#### Production of loosely-bound objects at the LHC

#### May 22nd, 2023, Tokyo

2nd Workshop on Hadron Interactions, Hyper-Nuclei and Exotic Hadron productions at High-Energy Experiments



**Benjamin Dönigus** 

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#### Content

- Introduction
- Nuclei and Exotica
  - (Anti-)nuclei
  - (Anti-)hypertriton
  - (Anti-)hypermatter
- Summary & Outlook



#### Motivation



A. Andronic et al., PLB 697, 203 (2011) and references therein for the model, figure from A. Andronic, private communication

- Explore QCD and QCD inspired model predictions for (unusual) multi-baryon states
- Search for rarely produced anti- and hyper-matter
- Test model predictions, e.g. thermal and coalescence
- → Understand production mechanisms



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- → Understand production mechanisms
- → Basis are light (anti-)nuclei



#### Introduction



Time  $\rightarrow$ 

Cartoon of a Ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collision

Left to right:

- the two Lorentz contracted nuclei approach,
- collide,
- form a Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP),
- the QGP expands and hadronizes,
- finally hadrons rescatter and freeze

Plot by S. Bass, Duke University; http://www.phy.duke.edu/research/NPTheory/QGP/transport/evo.jpg





beam

#### The fireball evolution:

- Starts with a "pre-equilibrium state"
- Forms a Quark-Gluon Plasma phase (if T is larger than  $T_c$ )

beam

- At chemical freeze-out, T<sub>ch</sub>, hadrons stop being produced
- At kinetic freeze-out, T<sub>fo</sub>, hadrons stop scattering



#### Lattice QCD results



Lattice QCD tells us where to expect the phase transition

Critical energy density:  $\epsilon_{\rm C} = 0.34 \pm 0.16 \text{ GeV/fm}^3$ 

Critical temperature  $T_c = (156.5 \pm 1.5) \text{ MeV}$ 

A. Bazavov et al. (hotQCD) PLB 795 (2019) 15 Similar results: S. Borsányi et al. (Budapest-Wuppertal group) PRL 125 (2020) 052001



• Statistical (thermal) model with only three parameters able to describe particle yields (grand chanonical ensemble)



- chemical freezeout temperature T<sub>ch</sub>
- baryo-chemical potential μ<sub>B</sub>
- Volume V
- → Using particle yields as input to extract parameters



A. Andronic et al., PLB 673 (2009) 142, updated



# Predicting yields of bound states



Key parameter at LHC energies:

chemical freeze-out temperature T<sub>ch</sub>

Strong sensitivity of

abundance of nuclei

to choice of  $T_{ch}$  due to:

1. large mass m

2. exponential dependence of the yield ~  $exp(-m/T_{ch})$ 

→ Binding energies small compared to  $T_{ch}$ 



#### Coalescence



J. I. Kapusta, PRC 21, 1301 (1980)

Nuclei are formed by protons and neutrons which are nearby and have similar velocities (after kinetic freezeout)

Produced nuclei

- → can break apart
- → created again by final-state coalescence

#### Large Hadron Collider at CERN

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#### Large Hadron Collider at CERN

ALICE

#### **Experiment: ALICE**









Pb

Pb

## Interlude: Centrality



Central Pb-Pb collision: High multiplicity = large  $dN/d\eta$ High number of tracks (more than 2000 tracks in the detector)

Peripheral Pb-Pb collision: Low multiplicity = small  $dN/d\eta$ Low number of tracks (less than 100 tracks in the detector)



#### (Anti-)Nuclei







#### Low momenta:

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Nuclei are identified using the dE/dx measurement in the Time Projection Chamber (TPC)



ALICE

#### Higher momenta:

Velocity measurement with the Time-of-Flight (TOF) detector is used to calculate the  $m^2$ distribution



Anti-Alpha





For the full statistics of 2011 ALICE identified 10 Anti-Alphas using TPC and TOF

STAR observed the Anti-Alpha in 2010: *Nature 473, 353 (2011)* 





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- *p*<sub>T</sub> spectra getting harder for more central collisions (from pp to Pb-Pb) → showing clear radial flow
- Blast-Wave fits describe the data in Pb-Pb very well
- No hint for radial flow in pp
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#### (Anti-)Deuteron ratio







#### **Combined Blast-Wave fit**



ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:1910.07678, Phys.Rev.C 101 (2020) 044907



