Lambda-proton correlations

nucl-ex/9907019, PRL 83, 3138 (1999).

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Outline

- **Comparison between pp and Λp correlations**
- **Possibility to measure the emission sequence of Λ's and protons**
- **Feasibility of experimental measurement in STAR**
- **Summary**

Comparison between pp and Λp correlations

pp correlation:

Strong interaction (attractive)
Coulomb interaction (repulsive)
Fermi-Dirac statistics

Λp correlation:

Strong interaction (attractive)

Λp strong interaction potential

A.R. Bodmer and Q.N. Usmani, Phys. Rev. C **31**, 1400 (1985)

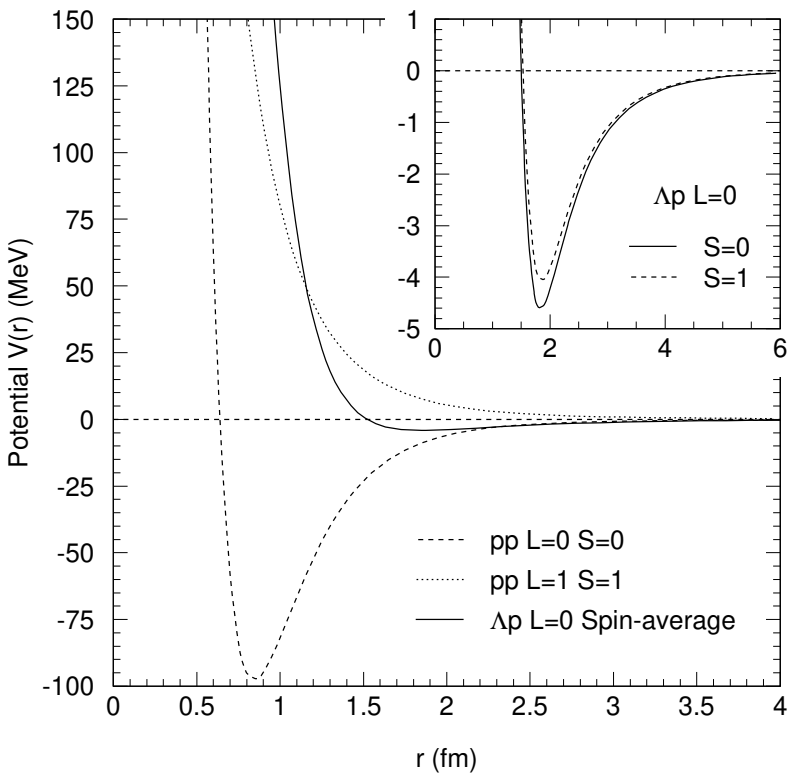
Urbana-type attractive potential:
(from low energy Λp scattering and hypernuclei bind energy data)

$$V_{\Lambda-p} = V_C - \left(\bar{V} - \frac{1}{4} V_\sigma \boldsymbol{\sigma}_\Lambda \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_p\right) T_\pi^2$$

$$V_C = W_C \left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{r-R}{d}\right)\right]^{-1}; \quad W_C = 2137 \text{ MeV}, \; R = 0.5 \text{ fm}, \; d = 0.2 \text{ fm}$$

