

K_S^0 and Λ hadrons production in proton-proton and proton-lead collisions at 5.02 TeV studied with the LHCb detector

HEP-TEC-2025

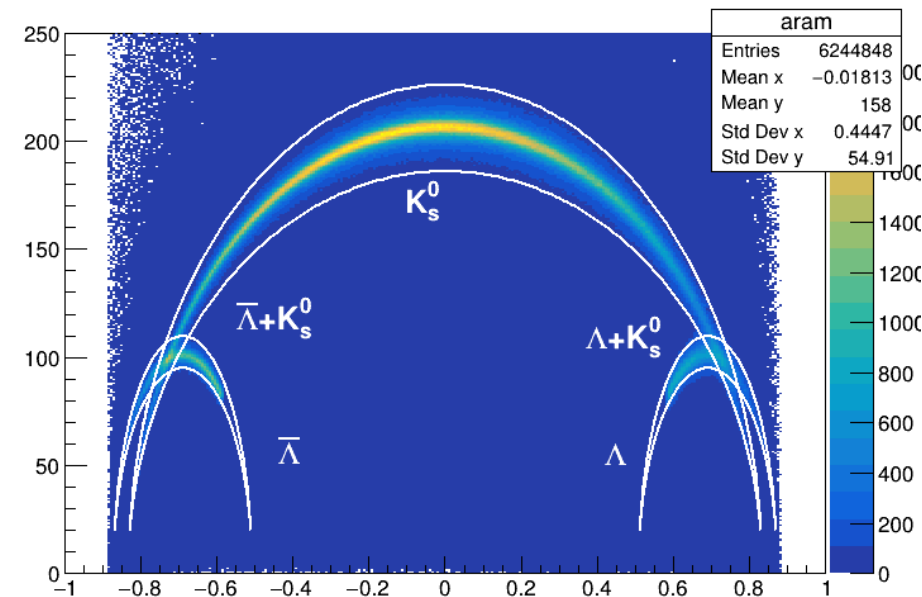
**High Energy Physics. Theoretical and Experimental Challenges
21-22 January 2025. Kyiv. Ukraine**

Sasha Okhrimenko on behalf of LHCb Kyiv Group

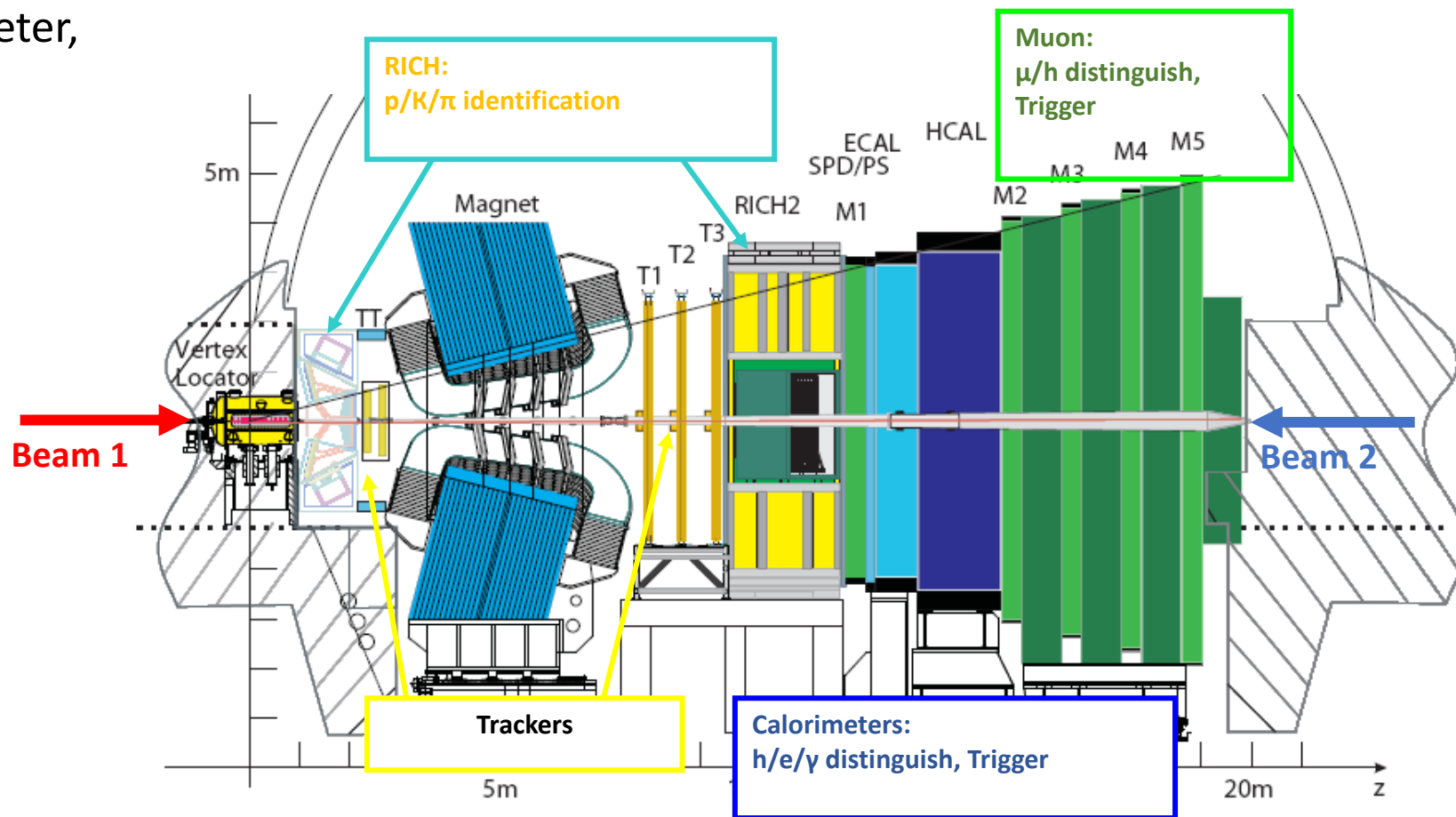
(Serhii Koliiev, Oleksandr Kot, Oleksandr Kshyvanskyi, Ievgenii Petrenko, Valery Pugatch)

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- Differential production cross-sections — important input for QCD and MC tuning.
- Strange hadron production at LHCb — powerful tool to investigate hadronization processes:
 - Production cross-sections are higher than for heavier quarks
- Assuming that production cross-section for p-A collisions provide cold nuclear matter effects, one can take them into account searching signals from QGP in A-A collisions.
- Strangeness enhancement is one of the possible signal of QGP.
- NMF — a tool to study impact of nuclear environment
 - measurement of V^0 CS in p-p collisions
 - calculation of CS ratios (p-Pb)/(p-p)
- Λ -bar/ Λ , Λ -bar/ K_S , R_{FB} ratios:
 - Reduce systematic errors and avoid Luminosity uncertainties.
 - Baryon number transition and baryon/meson production.



- **LHCb Run 2 [1]** – forward spectrometer, located at LHC.
- Acceptance $2 < \eta < 5$
- Proton-proton interaction at up to $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$, $\mathcal{L} = 4 \cdot 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$.
- **Goal:** CP violation and rare decays of B -mesons.
- **Resolutions [2]:**
 - spatial (PV position): $\sim 16 \mu\text{m}$;
 - decay time: $\sim 50 \text{ fs}$;
 - track's momentum: $0.5\text{--}0.4\%$;
 - mass (FWHM): $\sim 13 \text{ MeV } (J/\psi)$;
 - particle identification: $\sim 96\%$.



[1]. JINST 3 (2008) S08005.

[2]. Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 30 (2015) 15300227.

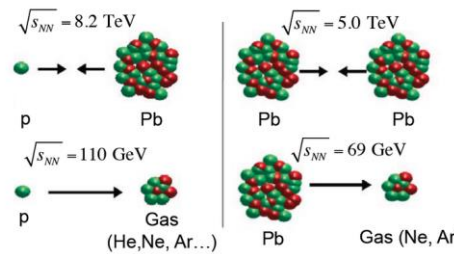
2013 heavy ion run:

Ion = ^{208}Pb , $E_p = 4 \text{ TeV}$, $E_{\text{Pb}} = 1.58 \text{ TeV} \rightarrow$

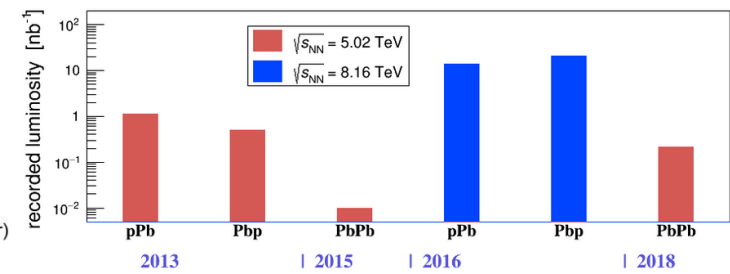
$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$,

$\mathcal{L}_{int} : 1.1 \text{ nb}^{-1} \text{ (Fwd)}, 0.5 \text{ nb}^{-1} \text{ (Bwd)}$

