



# Thermal dilepton production: current status and near and far time perspectives

Heavy Ion Meeting, 17 September 2020



Michael Weber 

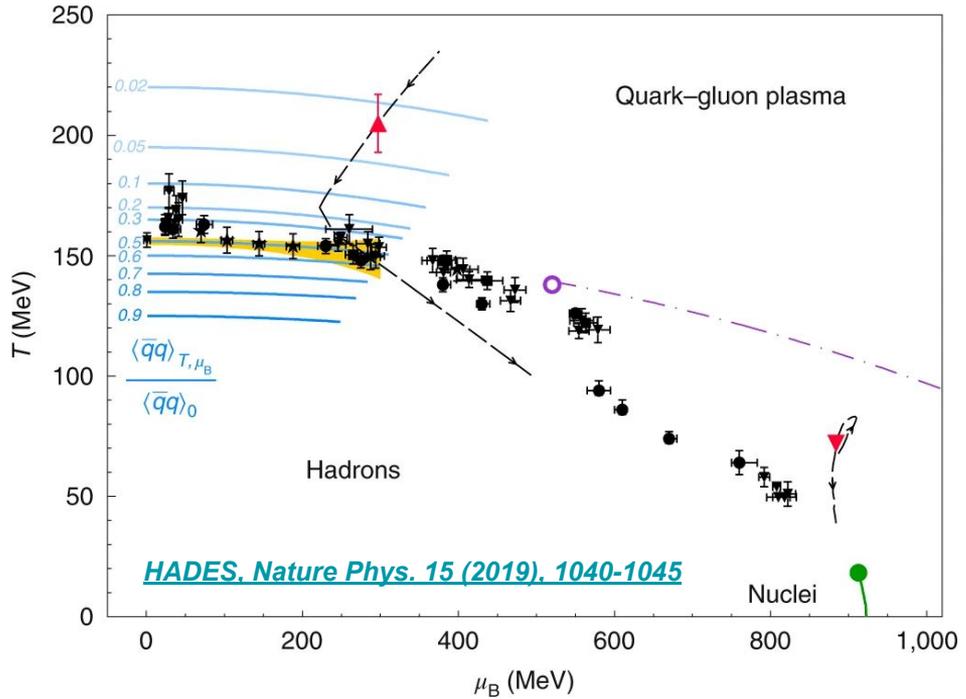
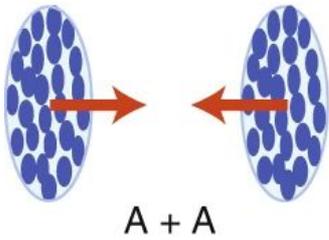


## Outline

- Thermal radiation and dileptons
  - (Low-mass) dilepton sources and physics objectives
  - Experimental results (with focus on recent results from ALICE at the LHC)
- Upgrades and future heavy-ion experiments (at the LHC)

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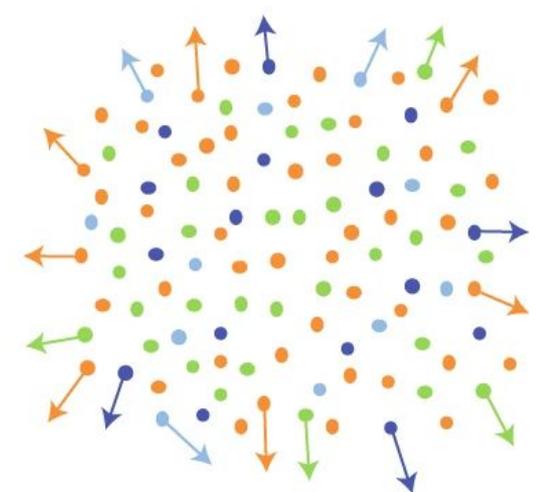
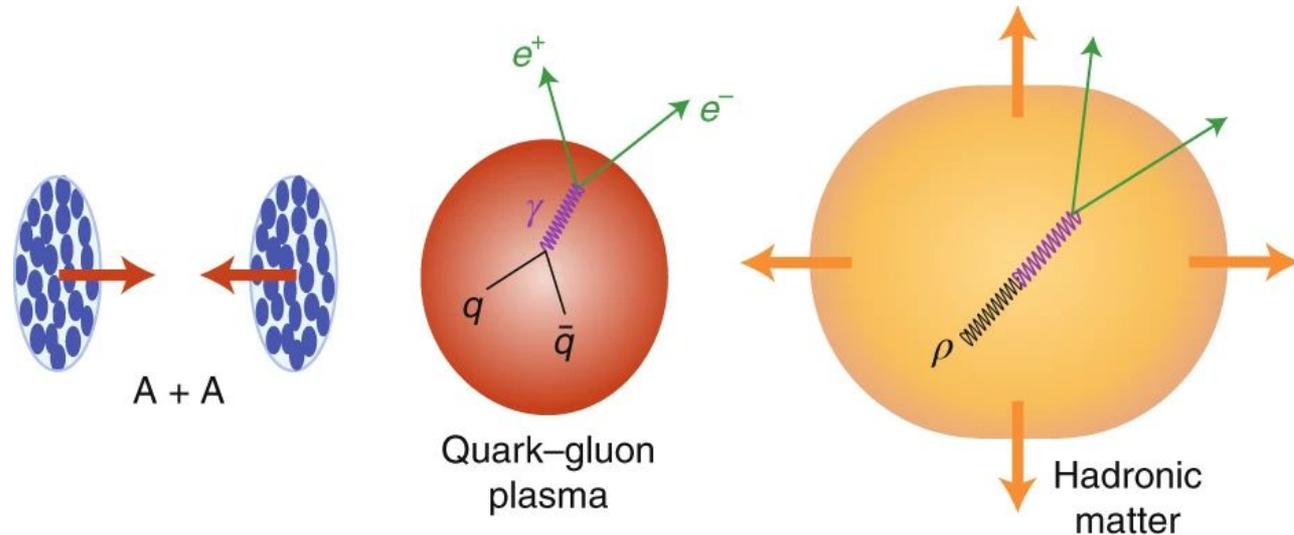
# Heavy-ion collisions and dileptons



## Ultra-relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions: test QCD at high temperatures/densities

- Phase transitions / Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)
- **Deconfinement**
- (Partial) restoration of **chiral symmetry**

# Heavy-ion collisions and dileptons

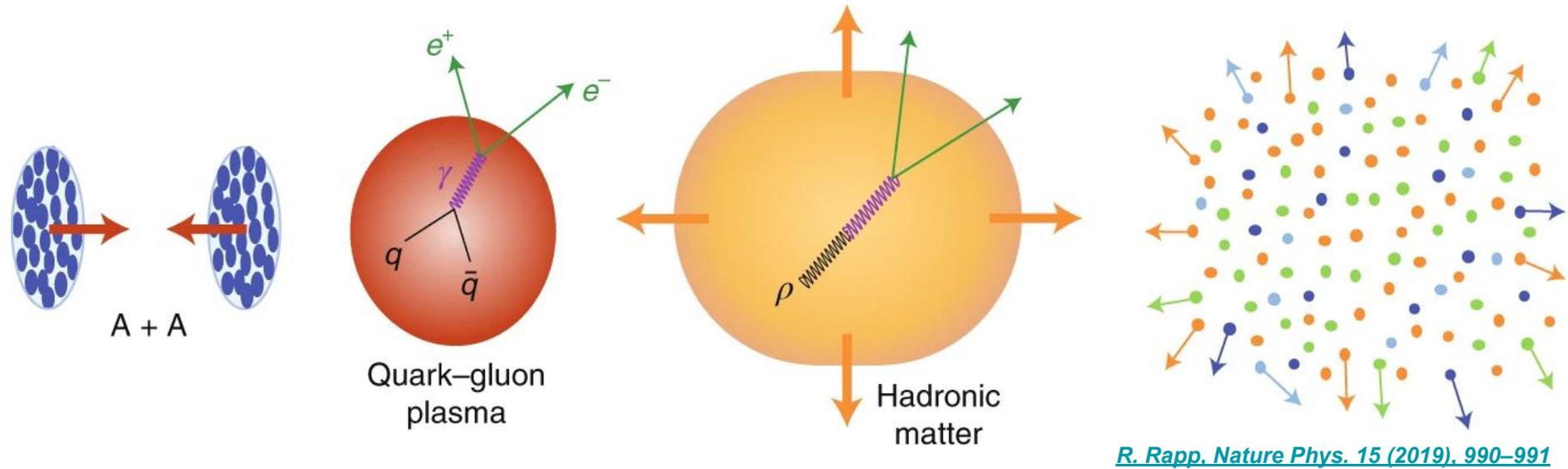


[R. Rapp, Nature Phys. 15 \(2019\), 990–991](#)

## Measure photons or dileptons ( $e^+e^-$ or $\mu^+\mu^-$ pairs)

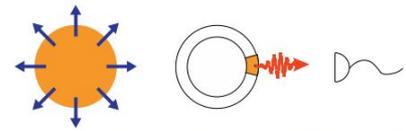
- Couple to EM current throughout the **full collision history**
- Very low interaction with QCD medium (**no strong interaction**)

# Heavy-ion collisions and dileptons



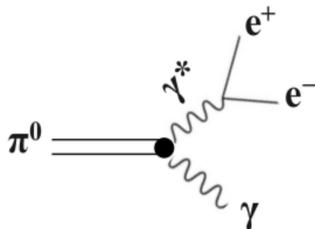
## Measure photons or dileptons ( $e^+e^-$ or $\mu^+\mu^-$ pairs)

- Couple to EM current throughout the **full collision history**
- Very low interaction with QCD medium (**no strong interaction**)
- **Virtual photons:** invariant mass, no blue-shift of rapidly expanding system
- **Sensitive to** thermal radiation, vector meson spectral shape, production of heavy flavour (charm and beauty) hadrons, beyond SM particles with  $J^{PC}=1^{--}$  (e.g. dark photons)

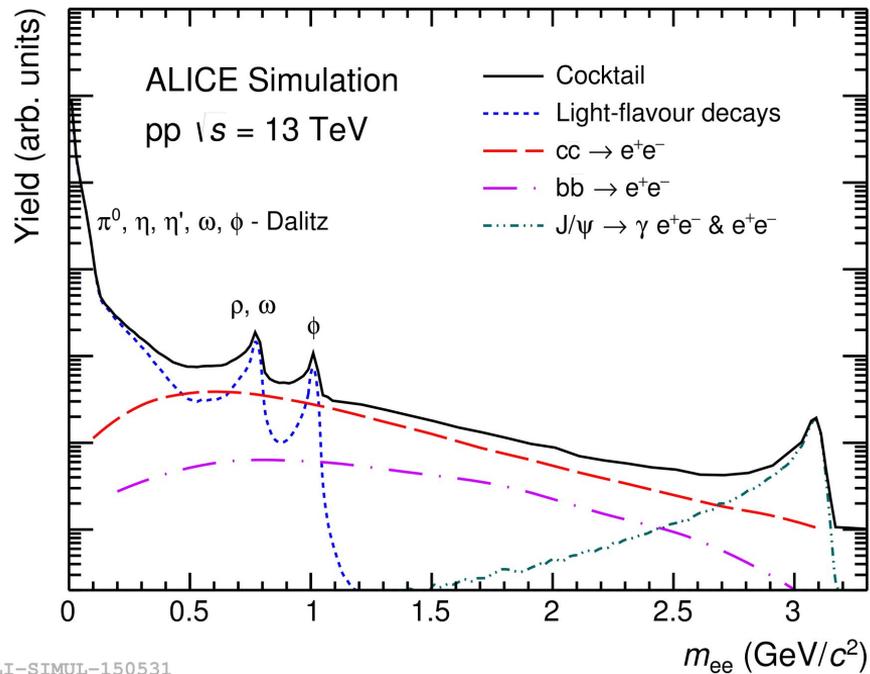


# Dilepton sources - light flavour

- Dominating low mass region  
 $m_{ee} < 1.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



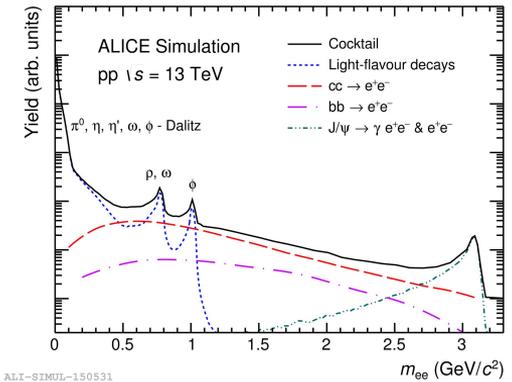
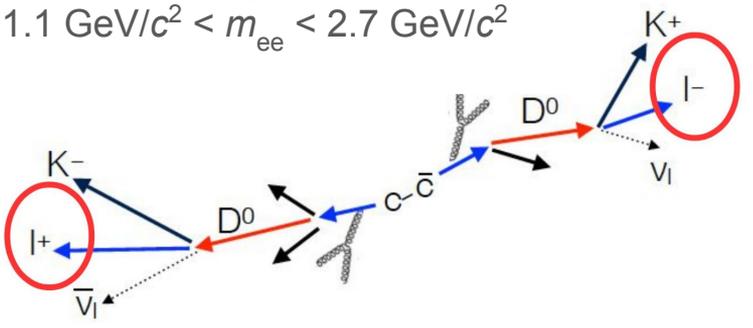
- Populated with **light neutral mesons** ( $\pi^0, \eta, \eta', \rho, \omega$  and  $\phi$ )
  - Decaying via Dalitz, or two body decays
- Connection to QCD chiral symmetry restoration expected at temperatures reached in UrHICs
  - **In-medium modification** of vector mesons: “ $\rho$  broadening” (see later slides)



*For dimuons only  $m > 0.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  accessible*

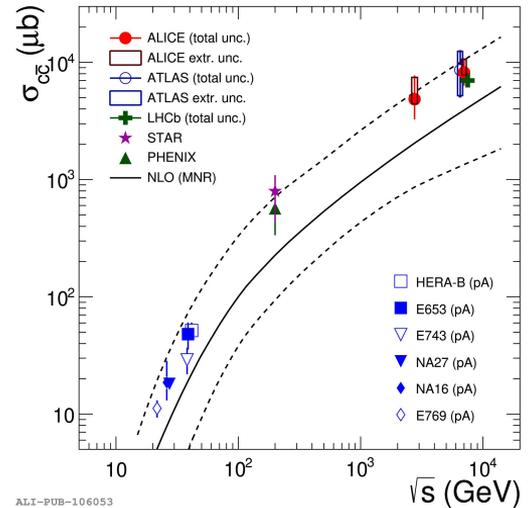
# Dilepton sources - heavy flavour

- Dominating **intermediate mass region**  
 $1.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < m_{ee} < 2.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



ALI-SIMUL-150531

- In  $pp$  collisions: **measurement of  $\sigma_{cc,bb}$** 
  - Complementary to hadron measurements
  - Strongly increasing contribution with  $\sqrt{s}_{NN}$
- In  $p$ -Pb collisions: cold nuclear matter effects
  - **Nuclear PDFs**
- Other “hard” sources (not discussed here): Prompt, Drell-Yan, and pre-equilibrium virtual photons



ALI-PUB-106053

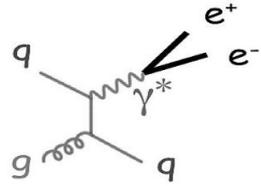
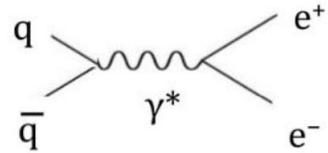
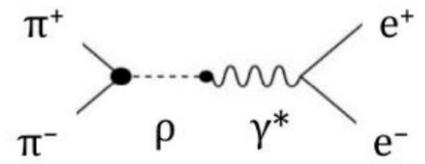
# Dilepton sources - thermal

Thermal dilepton emission rate:

$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{d^4x d^4q} = -\frac{\alpha_{EM}^2 L(M)}{\pi^3 M^2} f^B(q_0; T) \text{Im}\Pi_{EM}(M, q; \mu_B, T)$$

hadrons

partons



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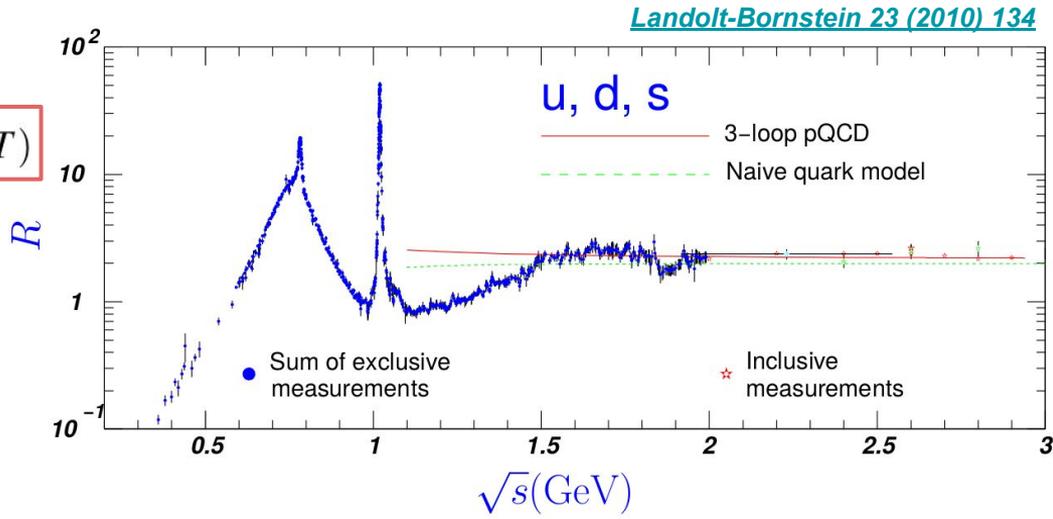
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$$j_{EM}^\mu = \sum_{V=\rho,\omega,\phi} \frac{m_V^2}{g_V} V^\mu$$

$$j_{EM}^\mu = \sum_{q=u,d,s} e_q \bar{q} \gamma^\mu q$$

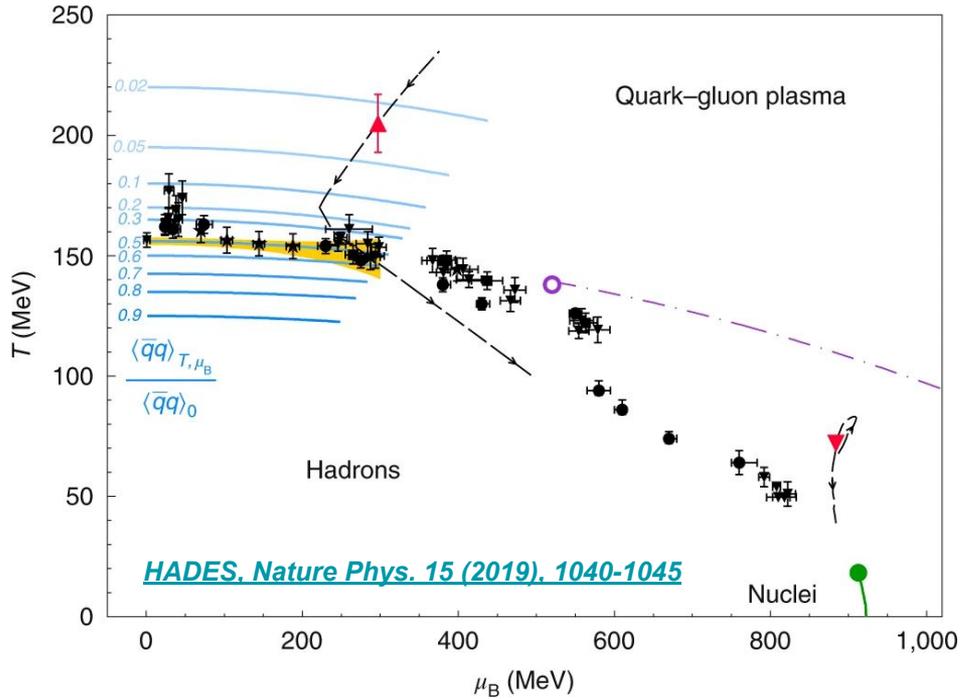


- **Vacuum:** EM spectral function well known from the  $e^+e^-$  annihilation cross section into hadrons /  $\mu^+\mu^-$

$$R = -\frac{12\pi}{s} \text{Im}\Pi_{EM}$$

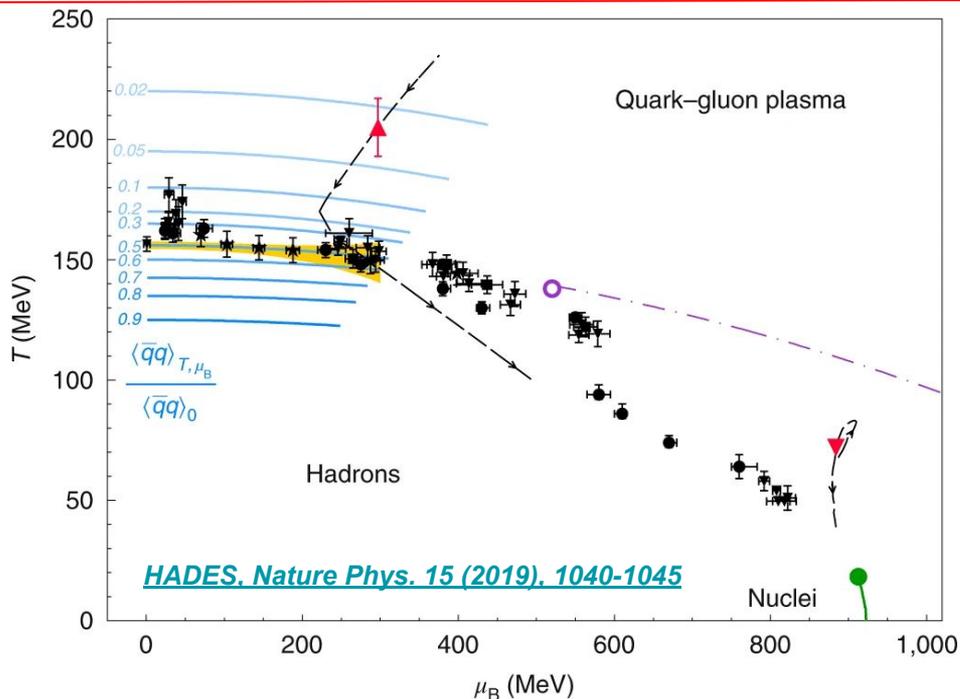
- **Medium:**
  - Below 1.5 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>: **modification of vector meson spectral function**  
→ signals (approach to) deconfinement and the **restoration of chiral symmetry?**
  - Above 1.5 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>: **extraction of temperature** (and space-time evolution of thermal source)

# Temperature evolution



- System evolution in the QCD phase diagram

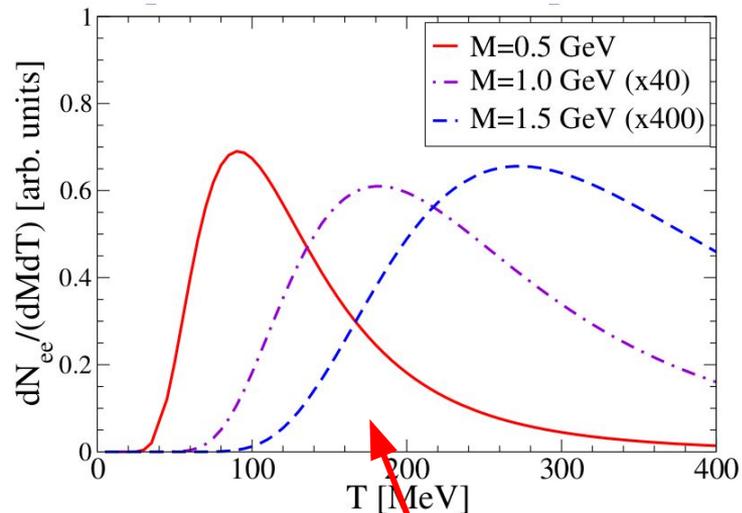
# Temperature evolution



- System evolution in the QCD phase diagram
- Temperature-differential dielectron emission:

- **Dilepton mass sensitive to system temperature (evolution)**

*R. Rapp, Acta Phys. Pol. B 42, 2823 (2011)*

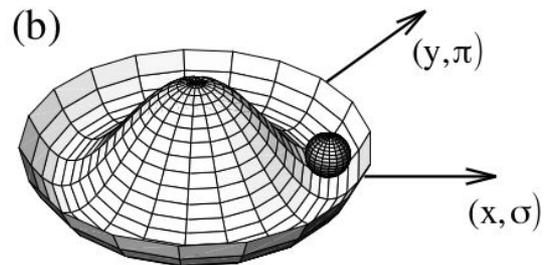
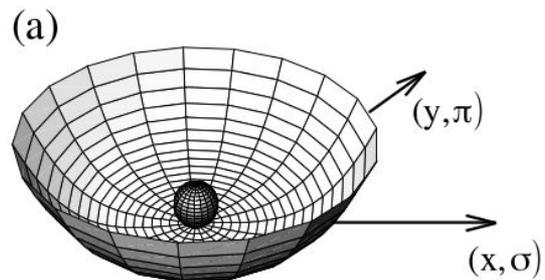


$$\frac{dN_{ee}}{dM dT} \propto \text{Im } \Pi_{EM}(M; T) e^{-M/T} T^{-m}$$

# Partial restoration of chiral symmetry

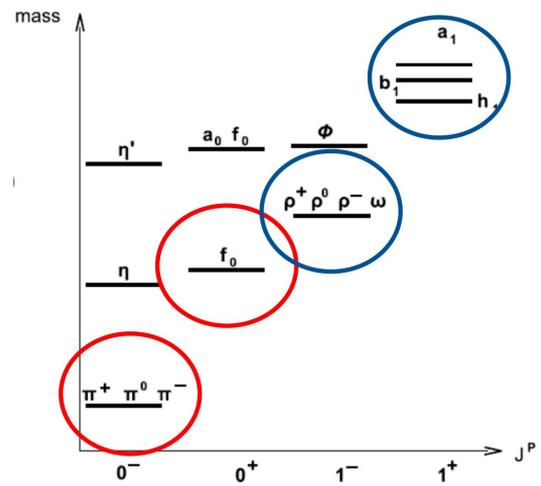
## Chiral symmetry of QCD Lagrangian:

- Ground state breaks symmetry spontaneously



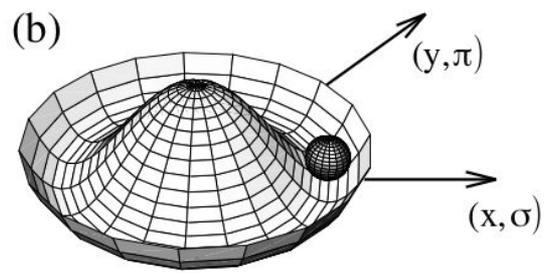
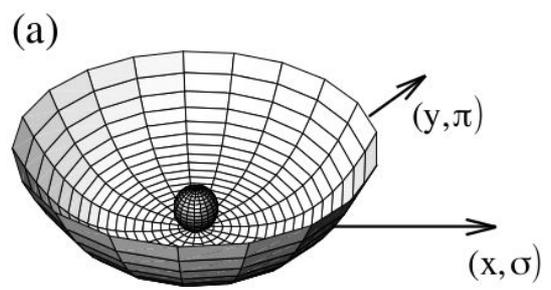
[V. Koch, Int.J.Mod.Phys. E6 \(1997\) 203-250](#)

# Partial restoration of chiral symmetry



## Chiral symmetry of QCD Lagrangian:

- Ground state breaks symmetry spontaneously
- Parity partners not degenerate

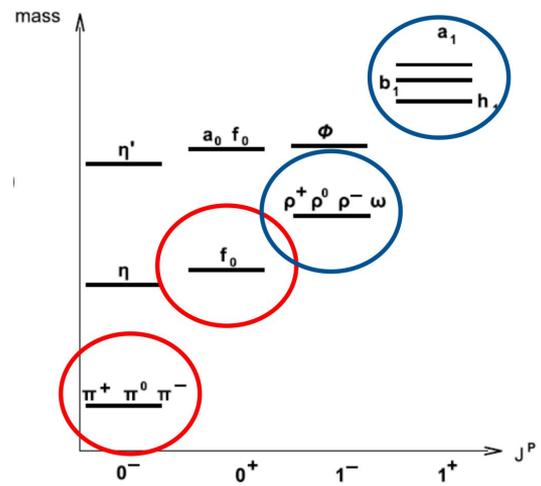


Spontaneous broken symmetry	
Heisenberg magnet	QCD
L rotational invariant	L chiral invariant
g.s. breaks symmetry: Magnetization	g.s. breaks symmetry: chiral condensate
Restoration for $T > T_C$	Restoration for high temperatures or densities

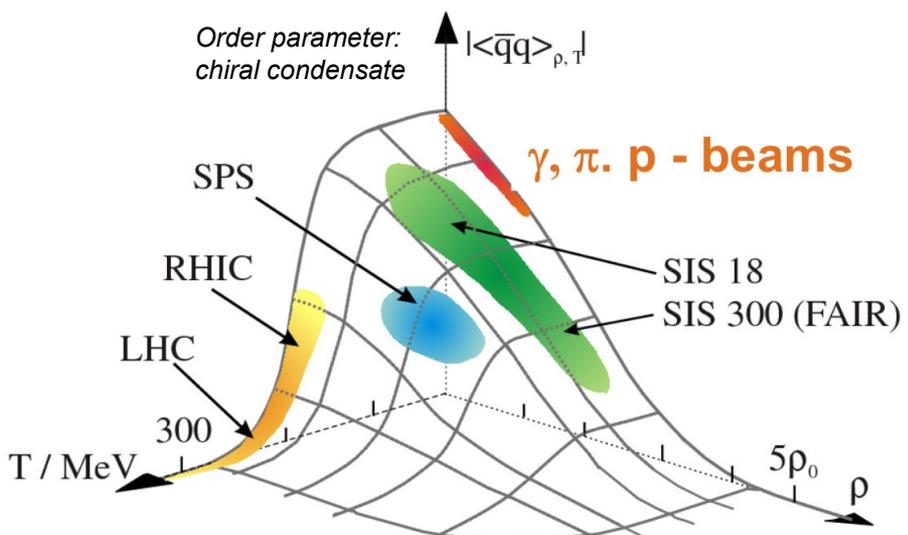
[S. Leupold, Physics@FAIR, 2011](#)

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# Partial restoration of chiral symmetry



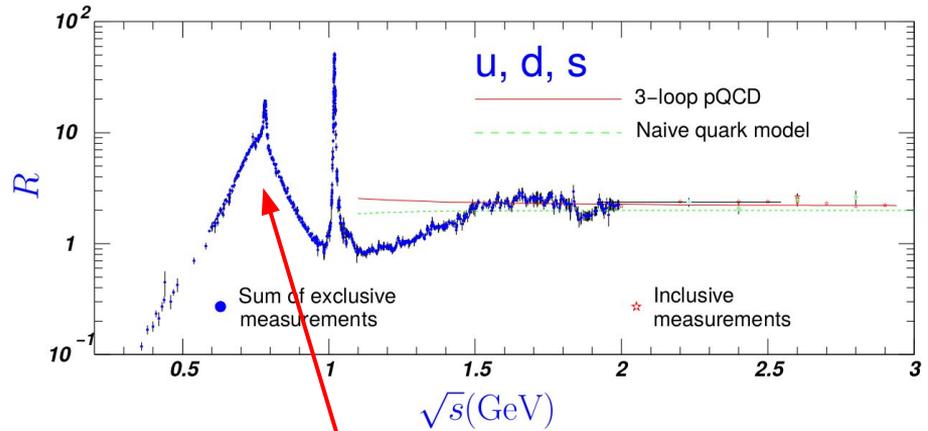
Based on [M. Lutz et al., Nucl.Phys.A 542 \(1992\) 521-558](#)



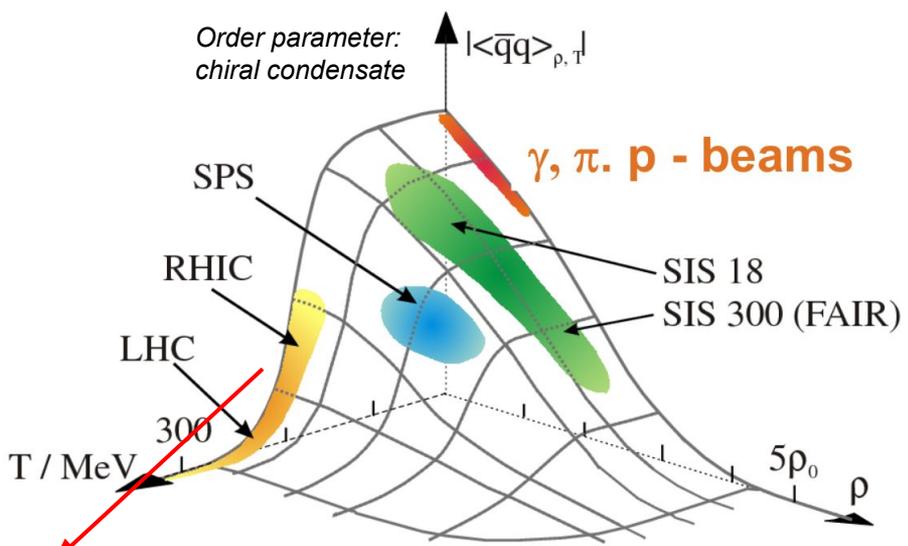
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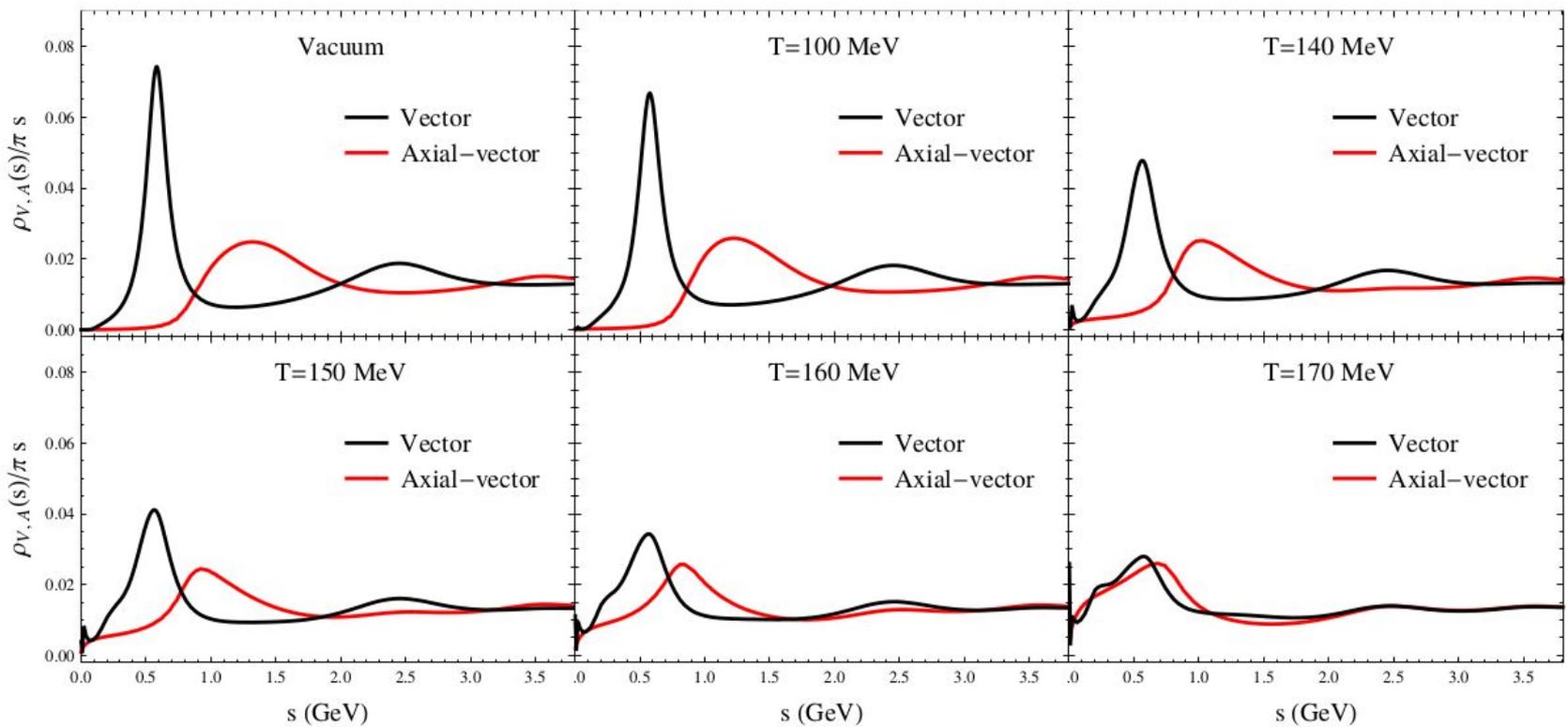


QCD sum rule:

$$\frac{1}{M^2} \int_0^\infty ds \frac{\rho_V(s)}{s} e^{-s/M^2} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right) + \frac{m_q \langle \bar{q}q \rangle}{M^4} + \frac{1}{24M^4} \left\langle \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} G_{\mu\nu}^2 \right\rangle - \frac{56\pi\alpha_s}{81M^6} \langle \mathcal{O}_4^V \rangle \dots$$

→ measurable in-medium modification of vector (and axial-vector) spectral function?

