

Seminarium HEP Białasówka  
AGH, 4 November, 2022

# Event-by-Event correlations and fluctuations with strongly intensive quantities in heavy-ion collisions with ALICE

IWONA SPUTOWSKA

Institute of Nuclear Physics  
Polish Academy of Sciences

# Outline



Overview of the ALICE measurement of the **strongly intensive quantity  $\Sigma$**  in terms of forward-backward correlations analysis...  
...in various colliding systems and energies.

Plan:

1. Motivation;
2. Analysis;
3. Results;
4. Summary.

# Motivation: Why do we study correlations and fluctuations?



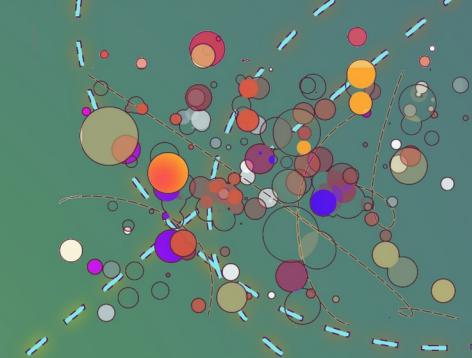
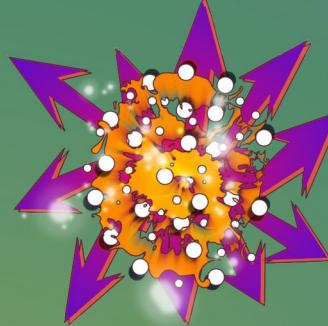
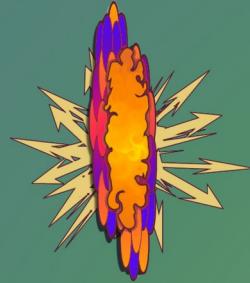
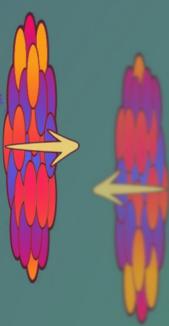
PRE-COLLISION

PRE-EQUILIBRIUM

QGP AND EQUILIBRIUM

HADRONIZATION

HADRONIZATION FREEZE-OUT



What we want to know...



What we measure  
in the detector...

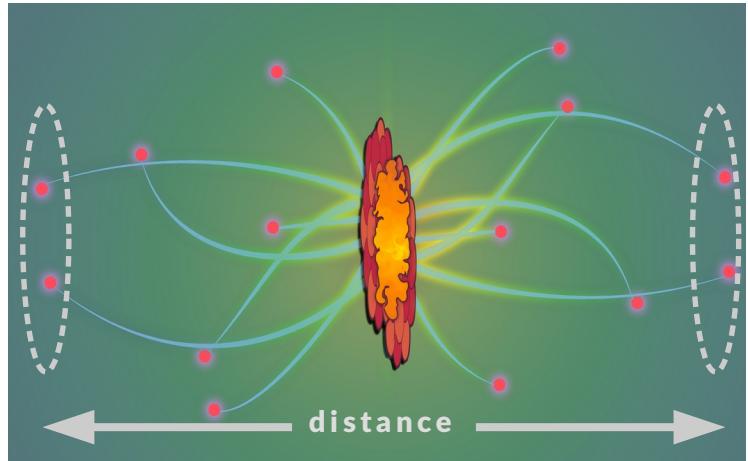


Analysis of correlations and fluctuations can provide information about the early stages of heavy-ion collisions.

# Motivation: Why do we study correlations and fluctuations?



## 1. Study of Long-Range Correlations (LRC):

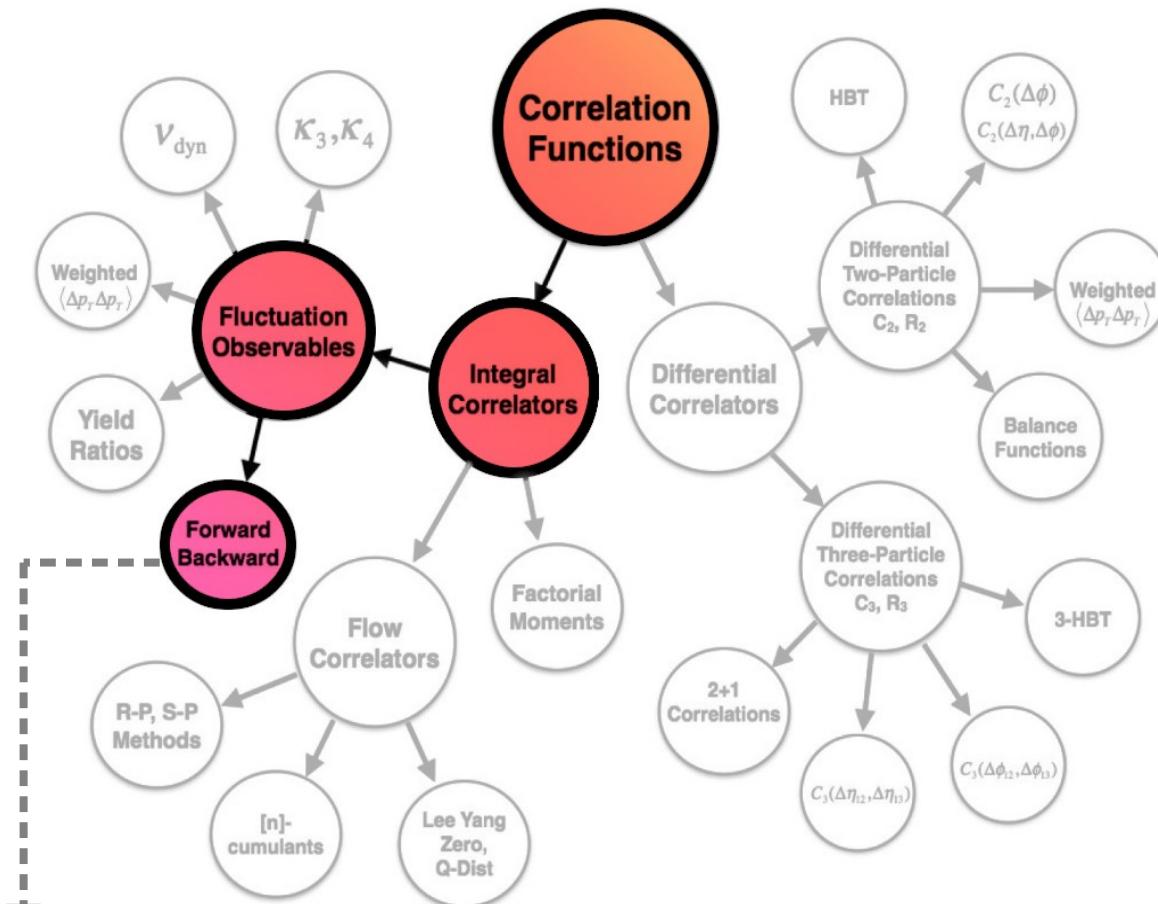


- LRC carry **information on the early dynamics** of the nuclear collision.

## 2. Analysis of fluctuations in the number of particles produced in A-A collisions:

- A good way to check dynamical models of particle production.
- Gives a chance to study observables sensitive to the early dynamics of the collision, independent of trivial fluctuations of the volume of the system.

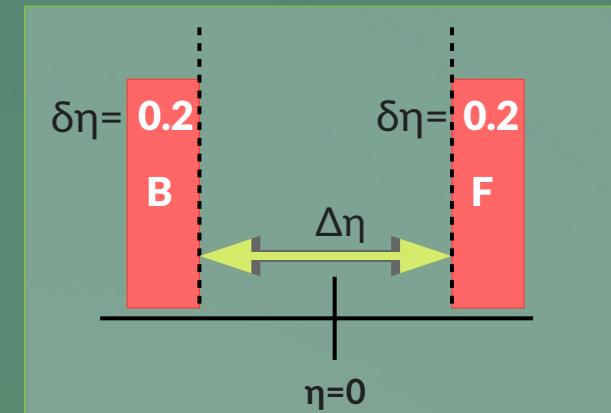
# The Analysis: How do we study correlations and fluctuations?



We are here!

Picture from: Claude A. Pruneau, Data Analysis Techniques for Physical Scientists, 2017, Cambridge University Press.

The forward-backward (FB) correlation:



A popular technique:

The FB correlation coefficient  $b_{\text{corr}}$  is:

$$b_{\text{corr}} = \frac{\text{Cov}(n_F, n_B)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(n_F)\text{Var}(n_B)}}$$

- largely influenced by geometrical (volume) fluctuations.
- dependent on centrality estimator.



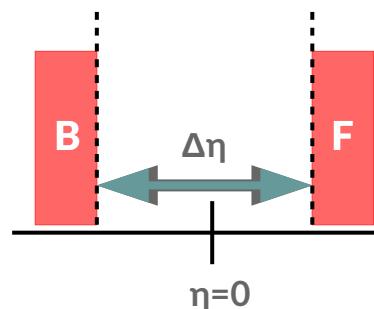
# The Analysis: FB correlations with strongly intensive quantity $\Sigma$

- Strongly intensive quantities do not depend on system volume nor system volume fluctuations.

