

The role of multi-particle correlations

in light nuclei and hyperon production

at RHIC

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Femtoscopy STAR

ATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

- Light nuclei
- Hyperons



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GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH



... the method to probe **geometric** and **dynamic** properties of the source (emission region, range of correlations-interactions, phase-space cloud, ...) **Femtoscopy does not measure the whole source, but homogeneity length**.

Classic femtoscopy

2R

Femtoscopy (originating from HBT):

the method to probe **geometric** and **dynamic** properties of the source

Space-time properties (10⁻¹⁵m, 10⁻²³s) determined thanks to two-particle correlations:
Quantum Statistics (Fermi-Dirac, Bose-Einstein);
Final State Interactions (Coulomb, strong)

determined assumed measured $C(k^*, r^*) = \int S(r^*) |\Psi(k^*, r^*)|^2 d^3r = \frac{Sgnl(k^*)}{Bckg(k^*)}$

 $S(r^*)$ – source function

 k^* - momentum of the first particle in the Pair Rest Frame reference



 $\Psi(k^*, r^*)$ – two-particle wave function (includes e.g. FSI interactions)

 $\frac{Sgnl(k^*)}{Bckg(k^*)}$ – correlation function

Gateway to study interactions

p2

2**R**

If we assume we know the **source function**, measured **correlations** are used to determine **interactions in the final state**.

Space-time properties $(10^{-15}m, 10^{-23}s)$ determined thanks to two-particle correlations: **Quantum Statistics** (Fermi-Dirac, Bose-Einstein); **Final State Interactions** (Coulomb, strong)

assumed determined measured $C(k^*, r^*) = \int S(r^*) |\Psi(k^*, r^*)|^2 d^3 r^* = \frac{Sgnl(k^*)}{Bckg(k^*)}$ $S(r^*) - \text{source function}$

*k** - momentum of the first particle in the Pair Rest Frame reference



 $\Psi(k^*, r^*)$ - two-particle wave function (includes e.g. FSI interactions) $\frac{Sgnl(k^*)}{Bckg(k^*)}$ - correlation function

Bertsch-Pratt parametrization, 3D- and 1D-dimensional cases

- \rightarrow R_{side} spatial source evolution in the transverse direction
- $\rightarrow R_{out}$ related to spatial and time components
- $\rightarrow R_{out}/R_{side}$ signature of phase transition
- \rightarrow R_{out}²- R_{side}² = $\Delta \tau^2 \beta_t^2$; $\Delta \tau$ emission time
- $\rightarrow R_{long}$ temperature of kinetic freeze-out and source lifetime

long - determined by the beam direction*out* - determined by the pair transverse momentum*side* - perpendicular to *long* and *side*

3D case is considered if statistics is enough and two-particle correlations are easy to describe (Quantum Statistics and Coulomb FSI).It is challenging for systems interacting strongly.1D case is considered then (assuming spherical source).



STAR

Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC

Versatile experiment + Many detector subsystems \rightarrow Varied and interesting program to better understand Quantum

Chromodynamics

RHIC energies, species combinations and luminosities (Run-1 to 22) pî+pî Species combination d+Au h+Au 100 0+0

9 12 15 17 20 23 27 39 54 56 62 130 193 200 410 500 510

Center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ [GeV] (scale not linear)

Cu+Cu

Cu+Au Zr+Zr Ru+Ru Au+Au U+U

- Beam Energy Scan
- System Size at top RHIC Energy
- Exploring QGP Dynamical Structure
- Electro-Magnetic Probes
- Hard Probes
- Understanding QCD and Nucleons



Average store 0.1

0.01

8

Solenoidal Tracker At RHIC

Excellent particle identification Large, uniform acceptance at mid-rapidity

STAR fixed-target experiment setup





Particle identification at STAR



Excellent particle identification due to combined information from Time Projection Chamber and Time of Flight detectors.

Unique mass/dEdx separation for π , K, p, d, t, ³He, ⁴He, ⁶He, ⁶Li.

