

# Exotic Hadron Spectroscopy with Photon and Hadron Beams

## Searching for multiquark and glueball states

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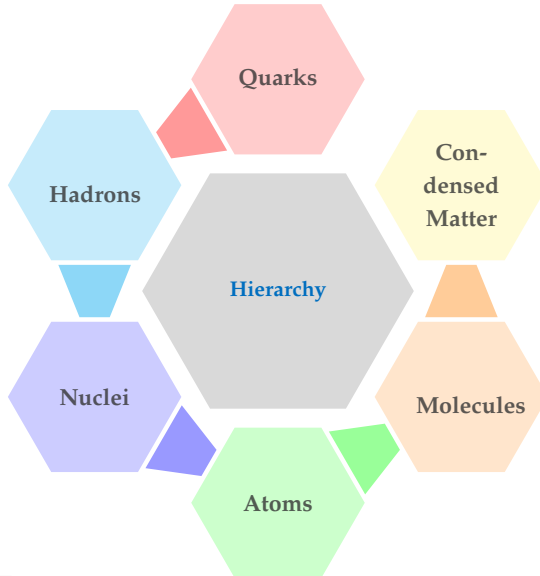


- **Multiquarks** and **Molecular States** (involving Light Quarks)
- **Pentaquarks**
- **Dibaryons**
- **Glueballs**

# MULTIQUARKS AND MOLECULAR STATES

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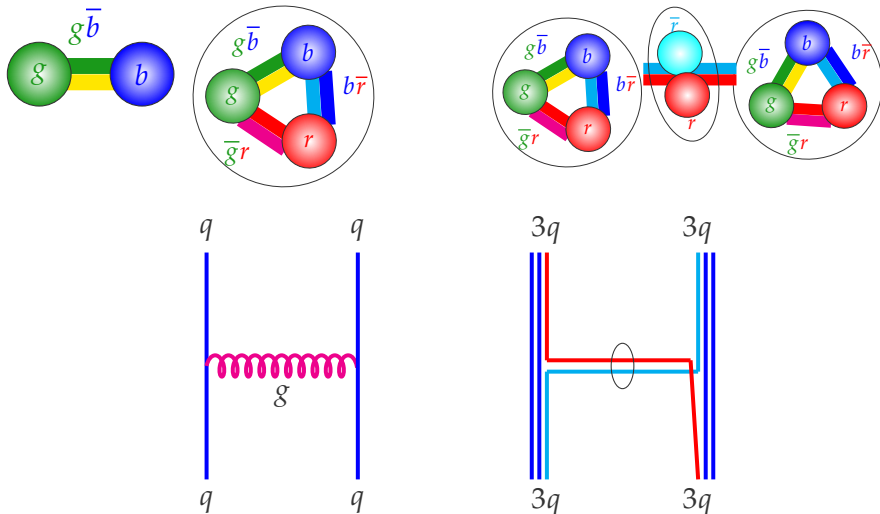
# The (Clustered) Structure of Matter





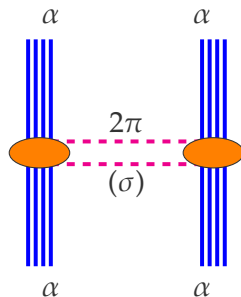
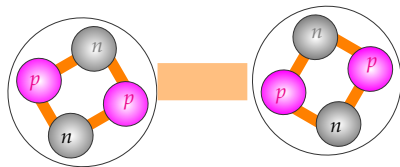
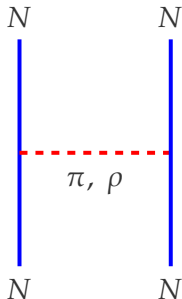
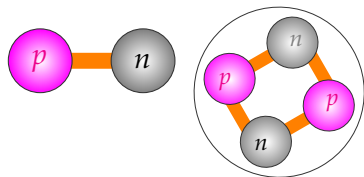
# Quarks and Hadrons

- Color force saturation binds quarks as a form of colorless hadrons.