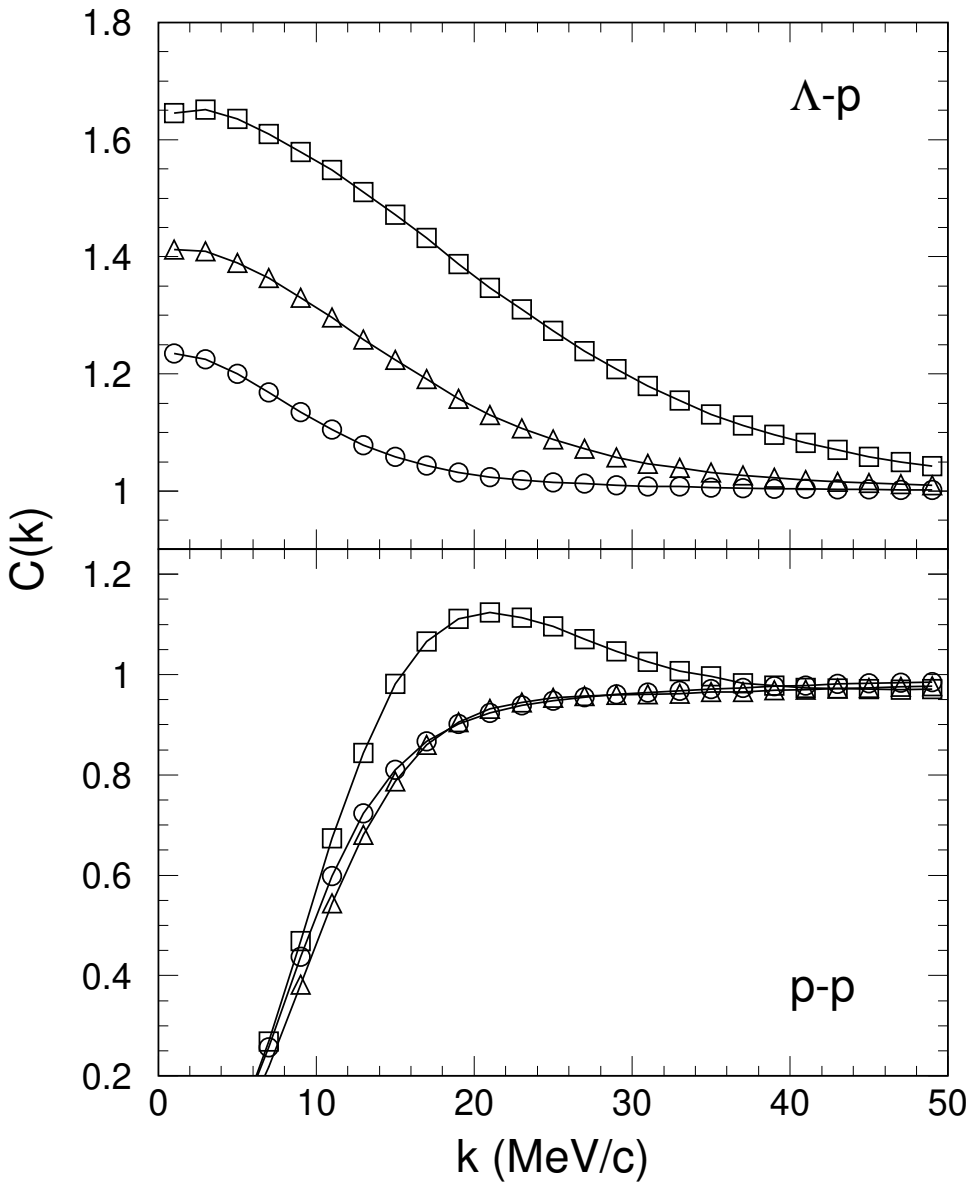
$$T_\pi = \left(1 + \frac{3}{x} + \frac{3}{x^2}\right) \frac{e^{-x}}{x} \left(1 - e^{-cr^2}\right)^2; \quad x = 0.7\, r, \; c = 2 \text{ fm}^{-2}$$

- Spin-independent part: $\bar{V} = 6.2 \pm 0.05$ MeV.
- Spin-dependent part: $0 < V_\sigma < 0.5$ MeV, not well determined.



Λp Urbana-type potential compared to NN Reid potential.

Λp vs pp correlation

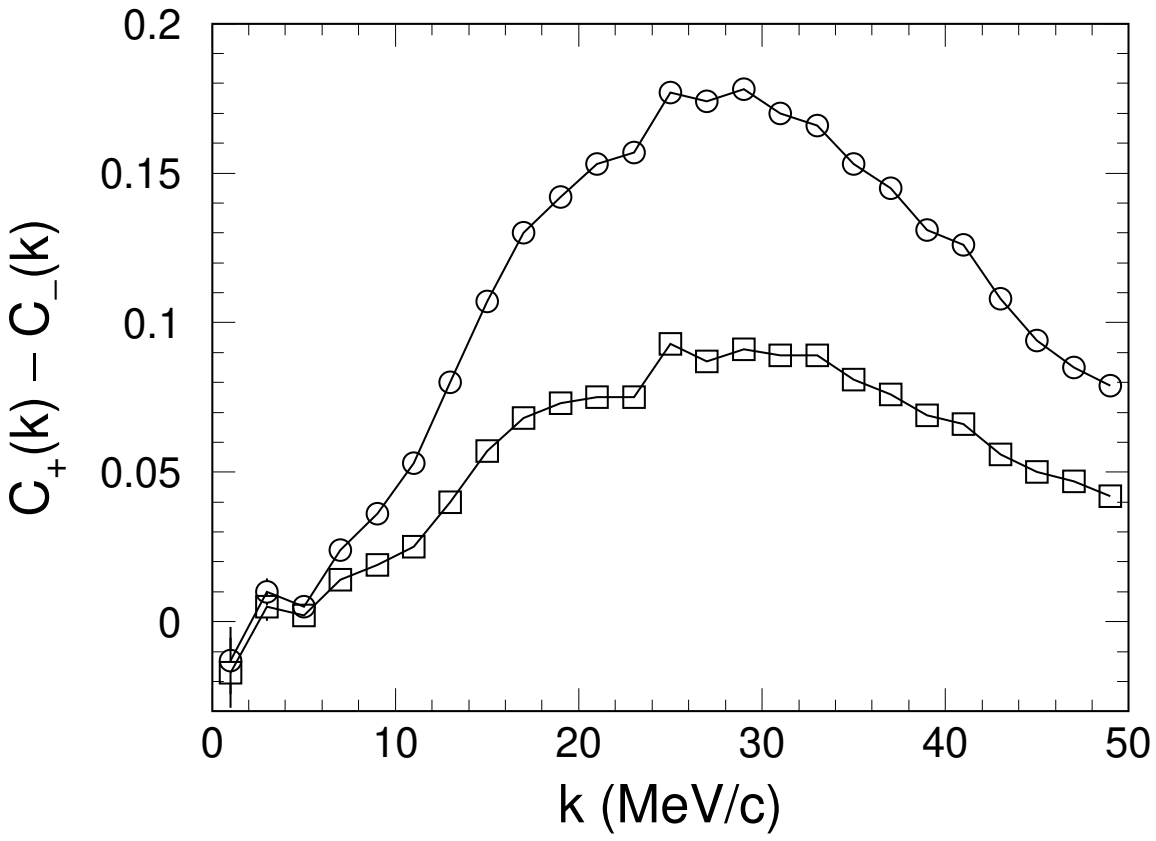


Λp correlations are more sensitive than pp for determining large source sizes: no Coulomb repulsion, although NN scattering length is much longer.

