

ALICE

# Measurement of the inelastic cross sections of antinuclei with ALICE and implications for indirect Dark Matter searches

Stephan Koenigstorfer on behalf of the ALICE Collaboration  
Technische Universität München

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PANIC 2021

22nd edition

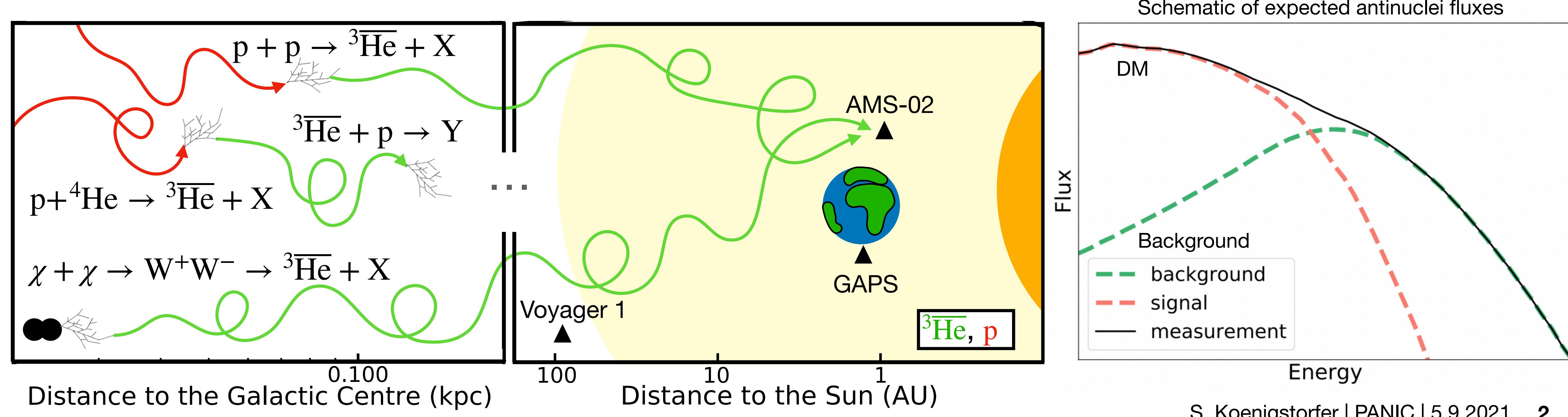
# PANIC Lisbon Portugal

Particles and Nuclei International Conference

# Introduction

Cosmic ray antinuclei - unique Dark Matter probe

- Low background from high energy collisions of cosmic rays with the interstellar medium is expected
- Need to determine exact primary and secondary fluxes, which requires precise knowledge of antinuclei production, propagation and annihilation. **This needs to be studied with experiments near earth!**



# The ALICE experiment at CERN

General-purpose experiment at the Large Hadron Collider

- Excellent **tracking and particle identification (PID)** capabilities
- Most suitable detector at the LHC to measure (anti)nuclei production.

Inner Tracking System (ITS)

- Tracking, vertex, PID,  $(dE/dx)$

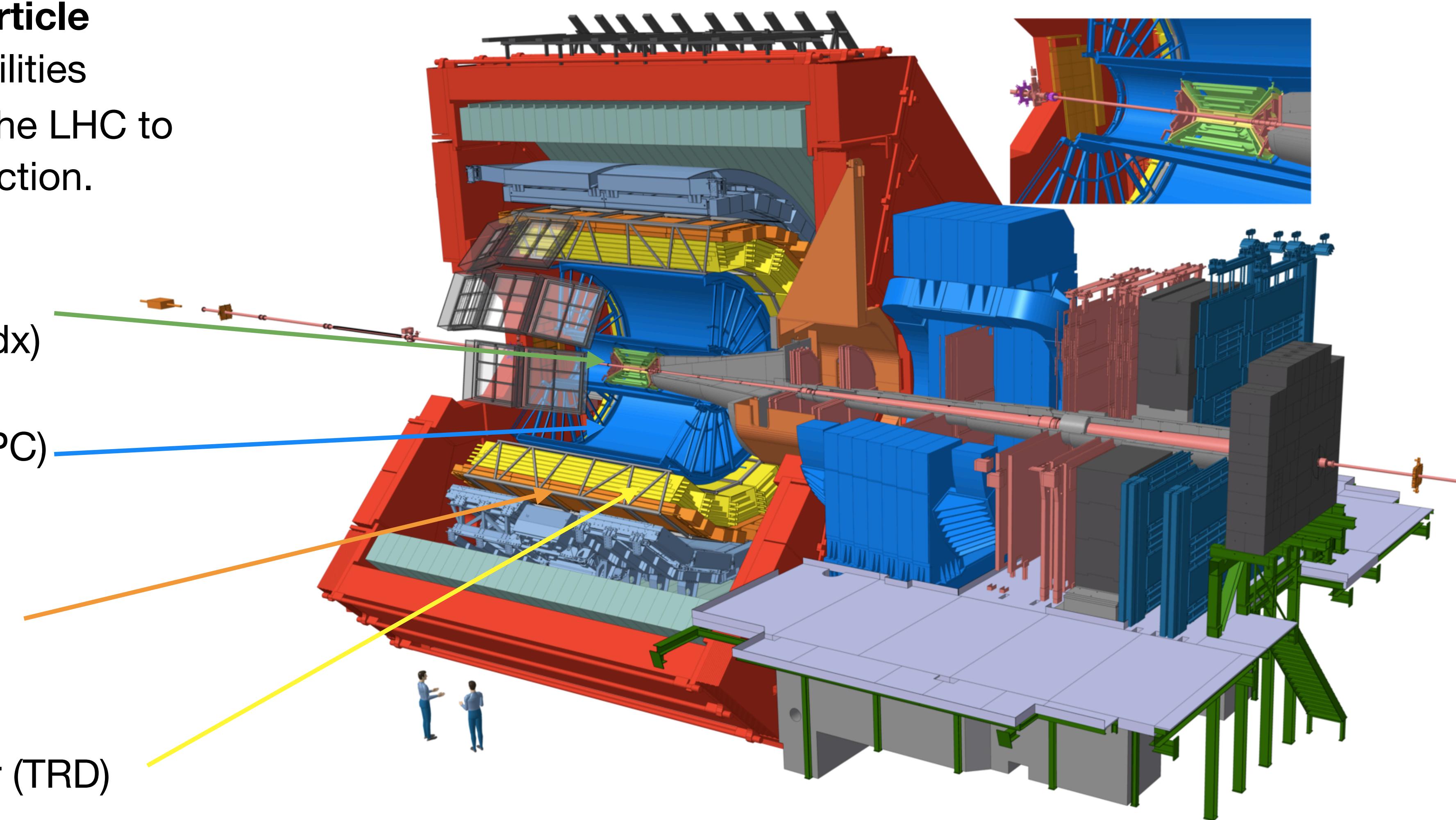
Time Projection Chamber (TPC)

- Tracking, PID  $(dE/dx)$

Time of Flight detector (TOF)

- PID (TOF measurement)

Transition Radiation Detector (TRD)



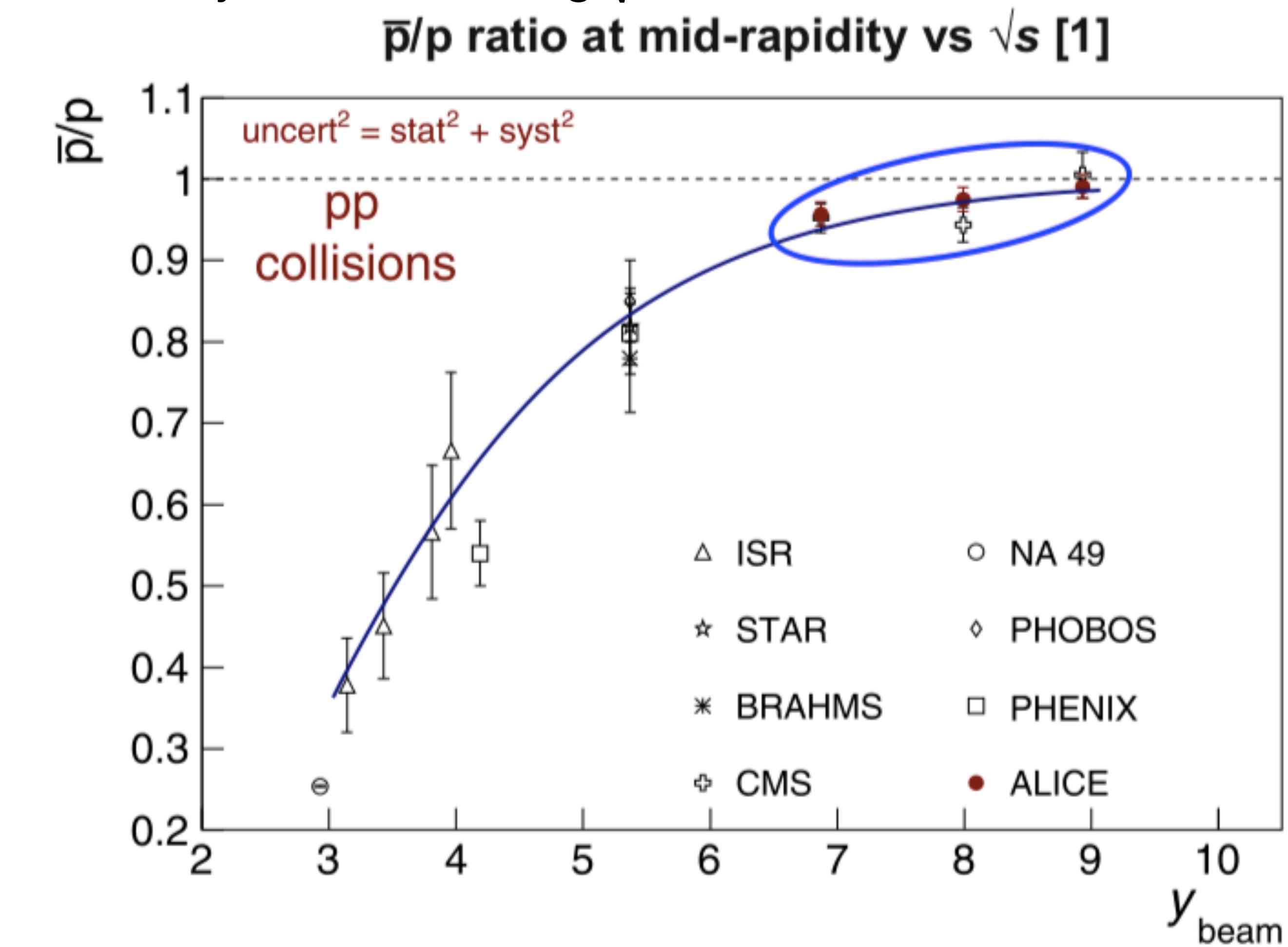
# Use the LHC as an antimatter factory...

At LHC energies, particles and antiparticles are produced in almost equal amounts in mid-rapidity.

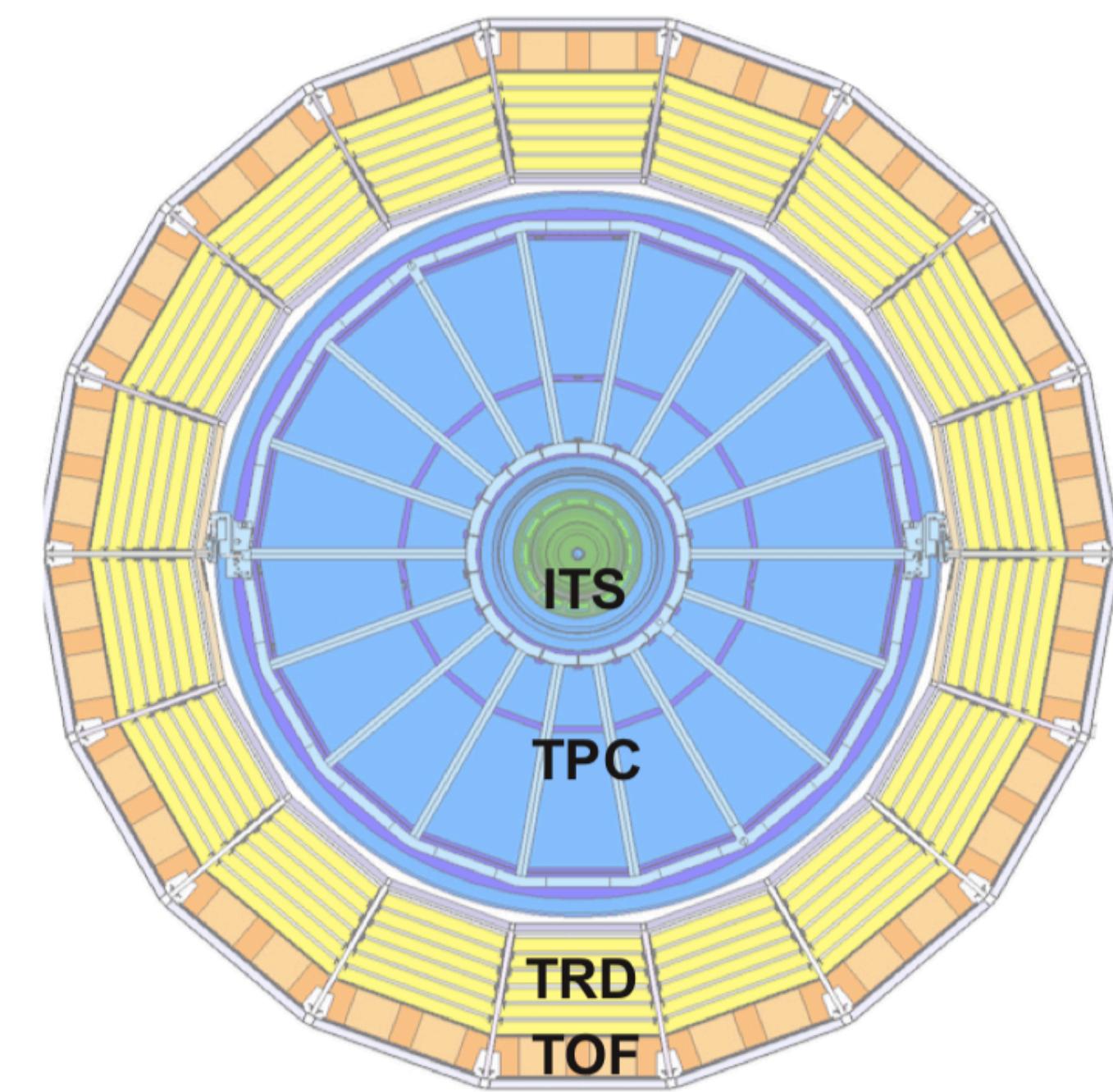
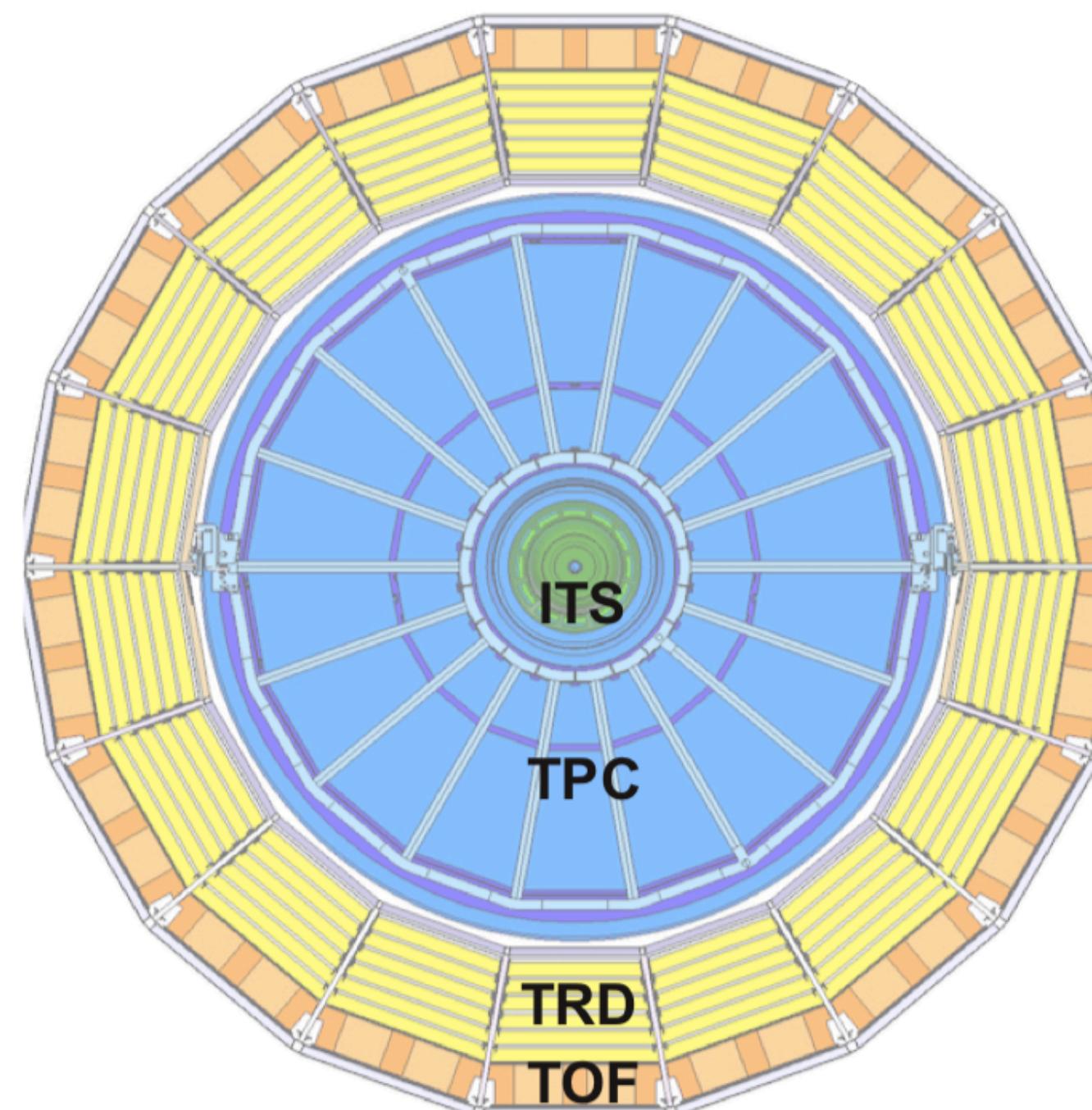
- Primordial antimatter-to-matter ratio approaches unity with increasing  $\sqrt{s}$

This talk contains results from:

- High multiplicity pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ .
- Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$ .
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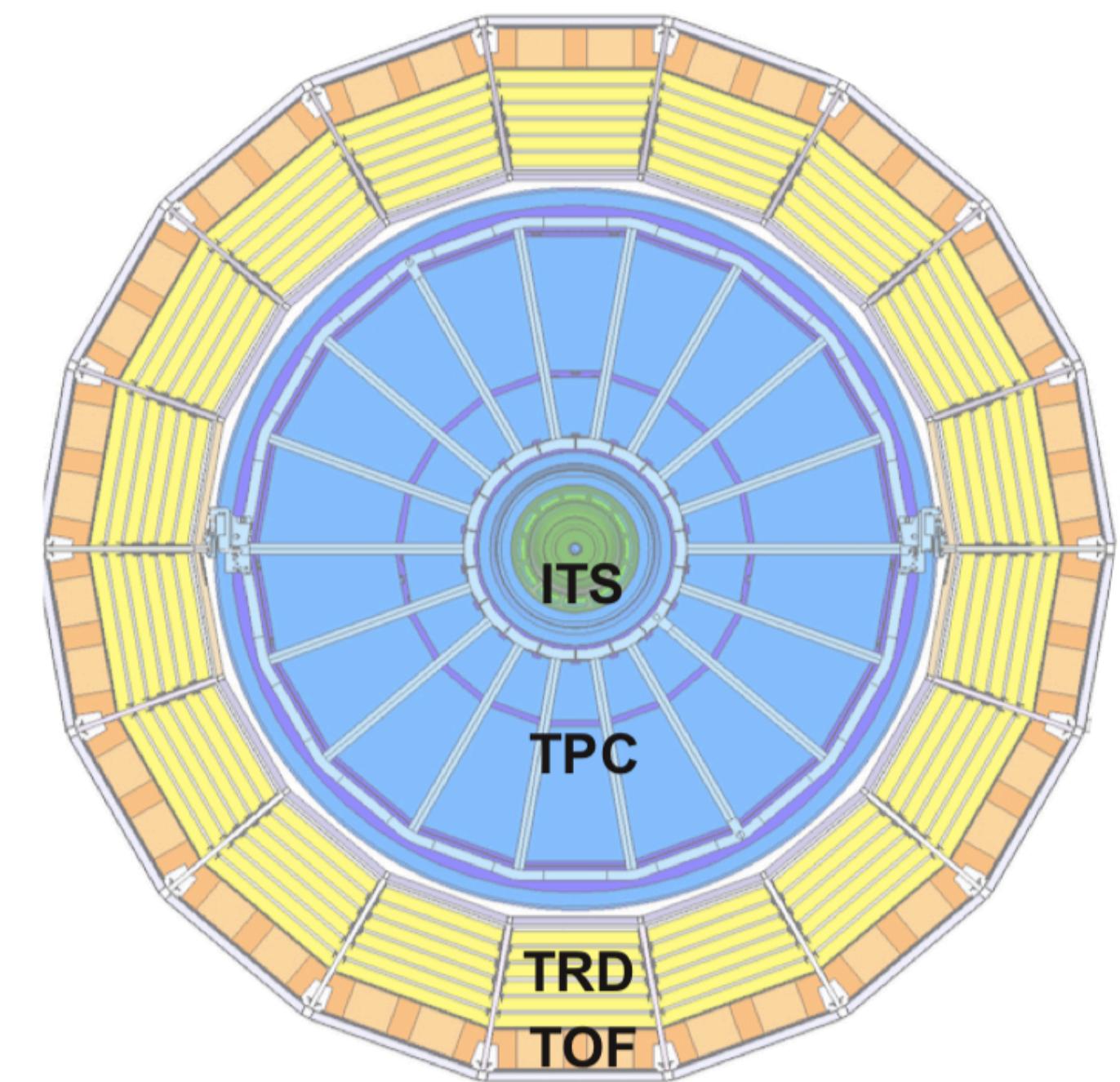
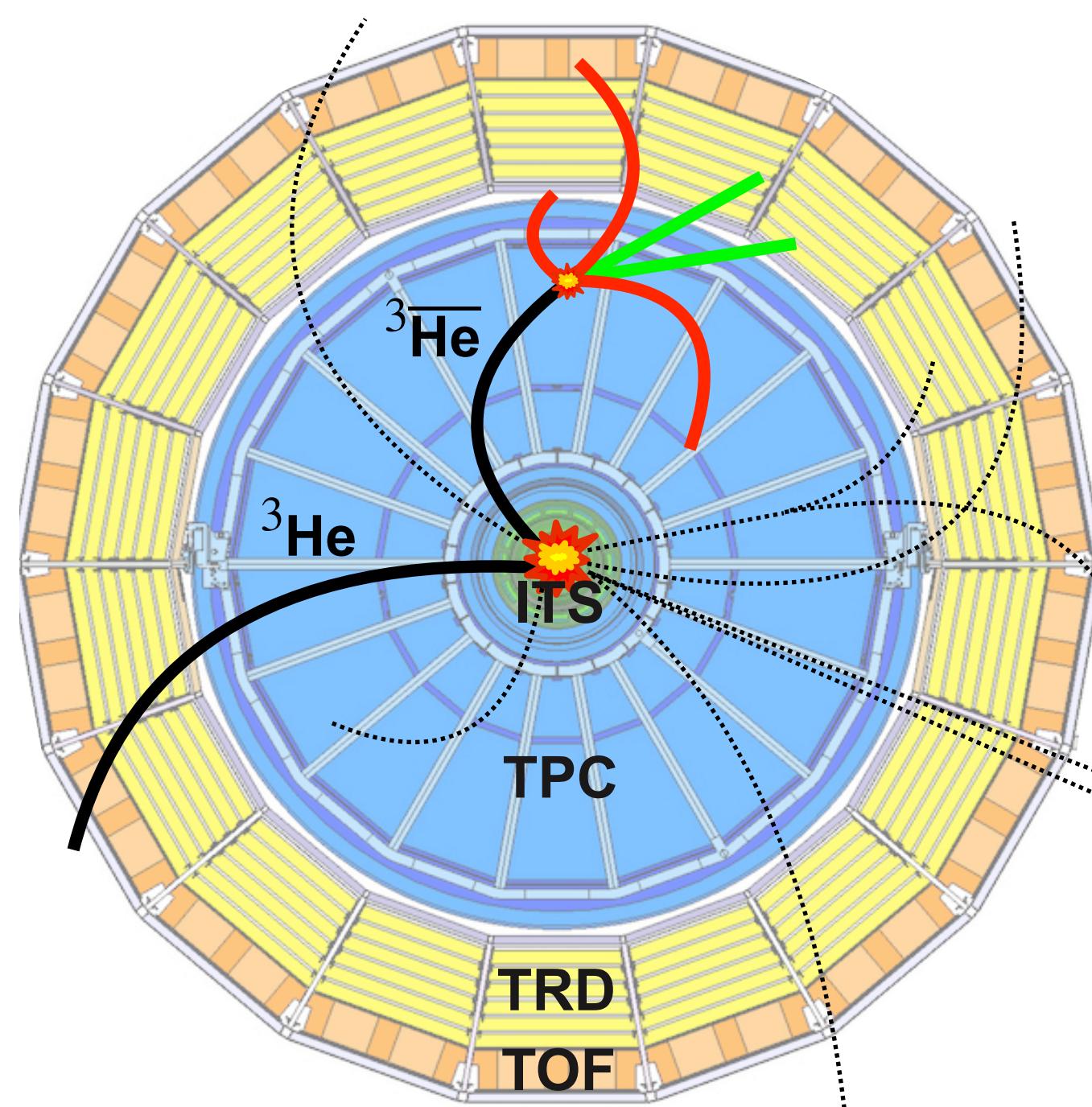
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## Antimatter-to-matter ratio [1] (pp 13 TeV)

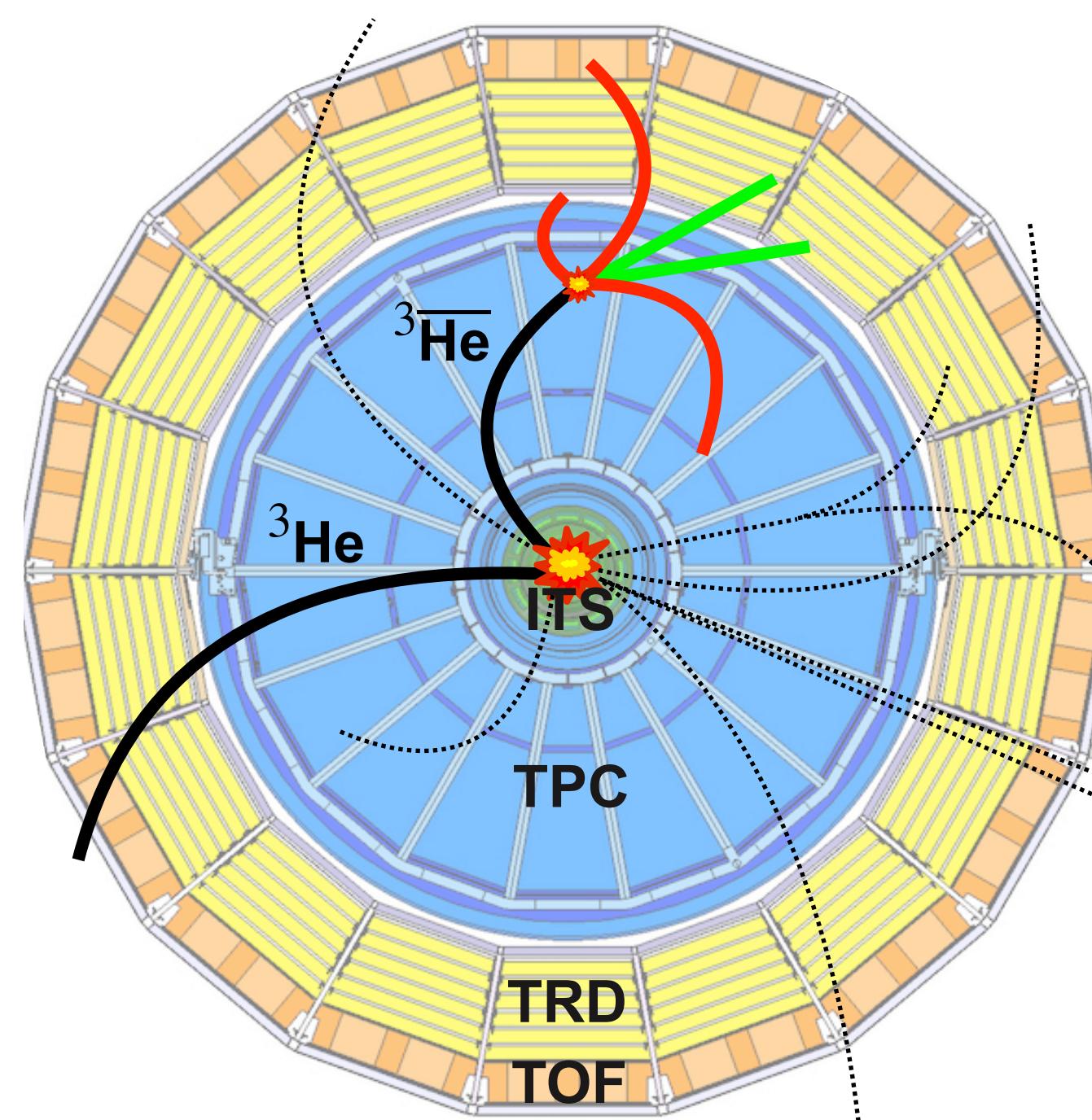
- Measure reconstructed  $^3\overline{\text{He}}/^3\text{He}$  and compare with MC simulations.



# ... and the ALICE detector material as a target

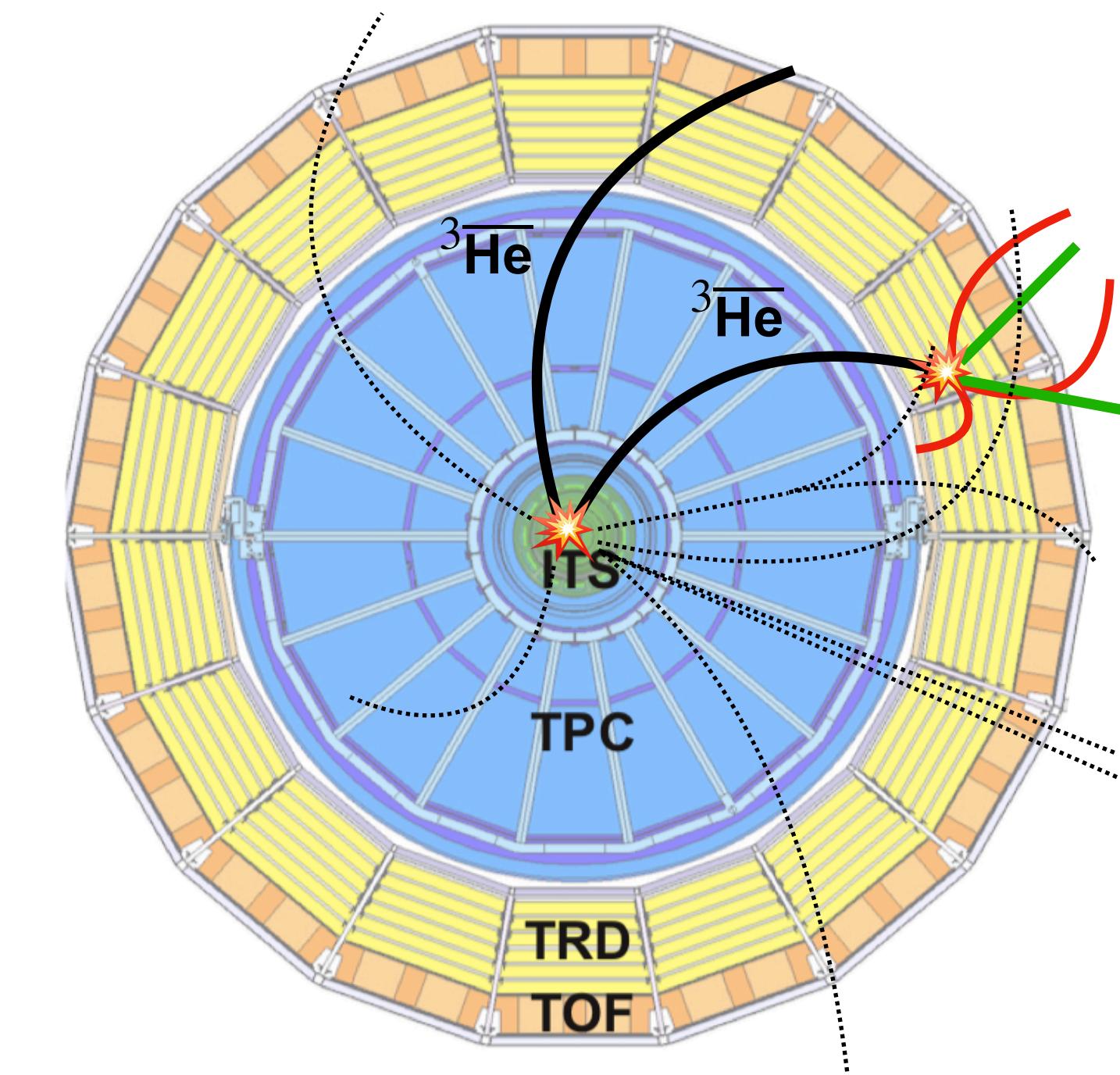
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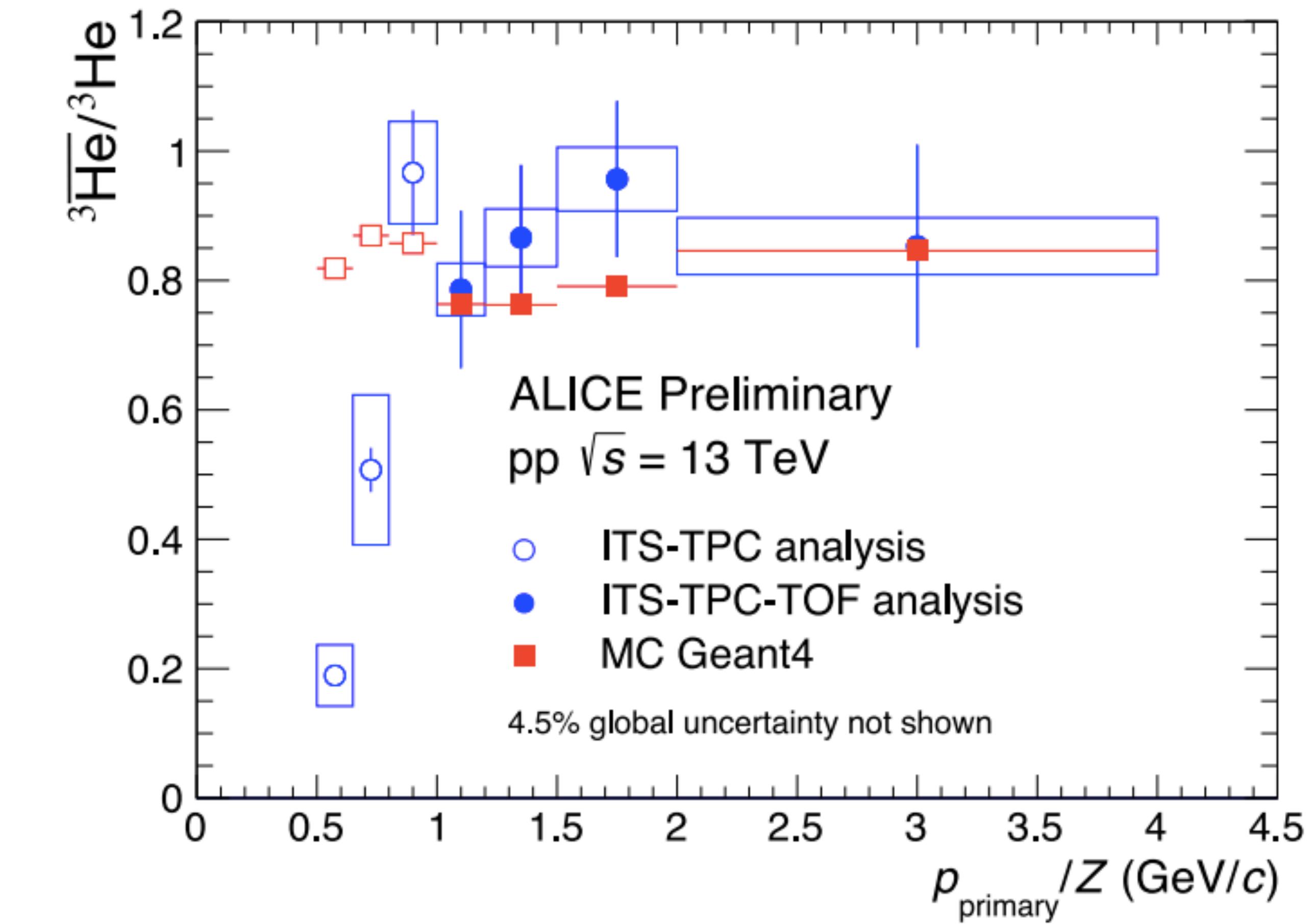


## TOF-TPC-matching (Pb—Pb 5.02 TeV)

- Measure reconstructed  ${}^3\text{He}_{\text{TOF}}/{}^3\text{He}_{\text{TPC}}$  and compare with MC simulations.

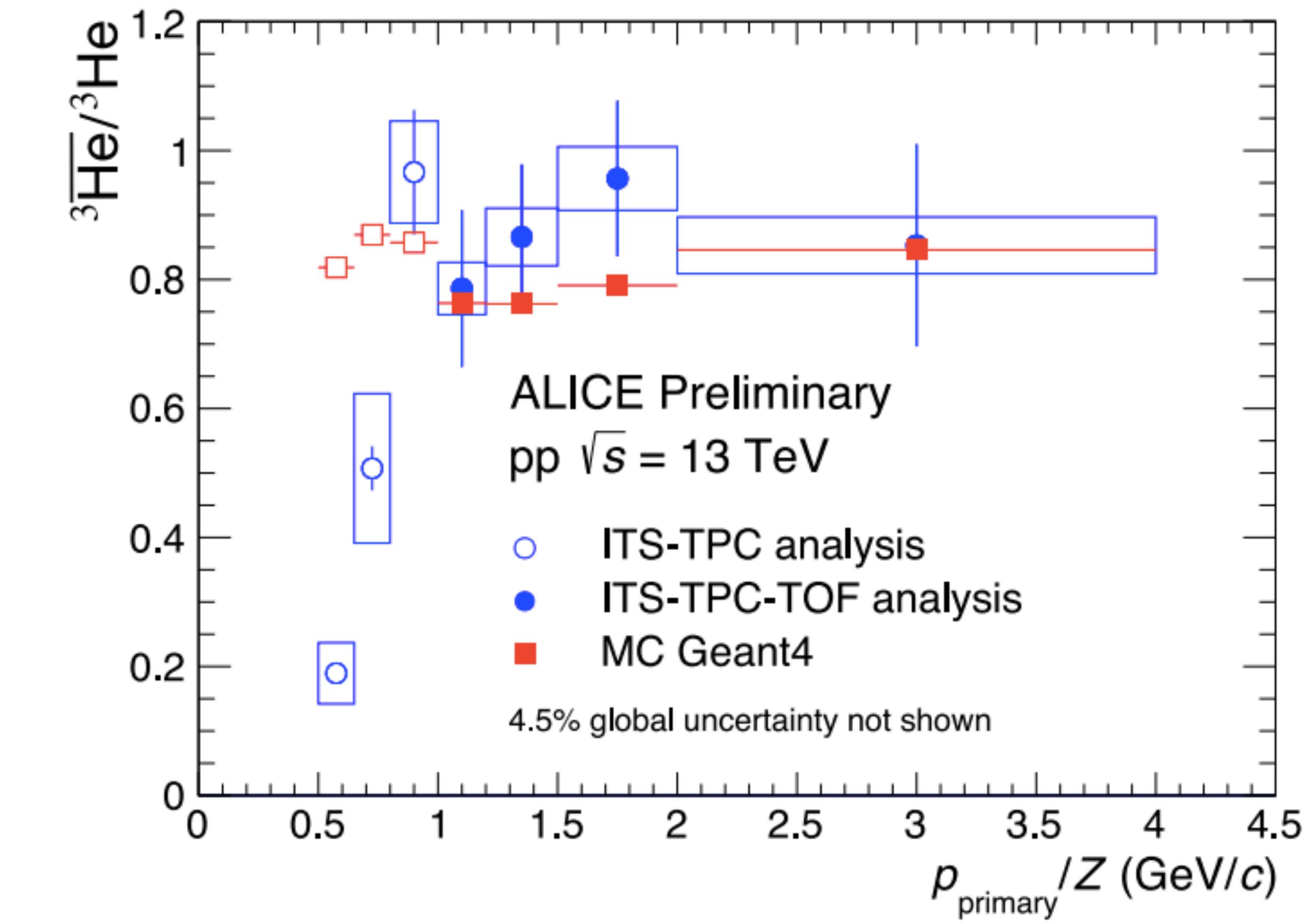


# Extracting $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$ from data and Monte Carlo



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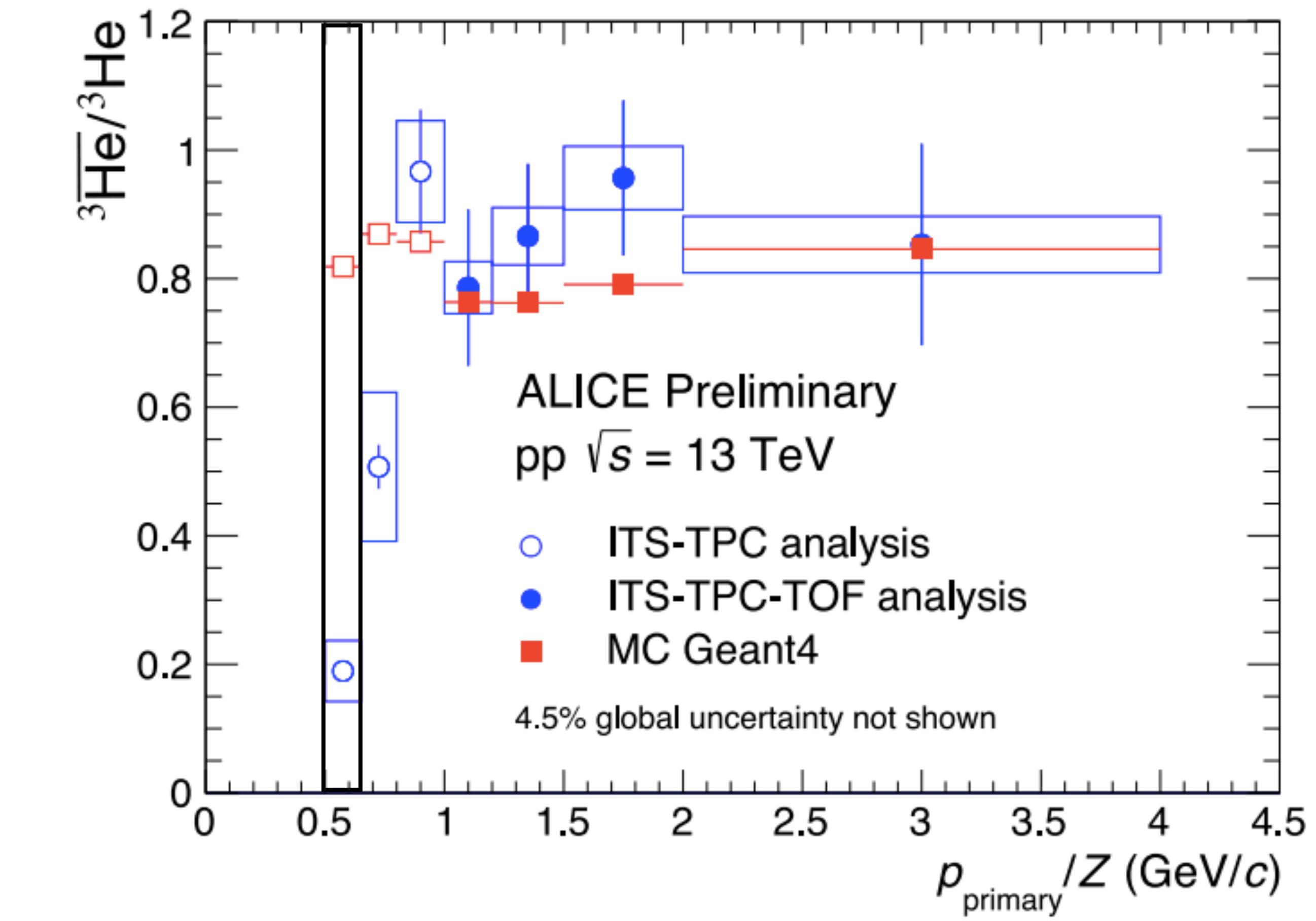
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- MC points are fit with an exponential, according to the Lambert-Beer law:

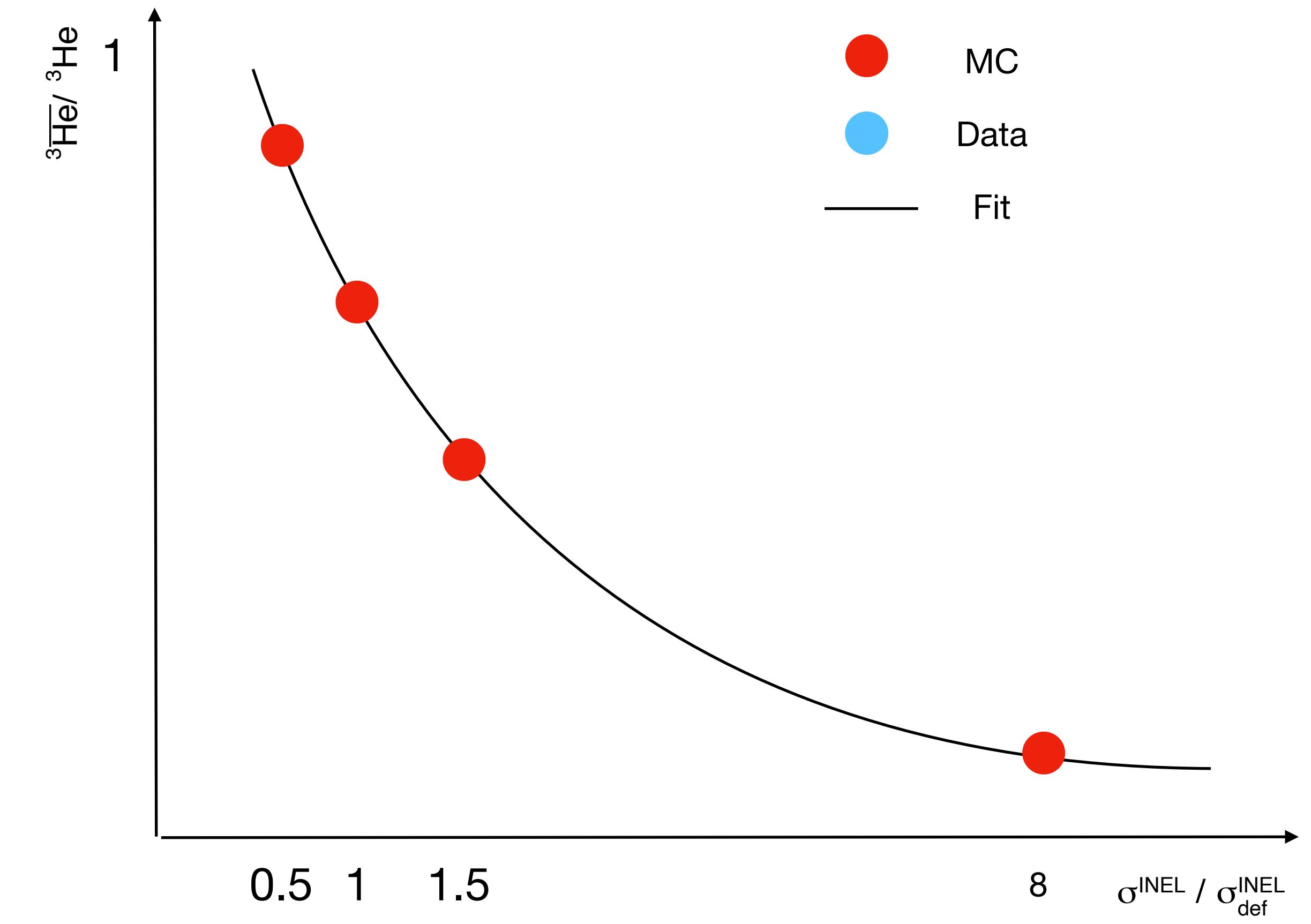
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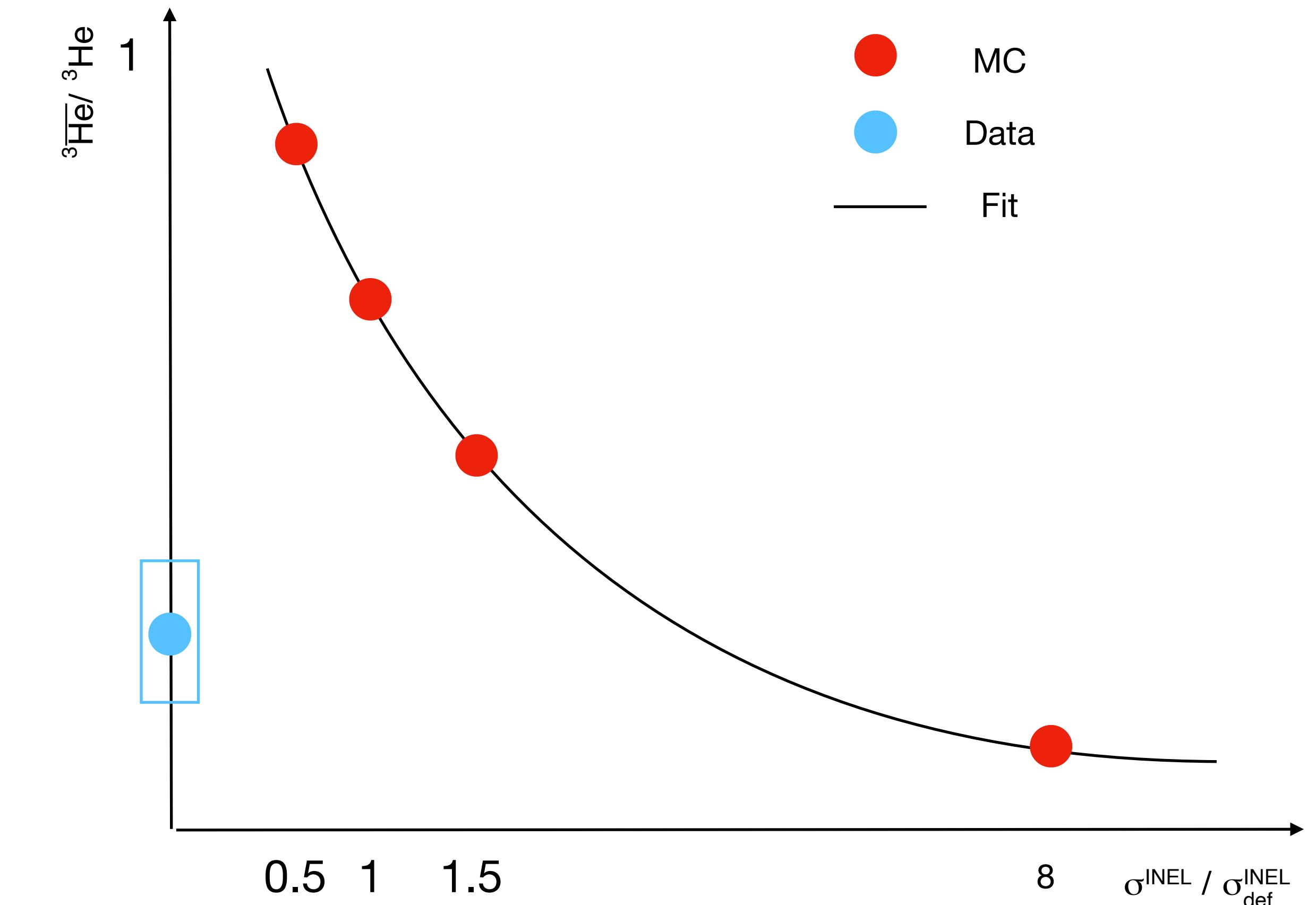


