

Charm dynamics in heavy-ion collisions

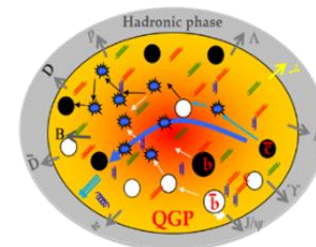
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30 July 2020
(Online)



Motivation

The goal: study of the properties of hot and dense nuclear and partonic matter by **'charm probes'** (or heavy quark probes)

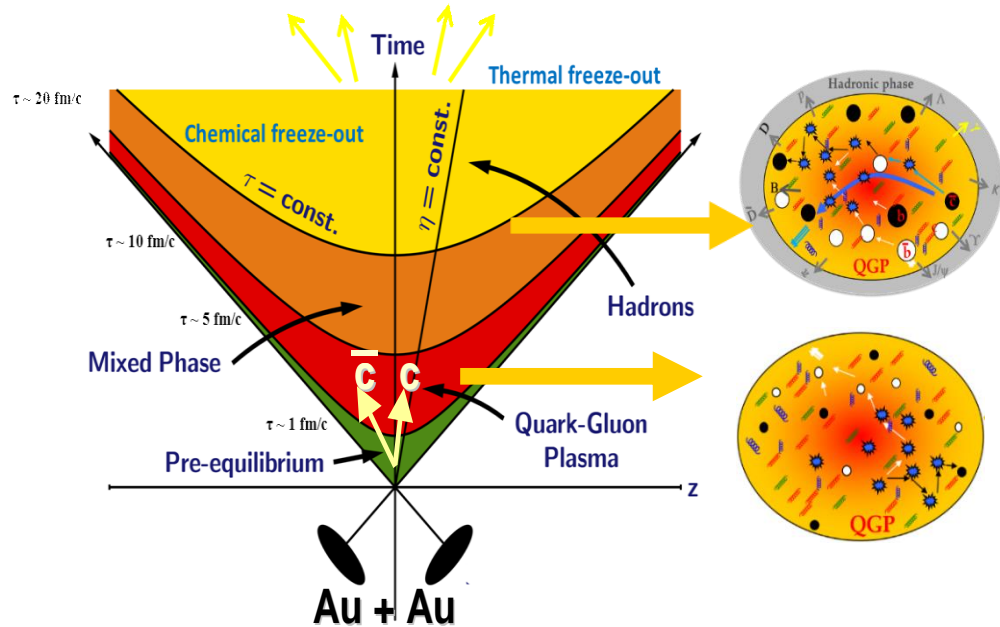
The **advantages** of the 'charm probes':

- dominantly produced in the very early stages of the reactions in **initial binary collisions** with large energy-momentum transfer

- initial charm production is well described by **pQCD** – FONLL

- heavy quark scattering cross sections are small (compared to the light quarks) → **not in an equilibrium** with the surrounding matter

- sensitive to the properties of the QGP during the expansion (and not only to its final state)

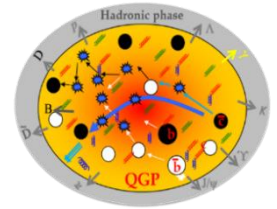


→ Hope to use 'charm probes' for an **early tomography of the QGP**

Dynamical description of hard probes

I. Modeling of time evolution of the ,medium‘ = system:

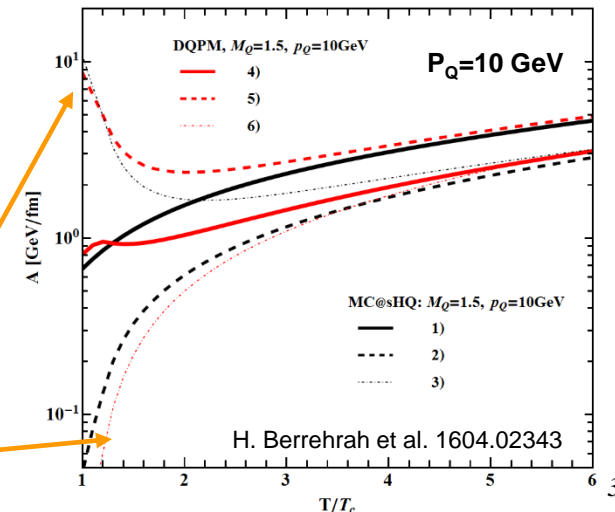
- ❑ expanding fireball models ← assumption of global equilibrium
- ❑ ideal or viscous hydrodynamical models ← assumption of local equilibrium
- ❑ microscopic transport models ← full non-equilibrium dynamics!



II. Modeling of the interaction of the hard probes with the ,medium‘:

- ❑ Fokker-Planck model, Langevin model ← transport coefficients $A = dp_L/dt, \hat{q} = dp_T^2/dt$
- ❑ linear Boltzmann models ← cross sections
- ❑ microscopic collision integral ← cross sections

	coupling	mass in gluon propagator	mass in external legs
1)	$\alpha(Q^2)$	$\kappa = 0.2, m_D$	$m_{q,g} = 0$
2)	$\alpha(Q^2)$	$\kappa = 0.2, m_D$	$m_{q,g} = m_{q,g}^{DQPM}$
3)	$\alpha(T)$	$\kappa = 0.2, m_D$	$m_{q,g} = 0$
4)	$\alpha(T)$	m_g^{DQPM}	$m_{q,g} = m_{q,g}^{DQPM}$
5)	$\alpha(T)$	m_g^{DQPM}	$m_{q,g} = 0$
6)	$\alpha(Q^2)$	m_g^{DQPM}	$m_{q,g} = m_{q,g}^{DQPM}$



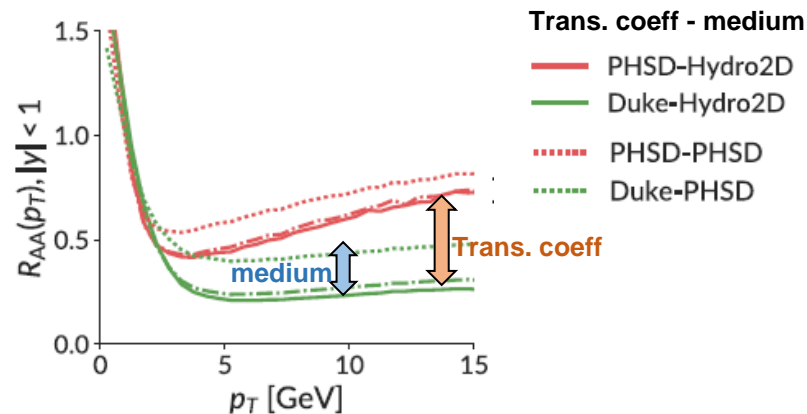
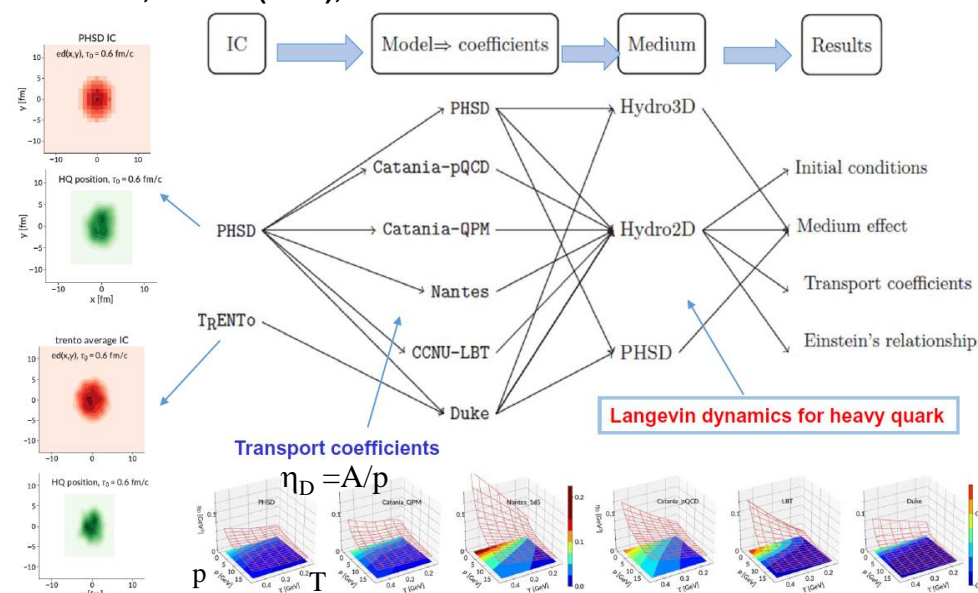
Highlights of model comparisons

EMMI-charm: R. Rapp et al., NPA979 (2018) 21-86; **“Jet”-charm:** S. Cao et al., PRC 99, 054907 (2019)

Frankfurt-Duke-Nantes-Catania: Y. Xu et al., PRC 99 (2019), 014902; T. Song et al., PRC 101 (2020) 044901; ibid. 044903

- ❑ interaction of heavy quarks with medium; charm transport coefficients; initial conditions; comparison: Langevin vs. Boltzmann description;
- ❑ hydro vs. microscopic transport description of the medium; non-equilibrium effects etc.

Y. Xu et al., PRC 99 (2019), 014902



➔ Charm quarks are sensitive to the **history of the QGP evolution** and retain information on the entire time evolution from initial condition up to the late stage of the reaction

- ❑ **Initial conditions:** larger effect (up to 20%) on v_2 than on R_{AA}
- ❑ **Transport coefficients:** huge influence on R_{AA} and v_2 within Langevin models
- ❑ **Medium evolution:** R_{AA} and v_2 from nonequilibrium transport differ from hydro and Langevin results

➔ **Langevin models are not an appropriate tool to study the charm dynamics in HICs!**
 ➔ **Microscopic transport description** of HIC dynamics (medium) and charm interactions (based on Boltzmann collision terms) is required

Dynamical Models → PHSD

The goal:

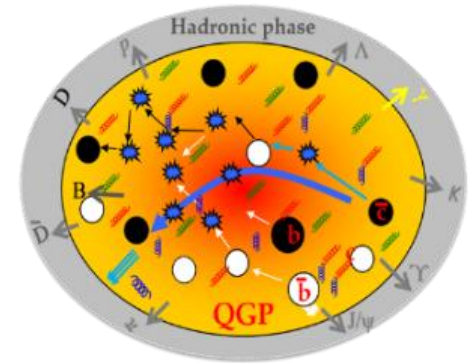
to describe the dynamics of charm quarks/mesons in all phases of HICs on a **microscopic basis**

Realization:

a **dynamical non-equilibrium transport approach**

- applicable for **strongly interacting systems**,
- which includes a **phase transition** from hadronic matter to QGP

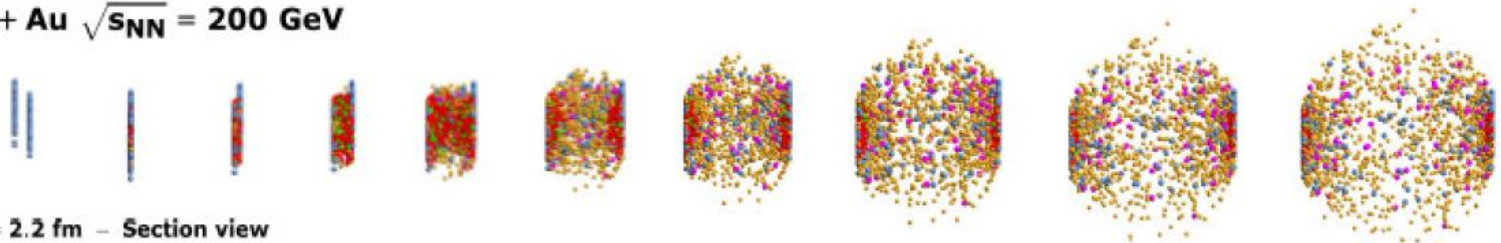
The tool: PHSD approach

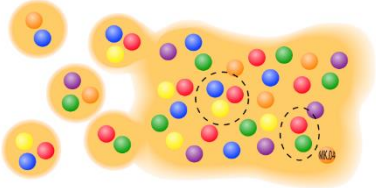


- Baryons
- Antibaryons
- Mesons
- Quarks
- Gluons

$\text{Au} + \text{Au} \sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$

$b = 2.2 \text{ fm}$ – Section view





Degrees-of-freedom of QGP

For the microscopic transport description of the system one **needs to know all degrees of freedom** as well as their properties and interactions!

❖ IQCD gives QGP EoS at finite μ_B



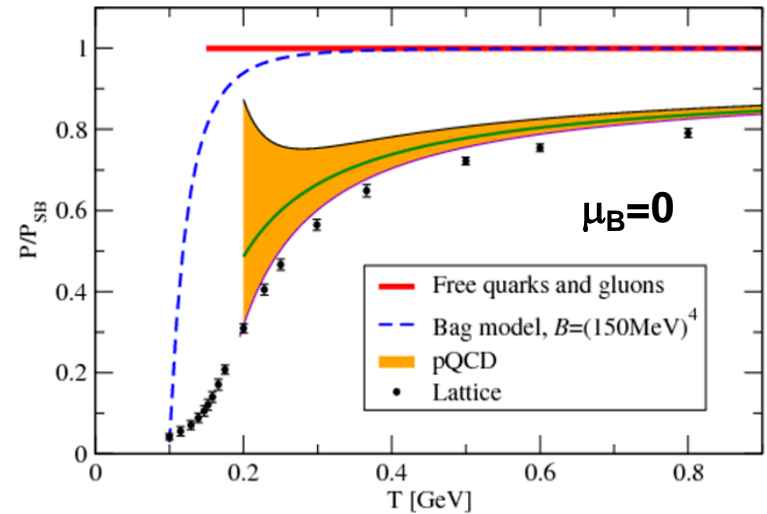
! need to be interpreted in terms of degrees-of-freedom

pQCD:

- weakly interacting system
- massless quarks and gluons

How to learn about the degrees-of-freedom of the QGP from HICs?