Light nuclei

Light nuclei correlation: p-d, d-d correlations

1) A systematic measurement of **p-p**, **p-d**, and **d-d** correlations may tell us whether **deuterons** are directly emitted from the fireball or formed due to final-state interactions; 2) A large amount of light nuclei produced at Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3$ GeV allows one for precision measurements.



S. Mrówczyński and P. Słoń, Physical Review C 104, 024909 (2021)

Lednicky-Lyuboshitz model

The correlation function can be calculated analytically by averaging Ψ over the total spin S and the distribution of the relative distances $S(r^*)$ Ref: Lednicky, Richard & Lyuboshits, V.L. (1982). Sov.

$$C(k^*) = \int S(r^*) |\Psi(r^*, k^*)|^2 d^3r$$

The normalized pair separation distribution (source function) **S(r*)** is assumed to be Gaussian,

$$S(r^*) = (2\sqrt{\pi}r_0)^{-3}e^{-\frac{r^{*2}}{4r_0^2}},$$

$$\Psi^S(r^*,k^*) = e^{-ik^*r^*} + f^S(k^*)\frac{e^{ik^*r^*}}{r^*} \qquad f^S(k^*) = (\frac{1}{f_0^S} + \frac{1}{2}d_0^Sk^{*2} - ik^*)^{-1} \qquad \text{Strong}$$

$$|\Psi^C(r^*,k^*)| = \sqrt{A_C}e^{-ik^*r^*}F(-i\eta,1,i\zeta) \qquad A_C(\eta) = \frac{2\pi}{k^*a_c}(exp(\pm \frac{2\pi}{k^*a_c}) - 1)^{-1} \quad \text{Coulomb}$$

F- confluent hypergeometric function

 f_0 and d_0 - parameters of strong interaction.

Theoretical correlation function (k^*) depends on: R, f_0 and d_0 .

f₀ - the scattering length, determines low-energy scattering.

The elastic cross section, σ_e , (at low energies) determined by the scattering length, $\lim_{k\to 0} \sigma_e = 4\pi f_0^2$

 d_0 - the effective range, corresponds to the range of the potential (simplified scenario - the square well potential.

For identical systems one has to include QS (Fermi-Dirac / Bose-Einstein) as well.

J. Nucl. Phys. (Engl. Transl.); (United States). 35:5.

Proton-deuteron correlations



1. Clear depletion at small k* range seen in data due to interactions in the final states;

- 2. Data compared with Lednicky Lyuboshitz model;
- 3. A spherical source size with r = 3 4 fm is consistent with data.

Deuteron-deuteron correlations



1. Clear depletion at small k* range seen in data;

- 2. Data compared with Lednicky Lyuboshitz model;
- 3. A spherical source size with r = 4 5 fm is consistent with data, larger than in p-d case.

Deuteron-deuteron correlations



1. Compared with SMASH model;

2. Correlations calculated with coalescence of deuterons is in better agreement with data; Support the deuteron formation at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3$ GeV is dominated by coalescence;

3. SMASH source size: 4.3 - 5.9 fm from peripheral to central collisions.

Wrap-up-1: deuteron correlations

- First measurement of **p-d** and **d-d** correlation functions from STAR;
- **p-d** and correlations qualitatively described by Lednicky Lyuboshitz model: **d-d** has larger emission source size than **p-d**;
- **d-d** correlations described better by the model including **coalescence**;
- Light nuclei are likely to be formed via coalescence;
- In the BES-II, STAR has collected 10 20 times more data in Au+Au collisions at the energy range $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3 19.6$ GeV (higher precision femtoscopy analysis possible);

Hyperons

Neutron star puzzle

- Hyperons: expected in the core of neutron stars; conversion of N into Y energetically favorable.
- Appearance of Y: The relieve of Fermi pressure → softer EoS → mass reduction (incompatible with observation).
- The solution requires a mechanism that could provide the **additional pressure** at high densities needed to make the EoS stiffer.
- A few possible mechanisms, one of them:
- Two-body YN & YY interactions
- A lot of experimental and theoretical effort to understand:
- The KN interaction, governed by the presence of $\Lambda(1405)$
- The nature of $\Lambda(1405)$, the consequences of KNN formation
- **K** and \bar{K} investigated to understand kaon condensation

 $M_{\rm NS} \approx 1 \div 2 M_{\odot}$ $R \approx 10-12 \text{ km}$ $\rho \approx 3 \div 5 \rho_0$



YN and YY interactions

• Experiment: More ... and more! interest about YN and YY interactions!