# Partial restoration of chiral symmetry



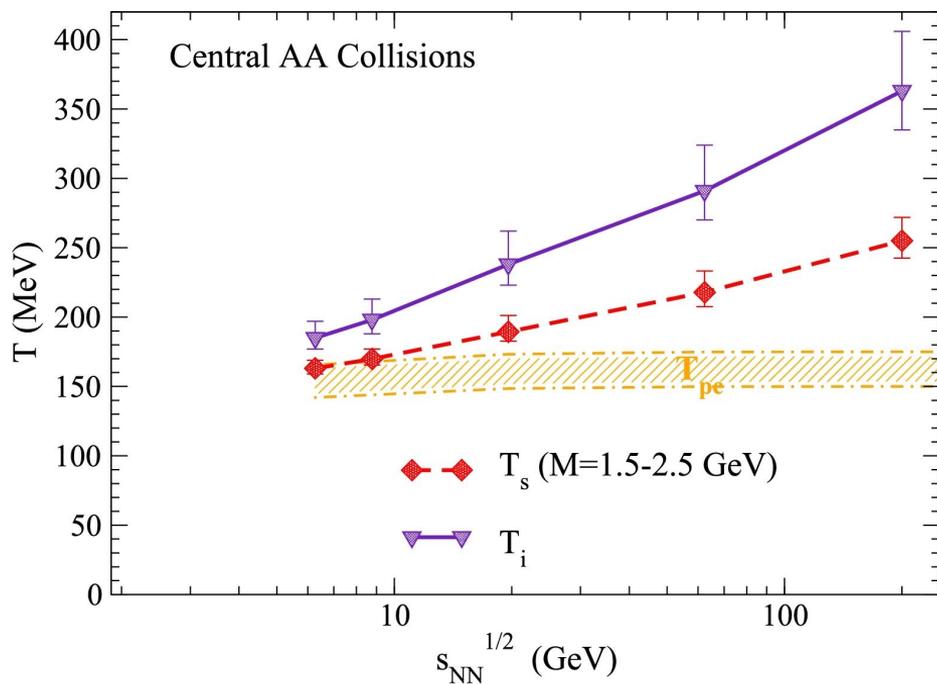
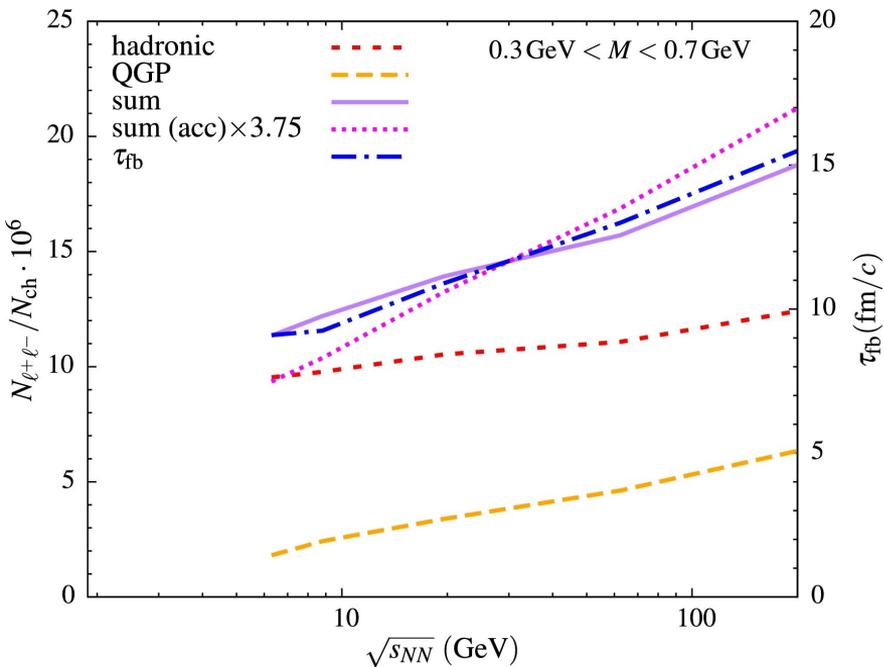
- **$\rho$ -meson melting/broadening**
- Merging of vector and axial-vector spectral functions
- “Direct connection between dileptons and chiral restoration”

[P.M. Hohler, R. Rapp, Phys.Lett.B731 \(2014\) 103-109](#)



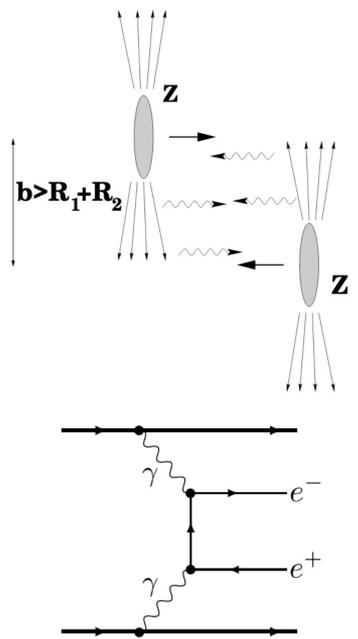
# Summary: dileptons as thermometer and chronometer

*R. Rapp, H. van Hees, Phys.Lett. B 753, 586 (2016)*



- Low-mass thermal radiation (“excess spectra”) in  $m_{\text{ee}} = 0.3-0.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  ~ fireball lifetime
- Inverse slope parameter (1.5-2.5  $\text{GeV}/c^2$ ) ~ initial temperature

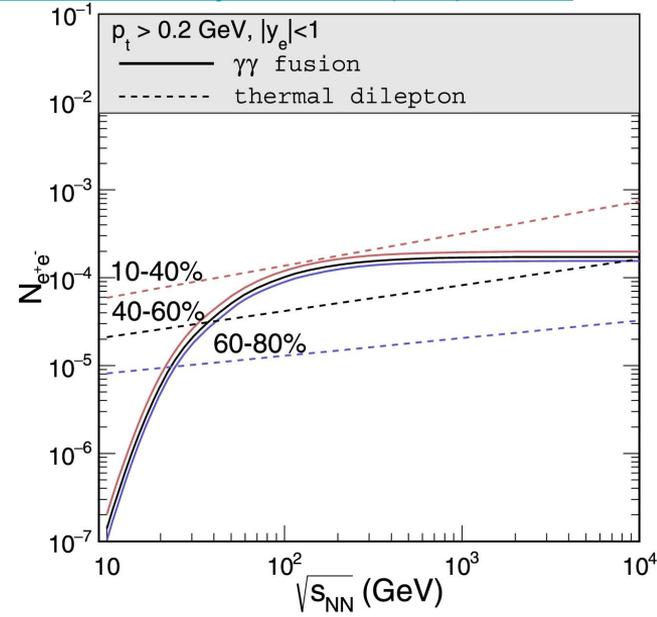
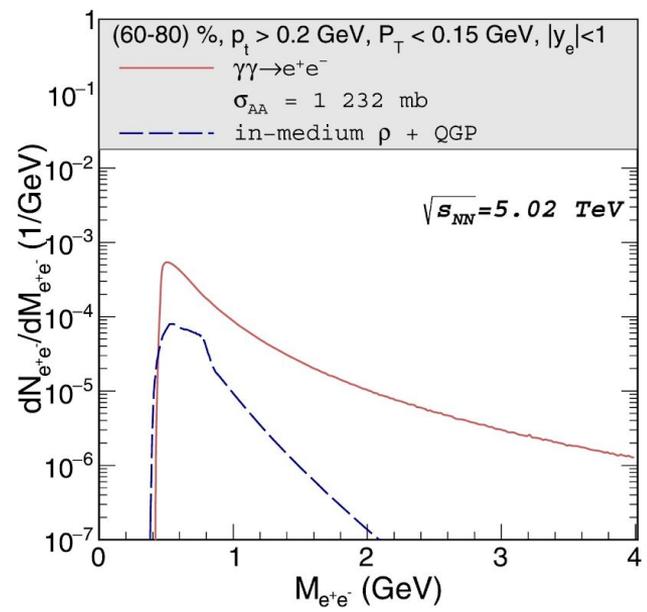
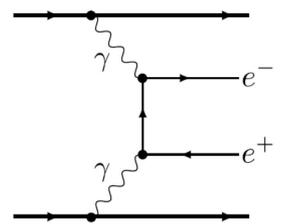
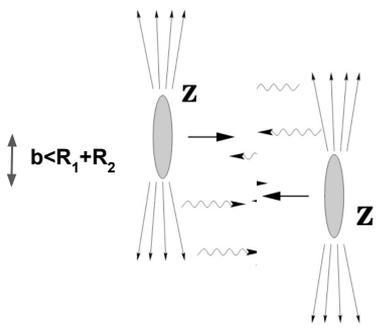
# Dilepton sources - photoproduction



- EM field surrounding the fast moving nuclei can be treated as a **quasi-real photon flux**
- high cross section for **photon-photon interactions** (and photon-nucleus)

# Dilepton sources - photoproduction

*M. Klusek-Gawenda et al., Phys.Lett.B 790 (2019) 339-344*

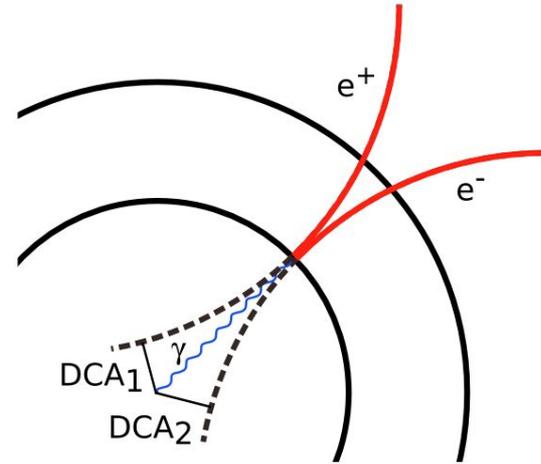


- EM field surrounding the fast moving nuclei can be treated as a **quasi-real photon flux**
- high cross section for **photon-photon interactions** (and photon-nucleus)
  - Dileptons with **low pair transverse momentum**
  - **Different scaling** with collision energy and centrality w.r.t. hadronic and thermal production

# Experimental approach and challenges

## Example: dielectrons

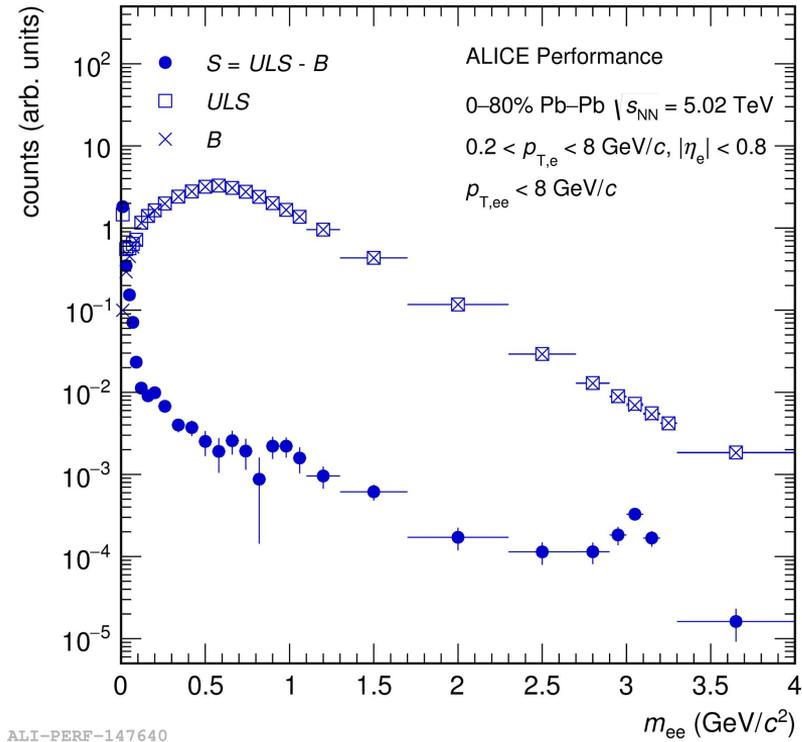
- Identify electrons/positrons
  - Minimize hadron contamination
- Pair electrons and positrons in one event
  - Major contribution from **photon conversion** in detector material



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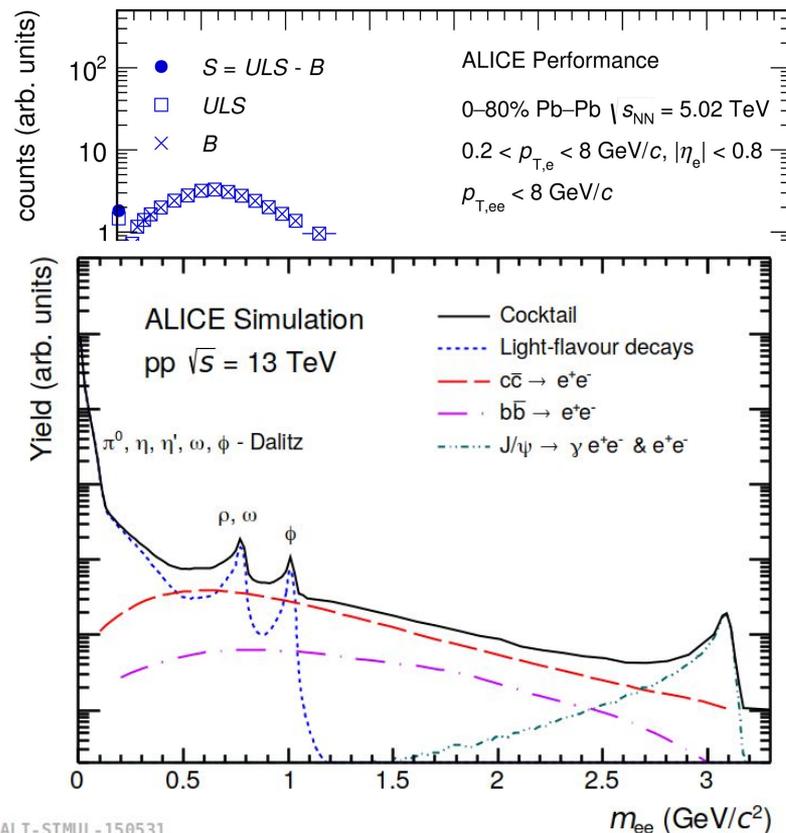
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  - $S = ULS - B = R \cdot LS$
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  - $S = ULS - B = R \cdot LS$
  - $S/B \sim 10^{-3}$  in central Pb-Pb collisions
  
- Subtract “known” long-lived light- and heavy-flavour sources (“**cocktail**”)
  - Systematic uncertainties



[ALICE, Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 29 \(2014\) 1430044](#)  
[ALICE, JINST. 3 \(2008\), S08002](#)

# Example at LHC - ALICE

## Detector:

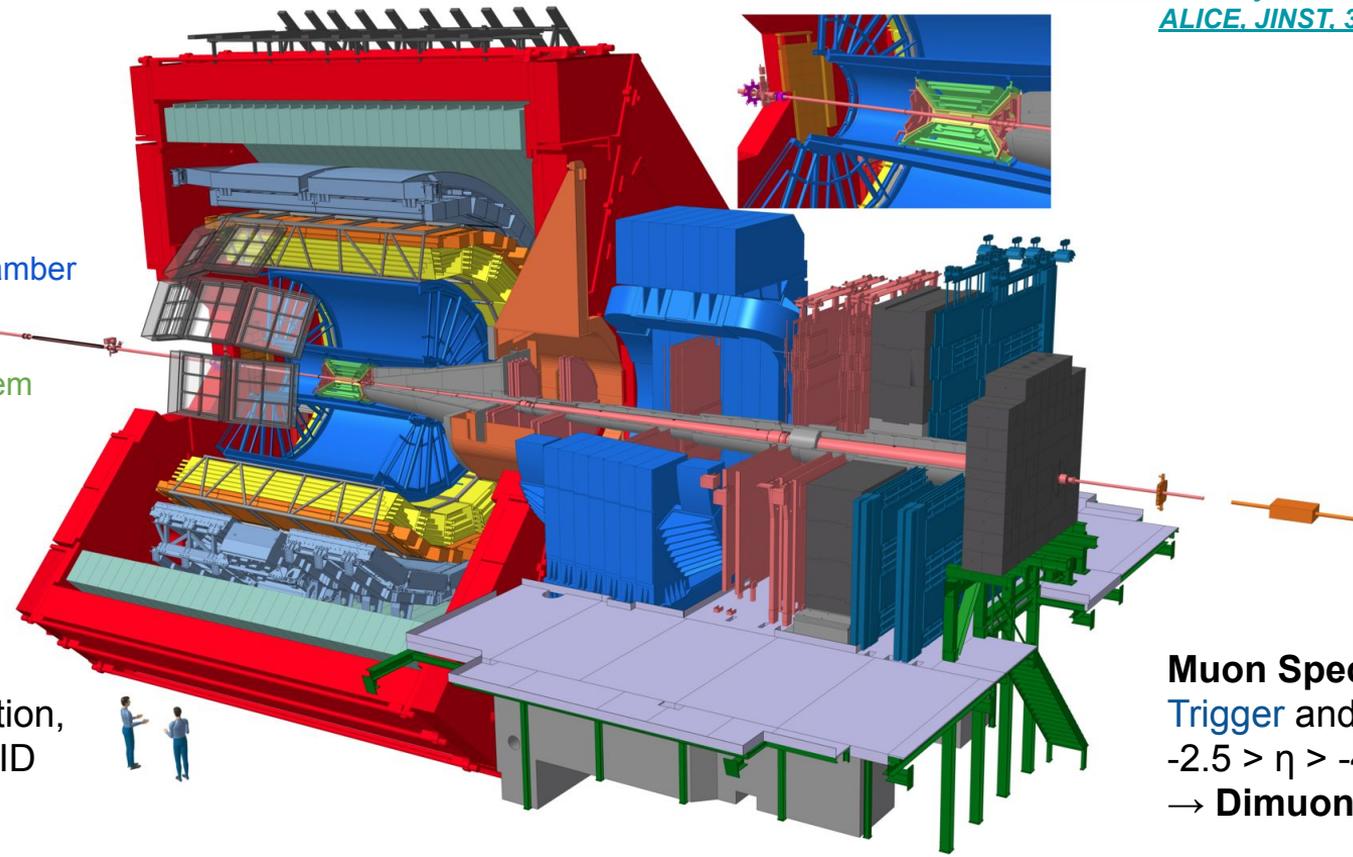
Length: 26 meters  
 Height: 16 meters  
 Weight: 10,000 ton

Time-Of-Flight  
 Time Projection Chamber

Inner Tracking System  
 V0, T0

## Central barrel:

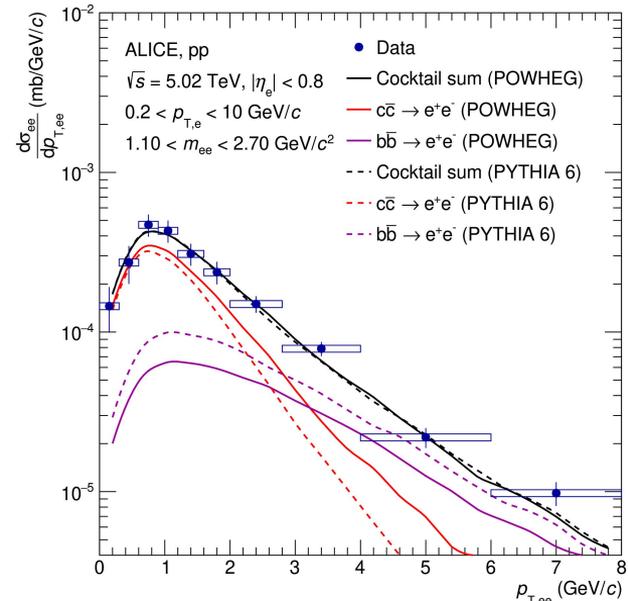
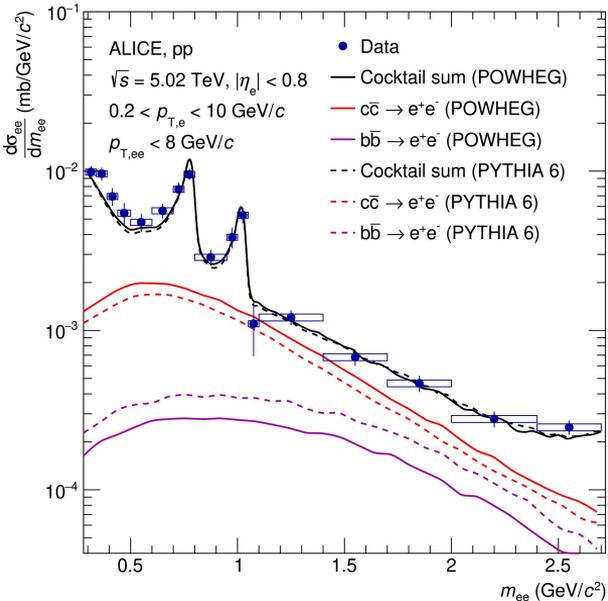
Event characterization,  
 Vertex, Tracking, PID  
 $|\eta| < 0.9$   
 → **Dielectrons**



## Muon Spectrometer:

Trigger and Tracking  
 $-2.5 > \eta > -4$   
 → **Dimuons**

# Light and heavy flavour - ALICE pp

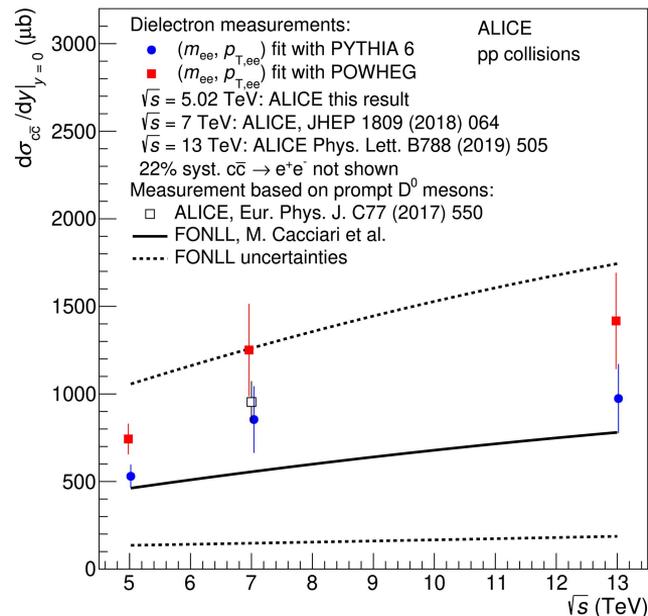
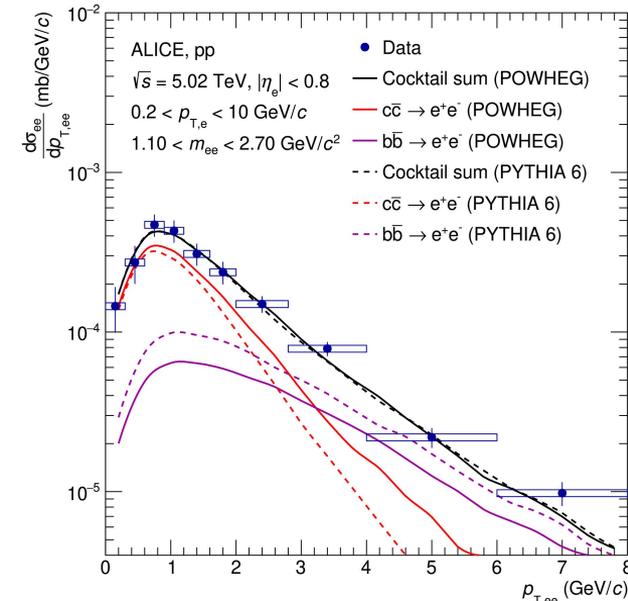
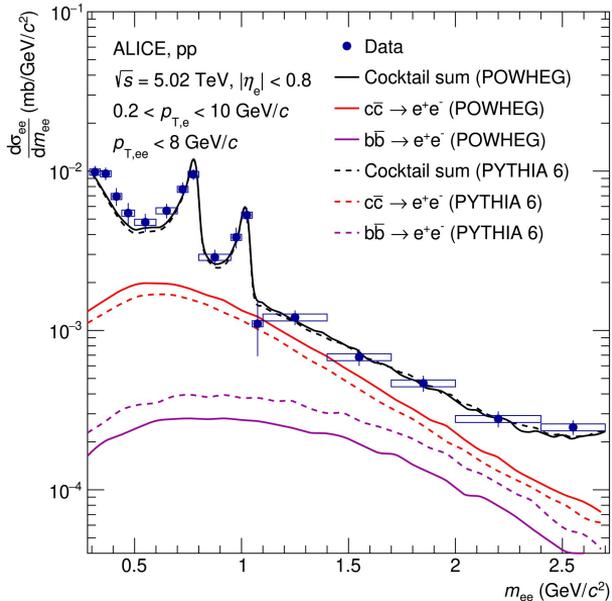


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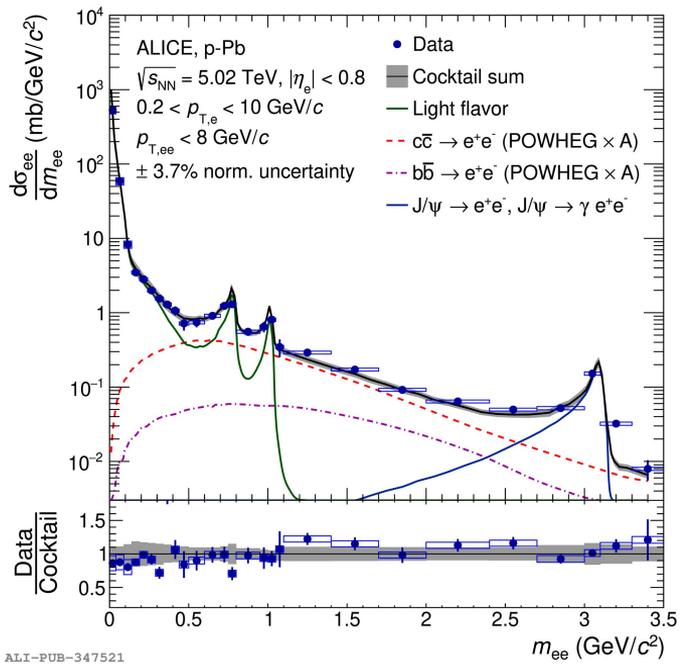
- **Proper reference:** Data well described by “cocktail” of known hadronic sources within uncertainties

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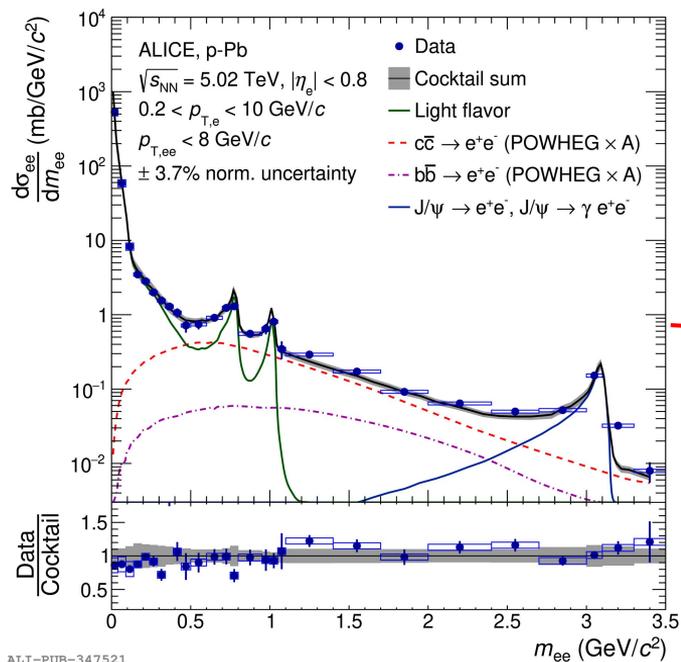
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- **Heavy flavour cross section:** extracted with 2D fit ( $m_{ee}, p_{T,ee}$ )
  - Compatible with hadron measurements
  - **Model dependence:** sensitivity to production mechanisms

# Light and heavy flavour - ALICE p-Pb



- **Proper reference:** Data well described by “cocktail” of known hadronic sources within uncertainties
  - Scaling of heavy-flavour sources with  $A$  or number of binary collisions  $N_{\text{coll}}$

# Light and heavy flavour - ALICE p-Pb



*Nuclear modification factor:*

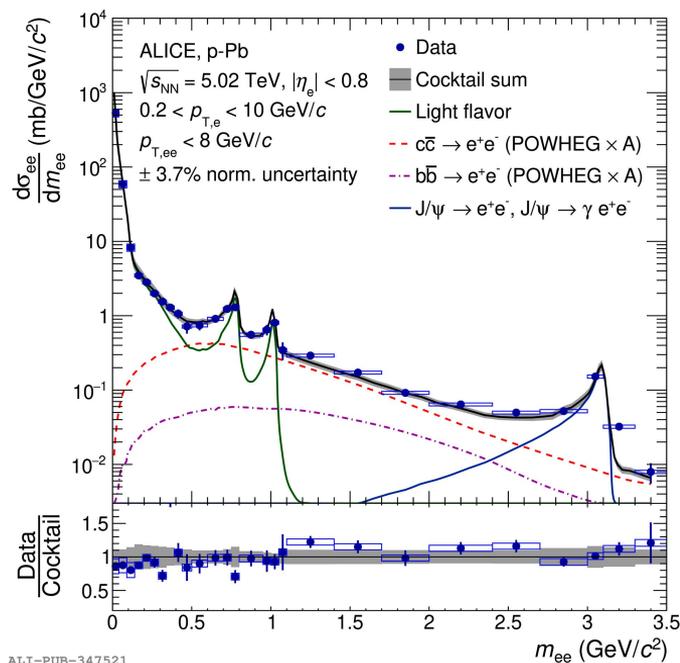
$$R_{pPb}(m_{ee}) = \frac{1}{A} \frac{d\sigma_{ee}^{pPb}/dm_{ee}}{d\sigma_{ee}^{pp}/dm_{ee}}$$

pp results

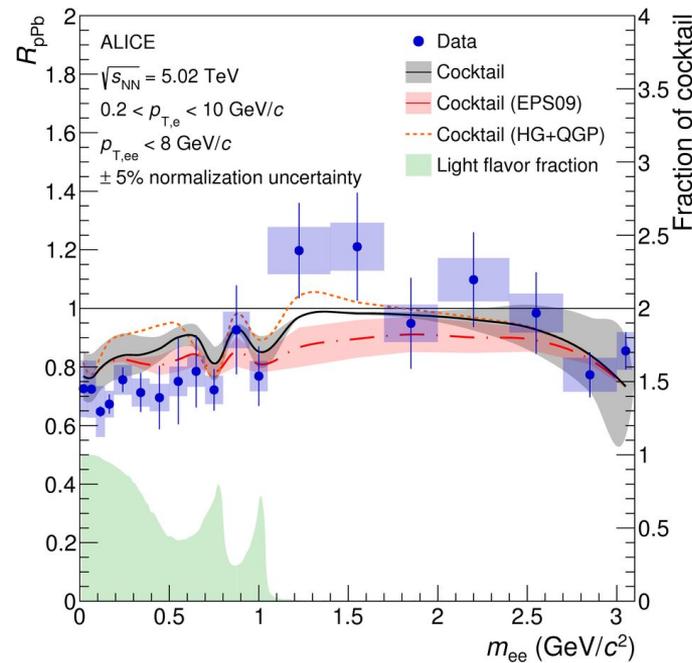
$R_{pPb} = 1$ , if p-Pb simple superposition of pp/pn collisions

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  - Scaling of heavy-flavour sources with  $A$  or number of binary collisions  $N_{\text{coll}}$

# Light and heavy flavour - ALICE p-Pb

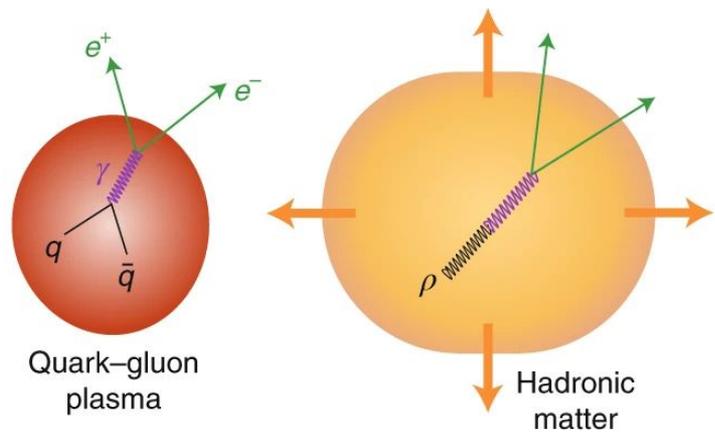


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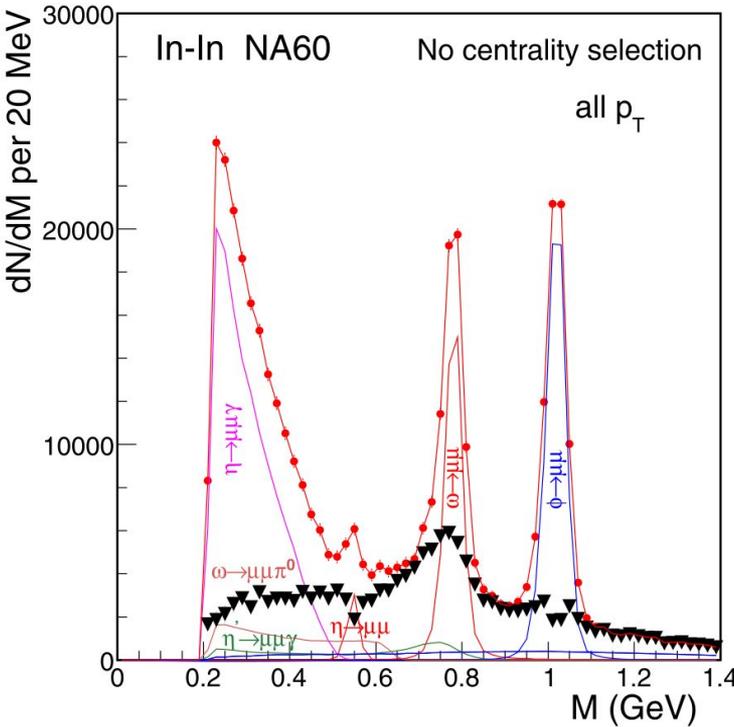


