

# Search for Direct Photons in p+Pb Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 17.4$ GeV

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Direct photons are a unique probe for the early stage of a heavy ion collision. The WA98 experiment has measured the production of direct photons in central Pb+Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 17.3$  GeV. From these data, the initial temperature could be constrained to temperatures between 200 and 400 MeV. The spread of these temperatures is due to the uncertainty in the relative amount by which photons from hard scattering processes and thermally produced photons contribute to the photon excess. In particular, the strength of the Cronin enhancement is an open question, which can neither be definitely answered using available data nor using theoretical calculations. In this talk, first results on the direct photon production in p+Pb data measured also with WA98 at  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 17.4$  GeV are presented and implications for the different production mechanisms in Pb+Pb collisions are discussed.