



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

Kehao Zhang (张珂豪)

Central China Normal University

QPT 2025, Guilin, China

2025/10/27

I. Motivation

II. Femtoscopy

III. Analysis Details

IV. Lednicky-Lyuboshitz Model

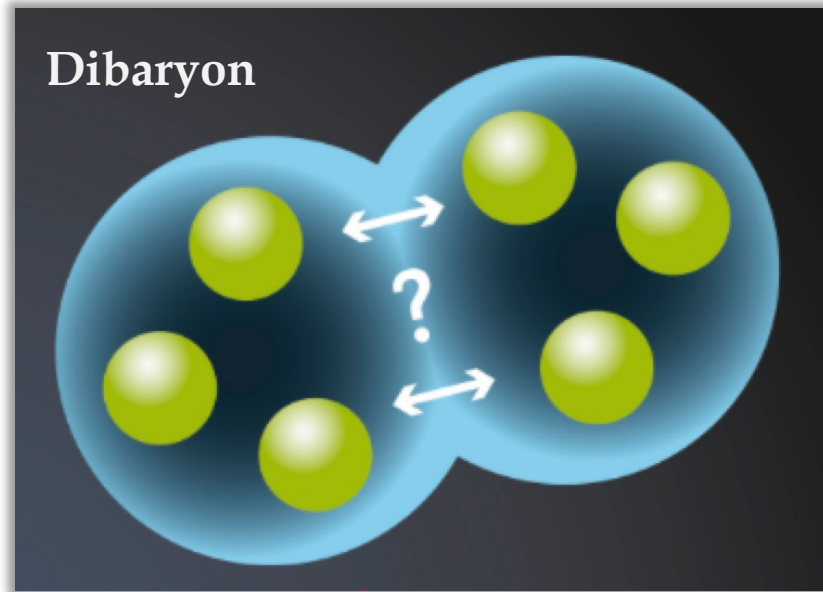
V. Results

- $|S| = 2$: 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	$qqqs\bar{q}$	$\pi\Sigma$
$\Theta^+(1530)$	1530	$qqqq\bar{s}$	KN
H	2245	$uuddss$	$\Lambda\Lambda$
$N\Omega$	2573	$qqqsss$	$\Lambda\Xi$
$\Xi\Xi$	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:

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

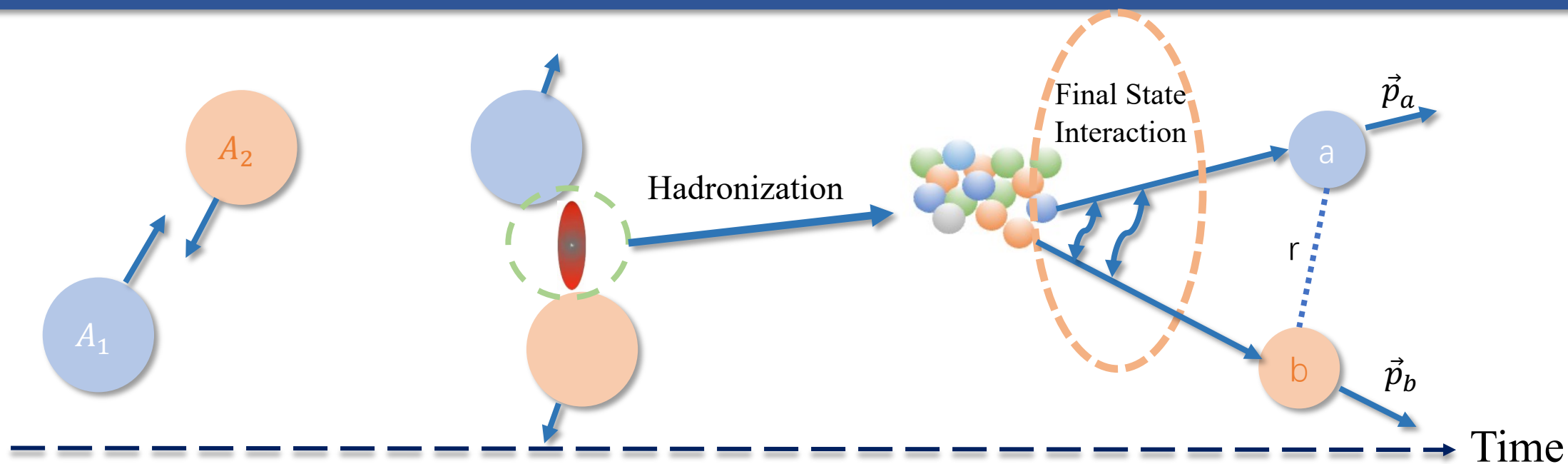
$$(|S|=2) \text{ Dibaryon} \Leftrightarrow \Lambda + \Lambda$$

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

➤ 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 !

Femtoscscopy



➤ Two-particle correlation function:

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

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

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

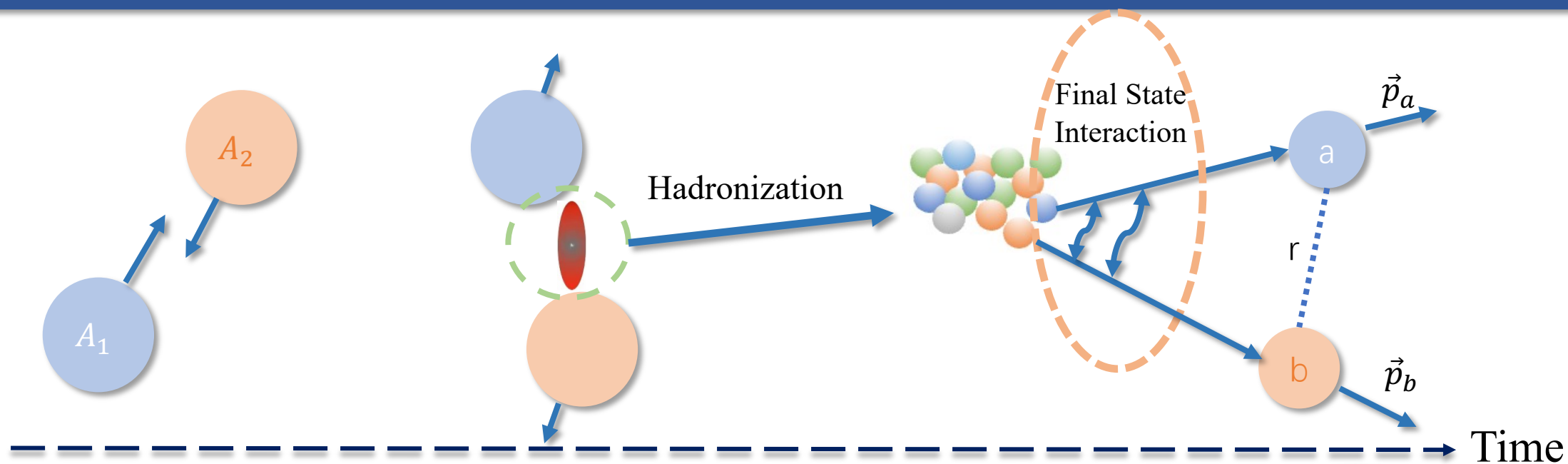
$k^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_b|$, relative momentum

$\vec{r}$: relative distance

Depends on ...

- Emission source
- Strong interaction
- Coulomb interaction

Femtoscscopy



➤ Two-particle correlation function:

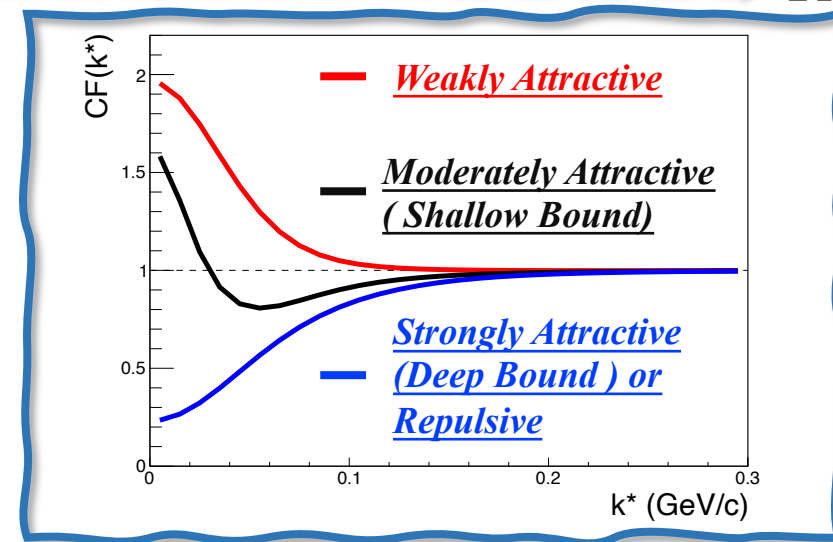
<u>Model</u>	<u>Experimental</u>
$C(k^*) = \int S(\vec{r}) \Psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}) ^2 d^3\vec{r}$	$= \frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)}$