- **Proper reference:** Data well described by “cocktail” of known hadronic sources within uncertainties
- Current precision doesn’t allow for conclusions on potential **cold nuclear matter effects** (EPS09 nPDF) or **thermal radiation** (Rapp)

# Thermal dilepton production

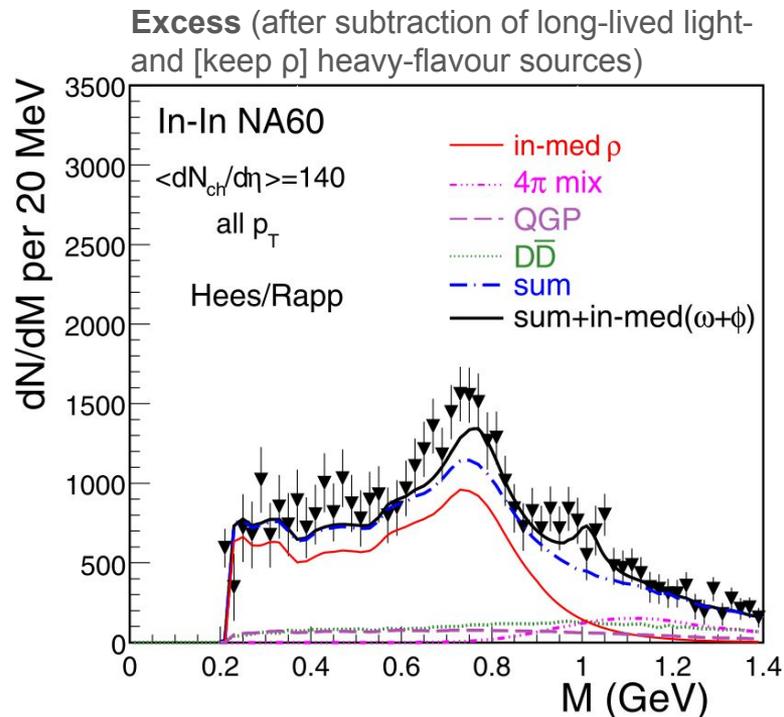
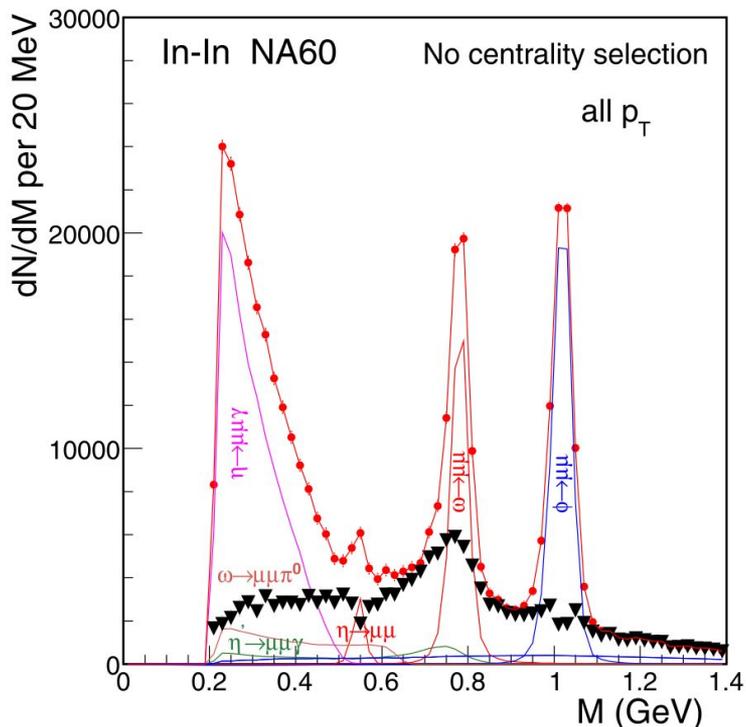


# Thermal dilepton production - SPS



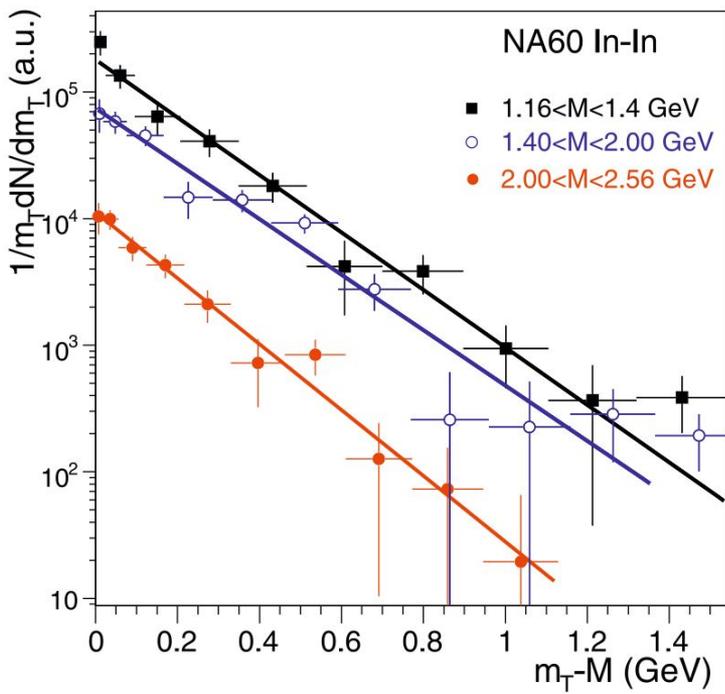
- Most precise heavy-ion dilepton results so far

# Thermal dilepton production - SPS



- Most precise heavy-ion dilepton results so far
- Consistent with an in-medium  $\rho$  spectral function that, driven by the coupling to baryons, melts and approaches the one from  $qq$  annihilation in the vicinity of the phase transition

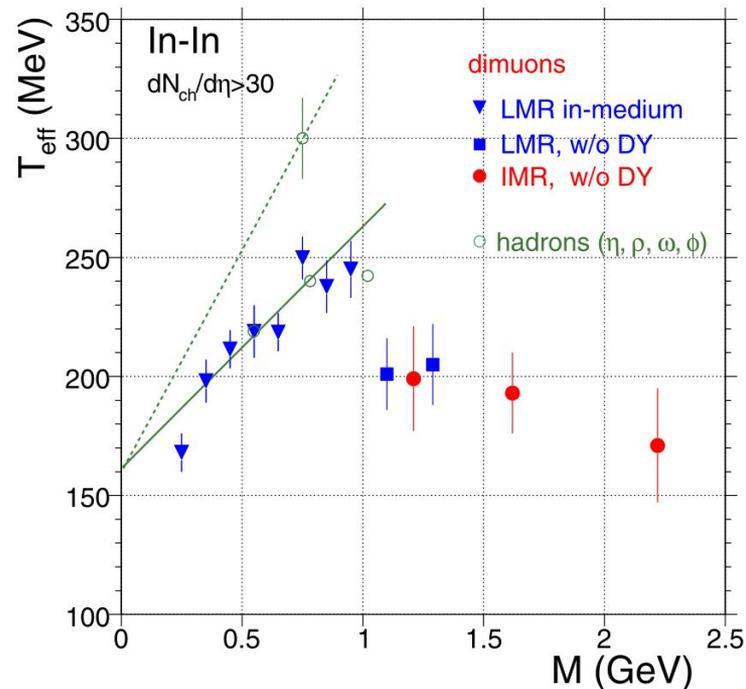
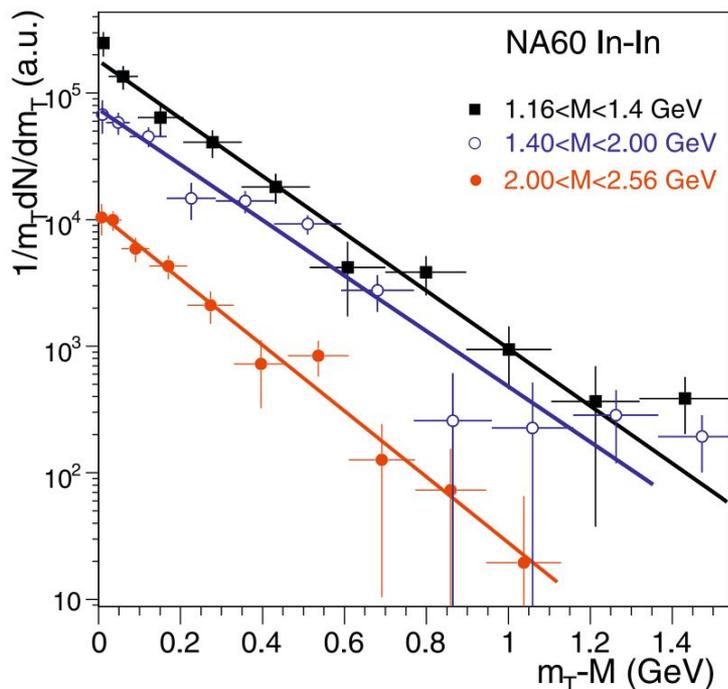
# Thermal dilepton production - SPS



$$m_T^2 = m^2 + p_x^2 + p_y^2 = E^2 - p_z^2$$

- Fit to  $m_T$  spectra of excess yield (acceptance corrected) in different mass regions

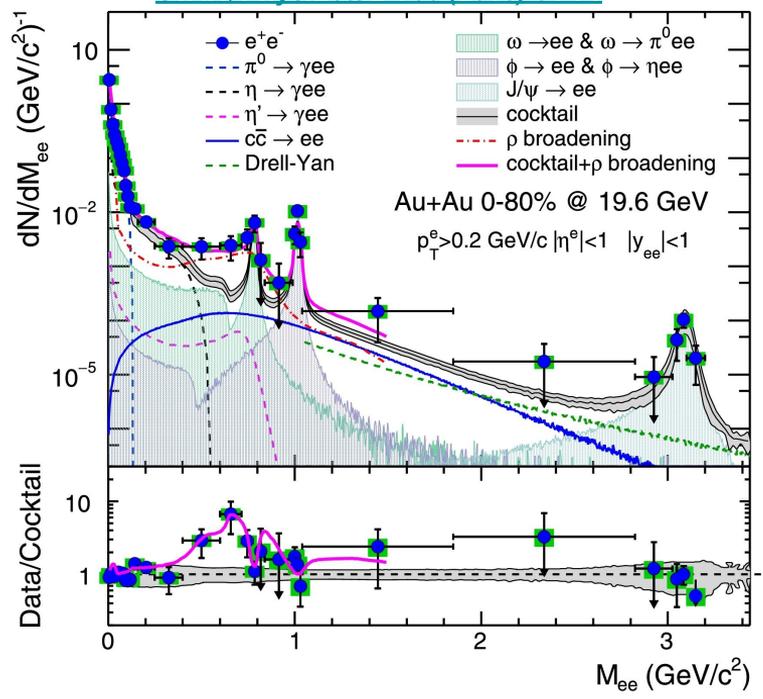
# Thermal dilepton production - SPS



- Fit to  $m_T$  spectra of excess yield (acceptance corrected) in different mass regions
- No increase of the exponential inverse slope with mass
  - Insensitive to the expansion of the medium
  - **true measure of the average temperature ( $T_{eff} = 205 \pm 12$  MeV)**

# Thermal dilepton production - RHIC

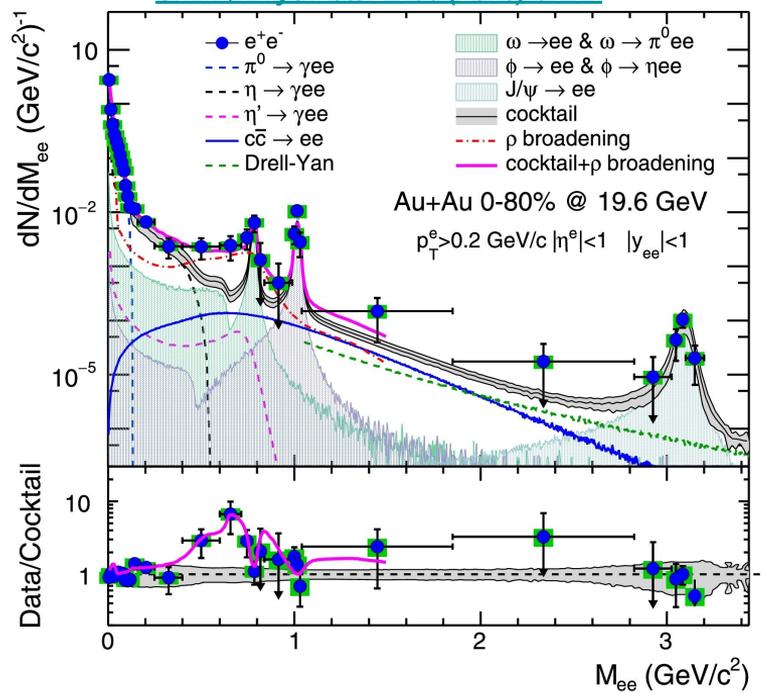
STAR, Phys.Lett.B 750 (2015) 64-71



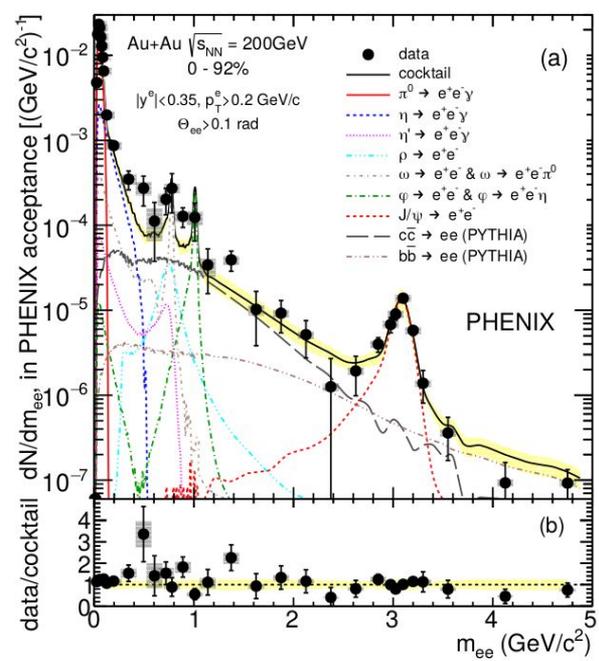
- Excess in the low mass region

# Thermal dilepton production - RHIC

STAR, Phys.Lett.B 750 (2015) 64-71



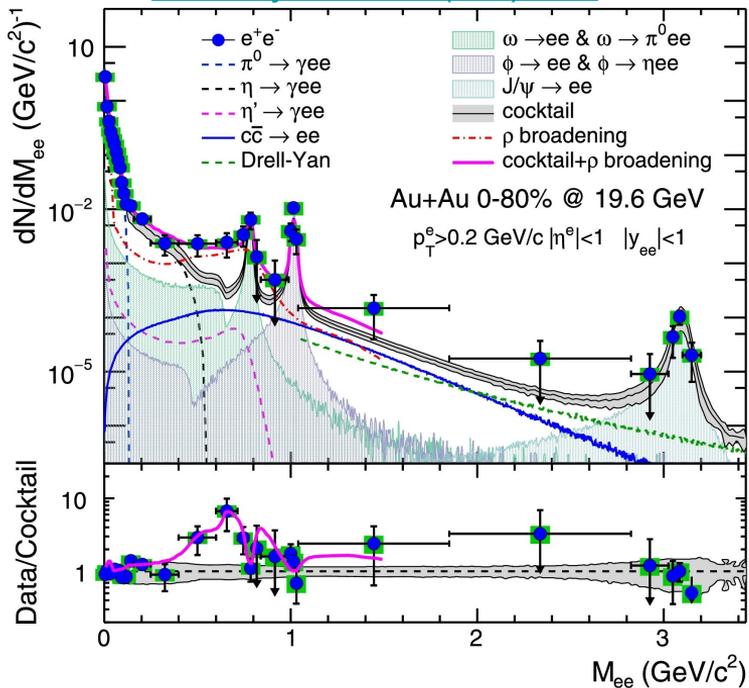
PHENIX, Phys.Rev.C 93 (2016) 1, 014904



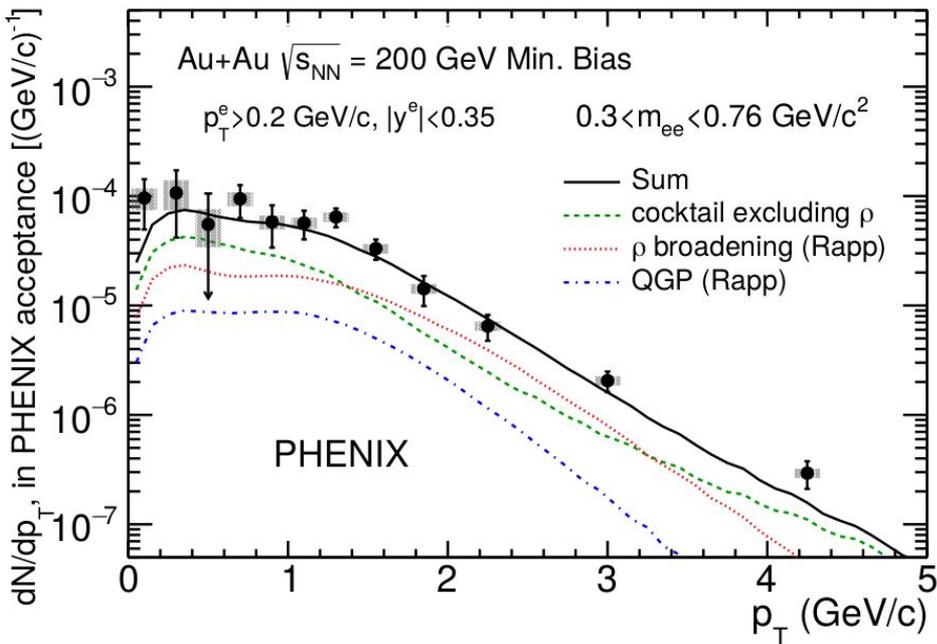
- Excess in the low mass region in the full RHIC beam energy range (19.6 - 200 GeV)

# Thermal dilepton production - RHIC

*STAR, Phys.Lett.B 750 (2015) 64-71*



*PHENIX, Phys.Rev.C 93 (2016) 1, 014904*

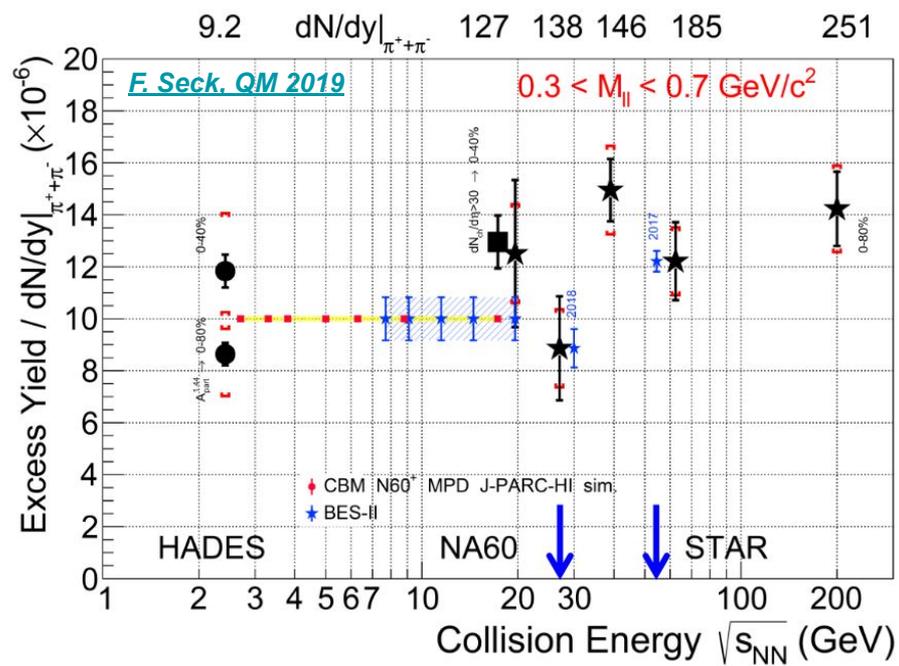


- **Excess in the low mass region** in the full RHIC beam energy range (19.6 - 200 GeV)
- Compatible with  $\rho$  broadening + QGP thermal radiation



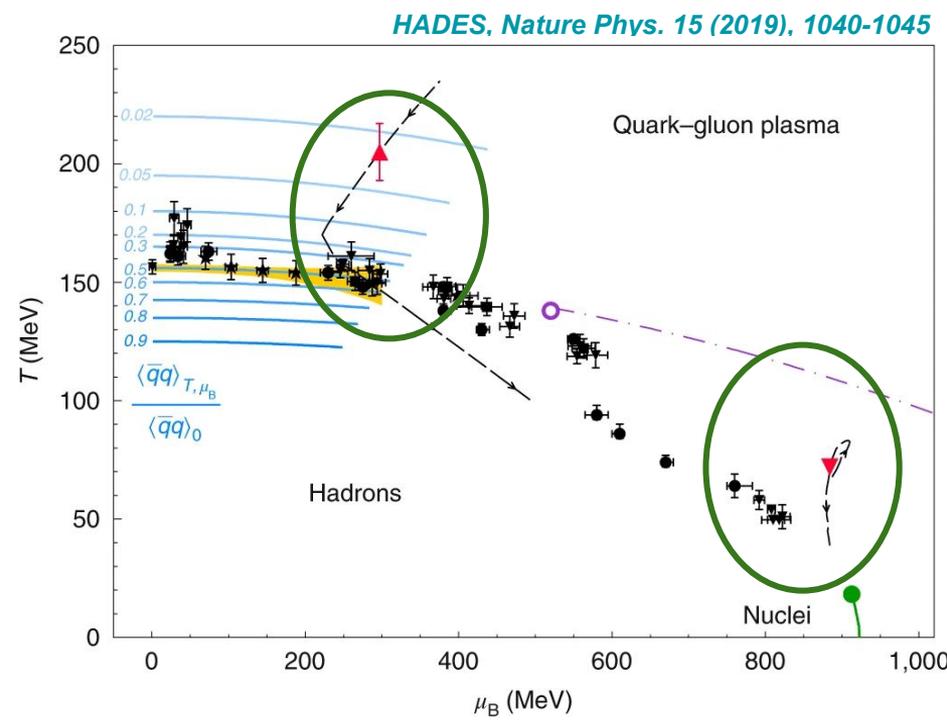
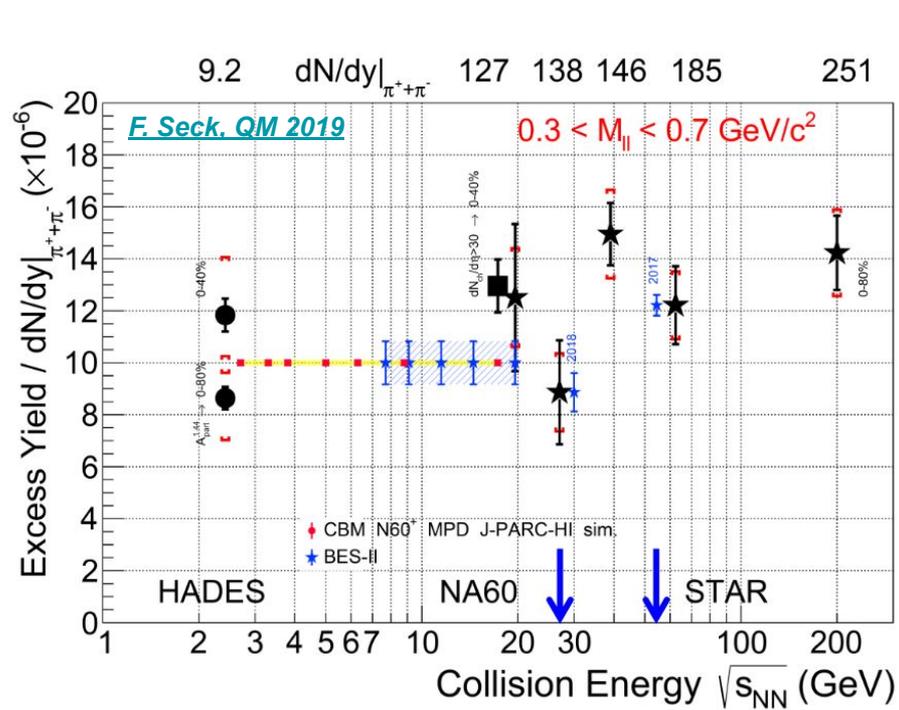


# Thermal dilepton production - excitation function



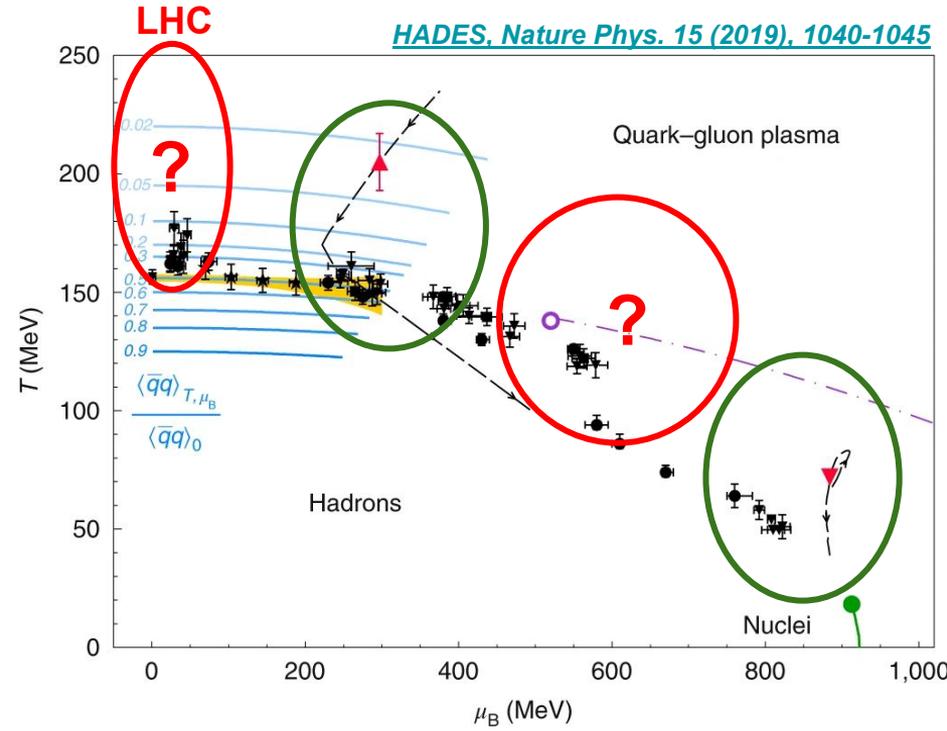
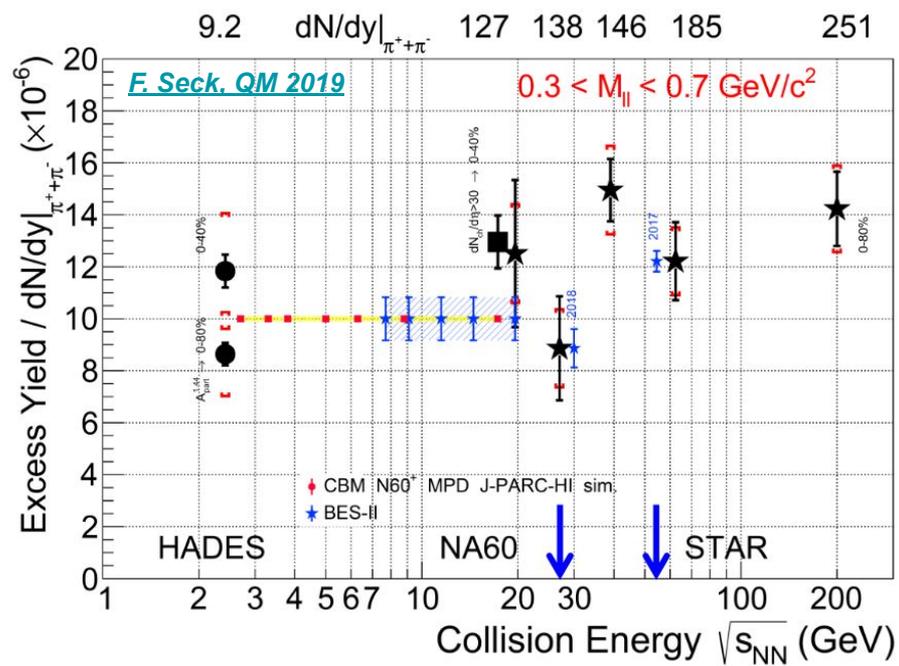
- Excess in the low mass region as a function of collision energy (**chronometer**)

# Thermal dilepton production - excitation function



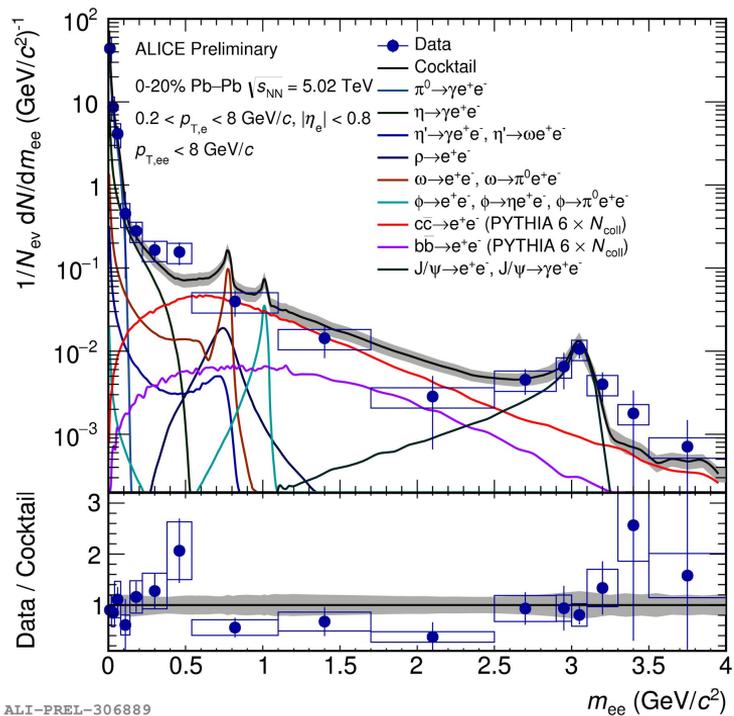
- Excess in the low mass region as a function of collision energy (**chronometer**)
- Extraction of effective temperature (**thermometer**)

# Thermal dilepton production - excitation function



- Excess in the low mass region as a function of collision energy (**chronometer**)
- Extraction of effective temperature (**thermometer**)
- **Large uncharted territory on the QCD phase diagram**

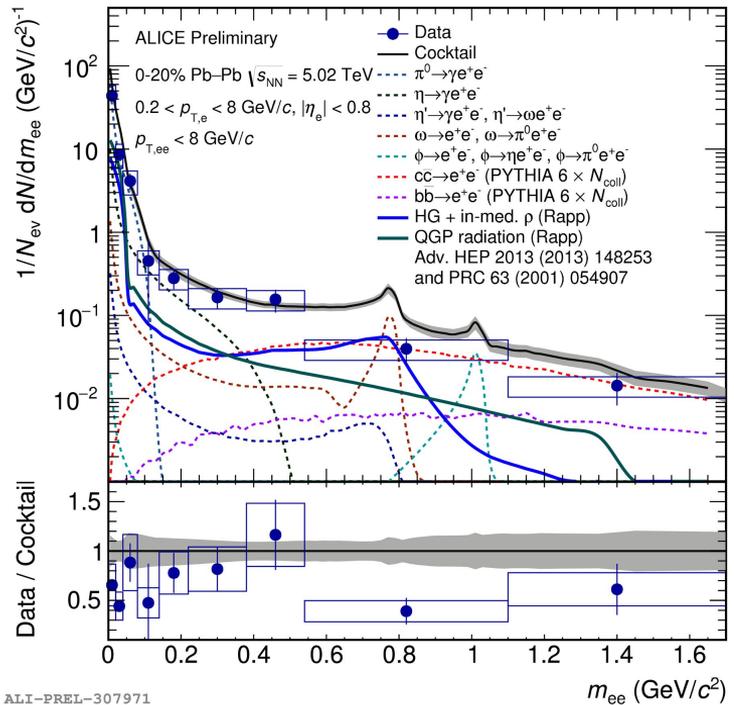
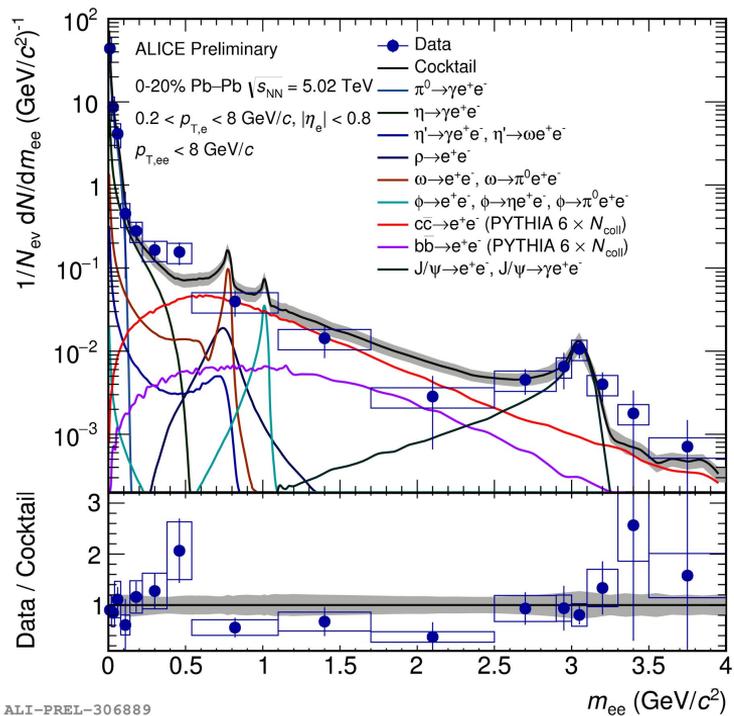
# ALICE measurements - Dielectrons LHC Run 2



