

Direct photon measurements

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**EMMI Rapid Reaction Task Force (RRTF):
Real and virtual photon production at ultra-low transverse
momentum and low mass at LHC
GSI Darmstadt, 1-5 August 2022**



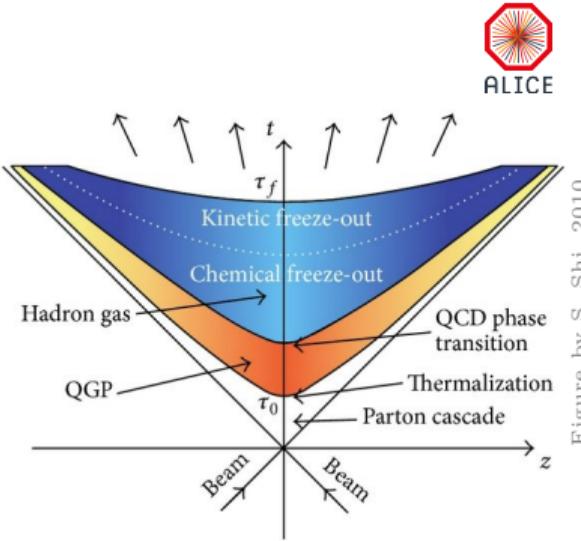
Covered by this talk

- Motivation for direct photon measurements
(direct photons = photons that do not originate from hadron decays)
- Experimental results of direct photon measurements
not: other EM probes: virtual photons via dielectroms
- Measurements with the goal to observe thermal radiation
not: with the goal to investigate Low's theorem
- Results from RHIC and LHC energies
- Focus on AA collisions
- Comparison to theoretical calculations
- A small outlook: LHC Run 3 and 4, ALICE 3 (LHC Run 5 and beyond)

Motivation for measuring direct photons

- Created during all stages of a heavy-ion collision
Leave the medium without further interaction
⇒ Provide unique information
- Prompt photons:** observed in all collision systems, can be calculated with pQCD, well described. Initial hard scatterings, fragmentation, medium modification
- Thermal photons**
 - have been observed
 - are sensitive to the medium **temperature** and **collective flow** at photon production time
 - Tension between experiment and theory (yields, v_2)
- Jet-medium photons and pre-equilibrium photons** have not yet been measured
 - Pre-equilibrium photons: sensitive to the saturation momentum Q_s [1]

[1] See for example J. Churchill et al. PRC 103 (2021) 024904



Sources in AA: Direct photons

- Prompt photons
- Jet-medium interaction
- Pre-equilibrium photons
- Thermal photons from QGP and hadron gas
- Decay photons from π^0 , η , ...

Motivation for measuring direct photons

- Created during all stages of a heavy-ion collision
Leave the medium without further interaction
⇒ Provide unique information

Quantities ...

temperature of the medium
emission time / flow(t)
initial conditions
viscosity
source size
direct photon fraction
electrical conductivity of the medium

Observables...

(thermal) photon spectra
direct photon v_2
 v_3 , v_2 [2]
 v_3 , v_2 [2]
HBT [3]
 R_γ , HBT
spectra [4]

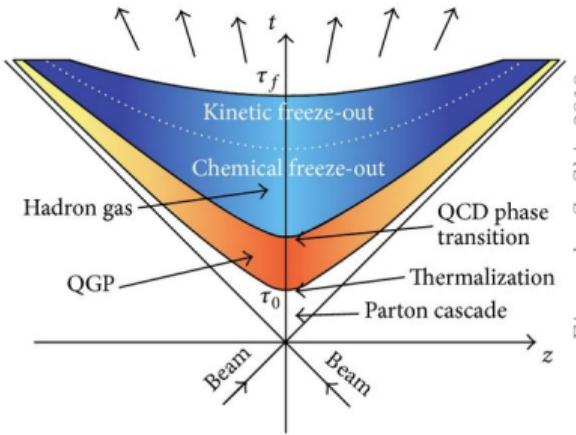


Figure by S. Shi, 2010

Sources in AA: Direct photons

- Prompt photons
- Jet-medium interaction
- Pre-equilibrium photons
- Thermal photons from QGP and hadron gas
- Decay photons from π^0 , η , ...

[2] See for example PRC 91, 024908 (2015)

[3] PRL 93 (2004) 022301

[4] See for example arXiv:2112.12497 [nucl-th]

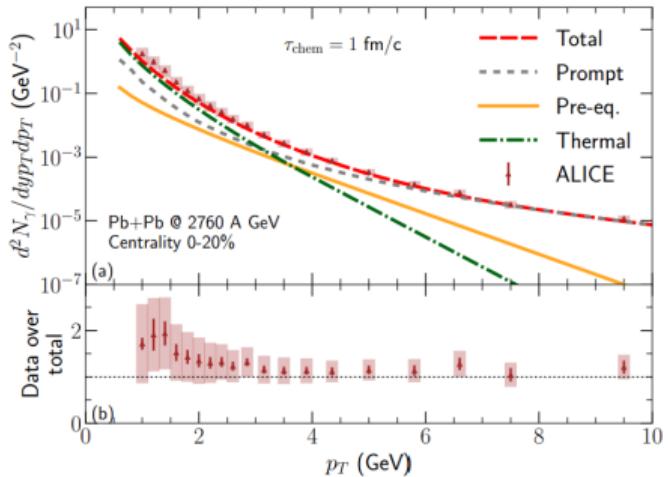
Outline of this talk

- 1) Medium temperature
- 2) Flow, initial conditions
- 3) Pre-equilibrium phase, saturation momentum
- 4) Medium size

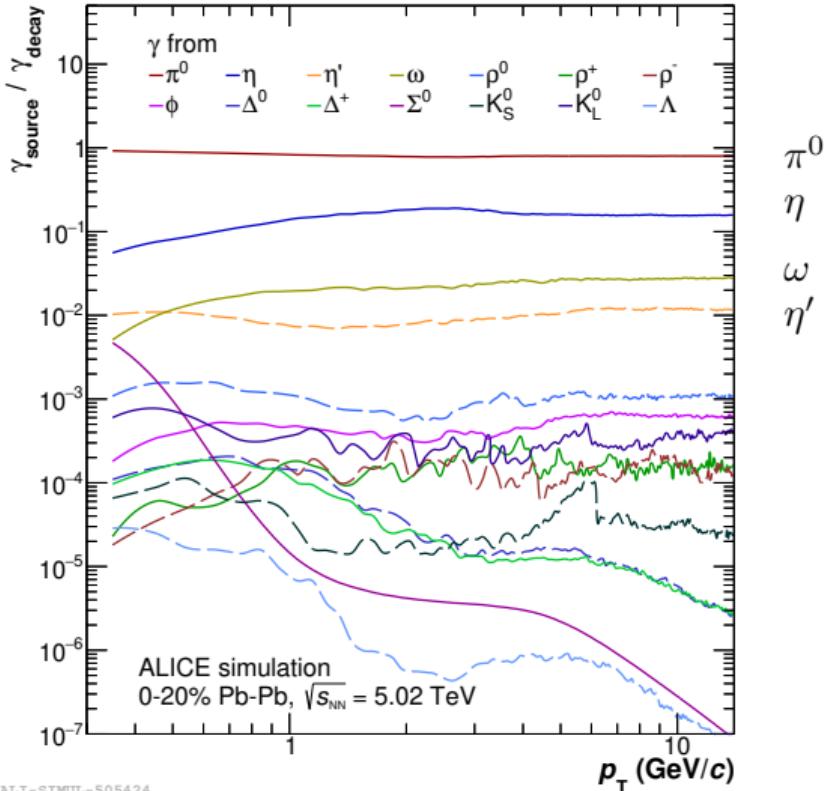
Medium temperature

Have to isolate thermal γ from other γ :

- Simulate decay photons based on hadron measurements and m_T scaling.
direct = inclusive - decay
- Thermal photons dominate low p_T region.
Subtract prompt = N_{coll} -scaled-(pQCD or pp)

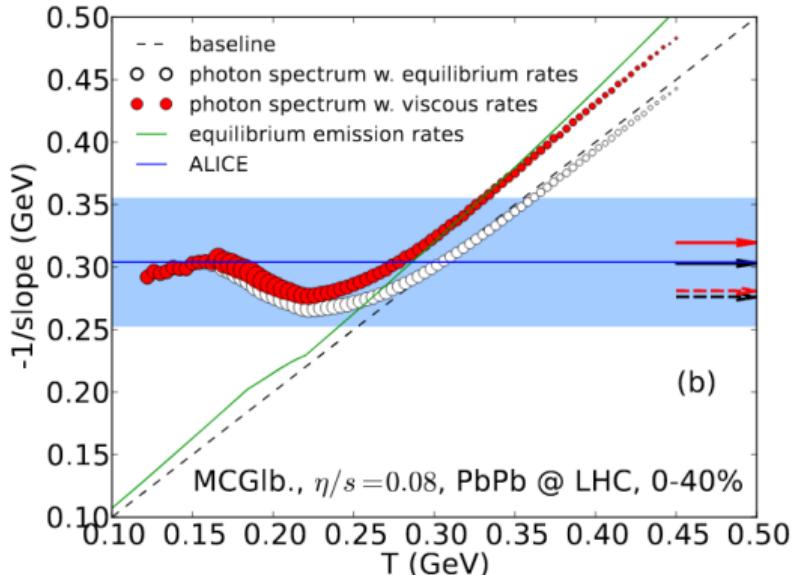


PRC 105, 014909 (2022)



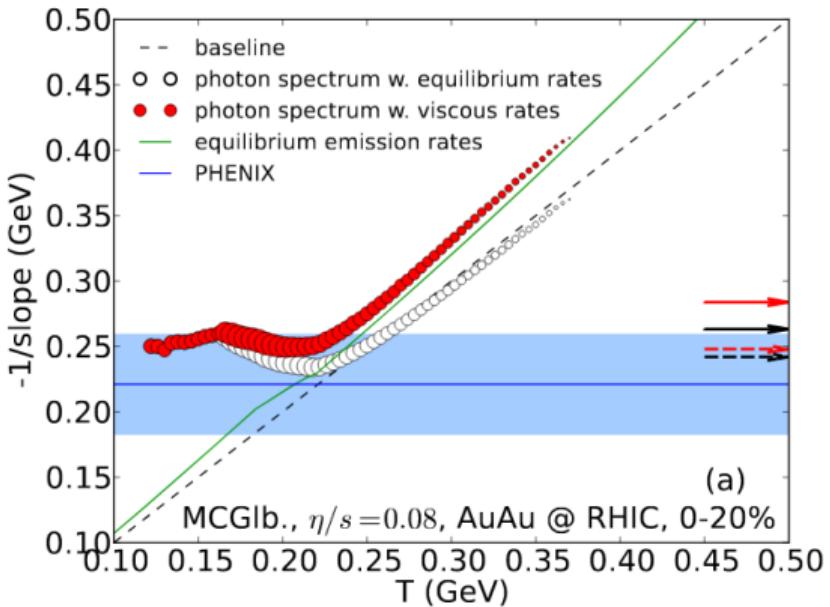
Medium temperature

- Production rate $r_\gamma(E_\gamma, T)$ depends on the medium temperature T
- If source was at rest and had a constant T : approximately exponential spectrum with inverse slope = T
- But: source cools down: $r_\gamma(E_\gamma, T(t))$
 $\Rightarrow r_\gamma$ -weighted time-average
- And: blue-shift due to radial flow $\beta(t)$
 \Rightarrow effective temperature T_{eff}
- Also: average over medium volume $V(t)$
- Actual temperature $T(t,x)$ by model comparison when $\beta(t)$ and $V(t)$ are known

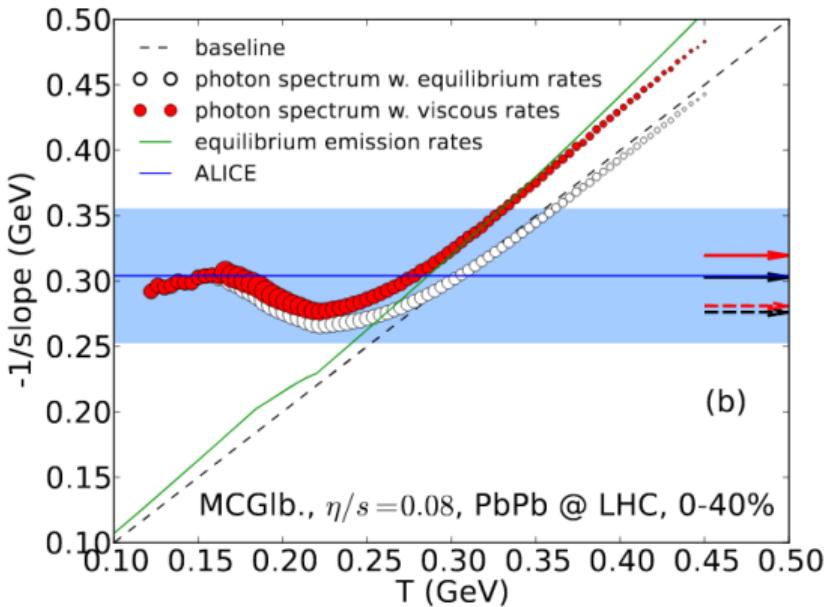


red points: effect of radial flow, faster cooling after chemical freeze-out, increasing volume

Medium temperature



(a)



