

Partonic Effects

on the charm azimuthal correlations in relativistic $p+p$ collisions

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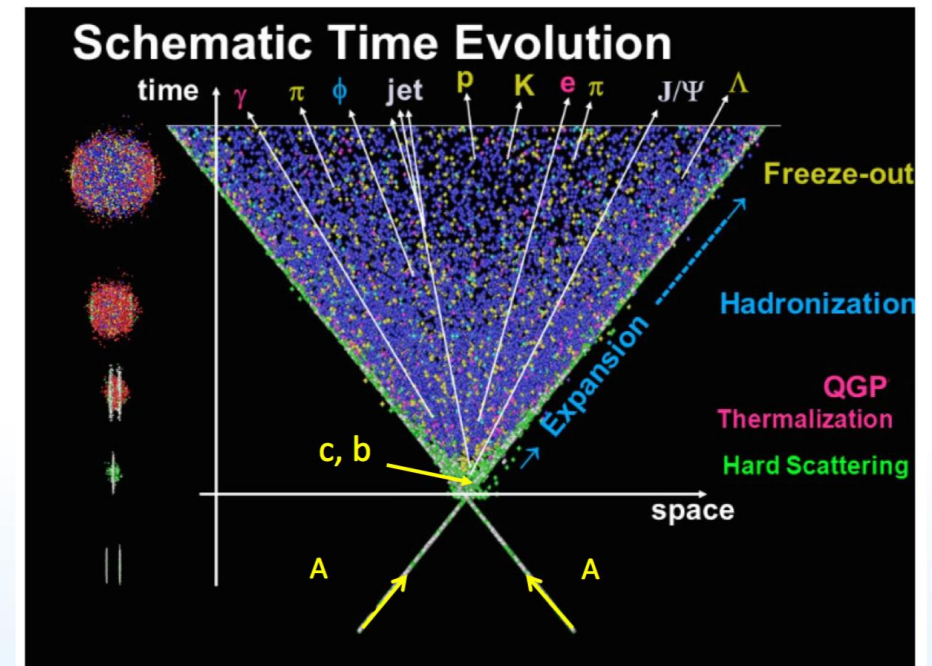
2026.06.27

HP2026 Satellite Workshop on Jets and Heavy Flavor Physics



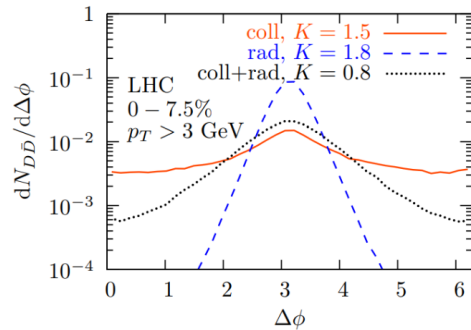
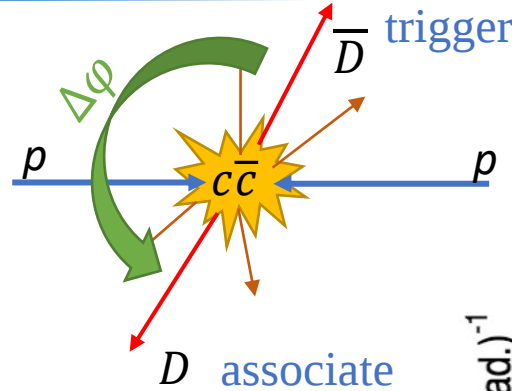
Heavy Flavor Quarks

- 1. $m_Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$
- Can use pQCD to estimate cross section
- 2. $m_Q \gg T_{\text{QGP}}$
- Production mainly restricted to initial hard scattering
- Thermalization time $\sim$ fire ball lifetime

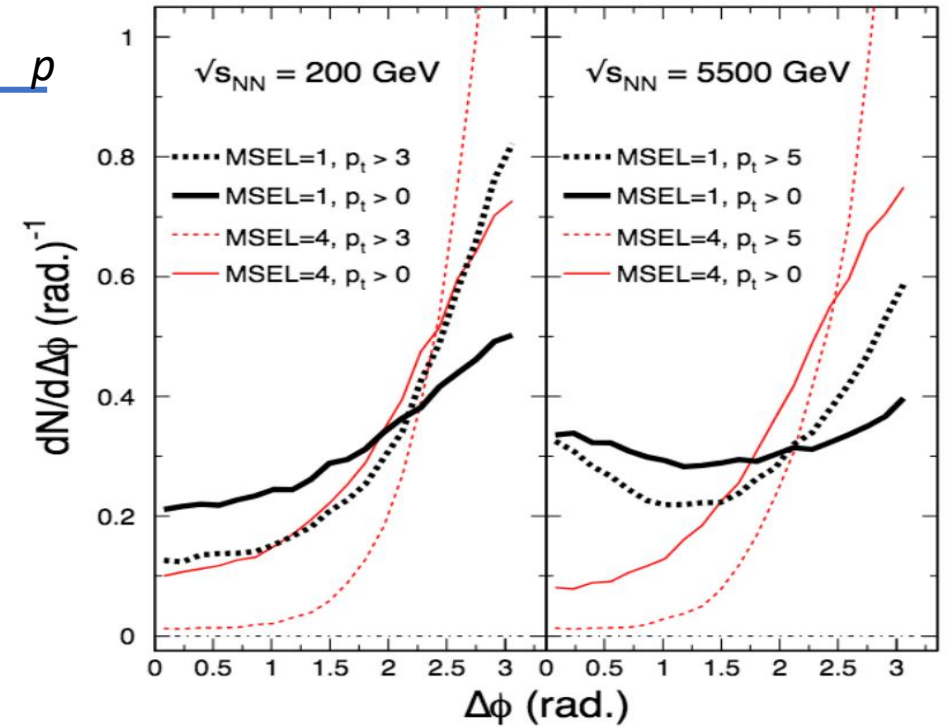
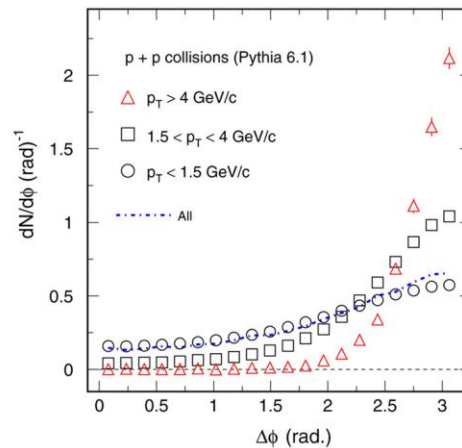


Azimuthal Correlation for HF (Partonic Wind?)

- D meson($c\bar{u}/\bar{c}u$)
 - Inherit initial Charm
 - **Collisional Energy Loss**
- Azimuth Correlation
 - Broadened by High-Order pQCD effect
 - Sensitive to Partonic effect



Marlene Nahrgang et al
J. Phys.: Conf. Ser.(2014) 509 012047

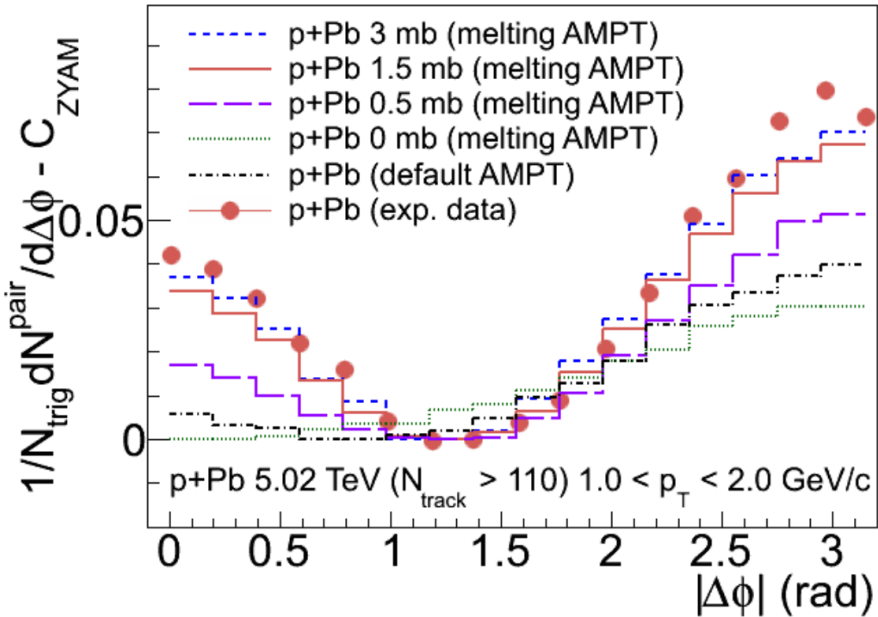


4: LO (pair production) , 1: NLO (E-loss, FE,GS)

XL Zhu, N. Xu, PF Zhuang,
Phys. Rev. Lett 100.152301

Partonic Interactions

G.-L. Ma and A. Bzdak, Phys.Lett. B 739 (2014) 209.

