$({}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}, {}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H})$ $(dN/dy, c\tau)$ measurements from 3 GeV Au+Au collisions with the STAR detector

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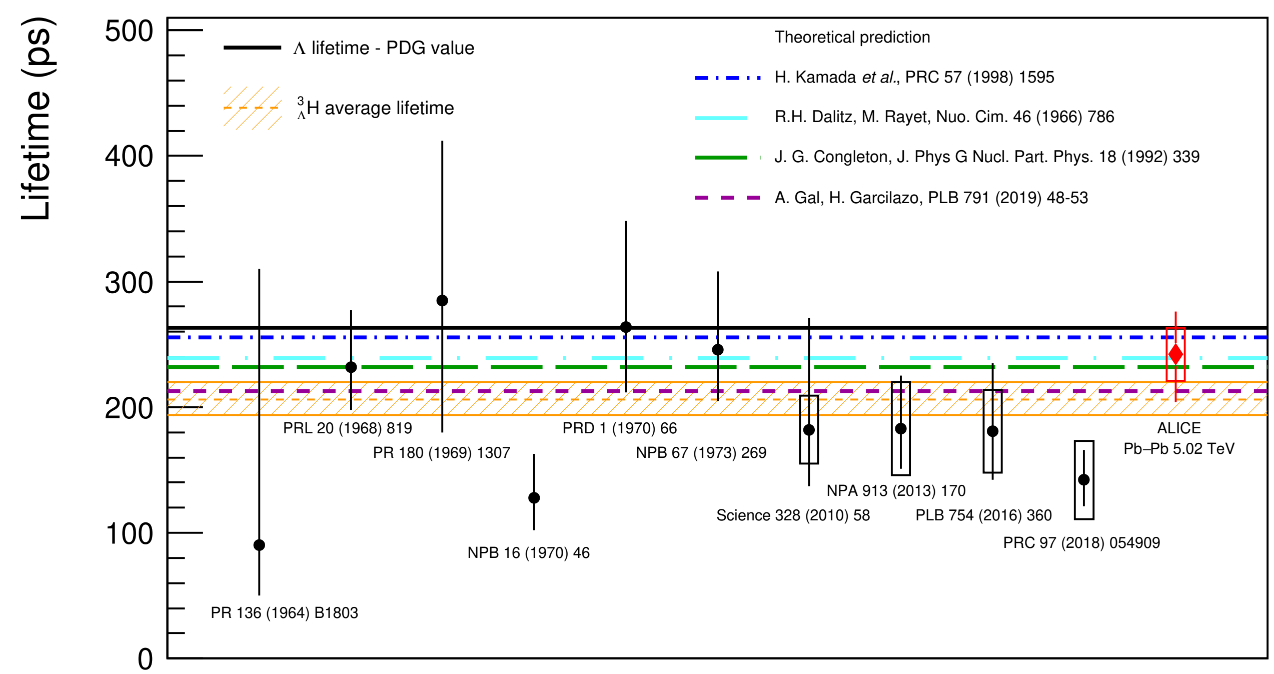
Introduction

- **<u>Hypernuclei -> experimental probe to study the hyperon-nucleon (YN) interaction</u>**
    - Modeling the EOS of astrophysical objects
    - Lifetime, branching ratios, and binding energy measurements provide key information to understand the YN potential

- ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ (Λpn) is the lightest hypernuclei
    - Binding energy~0.4 MeV
    - Theory predicts lifetime close to the free lambda lifetime

