



Search for the Strange Dibaryons with Baryon-Baryon Correlations at STAR

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Hot Quarks 2025 -- Kehao Zhang -- CCNU



STAR Collaboration

Outline

I. Motivation

II. Femtoscopy

III. Analysis Details

IV. Lednicky-Lyuboshitz Model

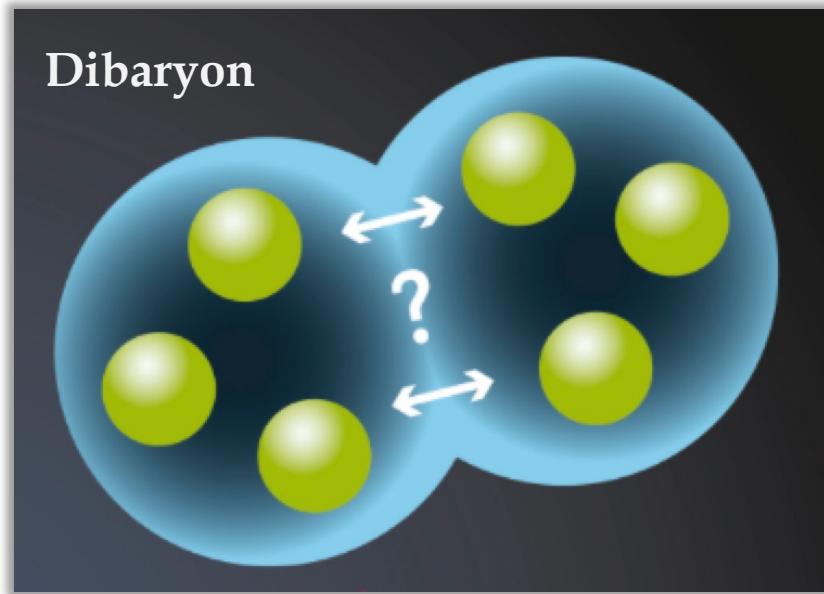
V. Results

- $|S| = 2$: p- Ξ^- Correlation
- $|S| = 2$: Λ - Λ Correlation
- $|S| = 3$: p- Ω^- Correlation

VI. Summary

Motivation

(Strange) Dibaryons have never been found experimentally



Particle	Mass (MeV)	Quark composition	Decay mode
f_0	980	$q\bar{q}s\bar{s}$	$\pi\pi$
a_0	980	$q\bar{q}s\bar{s}$	$\pi\eta$
$K(1460)$	1460	$q\bar{q}q\bar{s}$	$K\pi\pi$
$\Lambda(1405)$	1405	$qqq s\bar{q}$	$\pi\Sigma$
$\Theta^+(1530)$	1530	$qqq q\bar{s}$	KN
H	2245	udds $s\bar{s}$	$\Lambda\Lambda$
$N\Omega$	2573	qqqss $s\bar{s}$	$\Lambda\Xi$
$\Xi\Xi$	2627	qqssss	$\Lambda\Xi$
$\Omega\Omega$	3228	ssssss	$\Lambda K^- + \Lambda K^-$

Sungtae Cho, et al. (ExHIC), Phys. Rev. C 84, 064910 (2011)

➤ The possible formation channels:

$$(|S|=2)\text{Dibaryon} \Leftrightarrow p + \Xi^-$$

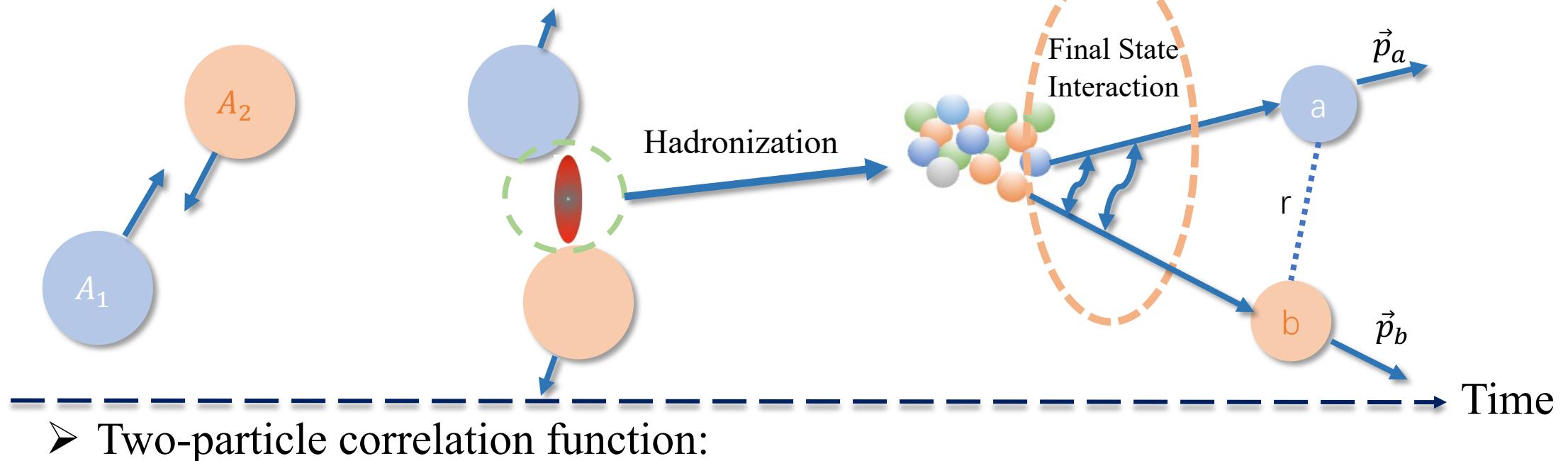
$$(|S|=2)\text{Dibaryon} \Leftrightarrow \Lambda + \Lambda$$

$$(|S|=3)\text{Dibaryon} \Leftrightarrow p + \Omega^-$$

➤ Hyperon-Nucleon (Y-N) and Hyperon-Hyperon (Y-Y) interactions provide important information to constrain the Equation-of-State and help to understand the inner structure of compact stars

More experimental measurements are needed !

Femtoscopy



$$C(\vec{k}^*) = \int S(\vec{r}) |\Psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})|^2 d^3\vec{r} = \frac{N_{\text{same}}(\vec{k}^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(\vec{k}^*)}$$

$S(\vec{r})$: Source function

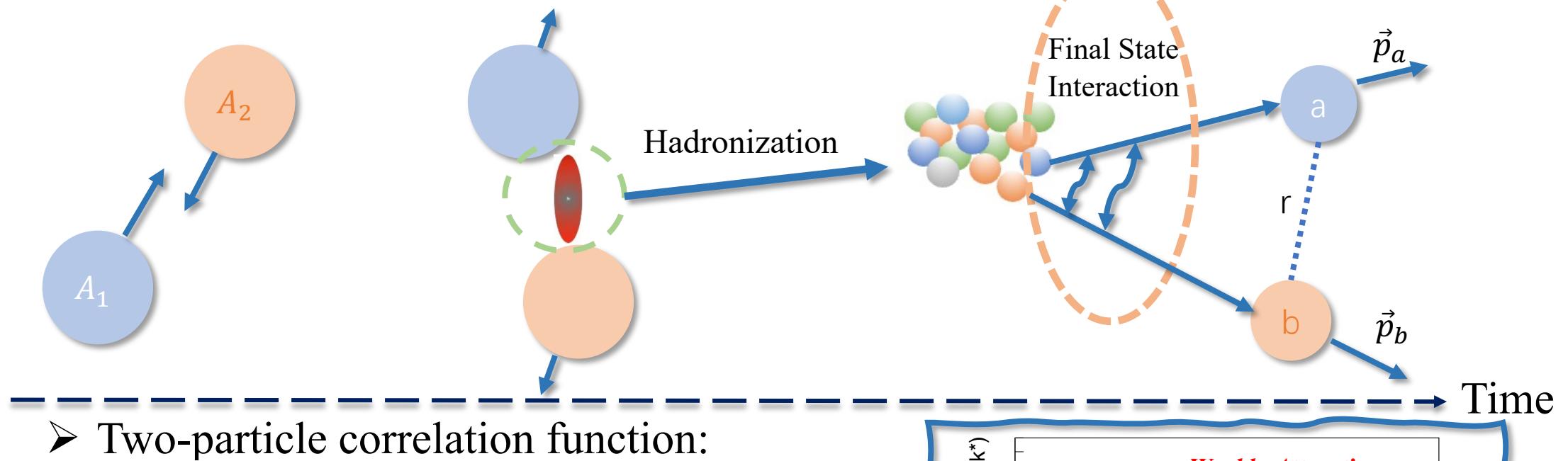
$\Psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})$: Pair wave function

$k^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_b|$, relative momentum

\vec{r} : relative distance

- Depends on ...
- Emission source
 - Strong interaction
 - Coulomb interaction

Femtoscopy



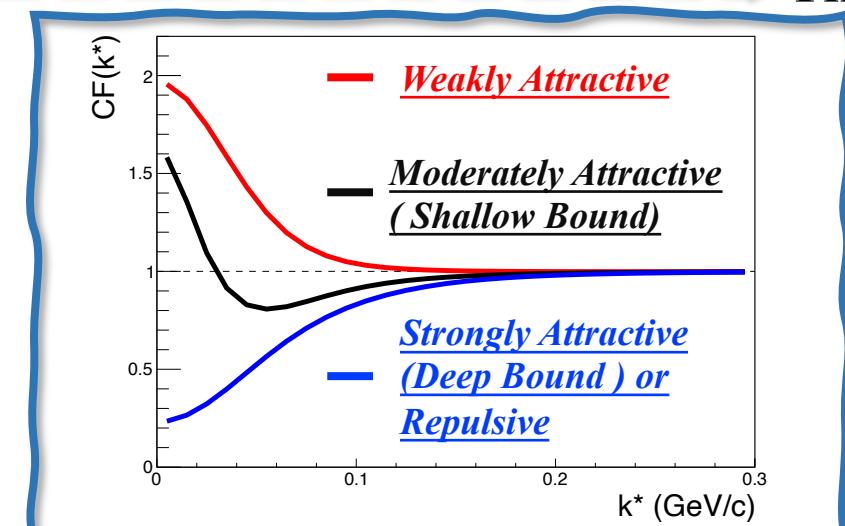
<u>Model</u>	<u>Experimental</u>
$C(\vec{k}^*) = \int S(\vec{r}) \Psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}) ^2 d^3\vec{r}$	$= \frac{N_{\text{same}}(\vec{k}^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(\vec{k}^*)}$