(b)

expect larger T_{eff} at LHC than at RHIC energies

Direct photon measurements at LHC

EMCal: sampling calorimeter at $R = 4.3$ m,
 $80 < \varphi < 187^\circ$, $|\eta| < 0.7$

cell size $\approx 6 \times 6 \text{ cm}^2$

DCal:

$0.22 < |\eta| < 0.7$, $260 < \varphi < 320^\circ$

$|\eta| < 0.7$, $320 < \varphi < 327^\circ$

PHOS: homogeneous calorimeter
with PbWO_4 crystals at $R = 4.6$ m,
 $\Delta\varphi = 70^\circ$, $|\eta| < 0.12$
cell size $\approx 2.2 \times 2.2 \text{ cm}^2$

PCM: photon conversion method

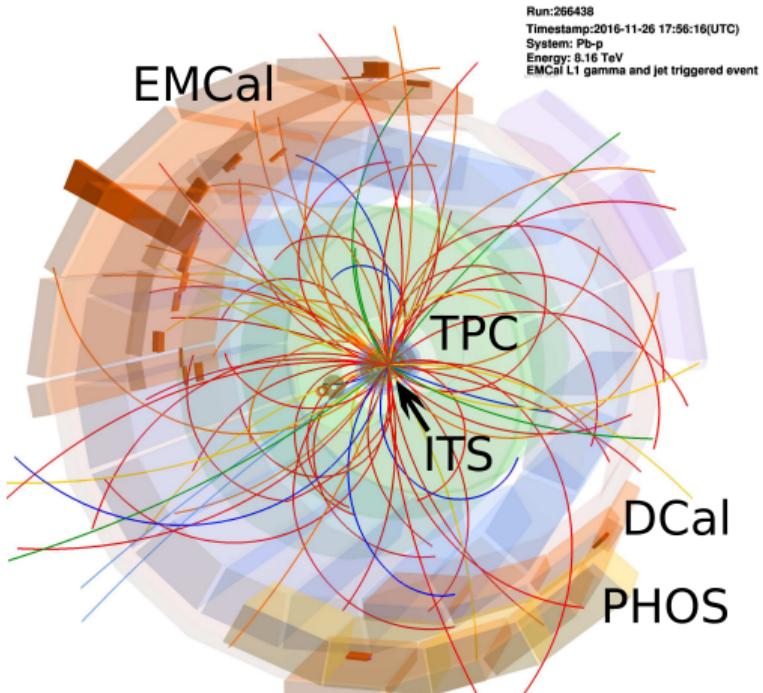
$\gamma X \rightarrow e^+ e^- X$ in the detector material

with probability $\approx 8.5\%$ ($R < 1.8$ m)

tracking with ITS ($|\eta| < 2.0$) and TPC ($|\eta| < 0.9$)

$e^+ e^-$ identification with TPC and TOF

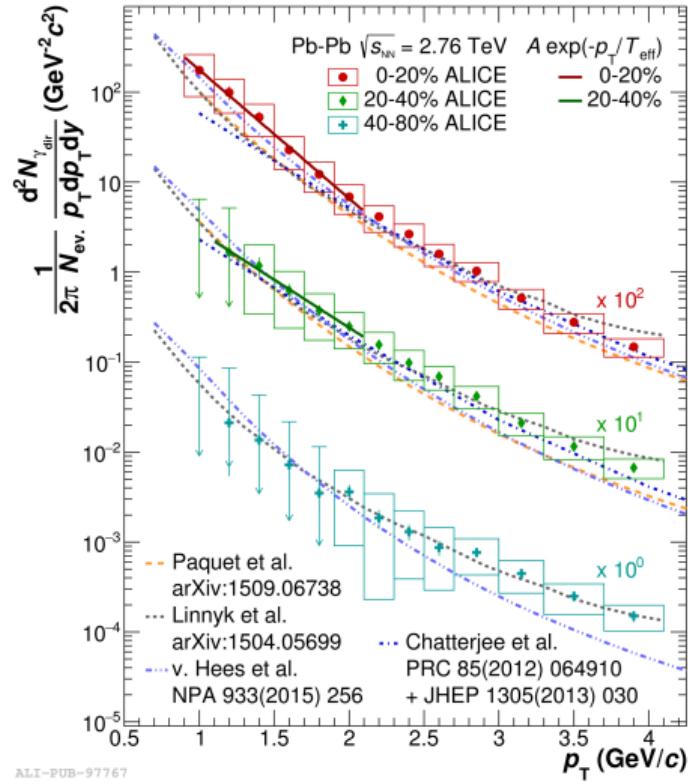
π^0 down to $p_T \approx 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$



Medium temperature at LHC

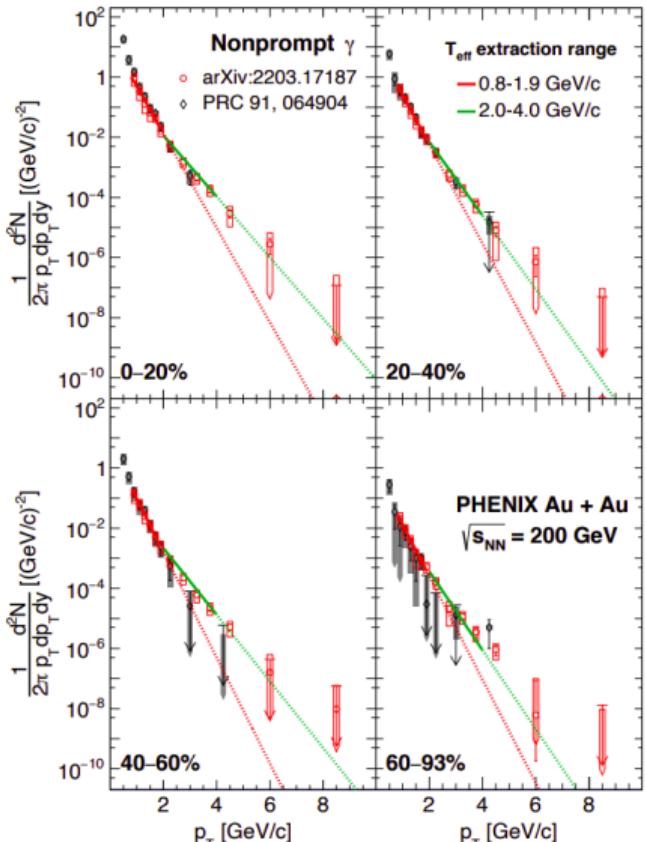
- Pb–Pb $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76 \text{ TeV}$
- Measurement with PCM and PHOS
- $\approx 15 \text{ M}$ events
- pQCD calculation of prompt photons subtracted
- $T_{\text{eff}} = (297 \pm 12^{\text{stat}} \pm 41^{\text{syst}}) \text{ MeV}$
0-20% centrality class,
 $p_T = 0.9\text{-}2.1 \text{ GeV}/c$
- $T_{\text{eff}} = (410 \pm 84^{\text{stat}} \pm 140^{\text{syst}}) \text{ MeV}$
20-40% centrality class,
 $p_T = 1.1\text{-}2.1 \text{ GeV}/c$

ALICE Collaboration, Phys.Lett. B754 (2016) 235



ALICE-PUB-97776

Medium temperature at RHIC

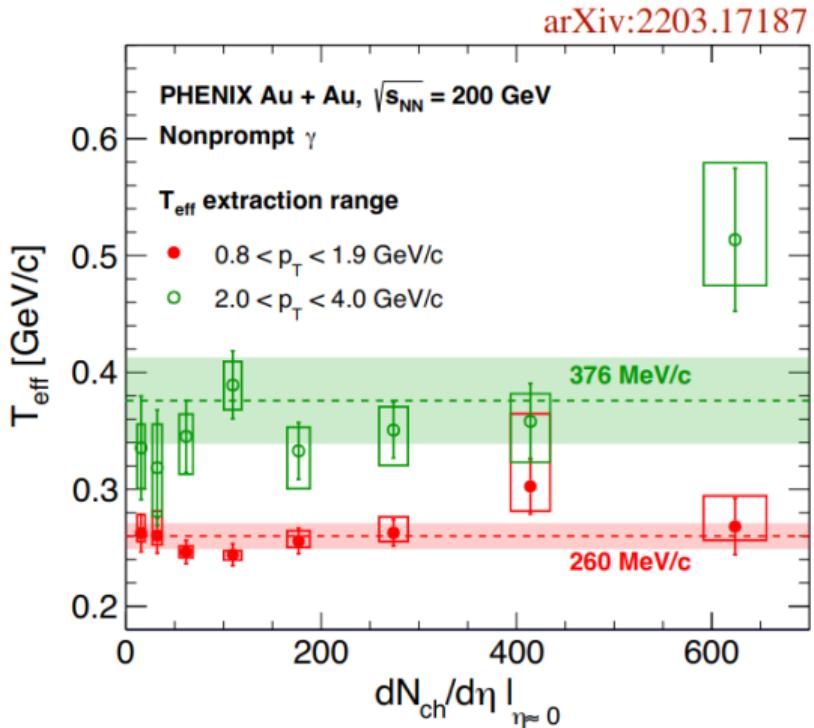


- Au–Au $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$
- Large statistics: 10^{10} events
- Nonprompt direct photons: N_{coll} scaled pp spectra fitted and subtracted
- Fit two p_T ranges: 0.8–1.9 and 2.4–4.0 GeV/c
- η/π^0 ratio for decay photons from world data in pp collisions, and accounting for radial flow with K^\pm/π^\pm in AA

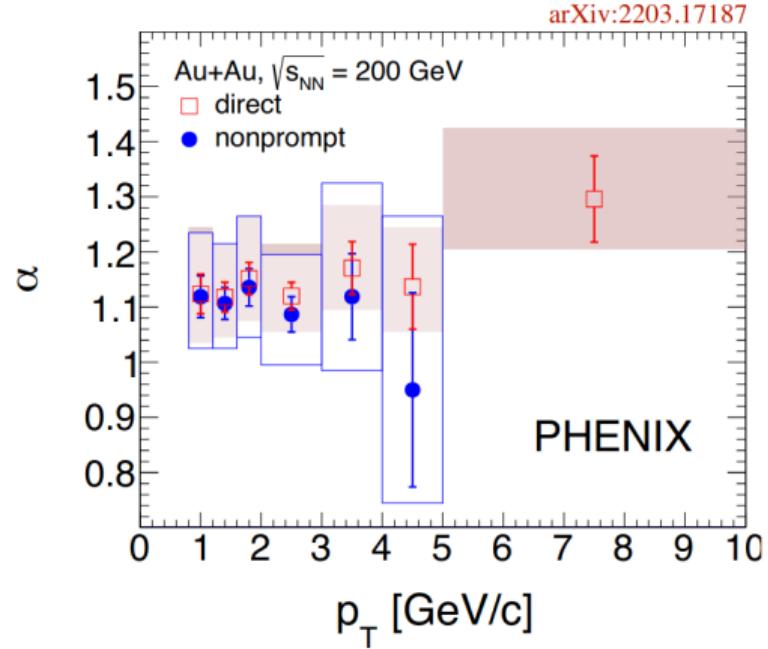
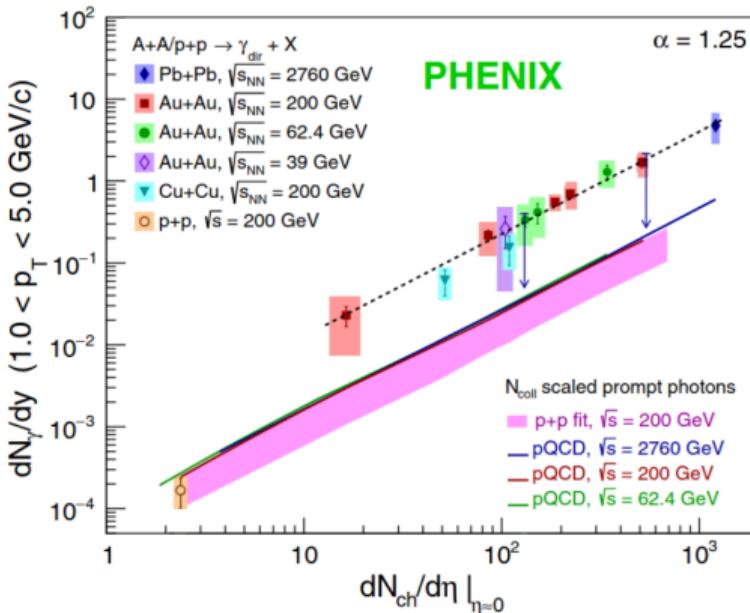
arXiv:2203.17187

Medium temperature at RHIC

- T_{eff} smaller than at LHC as expected
- T_{eff} seems to be independent of multiplicity (while the actual T depends on it)
- T_{eff} depends on the p_{T} integration range (QGP and hadron gas ?)