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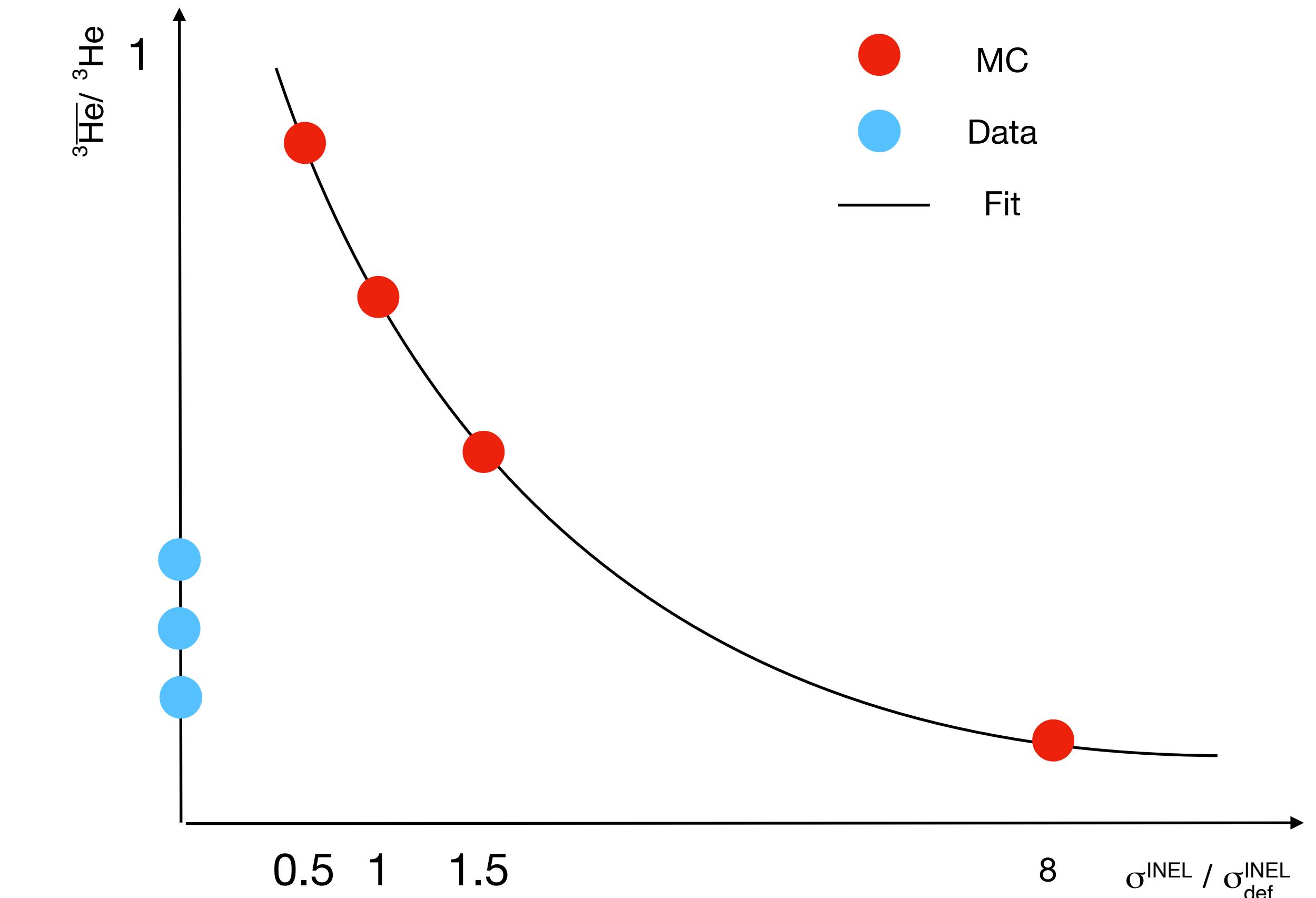


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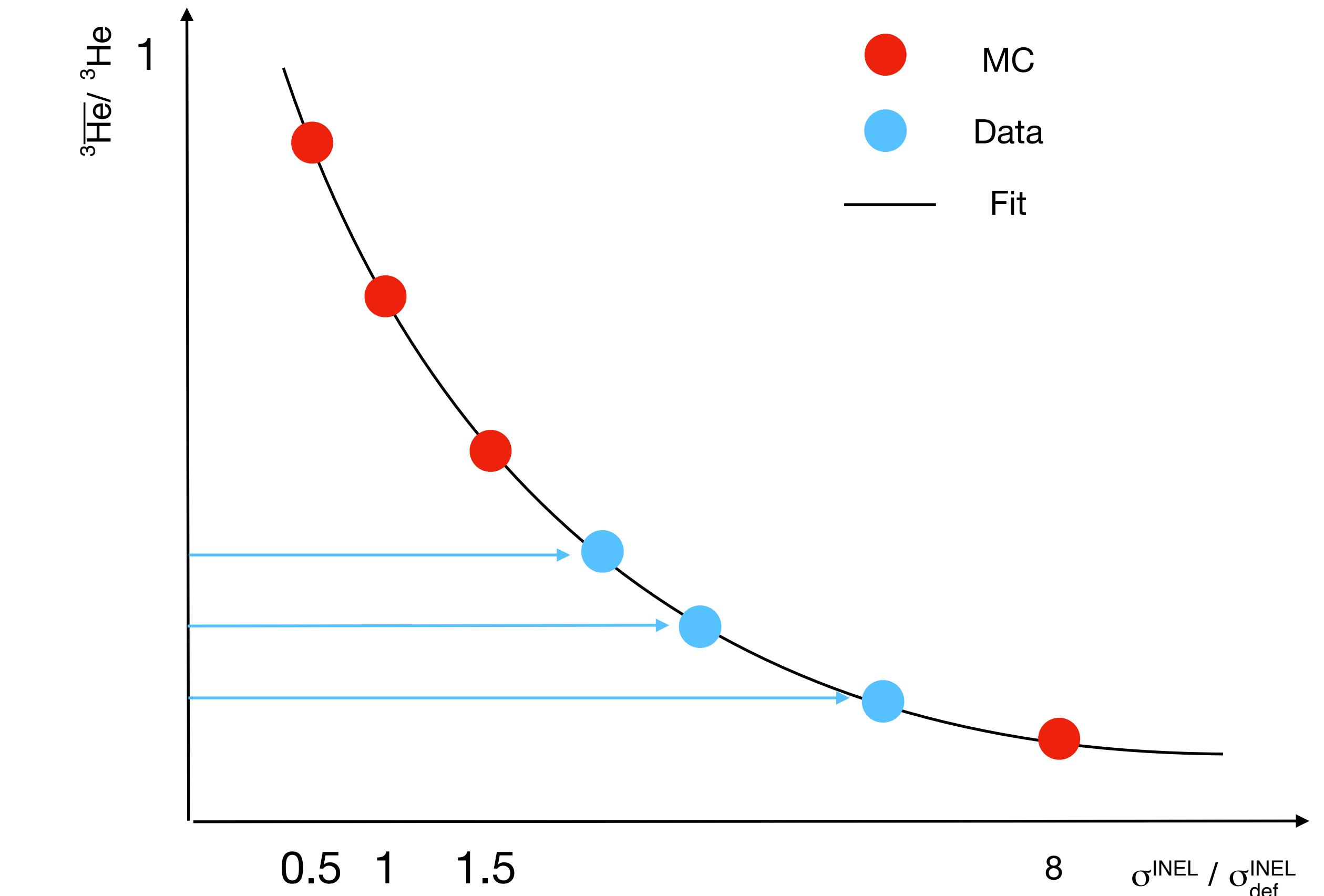


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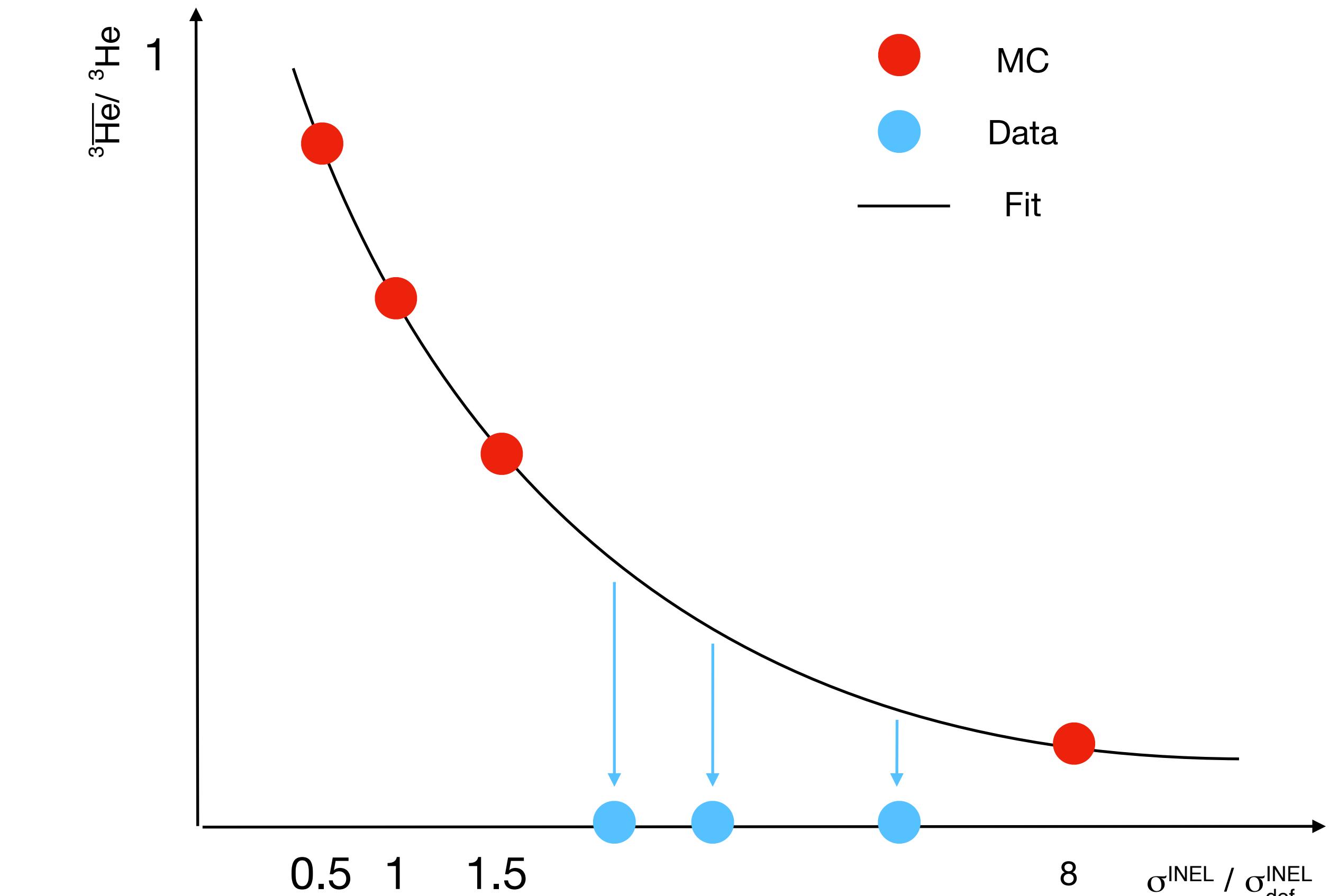


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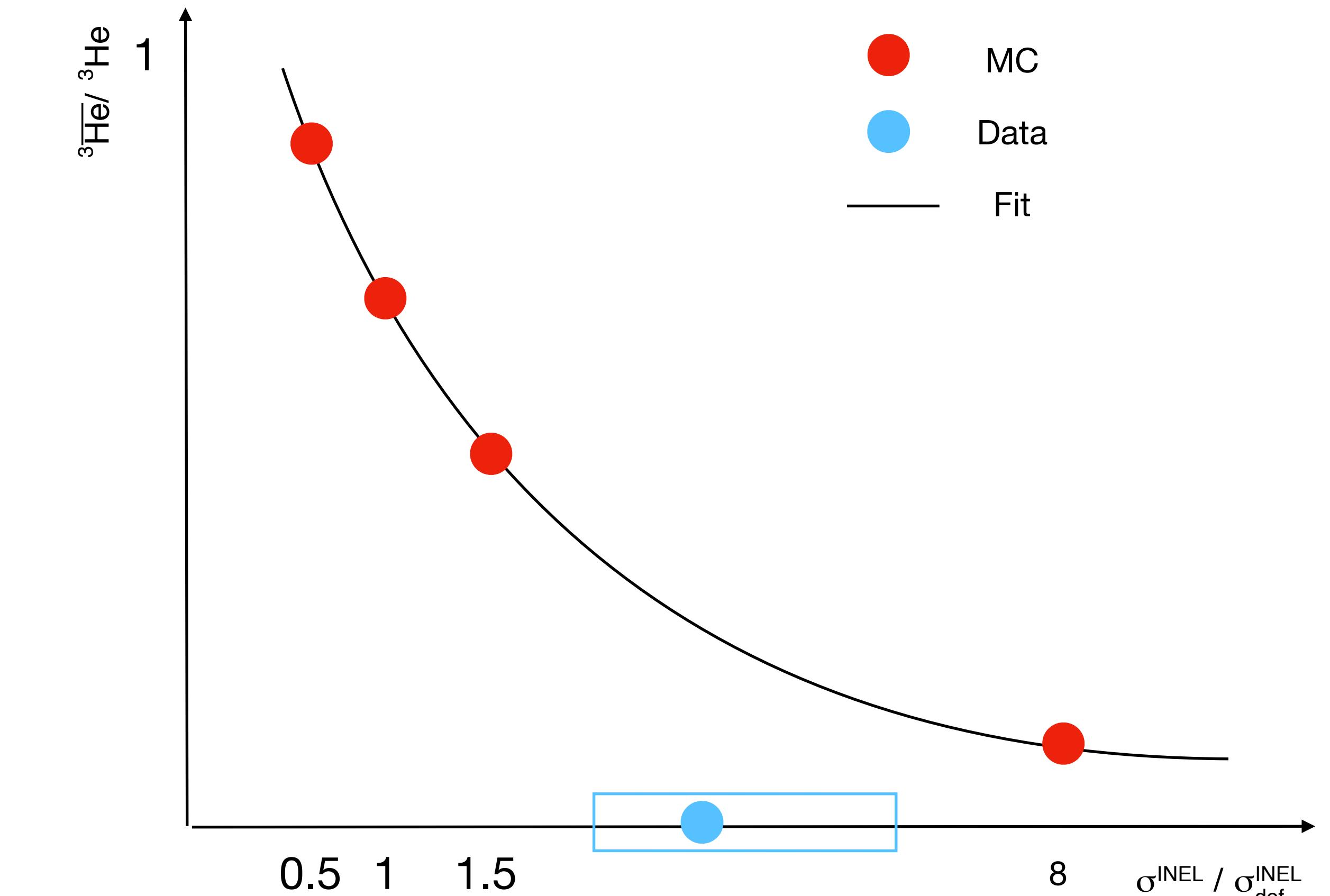


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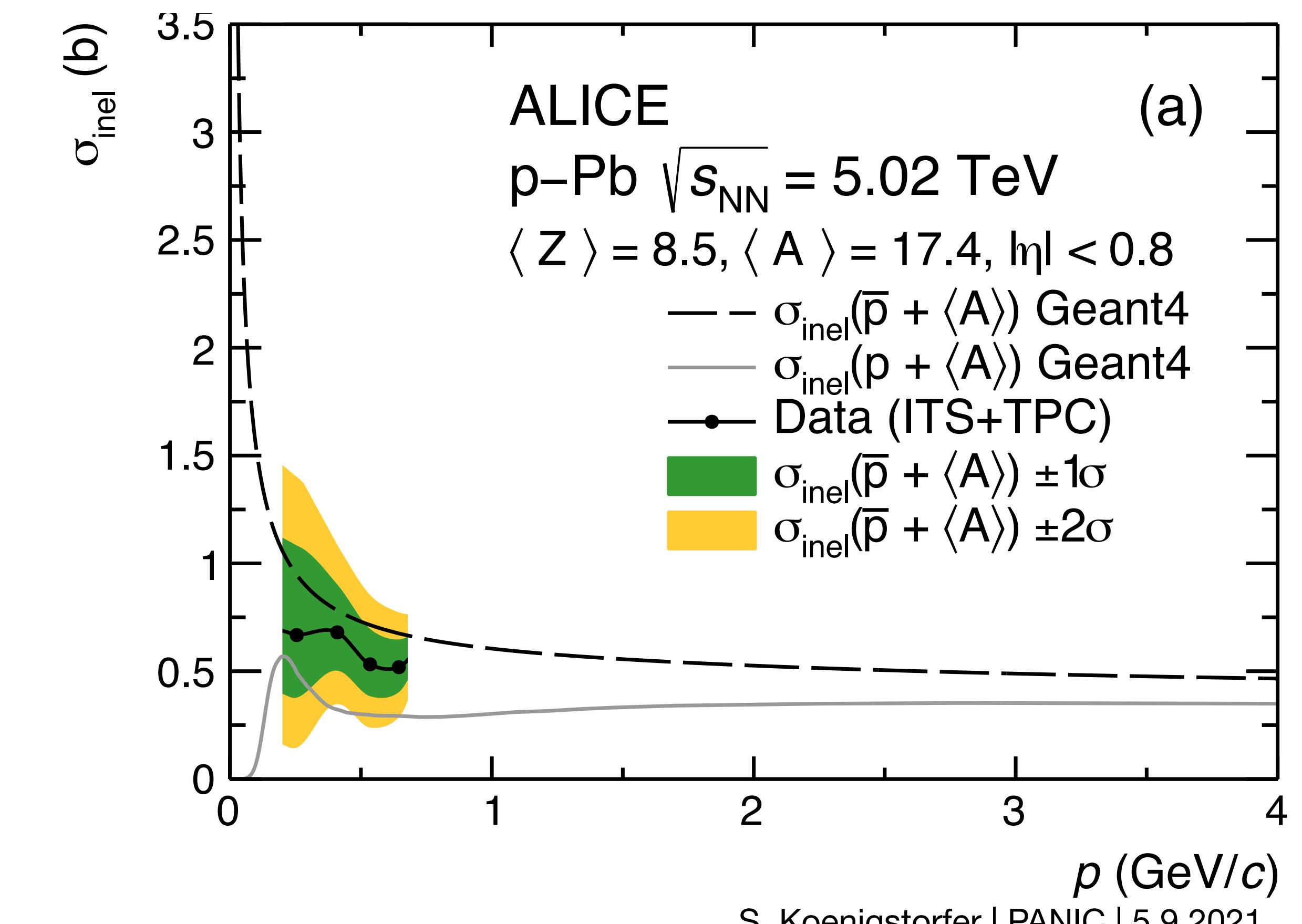
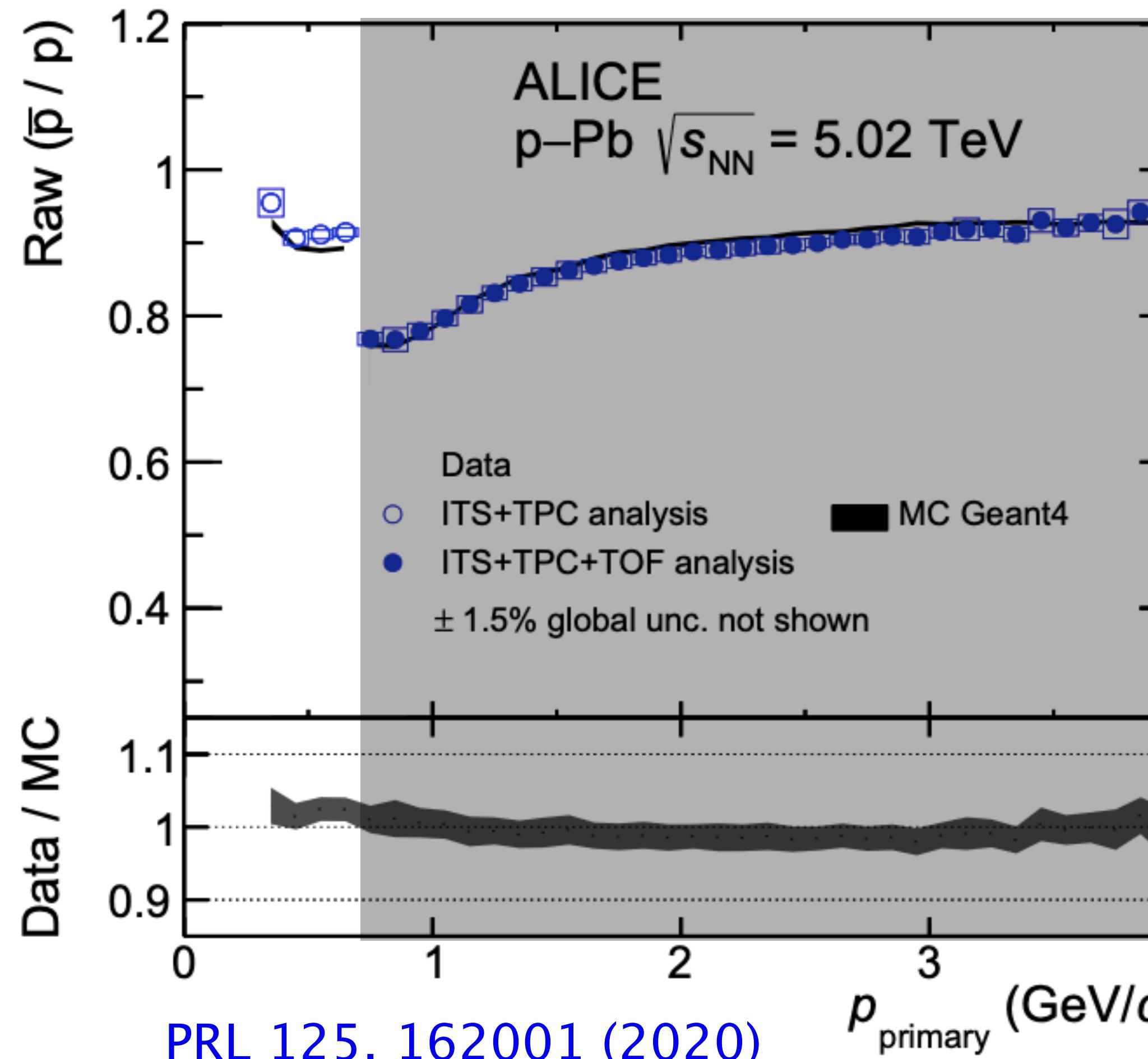
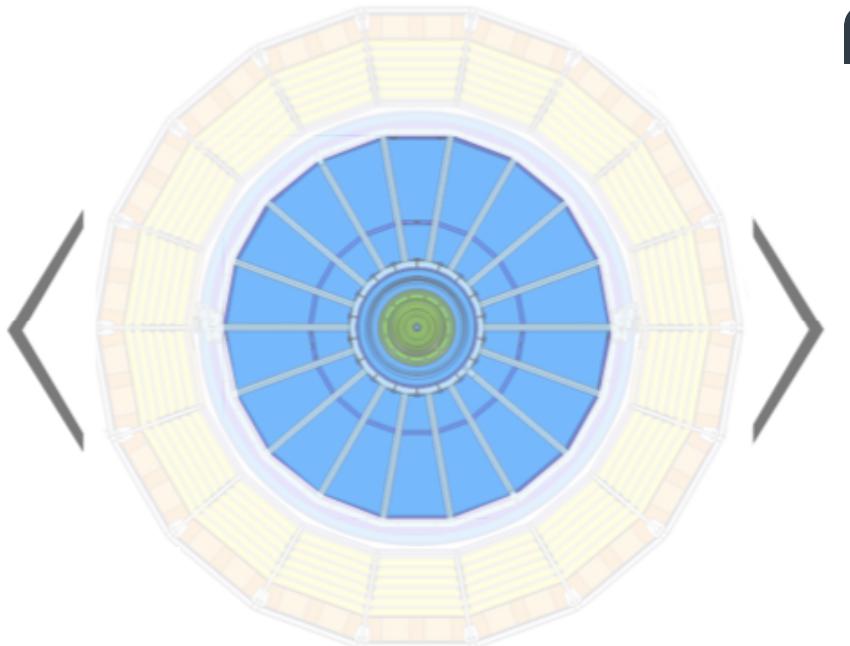
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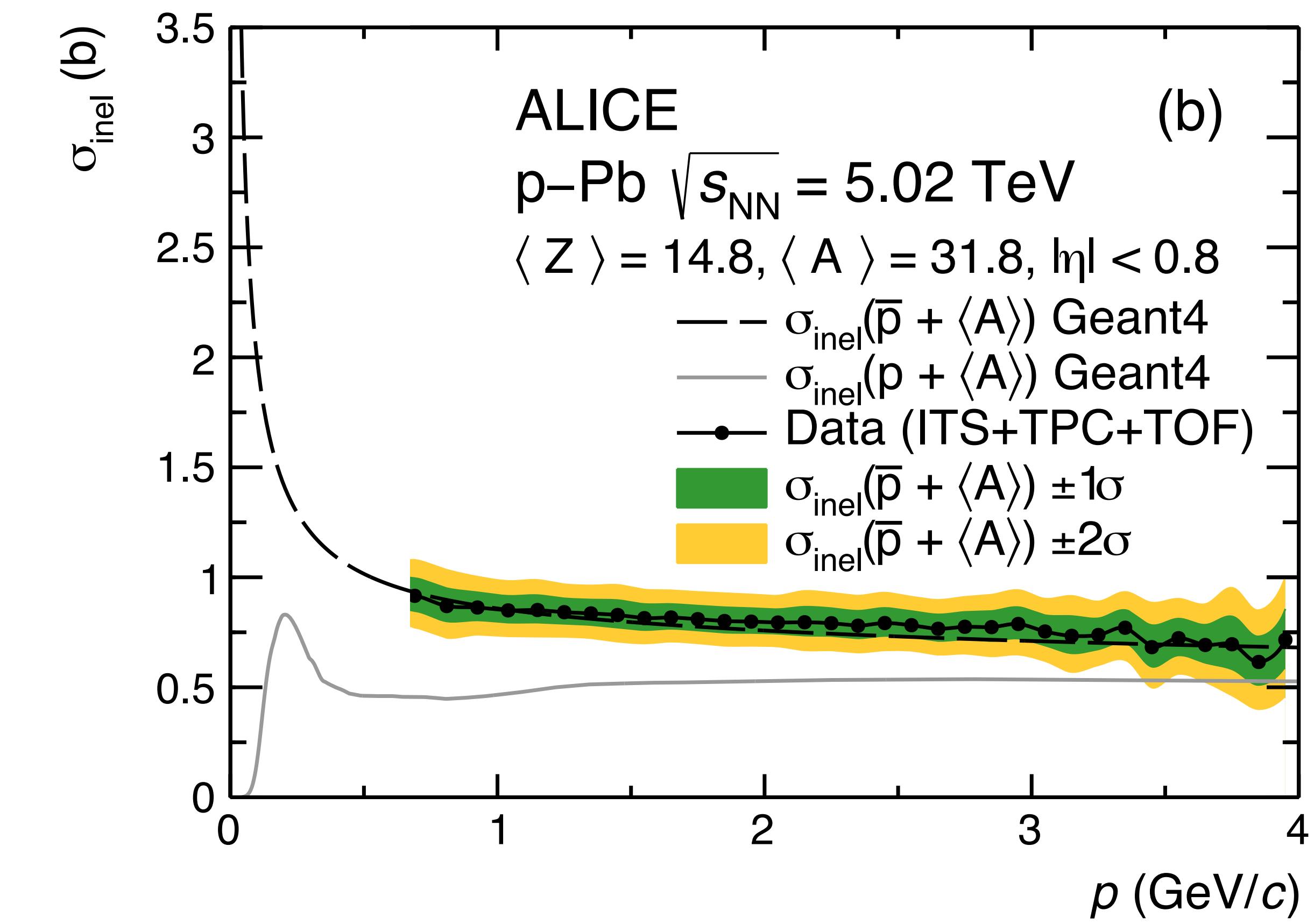
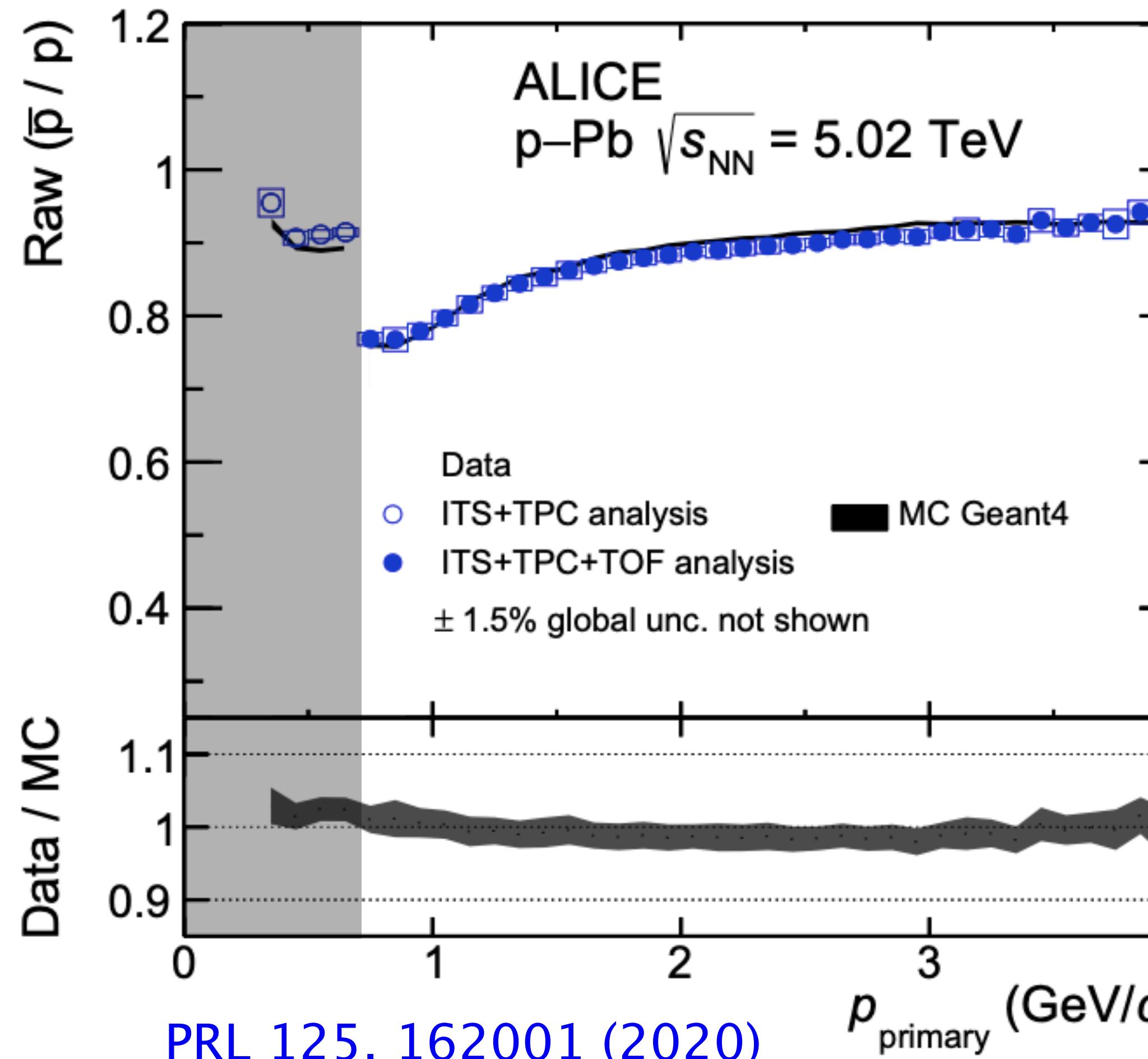
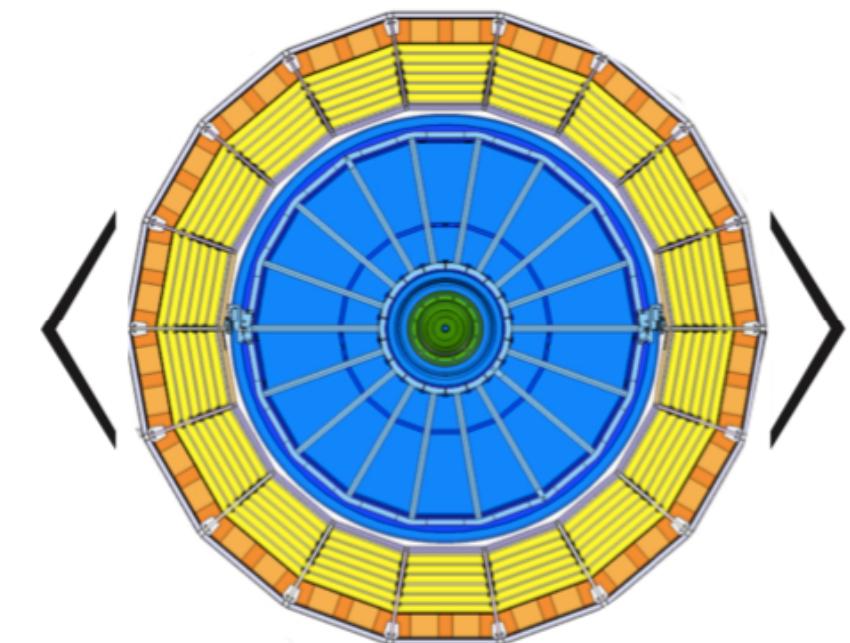
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$\sigma_{\text{inel}}(\bar{p})$  on average ALICE detector material. Good agreement with Geant4 parameterization confirms analysis method.



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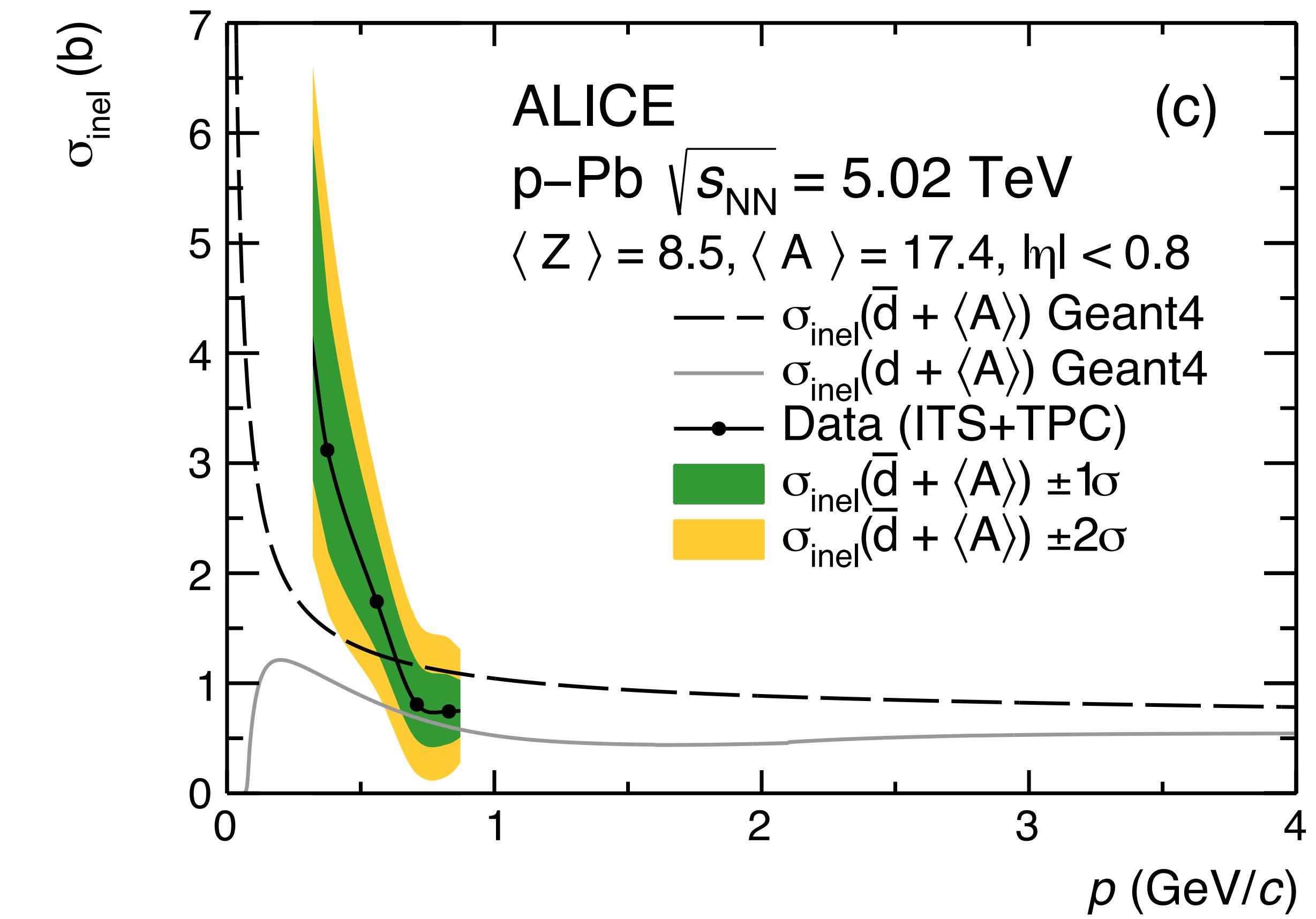
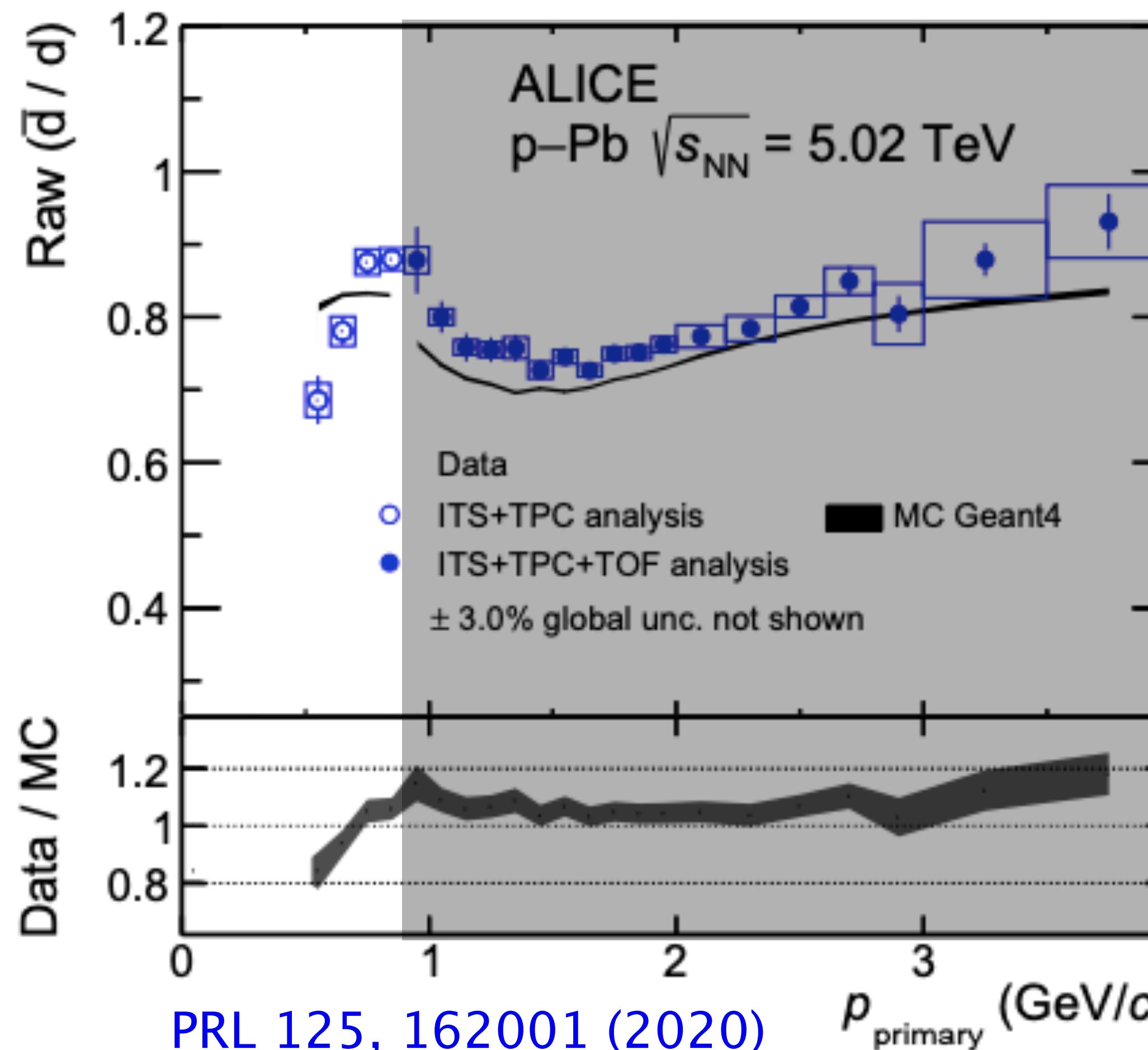
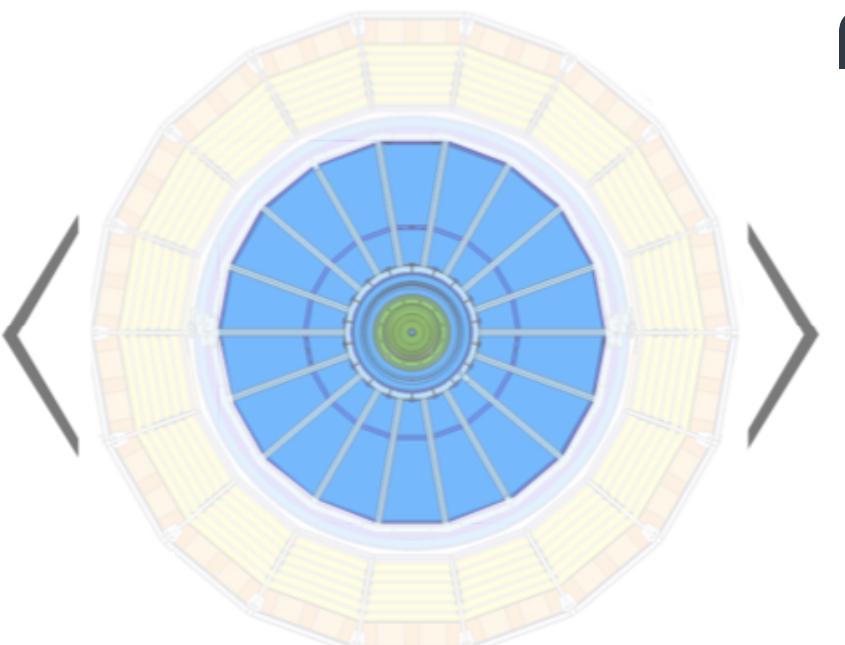
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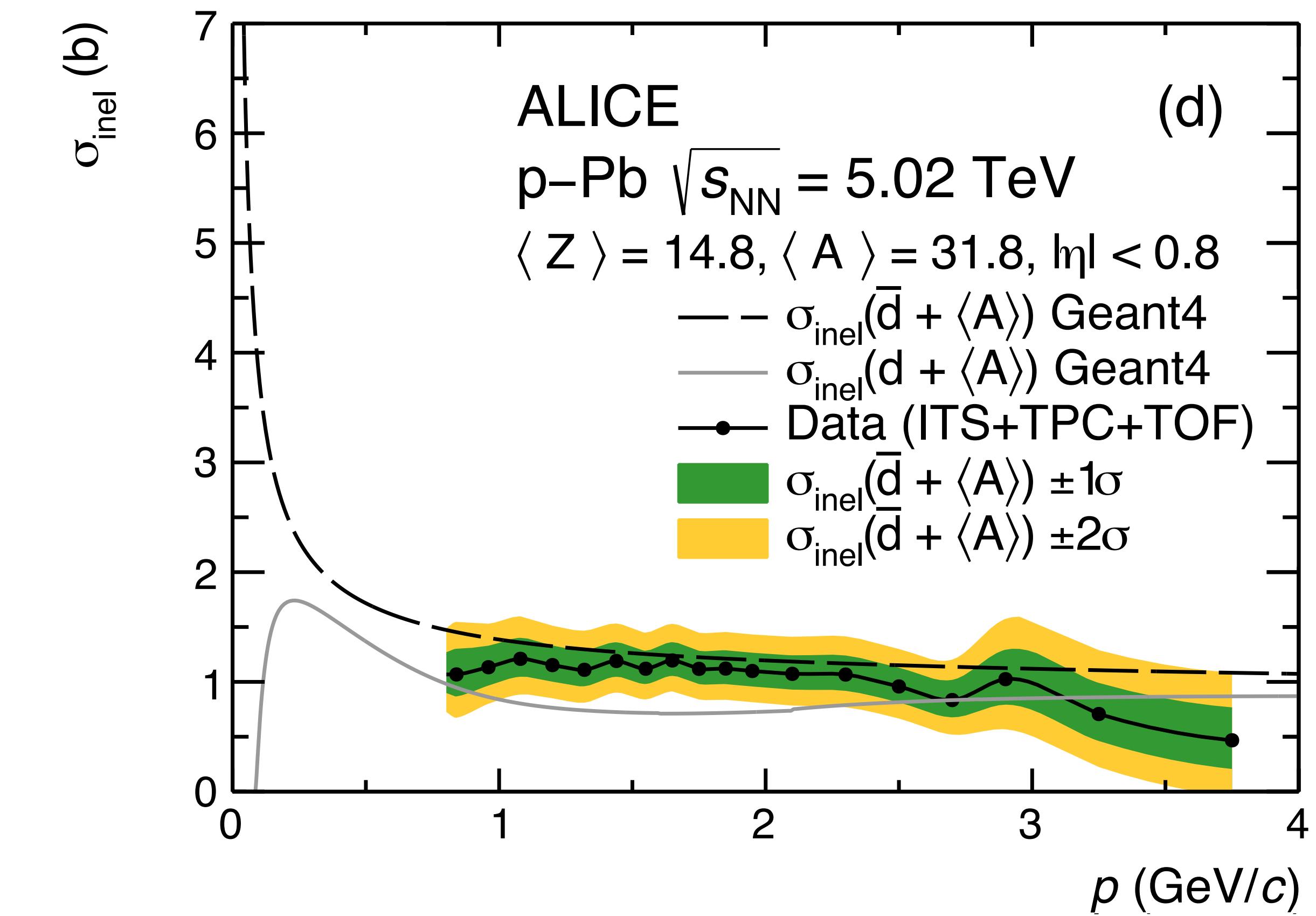
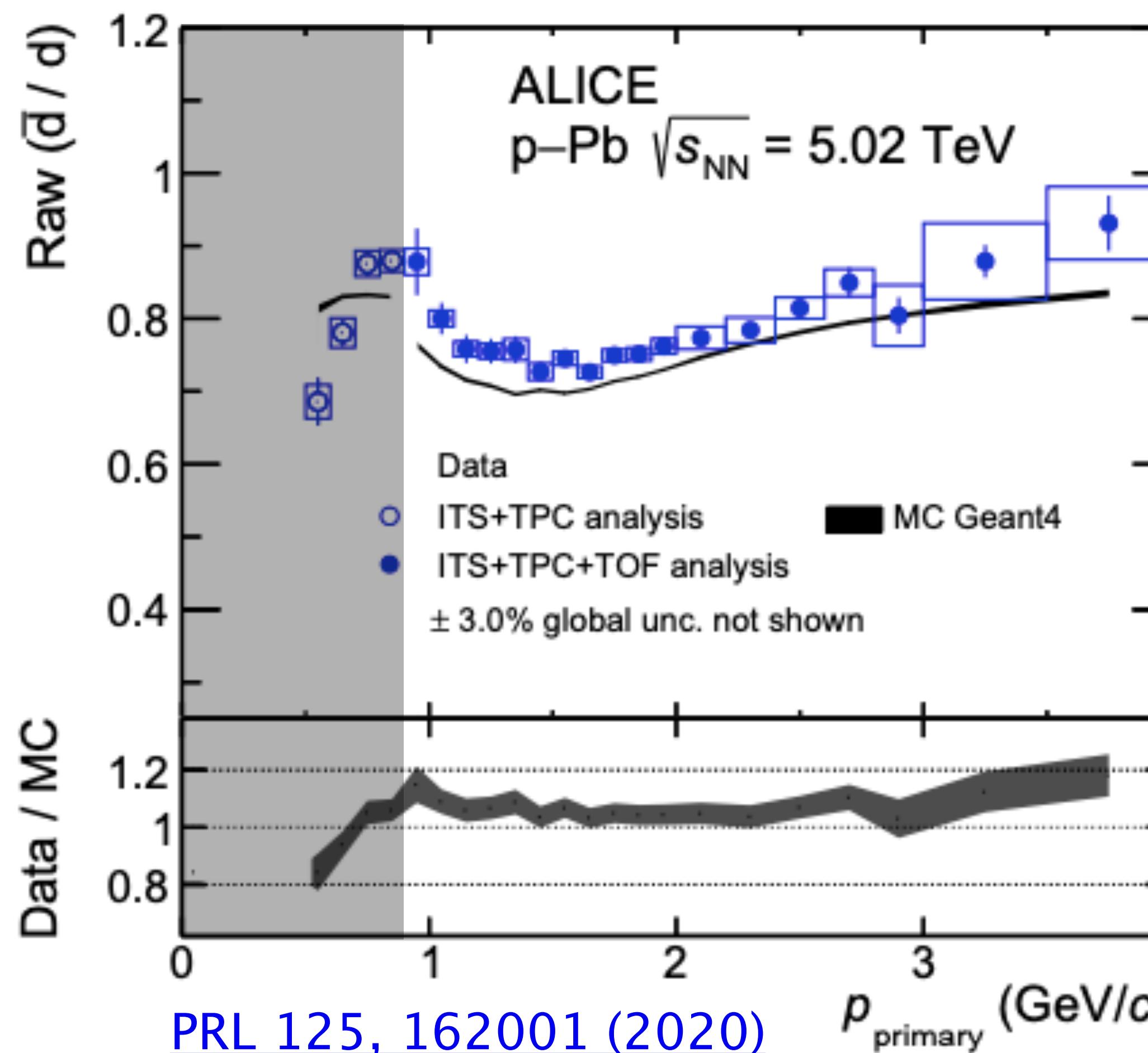
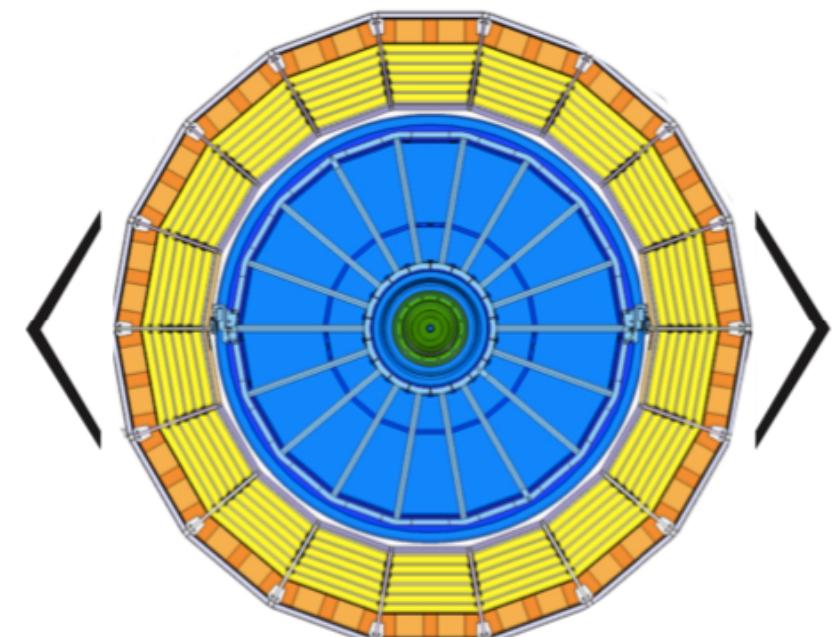
Hint of a steeper rise at low momentum.



