

XVIII Polish Workshop on Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions
Strange and Heavy Flavour Physics

Local Organising Committee
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13-14 Dec 2025
 Jagiellonian University

XVIII Polish Workshop on Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions: Strange and Heavy Flavour Physics

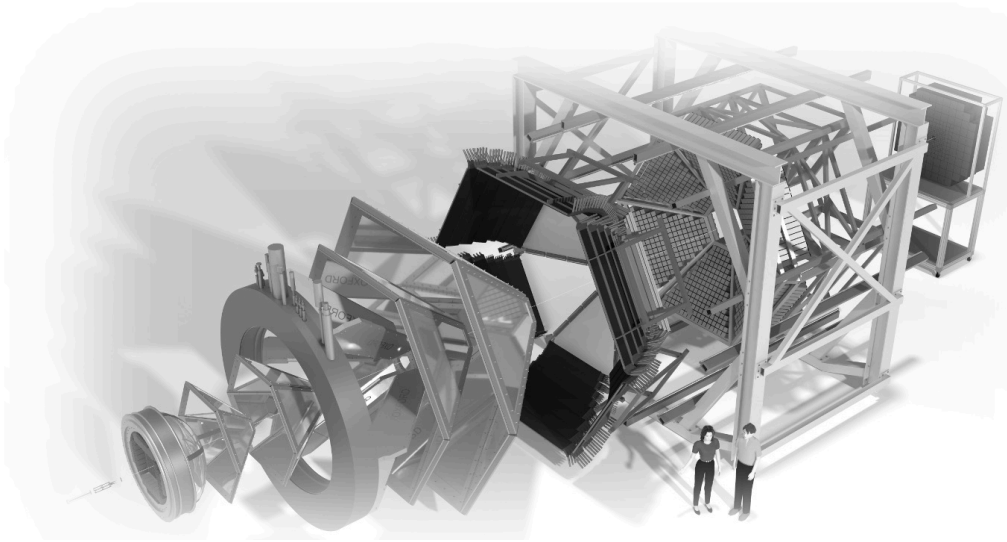
Heavy-ion program of the HADES experiment at GSI/FAIR



Outline

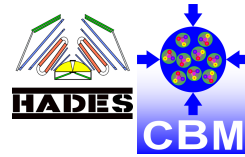
- Physics goals and detector
- Results:
 - Hadrons (fluctuations, collectivity, correlations)
 - Strangeness (including hypernuclei)
 - Dileptons
- Future

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Physics goals and detector

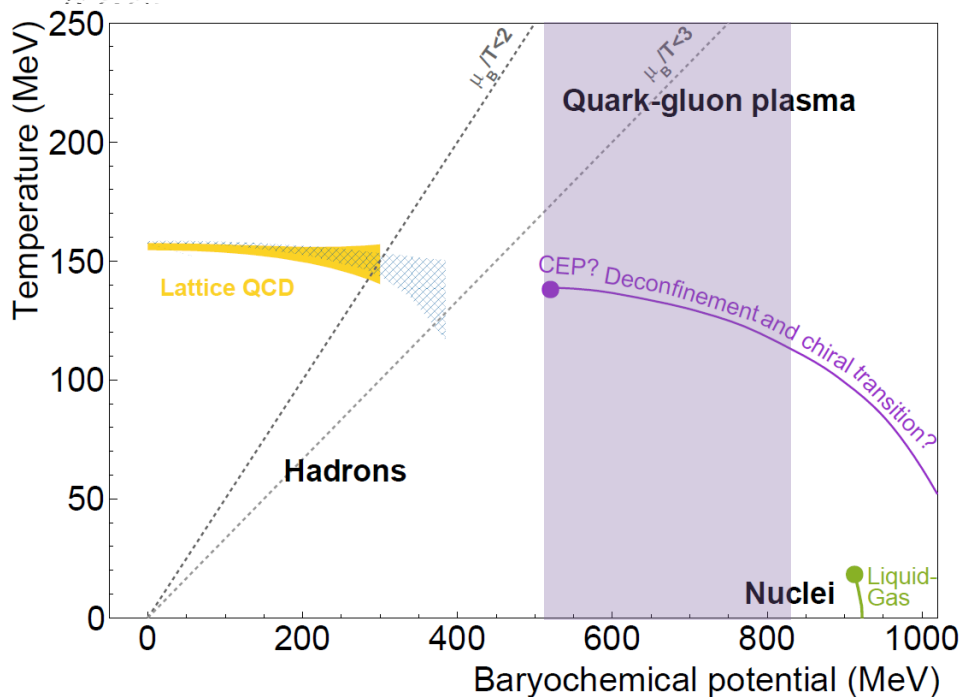
QCD phase diagram



Low μ_B , high T :

- **Cross-over** transition from hadronic to quark matter - comprehensive studies of **QGP** properties
- No **critical point** anticipated for $\mu_B/T < 3$

Bazavovet et al. [HotQCD], PLB 795 (2019) 15-21
Ding et al., [HotQCD], PRL 123 (2019) 6, 062002
Borsanyi et al., PRL 125 (2020) 5, 052001
Isserstedt et al. PRD 100 (2019) 074011
Gao, Pawłowski, PLB 820 (2021) 136584



High μ_B , low T :

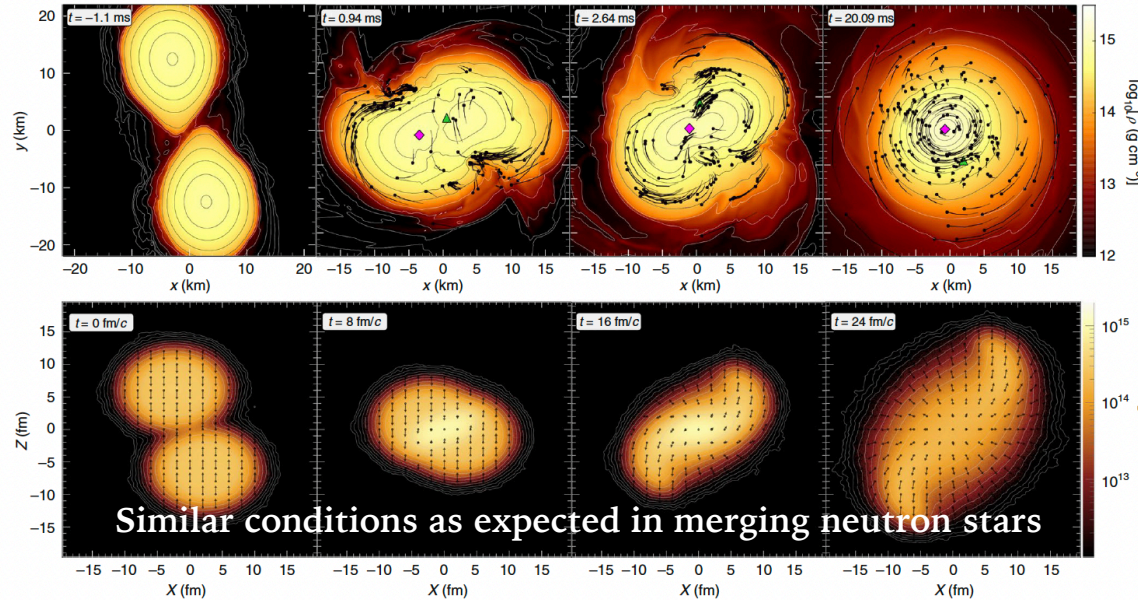
- Unknown **phase structure** (first-order phase transition, critical point possible, mixed phases, new phases, ...)
- Properties of matter to determine
- Characteristics of hadrons
- Equation of State (**EoS**) to establish
- Neutron Star (**NS**)

HADES physics goals

Heavy-ion collisions at

$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ up to 2.7 GeV

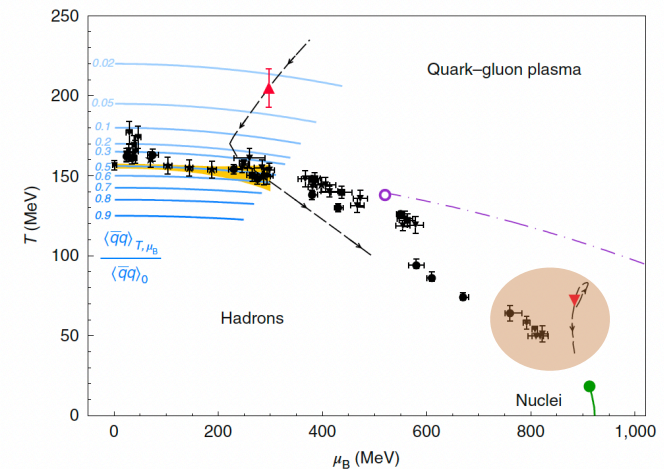
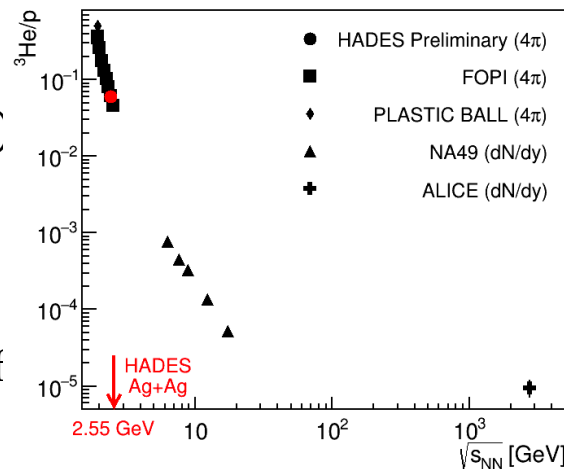
- Microscopic properties of baryon dominated matter
- EoS observables



HADES, *Nature Phys.* 15, 1040–1045 (2019)

π^- (\sqrt{s} up to 2.35 GeV) and nucleon (\sqrt{s} up to 3.46 GeV) beams:

- Reference measurements (vacuum, cold QCD matter)
- Electromagnetic structure of baryons and hyperons



See R. Lalik talk

High Acceptance Di-Electron Spectrometer

Fixed target experiment at **SIS-18** accelerator (GSI, Germany)

Magnet spectrometer

Low mass Mini-Drift-Chambers (MDCs)

Time of flight walls: RPC and TOF

RICH and ECAL for e^+/e^- and photon identification

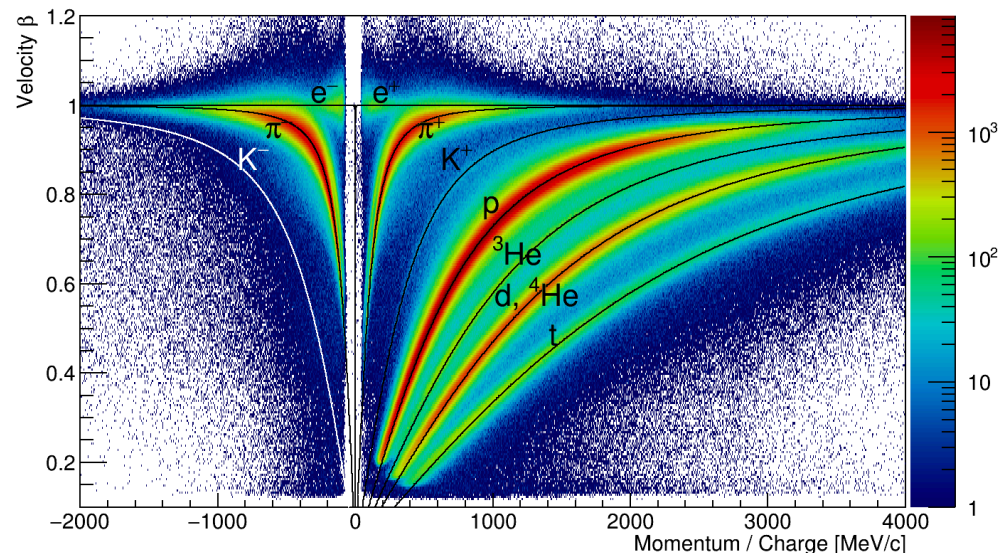
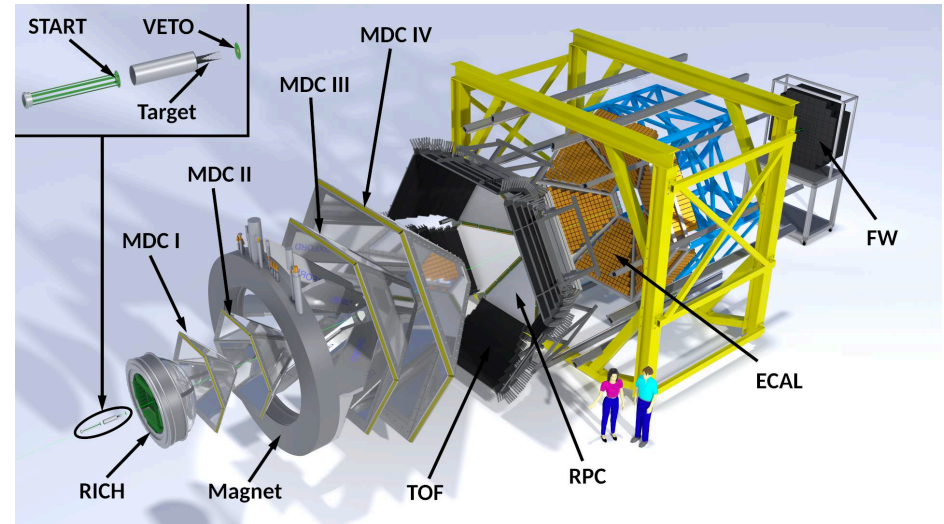
Full azimuthal angle and polar angles between 18° and 85° covered

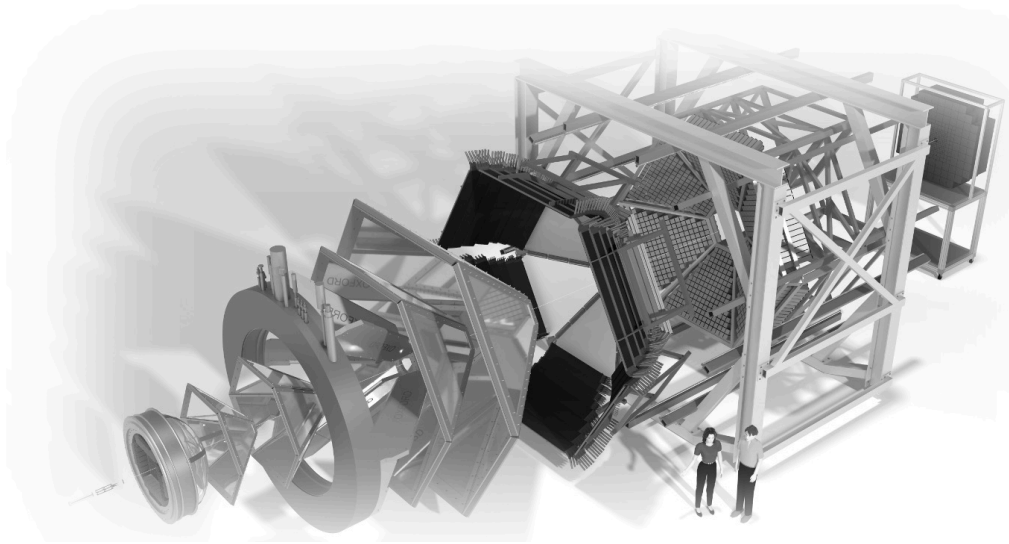
2012: Au+Au, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.42$ GeV (7 billion)

2019: Ag+Ag, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.55$ GeV

and 2.42 GeV (14 billion)

2024: Au+Au, $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.24$ GeV (1.8 billion)