Scaling with system size



$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dy} = A \times \left(\frac{dN_{\text{ch}}}{d\eta} \right)^\alpha$$

Above pQCD and N_{coll} -scaled pp
 Same power for different collision systems, energies

PRL 123, 022301 (2019)

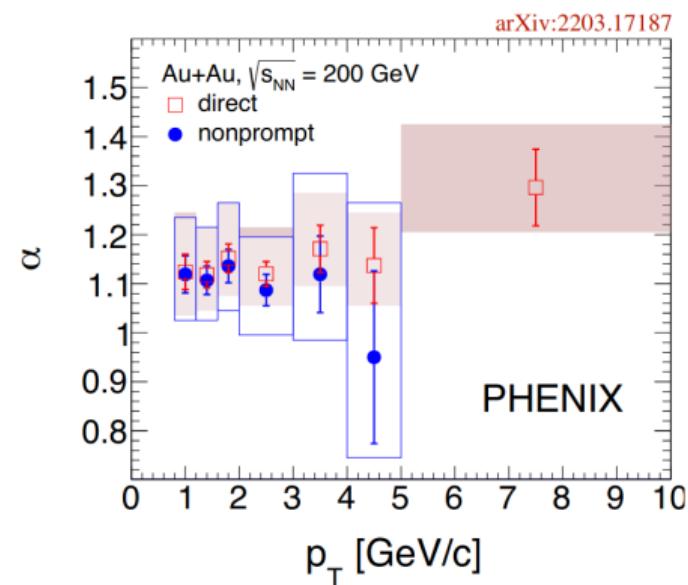
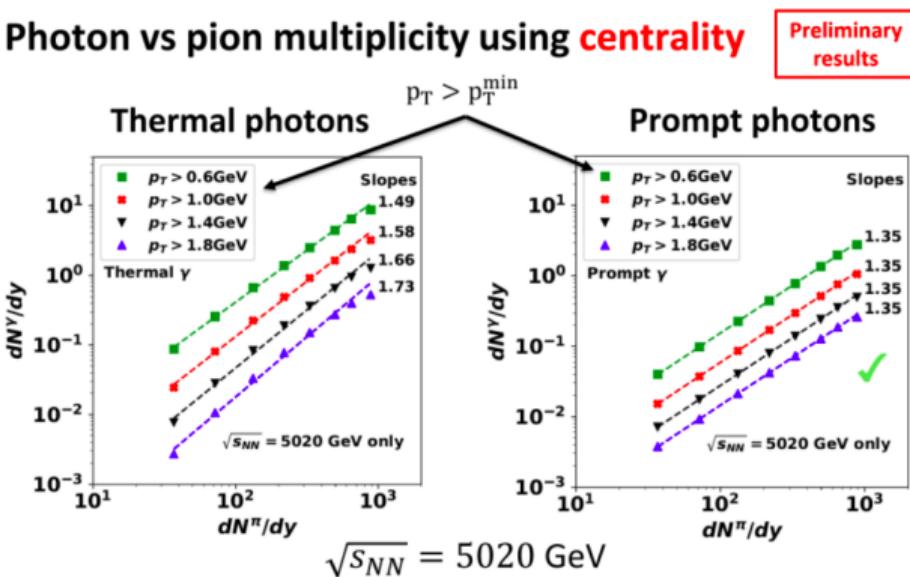
Integrated direct/nonprompt photon yields
 For different integration ranges

Scaling with system size

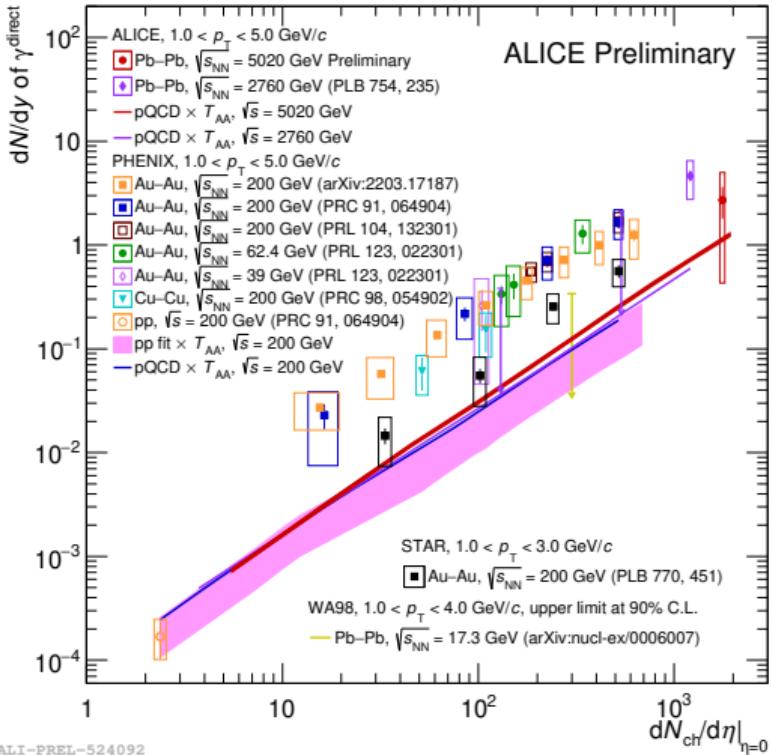
- Thermal photons expected to scale with larger α than prompt photons
- Thermal and prompt photons have different relative importance in different pT regions.
 $\Rightarrow \alpha$ is expected to change with p_T

Calculation by J.-F. Paquet, Hard Probes 2018

Photon vs pion multiplicity using centrality



Direct photon yields



Not understood:

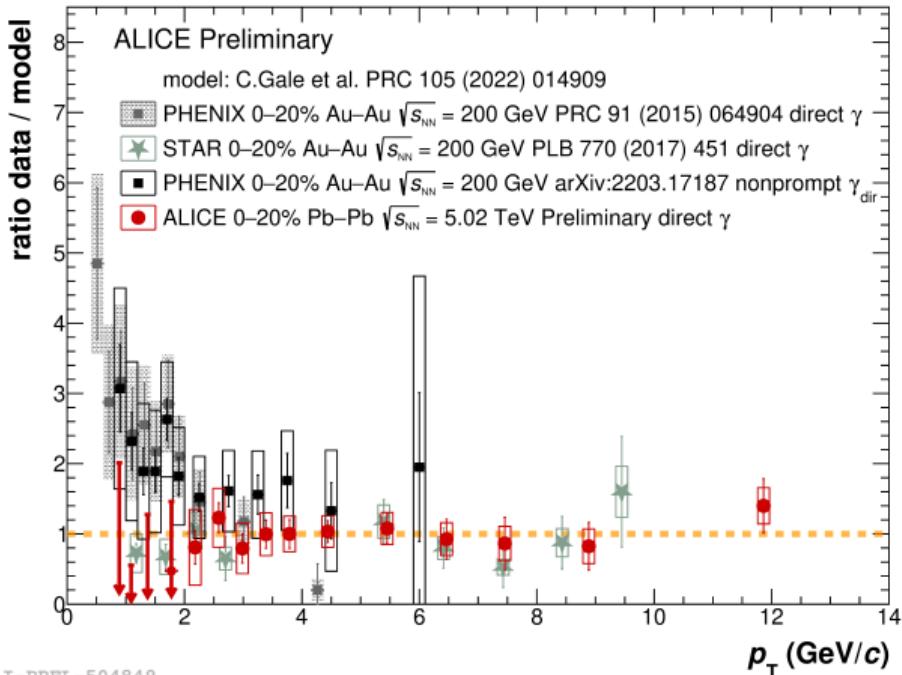
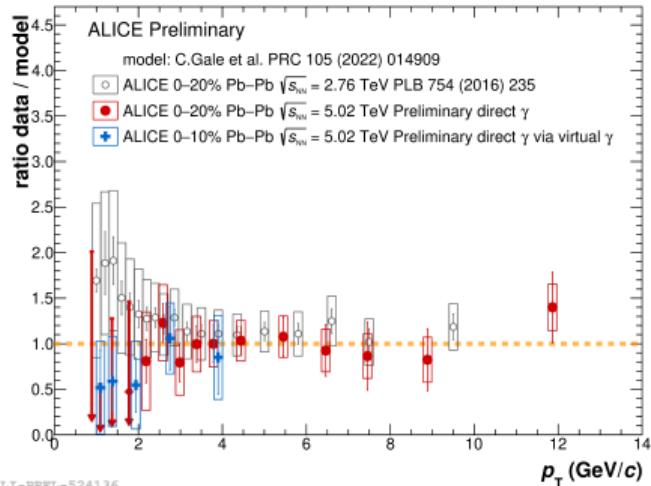
- PHENIX and STAR measurements show an offset
 - ALICE 2.76 TeV measurement is more in line with PHENIX
 - ALICE 5.02 TeV measurement via dielectrons is more in line with STAR
- What about theoretical expectations?

Direct photon yields

NEW



- Comparing measured direct photon spectra with model calculations for the respective collision energies
- No puzzling discrepancy** between state-of-the art models and **new ALICE measurement** (yields)



central events

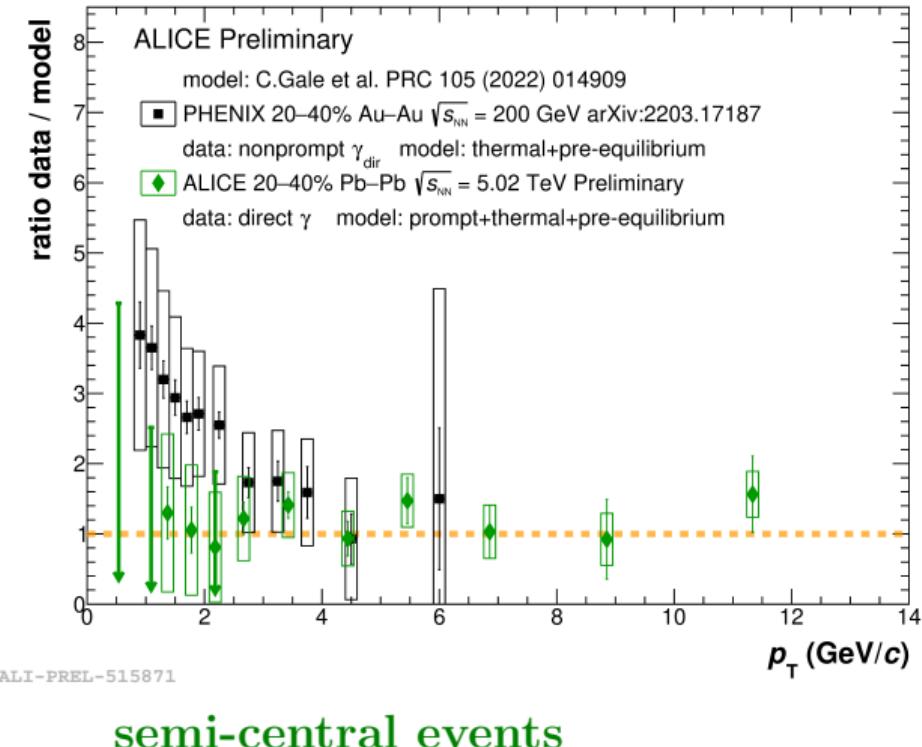
Direct photon yields

NEW

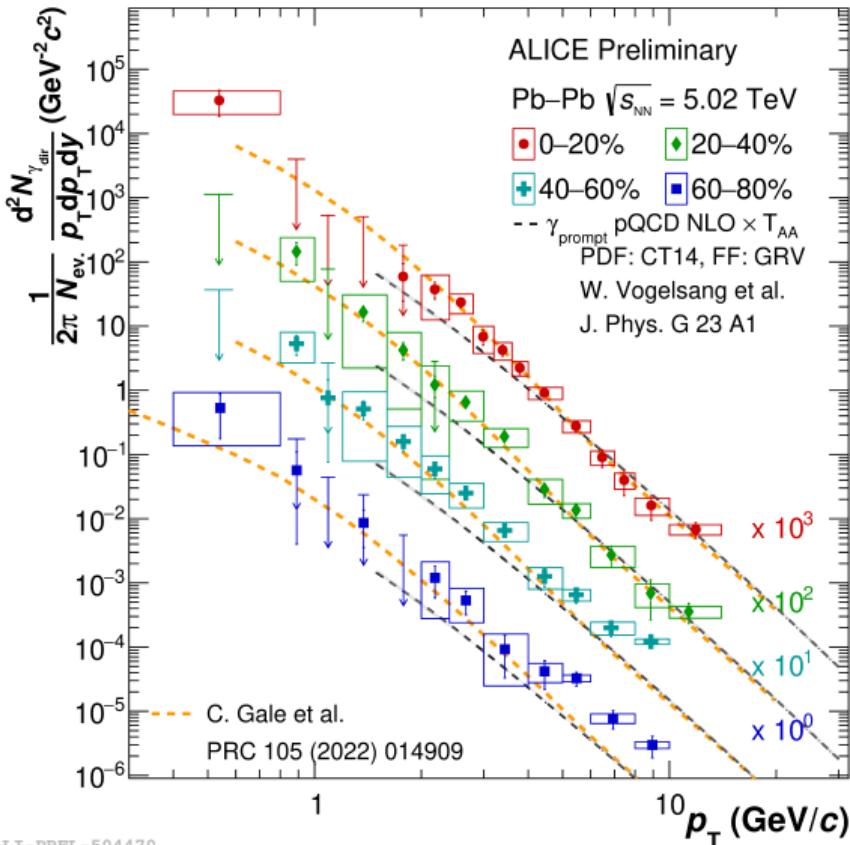


- Comparing measured direct photon spectra with model calculations for the respective collision energies
- No puzzling discrepancy** between state-of-the art models and **new ALICE measurement** (yields)

Model by C. Gale et al.: IP-Glasma +
KøMPøST + MUSIC viscous hydrodynamics,
prompt γ with PDF: nCTEQ15-np, FF: BFG-II

