

Multiplicity Distributions and Modified Combinants in the Multipomeron Model of pp Interaction at High Energies

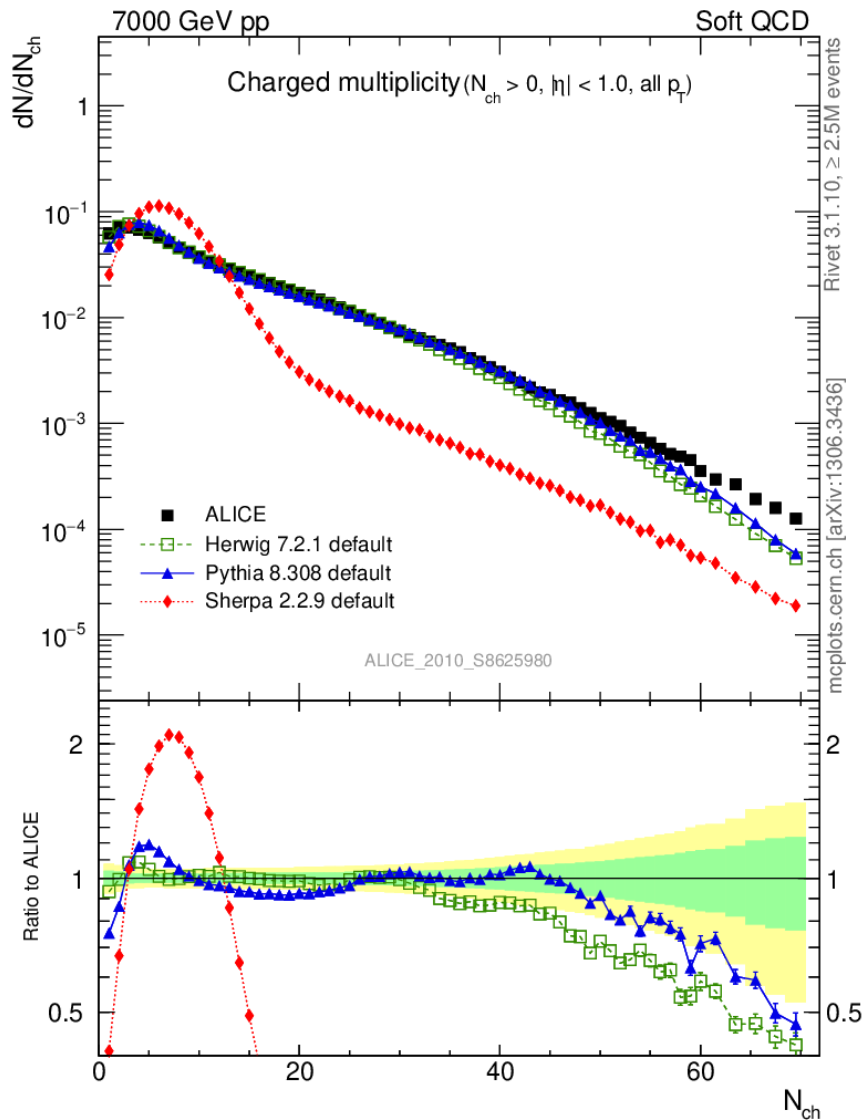
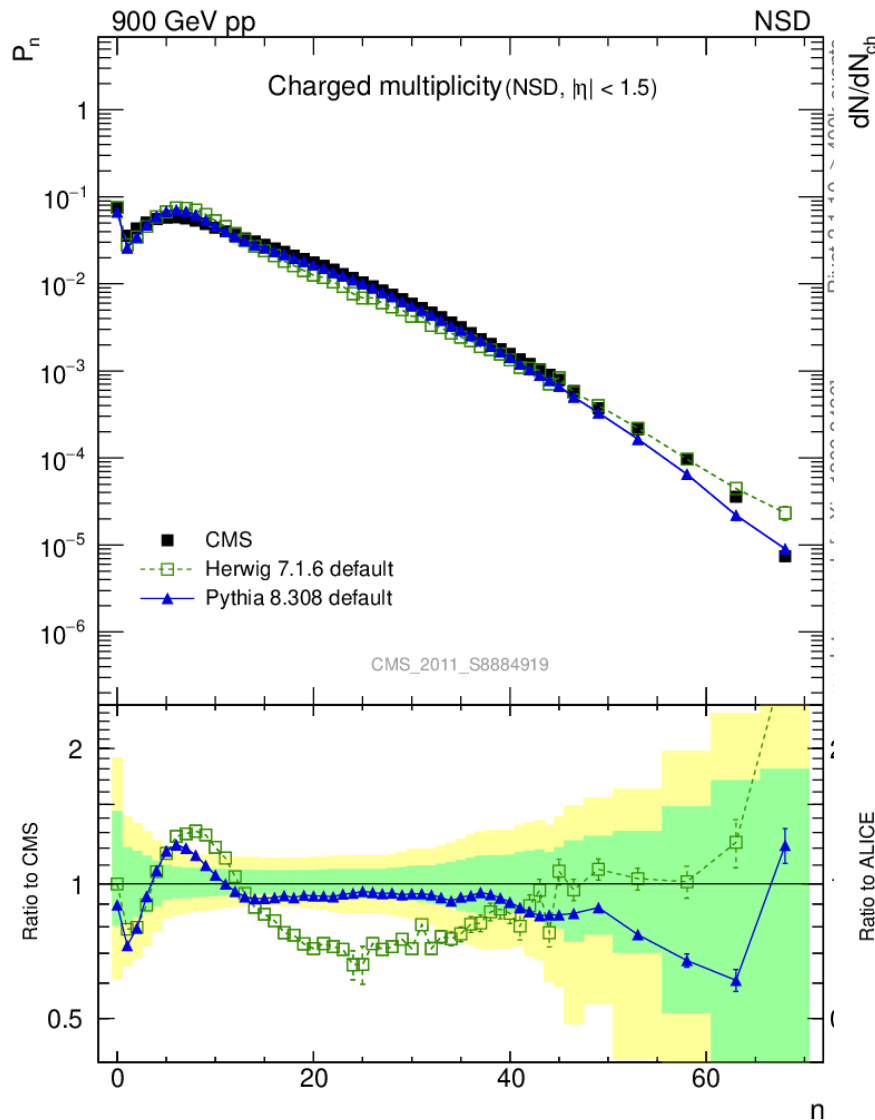
*Evgeny Andronov, Vladimir Kovalenko,
Andrey Putschkov, Vladimir Vechernin*

Saint Petersburg State University

**XXXVII International Workshop on High Energy Physics
“Diffraction of hadrons: Experiment, Theory, Phenomenology”**

Protvino, 22–24 Jul 2025

Multiplicity distributions



Multiplicity distribution and combinants

- Generating function for multiplicity distribution:

$$G(t) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} P(N) t^N$$

- Generating function for combinants:

$$F(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} C^*(j) t^j, \quad \text{where} \quad F(t) = \ln G(t)$$

- Recurrence relation for combinants:

$$N P(N) = \sum_{j=1}^N j C^*(j) P(N - j)$$

Modified combinants

$$C(j) \equiv \frac{j+1}{\langle N \rangle} C^*(j+1), \quad \text{where} \quad \langle N \rangle = \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} N P(N)$$

- Recurrence relation for modified combinants:

$$(N+1) P(N+1) = \langle N \rangle \sum_{j=0}^N C(j) P(N-j)$$

Relationships of this type or even simpler ones:

$(N+1) P(N+1) = g(N) P(N)$, where $g(N)$ is a linear function,
are found in many models (clans, cascade models).

See e.g. formula (32) in

M.A. Braun, C. Pajares, V.V. Vechernin, Physics Letters B 493 (2000) 54–64,
“On the forward–backward correlations in a two-stage scenario”.

$$X(j) \equiv \langle N \rangle C(j) = (j+1) C^*(j+1)$$

Using the recurrence relation to calculate combinants

$$X(N) = (N + 1) \frac{P(N + 1)}{P(0)} - \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} X(j) \frac{P(N - j)}{P(0)}$$

Explicit solution for the first few $X(j) \equiv \langle N \rangle C(j) =$

$$\bar{P}(N) \equiv \frac{P(N)}{P(0)} = (j + 1) C^*(j + 1)$$

$$X(0) = \bar{P}(1) = \frac{P(1)}{P(0)}$$

$$X(1) = 2\bar{P}(2) - \bar{P}^2(1) = 2\frac{P(2)}{P(0)} - \left(\frac{P(1)}{P(0)}\right)^2$$

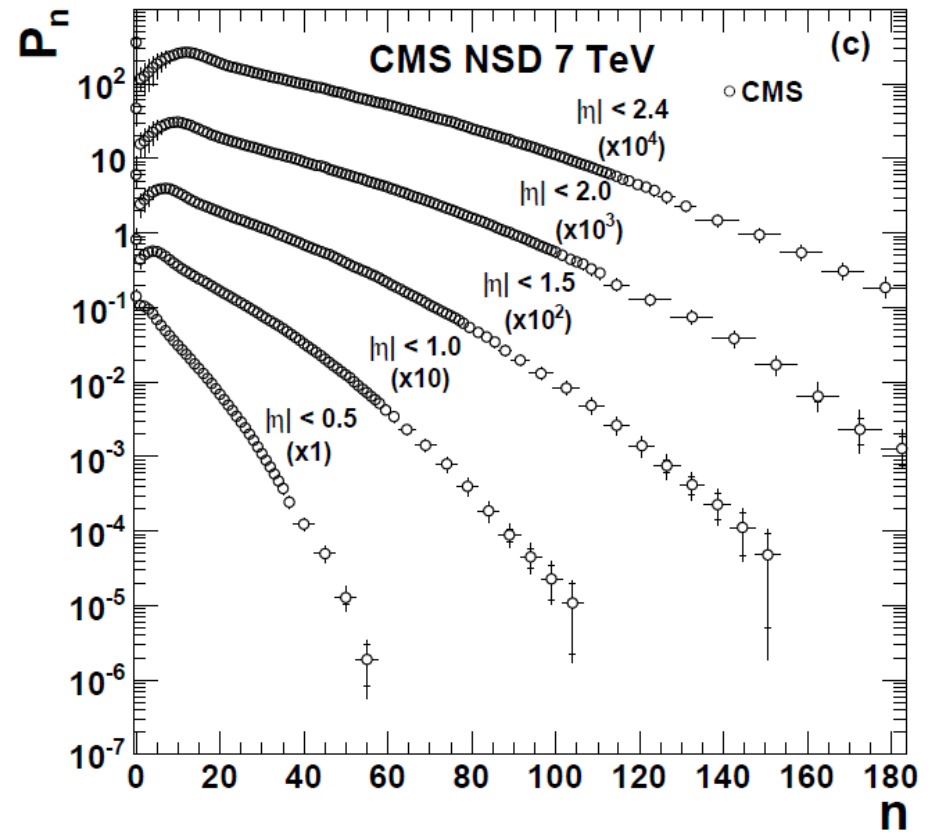
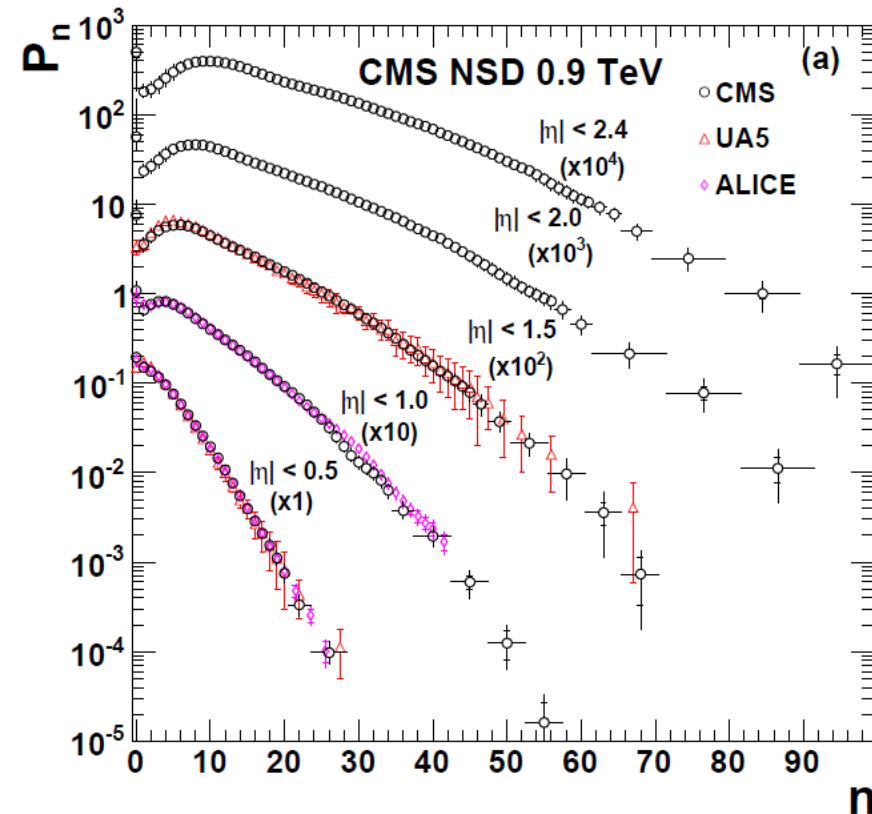
$$X(2) = 3\bar{P}(3) - 3\bar{P}(1)\bar{P}(2) + \bar{P}^3(1)$$

$$X(3) = 4\bar{P}(4) - 4\bar{P}(1)\bar{P}(3) - 2\bar{P}^2(2) + 4\bar{P}^2(1)\bar{P}(2) - \bar{P}^4(1)$$

Why combinants?