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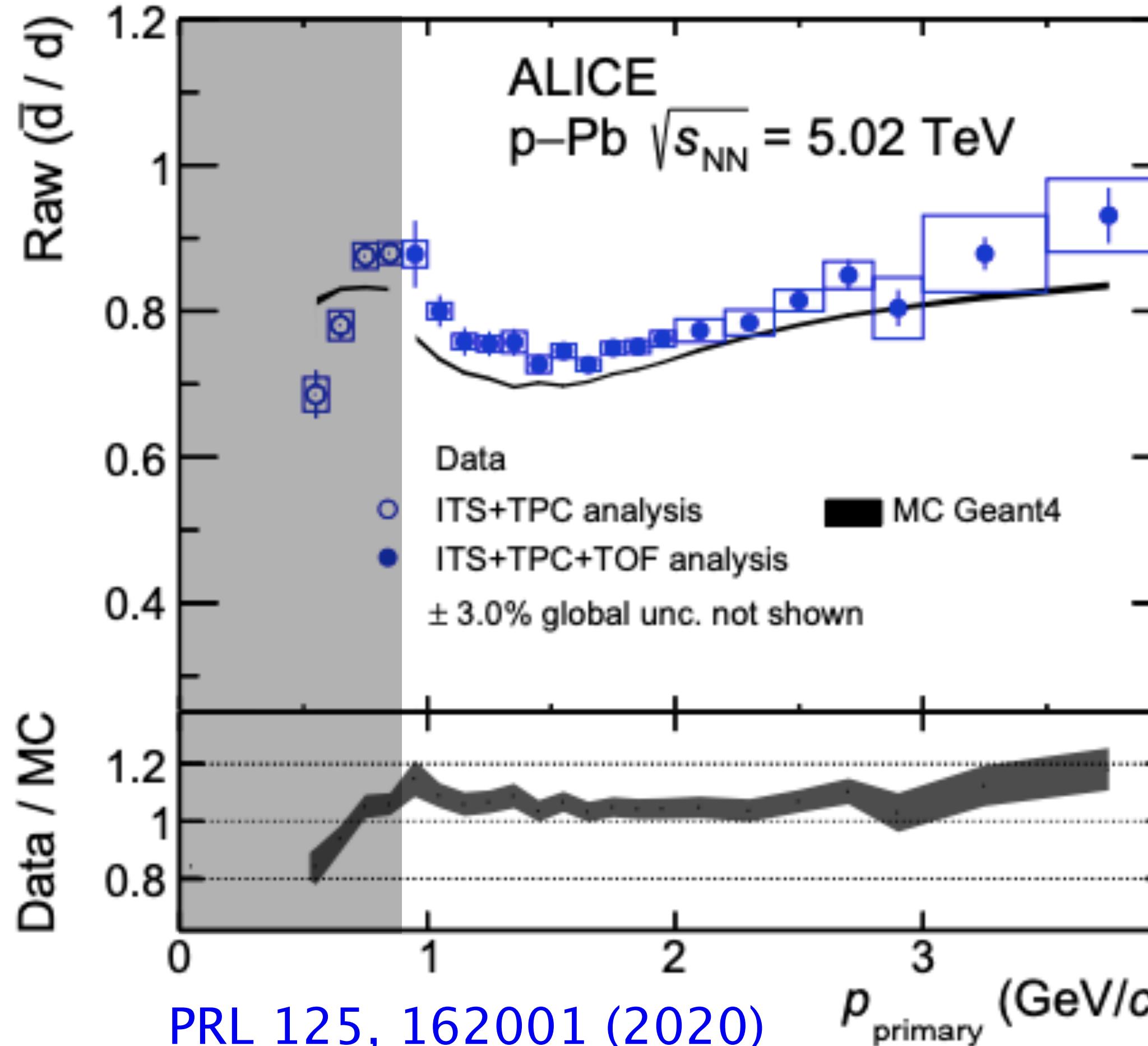
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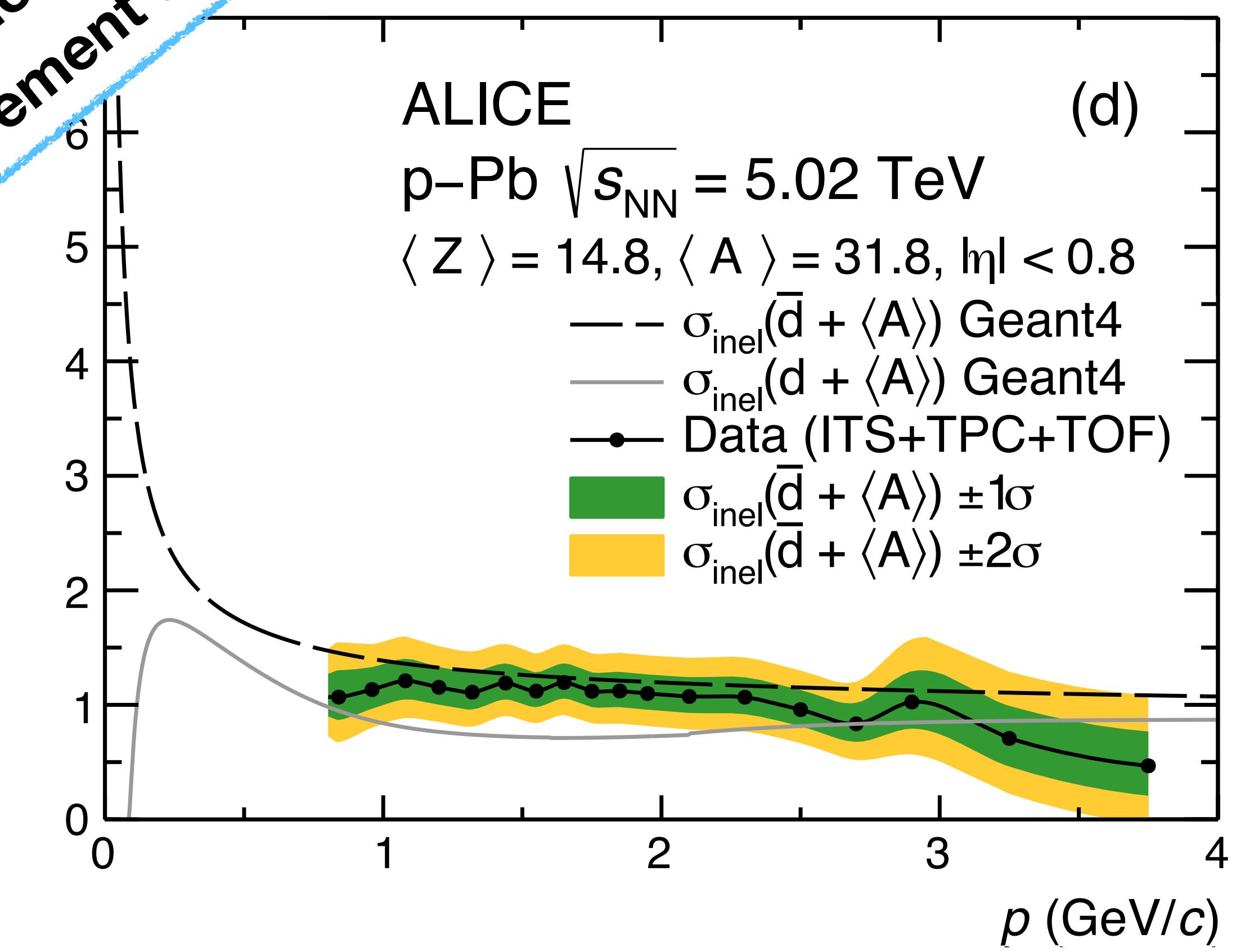
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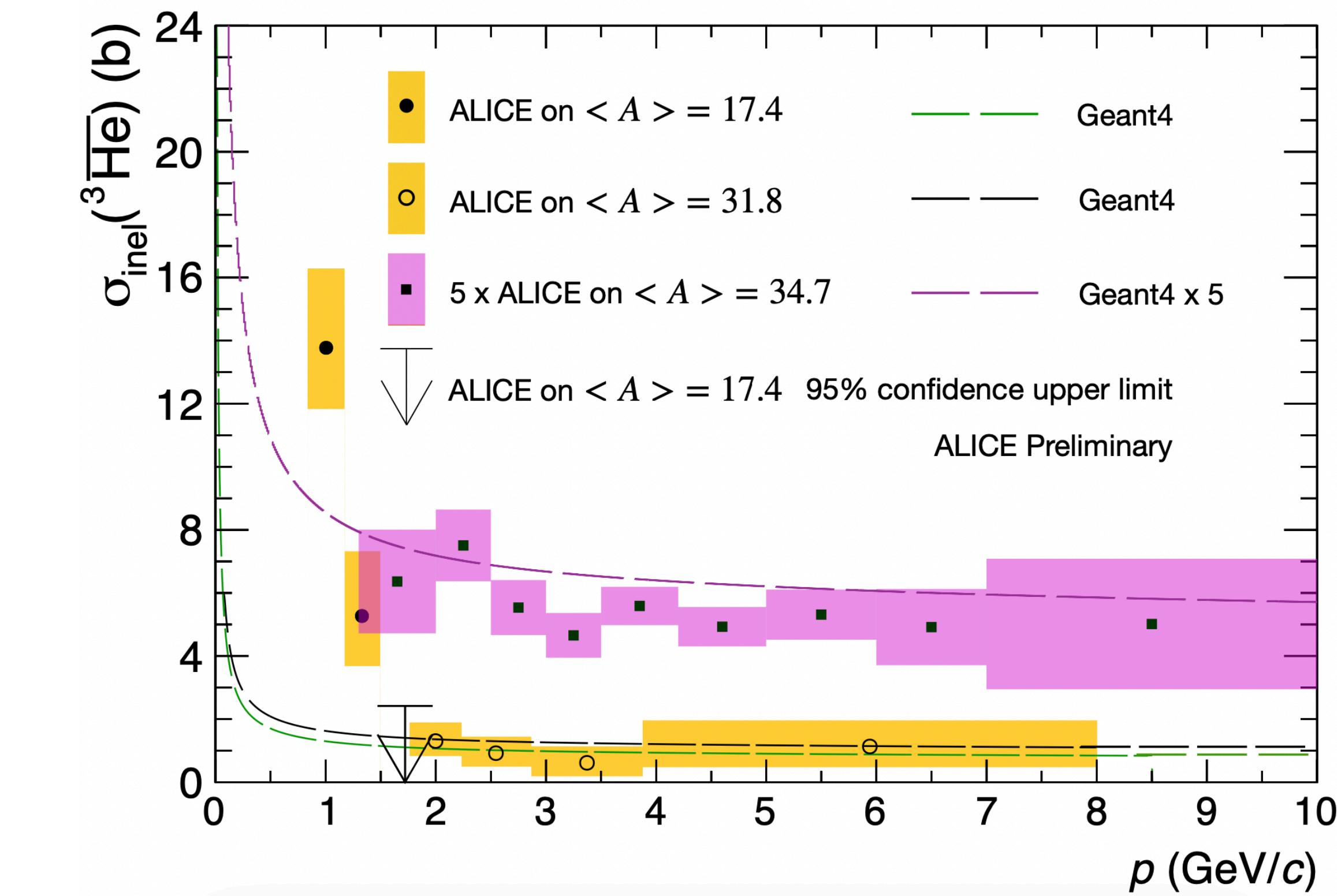
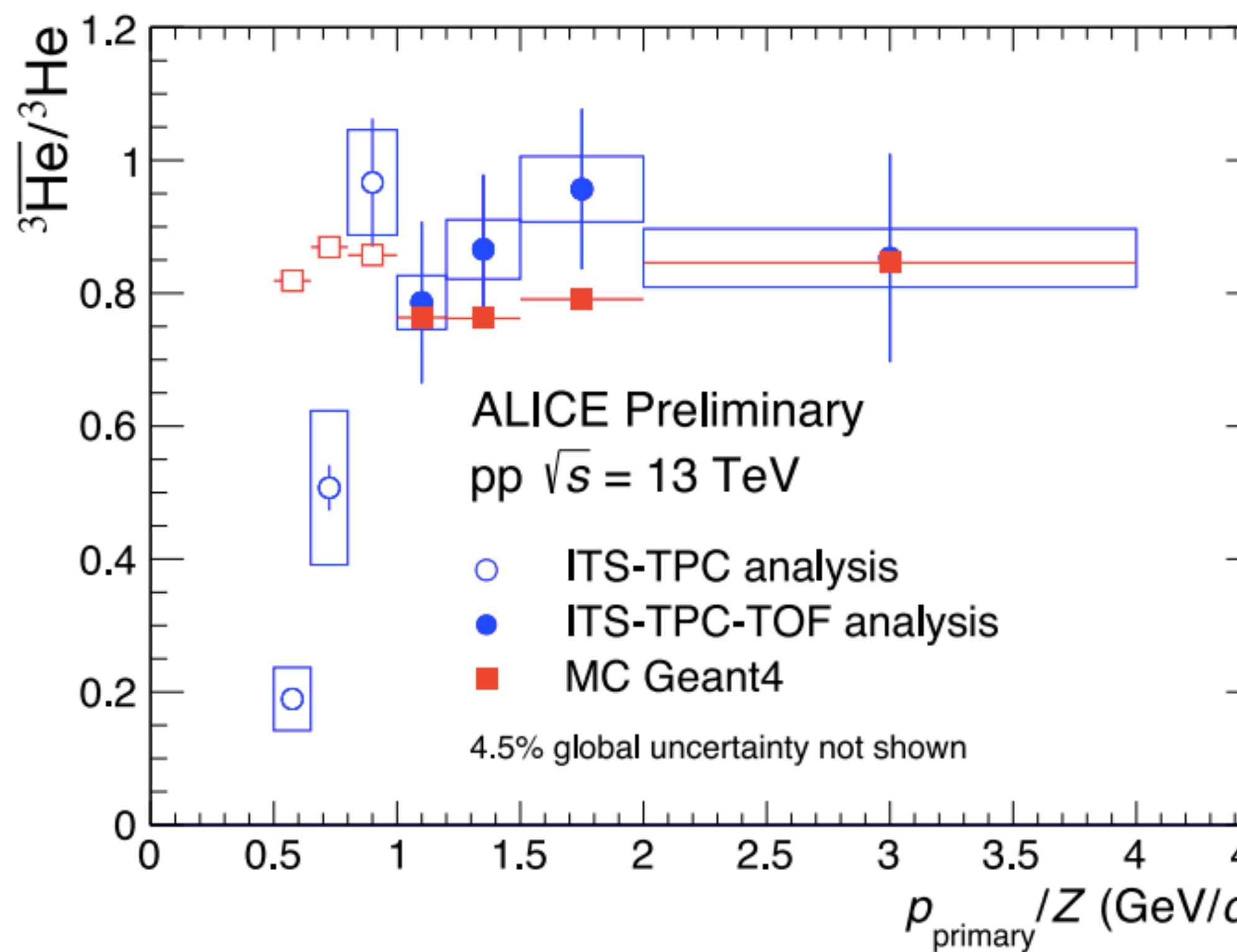
First low energy measurement of  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}(\bar{d})$



# $^3\overline{\text{He}}$ inelastic cross section

$\sigma_{\text{inel}}(^3\overline{\text{He}})$  on average ALICE detector material.

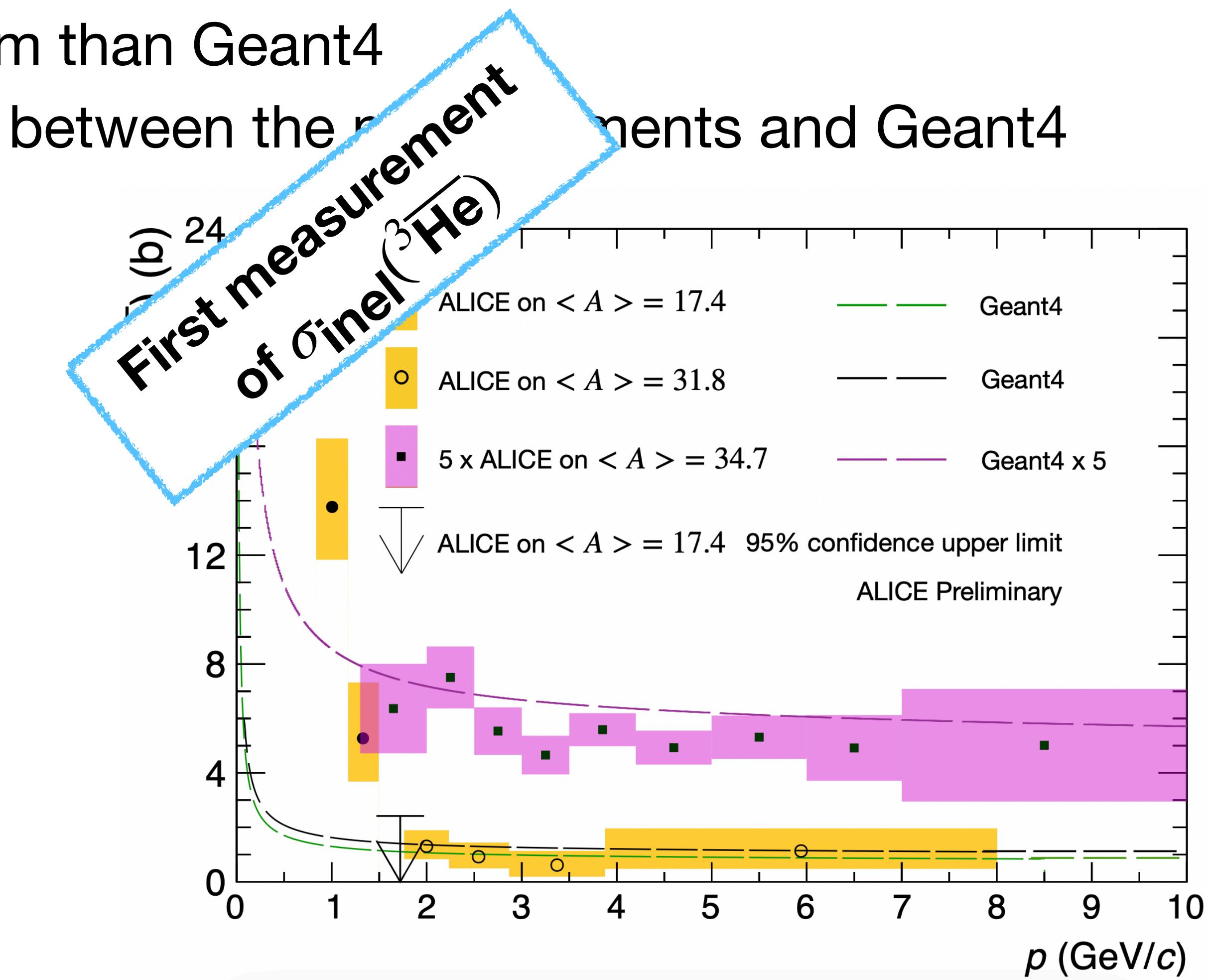
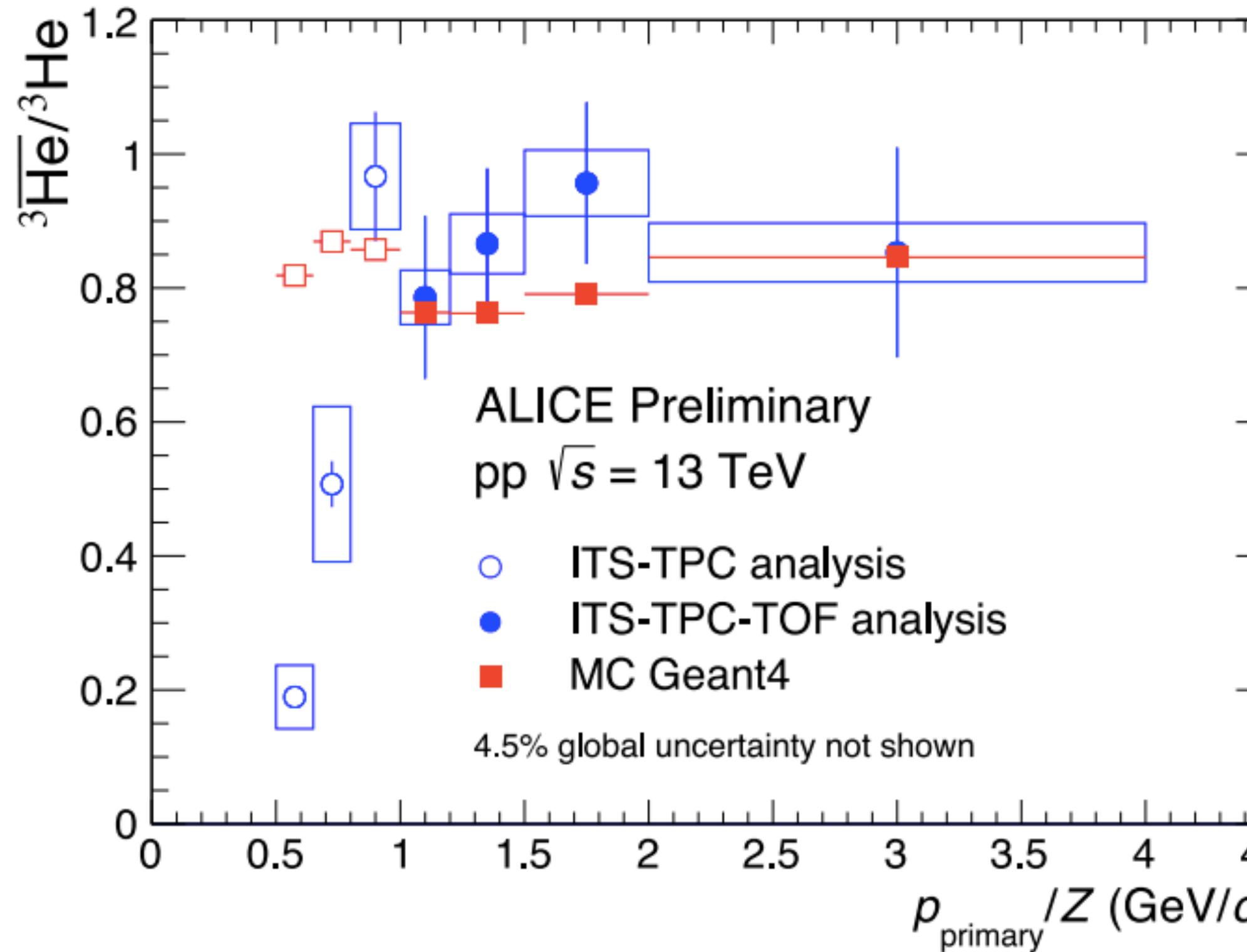
- Much steeper rise at low momentum than Geant4
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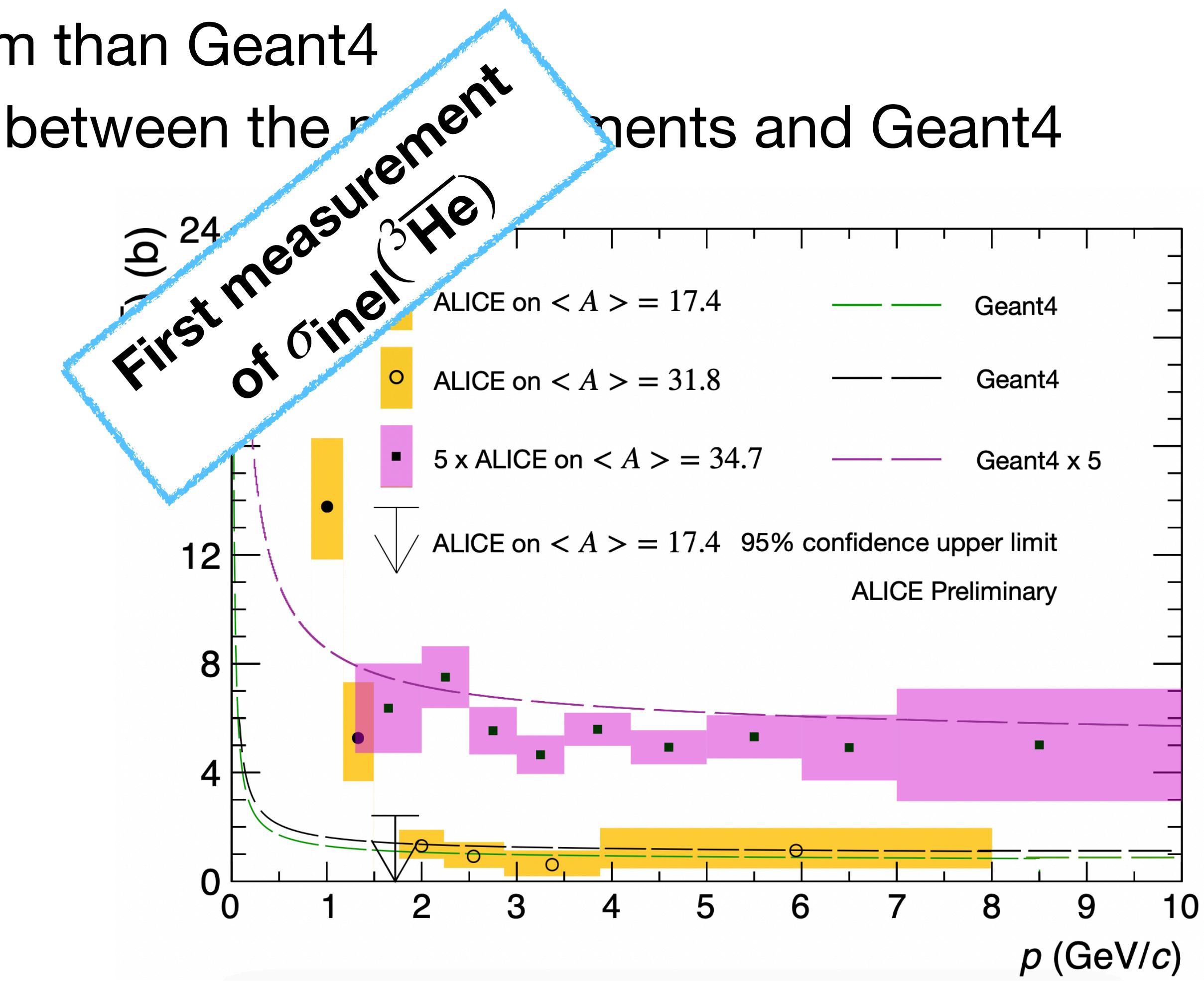
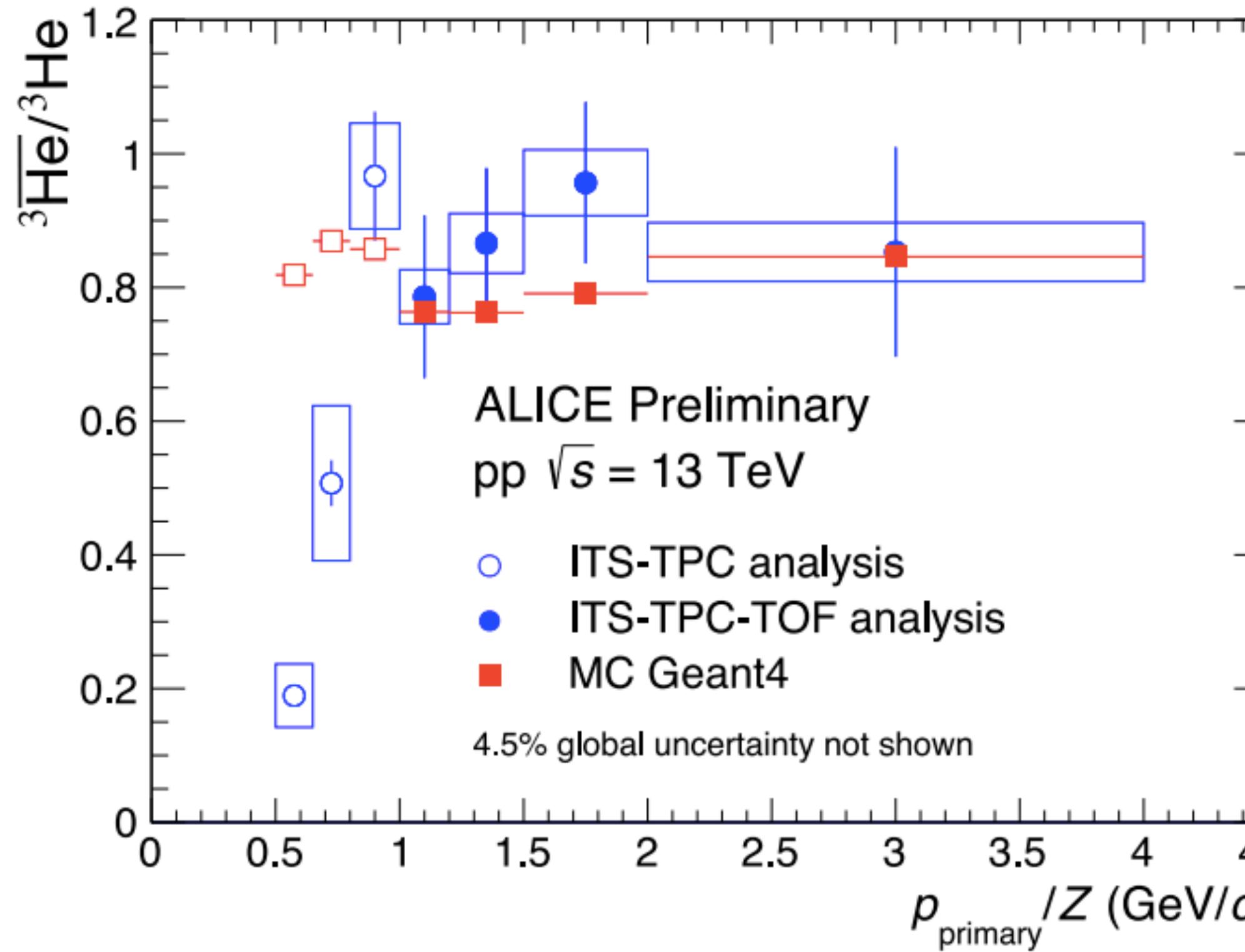
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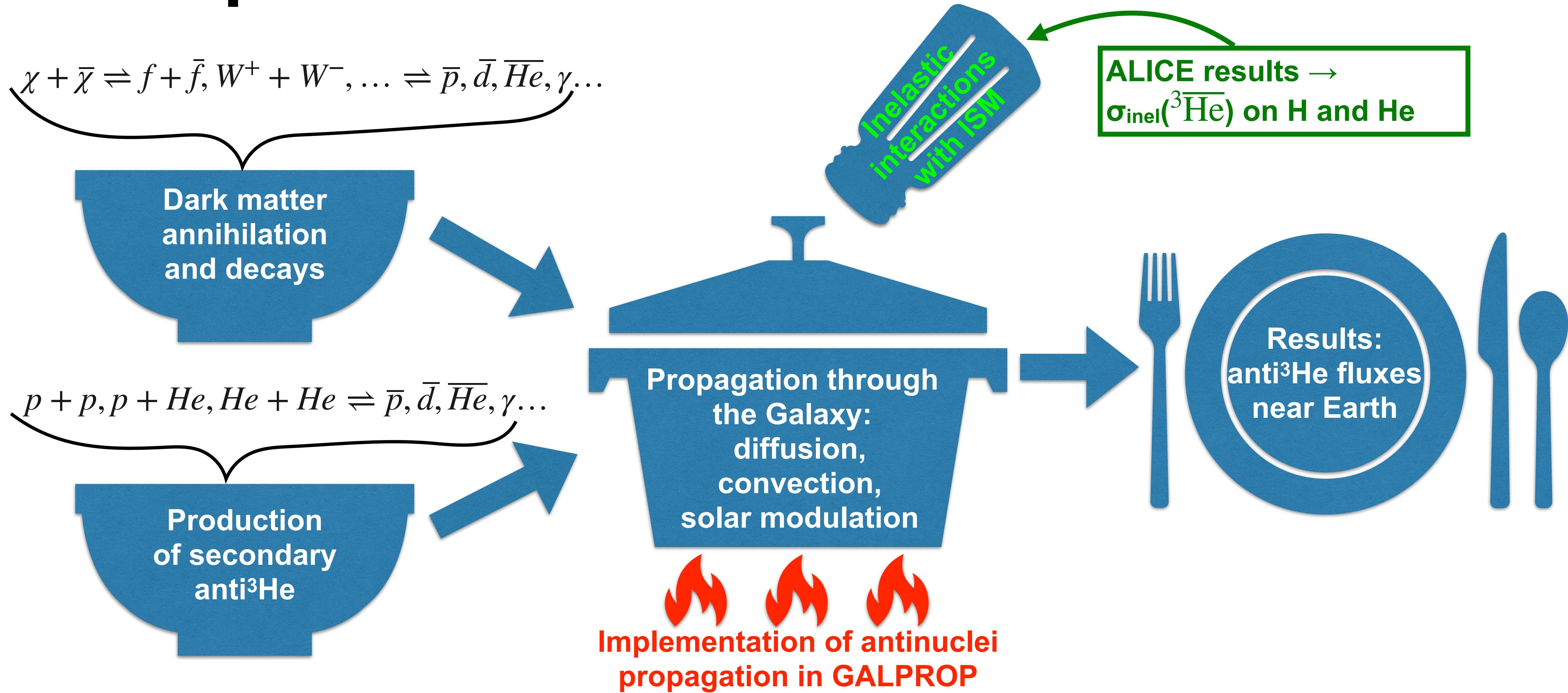
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How do these measurements impact cosmic ray antinuclei?

# Recipe to cook antinuclei fluxes



# GALPROP

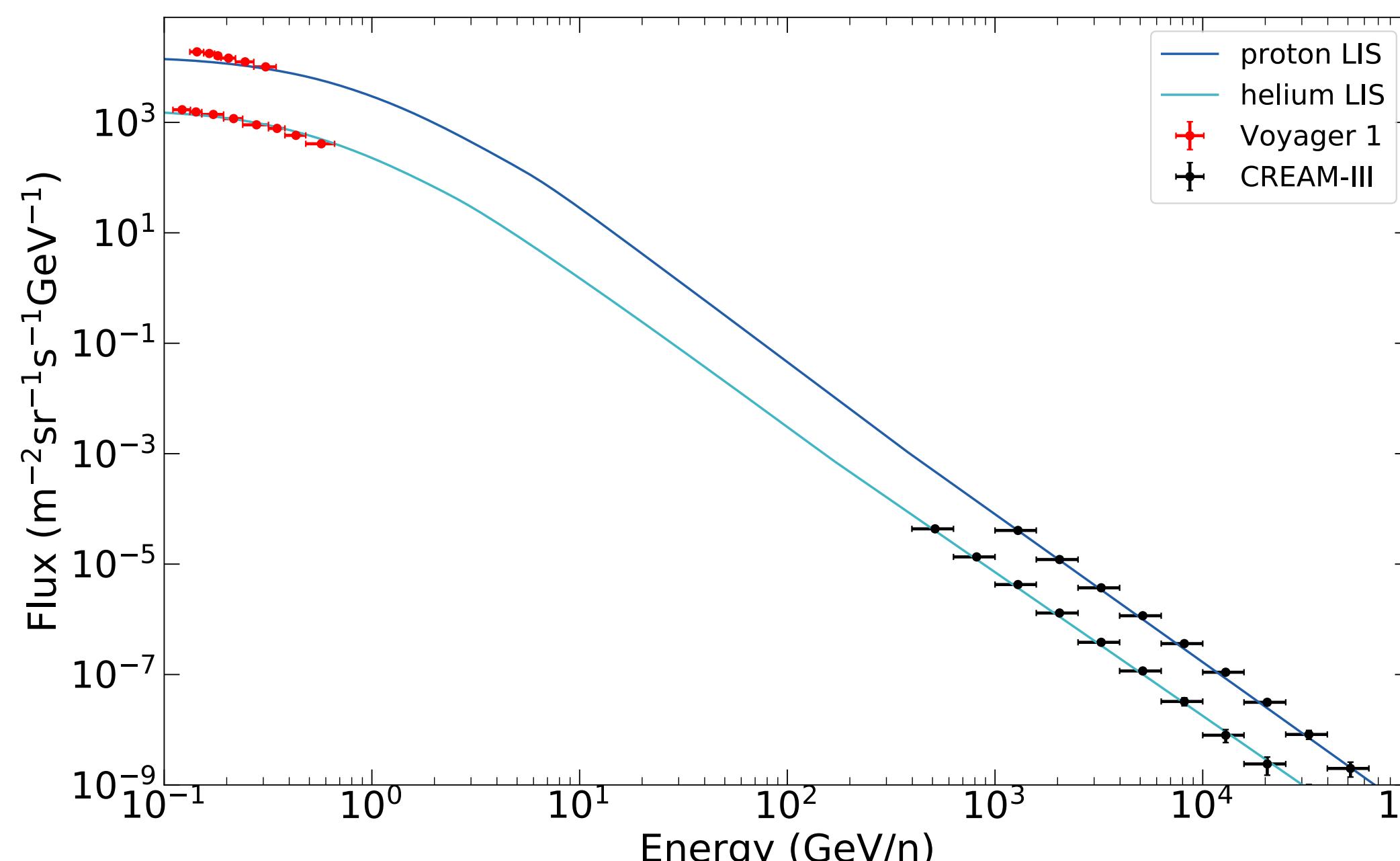
## Transport equation

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = q(\mathbf{r}, p) + \mathbf{div}(D_{xx} \mathbf{grad} \psi - \mathbf{V} \psi) + \frac{\partial}{\partial p} p^2 D_{pp} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial p} \frac{p^2}{p^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left[ \psi \frac{dp}{dt} - \frac{p}{3} (\mathbf{div} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \psi \right] - \frac{\psi}{\tau_f} - \frac{\psi}{\tau_r}$$

Source Function

Propagation: diffusion, convection...

Fragmentation, annihilation



Propagation can be constrained using proton and heavier nuclei cosmic ray measurements

# Antinuclei source terms

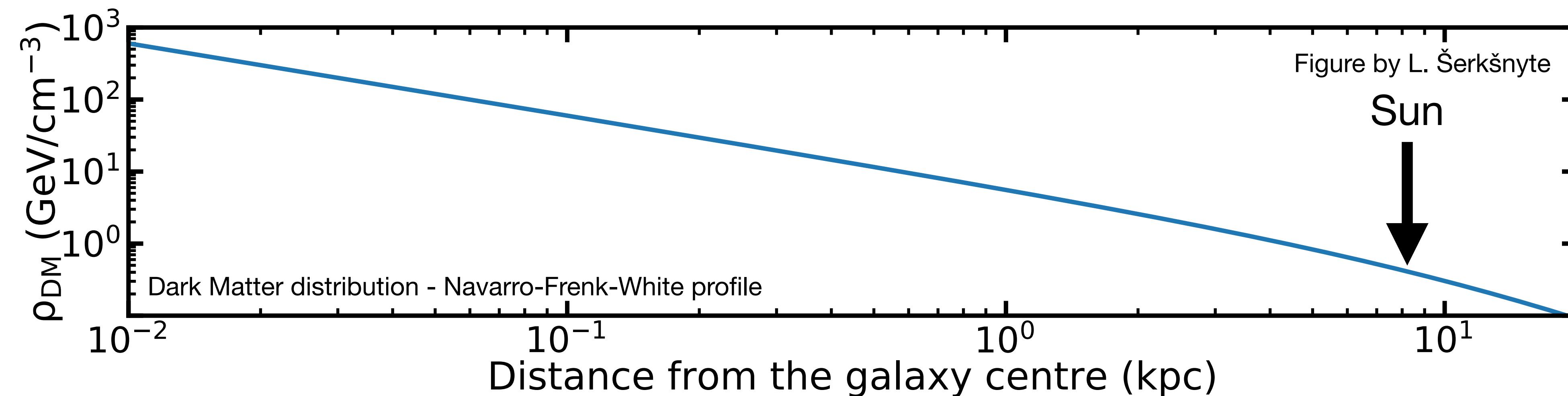
- The source term for antinuclei from dark matter can be written as:

$$q(\mathbf{r}, E_{kin}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}^2(\mathbf{r})}{m_\chi^2} \langle \sigma v \rangle (1 + \epsilon) \frac{dN}{dE_{kin}}$$

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This is the thermally averaged annihilation cross section.

We can use  $\langle \sigma v \rangle = 2.6 \times 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$

[1] Korsmeier et al, Phys. Rev. D. 97, 103011 (2018)

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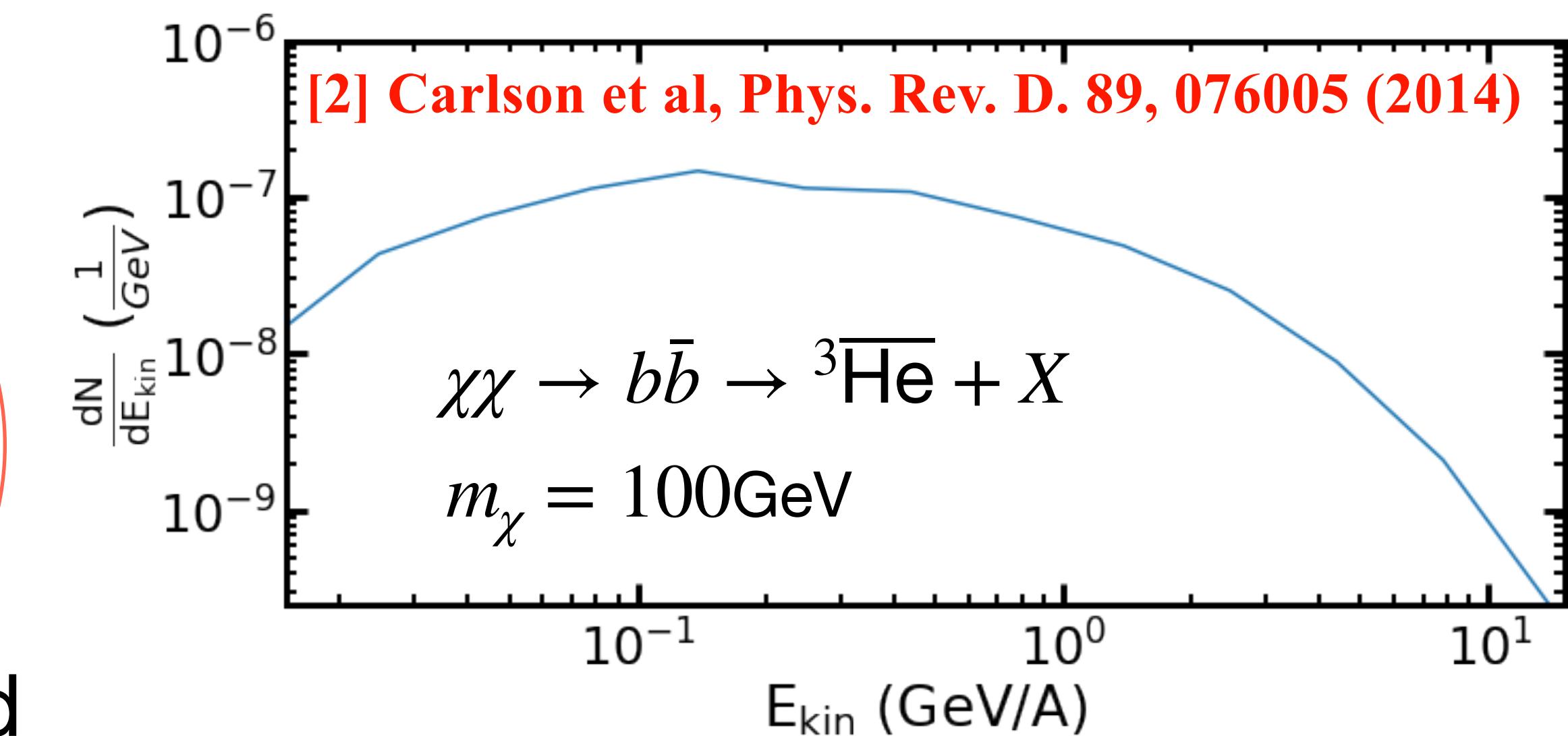
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This accounts for anti-tritons which will then decay into  ${}^3\overline{\text{He}}$ .  $\epsilon \approx 1$

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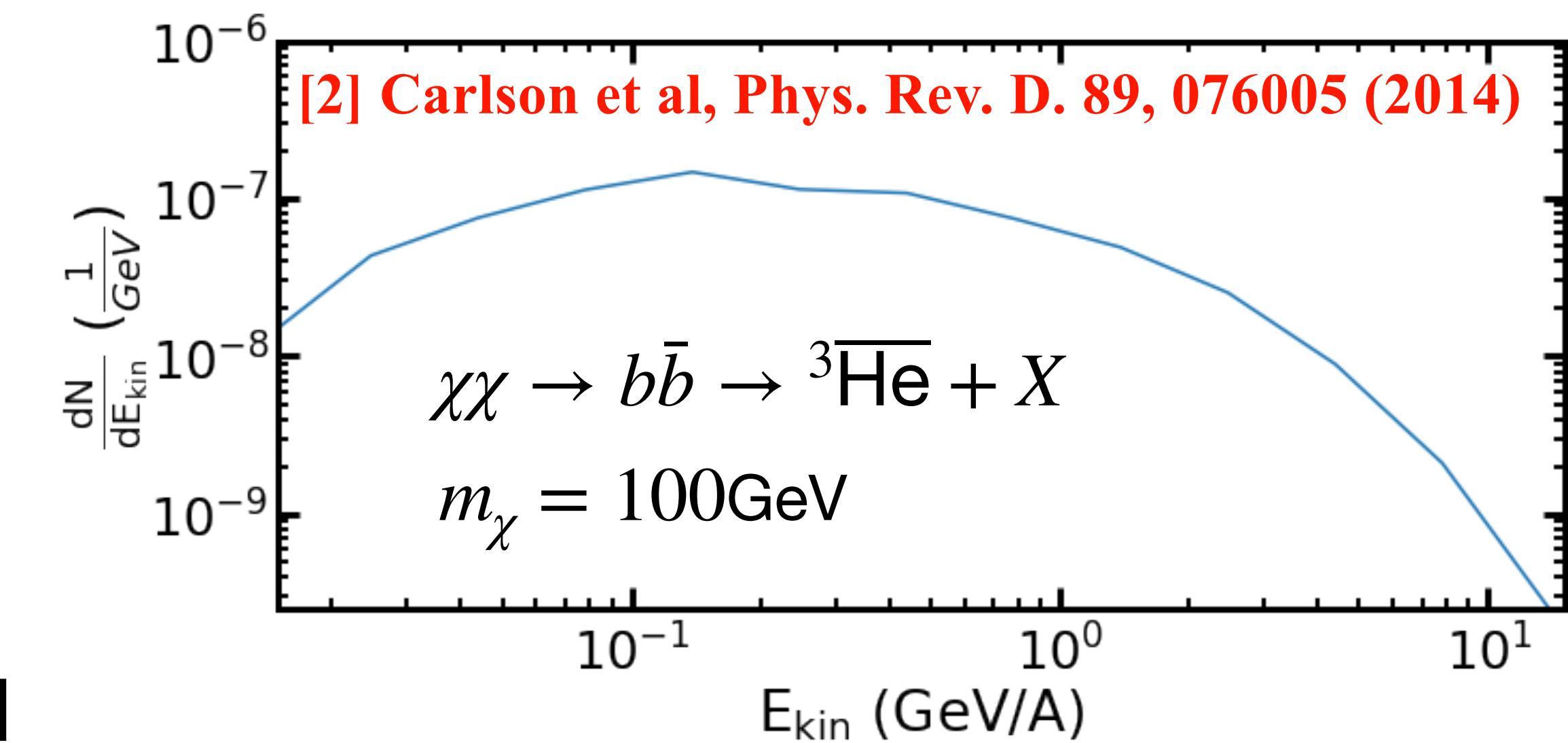


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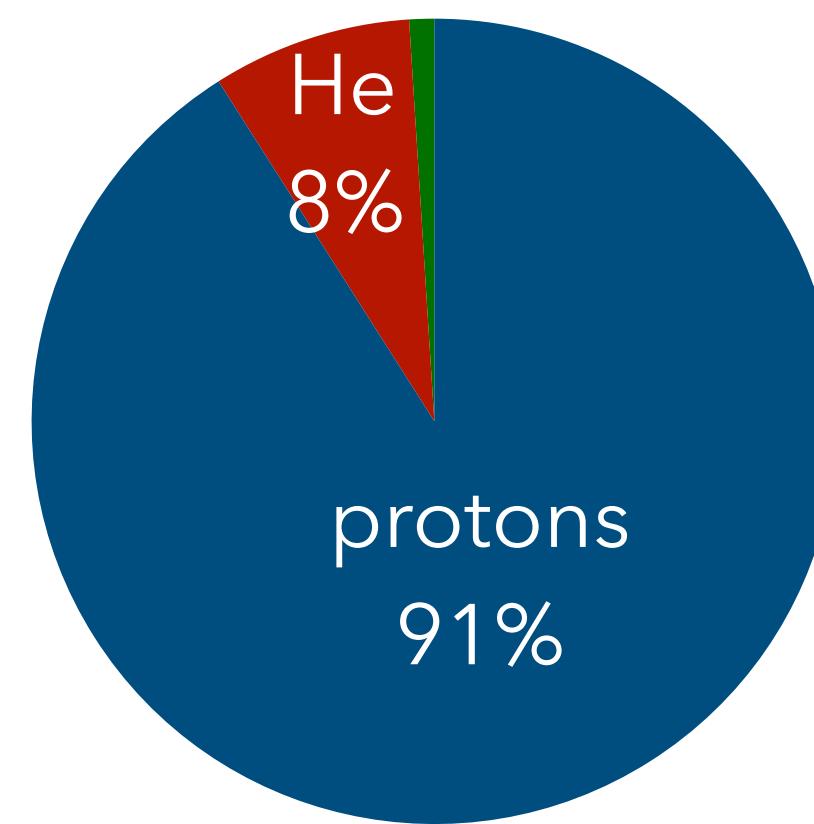
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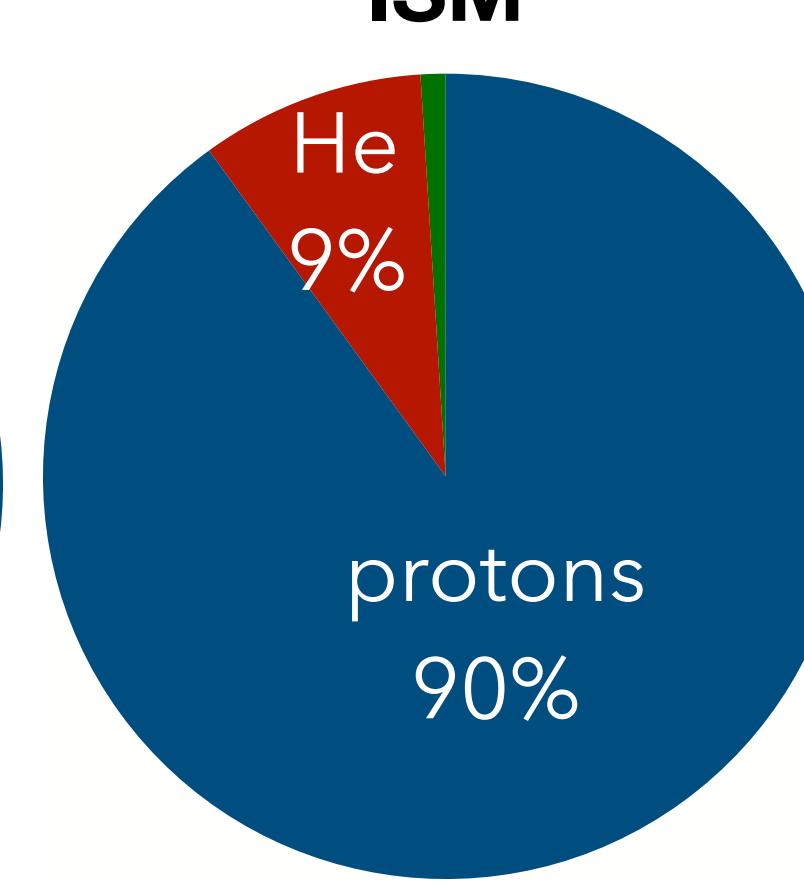
- The final term is the spectra of produced antinuclei, normalized to each dark matter annihilation.
- This can be calculated using a coalescence model. [3]

# $^3\overline{\text{He}}$ source function: Cosmic rays + Interstellar medium

**Cosmic rays**



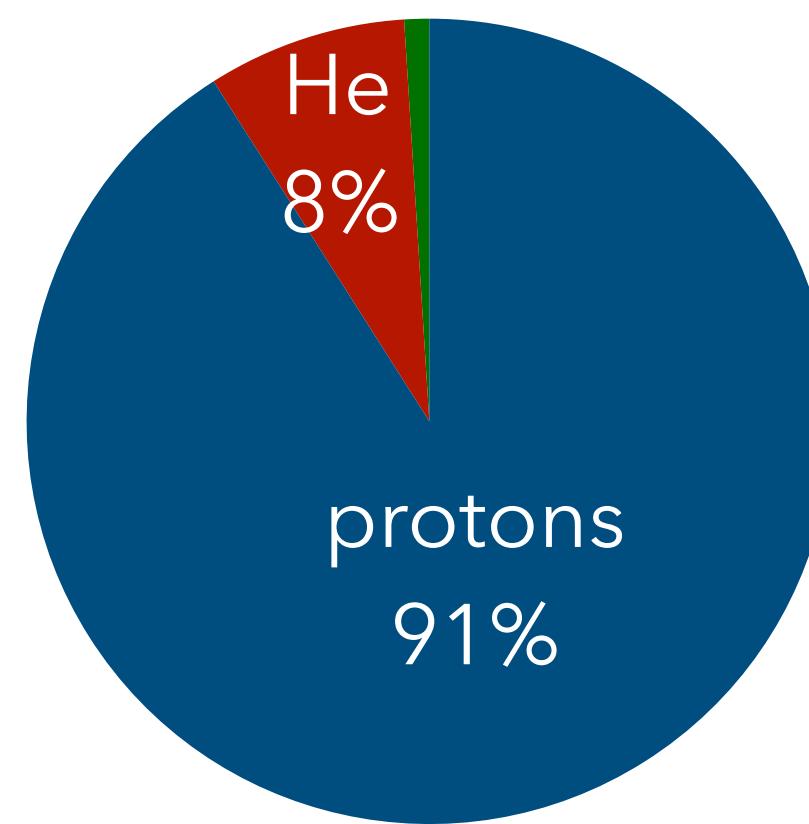
**ISM**



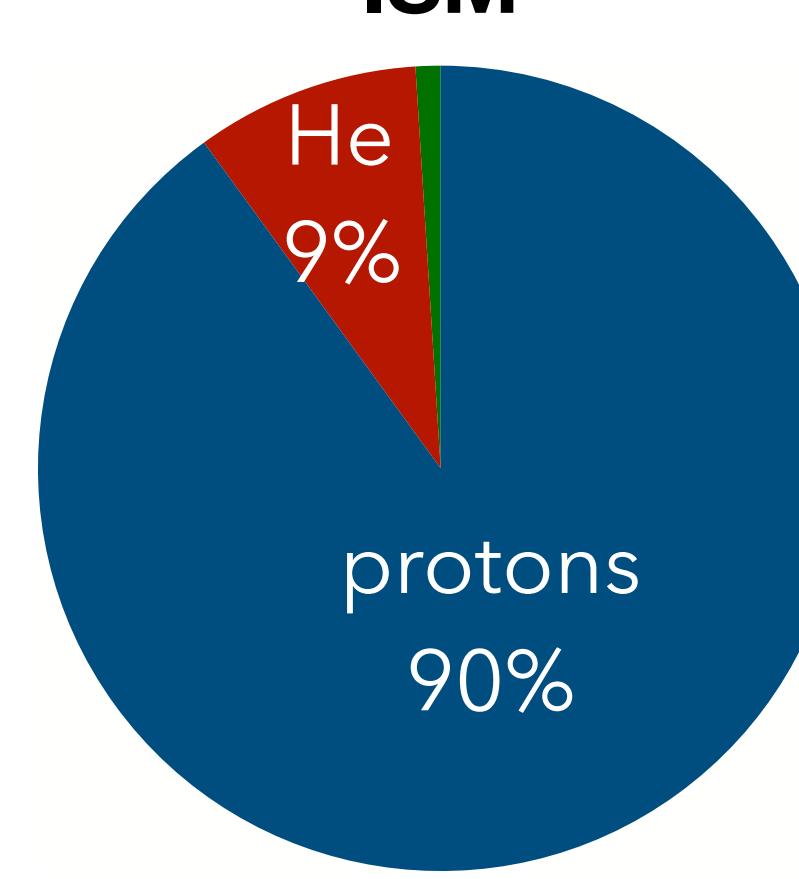
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Relevant collision systems: pp, p-He, He-p, He-He