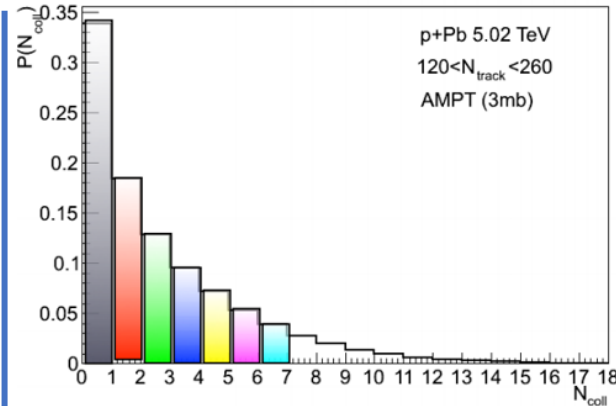


Near Side, NS ←

→ Far Side, FS

→ As the cross section of partonic interaction grows,
Signal strengthens at both sides

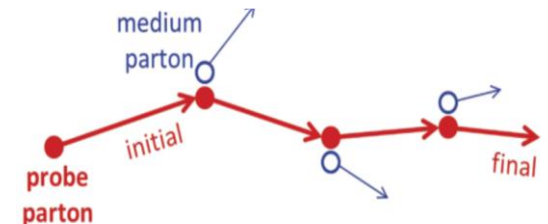
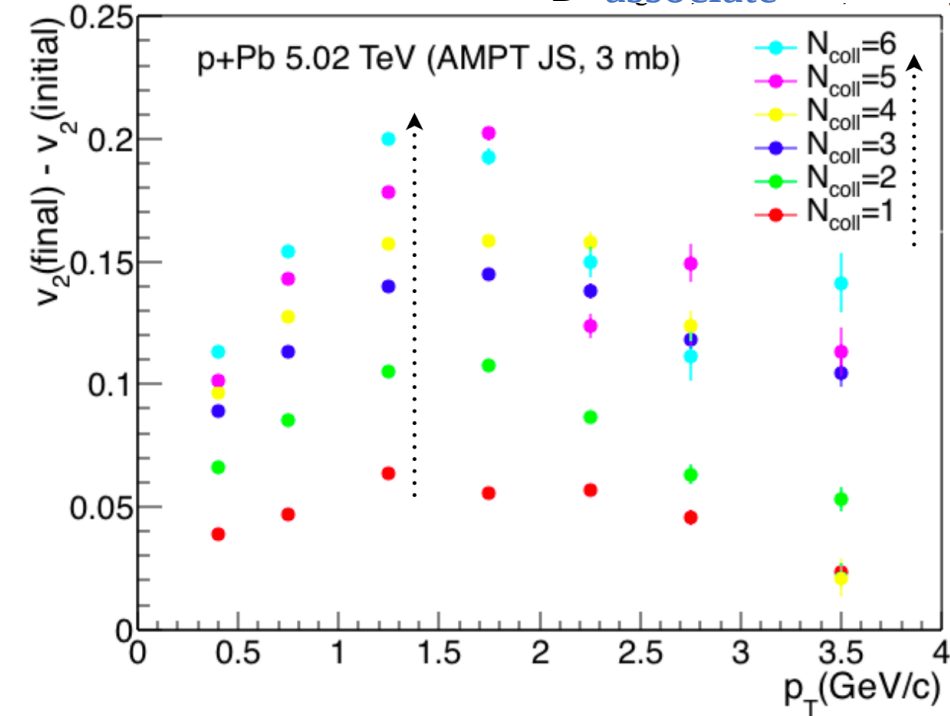
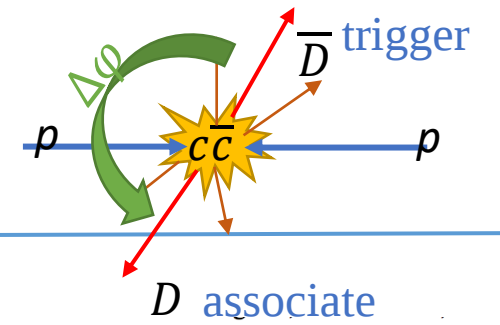
G.-L. Ma, A. Bzdak, Nucl. Phys. A 956, (2016) 745



$$\text{partons} = \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=0} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=1} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=2} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=3} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=4} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=5} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=6} + \dots$$

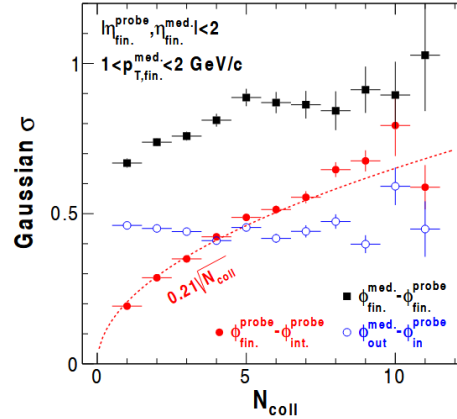
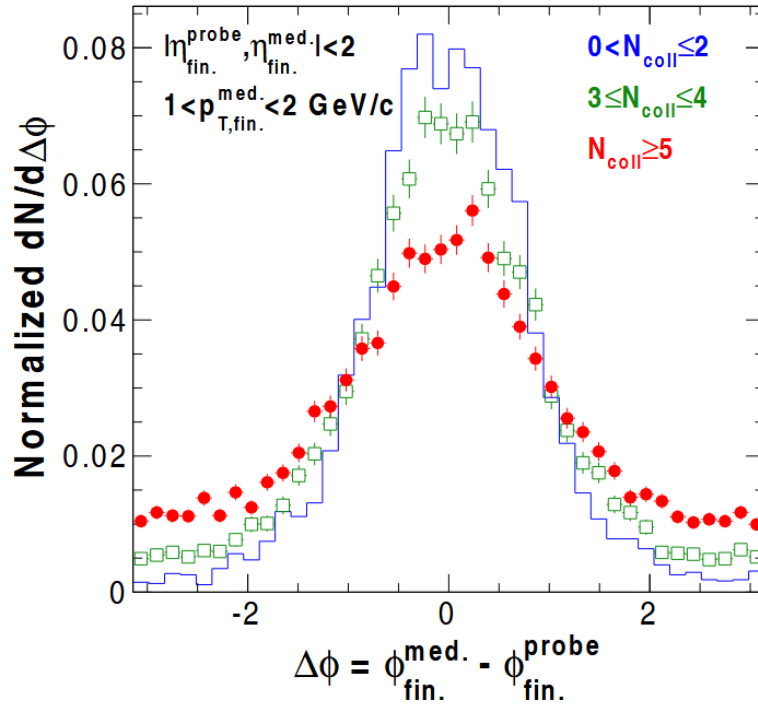
→ For **transport** models,
Partonic effect could contribute to flow formation

$$v_n = \langle \cos [n(\phi - \Phi_{rp})] \rangle$$



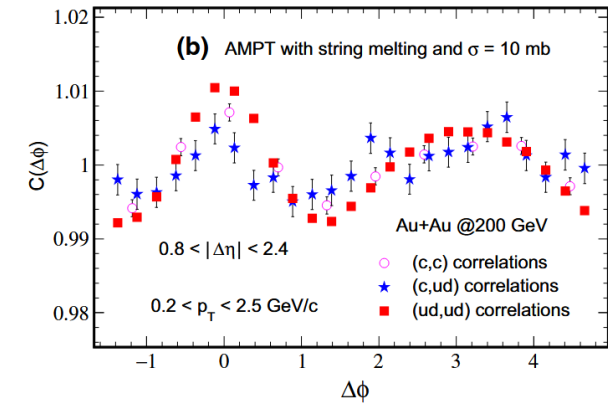
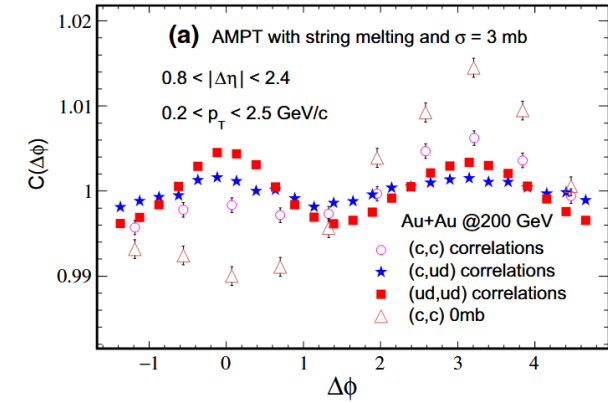
Partonic Interactions (Au+Au)

T. Edmonds, Nucl.Phys.A 966 (2017), 124-134



$$\frac{dN}{d\Delta\phi} = A \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta\phi - \alpha)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) + C$$

H. Wang, Nucl.Sci.Tech. 30 (2019) 12, 185



- L: Partonic Collision Times $\rightarrow$ Broadening Effect
- R: Changing Cross section $\rightarrow$ Affect Interactions
- Q: Could we apply a better Charm Production? Will there be more “detailed” effects?

