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# Effects and relevance of off-shell transport

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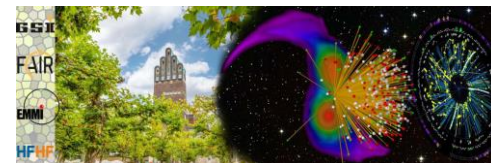
**(GSI, Darmstadt & Uni. Frankfurt)**

**&**

**Taesoo Song (GSI) + PHSD team**

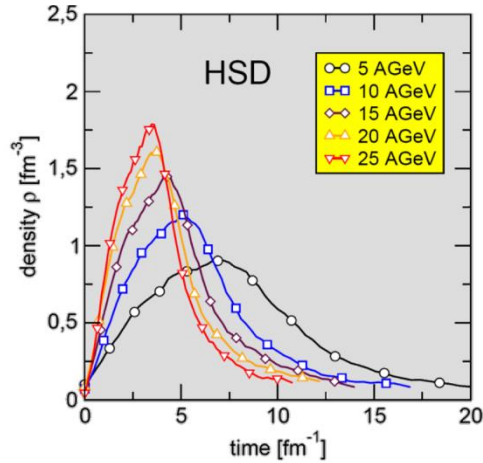


**NuSym23: XIth International Symposium  
on Nuclear Symmetry Energy  
GSI, Darmstadt, 18-22 September 2023**

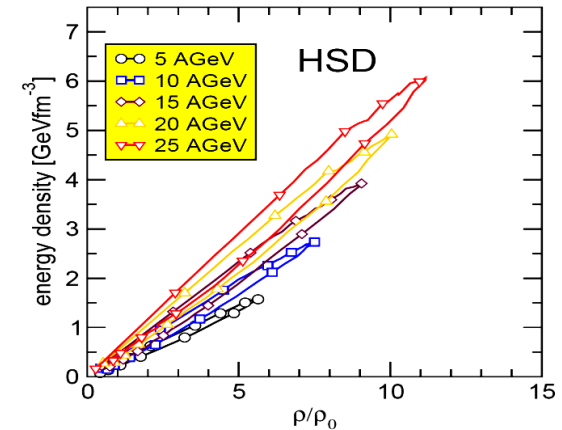


# Dense and hot matter created in HICs

Time evolution of baryon density  $\rho$



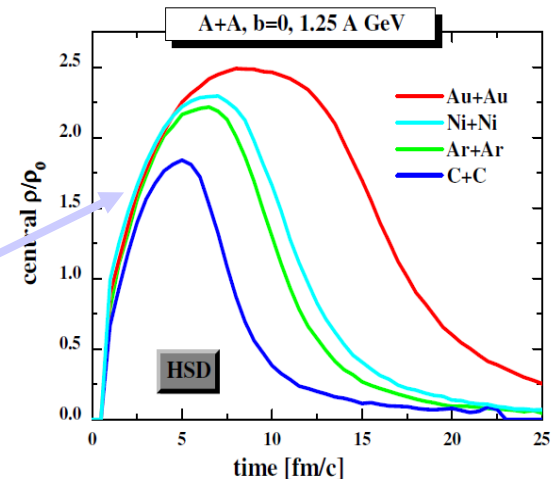
Energy density vs.  $\rho/\rho_0$

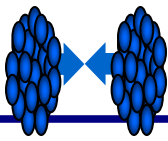


Large energy and baryon densities (even above critical  $\varepsilon > \varepsilon_{\text{crit}} \sim 0.5 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$ ) are reached in the central reaction volume at CBM and BM@N/NICA energies ( $> 5 \text{ A GeV}$ )  
 → a phase transition to the **QGP**

- At SIS energies: baryon density in central A+A collisions at 1.25 A GeV:
  - increases with nuclear size up to  $2.5 \rho_0$
  - the reaction time is larger for heavy systems

→ **Highly dense matter** is created already at SIS energies!





# History: Semi-classical BUU equation



Ludwig Boltzmann

**Boltzmann-Uehling-Uhlenbeck equation** (non-relativistic formulation)  
 - propagation of particles in the **self-generated Hartree-Fock mean-field potential**  $U(r,t)$  with an **on-shell collision term**:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) + \frac{\vec{p}}{m} \vec{\nabla}_{\vec{r}} f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) - \vec{\nabla}_{\vec{r}} U(\vec{r}, t) \vec{\nabla}_{\vec{p}} f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{coll}$$

**collision term:**  
 elastic and  
 inelastic reactions

$f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t)$  is the **single particle phase-space distribution function**  
 - probability to find the particle at position  $r$  with momentum  $p$  at time  $t$

□ **self-generated Hartree-Fock mean-field potential:**

$$U(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \sum_{\beta_{occ}} \int d^3 r' d^3 p V(\vec{r} - \vec{r}', t) f(\vec{r}', \vec{p}, t) + (\text{Fock term})$$

□ **Collision term for 1+2→3+4 (let's consider fermions) :**

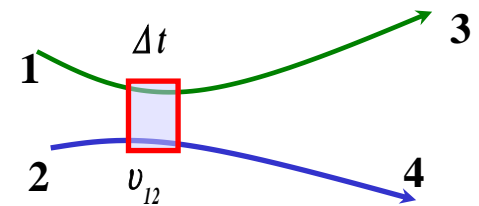
$$I_{coll} = \frac{4}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3 p_2 d^3 p_3 \int d\Omega |v_{12}| \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 - \vec{p}_3 - \vec{p}_4) \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} (1+2 \rightarrow 3+4) \cdot P$$

**Probability including Pauli blocking of fermions:**

$$P = \underbrace{f_3 f_4 (1 - f_1) (1 - f_2)}_{\text{Gain term}} - \underbrace{f_1 f_2 (1 - f_3) (1 - f_4)}_{\text{Loss term}}$$