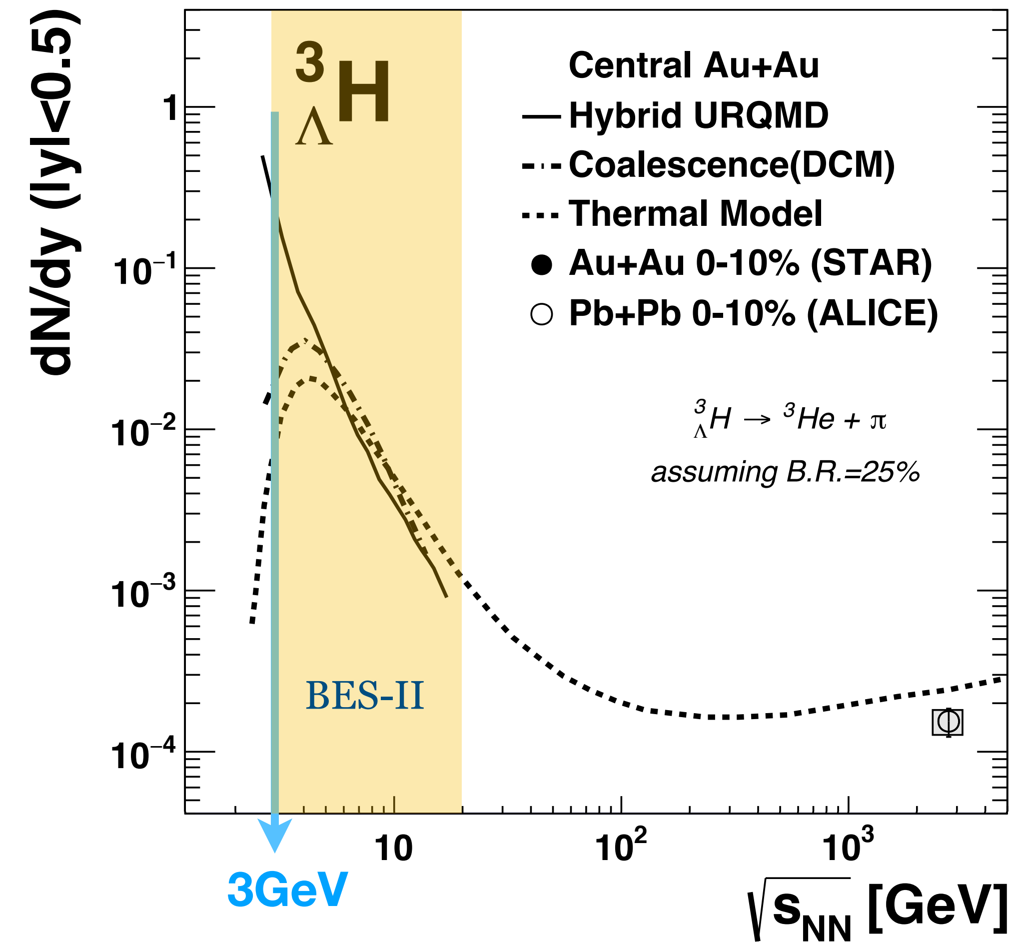


PLB797 (2019) 134905 (ALICE)

- Few measurements of ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$, ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ in heavy-ion collisions
    - Yield and flow -> insight on the production mechanisms and hyperon contribution to the EoS

STAR BES-II

- Higher baryon density at lower beam energies
  - STAR BES-II -> great opportunity to study hypernuclei production

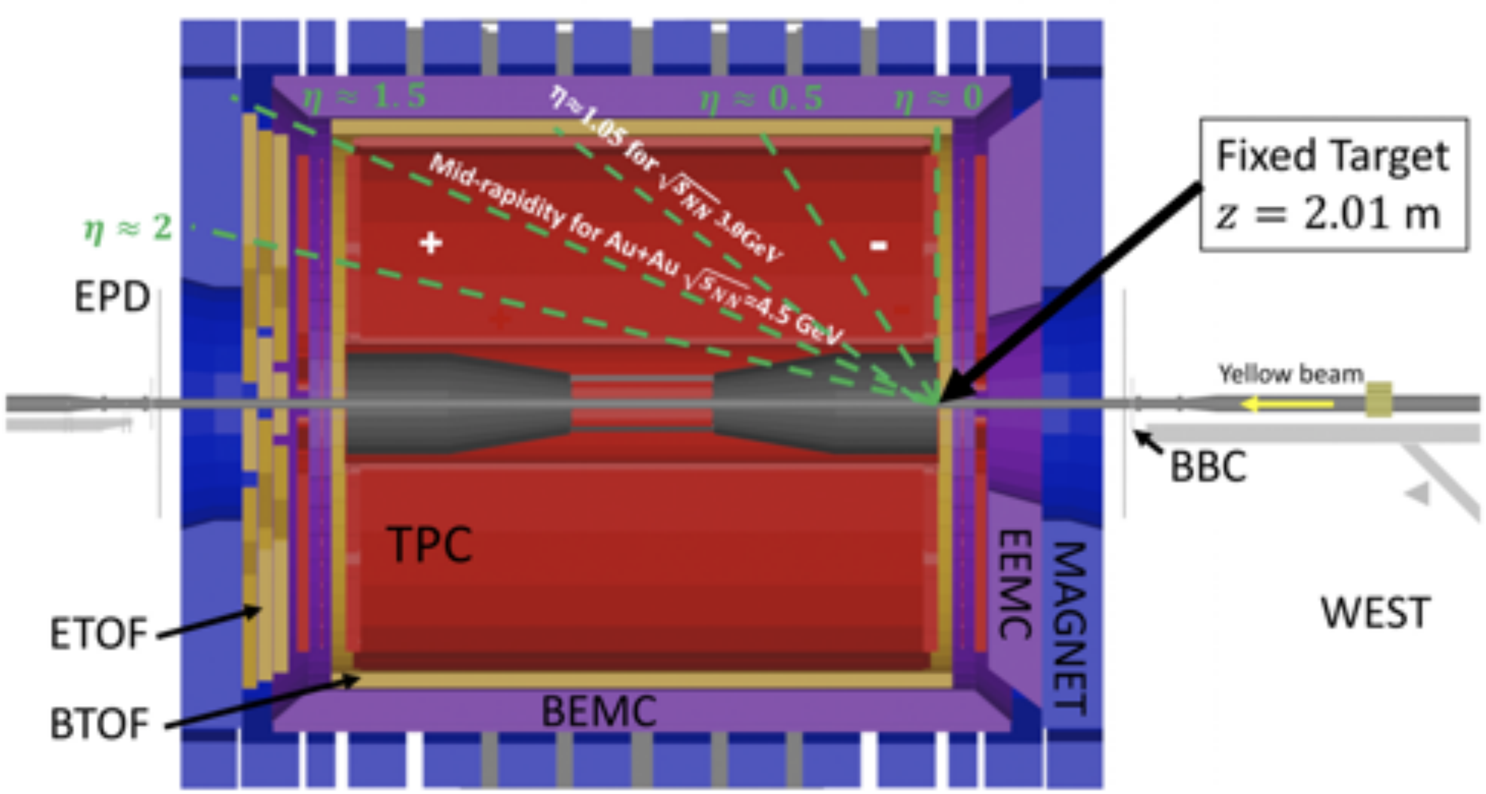


PLB714(2012),85 (Hybrid URQMD, Coalescence(DCM))

PLB 697 (2011)203 (Thermal Model)