$S(\vec{r})$: Source function

$\Psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r})$: Pair wave function

$k^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_b|$, relative momentum

\vec{r} : relative distance

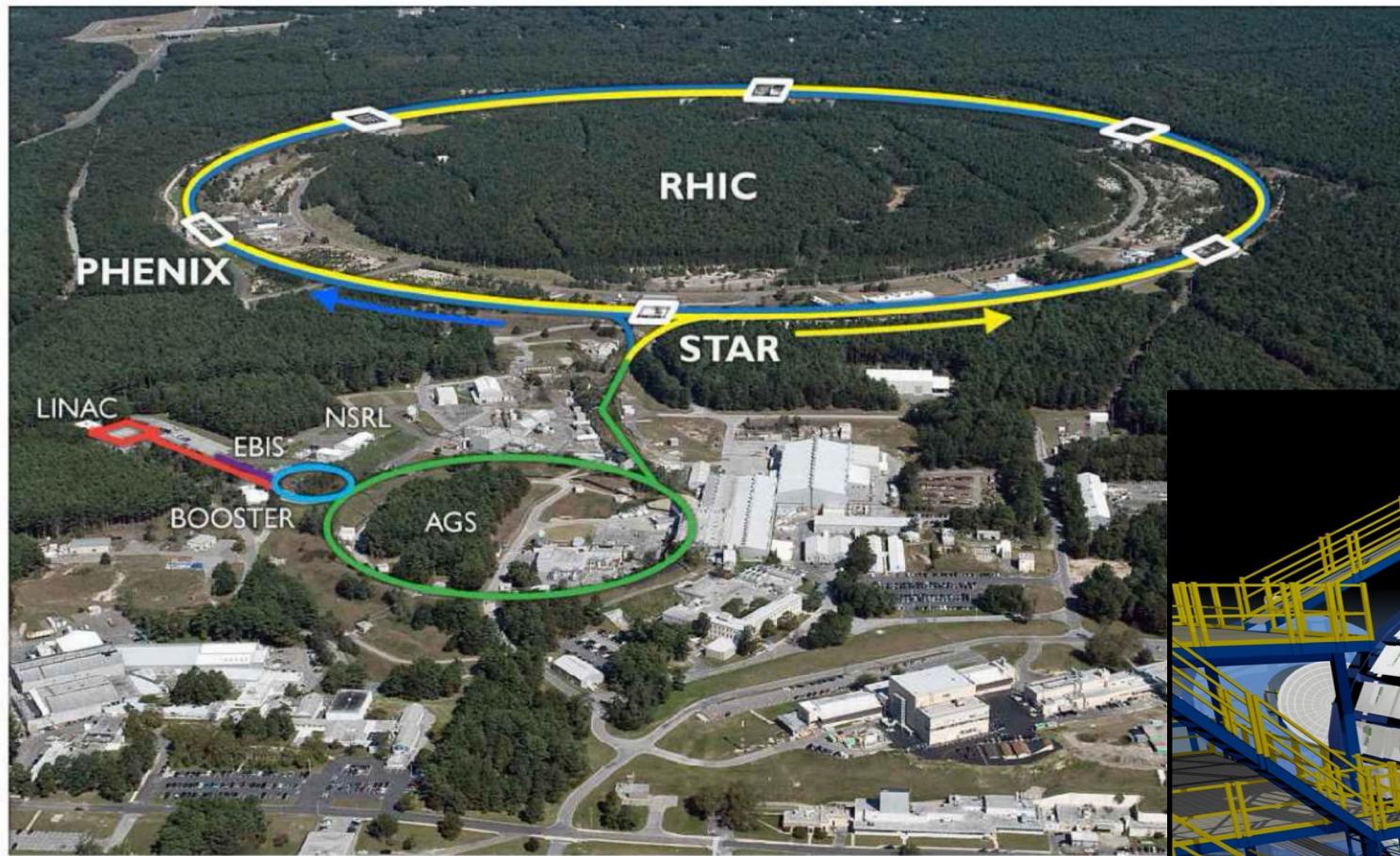


R. Lednický, et al. Sov.J.Nucl.Phys.35(1982)770

L. Michael, et al. Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci. 55 (2005) 357-402

Zhi-Wei Liu, et al., Phys. Rev. D 107, 074019 (2023)

RHIC-STAR Experiment



The Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC (STAR)

- Excellent particle identification
- Large, uniform acceptance at Mid-rapidity

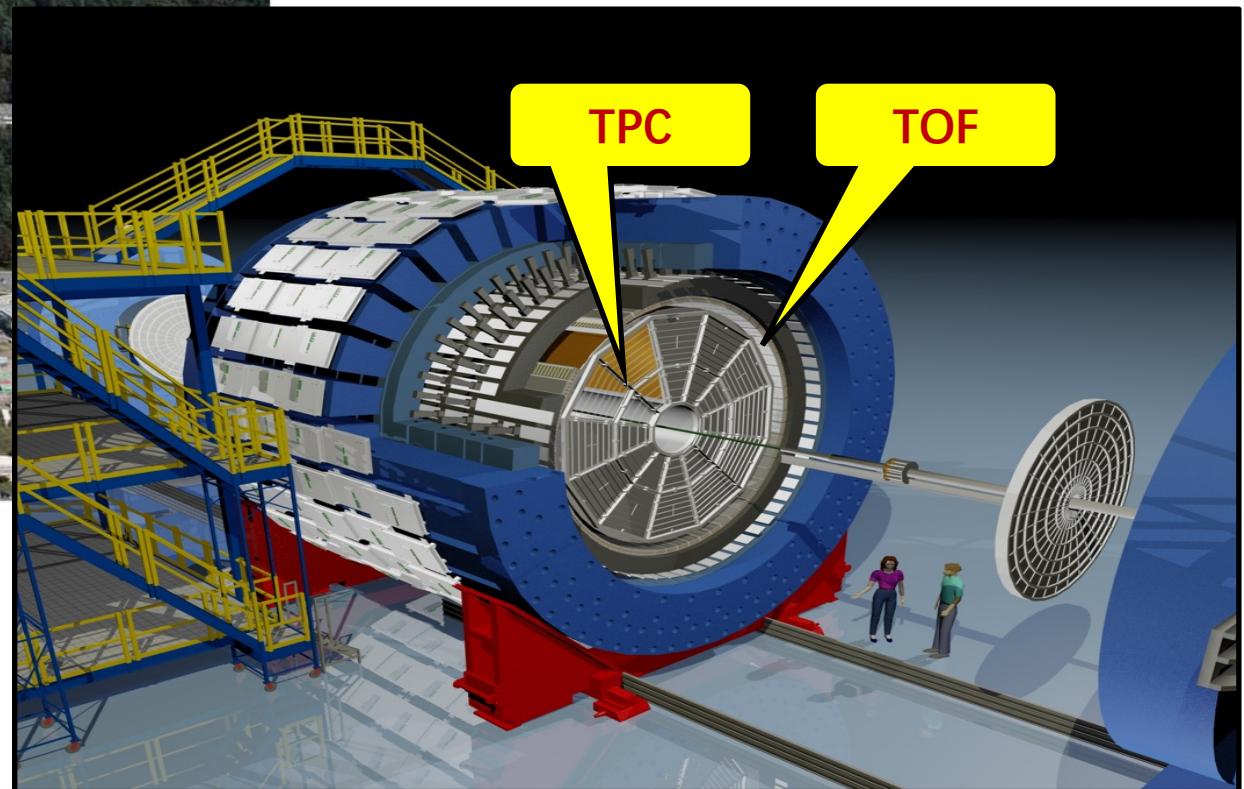
Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)

Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton

→ p+p, Au+Au, Zr+Zr, Ru+Ru, d+Au...

→ Beam Energy Scan Program I, II (Au+Au)

$$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3.0 - 200 \text{ GeV}$$



Analysis Details

➤ Dataset:

Isobar collisions (Ru+Ru, Zr+Zr) @ 200 GeV

~ 3.9 billion minimum-bias events

Au+Au collisions @ 200 GeV (run11, run14, run16)

~ 2.5 billion minimum-bias events

Au+Au collisions @ 3 GeV (run21)

