

# Electromagnetic probes of the QCD Plasma

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University  
of Regina

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YEARS

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Natural Sciences and Engineering  
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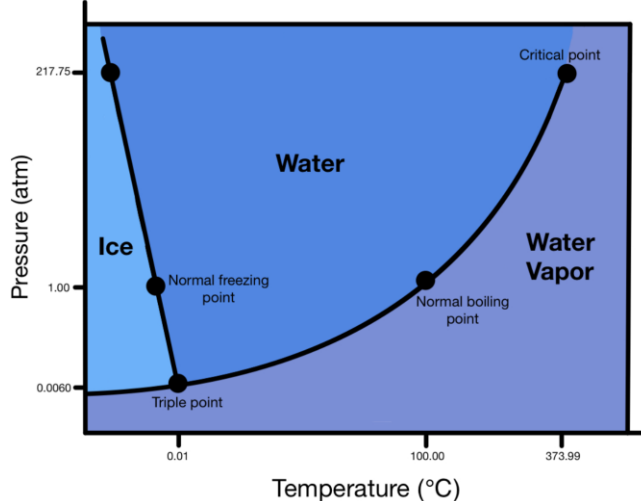
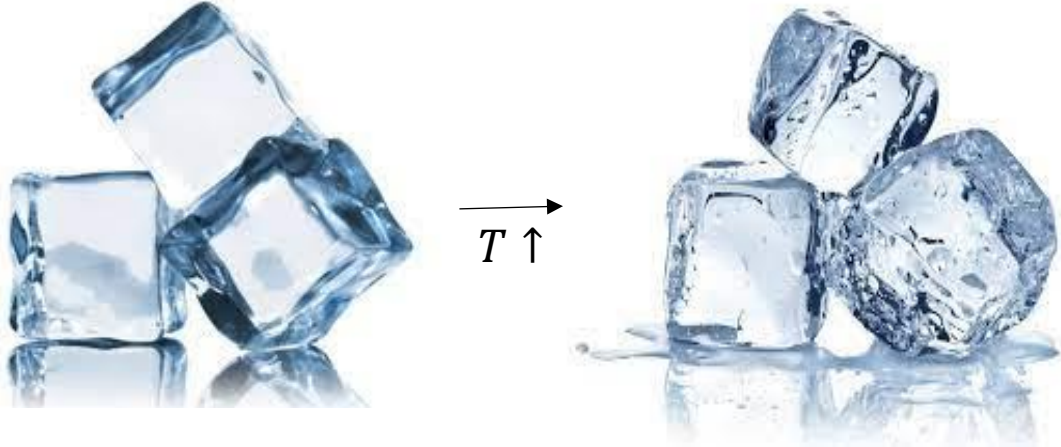
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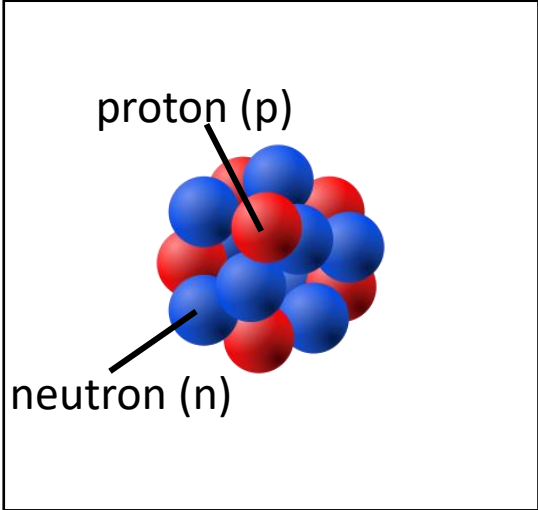
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# High energy nuclear collisions & nuclear equation of state



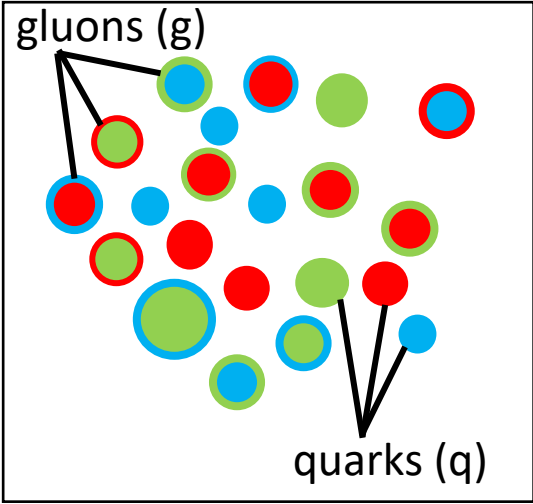
Ref.: <https://www.expri.com/t/phase-change-diagram-of-water-overview-importance-8031>

Ref.: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic\\_nucleus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic_nucleus)

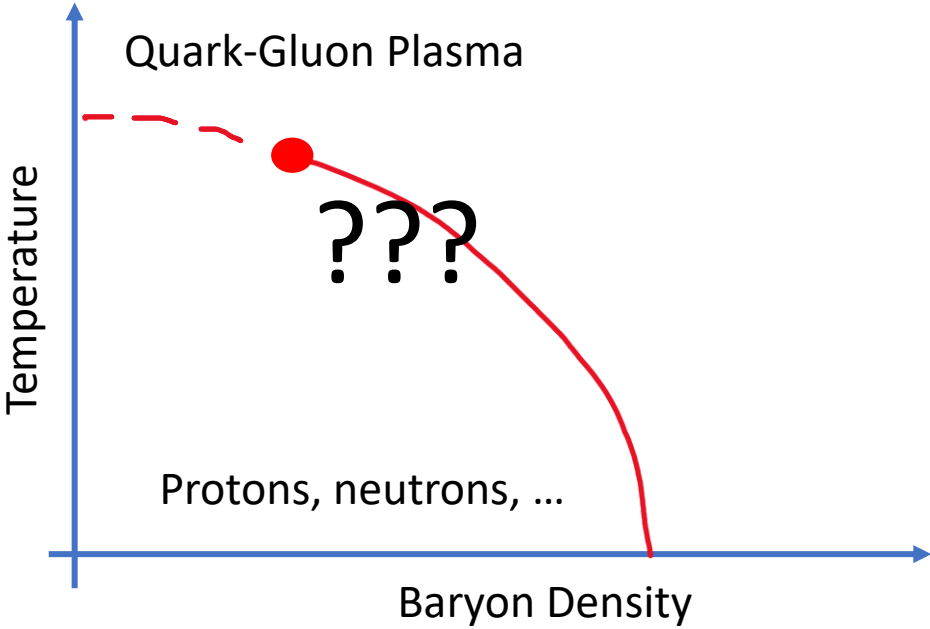


$T \sim 10^2$  Kelvin ( $10^{-2}$  eV)  
nucleus

$T \uparrow$



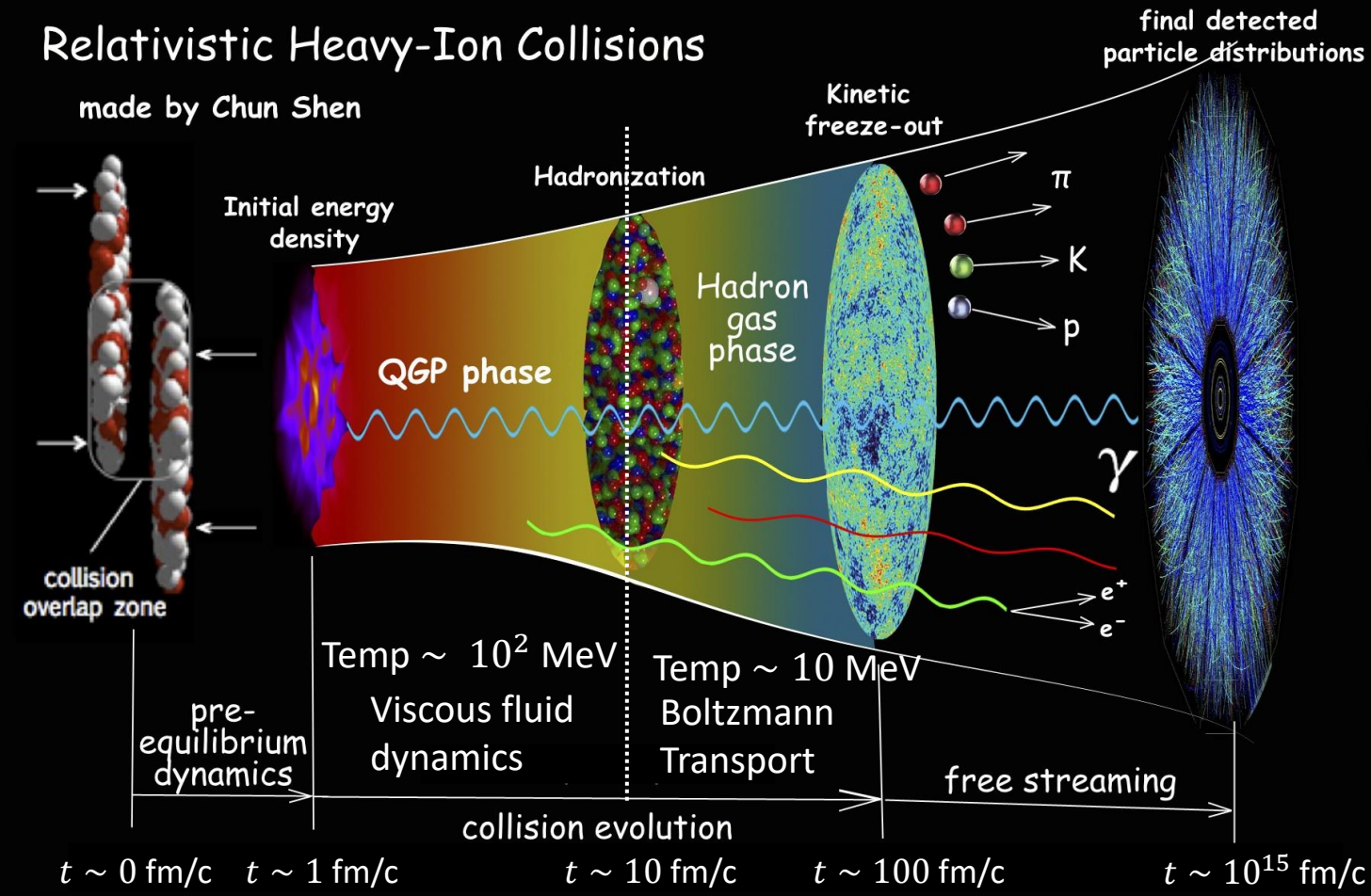
$T \sim 10^{12}$  Kelvin ( $\sim 10^8$  eV)  
Quark Gluon Plasma



# Evolution of the nuclear medium

## Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions

made by Chun Shen



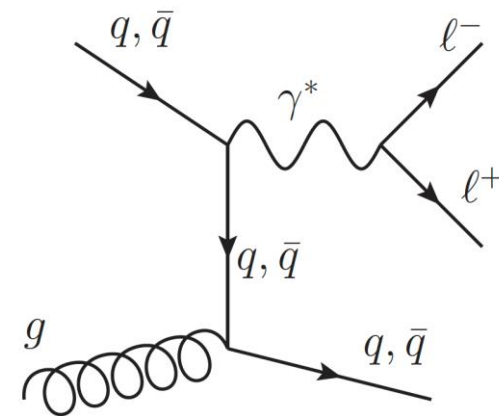
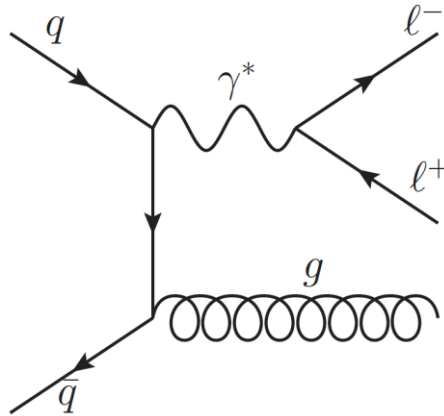
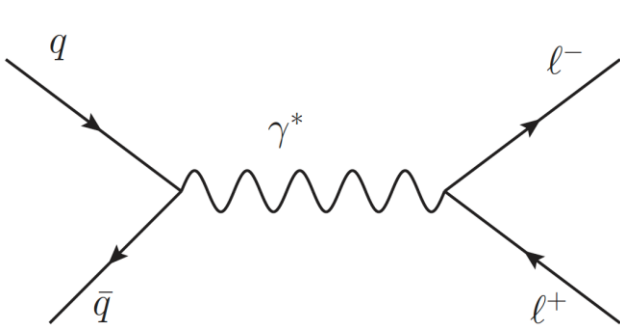
- The nuclear fluid is created during pre-equilibrium dynamics stage, where most of the collision's  $T^{\mu\nu}$  will be in the fluid.
- Hydrodynamical stage (Temp  $\sim 10^2$  MeV): Strongly coupled quark gluon plasma (QGP)
  - Equation of State (EoS) computed via Lattice QCD
- Molecular dynamics stage (Temp  $\sim 10$  MeV):  $\lambda_{micro} \sim L_{hydro}$ , simulation switches to Boltzmann transport
- Following free-streaming, soft hadrons ( $p_T \lesssim 3$  GeV/c) carry most of the medium's  $T^{\mu\nu}$  to detectors.

# EM sources in the QCD plasma

- Why study **electromagnetic probes** of the QGP?
  - Emitted at all stages of a collision (w/ negligible re-scattering)  $\Rightarrow$  precise information about the QGP
  - Virtual photons/dileptons are particularly interesting because of their invariant mass  $M$

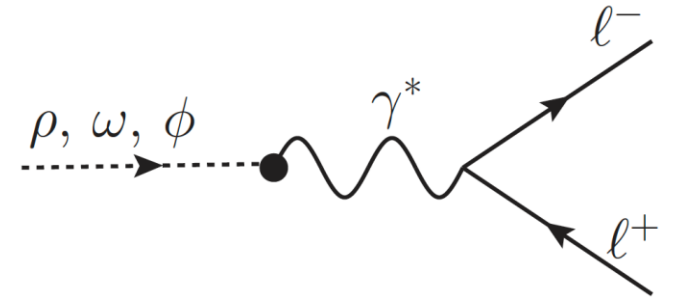
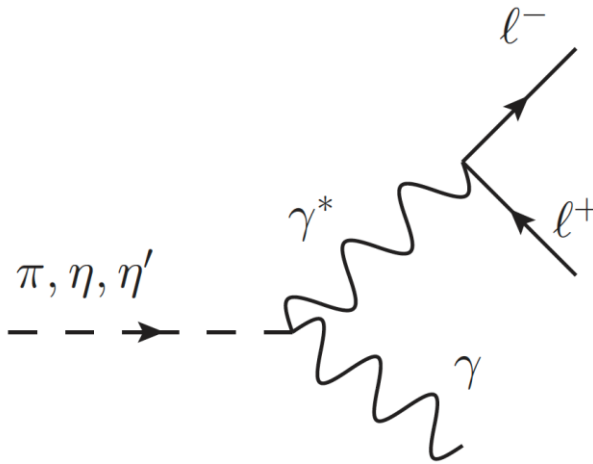
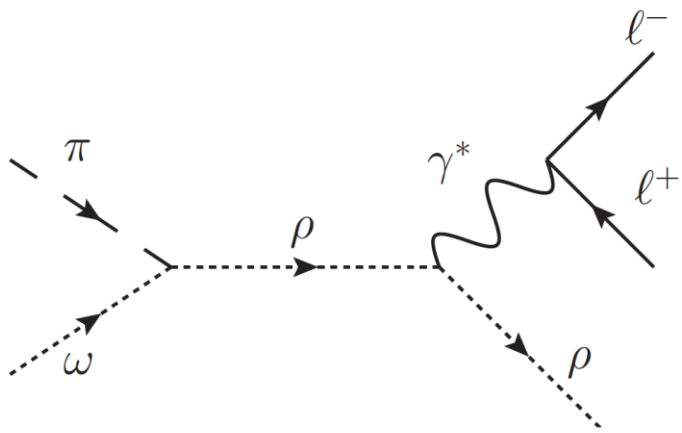
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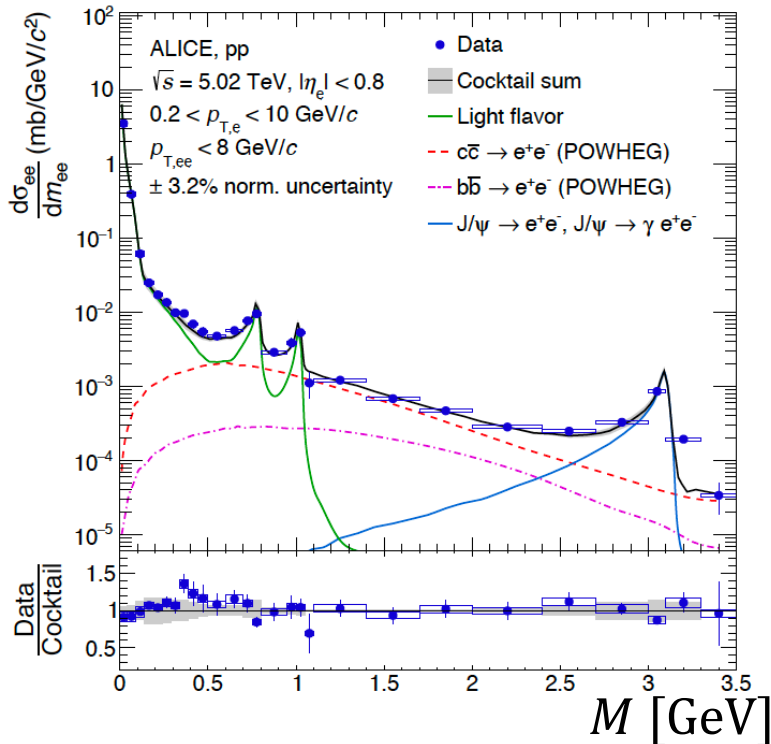
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- In experiment however...

[ALICE, Phys. Rev. C 102, 055204 (2020)]





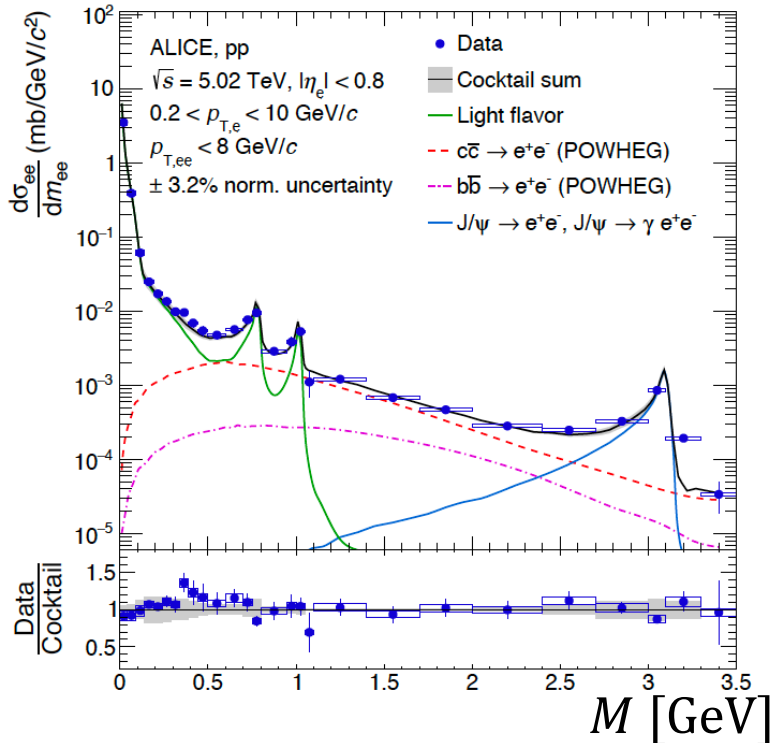
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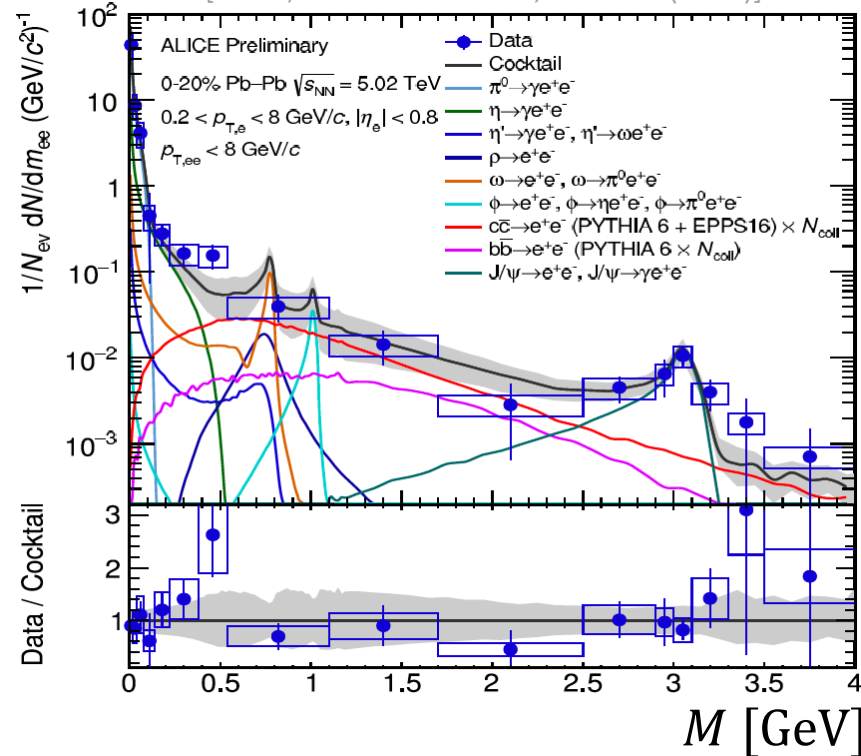
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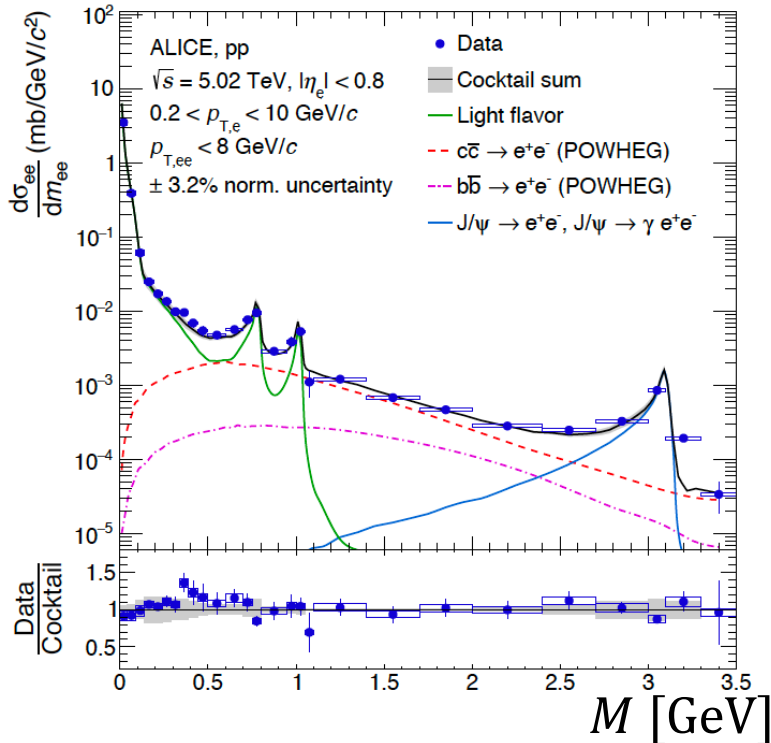




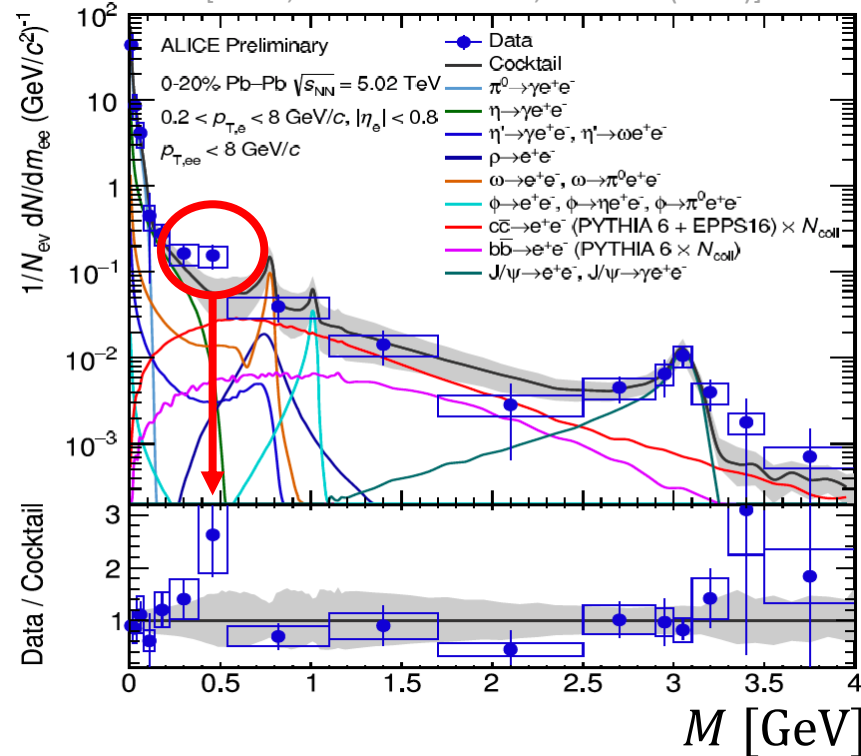
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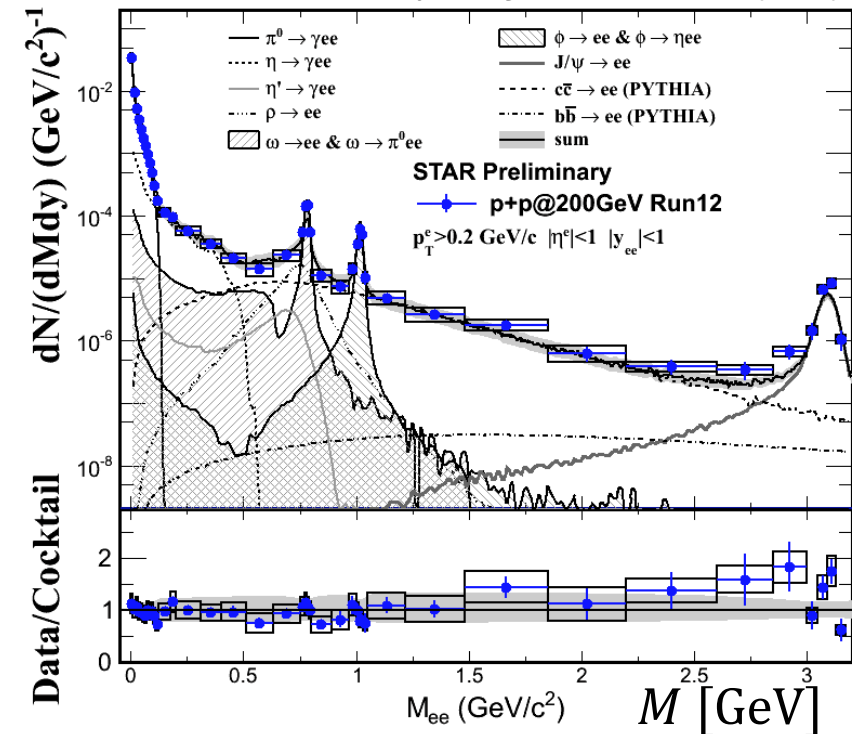
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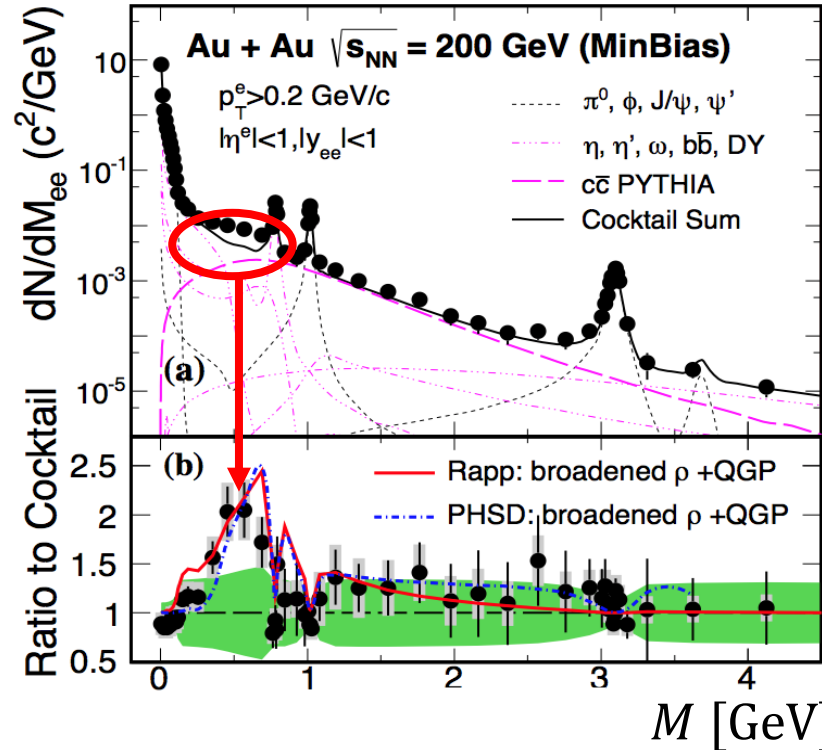
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[STAR, *J. Phys. Conf. Ser.* 535, 012006 (2014)]