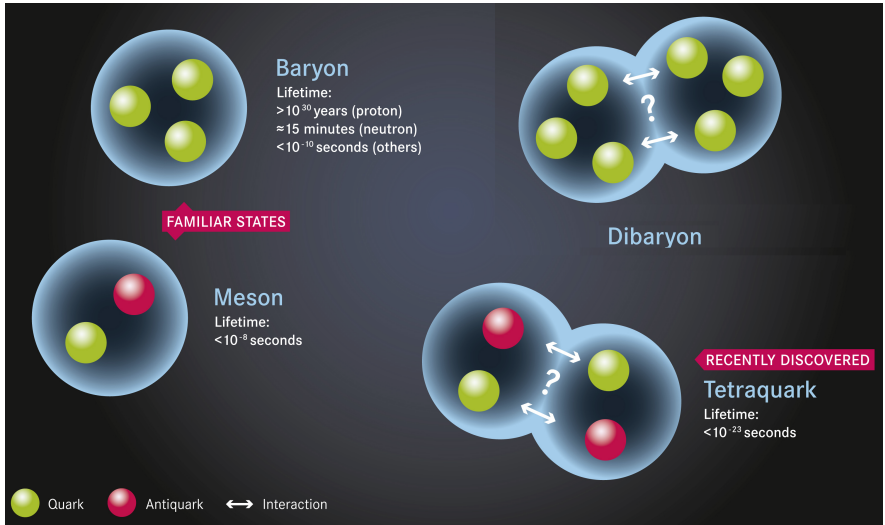


# Nucleons and $\alpha$ Cluster

- Spin-Isospin force saturation binds nucleons as a form of scalar  $\alpha$  clusters.

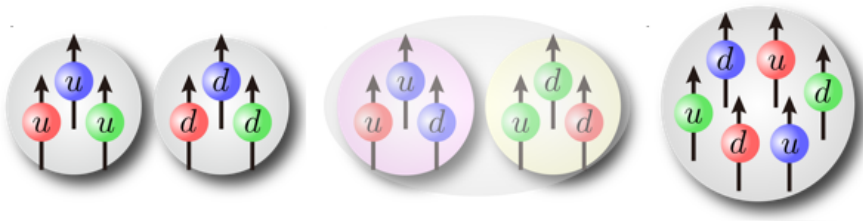


# Quark Bound States



# Dibaryon and Hexaquark States

- Bound state (**color singlet**) with two  $\Delta$  baryons
- Bound state (**color singlet**) with two color octet baryons (each individual cluster cannot exist)
- Bound state (**color singlet**) with six independent quarks



# Baryons in the Quark Model

- If we combine the spin and the flavor degrees of freedom to an  $SU(6)$  spin-flavor symmetry, each quark can be in one of the six different states:  $u \uparrow, u \downarrow, d \uparrow, d \downarrow, s \uparrow, s \downarrow$ .

- For baryons, one can make the following direct product:

$$\boxed{6} \otimes \boxed{6} \otimes \boxed{6} = \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{56} \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{70} \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{70} \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{20},$$

- It is possible to decompose the multiplets into their  $SU(2) \otimes SU(3)$  content.

$$\boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{56} = \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^2 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^8 \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^4 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{10}$$

$$\boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{70} = \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^2 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^1 \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^2 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{10} \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^2 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^8 \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^4 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^8$$

$$\boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{20} = \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^2 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^8 \oplus \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^4 \otimes \boxed{\begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}}^{10}$$



