

A watercolor illustration of a large, multi-towered castle or fortress built on a hillside. The architecture features stone walls, crenellated battlements, and several prominent towers with conical roofs. The scene is rendered in soft, painterly tones, with a mix of earthy browns, greys, and muted greens. The background shows a hazy sky and some smaller buildings at the base of the hill.

ECT\*

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL STUDIES  
IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND RELATED AREAS

# Centrality Dependence of “Thermal” Radiation

Axel Drees, Trento 2018, November 27, Italy

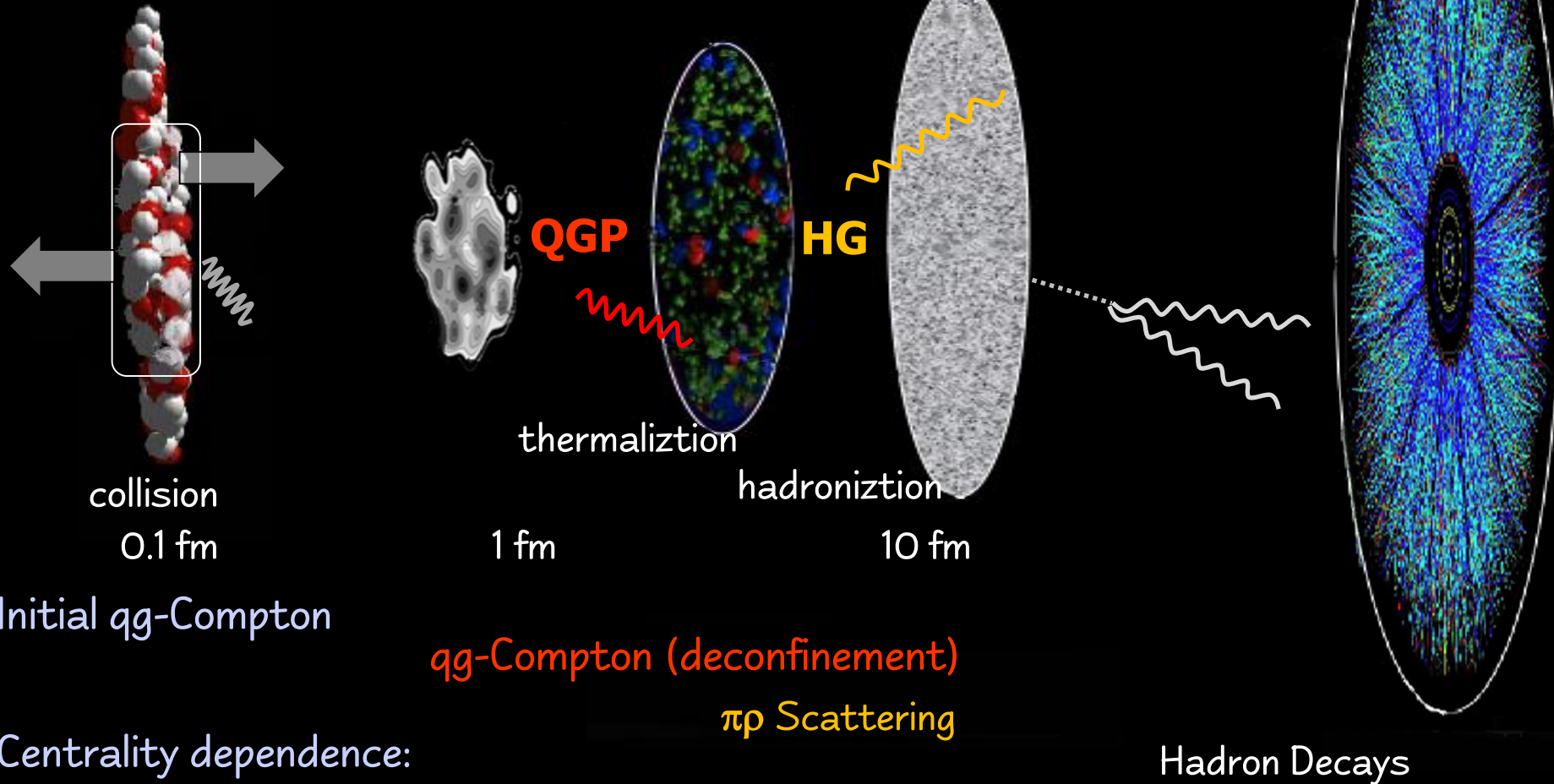
- Introduction
- PHENIX analyses
- PHENIX: Photon Scaling with  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}^{5/4}$
- Review of Other Results

# Electromagnetic Radiation in A+A Collisions:

detector

Hubble expansion: **T=300-160**    **160-110**    **110 MeV**

A+A beams



collision  
0.1 fm

1 fm

10 fm

Initial qg-Compton

qg-Compton (deconfinement)

$\pi\pi$  Scattering

Centrality dependence:

Hadron Decays

$$\propto N_{coll}$$

$$\propto N_{ch}^\alpha \quad 1 < \alpha \leq 2$$

$$\propto N_{ch}$$

# Photon Measurements with PHENIX

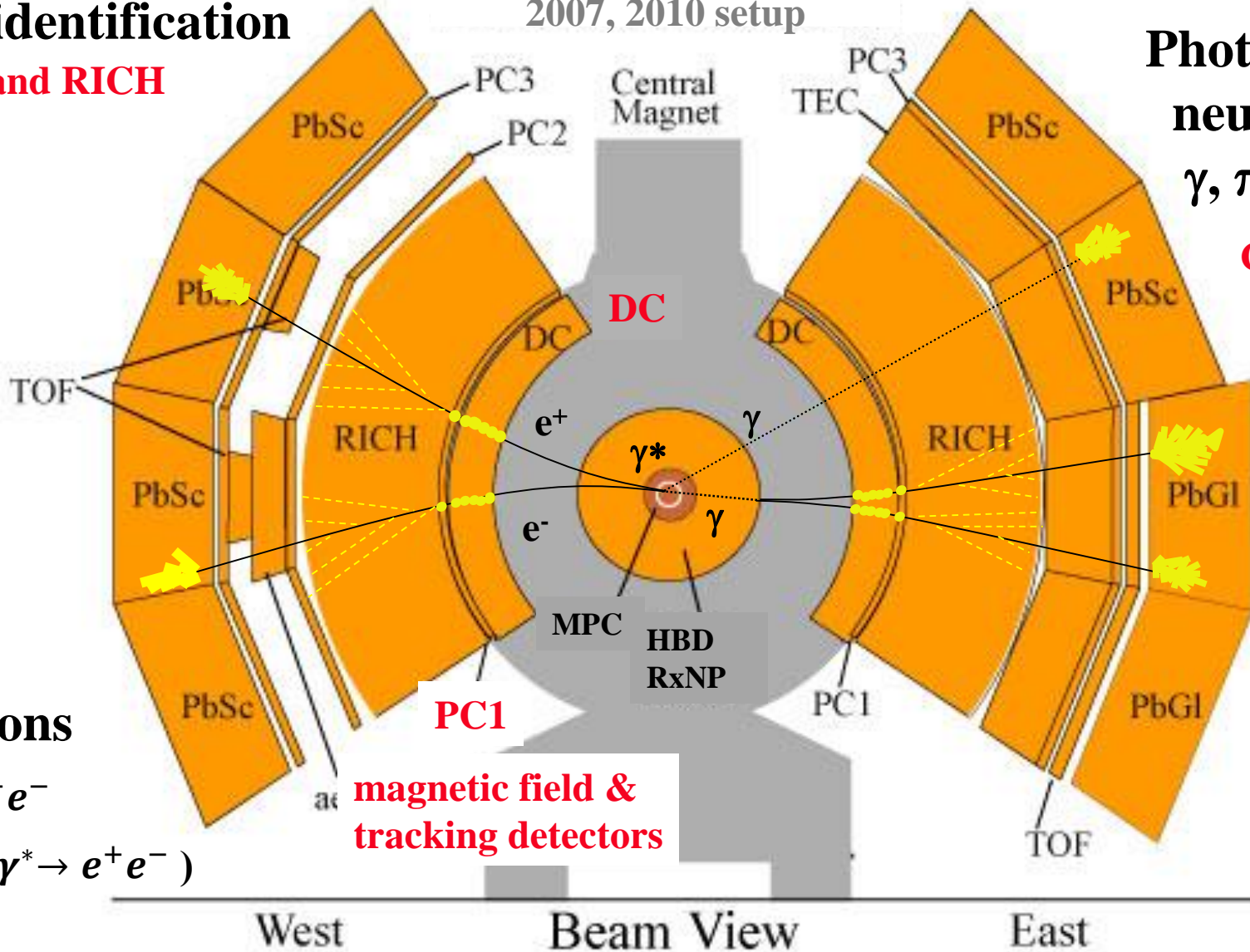
$e^+e^-$  identification

$E/p$  and RICH

Photons,  
neutral pion  
 $\gamma, \pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

Calorimeter

2007, 2010 setup



magnetic field & tracking detectors

Photons

$\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$

$\lim_{m_{ee} \rightarrow 0} (\gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^-)$

# PHENIX Low $p_T$ Direct Photon Analyses

| Low $p_T$ Direct Photon Spectra              |            |           |                         |             |           |           |  |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Run  | system     | energy    | type                    | Thesis      |           |           | Publication                                  |
| Run 2004/2005                                | Au+Au/p+p  | 200 GeV   | $\gamma^*$              | Dahms       | SBU       | 2008      | PRL 104 (2010) 132301<br>PRC 81 (2010) 34911 |
| Run 2006/2008                                | p+p/d+Au   | 200 GeV   | $\gamma^*$              | Yamaguchi   | Tokyo     | 2011      | PRC 87 (2013) 54907                          |
| Run 2007                                     | Au+Au      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma \rightarrow ee$ | Petti       | SBU       | 2013      | PRC 91 (2015) 64904                          |
| Run 2010                                     | Au+Au      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma \rightarrow ee$ | Bannier     | SBU       | 2014      |  |
| Run 2004                                     | Au+Au      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma$                | Gong        | SBU       | 2014      | -  |
| Run 2005                                     | Cu+Cu      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma^*$              | Hoshino     | Hiroshima | 2017      | PRC 98 (2018) 54902                          |
| Run 2010                                     | Au+Au      | 39/62 GeV | $\gamma \rightarrow ee$ | Khachatryan | SBU       | 2015      | arXiv:1804.04181                             |
| Run 2014/2015                                | Au+Au/p+Au | 200 GeV   | $\gamma \rightarrow ee$ | Fan         | SBU       | est. 2019 |  |
| Low $p_T$ Direct Photon Azimuthal Anisotropy |            |           |                         |             |           |           |  |
| Run  | system     | energy    | type                    | Thesis      |           |           | Publication                                  |
| Run 2004                                     | Au+Au      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma$                | Miki        | Tsukuba   | 2009      | PRL109 ((2012) 122302                        |
| Run 2010                                     | Au+Au      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma \rightarrow ee$ | Bannier     | SBU       | 2014      | PRC 94 (2016) 64901                          |
| Run 2007                                     | Au+Au      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma$                | Mizuno      | Tsukuba   | 2015      |  |
| Run 2014                                     | Au+Au      | 200 GeV   | $\gamma \rightarrow ee$ | Fan         | SBU       | est. 2019 |  |

**Well established data analysis  
3 different methods, 9 theses, 8 publications**



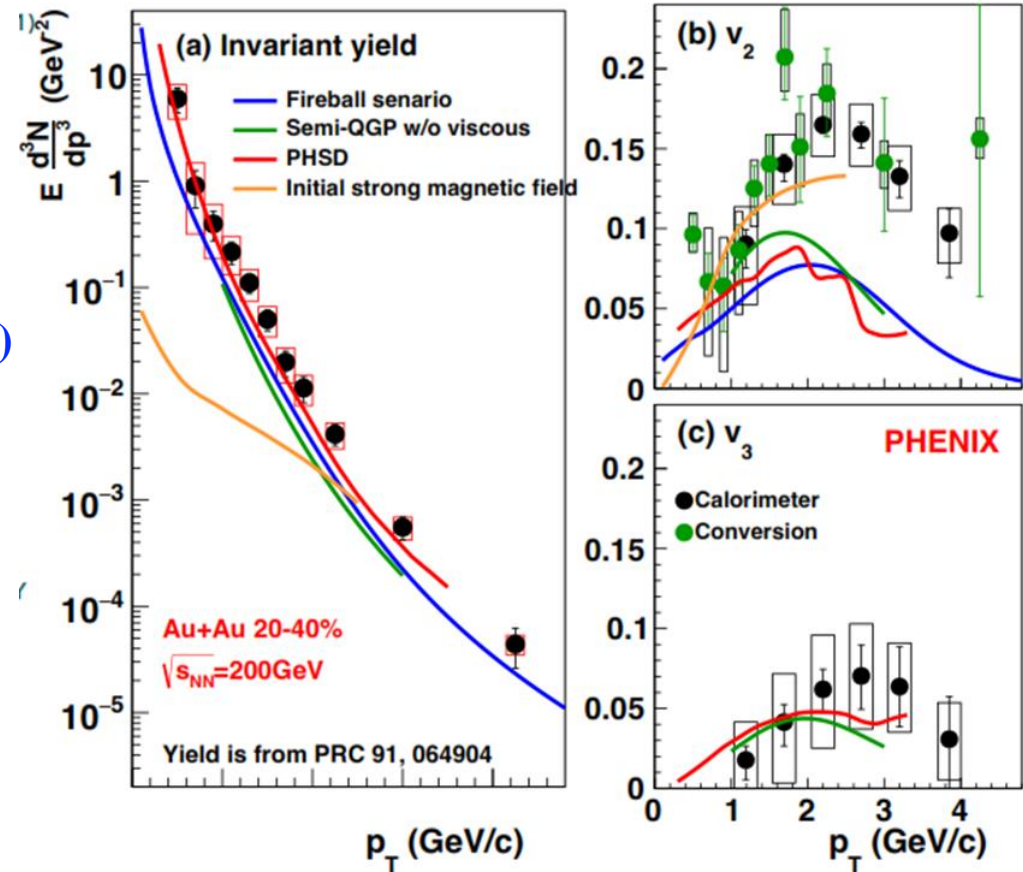
# Current Status of PHENIX Results

PHENIX: Phys. Rev. C94 (2016) 064901

## “Direct Photon Puzzle”

tension between data and models\*:

- More traditional, large contribution from hadron gas
  - Thermal rate in QGP & HG, with hydro (viscous/non viscous) or blastwave evolution
  - Microscopic transport (PHSD)
- New early contributions
  - Non-equilibrium effects (glasma, etc.)
  - Enhanced thermal emission in large B-fields
  - Modified formation time and initial conditions
- New effects at phase boundary
  - Extended emission
  - Emission at hadronization



