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Exploring the hypernuclear landscape

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Fondazione Bruno Kessler, ECT*

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Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



HESSEN

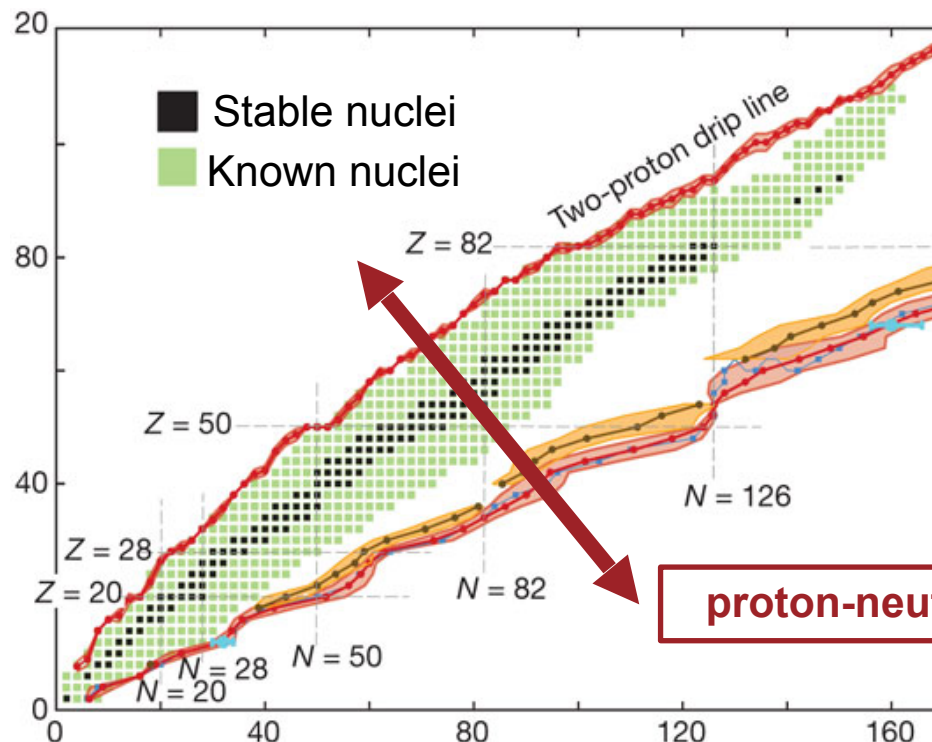


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Wissenschaft
und Kunst

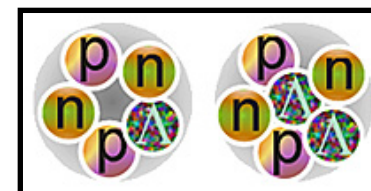


Isospin and strangeness degree of freedom

- Proton-neutron asymmetry: nuclear structure and in-medium forces
- Hypernuclei open the strangeness sector [e.g. A. Gal et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 88 (2016)]
- **Information about single- Λ hypernuclei is difficult to access**



hypernuclei



Λ (usd) lightest hyperon
lifetime 263 ps (weak decay)

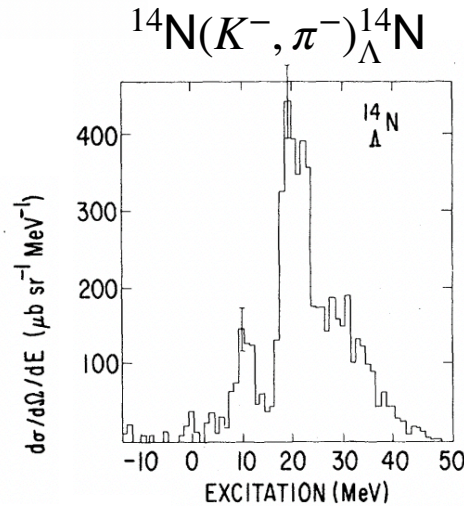
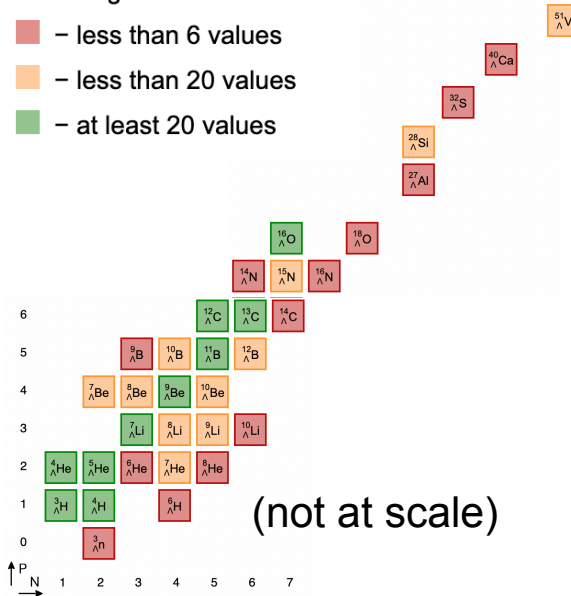
proton-neutron asymmetry

The hypernuclear landscape today

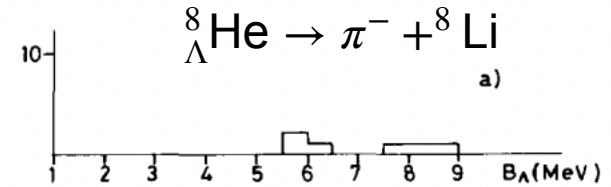
- Only 37 single- Λ hypernuclei known so far, often with scarce information
- <https://hypernuclei.kph.uni-mainz.de>
- Most recent data from KEK, Jlab, Mainz

Chart Legend - available data

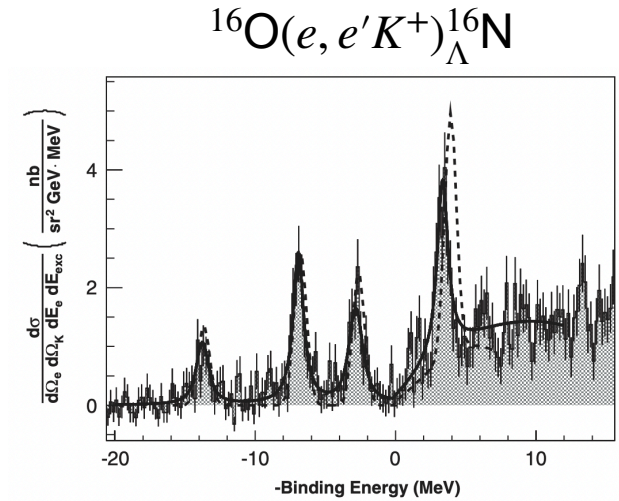
- - less than 6 values
- - less than 20 values
- - at least 20 values



M. May et al., PRL 47 (1981)
(Brookhaven)



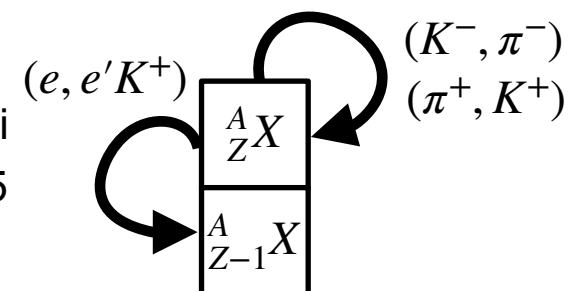
M. Juric et al., NPB 52 (1973)
(K⁻, emulsion)



JLab Hall A, PRL 103 (2009)

Production methods and limitations

- **Challenges:** low production rates, short lifetime (200 ps)
- Missing mass and pion spectroscopy restricted to few hypernuclei
- Ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collision cannot reach more than $A=4-5$



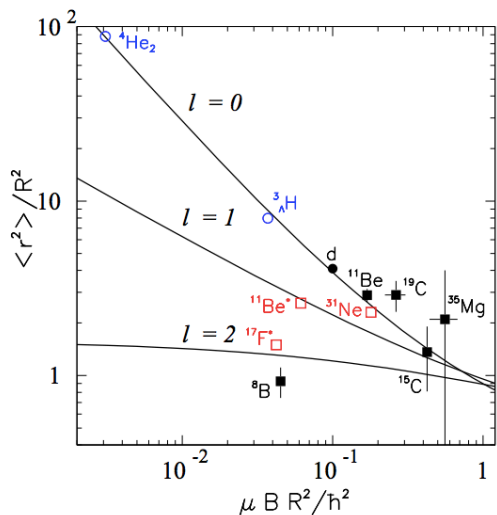
Production	Main lab(s)	Hypernuclei	Excited states	Ground state	
				binding	lifetime
In-flight (K^-, π^-)	CERN (90s), BNL	$Z_Y = Z_i - 1$	✓	✓	✗
Stopped (K^-, π^-)	CERN (70s), LNF-INFN, KEK, BNL	$Z_Y = Z_i - 1$	✓	✓	✗
(π^+, K^+)	KEK, BNL	$(A, Z)_Y = (A, Z)_i$	✓	✓	✗
($e, e'K^+$)	JLAB, Mainz	$Z_Y = Z_i - 1$			
Heavy-ion (GeV)	GSI/FAIR, HIAF	Potentially many	✗	✓ 3 MeV	✓ Sys.
Relativistic HI (100 GeV - 13 TeV)	RHIC, ALICE (CERN)	$A_Y \leq 4$	✗	✓	✓ Sys. ~ 10 ps
Λ, Ξ from in-flight \bar{p}	PANDA (FAIR)	$(A, Z)_Y = (A, Z)_i$	✓	✗	✗
Stopped \bar{p}	HYPER (CERN)	Potentially many	✓	✓	✓ ≤ 40 ps

This talk focuses on the potential of **heavy-ion collisions** and **antiproton capture** to produce neutron-rich and neutron-deficient hypernuclei