Simulation Setup: PYTHIA+AMPT

- Partonic **Production**
- PYTHIA v8.1
- pQCD based on Monte Carlo
- Produce Hadron for AMPT



Hadron

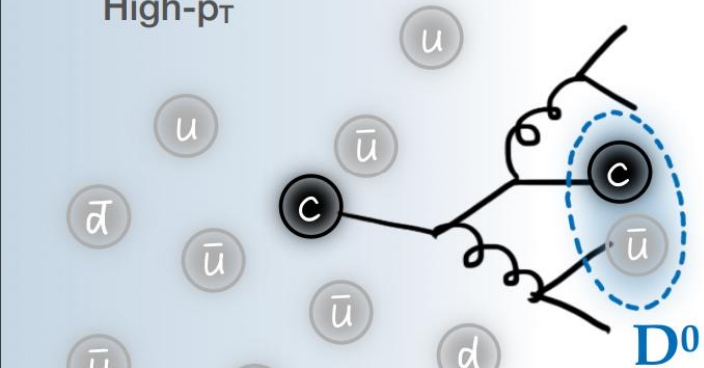
- Partonic **Evolution**
- AMPT v2.26
- Using String-Melting to reconvert Hadrons back to Partons
- Evolve in AMPT

Outstanding
Heavy Quark Production

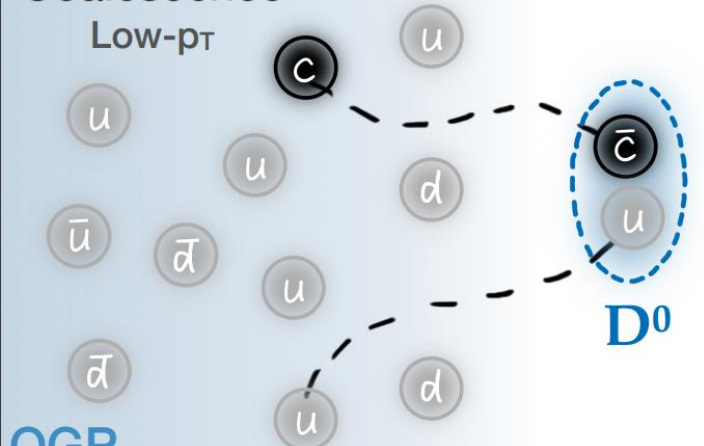
Comprehensive
Partonic Evolution Mechanism

Heavy Flavor Production: **PYTHIA**

Fragmentation
High- p_T



Coalescence
Low- p_T

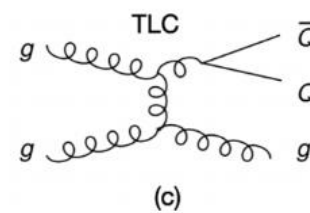
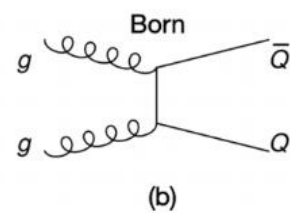
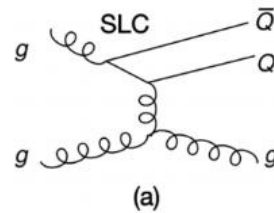


QGP

W. Jing GDRQCD 2024

- HF production from **PYTHIA**:

$$\frac{d\sigma^{Q\bar{Q}}}{dp_T^2 dy_1 dy_2} = K \sum_{a,b} x_1 f_a(x_1, \mu_F^2) x_2 f_b(x_2, \mu_F^2) \frac{d\sigma^{ab \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}}}{d\hat{t}}$$

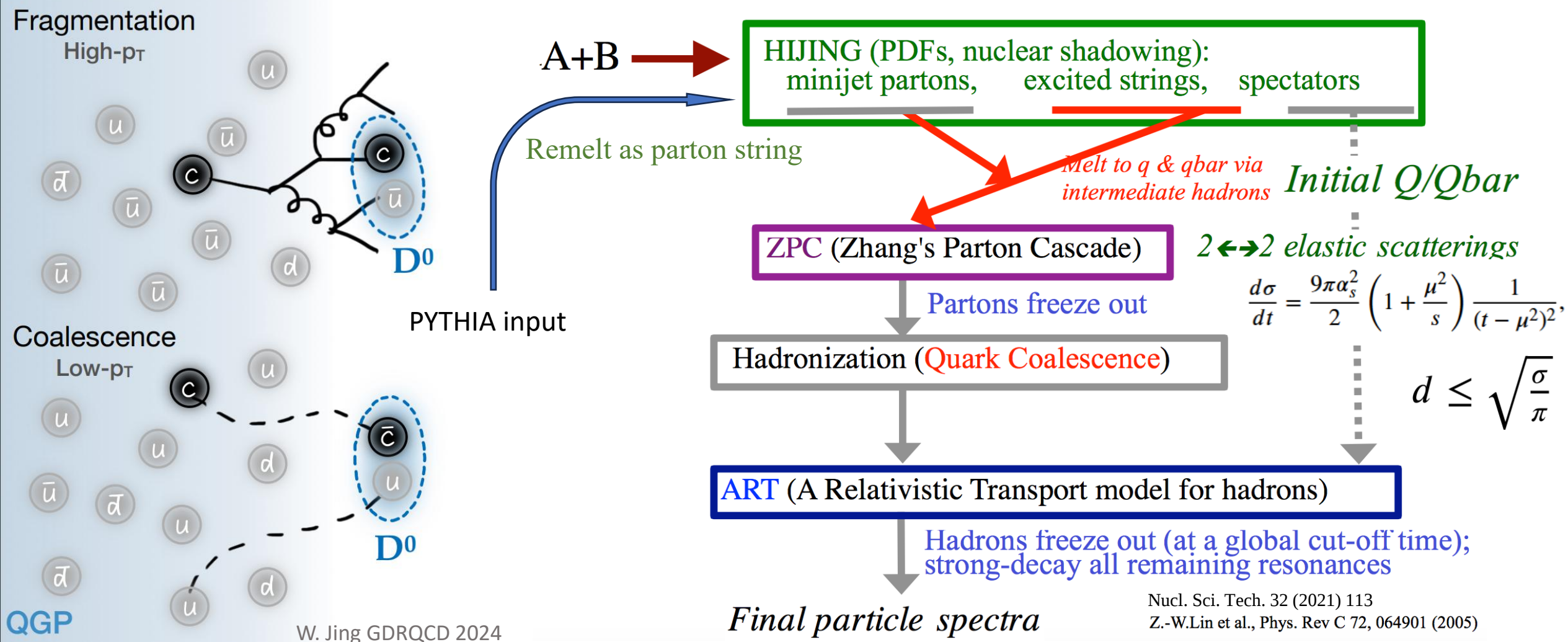


- a) Flavor excitation (NLO process)
- b) Flavor creation (Hard Process)
- c) Gluon splitting (LO process)

$$\begin{aligned} g + g &\rightarrow Q + \bar{Q} \\ q + \bar{q} &\rightarrow Q + \bar{Q} \\ g &\rightarrow Q + \bar{Q} \\ g + Q &\rightarrow g + Q \end{aligned}$$