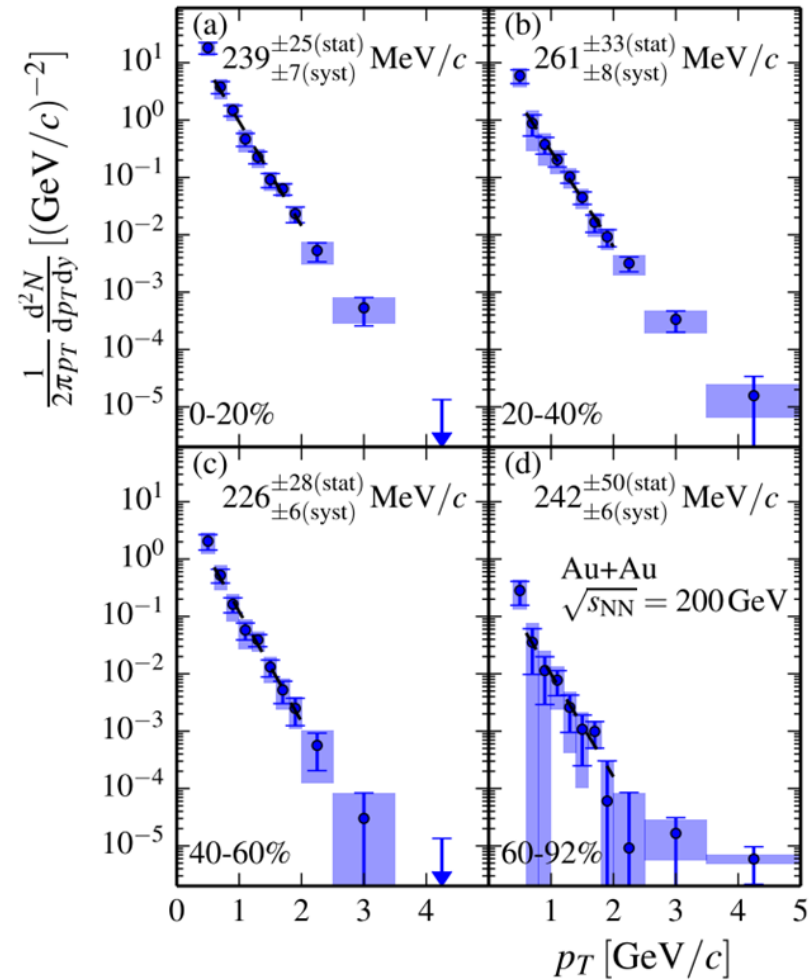
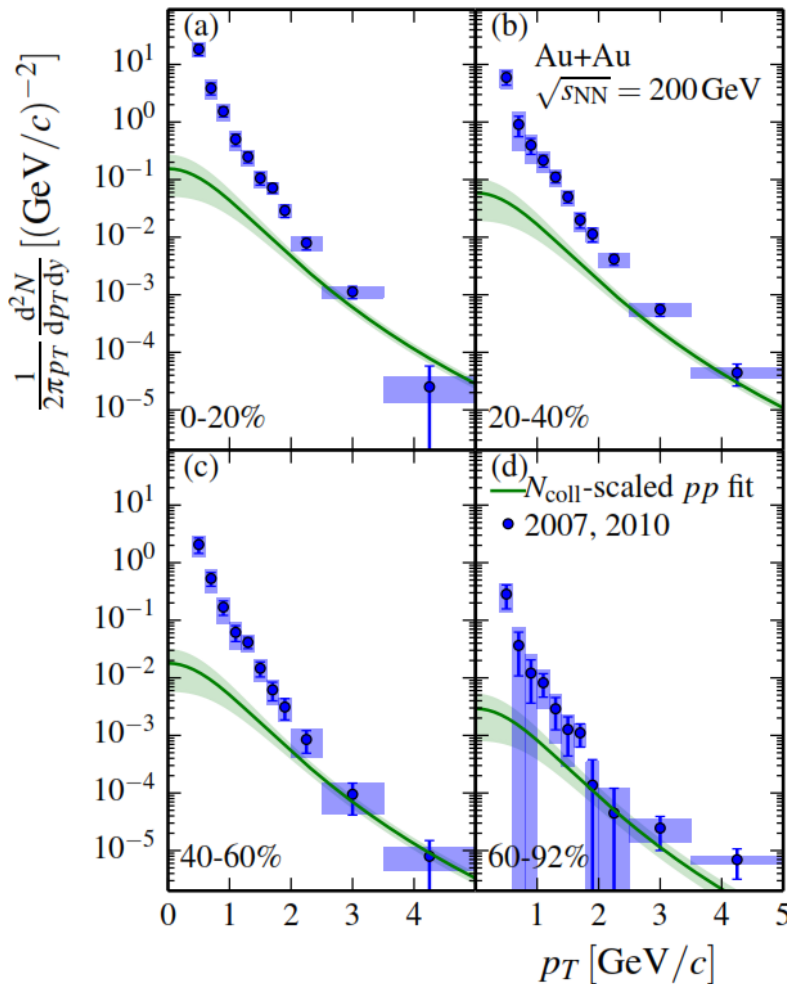
Large yield and  $v_n$  challenge understanding of sources, emission rates and space-time evolution

\*list not complete



# Centrality Dependence of Thermal Component

PHENIX: Phys. Rev. C91 (2015) 064904



**Large direct photon excess**  
**yield  $\propto N_{\text{part}}^{1.38 \pm 0.3 \pm 0.07}$  with inv. slope  $T \sim 240$  MeV**



# Centrality Dependence of Thermal Component

PHENIX: Phys. Rev. C91 (2015) 064904

- Centrality dependence  
Au+Au 200 GeV

$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dy} = A N_{part}^\alpha$$

- $\alpha = 1.38 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.7$
- independent of  $p_T$

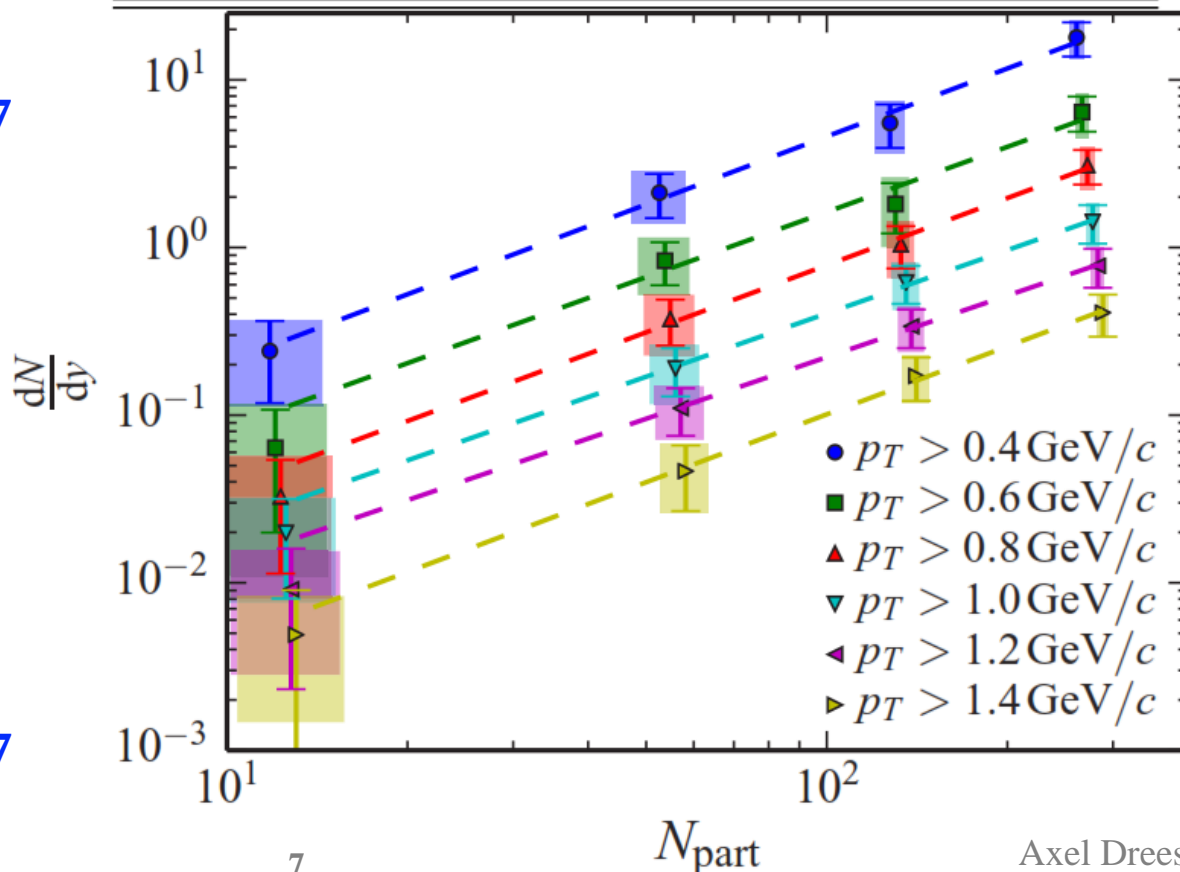
- At fixed  $\sqrt{s}$ :

- $N_{ch} \propto N_{qp} \sim N_{part}$

$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dy} = A N_{qp}^\beta$$

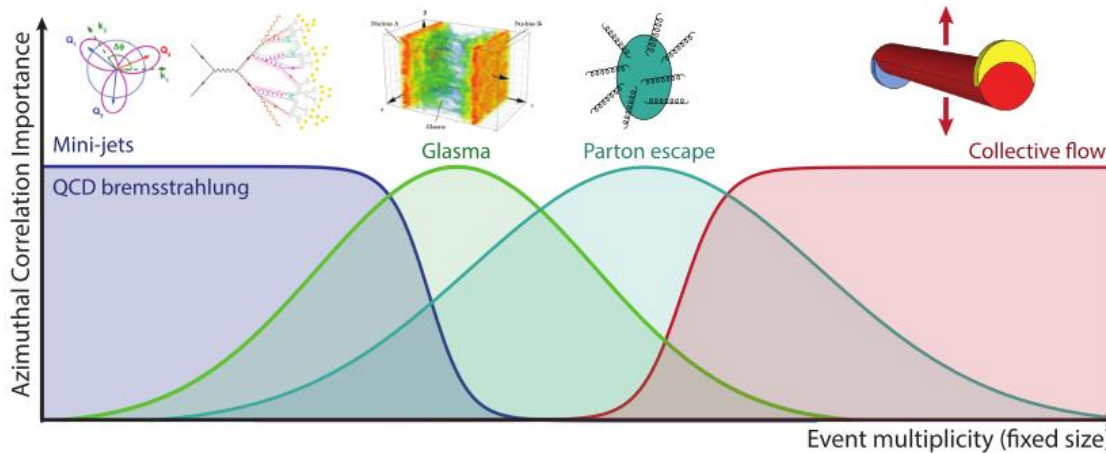
- $\beta = 1.27 \pm 0.03 \pm 0.7$

| $p_T^{\min}$ (GeV/c) | $\alpha$                 | A   |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 0.4                  | $1.36 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.08$ | $(7.85 \pm 2.96 \pm 4.52) \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 0.6                  | $1.41 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.12$ | $(2.20 \pm 1.54 \pm 1.64) \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 0.8                  | $1.42 \pm 0.07 \pm 0.11$ | $(1.07 \pm 0.39 \pm 0.75) \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 1.0                  | $1.35 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.07$ | $(7.70 \pm 2.32 \pm 4.37) \times 10^{-4}$ |
| 1.2                  | $1.36 \pm 0.09 \pm 0.07$ | $(3.90 \pm 1.79 \pm 2.81) \times 10^{-4}$ |
| 1.4                  | $1.40 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.10$ | $(1.63 \pm 0.47 \pm 1.11) \times 10^{-4}$ |

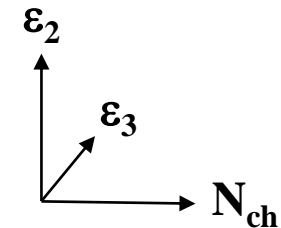


# New Insight: Vary System Size and Geometry

M. Strickland: QM2018 arXiv:1807.07191



System size and geometry matter



- Vary size & geometry through changing collision system,  $\sqrt{s}$ , centrality
- Measure system size via event multiplicity or  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$  or similar
  - $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$  is an experimental observable
  - at fixed  $\sqrt{s}$   $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \sim N_{part} \sim \text{Volume}$
  - Varying  $\sqrt{s}$   $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \sim \text{energy density} \times \text{Volume}$
- Available for direct  $\gamma$  analysis in PHENIX
  - 200 GeV: Au+Au, Cu+Au, Cu+Cu, 3He+Au, d+Au, p+Au, p+p
  - 200 – 62.4 – 39 GeV: Au+Au

Compare data as function of  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$



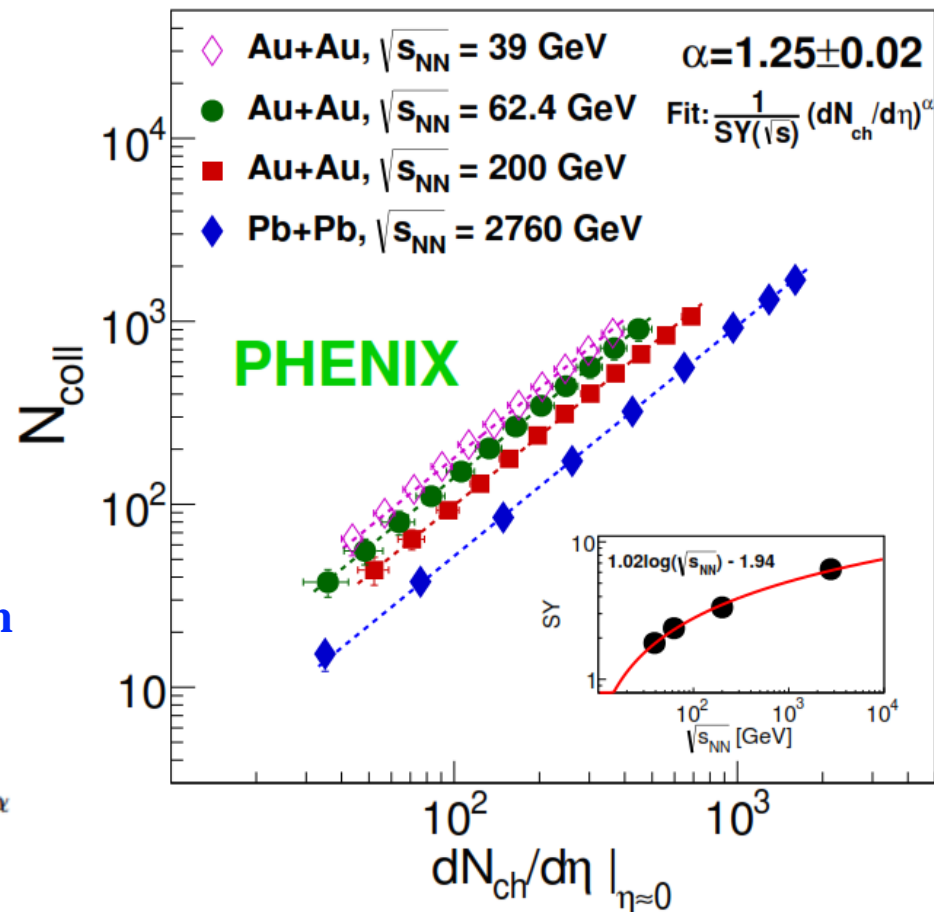


# Compare Different Systems as function of System Size

PHENIX: arXiv:1804.04181

- Compare different systems and energies using  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$ 
  - Measure of energy deposited by incoming beams
- Discovery of scaling behavior
  - Connects bulk particle production and hard scattering processes

$$N_{coll} = \frac{1}{SY(\sqrt{s_{NN}})} \times \left( \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)^\alpha$$



