

# High-precision measurements of the strong interaction

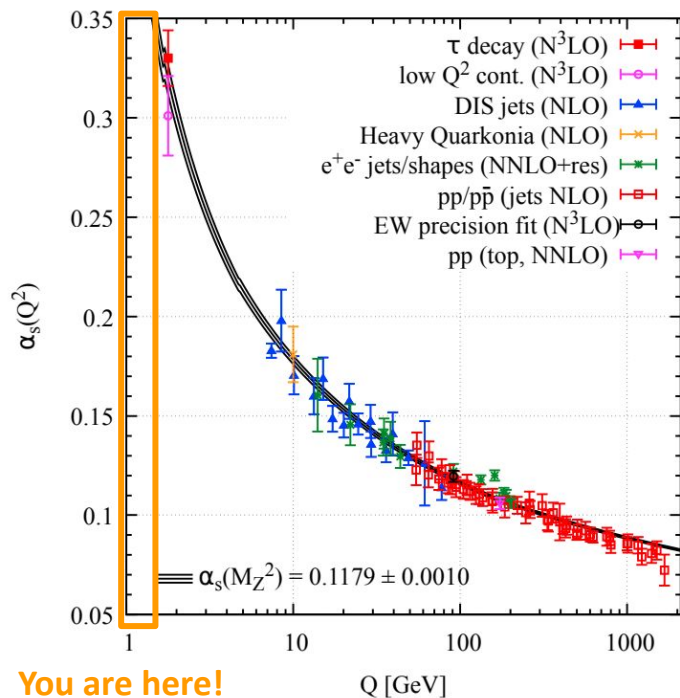
Otón Vázquez Doce, LNF -INFN

Present and future perspectives in Hadron Physics

Frascati, 19 june 2024



# Hadron-hadron strong interaction



You are here!

Running coupling constant defines the boundaries of “Low energy QCD”

- $Q \sim 1$  GeV,  $R \sim 1$  fm
- Far away from the perturbative regime

High energy  
colliders data

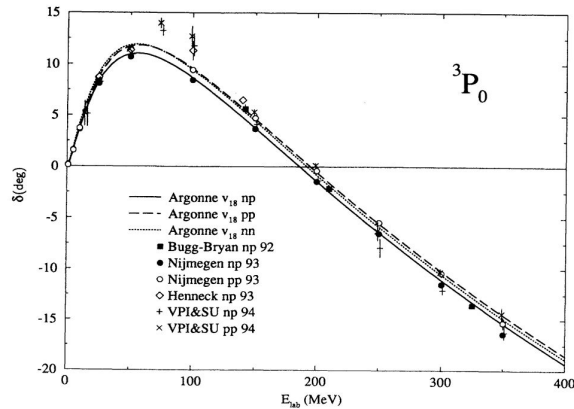
from high-energy physics  
facility to nuclear physics



# Hadron-hadron interactions (with strangeness)

$S=0$

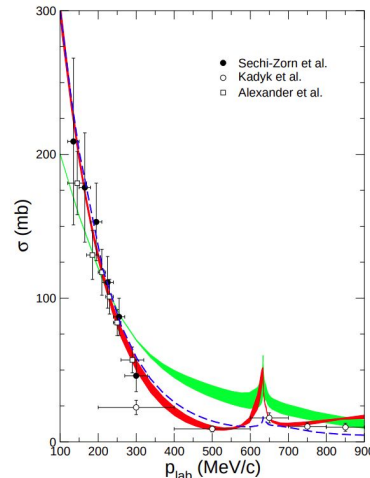
$NN \rightarrow NN$



R. B. Wiringa, V. G. J. Stoks, R. Schiavilla Phys. Rev. C 51, 38 (1995)

$S=-1$

$\Lambda p \rightarrow \Lambda p$

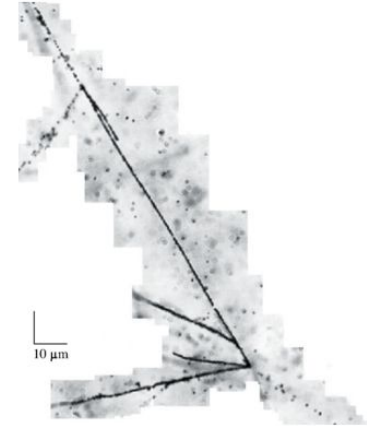
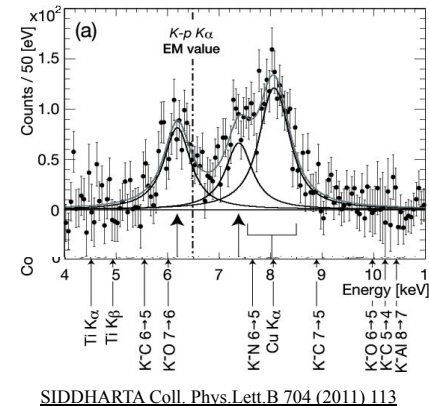


LO: H. Polinder, J. Haidenbauer, U. Meißner, Nucl. Phys. A779 (2006) 244.  
NLO: J. Haidenbauer et al., Nucl. Phys. A915 (2013) 24.

$S=-2$

Kaonic atoms

$\Lambda\Lambda, \Xi$  hypernuclei

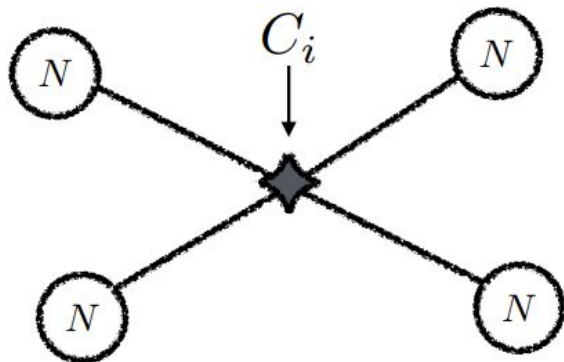


KISO event: K. Nakazawa et al., Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. 2015, 033D02  
IBUKI event J-PARC E07 Coll., Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 062501 (2021)

Experimental data

# Hadron-hadron strong interactions

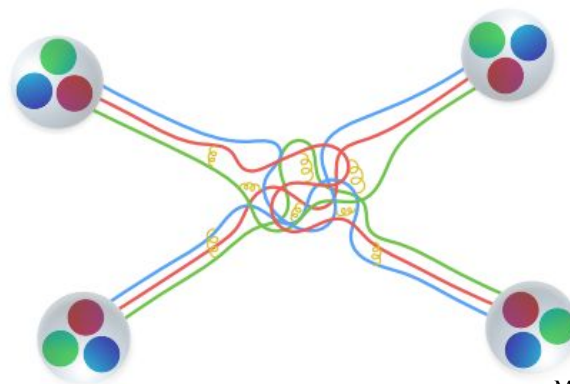
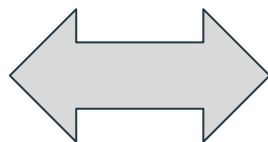
Residual strong interaction among hadrons



$$\mathcal{L}_{EFT}[\pi, N, \dots; m_\pi, m_N, \dots, C_i]$$

Effective theories (EFT)

- Hadrons as degrees of freedom
- Low-energy EFT coefficients by data



$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD}[q, \bar{q}, A; m_q, \alpha_s]$$

**Lattice QCD**

- Understanding of the interaction starting from **quark and gluons** constraint

Marc Illa  
THEIA-STRONG2020

# Hadron-hadron interactions

(with strangeness)

$$m_\pi \approx 200 \text{ MeV}$$

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **109**, 014511 (2024)

**Lattice QCD study of  $\pi\Sigma - \bar{K}N$  scattering and the  $\Lambda(1405)$**

[BaSc Coll. Phys. Rev. D 109, 014511 \(2024\)](#)

S=0

NN

S=-1

NK, N $\Lambda$ , N $\Sigma$

S=-2

$\Lambda\Lambda$ , N $\Xi$

$$m_\pi = 146 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$

$$m_K = 525 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$



Physics Letters B

Volume 792, 10 May 2019, Pages 284-289



N $\Omega$  dibaryon from lattice QCD near the physical point

[HAL QCD Coll. Phys. Lett. B792 \(2019\) 284](#)

S=-3

$\Lambda\Xi$ , N $\Omega$

$$m_\pi = 146 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$

$$m_K = 525 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **120**, 212001 (2018)

**Most Strange Dibaryon from Lattice QCD**

[HAL QCD Coll. PRL 120, 212001 \(2018\)](#)

...S=-6

$\Omega\Omega$

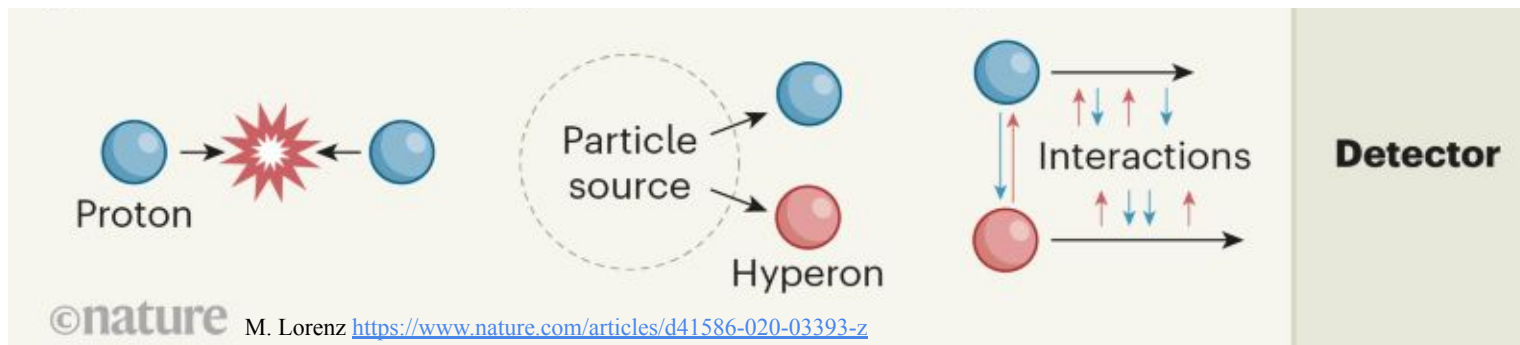
Experimental data

Better S/N of LQCD

# Femtoscopia method in nucleus-nucleus collisions

Measurement of the correlation function  
of two particles emitted a nucleus-nucleus collision

