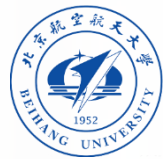

The 10th Conference on Chiral Effective Field Theory
Oct. 17th – 21st, 2025 · Nanjing, China

Exotic Hadrons and Femtoscopic correlation functions

Zhi-Wei Liu (刘志伟)



School of Physics, Beihang University, China
October 20th, 2025

In collaboration with: Li-Sheng Geng, Jun-Xu Lu and Ming-Zhu Liu

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👉 Femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs)

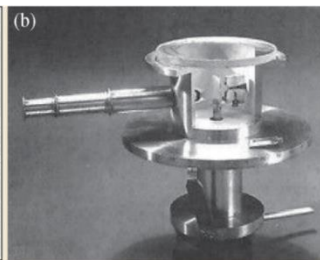
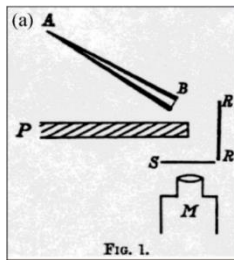
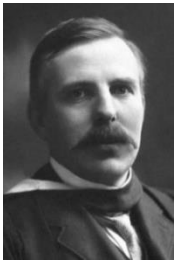
👉 Recent applications

➤ $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$

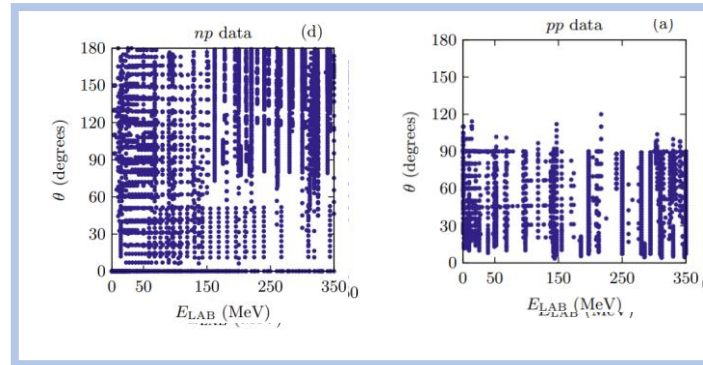
👉 Summary and outlook

New probe—femtoscopic correlation functions

- For stable hadrons, scattering experiments are extremely valuable in extracting their interactions



Ernest Rutherford Rutherford Scattering Experiment



- **NN scattering, 8125 data**
- Foundation of high-precision nuclear force

- For unstable particles, direct scattering experiments are impossible!

- **Difficult to get large quantity of beam particles**
- **No fixed targets available**

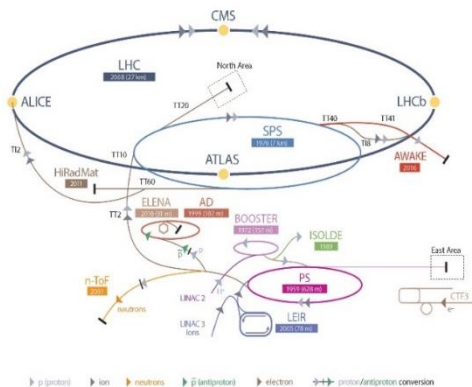
$\Lambda p \rightarrow \Lambda p$	$\Sigma^- p \rightarrow \Lambda n$	$\Sigma^+ p \rightarrow \Sigma^+ p$	$\Sigma^- p \rightarrow \Sigma^- p$	$\Sigma^- p \rightarrow \Sigma^0 n$
12	6	4	7	6

- **Hyperon-nucleon low energy scattering, 35 data**
- Hindering hyper-nuclear physics and neutron star studies

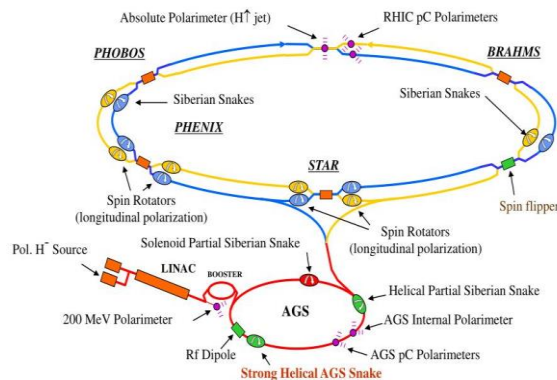
New probe—femtoscopic correlation functions



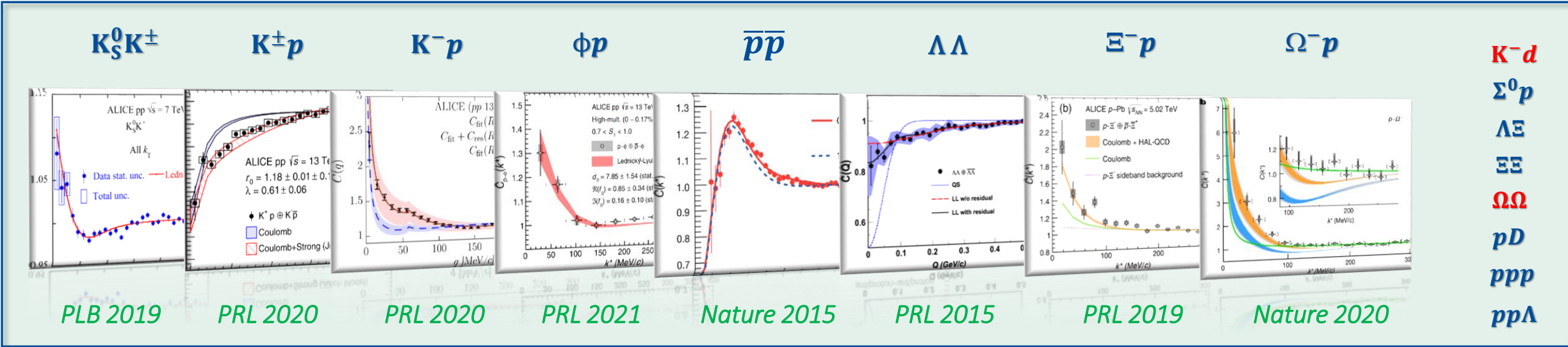
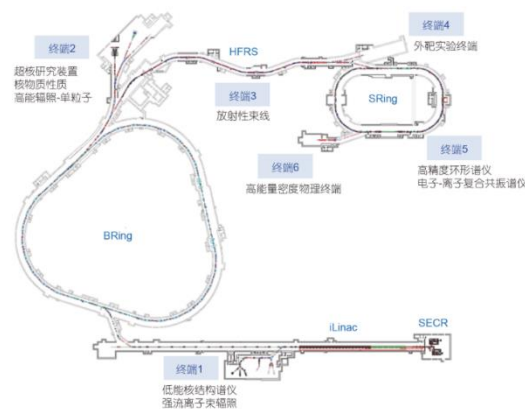
The Large Hadron Collider



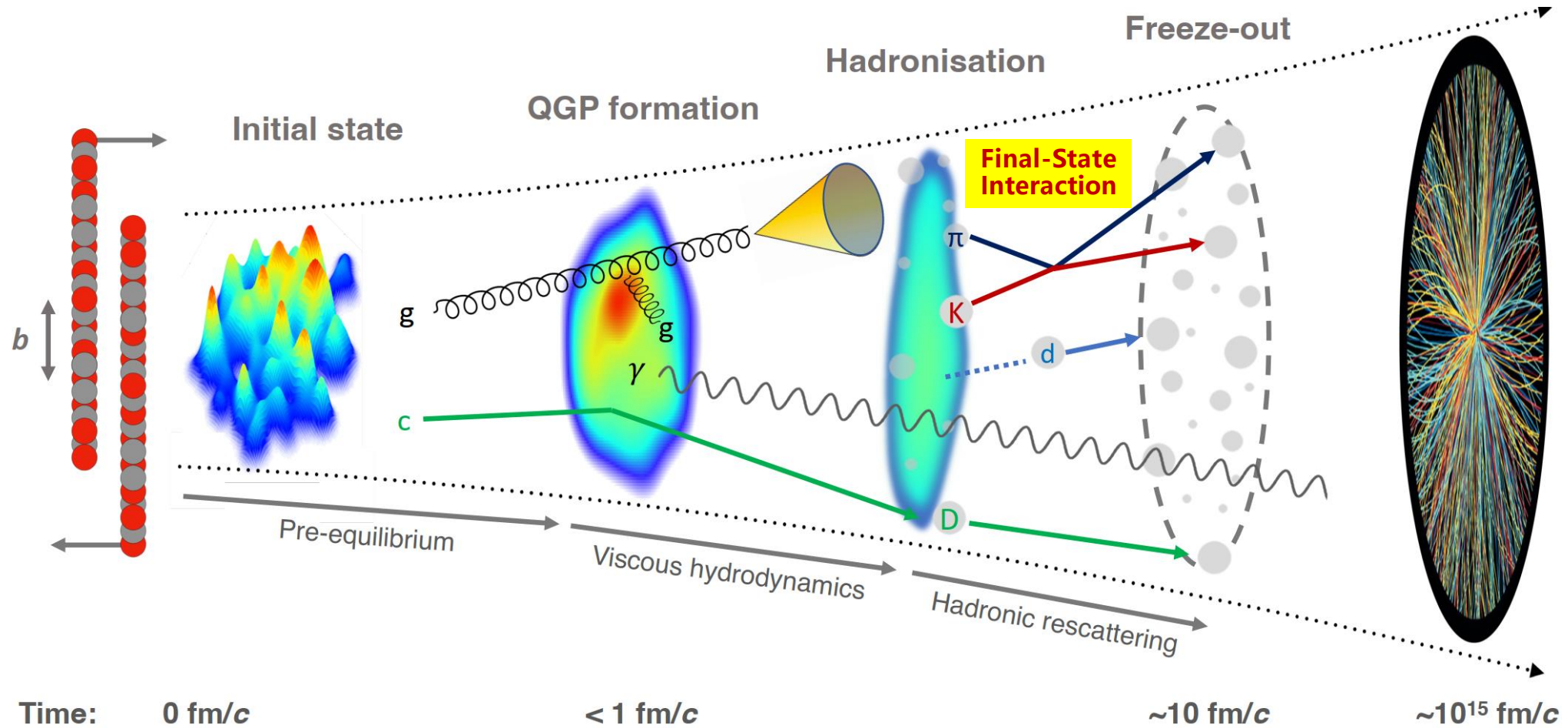
Brookhaven National Laboratory RHIC Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider



HIAF 强流重离子加速器装置 High Intensity heavy-ion Accelerator Facility

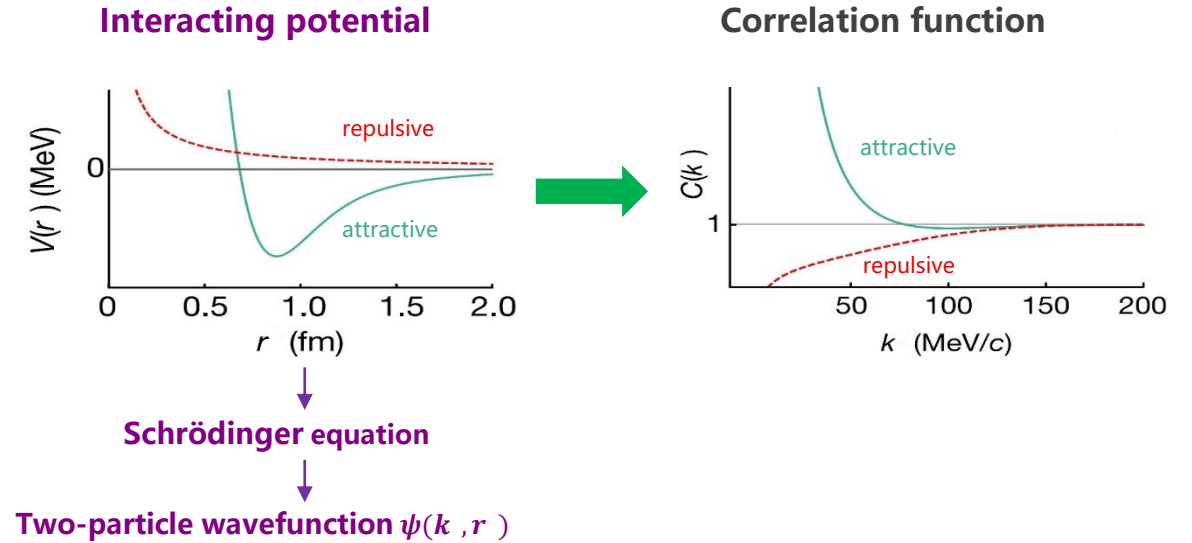
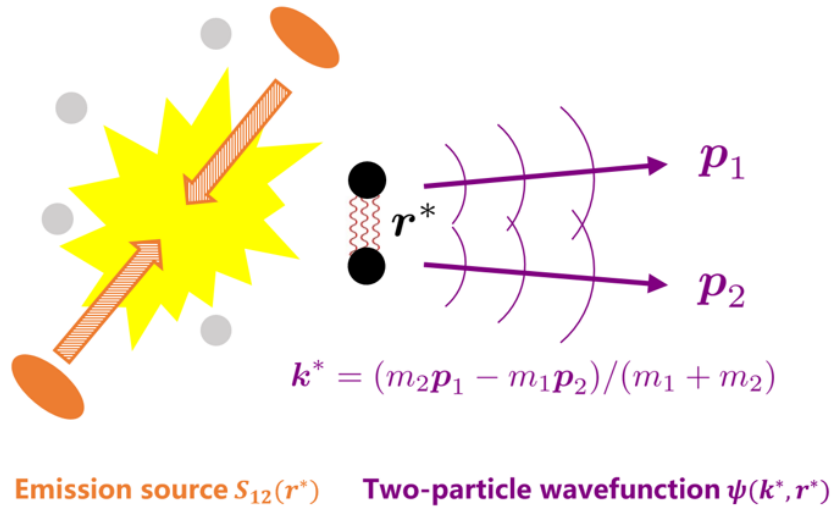


Abundant particles produced in AA, pA, and pp collisions



Femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs)

$$C(p_1, p_2) = \frac{P(p_1, p_2)}{P(p_1) \cdot P(p_2)}$$



Exp. measurement
mixed-event technique

$$C(k) = \xi(k) \frac{N_{\text{same}}(k)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k)}$$

N_{same} : the same event distributions

N_{mixed} : the mixed event distributions

ξ : the corrections for experimental effects

Theo. description
Koonin–Pratt formula

$$C(k) = \int S_{12}(r) |\psi(k, r)|^2 dr$$

spacial structure

final-state interactions

quantum statistics effects

coupled-channel effects

Basic Properties

$$C(k) \begin{cases} > 1 \text{ if the interaction is attractive} \\ = 1 \text{ if there is no interaction} \\ < 1 \text{ if the interaction is repulsive} \end{cases}$$

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☞ **Femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs)**

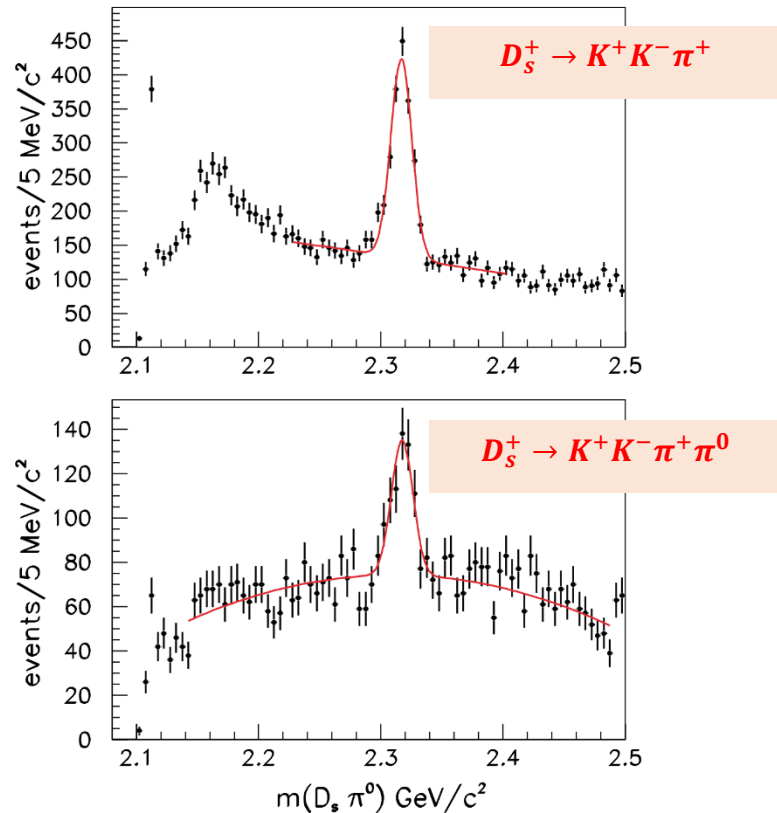
☞ **Recent applications**

➤ $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$

☞ **Summary and outlook**

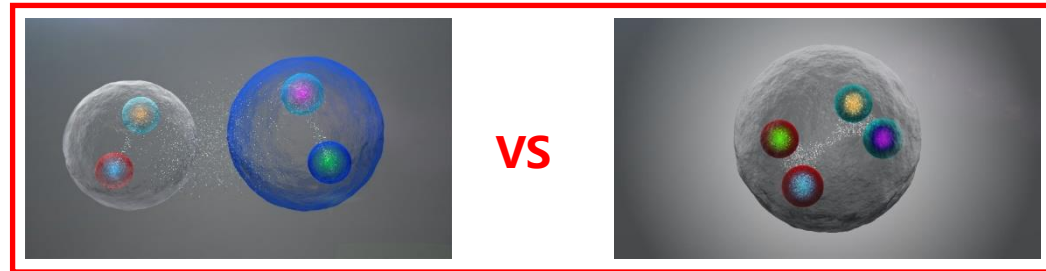
Mysterious exotic hadron $D_{s0}^*(2317)$

$M = 2317.8 \pm 0.6$ and $\Gamma < 3.8$ MeV



BABAR, Phys. Rev. Lett. 90 (2003) 242001

- 160 MeV lower than quark model predictions – difficult to be understood as conventional charm-strange mesons
- $m(D_{s1}) - m(D_{s0}^*) \approx m(D^*) - m(D)$
F. K. Guo, C. Hanhart, U.-G. Meißner, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102 (2009) 242004
- DK scattering length from LQCD matches molecular scenario
L. Liu, K. Orginos, F. K. Guo, C. Hanhart, U.-G. Meißner, Phys. Rev. D 87 (2013) 014508
-



How to verify the DK molecular picture ?