Gaździcki, Gorenstein, Phys.Rev. C84 (2011) 014904

## STRONGLY INTENSIVE QUANTITY $\Sigma$ :

$$\Sigma = \frac{\langle n_F \rangle \omega_B + \langle n_B \rangle \omega_F - 2\text{Cov}(n_F, n_B)}{\langle n_F \rangle + \langle n_B \rangle}$$



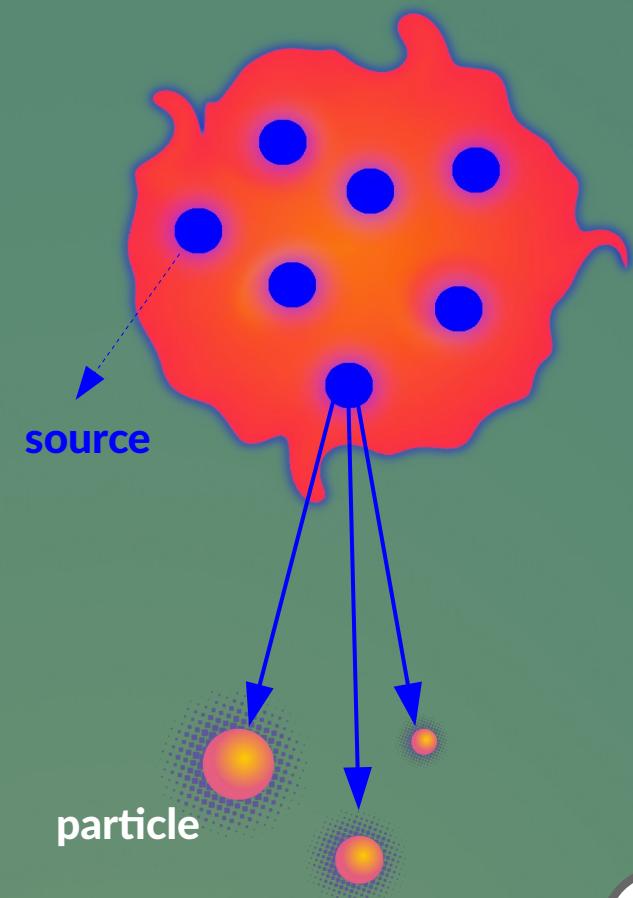
- For a symmetric collision  $\omega_B = \omega_F$  and  $\langle n_F \rangle = \langle n_B \rangle$ ,

$$\Sigma \approx \omega(1 - b_{\text{corr}}).$$

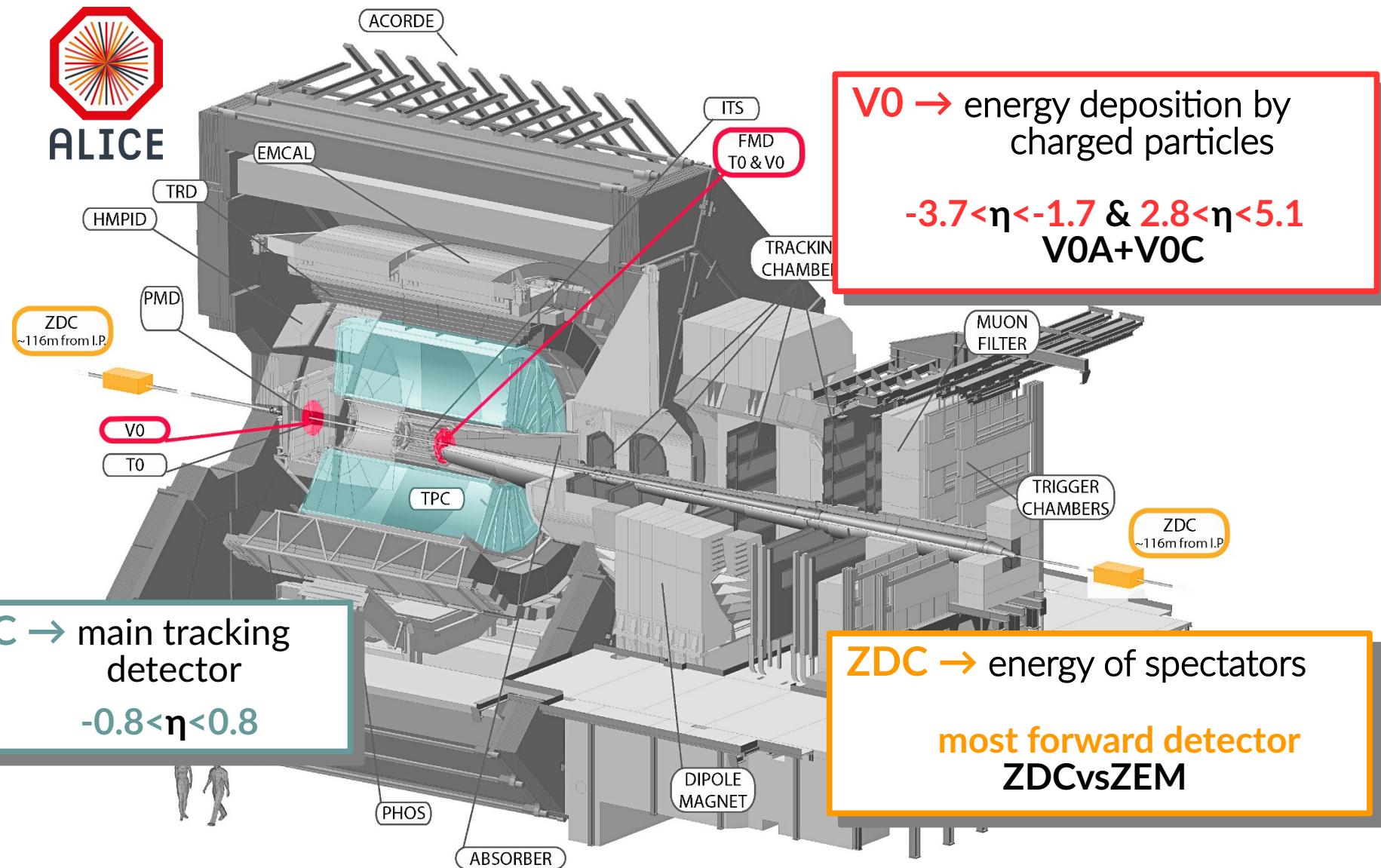
For Poisson distribution:  $\omega=1$  &  $b_{\text{corr}}=0 \rightarrow \Sigma=1$

## Independent source model:

$\Sigma \rightarrow$  gives direct information about characteristics of single source distribution!



# The Analysis: ALICE experiment



# The Analysis: Data Sample



## Experimental data:

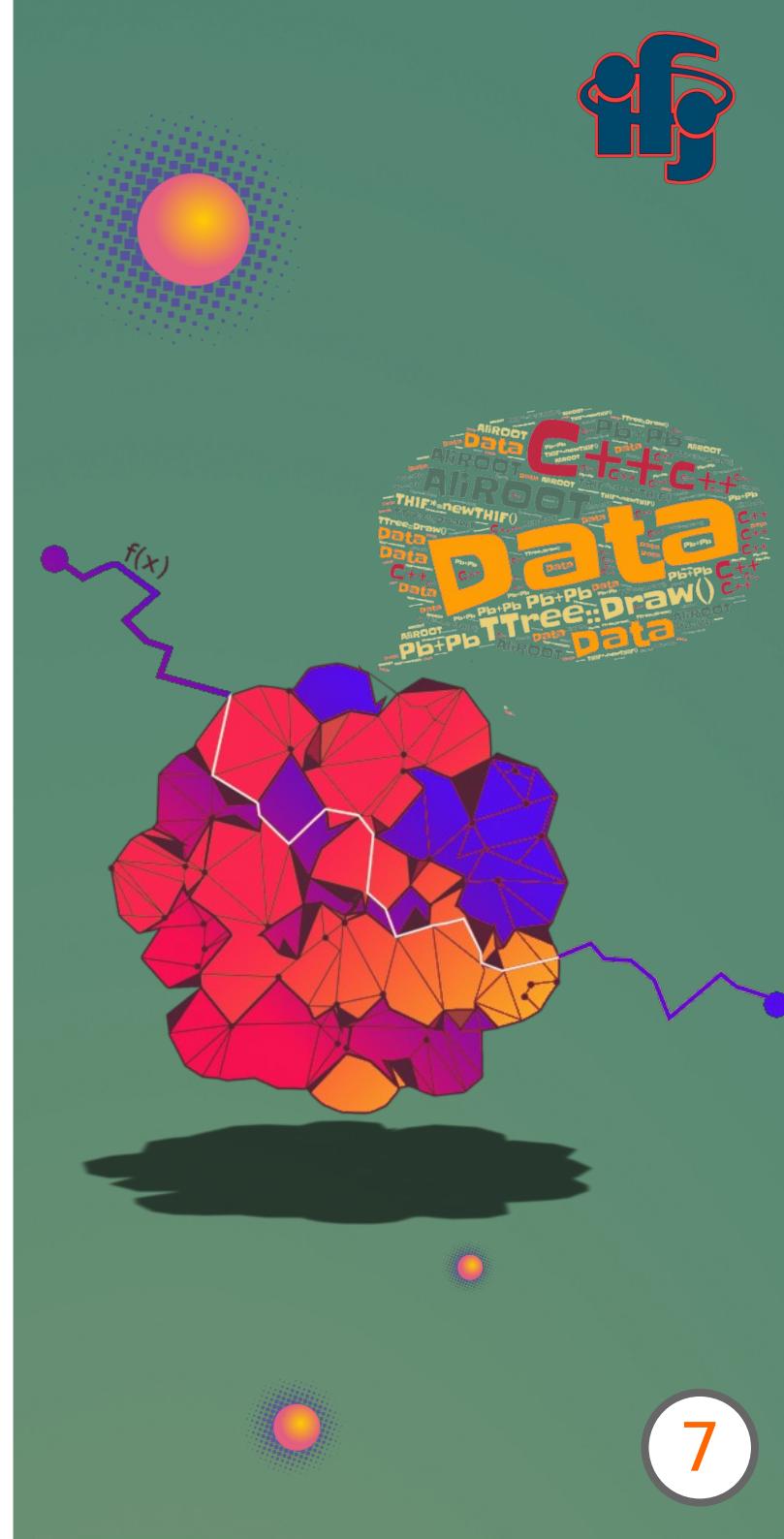
- Pb-Pb @  $\sqrt{s}_{\text{NN}} = 2.76$  and  $5.02 \text{ TeV}$
- Xe-Xe @  $\sqrt{s}_{\text{NN}} = 5.44 \text{ TeV}$
- pp @  $\sqrt{s} = 0.9, 2.76, 5.02, 7, 13 \text{ TeV}$