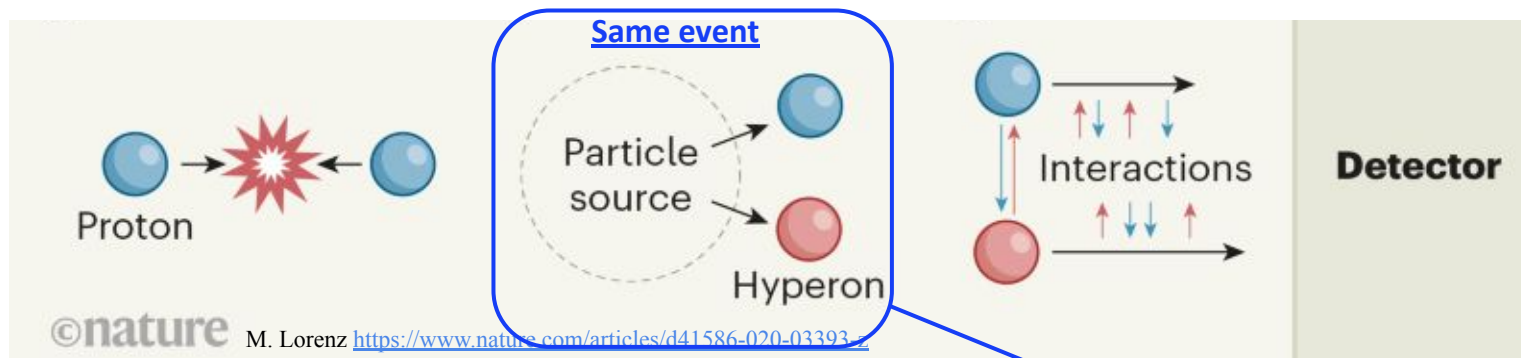
$$C(\vec{p}_a, \vec{p}_b) = \frac{P(\vec{p}_a, \vec{p}_b)}{P(\vec{p}_a)P(\vec{p}_b)}$$



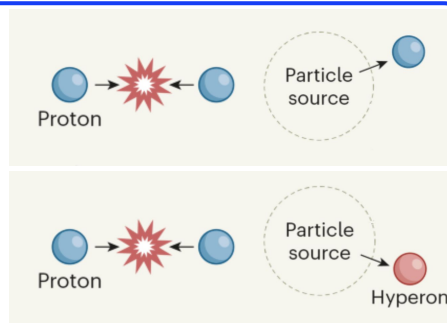
# Femtoscscopy method in nucleus-nucleus collisions

Measurement of the correlation function  
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Mixed events



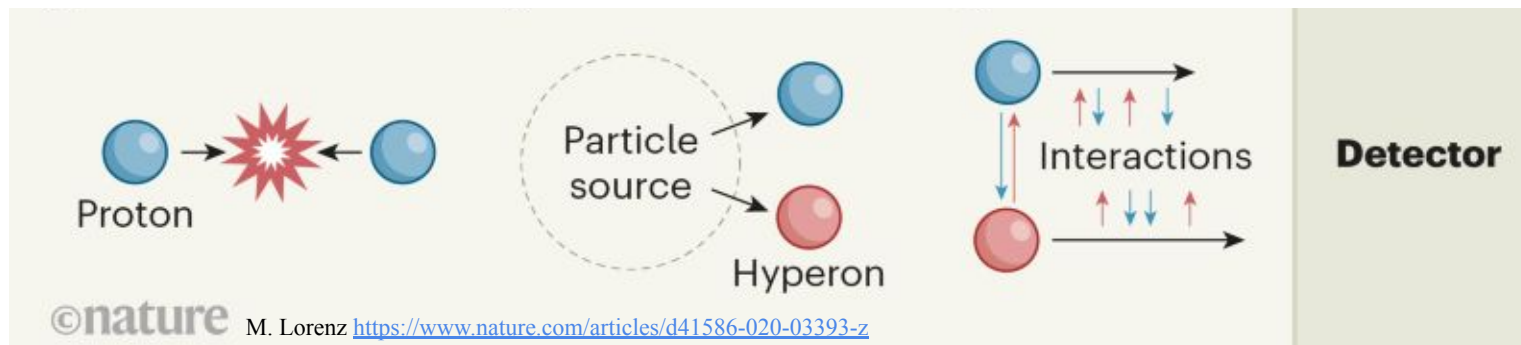
Experiment:

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

# Femtoscscopy method in nucleus-nucleus collisions

Measurement of the correlation function  
of two particles emitted a nucleus-nucleus collision

$$C(\vec{p}_a, \vec{p}_b) = \frac{P(\vec{p}_a, \vec{p}_b)}{P(\vec{p}_a)P(\vec{p}_b)}$$



## Traditional femtoscopy in heavy-ion collisions

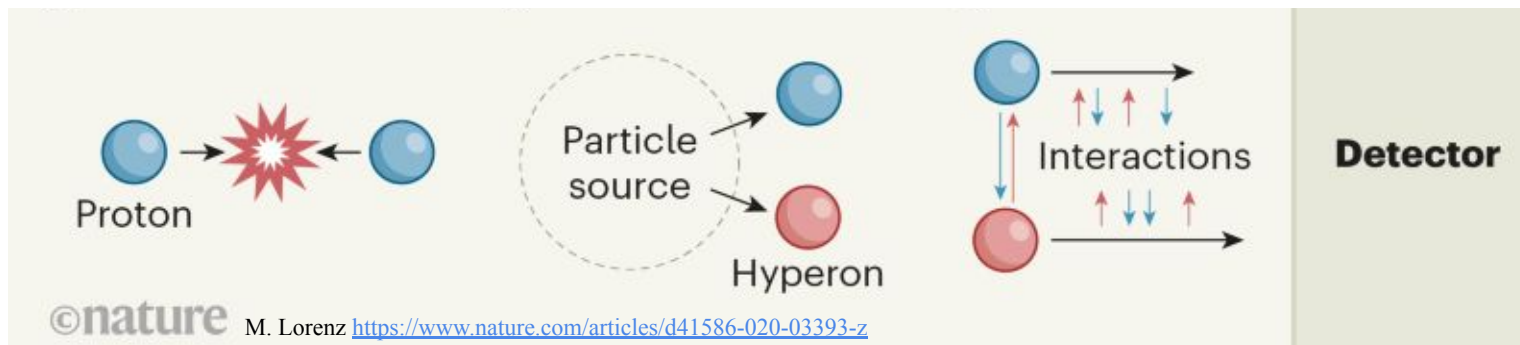
- Study pairs of bosons (typically  $\pi\pi$ ,  $KK$ )
  - Correlation produced by quantum statistics effect + **known interaction (Coulomb)**
- Source sizes ~ **3-10 fm**



# Femtoscscopy method in nucleus-nucleus collisions

Measurement of the correlation function  
of two particles emitted a nucleus-nucleus collision

$$C(\vec{p}_a, \vec{p}_b) = \frac{P(\vec{p}_a, \vec{p}_b)}{P(\vec{p}_a)P(\vec{p}_b)}$$



## "Non-traditional" femtoscopy

- **Study the interaction** given a **known source**
- Applied to small collision systems, pp  $\Rightarrow$  Source size  **$\sim 1\text{fm}$**

[L. Fabbietti, V. Mantovani, O. Vázquez Doce, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. \(2021\) 71:377](#)

# Theoretical correlation function

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

S. E. Koonin, *Physics Letters B* **70** (1977) 43-47

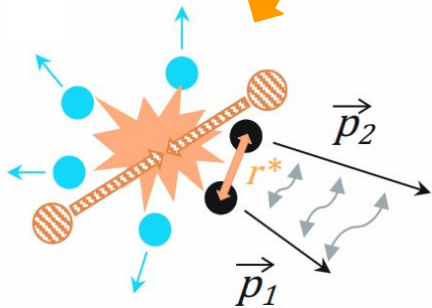
S. Pratt, *Phys. Rev. C* **42** (1990) 2646-2652

Relative momentum  $\vec{k}^* = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_1^* - \vec{p}_2^*|$  and  $\vec{p}_1^* + \vec{p}_2^* = 0$

Relative distance  $\vec{r}^* = \vec{r}_1^* - \vec{r}_2^*$

# Theoretical correlation function

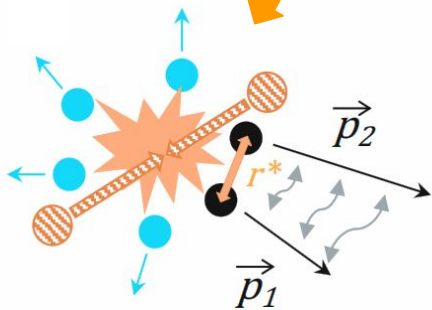
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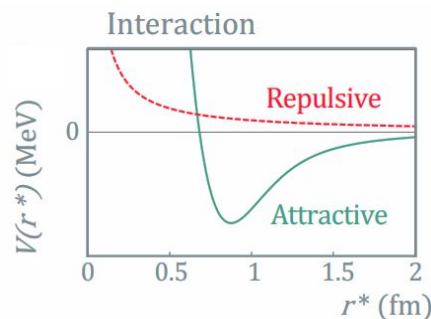
Emission source  $S(r^*)$

# Theoretical correlation function

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



Emission source  $S(r^*)$



Schrödinger equation

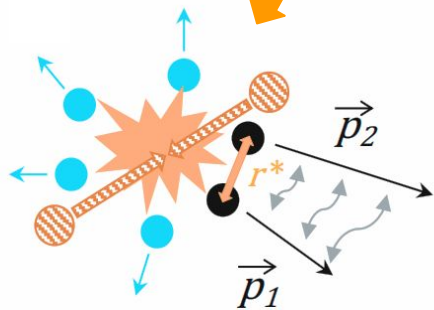
D.L.Mihaylov et al.  
Eur. Phys. J. C78 (2018) no.5.394

