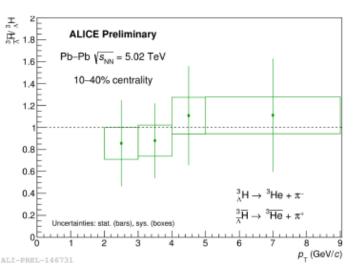
ALI-PREL-146715

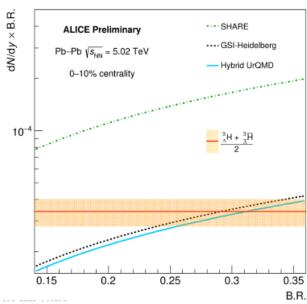












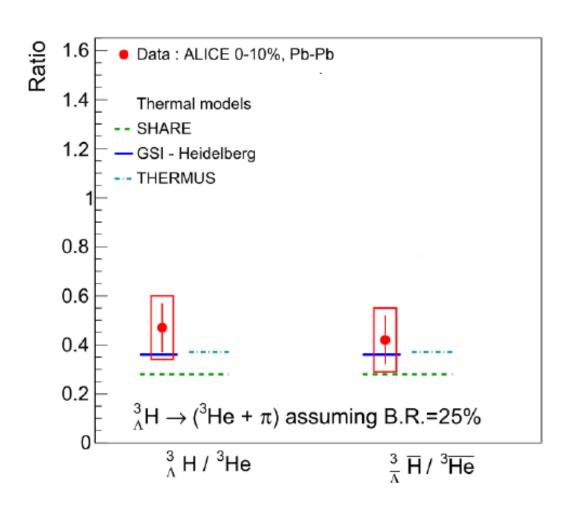
 $p_{_{T}}$ (GeV/c)







³H / ³He ratio



in good agreement with (equilibrium) thermal model prediction for Tch = 156 MeV such as GSI-Heildeberg model

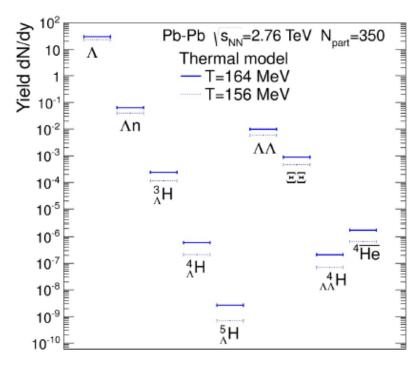
Andronic et al., Nature 561 (2018) 321

Other QCD multi-baryon predicted states









A. Andronic et al., PLB 697, 203 (2011) and references therein for the model, figure from A. Andronic, private communication







Testing Blast-Wave model

Deuteron mean transverse momentum $\langle p_T \rangle$

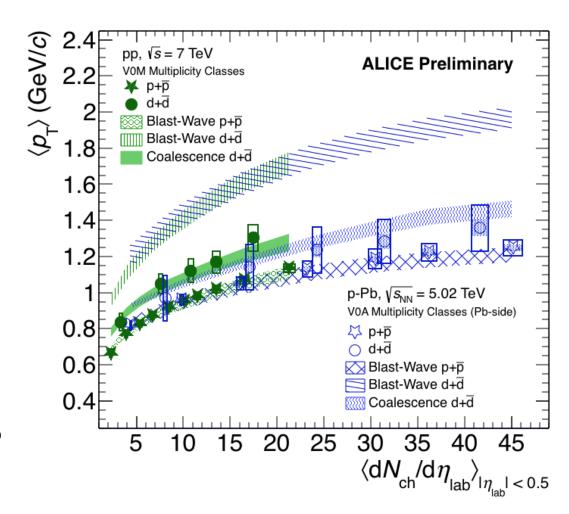
Hardening of deuteron spectra with multiplicity observed, protons as well

<p_T> of deuterons and protons found to be compatible in p-Pb (only)

→ fully hydrodynamic-inspired approach (Blast-Wave) doesn't describe simultaneously nuclei and lighter hadrons production in pp and p-Pb

different scenario in Pb-Pb

BW fits concurrently d, 3 He and $\pi/K/p$ see ALICE Coll. PRC 93 (2015) 024917



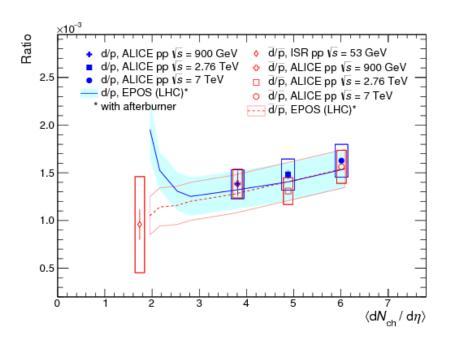
Blast-Wave PRC 48 (1993) 2462: hydrodynamic-inspired model describing particle production assuming a radially expanding thermalized source