Hadrons

E-by-e fluctuations

Looking for signatures of phase transition

Higher order moments of particle yields from derivatives of partition function Z w.r.t μ_B

$$\langle N \rangle = \frac{\partial \ln(Z)}{\partial \left(\frac{\mu}{T}\right)}$$

$$\langle N^2 \rangle - \langle N \rangle^2 = \frac{\partial^2 \ln(Z)}{\partial \left(\frac{\mu}{T}\right)^2}$$

Cumulants:

$$\kappa_1 = \mu$$

$$\kappa_2 = \sigma^2$$

$$\kappa_3 = \langle N^3 \rangle - 3\langle N^2 \rangle \langle N \rangle + 2\langle N \rangle^3$$

$$\kappa_4 = \langle N^4 \rangle - 4\langle N^3 \rangle \langle N \rangle - 3\langle N^2 \rangle^2 + 12\langle N^2 \rangle \langle N \rangle^2 - 6\langle N \rangle^4$$

$$\text{Skewness} = \frac{\kappa_3}{\sigma^3}$$

$$\text{Kurtosis} = \frac{\kappa_4}{\sigma^4}$$

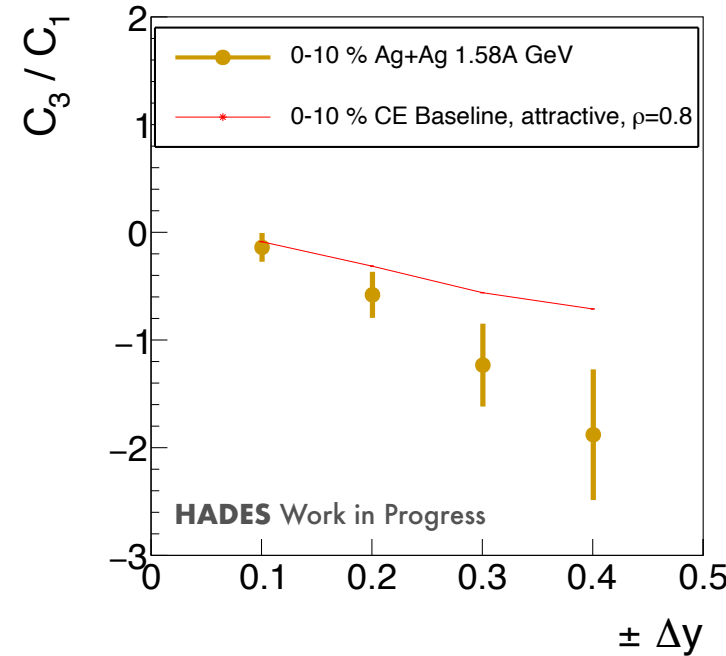
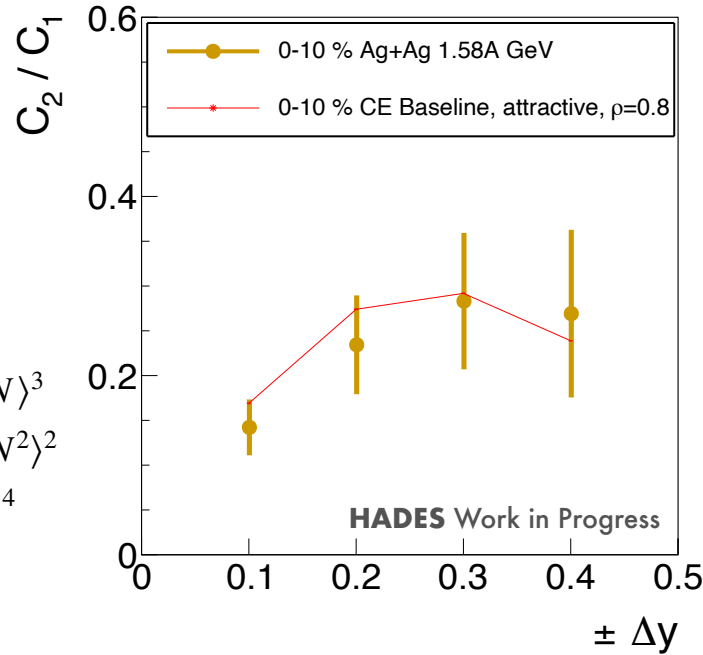
Factorial cumulants:

$$C_2 = \kappa_2 - \kappa_1$$

$$C_3 = \kappa_3 - 3\kappa_2 + 2\kappa_1$$

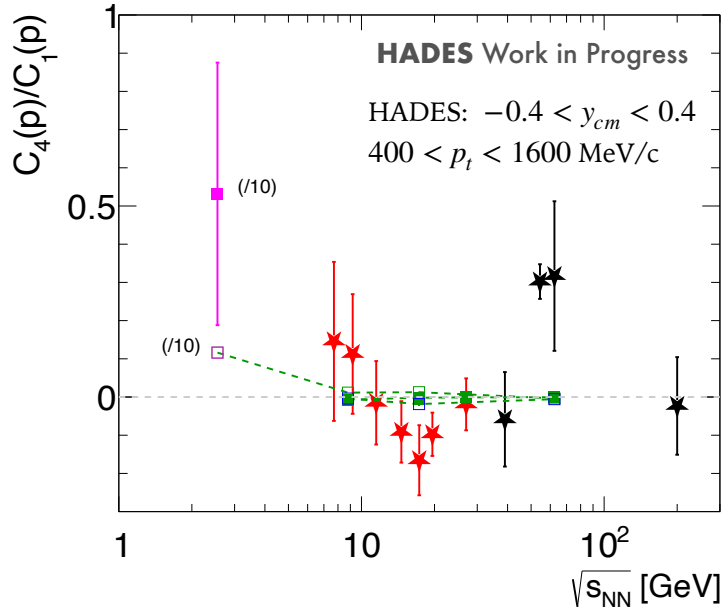
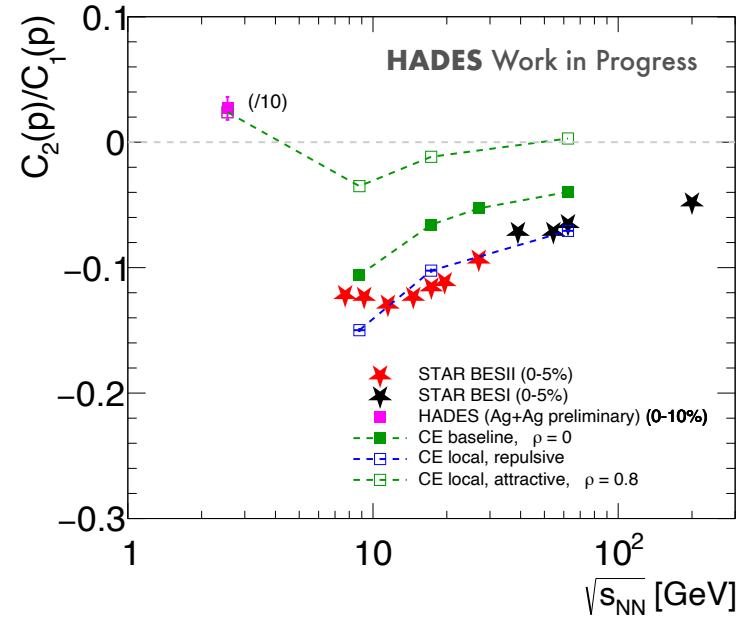
$$C_4 = \kappa_4 - 6\kappa_3 + 11\kappa_2 - 6\kappa_1$$

P. Braun-Munzinger, K. Redlich, A. Rustamov, J. Stachel, JHEP 08 (2024) 113

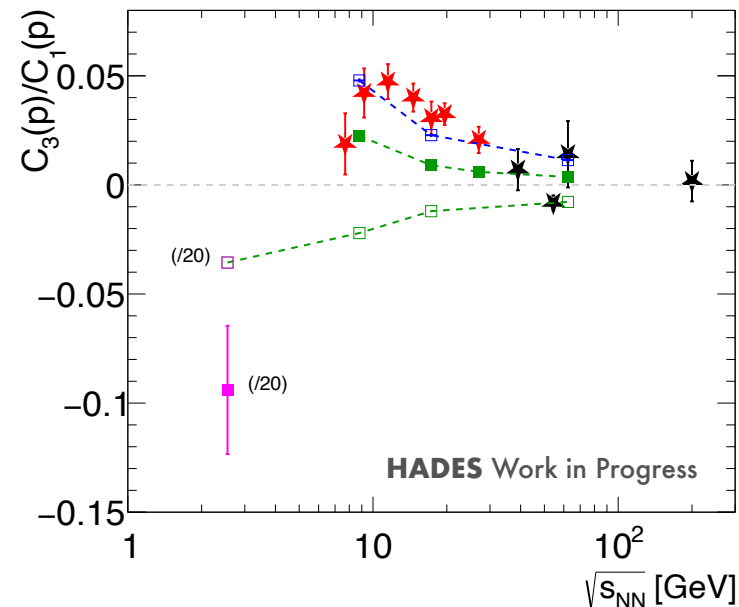


Trend of rapidity dependence of factorial cumulant ratios described by Canonical baseline considering correlations and attractive potential

Proton factorial cumulants



B. Friman, A. Rustamov,
K. Redlich (in progress)



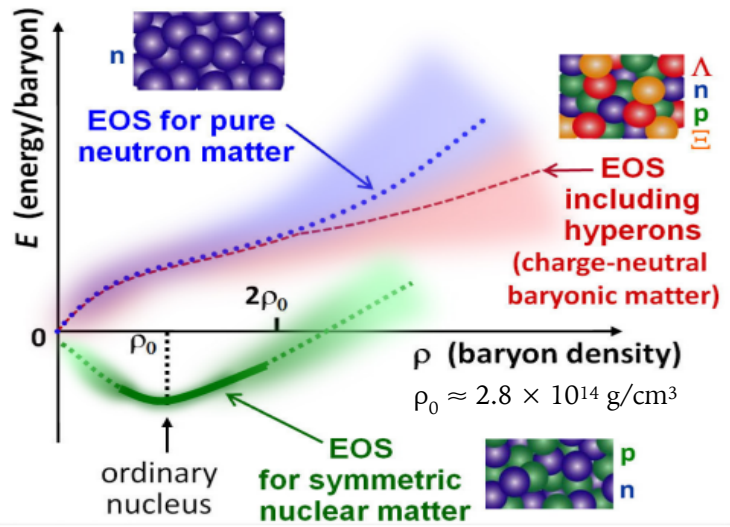
Larger factorial cumulant ratios at **HADES** compared to STAR

C_3/C_1 and C_4/C_1 HADES continues trend observed at STAR towards lower $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$

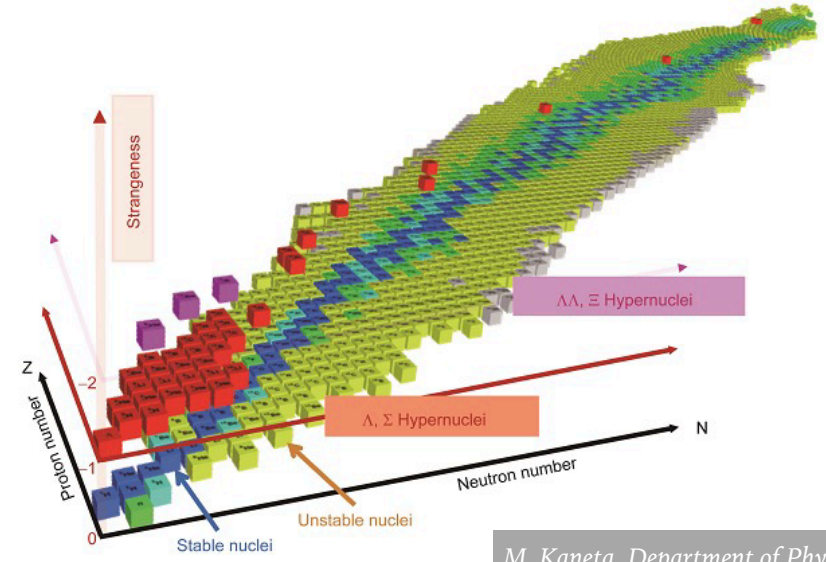
The interplay of repulsive and attractive forces between protons explains the systematic trends observed in the STAR BESII and **HADES** data

Neutron star (NS) puzzle

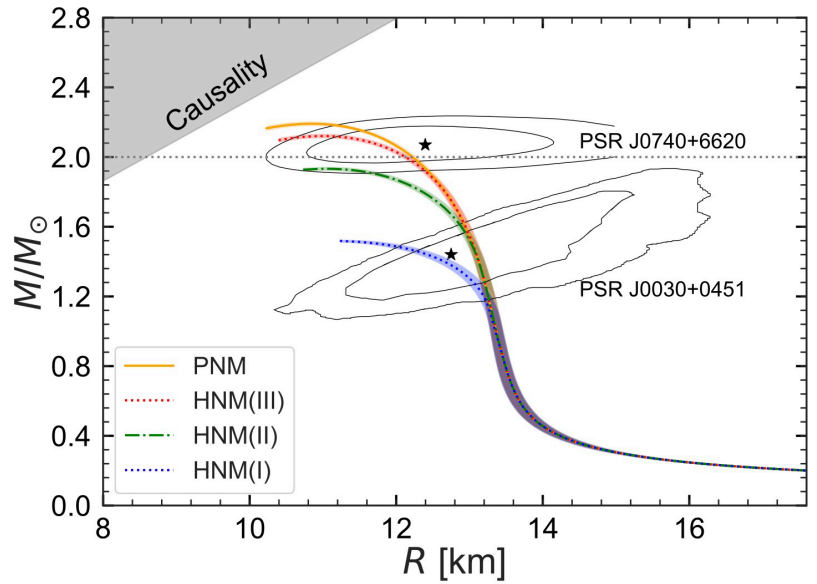
H. Tamura, JPS Conf. Proc., 011003 (2014)



„To establish the EoS applicable to the neutron star has been one of the most important subjects in nuclear physics for a long time but has not been achieved yet.” T. Hamura



M. Kaneta, Department of Physics, Tohoku University, Japan

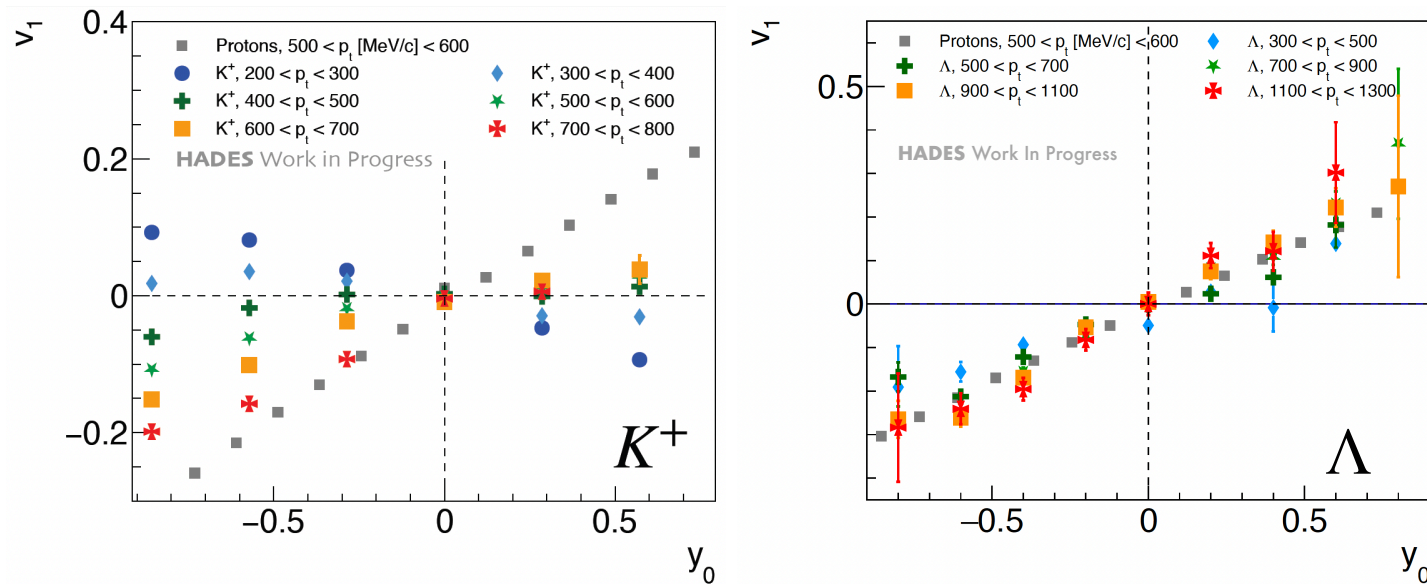


Hypernuclei are pivotal for the EoS of the NS

- How are nuclei and hypernuclei formed?
- What are their characteristics?
- How do nuclei (N) and hyperons (Y) interact?

