Newly completed JLab experiment (E12-17-003): Determine the unknown Λ*n* interaction by investigating the possible Λ*nn* resonance

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On behalf of the JLab Hypernuclear and Hall A collaborations

Publications

- "The cross-section measurement for the ^{3}H(*e, e'K*$^{+}$)*nn*Λ reaction", K. N. Suzuki, T. Gogami, B. Pandey, K. Itabashi, S. Nagao, K. Okuyama, *et al.*, Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. **2022** 013D01.
- "Spectroscopic study of a possible Λ*nn* resonance and a pair of Σ*NN* states using the (*e, e'K*$^{+}$) reaction with a tritium target", B. Pandey, L. Tang , T. Gogami, K. N. Suzuki, K. Itabashi, S. Nagao, *et al.*, Phys Rev. C **105**, L051001 (2022).

INTRODUCTION

- Experimental data from study of hypernuclei have so far made significant contributions in acquiring indirect or supplemental information on the *ΛN* interact.
- However, the standing puzzles, *such as Charge-Symmetry-Breaking* (CSB) urges us to obtain more direct ***ΛN*** interaction data.
- *Λp* scattering data does exists but limited. *Λn* data: **NONE!**
  Λn interaction has been treated the same as *Λp* interaction.
- Suggested by the HypHI result, the possible neutral *Λnn* system (if it exists) may be unique to determine the unknown *Λn* interaction experimentally. This was the motivation of the JLab experiment E12-17-003.

* Iraj R. Afnan and Benjamin F. Gibson, Phys. Rev. C 92, 054608 (2015)

THE JLAB EXPERIMENT E12-17-003

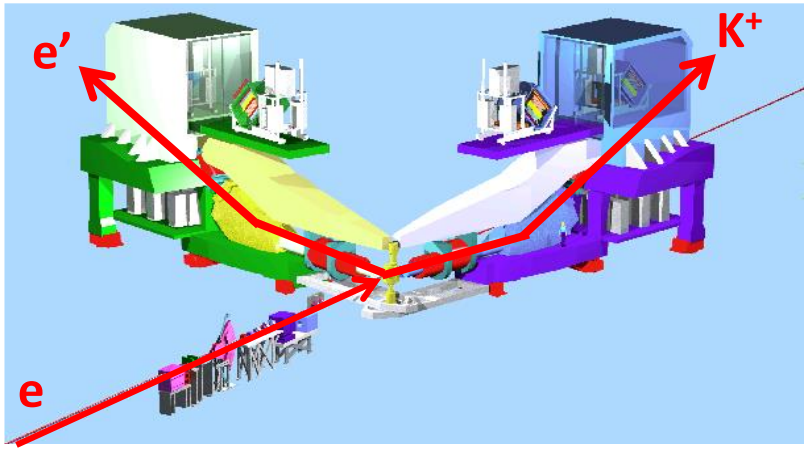
Advantages and Opportunity

- Production: $^3H(e, e'K^+)(\Lambda nn)$ reaction. It is the best for searching the Λnn state by precision mass spectroscopy.
- Tritium target already exists in JLab Hall A for four other approved experiments, providing a unique opportunity.

Disadvantages and Unfortunates

- The existing standard HRS-HRS configuration was not optimized for the $(e,e'K^+)$ reaction, $-Q^2 \approx 0.5$ (GeV/c)^2 and $q_\Lambda \geq 400$ MeV/c.
- No knowledge of the photo-production cross section available and the available beam time was limited.
- Available detector system has only limited power to reject the background π^+ and p.

EXPERIMENT E12-17-003 IN HALL A



HRS path-length: 26 meters

L-HRS: Scattered electrons (e')

R-HRS: Reaction kaons (K^+)

Beam Energy: 4.319 GeV

Cylindrical gas target: 25 cm

Data were collected with two different kinematic conditions:

H Kinematics: H target

P_K = 1.8231 GeV/c @13.2°

$P_{e'}$ = 2.1000 GeV/c @13.2°

Producing both **Λ** and **Σ^0** for kinematics calibration

T Kinematics: T and H targets

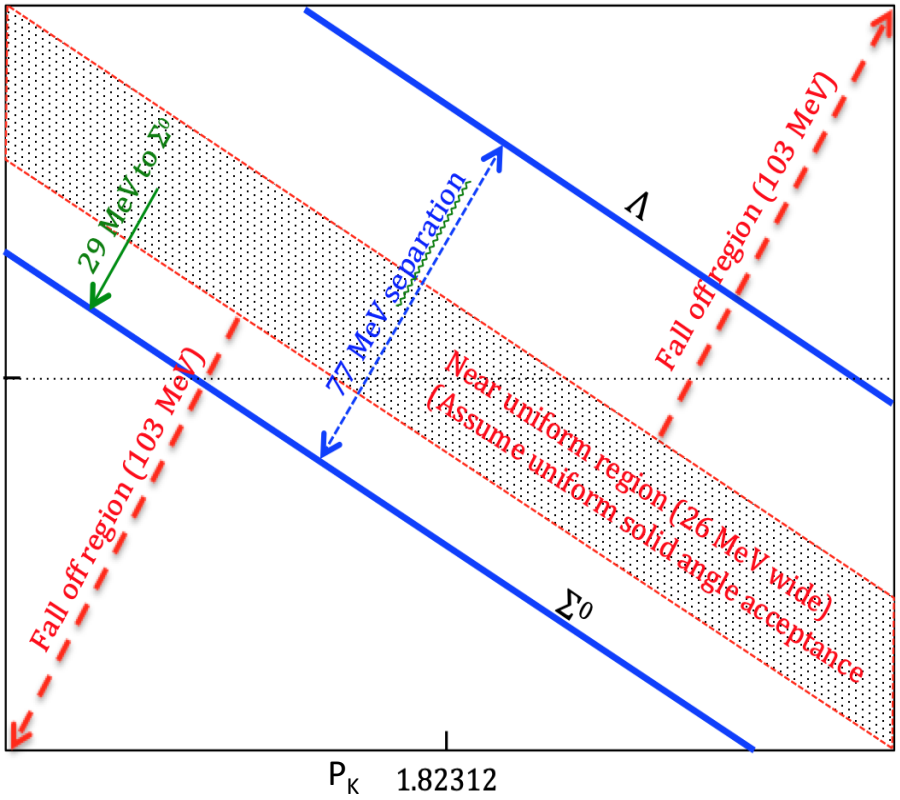
P_K = 1.8231 GeV/c @13.2°

$P_{e'}$ = 2.2180 GeV/c @13.2°

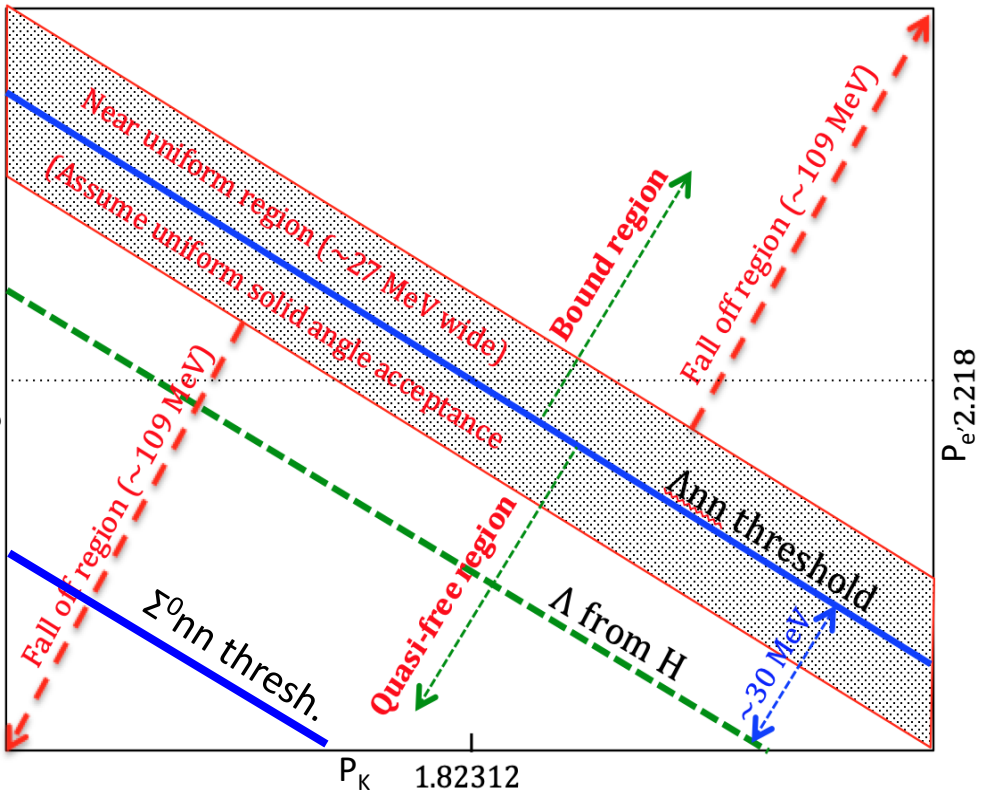
Obtain the ***Λnn*** mass spectroscopy from T_2 and reference **Λ** from H_2 targets