$S(\vec{r})$: 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

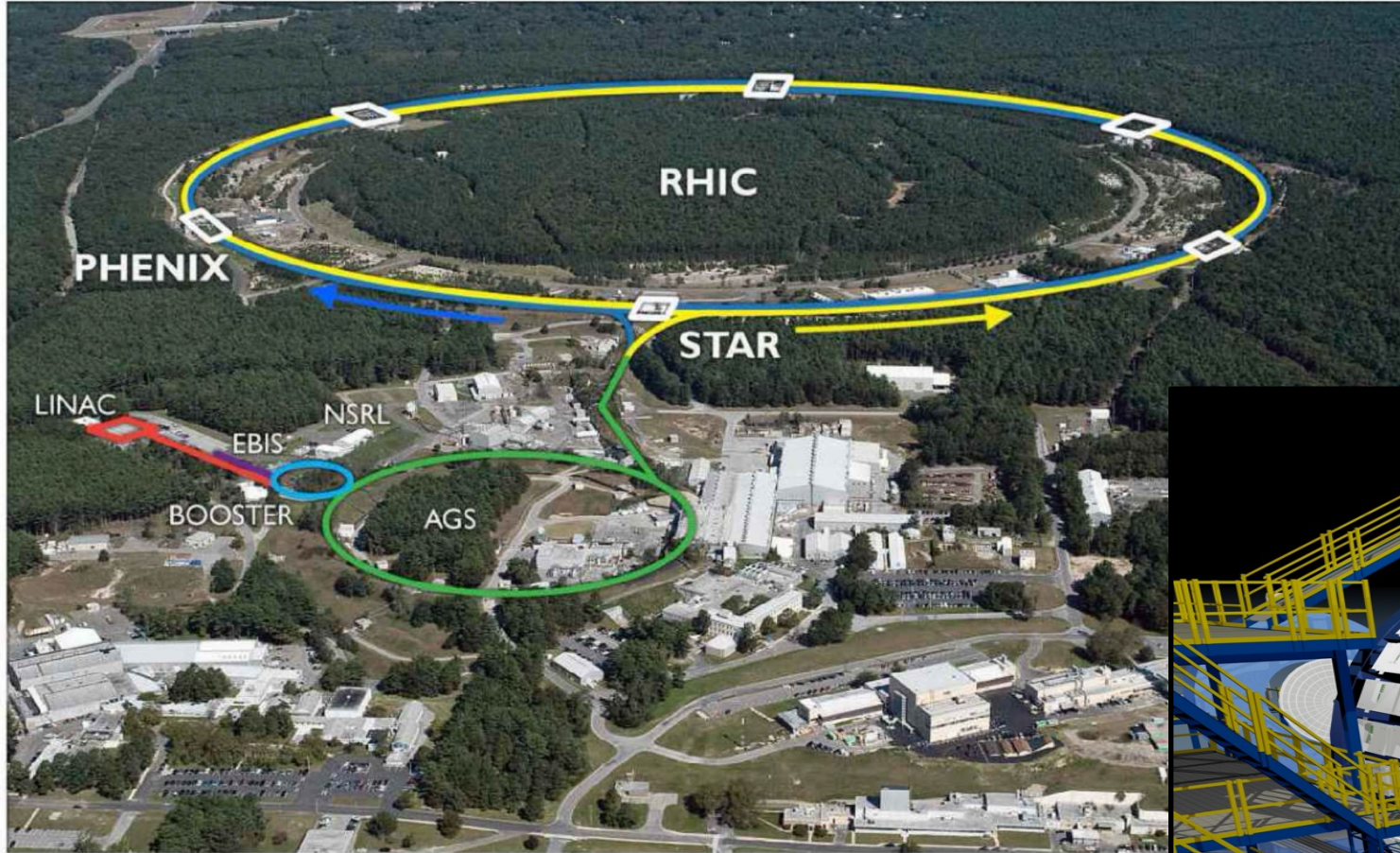


R. Lednicky, et al. Sov.J.Nucl.Phys.35(1982)770

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



Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)

Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton

→ p+p, Au+Au, Zr+Zr, Ru+Ru, d+Au...

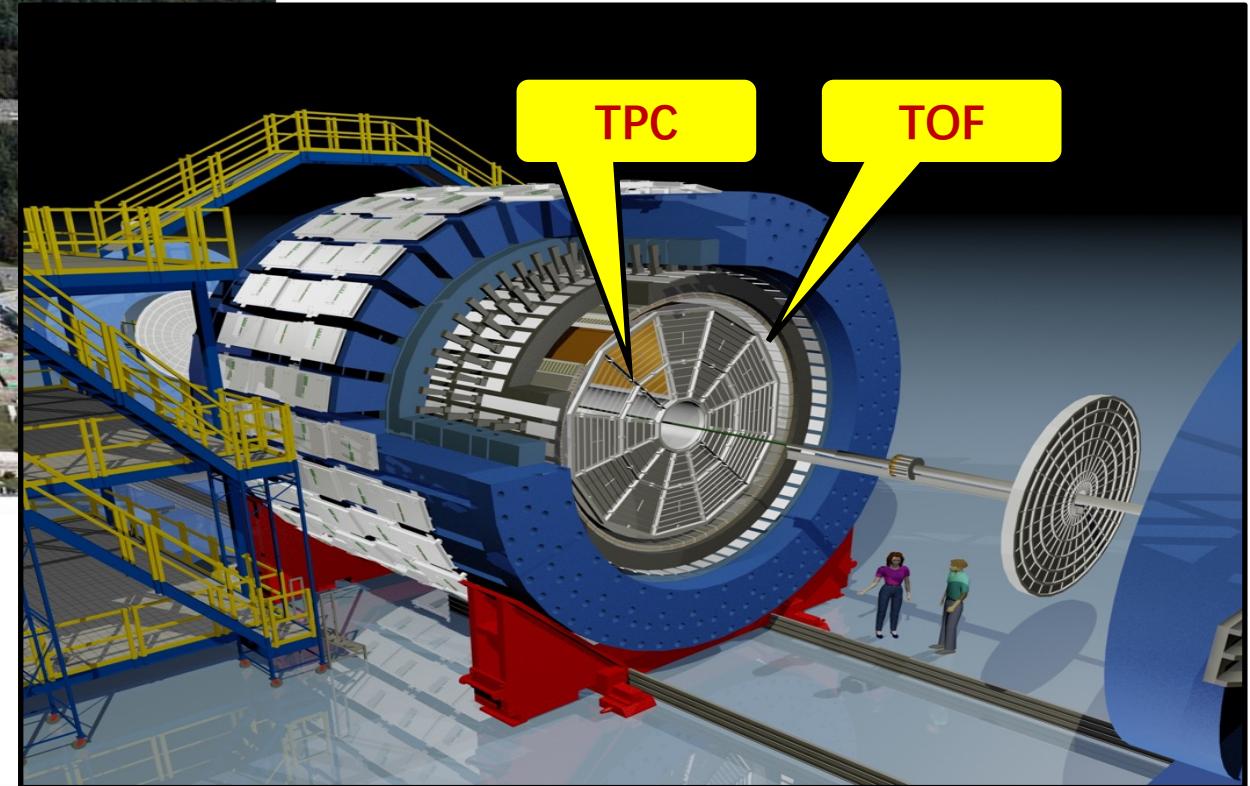
→ Beam Energy Scan Program I, II (Au+Au)

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

The Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC (STAR)

→ Excellent particle identification

→ Large, uniform acceptance at Mid-rapidity



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)