- ➔ microscopic transport approaches
- ➔ comparison to HIC experiments

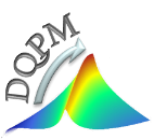


Non-perturbative QCD ← pQCD

Thermal QCD

= QCD at high parton densities:

- strongly interacting system
- massive quarks and gluons
- ➔ quasiparticles
- = effective degrees-of-freedom



Dynamical QuasiParticle Model (DQPM)

DQPM – effective model for the description of **non-perturbative** (strongly interacting) QCD based on **IQCD EoS**

Degrees-of-freedom: strongly interacting **dynamical quasiparticles** - quarks and gluons

Theoretical basis :

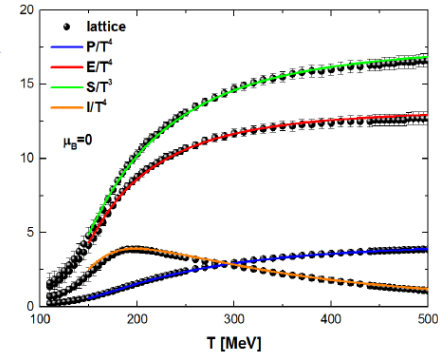
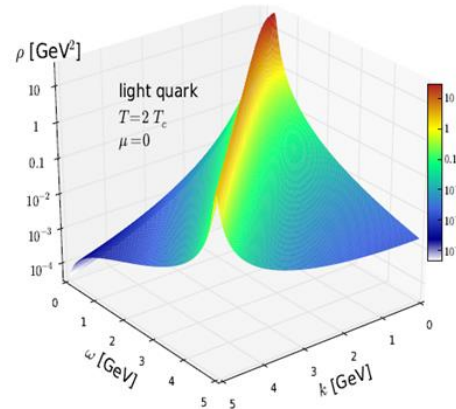
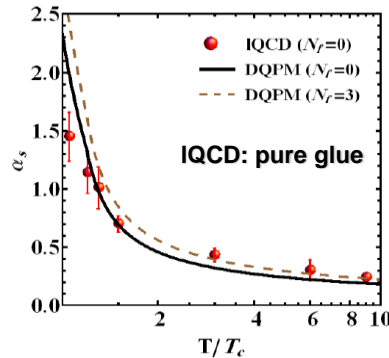
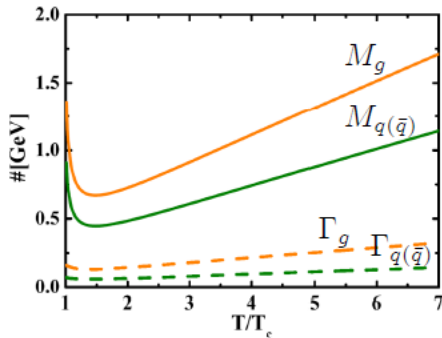
□ ,resummed‘ single-particle Green’s functions \rightarrow quark (gluon) propagator (2PI) : $G_q^{-1} = P^2 - \Sigma_q$

Properties of the quasiparticles are specified by scalar complex self-energies: $\Sigma_q = M_q^2 - i2\gamma_q\omega$

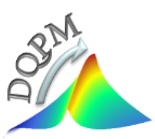
$Re\Sigma_q$: **thermal masses** (M_g, M_q); $Im\Sigma_q$: **interaction widths** (γ_g, γ_q) \rightarrow spectral functions $\rho_q = -2ImG_q$

- introduce an **ansatz** (HTL; with few parameters) for the (T, μ_B) dependence of masses/widths
- evaluate the **QGP thermodynamics** in equilibrium using the Kadanoff-Baym theory
- fix DQPM parameters by comparison to the entropy density s , pressure P , energy density ε from DQPM to **IQCD** at $\mu_B = 0$

\rightarrow **Quasi-particle properties at (T, μ_B) :**



• **DQPM** provides **mean-fields** (1PI) for q, g and **effective 2-body partonic interactions** (2PI); gives **transition rates** for the formation of hadrons \rightarrow **QGP in PHSD**

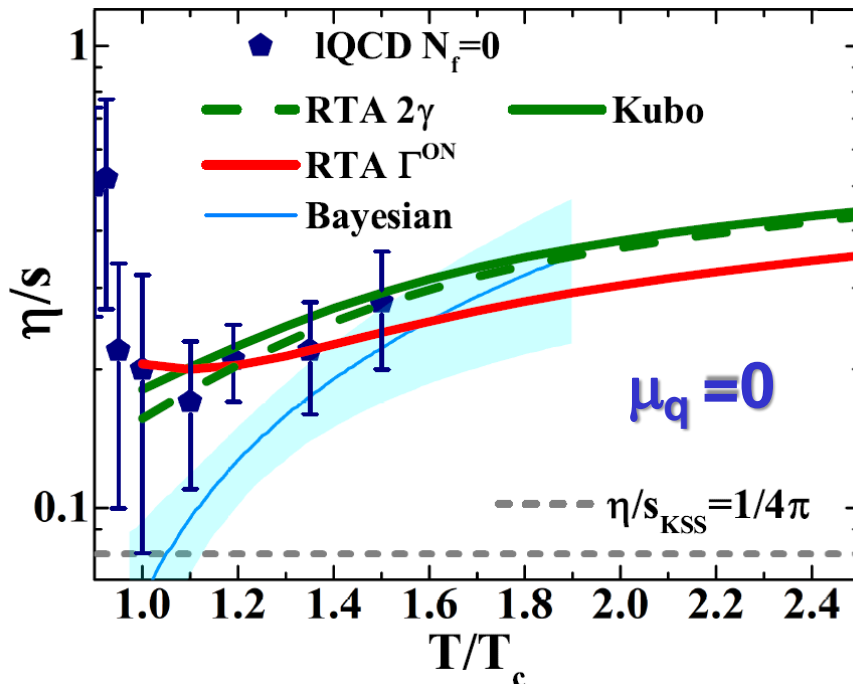


Transport coefficients: shear viscosity

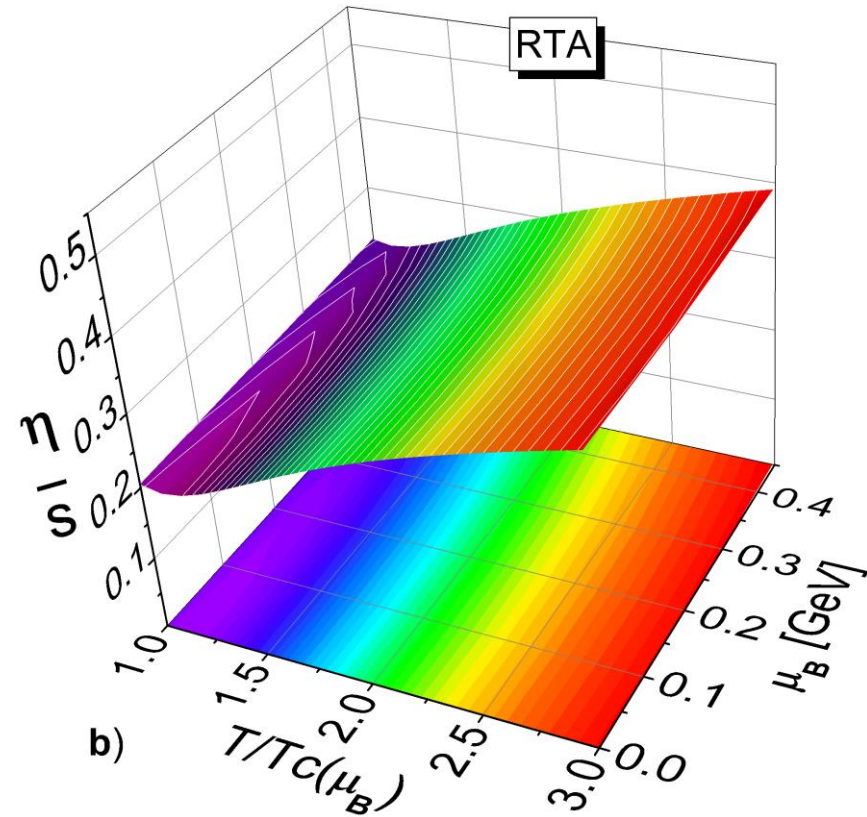
Shear viscosity η/s at finite T , $\mu_q=0$

- **DQPM**: Relaxation Time Approximation (RTA) and Kubo formalism

Hydro: Bayesian analysis, S. Bass et al., NPA967 (2017) 67



Shear viscosity η/s at finite (T, μ_q)



- Very **weak dependence** of **shear** viscosity on μ_B



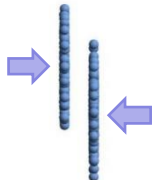
Parton-Hadron-String-Dynamics (PHSD)



PHSD is a **non-equilibrium microscopic transport approach** for the description of **strongly-interacting hadronic and partonic matter** created in heavy-ion collisions

Dynamics: based on the solution of **generalized off-shell transport equations** derived from Kadanoff-Baym many-body theory

Initial A+A collision



Initial A+A collisions :

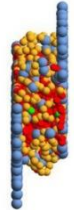
$N+N \rightarrow$ **string formation** \rightarrow decay to pre-hadrons + leading hadrons

Formation of QGP stage if local $\varepsilon > \varepsilon_{\text{critical}} = 0.5 \text{ GeV}/\text{fm}^3$:
dissolution of **pre-hadrons** \rightarrow partons

Partonic phase - QGP:

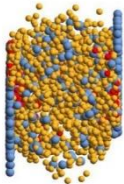
QGP is described by the **Dynamical QuasiParticle Model (DQPM)** matched to reproduce **lattice QCD EoS** for finite T and μ_B (crossover)

Partonic phase



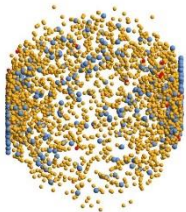
- **Degrees-of-freedom:** strongly interacting quasiparticles: **massive quarks and gluons (g, q, q_{bar})** with sizeable collisional widths in a self-generated mean-field potential propagated in **self-generated mean-field potential** U_q, U_g
- **Interactions:** (quasi-)elastic and inelastic collisions of partons

Hadronization

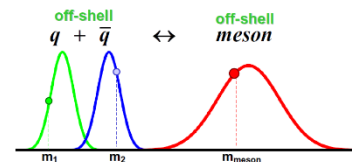
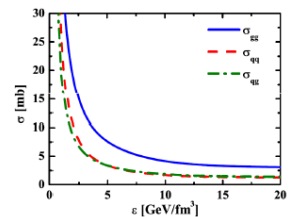
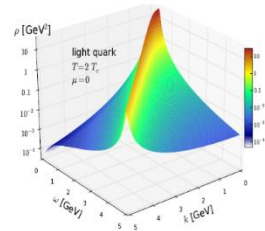
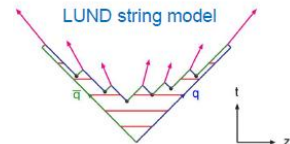


Hadronization to colorless **off-shell mesons and baryons:**
Strict 4-momentum and quantum number conservation

Hadronic phase



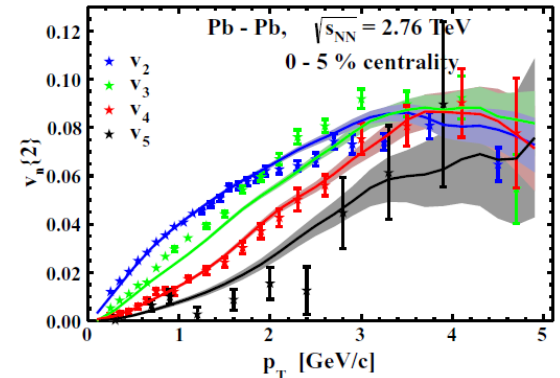
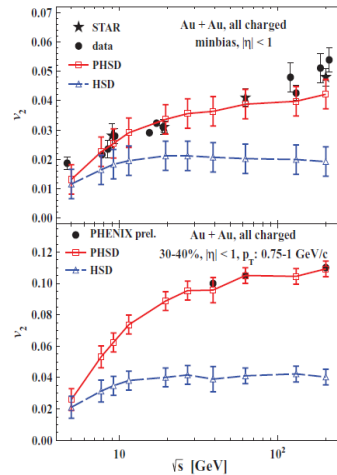
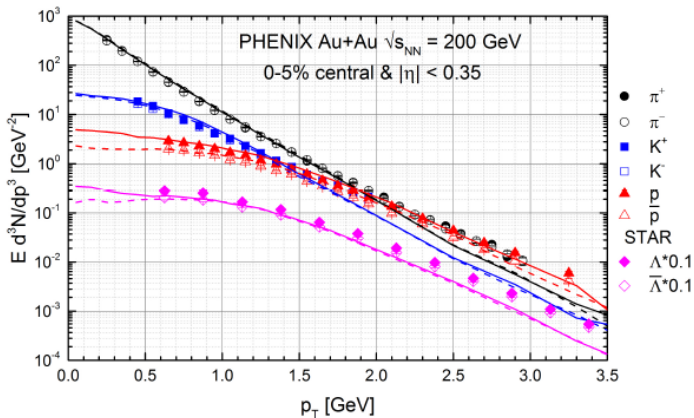
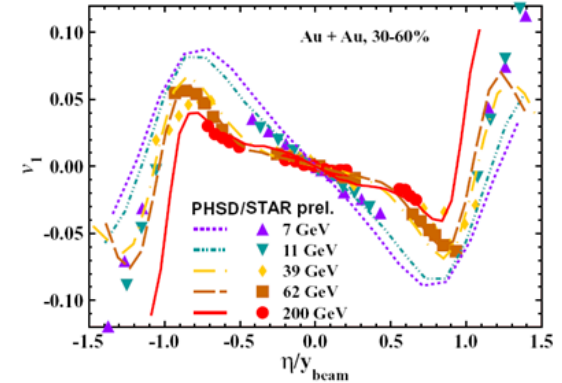
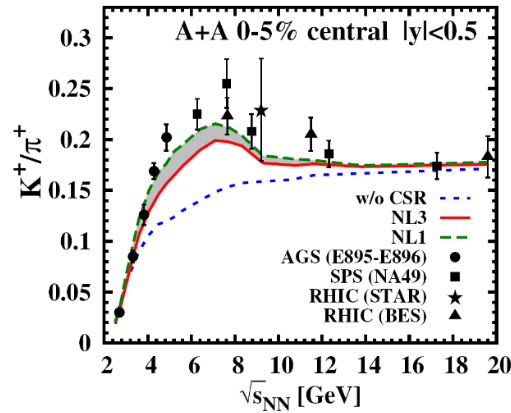
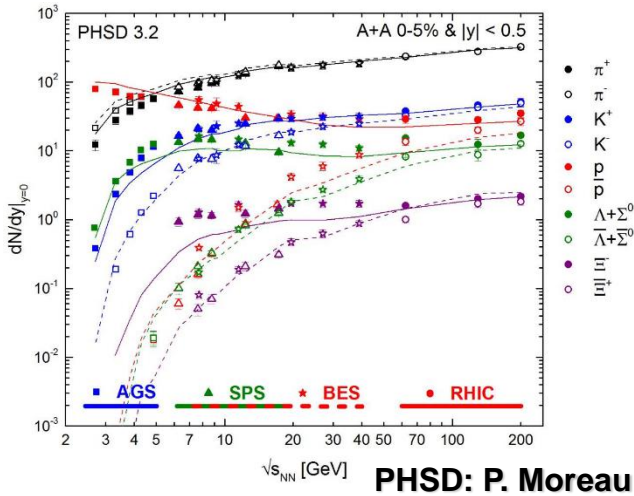
Hadronic phase: **hadron-hadron interactions – off-shell HSD**





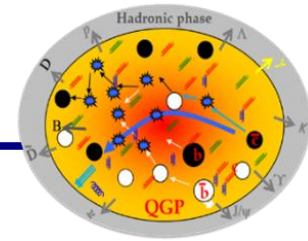
Non-equilibrium dynamics: description of A+A with PHSD

Important: to be conclusive on charm observables, the **light quark dynamics** must be well under control!