Two-particle wave function

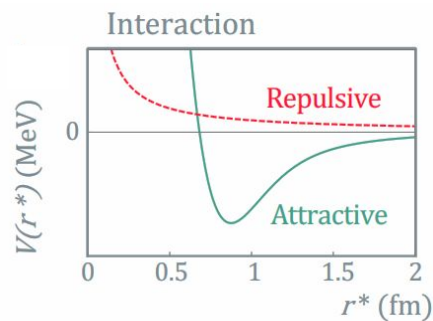
$$\Psi(k^*, \vec{r}^*)$$

# Theoretical correlation function

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



Emission source  $S(r^*)$



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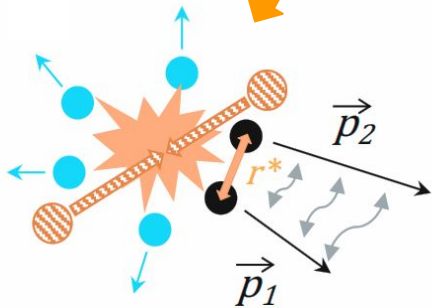
Two-particle wave function

$$\Psi(k^*, \vec{r}^*)$$

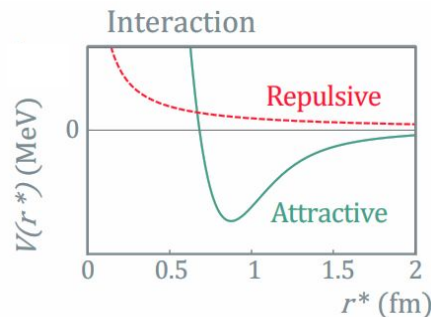
Scattering parameters

# Theoretical correlation function

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



Emission source  $S(r^*)$



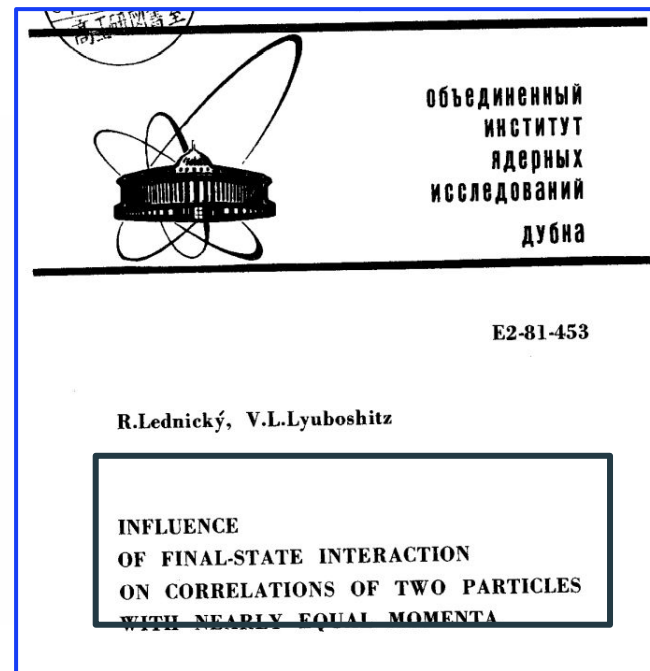
Schrödinger equation

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$$\Psi(k^*, \vec{r}^*)$$

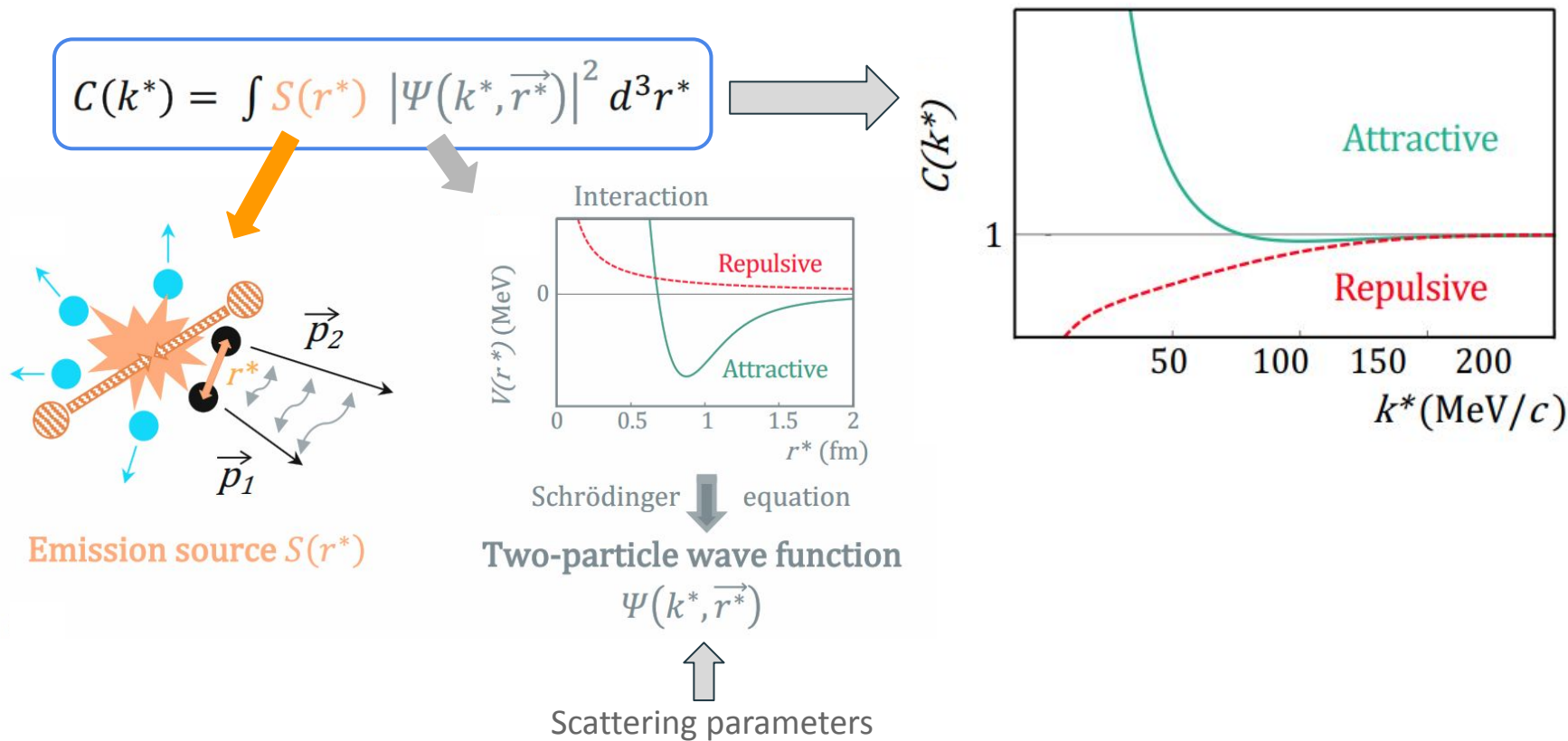
Scattering parameters

s-wave asymptotic wave function  
from scattering parameters



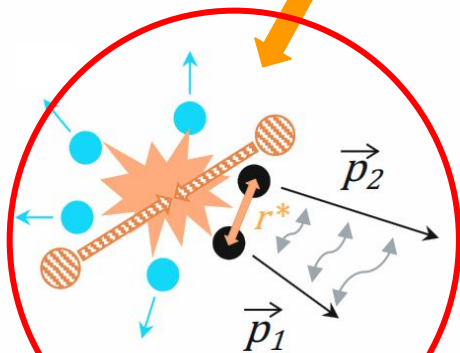
[R. Lednický and V.L. Lyuboshits,](#)  
[Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 53 \(1982\) 770](#)

# Theoretical correlation function



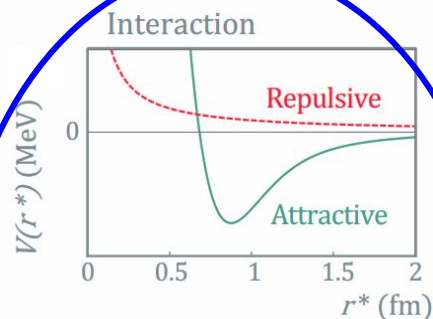
# Theoretical correlation function

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



Emission source  $S(r^*)$

- ⇒ Simple gaussian description
- ⇒ Size determined a-priori



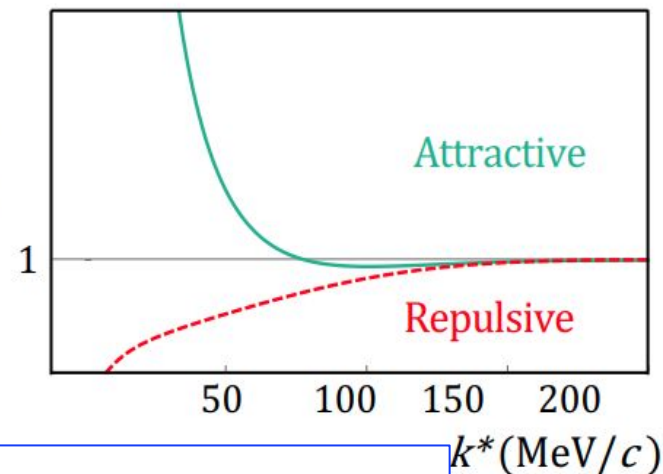
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Two-particle wave function

$$\Psi(k^*, \vec{r}^*)$$

↑ Scattering parameters

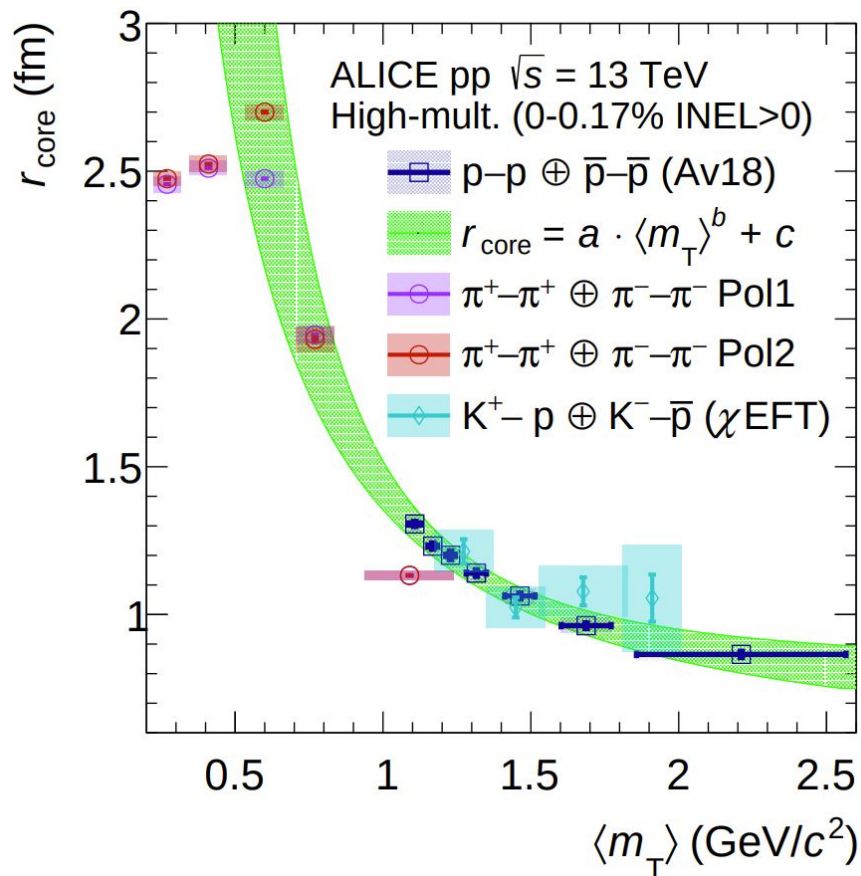
$C(k^*)$



**OBJECT OF STUDY IN SMALL SYSTEMS**



# A necessary first step: Setting the source



“Universal” dependence of the source size with pair transverse mass  $\langle m_T \rangle$

- related to hydrodynamics / collective phenomena?