Tracks:  $-0.8 < \eta < 0.8$ ,

pp analysis →  $0.2 < p_T < 2 \text{ GeV}/c$

A-A analysis →  $0.2 < p_T < 5 \text{ GeV}/c$

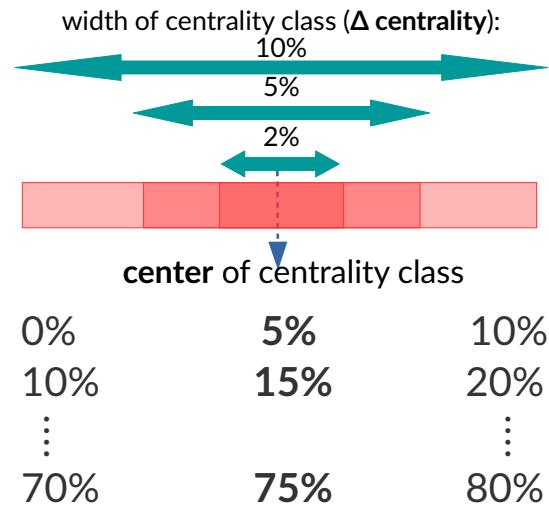
Centrality estimators: V0 ( $N_{\text{charged}}$ ),  
ZDC ( $N_{\text{spectators}}$ )



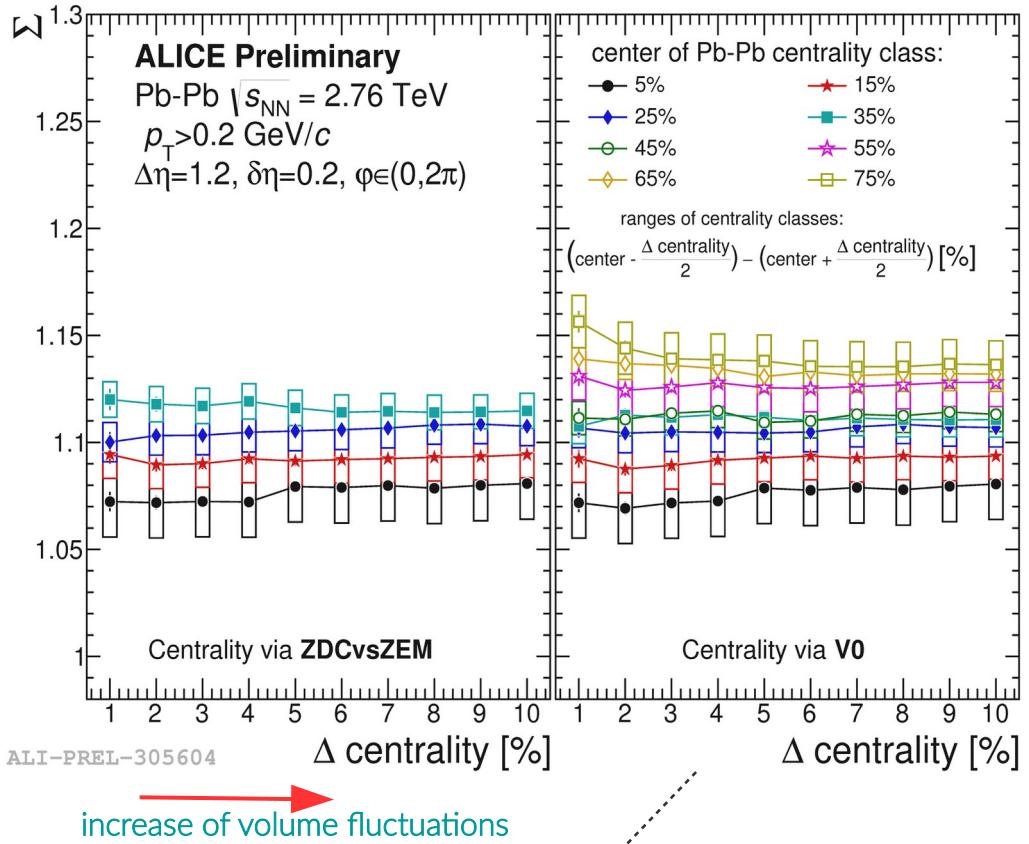
# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of centrality bin width



Pb-Pb collisions



The strongly intensive quantity  $\Sigma$



increase of volume fluctuations

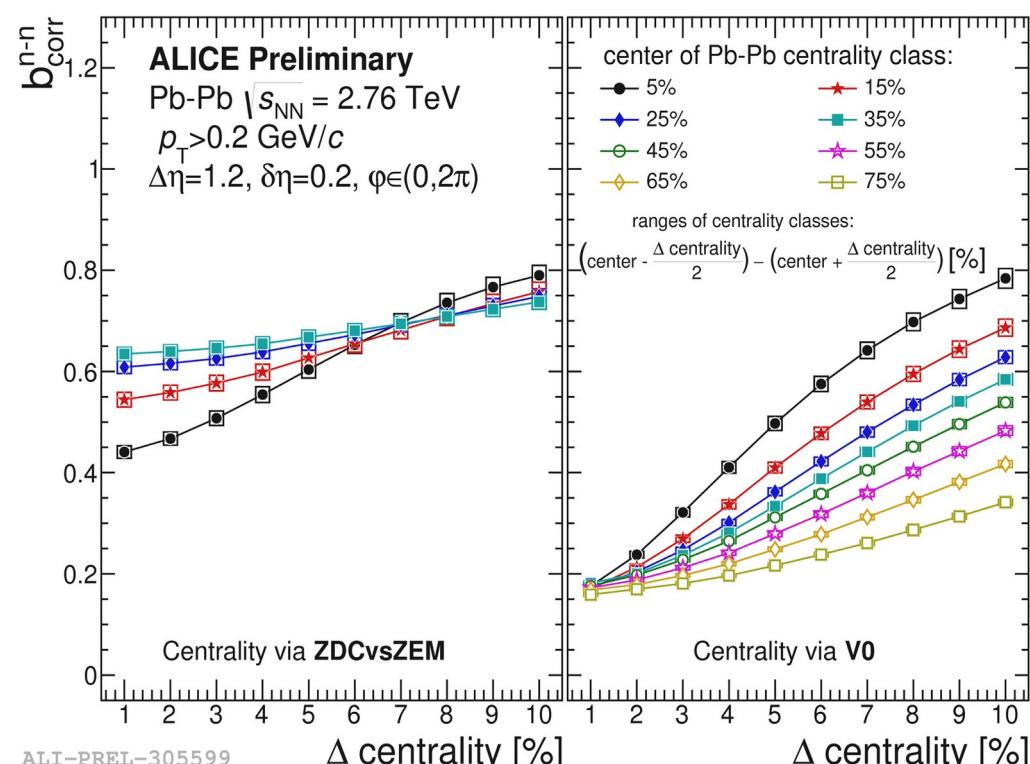
$V0 \approx ZDCvsZEM$

- $\Sigma$  does not depend on centrality bin width (volume fluctuations).
- $\Sigma$  does not depend on centrality estimator!

# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of centrality bin width



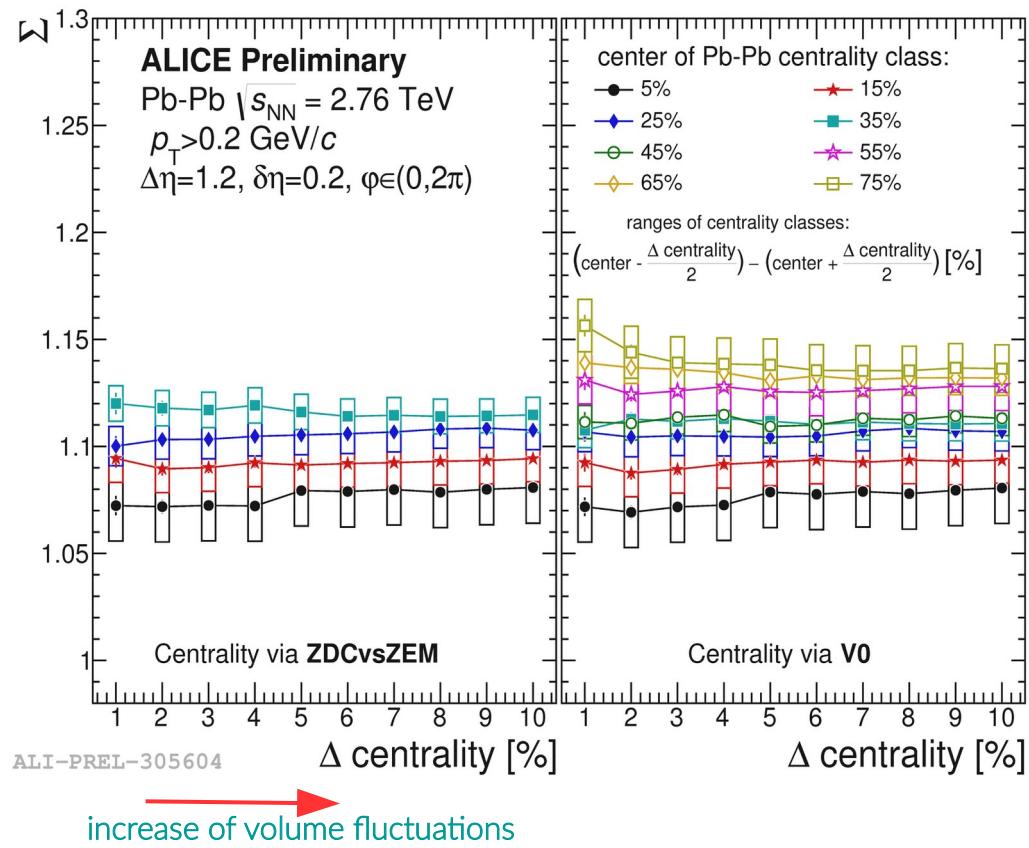
The FB correlation coefficient  $b_{\text{corr}}$



increase of volume fluctuations

- $\Sigma$  does not depend on centrality bin width (volume fluctuations).
- $\Sigma$  does not depend on centrality estimator!

The strongly intensive quantity  $\Sigma$



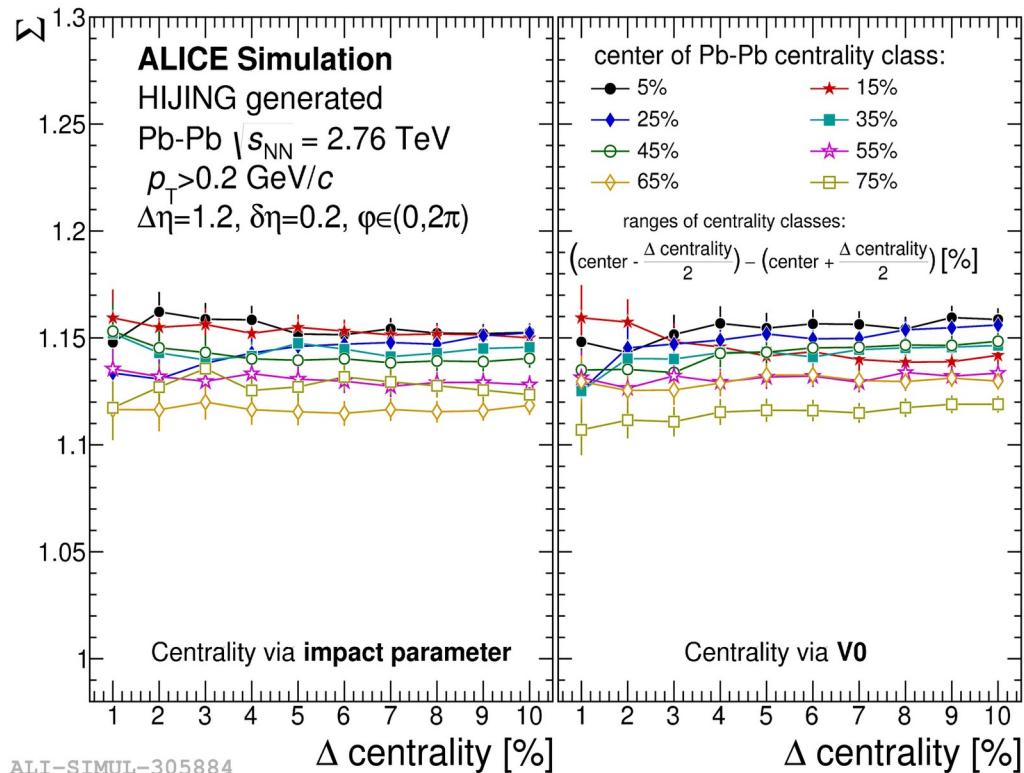
increase of volume fluctuations

→ contrary to many other observables such as  $b_{\text{corr}}$ ,  $\omega$ , etc.

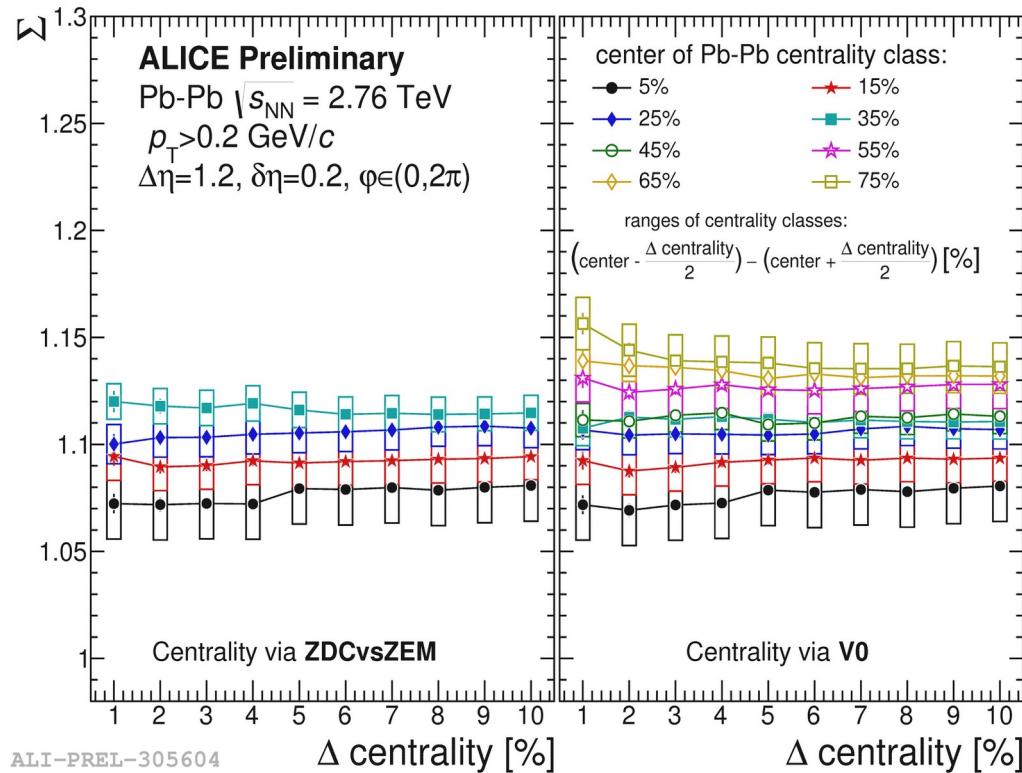
# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of centrality bin width