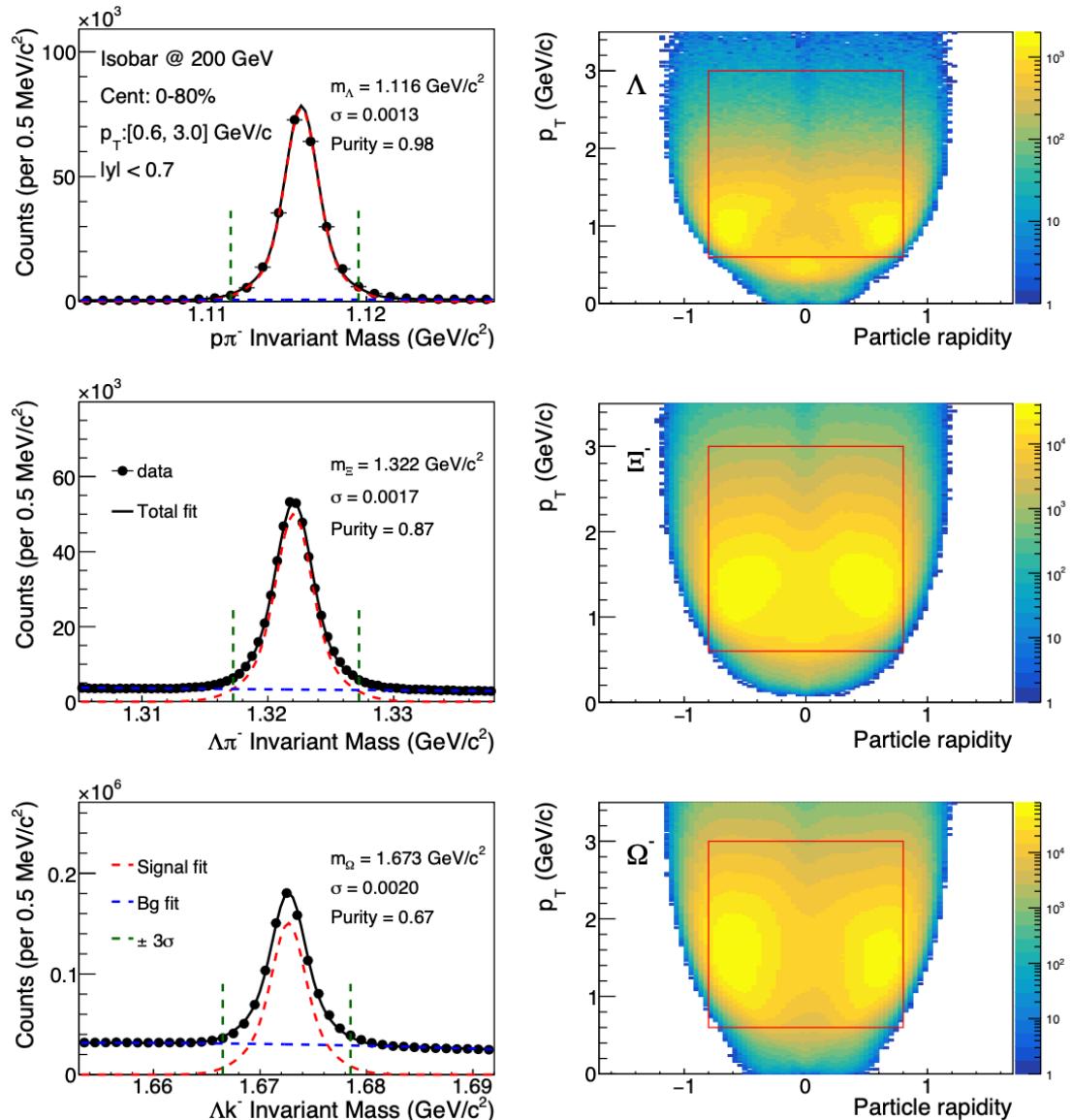
~ 2 billion minimum-bias events

➤ Hyperon reconstruction via Helix-swimming method

$\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^-$, BR = 63.9%

$\Xi^- \rightarrow \Lambda + \pi^-$, BR = 99.9%

$\Omega^- \rightarrow \Lambda + K^-$, BR = 67.8%



Lednicky-Lyuboshitz Model

$$CF(k^*) = \int d^3r^* S(r^*) |\psi(r^*, k^*)|^2 = \frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)}$$

➤ Formalism with Lednicky-Lyuboshitz (L-L) model:

- Only consider s-wave
- Effective range expansion for $\psi(r^*, k^*)$
- Static and spherical Gaussian source assumed

R. Lednicky and V. L. Lyuboshitz, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 35, 770 (1982)

➤ Wave function:

- $\psi(r^*, k^*) = e^{-ik^*r^*} + f(k^*) \frac{e^{-ik^*r^*}}{r^*}$

➤ Scattering amplitude:

- $f(k^*) = [\frac{1}{f_0} + \frac{1}{2}d_0k^{*2} - ik^*]^{-1}$ (No Coulomb)
- $f(k^*) = [\frac{1}{f_0} + \frac{1}{2}d_0k^{*2} - \frac{2}{a_c}h(\eta) - ik^*A_c(\eta)]^{-1}$ (Include Coulomb)
 a_c : Bohr radius $\eta = (k^*a_c)^{-1}$
 A_c, h : Coulomb interaction factor

L-L Fitting by
Bayesian method

➤ Physics quantity:

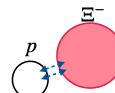
- f_0 : Scattering Length
 - d_0 : Effective Range
 - R_G : Spherical Gaussian Source Size
- $f_0 > 0$: Attractive Interaction
 $f_0 < 0$: Repulsive Interaction or Bound State

Bayesian method: https://github.com/chunshen1987/bayesian_analysis

Mäntysaari, H., et al., Phys. Lett. B 833 (2022) 137348

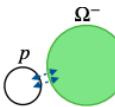
Lednicky-Lyuboshitz Model

In different pairs, there have different spin states: $C = w_i C_i + w_j C_j$



In $p\text{-}\Xi^-$ pair, there are two spin states:

$$C_{p-\Xi} = \frac{1}{4} C_{J=0, singlet} + \frac{3}{4} C_{J=1, triplet}$$



In $p\text{-}\Omega^-$ pair, there are two spin states:

$$C_{p-\Omega} = \frac{3}{8} C_{J=1, triplet} + \frac{5}{8} C_{J=2, quintet}$$

Predicted bound state (HAL QCD)



In $\Lambda\Lambda$ pair, there only one spin state:

$$C_{\Lambda-\Lambda} = C_{J=0, singlet}$$



Spin-averaged method:

Two spin states consider same Coulomb and strong interaction



Quintet method:

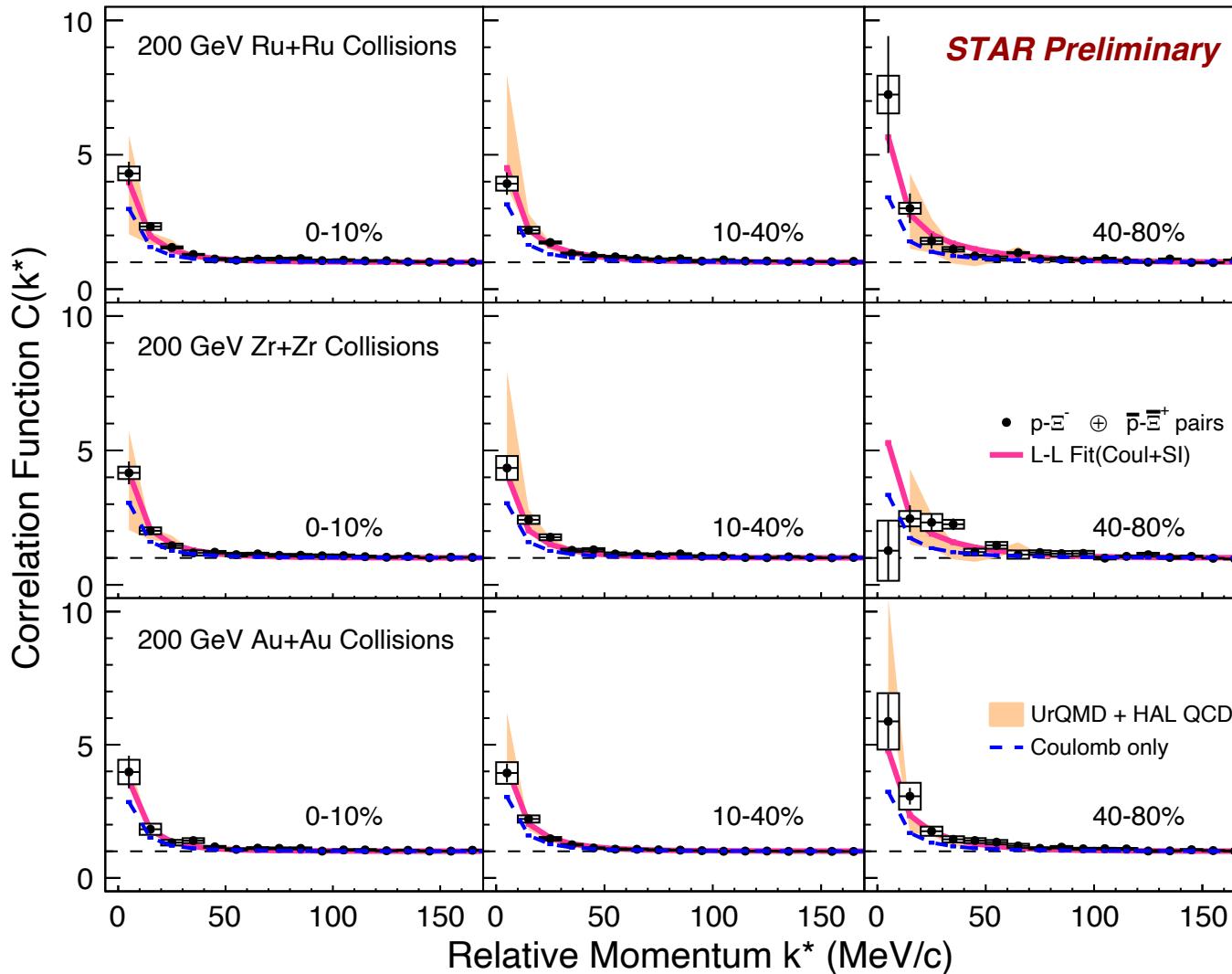
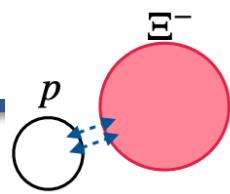
In quintet state, consider Coulomb and strong interaction

In triplet state, just consider Coulomb since the strong effect of coupled channel

Kenji Morita, et al., Phys. Rev. C 101, 015201 (2020)

Spin	Weight	Spin-ave.	Quintet
Triplet ($J=1$)	3/8	Coul. + SI	Coul.
Quintet ($J=2$)	5/8	Coul. + SI	Coul. + SI