- Simultaneous Blast-Wave fit of  $\pi^+$ , K<sup>+</sup>, p, d, t, <sup>3</sup>He and <sup>4</sup>He spectra for central Pb-Pb collisions leads to values for  $\langle \beta \rangle$  and  $T_{kin}$  close to those obtained when only  $\pi$ ,K,p are used
- All particles are described rather well with this simultaneous fit

## Mass dependence



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Production of (anti-) nuclei is follwing an exponential, and decreases with mass as expected from thermal model In Pb-Pb the "penalty factor" for each additional baryon ~300 (for particles and antiparticles)

ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:1710.07531, NPA 971, 1 (2018)

## Mass dependence





ALICE

- Production of (anti-) nuclei is follwing an exponential, and decreases with mass as expected from thermal model
- In Pb-Pb the "penalty factor" for each additional baryon ~300, in p-Pb ~600 and in pp ~1000





d/p ratio rather well described by coalescence and (canonical) thermal model



#### <sup>3</sup>He/p vs. multiplicity





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<sup>3</sup>He/p and <sup>3</sup>H/p ratios are similarly well described by coalescence and (canonical) thermal model

## GOETHE RANKFURT AM MAIN RATIOS VS. (IOW) MUITIPLICITY



V. Vovchenko,

oalescence: K.J

Aodels.

ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:2112.00610



- d/p ratio rather well described by coalescence and (canonical) thermal model
- Some tension for <sup>3</sup>He/p at low  $p_{T}$





ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:2211.14015, accepted by PRC



- d/p ratio rather well described by coalescence and (canonical) thermal model
- Some tension for <sup>3</sup>He/p and <sup>3</sup>H/p over  $p_{T}$







 Different model implementations describe the production probability, including light nuclei and hyper-nuclei, rather well at a temperture of about T<sub>ch</sub> =156 MeV

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ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:1710.07531 NPA 971, 1 (2018) NPA



 For the thermal model description of production yields, feeddown is an important ingredient

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- All light hadron production yields are populated strongly by resonances
- Seems to not be the case for (hyper-)nuclei



A. Andronic et al., Phys.Lett.B 797 (2019) 134836



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BD, G. Röpke, D. Blaschke, Phys. Rev. C 106 (2022) 044908



A. Andronic et al., Phys.Lett.B 797 (2019) 134836; Nature 561 (2018) 7723, 321; Phys.Lett.B 697 (2011) 203; Phys.Lett.B 792 (2019) 304



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V. Vovchenko, BD, B. Kardan, M. Lorenz, H. Stoecker, Phys.Lett.B 809 (2020) 135746





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#### Anti-nuclei absorption

ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:2202.01549



- Absorption of Anti-3He measured with two different methods using the ALICE experiment as absorber
- GEANT4 does a really good job



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- Measured absorption used to calculate the flux near earth, before and after solar modulation
- Large reduction of uncertainties due to ALICE measurement



#### Anti-<sup>3</sup>He flux near earth

ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:2202.01549



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#### Hypernuclei





#### Hypertriton

Bound state of  $\Lambda$ , p, n m = 2.991 GeV/ $c^2$  (B<sub> $\Lambda$ </sub> =130 keV)





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Bound state of  $\Lambda$ , p, n m = 2.991 GeV/ $c^2$  (B<sub> $\Lambda$ </sub> =130 keV)





# **GOETHE WINIVERSITÄT** Hypertriton Identification



Bound state of  $\Lambda$ , p, n  $m = 2.991 \text{ GeV}/c^2 (B_{\Lambda} = 130 \text{ keV})$   $\rightarrow$  Radius of about 10.6 fm Decay modes:

 $\begin{array}{l} {}^3_{\Lambda} \mathrm{H} \rightarrow {}^3 \mathrm{He} + \pi^{-} \\ {}^3_{\Lambda} \mathrm{H} \rightarrow {}^3 \mathrm{H} + \pi^{0} \\ {}^3_{\Lambda} \mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{d} + \mathrm{p} + \pi^{-} \\ {}^3_{\Lambda} \mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{d} + \mathrm{n} + \pi^{0} \end{array}$ 

+ anti-particles

→ Anti-Hypertriton first observed by STAR Collaboration:

Science 328,58 (2010)







Clear signal reconstructed by decay products

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Spectra can also be described by Blast-Wave model
 → Hypertriton flows as all other particles



#### Hypertriton spectra



• Anti-hypertriton/Hypertriton ratio consistent with unity vs.  $p_{T}$ 

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- Excellent agreement over 9 orders of magnitude
- Fit of nuclei (d, <sup>3</sup>He, <sup>4</sup>He): *T<sub>ch</sub>*=159 ± 5 MeV
- No feed-down for (anti)(hyper-)nuclei
- charm quarks, out of chemical equilibrium, undergo statistical hadronization
   → only input: number of ccbar pairs



