# Direct photon production at RHIC and LHC energies

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# Different stages of heavy ion collisions



From Qin, Guang-You Int. J. Mod. Phys. E24 (2015) no.02, 1530001

The hot and dense matter produced in the relativistic nuclear collisions is expected to have a very transient existence and this makes it quite challenging to extract information on the dynamics and the properties of the earliest and the hottest stage of such collisions.

Information of the whole space-time evolution of the system must be extracted from the various observables measured in the final state.

A Electromagnetic radiation has long been considered as one of the promising and efficient tools to probe the hot and dense state of matter produced in the collision of heavy nuclei.

# Photons from relativistic heavy ion collisions



Graphics by Akihiko Monnai

The main advantage of studying direct photon observables in heavy ion collisions is that their emission is quite sensitive to the initial state of the produced matter. As a result, even a slight variation in the initial conditions would result in significant change in the final state observables.

The inclusive photon spectrum as obtained from a heavy ion collision experiments is a result of convolution of the emissions from the entire history of the expanding system

**Experimental challenges** 

Inclusive photon spectrum contains a huge background.

One of the earliest motivations to study direct photons in heavy ion collisions:

★ to gain access to the initial temperature of the system and to study the properties of the QGP via its thermal radiation.

Several other possibilities with evolving theory:

- ★ anisotropic flow of photons as a quark-gluon plasma viscometer
- ★ momentum anisotropy of the initial partons as well as formation time of quark-gluon plasma using anisotropic flow of thermal photons
- ★ evolution of the system size and information on geometry by photon interferometry

★ jet quenching and other aspects of the collision dynamics by photons due to passage of high energy jets through plasma etc. have come to the fore.



Revgers

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- Photon Production in Hot and Dense Strongly Interacting Matter, Charles Gale, Landolt-Bornstein 23 (2010) 445
- Direct real photons in relativistic heavy ion collisions, Gabor David, Rept.Prog.Phys. 83 (2020) 4, 046301
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- Electromagnetic Probes: Theory and Experiment Ralf-Arno Tripolta and, Frank Geurts Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 128 (2023) 104004
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- W. Cassing and E. L. Bratkovskaya, "Hadronic and electromagnetic probes of hot and dense nuclear matter," Phys. Rept. 308, 65 (1999).
- Thomas Peitzmann and Markus H. Thoma, "Direct photons from relativistic heavy ion collisions," Phys. Rept. 364, 175–246 (2002)
- Direct Photons in Hydrodynamic Modeling of Relativistic Nuclear Collisions Akihiko Monnai, arXiv::2203.13208
- Direct photons from relativistic heavy-ion collisions, Dinesh K. Srivastava J.Phys.G 35 (2008) 104026
- Electromagnetic probes, Rupa Chatterjee, Lusaka Bhattacharya, Dinesh K. Srivastava, Lect. Notes Phys. 785 (2010) 219-264

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# **Thermal Photons**

#### QGP:

P.B. Arnold, G.D. Moore, L.G. Yaffe, JHEP 111, 57 (2001); P.B. Arnold, G.D. Moore, L.G. Yaffe, JHEP 112, 9 (2001).

J. Ghiglieri, J. Hong, A. Kurkela, E. Lu, G.D. Moore, D. Teaney, JHEP 1305, 10 (2013); J. Ghiglieri, O. Kaczmarek, M. Laine, F. Meyer, Phys.Rev. D94, 016005 (2016).

#### Hadronic sector

J.I. Kapusta, P. Lichard, D. Seibert, Phys.Rev. D44, 2774-2788 (1991); S. Turbide, R. Rapp, C. Gale, Phys.Rev. C69, 014903 (2004); R. Rapp, Acta
Phys.Polon. B42, 2823-2852 (2011); M. Heffernan, P. Hohler, R. Rapp, Phys.Rev. C91, 027902 (2015);
N.P.M. Holt, P.M. Hohler, R. Rapp, Nucl.Phys. A945, 1-20 (2016)], .....



Complete leading order rates from QGP and exhaustive reactions in hadronic matter

- P. Arnold, G. D. Moore, and L. G. Yaffe, JHEP 0112, 009 (2001).
- J. Kapusta, P. Lichard, and D. Seibert. Phys. Rev. D 44, 2774 (1991),
- S. Turbide, R. Rapp, and C. Gale, Phys. Rev. C 69, 014903 (2004).

