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## Thermal photons and dileptons - successes, status, urgency

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While experimentally very demanding, thermal (low  $p_T$ ) photons and dileptons offer unique, direct access to the medium formed in heavy ion collisions, its size, temperature, lifetime, viscosity and other properties. Higher  $p_T$  jet-medium photons can serve as a control (complementary) probe. On the other hand these measurements are very involved and the interpretation of the results is challenging. We'll present a brief survey of past successes and current status, then assess the future need and realistic possibilities of thermal photon and dilepton measurements in heavy ion collisions.

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