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# Non-linear flow modes of identified particles in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$

ALICE Collaboration\*

## Abstract

The  $p_{\text{T}}$ -differential non-linear flow modes,  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  for  $\pi^{\pm}$ ,  $K^{\pm}$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson have been measured for the first time in Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$  with the ALICE detector at the Large Hadron Collider. The results were obtained with a multi-particle technique, correlating the identified hadrons with reference charged particles from a different pseudorapidity region. These non-linear observables probe the contribution from the second and third order initial spatial anisotropy coefficients to higher flow harmonics. All the characteristic features observed in previous  $p_{\text{T}}$ -differential anisotropic flow measurements for various particle species are also present in the non-linear flow modes, i.e. increase of magnitude with increasing centrality percentile, mass ordering at low  $p_{\text{T}}$  and particle type grouping in the intermediate  $p_{\text{T}}$  range. Hydrodynamical calculations (iEBE-VISHNU) that use different initial conditions and values of shear and bulk viscosity to entropy density ratios are confronted with the data at low transverse momenta. Previous comparisons between the anisotropic flow coefficients,  $v_2$ ,  $v_3$  and  $v_4$ , and these calculations present a better agreement with respect to the comparisons for non-linear flow modes. These observations indicate that non-linear flow modes can provide additional discriminatory power in the study of initial conditions as well as new stringent constraints to hydrodynamical calculations.

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## 1 Introduction

Lattice quantum chromodynamics (QCD) calculations [1, 2] suggest that at extremely high temperature and energy density a state of matter is produced in which quarks and gluons are no longer confined into hadrons. This state of matter is called the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) [3–5]. The main goal of heavy-ion collision experiments is to study the properties of the QGP, such as the speed of the sound, the equation of state and its shear and bulk viscosities.

One of the observables sensitive to these properties is the azimuthal angular distribution of particles emitted in the plane perpendicular to the beam axis. In a heavy ion collision, the overlap region of the colliding nuclei exhibits an irregular shape [6–12]. This spatial irregularity is a superposition of the geometry, i.e. centrality of the collision reflected in the value of the impact parameter, and the initial energy density in the transverse plane which fluctuates from event to event. Through interactions between partons and at later stages between the produced particles, this spatial irregularity is transferred into an anisotropy in momentum space. The latter is usually expressed by a Fourier expansion of the azimuthal particle distribution [13] according to

$$\frac{dN}{d\varphi} \propto 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} v_n(p_T) \cos[n(\varphi - \Psi_n)], \quad (1)$$

where  $N$ ,  $p_T$  and  $\varphi$  are the particle yield, transverse momentum and azimuthal angle of particles, respectively, and  $\Psi_n$  is the azimuthal angle of the  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order symmetry plane [7–10, 12]. The coefficient  $v_n$  is the magnitude of the  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order complex flow vector  $V_n$ , defined as  $V_n = v_n e^{in\Psi_n}$ , and can be calculated according to

$$v_n = \langle \cos[n(\varphi - \Psi_n)] \rangle, \quad (2)$$

where the brackets denote an average over all particles in all events. Since the symmetry planes are not accessible experimentally, the flow coefficients are estimated solely from the azimuthal angles of the particles emitted in the transverse plane. Measurements of different anisotropic flow coefficients at both RHIC [14–30] and the LHC [31–45] have not only confirmed the production of a strongly coupled quark gluon plasma (sQGP) but have also contributed in constraining the value of its shear viscosity over entropy density ( $\eta/s$ ) which is very close to the lower limit of  $1/4\pi$  conjectured by AdS/CFT [46]. In addition, the comparison between experimental data [40] and viscous hydrodynamical calculations [47] showed that higher order flow coefficients and more importantly their transverse momentum dependence are more sensitive probes than lower order coefficients, i.e.  $v_2$  and  $v_3$ , to the initial spatial irregularity and its fluctuations [10].

This initial state spatial irregularity is usually quantified with the standard (moment-defined) anisotropy coefficients,  $\varepsilon_n$ . In the Monte-Carlo Glauber model,  $\varepsilon_n$  and its corresponding initial symmetry plane,  $\Phi_n$  can be calculated from the transverse positions of the nucleons participating in a collision according to [9, 48]

$$\varepsilon_n e^{in\Phi_n} = \frac{\langle r^n e^{in\phi} \rangle}{\langle r^n \rangle} \quad (\text{for } n > 1), \quad (3)$$

where the brackets denote an average over the transverse position of all participating nucleons that have an azimuthal angle  $\phi$  and a polar distance from the centre  $r$ . Model calculations show that  $v_2$  and to a large extent,  $v_3$  are for a wide range of impact parameters linearly proportional to their corresponding initial spatial anisotropy coefficients,  $\varepsilon_2$  and  $\varepsilon_3$ , respectively [9] while for larger values of  $n$ ,  $v_n$  scales with cumulant-based definition of initial anisotropic coefficients. This definition suggests additional terms for

$\varepsilon_n$  in higher order flow coefficients ( $n > 3$ ). As an example, the fourth order spatial anisotropy is given by

$$\varepsilon'_4 e^{i4\Phi'_4} = \varepsilon_4 e^{i4\Phi_4} + \frac{3\langle r^2 \rangle^2}{\langle r^4 \rangle} \varepsilon_2^2 e^{i4\Phi_2}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\varepsilon'_4$  is the cumulant-based spatial anisotropy coefficient [49, 50], where the second term reveals a non-linear dependence of  $\varepsilon_4$  on the lower order  $\varepsilon_2$ . This observation further supports the earlier ideas that the higher order flow coefficients,  $V_n$  ( $n > 3$ ) obtain contributions not only from the linear response of the system to  $\varepsilon_n$ , but also a non-linear response proportional to the product of lower order initial spatial anisotropies [51, 52].

In particular, for a single event,  $V_n$  with  $n = 4, 5, 6$  can be decomposed to the linear ( $V_n^L$ ) and non-linear ( $V_n^{\text{NL}}$ ) modes according to

$$\begin{aligned} V_4 &= V_4^L + V_4^{\text{NL}} = V_4^L + \chi_{4,22}(V_2)^2, \\ V_5 &= V_5^L + V_5^{\text{NL}} = V_5^L + \chi_{5,32}V_3V_2, \\ V_6 &= V_6^L + V_6^{\text{NL}} = V_6^L + \chi_{6,222}(V_2)^3 + \chi_{6,33}(V_3)^2 + \chi_{6,42}V_2V_4^L, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $\chi_{n,mk}$ , known as non-linear flow mode coefficients, quantify the contributions of the non-linear modes to the total  $V_n$  [52, 53]. The magnitude of the  $p_T$ -differential non-linear modes for higher order flow coefficients,  $v_n^{\text{NL}}$ , can be written as:

$$v_{4,22}(p_T) = \frac{\langle v_4(p_T)v_2^2 \cos(4\Psi_4 - 4\Psi_2) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle v_2^4 \rangle}} \approx \langle v_4(p_T) \cos(4\Psi_4 - 4\Psi_2) \rangle, \quad (6)$$

$$v_{5,32}(p_T) = \frac{\langle v_5(p_T)v_3v_2 \cos(5\Psi_5 - 3\Psi_3 - 2\Psi_2) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle v_3^2v_2^2 \rangle}} \approx \langle v_5(p_T) \cos(5\Psi_5 - 3\Psi_3 - 2\Psi_2) \rangle, \quad (7)$$

$$v_{6,33}(p_T) = \frac{\langle v_6(p_T)v_3^2 \cos(6\Psi_6 - 6\Psi_3) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle v_3^4 \rangle}} \approx \langle v_6(p_T) \cos(6\Psi_6 - 6\Psi_3) \rangle, \quad (8)$$

$$v_{6,222}(p_T) = \frac{\langle v_6(p_T)v_2^3 \cos(6\Psi_6 - 6\Psi_2) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle v_2^6 \rangle}} \approx \langle v_6(p_T) \cos(6\Psi_6 - 6\Psi_2) \rangle, \quad (9)$$

where brackets denote an average over all events. The approximation is valid assuming a weak correlation between the lower ( $n = 2, 3$ ) and higher ( $n > 3$ ) order flow coefficients [51, 54].

Various measurements of the  $p_T$ -differential anisotropic flow,  $v_n(p_T)$ , of charged particles [32, 37, 42, 44, 45] have provided a testing ground for hydrodynamical calculations that attempt to describe the dynamical evolution of the system created in heavy-ion collisions. Early predictions showed that the  $p_T$ -differential anisotropic flow for different particle species can reveal more information about the equation of state, the highly dissipative hadronic rescattering phase [55, 56] as well as probing particle production mechanisms. In order to test these predictions,  $v_n(p_T)$  have been measured for different particle species at RHIC [14–17] and at the LHC [38, 39, 41, 43]. These measurements have revealed that an interplay between radial and anisotropic flow leads to a characteristic mass dependence in the low transverse momentum region ( $p_T < 3$  GeV/c). For higher values of  $p_T$  (up to 6 GeV/c) results indicate a particle type grouping where baryons have a larger  $v_n$  than the one of mesons. This feature was explained in a

dynamical model where flow develops at the partonic level followed by quark coalescence into hadrons [57, 58]. This model assumes that the invariant spectrum of produced particles is proportional to the product of the spectra of their constituents and, in turn, the flow coefficients of produced particles is the sum of the  $v_n$  values of their constituents. Measurements of lower order anisotropic flow coefficients exhibit what is usually referred to as number of constituent quarks (NCQ) scaling at RHIC [59] and the LHC [38, 39] at an approximate level of  $\pm 20\%$  for  $p_T > 3$  GeV/c.

The measurements of non-linear flow modes in different collision centralities could pose a challenge to hydrodynamic models and have the potential to further constrain both the initial conditions of the collision system and its transport properties, i.e.  $\eta/s$  and  $\zeta/s$  [53, 60]. The  $p_T$ -dependent non-linear flow modes of identified particles, in particular, allow to test the effect of late-stage interactions in the hadronic rescattering phase, as well as the effect of particle production via the coalescence mechanism to the development of the mass ordering at low  $p_T$  and particle type grouping in the intermediate  $p_T$  region, respectively [32, 41].

In this article, we report the first results of the  $p_T$ -differential non-linear flow modes, i.e.  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$  measured in Pb–Pb collisions at a centre of mass energy per nucleon pair  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV, recorded by the ALICE experiment [61] at the LHC. The detectors and the selection criteria used in this analysis are described in Sec. 2 and 3, respectively. The analysis methodology and technique are presented in Section 4. In this article, the identified hadron under study and the charged reference particles are obtained from different, non-overlapping pseudorapidity regions. The azimuthal correlations not related to the common symmetry plane (known as non-flow), including the effects arising from jets, resonance decays and quantum statistics correlations, are suppressed by using multi-particle correlations as explained in Section 4 and the residual effect has been taken into account in the systematic uncertainty, described in Section 5. All coefficients for charged particles were measured separately for particles and anti-particles and were found to be compatible within statistical uncertainties. The measurements reported in Section 6 are therefore an average of the results for both charges. The results are reported within the pseudorapidity range  $|\eta| < 0.8$  at different collision centralities between 0–60% range of Pb–Pb collisions.

## 2 Experimental setup

ALICE [61, 62] is one of the four large experiments at the LHC, particularly designed to cope with the large charged-particle densities present in central Pb–Pb collisions [63]. By convention, the  $z$ -axis is parallel to the beam direction, the  $x$ -axis is horizontal and points towards the centre of the LHC, and the  $y$ -axis is vertical and points upwards. The apparatus consists of a set of detectors located in the central barrel, positioned inside a solenoidal magnet which generates a 0.5 T field parallel to the beam direction, and a set of forward detectors.

The Inner Tracking System (ITS) [61] and the Time Projection Chamber TPC [64] are the main tracking detectors of the central barrel. The ITS consists of six layers of silicon detectors employing three different technologies. The two innermost layers, positioned at  $r = 3.9$  cm and 7.6 cm, are Silicon Pixel Detectors (SPD), followed by two layers of Silicon Drift Detectors (SDD) ( $r = 15$  cm and 23.9 cm). Finally, the two outermost layers are double-sided Silicon Strip Detectors (SSD) at  $r = 38$  cm and 43 cm. The TPC has a cylindrical shape with an inner radius of about 85 cm, an outer radius of about 250 cm, and a length of 500 cm and it is positioned around the ITS. It provides full azimuthal coverage in the pseudorapidity range  $|\eta| < 0.9$ .

Charged particles were identified using the information from the TPC and the TOF detectors [61]. The TPC allows for a simultaneous measurement of the momentum of a particle and its specific energy loss  $\langle dE/dx \rangle$  in the gas. The detector provides a separation more than 2 standard deviations for different hadron species at  $p_T < 0.7$  GeV/c and the possibility to identify particles on a statistical basis in the

relativistic rise region of  $dE/dx$  (i.e.  $2 < p_T < 20$  GeV/ $c$ ) [62]. The  $dE/dx$  resolution for the 5% most central Pb–Pb collisions is 6.5% and improves for more peripheral collisions. The TOF detector is situated at a radial distance of 3.7 m from the beam axis, around the TPC and provides a  $3\sigma$  separation between  $\pi$ –K and K–p up to  $p_T = 2.5$  GeV/ $c$  and  $p_T = 4$  GeV/ $c$ , respectively [62]. This is done by measuring the flight time of particles from the collision point with a resolution of about 80 ps. The start time for the TOF measurement is provided by the T0 detectors, two arrays of Cherenkov counters positioned at opposite sides of the interaction points covering  $4.6 < \eta < 4.9$  (T0A) and  $-3.3 < \eta < -3.0$  (T0C). The start time is also determined using a combinatorial algorithm that compares the timestamps of particle hits measured by the TOF to the expected times of the tracks, assuming a common event time  $t_{ev}$  [62]. Both methods of estimating the start time are fully efficient for Pb–Pb collisions up to 80% centrality interval.

A set of forward detectors, the V0 scintillator arrays [65], were used in the trigger logic and for the determination of the collision centrality. The V0 consists of two detectors, the V0A and the V0C, positioned on each side of the interaction point, covering the pseudorapidity ranges of  $2.8 < \eta < 5.1$  and  $-3.7 < \eta < -1.7$ , respectively.

For more details on the ALICE apparatus and the performance of the detectors, see Refs. [61, 62].

### 3 Event sample, track selection and particle identification

#### 3.1 Trigger selection and data sample

The analysis is performed on minimum bias Pb–Pb collision data at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV collected by ALICE in 2015. These events were triggered by the coincidence between signals from both V0A and V0C detectors. An offline event selection, exploiting the signal arrival time in V0A and V0C, measured with a 1 ns resolution, was used to discriminate beam induced-background (e.g. beam gas events) from collision events. This led to a reduction of background events in the analysed samples to a negligible fraction ( $< 0.1\%$ ) [62]. Events with multiple reconstructed vertices were rejected by comparing multiplicity estimates from the V0 detector to tracking detectors at mid-rapidity, exploiting the difference in readout times between the systems. The fraction of pileup events left after applying the dedicated pileup removal criteria is negligible. All events selected for the analysis had a reconstructed primary vertex position along the beam axis ( $z_{vtx}$ ) within 10 cm from the nominal interaction point. After all the selection criteria, a filtered data sample of approximately 40 million Pb–Pb events in 0-60% centrality interval was analysed to produce the results presented in this article.

Events were classified according to fractions of the inelastic hadronic cross-section. The 0-5% interval represents the most central interactions (i.e. smallest impact parameter) and is referred to as most central collisions. On the other hand, the 50-60% centrality interval corresponds to the most peripheral (i.e. largest impact parameter) collisions in the analysed sample. The centrality of the collision was estimated using the signal magnitude measured in the V0 detectors which is related to the number of particles crossing their sensitive areas. Details about the centrality determination can be found in Ref. [66].

#### 3.2 Selection of primary $\pi^\pm$ , $K^\pm$ and $p + \bar{p}$

In this analysis, tracks are reconstructed using the information from the TPC and the ITS detectors. The tracking algorithm, based on the Kalman filter [67, 68], starts from a collection of space points (referred to as clusters) inside the TPC, and provides the quality of the fit by calculating its  $\chi^2$  value. Each space point is reconstructed at one of the TPC padrows, where the deposited ionisation energy is also measured. The specific ionisation energy loss  $\langle dE/dx \rangle$  is estimated using a truncated mean, excluding the 40% highest-charge clusters associated to the track. The obtained  $\langle dE/dx \rangle$  has a resolution, which we later refer to as  $\sigma_{TPC}$ . The tracks are propagated to the outer layer of the ITS, and the tracking algorithm attempts to identify space points in each one of the consecutive layers, reaching the innermost ones (i.e. SPD). The track parameters are then updated using the combined information from both the TPC and the ITS detectors.