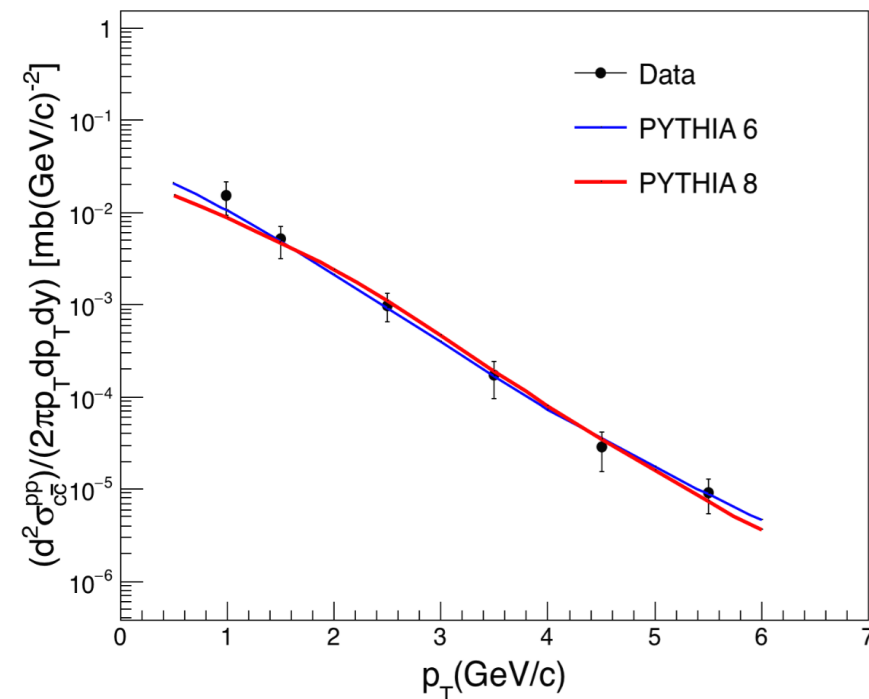
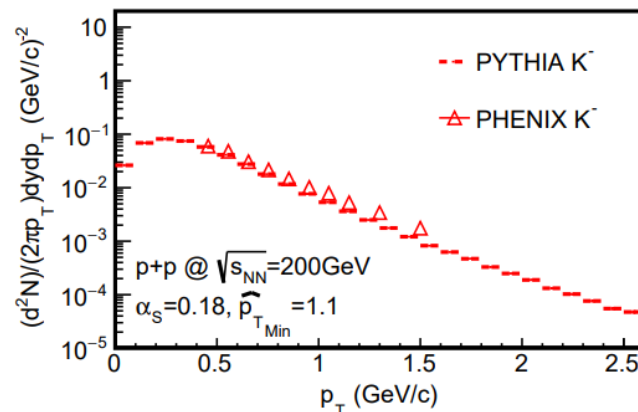
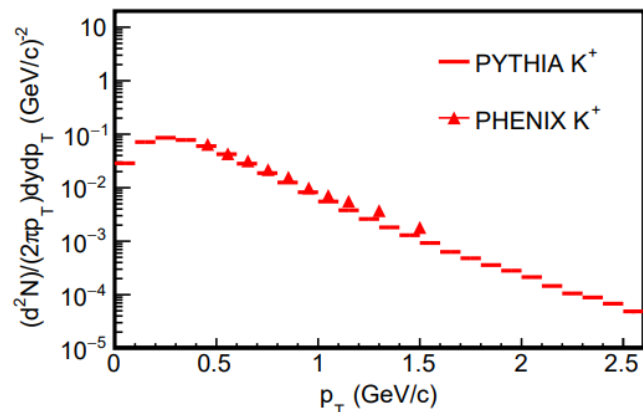
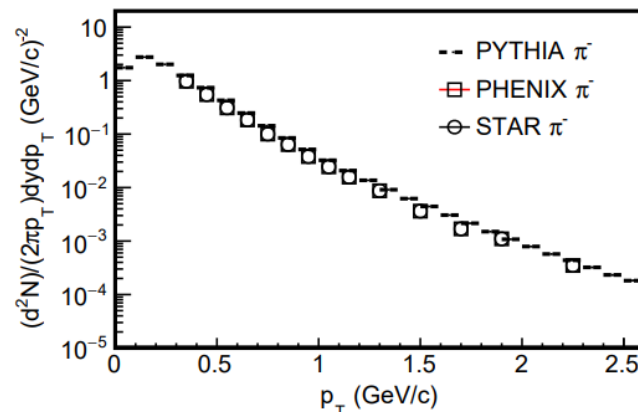
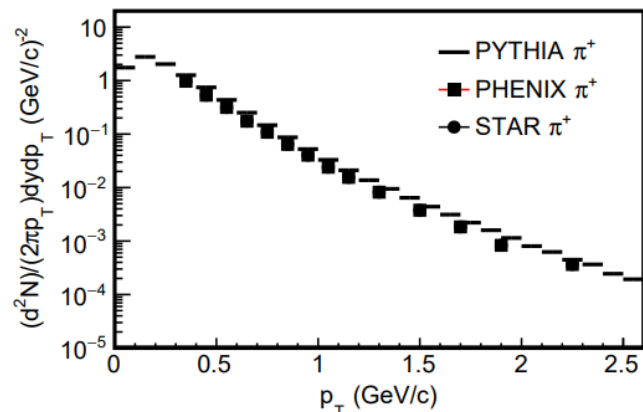
Would be different for
RHIC or LHC energies

String Melting+ **AMPT** : Partonic evolution



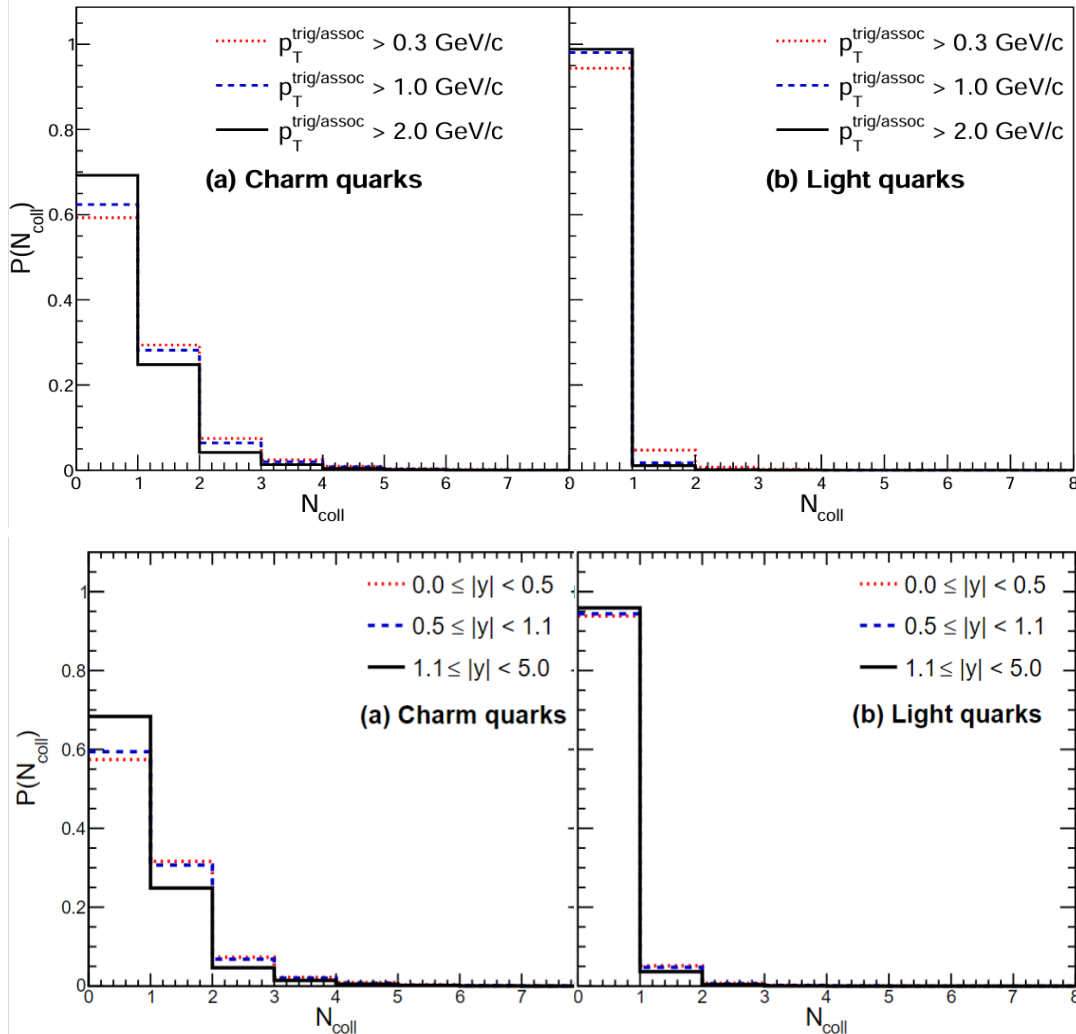
PYTHIA parameters

pp@200 GeV

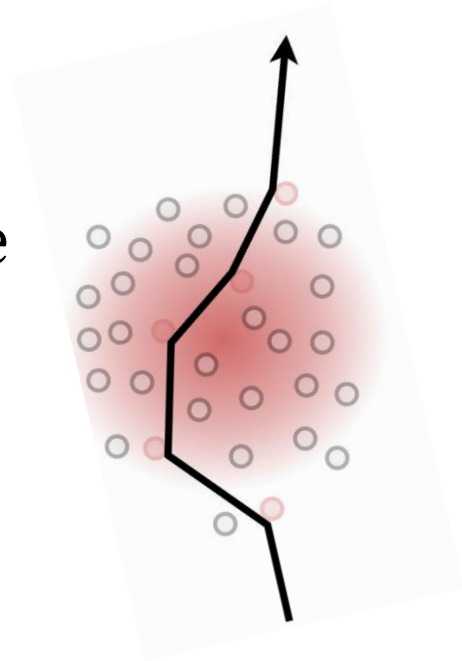


T. Sjöstrand and M. van Zijl, Phys. Rev. D 36, 2019
 STAR Collaboration, Nucl.Phys.A 757 (2005), 102-183
 PHENIX Collaboration, Nucl.Phys.A 757 (2005) 184-283