**newst results:**

[ALICE Coll., arXiv:2311.14527 \[hep-ph\] EPJC in press](#)  
Source size  $\langle m_T \rangle$  scaling in pp collisions confirmed as well with  $\pi$ - $\pi$  and K-p pairs

$$m_T = \sqrt{k_T^2 + m^2} \quad k_T = \frac{1}{2} |p_{T,1} + p_{T,2}|$$

# Kbar-N interaction

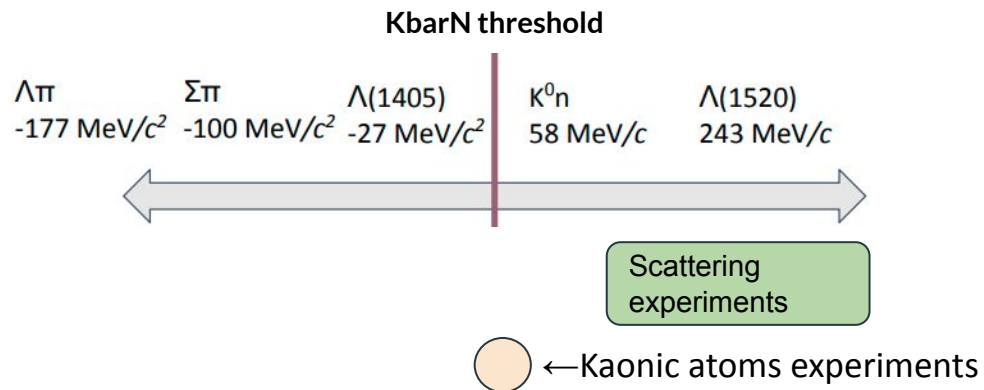
$S = -1$

Kaon and antiKaon interactions with nucleons are totally different

KN interaction: mild and repulsive, perfectly constraint by scattering data

## KbarN interaction:

- appearance of the  $\Lambda(1405)$  below (and close to) threshold
- Strong coupled channel dynamics  $K\bar{K}N-\Sigma\pi$



# Kbar-N interaction

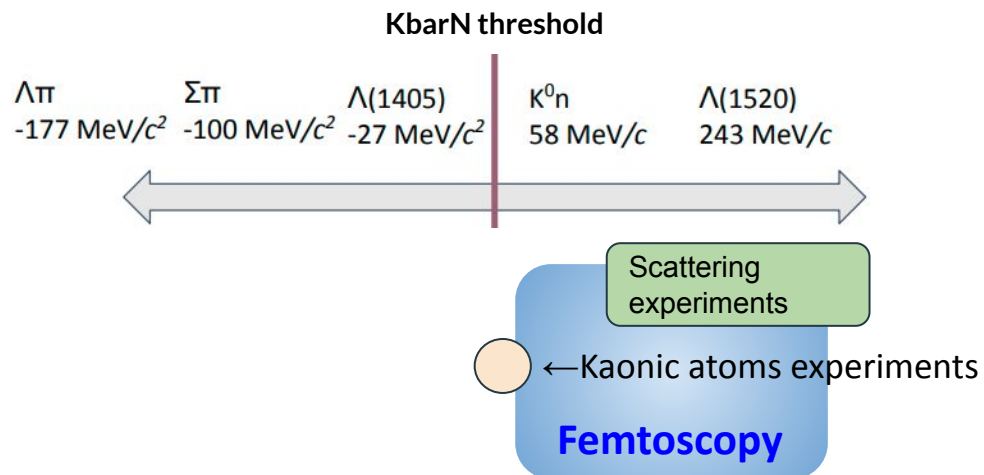
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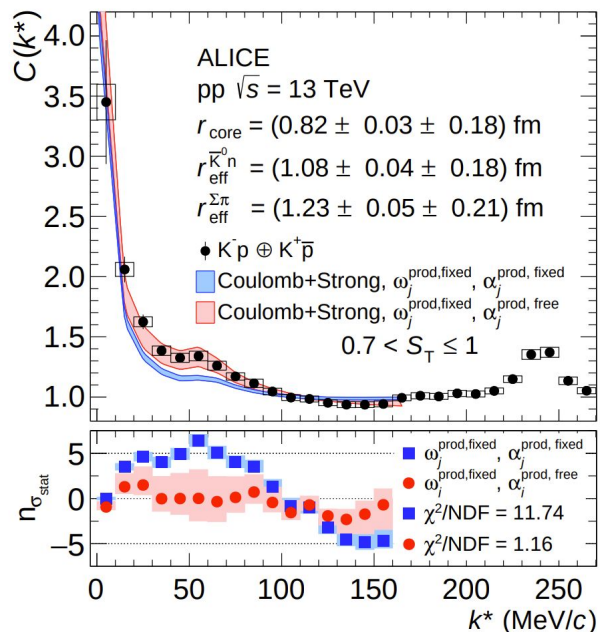
# Kbar-N interaction

$S = -1$

## K<sup>-</sup>p femtoscopy in pp collisions

ALICE Coll. Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 092301 (2020)

ALICE Coll. arXiv:2205.15176, EPJC in press (2022)



⇒ Provides a **quantitative test of coupled channels in the theory**  
Effects of coupled channels enhanced by small source

Strong interaction: Kyoto model

K. Miyahara, T. Hyodo, W. Weise, Phys. Rev. C98, 2, (2018) 025201

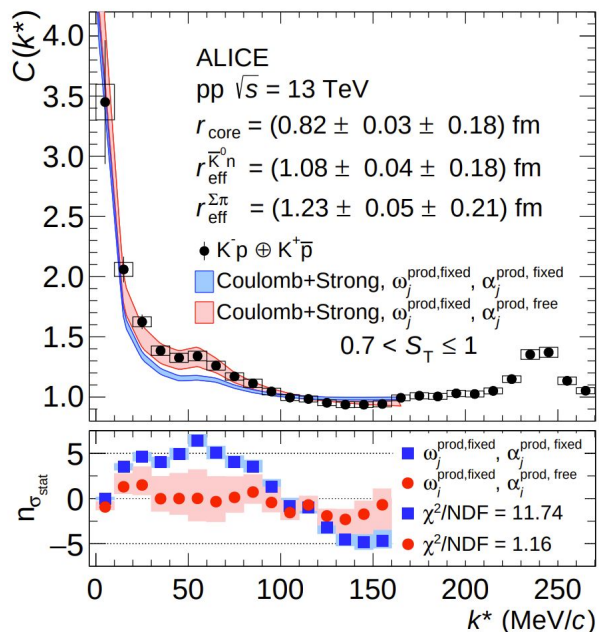
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$S = -1$

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ALICE Coll. Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 092301 (2020)

ALICE Coll. arXiv:2205.15176, EPJC in press (2022)

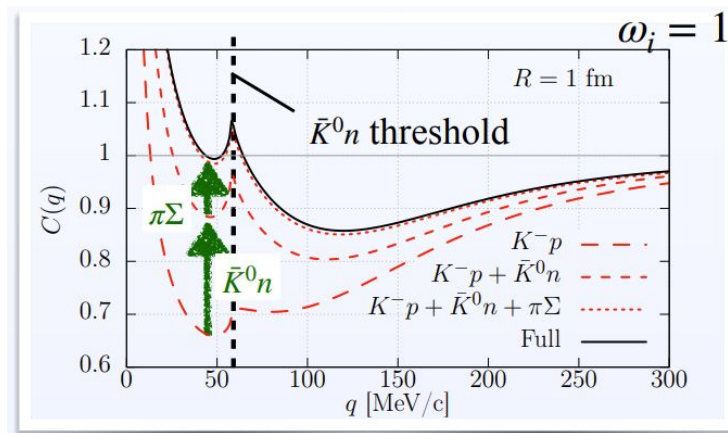


⇒ Provides a quantitative test of coupled channels in the theory

Effects of coupled channels enhanced by small source

Kamiya, Hyodo, Morita, Ohnishi, Weise, PRL 124 (2020) 13, 132501

⇒ Predicted to be negligible in larger sources



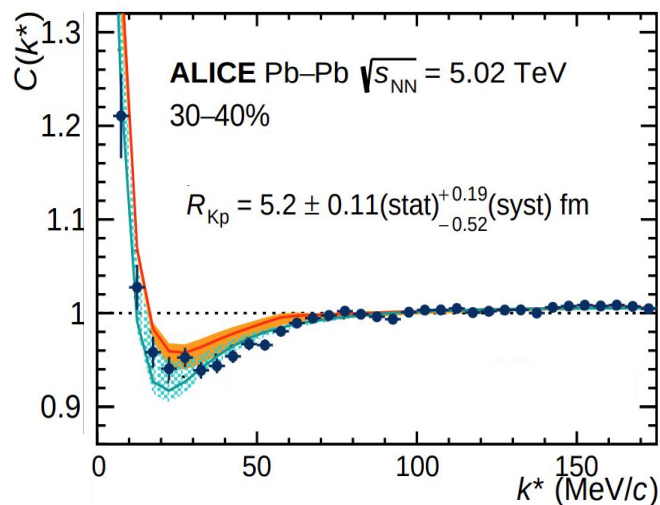
Strong interaction: Kyoto model

K. Miyahara, T. Hyodo, W. Weise, Phys. Rev. C98, 2, (2018) 025201

# Kbar-N interaction

$S = -1$

ALICE Coll., PLB 822 (2021) 136708

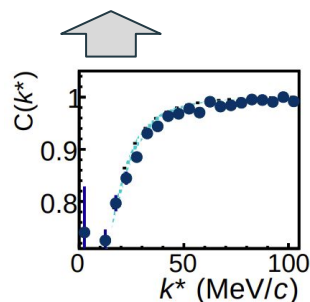


**Large systems (HIC):** Pb-Pb collisions, up to  $r \sim 9$  fm

Strength of coupled channels significantly reduced

- **Kyoto model**
- **Fit to the scattering parameters** R. Lednický Phys. Atom. Nucl. 67 (2004) 72