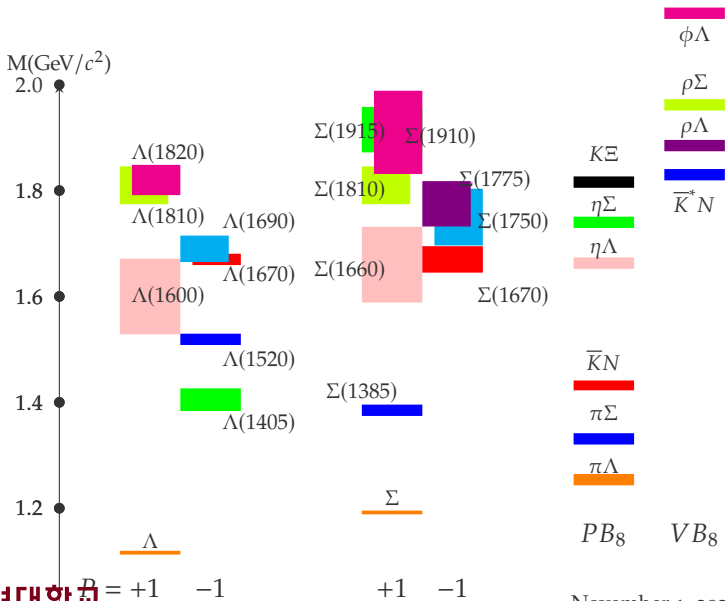
# Low-lying Hyperons in the Quark Model

| $J^P$   | $(D, L_N^P)$            | Octets                 |                       |             | Singlet         |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| $1/2^+$ | ( <b>56</b> , $0_0^+$ ) | $\Lambda(1116)$        | $\Sigma(1193)$        | $\Xi(1318)$ |                 |
| $1/2^+$ | ( <b>56</b> , $0_2^+$ ) | $\Lambda(1600)^{***}$  | $\Sigma(1660)^{***}$  | $\Xi(?)$    |                 |
| $1/2^-$ | ( <b>70</b> , $1_1^-$ ) | $\Lambda(1670)^{****}$ | $\Sigma(1620)^*$      | $\Xi(1690)$ | $\Lambda(1405)$ |
| $3/2^-$ | ( <b>70</b> , $1_1^-$ ) | $\Lambda(1690)^{****}$ | $\Sigma(1670)^{****}$ | $\Xi(1820)$ | $\Lambda(1520)$ |

| $J^P$   | $(D, L_N^P)$            | Decuplets      |             |                |
|---------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| $3/2^+$ | ( <b>56</b> , $0_0^+$ ) | $\Sigma(1385)$ | $\Xi(1530)$ | $\Omega(1672)$ |



# $\Lambda^*$ and $\Sigma^*$ Resonances



# Toward Drip Line of Multiquark States

## Multiquark States

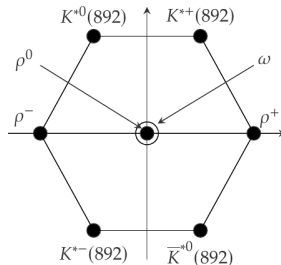
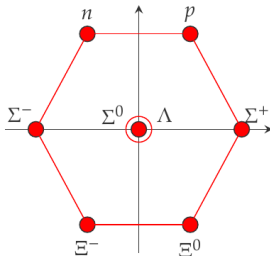
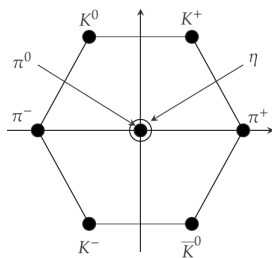
- An **exotic hadron** is a state that cannot be classified in terms of standard  $qqq$  or  $q\bar{q}$  configurations according to  $SU_f(3)$  irreducible representations: **multiquark states** ( $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$ ,  $qqqq\bar{q}$ ,  $6q$ , and so on).
- The existence of multiquark hadrons is now firmly established **in the meson sector**: **tetraquark states** such as XYZ states.
- Recently, the LHCb collaboration claims on the observation of **three hidden-charm pentaquark  $P_c$  states**.
- The observation of such many multiquark candidates poses **a question on the dripline of further multiquark states: hexaquark state**.