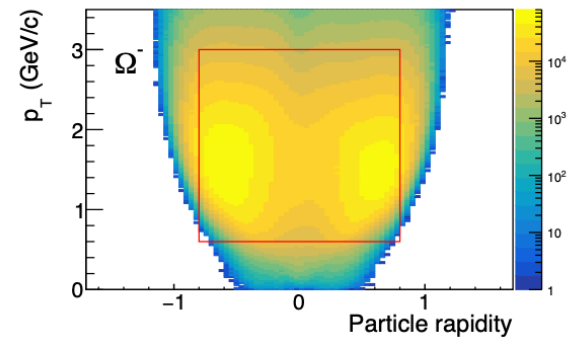
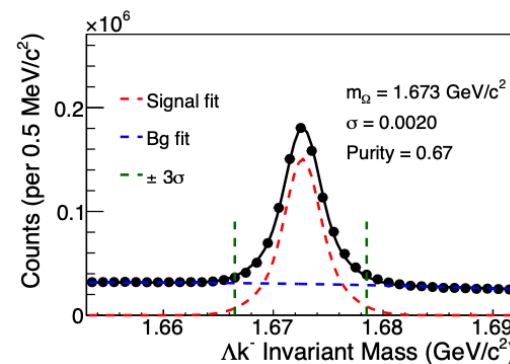
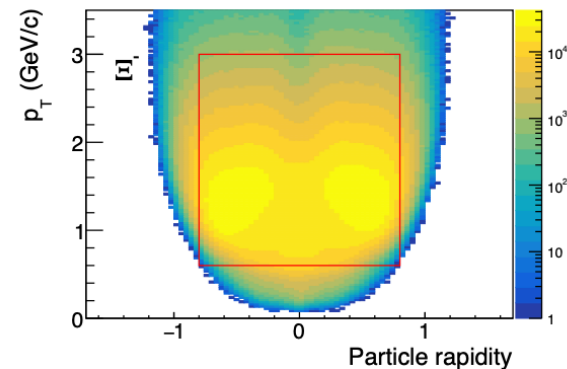
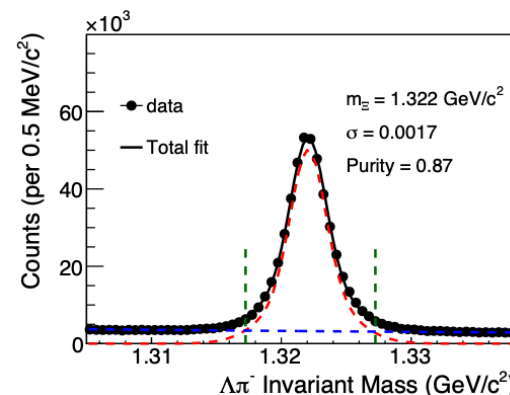
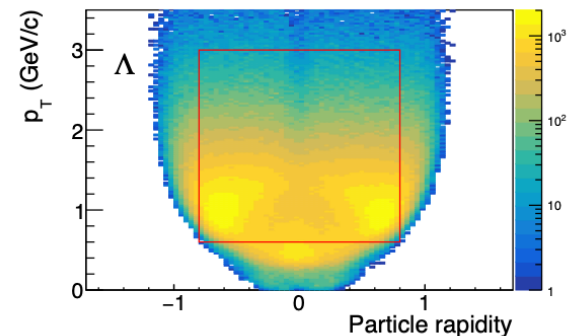
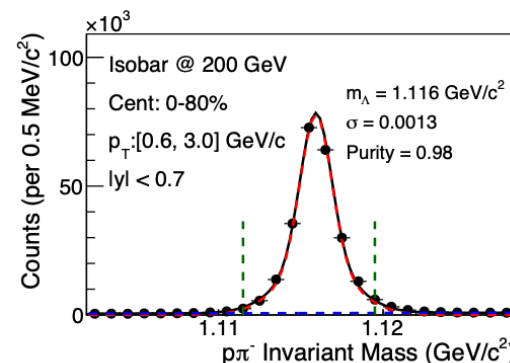
~ 2 billion minimum-bias events

➤ 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%



Lednický-Lyuboshitz Model

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

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

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

R. Lednický 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

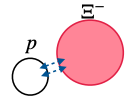
$f_0 < 0$: Repulsive Interaction or Bound State

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

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

Lednický-Lyuboshitz Model

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



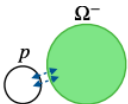
In $p-\Xi^-$ pair, there are two spin states:

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



Spin-averaged method:

Two spin states consider same Coulomb and strong interaction



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

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

Predicted bound state (HAL QCD)

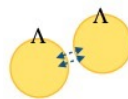


Quintet method:

In quintet state, consider Coulomb and strong interaction
In triplet state, just consider Coulomb since the strong effect of couple channel

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

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

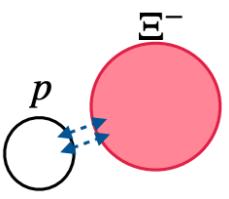


In $\Lambda\Lambda$ pair, there only one spin state:

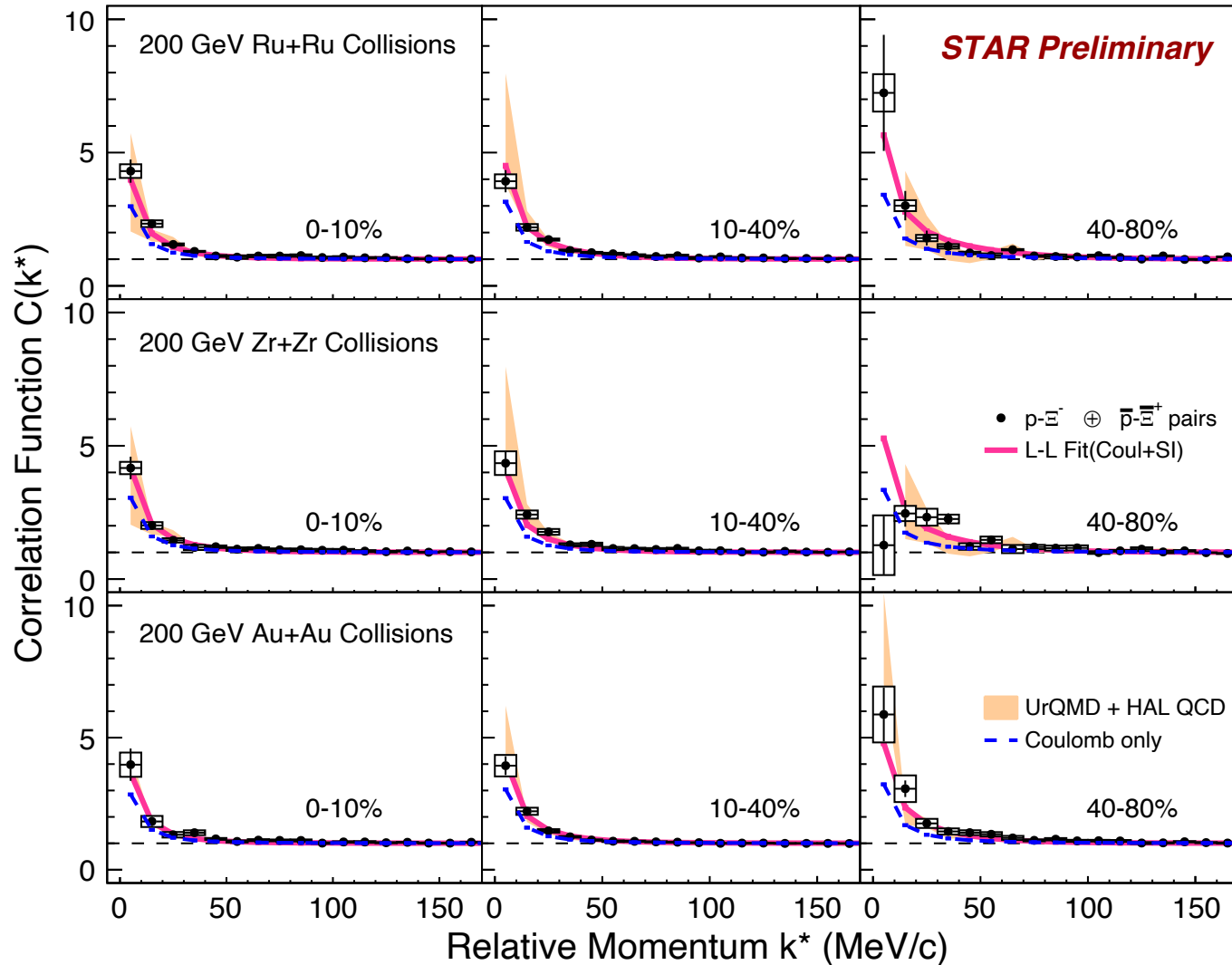
$$C_{\Lambda-\Lambda} = C_{J=0, \text{singlet}}$$

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 ($|S|=2$)