- Theory: Major steps forward have been taken (Lattice QCD).
- Numerous theoretical predictions exist, many experimental searches look for evidence for bound states.
- The existence of **hypernuclei** (confirmed by attractive YN interaction) → indicates the possibility to bind Y to N.
- The measurement of the YN and YY interactions leads to important implications for the possible formation of **YN** or **YY bound states**.
- A precise knowledge of these interactions help to explore unknown structure of neutron stars.

YN correlations at STAR





p-A: $|\psi(r,k)|^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{4} |\psi_0(r,k)|^2 + \frac{3}{4} |\psi_1(r,k)|^2$ **d-A:** $|\psi(r,k)|^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{3} |\psi_{1/2}(r,k)|^2 + \frac{2}{3} |\psi_{3/2}(r,k)|^2$

◆ Different spin states with different f₀ and d₀ parameters
 ◆ p-Λ correlation: current statistics is not enough to separate two spin states → spin-averaged fit

★ d-Λ correlation: very different f_0 for (D) and (Q) are predicted → Spin-separated fit



Different spin states with different FSI

parameters

p-\Lambda correlation: currently spin-averaged fit **d-\Lambda correlation:** spin-separated fit

YN ($p - \Lambda$) correlations at STAR



- Simultaneous fit to data in different centralities and rapidities;
- Source size R and parameters of SI: f_0 and d_0 with Lednicky-Lyuboshitz approach;
- Spin-averaged scattering length and effective range:

$$f_0 = 2.32^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$$
 fm and $d_0 = 3.5^{+2.7}_{-1.3}$ fm.

YN ($p - \Lambda$) interactions at STAR

 X^2 contour of spin-averaged d_0 and f_0 for $p\Lambda$ (-1<y<0)



H. W. Hammer, Nucl. Phys. A 705 (2002) 173
A. Cobis, et al. J. Phys. G 23 (1997) 401
J. Haidenbauer, Phys.Rev.C 102 (2020) 3, 034001
M. Schäfer, et al. Phys.Lett.B 808 (2020) 135614
G. Alexander, et al. Phys. Rev. 173 (1968) 1452
J. Haidenbauer, et al. Nucl. Phys. A 915 (2013) 24
F. Wang, et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 83 (1999) 3138



Source size extracted from the source assuming Gaussian shape;

Separation of emission source from the parameters of the final state interaction;

YN ($d - \Lambda$) correlations at STAR



- Simultaneous fit to data in different centralities and rapidities;
- Source size R and parameters of SI: f_0 and d_0 with Lednicky-Lyuboshitz approach;
- Spin-separated scattering length and effective range:

 $f_0(D) = 20^{+3}_{-3} \text{ fm}; d_0(D) = 3^{+2}_{-1} \text{ fm};$ $f_0(Q) = 16^{+2}_{-1} \text{ fm}; d_0(Q) = 2^{+1}_{-1} \text{ fm}.$

YN ($d - \Lambda$) correlations at STAR



Simulation based on STAR ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ yield measurement: 4 - 8% of $d - \Lambda$ entries come from ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ decay for low k*; Contamination subtracted from inclusive $d - \Lambda$ correlations;

Correlations of ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}H$ from $d - \Lambda$ and $d - (p - \pi^{-})$ are **not** experimentally **distinguishable**.