DIFFERENCE OF THE TWO KINEMATICS

H Kinematics

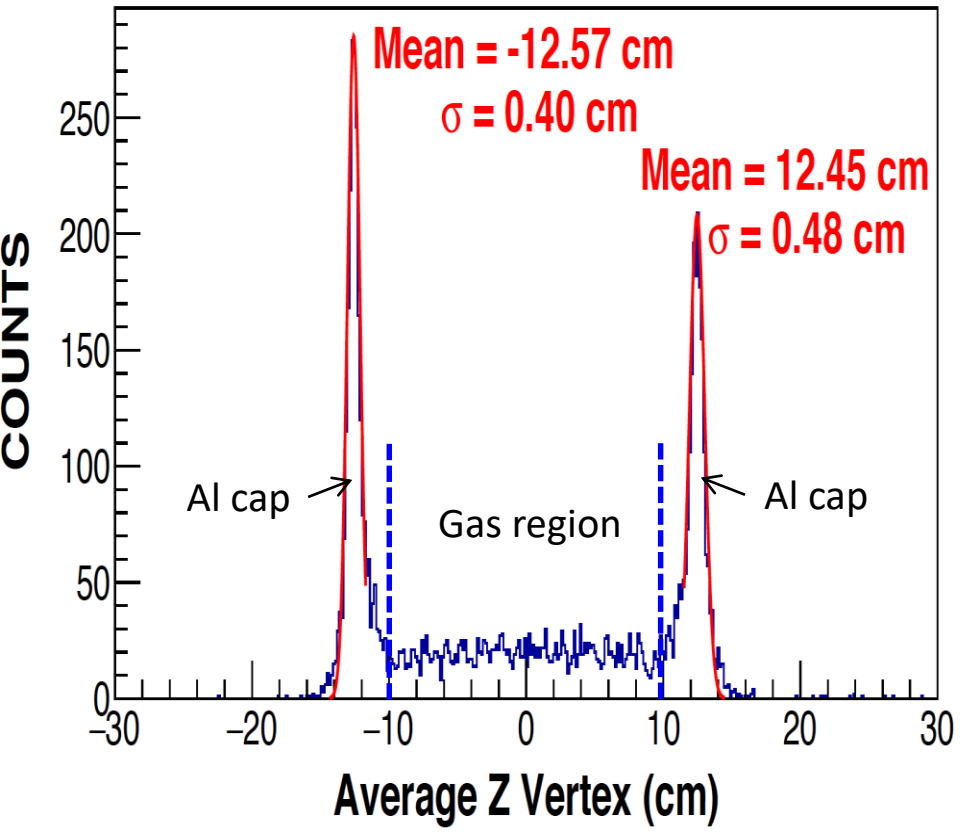


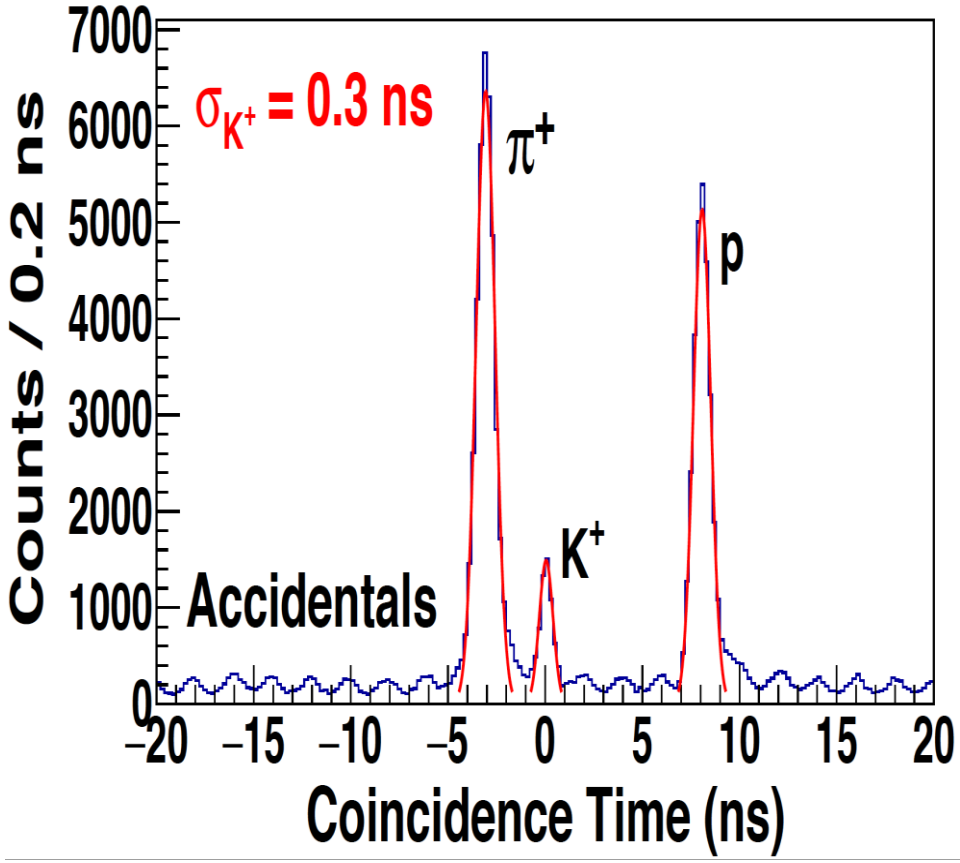
T Kinematics



Using the known masses of Λ and Σ^0 to ensure high precision on the absolute missing mass scale (systematic uncertainty of the binding energy of the Λ*nn* resonance)

