Study of hadronic interactions via momentum-space correlations at the LHC



- **Technical University of Munich EMMI** Rapid Reaction Task Force GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH
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Hadronic interactions and QCD

Understanding how QCD evolves from high-energy to low-energy regime

Non-perturbative QCD $\rightarrow Q \sim 1~{\rm GeV}$

- Emergence of hadrons
- How do hadrons interact?



We need data for hadronic interactions!







Three-body force in many-body systems

Nuclei/hypernuclei



- Properties of nuclei and hypernuclei cannot be described satisfactorily with two-body forces only
- NNN interaction contributes ~10% to the binding. energies of light nuclei A~3 and 4
- Many-body scattering requires three-body calculations (e.g. neutron-deuteron) L. Girlanda et al., PRC 102, 064003 (2020)

³H and ⁴He binding energies and n-d scattering length

Potential(NN)	³ H[MeV]	4He[MeV]	² a _{nd} [fm]
AV18	7.624	24.22	1.258
CDBonn	7.998	26.13	
N3LO-Idaho	7.854	25.38	1.100
Potential(NN+NNN)			
AV18/UIX	8.479	28.47	0.590
CDBonn/TM	8.474	29.00	
N3LO-Idaho/N2LO	8.474	28.37	0.675
Exp.	8.48	28.30	0.645±0.010

Sekiguchi, K. Few-Body Syst 60, 56 (2019) L.E. Marcucci et al., Front. Phys. 8:69 (2020)



Three-body force in many-body systems



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- Many-body scattering requires three-body calculations (e.g. neutron-deuteron) L. Girlanda et al., PRC 102, 064003 (2020)
- NNN and NNA interactions used in the modeling of the equation of the state of neutron stars

D. Lonardoni et al, PRL 114, 092301 (2015) J. Schaffner-Bielich et al, NPA 835 (2010)









$$C(k^*) = \mathcal{N} \frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)}$$

experimental definition

S.E. Koonin, PLB 70 43 (1977)

L. Fabbietti et al, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part.Sci. 71 (2021) 377-402







$$C(k^*) = \mathcal{N}\frac{N_{\text{same}}(k^*)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(k^*)} = \int S(\vec{r}^*) \left| \psi(\vec{k}^*, \vec{r}^*) \right|^2$$

experimental definition theoretical defi

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 $d^{3}r^{*} \xrightarrow{k^{*} \to \infty} 1$

inition

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Femtoscopy at the LHC



Collisions system sizes

Pb-Pb: 5-10 fm

- p-Pb: 2-4 fm
- pp: 1–1.5 fm



$$d^3 r^* \xrightarrow{k^* \to \infty} 1$$

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• Common emission profile for all hadron pairs

$$S(r^{*}) = \frac{1}{(4\pi r_{core}^{2})^{3/2}} exp\left(-\frac{r^{*2}}{4r_{core}^{2}}\right)$$



Gaussian core source

ALICE Coll, PLB 811 (2020)



• Common emission profile for all hadron pairs

$$S(r^*) = \frac{1}{(4\pi r_{core}^2)^{3/2}} exp\left(-\frac{r^{*2}}{4r_{core}^2}\right)$$

- Include short-lived strongly decaying resonances
 - Lifetime

CT ~ r_{core} ~ 1fm (Δ^{++} , N*, Σ^{*})

- Yields are constrained using the thermal fist



Gaussian core source +resonance contributions

ALICE Coll, PLB 811 (2020)



• Common emission profile for all hadron pairs



$$k_{\rm T} = \frac{1}{2} \, \Big| \,$$

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• Common emission profile for all hadron pairs π - π (same charge):

Coulomb + quantum statistics



$$k_{\rm T} = \frac{1}{2} \, \Big| \,$$

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• Common emission profile for all hadron pairs

Constrained values of $r_{\rm core}$ of the pair + effect of short-lived resonances



ALICE Coll, PLB 811 (2020)



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A-p interaction



Scattering data only

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• Important in the context of hypernuclei D. Mihaylov, J. Haidenbauer and V. Mantovani Sarti, PLB 850 (2024), 138550



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Scattering + Femto data



A-p interaction

Scattering data only

- Spin-averaged scattering length of 1.77 ± 0.18 fm. Which is lower than current estimates
- Feed these results into xEFT (NLO19*) and constrain its low energy constants. *) Haidenbauer et al. Eur.Phys.J.A 56 (2020) 3, 91
- We can expect new prediction of WF for hypertriton

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Scattering + Femto data





K⁺-d correlation in pp collisions



Deuterons follow hadron-hadron m_T-scaling?