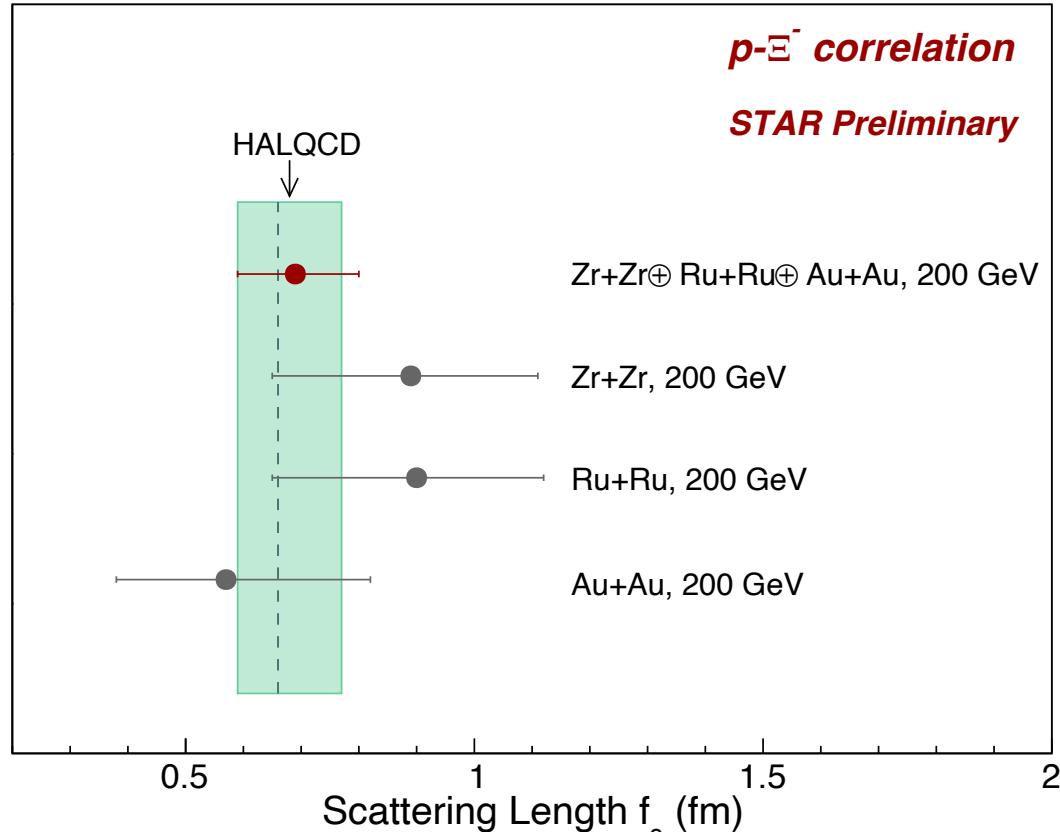
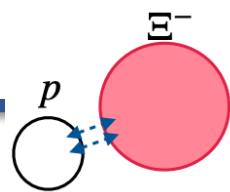
p- Ξ^- Correlation Function (|S| = 2)



- I. Measured $p\text{-}\Xi^- \oplus \bar{p}\text{-}\bar{\Xi}^+$ CFs at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV in Au+Au and Isobar collisions
- II. CFs show enhancement at low k^*
- III. Simultaneously fit with L-L function for different centralities in each collision system to extract R_G , f_0 and d_0 by Bayesian method
- IV. UrQMD + HAL QCD model is consistent with data
 - Particle phase space provided by UrQMD
 - Interaction potential provided by HAL QCD

Y. Kamiya, et al., Phys. Rev. C 105, 014915 (2022)

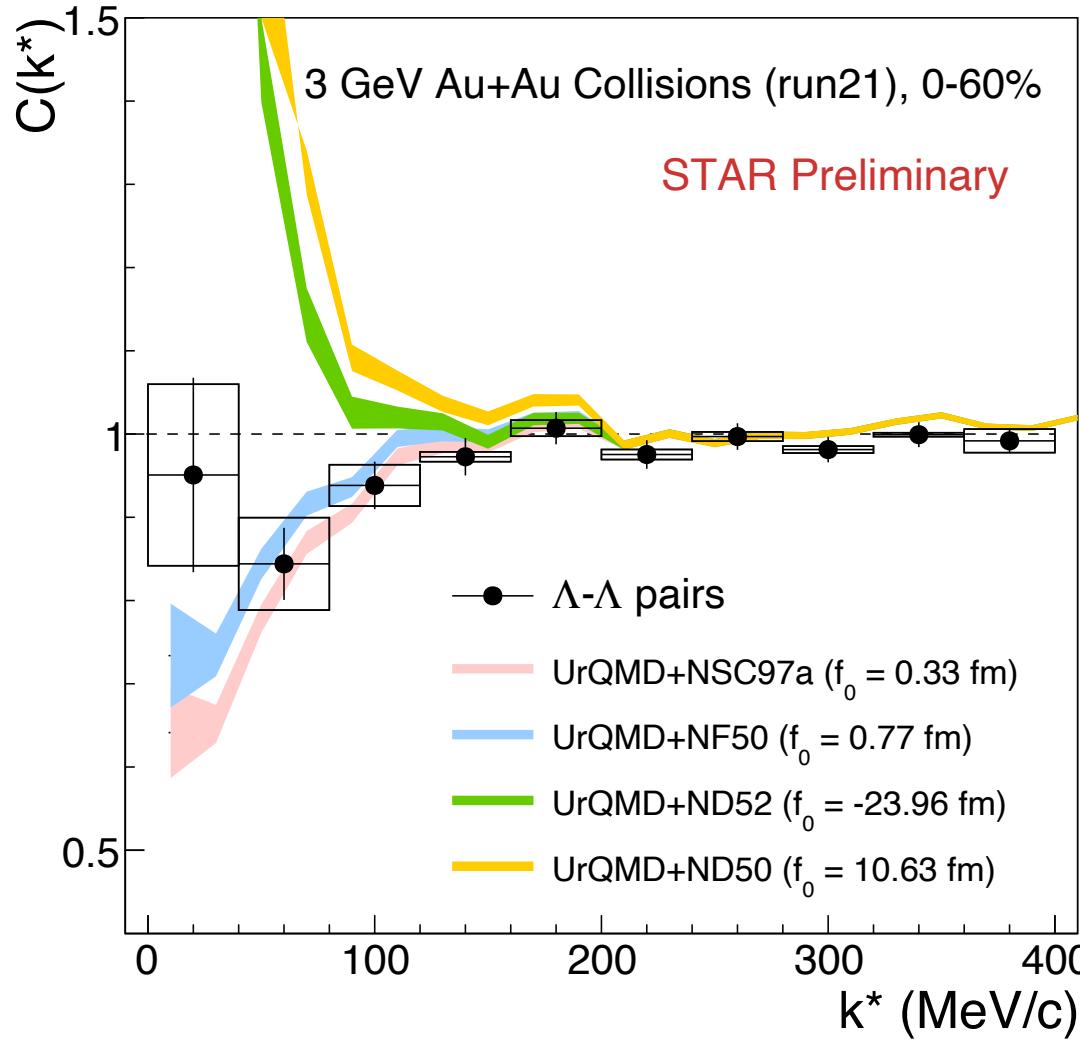
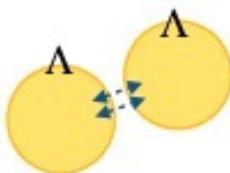
p- Ξ^- Interaction Parameters ($|S|=2$)



- I. Simultaneously fit with L-L function for different centralities in each collision system to extract R_G, f_0 and d_0 by Bayesian method
- II. First experimental constraints of strong interaction parameters in p- Ξ^- pairs in heavy-ion collisions
- III. Extracted spin averaged scattering length:
$$f_0 = 0.7^{+0.1}_{-0.1} \text{ fm (stat.+sys.)}$$
 - Weakly attractive interaction
 - Consistent with HAL QCD prediction

Y. Kamiya, et al., Phys. Rev. C 105, 014915 (2022)

Λ - Λ Correlation Function ($|S|=2$)



- I. Λ - Λ correlation function shows suppression at small k^*
- I. Compared with UrQMD + potential, it is found that the simulation with smaller positive f_0 is in better agreement with data
 - Hints at an weakly attractive interaction in Λ - Λ pairs
- II. Need more precise data to confirm
 - High statistics Isobar and Au+Au collisions

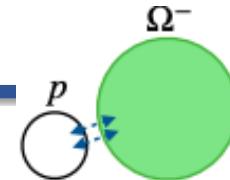
Potential	f_0 (fm)	d_0 (fm)	Chi2/NDF
NSC97a[1]	0.33	12.37	1.53
NF50[2]	0.77	4.27	1.61
ND52[3]	-23.96	2.59	2.24
ND50[3]	10.63	2.04	4.02

