



# Precise tests of the hadron-hadron strong interaction via femtoscopy with ALICE

Otón Vázquez Doce (TUM) for the ALICE Collaboration

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#### Outline





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Used datasets:

- **pp** 13 TeV: 15·10<sup>8</sup> MB events
- **pp** 13 TeV: 15·10<sup>8</sup> High-Mult events
- **p-Pb** 5.02 TeV: 6.0·10<sup>8</sup> MB events

Tracking and PID:

- Inner Tracking System (ITS)
- Time Projection Chamber (TPC)
- Time Of Flight (TOF)





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Study of correlations of hadron-hadron pairs from small sources: **p-p**, **p-K**<sup>+/-</sup>, **p-Λ**, Λ-Λ, **p-Σ**<sup>0</sup>, **p-Ξ**<sup>-</sup>, **p-Ω**<sup>-</sup>

Reconstruction of hyperons

- $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi$  (BR ~ 64%) -  $\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \Lambda\gamma$  (BR ~ 100%)
- $\Sigma^{\circ} \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$  (BR ~ 100%)
- $\Xi \rightarrow \Lambda \pi$  (BR ~ 100%)
- $\Omega \rightarrow \Lambda K$  (BR ~ 68%)

**Hadron physics** 







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#### Hadron physics

• Study the interaction of hadrons with strange content. While N-N interaction are well known and constrained by precise scattering data, constructing YN, YY potentials is very challenging.

#### • Recent developments

- Lattice-QCD
- Chiral effective field theory
- Meson exchange models
- Models are constrained by <u>data with limited</u> <u>precision</u> due to the experimental difficult with strange particle beams: Scattering data, hypernuclei, search for bound states, exotic atoms, etc.
- Femtoscopy with ALICE delivers precise data in the low momentum range, in a region not accessible with other approaches, with consequences on the possible appearance of hyperons in neutron stars and the existence of strange di-baryons.



#### Femtoscopy as a tool for studying h-h interactions

Based on the correlation function  $C(k^*) = \frac{P(\overrightarrow{p_a}, \overrightarrow{p_b})}{P(\overrightarrow{p_a})P(\overrightarrow{p_b})}$   $k^*$  = reduced relative momentum with  $\overrightarrow{p_a^*} + \overrightarrow{p_b^*} = 0$ 

Theoretically formulated: 
$$C(k^*) = \int S(\vec{r}, k) |\psi(\vec{r}, k)|^2 d\vec{r} \xrightarrow{k^* \to \infty} 1$$
  
 $(1 \Rightarrow \text{Repulsive})$ 





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Study the C(k\*) of hadron-hadron pairs in pp collisions  $\Rightarrow$  small particle source (~1 fm)





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Theoretically formulated:

$$C(k^*) = \int S(\vec{r}, k) |\psi(\vec{r}, k)|^2 d\vec{r}$$
  
Source  
Relative wave function:  
Sensitivity to the interaction potential

**Experimentally:** 
$$C(k^*) = \mathcal{N} \frac{N_{Same}(k^*)}{N_{Mixed}(k^*)}$$

Generally, the experimental correlation function accounts for the genuine correlation and it is affected by residual correlations and finite momentum resolution.

Hadron-hadron strong interaction via Femtoscopy with ALICE

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**CATS**: Correlation Analysis Tool Using the Schrödinger Equation D.L.Mihaylov et al. Eur.Phys.J. C78 (2018) no.5,394

Provides a exact solution computing the correlation function from the model given a local potential or wave function form.



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Hadron-hadron strong interaction via Femtoscopy with ALICE







Provides a exact solution computing the correlation function from the model given a local potential or wave function form.



