



NSTAR 2026

Femtoscscopy in revealing the nature of exotic hadrons

Li-Sheng Geng (耿立升) @ Beihang U.

Zhi-Wei Liu, Jun-Xu Lu, Ming-Zhu Liu, LSG*, PRD 108 (2023) L031503

Zhi-Wei Liu, Jun-Xu Lu, LSG*, PRD 107 (2023) 074019

Zhi-Wei Liu, Jun-Xu Lu, Ming-Zhu Liu, LSG*, Sci.Bull. 70 (2025) 3515-3521

Duo-Lun Ge, Zhi-Wei Liu, LSG*, PRD 114 (2026) 014054

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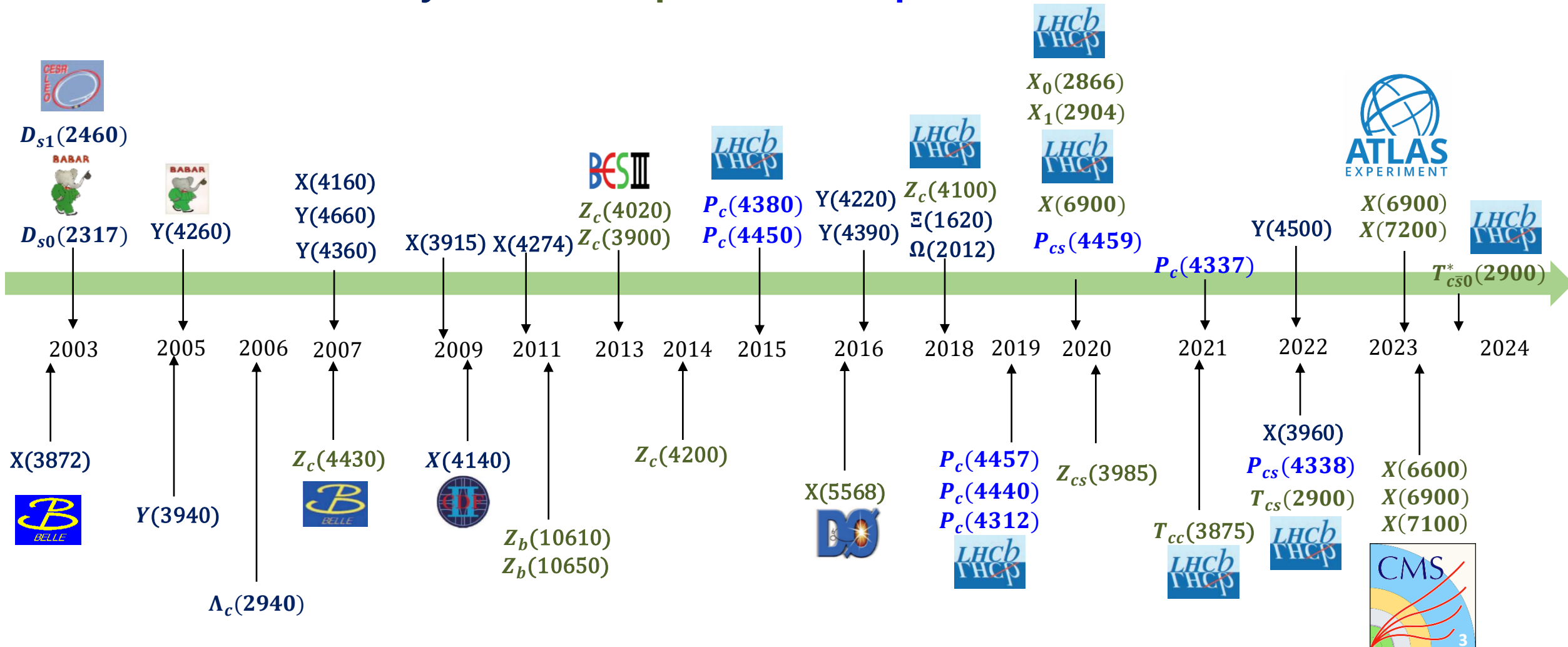
- ➡ **Brief introduction: exotic hadrons and femtoscopy**
- ➡ **Femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs)—general features**
- ➡ **Recent applications**
 - $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$, $Tcc(3875)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$
- ➡ **Summary and outlook**

Many so-called exotic hadrons discovered since 2003

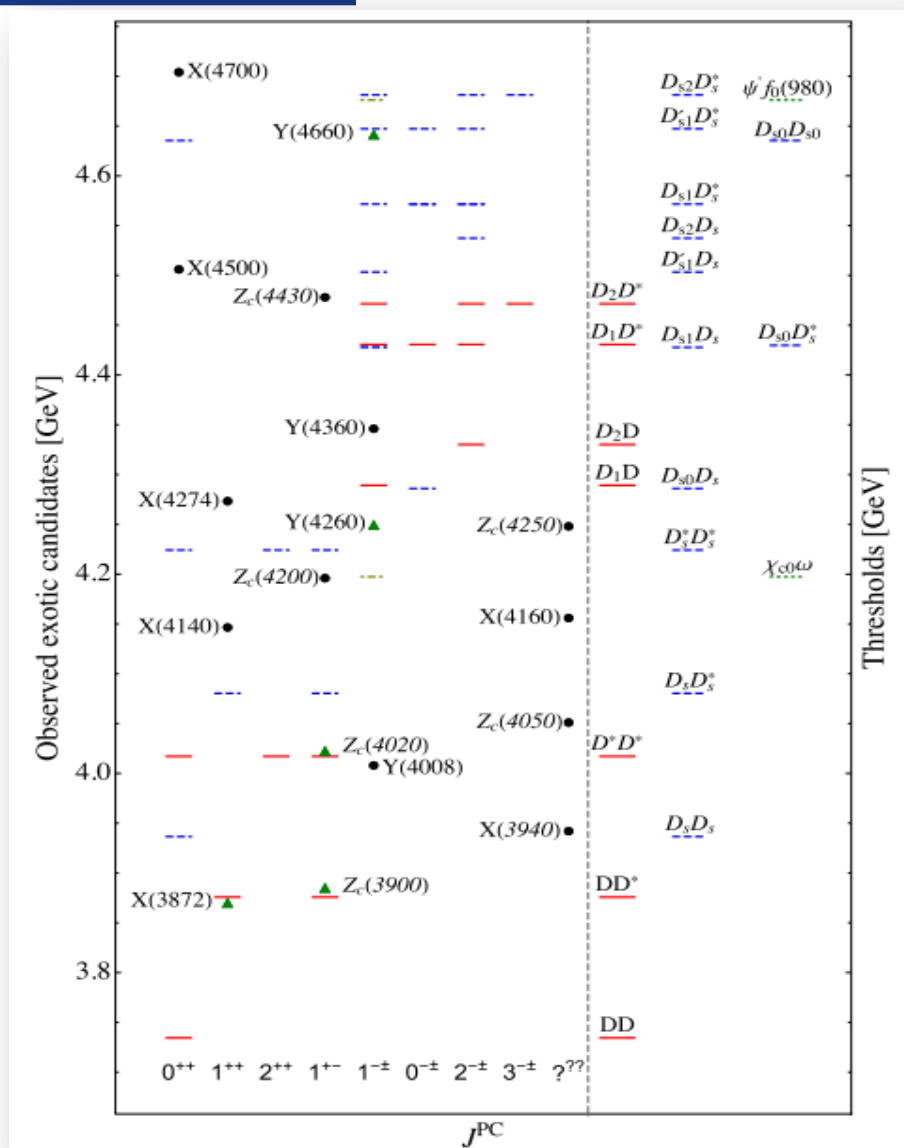
Exotic mesons and baryons

Tetraquarks

Pentaquarks



Many (if not all) of them close to thresholds—molecules



*Feng-Kun Guo, Christoph Hanhart,
Ulf-G. Meißner, Qian Wang,
Qiang Zhao, Bing-Song Zou.
Rev.Mod.Phys. 90 (2018) 015004*

Richard F. Lebed, Ryan E. Mitchell,
Eric S. Swanson,
Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 93 (2017) 143

Atsushi Hosaka, Toru Iijima, Kenkichi
Miyabayashi, Yoshihide Sakai ,
Shigehiro Yasui,
PTEP 2016 (2016) 062C01

Hua-Xing Chen, Wei Chen, Xiang Liu
Shi-Lin Zhu,
Phys. Rept.639 (2016) 1

How to check the **molecular** picture?



How to check the **molecular** picture?

arXiv:2406.17006v1 [hep-ex] 24 Jun 2024

Probing the nature of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ state using radiative decays

LHCb collaboration[†]

Abstract

The radiative decays $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \psi(2S)\gamma$ and $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow J/\psi\gamma$ are used to probe the nature of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ state using proton-proton collision data collected with the LHCb detector, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 9 fb^{-1} . Using the $B^+ \rightarrow \chi_{c1}(3872)K^+$ decay, the $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \psi(2S)\gamma$ process is observed for the first time and the ratio of its partial width to that of the $\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow J/\psi\gamma$ decay is measured to be

$$\frac{\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \psi(2S)\gamma}}{\Gamma_{\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow J/\psi\gamma}} = 1.67 \pm 0.21 \pm 0.12 \pm 0.04,$$

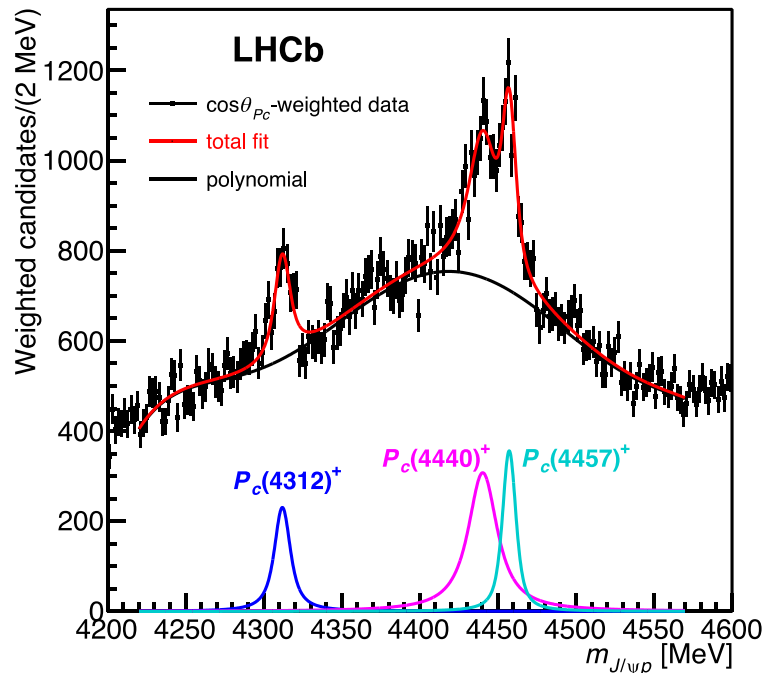
where the first uncertainty is statistical, the second systematic and the third is due to the uncertainties on the branching fractions of the $\psi(2S)$ and J/ψ mesons. The measured ratio makes the interpretation of the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ state as a pure $D^0\bar{D}^{*0} + \bar{D}^0D^{*0}$ molecule questionable and strongly indicates a sizeable compact charmonium or tetraquark component within the $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ state.