• Coulomb potential: disagree







K⁺-d correlation in pp collisions



Deuterons follow hadron-hadron m_T-scaling?

- Coulomb potential: disagree
- K⁺–d as an effective two-body system: Lednický-Lyuboshits approach^[1]
- K⁺–d scattering parameters
 - Effective-Range Approximation (ER):

 $a_0 = -0.47 \text{ fm}, \ d_0 = -1.75 \text{ fm}^{[2]}$

- Fixed-center approximation (FCA):

 $a_0 = -0.54 \text{ fm}, \ d_0 = 0 \text{ fm}^{[3]}$

Deuterons follow the same m_T scaling as other hadrons

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K[±]-d correlations in Pb–Pb

- K[±]-d correlation functions in Pb–Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV
 - 3 centrality intervals: 0–10%, 10-30%, and 30-50%

Lednicky'-Lyuboshitz approach

- Coulomb effects + strong interaction (via scattering parameters)







K[±]-d source size in Pb–Pb



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p-d correlation in pp collisions

- p–d as an effective two-body: Lednický-Lyuboshits approach^[1]
- Source size: $1.08^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$ fm
- Strong interaction: constrained from the scattering measurements^[2]





p-d correlation in pp collisions

- p–d as an effective two-body: Lednický-Lyuboshits approach^[1]
- Source size: $1.08^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$ fm
- Strong interaction: constrained from the scattering measurements^[2]
- The picture of two point-like particles does not work
 - Pauli blocking at work for p-(pn) at short distances
 - Asymptotic strong interaction: does not describe p–d at r ~1 fm





p-d correlation in pp collisions

- Source size: $1.08^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$ fm
- measurements^[2]



• Start from p–(pn) system that form p–d state:

$$C_{pd}(k^*) = \frac{1}{6A_d} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \int \frac{S(r_1)S(r_2)S(r_3)}{S(r_1)S(r_2)S(r_3)} \left| \Psi(k^*, r_1, r_2, r_3) \right|^2 d^3r_1 d^3r_2 d^3r_3$$
$$= \frac{1}{6A_d} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \int \frac{e^{-\rho^2/4R_M^2}}{\left(4\pi R_M^2\right)^3} \left| \Psi(k^*, \rho) \right|^2 \rho^5 d\rho d\Omega$$

- $\Psi(k^*, \rho)$ the three-nucleon wave function, p–(pn) to p–d state asymptotically
- $R_{\rm M} = 1.43 \pm 0.16$ fm nucleon-nucleon source size in p–d (obtained from analysis)

M. Viviani, B. Singh et al. Phys. Rev. C 108, 064002 (2023) Calculations: theory collaborators Michele Viviani, Alejandro Kievsky, and Laura Marcucci from Pisa group Sebastian König from NC state University

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Single-particle Gaussian emission source







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- A_d is the deuteron formation probability using the deuteron wave function

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- **Coulomb only**: disagree!
- Argonne v18(2N) + Urbana IX (genuine three-body **force**) potentials^[1,2]
 - s-wave only: more repulsion

[1] B. R. B. Wiringa et al. Phys. Rev. C 51, 38

[2] B. S. Pudliner et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 74, 4396

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- Agree with data within $n_{\sigma} \sim 2.5$ for $k^* < 120$ MeV/c

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Dynamics of the p–(pn) triplet and higher partial waves at short distances!

Avenue for the study of hadron-deuteron systems including charm and strange hadrons!