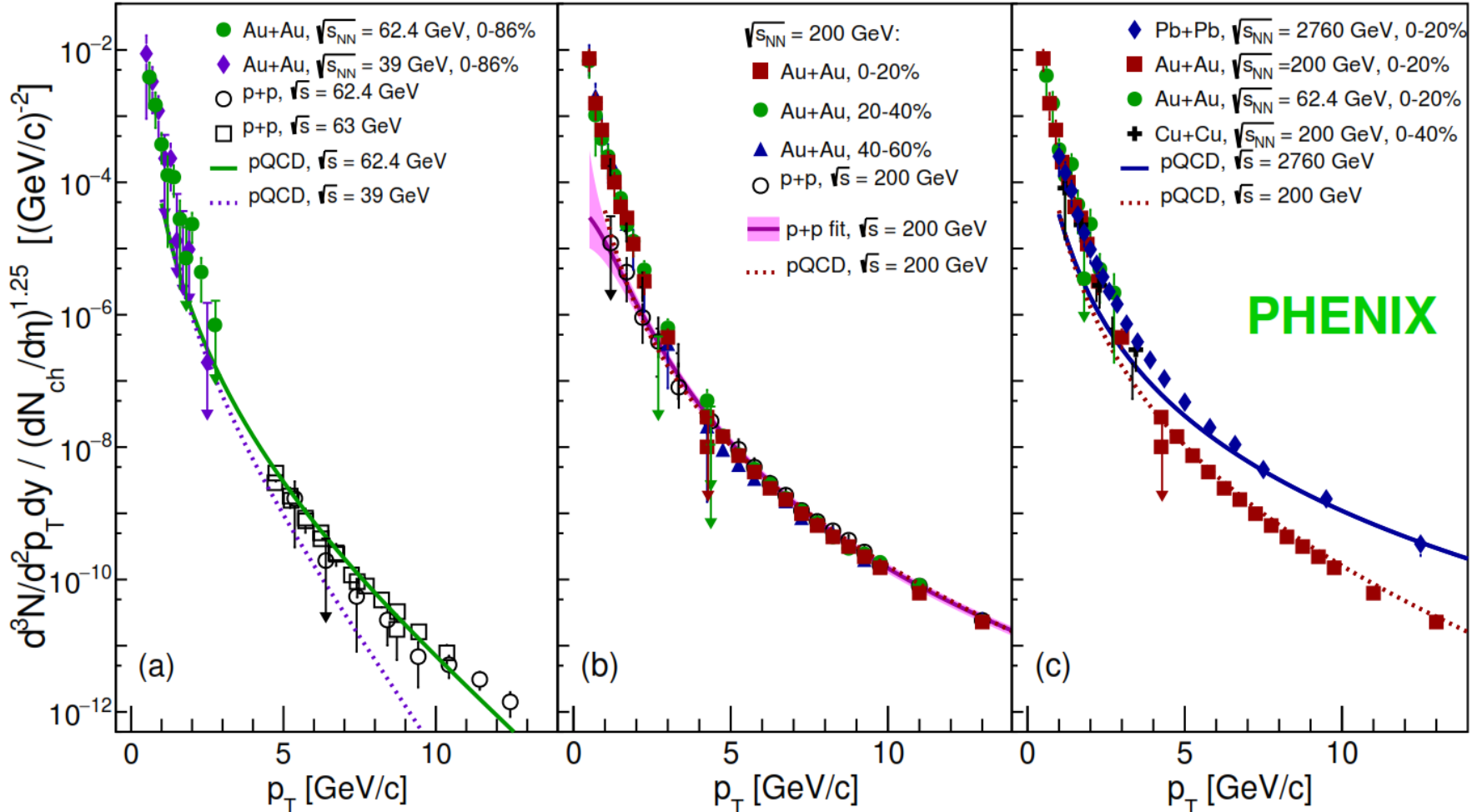
**What is the origin of this scaling?**



# Comparison of Different Collision Systems

PHENIX: arXiv:1804.04181

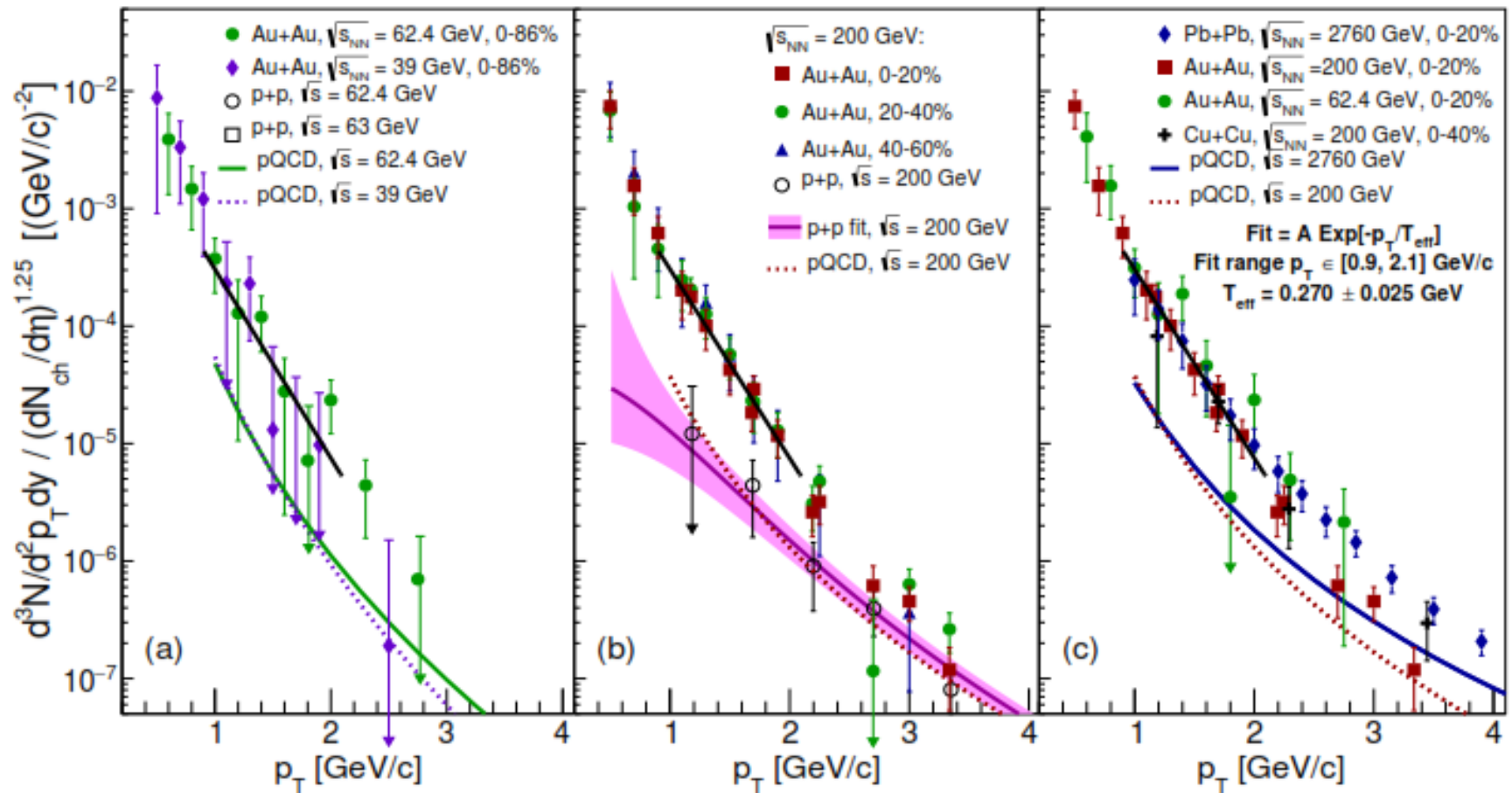
ALICE: Phys. Lett. B 754 (2016) 235



Similar thermal photon yield when scaled with  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}^{1.25}$   
 independent of energy, centrality, or system size



# Focus on low $p_T$ Region

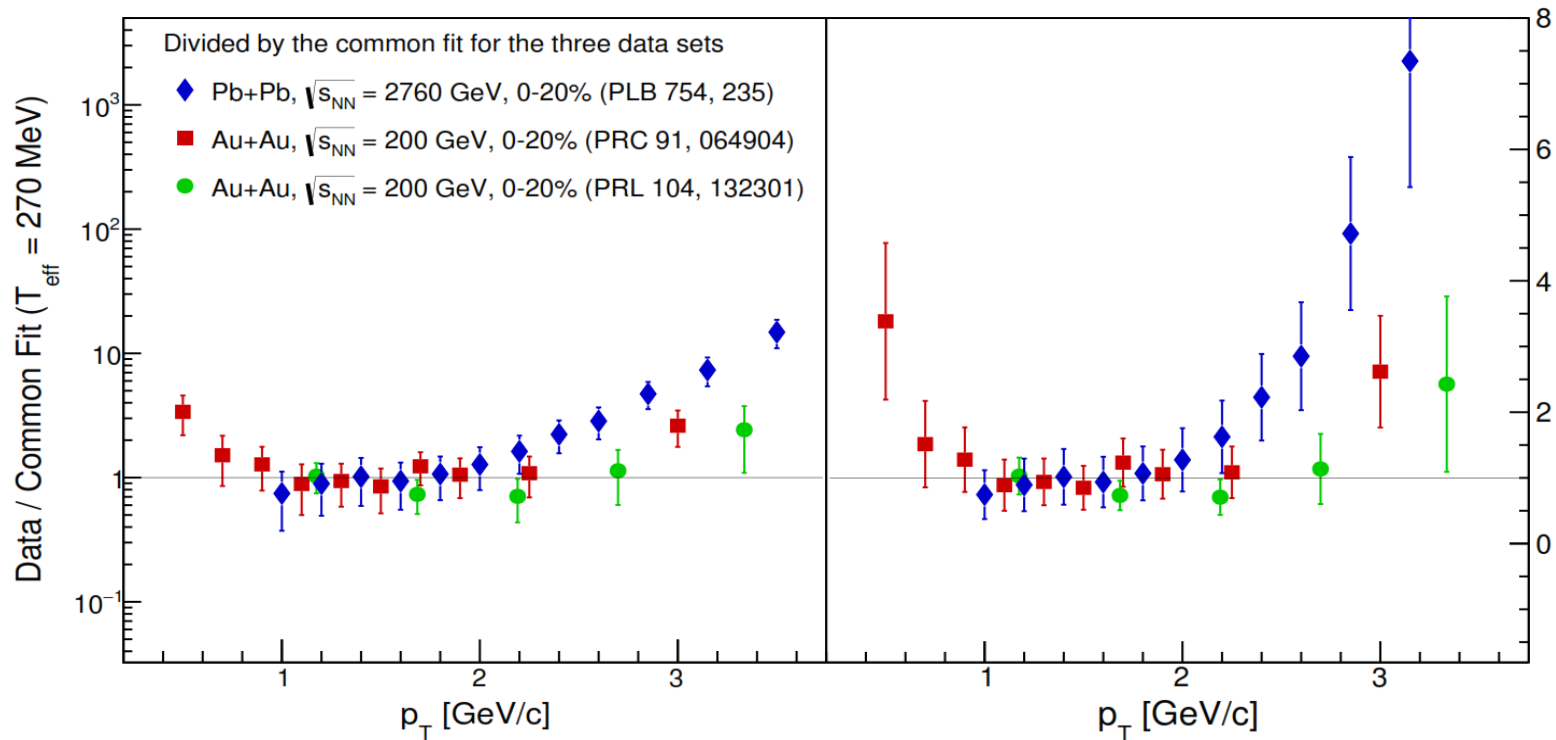


## ● Similar inverse slope

- $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 270$  MeV for all spectra  $0.9 < p_T < 2.1$  GeV/c
- Independent of centrality and  $\sqrt{s}$  from 39 to 2760 GeV

# Scaled Spectra Divided by Common Fit

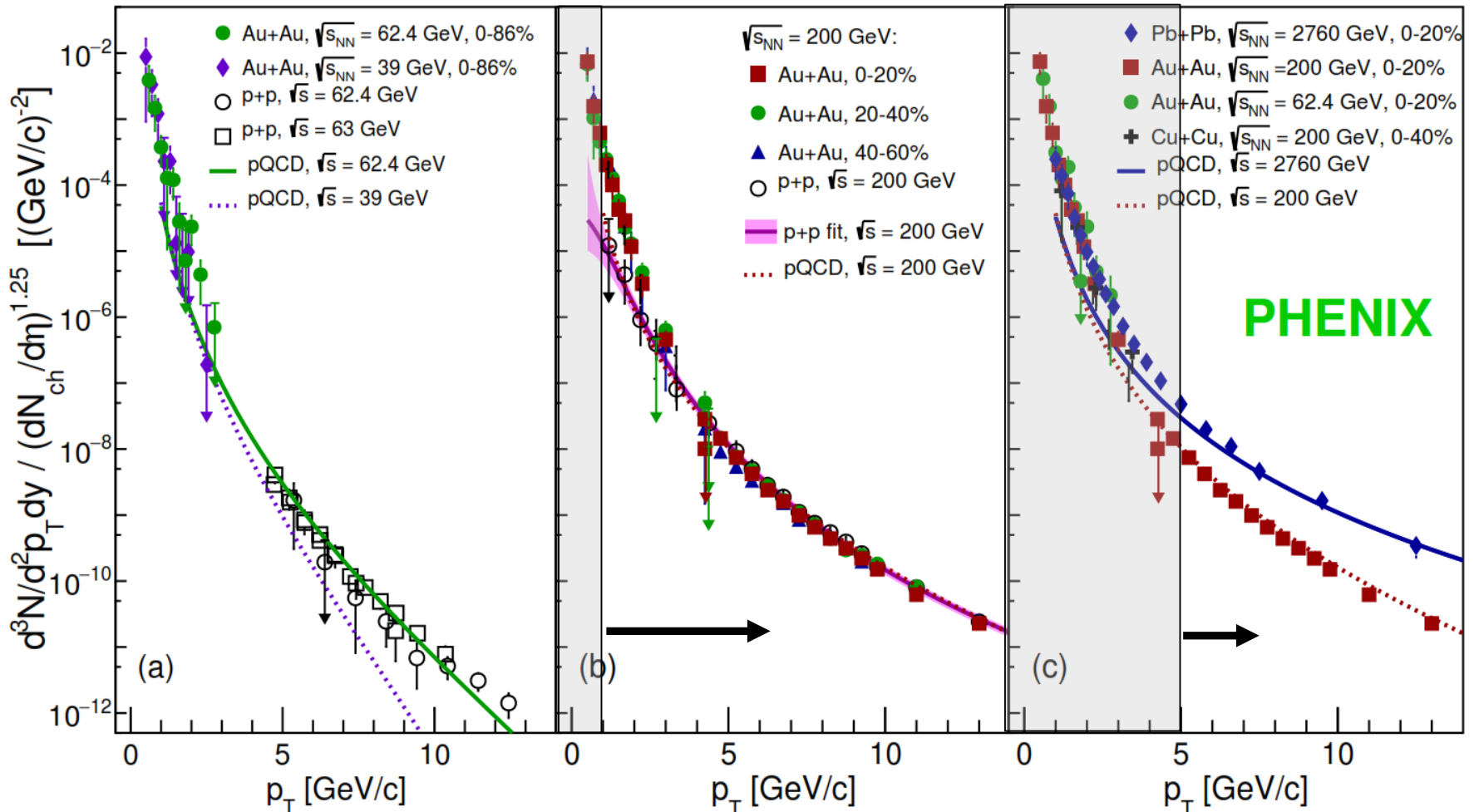
- Data normalized to common fit  $0.9 < p_T < 2.1$  GeV



- Data similar in overlap region below 2 GeV
- Data not truly exponential
- For  $p_T > 2.5$  GeV developing  $\sqrt{s}$  dependence

# Integrated Direct Photon Yield

PHENIX: arXiv:1804.04181



$p_T > 1$  GeV  
“thermal” region

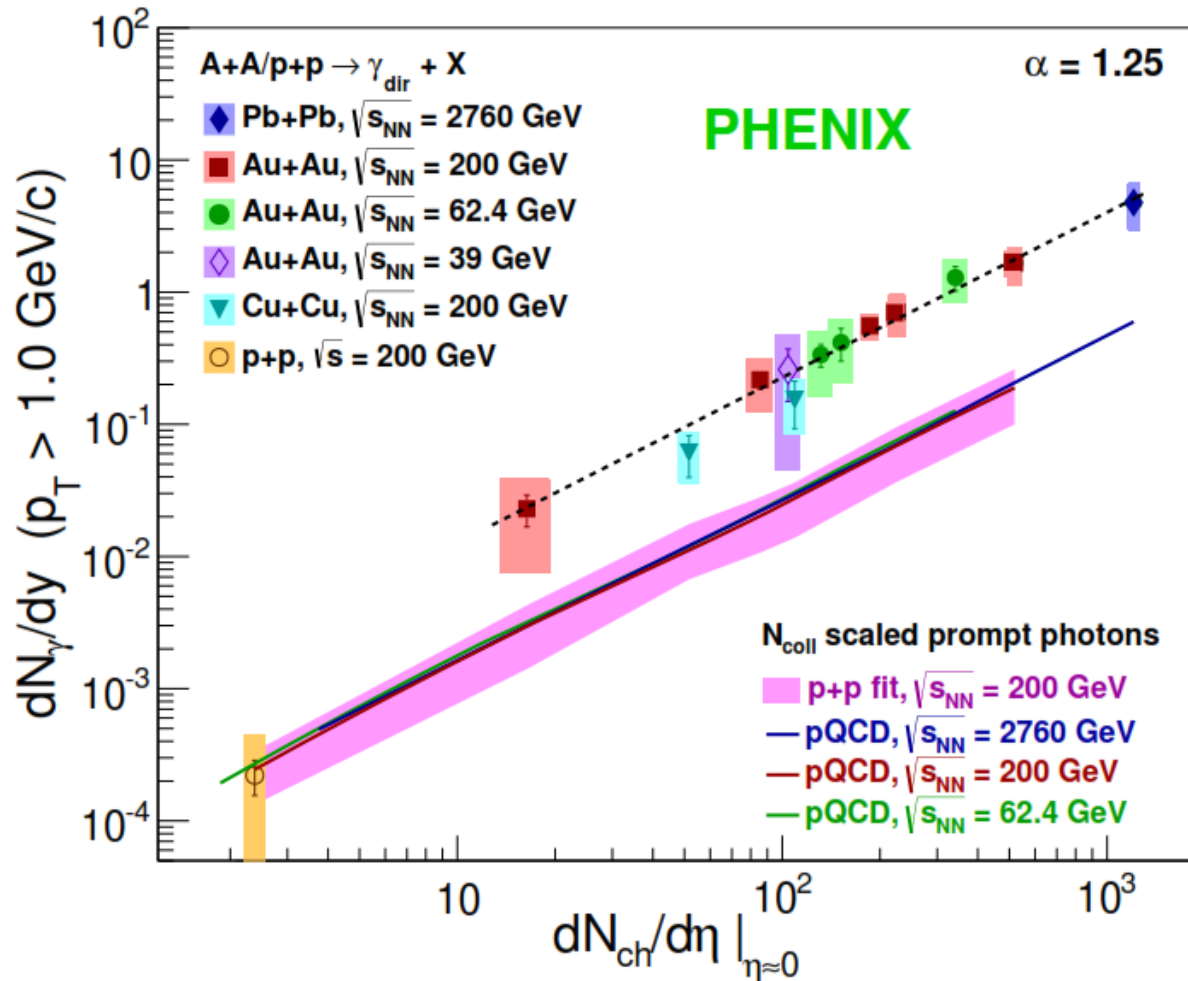
$p_T > 5$  GeV  
“hard scattering”  
region