How to verify the molecular picture

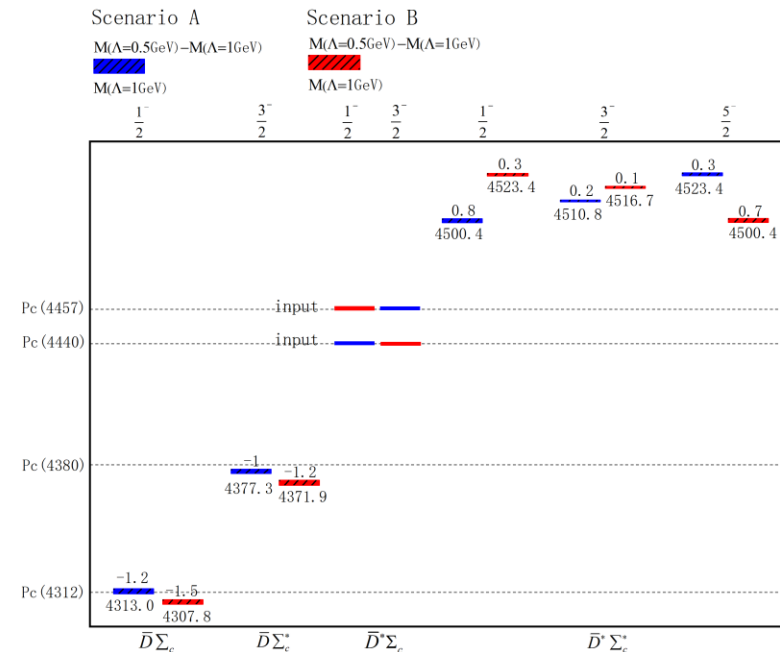
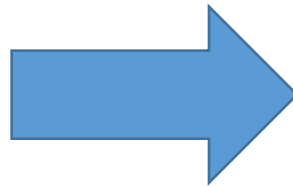
Ming-Zhu Liu, Ya-Wen Pan, Zhi-Wei Liu, Tian-Wei Wu, Jun-Xu Lu, **LSG***, Phys.Rept. 1108 (2025) 1-108

□ Symmetries in the two-hadron interactions imply the existence of multiplets of hadronic molecules

➤ **Heavy-quark spin/ flavor** symmetry: there are **seven Pc** states



LHCb, PRL 122 (2019) 222001



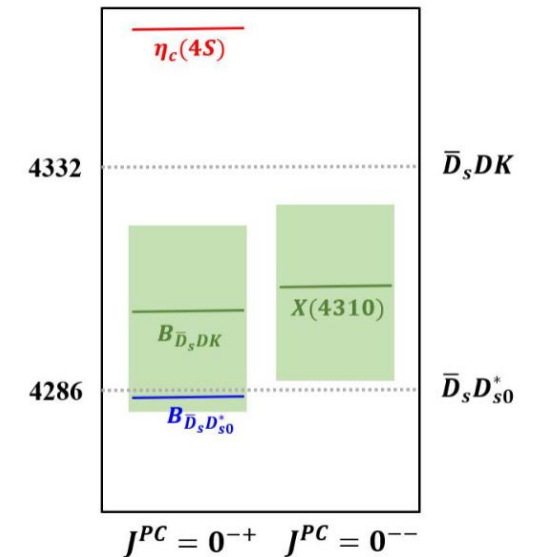
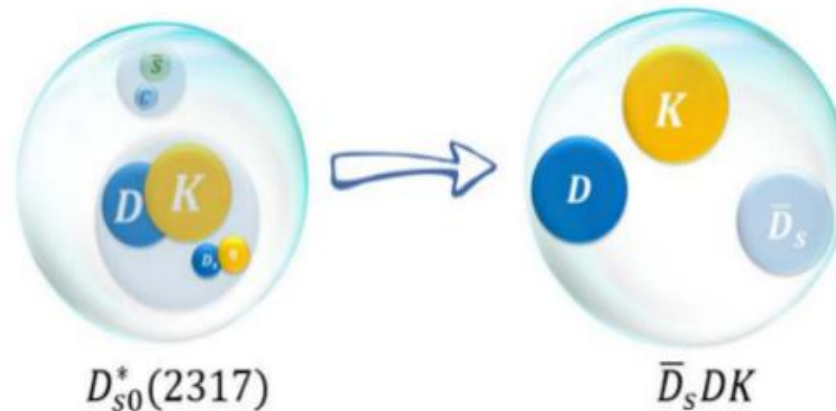
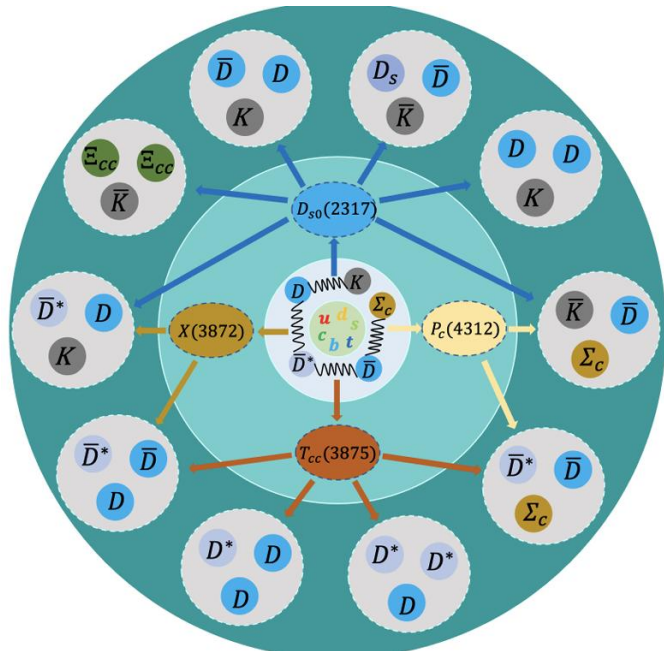
Liu, Pan, Peng, Sánchez, LSG, Hosaka, Valderrama, PRL122, 242001 (2019)

How to verify the molecular picture

Ming-Zhu Liu, Ya-Wen Pan, Zhi-Wei Liu, Tian-Wei Wu, Jun-Xu Lu, **LSG***, Phys.Rept. 1108 (2025) 1-108

□ Three hadrons experience pairwise two-body attractions can form three-body molecules

➤ Treating $D_{s0}^*(2317)$ as a DK state, one can expect a $\bar{D}_s DK$ state



T.W. Wu and LSG, Sci.Bull. 67 (2022) 1735-1738

T.W Wu, M.Z Liu, and LSG, PRL(2025) 031902

How to verify the molecular picture

Ming-Zhu Liu, Ya-Wen Pan, Zhi-Wei Liu, Tian-Wei Wu, Jun-Xu Lu, **LSG***, Phys.Rept. 1108 (2025) 1-108

□ Direct measurement of the two-hadron interactions



The Large Hadron Collider

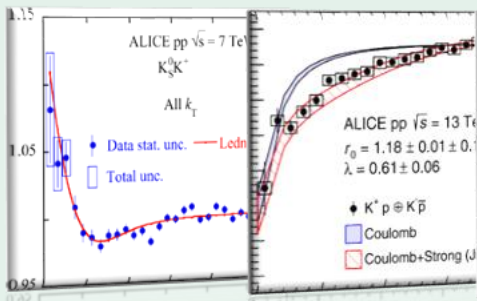


Brookhaven
National Laboratory

RHIC

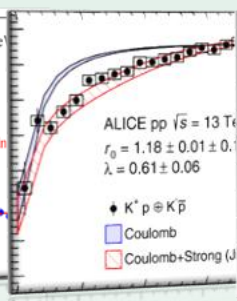
Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider

$K_S^0 K^\pm$



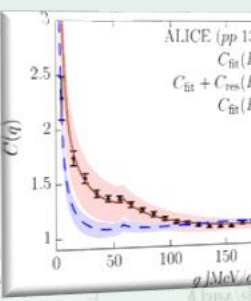
PLB 2019

$K^\pm p$



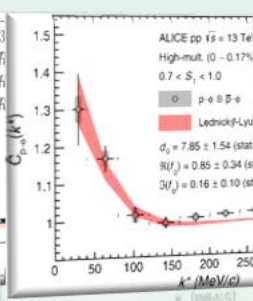
PRL 2020

$K^- p$



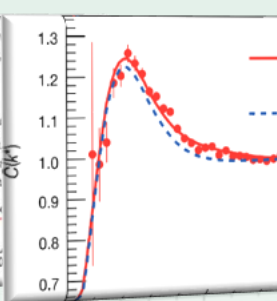
PRL 2020

ϕp



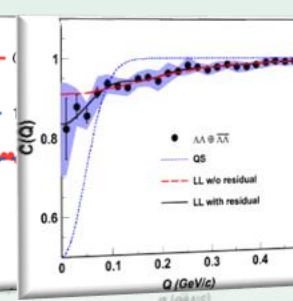
PRL 2021

$\bar{p} \bar{p}$



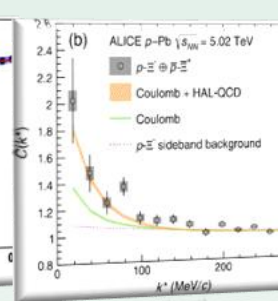
Nature 2015

$\Lambda \Lambda$



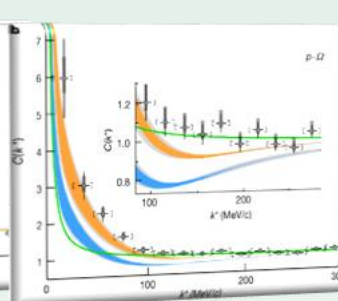
PRL 2015

$\Xi^- p$



PRL 2019

$\Omega^- p$



Nature 2020

$K^- d$

$\Sigma^0 p$

$\Lambda \Xi$

$\Xi \Xi$

$\Omega \Omega$

$p D$

ppp

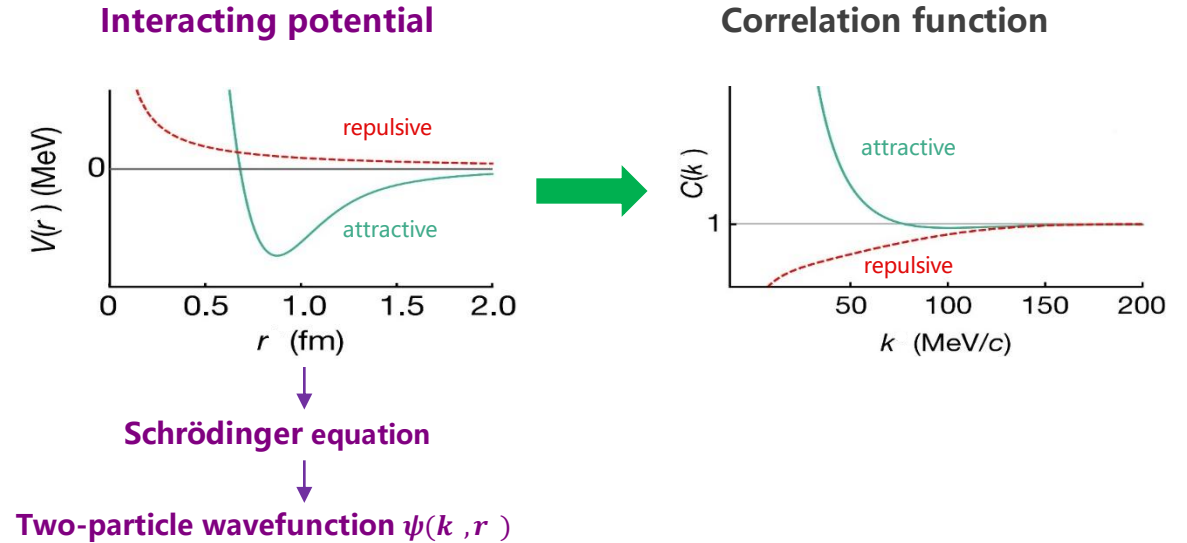
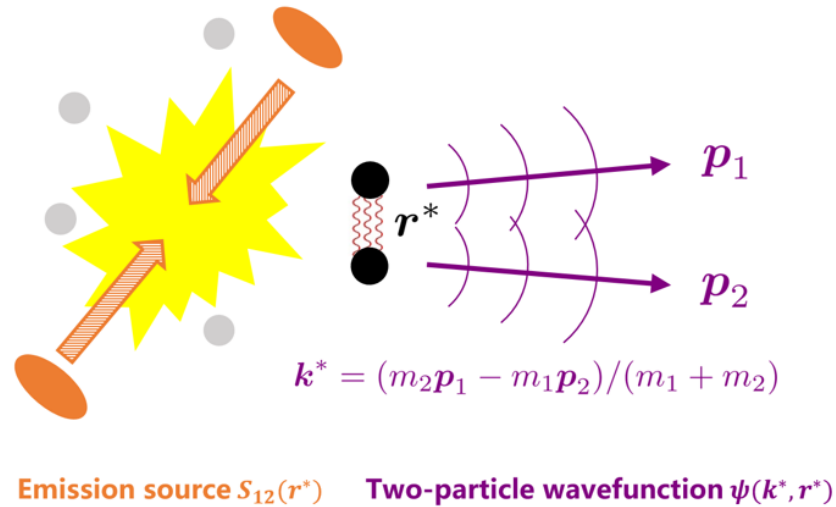
$pp\Lambda$