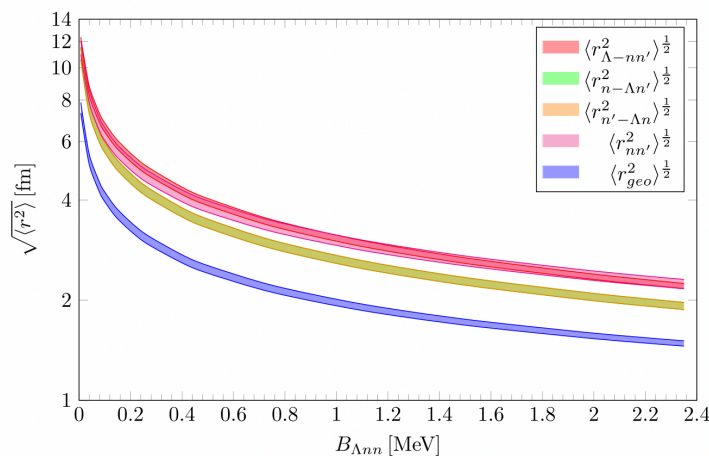
Hypernuclear halos

- Universality of halos: several loosely bound hypernuclei are candidates
 - $\Lambda - d$ rms distance in **hypertriton** (${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$) predicted at 10.8 fm
- F. Hildenbrand, H.-W. Hammer, PRC 100 (2019)
- ${}^7_{\Lambda}\text{Be}$ is a candidate for a two-proton halo

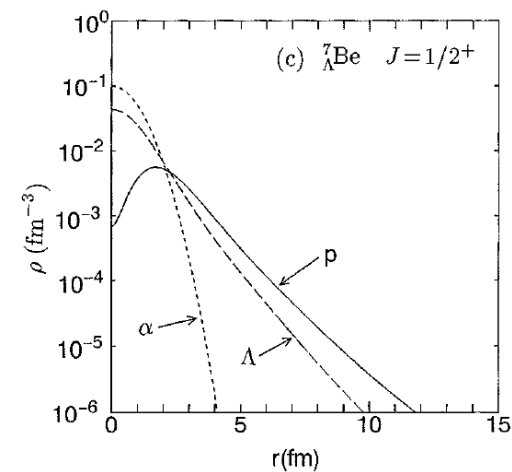
K. Riisager, Phys. Scr. T 152 (2012)



F. Hildenbrand, H.-W. Hammer, PRC 100 (2019)

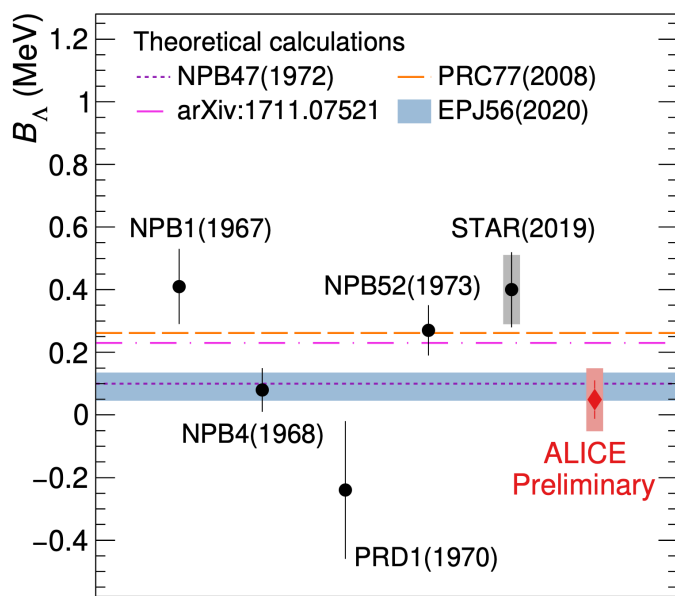


E. Hiyama et al., PRC 53 (1996)

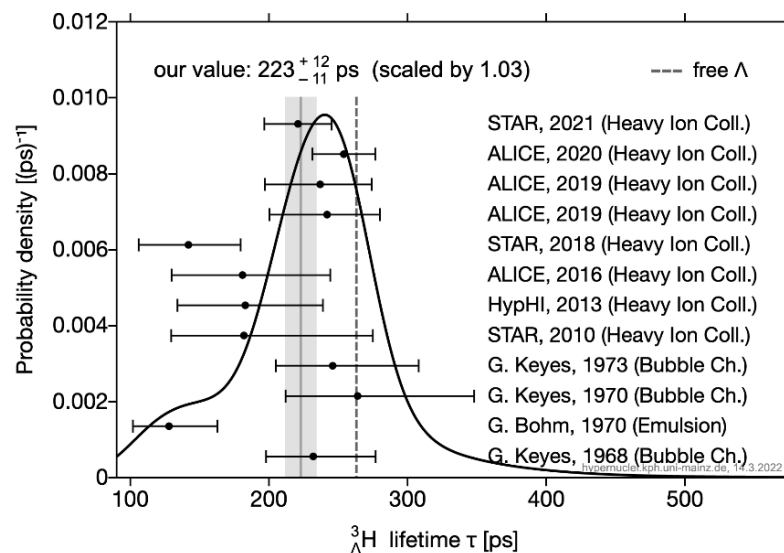


The hypertriton puzzle in a nutshell

- Low binding energy (average 2022: 162(44) keV, STAR 2020: 410(120) keV)
 - Large spatial extension predicted (*unmeasured*)
 - Inconsistency between several lifetime analyses (STAR, HyPHI0, ALICE)
- Latest ALICE value: 254 ± 15 (*stat.*) ± 17 (*sys.*) ps
 Average 2022: 223(12) ps lower than free Λ lifetime (263 ps)



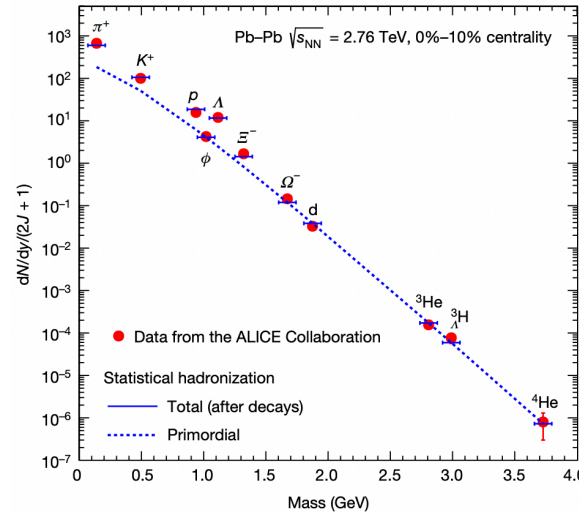
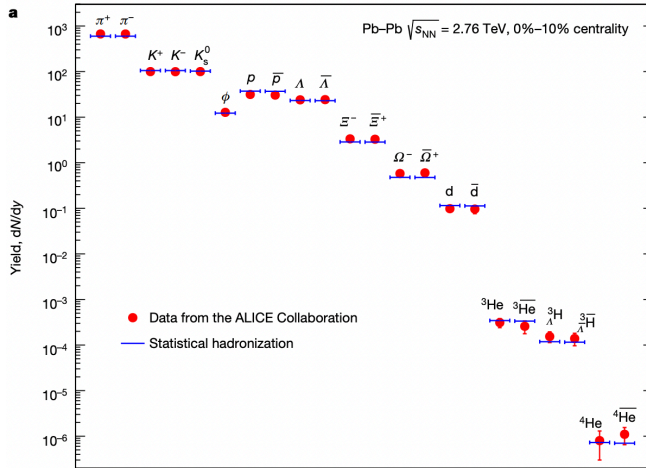
B. Dönigus, EPJA 56 (2020)



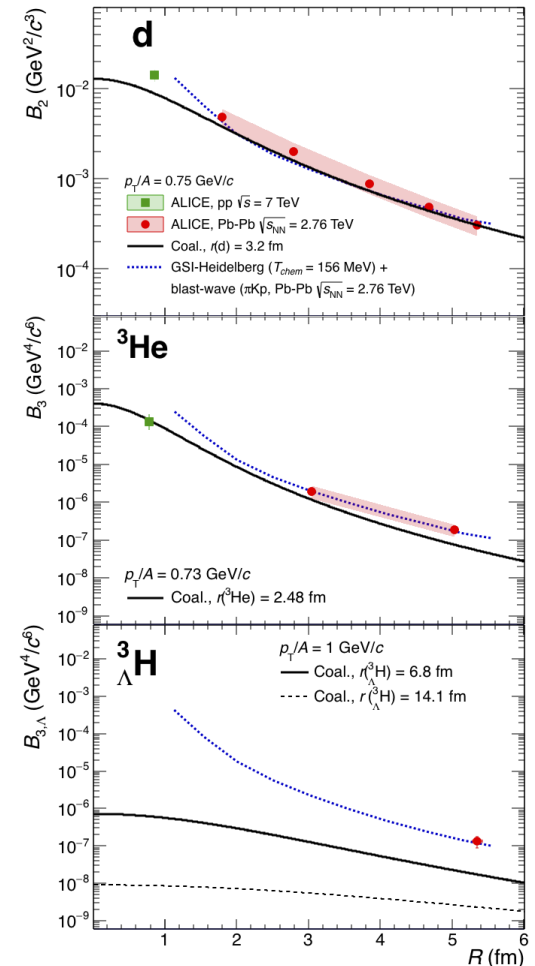
Mainz's database: <https://hypernuclei.kph.uni-mainz.de/>

${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$: cluster formation in relativistic HI collisions

A. Andronic et al., Nature 561 (2018)



F. Bellini et al., PRC 99 (2019)

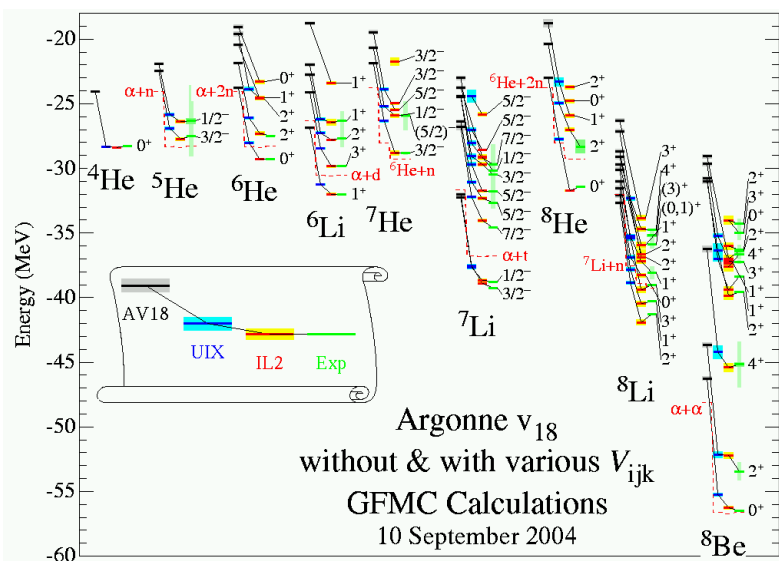
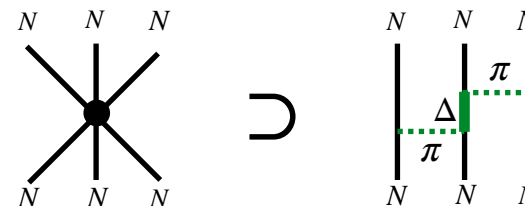