Collision Times Distribution

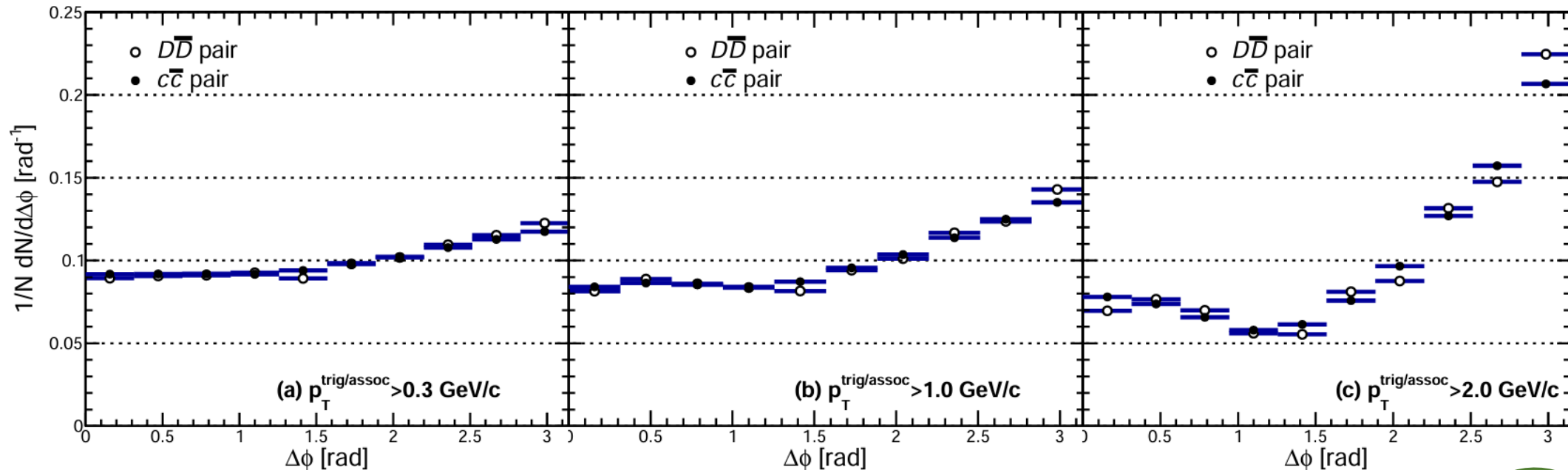


- Trigger by transverse momentum
 - $\rightarrow$ Higher p_T , Less number of collisions
 - $\rightarrow$ Charm suffers more scatterings
 - Mass effect?
- Divide by rapidity
 - Charm **Still** collides more
 - Eg. Zero scatterings (black solid line)
 - $\rightarrow$ ~60% of charm quarks
 - $\rightarrow$ >90% of light quarks

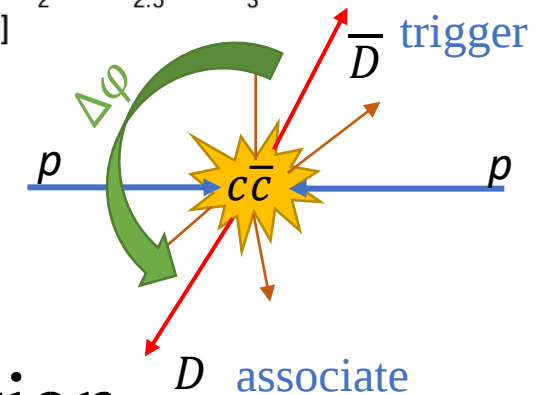


Angular Correlation of HF

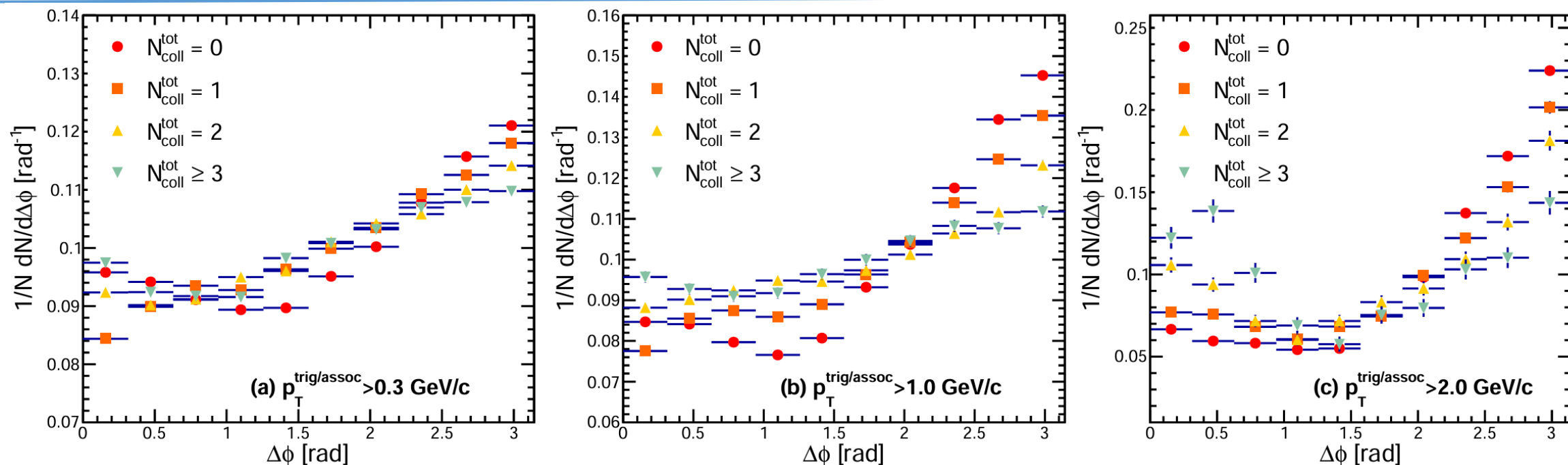
$pp@200$ GeV



- Trigger dependence:
 - As p_T trigger grows, NS lower and FS higher
 - A Near-Side peak appears at a high p_T trigger
- Hadronization $\rightarrow$ Limited Modifications on correlation

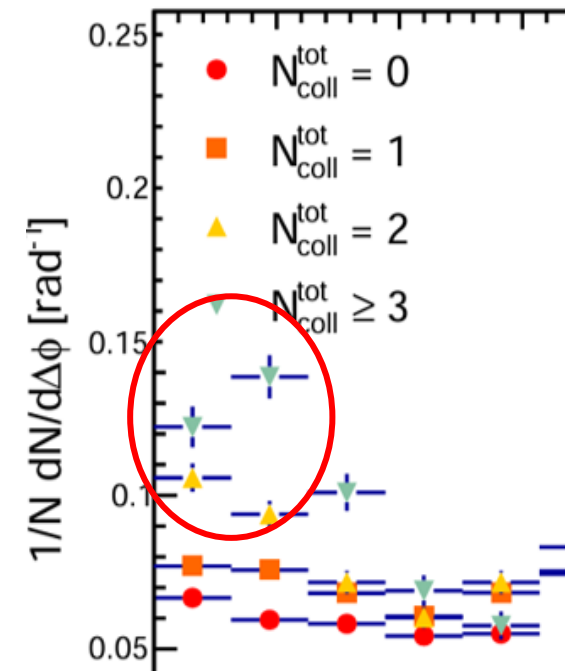
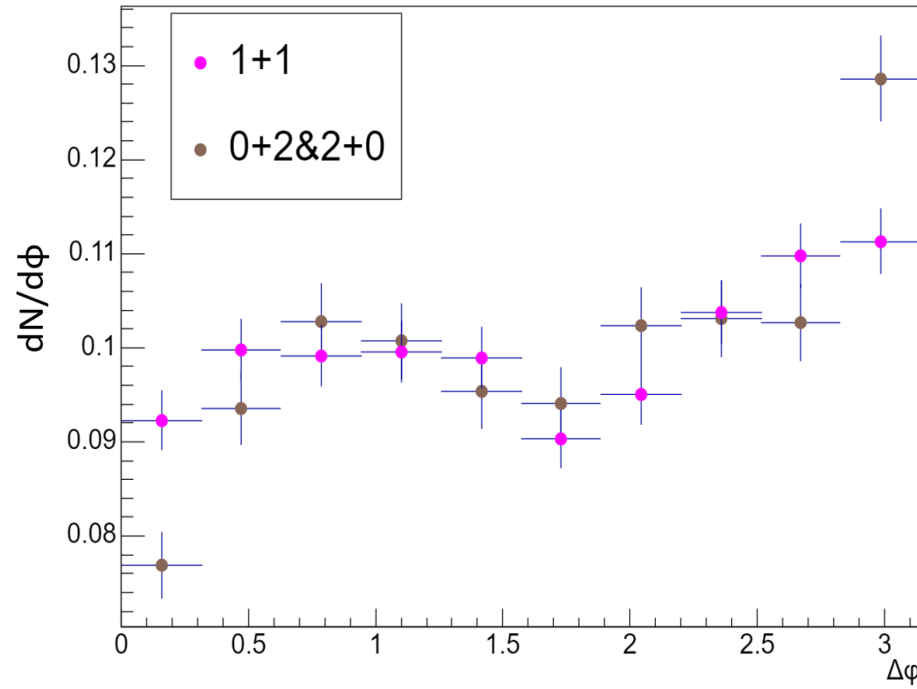
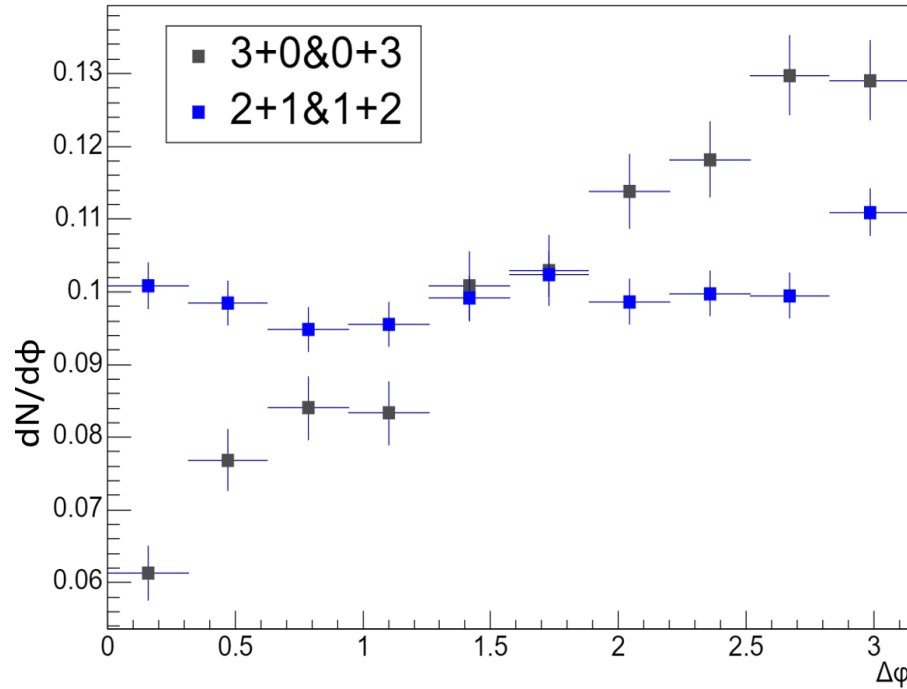
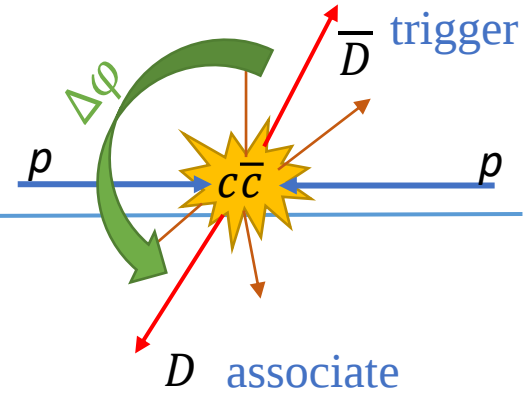


