

# H dibaryon constrained by hypernuclei

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Avraham Gal, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

- Q: does observing  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hyp by weak decay ( $\sim 10^{-10}$  s) rule out strong decay to a deeply bound H(uuddss) ?
- A: a  ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He}$  3-body model gives longer decay lifetime to  $\text{H} + {}^4\text{He}$  for  $m_{\text{H}} \leq m_{\Lambda} + m_n$ , so that much bound H is OK.
- Q: how slow is the  $\Delta S=2$  weak decay  $\text{H} \rightarrow 2n$  with respect to  $\tau(\text{Universe}) \approx (13.8 \times 10^9 \text{ yrs})$  ?
- A: constrained by  $\Lambda$  hyp lifetimes, gives  $\tau(\text{H} \rightarrow 2n)$  of order  $10^5$  s, much too short to make H a dark-matter candidate.

A. Gal, arXiv:2404.12801

# Lessons from $\Xi^-$ capture events in emulsion

2023 ECT\* Rockstar Workshop, Trento, Italy, Oct. 2023

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## $V_{\Xi}$ from $\Xi^-$ capture events

All five KEK & J-PARC  $\Xi^- + {}^A Z \rightarrow {}^{A'}_{\Lambda} Z' + {}^{A''}_{\Lambda} Z''$  capture events in light-nuclei emulsion occur in  $1p_{\Xi^-}$  nuclear states, suggesting attractive  $V_{\Xi} \geq 20$  MeV.

E. Friedman, A. Gal, PLB 820 (2021) 136555

## Questioning E07 $1s_{\Xi^-}$ assignments in ${}^{14}\text{N}$

Assigned  $1s_{\Xi^-}$ - ${}^{14}\text{N}$  events reinterpreted as  $1p_{\Xi^0}$ - ${}^{14}\text{C}$ .

E. Friedman, A. Gal, PLB 837 (2023) 137640

Remarks on the elusive H dibaryon  
time permitting...

# The elusive H dibaryon

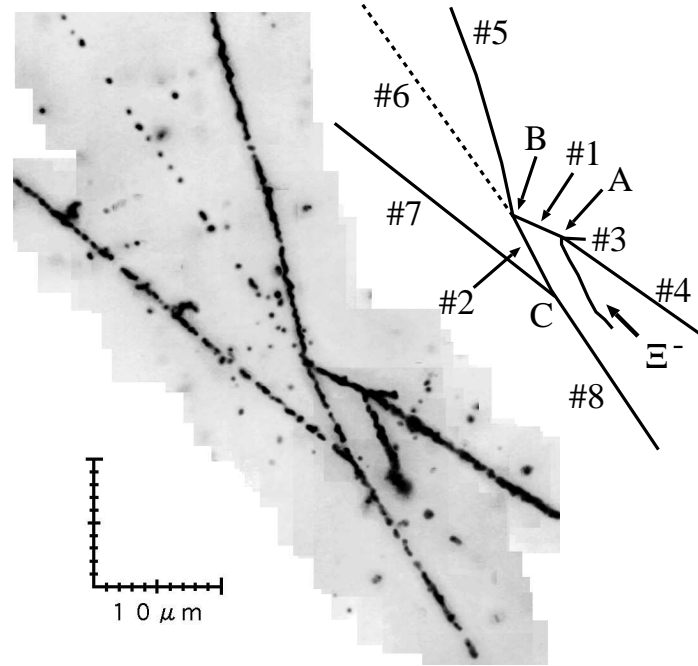
A stable H(uuddss) predicted by Jaffe PRL 38 (1977) 195

$$H \sim \mathcal{A}[\sqrt{1/8} \Lambda\Lambda + \sqrt{1/2} N\Xi - \sqrt{3/8} \Sigma\Sigma, ]_{I=S=0}$$

- No H signal in past ( $K^-$ ,  $K^+$ ) experiments at AGS-BNL & PS-KEK. **Awaiting J-PARC E42.**
- Bound H ruled out by **STAR** study of  $\Lambda\Lambda$  correlation femtoscopy [PRL 114 (2015) 022301].
- Bound H **not** ruled out by **ALICE** study of  $\Lambda\Lambda$  correlation femto [PLB 797 (2019) 134822].
- Bound H **above**  $\Lambda p\pi^-$ ,  $\sim 37$  MeV below  $\Lambda\Lambda$ , ruled out by **ALICE** search for a weakly decaying  $\Lambda\Lambda$  bound state [PLB 752 (2016) 267].