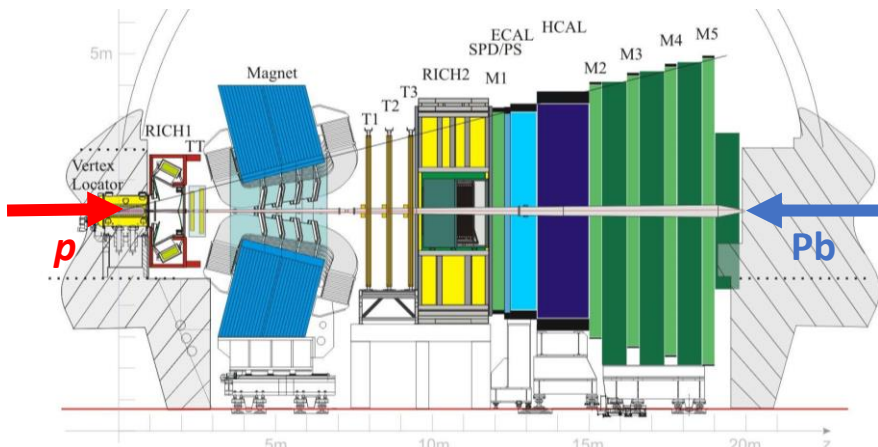
Collider mode



Fixed target mode



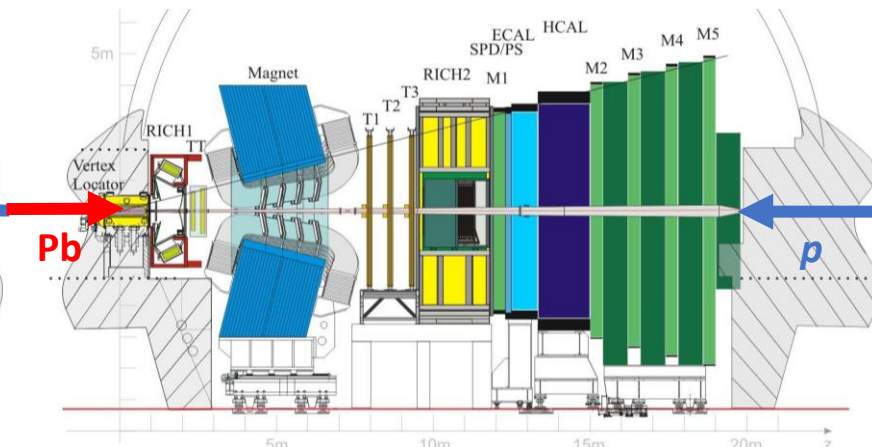
Forward (Fwd, p-Pb)



$$1.5 < y^* < 4.0$$

$$y^* = y_{lab} - 0.465$$

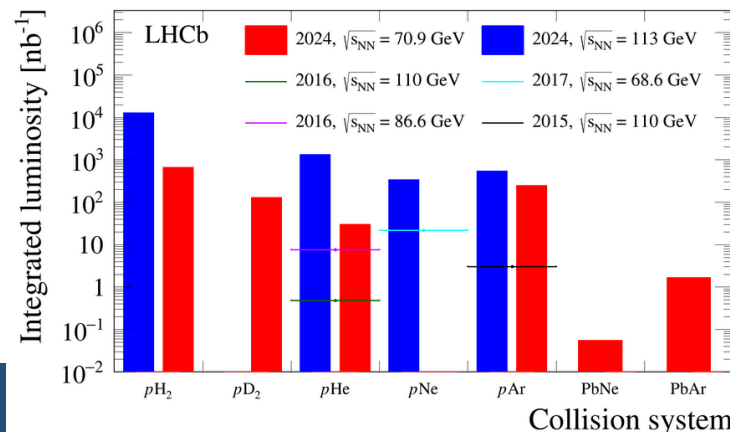
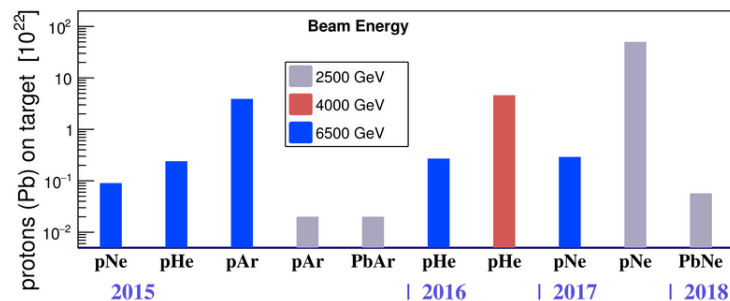
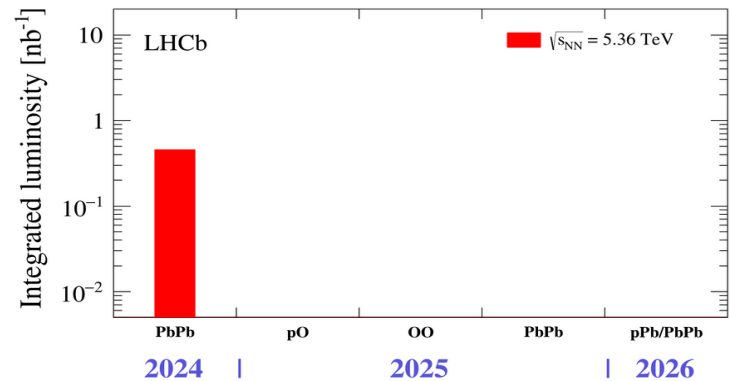
Backward (Bwd, Pb-p)



$$-5.0 < y^* < -2.5$$

$$y^* = -(y_{lab} + 0.465)$$

$$0.15 < p_T < 7.0 \text{ GeV}/c$$



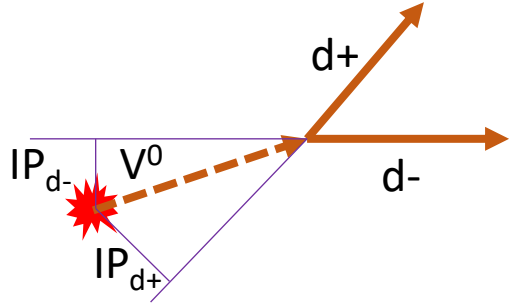
Monte Carlo samples:

20M Minimum Bias simulated events using EPOS generator under conditions similar to real ones. [1]

$$\epsilon_{tot}(p_T, y^*) = \frac{N_{V^0 \rightarrow d^+d^-}^{Rec}(p_T, y^*)}{N_{p+Pb \rightarrow V^0X}^{Gen}(p_T, y^*)}$$

[1]. Phys. Rev. C92 (2015) 034906; arXiv:1306.0121.

- $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ (BR: 0.692);
- $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi$ (BR: 0.639)



- **Prompt V^0**
Fisher's discriminant
(variable related to impact parameters):
 $F_{IP} = \log_{10}(IP_{d+} * IP_{d-} / IP_{V0}) > 4$

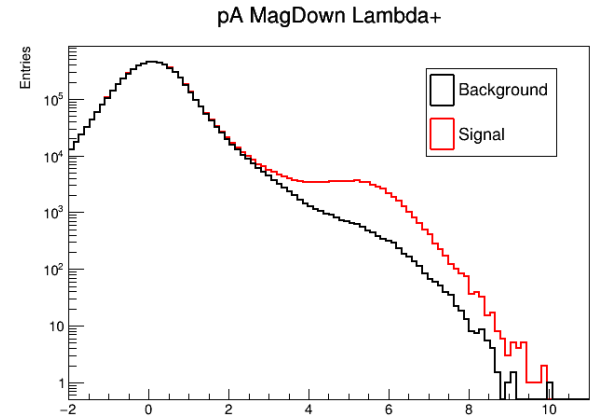
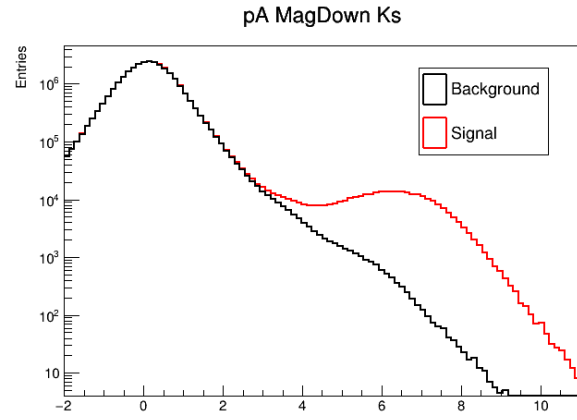
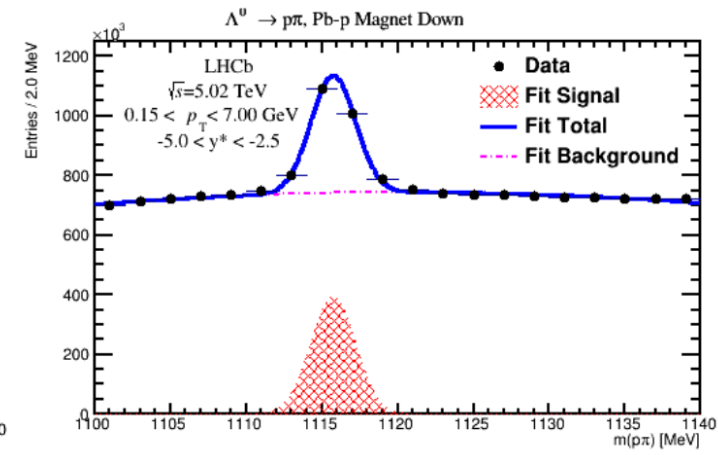
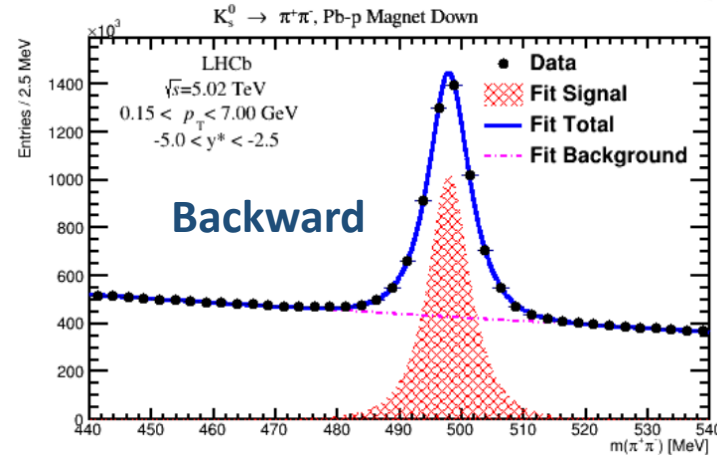
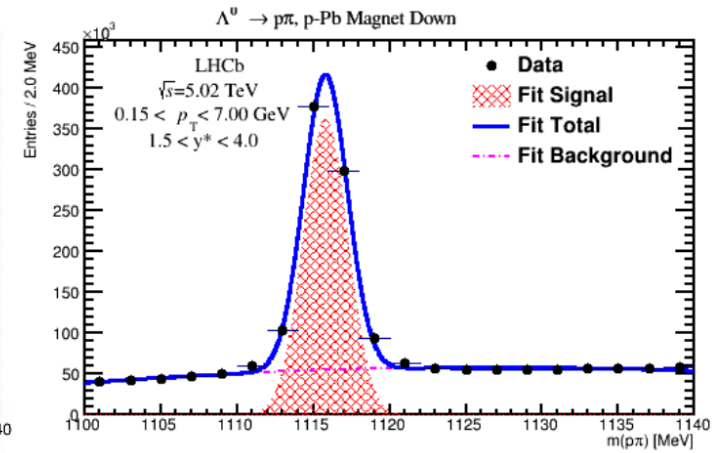
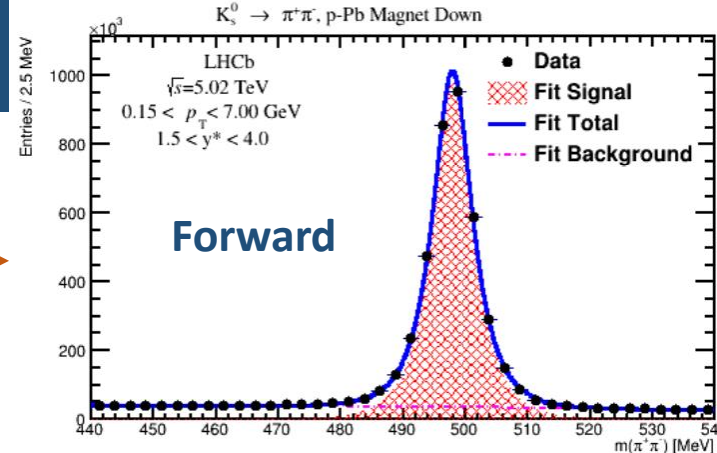
- **Mass distributions (fits):**
 - K_S : Modified Gaussian (signal) + 2nd order Polynomial (bkg)