Thermal photons from the QGP and the hadronic sectors are obtained by integrating the rates of emission over the space time history

$$E\frac{dN_{\gamma}}{d^3p} = \int \left[ (\ldots) \exp(-\mathbf{p}^{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{\mu}/\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{x})) \right] d^4\mathbf{x},$$

T(x) is the local temperature and  $p^{\mu}$  represents the four-momentum of photon and  $u_{\mu}$  is the local 4-velocity of the flow field



### $T_{init} \& \tau_0$ for theoretical calculations



A. Adare et al. (PHENIX Collaboration) Phys. Rev. C 81, 034911 (2010)



#### Theoretical calculations of thermal photon emission are compared to direct photon data in central 0-20% Au+Au collisions at RHIC

D. d'Enterria and D. Peressounko, Eur. Phys. J. 46, 451 (2006).

P. Huovinen, P. V. Ruuskanen, and S. S. Rasanen, Phys. Lett. B 535, 109 (2002).

D. K. Srivastava and B. Sinha, Phys. Rev. C 64, 034902 (2001).

S. Turbide, R. Rapp, and C. Gale, Phys. Rev. C 69, 014903 (2004).

F. M. Liu, T. Hirano, K. Werner, and Y. Zhu, Phys. Rev. C 79, 014905 (2009).

Jan-e Alam, S. Sarkar, T. Hatsuda, T. K. Nayak, and B. Sinha, Phys. Rev. C 63, 021901(R) (2001).

#### Prompt photons:

L. E. Gordon and W. Vogelsang, Phys. Rev. D 48, 3136 (1993) P. Aurenche, J.-P. Guillet, E. Pilon, M. Werlen, and M. Fontannaz, Phys. Rev. D 73, 094007 (2006).

# **Direct photon spectra at RHIC and LHC**



A. Adare *et al.* (PHENIX Collaboration) Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 132301 (2010)

$$\frac{dN}{dy \, p_T dp_T} \propto e^{-p_T/T_{\rm eff}}$$

Excess of direct photon yield over p+p at  $p_{T}$ <4 GeV/c at RHIC and LHC.

$$\label{eq:eff_eff} \begin{split} & \textbf{T}_{eff} \approx 221 ~~ \text{MeV} ~ \text{in } 0\text{-}20\% ~~ \text{Au+Au} @ \text{RHIC.} \\ & \textbf{T}_{eff} \approx 304 ~~ \text{MeV} ~ \text{in } 0\text{-}40\% ~~ \text{Pb+Pb} @ \text{LHC.} \end{split}$$

the excess is attributed to thermal radiation.



M. Wilde, (ALICE Collaboration) Nuclear Physics A 904, 573c-576c (2013)



Prediction for direct photon production from Pb+Pb collisions at 5.02A TeV at LHC

## Thermal photons as a quark-gluon plasma thermometer



C. Shen, U. Heinz, J.-F. Paquet, C. Gale, *Phys.Rev.C* 89 (2014) 4, 044910

- Inverse photon slope parameter T<sub>eff</sub> = -1/slope as a function of the local fluid cell temperature, from the equilibrium thermal emission rates and from hydrodynamic simulations compared to the experimental values for Au+Au collisions at RHIC (PHENIX) and Pb+Pb collisions at the LHC (ALICE).
- T<sub>eff</sub> at equilibrium emission rates is slightly higher than the true temperature .
- Most photons are emitted from fireball regions near the quark-hadron phase transition, their effective temperature is significantly enhanced by strong radial flow.

### Thermal photons as a quark-gluon plasma thermometer:



C. Shen, U. W. Heinz, J.-F. Paquet, and C. Gale, Phys. Rev. C89, 044910 (2014)

Thermal photon yield that grows like a power of N<sub>part</sub> and as a (different) power of the multiplicity, with exponents stronger than linear.

The powers depend on the lower  $p_{\tau}$  cutoff.