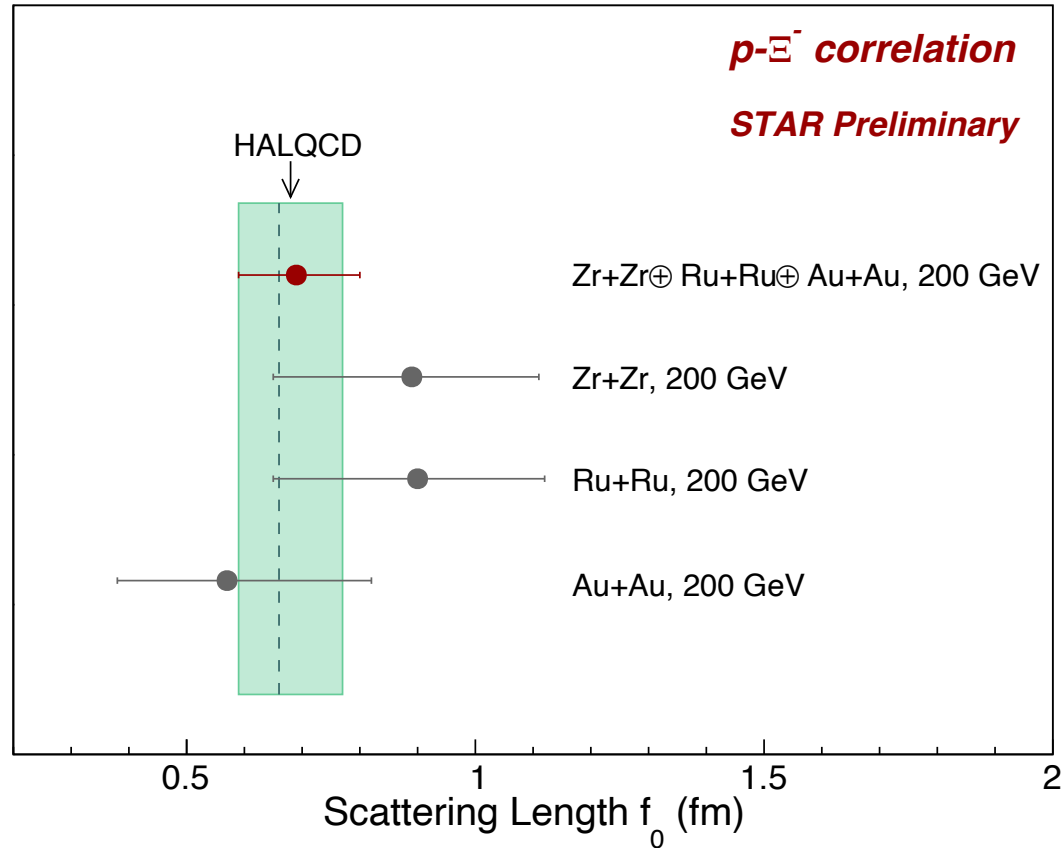
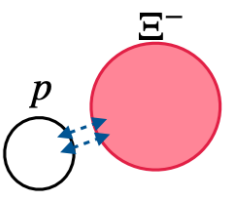
See poster by Boyang Fu



- I. Measure $p-\Xi^- \oplus \bar{p}-\bar{\Xi}^+$ 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)

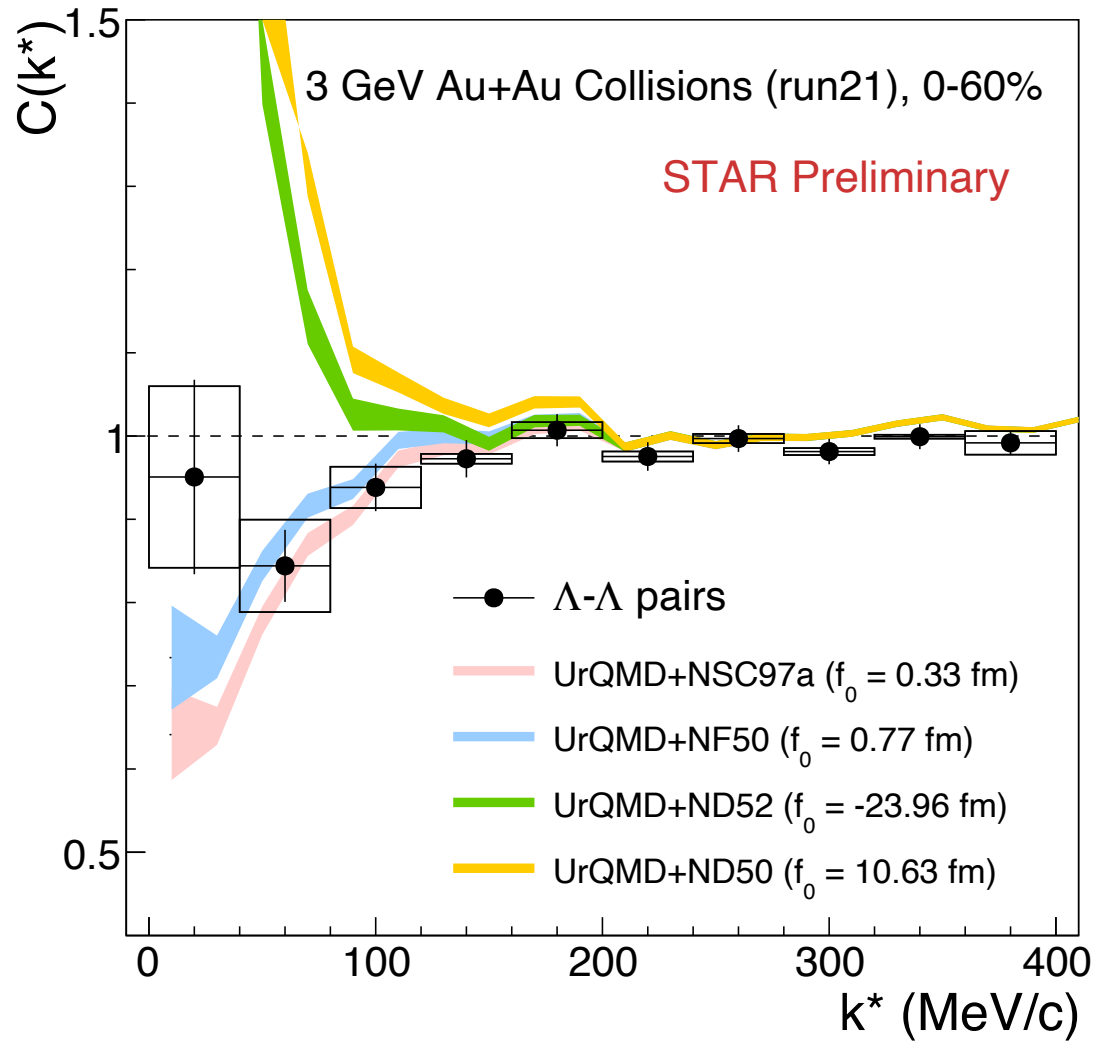
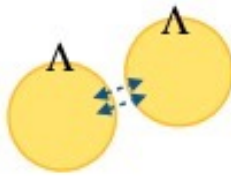
p- Ξ^- Interaction Parameters ($|S|=2$)



- 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:
 $f_0 = 0.7^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$ 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 an weakly attractive interaction in Λ - Λ pairs

II. Need more precise data to confirm

□ High statistics Isobar and Au+Au collisions

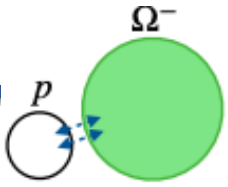
Potential	f_0 (fm)	d_0 (fm)	Chi2/NDF
NSC97a[1]	0.33	12.37	1.53
NF50[2]	0.77	4.27	1.61
ND52[3]	-23.96	2.59	2.24
ND50[3]	10.63	2.04	4.02