- Bound H **above**  $\Lambda p \pi^-$  ruled out in **Belle** study of  $\Upsilon(1S,2S)$  decays [PRL 110 (2013) 222002].
- Deeply bound H **below**  $\Lambda n$ ,  $m_H \leq 2.05$  GeV, ruled out in **BaBar's**  $\Upsilon(2S,3S) \rightarrow H \bar{\Lambda} \bar{\Lambda}$  search [PRL 122 (2019) 072002].
- H is weakly bound in LQCD calculations, e.g., PRL 127 (2021) 242003, see **Wittig's** talk.  $SU(3)_f$  **breaking** might push it to  $\approx 26$  MeV in the  $\Lambda \Lambda$  continuum, **near  $N\Xi$  threshold:** HALQCD Collaboration [NPA 881 (2012) 28] & Haidenbauer-Meißner [NPA 881 (2012) 44].

# Hypernuclear Constraints: Nagara event



${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He}$  (KEK-E373) PRL 87 (2001) 212502, PRC 88 (2013) 014003  
 $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}({}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He}_{\text{g.s.}})=6.91\pm 0.16$  MeV, **uniquely identified.**

- **A:**  $\Xi^-$  capture  $\Xi^- + {}^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow {}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} + t + \alpha$
- **B:** weak decay  ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} \rightarrow {}^5_{\Lambda}\text{He} + p + \pi^-$  (no  ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + \text{H}$ )
- **C:**  ${}^5_{\Lambda}\text{He}$  nonmesic weak decay to two  $Z=1$  recoils + n

Few other **weakly decaying**  ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}^A\text{Z}$  hypernuclei identified.

# Dark-Matter H Dibaryon?

Work triggered by Farrar's 2003-4 idea that a deeply bound H dibaryon would make a long-lived Dark-Matter particle.

G.R. Farrar, Int'l. J. Theor. Phys. 42 (2003) 1211.

G.R. Farrar, G. Zaharijas, Phys. Rev, D 70 (2004) 014008.

A recent review: G.R.F+Z. Wang, arXiv:2306.03123 [hep-ph].

assuming (i) compact 6q configurations of size down to 0.2 fm and (ii) outdated hard-core BB strong-interaction potentials.

Here, we try to do better...

# H(uuddss) model wavefunction

- Symmetric  $L=0$ , Antisymmetric  $1_S(S=0)$ ,  $1_F$ ,  $1_C$ .
- $\Psi_H = N_6 \exp\left(-\frac{\nu}{6} \sum_{i<j}^6 (\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j)^2\right)$
- $\Psi_H = \psi_{B_a}(\rho_a, \lambda_a) \times \psi_{B_b}(\rho_b, \lambda_b) \times \psi_{B_a B_b}(r)$
- $\psi_{B_a B_b} = \left(\frac{3\nu}{\pi}\right)^{\frac{3}{4}} \exp\left(-\frac{3\nu}{2} r^2\right)$ , **Need to add SFC factors.**
- $\langle r_{B_a}^2 \rangle = \langle r_{B_b}^2 \rangle = \langle r_{B_a B_b}^2 \rangle = \frac{9}{8\nu}$ ,  $\langle r_H^2 \rangle = \frac{5}{8\nu}$ .

$\sqrt{\langle r_{\Lambda\Lambda}^2 \rangle}$  (fm) vs.  $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  (MeV)

$B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$	5	20	50	100	200	300	400
$\sqrt{\langle r_{\Lambda\Lambda}^2 \rangle}$	2.134	1.206	0.854	0.689	0.560	0.501	0.463

calculated for a short-range potential,  $\lambda=4 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ ,

$$\delta_\lambda(r) = \left(\frac{\lambda}{2\sqrt{\pi}}\right)^3 \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda^2}{4} r^2\right).$$