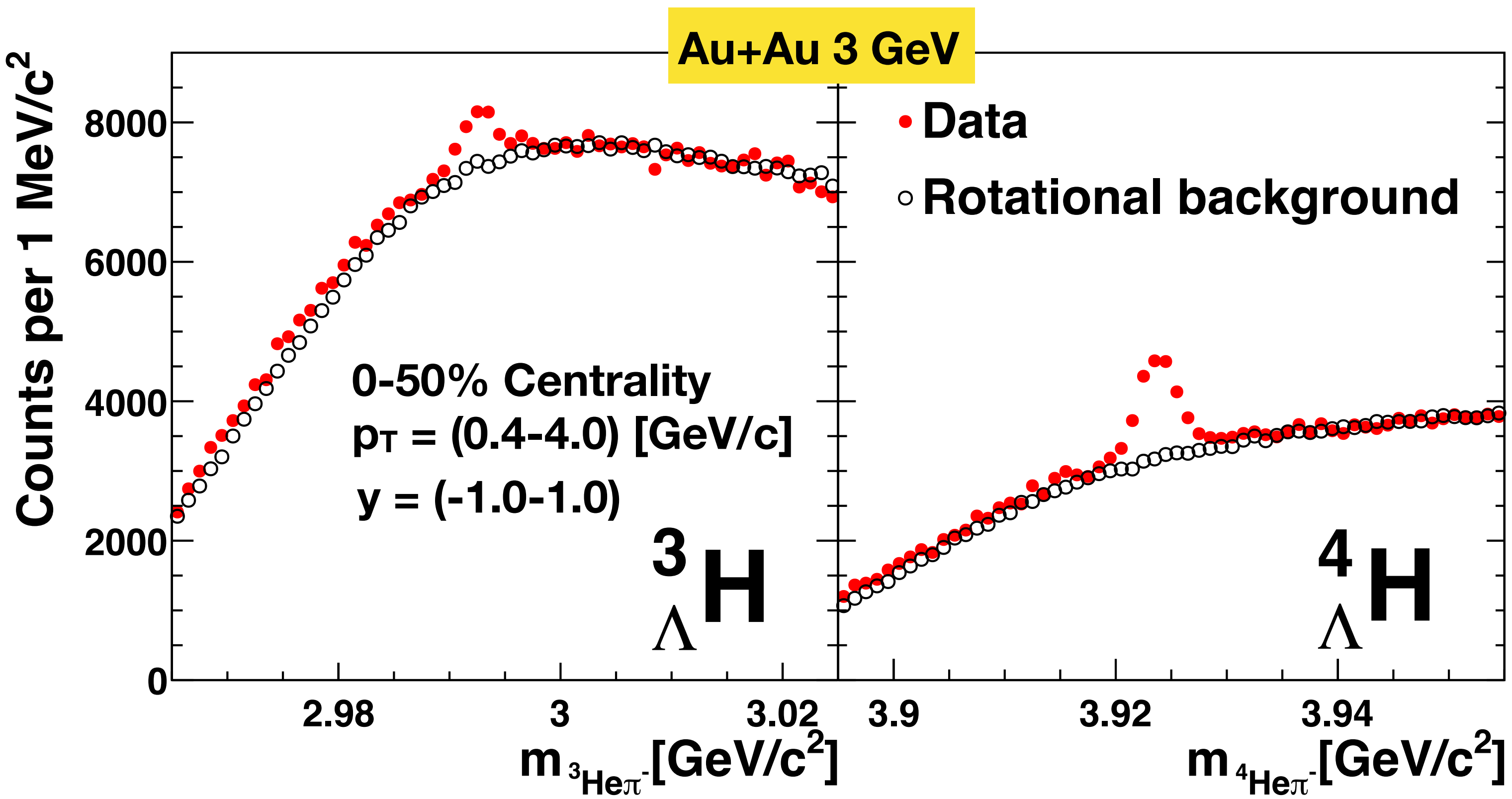
PLB 754 (2016)360 (ALICE)