Primary charged pions, kaons and (anti-)protons were required to have at least 70 reconstructed space points out of the maximum of 159 in the TPC. The average of the track fit per TPC space point per degree of freedom (see [62] for details) was required to be below 4. These selections reduce the contribution from short tracks, which are unlikely to originate from the primary vertex. To further reduce the contamination by secondary tracks from weak decays or from the interaction with the material, only particles within a maximum distance of closest approach (DCA) between the tracks and the primary vertex in both the transverse plane ( $DCA_{xy} < 0.0105 + 0.0350(p_T \text{ c/GeV})^{-1.1}$  cm) and the longitudinal direction ( $DCA_z < 2$  cm) were analysed. Moreover, the tracks were required to have at least two associated ITS clusters in addition to having a hit in either of the two SPD layers. This selection leads to an efficiency of about 80% for primary tracks at  $p_T < \sim 0.6$  GeV/c and a contamination from secondaries of about 5% at  $p_T = 1$  GeV/c [69]. These values depend on particle species and transverse momentum [69]. These selection criteria are described in Sec. 5. Relevant selection criteria for tracks used for the reconstruction of  $K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson are given in Sec. 3.3.

The particle identification (PID) for pions ( $\pi^\pm$ ), kaons ( $K^\pm$ ) and protons ( $p + \bar{p}$ ) used in this analysis relies on the two-dimensional correlation between the number of standard deviations in units of the

resolution from the expected signals of the TPC and the TOF detectors similar to what was reported in [38, 39, 41]. In this approach particles were selected by requiring their standard deviations from the  $\langle dE/dx \rangle$  and  $t_{\text{TOF}}$  values to be less than a  $p_{\text{T}}$ -dependent value, maintaining a minimum purity of 90% for  $\pi^{\pm}$  and 80% for  $p + \bar{p}$ . For  $K^{\pm}$ , the minimum purity of 75% was used, however, the results were extrapolated to 100% purity and used in the systematics. In order to further reduce the contamination from other species, the standard deviation of a given track was required to be the minimum among other candidate species.

In addition, for the systematics (see section 5) the minimum purity was varied to more strict values, a condition that becomes essential with increasing transverse momentum where the relevant detector response for different particle species starts to overlap.

### 3.3 Reconstruction of $K_S^0$ , $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ and $\phi$ meson

In this analysis, the  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  are reconstructed via the following fully hadronic decay channels:  $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^-$  and  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) \rightarrow p(\bar{p}) + \pi^- (\pi^+)$  with branching ratios of 69.2% and 63.9% [70], respectively. The reconstruction is performed by identifying the candidates of secondary vertices, denoted as  $V^0$ s, from which two oppositely-charged decay products originate. Such candidates are obtained during data processing by looking for characteristic V-shaped decay topology among pairs of reconstructed tracks.

The daughter tracks were reconstructed within  $|\eta| < 0.8$ , while the criteria on the number of TPC space points, the number of crossed TPC padrows, and the percentage of the expected TPC space points used to reconstruct a track are identical to those applied for primary particles. In addition, the minimum DCA of daughter tracks to the primary vertex is 0.1 cm. Furthermore, the maximum DCA of daughter tracks to the secondary vertex is 0.5 cm to ensure that they are products of the same decay. To suppress the combinatorial background, PID is applied for the daughter particles in the whole  $p_{\text{T}}$  region by requiring the particle to be within  $3\sigma_{\text{TPC}}$  for a given species hypothesis.

To reject secondary vertices arising from decays into more than two particles, the cosine of the pointing angle,  $\theta_p$ , is required to be larger than 0.998. This angle is defined as the angle between the momentum vector of the  $V^0$  candidate assessed at its decay vertex and the line connecting the  $V^0$  decay vertex to the primary vertex and has to be close to 1 as a result of momentum conservation. In addition, only the candidates reconstructed between 5 and 100 cm from the nominal primary vertex in radial direction are accepted. The lower value is chosen to avoid any bias from the efficiency loss when secondary tracks are being wrongly matched to clusters in the first layer of the ITS, where the occupancy is the largest. To assess the systematic uncertainty related to the contamination from  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and electron-positron pairs coming from  $\gamma$ -conversions to the  $K_S^0$  sample, a selection in the Armenteros-Podolanski variables [71] is applied for the  $K_S^0$  candidates, rejecting ones with  $q \leq 0.2|\alpha|$ . Here  $q$  is the momentum projection of the positively charged daughter track in the plane perpendicular to the  $V^0$  momentum and  $\alpha = (p_L^+ - p_L^-)/(p_L^+ + p_L^-)$  with  $p_L^{\pm}$  the projection of the positive or negative daughter tracks' momentum onto the momentum of the  $V^0$ .

The reconstruction of  $\phi$  meson candidates is done via the hadronic decay channel:  $\phi \rightarrow K^+ + K^-$  with a branching ratio of 48.9% [70]. The  $\phi$  meson candidates were reconstructed from the charged tracks passing all criteria for charged kaons. These kaon daughters are identified by utilising the Bayesian PID approach [72] with a minimum probability threshold of 85% using the TPC and TOF detectors. Additionally, to reduce combinatorial background, a track is identified as kaon if it has the highest probability among all considered species ( $e, \mu, \pi^{\pm}, K^{\pm}, p + \bar{p}$ ). The vector sum of all possible pairs of charged kaons are called  $\phi$  candidates. The invariant mass distribution ( $M_{\text{inv}}^{K^+K^-}$ ) of  $\phi$  candidates is then obtained in various  $p_{\text{T}}$  intervals by subtracting a combinatorial background yield from the candidate yield. This combinatorial background yield is estimated from like-sign kaon pairs (unphysical  $\phi$  state with total charge of  $\pm 2$ ) normalised to the candidate yield.



## 4 Analysis method

In this article the  $p_T$ -differential non-linear flow modes are calculated according to Eqs. 12-15. Each event is divided into two subevents “A” and “B”, covering the ranges  $-0.8 < \eta < 0.0$  and  $0.0 < \eta < 0.8$ , respectively. Thus  $v_{n,mk}(p_T)$  is a weighted average of  $v_{n,mk}^A(p_T)$  and  $v_{n,mk}^B(p_T)$ . The measured  $v_{n,mk}^{A(B)}(p_T)$  coefficients are calculated using  $d_{n,mk}(p_T)$  and  $c_{mk,mk}$  multi-particle correlators given by

$$d_{n,mk}(p_T) = \langle v_n(p_T) v_m v_k \cos(n\Psi_n - m\Psi_m - k\Psi_k) \rangle, \quad (10)$$

$$c_{mk,mk} = \langle v_m^2 v_k^2 \rangle. \quad (11)$$

These correlators are obtained using the Generic Framework with sub-event method originally used in [53], which allows precise non-uniform acceptance and efficiency corrections. In this analysis,  $d_{n,mk}(p_T)$  is measured by correlating the azimuthal angle of particle of interest ( $\phi_l(p_T)$ ) from subevent “A”(“B”) with that of reference particles from subevent “B”(“A”) and  $c_{mk,mk}$  by selecting half of the reference particles from subevent “A” and the other half from “B”. Thus, Eqs.6 to 9 for  $v_{n,mk}^A(p_T)$  translate to

$$v_{4,22}^A(p_T) = \frac{d_{4,22}^A(p_T)}{\sqrt{c_{22,22}}} = \frac{\langle \cos(4\phi_1^A(p_T) - 2\phi_2^B - 2\phi_3^B) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \cos(2\phi_1^A + 2\phi_2^A - 2\phi_3^B - 2\phi_4^B) \rangle}}, \quad (12)$$

$$v_{5,32}^A(p_T) = \frac{d_{5,32}^A(p_T)}{\sqrt{c_{32,32}}} = \frac{\langle \cos(5\phi_1^A(p_T) - 3\phi_3^B - 2\phi_2^B) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \cos(3\phi_1^A + 2\phi_2^A - 3\phi_3^B - 2\phi_4^B) \rangle}}, \quad (13)$$

$$v_{6,33}^A(p_T) = \frac{d_{6,33}^A(p_T)}{\sqrt{c_{33,33}}} = \frac{\langle \cos(6\phi_1^A(p_T) - 3\phi_2^B - 3\phi_3^B) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \cos(3\phi_1^A + 3\phi_2^A - 3\phi_3^B - 3\phi_4^B) \rangle}}, \quad (14)$$

$$v_{6,222}^A(p_T) = \frac{d_{6,222}^A(p_T)}{\sqrt{c_{222,222}}} = \frac{\langle \cos(6\phi_1^A(p_T) - 2\phi_2^B - 2\phi_3^B - 2\phi_4^B) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \cos(2\phi_1^A + 2\phi_2^A + 2\phi_3^A - 2\phi_4^B - 2\phi_5^B - 2\phi_6^B) \rangle}}, \quad (15)$$

where  $\langle \langle \rangle \rangle$  denotes an average over all particles and events.

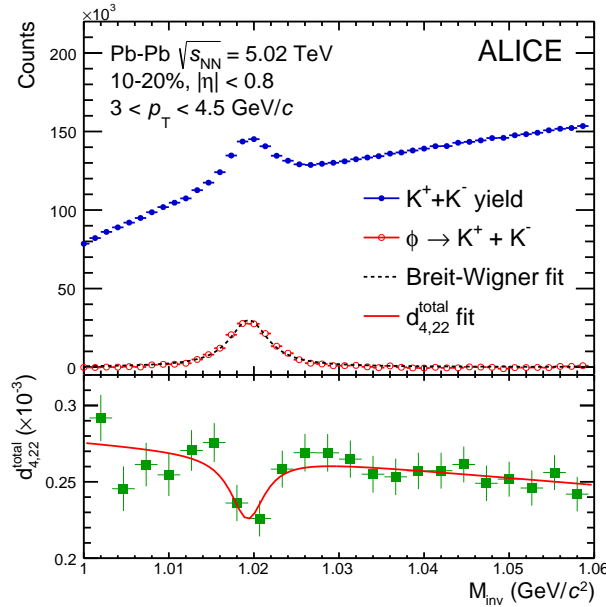
This multi-particle correlation technique by construction removes a significant part of non-flow correlations. In order to further reduce residual non-flow contributions, a pseudorapidity gap was applied between the two pseudorapidity regions ( $|\Delta\eta| > 0.4$ ). In addition, particles with like-sign charges were correlated. These two variations did not affect the results significantly but any variation was included in the final systematics in Tab. 1.

For charged hadrons, i.e.  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$ , the  $d_{n,mk}$  correlators are calculated on a track-by-track basis as a function of  $p_T$  for each centrality percentile. For particle species reconstructed on a statistical basis from decay products, i.e.  $K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$  meson, the selected sample contains both signal and the background. Therefore, the  $d_{n,mk}$  correlators are measured as a function of invariant mass ( $M_{\text{inv}}$ ) and  $p_T$  for each centrality percentile. The  $d_{n,mk}$  vs.  $M_{\text{inv}}$  method is based on the additivity of correlations and is a weighted sum of the  $d_{n,mk}^{\text{sig}}$  and  $d_{n,mk}^{\text{bkg}}$  according to

$$d_{n,mk}^{\text{total}}(M_{\text{inv}}, p_T) = \frac{N^{\text{sig}}}{N^{\text{sig}} + N^{\text{bkg}}}(M_{\text{inv}}, p_T) d_{n,mk}^{\text{sig}}(p_T) + \frac{N^{\text{bkg}}}{N^{\text{sig}} + N^{\text{bkg}}}(M_{\text{inv}}, p_T) d_{n,mk}^{\text{bkg}}(M_{\text{inv}}, p_T), \quad (16)$$

where  $N^{\text{sig}}$  and  $N^{\text{bkg}}$  are signal and background yields obtained for each  $p_T$  interval and centrality percentile from fits to  $K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$  meson invariant mass distributions. To obtain the  $p_T$ -differential yield of  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$ , invariant mass distributions at various  $p_T$  intervals are parametrised as a sum of two Gaussian distribution and a third-order polynomial function. The latter is introduced to account for residual contamination (background yield) that are present in the  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  signals after the topological and daughter track selections. The  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  yields are extracted by integration of the Gaussian distribution. Similarly, to obtain the  $p_T$ -differential yield of  $\phi$ -mesons, the invariant mass distributions of the candidate yield is parametrized as a sum of a Breit-Wigner distribution and a third-order polynomial function, the latter introduced to account for residual contamination.

To extract  $d_{n,mk}^{\text{sig}}$  in a given  $p_T$  range,  $d_{n,mk}^{\text{total}}(M_{\text{inv}})$  is fitted together with the fit values from the invariant mass distribution and parametrising  $d_{n,mk}^{\text{bkg}}(M_{\text{inv}})$  with a first order polynomial function. Figure 1 illustrates this procedure for the  $\phi$ -meson, with the invariant mass distribution in the upper panel and the measurement of  $d_{4,22}^{\text{total}}(M_{\text{inv}})$  in the lower panel.



**Figure 1:** Reconstruction and  $d_{4,22}$  measurement of  $\phi$ -meson. Upper panel: extraction of  $N^{\text{sig}}$  and  $N^{\text{bkg}}$  by fitting the invariant mass ( $M_{\text{inv}}$ ) distribution for  $\phi$ -meson candidates from pair of kaons with opposite charges for  $3 < p_T < 4.5$  GeV/ $c$  at 10-20% centrality interval, lower panel: extraction of  $d_{4,22}^{\text{sig}}$  by fitting Eq. 16 to the invariant mass dependence of  $d_{4,22}^{\text{total}}$ .

## 5 Systematic uncertainties

The systematic uncertainties are estimated by varying the selection criteria for all particle species as well as the topological reconstruction requirements for  $K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ . The contributions from different sources are extracted from the relative ratio of the  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{n,mk}$  between the default selection criteria described in Section 3 and their variations summarised in this section. Sources with statistically significant contribution (where significance is evaluated as recommended in [73]) were added in quadrature to form the final value of the systematic uncertainties on the non-linear flow modes. An overview of the magnitude of the relative systematic uncertainties per particle species is given in Tab. 1 for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  and Tab. 2 for  $K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson. Systematic uncertainties are grouped into five categories, i.e. event selection, tracking, particle identification, topological cuts and non-flow contribution

and are described below.

The effects of event selection criteria on the measurements are studied by: (i) varying the primary vertex position along the beam axis ( $z_{\text{vtx}}$ ) from a nominal  $\pm 10$  cm to  $\pm 8$  cm and  $\pm 6$  cm; (ii) changing the centrality estimator from the signal amplitudes in the V0 scintillator detectors to the number of clusters in the first or second layer of SPD, (iii) analysing events recorded for different magnetic field polarities independently; (iv) not rejecting all events with tracks caused by pileup.

Systematic uncertainties induced by the selection criteria imposed at the track level were investigated by: (i) changing the tracking from global mode where combined track information from both TPC and ITS detectors are used to what is referred to as hybrid mode in which track parameters from TPC are used if the algorithm is unable to match the track reconstructed in the TPC with associated ITS clusters; (ii) increasing the number of TPC space points from 60 up to 90 and (iii) decreasing the value of the  $\chi^2$  per TPC space point per degree of freedom from 4 to 3; (iv) varying the selection criteria on both the transverse and longitudinal components of the DCA to estimate the impact of secondary particles from a strict  $p_T$ -dependent cut to 0.15 cm and 2 cm to 0.2 cm, respectively.

Systematic uncertainties associated with the particle identification procedure were studied by varying the PID method from a  $p_T$ -dependent one described in 3.2 to even stricter version where the purity increases to higher than 95% ( $\pi^\pm$ ), 80% ( $K^\pm$ ) and 80% ( $p + \bar{p}$ ) across the entire  $p_T$  range of study. The second approach used relied on the Bayesian method with a probability of at least 80% which gives an increase in purity to at least 97% ( $\pi^\pm$ ), 87% ( $K^\pm$ ) and 90% ( $p + \bar{p}$ ) across the entire  $p_T$  range of study. To further check the effect of contamination the purity of  $K^\pm$  sample was extrapolated to 100%.

The topological cuts were also varied to account for the  $V^0$  and  $\phi$ -meson reconstruction. These selection criteria are varied by (i) changing the reconstruction method for  $V^0$  particles to an alternate technique that uses raw tracking information during the Kalman filtering stage; (ii) varying the minimum radial distance from the primary vertex at which the  $V^0$  can be produced from 5 cm to 10 cm; (iii) changing the minimum value of cosine of pointing angle from 0.998 to 0.99; (iv) varying the minimum number of TPC space points crossed by the  $V^0$  daughter tracks from 70 to 90; (v) changing the requirement on the minimum number of TPC space points that are used in the reconstruction of the  $V^0$  daughter tracks from 70 to 90; (vi) requesting a minimum ratio of crossed to findable TPC clusters from 0.8 to 1.0; (vii) changing the minimum DCA of the  $V^0$  daughter tracks to the primary vertex from 0.1 cm to 0.3 cm; (viii) changing the maximum DCA of the  $V^0$  daughter tracks to the secondary vertex from 0.5 cm to 0.3 cm; (ix) requiring a minimum  $p_T$  of the  $V^0$  daughter tracks of 0.2 GeV/c.