## MC simulations



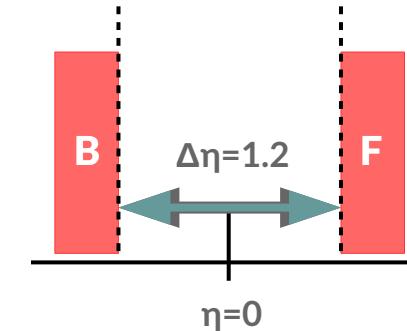
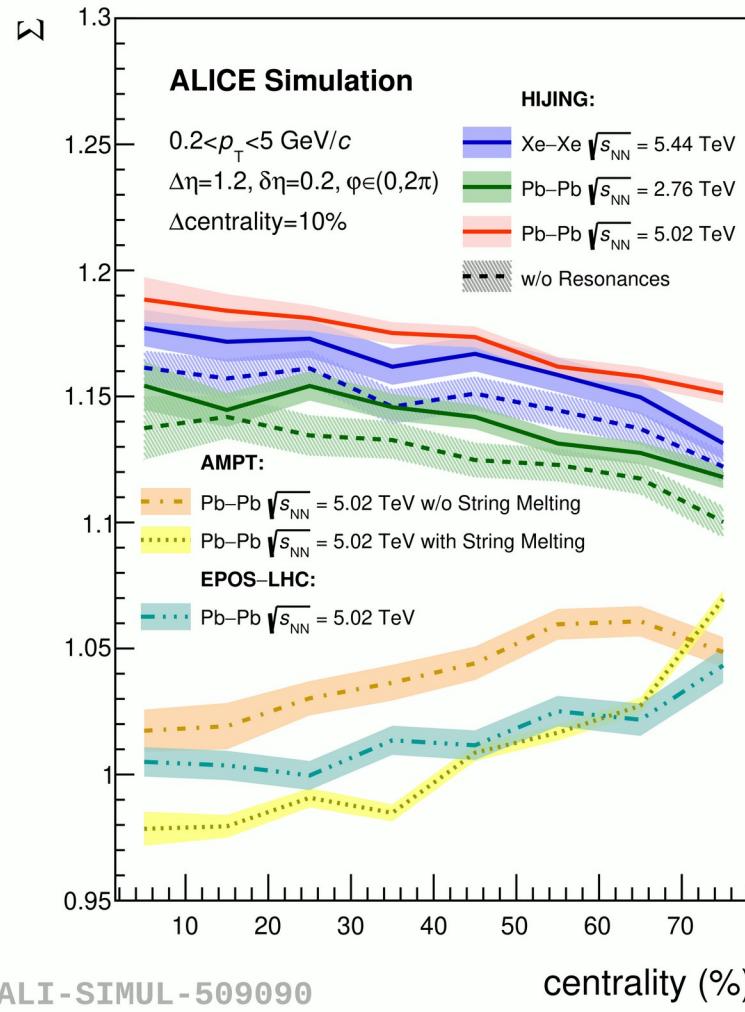
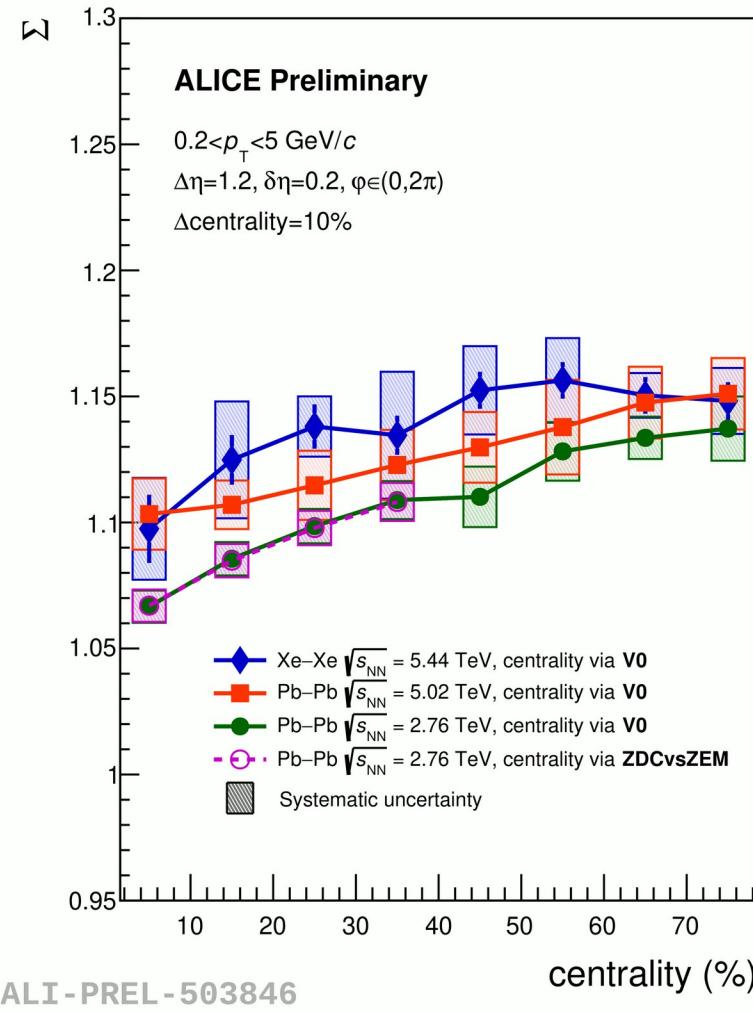
## Experimental data



- $\Sigma$  does not depend on centrality bin width (volume fluctuations).
- $\Sigma$  does not depend on centrality estimator!

$\Sigma$  indeed shows the properties of a strongly intensive quantity

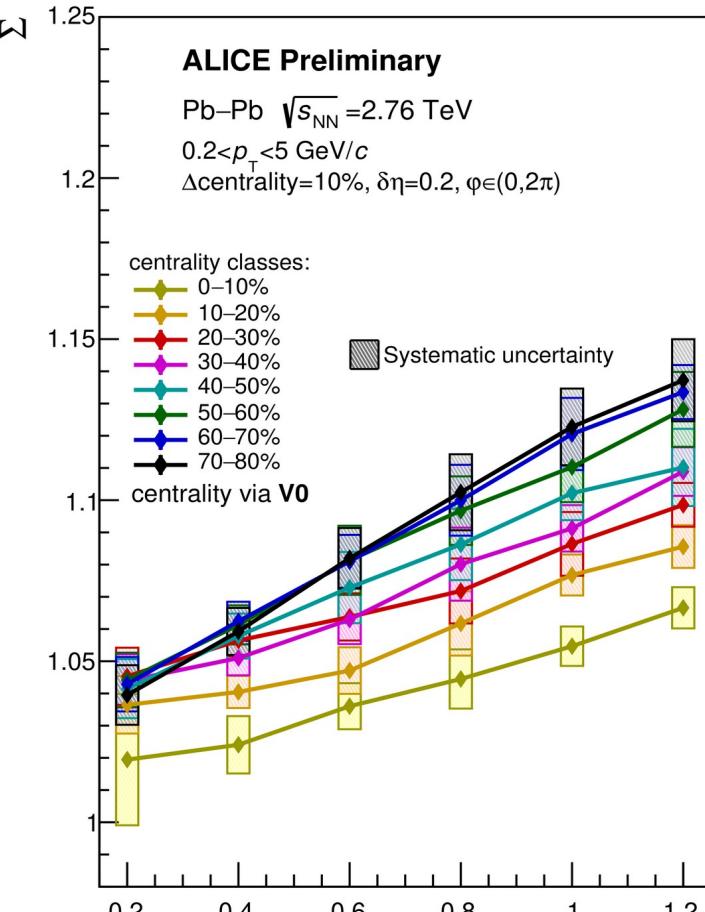
# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of centrality



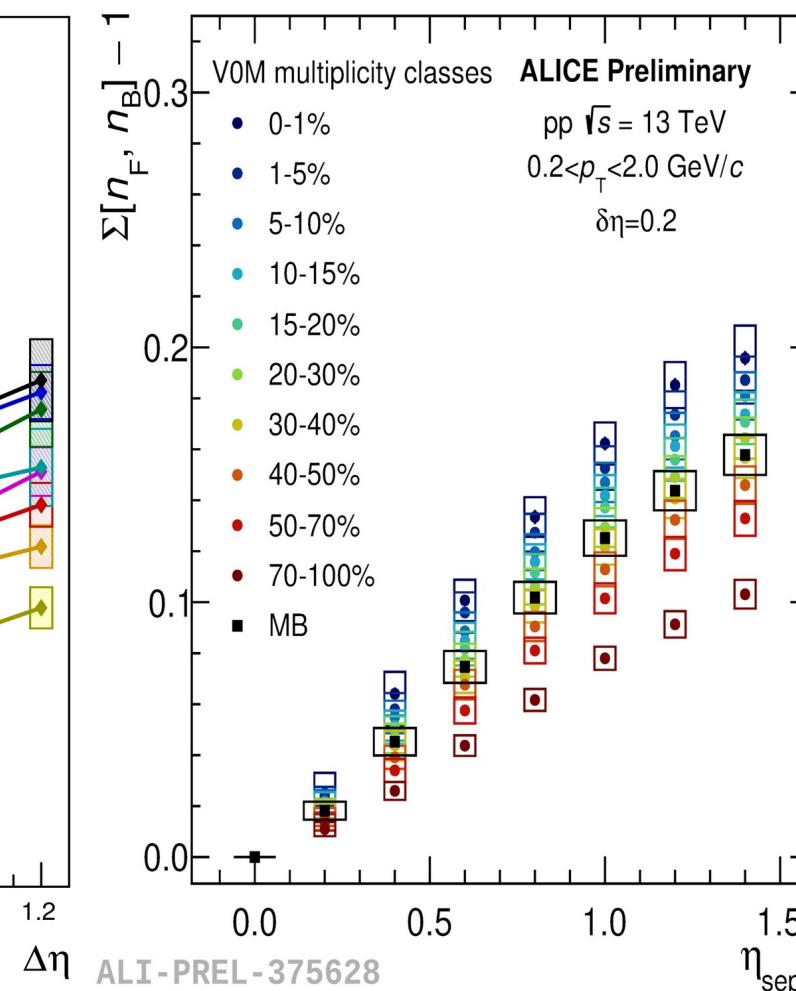
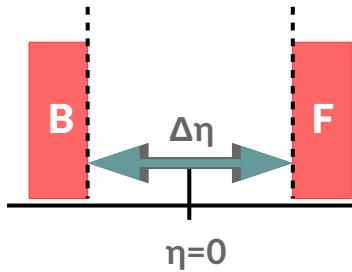
**V0  $\approx$  ZDCvsZEM**  
 $\rightarrow$  no dependence  
on centrality estimator!