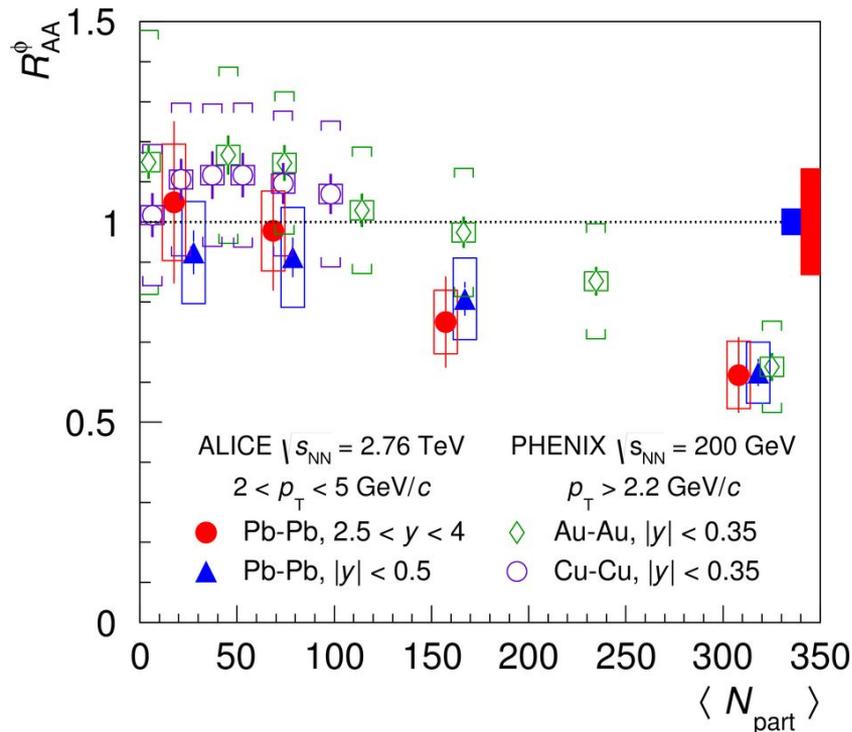
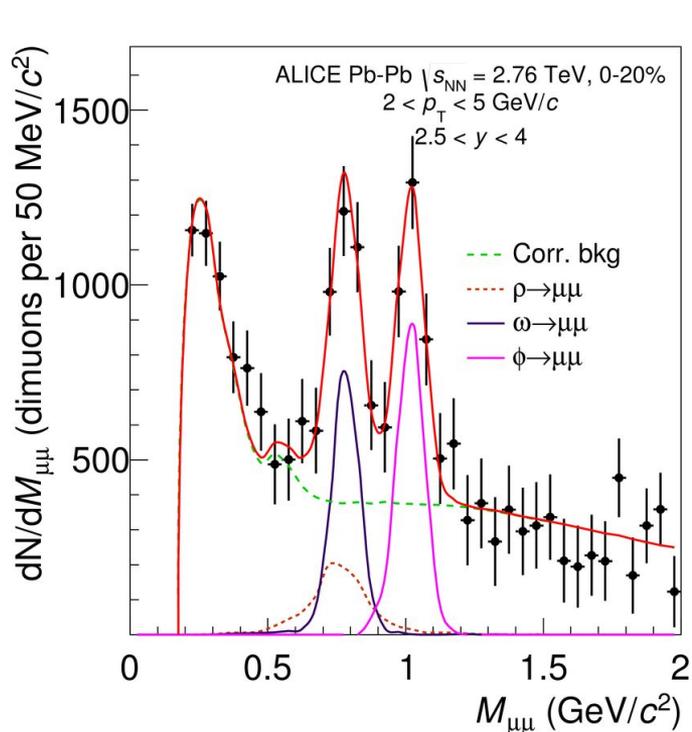
ALI-PREL-306889

- **Central Pb-Pb collisions** (2015 data only)
- Still large uncertainties (analysis of 2018 data with  $\sim 10$  times larger sample ongoing)

# ALICE measurements - Dielectrons LHC Run 2

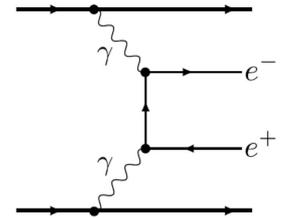
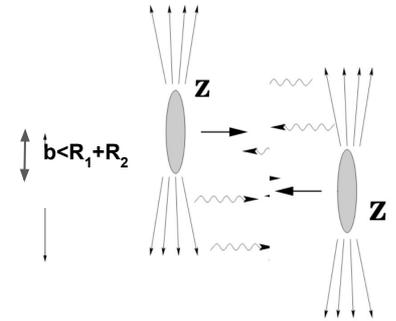


- **Central Pb-Pb collisions** (2015 data only)
- Still large uncertainties (analysis of 2018 data with ~10 times larger sample ongoing)
- Comparisons to **pure hadronic cocktail, nPDFs, and thermal scenarios** inconclusive so far  
(similar conclusion from Run 1 data)



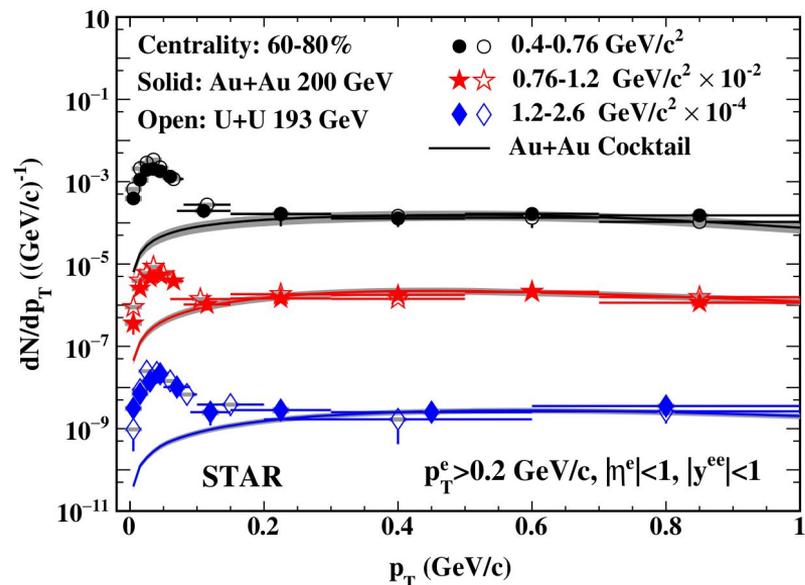
- Limited background rejection at low  $p_T$  in LHC Run 1 and 2
- Focus on vector meson production in pp and Pb-Pb collisions → nuclear modification factor

# Photoproduction

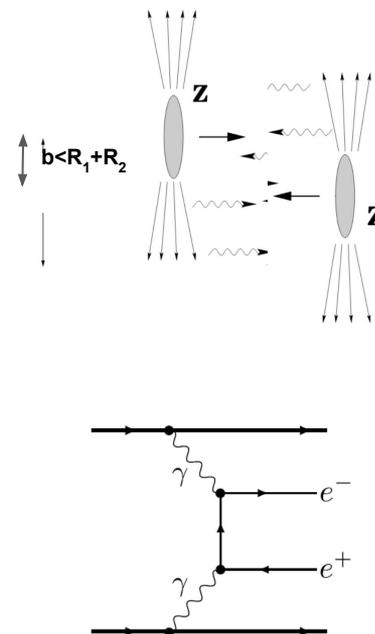


# Photoproduction - STAR

[STAR, Phys.Rev.Lett. 121 \(2018\) 13, 132301](#)

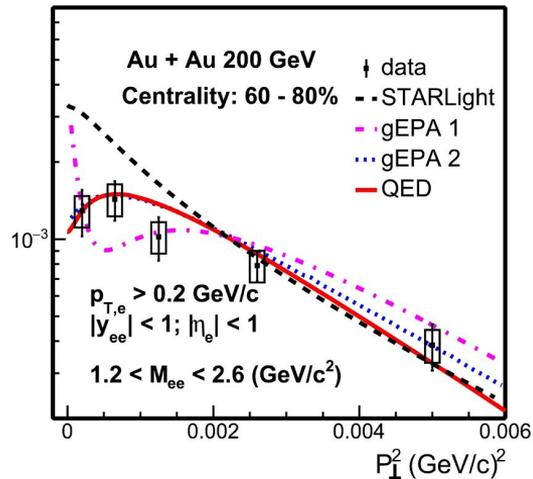
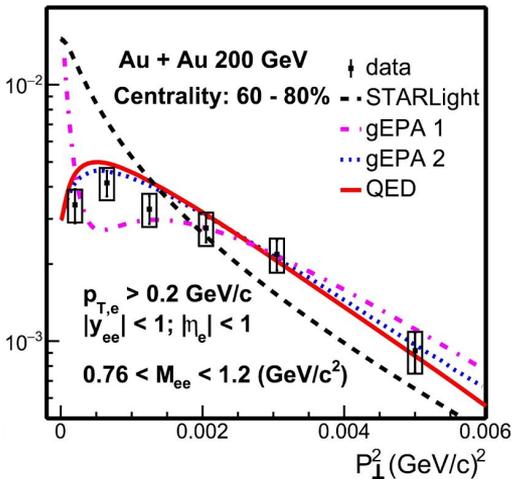
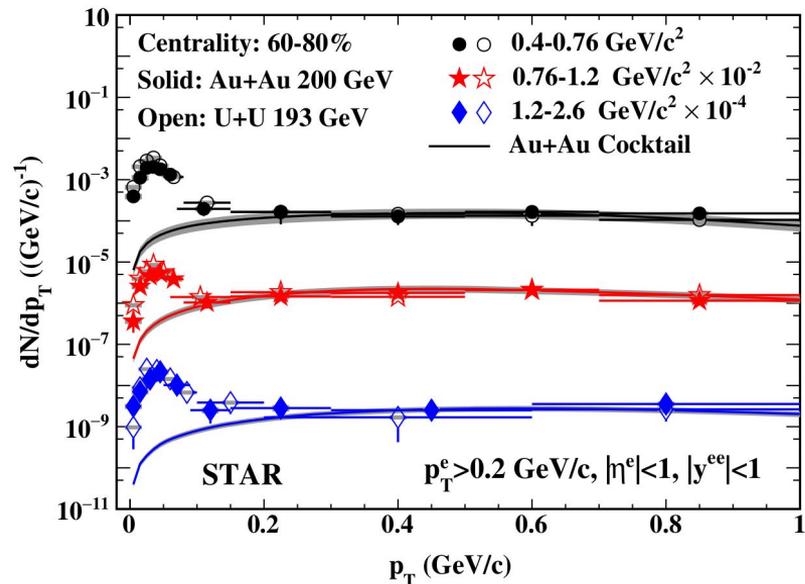


- **Excess  $e^+e^-$  pair  $p_T$  distribution concentrates below  $p_T \sim 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c$** 
  - Evidence of **photon interactions in hadronic heavy ion collisions**



# Photoproduction - STAR

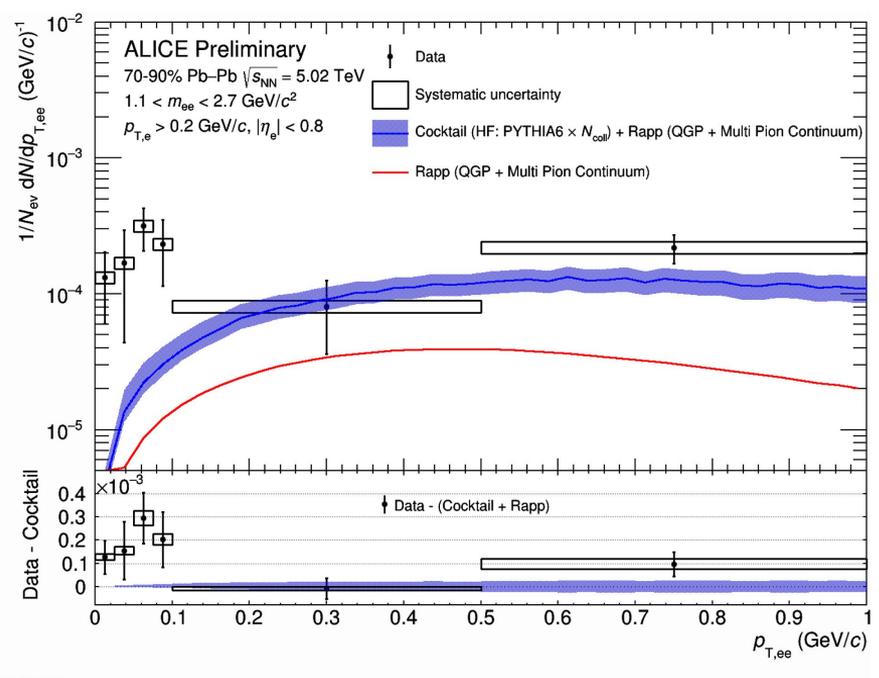
[STAR, Phys.Rev.Lett. 121 \(2018\) 13, 132301](#)



[W. Zha et al., Phys.Lett.B 800 \(2020\) 135089](#)

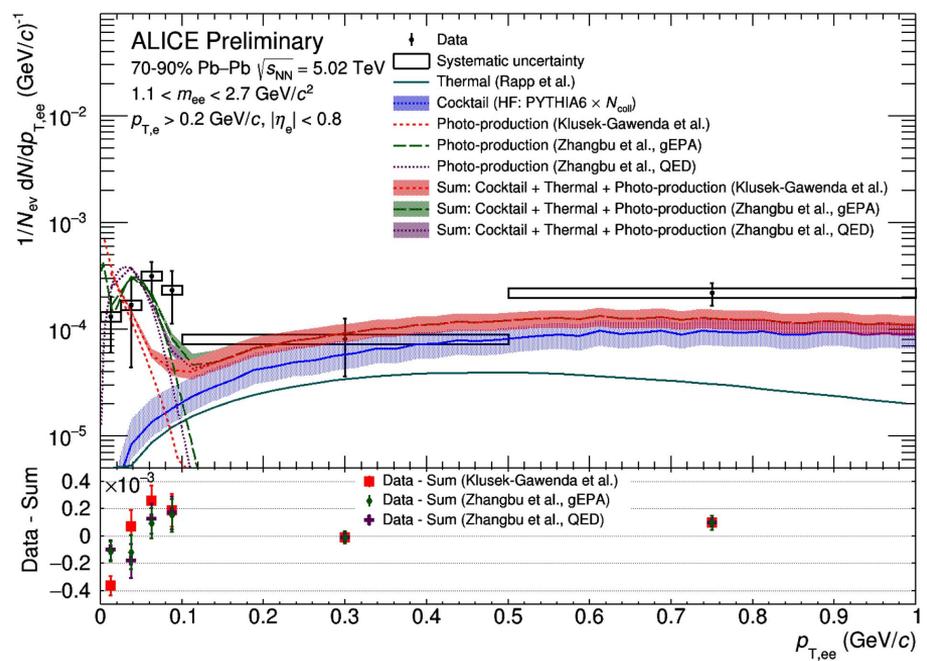
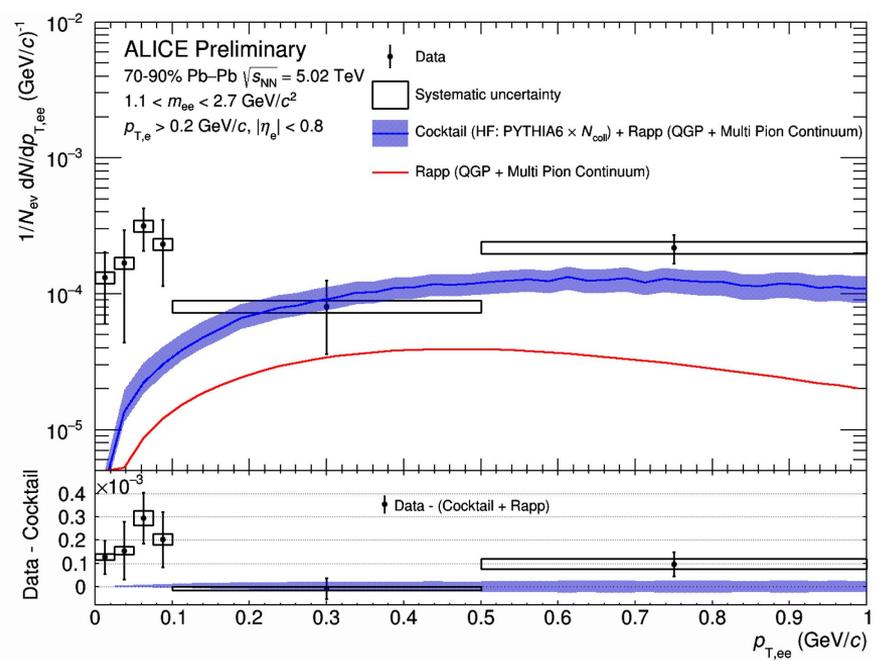
- **Excess  $e^+e^-$  pair  $p_T$  distribution concentrates below  $p_T \sim 0.15$  GeV/c**
  - Evidence of **photon interactions in hadronic heavy ion collisions**
- **$p_T$  broadening w.r.t. UPC (StarLight):**
  - Importance of **impact parameter dependence** of initial electromagnetic field
  - **Additional effects?** See [S. Klein et al., arXiv:2003.02947 \[hep-ph\]](#) for a recent summary

# Photoproduction - ALICE



- Excess w.r.t. cocktail and thermal sources at  $p_{T,ee} < 0.1$  GeV/c

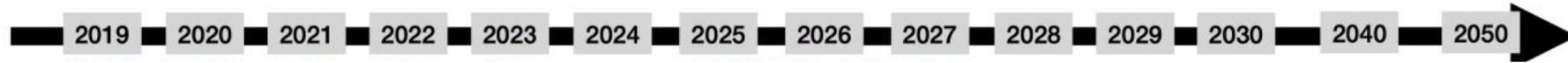
# Photoproduction - ALICE



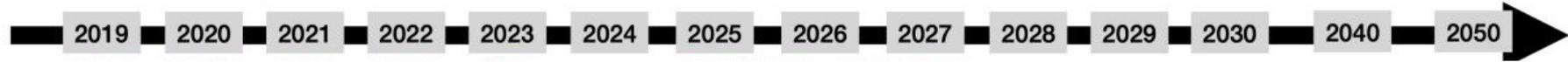
- Excess w.r.t. cocktail and thermal sources at  $p_{T,ee} < 0.1$  GeV/c
- **Compatible with photo-production models** (caveat: no resolution effects taken into account here)
- **Next steps:** increase statistics by factor of two by including 2018 data, event-plane dependence,...

# The next decade

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# The next decade



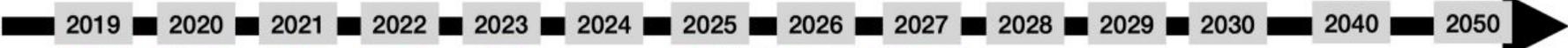
*At the LHC (changes due to Covid not included here):*

Year	Systems, $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	Time	$L_{int}$	<a href="#">HL-LHC WG5 yellow report</a>
2021	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	3 weeks	$2.3 \text{ nb}^{-1}$	
	pp 5.5 TeV	1 week	$3 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ALICE), $300 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ATLAS, CMS), $25 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (LHCb)	
2022	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	5 weeks	$3.9 \text{ nb}^{-1}$	
	O-O, p-O	1 week	$500 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$ and $200 \mu\text{b}^{-1}$	
2023	p-Pb 8.8 TeV	3 weeks	$0.6 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ATLAS, CMS), $0.3 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ALICE, LHCb)	
	pp 8.8 TeV	few days	$1.5 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ALICE), $100 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ATLAS, CMS, LHCb)	
2027	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	5 weeks	$3.8 \text{ nb}^{-1}$	
	pp 5.5 TeV	1 week	$3 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ALICE), $300 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ATLAS, CMS), $25 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (LHCb)	
2028	p-Pb 8.8 TeV	3 weeks	$0.6 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ATLAS, CMS), $0.3 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ALICE, LHCb)	
	pp 8.8 TeV	few days	$1.5 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ALICE), $100 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (ATLAS, CMS, LHCb)	
2029	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	4 weeks	$3 \text{ nb}^{-1}$	
Run-5	Intermediate AA pp reference	11 weeks 1 week	e.g. Ar-Ar $3-9 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ (optimal species to be defined)	

**ALICE:**  
 $13 \text{ nb}^{-1}$       Pb-Pb  
 $0.6 \text{ pb}^{-1}$       p-Pb

+      pp  
([ALICE-PUBLIC-2020-005](#))

# The next decade



## Upgraded ALICE detector

### New Inner Tracking System (ITS)

- monolithic CMOS sensors (ALPIDE) with very small material budget
- improved pointing precision

### Muon Forward Tracker (MFT)

- new tracker based on ALPIDE
- improved MUON pointing precision

### Time Projection Chamber (TPC)

- New readout chambers using GEM technology
- New electronics for continuous readout (SAMPA)

### Online Offline (O2) system

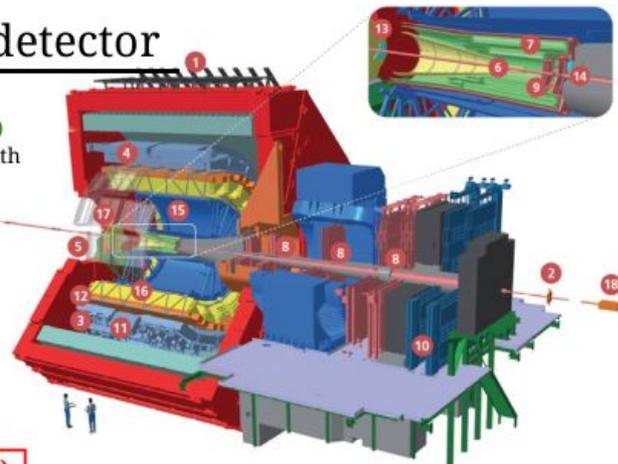
- new computing facility
- online tracking & data compression
- 50kHz PbPb event rate

### MUON ARM

- New electronics for Muon Chambers (SAMPA)
- New electronics for Muon Trigger

### Common Projects:

- Common Readout Unit (CRU) for all detectors
- SAMPA common FE chip for TPC and Muon arm



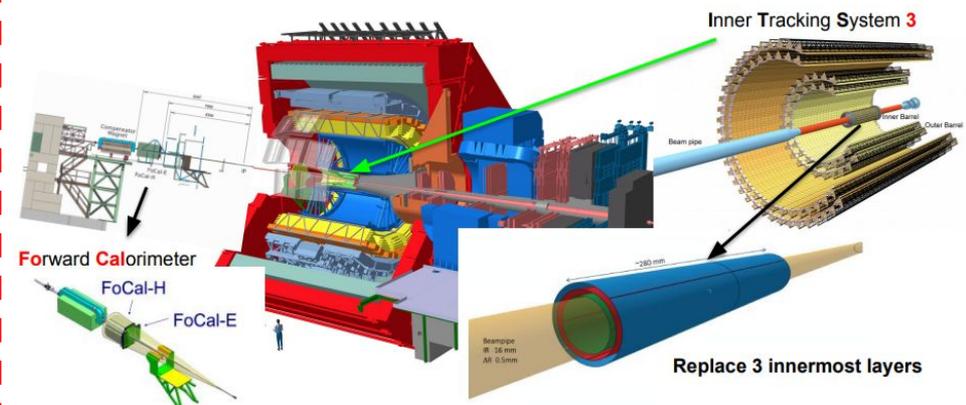
- 1 ACORDE | ALICE Cosmic Rays Detector
- 2 AD | ALICE Diffractive Detector
- 3 DCal | Di-jet Calorimeter
- 4 EMCal | Electromagnetic Calorimeter
- 5 HMPID | High-Momentum Particle Identification Detector
- 6 ITS-IB | Inner Tracking System - Inner Barrel
- 7 ITS-OB | Inner Tracking System - Outer Barrel
- 8 MCH | Muon Tracking Chambers
- 9 MFT | Muon Forward Tracker
- 10 MID | Muon Identifier
- 11 PHOS / CPV | Photon Spectrometer
- 12 TOF | Time Of Flight
- 13 T0+A | Zero + A
- 14 T0+C | Zero + C
- 15 TPC | Time Projection Chamber
- 16 TRD | Transition Radiation Detector
- 17 V0+ | Vzero + Detector
- 18 ZDC | Zero Degree Calorimeter

New Trigger Detectors (FIT)  
 New Central Trigger Processor (CTP)  
 TOF, TRD: new readout electronics  
 PHOS, EMCal, CPV, HMPID:  
 improvement of readout rate

# The next decade

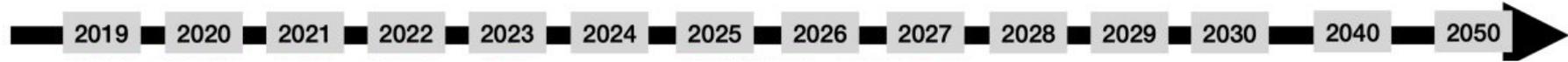


## FoCal and ITS3:

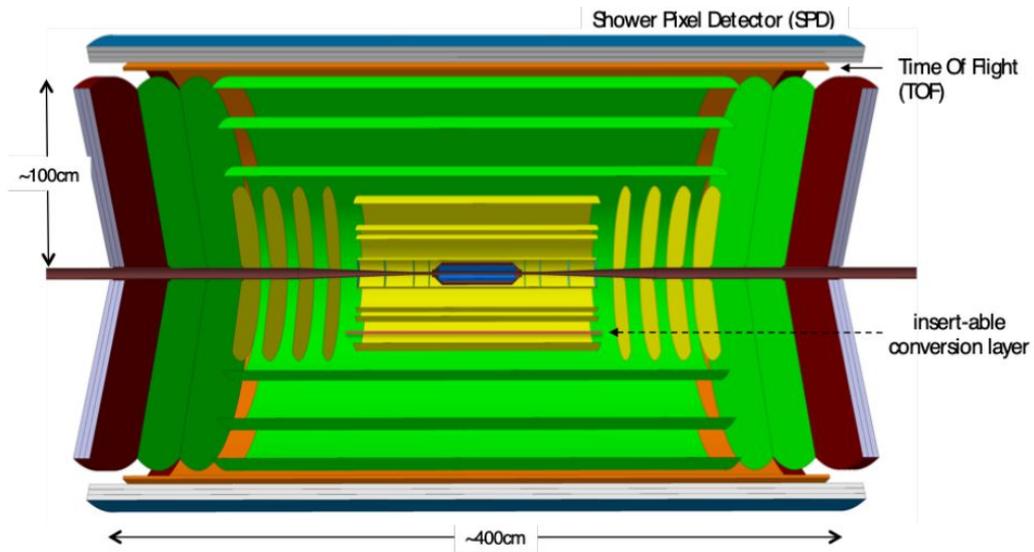


[A. Rossi, ICHEP 2020](#)

# The next decade

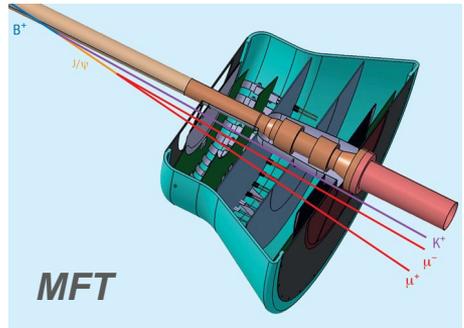


## *A next generation heavy-ion experiment:*



[arXiv:1902.01211 \[physics.ins-det\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.01211)

# ALICE upgrades (Run 3 and 4) and dileptons

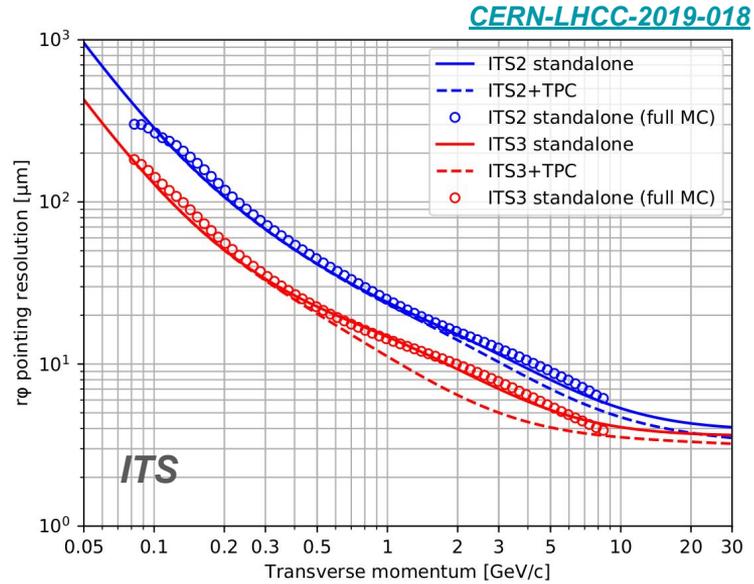


**Dimuons:**

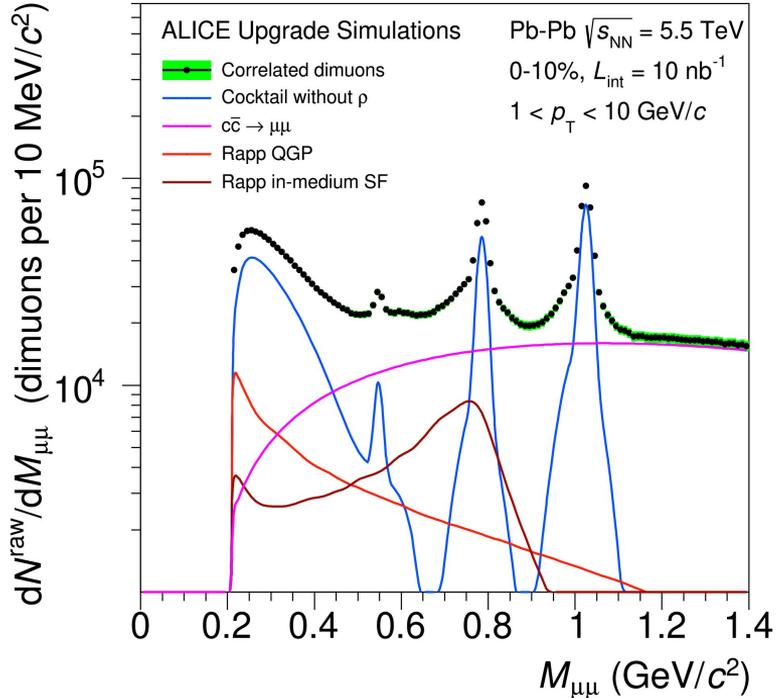
- Vertexing by Muon Forward Tracker
- Better mass resolution and reduced background

**Dielectrons:**

- Improved vertex resolution (ITS2, ITS3)
- Reduced material budget (conversions)
- Higher data acquisition rate (50 kHz)
- Dedicated low B field run(s): improved efficiency at low  $p_T$ , better conversion rejection

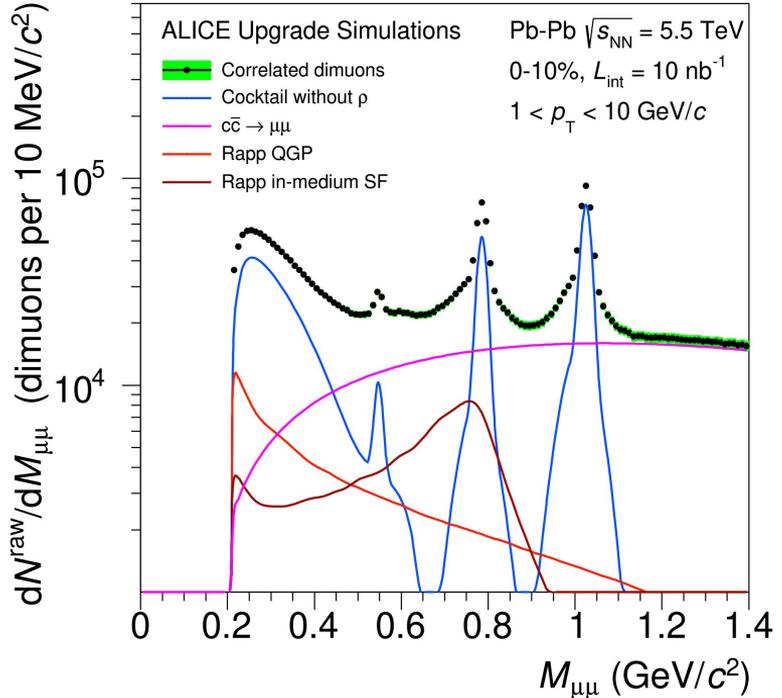


Inner layers	ITS1 (Run 1-2)	ITS2 (Run 3)	ITS3 (Run 4)
$X/X_0$	1.14%	0.38%	0.05%
innermost radius	39 mm	22 mm	18 mm
pixel size	50x425 $\mu\text{m}^2$	~27x29 $\mu\text{m}^2$	O(15x15 $\mu\text{m}^2$ )



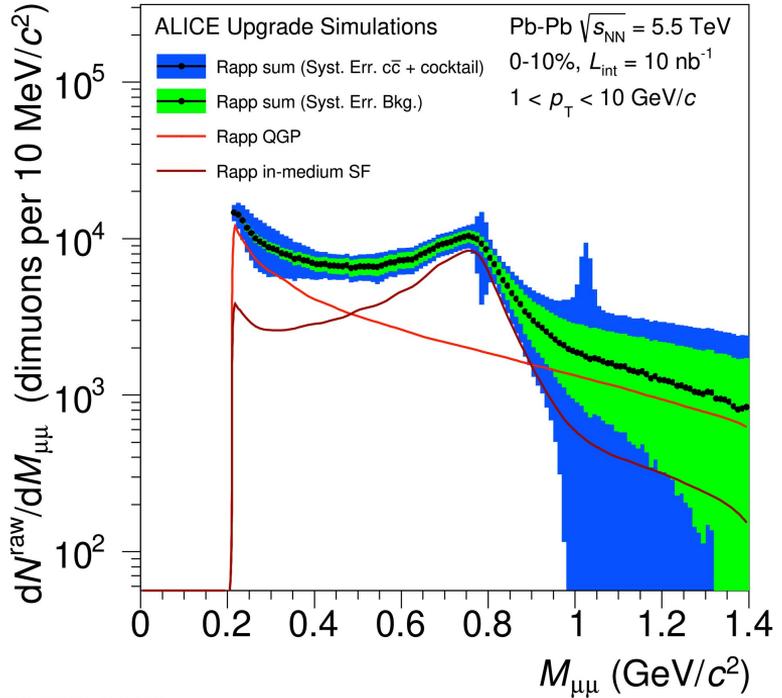
ALI-SIMUL-306418

Not optimized to reduce contribution of heavy-flavour sources



ALI-SIMUL-306418

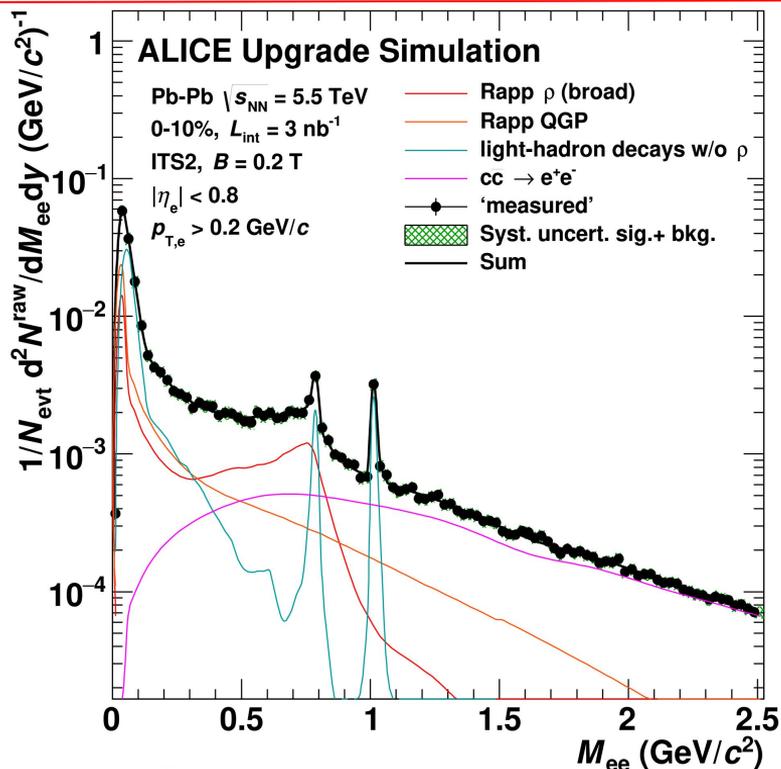
Not optimized to reduce contribution of heavy-flavour sources