$$f(x; \mu, \sigma) \equiv \frac{A}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{|x - \mu|}{\sigma}\right)^{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{|x - \mu|}{2\sigma}}}\right)$$

- Λ : Sum of Gaussians (signal) + 3rd order Polynomial (bkg)

• **Total yields:**

	K_S	Λ
Forward:	$\sim 3.5 \cdot 10^6$	$\sim 0.85 \cdot 10^6$
Backward:	$\sim 8.0 \cdot 10^6$	$\sim 1.50 \cdot 10^6$
p-p :	$\sim 4.5 \cdot 10^6$	$\sim 0.90 \cdot 10^6$



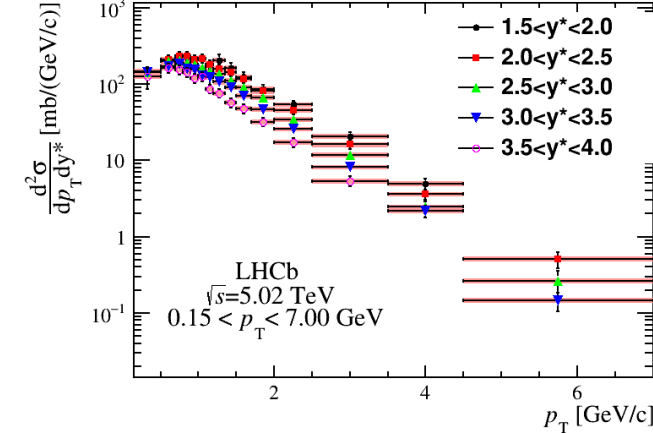
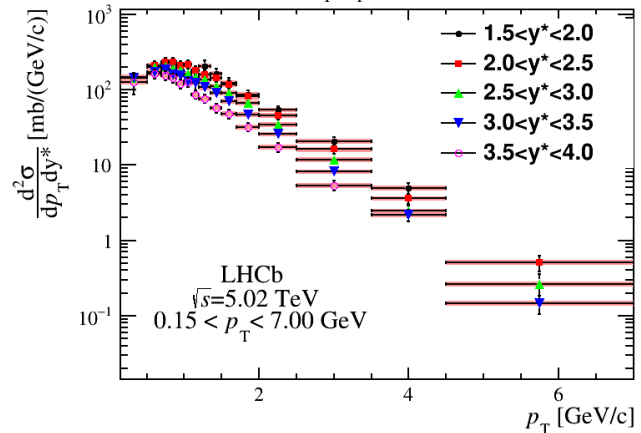
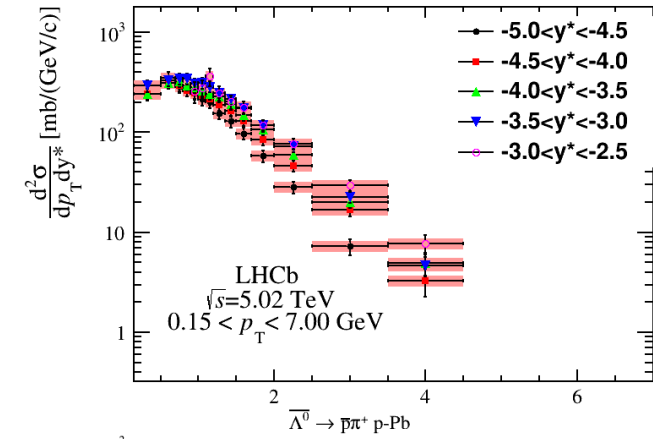
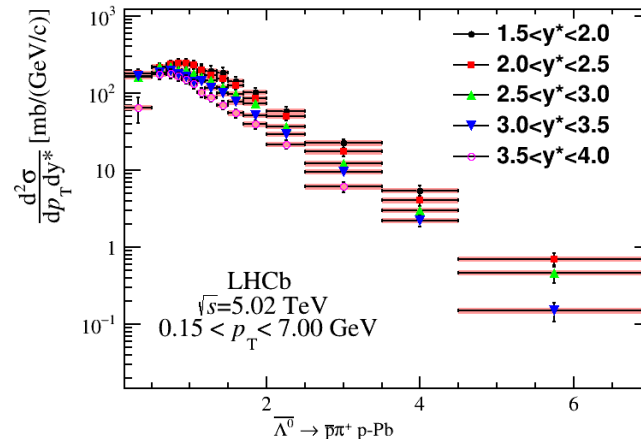
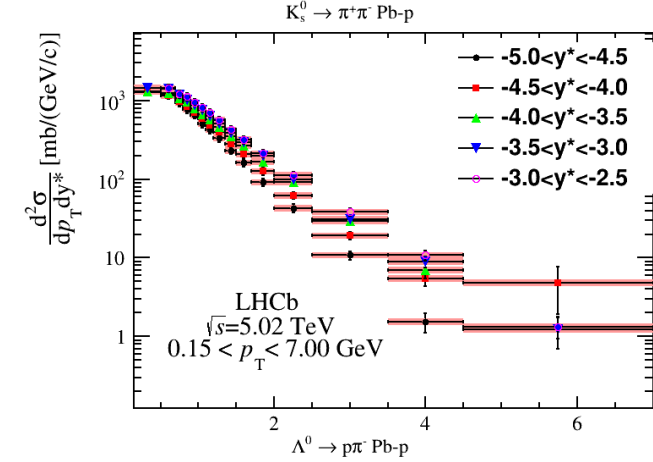
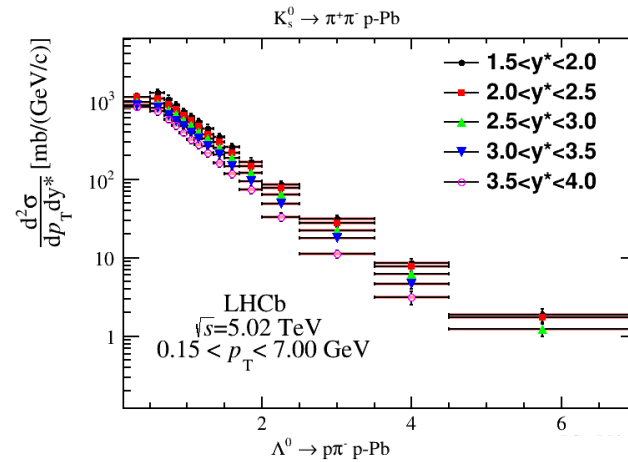
Results: Differential Production Cross-Sections

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dp_T dy^*} = \frac{N}{\Delta p_T \cdot \Delta y^* \cdot \epsilon \cdot \mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{L}}$$

- N – number of reconstructed prompt V^0 ;
- Δp_T – transverse momentum bins width;
- Δy – rapidity bins width;
- ϵ – total efficiency (using MC);
- \mathcal{B} – branching fractions of $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ (0.692) and $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi$ (0.639) decays [PDG];
- \mathcal{L} – integrated luminosity.

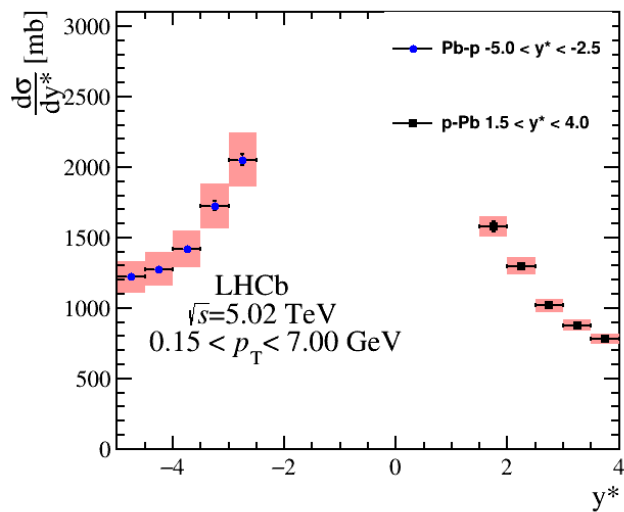
Usual exponential shape of p_T spectra which is in agreement with thermal evaporation model.

Cross-sections are higher for central rapidities.