ANALYSIS RESULTS – *Z-vertex & Coincidence time*



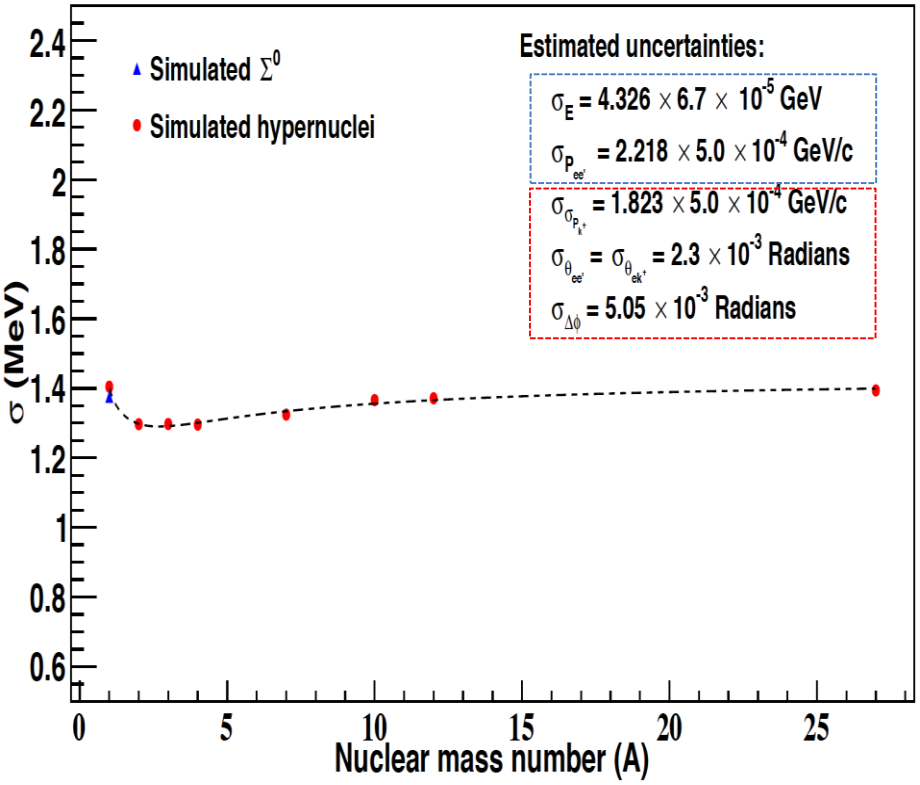


- ✓ 25 cm gas cell target
- ✓ Z-vertex resolution: $\sigma_z \approx 4.5$ mm
- ✓ ± 10 cm vertex cut

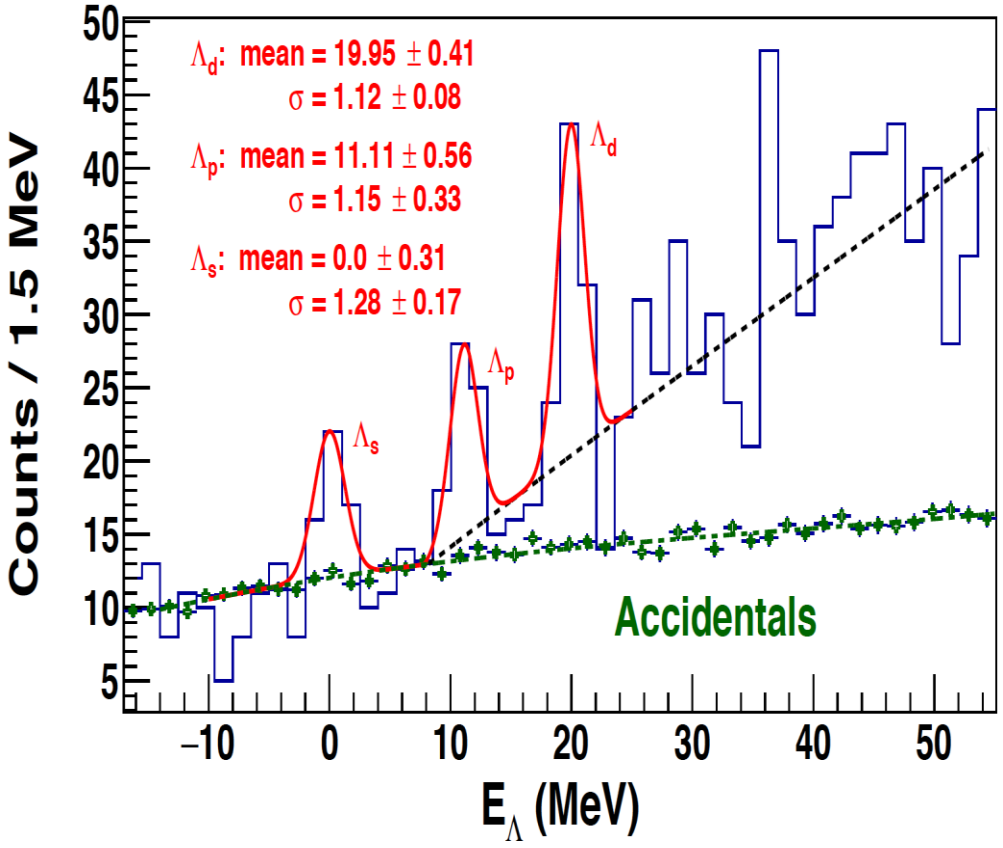
- ✓ Inefficiency of aerogel detectors
- ✓ Accidentals from π^+ and p.

ANALYSIS RESULTS – *Energy Cal. & Momentum Matrix Opt.*

Simulation for expected resolution



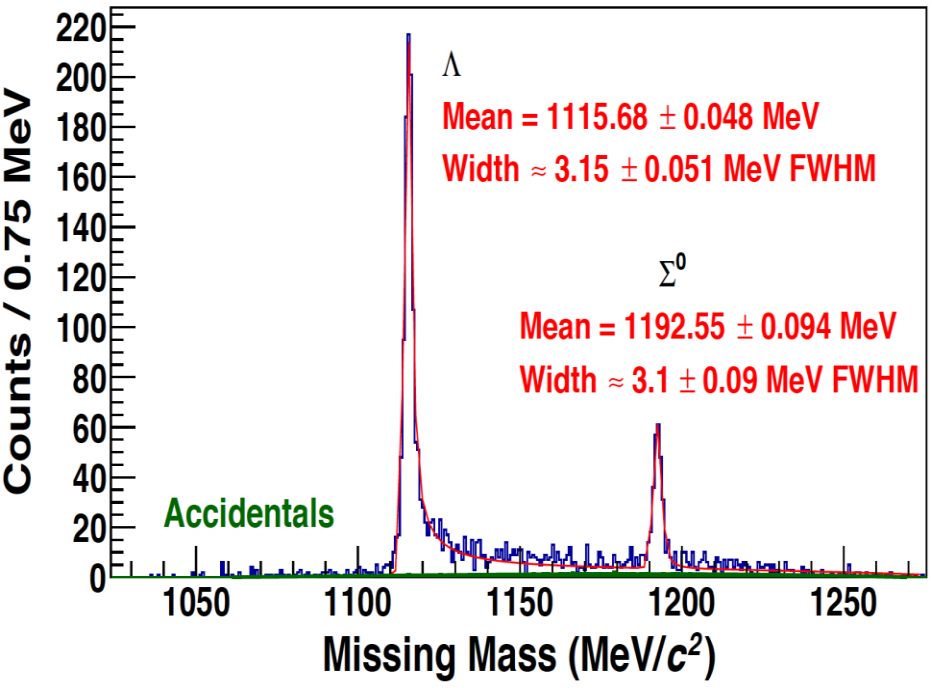
Matrix optimization involving $^{27}_{\Lambda}$Mg events