V. Konchakovski et al., PRC 85 (2012) 011902; JPG42 (2015) 055106

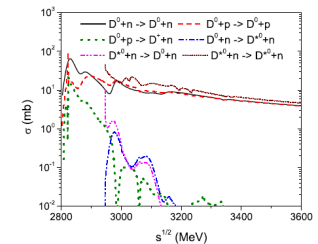
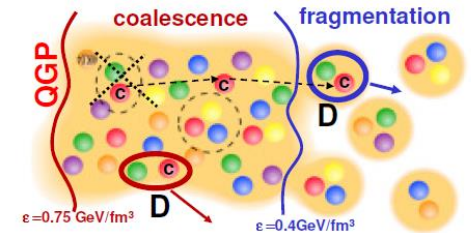
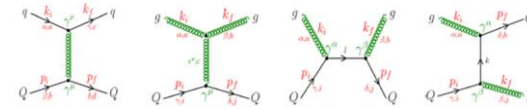
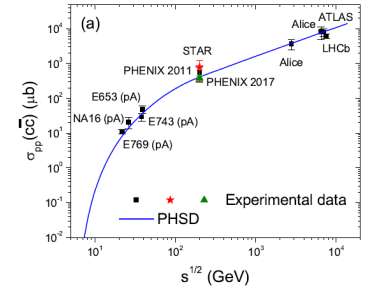
PHSD provides a **good description of 'bulk' observables** (y -, p_T -distributions, flow coefficients v_n , ...) from SIS to LHC energies



Dynamics of heavy quarks in A+A :

- Production of heavy (charm and bottom) quarks in initial binary collisions + shadowing and Cronin effects**
- Interactions in the non-perturbative QGP – according to the DQPM:**
elastic scattering with off-shell massive partons $Q+q \rightarrow Q+q$
 \rightarrow collisional energy loss
- Hadronization:** c/\bar{c} quarks \rightarrow $D(D^*)$ -mesons:
Dynamical hadronization scenario for heavy quarks :

coalescence with $\langle r \rangle = 0.9$ fm $0.4 < \varepsilon < 0.75$ GeV/fm ³	fragmentation $\varepsilon < 0.4$ GeV/fm ³
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- Hadronic interactions:**
 D +baryons; D +mesons based on G-matrix and effective chiral Lagrangian approach with heavy-quark spin symmetry (>200 channels)
 (Juan Torres-Rincon, Laura Tolos)



* PHSD references on charm dynamics:

Taesoo Song et al., PRC 92 (2015) 014910, PRC 93 (2016) 034906, PRC 96 (2017) 014905

PRC 97 (2018) 064907; PRC 101 (2020) 044901; PRC 101 (2020) 044903

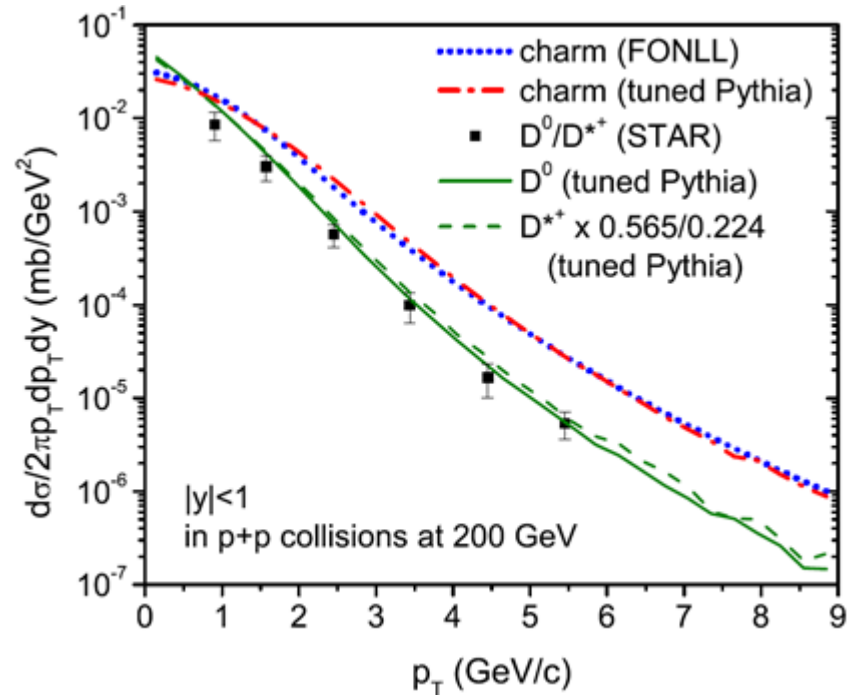
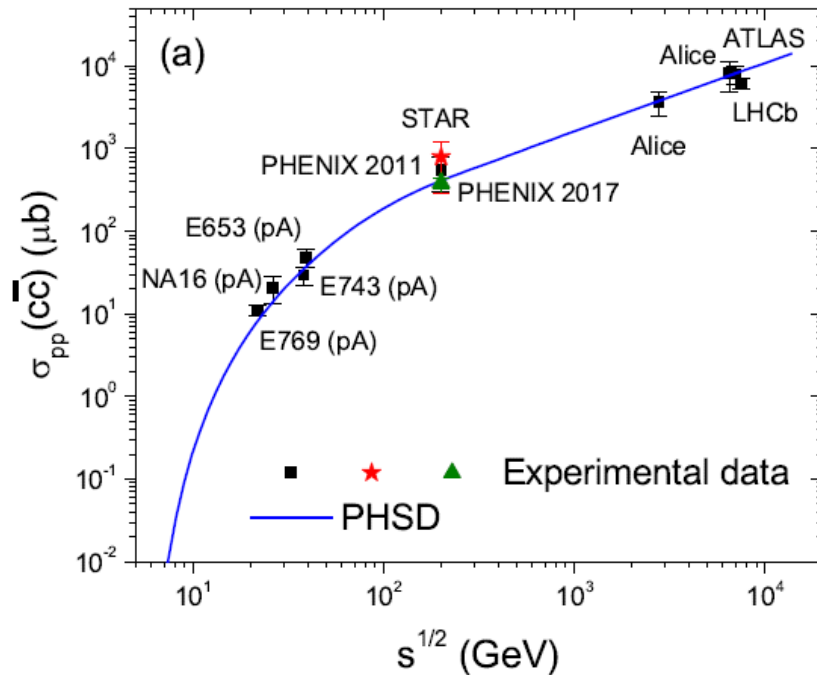


Charm production in NN collisions

□ A+A: charm production in **initial NN binary collisions**: probability $P = \frac{\sigma(cc\bar{c})}{\sigma_{NN}^{inel}}$

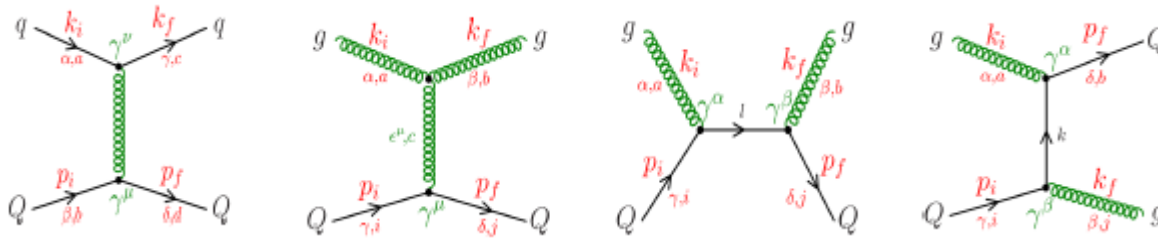
The **total cross section** for charm production in **p+p collisions** $\sigma(cc)$

Momentum distribution of heavy quarks: use **'tuned' PYTHIA** event generator to reproduce **FONLL** (fixed-order next-to-leading log) results

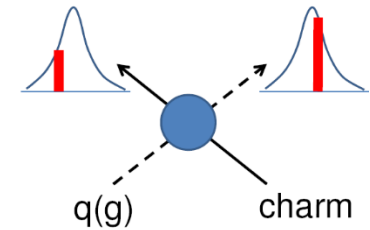


Heavy quark scattering in the QGP (DQPM)

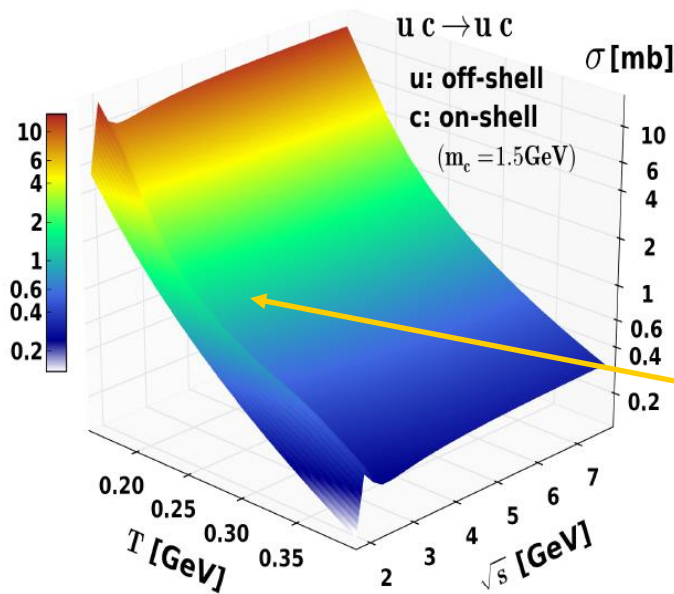
- Elastic scattering with off-shell massive partons $Q+q(g) \rightarrow Q+q(g)$



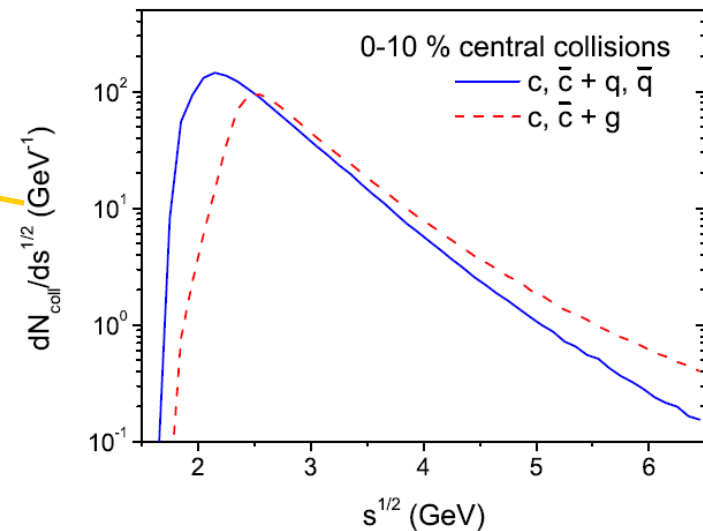
Non-perturbative QGP!

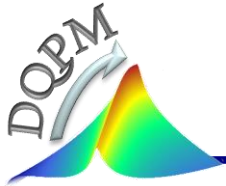


- Elastic cross section $uc \rightarrow uc$



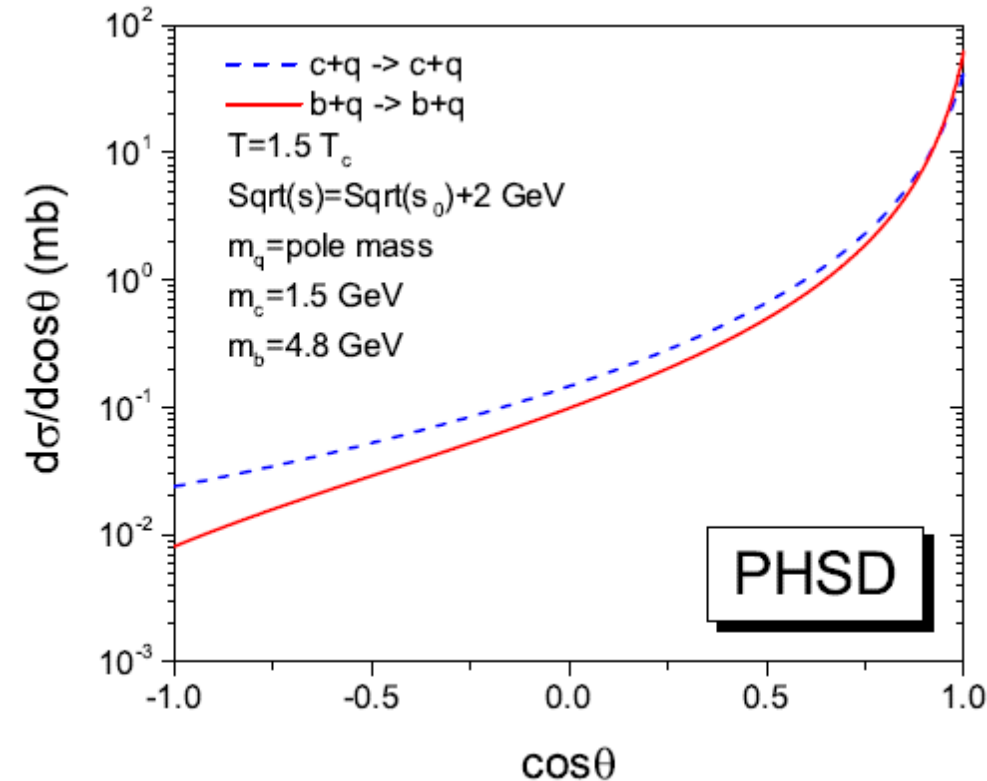
- Distributions of $Q+q$, $Q+g$ collisions vs $s^{1/2}$ in Au+Au, 10% central





Heavy quark scattering in the QGP

□ **Differential elastic cross section** for $cq \rightarrow cq$, $bq \rightarrow bq$ for $s^{1/2} = s_0^{1/2} + 2\text{GeV}$ at $1.5T_c$



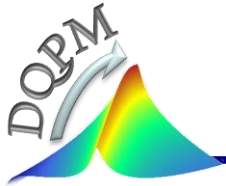
□ **DQPM - anisotropic angular distribution**

Note: pQCD - strongly forward peaked

→ Differences between DQPM and pQCD :
less forward peaked angular distribution
leads to **more efficient momentum transfer**

→ Smaller number (compared to pQCD)
of elastic scatterings with **massive**
partons leads to a **larger energy loss**

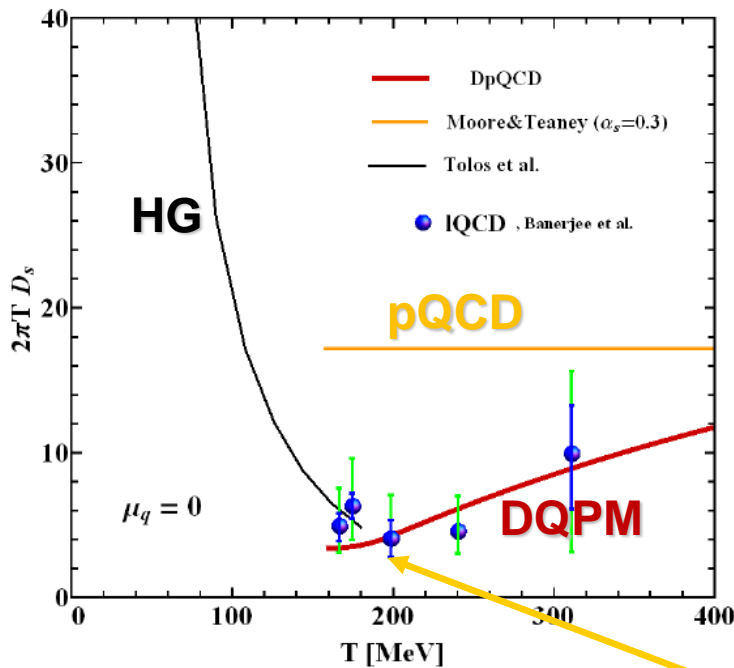
! Note: radiative energy loss is **NOT** included yet in PHSD,
it is expected to be **small** (at low p_T) due to the large gluon mass in the DQPM



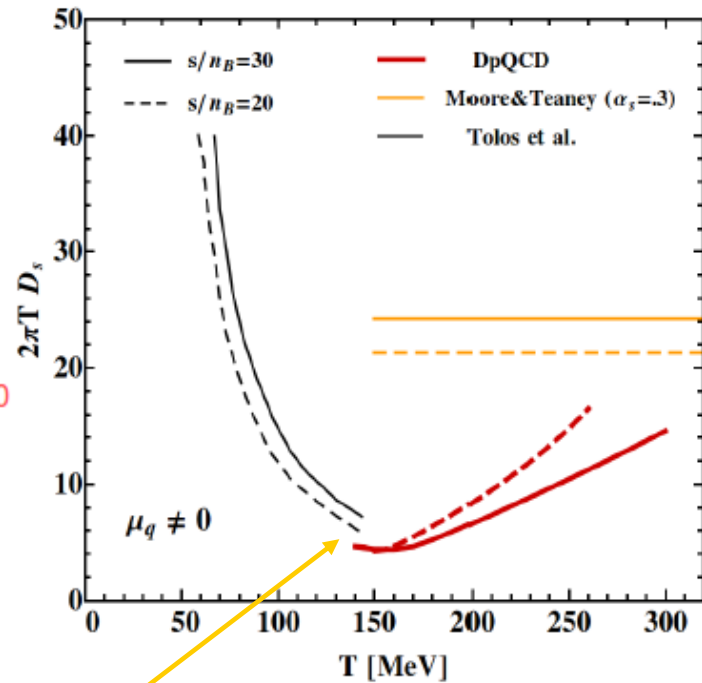
Charm spatial diffusion coefficient D_s in the hot medium

- D_s for heavy quarks as a function of T for $\mu_q=0$ and finite μ_q assuming adiabatic trajectories (constant entropy per net baryon s/n_B) for the expansion

$$D_s = \lim(\vec{p} \rightarrow 0) \frac{T}{M\eta_D} \quad \text{where } \eta_D = A/p ; A(p,T) = \text{drag coefficient}$$



\Rightarrow
 $\mu_q \neq 0$



□ $T < T_c$: hadronic D_s

→ Continuous transition at T_c !