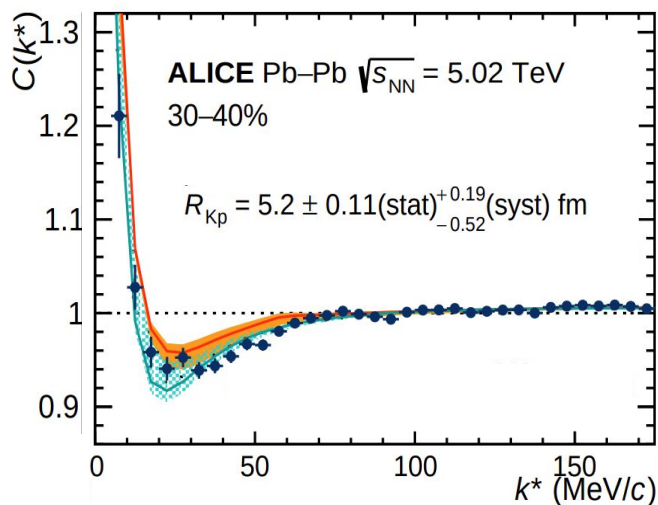
HIC: size determined by simultaneous analysis of K+p corr. func:



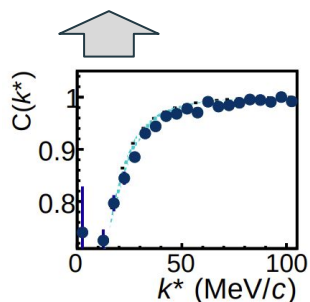
# Kbar-N interaction

$S = -1$

ALICE Coll., PLB 822 (2021) 136708



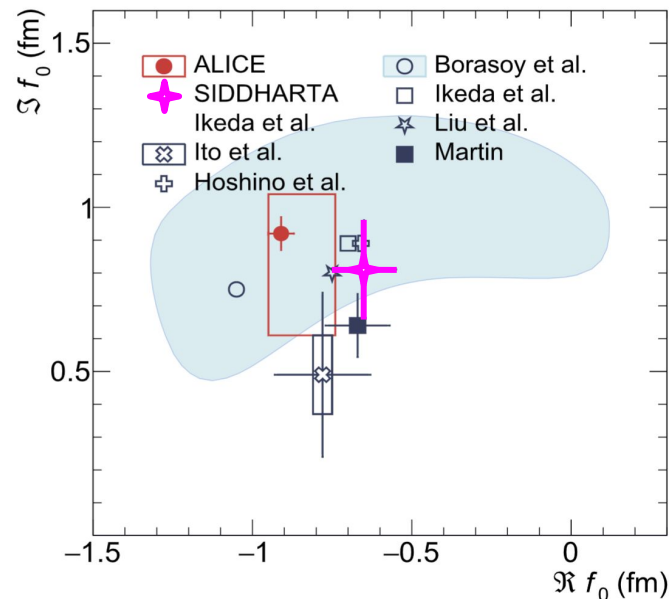
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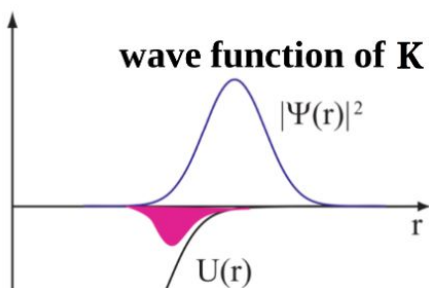
- **Kyoto model**
- **Fit to the scattering parameters** R. Lednický Phys. Atom. Nucl. 67 (2004) 72



⇒ **Antikaonic-hydrogen** and **K-p femtoscopy** scattering parameters compatible

# Digression: $\bar{K}n$ at threshold and low momentum

## SIDDHARTA: antiKaonic Hydrogen

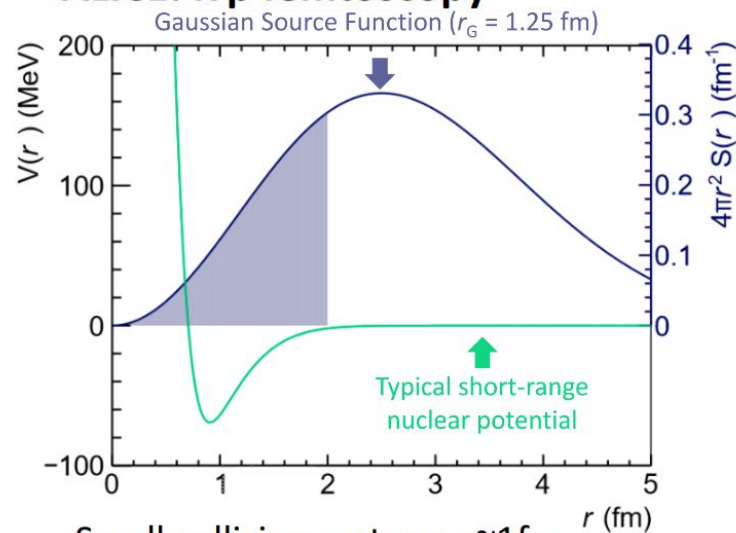


For antikaonic hydrogen (deuterium) the Bohr radius is  $\sim 84$  (70) fm.

**Sensitive to near surface potential shape**

The overlap of the kaon wavefunction with the nucleon delivers insight into the effects of the strong interaction, competing with Coulomb effects

## ALICE: $\bar{K}p$ femtoscopy



Small collision systems  $r \sim 1$  fm

$\Rightarrow$  effect of the interaction is enhanced

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

**Deliver different observables  $\Leftrightarrow$  scattering lengths can be obtained from both (via Deser-type and Lednický–Lyuboshitz formulae)**



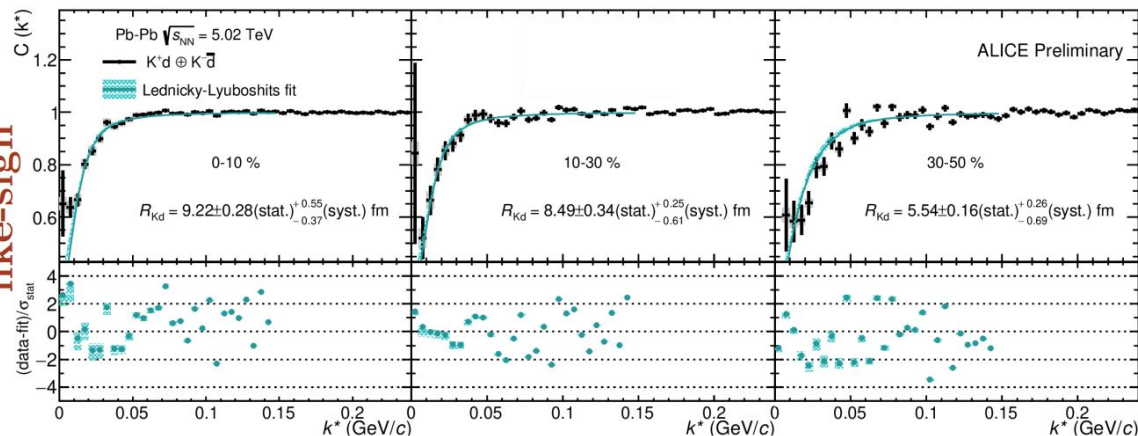
# K<sup>-</sup>d Femtoscopy with ALICE in Pb-Pb collisions

W. Resza @ Hadron 2023

0–10%

20–30%

30–50%

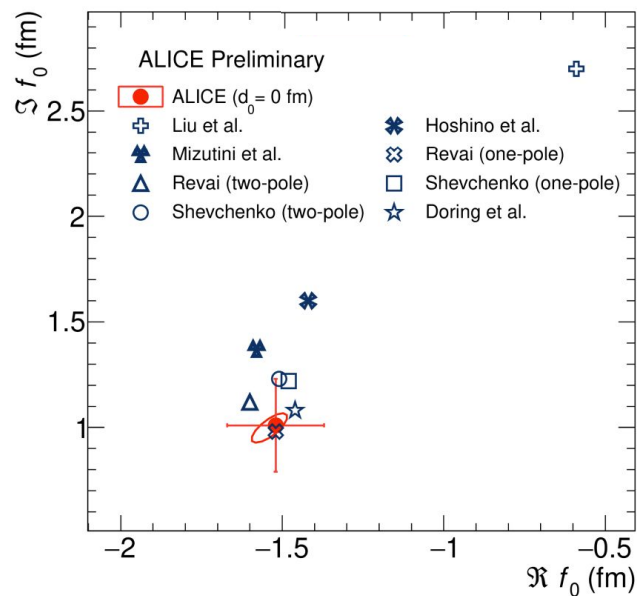


Fit to  $K^-d$  correlation function:

Simultaneous fit with 6 free parameters with Lednicky wave function

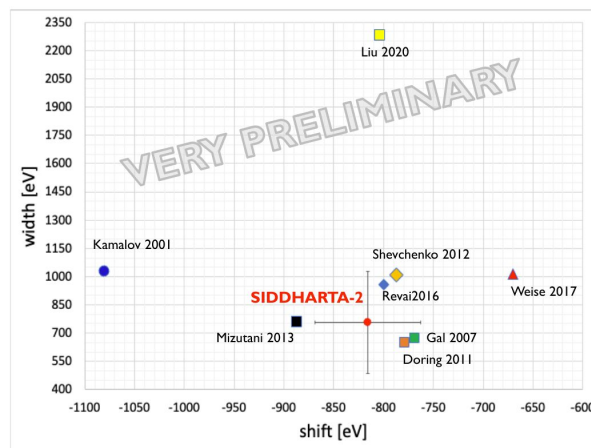
- Re.  $K^+d$  scatt. length
- Re., Im.  $K^-d$  scatt. length
- radius size x3 centralities