#### **Decomposition of the correlation function**



Purities and contributions from weak decays determined from fits to experimental data
Such residual correlations modelled (weak decays) or obtained from data (impurities)
Resolution effects applied to the fit function Phys. Rev. C99 (2019) no.2, 024001

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<u>Ansatz</u>: in small collision systems the source is similar for all baryon-baryon, baryon-meson pairs

The characteristics of the source are **determined from femtoscopic analysis of the p-p correlation**: Assume a p-p known interaction  $\rightarrow$  determination of the source size

- Consider <m<sub>T</sub>> dependence of the source due to collective effects:
  - $\circ$  Femtoscopic p-p fits performed differentially in  $< m_T >$  bins
  - $\circ~<\!\!m_{\rm T}\!\!>$  dependence cross-checked with p- $\Lambda$  analysis
- Effect of strong short-lived resonances computed for all hadrons
  - Statistical hadronization model in the canonical approach Priv. comm. Prof. F. Becattini, J.Phys. G38 (2011) 025002





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Parametrization with exponential law  $r_{core} = a \cdot \langle m_T \rangle^b + c$ 

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Fit parameters:  $a \in [0.65, 0.83]$   $b \in [-1.2, -2.2]$  $c \in [0.36, 0.66]$ 

The p- $\Lambda$ , p- $\Sigma^0$ , p- $\Xi^-$ , p- $\Omega^-$  sources are **determined given the pair** <**m**<sub>T</sub>>:

**p-A:** 
$$r_{core} = 0.88 \pm 0.03 \text{ fm}$$
  
**p-Z**<sup>-</sup>:  $r_{core} = 0.80 \pm 0.03 \text{ fm}$   
**p-\Sigma**<sup>0</sup>:  $r_{core} = 0.75 \pm 0.04 \text{ fm}$   
**p-\Omega**<sup>-</sup>:  $r_{core} = 0.73 \pm 0.05 \text{ fm}$ 

ALI-PREL-315640



# K-p femtoscopy: The KN interaction

- $K^+p$  interaction is well established
- K<sup>-</sup>p features a strong attraction
  - appearance of the  $\Lambda(1405)$  below threshold
  - $\Lambda(1405)$ : antiKN- $\Sigma\pi$  molecular state





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# K-p femtoscopy in pp collisions

ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:1905.13470[nucl-ex]



- Radius obtained from inclusive p-p correlation  $r_0 = 1.18 \pm 0.01 \pm 0.12$  fm
- K<sup>+</sup>p correlation used as a benchmark to study K<sup>-</sup>p Jülich meson exchange model: Eur.Phys.J. A47 (2011) 18





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Kyoto Model: Phys. Rev. C93 no. 1, (2016) 015201 Jülich Model: Nucl. Phys. A981 (2019)

⇒ Bump close to the  $K^0n$ threshold→(58 MeV/c in CM frame)



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# First experimental evidence of the opening of the K<sup>0</sup>n isospin breaking channel

Coupled channel effect  $M(K^-p) + 5 \text{ MeV} = M(n\bar{K}^0)$ 

 $\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{n} & \mathbf{p} \\ \hline \hline \bar{K}^0 & K^- \end{array}$ 

 $\rightarrow$  Analysis in p-Pb 5.02TeV as a function of charged multiplicity: Interaction changes as a function of the particle distance







## $p\text{-}\Lambda$ femtoscopy in High-mult pp collisions



Previous experimental constraints:

- Scarce scattering data
- No experimental evidence of the cusp due to  $\Sigma N/\Lambda N$  coupling, responsible for the appearance of a repulsive short range component in the  $\Lambda p$  interaction





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- Extension of the kinematic range and **improved precision**.
- Clear experimental evidence of the cusp
- LO and NLO calculations within xEFT fail to reproduce the data





# $p-\Sigma^0$ femtoscopy in High-mult pp collisions



- Chiral effective theory at NLO J. Haidenbauer et al., Nucl. Phys. A 915 (2013) 24
- Meson Exchange model (ESC16) M. M. Nagels, T. A. Rijken, Y. Yamamoto, PRC 99 (2019) 044003

The  $p\mathchar`-\Sigma^0$  wave function is used as input to CATS





















"First observation of an attractive interaction between a proton and a multi-strange baryon" ALICE Coll. ArXiv:1904.12198 [nucl-ex]

- Coulomb excluded (>4σ)
- Compatible with Lattice (HAL-QCD) calculations

 $r_0 = 1.427 \pm 0.007$  (stat.)  $^{+0.001}_{-0.014}$  (syst.) fm (-20%, resonances)