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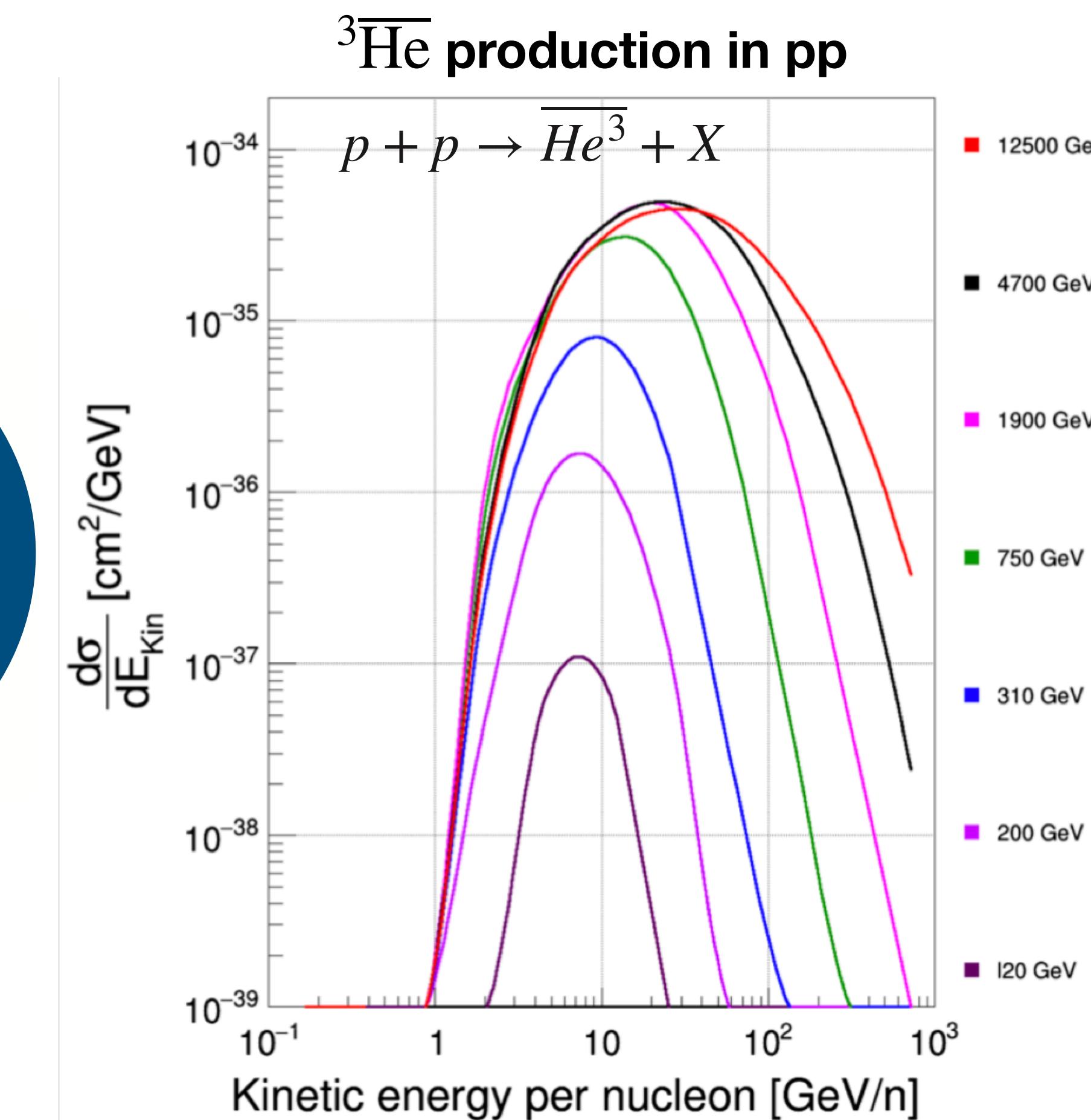
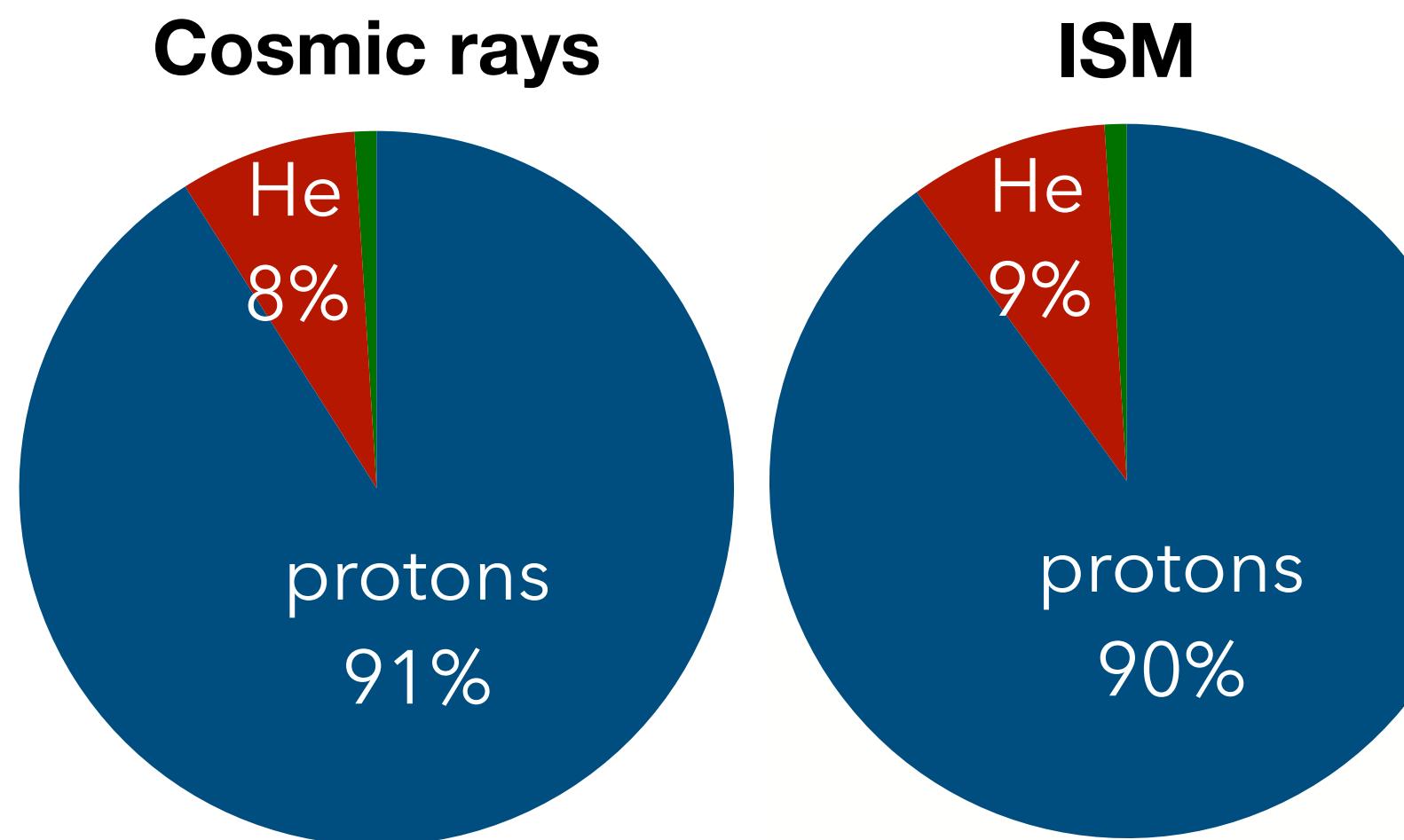
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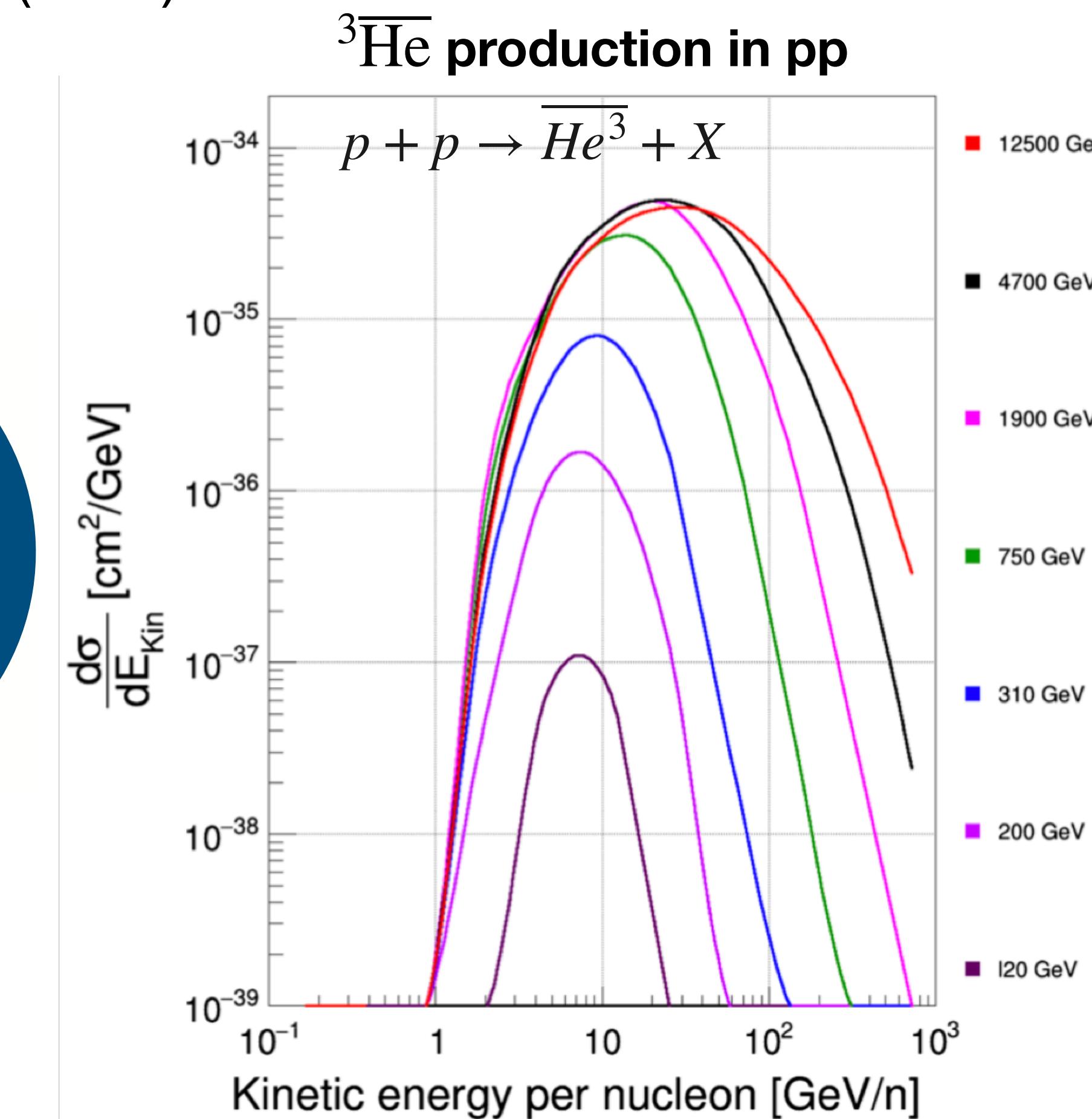
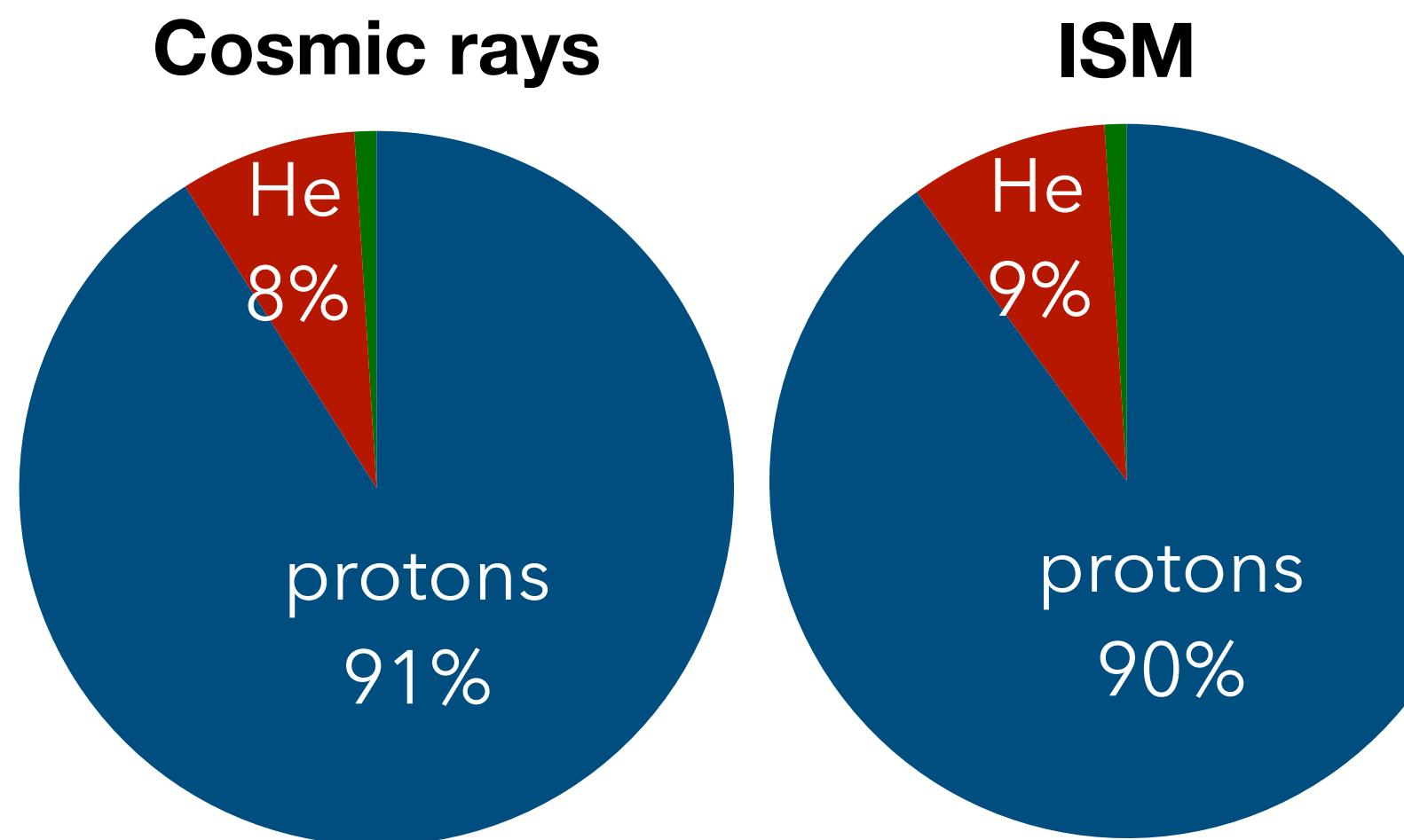
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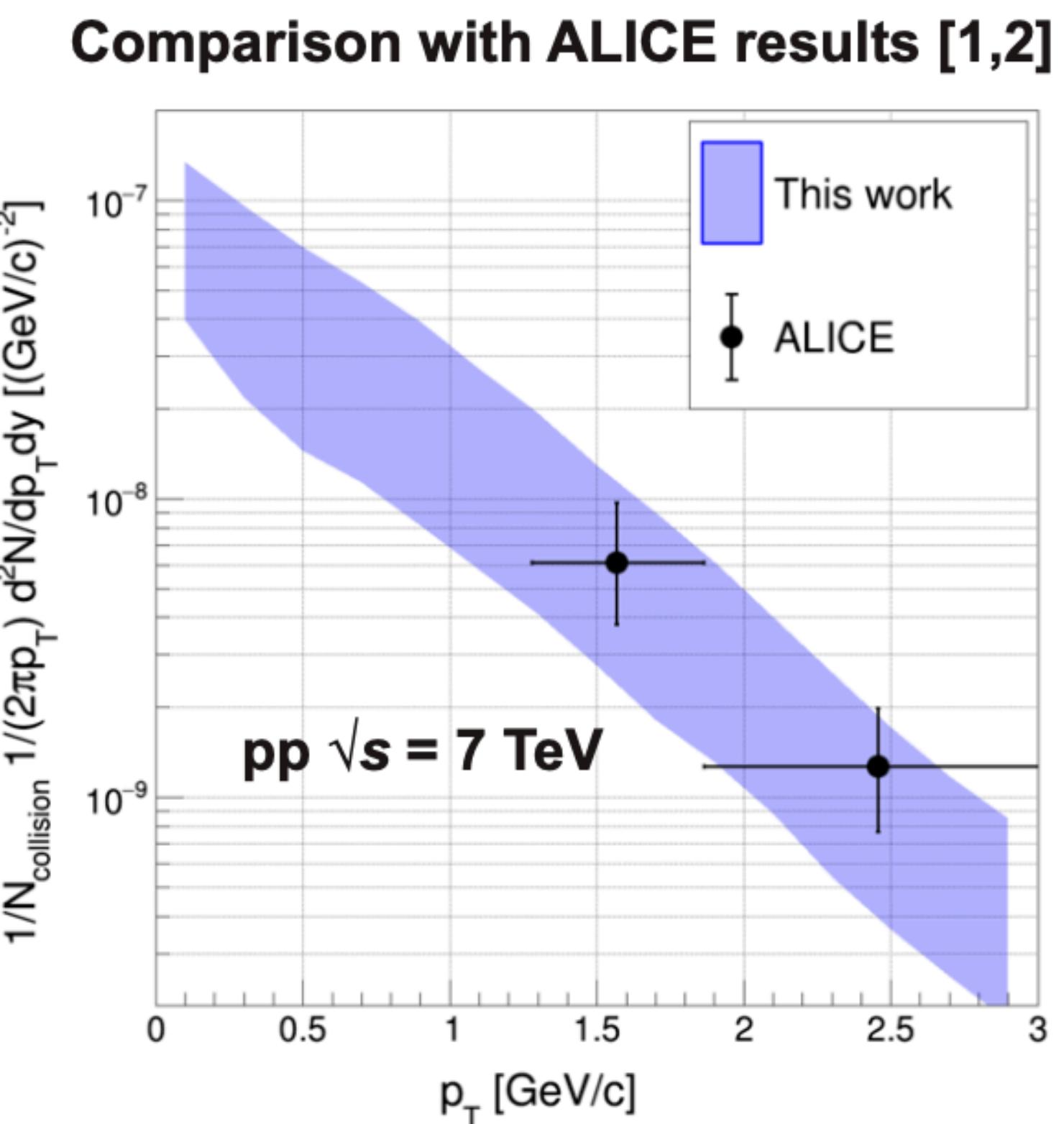
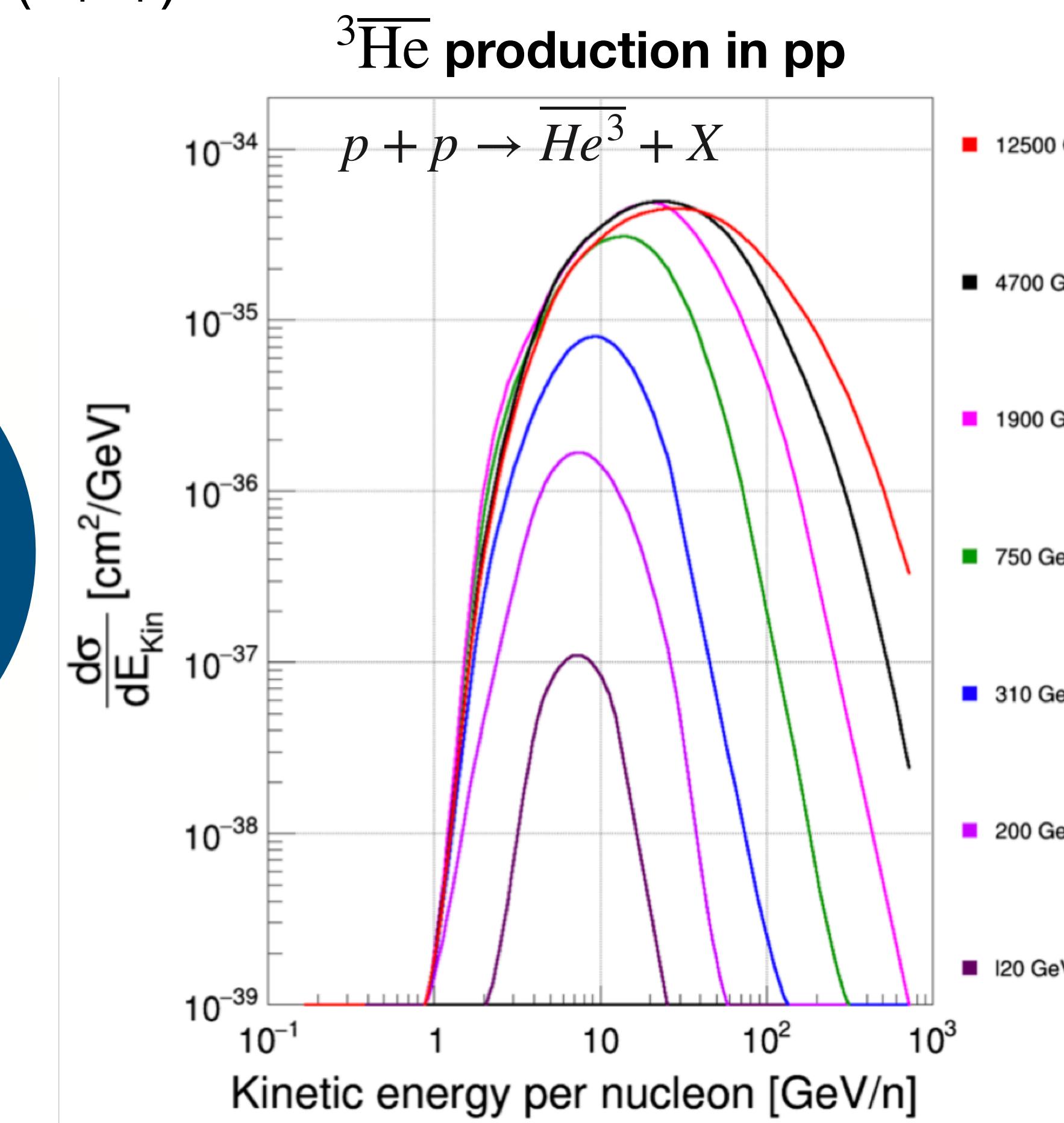
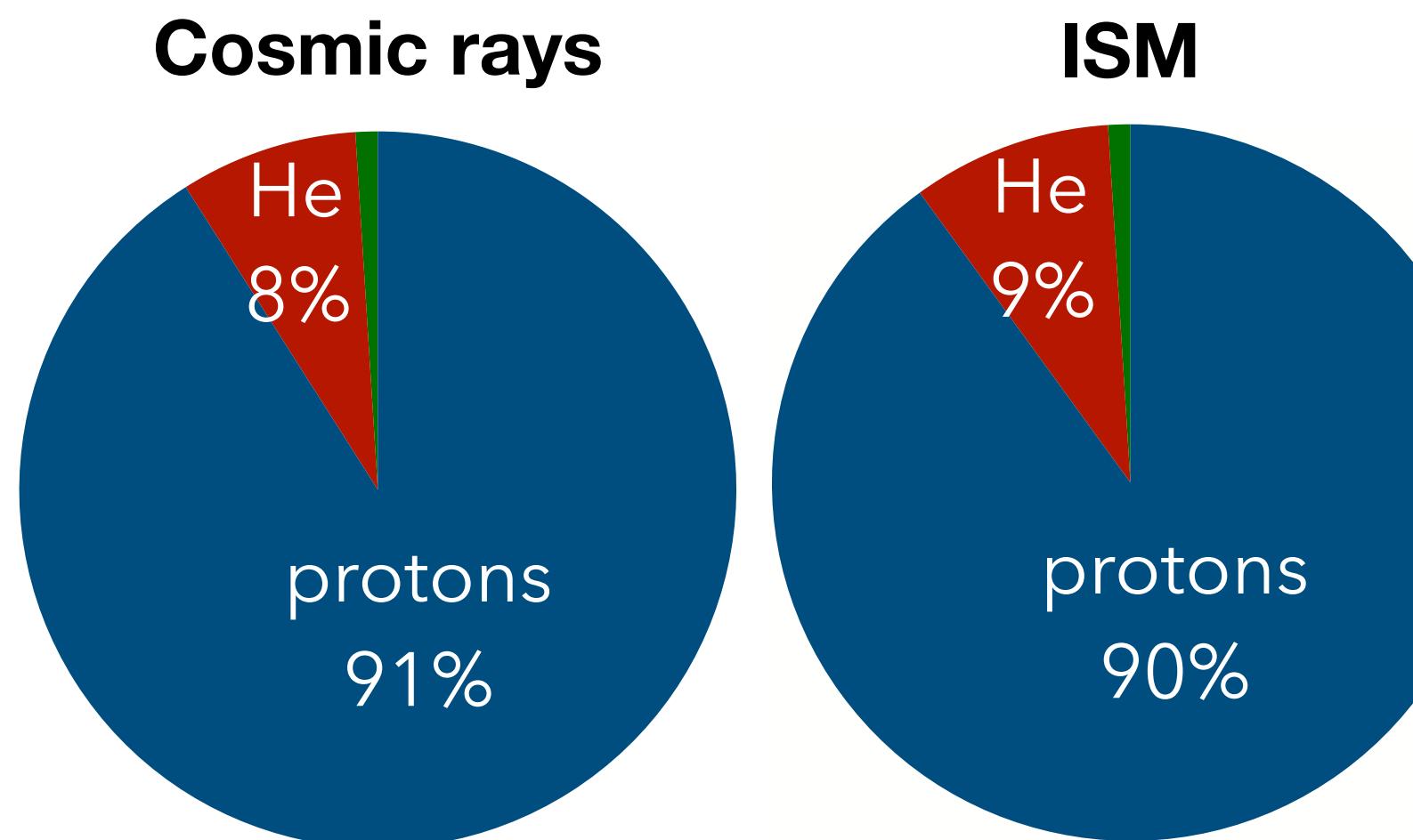
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- Other collision types scaled  $(A_T A_P)^{2.2/3}$



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Relevant collision systems: pp, p-He, He-p, He-He

- Production cross section in pp collisions from [1] (EPOS LHC + event-by-event coalescence)
- Other collision types scaled  $(A_T A_P)^{2.2/3}$
- Validated by ALICE data

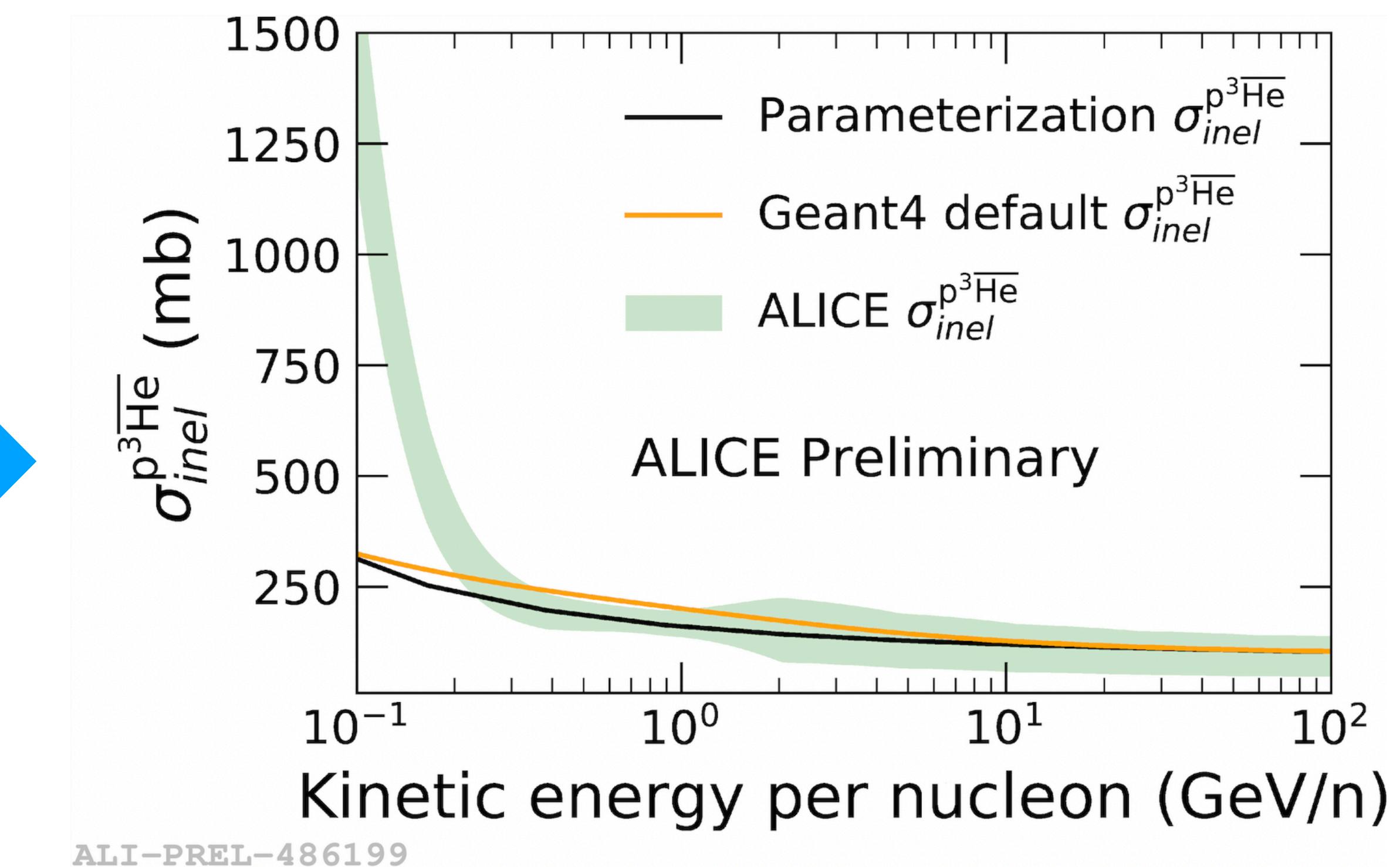
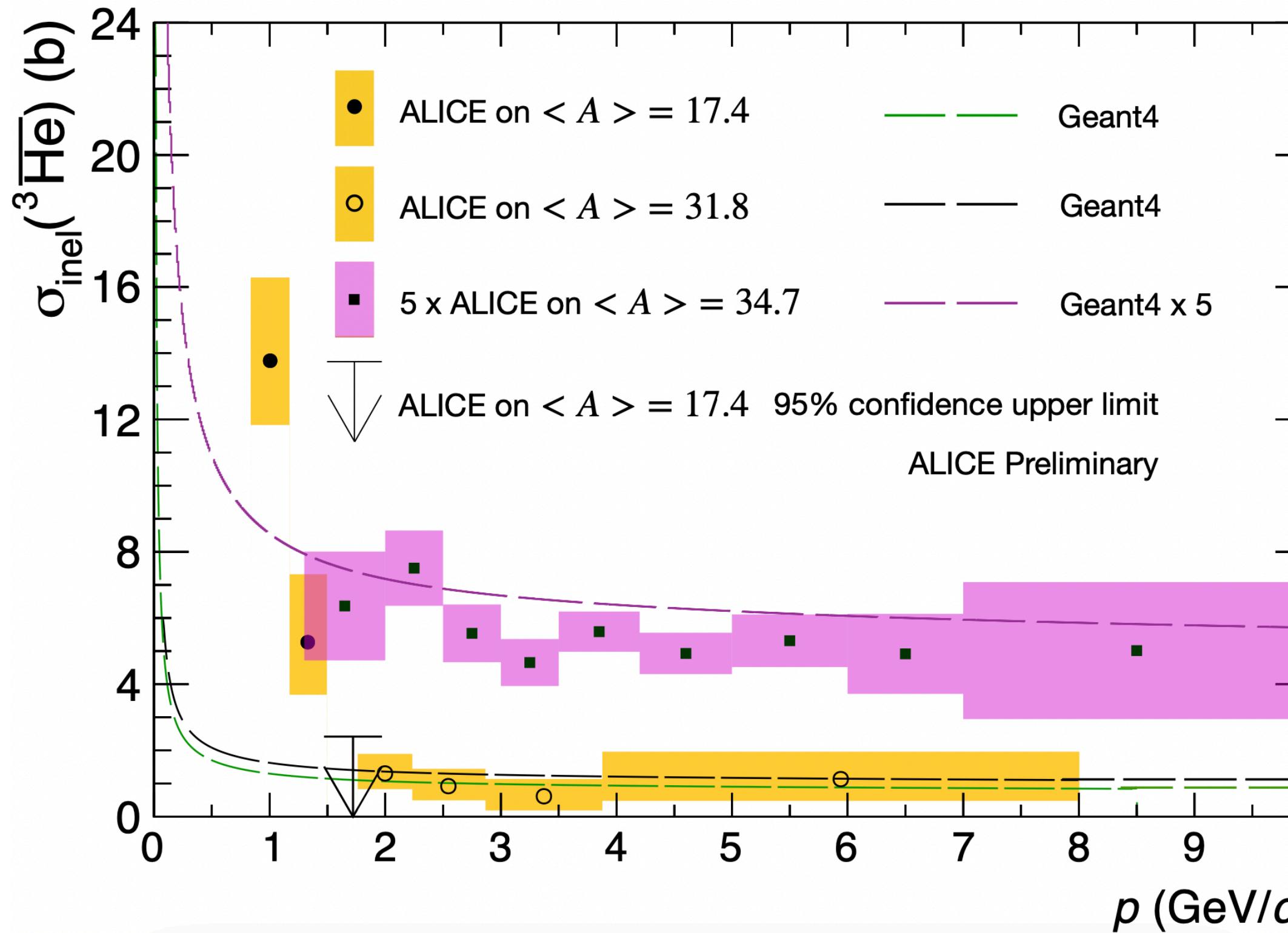


# Inelastic interactions

ALICE measurements of  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$  are on heavy targets with  $\langle A \rangle = 17.4$  to 34.7

Need to be scaled for proton and helium targets (ISM)

- Obtain correction factor for Geant4 parameterization using ALICE measurements
- Use this correction factor for all targets, with additional 8% uncertainty on possible  $A$  scaling [1].

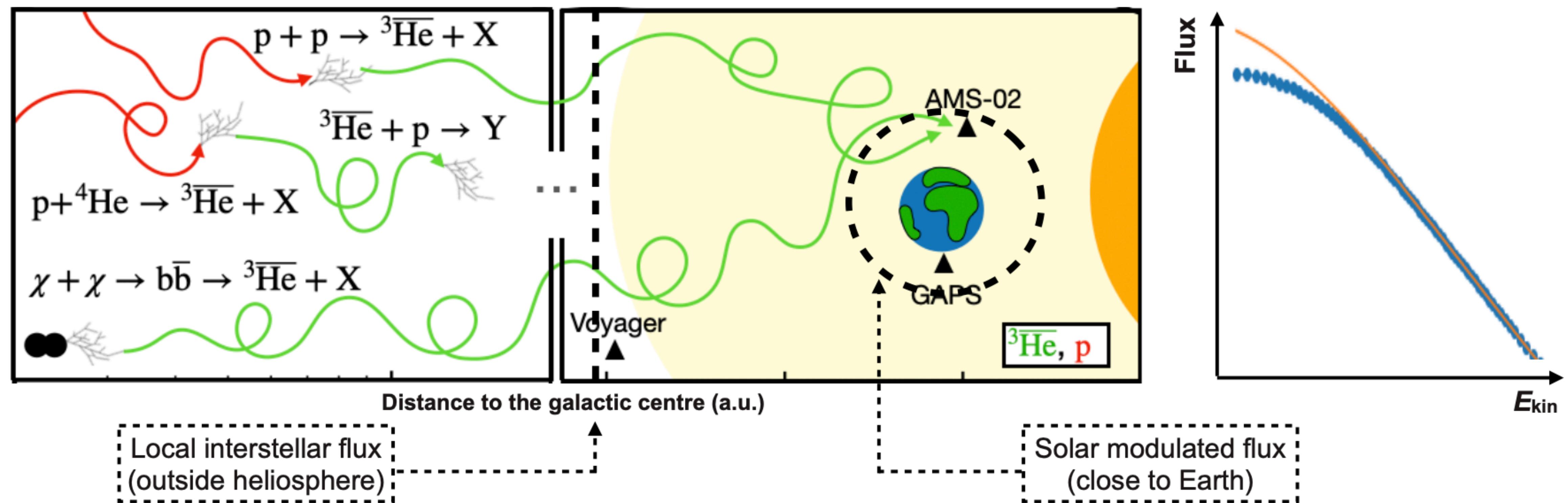


# Solar environment effects

Solar magnetic field forms heliosphere which shields cosmic rays.

Solar modulation is accounted for using the Force-Field approximation [1] with Fisk potential  $\phi = 0.4 \text{ GV}$ :

$$F_{\text{mod}}(E_{\text{mod}}, \phi) = F(E) \frac{(E - Z\phi)^2 - m_{^3\text{He}}^2}{E^2 - m_{^3\text{He}}^2} , \text{ where } E_{\text{mod}} = E - Z\phi$$



# Results: $^3\overline{\text{He}}$ fluxes

Effect of various inelastic cross sections on  $^3\overline{\text{He}}$  fluxes.

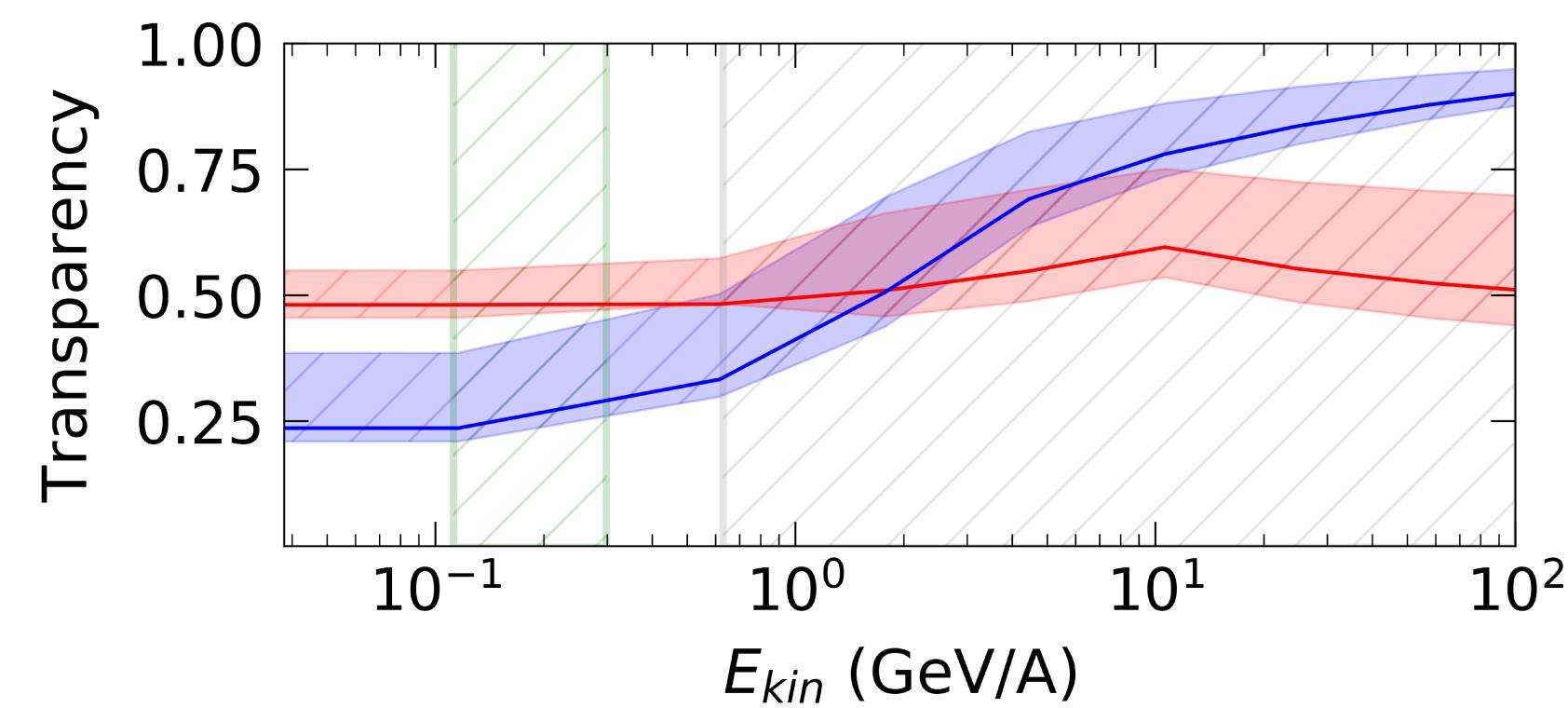
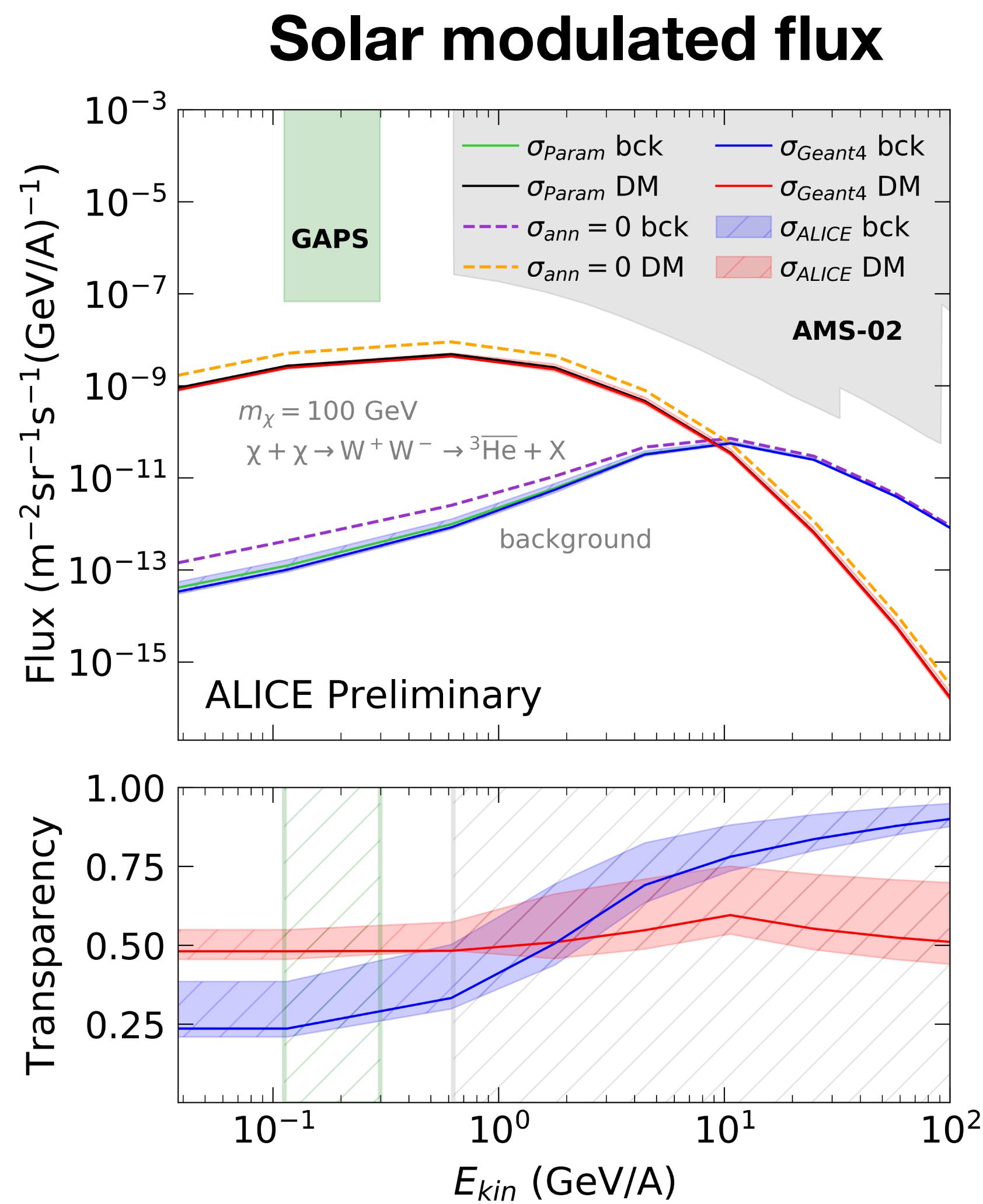
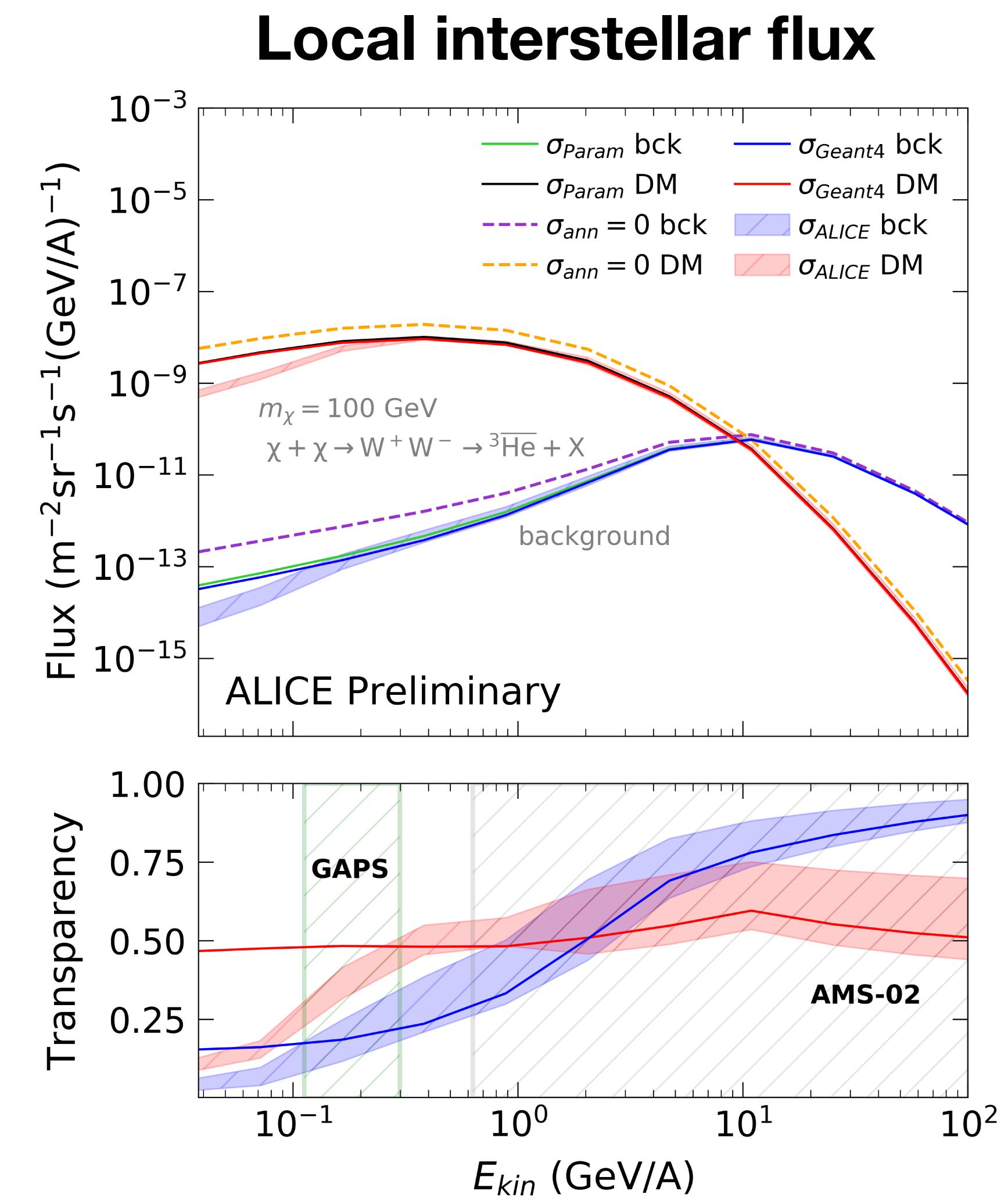
Solar modulated flux shifts particles to lower energies.

Uncertainties only from ALICE measurement on  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$

- Small compared to other uncertainties in the field!**

Rather constant transparency of 50% for typical DM scenario and 25%-90% for background.

- High transparency of the galaxy to  $^3\overline{\text{He}}$  nuclei!**



# Summary and outlook

# Summary and outlook

Analysis of raw reconstructed  $\bar{p}/p$ ,  $\bar{d}/d$ ,  $^3\overline{\text{He}}/^3\text{He}$  ratios and  $^3\overline{\text{He}}_{TOF}/^3\overline{\text{He}}_{TPC}$  ratio.

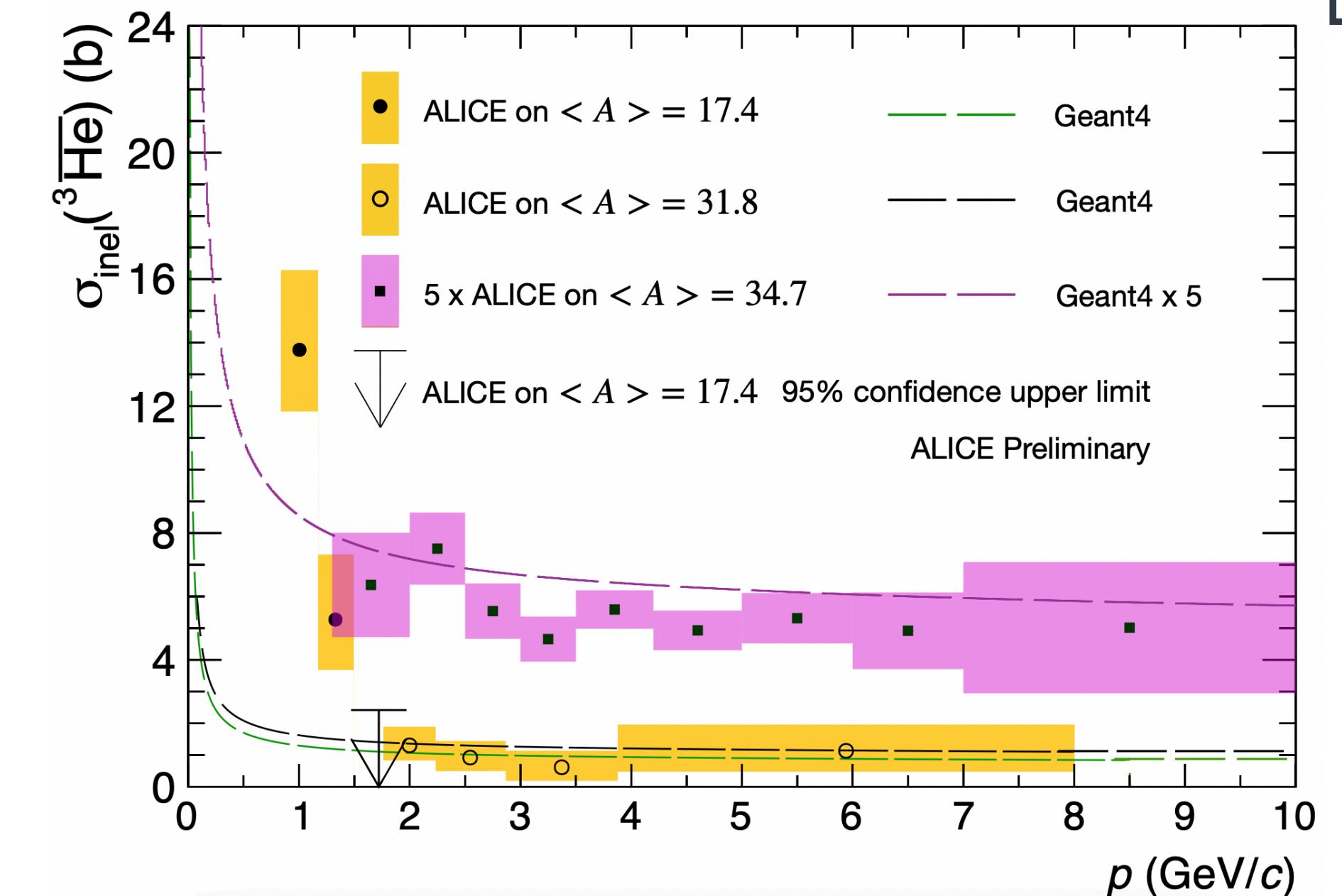
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First low energy measurement of the antideuteron inelastic cross section.

- Paper: [PRL 125, 162001 \(2020\)](#)

First measurement of the  $^3\overline{\text{He}}$  inelastic cross section.