YN correlations at STAR



Source size extracted from the source assuming Gaussian shape;

Separation of emission source from the parameters of the final state interaction;

Collision dynamics as expected:

$$R_c > R_p;$$

 $R_{p-\Lambda} > R_{d-\Lambda}$

YN ($d - \Lambda$) interactions at STAR



H. W. Hammer, Nucl. Phys. A 705 (2002) 173
A. Cobis, et al. J. Phys. G 23 (1997) 401
J. Haidenbauer, Phys.Rev.C 102 (2020) 3, 034001
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Source size extracted from the source assuming Gaussian shape;

Separation of emission source from the parameters of the final state interaction;

Binding energy



Bethe formula from Effective Range Expansion (ERE) parameters $f_0(D)$ and $d_0(D)$.

$$\frac{1}{-f_0} = \gamma - \frac{1}{2} d_0 \gamma^2 \quad \Leftrightarrow B_\Lambda = \frac{\gamma^2}{2\mu_{d\Lambda}}$$
$$\Leftrightarrow \mu_{d\Lambda}: \text{ reduced mass}$$
$$\Leftrightarrow \gamma: \text{ binding momentum}$$

Consistent with the world average ★ A new way to constrain the ³_AH structure

Wrap-up-2: YN interactions at STAR

- The first $d-\Lambda$ correlation measurements in heavy-ion collisions;
- New p- Λ correlation measurements with $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 3$ GeV Au+Au collisions ;
- Successfully separated emission source size from final state interactions in p- Λ and d- Λ correlations;
- Collision dynamics as expected: $R_c > R_p$ and $R_{p-\Lambda} > R_{d-\Lambda}$
- *p*- Λ correlation spin-averaged: $f_0 = 2.32^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$ fm; $d_0 = 3.5^{+2.7}_{-1.3}$ fm;

• *d*-
$$\Lambda$$
 correlation spin-separated: $f_0(D) = 20^{+3}_{-3} fm; d_0(D) = 3^{+2}_{-1} fm;$
 $f_0(Q) = 16^{+2}_{-1} fm; d_0(Q) = 2^{+1}_{-1} fm.$

• ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}HB\Lambda = [0.04, 0.33]$ MeV; 95% CL from $d - \Lambda(D)$ correlation

Thank you

Light nuclei correlation: p-d, d-d correlations



Doublet spin state ${}^2S_{1/2}$		Quartet spin state ${}^{4}S_{3/2}$		Ref
Scattering Length	Effective Range	Scattering Length	Effective Range	
1.30 +/- 0.2 fm	-	11.40 +/- 1.5 fm	2.05 +/ 0.25 fm	Oers, Brockmann et al, Nucl.Phys.A 561-583
2.73 +/- 0.1 fm	2.27 +/- 0.12 fm	11.88 +/- 0.25 fm	2.63 +- 0.02 fm	J. Arvieux, Nucl.Phys.A 221 253-268 (1973)
4.0 fm	-	11.1 fm	-	E. Huttel et al, Nucl.Phys.A 406 443-455
0.024 fm	-	13.7 fm	-	A. Kievsky et al, PLB 406 292-296 (1997)
-0.13 +/- 0.04 fm	-	14.70 +/- 2.30 fm	-	T. C. Black et al, PLB 471 103-107 (1999)



⇒ Triplet spin (S=1) : irrelevant for s-wave
⇒ Modify the component used in L-L model

$$C_{dd} = \frac{1}{6}C_{singlet,S=0} + \frac{5}{6}C_{quintet,S=2}$$

Lednicky-Lyuboshitz model

The normalized pair separation distribution (source function) $S(r^*)$ is assumed to be Gaussian,

$$S(r^*)=(2\sqrt{\pi}r_0)^{-3}e^{-rac{r^{*2}}{4r_0^2}},$$
 Ref : Lednicky, Richard & Lyuboshits, V.L.. (1982). Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. (Engl. Transl.); (United States). 35:5.