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

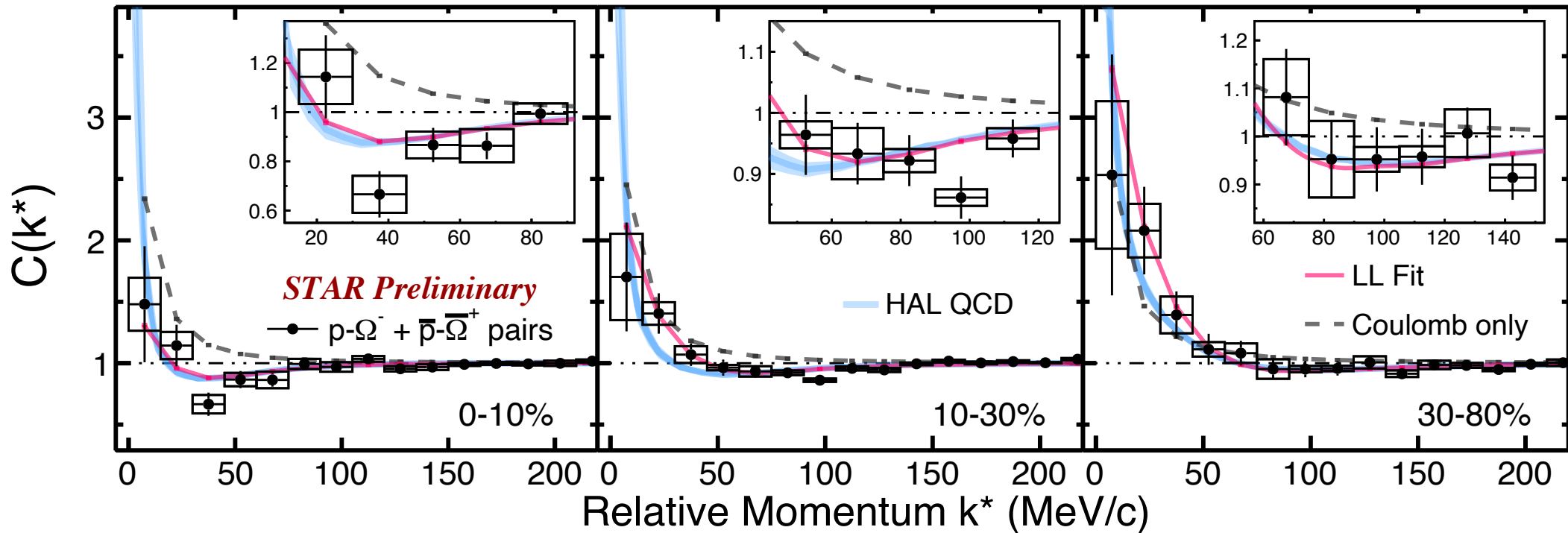
[2] M. M. Nagels, et al, Phys. Rev. D 20 (1979) 1633

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

p- Ω^- Correlation Function ($|S|=3$)



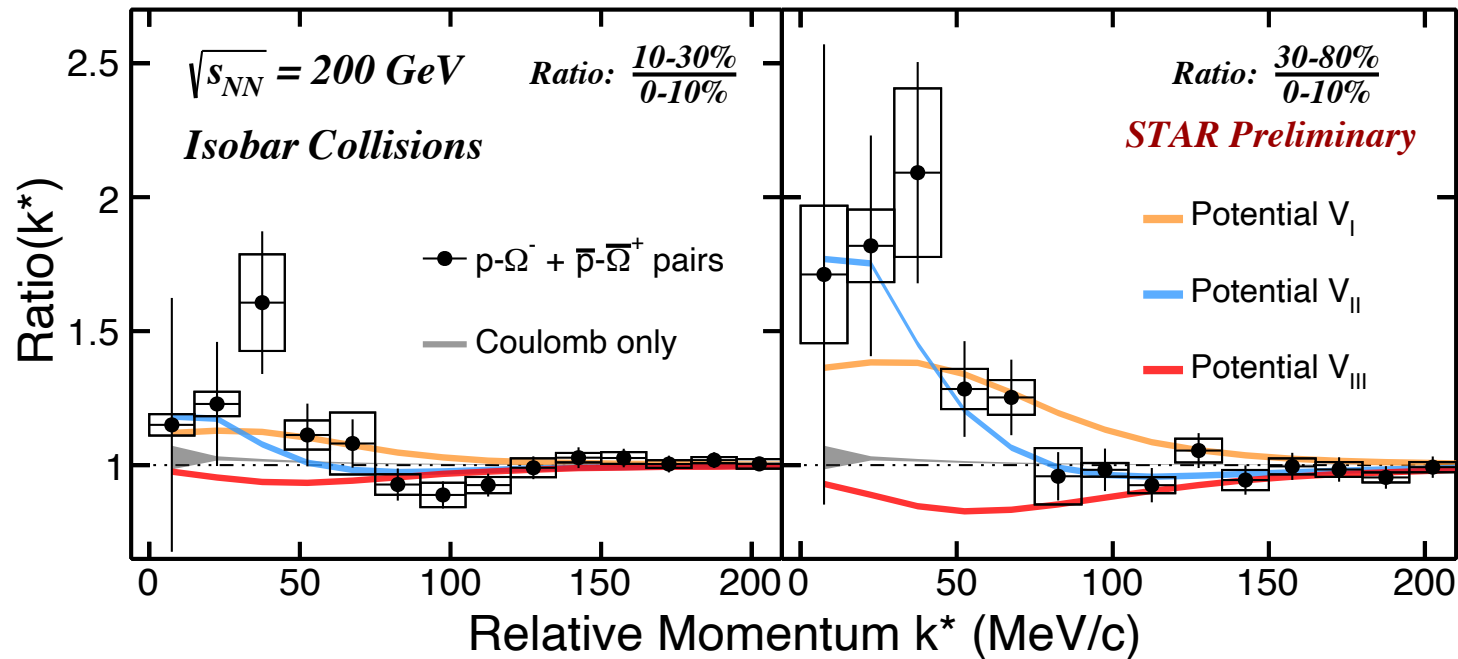
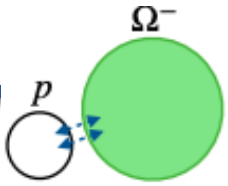
$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$ Isobar Collisions



- I. Precise measurements of $p\text{-}\Omega^- \oplus \bar{p}\text{-}\bar{\Omega}^+$ correlation functions in Isobar collisions
 - ▣ CFs show enhancement at low k^* $\rightarrow$ mainly due to Coulomb attraction interaction
 - ▣ CFs show depletion at $k^* \sim 30\text{-}100 \text{ MeV/c}$ $\rightarrow$ 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 ($|S|=3$)



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

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

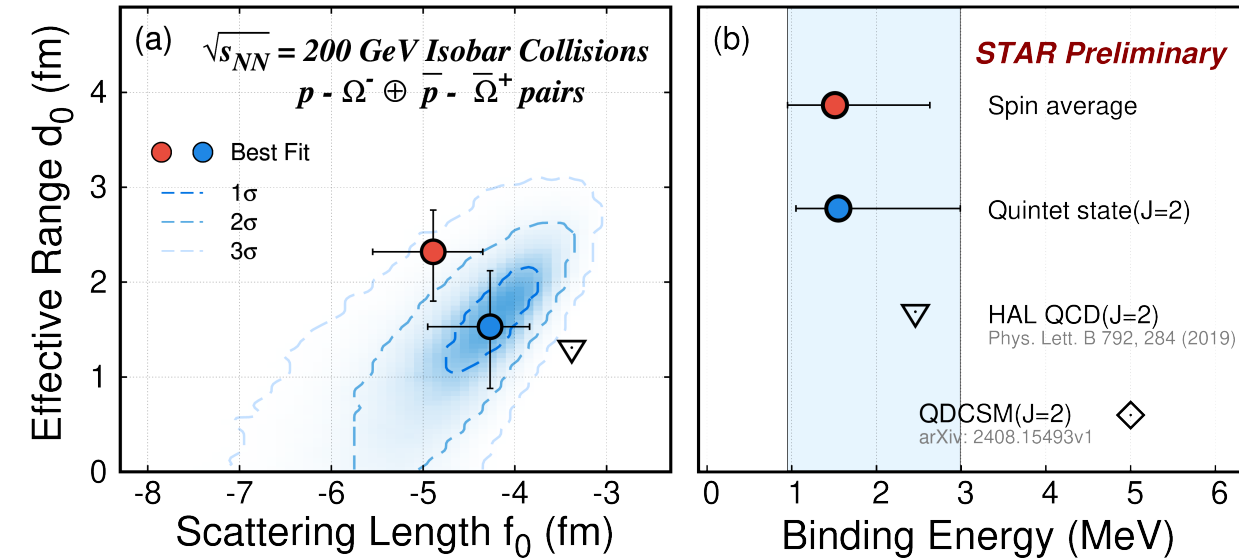
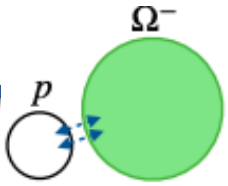
□ Due to the presence of shallow bound state

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

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

[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)