In addition, the non-flow contribution is studied by (i) selecting like sign pairs of particles of interest and reference particles to decrease the effect from decay of resonance particles; (ii) applying pseudorapidity gaps between the two subevents from  $|\Delta\eta| > 0.0$  to  $|\Delta\eta| > 0.4$ .

Tables 1 and 2 summarise the maximum relative systematic uncertainties for each individual systematic source described above over all transverse momenta. The systematics are expressed for each non-linear mode and particle species in a range to account for all centrality intervals in this article.

Error source	$v_{4,22}$			$v_{5,32}$			$v_{6,33}$			$v_{6,222}$		
	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$
Primary $z_{vtx}$	0-2%	1-3%	0-3%	0-3%	1-3%	1-4%	3-5%	2-5%	3-5%	2-7%	2-7%	4-7%
Centrality estimator	0-4%	1-4%	1-5%	0-4%	1-3%	2-4%	4-10%	4-10%	5-10%	3-10%	5-10%	4-10%
Magnetic field polarity	0-2%	0-3%	0-3%	0-4%	0-5%	0-5%	0-10%	0-10%	0-10%	0-10%	0-10%	0-10%
Pileup rejection	0-4%	0-3%	0-4%	0-5%	1-5%	0-5%	5-7%	5-10%	5-8%	4-10%	4-10%	2-10%
Tracking mode	1-4%	1-5%	1-4%	2-6%	3-5%	2-8%	0-8%	0-7%	3-8%	1-10%	4-10%	2-10%
Number of TPC space-points	1-2%	0-2%	0-2%	0-3%	1-3%	1-3%	4-8%	3-8%	3-8%	2-8%	4-8%	4-8%
$\chi^2$ per TPC space-point	0-2%	1-2%	1-3%	1-3%	1-3%	2-4%	3-5%	3-6%	3-6%	2-6%	4-7%	4-7%
DCAxy	0-2%	0-2%	1-3%	0-3%	1-3%	1-3%	2-7%	2-8%	4-8%	2-8%	4-8%	3-8%
DCAz	0-3%	0-2%	1-2%	1-2%	2-3%	2-3%	3-7%	3-7%	5-7%	2-7%	4-8%	2-8%
Particle identification	1-5%	1-5%	1-3%	1-5%	2-5%	1-5%	5-10%	5-10%	6-12%	4-12%	6-15%	4-15%
POI vs. RFP charges	0-2%	0-3%	2-3%	0-4%	0-4%	2-4%	0-4%	0-6%	0-6%	0%	0%	0%
$\eta$ gap	1-3%	1-4%	1-2%	1-4%	1-4%	1-5%	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	0%	0%	0%

**Table 1:** List of the maximum relative systematic uncertainties from each individual source for  $v_{n,mk}$  of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$ . The uncertainties depend on the transverse momenta. The systematics are listed in a range in percentages to account for all centrality intervals.

Error source	$v_{4,22}$			$v_{5,32}$		$v_{6,33}$	
	$K_S^0$	$\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$	$\phi$	$K_S^0$	$\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$	$K_S^0$	$\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$
Primary $z_{vtx}$	0%	0-2%	1%	0%	0-3%	0%	1-3%
Tracking mode	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
Number of TPC space-points	0-3%	1-2%	2%	0%	2%	0%	2%
Particle identification	-	-	4-6%	-	-	-	-
Reconstruction method ( $V^0$ finder)	3-5%	2-3%	N/A	5%	1%	5%	1%
Decay radius	3-5%	1-3%	N/A	5-6%	0-2%	5%	2%
Ratio of crossed to findable TPC clusters	0-2%	0-3%	N/A	0%	1-2%	0%	3%
DCA decay products to primary vertex	2-5%	2-4%	N/A	4-5%	2-3%	5%	2-3%
DCA between decay products	0-3%	1-2%	N/A	0-4%	0-4%	0%	0-4%
Pointing angle $\cos(\theta_p)$	3-4%	0-2%	N/A	3-4%	0-3%	3%	1%
Minimum $p_T$ of daughter tracks	1-3%	0-1%	N/A	2-3%	2-3%	0%	0-3%

**Table 2:** List of the maximum relative systematic uncertainties from each individual source for  $v_{n,mk}$  of  $K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson. The uncertainties depend on the transverse momenta and centrality interval. The systematics are listed in a range in percentages to account for all centrality intervals. "N/A" indicates that a certain check was not applicable to the given particle of interest. If a source was checked and proved to be of negligible effect, the field is marked with "-".

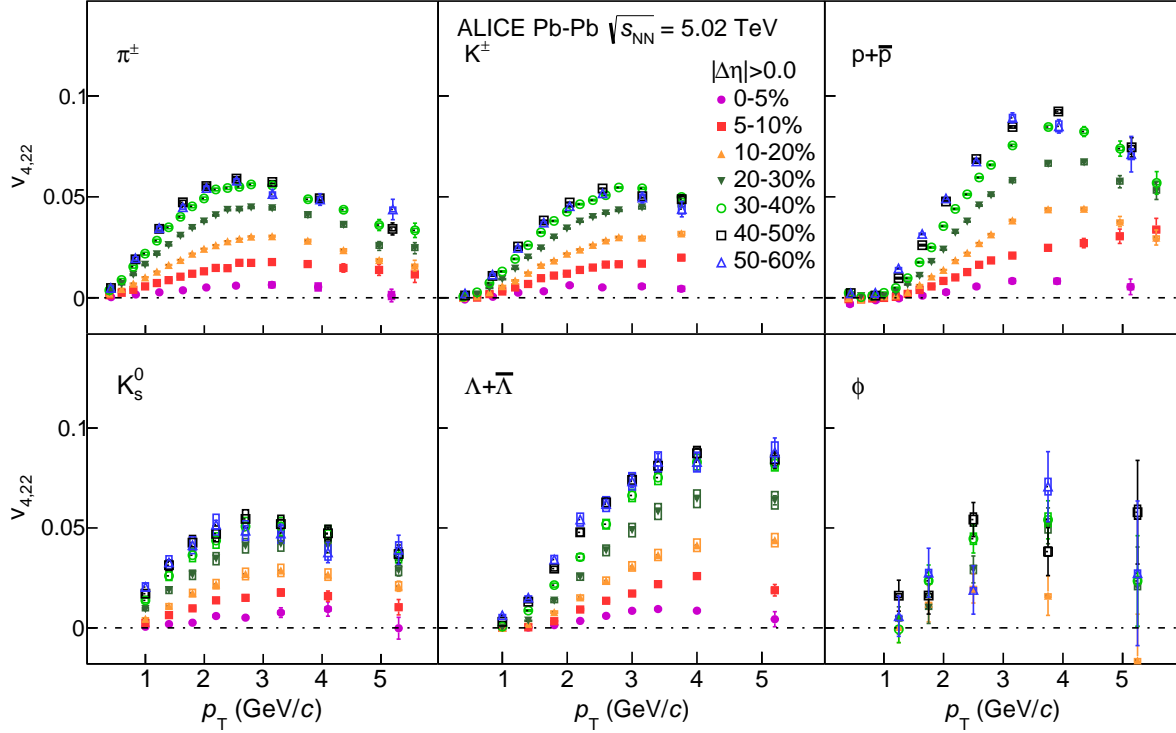
## 6 Results and discussion

In this section, the results of the  $p_T$ -dependent non-linear flow modes  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  of identified particles are presented for various centrality intervals in Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV. We first present the centrality and  $p_T$  dependence of  $v_{n,mk}$  in Sec. 6.1. The scaling properties of non-linear flow modes are also discussed in this section. Comparisons to two model calculations are shown in Sec. 6.3. Finally, these results are compared with  $v_n$  measurements for the same particle species in Sec. 6.2. Note that in some of the following sections the same data are used in different representations to highlight the various physics implications of the measurements in each section.

### 6.1 Centrality and $p_T$ dependence of non-linear flow modes

Figure 2 presents the magnitude of the non-linear mode for the fourth order flow coefficient,  $v_{4,22}(p_T)$ , for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson in a wide range of centrality intervals, i.e. 0-5% up to 50-60%. For the  $\phi$ -meson, the results are reported from 10-20% up to 40-50% centrality interval, where  $v_{4,22}$  can be measured accurately. The magnitude of this non-linear flow mode rises steeply with increasing centrality interval from 0-5% to 40-50% for all particle species. This increase is expected as  $v_{4,22}$  reflects the contribution of the second order eccentricity,  $\epsilon_2$ , in  $v_4$  which increases from central to peripheral collisions [9, 53]. For more peripheral collisions (i.e. 50-60%), the magnitude of  $v_{4,22}$  is smaller than in the previous centrality intervals for all particle species. This effect that was observed also in  $v_n$  measure-

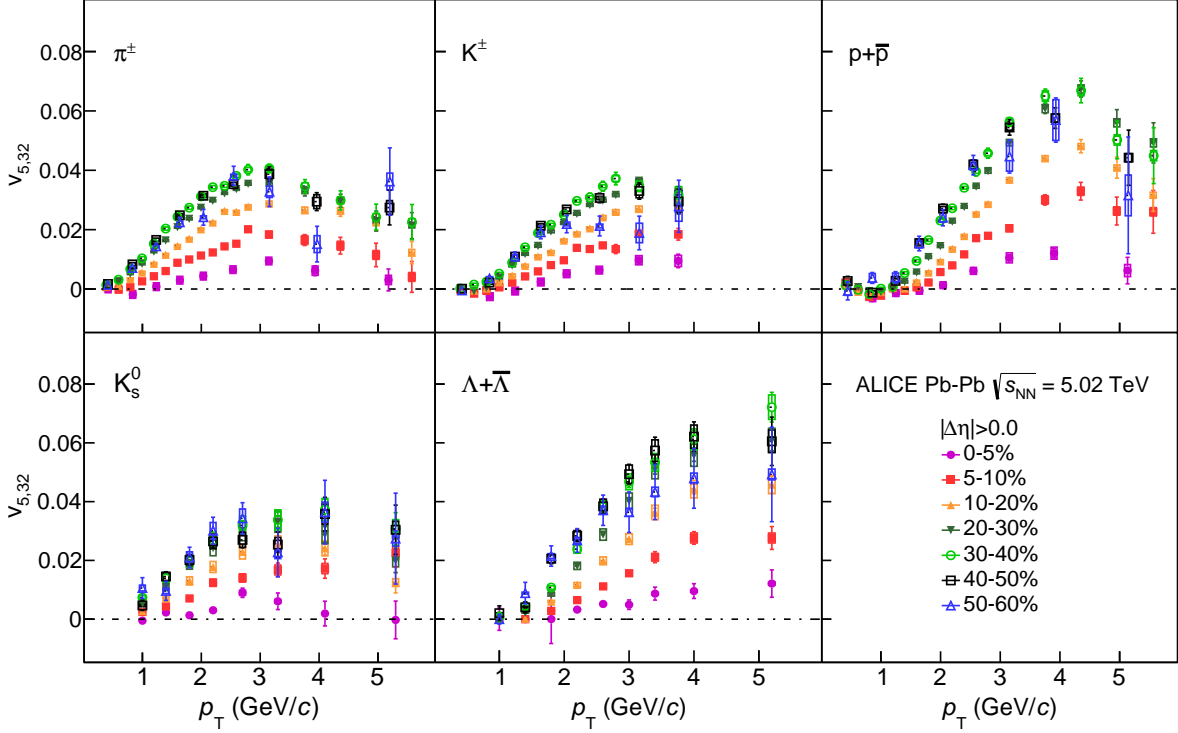
ments is probably due to the shorter lifetime of the produced system in more peripheral collisions, which prevents  $v_{4,22}$  from developing further.



**Figure 2:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{4,22}$  for different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV grouped by particle species. Statistical and systematic uncertainties are shown as bars and boxes, respectively.

Figure 3 presents the non-linear mode for the fifth order flow coefficient, i.e.  $v_{5,32}(p_T)$ , of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ , and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  for the same range of centrality intervals, i.e. 0-5% up to 50-60%. Statistical precision limits extending the measurements of non-linear flow modes of  $\phi$ -meson for  $n > 4$ . The measurements show a significant increase in the magnitude of this non-linear flow mode with increasing centrality percentile. This is due to the fact that  $v_{5,32}(p_T)$  has a contribution from both  $\epsilon_2$  and  $\epsilon_3$ . It is shown in MC studies that  $\epsilon_2$  and to a lesser extent,  $\epsilon_3$  increase for peripheral collisions [9].

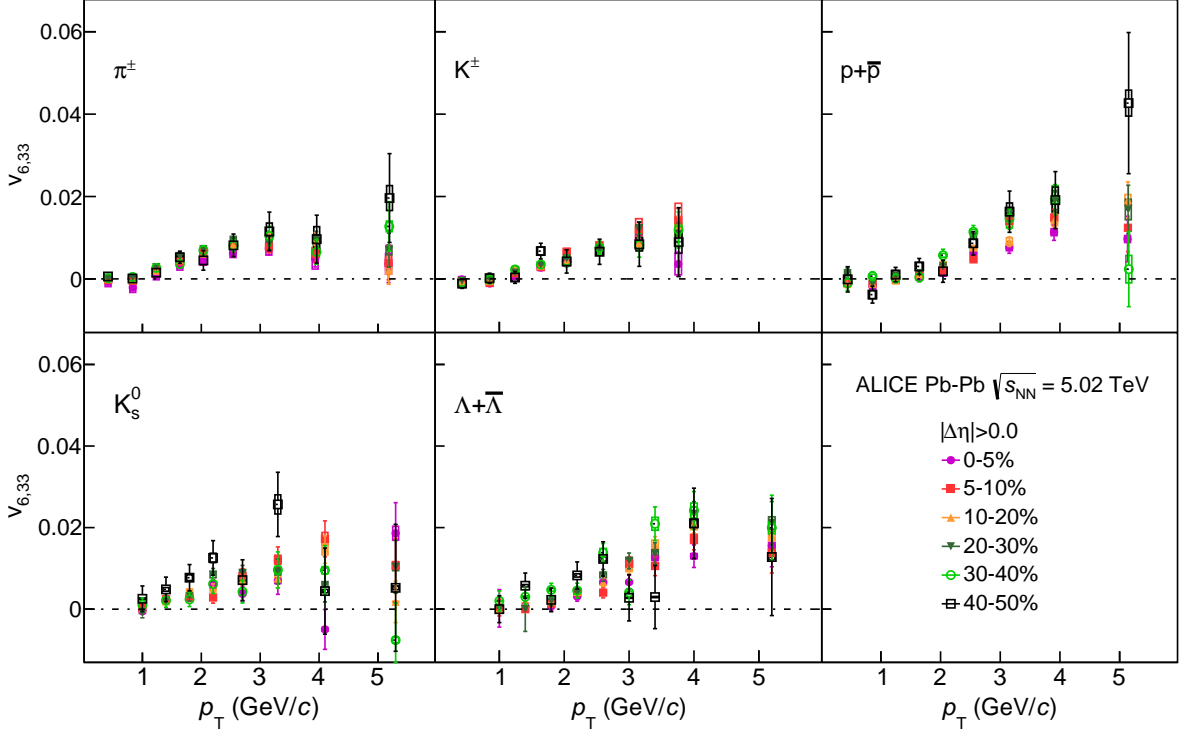
Figures 4 and 5 present the non-linear terms for the sixth order flow coefficient, i.e.  $v_{6,33}(p_T)$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  at 0-5% up to 40-50% centrality intervals and  $v_{6,222}(p_T)$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$  at 0-5% up to 50-60% centrality intervals. As expected, measurements of  $v_{6,222}(p_T)$  which probe the contribution of  $\epsilon_2$ , show an increase in the magnitude of this non-linear flow mode with increasing centrality percentile. On the other hand,  $v_{6,33}(p_T)$  measurements, which probe the contribution of  $\epsilon_3$ , present little to no dependence on centrality [53].