# Integrated “Thermal” Photon Yield

PHENIX: arXiv:1804.04181

ALICE: arXiv:1804.04181



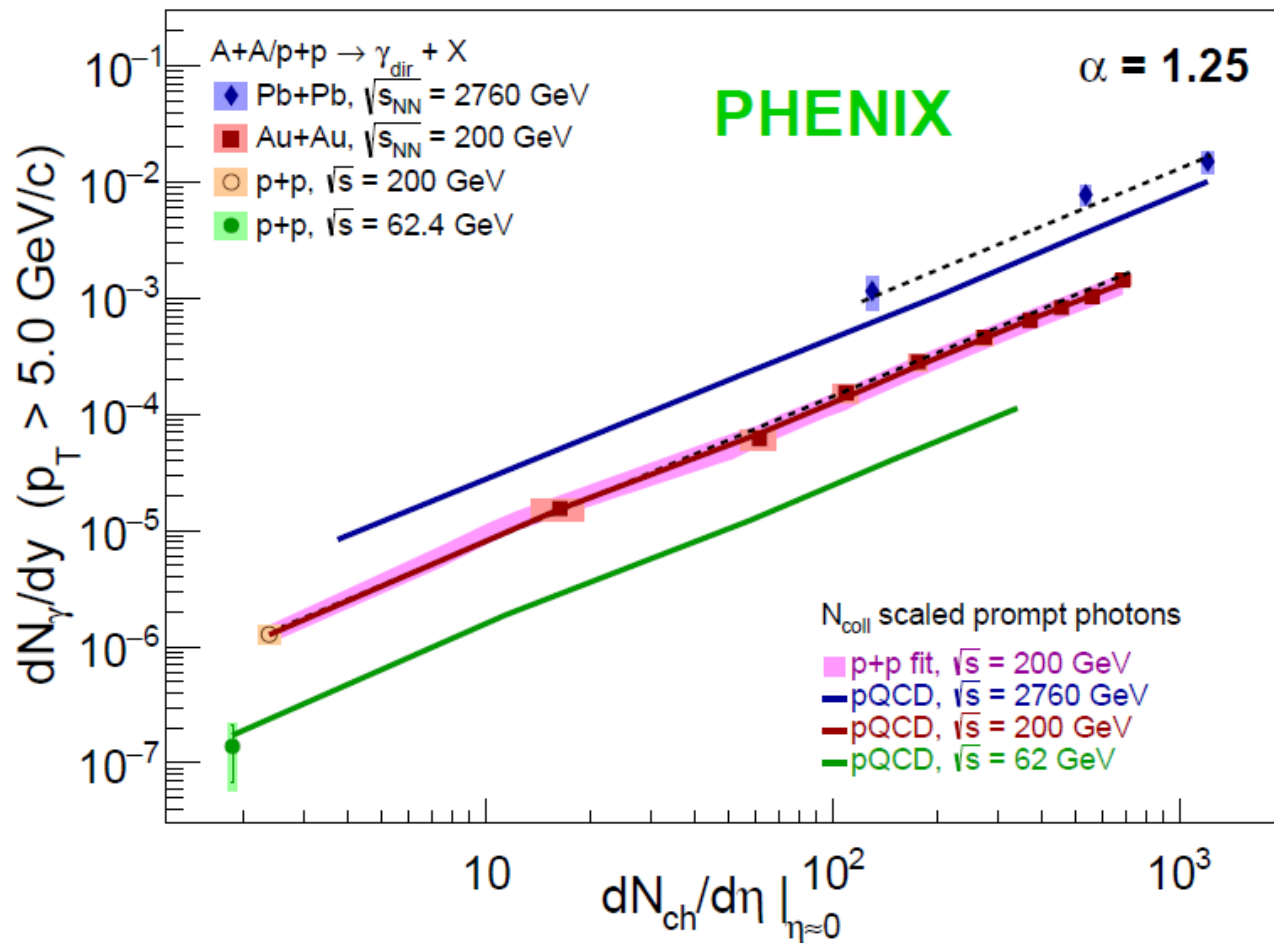
**Universal scaling behavior!**

**Source of thermal photons must be similar!**

**$N_{coll} \times \text{pQCD}$  and  $N_{coll} \times \text{p+p}$  follow same scaling at 0.1 of yield**

# Integrated Photon Yield $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV}/c$

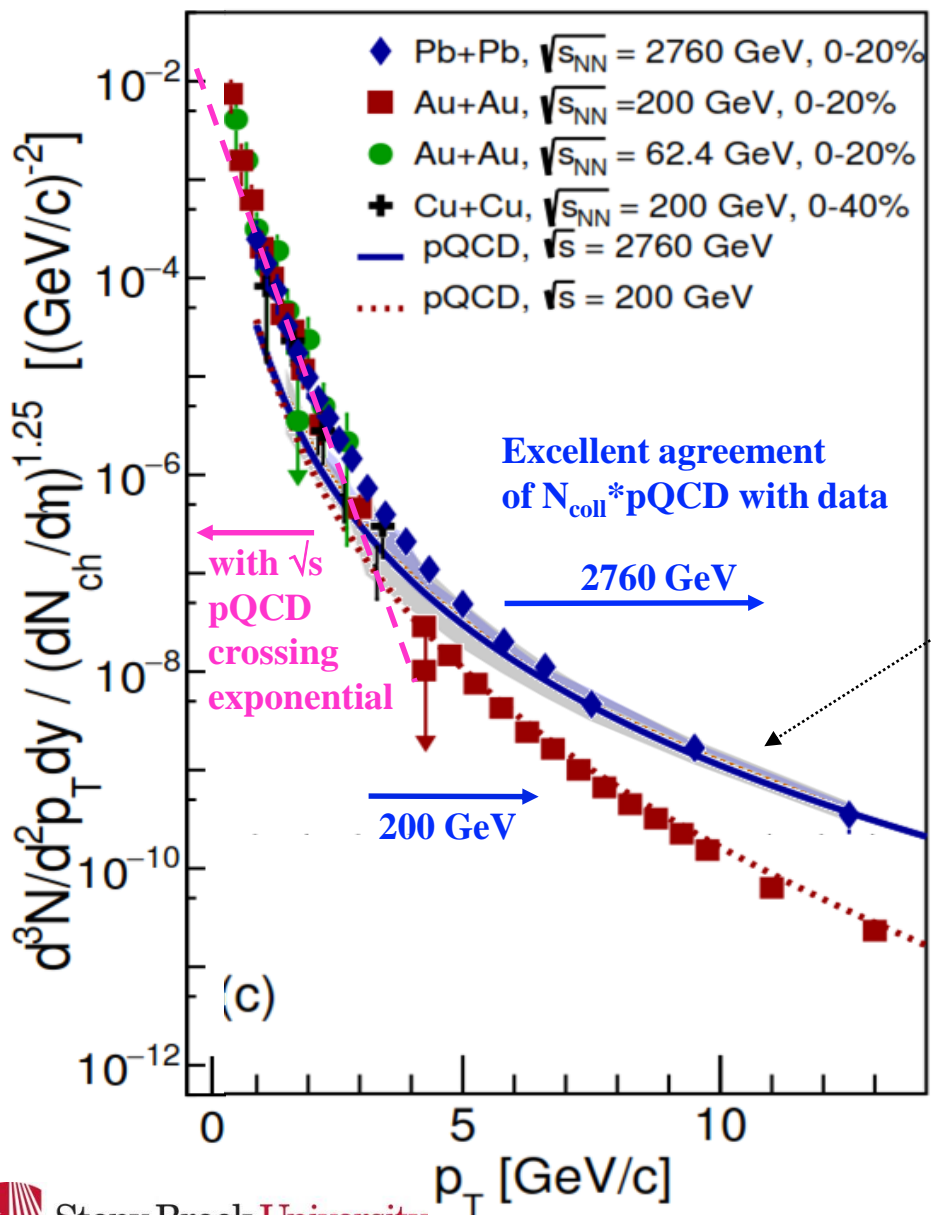
PHENIX: arXiv:1804.04181



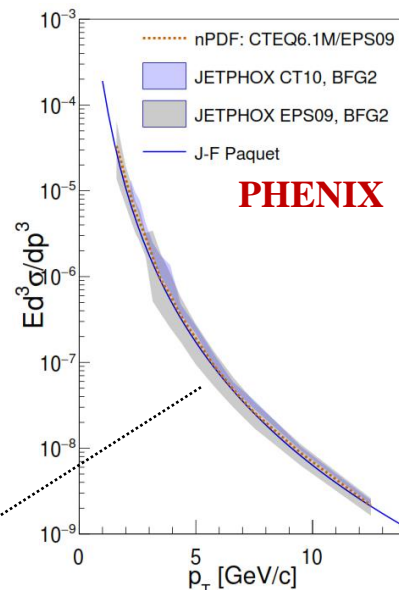
**Au+Au at 200 GeV  
consistent with  
 $N_{\text{coll}} \times p+p$   
and  $N_{\text{coll}} + p\text{QCD}$**

**Pb+Pb same scaling but 30% above  
 $N_{\text{coll}} \times p\text{QCD } p+p$**

# Comment on $p_T > 5$ GeV ALICE data



## Systematic uncertainty of pQCD calculation



- Comparison Data to  $N_{coll} * pQCD$** 
  - Agreement moves higher  $p_T$  with increasing  $\sqrt{s}$
  - Exponential + pQCD would move to lower  $p_T$  with increasing  $\sqrt{s}$
  - Significant if scale uncertainties dominate pQCD uncertainties



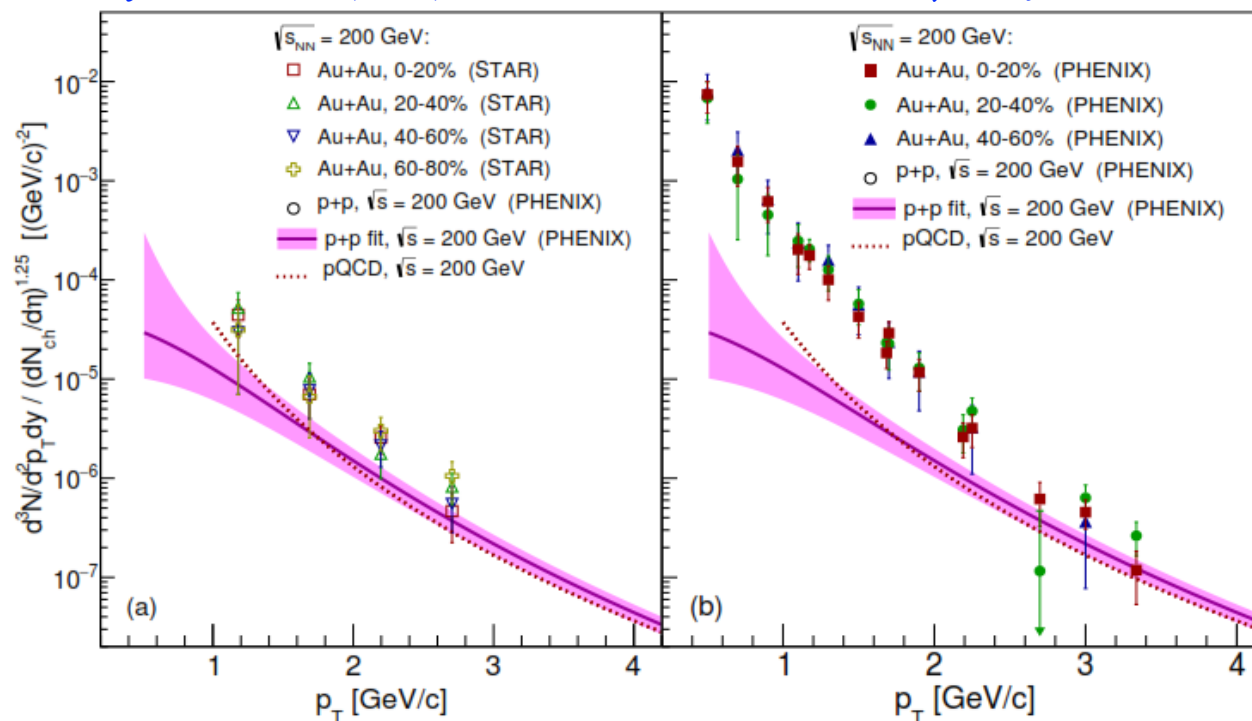


# PHENIX – STAR Direct Photon Comparison

PHENIX  $\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$ : Phys. Rev. C91 (2015) 064904