The experimental the slopes  $\alpha$  in dN<sup>v</sup>/dy =A N<sup> $\alpha$ </sup> <sub>part</sub> did not change significantly with the p<sub>T</sub> integration limit, and the average value is  $\alpha$  = 1.38 ± 0.03(stat) ± 0.07(syst),

Equation of state of hadronic matter and electromagnetic radiation from relativistic heavy ion collisions

$$rac{dN_\gamma}{dy}\simeq K\left(rac{dN_{
m ch}}{dy}
ight)^lpha,$$

J. Cleymans, K. Redlich, & D. K. Srivastava Phys.Lett. B420 (1998) 261-266

where  $\alpha \simeq 1.2$  and K depends on the equation of state.



A. Adare et al. (PHENIX Collaboration) Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 022301 (2019)

A recent analysis from the PHENIX collaboration of available direct photon measurement results in collisions of various systems such as Au+Au, Cu+Cu, and Pb+Pb at different beam energies ranging from 39 to 2760 GeV, has shown a universal, within experimental uncertainties, multiplicity scaling, in which direct photon  $p_T$  spectra are scaled with charged hadron pseudorapidity density at mid-rapidity raised to power  $\alpha$ =1.25

At a given beam energy, the scaling also holds for high  $p_T$  (>5 GeV) but when results from different collision energies are compared, an additional  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ -dependent multiplicative factor is needed to describe the integrated-direct-photon yield.

Electromagnetic measurement of the temperature of quark-gluon plasma produced in central ultrarelativistic nuclear collisions





J.-F. Paquet and S. A. Bass, arXiv:2205.12299

$$((,,)) = ((0,,)) = ((0,,))$$

- the temperature profile of plasma is inhomogeneous in space and rapidly varying in time. T<sub>eff</sub> of the photon energy spectrum must represent a convoluted average over the plasma's temperature profile
- photon energy spectrum is used to estimate the maximum temperature of the plasma, assuming it undergoes hydrodynamic expansion.
- can provide constraints on the product  $\tau_0^{1/3} T_{0,max}$ , and can estimate the plasma's maximum temperature  $T_{0,max}$  to be larger than 400 MeV at RHIC and 500 MeV at the LHC.



A larger  $\tau_0$  lowers the production of thermal photons generically. One might also expect that the value of  $\tau_0$  is not fixed and it may change with collision centralities.

Centrality dependent  $\tau_0$  values from the EKRT model.

The effect of fluctuations in the IC and a larger value of formation time act in opposite directions by increasing and decreasing the production respectively.

The effect of the IC fluctuations and change in the formation time cannot be distinguished easily only by studying the spectra of thermal photons.

# Thermal emission is sensitive to the initial state



#### R. Chatterjee, H. Holopainen, T. Renk, and . J. Eskola PHYSICAL REVIEW C 85, 064910 (2012)

Anisotropic flow or in particular elliptic flow is one of the prominent signatures of the collective behaviour of the system produced in relativistic heavy ion collisions.



Polar plot of the azimuthal distribution of different Fourier expansions. Distortion of the unit circle through an elliptic component  $v_2$ , shown for 10% and 20%. Fourth component  $v_4$  for the same values.

Elliptic flow: a brief review Raimond Snellings, 2011 New J. Phys. 13 055008

### **Elliptic flow of thermal photons:**



 $v_2$  for thermal photons reveals a large sensitivity to the initial time  $\tau_0$  for  $p_T$  greater than about 1.5 GeV/c.

RC, E. Frodermann, U. Heinz, and D. K. Srivastava. PRL 96, 202302 (2006) RC and D. K. Srivastava. PRC 79, 021901(R) (2009)



# Direct Photon v<sub>2</sub>

Observation of Direct-Photon Collective Flow in Au+ Au Collisions at  $\sqrt{s}_{_{NN}}\text{=}200~\text{GeV}$ 

A. Adare et al. (PHENIX Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 122302 (2012)

PHENIX preliminary results on direct photon  $v_{2}$  in the 1-12 GeV/c  $p_{\tau}$  region.

for  $p_T > 4$  GeV/c the anisotropy for direct photons is consistent with zero, which is as expected if the dominant source of direct photons is initial hard scattering.

However, in the  $p_T < 4$  GeV/c region, a substantial direct photon  $v_2$  is observed comparable to that of hadrons, whereas model calculations for thermal photons in this kinematic region underpredict the observed  $v_2$ .

RC & D. K. Srivastava, Phys. Rev. C 79, 021901 (R) (2009). for two different initial times: 0.6 fm and 0.4 fm.

Experimental data shows similar qualitative nature as predicted by theory calculation.



