

# In-Medium Vector Meson Spectral Functions and Polarization from FRG

Maximilian Wiest

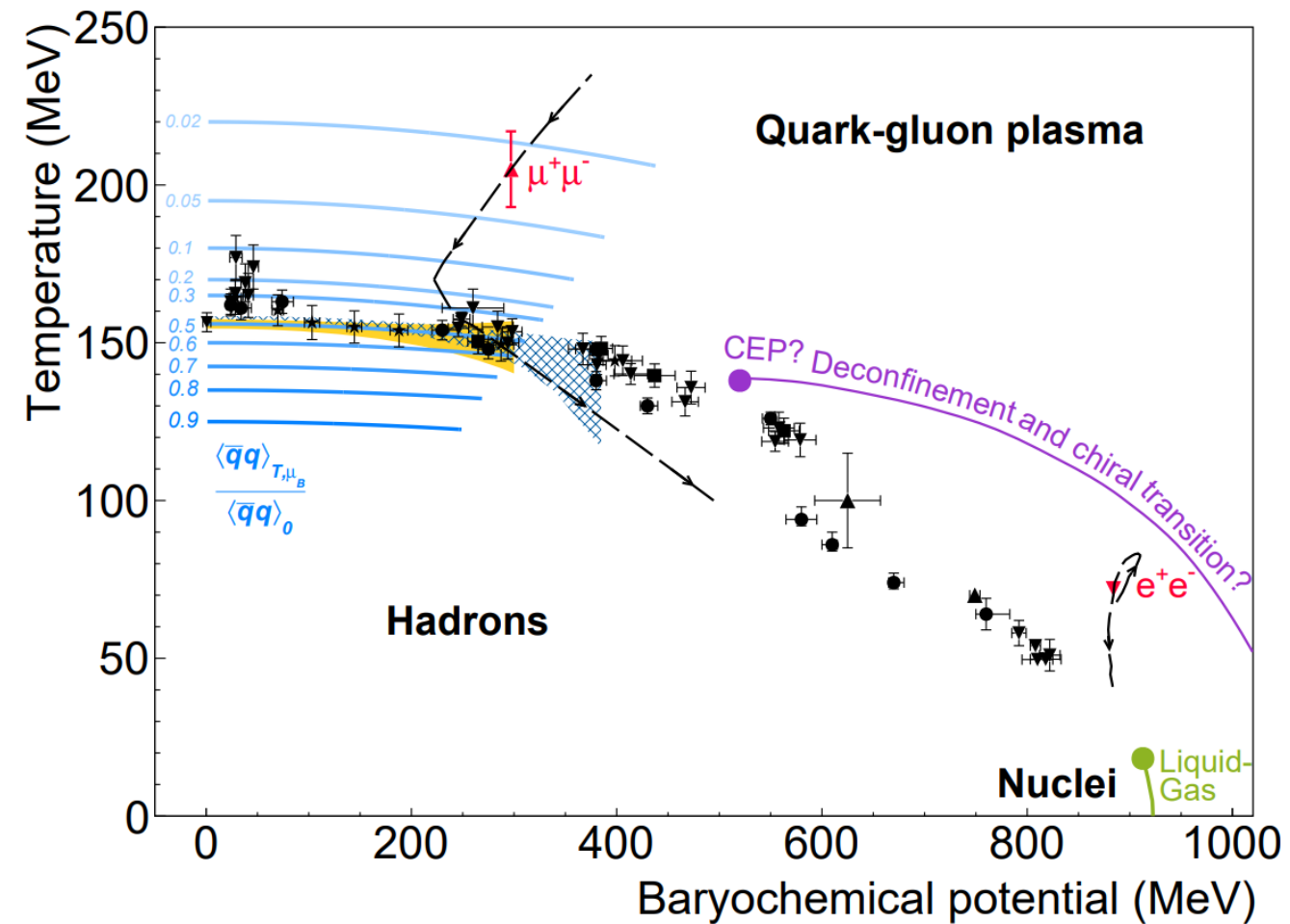
TU Darmstadt

R.-A. Tripolt, T. Galatyuk, L. v. Smekal, J. Wambach, F. Rennecke



- ▶ Goal: Obtain chirally consistent EM spectral functions across the QCD phase diagram
- ▶ Identify the impact of possible phase transitions and CP on the EM rates

--> EM spectral function  
calculated from analytically  
continued FRG flow equations



Nature Phys. 15(2019) 10, 1040-1045  
(update 2023 T. Galatyuk)

- ▶ **F**unctional **R**enormalization **G**roup
- ▶ If you do **NOT** like equations:

FRG is a machine which takes a Lagrange density and returns a phase diagram and Spectral Functions

- ▶ If you do like equations:

FRG approaches aim to solve the Wetterich equation for the effective average action and its functional derivatives to obtain an effective potential and n-point-Functions, treating thermal and quantum fluctuations consistently.

- ▶ Wetterich, Phys.Lett.B 301 (1993) 90-94
- ▶ Describes change of effective average action with scale  $k$
- ▶ Simple one loop structure, but:
  - Full propagators in the loops
  - Exact equation!
  - Non-perturbative!
- ▶ Regulators cut off fluctuations below renormalization scale  $k$  (Litim-Regulators)

$$\partial_k \Gamma_k = \frac{1}{2} \left( \text{dashed loop with blue dot} - \text{solid loop with red dot} \right)$$

R. A. Tripolt, PhD thesis, 2015

# Parity doublet model: Bare action $\Gamma_k$

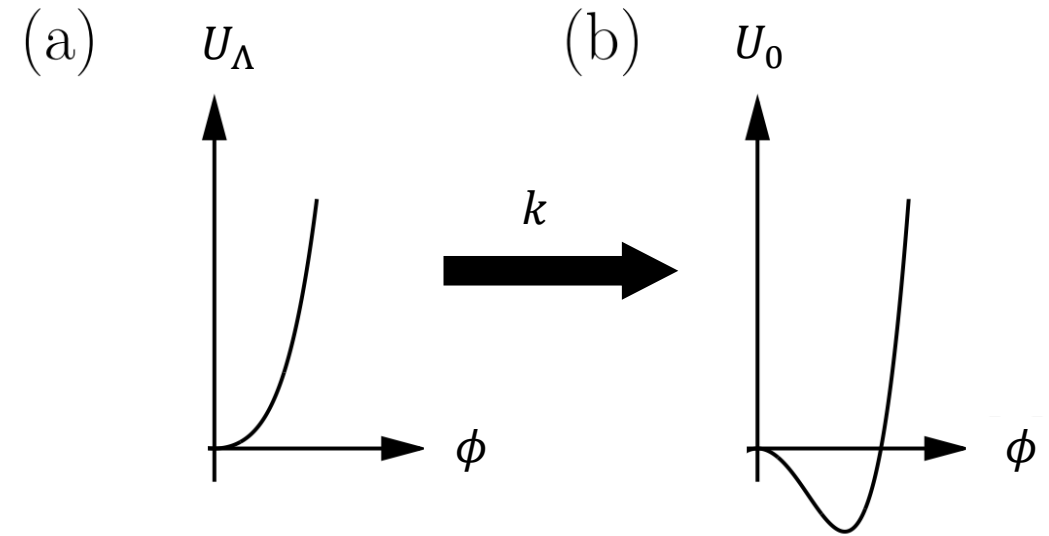
- ▶ Model includes  $\pi, \sigma, N, \rho, a_1, N^*(1535)$
- ▶ Obeys chiral symmetry
- ▶ Has a mass term thanks to „Mirror Baryon Prescription“

$$\Gamma_k = \int d^4x \left\{ \bar{N}_1 (\not{\partial} - \mu_B \gamma_0 + h_{s,1}(\sigma + i\vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\pi} \gamma^5) + h_{v,1}(\gamma_\mu \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\rho}_\mu + \gamma_\mu \gamma^5 \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{a}_{1,\mu})) N_1 \right. \\ \left. + \bar{N}_2 (\not{\partial} - \mu_B \gamma_0 + h_{s,2}(\sigma - i\vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\pi} \gamma^5) + h_{v,2}(\gamma_\mu \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\rho}_\mu - \gamma_\mu \gamma^5 \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{a}_{1,\mu})) N_2 + m_{0,N} (\bar{N}_1 \gamma^5 N_2 - \bar{N}_2 \gamma^5 N_1) \right. \\ \left. + U_k(\phi^2) - c\sigma + \frac{1}{2}(D_\mu \phi)^\dagger D_\mu \phi - \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \partial_\mu \rho_{\mu\nu} \partial_\sigma \rho_{\sigma\nu} + \frac{m_v^2}{8} \text{tr} \rho_{\mu\nu} \rho_{\mu\nu} \right\} + \Delta\Gamma_{\pi a_1}.$$

| $m_{0,N}$<br>[MeV] | $h_{s,1}$<br>$= h_{v,1}$ | $h_{s,2}$<br>$= h_{v,2}$ | $f_\pi \equiv \sigma_0$<br>[MeV] | $m_\pi$<br>[MeV] | $m_\sigma$<br>[MeV] | $m_{N_1}$<br>[MeV] | $m_{N_2}$<br>[MeV] |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 800                | 6.94073                  | 13.3493                  | 92.8                             | 137              | 474                 | 938                | 1533               |

Tripolt et al., Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021) 5, 054005

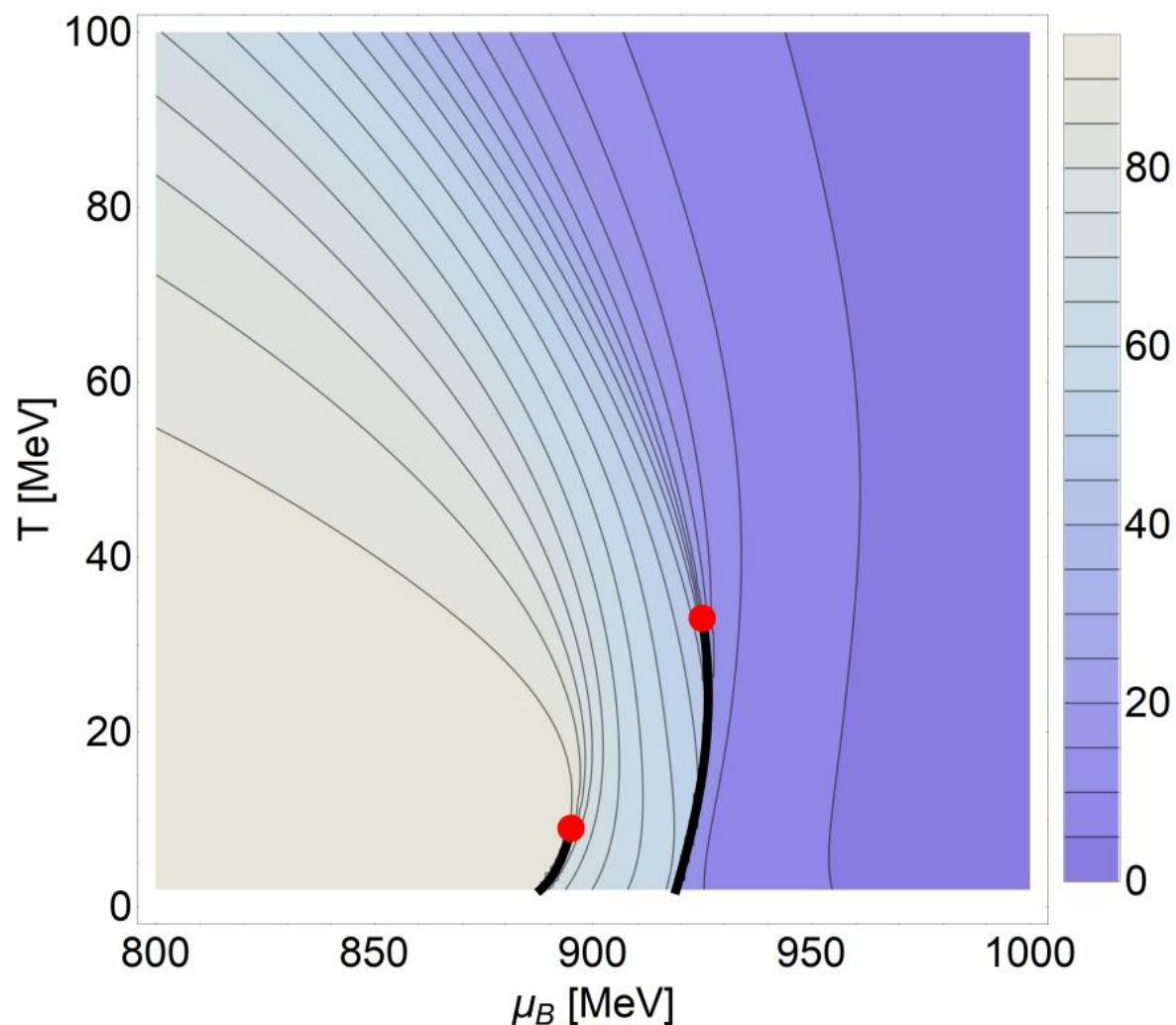
- ▶ Insert bare action  $\Gamma_\Lambda$  into Wetterich equation, get flow equation for  $U_k$
- ▶ Potential has a minimum somewhere in field configuration at  $k=0$ .
- ▶ Position of minimum shows breaking of underlying symmetries
  - Order parameter!
  - Phase diagram!



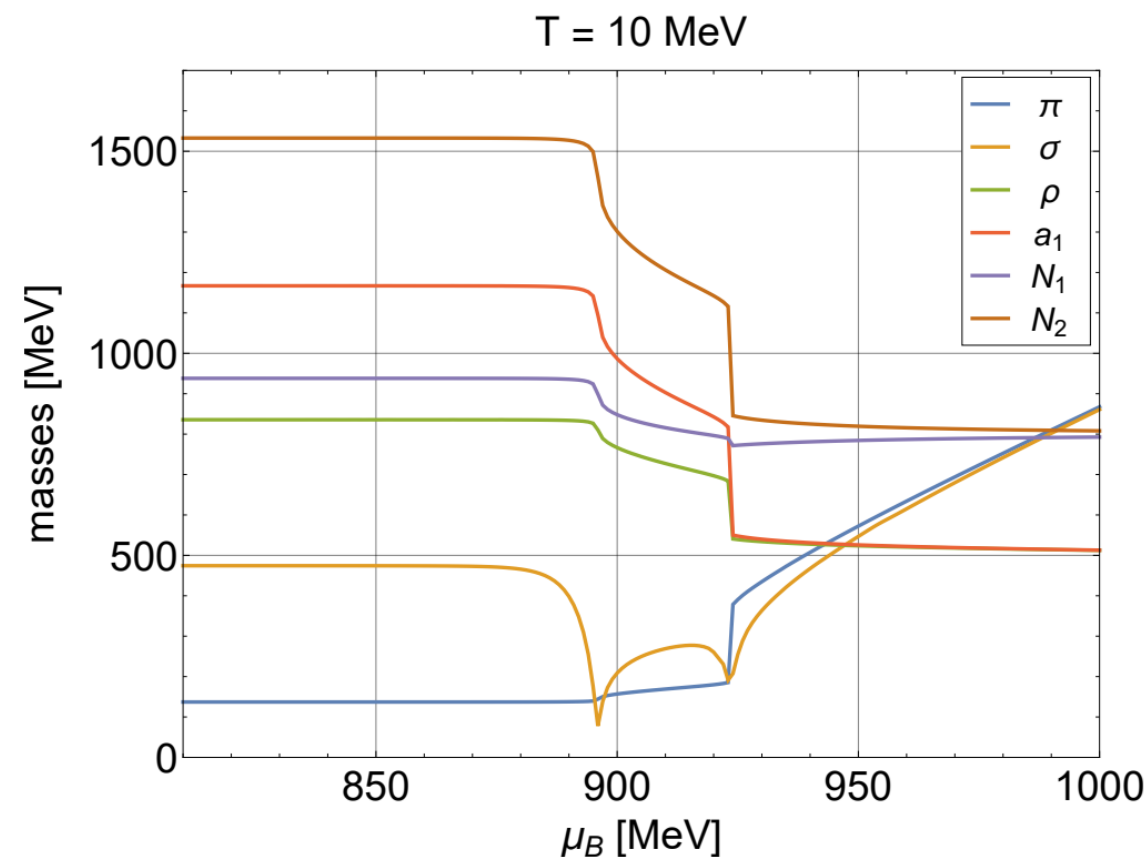
Lancaster, Blundell,  
QFT for gifted amateur

# Phase diagram in parity doublet model

Phase diagram in parity doublet model



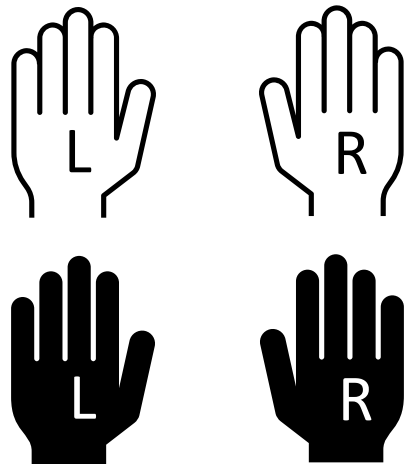
Mass degeneracy



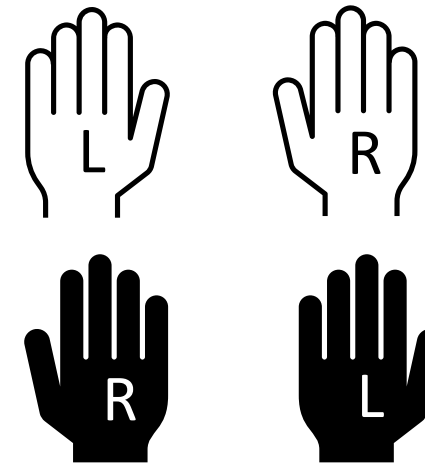
Tripolt et al., Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021) 5, 054005

- ▶ Inclusion of parity partners in linear  $\sigma$  model:
  - 2 parity conserving ways:

„naive“ prescription



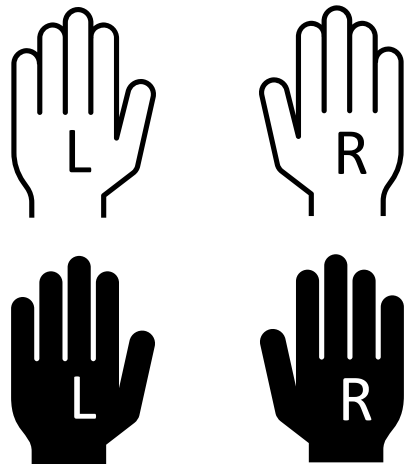
„mirror“ prescription



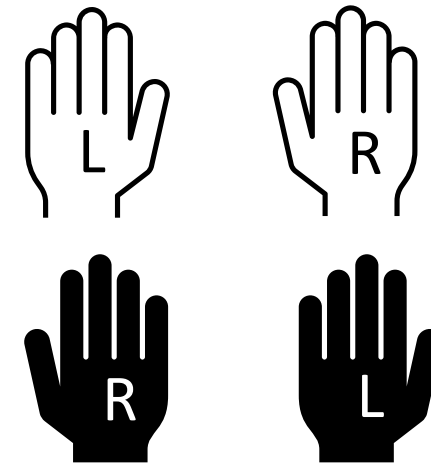


- ▶ Inclusion of parity partners in linear  $\sigma$  model:
  - 2 parity conserving ways:

„naive“ prescription



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- ▶ In both cases, mass terms for single baryon species are not allowed

  $\mathcal{L}_m = m\bar{\psi}_i\psi_i$

- ▶ However: In mirror case, mixing allows for mass term

$$\mathcal{L}_m = m(\bar{\psi}_2\psi_1 + \bar{\psi}_1\psi_2)$$

- ▶ Chirally restored phase: Massless baryons vs. degenerate massive baryons

Weyrich et al., Phys.Rev.C 92 (2015) 1, 015214

- ▶ Remember:

$$m_{0,N}(\bar{N}_1\gamma^5 N_2 - \bar{N}_2\gamma^5 N_1)$$

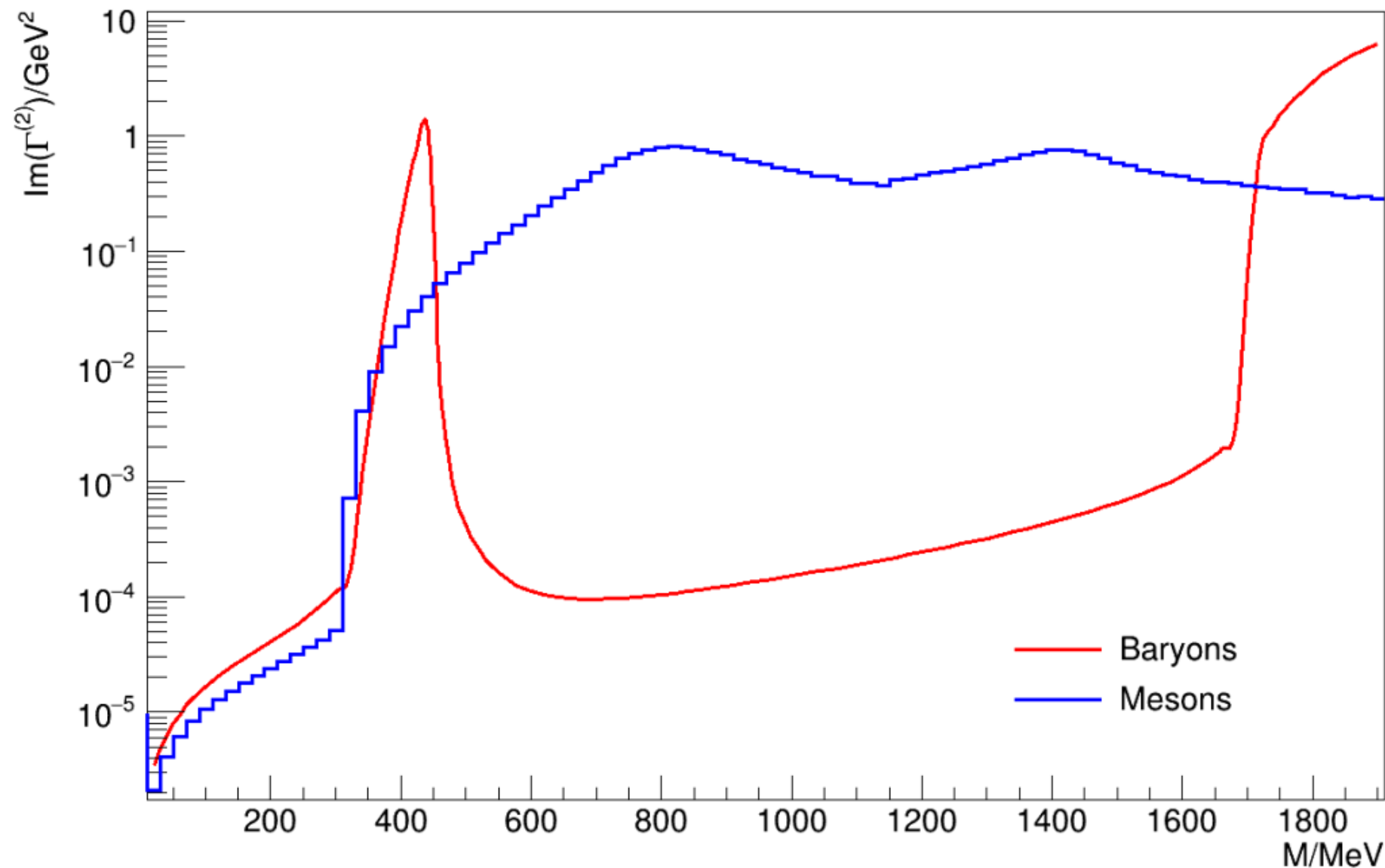
- ▶ In mirror prescription, chiral symmetry breaking explains part of baryon mass generation, but not full picture
- ▶ Instead, additional mass generated by different source
  - E.g. QCD scale anomaly, see e.g. [Shifman et al., Phys.Lett.B 78 \(1978\) 443-446](#)
- ▶ Possible experimental signals for mirror prescription?
  - Hadronic signals? Proposed in GiBUU by [Larionov, v. Smekal, Phys.Rev.C 105 \(2022\)](#)
  - $\eta$ -meson enhancement?  $N^{*1535}$  enhancement?
- ▶ Other signals?

# Prescription shows up in $\rho$ spectral function!

$$\partial_k \Gamma_{\rho,k}^{(2)} = \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} + \text{diagram 3} - 2 \text{diagram 4} - \frac{1}{2} \text{diagram 5}$$

- ▶ Functional derivatives of  $\Gamma_k$  w.r.t. fields give n-point functions
- ▶ Mirror prescription gives rise to low energy peak in  $\rho$   $\Gamma^{(2)}$  function due to  $\rho^* + N_1 \rightarrow N_2$ 
  - Unique to parity doublet model with mirror prescription!

# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=0$ MeV, $\text{Im } \Gamma_\rho^2$



- ▶ Model includes  $\pi, \sigma, N, \rho, a_1, N^*(1535)$
- ▶ No photons!

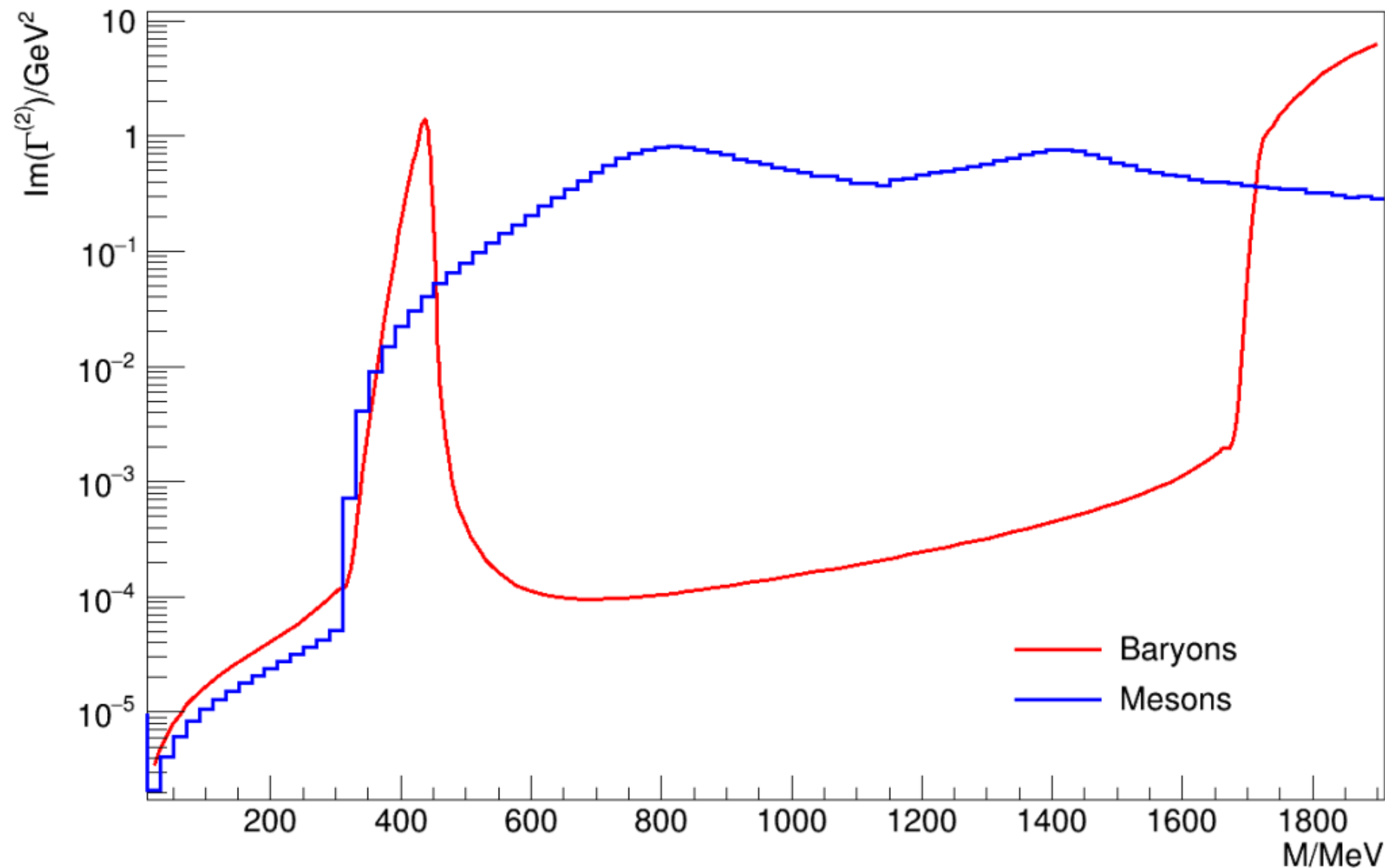
$$\Gamma_k = \int d^4x \left\{ \bar{N}_1 \left( \not{\partial} - \mu_B \gamma_0 + h_{s,1}(\sigma + i\vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\pi} \gamma^5) + h_{v,1}(\gamma_\mu \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\rho}_\mu + \gamma_\mu \gamma^5 \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{a}_{1,\mu}) \right) N_1 \right. \\ \left. + \bar{N}_2 \left( \not{\partial} - \mu_B \gamma_0 + h_{s,2}(\sigma - i\vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\pi} \gamma^5) + h_{v,2}(\gamma_\mu \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\rho}_\mu - \gamma_\mu \gamma^5 \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{a}_{1,\mu}) \right) N_2 + m_{0,N} (\bar{N}_1 \gamma^5 N_2 - \bar{N}_2 \gamma^5 N_1) \right. \\ \left. + U_k(\phi^2) - c\sigma \right\} + \frac{1}{2} (D_\mu \phi)^\dagger D_\mu \phi - \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \partial_\mu \rho_{\mu\nu} \partial_\sigma \rho_{\sigma\nu} + \frac{m_v^2}{8} \text{tr} \rho_{\mu\nu} \rho_{\mu\nu} \Big\} + \Delta\Gamma_{\pi a_1}.$$

- ▶ Solution: Vector dominance model

$$\text{Im} D_{\text{EM}} = \sum_{\nu=\rho,\omega,\phi} \left( \frac{m_\nu^2}{g_\nu} \right)^2 \text{Im} D_\nu$$

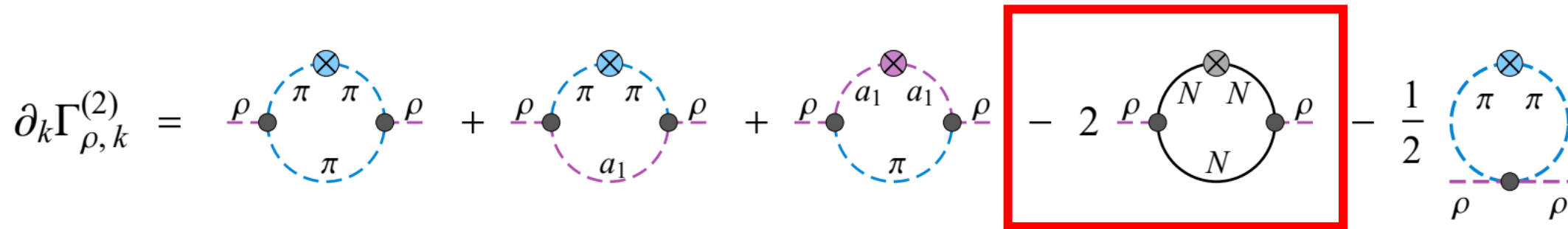
- ▶  $j_{EM}^\mu = \sum_{q=u,d,s} \bar{q} \gamma^\mu q e_q = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} j_\rho^\mu + \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} j_\omega^\mu + \frac{1}{3} j_\phi^\mu$
- ▶ Check prefactors:
- ▶  $\omega$  weaker by factor 9,  $\phi$  weaker by factor 5
- ▶ More importantly:  $\rho$  has by far the shortest lifetime
- ▶  $\omega, \phi$  experience final state interactions

# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=0$ MeV, $\text{Im } \Gamma_\rho^2$





# Prescription shows up in $\rho$ spectral function!

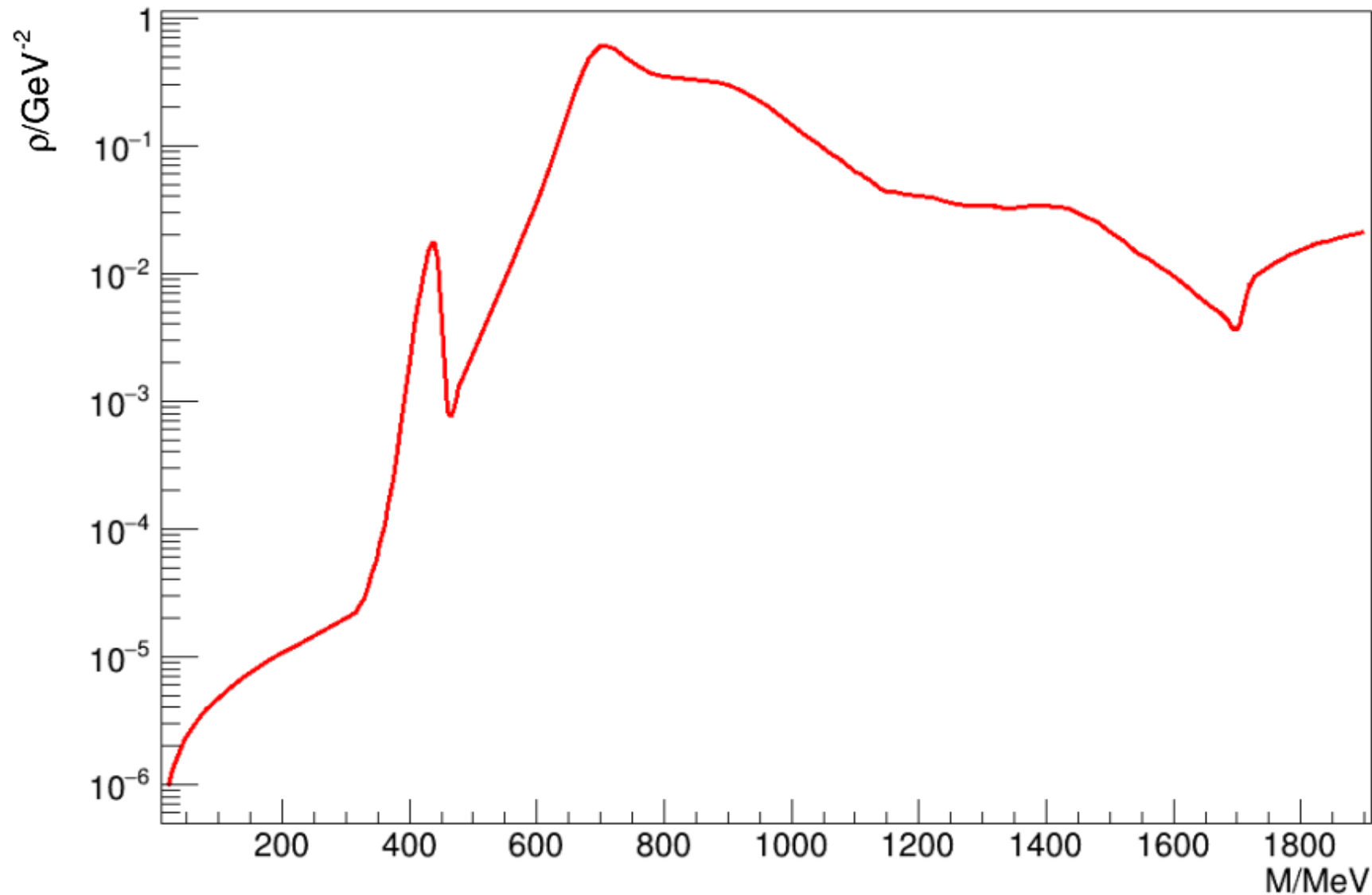
$$\partial_k \Gamma_{\rho, k}^{(2)} = \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} + \text{diagram 3} - 2 \text{diagram 4} - \frac{1}{2} \text{diagram 5}$$


- ▶ Functional derivatives of  $\Gamma_k$  w.r.t. fields give n-point functions
- ▶ Mirror prescription gives rise to low energy peak in  $\rho$   $\Gamma^{(2)}$  function due to  $\rho^* + N_1 \rightarrow N_2$ 
  - Unique to parity doublet model with mirror prescription!
- ▶ Also manifests in spectral function!

$$\Pi_\rho \propto \frac{\text{Im} \Gamma_\rho^{(2)}}{\left( \text{Re} \Gamma_\rho^{(2)} \right)^2 + \left( \text{Im} \Gamma_\rho^{(2)} \right)^2}$$

Tripolt et al., Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021) 5, 054005

# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=0$ MeV



- ▶ Important equation for extraction of thermal dilepton spectra

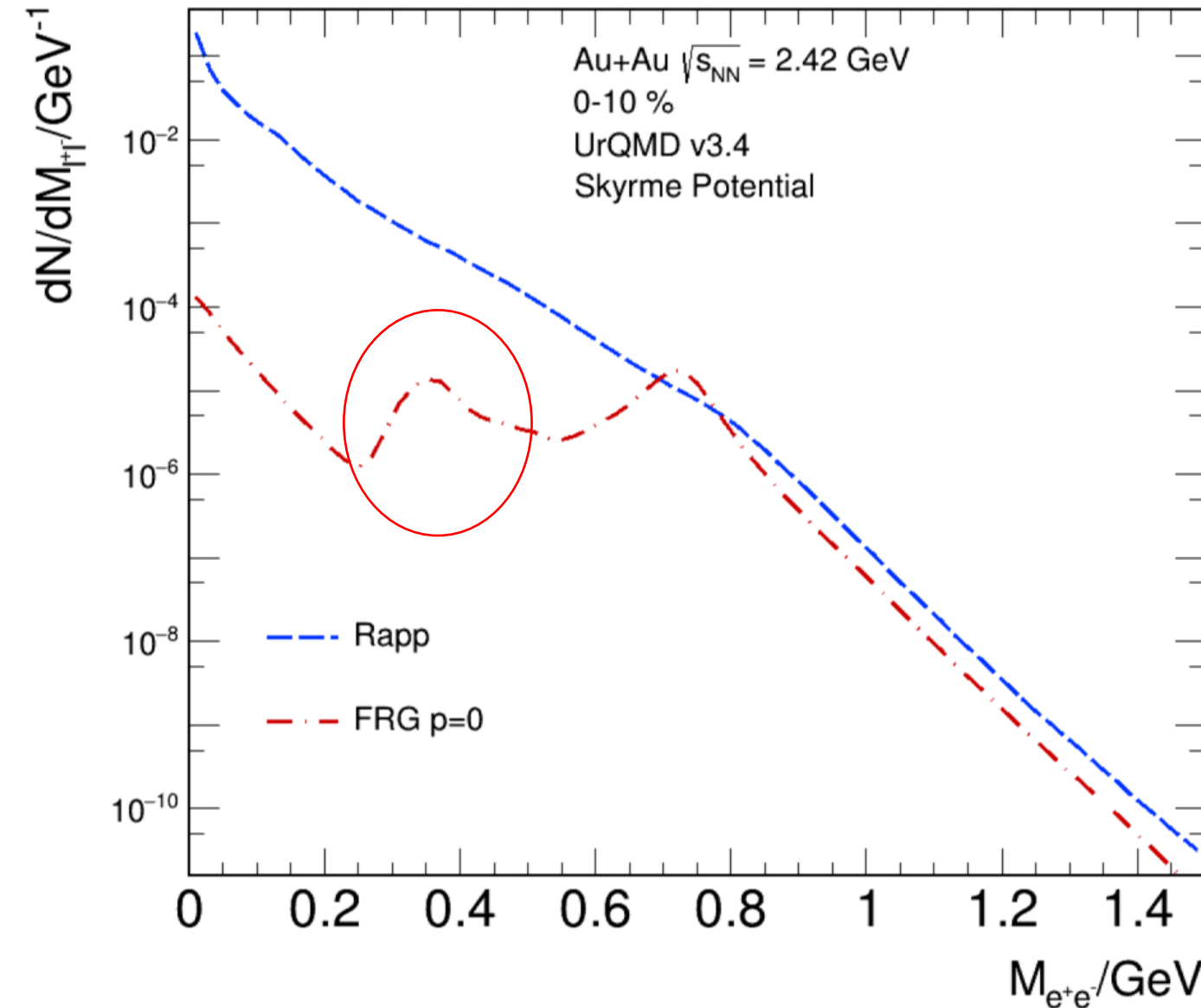
$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{d^4x d^4q} = -\frac{\alpha_{EM}^2}{\pi^3 M^2} L(M^2) f^{BE}(q_0, T) \text{Im}\Pi_{EM}(M, q, \mu_B, T).$$

- ▶ VDM: vector spectral function proportional to electromagnetic SF
- ▶ Peak translates from spectral function to dilepton spectra!

Takeaway: Dilepton yield depends on  $T, \mu_B$  ( $\rho_B$ ), is obtained by integrating over space-time and 4-momentum

McLerran, Toimela, Phys. Rev. D 31 (1985), p. 545

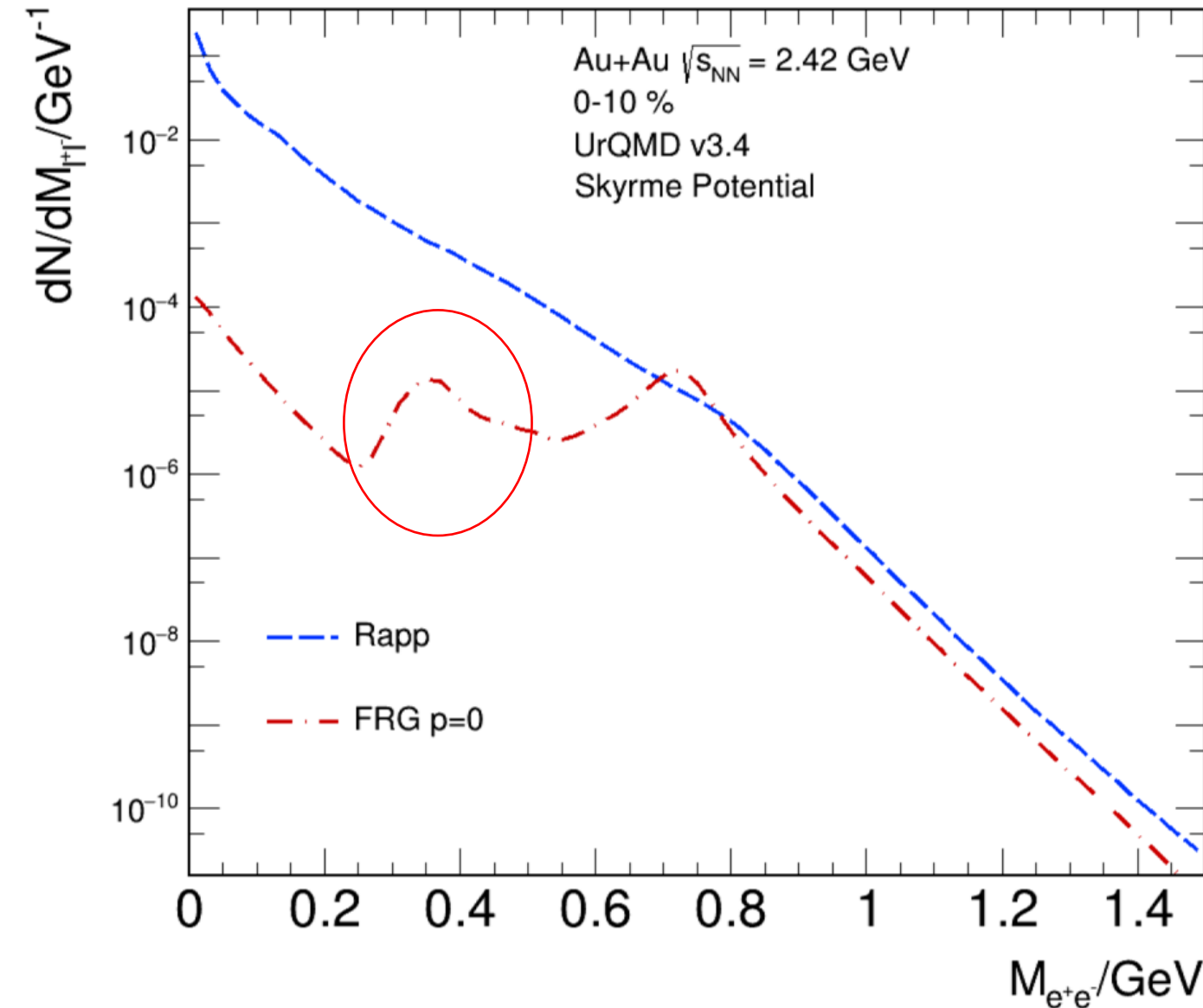
# Mirror prescription in dilepton yield



- ▶ Take  $\rho, T$  distributions from UrQMD via Coarse Graining procedure
- ▶ For  $\vec{p}=0$  MeV spectral function, peak is seen clearly in FRG SF
- ▶ Comparison with Rapp-Wambach spectral function
  - Describes spectra over wide range of energies

Rapp, Physics Letters B, Volume 731, 2014

# Mirror prescription in dilepton yield



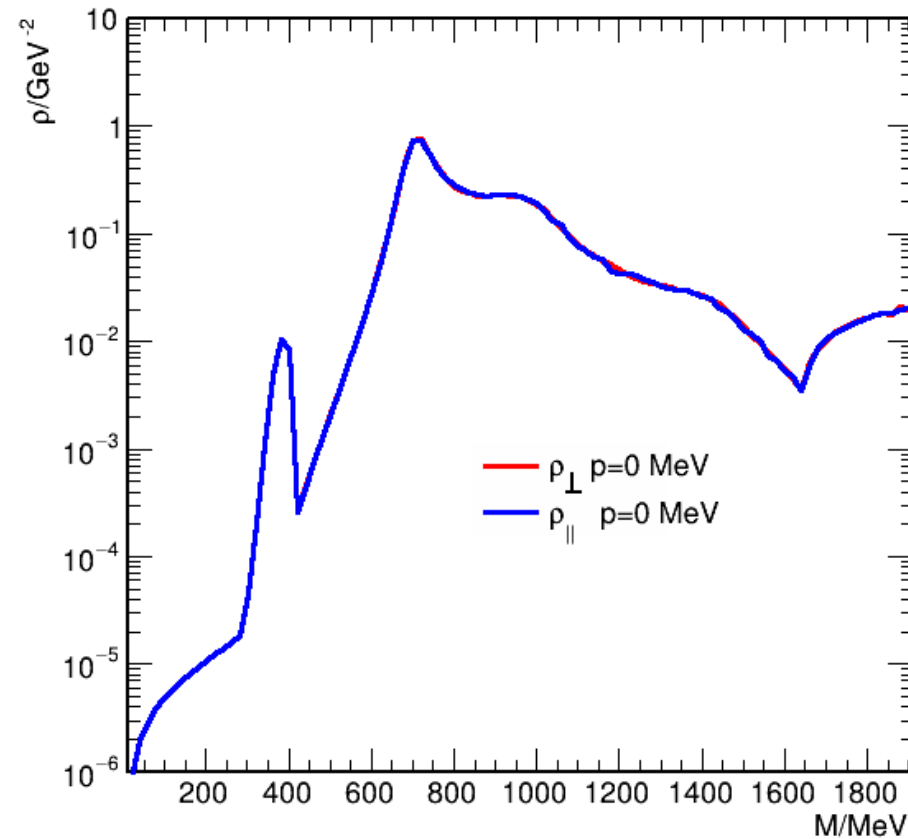
## ► Low energies?

- 1st step: Full momentum dependence!
- Does the peak survive for finite momentum?

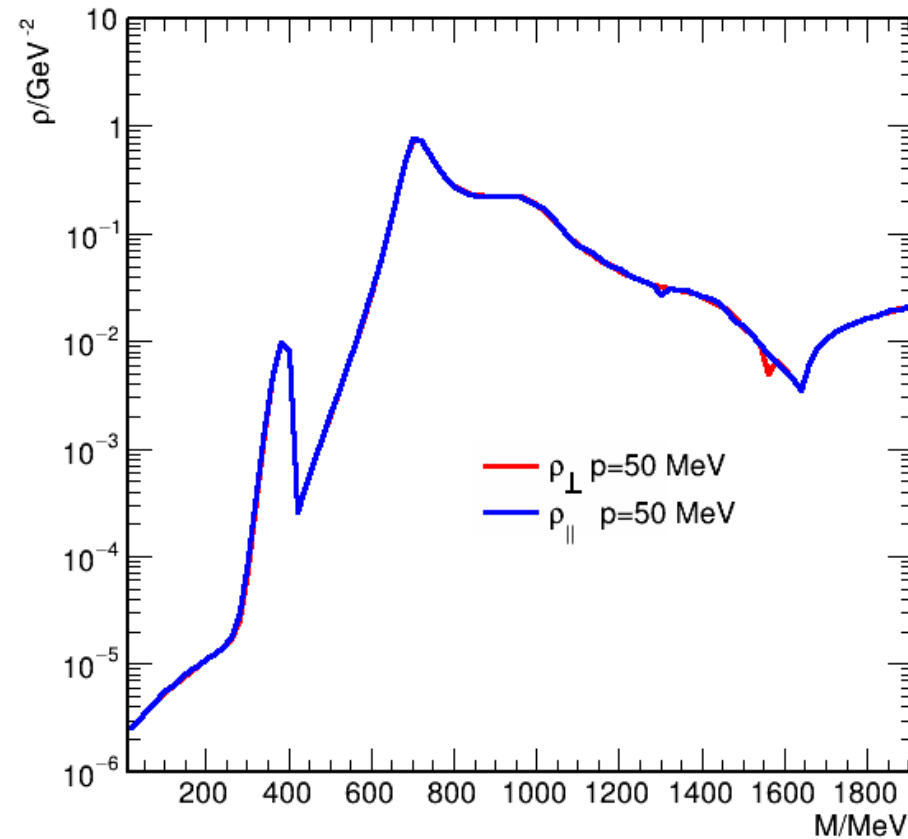
$$\rho = \frac{1}{3} (2 \rho_{\perp} + \rho_{||})$$

R. Rapp, J. Wambach, Eur. Phys. J. A 6, 415 (1999)

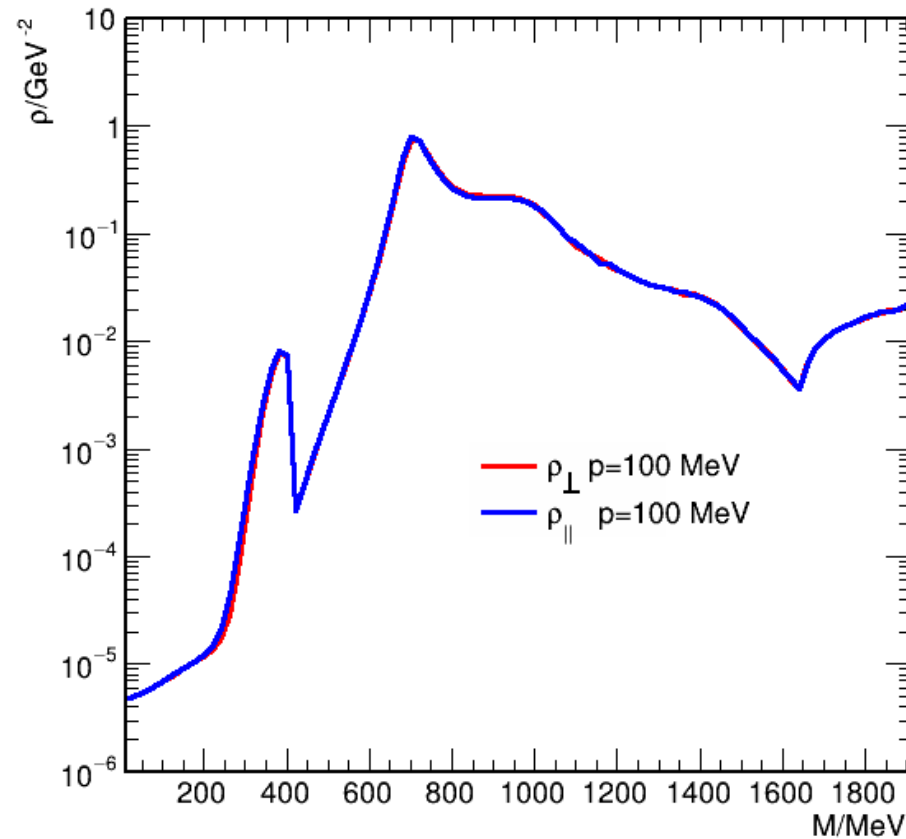
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=0$ MeV



# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=50$ MeV

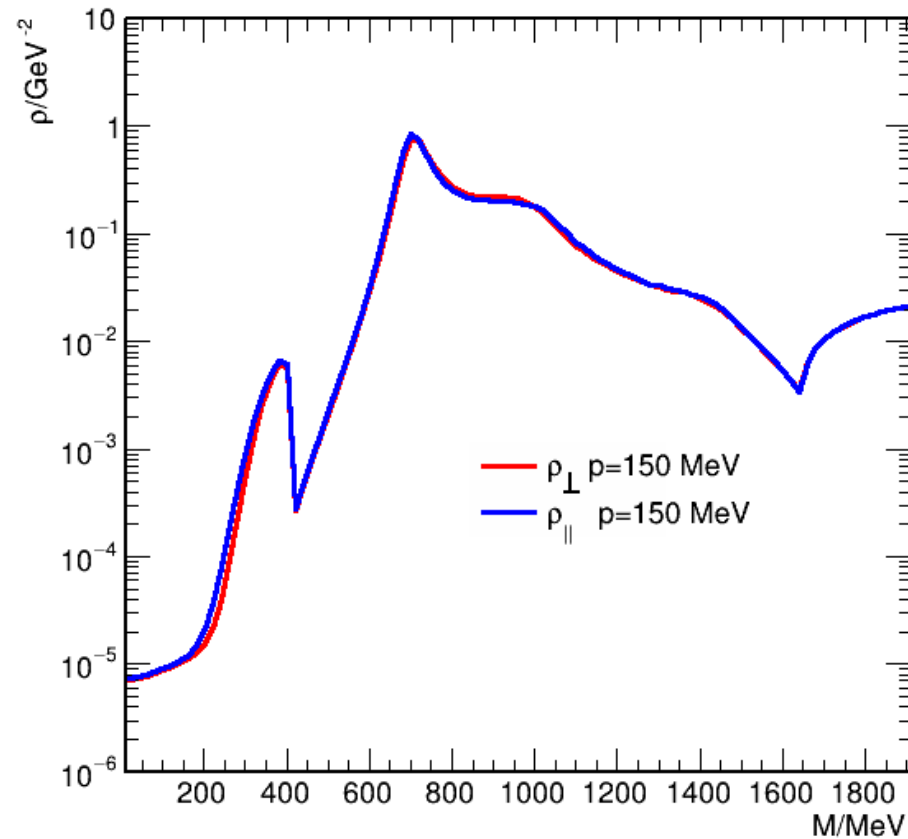


# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=100$ MeV

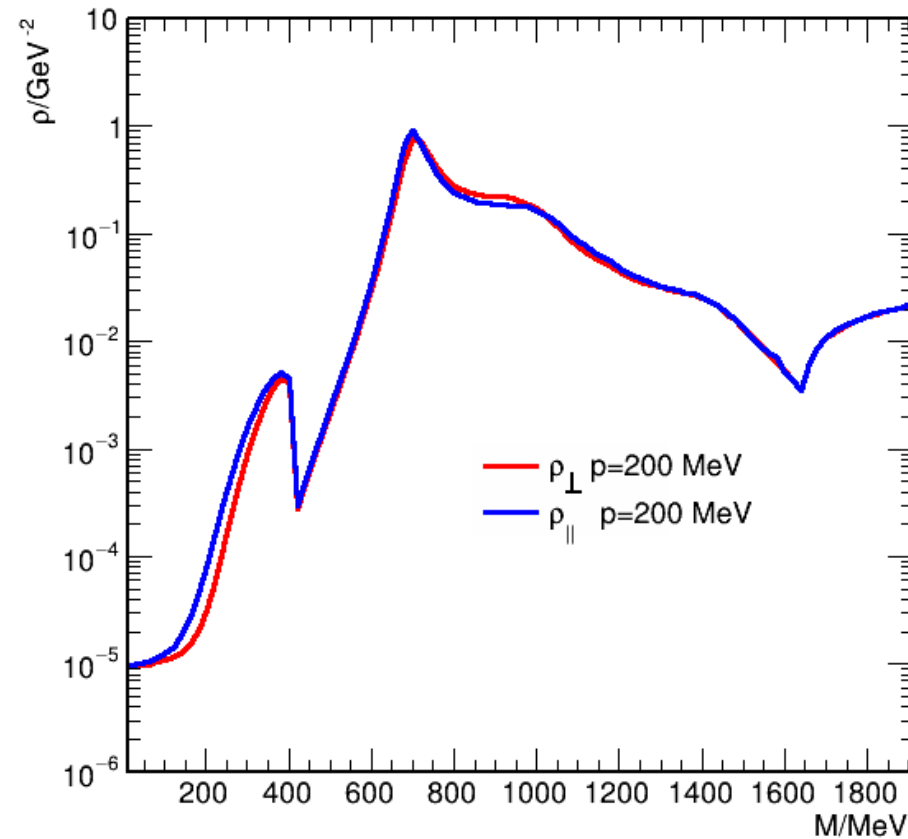




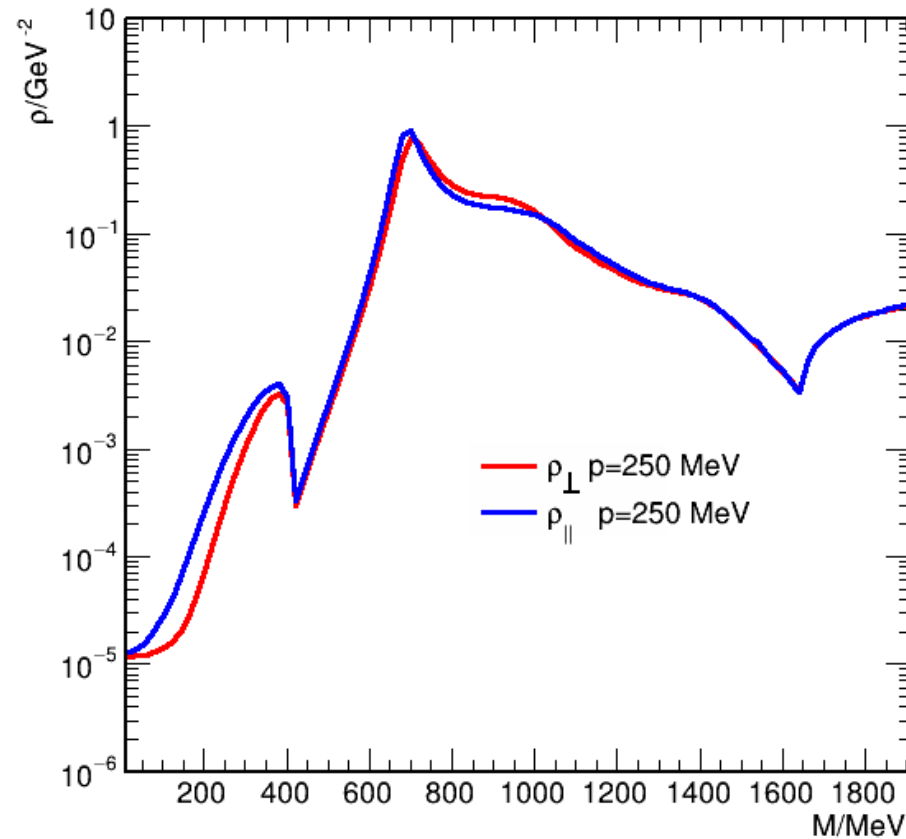
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=150$ MeV



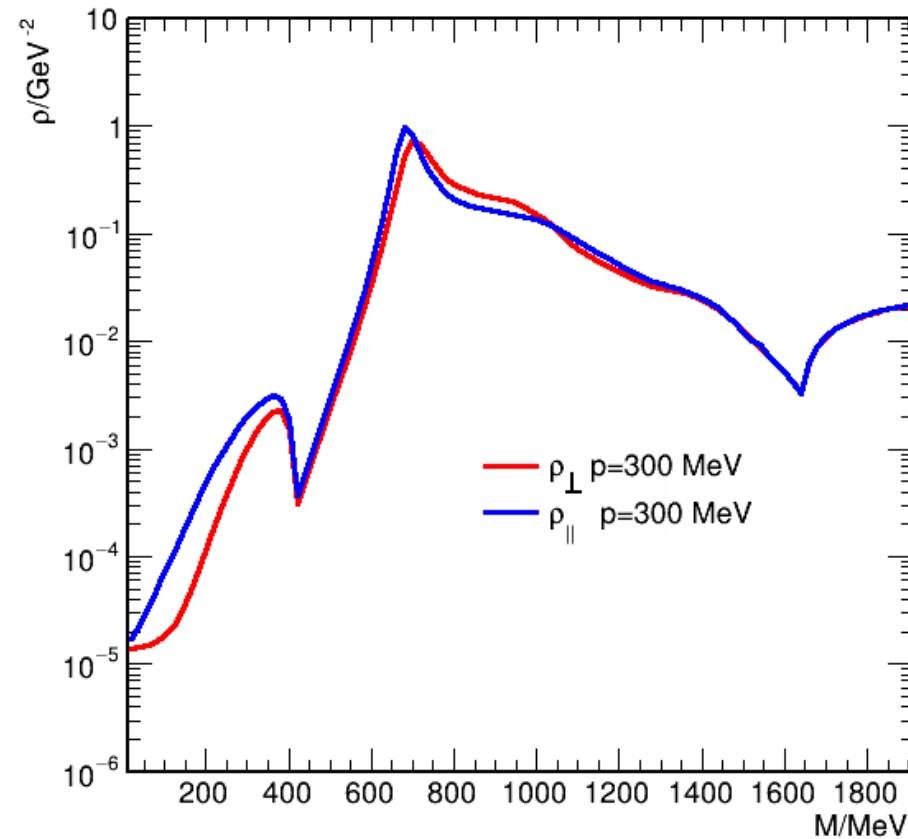
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=200$ MeV