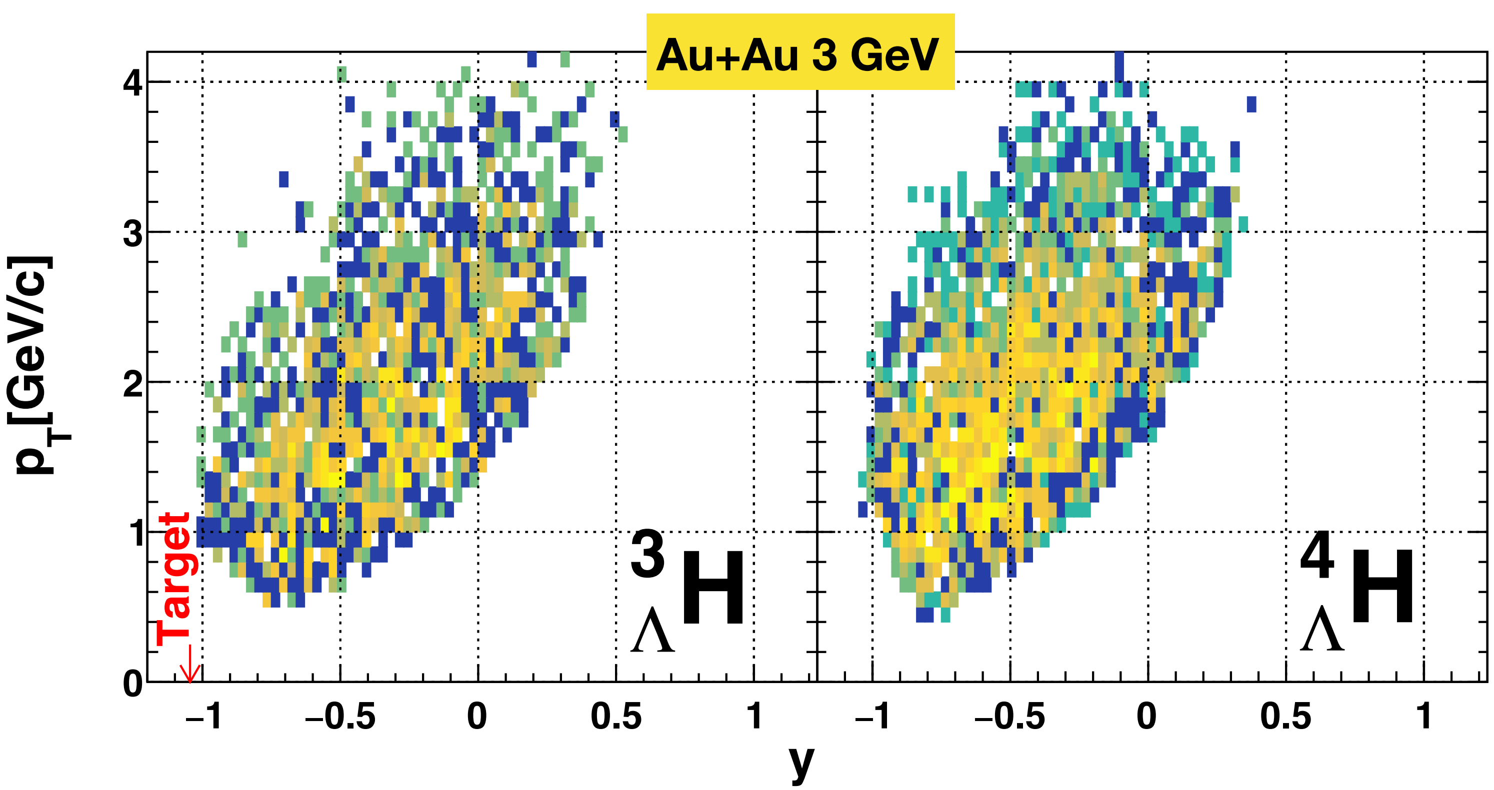
STAR Fixed-target Experiment Setup



- 250M events at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3$ GeV with STAR fixed target mode

Hypernuclei reconstruction and acceptance





- Decay channels

$$^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H} \rightarrow {}^{3}\mathrm{He} + \pi \quad (B.R. \approx 25\%)$$

~2900 candidates — PRC57(1998)1595

$$^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H} \rightarrow {}^{4}\mathrm{He} + \pi \quad (B.R. \approx 50\%)$$

~6300 candidates — NPA585(1995) 365c, NPA639(1998) 251c

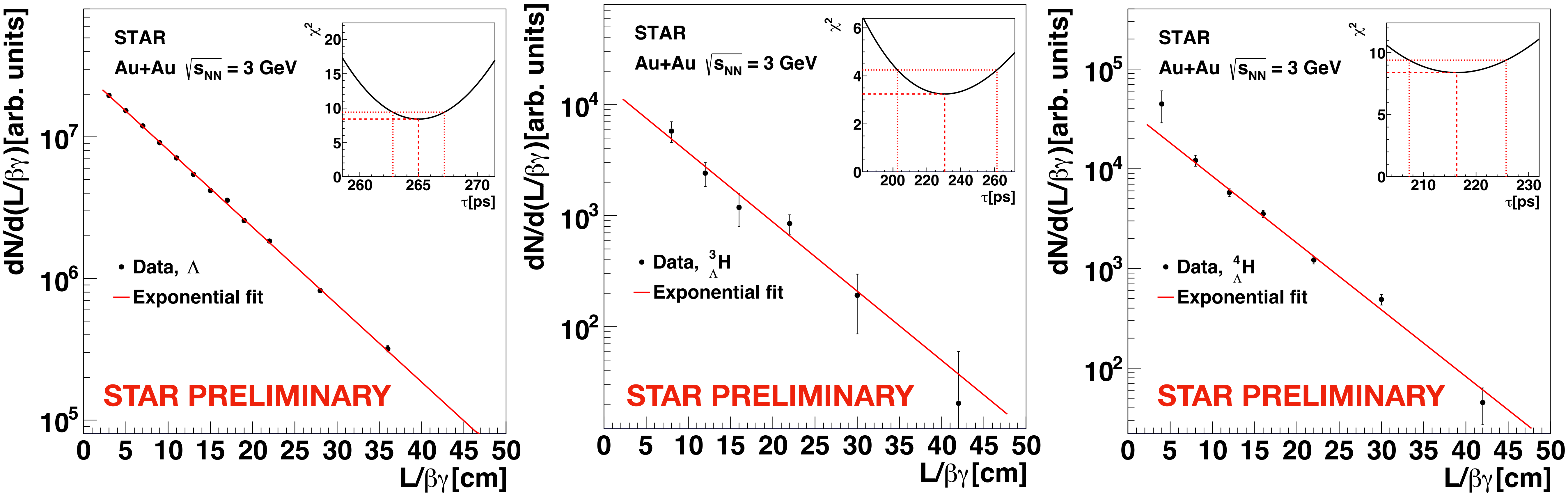
- Good mid-rapidity coverage at 3 GeV

KFParticle package used for reconstruction

*M. Zyzak, “Online selection of short-lived particles on many-core computer architectures in the CBM experiment at FAIR”, thesis, urn:nbn:de:hebis:30:3-414288