# K<sup>-</sup>d Femtoscopy with ALICE in Pb-Pb collisions



W. Resza @ Hadron 2023

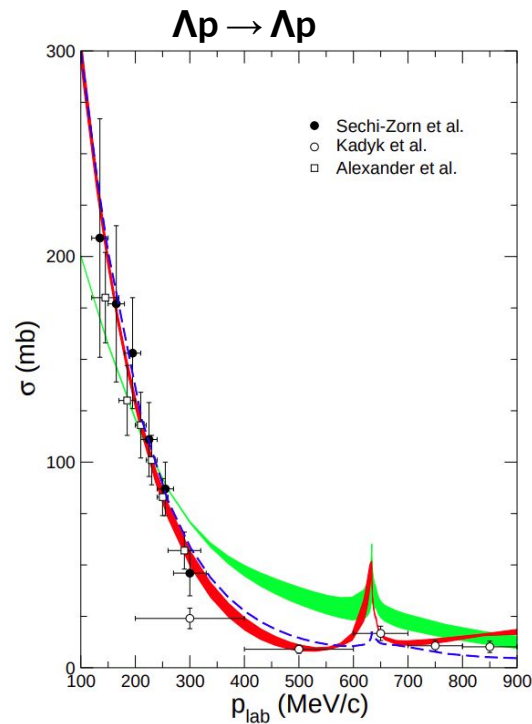
Fit to K<sup>-</sup>d correlation function:  
 $\Rightarrow$  Real and imaginary part of K<sup>-</sup>d scattering length via Lednicky model



F. Sgaramella SIDDHARTA-2

# p- $\Lambda$ interaction

$S = -1$



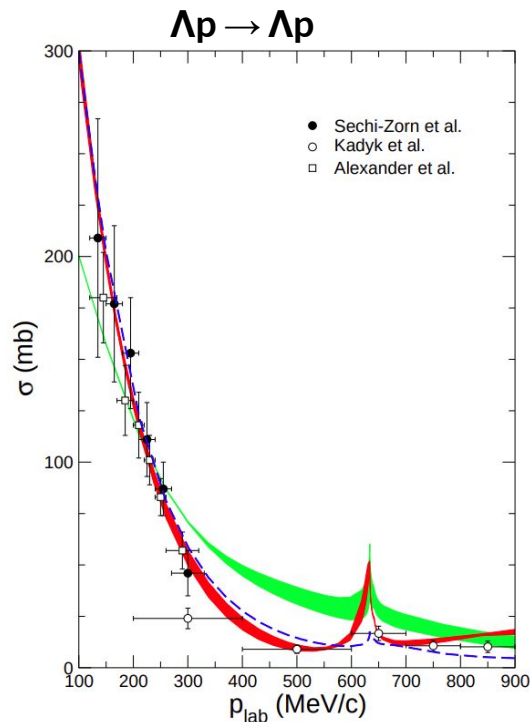
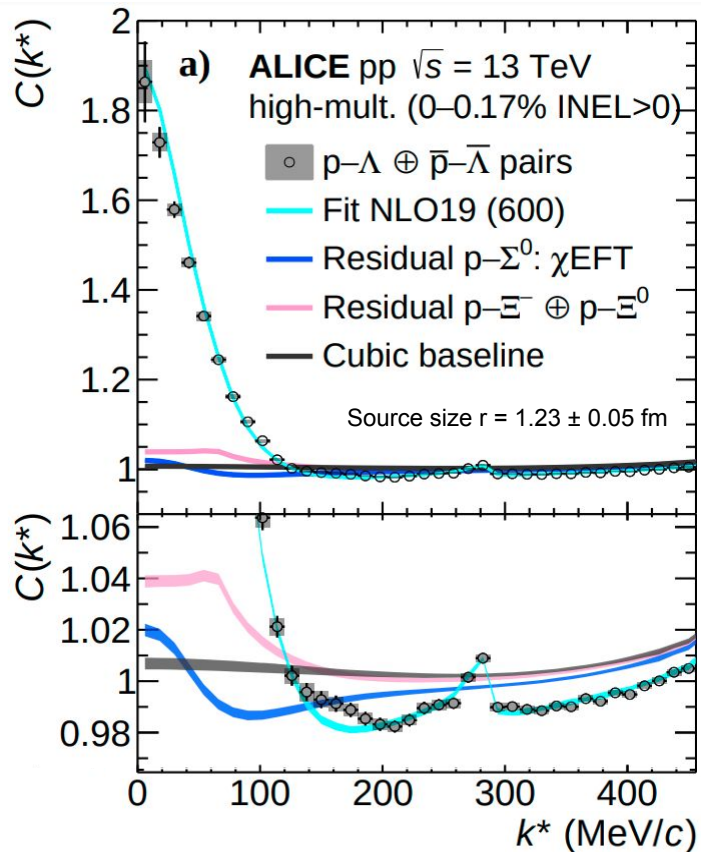
→ Chiral SU(3) EFT vs  
scattering data

LO: H. [Polinder](#), J. [Haidenbauer](#), U. [Meißner](#),  
[Nucl. Phys. A779 \(2006\) 244](#).

NLO: J. [Haidenbauer et al.](#),  
[Nucl. Phys. A915 \(2013\) 24](#).

# p- $\Lambda$ interaction

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LO: H. Polinder, J. Haidenbauer, U. Meißner,  
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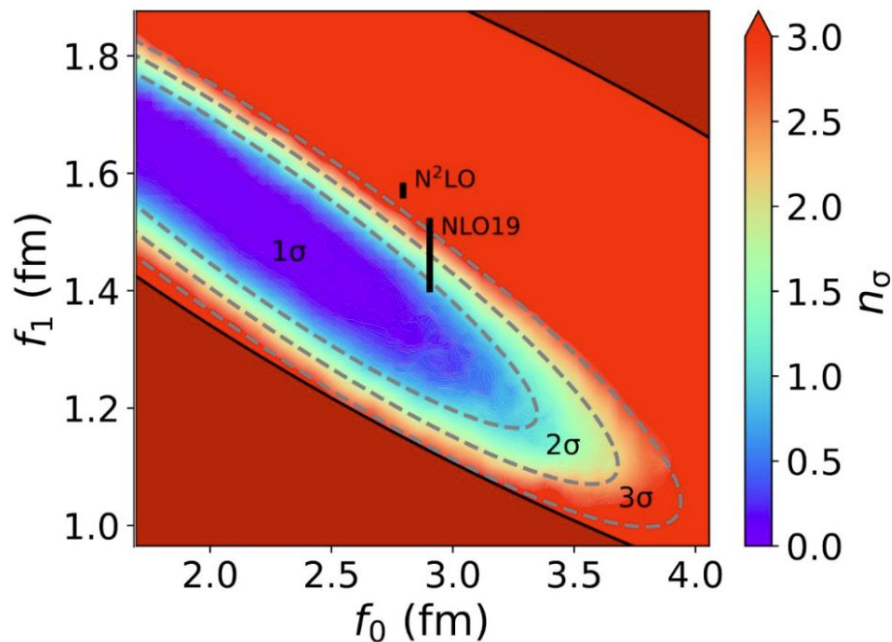
[ALICE Coll. Phys.Lett.B 833 \(2022\) 137272`](#)

Theory: Haidenbauer et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 56 (2020) 91