- Paper in preparation



# Summary and outlook

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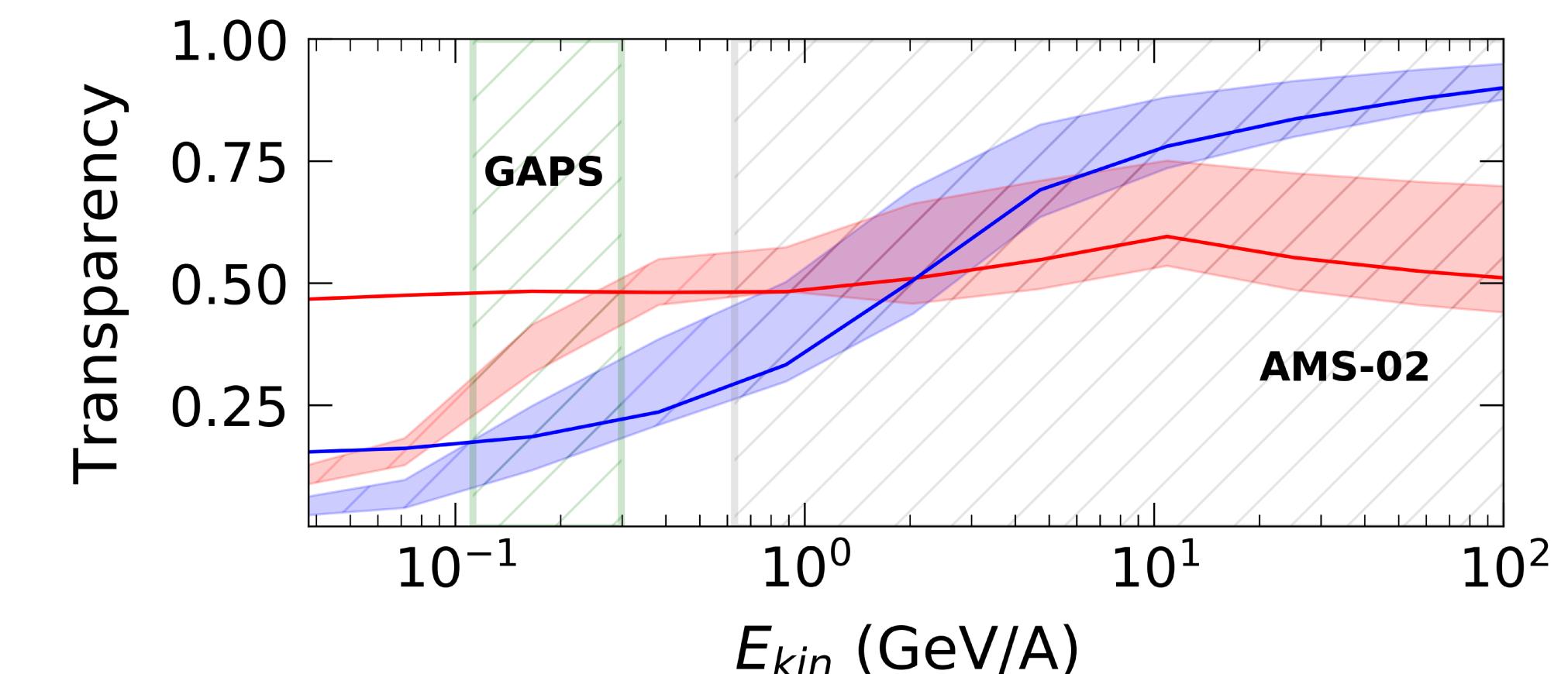
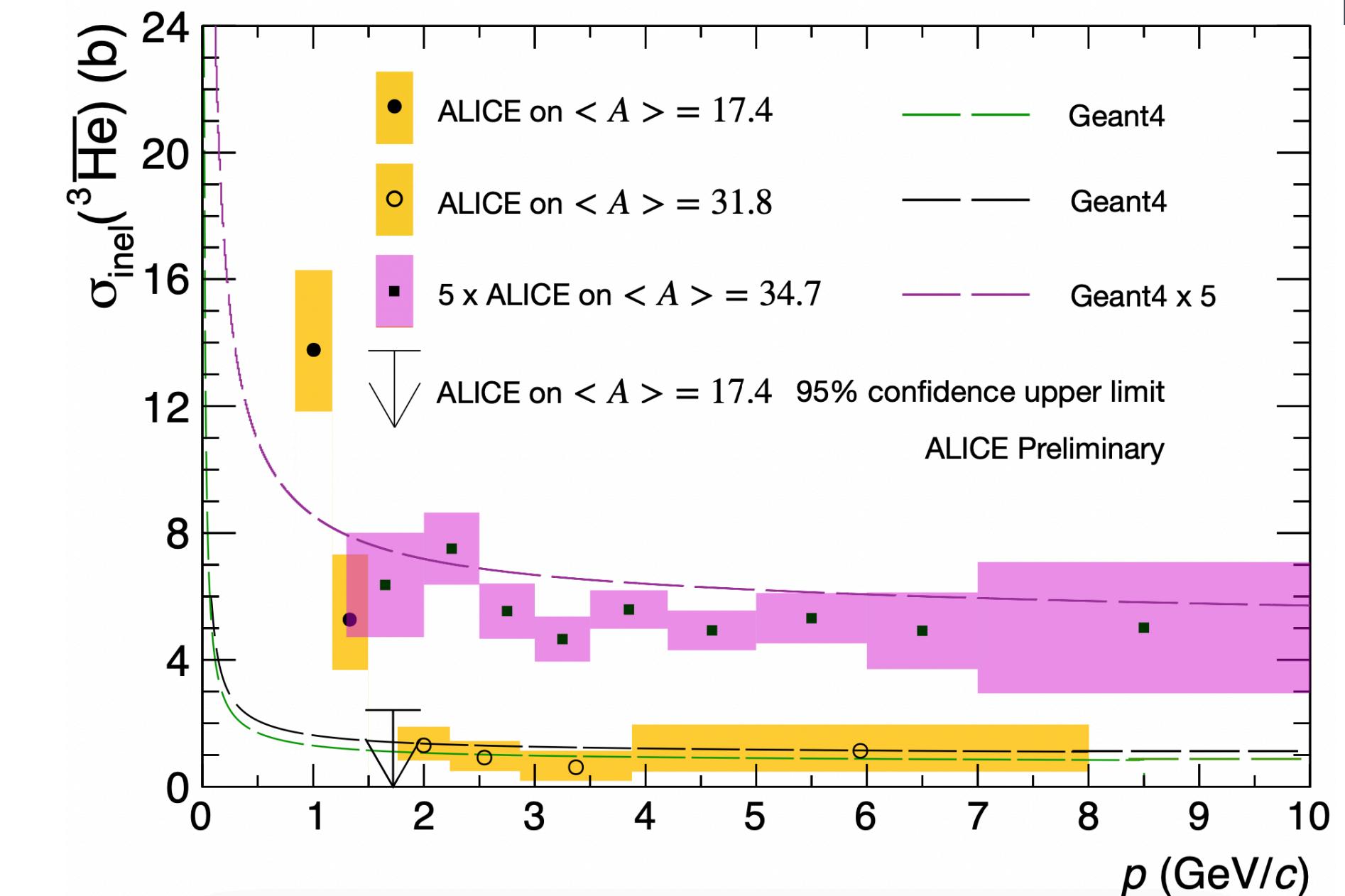
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Effect of  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$  measurements:

- Transparency of the galaxy to  $^3\overline{\text{He}}$  from different sources.



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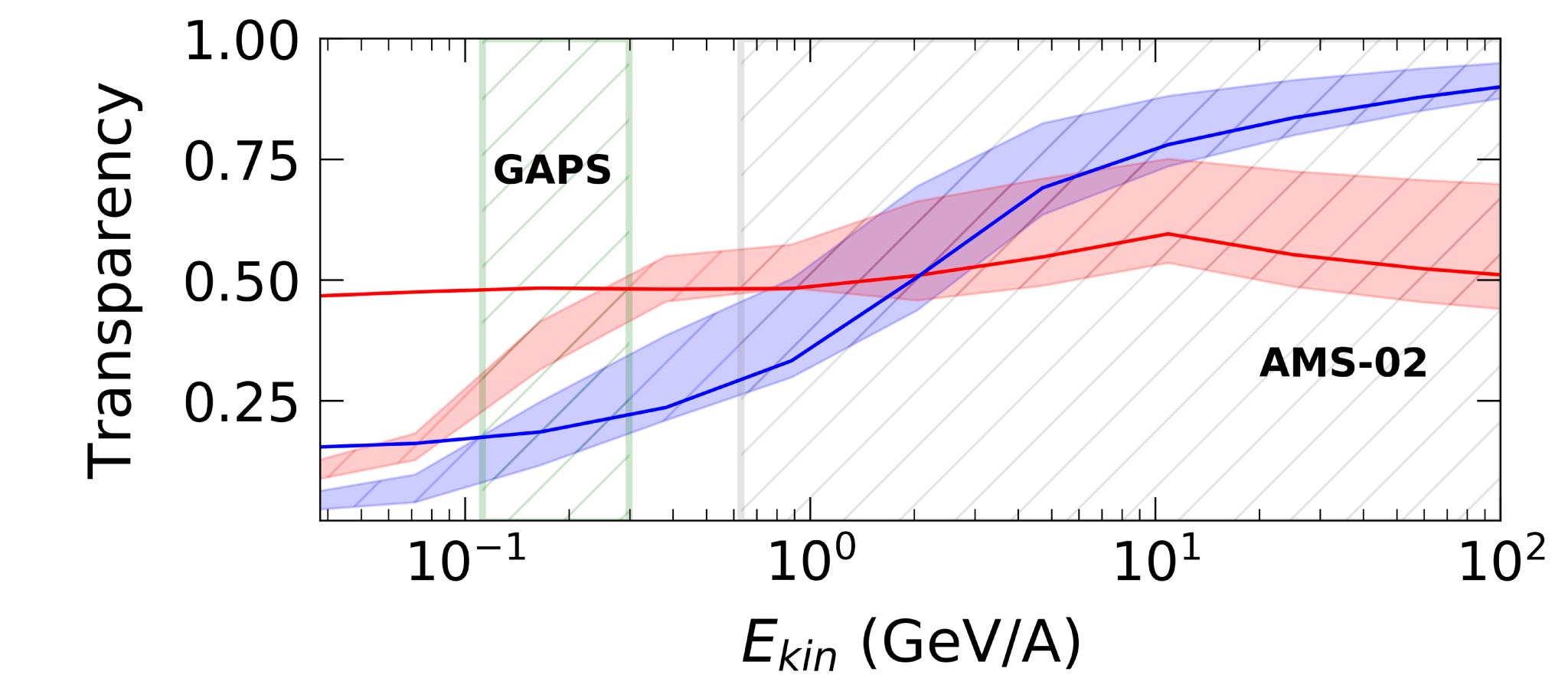
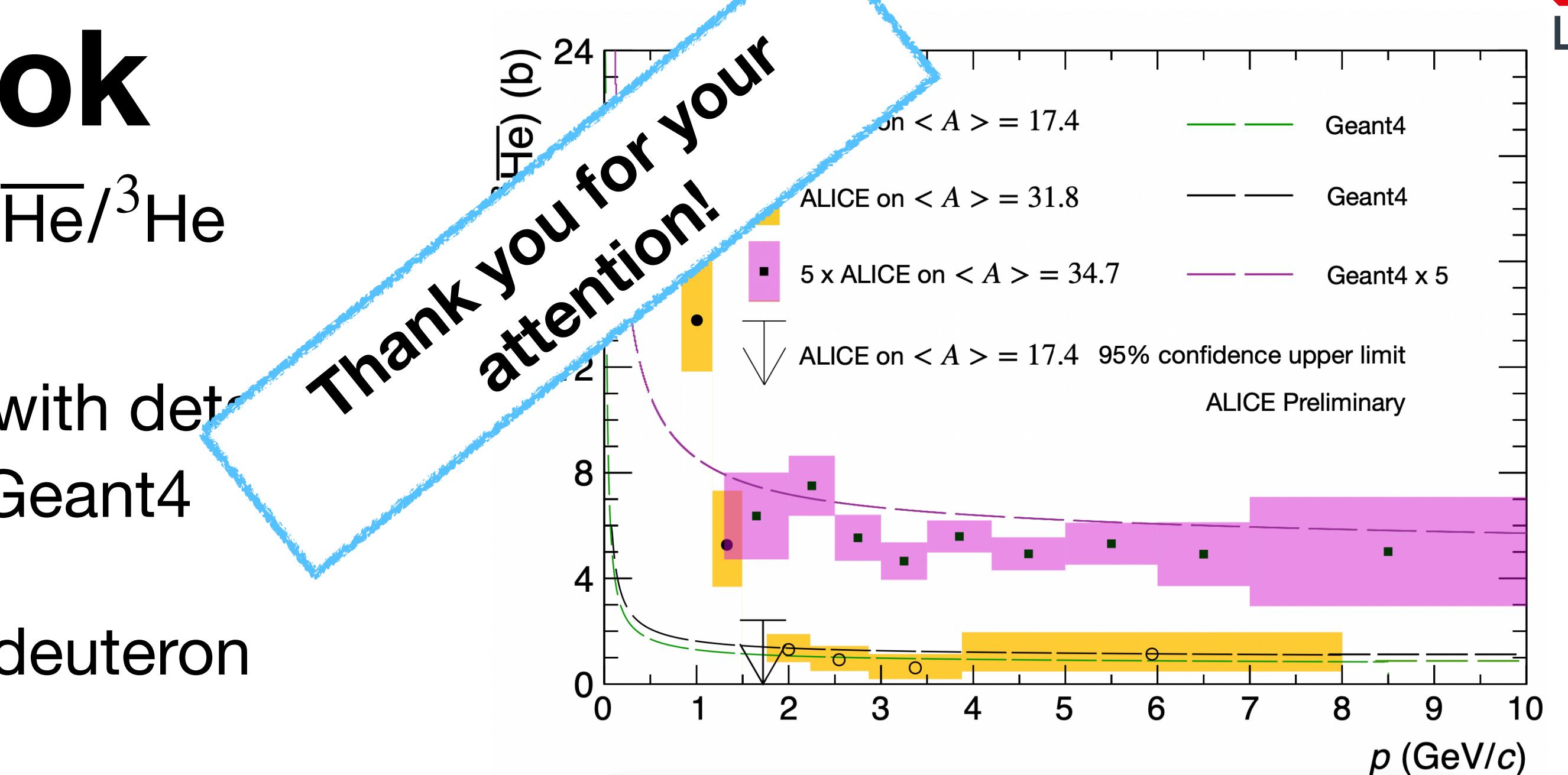
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ALICE Preliminary

ALI-PREL-486164

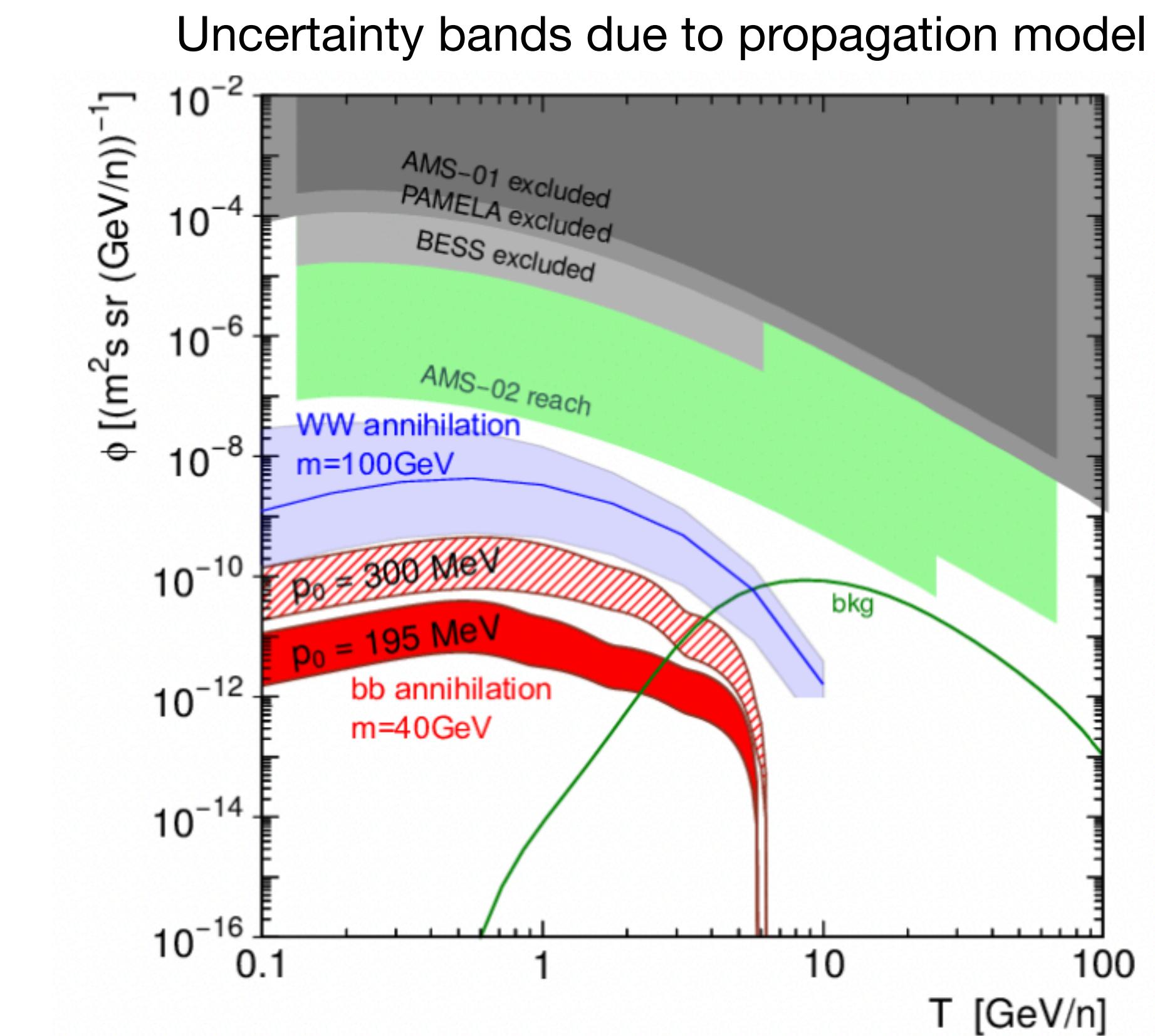
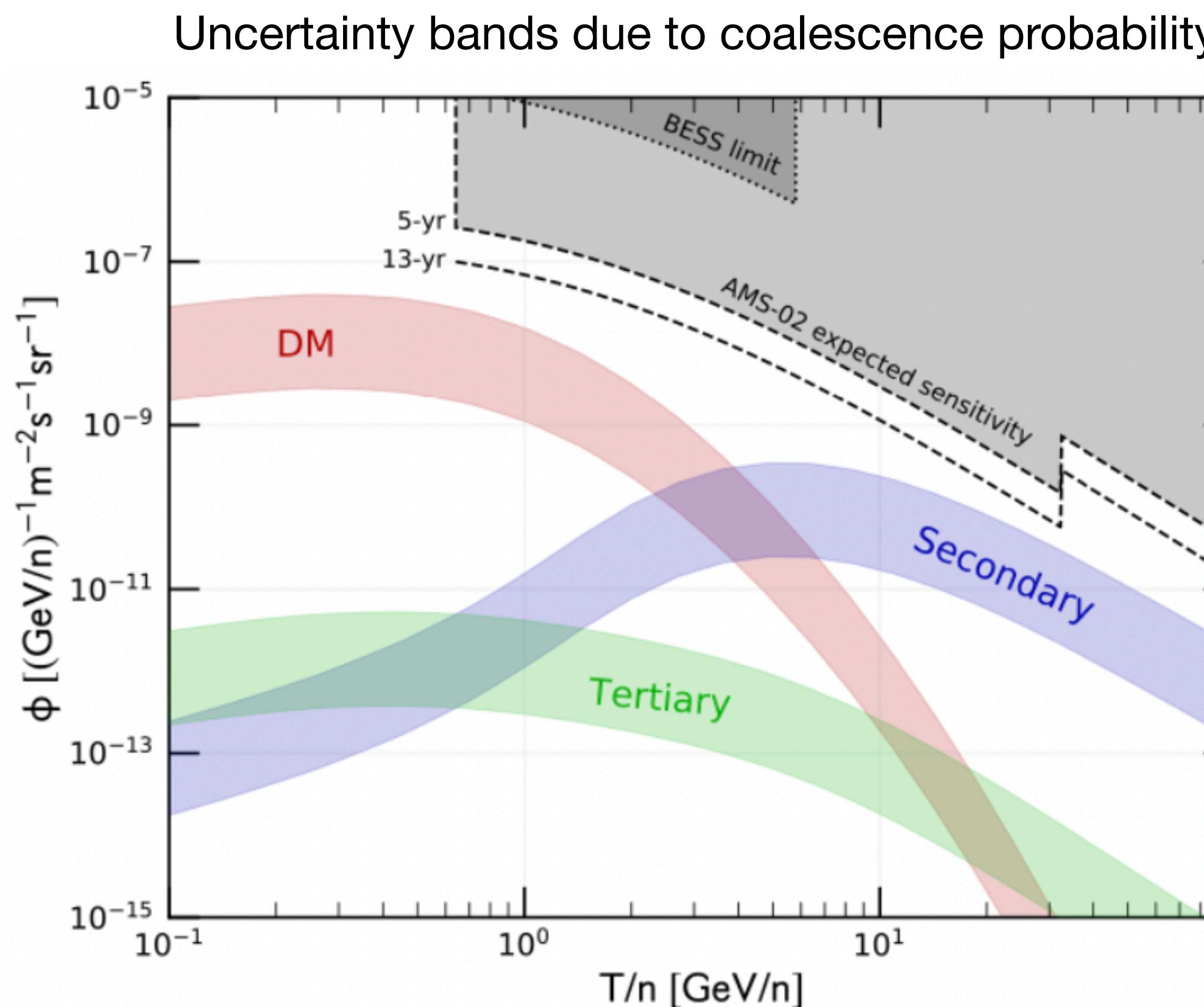
S. Koenigstorfer | PANIC | 5.9.2021 | 17



# Back-up slides

# Current predictions of antinuclei fluxes near earth

- Production: constrained using collider measurements - large uncertainty
- Propagation: constrained using cosmic ray measurements - large uncertainty
- Annihilation: no experimental data at low energies - **unknown uncertainty**



# Particle identification in TPC and TOF

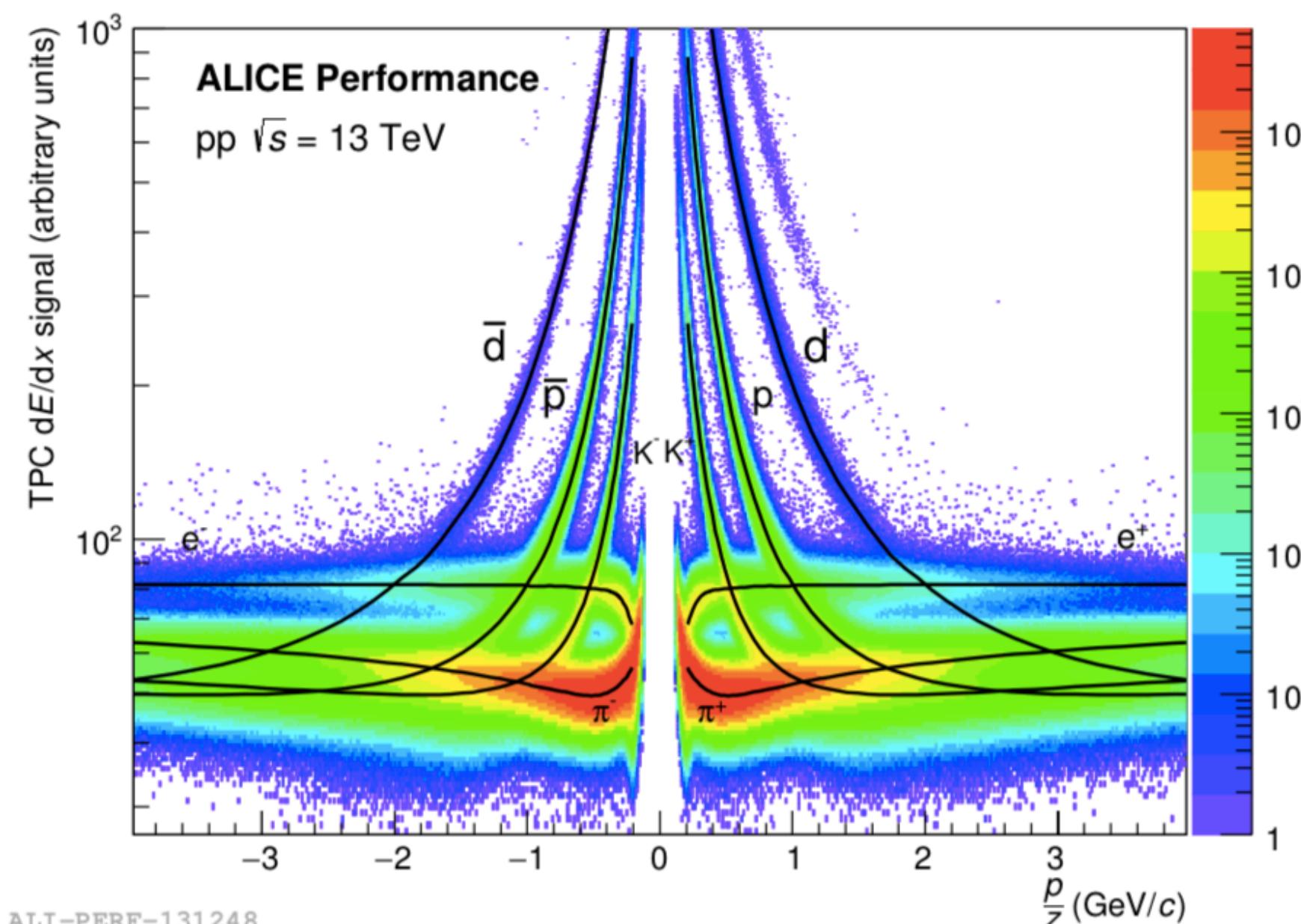
Complementary information from TPC and TOF detectors allows us to select high purity (anti)particles:

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- TPC:  $dE/dx$  in gas

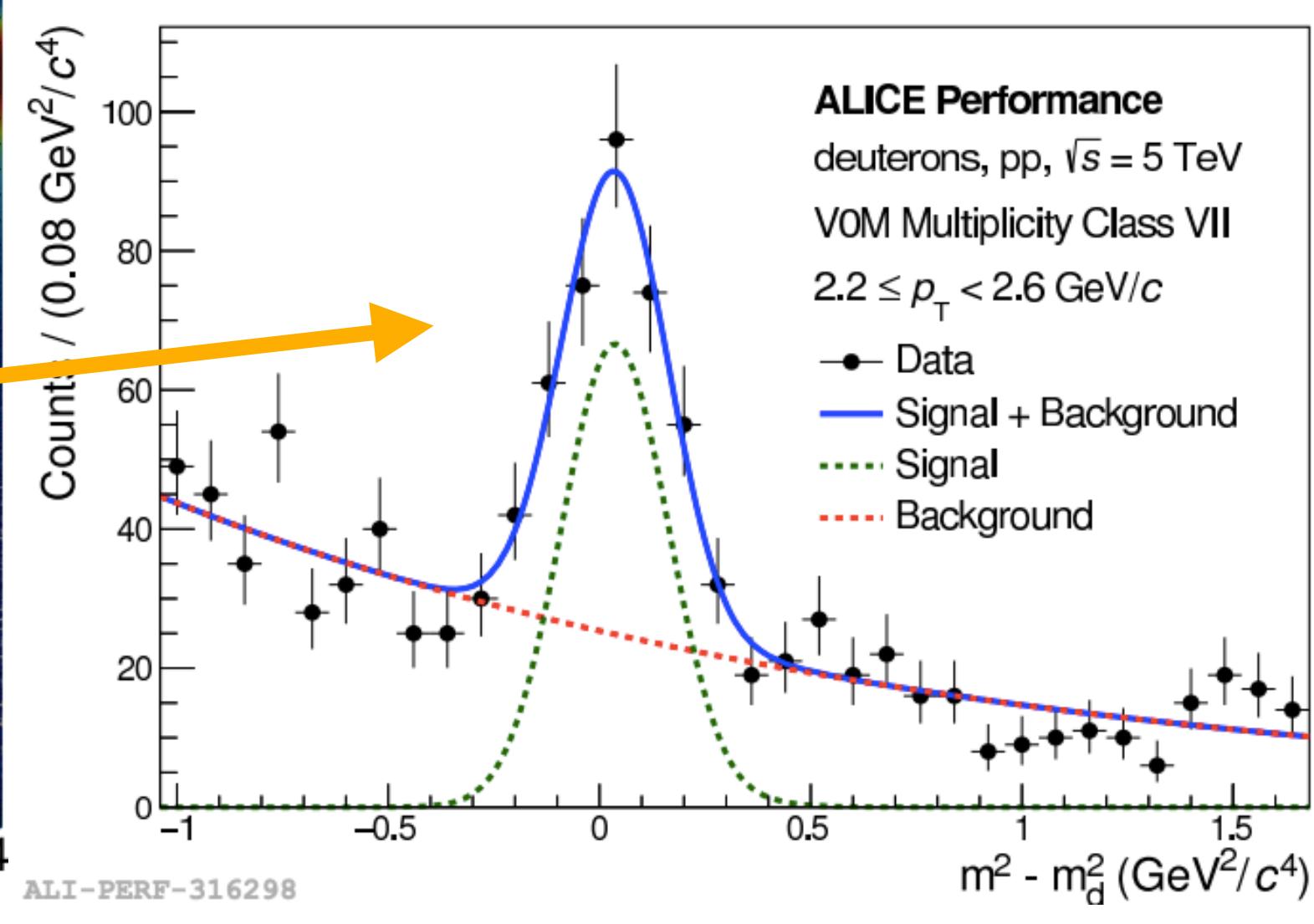
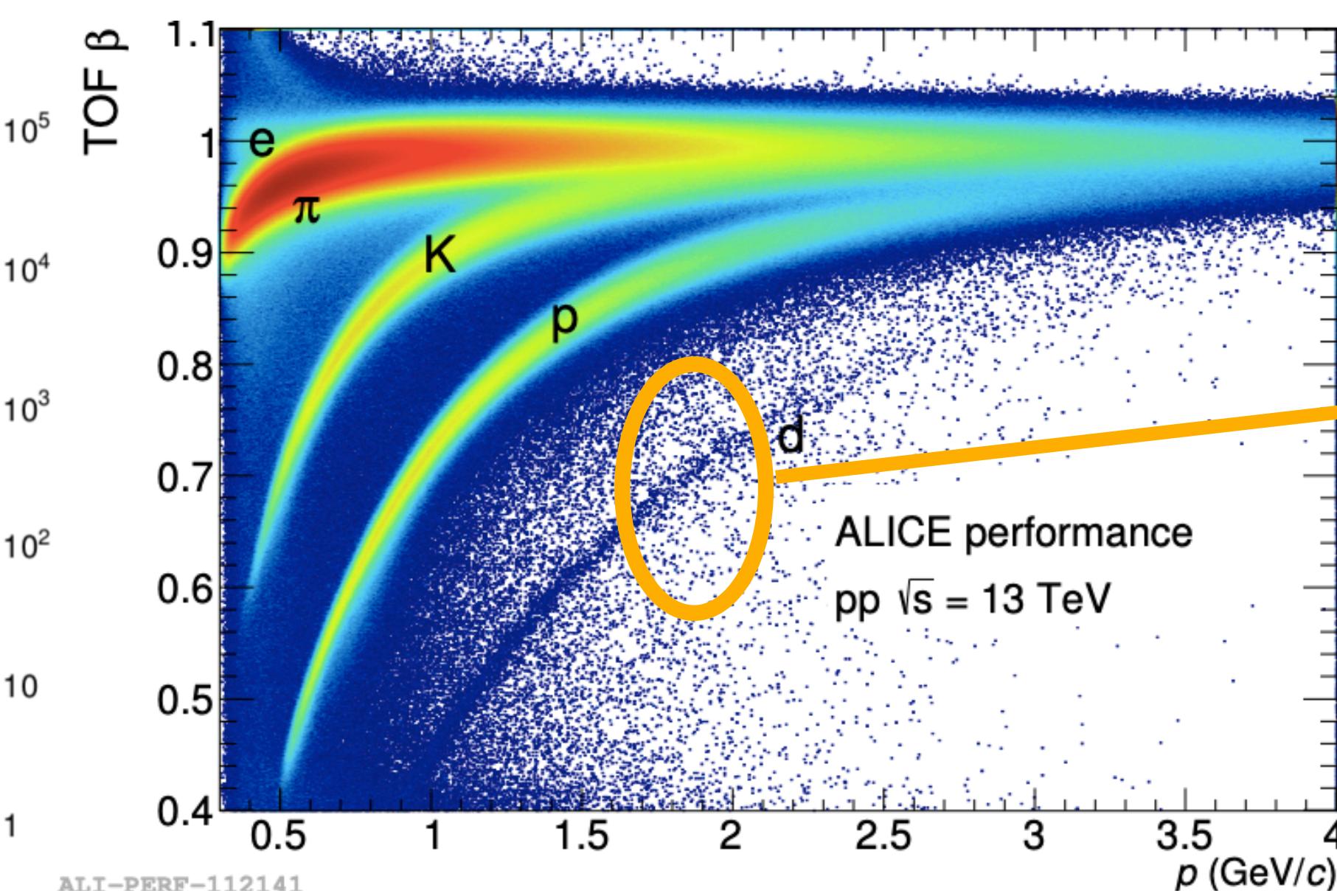
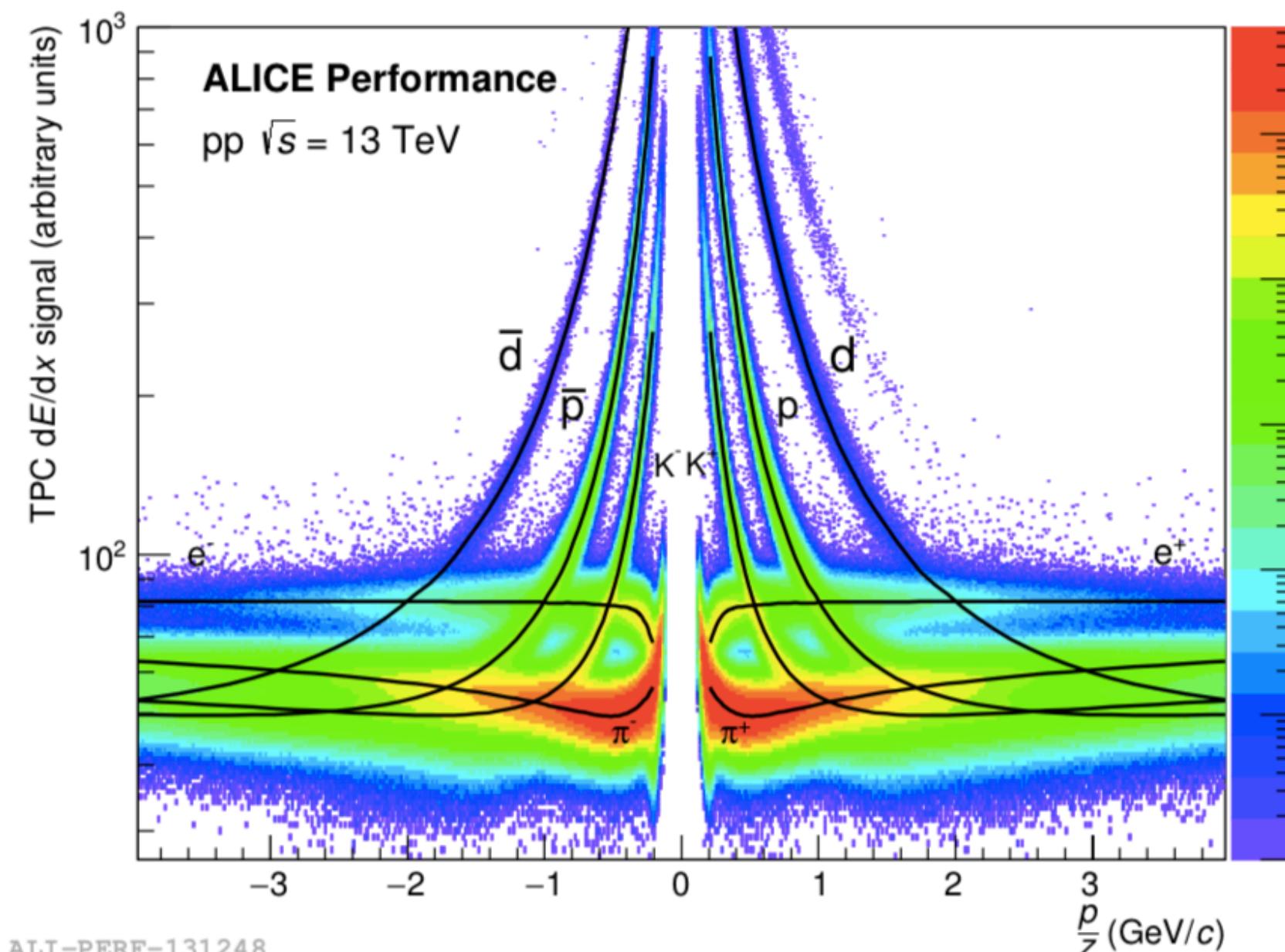


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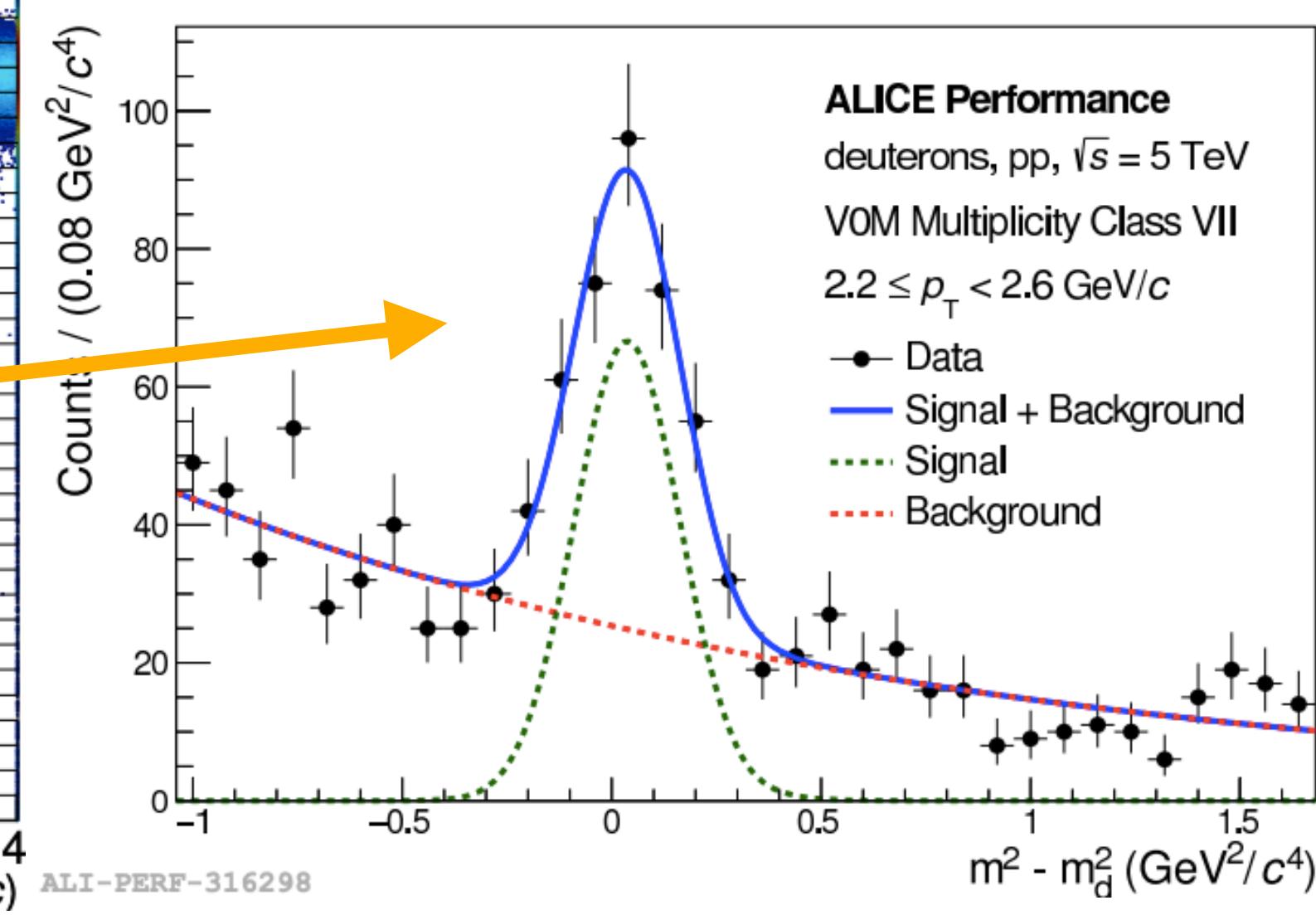
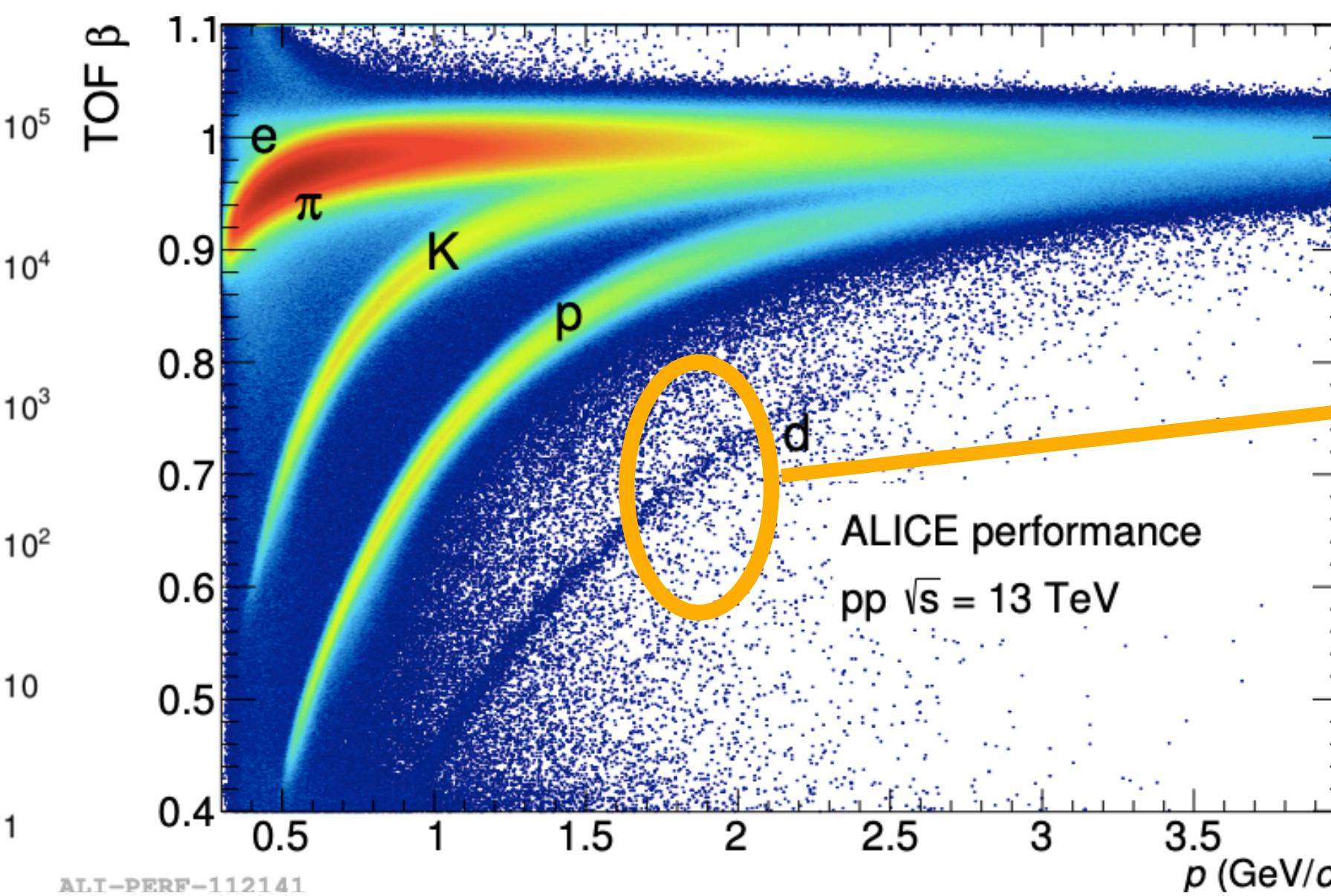
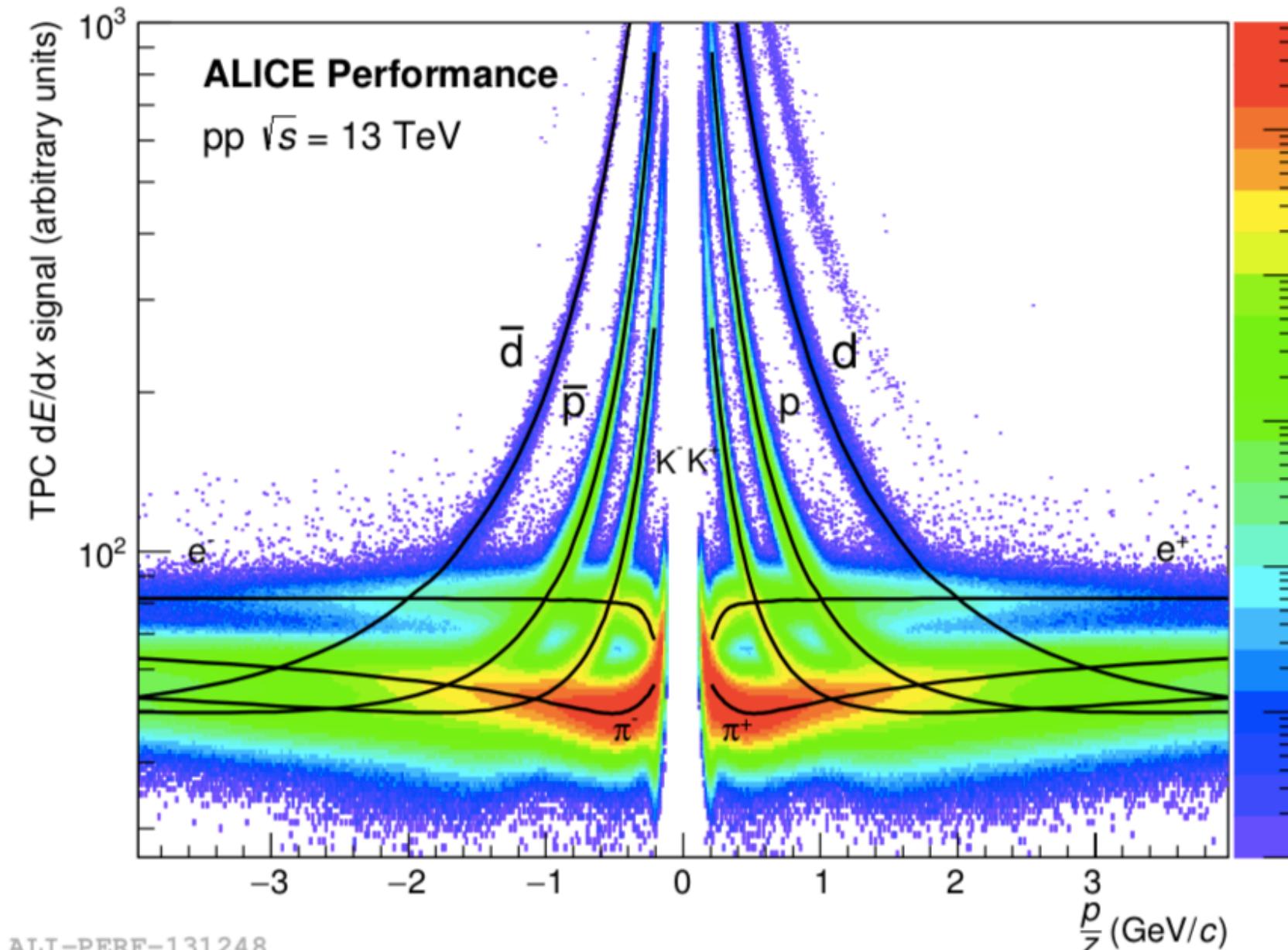
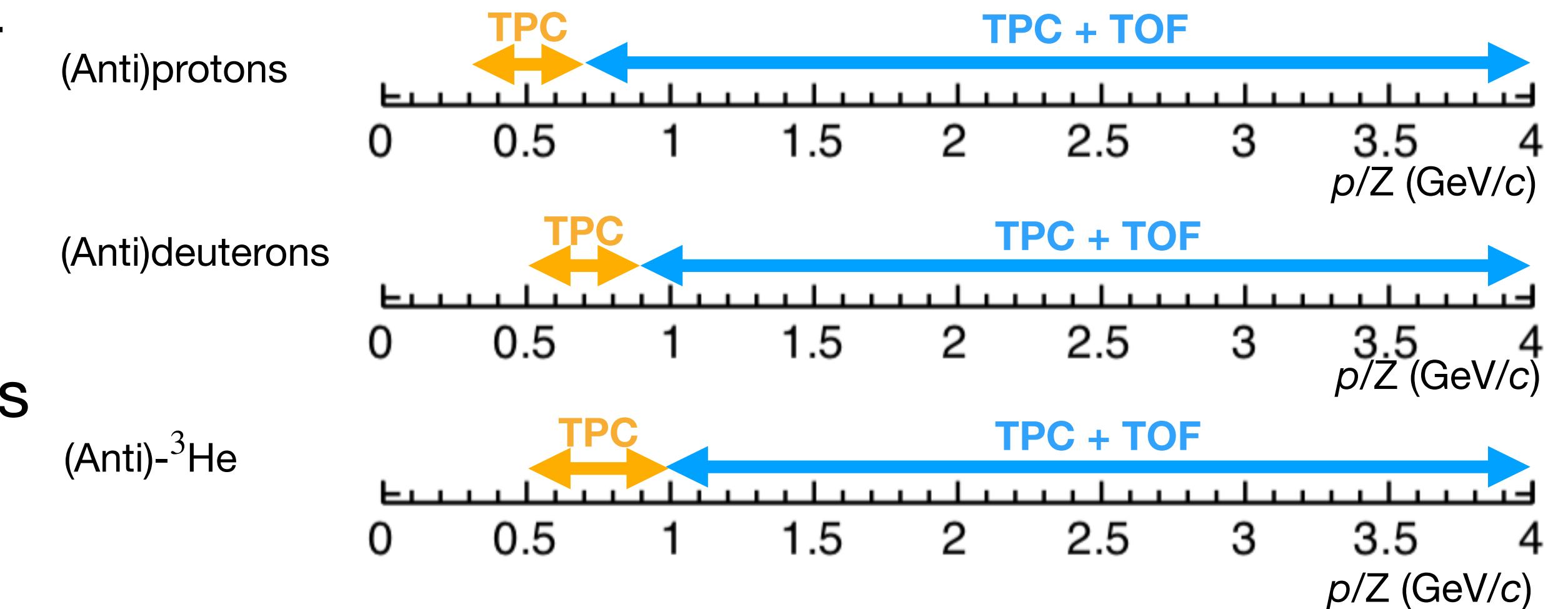
- TPC:  $dE/dx$  in gas
- TOF measurement  $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$ ,  $p = \gamma\beta mc \rightarrow$  mass