Angular Correlation: $N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{tot}}$ Collision Times



- Far Side (Right, $\Delta\phi \sim \pi$)
 - FS **Drops** as $N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{total}}$ grows
 - $\rightarrow$ broadening effect
 - Similar trend for different p_T range
- Near Side (Left, $\Delta\phi \sim 0$)
 - NS **Grows** as $N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{total}}$ grows
 - Prerequisite: Already Collides ($\neq 0$)
 - Non-Monotonic:
 - **Without Scatterings** $\rightarrow$ **With Scatterings**

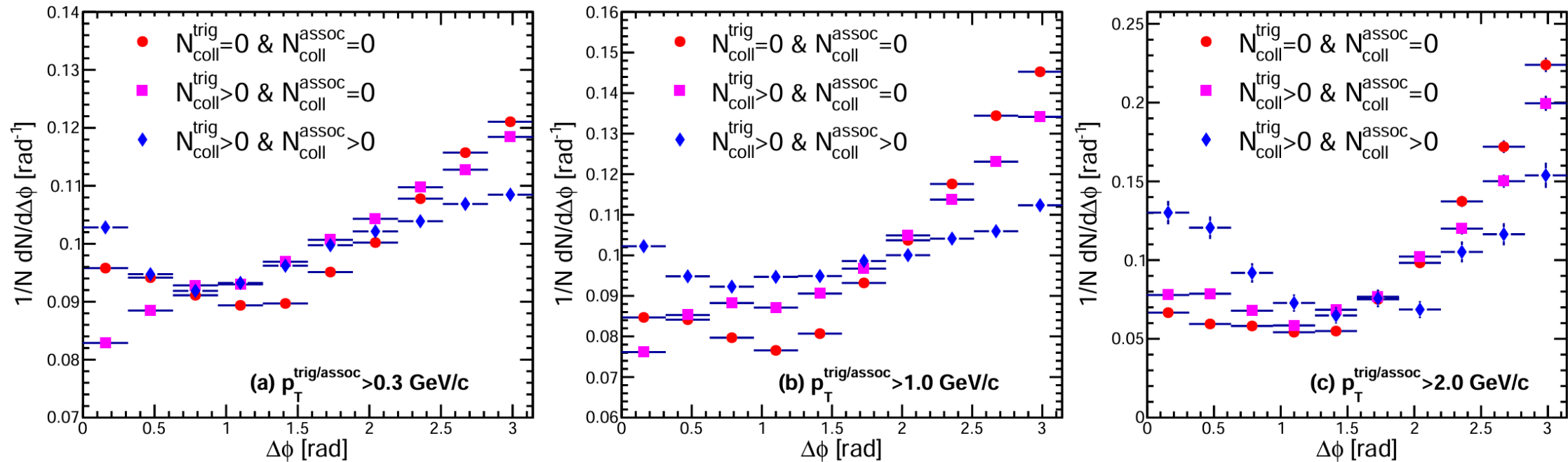
Understanding $N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{tot}}$



- $N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{total}} = N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{trig}} + N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{assoc}}$
- The shape is not only affected from **total collision times** alone
- But also **whether** it has collide, especially on Near-Side

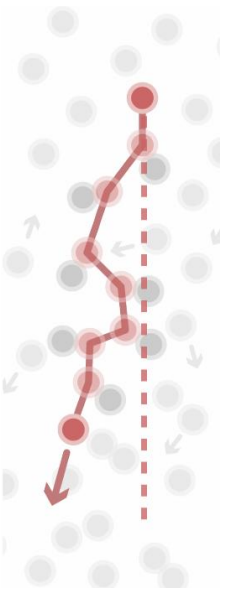
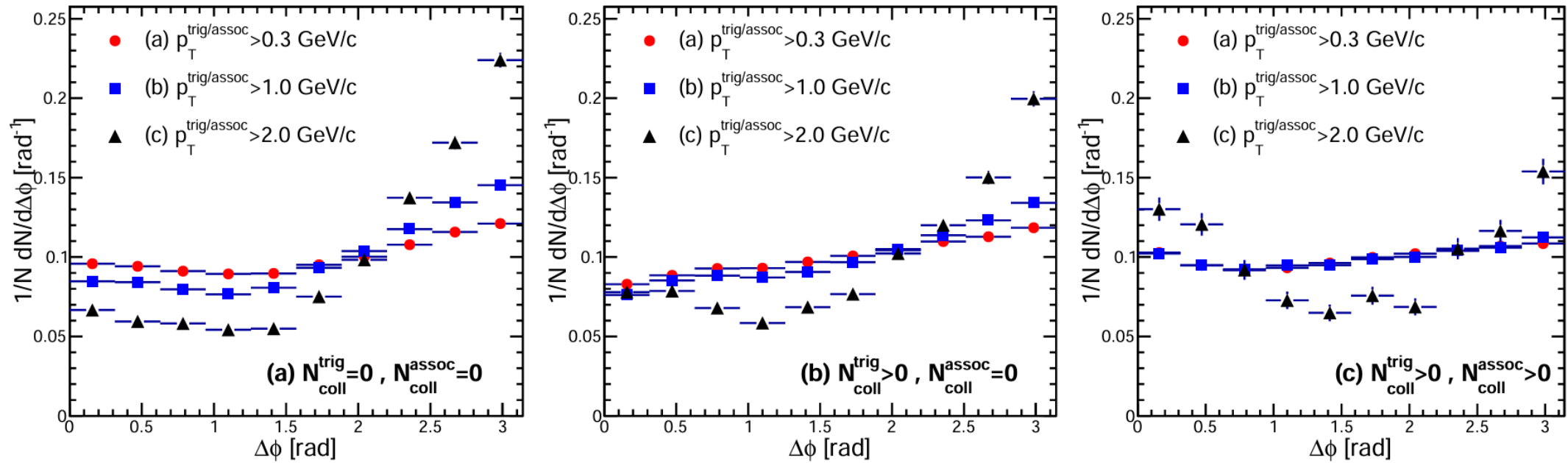
Competition under high collision times