- From DK 2-body system to DDK 3-body molecules
T. W. Wu, Y. W. Pan, M. Z. Liu, and LSG, Sci. Bull. 67 (2022) 1735*
- Production yields of $D_{s0}^*(2317)$
T. C. Wu and LSG, Phys. Rev. D 108 (2023) 014015*

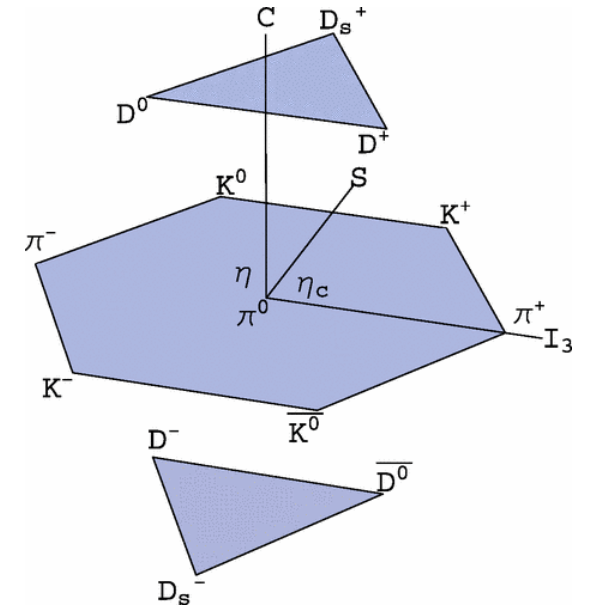
Weinberg-Tomozawa Interaction (leading order)

□ LO interaction between a NGB and a heavy pseudoscalar boson

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4f_\pi^2} (\partial^\mu P[\Phi, \partial_\mu \Phi] P^\dagger - P[\Phi, \partial_\mu \Phi] \partial^\mu P^\dagger)$$

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\pi^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\eta & \pi^+ & K^+ \\ \pi^- & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\pi^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\eta & K^0 \\ K^- & \bar{K}^0 & -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}\eta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P = (D^0, D^+, D_s^+)$$

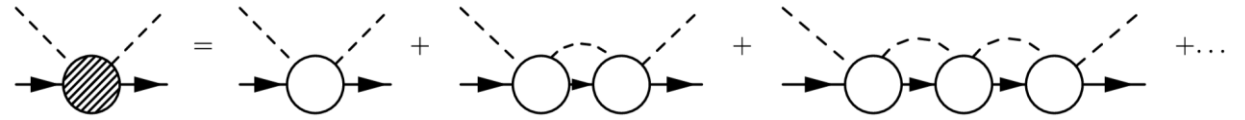


□ Weinberg-Tomozawa (WT) potential – **parameter free**

$$V_{\nu'\nu} = \frac{C_{\nu'\nu}}{4f_0^2} \left[(p_1 + p_2)^2 - (p_1 - p_4) \right] \quad p_{1(3)} = (E_{1(3)}, \mathbf{p}^{(')}), \quad p_{2(4)} = (\sqrt{s} - E_{1(3)}, -\mathbf{p}^{(')})$$

Scattering wave function

□ Coupled-channel scat. eq.



$$T_{\nu'\nu}(k', k) = V_{\nu'\nu} \cdot f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k) + \sum_{\nu''} \int_0^\infty \frac{dk'' k''^2}{8\pi^2} \frac{V_{\nu'\nu''} \cdot f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k'') \cdot T_{\nu''\nu}(k'', k)}{E_{P,\nu''} E_{\Phi,\nu''} (\sqrt{s} - E_{P,\nu''} - E_{\Phi,\nu''} + i\epsilon)}$$

Dynamically generated state — singularities of unitarized amplitude T

$$f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k) = \exp \left[- \left(\frac{k'}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{k}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$M_{D_{s0}^*} = 2317.8 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow \Lambda_F = 1107 \text{ MeV}$$

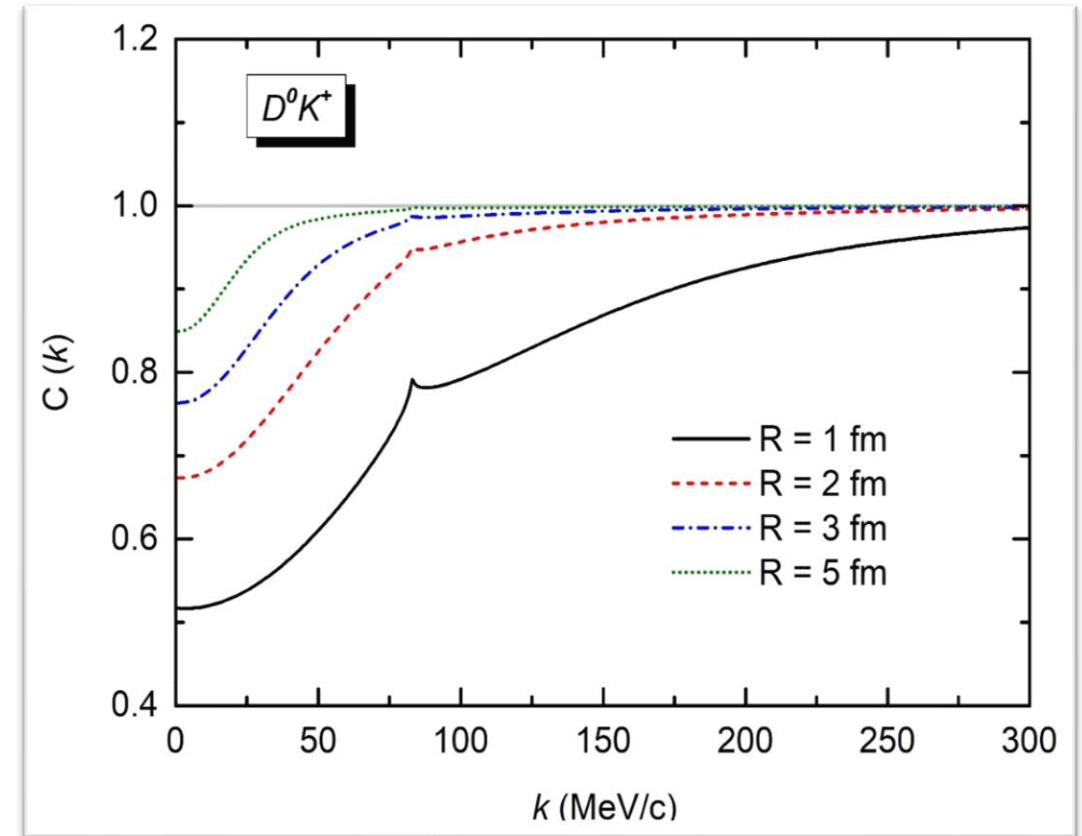
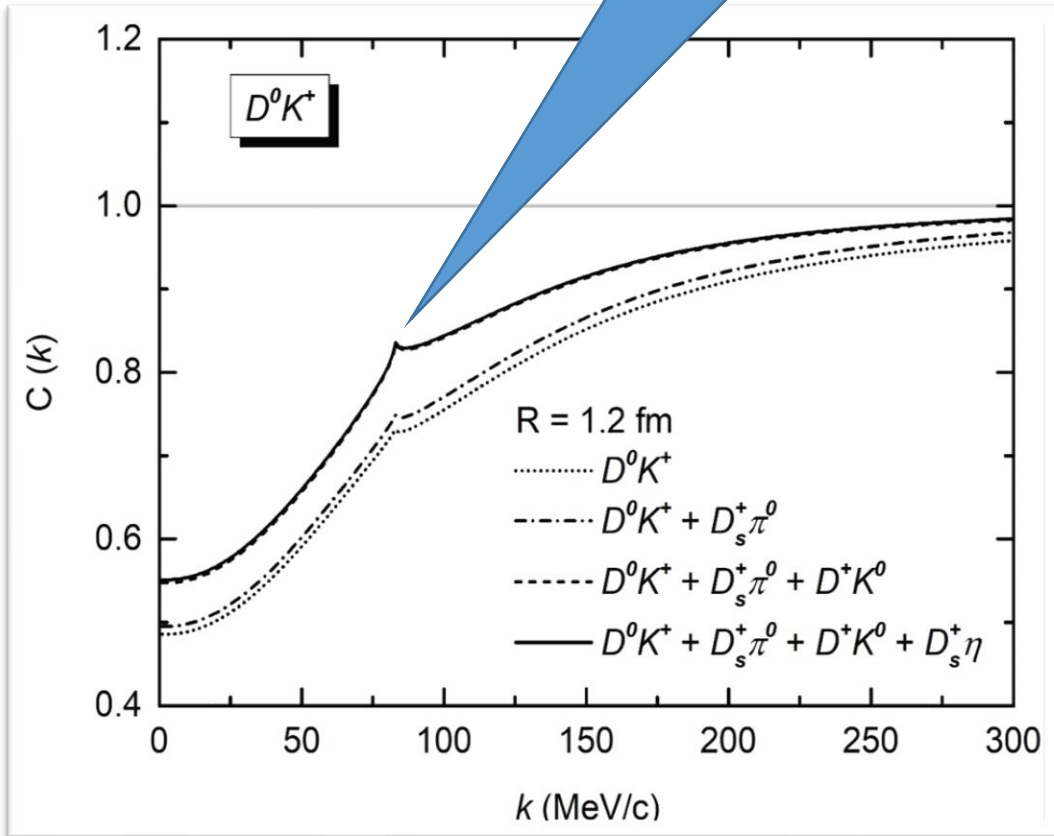
□ S-wave scattering wave function (including off-shell effect)

$$\psi_{\nu'\nu}(k, r) = \delta_{\nu'\nu} j_0(kr) + \int_0^\infty \frac{dk' k'^2}{8\pi^2} \frac{T_{\nu'\nu}(k', k) \cdot j_0(k'r)}{E_{P,\nu'} E_{\Phi,\nu'} (\sqrt{s} - E_{P,\nu'} - E_{\Phi,\nu'} + i\epsilon)}$$

DK CFs and its source size dependence

$$D^+K^0 \rightarrow D^0K^+$$

Typical feature of deeply bound states



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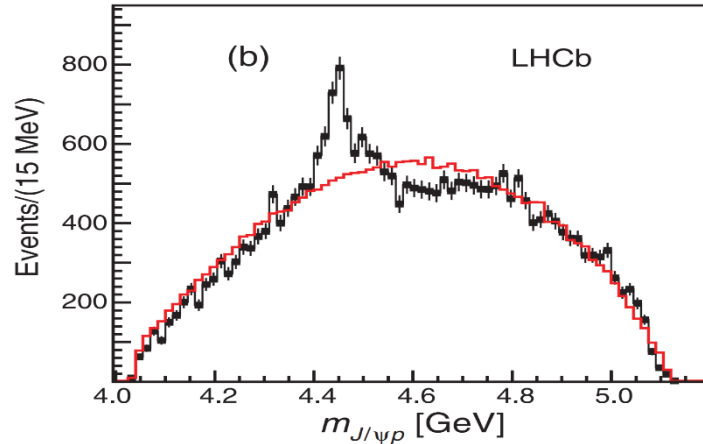
☞ Femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs)