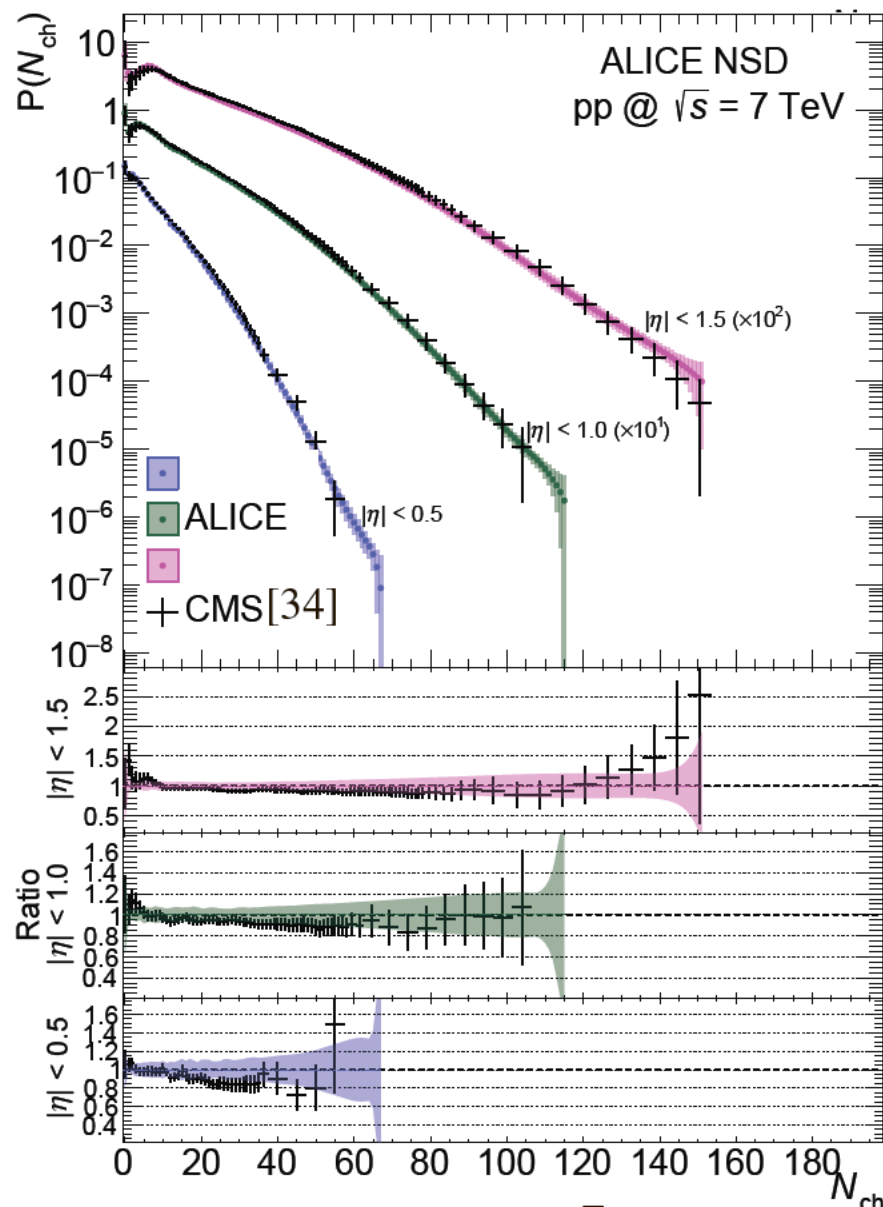
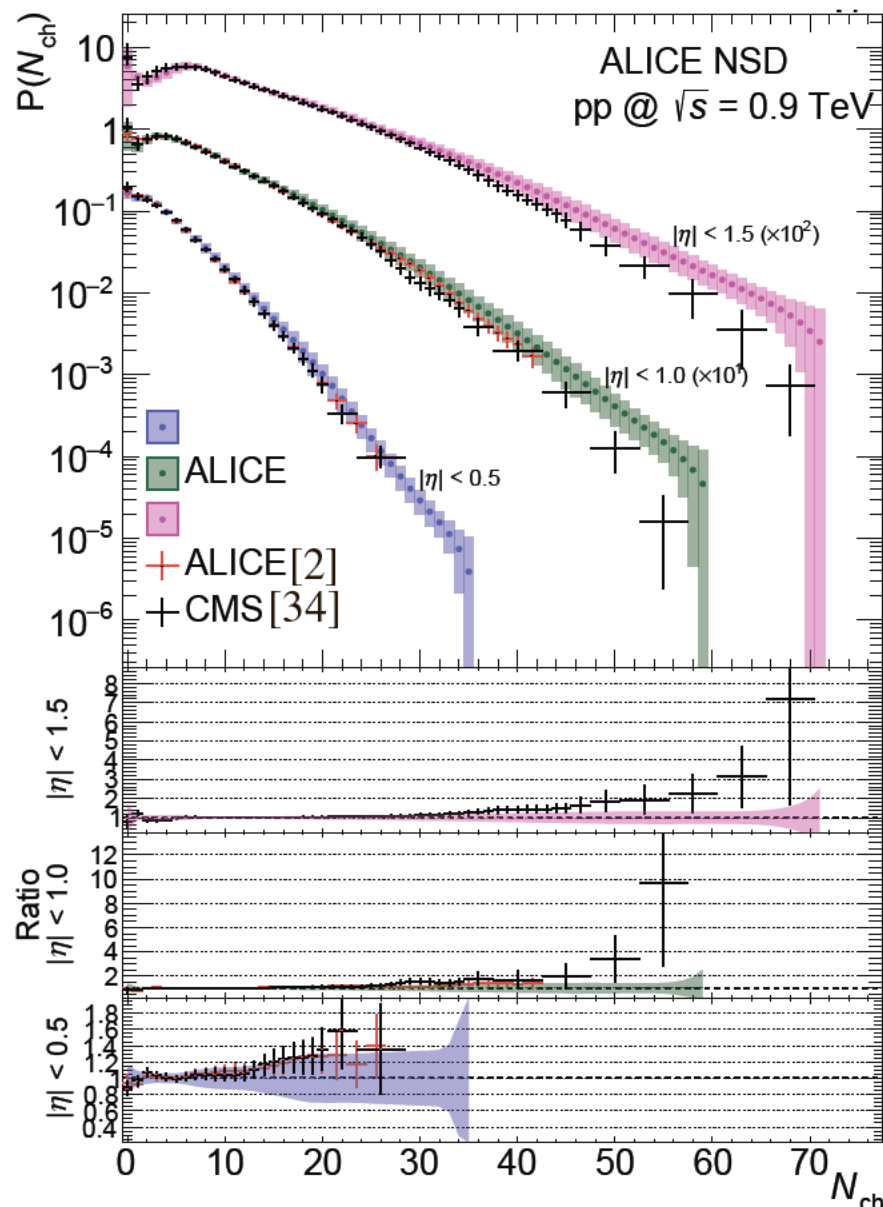
Multiplicity distributions in pp collisions at LHC energies

*ALICE Collaboration, Eur.Phys.J.C68, 89 (2010); ibid C68, 345(2010),
CMS Collaboration, JHEP 01, 079 (2011).*



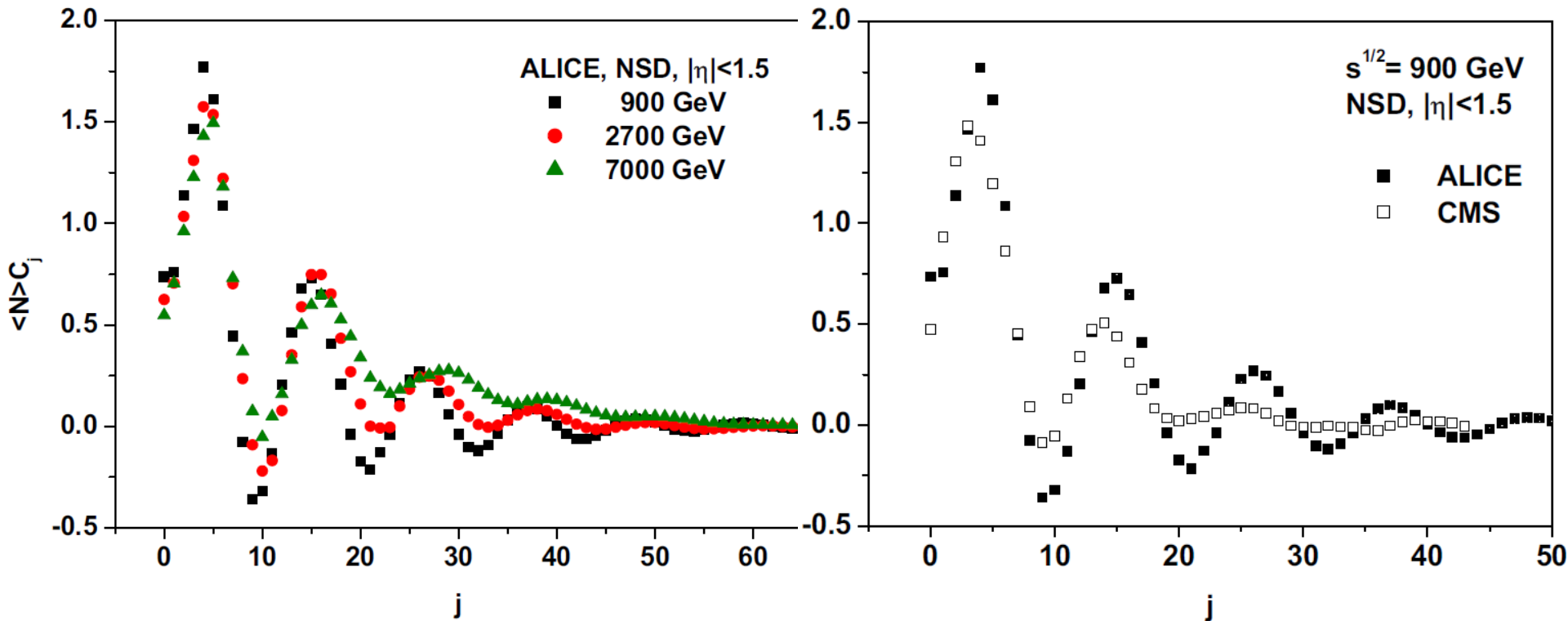
Multiplicity distributions in pp collisions at LHC energies

ALICE Collaboration, *Eur.Phys.J.C*77, 33 (2017).