Anisotropic flow - strange hadrons

- EoS for NS including hyperons unable to explain the most massive NS
- Inclusion of hyperons favorable
- No conclusive measurement for the interaction KN potential yet
- Interactions of hadrons with nuclear matter probed by anisotropic flow



Rapidity dependence of v_1 for charged K and Λ is studied

Comparing these results to transport models needed to learn about nature of their interactions with nuclear matter

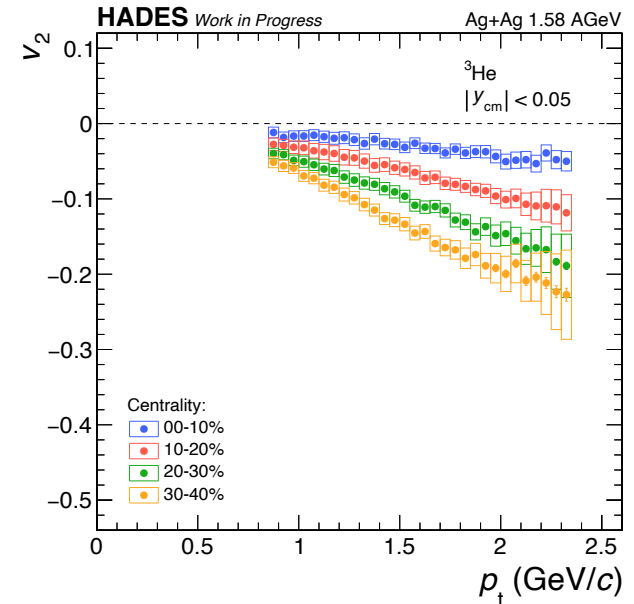
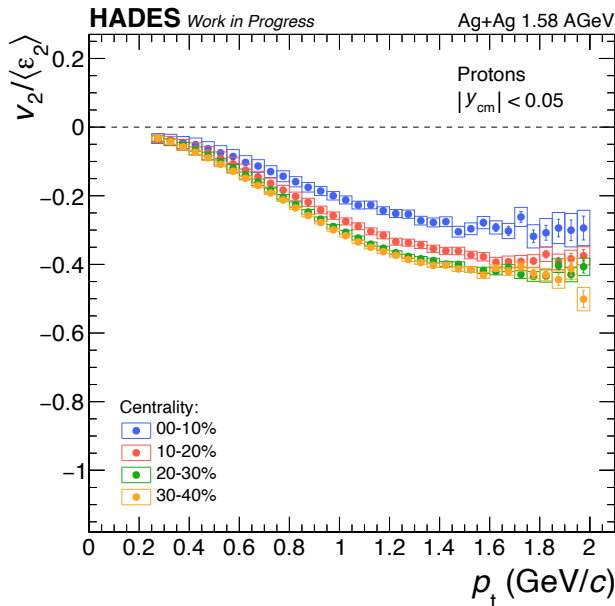
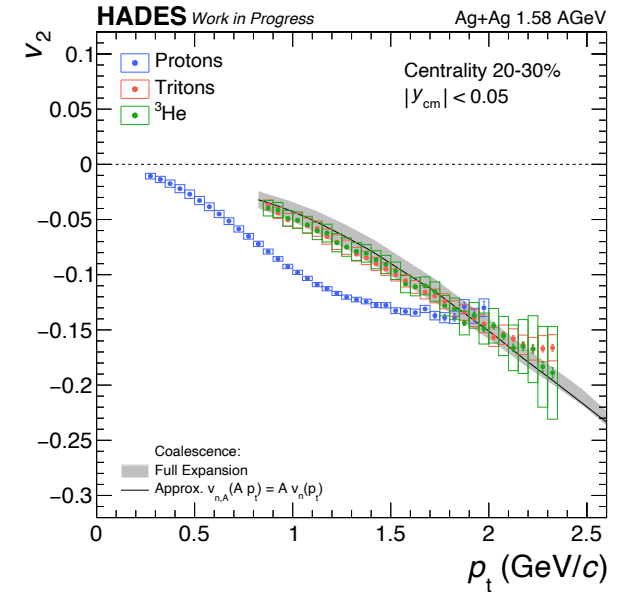
Anisotropic flow - light nuclei

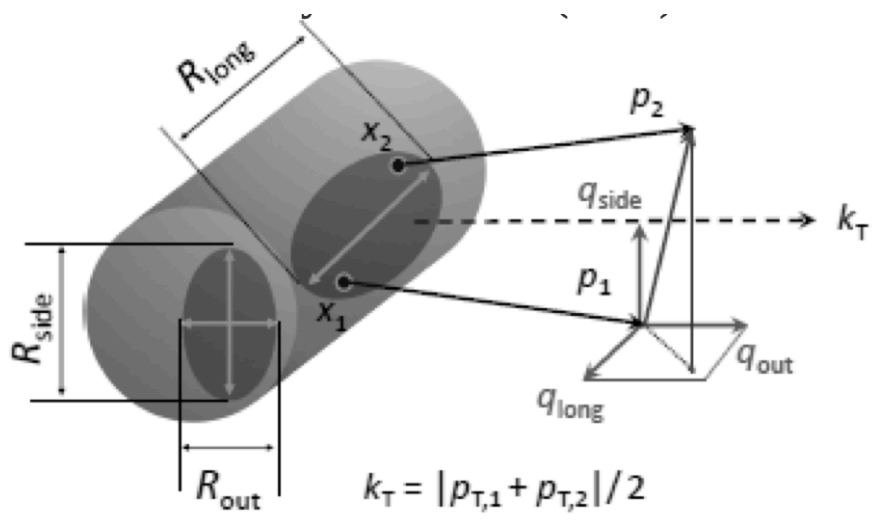
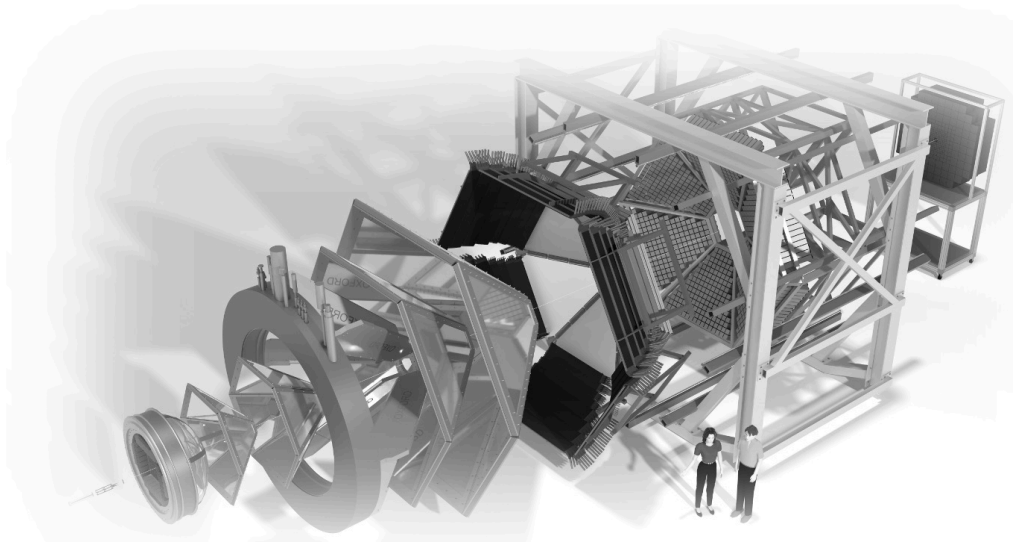
Scaling of $v_2(p_t)$ with A number $v_{n,A}(Ap_t) = Av_n(p_t)$

Coalescence-like scenario works well for t , ${}^3\text{He}$

Orientation of symmetry-planes

Negative $v_2/\langle\epsilon_2\rangle \rightarrow v_2$ and eccentricity ϵ_2 plane perpendicular





$$k_T = |p_{T,1} + p_{T,2}|/2$$

$$k^{\perp} = |b^{\perp T} + b^{\perp S}|/2$$

Hadrons

Sizes and dynamics

Bertsch-Pratt parametrization, 3D- and 1D-dimensional cases

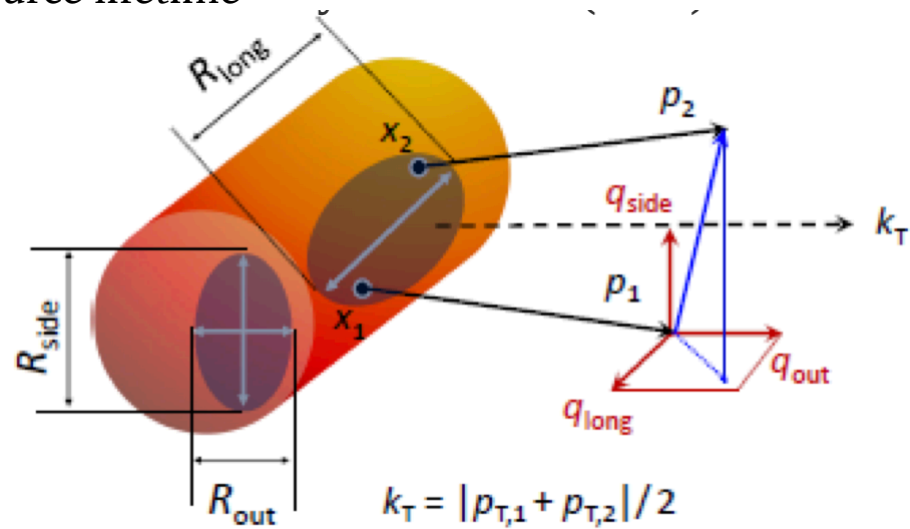
- R_{side} spatial source evolution in the transverse direction
- R_{out} related to spatial and time components
- $R_{\text{out}}/R_{\text{side}}$ signature of phase transition
- $R_{\text{out}}^2 - R_{\text{side}}^2 = \Delta\tau^2 \beta_t^2$; $\Delta\tau$ – emission time
- R_{long} temperature of kinetic freeze-out and source lifetime

long - determined by the beam direction

out - determined by the pair transverse momentum

side - perpendicular to *long* and *side*

3D case is considered if statistics is enough and two-particle correlations are easy to describe (Quantum Statistics and Coulomb FSI).

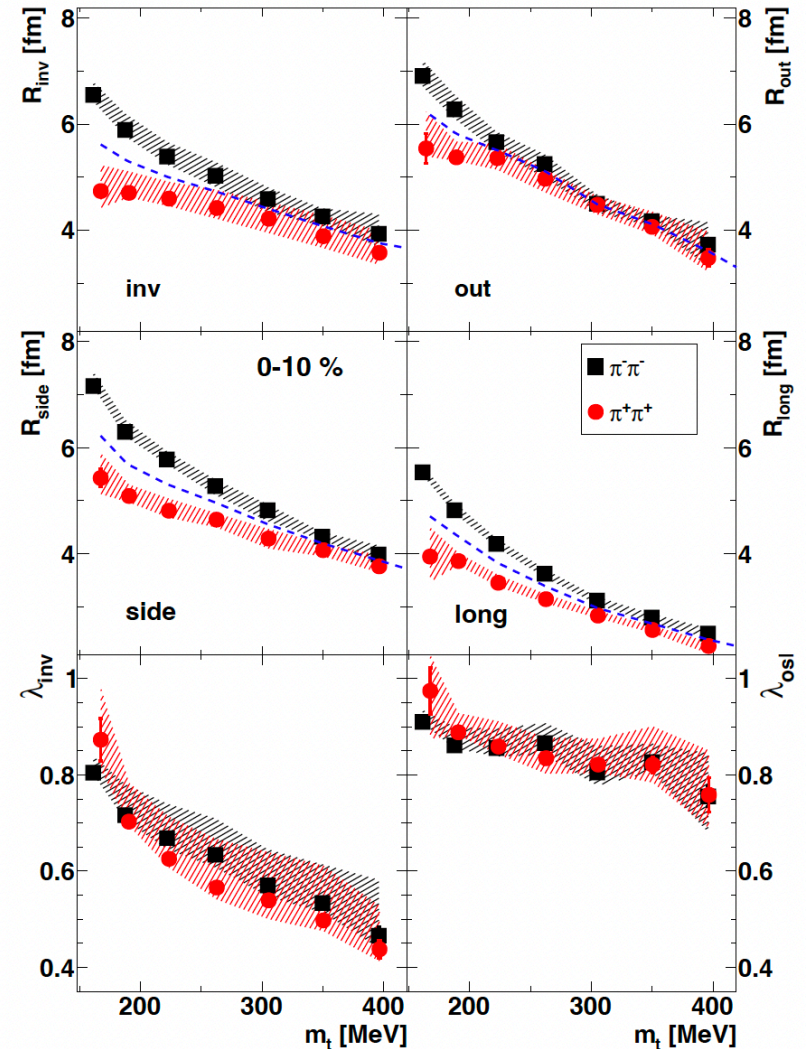
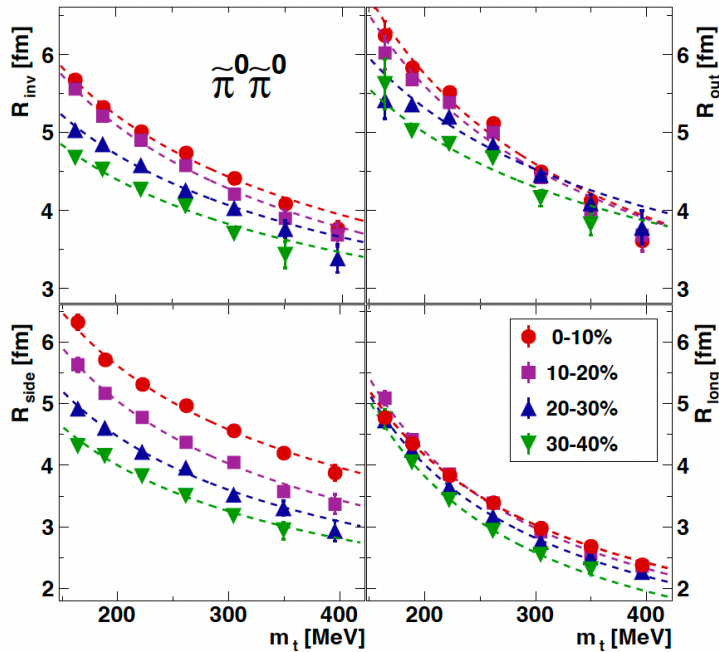


$$C(\vec{q}) = (1 - \lambda) + K_{\text{Coul}}(q_{\text{inv}})\lambda$$

$$\times \exp\left(-q_o^2 R_o^2 - q_s^2 R_s^2 - q_l^2 R_l^2 - 2q_o q_s R_{os}^2 - 2q_o q_l R_{ol}^2\right)$$