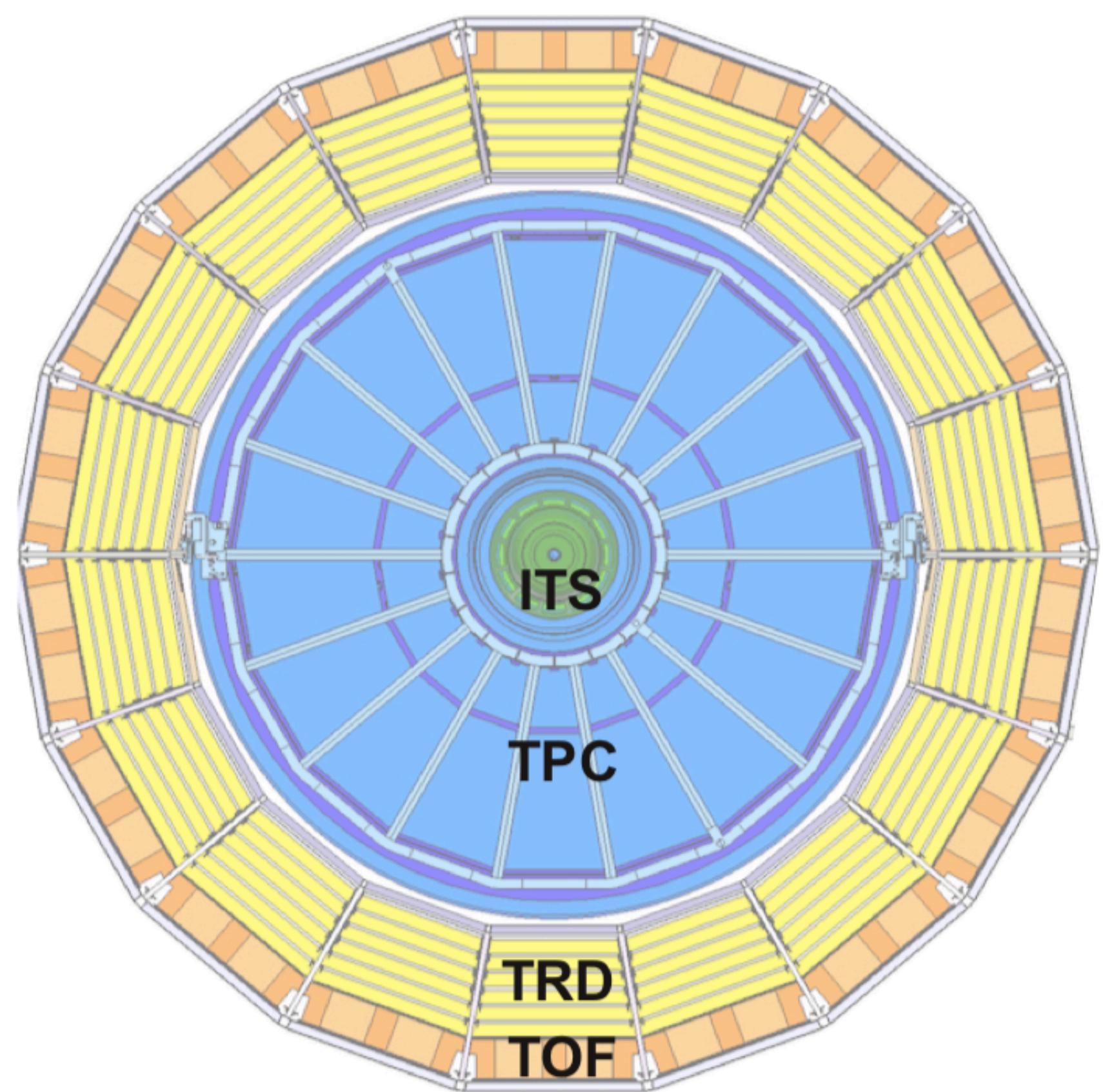
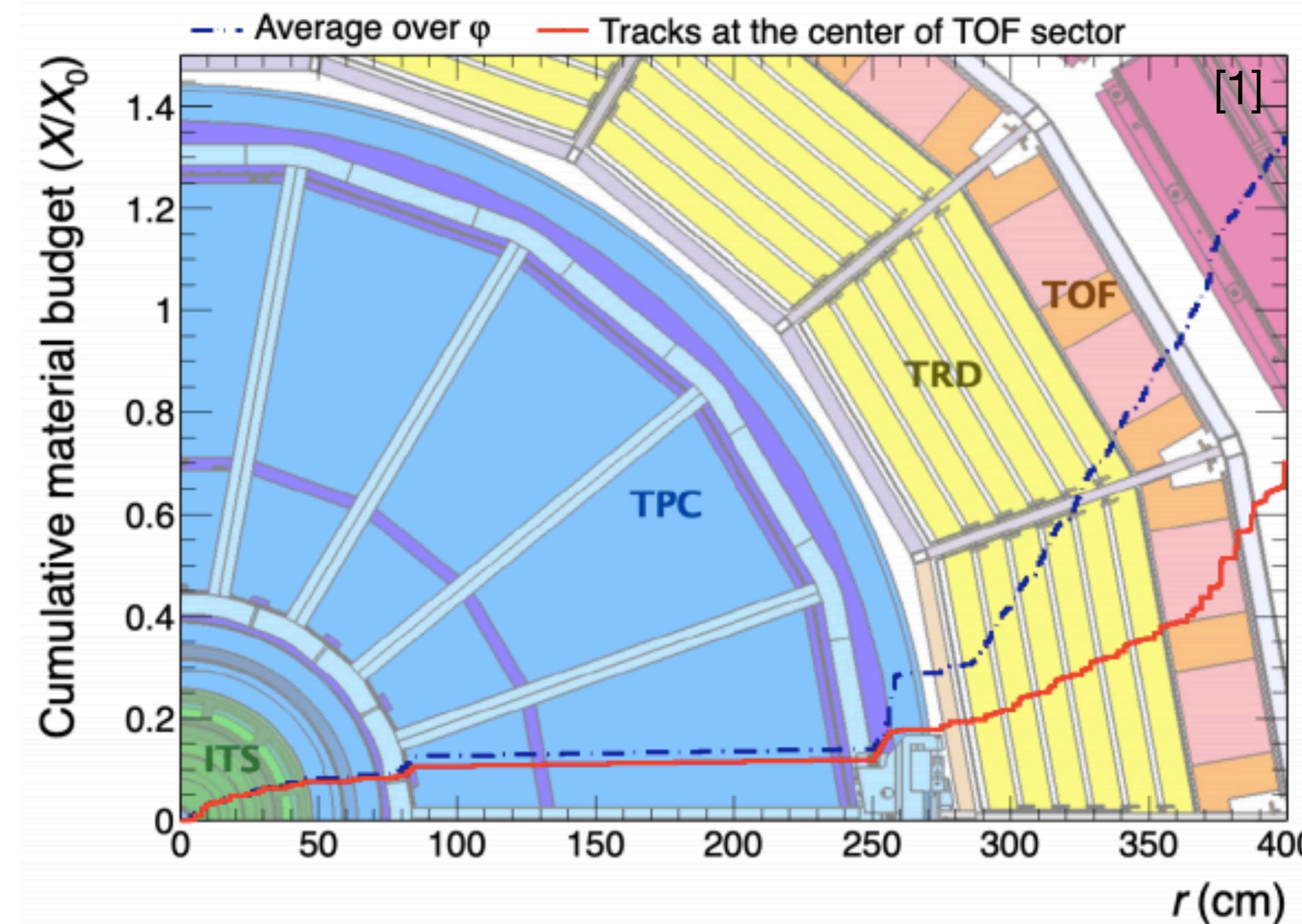
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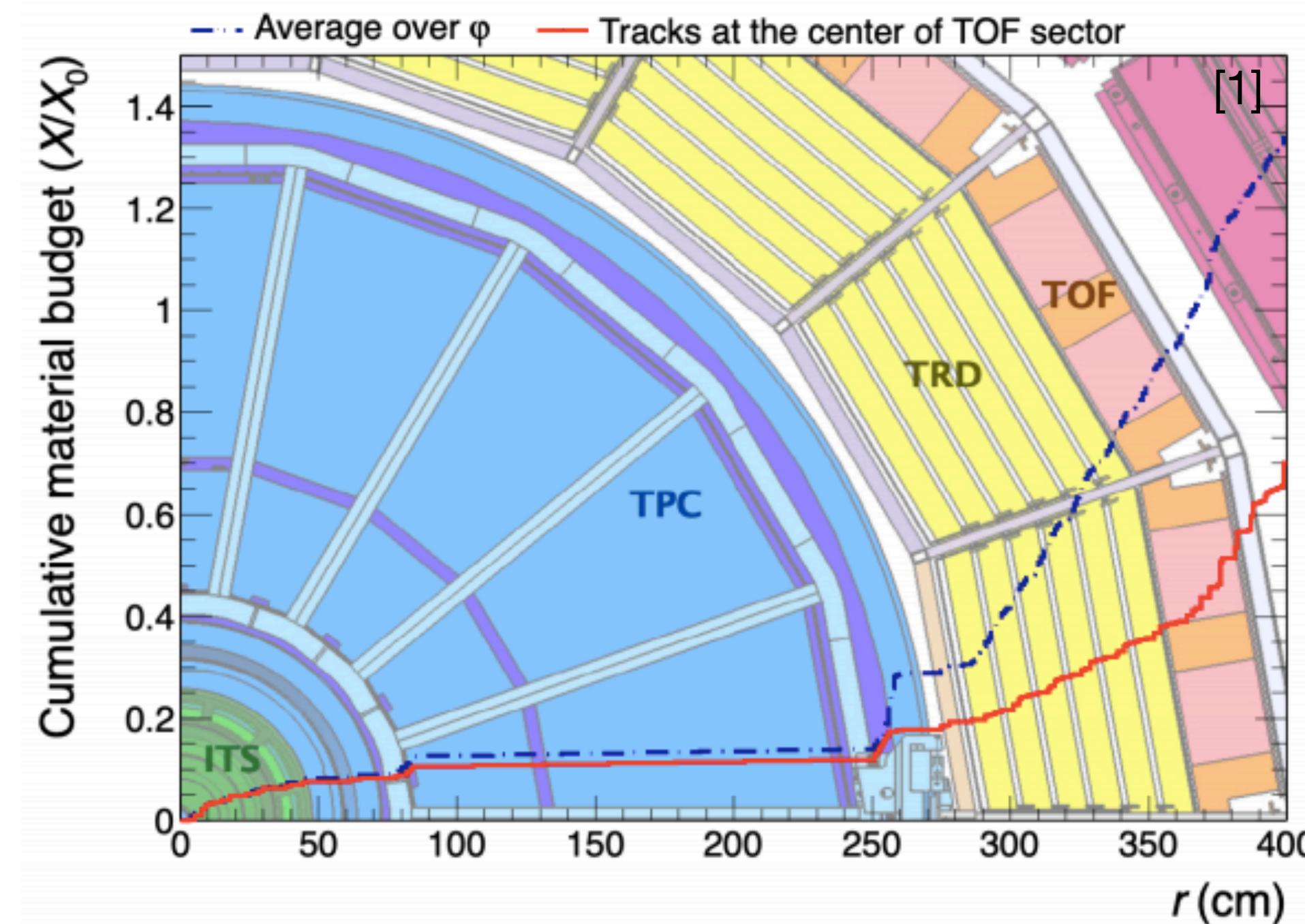
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# ... and the ALICE detector material as a target



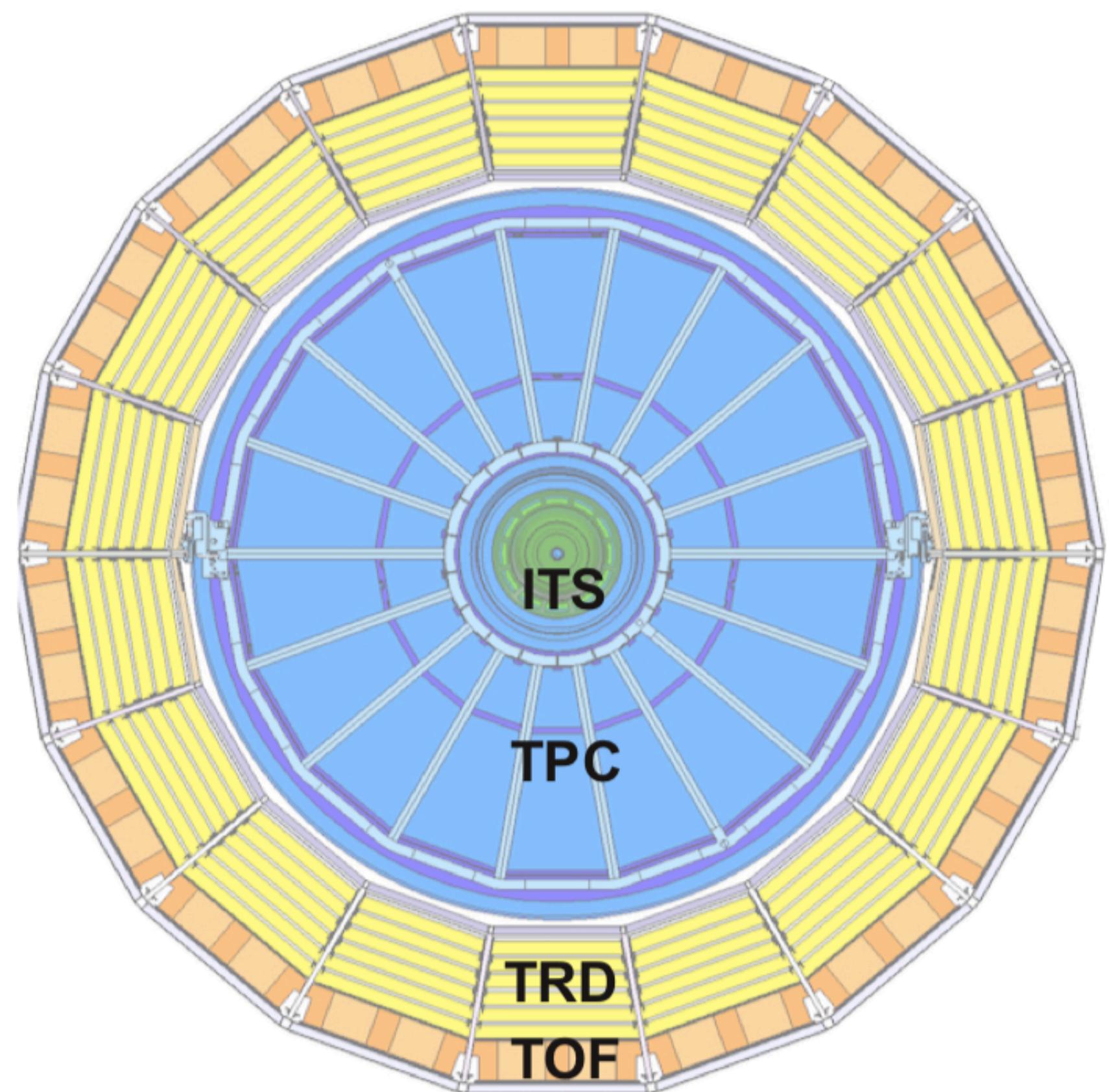
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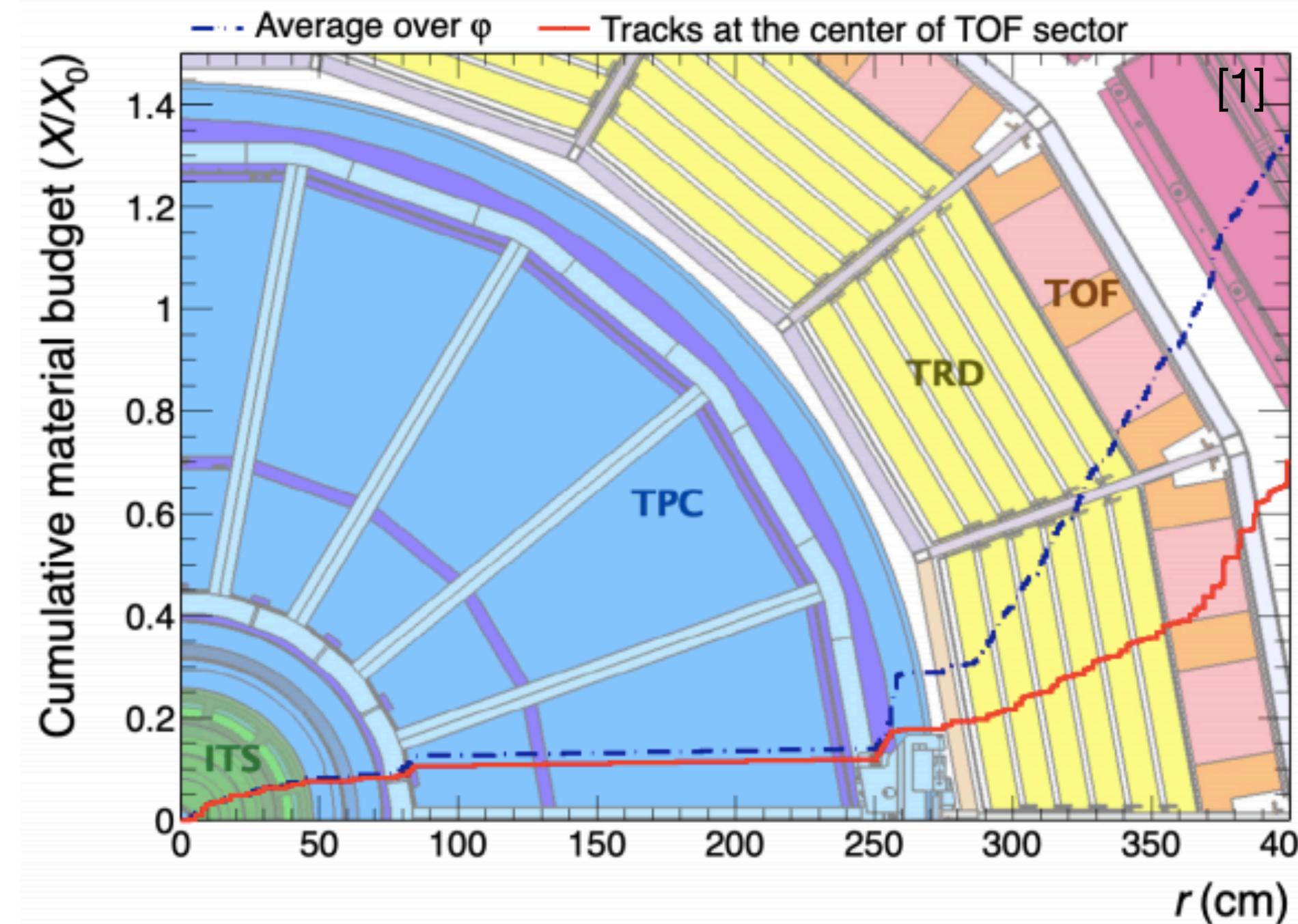
Idea to determine absorption: to use raw reconstructed antiparticle-to-particle ratios ( $\bar{p}/p$ ,  $\bar{d}/d$ ,  ${}^3\bar{\text{He}}/{}^3\text{He}$ ,  $\bar{t}/t$ )

- No correction due to detector efficiency or absorption from material.
- Correct for secondary (anti)particles from weak decays and spallation processes.

Measure  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$  via comparison with detailed Monte Carlo simulations using Geant4.



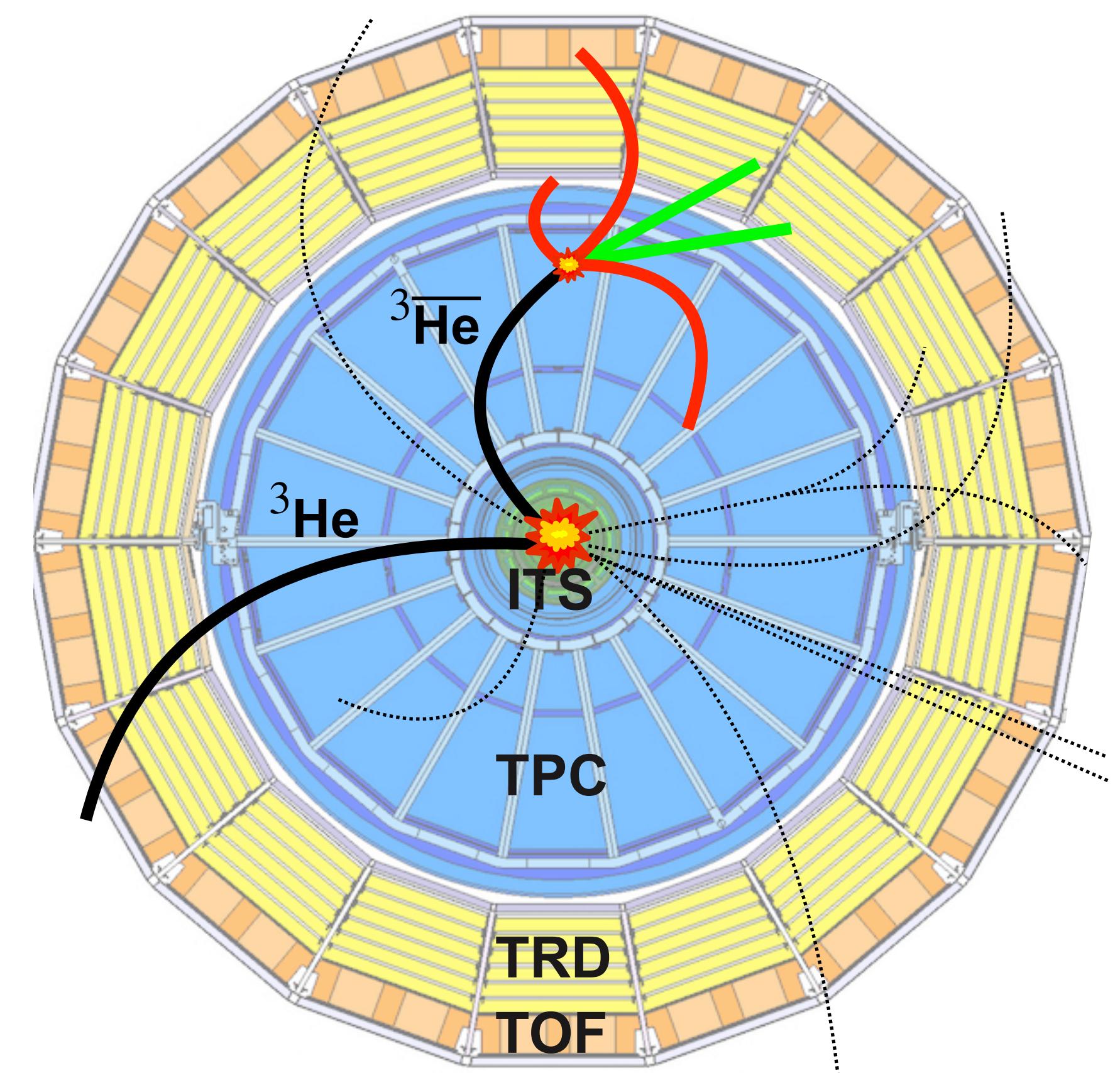
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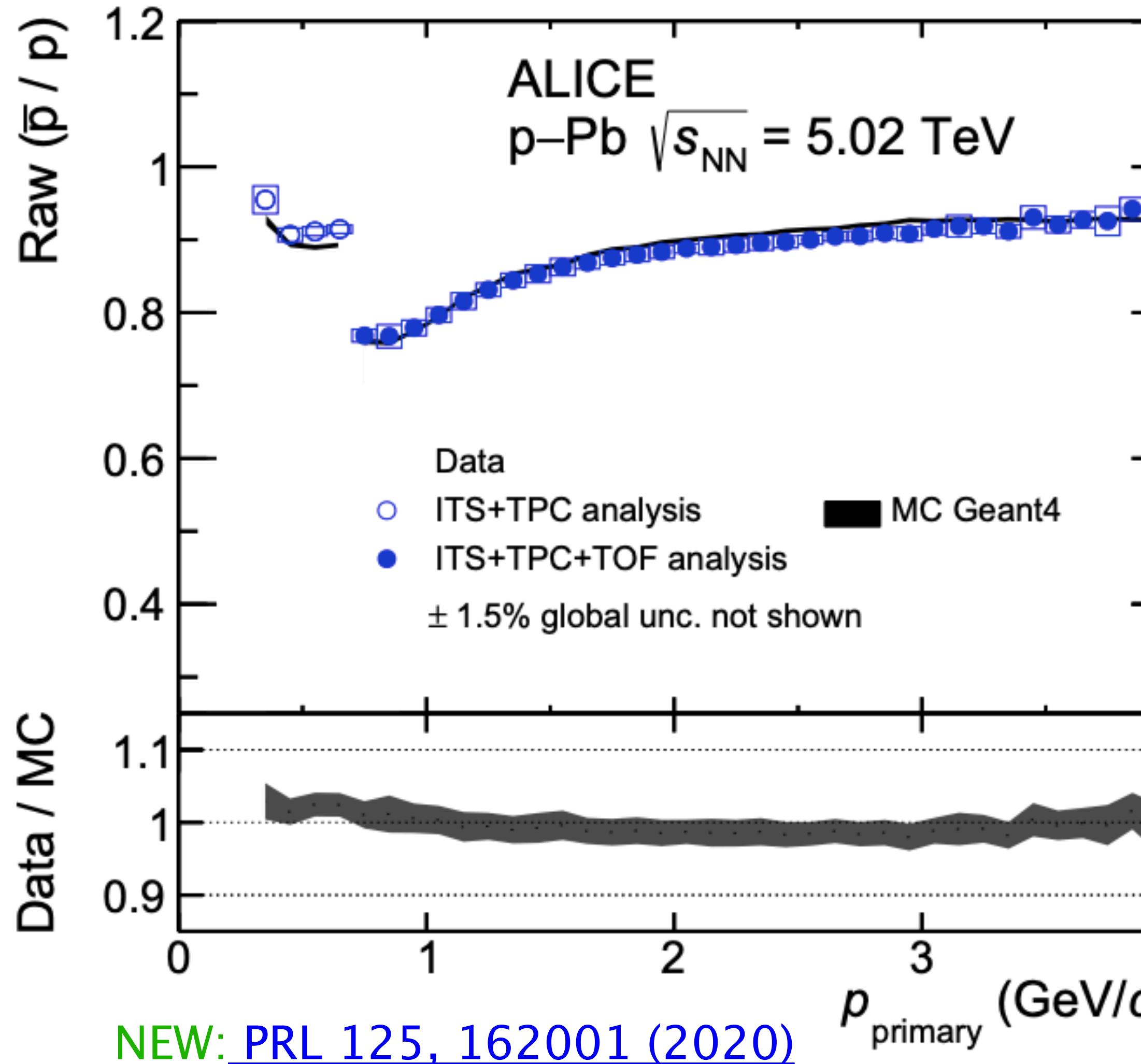
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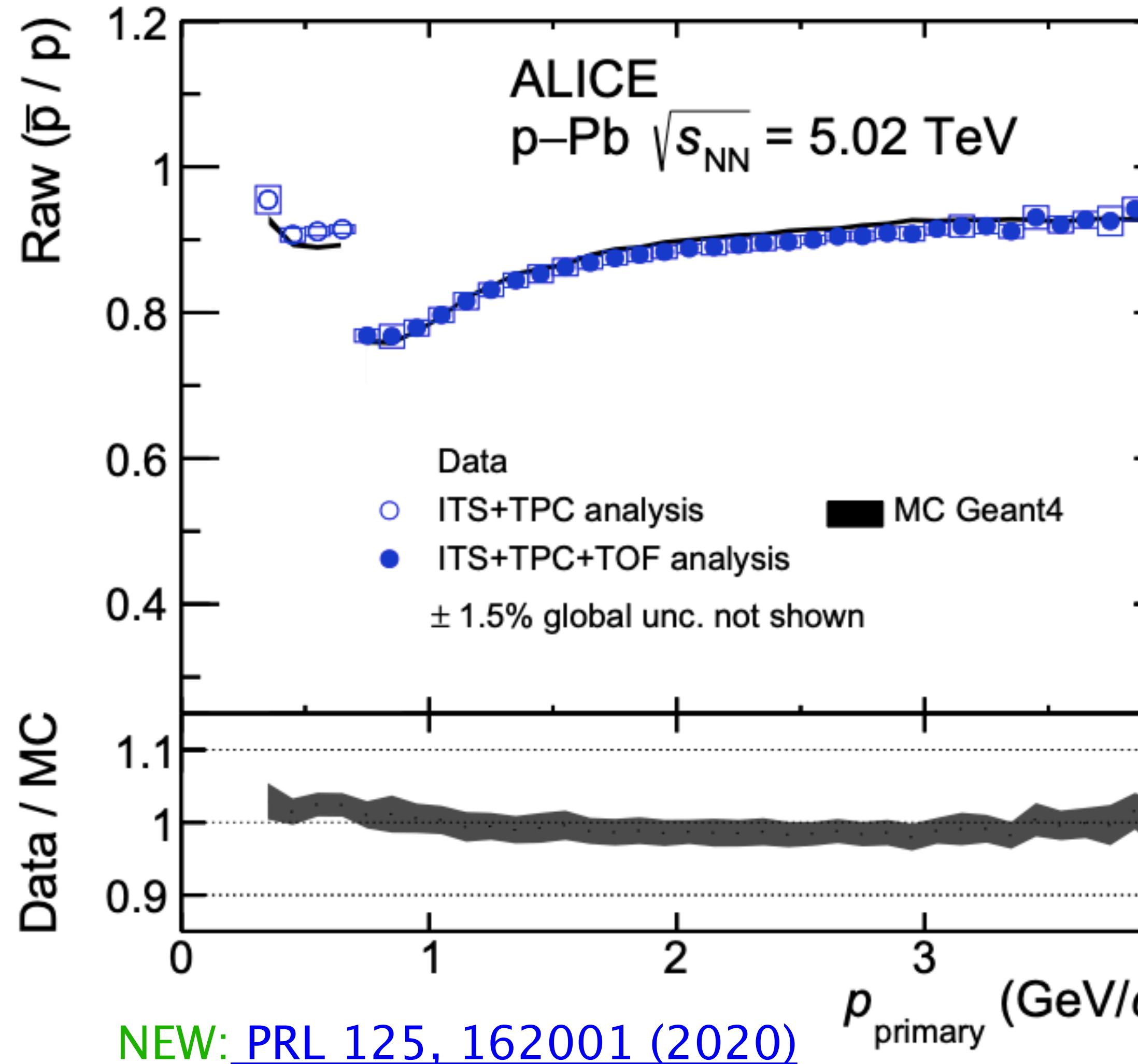


# Raw primary antiproton-to-proton ratio



Raw primary  $\bar{p}/p$  ratio:

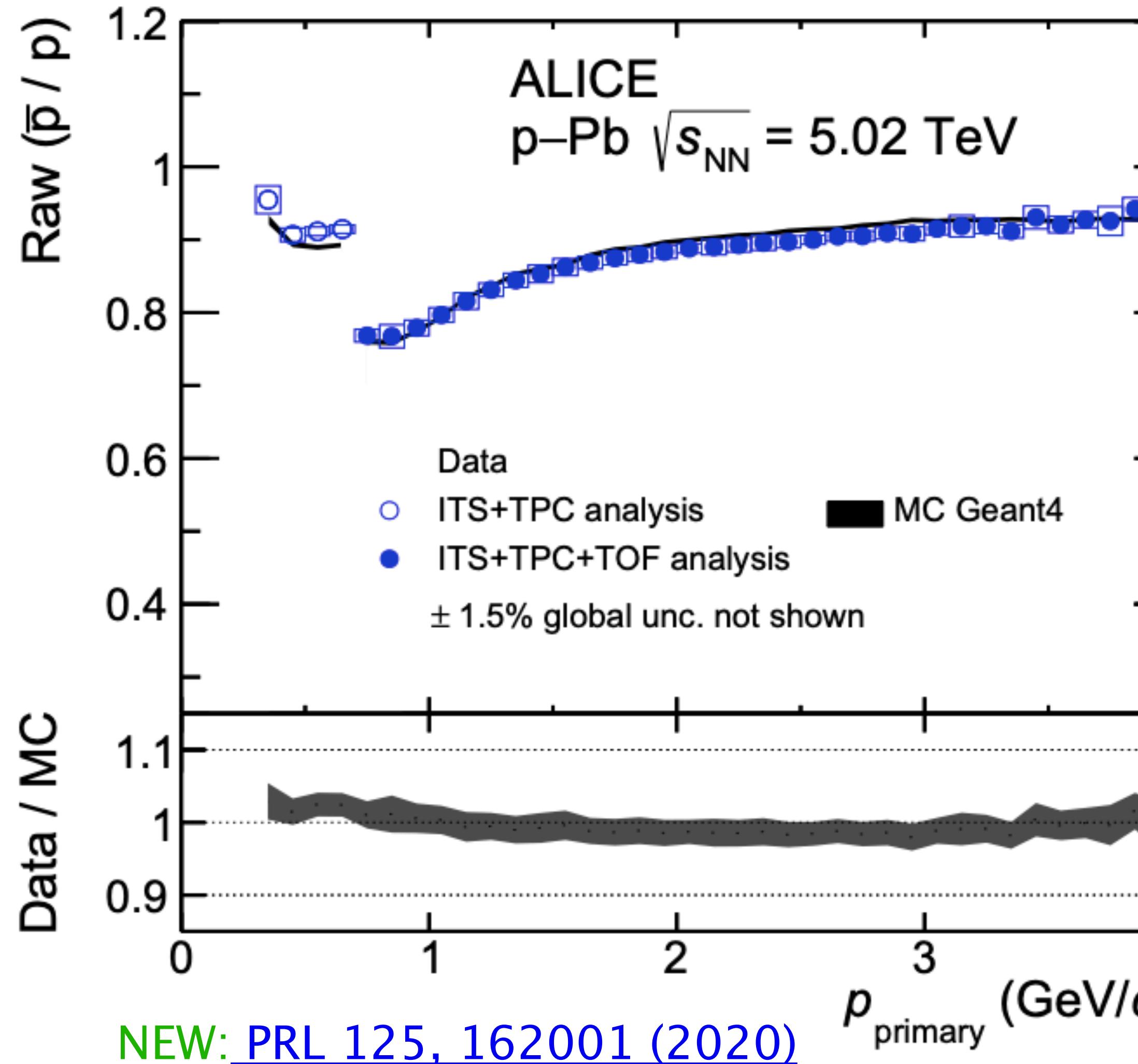
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Raw primary  $\bar{p}/p$  ratio:

- Higher loss of antiprotons in detector material
- Step at 0.7 GeV/c due to additional detector material

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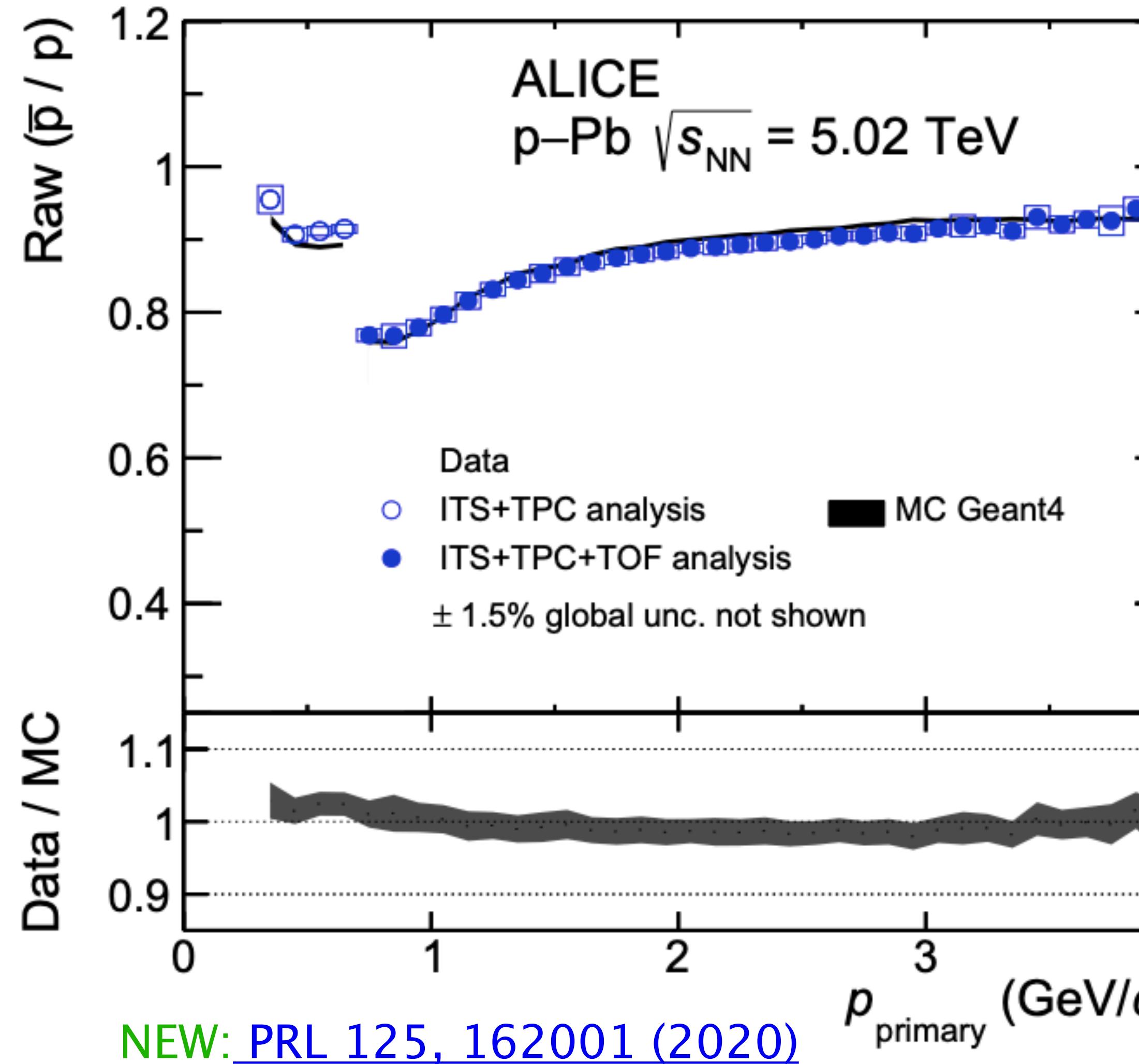
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Monte Carlo simulation:

- Detailed simulations of the ALICE detector performance
- Propagation with Geant4

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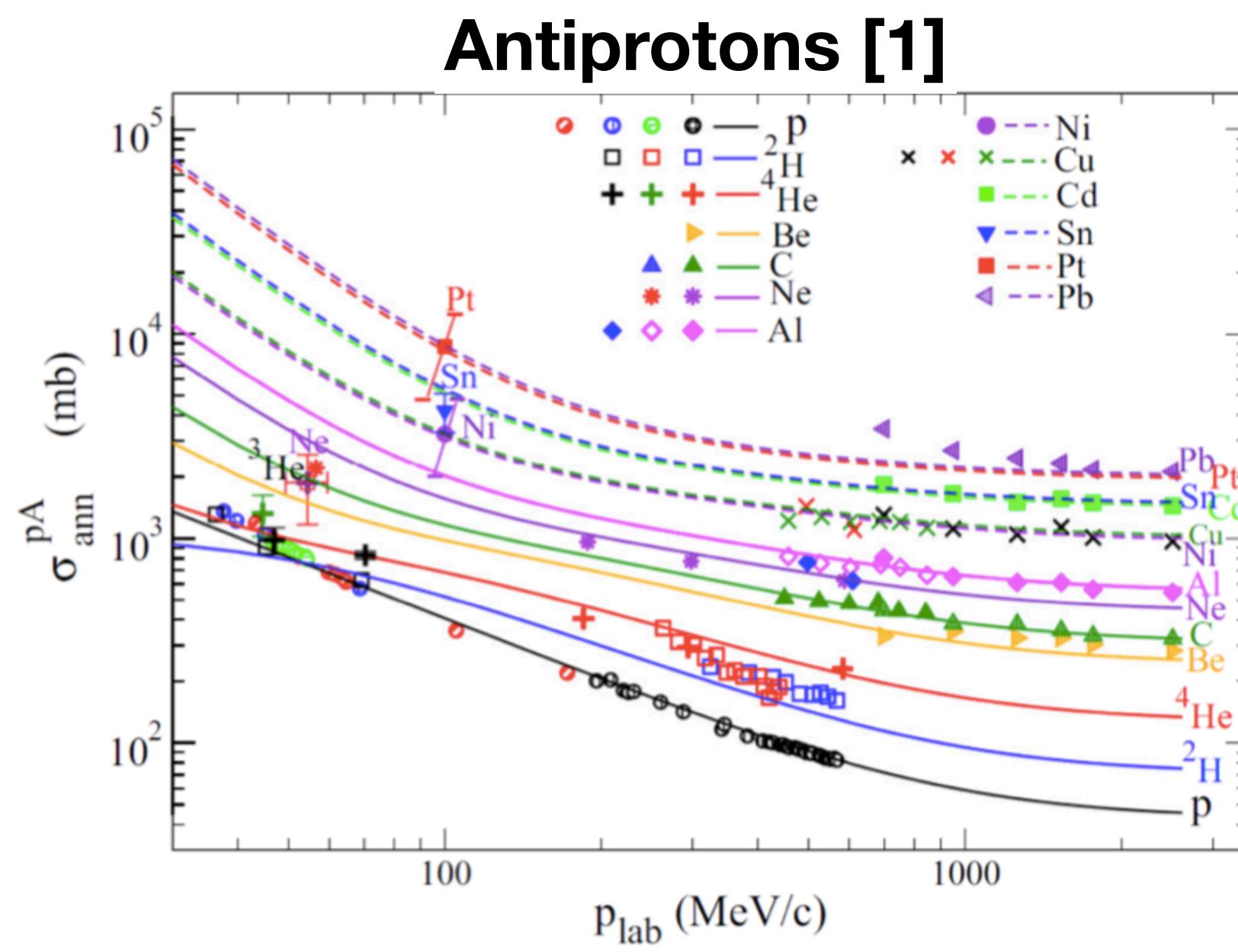
- Detailed simulations of the ALICE detector performance
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→ Agreement between data and MC confirms the correctness of the procedure.

# Propagation: Current status of antinuclei inelastic cross sections

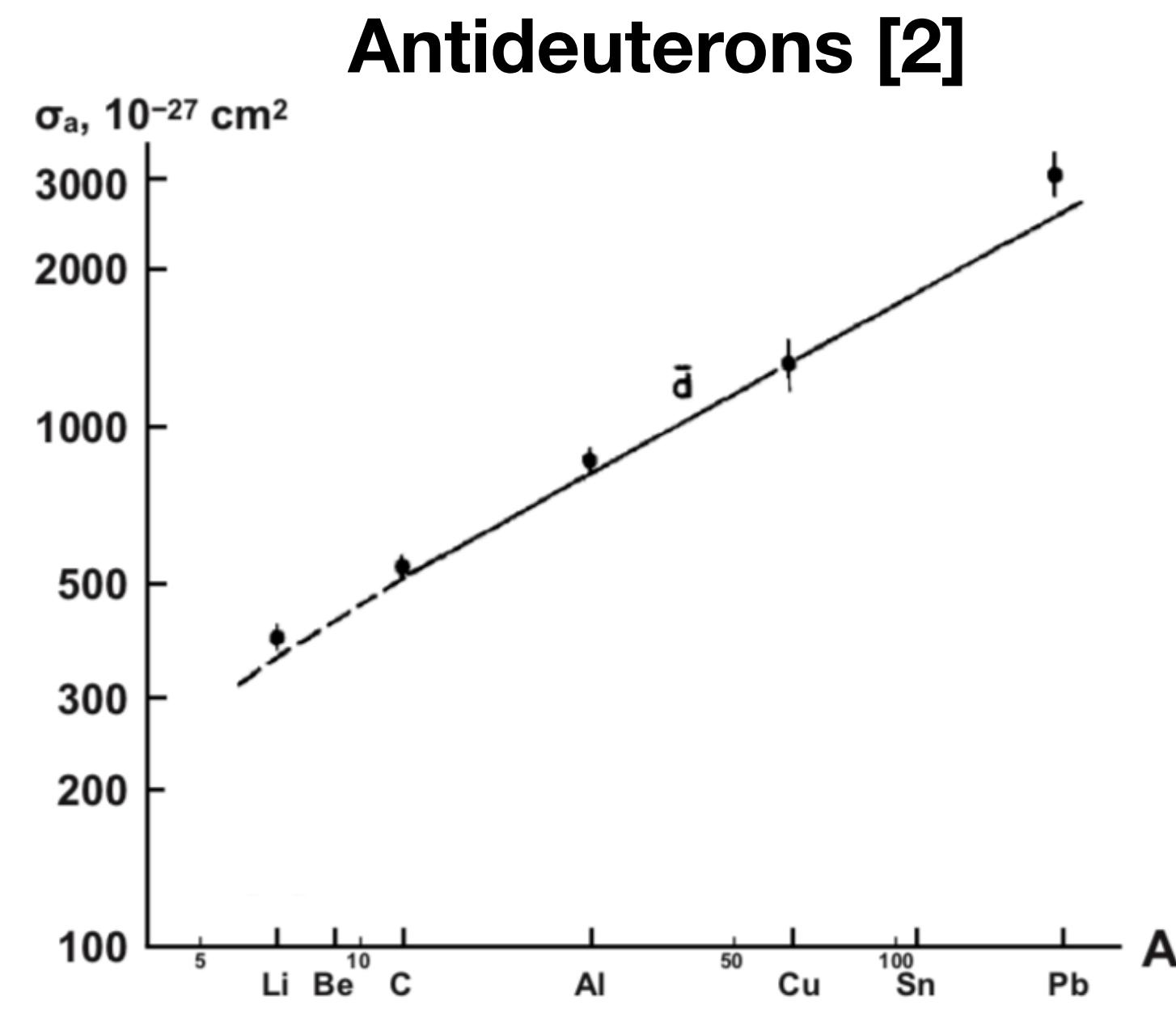
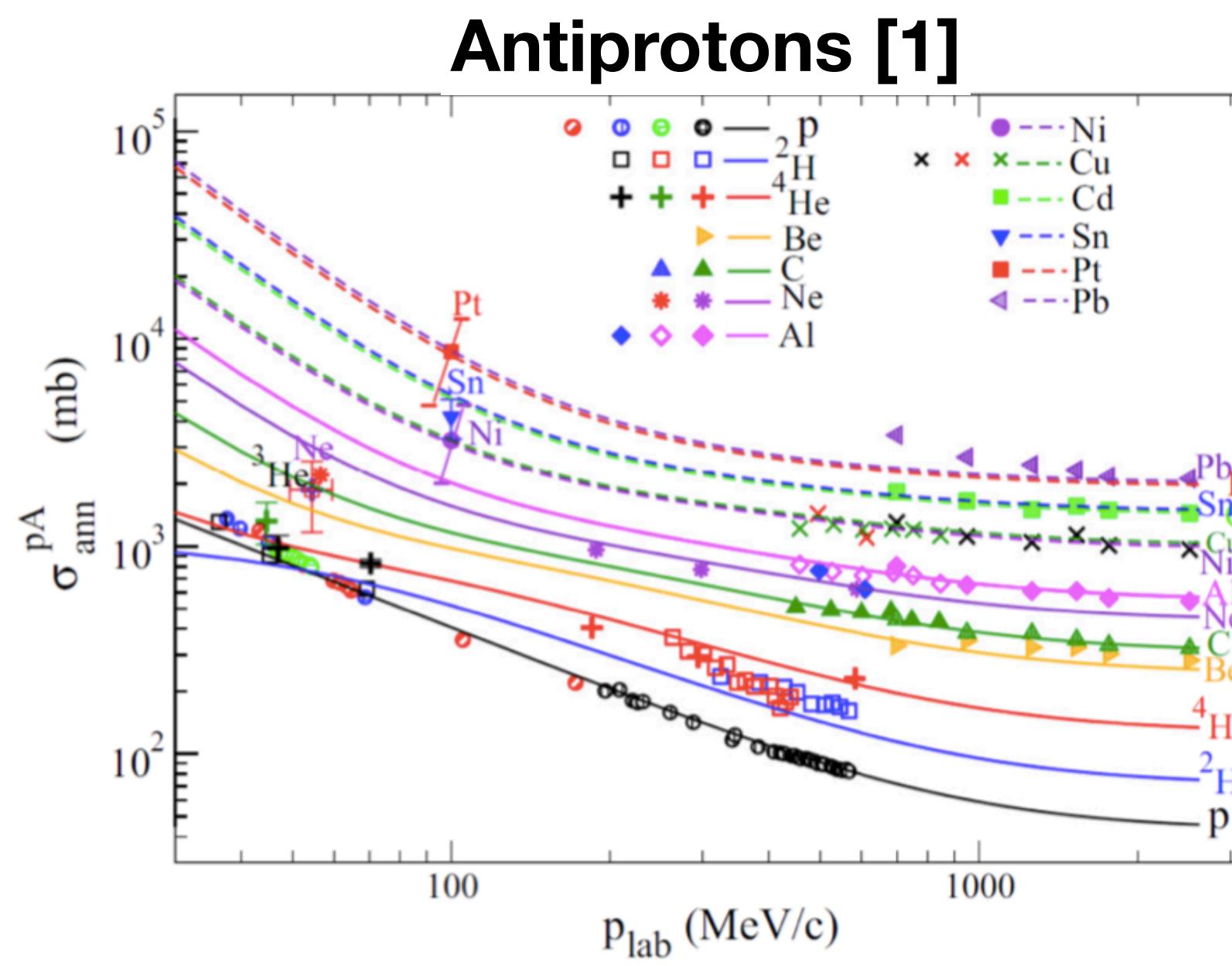
# Propagation: Current status of antinuclei inelastic cross sections

- Antiproton inelastic cross section is **well known**.