[1] P. M. M. Maessen, et al, Phys. Rev. C 40 (1989) 2226

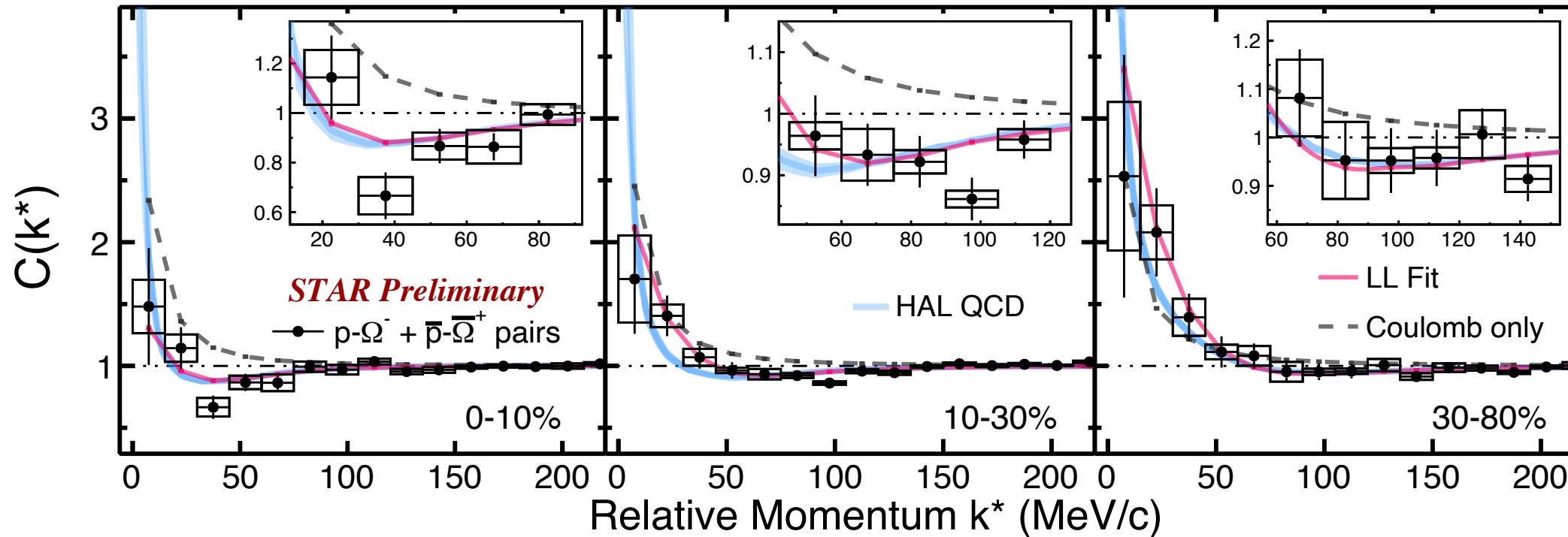
[2] M. M. Nagels, et al, Phys. Rev. D 20 (1979) 1633

[3] M. M. Nagels, et al, Phys. Rev. D 15 (1997) 2547

p- Ω^- Correlation Function (|S|=3)



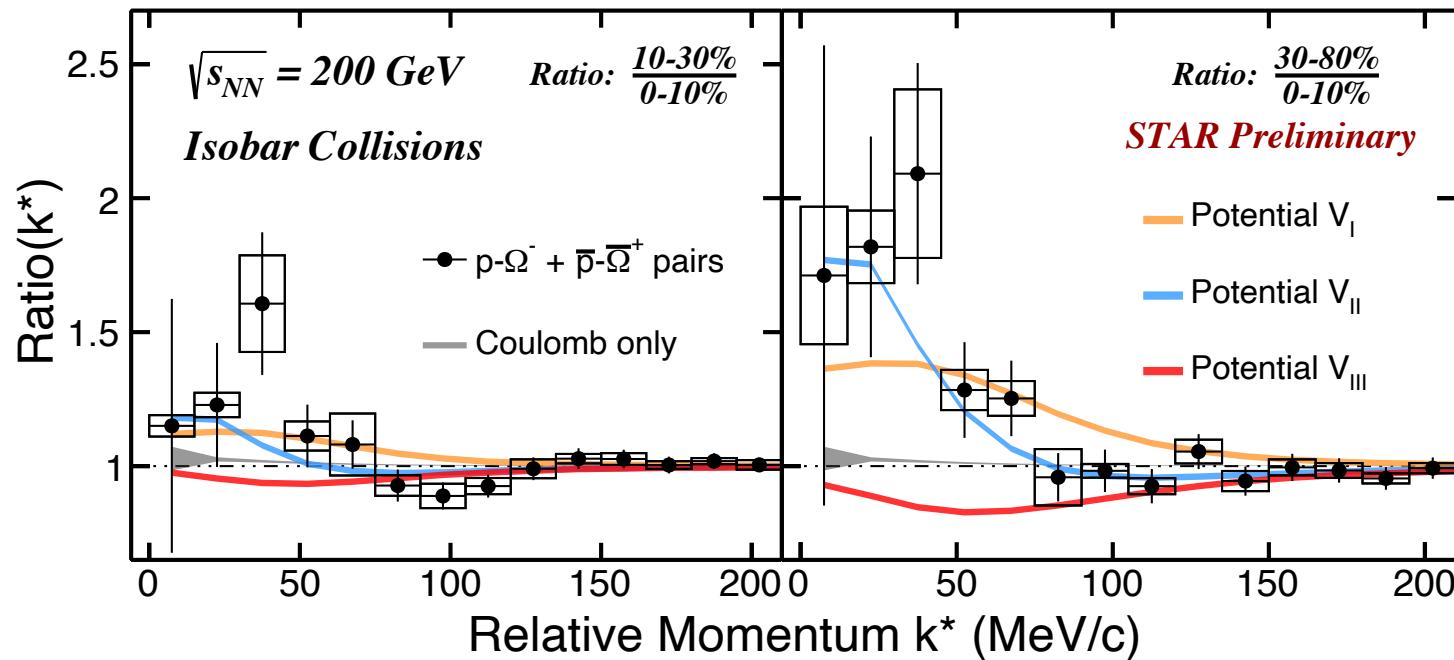
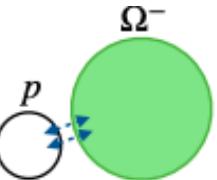
$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV Isobar Collisions}$



- I. Precise measurements of $p-\Omega^- \oplus \bar{p}-\bar{\Omega}^+$ correlation functions in Isobar collisions
 - CFs show enhancement at low k^* \rightarrow mainly due to Coulomb attraction interaction
 - CFs show depletion at $k^* \sim 30-100 \text{ MeV}/c$ \rightarrow mainly due to the strong interaction
- II. Simultaneously fit with L-L function for 3 centralities to extract R_G, f_0 and d_0 by Bayesian method
- III. CFs obtained by HAL QCD theory with extracted R_G by L-L model is consistent with the data

Takumi Iritani, et al. (HAL QCD), Phys. Lett. B792 (2019)

p- Ω^- CF Ratio (|S|=3)



Type	f_0 (fm)	d_0 (fm)	BE (MeV)	χ^2/ndf	p-value	
V _I [1]	1.12	1.16	--	48.2/29	0.014	No Bound
V _{II} [2]	-3.38	1.31	2.15	22.2/29	0.812	Shallow Bound
V _{III} [1]	-1.29	0.65	26.9	58.7/29	0.001	Deeply Bound

I. By taking CF ratio, Coulomb effect can be largely canceled

II. CF Ratio shows enhancement at low k^* and depletion around $k^* \sim 100 \text{ MeV}/c$

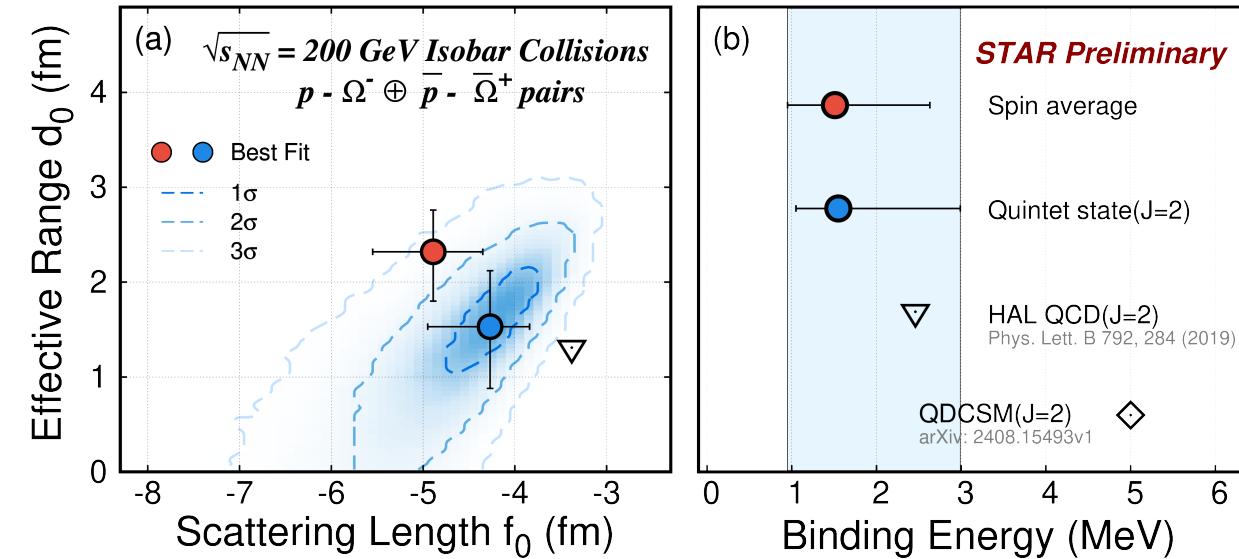
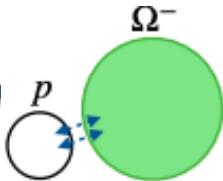
□ Due to the presence of shallow bound state

III. The potential V_{II}, with a p-value of 0.812, provides a better description of the data

[1] Kenji Morita, et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 94, 031901 (2016)

[2] Kenji Morita, et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 101, 015201 (2020)

p- Ω^- Interaction Parameters (|S|=3)



	Spin ave.	Quintet	HAL QCD
f_0 (fm)	$-4.9^{+0.5}_{-0.7}$	$-4.3^{+0.4}_{-0.7}$	-3.4
d_0 (fm)	$2.3^{+0.4}_{-0.5}$	$1.5^{+0.5}_{-0.7}$	1.3
BE (MeV)	$1.5^{+1.1}_{-0.6}$	$1.6^{+1.4}_{-0.5}$	2.3

Kenji Morita, et al., Phys. Rev. C 101, 015201 (2020)