**Gain term: 3+4→1+2**

**Loss term: 1+2→3+4**



# From weakly to strongly interacting systems

**In-medium effects** (on hadronic or partonic levels!) = changes of particle properties in the hot and dense medium

Examples: **hadronic medium** - vector mesons, strange mesons, baryons  
**QGP** – dressing of partons

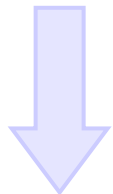
Many-body theory:

**Strong interaction** → large widths → broad spectral functions → **quantum objects**

**Semi-classical on-shell BUU:** applies for small collisional width, i.e. for a weakly interacting systems of particles

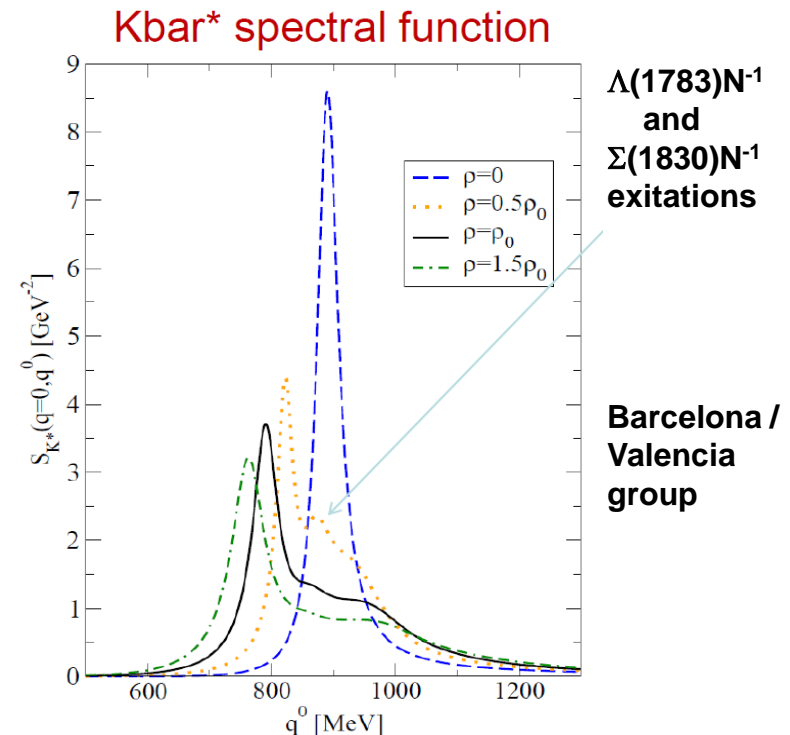
▪ How to describe the dynamics of broad strongly interacting quantum states in transport theory?

□ semi-classical BUU



first order gradient expansion of quantum **Kadanoff-Baym equations**

□ generalized transport equations based on **Kadanoff-Baym dynamics**



# Dynamical description of strongly interacting systems

## Quantum field theory →

**Kadanoff-Baym dynamics** for resummed single-particle Green functions  $S^<$

$$\hat{S}_{0x}^{-1} S_{xy}^< = \sum_{xz}^{ret} \odot S_{zy}^< + \sum_{xz}^< \odot S_{zy}^{adv}$$

(1962)

Green functions  $S^</math> / self-energies  $\Sigma$  :$

Integration over the intermediate spacetime

$$iS_{xy}^< = \eta \langle \{ \Phi^+(y) \Phi(x) \} \rangle$$

$$S_{xy}^{ret} = S_{xy}^c - S_{xy}^< = S_{xy}^> - S_{xy}^a \quad - \text{retarded}$$

$$\hat{S}_{0x}^{-1} \equiv -(\partial_x^\mu \partial_\mu^x + M_0^2)$$

$$iS_{xy}^> = \langle \{ \Phi(y) \Phi^+(x) \} \rangle$$

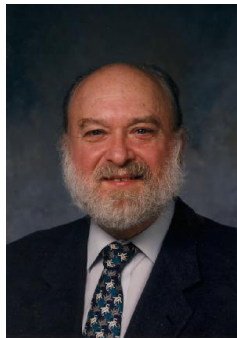
$$S_{xy}^{adv} = S_{xy}^c - S_{xy}^> = S_{xy}^< - S_{xy}^a \quad - \text{advanced}$$

$$iS_{xy}^c = \langle T^c \{ \Phi(x) \Phi^+(y) \} \rangle \quad - \text{causal}$$

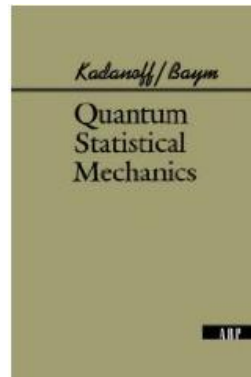
$$\eta = \pm 1 (\text{bosons / fermions})$$

$$iS_{xy}^a = \langle T^a \{ \Phi(x) \Phi^+(y) \} \rangle \quad - \text{anticausal}$$

$$T^a (T^c) - (\text{anti-})\text{time - ordering operator}$$



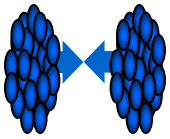
Leo Kadanoff



Gordon Baym

1<sup>st</sup> application for spacially homodeneous system with deformed Fermi sphere:

P. Danielewicz, Ann. Phys. 152, 305 (1984); ... H.S. Köhler, Phys. Rev. 51, 3232 (1995); ...



# From Kadanoff-Baym equations to generalized transport equations

After the first order gradient expansion of the Wigner transformed Kadanoff-Baym equations and separation into the real and imaginary parts one gets:

## Generalized transport equations (GTE):

$$\text{drift term} \quad \text{Vlasov term} \quad \text{backflow term} \quad \text{collision term} = \text{'gain' - 'loss' term}$$

$$\diamond \{ P^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{XP}^{ret} \} \{ S_{XP}^< \} - \diamond \{ \Sigma_{XP}^< \} \{ \text{Re}S_{XP}^{ret} \} = \frac{i}{2} [ \Sigma_{XP}^> S_{XP}^< - \Sigma_{XP}^< S_{XP}^> ]$$

**Backflow term** incorporates the **off-shell** behavior in the particle propagation  
**! vanishes in the quasiparticle limit**  $A_{XP} \rightarrow \delta(p^2 - M^2)$

□ GTE: Propagation of the Green's function  $iS_{XP}^< = A_{XP} N_{XP}$ , which carries information not only on the **number of particles** ( $N_{XP}$ ), but also on their **properties**, interactions and correlations (via  $A_{XP}$ )

□ **Spectral function:**

$$A_{XP} = \frac{\Gamma_{XP}}{(P^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{XP}^{ret})^2 + \Gamma_{XP}^2/4}$$

W. Botermans, R. Malfliet,  
Phys. Rep. 198 (1990) 115

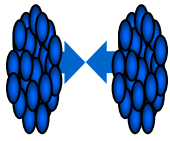
**Reaction rate** of particle (at space-time position X):

$$\Gamma_{XP} = -\text{Im} \Sigma_{XP}^{ret} = 2 p_0 \Gamma \quad \text{where } \Gamma \text{ is a 'width' of spectral function}$$

4-dimensional generalization  
of the Poisson-bracket:

$$\diamond \{ F_1 \} \{ F_2 \} := \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial X_\mu} \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial P^\mu} - \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial P_\mu} \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial X^\mu} \right)$$

□ **Life time**  $\tau = \frac{\hbar c}{\Gamma}$



# General testparticle off-shell equations of motion

W. Cassing , S. Juchem, NPA 665 (2000) 377; 672 (2000) 417; 677 (2000) 445

□ Employ **testparticle Ansatz** for the real valued quantity  $i S_{XP}^<$

$$F_{XP} = A_{XP} N_{XP} = i S_{XP}^< \sim \sum_{i=1}^N \delta^{(3)}(\vec{X} - \vec{X}_i(t)) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{P} - \vec{P}_i(t)) \delta(P_0 - \epsilon_i(t))$$

insert in generalized transport equations and determine **equations of motion !**

➔ **Generalized testparticle Cassing-Juchem off-shell equations of motion for the time-like particles:**

$$\frac{d\vec{X}_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{1 - C_{(i)}} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_i} \left[ 2\vec{P}_i + \vec{\nabla}_{P_i} \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}} + \frac{\epsilon_i^2 - \vec{P}_i^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\Gamma_{(i)}} \vec{\nabla}_{P_i} \Gamma_{(i)} \right],$$

$$\frac{d\vec{P}_i}{dt} = -\frac{1}{1 - C_{(i)}} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_i} \left[ \vec{\nabla}_{X_i} \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}} + \frac{\epsilon_i^2 - \vec{P}_i^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\Gamma_{(i)}} \vec{\nabla}_{X_i} \Gamma_{(i)} \right],$$

$$\frac{d\epsilon_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{1 - C_{(i)}} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_i} \left[ \frac{\partial \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\partial t} + \frac{\epsilon_i^2 - \vec{P}_i^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\Gamma_{(i)}} \frac{\partial \Gamma_{(i)}}{\partial t} \right],$$

with  $F_{(i)} \equiv F(t, \vec{X}_i(t), \vec{P}_i(t), \epsilon_i(t))$

$$C_{(i)} = \frac{1}{2\epsilon_i} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_i} \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}} + \frac{\epsilon_i^2 - \vec{P}_i^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\Gamma_{(i)}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_i} \Gamma_{(i)} \right]$$

Realized in PHSD

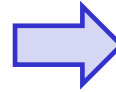


Note: the common factor  $1/(1-C_{(i)})$  can be absorbed in an 'eigentime' of particle (i) !

# On-shell limits

□  $\Gamma(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{P}) \rightarrow 0$

$$A_{XP} = \frac{\Gamma_{XP}}{(P^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{XP}^{\text{ret}})^2 + \Gamma_{XP}^2/4}$$



**quasiparticle approximation :**

$$A_{XP} = 2 p \delta(P^2 - M_0^2)$$

□  $\Gamma(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{P})$  such that

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \Gamma = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla_{\mathbf{P}} \Gamma = 0$$



E.g.:  $\Gamma = \text{const}$

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_{\text{vacuum}}(\mathbf{M})$$

**,Vacuum' spectral function** with constant or mass dependent width  $\Gamma$ :

i.e. spectral function  $A_{XP}$  does **NOT** change the **shape** (and pole position) during propagation through the medium

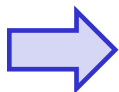


In on-shell limits the **,backflow term'** - which incorporates the off-shell behavior in the particle propagation - **vanishes !**

$$\frac{d\vec{X}_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{1 - C_{(i)}} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_i} \left[ 2\vec{P}_i + \vec{\nabla}_{P_i} \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}} + \frac{\epsilon_i^2 - \vec{P}_i^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\Gamma_{(i)}} \vec{\nabla}_{P_i} \Gamma_{(i)} \right],$$

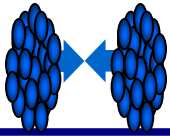
$$\frac{d\vec{P}_i}{dt} = -\frac{1}{1 - C_{(i)}} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_i} \left[ \vec{\nabla}_{X_i} \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}} + \frac{\epsilon_i^2 - \vec{P}_i^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\Gamma_{(i)}} \vec{\nabla}_{X_i} \Gamma_{(i)} \right],$$

$$\frac{d\epsilon_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{1 - C_{(i)}} \frac{1}{2\epsilon_i} \left[ \frac{\partial \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\partial t} + \frac{\epsilon_i^2 - \vec{P}_i^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma_{(i)}^{\text{ret}}}{\Gamma_{(i)}} \frac{\partial \Gamma_{(i)}}{\partial t} \right],$$



