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Direct Photon Production at Low Transverse Momentum Measured in PHENIX

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The PHENIX experiment discovered a large excess of low-pT direct photons in Au+Au collisions at 200 GeV compared to reference p+p collisions, which has been attributed to thermal radiation from the medium produced in the collisions. At the same time the excess photons show a large azimuthal anisotropy, expressed as Fourier coefficients v2 and v3. These surprising results have not yet been fully described by theoretical models. PHENIX has developed a new technique to identify conversion photons without assuming the radius where the conversion happened. This method greatly increases the avaliable statistics and reduces systematic uncertainties. We will present the current status of the analysis of low momentum direct photons converted on the layers of the VTX detector in the 2014 Au+Au dataset, a major improvement over previously published results.

Summary

Presentation type

Oral

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