[STAR, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 113 (2014) 2, 022301]



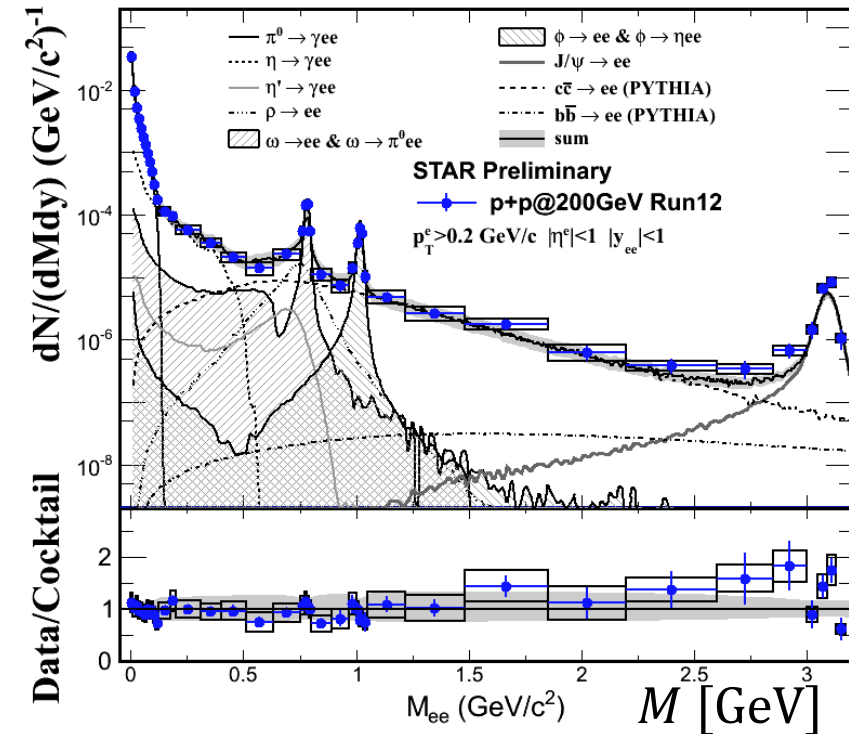
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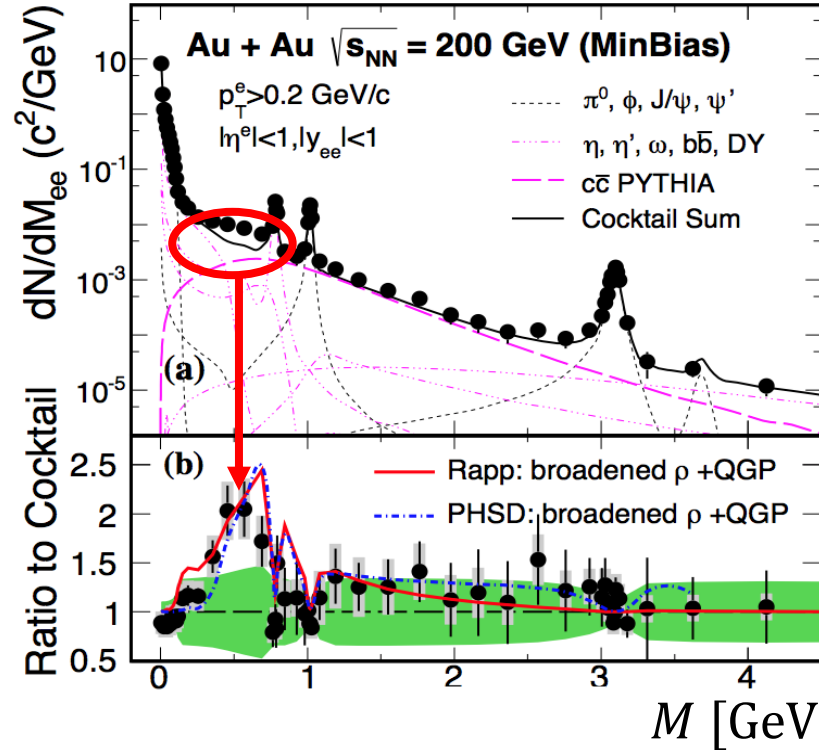
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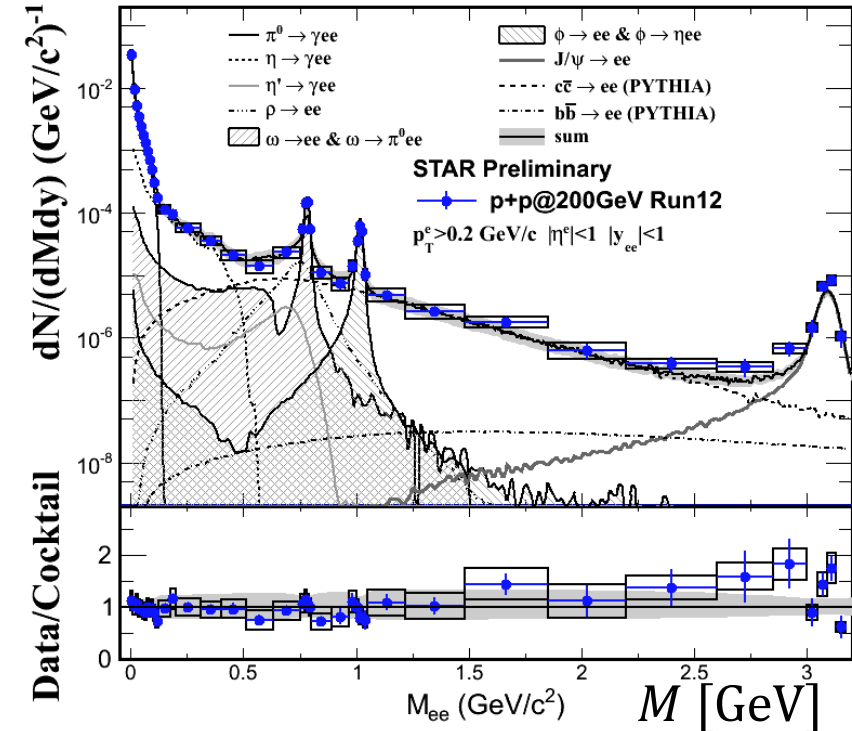


$$\frac{dN}{dM p_T dp_T d\phi dy} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{dN}{dM p_T dp_T dy} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2v_n \cos(n\phi - n\Psi_n) \right]$$

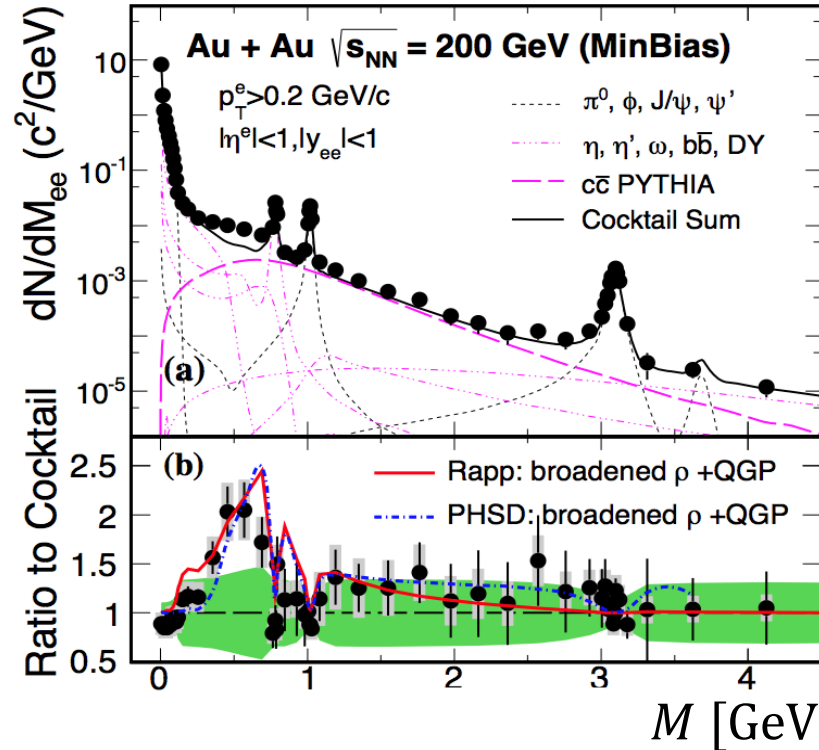
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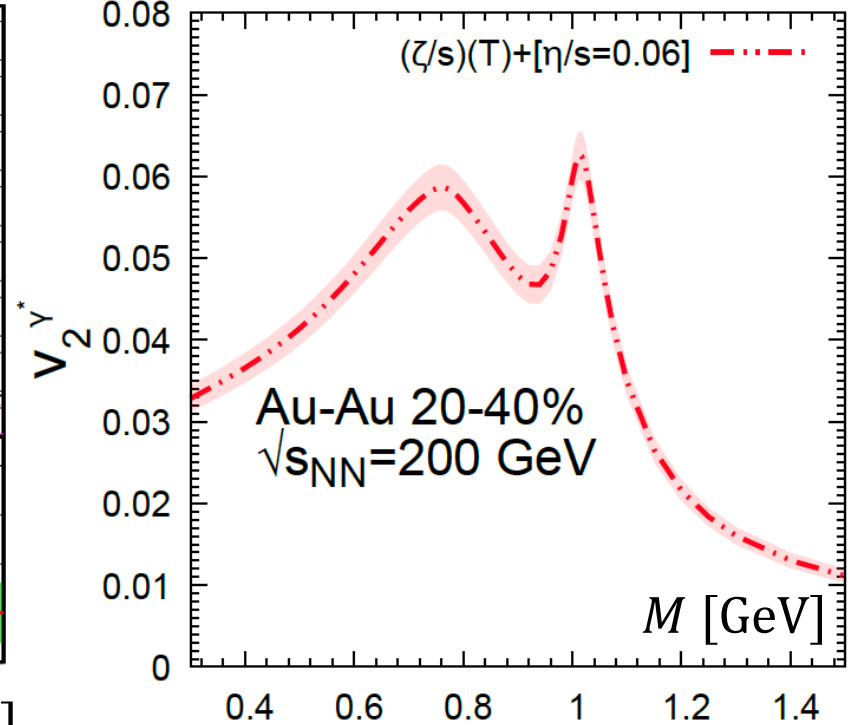
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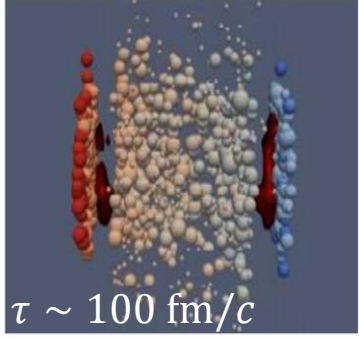
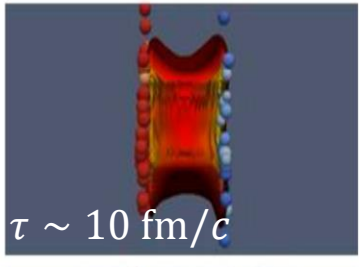
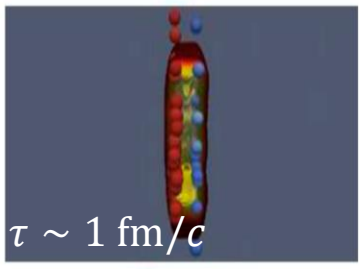
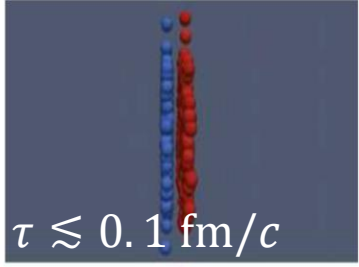
[G.V. et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 101, 044904 (2020)]



- Detailed study of QGP: measure  $dN/dM$  and  $v_2(M)$ , especially  $M \gtrsim 1$  GeV!

# Sources of EM probes

Figure ref. J. Bernhard,  
H. Elfner (Petersen),  
MADAI Collaboration



## Onset of collisions:

- Prompt photons
- Drell-Yan dileptons
- Heavy Quarkonia
- Open Heavy Flavor, ...

## Pre-hydrodynamical evolution/jet-medium interaction

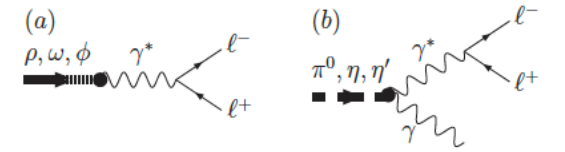
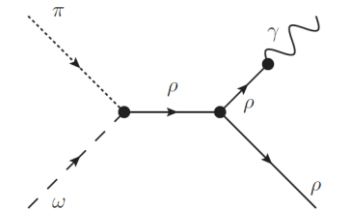
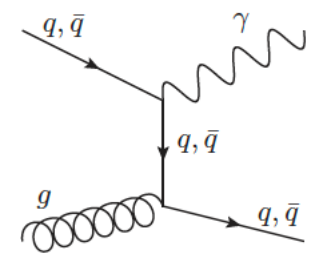
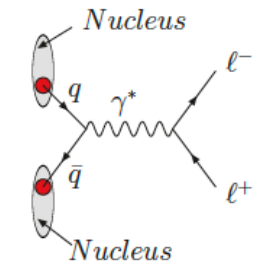
- EM production coming from various partonic processes

## Hydrodynamical evolution

- EM production coming from partonic and hadronic processes

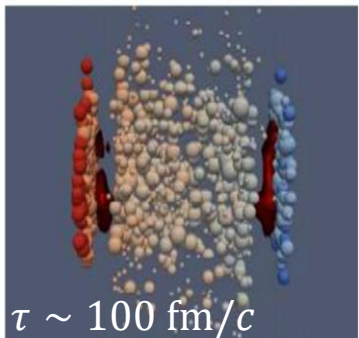
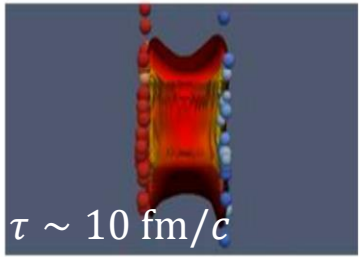
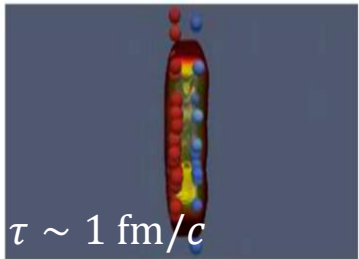
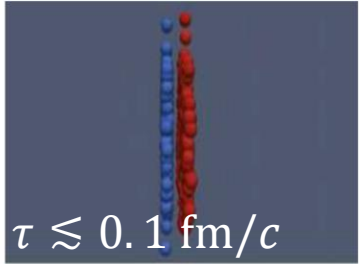
## Transport evolution

- EM production from hadronic interactions



# EM probes and the QGP

Figure ref. J. Bernhard,  
H. Elfner (Petersen),  
MADAI Collaboration

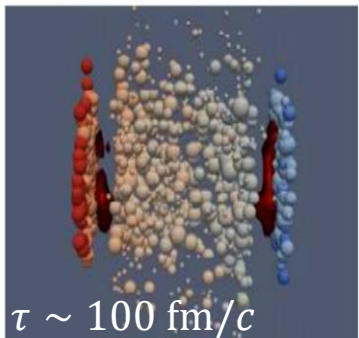
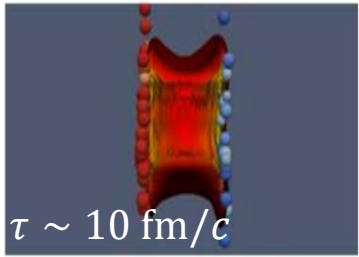
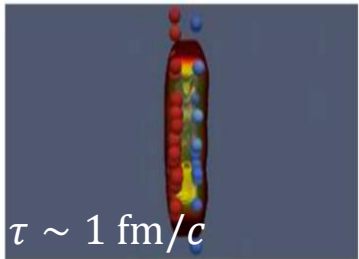
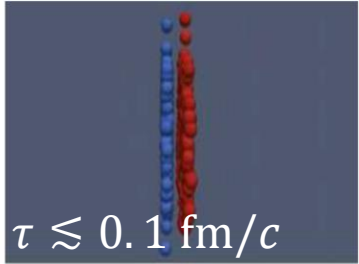


- Bayesian analysis simulating various stages for soft hadronic observables are starting to inform us about transport coefficients.



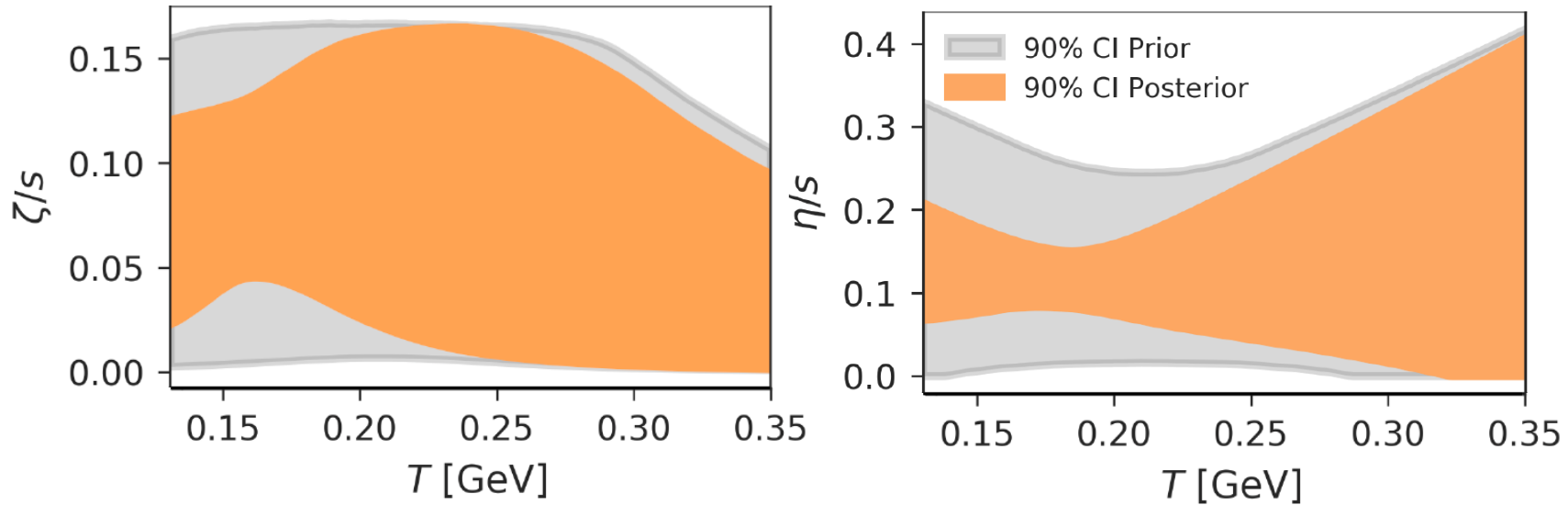
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[D. Everett et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 242301 (2021)]

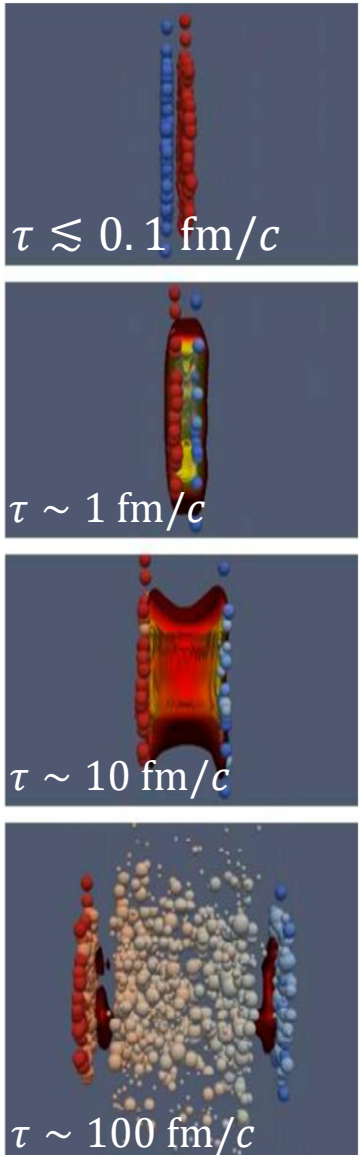


Bayesian Analysis by the JETSCAPE Simulations Group



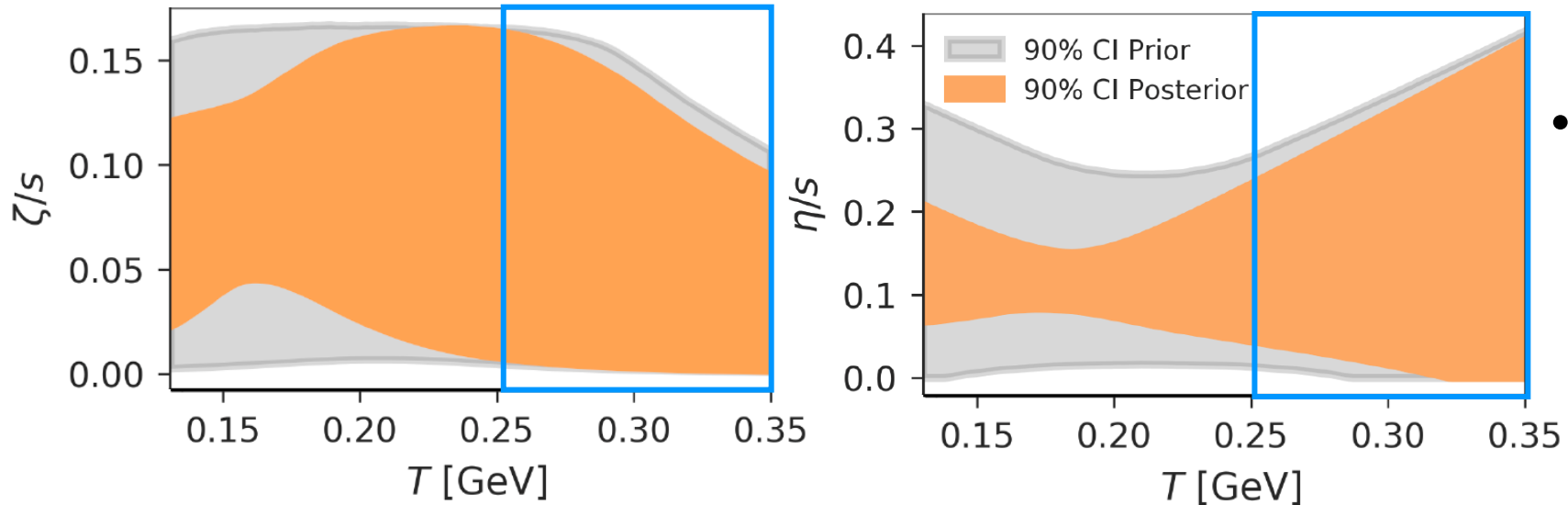
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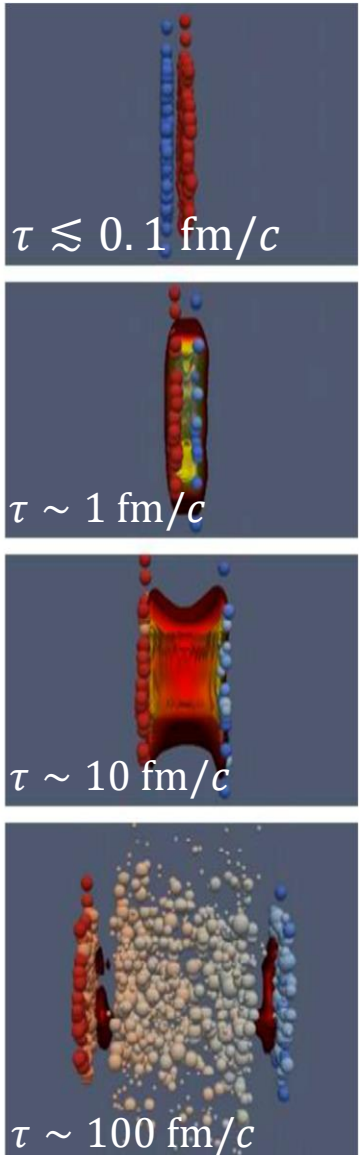


- Soft hadron observables give a better description at low T.

Bayesian Analysis by the JETSCAPE Simulations Group

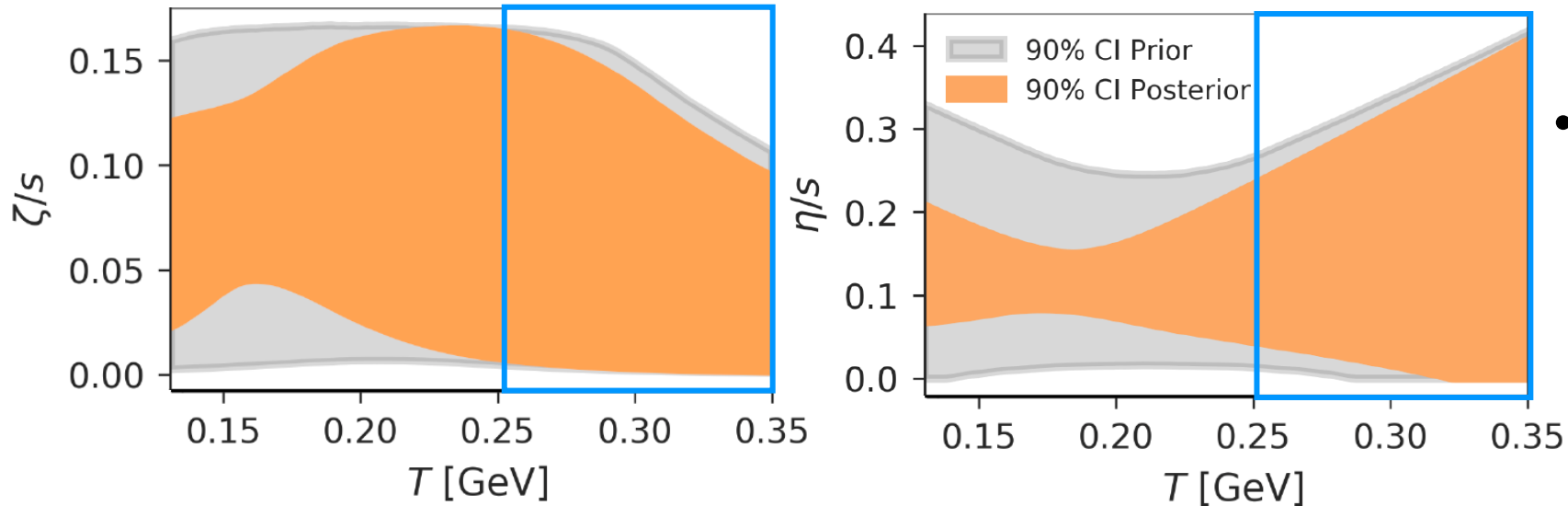
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- Soft hadron observables: not enough?