☞ Recent applications

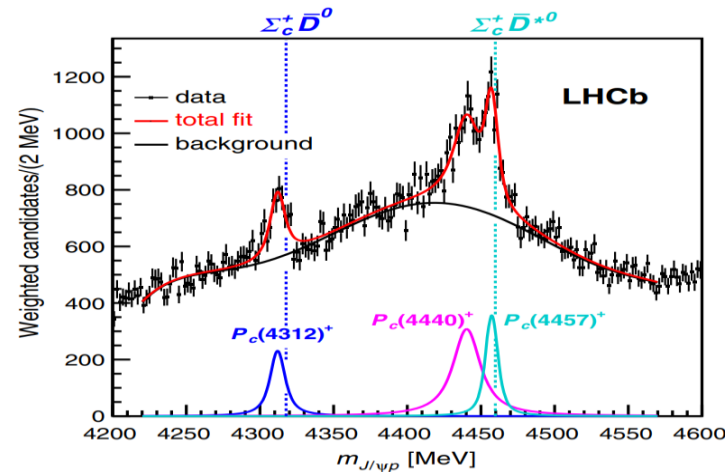
➤ $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$

☞ Summary and outlook

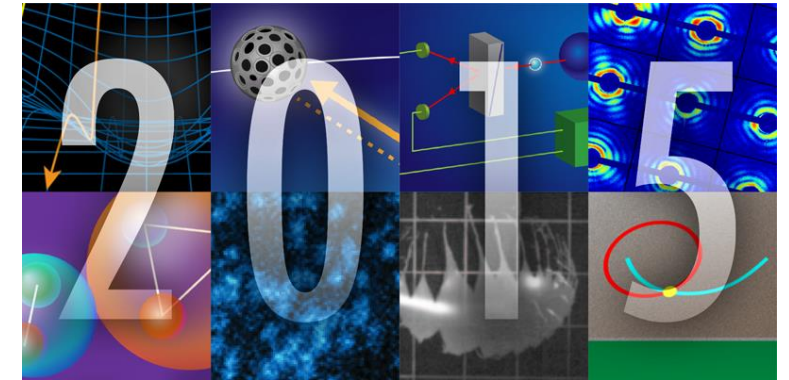
Pentaquark states $P_c(4440)$ & $P_c(4457)$



LHCb, Phys. Rev. Lett. 115 (2015) 072001



LHCb, Phys. Rev. Lett. 122 (2019) 222001



Pentaquark states • 2015 APS Highlights

How to distinguish the spins of $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$?

Masses, invariant mass distributions, decays, magnetic momenta, production rates

M. Z. Liu, Y. W. Pan, F. Z. Peng, M. Sánchez S, LSG, A. Hosaka, M. P. Valderrama, Phys. Rev. Lett. 122 (2019) 242001*

M. L. Du, V. Baru, F. K. Guo, C. Hanhart, U. G. Meißner, J. A. Oller, Q. Wang, Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 072001

Y. H. Lin, B. S. Zou, Phys. Rev. D 100 (2019) 056005

M. W. Li, Z. W. Liu, Z. F. Sun and R. Chen, Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 054016

Q. Wu, D. Y. Chen, Phys. Rev. D 100 (2019) 114002

Heavy antiquark diquark symmetry

Y. W. Pan, M. Z. Liu, F. Z. Peng, M. S. Sánchez, LSG, M. P. Valderrama, Phys. Rev. D 102 (2020) 011504*

Neural network-based approach

Z. Zhang, J. Liu, J. Hu, Q. Wang, U.-G. Meißner, Sci. Bull. 68 (2023) 981

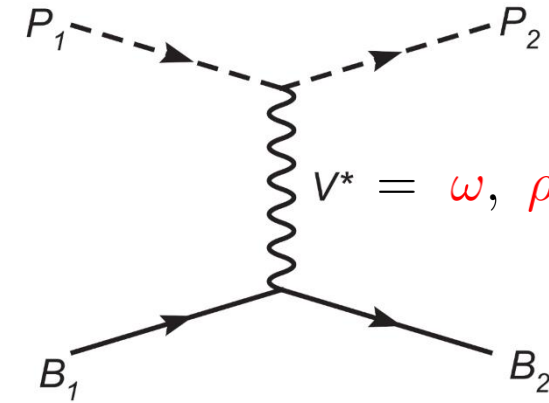
OTHER

Light vector meson exchange interaction

□ Interaction in hidden local symmetry approach – **parameter free**

$$V_{\Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}}^{I=\frac{3}{2}} = 2M_{\Sigma_c} M_{\bar{D}^{(*)}} \tilde{\beta}_1 \tilde{\beta}_2 g_V^2 \left(\frac{1}{m_\omega^2} + \frac{1}{m_\rho^2} \right)$$

$$V_{\Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}}^{I=\frac{1}{2}} = 2M_{\Sigma_c} M_{\bar{D}^{(*)}} \tilde{\beta}_1 \tilde{\beta}_2 g_V^2 \left(\frac{1}{m_\omega^2} - \frac{2}{m_\rho^2} \right)$$



Isospin basis



Charge basis

$$\left| \Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}, I = \frac{3}{2}, I_3 = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^{++} D^{(*)-} \right\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^+ \bar{D}^{(*)0} \right\rangle$$

$$\left| \Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}, I = \frac{1}{2}, I_3 = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^{++} D^{(*)-} \right\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^+ \bar{D}^{(*)0} \right\rangle$$

Two different spin assignments

□ Interaction strengths

$$f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k) = \exp \left[- \left(\frac{k'}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{k}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\Lambda_F = 1067 \text{ MeV}$$

deep bound
state of $\Sigma_c \bar{D}^*$

$$\Lambda_F = 860 \text{ MeV}$$

shallow bound
state of $\Sigma_c \bar{D}^*$

itation: K.L. Workman et al. (Particle Data Group), Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. **2022**, 083A01 (2022) and 2023 update

$P_c(4440)^+$		Status: *
$P_c(4440)^+$ MASS		
<u>VALUE (MeV)</u>	<u>DOCUMENT ID</u>	<u>TECH</u> <u>COMMENT</u>
$4440.3 \pm 1.3^{+4.1}_{-4.7}$	AAIJ	19W LHCb pp at 7, 8, 13 TeV

$P_c(4457)^+$

Status: *

$P_c(4457)^+$ MASS

VALUE (MeV)	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
$4457.3 \pm 0.6^{+4.1}_{-1.7}$	AAIJ	19W LHCb	<i>pp</i> at 7, 8, 13 TeV
• • • We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. • • •			
$4449.8 \pm 1.7 \pm 2.5$	¹ AAIJ	15P LHCb	Repl. by AAJ 19W

¹ Considering $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$ as a single resonance.

CF for the shallow bound state is **significantly larger** than that for the deep bound

□ Experimental CFs – **spin-averaged**

Scenarios A

$$P_c(4440) : J^P = (1/2)^- \quad P_c(4457) : J^P = (3/2)^-$$

$$\bar{C} = 1/3 \cdot C_{\text{deep}} + 2/3 \cdot C_{\text{shallow}}$$

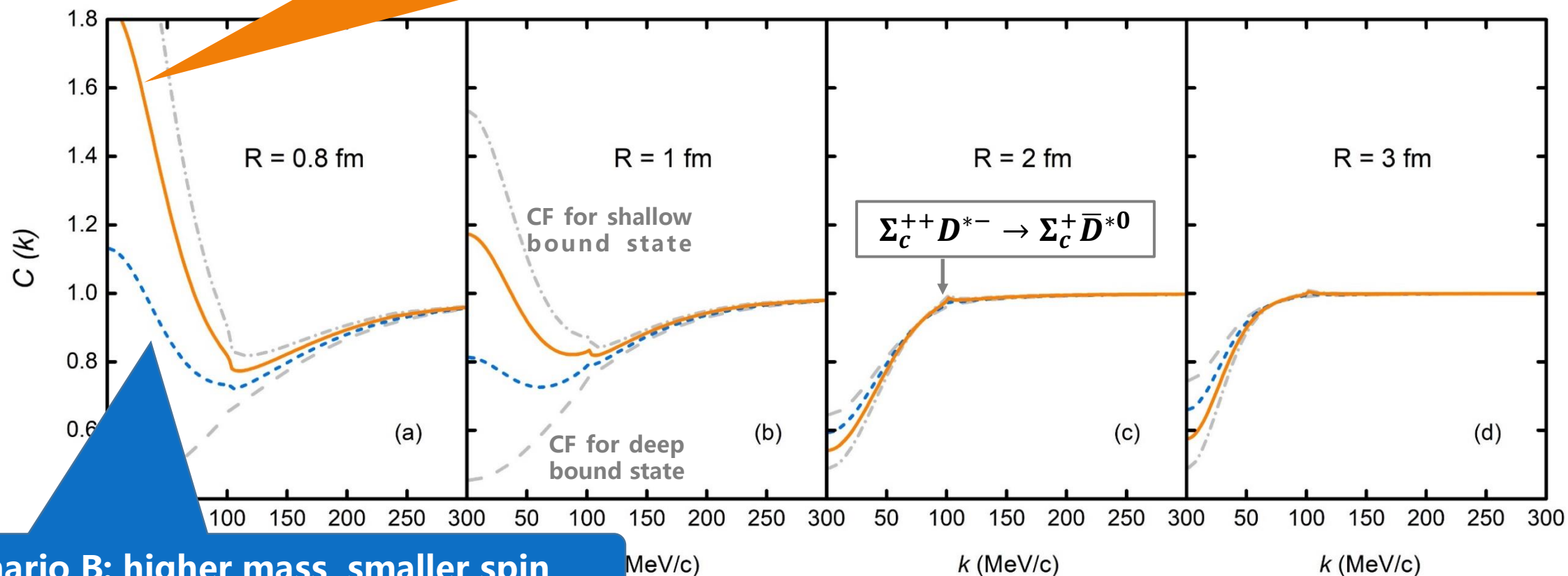
Scenarios B

$$P_c(4440) : J^P = (3/2)^- \quad P_c(4457) : J^P = (1/2)^-$$

$$\bar{C} = 2/3 \cdot C_{\text{deep}} + 1/3 \cdot C_{\text{shallow}}$$

Spin-averaged $\Sigma_c \bar{D}^*$ CFs

Scenario A: higher mass, larger spin



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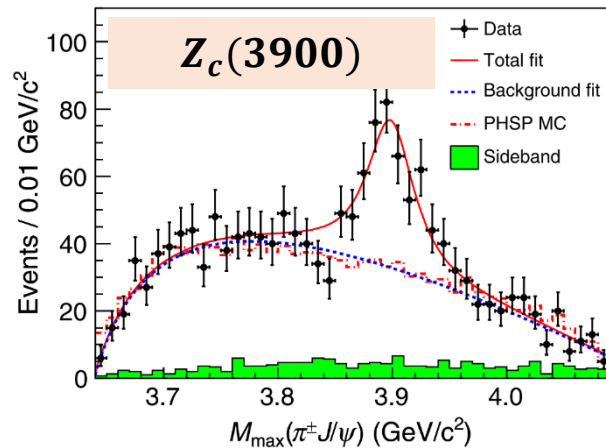
☞ **Femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs)**