$\gamma^*$ : Phys. Rev. Lett. 104 (2010) 132301

STAR: Phys. Lett. B770 (2017) 451

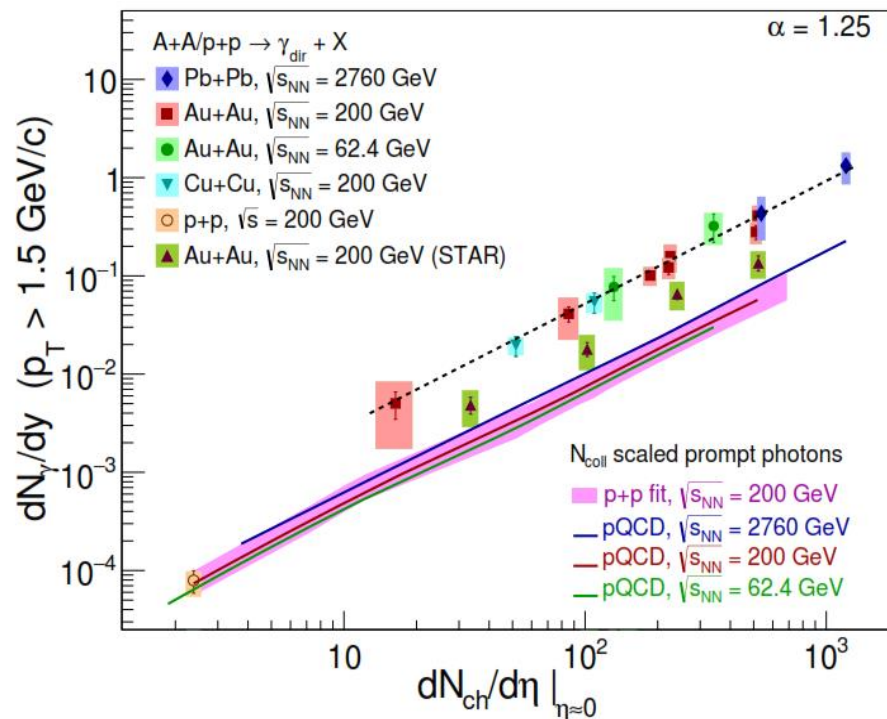
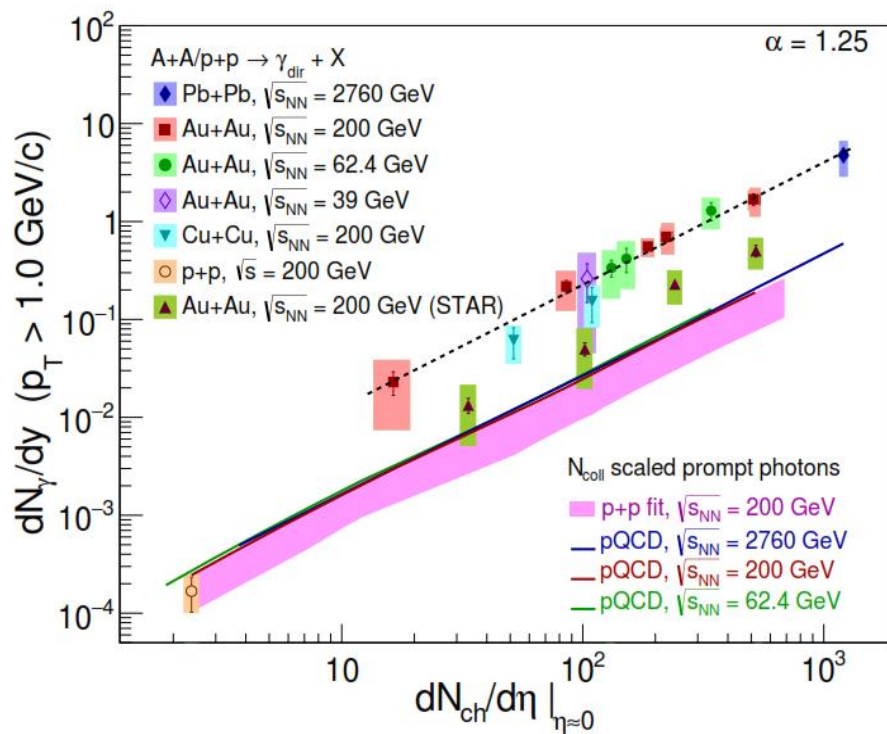


- PHENIX data consistent between independent analyses
- STAR data significantly lower than PHENIX data
  - STAR assume a smaller  $\eta$  yield than PHENIX
  - Using PHENIX  $\eta$  yield will reduce STAR direct photon yield further
- Discrepancy not (yet) resolved



# Direct Photon Centrality Dependence

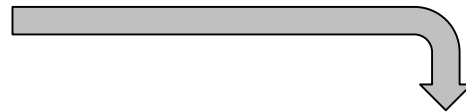
## ● Comparison STAR – PHENIX - ALICE



# Survey of System Size Dependence of Direct Radiation

## ● Direct Photon Data

- PHENIX
- ALICE



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

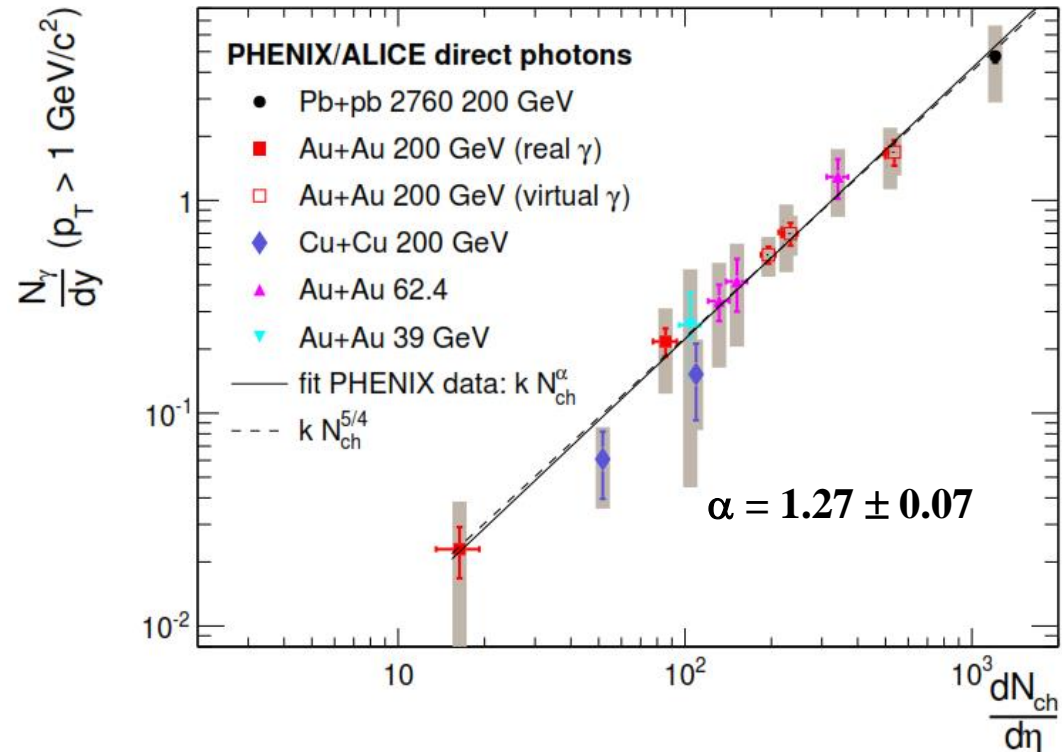
## ● Dilepton Enhancement

- STAR
- CERES
- NA38/NA50
- NA60

Direct photons follow

$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dy} \sim k \left( \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)^{5/4}$$

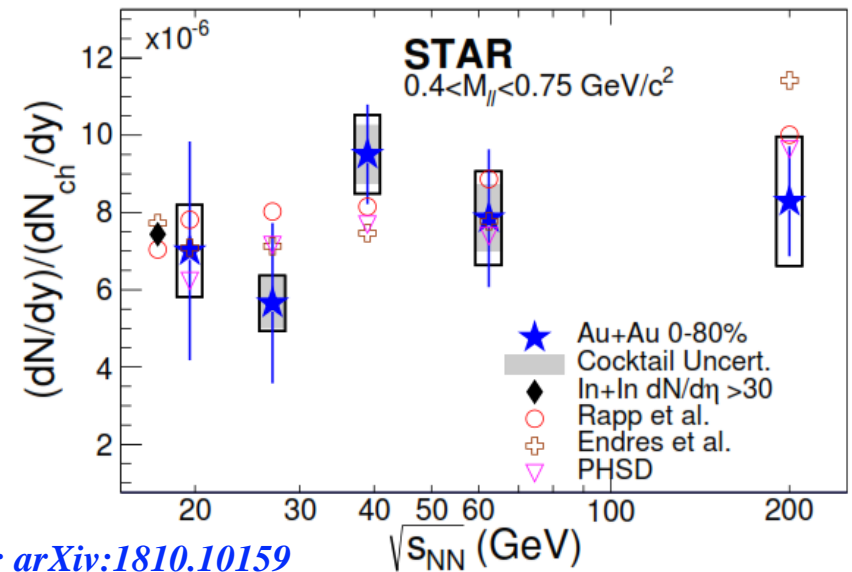
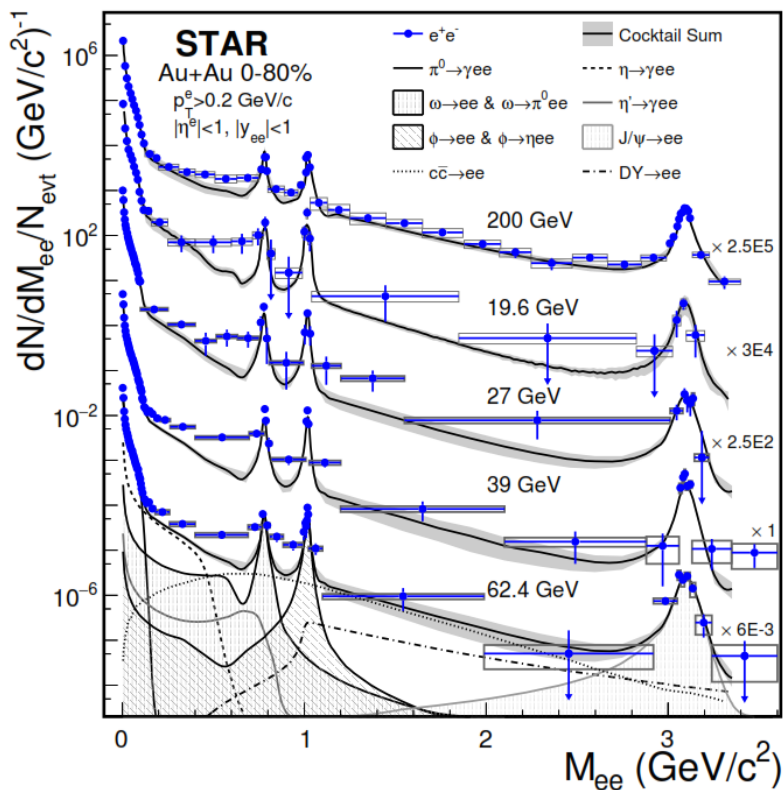
scaling with  $\sqrt{s}$  and centrality



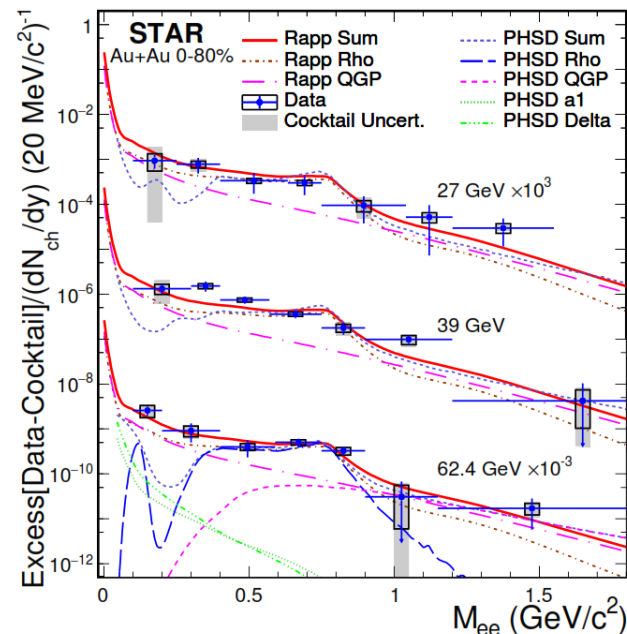
# STAR Dileptons

## Dileptons form beam energy scan

- Au+Au collisions
- $\sqrt{s} = 19.6, 27, 39, 62.4$  and 200 GeV
- Fully corrected dilepton excess
- $\sqrt{s}$  dependence as  $\text{Excess}/\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$

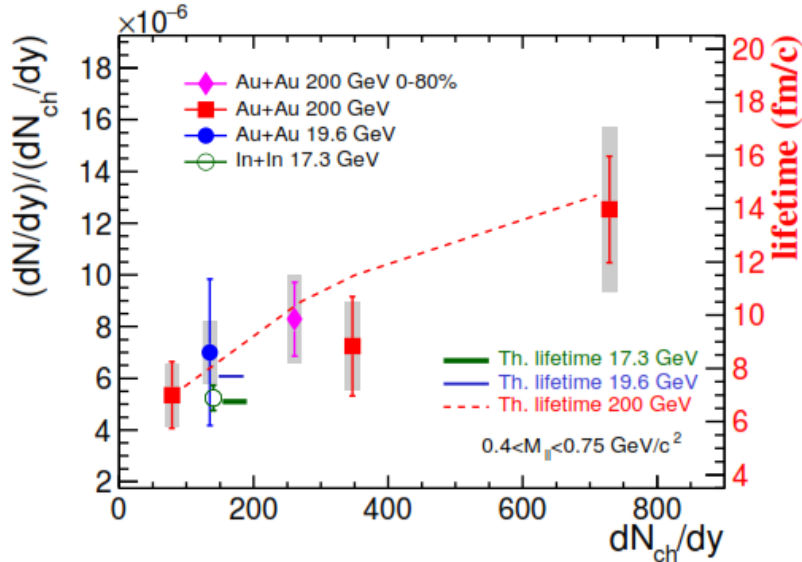


STAR: [arXiv:1810.10159](https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.10159)



# STAR Dileptons

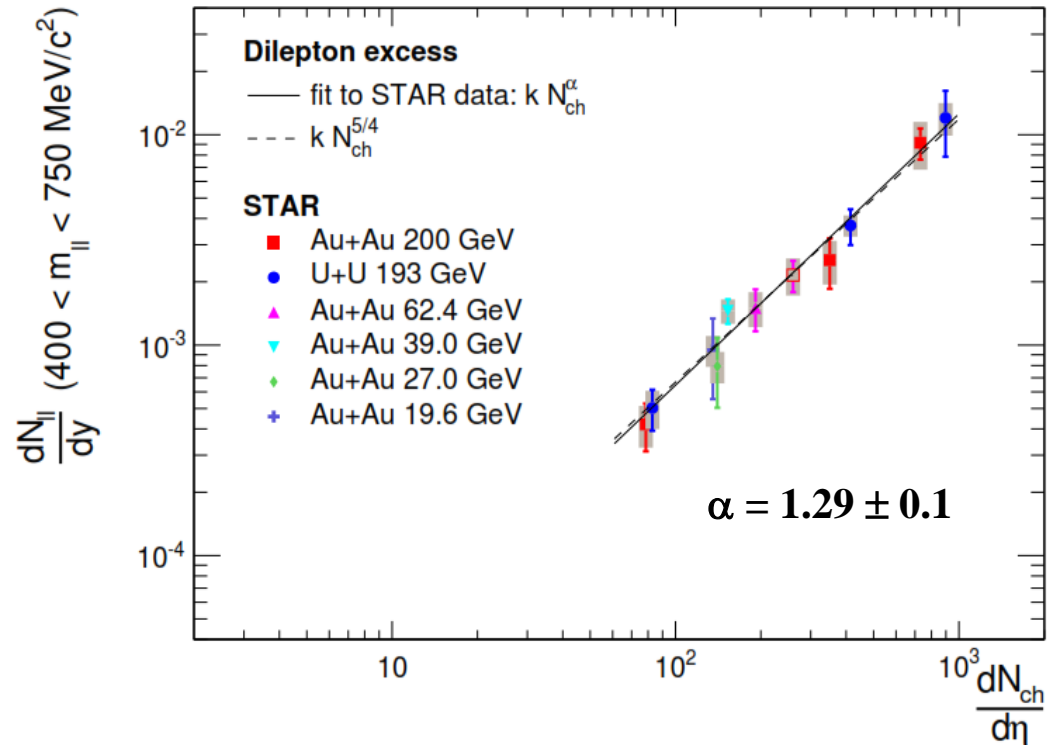
STAR: Phys.Lett. B750 (2015) 64-71



## Dileptons centrality dependence

- Au+Au at 200 GeV
- U+U at 193 GeV

$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{dy} = \left[ \left( \frac{dN_{ll}}{dy} \right) / \left( \frac{N_{ch}}{d\eta} \right) \right] \times \left( \frac{N_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)$$