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A-d correlation

- Measurement in LHC Run2 was not investigated in detail due to the lack of statistics
- LHC Run 3 ~2 orders of magnitude increase in pair statistics: p-d and Λ-d (results very soon)
- Theoretical predictions: based on LL model by J. Haidenbauer, Phys. Rev. C 102, 034001 (2020)



Only s-wave contribution: in doublet S = 1/2 and quartet (S = 3/2)







Femtoscopy opens the door for the study of interactions in unbound system of three hadron (3 to 3 scattering process)

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Three-body femtoscopy with ALICE

- Extending femtoscopy to three-particle correlations: p-p-p and p-p- Λ^1
- Study interaction in hadron-triplets

$$C(Q_3) = N \frac{N \text{same}(Q_3)}{N \text{mixed}(Q_3)}$$

$$Q_3 = \sqrt{q_{12}^2 + q_{23}^2 + q_{13}^2}$$

[1] ALICE Coll., EPJ A 59, 145 (2023)


Three-body femtoscopy with ALICE

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• Effects beyond two-body contributions²

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$$Q_3 = \sqrt{q_{12}^2 + q_{23}^2 + q_{13}^2}$$



p-p-p correlation using AV18 potential

Three-body correlation function with HH approach¹

$$C(Q_3) = \int S(\rho) \left| \psi(Q_3, \rho) \right|^2 \rho^5 d\rho$$

Work of Laura Šerkšnyte, and Raffaele Del Grande (Munich group) in collaboration with INFN PISA group

- $\Psi(Q_3, \rho)$ computed using pp AV18 strong interaction, Coulomb corrections, and quantum statistics
- Attractive AV18 interaction: results peak
- Pauli-blocking: depletion in $C(Q_3)$



Femtoscopy towards LHC Run 3

- LHC Run 3 pp collisions at 13.6 TeV: 2 orders of magintude increased p-p pair statistics
- Fixed source for all interaction studies using femtoscopy



p-p correlation function measured in $m_{\rm T}$ and multiplicity differential

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Source size studies in pp collisions

- Doors to study hadronic interactions
- Nuclei production studies via coalescence

Summary





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h-d: first measurement ever in pp collisions

- Deuterons follow source size scaling in pp collisions
- Access to three-body systems

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Outlook: Large statistics of LHC run 3 and run 4

- **p-p correlation:** source constrained for all interaction studies
- Ongoing studies for **p–d, Λ–d, p–p-p, and p-p-Λ** from LHC run 3

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Summary



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Backup

From (anti)d production to strong interaction

Strong interaction in proton-deuteron system







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Production described by two models

Statistical hadronization model

- Particle yields (including nuclei) described by filling the available phase-space after the collision
- Microscopic details of nuclei production are absent!



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Coalescence model

- Nucleons bind after chemical freeze-out if they are close in phase-space







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- Nucleons bind after chemical freeze-out if they are close in phase-space







Deuteron spectra in coalescence

Deuteron spectra instead of B₂^[1]

$$\frac{d^{3}N}{dP^{3}} = \frac{S_{d}}{(2\pi)^{6}} \int d^{3}k \int d^{3}r_{n} \int d^{3}r_{p} \mathscr{D}(\vec{k},\vec{r}) H_{np}\left(\vec{r}_{n},\vec{r}_{p}\right) G_{np}\left(\vec{P}/2+\vec{k},\vec{P}/2-\vec{k}\right)$$
Deuteron Wigner density
$$\mathscr{D}(\vec{k},\vec{r}) = \int d^{3}\xi e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{\xi}}\varphi_{d}\left(\vec{r}+\frac{\vec{\xi}}{2}\right)\varphi_{d}^{*}\left(\vec{r}-\frac{\vec{\xi}}{2}\right) \left(H_{np}\left(\vec{r}_{n},\vec{r}_{p};r_{0}\right) = \frac{1}{(2\pi r_{0})^{3}}\exp\left(-\frac{r^{2}+r_{d}^{2}}{4r_{0}^{2}}\right)\right)$$

Nucleon momenta distributions

 r_0



[1] Kachelriess et al. EPJA 57 (5) 167, 2021



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Deuteron formation probability

$$\mathcal{P}\left(r_{0},k\right) = \int d^{3}r_{d} \int d^{3}r H_{np}\left(\vec{r},\vec{r}_{d};r_{0}\right) \mathcal{D}(\vec{k},\vec{r})$$