- Values of  $\Sigma$  **increase with energy** and **increase with decreasing centrality** in experimental data, contrary behavior noted for MC HIJING results.
- MC AMPT and MC EPOS reproduce dependence on centrality qualitatively but not quantitatively.
- From results for MC AMPT it is evident that  $\Sigma$  is sensitive to the mechanism of particle production.

# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of $\Delta\eta$

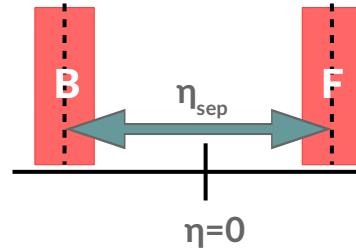


ALI-PREL-503856



ALI-PREL-375628

$$\eta_{sep} = \Delta\eta + 0.2$$

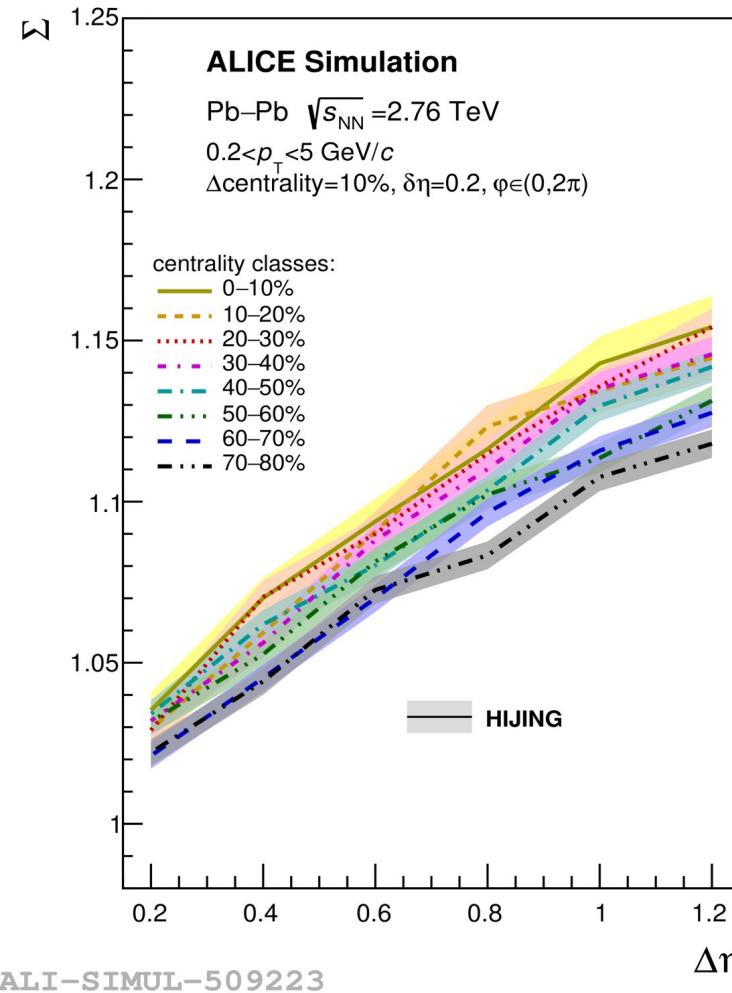
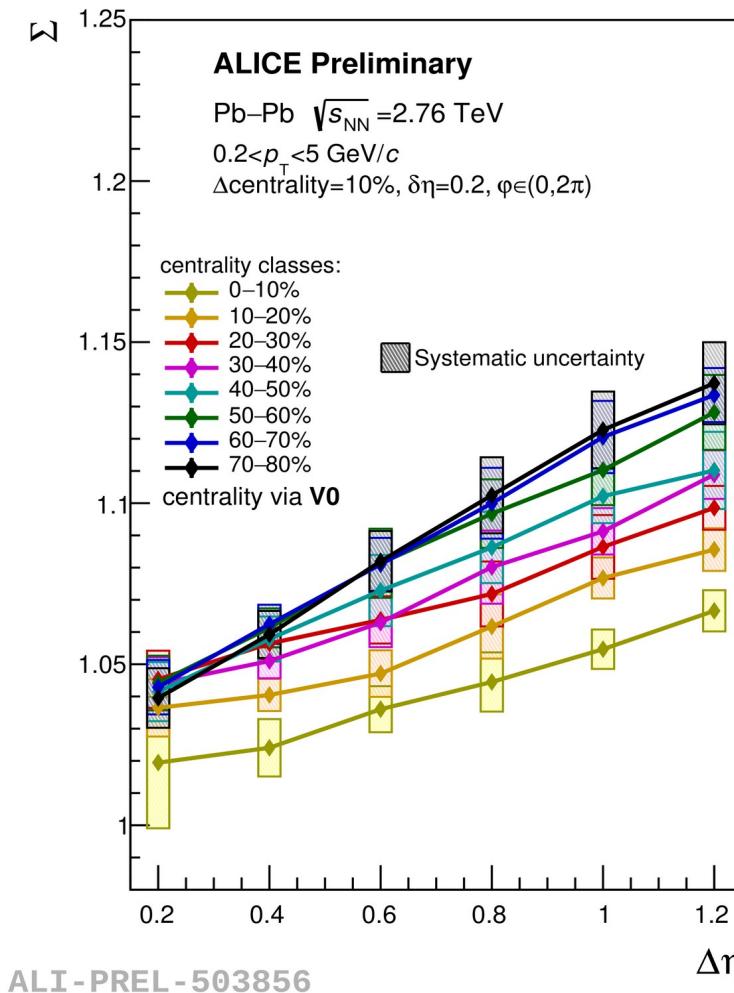


- **increase** with  $\Delta\eta$ ;
- **Pb-Pb:** **decrease** of  $\Sigma$  with increasing centrality class;
- **pp:**  $\Sigma$  **grows** with the increase of forward event multiplicity; **contrary to Pb-Pb.**

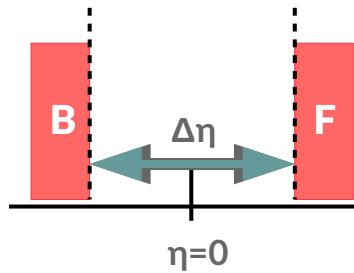
**Different ordering of  $\Sigma$  with centrality for Pb-Pb and pp.**

