

Prospect of Hadronic-Molecule / Cluster with Strangeness

- via the detailed study of the kaonic nucleus -

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$\bar{K}N$ interaction study via Kaonic atom





Succeeded in Kaonic Hydrogen x-ray Measurement

Kp experiment at KEK in 1997:





The European Physical Journal C

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THE $\Lambda(1405)$

Revised March 1998 by R.H. Dalitz, Oxford University

From the measurement of 2p - 1s x rays from kaonichydrogen, the energy-level shift ΔE and width Γ of its 1s state can give us two further constraints on the $(\overline{\Sigma}\pi, NK)$ system, at an energy roughly midway between those from the low-energy hydrogen bubble chamber studies and those from $qR(\Sigma\pi)$ observations below pK^- threshold. IWASAKI 97 have reported the first convincing observation of this x ray, with a good initial estimate:

 $\Delta E - i\Gamma/2 = (-323 \pm 63 \pm 11) - i(204 \pm 104 \pm 50) \text{ eV}. \quad (2)$

the errors here encompass about half of the predictions made following various analyses and/or models for the in-flight K⁻p and sub-threshold $qR(\Sigma\pi)$ data. Better measurements will be needed to discriminate between the analyses and predictions. ..., perhaps from the DA Φ NE storage ring at Frascati, information vital for our quantitative understanding of the $(\Sigma \pi, NK)$ system in this region.





Observed Shift was REPULSIVE!

Let's study how atomic level shifts depending on *KN* interaction.

Without *K*N interaction $(V_{\bar{K}N} = 0, W_{\bar{K}N} = 0)$, Coulomb potential forms K⁻p atomic levels.





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When switching on the absorption part $W_{\bar{K}N}$, a level crossing happens and connects to another level.

As a result, a wiggling pattern appears in energy levels (red lines), and the nuclear bound state is branched and separated from the atomic ground state.









- R. Seki, Phys. Rev. C<u>5</u> (1972) 1196
- S. Baird et al., Nucl. Phys. A<u>392</u> (1983) 297
- C.J. Batty, Nucl. Phys. A<u>508</u> (1990) 89c









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Illustrative Animation









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repulsive shift of atomic 1s

The sign flip of the energy shift suggests the existence of the Kaonic Nuclear Bound **State because the repulsive** atomic shift appears only when the bound state is formed!





As a candidate of K^-p bound state, $\Lambda(1405)$ is the most natural - Is it quark excited state of Λ baryon (qqq)? $\Lambda(1405) = KN \dots a$ "molecule-like hadron composite"



- R.H. Dalitz and S.F. Tuan, Ann. Phys., 3, 307 (1960)
 - supported by kaonic hydrogen data Phys. Rev. Lett., 78, 3067 (1997) supported by Lattice QCD

J.M.M. Hall et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 114(2015)132002.



why not KNN?

forming a nuclear bound state







Search for KNN bound state

T. Hashimoto, S. Ajimura, G. Beer, PTEP (2015) ptep/ptv076. S. Ajimura, H. Asano, G. Beer et al. Phys. Lett. B789 (2019) 620. T.Yamaga, S. Ajimura, H. Asano et al. Phys. Rev. C102 (2020) 044002.





Basic understanding of nuclei

- Nuclei consist of nucleons bound by nuclear force

nucleons (N):	qqq	meson:
q = u or d	Fermion:	E
	Pauli exclusion	particles can

- Yukawa Theorem tells :
 - in nuclei, mesons are virtual particles and form nuclear potential
 - in vacuum, mesons are real particles having own intrinsic masses
- Long standing question :
- Can meson be a constituent particle forming nuclei? — Can meson form a quantum state as a particle ? —
 - ... in the case of K-meson ...
- *K* (*q***s**) forms a bound state with two nucleons
- \overline{K} meson (K⁻: \overline{u} s, \overline{K}^{0} : \overline{d} s)







Beyond Conventional Understanding totally new probe (impurity) to study inside nuclei



K⁻ + ³He (ppn)



(K⁻+pp) + n substitute n in ³He by K⁻



K⁻ + ³He (ppn)



(K⁻+pp) + n substitute n in ³He by K⁻



$K^- + {}^{3}He (ppn)$



$K^- + ^{3}He \rightarrow (K^- + pp) + n$: formation

 $(K^{-}+pp) + n$ substitute n in ³He by K⁻

If "K⁻pp" exits, a peak will be formed in invariant mass spectrum below M(K⁻pp) $M(K^-pp) \equiv m_{K^-} + 2m_p$







$K^- + {}^{3}He (ppn)$



(K⁻+pp) + n substitute n in ³He by K⁻

kinematically identified : formation $(K^- + pp) \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) : decay (M, q)$ identified as charged particles select $K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) + n$ events, analyze (*invariant mass M*) of (K⁻ + pp)-system and *momentum transfer* **q**) to the system

 $K^- + ^{3}He \rightarrow (K^- + pp) + n$ provides multi-dimensional kinematical information