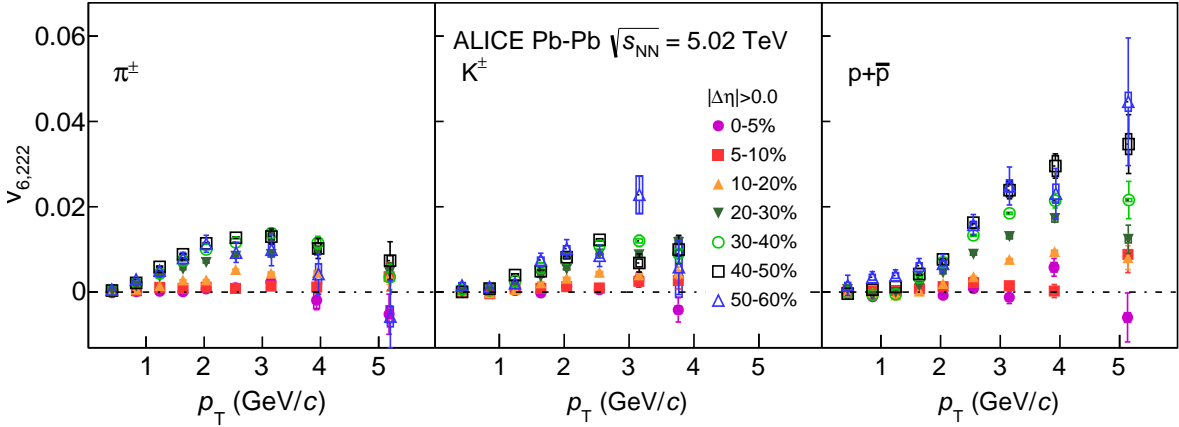
**Figure 3:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{5,32}$  for different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV grouped by particle species.

In Fig. 6 the same data points are grouped by centrality interval to highlight how  $v_{4,22}$  develops for a given centrality for various particle species as a function of  $p_T$ . A clear mass ordering can be seen in the low  $p_T$  region (i.e.  $p_T < 2.5$  GeV/c) for all collision centralities. This mass ordering arises from the interplay between radial flow and initial spatial anisotropy, created from both the geometry and the fluctuating initial energy density profile. In particular, radial flow creates a depletion in the particle spectra at lower  $p_T$  values which becomes larger in- than out-of plane due to the velocity profile. This naturally leads to lower  $v_{4,22}$  at a given value of  $p_T$  for heavier particles [55, 56, 74].

Similarly, Figs. 7, 8 and 9 show the  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  respectively, of different particle species for each centrality interval. A clear mass ordering is seen in the low  $p_T$  region, (i.e.  $p_T < 2.5$  GeV/c), for  $v_{5,32}(p_T)$ ,  $v_{6,33}(p_T)$  and  $v_{6,222}(p_T)$ , which similarly arises from the interplay between radial flow and initial spatial anisotropy.

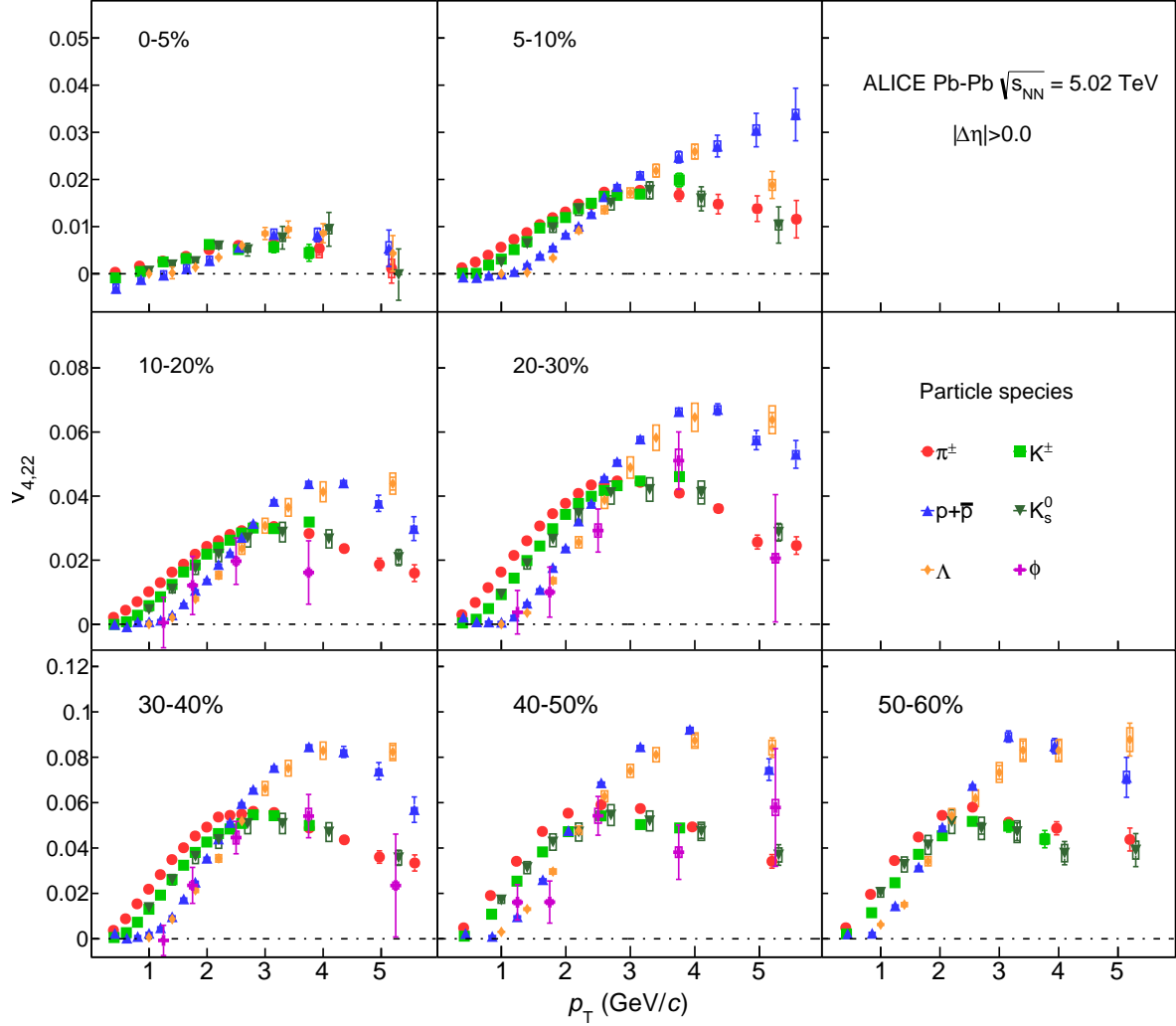


**Figure 4:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{6,33}$  for different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV grouped by particle species.



**Figure 5:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{6,222}$  for different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV grouped by particle species.

379 In addition, in the intermediate  $p_T$  region (for  $p_T > 2.5$  GeV/c) the data points of Figs. 6-9 exhibit a  
 380 particle type grouping. In particular, the data points form two groups, one for mesons and one for baryons  
 381 with the values of  $v_{n,mk}$  of the latter being larger. This particle type grouping was previously observed in  
 382  $v_n$  measurements of various particle species [14–17, 38, 39, 41]. This grouping was explained in Ref. [58]

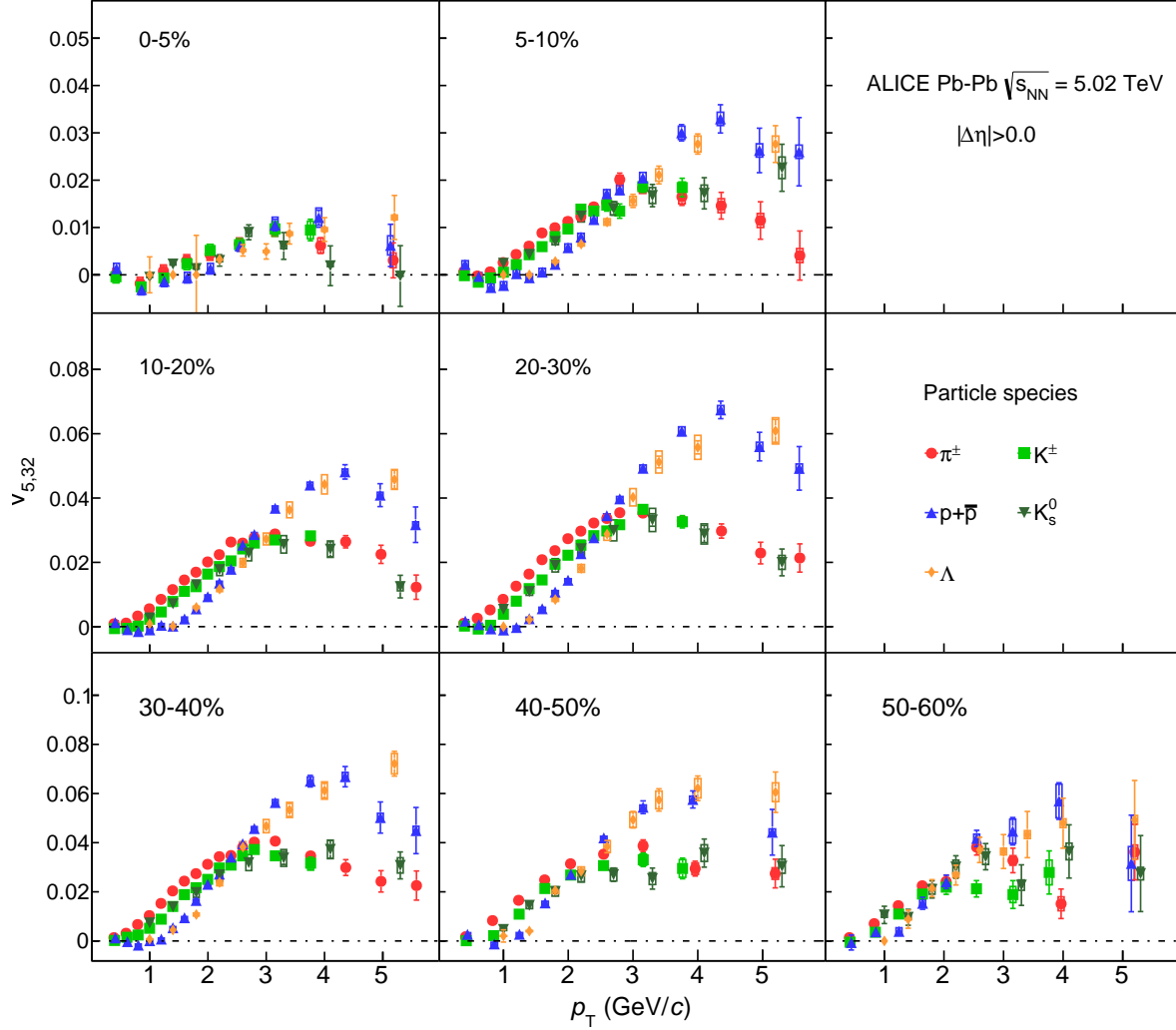


**Figure 6:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{4,22}$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

in the picture of particle production via quark coalescence indicating that flow develops at the partonic stage. In this picture, as known as NCQ scaling, the flow of mesons(baryons) are roughly twice(thrice) the flow of their constituent quarks in the intermediate transverse momenta. ALICE measurements have shown that this scaling at LHC energies holds at an approximate level of 20% for  $v_n$  [38, 39, 41]. Various theoretical ideas were created to address the origin of possible scaling by requiring quark coalescence to be the dominant particle production mechanism in the intermediate  $p_T$  region, where the hydrodynamic evolution of the fireball is not the driving force behind the development of anisotropic flow [57, 58].

Figures 10, 11, 12 and 13 present  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  respectively, scaled by the number of constituent quarks ( $n_q$ ) as a function of  $p_T/n_q$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson grouped in different centrality intervals. The scaling is consistent with the observations reported for higher order anisotropic flow coefficients [41]. It is seen that for the non-linear flow modes this scaling hold at an approximate level ( $\pm 20\%$ ) for  $p_T > 1$  GeV/c, where quark coalescence is hypothetically the dominant process.

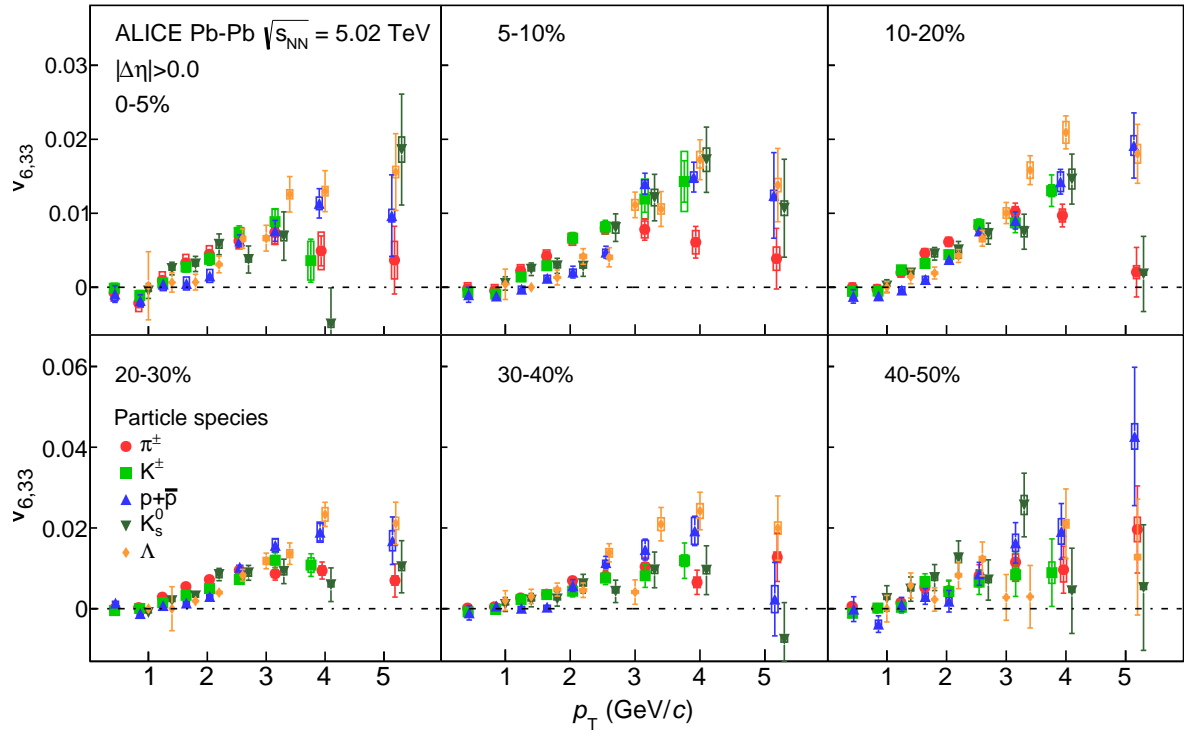




**Figure 7:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{5,32}$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

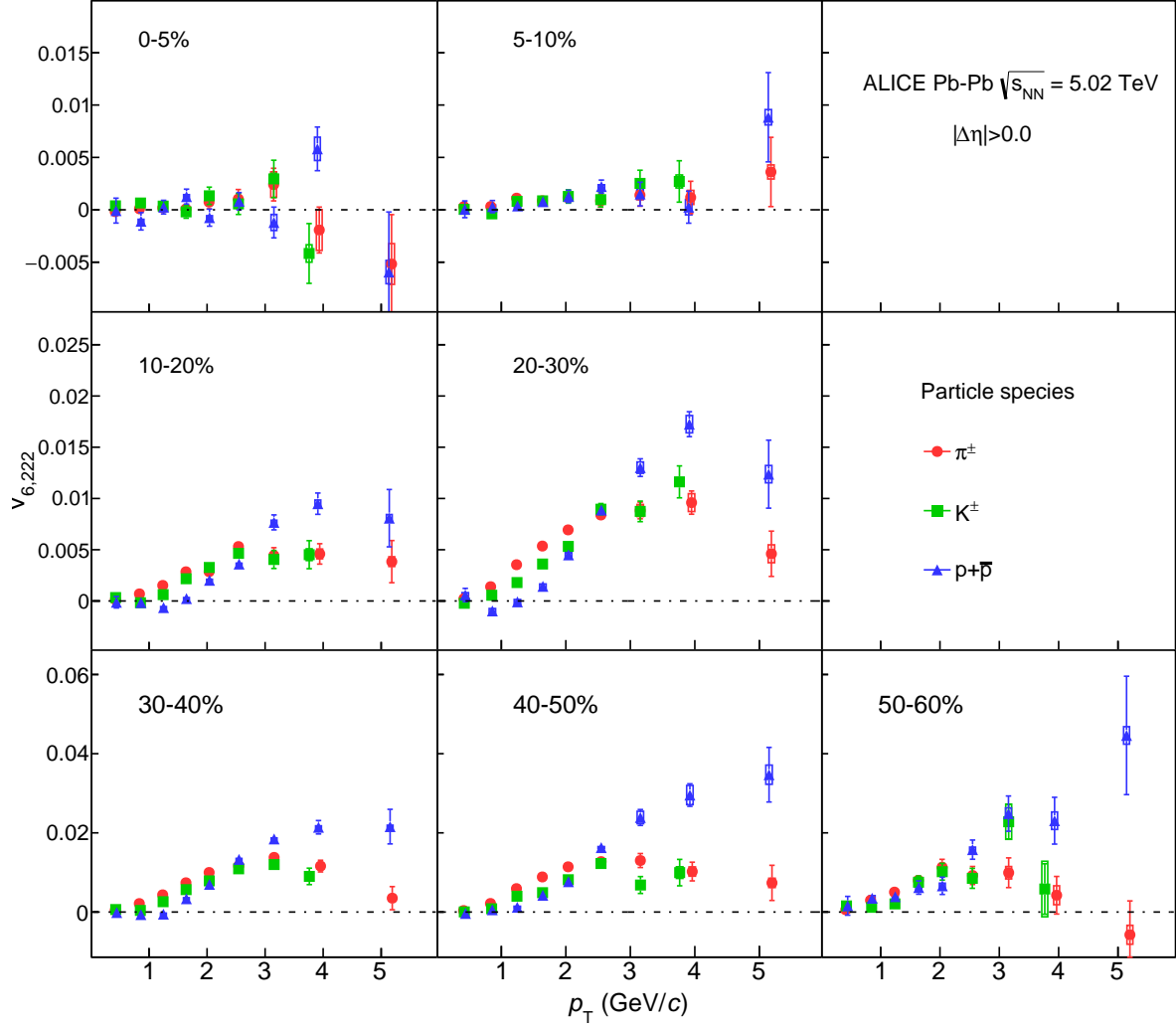
## 6.2 Comparison with $v_n$ of identified particles