Angular Correlation: Collide-or-Not



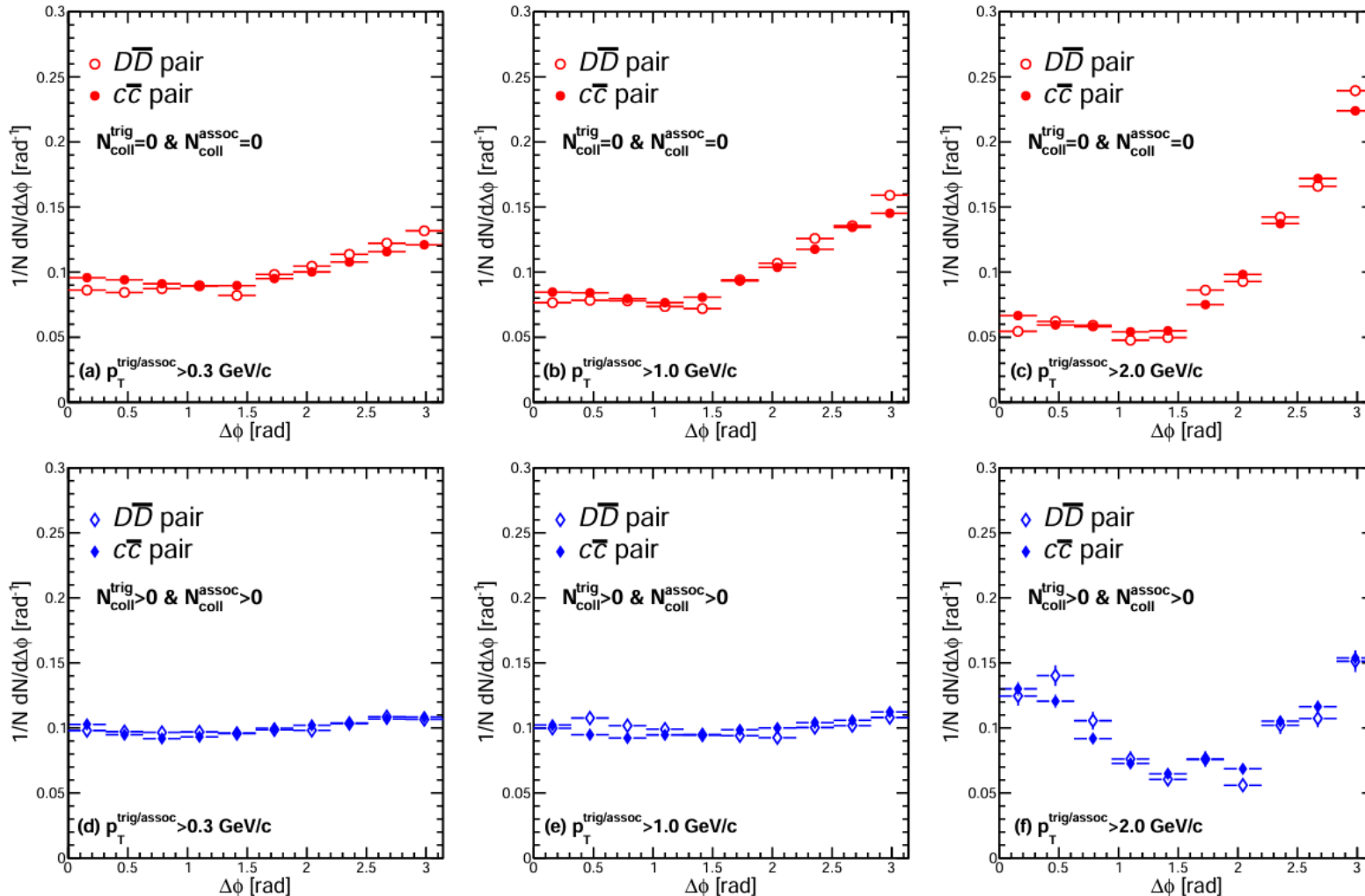
- Present a **clearer** pattern
- Far side resembles $N_{\text{coll}}^{\text{total}} \rightarrow$ Signal **drops** as N_{coll} grows $\rightarrow$ broadening
- **Both Collides** $\rightarrow$ NS and FS are similar $\rightarrow$ Weak Initial Contribution

Angular Correlation from p_T dependence



- **L: Zero Scattering**, clear p_T separation
- **M: Non-zero Scattering (one side)**, p_T separates weaker, prominent at FS
- **R: Non-zero Scattering (both sides)**, $> 0.3, 1 \text{ GeV/c}$ identical, correlation is mainly contributed from $> 2 \text{ GeV/c}$

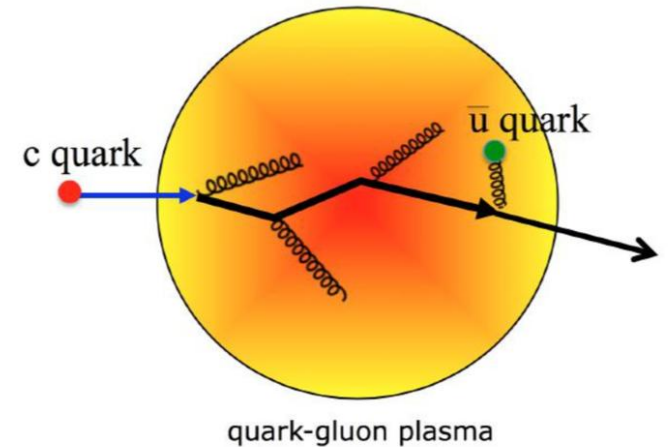
Hadronization Effect ($c \rightarrow D$)



- Above: Zero Scatterings
- Max diff between c and D at Near Side
 - $\rightarrow$ Closer angle leads to coalescence J/ψ ?
 - $\rightarrow$ Need more model study
- Below: Both Scatterings
- The correlation of c and D become closer
- Experimentally,
- $D\bar{D}$ can be used to approximate $c\bar{c}$

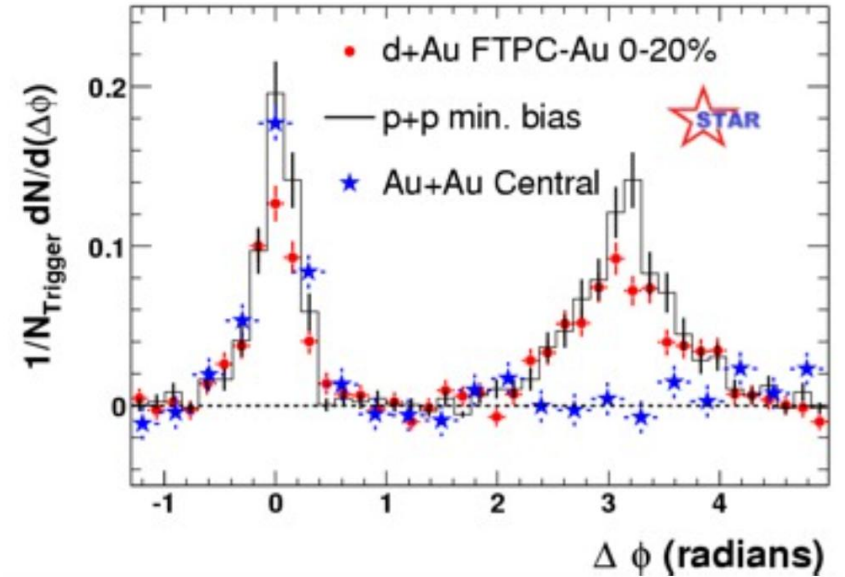
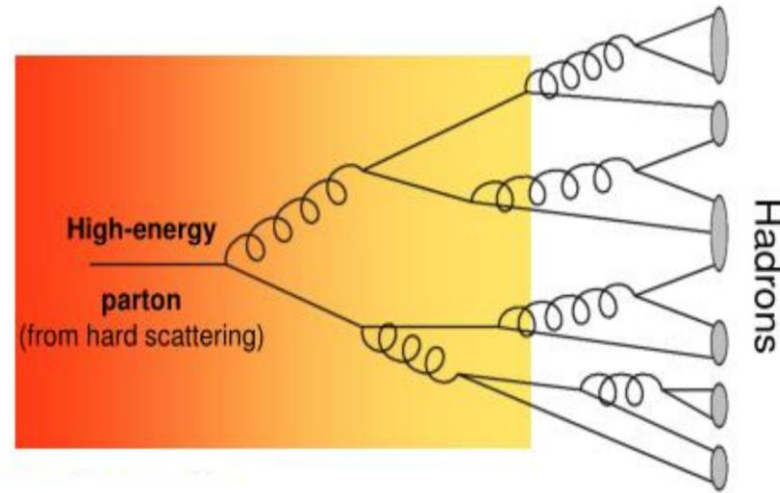
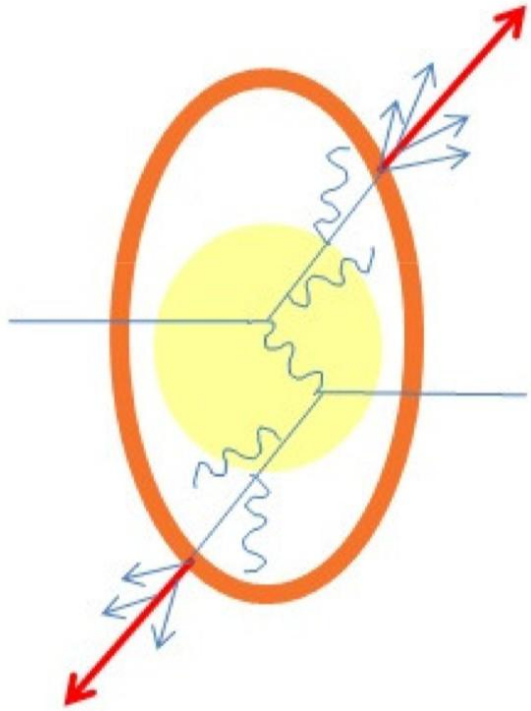
Summary

- An innovative framework combining **AMPT** with **PYTHIA** input
 - exploit the advantages of both in studying partonic evolution
- Categorized charm quark interactions from the perspective of **elastic scattering**
- Challenged the conventional assumption
 - that the correlation depends solely on **the total number of collisions**,
- But also *whether* a scattering occurred may be a more informative classification criterion
- Input from experiment (**sPHENIX**)
 - Semi-leptonic decay from $D \rightarrow e + \nu + X$ to start with
 - Using D - e correlations
- Different Energy/System $\rightarrow$ Flow effect?
 - pA: pQCD and fragmentation; AA: medium effect



