## Quark Matter 2012



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## Virtual photons and rare strange probes in resonance matter

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The HADES experiment, installed at the Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung (GSI) accelerator facility in Darmstadt,

investigates dielectron emission and strangeness production in various collision systems (p+p, p+n, p+A and A+A) in the 1-3.5 AGeV regime.

The observed low-mass dielectron and  $\Xi$ - enhancement in intermediate heavy-ion collisions indicates the onset of medium effects, on the one hand, and underlines the importance of a solid knowledge of contributions of baryon resonances on the other hand.

The latter turned out to be of eminent importance for the interpretation of the spectral shape of the  $\rho$  meson already in elementary data and moreover for the extraction of additional medium effects in p+A and A+A collisions. Such a knowledge is gained by the analysis of exclusive hadronic channels in elementary reactions. In this contribution, we summarize the findings of HADES and implications, with a special emphasis on the baryon resonance contributions.

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