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Decays of the rho mesons—a neglected source of low-mass dileptons? PETER LICHARD, Silesian University in Opava, Czech Technical University in Prague — The production of dileptons is considered an important tool in the diagnosis of strongly interacting matter created in ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collisions. Some experiments observed an excess of the low-mass dileptons over the expectation represented by the "cocktail" composed of the contributions from decays of the free-streaming hadrons leaving the interaction region. We show that at least a part of the effect may be caused by underestimating the rho-meson component in the "cocktail."

Peter Lichard Silesian University in Opava, Czech Technical University in Prague

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