STAR dileptons follow

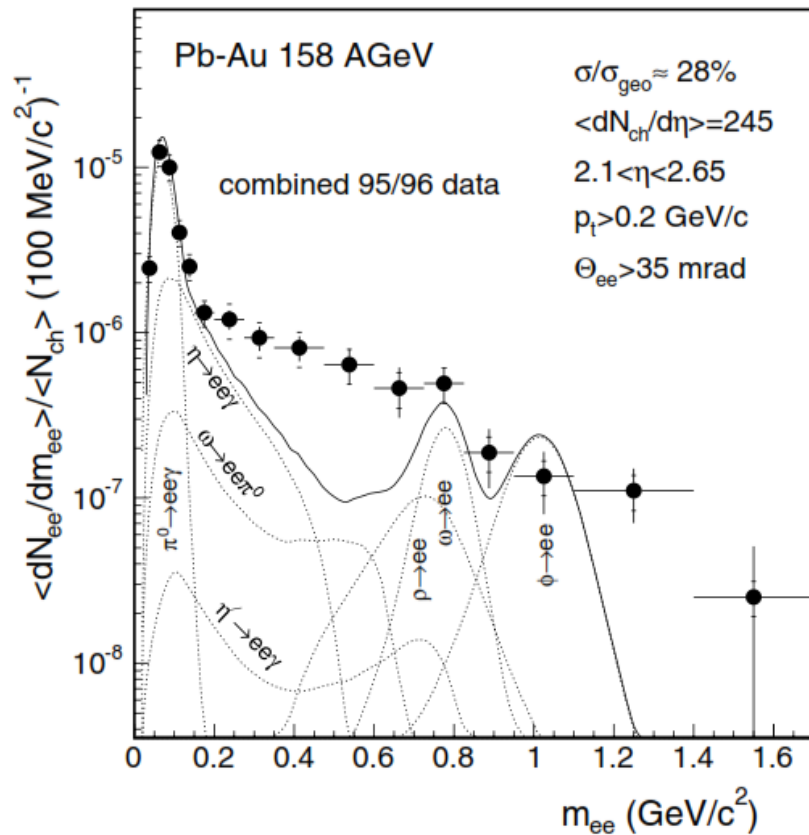
$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{dy} = k \left( \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)^{5/4}$$

scaling with  $\sqrt{s}$  and centrality



# CERES e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> Pair Enhancement

CERES/NA45 *Eur.Phys.J. C41 (2005) 475*



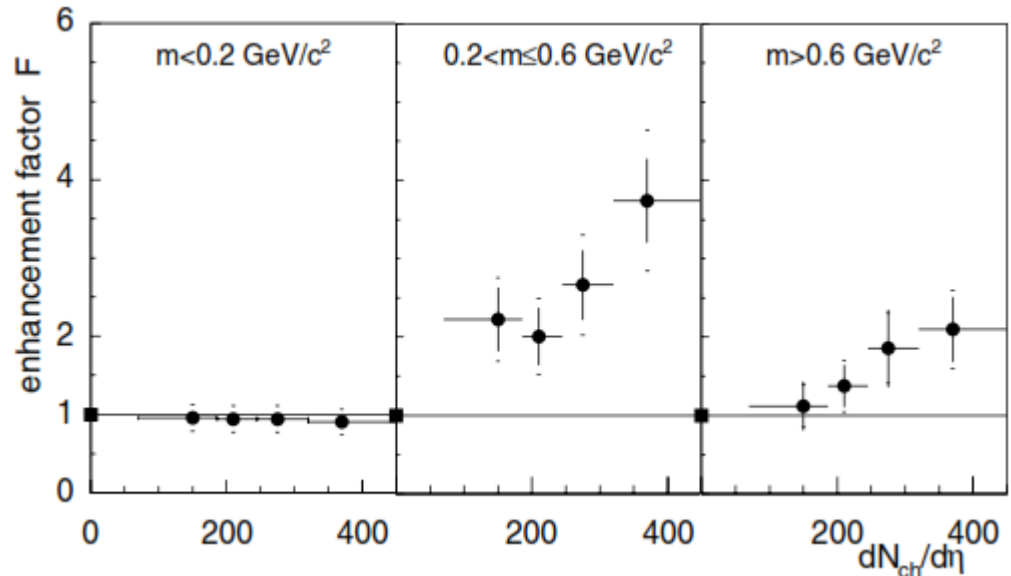
## ● Large low mass e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> pair enhancement

- $0.2 < m < 0.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ :

$$\sum \left( \frac{dN_{ee}}{dm} \right)^{\text{data}} = F \sum \left( \frac{dN_{ee}}{dm} \right)^{\text{cocktail}}$$

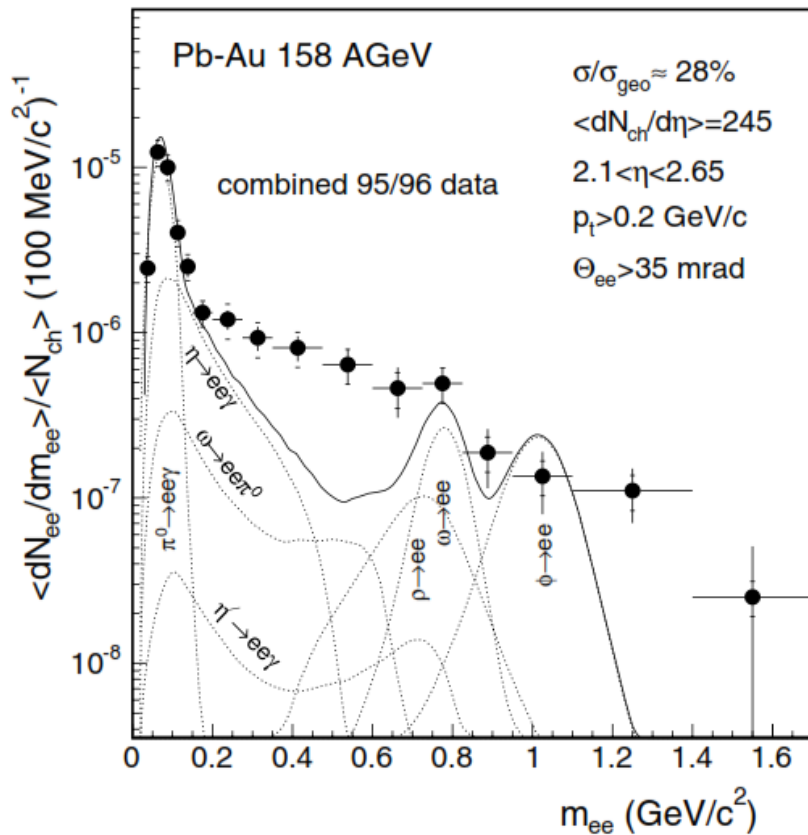
$$F = 2.73 \pm 0.25 \text{ (stat)} \pm 1.0 \text{ (sys)}$$

- $F$  has a significant  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$  dependence



# CERES $e^+e^-$ Pair Enhancement

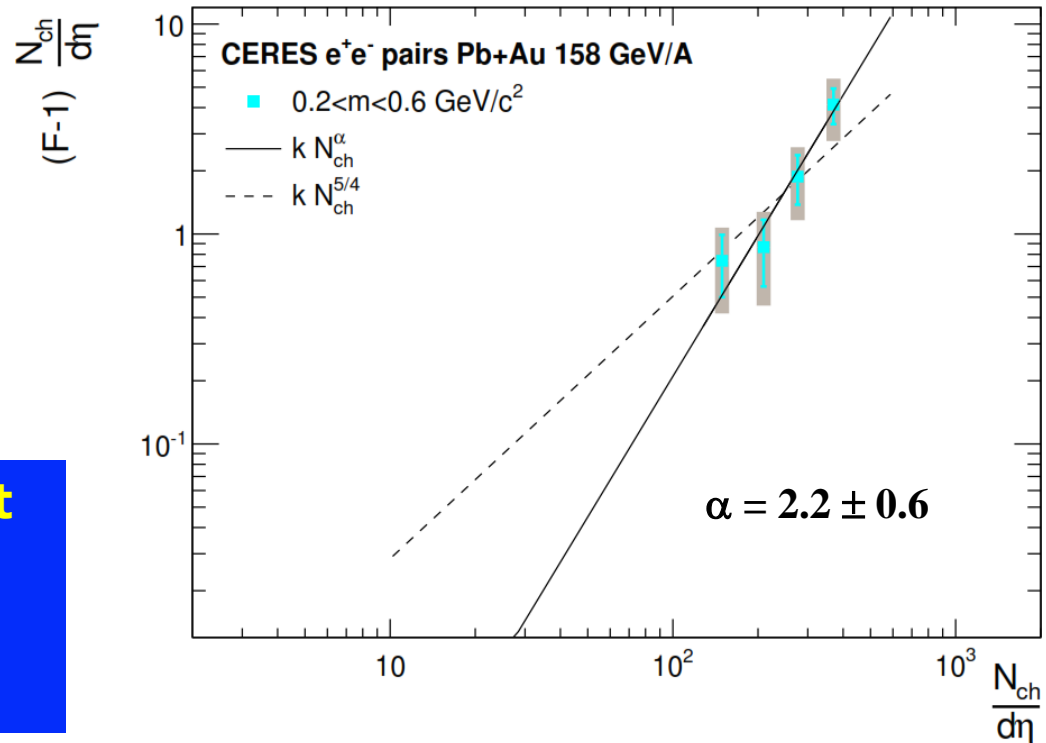
CERES/NA45 *Eur.Phys.J. C41 (2005) 475*



## ● Large low mass $e^+e^-$ pair enhancement

- $0.2 < m < 0.6$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>
- Convert  $F \left( \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)$  to excess yield

$$N_{ee}^{excess} = (F - 1) \frac{N_{ee}^{cocktail}}{\langle N_{ch} \rangle} \propto (F - 1) \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$$



**CERES dileptons consistent**

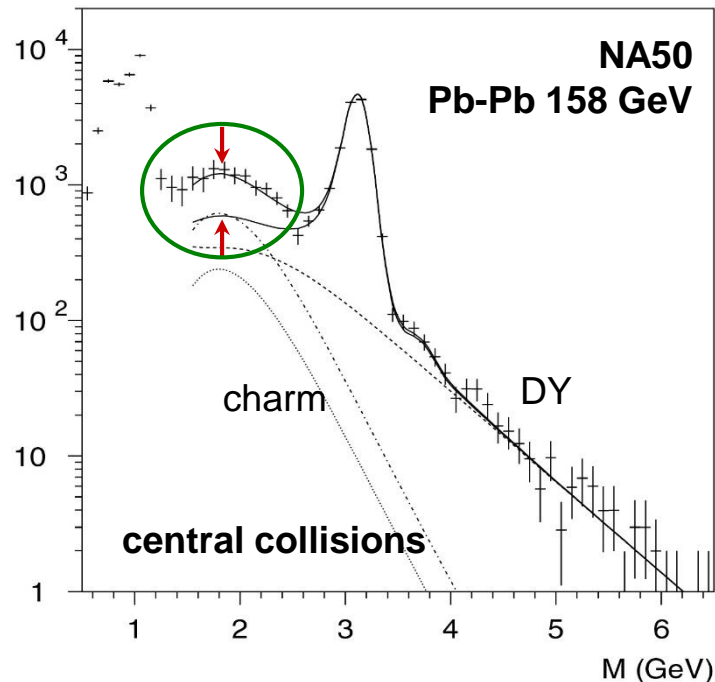
$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{dy} = k \left( \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)^\alpha$$

**with  $\alpha > 5/4$**



# NA35/NA50 Dimuon Enhancement

NA38/NA50 *Eur.Phys.J. C14 (2000) 443*



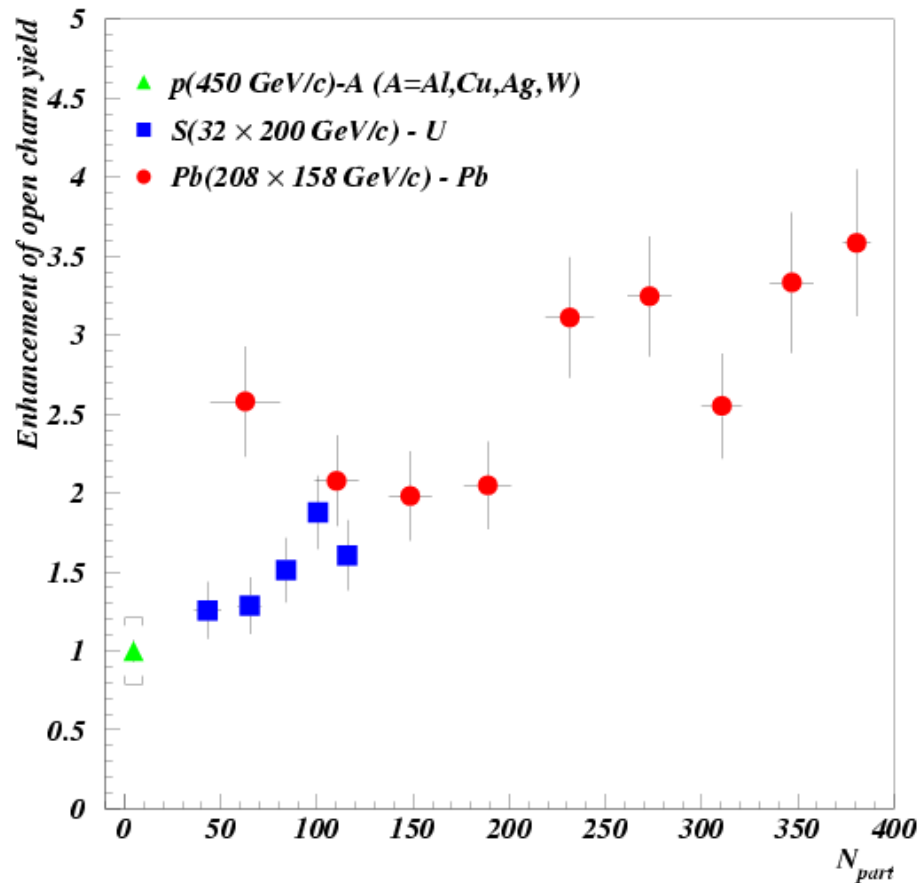
**E : Enhancement of open charm**

$$N_{\mu\mu} = N_{DY} + E N_{DD}^{exp.}$$

$$N_{\mu\mu} = (N_{DY}^{pp} + E N_{DD}^{pp}) N_{coll}$$

## ● Intermediate mass dimuon enhancement

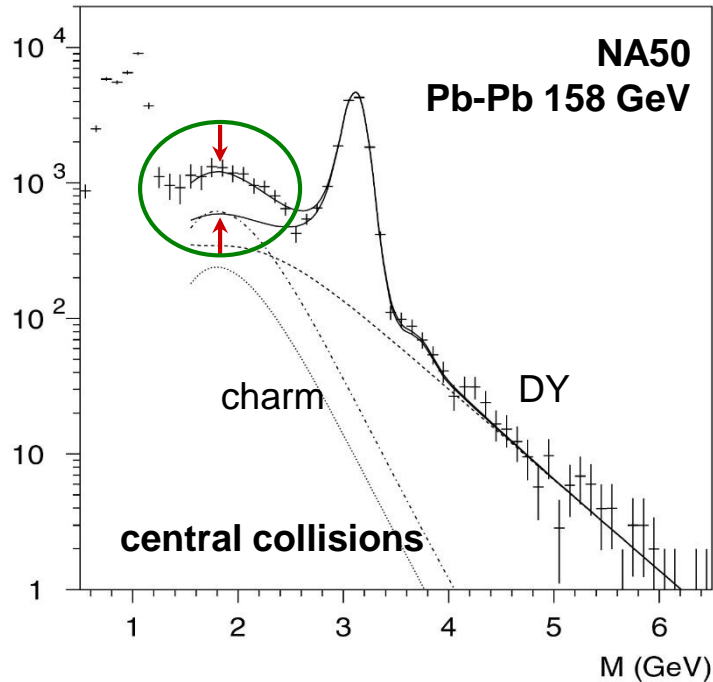
- Discovered by NA38/NA50
- Originally interpreted as charm enhancement
- Established as thermal dimuons from QGP by NA60 using vertex detectors