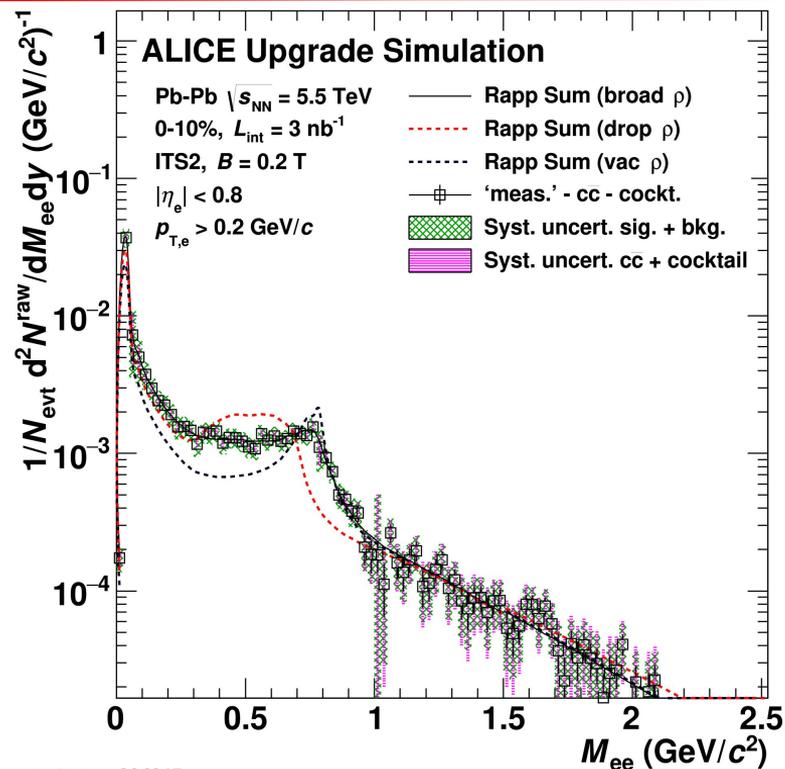
ALI-SIMUL-306413

After subtraction of long-lived light- and (keep  $\rho$ ) heavy-flavour sources  
 → **measurement of  $\rho$  spectral shape**

# ALICE - Dielectrons (Run 3)

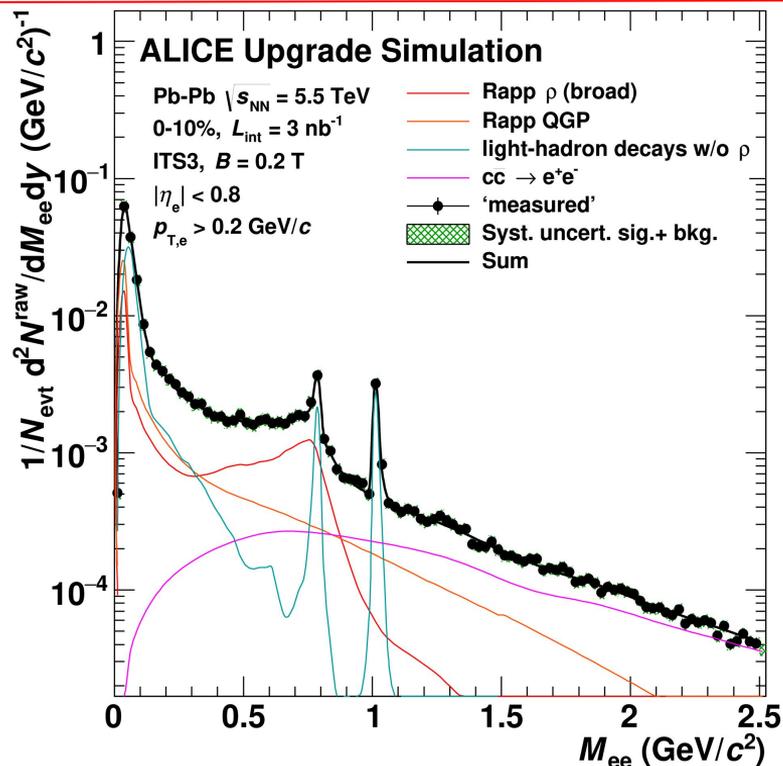


Applying cuts on the pair DCA to reduce contribution of heavy-flavour sources

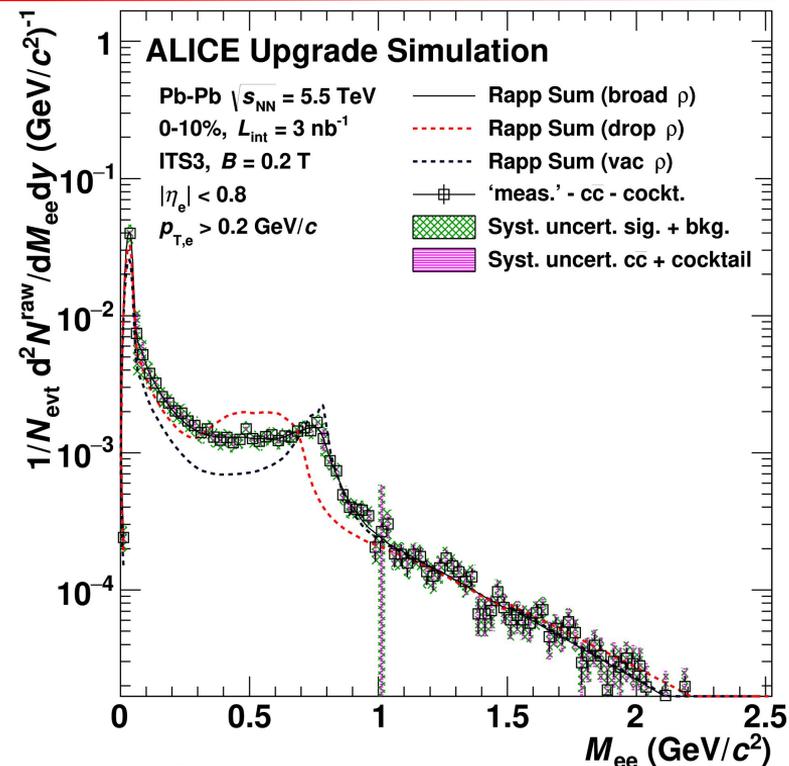


After subtraction of long-lived light- and (keep  $\rho$ ) heavy-flavour sources  
 → **measurement of  $\rho$  spectral shape**

# ALICE - Dielectrons (Run 4)

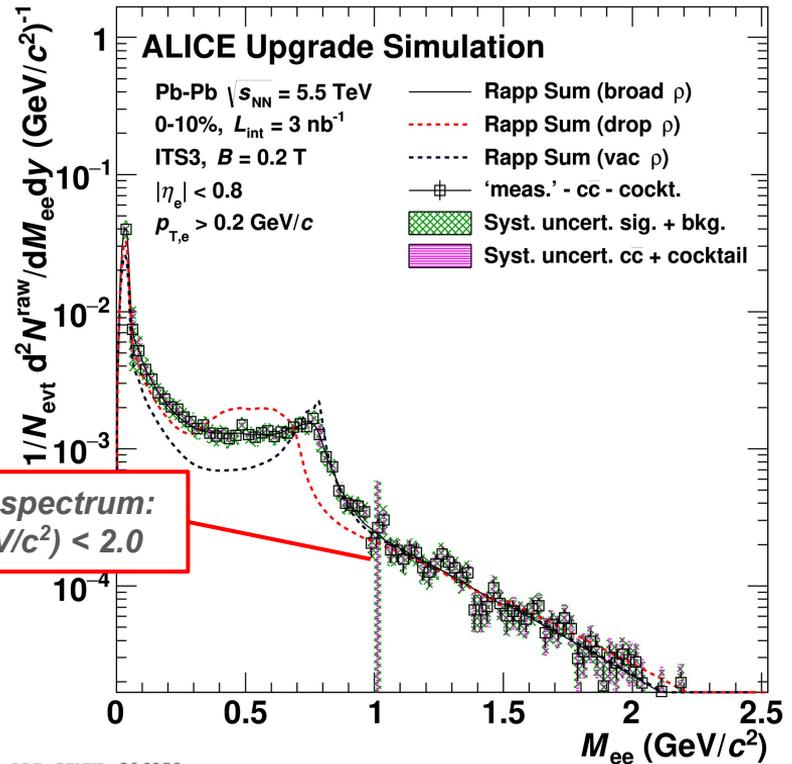
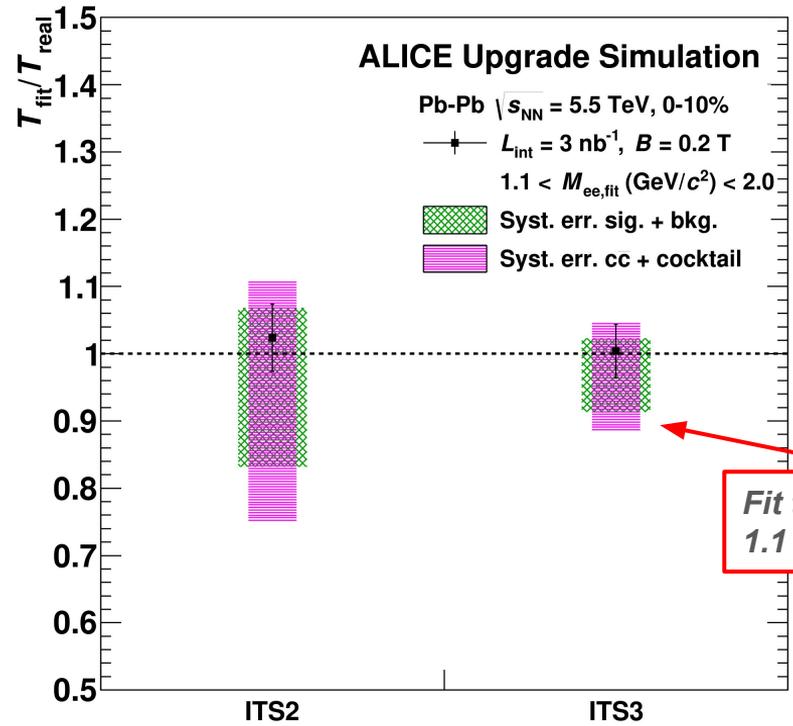


Applying cuts on the pair DCA to reduce contribution of heavy-flavour sources



After subtraction of long-lived light- and (keep  $\rho$ ) heavy-flavour sources  
 → **reduction of stat./syst. uncertainties**

# ALICE - Temperature extraction



ALI-SIMUL-306864

ALI-SIMUL-306852

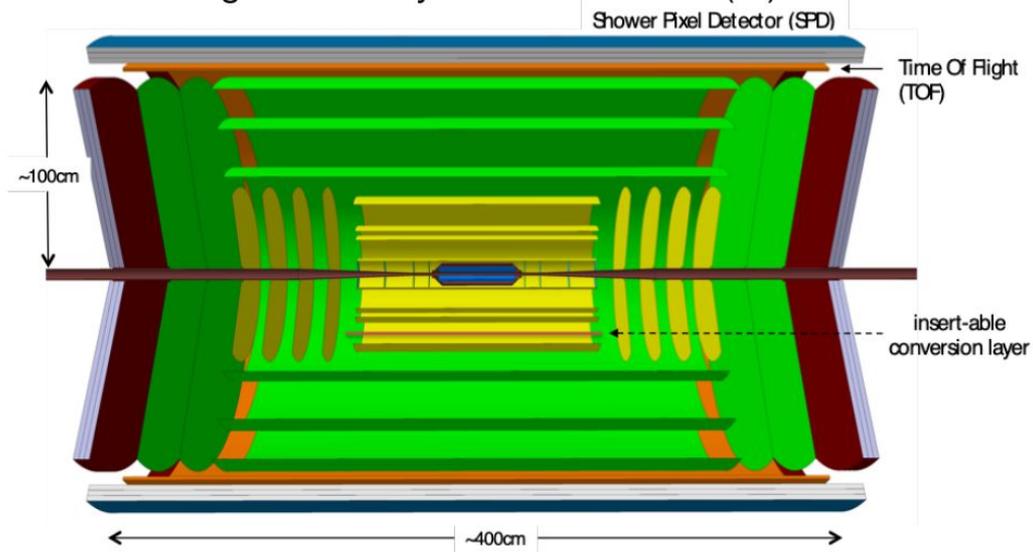
- Temperature measurement at the LHC
  - Heavy flavour uncertainties can be improved
- Large statistics will allow for **more differential measurements ( $p_T$  dependence, flow, polarization)**

# Beyond 2030: ALICE 3



a thin, light, fast all-silicon tracking & PID detector

high luminosity with smaller ions (Ar)

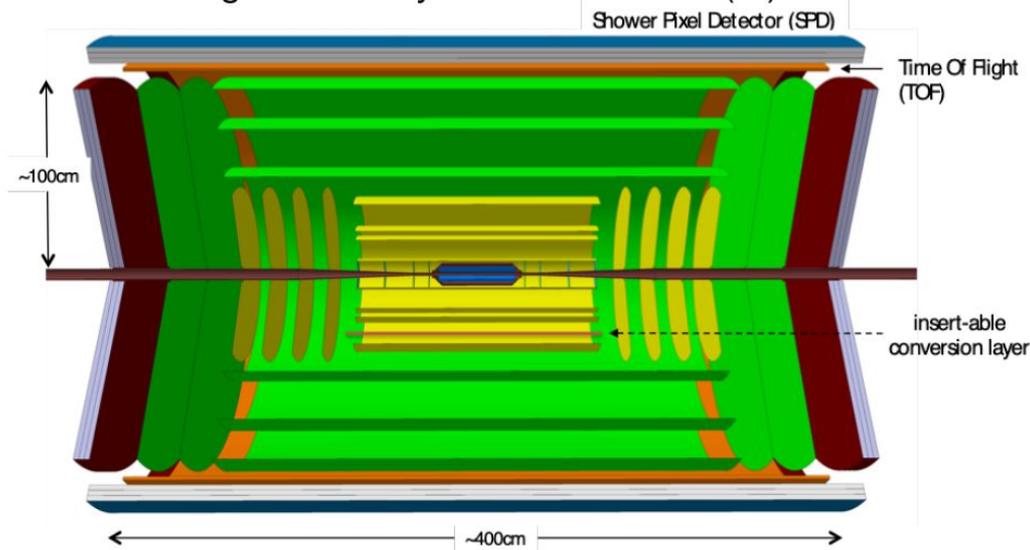


# Beyond 2030: ALICE 3

A next-generation LHC heavy-ion experiment

a thin, light, fast all-silicon tracking & PID detector

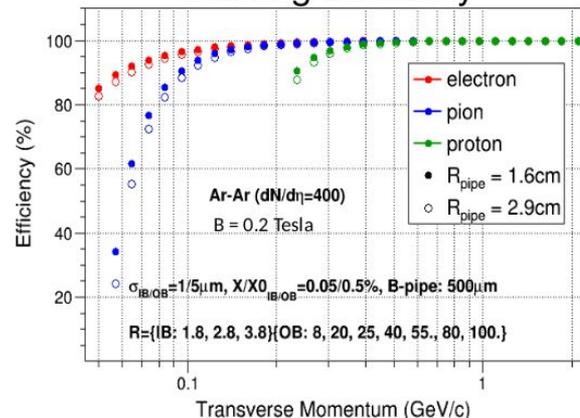
high luminosity with smaller ions (Ar)



Heavy-flavour and quarkonia

- Multiply Heavy Flavoured hadrons:  $\Xi_{CC}$ ,  $\Omega_{CC}$ ,  $\Omega_{CCC}$
- Ultimate precision on B mesons at low  $p_T$
- $\chi_{c1,2}$  states
- X, Y, Z charmonium-like states (e.g. X(3872))

Tracking efficiency

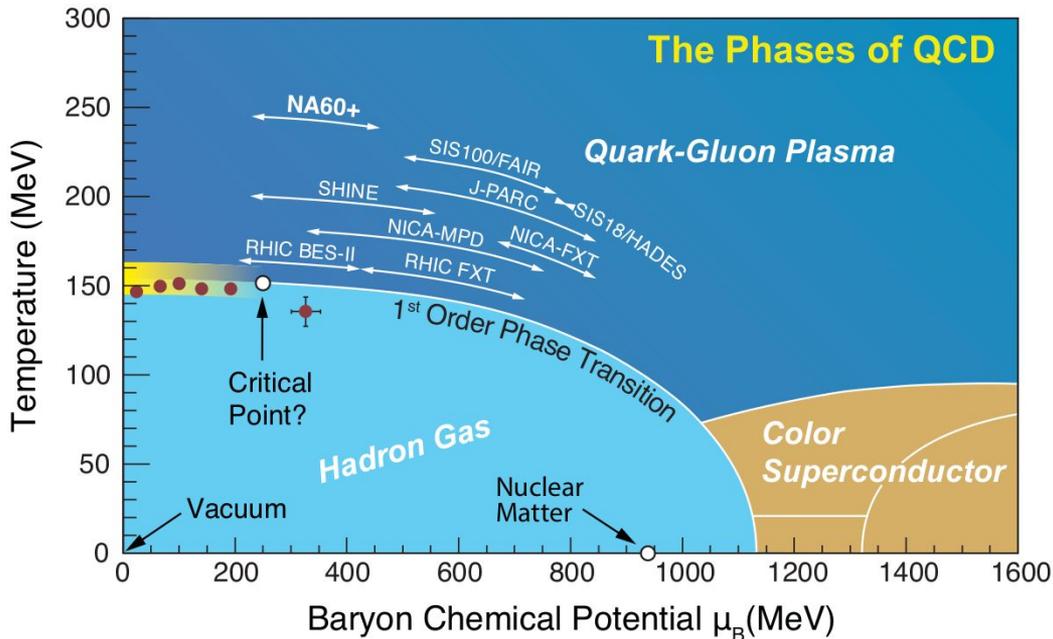


Unique low material budget and low- $p_T$  coverage

- Thermal radiation and electric conductivity
- Chiral symmetry restoration: modification of  $\rho$ ,  $a_1$
- Quantum statistics effects
- Condensate physics
- Soft Theorems

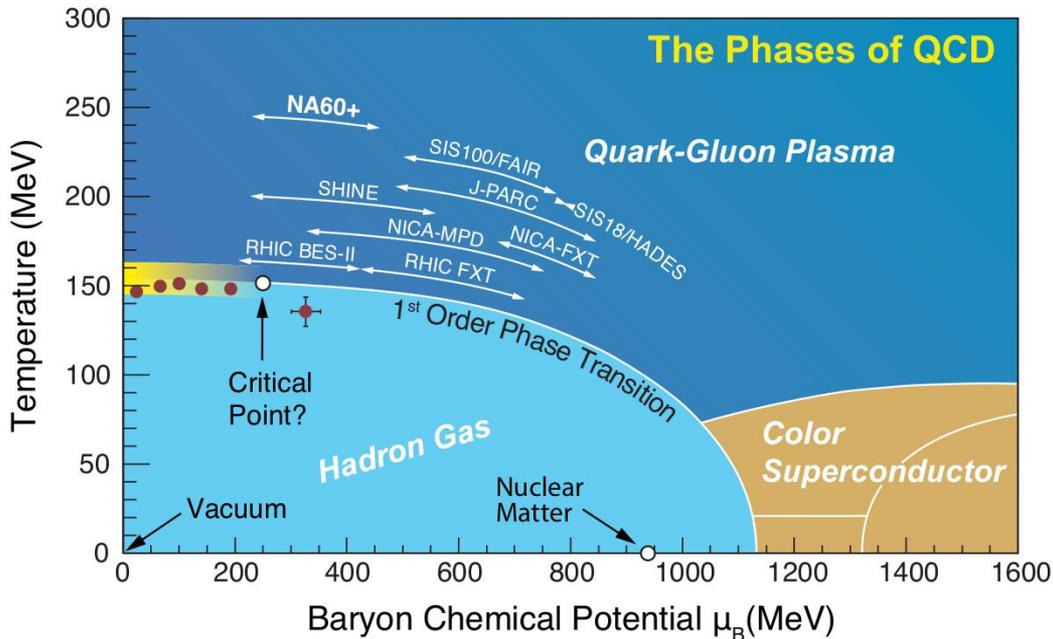
[ALICE 3 workshop: 13.-15. Oct 2020](#)

# Other future opportunities: beam energy scan

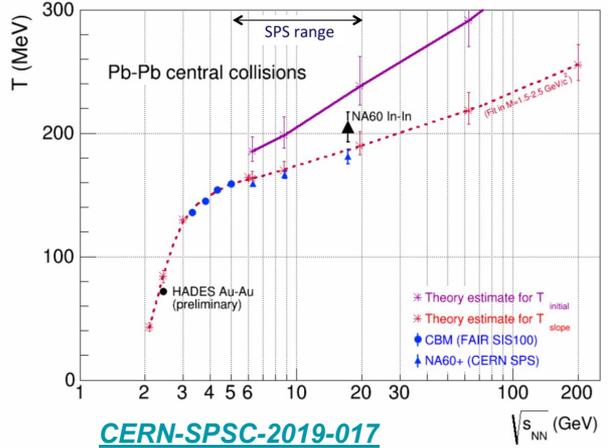
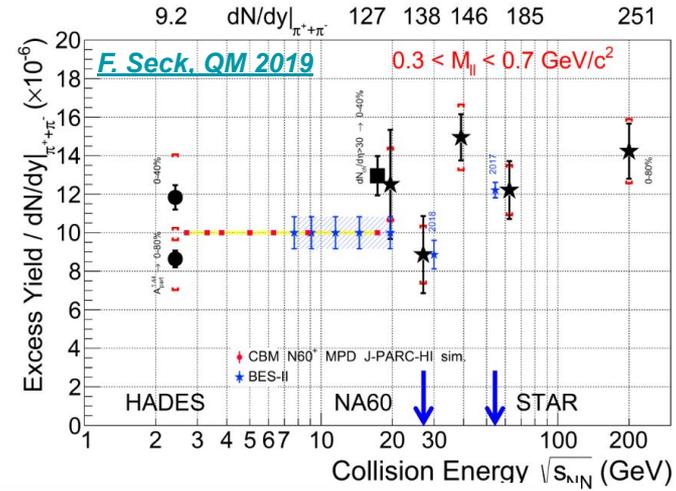


- Many new experiments covering a very wide  $\mu_B$  region
  - NA60+, HADES/CBM, J-PARC, NICA, ...
- Reaching very high interaction rates → precision physics

# Other future opportunities: beam energy scan

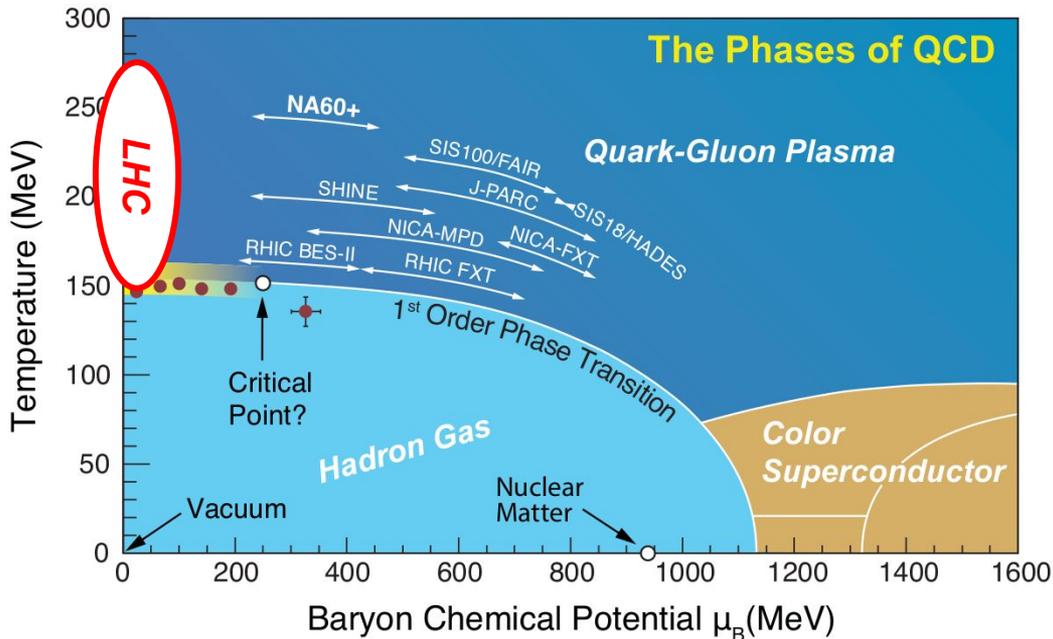


- Many new experiments covering a very wide  $\mu_B$  region
  - NA60+, HADES/CBM, J-PARC, NICA, ...
- Reaching very high interaction rates  $\rightarrow$  precision physics
- **Goal: Caloric curve from thermal dileptons**

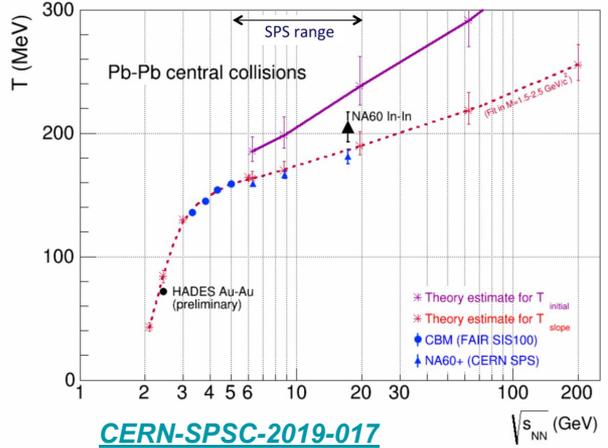
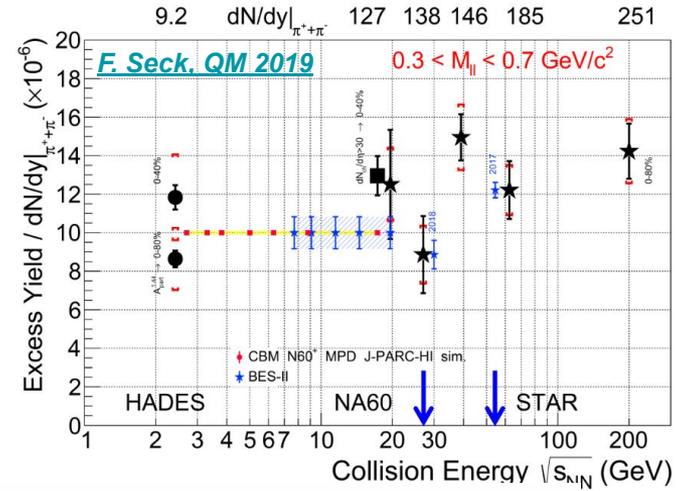


CERN-SPSC-2019-017

# Other future opportunities: beam energy scan

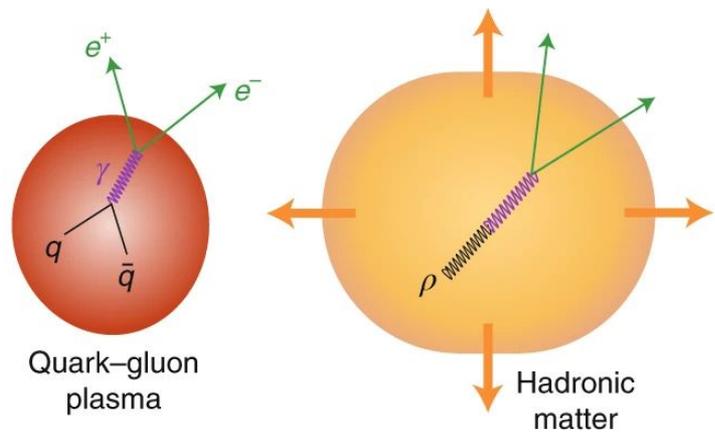


- Many new experiments covering a very wide  $\mu_B$  region
  - NA60+, HADES/CBM, J-PARC, NICA, ...
- Reaching very high interaction rates  $\rightarrow$  precision physics
- **Goal: Caloric curve from thermal dileptons**
- **At LHC: opportunities with LHCb after upgrades**



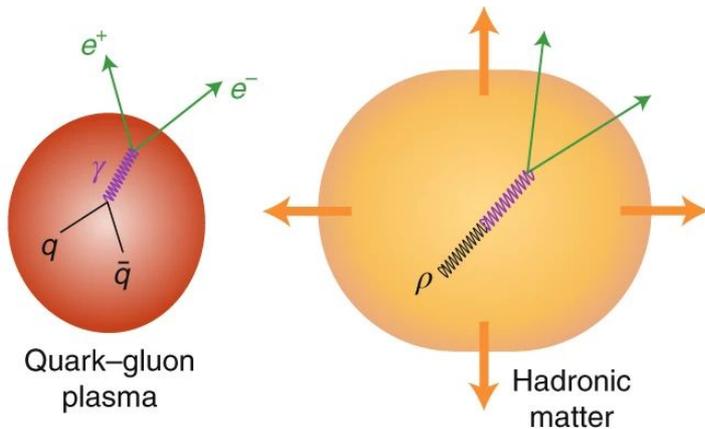
CERN-SPSC-2019-017

# Summary

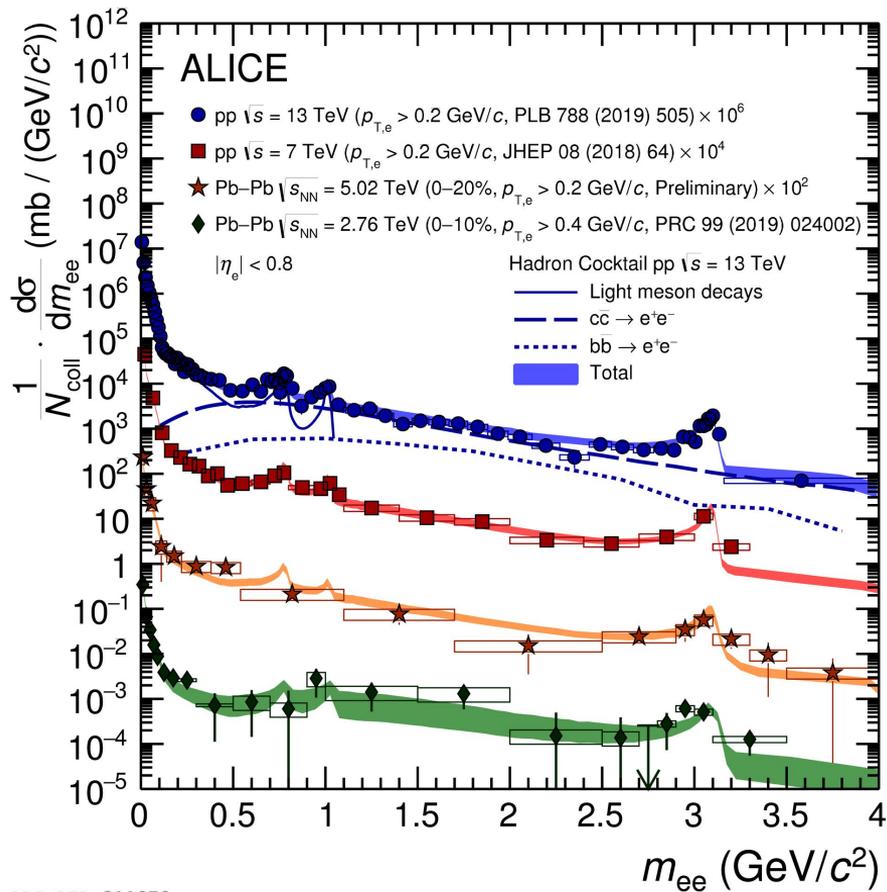


- **Study QCD phase diagram with dileptons:**
  - Temperature, space-time evolution, chiral symmetry

# Summary



- **Study QCD phase diagram with dileptons:**
  - Temperature, space-time evolution, chiral symmetry
- **ALICE:** first results available, no conclusion yet on thermal dilepton production at the LHC
- **Great future ahead of us:**
  - LHC Run 3+
  - and more dilepton experiments/possibilities



ALI-DER-311979

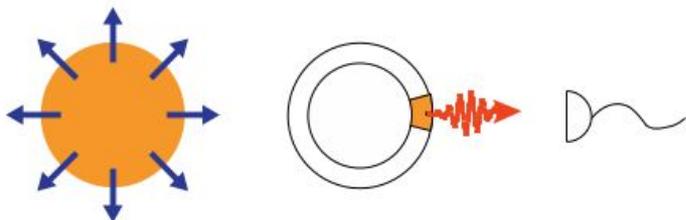


Thank you!

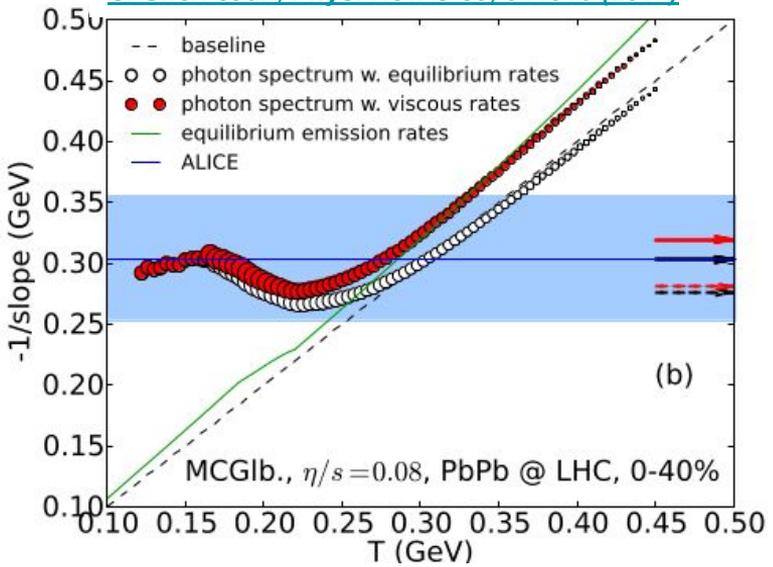
# Backup

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# Real photons?