# $\Lambda\Lambda^6\text{He}$ model wavefunction

- Use a  $\Lambda - \Lambda - {}^4\text{He}$  model inspired by a  $\not\equiv\text{EFT}$  study of s-shell  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei, by Contessi, Schaefer, et al. PLB 797 (2019) 134893.
- $\Phi_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} = \phi_{\Lambda\Lambda}(r_{\Lambda\Lambda}) \Phi_{\Lambda\Lambda}(R_{\Lambda\Lambda}) \phi_\alpha$ ,  $\sqrt{\langle r_{\Lambda\Lambda}^2 \rangle} = 3.65 \pm 0.10$  fm.
- $\sqrt{\langle R_{\Lambda\Lambda}^2 \rangle}$  is half of that for Gaussians.
- **Short-Range suppression:**  
 $\tilde{\phi}_{\Lambda\Lambda}(r_{\Lambda\Lambda}) = (1 - j_0(\kappa r_{\Lambda\Lambda})) \phi_{\Lambda\Lambda}(r_{\Lambda\Lambda})$ ,  $\kappa = 2.534$  fm $^{-1}$  fitting a G-matrix calculation by Maneu-Parreño-Ramos, PRC 98 (2018) 025208.
- To evaluate  $\Lambda\Lambda^6\text{He} \rightarrow H + {}^4\text{He}$  decay rate (next page), represent final state by  $\tilde{\psi}_{\Lambda\Lambda}(r_{\Lambda\Lambda}) \times \exp(i\vec{k}_H \cdot \vec{R}_H)$ , where  $\tilde{\psi}_{\Lambda\Lambda}(r_{\Lambda\Lambda}) = \psi(r_{\Lambda\Lambda})/\sqrt{1000}$  to account for SFC structure.
- **Recall: no short-range suppression for H ( $1_F$  BB).**



# $\Lambda\Lambda^6\text{He} \rightarrow H + ^4\text{He}$ decay rate

- $\Gamma(\Lambda\Lambda^6\text{He} \rightarrow H + ^4\text{He}) = \frac{\mu_{H\alpha} k_H}{(2\pi\hbar c)^2} \int | \langle \Psi_f | V_{\Lambda\Lambda} | \Psi_i \rangle |^2 d\vec{k}_H$ ,  
where  $\langle \Psi_f | V_{\Lambda\Lambda} | \Psi_i \rangle$  is a product of two factors.
- **1st factor:**  $\langle \tilde{\psi}_{\Lambda\Lambda} | C_0^{(\lambda=4)} \delta_{\lambda=4}(r_{\Lambda\Lambda}) | \tilde{\phi}_{\Lambda\Lambda} \rangle$ , where  
 $C_0^{(\lambda=4)} = -152 \text{ MeV}\cdot\text{fm}^3$  fitted to  $a_{\Lambda\Lambda} = -0.8 \text{ fm}$ .  
SRC reduction: a factor of 4 to 5. Altogether this matrix element (ME) varies from  $-59$  to  $-53 \text{ keV}$  as  $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  is increased from 100 to 400 MeV.
- **2nd factor:**  $\int \exp(i\vec{k}_H \cdot \vec{R}) \Phi_{\Lambda\Lambda}(R) d^3\vec{R}$ , an overlap ME between a  $\Lambda\Lambda - \alpha$  smooth Gaussian  $\Phi_{\Lambda\Lambda}(R_{\Lambda\Lambda})$  in  $\Lambda\Lambda^6\text{He}$  and the  $H - \alpha$  oscillatory plane-wave  $\exp(i\vec{k}_H \cdot \vec{R}_H)$ .  
Strong cancellations occur, reducing it as  $k_H$  increases.

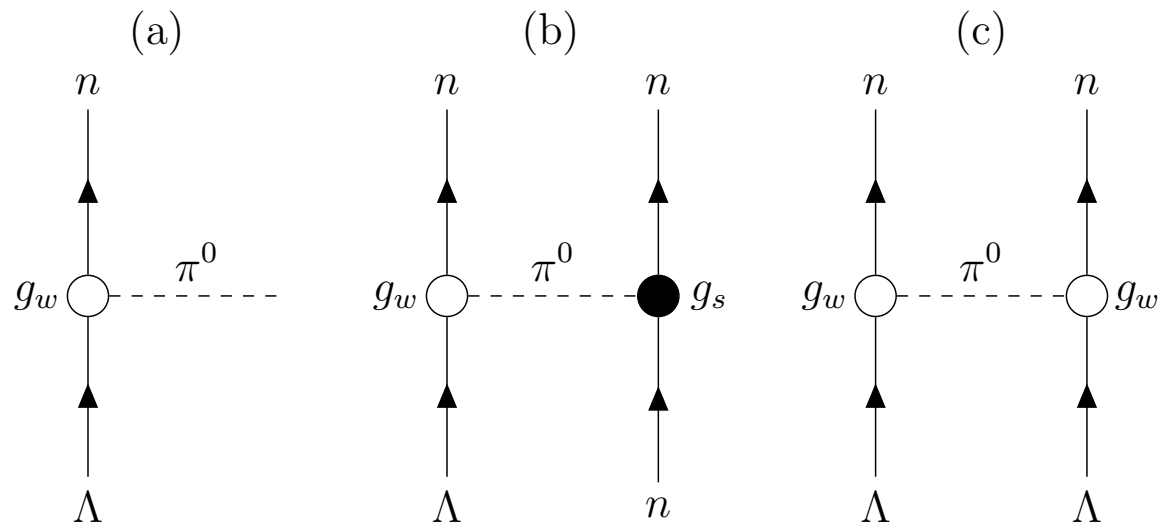
${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} \rightarrow H + {}^4\text{He}$  decay rate  $\Gamma$  and decay time  $\hbar/\Gamma$ .

$B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ (MeV)	$k_H$ (fm $^{-1}$ )	$\Gamma$ (eV)	$\tau$ (s)
100	2.547	$0.782 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$0.841 \cdot 10^{-13}$
200	3.612	$0.501 \cdot 10^{-8}$	$1.315 \cdot 10^{-7}$
300	4.377	$0.679 \cdot 10^{-14}$	$0.970 \cdot 10^{-1}$
400	4.980	$2.436 \cdot 10^{-20}$	$2.703 \cdot 10^4$
176	3.393	$1.550 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$4.245 \cdot 10^{-9}$

$B_{\Lambda\Lambda}=176$  MeV corresponds to  $m_H=m_\Lambda+m_n$ .

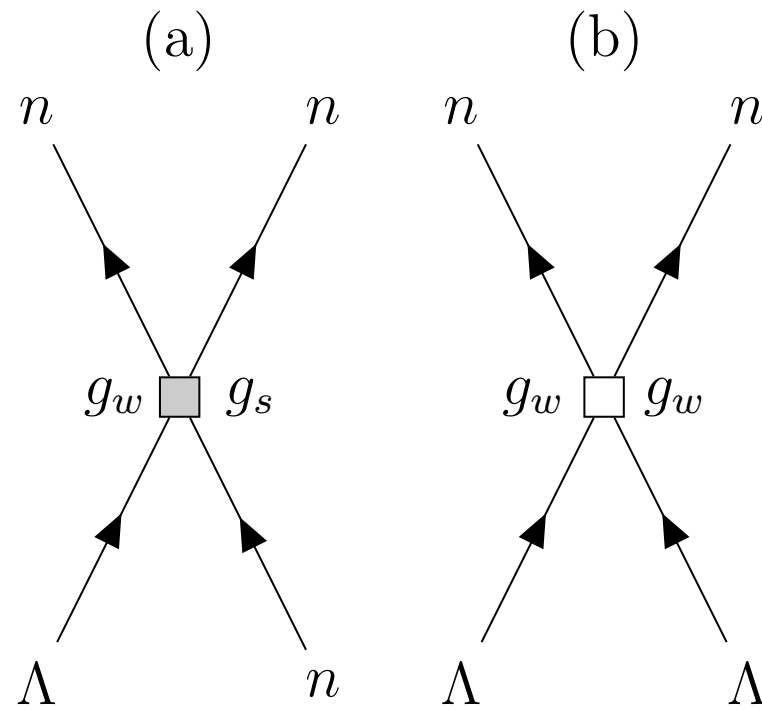
- ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}{}^6\text{He} \rightarrow H + {}^4\text{He}$  strong-interaction lifetime becomes **longer** than  $\Lambda$  hypernuclear lifetimes of order  $10^{-10}$  s for  $m_H$  below  $m_\Lambda+m_n$ , where decay of H requires a  $\Delta S = 2$  **weak-decay  $H \rightarrow nn$** , assuming H is above nn.
- A lower-mass H would be in conflict with nuclear stability limits, e.g.  ${}^{16}\text{O}$ .

# $\Lambda n \rightarrow nn$ and $\Lambda\Lambda \rightarrow nn$ weak decays



- Figure showing how free-space  $\Lambda \rightarrow n\pi^0$  weak decay vertex is embedded in meson-exchange diagrams to generate  $\Delta S = 1$   $\Lambda n \rightarrow nn$  and  $\Delta S = 2$   $\Lambda\Lambda \rightarrow nn$  weak transitions in hypernuclei or in H decay.

# $\Lambda n \rightarrow nn$ and $\Lambda\Lambda \rightarrow nn$ weak decays



- Use low-energy constants (LECs)  $C_{(\Delta S)}^\lambda$  proportional to  $g_w$  for  $\Lambda n \rightarrow nn$  and to  $g_w^2$  for  $\Lambda\Lambda \rightarrow nn$ .
- EFT approach for nonmesonic weak decay of hypernuclei suggested by **Parreno-Bennhold-Holstein, PRC 70 (2004) 051601(R)**.

## H→nn decay rate $\Gamma_H$ and decay time $\tau_H = \hbar/\Gamma_H$

$B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ (MeV)	$k_n$ (fm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Gamma_H$ (eV)	$\tau_H$ (s)
<b>176</b>	<b>2.109</b>	$2.366 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$2.782 \cdot 10^5$
<b>200</b>	<b>1.955</b>	$2.211 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$2.977 \cdot 10^5$
<b>300</b>	<b>1.130</b>	$1.365 \cdot 10^{-21}$	$4.820 \cdot 10^5$

$B_{\Lambda\Lambda}=176$  MeV corresponds to  $m_H=m_\Lambda+m_n$ .

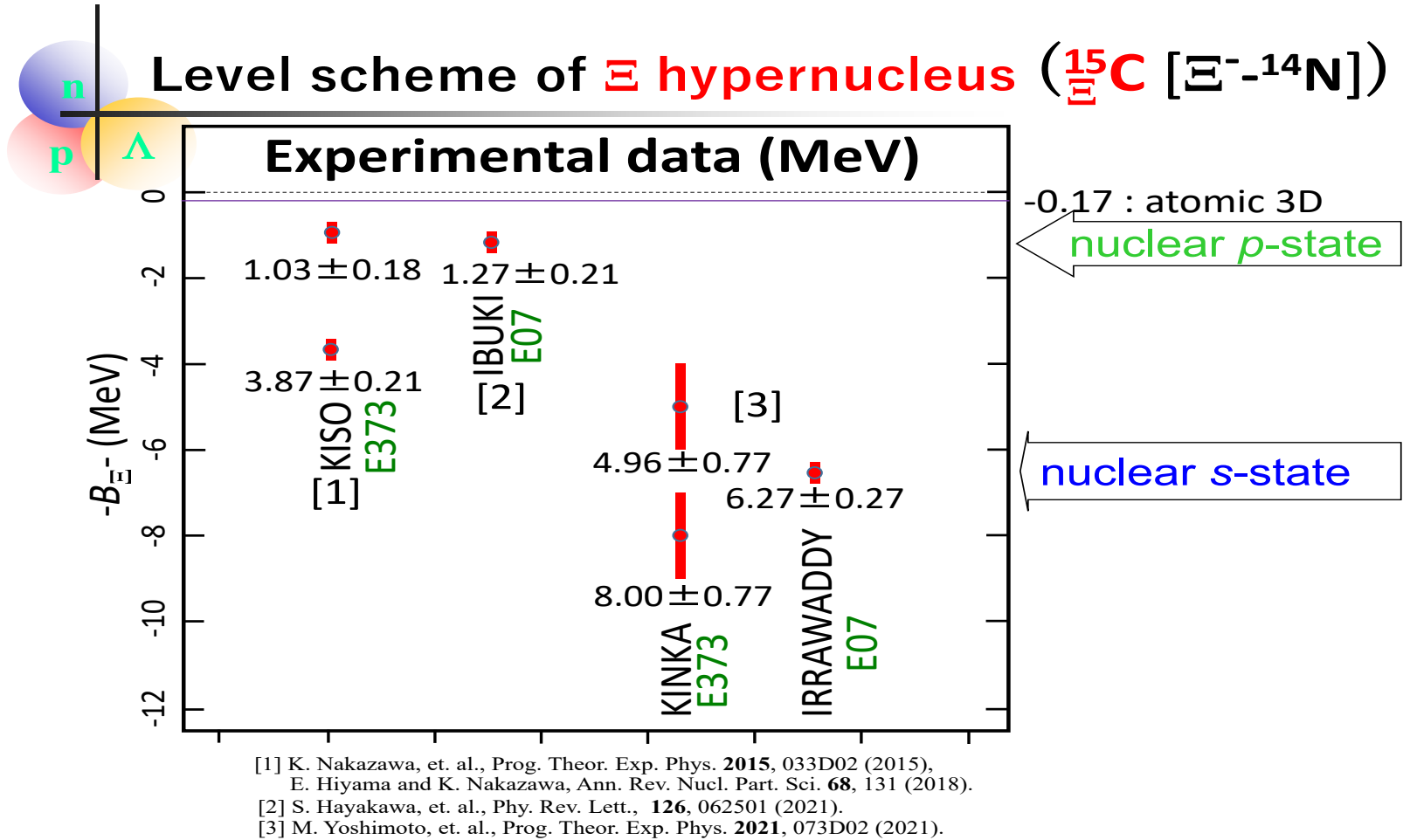
- **Extract  $C_1^{(\lambda)}$  for a given  $\lambda$  by evaluating  $\Gamma_n(C_1)$ ,  
 $\Gamma_n = v_{\Lambda n} \sigma_{\Lambda n \rightarrow nn} \rho_n$ , requiring  $\Gamma_n = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma_{hyp}$   
where  $\Gamma_{hyp} = \hbar/(\tau_{hyp} \approx 210 \text{ ps})$ .**
- **Use  $C_2^{(\lambda)} = (G_F m_\pi^2) C_1^{(\lambda)} = (2.21 \times 10^{-7}) C_1^{(\lambda)}$ .**
- $\Gamma(H \rightarrow nn) = \frac{\mu_{nn} k_n}{(2\pi\hbar c)^2} \int | \langle \exp(i\vec{k}_n \cdot \vec{r}) | C_2^{(\lambda)} \delta_\lambda(\vec{r}) | \tilde{\psi}_{\Lambda\Lambda}(r) \rangle |^2 d\hat{k}_n$ .
- **Weaker oscillations over a smaller range w.r.t.  
 $\Gamma_{(\Lambda\Lambda)}({}^6\text{He} \rightarrow H + {}^4\text{He})$ .**

# Deeply Bound H Dibaryon: Summary

- Observing  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei by their weak decay does not rule out a deeply bound  $H(uuddss)$  dibaryon.
- Assuming  $H$  is deeply bound, between  $nn$  and  $\Lambda n$  thresholds, its  $\Delta S = 2$   $H \rightarrow nn$  lifetime is shorter than 1 yr, disqualifying it from a Dark-Matter candidate.

**Thanks for your attention!**

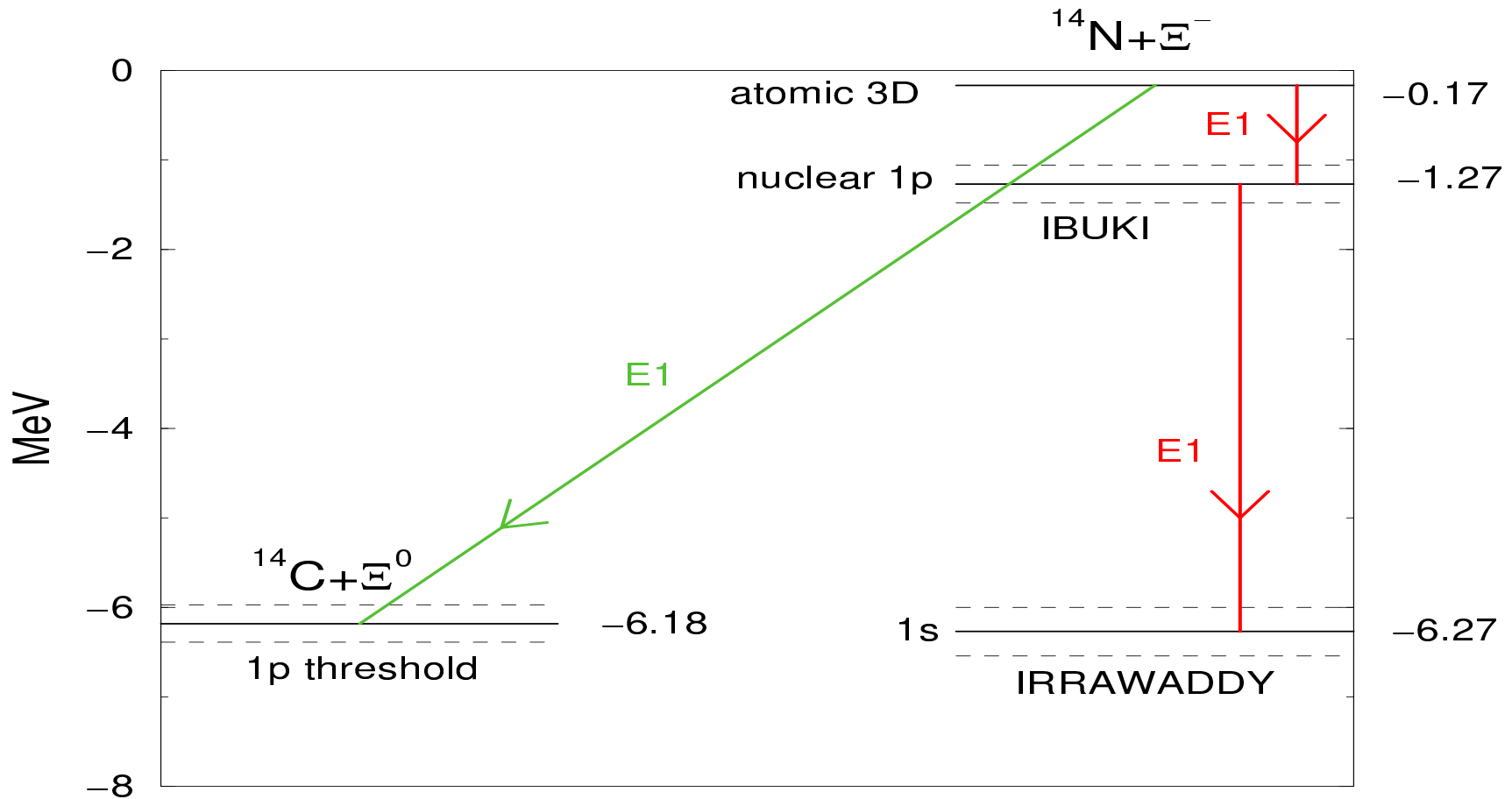
# EXTRA: J-PARC E07 $^{14}\text{N}$ events



Yoshimoto et al., PTEP 2021 073D02

$1s_{\Xi^{-}}$  states reported only in  $^{14}\text{N}$

# $1s_{\Xi^-}$ interpreted as $1p_{\Xi^0}$



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$\Xi^0$  relevance **unique to  $^{14}\text{N}$** , not in  $^{12}\text{C}$  or  $^{16}\text{O}$ .

$\Xi^- p \leftrightarrow \Xi^0 n$  ch. exch. induces  $^{14}\text{N} + \Xi_{1p}^- \leftrightarrow ^{14}\text{C} + \Xi_{1p}^0$  mixing.

$^{14}\text{N} + \Xi_{3D}^-$  decays by E1 to both  $^{14}\text{N} + \Xi_{1p}^-$ ,  $^{14}\text{C} + \Xi_{1p}^0$ .



# $\Xi^-$ capture: Summary & Outlook

- $V_{\Xi}(\rho_0)=24.3\pm 0.8 \Rightarrow 21.9\pm 0.7$  MeV with Pauli from twin- $\Lambda$  **two-body**  $\Xi^-$  capture events.
- KEK-E224 & BNL-E885:  $V_{\Xi}(\rho_0)\approx 16\pm 2$  MeV.
- BNL-E906:  $V_{\Xi}(\rho_0)=17\pm 6$  MeV (QF in  ${}^9\text{Be}$ ).
- EFT & LQCD suggest  $V_{\Xi}(\rho_0)\leq 10$  MeV.
- SHF using E07  ${}^{14}\text{N}$  input:  $V_{\Xi}\approx 14\pm 1$  MeV, with attractive  $\Xi N$  & repulsive  $\Xi NN$  terms.
- Why **all** E07  $\Xi_{1s}^-$ -assigned events are in  ${}^{14}\text{N}$ ?  
A  $\Xi_{1p}^0-{}^{14}\text{C}$  assignment is more natural.
- Challenge: find one good  $\Xi_{1s}^-$ - ${}^{12}\text{C}$  capture event.

**Thanks for your attention!**