Identical pion correlations

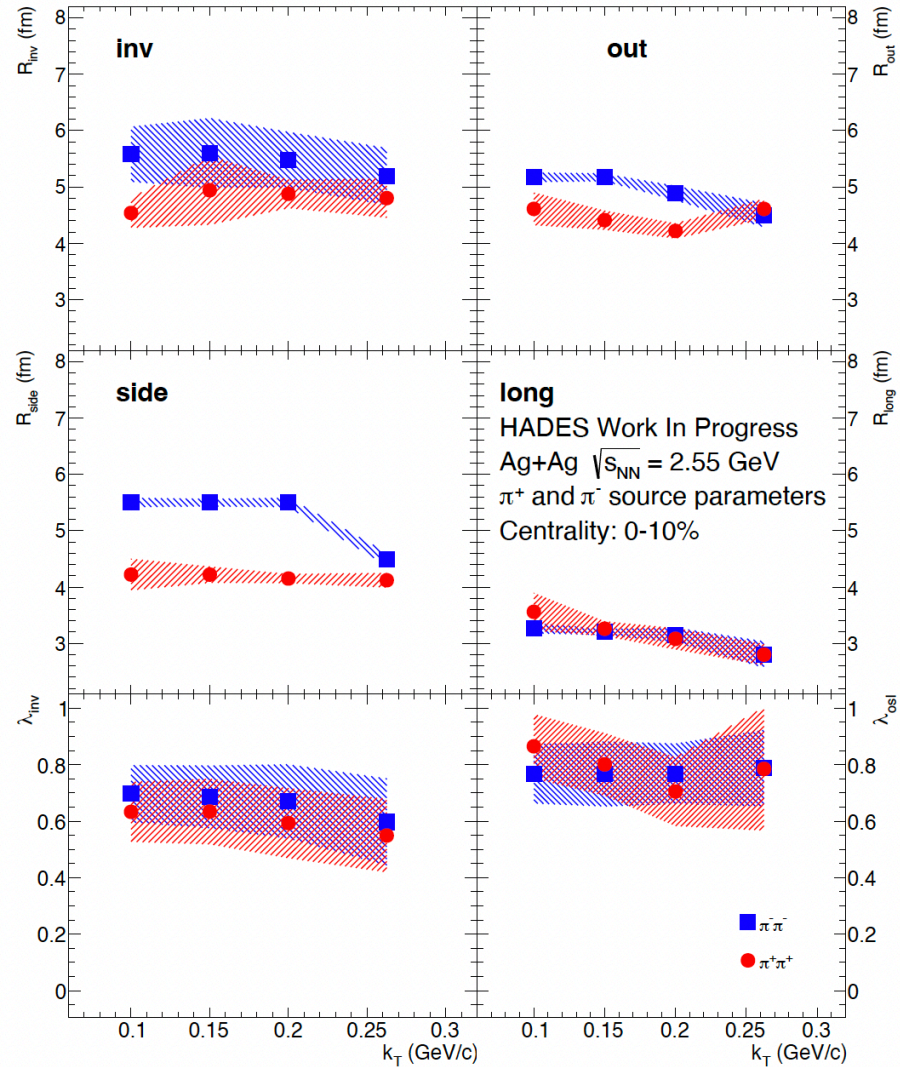
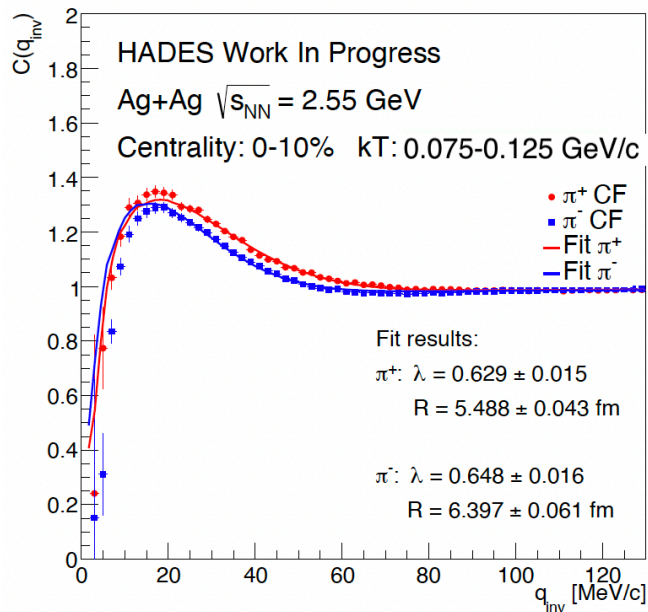
- 10% of most central collisions.
- 7 k_T intervals.
- Differences in HBT parameters for π^- and π^+ (especially low p_T) due to Coulomb effect.
- Neutral π deduced from interpolations of the charged π data.

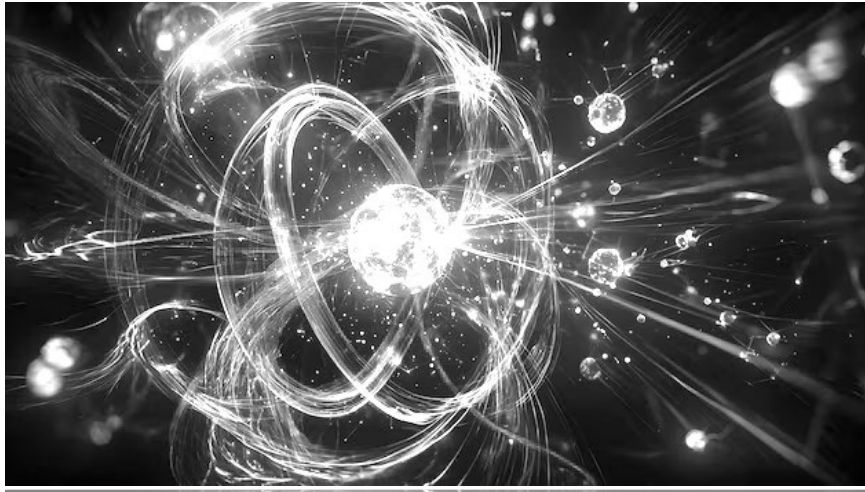
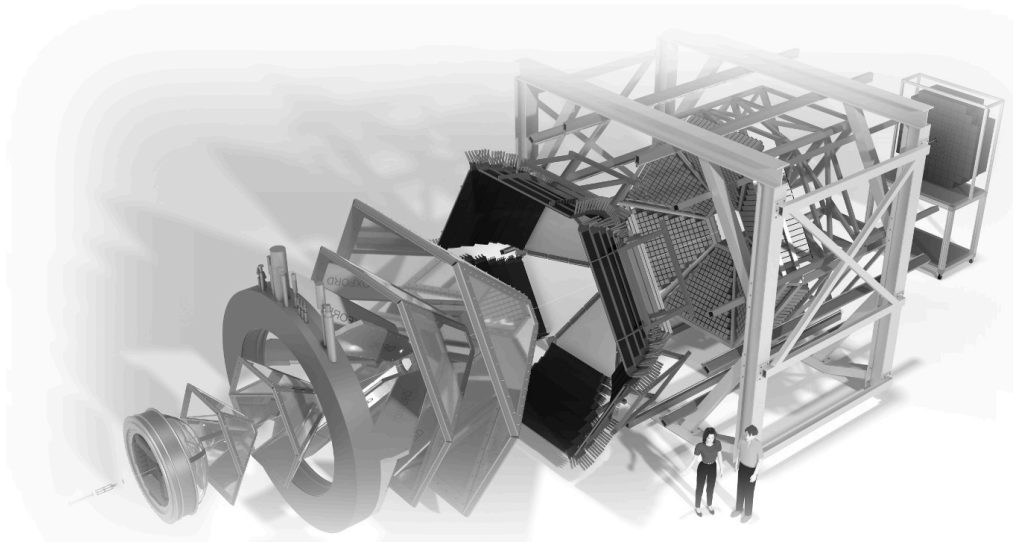


Eur. Phys. J. A 56, 140 (2020)

Identical pion correlations

- 10% of most central collisions.
- 4 k_T intervals.
- Differences in HBT parameters for π^- and π^+ (especially low p_T) due to Coulomb effect.
- Other centralities considered as well



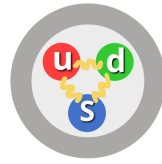


Hadrons

NN, NY

interactions

Interactions

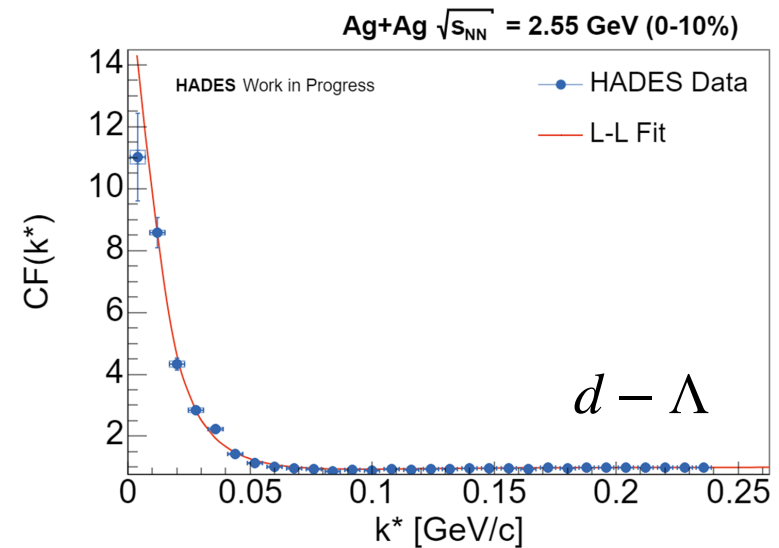
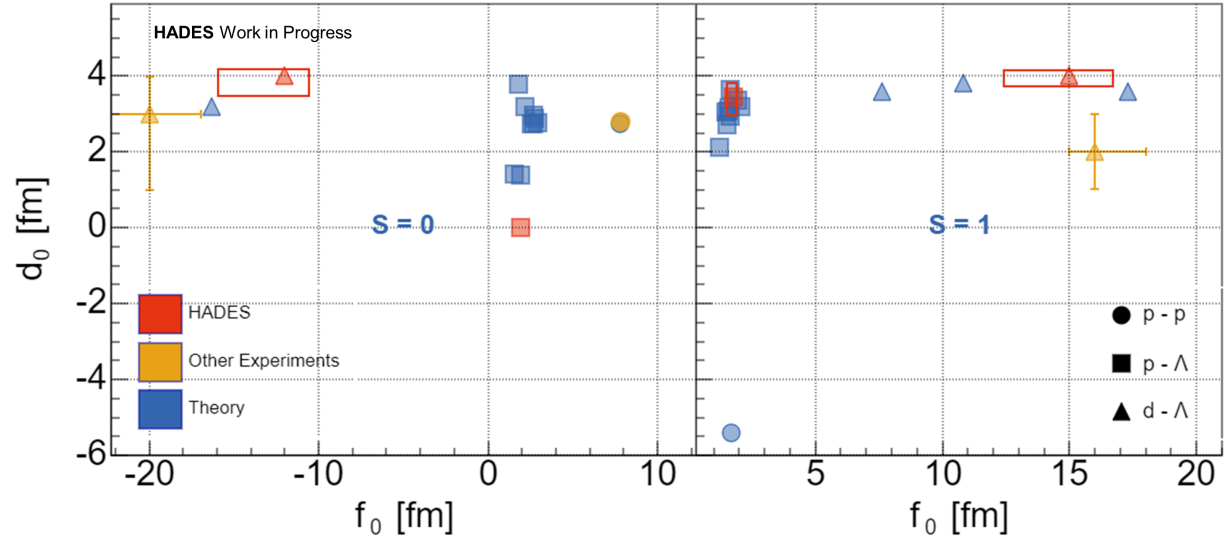


Phys. Rev. C 99.2 (2019): 024001
 EPJ Web of Conferences. Vol. 296, 2024
 A. Rijken, Phys. Rev. C, Nucl. Phys. 73.4 (2006): 044007
 A. ES Green, M. H. MacGregor, and R. Wilson. Conf. 1967

A. Cobis, J.Phys. G 23, 401 (1997)
 H.W. Hammer, Nucl. Phys. A 705, 173 (2002)
 G. Alexander, Phys. Rev. 173, 1452 (1968)
 T.A. Rijken, Prog. Theor. Phys. Suppl. 185, 14 (2010)



- Nucleons essentially stopped in collision zone
- HADES around the S production threshold
- Presence of Y in NS
- Impact of Y to EoS
- Modest of NN, NY, and YY interaction measurements
- Scattering length (f_0^S) and effective range (d_0^S) of p - p, p - Λ , and d - Λ interaction estimated
- Inline with the world data



Proton - proton correlations

- High stopping in HADES implies large abundance of protons
- Protons expected to be more sensitive to the EOS
- So far only 1D analysis done, 3D analysis coming soon, BP parameters from protons to compare to pions

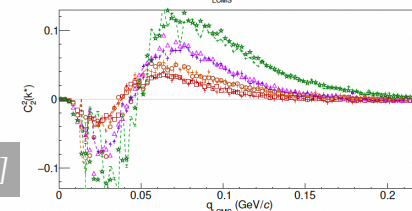
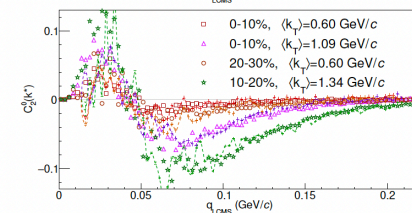
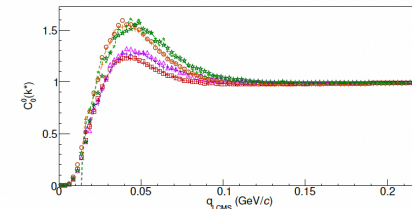
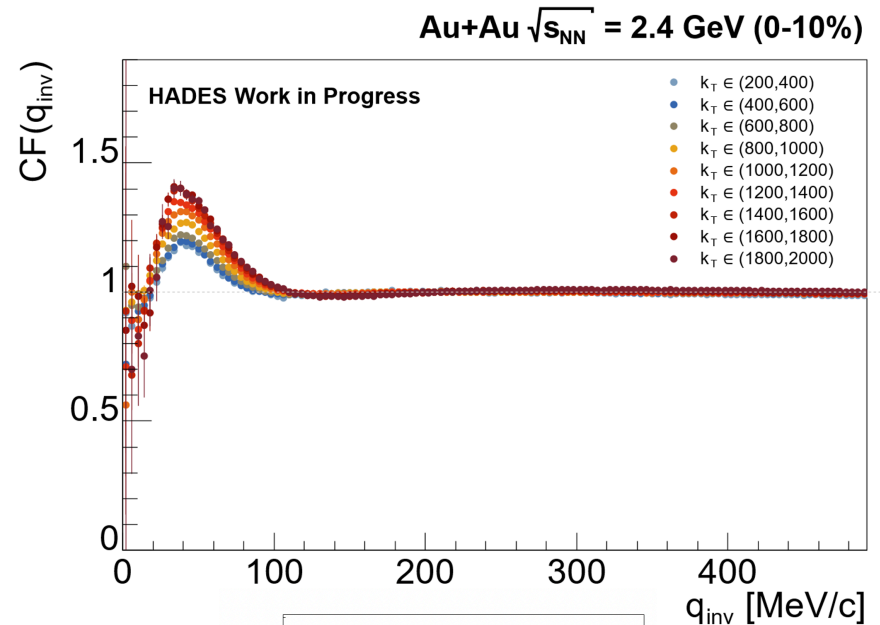
- Plan to use SH decompositions

$$C_l^m(k^*) = \int C(\vec{k}^*) Y_l^m(\theta_k, \phi_k) d\cos(\theta) d\phi_k$$

- SMASH predictions for 3D p-p correlations for HADES (and CBM / STAR FXT) for various EoS in progress

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e-Print: 2505.05276 [hep-ex]