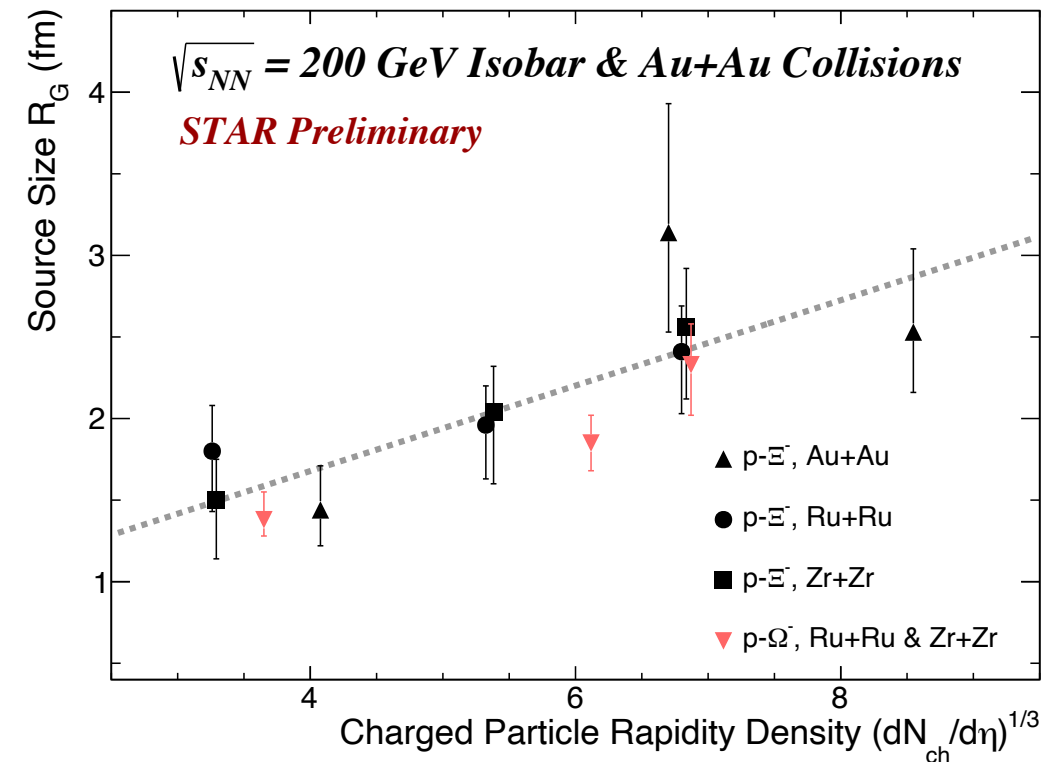
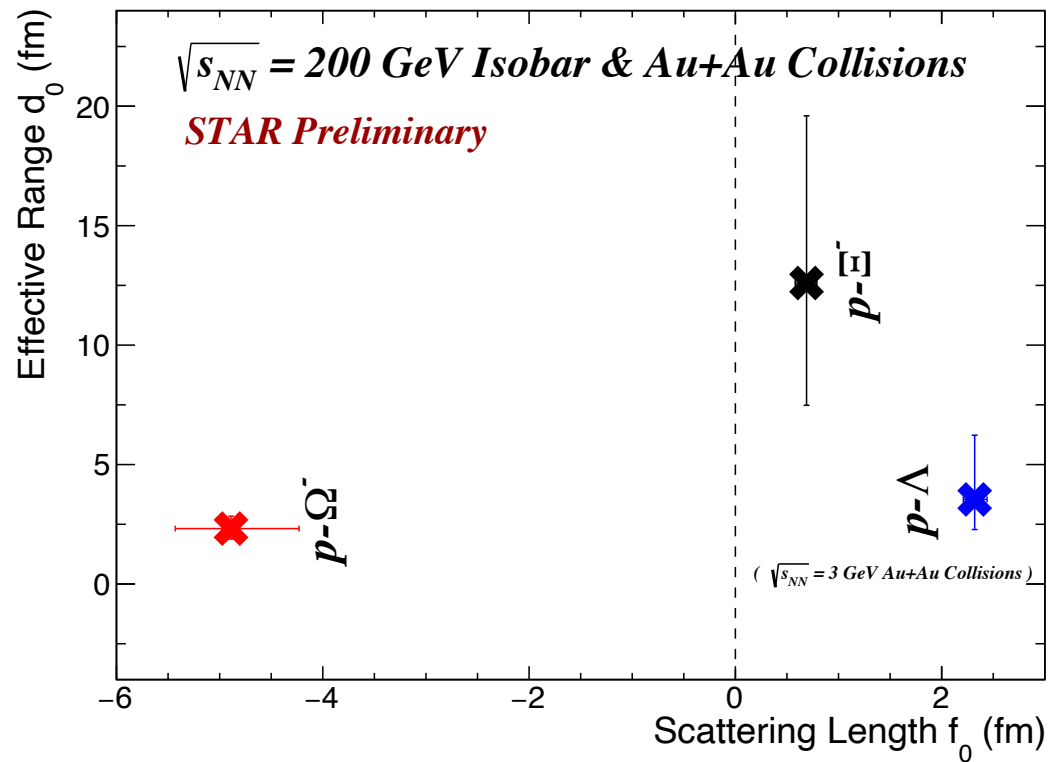
- I. First experimental constraints in heavy-ion collisions of strong interaction parameters in p- Ω^- pair
- II. Extracted **negative f_0** ($|f_0| > 2d_0$) by Spin average method and Quintet method
 - ❑ First experimental evidence of Strange Dibaryon
- III. Calculate Binding Energy (BE) via Betha formula:

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

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

- ❑ Calculated BE are consistent with HAL QCD prediction

Strong Interaction Parameters

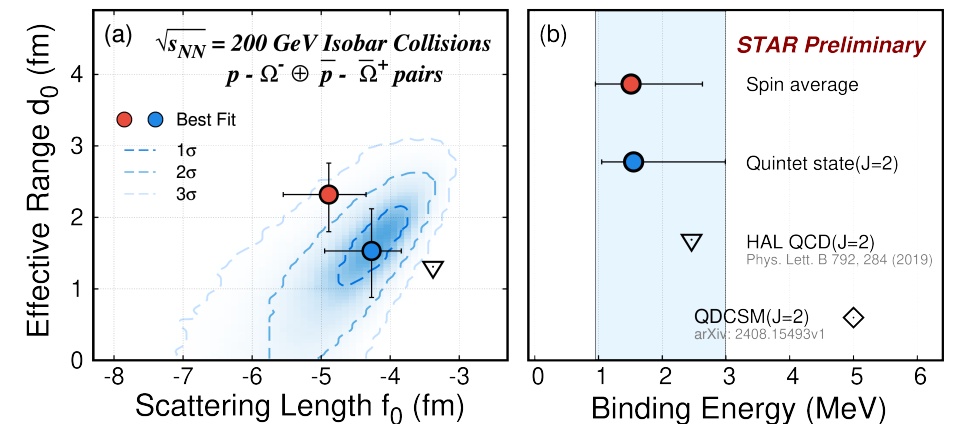
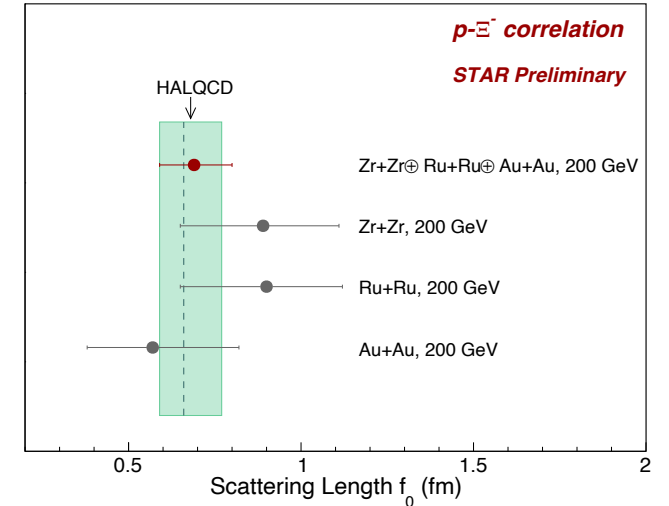


- Extracted positive f_0 in $p-\Xi^-$ pair $\rightarrow$ **Weakly attractive interaction**
- Extracted negative f_0 in $p-\Omega^-$ pair $\rightarrow$ **Support the formation of bound state**