Bayesian Analysis by the JETSCAPE Simulations Group

- $v_n$  of EM probes  $\Rightarrow$  directly probe microscopic d.o.f. of nuclear matter and can better constrain  $\frac{\eta}{s}, \frac{\zeta}{s}$

# EM Rates and Simulations

# Electromagnetic radiation from QCD medium

- Finite Temperature Field Theory

- Dilepton production rate

$$\frac{d^4 R}{d^4 k} \propto -\alpha_{EM}^2 \text{Im} \left[ \text{Diagram} \right]$$

$k^2 = M^2 > 0$

- Photon production rate

$$k^0 \frac{d^3 R}{d^3 k} \propto -\alpha_{EM} \text{Im} \left[ \text{Diagram} \right]$$

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$$\text{Im} \left[ \text{Diagram} \right] = \text{EM Spectral Function}$$

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- High Temperature EM spectral function: in pQCD and on the Lattice QCD

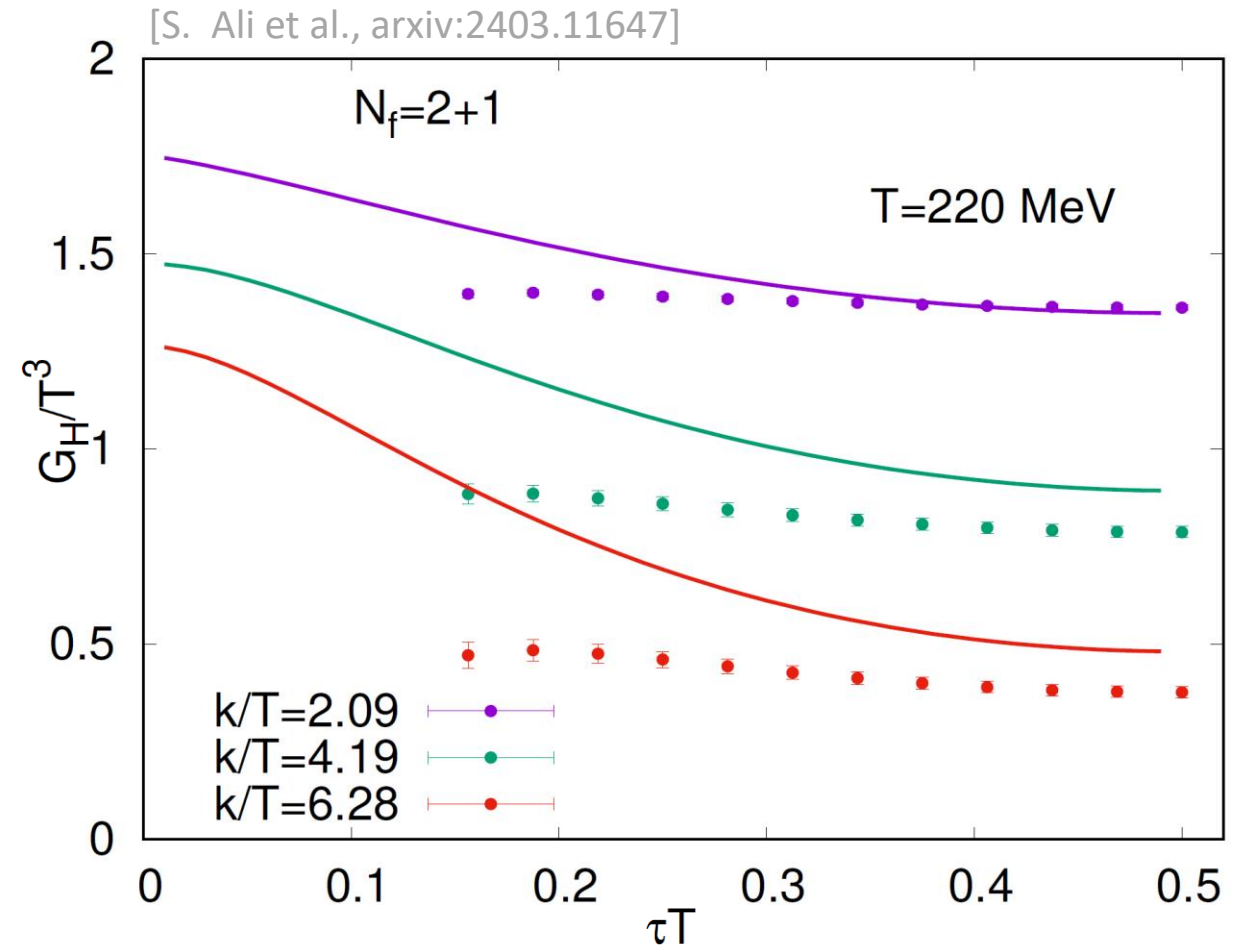
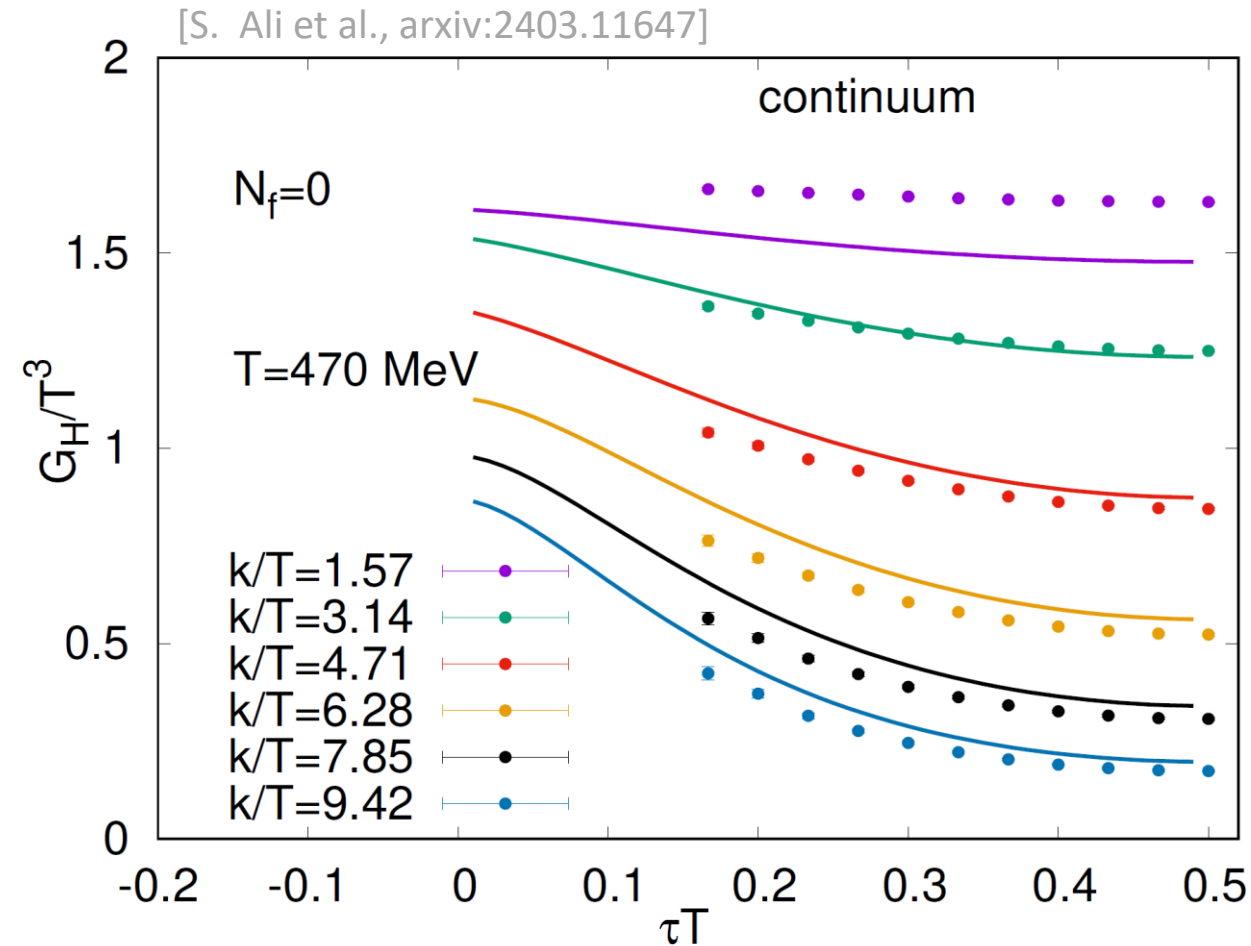
$$G(\tau) = \int \frac{dk^0}{\pi} K(k^0, \tau) \text{Im} \left[ \text{Diagram} \right]; \quad K(k^0, \tau) = \frac{\cosh\{k^0[1/(2T) - \tau]\}}{\sinh(k^0/2T)}$$

- Low Temperature EM spectral function: hadronic effective Lagrangians

- sensitive to chiral symmetry breaking/restoration

# Dilepton production from pQCD & lattice QCD ✓

- Quite good agreement between pQCD and lattice QCD in the (un-)quenched.



- Entering the era for precision calculations of EM spectral functions; with extension to  $\mu_B > 0$ .

# Dilepton production from hadronic interactions

- EM spectral function via vector mesons

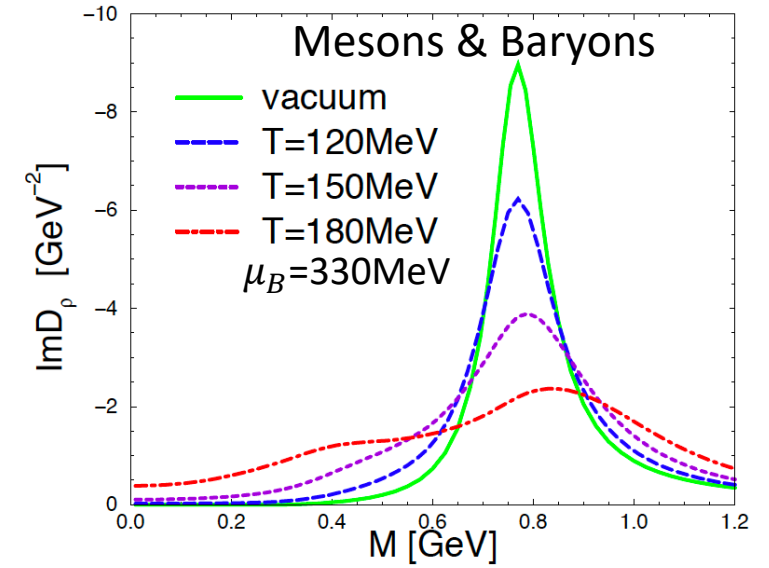
$$\text{Im} \left[ \text{Diagram with photon and blob} \right] = \text{Im} \left[ \text{Diagram with photon, vector meson, and hadronic blob} \right]$$

The diagram on the left shows a photon line entering a blue circular blob and another photon line exiting. The diagram on the right shows a photon line entering a vertex with a coupling  $\frac{m_V^2}{g_V}$ , followed by a vector meson line ( $V = \rho, \omega, \phi$ ) that enters a grey circular hadronic blob, and then another vector meson line ( $V = \rho, \omega, \phi$ ) with a coupling  $\frac{m_V^2}{g_V}$  exiting to a photon line.

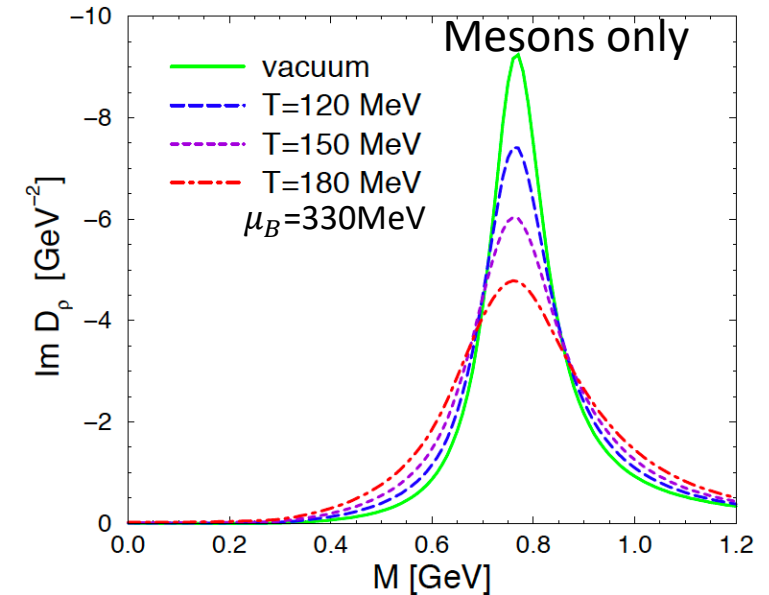
- Many-body effective Lagrangians

$$\text{Im}[D_\rho] = \text{Im} \left[ \text{Diagram with rho meson and hadronic blob} \right]$$

The diagram shows a wavy line labeled  $\rho$  entering a grey circular hadronic blob from the left, and another wavy line labeled  $\rho$  exiting to the right. The top of the blob is labeled "Mesons" and the bottom is labeled "Baryons".



[R. Rapp, Acta Phys. Polon. B 42, 2823 (2011)]



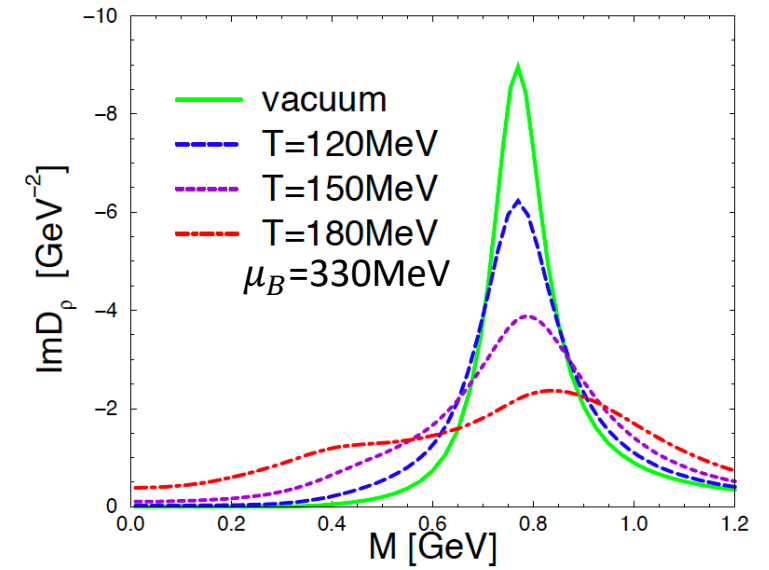


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[R. Rapp, Acta Phys. Polon. B 42, 2823 (2011)]

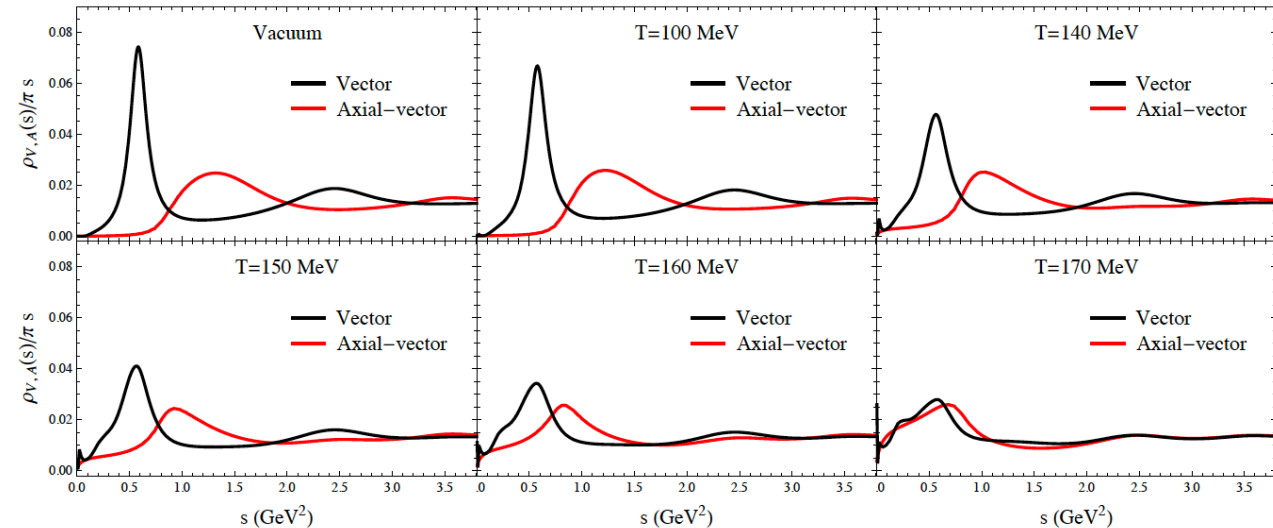
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The diagram shows a  $\rho$  meson line entering a grey circular hadronic blob labeled 'Baryons' and exiting as a  $\rho$  meson line. The blob is also labeled 'Mesons' at the top.

- Many-body effective Lagrangians now include the chiral partner of  $\rho$ , the  $a_1$

- $\rho$  &  $a_1$  agree at high T  $\Rightarrow$  encouraging for understanding chiral symmetry restoration from a **hadronic** perspective.



[P.M. Hohler & R. Rapp, Phys. Lett. B 731, 103 (2014)]

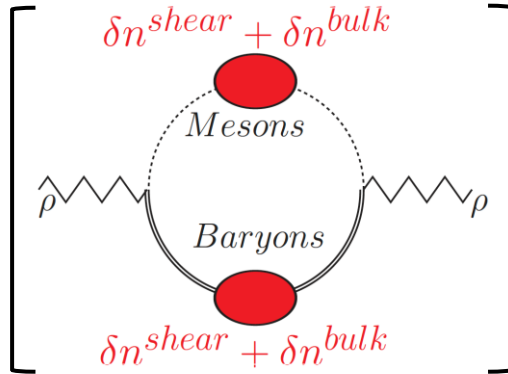
# Dilepton production in a viscous medium ✓

- Theory  $\Rightarrow$  Experimental observables

$$\frac{d^4 N}{d^4 k} = \int d^4 x \frac{d^4 R}{d^4 k} [u^\mu(x), T(x), \pi^{\mu\nu}(x), \Pi(x)]$$

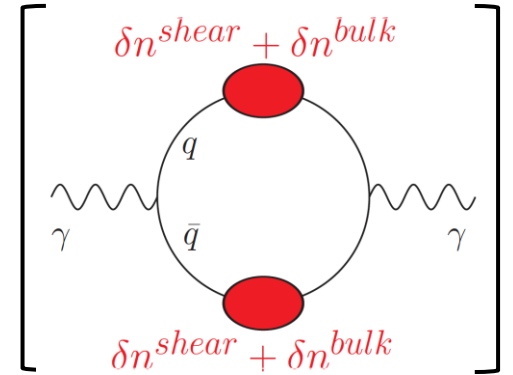
$$T_{eq.}^{\mu\nu} + \pi^{\mu\nu} - \Pi \Delta^{\mu\nu} = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 k^0} k^\mu k^\nu [n^{eq.} + \delta n^{shear} + \delta n^{bulk}]$$

- Dileptons from (hadronic) scattering theory

$$\frac{d^4 R}{d^4 k} \propto Im \left[ \begin{array}{c} \delta n^{shear} + \delta n^{bulk} \\ \text{Mesons} \\ \text{Baryons} \\ \delta n^{shear} + \delta n^{bulk} \end{array} \right]$$


[Eletsky et al., Phys. Rev. C 64, 035202 (2001)]  
 [G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 101, 044904 (2020)]

- Dileptons from LO pQCD

$$\frac{d^4 R}{d^4 k} \propto Im \left[ \begin{array}{c} \delta n^{shear} + \delta n^{bulk} \\ q \\ \bar{q} \\ \delta n^{shear} + \delta n^{bulk} \end{array} \right]$$


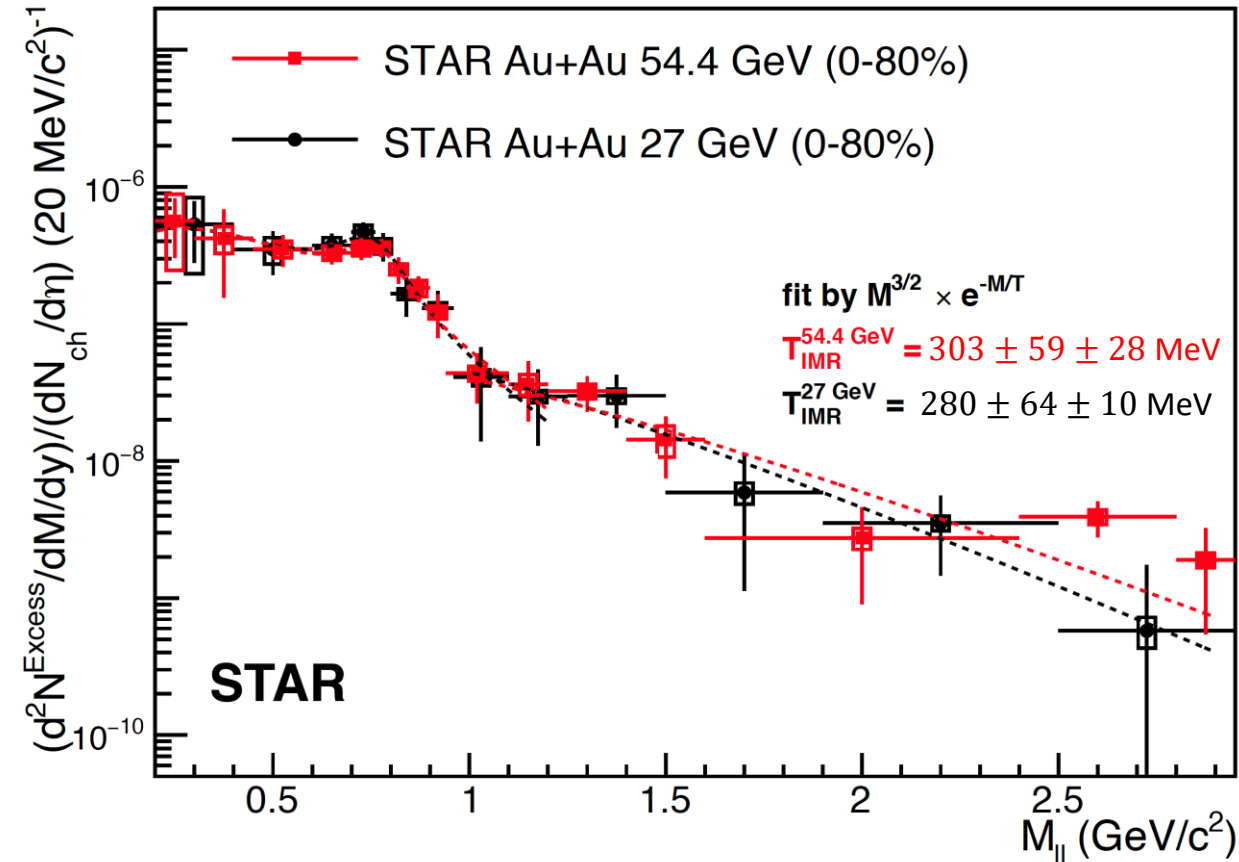
[G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 98, 014902 (2018)]  
 [G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 101, 044904 (2020)]

# Dileptons as “timer”, thermometer & viscometer

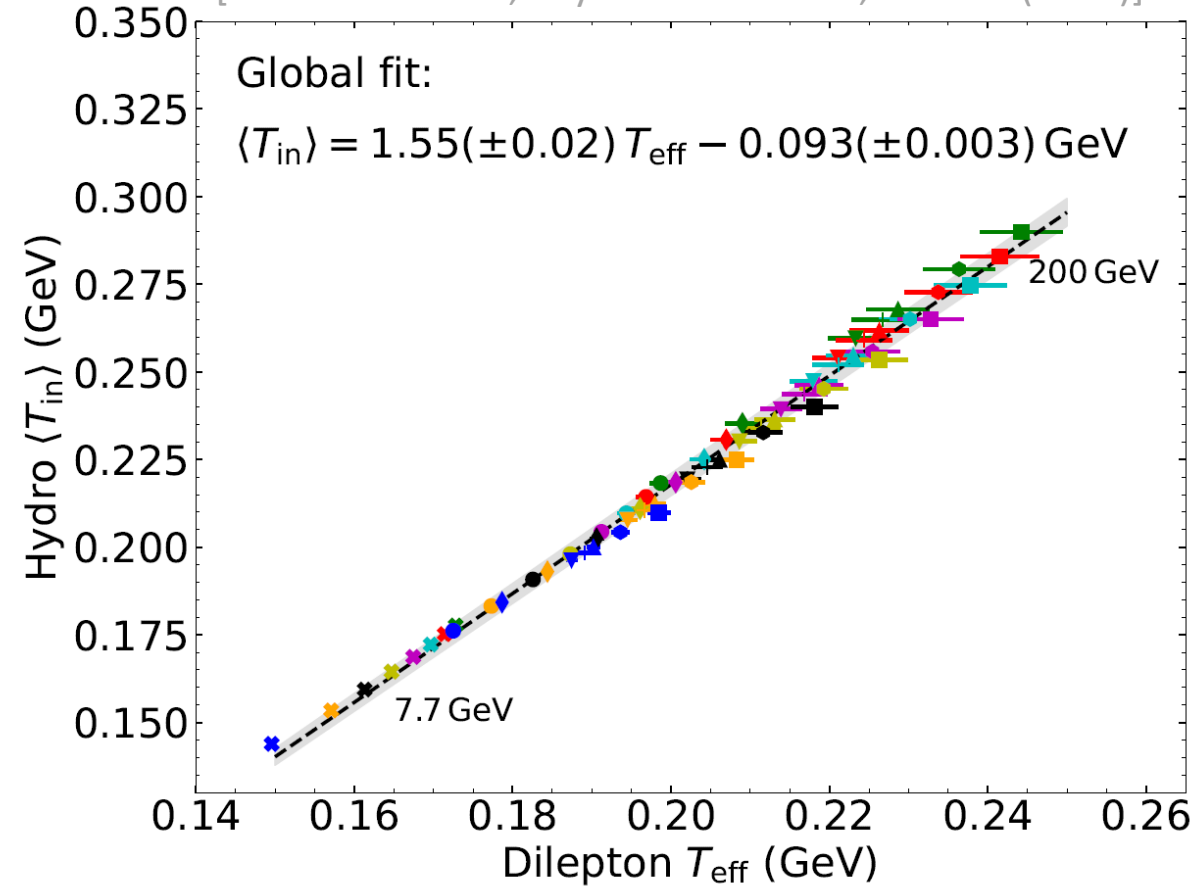
- Size of  $\int \frac{dN}{dM} \in 0.3 < M < 0.7 \text{ GeV}$
- Slope of  $\frac{dN}{dM} \in 1.5 < M < 2.5 \text{ GeV}$

[R. Rapp, H. van Hees, Phys. Lett. B 753, 586-590 (2016)]

[STAR, arxiv:2402.01998]



[J. Churchill et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 132, 172301 (2024)]

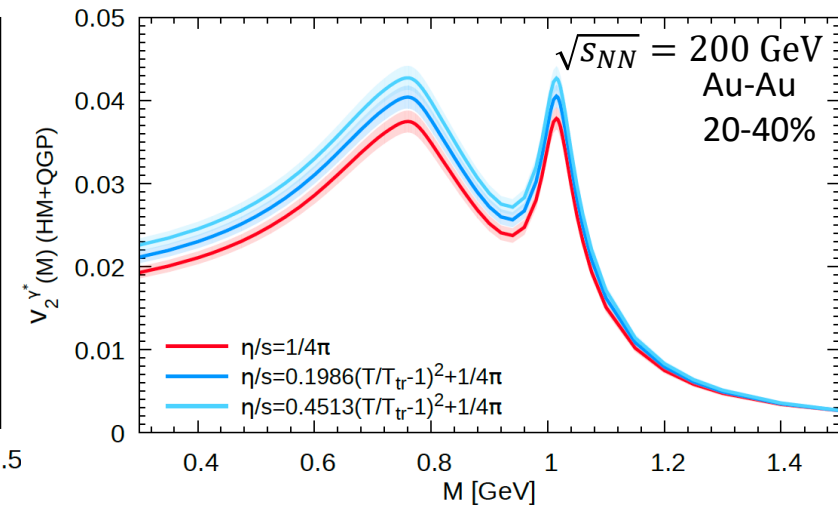
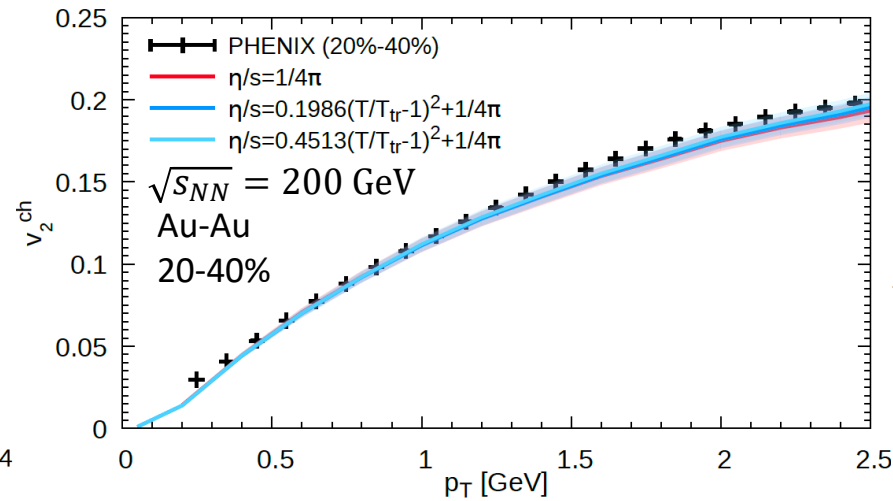
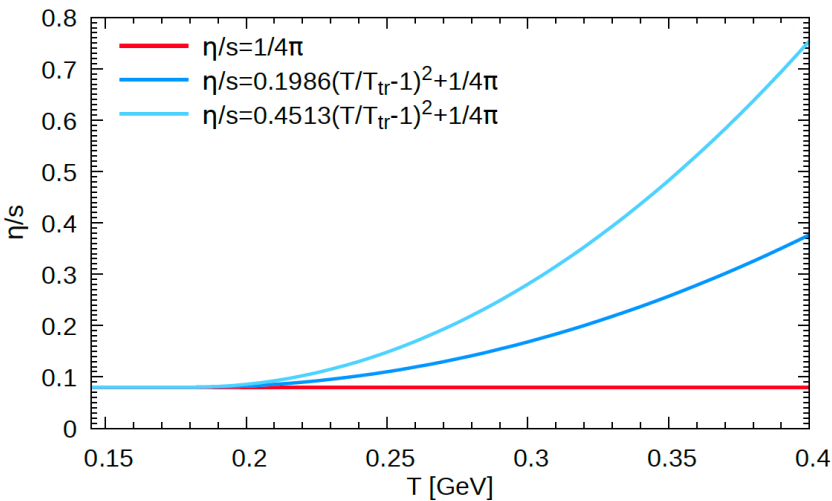