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Femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs)

$$C(p_1, p_2) = \frac{P(p_1, p_2)}{P(p_1) \cdot P(p_2)}$$



Exp. measurement
mixed-event technique

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

N_{same} : the same event distributions

N_{mixed} : the mixed event distributions

ξ : the corrections for experimental effects

Theo. description
Koonin–Pratt formula

$$C(k) = \int S_{12}(\mathbf{r}) |\psi(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r})|^2 d\mathbf{r}$$

spacial structure

final-state interactions

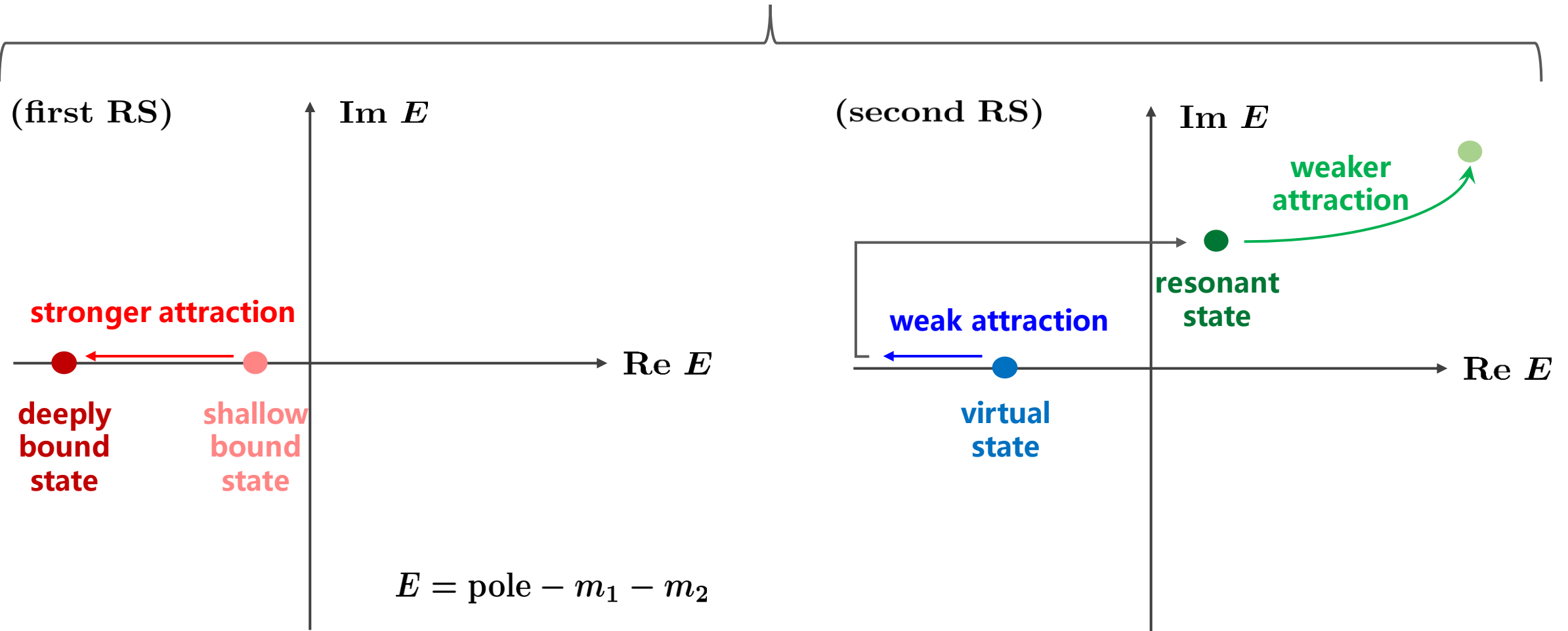
quantum statistics effects

coupled-channel effects

Basic Properties

$$C(k) \begin{cases} > 1 \text{ if the interaction is attractive} \\ = 1 \text{ if there is no interaction} \\ < 1 \text{ if the interaction is repulsive} \end{cases}$$

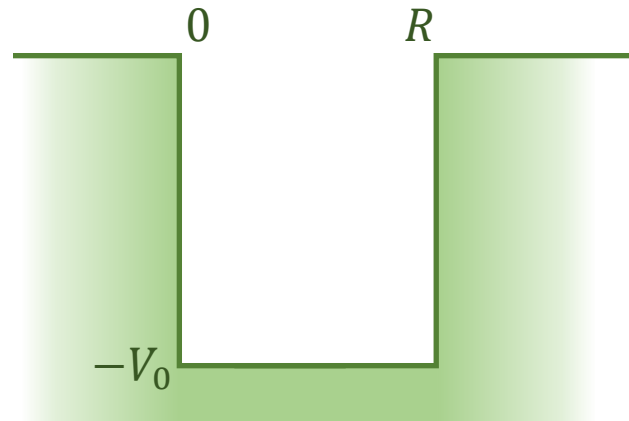
Classification of hadron-hadron interactions



CFs for interactions capable of generating bound states

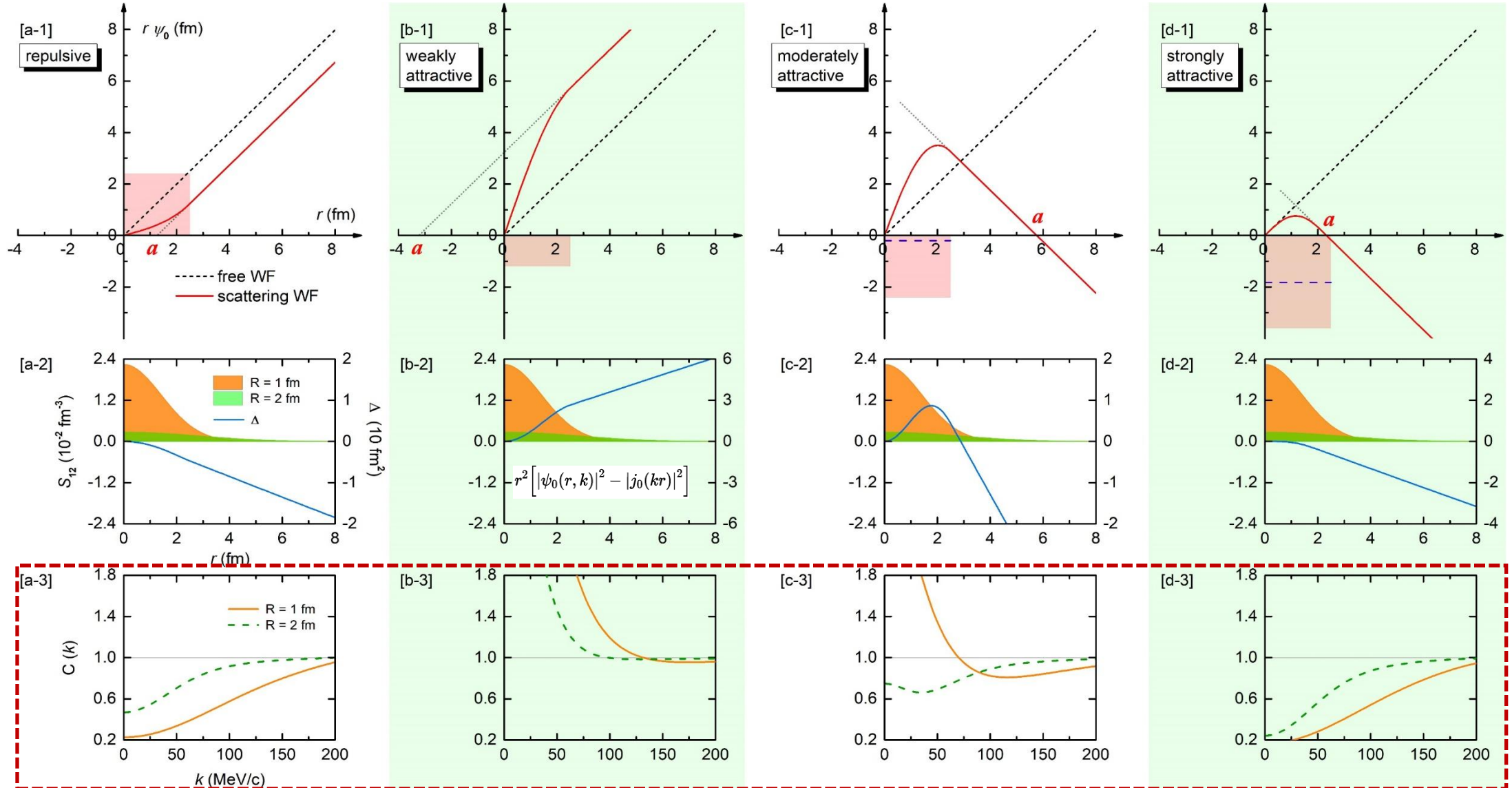
*Zhi-Wei Liu, Jun-Xu Lu and **LSG***, PRD 107, 074019 (2023)*

Spherical potential well—physically intuitive



CFs for interactions capable of generating bound states

Zhi-Wei Liu, Jun-Xu Lu and **LSG***, *PRD 107, 074019 (2023)*



CFs for interactions capable of generating resonant/virtual states

Zhi-Wei Liu, Ming-Zhu Liu, Jun-Xu Lu and LSG, Sci.Bull. 70 (2025) 3515-3521*

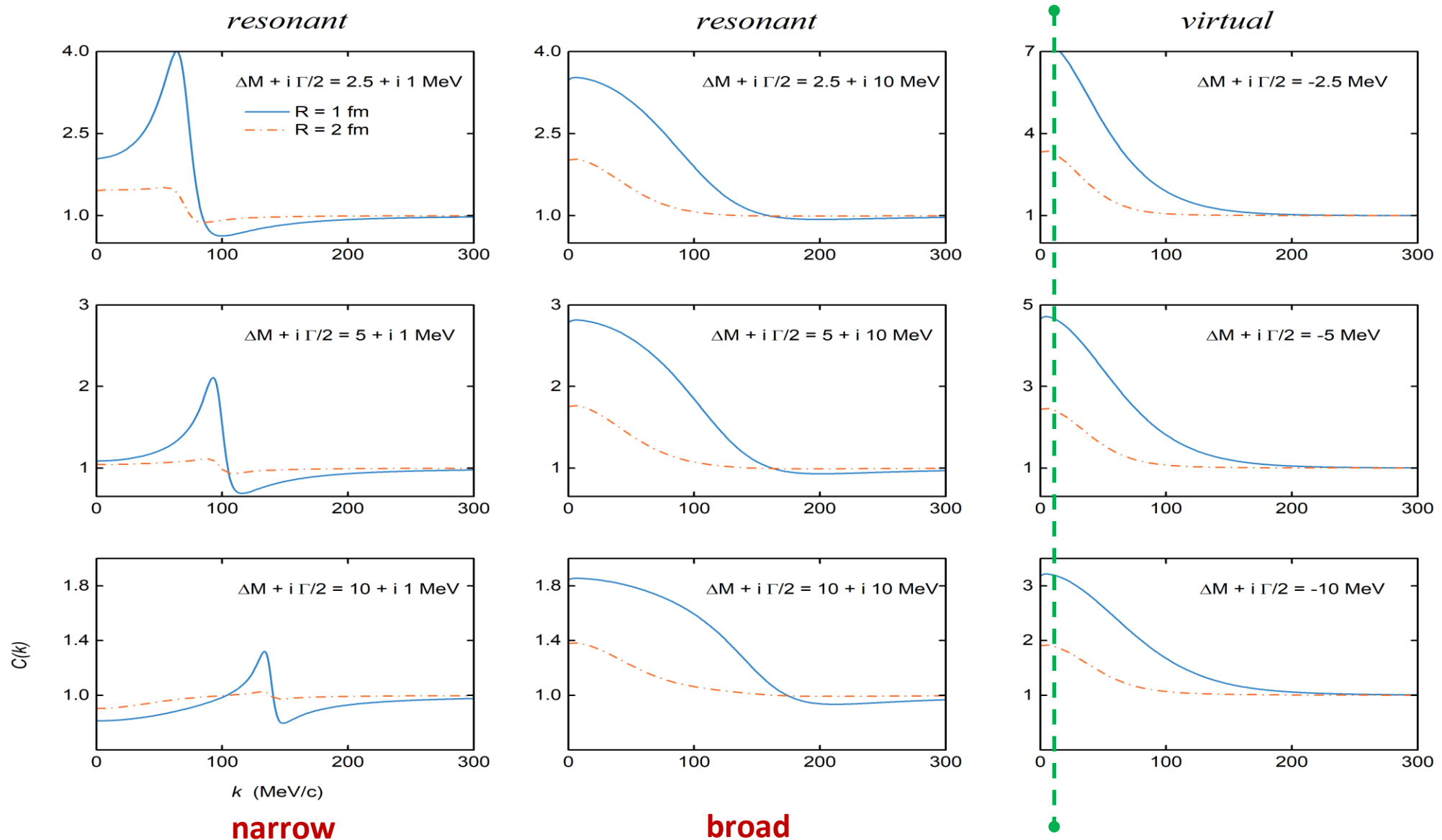
EFT potential—model independent:

capable of generating bound, virtual, and resonant states

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{k}^2$$

CFs for interactions capable of generating resonant/virtual states

Zhi-Wei Liu, Ming-Zhu Liu, Jun-Xu Lu and LSG*, *Sci.Bull.* 70 (2025) 3515-3521

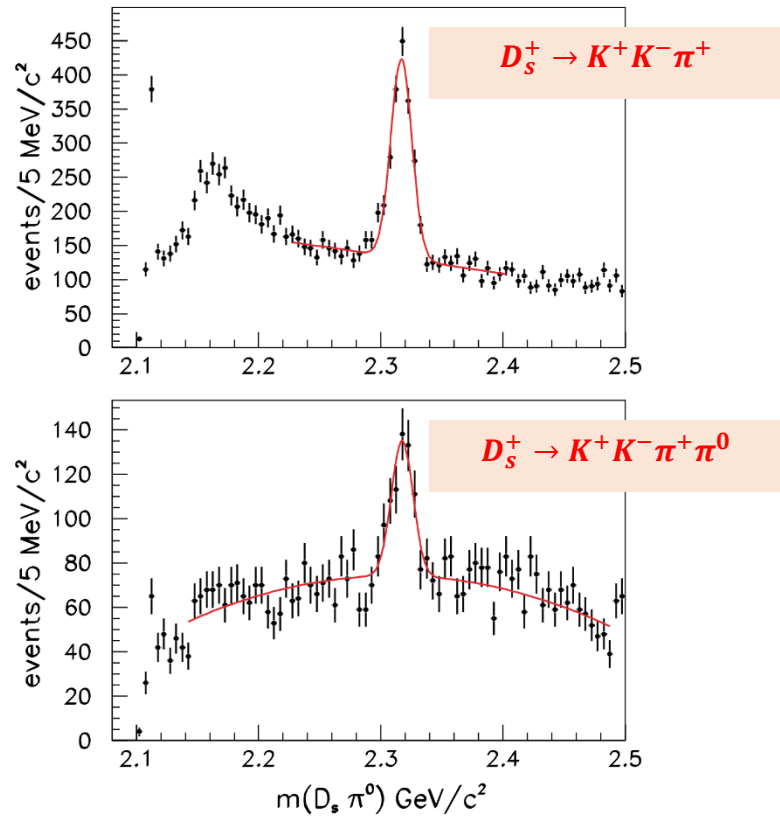


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- ➡ **Summary and outlook**

Mysterious exotic hadron $D_{s0}^*(2317)$

$M = 2317.8 \pm 0.6$ and $\Gamma < 3.8$ MeV



BABAR, PRL90 (2003) 242001

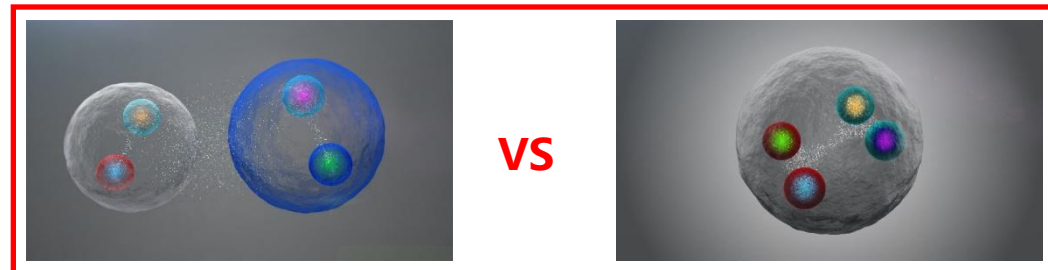
➤ **160 MeV lower than the quark model predictions – difficult to understand as a conventional charm-strange meson**

➤ **It could be a DK bound state**

✓ E. E. Kolomeitsev 2004

✓ F. K. Guo 2006

✓ D. Gamermann 2007



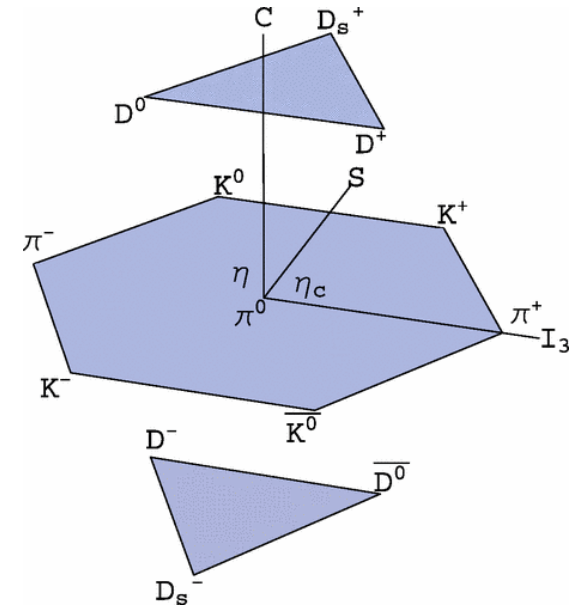
Weinberg-Tomozawa Interaction (leading order)

□ LO interaction between a NGB and a heavy pseudoscalar boson

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4f_\pi^2} (\partial^\mu P[\Phi, \partial_\mu \Phi] P^\dagger - P[\Phi, \partial_\mu \Phi] \partial^\mu P^\dagger)$$

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\pi^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\eta & \pi^+ & K^+ \\ \pi^- & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\pi^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\eta & K^0 \\ K^- & \bar{K}^0 & -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}\eta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P = (D^0, D^+, D_s^+)$$

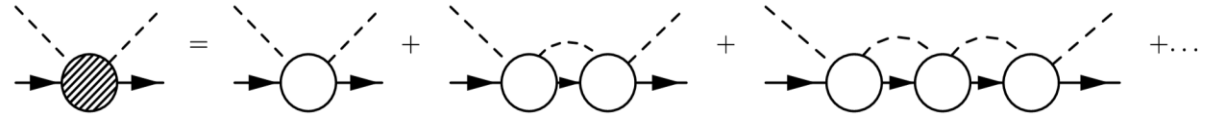


□ Weinberg-Tomozawa (WT) potential – **parameter free**

$$V_{\nu'\nu} = \frac{C_{\nu'\nu}}{4f_0^2} \left[(p_1 + p_2)^2 - (p_1 - p_4) \right] \quad p_{1(3)} = (E_{1(3)}, \mathbf{p}^{(')}), \quad p_{2(4)} = (\sqrt{s} - E_{1(3)}, -\mathbf{p}^{(')})$$

Scattering wave function

□ Coupled-channel scat. eq.



$$T_{\nu'\nu}(k', k) = V_{\nu'\nu} \cdot f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k) + \sum_{\nu''} \int_0^\infty \frac{dk'' k''^2}{8\pi^2} \frac{V_{\nu'\nu''} \cdot f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k'') \cdot T_{\nu''\nu}(k'', k)}{E_{P,\nu''} E_{\Phi,\nu''} (\sqrt{s} - E_{P,\nu''} - E_{\Phi,\nu''} + i\epsilon)}$$

$$f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k) = \exp \left[- \left(\frac{k'}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{k}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$M_{D_{s0}^*} = 2317.8 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow \Lambda_F = 1107 \text{ MeV}$$

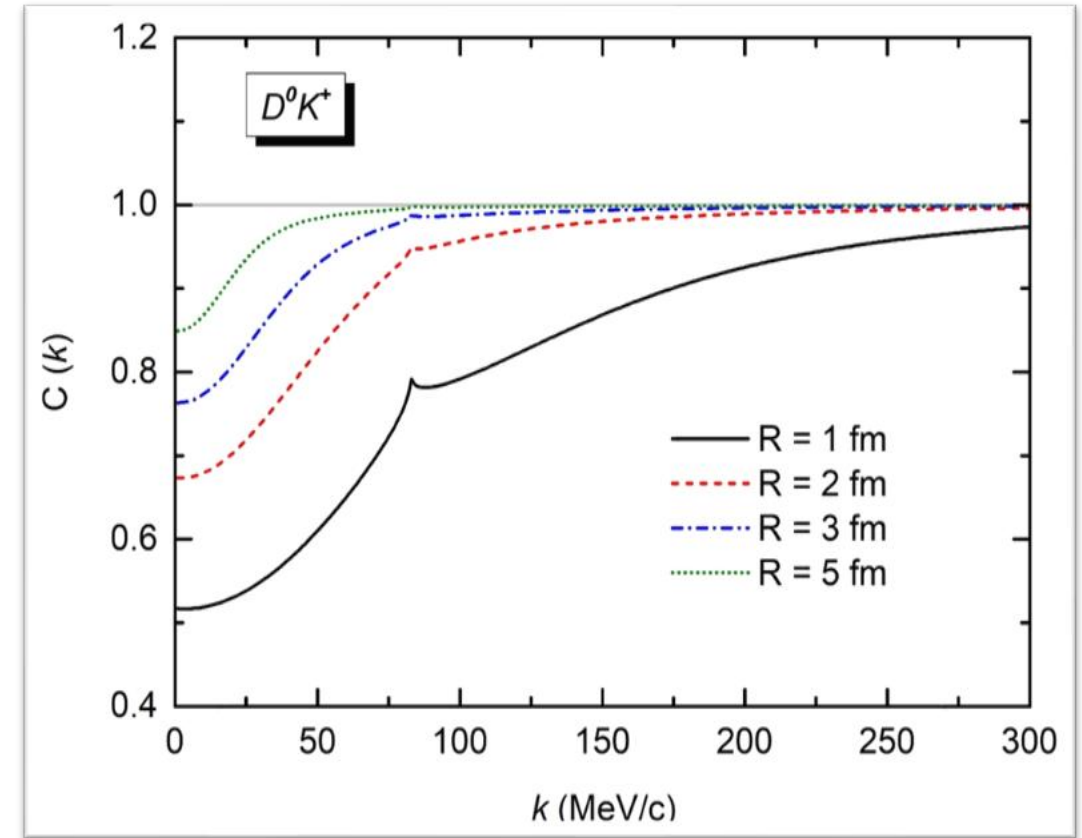
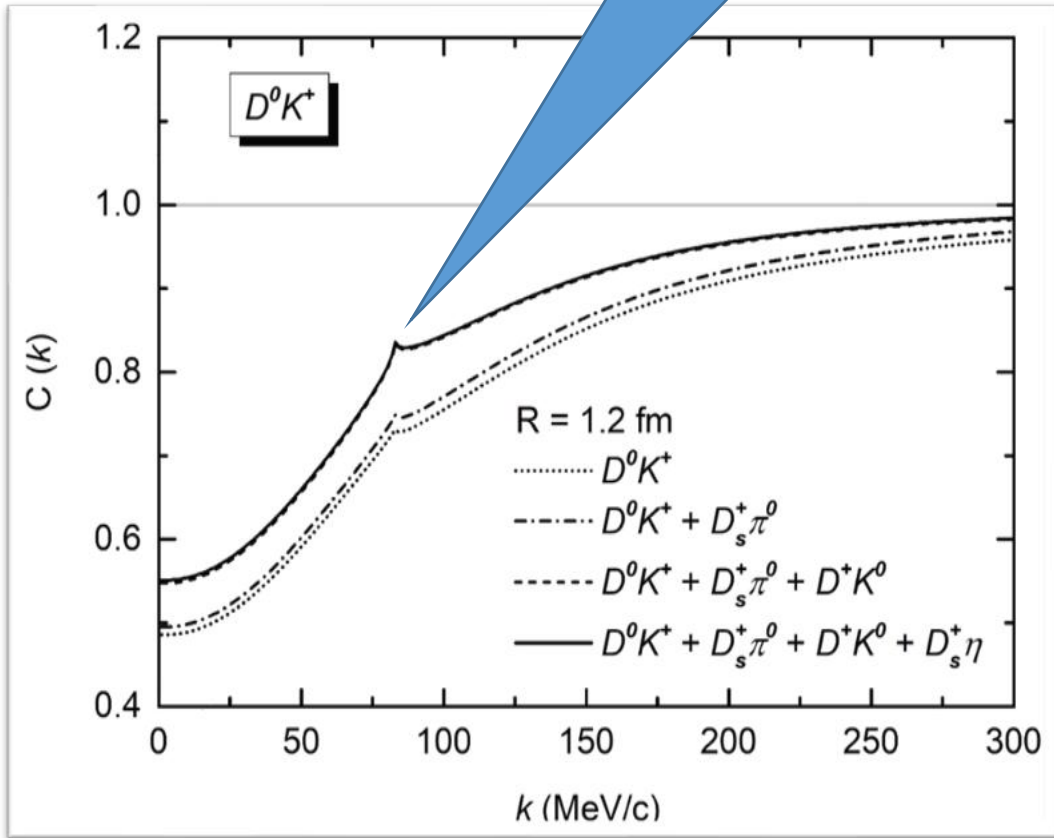
□ S-wave scattering wave function (including off-shell effect)

$$\psi_{\nu'\nu}(k, r) = \delta_{\nu'\nu} j_0(kr) + \int_0^\infty \frac{dk' k'^2}{8\pi^2} \frac{T_{\nu'\nu}(k', k) \cdot j_0(k'r)}{E_{P,\nu'} E_{\Phi,\nu'} (\sqrt{s} - E_{P,\nu'} - E_{\Phi,\nu'} + i\epsilon)}$$

DK CFs and its source size dependence

$$D^+K^0 \rightarrow D^0K^+$$

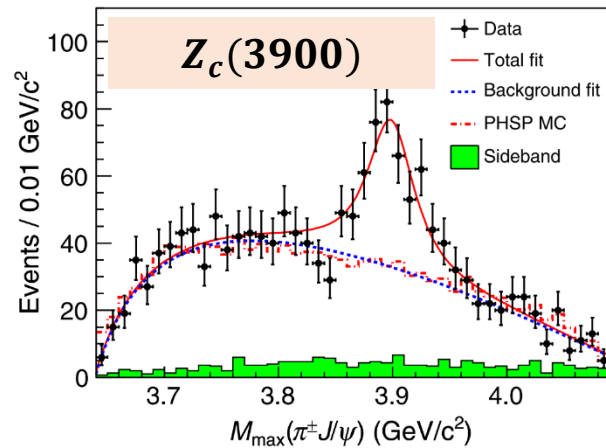
Typical feature of deeply bound states



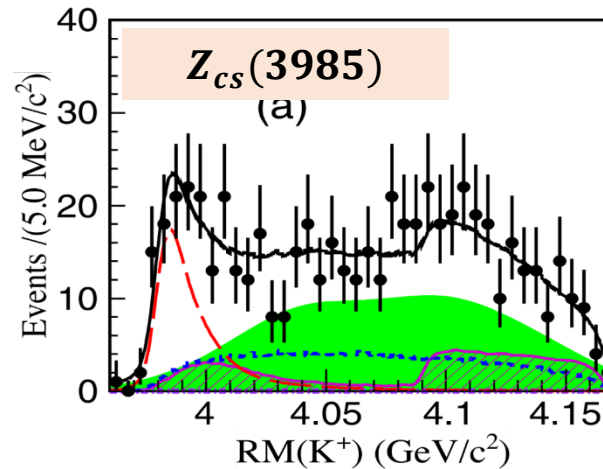
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- 👉 Summary and outlook

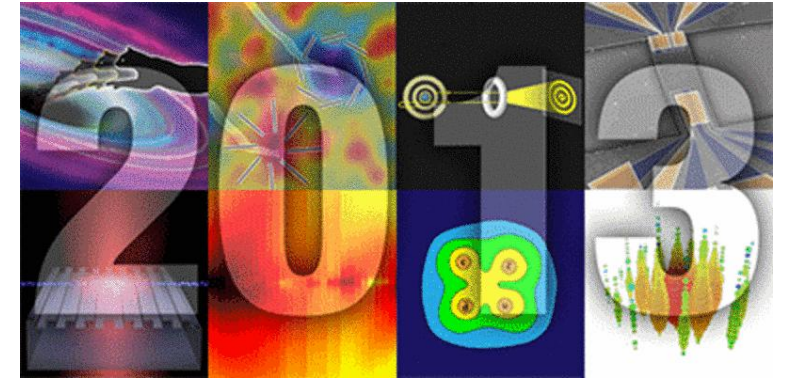
Tetraquark states $Z_c(3900)$ & $Z_{cs}(3985)$



BESIII, PRL110 (2013) 252001



BESIII, PRL126 (2021) 102001



Tetraquark states • 2013 APS Highlights

$Z_c(3900)$ & $Z_{cs}(3985)$: Resonant **VS** Virtual states

Particle Data Group, PTEP 2022 (2022) 083C01

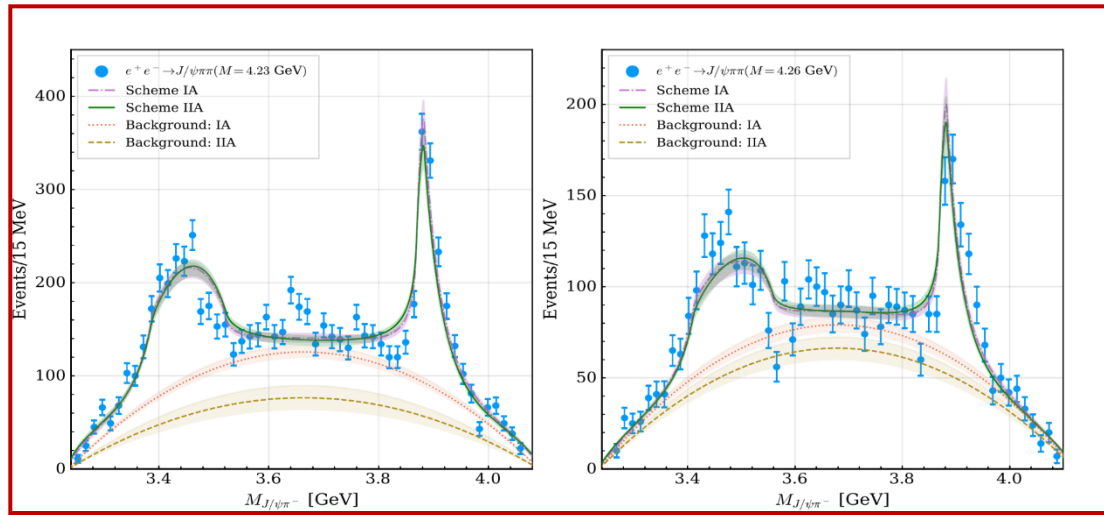
M.-L. Du, M. Albaladejo, F.-K. Guo and J. Nieves, PRD 105 (2022) 074018

T. Ji, X.-K. Dong, M. Albaladejo, M.-L. Du, F.-K. Guo and J. Nieves, PRD106 (2022) 094002

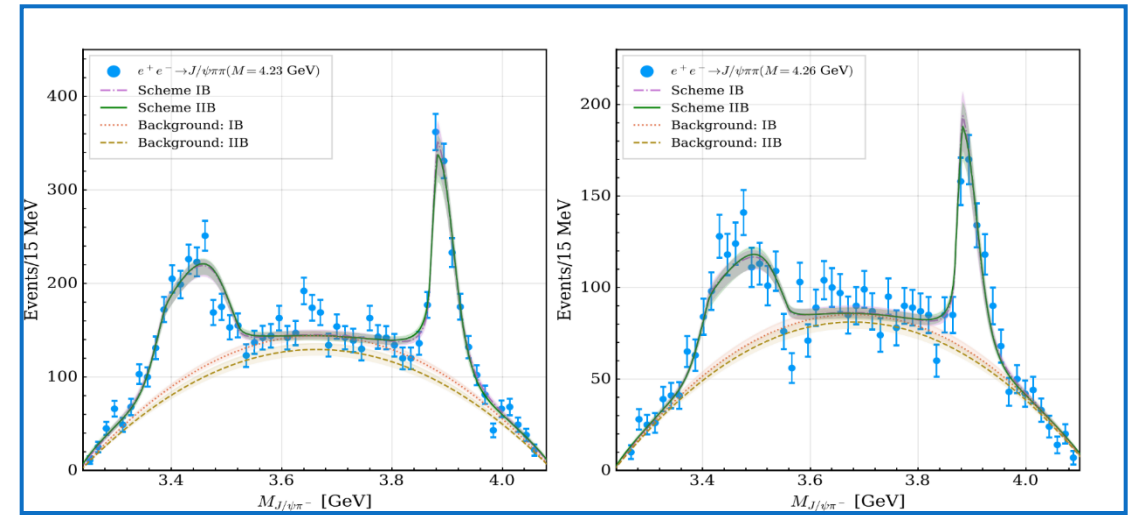
L.-W. Yan, Z.-H. Guo, F.-K. Guo, D.-L. Yao and Z.-Y. Zhou, PRD109 (2024) 014026

Invariant mass distributions fail to distinguish vir. or res.

Virtual state scenario



Resonant state scenario



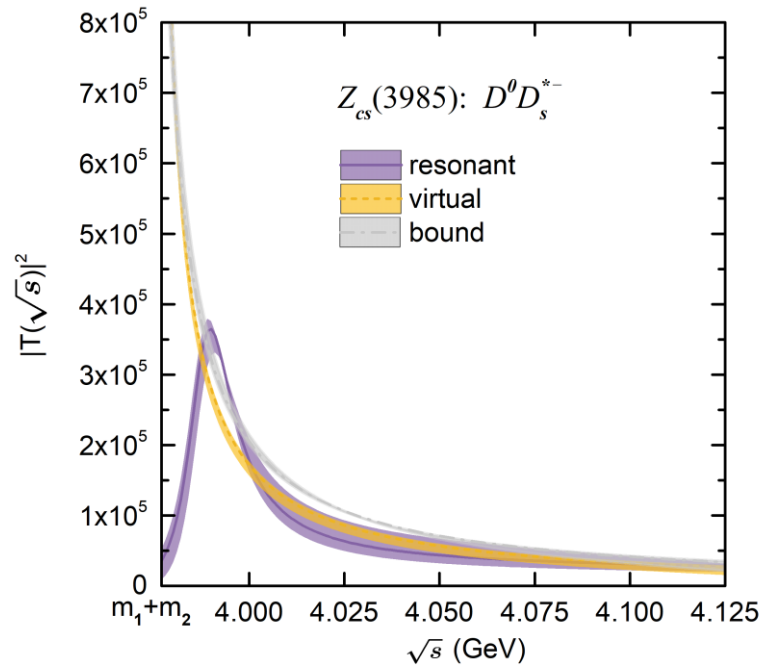
M.-L. Du, M. Albaladejo, F.-K. Guo, and J. Nieves, PRD105(2022)074018

Data are compatible with either a resonant or virtual state.

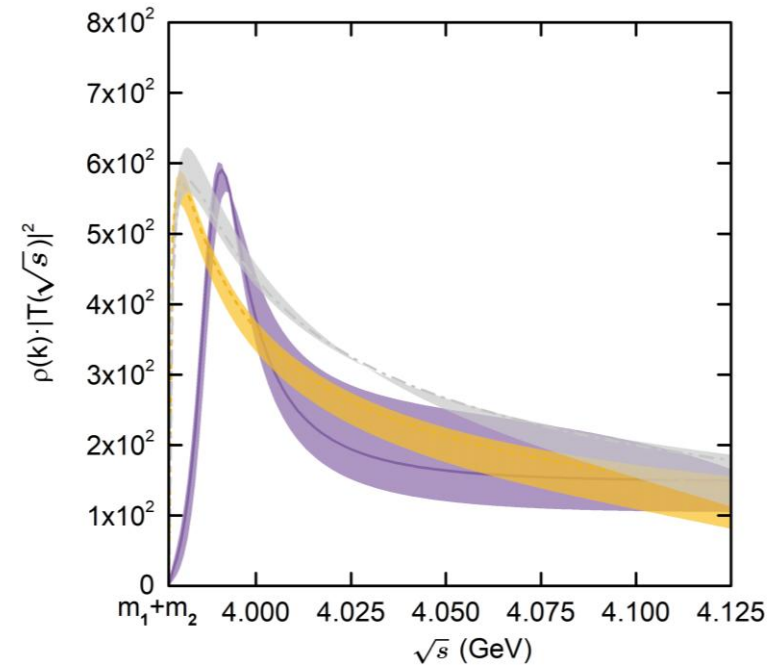
How to tell which is reality?

Phase-space suppression effect

Modulus squared of T-matrix



Line shape of invariant mass spectra



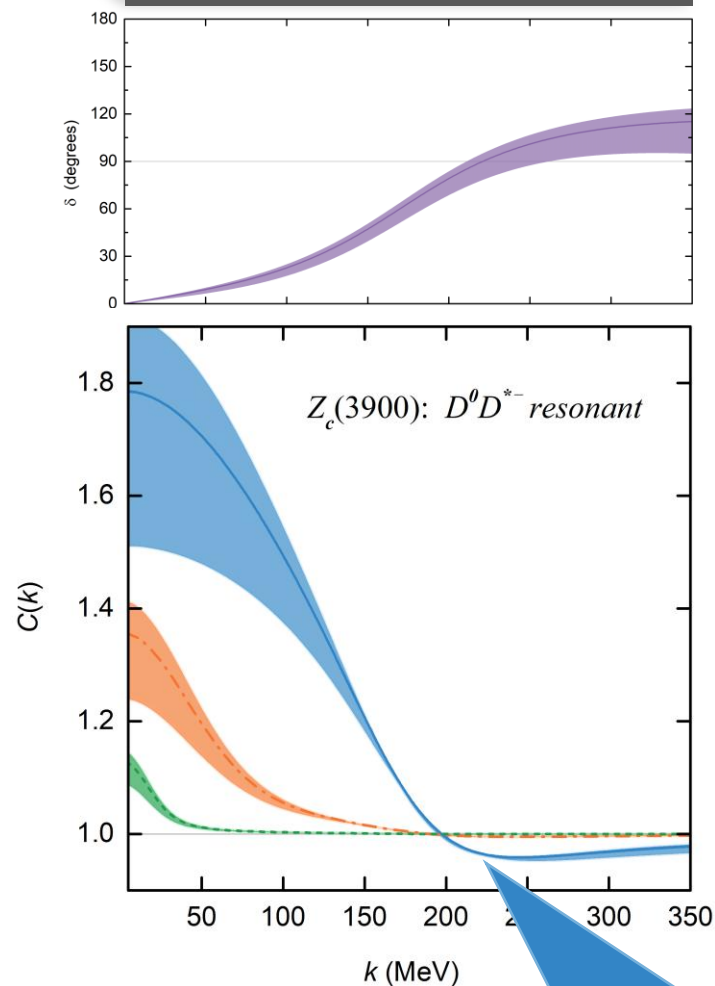
Phase-space suppression makes near-threshold states hard to distinguish using invariant mass spectra alone.

Zhi-Wei Liu, Ming-Zhu Liu, Jun-Xu Lu and LSG,
Sci.Bull. 70 (2025) 3515-3521*

$D^0 D^{*-}$ CFs for $Z_c(3900)$

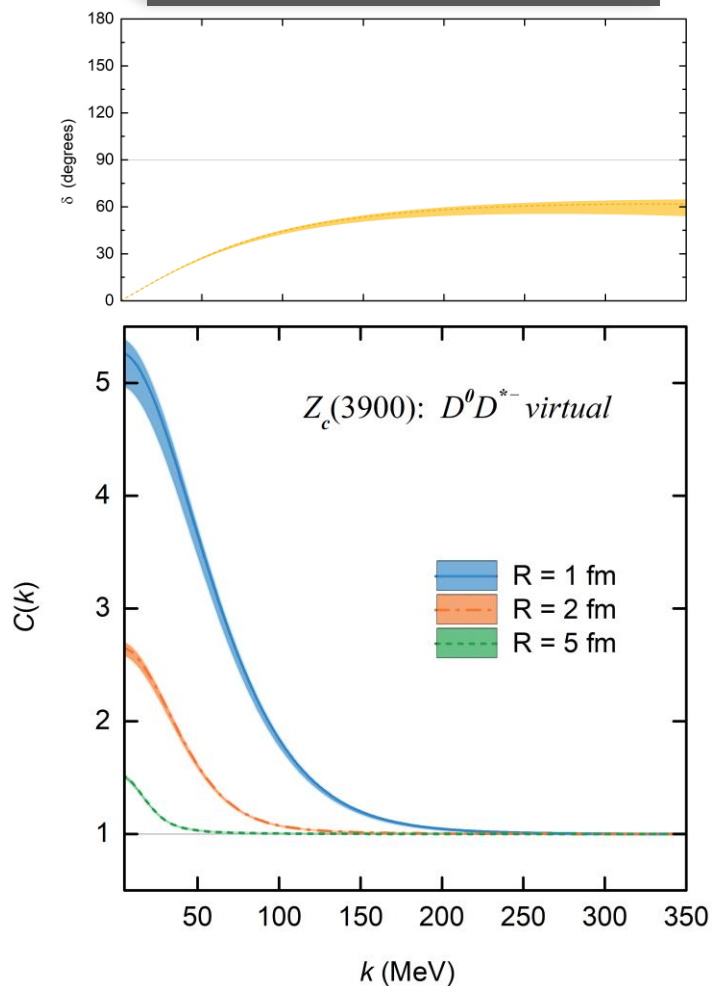
Zhi-Wei Liu, Ming-Zhu Liu, Jun-Xu Lu and **LSG***, *Sci.Bull.* 70 (2025) 3515-3521

Resonant state scenario

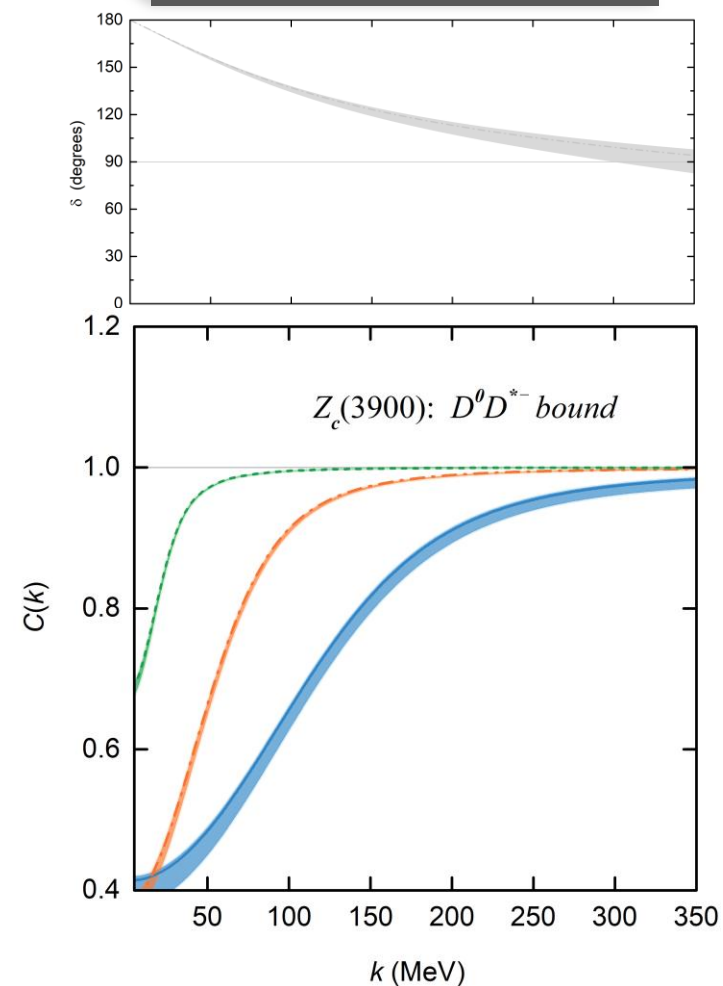


Typical feature of
broad resonant state

Virtual state scenario



Bound state scenario

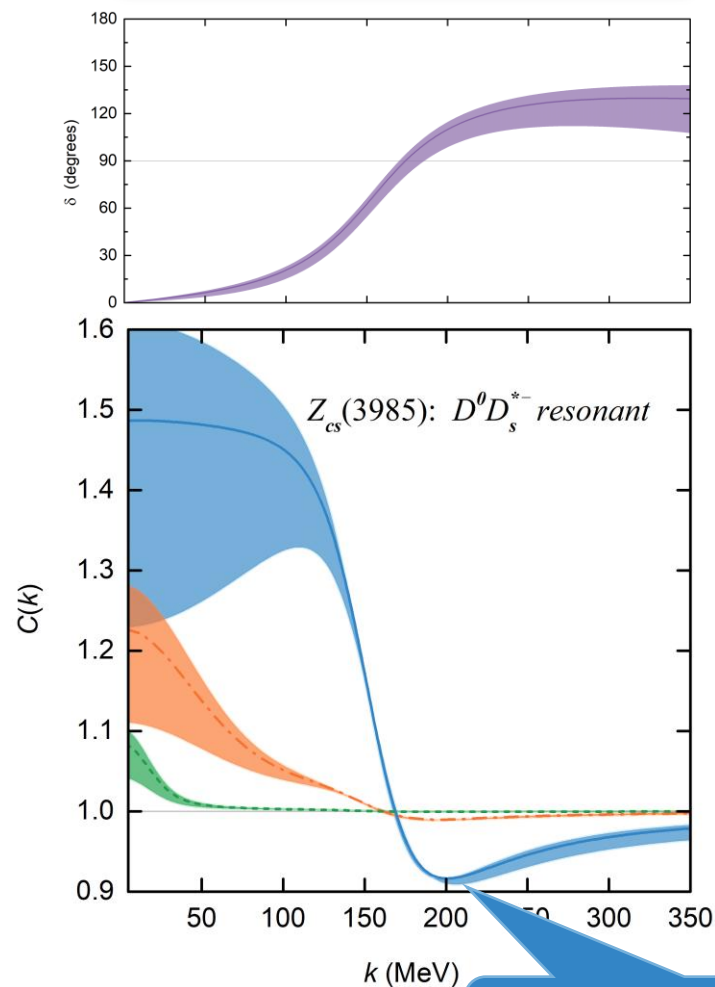


$$C(k) = 1 + \mathcal{F}_1 \sin^2 \delta + \mathcal{F}_2 \sin \delta \cos \delta, \quad \mathcal{F}_2 > 0$$

$D^0 D_s^{*-}$ CFs $Z_{cs}(3985)$

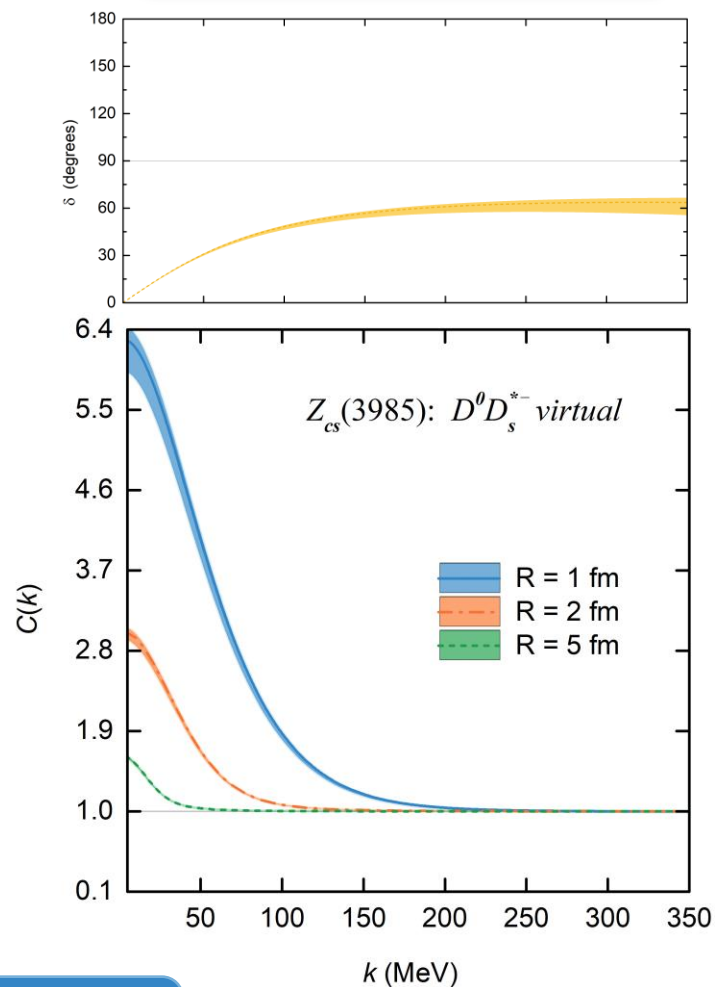
Zhi-Wei Liu, Ming-Zhu Liu, Jun-Xu Lu and **LSG***, *Sci.Bull.* 70 (2025) 3515-3521

Resonant state scenario

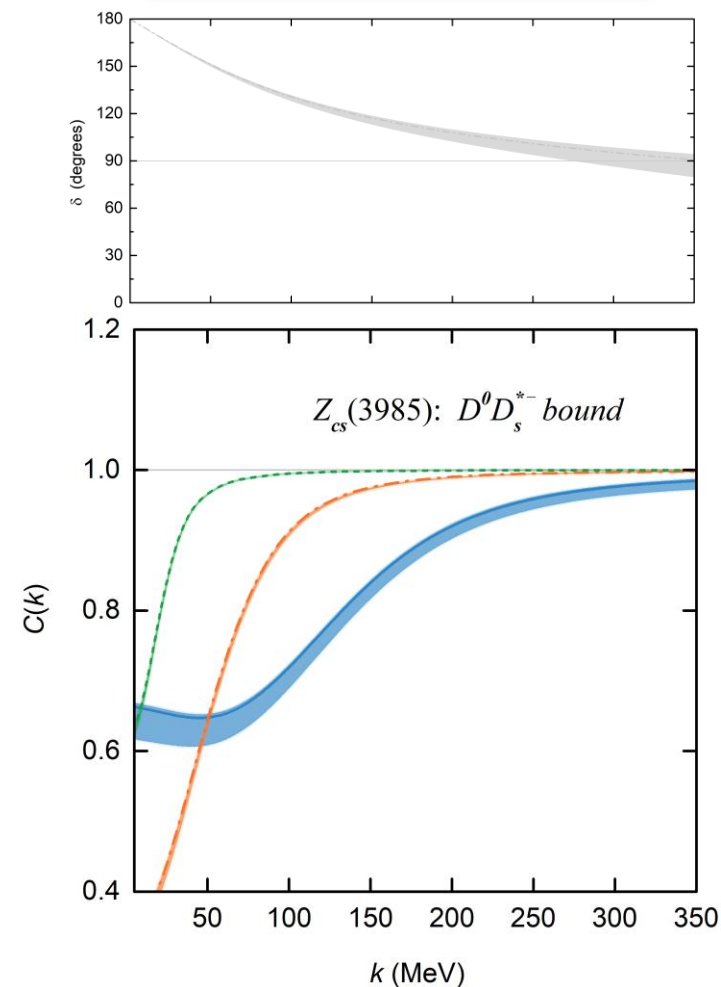


Typical feature of
narrow resonant state

Virtual state scenario



Bound state scenario



$$C(k) = 1 + \mathcal{F}_1 \sin^2 \delta + \mathcal{F}_2 \sin \delta \cos \delta, \quad \mathcal{F}_2 > 0$$

A femtoscopic tale of two C -parities: the $Z_c(3900)$ and the isovector partner of the $X(3872)$

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²*Institute of Theoretical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100*

³*School of Physical Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing*

⁴*Southern Center for Nuclear-Science Theory (SCNT), Institute of Modern
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Huizhou 516000, China*

Femtoscopy probes of
 $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$
and the isovector $X(3872)$
partner

🕒 4:50 PM - 5:10 PM

Understanding the nature of the exotic $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$ states, and search isovector partner W_{c1} of the $X(3872)$, remain central challenges in exotic-hadron spectroscopy. The femtoscopic correlation functions (CFs) of the $D^{(*)0}D_{(s)}^{(*)-}$ systems. Since these charm-meson–antimeson pairs are not G -parity eigenstates, their CFs contain contributions from both the C -odd and C -even sectors, providing direct access to the dynamics underlying the Z_c , Z_{cs} , and the predicted isovector exotic W_{c1} . Within a heavy-quark-spin-symmetric coupled-channel framework, we show that the C -even admixture enhances the low-momentum CFs by more than 2.5σ in the vicinity of their thresholds. Free from Coulomb distortions and accessible in high-multiplicity pp collisions at the LHC, these channels offer the first direct femtoscopic probe of the isovector C -even sector and of the elusive W_{c1} state.

Presenter Pan-Pan Shi

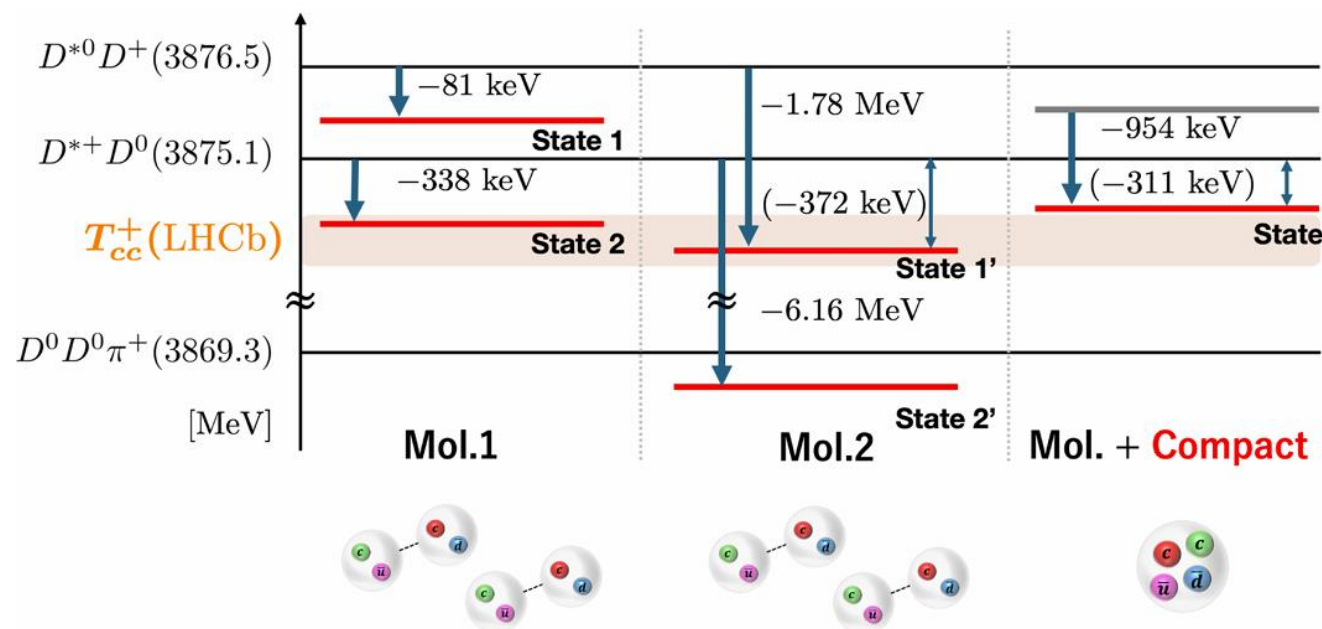
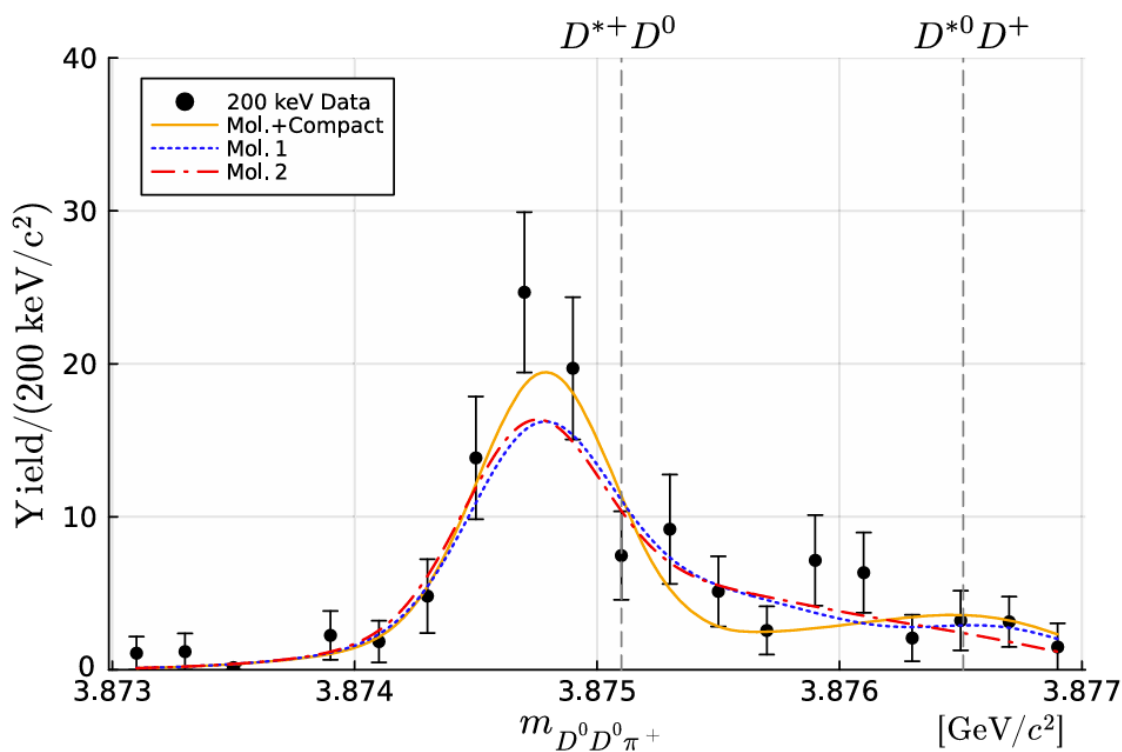
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- ➡ Summary and outlook

More recent applications— $T_{cc}(3875)$

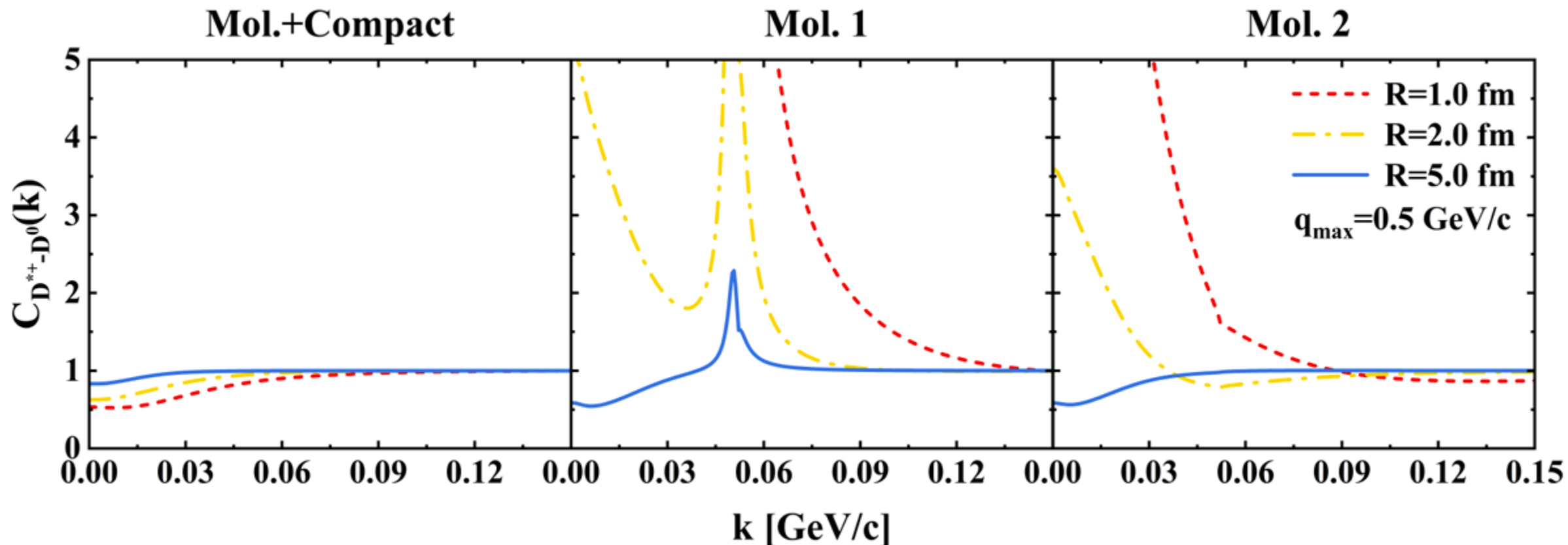
Distinguishing the compact versus molecular nature of $T_{cc}(3875)^+$

Shota Ampuku, Yasuhiro Yamaguchi, Masayasu Harada, 2511.13003



More recent applications—Tcc(3875)

DD^* correlation functions in deciphering the nature of $T_{cc}(3875)^+$

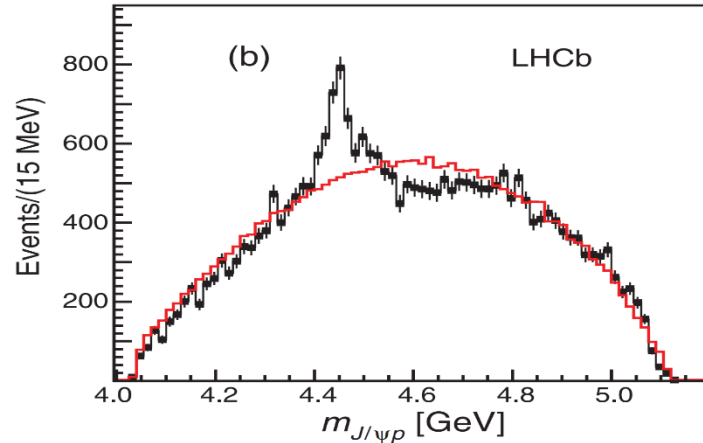


Duo-Lun Ge, Zhi-Wei Liu, LSG, PRD 114 (2026) 014054*

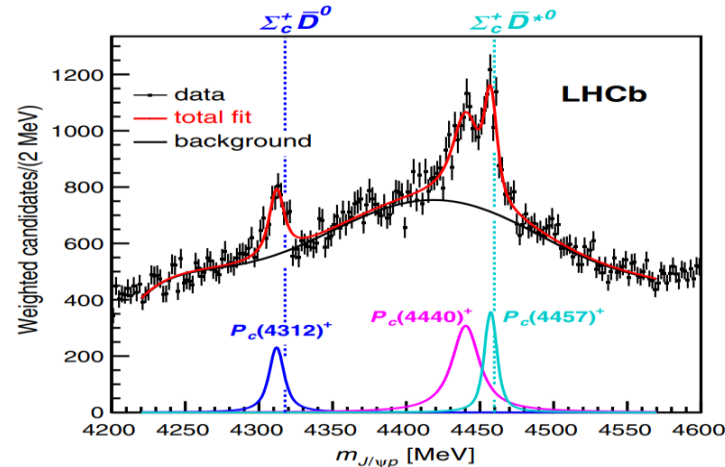
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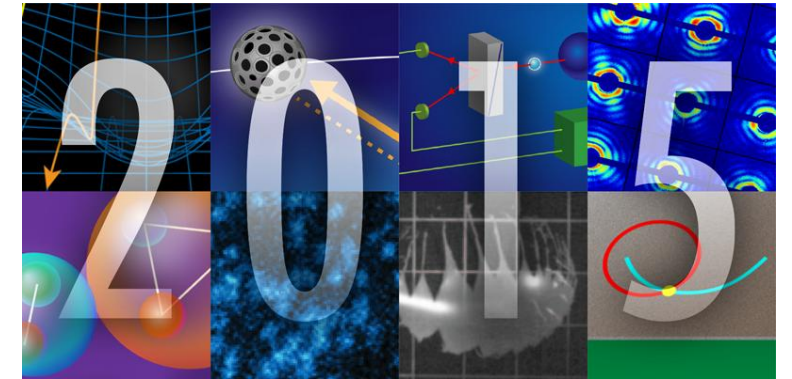
Pentaquark states $P_c(4440)$ & $P_c(4457)$



LHCb, PRL115 (2015) 072001



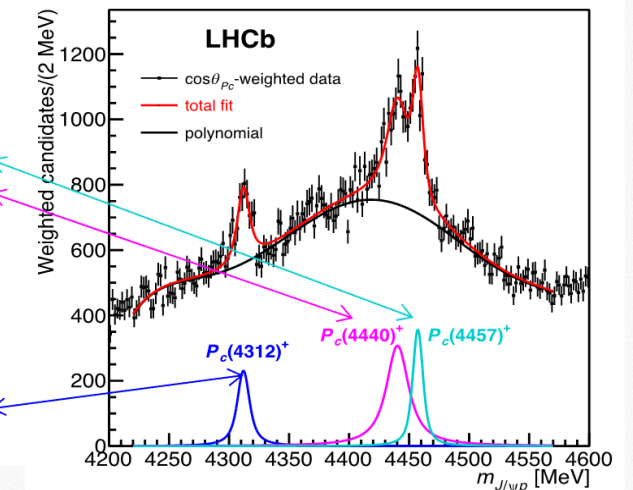
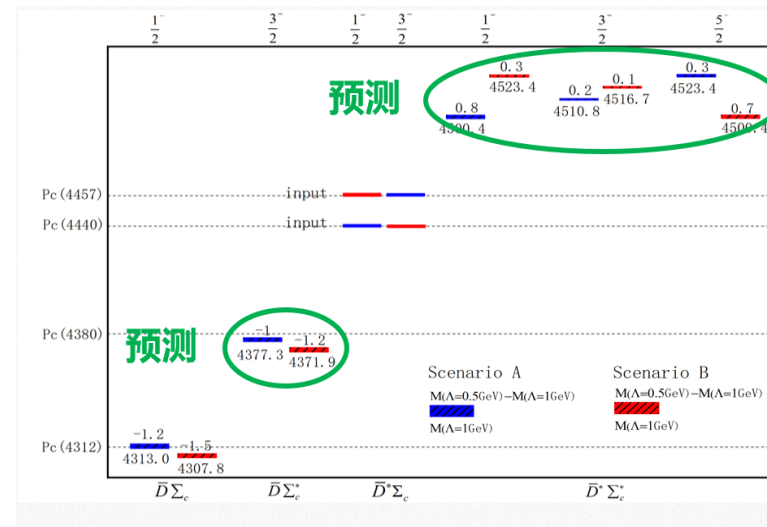
LHCb, PRL122 (2019) 222001



Pentaquark states • 2015 APS Highlights

- They can be nicely arranged into a $\Sigma_c^{(*)} \bar{D}^{(*)}$ multiplet

M. Z. Liu, Y. W. Pan, F. Z. Peng, M. Sánchez S, LSG*, A. Hosaka, M. P. Valderrama, PR122 (2019) 242001



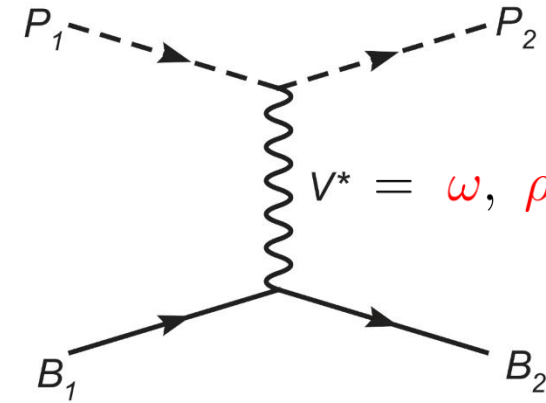
How to distinguish the spins of $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$?

Light vector meson exchange interactions

□ Interactions in the hidden local symmetry approach – **parameter free**

$$V_{\Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}}^{I=\frac{3}{2}} = 2M_{\Sigma_c} M_{\bar{D}^{(*)}} \tilde{\beta}_1 \tilde{\beta}_2 g_V^2 \left(\frac{1}{m_\omega^2} + \frac{1}{m_\rho^2} \right)$$

$$V_{\Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}}^{I=\frac{1}{2}} = 2M_{\Sigma_c} M_{\bar{D}^{(*)}} \tilde{\beta}_1 \tilde{\beta}_2 g_V^2 \left(\frac{1}{m_\omega^2} - \frac{2}{m_\rho^2} \right)$$



Isospin basis



Charge basis

$$\left| \Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}, I = \frac{3}{2}, I_3 = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^{++} \bar{D}^{(*)-} \right\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^+ \bar{D}^{(*)0} \right\rangle$$

$$\left| \Sigma_c \bar{D}^{(*)}, I = \frac{1}{2}, I_3 = \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^{++} \bar{D}^{(*)-} \right\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \left| \Sigma_c^+ \bar{D}^{(*)0} \right\rangle$$

Two different spin assignments

□ Interaction strengths

$$f_{\Lambda_F}(k', k) = \exp \left[- \left(\frac{k'}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{k}{\Lambda_F} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\Lambda_F = 1067 \text{ MeV}$$

deep bound
state of $\Sigma_c \bar{D}^*$

$$\Lambda_F = 860 \text{ MeV}$$

shallow bound
state of $\Sigma_c \bar{D}^*$

STATUS: M.L. YOKOMIZO ET AL. (PARTICLE DATA GROUP), PROG. THEOR. EXP. PHYS. 40:444, 1968 (1968) AND 40:23 (1968)

$P_c(4440)^+$		Status:	*
$P_c(4440)^+$ MASS			
VALUE (MeV)	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
$4440.3 \pm 1.3^{+4.1}_{-4.7}$	AAIJ	19W	LHCB pp at 7, 8, 13 TeV

$P_c(4457)^+$		Status:	*
$P_c(4457)^+$ MASS			
VALUE (MeV)	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
$4457.3 \pm 0.6^{+4.1}_{-1.7}$	AAIJ	19W	LHCB pp at 7, 8, 13 TeV
... We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. ...			
$4449.8 \pm 1.7 \pm 2.5$	¹ AAIJ	15P	LHCB Repl. by AAIJ 19W
¹ Considering $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$ as a single resonance			

CF for the shallow bound state is **significantly larger** than that for the deep bound

□ Experimental CFs – **spin-averaged**

Scenarios A

$$P_c(4440) : J^P = (1/2)^- \quad P_c(4457) : J^P = (3/2)^-$$

$$\bar{C} = 1/3 \cdot C_{\text{deep}} + 2/3 \cdot C_{\text{shallow}}$$

Scenarios B

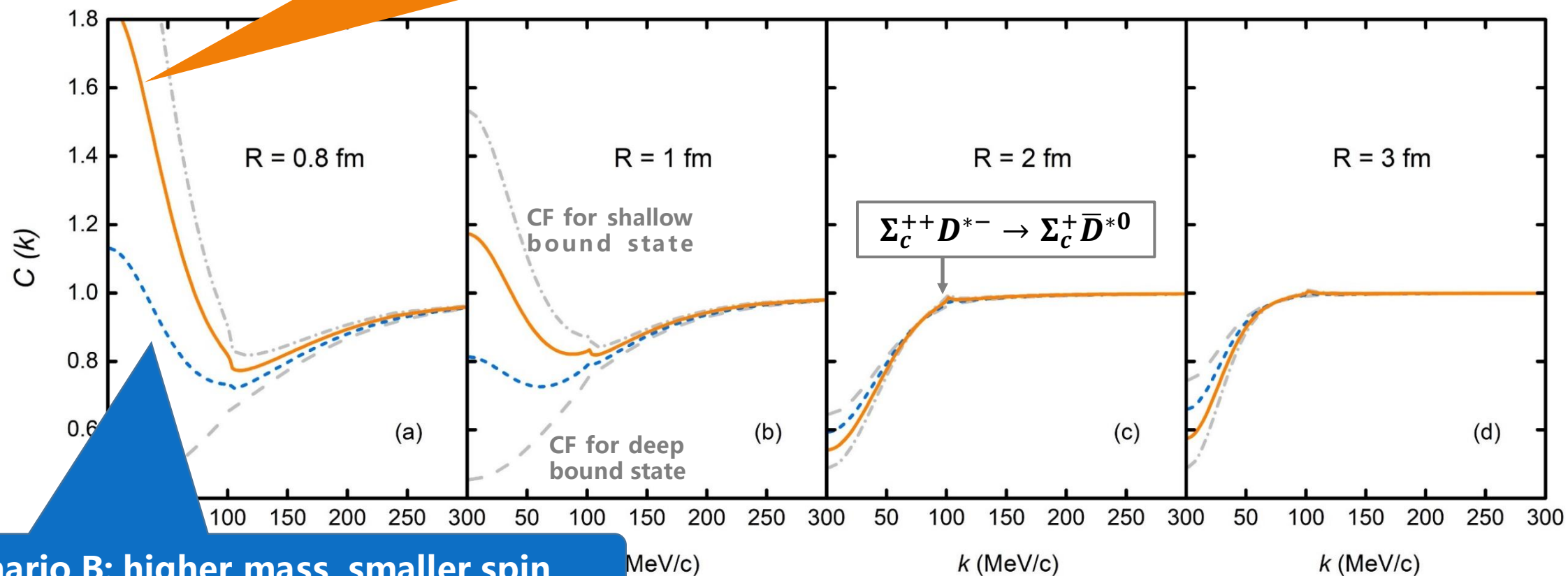
$$P_c(4440) : J^P = (3/2)^- \quad P_c(4457) : J^P = (1/2)^-$$

$$\bar{C} = 2/3 \cdot C_{\text{deep}} + 1/3 \cdot C_{\text{shallow}}$$

Spin-averaged $\Sigma_c \bar{D}^*$ CFs

Scenario A: higher mass, larger spin

model independent



Scenario B: higher mass, smaller spin

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- ➡ **Summary and outlook**

Summary and outlook

□ Femtoscopy offers high-precision tests of the strong interaction between pairs of (un)stable particles and can be valuable to decipher the nature of the many exotic hadrons discovered so far.

✓ $D_{s0}^*(2317)$, $Z_c(3900)$ and $Z_{cs}(3985)$, $T_{cc}(3875)$, $P_c(4440)$ and $P_c(4457)$

✓ □ With more data from LHC Run3, the future is very promising:

- Pp data taking: event count increase: $\sim 3000\times$
- Pb-pb data taking: event count increase: $\sim 70\times$



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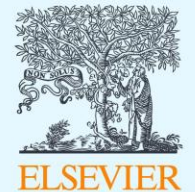
 Medical Sciences

 Materials Science and Engineering



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A visualization of a particle collision, likely at the Large Hadron Collider. A bright white point of collision is at the center, with numerous white lines radiating outwards. Several semi-transparent spheres containing particle tracks are arranged in a circular pattern around the center. A prominent trail of orange and yellow particles extends from the collision point towards the bottom right. In the bottom right corner, there are two large, semi-transparent spheres: one blue and one red, each containing a complex pattern of particle tracks.

Thanks a lot for your attention!

(Image: CERN)