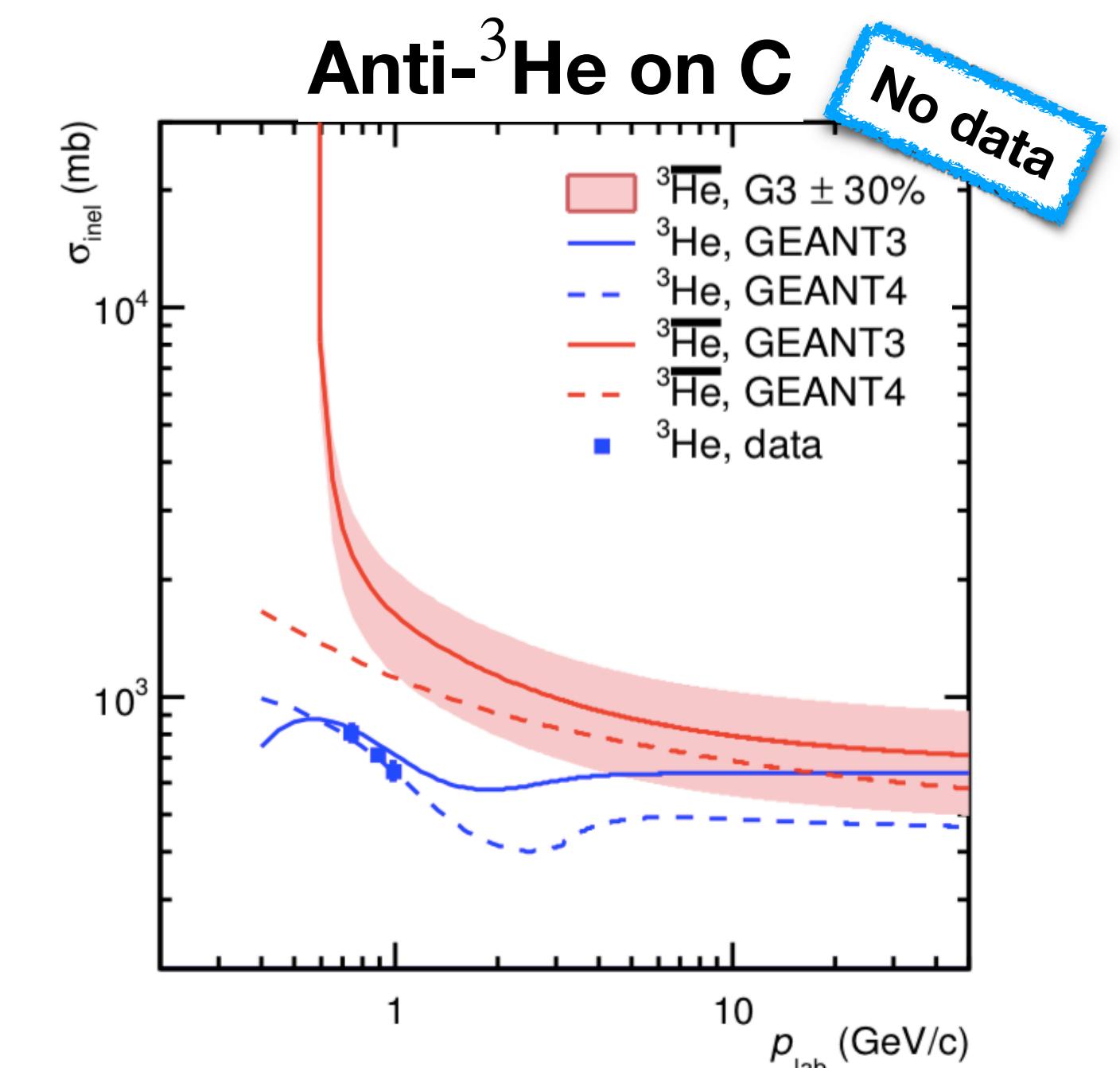
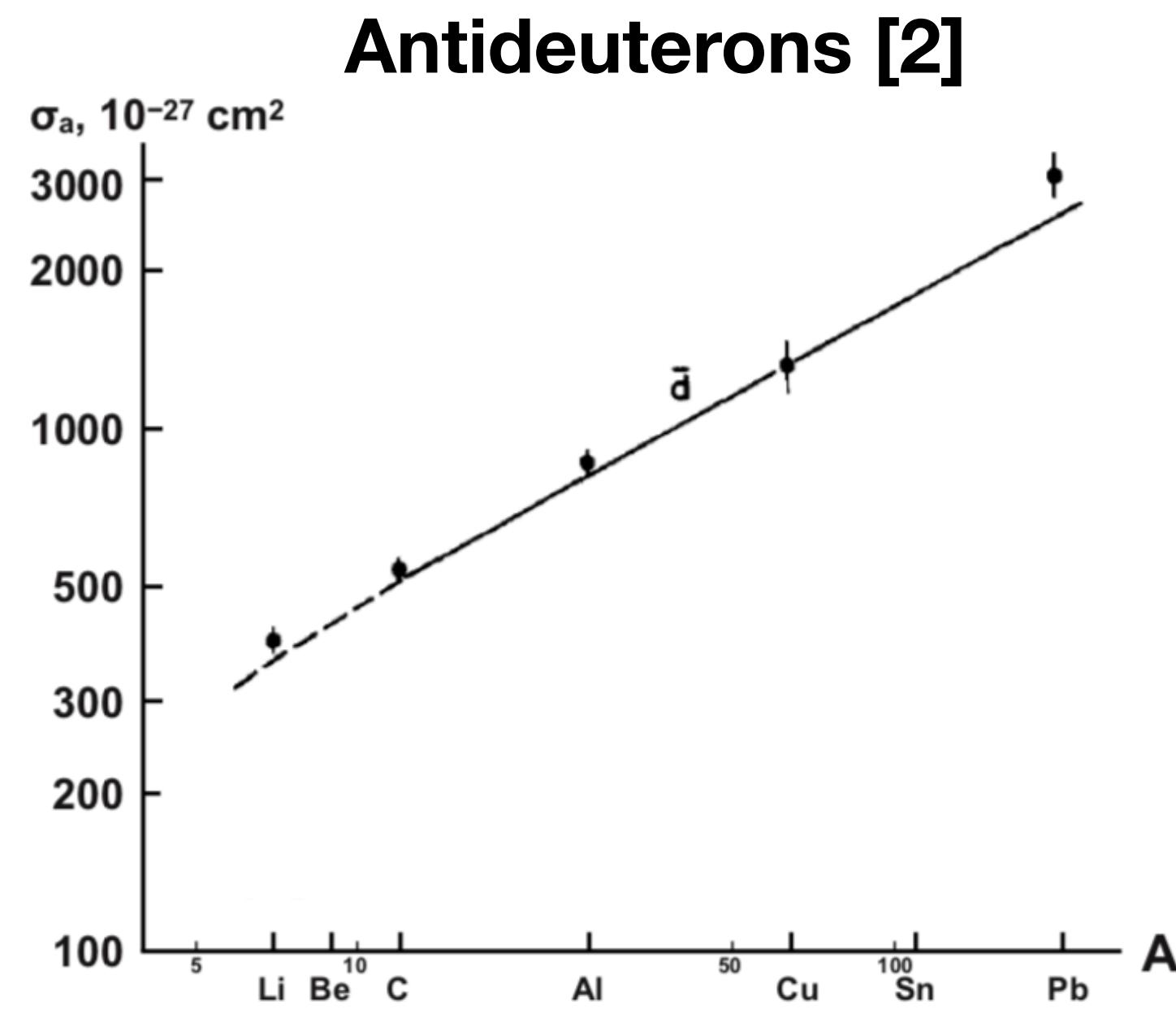
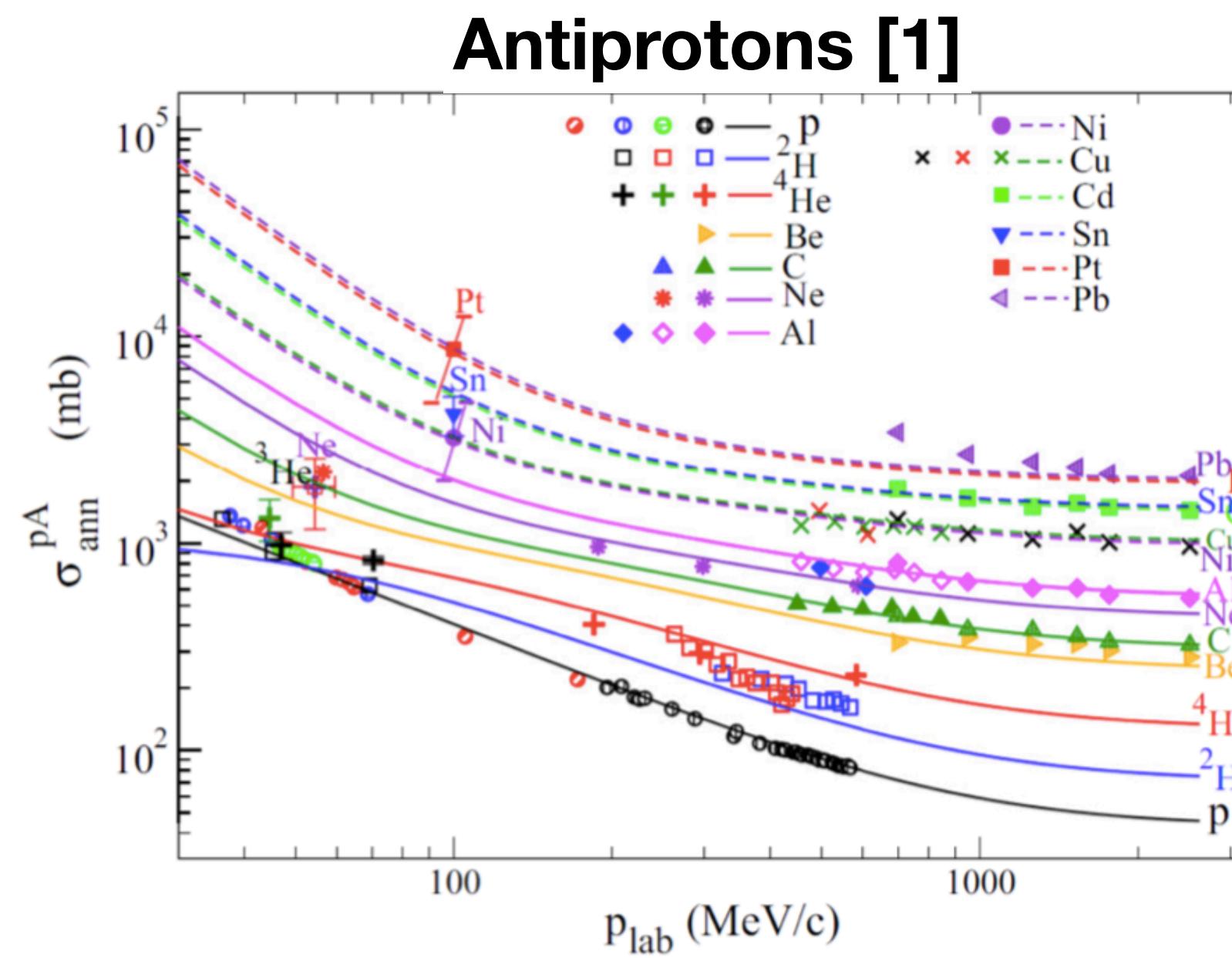
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- Antiproton inelastic cross section is **well known**.
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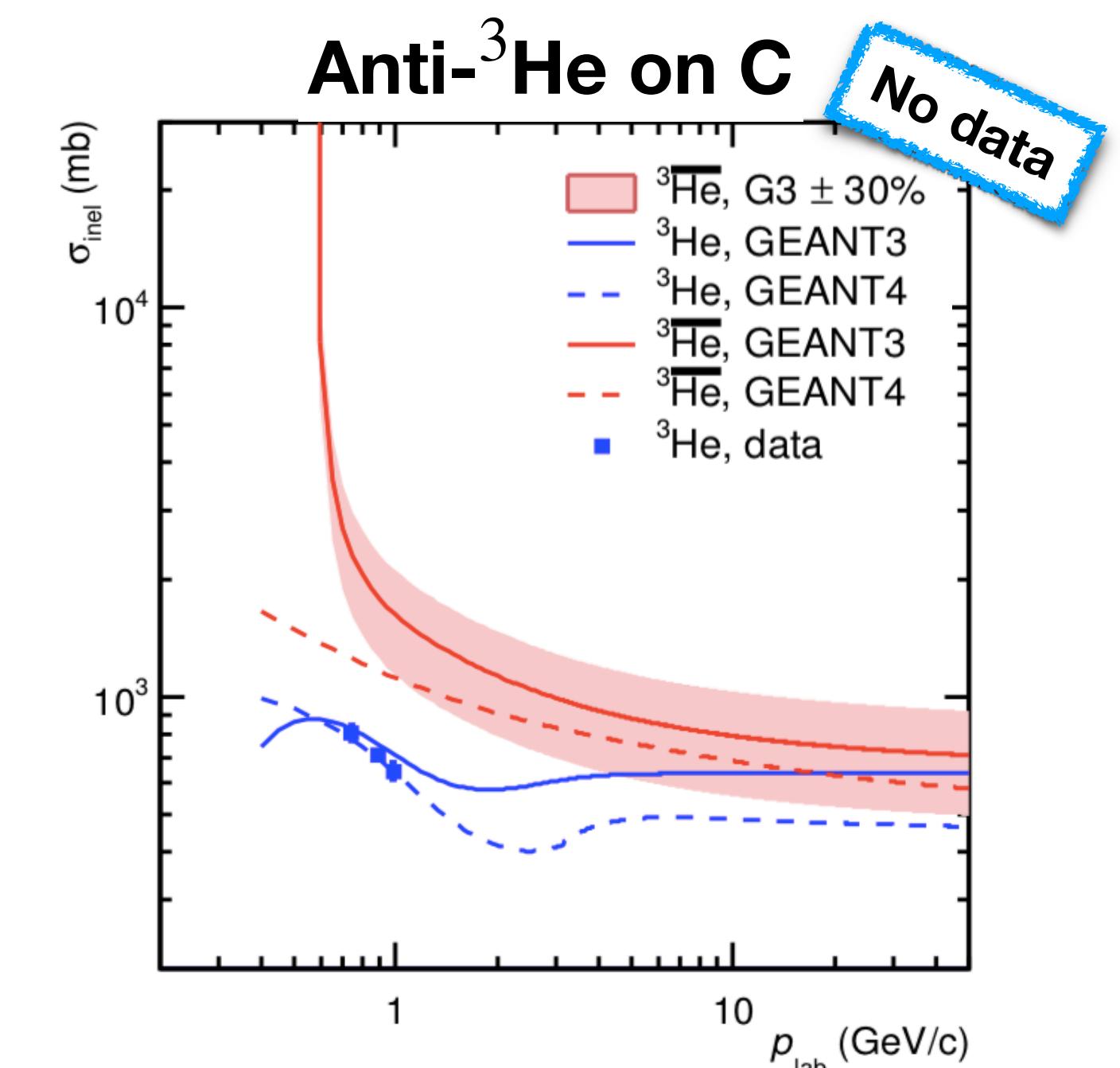
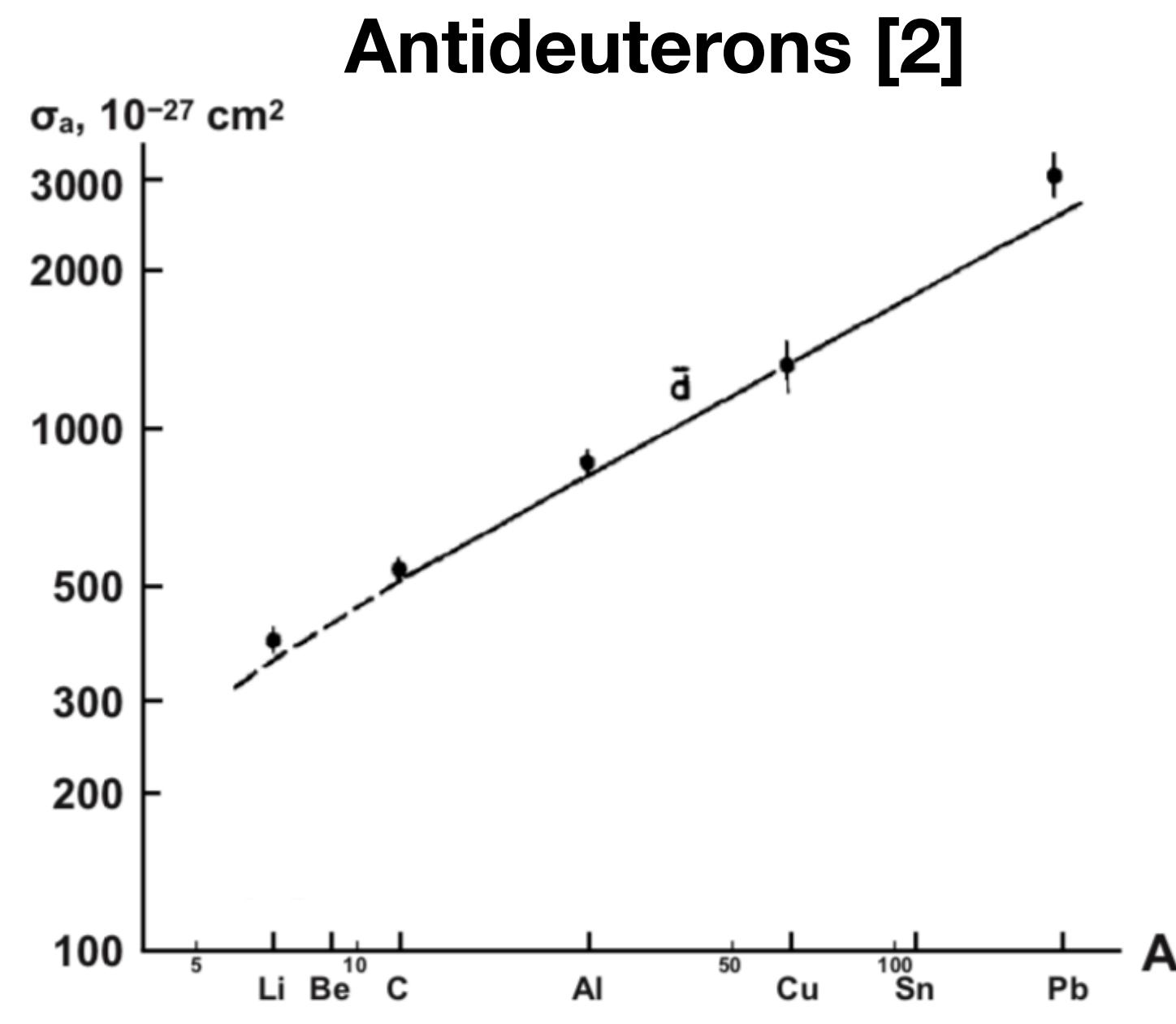
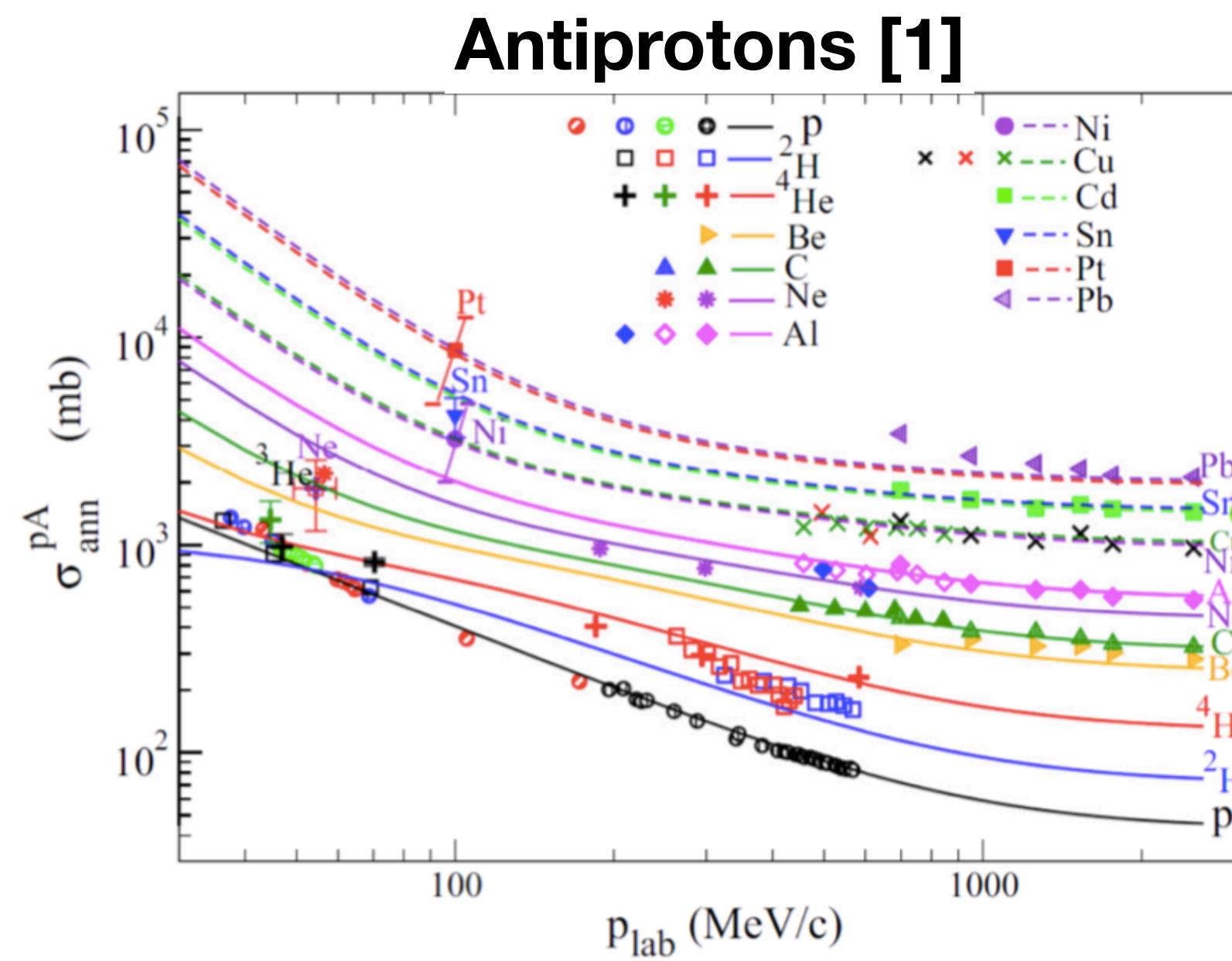
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# Propagation: Current status of antinuclei inelastic cross sections

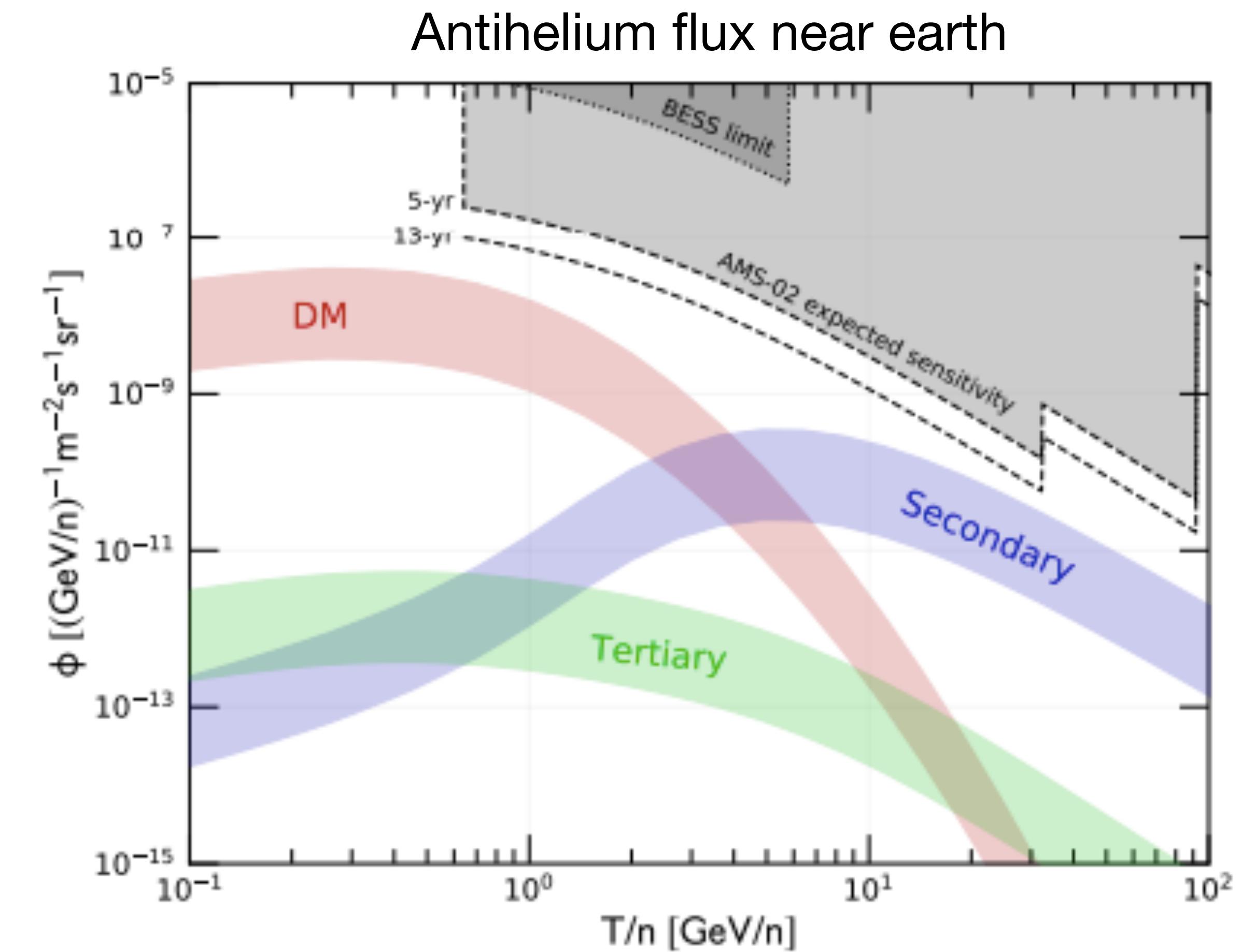
- Antiproton inelastic cross section is **well known**.
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  - Antihelium/antitriton inelastic cross section has **never been measured before**.
- Use *ALICE* to measure antinuclei inelastic cross sections!



# Antinuclei in cosmic rays

# Antinuclei in cosmic rays

- Antinuclei flux has two dominant components:
  - Antinuclei from dark matter annihilations
  - Secondary antinuclei from cosmic ray collisions.
- At low energies, the contribution from dark matter annihilations is expected to dominate.

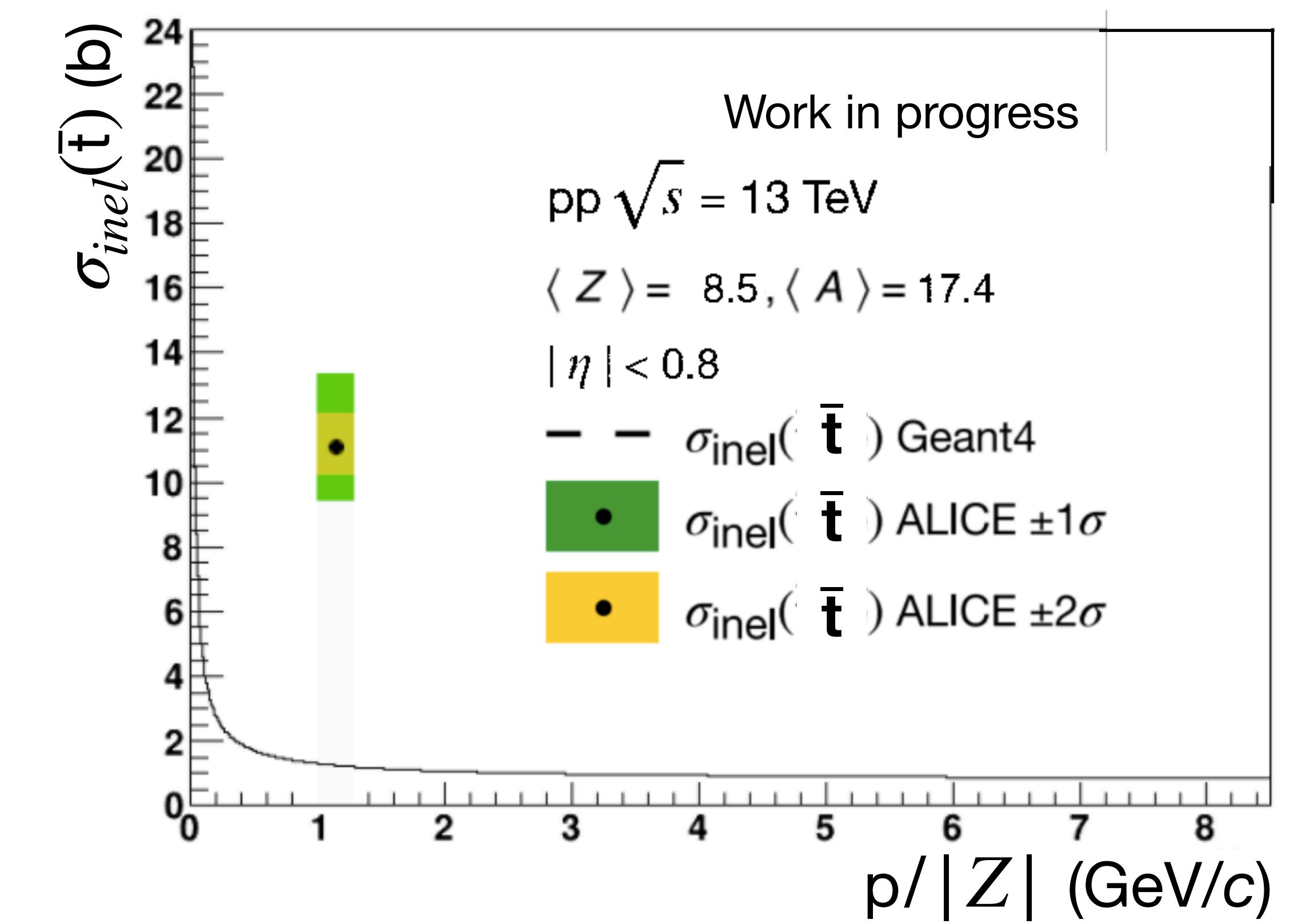
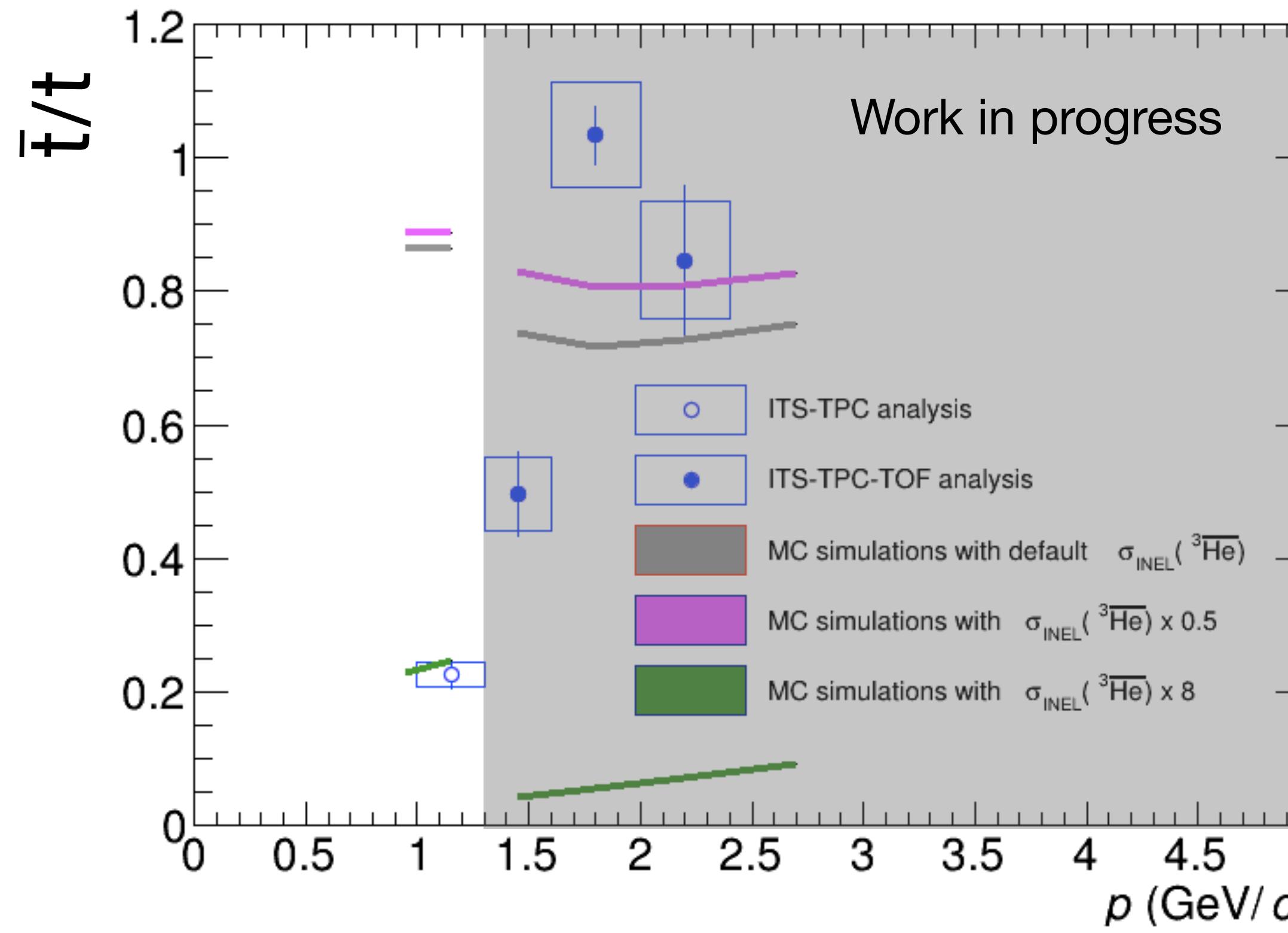
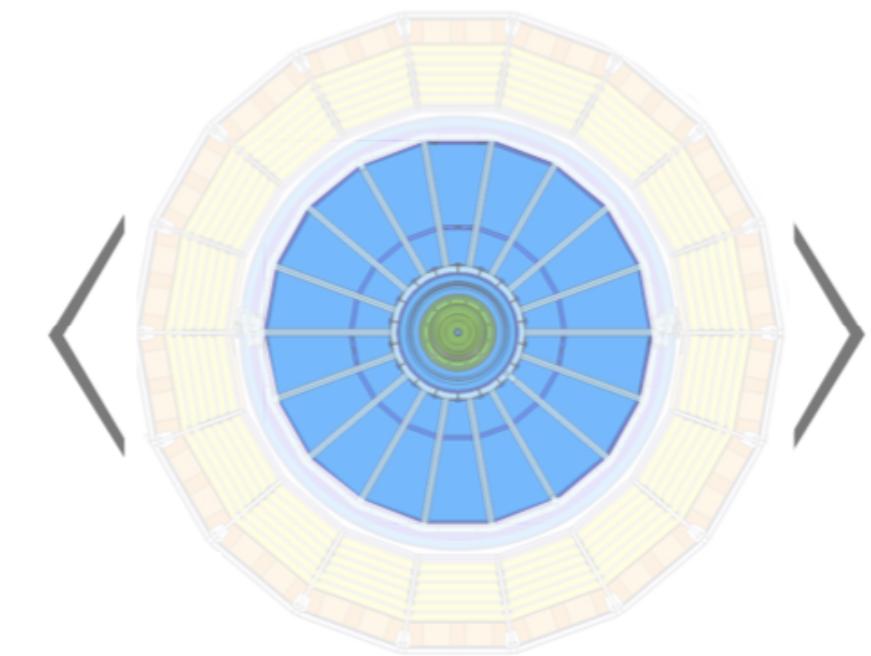


[1] Korsmeier et.al. [arXiv:1711.08465](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.08465)

# Antitriton inelastic cross section

$\sigma_{\text{inel}}(\bar{t})$  on average ALICE detector material.

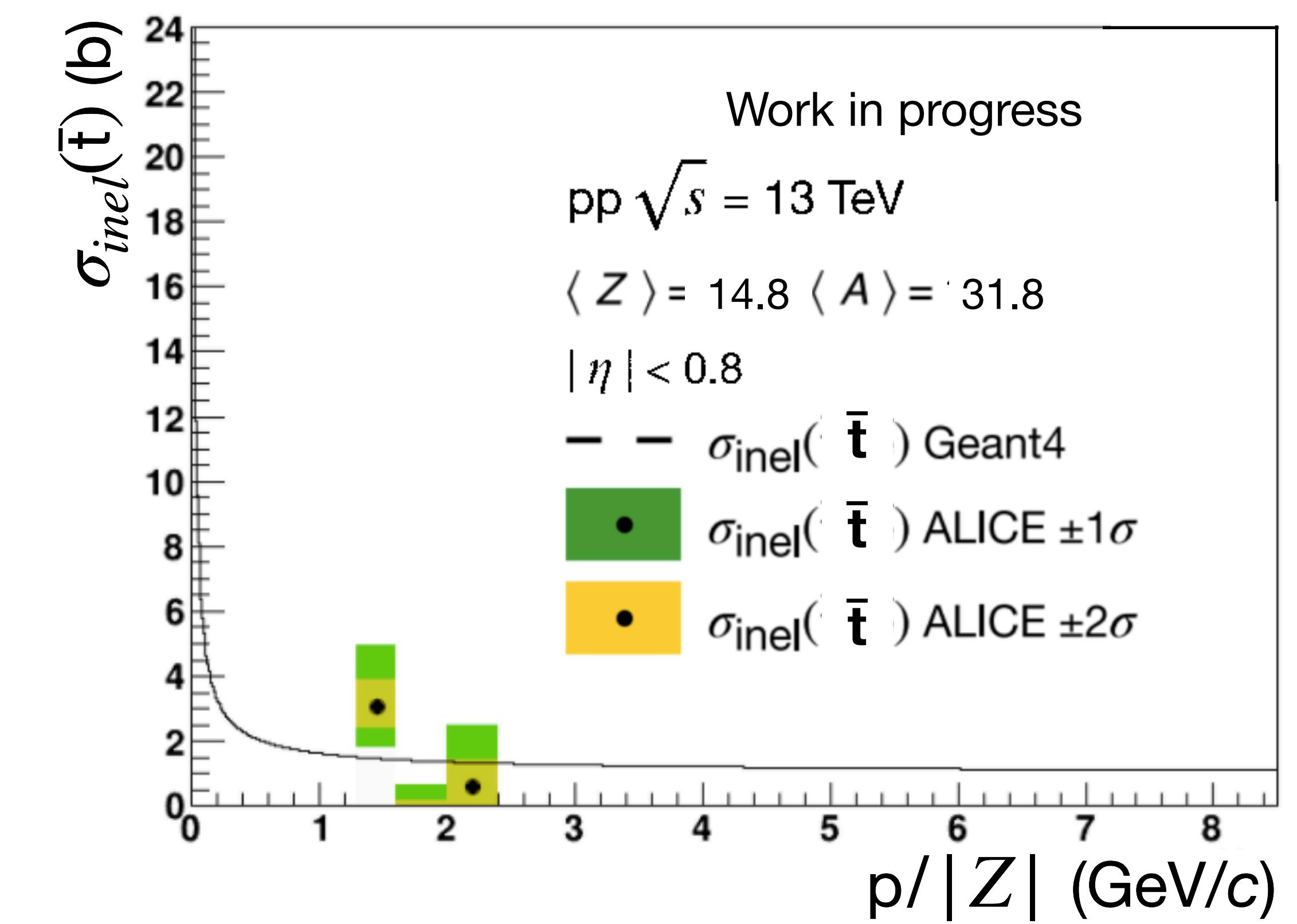
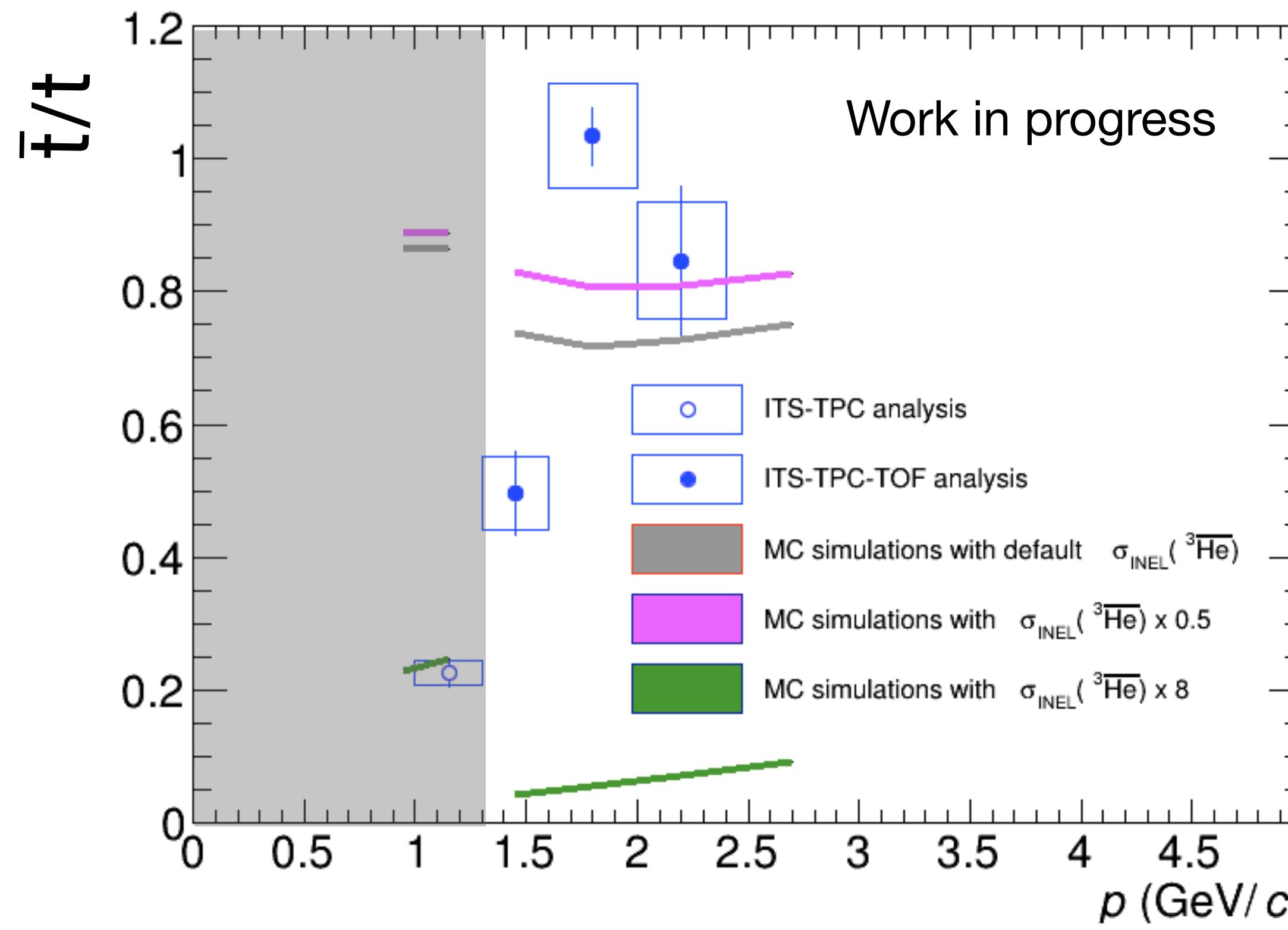
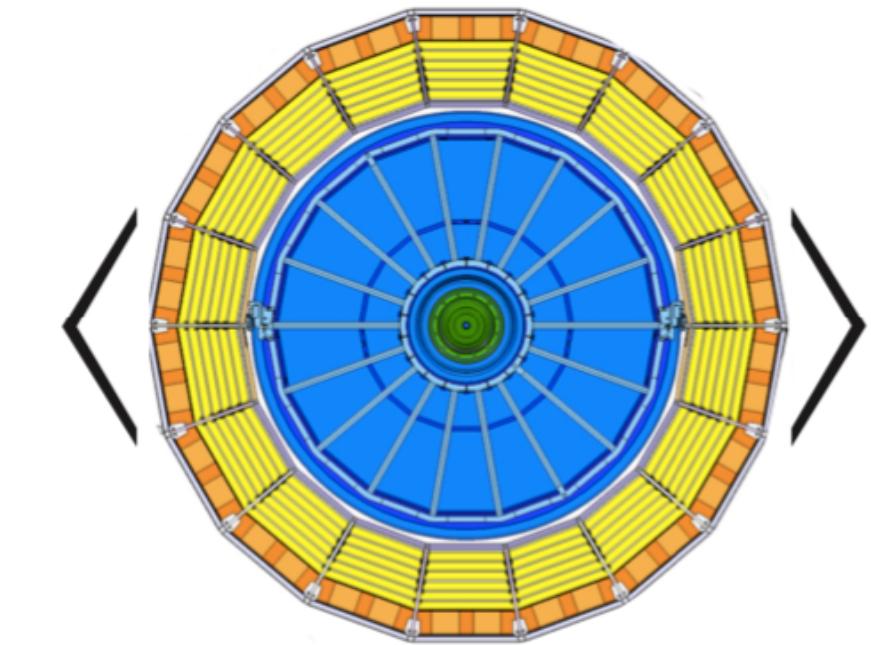
- Much steeper rise at low momentum than in G4
- Good crosscheck for  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}(^3\bar{\text{He}})$



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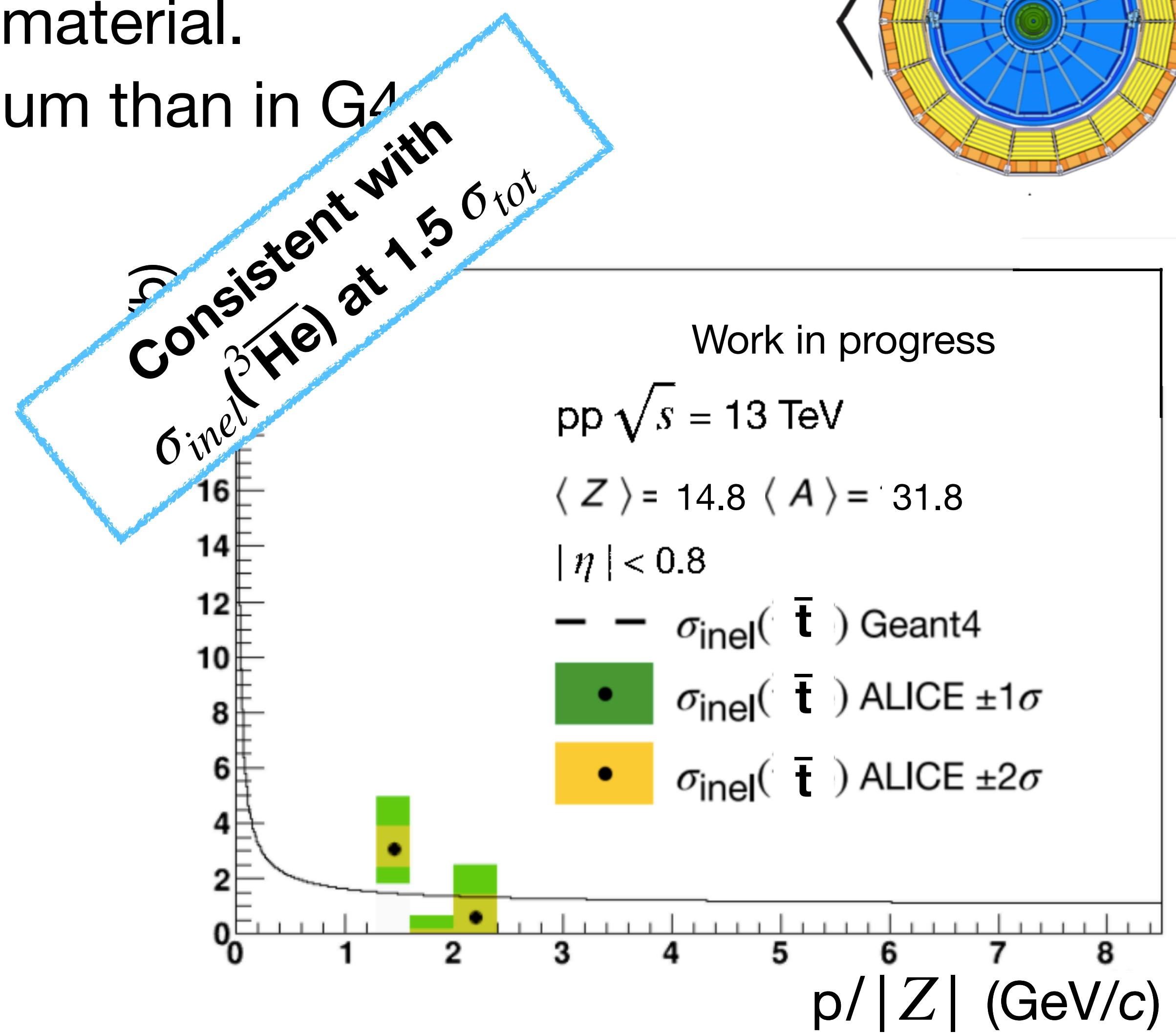
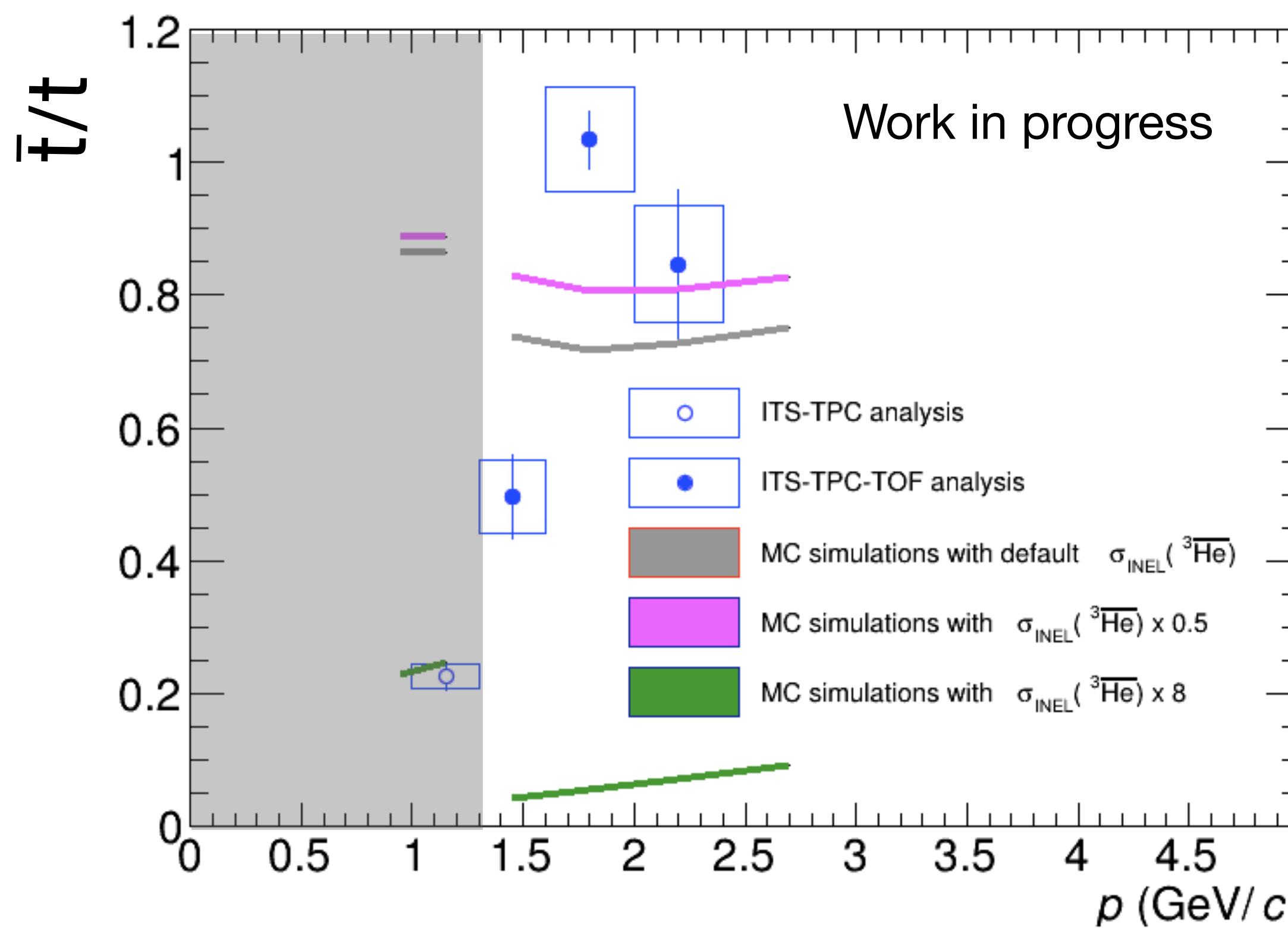
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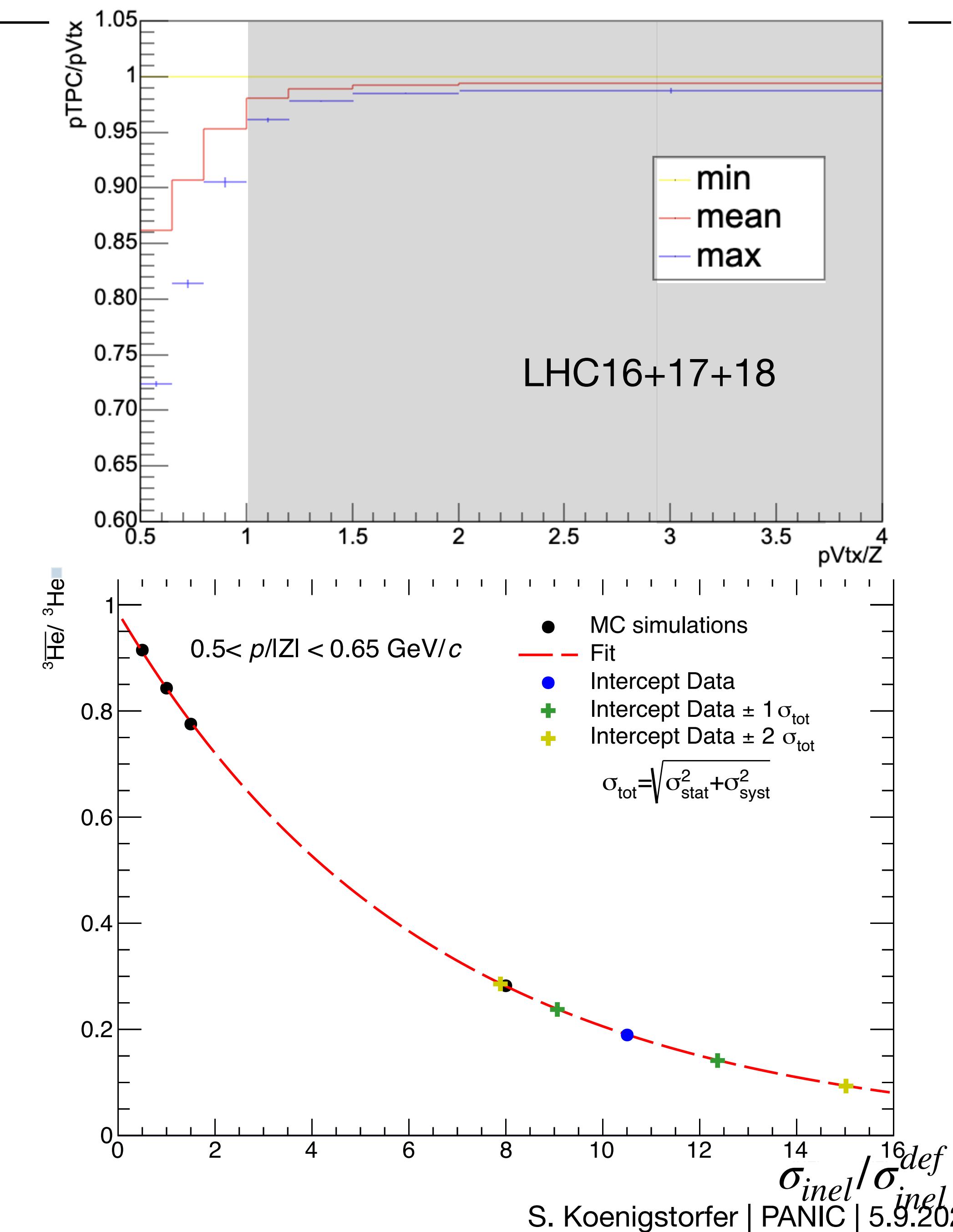
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$$\sigma_{\text{tot}} = \sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}$$

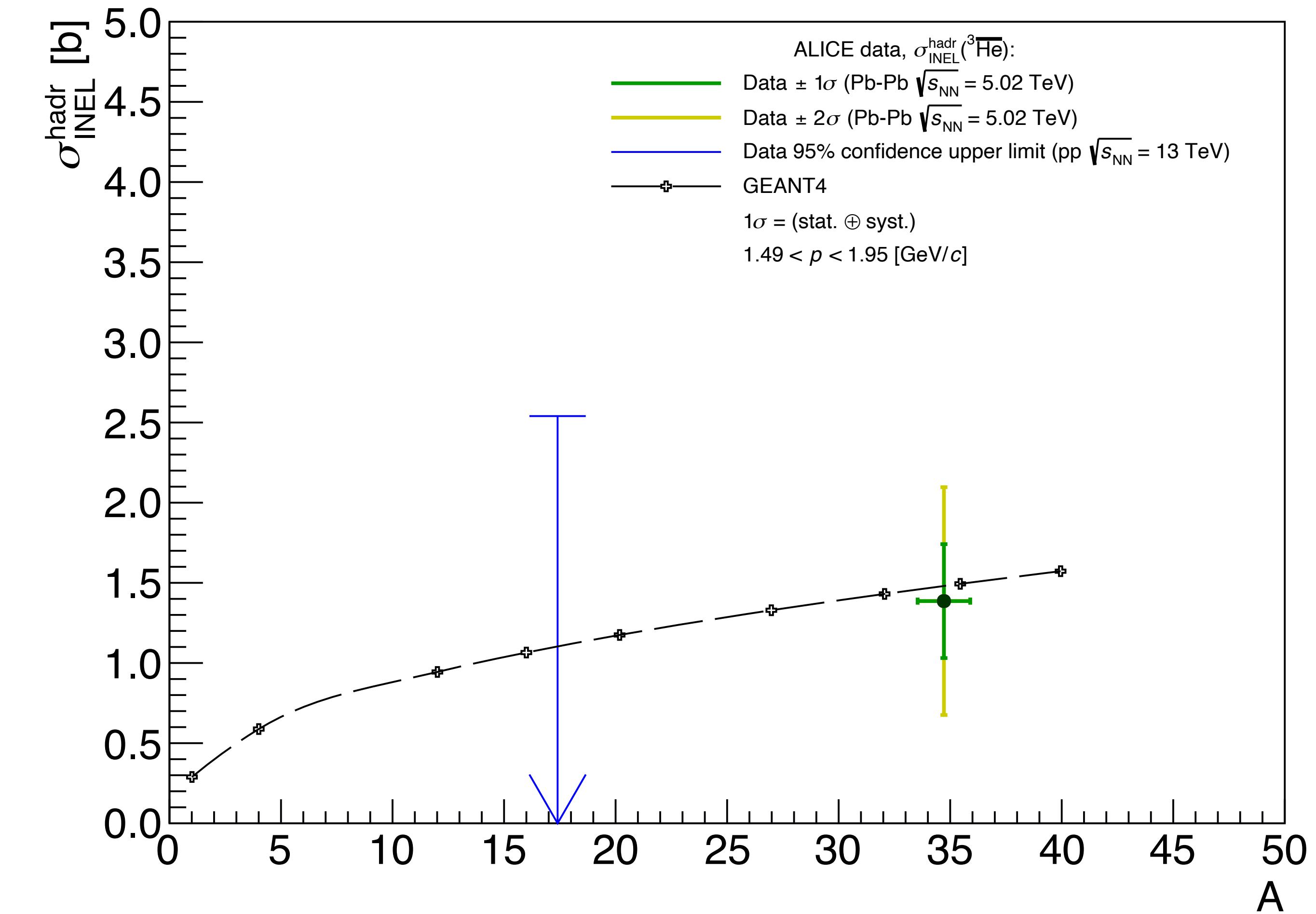
# TPC analysis $p \rightarrow p^*$ correction

- 3 parameterizations:
  - **max** ( $p_{\text{TPC}}$ )
  - **mean**: halfway between  $p_{\text{TPC}}$  and  $p_{\text{Vtx}}$
  - **min**:  $p_{\text{Vtx}}$
- Bin boundaries rescaled by these parameterizations.
- Cross-section constraints are calculated for each of the three different binnings.
- Error calculated as st.dev. of the  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$  values between these 3 parameterizations.
- Mean parametrization plotted, with the added error.