#### Glauber Modeling in High Energy Nuclear Collisions

Michael L. Miller, Klaus Reygers, Stephen J. Sanders, Peter Steinberg Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.57:205-243, 2007



The concepts of participant triangularity and triangular flow in heavy-ion collisions is analogous to the definitions of participant eccentricity and elliptic flow.

The participant triangularity characterizes the triangular anisotropy of the initial nuclear overlap geometry and arises from event-by-event fluctuations.



B. Alver and G. Roland, PRC81, 054905 (2010)

# Event-by-event hydrodynamics and initial density profile

 Event-by-event hydrodynamics from Hannu Holopainen et al., Phys. Rev. C 83, 034901 (2011).

Monte Carlo Glauber Model: two nucleons i and j from different nuclei collide when

$$(x_i - x_j)^2 + (y_i - y_j)^2 \le \frac{\sigma_{NN}}{\pi}$$
 -----> (1)

 Entropy density s is distributed in the (x,y) plane around the wounded nucleons using a 2D Gaussian:

$$s(x, y) = \frac{K}{2\pi\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{WN}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_i)^2 + (y-y_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$



•  $\sigma$  is a free parameter determining the size of the fluctuation.



RC, D. K. Srivastava, T. Renk, Phys.Rev. C94 (2016), 014903 RC, H. Holopainen, I. Helenius, T. Renk, K. J. Eskola, Phys. Rev. C88 (2013) 034901

Fluctuation in the initial density distribution gives larger v<sub>2</sub>

Photon  $v_3$  is found to be significantly large and shows a similar  $p_T$  dependent nature to the elliptic flow parameter.

## Anisotropic flow of direct photons at RHIC and LHC



$$v_n^{\gamma} \{ \mathrm{SP} \}(p_T) = \frac{\left\langle \frac{dN^{\gamma}}{dyp_T dp_T}(p_T) v_n^{\gamma}(p_T) v_n^{\mathrm{ch}} \cos\left[n\left(\Psi_n^{\gamma} - \Psi_n^{\mathrm{ch}}\right)\right]\right\rangle}{\left\langle \frac{dN^{\gamma}}{dyp_T dp_T}(p_T) \right\rangle v_2^{\mathrm{ch}} \{2\}}.$$

C. Shen, U. Heinz, J.-F. Paquet, I. Kozlov, and C. Gale PHYSICAL REVIEW C 91, 024908 (2015)

### Spectra and anisotropic flow at RHIC and LHC



J. F. Paquet, C. Shen, G. S. Denicol, M. Luzum, B. Schenke, S. Jeon and C. Gale, Phys. Rev. C 93, no. 4, 044906 (2016).





ALICE Collaboration (J. Adam et al.), Phys. Lett. B 754, 235 (2016),

- S. Turbide, C gale, E. Frodermann, and U Heinz, Phys. Rev. C77, 024909 (2008)
- H. Holopainen, S. S. Räsänen, and K. J. Eskola, Phys. Rev. C 84, 064903 (2011)

H.-van Hees, C. Gale, and R. Rapp, Phys. Rev. C 84, 054906 (2011)

O. Linnyk, V. Konchakovski, T. Steinert, W. Cassing, and E. L. Bratkovskaya, Phys. Rev. C 92, 054914 (2015)

V. Y. Naboka, Y. M. Sinyukov and G. M. Zinovjev, Phys. Rev. C 97, no.5, 054907 (2018).

R. Chatterjee et al., Phys. Rev. C 96, 014911 (2017)

P. Dasgupta et al. Phys. Rev. C 97, 034902 (2018)

Photon radiation from heavy-ion collisions in the  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  = 19 – 200 GeV regime



C. Gale, S. Jeon, S. McDonald, J.-F. Paquet, C. Shen Nucl. Phys. A 982 (2019), 767-770

- calculations of prompt and thermal photon production in gold-gold collisions at various collision energies ranging from 19 GeV to 200 GeV.
- insights into the production of photons in heavy-ion collisions across a wide range of collision energies.
- emphasizes the potential to measure thermal photons in low collision energies by studying the suppression of prompt photon production.