# $p-\Xi^-$ : Implications for NS with hyperon content

In medium: Many body interaction, average  $\Xi^{\text{-}}$  Single particle potential (U\_{\underline{-}})

Lattice QCD:

 $U_{\underline{z}}$  moves from slightly repulsive in symmetric nuclear matter to **slightly repulsive**  $U_{\underline{z}}$  ~6 MeV in pure neutron matter (NS)





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# Models of the p- $\Omega^{-}$ interaction

- Lattice HAL-QCD potential with <u>physical quark masses</u> T. Iritani et al., arXiv:1810.03416
  - $m_{\pi} = 146 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ ,  $m_{K} = 525 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- Sekihara: <u>Meson-exchange model</u> T. Sekihara et al., Phys. Rev. C 98, 015205 (2018)
  - Short range attractive interaction fitted to previous HAL-QCD scattering parameters

Predicted strong attraction at all distances implies the formation of a  $p\Omega^-$  dibaryon





# Results: $p-\Omega^{-}$ correlation function in pp HM



"Coulomb only" scenario discarded by ALICE data (> 6  $\sigma$ ) showing the attractive character of the interaction

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Precision of ALICE data exceeds the theoretical predictions

ALI-PREL-325875

 $r_{\rm source}$  = 0.73 fm (+resonances)



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 $r_{\text{source}} = 0.73 \text{ fm} (+\text{resonances})$ 

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Precision of ALICE data exceeds the theoretical predictions

Comparison with the model favoured by STAR data STAR Coll. Phys. Lett. B790 (2019) 490-497 **V**<sub>III</sub>: Ad-hoc fit to previous HAL-QCD calculations with non-physical quark masses with  $p\Omega$  dibaryon  $E_{\rm h}$  = 27 MeV



ALI-PREL-325870





#### Outlook

ALICE delivers the **precise data** to test the hadron-hadron interaction with strangeness content. - The LHC provides a unique and precise testing of the strong interaction at distances lower than 1 fm and we extract relevant information on two-body interactions within dense matter.

The comparison of the ALICE data in small systems with the expectation from the models is very sensitive to the shape of the model potential.

- Femtoscopic data substitutes/complement the scattering data, hypernuclei and other approaches.

RUN3/4 will provide the possibility of carrying out new studies and investigate 3-body interactions.





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THANK YOU!









### Effect of resonances in the source

<u>Resonances with  $c\tau >> r_0$ </u>

- Decrease of the correlation strength
- Taken into account by the  $\lambda$  parameters

<u>Resonances with  $c\tau \sim r_0 \sim 1$  fm:</u>

- Introduce an **exponential tale** 
  - example:  $\overline{N}^*(\Gamma \sim 150\text{-}200 \text{ MeV})$ ,  $\Delta$  ( $\Gamma \sim 150 \text{ MeV}$ ), etc
  - Specific exponential modulation to each pair due to different strong decaying resonances feeding to the different particle species





Amount of resonances: Canonical approach of the statistical hadronization model (SHM)

- T = 166 MeV &  $\gamma_s \sim 0.8$  (Private Comm Prof. F. Becattini, J. Phys. G38 (2011) 025002)





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- For  $\Xi$  and no  $\Omega$  contributions!
- Average mass and average cτ determined by the weighted average values of all resonances

Particle	M <sub>res</sub> [MeV]	$ au_{ m res}$ [fm]
р	1361.52	1.65
Λ	1462.93	4.69
$\Sigma^0$	1581.73	4.28





# Modelling the source including resonances

**Gaussian** Core

$$G(r, r_{core}) = \frac{2\sqrt{\pi}r^2}{r_{core}^3} \exp\left(\frac{r^2}{4r_{core}^2}\right)$$

- Shared between particle pairs -
- Scales as a function of  $m_{T}$ -

Exponential resonance tail

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$$E(r, M_{res}, \tau_{res}, p_{res}) = \frac{1}{s} \exp(-\frac{r}{s})$$
$$s = \beta \gamma \tau_{res} = \frac{p_{res}}{M_{res}} \tau_{res}$$