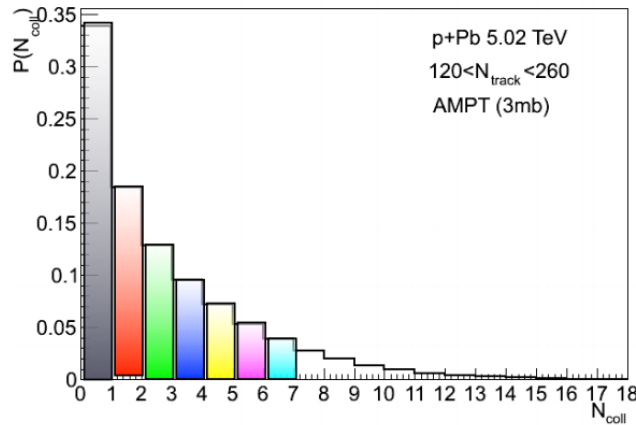
Backup Pages

Motivation: Partonic interaction

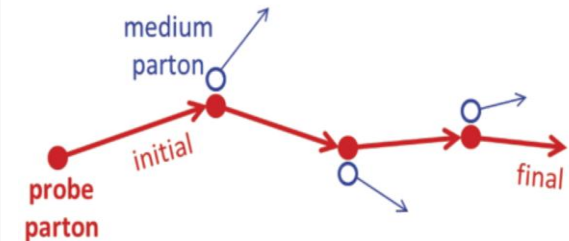
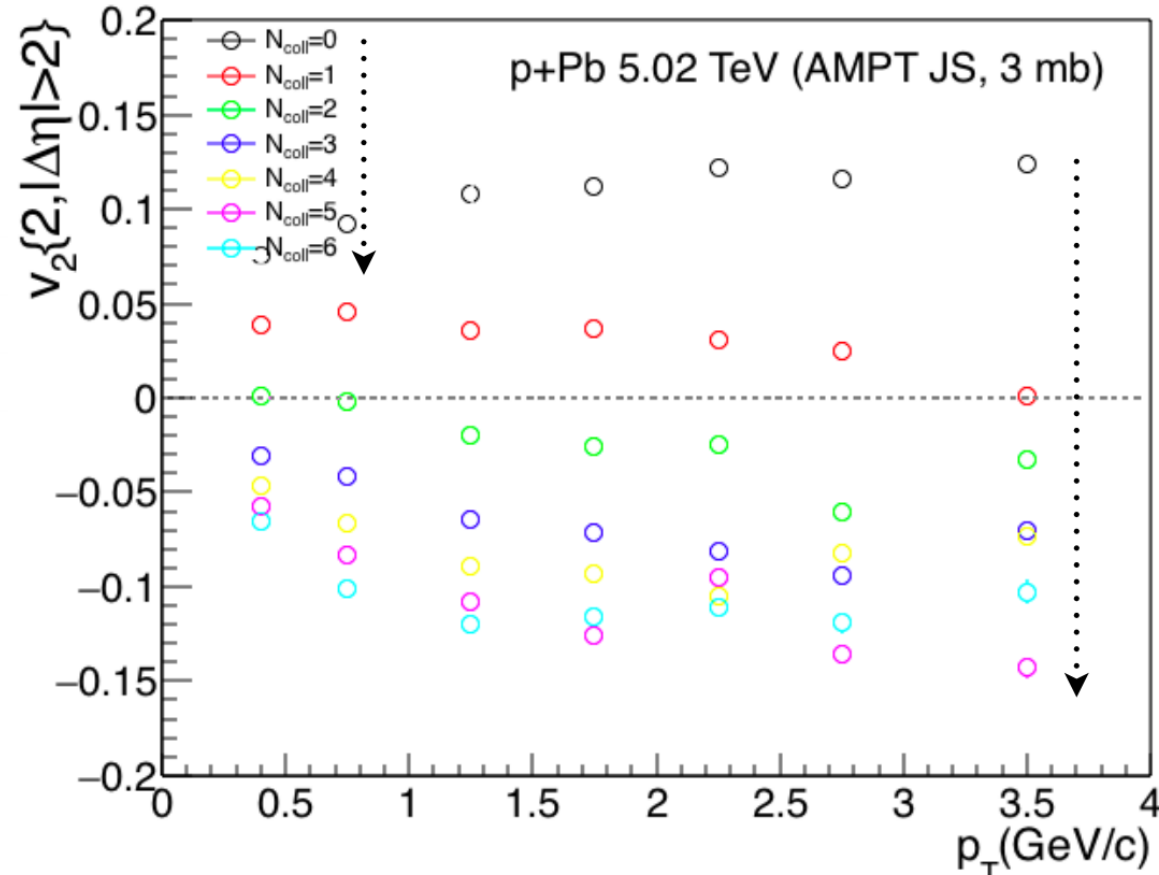


- Dihadron azimuthal correlation → probes medium effect
- Energy loss inside medium → partonic interaction

Motivation: Partonic interaction



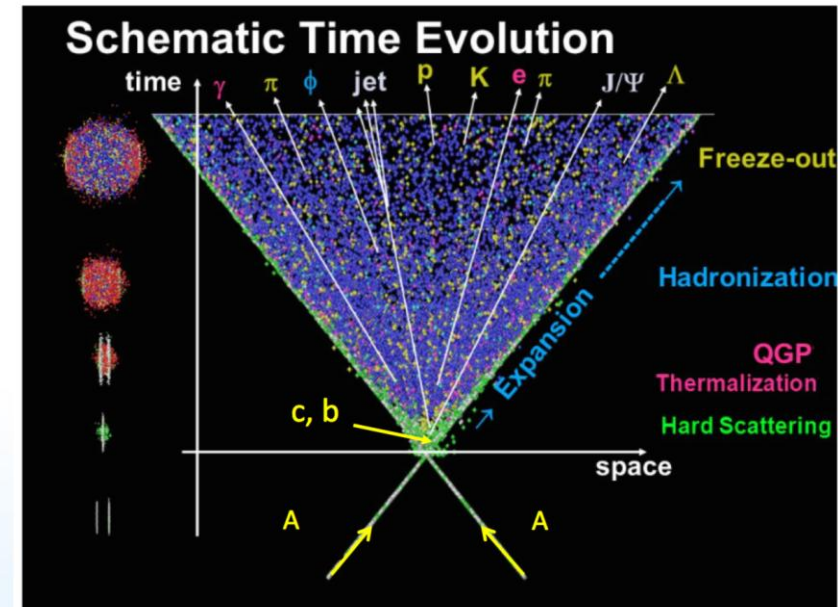
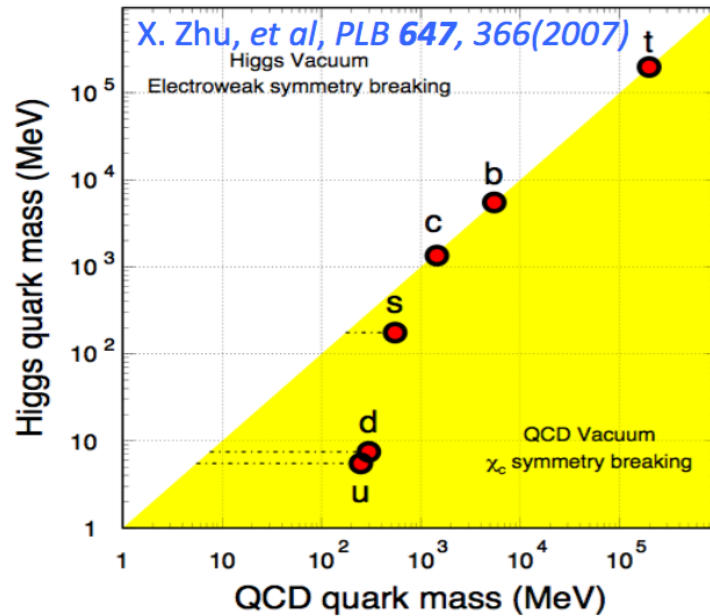
$$\begin{aligned} \text{partons} = & \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=0} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=1} \\ & + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=2} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=3} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=4} \\ & + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=5} + \boxed{N_{\text{coll}}=6} + \dots \end{aligned}$$



- In the initial state, v_2 (small N_{coll}) > 0 and v_2 (large N_{coll}) < 0 since the average v_2 must be zero.

Guo-Liang Ma, Adam Bzdak, Nucl. Phys. A 956, 745–748

Motivation: Heavy flavor as a Probe



- Heavy quark produced in initial hard process $\Rightarrow$ sensitive to the initial gluon density and distribution (pp/pA/AA)
- Couple differently with the medium than light quarks $\Rightarrow$ reveal critical features of the medium (G. Greco, QM2017)

Summary

- Summary:

- Combining pythia and AMPT offers an excellent way to probe partonic effects
- Hadronization contributes considerably in charm correlation
- Charm quark pairs can be categorized differently correspond to different physics

- Outlook:

- Different energies with various system size(pp, pA, AA)
 - Testing pQCD and fragmentation
- By comparing data with the model, we may able to quantify the initial partonic effect
- sPHENIX experiment will explore the correalation further