**Hamilton equations of motion (independent on  $\Gamma$ )  $\rightarrow$  BUU limit**





# Collision term in off-shell transport models

**Collision term for reaction 1+2->3+4:**

$$I_{coll}(X, \vec{P}, M^2) = Tr_2 Tr_3 Tr_4 A(X, \vec{P}, M^2) A(X, \vec{P}_2, M_2^2) A(X, \vec{P}_3, M_3^2) A(X, \vec{P}_4, M_4^2)$$

$$|G((\vec{P}, M^2) + (\vec{P}_2, M_2^2) \rightarrow (\vec{P}_3, M_3^2) + (\vec{P}_4, M_4^2))|_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{S}}^2 \delta^{(4)}(P + P_2 - P_3 - P_4)$$

$$[ N_{X\vec{P}_3M_3^2} N_{X\vec{P}_4M_4^2} \bar{f}_{X\vec{P}M^2} \bar{f}_{X\vec{P}_2M_2^2} - N_{X\vec{P}M^2} N_{X\vec{P}_2M_2^2} \bar{f}_{X\vec{P}_3M_3^2} \bar{f}_{X\vec{P}_4M_4^2} ]$$

**,gain' term**

**,loss' term**

with  $\bar{f}_{X\vec{P}M^2} = 1 + \eta N_{X\vec{P}M^2}$  and  $\eta = \pm 1$  for bosons/fermions, respectively.

**The trace over particles 2,3,4 reads explicitly**

**for fermions**

$$Tr_2 = \sum_{\sigma_2, \tau_2} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^3 P_2 \frac{dM_2^2}{2\sqrt{\vec{P}_2^2 + M_2^2}}$$

**for bosons**

$$Tr_2 = \sum_{\sigma_2, \tau_2} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^3 P_2 \frac{dP_{0,2}^2}{2}$$

**additional integration**

The transport approach and the particle spectral functions are fully determined once the **in-medium transition amplitudes G** are known in their **off-shell dependence!**

# Mean-field potential in off-shell transport models

- **Many-body theory:** Interacting relativistic particles have a **complex self-energy**:

$$\Sigma_{XP}^{ret} = \text{Re } \Sigma_{XP}^{ret} + i \text{Im } \Sigma_{XP}^{ret}$$

The neg. imaginary part  $\Gamma_{XP} = -\text{Im } \Sigma_{XP}^{ret} = 2 p_0 \Gamma$  is related via the width  $\Gamma = \Gamma_{coll} + \Gamma_{dec}$  to the inverse lifetime of the particle  $\tau \sim 1/\Gamma$

- The **collision width**  $\Gamma_{coll}$  is determined from the **loss term** of the collision integral  $I_{coll}$

$$-I_{coll}(loss) = \Gamma_{coll}(X, \vec{P}, M^2) N_{X\vec{P} M^2}$$

- By **dispersion relation** we get a contribution to the **real part of self-energy**:

$$\text{Re } \Sigma_{XP}^{ret}(p_0) = P \int_0^{\infty} dq \frac{\text{Im } \Sigma_{XP}^{ret}(q)}{(q - p_0)}$$

which gives a **mean-field potential**  $U_{XP}$  via:

$$\text{Re } \Sigma_{XP}^{ret}(p_0) = 2 p_0 U_{XP}$$

→ The **complex self-energy** relates in a self-consistent way to the **self-generated mean-field potential and collision width**

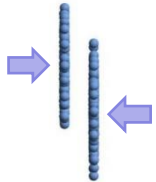


# Parton-Hadron-String-Dynamics (PHSD)

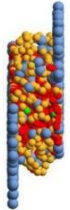


**PHSD** is a **non-equilibrium microscopic transport approach** for the description of **strongly-interacting hadronic and partonic matter** created in heavy-ion collisions

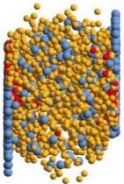
Initial A+A  
collision



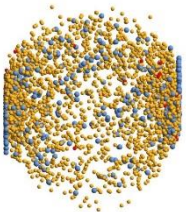
Partonic phase



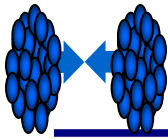
Hadronization



Hadronic phase



- **Dynamics:**  
based on the solution of **generalized off-shell Cassing-Juchem transport equations** derived from Kadanoff-Baym many-body theory
- **Generalized off-shell collision integral:**  
for  $n \leftrightarrow m$  selected reactions (for strangeness, anti-baryons, deuteron production)
- **QGP:**  
strongly interacting quasiparticles (quarks and gluons) with dynamical temperature and density spectral functions



# In-medium transition rates: G-matrix approach

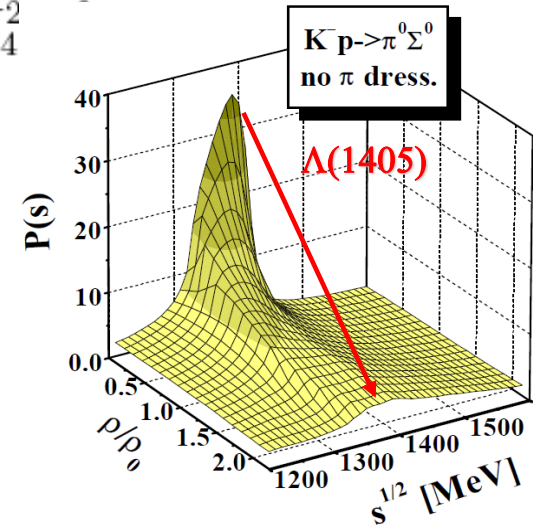
**Need to know** in-medium transition amplitudes **G** and their off-shell dependence

$$|G((\vec{P}, M^2) + (\vec{P}_2, M_2^2) \rightarrow (\vec{P}_3, M_3^2) + (\vec{P}_4, M_4^2)$$