- Statistical hadronization or coalescence?
- ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$ has the **potential to rule out one of the models**
F. Bellini et al., PRC 103 (2021), ALICE-PUBLIC-2020-005
- **Size of ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$** is central for coalescence predictions
- Recent p-Pb work favors coalescence assuming a halo
arXiv:2107.10627, accepted in PRL (2022)

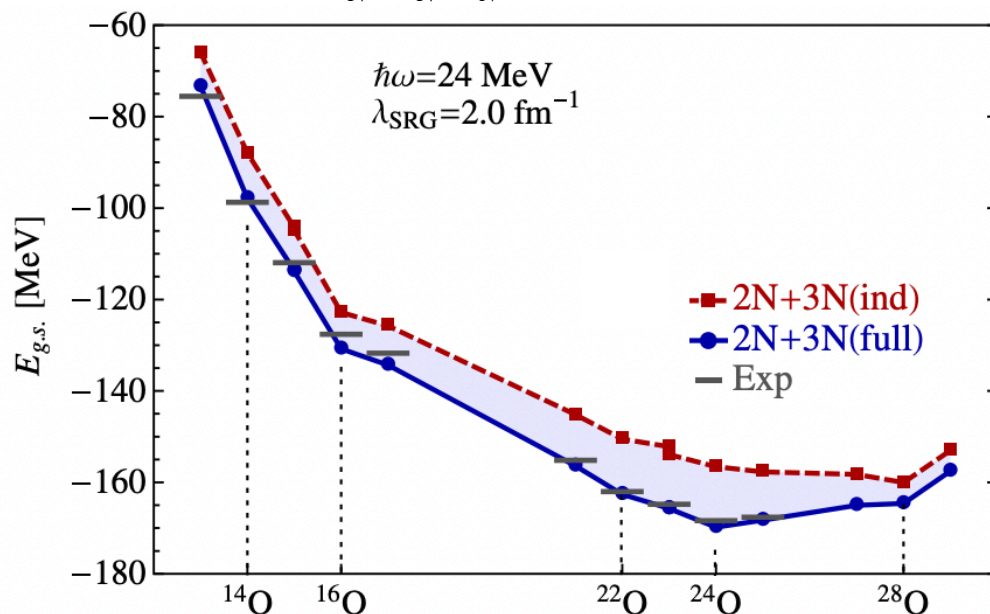
Three-body forces and nuclear structure

Nuclei

(first nucleonic excited state: +300 MeV)



R.B. Wiringa and S.C. Pieper, PRL 89 (2004)



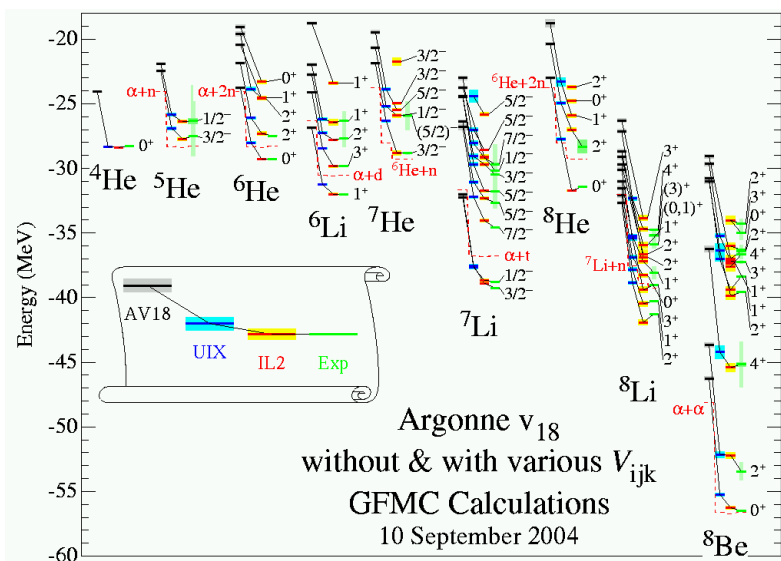
A. Cipollone, C. Barbieri, P. Navratil, PRL 111 (2013)

The first excited state of the Λ hyperon is 70 MeV (to be compared to 300 MeV for N)

Ab initio description of light (hyper)nuclei

Nuclei

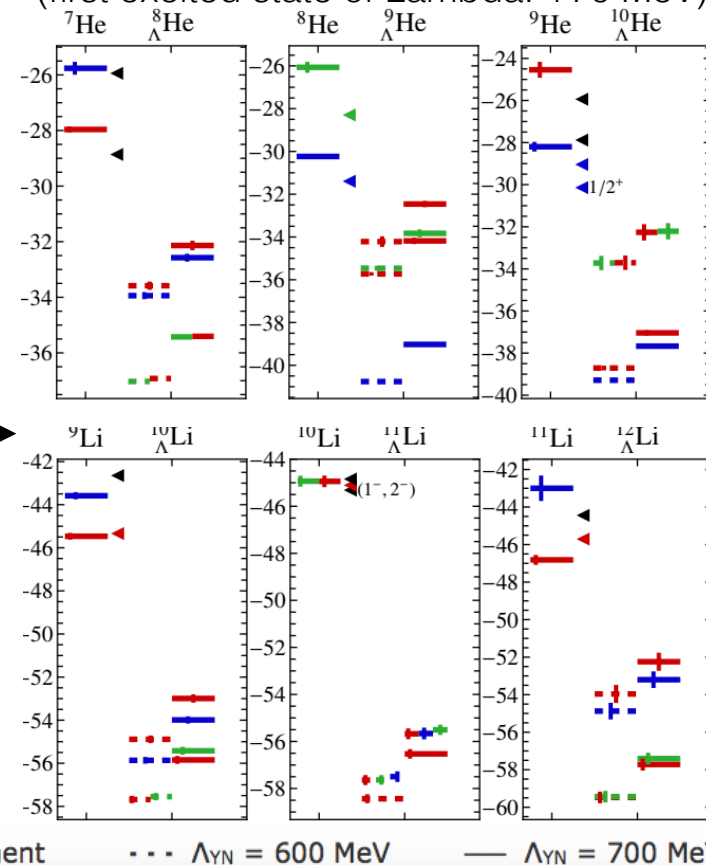
(first nucleonic excited state: +300 MeV)



R.B. Wiringa and S.C. Pieper, PRL 89 (2004)

Hypernuclei

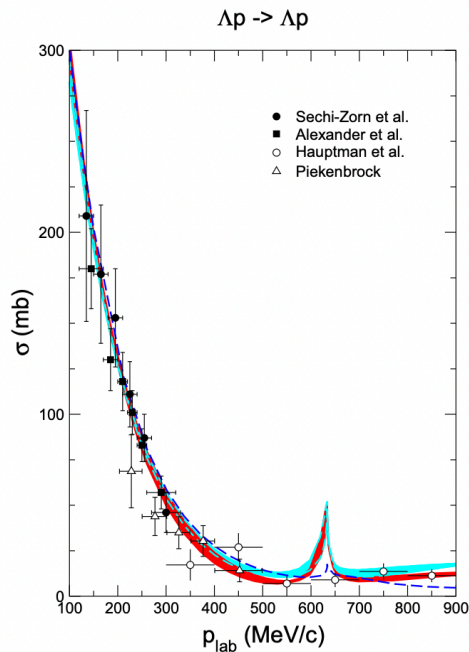
(first excited state of Lambda: +70 MeV)



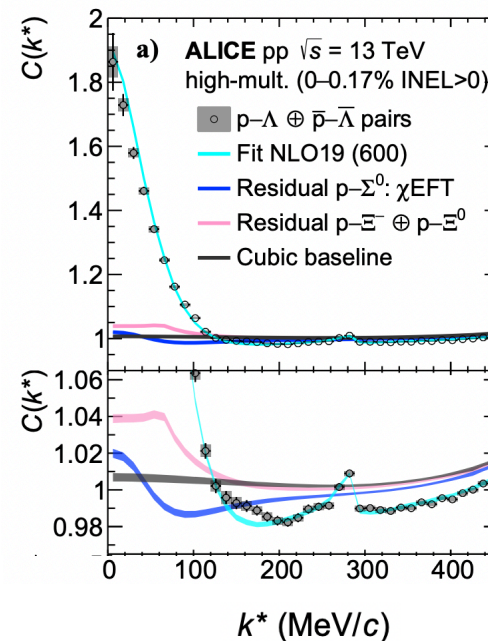
NCSM with explicit Λ excitation: R. Wirth, R. Roth, PLB 779 (2018)

YN and YNN forces

- Direct $\Lambda - p$ scattering : 27 data points only
- Femtoscopy and relativistic pp collisions : new laboratory for YN and YY interactions
- Hypernuclei data necessary to pin-down in-medium and many-body forces
- YN and YNN relevant to neutron star and EOS at several ρ_0



J. Haidenbauer, U.-G. Meißner, A. Nogga,
EPJA 56 (2020) and references therein



ALICE collaboration, arXiv:2104.04427
ALICE collaboration, Nature 588 (2020)

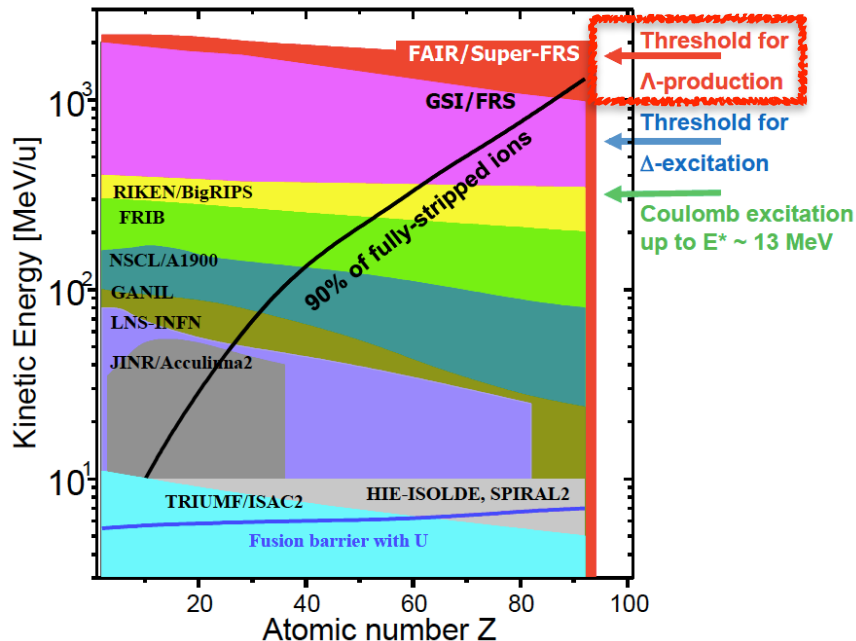
Producing exotic hypernuclei

- **Heavy-ion collision at GeV energies**

$Np \rightarrow N\Lambda + K^+$: production threshold at 1.6 GeV

$p\pi^- \rightarrow \Lambda + K^+$: production threshold at 0.76 GeV

- **Antiproton - nucleon annihilation**: $\sim 3\%$ branching ratio of kaon production



Strangeness production in $p\bar{p}$ annihilations at rest

KAON AND HYPERON PRODUCTION IN ANTIPROTON- ...