# Photon production from Pb+Pb collisions at 2.76A TeV and 5.02 A TeV at LHC and at 39 A TeV at the upcoming Future Circular Collider (FCC)

Temperature distribution on the transverse plane at formation time for the three energies



P. Dasgupta, S. De, RC, and D. K. Srivastava, PRC98, 024911 (2018)



DIRECT PHOTONS IN HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING OF RELATIVISTIC NUCLEAR COLLISIONS

A. Monnai, arxiv:2203.13208

A. Monnai, J. Phys. G 47, 075105 (2020)

- ★ Pre-equilibrium photons can be as important as thermal and prompt photons for comprehensive understanding of direct photon production.
- ★ The modification of the slope parameter can also affect the extraction of the effective temperature.



Emission of electromagnetic radiation from the early stages of relativistic heavy-ion collisions

J. Churchill, L. Yan, S. Jeon, and C. Gale Phys. Rev. C 103, 024904 (2021)

Photons from the early stages of relativistic heavy-ion

#### collisions

L. Oliva M. Ruggieri, S. Plumari, F. Scardina, G. X. Peng, and

V. Greco

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 96, 014914 (2017)

Parametric estimate of the relative photon yields from the glasma and the quark-gluon plasma in heavy-ion collisions Jürgen Berges, Klaus Reygers, Naoto Tanji, and Raju Venugopalan

# **Photons: contribution of different sources**

AuAu @ 200 GeV, 20-40%





#### Photon production in the late stages of relativistic heavy-ion collisions

A. Schäfer, O. Garcia-Montero, J.-F. Paquet, H. Elfner , and C. Gale, Phy. Rev. C 105, 044910 (2022)

A. Schafer, J. M. Torres-Rincon, J. Rothermel, N. Ehlert, C. Gale, and H. Elfner, Phys. Rev. D 99, 114021 (2019)

Non-equilibrium dynamics enhance the late-stage photon production at low pT and decreases it at higher pT compared to the estimate from hydrodynamics.

A significant increase in the momentum anisotropies of these photons due to non-equilibrium dynamics.

Direct photons from recombination model, H. Fujii, K. Itakura and C. Nonaka, Nucl. Phys. A967, 704

#### Jet photons

High-energy photons from passage of jets through quark gluon plasma

Rainer J. Fries, Berndt Muller, and Dinesh K. Srivastava,

Phys. Rev. Lett. 90, 132301 (2003),

Photon-jet correlations in p-p and Pb-Pb collisions using JETSCAPE framework -JETSCAPE Collaboration

It is now well established that jet modification is a multistage effect; hence a single model alone cannot describe all facets of jet modification. The JETSCAPE is a multistage framework that uses several modules to simulate different stages of jet propagation through the QGP medium.

#### Jet-medium photons as a probe of parton dynamics

Rouzbeh Modarresi Yazdi, Shuzhe Shi, Charles Gale, Sangyong Jeon, arXiv:2207.12513

Photons resulting from jet-medium interactions offer the opportunity of studying the evolving quark distribution in a heavy ion collision. The spectra of jet-medium photons is presented within the jetscape framework for two different energy loss models, martini and cujet. Jet-medium photons can contribute significantly to the spectrum of direct photons in the intermediate  $p_T$  range.

# Ratio of photon anisotropic flow

The ratio of photon  $v_n$  can be a potential observable to understand the direct photon puzzle by minimizing the non-thermal contributions.



The ratio is found to be larger for peripheral collisions than for central collisions. The  $p_{T}$  dependent behavior of the ratio is found to be different than the individual flow parameters.

The individual  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  results from hydrodynamical model calculations under-estimate the data

RC & P. Dasgupta PRC 104, 064907 (2021)

# Ratio of photon anisotropic flow



The ratio shows similar qualitative nature for all three cases and is found to be largest for the Au+Au collisions. The results from Cu+Au and Cu+Cu collisions are found to be close to each other.

The effect of initial state fluctuations is more for smaller systems which reduces the gap between  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  and consequently a relatively smaller value of the ratio can be seen for those.

# Ratio of photon anisotropic flow



A larger  $\tau_0$  increases the anisotropic flow significantly at larger  $p_T$  values. Whereas, a larger  $\tau_0$  affects the ratio maximum in the lower  $p_T$  region.

We consider a constant freeze-out temperature for all the systems at different centrality bins which is fixed by reproducing the charged particle multiplicity.