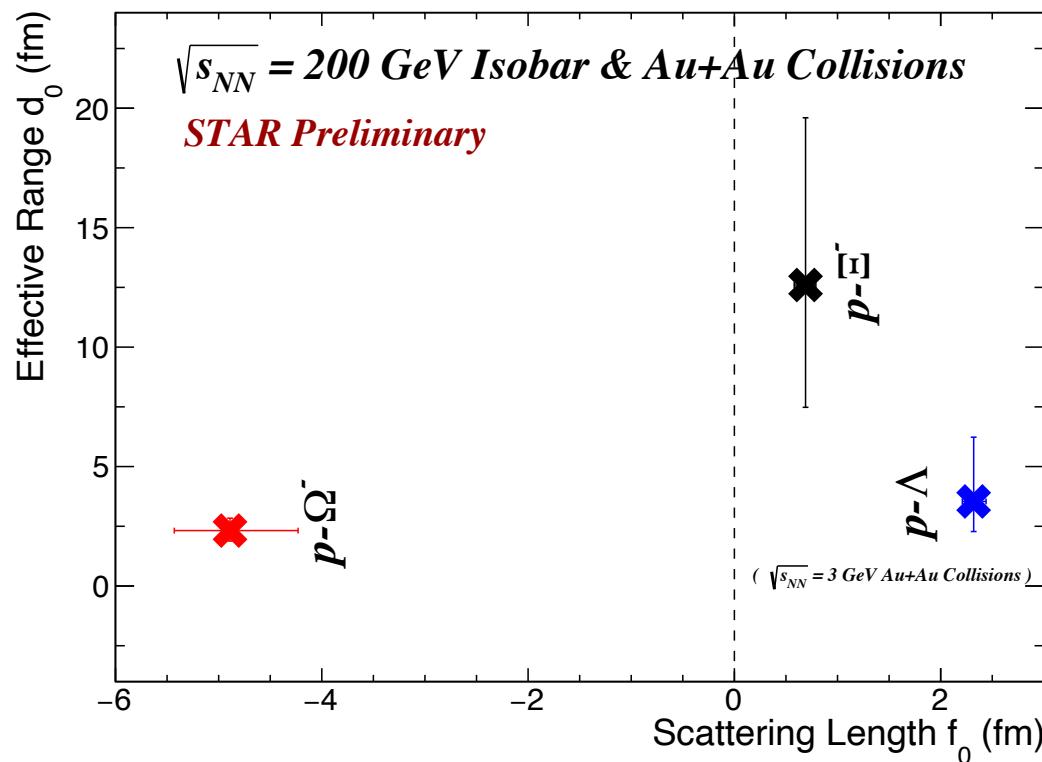
- I. First experimental constraints in heavy-ion collisions of strong interaction parameters in p- Ω^- pair
- II. Extracted negative f_0 ($|f_0| > 2d_0$) by Spin average method and Quintet method
 - First experimental evidence of Strange Dibaryon
- III. Calculate Binding Energy (BE) via Betha formula:

$$\text{Reduced mass: } m_{p\Omega} = \frac{m_p m_\Omega}{m_p + m_\Omega}$$

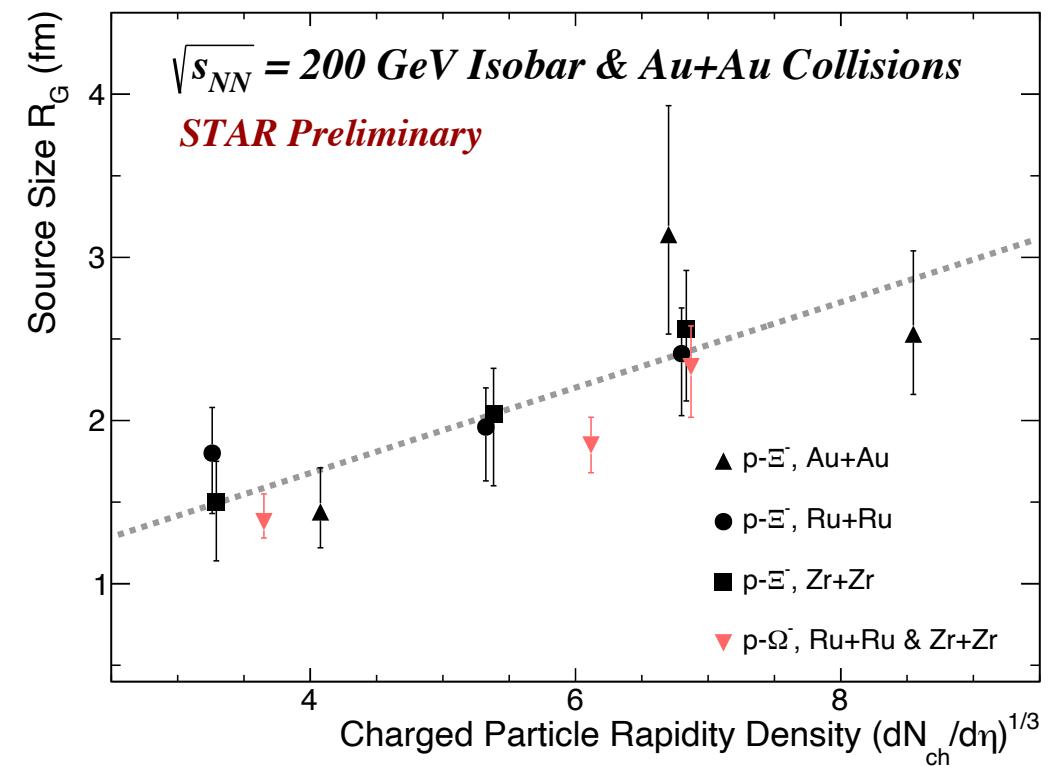
$$BE_{p\Omega} = \frac{1}{2m_{p\Omega}d_0^2} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{2d_0}{f_0}}\right)^2$$

- Calculated BE are consistent with HAL QCD prediction

Strong Interaction Parameters



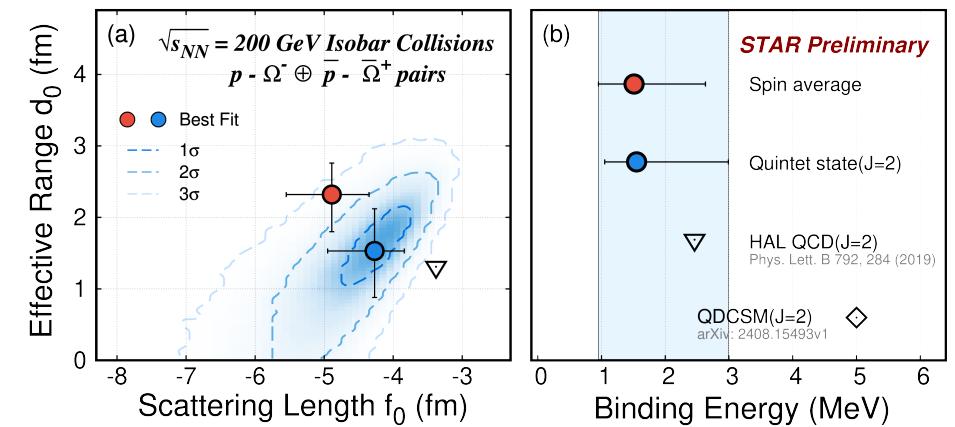
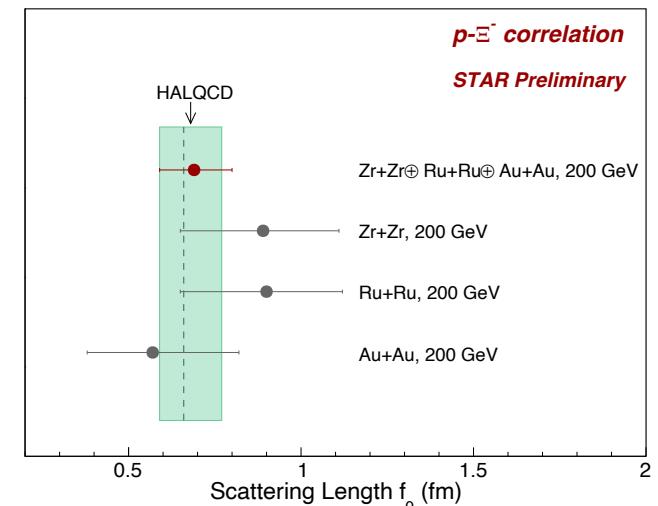
- Extracted positive f_0 in $p-\Xi^-$ pair \rightarrow Weakly attractive interaction
- Extracted negative f_0 in $p-\Omega^-$ pair \rightarrow Support the formation of bound state



- Extracted source size in $p-\Xi^-$, $p-\Omega^-$ pairs show a linear distribution (Centrality dependence $R_G^{central} > R_G^{peripheral}$)

Summary

- I. Precision measurements of $p\text{-}\Xi^- \oplus \bar{p}\text{-}\bar{\Xi}^+$, $\Lambda\text{-}\Lambda$ and $p\text{-}\Omega^- \oplus \bar{p}\text{-}\bar{\Omega}^+$ correlation function at STAR
- II. Extracted strong interaction parameters using L-L model by Bayesian method
 - $p\text{-}\Xi^- \oplus \bar{p}\text{-}\bar{\Xi}^+$ pairs: $f_0 > 0 \rightarrow$ Weakly attractive interaction
 - $p\text{-}\Omega^- \oplus \bar{p}\text{-}\bar{\Omega}^+$ pairs: $f_0 < 0 \rightarrow$ Bound state
- III. Extracted Binding Energy $BE = 1.6^{+1.4}_{-0.5}$ MeV in $p\text{-}\Omega^- \oplus \bar{p}\text{-}\bar{\Omega}^+$ pair consistent with HAL QCD prediction