L. Tolos , J. M. Torres-Rincon, PRD 88 (2013) 074019
V. Ozvenchuk et al., PRC90 (2014) 054909

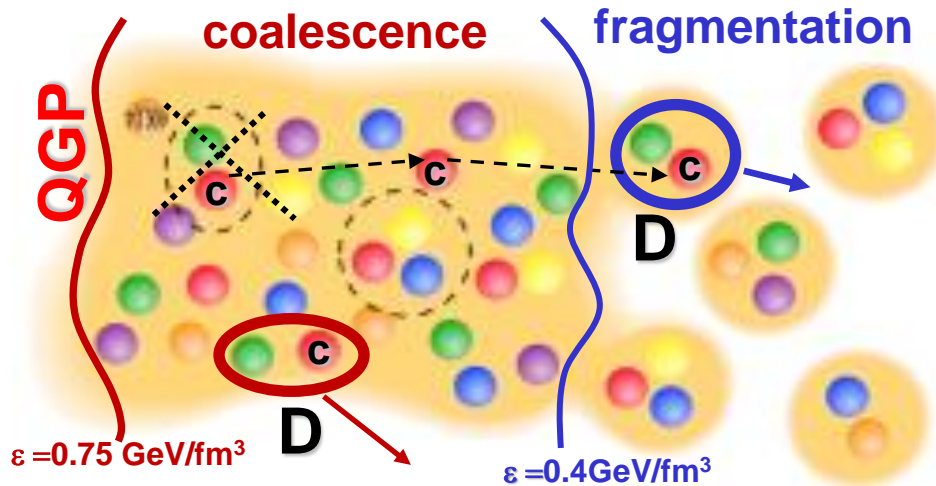
H. Berrehrh et al, PRC 90 (2014) 051901, arXiv:1406.5322

PHSD: if the local energy density $\varepsilon \rightarrow \varepsilon_c \rightarrow$ hadronization of heavy quarks to hadrons

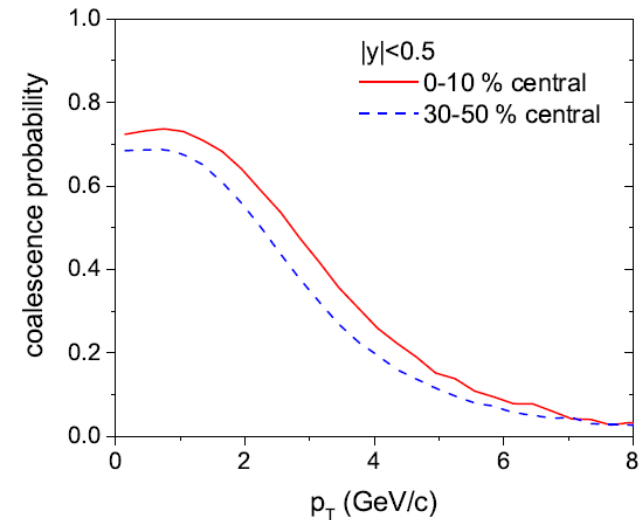
T. Song et al., PRC 93 (2016) 034906

Dynamical hadronization scenario for heavy quarks :

coalescence with $\langle r \rangle = 0.9$ fm & fragmentation
 $0.4 < \varepsilon < 0.75$ GeV/fm³ $\varepsilon < 0.4$ GeV/fm³



Coalescence probability in Au+Au at LHC



Coalescence probability for $c + \bar{q} \rightarrow D$

$$f(\rho, \mathbf{k}_\rho) = \frac{8g_M}{6^2} \exp \left[-\frac{\rho^2}{\delta^2} - \mathbf{k}_\rho^2 \delta^2 \right]$$

where $\rho = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)$, $\mathbf{k}_\rho = \sqrt{2} \frac{m_2 \mathbf{k}_1 - m_1 \mathbf{k}_2}{m_1 + m_2}$

Width $\delta \leftarrow$ from root-mean-square radius of meson $\langle r \rangle$:

$$\langle r^2 \rangle = \frac{3}{2} \frac{m_1^2 + m_2^2}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} \delta^2$$

Degeneracy factor : $g_M = 1$ for D, = 3 for $D^* = D^*_0(2400)^0, D^*_1(2420)^0, D^*_2(2460)^{0\pm}$



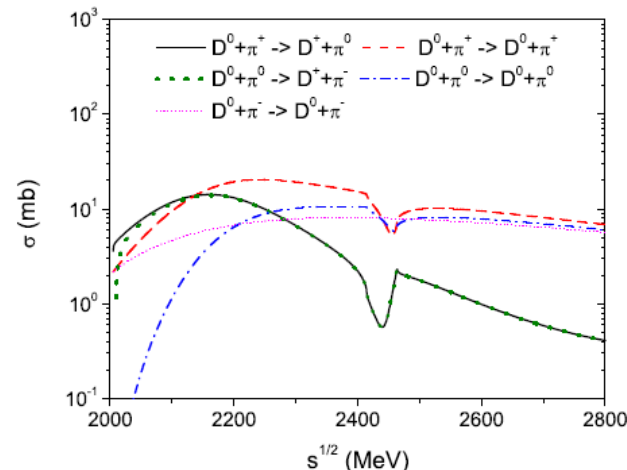
D-meson scattering in the hadronic phase

1. D-meson scattering with mesons

L. M. Abreu, D. Cabrera, F. J. Llanes-Estrada, J. M. Torres-Rincon, *Annals Phys.* **326**, 2737 (2011)

Model: effective chiral Lagrangian approach with heavy-quark spin symmetry

Interaction of $D=(D^0, D^+, D^+_s)$ and $D^*=(D^{*0}, D^{*+}, D^{*+}_s)$ with octet ($\pi, K, Kbar, \eta$)



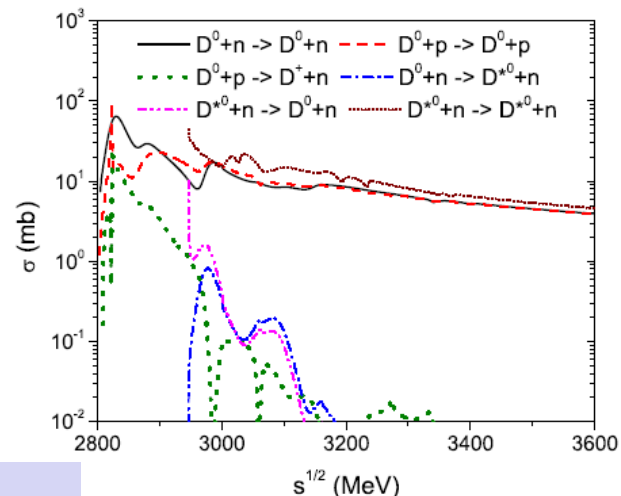
2. D-meson scattering with baryons

C. Garcia-Recio, J. Nieves, O. Romanets, L. L. Salcedo, L. Tolos, *Phys. Rev. D* **87**, 074034 (2013)

Model: G-matrix approach: interactions of $D=(D^0, D^+, D^+_s)$ and $D^*=(D^{*0}, D^{*+}, D^{*+}_s)$ with nucleon octet $J^P=1/2^+$ and Delta decuplet $J^P=3/2^+$

Unitarized scattering amplitude \rightarrow solution of coupled-channel Bethe-Salpeter equations:

$$T = T + VGT$$



\rightarrow Strong isospin dependence and complicated structure (due to the resonance coupling) of D+m, D+B cross sections!

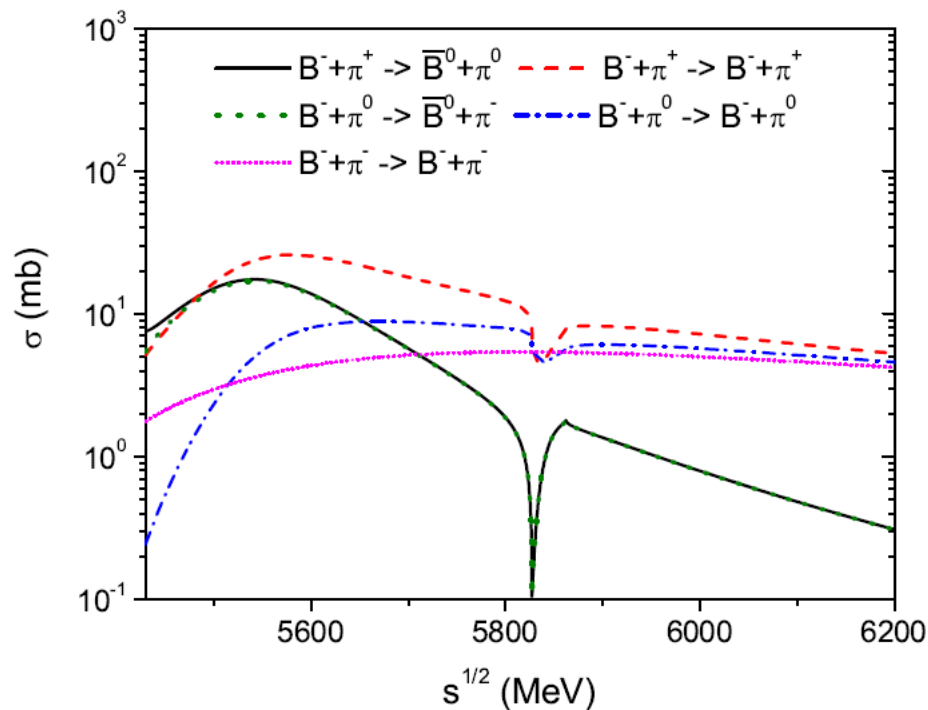


B-meson scattering in the hadron gas

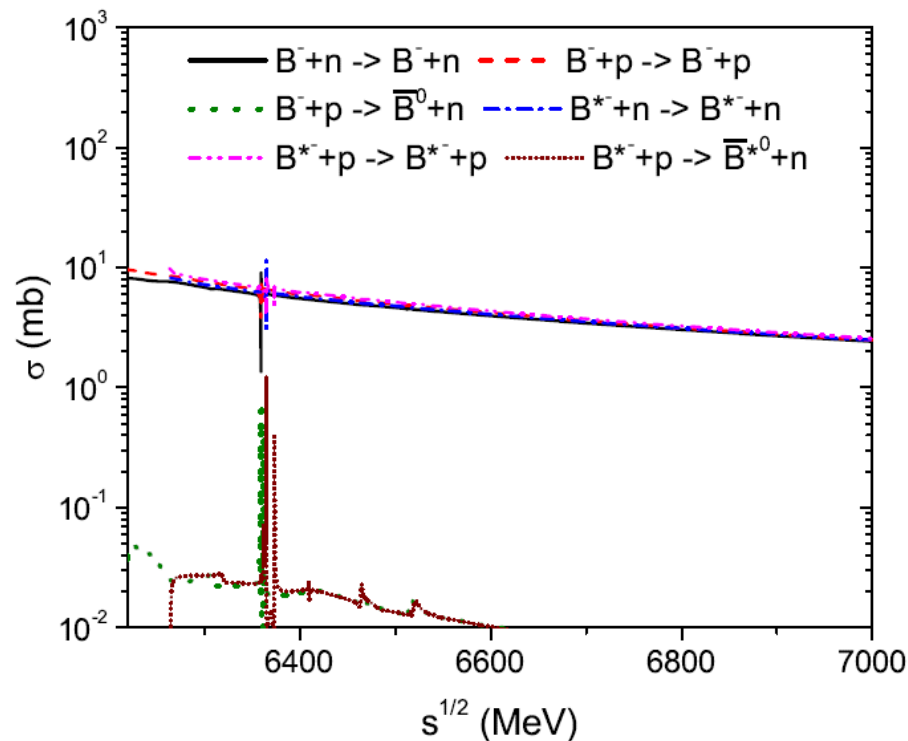
L. Tolos and J. M. Torres-Rincon, Phys. Rev. D 88, 074019 (2013)

J. M. Torres-Rincon, L. Tolos and O. Romanets, Phys. Rev. D 89, 074042 (2014)

1. B-meson scattering with mesons



2. B-meson scattering with baryons



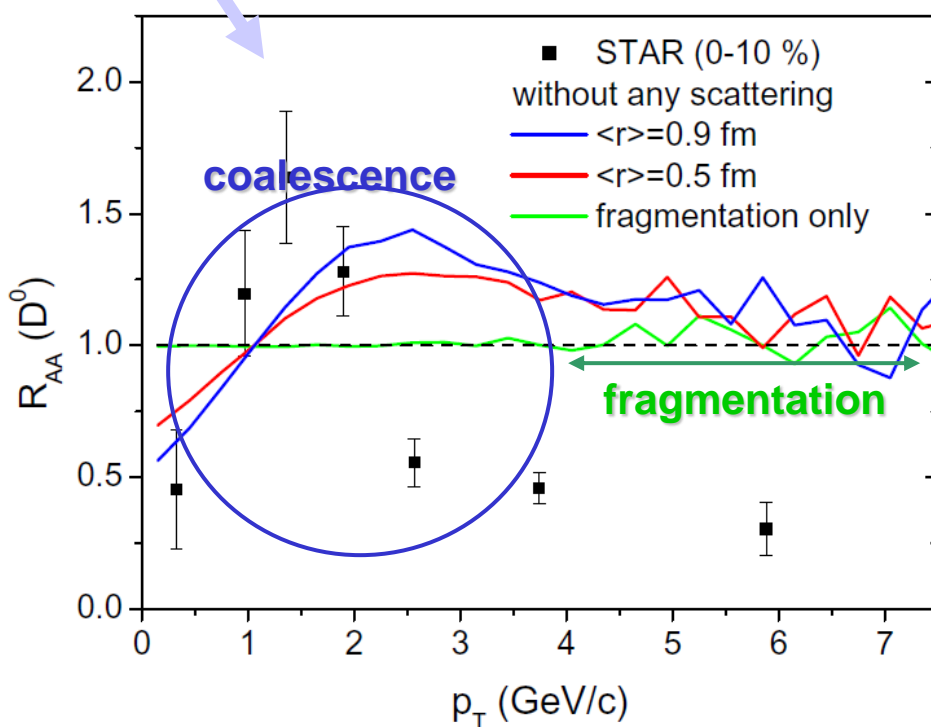
➤ **>200 hadronic channels** → implemented in the PHSD



R_{AA} at RHIC - coalescence vs fragmentation

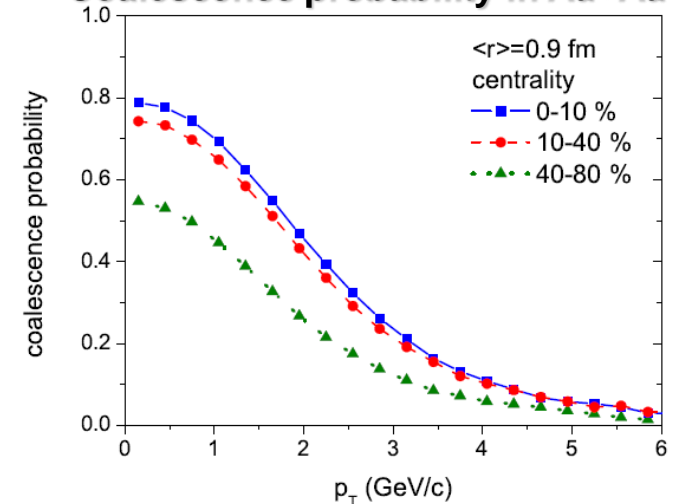
Influence of hadronization scenarios: coalescence vs fragmentation