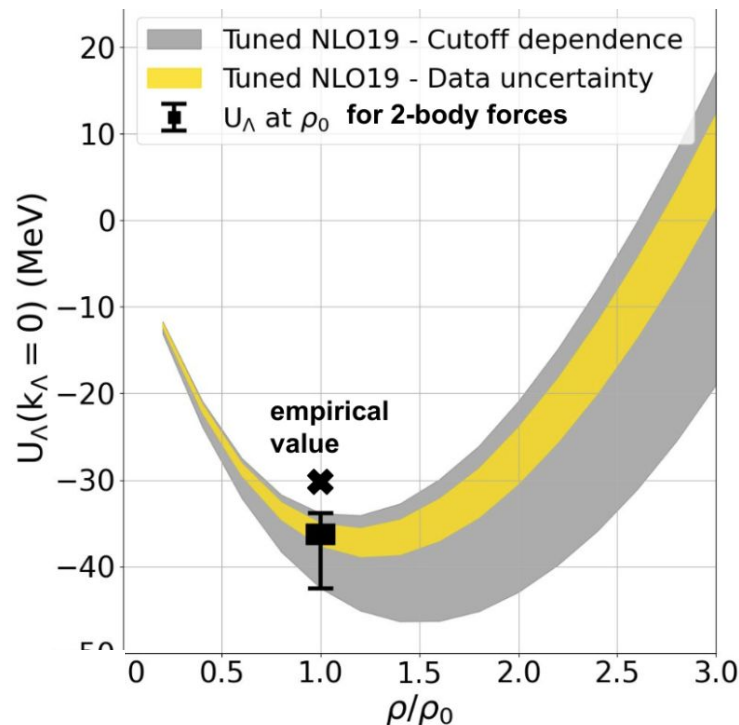
# p- $\Lambda$ interaction

$S = -1$

⇒ Combined analysis of  
femtoscopia and scattering data

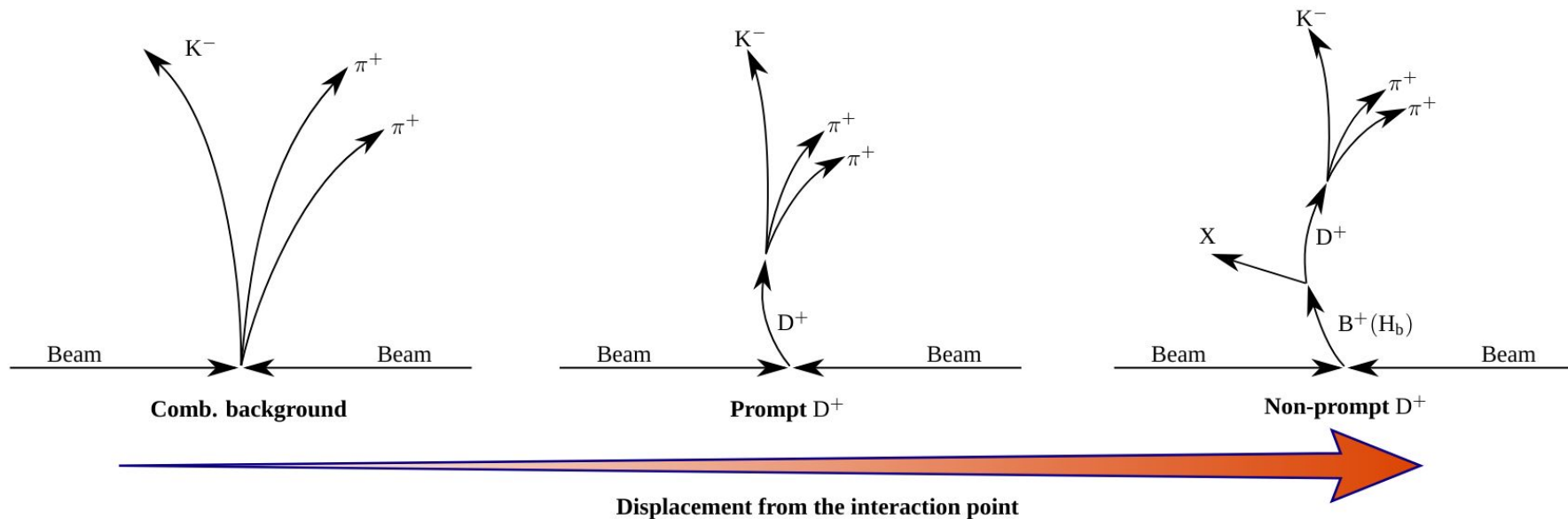


⇒ New parameterization of  $\chi$ EFT  
Compatible with repulsive 3-body forces

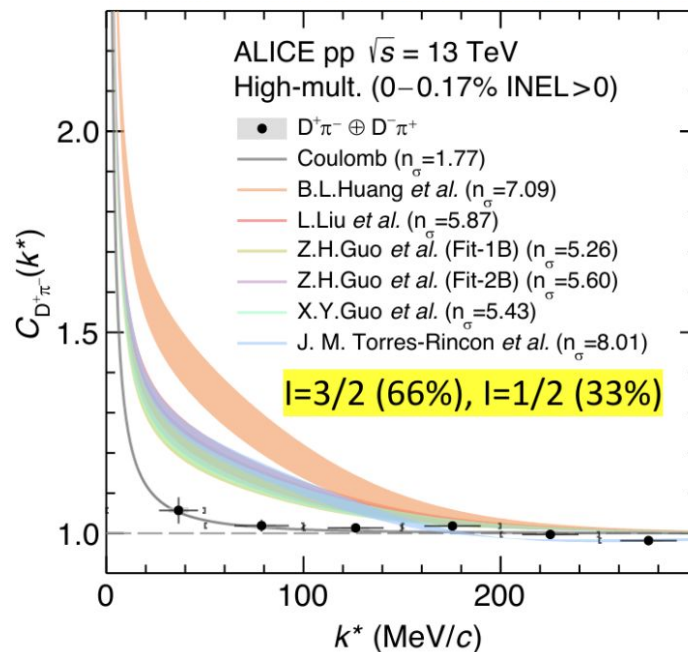
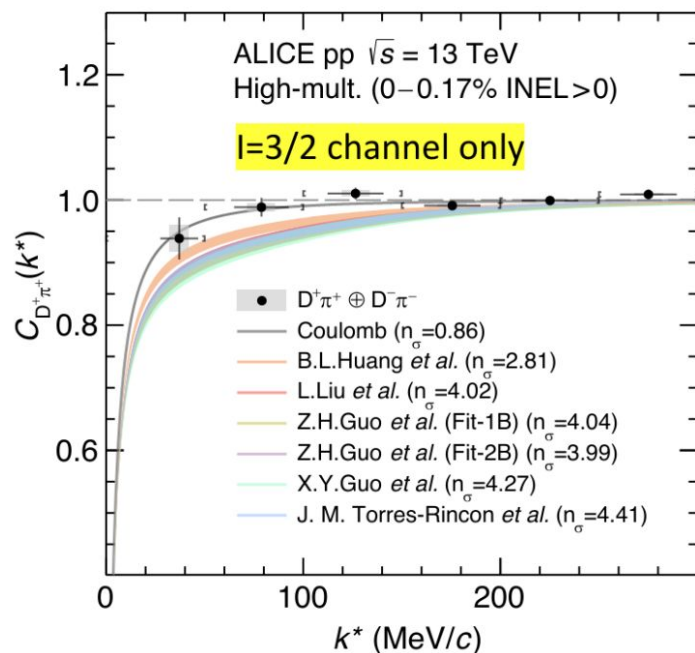


# $D^{(*)}-\pi/K$ femtoscopy

- Exploit the decay vertex topology for identification
- Machine learning algorithm based on boosted decision trees
- Account for uncorrelated backgrounds: D mesons from beauty-hadron decays



# $D^{(*)}-\pi$ femtoscopy



L. Liu *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. D* **87** (2013) 014508

X.-Y. Guo *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. D* **98** (2018) 014510

Z.-H. Guo *et al.* *Eur. Phys. J. C* **79** (2019) 13

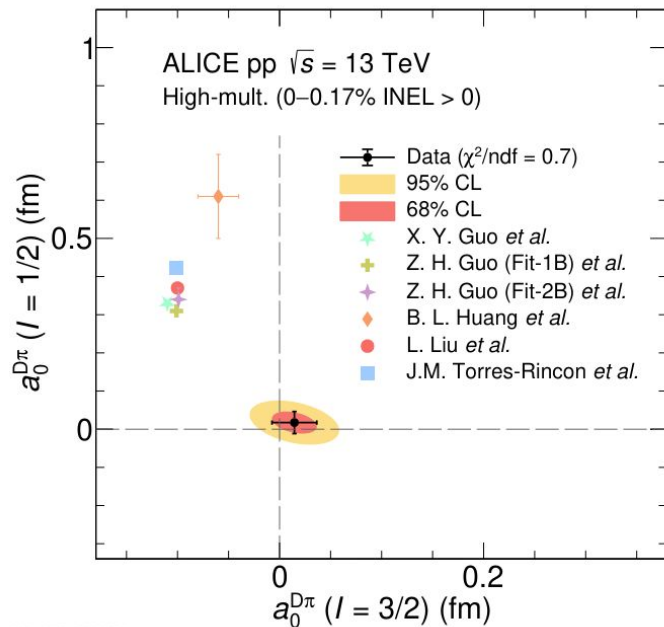
B.-L. Huang *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. D* **105** (2022) 036016

J. M. Torres-Rincon *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. D* **108** (2023) 096008

# $D^{(*)}\pi$ interaction

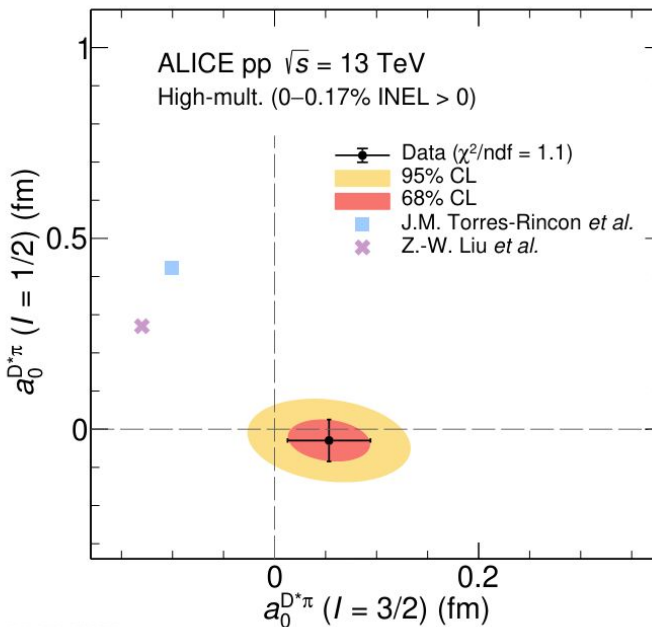
ALICE Coll. arXiv:2401.13541 [nucl-ex]

## $D\pi$



ALI-PUB-568974

## $D^*\pi$



ALI-PUB-568979

### Small scattering lengths:

- compatible with Coulomb-only assumption
- theory overestimates interaction strength

Scattering lengths similar for  $D\pi$  and  $D^*\pi$ :

- heavy-quark spin symmetry
- DK data so far not precise enough



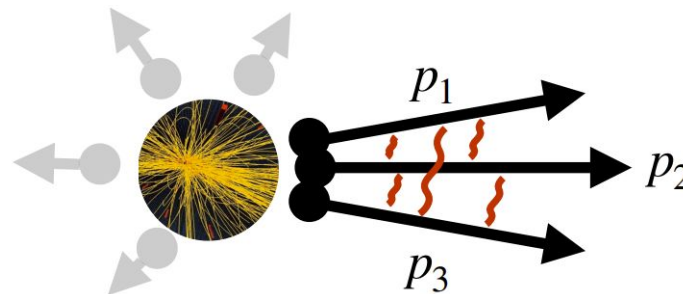
# Three-body femtoscopy

Three-particle correlation function:

$$C(\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}_3) \equiv \frac{P(\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}_3)}{P(\mathbf{p}_1)P(\mathbf{p}_2)P(\mathbf{p}_3)} = \frac{N_{\text{same}}(Q_3)}{N_{\text{mixed}}(Q_3)}$$

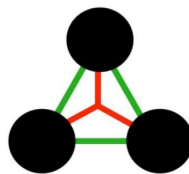
The Lorentz invariant  $Q_3$  is defined as:

$$Q_3 = \sqrt{-q_{12}^2 - q_{23}^2 - q_{31}^2}$$

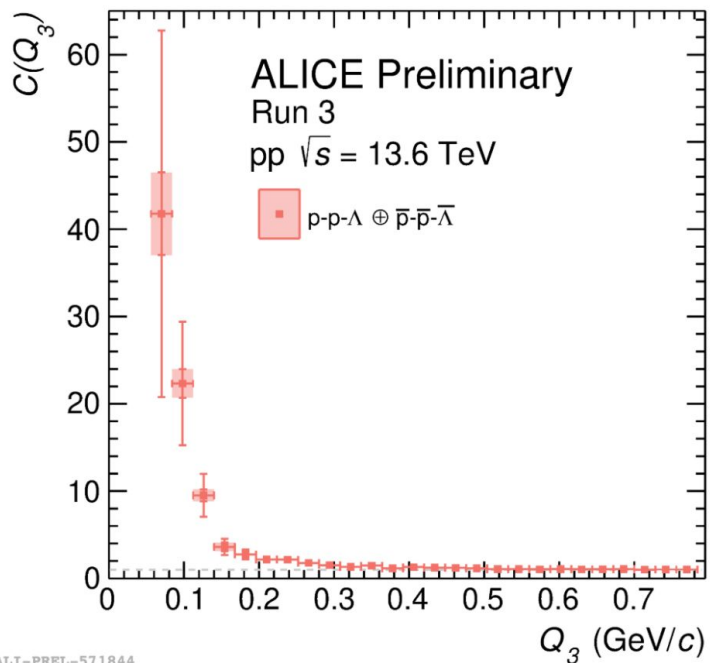


Three-particle correlation function function incorporates:

- **Two body interactions**
- **Three body interactions**



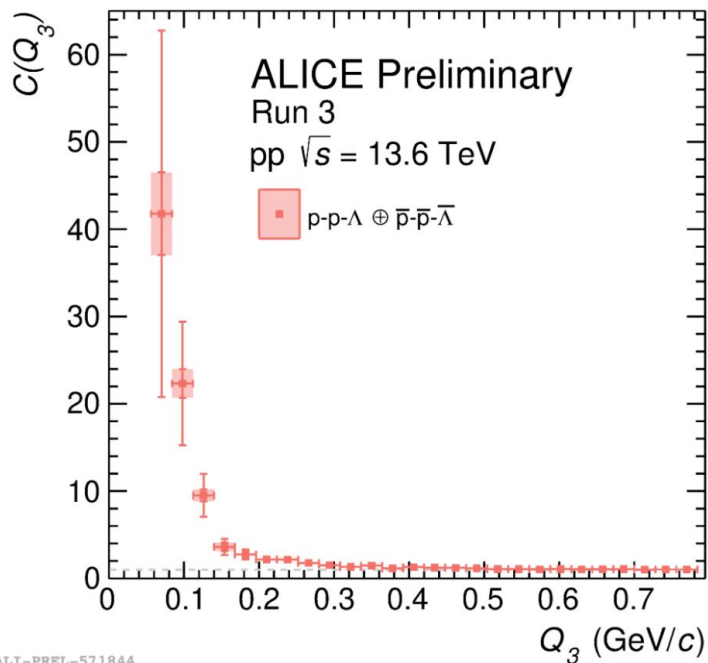
# p-p- $\Lambda$ correlation function



ALI-PREL-571844

⇒ Exploiting current LHC run and new detectors

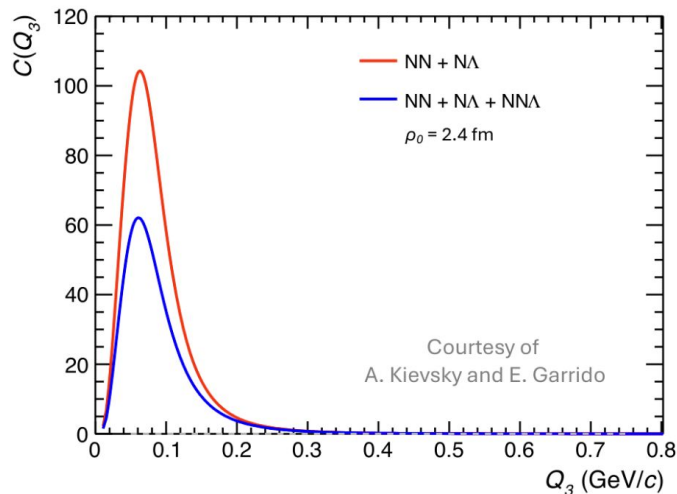
# p-p- $\Lambda$ correlation function



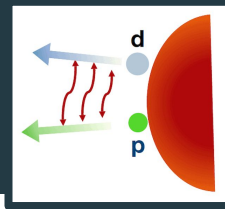
⇒ Exploiting current LHC run and new detectors

First theoretical predictions:

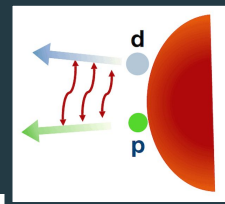
- $N\Lambda$  interaction from  $\chi$ EFT NLO19
- $NN\Lambda$  interaction fixed to hypertriton BE



# proton-deuteron correlation function



# proton-deuteron correlation function as a two-body system

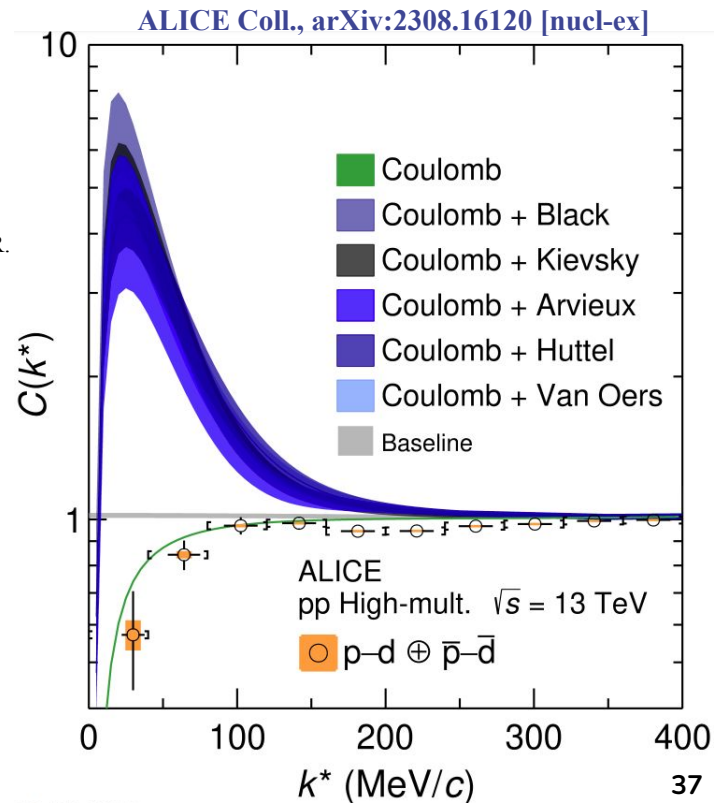


ALICE data in pp HM collisions compared with theoretical correlation function **considering deuteron as a point-like particle**

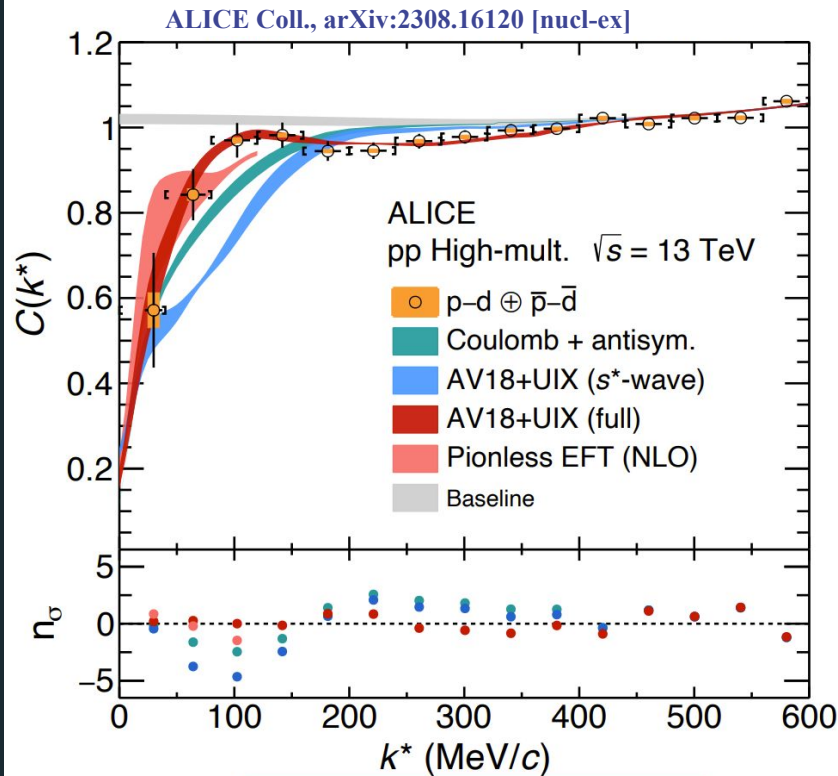
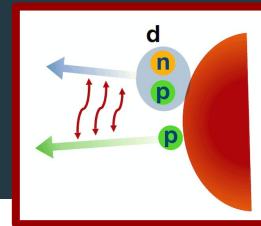
- Lednický model:

- s-wave asymptotic wave function from scattering parameters  $R$ .  
Lednický, Phys. Part. Nucl. 40, 307 (2009)

- Strong interaction constrained from the scattering measurements



# p-d correlation function including three-body dynamics



**Red curve:** full-fledged three-body calculation describes the data by including:

- 2N force (AV18 potential) + 3N force (UIX potential)
- Calculation up to d-wave

**ALICE measurement of the p-d correlation function sensitive to dynamics of the three-body p-(pn) system at short distances**

# Summary and outlook

Femtoscopy technique can be used to provide **unprecedented constraints on hadron-hadron interactions...**

- We are **testing lattice calculations** and **EFT** approaches
  - We study **bound states** and **channel couplings**
  - We provide important constraints to the **equation of state of neutron stars**
  - Direct measurements of **three-body dynamics**
  - Access to **D meson interactions**
  
  - More data, more people, more experiments... more fun
    - **STAR**:  $S = -4$   $EE$  femtoscopy, deuteron femtoscopy: coalescence vs thermal models
    - **CMS**  $\Delta K$  femtoscopy
    - **HADES** proton-cluster femtoscopy
    - **ALICE** with current LHC data x100 stats... and DD femtoscopy with ALICE 3
- ... stay tuned for more!!!