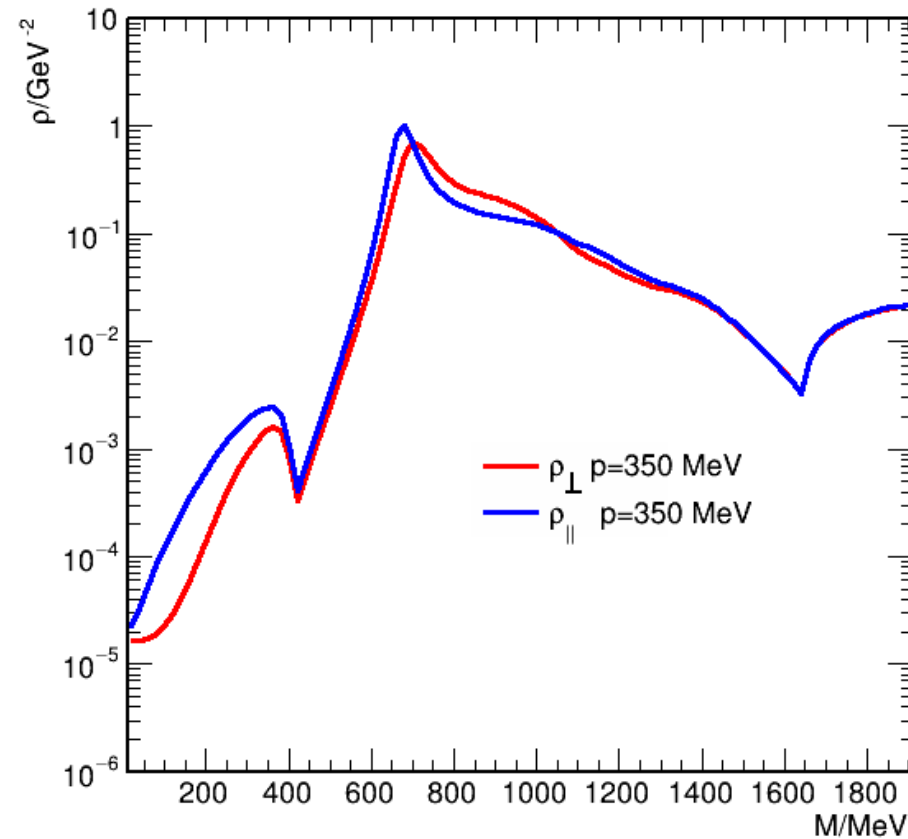
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=250$ MeV



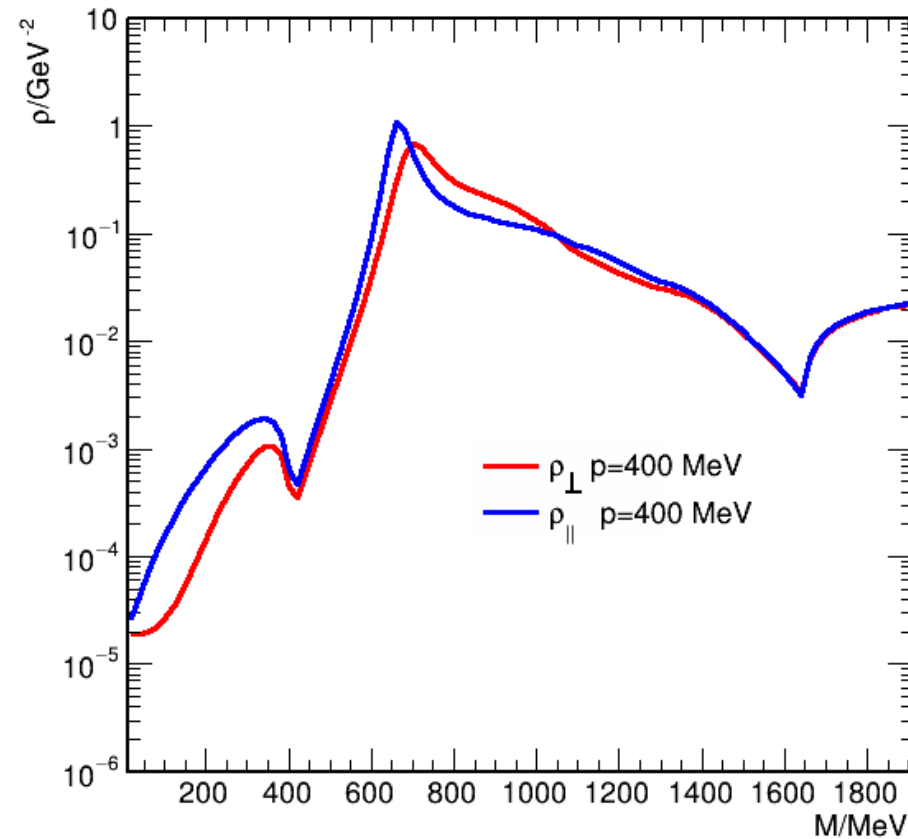
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=300$ MeV



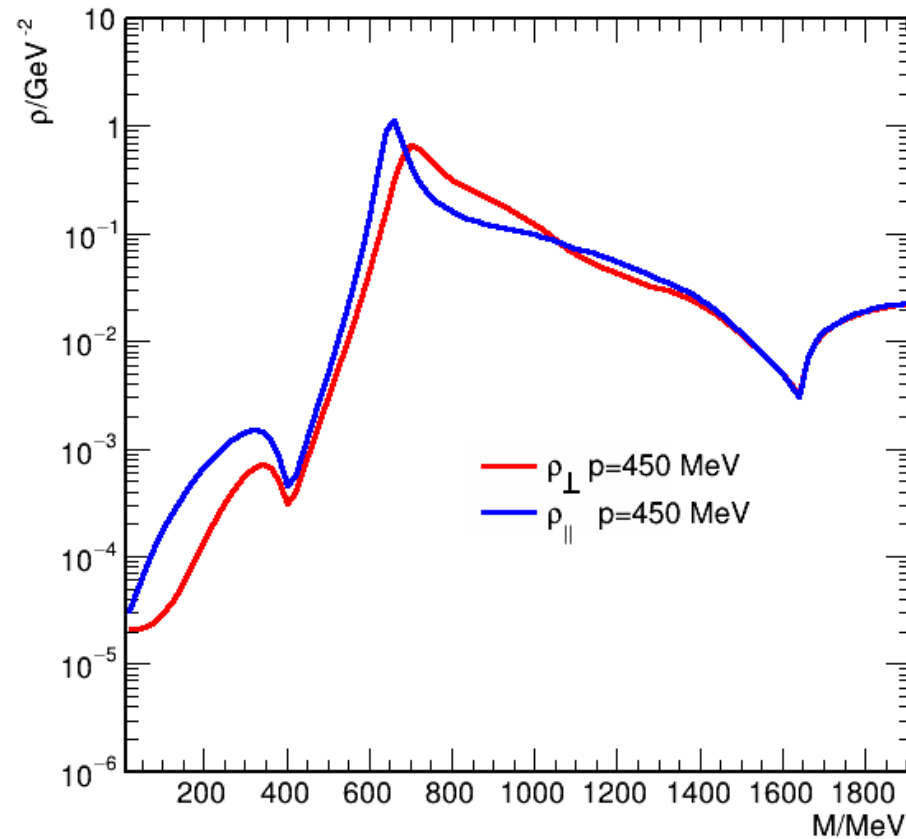
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=350$ MeV



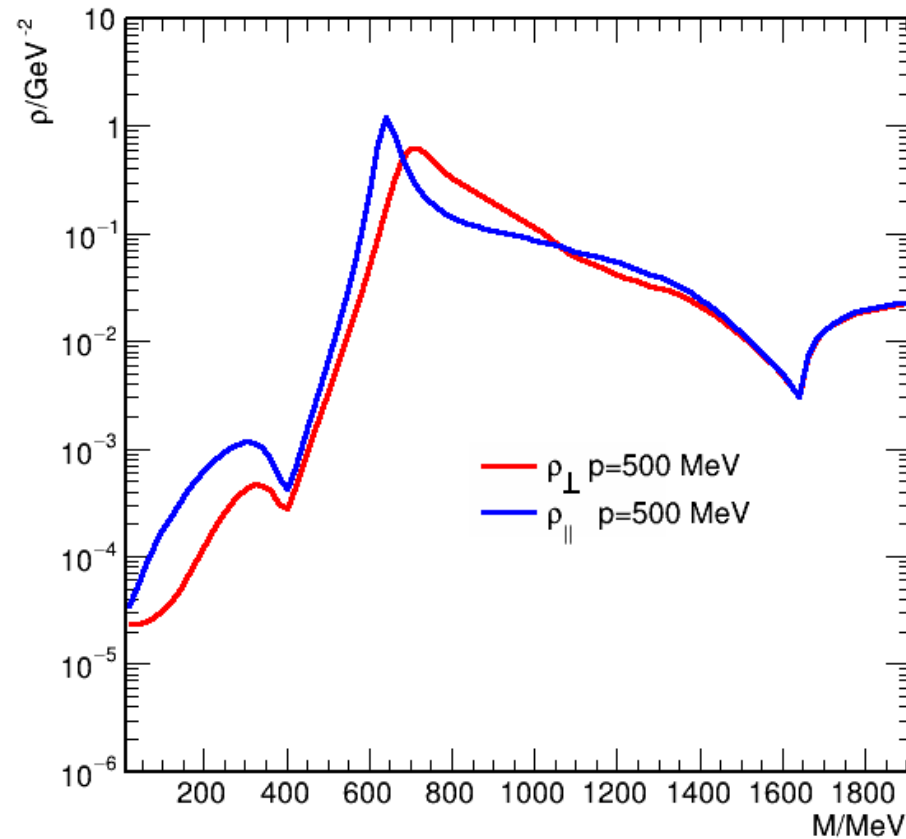
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=400$ MeV



# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=450$ MeV

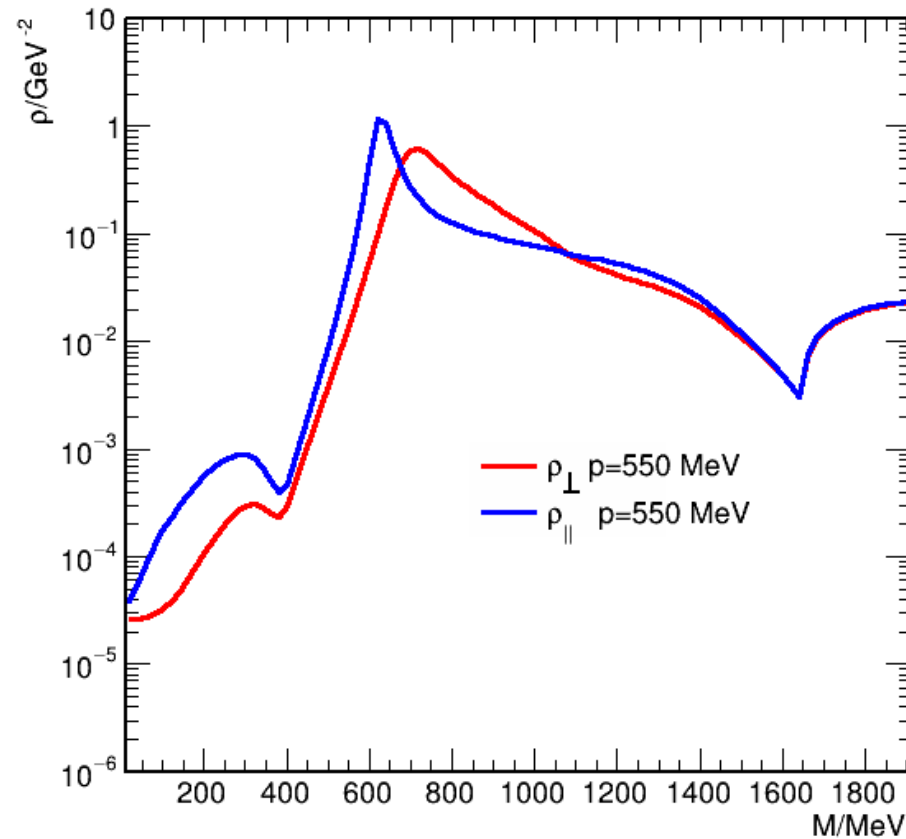


# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=500$ MeV

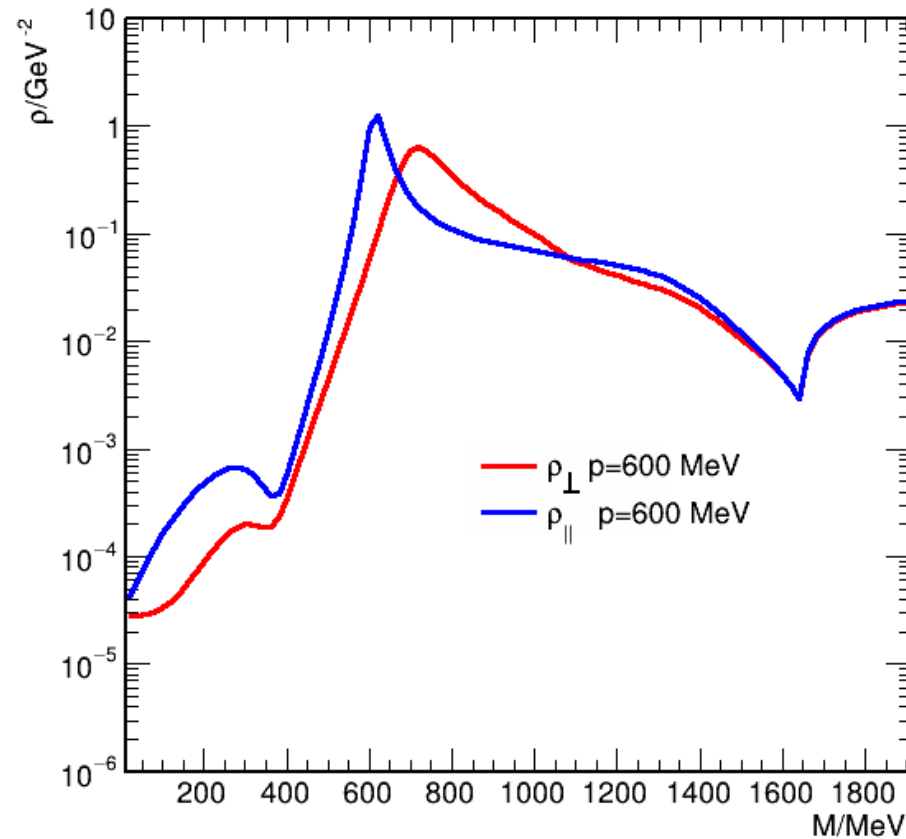




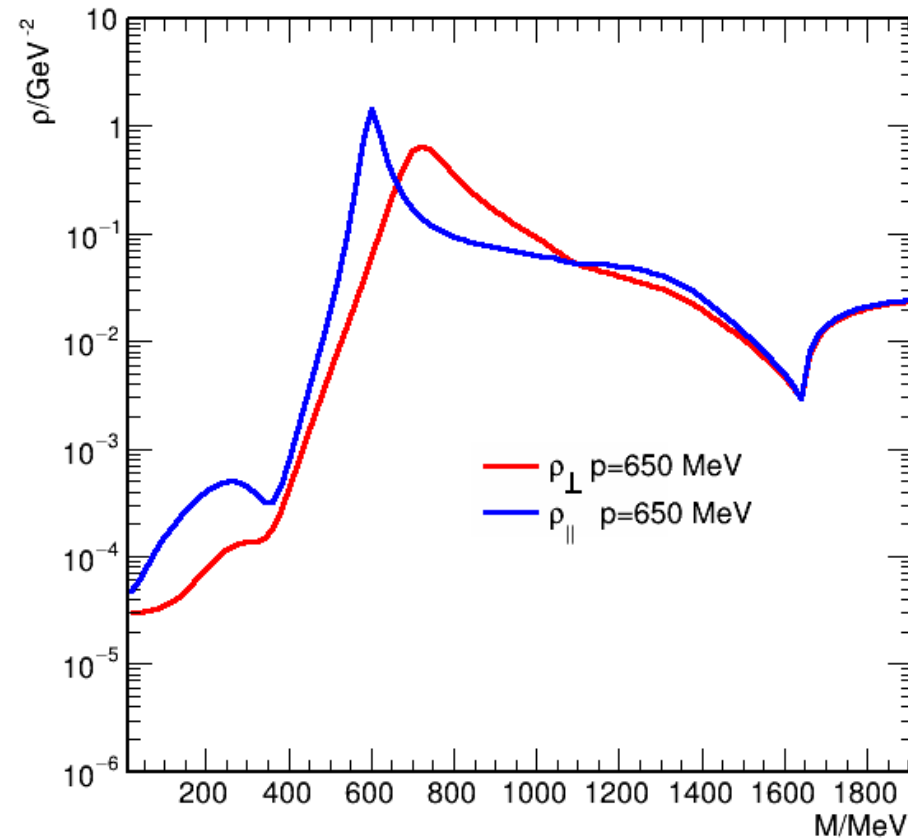
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=550$ MeV



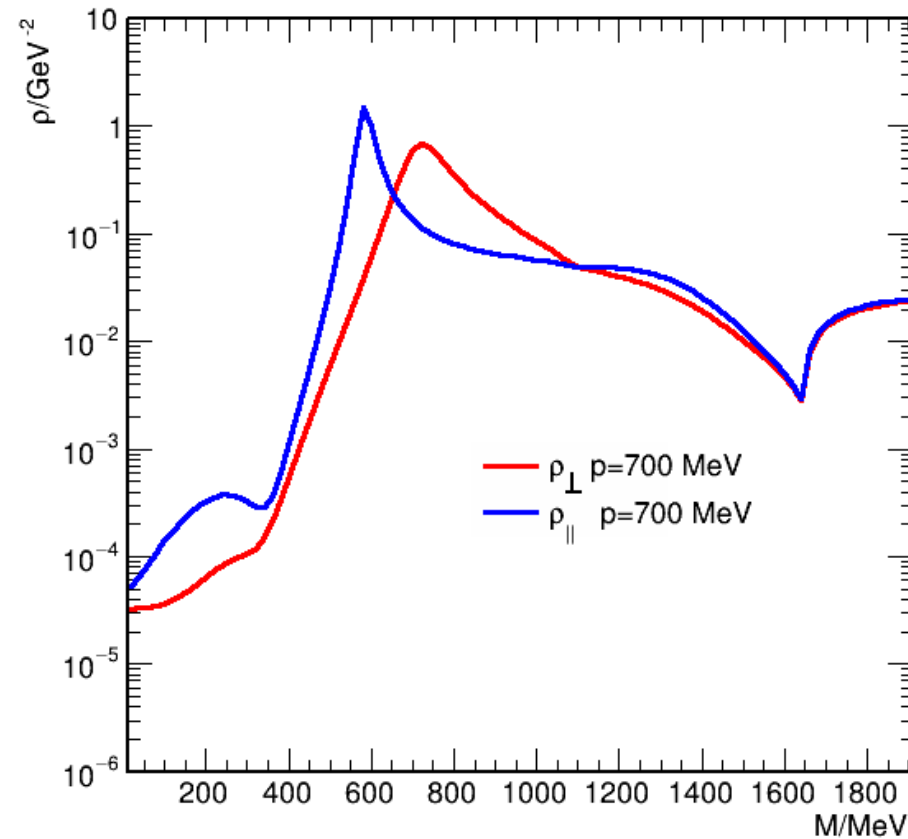
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=600$ MeV



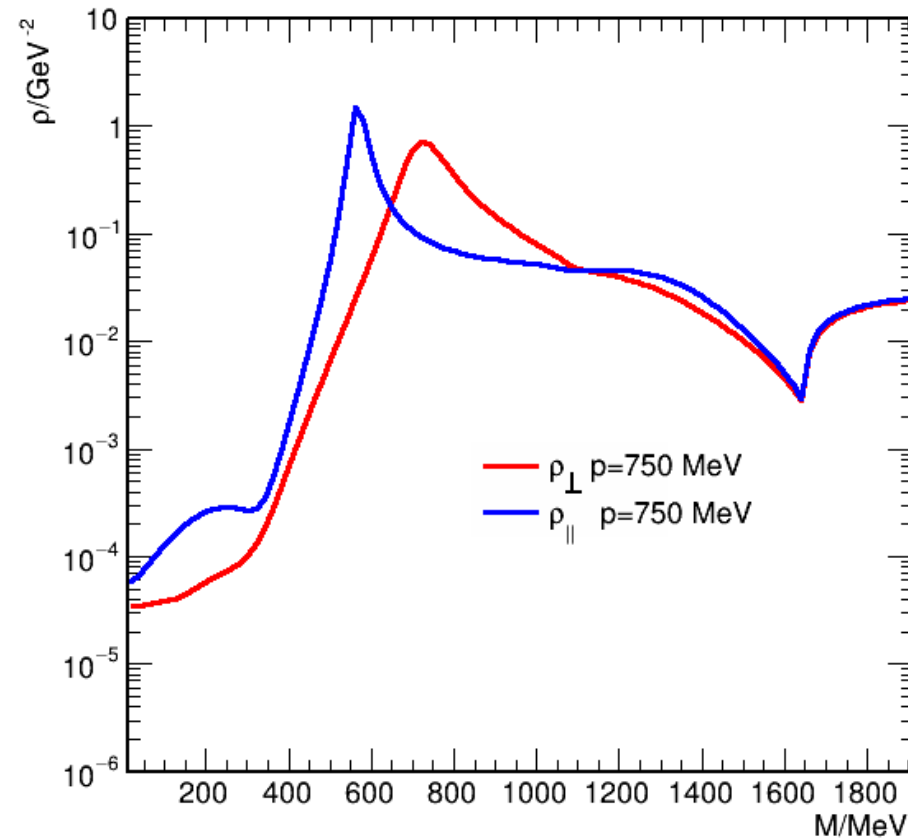
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=650$ MeV



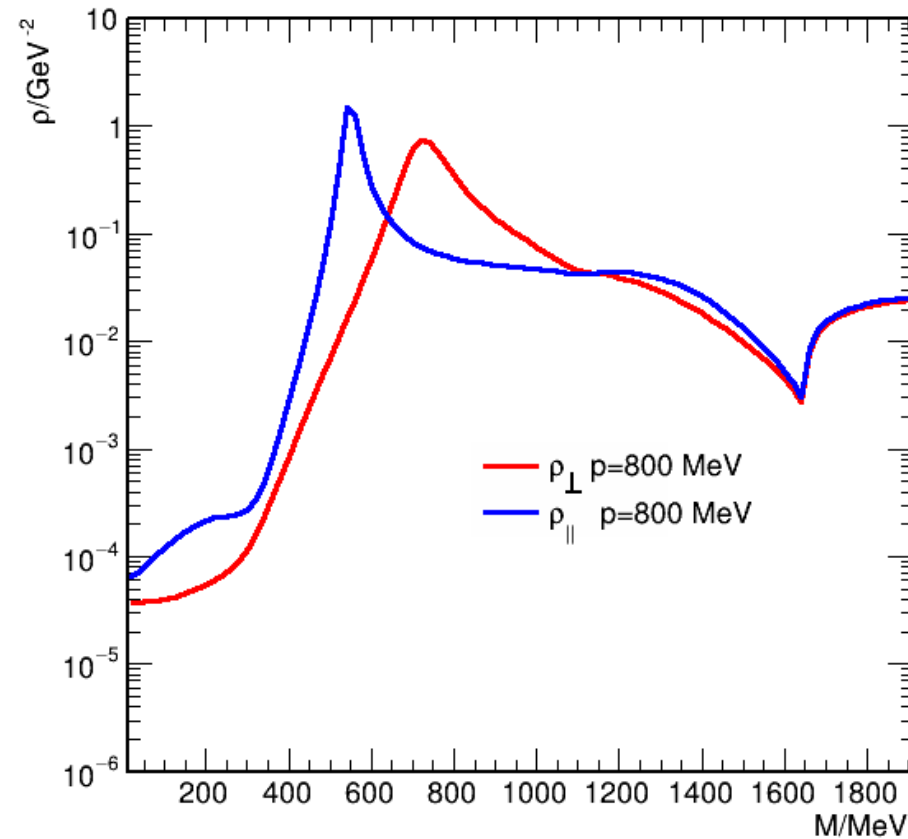
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=700$ MeV



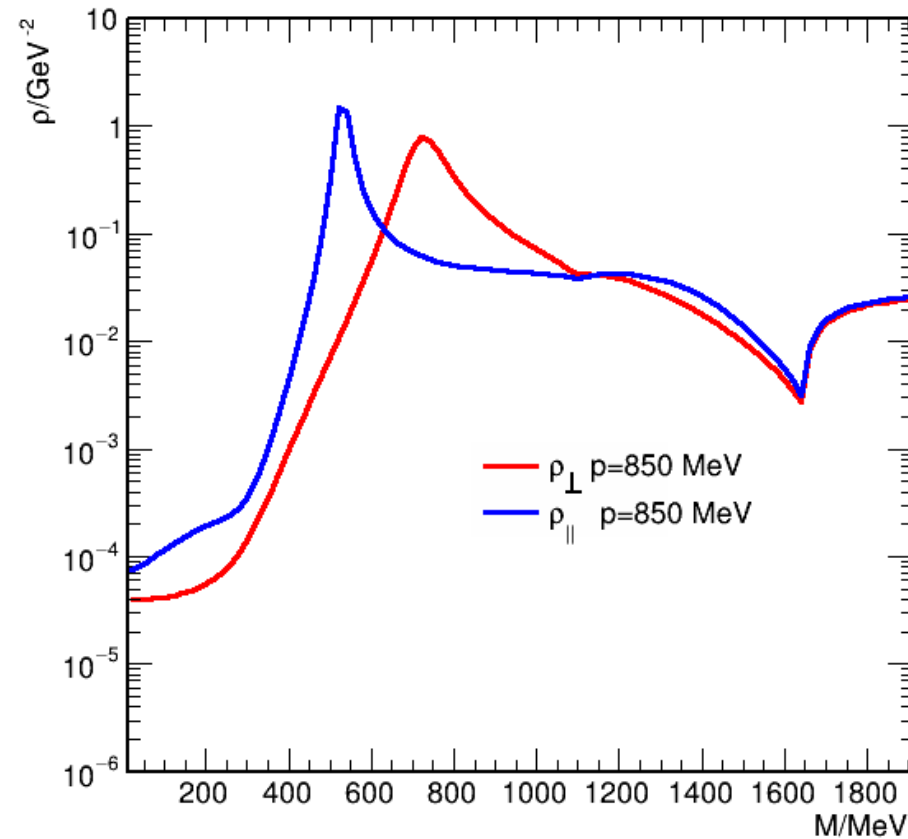
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=750$ MeV



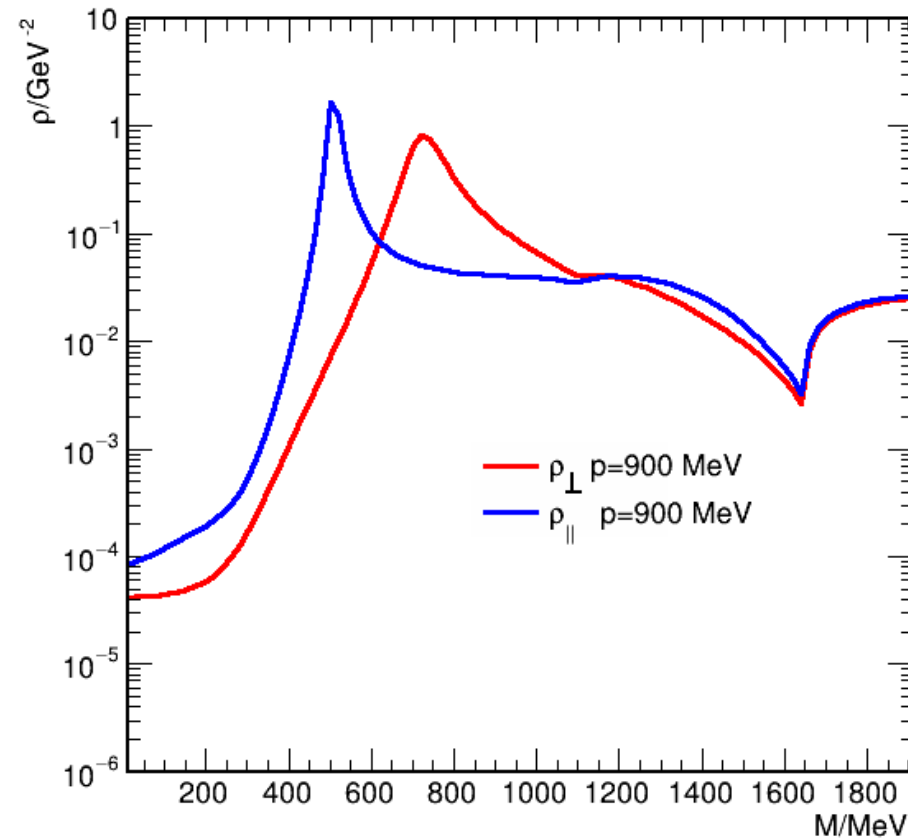
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=800$ MeV



# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=850$ MeV

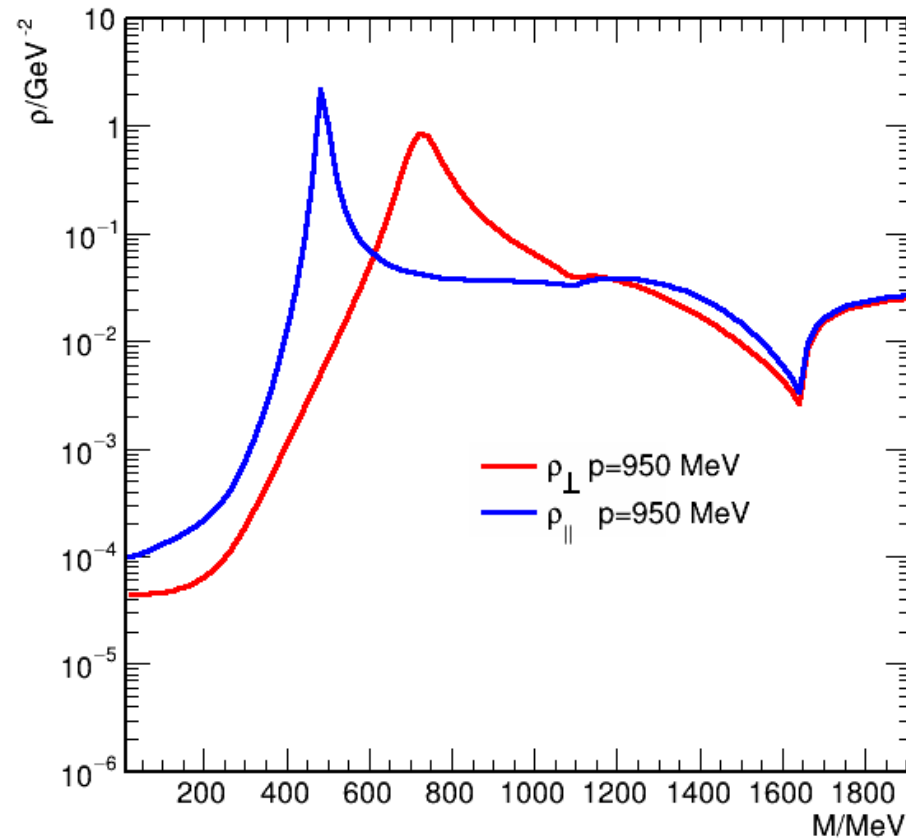


# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=900$ MeV

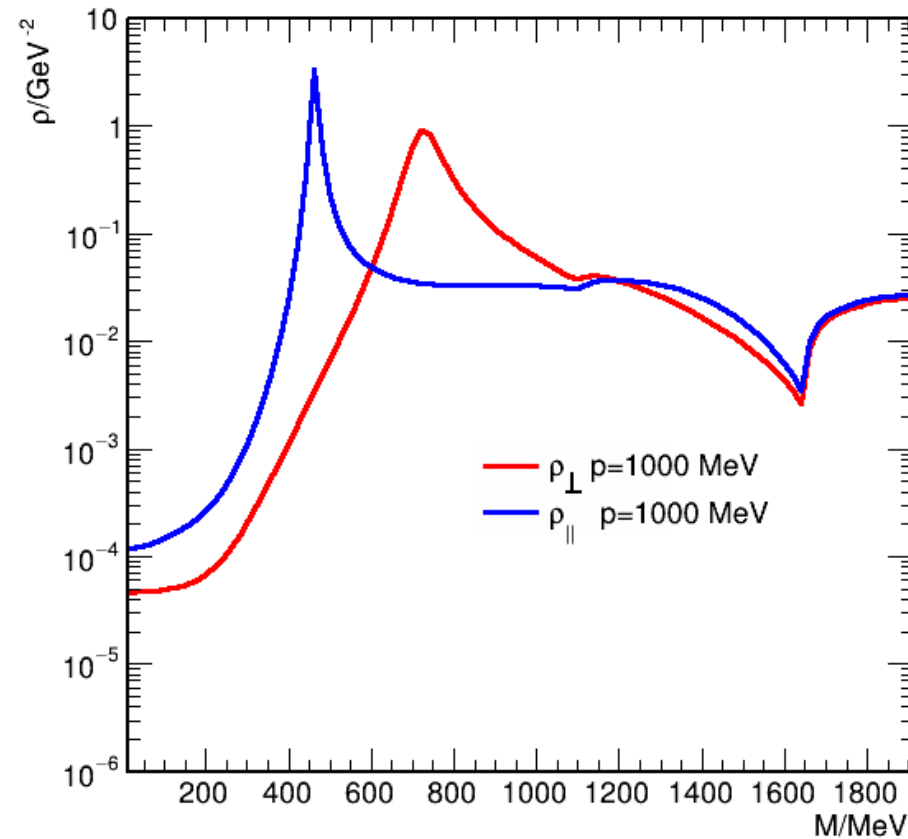




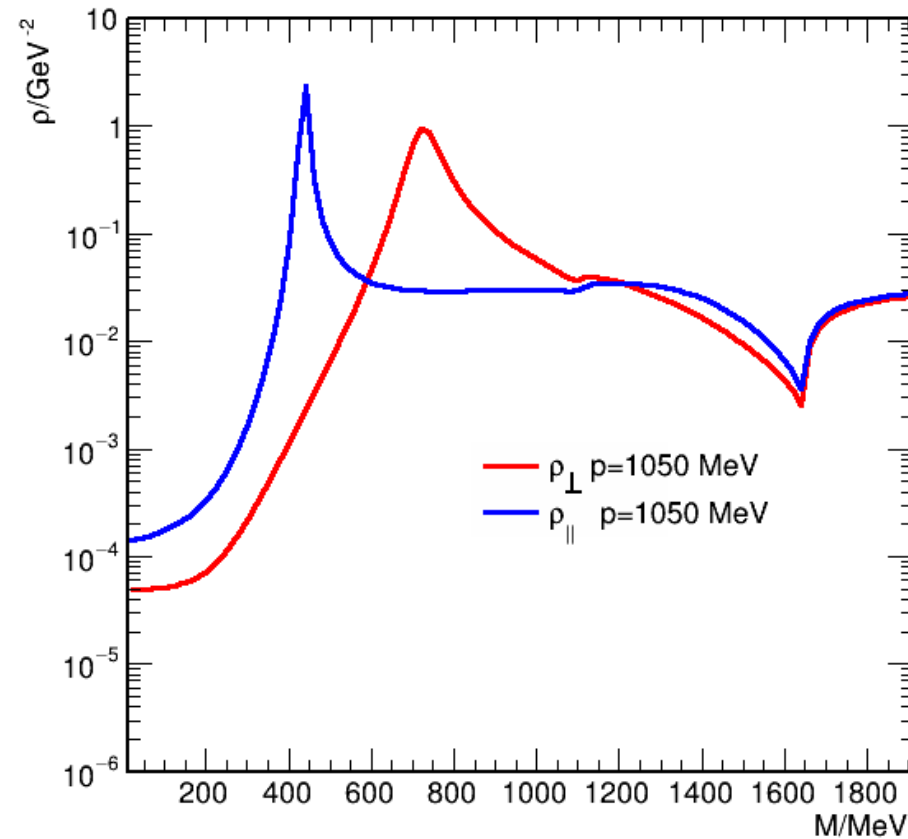
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=950$ MeV



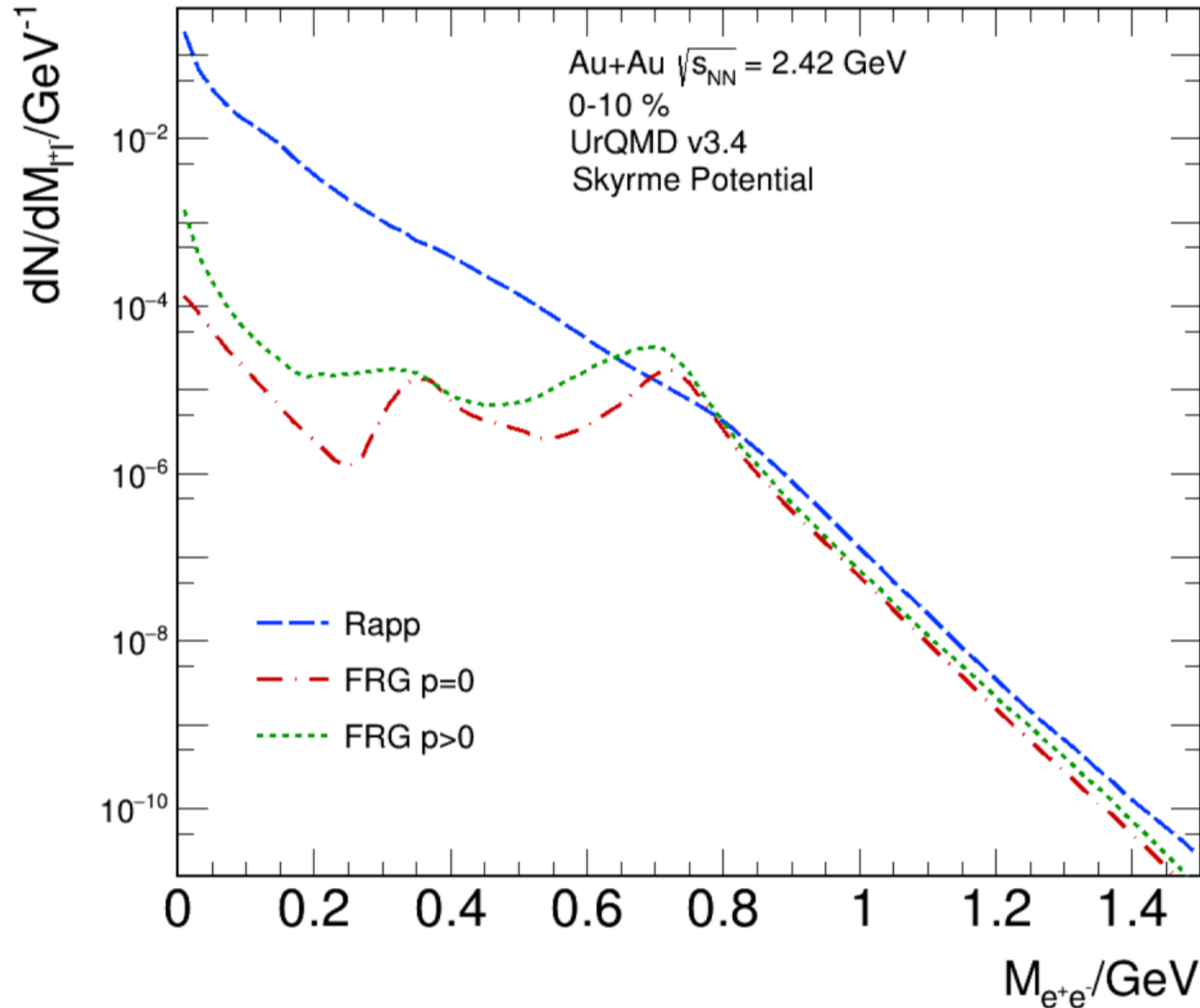
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=1000$ MeV



# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=1050$ MeV

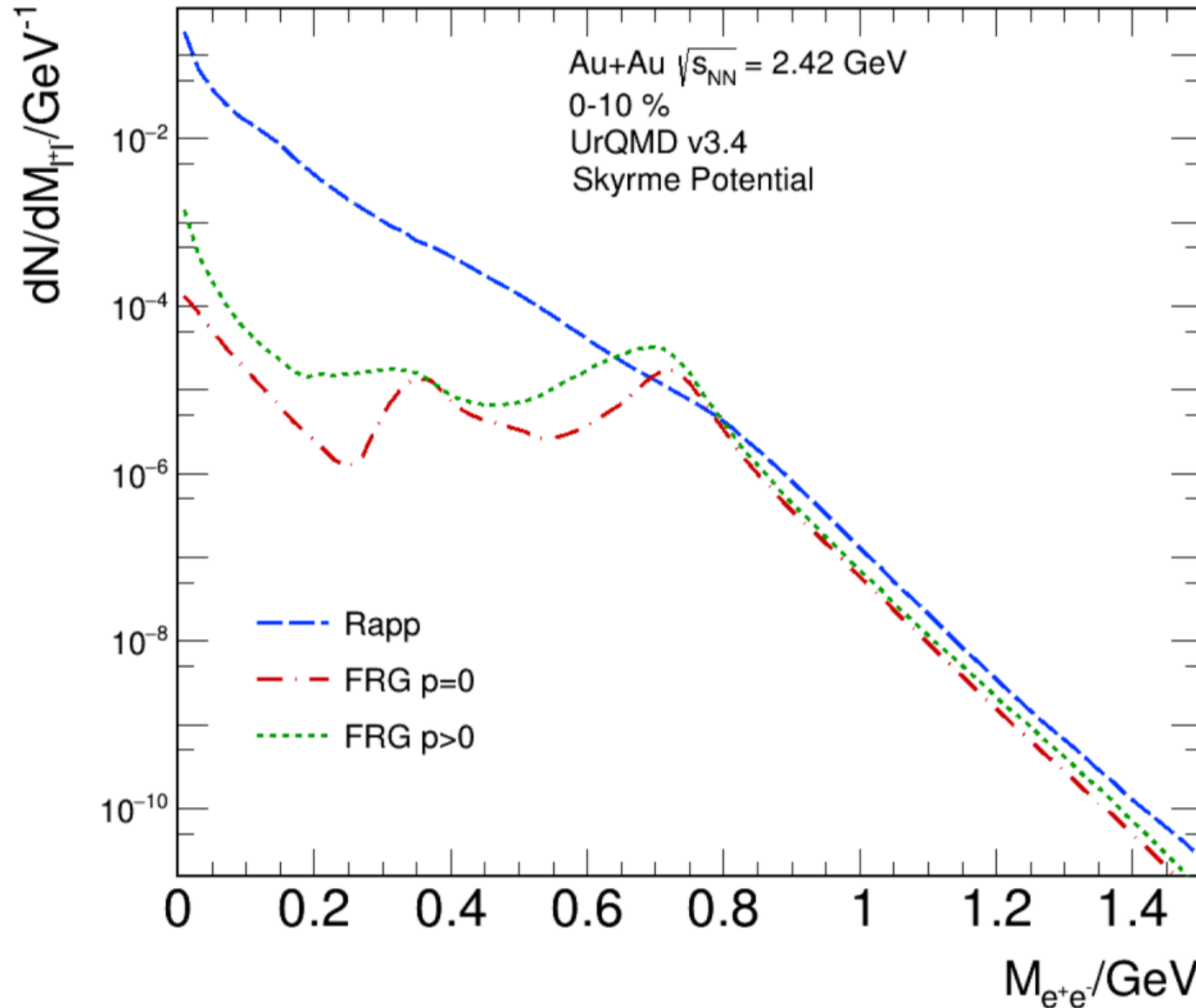


# Dilepton invariant mass spectrum for $p>0$



- ▶ Integrated yield rises by a factor of  $\sim 2$
- ▶ Peak is smeared out considerably

# Dilepton invariant mass spectrum for $p>0$



- ▶ Integrated yield rises by a factor of  $\sim 2$
- ▶ Peak is smeared out considerably
- ▶ Still many things missing for “realistic” spectral function
  - More baryon species
  - Pion modifications

- ▶ „Transverse“ and „longitudinal“ spectral functions?
- ▶ Vector mesons move through medium (at rest)
- ▶ Direction gives a quantization axis for spin projections
- ▶  $m_z = \pm 1, 0$
- ▶ Think: Real photons:  $\pm 1$ , no 0 projection  $\rightarrow$  Fully transversely polarized
- ▶ Very sensitive to production mechanism!

- ▶ General angular distribution of dileptons in vector meson decay (ignoring weak interactions)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Gamma}{d^4q d\Omega_\ell} = \mathcal{N} & \left( 1 + \lambda_\theta \cos^2 \theta_\ell \right. \\ & + \lambda_\phi \sin^2 \theta_\ell \cos 2\phi_\ell + \lambda_{\theta\phi} \sin 2\theta_\ell \cos \phi_\ell \\ & \left. + \lambda_\phi^\perp \sin^2 \theta_\ell \cos 2\phi_\ell + \lambda_{\theta\phi}^\perp \sin 2\theta_\ell \cos \phi_\ell \right) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Faccioli: Every production process has a „natural“ frame, in which only  $\lambda_\theta$  contributes.

Faccioli, Lourenco, Lect.Notes Phys. 1002 (2022)

# Special cases (Peanuts vs. Donuts)

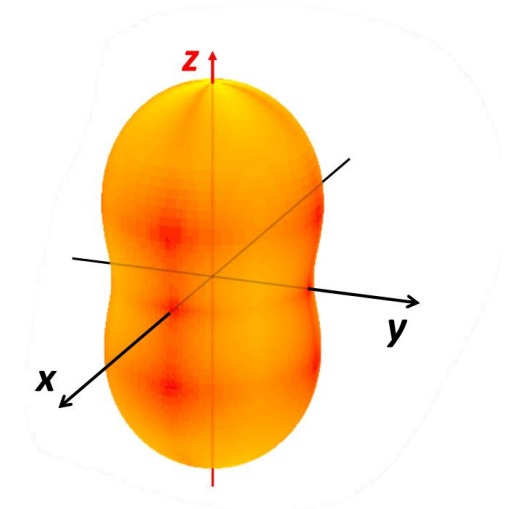
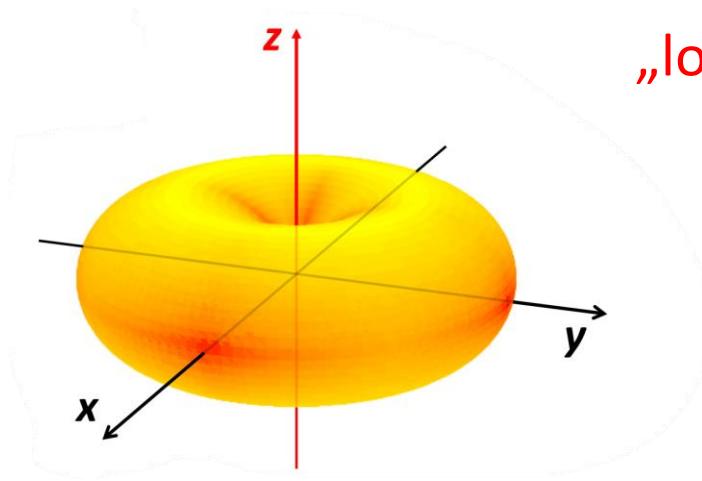
$$\lambda_\theta = -1$$

Caution!

$$\lambda_\theta = 1$$

„longitudinal“

„transverse“

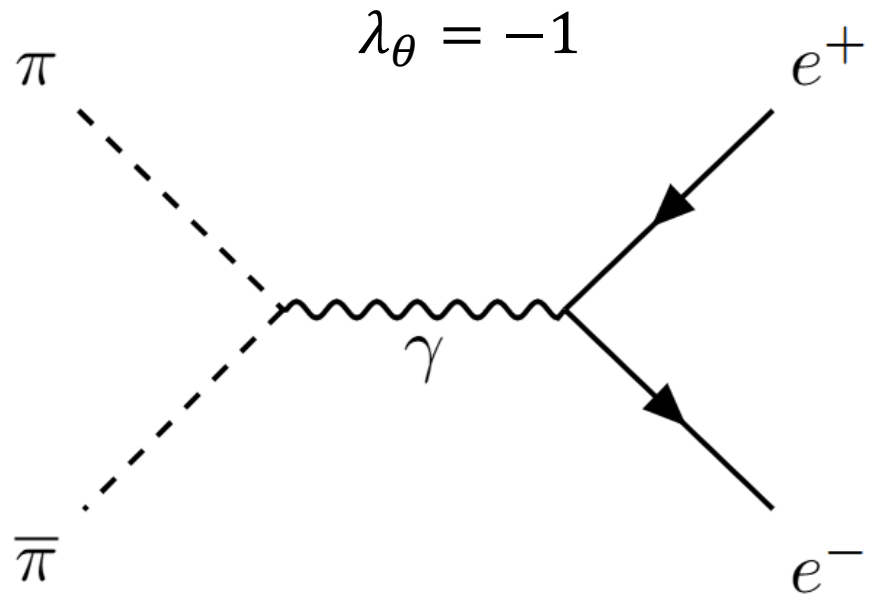


$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d^4q d\Omega_\ell} = \mathcal{N} (1 + \lambda_\theta \cos^2 \theta_\ell)$$

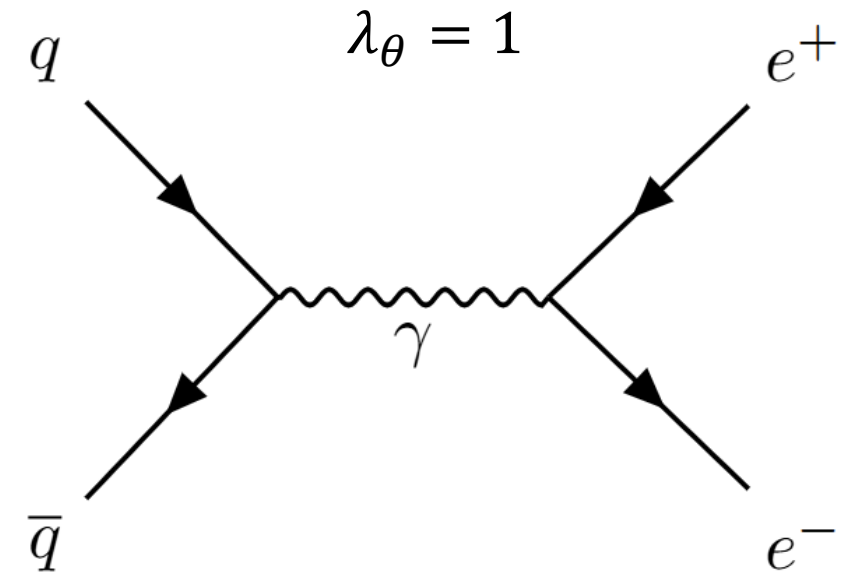
Faccioli, Lourenco, Lect.Notes Phys. 1002 (2022)



# Example: $\pi\pi$ vs Drell-Yan



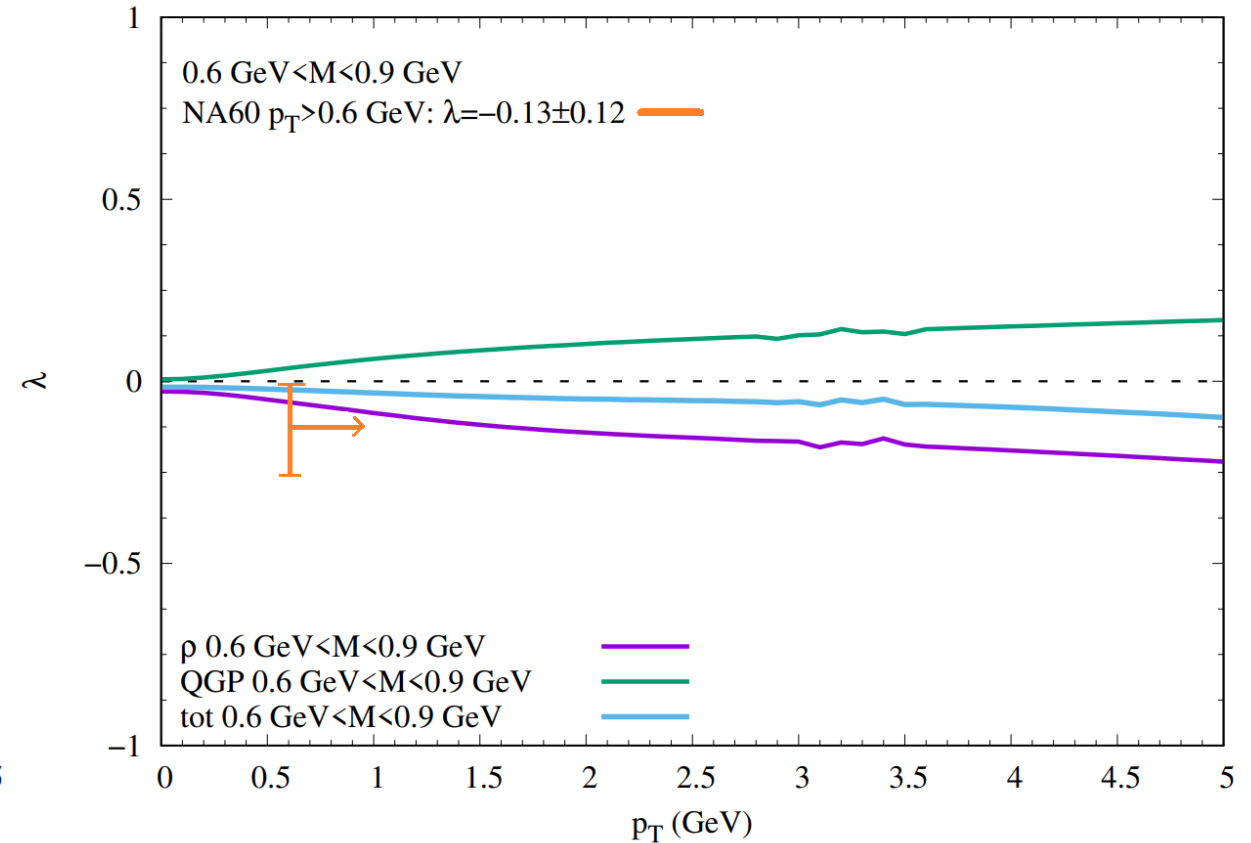
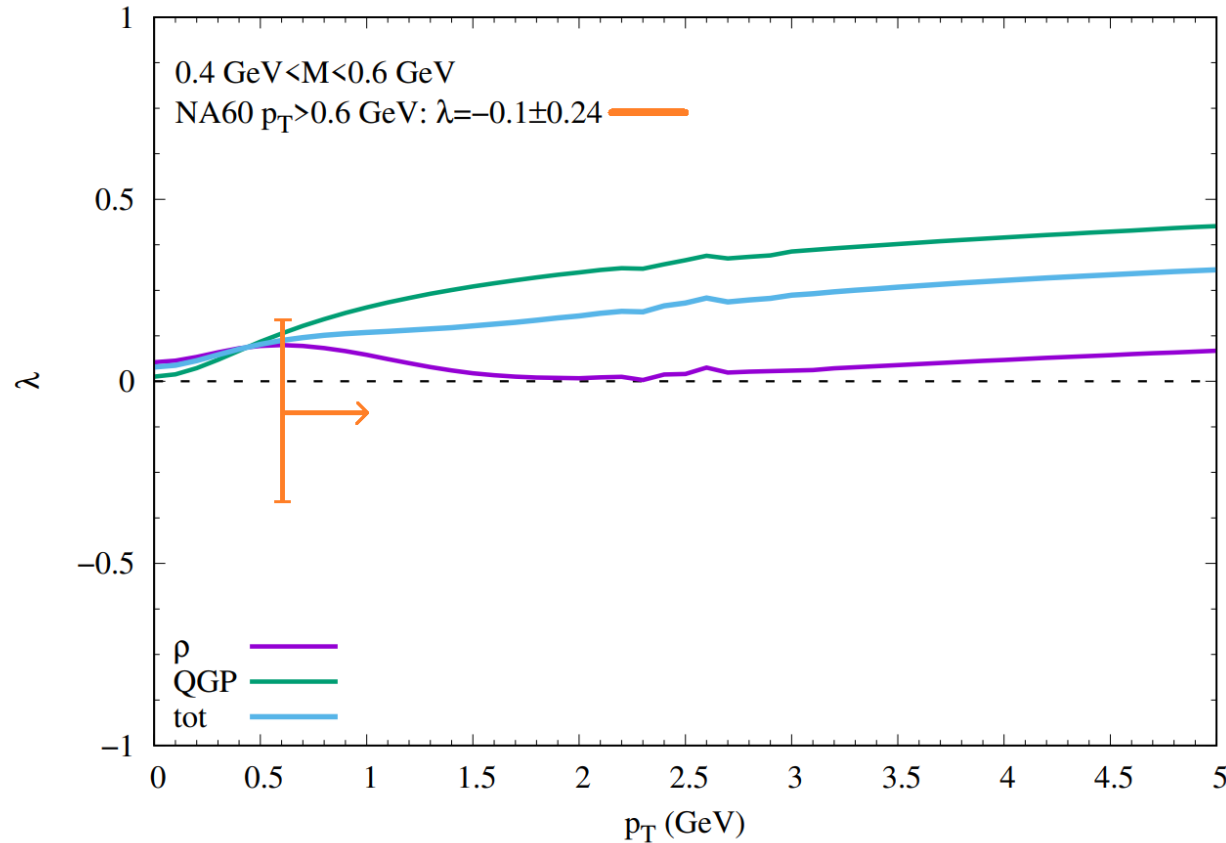
Pions have no spin, so spin contribution to polarization is 0 (though orbital contributions persist, as seen later)



Chiral limit: helicities of  $q$  and  $\bar{q}$  are conserved and opposite, must couple to spin projection 1.

Bratkovskaya, Phys. Lett. B 348 (1995)

# Polarization signatures of phase transition



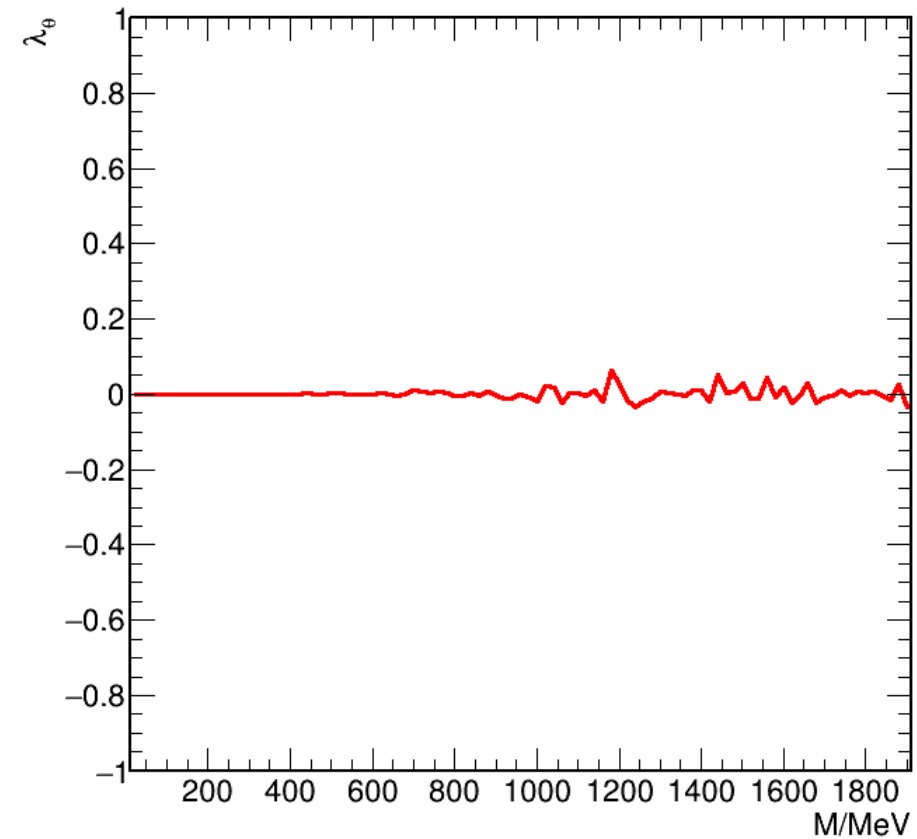
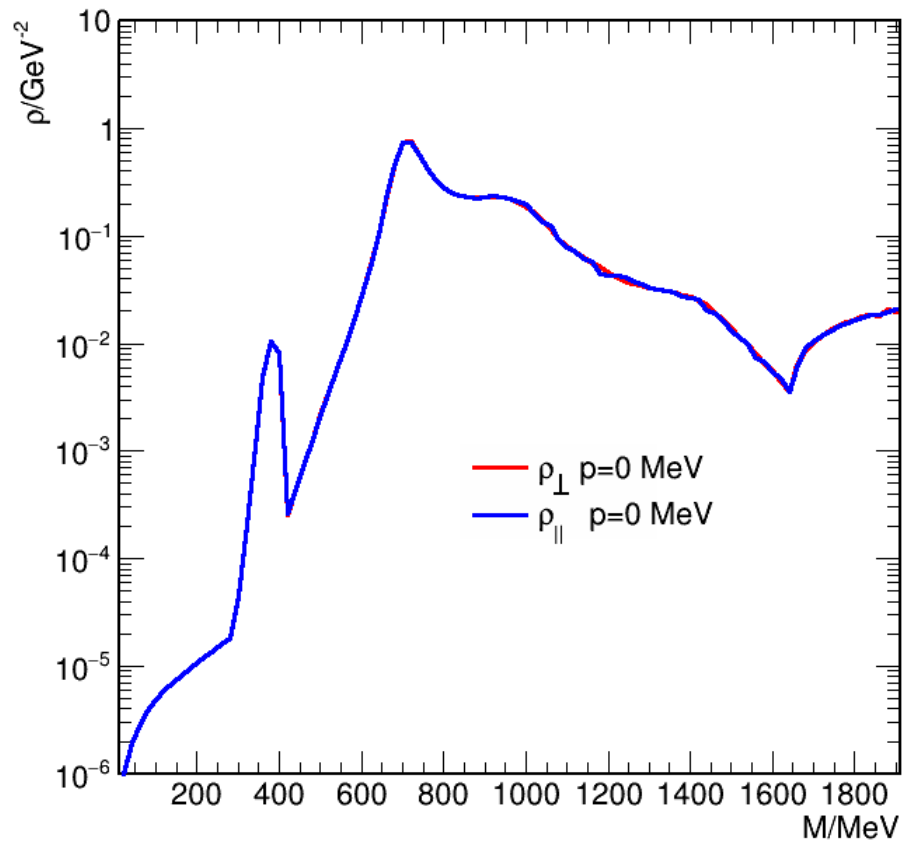
v. Hees, presentation at ECT Workshop 2021