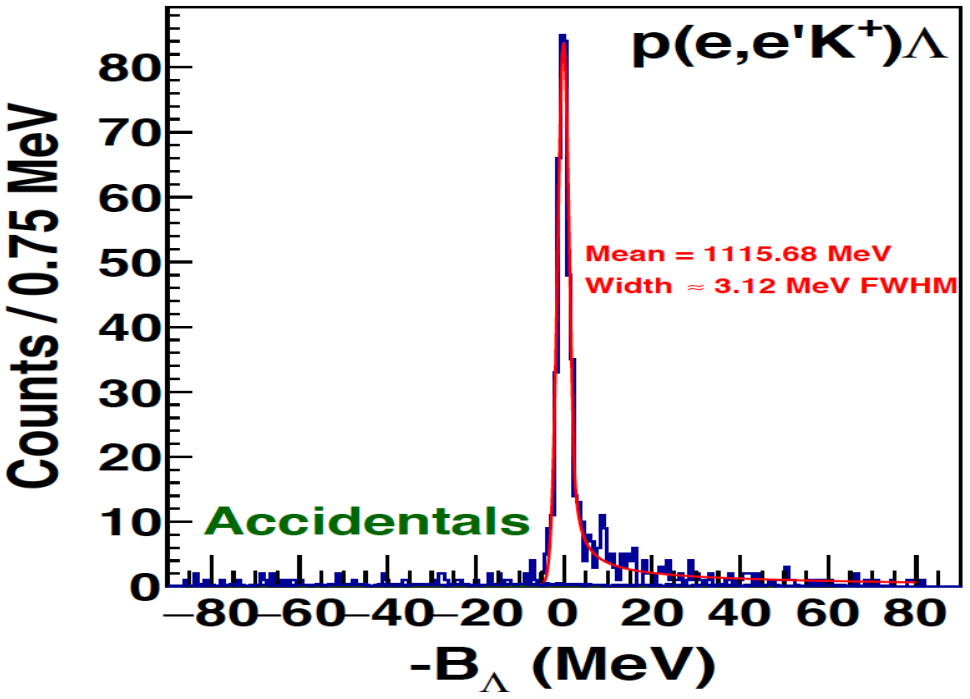
- Events from Λ and Σ^0 (H) and $^{27}_{\Lambda}$Mg (Al caps) for momentum matrix optimization
- Known mass of Λ and Σ^0 provides the absolute energy/ mass calibration
- Heavy $^{27}_{\Lambda}$Mg events improve the momentum matrix optimization