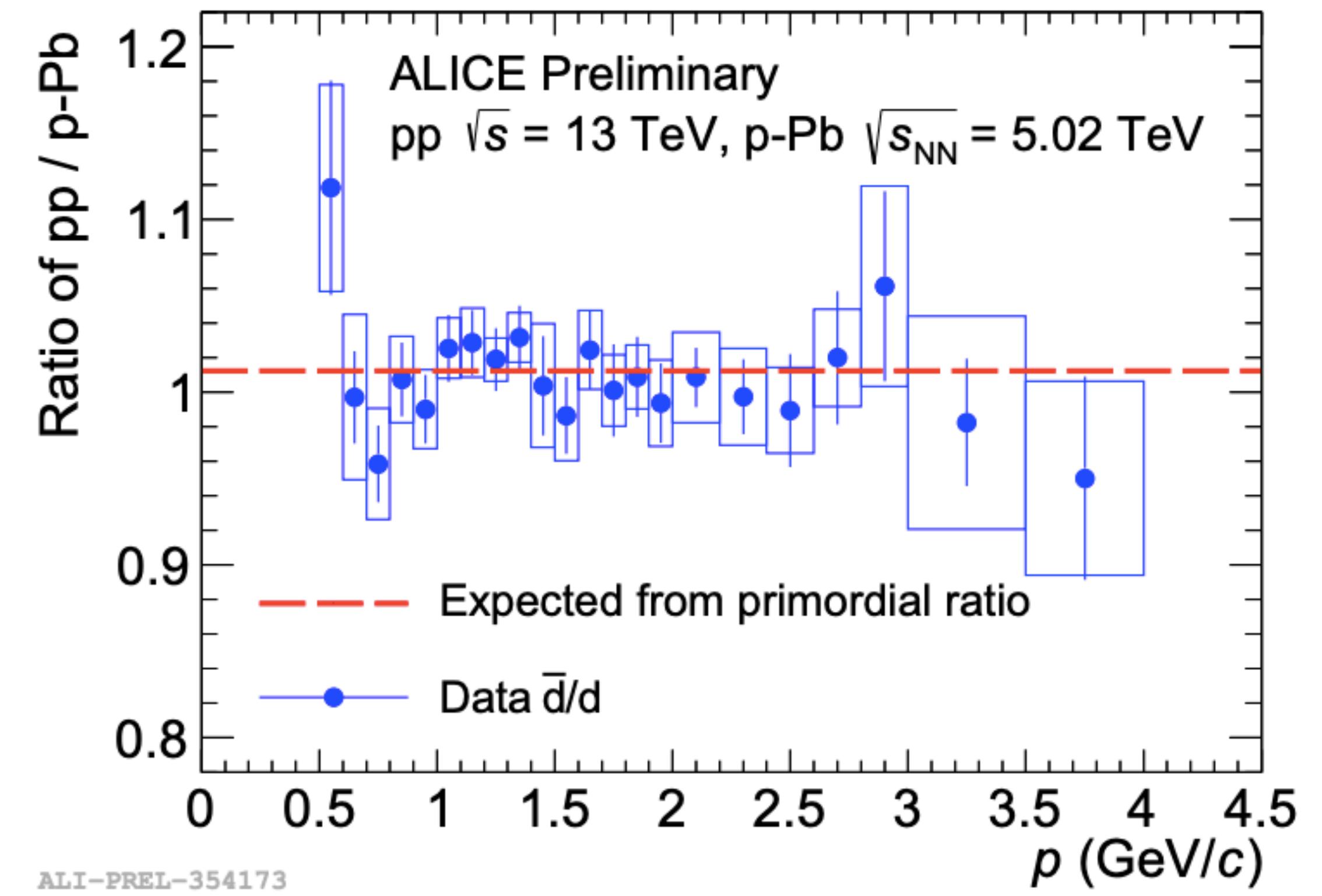
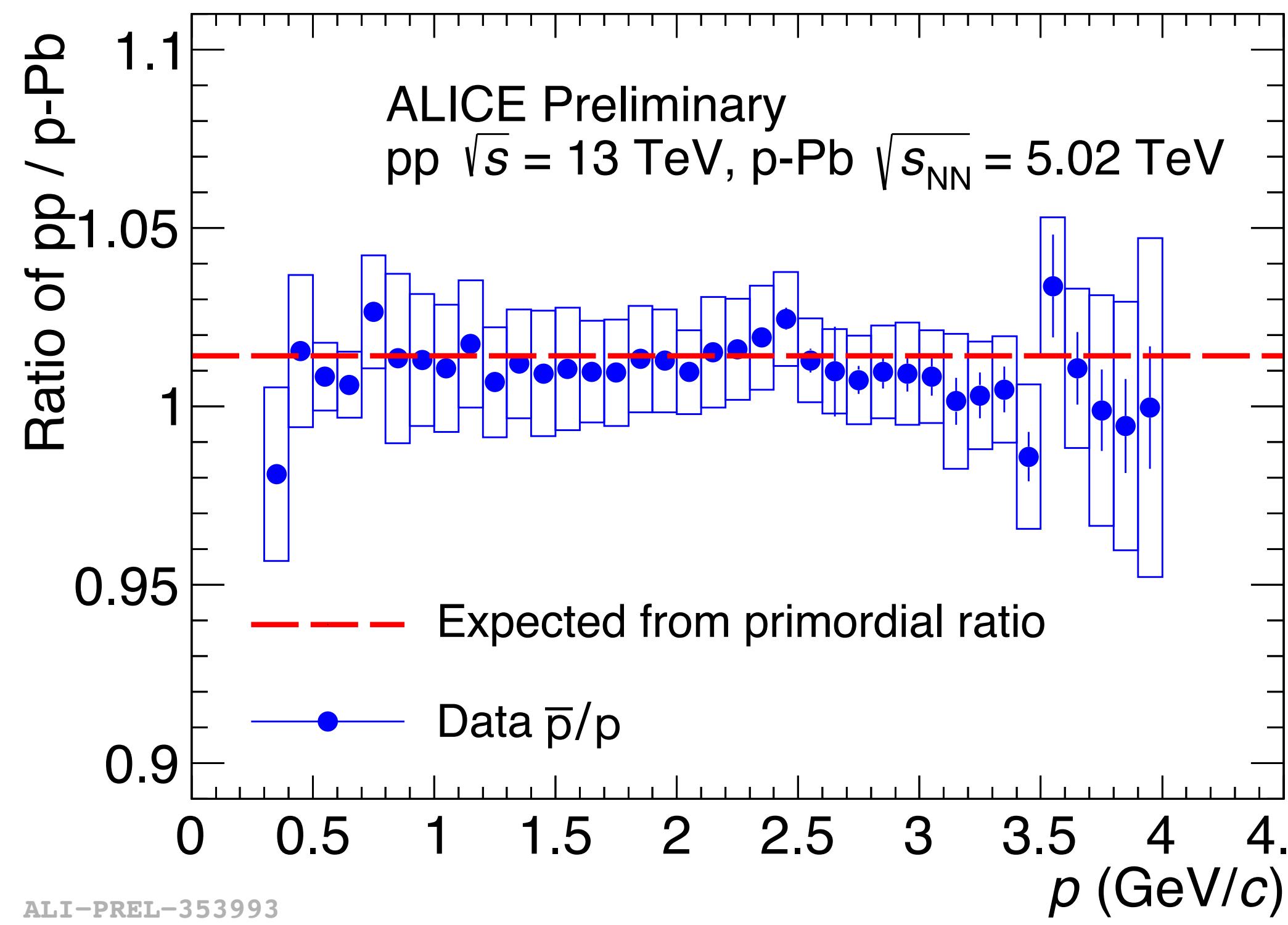


# Probing the $\langle A \rangle$ scaling of $\sigma_{inel}(^3\overline{\text{He}})$

- For anti- $^3\text{He}$ , we have overlapping analyses with different methods.
  - TPC/TOF ratio (CERN group)
  - Antiparticle-to-particle ratio in TPC
  - Antiparticle-to-particle ratio in TOF
- Each of these is on slightly different  $A$ , so we hope to get some insight into how  $\sigma_{inel}(^3\overline{\text{He}})$  scales with  $\langle A \rangle$



# Comparison of pp and p-Pb systems



Comparison of raw primary antiparticle-to-particle ratio in p-Pb and pp collisions.

- Consistent with the difference expected from primordial antimatter-to-matter ratio.
- The cross section measurements are independent of the collisions system, as expected.
- Analysis method is consistent.

# Parameterisations used in GEANT4

Direct Glauber calculations in GEANT4 in a run-time mode are too heavy  
 → parametrise Glauber calculations with [1] :

$$\sigma_{hA}^{tot} = 2\pi R_A^2 \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{A\sigma_{hN}^{tot}}{2\pi R_A^2} \right]$$

$$\sigma_{hA}^{in} = \pi R_A^2 \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{A\sigma_{hN}^{tot}}{\pi R_A^2} \right],$$

$$\sigma_{BA}^{tot} = 2\pi (R_B^2 + R_A^2) \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{BA\sigma_{NN}^{tot}}{2\pi (R_B^2 + R_A^2)} \right]$$

$$\sigma_{BA}^{in} = \pi (R_B^2 + R_A^2) \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{BA\sigma_{hN}^{tot}}{\pi (R_B^2 + R_A^2)} \right],$$

$R_A$  cannot be directly connected with known values due to some simplifications

Use equations as a determination of  $R_A$  having calculated  $\sigma_{hA}$  and  $\sigma_{BA}$  with Glauber

For total cross-section:

$$\bar{p}A R_A = 1.34A^{0.23} + 1.35/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)},$$

$$\bar{d}A R_A = 1.46A^{0.21} + 1.45/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)},$$

$$\bar{t}A R_A = 1.40A^{0.21} + 1.63/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)},$$

$$\bar{\alpha}A R_A = 1.35A^{0.21} + 1.10/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)}.$$

For inelastic cross-section:

$$\bar{p}A R_A = 1.31A^{0.22} + 0.90/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)},$$

$$\bar{d}A R_A = 1.38A^{0.21} + 1.55/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)},$$

$$\bar{t}A R_A = 1.34A^{0.21} + 1.51/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)},$$

$$\bar{\alpha}A R_A = 1.30A^{0.21} + 1.05/A^{1/3} \text{ (fm)}.$$

[1] V.M. Grichine, Eur. Phys. J. C 62 (2009) 399, Nucl. Instrum. Methods B 267 (2009) 2460

# Propagation in the galaxy

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = q(\mathbf{r}, p) + \mathbf{div}(D_{xx} \mathbf{grad} \psi - \mathbf{V} \psi) + \frac{\partial}{\partial p} p^2 D_{pp} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial p} \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left[ \psi \frac{dp}{dt} - \frac{p}{3} (\mathbf{div} \cdot \mathbf{V}) \psi \right] - \psi \Gamma_{ann}$$

1

2

3

4

5

6

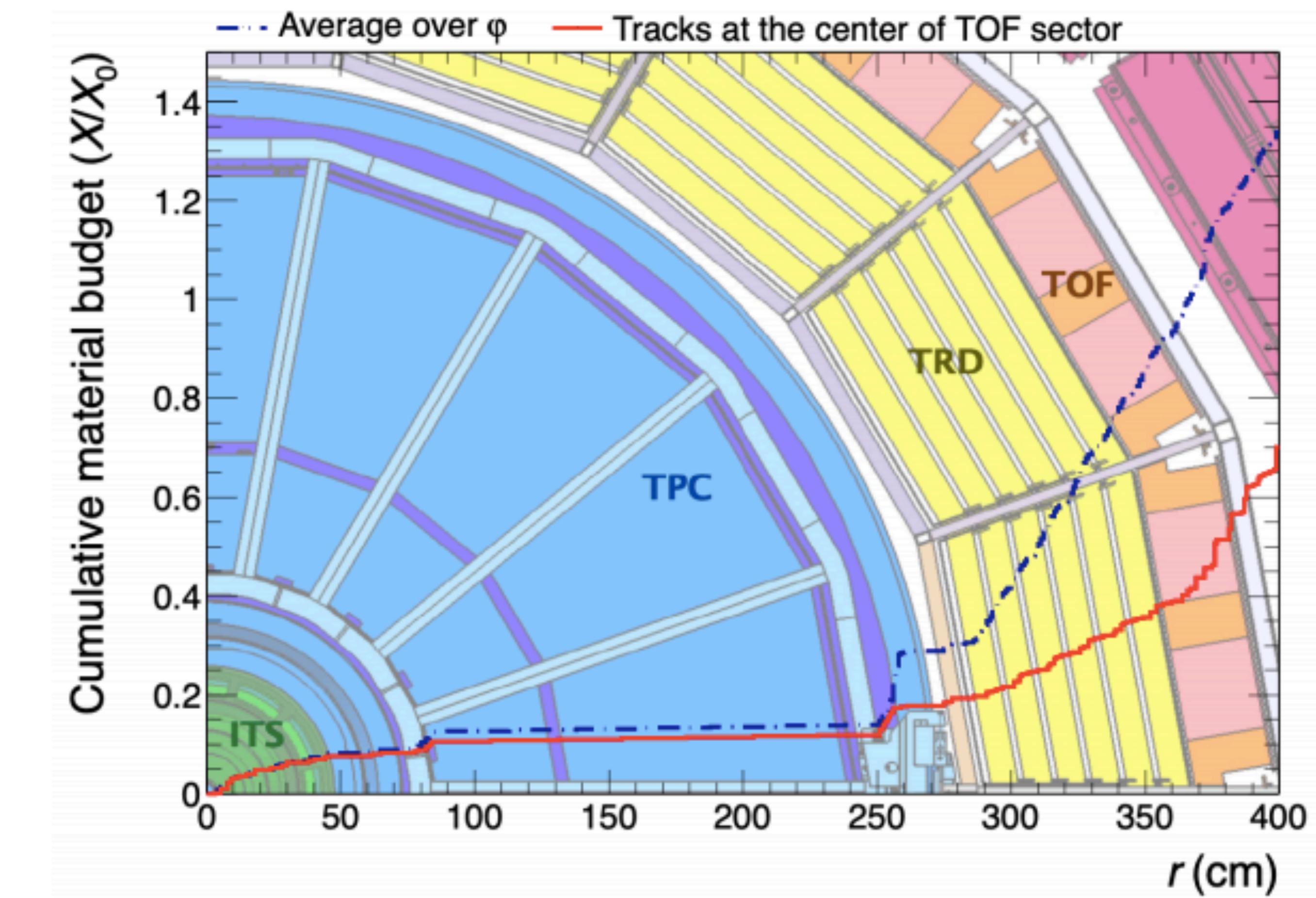
7

- 1 source function: PRIMARY OR SECONDARY
- 2 diffusion
- 3 convection
- 4 diffusive reacceleration
- momentum losses:
  - 5 via ionisation and bremsstrahlung
  - 6 adiabatic
- 7 annihilation

# ALICE material budget

ALICE material budget at mid-rapidity [1]:

- **Beryllium beam pipe ( $\sim 0.3\% X_0$ )**
- **ITS ( $\sim 8\% X_0$ )**
- **TPC ( $\sim 4\% X_0$ )**
- **TRD ( $\sim 25\% X_0$ )**
- **Space frame ( $\sim 20\% X_0$  between TPC and TOF)**

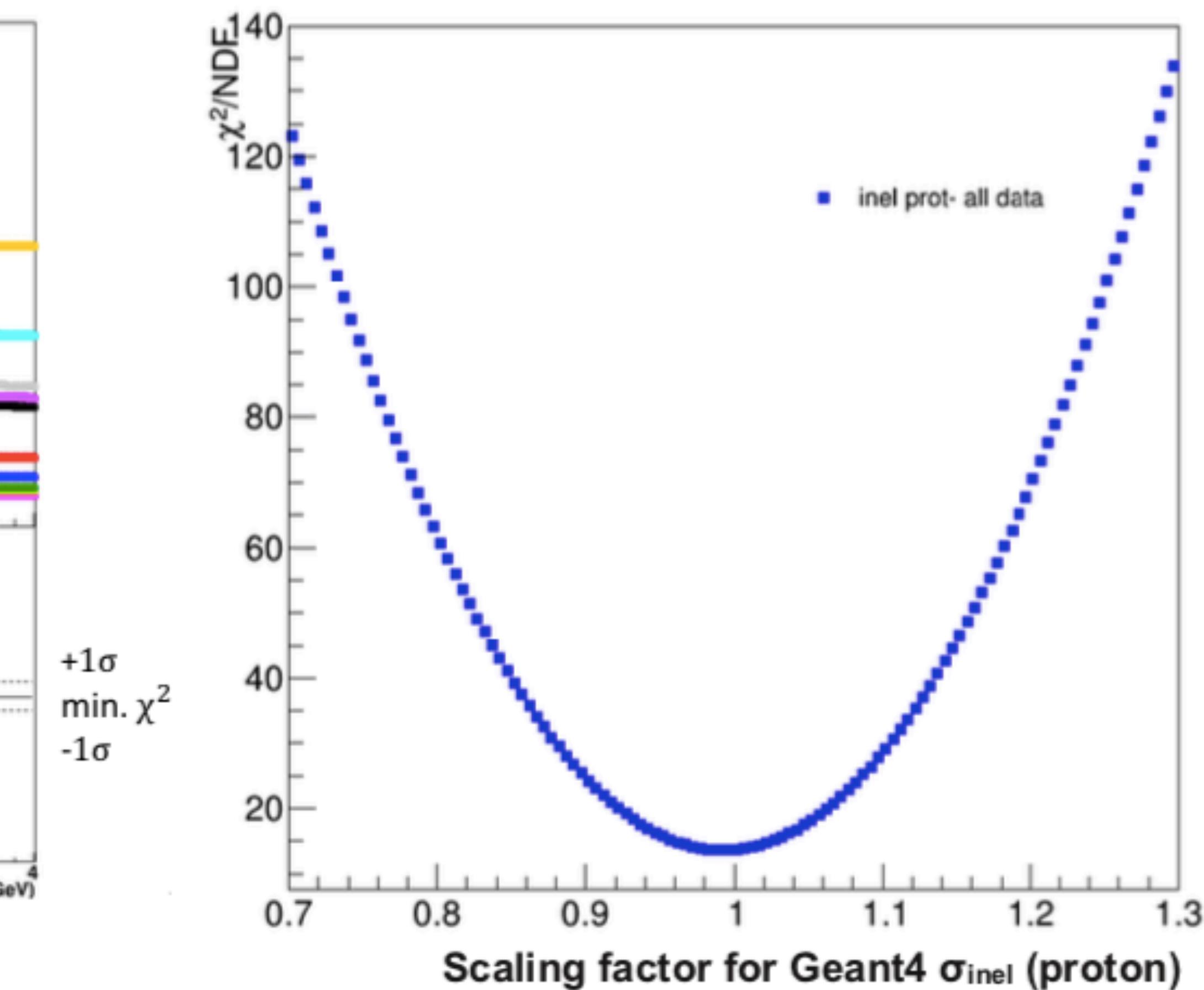
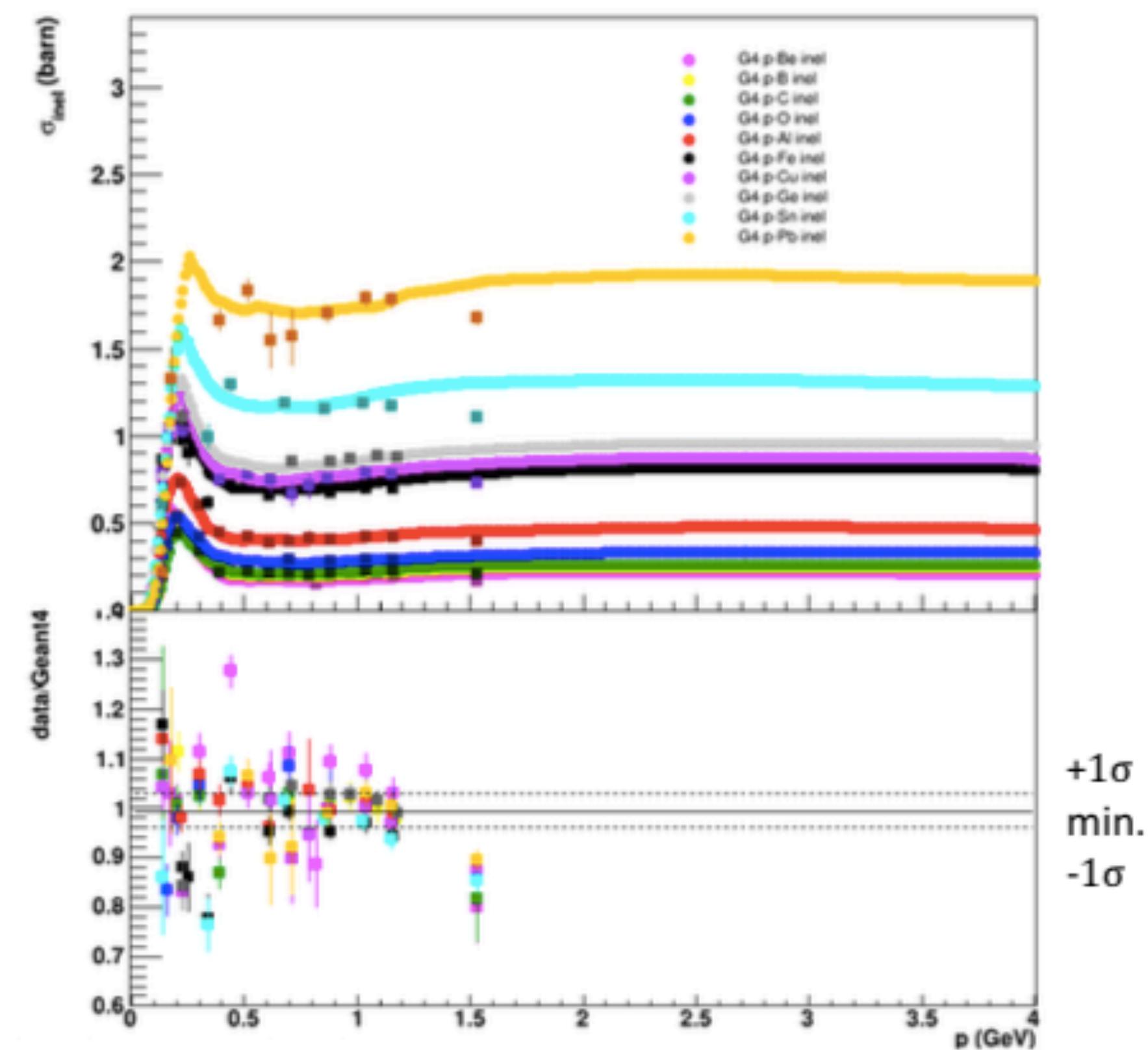


PRL 125, 162001 (2020)

# Uncertainty due to $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$ (proton)

How precise  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$  (proton) is described by Geant4?

- Check available experimental data (Be,B,C,O,Al,Fe,Cu,Ge,Sn,Pb)
- Vary Geant4 parametrisation, calculate  $\chi^2$  for all data points
- Minimum  $\chi^2$  and  $\pm 1\sigma$  : **0.9925** **+0.0375** **-0.0325**

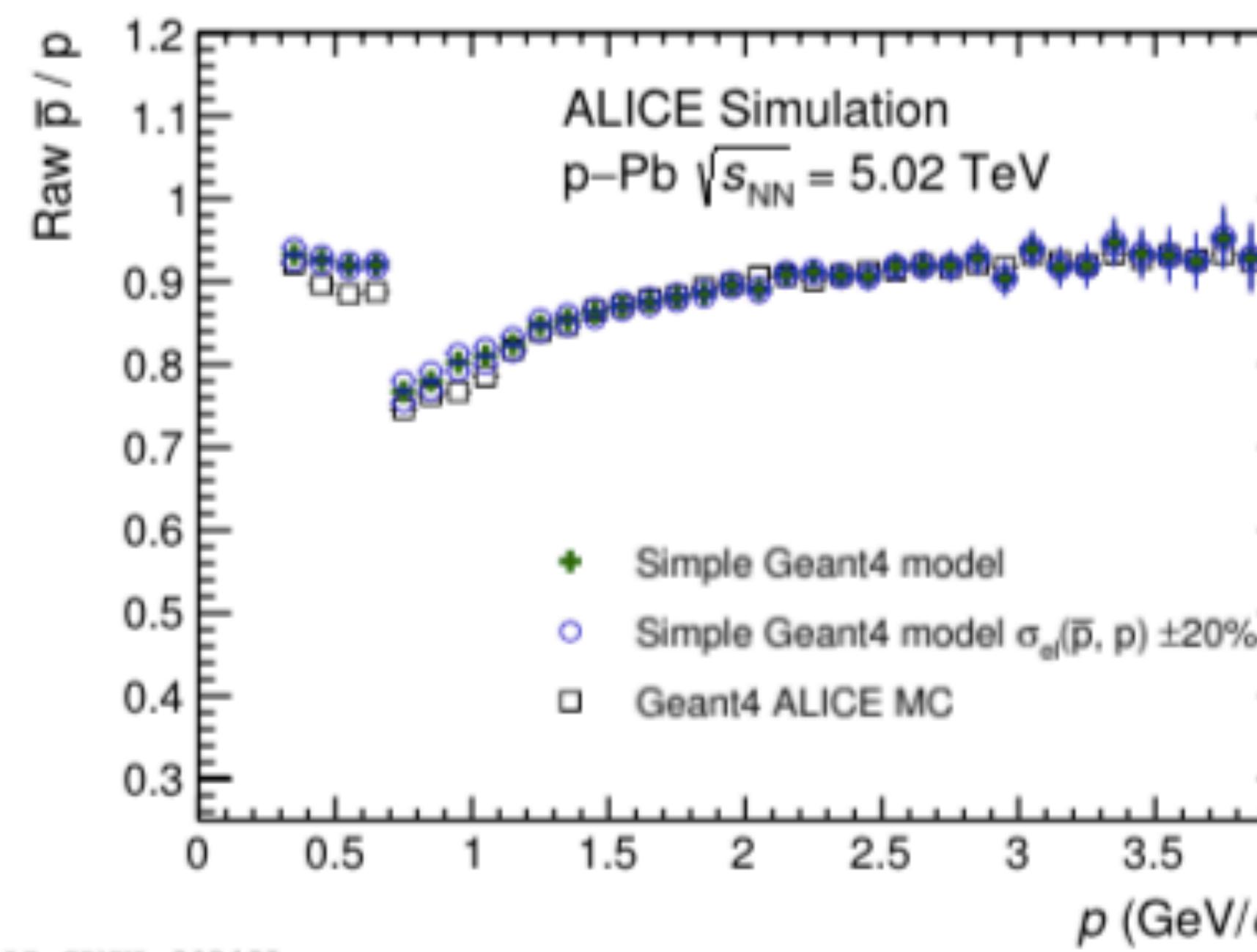


# Variations of $\sigma_{\text{el}}$ with simple Geant4 model

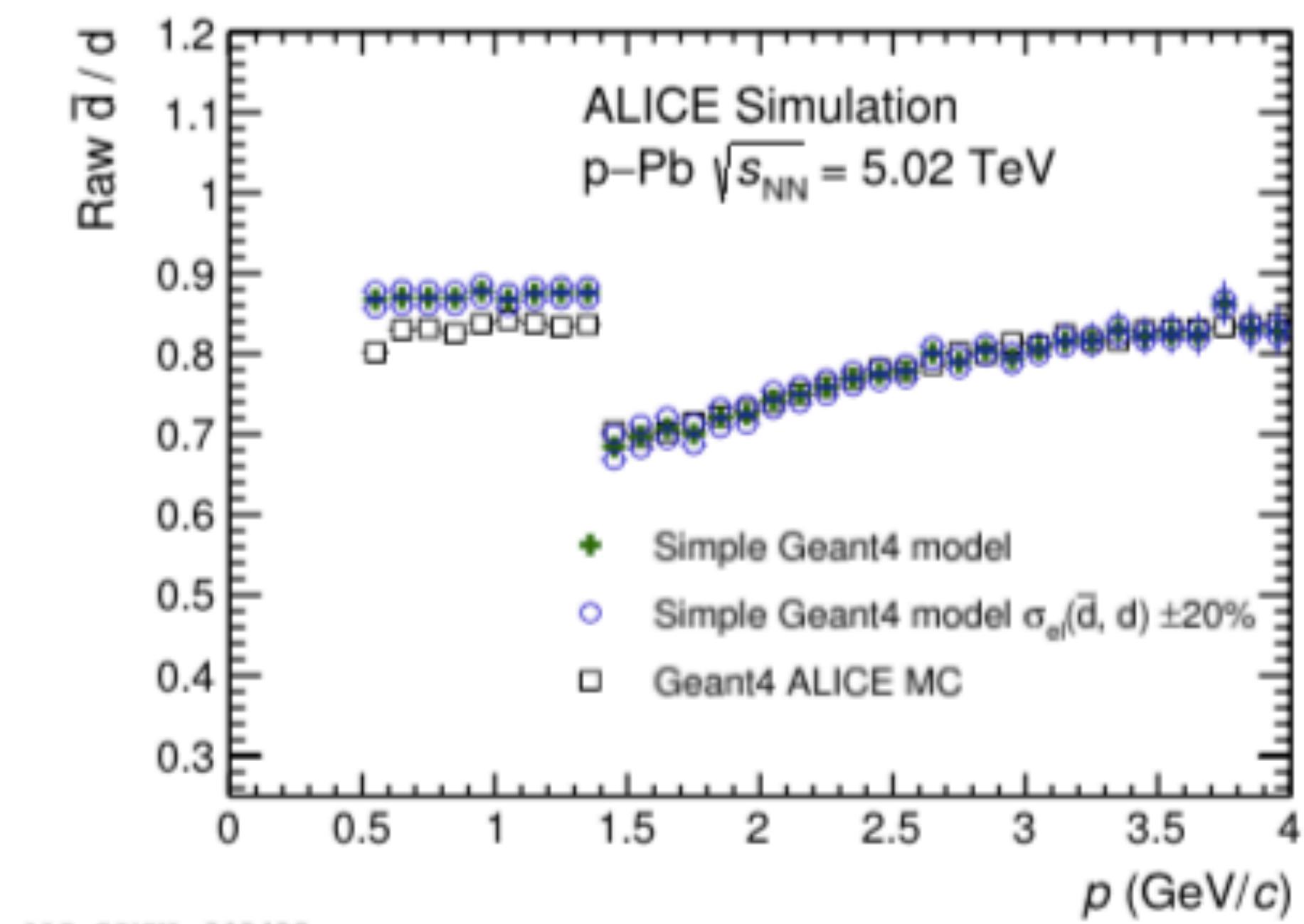
Vary each  $\sigma_{\text{el}}$  by  $\pm 20\%$  in all combinations and check the final ratio

- $\sigma_{\text{el}}$  contributes to scattering effects in ITS, TPC and TRD material
- Only a minor effect on the ratio ( $\leq 1\%$  for  $\bar{p} / p$ ,  $\leq 2\%$  for  $\bar{d} / d$ )

For final results: cross-check the variations with full ALICE MC simulations

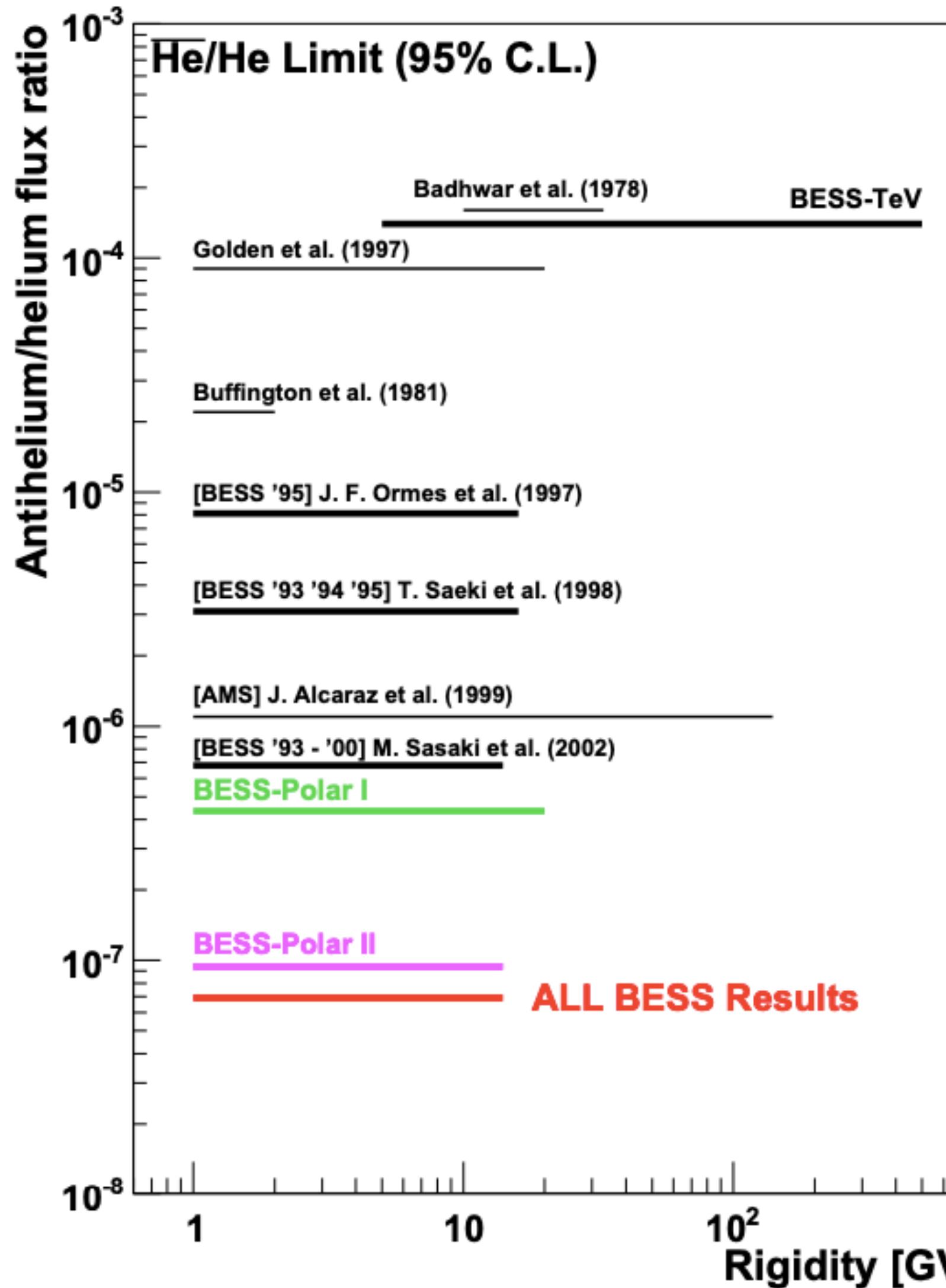


ALI-SIMUL-318423



ALI-SIMUL-318432

# $^3\overline{He}$ in cosmic rays?

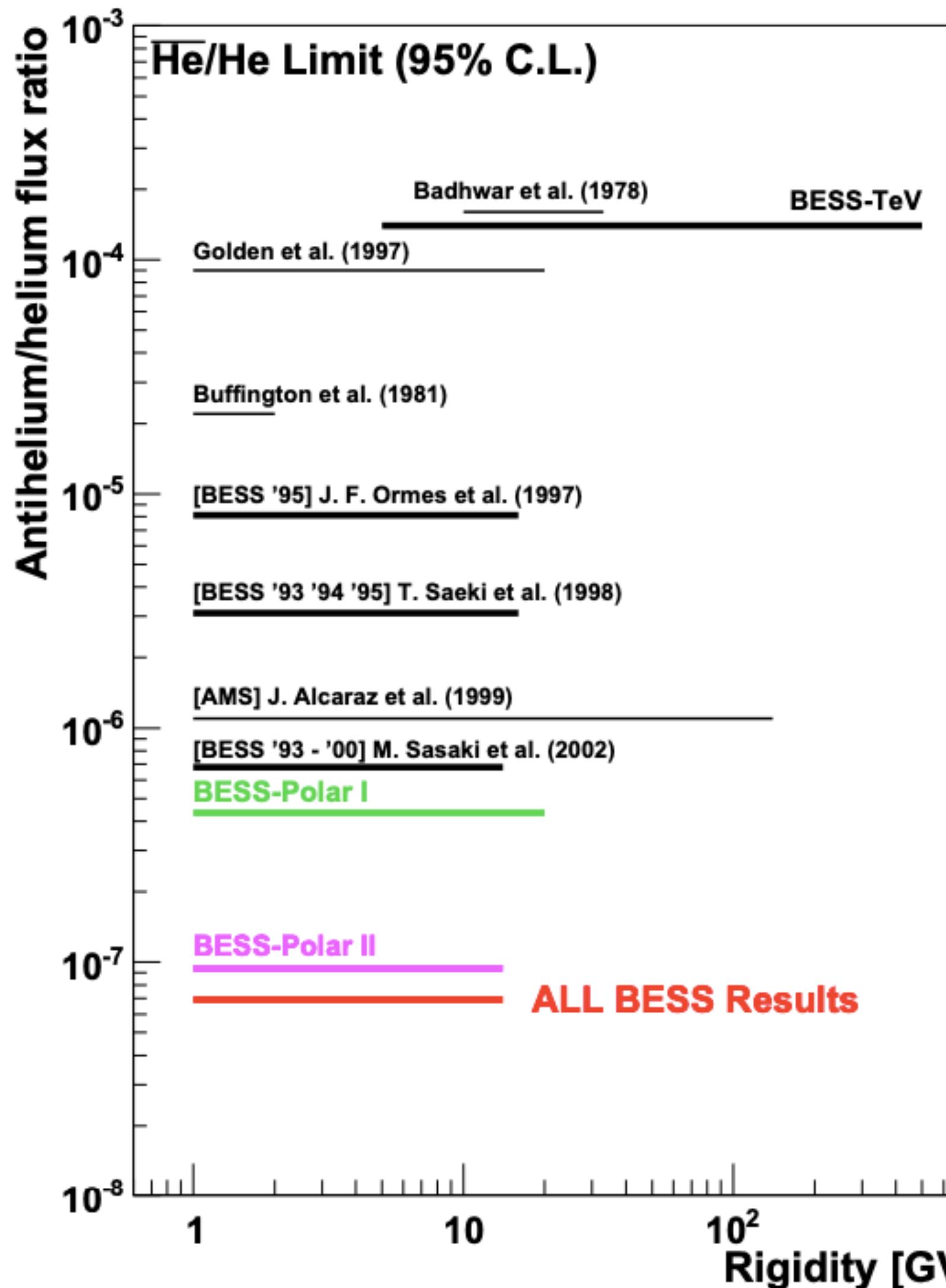


Bess Upper limit on  $^3\overline{He}$   
flux (latest published limit). [1]

$^3\overline{He}$  in cosmic rays is expected to be exceedingly rare, since the secondary flux expected from cosmic ray collisions is negligible.

- [1] Abe et. al. , 2012, [arXiv:1201.2967](https://arxiv.org/abs/1201.2967) [astro-ph.CO]  
[2] Poulin et. al., 2018, [arXiv:1808.08961](https://arxiv.org/abs/1808.08961) [astro-ph.HE]

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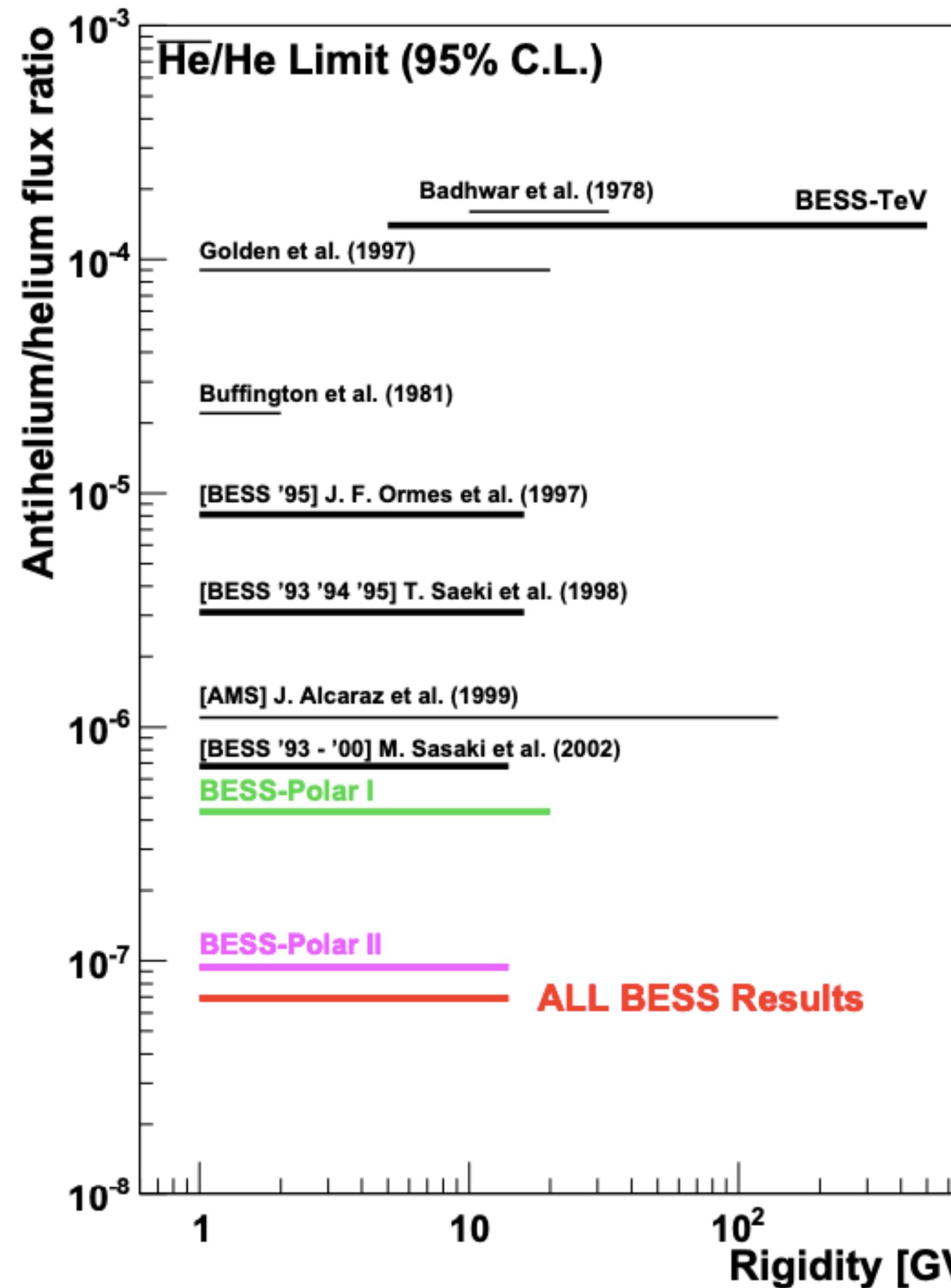


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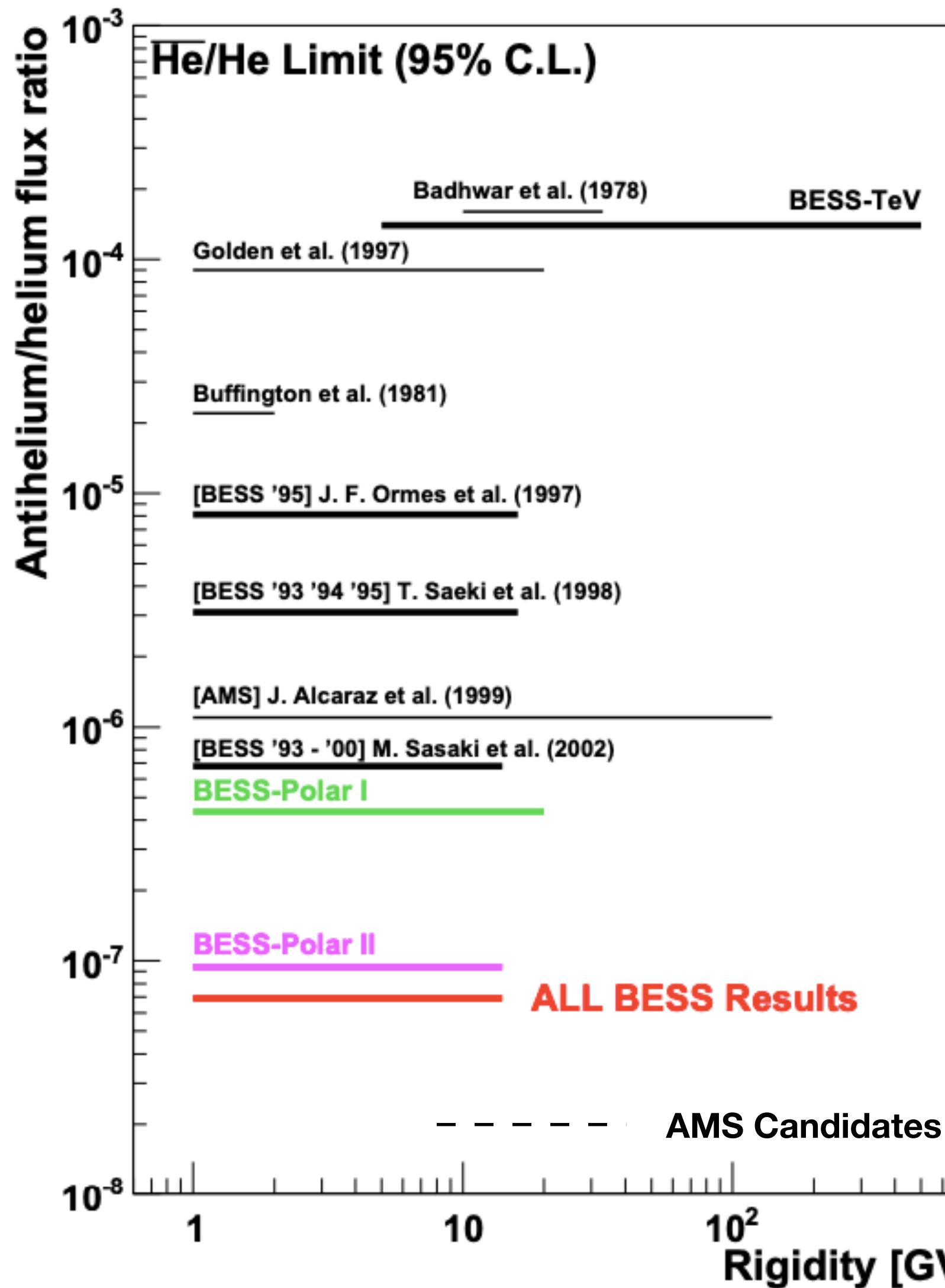


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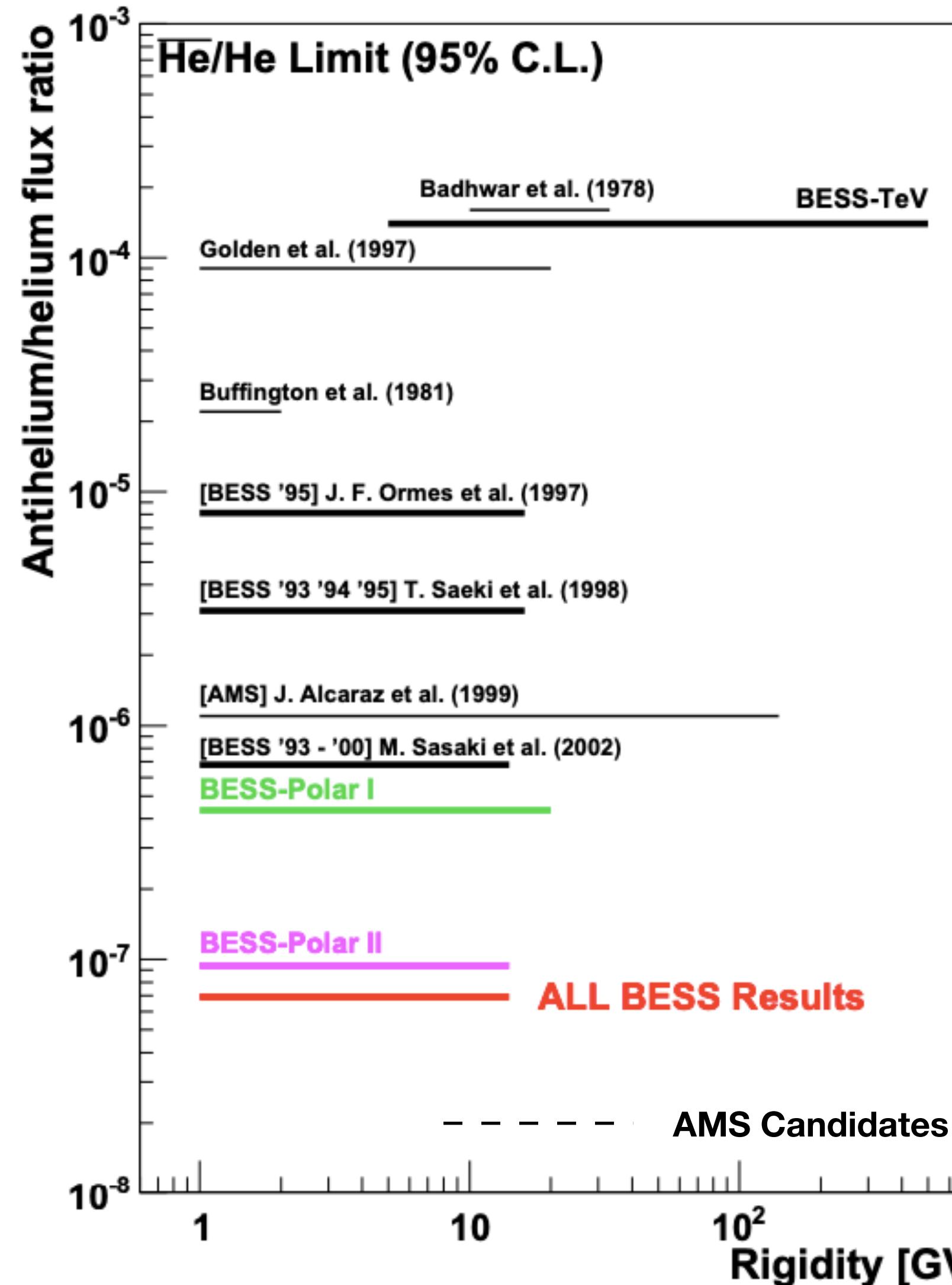


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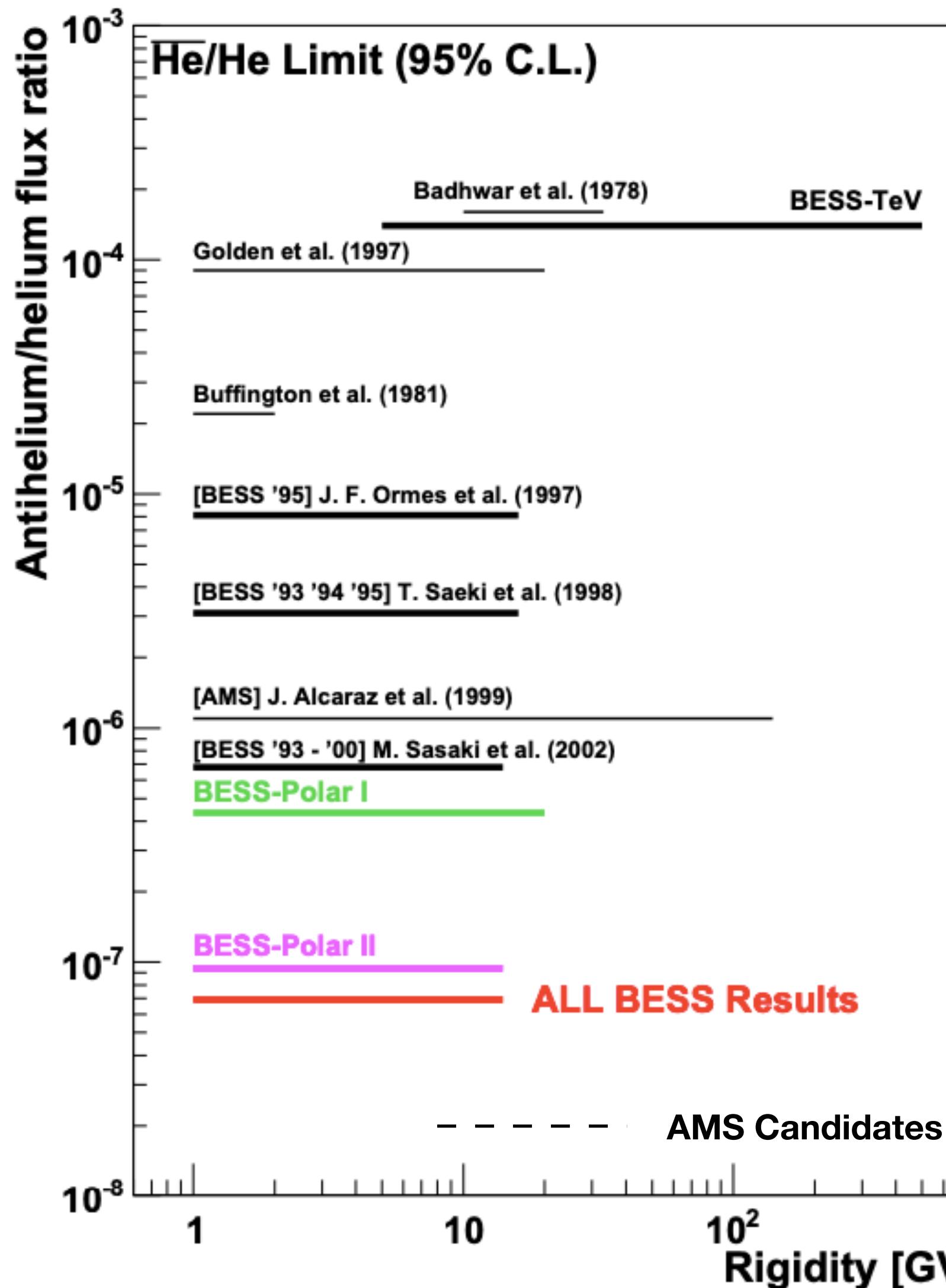


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- This is why it is vital to measure these cross sections.

Physics of AMS on ISS: Complex anti-matter  $\overline{\text{He}}$ ,  $\overline{\text{C}}$ ,  $\overline{\text{O}}$ 