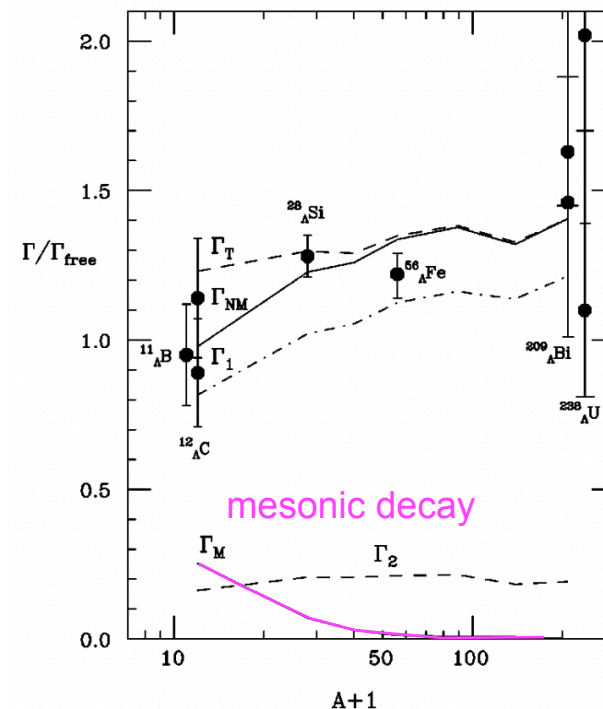
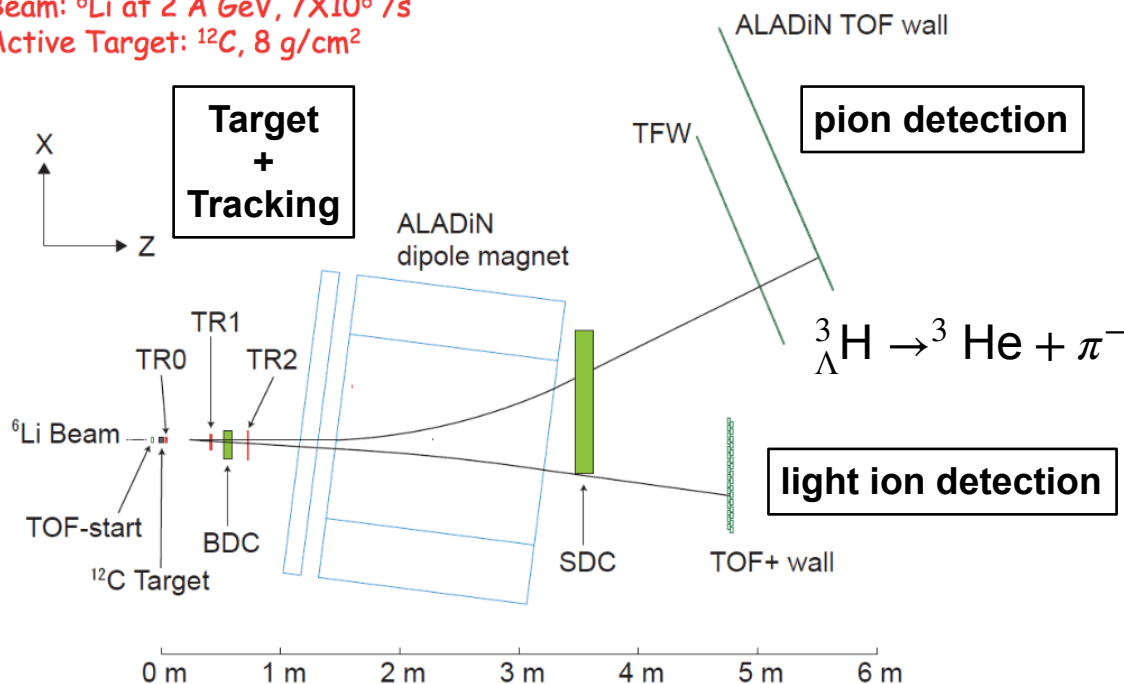
PHYSICAL REVIEW C 85, 024614 (2012)

TABLE V. Probabilities of the different channels with strange mesons from $p\bar{p}$ annihilation at rest (in percent).

Channel	Probability	Reference	Channel	Probability	Reference
K^+K^-a	0.091	[42,43]	$K^{*+}K^-\pi^0$	0.070	[44]
$K^0\bar{K}^0a$	0.091	[42,43]	$K^{*+}K^-\pi^0$	0.070	[44]
K^+K^-b	0.071	[45]	$\bar{K}^{*0}K^0\pi^0c$	0.070	
K^-K^+b	0.071	[45]	$K^{*0}\bar{K}^0\pi^0c$	0.070	
$K^0\bar{K}^0d$	0.060	[46]	$K^{*0}K^-\pi^+$	0.085	[44]
\bar{K}^0K^0d	0.060	[46]	$\bar{K}^{*0}K^+\pi^-$	0.085	[44]
$K^{*+}K^-e$	0.225	[44]	$K^0\bar{K}^0\pi^0\pi^0h$	0.035	[44,47]
$K^0\bar{K}^0e$	0.225	[44]	$K^+K^-\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.035	
$K^0\bar{K}^0\pi^0b$	0.146	[46]	$K^0\bar{K}^0\pi^-\pi^-\pi^0i$	0.068	[48,49]
$K^+K^-\pi^0c$	0.146		$K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0c$	0.068	
$K^0K^-\pi^+d$	0.142	[46]	$K^0K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^+j$	0.059	[48]
$\bar{K}^0K^+\pi^-d$	0.142	[46]	$\bar{K}^0K^+\pi^-\pi^-\pi^-i$	0.059	[48]
$K^0\bar{K}^0\eta^e$	0.050	[48]	$K^0K^-\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.042	
$K^+K^-\eta^e$	0.050		$\bar{K}^0K^+\pi^-\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.042	
$K^0\bar{K}^0\omega^0c$	0.232	[50]	$K^+K^-\pi^0\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.012	
$K^+K^-\omega^0c$	0.232	[50]	$\bar{K}^0K^0\pi^0\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.012	
$K^0\bar{K}^0\rho^0af$	0.202	[44,49,51,52]	$\phi\pi^+\pi^-$	0.054	[49]
$K^+K^-\rho^0af$	0.202	[44,49,51,52]	$\phi\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.011	
$K^0K^-\rho^+g$	0.234	[44]	ϕ^0	0.034	[49]
$\bar{K}^0K^+\rho^-g$	0.234	[44]	$\phi\pi^0$	0.019	[49]
$K^{*+}\bar{K}^0\pi^-$	0.230	[44]	$\phi\eta$	0.004	[49]
$K^{*+}K^0\pi^+$	0.230	[44]	$\phi\omega$	0.030	[49]

The HyPHI0 experiment at GSI

Beam: ${}^6\text{Li}$ at 2 A GeV, 7×10^6 /s
Active Target: ${}^{12}\text{C}$, 8 g/cm 2



From T. Saito (GSI, now RIKEN)

C. Rappold et al., Nucl. Phys. A 913 (2013)

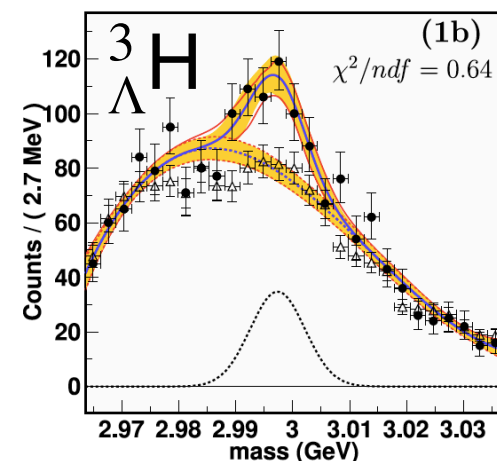
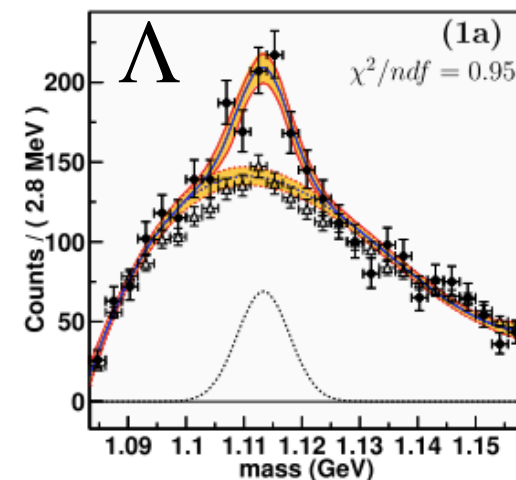
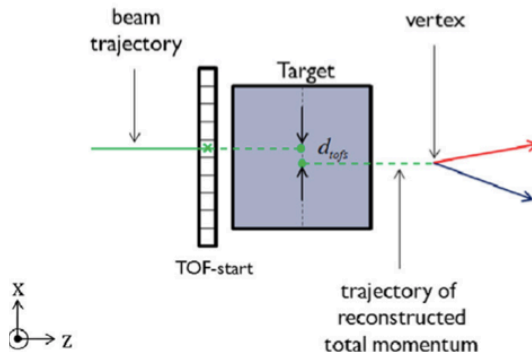
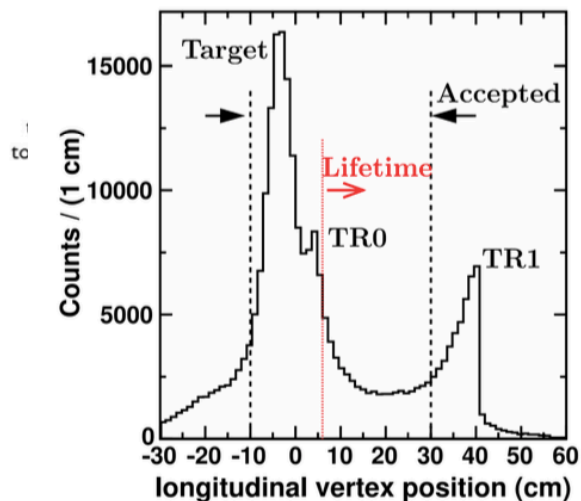
W. M. Alberico et al., PRC 61 (2000)