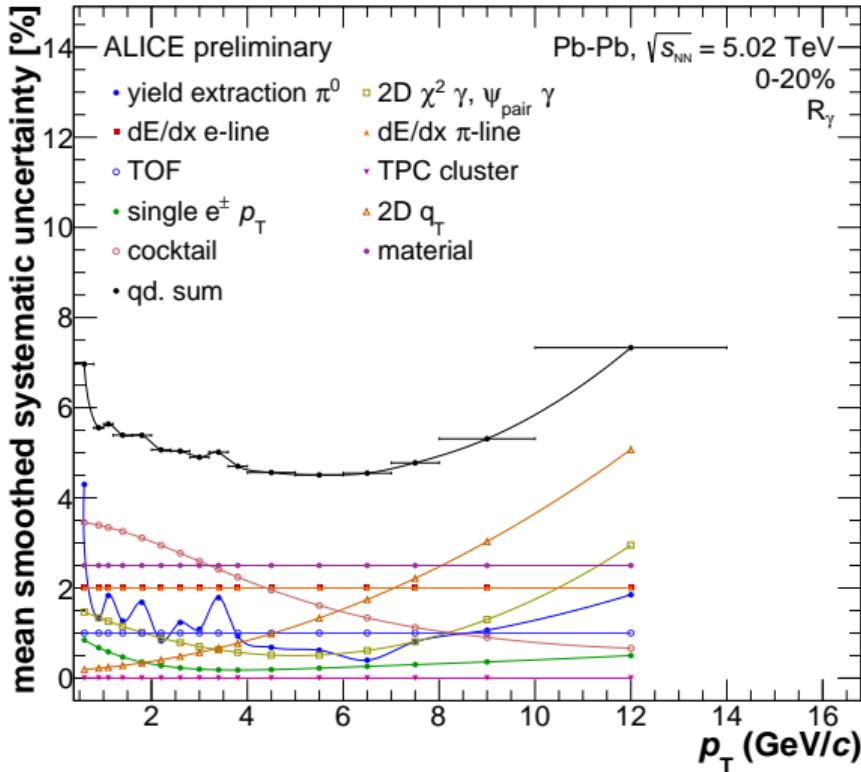


Direct photon spectra at 5.02 TeV



- Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$
- Photon conversion method (PCM)
- NEW detector thickness correction, removal of pile-up, invariant mass background description, measured η/π^0 ratio for decay photons
- 25% of Run 2 statistics (2015 dataset: 76M events)
- no T_{eff} measurement possible (yet)

Systematic uncertainties of R_γ for PCM



$$R_\gamma = \frac{\gamma_{\text{inc}}/\pi_{\text{meas}}^0}{\gamma_{\text{decay}}/\pi_{\text{sim}}^0} \quad (1)$$

$$\gamma_{\text{dir}} = \gamma_{\text{inc}} - \gamma_{\text{decay}} = \gamma_{\text{inc}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{R_\gamma}\right) \quad (2)$$

Dominating contributions:

- π^0 yield extraction
- cocktail (decay photon simulation)
- material budget
- dE/dx: electron identification

Outlook

Steps forward:

- Larger statistics from future LHC runs helps decay photon estimation (inv. mass of π^0 , η , ...)
- For PCM **essential**: correctness of Monte Carlo simulation (material, dE/dx)
- PHOS measurement

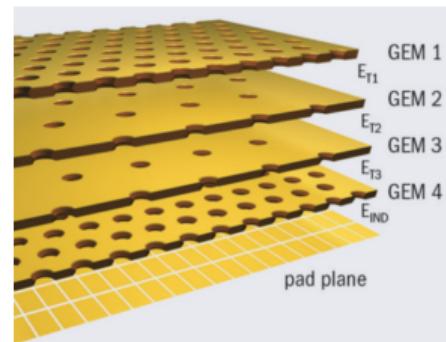
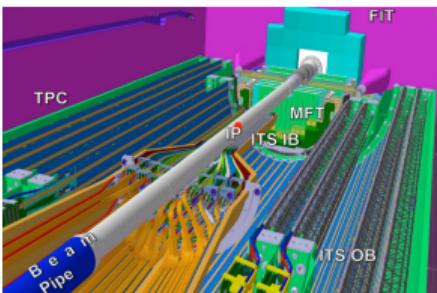
LHC Run 3 + 4

Larger statistics

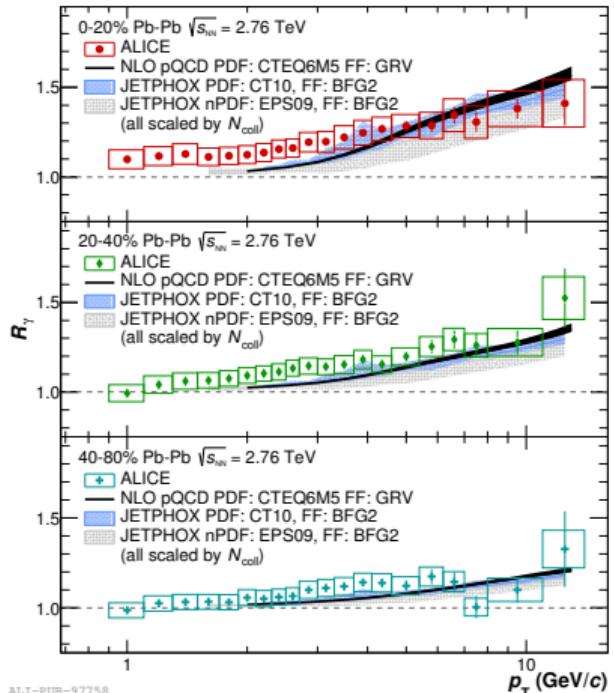
Relevant for PCM:

- Overall, similar material budget
- ITS has improved tracking efficiency
- tungsten wires for material calibration
- TPC continuous readout \Rightarrow larger event pile-up \Rightarrow maybe no TPC-only tracks usable

PHOS, EMCAL hardware unchanged wrt Run1+2

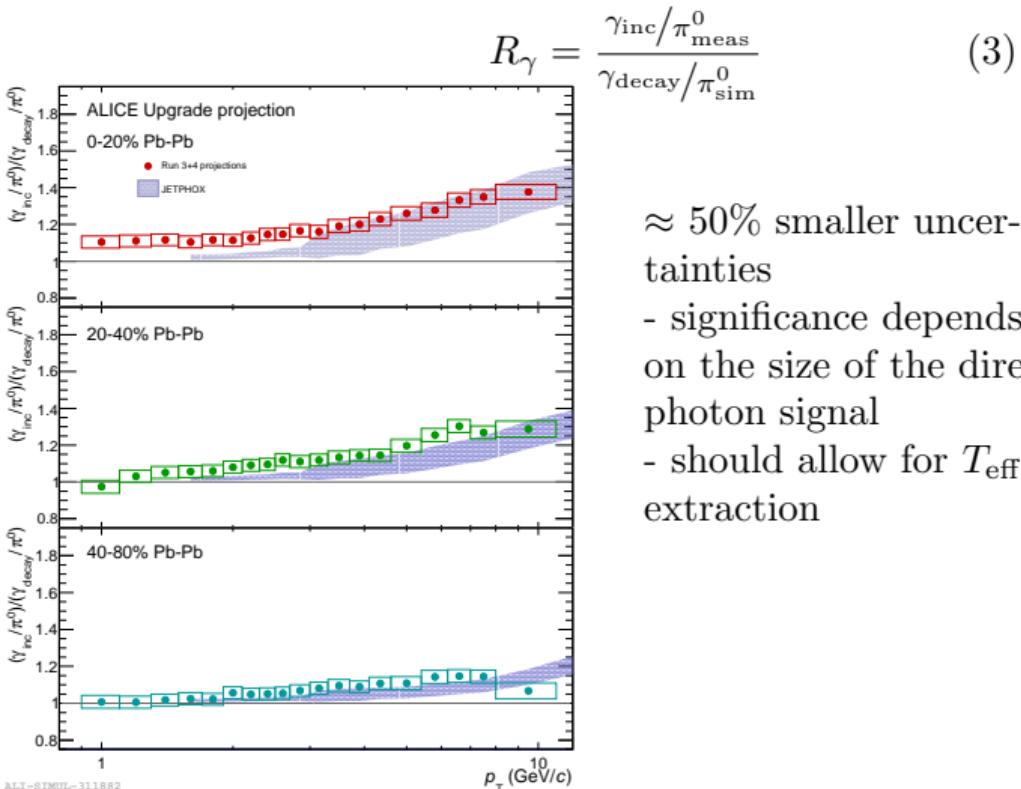


Uncertainties projection Run 1 → Run 3+4



PLB 754 (2016) 235

M. C. Danisch

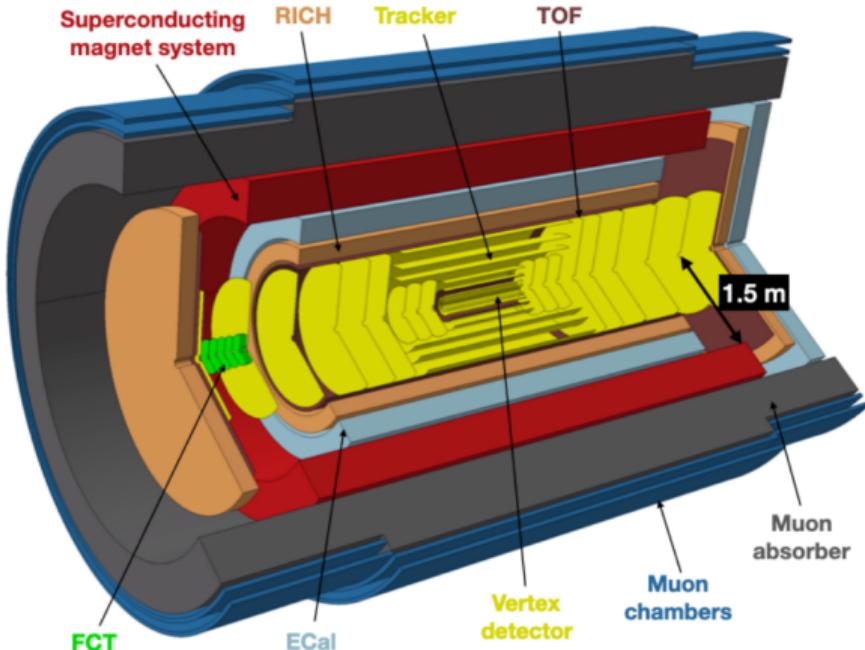


≈ 50% smaller uncertainties

- significance depends on the size of the direct photon signal
- should allow for T_{eff} extraction

arXiv:1812.06772

ALICE 3



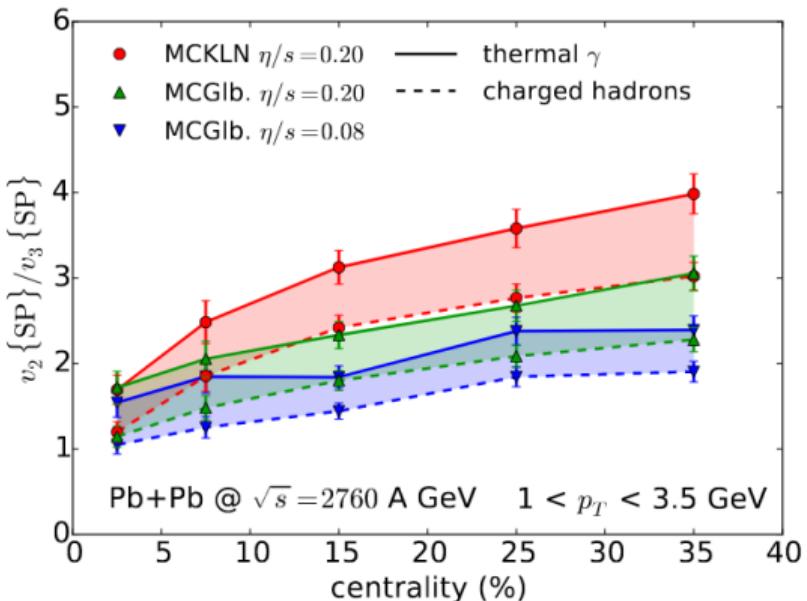
- LHC run 5 and beyond
- Profit from the forward rapidity detector setup
- Photon conversion probability decreases for decreasing energy
- Forward region: Much higher reconstruction efficiency for a given (low) p_T
 \Rightarrow reduced yield extraction, cocktail uncertainty

Outline of this talk

- 1) Medium temperature
- 2) Flow, initial conditions
- 3) Pre-equilibrium phase, saturation momentum
- 4) Medium size