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

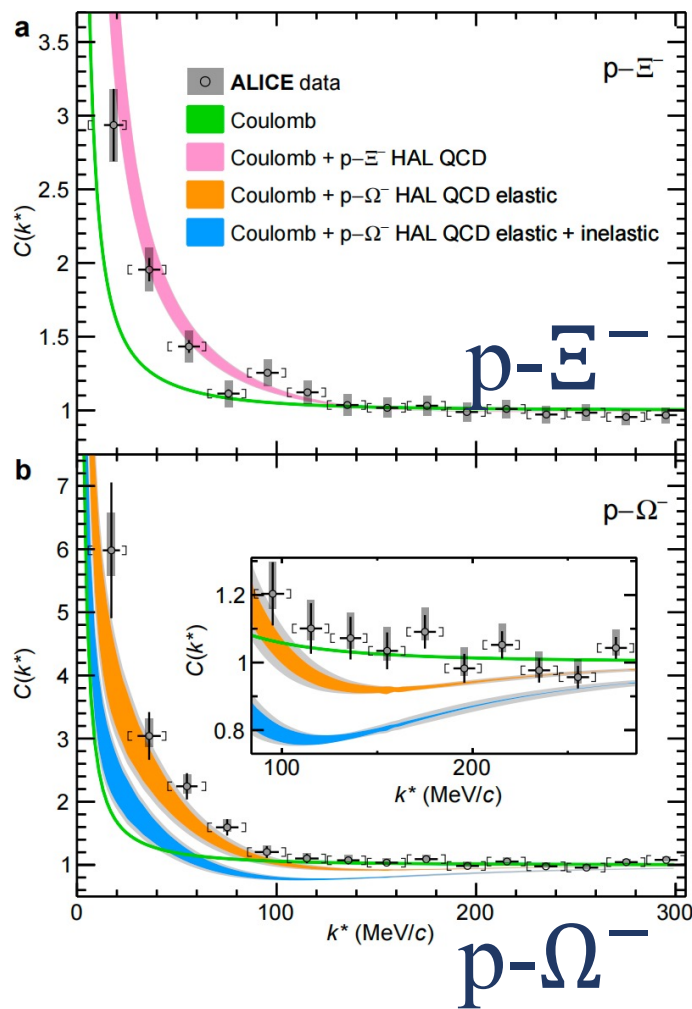


First experimental evidence of Strange Dibaryon

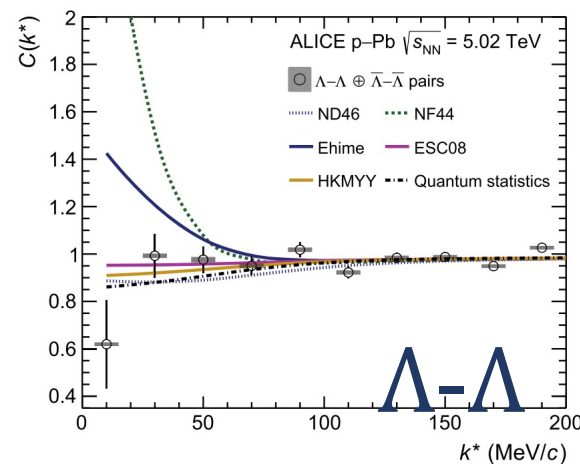


Thank you for your
attention!

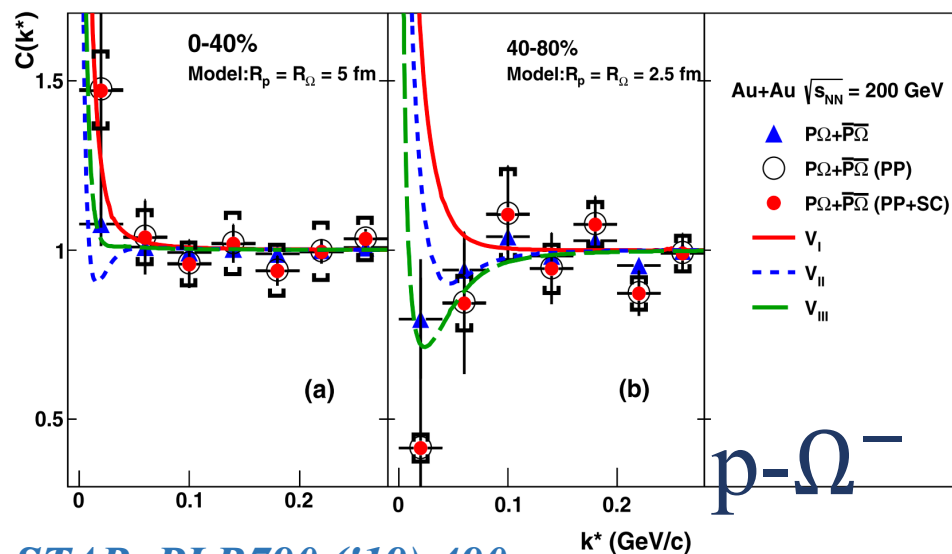
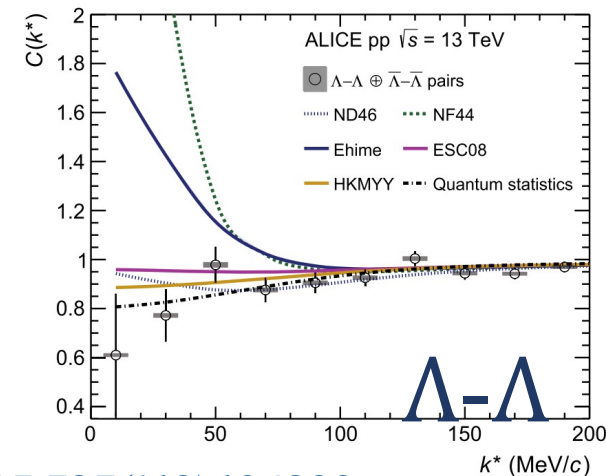
Backup-Motivation



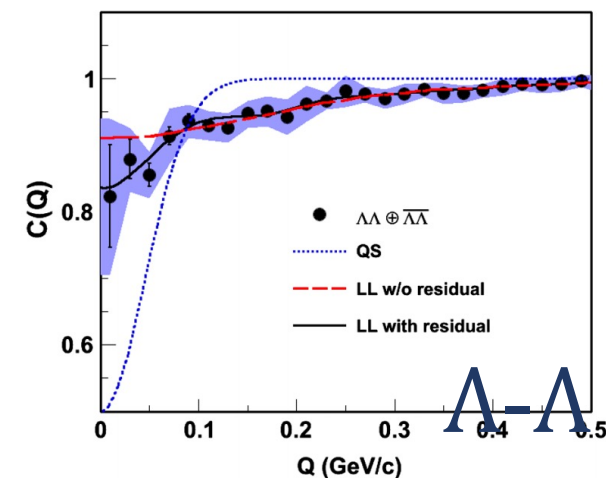
ALICE, Nature588 ('20)232



ALICE, PLB797('19)134822



STAR, PLB790 ('19) 490

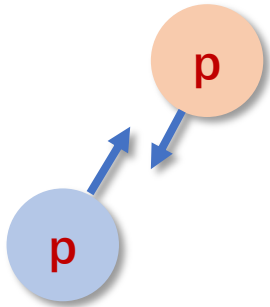


STAR, PRL114('15)022301

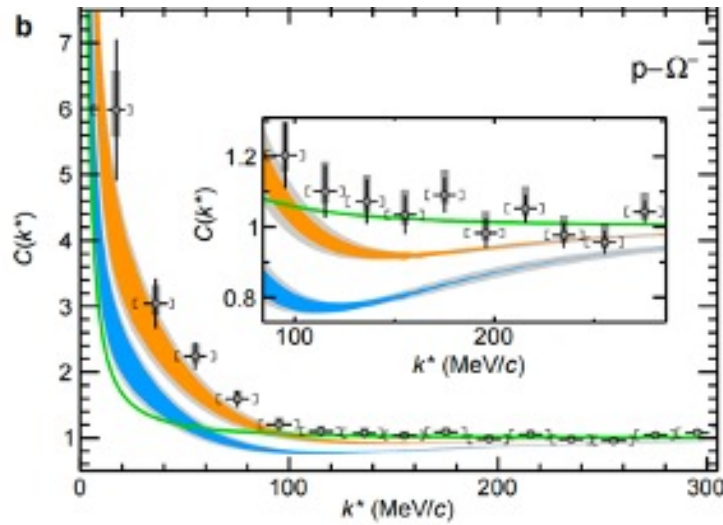
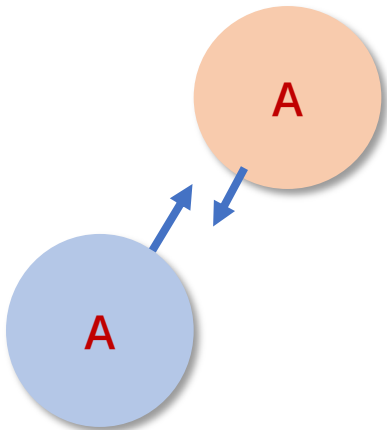
More Experiment measurements are needed !

Backup- p - Ω^- Bound?