The HyPHI0 experiment at GSI

Heavy-ion collisions: ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{12}\text{C}$ at 2 GeV/nucleon

1 week of beam time, $7 \cdot 10^6$ pps

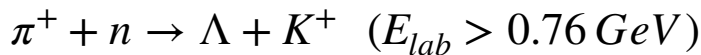
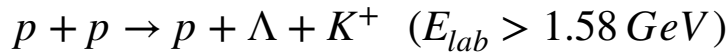
- Strangeness production ($\sigma({}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}) \sim 3.9 \pm 1.4 \mu\text{b}$)
- Invariant mass from weak mesonic decays: $\pi^- + \text{recoil}$
- Excellent resolutions required for background rejection



C. Rappold et al., Nucl. Phys. A 913 (2013)

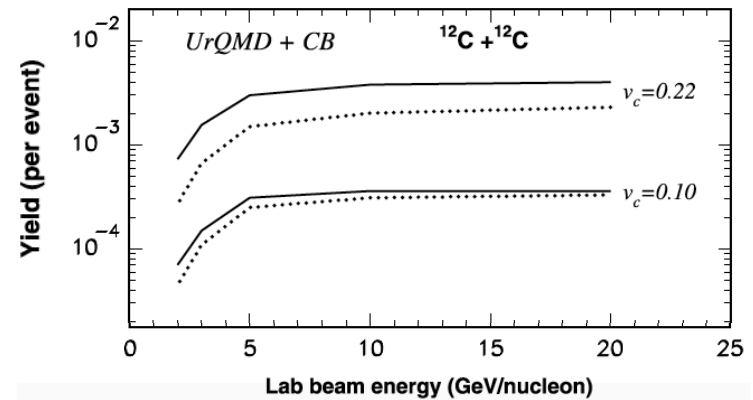
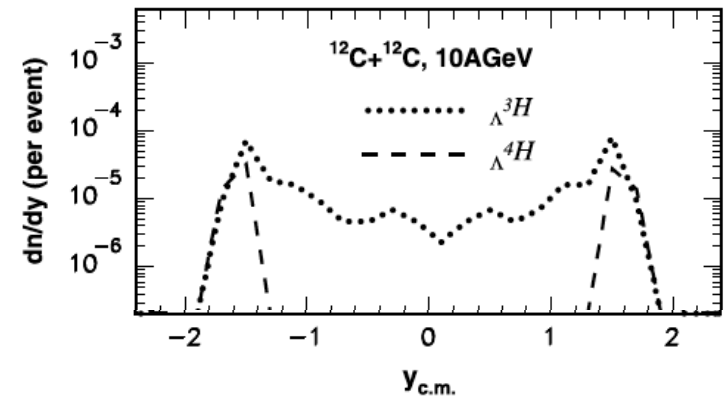
Production of hypernuclei from HI collisions at few GeV / nucleon

- Strangeness production in heavy-ion collisions:



- **Hypernuclei production from HI collisions**
 - Evolution of hadrons in space-time from transport
 - Adsorption of Λ (coalescence or potential)
 - De-excitation
- Momentum matching leads to small capture probability
- Production saturates from ~ 5 GeV/nucleon

A. S. Botvina et al., PLB 742 (2015)

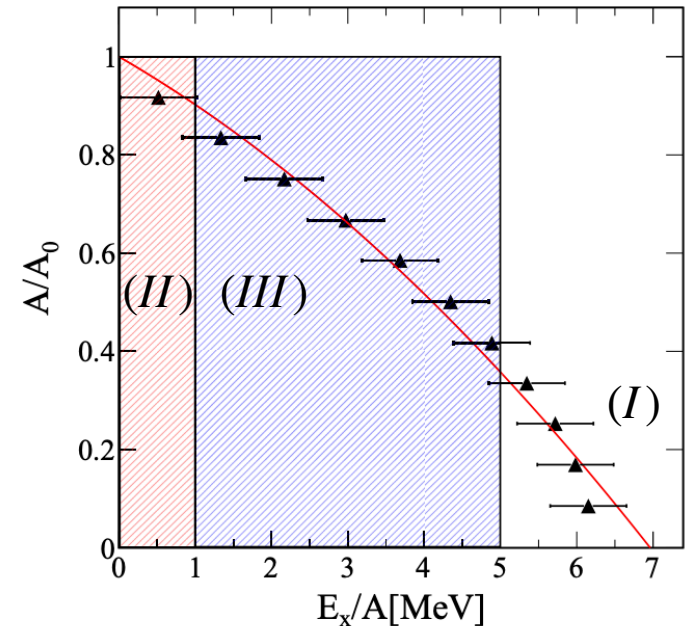


Hyper-residue formation

Production cross sections

Expt with ^{12}C target, DUBNA: S. Avramenko et al., NPA 547 (1992), HyPHI: C. Rappold et al., NPA 913 (2013)

Beam	Energy (GeV/nucleon)		$^3_\Lambda\text{H}$	$^4_\Lambda\text{H}$
^3He	5.14	(I)	0.63	$\sigma(\mu\text{b})$
		(II)	0.05	
		(III)	< 0.01	
		Dubna [16]	$0.05^{+0.05}_{-0.02}$	
^4He	3.7	(I)	< 0.01	0.19
		(II)	0.24	0.12
		(III)	0.04	< 0.01
		Dubna [16]	< 0.1	$0.4^{+0.4}_{-0.2}$
^6Li	3.7	(I)	1.15	0.27
		(II)	0.29	2.31
		(III)	0.84	0.33
		Dubna [16]	$0.2^{+0.3}_{-0.15}$	$0.3^{+0.3}_{-0.15}$
^7Li	3.0	(I)	0.94	0.35
		(II)	0.17	2.44
		(III)	0.88	0.64
		Dubna [16]
^6Li	2.0	(I)	0.2	0.02
		(II)	0.03	0.43
		(III)	0.13	0.04
		HypHI [45]	3.9 ± 1.4	3.1 ± 1.0

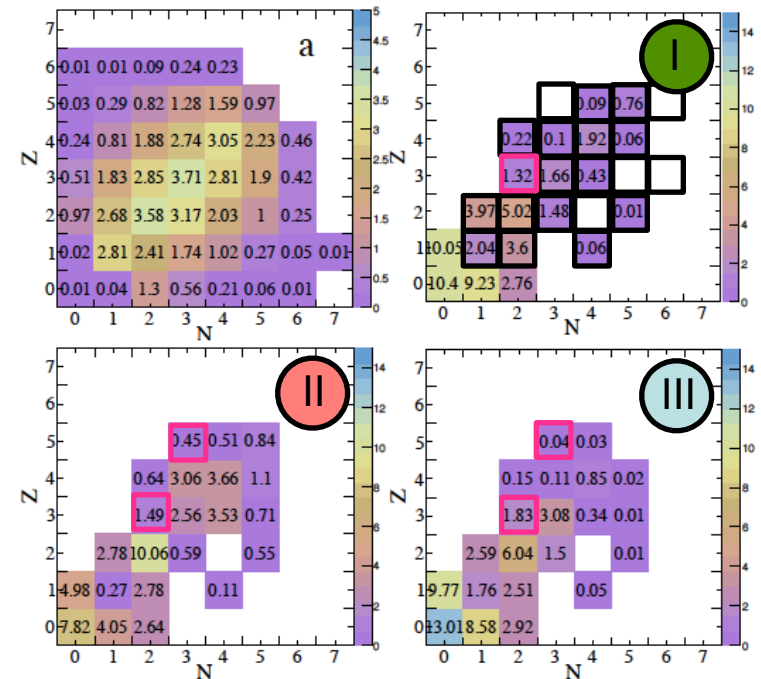


Model predictions: A. S. Botvina *et al.*, PRC 95 (2017); Y. Sun, A. S. Botvina *et al.*, PRC 98 (2018);
See also recent reference: A. S. Botvina *et al.*, PRC 103 (2021)

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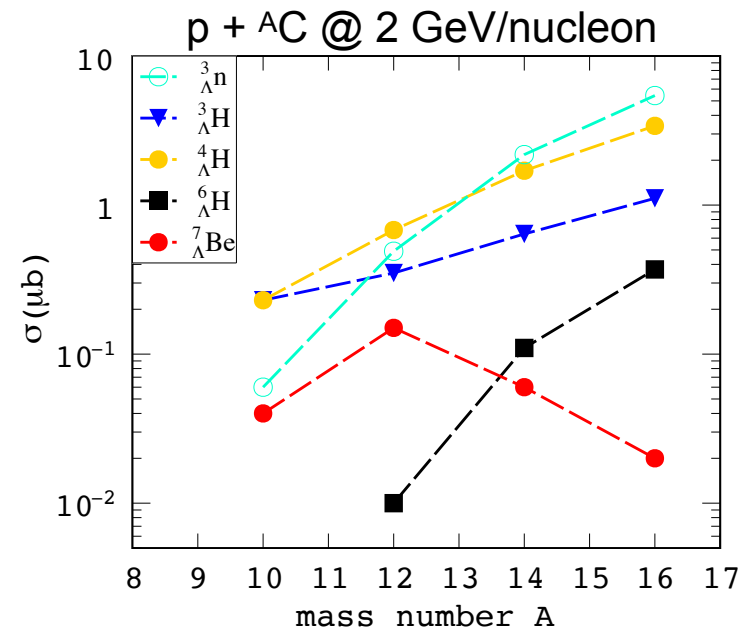
$^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ at 2 A GeV

Model predictions: A. S. Botvina *et al.*, PRC 95 (2017); Y. Sun, A. S. Botvina *et al.*, PRC 98 (2018);
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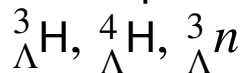