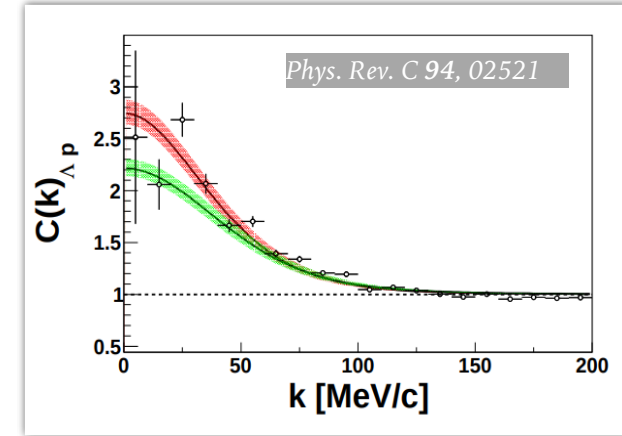
Proton - lambda correlations

Model	$f_0^{S=0}$ (fm)	$f_0^{S=1}$ (fm)	$d_0^{S=0}$ (fm)	$d_0^{S=1}$ (fm)	n_σ	
ND [77]	1.77	2.06	3.78	3.18	1.1	
NF [78]	2.18	1.93	3.19	3.358	1.1	
NSC89 [79]	2.73	1.48	2.87	3.04	0.9	
NSC97 [80]	a	0.71	2.18	5.86	2.76	1.0
	b	0.9	2.13	4.92	2.84	1.0
	c	1.2	2.08	4.11	2.92	1.0
	d	1.71	1.95	3.46	3.08	1.0
	e	2.1	1.86	3.19	3.19	1.1
	f	2.51	1.75	3.03	3.32	1.0
ESC08 [81]	2.7	1.65	2.97	3.63	0.9	
χ EFT	LO [25]	1.91	1.23	1.4	2.13	1.8
	NLO [26]	2.91	1.54	2.78	2.72	1.5
Jülich	A [82]	1.56	1.59	1.43	3.16	1.0
	J04 [83]	2.56	1.66	2.75	2.93	1.4
	J04c [83]	2.66	1.57	2.67	3.08	1.1

S. Acharya et al.
Phys. Rev. C 99, 024001

parameter scan boundaries : f_0 [0.01, 5.0], d_{0s} [0.01, 2.0] and d_{0t} [0.01, 5.0]

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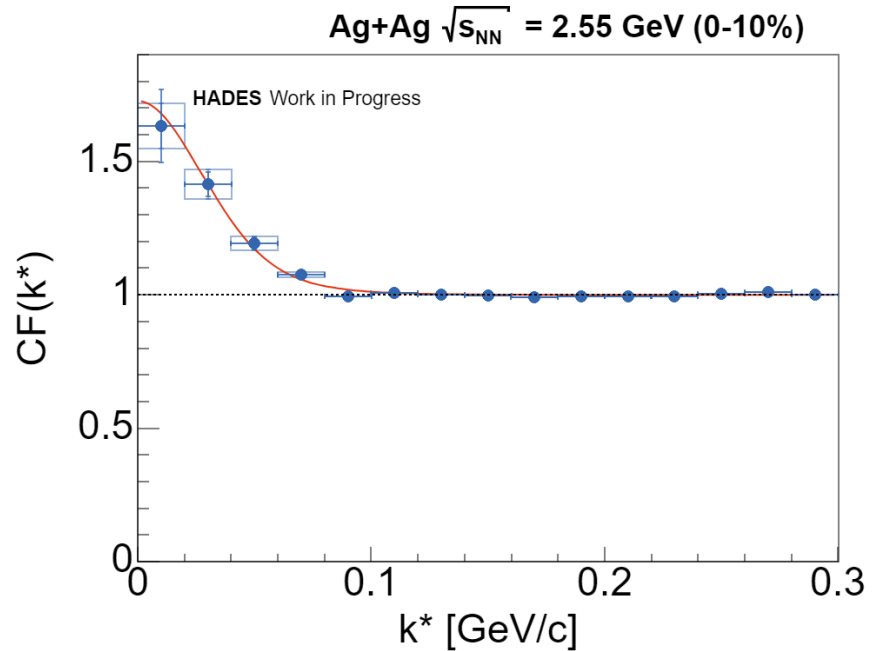
Parameters	p-Nb (LO)	p-Nb (NLO)
f_{0s}	1.91 fm	2.91 fm
d_{0s}	1.40 fm	2.78 fm
f_{0t}	1.23 fm	1.54 fm
d_{0t}	2.13 fm	2.72 fm
r_0	1.71 ± 0.10	1.62 ± 0.02

Proton - lambda correlations

- $p - \Lambda$ correlations – first step to study N-Y interactions in HIC
- Ag+Ag collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.55$ GeV fitted using L-L parametrisation
- First spin separated measurements of strong interaction parameters of the $p - \Lambda$ interaction obtained from HIC:

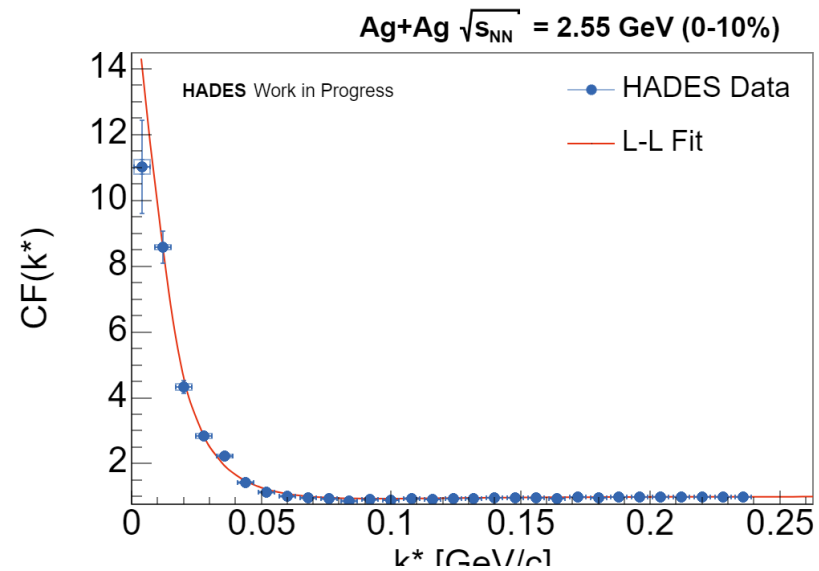
$$f_0 = 1.93^{+0.48}_{-0.42} \quad d_0 = 0.01 \quad \text{for } S=0$$

$$f_0 = 1.76^{+0.14}_{-0.49} \quad d_0 = 3.44^{+0.36}_{-0.49} \quad \text{for } S=1$$



Deuteron - lambda correlations

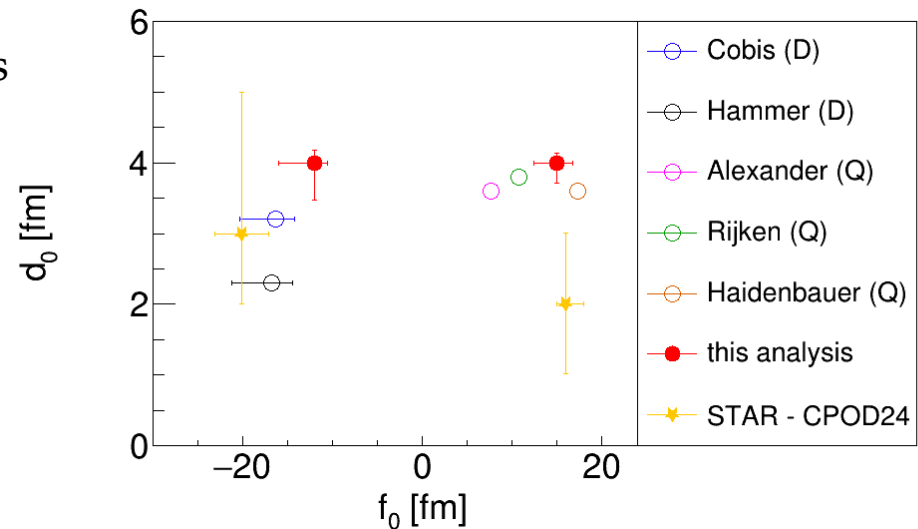
- $d - \Lambda$ correlations – next step to study N-Y interactions in HIC
- Insight to study production of hypertriton
- Ag+Ag collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.55$ GeV fitted using L-L parametrisation



- First look at spin separated measurements of strong interaction parameters of the $d - \Lambda$ interaction obtained from HIC:

$$f_0 = -12_{-3.92}^{+1.44} \quad d_0 = 4_{-0.53}^{+0.18} \quad \text{Doublet}$$

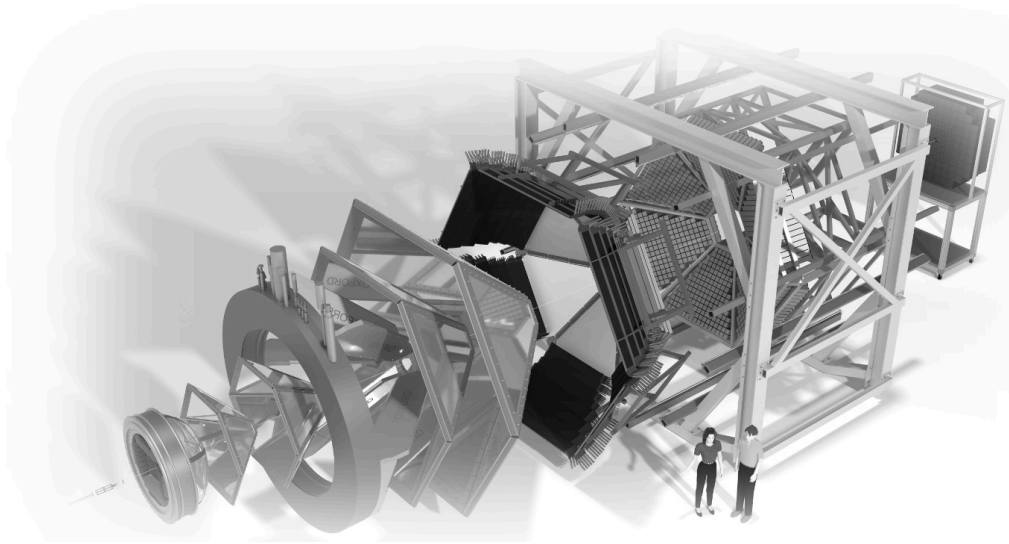
$$f_0 = 15_{-2.58}^{+1.73} \quad d_0 = 4_{-0.28}^{+0.13} \quad \text{Quartet}$$



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See M. Grunwald talk

See M. Prędoła talk



Strangeness

Hypernuclei - production mechanisms

Λ production close to free NN threshold

Ξ production below free NN threshold:

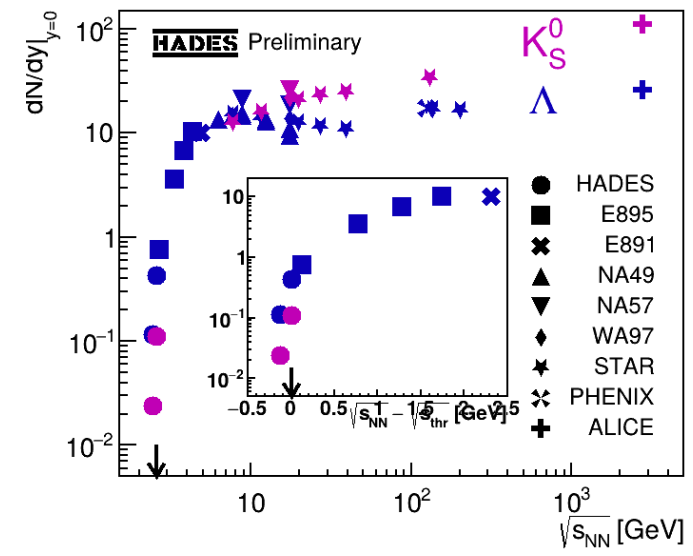
$$N + N \rightarrow Y + K + N: \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.55 \text{ GeV}$$

$$N + N \rightarrow \Xi + K + N: \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3.25 \text{ GeV}$$

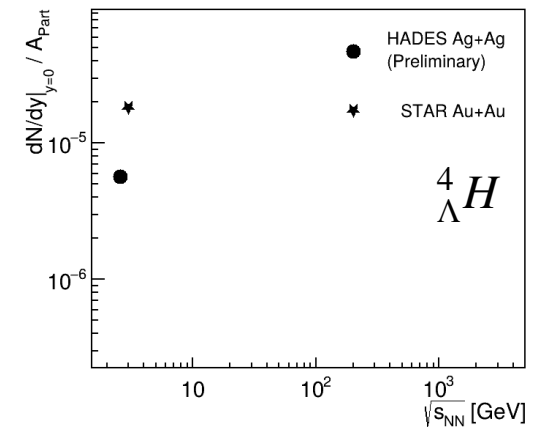
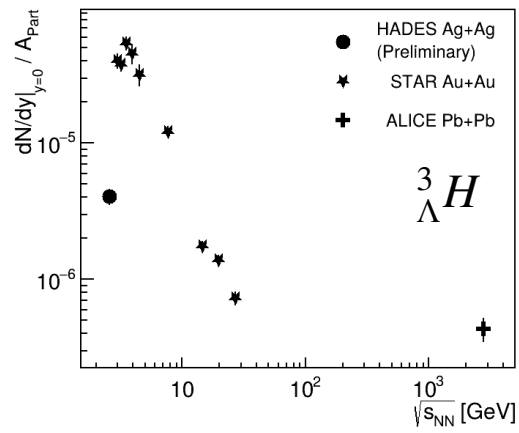
Production of hypernuclei:

- favored by baryon dominance at the fireball
- limited by the amount of produced Λ hyperons

Phys. Lett. B793 (2019) - 457 - 463

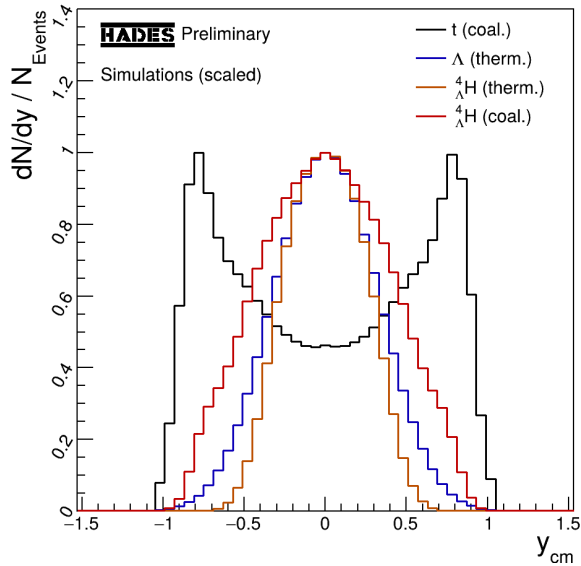


Production mechanism of light nuclei and hypernuclei explored: **statistical production and coalescence scenario verified**



Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 20, 202301
 STAR BES-II Data:
 EPJ Web Conf.296(2024)02004