Flow coefficients motivation

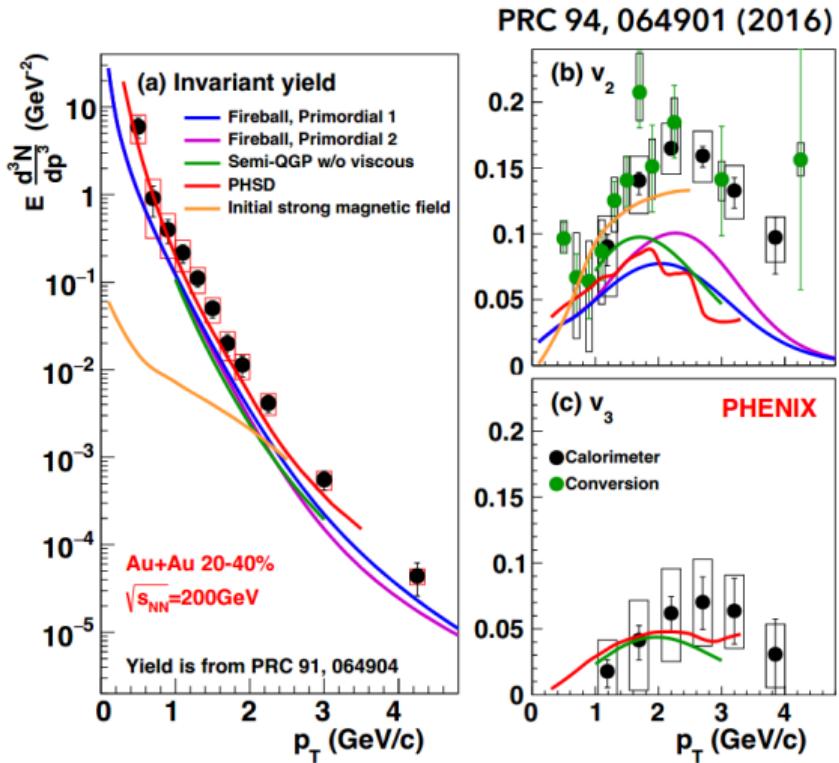
- Measurement goal: direct photon flow coefficients v_n
- Hadron measurements reflect anisotropy/flow at freeze-out
- Direct photon v_2 reflects medium flow/anisotropy integrated over the whole medium lifetime
- $v_2 \Rightarrow$ photon production times
- $v_3 \Rightarrow$ initial conditions (also here, direct photons are ideal messengers)
- $v_2/v_3 \Rightarrow$ viscosity



Phys. Rev. C91, 024908 (2015)

Direct photon puzzle at RHIC

- Elliptic flow coefficient v_2 unexpectedly large
- At high p_T expect
 $v_2^{\gamma, \text{dir}} \approx v_2^{\gamma, \text{prompt}} = 0$
- At low $p_T \lesssim 3 \text{ GeV}/c$ expect
 $v_2^{\gamma, \text{dir}} \approx v_2^{\gamma, \text{thermal}} > 0$ but $< v_2^{\text{hadron}}$
- Large yield (early emission) and large v_2 (late emission) difficult to explain simultaneously
- Only explicable with additional photon source or anisotropy

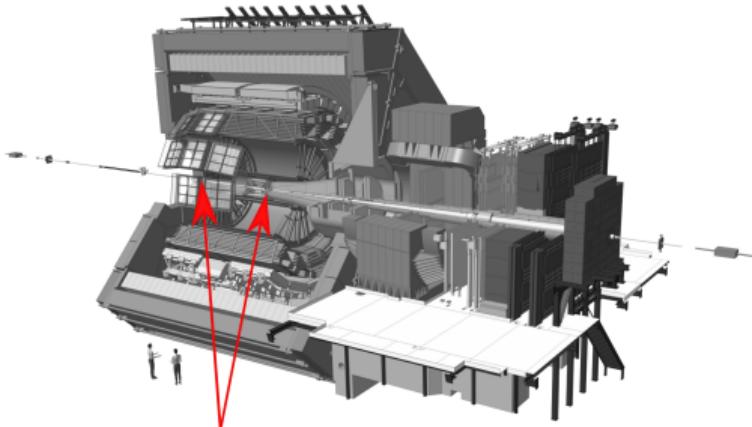


Elliptic flow measurement in LHC Run 1

- Inclusive photon $v_2^{\gamma, \text{inc}}$ with scalar product method
Reference particles in V0 detectors in forward direction
- Decay photon $v_2^{\gamma, \text{dec}}$ from simulation based on meson v_2 measurements

$$v_2^{\gamma, \text{inc}} = \frac{N_{\gamma, \text{dir}}}{N_{\gamma, \text{inc}}} \cdot v_2^{\gamma, \text{dir}} + \frac{N_{\gamma, \text{dec}}}{N_{\gamma, \text{inc}}} \cdot v_2^{\gamma, \text{dec}}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_2^{\gamma, \text{dir}} = \frac{v_2^{\gamma, \text{inc}} R_\gamma - v_2^{\gamma, \text{dec}}}{R_\gamma - 1}$$



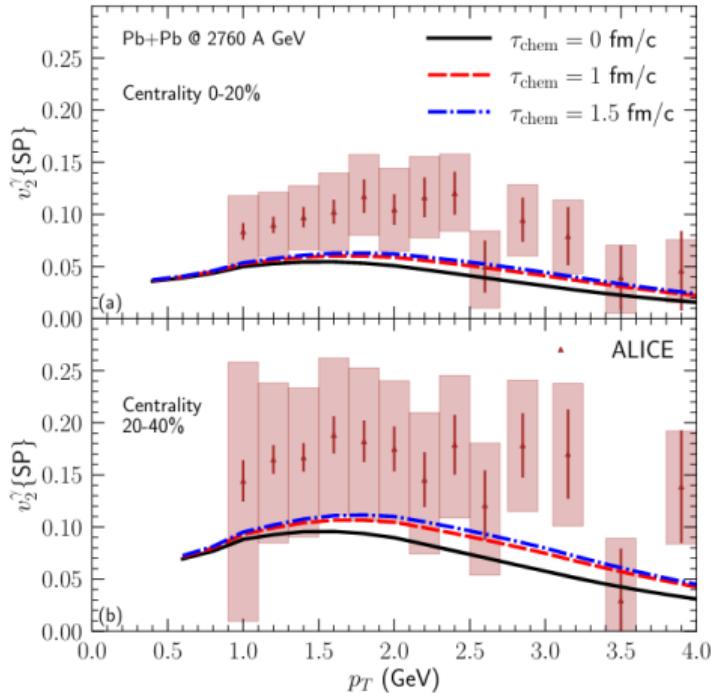
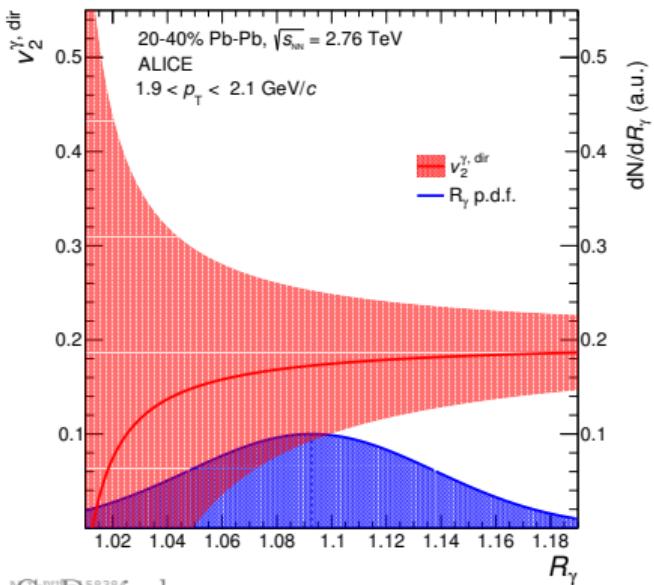
V0 detectors:

$2.8 < \eta < 5.1$ and $-3.7 < \eta < -1.7$



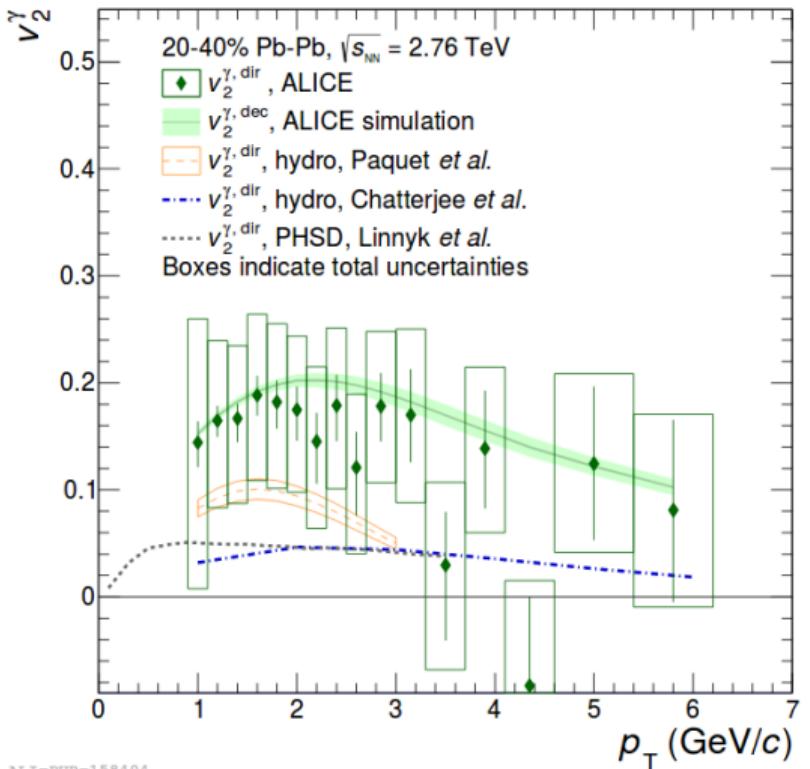
Direct photon puzzle at LHC?

- $v_2^{\gamma, \text{dir}}$ is larger than predicted but consistent within the uncertainties
- The smaller R_γ , the larger the uncertainties on $v_2^{\gamma, \text{dir}}$

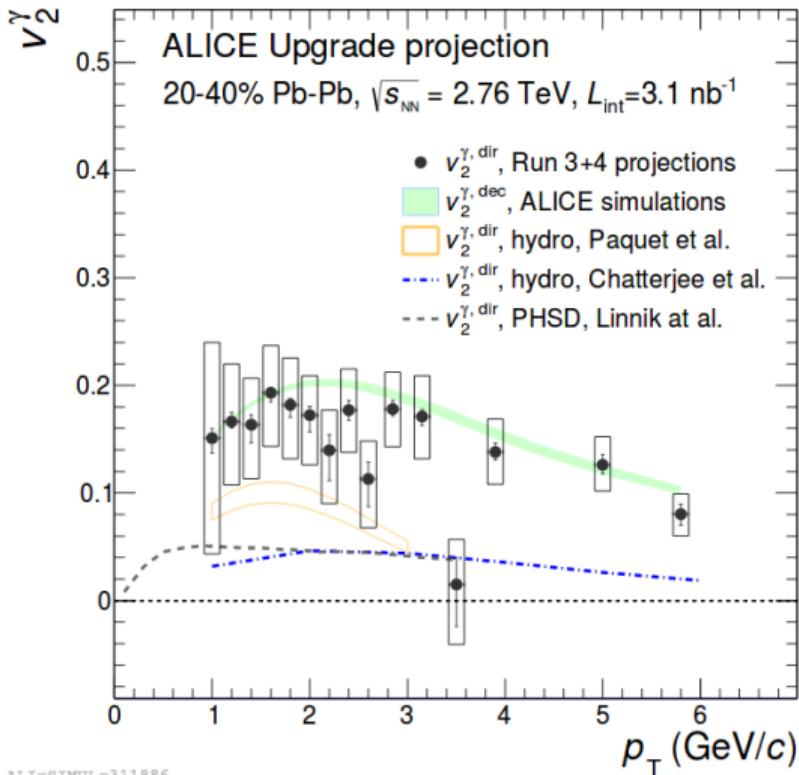


PLB 789 (2019) 308, PRC 105 (2022) 1, 014909
 τ_{chem} : how fast the quarks are produced and equilibrate in
an initially purely gluonic system