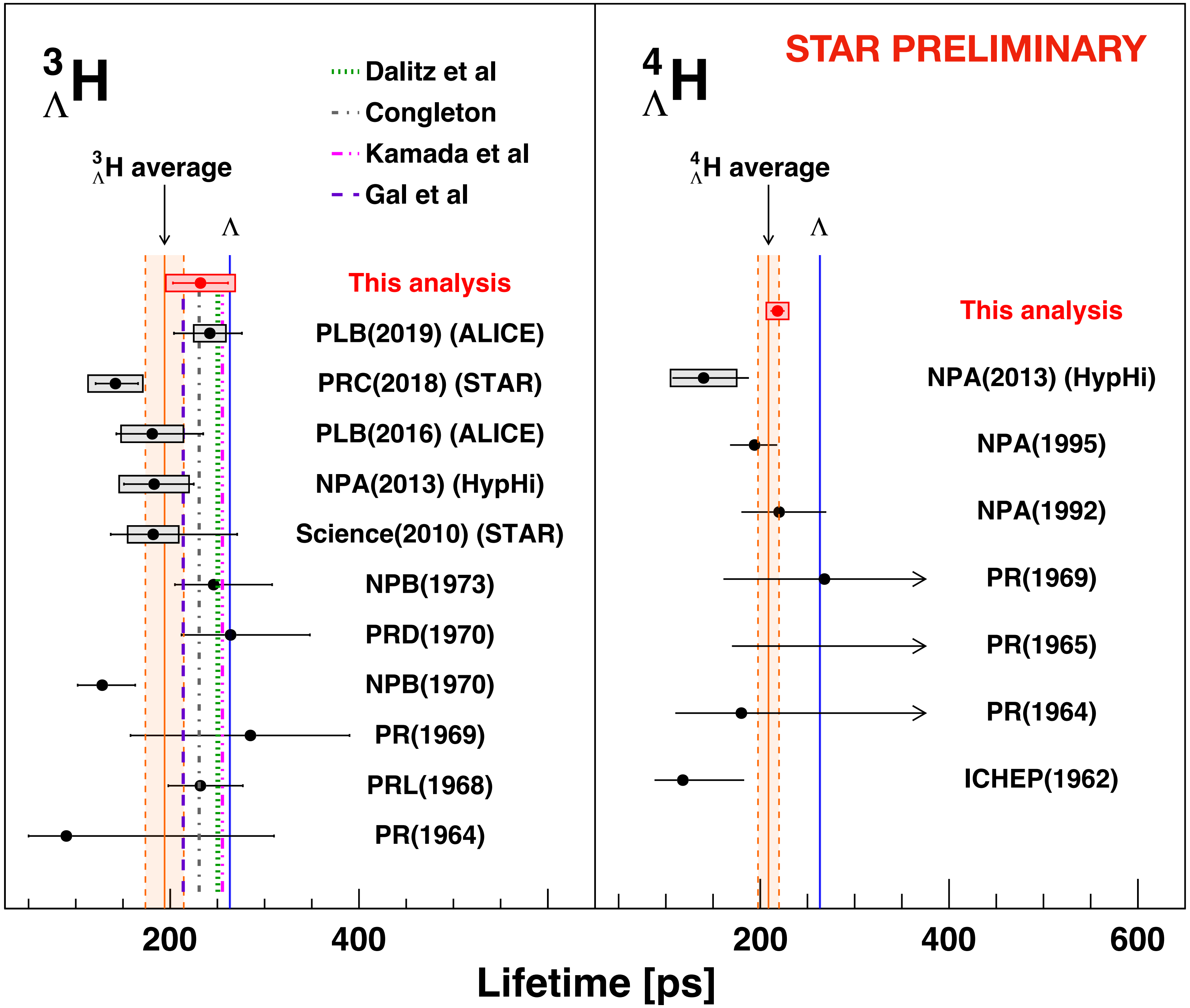
Lifetime measurements

Λ $\quad$ ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ $\quad$ ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$



- **Yields of** Λ, ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$, ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ **as a function of** $L/\beta\gamma$
    - **Well described by exponential functions** $N(t) = N_0 e^{-L/\beta\gamma c\tau}$
- **Lifetime extracted with** χ^2 **fit**
- **Extracted** Λ **lifetime** $(265.0 \pm 2.2)[\mathrm{ps}]$ **consistent with PDG value** $(263.1 \pm 2.0)[\mathrm{ps}]$

New results on ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ lifetime



$${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H} : \tau = 232.1 \pm 29.2(\mathrm{stat}) \pm 36.7(\mathrm{syst})[\mathrm{ps}]$$

$${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H} : \tau = 218.3 \pm 7.5(\mathrm{stat}) \pm 11.8(\mathrm{syst})[\mathrm{ps}]$$

- ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$:
  - Most precise measurement to date.
  - Consistent with previous measurements.
- ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$:
  - Consistent with theoretical calculations including pion FSI.

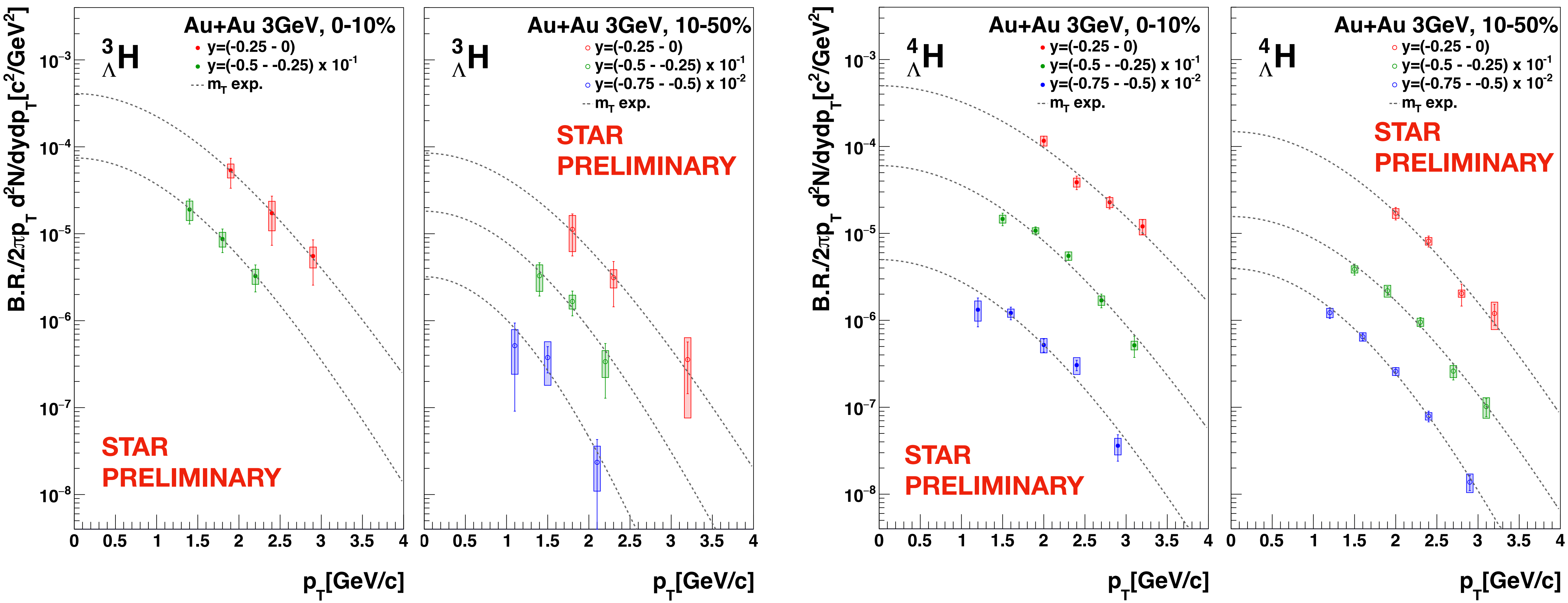
NC46(1966)786 (Dalitz et al)