☞ **Recent applications**

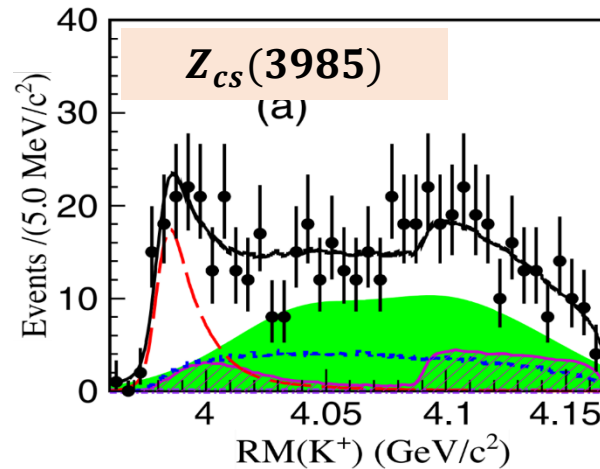
➤ $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$

☞ **Summary and outlook**

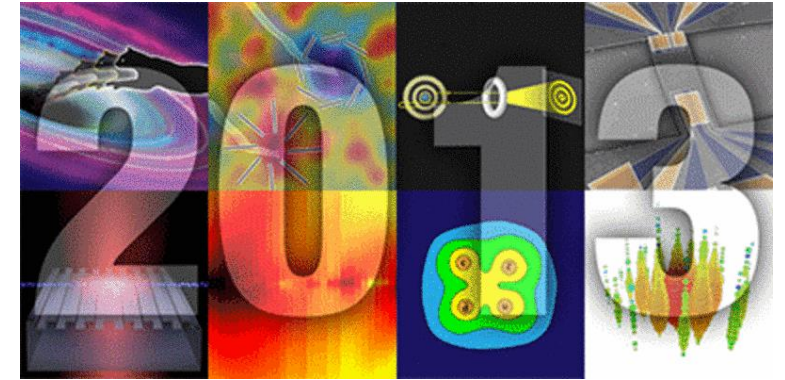
Tetraquark states $Z_c(3900)$ & $Z_{cs}(3985)$



BESIII, PRL110 (2013) 252001



BESIII, PRL126 (2021) 102001



Tetraquark states • 2013 APS Highlights

$Z_c(3900)$ & $Z_{cs}(3985)$: Resonant **VS** Virtual states

Particle Data Group, PTEP 2022 (2022) 083C01

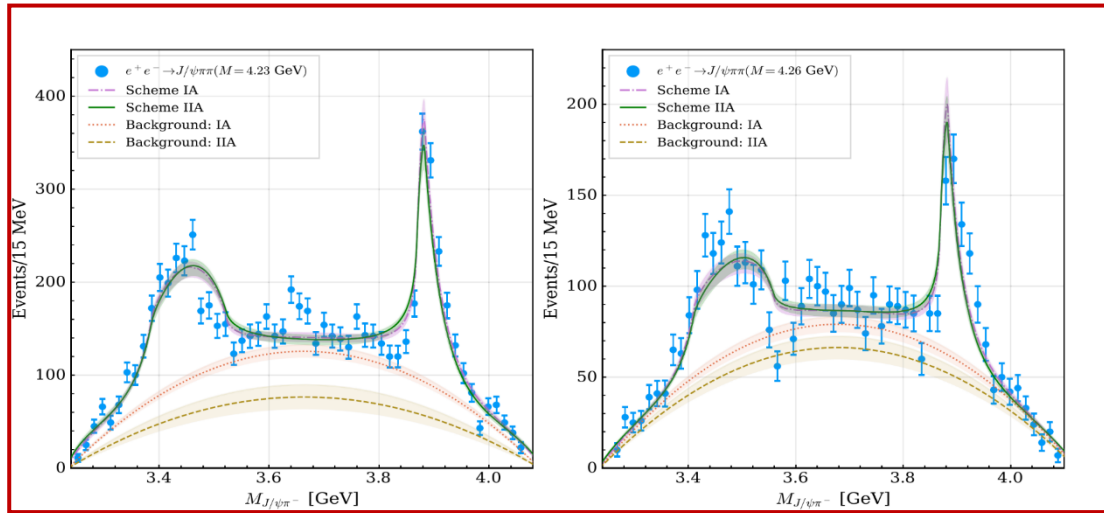
M.-L. Du, M. Albaladejo, F.-K. Guo and J. Nieves, PRD 105 (2022) 074018

T. Ji, X.-K. Dong, M. Albaladejo, M.-L. Du, F.-K. Guo and J. Nieves, PRD106 (2022) 094002

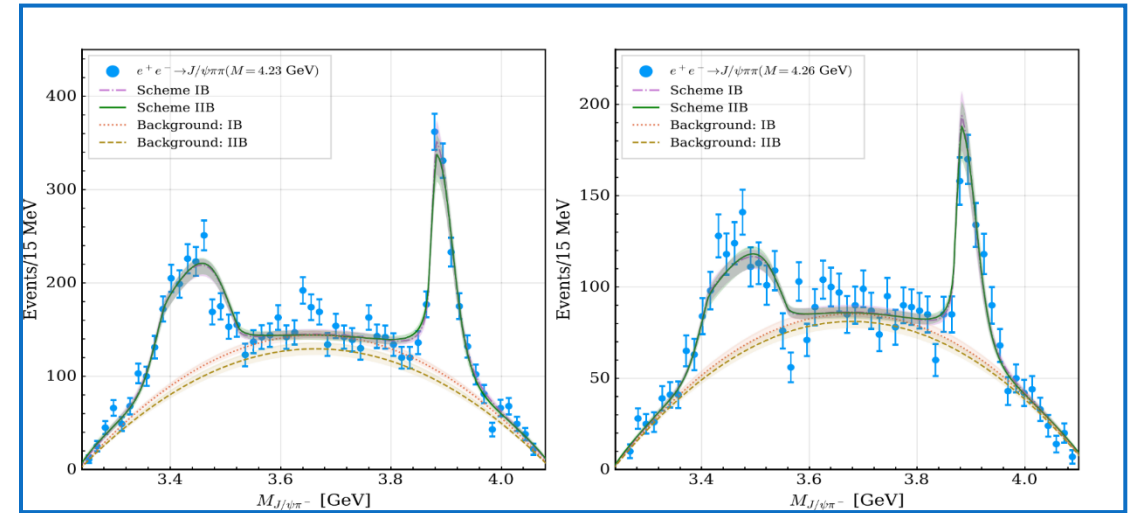
L.-W. Yan, Z.-H. Guo, F.-K. Guo, D.-L. Yao and Z.-Y. Zhou, PRD109 (2024) 014026

Invariant mass distributions fail to distinguish vir. or res.

Virtual state scenario



Resonant state scenario



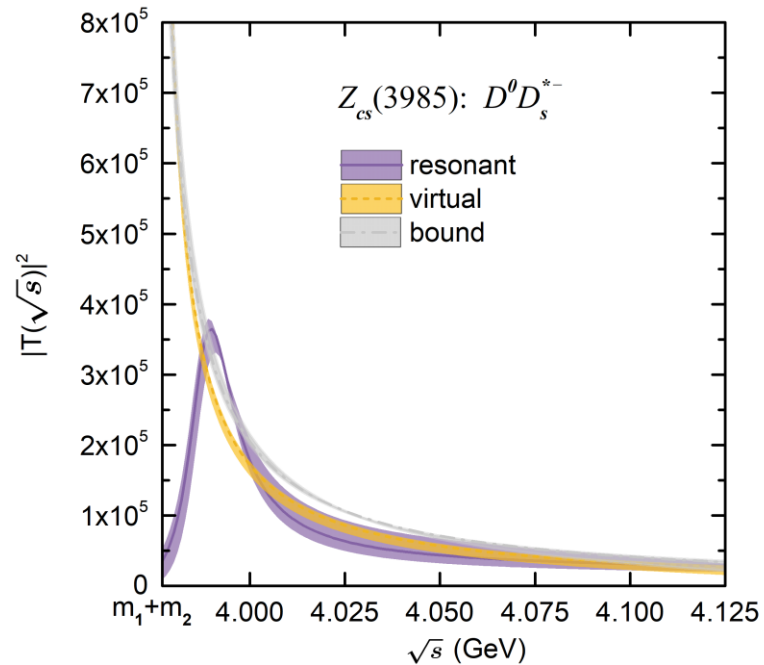
M.-L. Du, M. Albaladejo, F.-K. Guo, and J. Nieves, PRD105(2022)074018

Data are compatible with either a resonant or virtual state.