! Model study: without any rescattering (partonic and hadronic)



$$R_{AA}(p_T) \equiv \frac{dN_D^{Au+Au}/dp_T}{N_{binary}^{Au+Au} \times dN_D^{P+P}/dp_T}$$

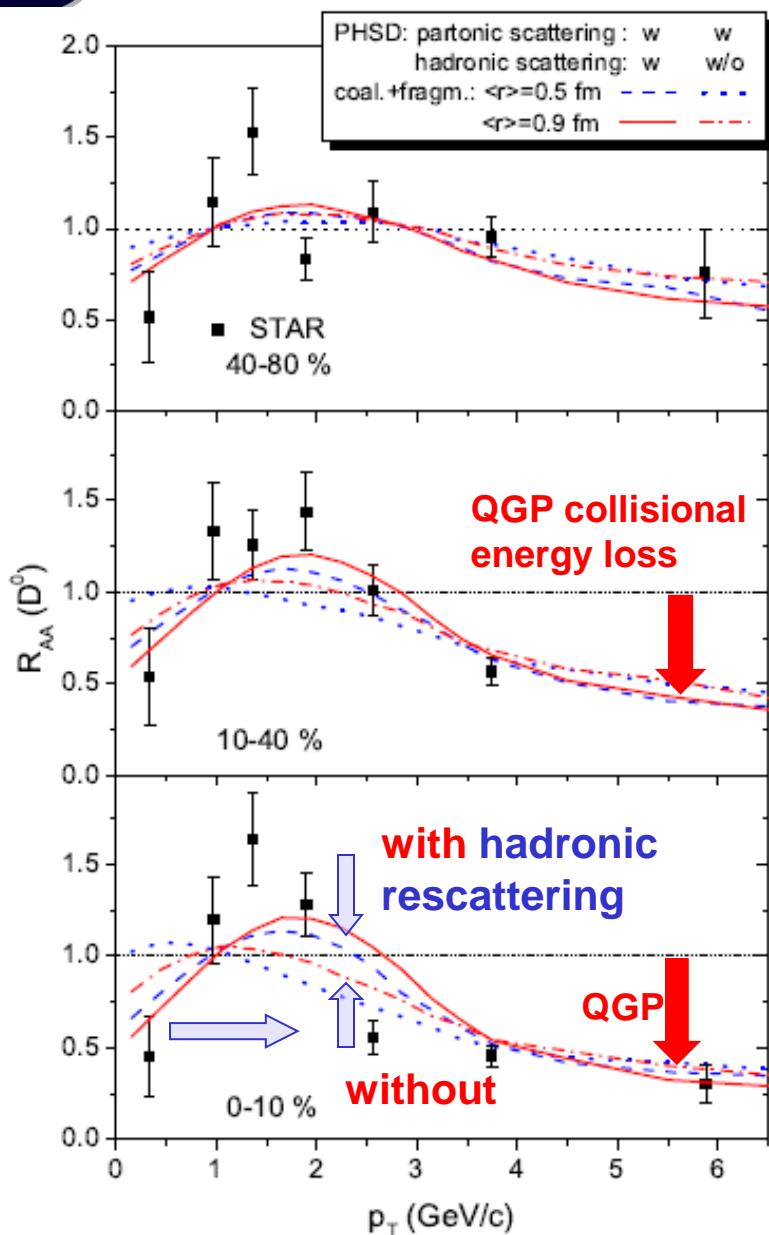
Coalescence probability in Au+Au



- ❑ Expect: no scattering: $R_{AA}=1$
- ❑ Hadronization by **fragmentation** only (as in pp) $\rightarrow R_{AA}=1$
- ❑ **Coalescence** (not in pp!) shifts R_{AA} to larger $p_T \rightarrow$ 'nuclear matter' effect
- ❑ The **height of the R_{AA} peak** depends on the balance: coalescence vs. fragmentation



R_{AA} at RHIC: hadronic rescattering



Influence of hadronic rescattering:

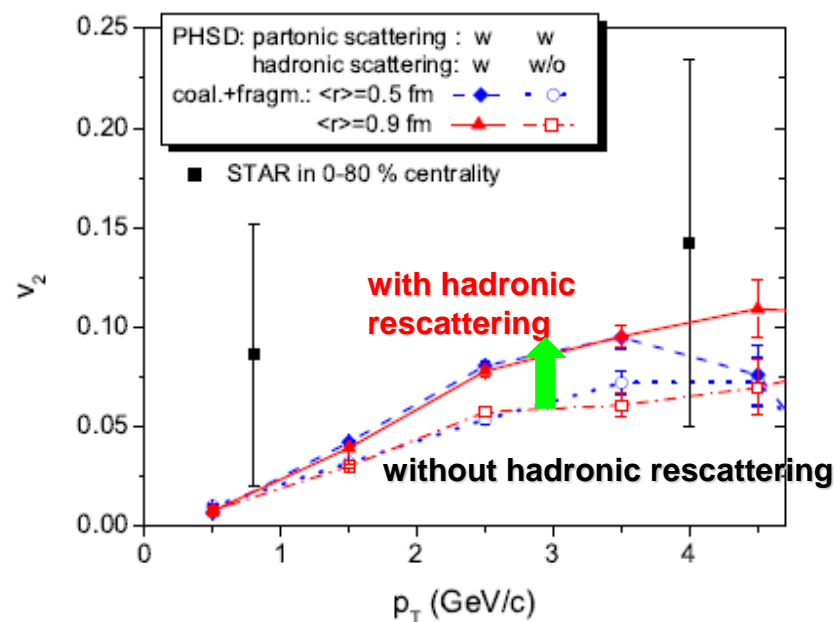
Central Au+Au at $s^{1/2} = 200$ GeV :

$N(D, D^*) \sim 30$

$N(D, D^* + m) \sim 56$ collisions

$N(D, D^* + B, Bbar) \sim 10$ collisions

→ each D, D^* makes ~ 2 scatterings with hadrons



- Hadronic rescattering moves R_{AA} peak to higher p_T !
- substantially increases v_2 at larger p_T



Cold nuclear matter effect: shadowing + Cronin

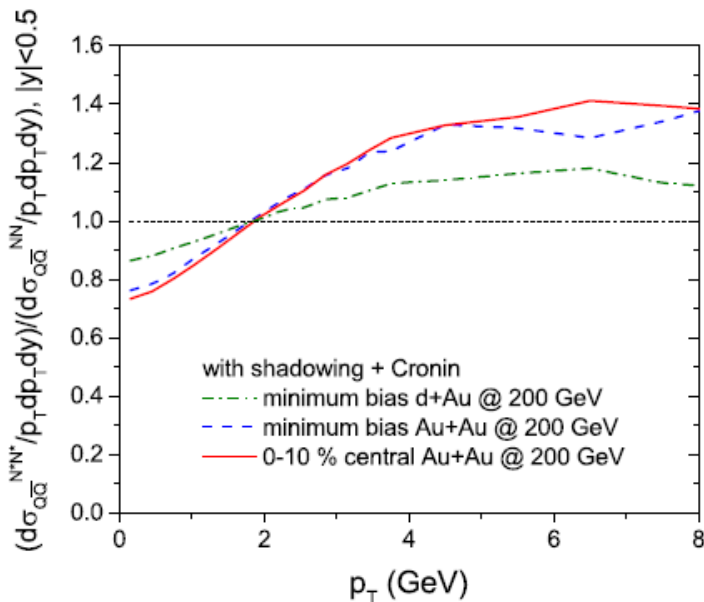
Shadowing effect: charm production is N^*N^* in HIC dominated by **gluon fusion**

$$\sigma_{cc}^{N^*N^*}(s) = \langle R_g^{Pb}(x_1, Q) R_g^{Pb}(x_2, Q) \rangle \sigma_{cc}^{NN}(s)$$

$R_i^A(x_1, Q), R_i^A(x_2, Q)$ for $i=j=gluon$ are obtained from the **EPS09 model**

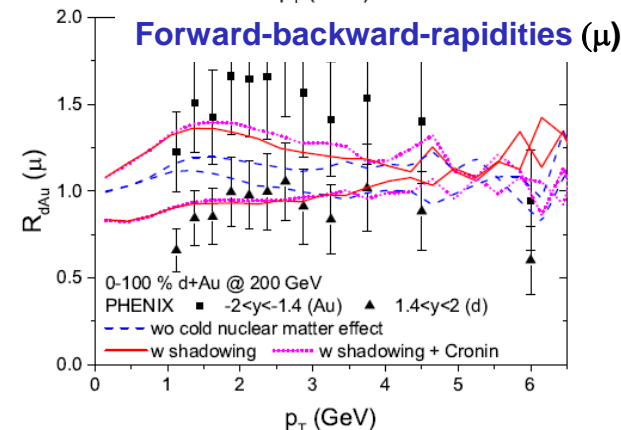
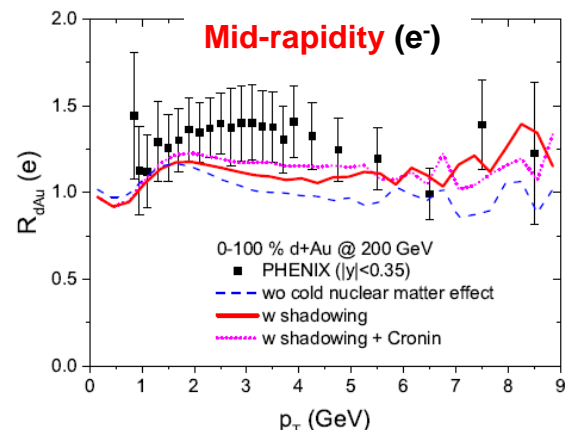
K. J. Eskola, H. Paukunen and C. A. Salgado, JHEP 0904, 065 (2009)

The modifications of the charm transverse momentum in N^*N^* vs NN due to the shadowing and Cronin effects in d+A and Au+Au @ 200 GeV



- Shadowing effect increases R_{AA} for low p_T
- Cronin effect increases R_{AA} for $p_T > 1$ GeV

R_{AA} from single e^- (μ) in **d+Au @ 200 GeV**

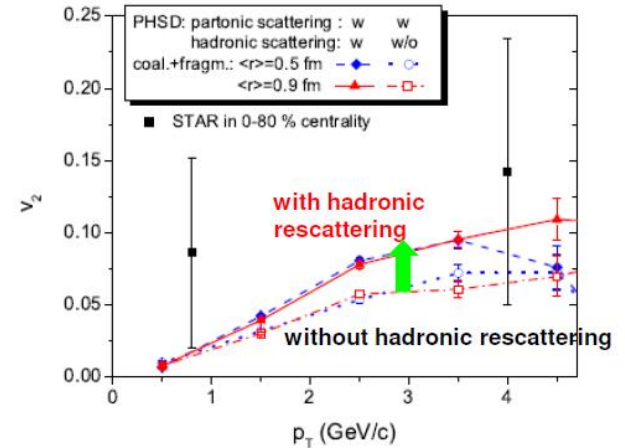
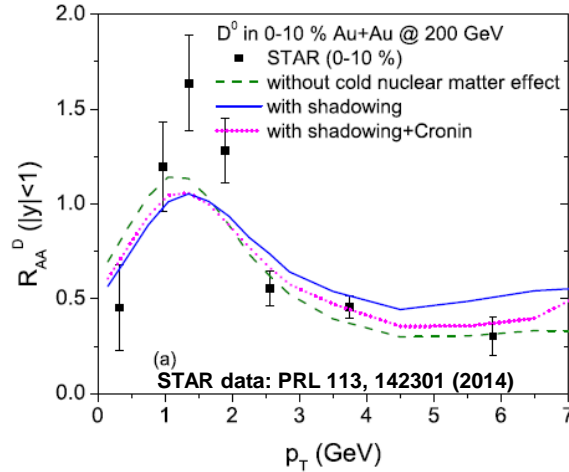




PHSD vs charm observables at RHIC

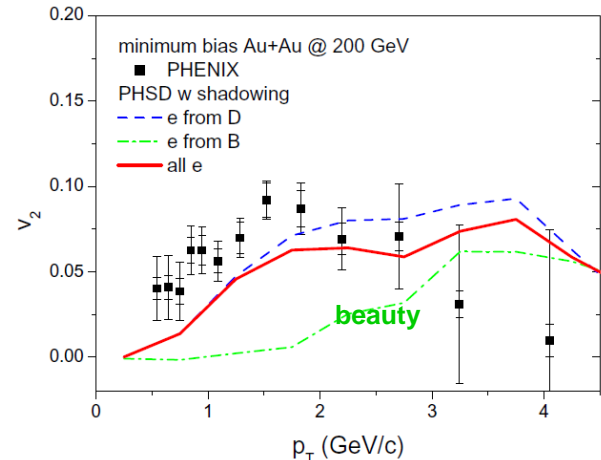
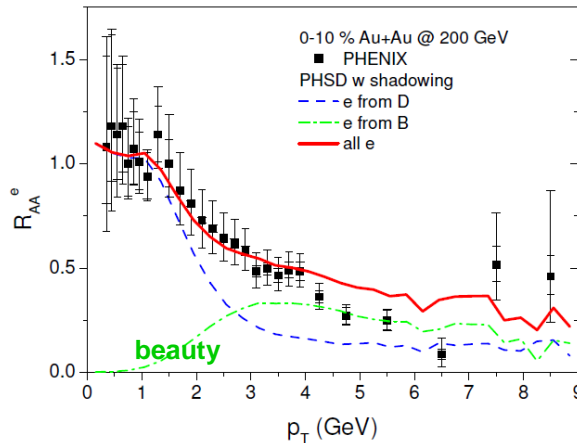
STAR

R_{AA} and v_2 vs p_T
from D^0 -mesons
in Au+Au @ 200 GeV →



PHENIX

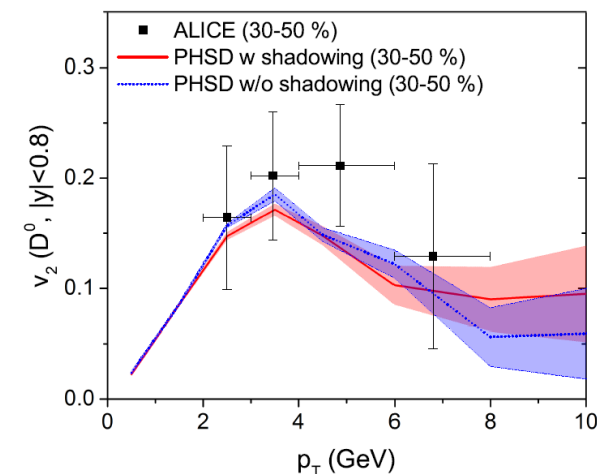
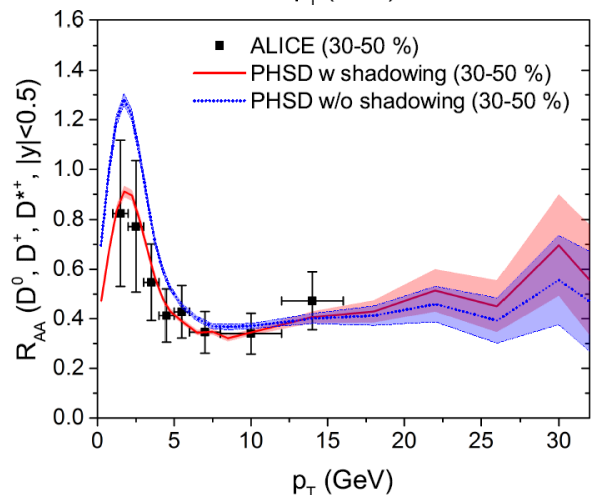
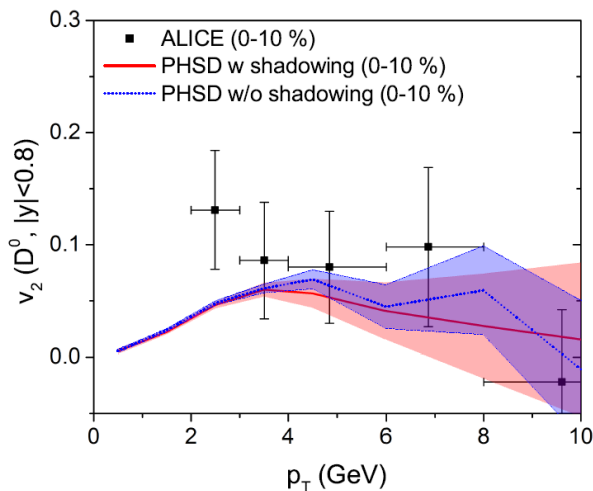
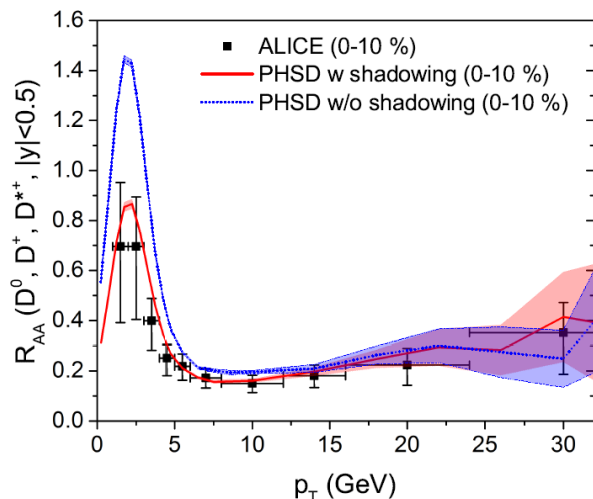
R_{AA} and v_2 vs p_T
from single electrons
in Au+Au @ 200 GeV →