# PENTAQUARKS

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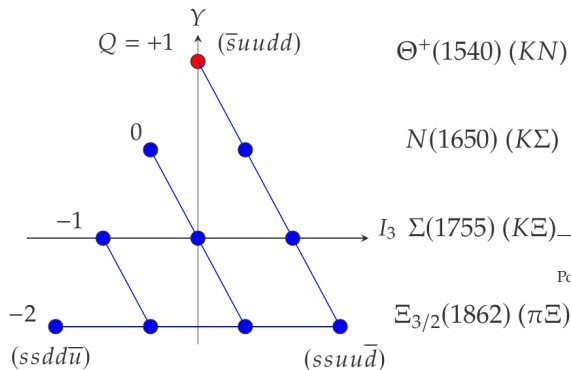
# Pentaquark States in $SU(3)_f$ Antidecuplets



- For meson octet and baryon octet members, one can make the  $SU(3)_f$  pentaquark multiplets:

$$8 \otimes 8 = 1 \oplus 8_S \oplus 8_A \oplus 10 \oplus \overline{10} \oplus 27$$

# Pentaquark States in $SU(3)_f$ Antidecuplets



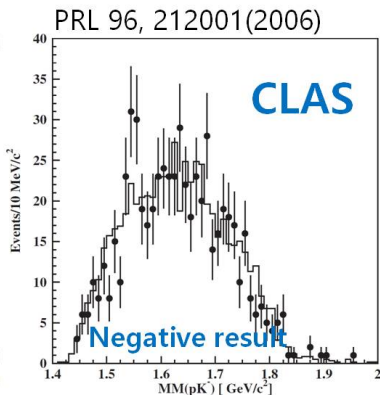
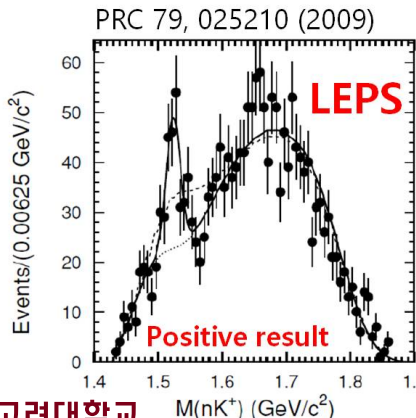
- In the chiral quark soliton model <sup>a</sup>, the  $\Theta^+$  is a member of the  $\overline{10}$  multiplet.

<sup>a</sup>D. Diakonov, V. Petrov, and M.V. Polyakov, Z. Phys. A **359**, 305 (1997).

- The mass splitting between the members was predicted to be 180 MeV multiplied by their strangeness unit difference. This model prediction highlighted the low-mass and narrow width of the  $\Theta^+(1540)$  and its spin-parity of  $J^P = 1/2^+$  given as a rotating soliton.

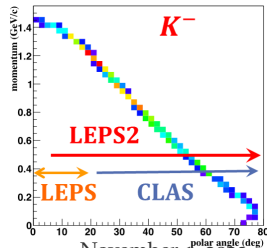
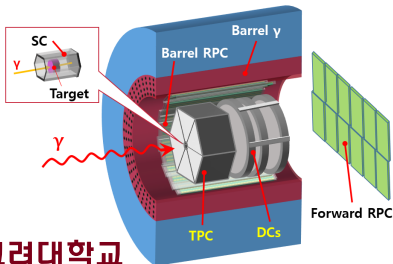
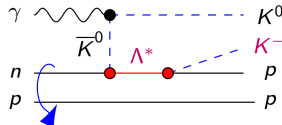
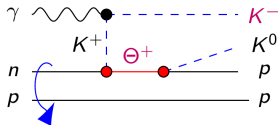
# $\Theta^+$ Searches

- The  $\Theta^+(uudd\bar{s})$  has been once firmly established by many experiments.
  - A high-statistics photoproduction JLab experiment found no evidence of the  $\Theta^+$  and other higher-statistics results have done likewise.
- Irrefutable evidence?