If "K⁻pp" exits, a peak will be formed in invariant mass spectrum below M(K⁻pp) $M(K^-pp) \equiv m_{K^-} + 2m_p$











on (*M*, *q*)-plane

q-distribution: system size

— high-q capture happens if the system is compact —

M-distribution: binding energy & absorption width -sensitive to $\bar{K}N$ interaction -





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[GeV/c]

The K-pp signal is clearly seen on (M, q)-plane! -relatively deep and wide, and extended to high-q region —





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PWIA based interpretation

(plane wave impulse approximation)

 $\sigma(M, q) \propto \rho_{3B}(M, q) \times \frac{V}{(M - M_K)}$ Differential

Differential cross section

$$\frac{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}}{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}} \times \exp\left(-\frac{q^{2}}{Q_{Kpp}^{2}}\right)$$



PWIA based interpretation

(plane wave impulse approximation)

 $\sigma(M, q) \propto$

Differential cross section

Lorentz invariant phase space (Λpn)

 $\rho_{3B}(M,q)$

 $(M - M_{H})$

$$\frac{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}}{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}} \times \exp\left(-\frac{q^{2}}{Q_{Kpp}^{2}}\right)$$



PWIA based interpretation - from time integral -**B.W. / Lorentzian** (plane wave impulse approximation) $(\Gamma_{Kpp})^{T}$ $\sigma(M, q) \propto$ $\rho_{3B}(M,q) \times$ exp $(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2)^2 + (\Gamma_{Kpp}/2)^2$ $(M - M_{Kpp})^{2}$ **Lorentz invariant** Differential phase space (Λpn) cross section **Invariant Mass Spectrum** 80 г acceptance corrected data M(Kp) 70 - 0.3 < q < 0.6 $K^{-}pp \rightarrow \Lambda p$ GeV/c $K^{-}pp \rightarrow \Sigma^{0}p$ do/dM [nb/(MeV/c²)] 60 $\rightarrow \gamma \Lambda p$ $QF_{\bar{K}NN\to\Lambda p,\Sigma^0p}$ 50 BG all 40 30 20 10 0**└** 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6

strong binding ($\bar{K}N$ attraction) B_{Kpp}~40 MeV, Γ_{Kpp} ~100MeV

М(лр) [GeV/*c*²]



PWIA based interpretation (plane wave impulse approximation) $\sigma(M, q) \propto$ $\rho_{3B}(M,q) \times$ **Lorentz invariant Differential** phase space (Λpn) cross section **Invariant Mass Spectrum** 80 г 30 acceptance corrected data 70 - 0.3 < q < 0.6 $K^{-}pp \rightarrow \Lambda p$ GeV/c $K^{-}pp \rightarrow \Sigma^{0}p$ *do/dM* [nb/(MeV/c²)] 60 $\rightarrow \gamma \Lambda p$ do/dq [nb/(MeV/c)] $QF_{\bar{K}NN\to\Lambda p,\Sigma^0p}$ 20 50 BG all 40 30 10 20 10 2.2 **Ž.1** 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 0 *М*(лр) [GeV/*c*²] strong binding (KN attraction)

 $B_{Kpp} \sim 40 \text{ MeV}, \Gamma_{Kpp} \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$

 $Q_{Kpp} \sim 400 \text{ MeV/c}$





PWIA based interpretation (plane wave impulse approximation) $\sigma(M, q) \propto$ $\rho_{3B}(M,q) \times$ Lorentz invariant Differential phase space (Λpn) cross section **Invariant Mass Spectrum** 80 г 30 acceptance corrected data 70 - 0.3 < q < 0.6 $K^{-}pp \rightarrow \Lambda p$ GeV/c $K^{-}pp \rightarrow \Sigma^{0}p$ *do/dM* [nb/(MeV/c²)] 60 $\rightarrow \gamma \Lambda p$ do/dq [nb/(MeV/c)] $QF_{\bar{K}NN\to\Lambda p,\Sigma^0 p}$ 20 50 BG all 40 30 10 20 10 **Ž.1** 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 *М*(лр) [GeV/*c*²] strong binding (KN attraction)

 $B_{Kpp} \sim 40 \text{ MeV}, \Gamma_{Kpp} \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$

wide momentum width Q_{Kpp}~400 MeV/c



... could be quite compact ... ($R_{Kpp} \sim 0.6 \text{ fm} (H.O.)$)



- Mesonic decays will give us further information on $\bar{K}NN$
 - ✓ internal structure
 - $\sqrt{\bar{K}N}$ interaction below the threshold



1N absorption

2N absorption













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 - ✓ internal structure
 - $\sqrt{\bar{K}N}$ interaction below the threshold



Non-mesonic



Mesonic



2N absorption

1N absorption







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Non-mesonic



Mesonic



2N absorption

1N absorption



S. Ohnishi, et al., Phys. Rev. C 88 (2013) 025204.

 $\Gamma_{YN} \ll \Gamma_{\pi YN}$

40 times??

w(p_N ,W) (10⁻⁷MeV⁻²







- Mesonic decays will give us further information on $\bar{K}NN$
 - ✓ internal structure
 - $\sqrt{\bar{K}N}$ interaction below the threshold
 - ✓ density of the state



Mesonic

Non-mesonic



2N absorption

1N absorption







Mesonic Decay Analysis (with the E15 Data)

- with neutron detection using a thin scintillation counter array (CDH)
 - small efficiency (3~9%)
 - BG from the inner wall of the magnet











Momentum term from spatial integral

$$\frac{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}}{\left(M-M_{Kpp}\right)^{2}+\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}} \times exp\left(-\frac{q^{2}}{Q_{Kpp}}\right)$$

Energy term (BW type) from time integral

15





Momentum term from spatial integral

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Mesonic decay suppression / spectral modification happens, due to the Phase Space Difference!