- The exp. data for the R_{AA} and v_2 are described in the PHSD by **QGP collisional energy loss** due to elastic scattering of charm quarks with massive quarks and gluons in the QGP
- + by the **dynamical hadronization scenario** „coalescence & fragmentation“
- + by **strong hadronic interactions** due to resonant elastic scattering of D, D^* with mesons and baryons
- Feed back from **beauty** contribution becomes dominant for single electrons R_{AA} and v_2 at $p_T > 3$ GeV



Charm R_{AA} at LHC: PHSD vs ALICE



- in PHSD the energy loss of D-mesons at high p_T can be dominantly attributed to partonic scattering
- Shadowing effect suppresses the low p_T and slightly enhances the high p_T part of R_{AA}
- Hadronic rescattering moves R_{AA} peak to higher p_T ; increases v_2



PHSD vs charm observables at LHC (predictions)

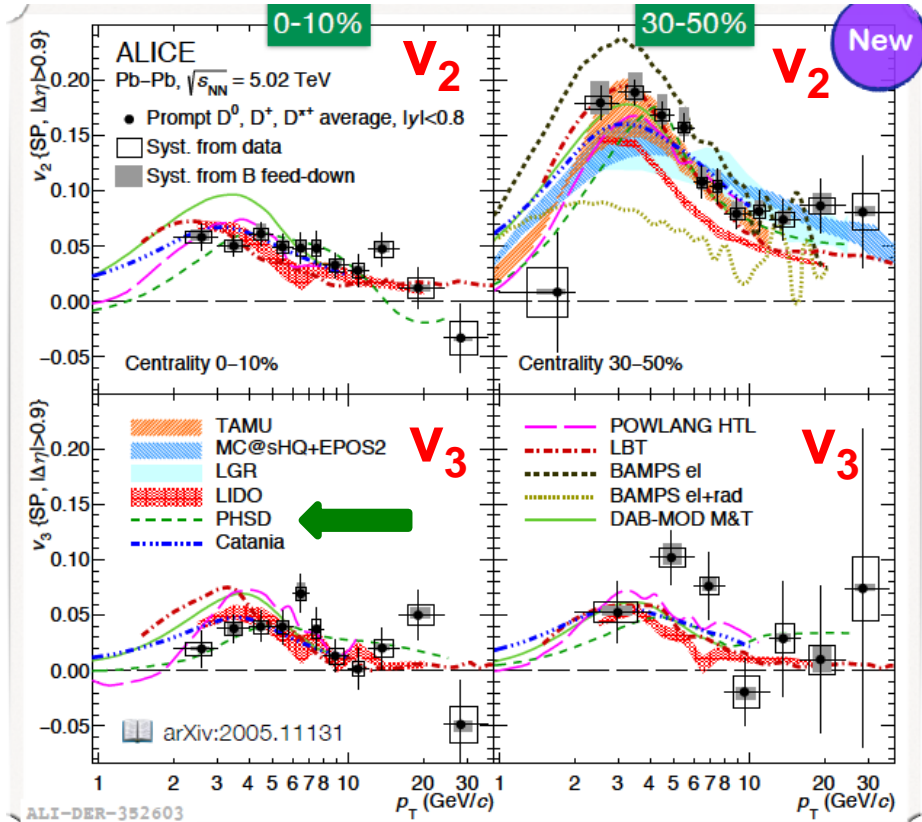
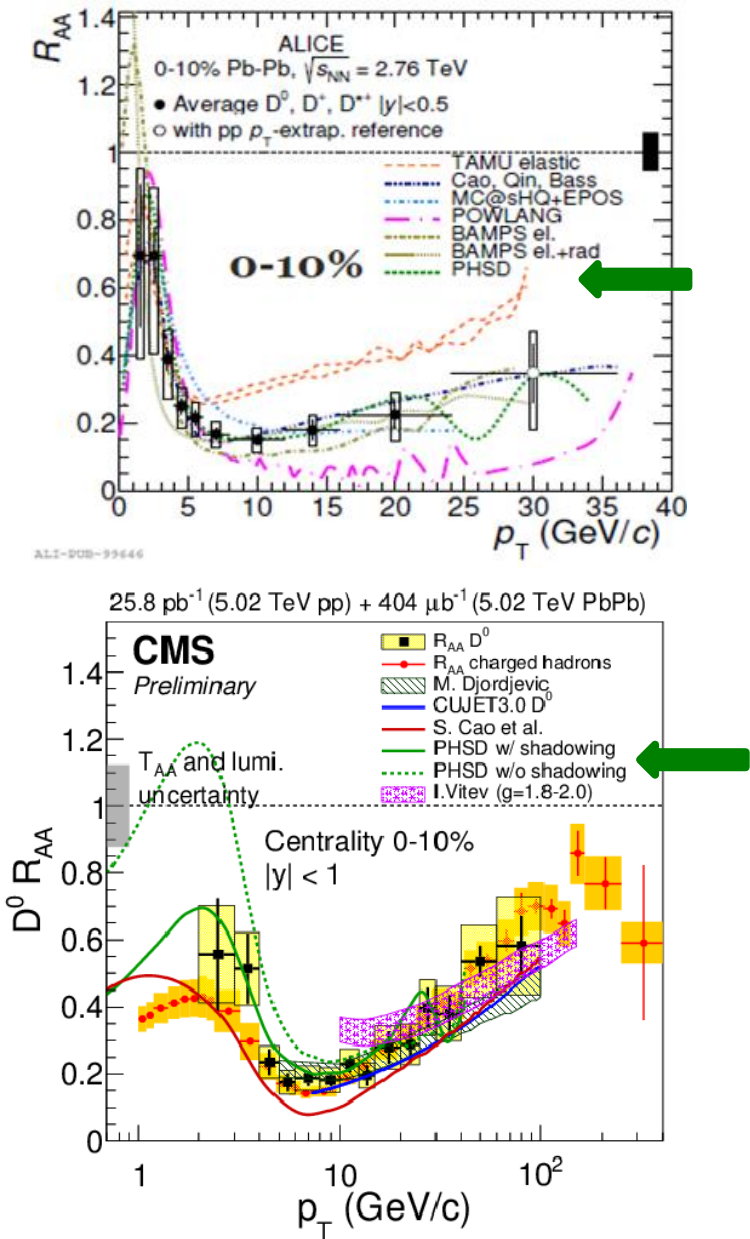


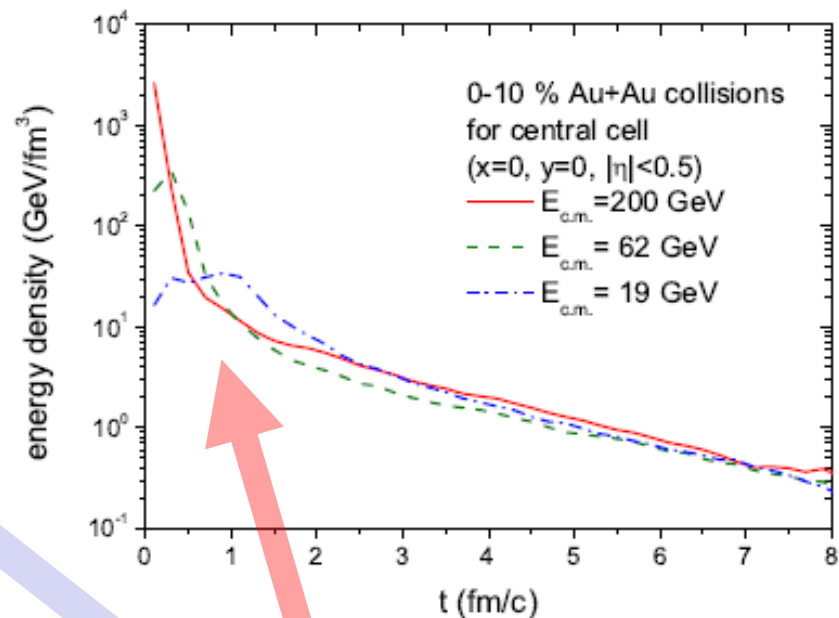
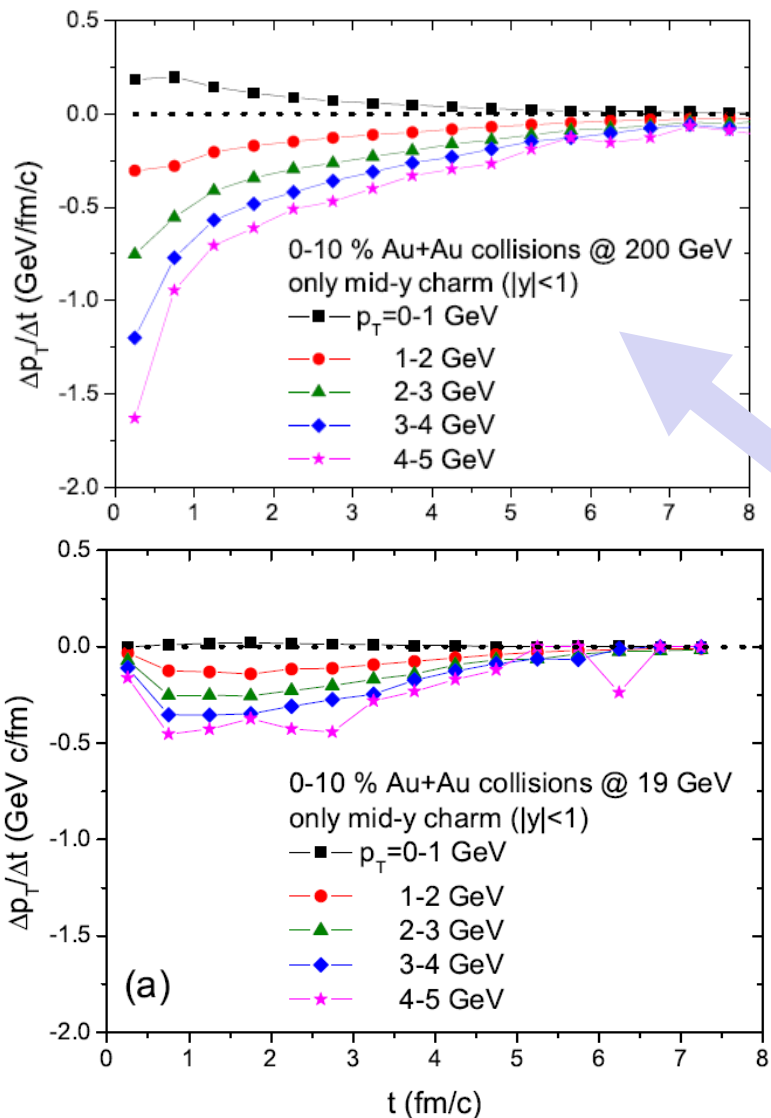
Fig. from the talk by Stefano Trogolo at HP-2020

T. Song et al., PRC 92 (2015) 014910,
PRC 93 (2016) 034906, PRC 96 (2017) 014905



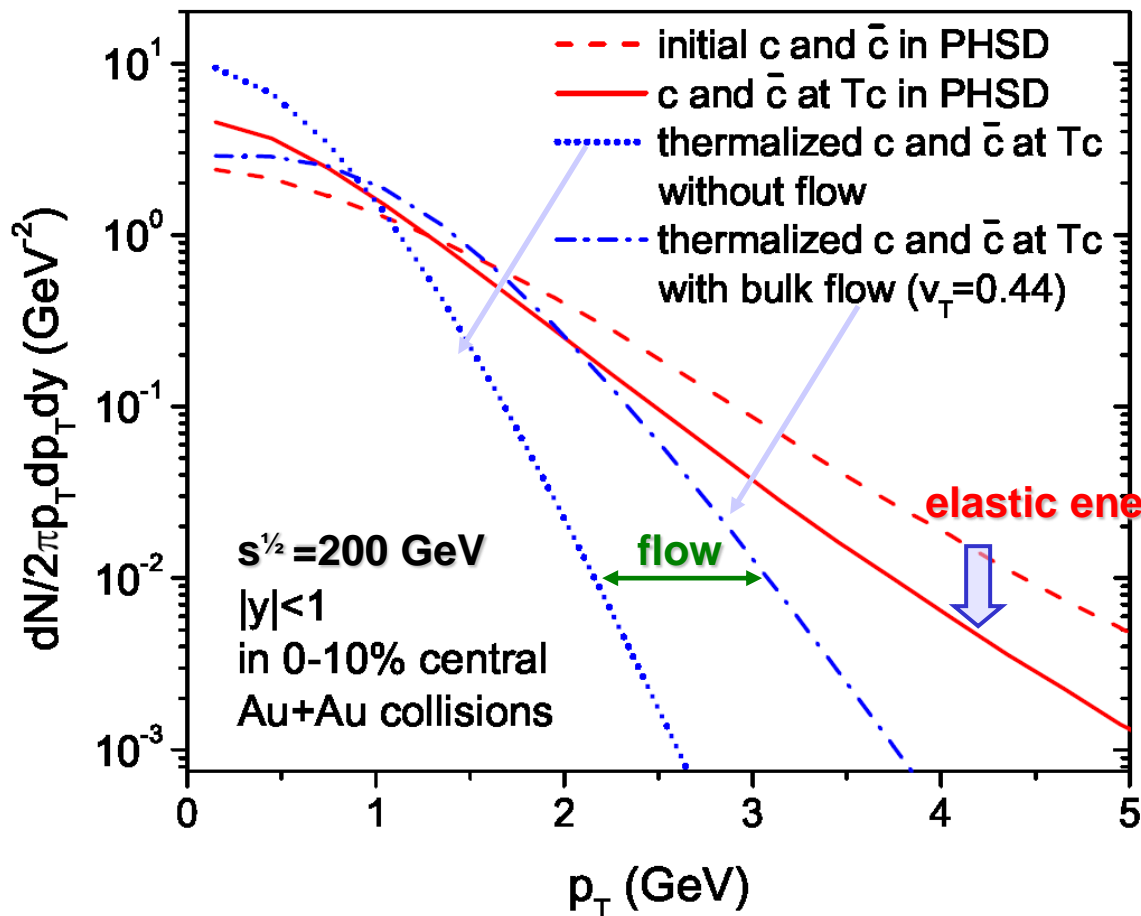
Energy gain/loss at RHIC

- Transverse momentum gain or loss of charm quarks per unit time at mid-rapidity in 0-10 % central Au+Au collisions at $s^{1/2}=200$ and 19 GeV

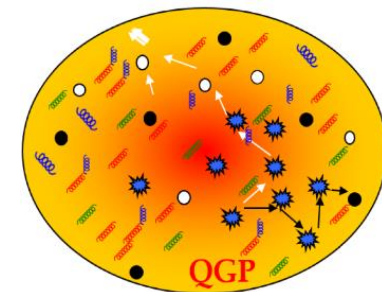


A considerable energy and transverse momentum loss happens in the initial stage of heavy-ion collisions during the QGP phase, because the energy density is extremely large

Thermalization of charm quarks in A+A ?