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[R. Rapp, H. van Hees, Phys. Lett. B 753, 586-590 (2016)]

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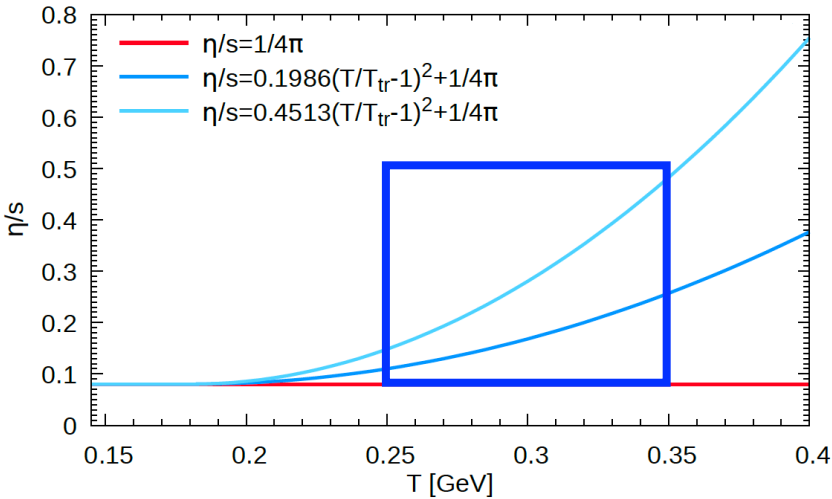
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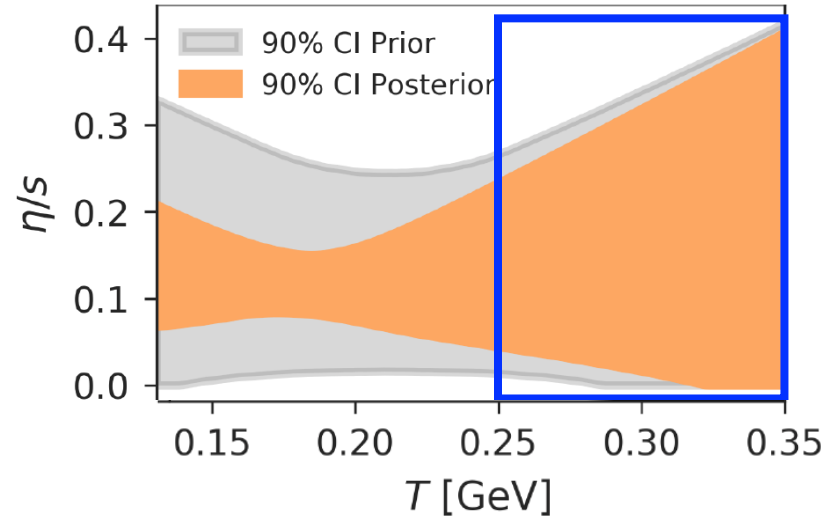
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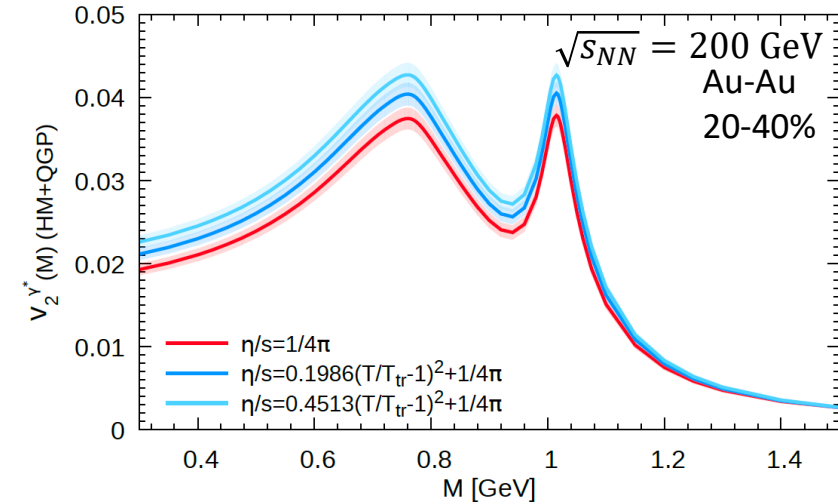
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[G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 98, 014902 (2018)]



[D. Everett et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 242301 (2021)]



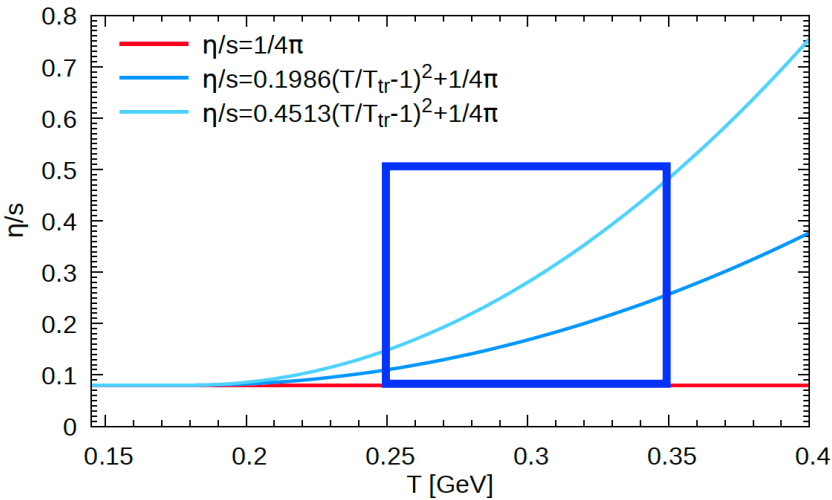
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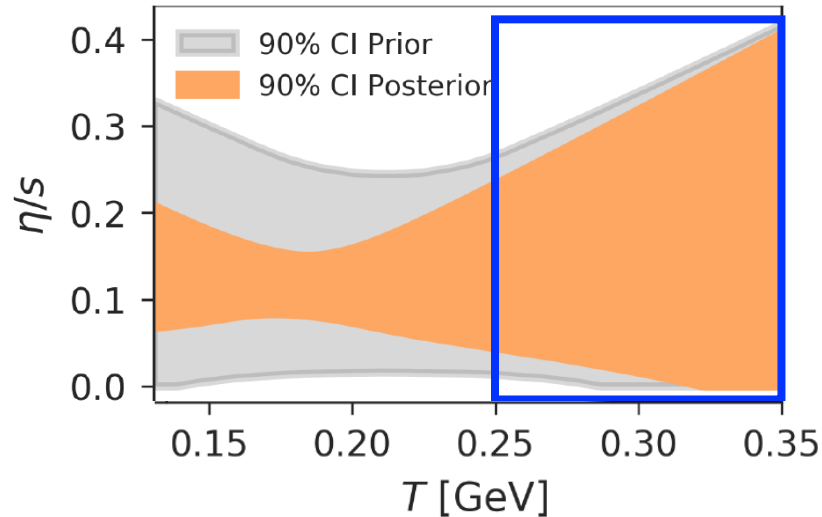
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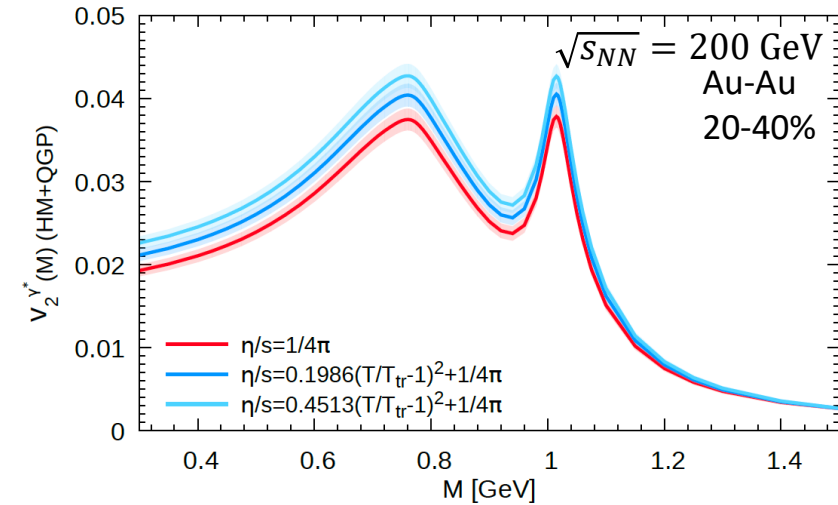
[J. Churchill et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 132, 172301 (2024)]



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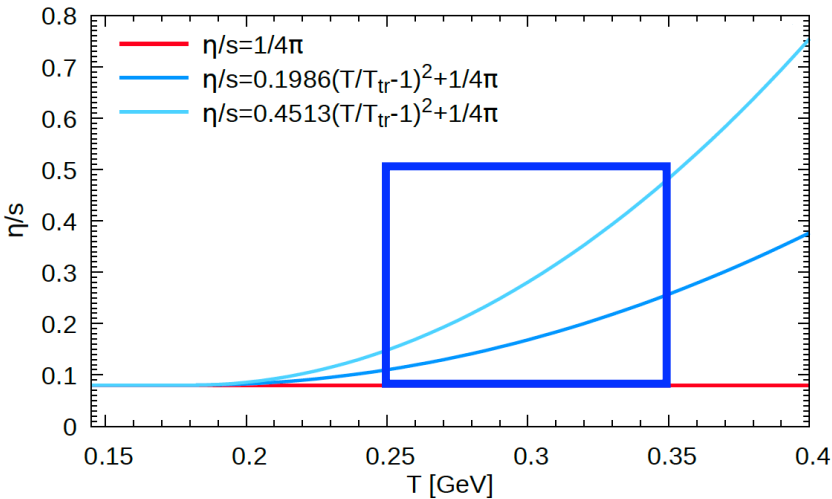
- A joint Bayesian analysis (dileptons & hadrons) to help constrain on  $(\eta/s)(T)$ .

# Dileptons as “timer”, thermometer & viscometer ✓

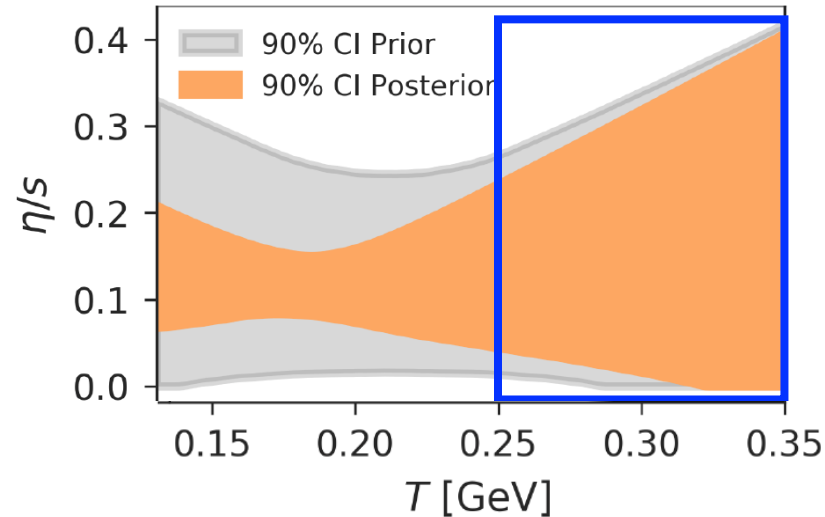
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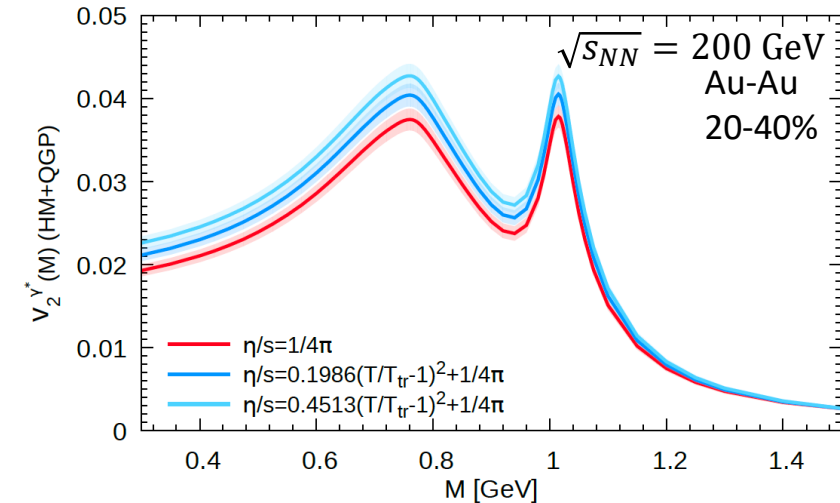
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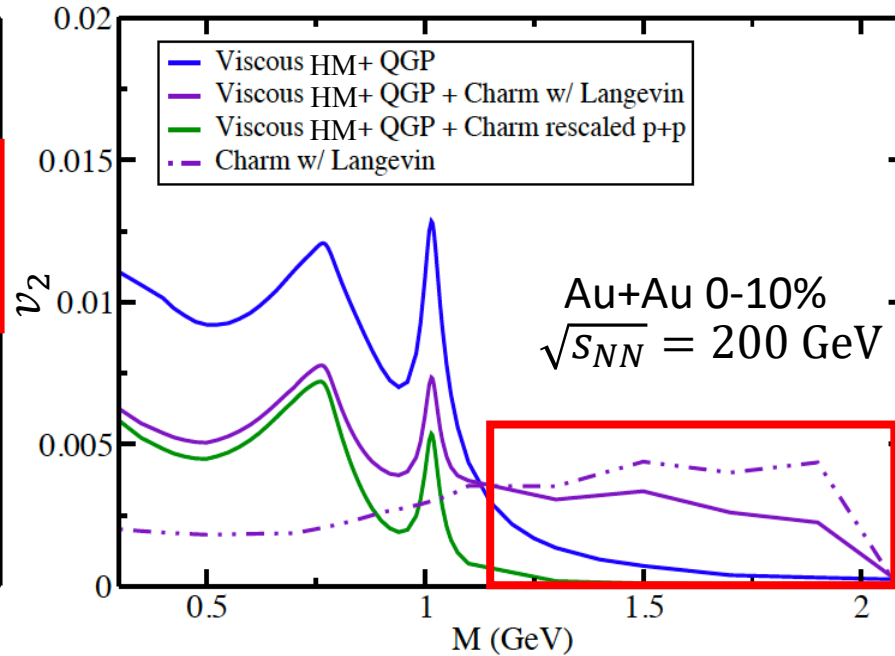
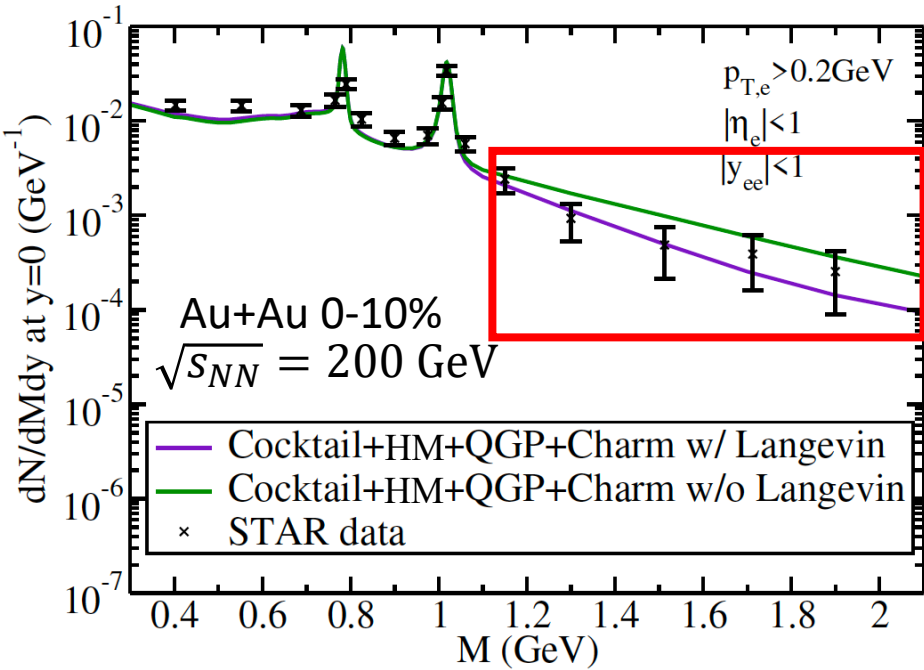
- A joint Bayesian analysis (dileptons & hadrons) to help constrain on  $(\eta/s)(T)$ .
- An accurate measurement of dilepton  $v_2$  is needed at high  $\sqrt{s}$   $\Rightarrow$  possible following ALICE upgrade

[CERN Yellow Rep. Monogr. 7, 1159 (2019)]



# Dilepton yield and $v_2$ at intermediate M

- Importance of semi-leptonic decays of open heavy flavor to explaining the data

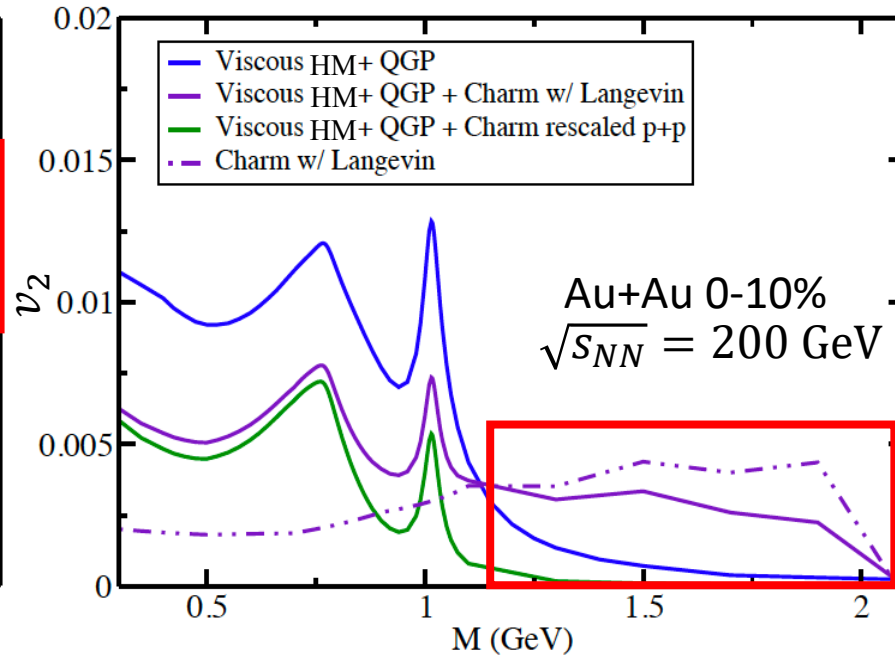
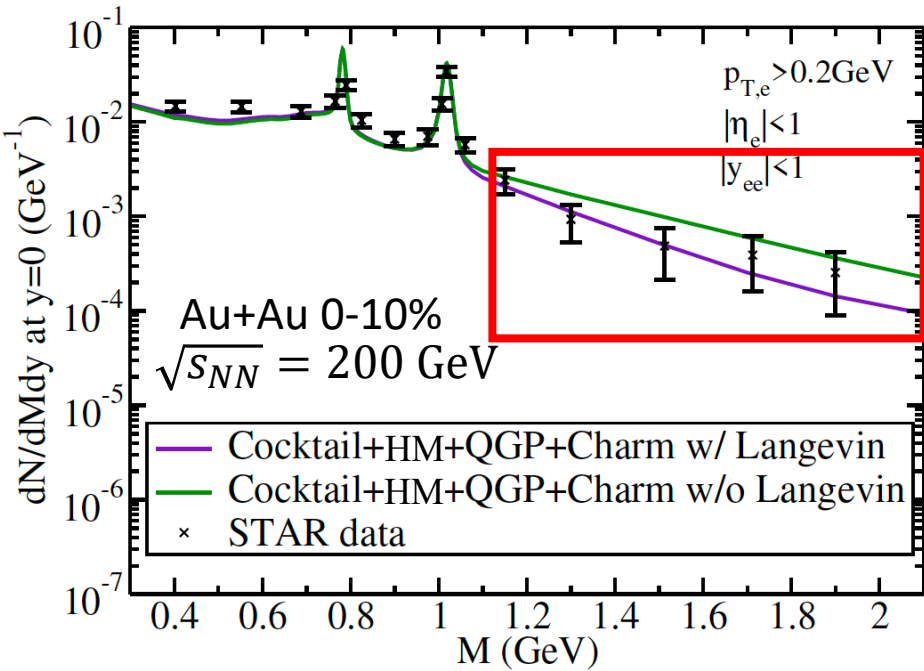


- RHIC data is better described if charm exchanges energy & momentum w/ QGP
- Charm's interaction w/ QGP generates dilepton  $v_2$ .

[G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 034904 (2014)]

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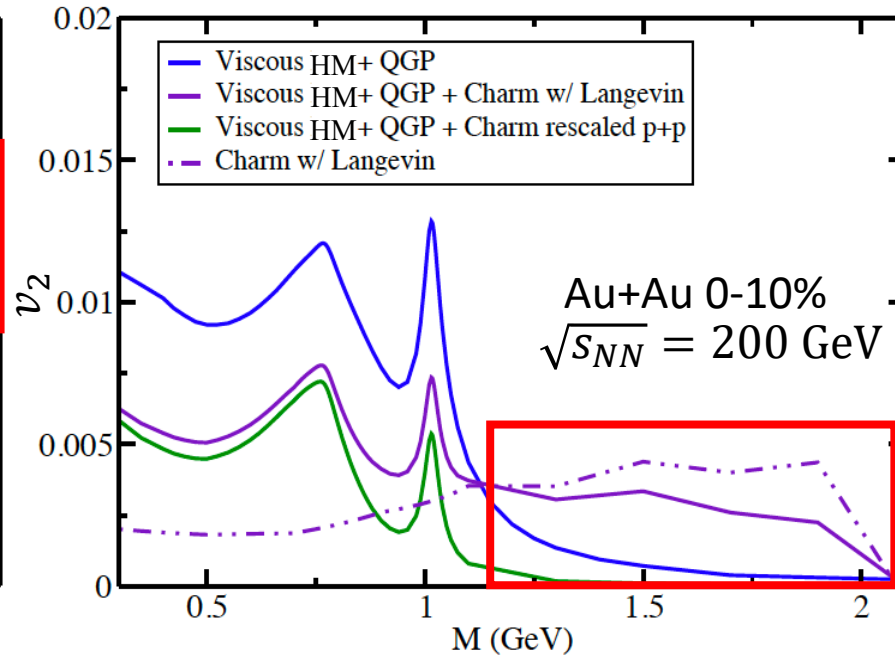
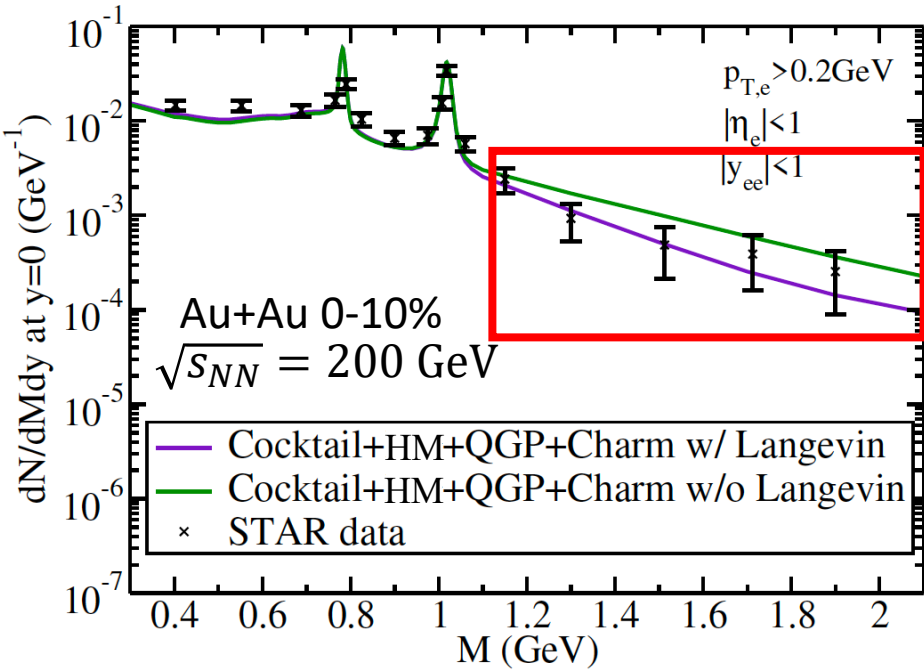
- $\frac{dN}{dM}$  and  $v_2$  in  $1 < M < 3$  GeV must be consistent with heavy flavor (HF)  $R_{AA}$  and hadronic HF  $v_2$ .

This is *non-trivial* as dileptons follow the HF pair traversing the QGP.

- Another handle on heavy flavor transport coefficients (e.g.  $\hat{q}_{QCD}$ ). [Y. Chen, Tues 9AM]

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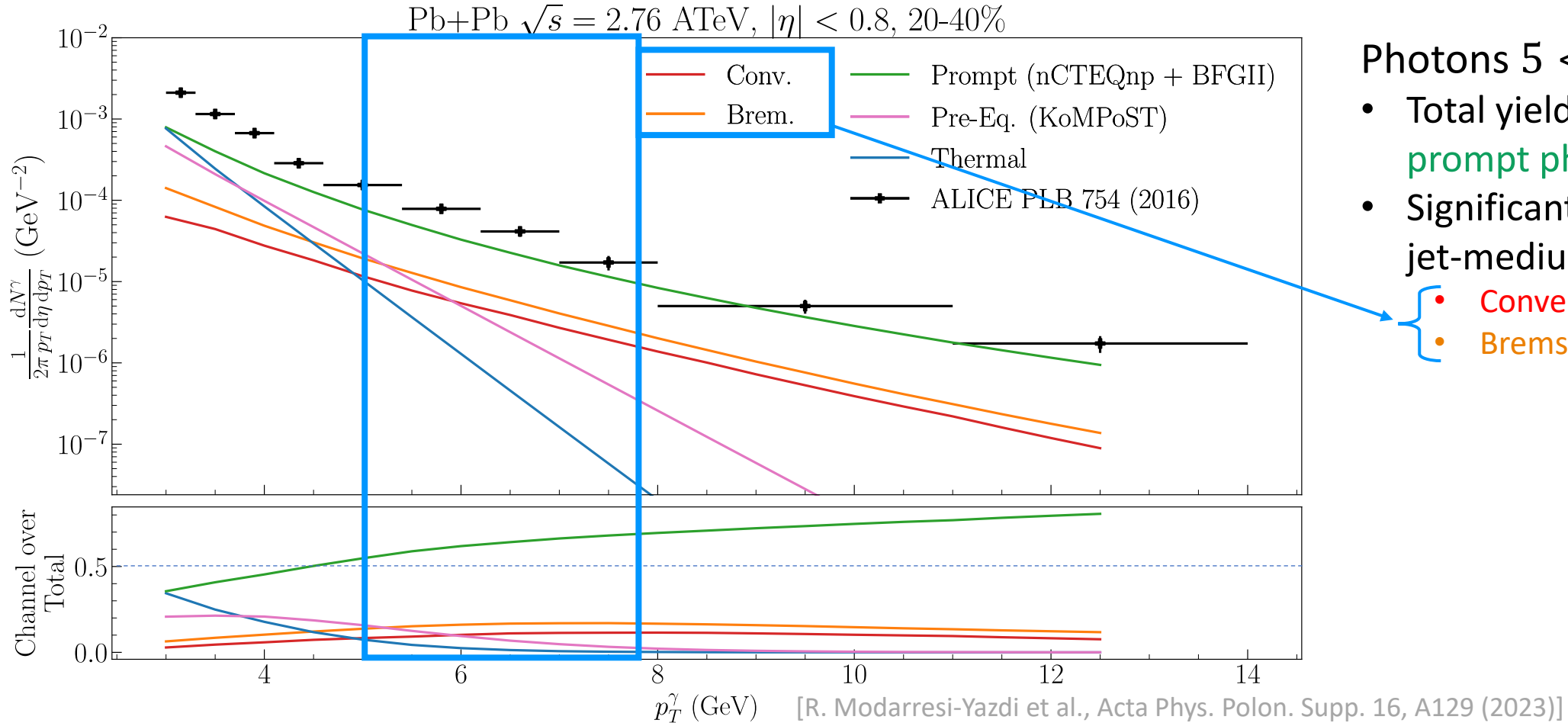
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- Another handle on heavy flavor transport coefficients (e.g.  $\hat{q}_{QCD}$ ). [Y. Chen, Tues 9AM]
- Dilepton  $v_2$  is simultaneously sensitive to  $\hat{q}_{QCD}$  and viscosities!