Nucleon momenta distributions

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[1] Kachelriess et al. EPJA 57 (5) 167, 2021



Deuteron spectra

Deuteron production spectra in event generators

$$\frac{d^3 N_d}{dP_d^3} = \frac{S_d}{(2\pi)^6} \int d^3 k \mathscr{P}\left(r_0, k\right) G_{np}\left(\overrightarrow{P}_d/2 + \overrightarrow{k}, \overrightarrow{P}_d/2\right)$$

- Two event generators, PYTHIA 8.3 and EPOS
 - Tuned to reproduce proton spectra and p-p source size measurements with ALICE in pp collisions
 - Parameter-free prediction of deuteron yield!

Calculations with Argonne v₁₈ and Chiral EFT (not shown for visibility) shows the best agreement with measurements!

M. Mahlein, B. Singh et al. Eur. Phys. J. C 83, <u>804 (2023)</u>







Sensitivity to genuine three-body force

- Computed correlation function with and without genuine three-body force
 - Up to 5% effect of genuine three-body interaction
 - Run 2: limited statistics does not allow for resolution to see the effect of three-body force
- LHC Run 3: ~2 orders of magnitude increase in pair statistics
 - Possibility to perform m_T differential analysis

Avenue for the study of hadron-deuteron systems, including charm and strange hadrons!







• Observable: coalescence probability $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{A}}$ for A nucleons to coalesce and form a nuclei

$$\mathbf{B}_A\left(p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{p}}\right) = \frac{1}{2\pi p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{A}}}$$

 $\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 N_{\mathrm{A}}}{\mathrm{d}y \,\mathrm{d}p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{A}}} \left/ \left(\frac{1}{2\pi p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{p}}} \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 N_{\mathrm{p}}}{\mathrm{d}y \,\mathrm{d}p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{p}}} \right)^{\mathrm{A}} \right.$ $\frac{A}{T} \frac{dy dp_{T}^{A}}{dp_{T}}$ Nuclei yield Nucleon yield



• Observable: coalescence probability $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{A}}$ for A nucleons to coalesce and form a nuclei

$$B_{A}\left(p_{T}^{p}\right) = \frac{1}{2\pi p_{T}^{A}} \frac{d^{2}N_{A}}{dy \ dp_{T}^{A}} \left/ \left(\frac{1}{2\pi p_{T}^{p}} \frac{d^{2}N_{p}}{dy \ dp_{T}^{p}}\right)^{A}\right.$$
Nuclei yield
Nucleon yield
= 2 for deuteron)^[1]

• Theoretical description of B₂ (A



$$-\int d^3k \, e^{-R^2k^2} \,\mathrm{D}(\vec{k})$$

[1] Blum et al, PRC 99 (2019) 044913



• Observable: coalescence probability $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{A}}$ for A nucleons to coalesce and form a nuclei

$$B_A\left(p_T^p\right) = \frac{1}{2\pi p_T^A}$$

• Theoretical description of $B_2 (A = 2 \text{ for deuteron})^{[1]}$



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• Theoretical description of $B_2(A = 2 \text{ for deuteron})^{[1]}$

igner density $D(k) = \left| d^3 r e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}} \left| \phi_{\rm d}(\vec{r}) \right| \right|^2$ Deuteron Wigner density



[1] Blum et al, PRC 99 (2019) 044913





$B_2 vs p_T/A$ in pp collisions

- First *p*_T-differential study of B₂ using p-p source size in pp collisions
- B_2 calculations using χEFT wavefunction differ by a factor of ~2
- Further improvements in the theoretical framework for B₂ within coalescence model are required









Coalescence parameters B₂



The use of an event generator in the Wigner approach preserves correlation in $ec{k}$ and $ec{r}$

- B₂ calculated using AV18 (Chiral EFT) WF agrees with the measurement!