Direct photon puzzle at LHC? Run 3 + 4

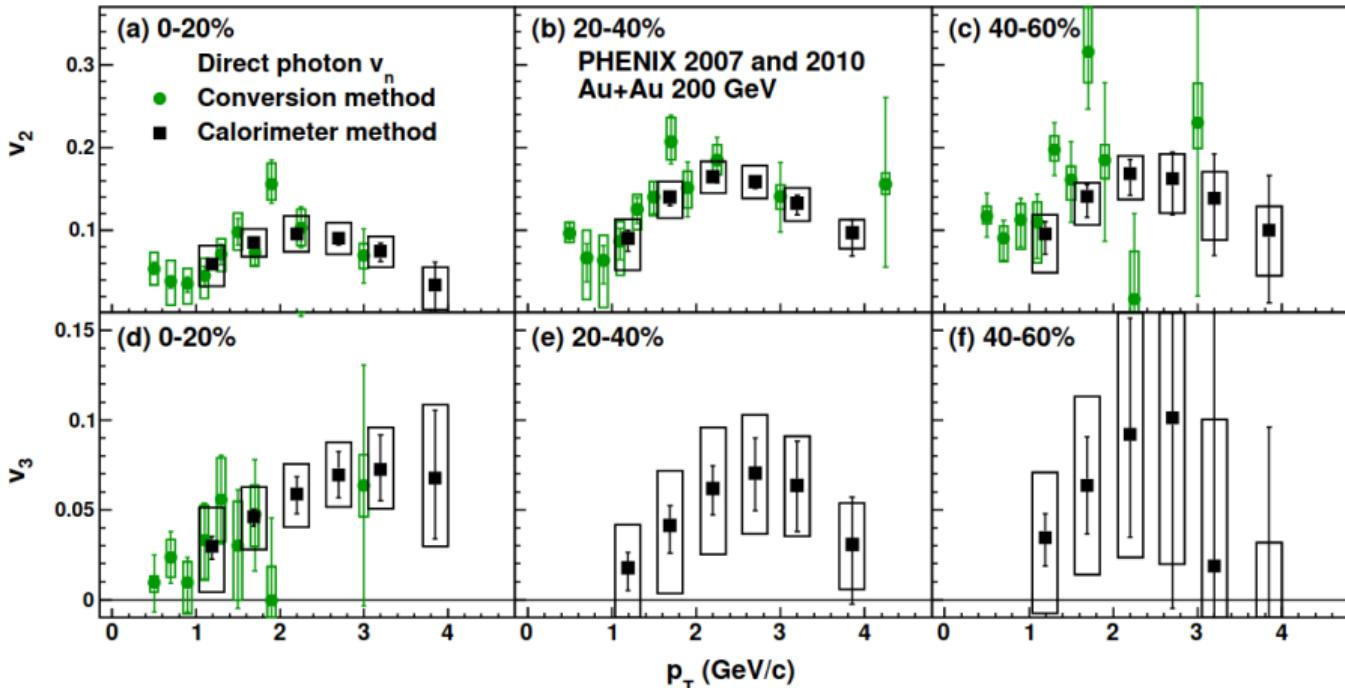


ALI-PUB-158404



ALI-SIMUL-311886

Triangular flow v_3



Even larger uncertainties than v_2

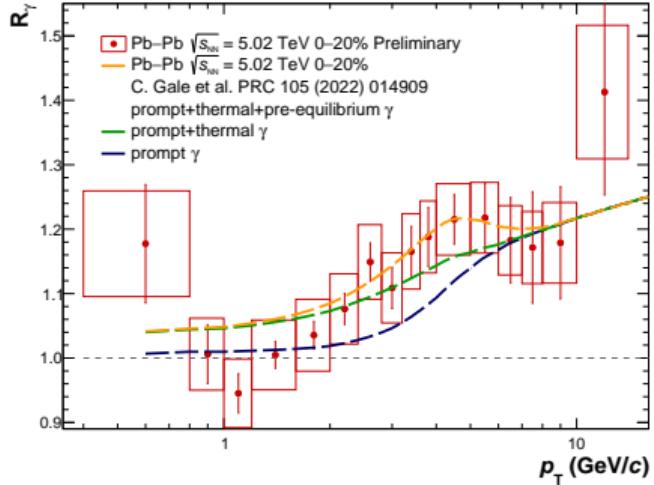
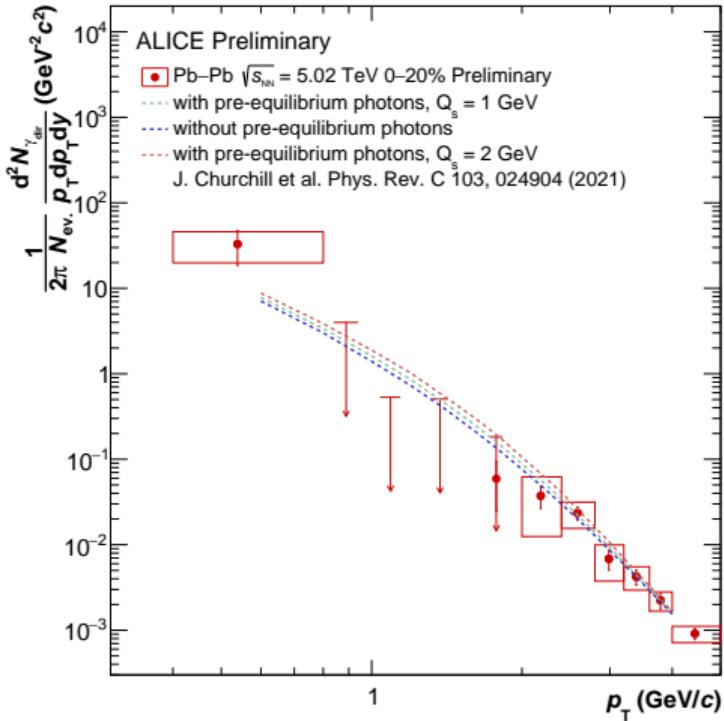
PRC 94 (2016) 6, 064901

So far, only measured by PHENIX. Also in ALICE in Run 3+4 ?

Outline of this talk

- 1) Medium temperature
- 2) Flow, initial conditions
- 3) Pre-equilibrium phase, saturation momentum
- 4) Medium size

Pre-equilibrium photons



- R_γ can be sensitive at intermediate p_T
- Saturation momentum Q_s sensitivity for far future measurements

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Bose-Einstein $\gamma\gamma$ correlations

Motivation:

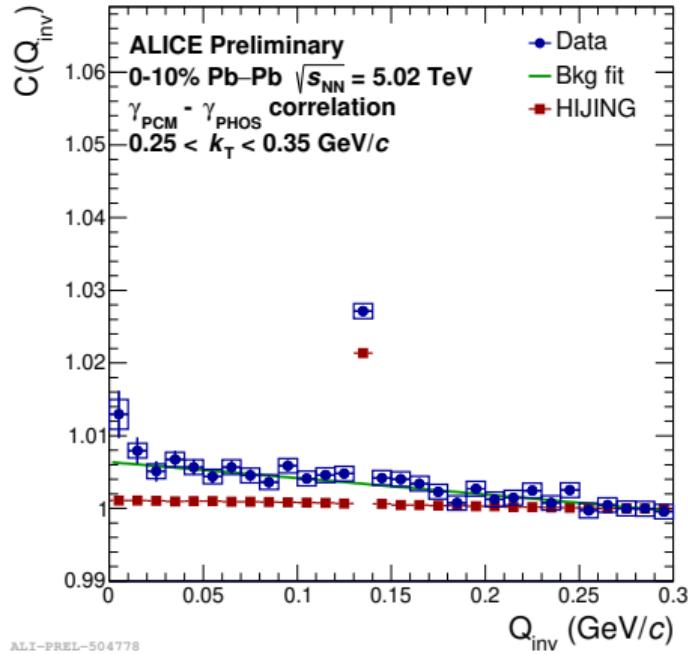
- Correlation function is sensitive to the **source size R** and the **direct photon fraction**
- The source size at the moment of kinetic freeze-out can be measured with hadrons
- With photons, sensitive to earlier times
- Alternative method to determine the **direct photon fraction** which does not require simulation of decay photon spectra

Requirement: Need to measure photon pairs with very small opening angles

Bose-Einstein $\gamma\gamma$ correlations in Pb–Pb with ALICE

- Motivation: Correlation function $C(Q_{\text{inv}})$ is sensitive to the **source size R** and the **direct photon fraction**
- Method: $C(Q_{\text{inv}}) = \frac{A(Q_{\text{inv}})}{B(Q_{\text{inv}})}$
 A: γ_1, γ_2 from same events
 B: γ_1, γ_2 from mixed events
 $Q_{\text{inv}} = M_{\gamma\gamma}$, combine PCM and PHOS
 Correction for detector effects
- π^0 peak is visible and slope from correlations in particle showers
- Small hint of an HBT-like effect, quantified with correlation strength λ_{inv} from a fit using

$$C(Q_{\text{inv}}) = 1 + \lambda_{\text{inv}} \exp(-R_{\text{inv}}^2 Q_{\text{inv}}^2)$$
- In bins of $k_T = \frac{p_{T,\text{pair}}}{2}$ and centrality
- Possible complementary method to determine R_γ down to $p_T \approx 0.25 \text{ GeV}/c$

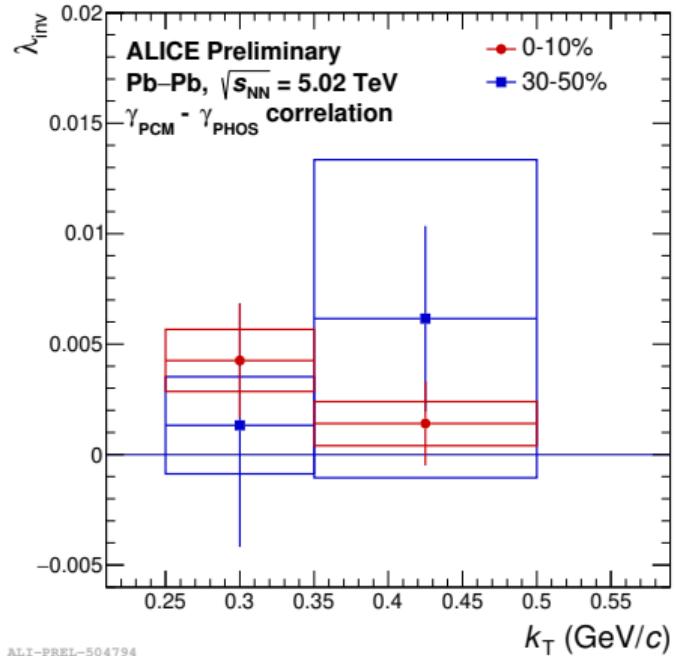


terminology used from PRL 93 (2004) 022301, D. Peressounko et al.

Bose-Einstein $\gamma\gamma$ correlations in Pb–Pb collisions

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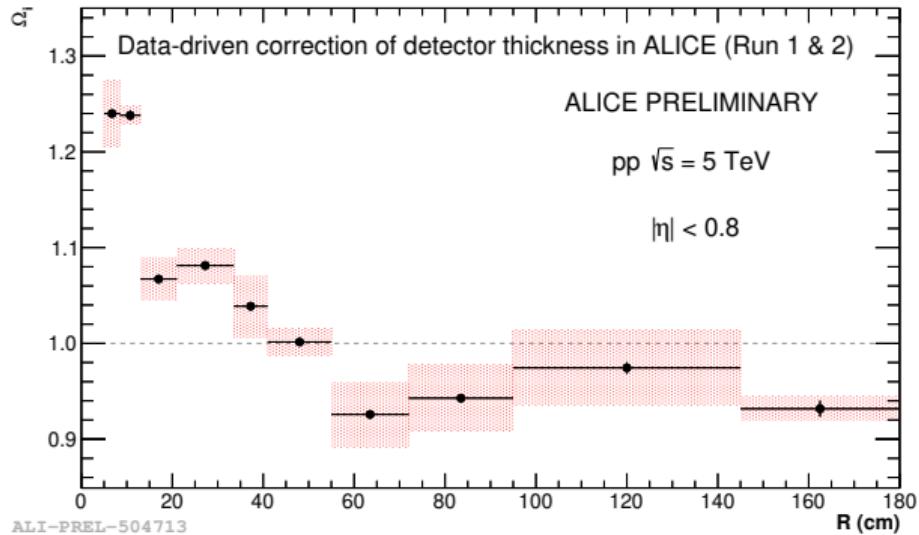
Open questions

- Direct photon yields: what is the reason for the tension between experiments ?
- What is the value of T_{eff} in 5TeV Pb–Pb collisions ?
- Why does T_{eff} not depend on collision centrality?
- Is v_2 with smaller uncertainties at LHC (Run3+4) consistent with models or not ?
If not, how can the large value be explained ?
- What is the role of pre-equilibrium photons ?
- How does the medium affect fragmentation photons? What is the role of jet-medium interactions ?
- How can we significantly reduce systematic uncertainties ?
- What about direct (thermal?) photons in small collision systems ?
- ...

Thank you!

Data-driven correction of detector thickness

- Conversion probability is determined by the amount and composition of detector material
- But: local imperfections in the material implementation in simulation
 \Rightarrow Locally incorrect reconstruction efficiency,
 systematic uncertainty 4.5%
- New data-driven correction:**
 efficiency-weights $\Omega(R_{\text{conv}})$
 \Rightarrow Systematic uncertainty reduced to 2.5%
 and more correct efficiency

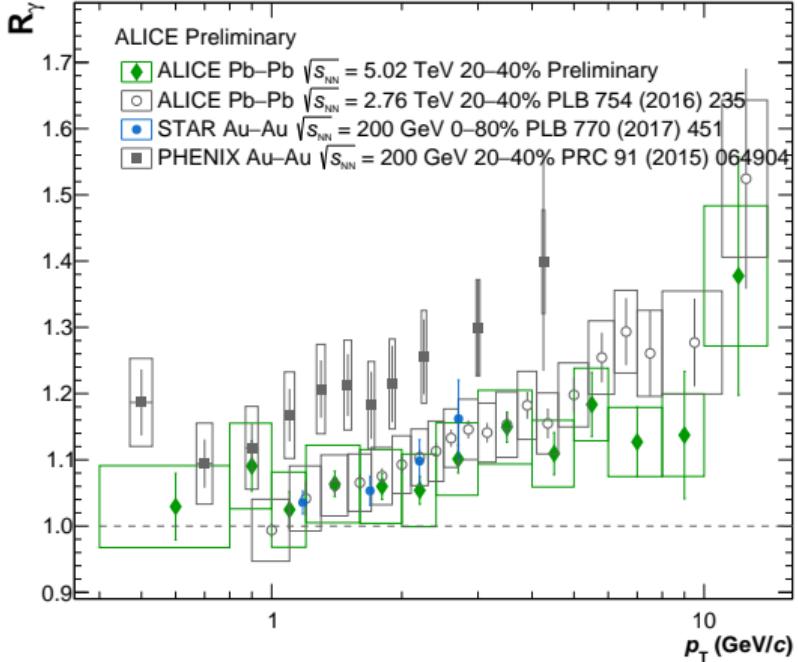
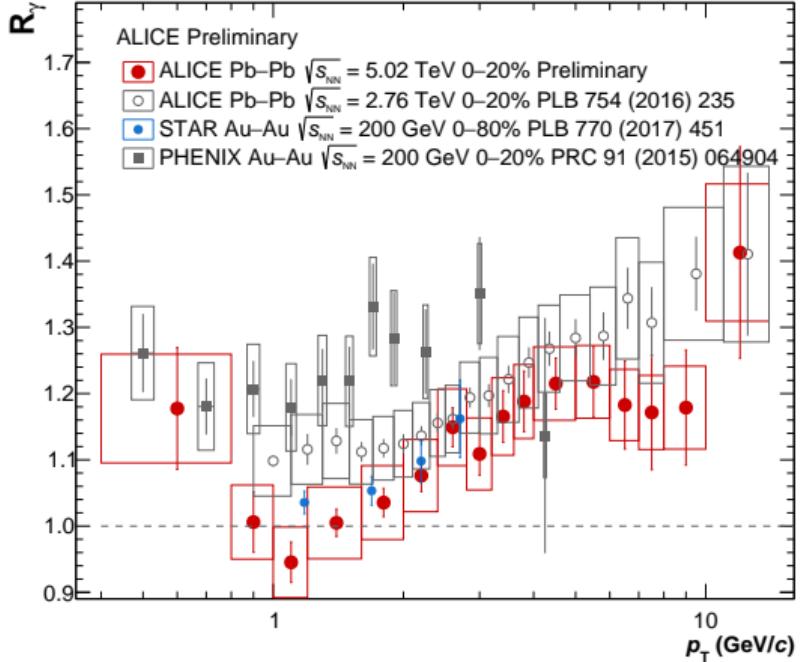