Specific modulation of each pair





#### Gaussian core + resonances



**Solid line**: Source distribution including the effect of resonances

**Dashed line**: Fit with an effective Gaussian

- Direct fit of the p-p correlation function yields similar radius

- Resonance contribution to Omega yield negligible.
- Modification of the gaussian core for p-Omega pairs coming only from resonances contribution to the proton yield





## Effect on the source when smearing resonances



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#### K-p femtoscopy in p-Pb collisions



→ Analysis in p-Pb 5.02TeV as a function of charged multiplicity: Interaction changes as a function of the particle distance



пп

#### p- Correlation function: baseline

#### **Constant baseline**

Linear baseline

#### **Quadratic baseline**



Best fit for LO: nσ>8

Best fit for NLO: no>10





#### $\Lambda$ - $\Lambda$ analysis





#### $\Lambda$ - $\Lambda$ analysis: Exclusion plot

Combination of all analyzed datasets

- pp 7 & 13 TeV
- p-Pb 5.02 TeV

Test of the agreement between data and the prediction by the Lednicky model in number of sigmas

- Under the hypothesis of a common Gaussian source
- Small source size limits the prediction power of the Lednicky model



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# $\Lambda$ - $\Lambda$ analysis: Upper limit for the H-Dibaryon binding energy

 $d_0^{(\text{fm})}$ 



S. Gonbgyo et al., PRL 120(2018) 212001 P. Naidon and S. Endo, Rept. Prog. Phys. 80 (2017) 056001

- H-Dibaryon: Tight constraints on the allowed binding energy:

 $B_{\Lambda-\Lambda}=3.2^{+1.6}_{-2.4}~(\text{stat.})^{+1.8}_{-1.0}~(\text{syst.})~\text{MeV}$ 

- More stringent than previous measurements
- For more details see arXiv:1905.07209





#### Kiso Event

Implies an attractive interaction

#### Deeply bound E--14N systems







## $p-\Xi^{-}$ potential in pure neutron matter

In medium: Many body interaction, average  $\Xi^{-}$  Single particle potential (U<sub> $\Xi^{-}$ </sub>)

<u>Lattice QCD:</u>

 $U_{\pm}$  moves from slightly repulsive in symmetric nuclear matter to **slightly repulsive**  $U_{\pm}$ ~6 MeV in pure neutron matter (NS)





# $p-\Xi^-$ : Implications for NS with hyperon content





### p-Ξ: Future challenges

- For the future: Study correlation function of the excited  $\Xi^0(1530)$  state
- $\Xi^0(1530) \rightarrow \Xi^- + \pi^+$
- I = 1 & S = 1 + 2

	l = 0	I = 1	Detectable
n-Ξ <sup>-</sup>	X	$\checkmark$	No
<b>p</b> -王 <sup>0</sup>	X	$\checkmark$	Difficult
p-Ξ <sup>-</sup>	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	Yes
p-Ξ+	$\checkmark$	X	Difficult

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## ALICE pp High Multiplicity data

- Analyzed 10<sup>9</sup> events data of ALICE Run2 (2016, 2017, 2018), pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s}$  = 13 TeV
- <u>High multiplicity trigger</u>: 0.1% highest multiplicity with respect to Minimum Bias events (V0M, forward rapidities:  $2.8 < \eta < 5.1$ ,  $-3.7 < \eta < -1.7$ ).
  - $\circ$  ~ Increased yield of  $\Omega$  baryon







### Selection of $\Omega^-$ candidates

- Identified by its decay:  $\Omega^- \rightarrow \Lambda K^- \rightarrow (p\pi)K^-$
- Total of  $1.2 \times 10^6$  selected ( $\Omega^- + \Omega^+$ ) candidates
- **Purity** of the sample = **75%**
- Sidebands analysis delivers the shape of the background correlation function



#### $p-\Omega^-$ : comparison with models

Assume two different (~extreme) scenarios for the computation of the  ${}^{3}S_{1}$  channel:

**1.- Complete absorption** in the  ${}^{3}S_{1}$  channel (à la Morita et al.) with updated  $r_{0}$ 

- $r_0$  choosen from the condition  $|V_{I,II,III}| < |V_{Coulomb}|$  for  $r > r_0$
- Using the same condition with latest HAL-QCD potential may result in a substantially increased value for  $r_0 \rightarrow$  negligible