[C. Shen et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 044910 \(2014\)](#)

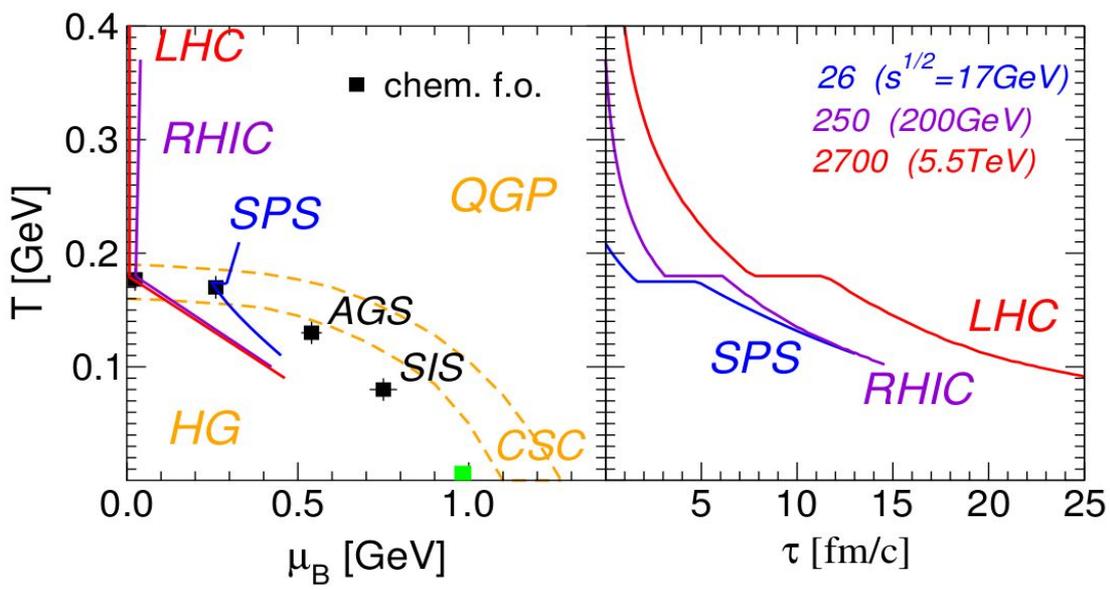


$$E_\gamma \frac{d^3 N_\gamma}{d^3 p_\gamma} \propto e^{-E_\gamma/T_{\text{eff}}}$$

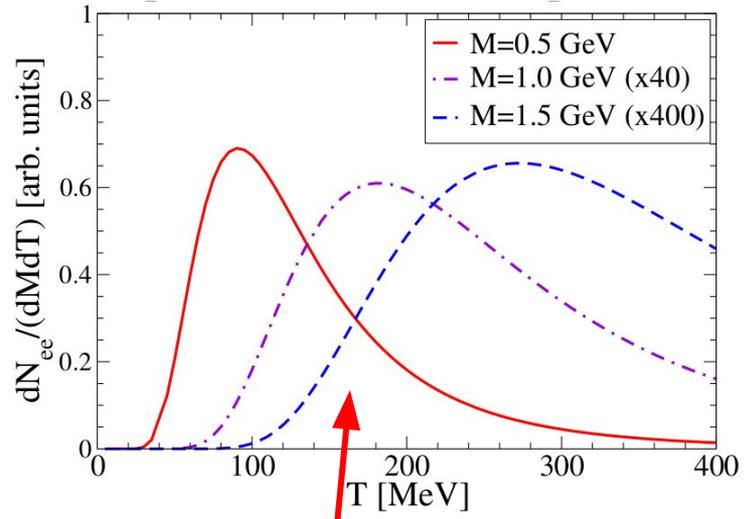
$$T_{\text{eff}} = \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta_{\text{flow}}}{1 - \beta_{\text{flow}}}}}_{2 \text{ for } \beta_{\text{flow}}=0.6} \times T$$

- Large blueshift at late times when  $T \approx 150 - 200 \text{ MeV}$
- Extraction of initial temperature from data requires comparison to (hydro) model

# Temperature evolution and extraction



[R. Rapp, Acta Phys. Pol. B 42, 2823 \(2011\)](#)

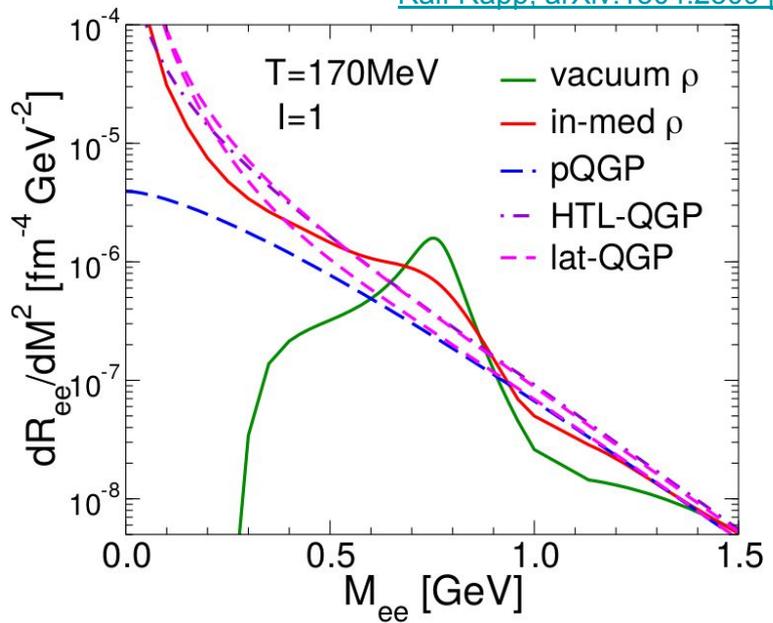
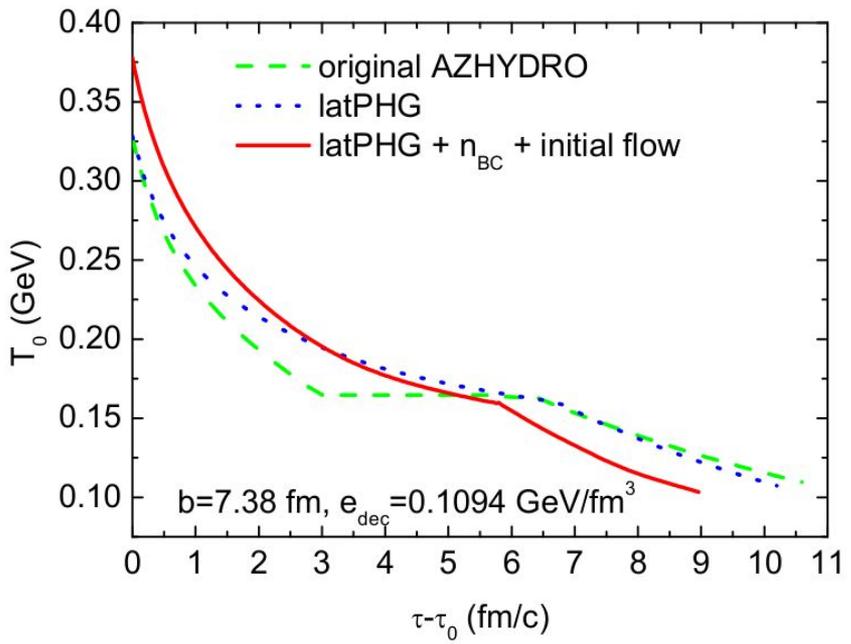


- Isentropic trajectories that the medium follows in the QCD phase diagram
- Temperature-differential dielectron emission:

$$\frac{dN_{ee}}{dMdT} \propto \text{Im } \Pi_{EM}(M; T) e^{-M/T} T^{-m}$$

# Partial restoration of chiral symmetry

Ralf Rapp, arXiv:1304.2309 [hep-ph]



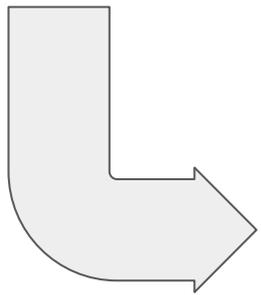
- Space-time integral over the dilepton rate via relativistic hydrodynamics
- Switch between partonic and hadronic description at  $T = 170$  MeV
  - **“Rho melting”**: hadronic emission rate similar to QGP rate at  $T = 170$  MeV (not by construction), importance of baryon density (coupling to baryonic resonances)

# Partial restoration of chiral symmetry

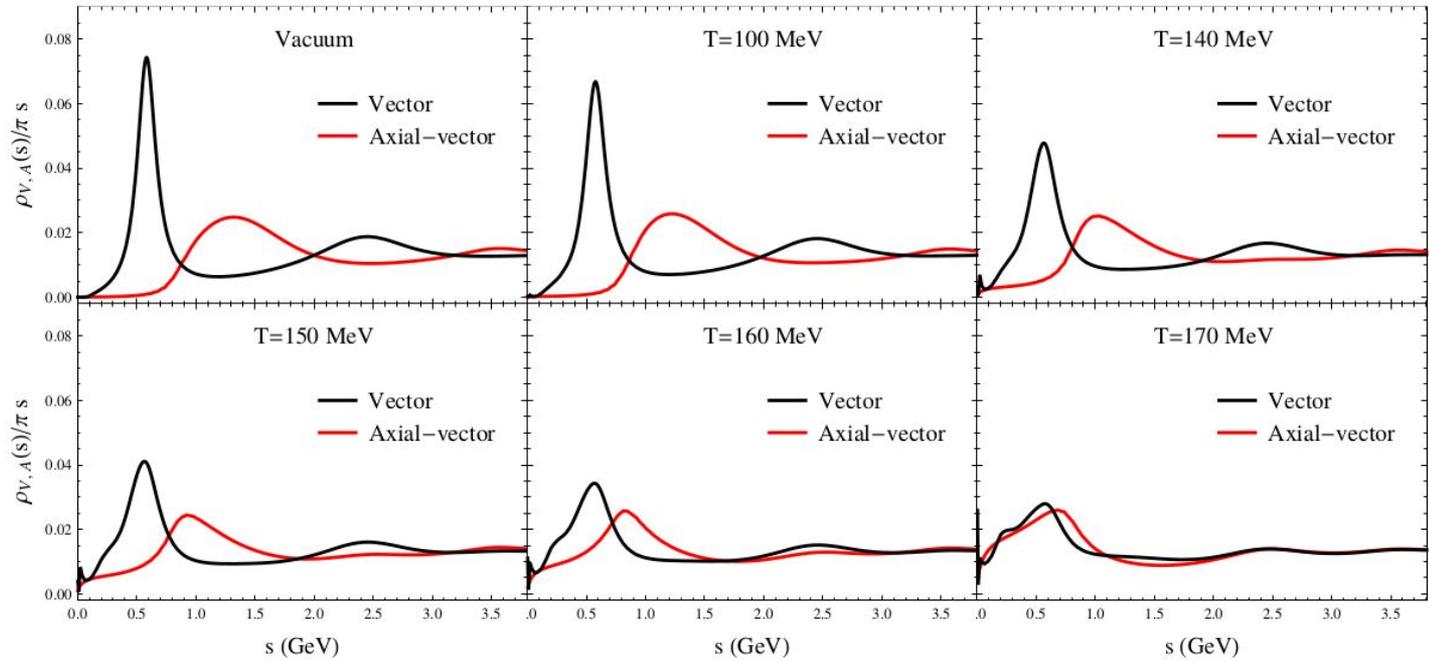
Rho spectral function (constrained by low-energy measurements) + Ansatz for a1

- + QCD and Weinberg sum rules
- + Condensates from hadron resonance gas constrained by lattice QCD
- + Chiral mixing

[P.M. Hohler, R. Rapp, Phys.Lett.B731 \(2014\) 103-109](#)



*quantitatively compatible with (approach to) chiral symmetry restoration*



# 2.4 QCD + Weinberg Sum Rules

[Hatsuda+Lee'91,  
Asakawa+Ko '93,  
Leupold et al '98, ...]

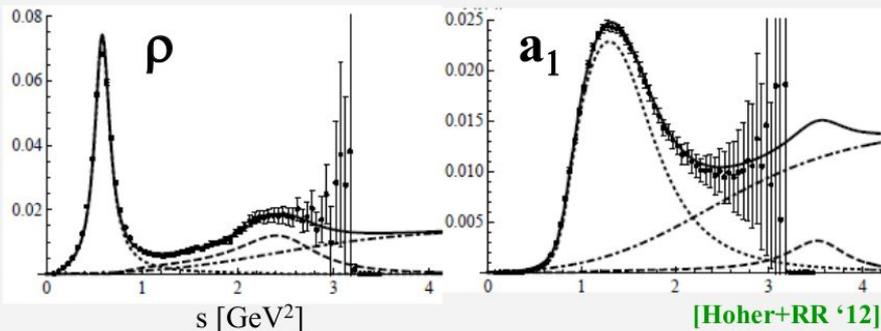
$$\frac{1}{M^2} \int_0^\infty ds \frac{\rho_V(s)}{s} e^{-s/M^2} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right) + \frac{m_q \langle \bar{q}q \rangle}{M^4} + \frac{1}{24M^4} \langle \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} G_{\mu\nu}^2 \rangle - \frac{56\pi\alpha_s}{81M^6} \langle \mathcal{O}_4^V \rangle \dots$$

$$\int_0^\infty ds \frac{\Delta\rho(s)}{s} = f_\pi^2,$$

$$\int_0^\infty ds \Delta\rho(s) = f_\pi^2 m_\pi^2 = -2m_q \langle \bar{q}q \rangle$$

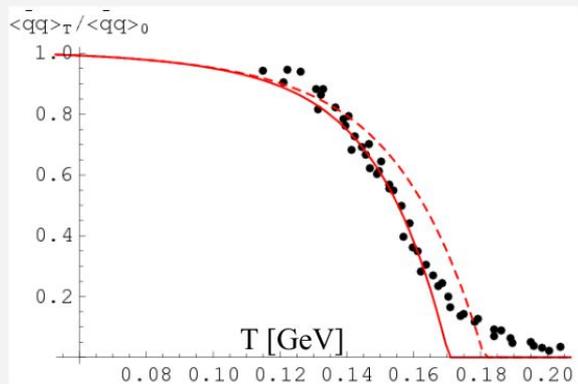
$$\int_0^\infty ds s \Delta\rho(s) = -2\pi\alpha_s \langle \mathcal{O}_4^{SB} \rangle$$

$$\Delta\rho = \rho_V - \rho_A \quad \text{[Weinberg '67, Das et al '67; Kapusta+Shuryak '94]}$$



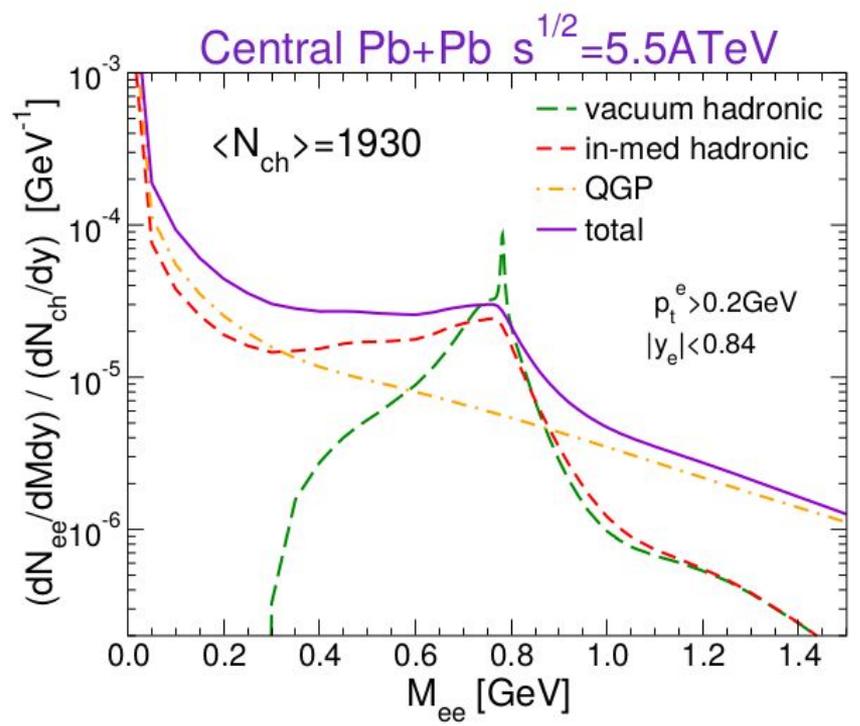
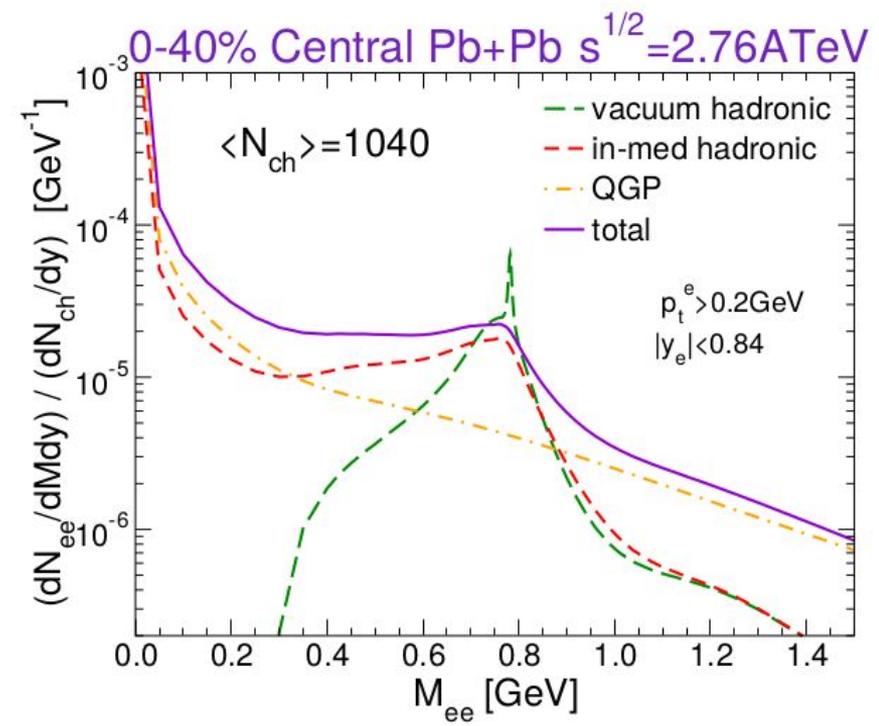
- accurately satisfied in **vacuum**
- **In Medium:**  
condensates from hadron resonance gas,  
constrained by lattice-QCD

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_T \simeq \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_0 + \sum_h d_h \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_h} \langle h(\vec{k}) | \mathcal{O} | h(\vec{k}) \rangle n_h(E_h)$$



[R. Rapp, ECT\\* 2018](#)

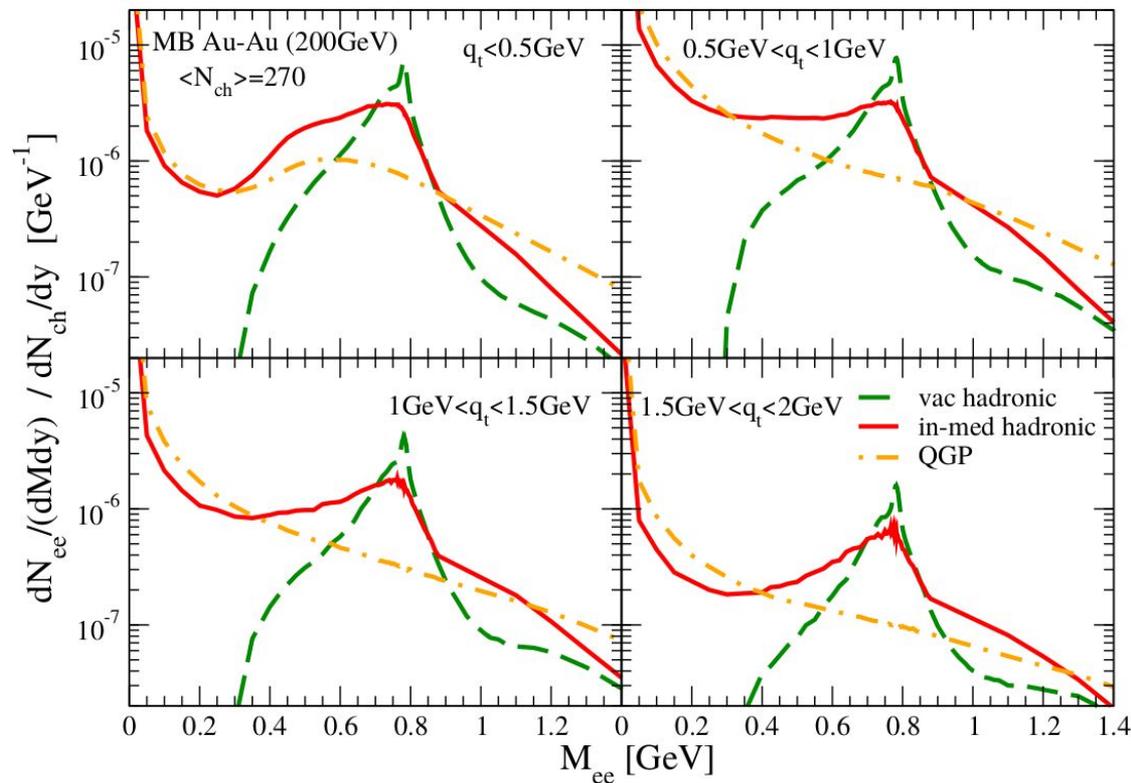
# LHC predictions



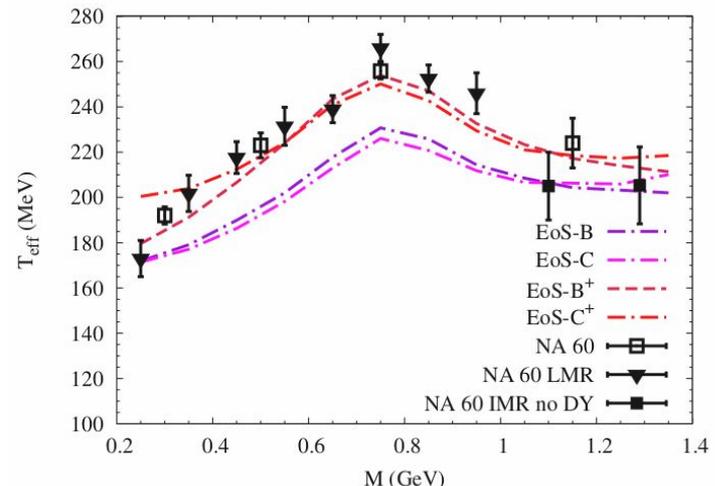
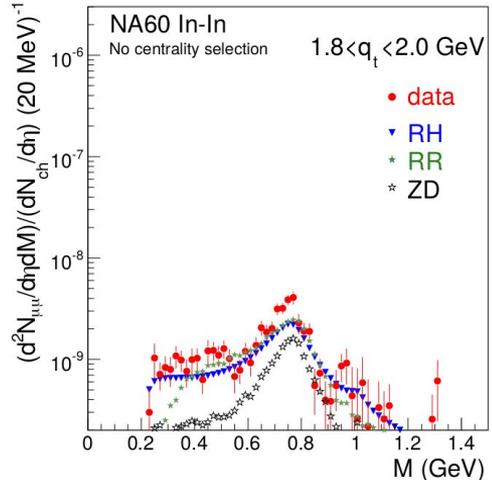
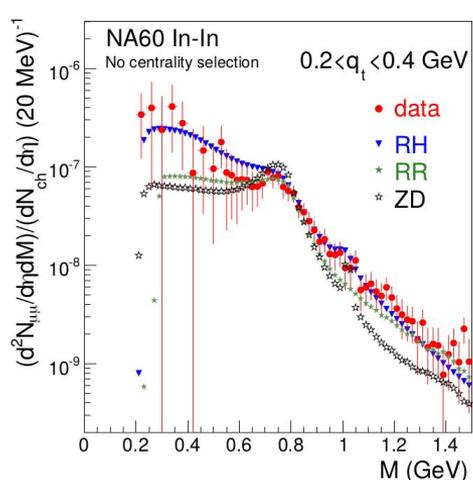


# Chiral mixing

- **Chiral partners:  $\rho$  and  $a_1$** 
  - In vacuum symmetry broken, no coupling  $a_1$  of to dileptons
  - In medium with  $T \gg T_C$  **symmetry restored and partners mix**
- Maximum effect at the LHC by comparing no mixing vs. maximum mixing (no temperature dependence of chiral restoration)
  - Above 1 GeV/ $c^2$  large background from thermal QGP radiation
  - **~20% effect**
- **enhance the signal from the hadronic phase**, e.g. by cutting on larger pair momenta
  - Larger transverse flow



# Differential measurements - transverse momentum



[R. Rapp, J. Wambach, H. van Hees, Landolt-Bornstein 23 \(2010\) 134](#)

[R. Rapp, Acta Phys. Pol. B 42, 2823 \(2011\)](#)

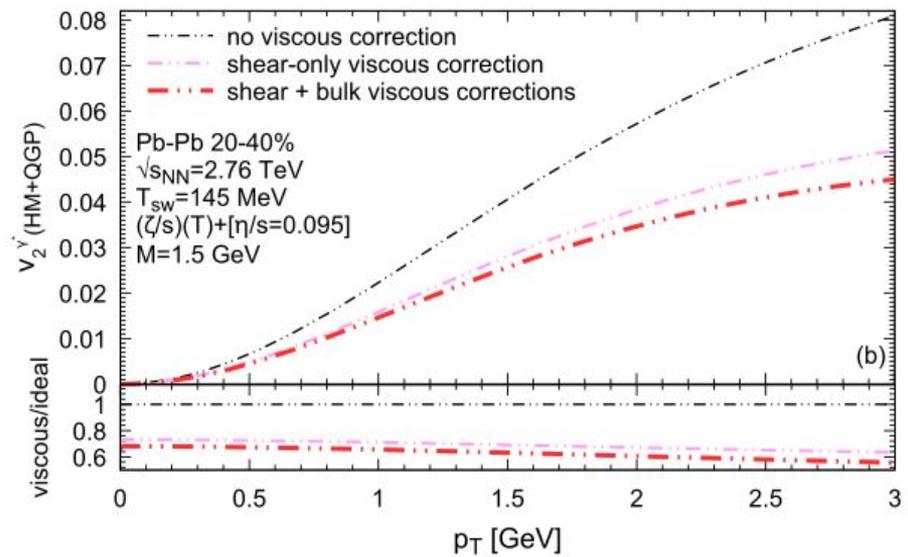
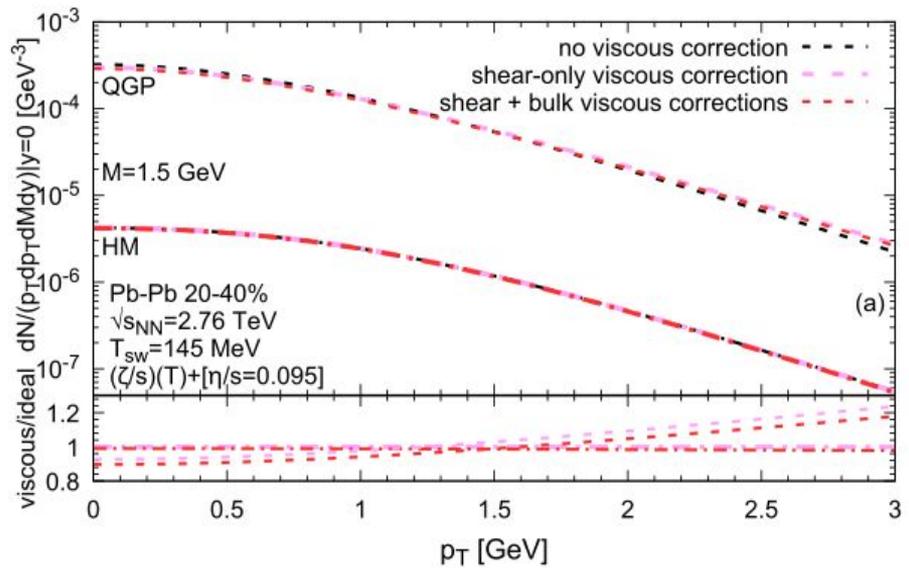
- Interesting features in mass spectra in different  $p_T$  bins, e.g. vanishing medium effects with increasing momentum
- Effective temperature (from transverse momentum spectra) as function of mass Sensitive to radial flow (barometer)

$$T_{\text{eff}} \simeq T + M \langle \beta \rangle^2$$

- Run 3/4:  $T_{\text{eff}}$  with a stat. precision of  $\sigma(T_{\text{eff}})/T_{\text{eff}} = 1\%$  [ALICE, J. Phys. G 41 \(2014\) 087001](#)

# Differential measurements - (elliptic) flow

[G. Vujanovic et al., Phys. Rev. C 101, 044904 \(2020\)](#)

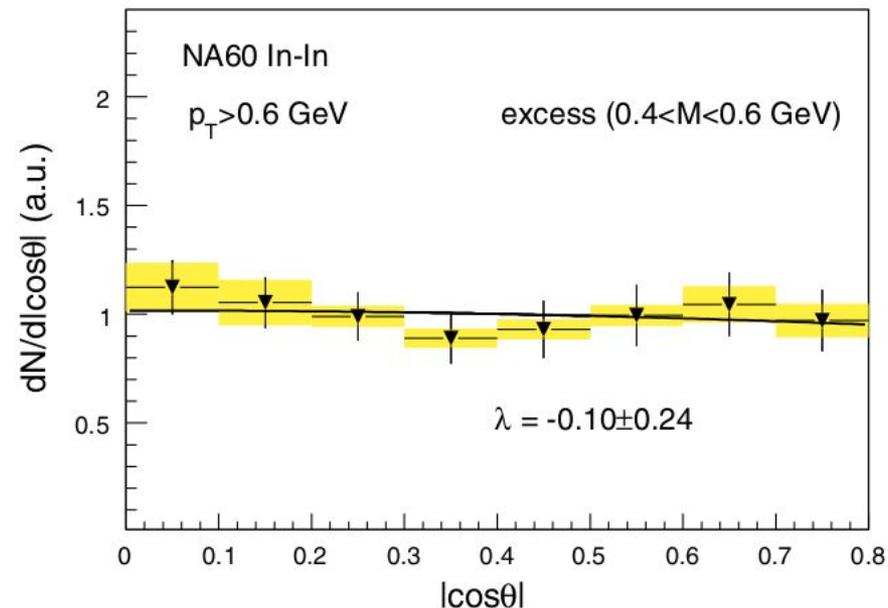
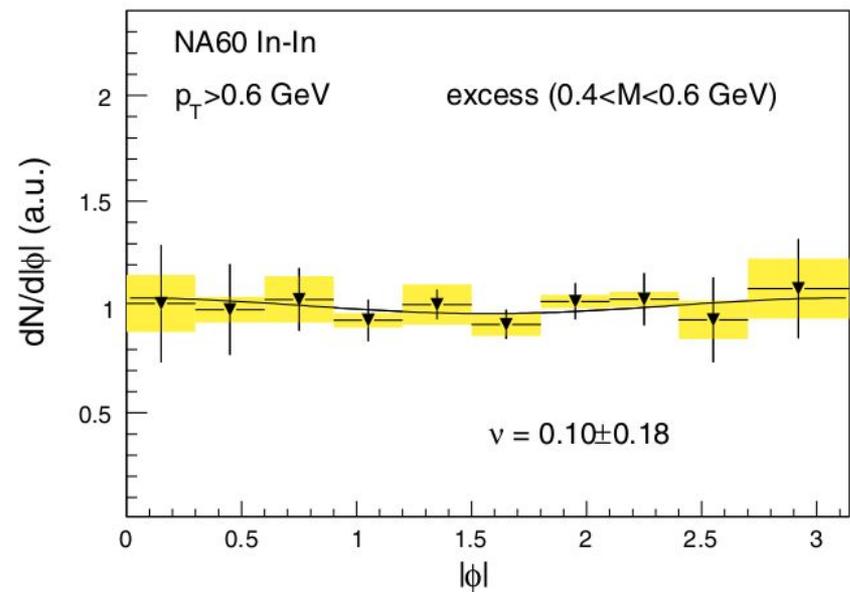


- Direct and clean access the medium properties and dynamics of early stage of the collisions (mass as proxy for temperature ) → resolve “photon puzzle”?
- Sensitivity to shear and bulk viscosity (together with hadronic observables)
- Run 3/4 ALICE: 1% absolute stat. uncertainty

[ALICE, J. Phys. G 41 \(2014\) 087001](#)

# Differential measurements - polarization

[NA60, Phys.Rev.Lett. 102 \(2009\) 222301](#)

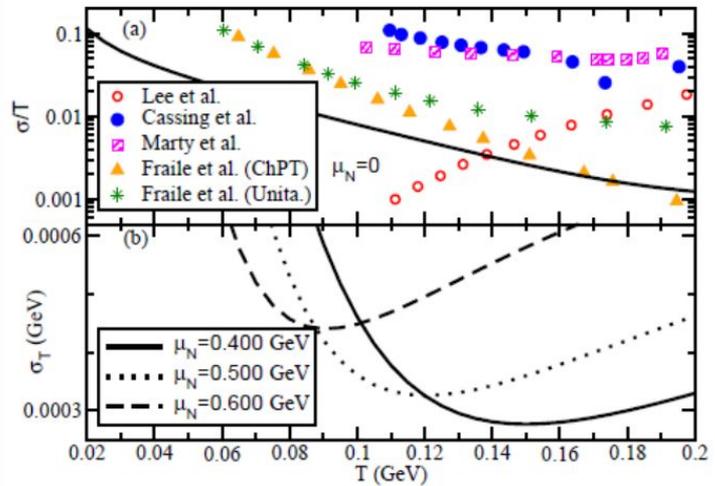


- Angular distribution of continuum dilepton pairs:

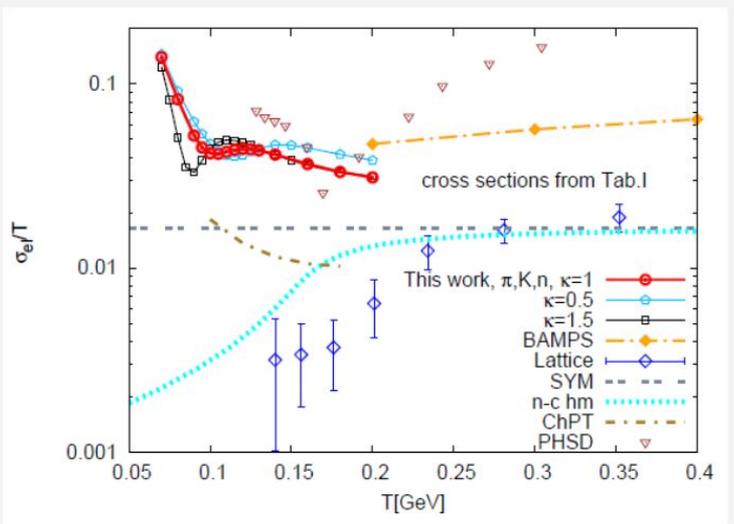
$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \propto \left( 1 + \lambda \cos^2 \theta + \mu \sin 2\theta \cos \phi + \frac{\nu}{2} \sin^2 \theta \cos 2\phi \right)$$

- Sensitive to photon source polarization (thermalization, gluon anisotropy, Drell-Yan,...)
- No estimate for Run 3/4 yet (NA60 used ~50k excess pairs)

# Electric conductivity



[S. Ghosh '17]