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p-d correlation in the past

- Interpreted using the LL approach
- Measurement performed at AGS

[1] Wosińska, K., Pluta, J., Hanappe, F. et al. Eur. Phys. J. A 32, 55–59 (2007)



Source size for p-d and K+-d pairs

• The source radius is effectively increased by **short**lived strongly decaying resonances ($c\tau \approx r_{core}$) e.g. Δ -resonances in case of protons



Source size	mean value:p–d	mean value:K+–d
r _{core}	0.99±0.05 fm	1.04±0.04 fm
r _{eff}	1.08±0.06 fm	$1.35^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$ fm

Hadron-deuteron pairs are created at very small distances in pp collisions at the LHC!

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(1)

Total wavefunction for p-d system

$$\begin{split} \Psi_{LSJJ_z} &= \sum_{n,\alpha} \frac{u_{n,\alpha}(\rho)}{\rho^{5/2}} \mathcal{Y}_{n,\alpha}(\Omega) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sum_{\ell}^{\text{even perm.}} \left\{ Y_L(\hat{\boldsymbol{y}}_\ell) \left[\varphi^d(i,j) \chi(\ell) \right]_S \right\}_{JJ_z} \frac{F_L(\eta, ky_\ell)}{ky_\ell} \\ &+ \sum_{L'S'} T_{LS,L'S'}^J \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sum_{\ell}^{\text{even perm.}} \left\{ Y_{L'}(\hat{\boldsymbol{y}}_\ell) \left[\varphi^d(i,j) \chi(\ell) \right]_{S'} \right\}_{JJ_z} \\ &\times \frac{\overline{G}_{L'}(\eta, ky_\ell) + iF_{L'}(\eta, ky_\ell)}{ky_\ell} \; . \end{split}$$



Partial wave decomposition of p-d

Precise calcualtion using AV18+UIX as well NVIa3/3N chiral potentials





AV18+UIX vs NVIa3 3N Chiral potentials

Precise calcualtion using AV18+UIX as well NVIa3/3N chiral potentials



Strong interactions in three-body systems



Coulomb only

- Complete p-pn dynamics, but the strong interaction is absent at very short-range!
 - r^{NN}eff =1.43±0.16 fm (nucleon-nucleon distance)
- In the case of the two-body picture Coulomb-only interaction differs from the one using the p-(pn) dynamics
 - r^{pd}eff =1.08±0.06 fm (proton-deuteron distance)
 - More repulsion due to the Pauli-blocking

Sensitivity to the dynamics of the three-body p–(pn) system even for Coulomb case



Born approximation effective two-body

- Complete p-pn dynamics, but the strong interaction is absent at very short-range!
 - r^{NN}eff =1.43±0.16 fm (nucleon-nucleon distance)
 - Coulomb-only interaction coincidently appears in the data (despite the large scattering lengths)
 - Coulomb+strong interaction using Born approximation (neglecting short-range strong interaction) and proper p–pn dynamics

Sensitivity to the dynamics of the three-body p-(pn) system at short distance



- **body dynamics)**^[1]
- - data within $n_{\sigma} \sim 1$ for k^* up to 400 MeV/c
- - body force



Femtoscopic correlation

- The femtoscopic correlation may have background/contributions from
 - Particles from weak decays
 - Particles from material knock-outs
 - Misidentifications

Contributions from:

- - Purity of the individual particles (\mathscr{P}_i)
 - Feed-down fractions (f_i)

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$C_{femto}(k^*) = \lambda_0 C_0 \oplus \lambda_1 C_1 \oplus \lambda_2 C_2 \oplus \dots$

genuine feed-down misidentifications

• Quantification of the contributions to the pairs done by the lambda parameters $\lambda_{ii} = \mathcal{P}_i \cdot f_i \times \mathcal{P}_i \cdot f_i$



Cumulant: measure for three-body effects



 $c_3(Q_3)$ allows to isolate effects associated with the genuine three-body interactions



B. Singh

EMMI RRTF | Strong interactions in three-body systems

- Hint of a genuine three-body

- Strong rise but inclusive









Kubo's cumulant approach¹



 $c_3(Q_3)$ allows to isolate effects associated with the genuine three-body interactions

- Positive p-p- Λ cumulant
 - Two identical particle and charged particle
 - Expected dominant contribution from strong interaction
- Statistical significance:

$n\sigma = 0.8$ for $Q_3 < 0.4$ GeV/c

In Run 3, two orders of magnitude gain in statistics expected!

