Measurements of dielectron production in Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 27$ and $54.4$ GeV with the STAR experiment

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Dielectron production

Dielectrons – an excellent probe
- Minimal interaction with the medium
- Carries information from the initial stage to the final stage of a collision

Different physics of interest
- Low Mass Region (LMR, $M_{ee} < M_{\phi}$)
  - Vector meson in-medium modifications
  - Possible link to chiral symmetry restoration
- Intermediate mass region (IMR, $M_{\phi} < M_{ee} < M_{J/\psi}$)
  - QGP thermal radiation is predicted as a QGP thermometer

Rapp: PoS CPOD2013, 008 (2013)
PHSD: Phys. Rev. C 85, 024910 (2012);
The STAR experiment

Key detectors used in this analysis

**Time Projection Chamber**
- Acceptance: $| \eta | < 1, \ 0 < \phi < 2\pi$
- Tracking, particle momenta, eID

**Time of Flight**
- Acceptance: $| \eta | < 0.9, \ 0 < \phi < 2\pi$
- Rejection of slow hadrons
- Improve electron purity

**Dataset**
- New datasets are ~10 times larger than that in the $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27,39$ and $62.4$ GeV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Energy</th>
<th>Used events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27 GeV</td>
<td>500M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>54.4 GeV</td>
<td>875M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>27 GeV</td>
<td>68M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>39 GeV</td>
<td>132M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>62.4 GeV</td>
<td>62M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
\( \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27, 39 \) and 62.4 GeV dielectron result

Data / Cocktail ratio in STAR acceptance

- \( \omega \) and \( \phi \) are subtracted from the data and the cocktail
- Theory calculations including in-medium broadened \( \rho \) and thermal radiation are compared with data
- The model by Rapp et al. is an effective many-body calculation for vector mesons where the \( \rho \) spectral function is modified (broadened)
- The model by Endres et al. is a coarse-grained transport approach that includes the \( \rho \) spectral function
- PHSD is a microscopic transport model which includes the collisional broadening of the \( \rho \).

Higher precision measurements now possible with new datasets at \( \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27 \) and 54.4 GeV

- Factor ~10 more data compared to \( \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27, 39 \) and 62.4 GeV measurement


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Cocktail in 27 and 54.4 GeV analysis

Cocktails in QM 2019

- $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ GeV cocktail is taken from the analysis of 2011 $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ GeV data
- $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 54.4$ GeV charm component is taken from analysis of 2010 $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 62.4$ GeV data
  charm component and scaled by the ratio of charm cross section and $N_{bin}$ at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 54.4$ GeV to 62.4 GeV
- Drell-Yan contribution was not included in $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ and 54.4 GeV QM19 cocktails

Charm cross-section and scale method

Charm cross section

- The charm cross sections at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ and 54.4 GeV are extrapolated from worldwide data.
- The perturbative QCD leading-order plus next-to-leading logarithms upper-limit was used to fit the world-wide measurements of $\sigma_{NN}$ in order to determine the input charm production cross section.

Charm scale method

- Charm semi-leptonic decay in p+p collisions is scaled by equation (1) to match the Au+Au collisions.

$$\frac{1}{N} \frac{dN}{dM} = \frac{1}{n_{\text{charm}}} \frac{dN}{dM}^{pp} \frac{\sigma_{cc}}{\sigma_{mb}} N_{\text{bin}} BR_{c\to e^+} BR_{\bar{c}\to e^-} \quad (1)$$

- In STAR $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27,39$ and 62.4 GeV analyses, the number of PYTHIA events with 1 c string and 1 $\bar{c}$ string events is used as the number of charm ($N_{2\text{CString}}$ method)
- In STAR $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV paper, the number of PYTHIA events with at least 1 c or $\bar{c}$ is used as the number of charm ($N_{\text{inclusive}}$ method)

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Comparison of two scale method

STAR p+p at \( \sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV} \) was used to see if the cross-section from PYTHIA is consistent with experimental data. 