# Photon production at intermediate $p_T$

- Jet-medium EM production is directly sensitive to  $\hat{q}_{QCD}$ , **avoiding** hadronization effects
- Jet-medium photons are composed of: conversion and bremsstrahlung.



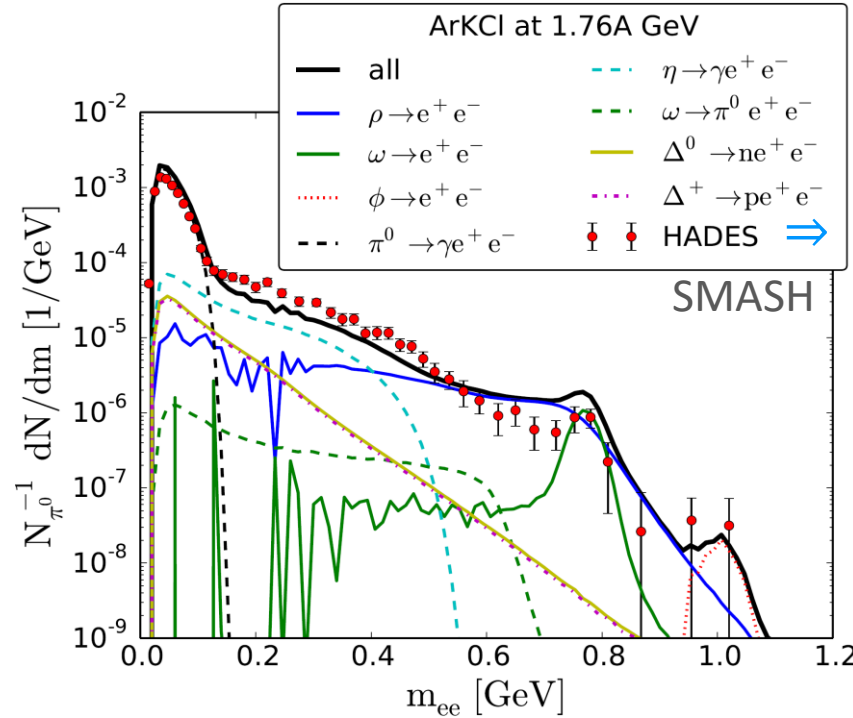
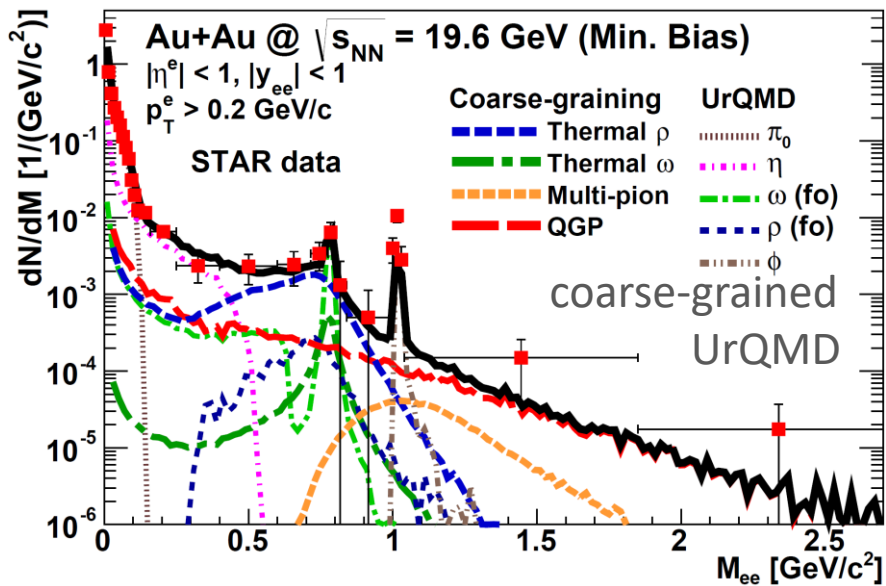
Photons  $5 < p_T < 8$  GeV:

- Total yield dominated by **prompt photons**
- Significant contribution from jet-medium  $\approx 30\%$ 
  - Conversion  $\approx 12\%$
  - Bremsstrahlung  $\approx 18\%$

# Dileptons from transport

- At lower  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ , more dileptons from transport

[S. Endres et al., Phys. Rev. C 94, 024912 (2016)]

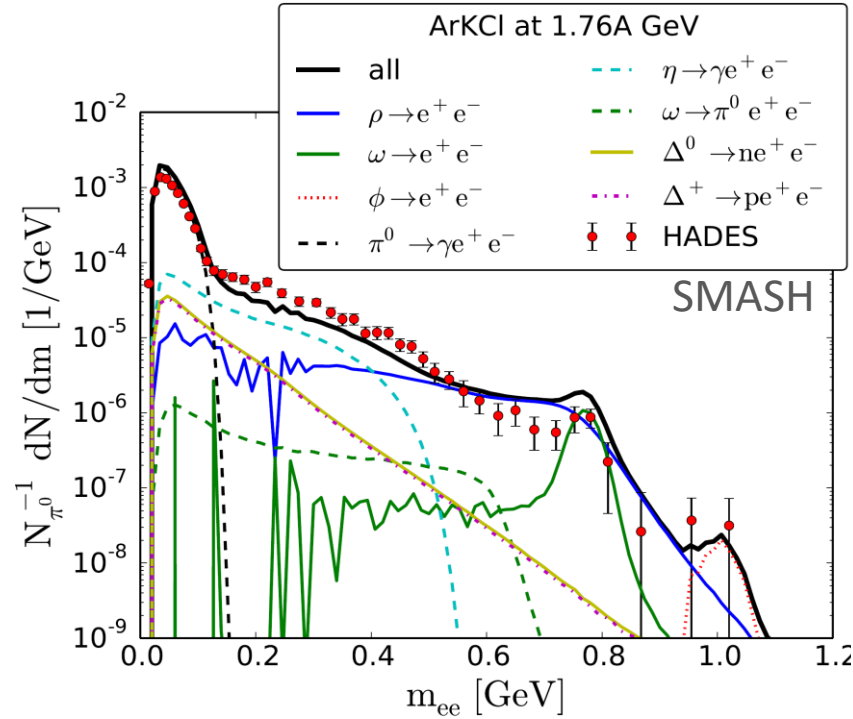
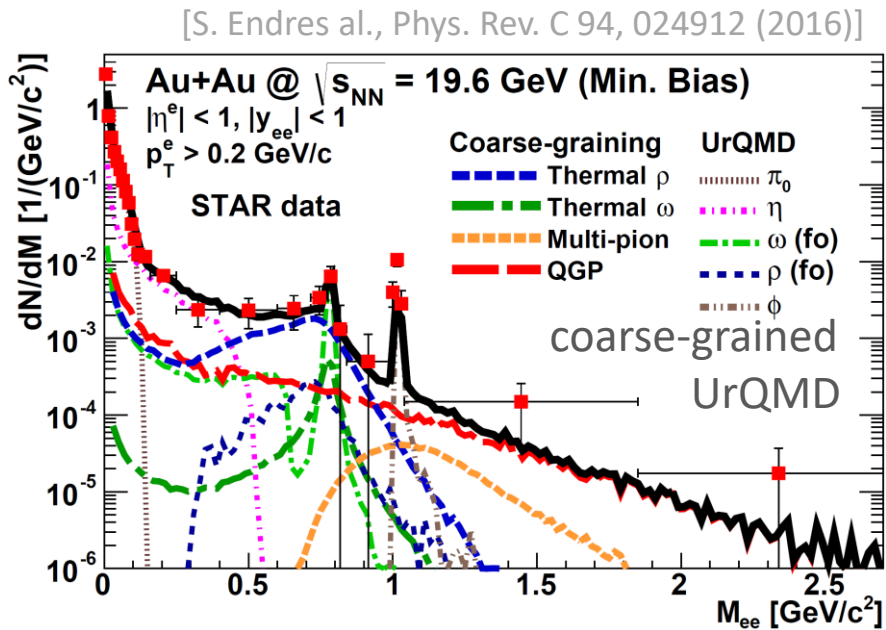


[N. Schild, Mon, 5:05PM]

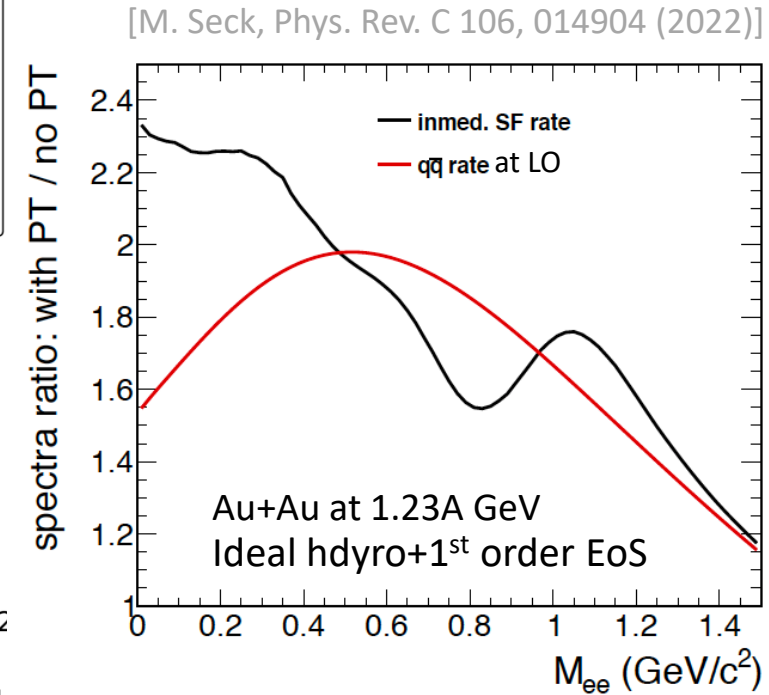
[J. Staundenmaier, Phys. Rev. C 98, 054908 (2018)]

# Dileptons from transport & hydrodynamics

- At lower  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ , more dileptons from transport & hydrodynamics at  $\mu_B > 0$  with 1<sup>st</sup> order PT EoS

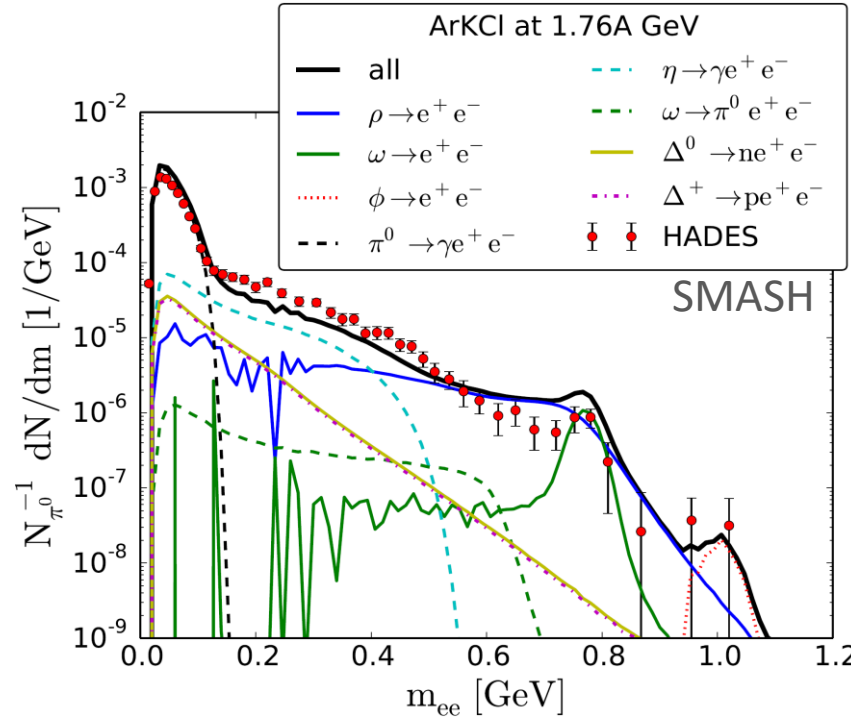
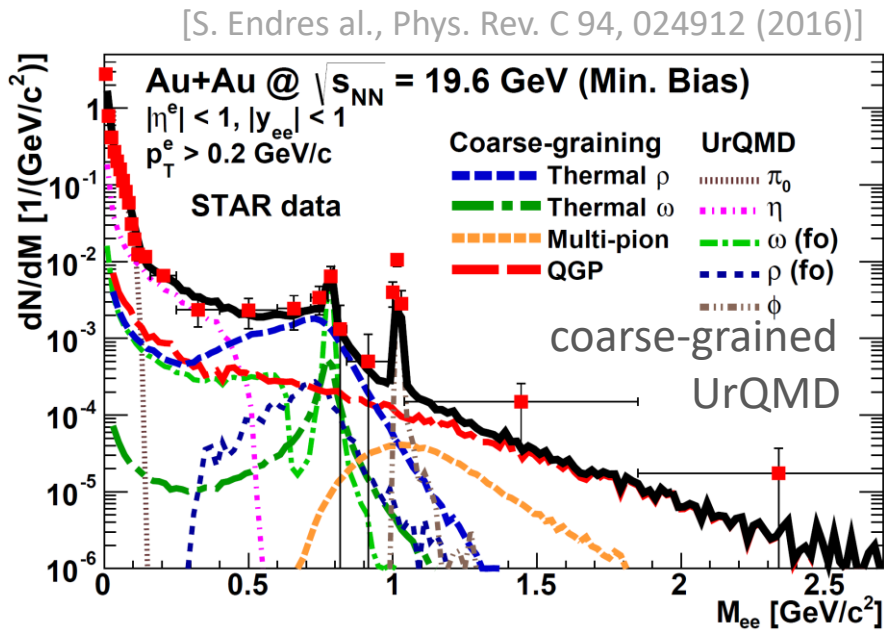


[J. Staundenmaier, Phys. Rev. C 98, 054908 (2018)]

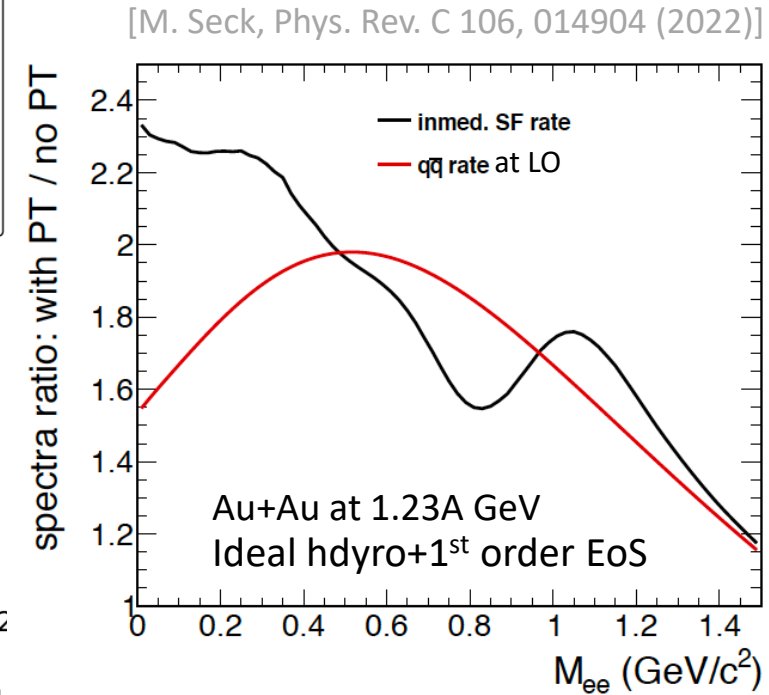


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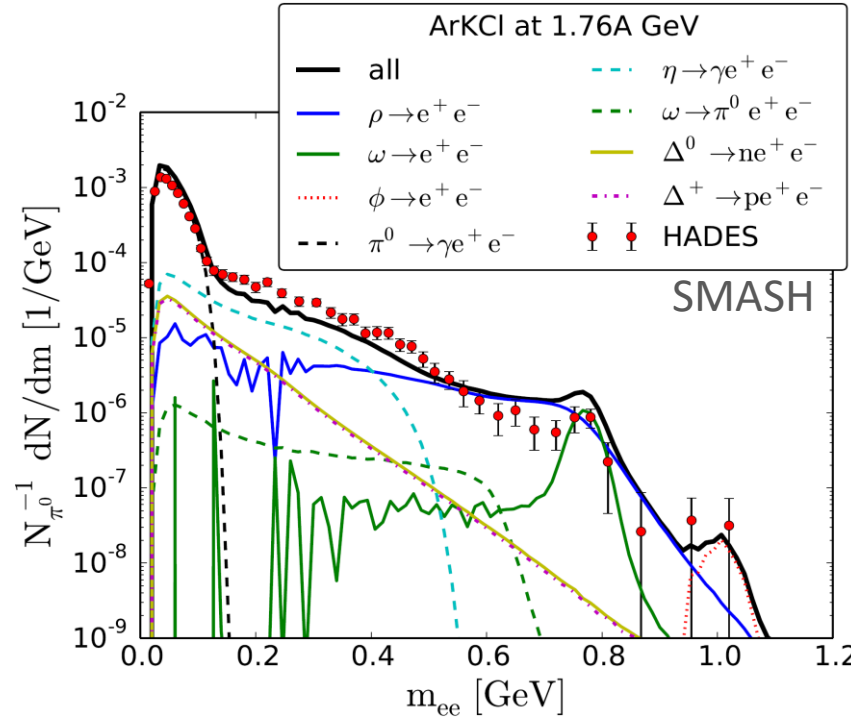
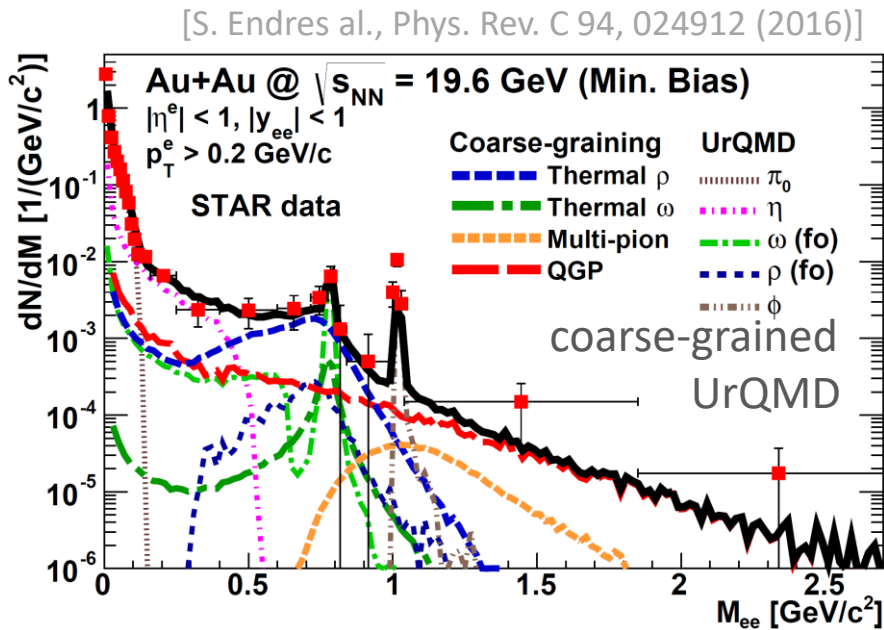


- Consistent description at all beam energies  $\Rightarrow$  combining transport & hydrodynamical calculations.

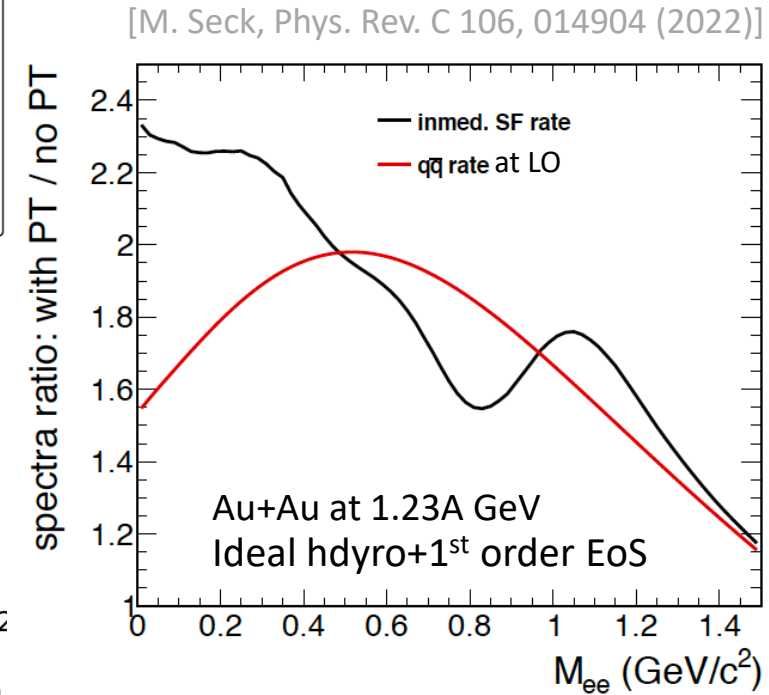


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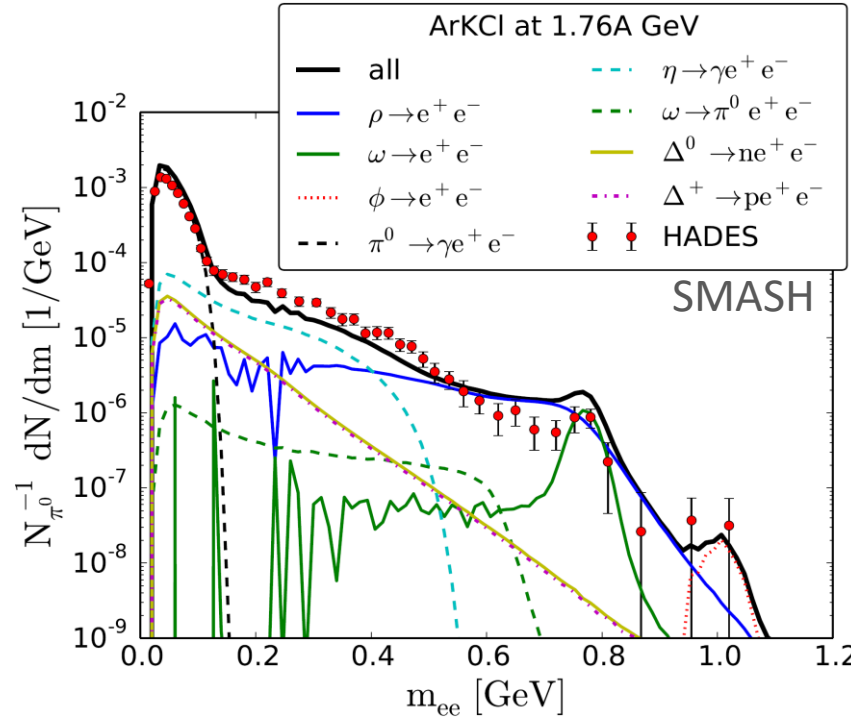
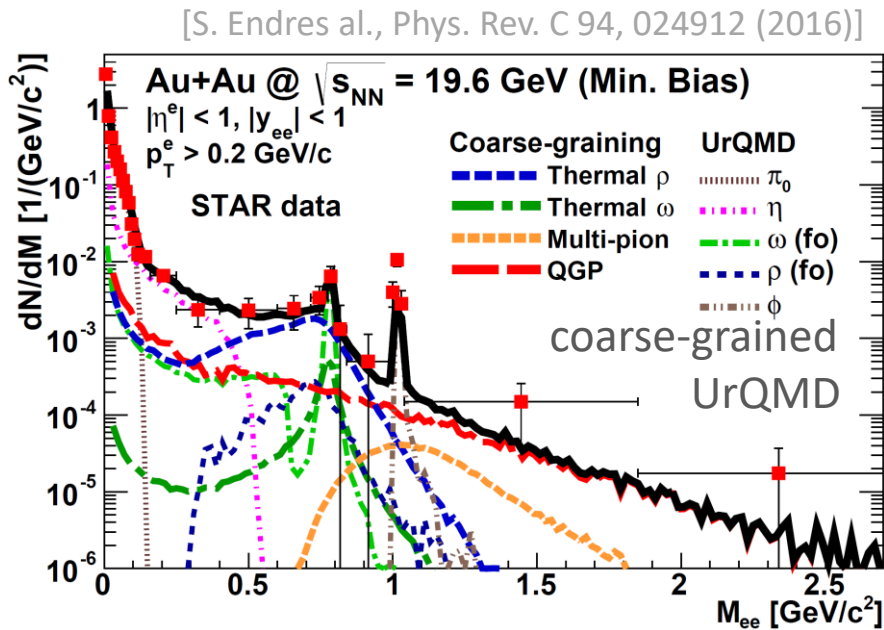
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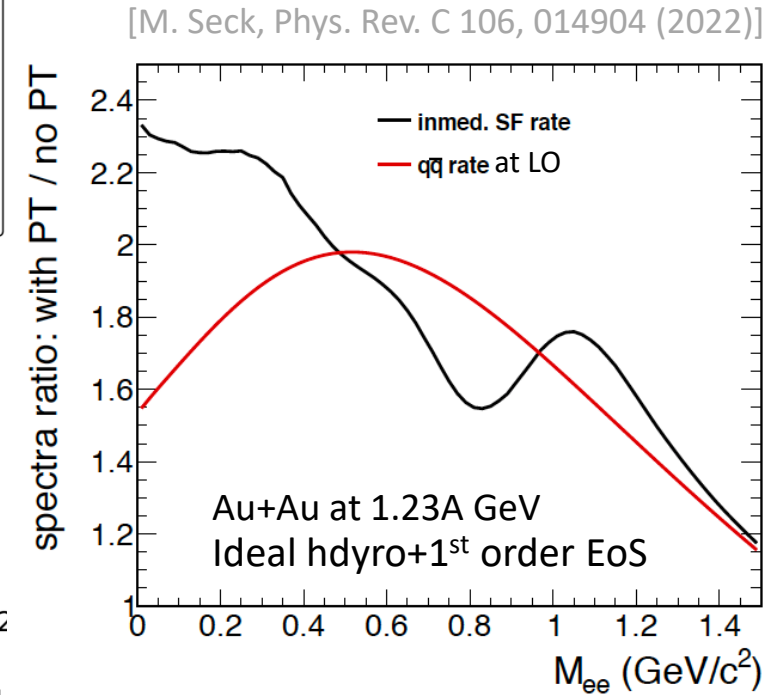
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- Consistent description at all beam energies  $\Rightarrow$  combining transport & hydrodynamical calculations.
- No more jets at lower  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ : **only** penetrating probes sensitive to QCD dofs are **EM**.
- Bayesian comparisons of dileptons at various  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$   $\Rightarrow$  learn more dilepton production mechanisms
  - Exclude rates w/o chiral symmetry restoration by comparison with data?
  - Determine **uncertainties** of calculations & accurate measurements

# Summary & Outlook

## ✓ Improved rates

- NLO pQCD comparable with lattice QCD
- Hadronic rates are now including chiral symmetry restoration effects

## ✓ Better medium simulations

- Hydrodynamic production of EM probes include off-equilibrium dynamics (i.e., viscous effects) and many different sources of EM production are included.