- ▶ Anisotropy of thermal virtual photons (in helicity frame) given by

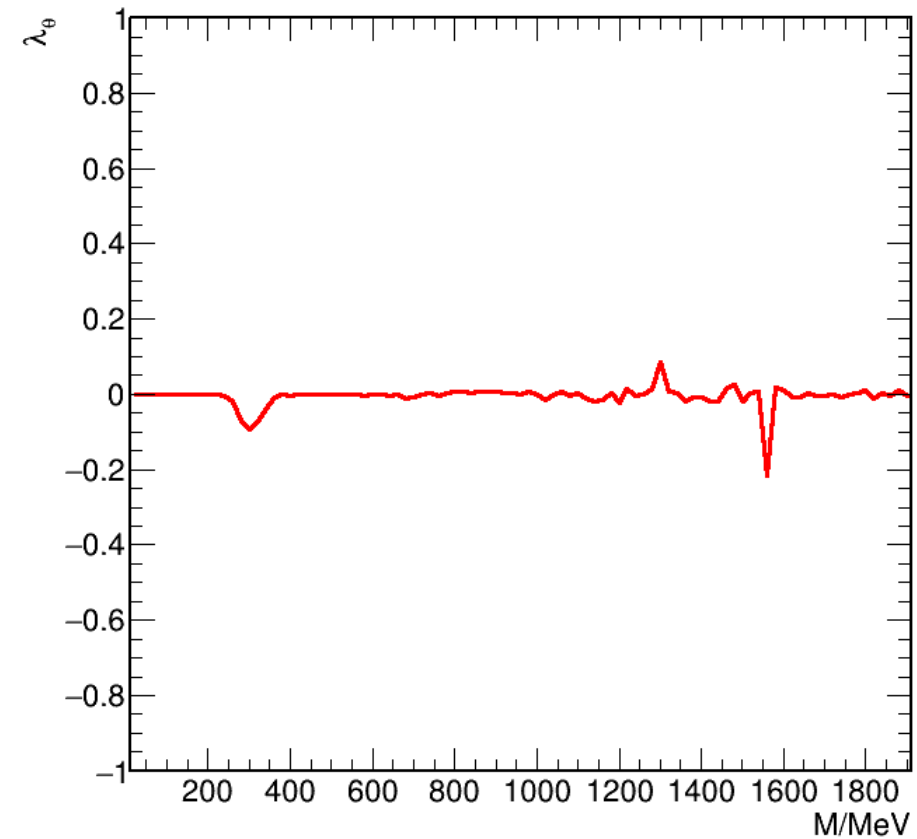
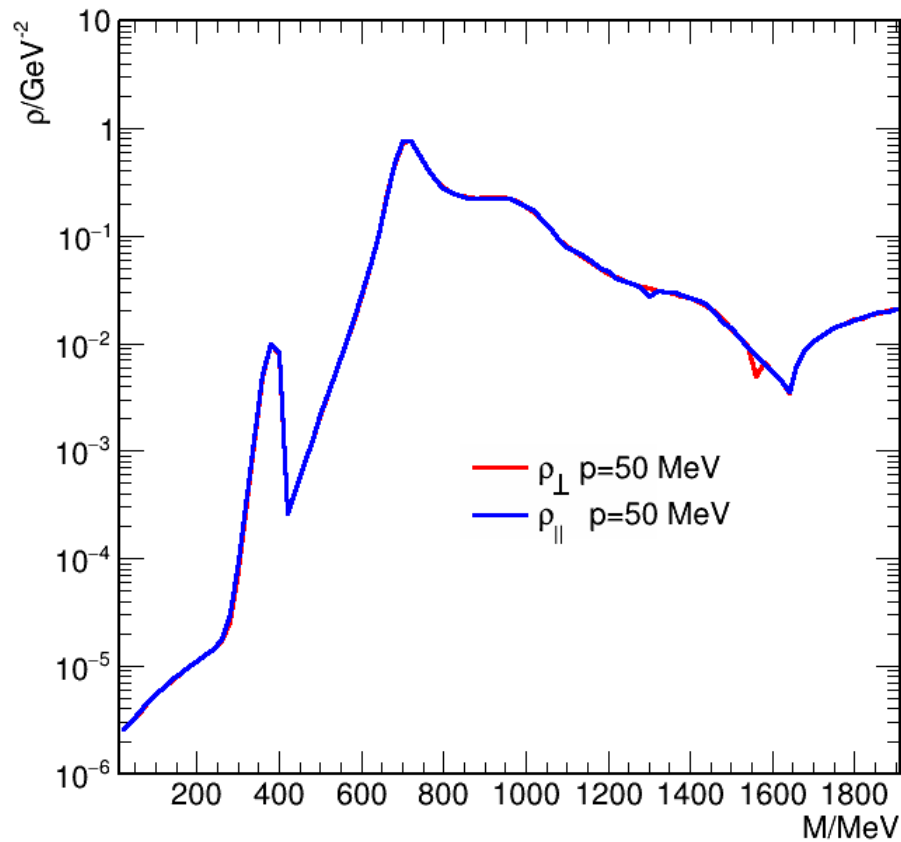
$$\lambda_{\theta} = \frac{\rho_{\perp} - \rho_{\parallel}}{\rho_{\perp} + \rho_{\parallel}}$$

- ▶ Gives a weighted convolution of all contributions to the spectral function

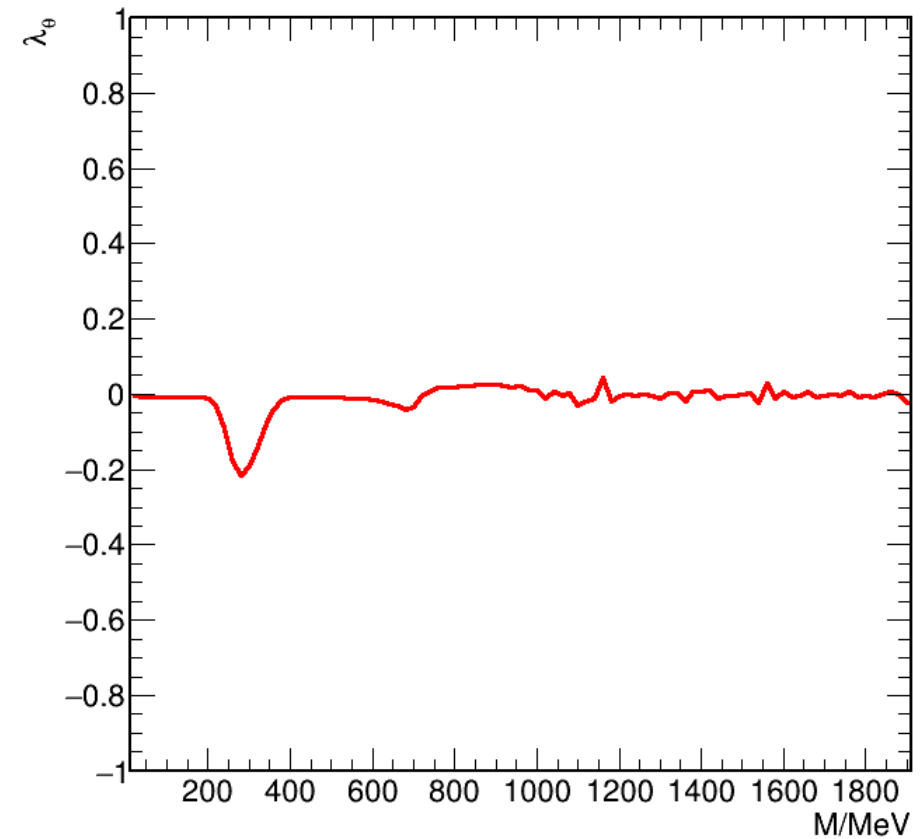
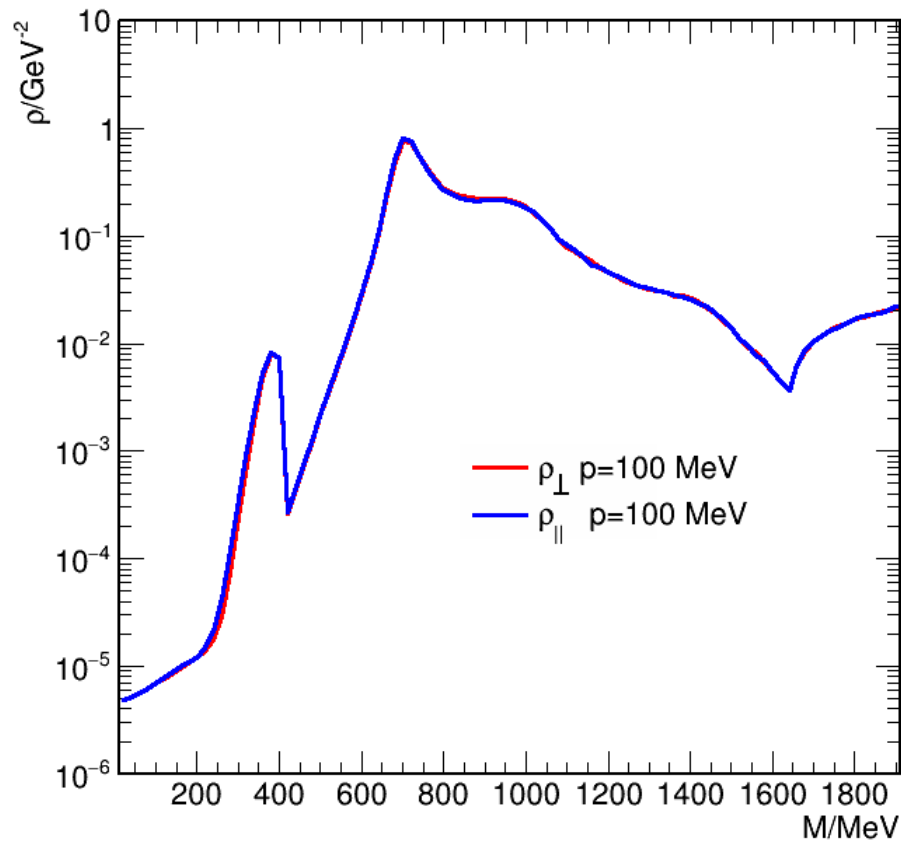
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=0$ MeV



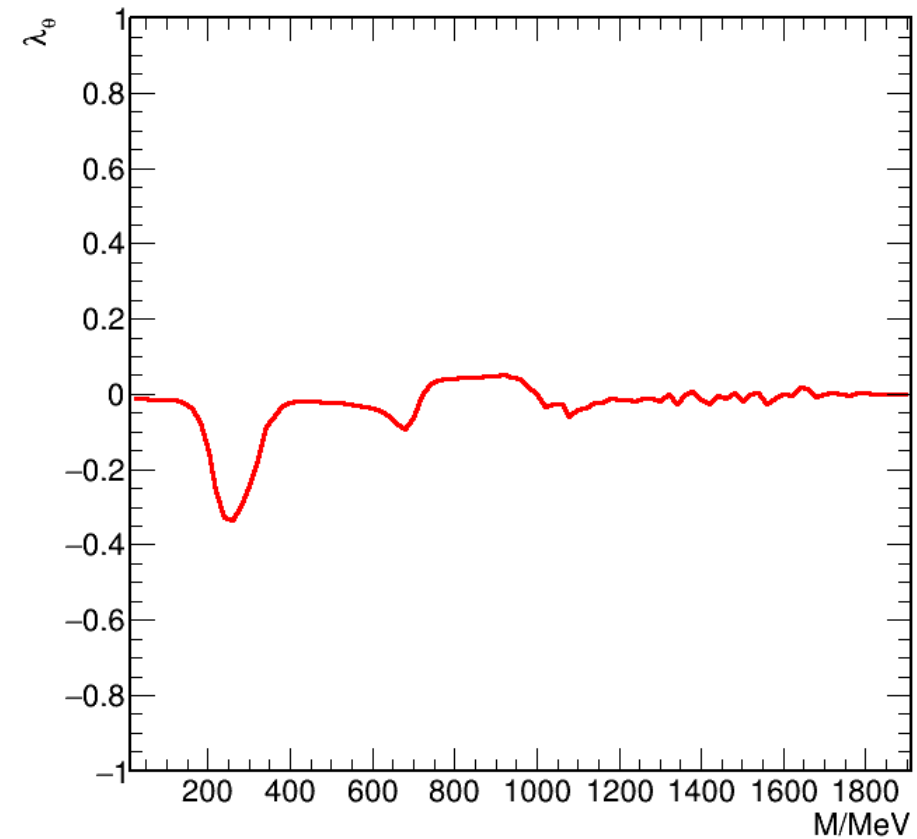
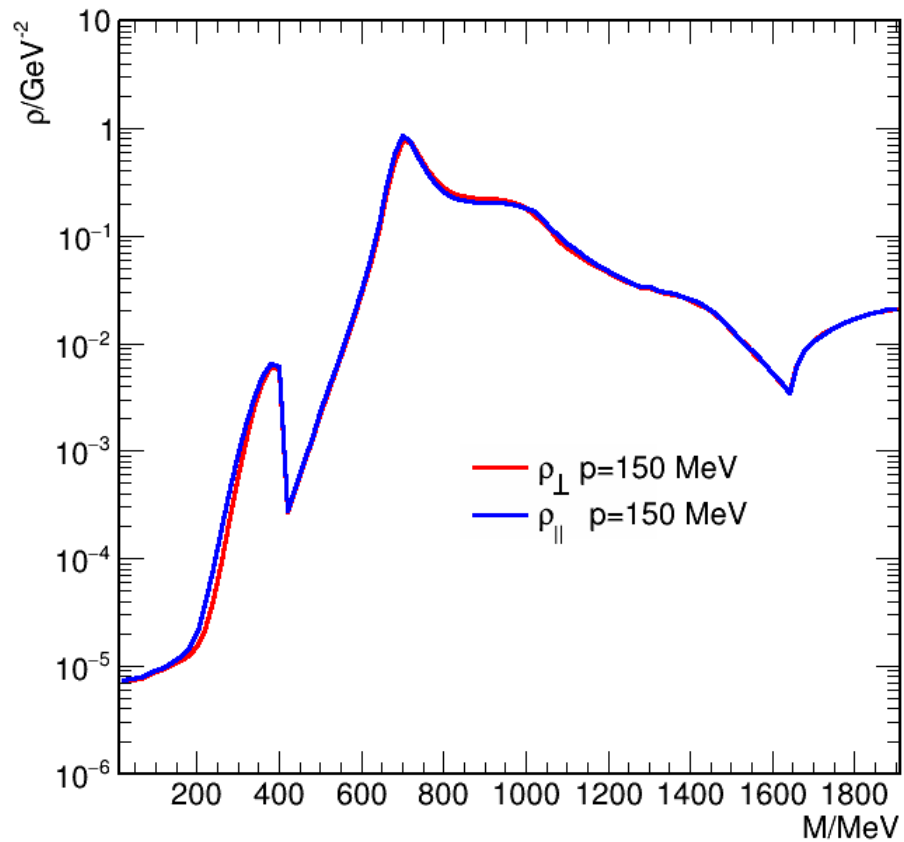
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=50$ MeV



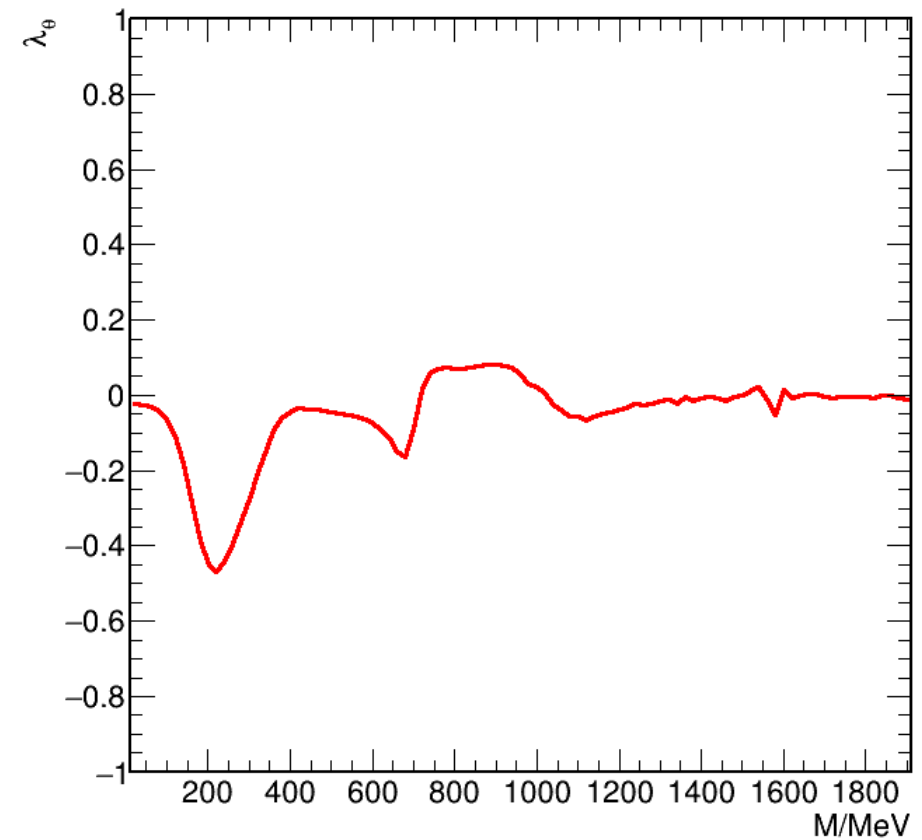
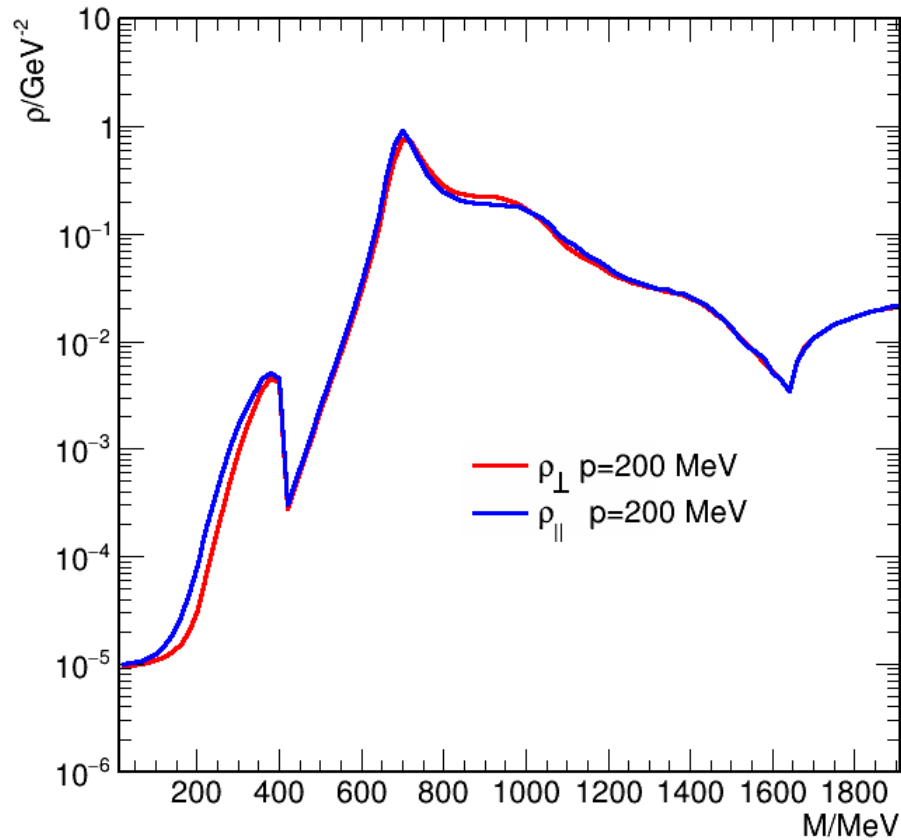
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=100$ MeV



# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=150$ MeV

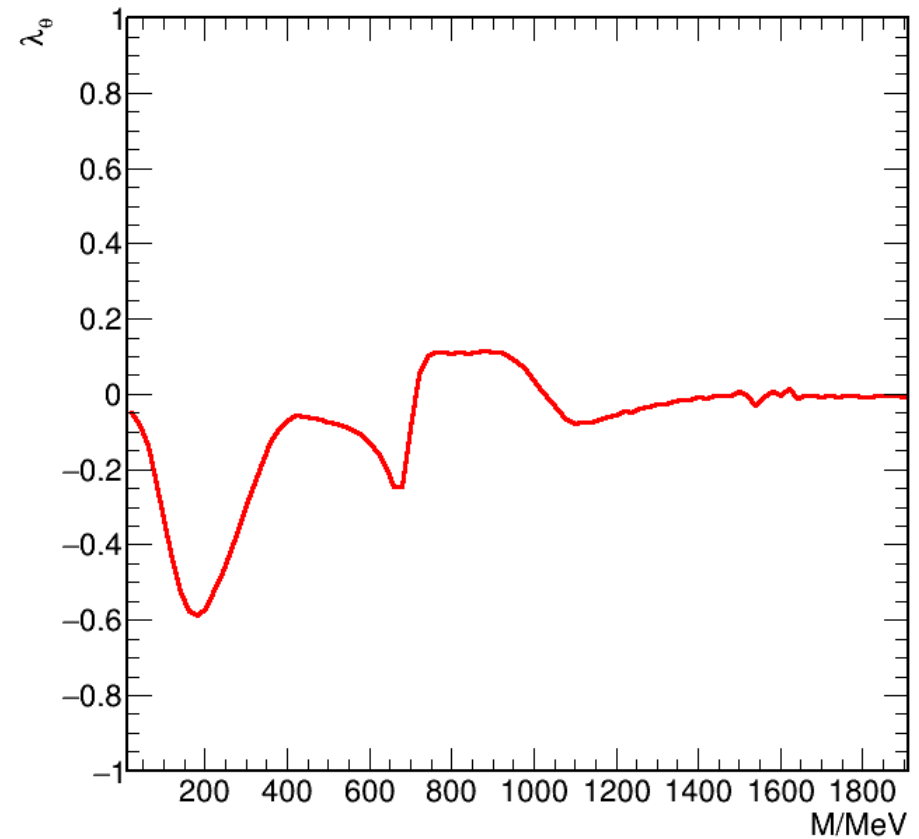
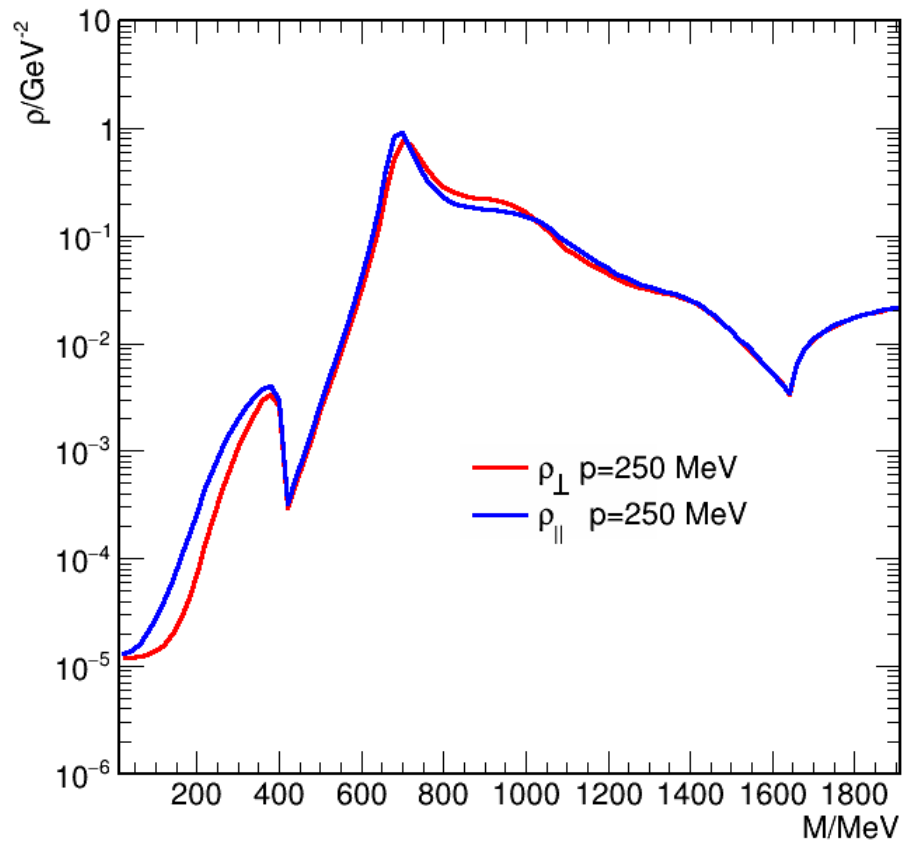


# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=200$ MeV

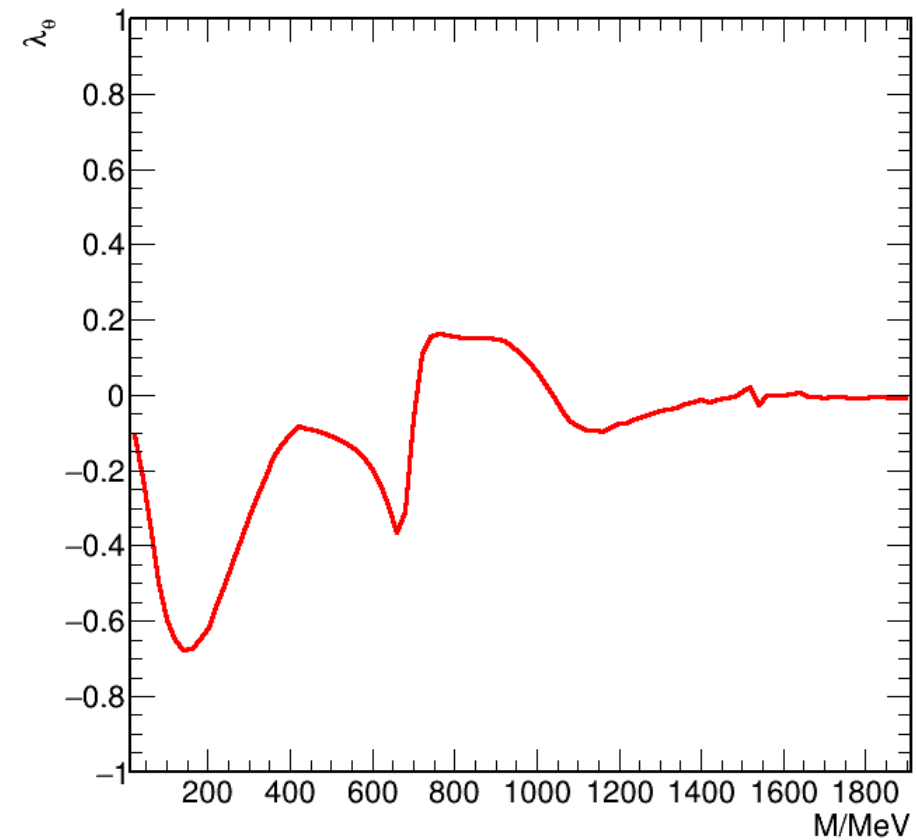
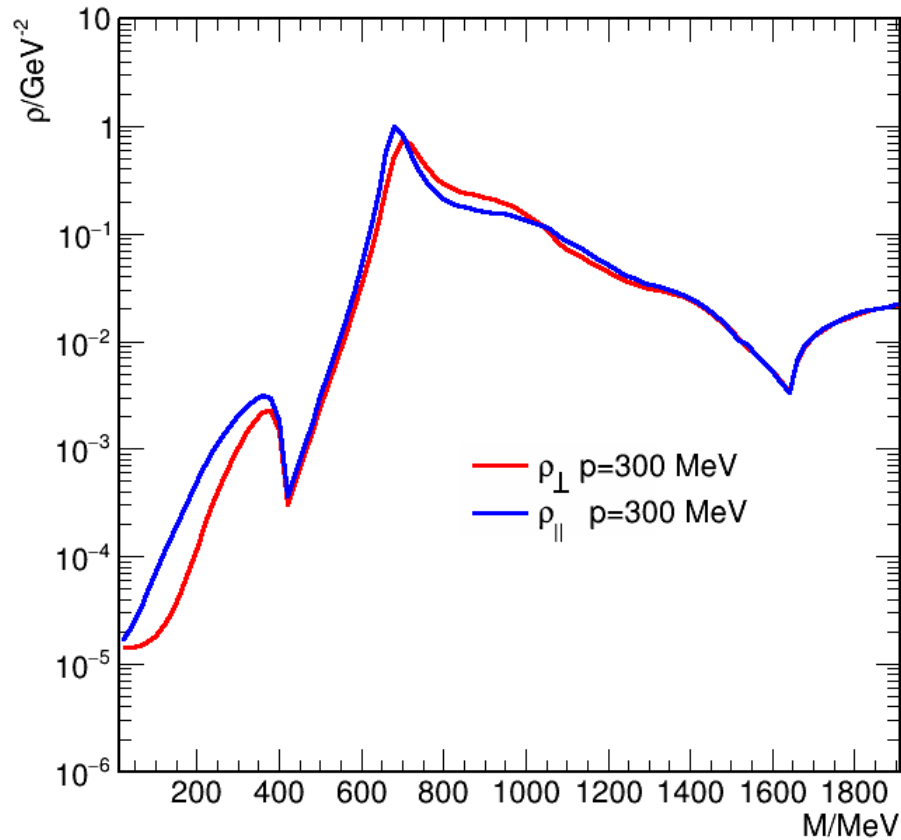




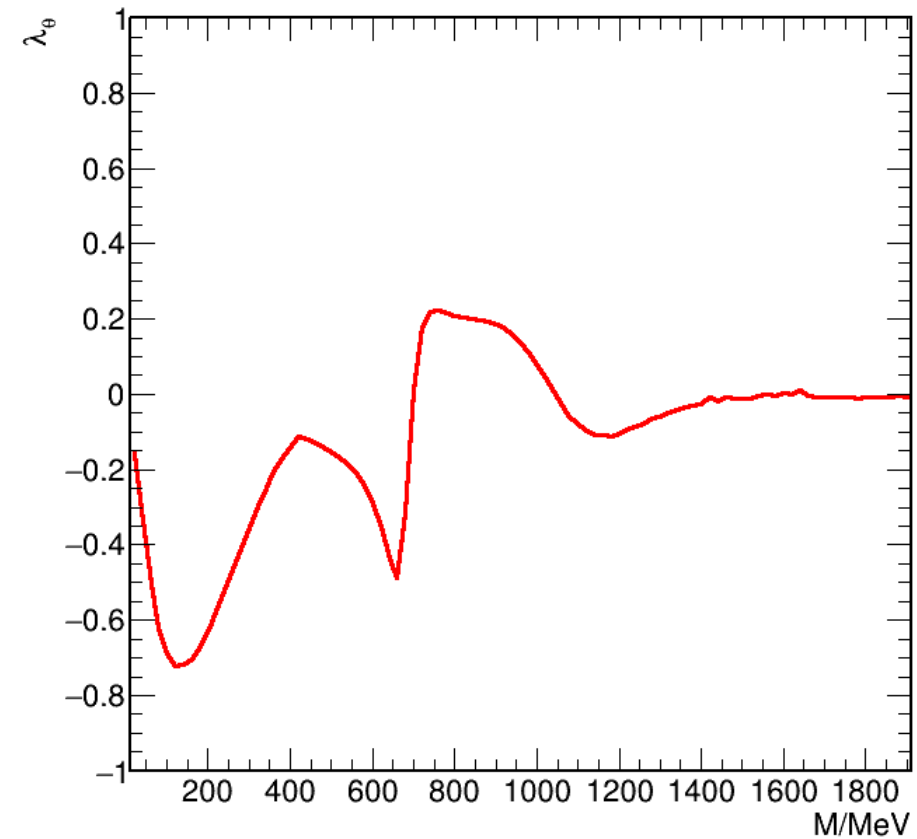
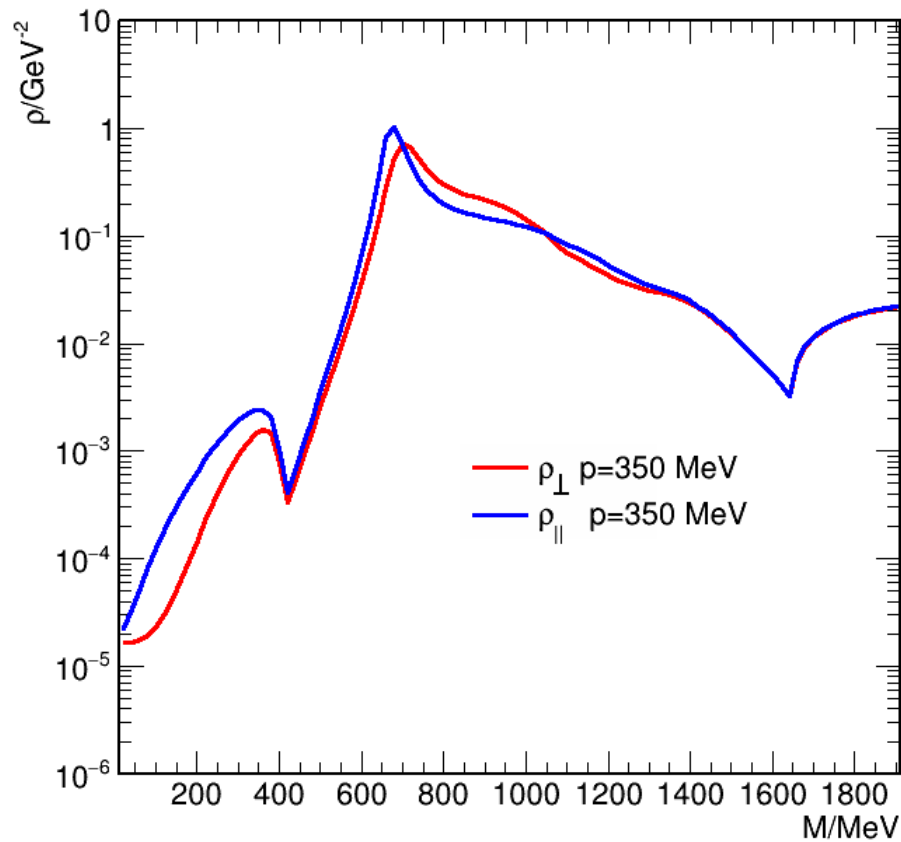
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=250$ MeV