# $\Theta^+$ Search at LEPS2

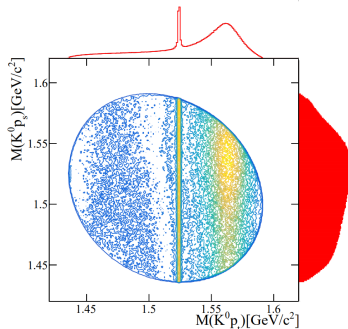
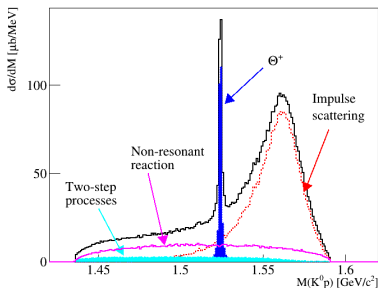
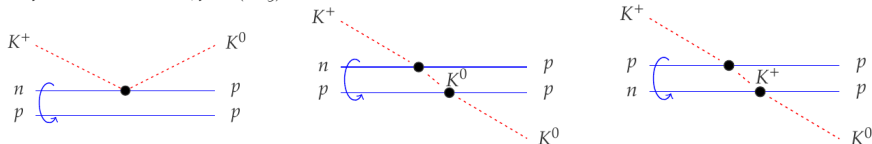
- LEPS2/SPring-8 looks for the  $\Theta^+$  via  $\gamma d \rightarrow K^- K^0 pp$  reaction, followed by  $\Theta^+ \rightarrow K^0 p$ ;  $K^0(K_S) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$ .
- All final state particles can be reconstructed using LEPS2 detector, which facilitate a wider angular coverage for  $K^-$  detection.



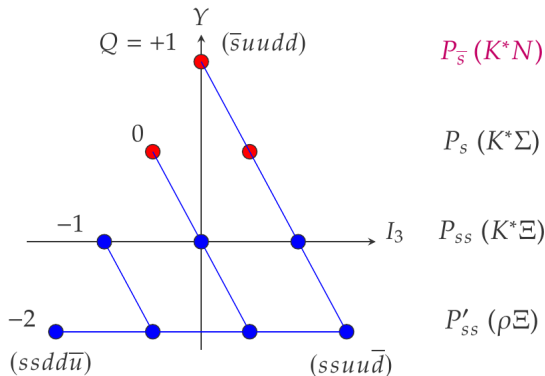
# $\Theta^+$ Formation in $K^+d \rightarrow K^0pp$ Reactions

- Direct  $\Theta^+$  formation in the  $K^+d \rightarrow K^0pp$  reaction at 0.5 GeV/c <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>J.K. Ahn and S.H. Kim, JKPS (2023).



# Pentaquark States in $SU(3)_f$ Antidecuplets

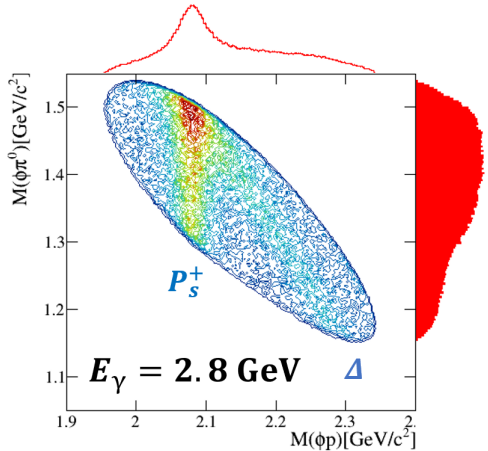


- Exotic  $N^*$  states ( $P_s$ ) can sit in the isospin doublet places in the new  $\overline{10}$  multiplet.
- If we assume a similar mass splitting between  $P_{\bar{s}}$  and  $P_s$  states,  $P_{\bar{s}}$  has a mass of  $1.91 \text{ GeV}^a$ , which can be searched for in photoproduction.