# NA35/NA50 Dimuon Enhancement

NA38/NA50 *Eur.Phys.J. C14 (2000) 443*



- **Reverse engineer**  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$ 
  - *NA50: PLB 530 (2002) 43:*

$$\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \sim 1.23 N_{part}$$

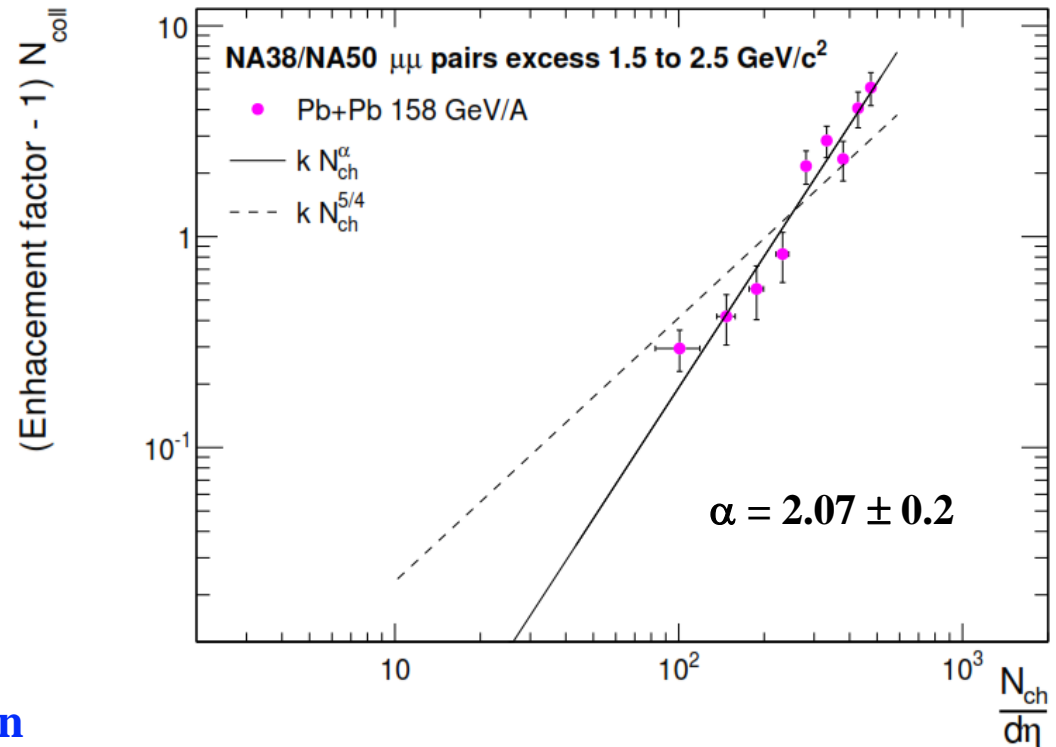
- **Small non linear correction**

- **Intermediate mass dimuon enhancement**

- **Assume: Enhancement - 1 ~ Direct Yield**

$$N_{thermal} = (E - 1) N_{DD}^{pp} N_{coll}$$

- **Assume  $\epsilon \times A$  independent of source**

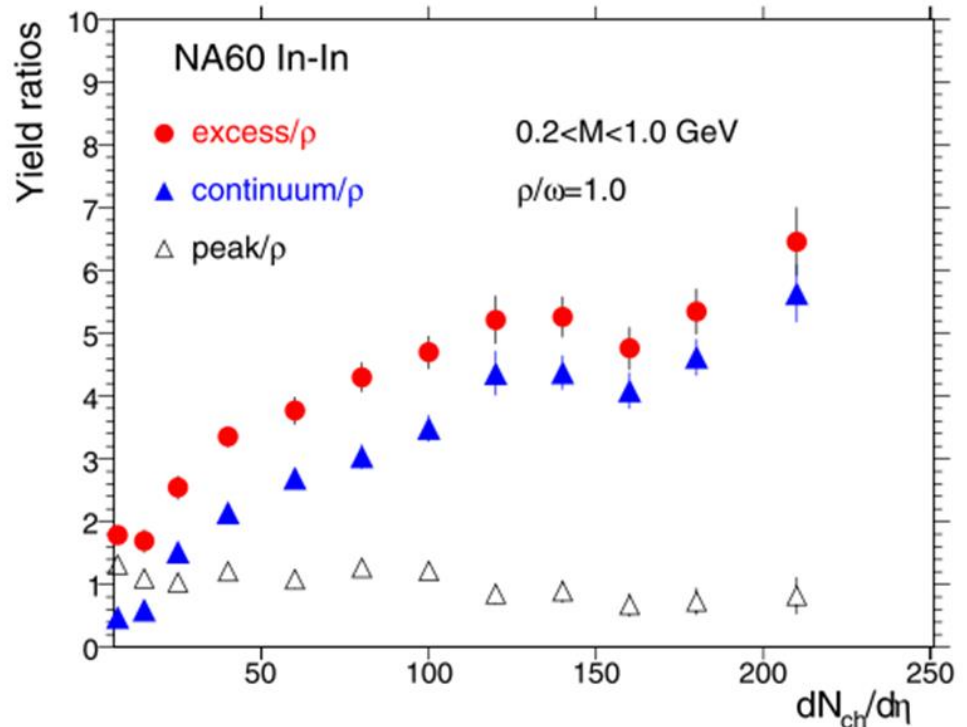
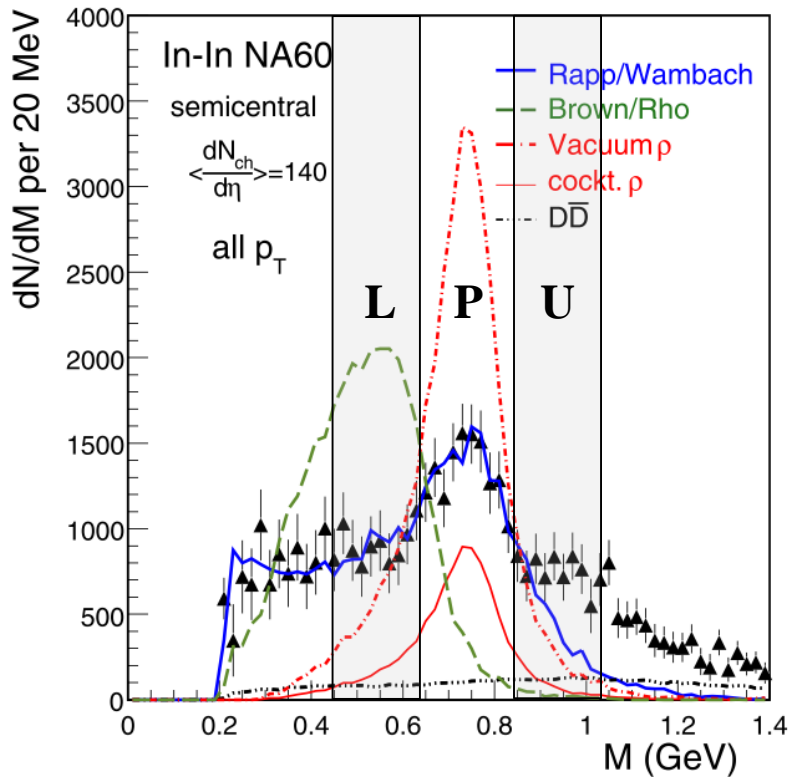


# NA60 Excess Dimuons

NA60: *Eur.Phys.J. C61 (2009) 711*

## ● Dimuon excess – uncorrected for acceptance

- Isolate  $\rho$ -peak and continuum region using side bands
- Normalize to expected  $\rho$  yield ( $\propto dN_{ch}/d\eta$ )

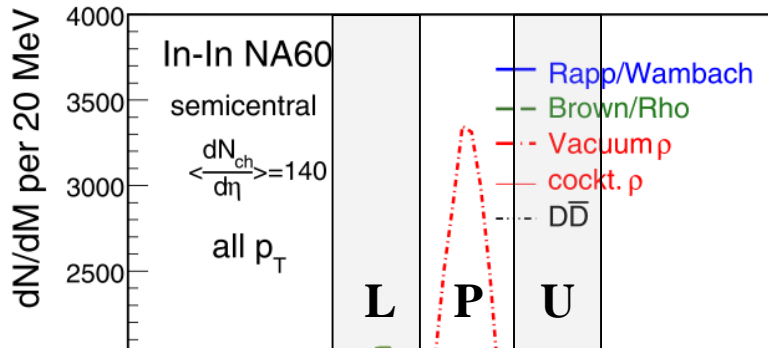


# NA60 Excess Dimuons

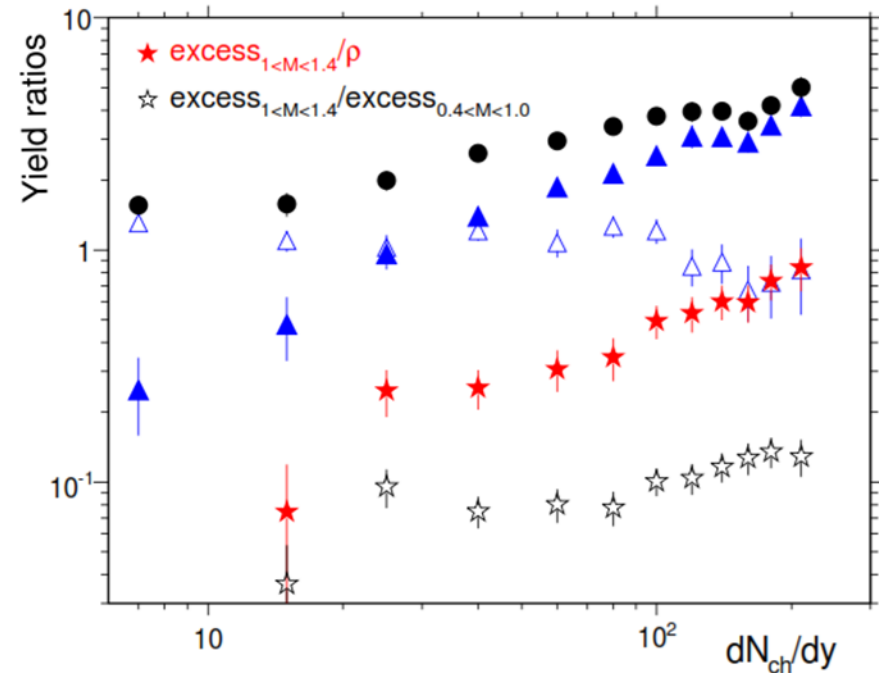
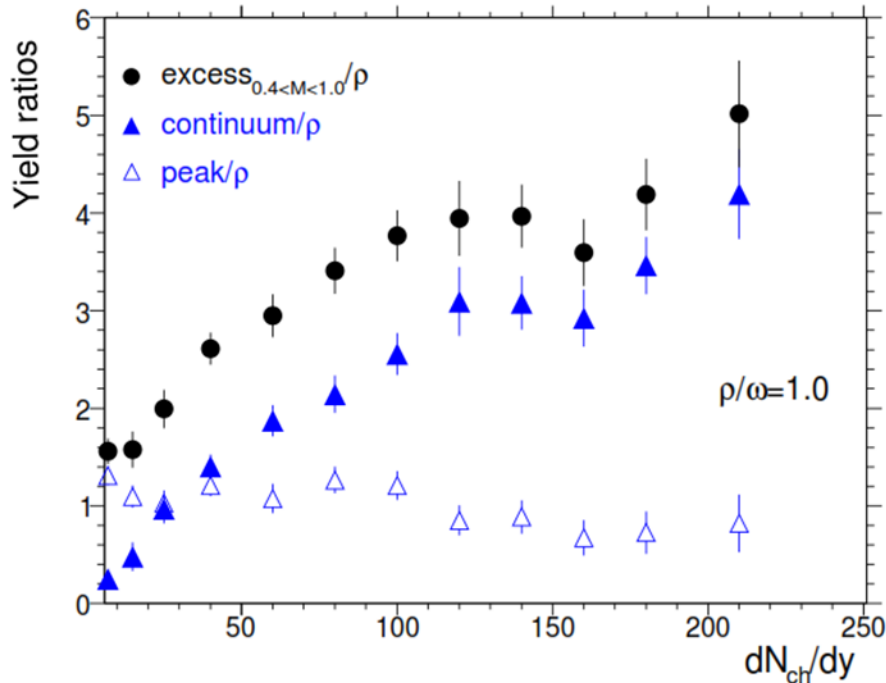
NA60: *Eur.Phys.J. C61 (2009) 711*

## ● Dimuon excess – uncorrected for acceptance

- Isolate  $\rho$ -peak and continuum region using side bands
- Normalize to expected  $\rho$  yield ( $\propto dN_{ch}/d\eta$ )



NA60 (QM2008): *J.Phys. G35 (2008) 104036*



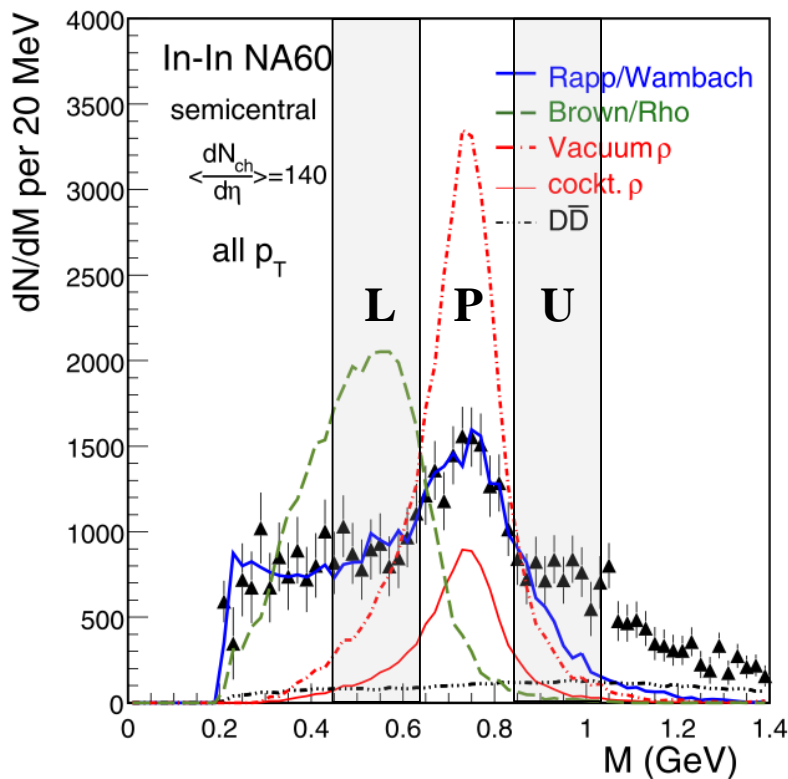
# NA60 Excess Dimuons

NA60: *Eur.Phys. J. C* 61 (2009) 711

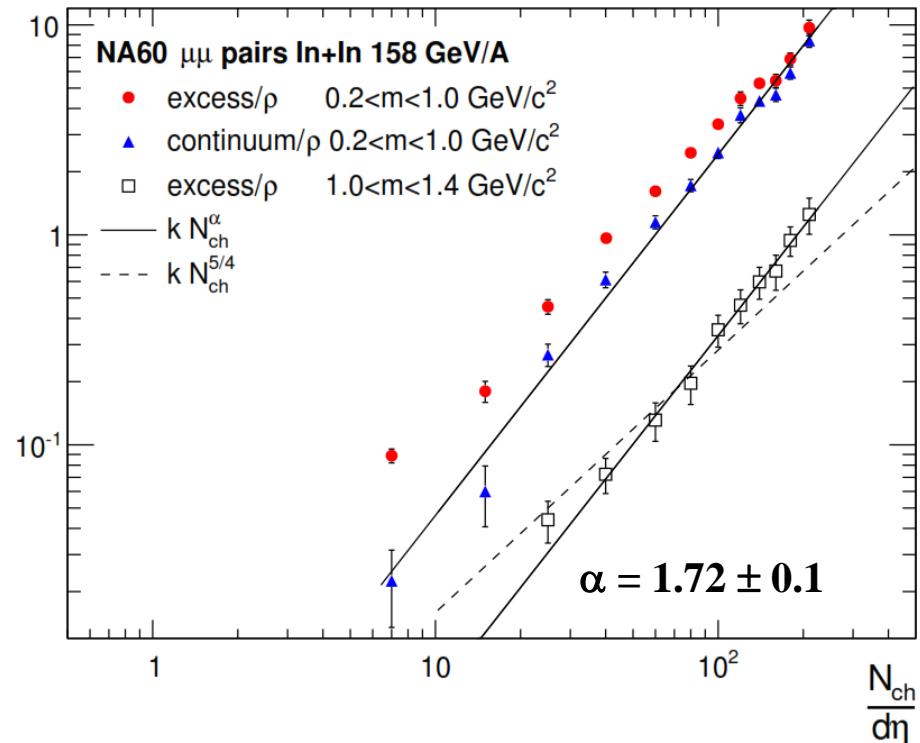
## ● Dimuon excess – uncorrected for acceptance