JPG NPP 18(1992)339 (Congleton)

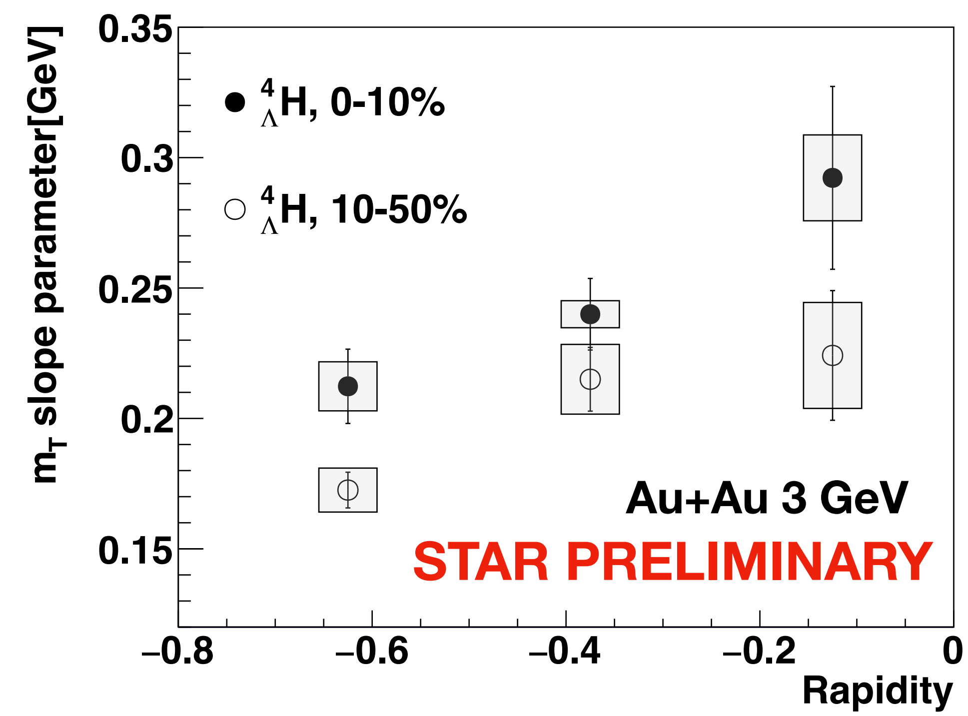
PRC57(1998)1595 (Kamada et al)

PLB791(2019)48 (Gal et al)

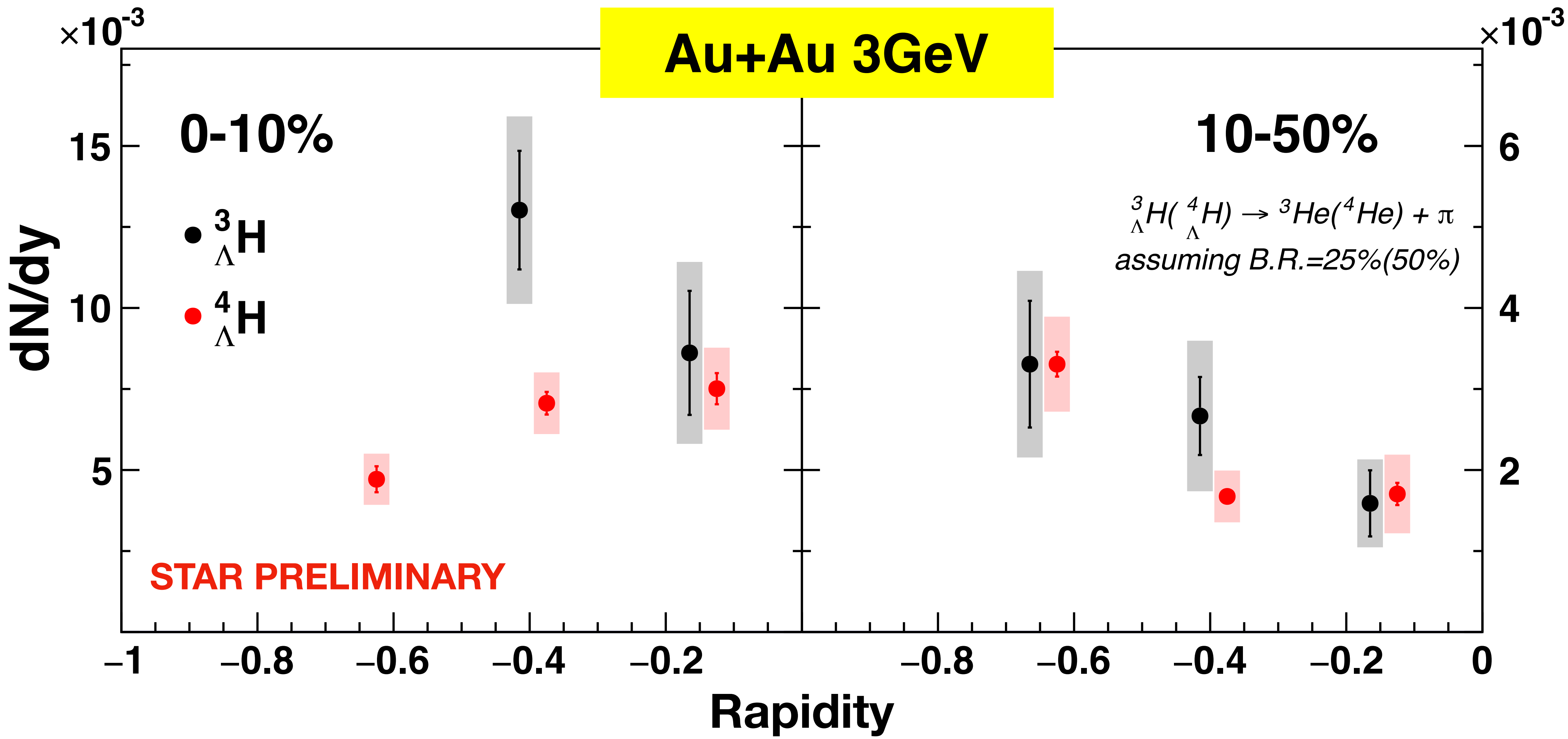
${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}H$ p_T spectra