The features seen in the measurement of non-linear flow modes can be further studied by comparing to that of anisotropic flow coefficients. Such comparisons have been performed for  $v_{4,22}(p_T)$  (this study) and  $v_4(p_T)$  measurements [41] by taking the difference between pions and protons at a given  $p_T$  in both modes and normalising it by the integrated flow of the corresponding mode for charged particles [40]. This comparison is shown in Fig. 14 for 0-5% up to 40-50% centrality interval. In this figure, at low  $p_T$  region ( $0 < p_T < 2.5 - 3$  GeV/c) where mass ordering is prominent, the comparison shows two features. At very low  $p_T$  values ( $p_T < 0.8$  GeV/c), the ratio for  $v_4$  shows slightly lower magnitude with respect to that of  $v_{4,22}$  from 0-5% up to 20-30% centrality intervals. At more peripheral collisions, the ratios are compatible. This observation, though based on one datapoint, hints to different mass orderings in this  $p_T$  region. If this difference and its centrality dependence persists for lower values of  $p_T$ , it could indicate that hydrodynamic evolution is reflected differently in  $v_4$  and  $v_{4,22}$  and could be explained by the contribution of  $\varepsilon_2^2$ . By increasing the  $p_T$  value ( $0.8 < p_T < 2.5 - 3$  GeV/c), this difference disappears which points to a similar mass ordering between  $v_4$  and  $v_{4,22}$  at this  $p_T$  region. In the intermediate  $p_T$  region ( $p_T > 2.5$  GeV/c), the same comparison shows that the results are compatible in all centrality



**Figure 8:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{6,33}$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

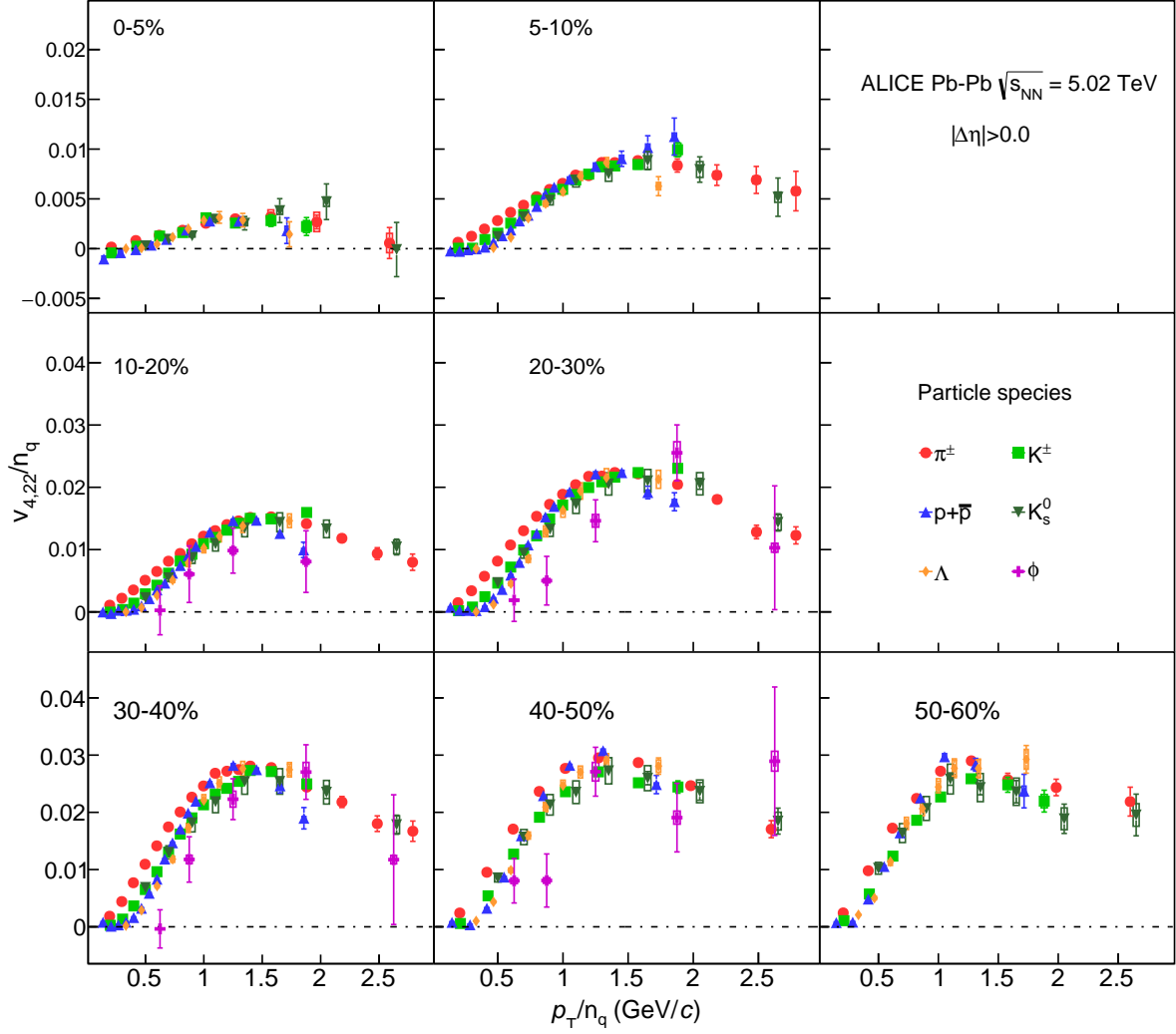
411 intervals within one standard deviation indicating similar particle type grouping in  $v_4$  and  $v_{4,22}$ . This  
 412 observation suggests that quark coalescence affects both flow modes similarly.



**Figure 9:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{6,222}$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

### 6.3 Comparison with models

The comparison of various anisotropic flow measurements and hydrodynamic calculations have been presented and discussed in great details in [75–77]. A recent comparison between  $v_n$  measurements reported by ALICE [41] and two hydrodynamic calculations from [77] shed new light on the initial conditions and the transport properties of the created system in Pb–Pb collisions. Both hydrodynamic calculations are based on iEBE-VISHNU [78], an event-by-event version of the VISHNU hybrid model [79] coupling 2 + 1 dimensional viscous hydrodynamics (VISH2+1) [80] to a hadronic cascade model (UrQMD). The initial conditions used for these calculations are described by AMPT [81] and TRENTo [82], both with  $\tau_0=0.6$  fm/c and  $T_{sw}=148$  MeV [83]. For AMPT initial conditions, constant values of specific shear viscosity ( $\eta/s = 0.08$ , the lower limit conjectured by AdS/CFT) and bulk viscosity ( $\zeta/s = 0$ ) are utilised. The version of the model that uses TRENTo [82] initial conditions incorporates a temperature dependent specific shear and bulk viscosity extracted from the global bayesian analysis

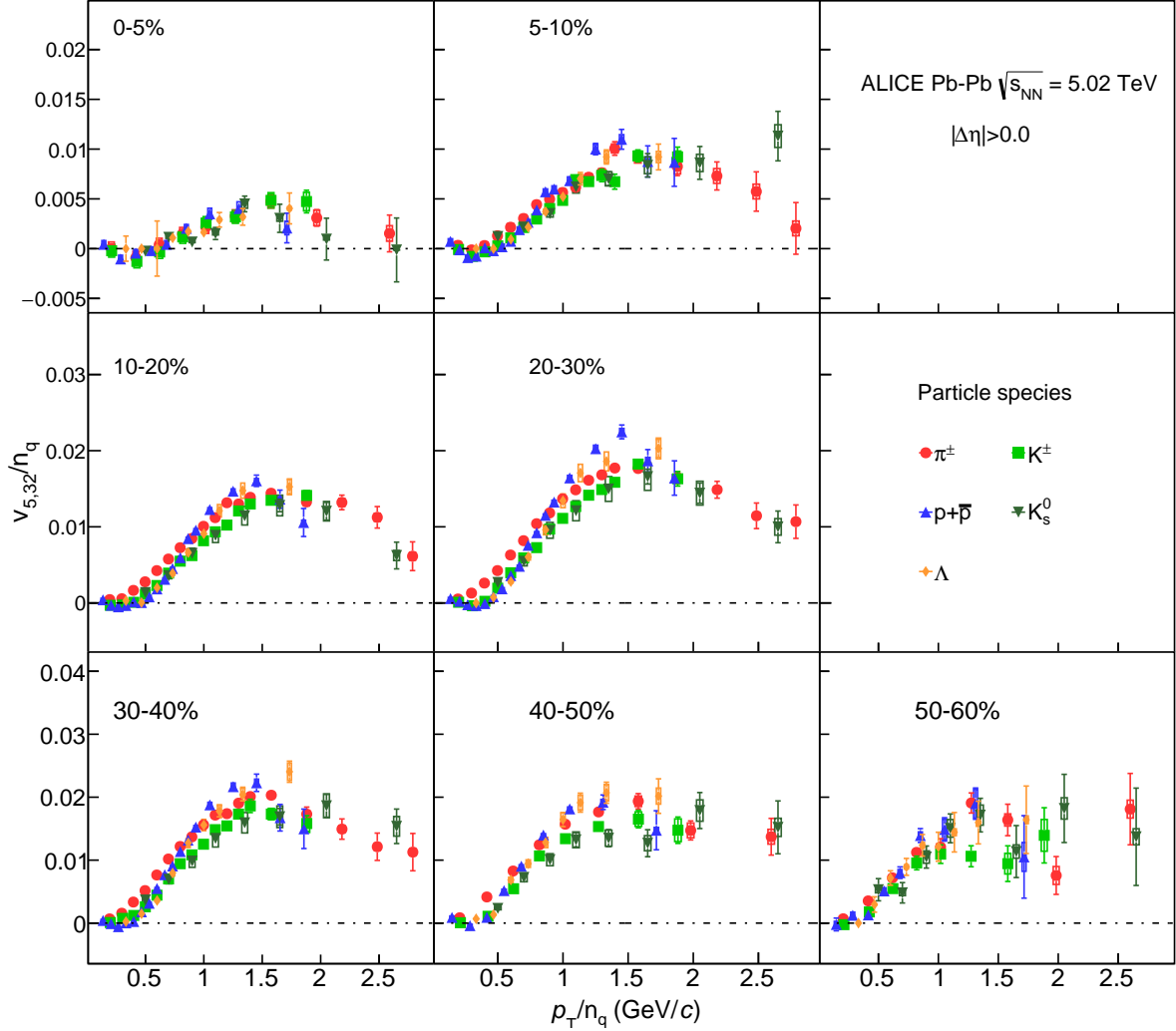


**Figure 10:** The  $p_T/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{4,22}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

[83].<sup>1</sup>

The comparison between  $v_n$  measurements and these two hydrodynamic calculations illustrates a qualitative agreement. This agreement between the data and the models depends on the particle species, transverse momentum range and centrality percentile. Overall, the AMPT model reproduces these measurements more accurately than the TRENTo model [41]. In order to further investigate the performance of these two models in reproducing  $v_n$  measurements, the relative ratios between each model and the measurements of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  have been obtained. Table 3 summarises these relative ratios. The values represent the ranges across all centralities that each model is able to describe the measurements of  $v_n$  for each particle species. Comparison between the performance of the two models shows that the AMPT calculations reproduce  $v_2$  slightly better than TRENTo with  $\sim 3\%$ . Both models reproduce  $v_3$  measurements relatively better than  $v_2$ , however AMPT performs better than TRENTo with  $\sim 10\%$ . Finally, the comparison between the models and  $v_4$  measurements show that AMPT has an absolute better

<sup>1</sup>For simplicity in the rest of this article the model with AMPT initial conditions,  $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$  is referred to as AMPT and the model with TRENTo initial conditions,  $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$  is referred to as TRENTo.



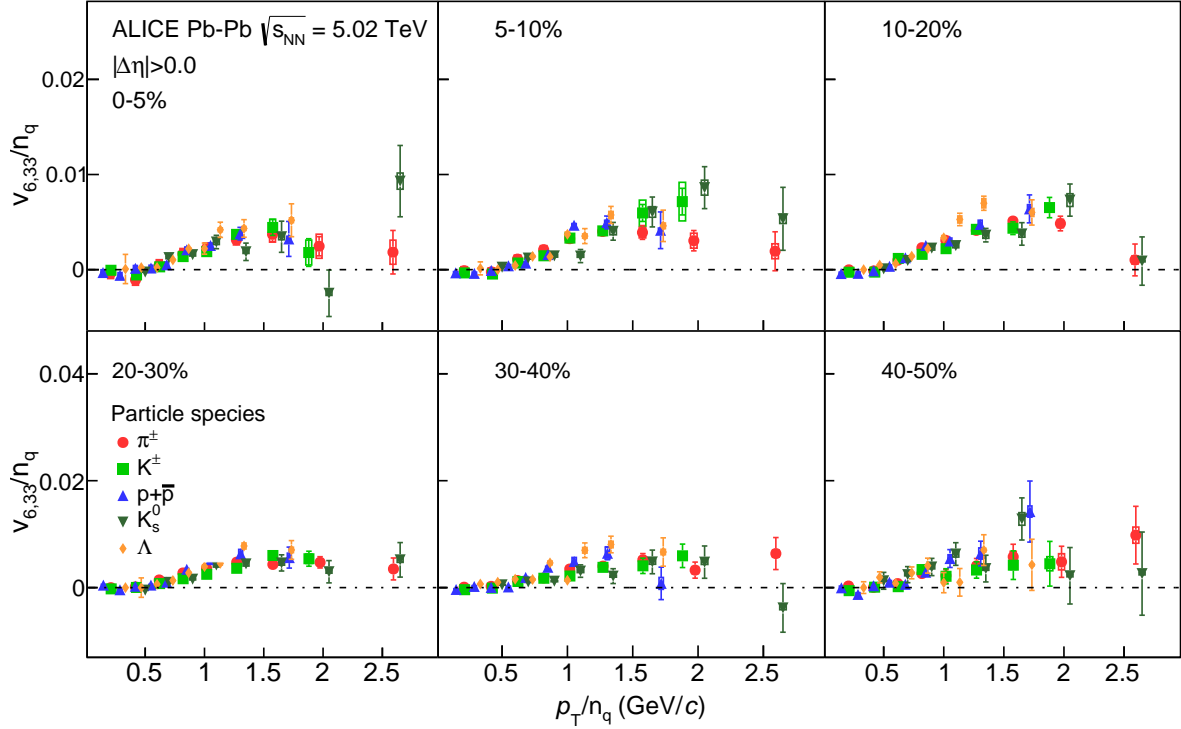
**Figure 11:** The  $p_T/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{5,32}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

performance up to  $\sim 17\%$  compared to TRENTo. These values should be taken with caution as  $v_4$  has larger uncertainties with respect to  $v_3$  and  $v_2$ .

Error source	$v_2$			$v_3$			$v_4$		
	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$
AMPT calculations	3-13%	0-16%	0-20%	0-8%	5-12%	0-4%	6-12%	5-12%	0-4%
TRENTo calculations	6-17%	0-19%	3-19%	2-15%	7-22%	0-11%	7-25%	16-28%	0-21%

**Table 3:** List of minimum and maximum value of the fit to relative ratios between the data and each model for  $v_n$  ( $n = 2, 3, 4$ ) of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$ . The minimum and maximum are obtained from 0-5% up to 40-50% centrality intervals.