# ALICE

#### Hypertriton - J/ψ comparison



• Shape of the  $p_T$  spectra of J/ $\psi$  and hypertriton agree very well, despite the binding energy of the hypertriton is 2.35 MeV and of the J/ $\psi$  600 MeV





- Hypertriton signal recently also extracted in pp and p-Pb collisions
- Stronger separation between models as for other particle ratios, mainly due to the size of the hypertriton

Hypertriton in pp & p-Pb







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Hypertriton in pp & p-Pb



# Hypertriton "Puzzle"

• Recently measured lifetimes are significantly below the lifetime of the free  $\Lambda \rightarrow$  new ALICE results agree with the

world average of all known measurements and with the free  $\Lambda$  lifetime

 Most recent calculations include "final-state" interaction and agree well with the data



BD, Eur. Phys. J 56 (2020) 258



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# **Binding Energy**



- Current studies show a better constraint and small statistical uncertainties (will be published soon)
- The value obtained by this fit is  $B_{\Lambda} = (102 \pm 63 \pm 67) \text{ keV}$



ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:2209.07360, submitted to PRL

### **Binding Energy**



Both are compatible with
 the theoretical ALICE Collaboration, arXiv:2209.07360, submitted to PRL
 predictions





#### **Exotica Searches**



HypHI Collaboration observed signals in the t+ $\pi$  and d+ $\pi$ invariant mass distributions

C. Rappold et al., PRC 88, 041001 (2013)

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## **H-Dibaryon**

- Hypothetical bound state of *uuddss* ( $\Lambda\Lambda$ )
- First predicted by Jaffe in a bag model calculation (*PRL 195, 38* +617 (1977))
- Recent lattice calculations suggest (Inoue et al., PRL 106, 162001 (2011) and Beane et al., PRL 106, 162002 (2011)) a bound state (20-50 MeV/c<sup>2</sup> or 13 MeV/c<sup>2</sup>)
   T. Inoue, private communication
- Shanahan et al., PRL 107, 092004 (2011) and Haidenbauer, Meißner, PLB 706, 100 (2011) made chiral extrapolation to a physical pion mass and got as result:
  - the H is unbound by  $13\pm14 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ or lies close to the  $\pm p$  threshold
- $\rightarrow$  Renewed interest in experimental searches
- Most recent lattice QCD result points back to a weakly bound state (4.56±1.29 MeV/c<sup>2</sup>): J.R. Green et al., PRL 127 (2021) 242003









ALICE Collaboration: PLB 752, 267 (2016)



Invariant mass analyses of the two hypothetical particles lead to no visible signal  $\rightarrow$  Upper limits set



Search for a bound state of  $\Lambda n$  and  $\Lambda \Lambda$ , shows no hint of signal  $\rightarrow$  upper limits set (for different lifetimes assumed for the bound states)



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Hypertriton ( $B_{\Lambda}$ : 130 keV) and Anti-Alpha (B/A: 7 MeV) yields fit well with the thermal model expectations

→ Upper limits of  $\Lambda\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda$ n are factors of >25 below the model values Workshop Univ. Tokyo - Benjamin Dönigus



- Source determined by pp correlation, such that the  $\Lambda\Lambda$  interaction can be extracted from the corresponding correlation



#### $\Lambda\Lambda$ correlations



- Parameter scan to test the compatible scattering length (f<sub>0</sub>) and effective range (d<sub>0</sub>)
- Compatible with the Lattice calculations, and results from hypernuclei
- An upper limit for the binding energy of the hypothetical H-dibaryon of

$$B_{\Lambda\Lambda} < 3.2 {
m MeV}$$

Best value from the scan:  $B_{\Lambda\Lambda} = 3.2^{+1.6}_{-2.4}(\text{stat})^{+1.8}_{-1.0}(\text{syst}) \text{ MeV}$ 

#### using $B_{\Lambda\Lambda} = \frac{1}{m_{\Lambda}d_0^2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 + 2d_0 f_0^{-1}} \right)$



#### ALICE Collaboration: PLB 797 (2019) 134822

#### **Outlook & Summary**





#### Conclusion

- ALICE@LHC is well suited to study light (anti-)(hyper-) nuclei and perform searches for exotic bound states (A<5)</li>
- Copious production of loosely bound objects measured by ALICE as predicted by the thermal model
- Models describe the (anti-)(hyper-)nuclei data rather well
- Ratios vs. multiplicity trend described by both models
- New and more precise data can be expected in the next years (e.g. LHC Run 3 just started)
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#### Backup