Momentum term from spatial integral

$$\frac{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}}{M-M_{Kpp}^{2}\right)^{2}+\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}}\times exp\left(-\frac{q^{2}}{Q_{Kpp}^{2}}\right)$$

Energy term (BW type) from time integral












1) mass threshold $m_{\{\pi\Lambda p\}} \in [m_{\Lambda} + m_{p}, E^{*}_{\{K^{3}\text{He}\}} - m_{n}] \rightarrow [m_{\pi} + m_{Y} + m_{N}, E^{*}_{\{K^{3}\text{He}\}} - m_{N}]$





1) mass threshold $m_{\{\pi\Lambda p\}} \in [m_{\Lambda} + m_p, E^*_{\{K^3 \text{He}\}} - m_n] \rightarrow [m_{\pi} + m_Y + m_N, E^*_{\{K^3 \text{He}\}} - m_N]$ **2)** Near the thresholds, the four-body phase space is significantly suppressed compared to that of the three-body phase space.





three-body phase space.



three-body phase space.



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 $K^-pp^{\prime\prime} \rightarrow \pi^+\Lambda n$



 $"\bar{K}^0 n n" \to \pi^- \Lambda p$

L6



Mesonic Decay Analysis (with the E15 Data)



$$\frac{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}}{\left(M-M_{Kpp}\right)^{2}+\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}} \times exp\left(-\frac{q^{2}}{Q_{Kpp}}\right)$$



Mesonic Decay Analysis (with the E15 Data)



Momentum term from spatial integral

$$\frac{\left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}}{\left(M - M_{Kpp}\right)^{2} + \left(\Gamma_{Kpp}/2\right)^{2}} \times exp\left(-\frac{q^{2}}{Q_{Kpp}}\right)$$

With the model func., the spectra are consistently explained.



Mesonic Decay (suppressed by the 4-body phase space)

$$"K^-pp" \to \Lambda p$$

 $\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $9.3 \pm 0.8^{+1.4}_{-1.0}$ [**all**] $5.5 \pm 0.5^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ [<M(KNN)]

$"K^-pp" \to \Sigma^0 p$

 $\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $5.3 \pm 0.4^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ [all] $3.1 \pm 0.2^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$ [<M(KNN)]

$K^-pp^{\prime\prime} \rightarrow \pi^+\Sigma^-p$ $\sigma_{\bar{k}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$

 $38 \pm 3 \pm 3$ [**all**] $3.2 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.2$ [<M(KNN)]

$K^-pp^{\prime\prime} \rightarrow \pi^-\Sigma^+p$

$$\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$$

110 ± 8 ± 8 **[all]**
9.4 ± 0.4 ± 0.7 [

 $K^-pp^{\prime\prime} \rightarrow \pi^+\Lambda n$

 $\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ 62 ± 11 ± 9 **[all**] $15.5 \pm 2.7 \pm 2.1$ [<M(KNN)]

 $"\bar{K}^0 n n" \to \pi^- \Lambda p$ $\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $29 \pm 3 \pm 3$ [**all**] $7.2 \pm 0.6 \pm 0.7$ [<M(KNN)]





Mesonic Decay (suppressed by the 4-body phase space) • $\Gamma_{YN} < \Gamma_{\pi YN}$: mesonic decay is dominant (about ~ 10 times in total)

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- $\Gamma_{\pi\Sigma N} \sim \Gamma_{\pi\Lambda N}$: significant contribution of the $I_{\bar{K}N} = 1$ as well as $I_{\bar{K}N} = 0$