- Isolate  $\rho$ -peak and continuum region using side bands
- Normalize to expected  $\rho$  yield ( $\propto dN_{ch}/d\eta$ )

$$N_{thermal} = \frac{excess}{\rho} \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$$



Yield ratios  $\cdot \frac{N_{ch}}{d\eta}$



**NA60 dileptons consistent**

$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{dy} = k \left( \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)^\alpha$$

**with  $\alpha > 5/4$**



# Compilation of SPS Results

## ● Dilepton Continuum Excess at SPS

- NA60, NA50, CERES data give consistent picture
- Common Centrality Dependence above and below  $\rho$  meson

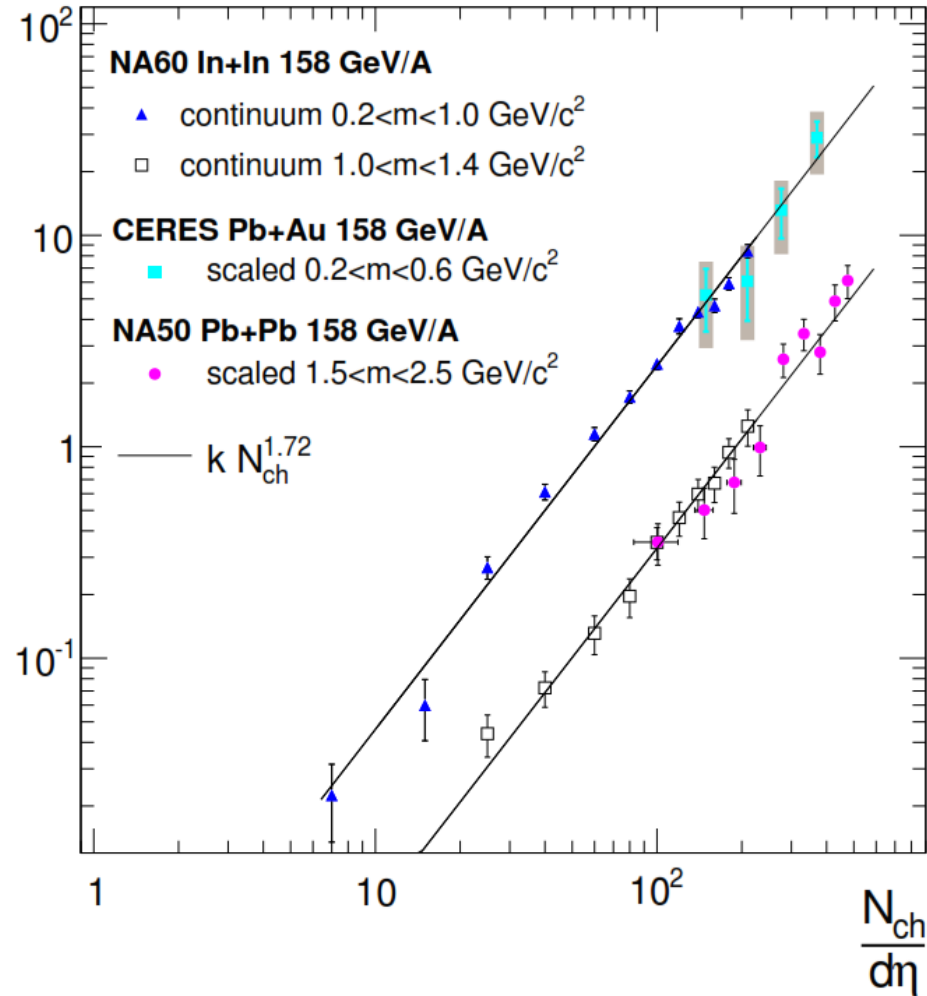
$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{dy} = k \left( \frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \right)^\alpha$$

$$\alpha \sim 1.72$$

- Possible substructure

**Centrality dependence at SPS similar but different from  $\sqrt{s}$  and centrality dependence at higher energies**

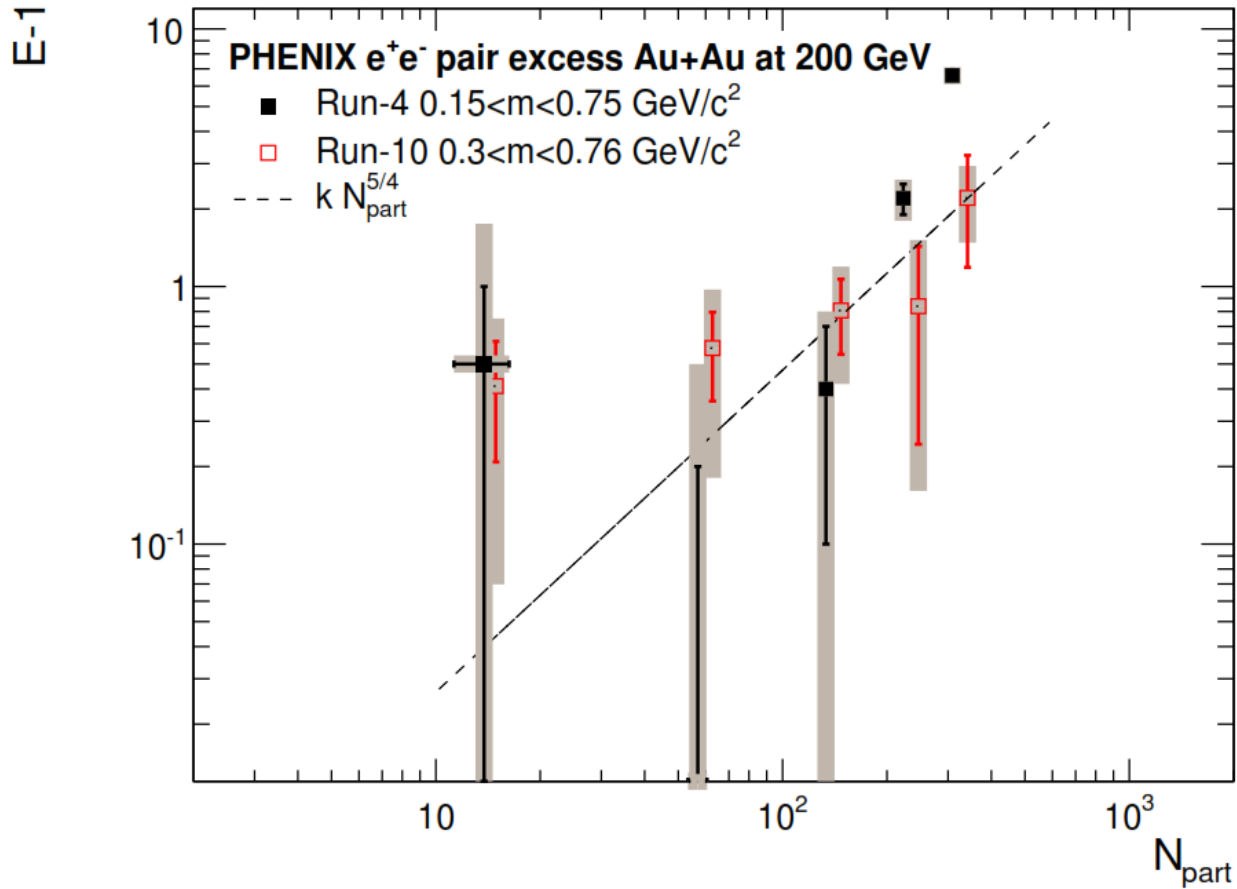
Dilepton Excess Yield



# Backup

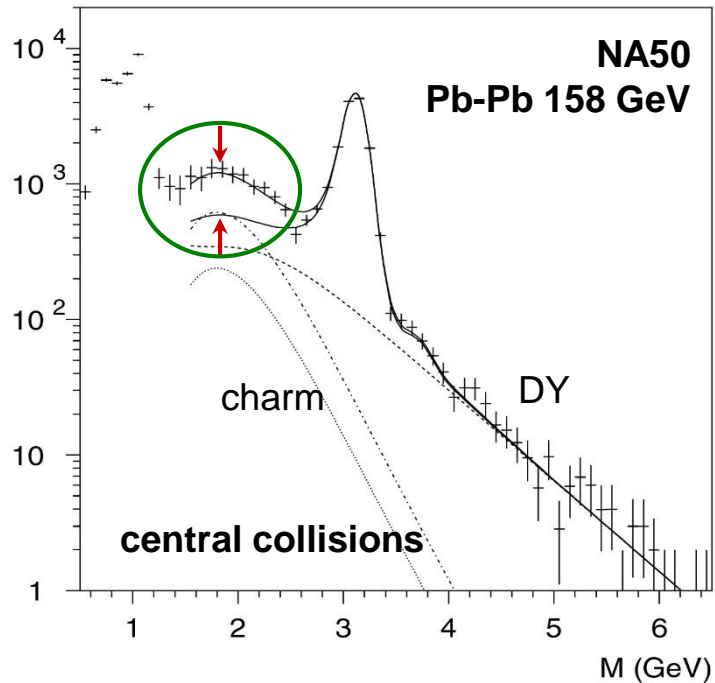
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# PHENIX Dileptons



# NA35/NA50 Dimuon Enhancement

NA38/NA50 *Eur.Phys.J. C14 (2000) 443*



● Reverse engineer  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$

● NA50: *PLB 530 (2002) 43*:

$$\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \sim 1.23 N_{part}$$

● Small non linear correction

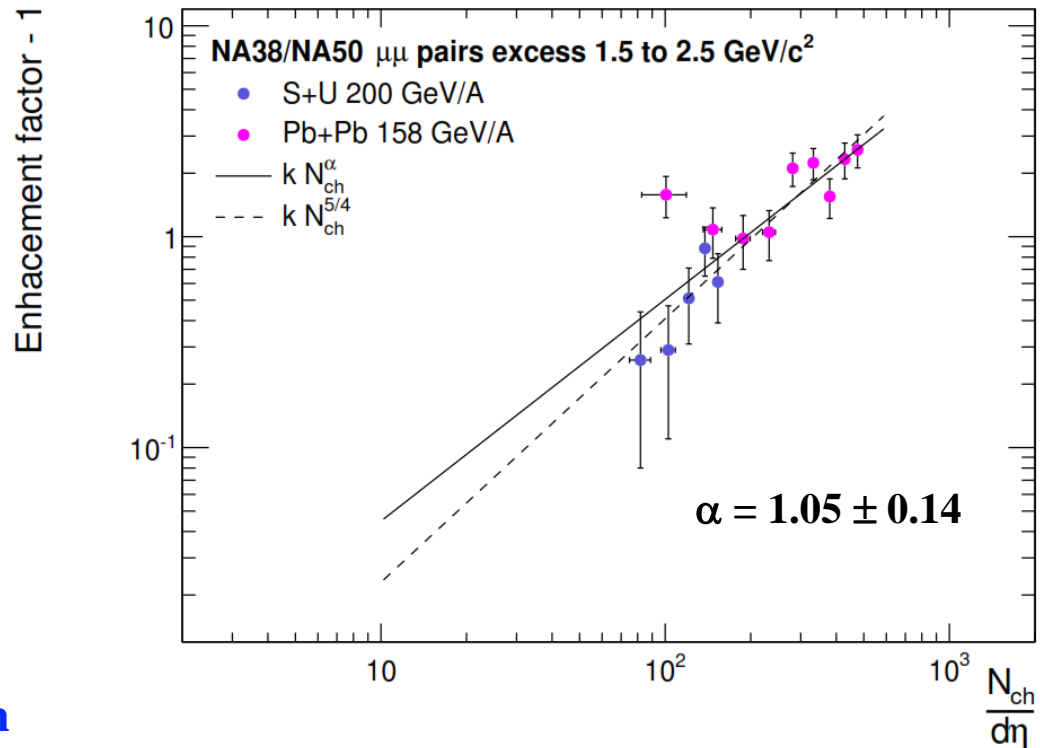
● Intermediate mass dimuon enhancement

● Assume: Enhancement - 1 ~ Direct Yield

$$N_{thermal} = (E - 1) N_{DD}^{exp.}$$

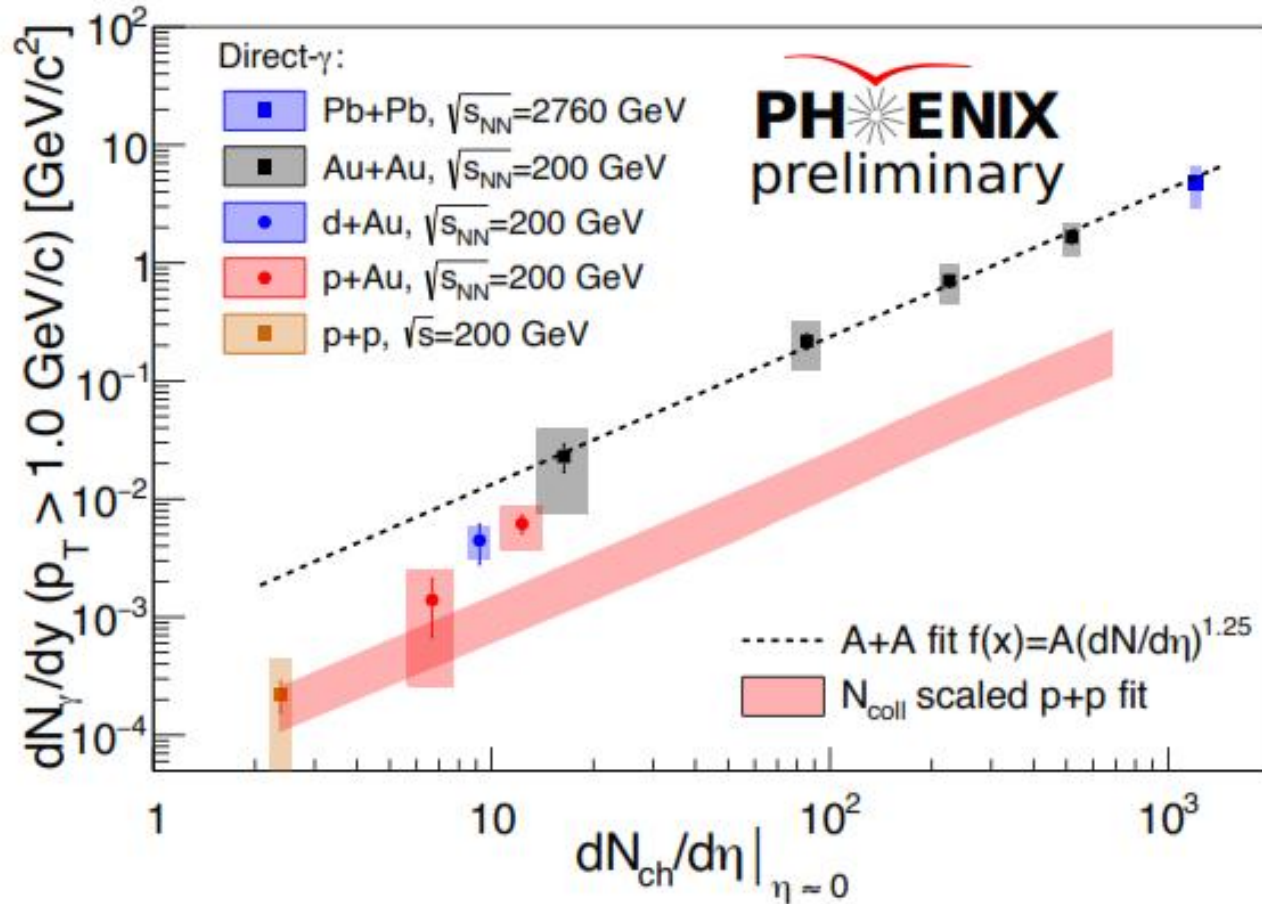
● Not corrected for  $N_{coll}$

● Assume  $\epsilon \times A$  independent of source





# First Results From p/d-Au Collisions



**Onset of thermal radiation at  $\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta} \sim 10$ ?**  
**First evidence for threshold of QGP production!**