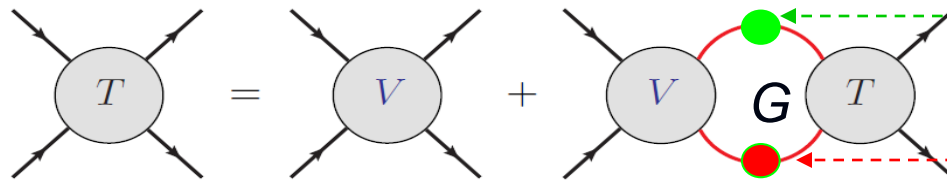
**Coupled channel G-matrix approach**

**Transition probability :**

$$P_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4}(s) = \int d \cos(\theta) \frac{1}{(2s_1 + 1)(2s_2 + 1)} \sum_i \sum_\alpha G^\dagger G$$



with **G(p,ρ,T)** - **G-matrix** from the solution of **coupled-channel equations**:



● Meson selfenergy and spectral function

● Baryons: Pauli blocking and potential dressing

$$\blacksquare T_{ij}(\rho, T) = V_{ij} + V_{il} G_l(\rho, T) T_{lj}(\rho, T)$$

For strangeness:

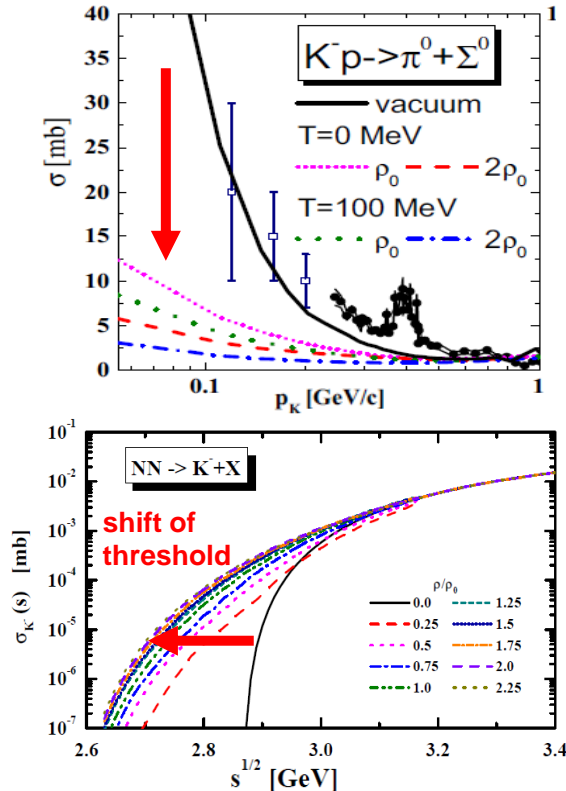
D. Cabrera, L. Tolos, J. Aichelin, E.B., PRC C90 (2014) 055207; W. Cassing, L. Tolos, E.B., A. Ramos, NPA727 (2003) 59; T. Song et al., PRC 103, 044901 (2021)

# Off-shell dynamics for antikaons at SIS energies

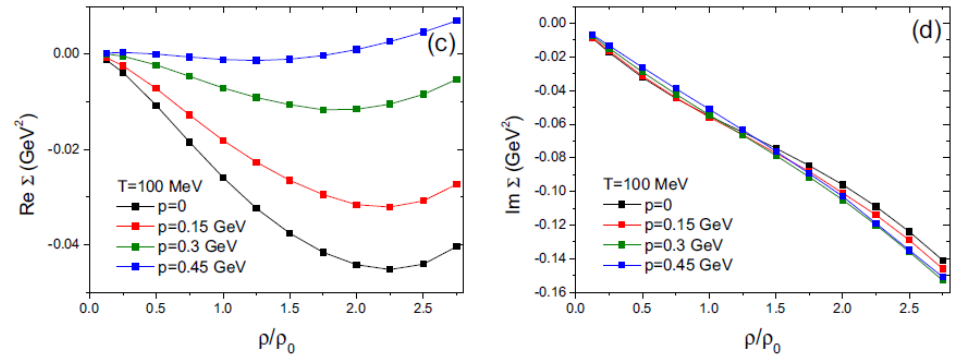
Spectral function of  $K^-$  within the G-matrix approach:

$$S_{\bar{K}}(k_0, \vec{k}; T) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\text{Im} \Sigma_{\bar{K}}(k_0, \vec{k}; T)}{|k_0^2 - \vec{k}^2 - m_{\bar{K}}^2 - \Sigma_{\bar{K}}(k_0, \vec{k}; T)|^2}$$

In-medium cross sections for  $K^-$  production and absorption are strongly modified in the medium:



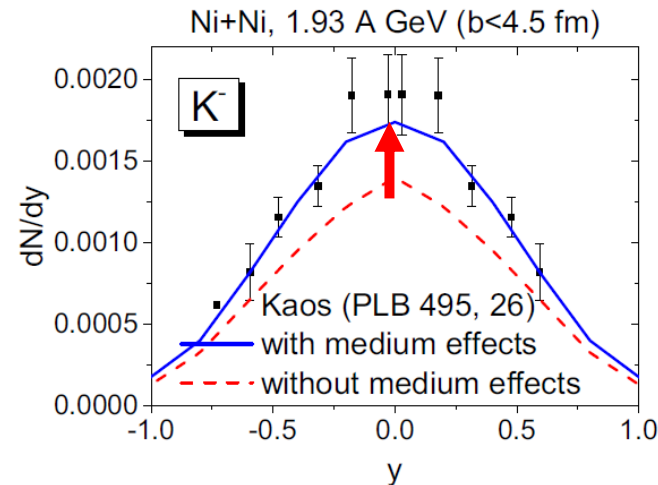
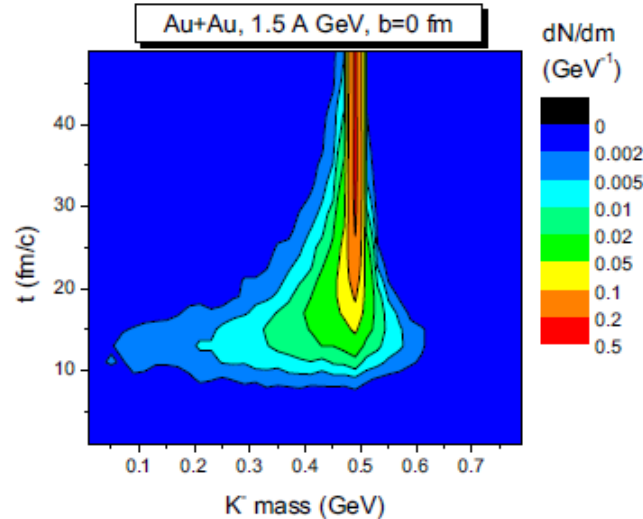
D. Cabrera et al., Phys.Rev.C 90 (2014) 055207



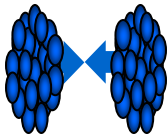
Time evolution of the  $K^-$  masses



In-medium effects are mandatory for the description of experimental  $K^-$  spectra



T. Song et al., PRC 103, 044901 (2021)



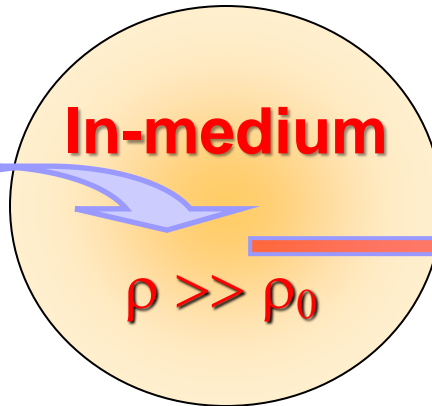
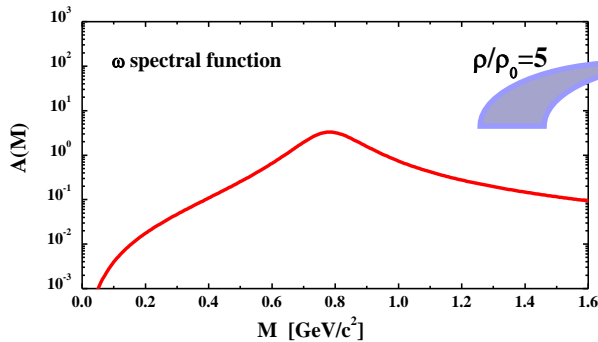
# Short-lived resonances in semi-classical transport models

Spectral function of vector mesons ( $\rho$ ,  $\omega$ ,  $\phi$ ):

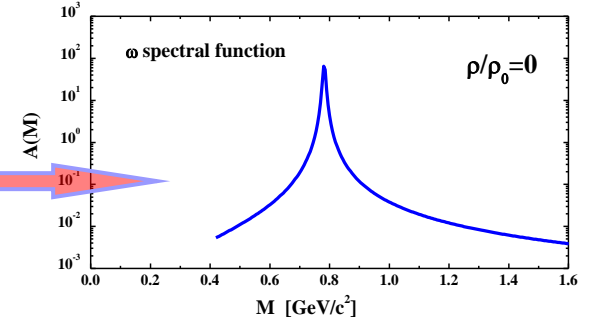
$$A(M, p, \rho) = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{M^2 \Gamma_{\text{tot}}(M, p, \rho)}{(M^2 - M_0^2 - \text{Re}\Sigma^{\text{ret}}) + (M\Gamma_{\text{tot}}(M, p, \rho))^2},$$

width  $\Gamma \sim -\text{Im} \Sigma^{\text{ret}} / M$

**In-medium:  
production of broad states**



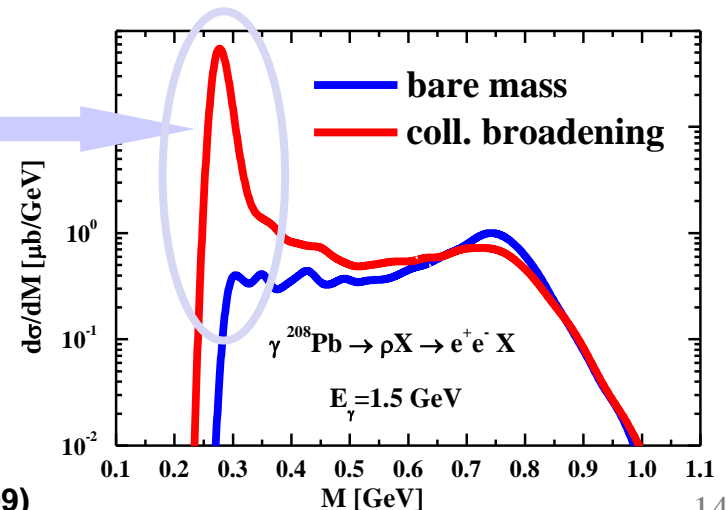
**Vacuum ( $\rho = 0$ )  
narrow states**



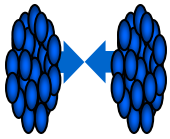
**Example :**

**$\rho$ -meson** propagation through the medium  
within on-shell BUU model

→ broad in-medium spectral function **does not become on-shell in vacuum** by propagation within **'on-shell'** transport models!