<sup>a</sup> G.S. Yang and S.-i. Nam in progress

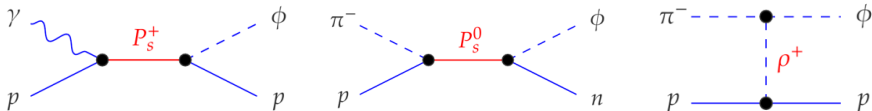
# $P_s$ Search via $\gamma p \rightarrow \phi \pi^0 p / \phi \pi^+ n$ with LEPS2

- Photoproduction of  $P_s$  with pion involves  $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 p$  ( $P_s^+$ ) and  $\gamma p \rightarrow \phi \pi^+ n$  ( $P_s^0$ ) reactions.
- A simple event generator simulates  $K^+ K^- p \pi^0$  and  $K^+ K^- n \pi^+$  reactions involving  $\phi$ ,  $\Delta$ ,  $K^*$ , and  $P_s$  resonances.
- Exotic meson  $\rho(1570)$   $J^{PC} = 1^{--}$ , earlier referred to as C(1480), could contribute to the  $\gamma p \rightarrow \phi \pi N$  reactions (not included in the present simulation).

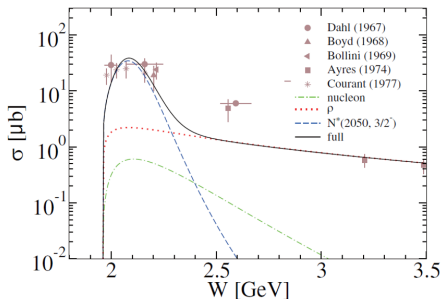




# $P_s$ Search via Pion-induced Reactions

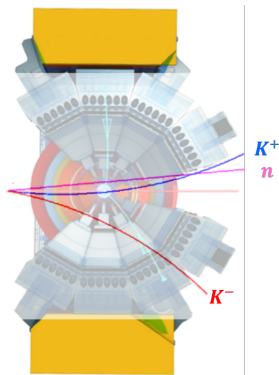
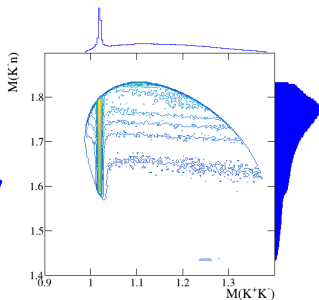
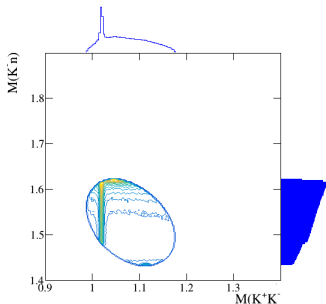


- While  $t$ -channel dominates in  $\gamma p \rightarrow \phi p$ ,  $s$  channel dominates in  $\pi^- p \rightarrow \phi n$ .
- The  $\pi^- p$  reaction probes a  $P_s^0$ , an  $I$ -doublet member with  $P_s^+$ .
- Theoretical calculation supports an  $s$ -channel dominance below 2.2 GeV/c (Sangho Kim).



# $\pi^- p \rightarrow \phi n$ at J-PARC

- Only  $\phi$  and  $\Sigma(1775)$  are included in  $\pi^- p \rightarrow K^+ K^- n$  reaction.
- J-PARC P95 detector will detect two charged kaons and reconstruct a neutron by a missing-mass technique.



## DIBARYONS

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# The Most Promising Candidate in the Strange Sector

## H-dibaryon

- : The H-Dibaryon ( $J = 0, I = 0$ ) is a stable  $SU(3)_f$  singlet hexaquark state consisting of  $uuddss$  quarks due to QCD color magnetic force.
- H is named after Hexa-quark states.