To achieve additional constraints on the initial conditions and transport properties of the system and test the validity of these hydrodynamic models, a comparison is performed between the measured  $p_T$ -dependent non-linear flow modes for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ ,  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  with the same two hydrodynamical calculations reported in [77]. Figures 15-18 present the comparison between the measurements and two model predictions for the  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$ , respectively, for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  and Figs. 19-21 present these comparisons for the  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$  and  $v_{6,33}$  for  $K_S^0$  and



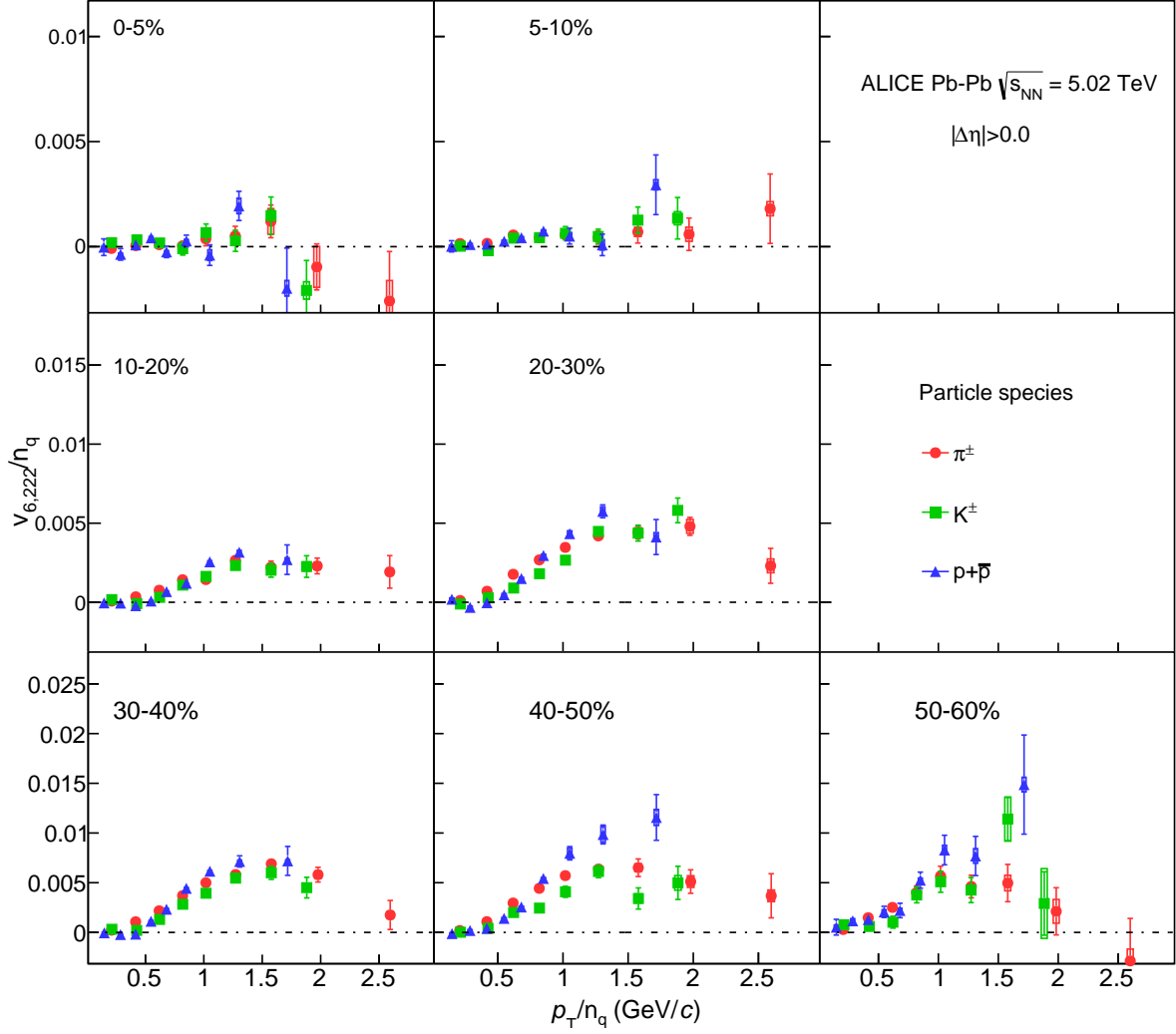
**Figure 12:** The  $p_T/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{6,33}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

Error source	$v_{4,22}$			$v_{5,32}$			$v_{6,33}$			$v_{6,222}$		
	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$	$\pi^\pm$	$K^\pm$	$p + \bar{p}$
AMPT claculations	5-32%	2-30%	3-30%	3-28%	5-29%	1-65%	0-46%	0-46%	0-97%	6-52%	0-80%	0-118%
TRENTTo calculations	0-30%	4-33%	0-21%	24-49%	33-97%	12-58%	0-43%	0-46%	0-95%	0-20%	0-34%	0-78%

**Table 4:** List of minimum and maximum value of the fit to relative ratios between the data and each model for  $v_{n,mk}$  of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$ . The minimum and maximum are obtained from 0-10% up to 50-60% (40-50% for  $v_{6,33}$ ) centrality intervals .

$\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  at 0-10% up to 50-60% centrality interval (40-50% centrality interval for  $v_{6,33}$ ) of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV. The solid bands show the AMPT model and the hatched bands represent the TRENTTo calculations. The bottom panels in each plot in Figs. 15-21 present the difference between the models and the measurement. Both TRENTTo and AMPT models produce the mass ordering feature at  $p_T < 2.5$  GeV/c for all non-linear flow modes. In particular, the comparison between the models and the measurements of  $v_{4,22}$  reveals that TRENTTo reproduces the data very well from 0-10% up to 30-40% centrality interval and fails to reproduce the measurements for the remaining more peripheral centrality intervals. On the other hand, AMPT overestimates the measurements from 0-10% up to 30-40% centrality interval. At 40-50% centrality interval, it reproduces measurements for all particle species except  $\pi^\pm$ , where it slightly underestimates the results. For more peripheral collisions, it reproduces the  $K^\pm$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  measurements and underestimates the results for  $\pi^\pm$  and  $K_S^0$ .

In a similar attempt to  $v_n$  data-model comparison in Tab. 3, the performance of these models have been further studied for  $v_{n,mk}$  by taking the relative ratios between each model and the measurements of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$ . These relative ratios are summarised in Tab. 4 where TRENTTo calculations reproduce  $v_{4,22}$  slightly better than AMPT with  $\sim 2\%$ . Comparison between Tab. 4 and 3 shows that the AMPT

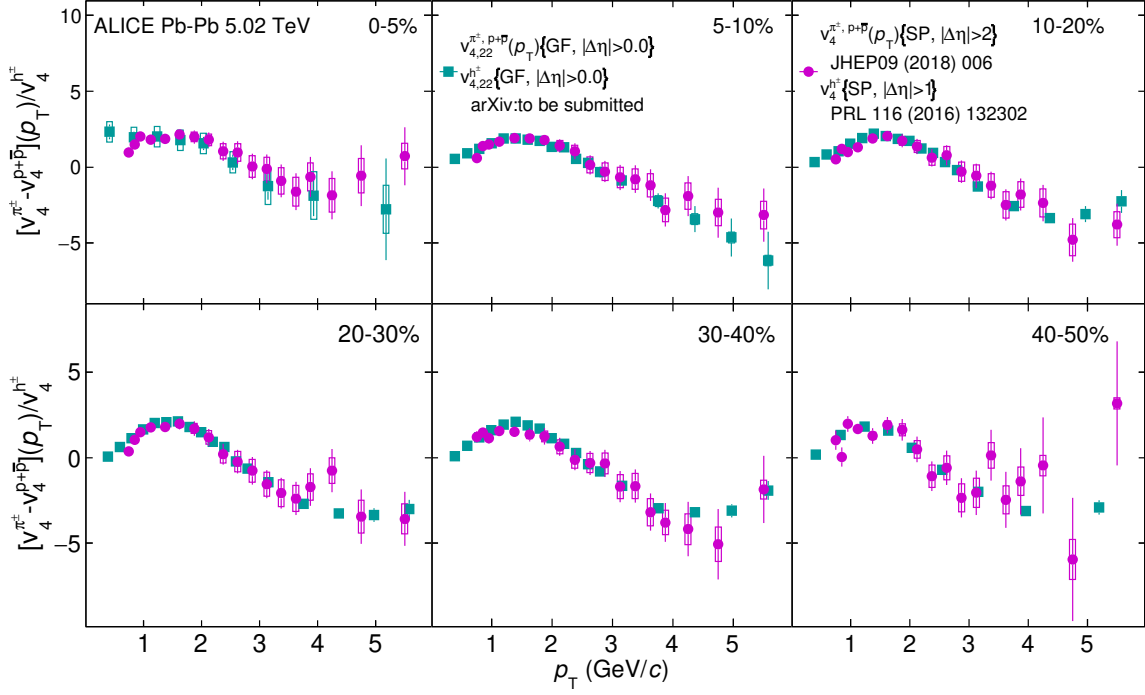


**Figure 13:** The  $p_T/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{6,222}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

calculations reproduces  $v_{4,22}$  with  $\sim 20\%$  higher discrepancy on average compared to  $v_4$ , and, TRENTo calculations performs slightly better in  $v_{4,22}$  compared to  $v_4$  with  $2 - 7\%$ . It is necessary to stress that the non-linear flow modes have smaller magnitudes with respect to  $v_n$  and any discrepancy between the models and the data becomes magnified in the ratios reported in Tab. 4.

For  $v_{5,32}$ , the comparisons seem slightly different where TRENTo predictions overestimate the measurements for all centrality intervals. While AMPT seemingly reproduces the data better. AMPT slightly overestimates the measurements from 0-10% to 20-30% centrality interval. It underestimates the measurements of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  for more peripheral collisions while it reproduces the measurements of  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  relatively well up to 40-50% centrality interval. These comparisons are reflected in Table 4 where AMPT performs on average 20 – 27% better than TRENTo for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$ .

For  $v_{6,33}$ , both models reproduce the data at 0-10% centrality interval. For 10-20% up to 30-40% centrality interval, AMPT reproduces the data while TRENTo slightly overestimates the measurements. Finally, comparison with  $v_{6,222}$  shows an agreement between both models and the measurements of  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and



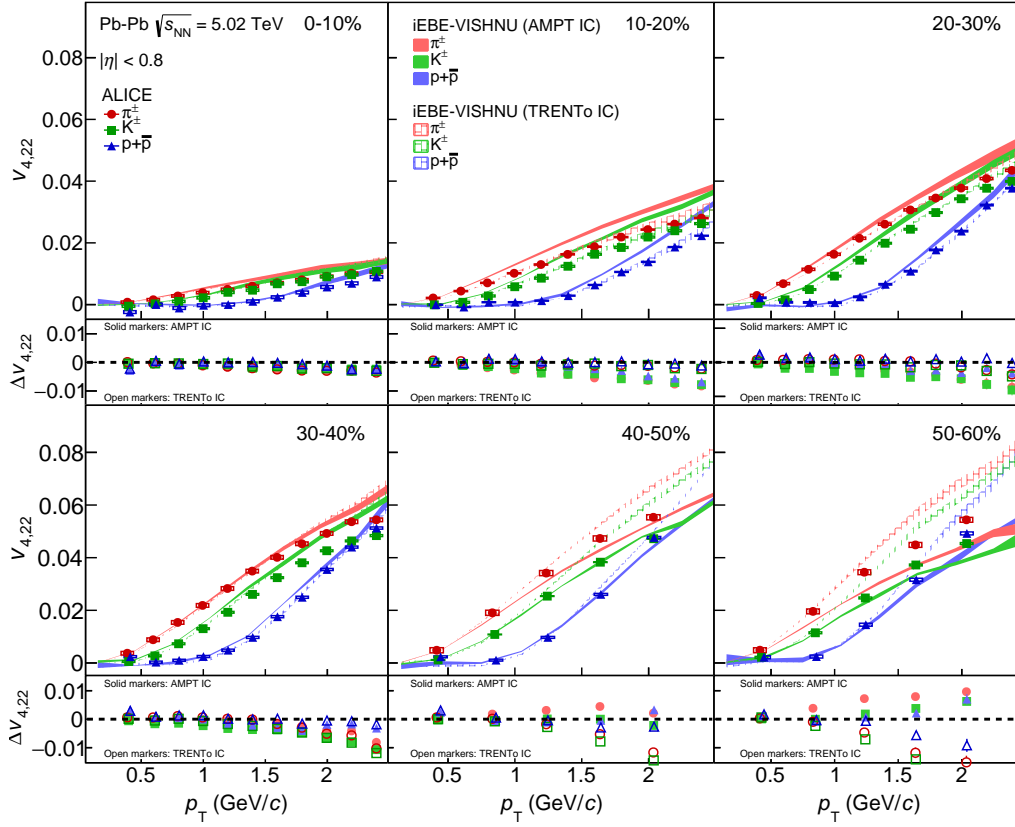
**Figure 14:** The comparison between  $[v_{4,22}^{\pi^\pm} - v_{4,22}^{p+\bar{p}}](p_T)/v_4^{h^\pm}$  and  $[v_4^{\pi^\pm} - v_4^{p+\bar{p}}](p_T)/v_4^{h^\pm}$  grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV.

p +  $\bar{p}$  at 0-10% up to 30-40% centrality intervals <sup>2</sup>.

All in all, this study shows larger difference between the model calculations and  $v_{n,mk}$  measurements with respect to that of  $v_n$ , indicating a larger sensitivity to the initial conditions and transport properties in non-linear flow modes. As a result, it is useful to tune the input parameters of hydrodynamic models using the non-linear flow measurements and constrain the values of transport properties and the initial conditions of the system.

<sup>2</sup>The ratios reported for  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  in Tab. 4 are not to be taken at face value as the magnitudes of these two non-linear flow modes are almost zero.



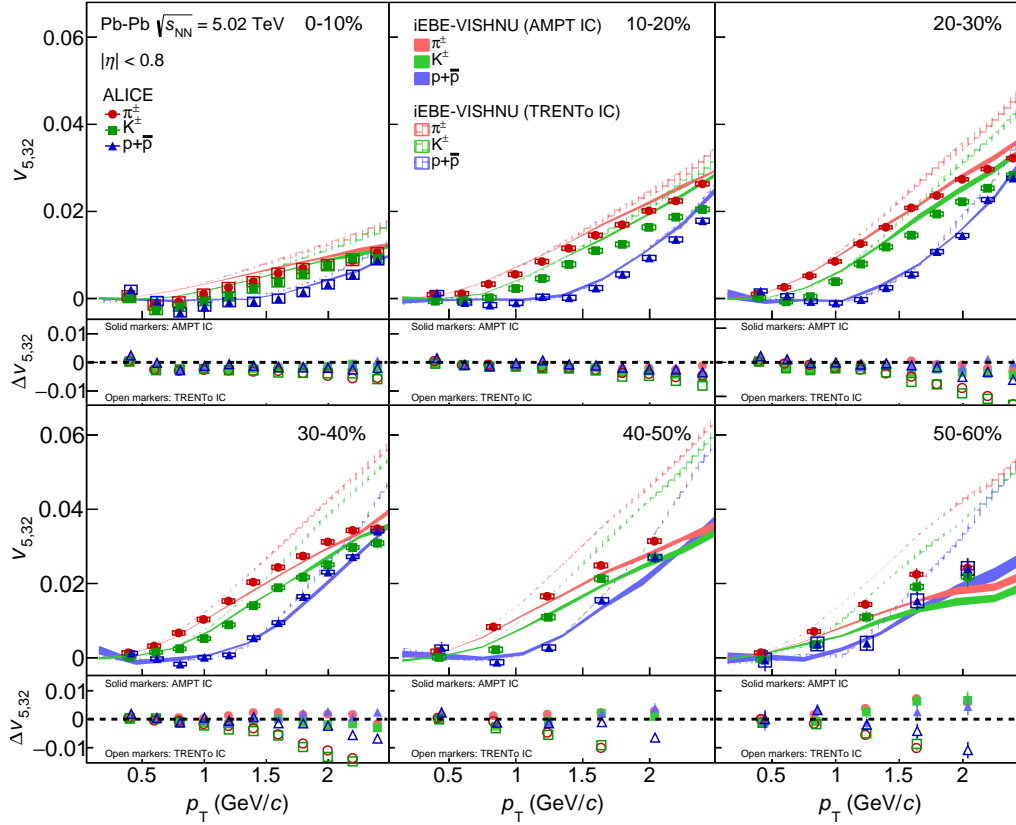


**Figure 15:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{4,22}$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  in 0-10% up to 50-60% centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV compared with iEBE-VISHNU hybrid models with two different sets of initial parameters: AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$ ) shown in solid bands and TRENTo initial conditions ( $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$ ) in hatched bands. The bottom panels show the difference between the measurements and each model.