Model study

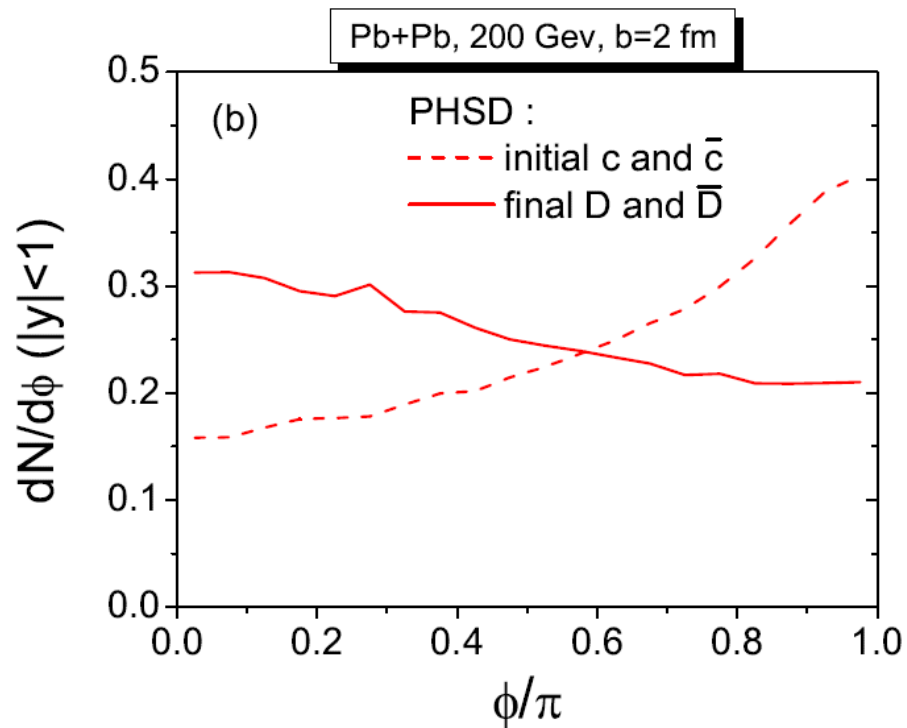
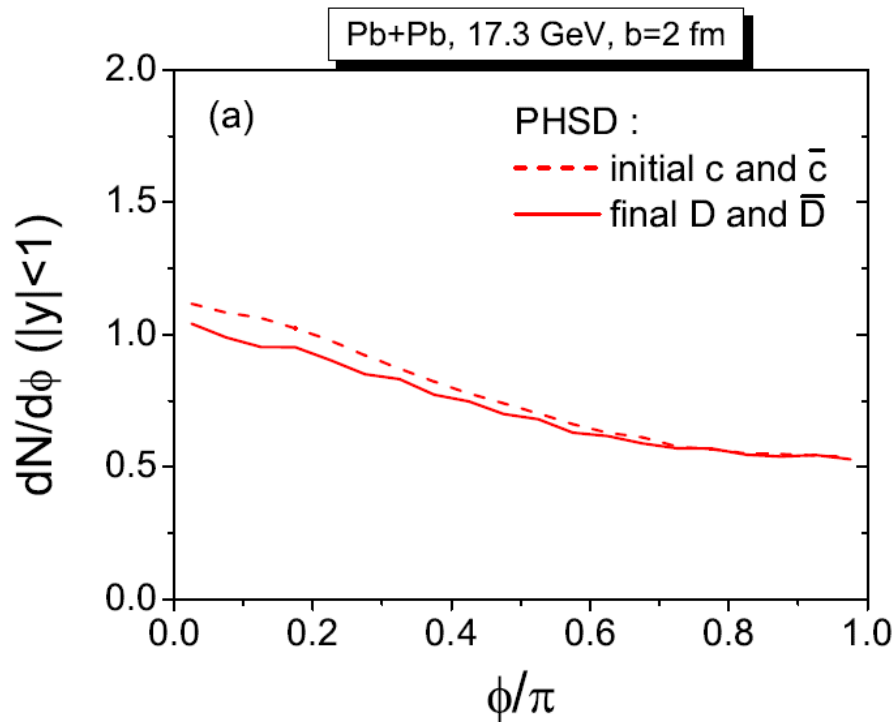


- Scattering of charm quarks with massive partons softens the p_T spectra
 → **elastic energy loss**
- Charm quarks are **close to thermal equilibrium** at low $p_T < 2$ GeV/c



Angular correlation between D-Dbar

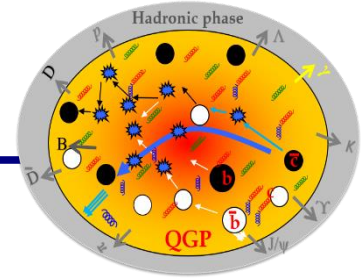
Azimuthal angular distribution between the transverse momentum of D-Dbar at midrapidity ($|y| < 1$) **before** (dashed lines) **and after the interactions with the medium** (solid lines) in central Pb+Pb collisions at $s^{1/2} = 17.3$ and 200 GeV



- **Initial correlations** - from PYTHIA : peaks around $\phi = 0$ for $\sqrt{s} = 17.3$ GeV, while around $\phi = \pi$ for $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV
- **Final correlations:** smeared at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV due to the interaction of charm quarks in QGP



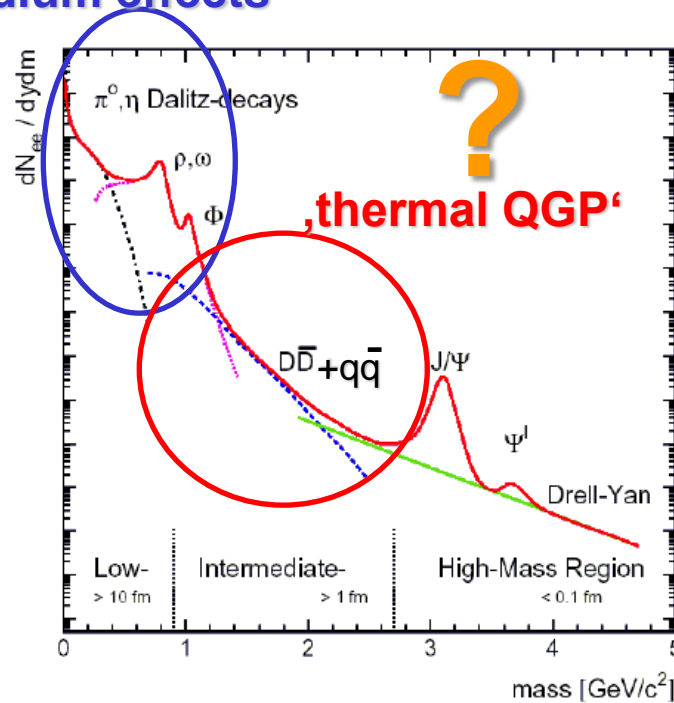
Summary - I



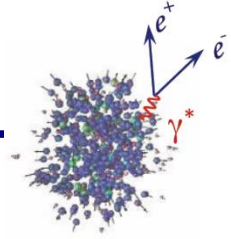
- **PHSD** provides a **microscopic description** of non-equilibrium charm dynamics in the partonic and hadronic phases
- **Partonic rescattering** suppresses the high p_T part of R_{AA} , generates v_2
- **Hadronic rescattering** moves R_{AA} peak to higher p_T , increases v_2
- The structure of R_{AA} at low p_T is sensitive to the **hadronization scenario**, i.e. to the balance between **coalescence and fragmentation**
- **Shadowing effects** suppress R_{AA} at LHC at low transverse momenta, **Cronin effect** slightly increases R_{AA} above $p_T > 1$ GeV
- The **exp. data** for the R_{AA} and v_2 at RHIC and LHC are described in the PHSD by **QGP collisional energy loss** due to the **elastic scattering** of charm quarks with massive quarks and gluons in the QGP phase
 - + by the **dynamical hadronization scenario** „coalescence & fragmentation“
 - + by **strong hadronic interactions** due to resonant elastic scattering of D, D^* with mesons and baryons
- Feed back from **beauty contribution** for R_{AA}^e and v_2^e from single electrons for Au+Au at 200 GeV becomes dominant for $p_T > 3$ GeV
- **Initial azimuthal angular correlation** of $Q\bar{Q}$ pairs is **washed out** during the evolution dominantly due to the transverse flow

Thermal dileptons from QGP vs. dileptons from correlated charm

in-medium effects

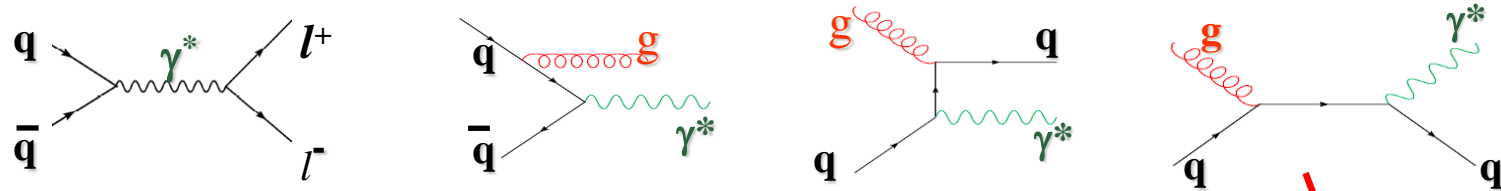


Dilepton sources



from the QGP via partonic (q,qbar, g) interactions:

PHSD: non-perturbative QGP → DQPM



from hadronic sources:

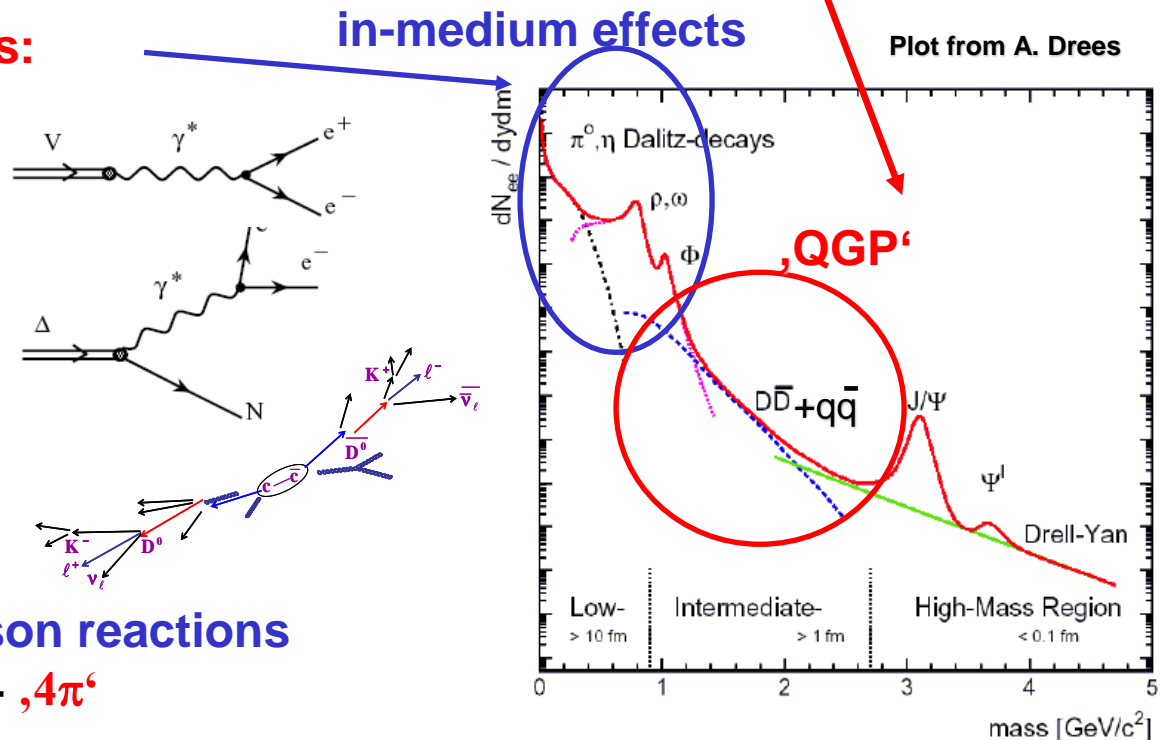
- direct decay of vector mesons ($\rho, \omega, \phi, J/\Psi, \Psi'$)

- Dalitz decay of mesons and baryons ($\pi^0, \eta, \Delta, \dots$)

- correlated D+Dbar pairs

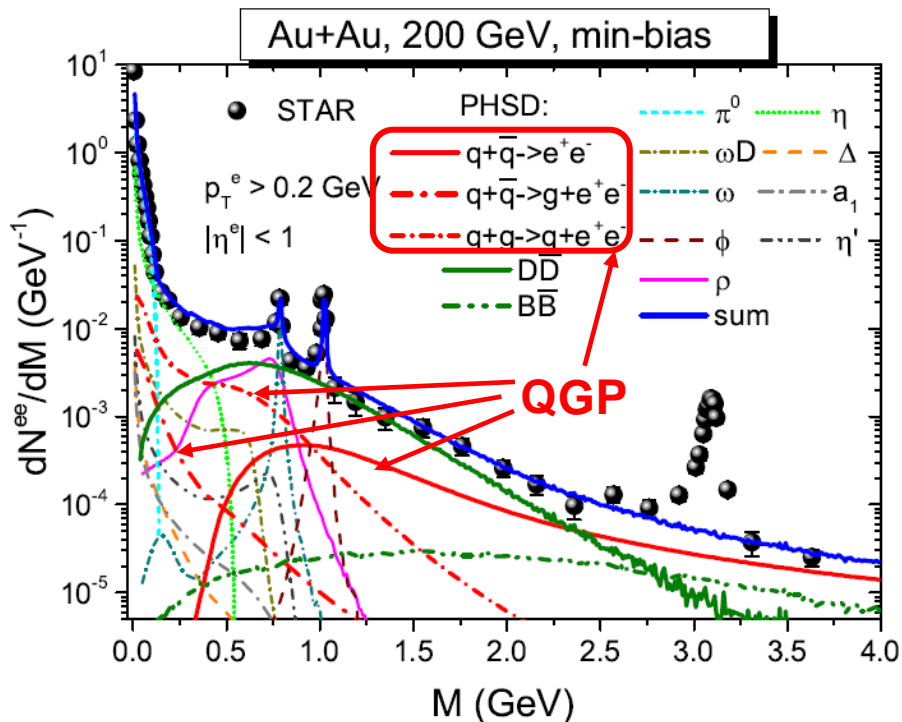
- radiation from multi-meson reactions

($\pi+\pi, \pi+\rho, \pi+\omega, \rho+\rho, \pi+a_1$) - $4\pi'$

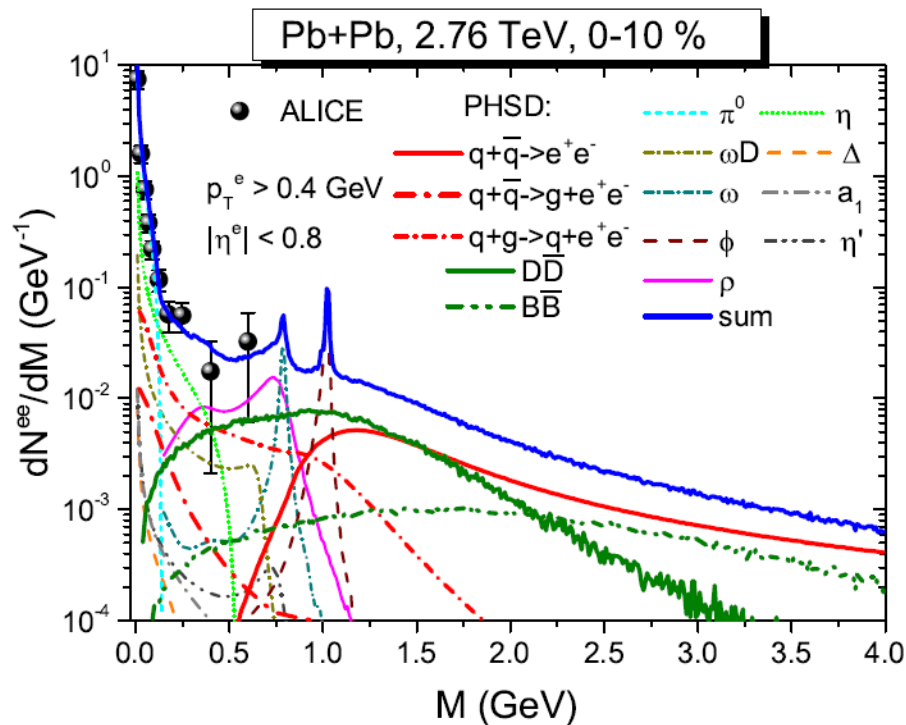


What is the best energy range to observe dileptons from QGP?