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### Perhaps a Stable Dihyperon\*

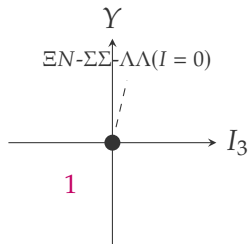
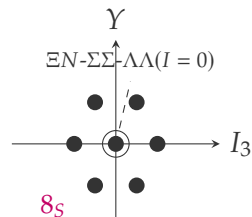
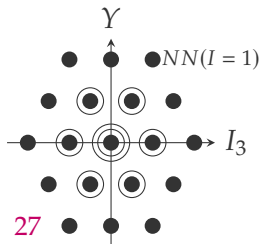
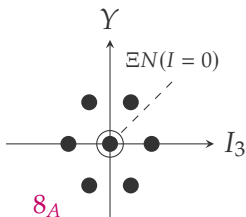
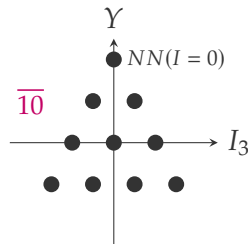
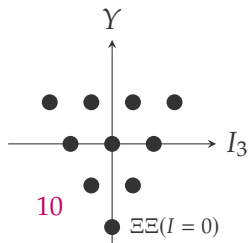
R. L. Jaffe†

*Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, and Department of Physics and Laboratory of Nuclear Science, ‡ Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139*

(Received 1 November 1976)

In the quark bag model, the same gluon-exchange forces which make the proton lighter than the  $\Delta(1236)$  bind six quarks to form a stable, flavor-singlet (with strangeness of  $-2$ )  $J^P = 0^+$  dihyperon ( $H$ ) at 2150 MeV. Another isosinglet dihyperon ( $H^*$ ) with  $J^P = 1^+$  at 2335 MeV should appear as a bump in  $\Lambda\Lambda$  invariant-mass plots. Production and decay systematics of the  $H$  are discussed.

# Dibaryon Multiplets in $SU(3)_f$



# The History of H-Dibaryon Searches

- 1977 • Deeply-bound di-hyperon predicted by R. Jaffe
- 1980-2000 • No evidence for the deeply-bound  $H$  from KEK, BNL, and CERN experimental efforts by more than 80 MeV
- 2001 • Mass constraint from observation of  ${}_{\Lambda\Lambda}^6\text{He}$  (E373)
- 1998,2007 • Enhanced  $\Lambda\Lambda$  production near threshold was reported from E224 and E522 at KEK-PS.
- 2011 • LQCD calculations predict the H-dibaryon near  $m_{\Lambda\Lambda}$
- 2013-2015 • No evidence for  $H \rightarrow \Lambda p \pi^-$  and  $H \rightarrow \Lambda\Lambda$  in high-energy  $e^+e^-$ ,  $pp$  and AA experiments
- 2021 • LQCD calculations point to the mass the H-dibaryon very close to  $\Xi N$  threshold ( $m_\pi \approx 146$  MeV)
- 2021 • **J-PARC E42 has successfully completed with HypTPC.**
- 2024 • We are about to see what we would see in the E42 dataset.



# H-Dibaryon Search at J-PARC : E42

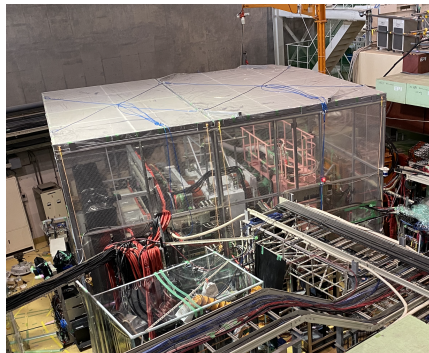
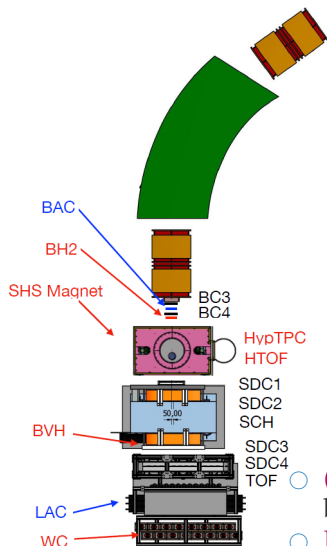
The existence of the H-dibaryon still awaits **definitive experimental confirmation** or exclusion.