## 7 Summary

In this article, the measurement of non-linear flow modes,  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,222}$  and  $v_{6,33}$  as a function of transverse momentum for different particle species, i.e.  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson are reported for the first time. The results are presented in a wide range of centrality intervals from 0-5% up to 50-60% in Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV. The magnitude of non-linear flow modes,  $v_{n,mk}$ , are obtained with a multi-particle correlation technique, namely the generic framework, selecting the identified hadron under study and the reference flow particles from different, non-overlapping pseudorapidity regions.

The measurements of  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  exhibit a clear centrality dependence. This centrality dependence originates from the contribution of initial state eccentricity,  $\epsilon_2$ , as shown in Eq. 5. As expected,  $v_{6,33}$  does not exhibit a considerable centrality dependence since  $\epsilon_3$  quantifies primarily the event-by-event fluctuations of the initial energy density profile. This is supported by the relatively large magnitude of  $v_{6,33}$  in the most-central collisions (0-5%). A clear mass ordering is observed in the low  $p_T$  region ( $p_T < 2.5$  GeV/c). A closer comparison between  $v_4$  and  $v_{4,22}$  shows that this mass ordering seems slightly larger for  $v_{4,22}$  than  $v_4$  at very low  $p_T$  ( $p_T < 0.8$  GeV/c). At higher  $p_T$  values ( $0.8 < p_T < 2.5$  GeV/c), the mass ordering is similar to observations in  $v_4$  which is associated with the interplay between the anisotropic flow and radial flow. In the intermediate  $p_T$  region ( $p_T > 2.5$  GeV/c), a particle type group-

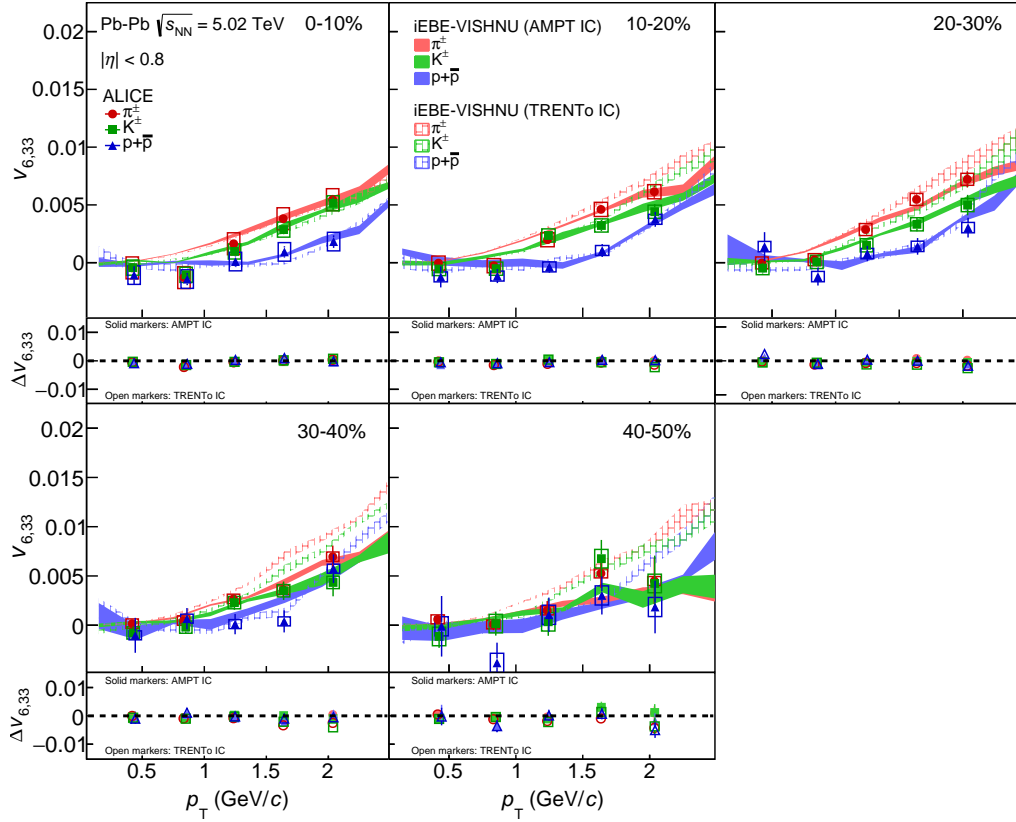


**Figure 16:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{5,32}$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  in 0-10% up to 50-60% centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV compared with iEBE-VISHNU hybrid models with two different sets of initial parameters: AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$ ) shown in solid bands and TRENTo initial conditions ( $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$ ) in hatched bands. The bottom panels show the difference between the measurements and each model.

ing is observed where the magnitude of non-linear modes for baryons are larger than for mesons similar to observations in  $v_n$  measurements. The NCQ scaling holds at an approximate level of  $\pm 20\%$  within the current level of statistical and systematic uncertainties, similar to that of anisotropic flow coefficients [41].

The comparison of two models based on the iEBE-VISHNU hybrid model, and with two different initial conditions (AMPT and TRENTo) and transport properties show that neither of the models are able to fully describe the measurements. This varies depending on the centrality percentile and particle species similar to the model-data comparison for anisotropic flow [41]. Measurements are better predicted by the models in more central collisions. All in all, the model using AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$ ) exhibits a magnitude and shape closer to the measurements. As a result, in order to further constrain the values of transport properties and the initial conditions of the system, it is necessary to tune the input parameters of future hydrodynamic calculations attempting to describe these measurements.

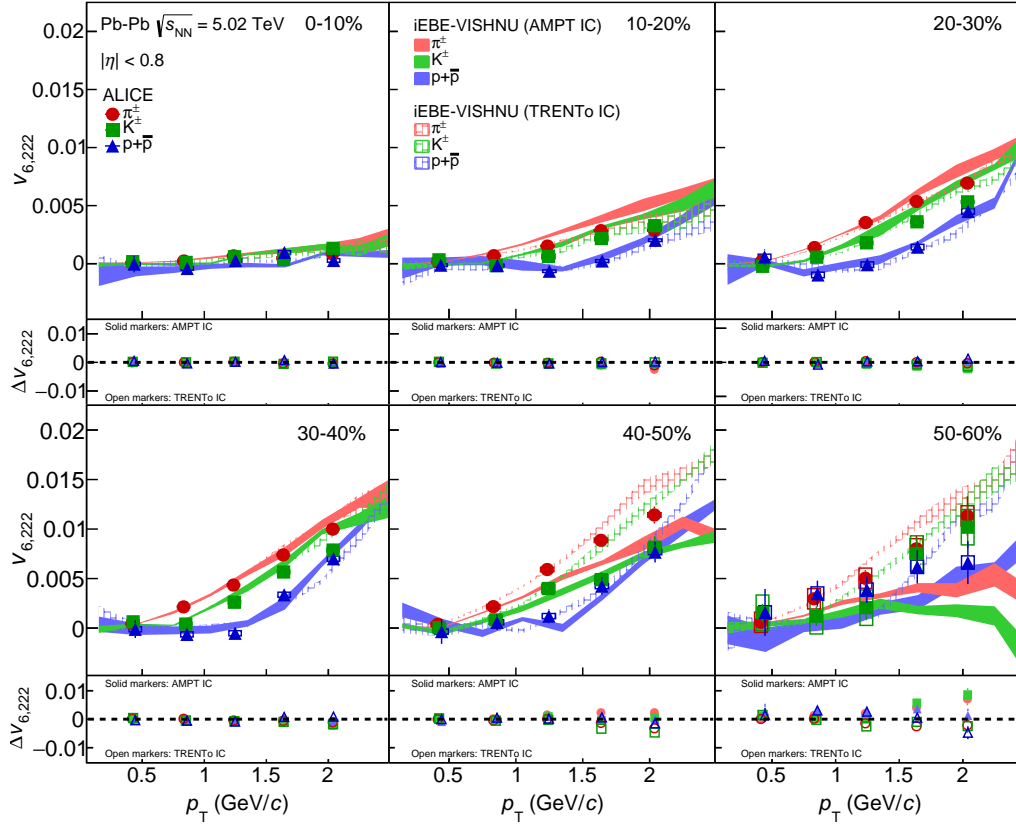
## Acknowledgements



**Figure 17:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{6,33}$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  in 0-10% up to 40-50% centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV compared with iEBE-VISHNU hybrid models with two different sets of initial parameters: AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$ ) shown in solid bands and TRENTo initial conditions ( $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$ ) in hatched bands. The bottom panels show the difference between the measurements and each model.

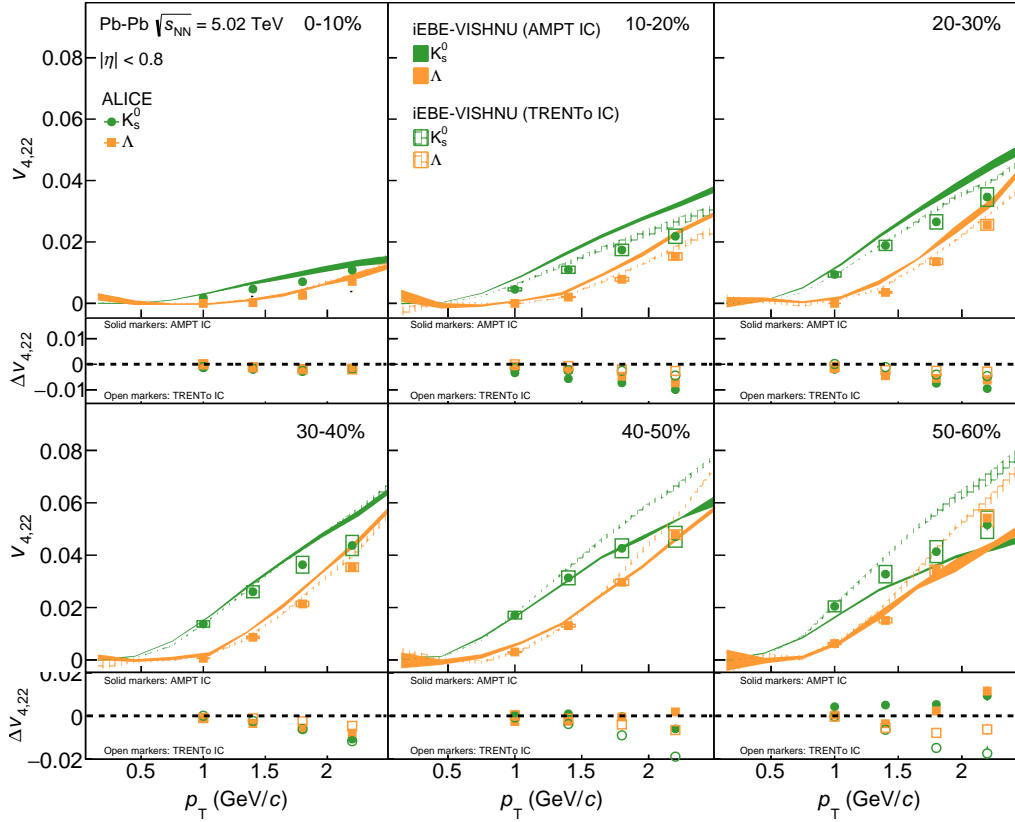
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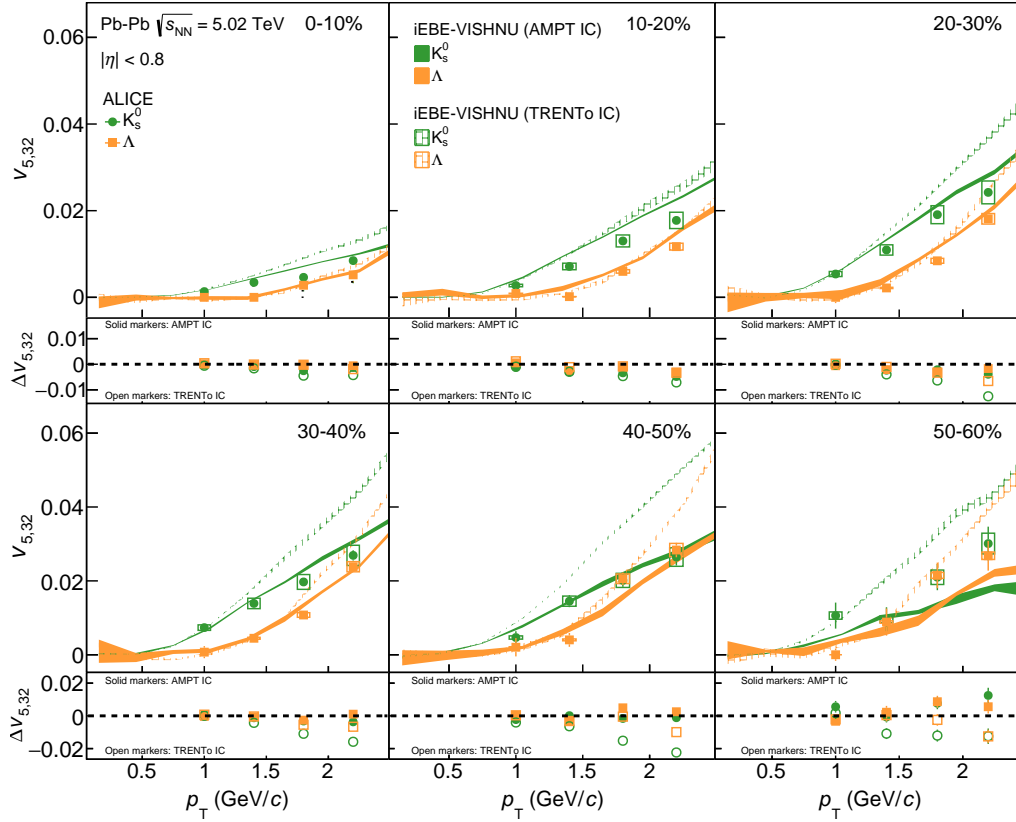
**Figure 18:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{6,222}$  for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$  and  $p + \bar{p}$  in 0-10% up to 50-60% centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV compared with iEBE-VISHNU hybrid models with two different sets of initial parameters: AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$ ) shown in solid bands and TRENTo initial conditions ( $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$ ) in hatched bands. The bottom panels show the difference between the measurements and each model.

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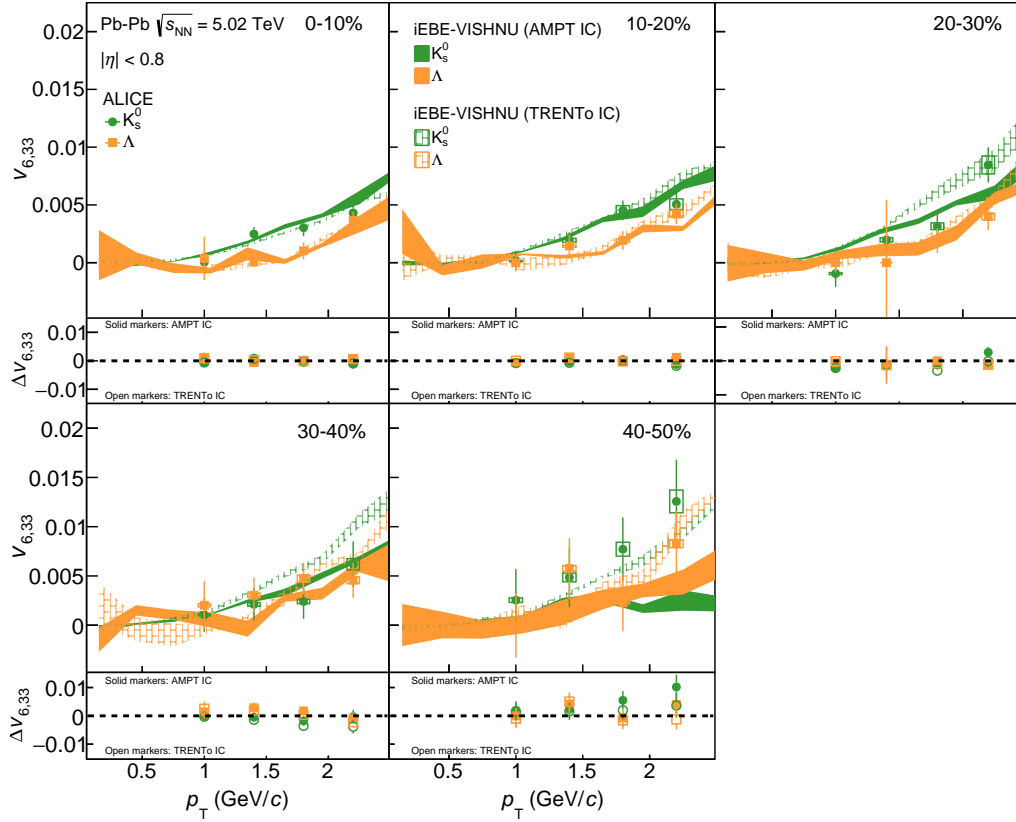
**Figure 19:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{4,22}$  for  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  in 0-10% up to 50-60% centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV compared with iEBE-VISHNU hybrid models with two different sets of initial parameters: AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$ ) shown in solid bands and TRENTo initial conditions ( $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$ ) in hatched bands. The bottom panels show the difference between the measurements and each model.