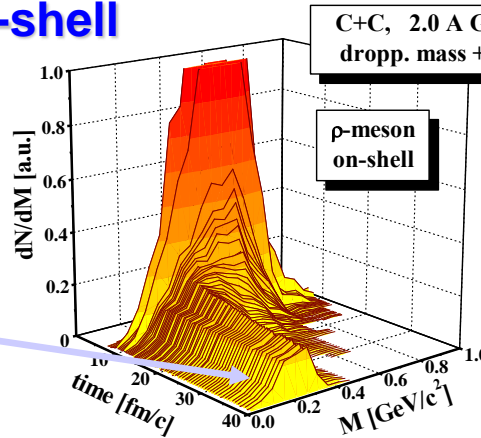
eBUU: M. Effenberger et al, PRC60 (1999)



# Off-shell vs. on-shell transport dynamics

Time evolution of the mass distribution of  $\rho$  and  $\omega$  mesons for central C+C collisions ( $b=1$  fm) at 2 A GeV for dropping mass + collisional broadening scenario

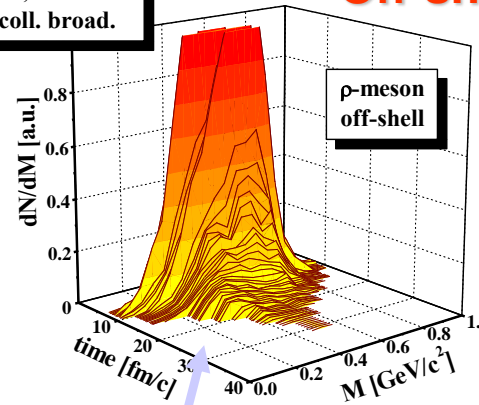
On-shell



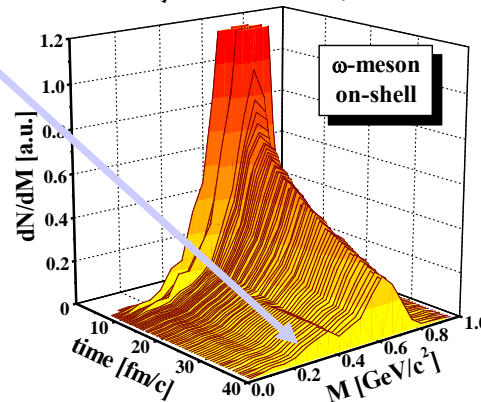
C+C, 2.0 A GeV,  $b=1$  fm  
dropp. mass + coll. broad.

$\rho$ -meson  
on-shell

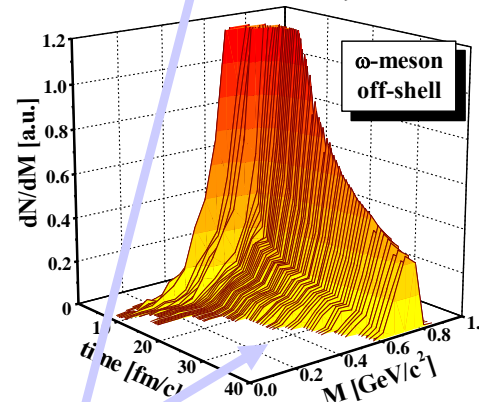
Off-shell



$\rho$ -meson  
off-shell



$\omega$ -meson  
on-shell

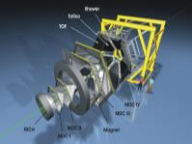


$\omega$ -meson  
off-shell

On-shell model:  
low mass  $\rho$  and  $\omega$   
mesons live forever  
and shine dileptons!