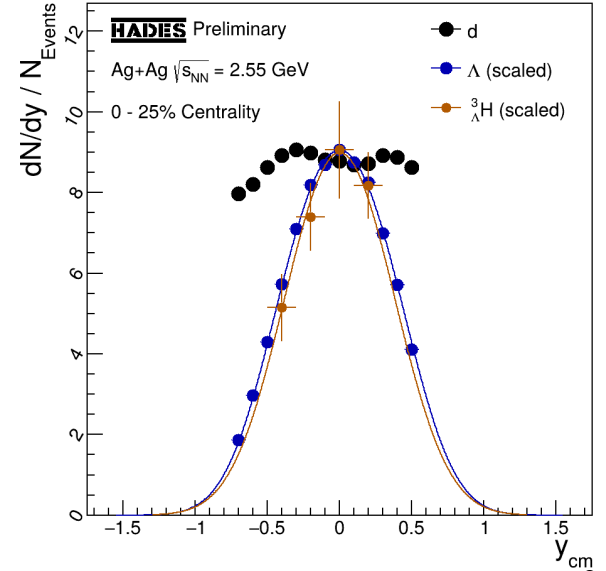
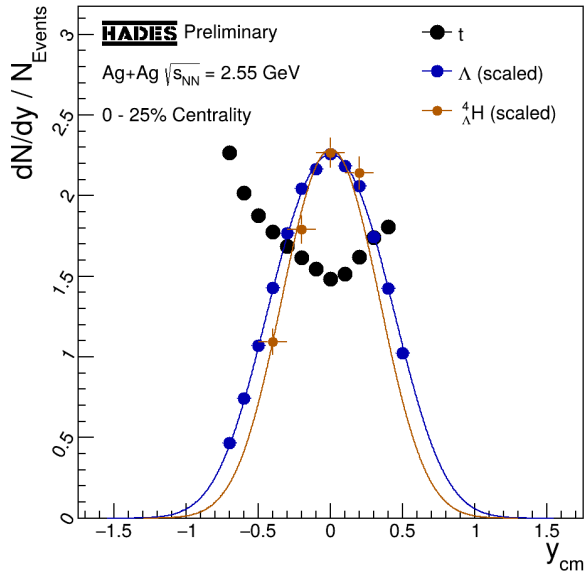
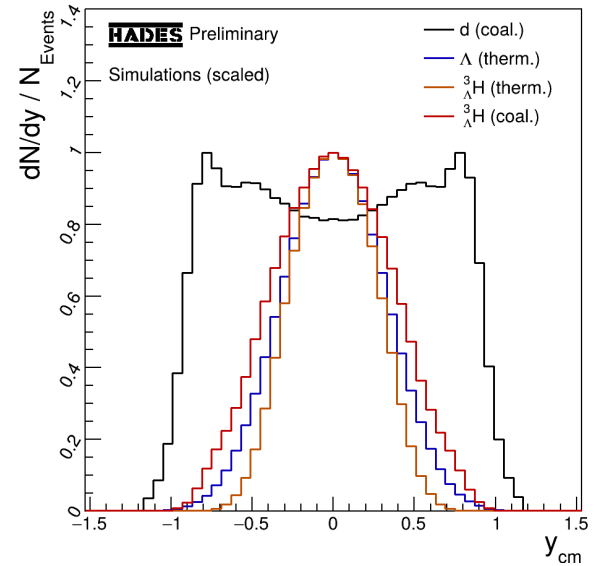
Hypernuclei - production mechanisms



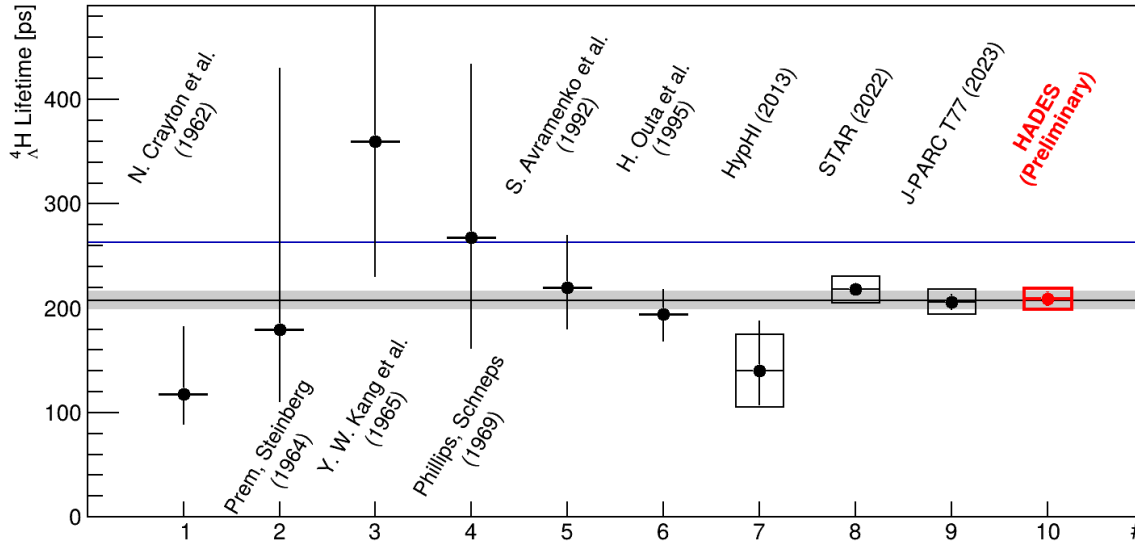
d, t - „coalescence-like”
scenario favorable

Λ - „thermal-like”
production preferred

${}^3_\Lambda H, {}^4_\Lambda H$ - low p_T
distributions could help to
distinguish between two
production mechanisms,
a tendency of the „thermal-
like” production visible



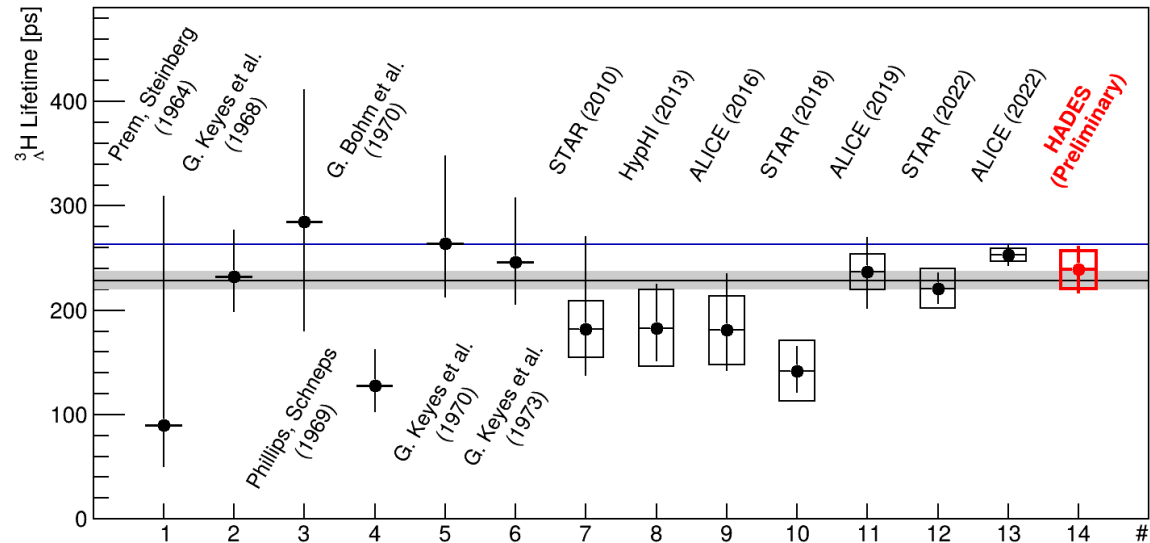
Hypernuclei - lifetime

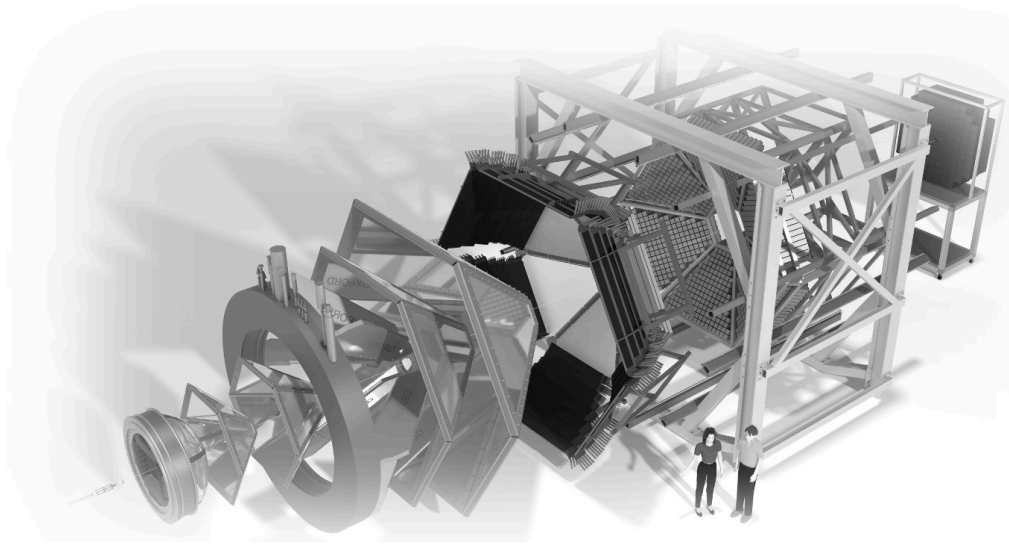


${}^3_{\Lambda}H$ lifetime: $239 \pm 23 \pm 18$ ps

${}^4_{\Lambda}H$ lifetime: $209 \pm 7 \pm 10$ ps

${}^3_{\Lambda}H$, ${}^4_{\Lambda}H$ lifetime measurements compatible with recent data from STAR, ALICE and J-PARC





Dileptons

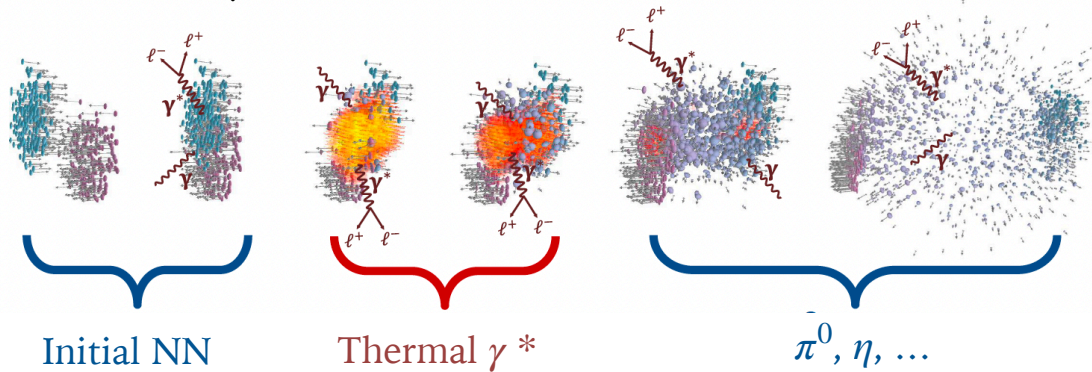
Dilepton measurements

EM probes offer direct access to all stages of heavy-ion collision

Penetrating probes unaffected by strong interactions

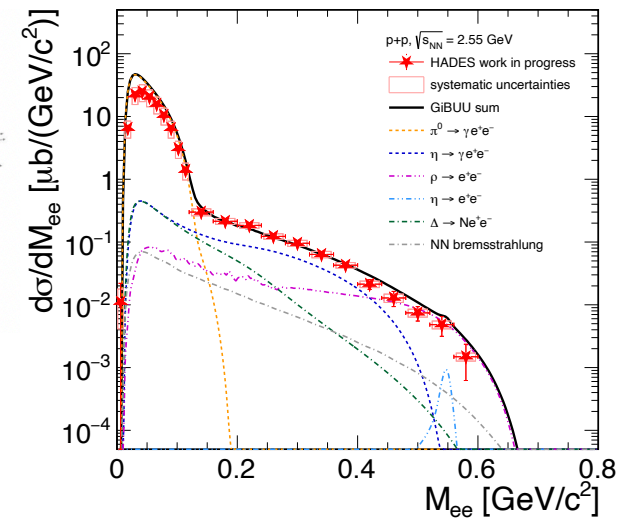
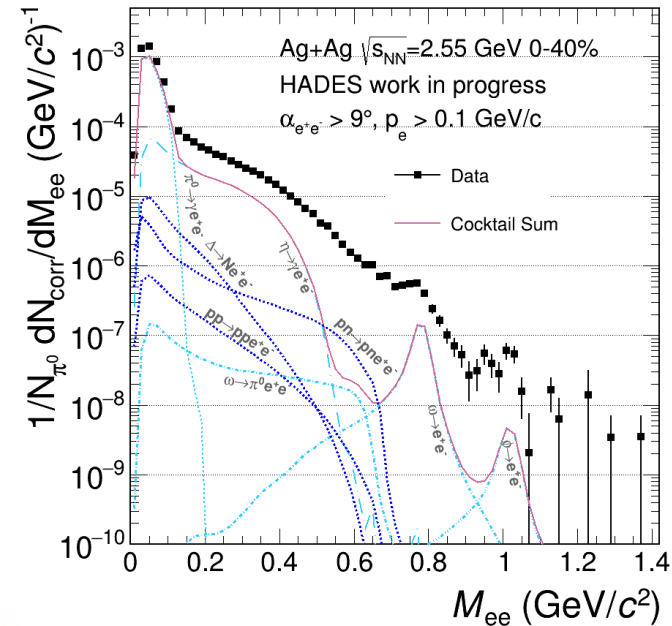
Possibility to extract the temperature and lifetime of the medium

Elementary collisions serve as baseline for the heavy-ion data

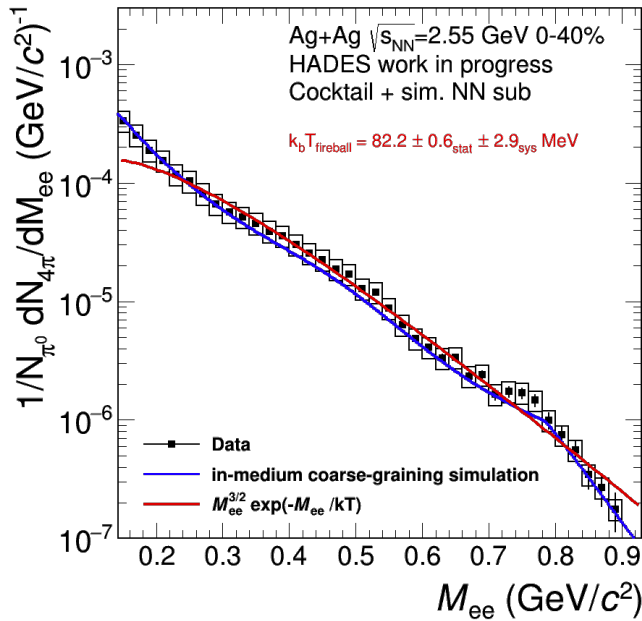


Measured signal:

- Initial NN reference spectrum
- Thermal probes
- Freeze-out cocktail ($\pi^0, \eta, \omega, \phi$)



Dilepton excess

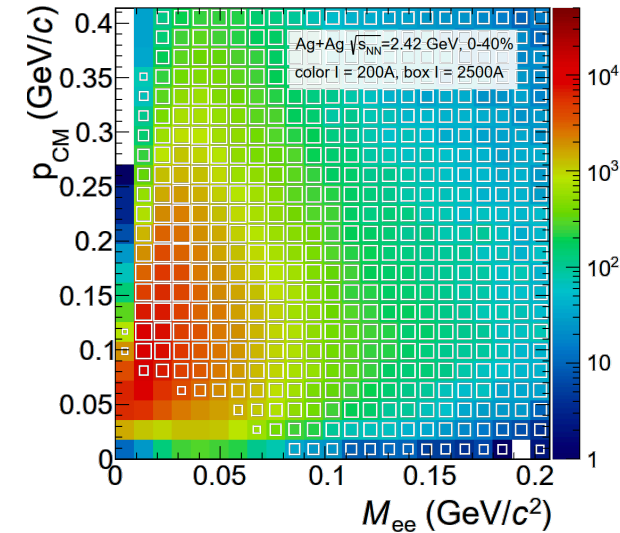
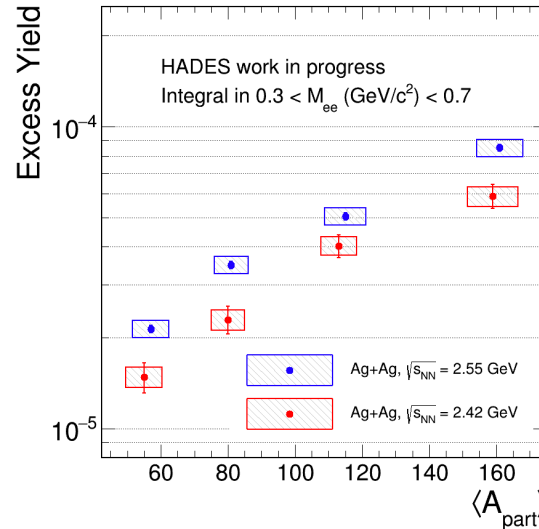