$$\Sigma \approx \omega(1 - b_{corr})$$

# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of $\Delta\eta$

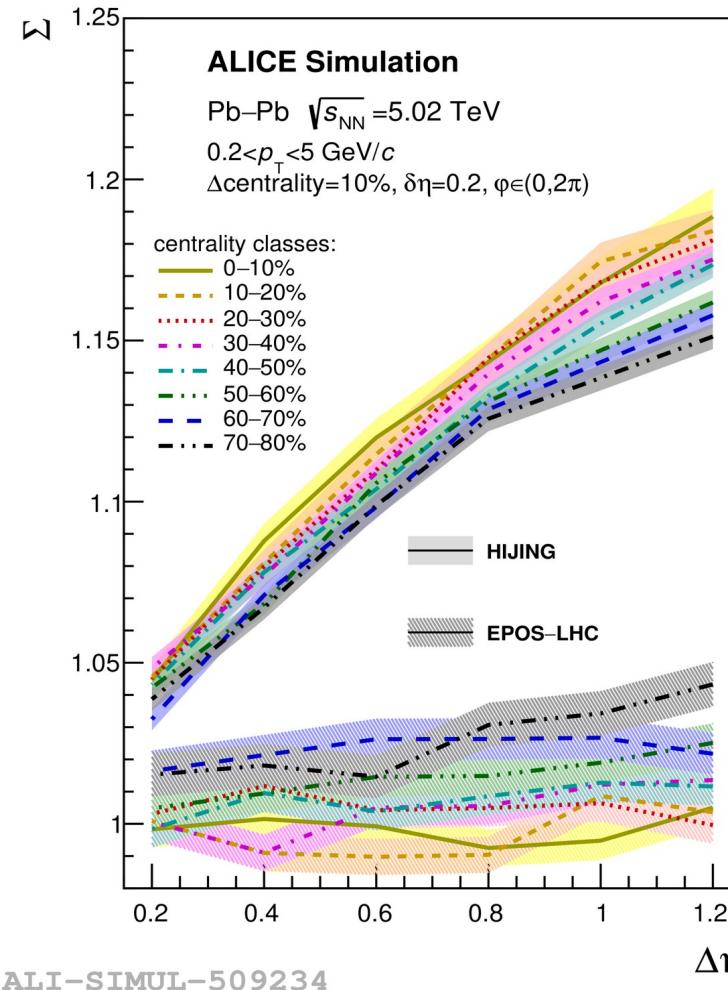
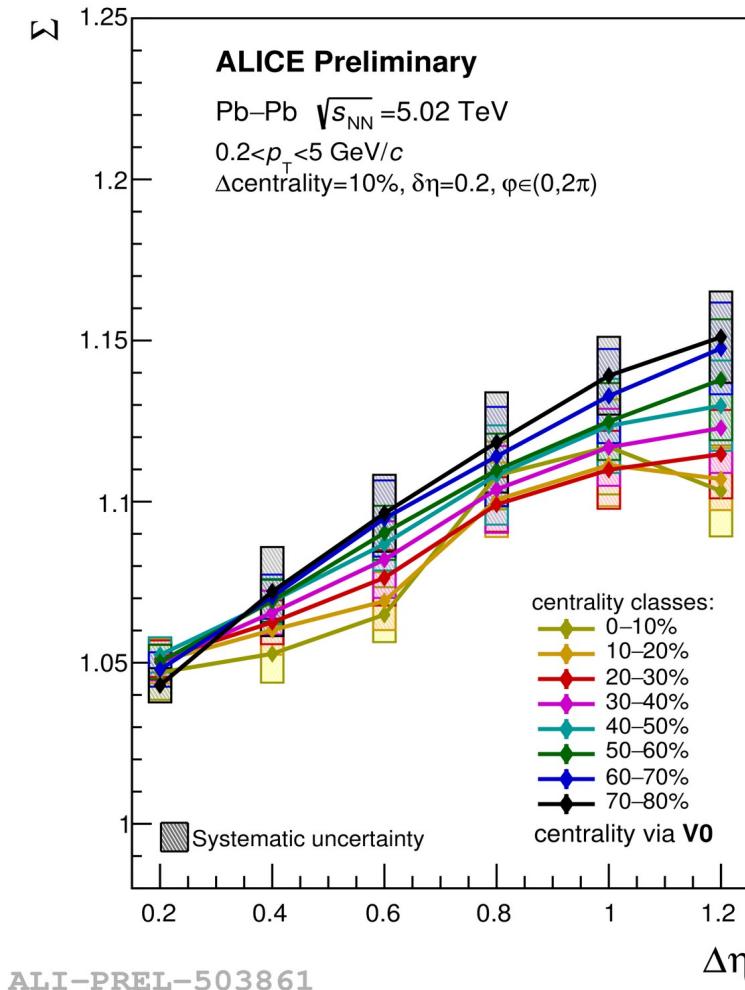


- **increase** with  $\Delta\eta$ ;
- **experimental data:** **decrease** of  $\Sigma$  with increasing centrality class;
- **MC HIJING:**  $\Sigma$  **grows** with increasing centrality class.

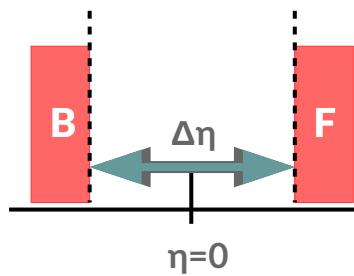


$$\Sigma \approx \omega(1 - b_{\text{corr}})$$

# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of $\Delta\eta$

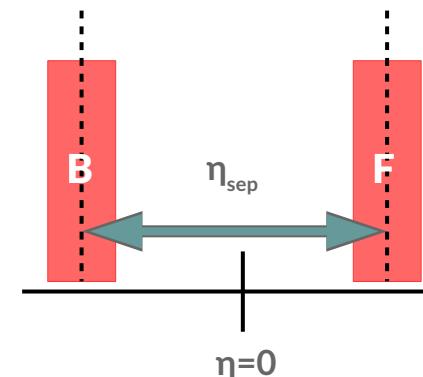
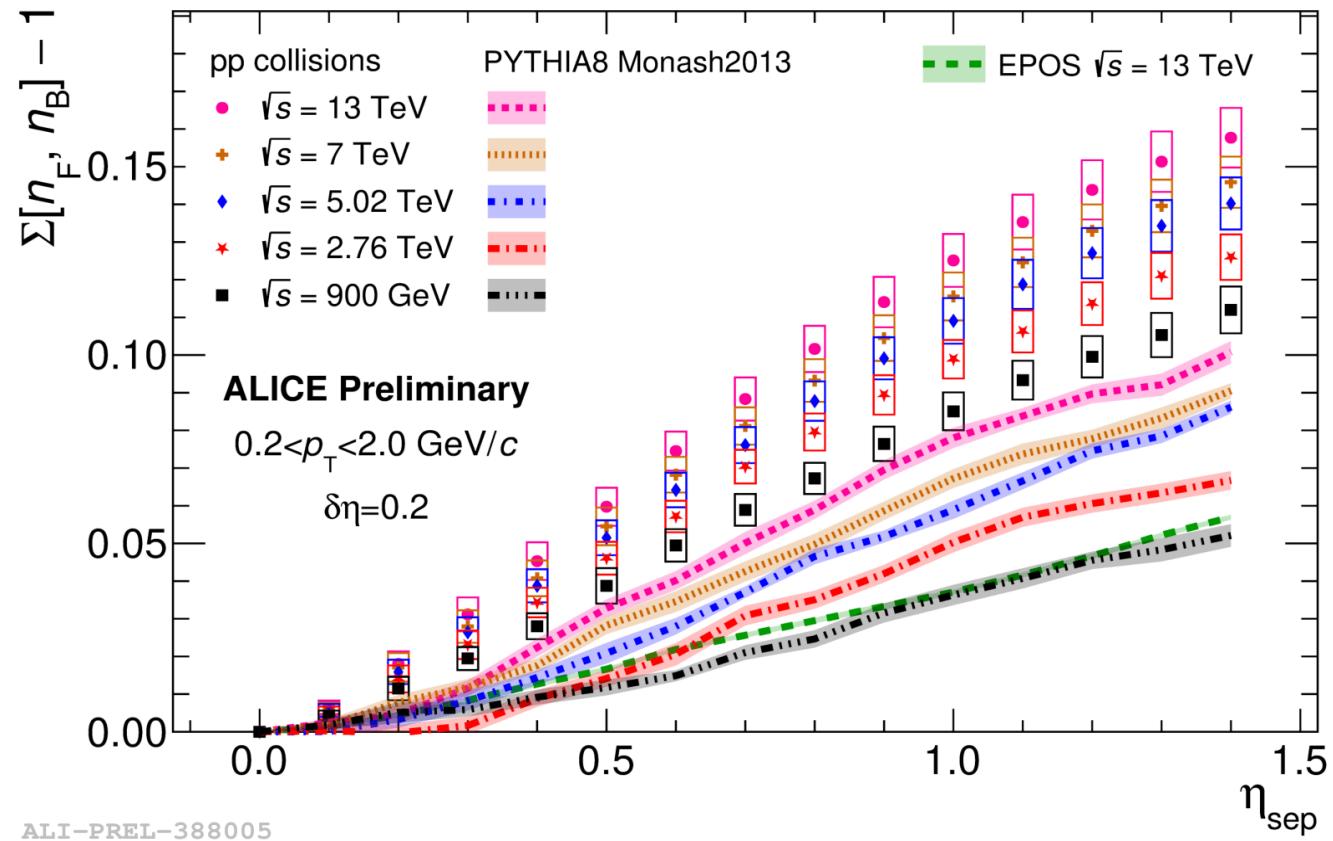


- **increase** with  $\Delta\eta$ ;
- **experimental data:** **decrease** of  $\Sigma$  with increasing centrality class;
- **MC HIJING:**  $\Sigma$  **grows** with increasing centrality class;
- **MC EPOS:** **decrease** of  $\Sigma$  with increasing centrality class;
- **MC EPOS:** reproduces dependence on centrality **qualitatively but not quantitatively**.