## ✓ What was/can be done

- EM probes possess **simultaneous** sensitivity to **hydrodynamical** transport coefficients (e.g.,  $\zeta, \eta, \tau_\pi, \dots$ ) **and jet-related** transport coefficient  $\hat{q}_{QCD}$  (via jet-medium photons and open heavy flavor dileptons)
- Dynamics of quark generation during the creation of the QGP can be explored via EM probes

## ➤ Future directions

- Determine uncertainties of EM probes calculations (e.g. viscous corrections) for better estimation of transport coefficients be it first order (e.g.,  $\zeta, \eta, \hat{q} \dots$ ).
- Bayesian analysis using hadron & EM probes with more precise data
- More measurements of dilepton  $v_2$  needed

Thank you

Questions?

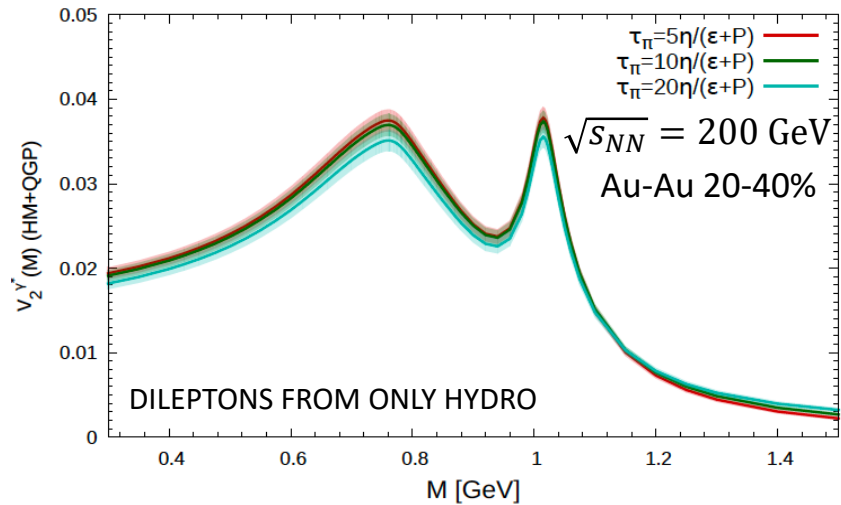
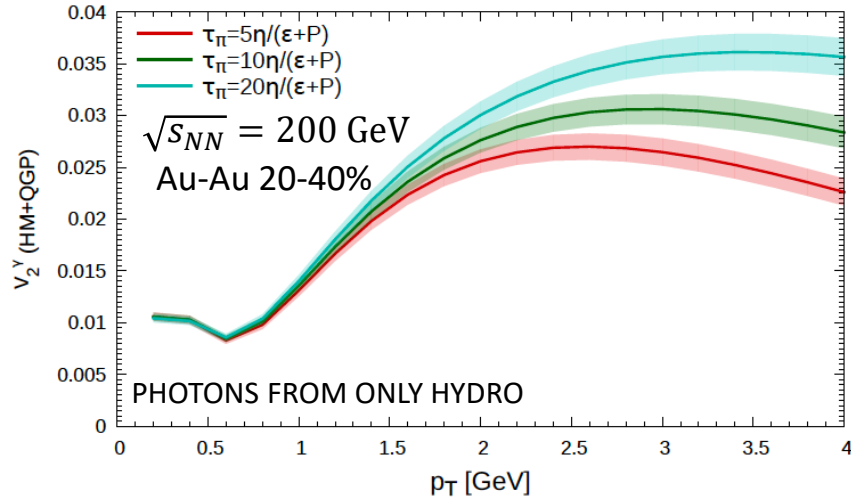
Backup

# EM probes sensitivity to other transport coefficients

- Sensitivity to second order transport coefficient

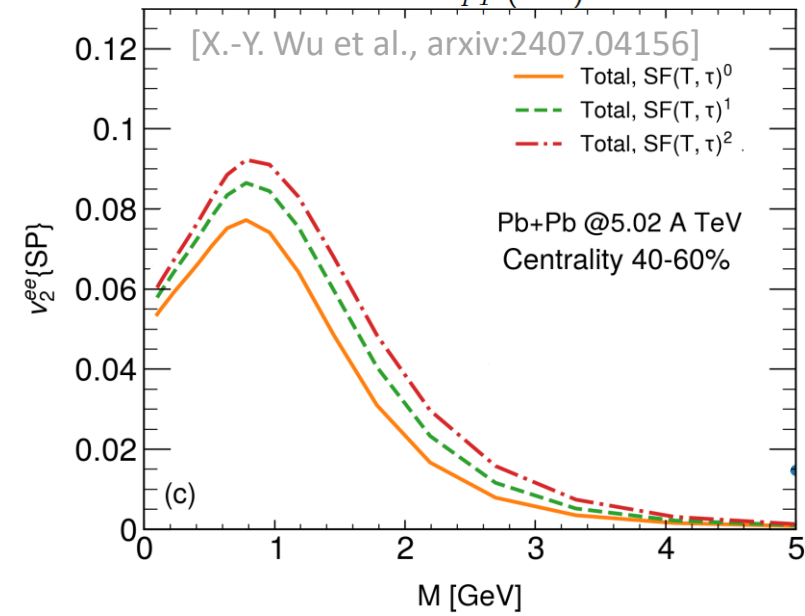
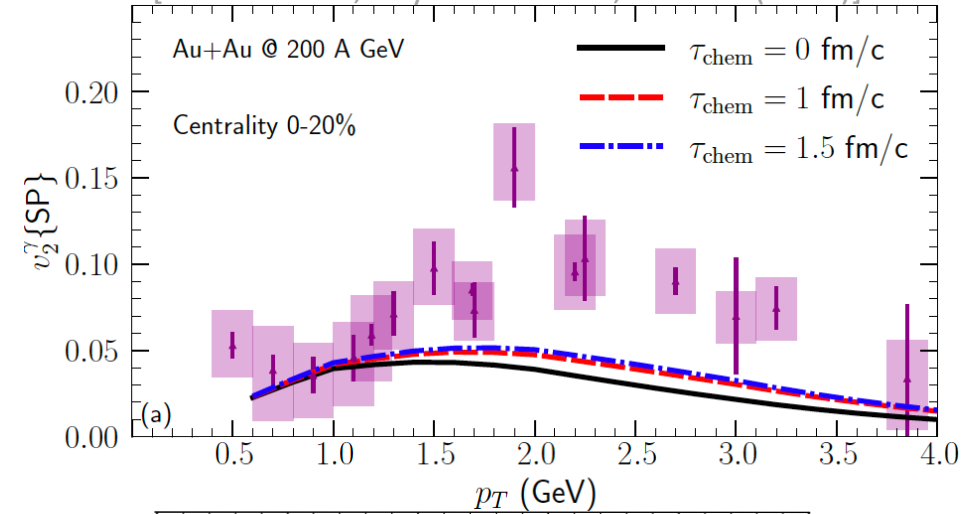
$$\tau_\pi = b_\pi \eta / (\varepsilon + P)$$

[G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 94, 014904 (2016)]



- Sensitivity to chemical equilibration

[C. Gale et al., Phys. Rev. C 105, 014909 (2022)]

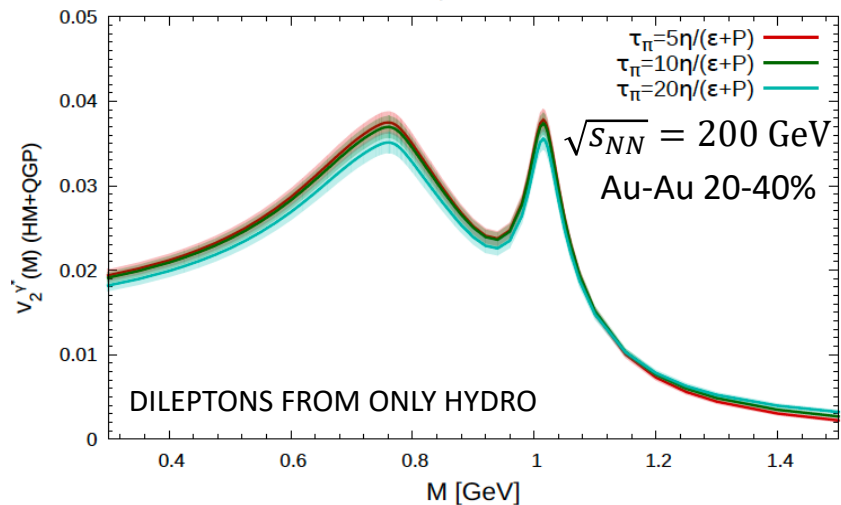
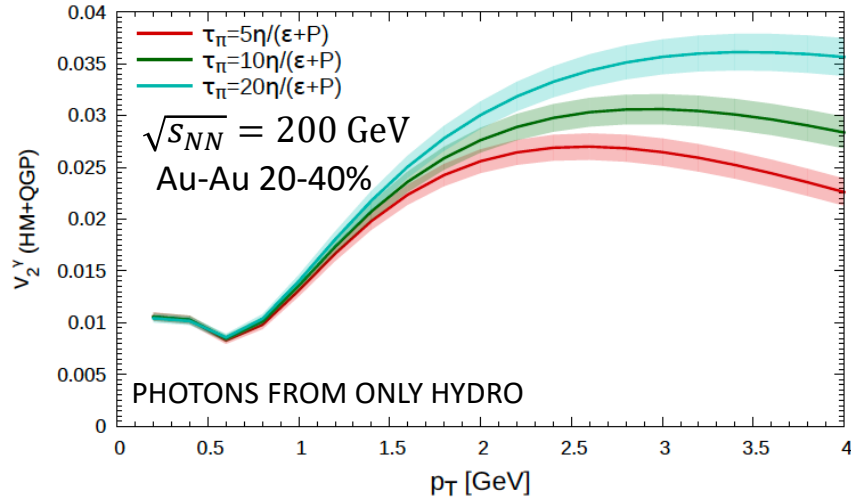


# EM probes sensitivity to transport coefficients

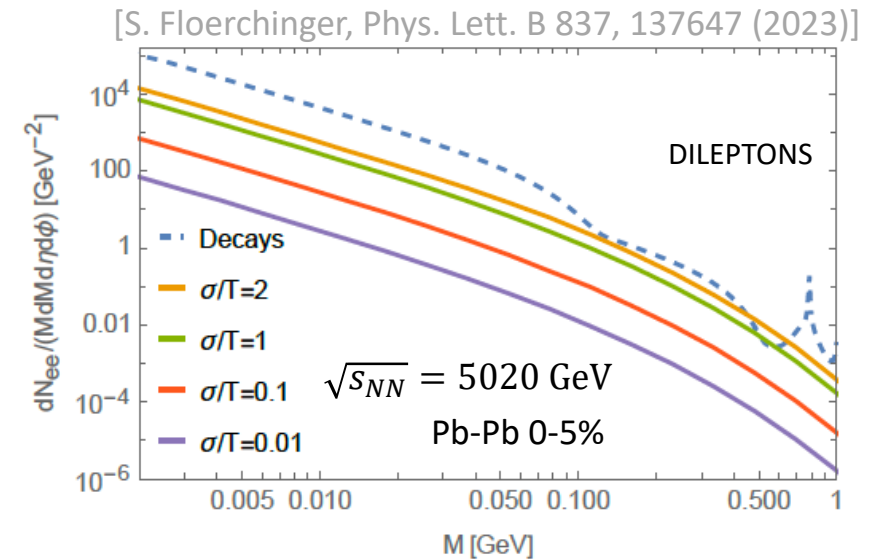
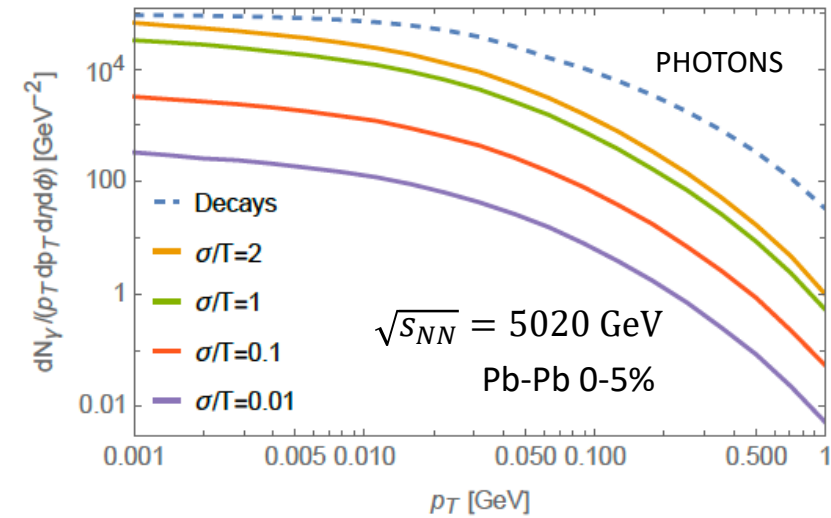
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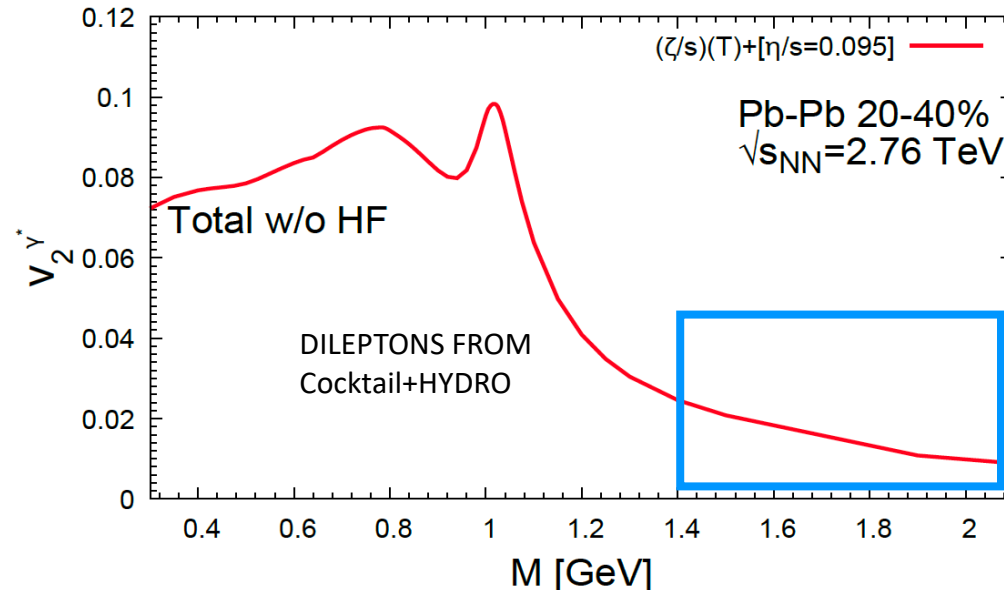
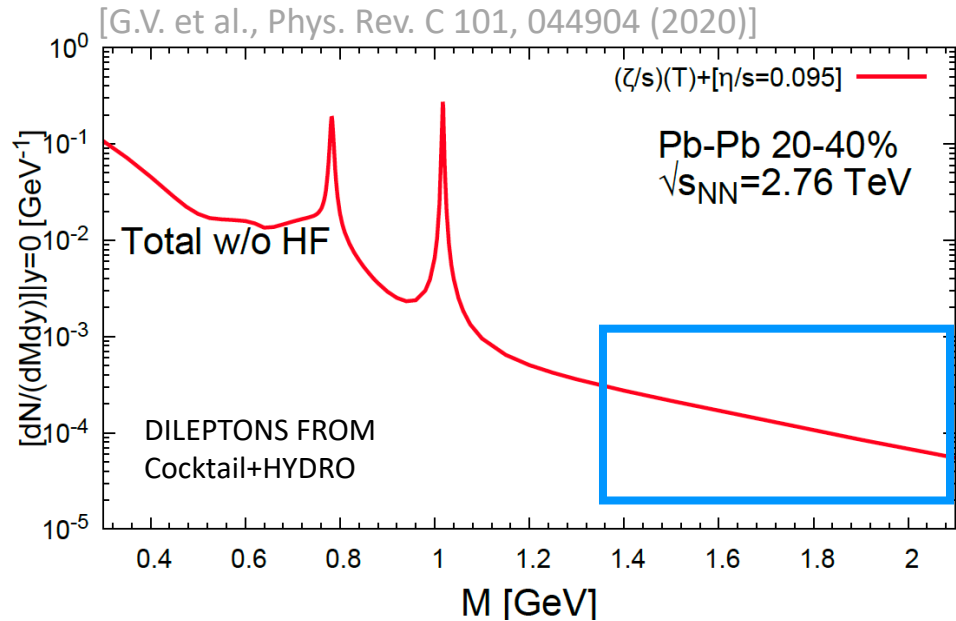


- Sensitivity to electrical conductivity using spectral function from EM current in hydro



# Dilepton flow at $M \gtrsim 1$ GeV as probe of QGP

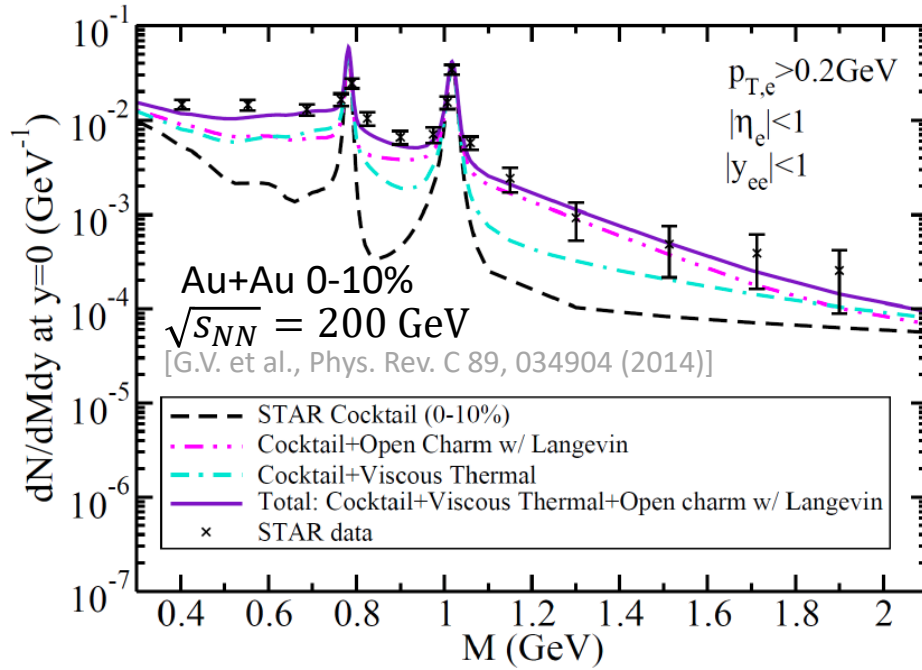
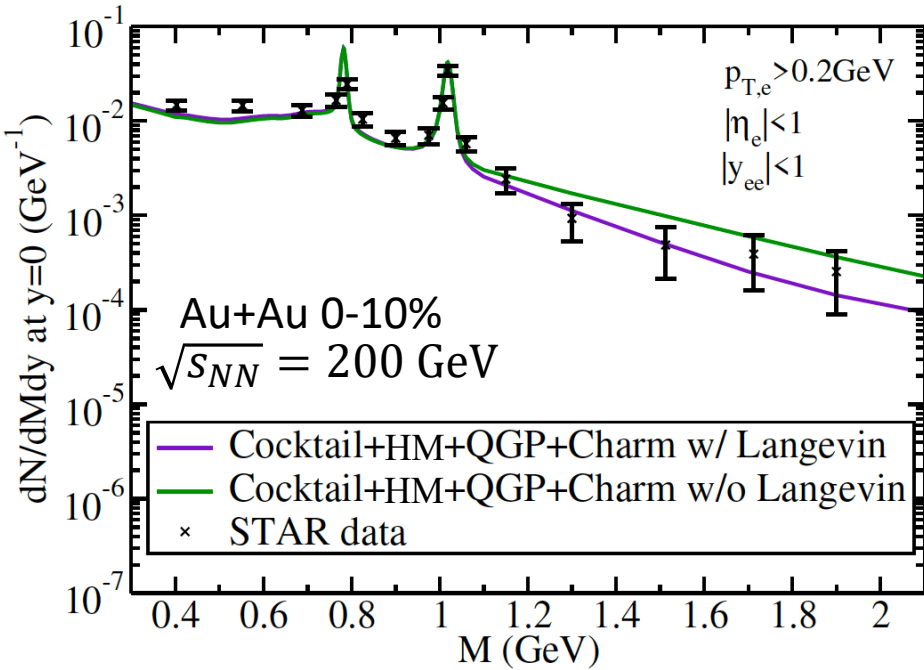
- A heavy flavor tracker can **reduce/remove** HF signal exposing **direct QGP radiation** ( $M \gtrsim 1$  GeV)
  - Need to measure  $\frac{dN}{dM}$  and  $v_2$ ! [also, c.f. B. S. Kasmaei, M. Strickland, Phys. Rev. D 99, 034015 (2019)]





# Dilepton calculations compared to data

- Comparison with data



Cocktail+Thermal nor  
Cocktail+Charm w/ Langevin  
are not enough to explain data  
⇒ all three are sources  
needed, in fact...

[G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 034904 (2014)]

# Photon sources

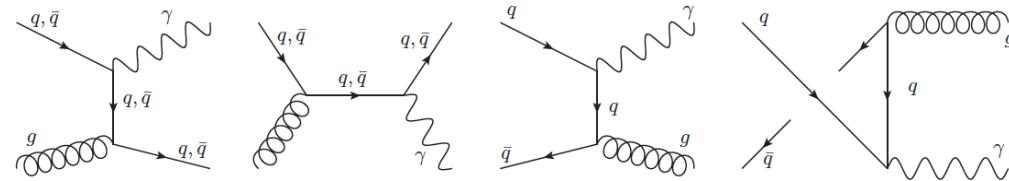
- Photons probing early dynamics:
  - Primordial photons / Jet-medium photons

$$k^0 \frac{d^3 \sigma_{A+A \rightarrow \gamma+X}}{d^3 k} = \sum_{a,b,c} f_{a/A}(x_a, Q_{fact}^2) \otimes f_{b/A}(x_{\bar{q}}, Q_{fact}^2) \otimes k^0 \frac{d^3 \hat{\sigma}_{a+b \rightarrow c+\gamma}(Q_{ren}^2)}{d^3 k} \\ + \sum_{a,b,d} f_{a/A}(x_a, Q_{fact}^2) \otimes f_{b/A}(x_{\bar{q}}, Q_{fact}^2) \otimes k^0 \frac{d^3 \hat{\sigma}_{a+b \rightarrow c+d}(Q_{ren}^2)}{d^3 k} \otimes D_{\gamma/c}(Q_{frag}^2)$$

- Photons from jet-medium interaction

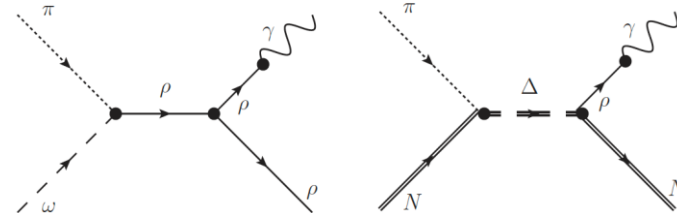
- Photons emitted during hydrodynamics

- Photons from hadronization



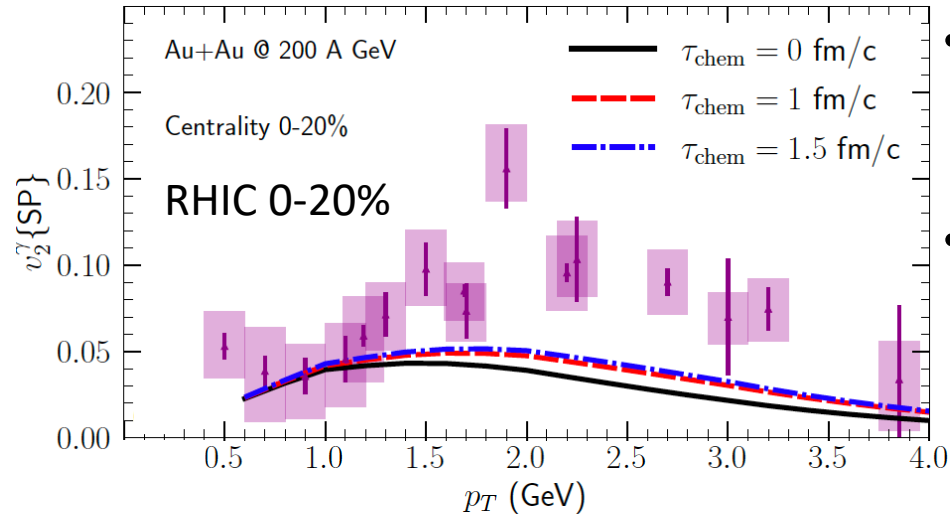
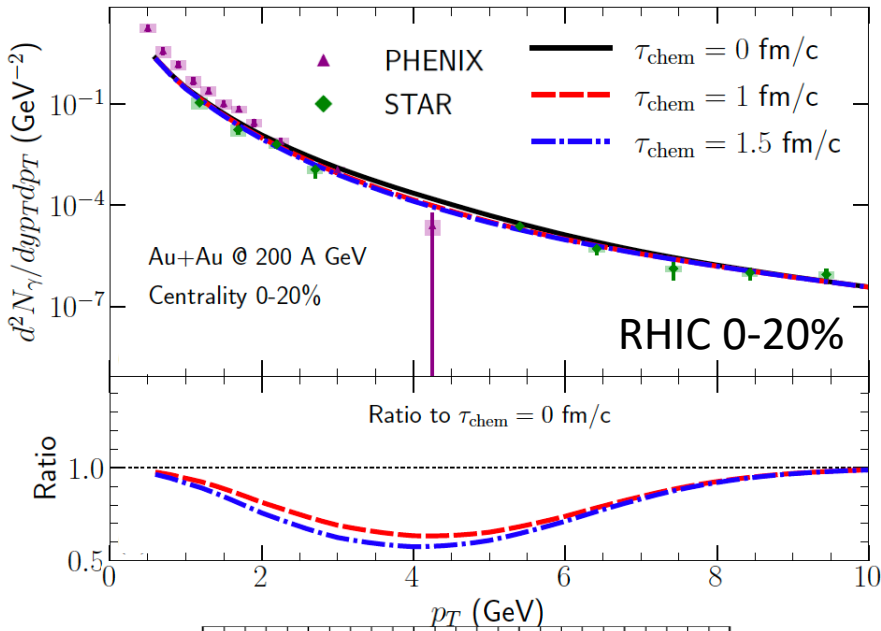
- Photons from hadronic transport

- Same photon matrix elements as in hydrodynamical calculations

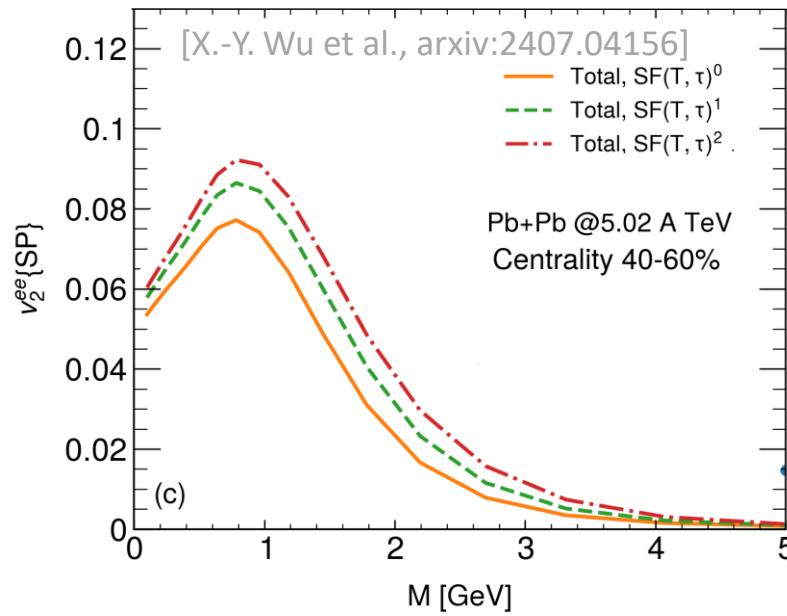
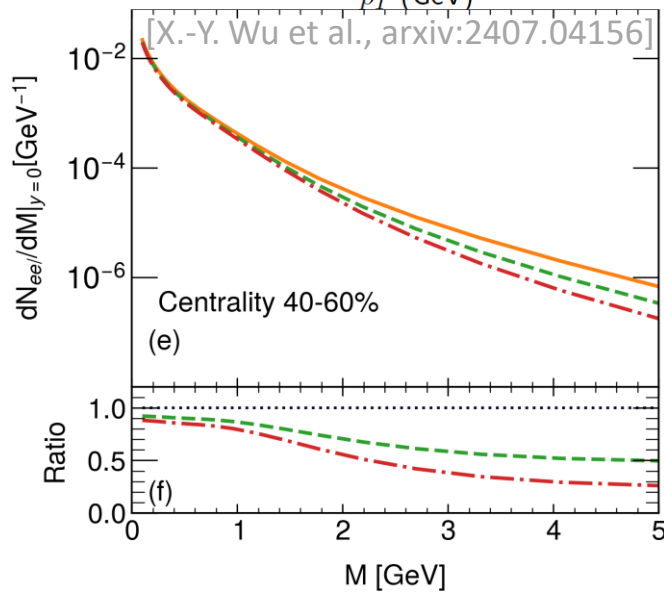