Spectra cutting low-mass of isolated dielectron pairs originating from **thermal radiation** extracted

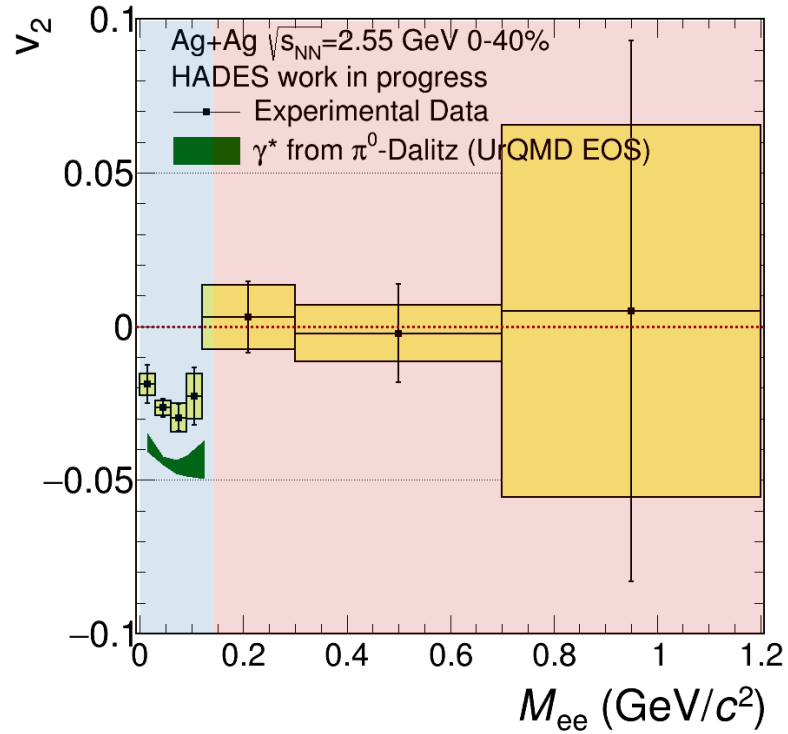
Fireball temperature determined

Extended lifetime of a fireball

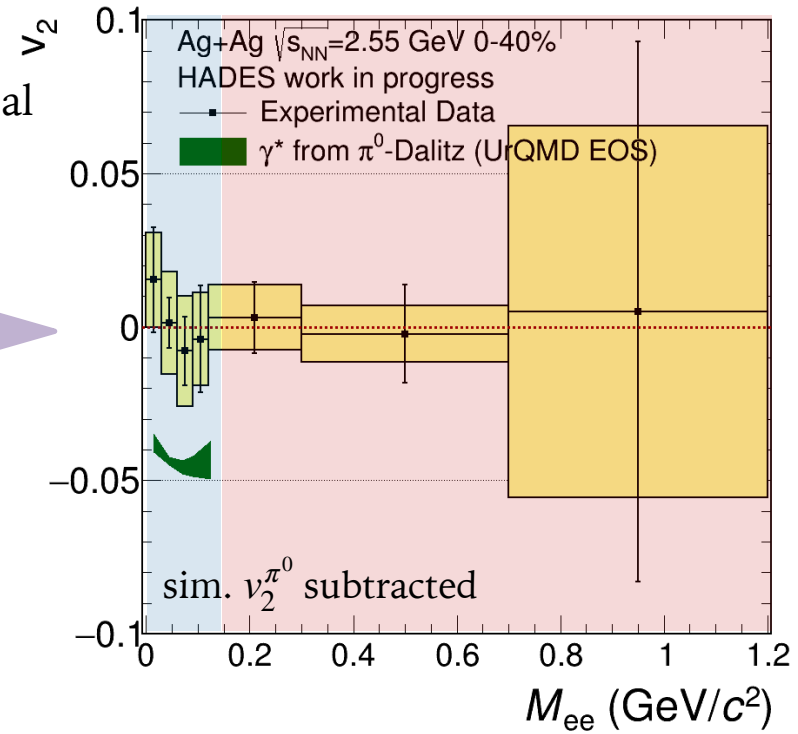
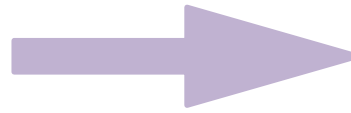
Towards extraction of electrical conductivity for QCD matter at high-density



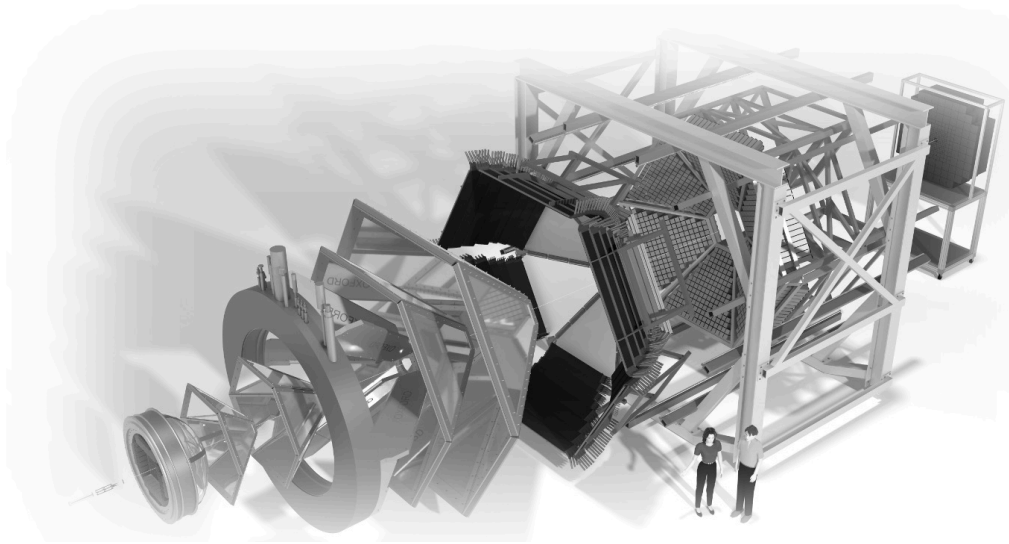
Dilepton flow



Isolating thermal contribution in di-lepton v_2



Change in v_2 in M_{ee} region dominated by π^0 decays ($M_{ee} < 0.12$ GeV/ c^2) and dominated by **thermal radiation** ($M_{ee} > 0.12$ GeV/ c^2)



Future

Future of HADES

In 2025 HADES continues data taking for energy scan of Au+Au collisions

Searching for critical behavior and limitations of the universal freeze-out line

Au+Au collisions at 0.2 – 0.8 AGeV ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 1.96 – 2.23$ GeV)

measurements of e-by-e particle correlations and fluctuations, dielectrons, strange hadrons, light nuclei (up to $Z = 3$) and their flow (up to 6th order)

HADES plans to take data in 2026/27 and continue its extended π -QCD program:

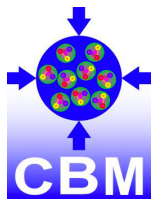
Cold matter (*in-medium vector-mesons, strangeness*)

Hadron spectroscopy, structure and exotics (*baryon-meson couplings, EM couplings, exotic mesons, rare η decay*)

Effective interactions (*hyperon polarization, hypernuclei formation, hyperon-meson interaction*)

HADES plans to be operational at least until 2030

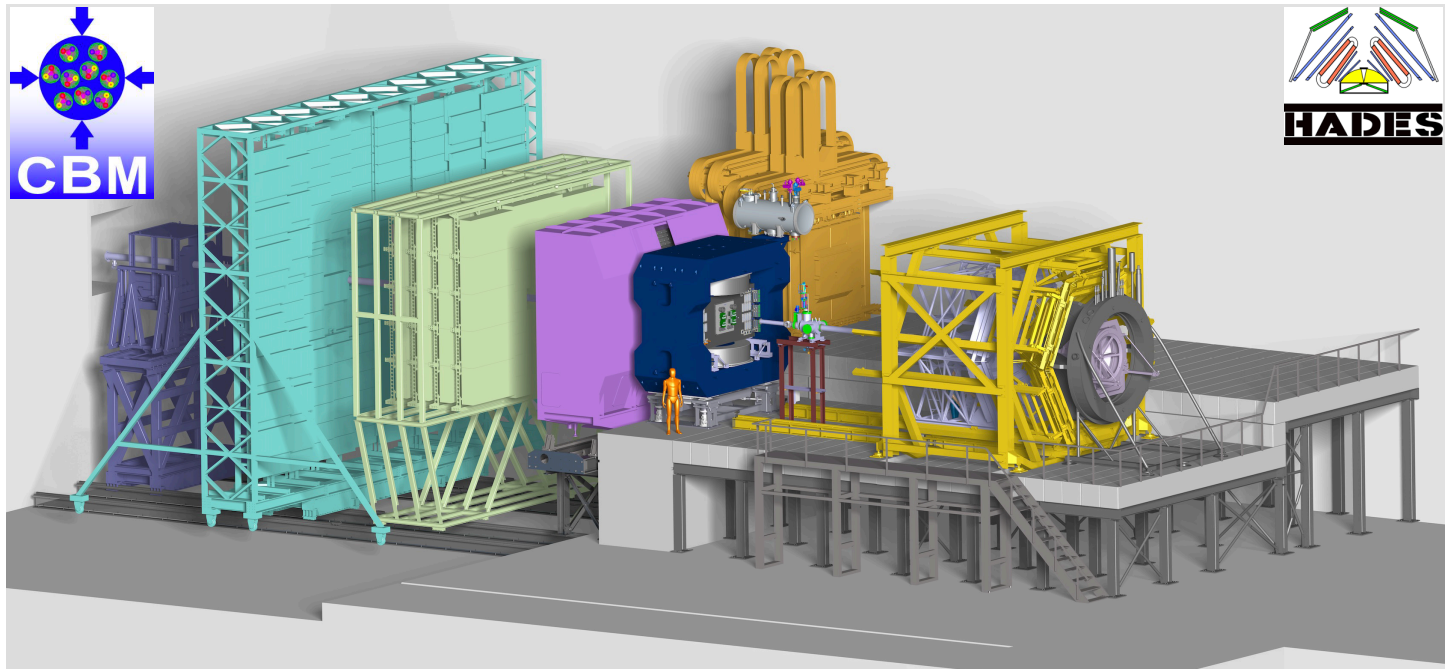
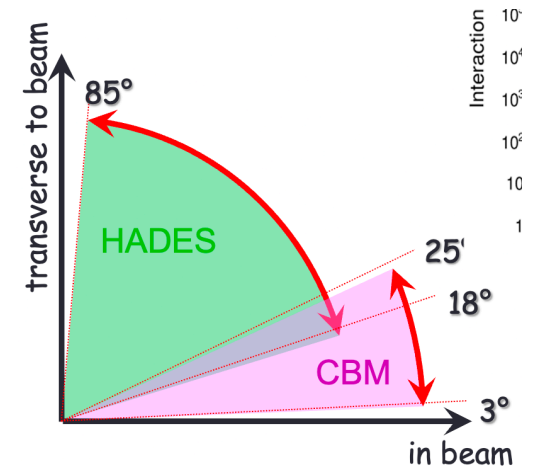
In the following years HADES plans to explore high- μ_B region together with CBM



HADES and CBM experiments



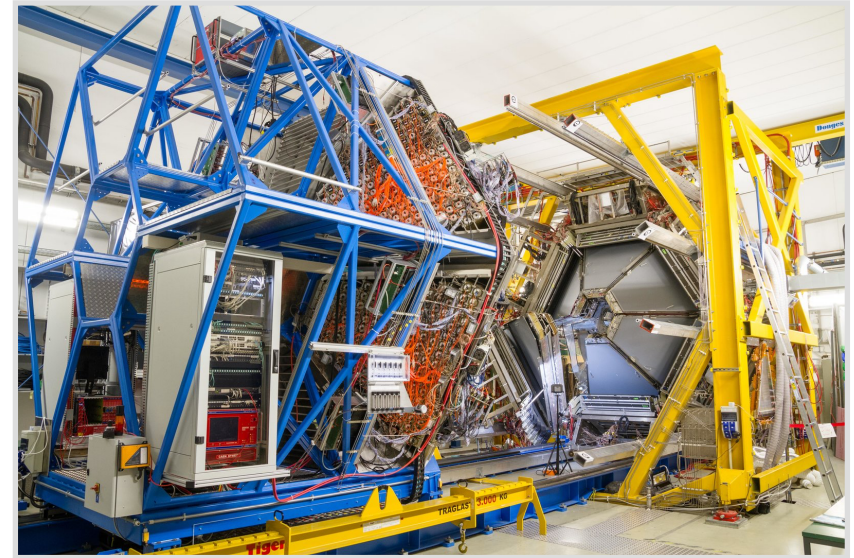
- Fixed-target experiments → highest rates achievable
- Versatile subsystems → tailored for the physics program
- Angular coverage → complementary for HADES and CBM
- First beams in 2028/2029



See K. Piasecki talk

Wrap-up

- HADES is versatile experiment oriented on heavy-ion and hadron physics;
- Physics goal is to explore baryon-rich matter describing neutron stars and neutron star mergers with unique hadron and electromagnetic probes;
- Recent physics findings:
 - the role of attractive / repulsive interaction describing fluctuation measures;
 - System space-time / dynamics and FSI parameters studied;
 - light nuclei and hyper nuclei production mechanism tested;
 - dilepton pairs coming from thermal radiation detected;
- HADES plans to continue operating together with CBM.