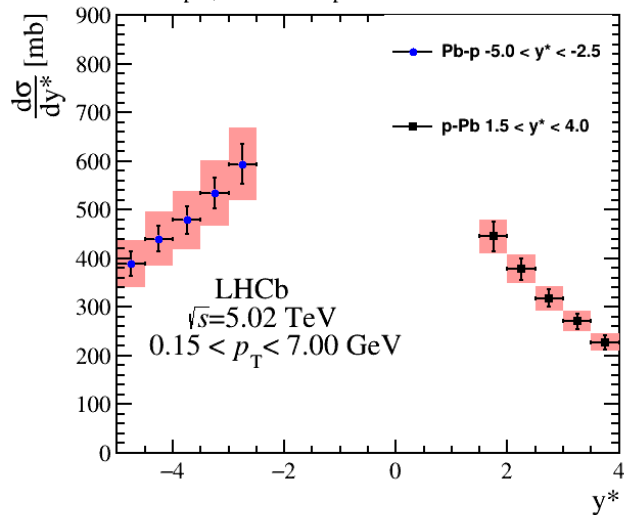
Results: Differential Production Cross-Sections

$K_s^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$, observed in proton-lead collisions

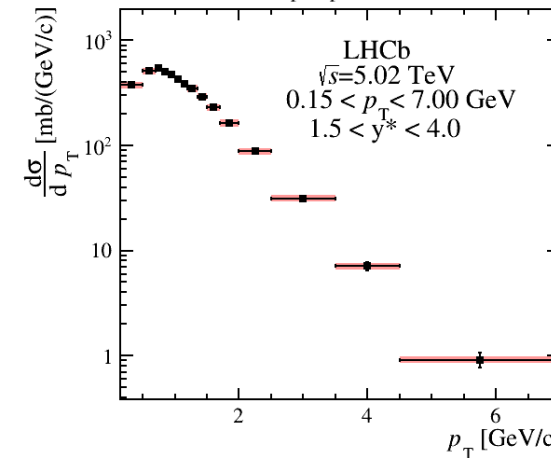
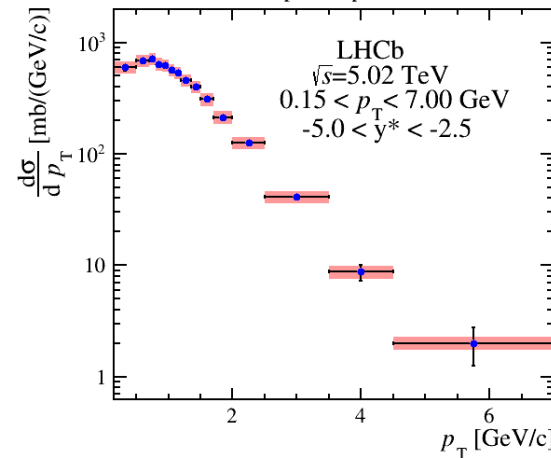
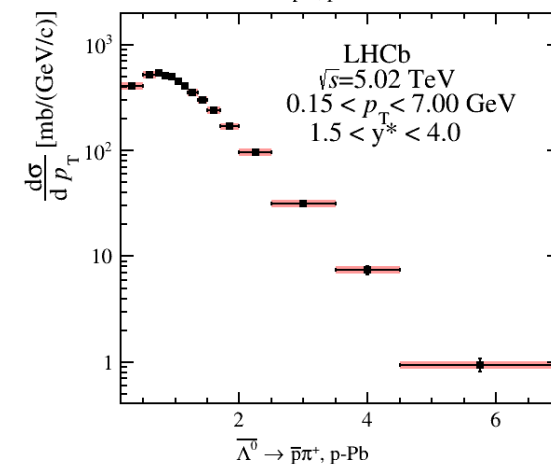
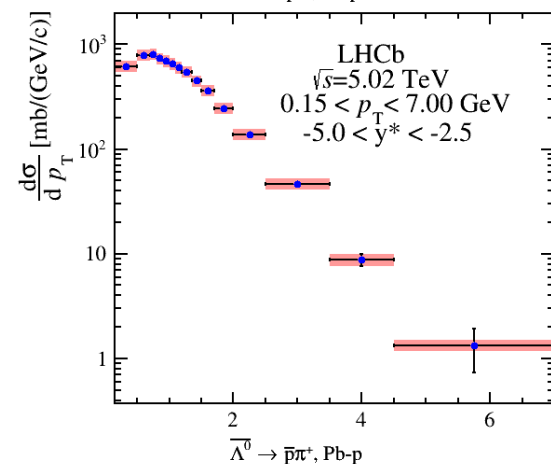
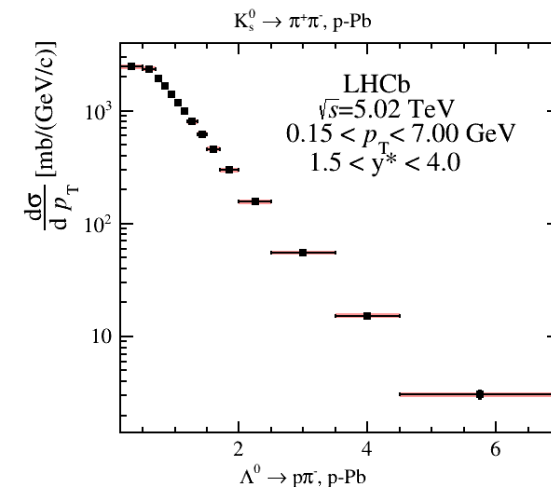
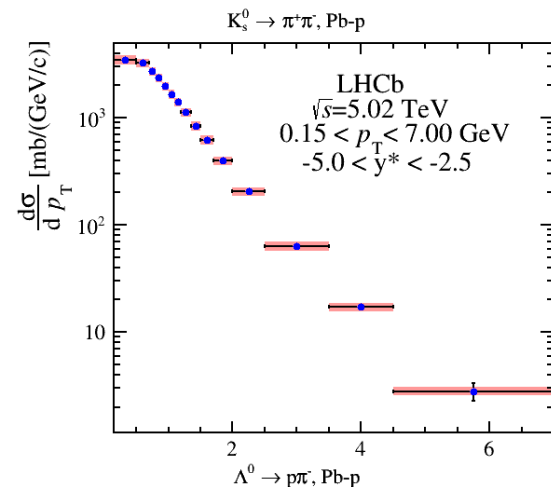
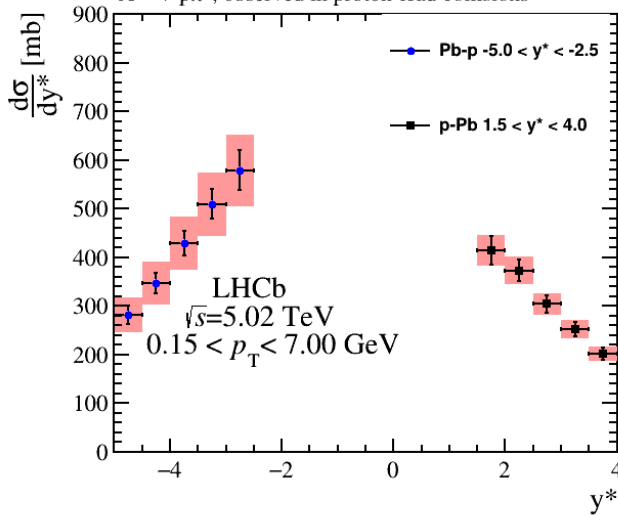


$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dp_T dy^*} = \frac{N}{\Delta p_T \cdot \Delta y^* \cdot \epsilon \cdot \mathcal{B} \cdot \mathcal{L}}$$

$\Lambda^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$, observed in proton-lead collisions



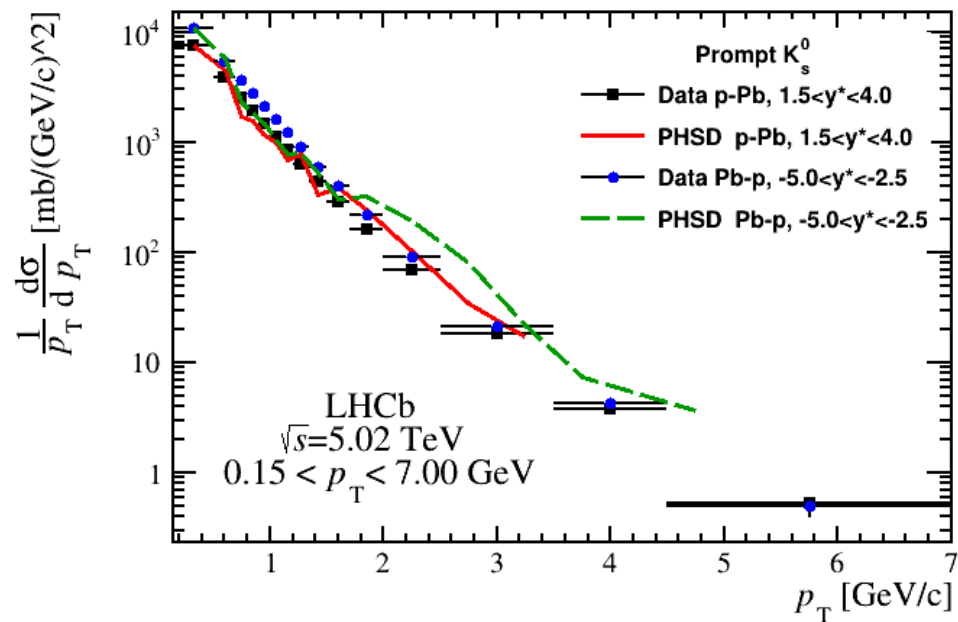
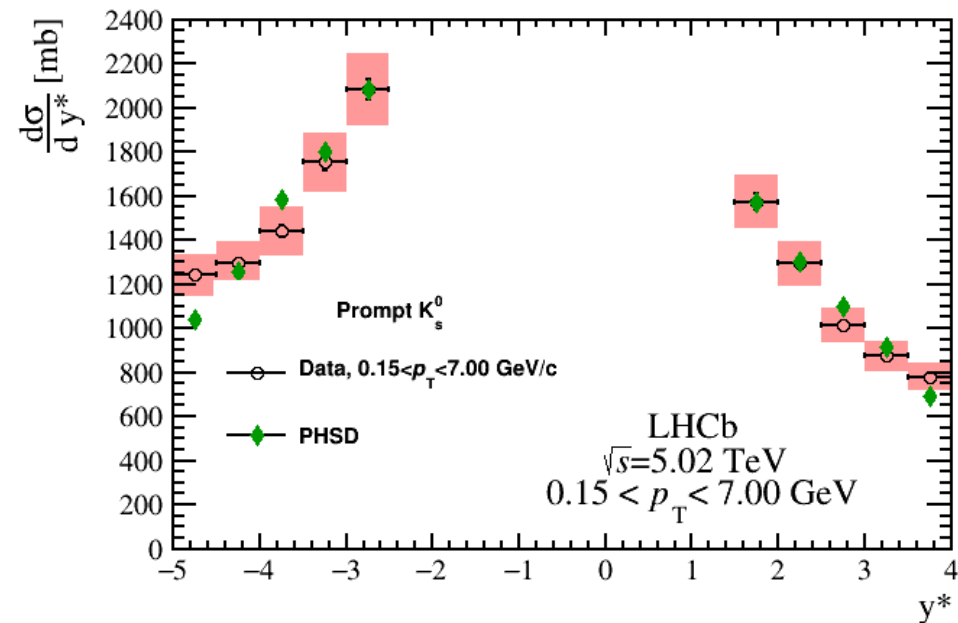
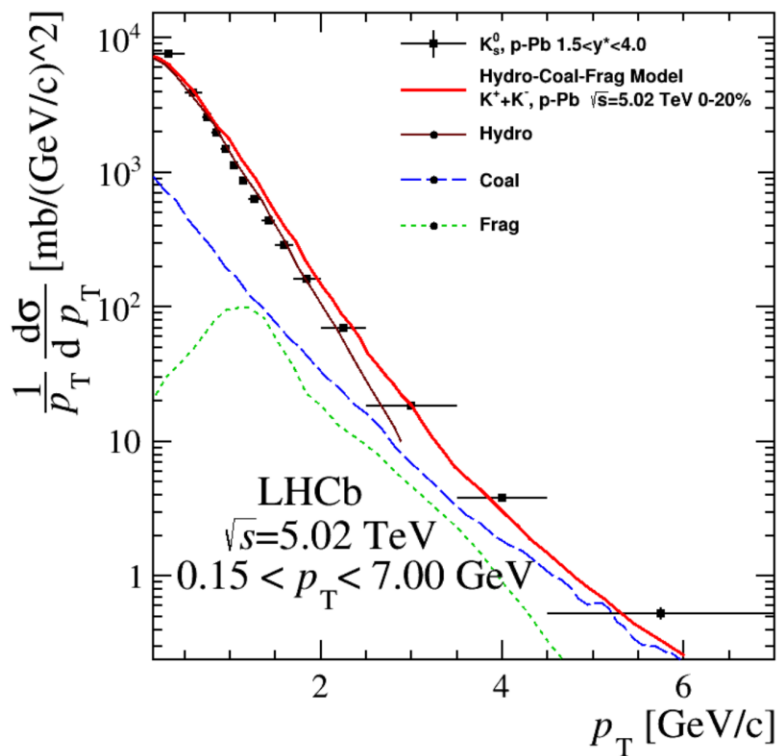
$\Lambda^0 \rightarrow \bar{p}\pi^+$, observed in proton-lead collisions