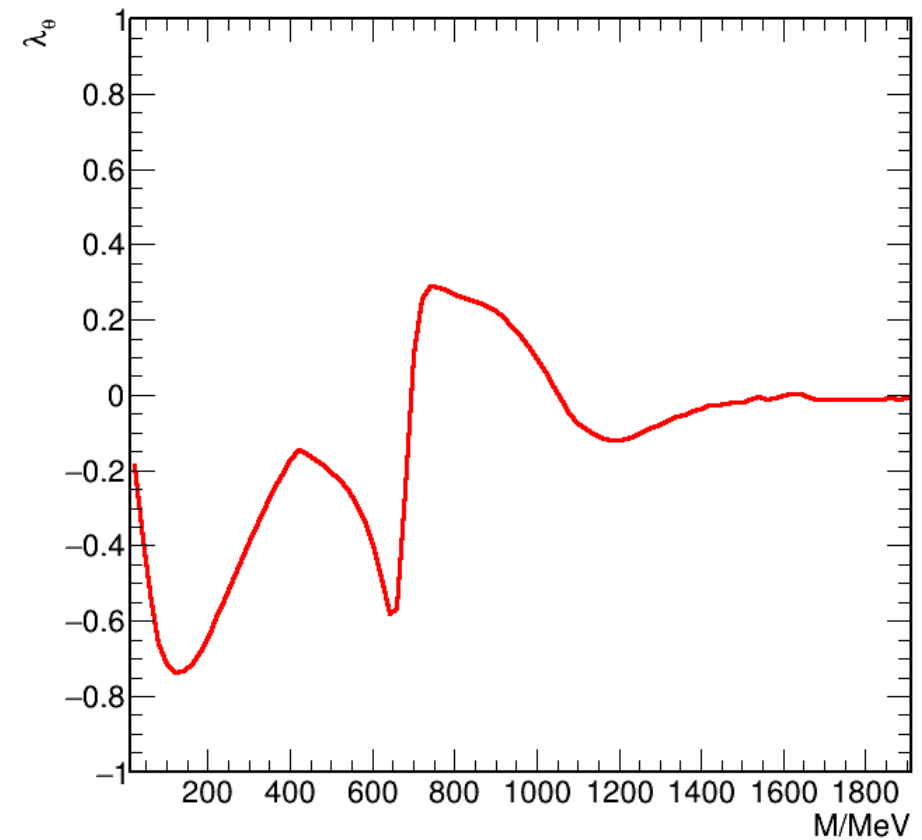
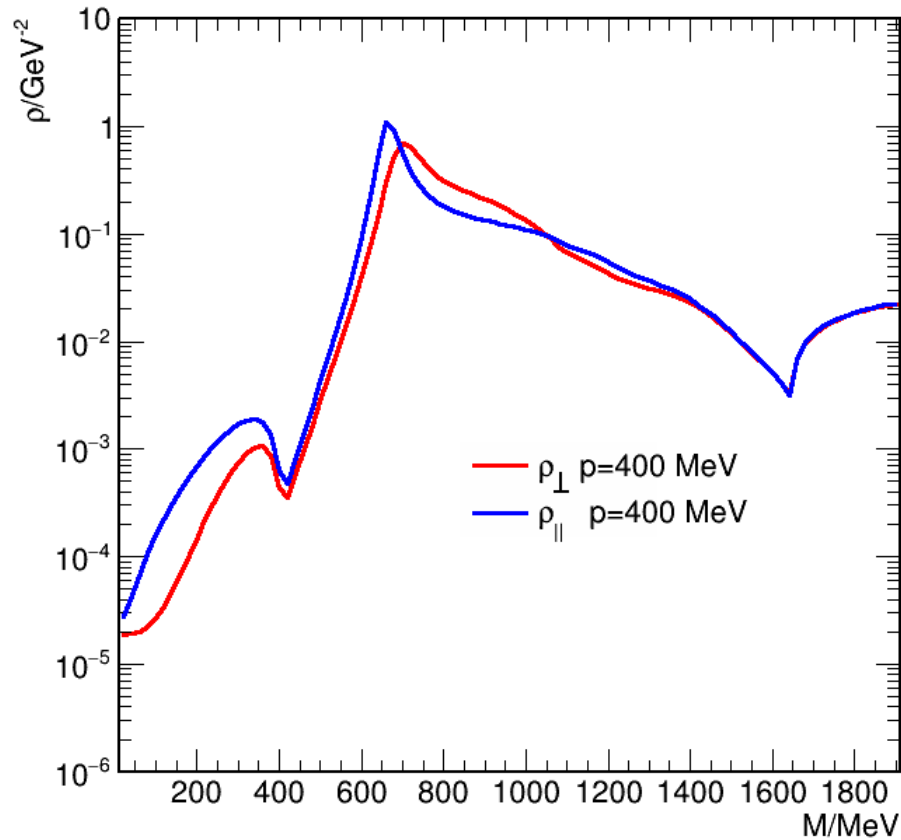
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=300$ MeV



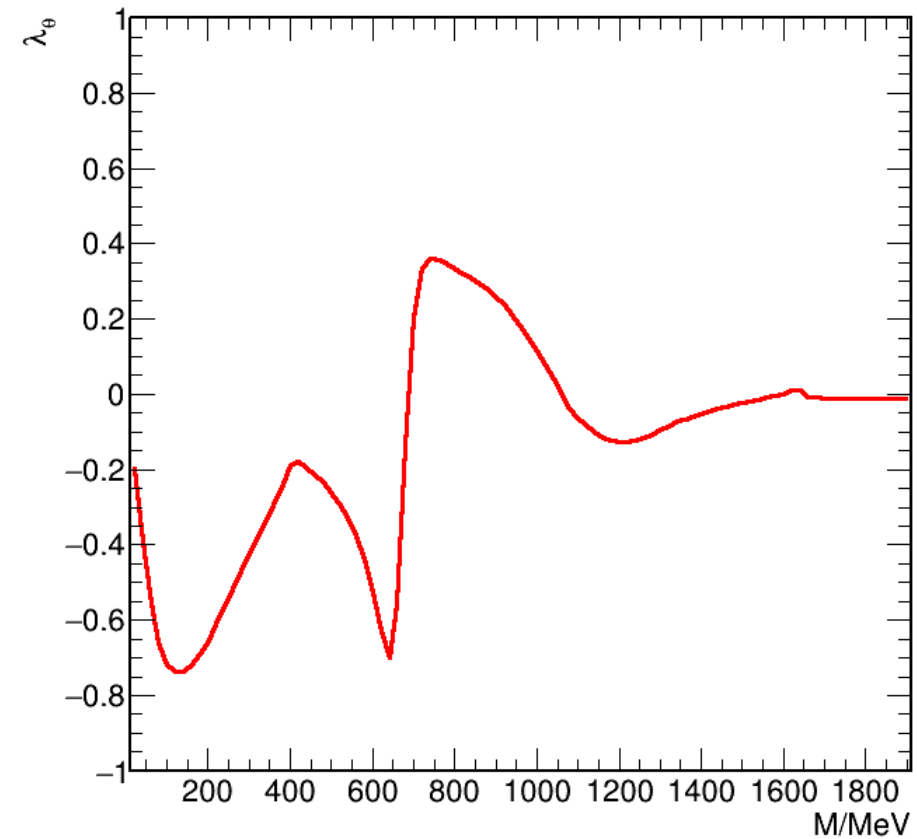
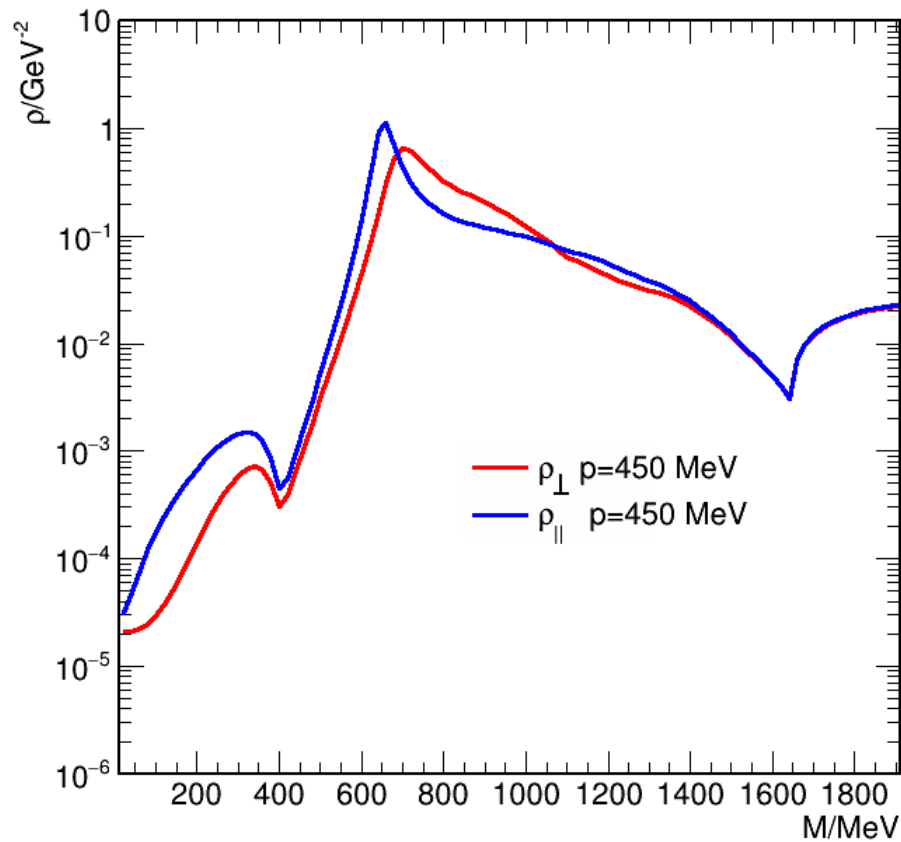
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=350$ MeV



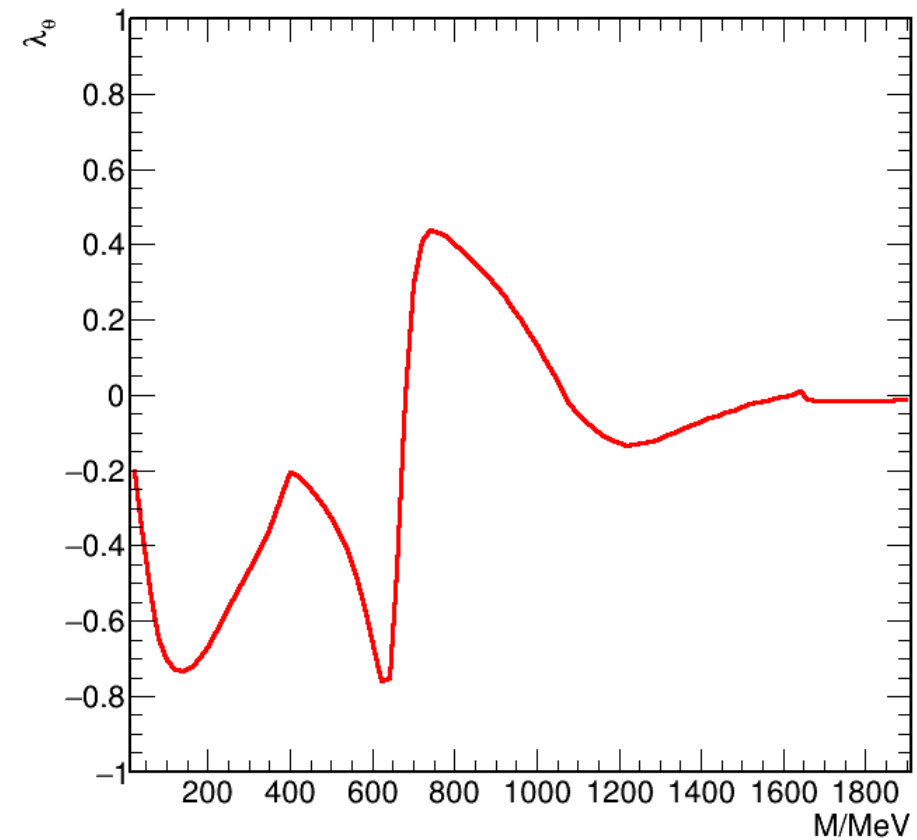
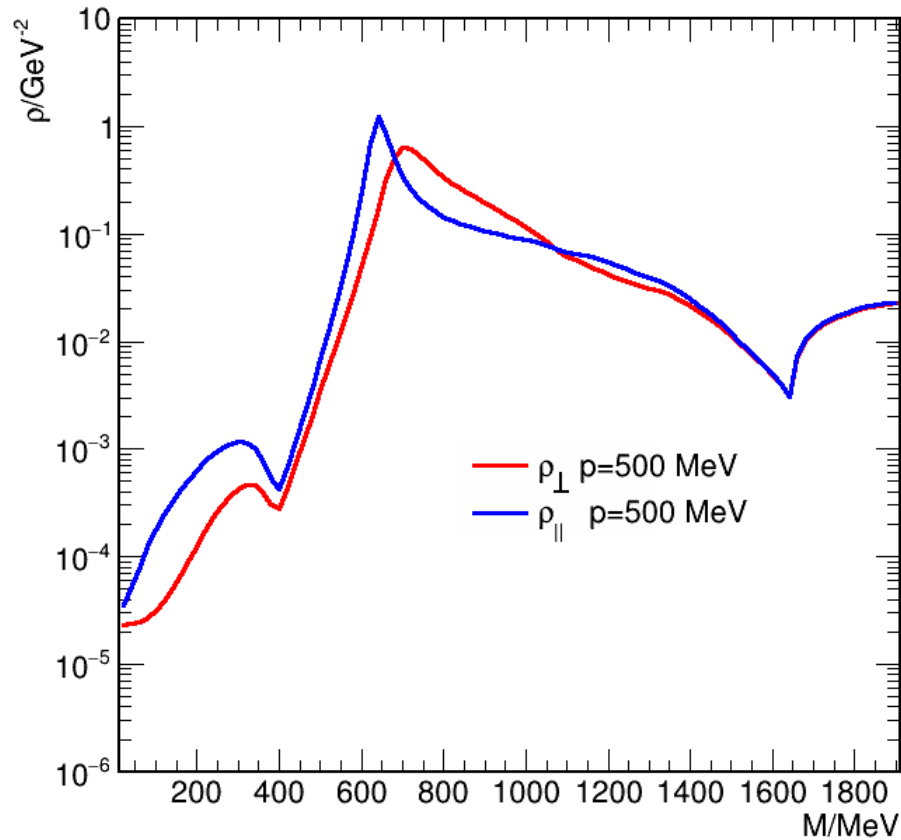
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=400$ MeV



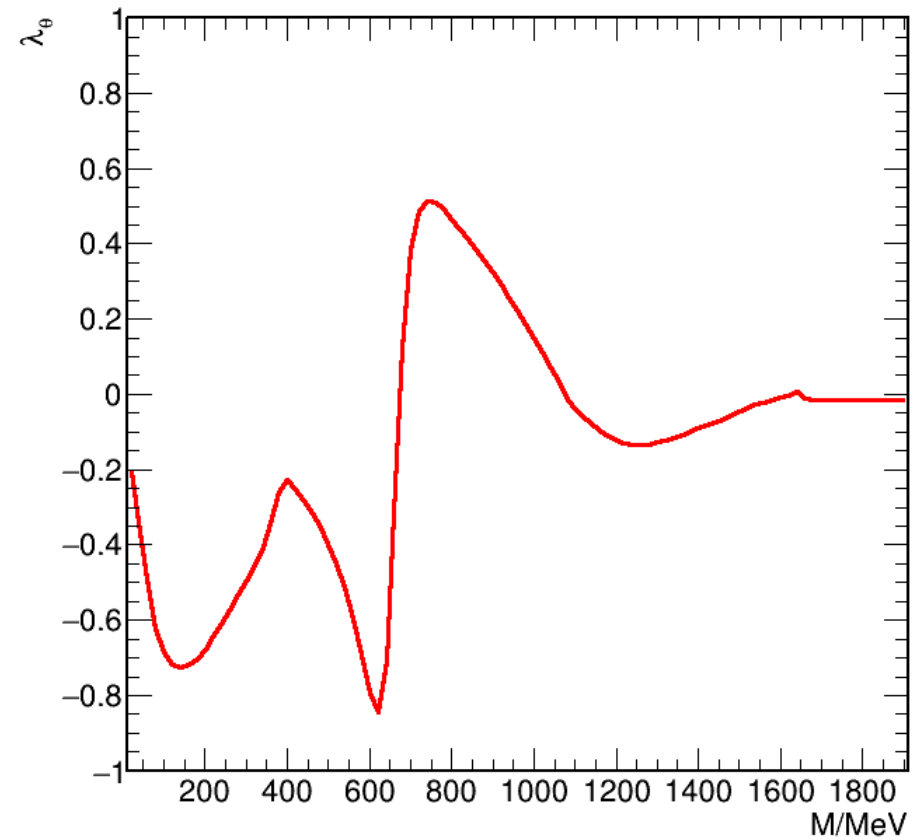
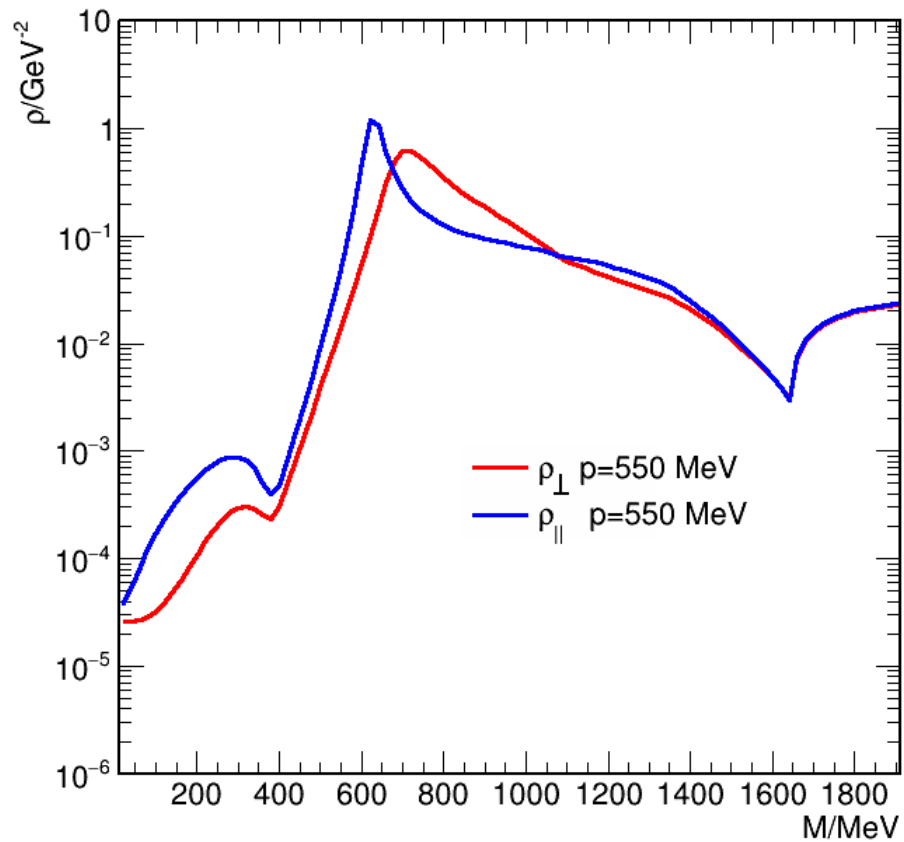
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=450$ MeV



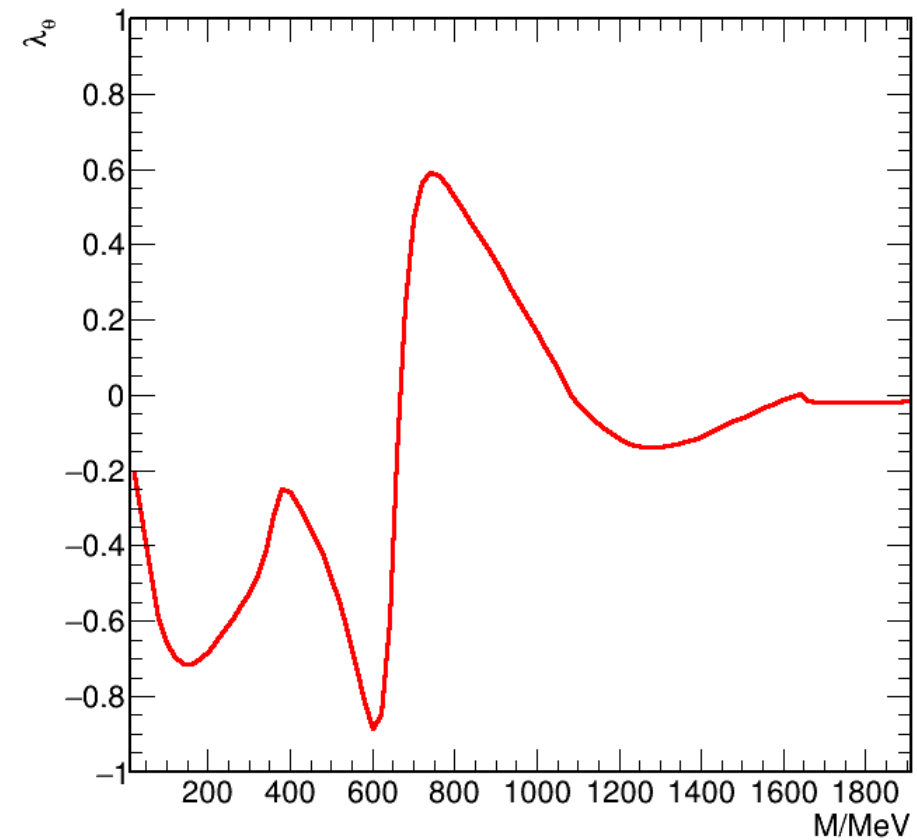
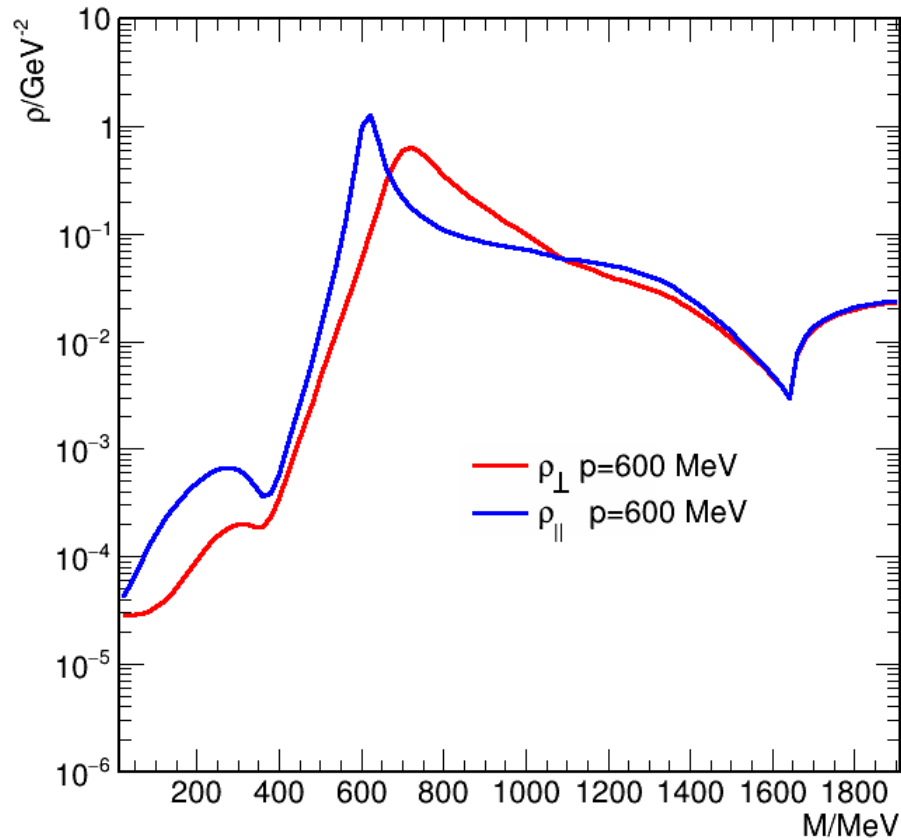
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=500$ MeV



# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=550$ MeV

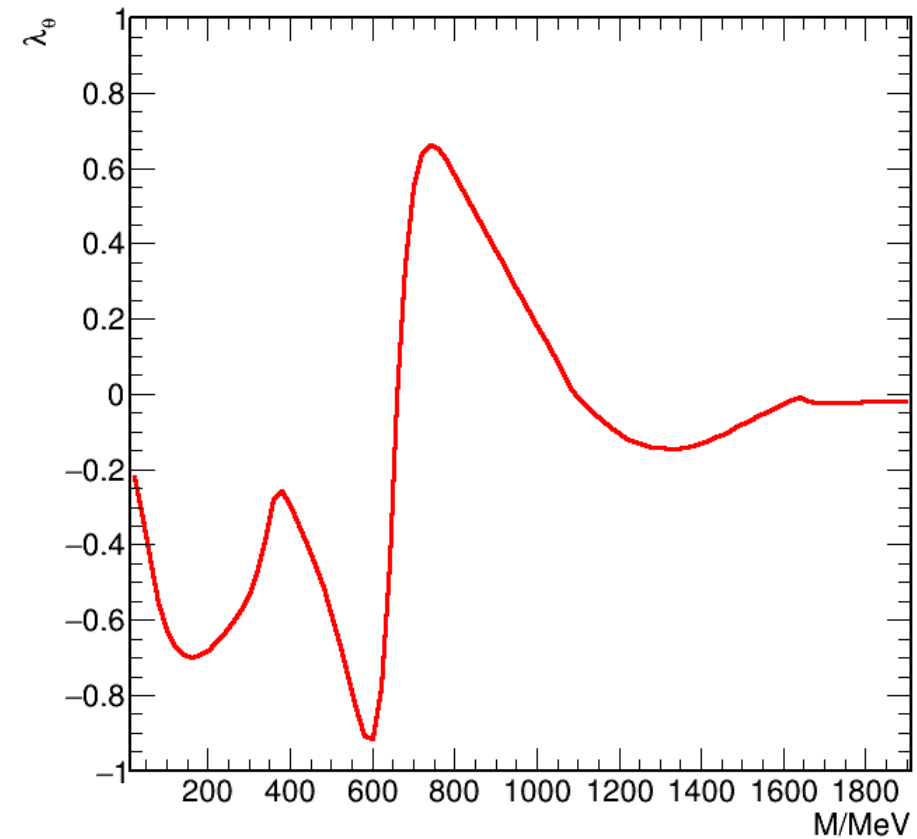
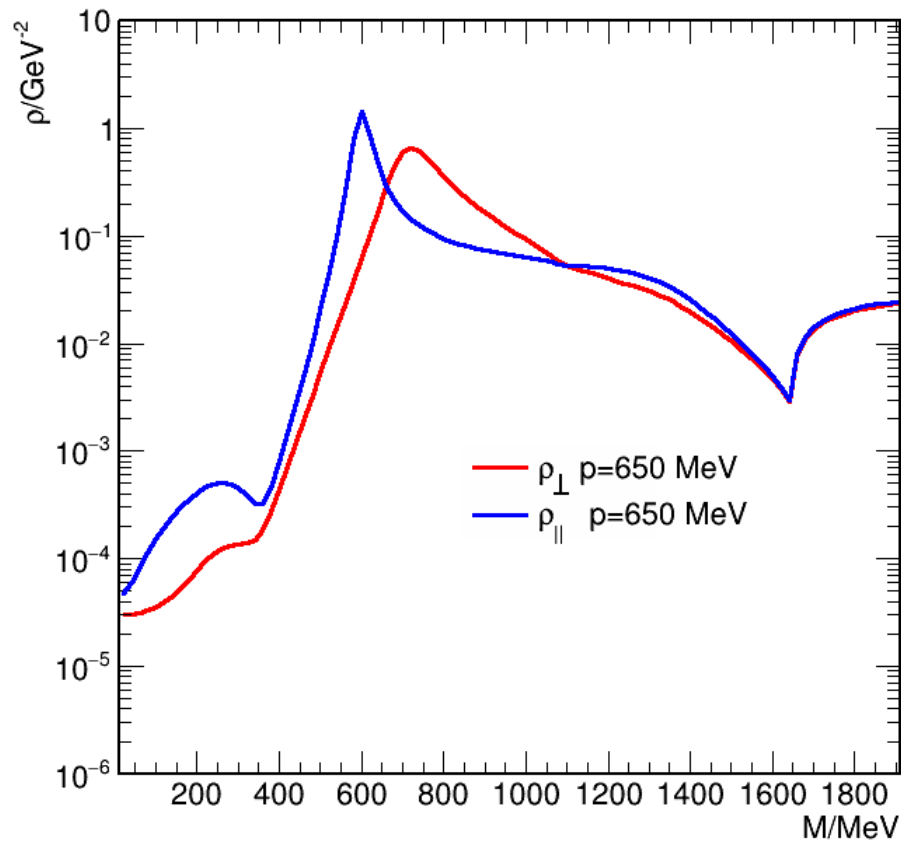


# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=600$ MeV

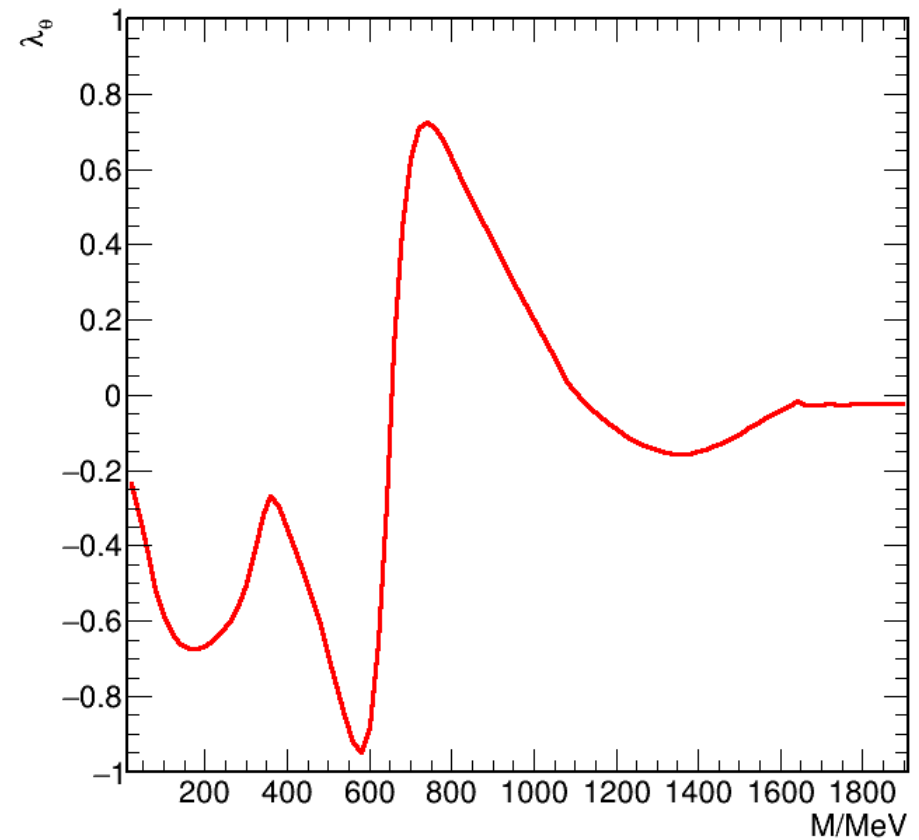
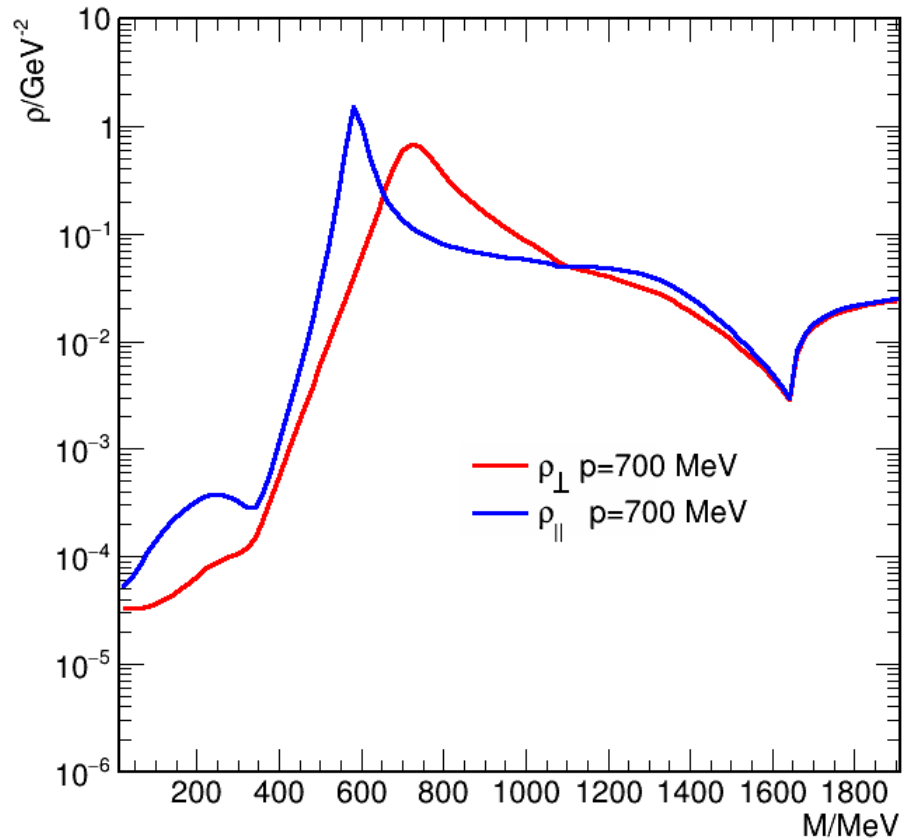




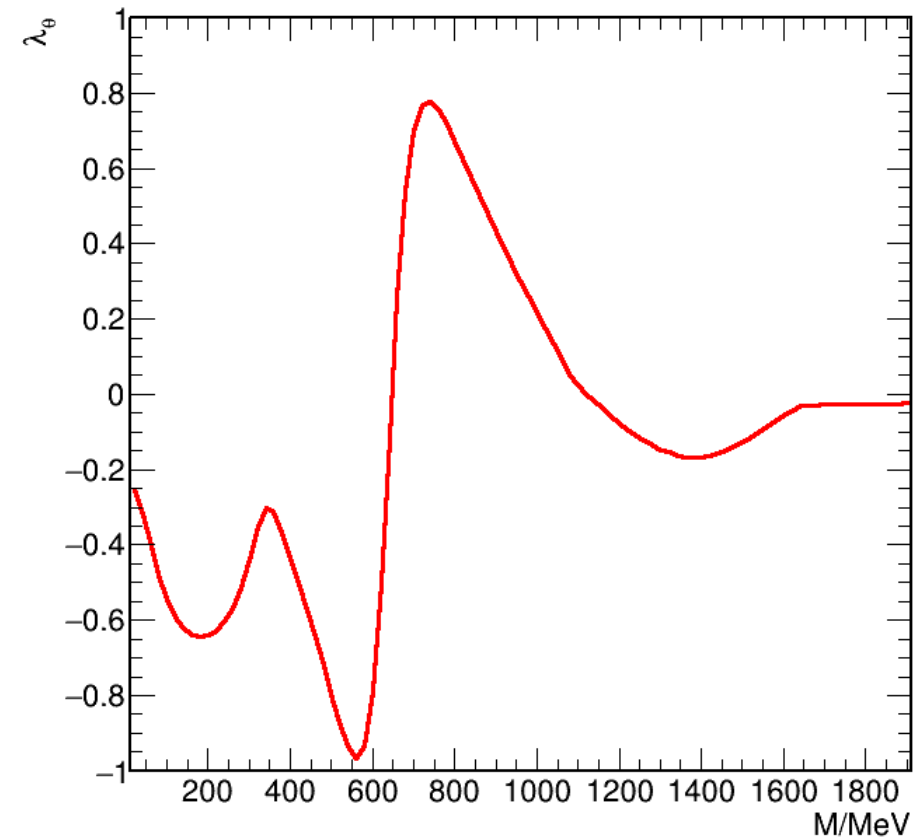
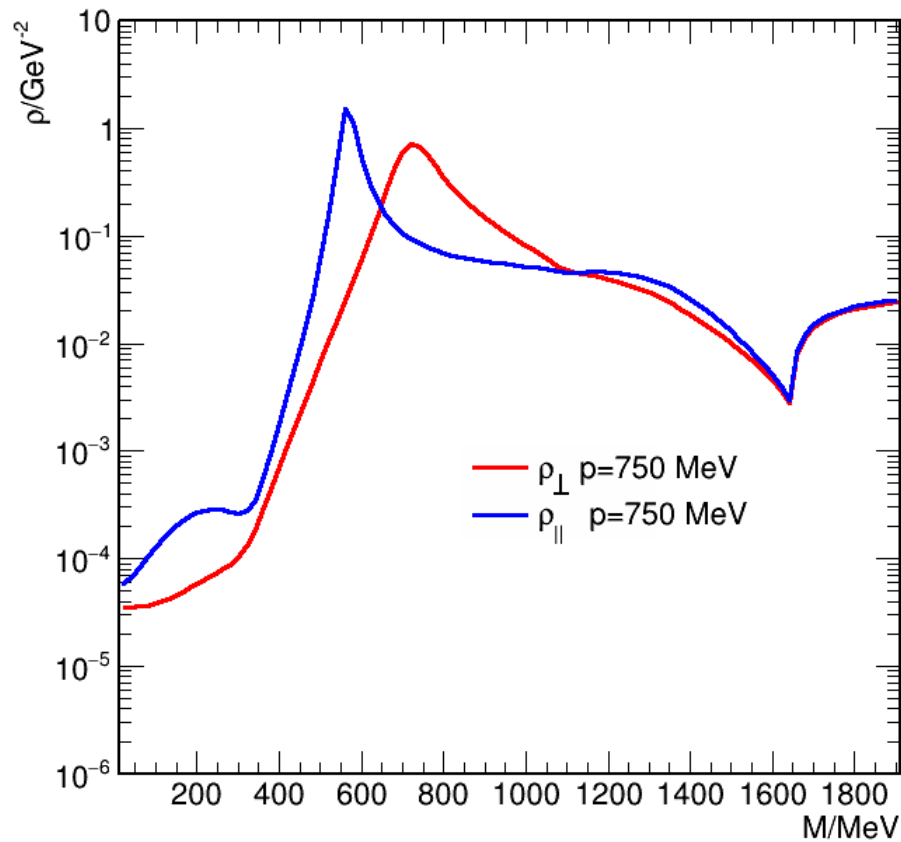
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=650$ MeV



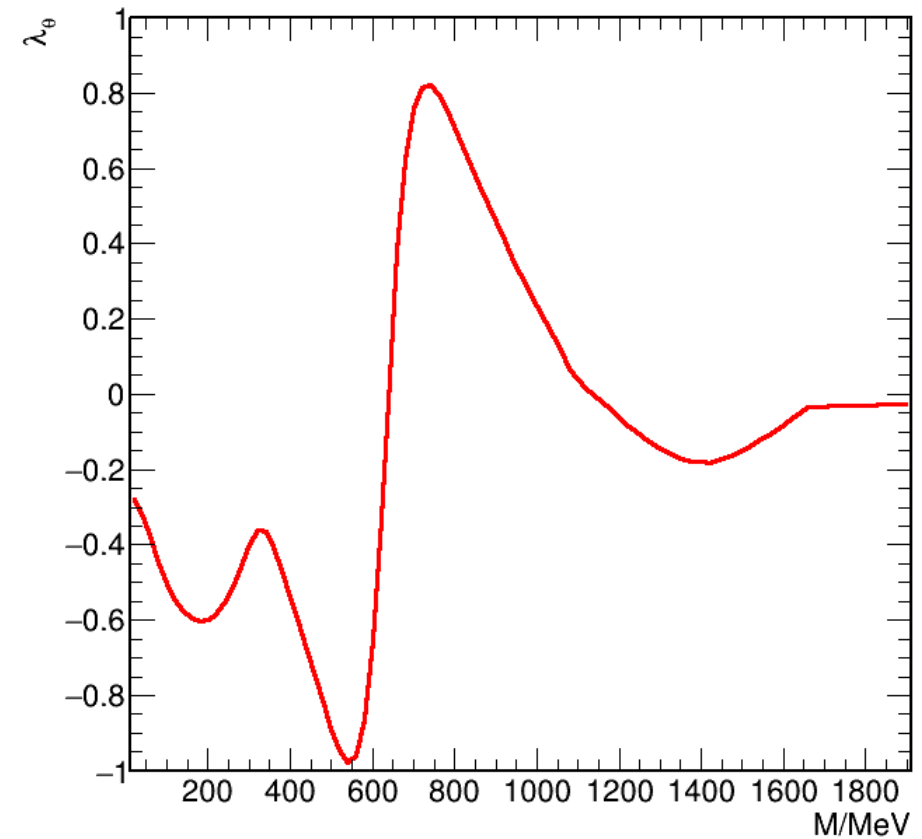
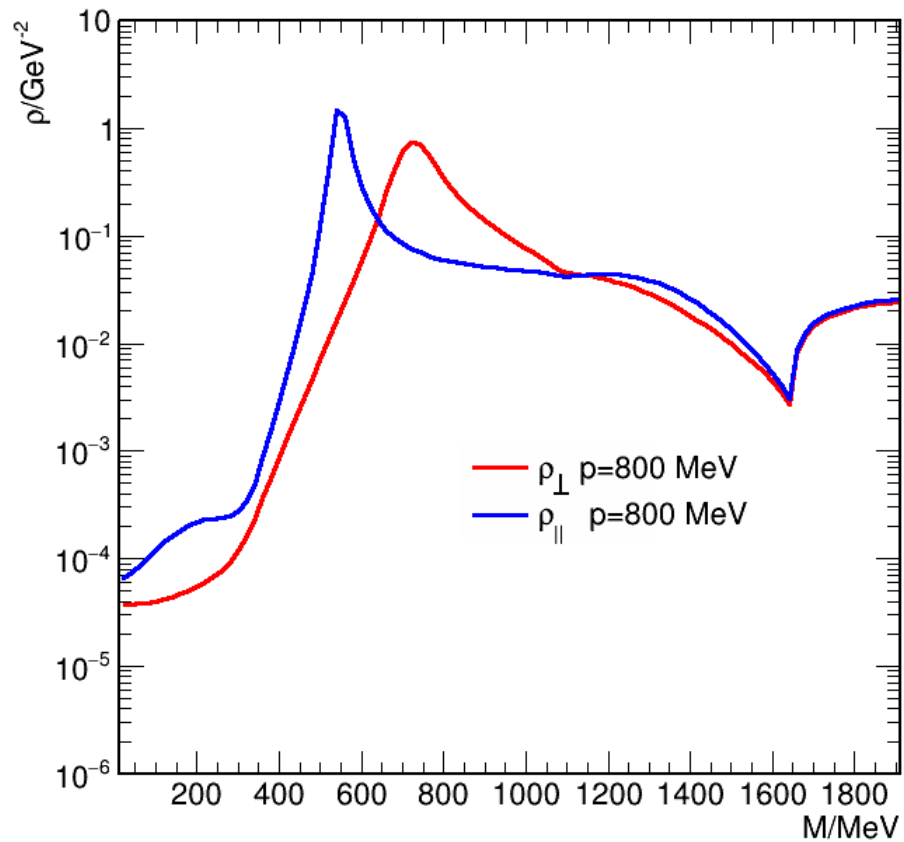
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=700$ MeV



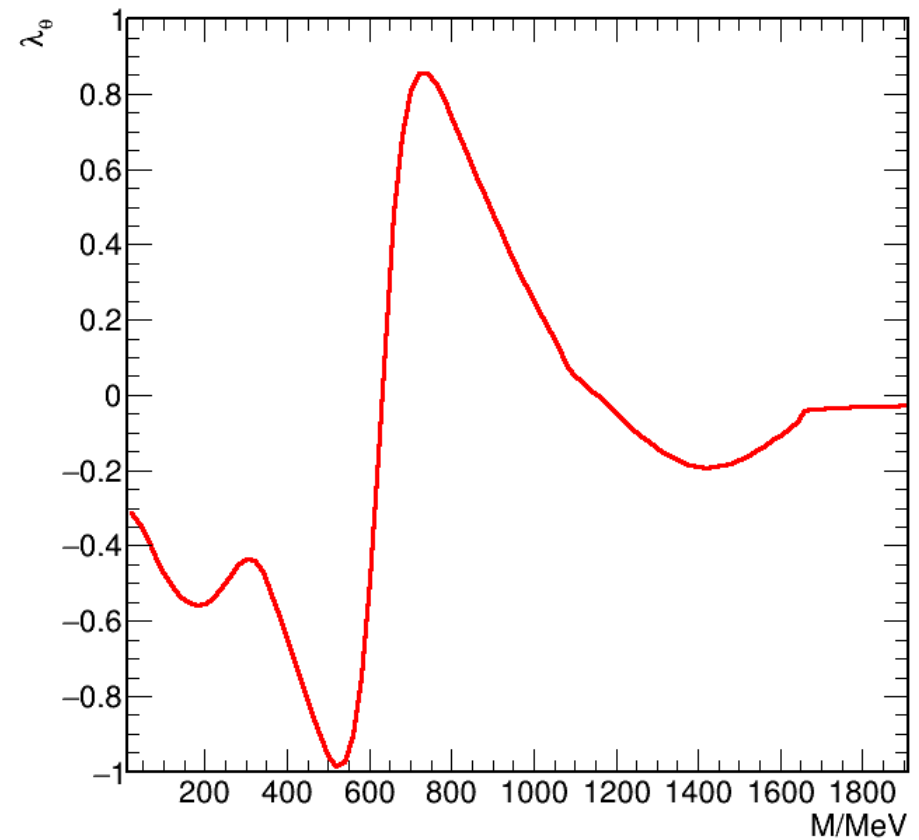
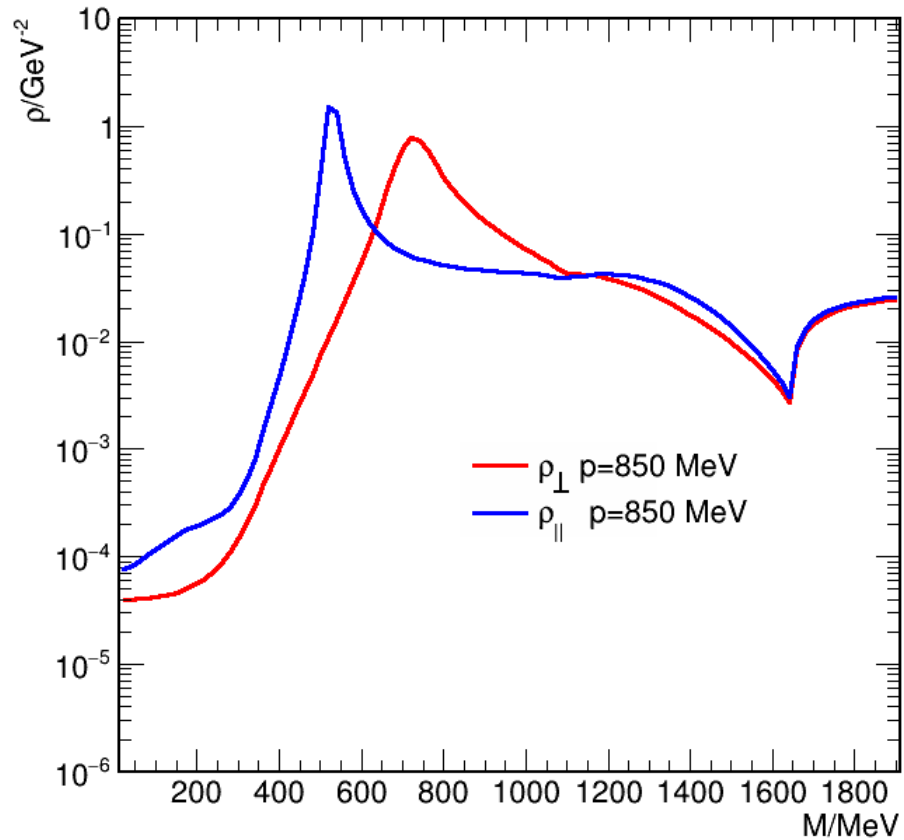
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=750$ MeV



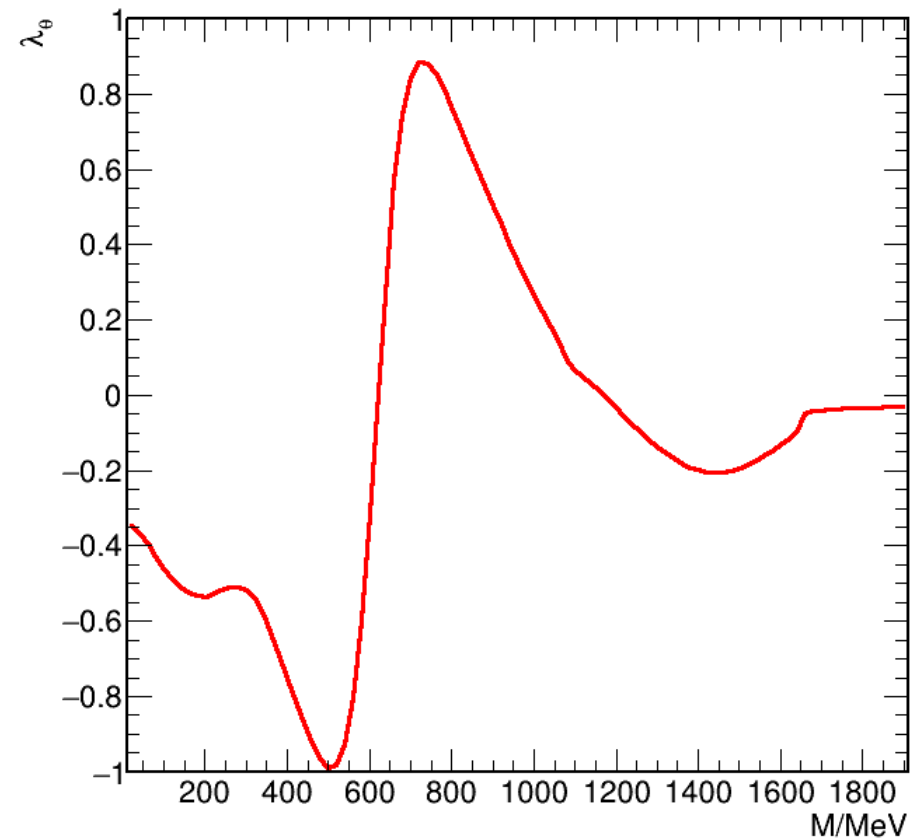
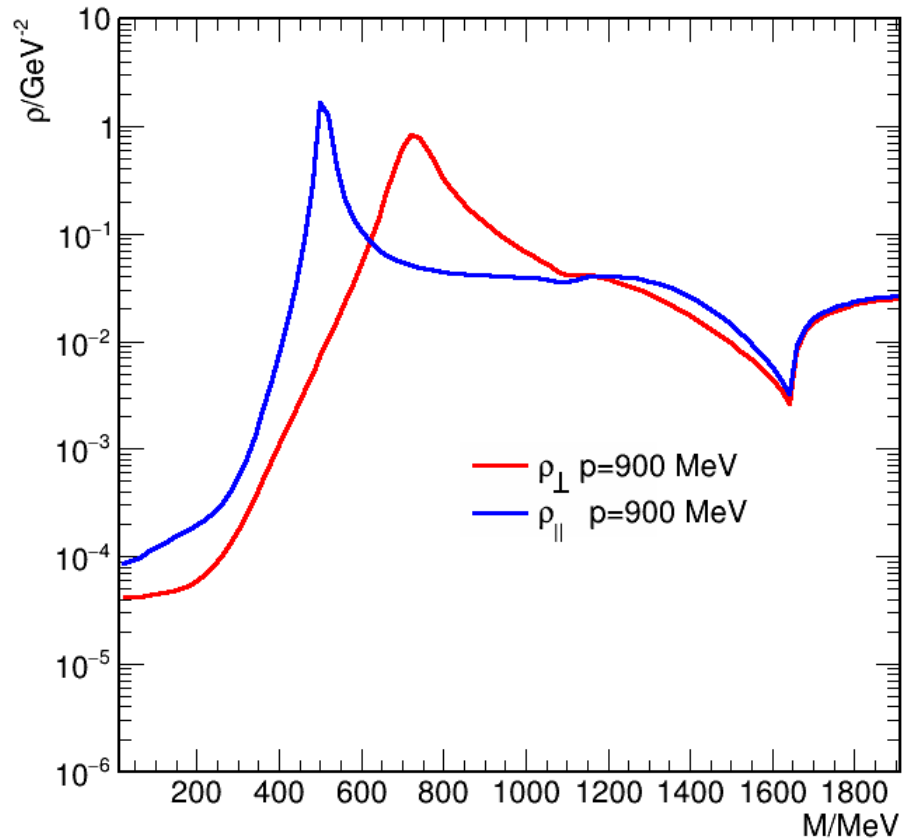
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=800$ MeV



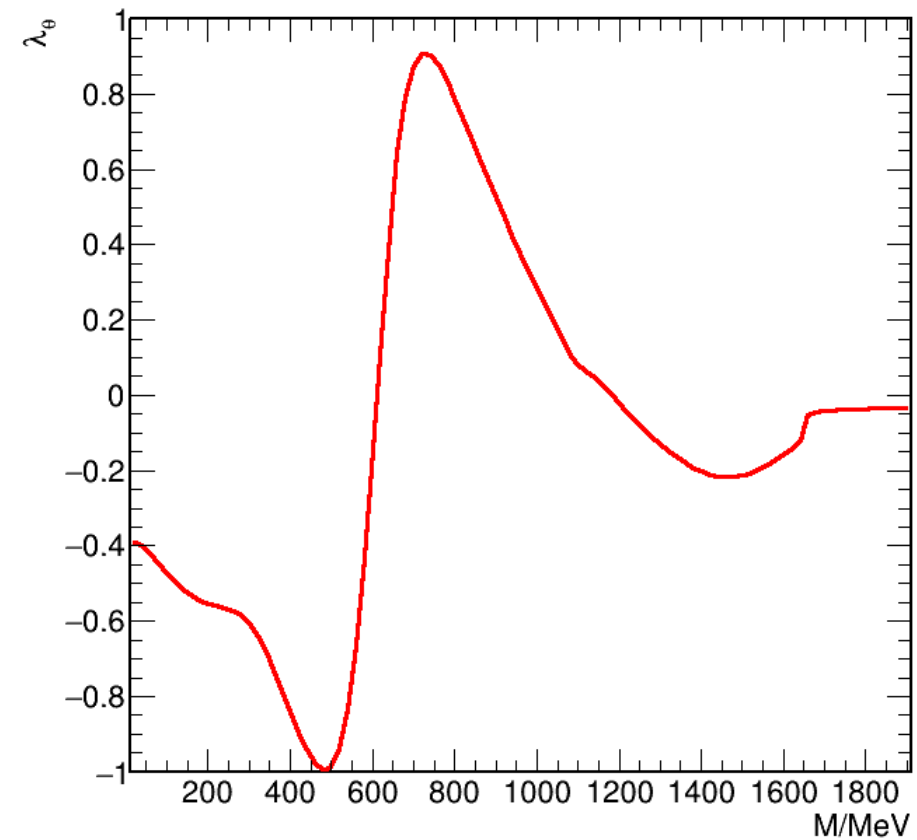
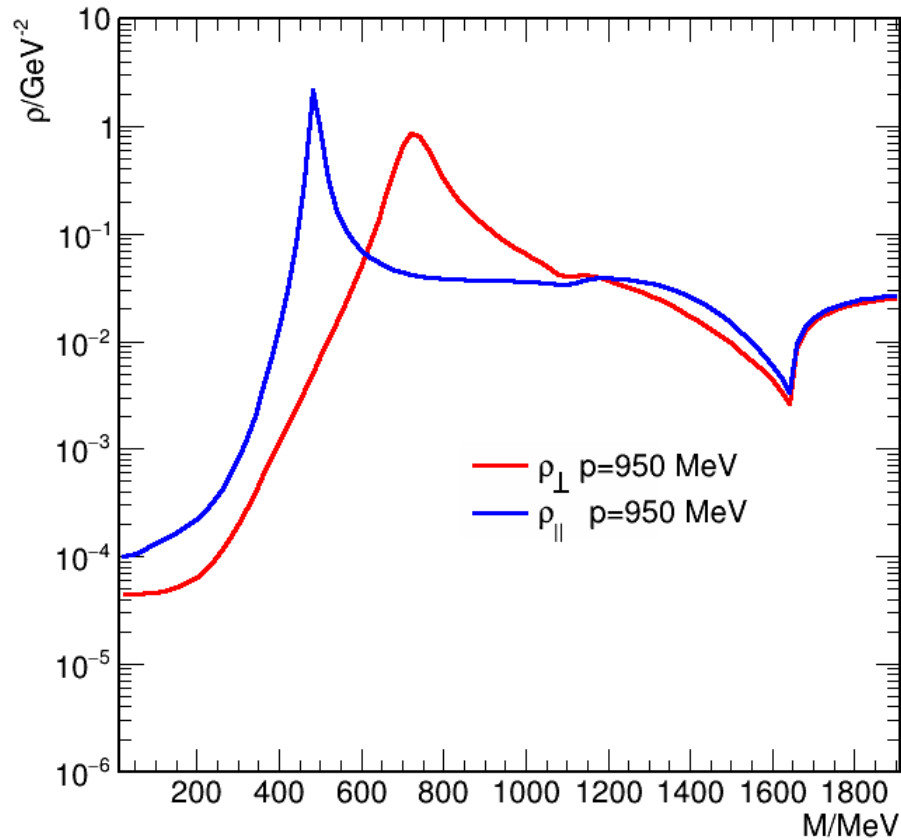
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=850$ MeV



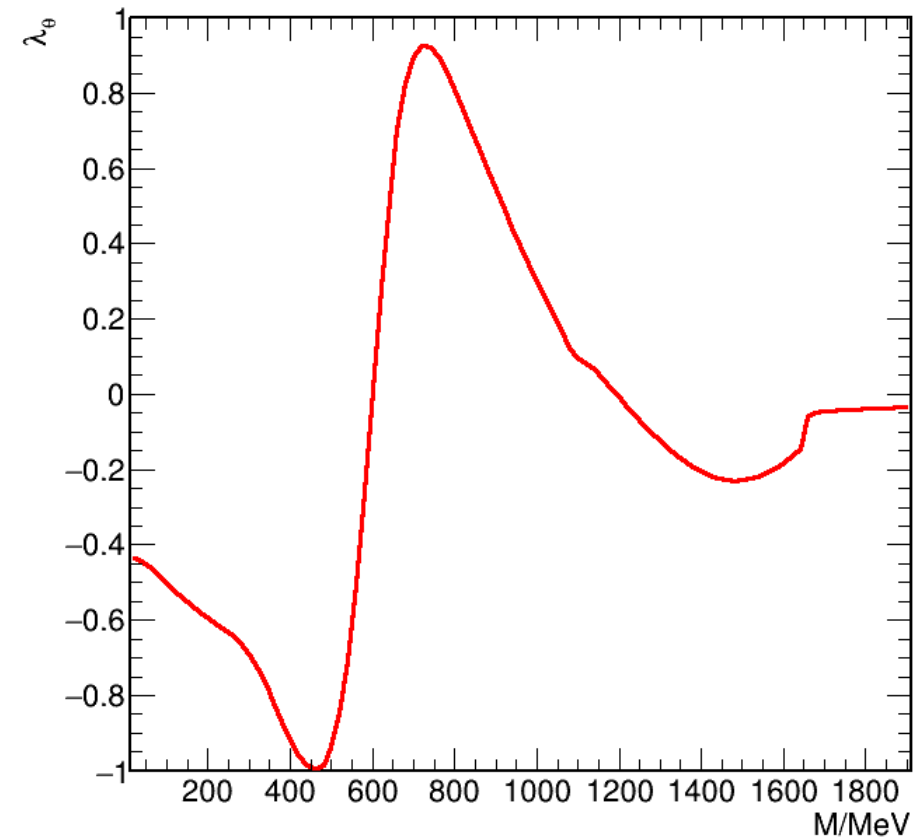
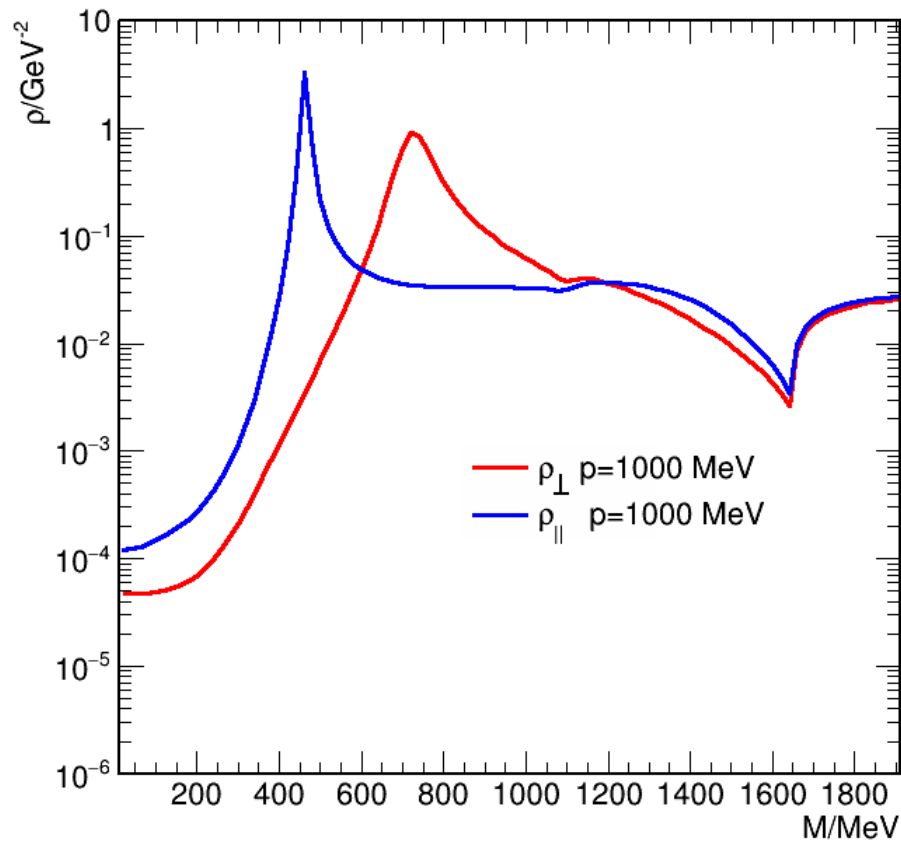
# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=900$ MeV



# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=950$ MeV

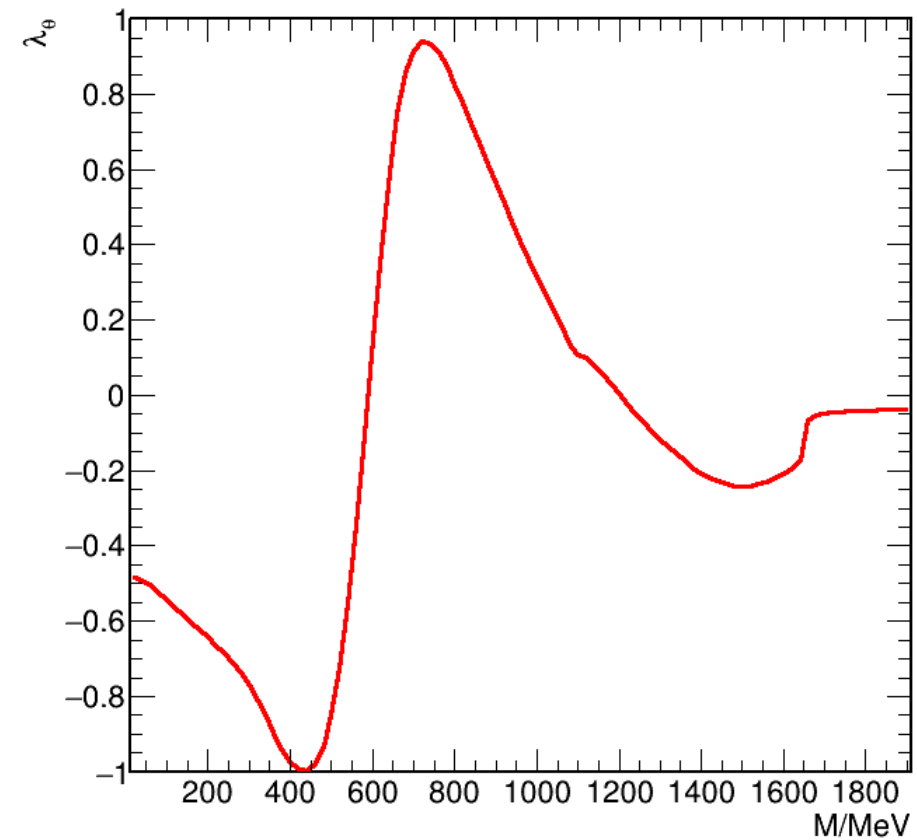
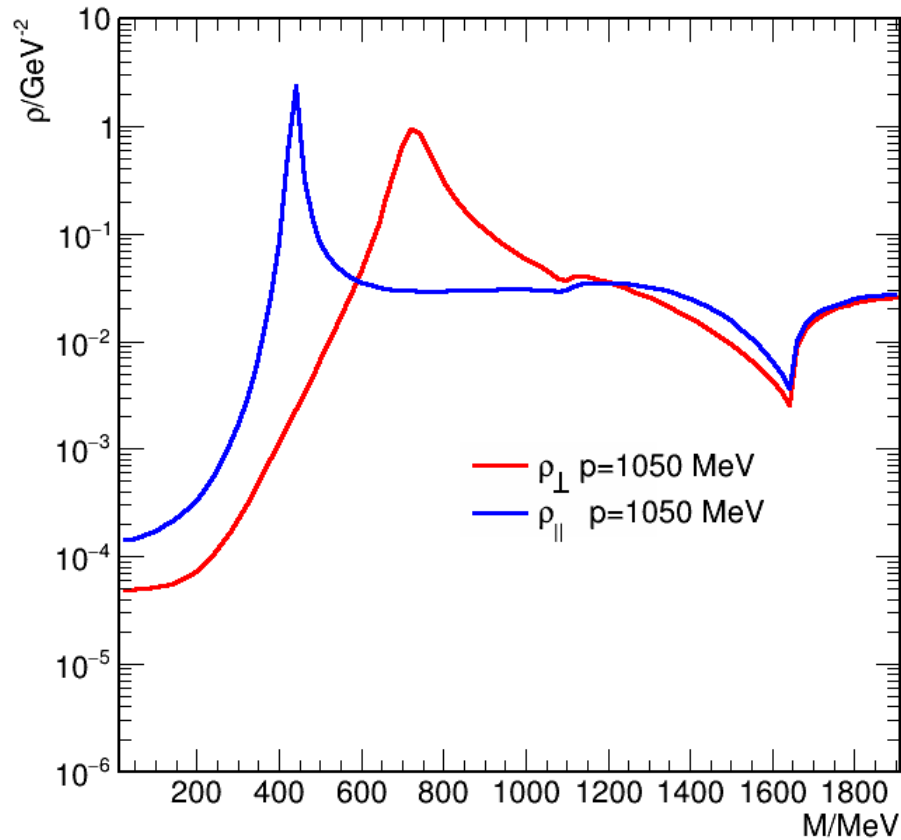


# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=1000$ MeV



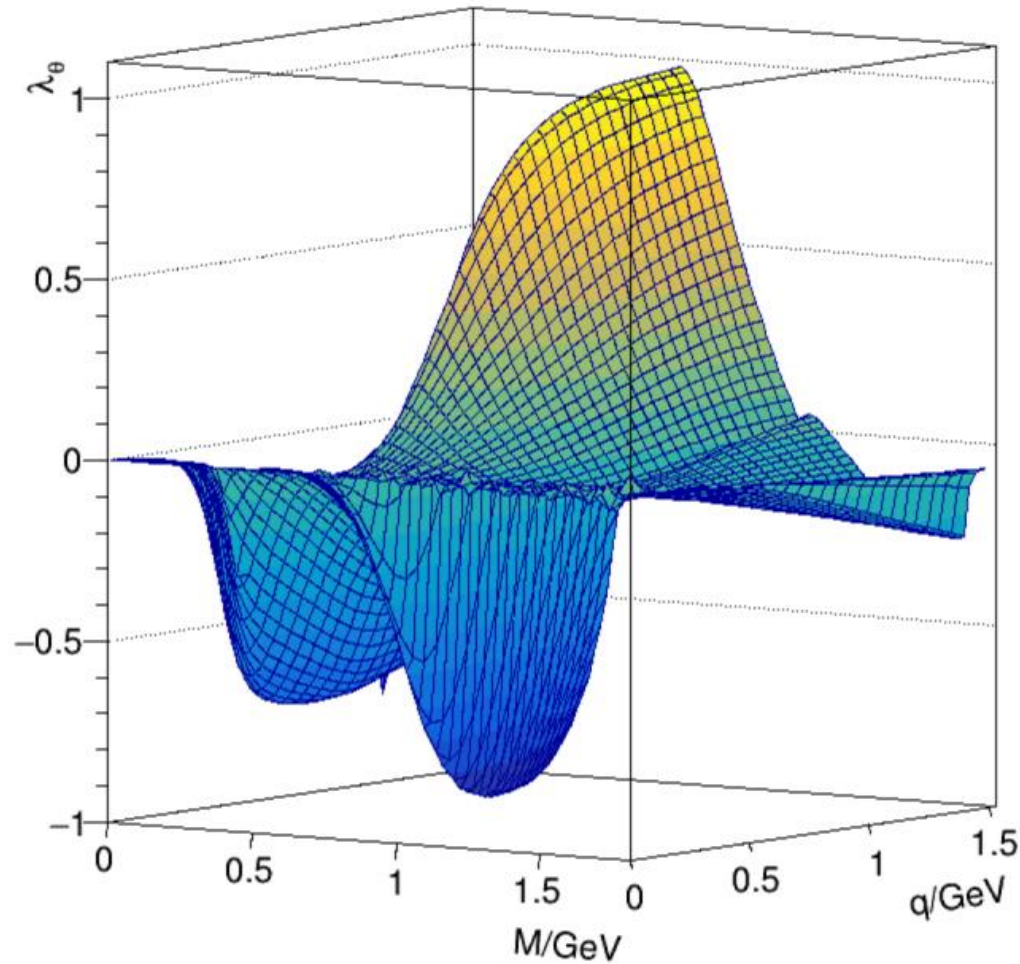


# Example: $T=40$ & $\mu_B=890$ , $p=1050$ MeV

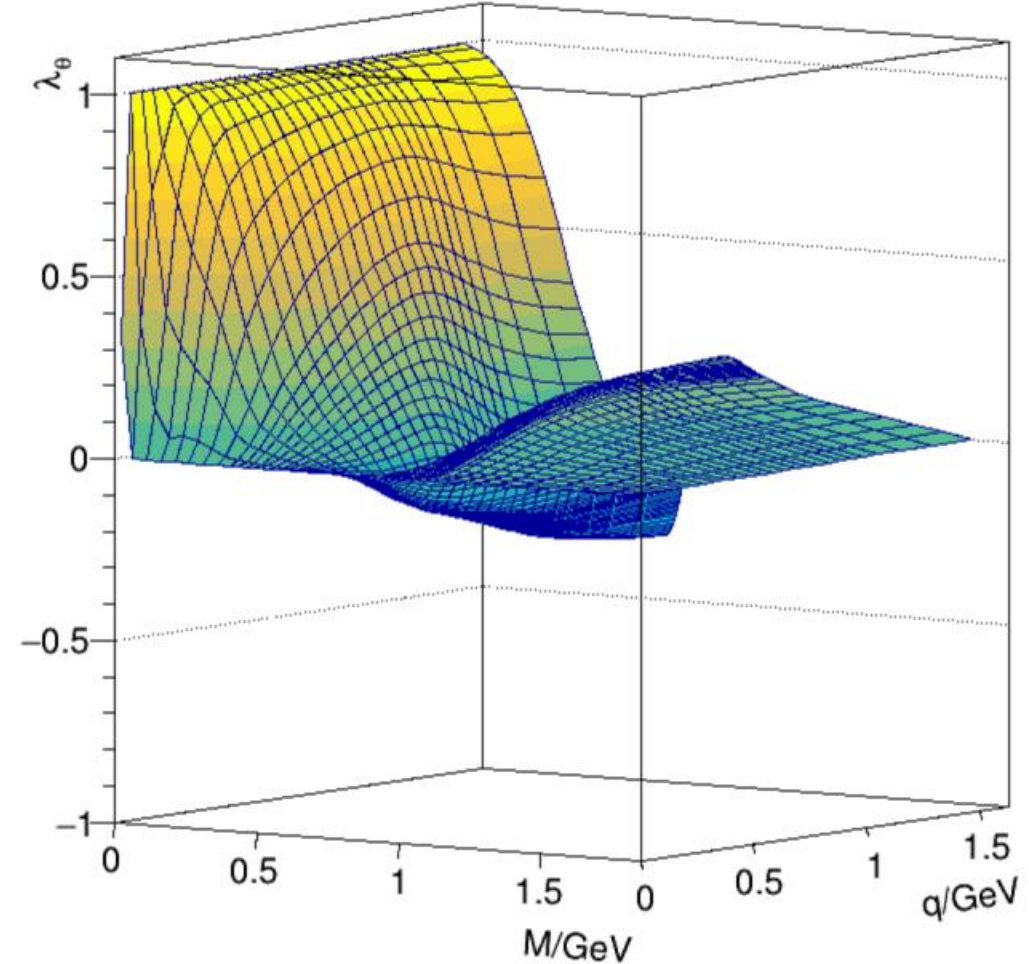


# Polarisation: Comparison to Rapp-Wambach

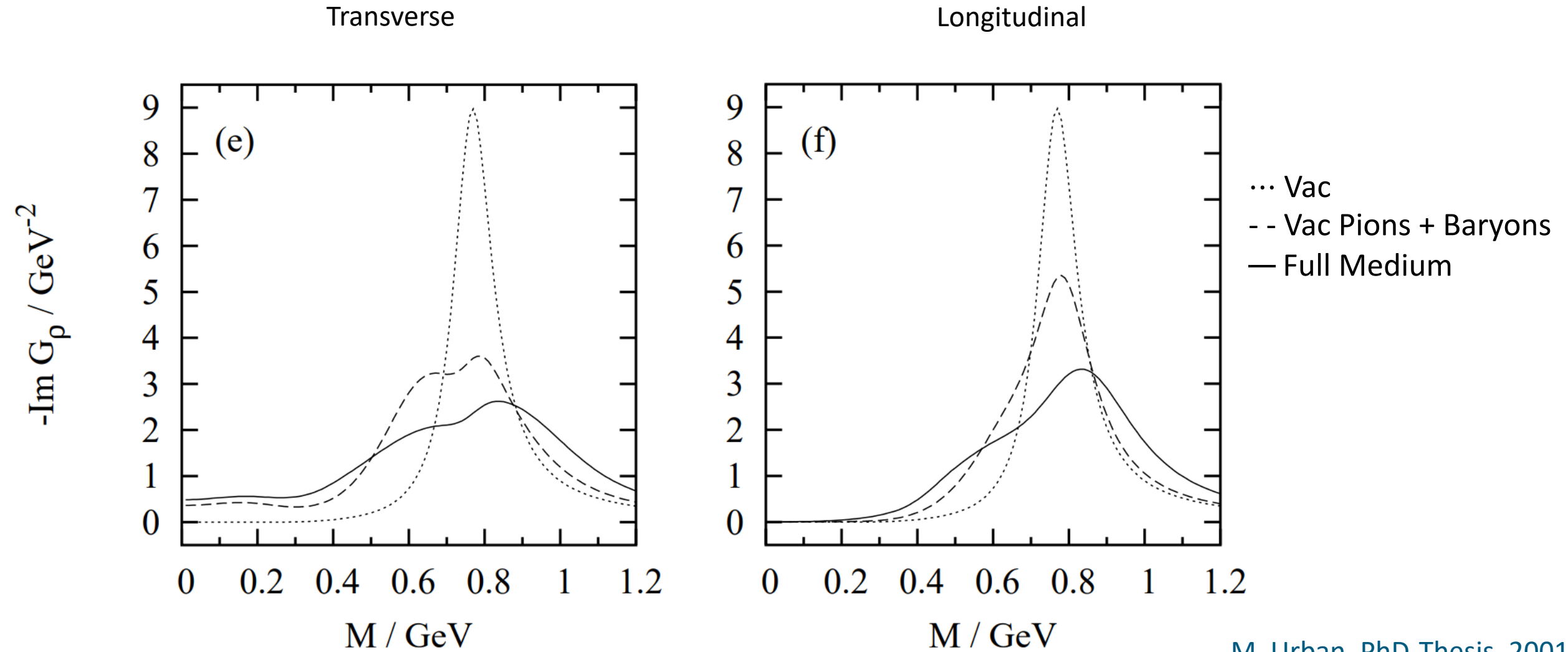
This Work



Rapp-Wambach



# Medium Effects: Transverse vs. Longitudinal

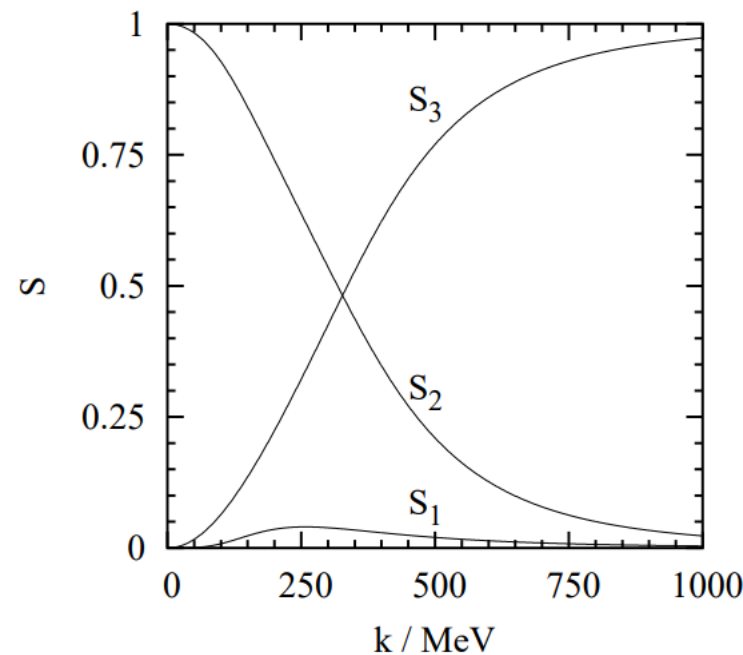
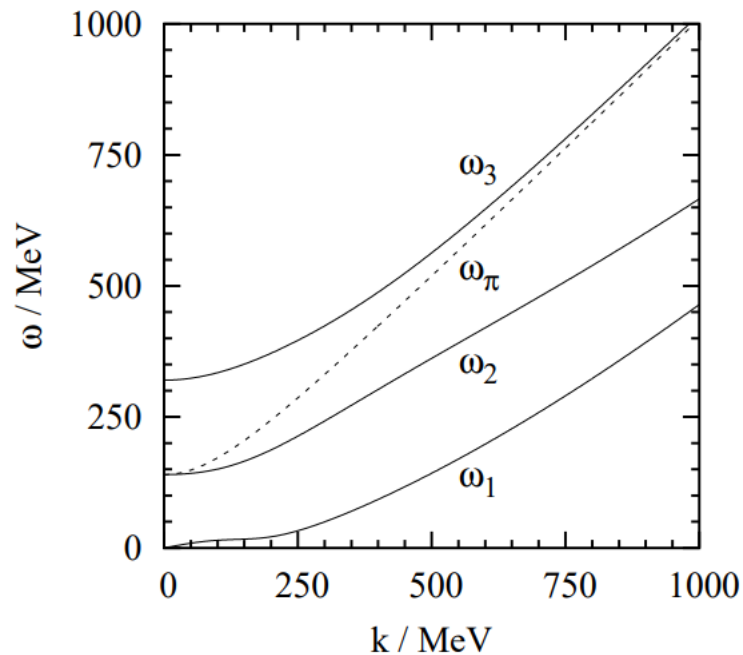


M. Urban, PhD-Thesis, 2001

# Migdal parameters! Medium oscillations?

Introduce migdal parameters: 
$$\Pi = \frac{\Pi_{Nh} + \Pi_{\Delta h} - (g'_{11} - 2g'_{12} + g'_{22})\Pi_{Nh}\Pi_{\Delta h}}{1 - g'_{11}\Pi_{Nh} - g'_{22}\Pi_{\Delta h} + (g'_{11}g'_{22} - g'^2_{12})\Pi_{Nh}\Pi_{\Delta h}}$$

For  $T=0$ ,  $\mu_B$  small(ish): Approximate propagator with Three-level-system: 
$$G_\pi(k) = \frac{S_1(\vec{k})}{k_0^2 - \omega_1^2(\vec{k})} + \frac{S_2(\vec{k})}{k_0^2 - \omega_2^2(\vec{k})} + \frac{S_3(\vec{k})}{k_0^2 - \omega_3^2(\vec{k})}$$



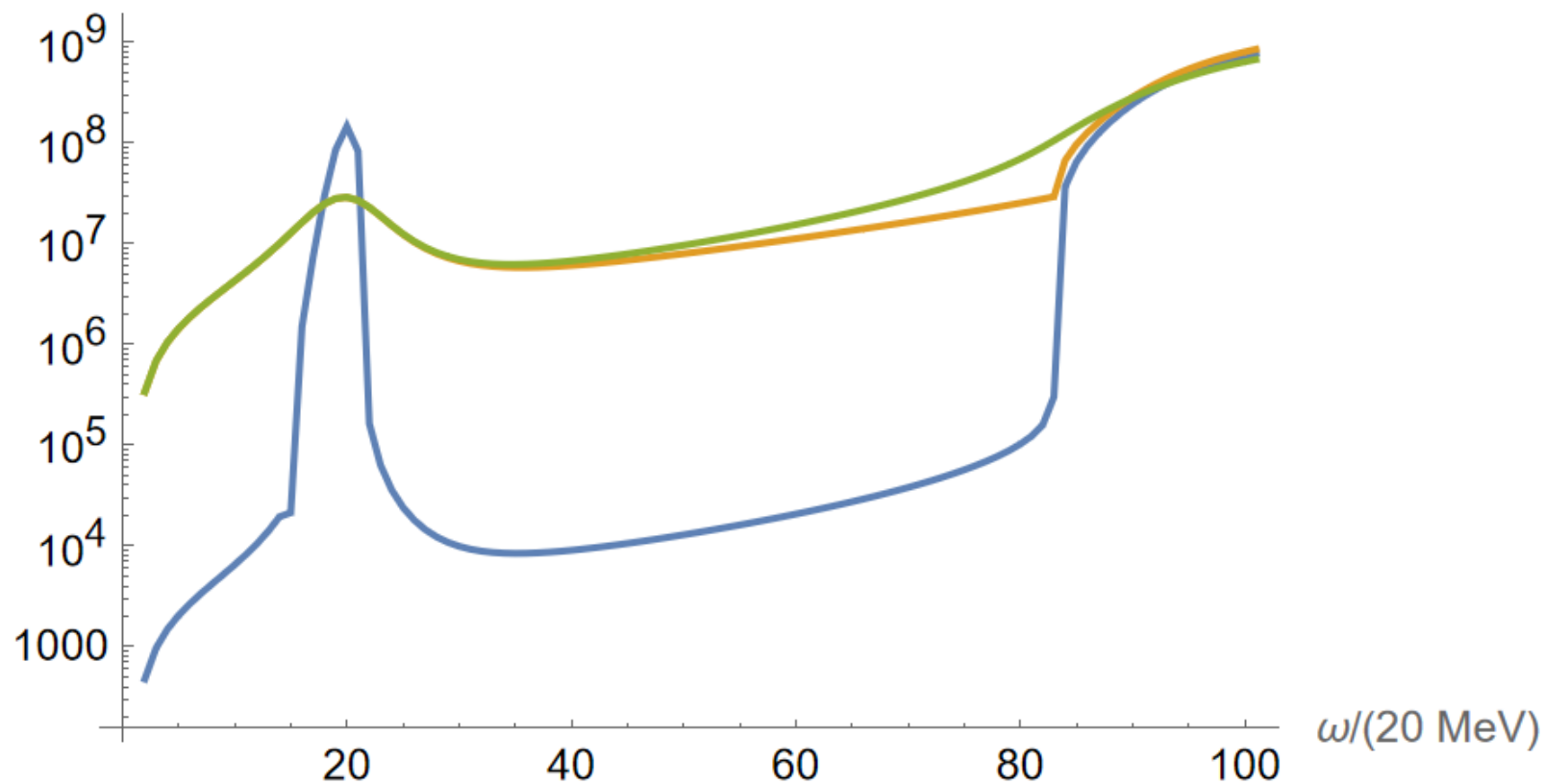
M. Urban, PhD-Thesis, 2001

- ▶ Parity doubling with additional resonances?
- ▶ Spin 3/2 resonances?
- ▶ Widths?
  - Would increase yield dramatically
- ▶ Could e.g. follow Urban: Analytical continuation, with  $i\Gamma$  instead of  $i\epsilon$
- ▶  $p_0 \rightarrow -I(\omega + I\epsilon)$
- ▶  $p_0 \rightarrow -I\left(\omega + I\frac{\Gamma_i + \Gamma_j}{2}\right)$

# Baryonic contribution at 0 momentum, widths

( $T=50$  MeV,  $\mu=890$  MeV)

$\text{Im}[\Gamma^{(2)}]/\text{Arbitrary}$



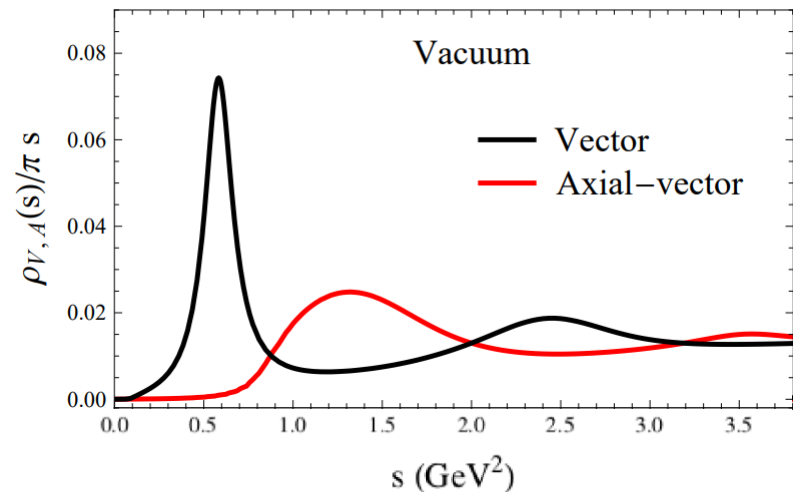
- $\epsilon=0.1 \text{ MeV}$
- $\Gamma_2=150 \text{ MeV}, \Gamma_1=0.1 \text{ MeV}$
- $\epsilon=75 \text{ MeV}$

- ▶ Dilepton invariant mass spectra could, at low momenta, provide information on mirror baryon scenario
- ▶ Finite momentum modifies low energy limit strongly, increases dilepton production
  - Peak structure is washed out integrating over momenta
- ▶ Dilepton polarization provides additional insights
  - Provided the rich structure obtained in the PDM survives the inclusion of additional effects
- ▶ More baryons, medium modifications of pions to be included!

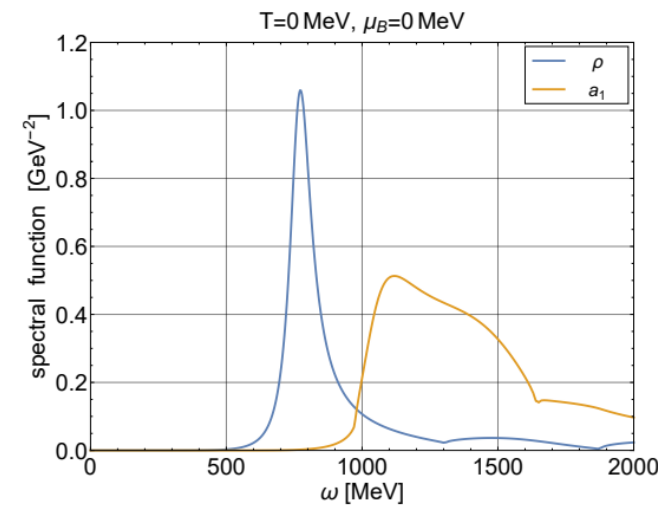
# Appendix



- ▶ More precisely: An electromagnetic spectral function
  - Even more precisely: A vector-meson spectral function
  - Which is equivalent up to a constant in the Vector Dominance Model
- ▶ Mainly two:
  - Hadronic many body approach by Rapp
  - FRG approach by Tripolt



Rapp, Physics Letters B, Volume 731, 2014, Pages 103-109



Tripolt, Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021)

- ▶ Legendre-Transform of  $\log Z[J]$  gives generating functional of 1-PI-Diagrams

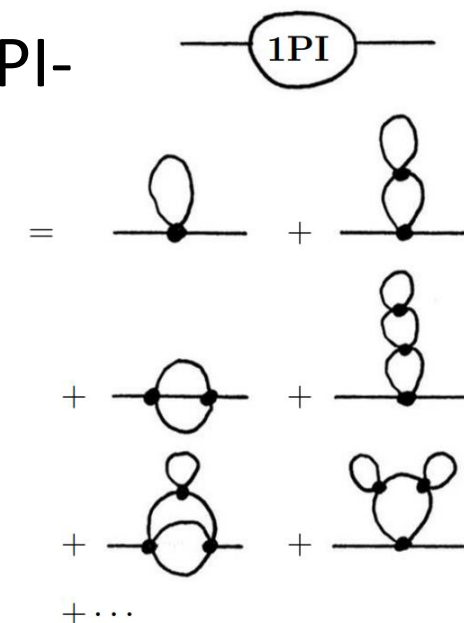
- effective action  $\Gamma$
- 1PI: Diagrams, which cannot be cut in 2 parts by cutting 1 line

- ▶ Add a fictional mass term  $\propto m_k^2 \phi^2$  to Lagrangian

$$Z[J] = \int D\phi \exp\left(-\int d^4x \mathcal{L}[\phi(x)] + J(x)\phi(x)\right)$$

$$Z_k[J] = \int D\phi \exp\left(-\int d^4x \mathcal{L}[\phi(x)] + J(x)\phi(x) + m_k^2 \phi(x)^2\right)$$

- ▶ Mass term  $m_k^2$  often called „Regulator“ and written  $R_k$



Lancaster, Blundell,  
QFT for gifted amateurs

NOT 1-PI:



- ▶ Mass term cuts away fluctuations with momentum scale  $< k$
- ▶ Define  $\Gamma_k$ 
  - Same as before, but averages action over Volume  $1/k^3$
  - Call  $\Gamma_k$  effective AVERAGE action
- ▶ Find change  $\partial_k \Gamma_k$  with  $k$
- ▶ Described by Wetterich equation
  - follows from very little assumptions of form of  $R_k$
  - Uses in (but not limited to) QCD, magnets, condensed matter, statistical physics, critical phenomena

$$\partial_k \Gamma_k = \frac{1}{2} \left( \text{dashed circle with blue dot} - \text{solid circle with red dot} \right)$$

- ▶ Lines: (Euclidean) propagators
- ▶ Circles: Regulators  $\propto \theta(k^2 - q^2)$
- ▶ Trace to be taken over all internal degrees of freedom: Isospin space, parity indices, fermion indices, Lorenz indices, internal momenta, etc.