First experimental evidence of Strange Dibaryon

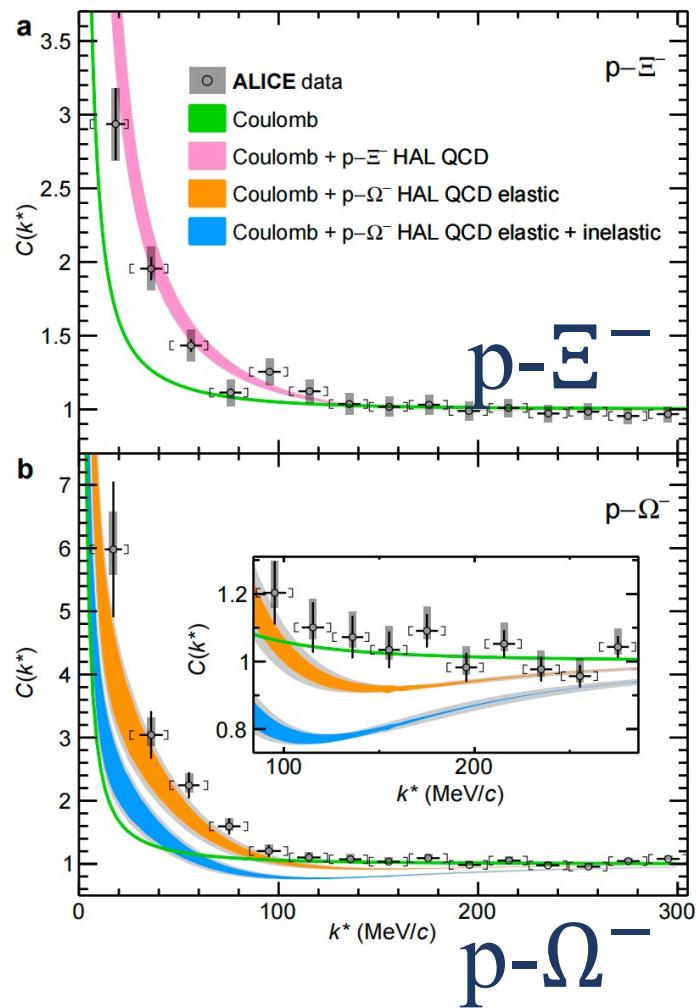


HOT QUARKS
2025
HEFEI, CHINA

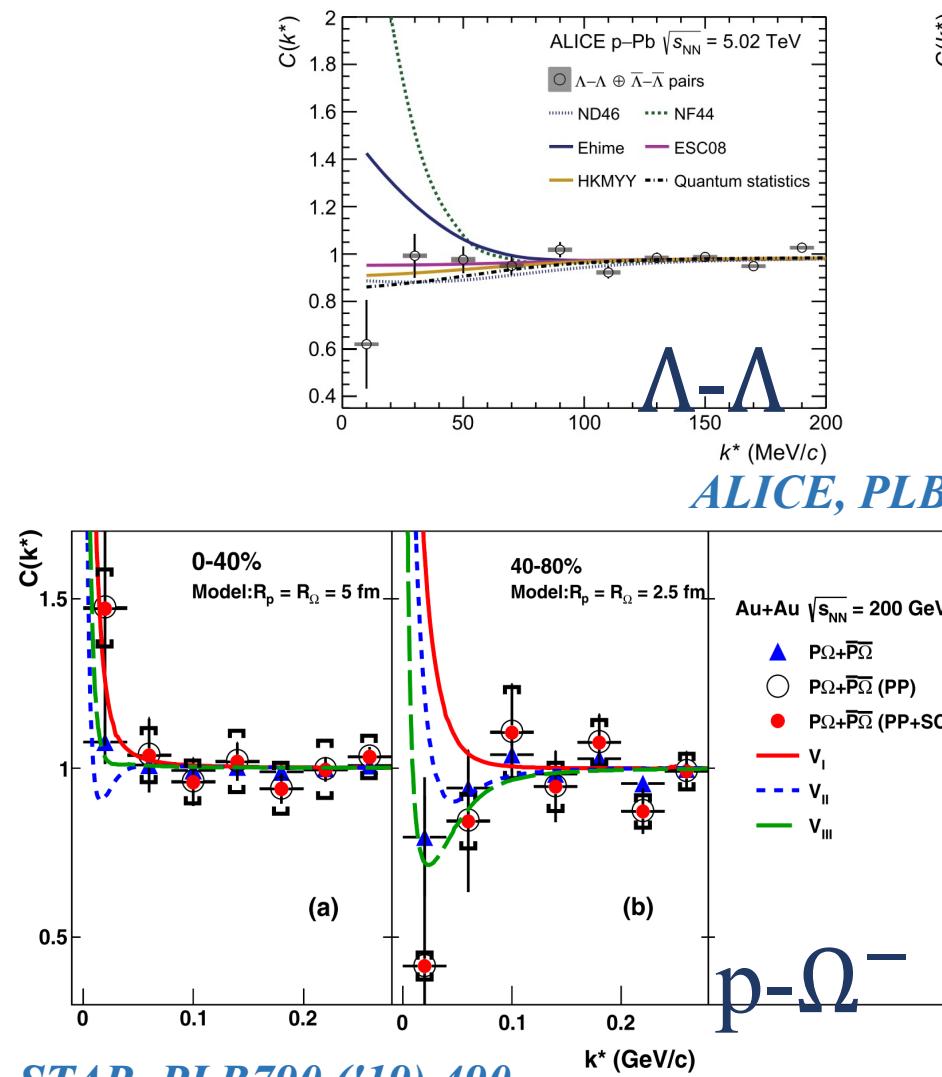


Thank you for your attention!

Backup-Motivation

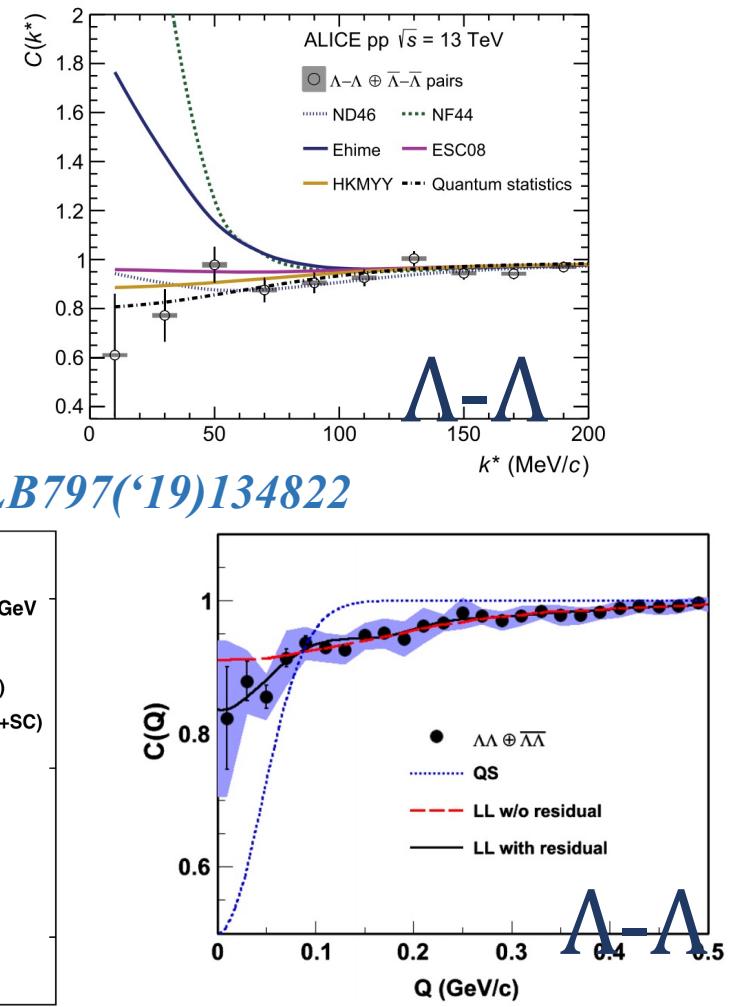


ALICE, Nature 588 ('20) 232



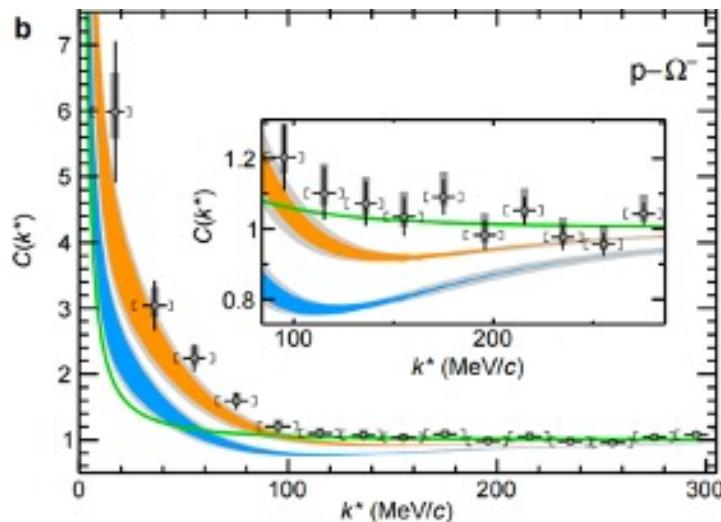
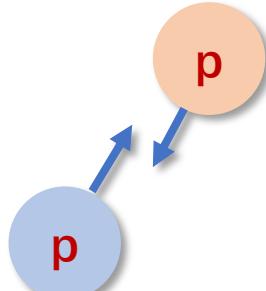
STAR, PLB 790 ('19) 490

More Experiment measurements are needed !