# Photon/Dilepton calculations vs data & Bayesian analysis

- Match  $T^{\mu\nu}$  (IP-Glasma)  $\Rightarrow T^{\mu\nu}$  (KØMPØST)  $\Rightarrow T^{\mu\nu}$  (Hydro)



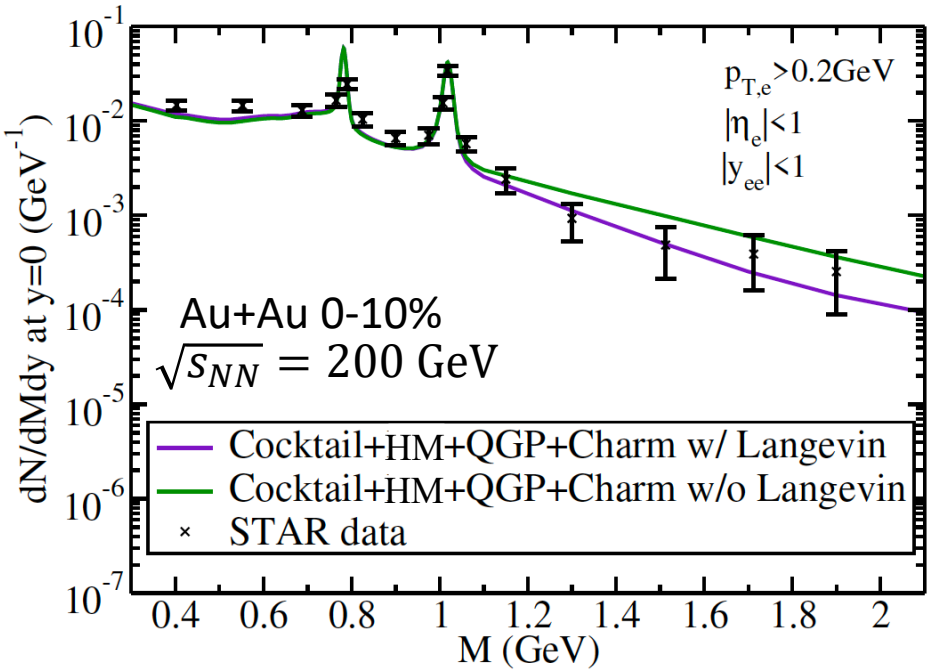
[C. Gale et al., Phys. Rev. C 105, 014909 (2022)]



- Photons are sensitive dynamics of quarks production CGC  $\rightarrow$  hydrodynamics
- Different sources are continuously being included, need to include theoretical uncertainties
- Bayesian Analysis using EM & hadron probes can hopefully constrain better the **transport coefficients** of QCD

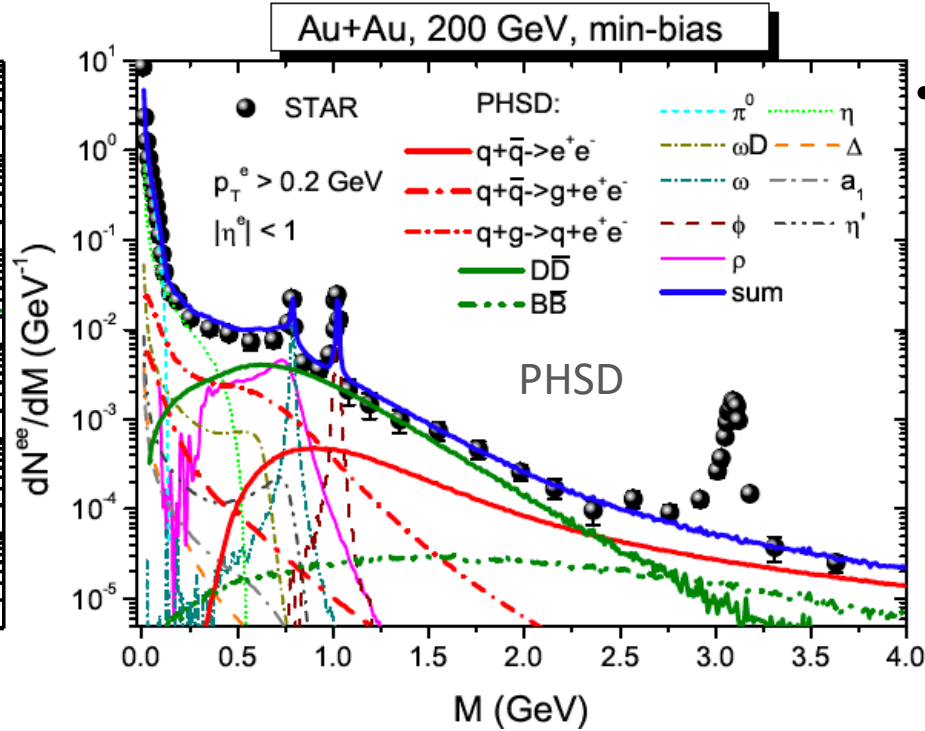
# Dilepton calculations compared to data

- Comparison with data



[G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 034904 (2014)]

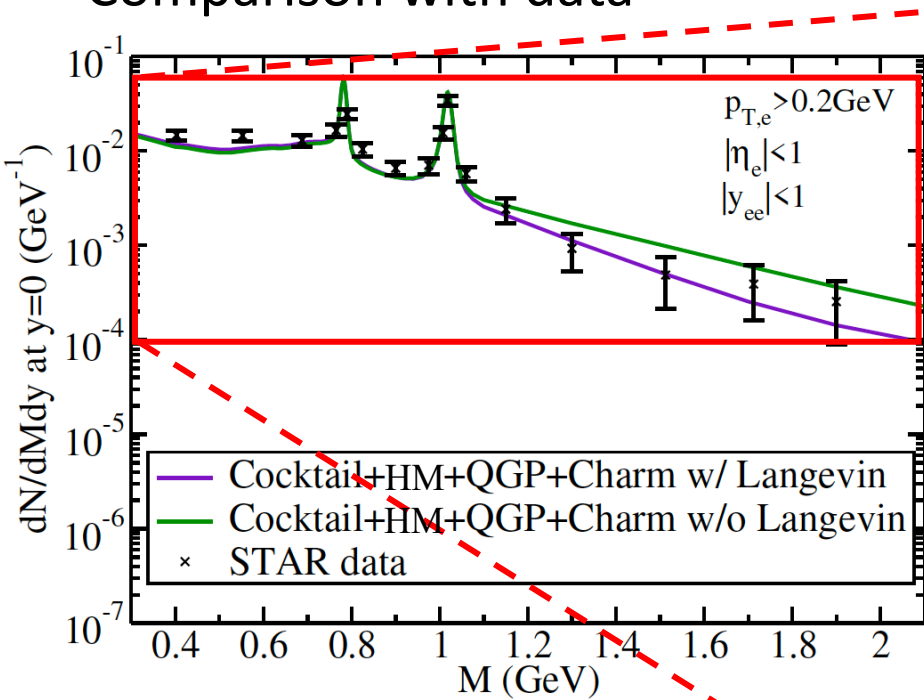
[T. Song et al., Phys. Rev. C 97, 064907 (2018)]



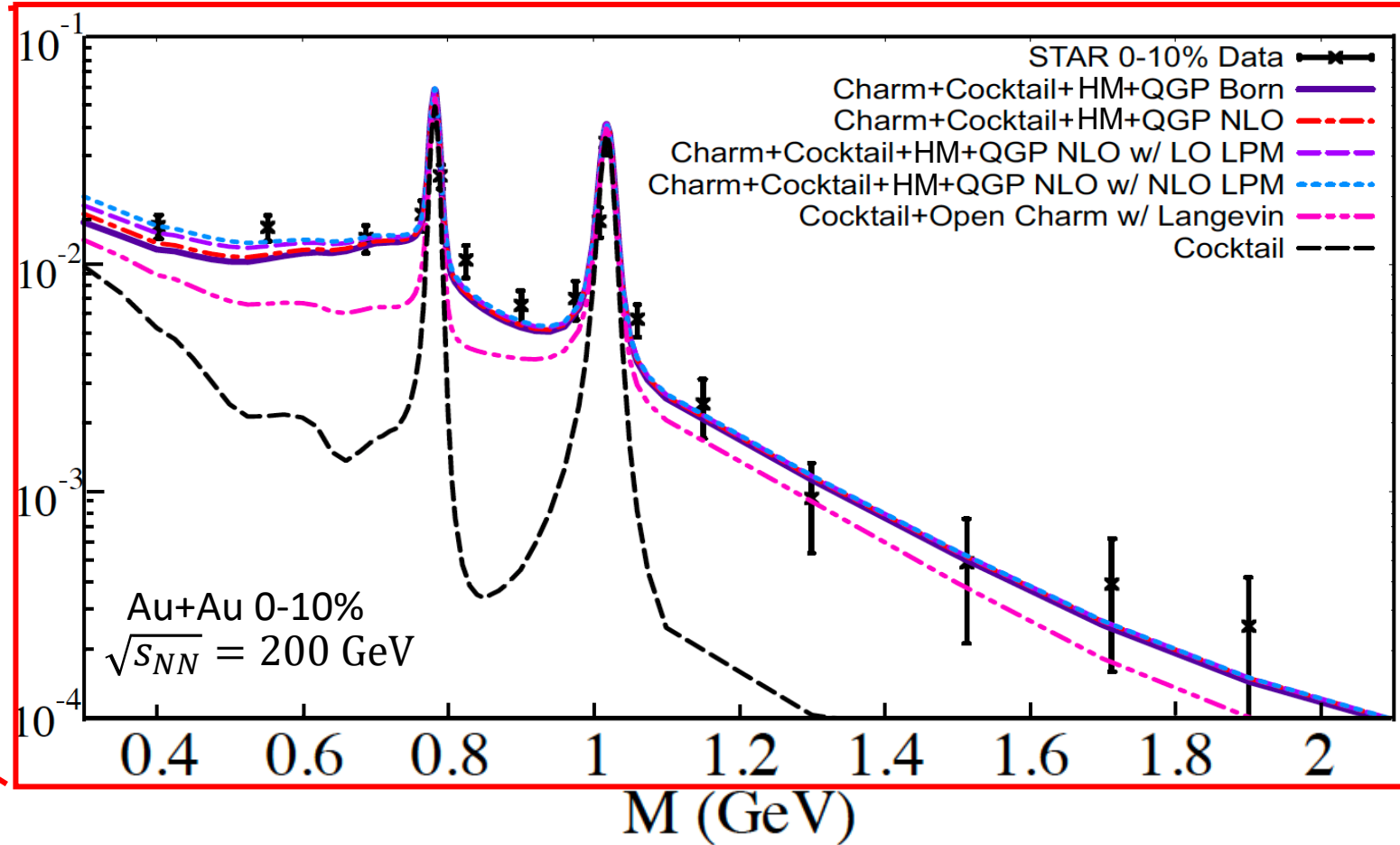
- RHIC data is better described if charm exchanges energy & momentum w/ QGP

# Dilepton calculations compared to data

- Comparison with data

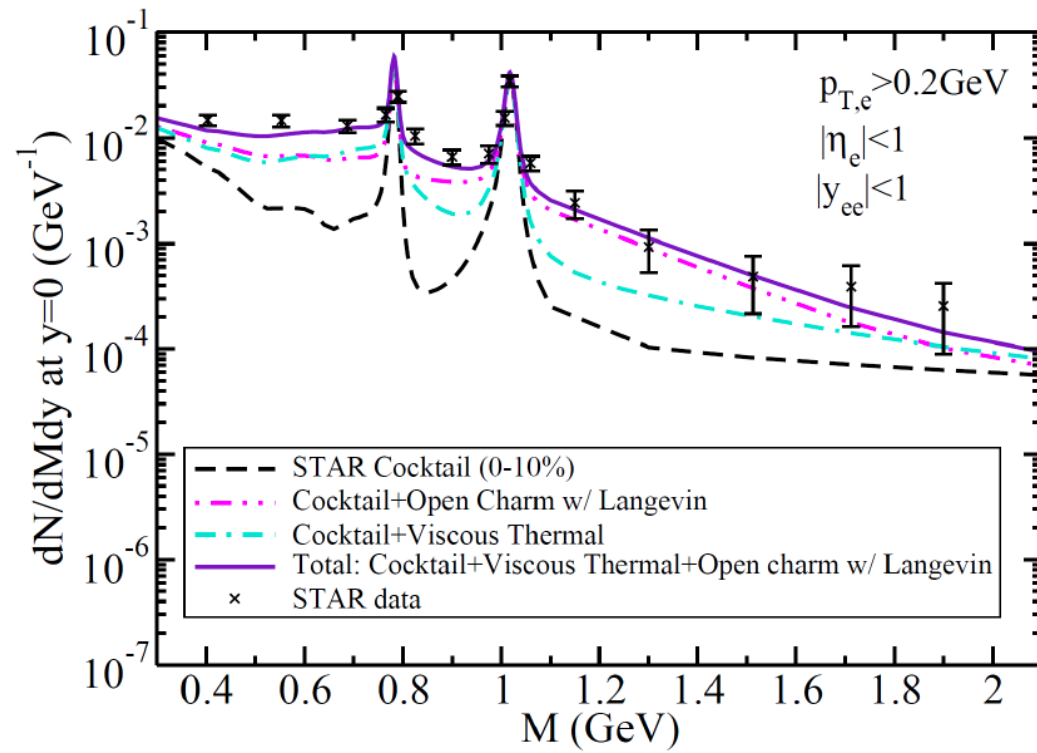
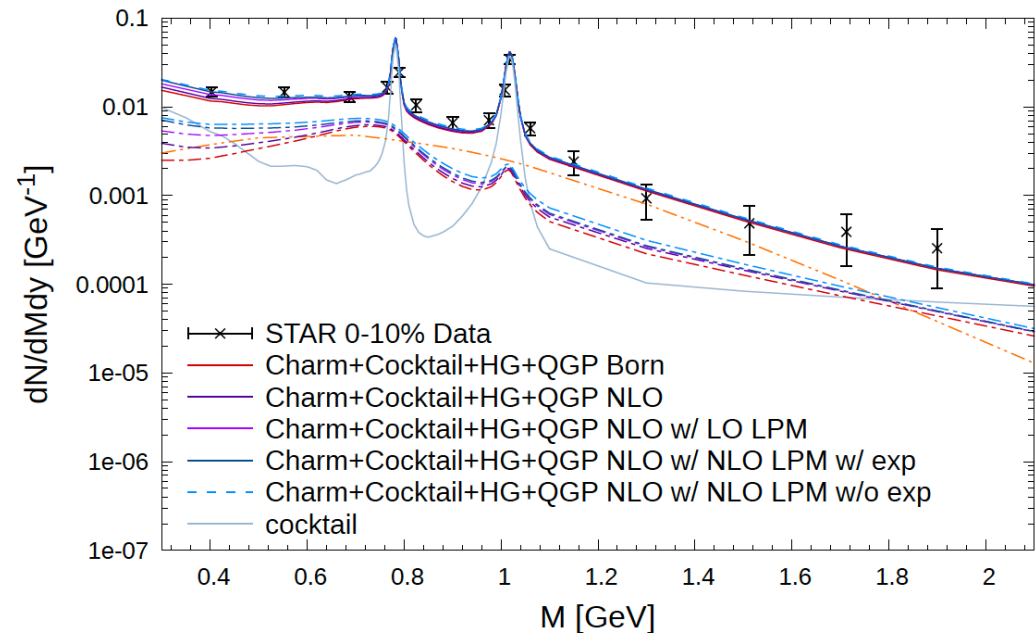
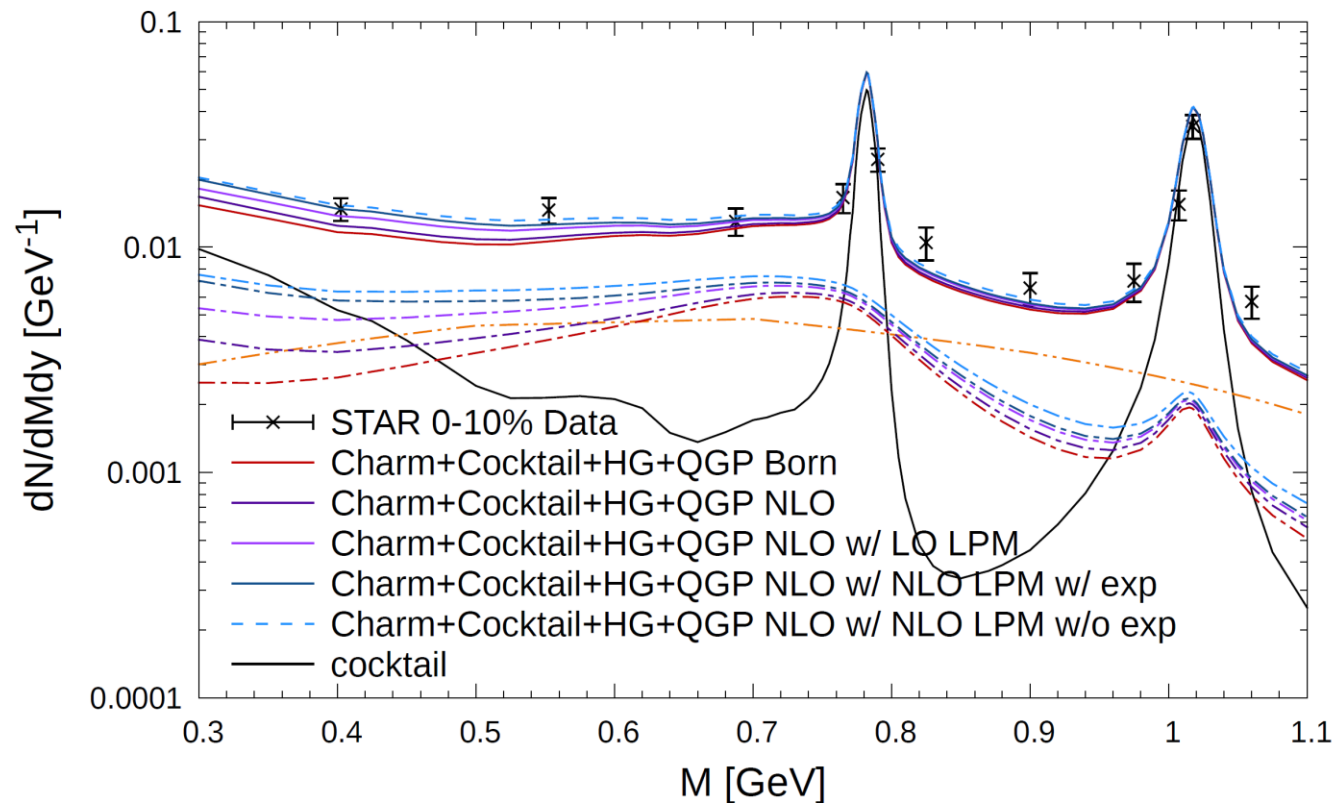


[G.V. et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 034904 (2014)]

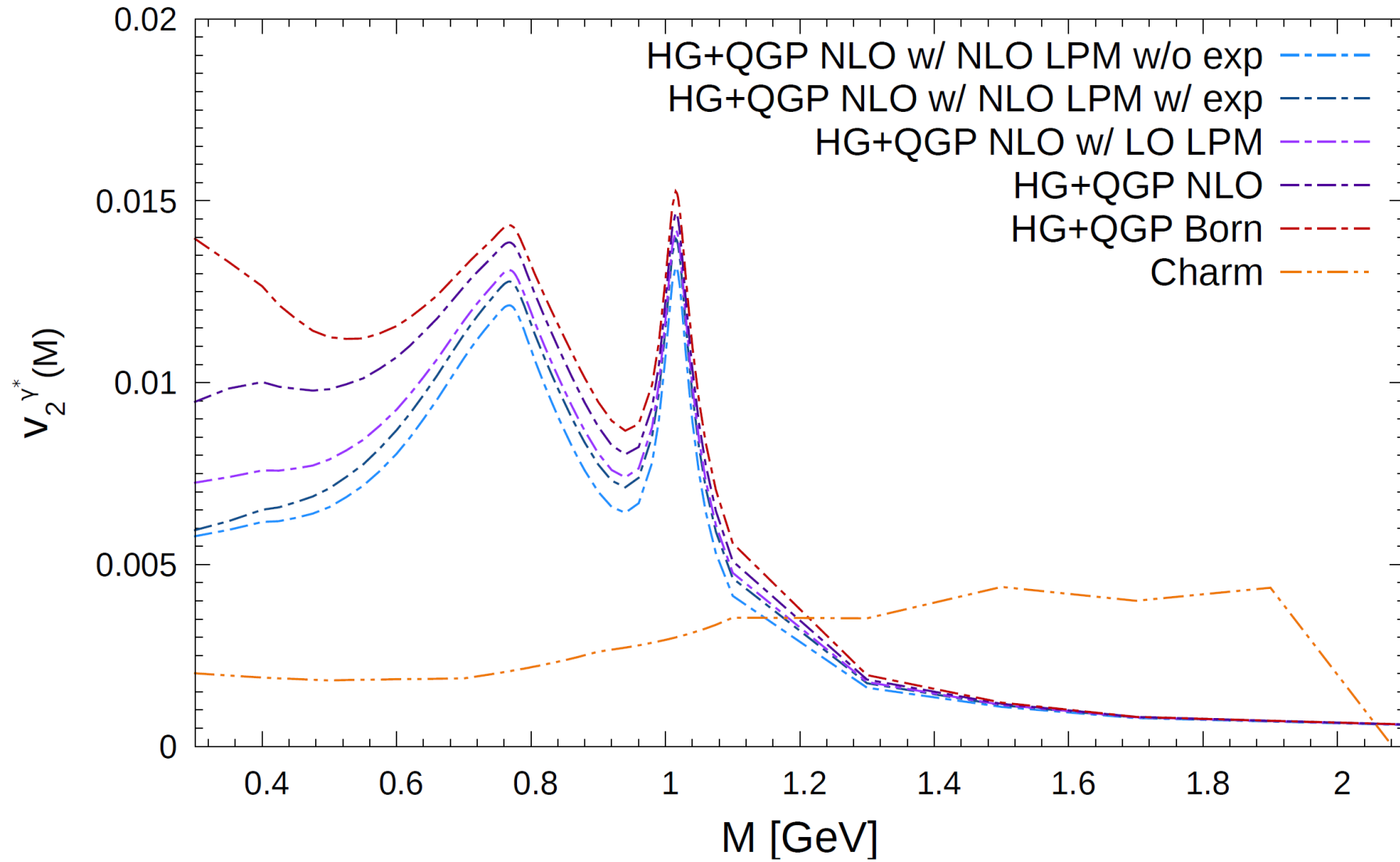


NLO pQCD dilepton rates are needed to explain the data.

# NLO dilepton calculations

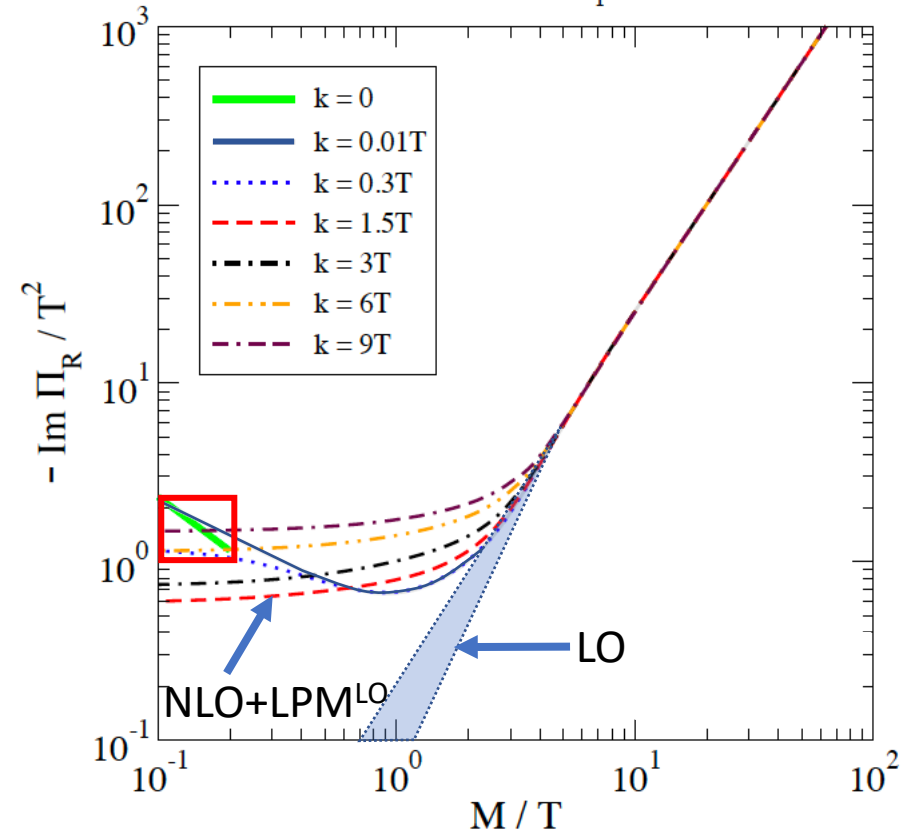


# NLO effects on $v_2$

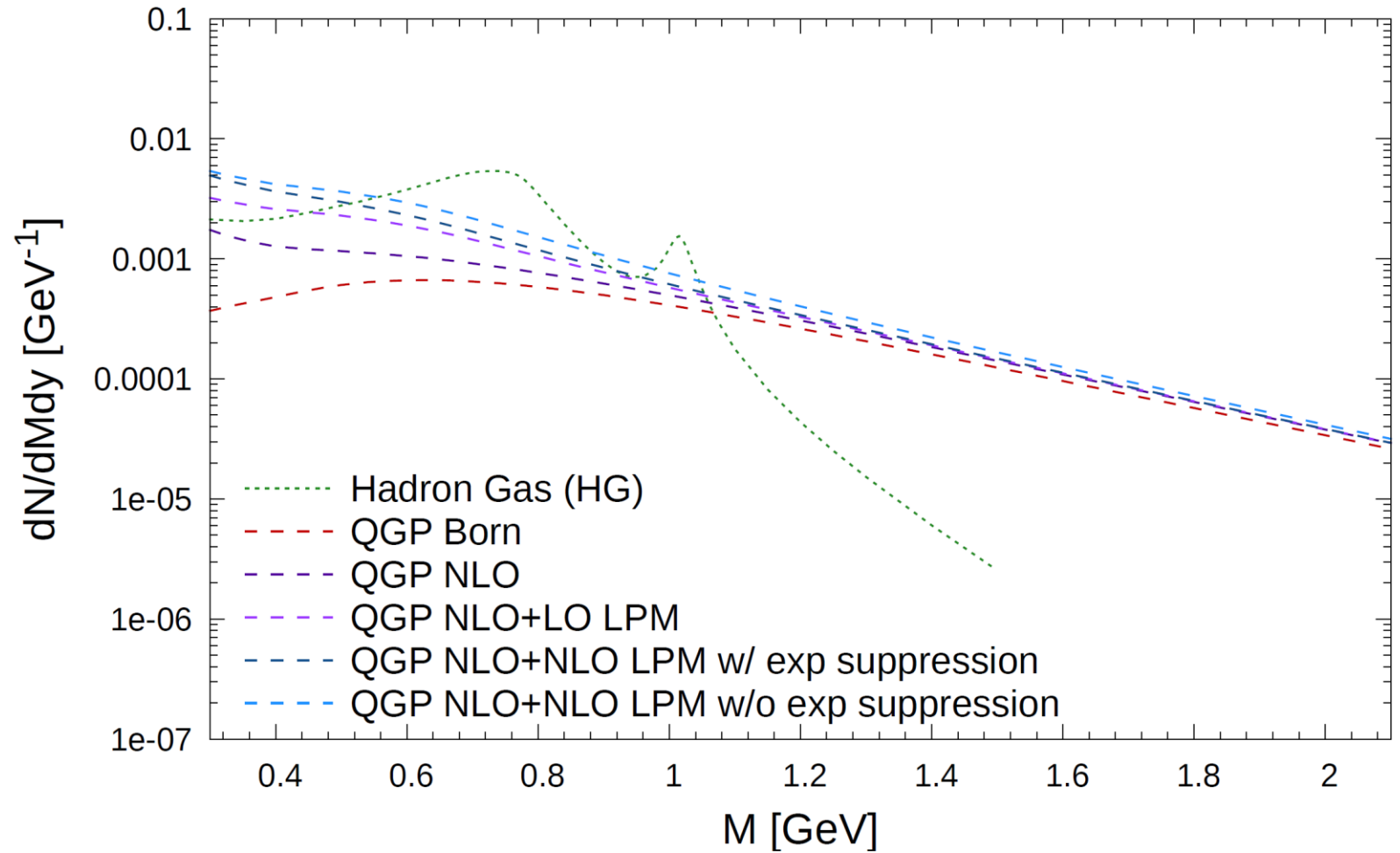


# EM spectral function from pQCD & lattice QCD

$T = 0.5 \text{ GeV}, N_f = 3$



[I. Ghisoiu & M. Laine; JHEP 10, 083 (2014)]