p_T and y^* spectra shapes of K_S comparison.

Reasonable agreement with:

- **Hydrodynamics-Coalescence-Jet Fragmentation (Hybrid) model [1]**
- **Parton Hadron String Dynamic (PHSD) model designed at GSI [2]**



[1]. Phys. Rev. Lett. 125 (2020) 072301, arXiv:1911.00826.

[2]. Nucl. Phys. A831 (2009) 215, arXiv:0907.5331; Nucl. Phys. A856 (2011) 162, arXiv:1101.5793.

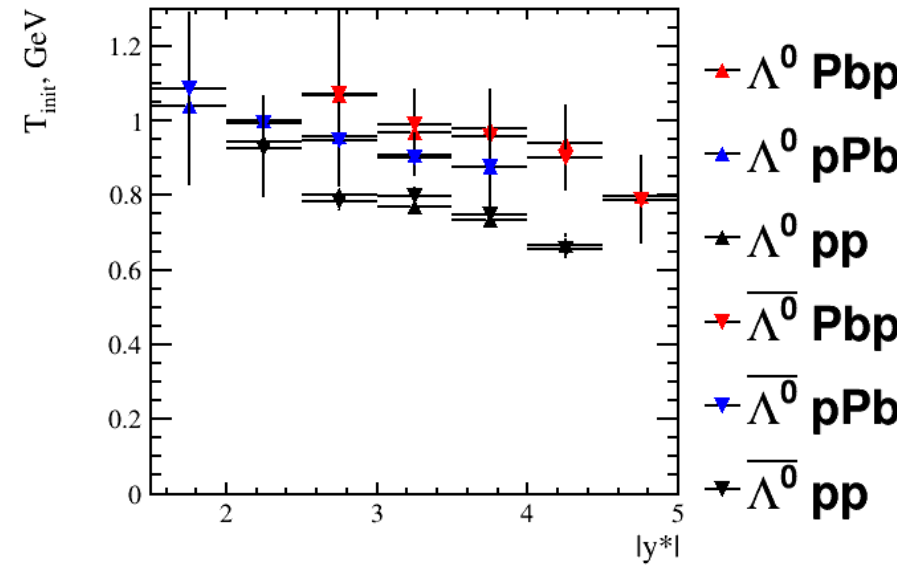
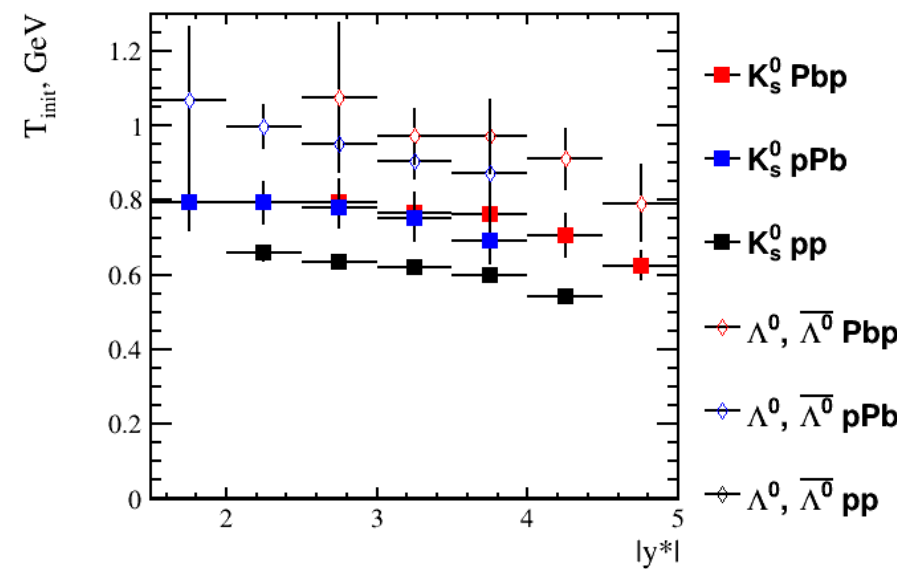
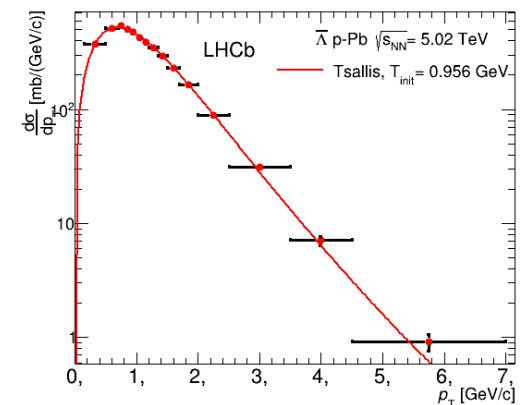
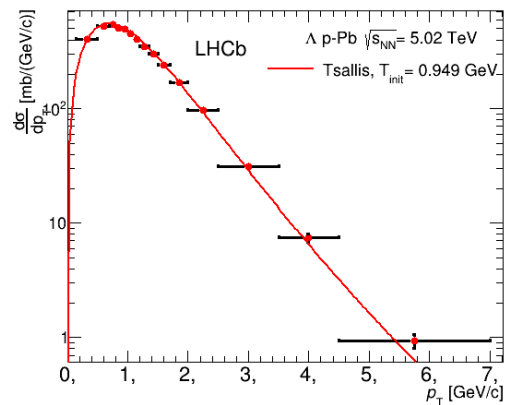
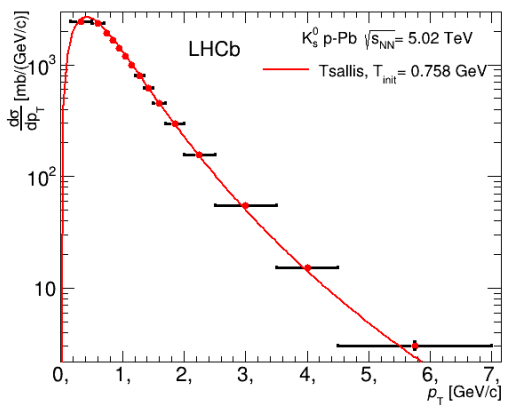
- To characterize those differences in cross-section slopes quantitatively we have approximated the measured p_T spectra with the Tsallis function [1] to extract initial temperature of the emission source (T_{init})

$$F_{Ts} = A \cdot p_T \cdot \left(1 + (q - 1) \frac{\sqrt{p_T^2 + m_0^2} - m_0}{T} \right)^{-\frac{1}{q-1}} \quad \langle p_T^2 \rangle = \frac{\int_0^\infty p_T^2 F_{Ts}(p_T) dp_T}{\int_0^\infty F_{Ts}(p_T) dp_T}$$

$$T_{init} = \sqrt{\frac{\langle p_T^2 \rangle}{2}}$$

T_{init} increases:

- with the mass of produced hadron
- in p-Pb/Pb-p configurations compared to p-p one, what is in agreement with other experimental observations.
- for bins that are closer to $y^*=0$