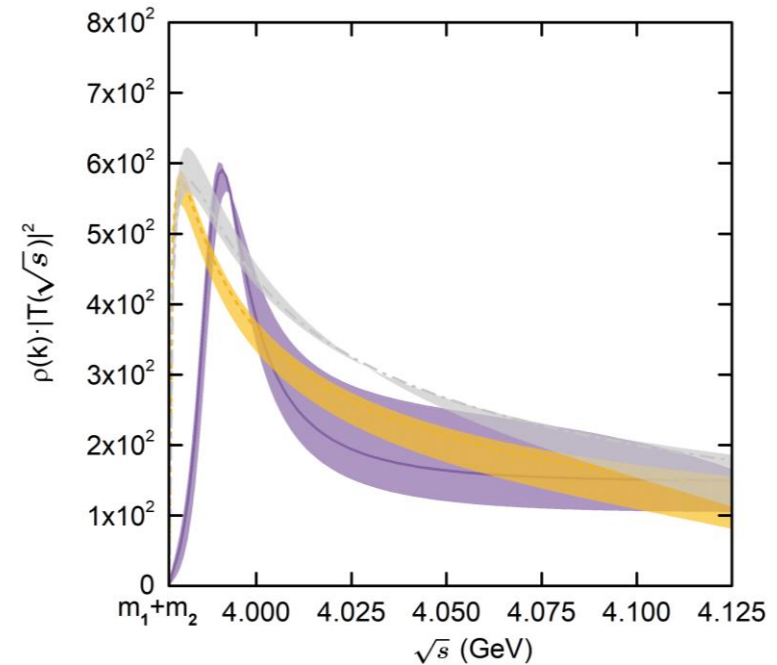
How to tell which is reality?

Phase-space suppression effect

Modulus squared of T-matrix



Line shape of invariant mass spectra

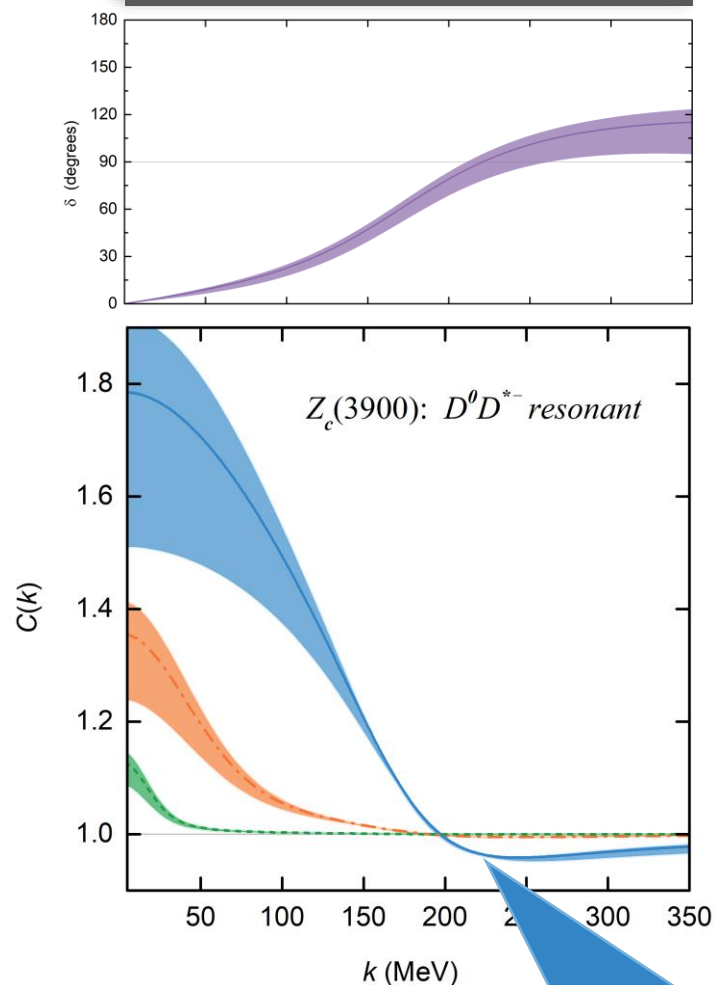


Phase-space suppression makes near-threshold states hard to distinguish using invariant mass spectra alone. *ZWL, Jun-Xu Lu*, Ming-Zhu Liu and Li-Sheng Geng*, Sci. Bull. in press*

$D^0 D^{*-}$ CFs for $Z_c(3900)$

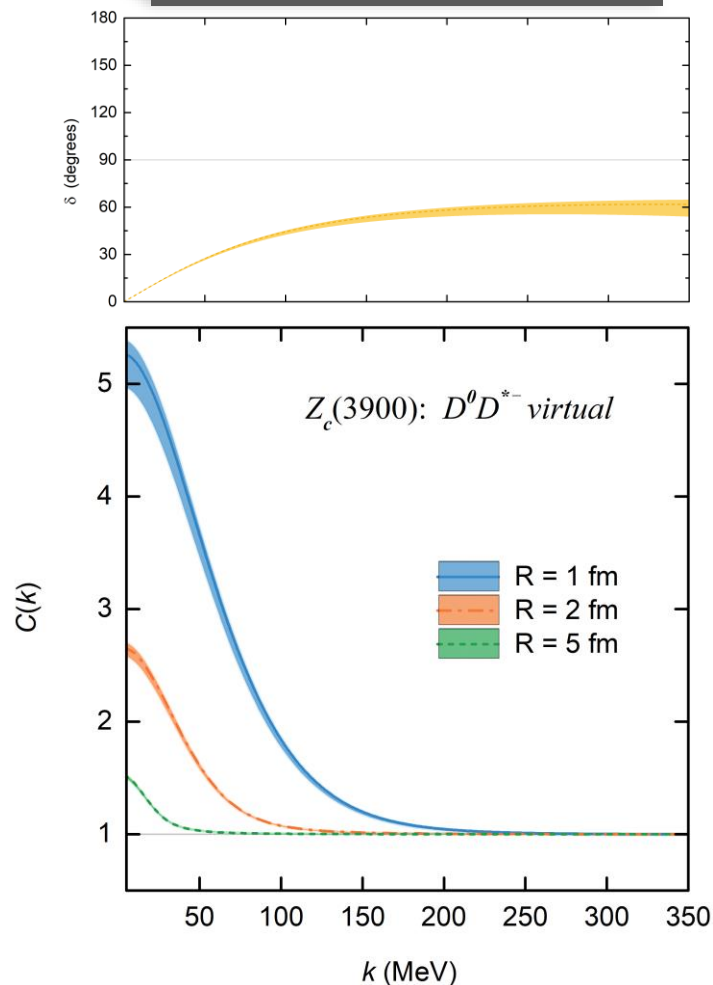
ZWL, Jun-Xu Lu*, Ming-Zhu Liu and Li-Sheng Geng*, Sci. Bull. in press

Resonant state scenario

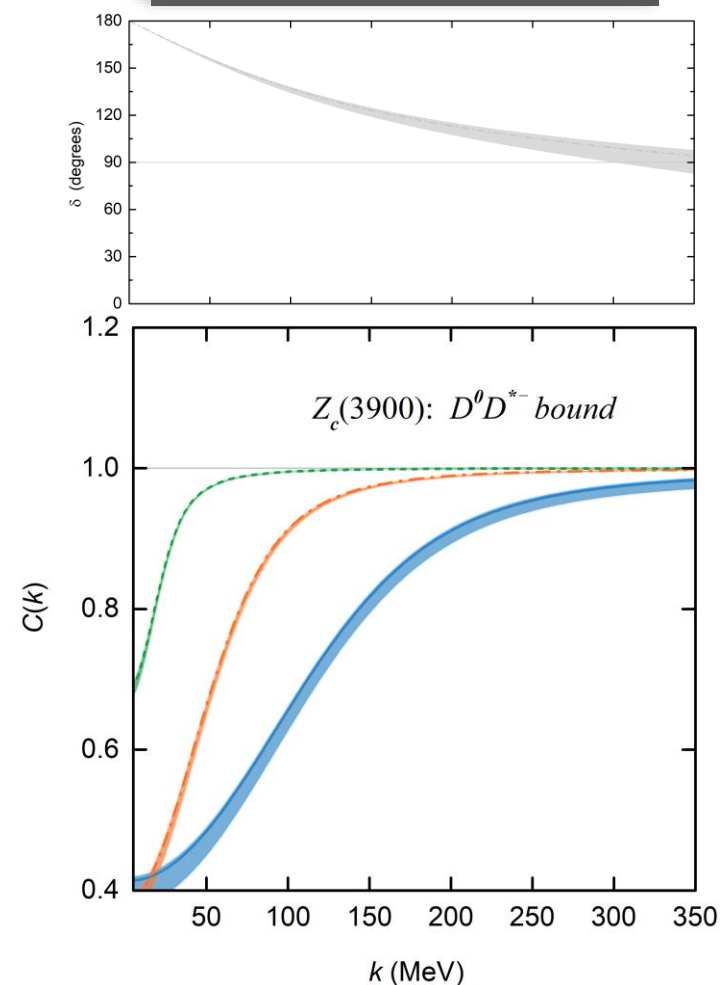


Typical feature of
broad resonant state

Virtual state scenario



Bound state scenario

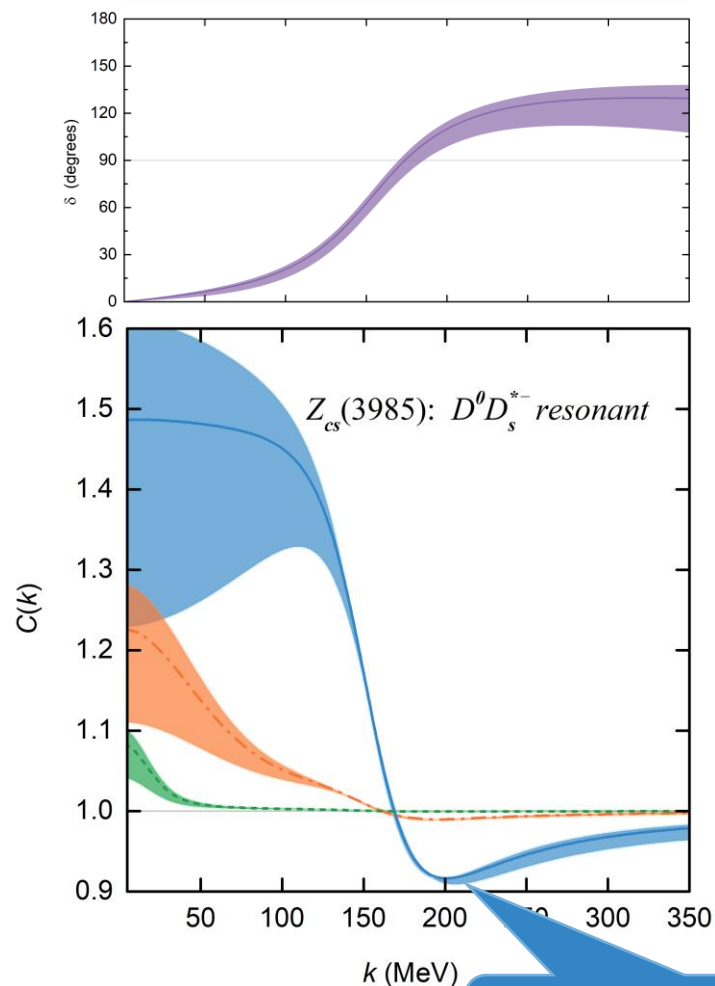


$$C(k) = 1 + \mathcal{F}_1 \sin^2 \delta + \mathcal{F}_2 \sin \delta \cos \delta, \quad \mathcal{F}_2 > 0$$