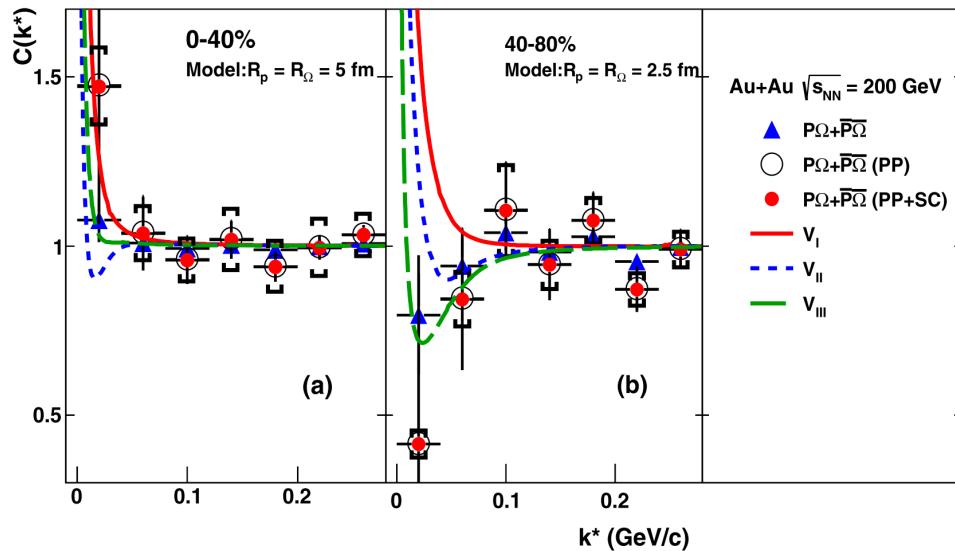
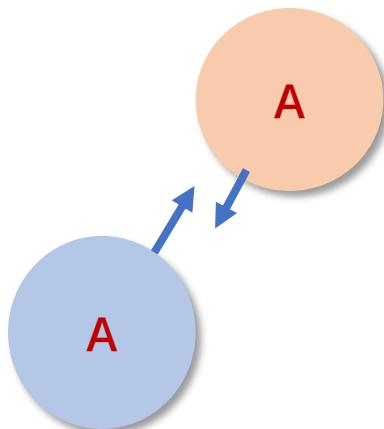


Backup- p- Ω^- Bound?

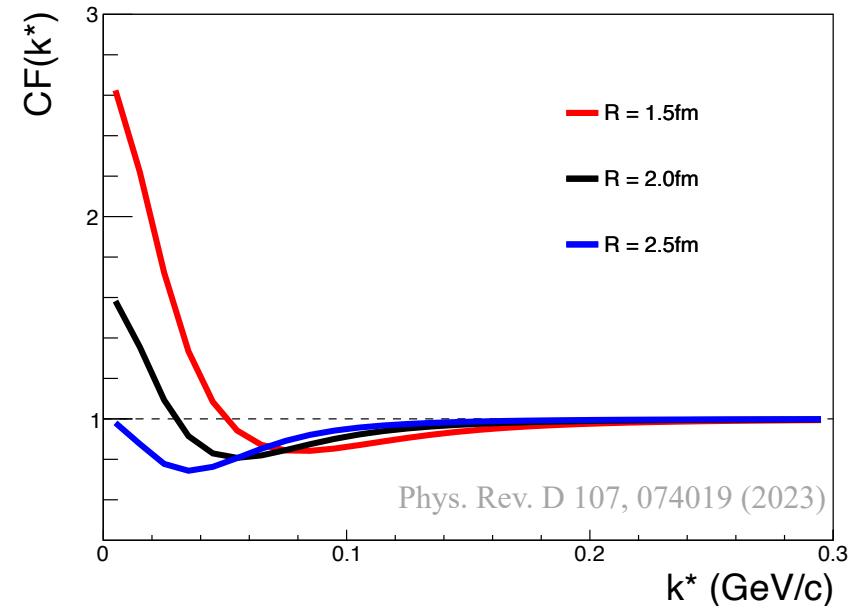
- Small source



- Large source



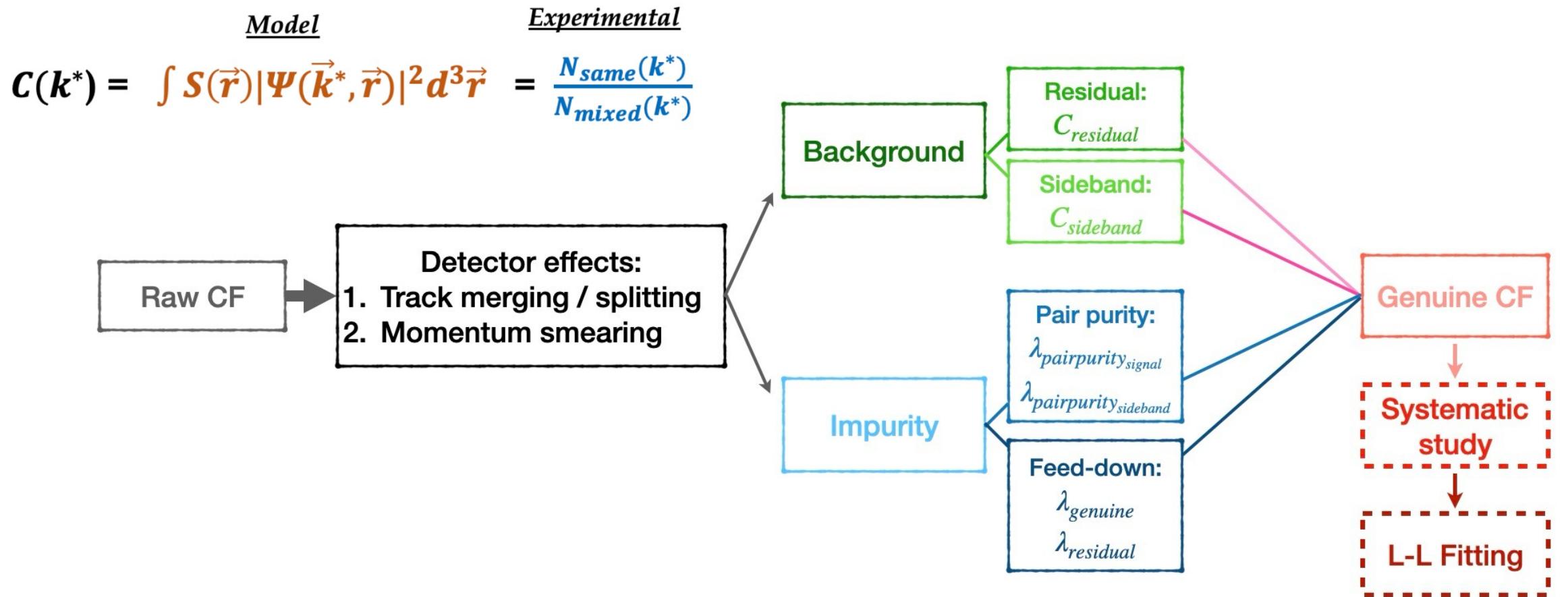
Shallow Bound



*Source size or centrality dep.
of CF*

→ *To be bound,
or not to be bound*

Backup-Analysis Details



$$C_{\text{raw}} = 1 + \lambda_{\text{pairpurity}_{\text{signal}}} * [\lambda_{\text{genuine}} * (C_{\text{genuine}} - 1) + \sum_i \lambda_{\text{residual}} * (C_{\text{residual}} - 1)] + \lambda_{\text{pairpurity}_{\text{sideband}}} * (C_{\text{sideband}} - 1)$$

Backup-Bayesian Method

1st Step

Sample Input

$$R_1 = [R_{1min}, R_{1max}]$$

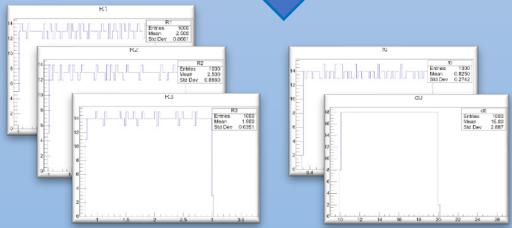
$$R_2 = [R_{2min}, R_{2max}]$$

$$R_3 = [R_{3min}, R_{3max}]$$

$$f_0 = [f_{0min}, f_{0max}]$$

$$d_0 = [d_{0min}, d_{0max}]$$

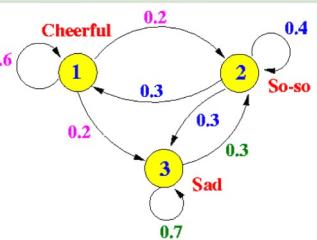
Latin Hypercube Sampling



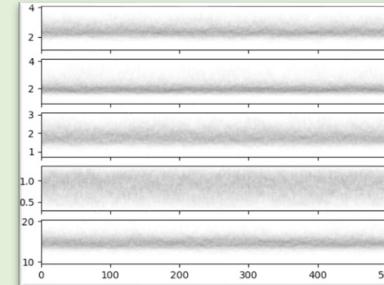
3rd Step

Technique

MC MC
Markov Chain
Monte Carlo



Gaussian Processes Regression

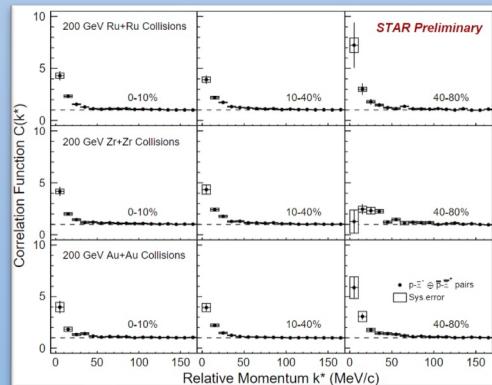


Resampling

$N_{steps} \sim 500$
 $N_{walkers} \sim 400$
 $N_{burnsteps} \sim 500$

2nd Step

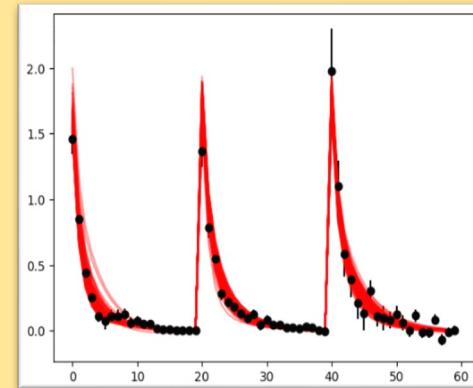
Data Input



Compare with the samples and predict the parameter's value with error

Study samples

Results



Steps =
 $N_{walkers} \times N_{steps}$