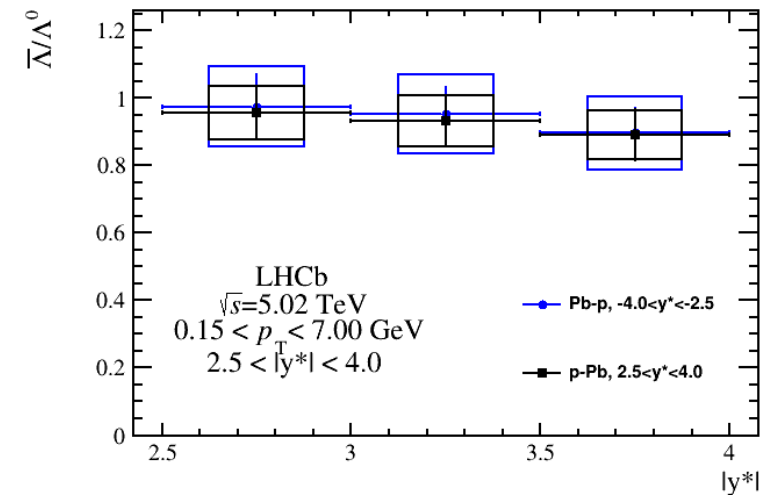
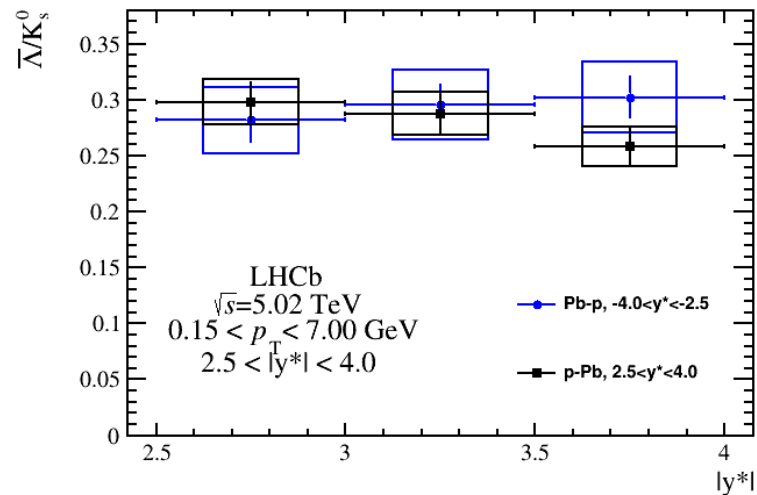
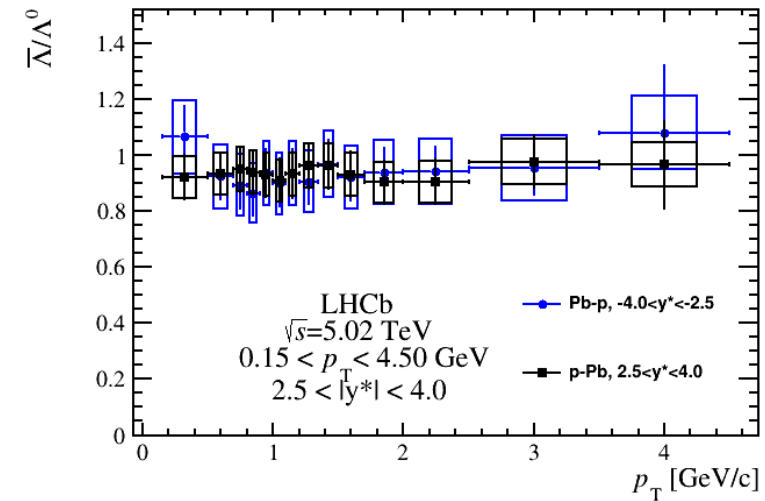
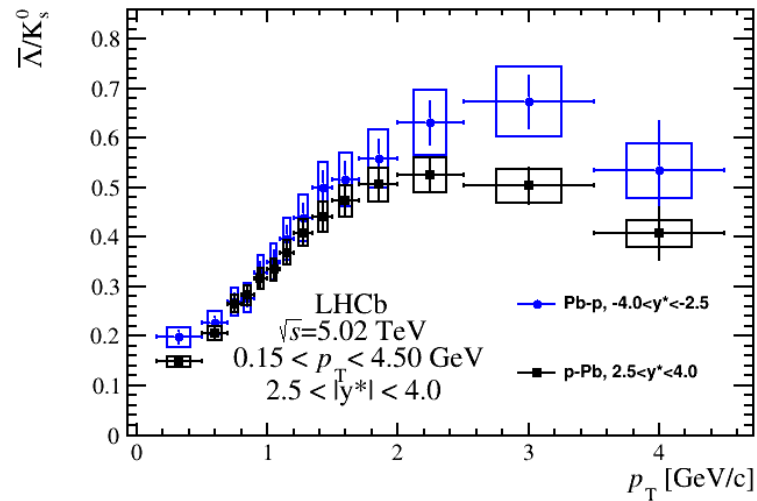


[1]. J. Stat. Phys. 52 (1988) 479.

Baryon/Meson ratio:

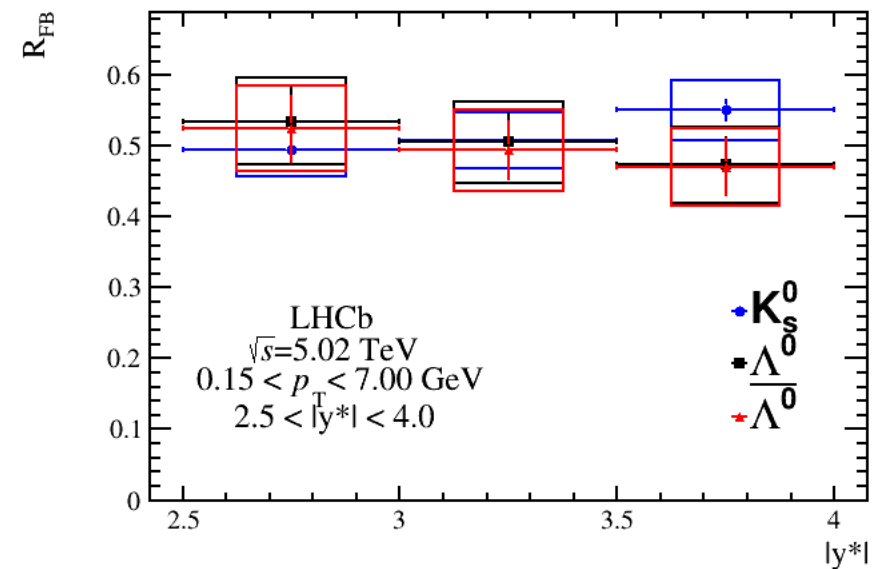
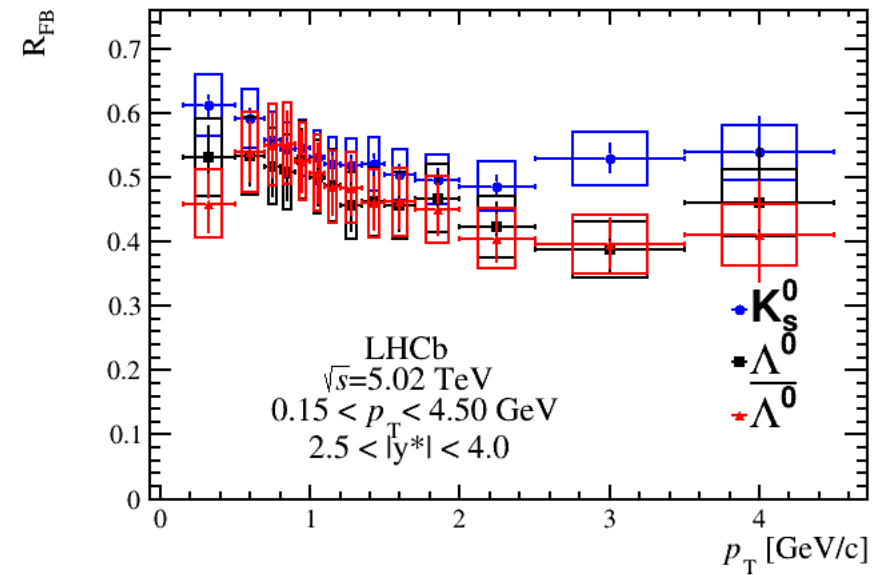
$$\bar{\Lambda}/\Lambda(K_S) = \frac{\frac{d^2\sigma_{\bar{\Lambda}}}{dp_T dy}}{\frac{d^2\sigma_{\Lambda(K_S)}}{dp_T dy}} \cong \frac{N_{\bar{\Lambda}}}{N_{\Lambda(K_S)}} \frac{\mathcal{B}_{\Lambda(K_S)}}{\mathcal{B}_{\bar{\Lambda}}} \frac{\epsilon_{\Lambda(K_S)}}{\epsilon_{\bar{\Lambda}}}$$

- $\bar{\Lambda}/K$ ratio goes up with respect to p_T increases \rightarrow strange quarks are hadronized into baryons easier than into mesons with energy increase
- $\bar{\Lambda}/\Lambda$ ratio does not demonstrate significant deviations from the unity