$D^0 D_s^{*-}$ CFs $Z_{cs}(3985)$

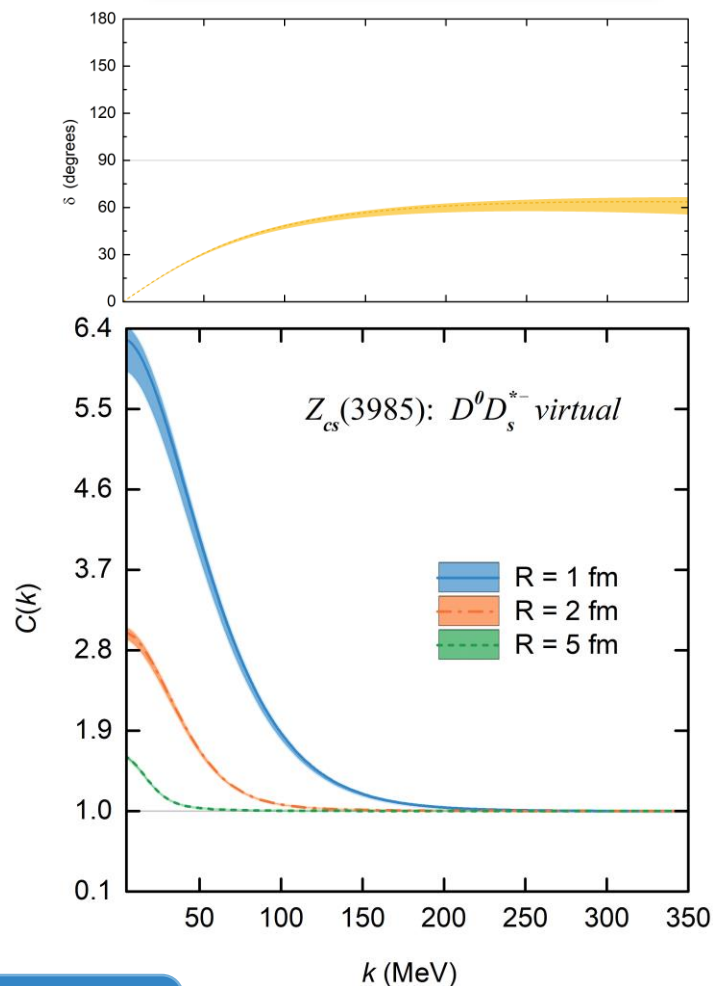
ZWL, Jun-Xu Lu*, Ming-Zhu Liu and Li-Sheng Geng*, Sci. Bull. in press

Resonant state scenario

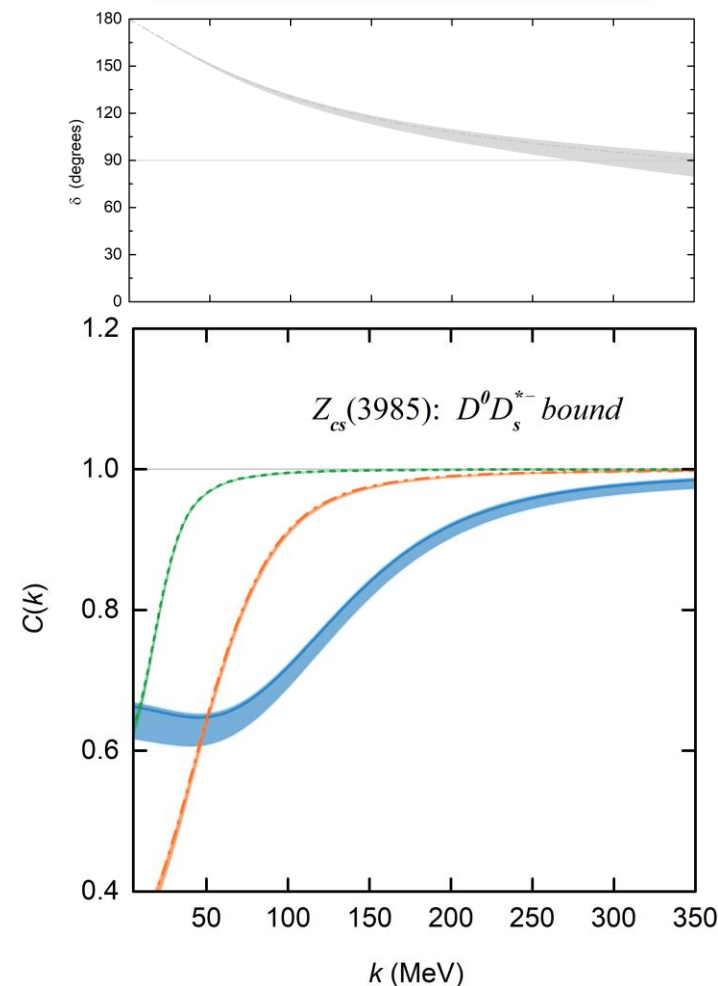


Typical feature of
narrow resonant state

Virtual state scenario



Bound state scenario



$$C(k) = 1 + \mathcal{F}_1 \sin^2 \delta + \mathcal{F}_2 \sin \delta \cos \delta, \quad \mathcal{F}_2 > 0$$

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👉 **Recent applications**

➤ $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$

👉 **Summary and outlook**

Summary and outlook

□ Femtoscopy offers high-precision tests of the strong interaction between pairs of (un)stable particles and can be valuable to decipher the nature of the many exotic hadrons discovered so far.

✓ $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$

□ With more data from LHC Run3, very promising:

- Pp data taking: event count increase: $\sim 3000\times$
- Pb-pb data taking: event count increase: $\sim 70\times$

□ Many questions remain unanswered, at least not satisfactorily

- ✓ Is the factorization of the KP formula well justified
- ✓ Can one define a universal source function
- ✓ How to study three-body correlation functions
- ✓ ...

A visualization of a particle collision, likely at the Large Hadron Collider. A bright white point of impact is at the center, with numerous white lines radiating outwards. Several semi-transparent spheres containing internal structures are arranged in a circular pattern around the center. A prominent blue sphere and a red sphere are in the lower right, with a trail of orange and yellow particles extending from the center towards them.

Thanks a lot for your attention!

(Image: CERN)

Off-shell ambiguities

2505.13433v1.

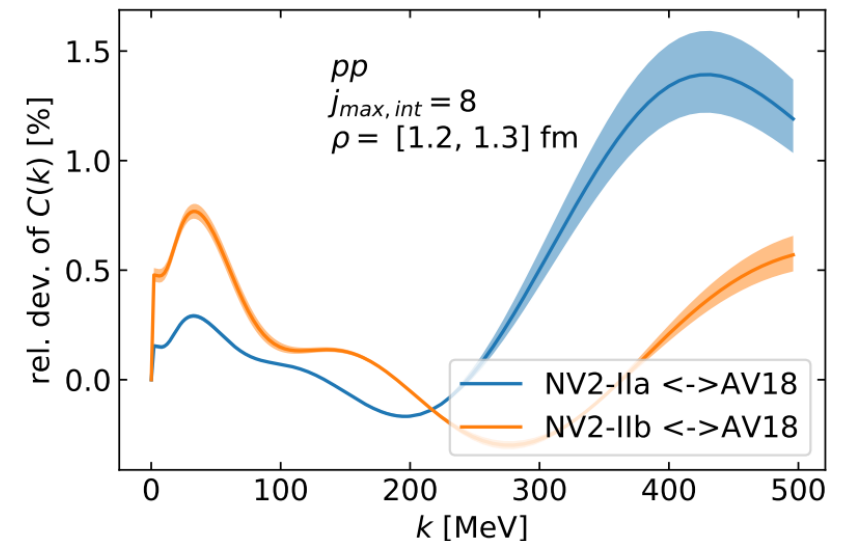
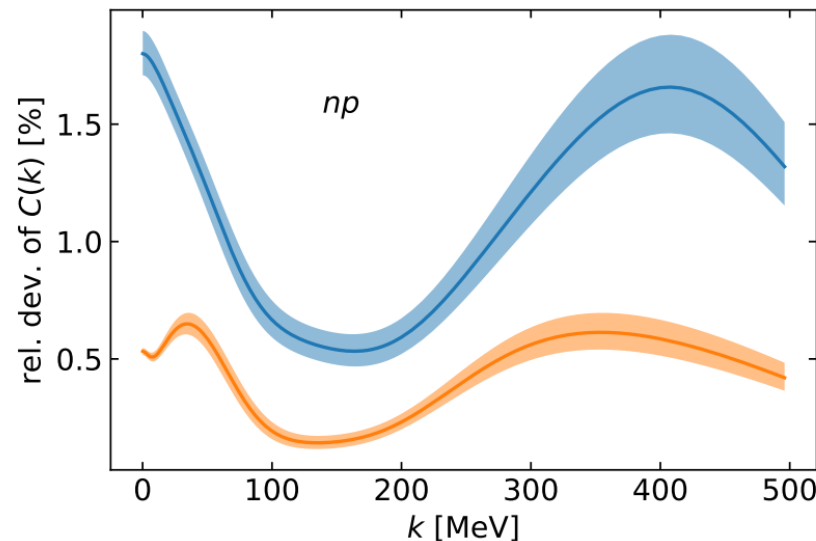
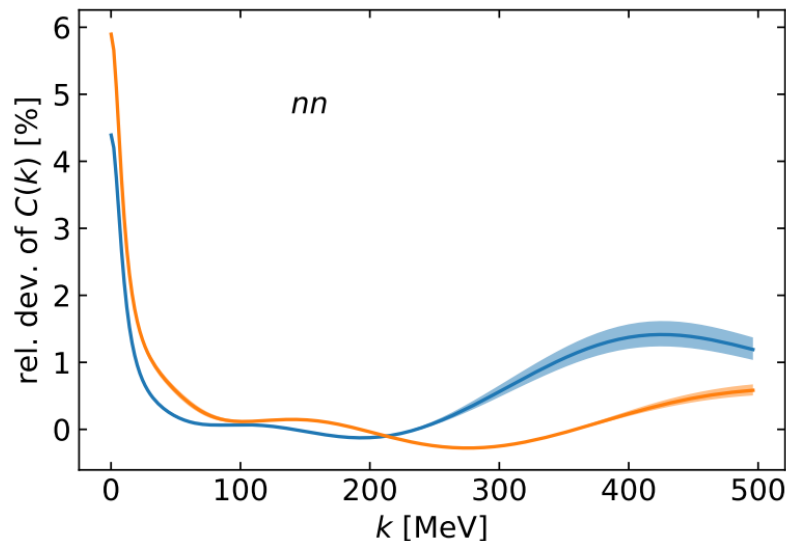
Nucleon-nucleon correlation functions from different interactions in comparison