- **Extract ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}H$ spectra in 0-10% and 10-50% centralities.**
  - **${}^{4}_{\Lambda}H$ spectra becomes softer at more backward rapidities.**
- **Extrapolate to p_T = 0 GeV/c to obtain dN/dy**
  - **Different functions used to estimate systematic uncertainties (see backup)**



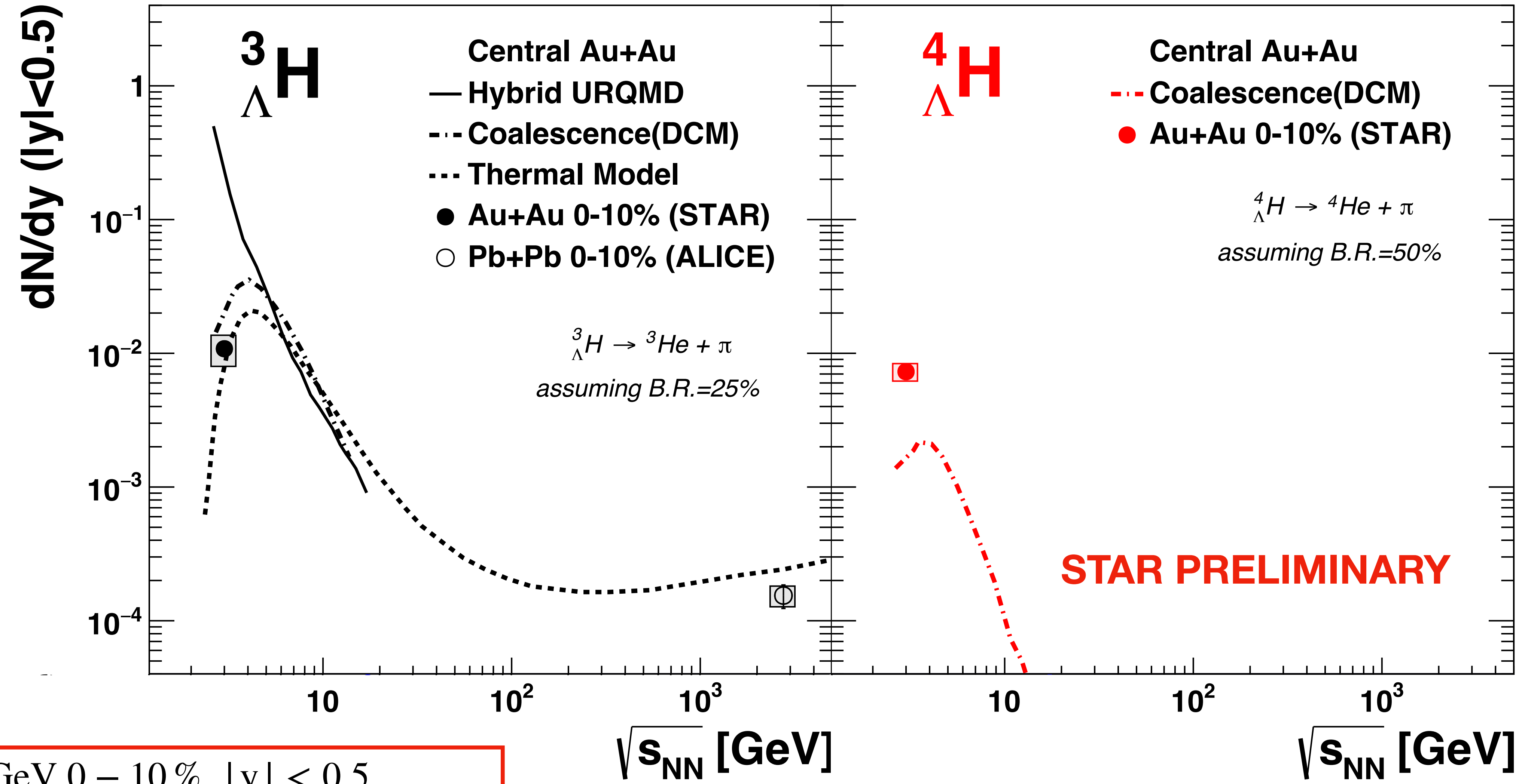
${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ dN/dy at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3$ GeV