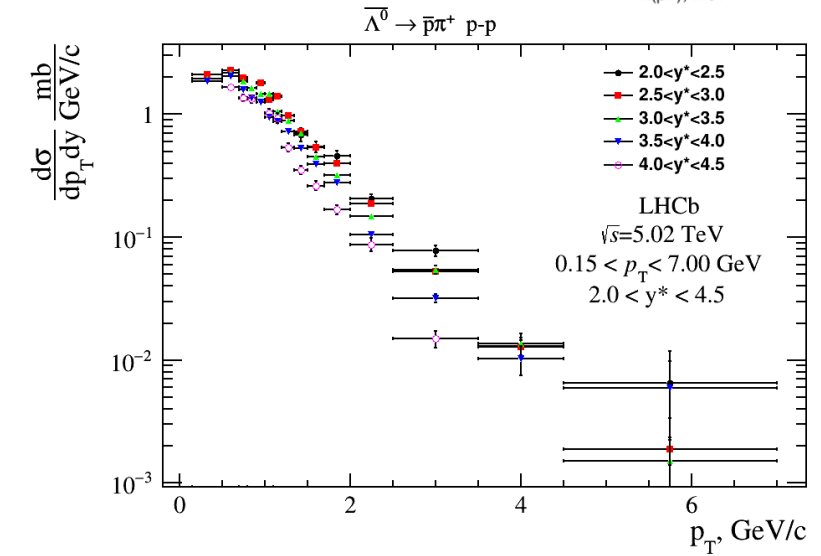
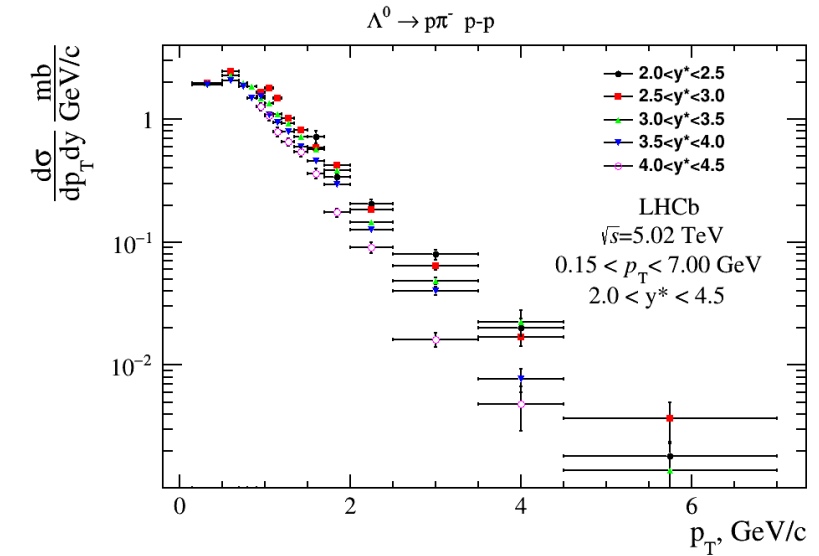
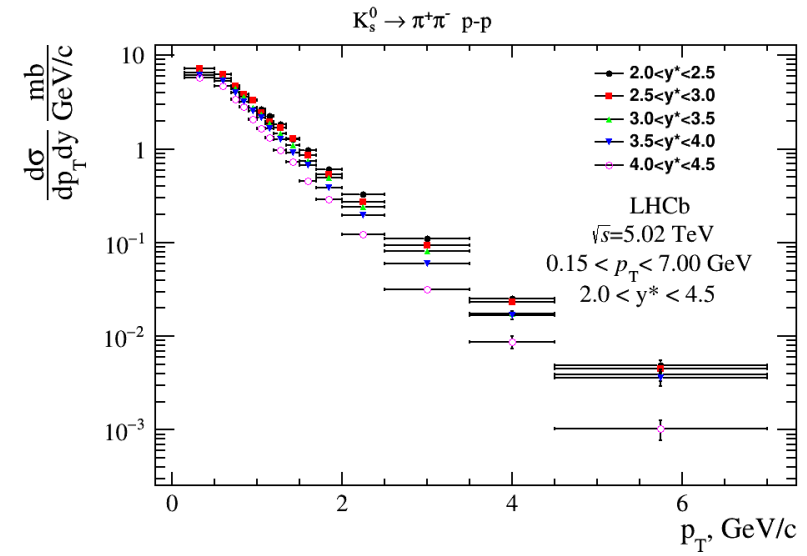
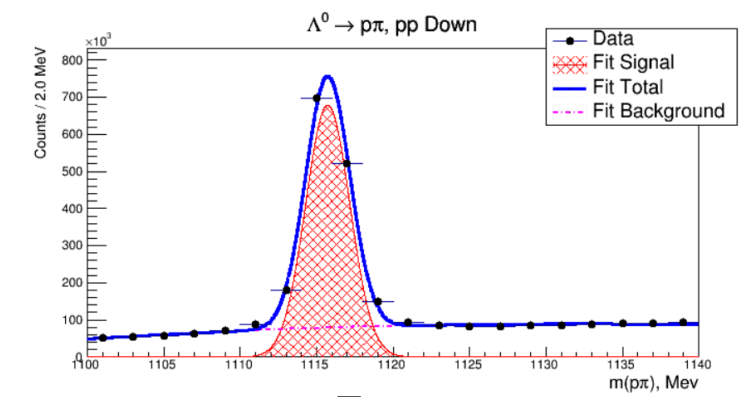
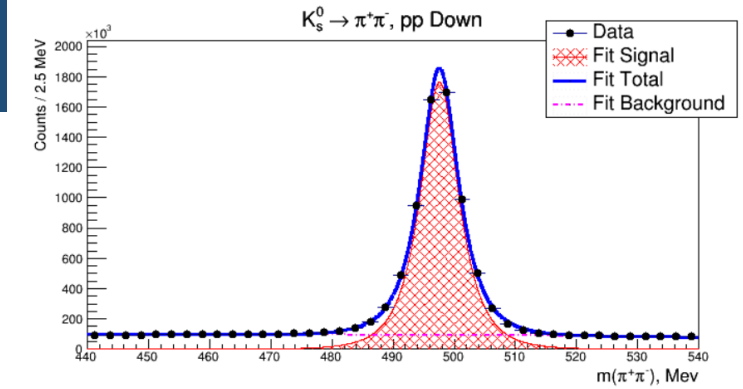


$$R_{\text{FB}}(\mathbf{p}_T, |y^*|) = \frac{\frac{d^2\sigma}{dp_T dy^*}(\mathbf{p}_T, y^*)}{\frac{d^2\sigma}{dp_T dy^*}(\mathbf{p}_T, -y^*)}$$

- Clear forward-backward asymmetry (suppression) for all prompt V^0 .
- Suppression in forward direction up to 60%
- Does not depend on p_T and y^* within uncertainties.

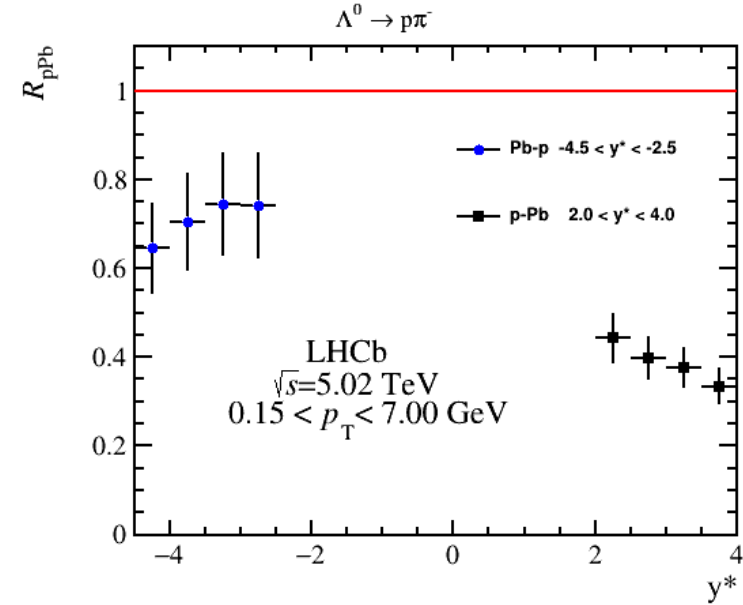
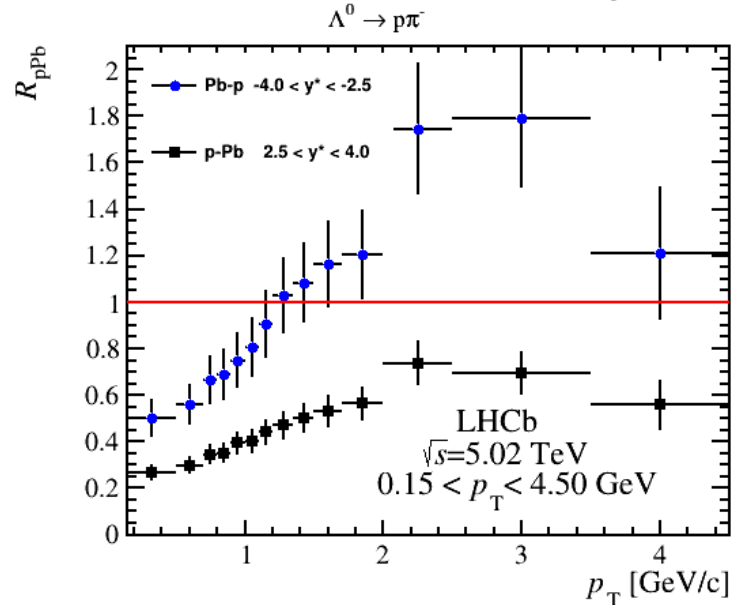
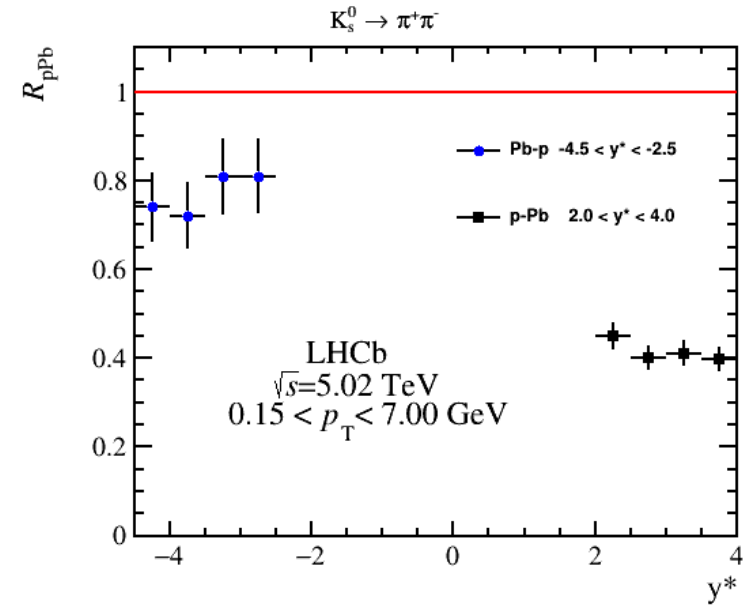
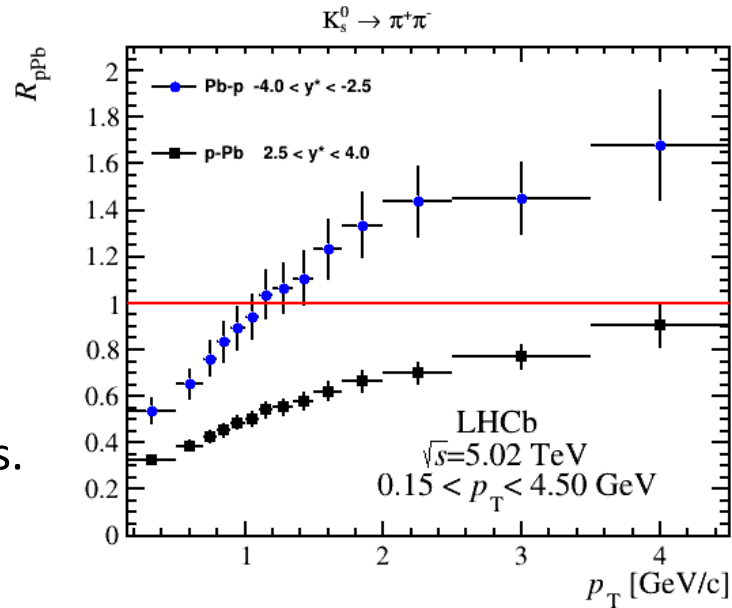