Matthias Göbel ^a, Alejandro Kievsky ^a

^aIstituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Pisa, Largo Pontecorvo 3, 56127 Pisa, Italy

19.05.2025

“The analysis of the differences between the correlations of the various interactions shows that for momenta between 0 and 500 MeV there are variations of up to 5.9 % for the nn system, of up to 1.8 % for the np system, and of 1.4 % for the pp system.”



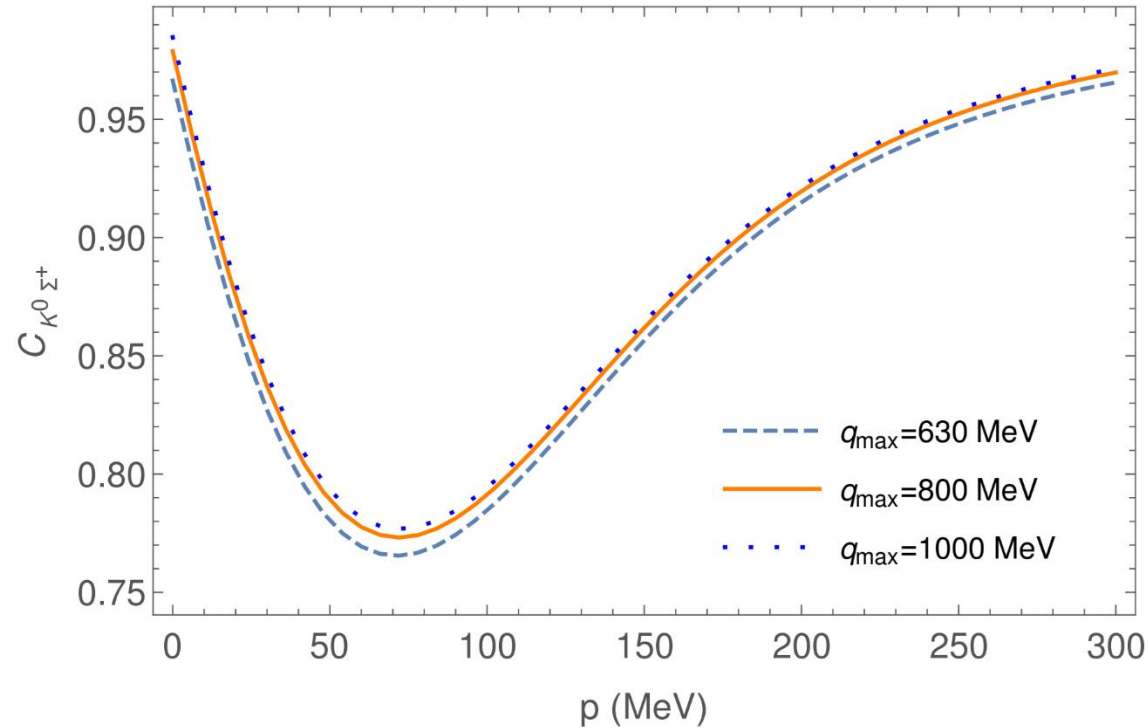
Off-shell ambiguities

Off-shell ambiguities in correlation functions: strategies to minimize them

2506.03669v1.

R. Molina^{1,*} and E. Oset^{1,†}

¹*Departamento de Física Teórica and IFIC, Centro Mixto Universidad de Valencia-CSIC,
Parc Científic UV, C/ Catedrático José Beltrán, 2, 46980 Paterna, Spain*



“We find that using realistic interactions based on chiral dynamics the uncertainties are small, **of the order of 2 - 3 %**, but could be much bigger if other methods are used.”

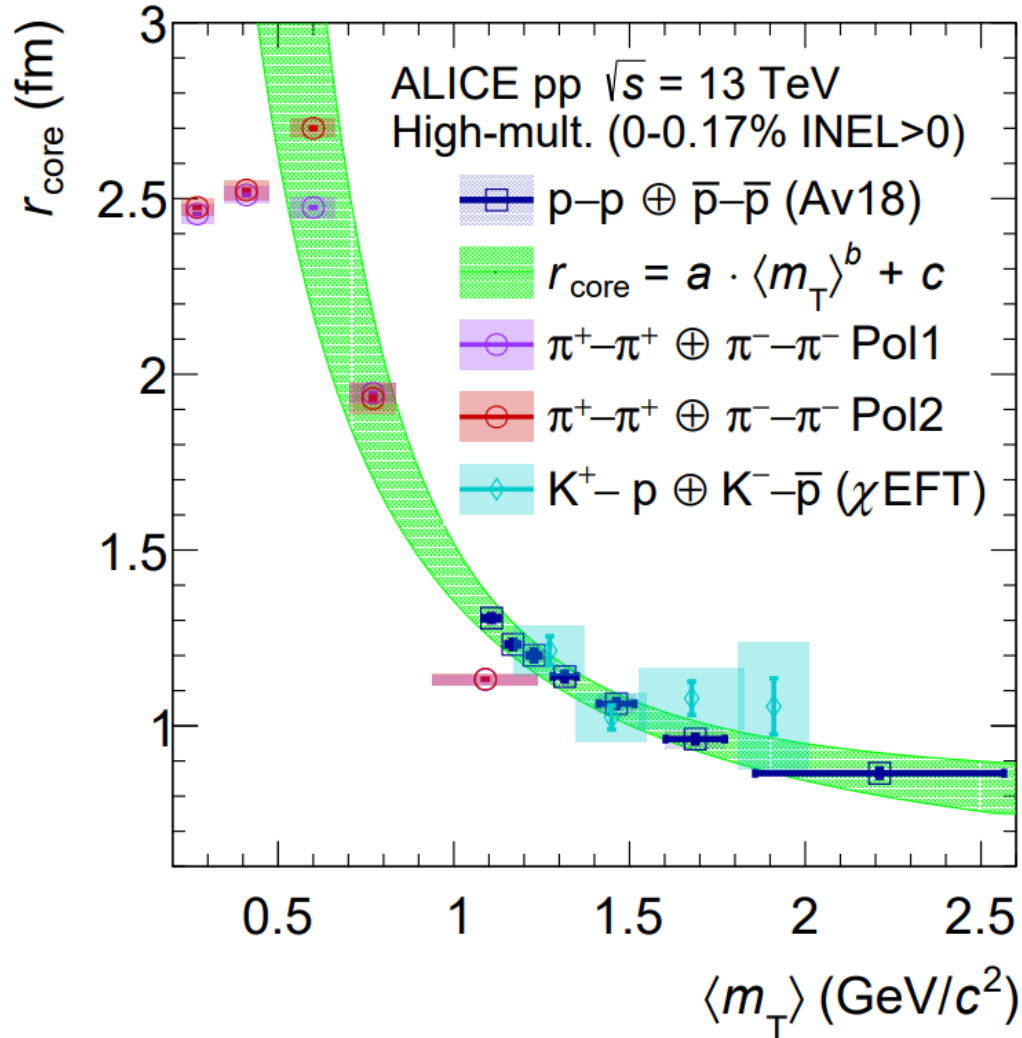
$$\mathcal{V}(\sqrt{s}; k, k') = V(\sqrt{s}) \cdot \theta(q_{\max} - k) \cdot \theta(q_{\max} - k'), \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{T}(\sqrt{s}; k, k') = T(\sqrt{s}) \cdot \theta(q_{\max} - k) \cdot \theta(q_{\max} - k'), \quad (2)$$

$$\psi(r, k) = j_0(kr) + T(\sqrt{s}) \cdot \theta(q_{\max} - k) \cdot \int_0^\infty \frac{d^3 k'}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{E'_1 + E'_2}{2E'_1 E'_2} \frac{\theta(q_{\max} - k') \cdot j_0(k' r)}{s - (E'_1 + E'_2)^2 + i\varepsilon}, \quad (3)$$

Constraining the source function

2311.14527v1.



ALICE

... "providing compelling evidence for the presence of a common emission source for all hadrons in small collision systems at the LHC ..."