RHIC



LHC



Message:

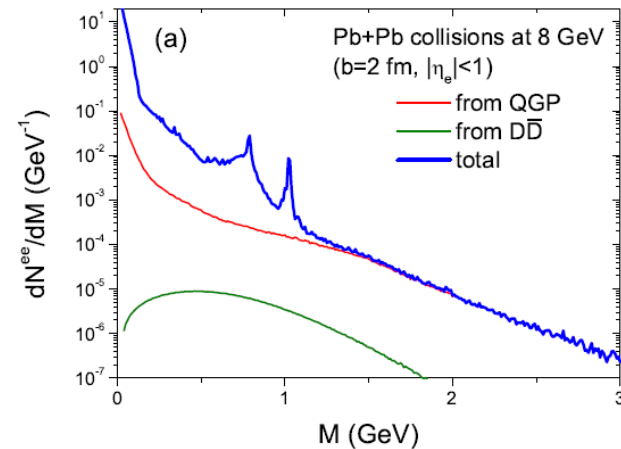
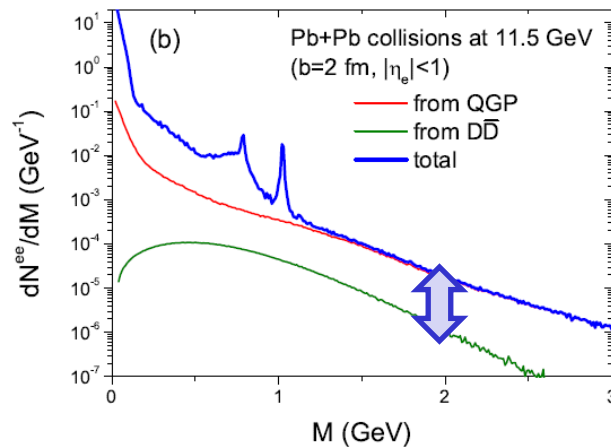
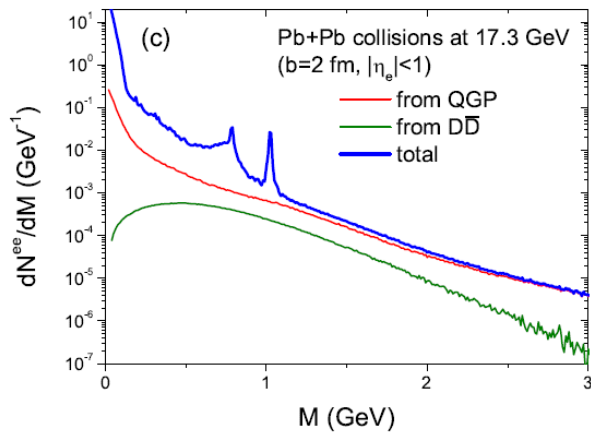
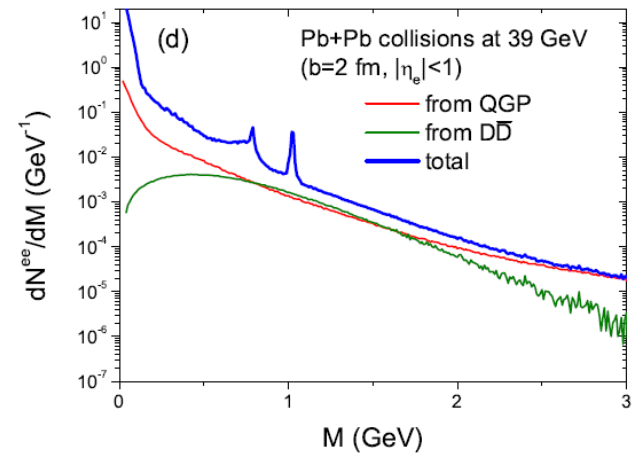
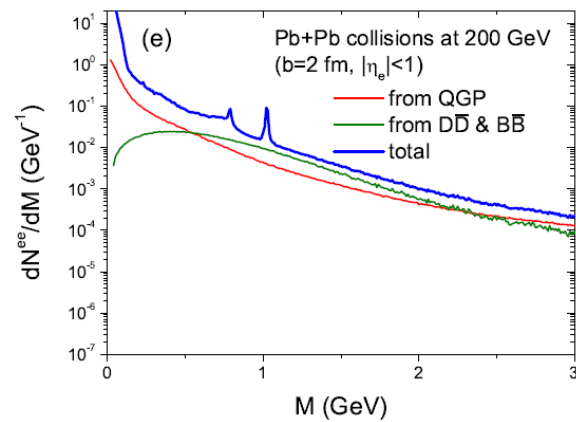
STAR data at 200 GeV and the ALICE data at 2.76 TeV are described by PHSD within

1) a **collisional broadening** scenario for the **vector meson** spectral functions
+ **QGP** + **correlated charm**

2) **Charm contribution** is dominant for $1.2 < M < 2.5$ GeV



Dileptons at FAIR/NICA energies: predictions



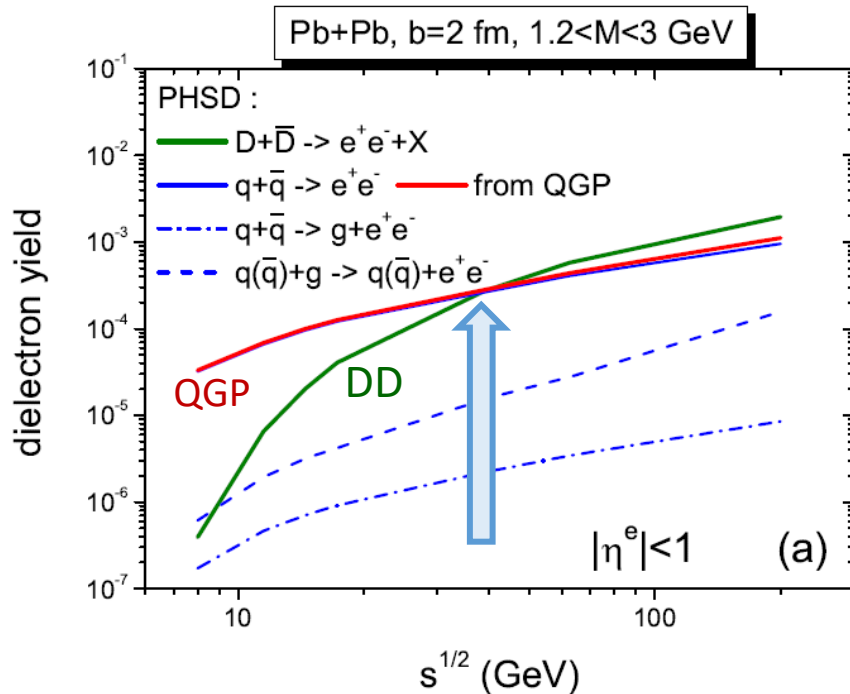
Relative contribution of **QGP** versus charm increases with decreasing energy!



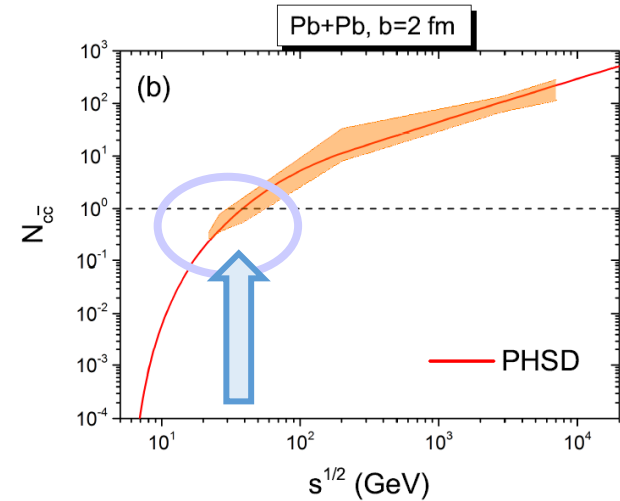
Dileptons: QGP vs charm

Excitation function of dilepton yield integrated for $1.2 < M < 3 \text{ GeV}$

mid-rapidity



The number of primary cc pairs in Pb+Pb collisions at $b=2 \text{ fm}$ as a function of $s^{1/2}$

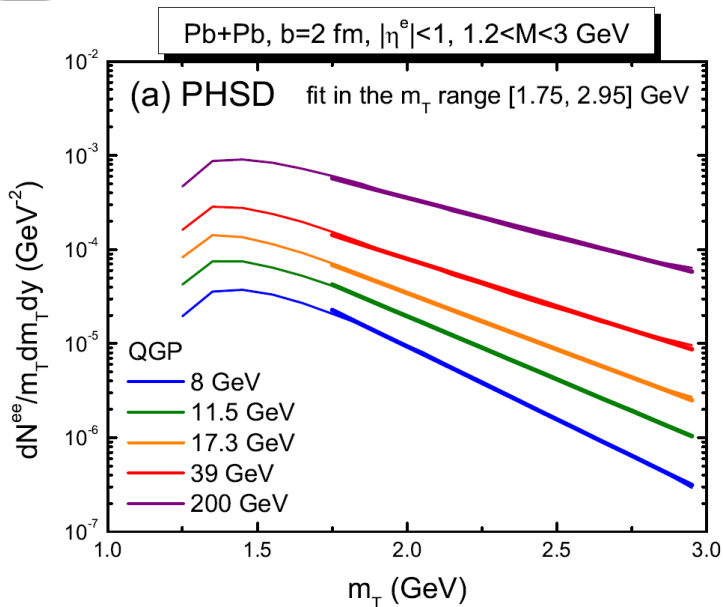


* The shaded area shows the uncertainty in the number of $cc\bar{c}\bar{c}$ pairs in Pb+Pb due to the uncertainty in the charm production cross section in p+p collisions

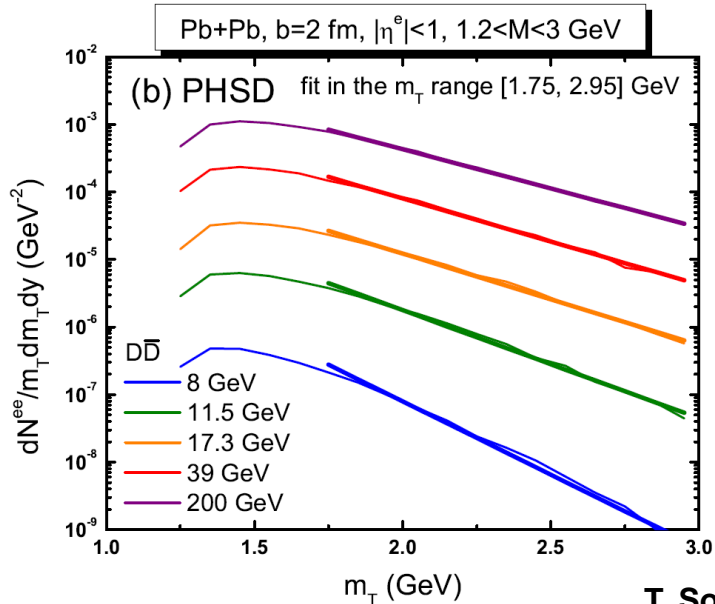
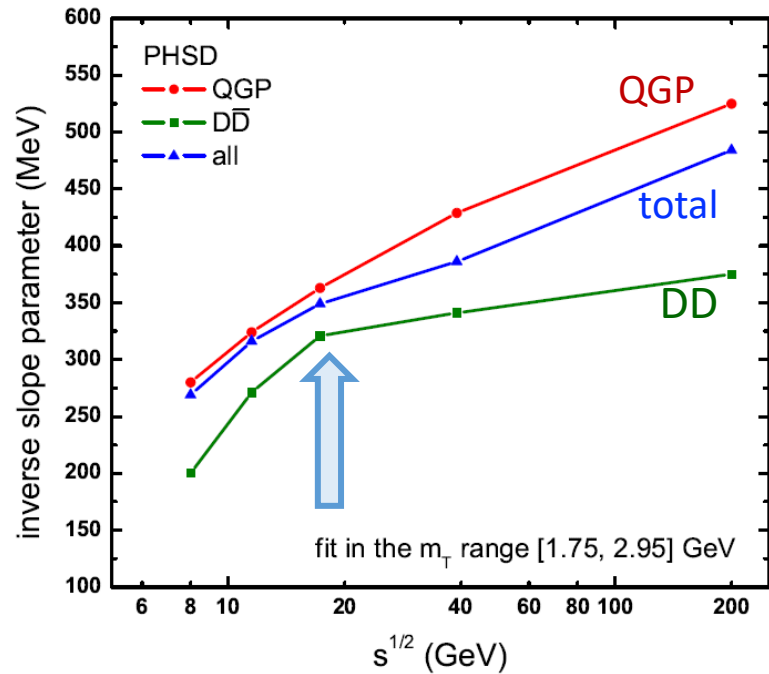
QGP contribution overshines charm with decreasing energy: $\sqrt{s} \leq 30 \text{ GeV}$



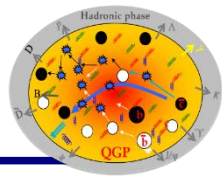
Dilepton transverse mass spectra



The **inverse slope parameter** in the mass range $M=[1.75, 2.95]$



- Inverse slope parameter: QGP contribution is **harder** than that from D-Dbar
- The **excitation function** of the total inverse slope parameter shows **characteristic changes at $s^{1/2} > 20$ GeV**



- ❑ **Charm quarks** are **sensitive to the history** of the **QGP evolution** and retain information on the entire time evolution from initial stage up to the late stage of the HIC
 - ➔ **heavy quarks are a very suitable probe** to study the QGP properties

- ❑ **Intermediate dilepton masses $M > 1.2$ GeV :**
 - Dominant sources : **QGP** (qbar-q) and **correlated charm D/Dbar**
 - Fraction of QGP **grows** with increasing energy; however, the relative contribution of QGP dileptons to **dileptons from charm pairs** increases with decreasing energy

- ➔ **QGP contribution overshines charm with decreasing energy**
Good perspectives for FAIR / NICA / BES RHIC !

Thanks to:

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Catania University:
Vincenzo Greco



PHSD home page:
<http://theory.gsi.de/~ebratkov/phsd-project/PHSD/index1.html>