$p-p-\Lambda$ cumulant




Lednicky Model

- For distinguishable particles

 - Considers Coulomb effects
- Coulomb-corrected wave function for final-state interactions in s wave:

$$\psi_{-k^*}(r^*) = e^{i\delta_c} \sqrt{A_c(\eta)} \left[e^{-ik^*r^*} F\left(-i\eta, 1, i\zeta\right) + f_c(k^*) \frac{\tilde{G}(\rho, \eta)}{r^*} \right]$$

- f_c : Coulomb normalized scattering amplitude for strong interaction
- $F(-i\eta, 1, i\zeta)$: confluent hypergeometric function
- $\tilde{G}(\rho,\eta)$: combination of singular and regular Coulomb function, describes asymptotic behavior of wavefunction

⇒ to obtain two-particle correlation: apply Koonin-Pratt formula

- Starting from the scattering parameters \Rightarrow define the s-wave two-particle relative wave function



Interaction model

• For distinguishable pointlike particles: Lednicky approach^[1]

- Considers Coulomb effects + strong interaction (via scattering parameters)
- **p-d scattering parameters** from constrained to the p-d scattering data

S = 1/2		S = 3/2	
$a_0(\mathrm{fm})$	$d_0(\mathrm{fm})$	$a_0(\mathrm{fm})$	$d_0(\mathrm{fm})$
$1.30\substack{+0.20\\-0.20}$		$11.40^{+1.80}_{-1.20}$	$2.05\substack{+0.25 \\ -0.25}$
$2.73\substack{+0.10 \\ -0.10}$	$2.27\substack{+0.12 \\ -0.12}$	$11.88\substack{+0.10\+0.40}$	$2.63\substack{+0.01 \\ -0.02}$
4.0		11.1	
0.024		13.8	
$-0.13\substack{+0.04 \\ -0.04}$		$14.70\substack{+2.30 \\ -2.30}$	

• K+-d scattering parameters

- ER (effective-range approximation): $a_0 = -0.47$ fm, $d_0 = -1.75$ fm, calculated by Prof. Johann Haidenbaur, based on potential describing K+d low-energy cross-sections^[2]
- from Chiral model KN scattering lengths^[3]

- Starting from the scattering parameters \Rightarrow define the s-wave two-particle relative wave function

Van Oers, Brockmann et al. Nucl. Phys. A 561-583 (1967) J.Arvieux et al. Nucl. Phys. A 221 253-268 (1973) E.Huttel et al. Nucl. Phys. A 406 443-455 (1983) A.Kievsky et al. PLB 406 292-296 (1997) T.C.Black et al. PLB 471 103-107 (1999)

FCA (fixed-center approximation): $a_0 = -0.54$ fm, $d_0 = 0.0$ fm, calculated by Prof. Tetsuo Hyodo starting

[1] R. Lednicky, Phys. Part. Nuclei 40, 307–352 (2009) [2] T. Takaki PRC 81, 055204 (2010)]

[3] K. Aoki and D. Jido, PTEP 2019, 013D01 (2019)

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ALICE detector: Run 2

Time-Of-Flight detector

- Identification of nuclei and hadrons through their time-of-flight

Time Projection Chamber

 Tracking
 Identification of nuclei and hadrons via specific energy loss

ALICE : <u>ITS</u> and <u>TPC</u> upgrades

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Inner Tracking System

Track reconstruction
Reconstruction of primary and decay vertices
Identification of lowmomentum particles



Another calculation at hand

- Hadron-Deuteron Correlations and Production of Light Nuclei in Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions: <u>arxiv.org/abs/1904.08320</u>
 - hadron-deuteron correlation function which carries information about the source of the deuterons
 - Allows one to determine whether a deuteron is directly emitted from the fireball or if it is formed afterwards
 - Conclusion:
 - The theoretical p-d correlation function is strongly dependent on the source size



Fig. 2. p-D correlation function





NS



D. Lonardoni et al., PRL 114, 092301 (2015)

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