# Systematics of high-p<sub>τ</sub> η production in p+p, d+Au and Au+Au at RHIC

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## $\eta$ ? Why $\eta$ ...? Motivation

- Perturbative (high p<sub>T</sub>) π<sup>0</sup>, h<sup>±</sup> production in central Au+Au at RHIC suppressed compared to expectations of incoherent partonparton scattering.
- Consistent with "jet quenching" in hot/dense QCD medium.
- Q: To what extent is this suppression "universal" (magnitude, p<sub>τ</sub>-, centrality-dep., ...) for diff. particle species ?



- <u>Goal (1)</u>: Compare high p<sub>T</sub> production for a new hadron species (η) in 3 systs: p+p (QCD vacuum), d+Au (cold QCD medium), Au+Au (hot QCD medium)
- Goal (2): Have under control the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest hadronic source (η) of decay photon bckgd for direct γ and e<sup>±</sup> studies.

## High p<sub>T</sub> η spectra (p+p, d+Au at RHIC)

p+p, d+Au→ η+X @  $\sqrt{s}$  = 200 GeV (Run-3)



• Spectra go up to  $p_T = 12 \text{ GeV/c}$  (well in the perturbative regime)

•  $\eta$  is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest  $p_{\tau}$  identified particle (after  $\pi^0$ ,  $\gamma$ ) at RHIC

### High p<sub>τ</sub> η spectra (Au+Au at RHIC)

Au+Au  $\rightarrow \eta$ +X @  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  = 200 GeV (Run-2)



• Spectra go up to  $p_T = 10 \text{ GeV/c}$  (well in the perturbative regime)

### High p<sub>T</sub> η in "cold QCD matter" (d+Au)



η production in d+Au follows (within uncertainties) N<sub>coll</sub>-scaling
for all centralities: No significant "Cronin broadening"

## High $p_T \eta$ in "hot QCD matter" (Au+Au)

Au+Au  $\rightarrow$   $\eta$ +X @  $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$  = 200 GeV



- Au+Au central: Strong suppression (R<sub>AA</sub>~0.2)
- Au+Au semi-central: Suppression (R<sub>AA</sub>~0.4)
- Au+Au peripheral: consistent w/ N<sub>coll</sub> scaling (R<sub>AA</sub>~0.9)

### High $p_{\tau}$ meson production: $\eta$ vs. $\pi^{\circ}$ (Au+Au central)



 Coincident suppression pattern for π<sup>0</sup> and η: magnitude, p<sub>T</sub> dependence

### High $p_{\tau}$ meson production: $\eta$ vs. $\pi^{\circ}$ (Au+Au central)



• Coincident suppression pattern for  $\pi^0$  and  $\eta$ : magnitude,  $p_{\tau}$  dependence

 Agreement with parton energy loss (GLV) predictions in dense medium (up to the highest p<sub>τ</sub> values measured so far)

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### High $p_{\tau}$ meson production: $\eta$ vs. $\pi^{\circ}$ (other centralities)

### Au+Au semicentral (20--60%)

#### Au+Au peripheral (60--92%)



 Similar suppression pattern for π<sup>0</sup> and η: magnitude, p<sub>τ</sub>-, centrality- dependence

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### Perturbative $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$ ratio in hadronic collisions (I)

 $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$  "world systematics" [p+p, p+p,  $\pi^{\pm}$ +p, p+A, A+A @  $\sqrt{s}$ ~10 – 540 GeV]



•  $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$  is approx. constant above  $p_{\tau} \sim 2 \text{ GeV/c:} 0.46 \pm 0.03$ 

### Perturbative $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$ ratio in hadronic collisions (II)



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### $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$ ratio in p+p and d+Au at RHIC



- Approx(\*) flat  $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$  ratio above  $p_{\tau}= 2$  GeV/c. (\*) Slow rise with  $p_{\tau}$  probable.
- $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$  ratio at RHIC consistent with "world average".
- "m<sub>τ</sub> scaling" does not seem to provide an excellent reproduction of spectral ratio for p<sub>τ</sub><2 GeV/c ...</li>

### Perturbative $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$ ratio in Au+Au at RHIC



- Flat  $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$  ratio versus  $p_{\tau}$ . No apparent centrality dependence.
- $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$  ratio in Au+Au consistent with "world average".

### Perturbative $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$ ratio in Au+Au, d+Au, p+p at RHIC



No apparent system-size dependence: η/π° ratio in Au+Au, d+Au consistent with "world average"

### Perturbative $\eta/\pi^{\circ}$ ratio in Au+Au, d+Au, p+p at RHIC



- No apparent collision system dependence: η/π° ratio in Au+Au, d+Au, p+p consistent with "world average".
- Hot/dense QCD medium suppresses meson yields at high p<sub>τ</sub> but preserves "universality" (PID-wise) of fragmentation function.

## Summary

• High  $p_T \eta$  measured in the range  $p_T \approx 2$ —12 GeV/c in p+p, d+Au, and Au+Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV.

• <u>p+p</u>:

- $\eta/\pi^{\circ} \sim 0.48$  consistent with 0.46 "world ratio" in hadronic colls.
- " $m_T$  scaling" hypothesis not excellent for eta's below ~2 GeV/c
- <u>d+Au</u>:
- No (or small) "Cronin effect" (R<sub>dA</sub>~1 for all centralities within uncertainties).

### ● <u>Au+Au</u>:

- Factor x5 suppression in central (0-20%) colls.
- Same suppression pattern for  $\eta$  and  $\pi^0$ : magnitude,  $p_{\tau}$  and centrality dependence.
- Agreement w/ parton energy loss calculations up to highest p<sub>T</sub>
- η/π° consistent w/ 0.46 "world ratio" (PID universality of FF preserved in QCD medium).

# **Backup slides**