Mesonic Decay (suppressed by the 4-body phase space) • $\Gamma_{YN} < \Gamma_{\pi YN}$: mesonic decay is dominant (about ~ 10 times in total) • $\Gamma_{\pi\Sigma N} \sim \Gamma_{\pi\Lambda N}$: significant contribution of the $I_{\bar{K}N} = 1$ as well as $I_{\bar{K}N} = 0$ • $\Gamma_{\pi^+\Lambda n}/\Gamma_{\pi^-\Lambda p} \sim 2$: if we assume $Br_{\{K^-pp\} \to \pi^+\Lambda p}/Br_{\{\bar{K}^0nn\} \to \pi^-\Lambda p} \approx 1 \& \sigma_{\{K^-pp\}}/\sigma_{\{\bar{K}^0nn\}} \approx 2$ $K^-pp^{\prime\prime} \rightarrow \pi^+\Sigma^-p$ $\bar{K}^0 n n'' \to \pi^- \Lambda p$ $K^-pp^{\prime\prime} \to \pi^+\Lambda n$ $K^-pp^{\prime\prime} \to \Lambda p$ $\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $9.3 \pm 0.8^{+1.4}_{-1.0}$ [**all**] $38 \pm 3 \pm 3$ [**a**]] 62 ± 11 ± 9 **[all**] $29 \pm 3 \pm 3$ [**all**] $7.2 \pm 0.6 \pm 0.7$ [<M(KNN)] $5.5 \pm 0.5^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ [<M(KNN)] $15.5 \pm 2.7 \pm 2.1$ [<M(KNN)] $3.2 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.2$ [<M(KNN)] $"K^-pp" \to \pi^-\Sigma^+p$ $"K^-pp" \to \Sigma^0 p$ $I_{\bar{K}N} = 1$ $I_{\bar{K}N} = 1$ $\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $\sigma_{\bar{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $5.3 \pm 0.4^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ [all] $110 \pm 8 \pm 8$ [**all**] 9.4 ± 0.4 ± 0.7 [<M(KNN)] $I_{\bar{K}N} = 0 \text{ or } 1$ $3.1 \pm 0.2^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$ [<M(KNN)]





$K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)p) + p$ $((\pi^-\Lambda)+p) \rightarrow \pi^-\Lambda + p$







K⁻+³He → ((K⁻+n)p) + p ((π^- Λ)+p) → π^- Λ + p

... but the excess is still not easy to see ...







$K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)p) + p$ $((\pi^-\Lambda)+p) \rightarrow \pi^-\Lambda + p$

... but the excess is still not easy to see ... due to the QF-K









K⁻+³He → ((K⁻+n)p) + p ((π⁻Λ)+p) → π⁻Λ + p

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If $m_{\pi^-\Lambda} \ge m_{K^-} + m_n$, then the "K⁻np" bound state cannot be formed, but will form a quasi-free background.









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$K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)p) + p$



Mesonic decay branch of $\overline{K}^0 nn$?



$K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)p) + p$





Mesonic decay branch of $\overline{K}^0 nn$?



$K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)p) + p$ $((\pi^-\Lambda)+p) \rightarrow \pi^-\Lambda + p$

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formed, but will form a quasi-free background.³⁵

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{Wh}_{9}^{40} \ don't \ we \ normalize \ it \ b \\ \mathbf{Phase Space? It is very proh}_{35}^{30} \\ \mathbf{Phase Space? It is very proh}_{10}^{30} \\ \mathbf{K}_{25}^{-} + {}^{3}\mathbf{He} \rightarrow (\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{np}) + \mathbf{p}_{5}^{22} \\ {}^{15} \qquad (\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{np}) \rightarrow \mathbf{p}_{5}^{10} \\ \\ \mathbf{K}_{5}^{-} + {}^{3}\mathbf{He} \rightarrow (\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{np}) + \mathbf{n}_{5}^{5} \\ {}^{0} \ 2.2 \ {}^{2.4} \\ {}^{0} \ {}^{(\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{pp})} \rightarrow {}^{9} \\ {}^{0} \ {}^{0} \end{array}$$





K⁻+³He → ((K⁻+n)p) + p ((π⁻Λ)+p) → π⁻Λ + p

... but the excess is still not easy to see ... due to the QF-K If $m_{\pi^-\Lambda} \ge m_{K^-} + m_n$, then the "K⁻np" bound state ca⁴⁰not be formed, but will form a quasi-free background.³⁵

> $m_{\pi^-\Lambda} \ll m_{K^-} + m_n$ (K⁰nn) 2NA 5* QF suppressed How large? 2.2 2.4 2.6 2.8 $m_{\pi^-\Lambda p}$ (GeV/c²)

Why don't we normalize it b
Phase Space? It is very profit

$$b_{25}^{30}$$
 needs further verification
 $k_{20}^{25} + {}^{3}\text{He} \rightarrow (K^{-} + np) + p_{22}^{52}$
 $(K_{20}^{15} + np) = (\overline{K}^{0}nn)_{I_{3}=-1/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}\text{He}$
 $(K_{10}^{15} + np) = (\overline{K}^{0}nn)_{I_{3}=-1/2} \rightarrow {}^{4}\text{He}$
 $(K_{10}^{5-} + {}^{3}\text{He} \rightarrow (K^{-} + pp) + n^{5}$
 $(K_{10}^{0-} + {}^{2}\text{He})_{m_{\pi^{+}\Lambda n}} \rightarrow (K^{-} + pp) + n^{5}$



Signal of KNNN?

$K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow (K^- + pp) + n$ $(K^- + pp) \rightarrow \Lambda + p$

Preliminary data analysis for $\bar{K}NNN$ formation study utilizing $^{4}_{\Lambda}He$ lifetime measurement via $K^- + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow \pi^0 + {}^4_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ reaction giving us a very interesting result

$\begin{array}{c} & {\bf K}^- + {}^4{\rm He} \rightarrow ({\bf K}^- + {\rm ppn}) + {\rm n} \\ & (({\bf K}^- + {\rm pp}){\rm n}) \rightarrow ({\bf \Lambda} + {\rm p}) + {\rm n} \end{array}$









Signal of KNNN?

$\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{K}^- + {}^3\mathsf{He} \rightarrow (\mathsf{K}^- + pp) + n \\ (\mathsf{K}^- + pp) \rightarrow \Lambda + p \end{array} \xrightarrow{\mathsf{K}^- + {}^4\mathsf{He}} \rightarrow (\mathsf{K}^- + ppn) + n \\ ((\mathsf{K}^- + pp)n) \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) + n \end{array}$ ~ 600 MeV/c **4** • 600 MeV/c

Preliminary data analysis for $\bar{K}NNN$ formation study utilizing $^{4}_{\Lambda}He$ lifetime measurement via $K^- + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow \pi^0 + {}^4_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ reaction giving us a very interesting result









Signal of KNNN?

$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{K}^{-} + {}^{3}\mathbf{He} \rightarrow (\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{pp}) + \mathbf{n} \\ (\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{pp}) \rightarrow \Lambda + \mathbf{p} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{K}^{-} + {}^{4}\mathbf{He}} \rightarrow (\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{ppn}) + \mathbf{n} \\ (\mathbf{K}^{-} + \mathbf{p(pn)}) \rightarrow \Lambda + (\mathbf{pn}) \end{array}$

Preliminary data analysis for $\bar{K}NNN$ formation study utilizing $^{4}_{\Lambda}He$ lifetime measurement via $K^- + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow \pi^0 + {}^4_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ reaction giving us a very interesting result







Signal of KNNN?

4 • 600 MeV/c ~ 700 MeV/c

Preliminary data analysis for $\bar{K}NNN$ formation study utilizing $^{4}_{\Lambda}He$ lifetime measurement via $K^- + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow \pi^0 + {}^4_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ reaction giving us a very interesting result









Promising signal is observed!



1.2 1.4

3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 $M_{\Lambda d}~(GeV/c^2)$ / 40 MeV





Promising signal is observed!







Promising signal is observed! 1) It suggests kaonic nuclei exist more universally, not just in cases like K^-pp .







Promising signal is observed! 1) It suggests kaonic nuclei exist more universally, not just in cases like K⁻pp.
 2) Despite more nucleons absorbing the K meson, the width remains
 50 unchanged, suggesting a near plateau.







$K-4He \rightarrow \{\Lambda d\} + n Analysis (with the T77 Data)$

Promising signal is observed! It suggests kaonic nuclei exist more universally, not just in cases like K^-pp . *1*) Despite more nucleons absorbing the K meson, the width remains 2) 60 **so unchanged, suggesting a near plateau.**







$I(J^{P})$ of X in K⁻⁴He \rightarrow X + n

What is the $I(J^{P})$ of the observed state? := $O(1/2^{-})$

- $> \Lambda pn$ would be the major decay mode (relatively easily identified) in this channel)
- 1. "X" $\rightarrow \Lambda d$ decay mode is unique evidence of $I_{''X''} = 0$
 - $I(J^P): \Lambda = O(1/2^+), d = O(1^+), K^- = 1/2(0^-), ^{3}He = 1/2(1/2^+), ^{4}He = O(0^+)$



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- If "X"="K-ppn",, then J would be $J_{Kppn} = 1/2$, because J_{NNN} 2.

must be 1/2 (two nucleons out of three are identical).

- **Most likely, it is <u>"X"="K-ppn"</u>**, in which \overline{K} 's isospin anti-parallel \bullet coupling with NNN [I(J) = 1/2(1/2)] in S-wave
- **Difficult to interpret as** Σ^*NN : 1) spin/isospin of NN [I(J) = 1(0)] part must flip to form deuteron [I(J) = O(1)] without breaking the NN pair, while 2) the energy release of $\Sigma^*N \rightarrow \Lambda N$ is much bigger than the binding energy of *d*.



Size of KNNN via Data?

One nucleon K absorption (1N $_{\overline{K}A}$): $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)pp) + n$ $((\pi^-\Lambda)+pp) \rightarrow \pi^-\Lambda + pp$

Two nucleon K absorption ($2N_{\overline{K}A}$): $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow (K^- + ppn) + n$ $((K^- + pp)n) \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) + n$ $((K^- + pn)p) \rightarrow (\Lambda + n) + p$

Three nucleon \overline{K} absorption (3N_{$\overline{K}A$}): $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow (K^- + ppn) + n$ $(K^- + pd) \rightarrow \Lambda + d = (pn)$





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* The ratio of the three nucleon processes would be sensitive to the core size. $1N_{\bar{k}A}: 2N_{\bar{k}A}: 3N_{\bar{k}A} \sim \rho_N: \rho_N^2: \rho_N^3?$ Theoretical inputs are needed.





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Three nucleon \overline{K} absorption (3N_{$\overline{K}A}):</sub>$ $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow (K^- + ppn) + n$ $(K^- + pd) \rightarrow \Lambda + d = (pn)$ $\sim 4 \ \mu b$

The ratio of the three nucleon processes would be sensitive to the core size. $\mathbf{1}\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{\bar{K}}\mathbf{A}}:\mathbf{2}\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{\bar{K}}\mathbf{A}}:\mathbf{3}\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{\bar{K}}\mathbf{A}}\sim\rho_{N}:\rho_{N}^{2}:\rho_{N}^{3}?$

Theoretical inputs are needed.






Size of KNNN via Data?

spectators **One nucleon K absorption (1N** $_{\bar{K}A}$): **P**_F ~ 140 MeV/c $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)pp) + n$ $((\pi^-\Lambda)+pp) \rightarrow \pi^-\Lambda + pp$ ~ 380 MeV/c **Two nucleon K absorption (2N_{\overline{K}A}):** $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow (K^- + ppn) + n$ $((K^- + pp)n) \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) + n$ $((K^- + pn)p) \rightarrow (\Lambda + n) + p$ Normal core: ~ 600 MeV/c spectators 20 Three nucleon \overline{K} absorption (3N_{KA}): p_F ~ 140 MeV/c $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow (K^- + ppn) + n$ $(K^- + pd) \rightarrow \Lambda + d = (pn)$ $\sim 4 \ \mu b$ ~ 700 MeV/c 🔶 🔶



P. Kienle, Y. Akaishi, T. Yamazaki: Phys. Lett. B 632 (2006) 187





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spectators **One nucleon** \overline{K} absorption (1N_{$\overline{K}A$}): **PF ~ 140 MeV/c** $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow ((K^- + n)pp) + n$ $((\pi^{-}\Lambda)+pp) \rightarrow \pi^{-}\Lambda + pp$ ~ 380 MeV/c **Two nucleon** \overline{K} absorption (2N_{$\overline{K}A$}): Compact core: $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow (K^- + ppn) + n$ \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow $((K^- + pp)n) \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) + n$ $((K^- + pn)p) \rightarrow (\Lambda + n) + p$

Normal core: ~ 600 MeV/c

Three nucleon K absorption (3N_{KA}): p_F ~ 140 MeV/c

 $K^- + ^4He \rightarrow (K^- + ppn) + n$ $(K^- + pd) \rightarrow \Lambda + d = (pn)$ $\sim 4 \ \mu b$ ~ 700 MeV/c 🔶 📥



P. Kienle, Y. Akaishi, T. Yamazaki: Phys. Lett. B 632 (2006) 187





Does Isospin-partner (\overline{K}^0 nn) exist? Are kaonic nuclei really compact? Theoretical exploration of Kaonic Nuclei.



like a chemical molecule?"

Toward next generation research — New Spectrometer —

... Construction is in progress, led by F. Sakuma 25





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New Cylindrical Detector System (CDS)



✓ Solid angle: x1.6 (59% → 93%)
✓ Neutron eff.: x7 (3% → 12%x1.6)





With new spectrometer, we will conduct a systematic study on light kaonic nuclei $(\sim 10^{-15} \text{ m})$ **Λ(1405)** "Does it have a unique shape like a chemical molecule?"

molecule-like hadronic nuclear cluster

How hadron mass is generated?



Physics at high density?



By establishing the $I(J^P)$, presence of "K⁻nn" — a Charge Mirror State of "K⁻pp" — and the Detailed Study of Three-Nucleon Kaon Nuclear Bound State as new starting points, we aim to open the door to research on high-density nuclear matter.







Thank you for your attention!





³He(K⁻, n_{NC})X — semi-inclusive



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A nucleon knockout reaction $K^-N \rightarrow Kn'$ is the dominant reaction process



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Acceptance for K-4He reaction







Possible $I(J^p)$? KNN: $J^{P} = 0^{-1}$, I = 1/2: $I_{NN} = 1$, $S_{NN} = 0$, $L_{\bar{K}} = 0$ KNN: $J^{P} = 1^{-1} I = 1/2$: $I_{NN} = 0$, $S_{NN} = 1$, $L_{\overline{K}} = 0$ $I(\bar{K}NN)/J^P(\bar{K}NN)$ NN symmetry " K^-pp " $I_3(\bar{K}NN) = +\frac{1}{2}$ $K^-pp'' \rightarrow \Lambda p$ requires " $\bar{K}^0 nn$ " I = 1/2, presence of $I_3(\bar{K}NN) = -\frac{1}{2}$ kaon requires negative parity, and the Λp dacay must be in P-wave *K*N coupling due to the negative $\sigma_{ar{K}^0nn}$ parity σ_{K^-pp}

nucleon isospin symmetric ($I_{NN} = 1$) and spin anti-symmetric ($S_{NN} = 0$)

nucleon isospin anti-symmetric ($I_{NN} = 0$) and spin symmetric ($S_{NN} = 1$)









Λp decay axis and spin axis of KNN J^p spin axis distribution referring to the decay axis

$\overline{K}NN : J^{P} = 0^{-,} I = 1/2$: $I_{NN} = 1, S_{NN} = 0, L_{\overline{K}} = 0$





How to measure spin-spin correlation

– spin asymmetry measurement using $\Lambda o p \pi^-$ & p-C(H) scattering– p-C(H) scattering sensitive only on ϕ asymmetry

 $\vec{S}_{\Lambda}^{o(\Lambda \to p\pi^{-})} \approx \vec{v}_{p}^{(\Lambda \to p\pi^{-})}(in \Lambda - CM)$



M.Iwasaki, ECT*2023







M.Iwasaki, ECT*2023











New Spectrometer under construction

Preparation of planned devices / detectors





Return Yoke

Super-conducting Solenoid Coil

... Construction is in progress, led by F. Sakuma

under construction



Cylindrical Drift Chamber (CDC)





New Spectrometer under construction

Preparation of planned devices / detectors





Return Yoke

Super-conducting Solenoid Coil Cylindrical Drift Chamber (CDC)

Additional detectors to improve

To detect the proton in Fermi-motion & to drastically improve vertex resolution (Λ/Σ^0 separation)



... Construction is in progress, led by F. Sakuma

under construction



Vertex Straw-tube Tracker (VST)

Constructed by T.Hashimoto

doble layer @ crossing angle ± 45°

Currently, J. Zmeskal at SMI is applying for funding.

six layer @ crossing angle ± 6°











Superconducting Solenoid Magnet

 Same design as "the detector solenoid magnet" for COMET-I

being constructed in cooperation with the J-PARC Cryogenics Section

- 3.3m x 3.3m x 3.9m, ~108t in total
- Max. field of 1.0T @ center
 - 189A 10V
- NbTi/Cu SC wire, 98km in total
- Conduction-cooling with GM*3
- Semi-active quench-back system
- Will be completed in FY2024





Cylindrical Drift Chamber (CDC)

- 3 times the length of the existing CDC • Gas: Ar/CO₂=90/10
- The same design of the present end-cap
- Readout systems are reused

Completed this month, and commissioning will soon start @ J-PARC







Wire length = 2.55m(Almost the same length as the longest wire of the Belle2-CDC)

> Signal board ASD preamplifier board

Cylindrical Neutron Counter (CNC)

- scintillator array: 2 layers, 12cm thickness
- Neutron detection efficiency of 12~36%
- 56+80=136 modules
 - ELJEN EJ-200: (T)60mm, (W)60mm, (L)3,000mm
- 1.5-inch FM-PMT [H8409(R7761)]
 & MPPC array [S13361-6050AE-04]







136 scintillators in total

- 56 segments @ r548~608mm
 ➤ 112 FM-PMTs
- 80 segments @ r780~840mm
 160 MPPC-arrays



Support Structure

- <u>CNC</u> is supported at upstream, downstream and middle position
 - 1. pillars are mounted on the inner cylinder of the magnet
 - 2. ring structures are installed on the pillars
 - 3. each module is mounted on the ring structures
- <u>CDC</u> is installed by inserting a long frame bar into the center of the CDC and magnet



Will be prepared in FY2025-26



Summary of Experimental Status

Negative results

AMADEUS@DA
 AMADEUS@DA
 AMADEUS@DA
 AMADEUS

¹²C(K⁻stopped, Λ p) EPJ**C79**(2019)190

HADES@GSI

 $p + p \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) + K^+ @ 3.5GeV$ PL**B742**(2015)242

LEPS@SPring-8

d(γ, π⁻K⁺)X @ 1.5-2.4 GeV



Positive results



FINUDA@DA PRL94(2005)212303

⁶Li/⁷Li/¹²C(K⁻stopped, Λp)

Multi-NA processes?



DISTO@SATURNE PRL104(2010)132502 $p + p \rightarrow (\Lambda + p) + K^+ @ 2.85GeV$

Intermediate N* $\rightarrow \Lambda K^+$?



E27@J-PARC PTEP(2015)021D01. **d(***π*⁺, **K**⁺)Σ⁰p @ 1.69 GeV/c





 \Box

E471/E549@KEK ⁴He(stopped-K⁻,p/n/Yd) 18-.5MeV/c²) MM(K-,p) MM(K-,n) 16 PLB659(2008)107, PLB688(2010)43, K 12 (/stop) Yield S+(3140:E471) ΣNN Proton ΣπΝΝ 0.2 $NN \rightarrow \Sigma N$ and - others (pn→∧n 3000 3050 3100 3150 3200 3050 3100 3200 3000 Missing Mass (MeV/ c^2) M (MeV/c²) IM(Λ d) 50 PRC76(2007)068202 $\Sigma 0 \mathbf{d}$ $\Lambda \mathbf{d}$ 2mp. T 4 00 **20** m_r+m_k m_k-m_n v_m+^p ᡁᡀ 10

2950 3000 3050 3100 3150 3200 3250 3300 3350 $M_{\Lambda d}$ (MeV/c²)

multi-N absorption in stopped-K reaction makes interpretation difficult



No conclusive results.



The detail can be found: — in a review —

KN interaction study via kaonic atom

Search for *K*NN nuclear bound state as a *natural extension of* $\Lambda(1405) \equiv KN$

Recent results on *k* **bound state**

This is a fee-based literature.

Kaonic Nuclei from the Experimental Viewpoint



Iwasaki, M. (2022). Kaonic Nuclei from the Experimental Viewpoint. In: Tanihata, I., Toki, H., Kajino, T. (eds) Handbook of Nuclear Physics . Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-8818-1_37-1

https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/ <u>10.1007/978-981-15-8818-1 37-1</u>



Proposed K1.8BR Upgrade

Shortened beam line to enhance Kaon yield

Shorten the beam line (~2.5m) by removing the final D5 magnet

with π/K ratio ~ 2

Relative beam- line length (m)	@ D5	@ D4
Present CDS	0	-3.7
New CDS	+1.2	-2.5

K- yield increases by 1.4 times @ 1.0 GeV/c







44

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K⁻ + ³He → (π -Λp)+p reaction



... analyzed by T. Yamaga





... analyzed by T. Yamaga

consistent with K⁻ + ${}^{3}He \rightarrow \Lambda pn$ reaction branch seems to be oder bigger



$K^- + {}^{3}He \rightarrow (\pi^-\Lambda p) + p$ reaction consistent with K⁻ + 3 He $\rightarrow \Lambda pn$ reaction (a) $(\pi^-\Lambda pp)$ final state branch seems to be oder bigger *d*σ/*dm* (μb/(MeV/*c*²)) excess! $\times 1/5$... excess is not easy to see ... $(\text{mb/(MeV}^2/c^3))$ K-OF $q_{\pi\Lambda N}$ (GeV/c) σ 0 2.8 2.6 2.2 2.4 $m_{\pi^-\Lambda p}$ (GeV/c²) ... analyzed by T. Yamaga excess!



K⁻ + ³He → (π -Λp)+p reaction







 ${}^{\mathbf{3}}\mathbf{He}^{ec{p}_{p'}}$

 \vec{p}_n^*

K⁻ + ³He → (π -Λp)+p reaction consistent with K⁻ + ³He $\rightarrow \Lambda pn$ reaction $(\pi^{-}\Lambda pp)$ final state branch seems to be oder bigger





³He

$(\pi \Lambda pp)$ final state branch seems to be oder bigger



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р_р,[MeV/*с*]





S *u* +





ck	(0)	u	t
_	_	_	



p_p,[MeV/c]





 $\bar{K}^0 nn$ signal-like event concentration below \overline{K} -bound threshold is seen? — twice more data become available in April —

QF-K induced reaction?

ck	(0)	u	t
_	_	_	









р_р,[MeV/*c*]



	$K^{-3}He^{\vec{p}_{p'}}$ proton knock
00	$p \qquad \vec{p}_{p} \qquad \vec{p}_{p'} \qquad \vec{p}_{\pi^{-1}} \qquad \vec$
)0	$\sum_{n} \sum_{n} \sum_{n$
)0	K^0 + K^0 nn signal-like event concentration below \overline{K} -bound threshold is seen?
)0	
	$\bar{K}N$ binding threshold
)0)0)	$\Sigma(1385)$ contribution is not negligible compared to $(\Lambda p) + n$ final state.

event cluster at $m_{\pi^-\Lambda p} \sim \sqrt{s_{K^-d}} \approx 2.83 \,\text{GeV}$ is most likely ...

2NA: $K^-d \rightarrow Y^*p$ reaction leaving p' as a spectator $-K^-$ seems to be sensitive to the deuteron cluster in ³He —





What we learned for kaonic nuclear bound state:

-
$$K^-pp\left(I(J^P) = \frac{1}{2}(0^- \text{ or } 1^-?)\right)$$
 ide
" K^-pp " $\rightarrow \Lambda p$ decay requires
the isospin to be $I_{\bar{K}NN} = 1/2$.
- $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \pi Yp$ decay domina
- K^-pp isospin partner, \bar{K}^0nn
 $\bar{K}N$ interaction is also set

-
$$\overline{KNNN}\left(I(J^P) = 0\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\right)$$
 identi

entified in $KNN \rightarrow \Lambda p$ analysis (2N_{KA}) Phys. Lett. B789, 620-625 (2019) Phys. Rev. C102, 044002 (2020)

ance (1NKA >> 2NKA) $Br_{\pi Yp} > 10 \times Br_{\Lambda p}$ *n*, would be identified in $\pi^-\Lambda p$ decay strong in $I_{\bar{K}N} = 1$, at least for absorption https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.01773 ... T.Yamaga

> ified in $K^-ppn \rightarrow \Lambda d$ one more data available in April n-Parity automatically FIXED!

Preliminary analysis \rightarrow Three nucleon bound state! Higher statistics is needed to be conclusive... T. Hashimoto