- Charm component scaled with \( N_{\text{inclusive}} \) method is consistent with charm component measured in pp collisions (STAR Run12).
- Charm component scaled with \( N_{2\text{CString}} \) method is \(~1.4\) factor higher than charm component measured in pp collisions (STAR Run12).
- \( N_{\text{inclusive}} \) method is the correct way to scale charm component.
- The charm component in both \( \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 54.4 \) and \( 27 \text{ GeV} \) will be scaled by \( N_{\text{inclusive}} \) method.
Drell-Yan component

- Drell-Yan component becomes similar order of magnitude with charm component at lower energy in the intermediate mass region
- Drell-Yan cross-section has been measured at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 17.3$ GeV in Pb+Pb collisions by NA50 experiment. This cross section is used as an approximation of $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 19.6$ GeV Drell-Yan cross section
- $\sigma_{DY}$ was taken from PYTHIA and was corrected by the ratio of the cross-section used in STAR 19.6 GeV dielectron measurement to the corresponding PYTHIA cross-section at 19.6 GeV

\[ \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 54.4 \text{ GeV} \quad \sigma_{DY} = \sigma_{DY \ 54.4 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{PYTHIA}} \times \frac{\sigma_{DY \ 19.6 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{Paper}}}{\sigma_{DY \ 19.6 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{PYTHIA}}} = 19.25 \text{ nb} \]

\[ \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27 \text{ GeV} \quad \sigma_{DY} = \sigma_{DY \ 27 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{PYTHIA}} \times \frac{\sigma_{DY \ 19.6 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{Paper}}}{\sigma_{DY \ 19.6 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{PYTHIA}}} = 12.7 \text{ nb} \]

\[ \sigma_{DY \ 54.4 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{PYTHIA}} = 26.19 \text{ nb} \]

\[ \sigma_{DY \ 27 \text{ GeV}}^{\text{PYTHIA}} = 17.27 \text{ nb} \]
27 GeV efficiency corrected spectra

Charm component with $N_{\text{inclusive}}$ scale method and Drell-Yan component added in cocktail

2018 $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 27$ GeV : ~ 10x improved statistics compared to 2011 $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 27$ GeV data

- New result is consistent with result from 2011 $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 27$ GeV data within uncertainties
- A hint of excess in the intermediate mass region at 1.6$\sigma$ level
- The Rapp model overestimates the data
- $p_T$ and centrality differential analysis is ongoing

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54.4 GeV efficiency corrected spectra

Charm component with $N_{\text{inclusive}}$ scale method and Drell-Yan component added in cocktail

$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 54.4$ GeV : first dielectron measurement at this energy, cocktail updated

- A hint of excess in the intermediate mass region 1.8$\sigma$ level
- The Rapp model overestimates the data
- $p_T$ and centrality differential analysis is ongoing

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Dielectron measurement with STAR BES-II program

- Measurement of dielectron spectra between $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7$ GeV and 19.6 GeV will be possible with STAR BES-II data

- Enhanced tracking and particle identification capabilities with iTPC and eTOF upgrades
  - Extend $\eta$ acceptance from 1.0 to 1.5

Plot: STAR, F. Seck, QM 2019

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Summary and outlook

New measurements at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ and 54.4 GeV:
- Enough statistics for differential measurements vs $p_T$, centrality, etc.
- Rapp theory calculation overestimates in low mass region
- A hint of excess in the intermediate mass region can be observed in both $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 27$ and 54.4 GeV measurements

BES-II Program:
- Systematically study energy dependence of low mass region excess $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 7.7$ and 19.6 GeV
- Reduced charm cross section enhances sensitivity to thermal radiation in the intermediate mass region

Thanks for your attention!
Comparison Run11 and Run18 27 GeV result

STAR Preliminary
Open charm and Drell-Yan contributions at 17.3 GeV In–In collisions.


**Drell-Yan cross-section scale factor**

\[ \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 17.3 \text{ GeV} \quad \sigma_{DY}^{NA50} = 9.88 \text{nb} \]

\[ \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 19.6 \text{ GeV} \quad \sigma_{DY}^{Pythia} = 13.44 \text{nb} \]

Correct factor: \[
\frac{\sigma_{DY}^{NA50}}{\sigma_{DY}^{Pythia}}
\]

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**Fig. 4.3** Acceptance-corrected mass spectra of all three contributions to the IMR spectrum: Drell–Yan, open charm and the excess (triangles). The data are integrated over centrality.