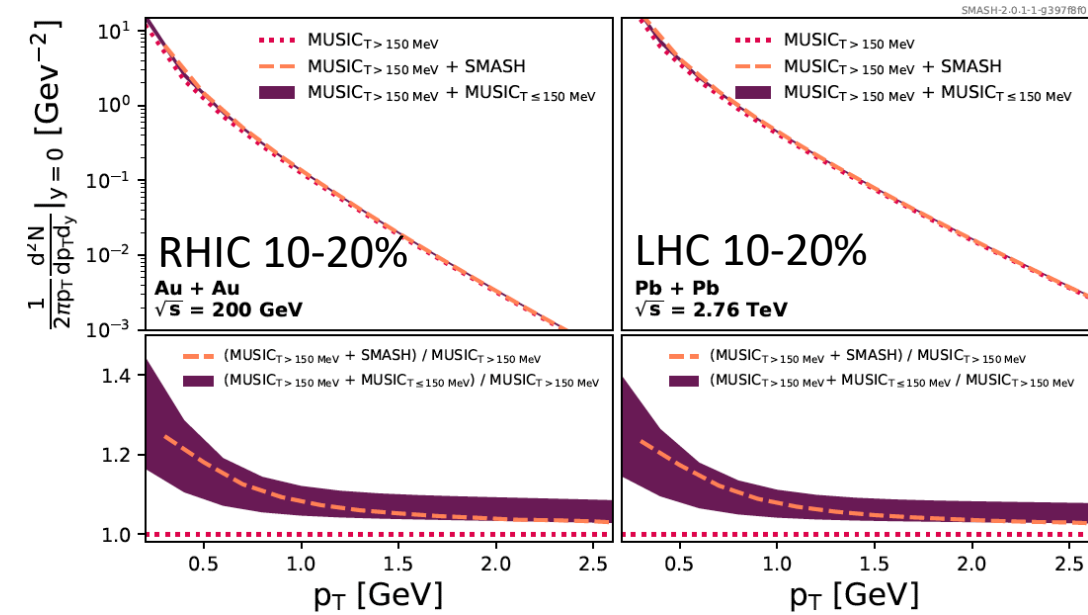




# Photon production from hadronic reactions ✓

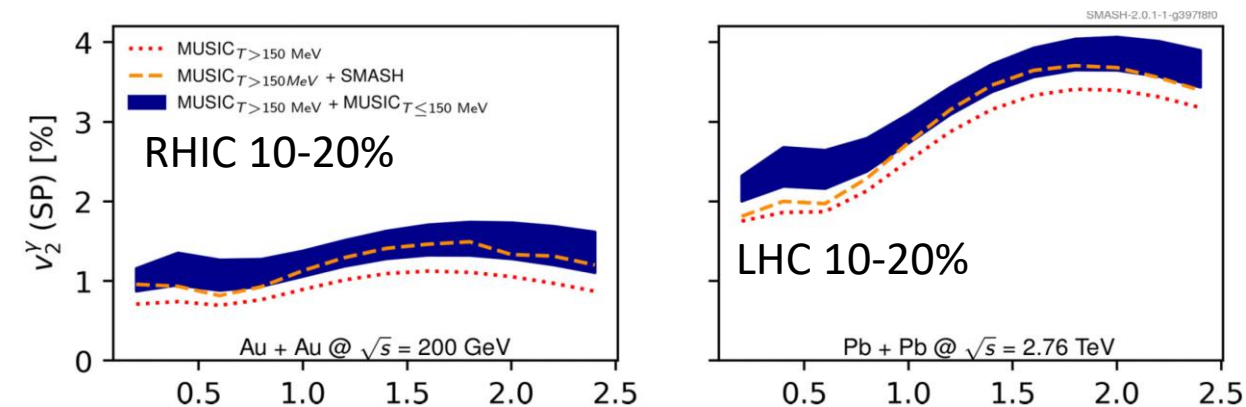
## Photons from SMASH

- Total photon yield from Hydro+SMASH is comparable to that obtained from hydro running to lower temperature ( $T=120$  MeV).



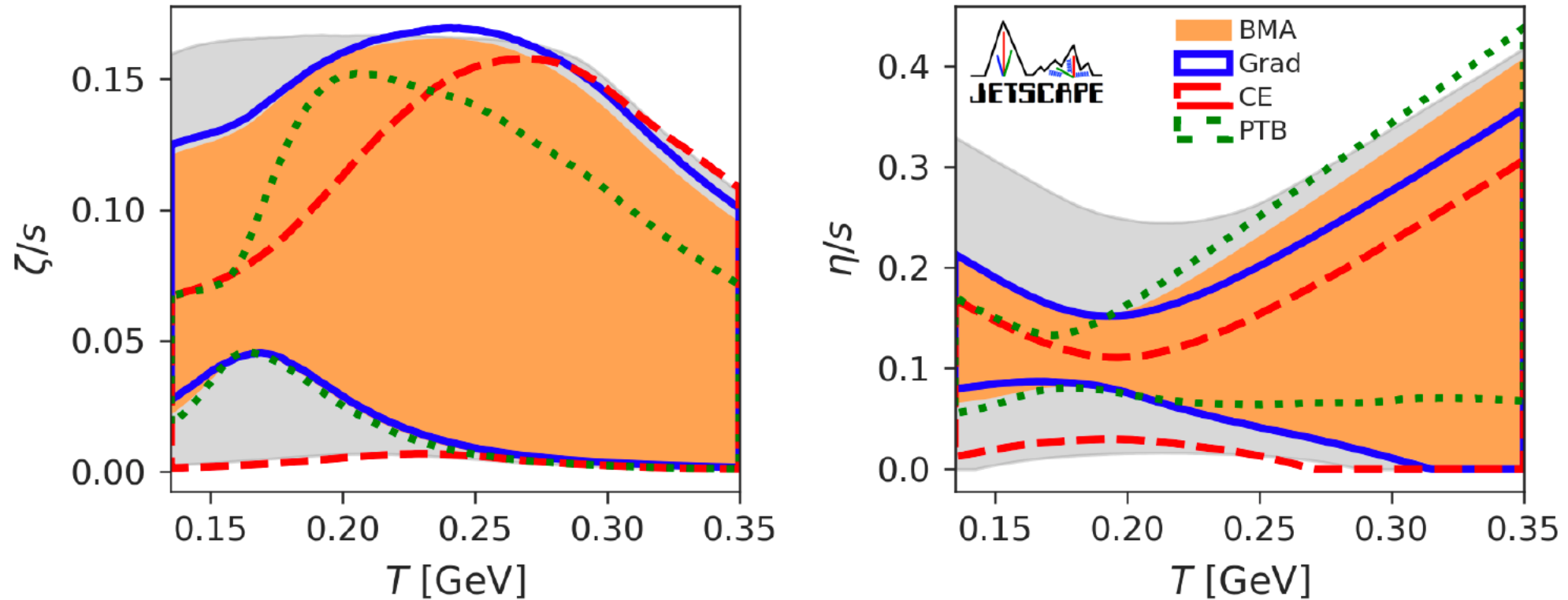
[A. Schäfer, Phys. Rev. C 105, 044910 (2022)]

- Photon  $v_2(p_T)$  from Hydro+SMASH is comparable to that obtained from hydro running to lower temperature ( $T=120$  MeV)



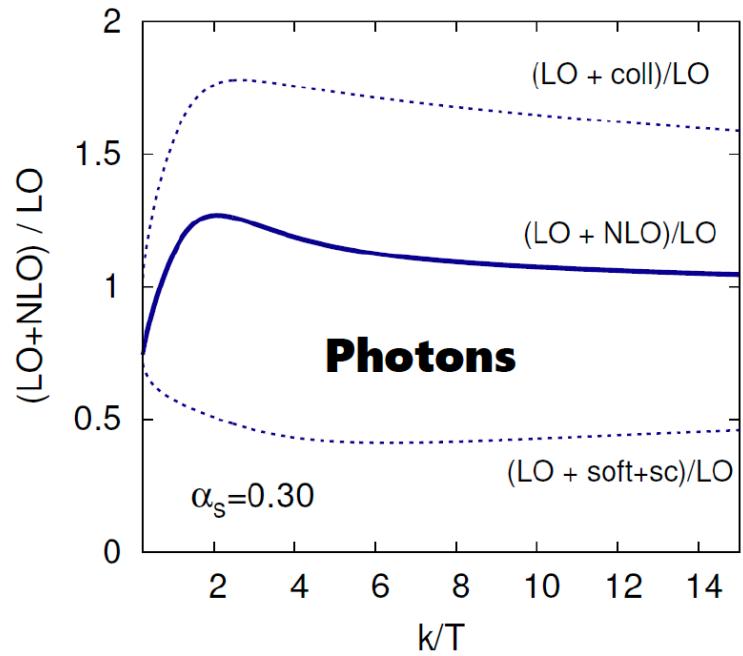
[N. Götz, Phys. Rev. C 109, 049901(E) (2024)]

# Uncertainty from viscous corrections



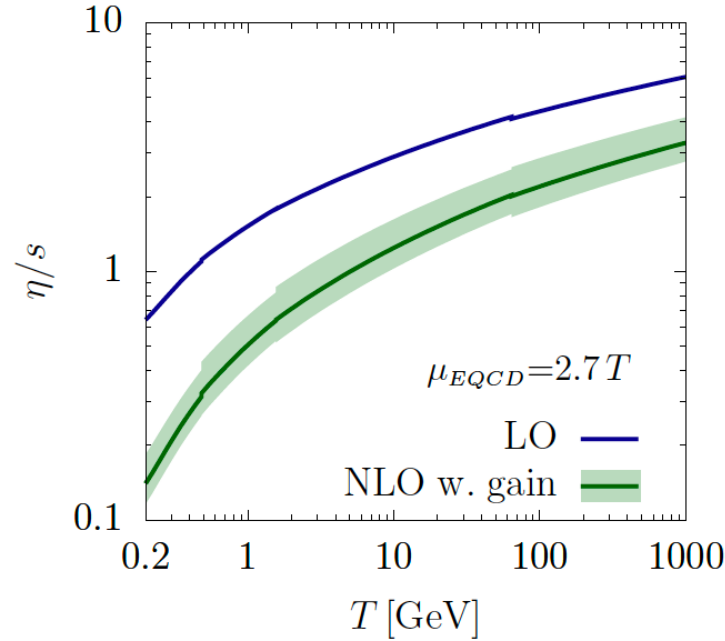
[D. Everett et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 242301 (2021)]

# NLO calculations



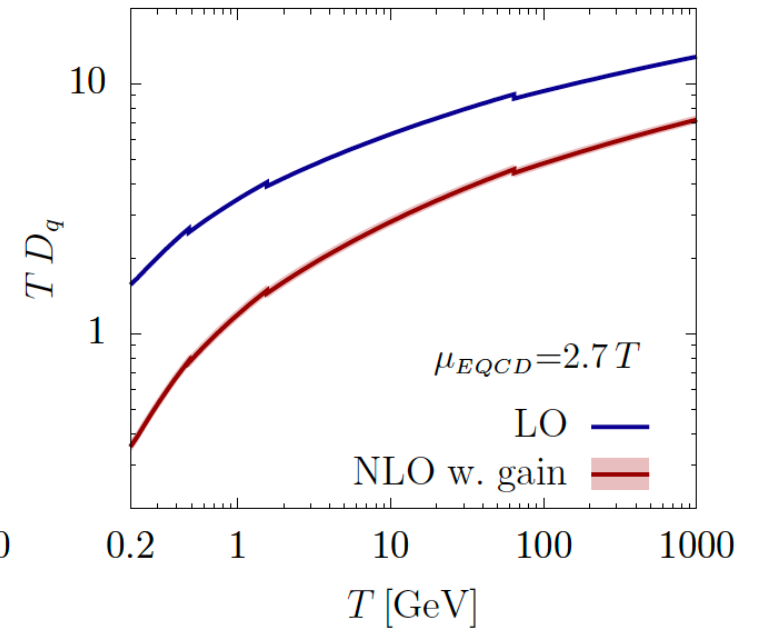
[J. Ghiglieri et al., JHEP 1305, 010 (2013)]

- Sizeable cancellations in photon rates between the collinear (coll) contribution and soft+semi-collinear (sc) contributions



[J. Ghiglieri et al., JHEP 1803, 179 (2018)]

- Large corrections to shear viscosity ( $\eta/s$ ) and baryon number diffusion ( $D_q$ ) at NLO



[S. Caron-Hot et al., PRL 100, 052301 (2008)]

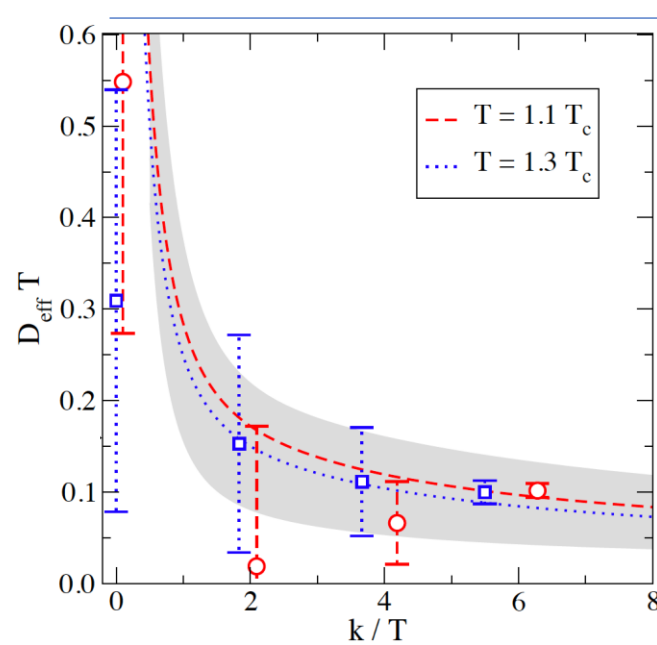
- Heavy-quark diffusion coefficient acquires large corrections at NLO

# Photon production from pQCD and lattice QCD

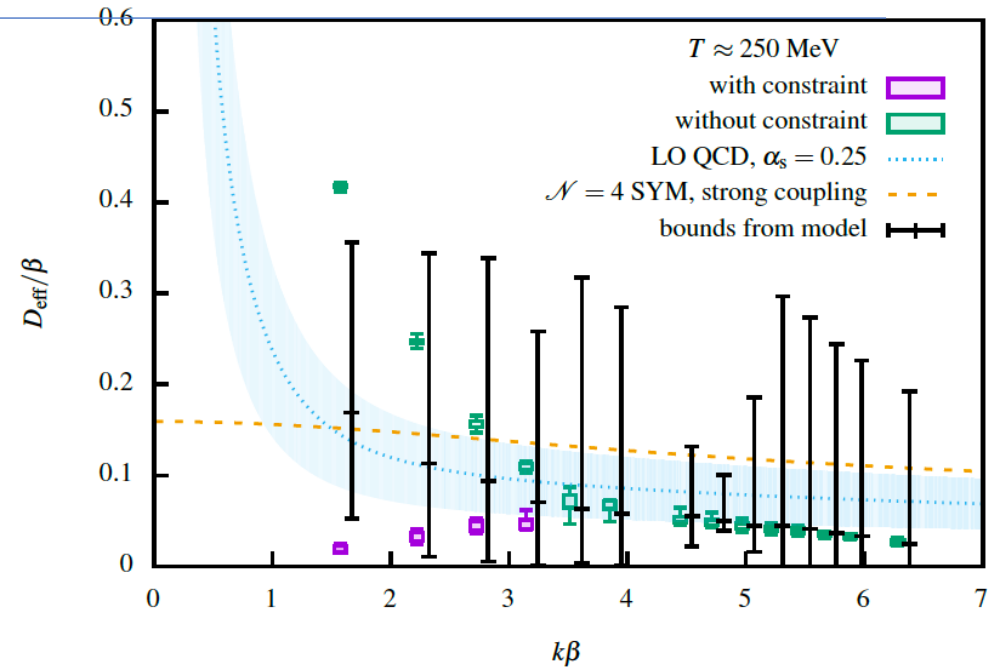
- Quenched and non-quenched lattice calculations consistent are consistent pQCD calculations, though uncertainties are large.

$$\frac{d^3R}{d^3k} = \frac{2\alpha_{EM}\chi_q}{3\pi^2} \frac{D_{eff}(k)}{\exp(k/T) - 1}$$

$$D_{eff}(k) = \frac{Im[\Pi_{EM}^R]}{2\chi_q k}$$



[J. Ghiglieri et al., Phys. Rev. D 94, 016005 (2016)]

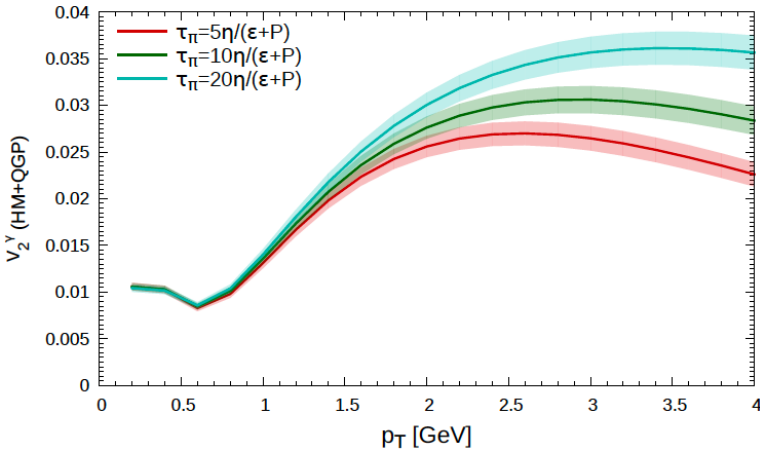


[B.B. Brandt et al., EPJ Web Conf. 175, 07044 (2018)]

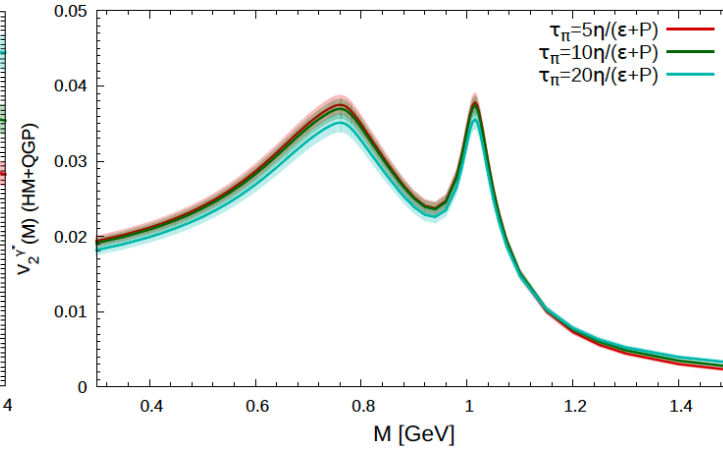
# Sensitivity of EM probes to transport coefficients

$$\tau_\pi = b_\pi \eta / (\epsilon + P)$$

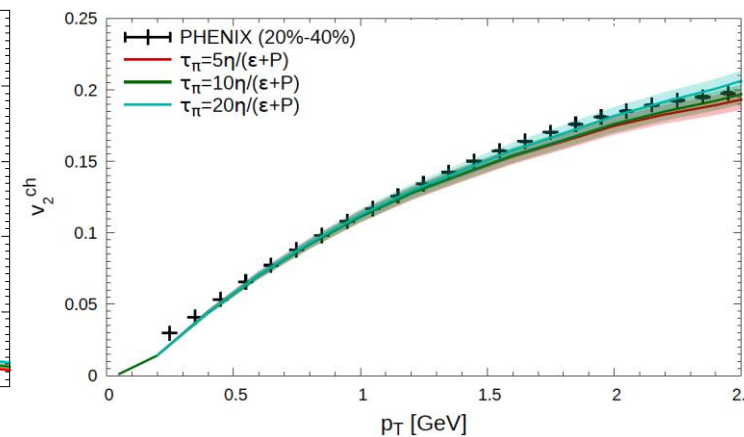
Photon &  $\tau_\pi = b_\pi \eta / (\epsilon + P)$



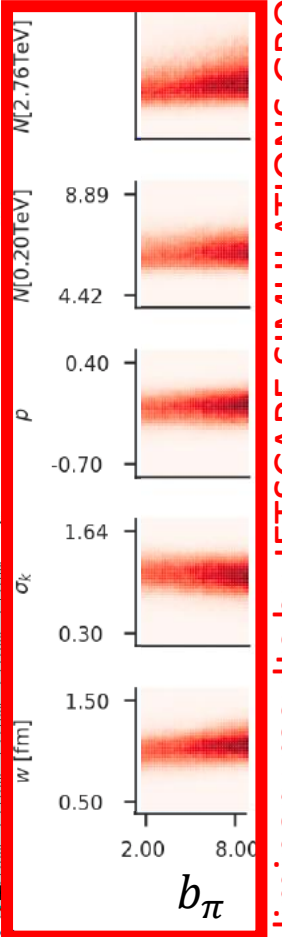
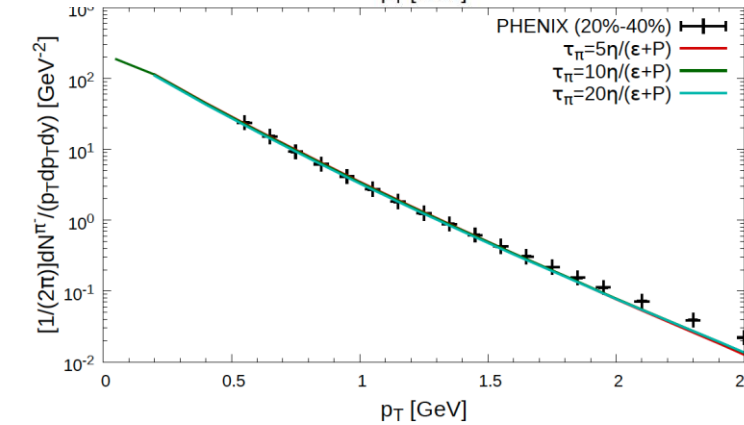
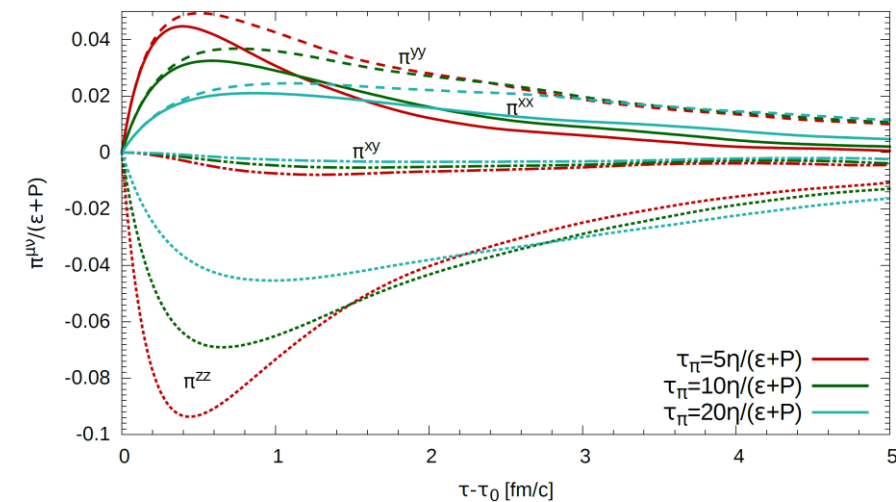
Dileptons &  $\tau_\pi = b_\pi \eta / (\epsilon + P)$



Hadrons &  $\tau_\pi = b_\pi \eta / (\epsilon + P)$



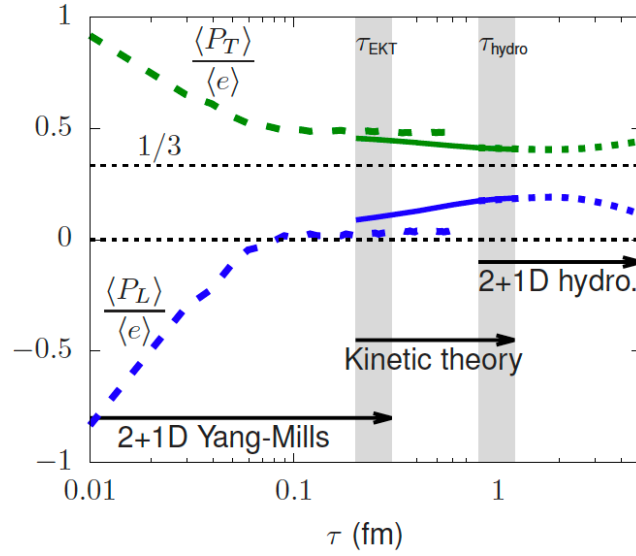
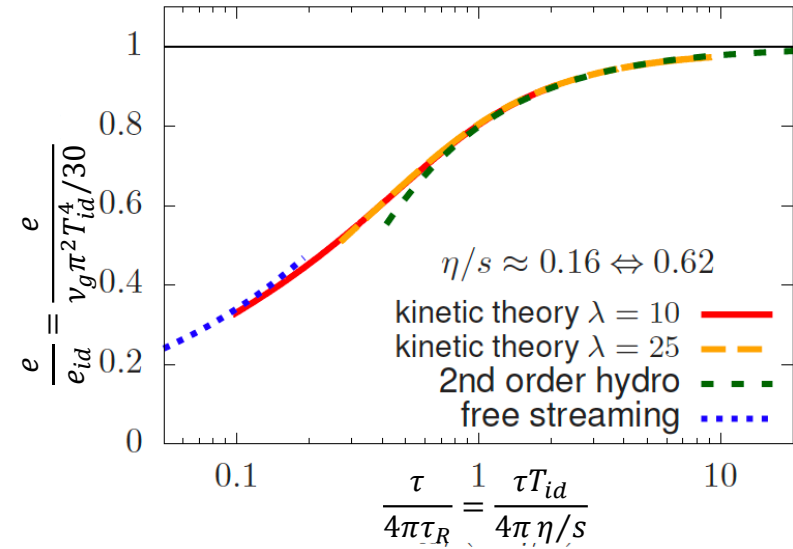
[G.V., J.-F. Paquet et al., Phys. Rev. C 91, 024908 (2015)]



Preliminary results by JETSCAPE SIMULATIONS GROUP

# Pre-hydrodynamic photon production

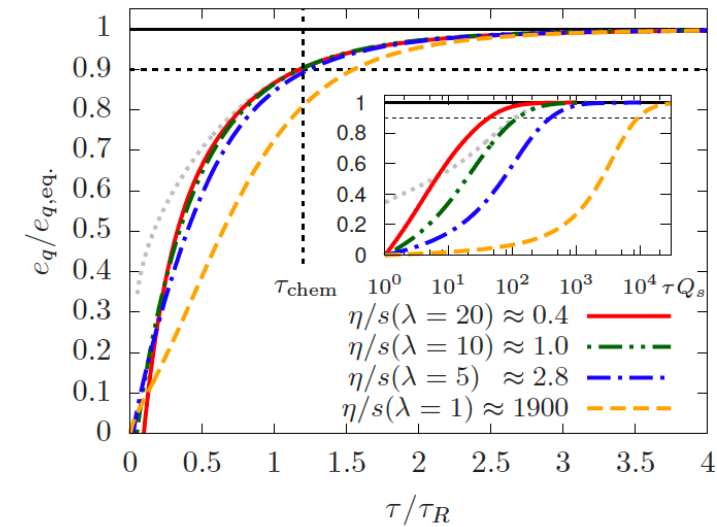
- KØMPØST: Solving the Boltzmann equation in the linear response approximation.



- Bridges the gap between the asymptotic behavior of IP-Glasma  $\rightarrow$  free-streaming and hydrodynamics  $\rightarrow$  thermalization

[A. Kurkela et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 122302 (2019)]

- Match  $T^{\mu\nu}$  (IP-Glasma)  $\Rightarrow T^{\mu\nu}$  (KØMPØST)  $\Rightarrow T^{\mu\nu}$  (Hydro)



$\Rightarrow$