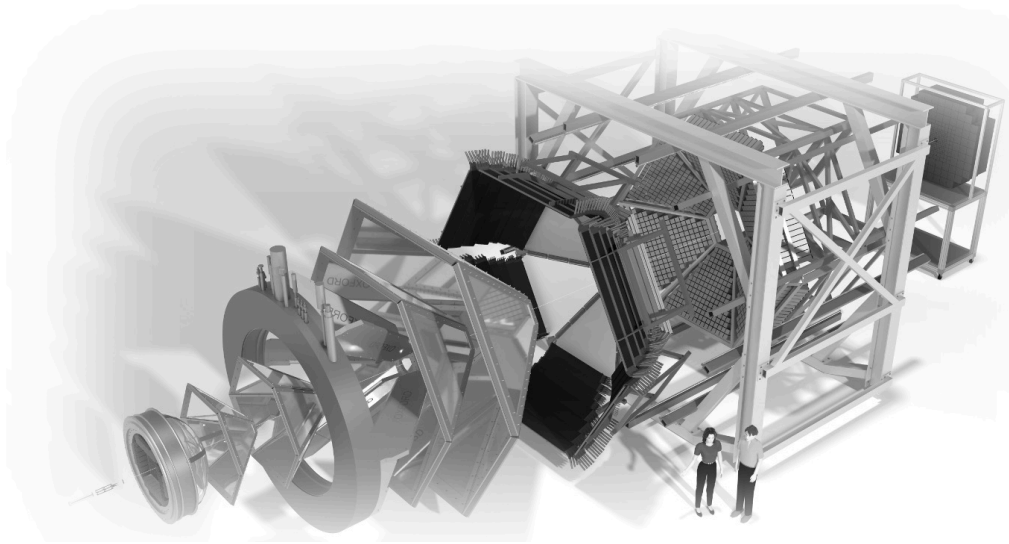
HADES Collaboration



Collaboration Meeting,
March 16th - 21st, 2025
GSI, Darmstadt



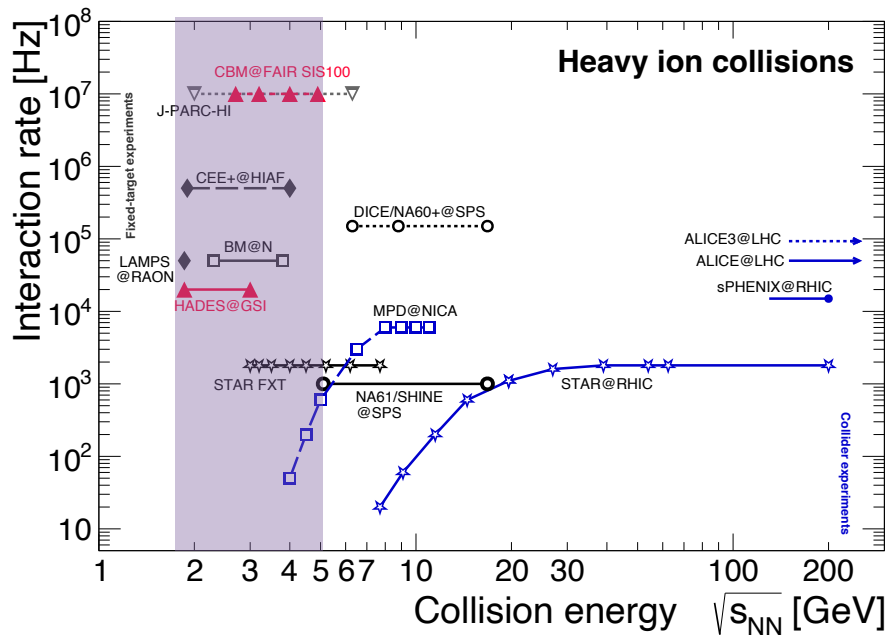
Thank you



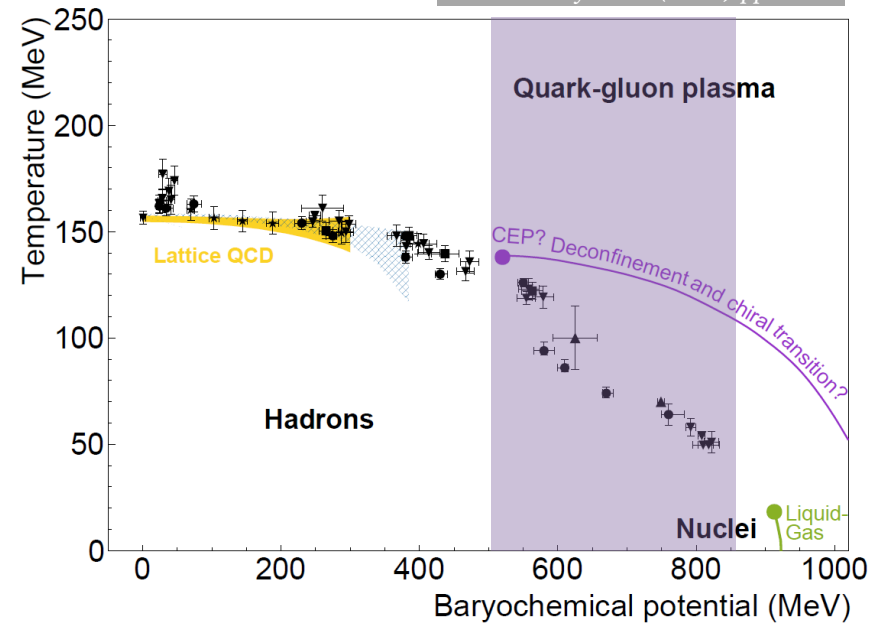
Extra slides

HADES and CBM - key measurements

- **Fluctuations:** System alteration through first-order phase transition, critical point
- **Dileptons :** Emissivity: system's lifetime, temperature, density, in-medium characteristics
- **Hadrons (strangeness, charm, hypernuclei, bound states):** EoS: vorticity, collectivity, NN, YN, YY correlations, multi-body interactions



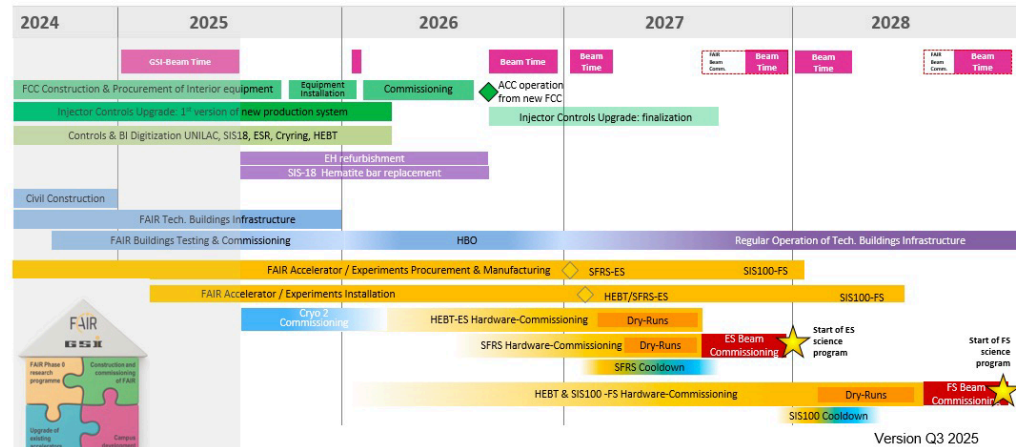
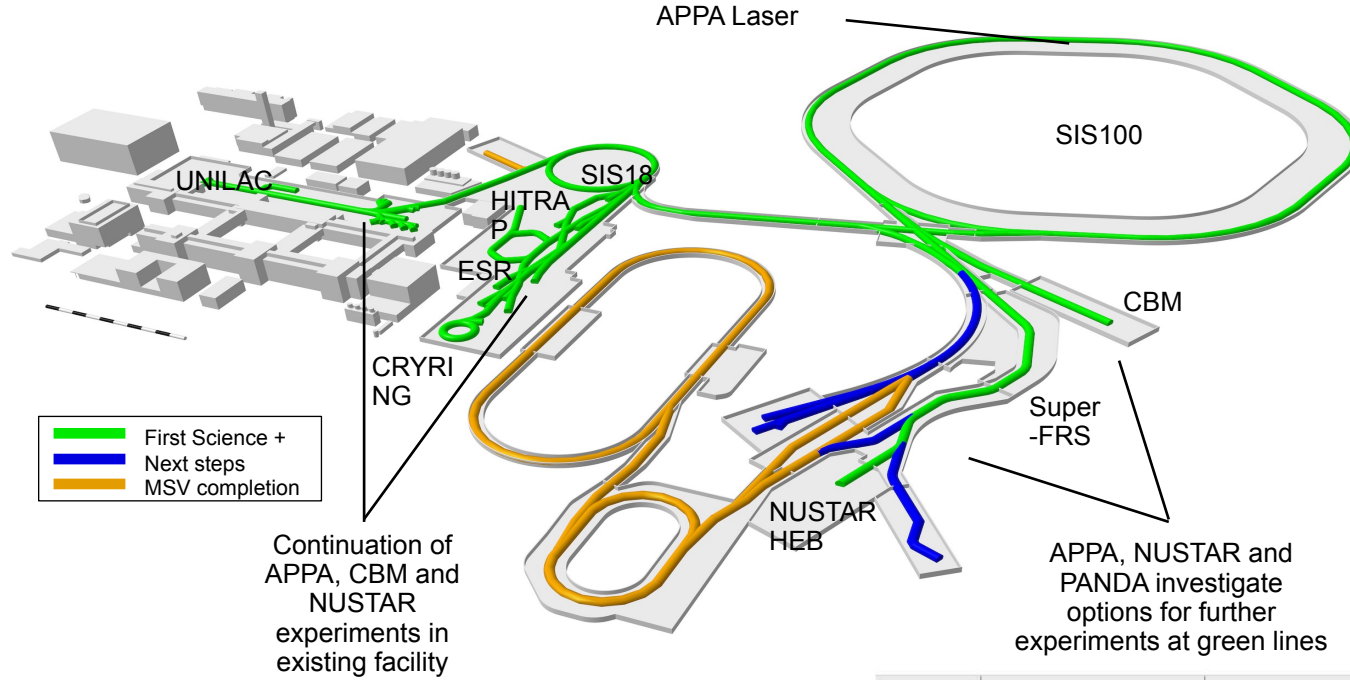
CBM physics program:
Lect.NotesPhys. 814(2011) pp.1-980



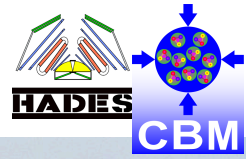
T. Galatyuk, NPA 982 (2019), update 2023
https://github.com/tgalatyuk/interaction_rate_facilities

HADES; Nature Physics 15 (2019) 10, 1040-1045

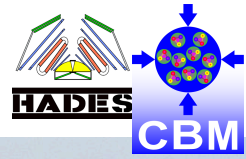
Current prospects and timeline



Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research



Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research

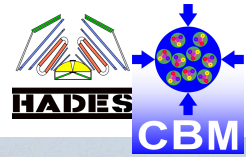


CBM cave,
2025



SIS100 magnets

Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research



NuPECC LRP2024 Executive Summary

Introduction

What does nuclear physics stand for?

Nuclear physics is the study of the atomic nucleus, its constituents, structure, reactions and the properties of strongly interacting matter in its various forms. It is a key basic scientific field that investigates the properties of matter at the subatomic level. This domain of research affects not only our fundamental understanding of nature but also has many peaceful applications in all areas of modern life. Nuclear physics research originally started in Europe in the late 19th century. Now, in the 21st century, Europe is still at the forefront of nuclear physics research and applications. This leading European role is due to a rich and diverse landscape of research institutions and infrastructures in all European countries.

The present Long Range Plan for European nuclear physics summarises progress in the field in the last decade, provides an outlook on expected developments in the next decades, and presents recommendations for scientific institutions, policymakers, and research funding organisations.

https://nupecc.org/lrp2024/Draft_Executive_Summary_LRP2024.pdf



Recommendations for Nuclear Physics Infrastructures

The NuPECC Long Range Plan 2024 resulted in the following main recommendations for infrastructures of importance for nuclear physics:

- The first phase of the international **FAIR** facility is expected to be operational by 2028, facilitating experiments with SIS100 using the High-Energy Branch of the Super-FRS, the CBM cave and the current GSI facilities. Completing the full facility including the **APPA**, **CBM**, **NUSTAR** and **PANDA** programs will provide European science with world-class opportunities for decades and is highly recommended.

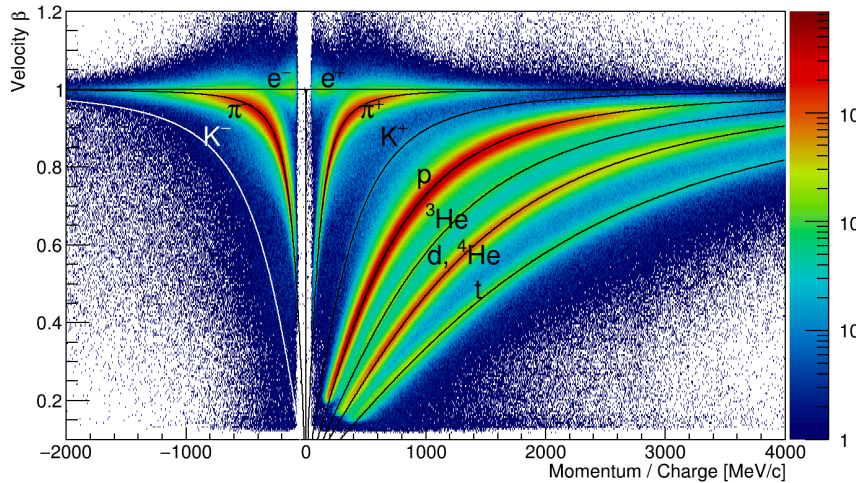


CBM cave,
2025

SIS100 magnets



HADES data taking



PID primarily via. momentum and velocity
 Separation of multiple charged particles through
 specific energy loss

2002: C+C @ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.7$ GeV

2004: p+p @ $\sqrt{s} = 2.77$ GeV

2004: C+C @ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.32$ GeV

2005: Ar+KCl @ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.61$ GeV

2006: p+p @ $\sqrt{s} = 2.42$ GeV

2007: p+p @ $\sqrt{s} = 3.18$ GeV, d+p @ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.42$ GeV

2008: p+Nb @ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.7$ GeV

→ 2012: Au+Au @ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.42$ GeV (7 billion)

Jul-Aug-Sep 2014: $\pi+W$, $\pi+C$, $\pi+PE$ @ $\sqrt{s} = 1.5$ GeV

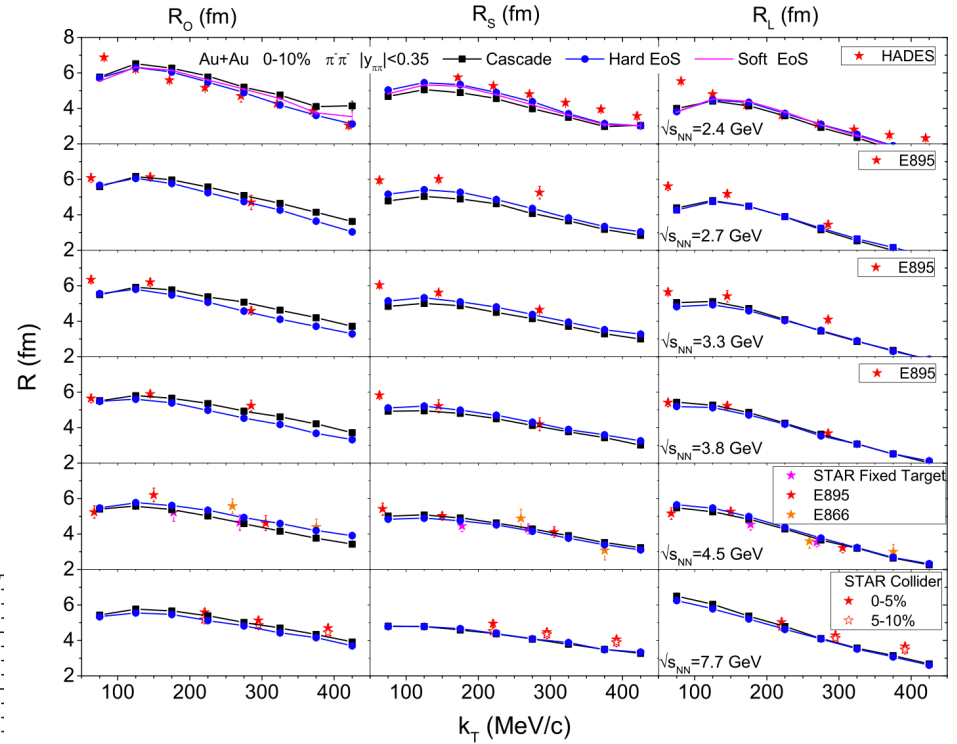
→ 2019: Ag+Ag @ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.55$ GeV
 and 2.42 GeV (14 billion)

2022: p+p @ $\sqrt{s} = 3.46$ GeV

→ 2024: Au+Au at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.24$ GeV (1.8 billion)

Sensitivity of the HBT to the EoS with UrQMD

- HBT parameters sensitive to the stiffness of the EoS, can be used to constrain and understand the QCD EoS.
- PT with a significant softening of the EoS below 4 times nuclear saturation density can be excluded.



Sci. China-Phys. Mech. Astron. 66, 232011 (2023)