Systematic uncertainties in the 2010 data analysis

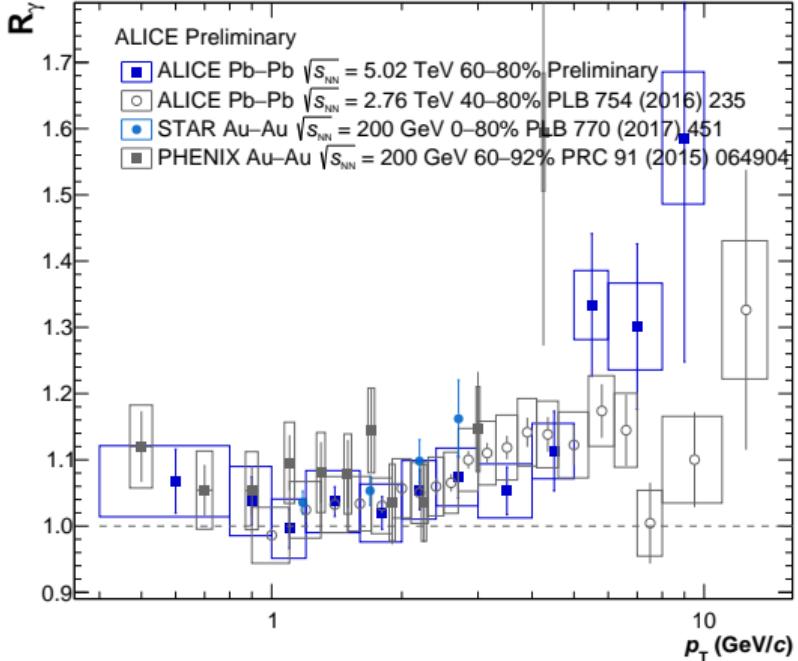
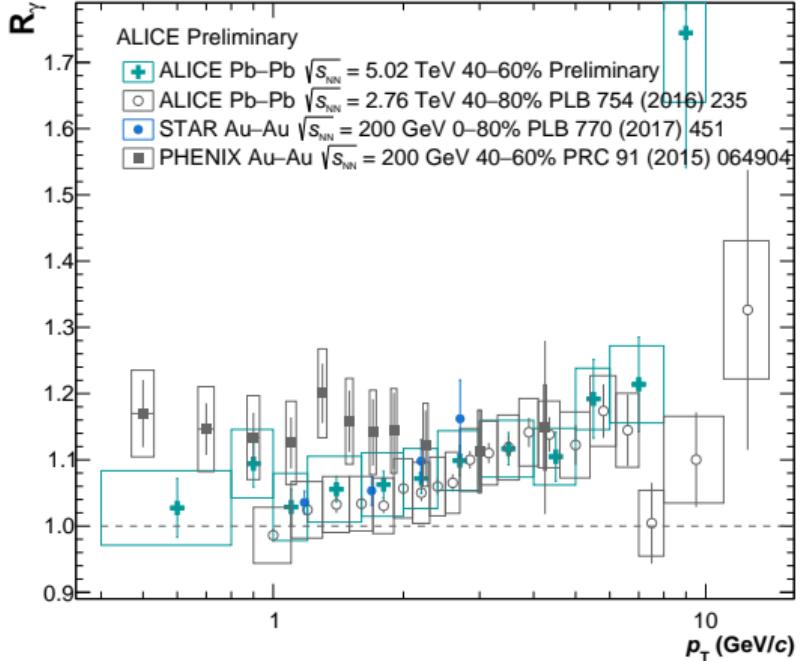
Centrality	0–20%		20–40%		40–80%	
p_T (GeV/c)	1.2	5.0	1.2	5.0	1.2	5.0
γ_{inel} yield						
Track quality (A)	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7
Electron PID (A,B)	1.5	6.9	0.9	4.8	0.7	4.0
Photon selection (A,B)	4.0	1.8	2.4	2.1	1.5	1.3
Material (C)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
$\gamma_{\text{inel}}/\pi^0$						
Track quality (A)	0.7	1.7	0.8	0.4	0.6	1.3
Electron PID (A,B)	1.2	4.8	0.9	3.8	0.9	4.0
Photon selection (A,B)	3.2	3.2	3.0	1.5	2.5	2.4
π^0 yield (A)	1.6	2.9	1.7	2.7	0.5	3.0
Material (C)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
$\gamma_{\text{decay}}/\pi^0$						
π^0 spectrum (B)	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.8	0.5	3.2
η yield (C)	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
η shape (B)	1.6	0.5	1.2	0.2	1.0	0.2
Total R_γ	6.2	8.1	5.7	7.0	5.7	8.3
Total γ_{inel}	6.2	8.5	5.2	6.9	4.8	6.2

Table 1: Summary of the systematic uncertainties of the PCM analysis in percentage. Uncertainties are characterized according to three categories: point-by-point uncorrelated (A), correlated in p_T with magnitude of the relative uncertainty varying point-by-point (B), and constant fractional uncertainty (C). Items in the table with categories (A,B) summarize sources of uncertainties which are either of type A or B.

LHC and RHIC



LHC and RHIC

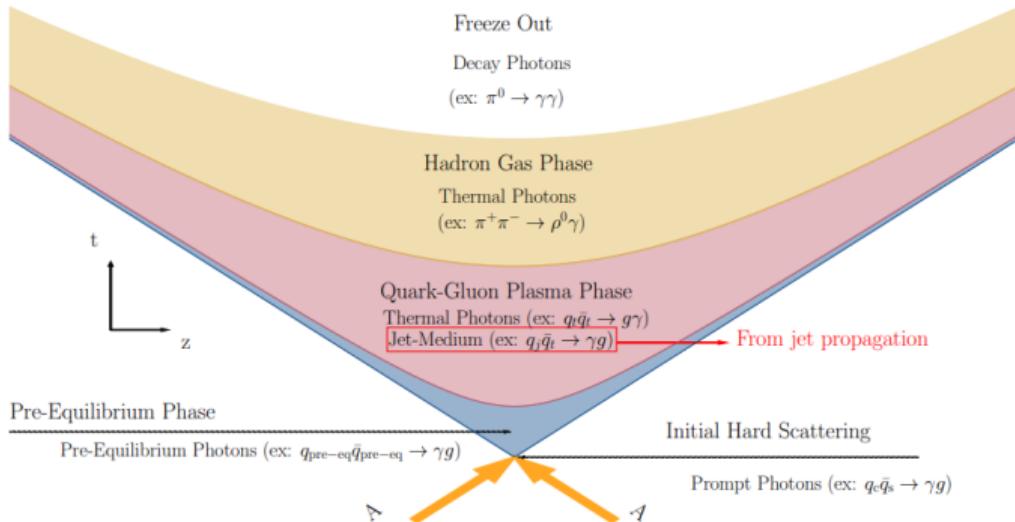


Dataset and MC for 5.02 TeV

- First measurement of direct photons in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}$
- So far, 2015 dataset has been analyzed (76M usable events)
- Centrality classes 0–20, 20–40, 40–60, 60–80%
- MC simulation 28M events
- For the π^0 analysis, MC spectra were weighted in order to have a realistic p_{T} distribution for calculating the efficiency

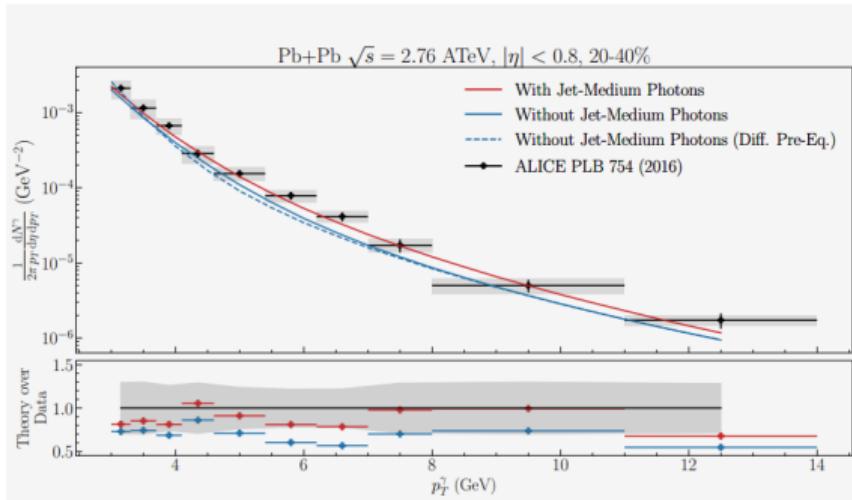
Jet-medium photons

- For the **composition** of direct photons, it is important to have a good estimate of all sources
- Jet-medium photons were theoretically so far not so well established



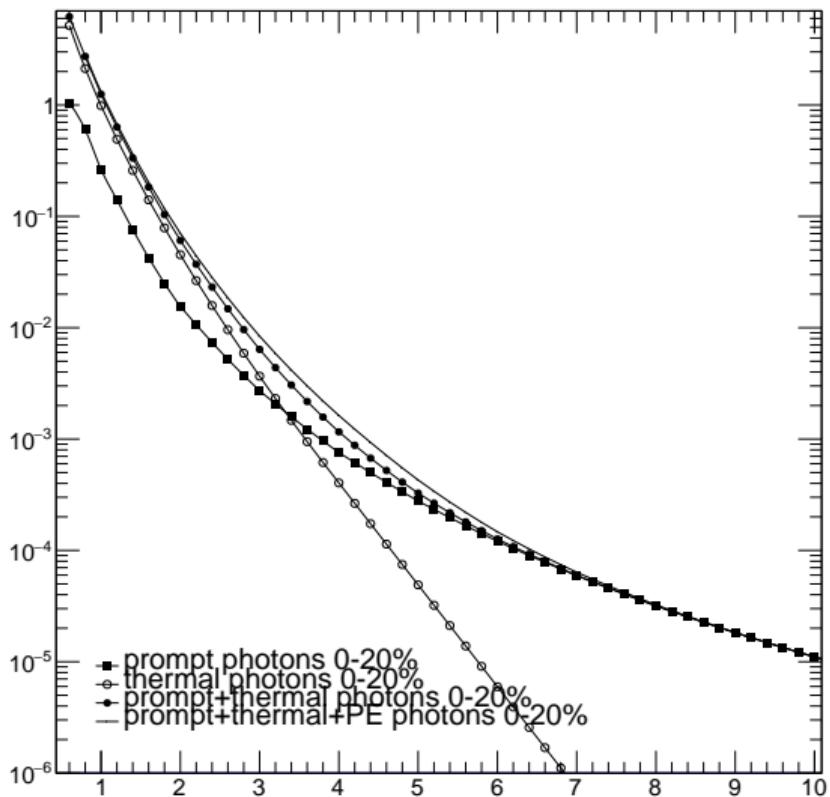
Jet-medium photons

- New calculation was presented at QM
- Event generation with JETSCAPE, realistic jet distribution and hydro background
- Photons from e.g. the interaction of a quark within a jet, and a thermal quark from the QGP
- Observation: in the region $5 < pT < 10 \text{ GeV}/c$ this contribution makes up nearly 30% of all photons
- Here spectra for 2.76 TeV but work will be extended to 5 TeV and photon v_2