Combinants extracted from the experimental data

G. Wilk, Z. Włodarczyk, J. Phys. G 44, 015002 (2017).



*ALICE Collaboration, Eur.Phys.J.C77, 33 (2017),
CMS Collaboration, JHEP 01, 079 (2011).*

Multi-Pomeron Exchange Model

*N. Armesto, D.A. Derkach, G.A. Feofilov, Phys. Atom. Nucl. 71, 2087 (2008),
E.O. Bodnya, V.N. Kovalenko, A.M. Puchkov, G.A. Feofilov, AIP Conf.Proc. 1606, 273 (2015),
V.N. Kovalenko, A.M. Puchkov, G.A. Feofilov, Bull. Russ. Acad. Sci. Phys. 80, 966 (2016),
G. Feofilov, V. Kovalenko, A. Puchkov, Eur. Phys. J.: Web of Conf. 171, 18003 (2018),
E.V. Andronov, V.N. Kovalenko, Theor.Math.Phys. 200, 1282 (2019),
V. Kovalenko, G. Feofilov, A. Puchkov, F. Valiev, Universe 8, 246 (2022).
V. Vechernin, E. Andronov, V. Kovalenko, A. Puchkov. Universe 10, 56 (2024).*

$$P(N) = C(z) \sum_{N_{pom}} \frac{1}{z \cdot N_{pom}} \left(1 - e^{-z} \sum_{l=0}^{N_{pom}-1} \frac{z^l}{l!} \right) \cdot P_{N_{pom}}(N)$$

$$z = \frac{2C\gamma s^\Delta}{R^2 + \alpha' \log(s)}, \Delta = 0.139, \alpha' = 0.21 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \gamma = 1.77 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, R_0^2 = 3.18 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, C = 1.5$$

$P_{N_{pom}}(N)$ was taken to be Poisson distribution with mean $2 \cdot N_{pom} \cdot \delta\eta \cdot k(\sqrt{s})$ where $k = 0.255 + 0.0653 \cdot \ln\sqrt{s}$

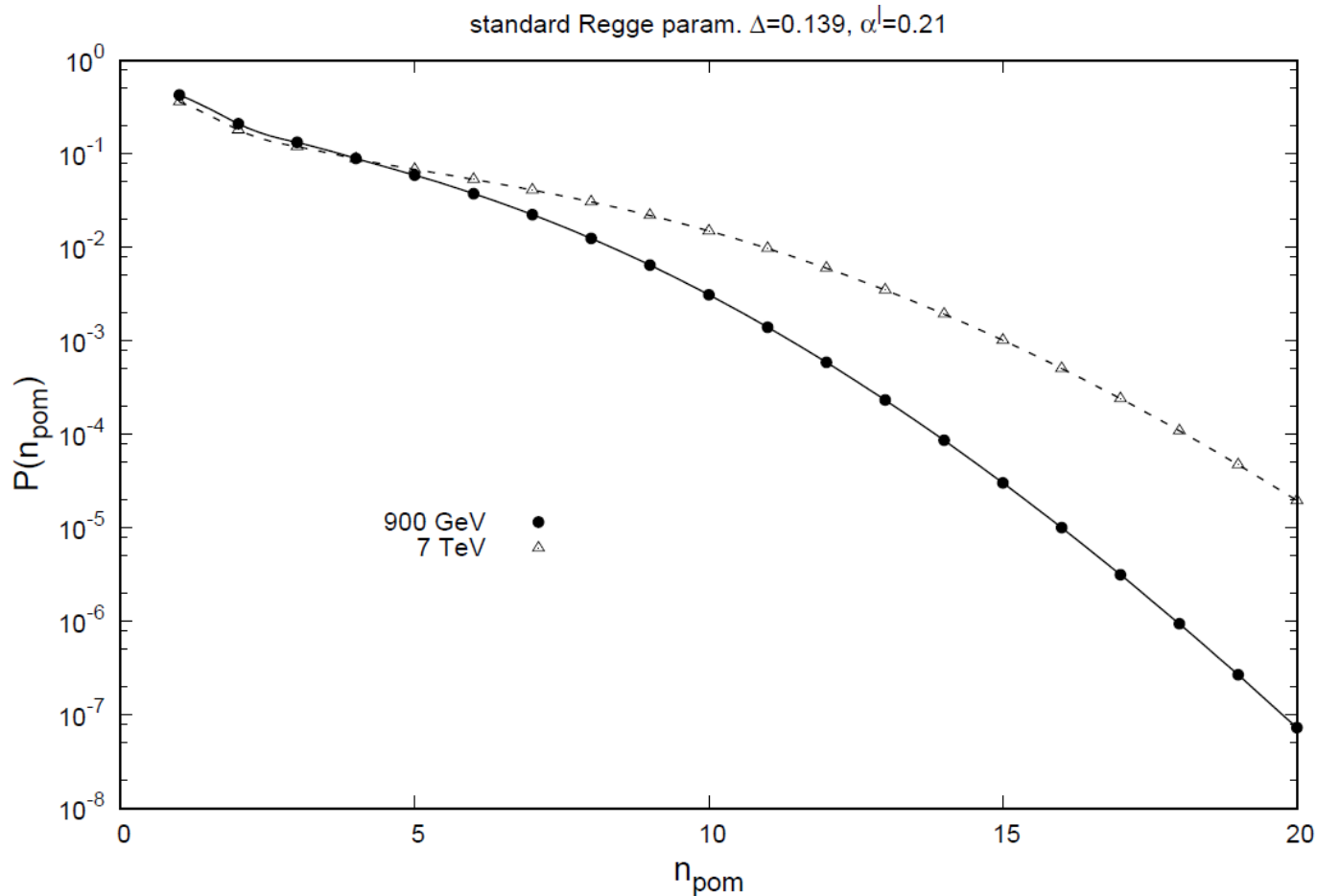
Regge parameters are taken from:

G. H. Arakelyan, A. Capella, A. B. Kaidalov, Yu. M. Shabelski, EPJC 26, 81 (2002).

Each cut pomeron corresponds to a pair of quark-gluon strings.

An increase in the multiplicity density with energy is explained by an increase in the mean number of cut pomerons and a growth of the average multiplicity from a single string .

Distribution in number of cut pomerons



Regge parameters are taken from:

G. H. Arakelyan, A. Capella, A. B. Kaidalov, Yu. M. Shabelski, EPJC 26, 81 (2002).

$$z = \frac{2C\gamma s^\Delta}{R^2 + \alpha' \log(s)}, \quad \Delta = 0.139, \quad \alpha' = 0.21 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad \gamma = 1.77 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad R_0^2 = 3.18 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad C = 1.5$$

Modeling a particle distribution from n cut pomerons

$$P(N) = \sum_{N_{pom}=1}^{\infty} P(N_{pom}) P_{N_{pom}}(N) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(n) P_n(N), \quad n \equiv N_{pom}$$

$$\langle N \rangle_n = 2n \delta\eta k(s) = 2n \langle N \rangle_{str} \equiv 2n \mu_{str}$$

Poisson Distribution

$$P_n(N) = e^{-\langle N \rangle_n} \frac{\langle N \rangle_n^N}{N!}, \quad P_{str}(N) = e^{-\mu_{str}} \frac{\mu_{str}^N}{N!}$$

Negative Binomial Distribution

$$P_n(N) = \frac{p^N}{q^{N+\kappa}} \frac{\Gamma(N+\kappa)}{\Gamma(\kappa) N!}, \quad g_{NBD}(t) = (q - p t)^{-\kappa}$$

$$q = \omega \equiv \frac{\langle N^2 \rangle_n - \langle N \rangle_n^2}{\langle N \rangle_n} = \frac{\langle N^2 \rangle_{str} - \langle N \rangle_{str}^2}{\langle N \rangle_{str}} \equiv \omega_{str} \Rightarrow \text{true also for merged, but identical strings}$$

$$p = q - 1 = \omega_{str} - 1, \quad \kappa = \frac{\langle N \rangle_n}{p} = 2n \frac{\mu_{str}}{\omega_{str} - 1}$$

Fluctuation in the number of particles from one string

V. Vechernin, *Nucl.Phys.A* 939, 21 (2015)

The pair correlation function of a single string:

$$\Lambda(\eta_1, \eta_2) \equiv \frac{\lambda_2(\eta_1, \eta_2)}{\lambda(\eta_1)\lambda(\eta_2)} - 1 = \frac{\lambda_2(\eta_1 - \eta_2)}{\mu_0^2} - 1 = \Lambda(\eta_1 - \eta_2)$$

The one- and two-particle rapidity distributions of particles from one string decay:

$$\lambda(\eta) \equiv \frac{dN}{d\eta} = \frac{\mu_{str}}{\delta\eta} = \mu_0 = k(s), \quad \lambda_2(\eta_1, \eta_2) \equiv \frac{d^2N}{d\eta_1 d\eta_2} = \lambda_2(\eta_1 - \eta_2)$$

Resulting two-particle correlation function (for all strings):

$$C_2(\eta_1, \eta_2; \phi_1 - \phi_2) = \frac{\rho_2(\eta_1, \eta_2; \phi_1 - \phi_2)}{\rho_1(\eta_1)\rho_1(\eta_2)} - 1 \quad C_2(\eta_1, \eta_2; \phi) = \frac{\omega_N + \Lambda(\eta_1, \eta_2; \phi)}{\langle N \rangle}$$

Forward-backward correlation coefficient can be calculated using:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n_F n_B \rangle - \langle n_F \rangle \langle n_B \rangle &= \langle n_F \rangle \langle n_B \rangle I_{FB} \\ D_{n_F} &= \langle n_F \rangle + \langle n_F \rangle^2 I_{FF} \\ b_{rel} &= \frac{\langle n_F \rangle}{\langle n_B \rangle} b = \frac{\langle n_F \rangle I_{FB}}{1 + \langle n_F \rangle I_{FF}} \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} \langle n_F \rangle &= \int_{\delta\eta_F} d\eta \rho_1(\eta) , \\ I_{FB} &= \frac{1}{\langle n_F \rangle \langle n_B \rangle} \int_{\delta\eta_B} d\eta_1 \int_{\delta\eta_F} d\eta_2 \rho_1(\eta_1) \rho_1(\eta_2) C_2(\eta_1, \eta_2) \\ I_{FF} &= \frac{1}{\langle n_F \rangle^2} \int_{\delta\eta_F} d\eta_1 \int_{\delta\eta_F} d\eta_2 \rho_1(\eta_1) \rho_1(\eta_2) C_2(\eta_1, \eta_2) \quad 12 \end{aligned}$$

Fluctuation in the number of particles from one string

V. Vechernin, Nucl.Phys.A 939, 21 (2015)

$$b_{rel} = \frac{\langle n_F \rangle}{\langle n_B \rangle} b = \frac{\langle n_F \rangle I_{FB}}{1 + \langle n_F \rangle I_{FF}}$$

$$I_{FF} = \frac{1}{\langle n_F \rangle^2} \int_{\delta\eta_F} d\eta_1 \int_{\delta\eta_F} d\eta_2 \rho_1(\eta_1) \rho_1(\eta_2) C_2(\eta_1, \eta_2)$$

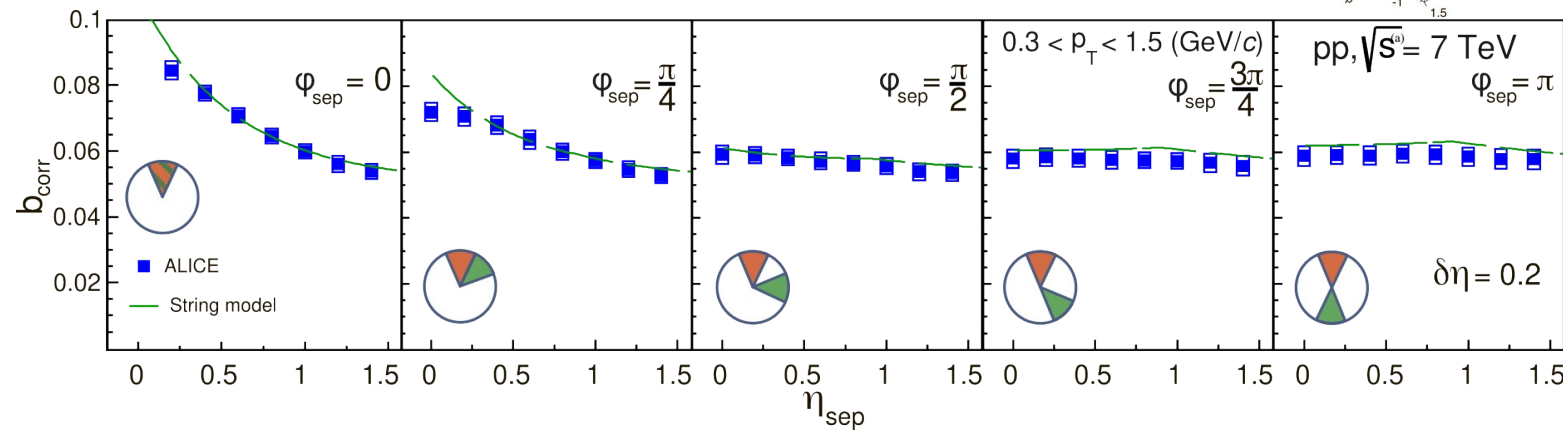
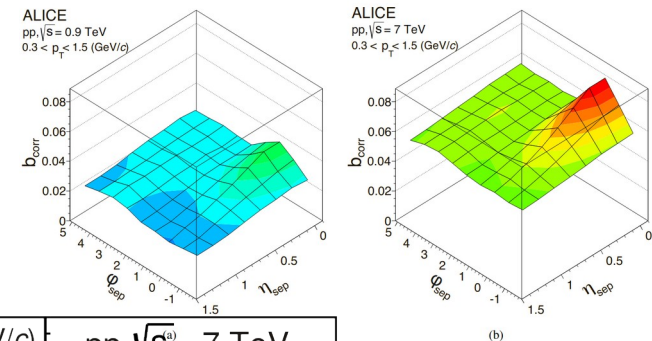
$$I_{FB} = \frac{1}{\langle n_F \rangle \langle n_B \rangle} \int_{\delta\eta_B} d\eta_1 \int_{\delta\eta_F} d\eta_2 \rho_1(\eta_1) \rho_1(\eta_2) C_2(\eta_1, \eta_2)$$