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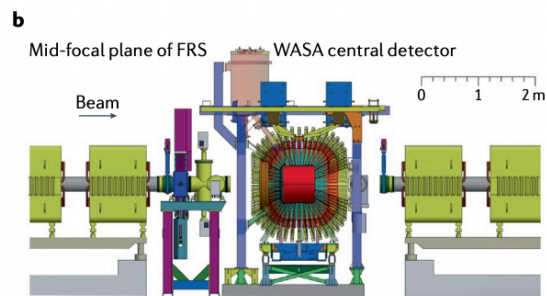
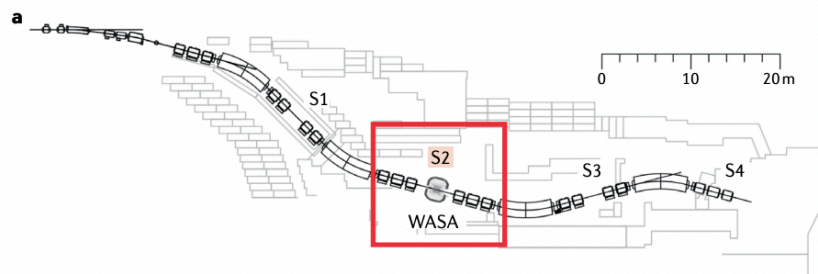
Hypernuclei programs at GSI/FAIR

WASA at FRS

- pion tracker in solenoid
- first experiment performed in 2022



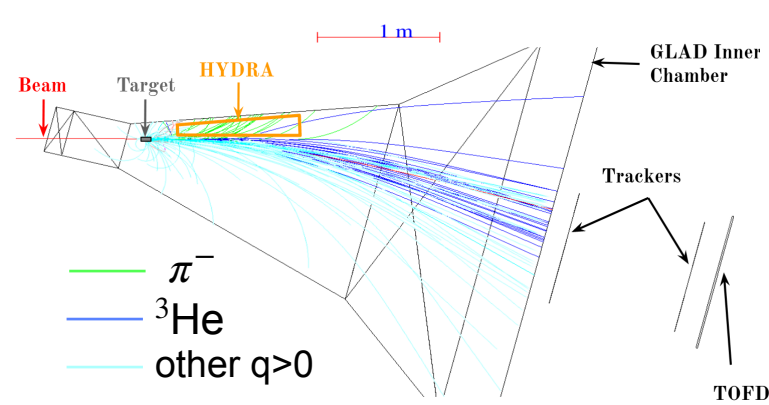
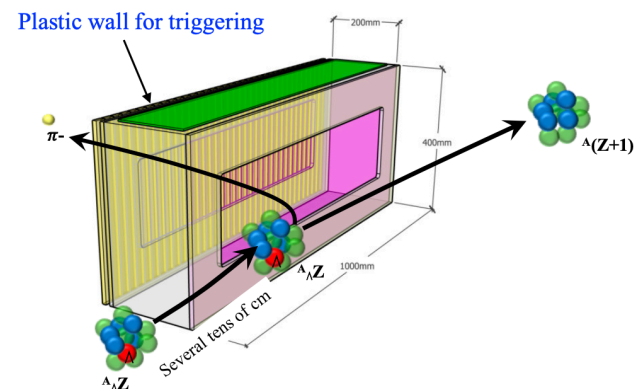
- spokesperson: T. Saito, RIKEN



T. R. Saito et al., Nat. Rev. 803 (2021)

HYDRA at R3B

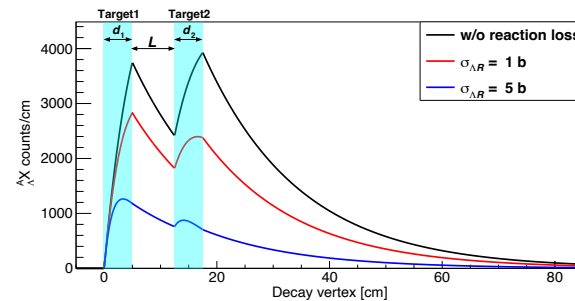
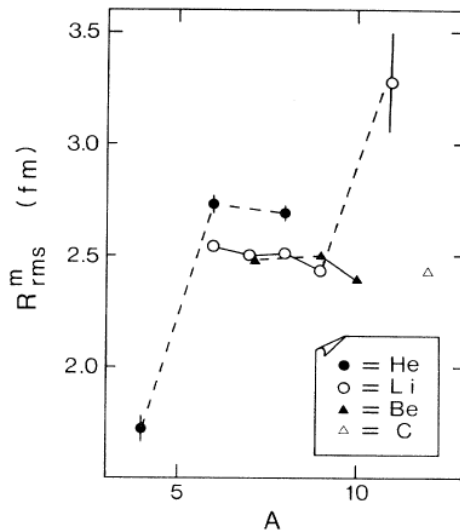
- TPC pion tracker under construction
- first proposal submitted (2022)



Size of the hyperhalo candidate ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$

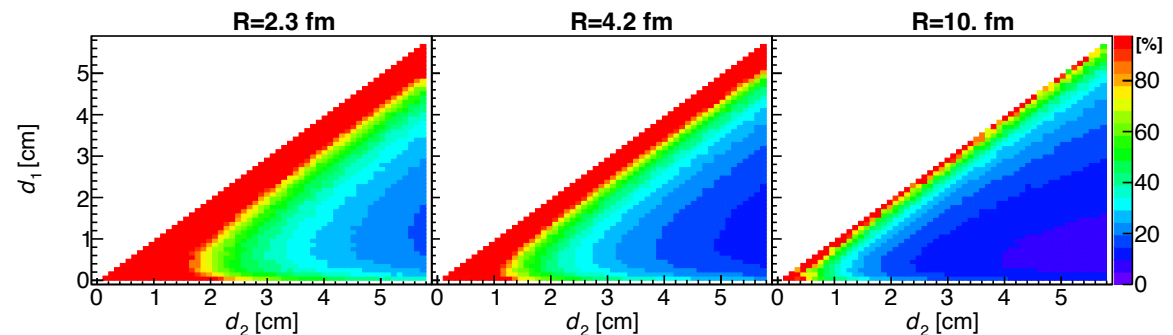
Method

- ${}^{12}\text{C}+{}^{12}\text{C}$ @ 1.9 GeV/nucleon
- two unknowns (interaction and production cross sections) = two measurements
- hypernucleus **interaction cross section** precision of 15 % to be reached



Radius (rms) [fm]	$\sigma_{\Lambda R}$ [mb]	$\delta\sigma/\sigma$ [%]
2.8 (no halo)	645 ± 106	17
4.9	861 ± 129	15
7.9	1062 ± 134	13

I. Tanihata et al., PLB 160 (1985)
 I. Tanihata et al., PRL 55 (1985)



The HYDRA team at R3B and collaborators



TECHNISCHE
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Neutron-rich from double-charge exchange

Eur. Phys. J. A (2021) 57:159
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epja/s10050-021-00470-3>

THE EUROPEAN
PHYSICAL JOURNAL A



Regular Article - Experimental Physics

Novel method for producing very-neutron-rich hypernuclei via charge-exchange reactions with heavy ion projectiles

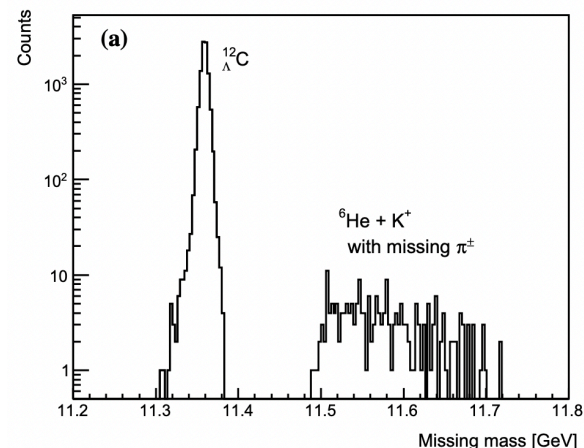
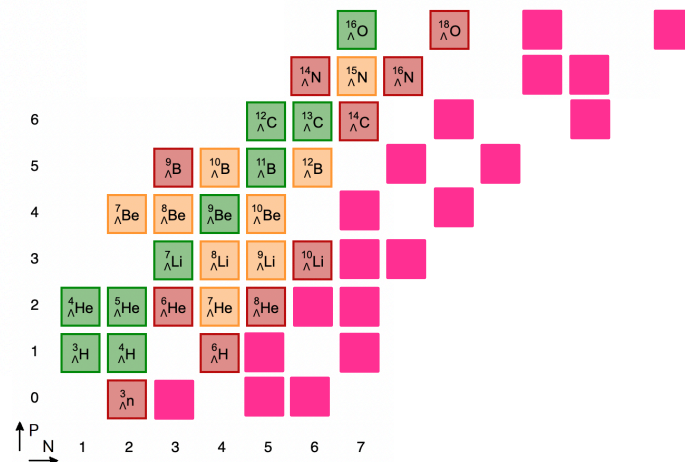
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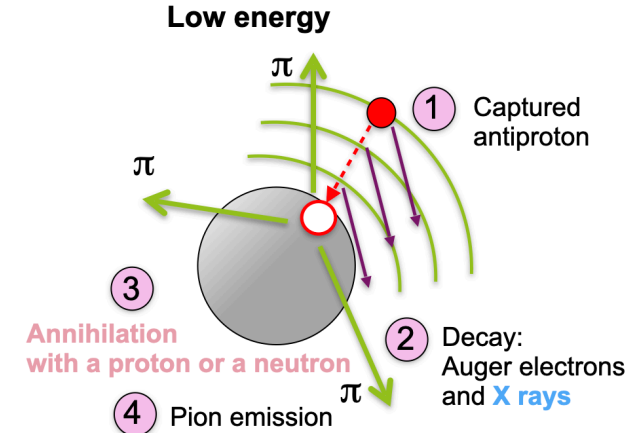
³ School of Nuclear Science and Technology, Lanzhou University, 222 South Tianshui Road, Lanzhou 730000, Gansu Province, China

- single and double charge exchange
 $p \rightarrow n, pp \rightarrow nn$ in target-like residue
- simultaneous capture of Λ from $pN \rightarrow \Lambda N + K^+$
- Ex. ${}^6\text{Li} + {}^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow {}^6\text{He} + K^+ + {}^{12}\text{C}$
 Missing mass from ${}^6\text{He}$ and K detection
- typical cross sections estimated to 1 nb (UrQMD cal.)



Hypernuclei from low-energy antiprotons

- low-energy antiproton capture forms antiprotonic atoms (100 Mb at ~ 100 eV)
- antiproton "decays" towards the nucleus
- antiproton annihilate at the nuclear surface with a proton or a neutron
- most of annihilations (97%) results in the creation of pions
- **3% of annihilations create strangeness (K)**
- $K^-(s\bar{u}) + n \rightarrow \pi^- + \Lambda$, etc... can occur
- If Λ is capture, a hypernucleus is formed
G. T. Condo et al., PRC 29 (1984)



KAON AND HYPERON PRODUCTION IN ANTIPROTON-...

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 85, 024614 (2012)

TABLE V. Probabilities of the different channels with strange mesons for $\bar{p}p$ annihilation at rest (in percent).

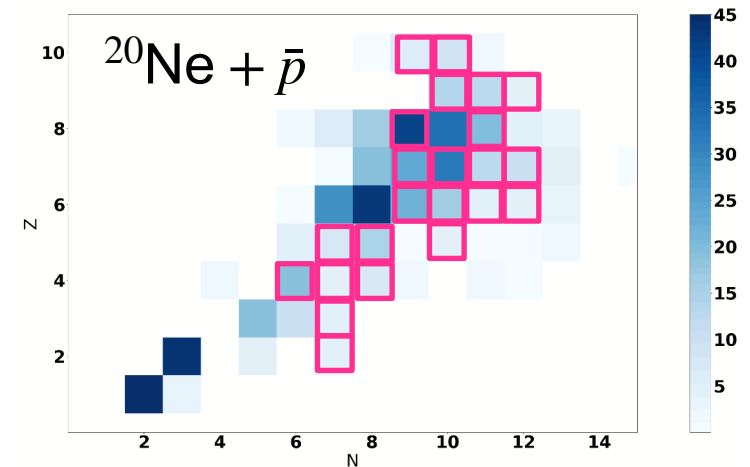
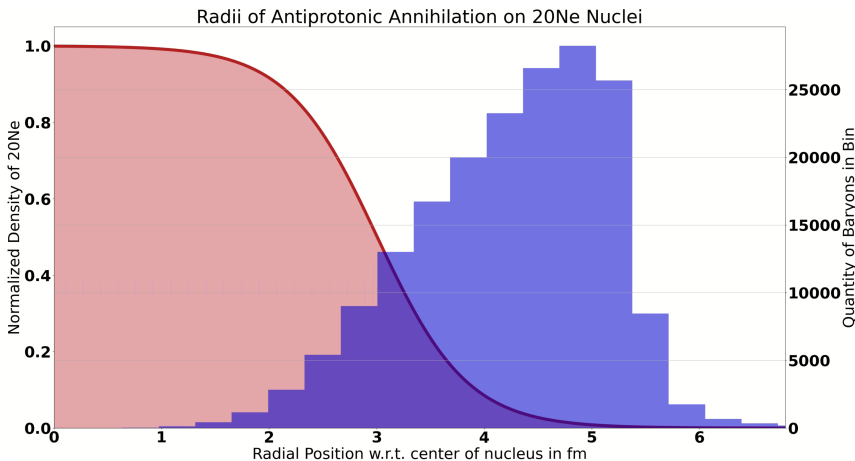
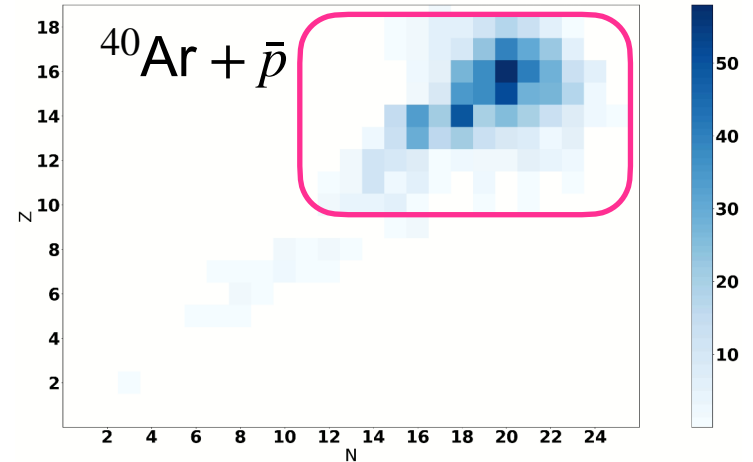
Channel	Probability	Reference	Channel	Probability	Reference
K^+K^-	0.091	[42,43]	$K^{*+}K^-$	0.070	[44]
$K^0\bar{K}^0$	0.091	[42,43]	$K^{*+}K^+\pi^0$	0.070	[44]
K^+K^-	0.071	[45]	$\bar{K}^0K^0\pi^0c$	0.070	
K^-K^+	0.071	[45]	$K^0\bar{K}^0\pi^0c$	0.070	
$\bar{K}^0\bar{K}^0$	0.060	[46]	$K^0K^+\pi^+$	0.085	[44]
\bar{K}^0K^0	0.060	[46]	$\bar{K}^0K^+\pi^-$	0.085	[44]
$K^{*+}K^-$	0.225	[44]	$K^0\bar{K}^0\pi^0\pi^0b$	0.035	[44,47]
$K^0\bar{K}^0$	0.225	[44]	$K^+K^-\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.035	
$K^0\bar{K}^0\pi^0b$	0.146	[46]	$K^0\bar{K}^0\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0i$	0.068	[48,49]
$K^+K^-\pi^0c$	0.146		$K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0c$	0.068	
$\bar{K}^0\bar{K}^0\pi^+d$	0.142	[46]	$K^0K^-\pi^+\pi^+\pi^+j$	0.059	[48]
$\bar{K}^0\bar{K}^0\pi^-d$	0.142	[46]	$\bar{K}^0K^+\pi^+\pi^-\pi^-i$	0.059	[48]
$K^0\bar{K}^0\eta^e$	0.050	[48]	$\bar{K}^0K^+\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.042	
$K^+K^-\eta^e$	0.050		$\bar{K}^0K^+\pi^-\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.042	
$K^0\bar{K}^0\omega^e$	0.232	[50]	$K^+K^-\pi^0\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.012	
$K^+K^-\omega^e$	0.232	[50]	$\bar{K}^0K^0\pi^0\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.012	
$K^0\bar{K}^0\rho^af$	0.202	[44,49,51,52]	$\phi\pi^+\pi^-$	0.054	[49]
$K^+K^-\rho^af$	0.202	[44,49,51,52]	$\phi\pi^0\pi^0c$	0.011	
$\bar{K}^0K^-\rho^+g$	0.234	[44]	$\phi\rho^0$	0.034	[49]
$\bar{K}^0K^+\rho^-g$	0.234	[44]	$\phi\pi^0$	0.019	[49]
$K^{*+}\bar{K}^0\pi^-$	0.230	[44]	$\phi\eta$	0.004	[49]
$K^{*-}K^0\pi^+$	0.230	[44]	$\phi\omega$	0.030	[49]

Hypernuclei from low-energy antiprotons: yields

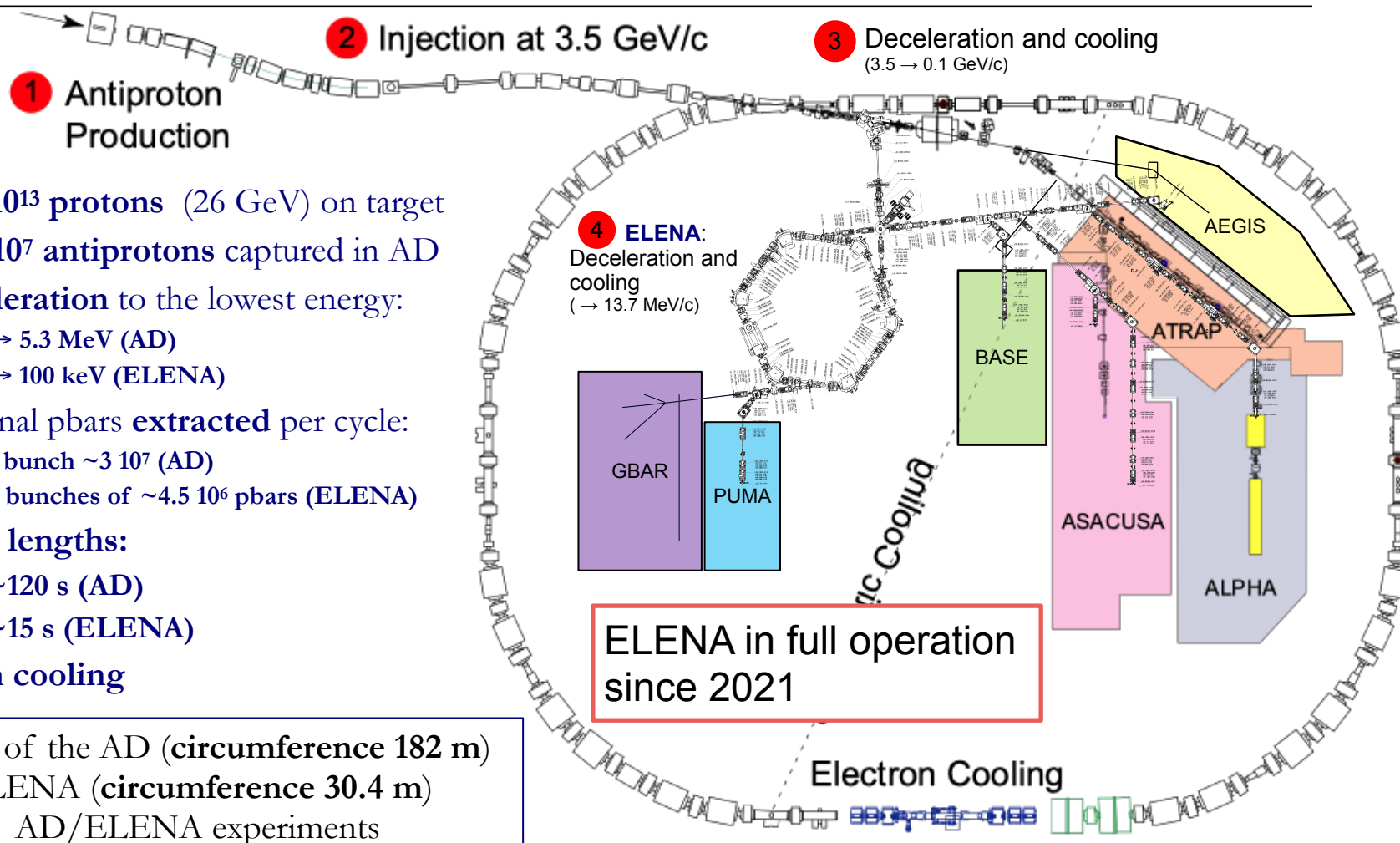
- GiBUU estimates
O. Buss et al., PR 512 (2012)
- adjusted radial annihilation probability
- realistic annihilation branching ratios
- $K^- + n \rightarrow \pi^- + \Lambda, \dots$
- potential criterium for Λ capture
- de-excitation (modified ABLA)
J. L. Sanchez et al., PRC 105 (2022)

Preliminary work by A. Schmidt, T. Gaitanos, J. L. Sanchez

Hypernuclei yield for 10^6 annihilations



The antimatter factory at CERN



Sketch of the AD (circumference 182 m)
ELENA (circumference 30.4 m)
AD/ELENA experiments

- ~ $1.5 \cdot 10^{13}$ protons (26 GeV) on target
- ~ $3.5 \cdot 10^7$ antiprotons captured in AD
- Deceleration to the lowest energy:
 - → 5.3 MeV (AD)
 - → 100 keV (ELENA)
- Nominal pbars **extracted** per cycle:
 - 1 bunch ~ $3 \cdot 10^7$ (AD)
 - 4 bunches of ~ $4.5 \cdot 10^6$ pbars (ELENA)
- Cycle lengths:
 - ~120 s (AD)
 - ~15 s (ELENA)
- Beam cooling

Summary

- The hypernuclei landscape remains rather unexplored
- **Exotic hypernuclei** can be produced from **heavy-ion collisions** and **low-energy antiprotons**
- Programs / projects at **GSI/FAIR, HIAF (China)** and **ELENA, CERN** for ground state properties and spectroscopy for $A < 50$ hypernuclei

Heavy-ion collision

- Production cross sections of $\sim 1 \mu\text{b}$ at 2 GeV/nucleon
- Current experiments limited to $10^6 - 10^7$ pps
- Momentum and vertex resolution essential for S/B reduction (WASA, HYDRA)
- Energy threshold limits possibilities to symmetric and proton-rich nuclei
- Single and double charge exchange reactions ($\sim 1 \text{ nb}$) proposed to produce neutron-rich nuclei

Low energy antiprotons

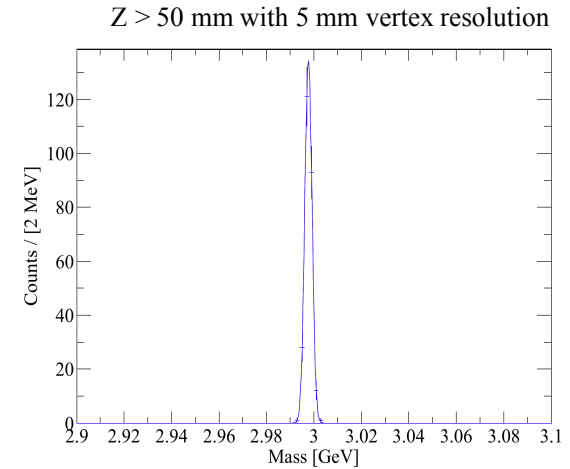
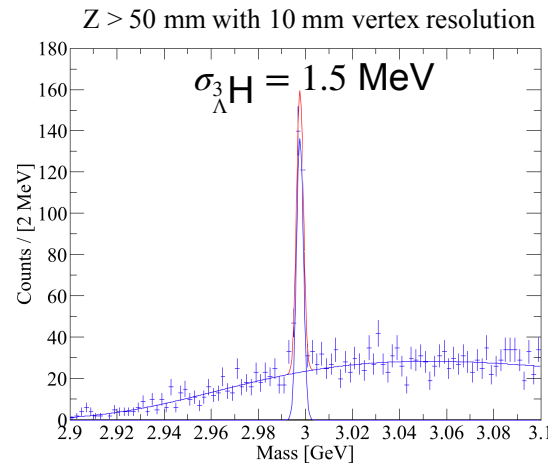
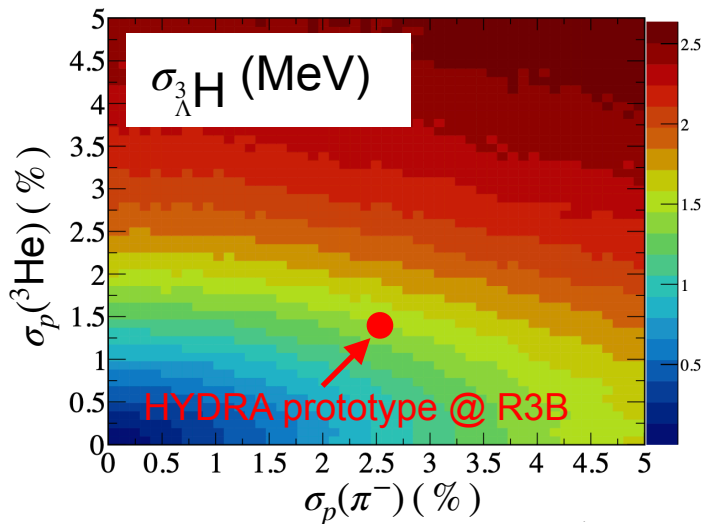
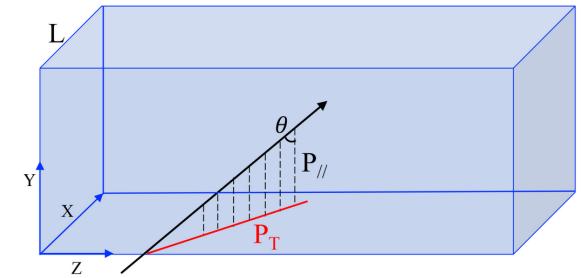
- Yield of hypernuclei estimated to $\sim 10^{-3}$ / **annihilation**
- New opportunity to produce neutron-rich hypernuclei at the Antimatter Factory, CERN
- Requires picosecond timing and tracking + particle identification of MeV-recoils

Pion detection and invariant-mass resolution

- Targeting an invariant-mass resolution of 1.5 MeV (σ) with low background

$$\left(\frac{\sigma_p}{p}\right)^2 = \left(\sqrt{\frac{720}{N+4}} \frac{\sigma_{xp} \sin \theta}{0.3 B L^2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{0.2}{\beta B \sqrt{L} X_0} \left[1 + 0.038 \ln\left(\frac{L}{X_0}\right)\right]\right)^2 + (\cot \theta \sigma_\theta)^2$$

Multiple scattering



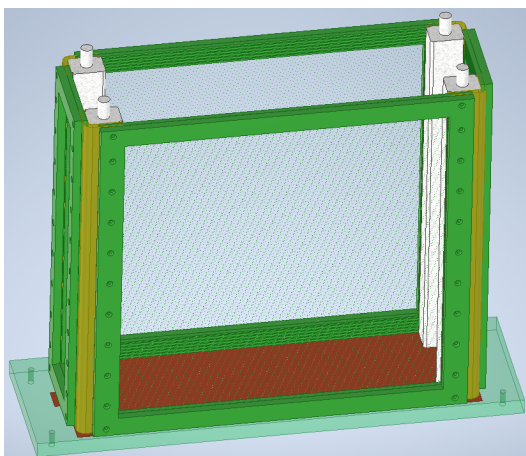
Simulations: Y. Sun and S. Velardita, TUDa

The HYDRA prototype

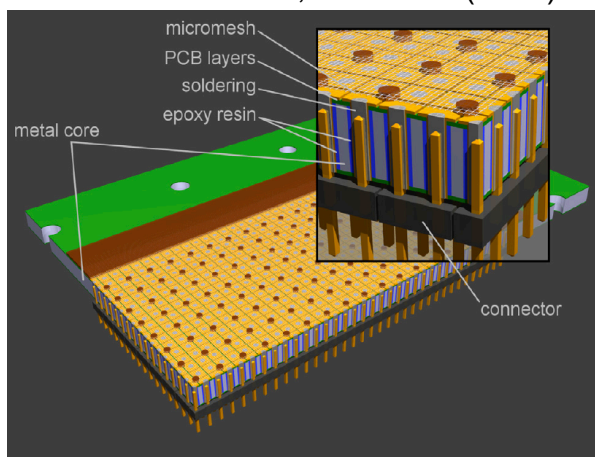
1/3 HYDRA prototype (29% detection efficiency)

- under completion
- field cage and amplification stages built at CERN
- wiring of field cage at GSI
- laser and in-beam validation in Q3/2022
- continuous readout in operation in Q4/2022
- Full system ready from beginning of 2023

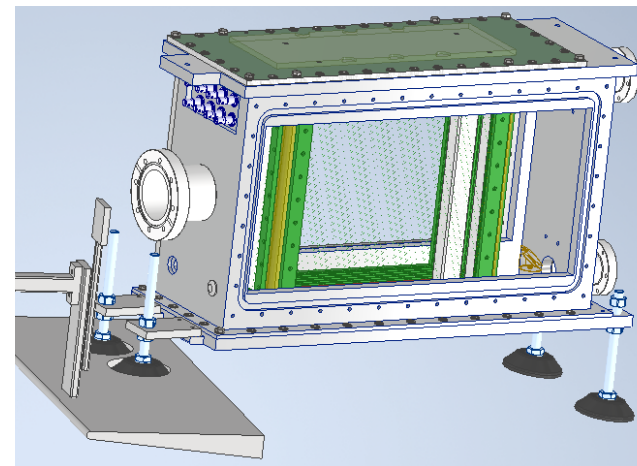
double wire-plane field cage



metal-core Micromegas pad plane
J. Giovinazzo et al., NIMA 892 (2018)

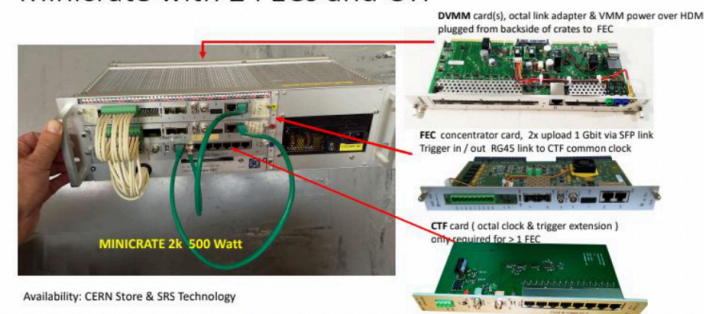


Courtesy L. Ji, TU Darmstadt



VMM3 chips and SRS readout

Minicrate with 2 FECs and CTF



Hypernuclei studies at ELENA, CERN