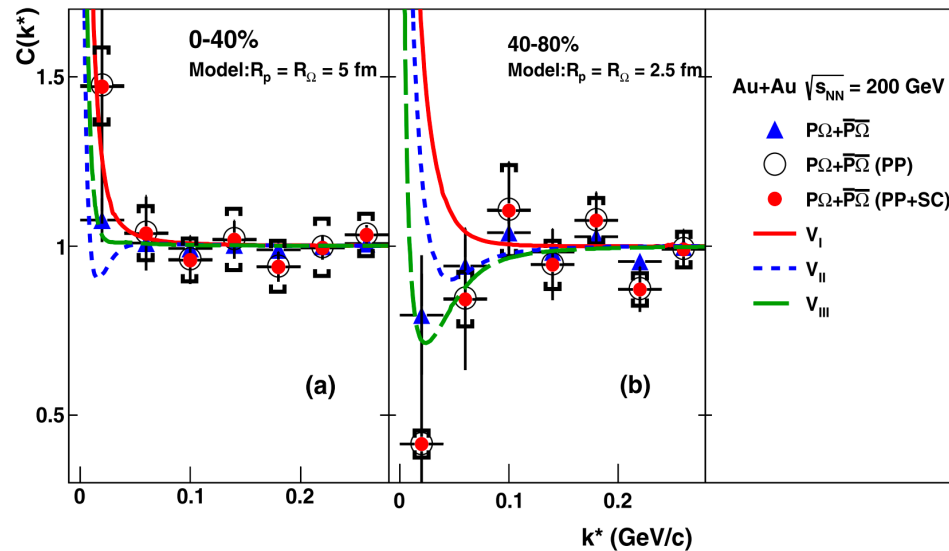
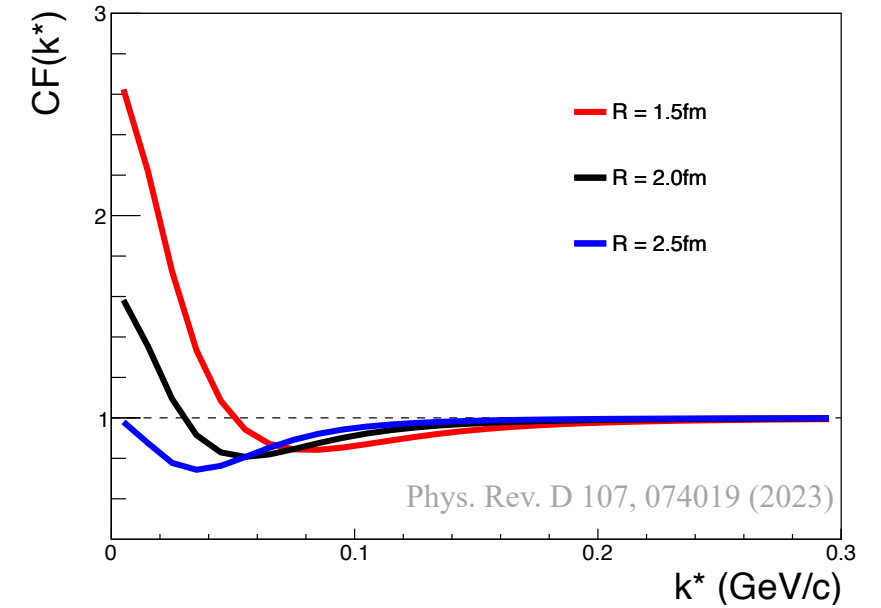
- Small source



- Large source



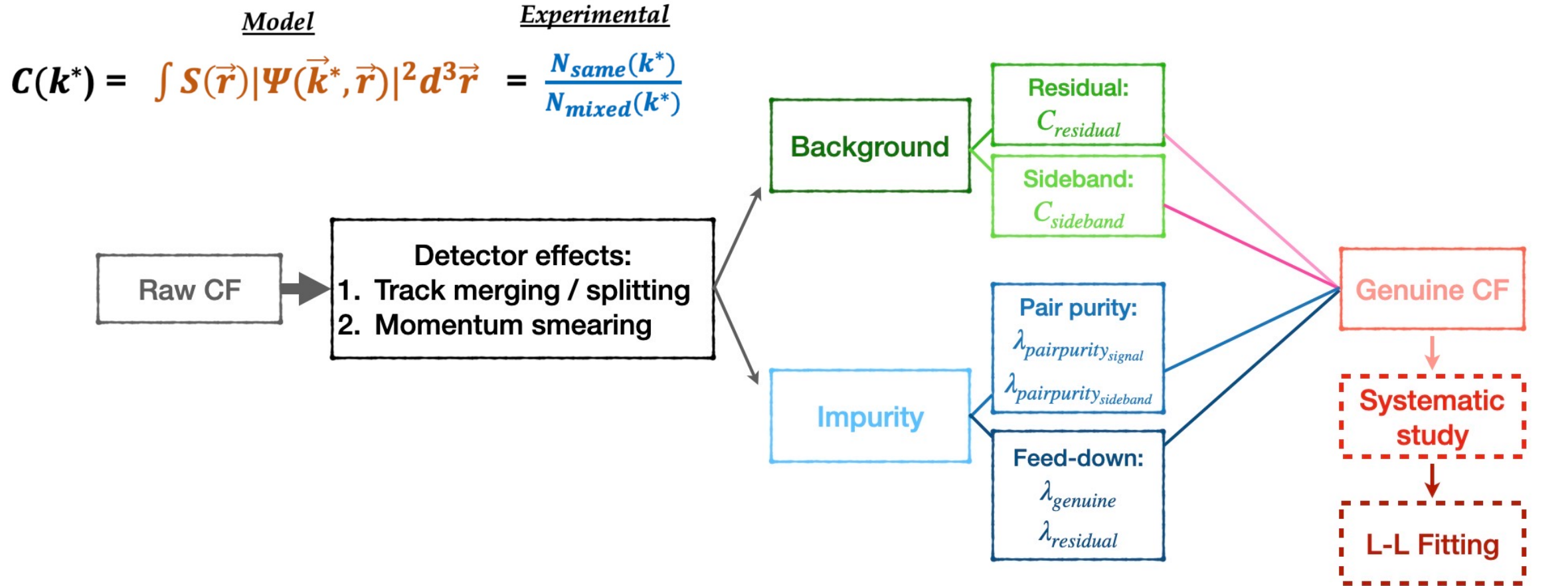
Shallow Bound



*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

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

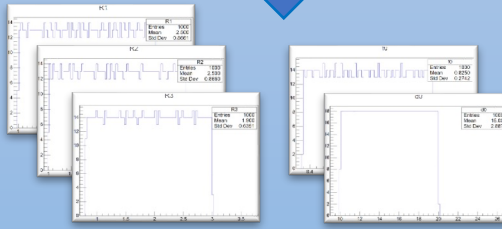
$$R_2 = [R_{2min}, R_{2max}]$$

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

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

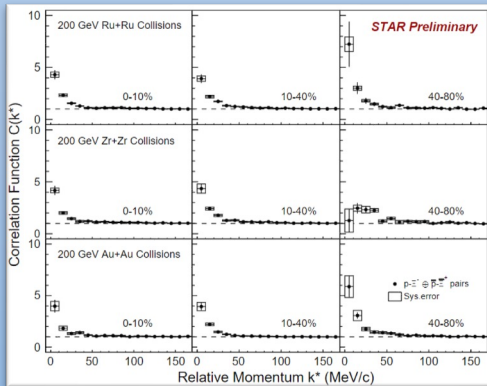
$$d_0 = [d_{0min}, d_{0max}]$$

Latin Hypercube Sampling



2nd Step

Data Input



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

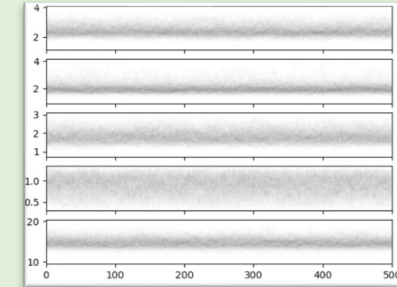
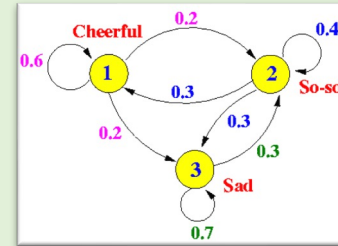
3rd Step

Technique

MC MC
Markov Chain
Monte Carlo

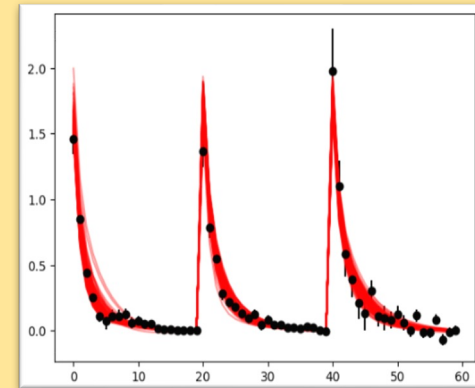
Gaussian Processes
Regression

Resampling



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

Results



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