For sufficiently small windows in both rapidity and azimuth

$$b_{rel} = b_{rel}^{LR} + b_{rel}^{SR}, \quad b_{rel}^{LR} = \frac{\delta_F \mu_0 \omega_N}{1 + \delta_F \mu_0 [\omega_N + \Lambda(0, 0)]}, \quad b_{rel}^{SR} = \frac{\delta_F \mu_0}{1 + \delta_F \mu_0 [\omega_N + \Lambda(0, 0)]} \Lambda(\eta_{FB}, \phi_{FB}).$$

that allows extracting Λ from the experimental data

ALICE Collaboration, JHEP 05, 097 (2015)



Fluctuation in the number of particles from one string

V. Vechernin, *Nucl.Phys.A* 939, 21 (2015)

In the presence of correlations between particles, there can be no Poisson distribution from the source.

$$\frac{\langle N^2 \rangle_{str} - \langle N \rangle_{str}^2}{\langle N \rangle_{str}} \equiv \omega_{str} = 1 + \mu_{str} J, \quad J \equiv \frac{1}{\delta\eta^2} \int_{\delta\eta} d\eta_1 \int_{\delta\eta} d\eta_2 \Lambda(\eta_1 - \eta_2)$$

The pair correlation function of a single string:

$$\Lambda(\eta_1, \eta_2) \equiv \frac{\lambda_2(\eta_1, \eta_2)}{\lambda(\eta_1)\lambda(\eta_2)} - 1 = \frac{\lambda_2(\eta_1 - \eta_2)}{\mu_0^2} - 1 = \Lambda(\eta_1 - \eta_2)$$

The one- and two-particle rapidity distributions of particles from one string decay:

$$\lambda(\eta) \equiv \frac{dN}{d\eta} = \frac{\mu_{str}}{\delta\eta} = \mu_0 = k(s), \quad \lambda_2(\eta_1, \eta_2) \equiv \frac{d^2N}{d\eta_1 d\eta_2} = \lambda_2(\eta_1 - \eta_2)$$

The parametrization for the pair correlation function of a single string $\Lambda(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi)$

using the data from *ALICE Collaboration, JHEP 05, 097 (2015)*,

Forward-backward multiplicity correlations in pp collisions at 0.9, 2.76 and 7 TeV

Then integrating over azimuth we find :

$$\Lambda(\Delta\eta) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \Lambda(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) d\Delta\phi \quad \text{well approximated by} \quad \Lambda(\Delta\eta) = \Lambda_0 e^{-\frac{|\Delta\eta|}{\eta_{corr}}}$$

V. Vechernin, *EPJ Web Conf.* 191, 04011 (2018),

E. Andronov, V. Vechernin, *Eur. Phys. J. A* 55, 14 (2019).

Fluctuation in the number of particles from one string

For the exponential pair correlation function, the integral can be calculated explicitly:

S. Belokurova, Phys. Part. Nucl. 53, 154 (2022)

$$\omega_{str} = 1 + \mu_{str} J , \quad J = \frac{2\Lambda_0 \eta_{corr}}{(\delta\eta)^2} \left[\delta\eta - \eta_{corr} \left(1 - e^{-\delta\eta/\eta_{corr}} \right) \right]$$

Then we find:

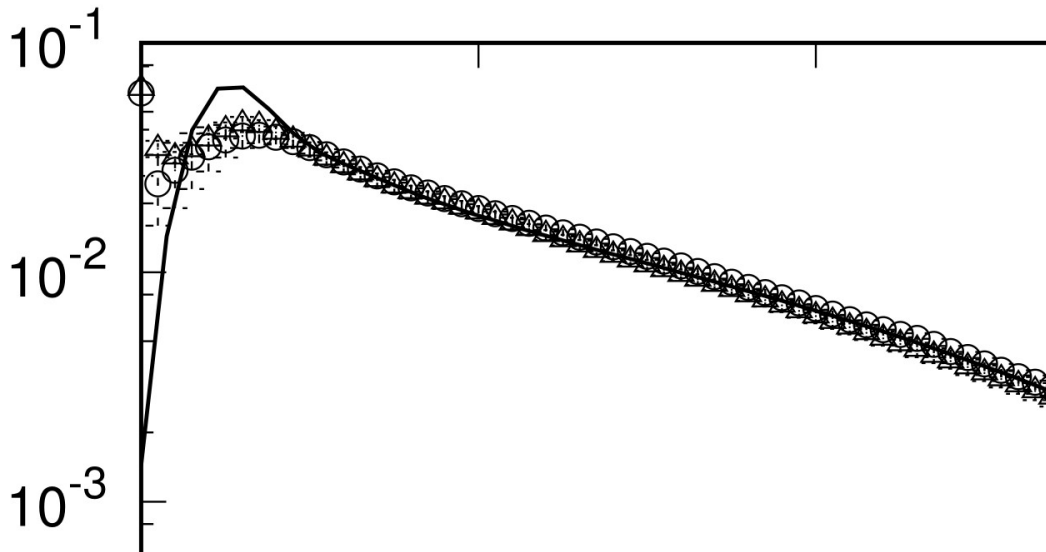
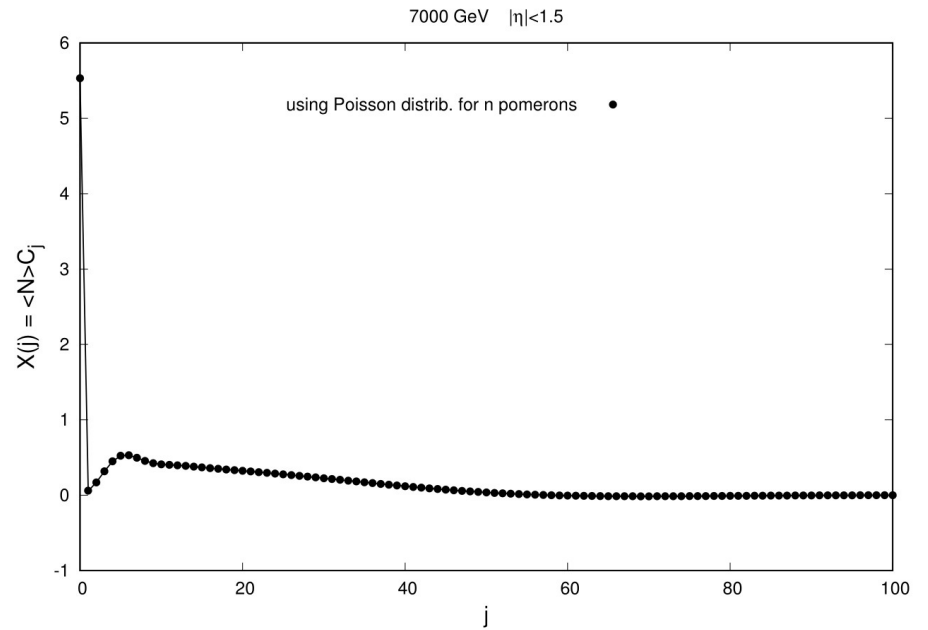
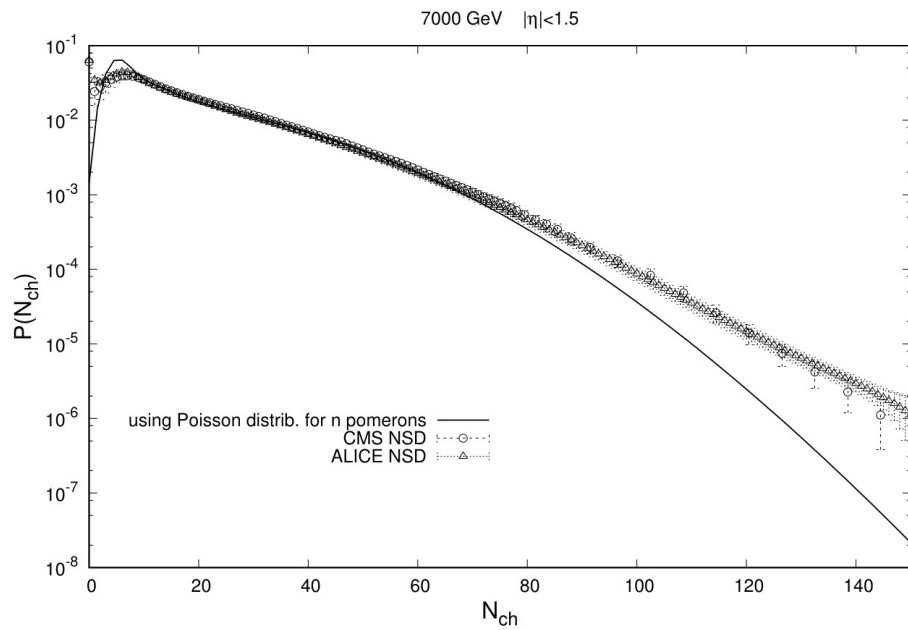
$$\frac{\langle N^2 \rangle_{str} - \langle N \rangle_{str}^2}{\langle N \rangle_{str}} \equiv \omega_{str}$$

\sqrt{s} , TeV	0.9	7.0
$\delta\eta = 3$	3.1	3.5
$\delta\eta = 4.8$	3.6	4.0

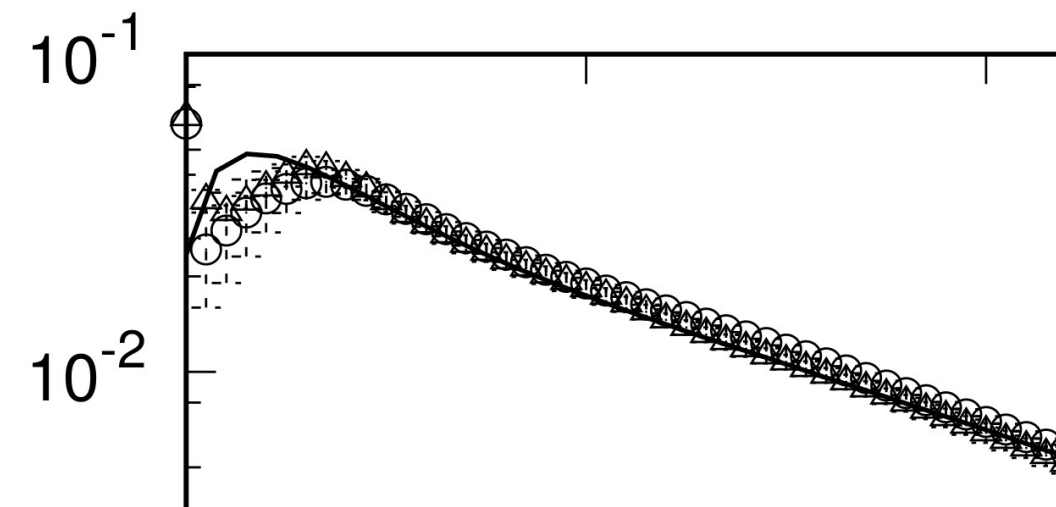
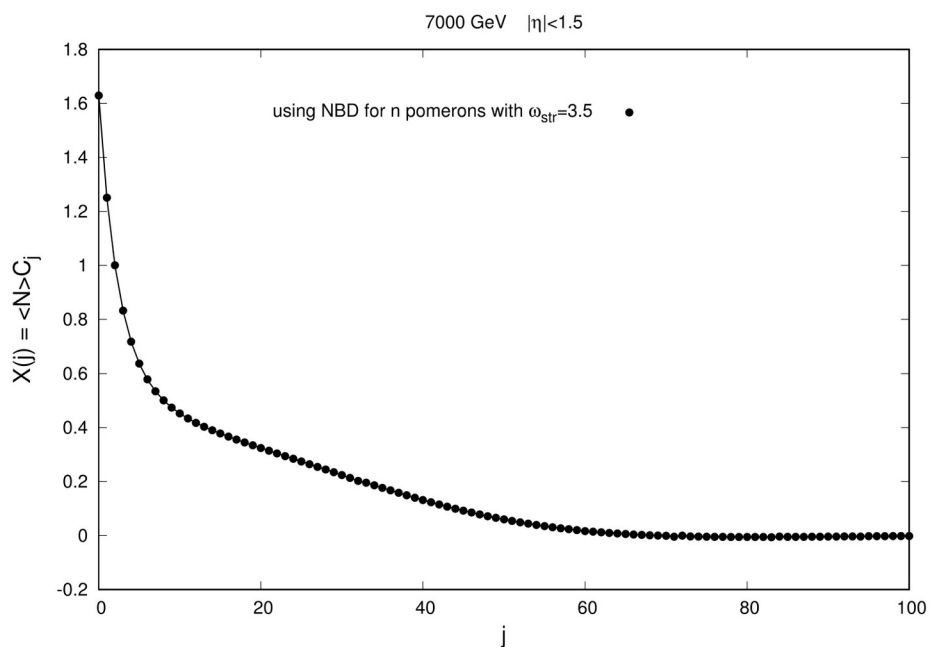
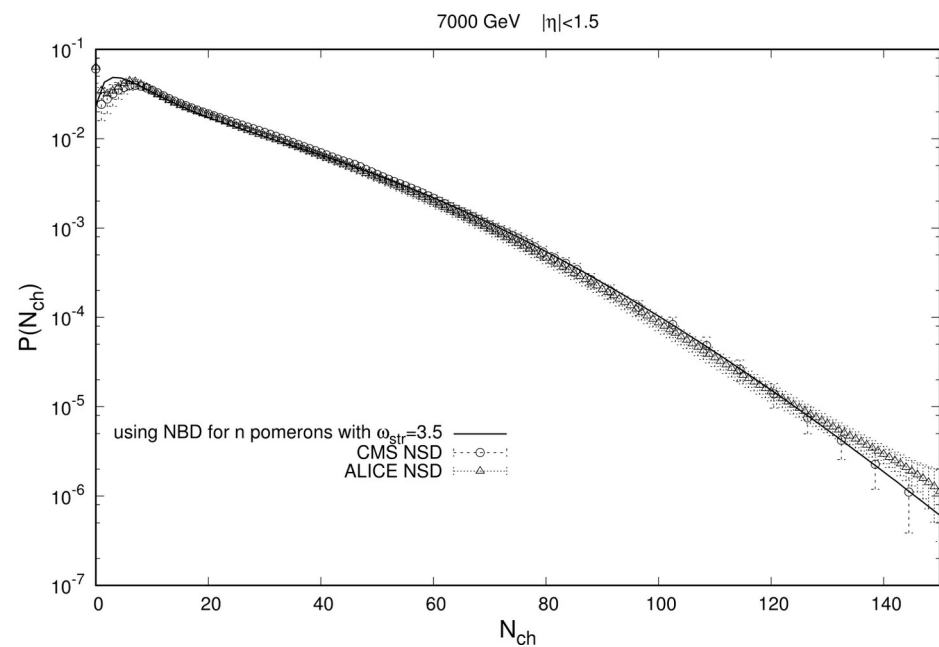
Recall that in the multipomeron exchange model:

$$\mu_{str} = k(s) \delta\eta$$

Assuming a Poisson distribution of particles from one string



Assuming a Negative Binomial distribution from one string



Assuming a Gaussian distribution for $P_n(N)$

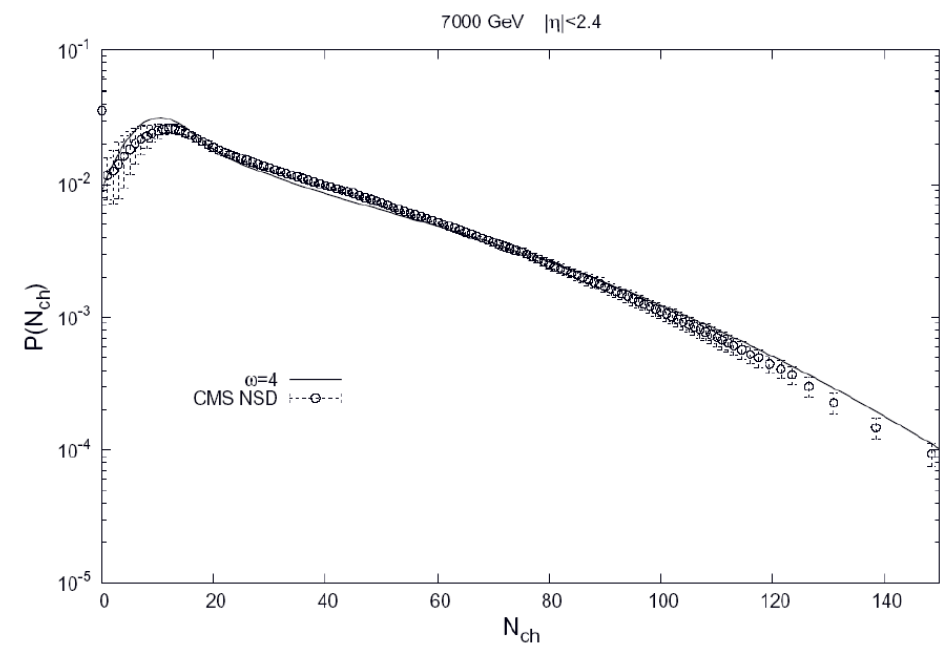
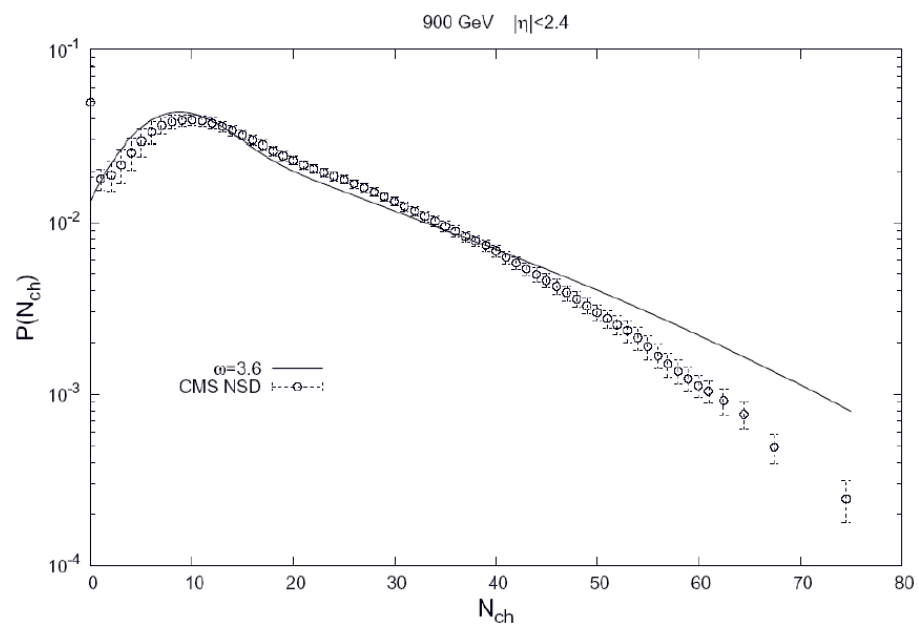
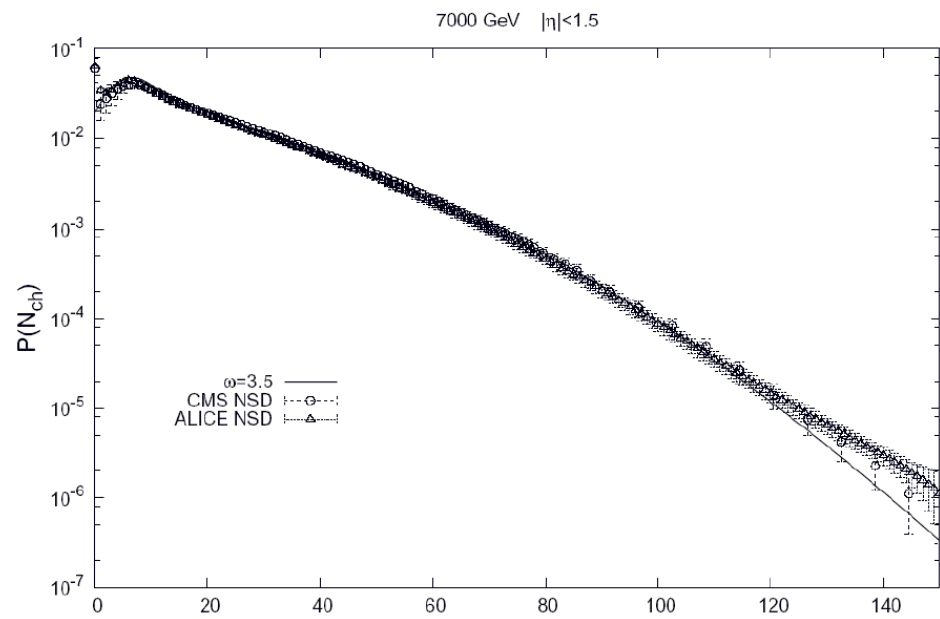
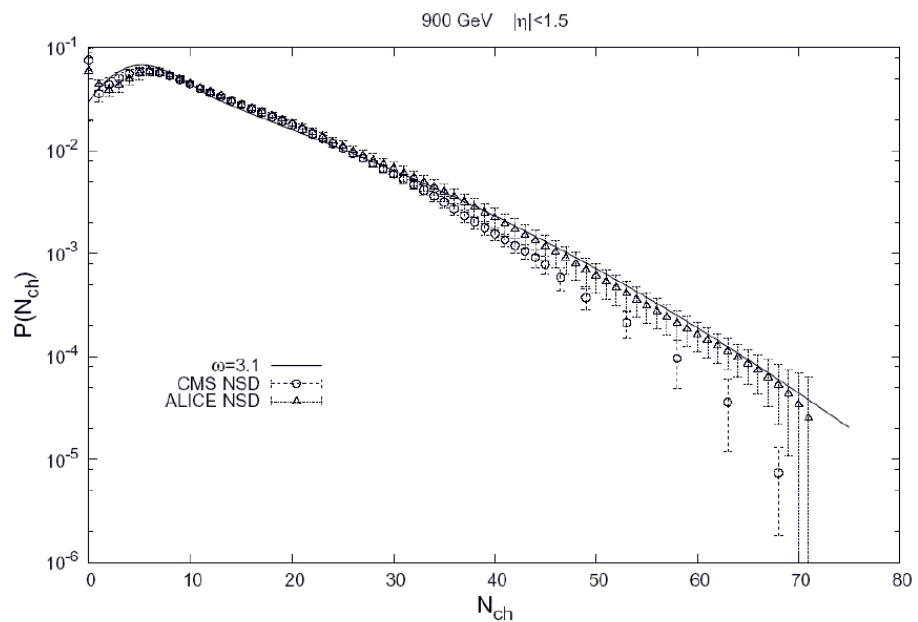
$$P_n(N) = C \exp \left[-\frac{(N - 2n\mu_{str})^2}{2\omega_{str} 2n\mu_{str}} \right], \quad \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} P_n(N) = 1$$

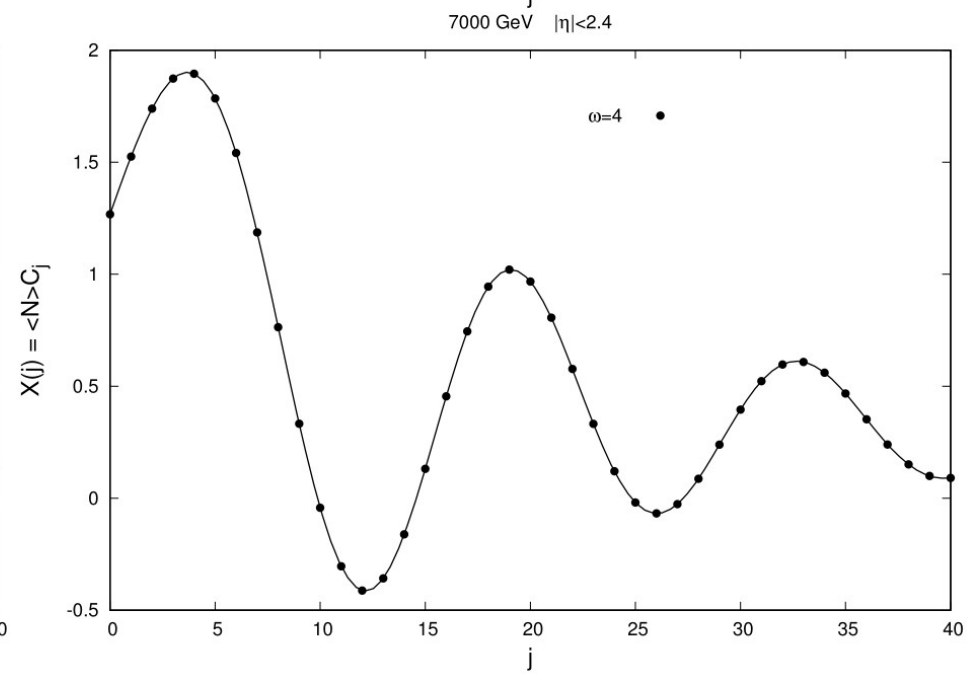
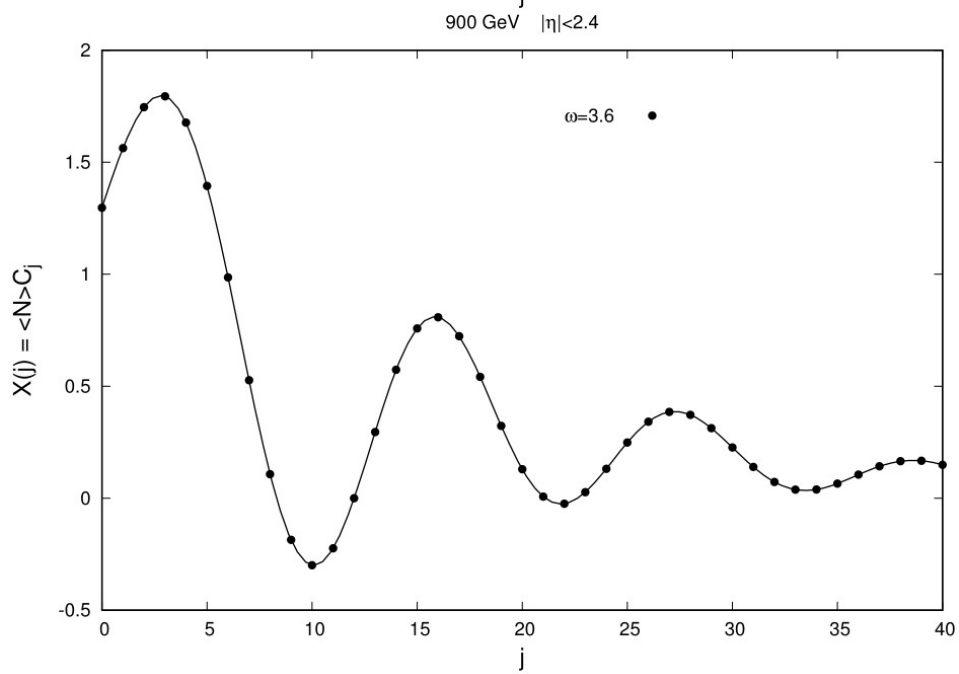
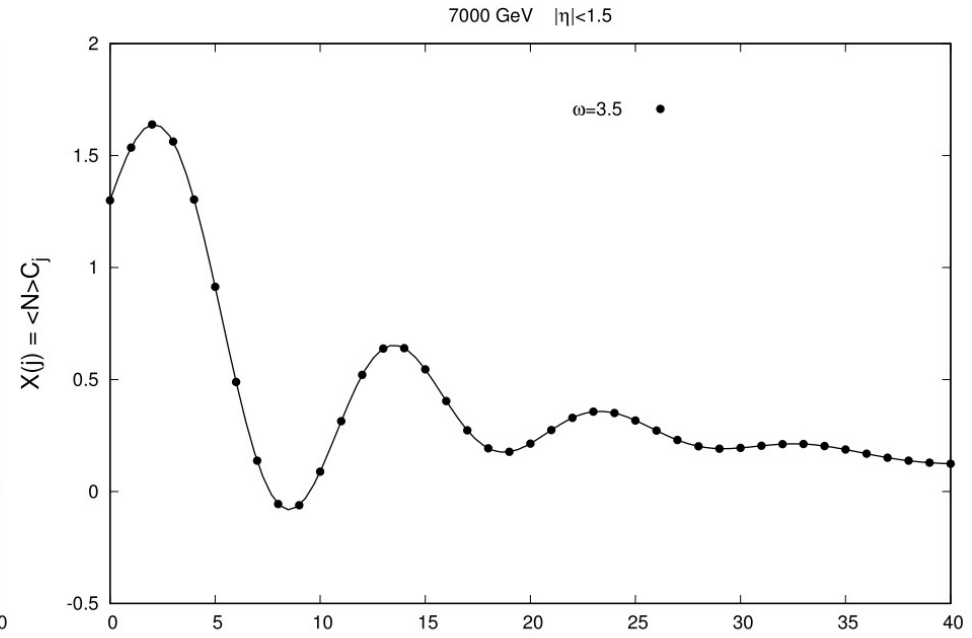
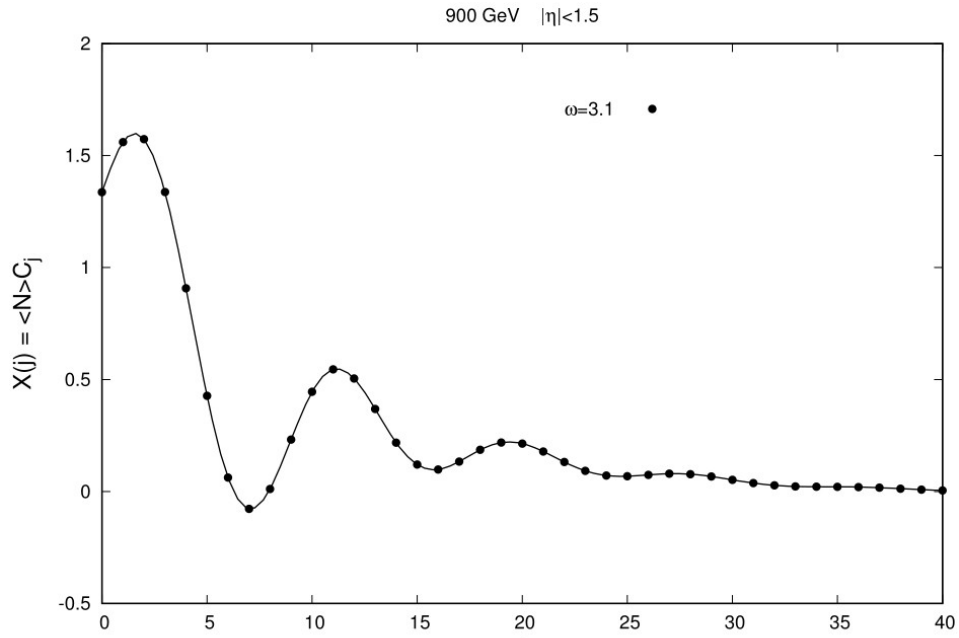
$$C^{-1} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \exp \left[-\frac{(N - 2n\mu_{str})^2}{2\omega_{str} 2n\mu_{str}} \right]$$

For $2n\mu_{str} \gg 1$ we have

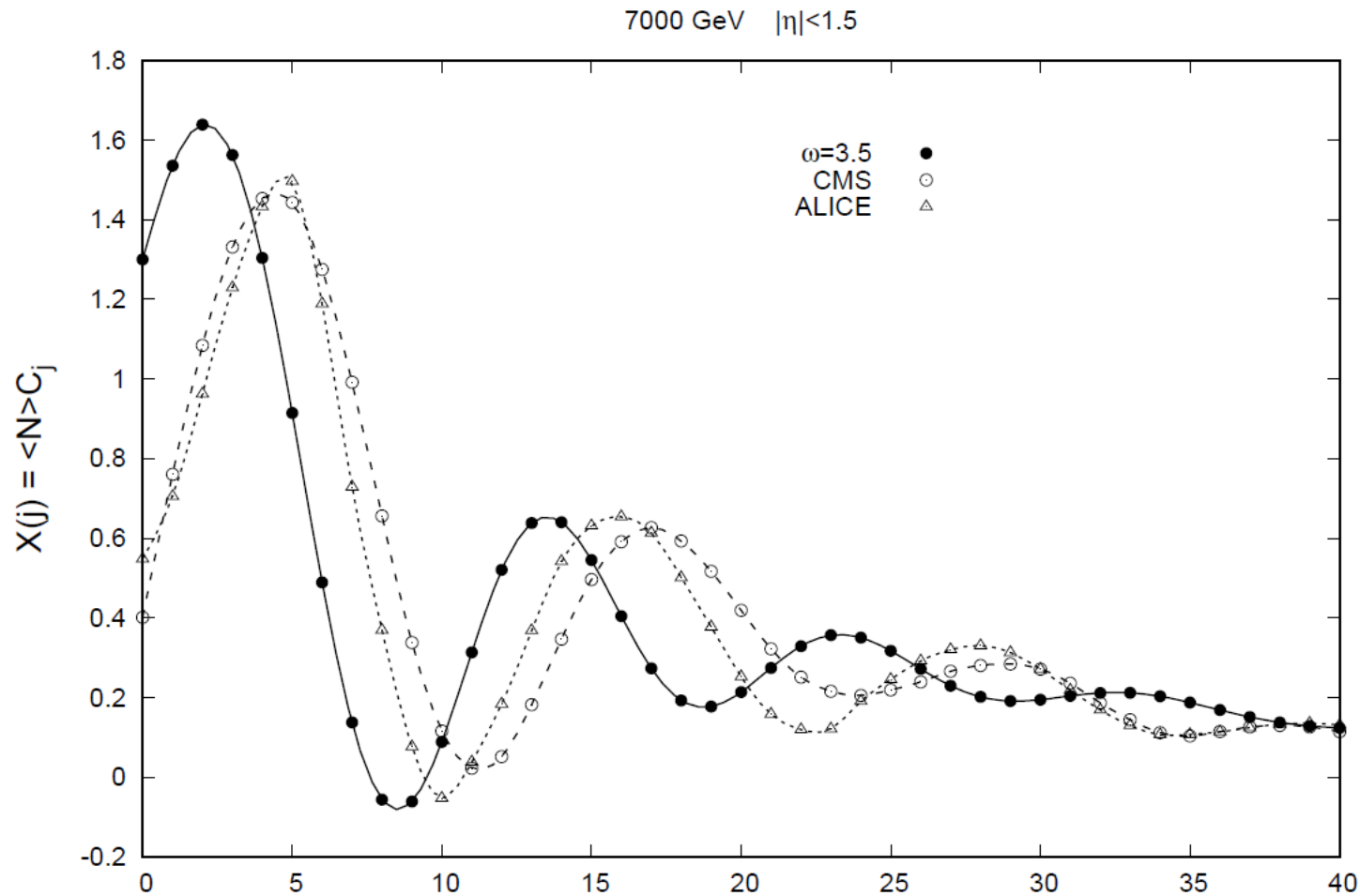
$$\langle N \rangle_n \equiv \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} N P_n(N) \rightarrow 2n\mu_{str}$$

$$\omega_n[N] \equiv \frac{\langle N^2 \rangle_n - \langle N \rangle_n^2}{\langle N \rangle_n} \rightarrow \omega_{str}$$

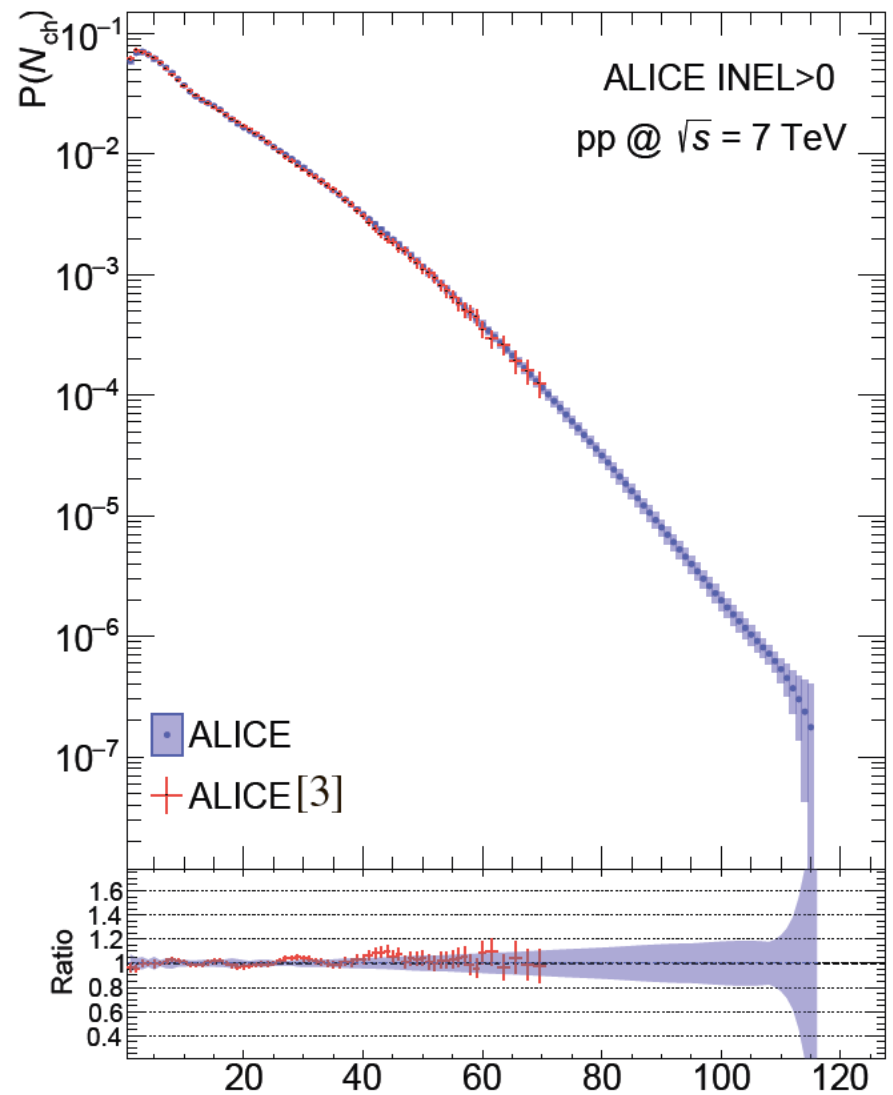
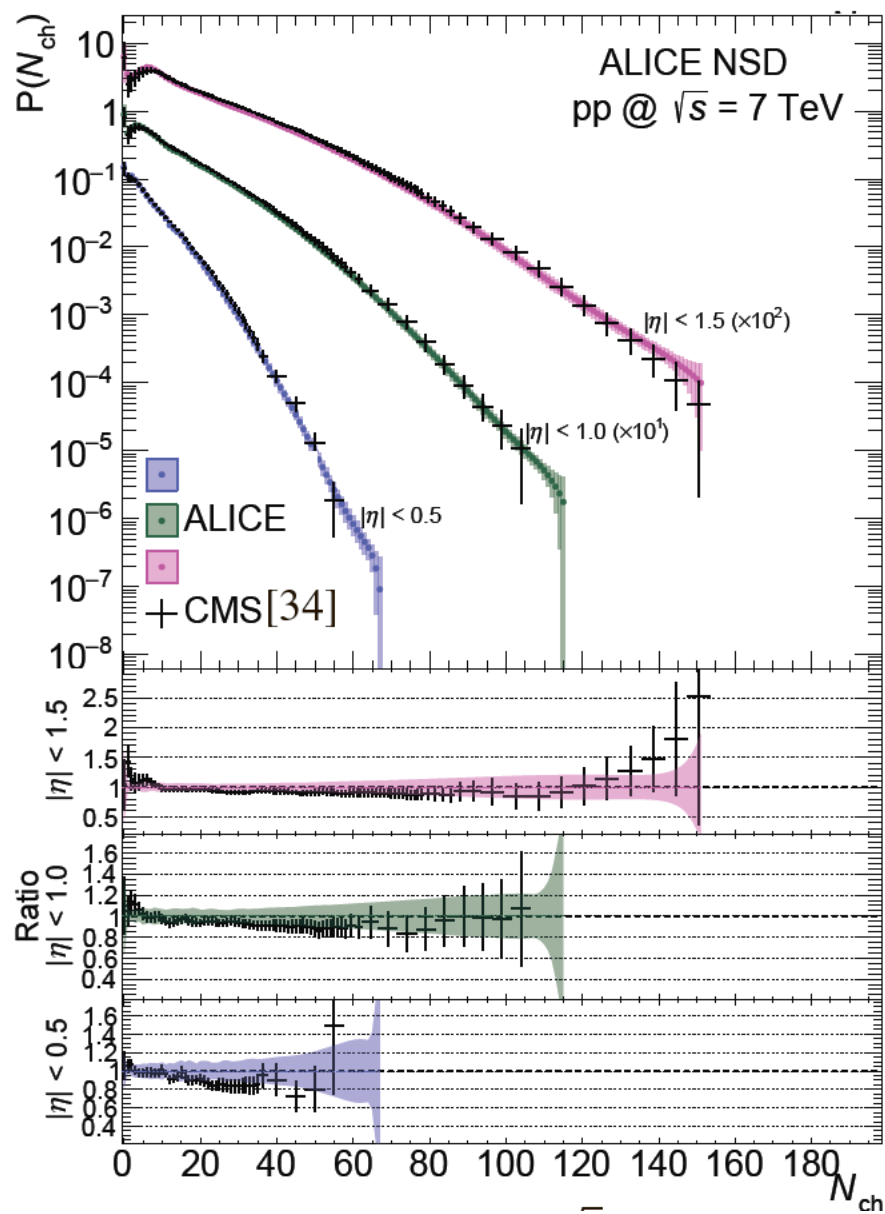




Comparison to the pp experimental data



*ALICE Collaboration, Eur.Phys.J.C68, 89^j (2010); ibid C68, 345(2010),
CMS Collaboration, JHEP 01, 079 (2011),
ALICE Collaboration, Eur.Phys.J.C77, 33 (2017)*



ALICE Collaboration, *Eur.Phys.J.C*68, 89 (2010); *ibid* C68, 345(2010),
CMS Collaboration, *JHEP* 01, 079 (2011),
ALICE Collaboration, *Eur.Phys.J.C*77, 33 (2017)

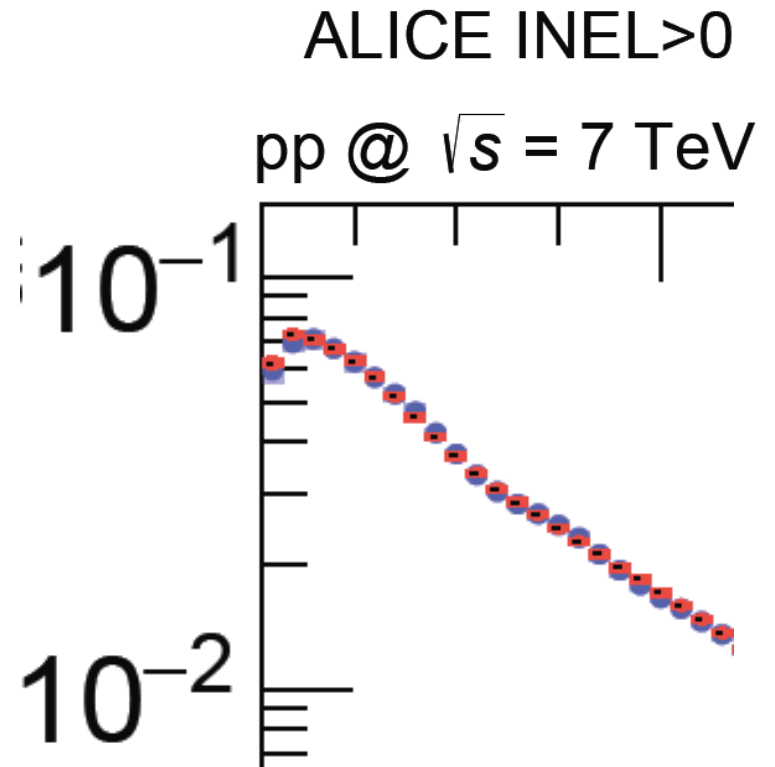
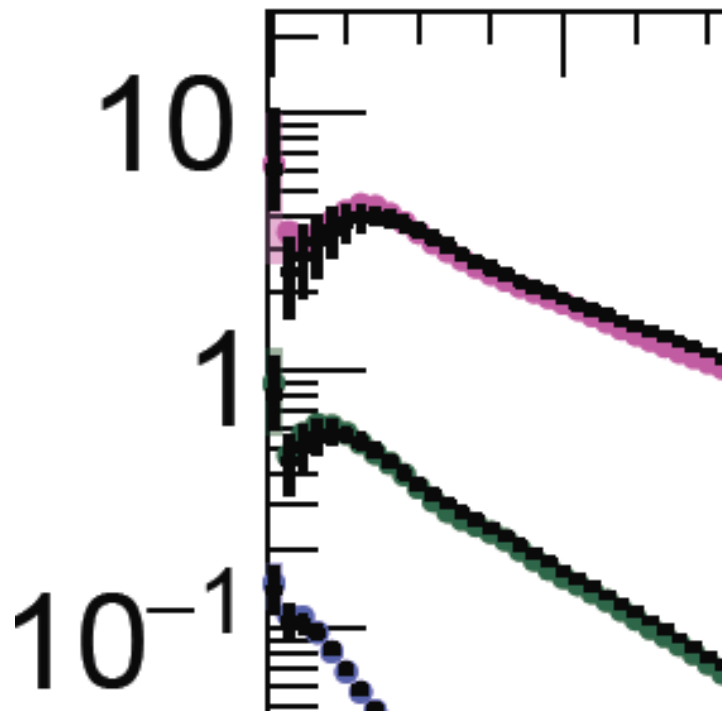
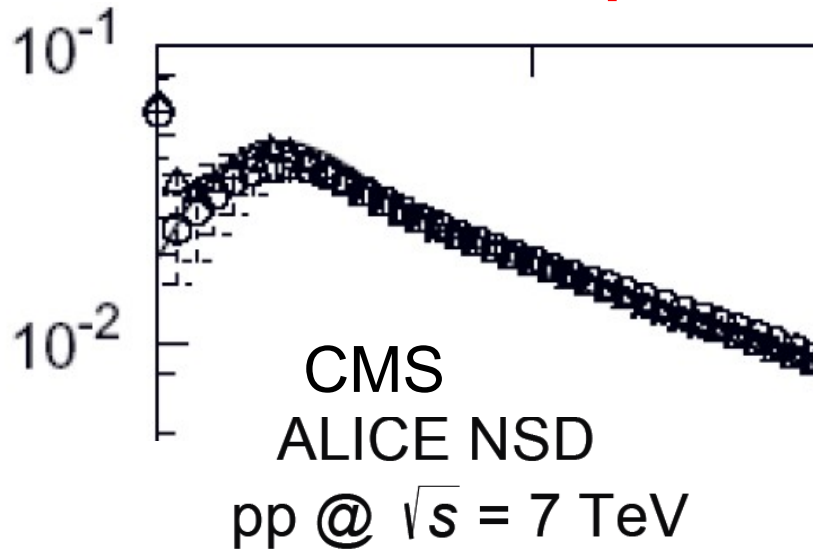
The problem of $N=0$ bin

Model:

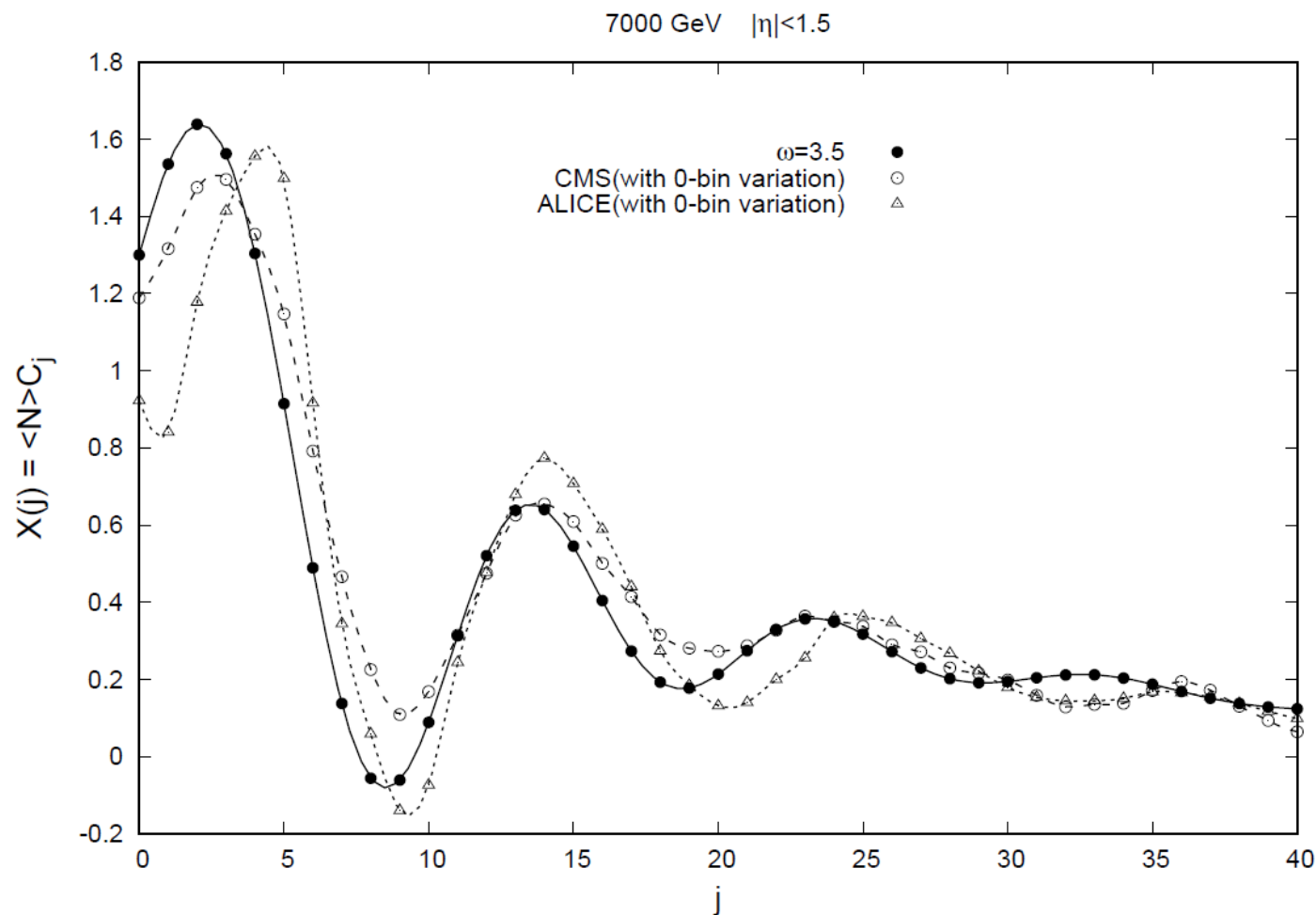
At least one cut pomeron,
 $n > 0 \Rightarrow$
this excludes also the DD

Experimental data:

Non-single diffractive events



Comparison to the pp experimental data with modified 0-bin



*CMS Collaboration, JHEP 01, 079 (2011),
ALICE Collaboration, Eur.Phys.J.C77, 33 (2017)*

Tree ways of considering cut-Gaussian distribution

1. Fixed constants of Gaussian distribution

$$P_n(N) = C \exp \left[-\frac{(N - 2n\mu_{str})^2}{2\omega_{str} 2n\mu_{str}} \right], \quad \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} P_n(N) = 1$$
$$C^{-1} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \exp \left[-\frac{(N - 2n\mu_{str})^2}{2\omega_{str} 2n\mu_{str}} \right]$$

For $2n\mu_{str} \gg 1$ we have

$$\langle N \rangle_n \equiv \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} N P_n(N) \rightarrow 2n\mu_{str}$$

$$\omega_n[N] \equiv \frac{\langle N^2 \rangle_n - \langle N \rangle_n^2}{\langle N \rangle_n} \rightarrow \omega_{str}$$

V. Vechernin, E. Andronov, V. Kovalenko, A. Puchkov. Universe 10, 56 (2024).

Tree ways of considering cut-Gaussian distribution

2. Adjusted Gaussian distribution parameters for fixed values from one string

$$P_n(N) = C_n \exp \left[-\frac{(N - N_n^{max})^2}{2\alpha_n N_n^{max}} \right] \quad \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} P_n(N) = 1$$

$$C_n^{-1} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \exp \left[-\frac{(N - N_n^{max})^2}{2\alpha_n N_n^{max}} \right]$$

$$\langle N \rangle_n \equiv \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} N P_n(N) \quad \omega_n[N] \equiv \frac{\langle N^2 \rangle_n - \langle N \rangle_n^2}{\langle N \rangle_n}$$

$$\langle N \rangle_n = 2n\mu_{str} \quad \omega_n[N] = \omega_{str} \equiv \omega.$$

So for fixed parameters from one string we can obtain distribution parameters for arbitrary number of pomeron exchanges n

$$\mu_{str} = \delta\eta k(s), \quad \omega \rightarrow N_n^{max}, \quad \alpha_n$$

Parameters can be calculated using iterative algorithm of the numerical solution of the system of equations.

Tree ways of considering cut-Gaussian distribution

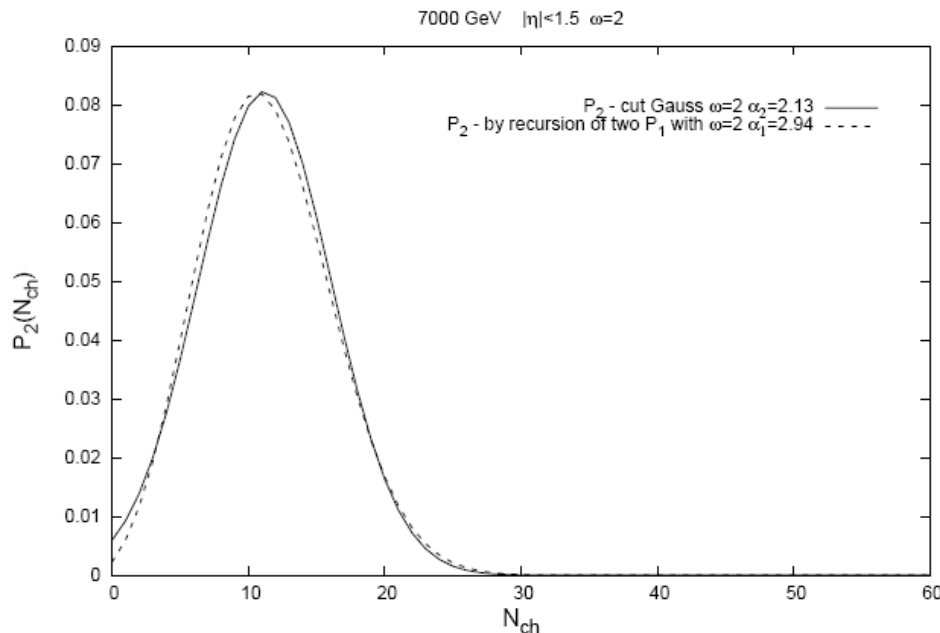
3. cut-Gaussian distribution — only for one string.

$$P_1(N) = C_1 \exp \left[-\frac{(N - N_1^{\max})^2}{2\alpha_1 N_1^{\max}} \right] \quad \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} P_1(N) = 1$$

For n-pomeron exchange it will be corresponding convolution, that can be expressed using recurrent expression:

$$P_n(N) = \sum_{K=0}^N P_{n-1}(K) P_1(N - K)$$

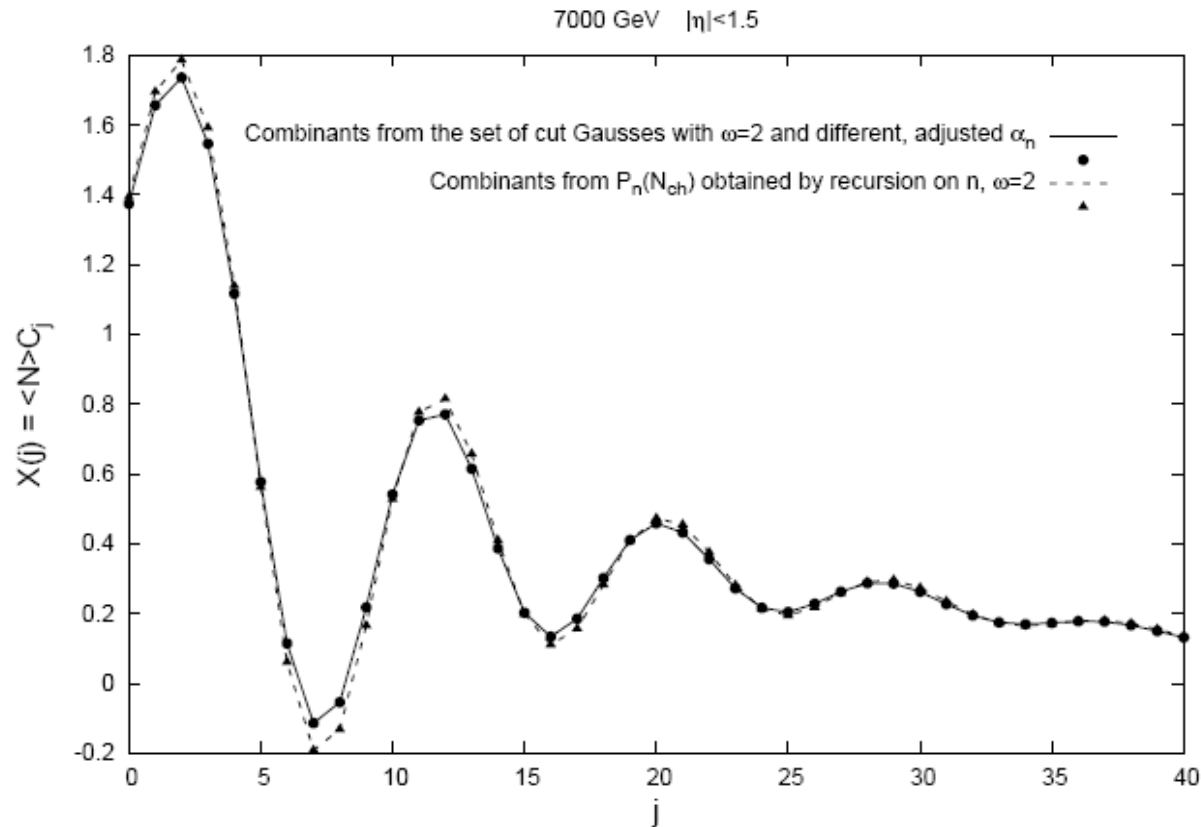
We keep $\langle N \rangle_n = 2n\mu_{str} \quad \omega_n[N] = \omega_{str} \equiv \omega.$



Comparison of case 2 and case 3 distributions from one two pomerons $P_2(N_{ch})$ s

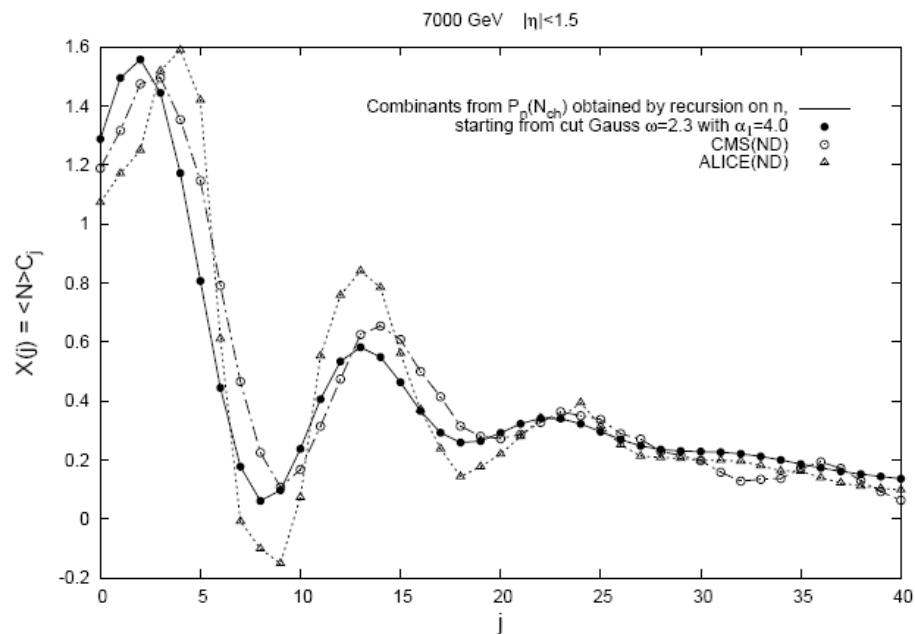
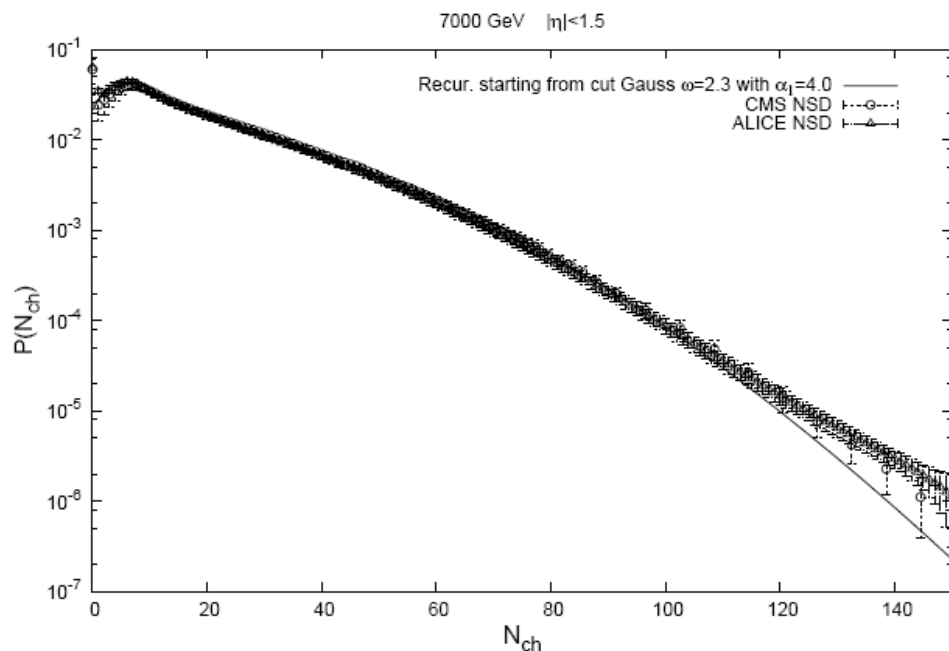
Tree ways of considering cut-Gaussian distribution

3. Combinants for the resulting multiplicity distributions



Tree ways of considering cut-Gaussian distribution

Comparison with experimental data for multiplicity distributions and combinants



Concluding remarks

- The behavior of **combinants** proves to be a **very sensitive tool** in the analysis of **particle multiplicity distribution**. Even minor deviations of the ALICE and CMS data, within the error, lead to considerable changes in combinants.
- It is shown that within the framework of the **multipomeron exchange model** with **Poisson or NBD** distribution of particles from one source (quark-gluon string), it is **not possible to explain** the experimentally observed **oscillations of combinants** with increase of their number.
- **Oscillations of combinants** with increasing number **can be explained** if we assume a **Gaussian form of particle multiplicity distribution at a fixed number of pomerons**.
- The reason for the occurrence of these **oscillations is the interplay between the** contributions of 1, 2, 3, etc. cut pomerons possibly influenced by **single, double and central diffraction**.

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Thank you!