- NoBias sample collected in 2015 in p-p collisions at 5.02 TeV.
- Total luminosity of the sample is $3.8 \pm 0.14/\text{nb}$
($K_S \sim 4.5 \cdot 10^6$; $\Lambda \sim 0.9 \cdot 10^6$)
- **10M MC** simulated events using Pythia 8.1 generator under the similar conditions.
- Same to p-Pb reconstruction and selection procedure.
- Rapidity ranges to calculate NMF:
 - $2.0 < y^* < 4.0$ (correspond to p-Pb) and
 - $2.5 < y^* < 4.5$ (correspond to Pb-p)

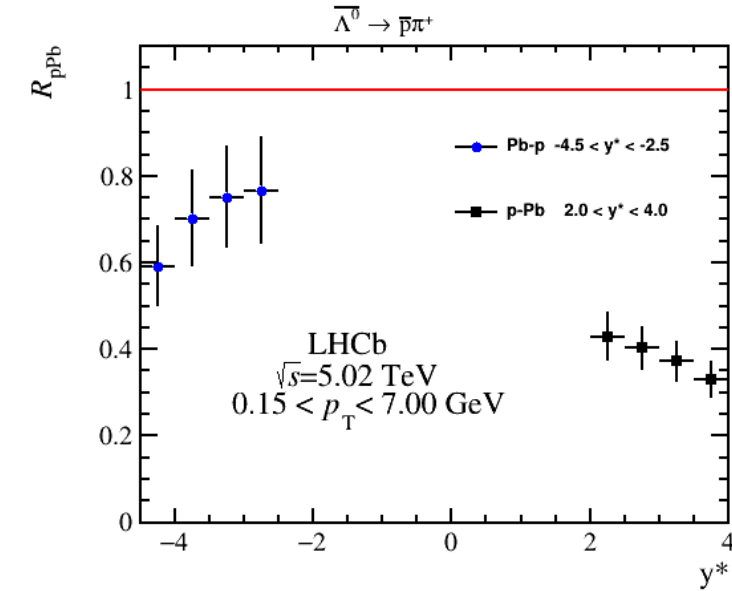
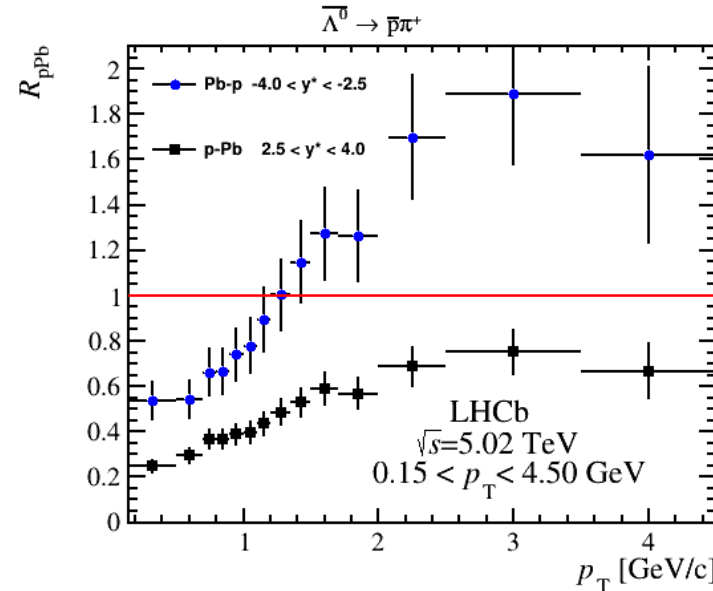
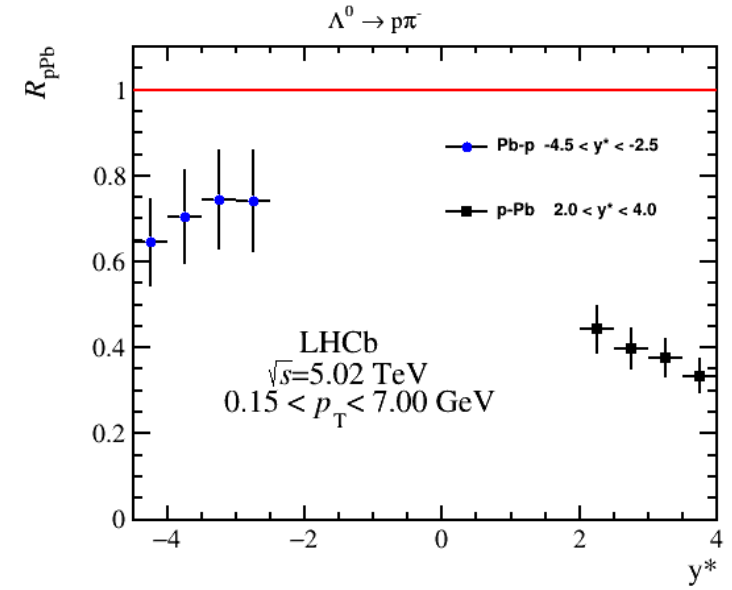
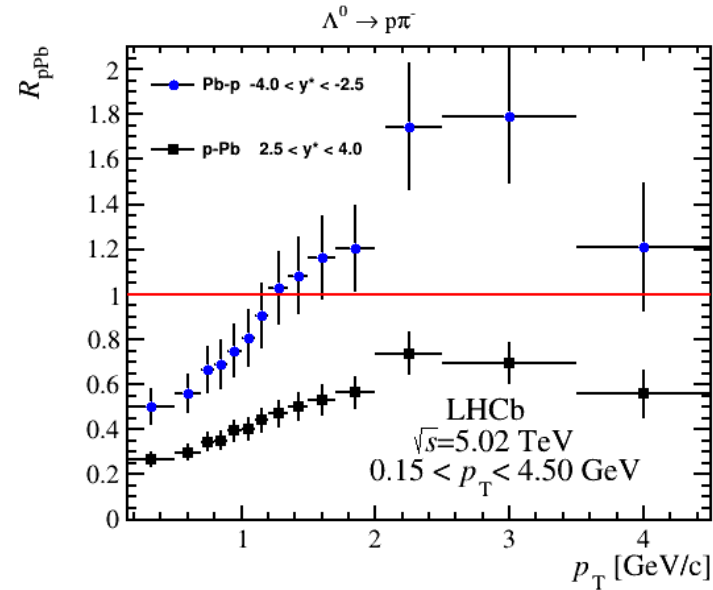


$$R_{pPb}(p_T, y^*) = \frac{\left[\frac{d^2\sigma}{dp_T dy^*} \right]_{pPb}}{208 \cdot \left[\frac{d^2\sigma}{dp_T dy^*} \right]_{pp}}$$

- Significant suppression at $p_T < 2$ GeV/c
- NMF Grows up from nearly 0.3 for p-Pb and 0.5 for Pb-p in the first p_T bin for all V^0 species.
- The maximum NMF values for Kaons is reached in the last bins of the measurement, so no peak structure observed.
- The peaks for both Lambdas are located between $p_T > 2$ and $p_T < 3$ GeV/c.
- The NMF values are below the unity for the whole p_T -range for p-Pb and exceeds unity near $p_T = 1$ GeV/c for Pb-p.
- NMF as function of y^* decreases as rapidity moves away from 0
- NMF suppression is more pronounced in the forward region compared to the backward.
- Error bars represent sum of statistical and systematic component



Just to show NMF for Λ -bar in comparison with Λ ones.



Conclusions

- V^0 hadrons production was studied in LHCb experiment in proton-proton and proton-lead collisions at N-N cms energy of 5.02 TeV.
- Absolute values of Double and Single Differential cross-sections were measured for K_S mesons and Λ baryons distributed over transverse momentum of $0 < p_T < 7$ GeV/c as well as over rapidity ranges of $-5.0 < y^* < -2.5$ and $1.5 < y^* < 4.0$.
- Shape of p_T distribution differs slightly between K_S mesons and Λ baryons.
- It does not depend strongly on rapidity, demonstrating unique production mechanism.
- Approximation of the data by Tsallis thermal model shows that T_{init} increases with the mass of produced hadron as well as in the backward beam configuration, in agreement with other experimental observations.
- $\Lambda\text{-bar}/K_S$ goes up with respect to p_T increasing \rightarrow strange quarks are hadronized easily into baryons than into mesons with energy increasing.
- $\Lambda\text{-bar}/\Lambda$ is constant with respect to p_T increasing and ~ 1 .
- R_{FB} : suppression in forward direction up to 60%. Does not depend on p_T within uncertainties.
- **Nuclear Modification factors** calculated as function of p_T and y^* demonstrate significant suppression for all three hadrons at $p_T < 3$ GeV/c.
- **NMF** grows up (nearly linearly) from 0.4 for K_S and 0.2 for Λ at $p_T = 0.3$ GeV/c to 1.0 and 1.2 (correspondingly) at $p_T = 4.0$ GeV/c.
- Good agreement with PHDS and Hydro-Coal-Frag hybrid model

Acknowledgments

- Many thanks to **Frederic, Giacomo, Yanxi** and **Benjamin** for their support, questions and help.
- Our special thanks to **Michael** for his exceptional contributions, which greatly enhanced this work.
- Discussions on theoretical issues with **Wenbin Zhao, Boris Kopeliovich** and **Jan Nemcik** were interesting and encouraging. We thank **Iouri Vassiliev** for performing calculations within the PHSD model and **Elena Bratkovskaya** for providing us the PHSD code.
- The authors acknowledge the **Max Planck Society** for the generous financial support via the **EIRENE** project. This support has been instrumental in enabling us to maintain research efforts despite the hardships caused by the Russian aggression.

Thank You for Your Attention!