- **First measurement of dN/dy of hypernuclei in HI collisions**
  - **Different trends in the ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ rapidity distribution in central (0-10%) and mid-central (10-50%) collisions**

PRC57(1998)1595
NPA585(1995) 365c
NPA639(1998) 251c

${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}H$ |y|<0.5 yield vs beam energy



Au + Au @ 3GeV, 0 – 10 %, |y| < 0.5

${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$: $dN/dy = 1.1 \pm 0.1(stat) \pm 0.3(syst) \times 10^{-2}$

${}^{4}_{\Lambda}H$: $dN/dy = 7.3 \pm 0.3(stat) \pm 1.1(syst) \times 10^{-3}$

- **Thermal model (GSI-Heidelberg) which adopts the canonical ensemble, describes ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ yield at 3 GeV**
- **Yield of ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ described by coalescence (DCM) model, but not ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}H$**

PLB714(2012),85 (Hybrid URQMD, Coalescence(DCM))

PLB 697 (2011)203 (Thermal Model)

PLB 754 (2016)360 (ALICE)

Summary and Outlook

- Established new directions in the study of HI collisions
  - First measurement of hypernuclei dN/dy in HI collisions
    - Different trends in the $^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ rapidity distribution in central (0-10%) and mid-central (10-50%) 3 GeV Au+Au collisions
    - Thermal model describes $^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ yield, while coalescence (DCM) model does not describe $^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ yield.
  - Improved precision on $^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}, ^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ lifetimes

- BES-II + FXT : $\sqrt{s_{\mathrm{NN}}} = 3 - 20$ GeV
  - Energy dependence, heavier hypernuclei, S=2 hypernuclei, etc.

Moving towards a quantitative understanding of QCD matter in the high baryon density region

Thank you for listening!

Backup slides follow

Systematic uncertainties on the lifetime

- **(1) Analysis cuts**
  - **Imperfect description of topological variables between simulations and real data**
- **(2) Input MC p_T/rapidity/lifetime**
  - **Imperfect knowledge in the real kinematic distributions of the hypernuclei**
- **(3) Single track efficiency**
  - **Mismatch of single track efficiency between simulations and data**
- **(4) Signal extraction**
  - **Uncertainties related to the background subtraction technique**

syst. uncertainty	${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$	${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$
Analysis cuts	9.7%	5.0%
Input MC	9.1%	1.3%
Tracking efficiency	7.7%	1.1%
Signal extraction	3.8%	0.9%
Total	15.8%	5.4%

Table: Syst. uncertainty for ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}\mathrm{H}$ lifetime

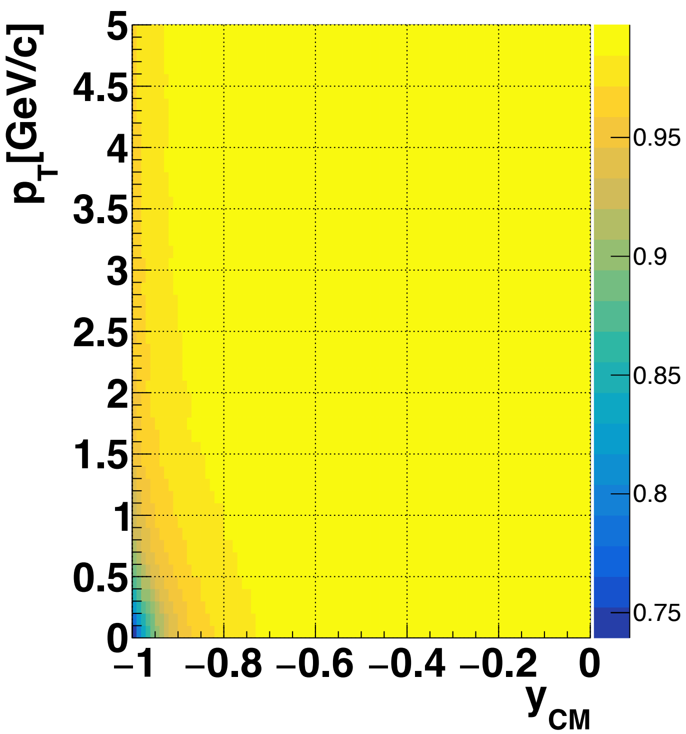
Systematic uncertainties on the spectra

- **Additional sources of systematic uncertainties considered:**
- **<u>Extrapolation</u>**
  - **Different functions for extrapolation to estimate uncertainty**
    - **m_T exponential, blast wave, Boltzmann, etc.**
- **<u>Target material</u>**
  - **Took into account possible Coulomb dissociation when traversing target material**

    Physics of Atomic Nuclei, 2007, Vol. 70, No. 9, pp. 1617–1622
  - **Survival probability >95% in kinematic regions analyzed**

syst. uncertainty	${}^{3}_{\Lambda}$H	${}^{4}_{\Lambda}$H
Analysis cuts	19.3%	4.1%
Input MC	10.0%	4.0%
Tracking efficiency	3.7%	2.9%
Signal extraction	6.0%	4.0%
Extrapolation	11.8%	12.8%
Detector material	4.0%	< 1%
Total	26.0%	14.9%
Branching ratio	40.0%	20.0%

<u>Table: Syst. uncertainty for ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}$H and ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}$H dN/dy at |y|<0.5 in Au+Au 0-10%.</u>



<u>Fig: Survival prob. for ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}$H estimated from MC study</u>

Target thickness = 0.25mm