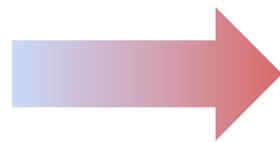
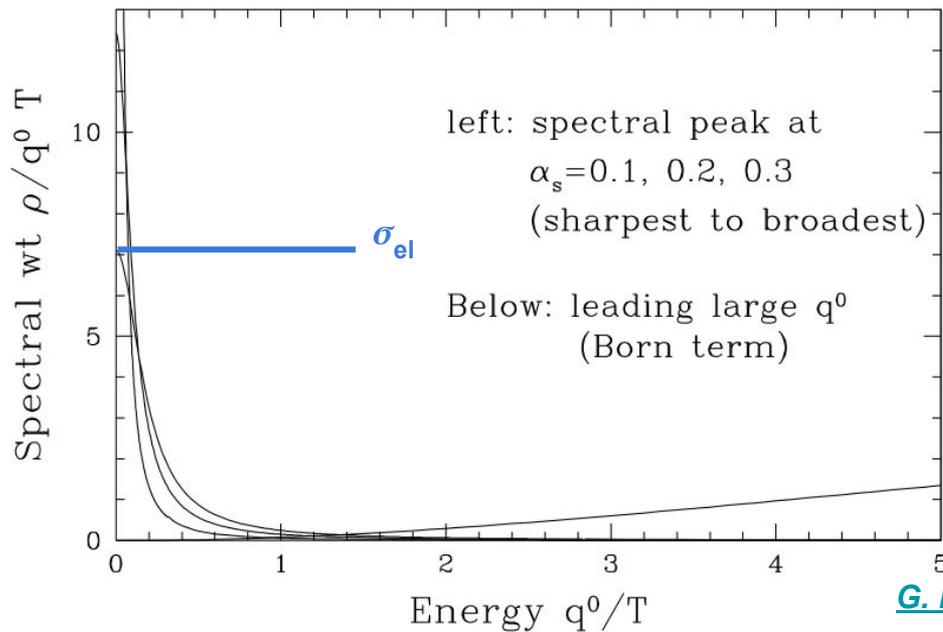
[Greif '17]

[R. Rapp, ECT\\* 2018](#)

- Large spread and interest in literature
- Connected to dilepton production via spectral function

$$\sigma_{EM}(T) = - e^2 \lim_{q_0 \rightarrow 0} [ \partial/\partial q_0 \text{Im} \Pi_{EM}(q_0, q=0; T) ]$$

# Electric conductivity



**Need sensitivity down to very low  $p_T$  and mass**

[G. D. Moore and J.-M. Robert, arXiv:hep-ph/0607172](#)

- Connected to dilepton production via spectral function

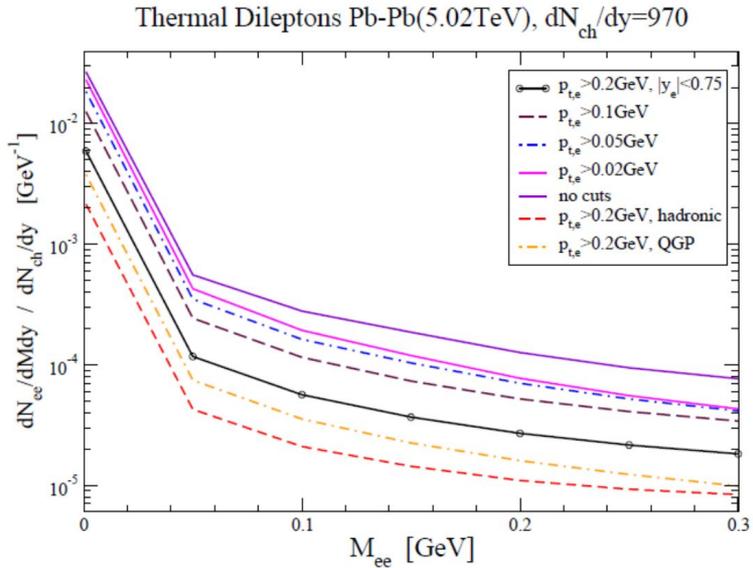
$$\sigma_{EM}(T) = - e^2 \lim_{q_0 \rightarrow 0} [ \partial/\partial q_0 \text{Im} \Pi_{EM}(q_0, q=0; T) ]$$

the transverse plane. For di-leptons, it would be interesting to find the spectrum below the temperature scale,  $p_T \ll T$ , because one is then sensitive to the transport peak which is characterized by electric conductivity. A detector with low- $p_T$  coverage could lead to an excellent understanding of

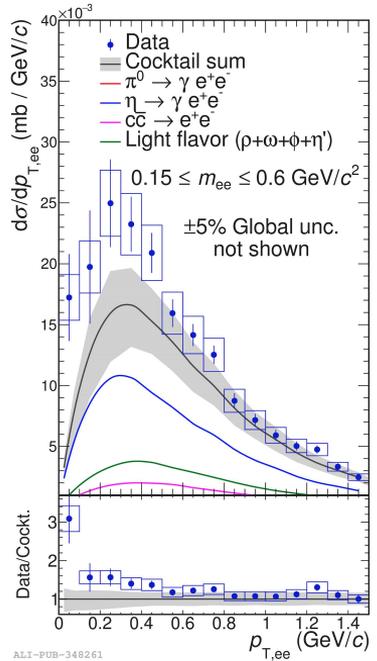
[S. Flörchinger, arXiv:1812.08122](#)  
and [Slides ALICE-LMee workshop 2019](#)

# How low is low?

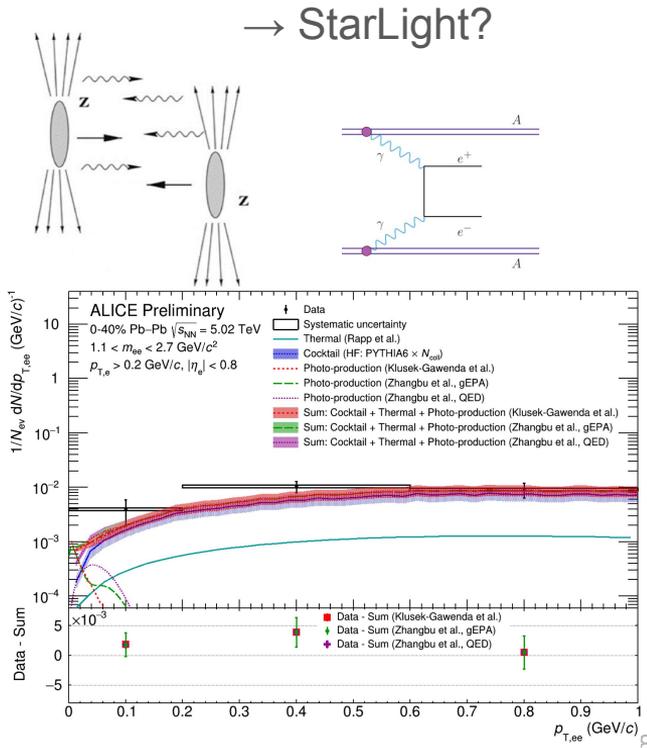
- Need quantitative theory input (discussions started)
- Efficiency at low invariant mass and pair  $p_T$  (see slides later)
- Background? Cocktail sources not important, but what about photoproduction?



R. Rapp, ECT\* 2018

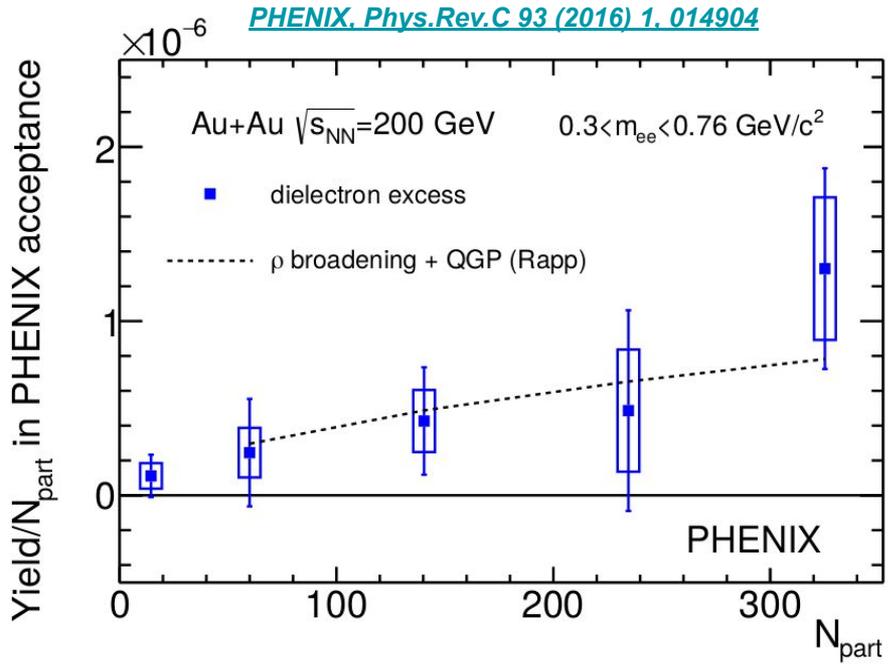
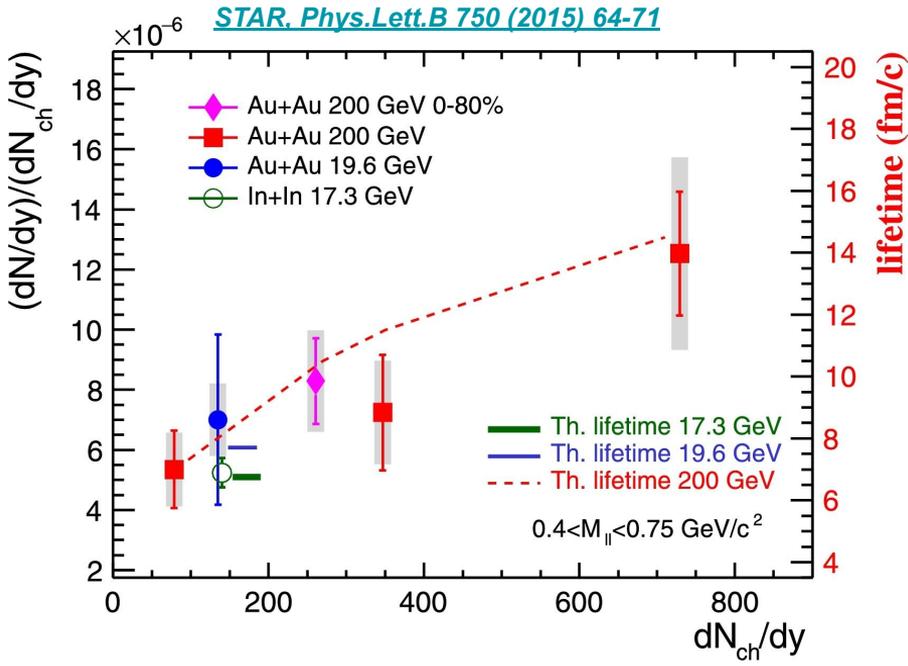


ALI-PUB-348261



ALI-PUB-348261

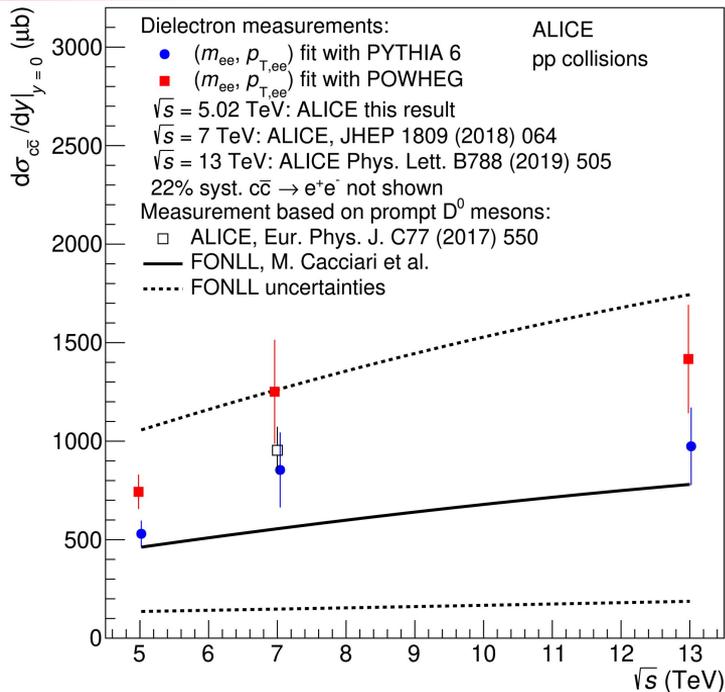
# Thermal dilepton production - RHIC



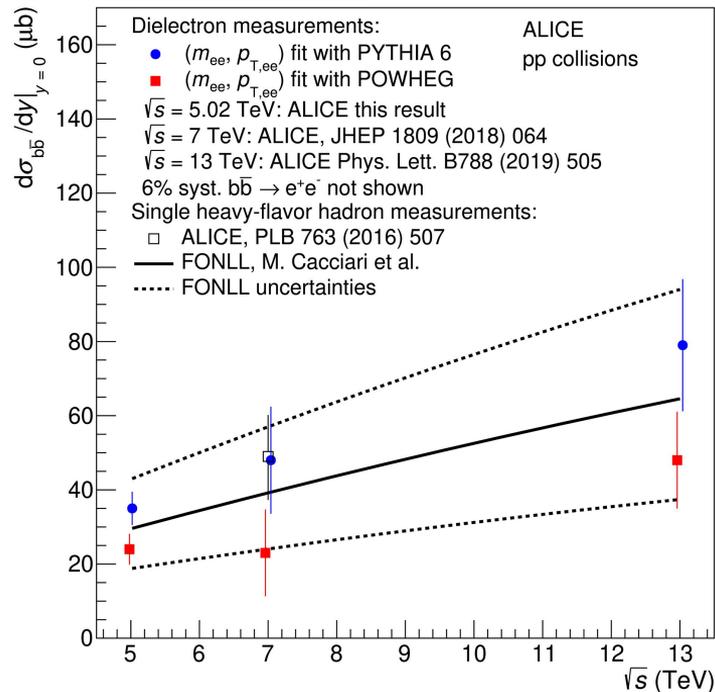
- **Excess in the low mass region** in the full RHIC beam energy range (19.6 - 200 GeV)
- Compatible with  $\rho$  broadening + QGP thermal radiation
- Centrality dependent excess yield (**thermal lifetime**) in agreement with measurements

# pp and p-Pb - ALICE

ALICE. arXiv:2005.11995 [nucl-ex]



ALI-PUB-347495

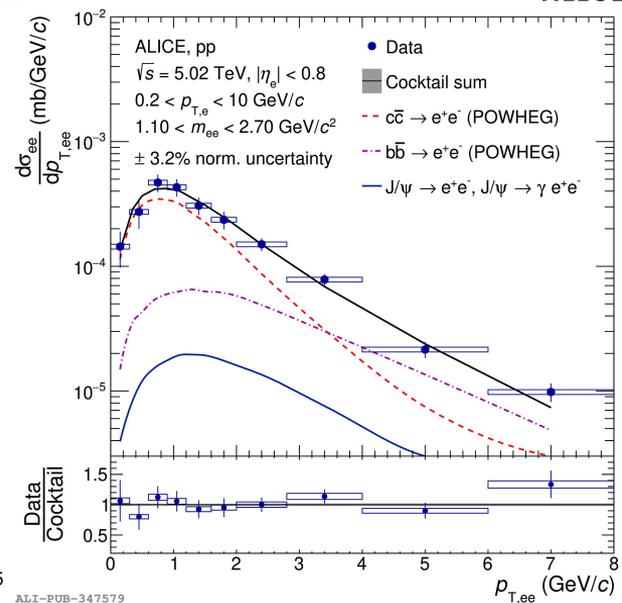
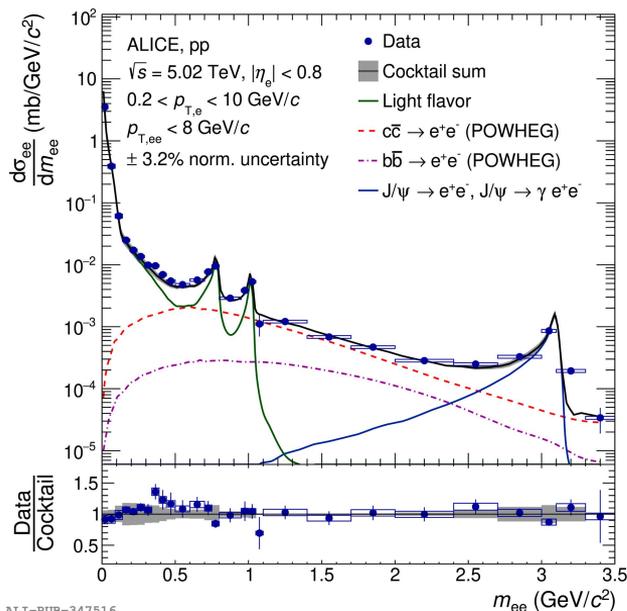
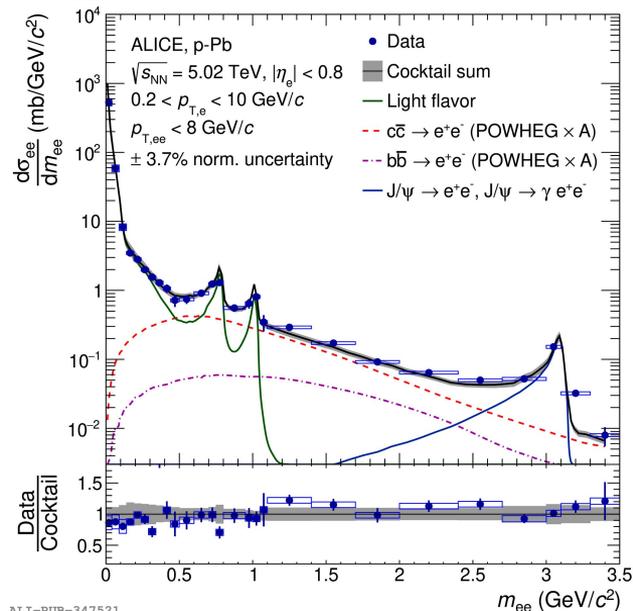


ALI-PUB-347500

- **Heavy flavour cross section:** extracted with 2D fit  $(m_{ee}, p_{T,ee})$ 
  - Compatible with hadron measurements
  - Model dependence: sensitivity to production mechanisms

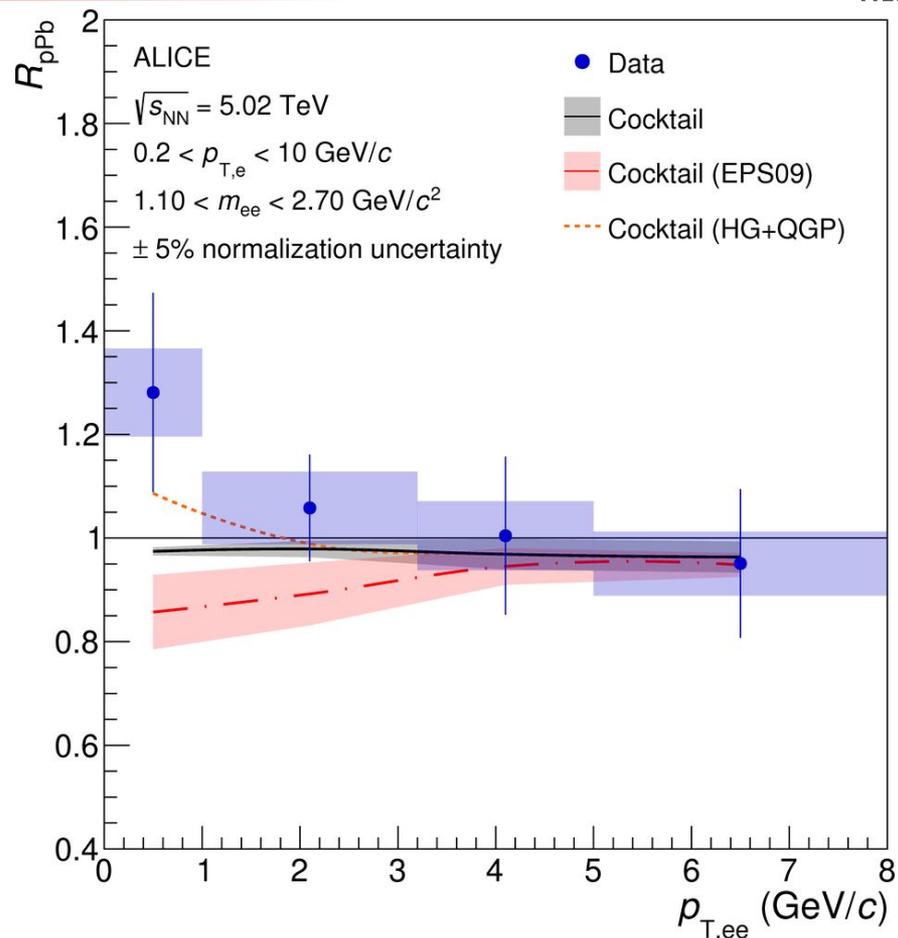
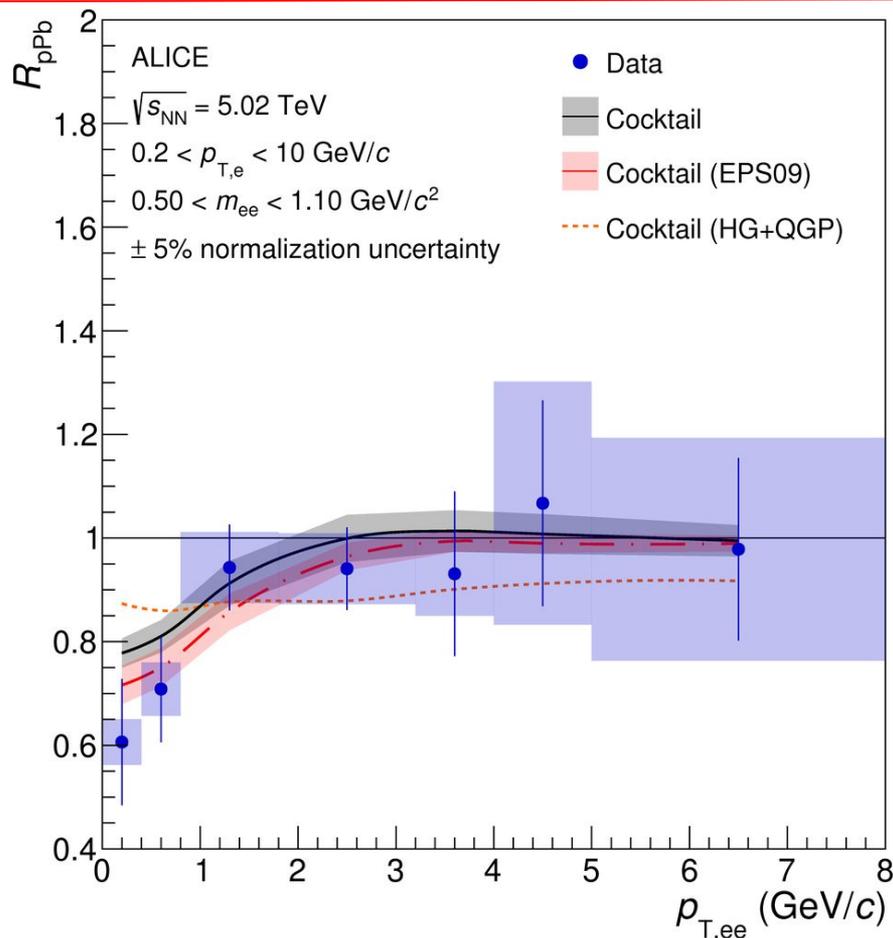


## pp and p-Pb - ALICE

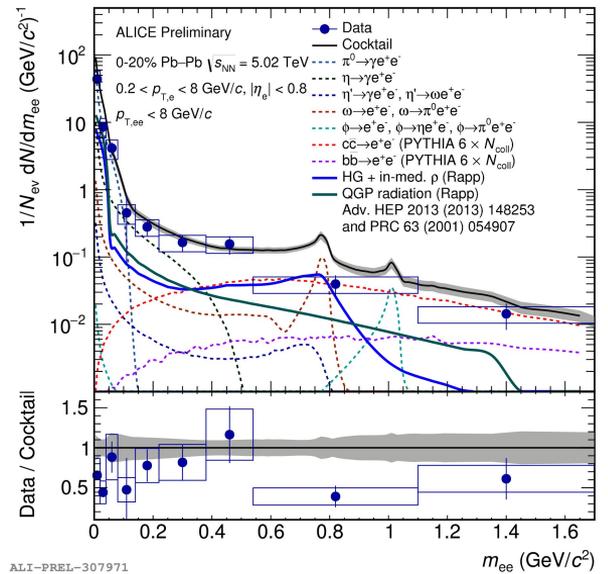
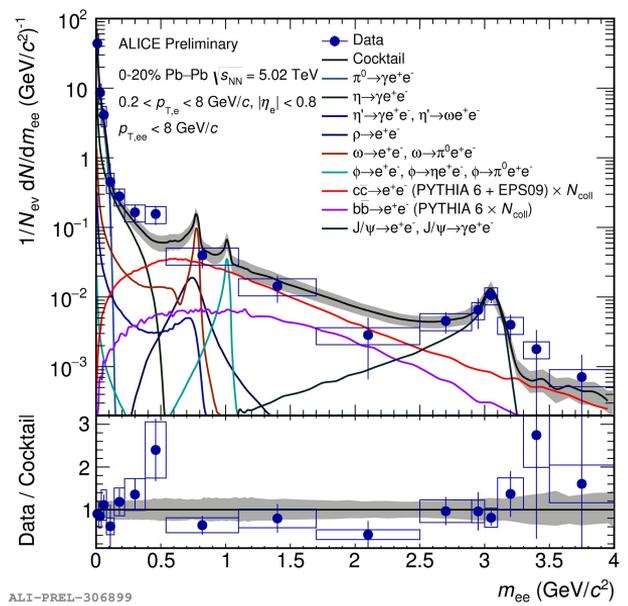
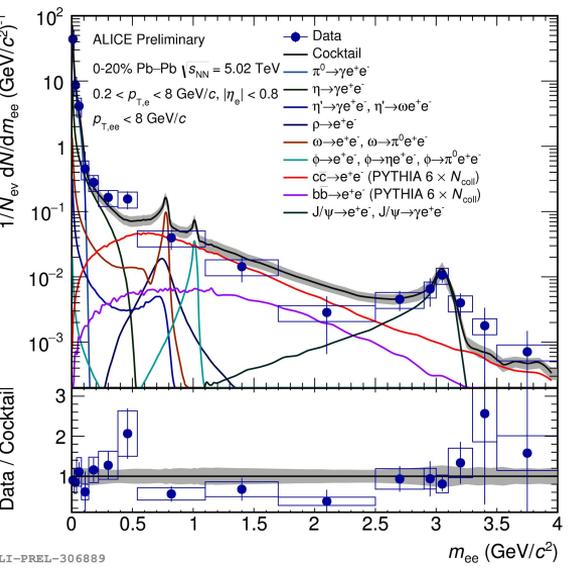




# pp and p-Pb - ALICE

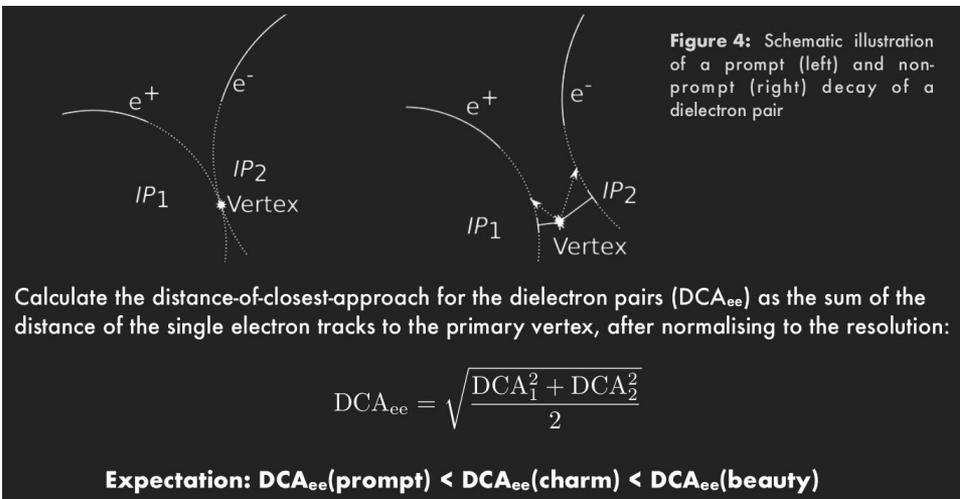


# ALICE measurements - Dielectrons Run 2



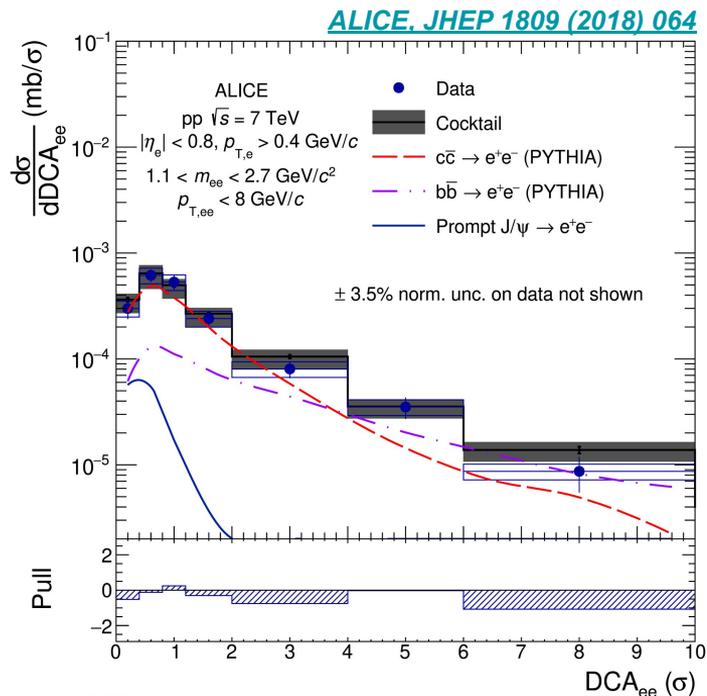
- **Central Pb-Pb collisions** (2015 data only)
- Still large uncertainties (analysis of 2018 data with ~10 times larger sample ongoing)
- Comparisons to pure hadronic cocktail, nPDFs, and thermal scenarios inconclusive so far

# Distinguish prompt and non-prompt sources



[S. Scheid, HP2020](#)

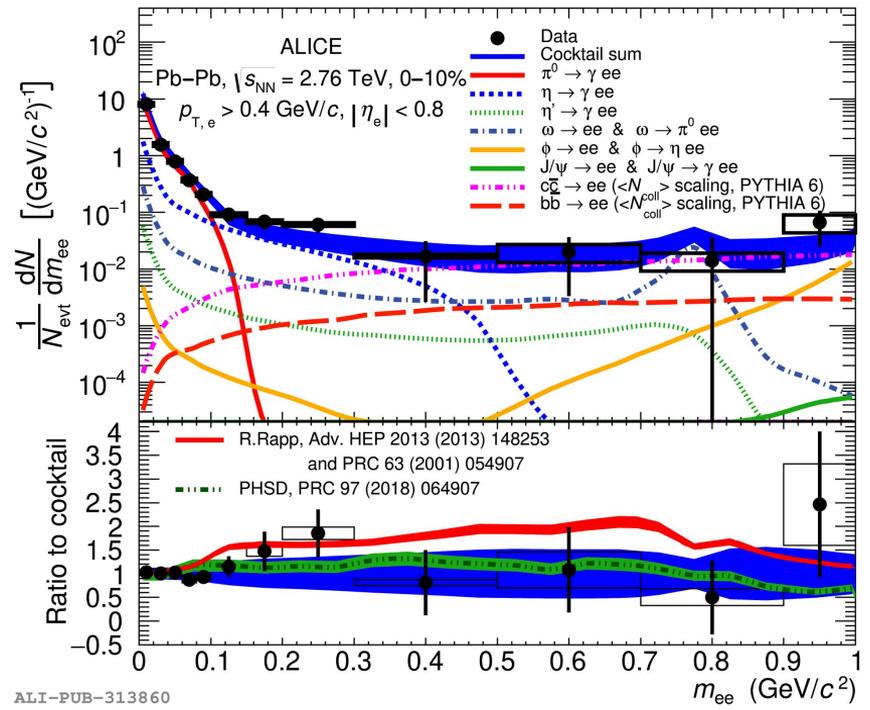
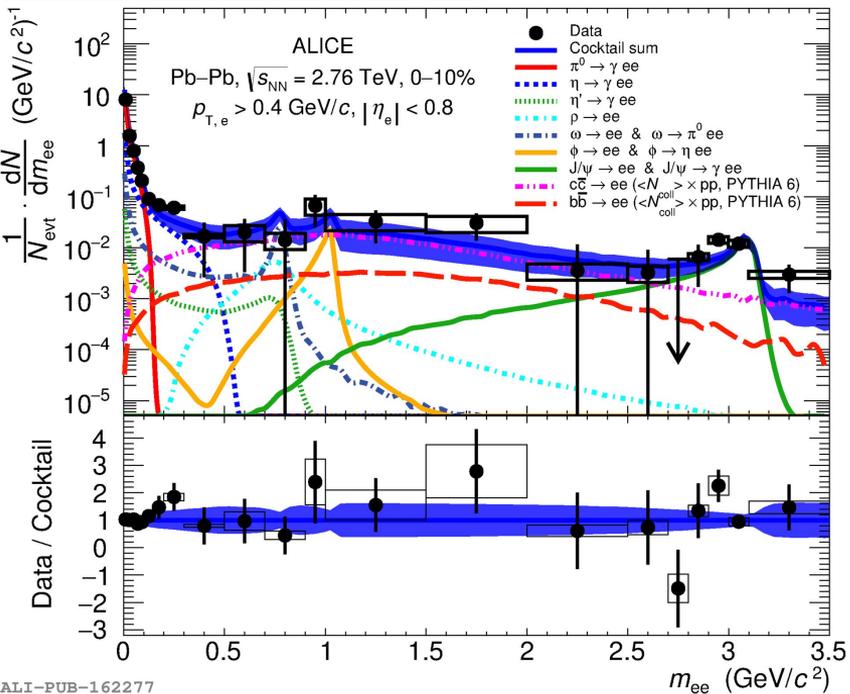
- Heavy-flavour hadrons have a **delayed decay**
  - D-meson  $c\tau = 150\text{-}300 \mu\text{m}$ , B-meson  $c\tau = 450 \mu\text{m}$
- Can be used to **separate prompt and heavy flavour sources**
  - work in progress for p-Pb and Pb-Pb collisions