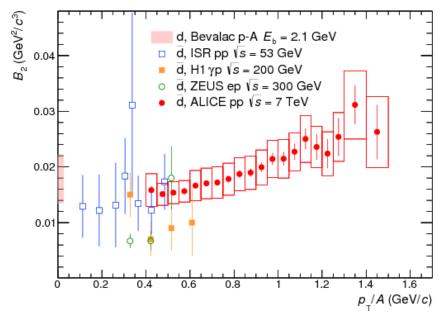




Lower energies



ALICE Coll. PRC 97 (2018) 024615

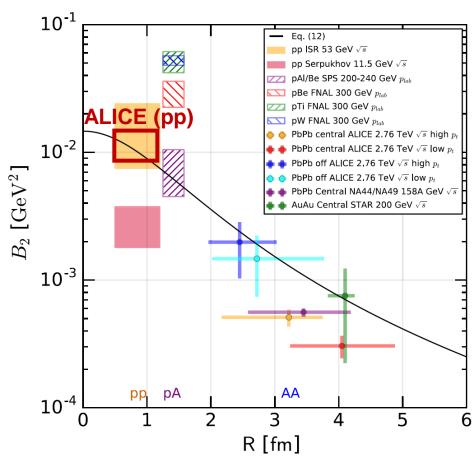








B_2



Blum et al., PRD 96 (2017) 103021

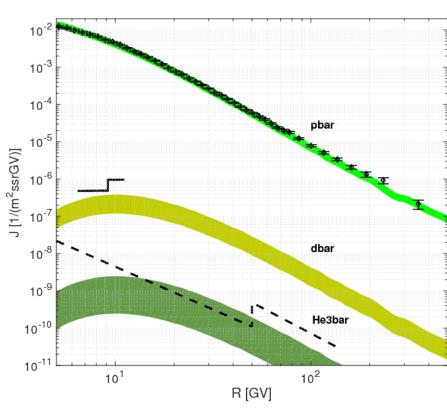


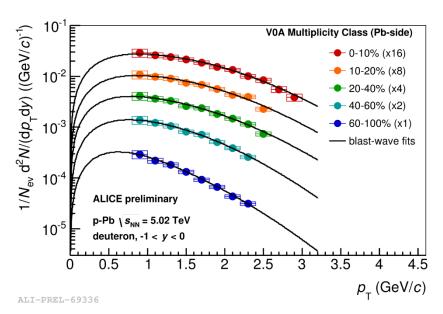
FIG. 1. Predicted flux of \bar{p} , \bar{d} , ^{3}He . AMS02 \bar{p} data are taken from Ref. [28]. AMS02 \bar{d} flux sensitivity (5-yr, 95% C.L.) in the kinetic energy range 2.5–4.7 GeV/nuc, as estimated in Ref. [11], is shown by solid line. AMS02 ^{3}He flux sensitivity (5-yr, 95% C.L.), derived from the $^{3}\text{He}/\text{He}$ estimate of Ref. [27], is shown by dashed line.







Deuterons and ³He (p-Pb)



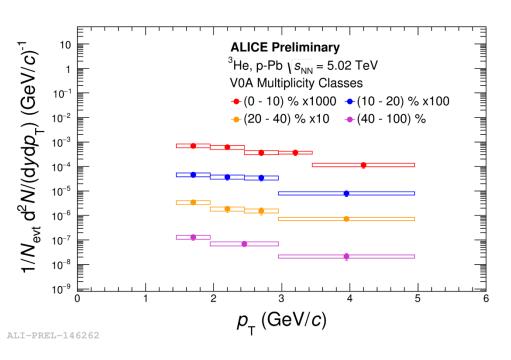
First multiplicity dependent results of (anti-)³He in p-Pb

2016 $\sqrt{s_{\rm NN}}$ = 5.02 TeV data sample (x 5 available 2013 statistics)

Blast-Wave PRC 48 (1993) 2462

inspired hydrodynamic model describing lighter hadron spectra in p-Pb

 \rightarrow used for extrapolating deuteron spectra in the unmeasured low/high p_T regions









B_3 (p-Pb and Pb-Pb)