**2.- Complete elastic model** for  ${}^{3}S_{1}$  with a "similar" attraction **as**  ${}^{5}S_{2}$ 





### Previously available experimental data: STAR

- Study of the p- $\Omega^{-}$  correlation function in Au-Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{GeV}$  STAR Collaboration. Phys. Lett. B790 (2019) 490-497
- Observable: ratio of the correlation function peripheral/central collisions.
- Comparison with Lattice QCD calculations (with large masses)



 Test different fits to Lattice QCD data (delivering three different binding energies of the NΩ):

Binding energy  $(\mathbf{E}_b)$ , scattering length  $(\mathbf{a}_0)$  and effective range  $(\mathbf{r}_{eff})$  for the Spin-2 proton- $\Omega$  potentials [24].

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Spin-2 p $\Omega$ potentials	VI	V <sub>II</sub>	V <sub>III</sub>
E <sub>b</sub> (MeV)	-	6.3	26.9
<b>a</b> <sub>0</sub> (fm)	-1.12	5.79	1.29
<b>r<sub>eff</sub></b> (fm)	1.16	0.96	0.65

[24] K. Morita, A. Ohnishi, F. Etminan, T. Hatsuda, Phys. Rev. C 94 (2016), 031901

STAR data favor  $V_{III}$ , with  $E_b = 27 \text{ MeV}$ 

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# Lattice HAL-QCD potential with heavy quarks

- Based on Lattice calculations with heavy quark masses F. Etminan et al.(HAL QCD Collaboration),Nucl. Phys. A928,89(2014)
  - $m_{\pi} = 875 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
  - $\circ$  m<sup>*n*</sup><sub>K</sub> = 916 MeV/*c*<sup>2</sup>
- Used in the STAR p $\Omega$  analysis in Au-Au collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{_{NN}}}$  = 200GeV
- Lattice calculations fitted by an attractive Gaussian core + an attractive tail, varying the range parameter at long distance  $(b_5)$ 
  - $V_{II}$ : best fit to Lattice calculations
  - $\circ$   $V_{I}$  /  $V_{III}$ : weaker / stronger attraction

$$V(r) = b_1 e^{-b_2 r^2} + b_3 (1 - e^{-b_4 r^2}) (e^{-b_5 r} / r)^2$$

Binding energy  $(\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{b}})$ , scattering length  $(\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{0}})$  and effective range  $(\mathbf{r}_{eff})$  for the Spin-2 proton- $\Omega$  potentials [24].

Spin-2 p $\Omega$ potentials	VI	V <sub>II</sub>	V <sub>III</sub>
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Spin-2 p $\Omega$ potentials	V <sub>I</sub>	V <sub>II</sub>	V <sub>III</sub>
$     \mathbf{E_b} (MeV) \\     \mathbf{a_0} (fm) \\     \mathbf{a_b} (fm) $	- -1.12	6.3 5.79	26.9 1.29
<b>r<sub>eff</sub></b> (Im)	1.16	0.96	0.65





purity 75% (ALICE)

#### 1)

# Sensitivity of ALICE and STAR data

- Expected correlation function from heavy quark Lattice QCD potentials
- **Smaller radius** source offers the ideal conditions to test the models
- **Better purity** of ALICE data increases the **sensitivity** of the test



#### $p-\Omega^-$ Correlation function: source dependence

- Comparison of the C(k\*) for the different models for different source assumptions
- Size of the source determined from p-p fitted radius vs  $\langle m_T \rangle$ 
  - core gaussian source + resonances effects
  - pure gaussian source





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#### ТП

#### p-Ω<sup>-</sup> Correlation function: source dependence







# $^{\mathbb{R}}$ p- $\Omega^{-}$ Correlation function ( $^{5}S_{2}$ ) with distance cutoff

- Correlation function from  ${}^{5}S_{2}$  channel with cutoff in r (for  $r < r_{cutoff} \Rightarrow V = 0$ )
- HAL-QCD with physical quark masses (t=12): maximum of the  $C(k^*)$  for  $r_{\text{cutoff}} = 0.5$  fm