Even for a much smaller value of  $T_f$ , the ratio does not change much in the lower  $p_T$  region and a small change can be observed only for larger  $p_T$ . However, a smaller  $T_f$  increases the photon  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  significantly in the entire  $p_T$  region.

RC & P. Dasgupta PRC 104, 064907 (2021)

### Collectivity and electromagnetic radiation in small

#### systems

- Ultra-high temperature nuclear matter in heavy-ion collisions behaves like a nearly inviscid hydrodynamical perfect fluid.
- Surprisingly, similar collective, fluid-like phenomena have been discovered in much smaller collision systems, such as p+p, p+A, d+Au, and <sup>3</sup>He+Au, challenging the conventional understanding of system size requirements for collectivity.
- These findings open up new research directions and questions regarding the origin and underlying dynamics of collectivity in various collision system



Small System Collectivity in Relativistic Hadronic and Nuclear Collisions J. L. Nagle & W. A. Zajc Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science 68, 211

J. L. Nagle, A. Adare, S. Beckman, T. Koblesky, J. Orjuela Koop, D. McGlinchey, P. Romatschke, J. Carlson, J. E. Lynn, and M. McCumber Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 112301 (2014)

(2018)

#### Photons from small system

- ★ The collective behaviour of hadronic particles has been observed in high multiplicity proton-lead collisions at LHC, as well as in deuteron-gold collisions at RHIC.
- ★ Owing to their compact size, these systems can reach temperatures comparable to those in central nucleus-nucleus collisions.
- ★ The thermal photons can thus shine over the prompt background, and increase the low p<sub>T</sub> direct photon spectrum by factor of 2-3 in 0-1% p+Pb collisions at 5.02 TeV.
- ★ Thermal photon enhancement can therefore serve as a clean signature of the existence of a hot quark-gluon plasma during the evolution of these small collision systems, as well as validate hydrodynamic behavior in small systems.





# $\underline{\tau}_{0}$ sensitivity





Nature Communications, volume 13, Article number: 2234 (2022)

#### Clustering has long been known to play a key role in understanding the structure of light nuclei.

Signatures of  $\alpha$  Clustering in Light Nuclei from Relativistic Nuclear Collisions Wojciech Broniowski and Enrique Ruiz Arriola Phys. Rev. Lett. **112**, 112501 (2014)

Broniowski et al (Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 112501) showed that relativistic nuclear collisions may provide experimental evidence of clustering in light nuclei. They illustrate the feasibility of the idea by modeling the C+Pb collisions and point out that very significant quantitative and qualitative differences between the  $\alpha$ -clustered and uniform <sup>12</sup>C nucleus occur in quantities such as the triangular flow, its e-by-e fluctuations, or the correlations of the elliptic and triangular flows.

Proposals to study collisions with <sup>16</sup>O beams at the LHC and at RHIC are presently under serious consideration

M. Rybczyski, M. Piotrowska and W. Broniowski, Phys. Rev. C 97, no.3, 034912 (2018). P. Bozek, W. Broniowski, E. Ruiz Arriola and M. Rybczynski, Phys. Rev. C 90, no.6, 064902 (2014). Y. A. Li, S. Zhang and Y. G. Ma, Phys. Rev. C 102 (2020) no.5, 054907. S. Zhang, Y. G. Ma, J. Chen, W. He and C. Zhong, Phys. Rev. C 95, 064904 (2017). J. He, W. B. He, Y. G. Ma and S. Zhang, Phys. Rev. C 104 (2021), 044902

Thermal photons as a sensitive probe of  $\alpha$ -cluster in C+Au collisions at RHIC



Different orientations of  $\alpha$ -clustered carbon nuclei colliding with heavy nuclei can result in a large variation in the value of anisotropic flow. We focus on the most central collisions where we expect to see more geometry-dominated effects.

### Distribution of entropy density at the formation time $\tau_0$ on transverse (x - y) plane









Thermal photon spectra for different configurations of clustered C and Au collisions The spectrum from the collisions of unclustered C and Au is shown for a comparison.



The spectra become slightly sensitive to the orientation angle for  $p_{\tau} > 2$  GeV. The thermal spectrum for the configuration  $\theta = \pi/2$  is found to be slightly above the other spectra in the larger  $p_{\tau}$  region. On the other hand, photon production from the unclustered carbon is found to be smallest.