ANALYSIS RESULTS – Λ/Σ^0 Spectrum

H Kinematics



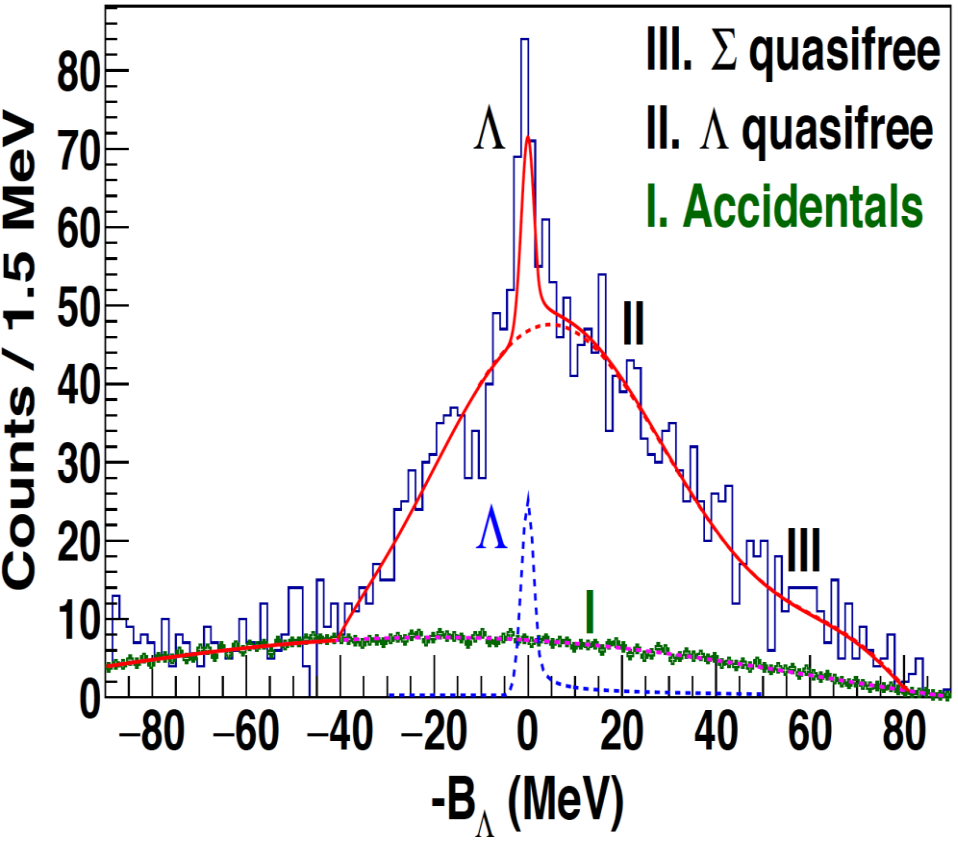
T Kinematics



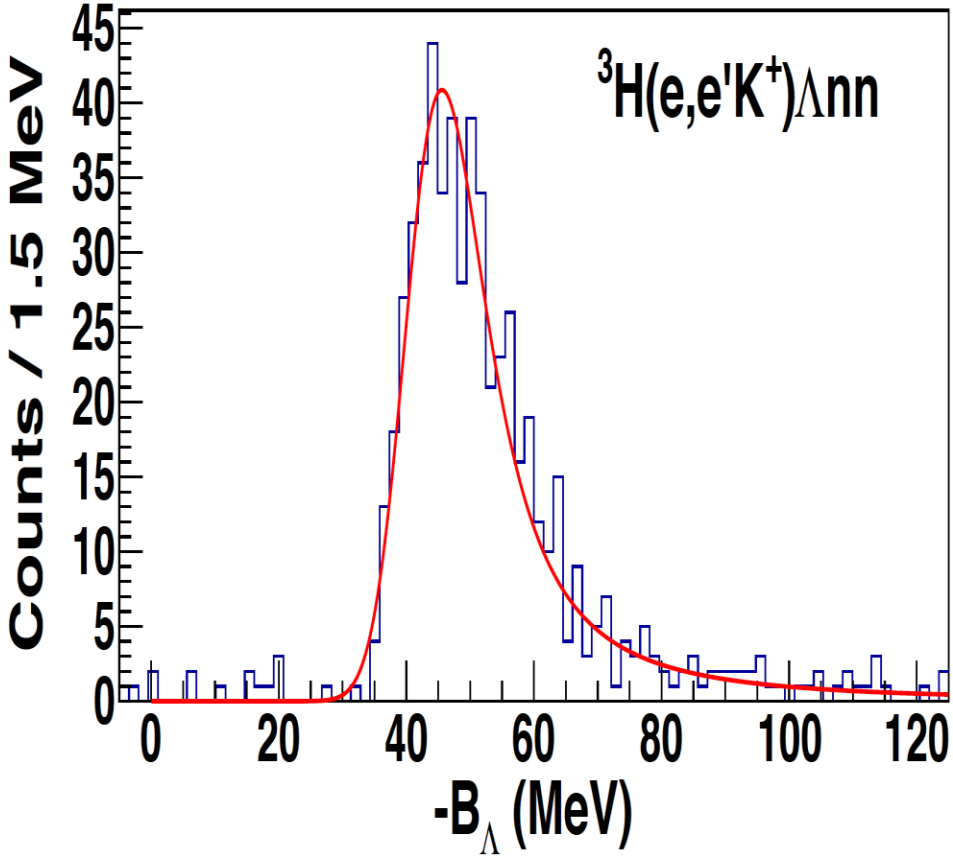
- Data collected under both H and T kinematic conditions
- Resolution reached to the optimum as the simulation indicated
- $\Delta M = 76.94$ MeV/c^2 (nominal: 76.96 MeV/c^2)