Emission sequence of Λ and proton

R. Lednicky *et al.*, Phys. Lett. B **373**, 30 (1996)

To determine whether or not Λ and proton are emitted simultaneously: If Λ is emitted earlier, then stronger correlation if proton is faster; vice versa.



Δz might result if the Λ's would escape earlier than the protons.

Quantitative determination whether or not strange baryons freezeout similarly as nonstrange baryons, if a few percent errors at $k \sim 30$ MeV/c is achieved.

Why to measure Λp correlations – Physics Motivations

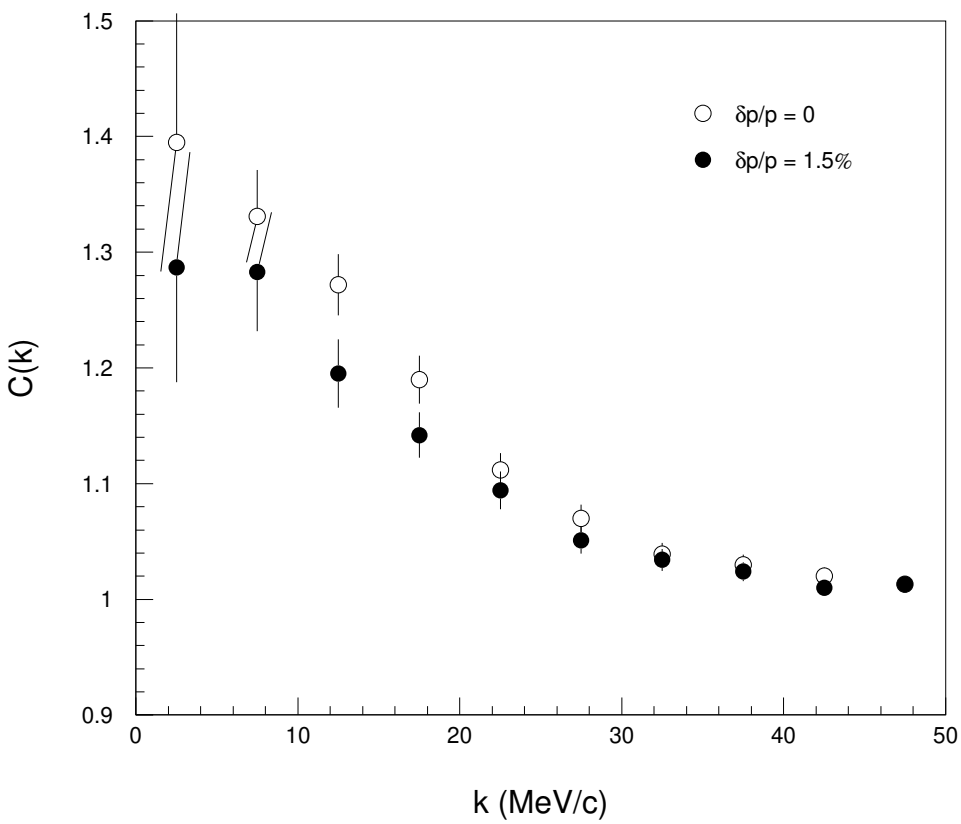
- **Larger sensitivity to baryon source size than traditional pp correlations**
- **Probing strange baryon source**
- **Possibility to probe differences between Λ and proton sources**
- **Potentail for better understanding Λp strong interaction**
- **First of such studies**

Feasibilities of measurements in STAR

For proton Boltzmann temperature T=300 MeV, from pure phase space population: A total of **20 million pairs** results in

- 10 pairs in $0 < k < 5$ MeV/c
- 70 pairs in $5 < k < 10$ MeV/c
- 800 pairs in $25 < k < 30$ MeV/c
- 7000 pairs in $0 < k < 50$ MeV/c

STAR: 20 million pairs $\approx$ 2 million central Au+Au events.
(30 protons, 0.3 Λ per event)
$\delta p/p \sim 1.5\%$ at momentum ~ 1 GeV/c.



Conclusions

- Λp correlation is investigated.
- Λp correlation is more sensitive to large source size than pp.
- Λp correlation measurement in STAR is feasible.
- Quantitative determination of differences in Λ and proton source parameters is also experimentally feasible.
- Better understanding of Λp strong interaction and especially Λp spin-spin interaction exploiting the large abundance of low momentum Λ's from heavy-ion collisions?

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