### Lattice QCD results



A. Bazavov et al. (hotQCD) Phys. Rev. D90 (2014) 094503 Similar results from Budapest-Wuppertal group: S. Borsányi et al. JHEP 09 (2010) 073



# **Binding Energy**







# Binding Energy

- Preliminary Result for SQM2019
- Current studies show a better constraint and smaller statistical uncertainties (will be published soon)
- The value obtained by this fit is  $B_{\Lambda} = 55 \pm 62 \text{ keV}$
- Is compatible within the theoretical predictions



ALI-PREL-486370







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A. Andronic et al., Phys.Lett.B 797 (2019) 134836



## Thermal model



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BD, G. Röpke, D. Blaschke, to be submitted



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- Important for A=4 hypernuclei !



Exited states have higher population due to degeneracy 2J+1: Sharing yield in fraction 3 : 1 (mass difference is only 1 MeV to about  $4GeV/c^2$ )







- Hypernuclei are unique probes to study nuclear structure
- Single Λ-hypernuclei are major source of extracting Λ-N interaction
- Correct Λ-N and Λ-N-N interaction needed to understand structure of neutron stars



D. Logoteta et al., Astron. Astrophys. 646 (2021) A55



### Hypernuclei





 Hypertriton special case: Λ separation energy so low that simple models expect free Λ lifetime: d-Λ system



P. Braun-Munzinger, BD, Nucl. Phys. A 987 (2019) 144 F. Hildenbrand, H.-W. Hammer Phys.Rev.C 100 (2019) 3

Symbol	Long Name	Decay Modes	Mass $(\text{GeV}/c^2)$	$\Lambda$ sep. energy (MeV)
$^3_\Lambda { m H}$	hypertriton	$^{3}\text{He} + \pi^{-} + \text{c.c.}$ d + p + $\pi^{-}$ + c.c.	2.991	0.130
$^4_{\Lambda}{ m H}$	hyperhydrogen-4	${}^{4}\text{He} + \pi^{-} + \text{c.c.}$ ${}^{3}\text{H} + \text{p} + \pi^{-} + \text{c.c.}$	3.9226	2.169
$^4_\Lambda { m He}$	hyperhelium-4	$^{3}$ He + p + $\pi^{-}$ + c.c.	3.9217	2.347



### Expectations

- Run 2 of the LHC ended in 2018 and for Pb-Pb collisions factor of about 10 increase in statistics was taken
- Run 3 & Run 4 of LHC will deliver much more statistics (50 kHz Pb-Pb collision rate)
- Upgraded ALICE detector will be able to cope with the high luminosity
- TPC Upgrade: GEMs for continous readout
- ITS Upgrade: less material budget and more precise tracking for the identification of hyper-nuclei
- Physics which is now done for A = 2 and A = 3 (hyper-)nuclei will be done for A = 4







**Expectations** 





Expected significance >5 $\sigma$  for the full data set to be collected in Run 3 & 4







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### Feeddown for nuclei



• Excited nuclei contribute only little to yield at the LHC, but strongly to baryon dominated region



### Database



### https://hypernuclei.kph.uni-mainz.de









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#### How to understand the source volume



#### Parallel by T. Reichert, Tue



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ALI-PREL-486366





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ALI-PREL-486370





### Highlight: Anti-<sup>4</sup><sub>Λ</sub>H



Plenary by B. Trzeciak, Mon Parallel by J. Wu, Wed STAR has 16**⊢ 4H STAR preliminary** discovered the S: 17.0±4.7 B: 5.0±0.3 14 S/\S+B: 3.6 third anti-12 Au+Au 200 GeV U+U 193 GeV Counts equiv. Gauss N : 5.5 Ru+Ru 200 GeV Zr+Zr 200 GeV particle and the second antihypernucleus 3.94 3.96 3.9 3.92 3.98  $Z_{\rm A} = \left| 2 \left( (s+b) \ln \left| \frac{(s+b)(b+\sigma_b^2)}{b^2 + (s+b)\sigma_b^2} \right| - \frac{b^2}{\sigma_b^2} \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{\sigma_b^2 s}{b(b+\sigma_b^2)} \right] \right) \right|^2$ = 6.6 $Z_{\rm A} = \sqrt{2\left((s+b)\ln\left(1+\frac{s}{b}\right) - s\right)}$ = 4.45





Thermal model



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Collaboration, arXiv:1710.07531 1, 1 (2018) 97 ALICE NPA







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