ANALYSIS RESULTS – *H Contamination in T*

T data analyzed assuming H target

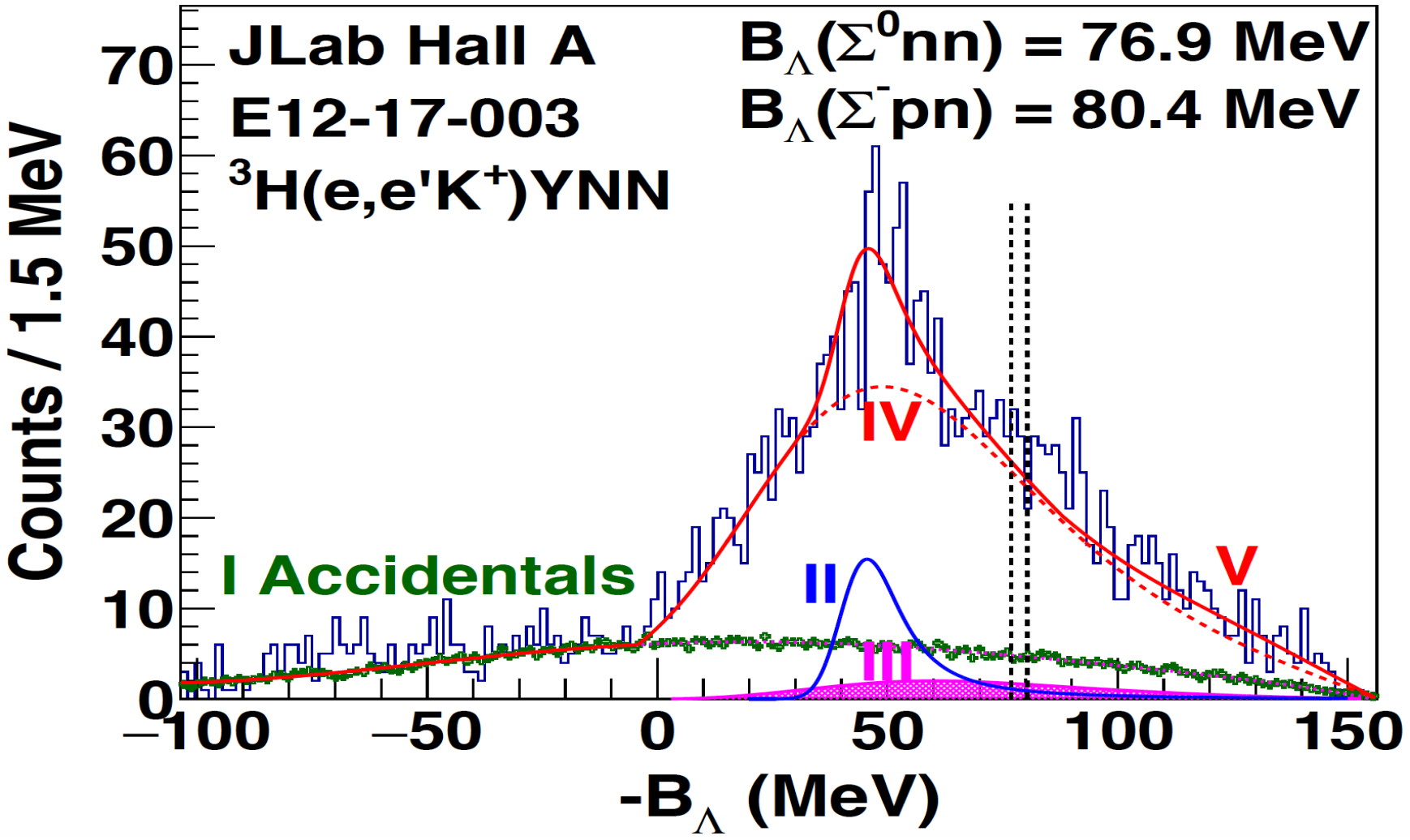


H data analyzed assuming T target



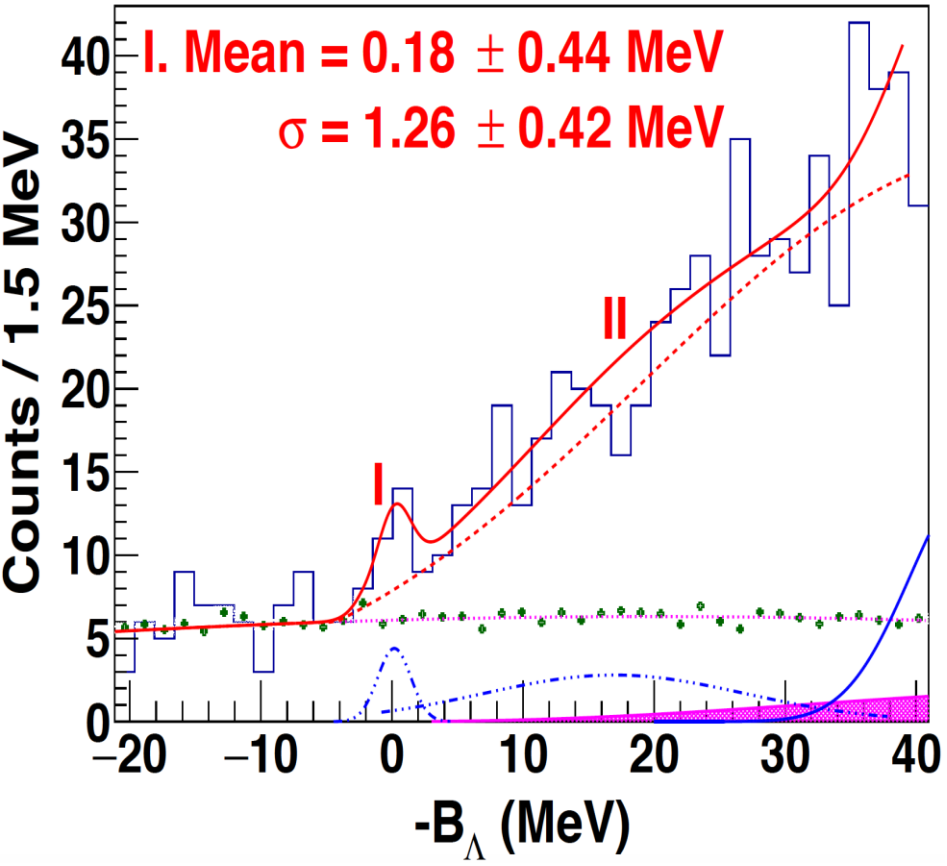
- T data analyzed with the H kinematics
- ~158 counts of free Λ, correspond to ≈ 3% H contamination
- Expect a free Λ peak in the Λ*nn* spectrum with large width