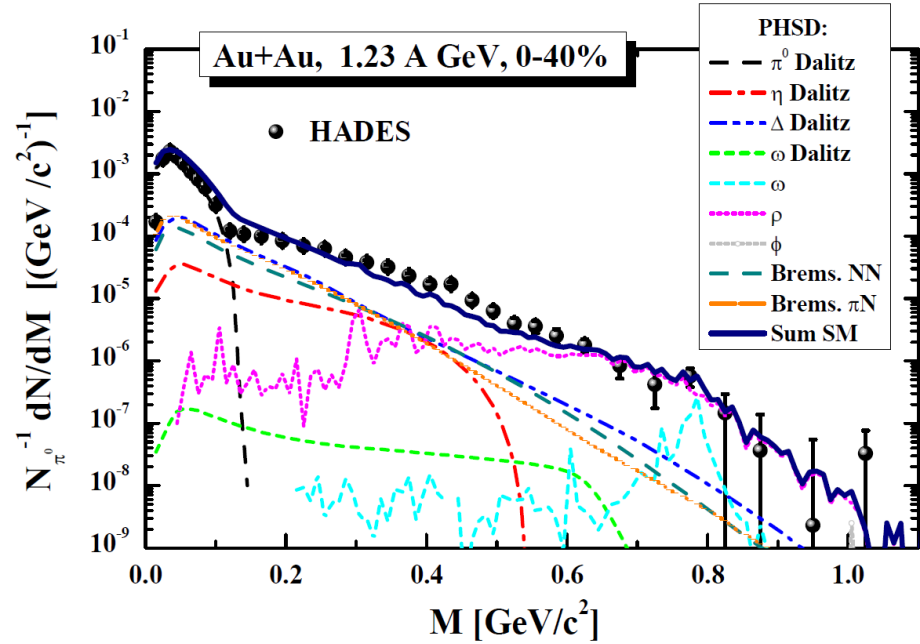
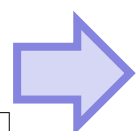
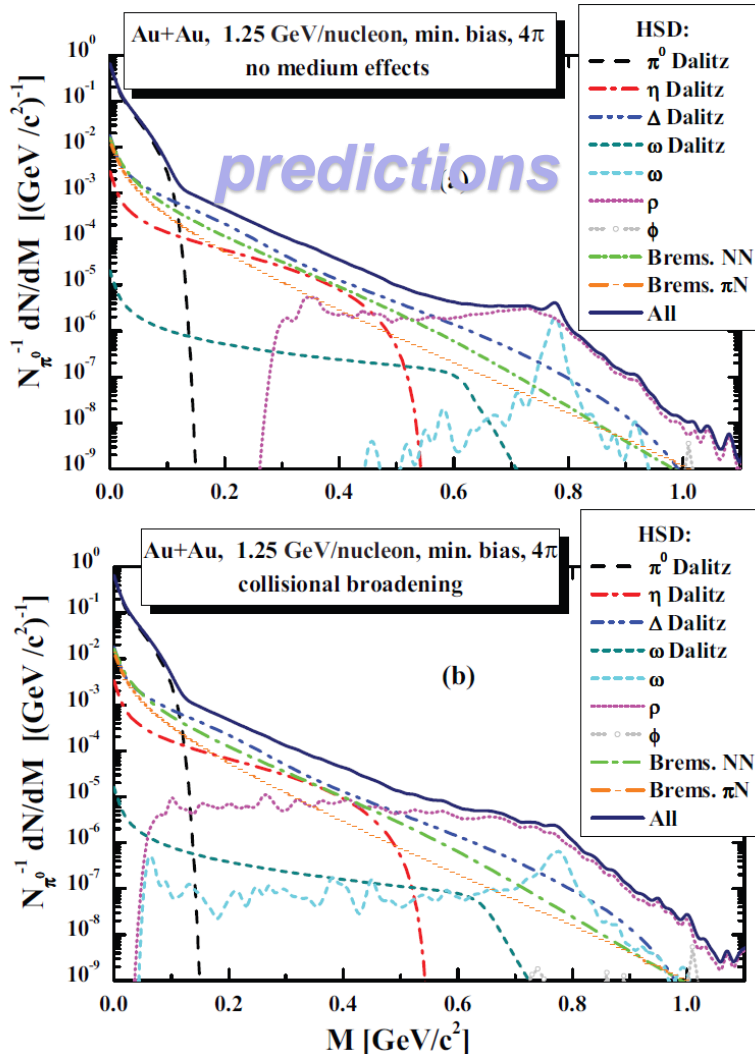
EB, W. Cassing,  
NPA 807 (2008) 214

The **off-shell** spectral function becomes on-shell in the vacuum dynamically by propagation through the medium within **off-shell KB**



# Dileptons at SIS energies - HADES

HADES: Au+Au at 1.23 AGeV - dilepton yield  $dN/dM$  scaled with the number of  $N_{\pi^0}$



In-medium effects are stronger for large systems (Au+Au)

HADES: J. Adamczewski-Musch et al.,  
Nat. Phys. 15 (2019), 1040.

PHSD: I. Schmidt, E.B., M. Gumberidze,  
R. Holzmann, Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021), 015008

E. B., J. Aichelin, M. Thomere, S. Vogel,  
and M. Bleicher, PRC 87 (2013) 064907



# Advantages of Kadanoff-Baym dynamics vs Boltzmann

## Kadanoff-Baym equations:

- propagate two-point Green functions  $G^<(x,p) \rightarrow A(x,p) * N(x,p)$  in 8 dimensions  $x=(t,\vec{r})$   $p=(p_0,\vec{p})$
- $G^<$  carries information not only on the occupation number  $N_{XP}$ , but also on the particle properties, interactions and correlations via spectral function  $A_{XP}$
- Applicable for strong coupling = strongly interaction system
- Includes memory effects (time integration) and off-shell transitions in collision term
- Dynamically generates a broad spectral function for strong coupling
- KB can be solved exactly for model cases as  $\Phi^4$  – theory
- KB can be solved in 1<sup>st</sup> order gradient expansion in terms of generalized transport equations (in test particle ansatz) for realistic systems of HICs

## Boltzmann equations

- propagate phase space distribution function  $f(\vec{r},\vec{p},t)$  in 6+1 dimensions
- works well for small coupling = weakly interacting system,  $\rightarrow$  on-shell approach



# Summary

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The **developments in microscopic transport theory** in the last decades - based on the solution of generalized transport equations as derived from **Kadanoff-Baym dynamics** - made it **applicable** for the description of **strongly-interacting hadronic and partonic matter** as created in heavy-ion collisions from SIS to LHC energies

**Note:**

for a consistent description of HICs the **input from IQCD and many-body theory** is mandatory:

properties of partonic and hadronic degrees-of-freedom and their in-medium interactions at finite density and temperature!

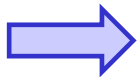
# Key questions:

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**For a proper extraction of the EoS** from a comparison of transport calculations with exp. data one has to consider that:

## 1) Hadrons modify their properties in a hot and dense medium:

- in-medium spectral functions with complex self energies depending on density, temperature and momentum (as shown for antikaons)
- in-medium cross sections also change the dynamics and consequently mean-field potentials
  - influence on observables - yields, spectra, collective flows  $v_n$



**Off-shell transport is MANDATORY** for the proper description of observables as measured by HIC experiments!

## 2) What matter consists of?

- i.e. what are the degrees-of-freedom at the collision energy considered (hadronic, partonic)?
- baryonic resonance matter at SIS energies (U. Mosel at NuSym23)  
(resonances change their properties – go to 1)  
Nucleon potential  $\neq$  Delta potential?
- Hadron-parton matter at AGS-SPS
- Dominant partonic matter at RHIC and LHC