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**Figure 20:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{5,32}$  for  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  in 0-10% up to 50-60% centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV compared with iEBE-VISHNU hybrid models with two different sets of initial parameters: AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s = 0.08$  and  $\zeta/s = 0$ ) shown in solid bands and TRENTo initial conditions ( $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$ ) in hatched bands. The bottom panels show the difference between the measurements and each model.

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**Figure 21:** The  $p_T$ -differential  $v_{6,33}$  for  $K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  in 0-10% up to 40-50% centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV compared with iEBE-VISHNU hybrid models with two different sets of initial parameters: AMPT initial conditions ( $\eta/s=0.08$  and  $\zeta/s=0$ ) shown in solid bands and TRENTo initial conditions ( $\eta/s(T)$  and  $\zeta/s(T)$ ) in hatched bands. The bottom panels show the difference between the measurements and each model.

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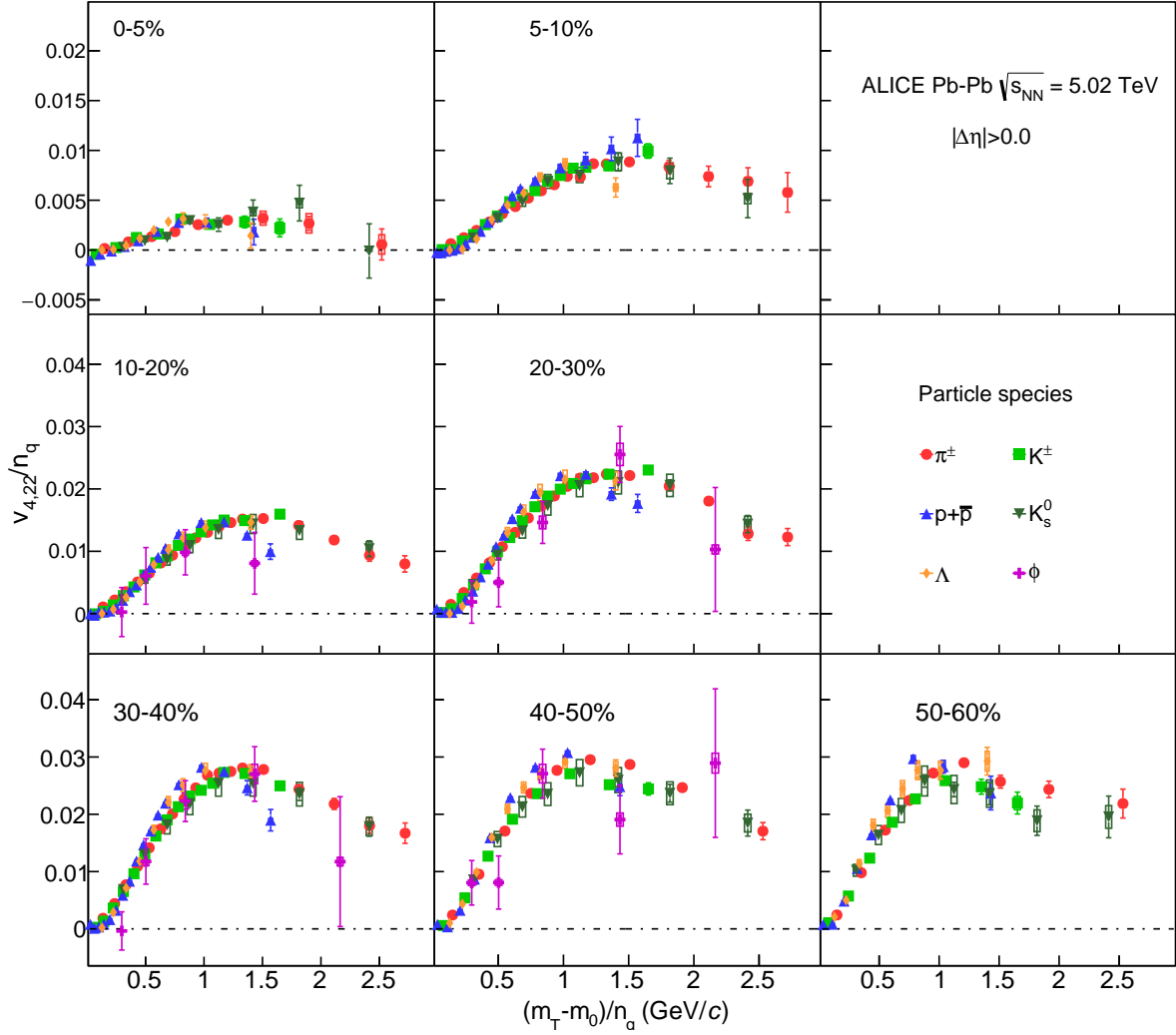
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## A Additional figures

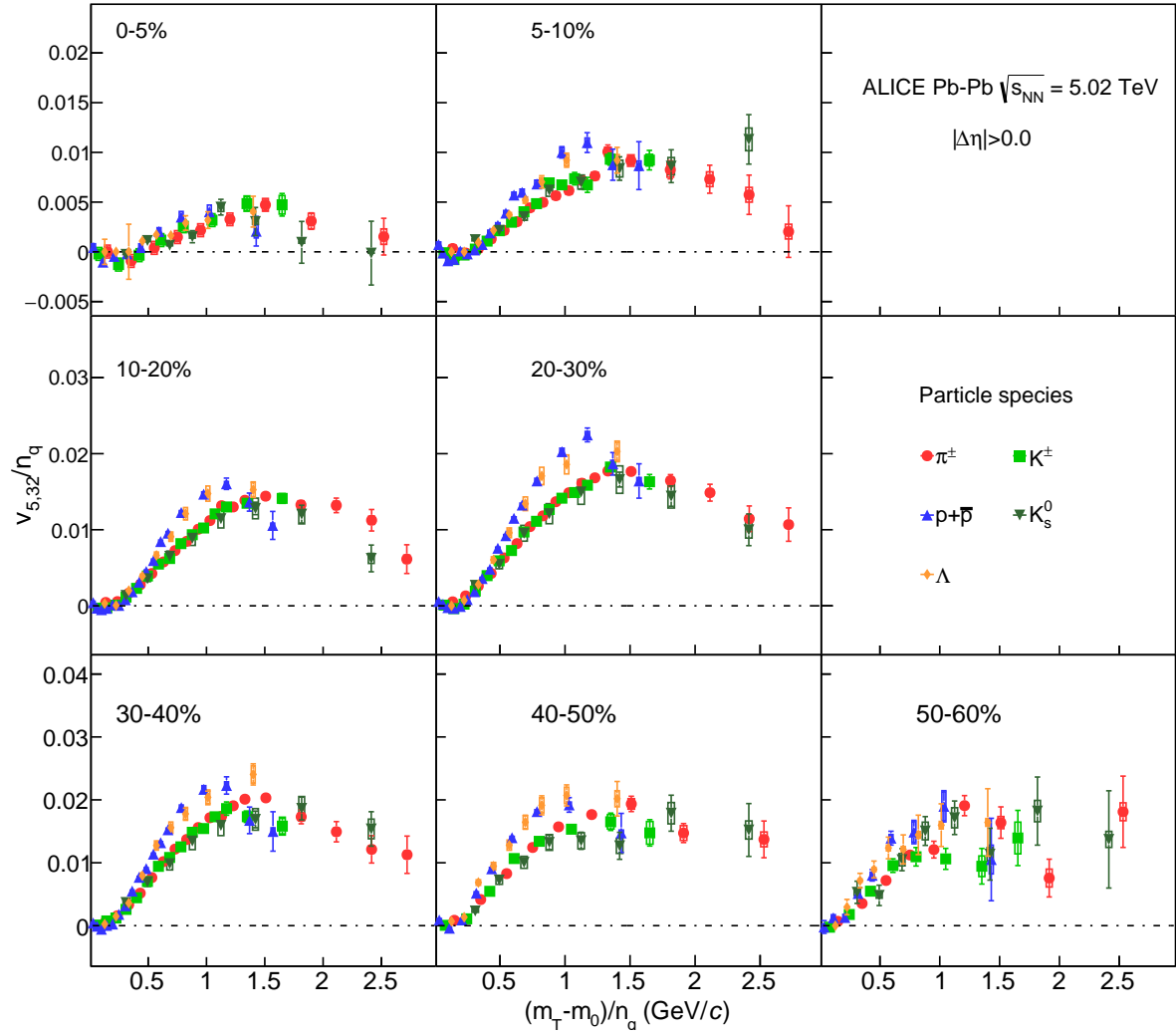
### A.1 $KE_T$ scaling

One suggestion to further study the scaling properties of flow coefficients was to extend the scaling to lower  $p_T$  values by studying the transverse kinetic energy dependence of anisotropic flow harmonics. Transverse kinetic energy is defined as  $KE_T = m_T - m_0$ , where  $m_T = \sqrt{m_0^2 + p_T^2}$  is the transverse mass. Figures A.1, A.2, A.3 and A.4 present  $KE_T$  scaling for  $v_{4,22}$ ,  $v_{5,32}$ ,  $v_{6,33}$  and  $v_{6,222}$  respectively, for  $\pi^\pm$ ,  $K^\pm$ ,  $p + \bar{p}$ ,  $K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$  and  $\phi$ -meson grouped in different centrality intervals.

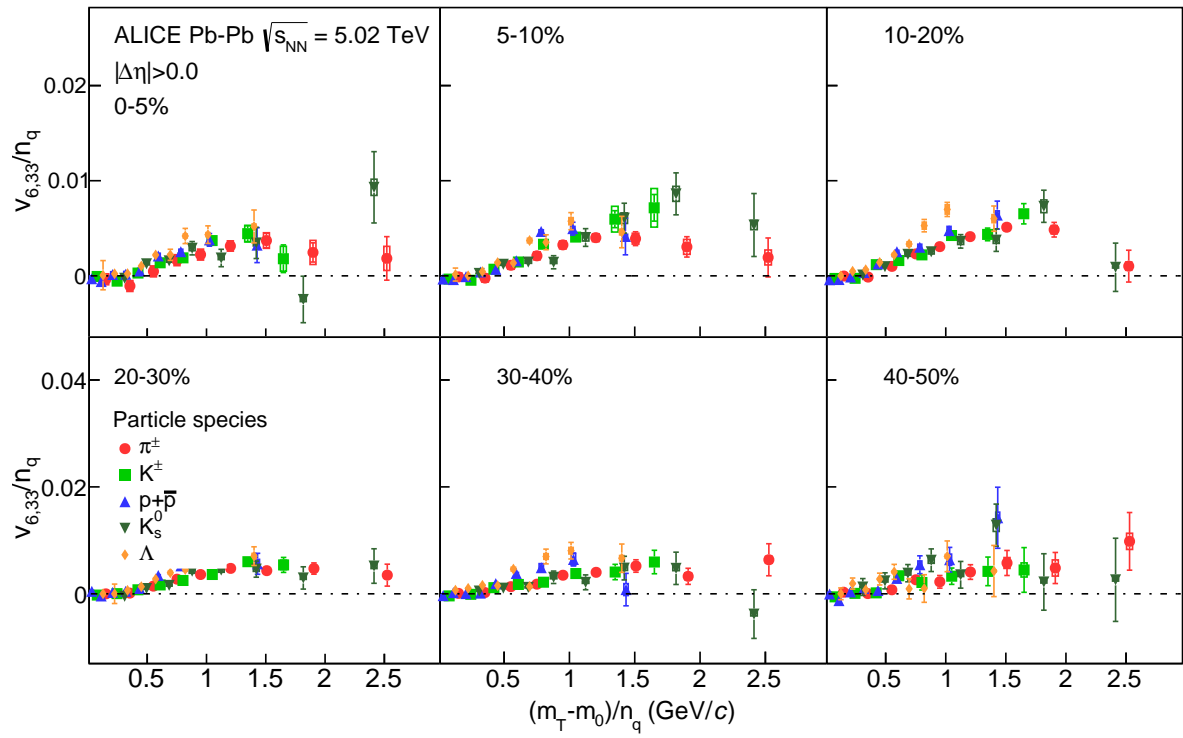


**Figure A.1:** The  $(m_T - m_0)/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{4,22}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV

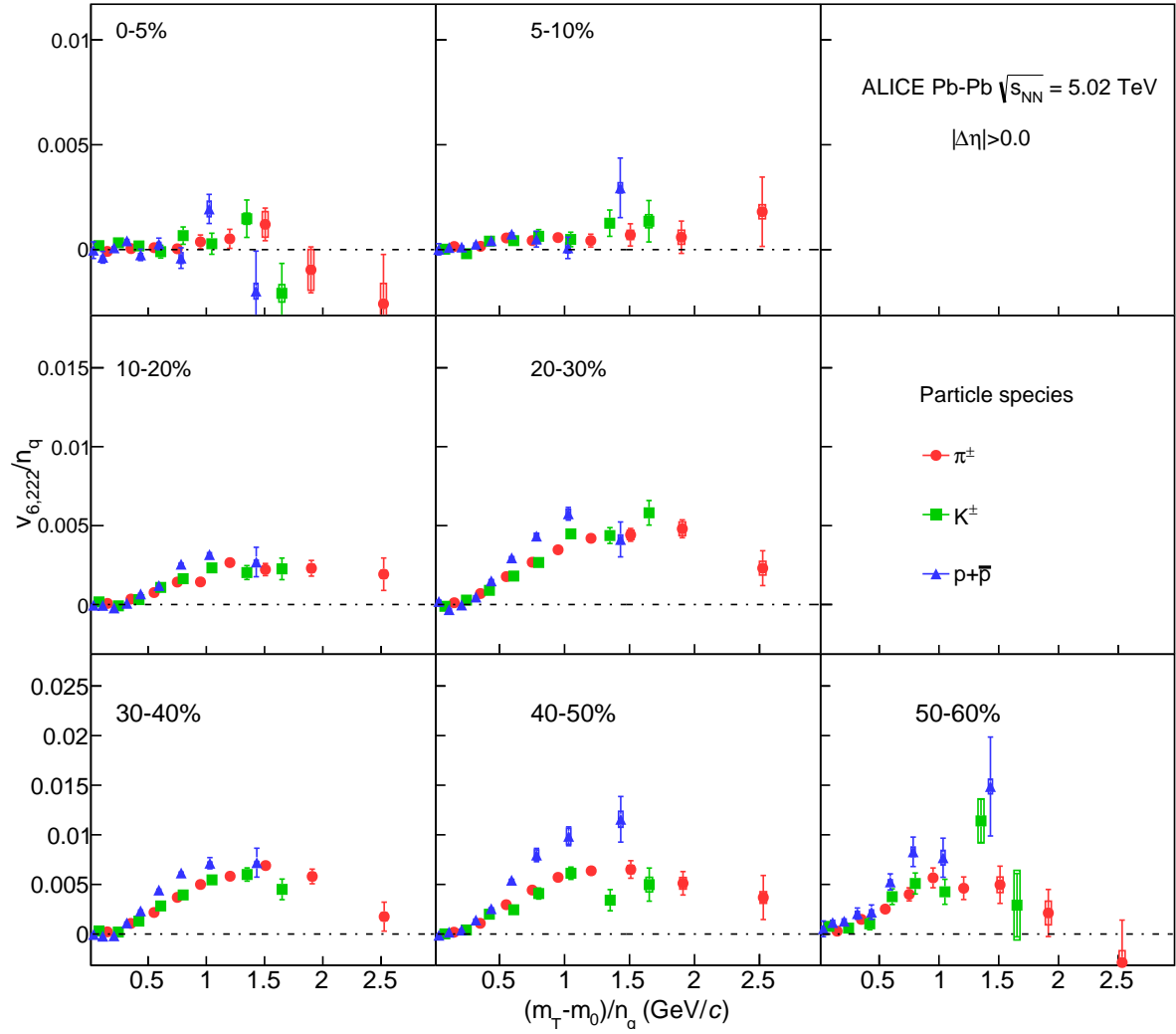
## B The ALICE Collaboration



**Figure A.2:** The  $(m_T - m_0)/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{5,32}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV



**Figure A.3:** The  $(m_T - m_0)/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{6,33}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$  TeV



**Figure A.4:** The  $(m_T - m_0)/n_q$ -dependence of  $v_{6,222}/n_q$  for different particle species grouped into different centrality intervals of Pb–Pb collisions  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV