

Dileptons with a coarse-grained transport approach

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January 21, 2016

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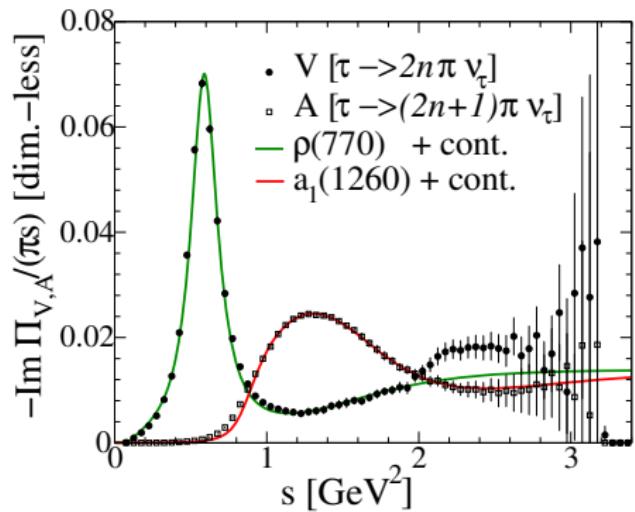
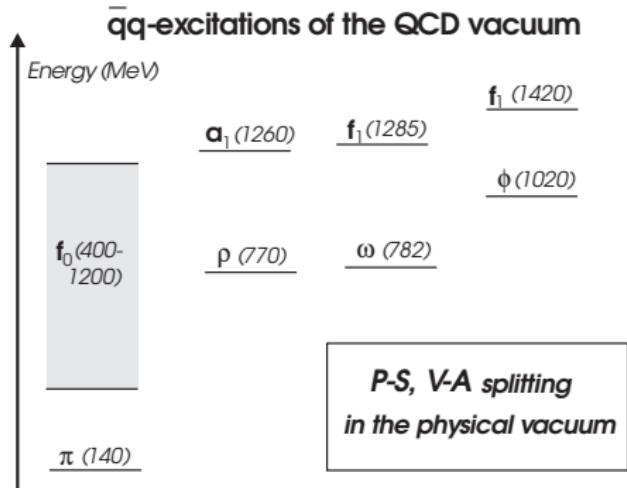
Outline

- 1 Electromagnetic probes
 - Chiral symmetry and QCD phase diagram
 - Electromagnetic radiation from hot/dense QCD matter
 - Hadronic many-body theory
- 2 Bulk-medium evolution with transport and coarse graining
 - coarse-graining in UrQMD
- 3 Dileptons in heavy-ion collisions
 - Dielectrons (SIS/NA60)
 - Dimuons (SPS/NA60)
 - Dielectrons at RHIC
 - Dielectrons at FAIR/RHIC-BES
- 4 Signatures of the QCD-phase structure?
- 5 Conclusions and Outlook

Electromagnetic probes theory perspective

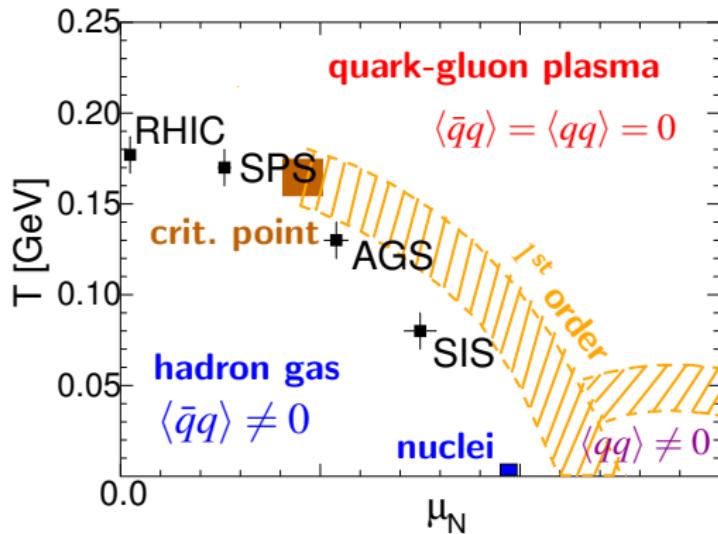
Hadron phenomenology and chiral symmetry

- in **vacuum**: Spontaneous breaking of **chiral symmetry**
- \Rightarrow mass splitting of chiral partners



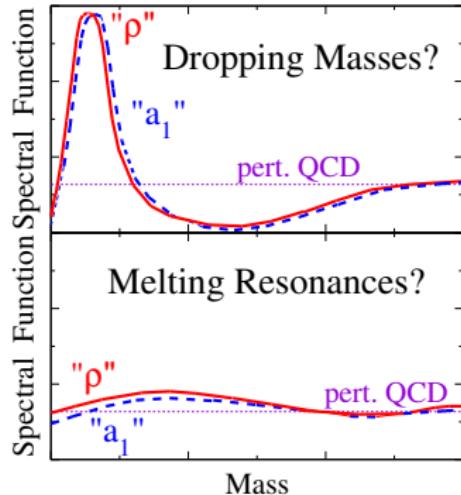
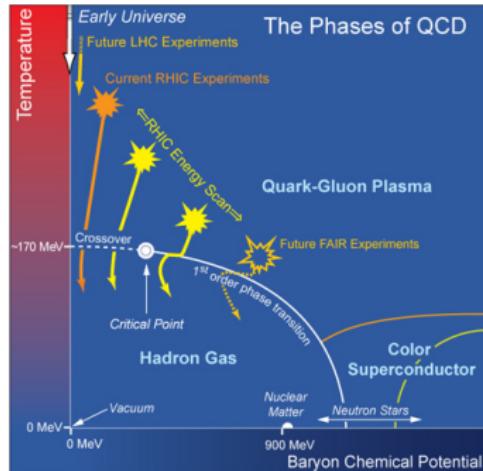
The QCD-phase diagram

- hot and dense matter: quarks and gluons close together
- highly energetic collisions \Rightarrow “deconfinement”
- quarks and gluons relevant dof \Rightarrow quark-gluon plasma
- still strongly interacting \Rightarrow fast thermalization!



The QCD-phase diagram

- at high temperature/density: **restoration of chiral symmetry**
- lattice QCD: $T_c^X \simeq T_c^{\text{deconf}}$



- **mechanism of chiral restoration?**
- **two main theoretical ideas**
 - **“dropping masses”**: $m_{\text{had}} \propto \langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle$
 - **“melting resonances”**: broadening of spectra through medium effects
 - **More theoretical question**: realization of chiral symmetry in nature?

Electromagnetic probes in heavy-ion collisions

- γ, ℓ^\pm : no strong interactions
- reflect whole “history” of collision:
 - from pre-equilibrium phase
 - from thermalized medium
QGP and hot hadron gas
 - from VM decays after thermal freezeout

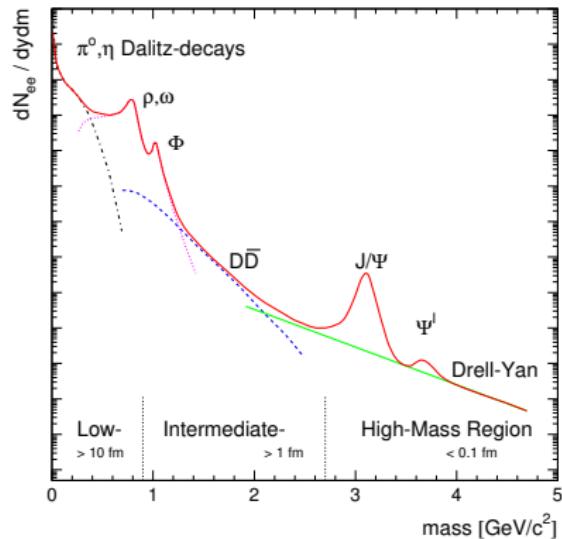
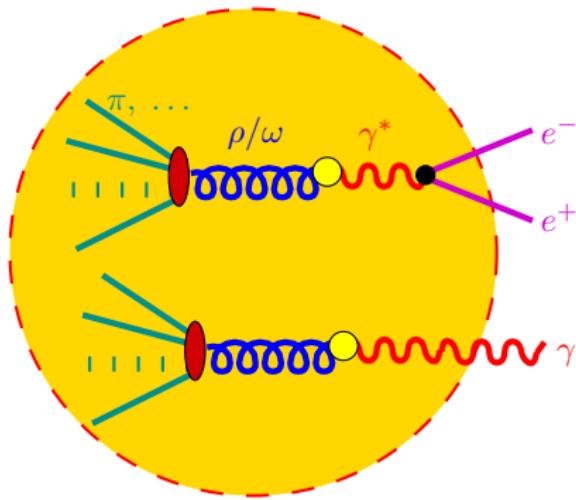


Fig. by A. Drees

Electromagnetic probes from thermal source

- photon and dilepton thermal emission rates given by same electromagnetic-current-correlation function ($J_\mu = \sum_f Q_f \bar{\psi}_f \gamma_\mu \psi_f$)
- McLerran-Toimela formula [MT85, GK91]

$$q_0 \frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4x d^3\vec{q}} = -\frac{\alpha_{\text{em}}}{2\pi^2} g^{\mu\nu} \text{Im } \Pi_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{ret})}(q, u) \Big|_{q_0=|\vec{q}|} f_B(q \cdot u)$$

$$\frac{dN_{e^+ e^-}}{d^4x d^4q} = -g^{\mu\nu} \frac{\alpha^2}{3q^2\pi^3} \text{Im } \Pi_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{ret})}(q, u) \Big|_{q^2=M_{e^+ e^-}^2} f_B(q \cdot u)$$

- Lorentz covariant (dependent on four-velocity of fluid cell, u)
- $q \cdot u = E_{\text{cm}}$: Doppler blue shift of q_T spectra!
- to lowest order in α : $4\pi\alpha\Pi_{\mu\nu} \simeq \Sigma_{\mu\nu}^{(\gamma)}$
- vector-meson dominance model:

$$\Sigma_{\mu\nu}^{(\gamma)} = \text{wavy lines} \text{ (yellow circles)} \otimes \text{blue circles} \otimes \text{wavy lines}$$

G_ρ

- $\ell^+ \ell^-$ -inv.-mass spectra
⇒ in-med. spectral functions of vector mesons (ρ, ω, ϕ)!

Radiation from thermal QGP: $q\bar{q}$ annihilation

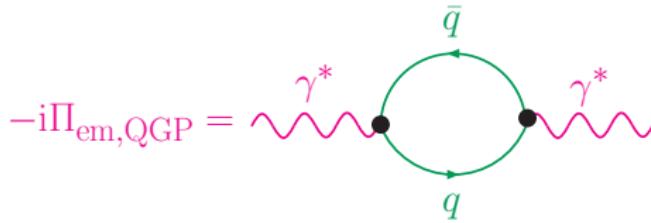
- General: McLerran-Toimela formula

$$\frac{dN_{l^+ l^-}^{(\text{MT})}}{d^4x d^4q} = -\frac{\alpha^2}{3\pi^3} \frac{L(M^2)}{M^2} g_{\mu\nu} \text{Im} \sum_i \Pi_{\text{em},i}^{\mu\nu}(M, \vec{q}) f_B(q \cdot u)$$

- i enumerates partonic/hadronic sources of em. currents
- in-medium em. current-current correlation function

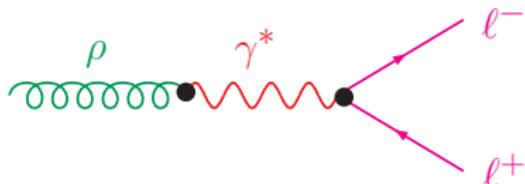
$$\Pi_{\text{em},i}^{\mu\nu} = i \int d^4x \exp(iqx) \Theta(x^0) \langle [j_{\text{em},i}^\mu(x), j_{\text{em},i}^\nu(0)] \rangle$$

- in QGP phase: $q\bar{q}$ annihilation
- hard-thermal-loop improved em. current-current correlator



Radiation from thermal sources: ρ decays

- model assumption: vector-meson dominance

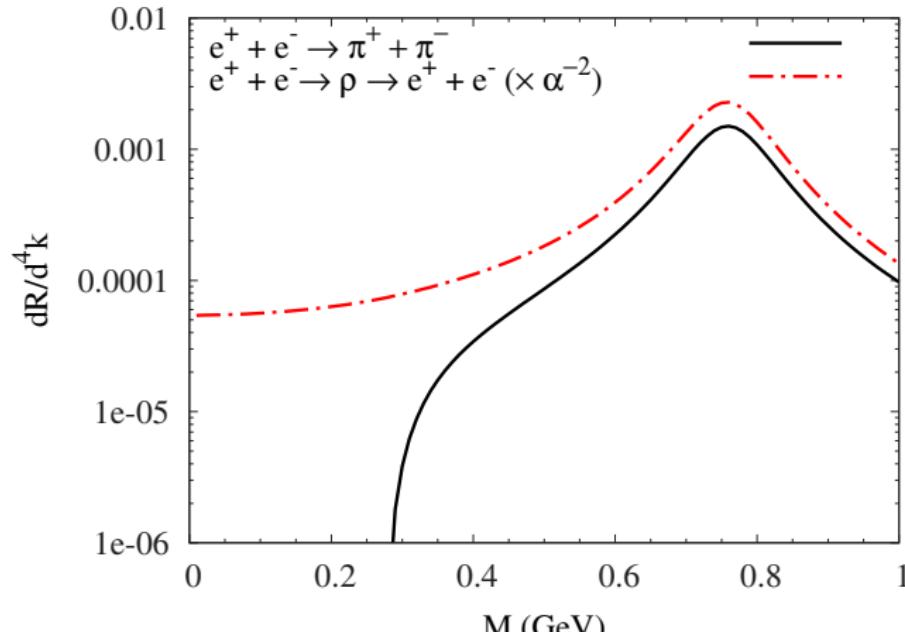


$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dN_{\rho \rightarrow l^+ l^-}^{(\text{MT})}}{d^4x d^4q} &= \frac{M}{q^0} \Gamma_{\rho \rightarrow l^+ l^-}(M) \frac{dN_\rho}{d^3\vec{x} d^4q} \\ &= -\frac{\alpha^2}{3\pi^3} \frac{L(M^2)}{M^2} \frac{m_\rho^4}{g_\rho^2} g_{\mu\nu} \text{Im } D_\rho^{\mu\nu}(M, \vec{q}) f_B \left(\frac{q \cdot u - 2\mu_\pi(t)}{T(t)} \right)\end{aligned}$$

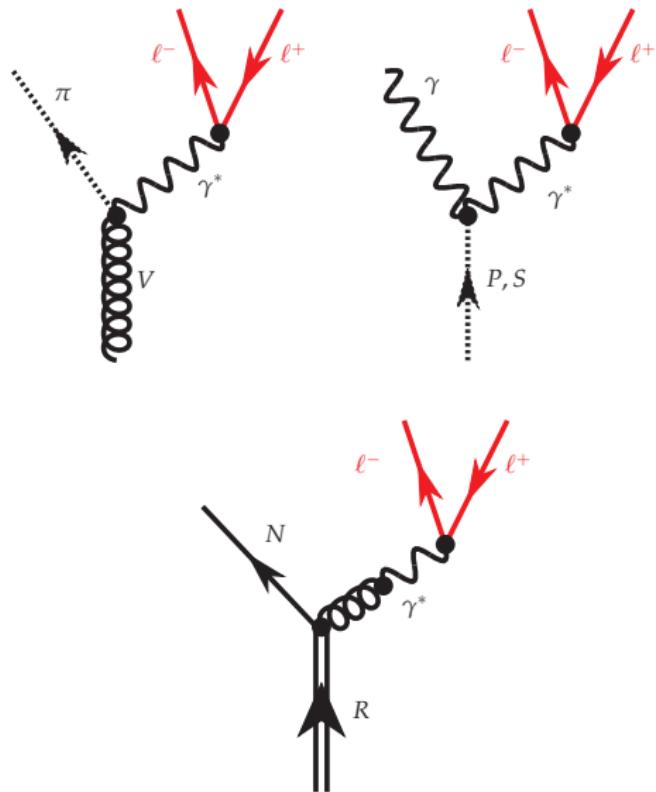
- special case of McLerran-Toimela (MT) formula
- $M^2 = q^2$: invariant mass, M , of dilepton pair
- $L(M^2) = (1 + 2m_l^2/M^2) \sqrt{1 - 4m_l^2/M^2}$: dilepton phase-space factor
- $D_\rho^{\mu\nu}(M, \vec{q})$: (four-transverse part of) in-medium ρ propagator at given $T(t)$, $\mu_{\text{meson/baryon}}(t)$
- analogous for ω and ϕ

“ ρ ” shape: dependence on processes looked at

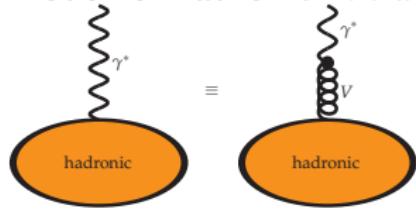
- look at “transition rates” $\sum'_i \sum_f |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2$ (averaged over i /summed over f)
- for $e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^-$ (“PDG definition”)
- for $e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \rho \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$ (s channel)
(annihilation part to Bhabba scattering via the ρ scaled by $\alpha^{-2} \simeq 137^2$)
- plot vs. $M = \sqrt{s}$



Transition form factors: “ ρ mesons” via VMD



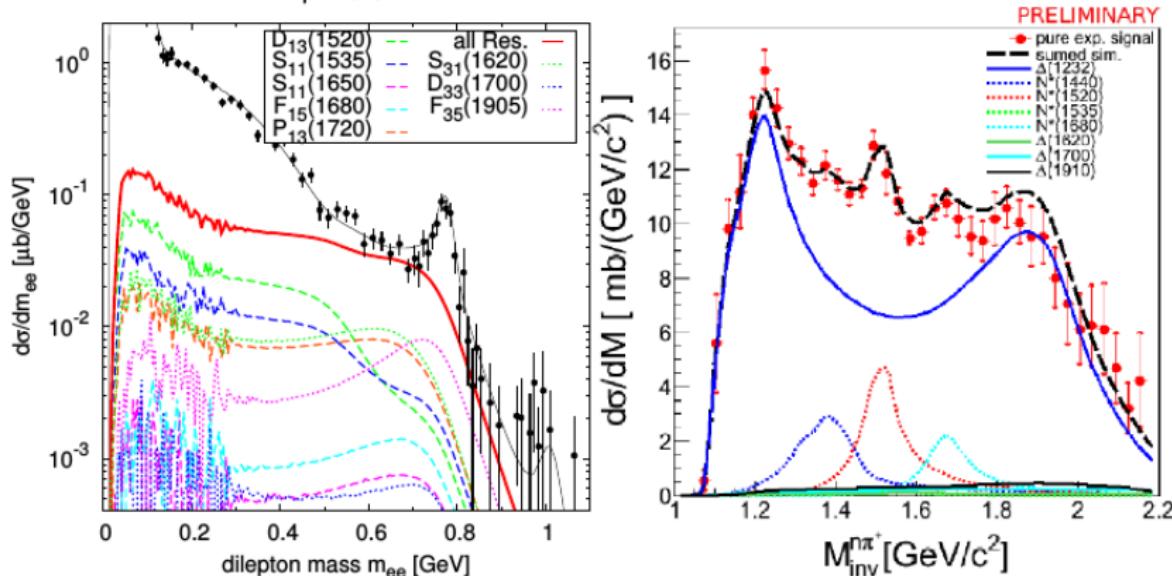
- vector mesons have “vacuum spectral shapes”
- propagated as “on-shell particles” of finite lifetime and variable mass
- **Dalitz decay:**
1 particle \rightarrow 3 particles
- $V: \omega \rightarrow \pi + \gamma^* \rightarrow \pi + \ell^+ + \ell^-$
- $P, S: \pi, \eta \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma^* \rightarrow \gamma + \ell^+ + \ell^-$
- $R: \text{Baryon resonances}$
 $\Delta, N^* \rightarrow N + V \rightarrow N + \gamma^* \rightarrow N + \ell^+ + \ell^-$
- vector-meson dominance
- model for hadron em. trans. FF



GiBUU: “ ρ meson” in pp

- production through hadron resonances

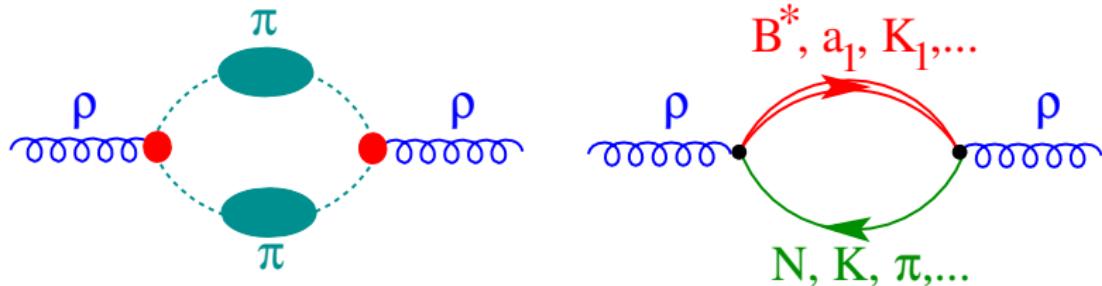
$$NN \rightarrow NR \rightarrow NN\rho, NN \rightarrow N\Delta \rightarrow NN\pi\rho$$
$$\rho \rightarrow e^+e^-$$



- plots: J. Weil et al [WBM12, ABB⁺14]
- VMD model \Leftrightarrow em. transition form factors of baryon resonances!
- “ ρ ”-line shape “modified” already in elementary hadronic reactions
- due to production mechanism via resonances

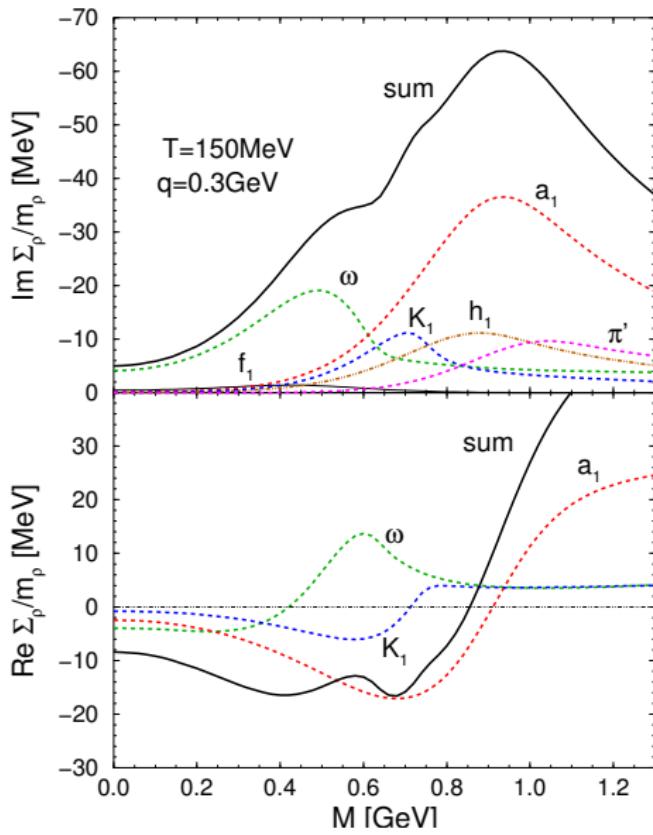
Hadronic many-body theory

- hadronic many-body theory (HMBT) for vector mesons
[Ko et al, Chanfray et al, Herrmann et al, Rapp et al, ...]
- $\pi\pi$ interactions and **baryonic excitations**
- effective hadronic models, implementing symmetries
- parameters fixed from phenomenology
(photon absorption at nucleons and nuclei, $\pi N \rightarrow \rho N$)
- evaluated at **finite temperature and density**
- self-energies \Rightarrow **mass shift and broadening** in the medium



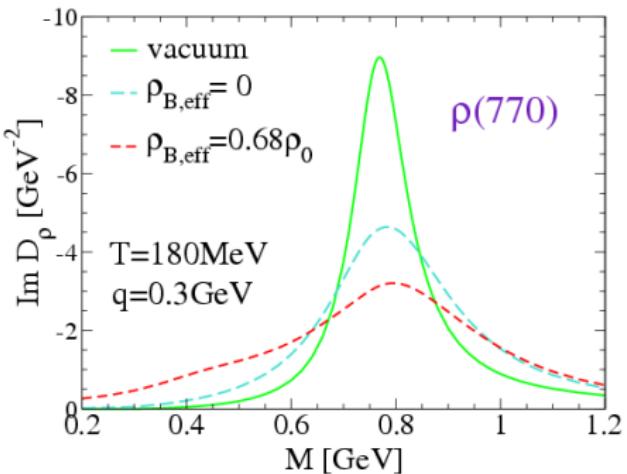
- **Baryons** important, even at low **net** baryon density $n_B - n_{\bar{B}}$
- reason: $n_B + n_{\bar{B}}$ relevant (CP inv. of strong interactions)

Meson contributions

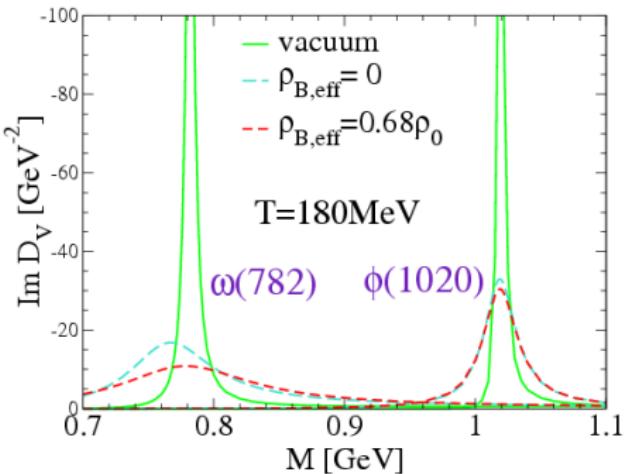


[GR99]

In-medium spectral functions and baryon effects



[RW99]



- baryon effects important

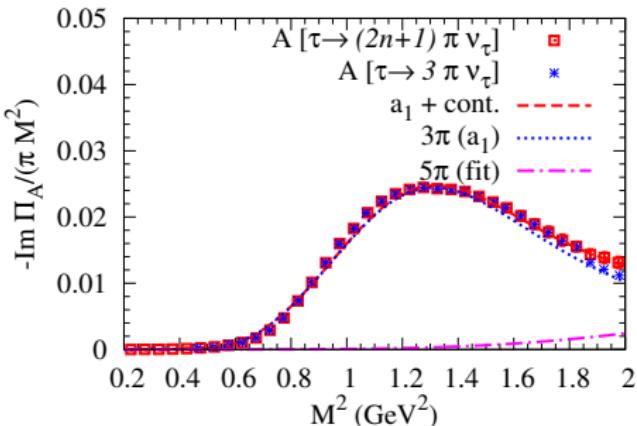
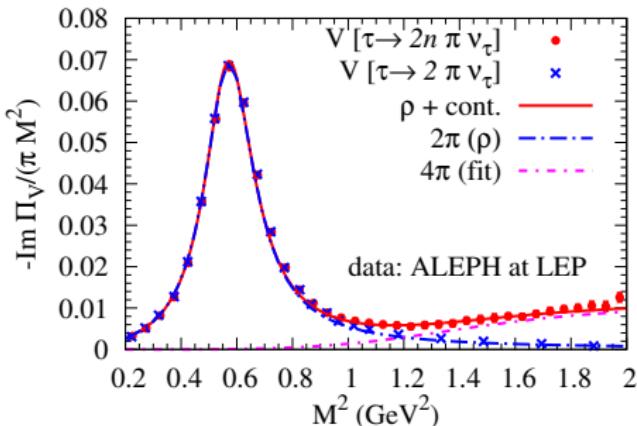
- large contribution to broadening of the peak
- responsible for most of the strength at small M

Radiation from thermal sources: multi- π processes

- use vector/axial-vector correlators from τ -decay data
- Dey-Eletsky-Ioffe mixing: $\hat{\epsilon} = 1/2 \epsilon(T, \mu_\pi) / \epsilon(T_c, 0)$

$$\Pi_V = (1 - \hat{\epsilon}) z_\pi^4 \Pi_{V,4\pi}^{\text{vac}} + \frac{\hat{\epsilon}}{2} z_\pi^3 \Pi_{A,3\pi}^{\text{vac}} + \frac{\hat{\epsilon}}{2} (z_\pi^4 + z_\pi^5) \Pi_{A,5\pi}^{\text{vac}}$$

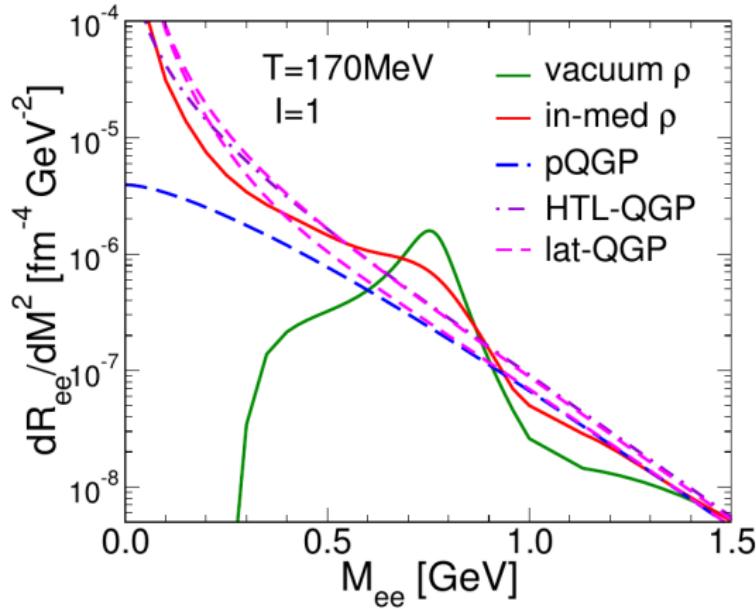
- avoid double counting: leave out two-pion piece and $a_1 \rightarrow \rho + \pi$ (already contained in ρ spectral function)



Data: [R. Barate et al (ALEPH Collaboration) 98]

Dilepton rates: Hadron gas \leftrightarrow QGP

- in-medium hadron gas matches with QGP
- similar results also for γ rates
- “quark-hadron duality”?



[Rap13]

Bulk-medium evolution

Bulk evolution with transport and coarse graining

- established transport models for **bulk evolution**
 - e.g., UrQMD, GiBUU, BAMPS, (p)HSD,...
 - solve **Boltzmann equation** for hadrons and/or partons
- dilemma: need medium-modified **dilepton/photon emission rates**
- usually available only in **equilibrium QFT calculations**
- ways out:
 - use **(ideal) hydrodynamics** \Rightarrow local thermal equilibrium
 \Rightarrow use equilibrium rates
 - use transport-hydro hybrid model: treat early stage with transport, then **coarse grain** \Rightarrow switch to hydro
 \Rightarrow switch back to transport (**Cooper-Frye “particilization”**)
- here: **UrQMD transport** for entire bulk evolution
 - \Rightarrow use **coarse graining** in space-time cells \Rightarrow extract T, μ_B, μ_π, \dots
 - \Rightarrow use equilibrium rates locally

Coarse-grained UrQMD (CGUrQMD)

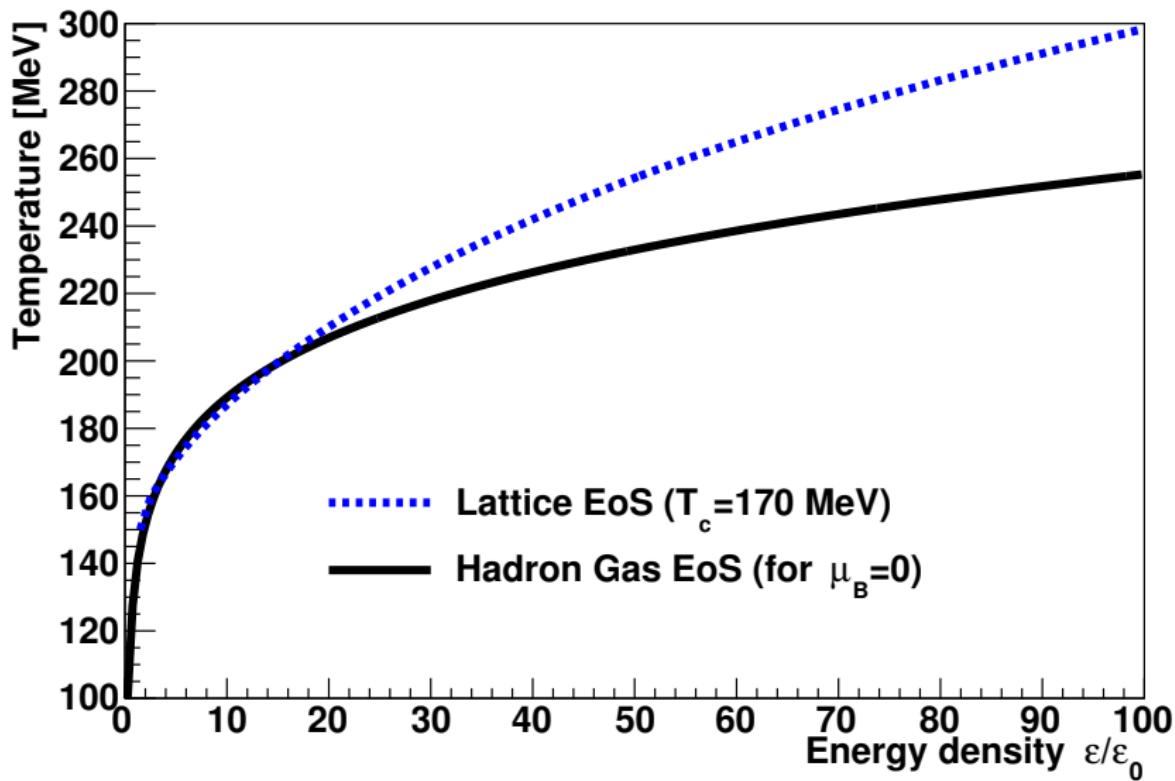
- problem with **medium modifications** of spectral functions/interactions
- only available in equilibrium many-body QFT models
- use “in-medium cross sections” naively: **double counting?!**
- way out: map transport to **local-equilibrium fluid**
- use **ensemble of UrQMD** runs with an **equation of state**
- space-time grid with $\Delta t = 0.2 \text{ fm}/c$, $\Delta x = 0.8 \text{ fm}$
- fit **temperature, chemical potentials, flow-velocity field** from anisotropic energy-momentum tensor [FMRS13]

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P_{\perp}) u^{\mu} u^{\nu} - P_{\perp} g^{\mu\nu} - (P_{\parallel} - P_{\perp}) V^{\mu} V^{\nu}$$

- thermal rates from **partonic/hadronic QFT become applicable**
- here: **extrapolated lattice QGP** and Rapp-Wambach HMBT
- caveat: **consistency between EoS, matter content of QFT model/UrQMD!**

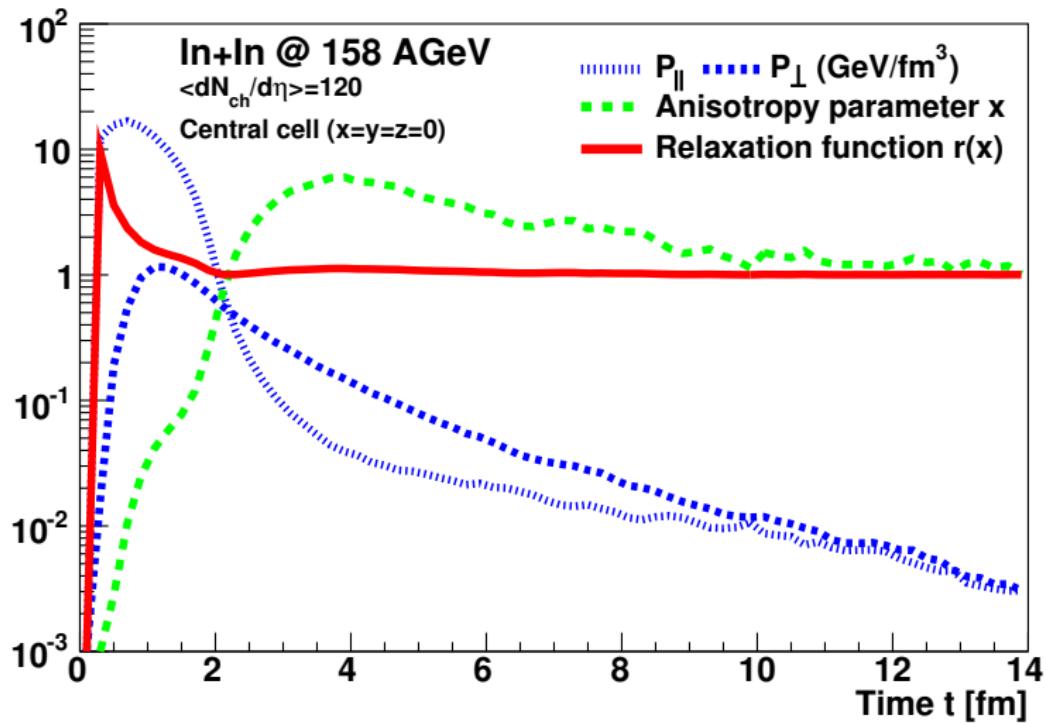
Coarse-grained UrQMD (CGUrQMD)

- $T_c = 170$ MeV; $T > T_c \Rightarrow$ lattice EoS; $T < T_c \Rightarrow$ HRG EoS



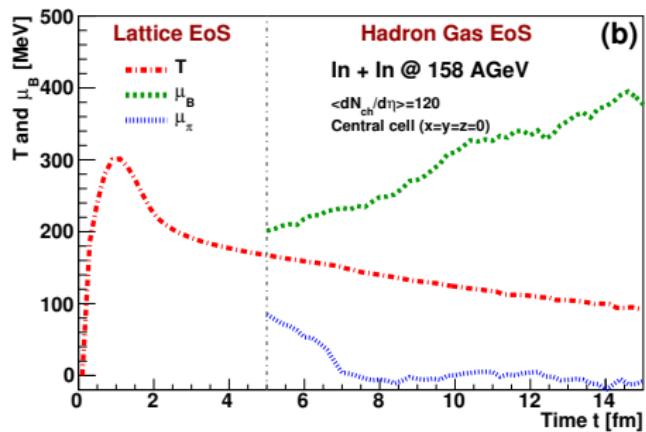
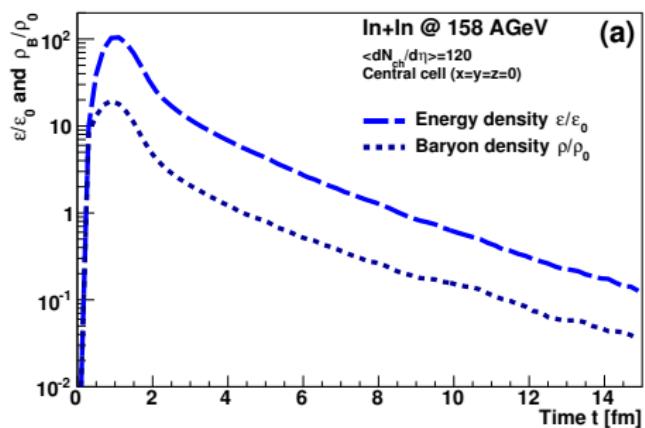
Coarse-grained UrQMD (CGUrQMD)

- pressure anisotropy (In-In collisions (NA60) at SIS)



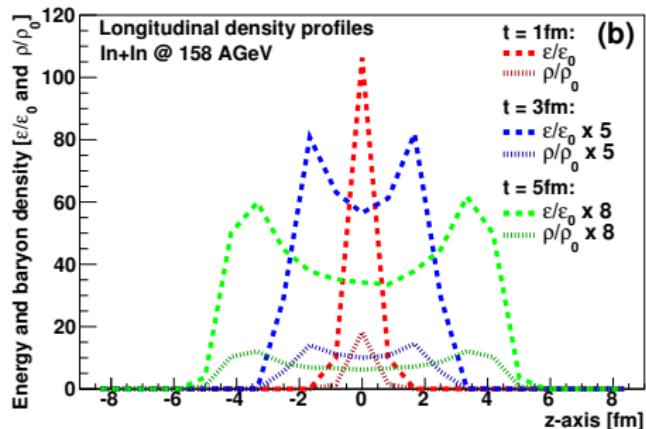
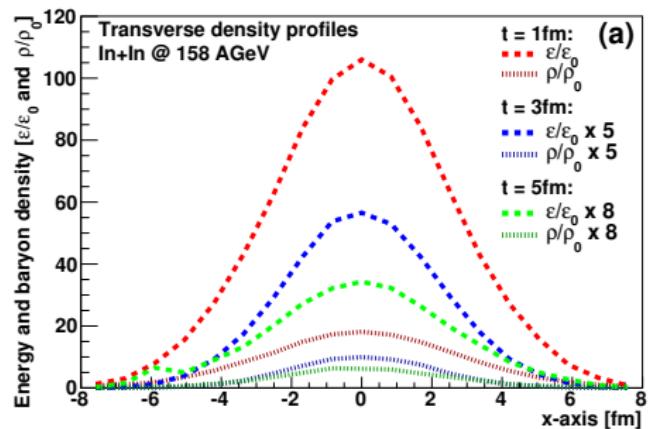
Coarse-grained UrQMD (CGUrQMD)

- energy/baryon density $\Rightarrow T, \mu_B$ (for In+In @ SPS; NA60)
- central “fluid” cell!



Coarse-grained UrQMD (CGUrQMD)

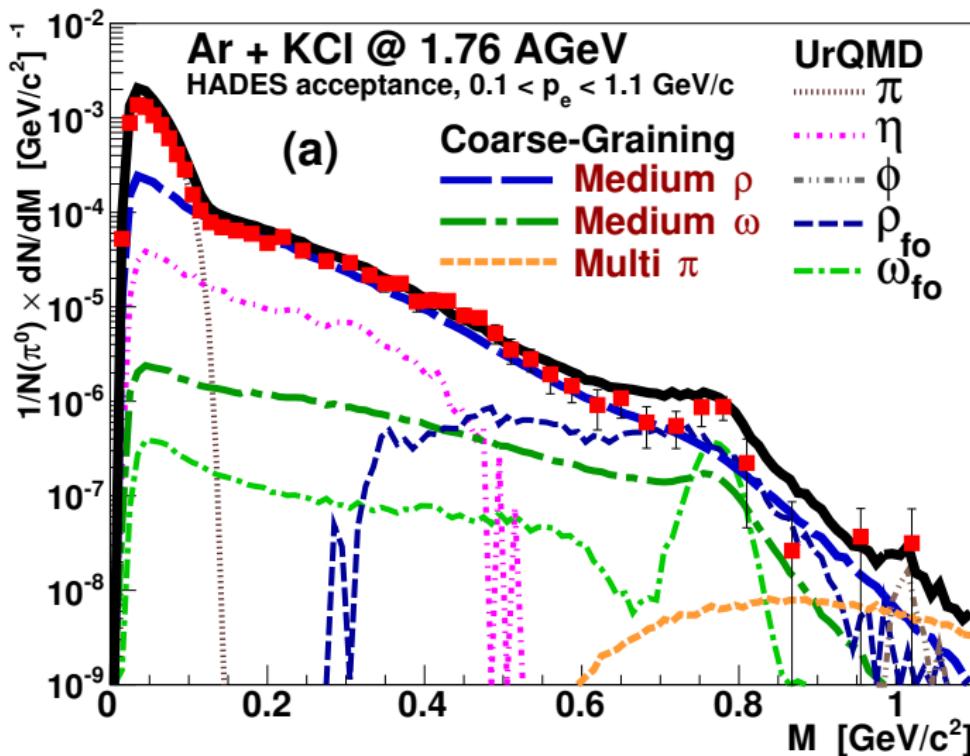
- energy (ϵ) and baryon (ρ) density profiles (for In+In@SPS; NA60)



Dielectrons (SIS/HADES)

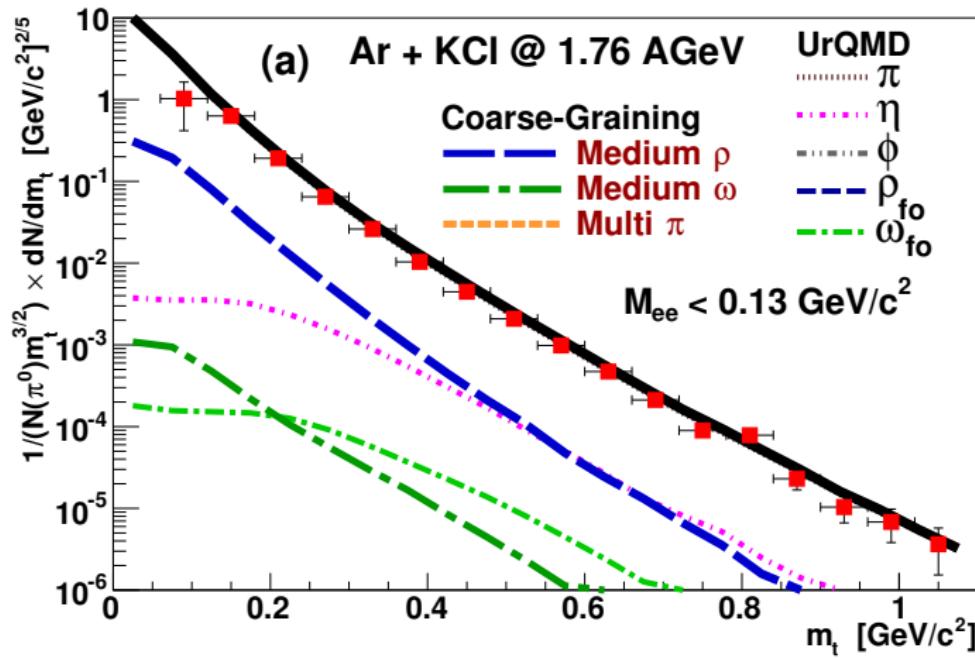
CGUrQMD: Ar+KCl (1.76 AGeV) (SIS/HADES)

- coarse-graining method works at low energies!
- UrQMD-medium evolution + RW-QFT rates



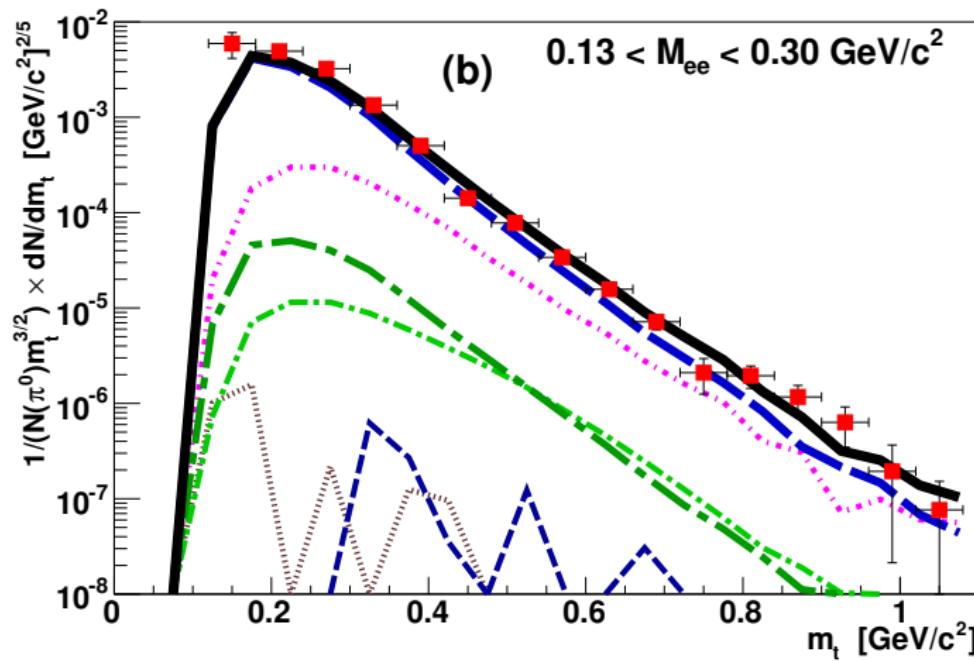
CGUrQMD: Ar+KCl (1.76 AGeV) (SIS/HADES)

- dielectron spectra from Ar + KCl(1.76 AGeV) → e⁺e⁻ (SIS/HADES)
- m_t spectra
- $M_{ee} < 0.13 \text{ GeV}$



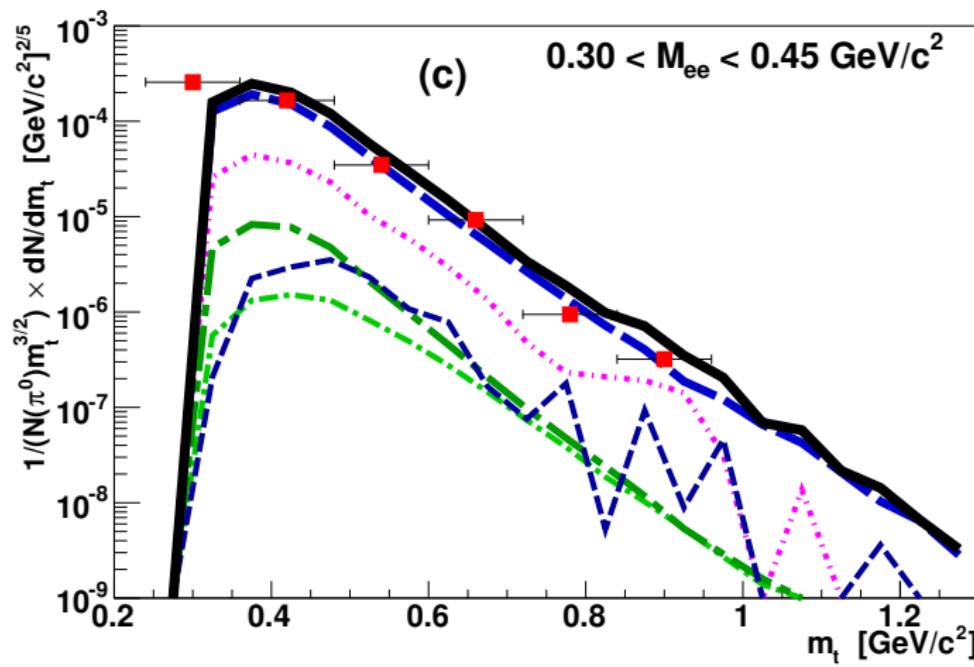
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- dielectron spectra from $\text{Ar} + \text{KCl}(1.76 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ (SIS/HADES)
- m_t spectra
- $0.13 \text{ GeV} M_{ee} < 0.3 \text{ GeV}$



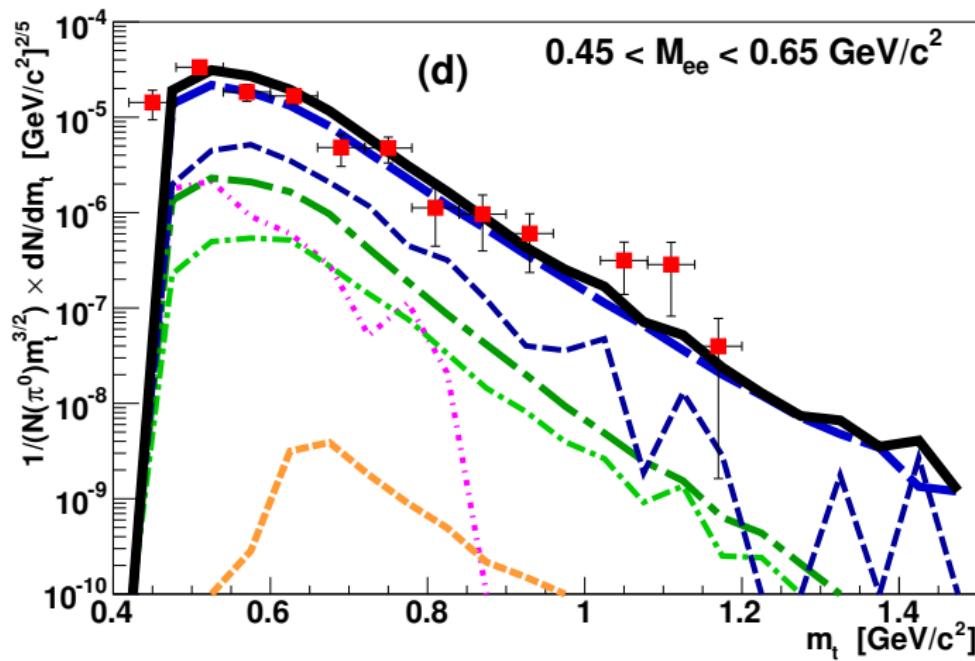
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- dielectron spectra from Ar + KCl(1.76 AGeV) → e⁺e⁻ (SIS/HADES)
- m_t spectra
- 0.3 GeV $M_{ee} < 0.45$ GeV



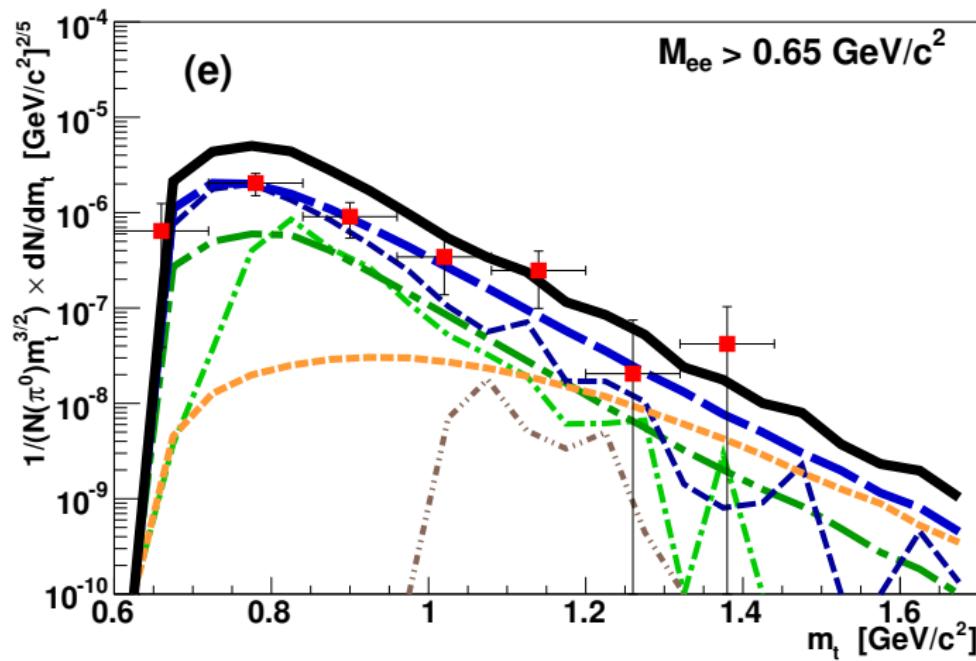
CGUrQMD: Ar+KCl (1.76 AGeV) (SIS/HADES)

- dielectron spectra from $\text{Ar} + \text{KCl}(1.76 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ (SIS/HADES)
- m_t spectra
- $0.45 \text{ GeV} M_{ee} < 0.65 \text{ GeV}$



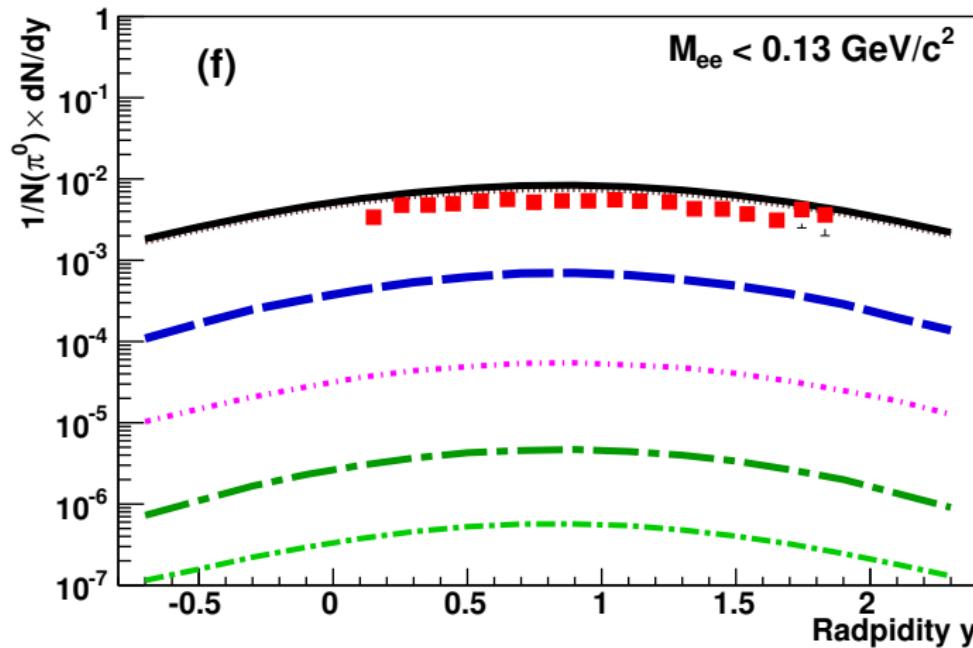
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- dielectron spectra from Ar + KCl(1.76 AGeV) → e⁺e⁻ (SIS/HADES)
- m_t spectra
- $M_{ee} > 0.65 \text{ GeV}$

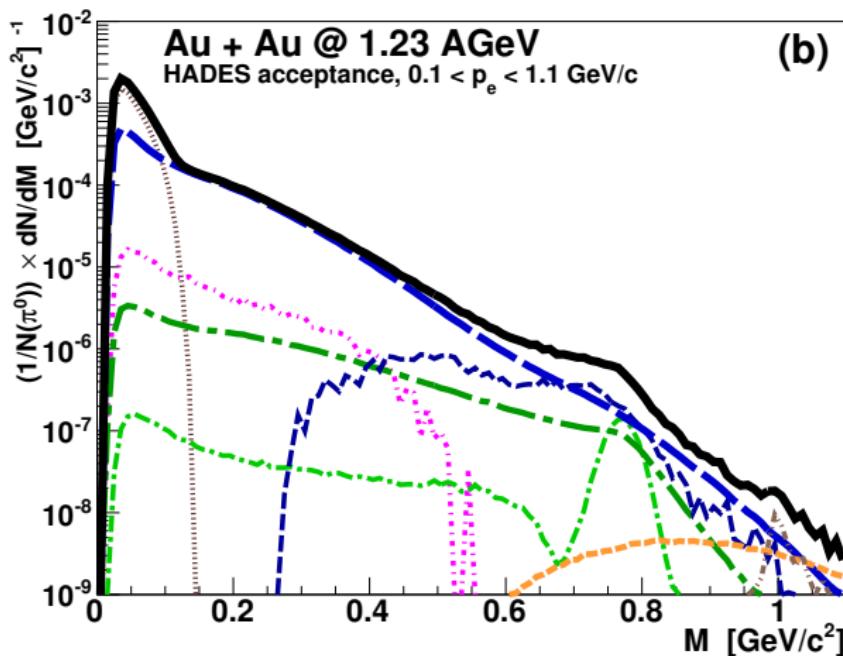


CGUrQMD: Ar+KCl (1.76 AGeV) (SIS/HADES)

- dielectron spectra from Ar + KCl(1.76 AGeV) → e⁺e⁻ (SIS/HADES)
- m_t spectra
- rapidity spectrum ($M_{ee} < 0.13 \text{ GeV}$)



CGUrQMD: Au+Au (1.23 AGeV) (SIS/HADES)

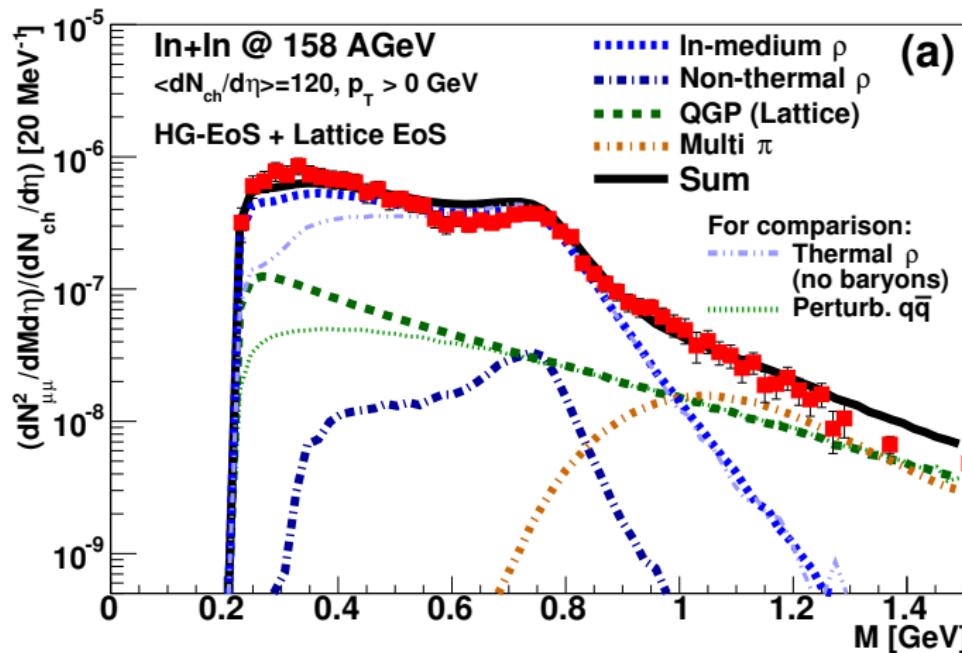


- caveat: pp/np acceptance filter with single-e cut, $p_t < 100 \text{ MeV}$
- correct filter urgently needed!
- excellent agreement with preliminary HADES data

Dimuons (SPS/NA60)

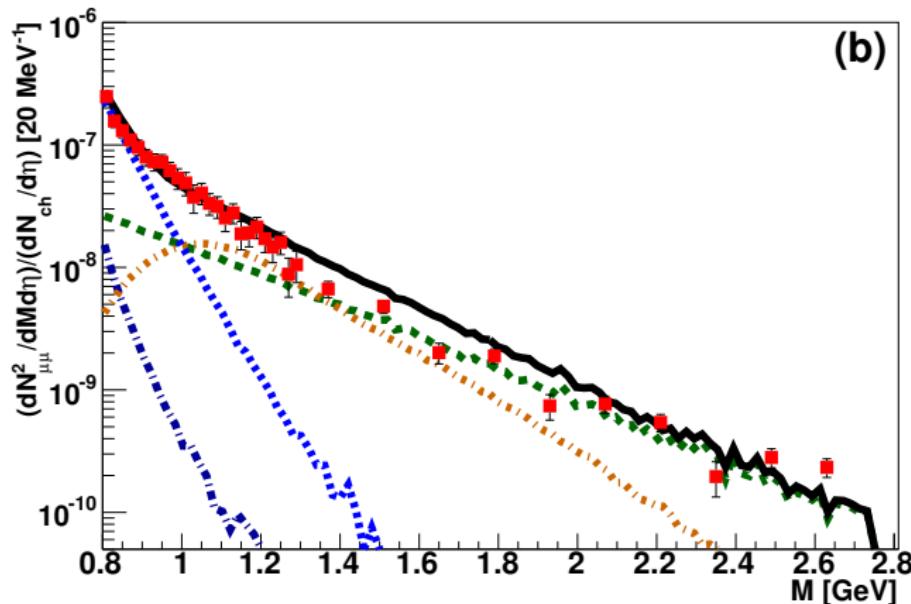
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from In + In(158 AGeV) $\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{ch}/dy = 120$)



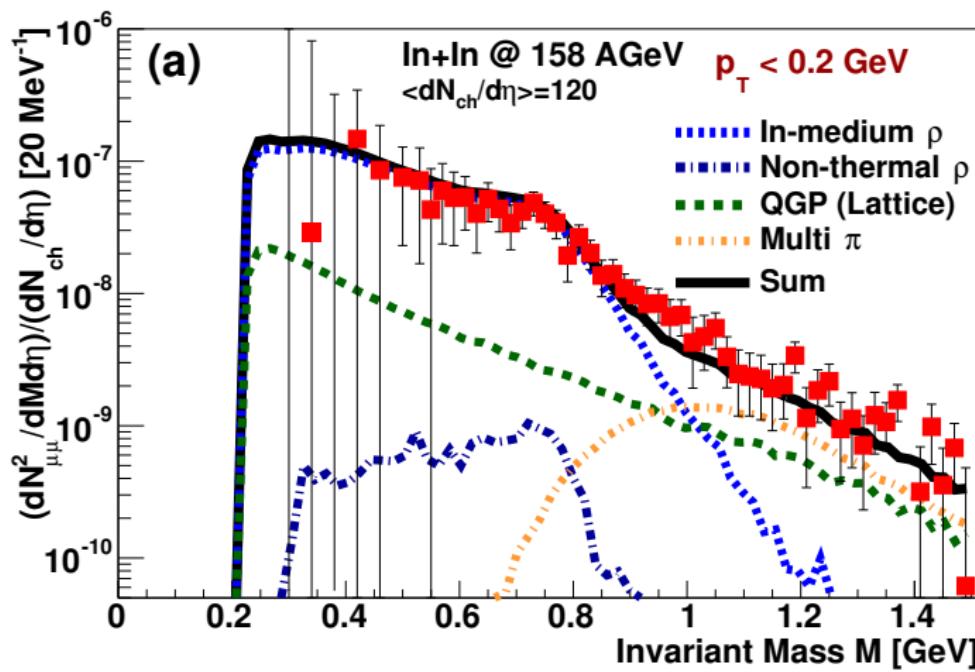
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from In + In(158 AGeV) $\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- higher IMR: provides **averaged true temperature**
 $\langle T \rangle_{1.5 \text{ GeV} \lesssim M \lesssim 2.4 \text{ GeV}} = 205\text{-}230 \text{ MeV}$
- clearly above $T_c \simeq 150\text{-}160 \text{ MeV}$
(no blueshifts in the **invariant-mass** spectra!)



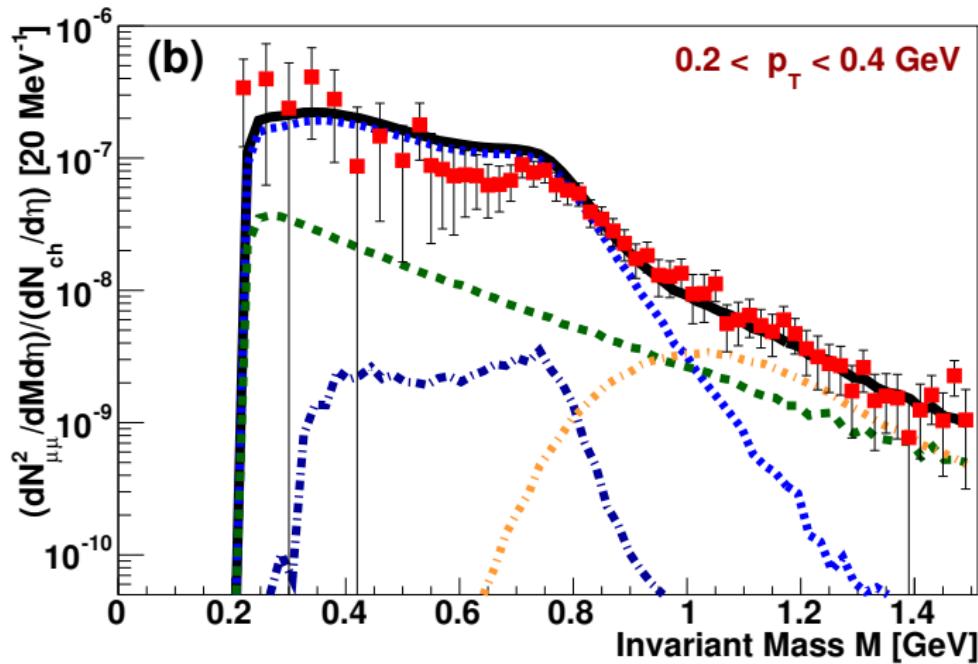
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $p_T < 0.2 \text{ GeV}$



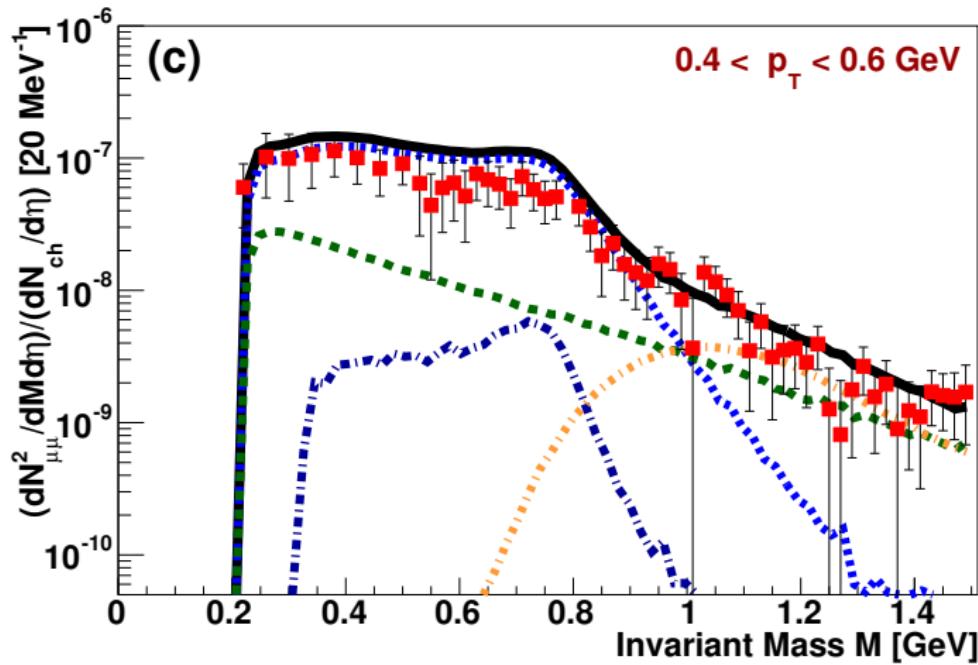
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- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $0.2 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 0.4 \text{ GeV}$



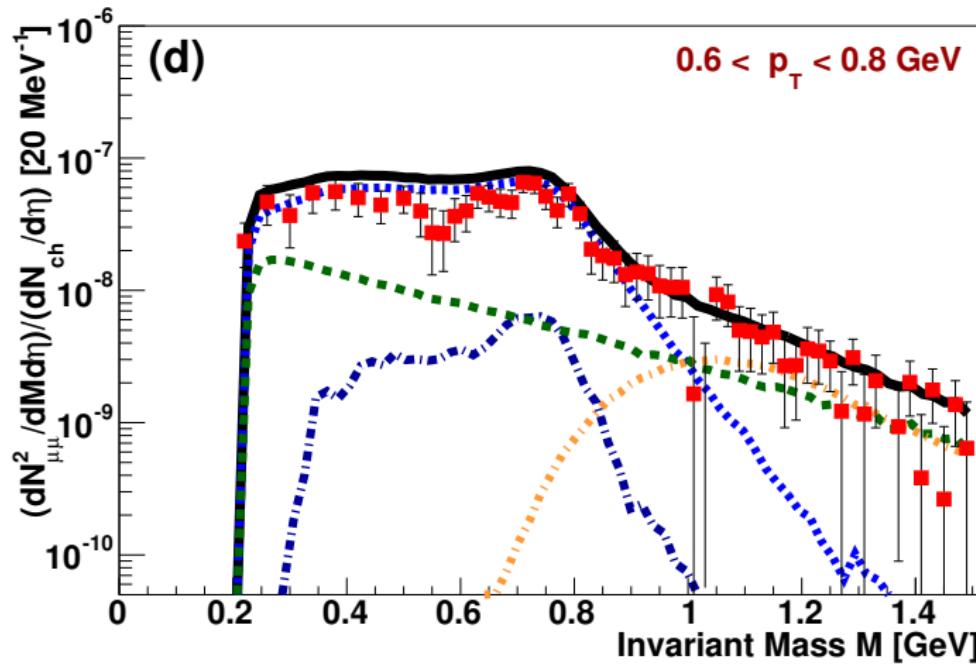
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $0.4 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 0.6 \text{ GeV}$



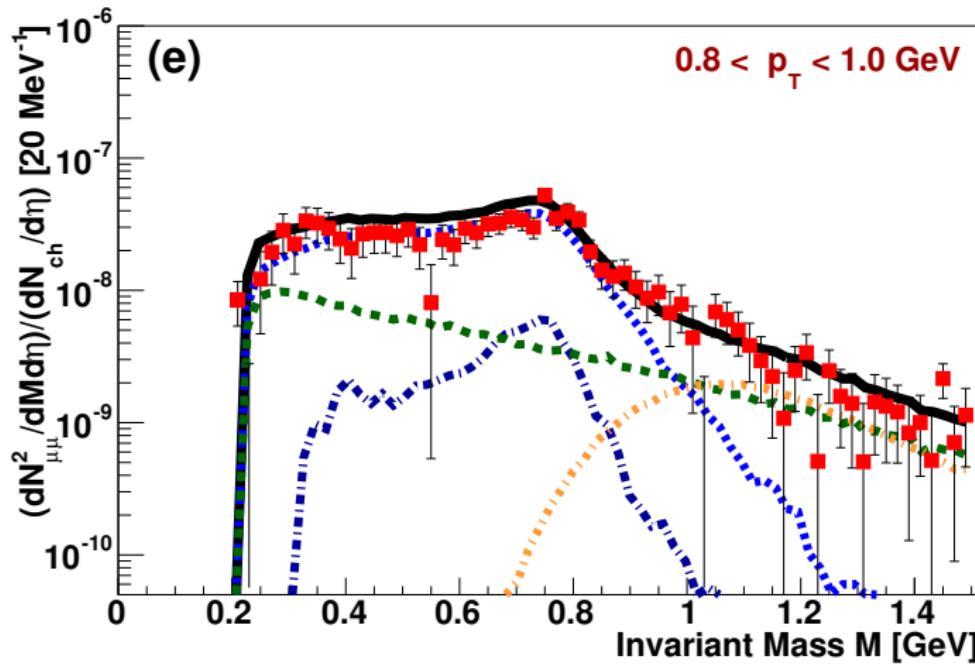
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $0.6 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 0.8 \text{ GeV}$



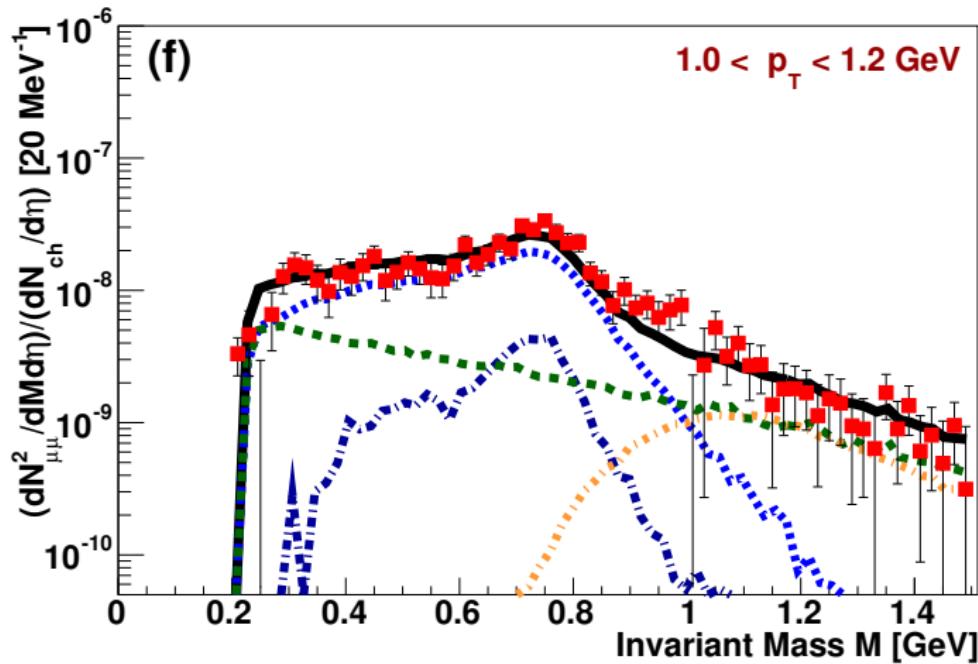
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- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $0.8 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 1.0 \text{ GeV}$



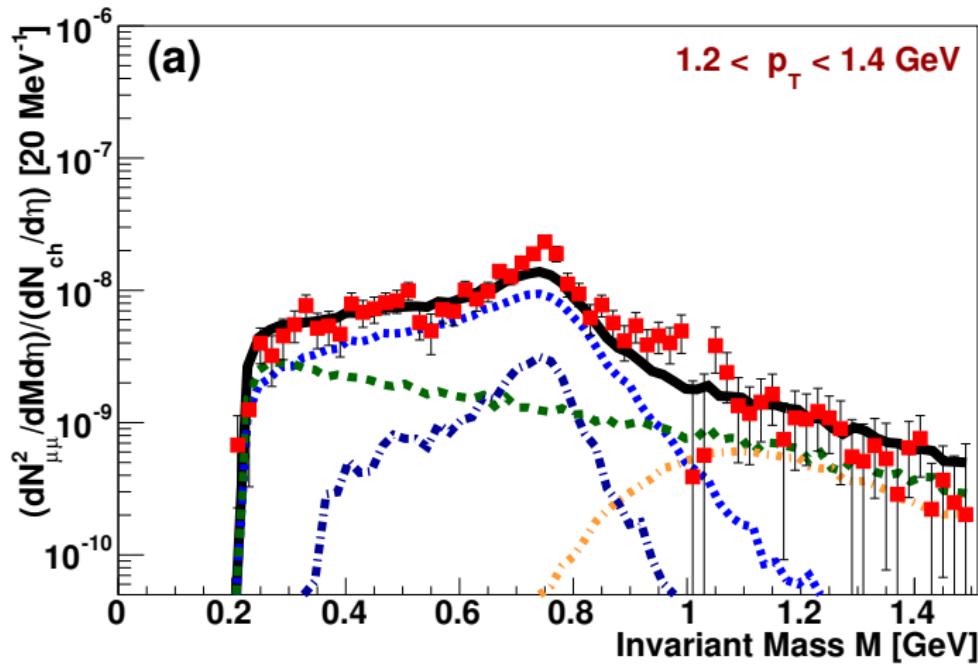
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $1.0 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 1.2 \text{ GeV}$



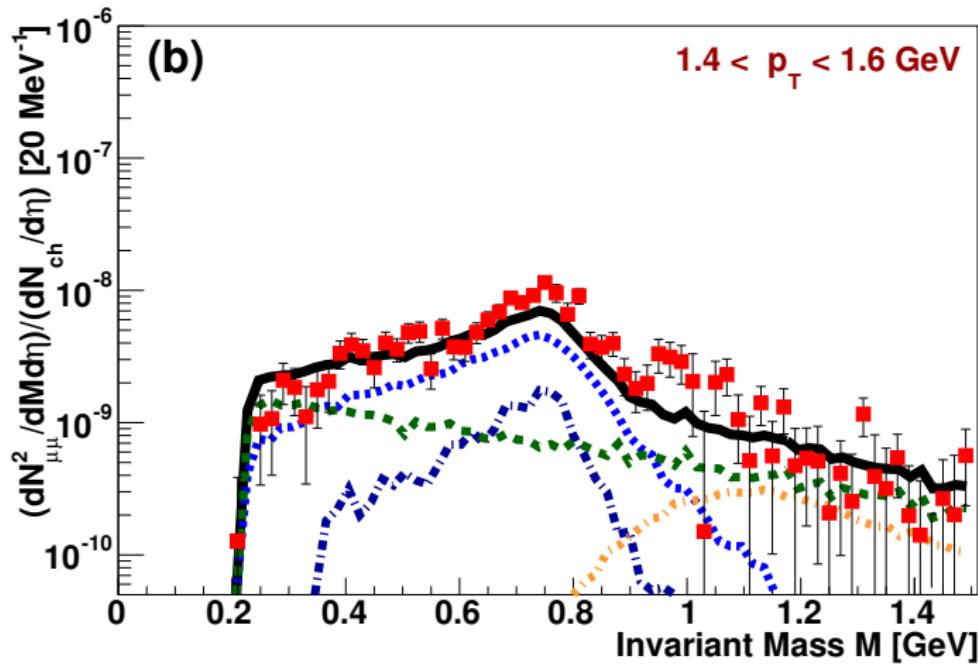
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $1.2 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 1.4 \text{ GeV}$



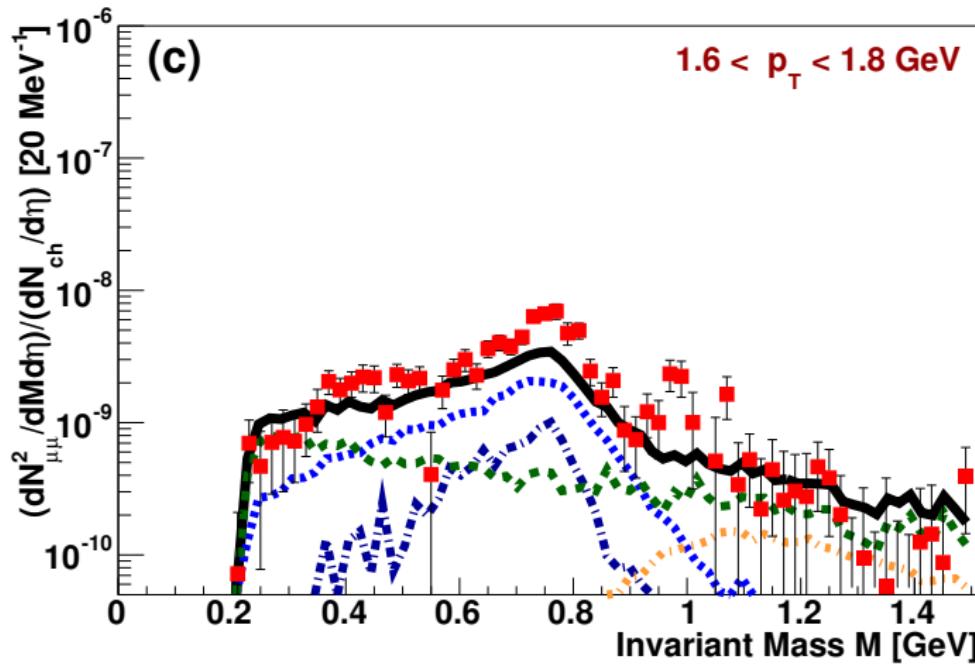
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $1.4 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 1.6 \text{ GeV}$



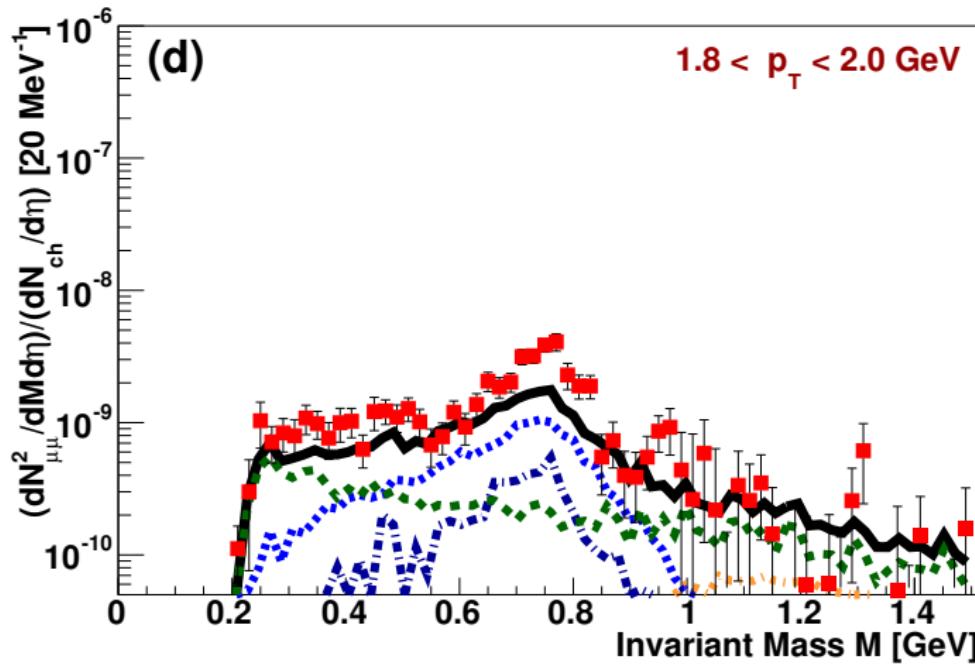
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $1.6 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 1.8 \text{ GeV}$



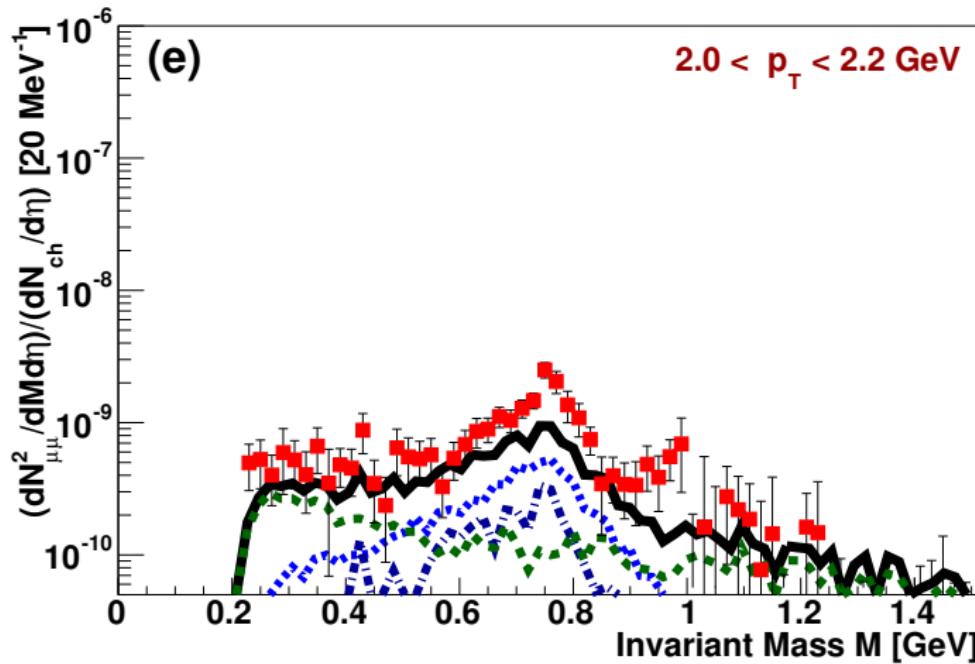
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $1.8 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 2.0 \text{ GeV}$



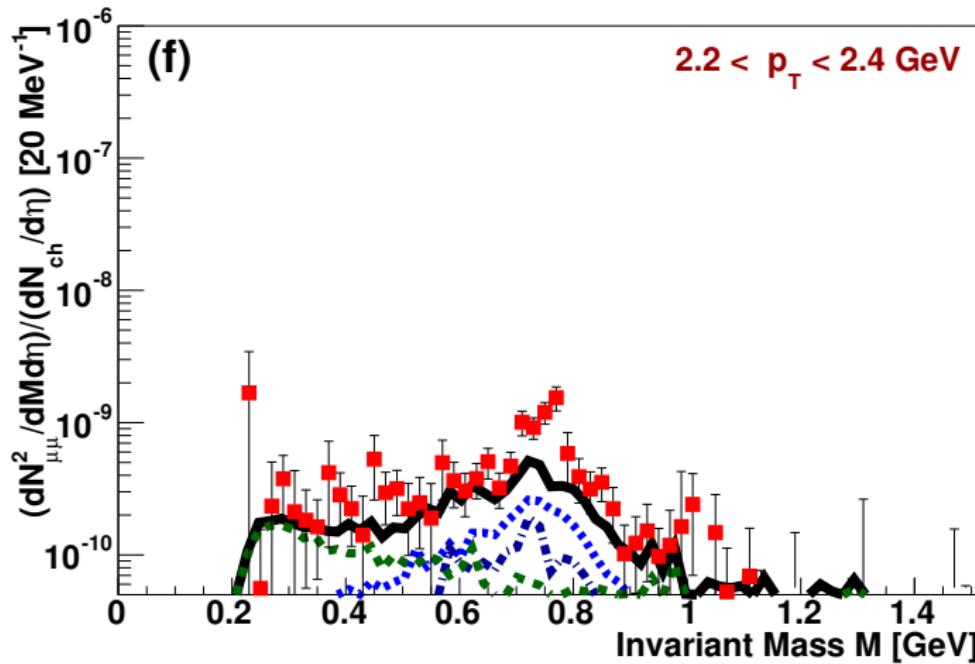
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $2.0 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 2.2 \text{ GeV}$



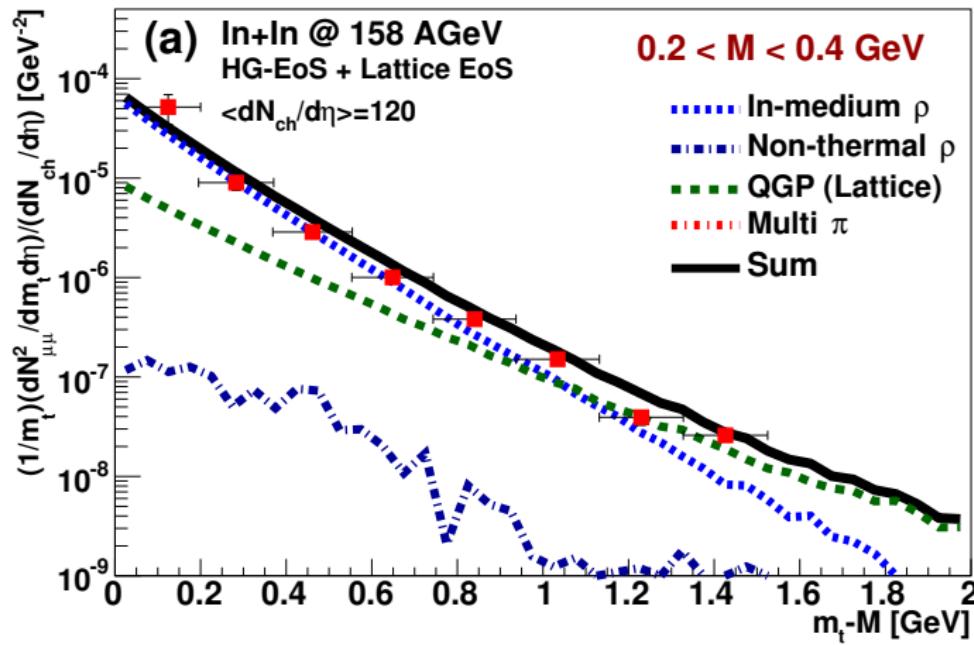
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)
- $2.2 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 2.4 \text{ GeV}$



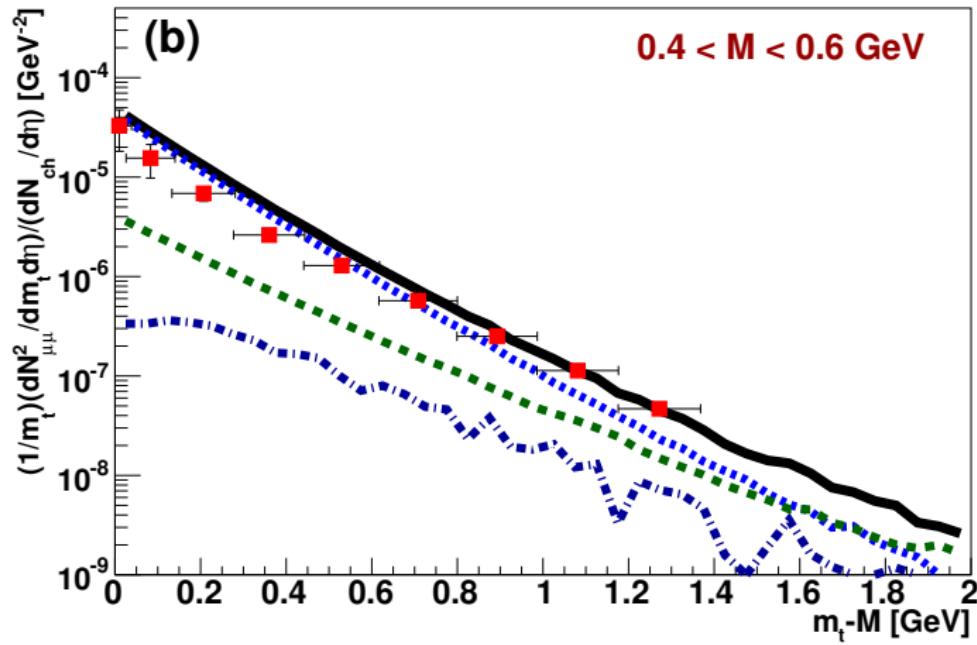
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from In + In(158 AGeV) $\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{ch}/dy = 120$)



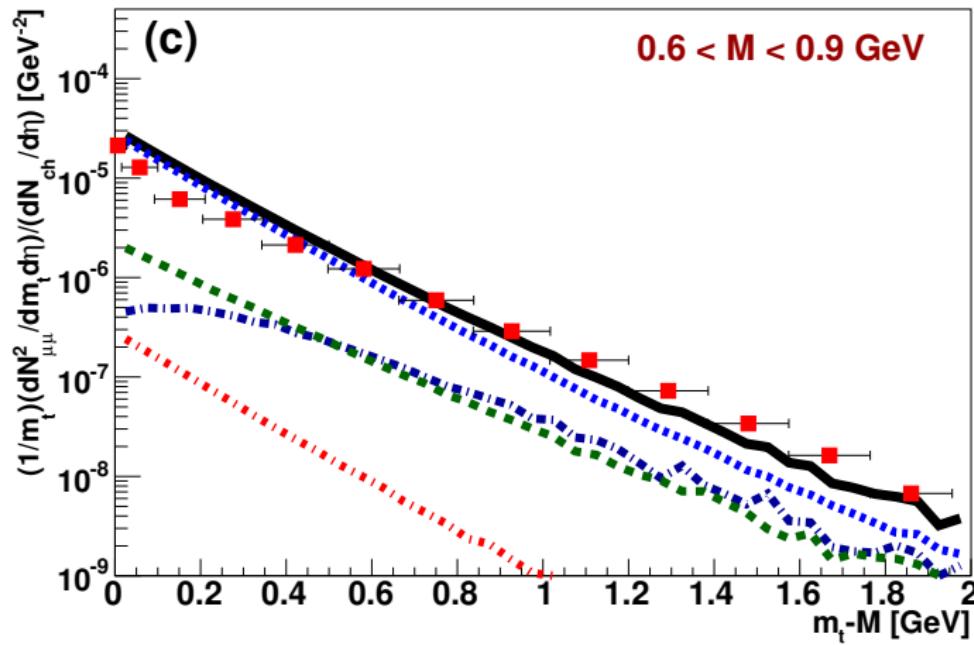
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from In + In(158 AGeV) $\rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{ch}/dy = 120$)



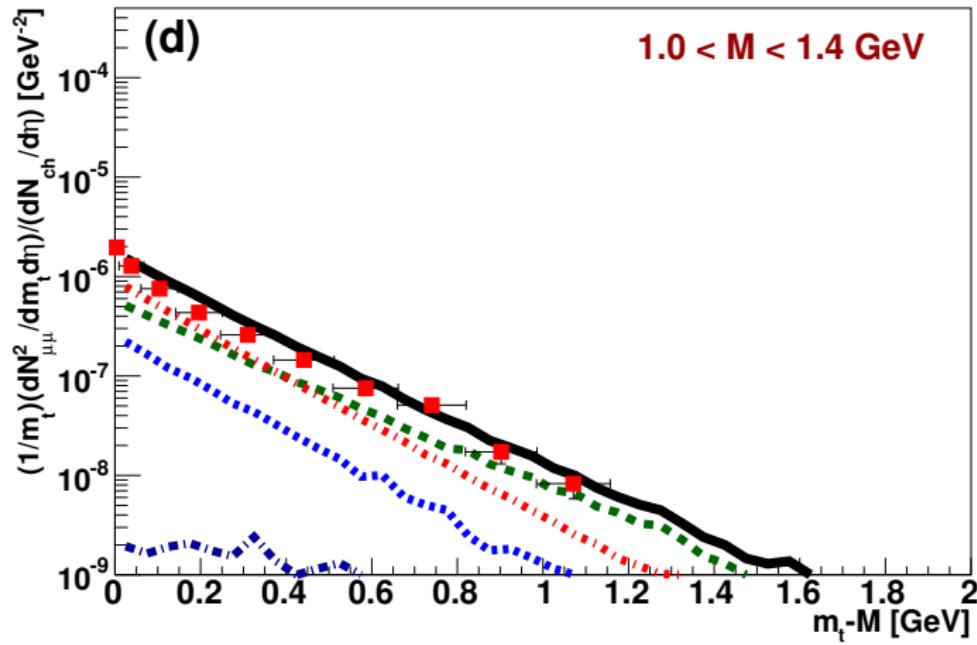
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)



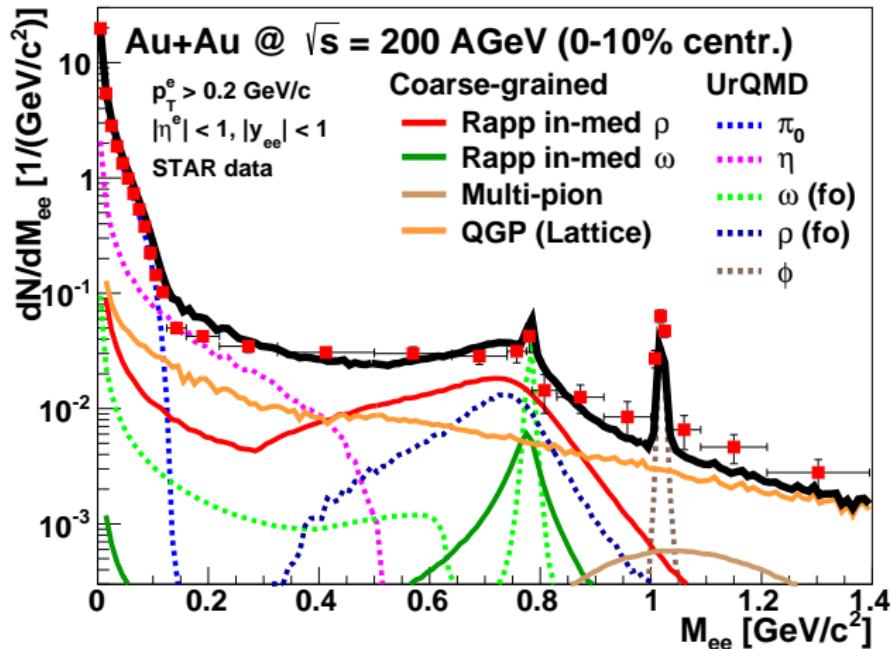
CGUrQMD: In+In (158 AGeV) (SPS/NA60)

- dimuon spectra from $\text{In} + \text{In}(158 \text{ AGeV}) \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ (NA60) [EHWB15]
- min-bias data ($dN_{\text{ch}}/dy = 120$)

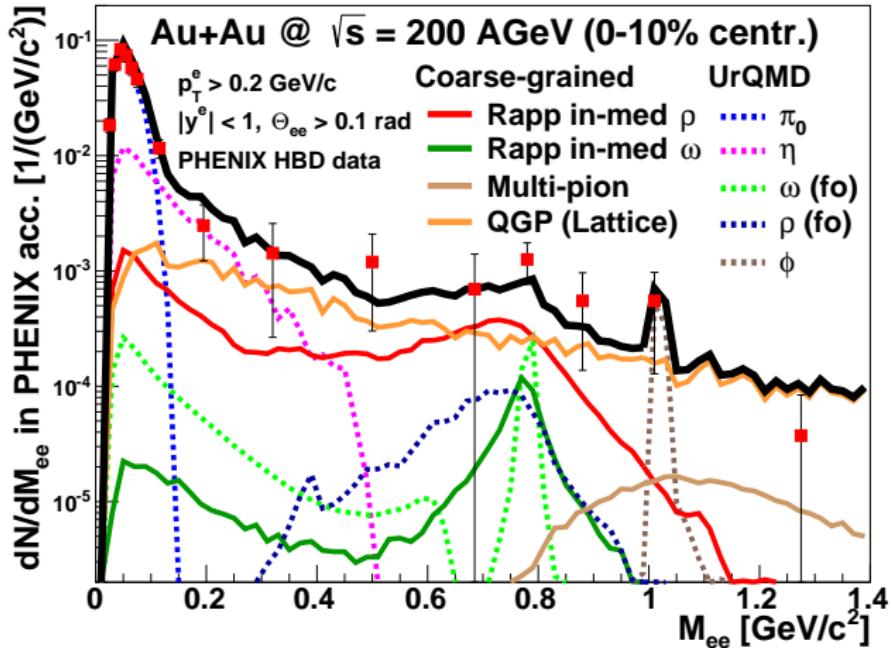


Dielectrons at RHIC

CGUrQMD: Au+Au ($\sqrt{s}_{NN} = 200$ GeV) (RHIC/STAR)

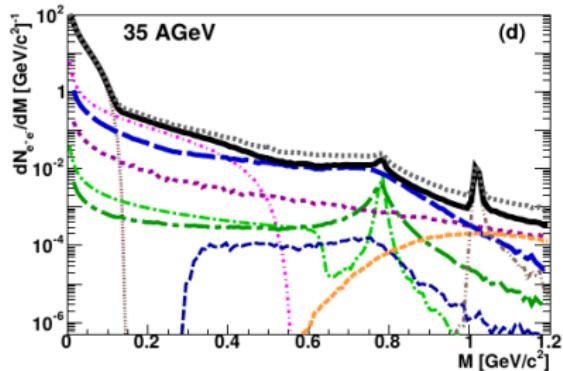
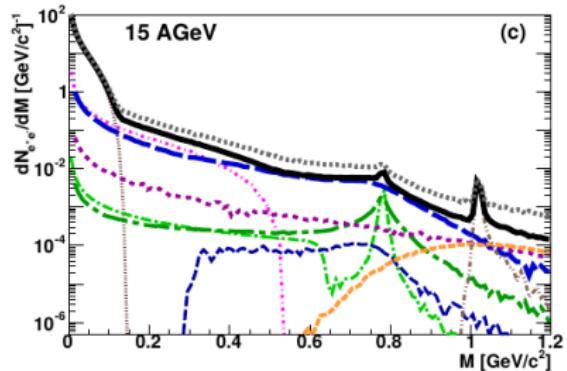
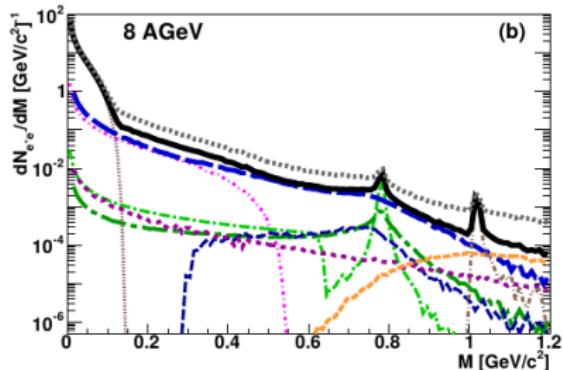
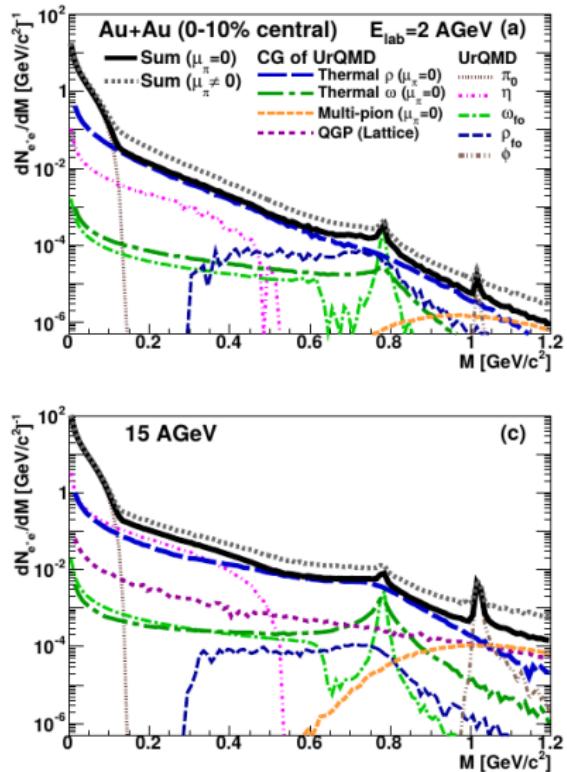


CGUrQMD: Au+Au ($\sqrt{s}_{NN} = 200$ GeV) (RHIC/PHENIX)



Dielectrons at RHIC-BES/FAIR/NICA

CGUrQMD: Au+Au ($E_{\text{lab}} = 2\text{-}35 \text{ AGeV}$)



NB: also photon spectra [EHB15]

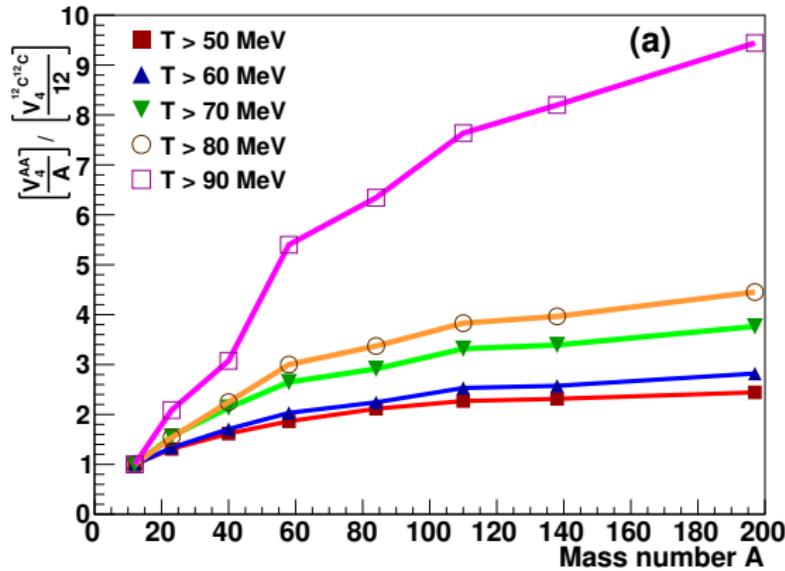
Signatures of the QCD-phase structure?

QCD phase structure from em. probes?

- hadronic observables like p_T spectra:
“snapshot” of the stage after **kinetic freezeout**
- particle abundancies: **chemical freezeout**
- em. probes: emitted during the whole medium evolution
life time of the medium \Rightarrow “four-volume of the fireball”
- use CGUrQMD to study **system-size dependence**
- study AA collisions for different A [EHWB15]
- “**excitation functions**”:
systematics of $\ell^+\ell^-$ (and γ) emission vs. beam energy [EHB15, RH16]
similar study in [GHR⁺15]
- **caveat:** phase transition not really implemented!!!

Four Volume

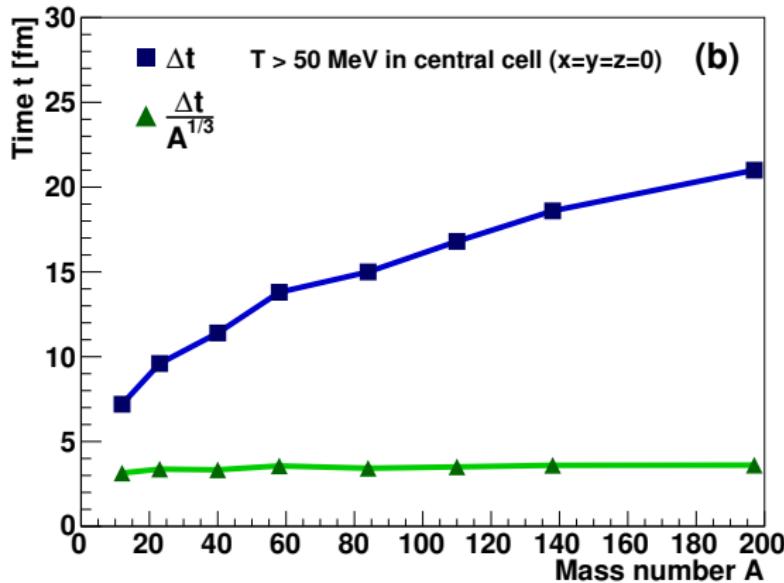
- central collisions from C+C to Au+Au at $E_{\text{kin}} = 1.76 \text{ AGeV}$
- $\frac{V_{AA}^{(4)}/A}{V_{CC}^{(4)}/12}$ of cells larger than various T



- how to explain “scaling behavior”?

Lifetime of the central cell

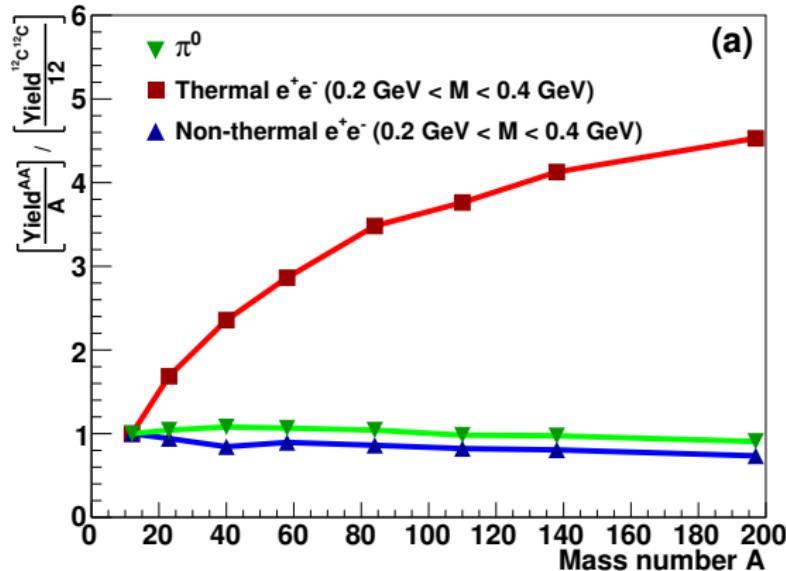
- central collisions from C+C to Au+Au at $E_{\text{kin}} = 1.76 \text{ AGeV}$



- $\Delta t \propto A^{1/3}$
- $A \propto V^{(3)}$ of nuclei $\Rightarrow A^{1/3} \propto d_{\text{nucl}}$
- fireball lifetime \propto time of nuclei to traverse each other

Lifetime of the central cell

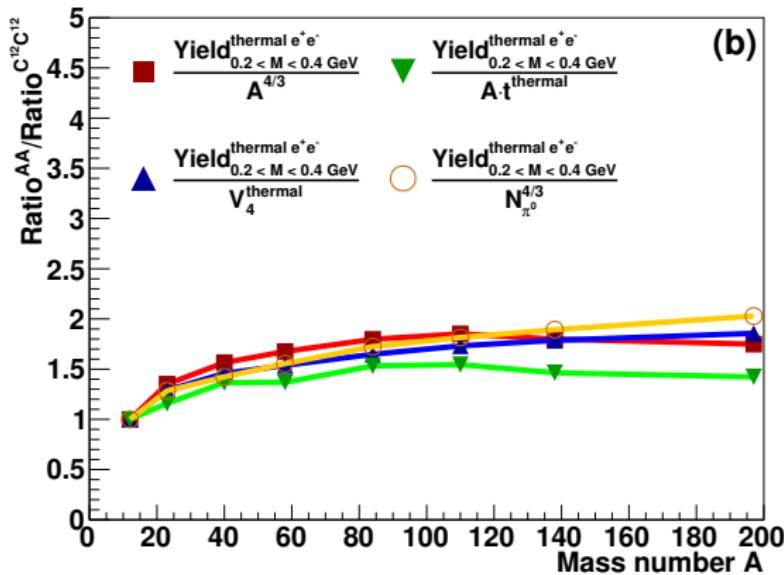
- central collisions from C+C to Au+Au at $E_{\text{kin}} = 1.76 \text{ AGeV}$
- $\frac{\text{yield}_{AA}/A}{\text{yield}_{CC}/12}$



- $\text{yield}_{\text{had}} \propto A \propto V_{\text{fo}}^{(3)}$
- $\text{yield}_{\text{non-thermal ee}} \propto A \propto V_{\text{fo}}^{(3)}$
⇒ hadronic decays after kinetic freeze-out

Scaling behavior of thermal-dilepton yield

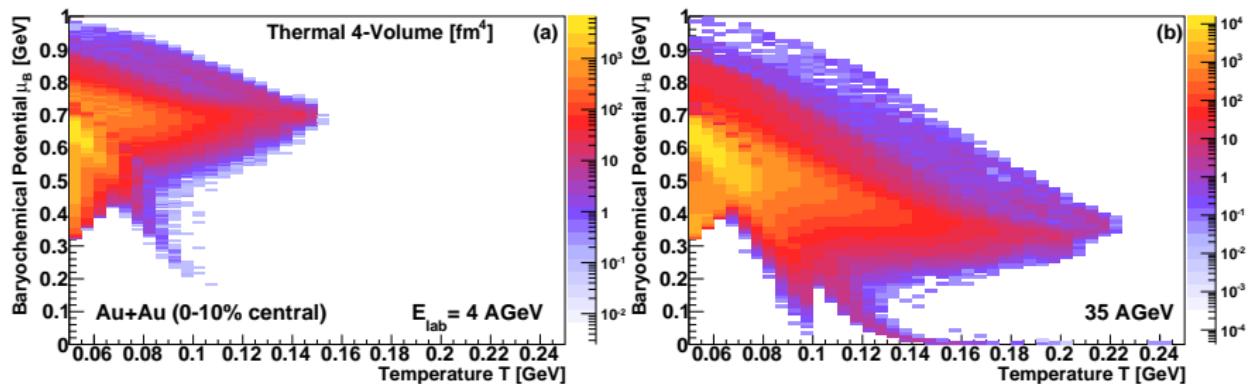
- central collisions from C+C to Au+Au at $E_{\text{kin}} = 1.76 \text{ AGeV}$



- thermal-dilepton yield roughly $\propto V_{\text{therm}}^{(4)} \propto A^{4/3} \propto At_{\text{therm}} \propto N_{\pi^0}^{4/3}$
- at low(est) beam energies:
lifetime of “medium” $\hat{=}$ time nuclei pass through each other

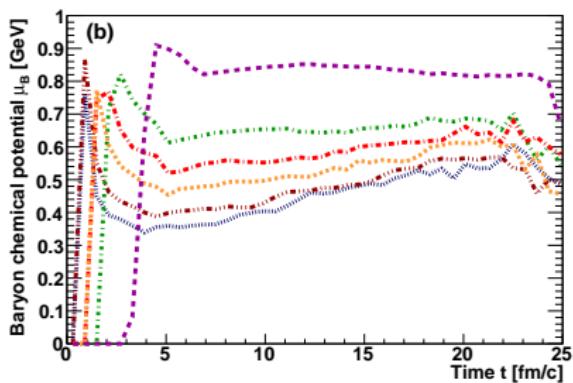
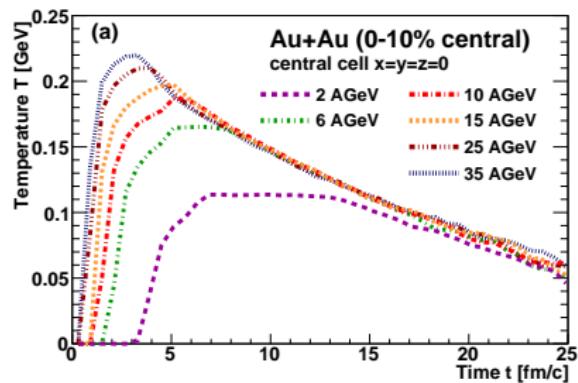
Dilepton systematics in the beam-energy scan

- thermal four-volume (fm^4) [EHB15]



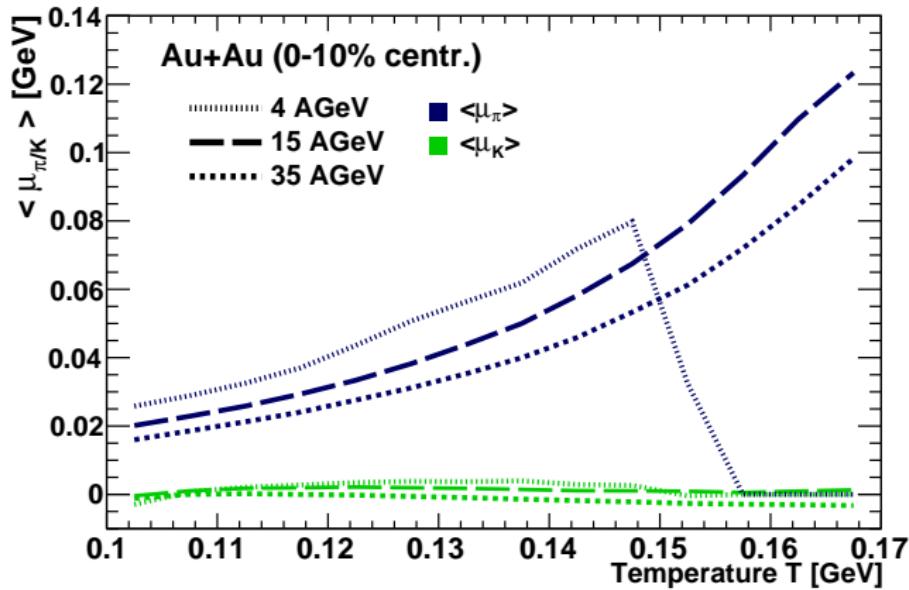
Dilepton systematics in the beam-energy scan

- T and μ_B vs. t [EHB15]



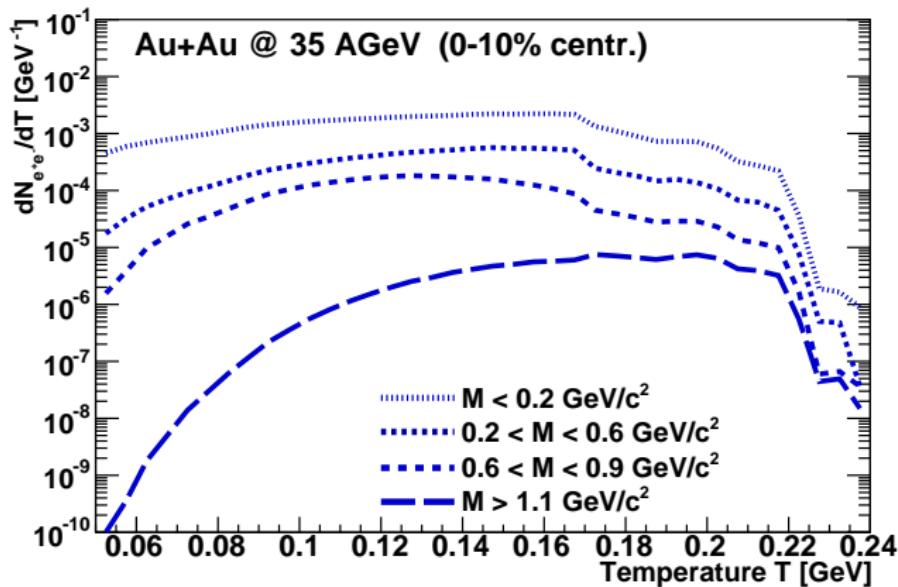
Dilepton systematics in the beam-energy scan

- $\mu_{\pi/K}$ -temperature relation [EHB15]



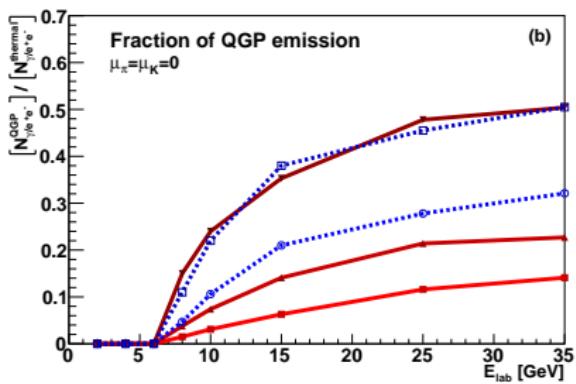
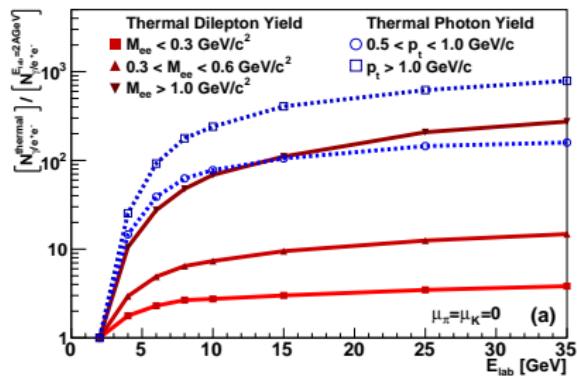
Dilepton systematics in the beam-energy scan

- mass-temperature relation in dilepton emission [EHB15]



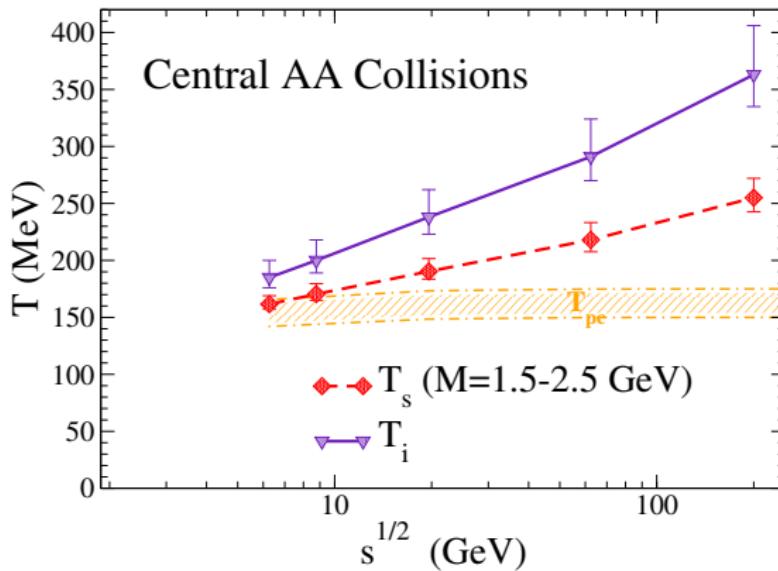
Dilepton systematics in the beam-energy scan

- excitation function e^+e^-/γ yield and QGP fraction [EHB15]



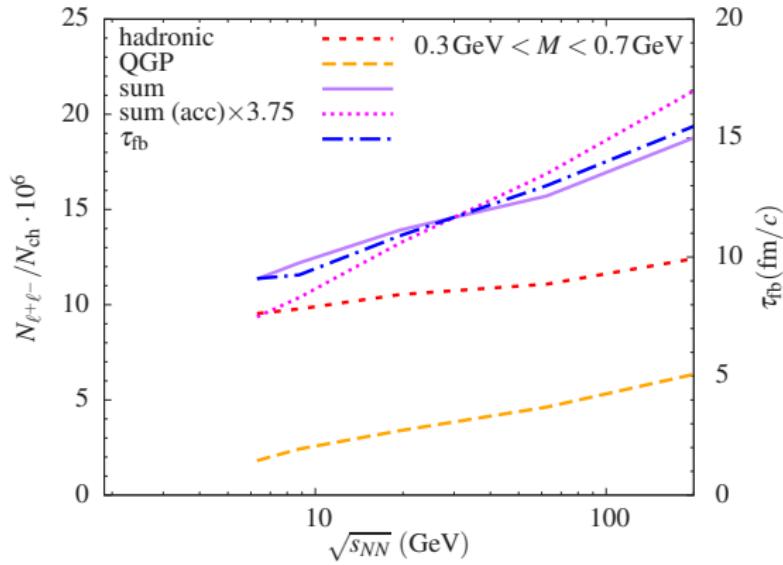
Dilepton systematics in the beam-energy scan

- thermal-fireball model [RH16]
- invariant-mass slope in IMR \Rightarrow true temperature!
- no blue shift from radial flow as in p_T/m_T spectra



Dilepton systematics in the beam-energy scan

- thermal-fireball model [RH16]
- beam-energy scan at RHIC and lower energies at future FAIR and NICA accelerators
- dilepton yield as **fireball-lifetime clock**



Conclusions and Outlook

- General ideas
 - em. probes \Leftrightarrow in-medium em. current-correlation function
 - dual rates around T_c (compatible with χ symmetry restoration)
 - medium modifications of ρ, ω, ϕ
 - importance of baryon-resonance interactions
- Application to dileptons in HICs
 - coarse-grained transport (here: CGUrQMD)
 - allows use of thermal-QFT spectral VM functions
 - applicable also at low collision energies
 - allows use of thermal-QFT models for dilepton rates
 - successful description from SIS to RHIC energies
 - consistent description of M and m_T spectra!
 - effective slope of M spectra ($1.5 \text{ GeV} < M < M_{J/\psi}$) provides $\langle T \rangle$
 - beam-energy scan at RHIC and FAIR \Rightarrow signature of phase transition?
- Outlook
 - signature of cross-over vs. 1st order (or even critical endpoint)???
 - challenge: phase transition in (coarse-grained) transport???

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