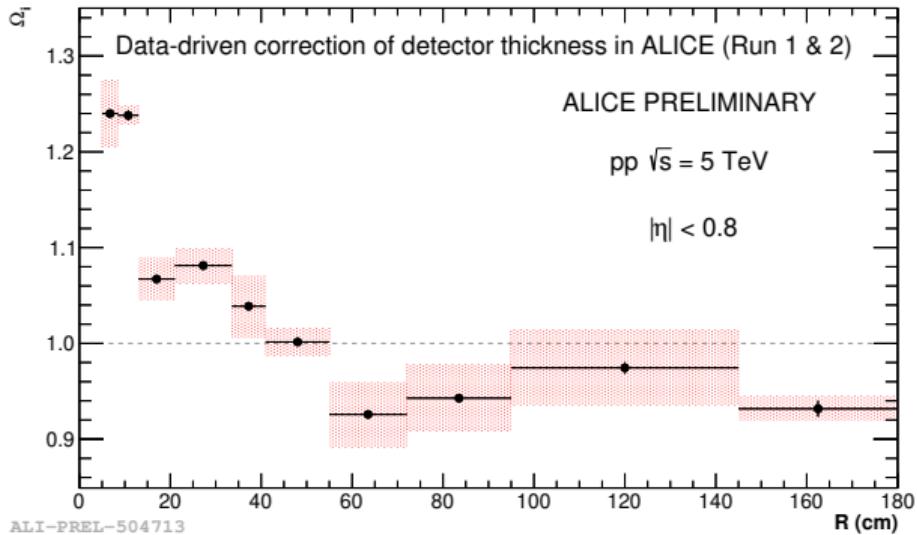
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/895086/contributions/4705762/>

Model contributions 5.02 TeV



Data-driven correction of detector thickness

- Conversion probability is determined by the amount and composition of detector material
- But: local imperfections in the material implementation in simulation
 \Rightarrow Locally incorrect reconstruction efficiency,
 systematic uncertainty 4.5%
- New data-driven correction:**
 efficiency-weights $\Omega(R_{\text{conv}})$
 \Rightarrow Systematic uncertainty reduced to 2.5%
 and more correct efficiency



New PHENIX measurement

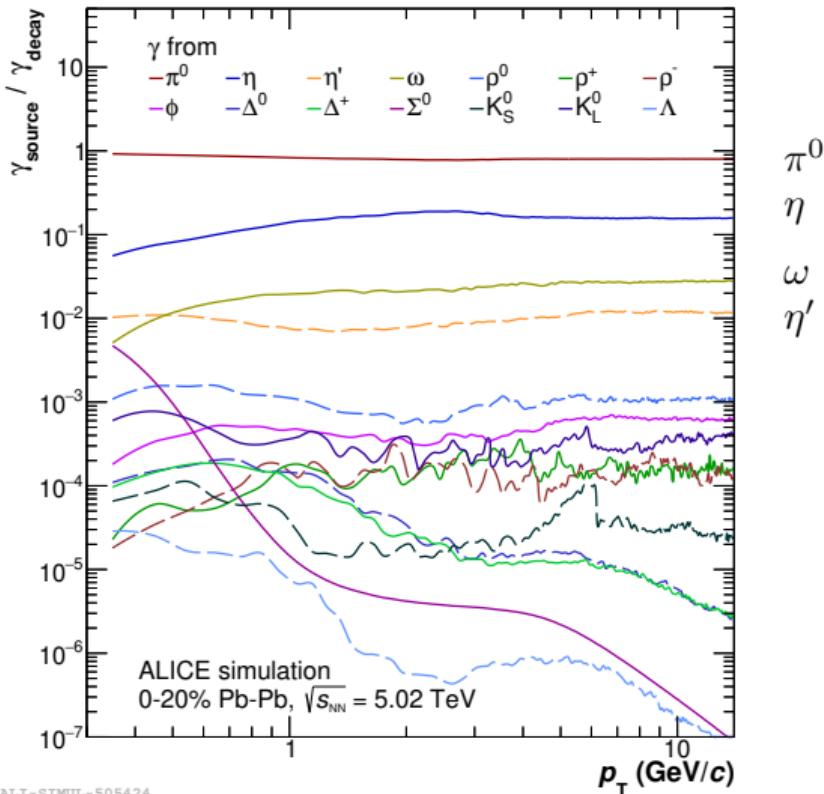
- 10^{10} 200 GeV Au-Au collisions
- 10-fold increase in statistics compared to previous measurement
- Photon conversion method
- η meson for decay photons from global data analysis [Y. Ren, A. Drees 2021]
- Subtraction of prompt photons from direct photons, N_{coll} -scaled from pp collisions \Rightarrow non-prompt direct photons
- Fit two exponential functions to two different p_T regions and obtain two different effective temperatures. Speculate that one is from the QGP and one from the HG.
Effective temperature does not depend on the multiplicity of the collision
- How integrated yield scales with multiplicity does not depend on pT

Simulation of decay photons

Direct photon signal if

$$R_\gamma = \frac{\gamma_{\text{inc}}}{\gamma_{\text{decay}}} > 1$$

- 1) Measure π^0 , η via $\gamma\gamma$ decay channel
- 2) Simulation of decays of π^0 , η , ω , η' , ...



Cocktail simulation

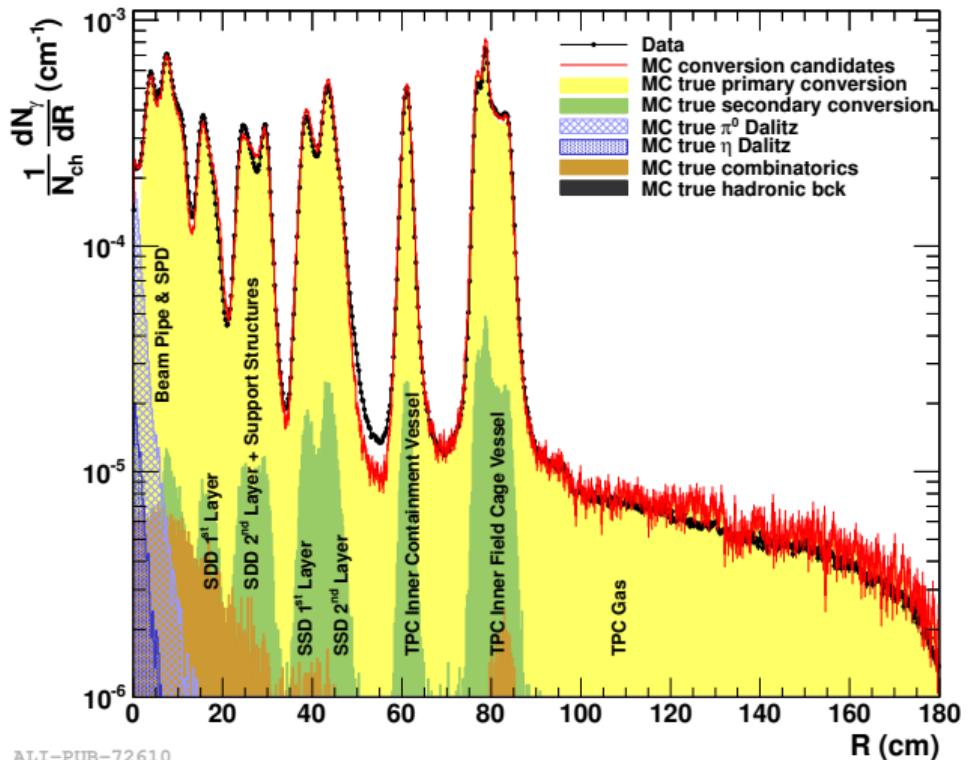
decay photon yields in 2.76 TeV

- π^0 measured via $\gamma\gamma$ then parametrized
- measured η in p–Pb, not enough statistics in Pb–Pb
- η from m_T scaling of π^0 from scaling of p_T spectra from K_s^0 (similar mass, similar radial flow)
- η/π^0 ratio fixed to reproduce measured value at $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV}/c$ in $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 200 \text{ GeV}/c$
- ω from m_T scaling of π^0

decay photon v_2 in 2.76 TeV

- $\pi^0 v_2$ from charged pion v_2 measured under the same conditions
- η and ω from charged and neutral kaons with KE_T scaling

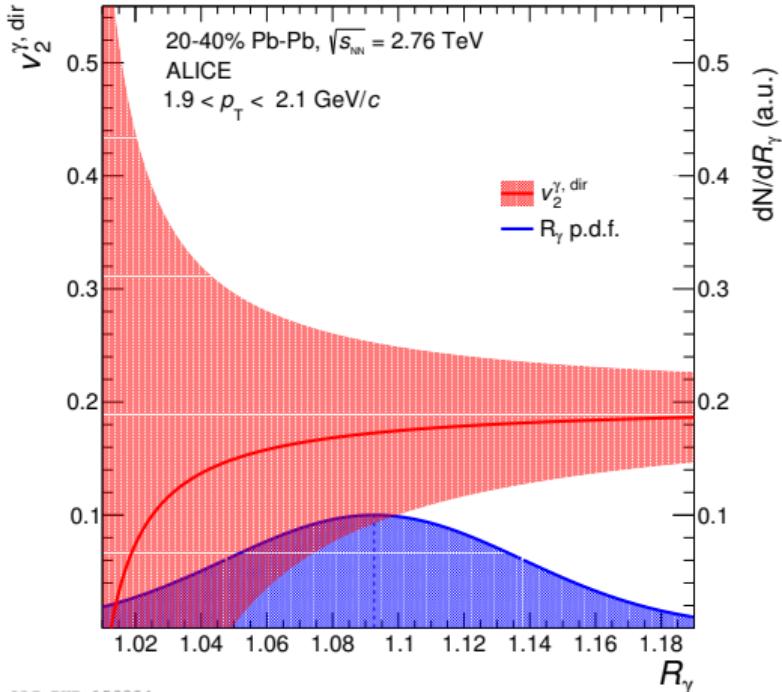
Material budget in data and MC before correction



ALI-PUB-72610

Int.J.Mod.Phys.A 29 (2014) 1430044

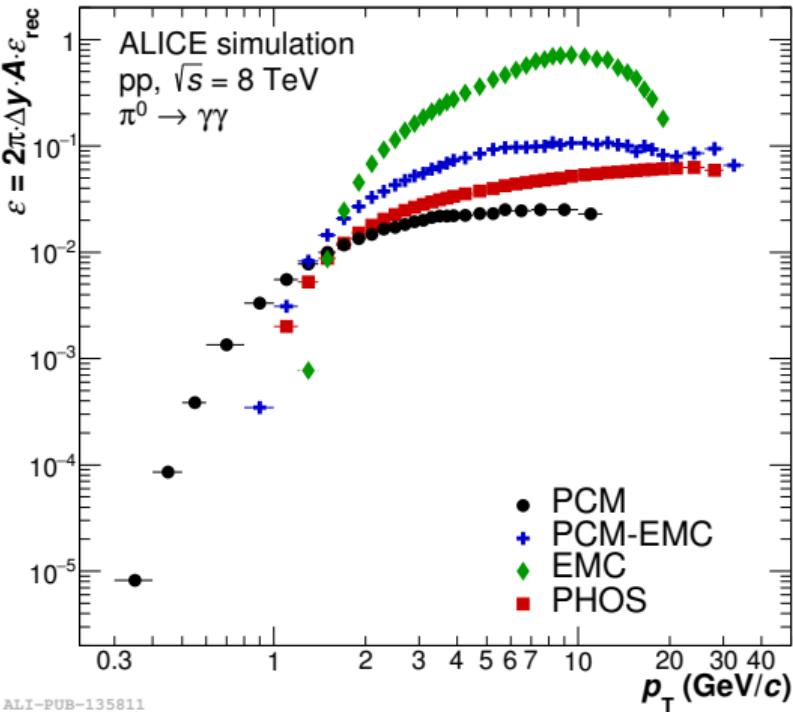
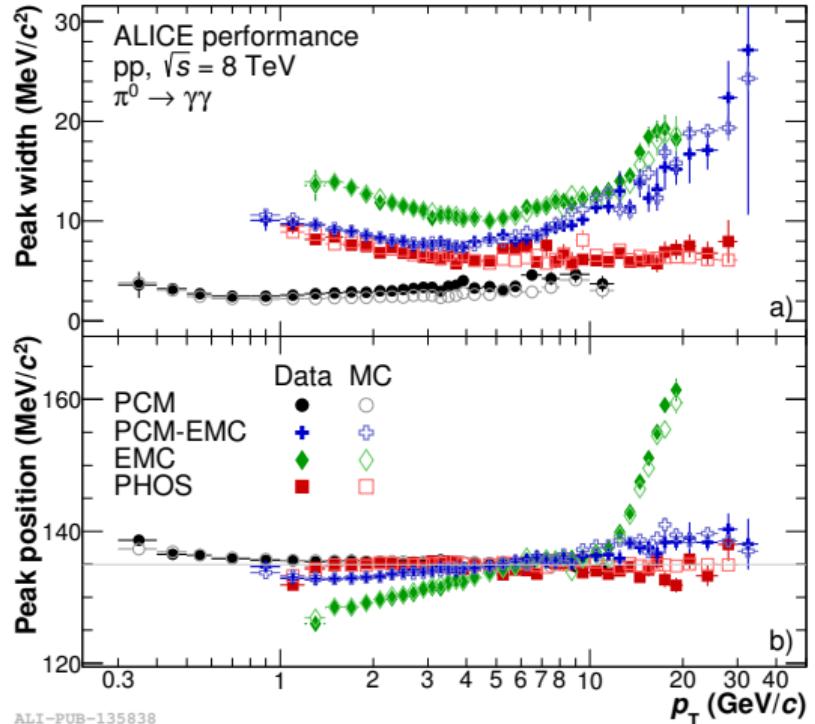
Elliptic flow uncertainties



ALI-PUB-158384

Phys.Lett. B789 (2019) 308

Complementarity of the methods



Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78: 263