The correlated function can be calculated analytically by averaging Ψ^s over the total spin S and the distribution of the relative distances $S(r^*)$

$$egin{aligned} C(k^*) &= 1 + \sum_{S}
ho_s ig[rac{1}{2}ig|rac{f^S(k^*)}{r_0}ig|^2ig(1-rac{d_0^S}{2\sqrt{\pi}r_0}ig) + rac{2\mathbb{R}f^S(k^*)}{\sqrt{\pi}r_0}F_1(Qr_0) - rac{\Im f^S(k^*)}{r_0}F_2(Qr_0)ig] \ with \ F_1(z) &= \int_0^z dx e^{x^2-z^2}/z \ and \ F_2(z) &= (1-e^{-z^2})/z \end{aligned}$$

Decomposition for spin channels $(p-\Lambda)$ $C(k^*)=rac{1}{4}(1+\lambda C(k^*,s=0))+rac{3}{4}(1+\lambda C(k^*,s=1))$

 f_0 and d_0 - parameters of strong interaction.

Theoretical correlation function (k^*) depends on: R, f_0 and d_0 .

 f_0 - the scattering length, determines low-energy scattering.

The elastic cross section, σ_e , (at low energies) determined by the scattering length, $\lim_{k\to 0} \sigma_e = 4\pi f_0^2$

 d_0 - the effective range, corresponds to the range of the potential (simplified scenario - the square well potential.

Lednicky-Lyuboshitz model



Lednicky & Lyuboshitz analytical model

Calculate correlation function

fit

Experimental correlation function

x² calculation minimum determination

Discover the world at Leiden University

1. The Lednicky-Luboshitz semi-analytical model (utilized in CorrfitCumac codes) provides an immediate correlation function value but may be computationally intensive due to integral calculations.

2. The first fitter employs ROOT minimizers, offering precise statistical uncertainty estimation, but it operates on "continuous" maps with limited control over parameter steps.

3. The second fitter, Hal:Minimizer, accommodates "non-continuous" functions, allowing parameters to change in discrete steps. However, it provides only approximate uncertainty estimates.



Relative distance function:

$$S_P(r') \sim \exp\{-\frac{[r_{out} - \bar{X}_{out}]^2}{4\gamma_T^2 R_{out}^2} - \frac{r_{side}^2}{4R_{side}^2} - \frac{r_{long}^2}{4R_{long}^2}\}$$

 $\gamma_T = (1 - V_T)^{-1/2}$; V_T - velocity of the pair in LCMS frame.

Femtoscopy in Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions: Two Decades of Progress; Mike Lisa, Scott Pratt, Ron Soltz, Urs Wiedemann

Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55:357-402,2005

$$\begin{aligned} R_{out}^{2} &= \frac{1}{2} [R_{a,out}^{2} + R_{b,out}^{2} + (V_{s,a-V_{T}})^{2} (\Delta \tau_{a})^{2} + (V_{s,b} - V_{T})^{2} (\Delta \tau_{b})^{2}] \\ R_{side}^{2} &= \frac{1}{2} [R_{a,side}^{2} + R_{b,side}^{2}] \\ R_{long}^{2} &= \frac{1}{2} [R_{a,long}^{2} + R_{b,long}^{2}] \\ \bar{X}_{out} &= \bar{x}_{a,out}' - \bar{x}_{b,out}' \end{aligned}$$

long - determined by the beam direction*out* - determined by the pair transverse momentum*side* - parallel to *long* and *side*



Sensitivity to lifetime (spread of the emission time, small $\Delta \tau$ means particles were emitted rapidly, not early)

If $R_{a,out}^2 + R_{b,out}^2 \simeq R_{a,side}^2 + R_{b,side}^2$ Then $V_{a,s} = V_{b,s}$ and $\Delta \tau_a = \Delta \tau_b = \Delta \tau$ $(V_T - V_s)^2 (\Delta \tau)^2 \simeq R_{out}^2 - R_{side}^2$

If emission comes from sources moving over large range of rapidity (a boostinvariant expansion), the dimension along the beam axis for the source emitting zero-rapidity particles is determined by the distance one can move before the collective velocity overwhelms the thermal velocity.

$$R_{long} \simeq \frac{V_{them}}{dv/dz} = V_{therm} < t >$$

 R_{out}/R_{side} gives information about suddenness of emission R_{long} provides the insight in to the mean time at which emission occurs as estimate of the thermal velocity.