ALI-PUB-150209

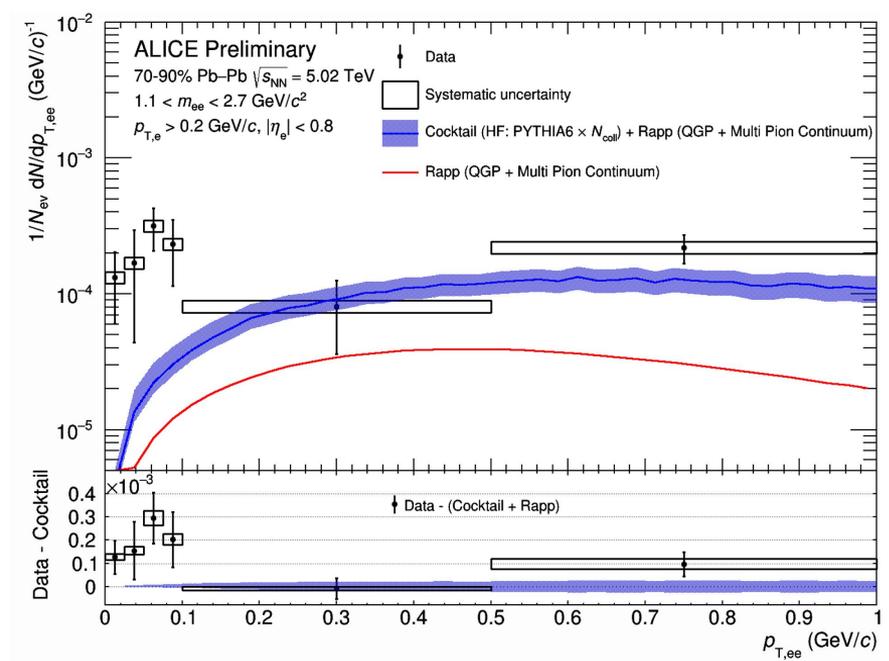
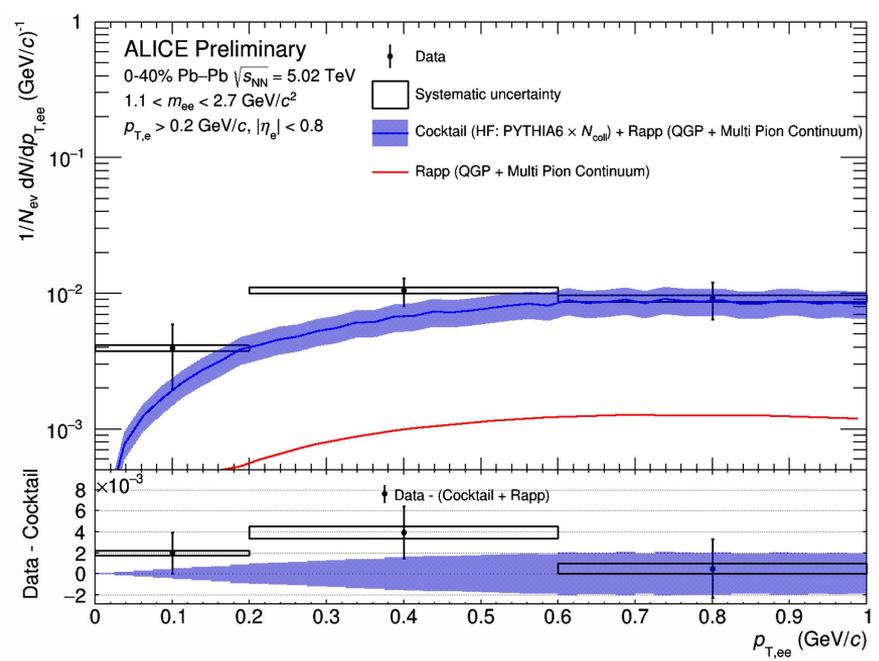
# ALICE measurements - Dielectrons Run 1

[ALICE, Phys. Rev. C 99, 024002 \(2019\)](#)



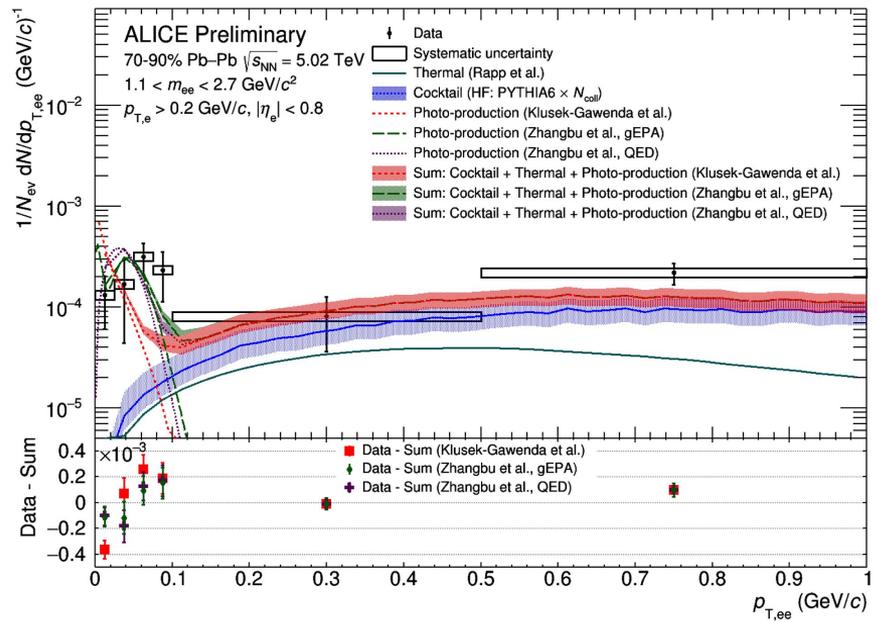
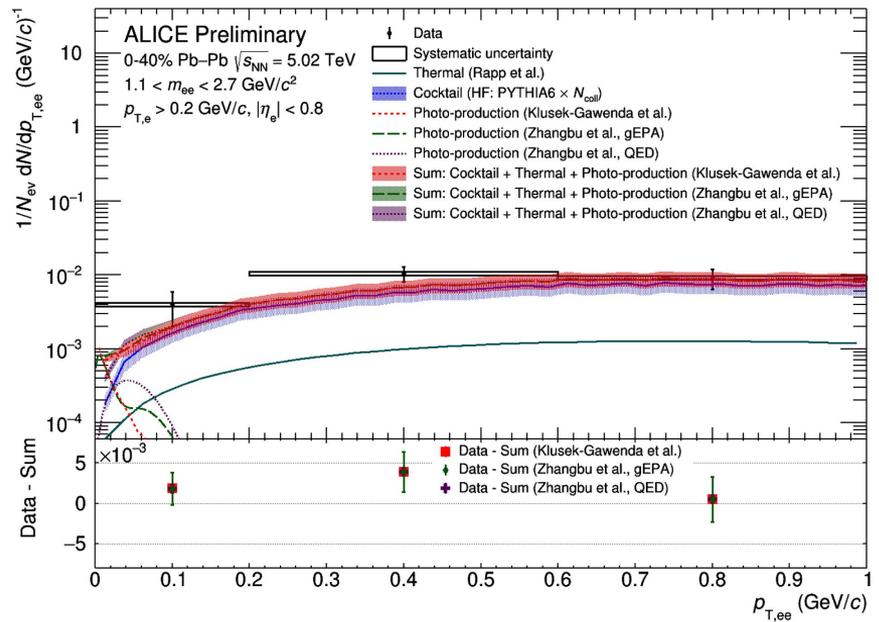
● First low-mass/ $p_T$  dielectron measurement at the LHC

# Photoproduction - ALICE



- Excess w.r.t. cocktail and thermal sources at  $p_{T,ee} < 0.1$  GeV/c

# Photoproduction - ALICE

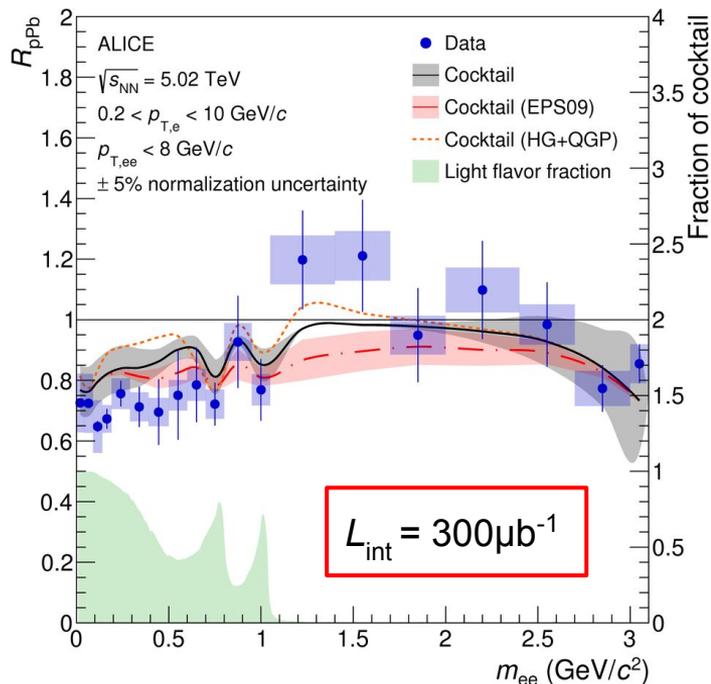


- Excess w.r.t. cocktail and thermal sources at  $p_{T,ee} < 0.1$  GeV/c
- Compatible with photo-production models (caveat: no resolution effects taken into account here)
- Next steps: increase statistics by factor of two by including 2018 data, event-plane dependence,...

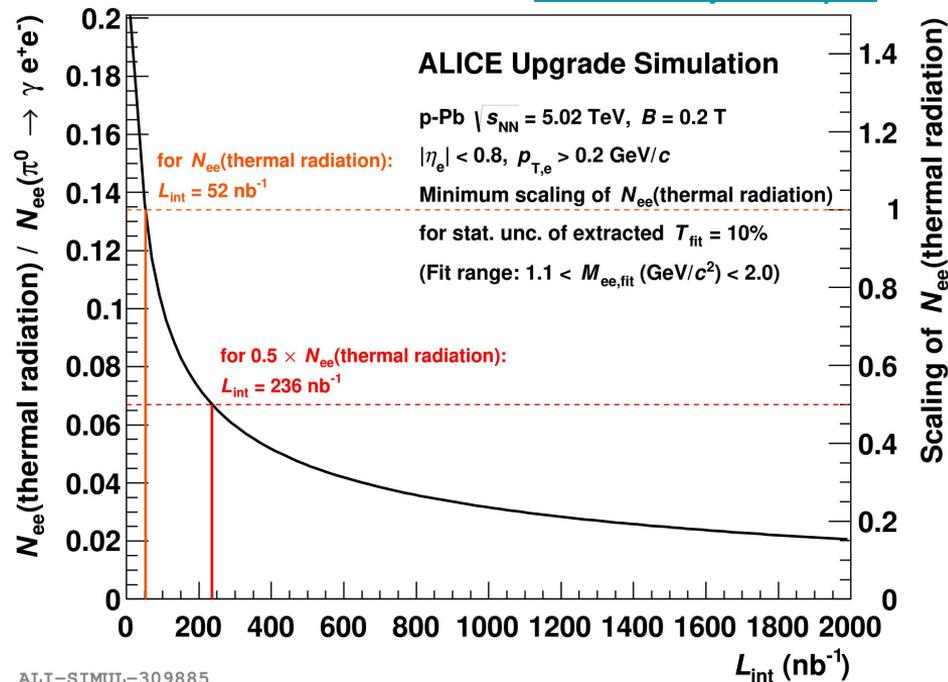
# Thermal radiation in small systems (p-Pb)?

[ALICE, arXiv:2005.11995 \[nucl-ex\]](#)

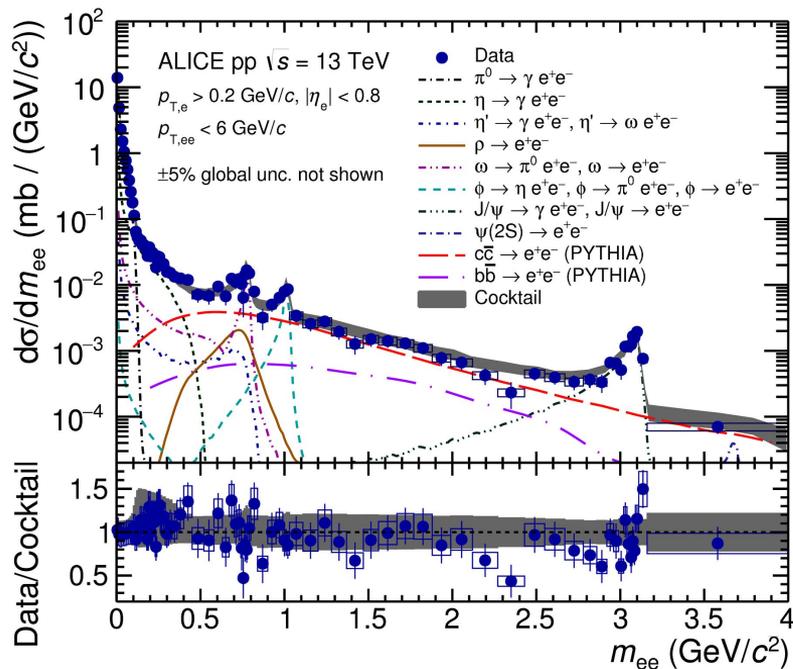
[HL-LHC WG5 yellow report](#)



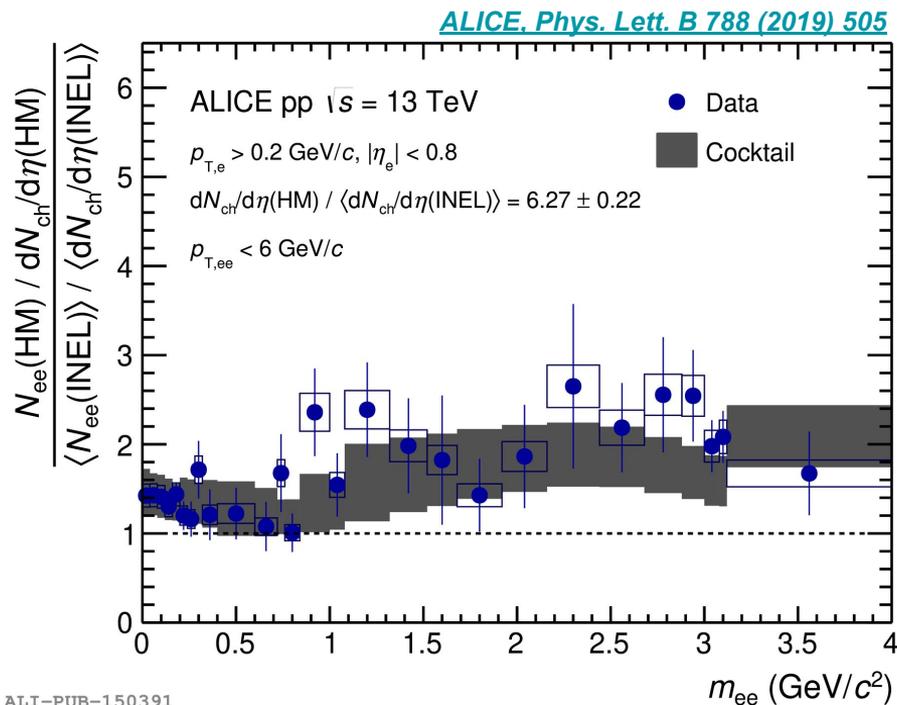
- Within uncertainties compatible with hadronic cocktail
- Need more statistics (Run 3 and beyond)
- Study multiplicity dependence (ongoing for Run 2)



# Thermal radiation in small systems (pp)?



ALI-PUB-150212



ALI-PUB-150391

- Within uncertainties compatible with hadronic cocktail
- Need more statistics and reduce systematic uncertainties
- Extended pp programme in preparation: [ALICE-PUBLIC-2020-005](#)

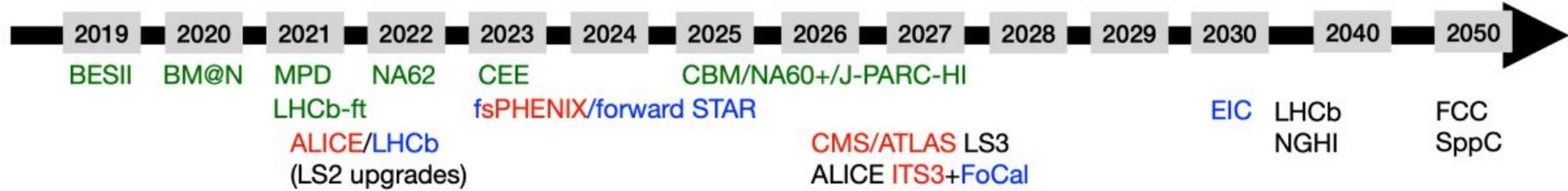
# Future high-energy pp programme with ALICE

Measurement	ALICE uniqueness	Other experiments
$\Omega/\pi$ ratio vs. multiplicity	$\pi, K, p$ PID $p_T > 0.15$ GeV/c mid-y	— *
Flow of $\pi, K, p$ at high multiplicity	$\pi, K, p$ PID $p_T > 0.15$ GeV/c mid-y $p_T < 0.5$ GeV/c crucial for mass ordering	CMS in Run 4 (with proposed timing layer) limited to $p_T > 0.4$ GeV/c at $ \eta  \approx 1.4$
h-jet recoil at high multiplicity	Charged jets $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 15$ GeV/c maximum sensitivity to jet $\Delta E$ at low $p_T^{\text{jet}}$	ATLAS and CMS ( $\gamma/Z$ -jet with $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 30$ GeV/c)
Nuclei and hypenuclei	$Z = 2$ nuclei PID $p_T > 0.8$ GeV/c	— *
p-hyperon(Y) and Y-Y interaction	$\pi, K, p$ PID $p_T > 0.15$ GeV/c mid-y	—
B mesons	PID, B mesons $p_T > 0$ mid-y Reference for $p_T < 5$ GeV/c B $R_{AA}$	ATLAS and CMS ( $p_T > 5$ GeV/c), LHCb (forward rapidity)
Jets and HF jets	Charged jets $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 10$ GeV/c Larger dead cone aperture at low radiator $E$	ATLAS and CMS ( $p_T > 30$ GeV/c)
Charmonia	$J/\psi, \psi(2S)$ $p_T > 0$ mid- and fwd-y, central-forward correlations	ATLAS and CMS ( $p_T > 3$ GeV/c), LHCb (forward rapidity)
Low-mass central diffraction	$\pi, K, p$ PID $p_T > 0.15$ GeV/c mid-y	LHCb (forward rapidity)
Low-mass dielectrons	e ID $p_T > 75$ MeV/c	—

\* possible in CMS only in Run 4 and with extended running (several months per year) at low rate (min-bias readout rate CMS Run 4:  $< 250$  kHz i.e. 2–4 times lower than ALICE).

# The next decade

[C. Loizides, arXiv:2007.00710 \[nucl-ex\]](#)

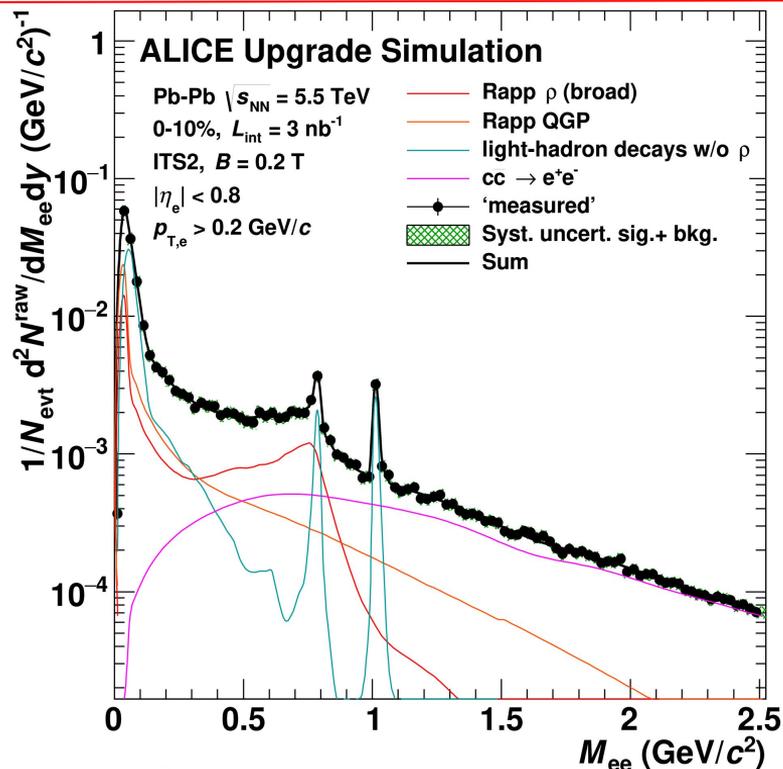


At the LHC (changes due to Covid not included here):

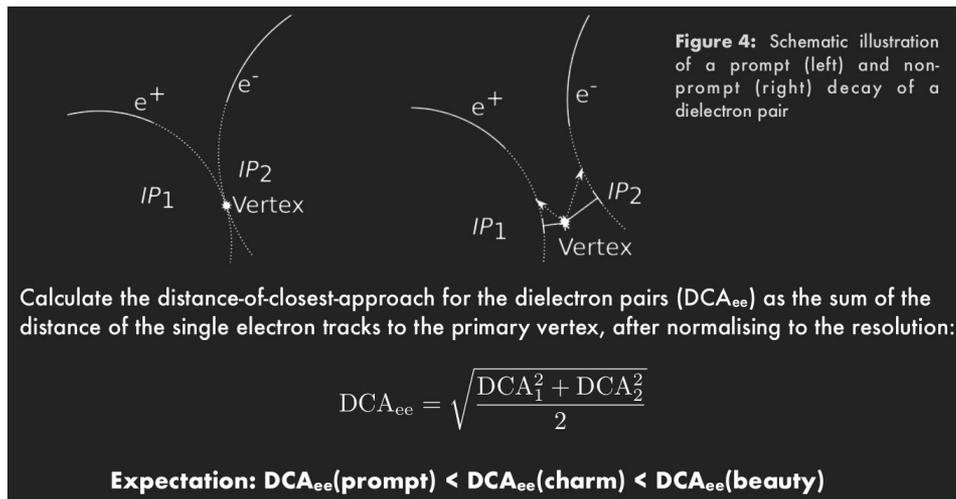
Year	Systems, $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	Time	$L_{int}$	<a href="#">HL-LHC WG5 yellow report</a>
2021	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	3 weeks	2.3 nb <sup>-1</sup>	
	pp 5.5 TeV	1 week	3 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ALICE), 300 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ATLAS, CMS), 25 pb <sup>-1</sup> (LHCb)	
2022	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	5 weeks	3.9 nb <sup>-1</sup>	
	O-O, p-O	1 week	500 μb <sup>-1</sup> and 200 μb <sup>-1</sup>	
2023	p-Pb 8.8 TeV	3 weeks	0.6 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ATLAS, CMS), 0.3 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ALICE, LHCb)	
	pp 8.8 TeV	few days	1.5 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ALICE), 100 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ATLAS, CMS, LHCb)	
2027	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	5 weeks	3.8 nb <sup>-1</sup>	
	pp 5.5 TeV	1 week	3 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ALICE), 300 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ATLAS, CMS), 25 pb <sup>-1</sup> (LHCb)	
2028	p-Pb 8.8 TeV	3 weeks	0.6 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ATLAS, CMS), 0.3 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ALICE, LHCb)	
	pp 8.8 TeV	few days	1.5 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ALICE), 100 pb <sup>-1</sup> (ATLAS, CMS, LHCb)	
2029	Pb-Pb 5.5 TeV	4 weeks	3 nb <sup>-1</sup>	
Run-5	Intermediate AA pp reference	11 weeks 1 week	e.g. Ar-Ar 3-9 pb <sup>-1</sup> (optimal species to be defined)	

**ALICE:**  
 13 nb<sup>-1</sup> Pb-Pb  
 0.6 pb<sup>-1</sup> p-Pb  
 + pp  
 ([ALICE-PUBLIC-2020-005](#))

# ALICE - Dielectrons (Run 3)

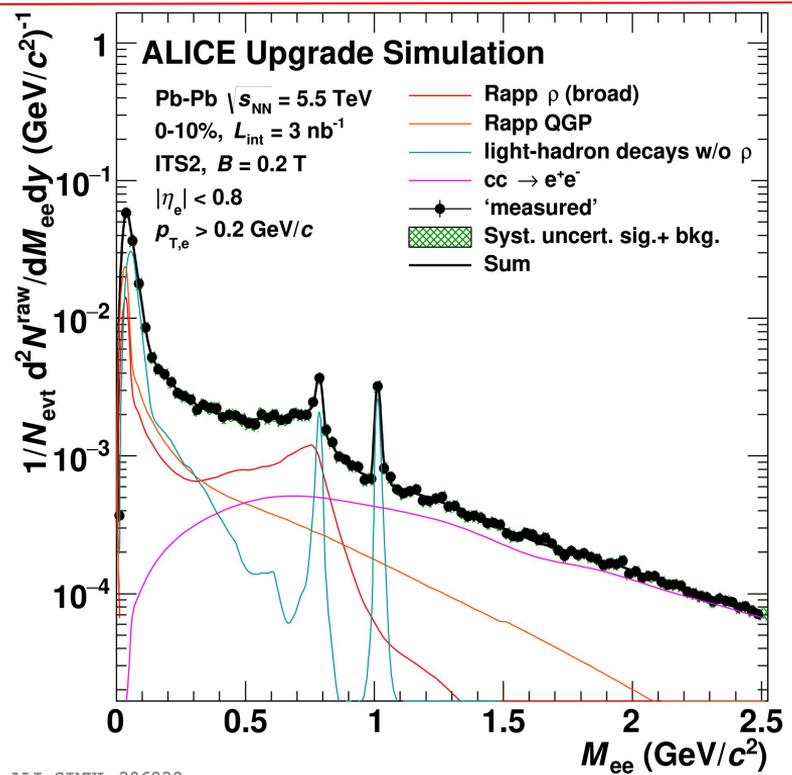


Applying cuts on the pair DCA to reduce contribution of heavy-flavour sources

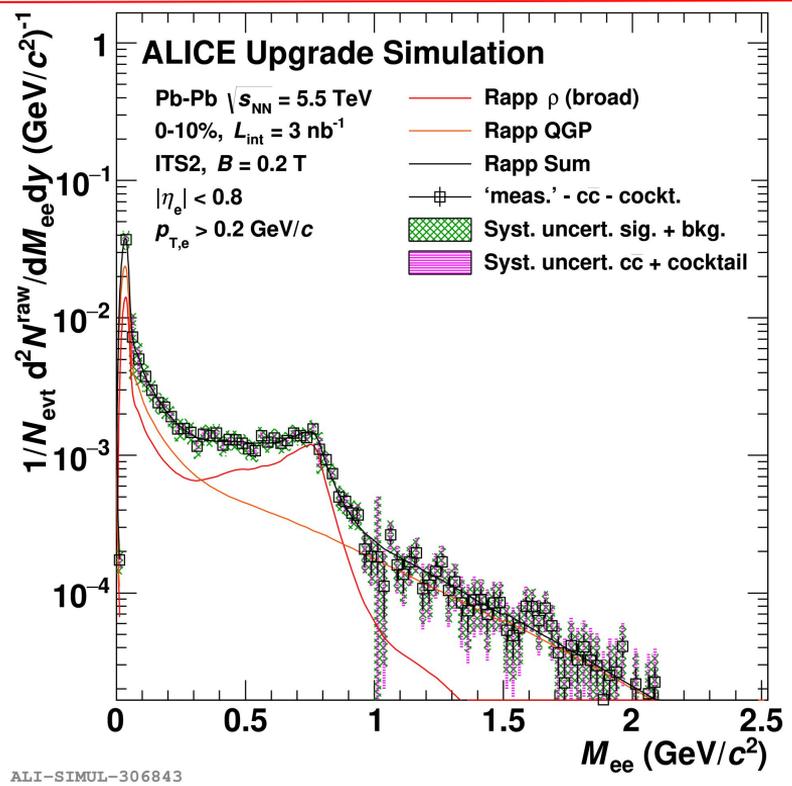


[S. Scheid, HP2020](#)

# ALICE - Dielectrons (Run 3)



Applying cuts on the pair DCA to reduce contribution of heavy-flavour sources



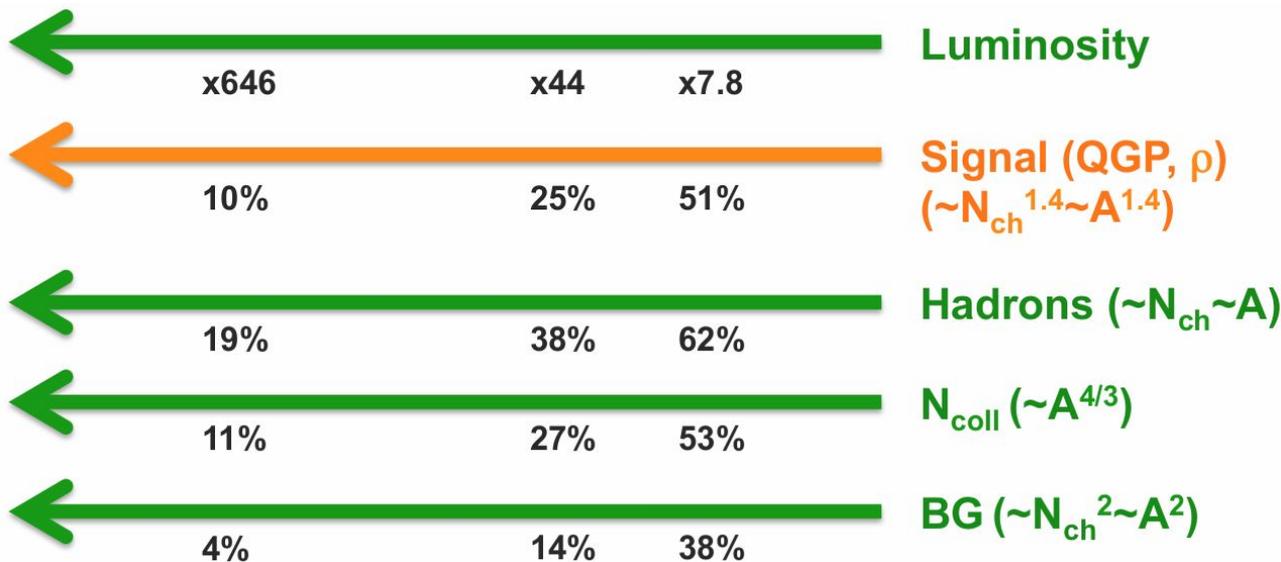
After subtraction of long-lived light- and (keep  $\rho$ ) heavy-flavour sources

# Other collision systems - luminosities and dileptons

	$^{16}\text{O}^{8+}$	$^{40}\text{Ar}^{18+}$	$^{40}\text{Ca}^{20+}$	$^{78}\text{Kr}^{36+}$	$^{129}\text{Xe}^{54+}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}^{82+}$
$\gamma$	3760.	3390.	3760.	3470.	3150.	2960.
$\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}}/\text{TeV}$	7.	6.3	7.	6.46	5.86	5.52
$\sigma_{\text{had}}/\text{b}$	1.41	2.6	2.6	4.06	5.67	7.8
$\langle L_{\text{AA}} \rangle \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	$4.54 \times 10^{31}$	$2.45 \times 10^{30}$	$1.69 \times 10^{30}$	$1.68 \times 10^{29}$	$2.95 \times 10^{28}$	$3.8 \times 10^{27}$
$\langle L_{\text{NN}} \rangle \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	$1.16 \times 10^{34}$	$3.93 \times 10^{33}$	$2.71 \times 10^{33}$	$1.02 \times 10^{33}$	$4.91 \times 10^{32}$	$1.64 \times 10^{32}$
$\int_{\text{month}} L_{\text{AA}} dt/\text{nb}^{-1}$	$5.89 \times 10^4$	3180.	2190.	218.	38.2	4.92
$\int_{\text{month}} L_{\text{NN}} dt/\text{pb}^{-1}$	$1.51 \times 10^4$	5090.	3510.	1330.	636.	213.

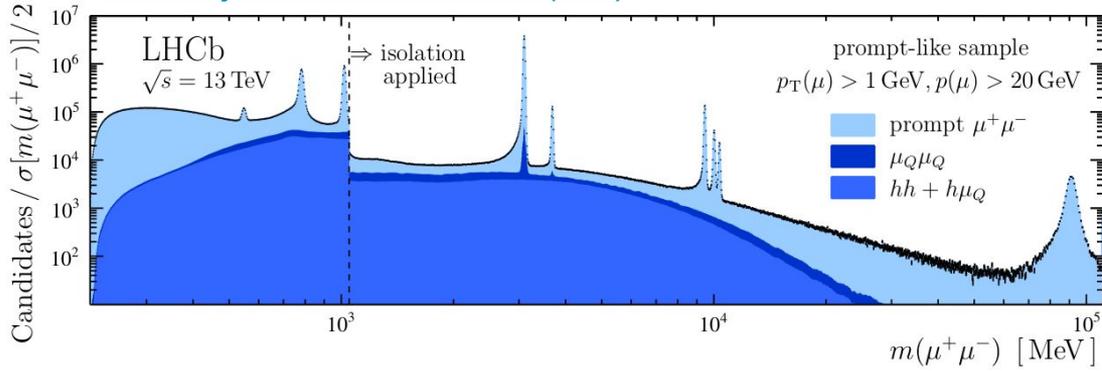
[HL-LHC WG5 yellow report](#)

Optimistic scenario



# Other future opportunities: LHCb

[LHCb, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 061801 \(2018\)](#)

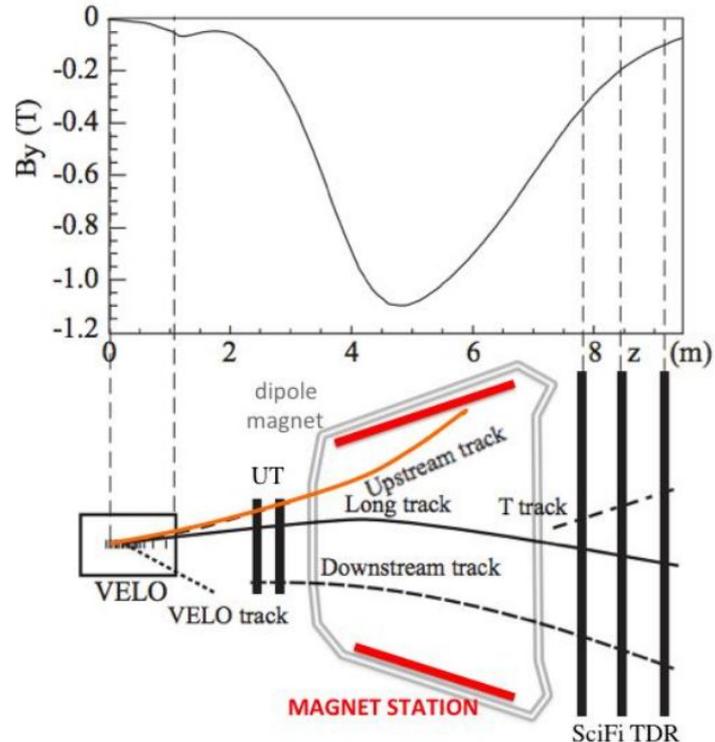


- PID and resolution limitations in momentum to be explored in detail
- Low multiplicity collisions only (no central heavy-ion collisions at the moment)

	LHCb	LHCb Upgrade I	LHCb Upgrade II
$\mathcal{L}_{instantaneous} (cm^{-2}s^{-1})$	$4 \times 10^{32}$	$2 \times 10^{33}$	$2 \times 10^{34}$
Pile-up	1	6	60
b-hadron per evt.	0.003	0.02	0.2
c-hadron per evt.	0.04	0.22	2
light, long-lived per evt.	0.51	2.08	21

[LHCb-PUB-2014-027]

[C. da Silva, Epiphany 2020](#)



*Planned magnet station for low momentum electron tracking*