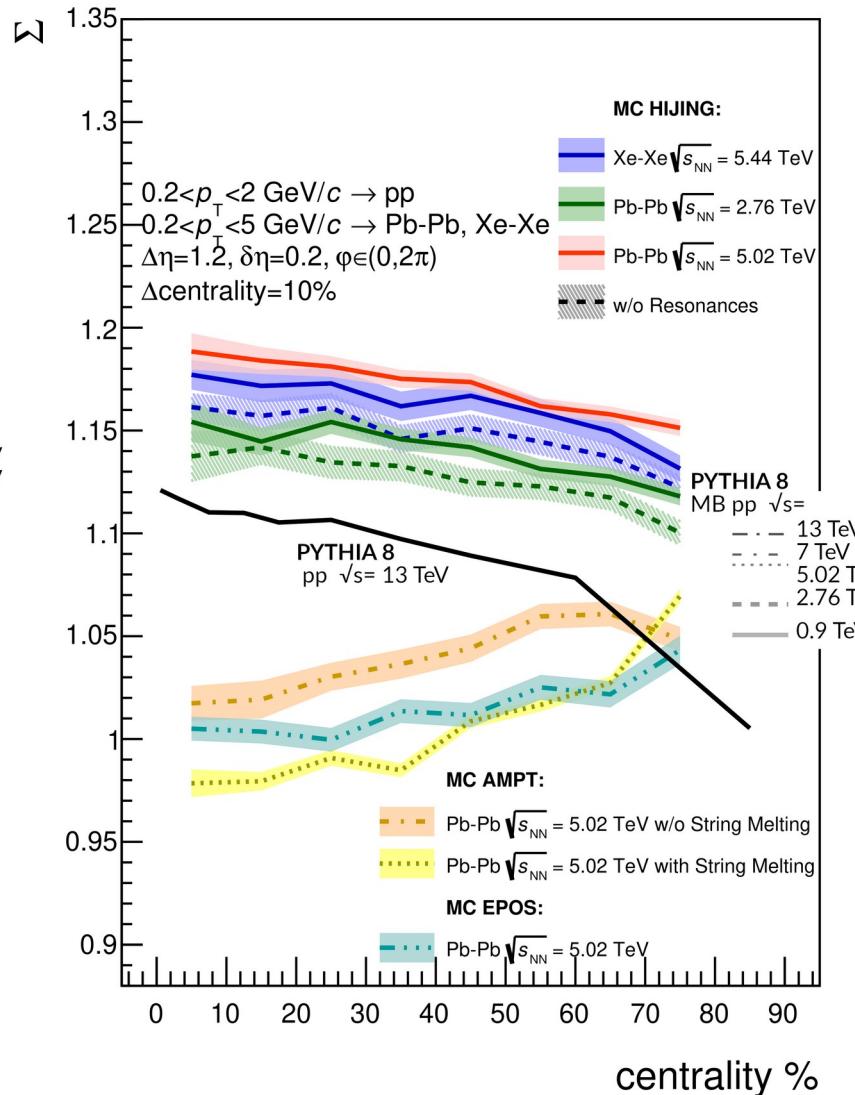
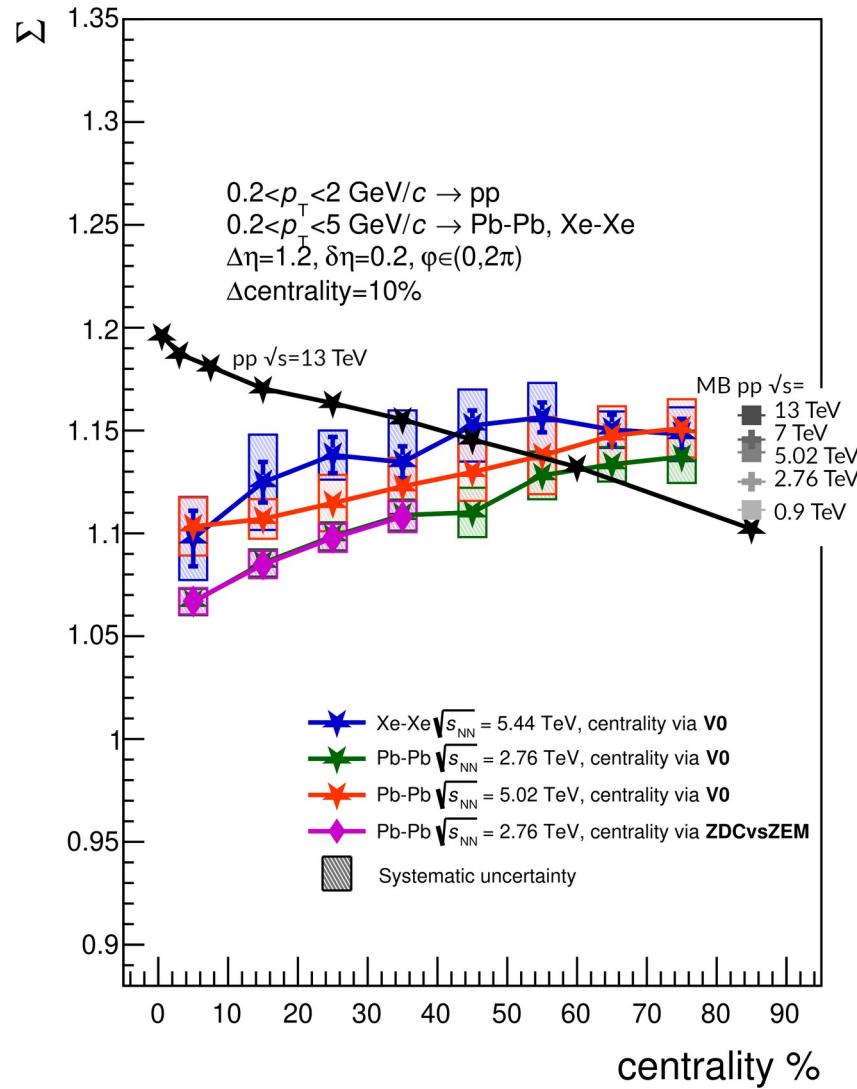
$$\Sigma \approx \omega(1 - b_{\text{corr}})$$

# Results: $\Sigma$ as a function of $\Delta n$



- The value of  $\Sigma$  grows with collision energy.
- PYTHIA8 is not able to reproduce this behavior quantitatively.
- EPOS is not able to reproduce this behavior quantitatively.

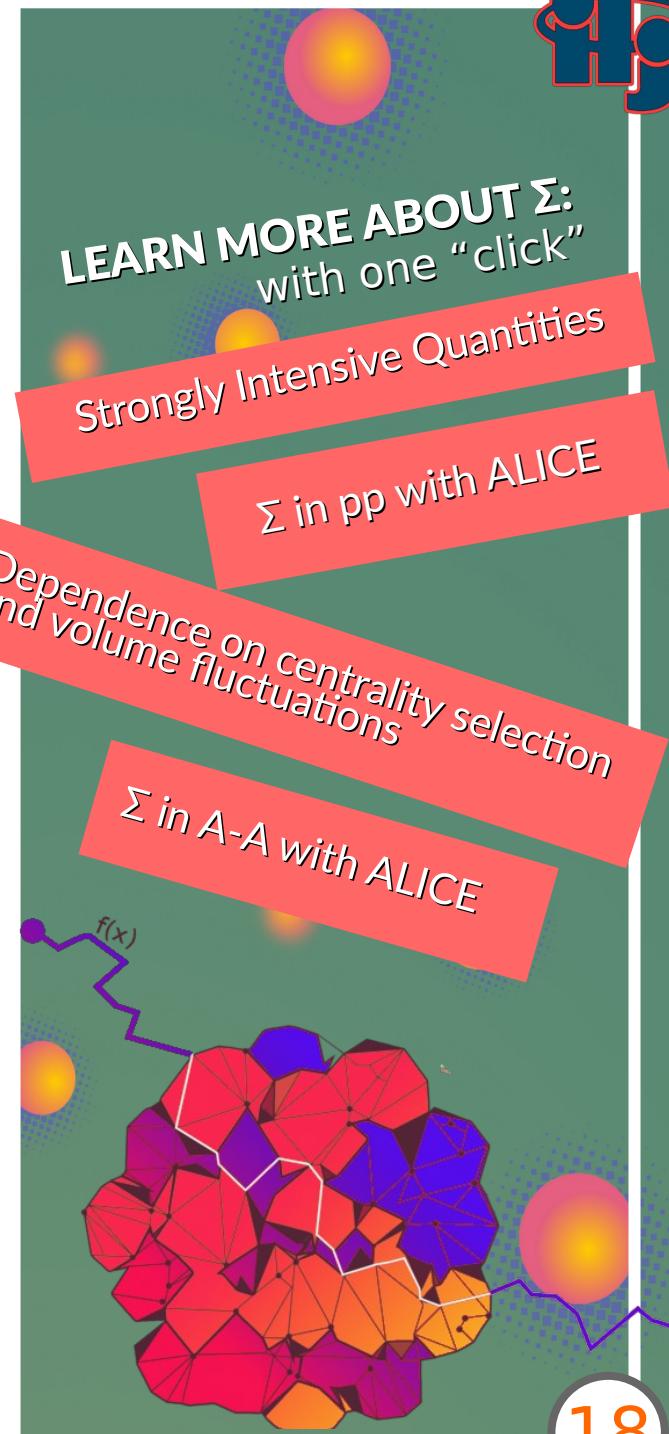
# Results: Overview



# Summary

New results for measurement of the FB correlation with the strongly intensive quantity  $\Sigma$  have been presented:

- $\Sigma$  increases with energy and with decreasing centrality in experimental data, **contrary** behavior noted for MC HIJING results and experimental pp collisions.
  - Removal of the resonance contribution does **not** change the dependence (ordering) of  $\Sigma$  with centrality.
  - AMPT and EPOS reproduce the dependence on centrality qualitatively but **not quantitatively**.
  - From results for AMPT it is evident that  $\Sigma$  is sensitive to the mechanism of particle production.
  - The comparison of **centrality ordering** in A-A reactions versus theoretical models, and experimental pp data, may provide new insight into the underlying dynamics of the collision.
- **What model can reproduce  $\Sigma$  behavior?**



This work was supported by the National Science Centre, Poland  
(grant No. 2021/43/D/ST2/02195).