For a thermal source, the thermal velocity is determined by the temperature and

transverse mass $m_T = \sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2}$

$$V_{therm} = \sqrt{T/m_T};$$

assumes particles are emitted with the same Bjorken time $\tau_B = \sqrt{t^2 - z^2}$

$$\frac{1}{R_{long}^2} \sim \frac{1}{V_{therm}^2 \tau_B^2} + \frac{1}{\eta_G^2 \tau_B^2}$$

 η_G is the range of rapidity over which the source is distributed

From Mike Lisa (STAR paper):

$$R_{long} = \tau \sqrt{\frac{T}{m_T} \frac{K_2(m_T/T)}{K_1(m_T/T)}};$$
 includes modifies Bessel functions

The correlation function depends on three-dimensional momenta: P, q.

 $P = p_a + p_b$ $q^{\mu} = \frac{(p_a - p_b)^{\mu}}{2} - \frac{(p_a - p_b)P}{2P^2} P^{\mu}$ For high-energy collisions, usually LCMS system is used (moving along the longitudinal direction, $P_z = 0$) long - determined by the beam direction out - determined by the pair transverse momentum side - parallel to long and side

Any four-vector V can be expressed in the coordinate system in the four-momentum P to project out the components: P=p1+p2

$$V_{long} = (P_0 V_z - P_z V_0)/M_T$$

$$V_{out} = (P_x V_x - P_x V_y)/P_T$$

$$V_{side} = (P_x V_y - P_y V_x)/P_T$$

$$M_T^2 = P_0^2 - P_z^2$$

$$P_T^2 = P_x^2 + P_y^2$$

Second boost to the Pair Rest Frame $(P_T = 0)$:

$$V_{out}' = \frac{M_{inv}}{M_T} \frac{(P_x V_x - P_x V_y)}{P_T} - \frac{P_T}{M_T M_{inv}} PV$$
$$M_{inv}^2 = P^2$$



To gain a physical understanding of the three-dimensional spatio-temporal source distributions, it is useful to summarize its size and shape with a few parameters. This motivates to study of Gaussian parametrization for the source and two-particle correlator. Relativistic sources deviate from Gaussians. In practice, Gaussian parametrization provide the standard minimal description of experimental data. Using the reflection symmetries for mid-rapidity sources in a symmetric central Collisions, a Gaussian parametrization for the emission function for particle species:

$$s_a(p,x) \sim \exp\{-\frac{(x_{out} - \bar{x}_{a,out} - V_{s,a}(t - t_a))^2}{2R_{a,out}^2} - \frac{x_{side}^2}{2R_{a,side}^2} - \frac{x_{long}^2}{2R_{a,long}^2} - \frac{(t - \bar{t}_a)^2}{2(\Delta \tau_a)^2}\}$$

The cross term indicates that source can move in outward direction with a velocity V_S . The correlation function is determined by the phase space density of the final state, so the phase space density is

$$f_a(p, r, t) \sim \exp\{-\frac{[x_{out} - \bar{X}_a(t)]^2}{2[R_{a,out}^2 + (V_{s,a} - V_T)^2(\Delta \tau_a)^2]} - \frac{x_{side}^2}{2R_{a,side}^2} - \frac{x_{long}^2}{2R_{a,long}^2}\}$$

$$\bar{X}_a(t) = \bar{x}_{a,out} + V_T(t - t_a)$$

Relative distance function:

$$S_P(r') \sim \exp\{-\frac{[r_{out} - \bar{X}_{out}]^2}{4\gamma_T^2 R_{out}^2} - \frac{r_{side}^2}{4R_{side}^2} - \frac{r_{long}^2}{4R_{long}^2}\right\}$$
$$\gamma_T = (1 - V_T)^{-1/2}$$