Substantially large thermal photon v<sub>3</sub> for the configurations  $\theta = \pi/4$  and  $\theta = 0$ .

The initial triangular geometry of the entropy density profile produced in the collision of  $\alpha$ -clustered carbon and gold nucleus gives rise to the triangular flow.

As there exists no such triangular geometry for the configuration  $\theta = \pi/2$  or the unclustered case, we obtain a vanishingly small thermal photon v<sub>3</sub>.

# Anisotropic flow from C+Au Collisions





The ratio of  $\alpha$ -clustered to unclustered event-averaged initial state elliptic and triangular eccentricities as a function of N<sub>nart</sub> from C + Au collisions.

The photon  $v_3$  for the clustered case is found to be twice as large as the same obtained for the unclustered case. It is similar to the  $v_3(p_T)$  obtained from a central collision of  $\alpha$ -clustered carbon with Au nucleus at an angle  $\theta = \pi/4$ 

The  $v_2$  does not show much difference for the two cases.

Photon  $v_3$  in relativistic nuclear collisions can efficiently reflect the initial state triangular anisotropy associated with the triangular  $\alpha$ -cluster structure in carbon nucleus

P. Dasgupta. RC, and G Ma Phys. Rev. C 107, 044908 (2023)



The ratio for the unclustered case, which is found to be about 2.0 at  $p_T \sim 1.0$  GeV, and above  $p_T > 3$  GeV the ratio gets closer to 1. However, for the clustered case, the ratio is smaller than 1 in the region  $p_T > 1$  GeV, which in turn indicates a significantly larger thermal photon  $v_3$  compared to the thermal photon  $v_2$ .

P. Dasgupta. RC, and G Ma

Phys. Rev. C 107, 044908 (2023)

### Thermal photon $v_2$ from full overlap U+U collisions at RHIC



Schematic of tip-tip and body-body collisions of full overlap uranium nuclei

The elliptic flow parameter for body-body collisions is found to be large and comparable to the elliptic flow for mid-central collisions of gold nuclei. For tip-tip collisions the elliptic flow is very small.

The photon results from fully overlapping U+U collisions are complementary to the results from Au+Au collisions at RHIC.

P. Dasgupta, RC, D. K. Srivastava PRC 95, 064907 (2017)

U+U collisions are of special interest due to the non-spherical prolate shape of the colliding nuclei.

The production of thermal photons is found to be significantly larger for tip-tip collisions compared to body-body collisions.



### **Photon interferometry:**

The quantum statistical interference between identical particles emitted in relativistic heavy ion collisions, provide valuable insight about the shape and size of the particle emitting source.

 $\rightarrow$  direct photons emitted from different stages of the collision dominate the p<sub>T</sub> spectra depending on the range of transverse momentum.

 $\rightarrow$  Thus, one can extract space time dimension of the system at different stages of the collision by measuring the correlation radii for photons at different transverse momentum.

Two particle correlation function C(q, K) for photons having momenta  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ , emitted from a completely chaotic source can be written as,

$$\begin{split} C(\boldsymbol{q},\boldsymbol{K}) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{|\int d^4x S(x,\boldsymbol{K}) e^{i\boldsymbol{q}.\boldsymbol{x}}|^2}{\int d^4x S(x,\boldsymbol{k_1}) \int d^4x S(x,\boldsymbol{k_2})} \\ & E \frac{dN}{d^3K} = \int d^4x S(x,\boldsymbol{K}) \end{split}$$

Photon Interferometry of Au+AuCollisions at the BNL Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collider

Steffen A. Bass, Berndt Müller, and Dinesh K. Srivastava

Phys. Rev. Lett. 93 162301 (2004)



D. K. Srivastava, Phys. Rev. C 71, 034905 (2005).

# Probing the evolution of heavy-ion collisions using direct photon

### interferometry

Oscar Garcia-Montero, Nicole Löher, Aleksas Mazeliauskas, Jürgen Berges, and Radi Reygers



1.0

 $K_{\perp}$  [GeV]

0.4

1.2

1.4

Recent developments in photon production in relativistic heavy ion collisions have contributed to a deeper understanding of the properties and dynamics of the QGP

- significant advancement in theoretical framework
- comparison with high precision data

New ideas, new models and experimental access to a wide range of beam energy, systems and observables..

**Future looks bright** 



Thank you