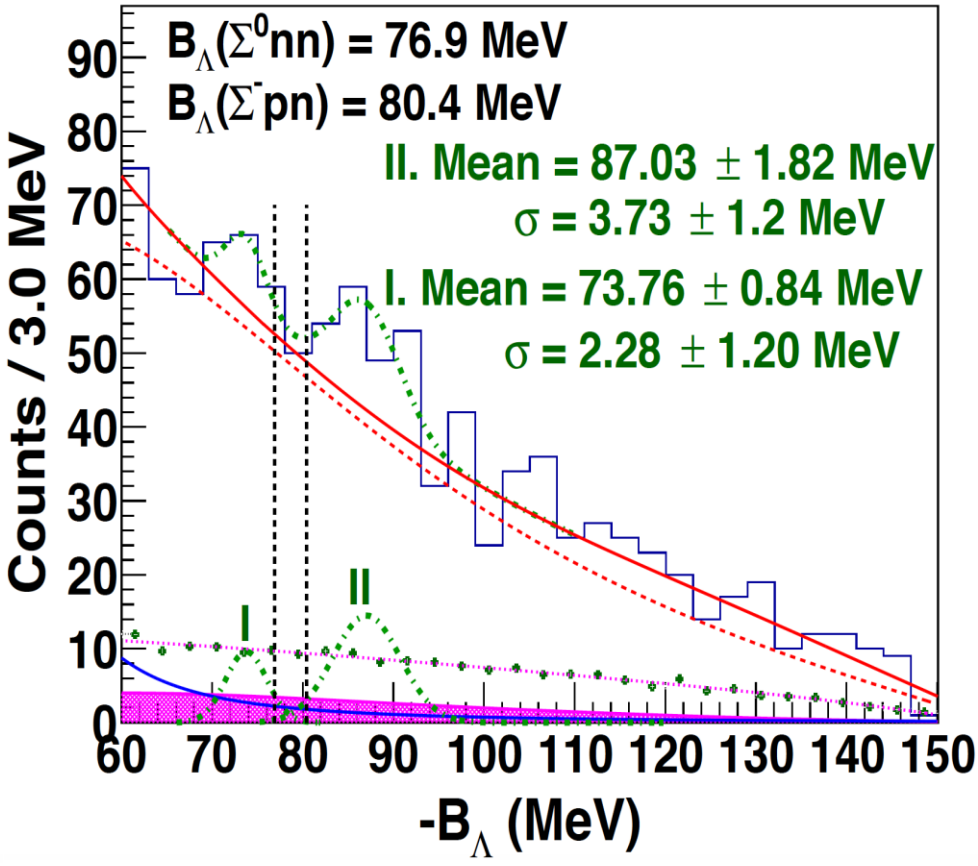
ANALYSIS RESULTS – Λ*nn* Spectrum



Although no definite identifications could be made, enhancements at both the Λnn and ΣNN thresholds are highly interesting

ANALYSIS RESULTS – Possible *YNN* Resonances



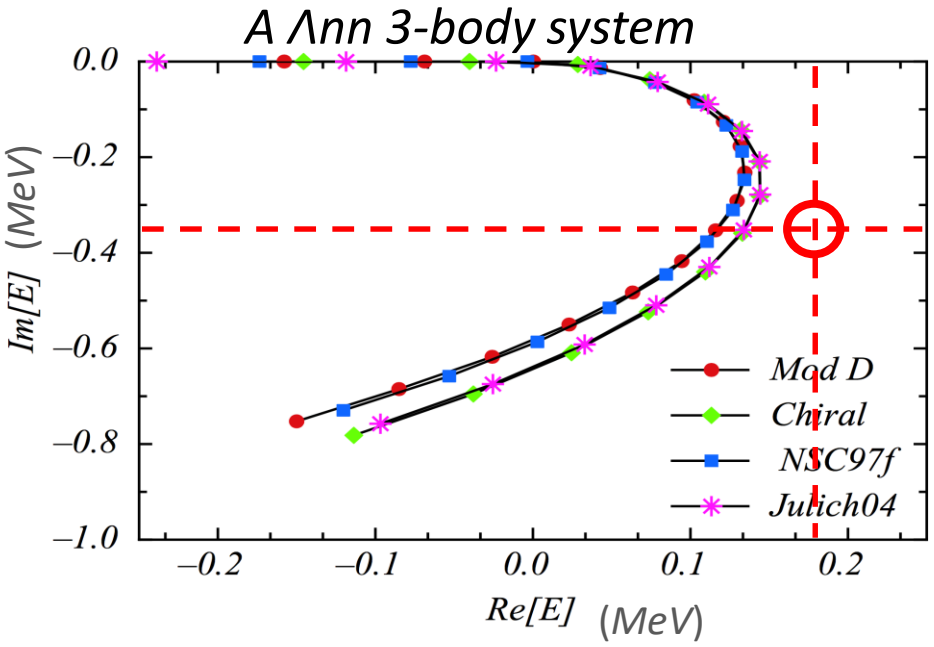


- Possible *Λnn* resonance:
  $-B_{\Lambda}$ = 0.18 ± 0.44 (*stat*) ± 0.4 (*sys*)
  $\Gamma/2$ = 0.35 ± 0.42 (*stat*) ± 0.5 (*sys*)
- Significance: ~2.2. If real, cross section ≈ 10 nb/sr)

- Possible bound Σ^0*nn* state (1st):
  $-B_{\Sigma 0nn}$ = -3.14 ± 0.84 (*stat*) ± 0.4 (*sys*)
- 2nd peak is about 13 MeV away
- Cross sections (1st/2nd) ≈ 20/45 nb/sr

SUMMARY

- *E12-17-003 has proven the uniqueness of using the (e,e'K⁺) reaction at JLab.*
- *The experiment had possible observation of the Λnn resonance and a bound (A = 3) ΣNN state.*
- *Obtained statistics is too low to allow a definitive identification, information is not precise enough to determine the Λn and Λ-Σ interactions.*



- *The new proposal was conditionally approved.*