- Weakly-bound :  $H \rightarrow \Lambda p \pi^-$
- Virtual state :  $\Lambda\Lambda$  or  $\Xi^- p$  threshold effect
- Resonance : Breit-Wigner peak in  $\Lambda\Lambda$  and  $\Xi^- p$  masses

## J-PARC-E42 experiment

1. in  $\Lambda p \pi^-$ ,  $\Lambda\Lambda$  and  $\Xi^- p$  channels
2. **by tagging the  $S = -2$  system production**
3. via  $(K^-, K^+)$  reactions **at 1.8 GeV/c** with a diamond target
4. with **Hyperon Spectrometer** : **1 MeV**  $\Lambda\Lambda$  mass resolution

# E42 Detector for the $H$ -Dibaryon Search

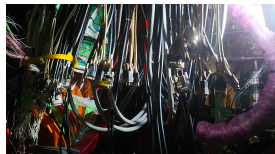
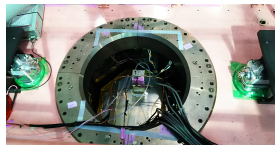
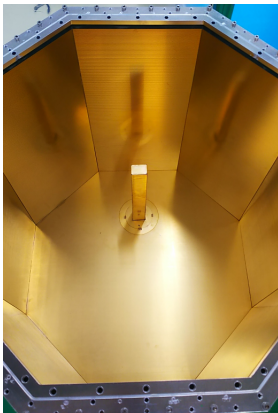
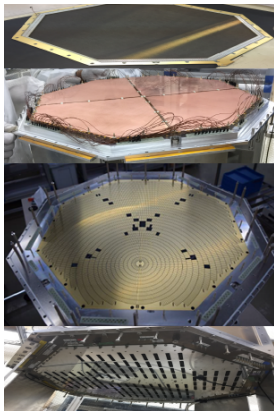


- ( $K^-, K^+$ ) reaction events are tagged by the K1.8 beam line and the KURAMA spectrometers.
- Decays of the  $S = -2$  system are reconstructed using the Superconducting Hyperon Spectrometer.

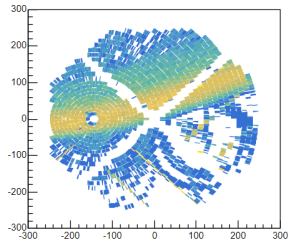




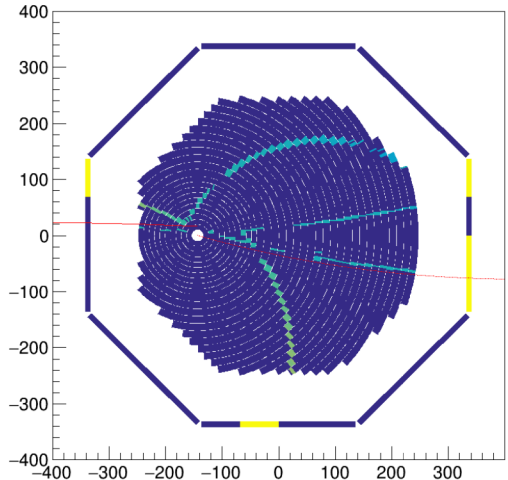
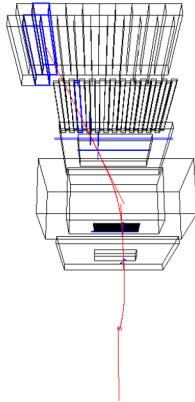
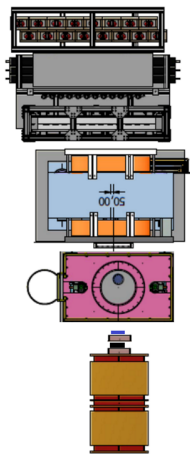
# Hyperon Time Projection Chamber (HypTPC)



- The HypTPC operation was relatively stable except two events stopping the E42 run shortly.
- Event display for  $0.4 \text{ GeV}/c \pi^+$  beam tracks accumulated in the calibration run.



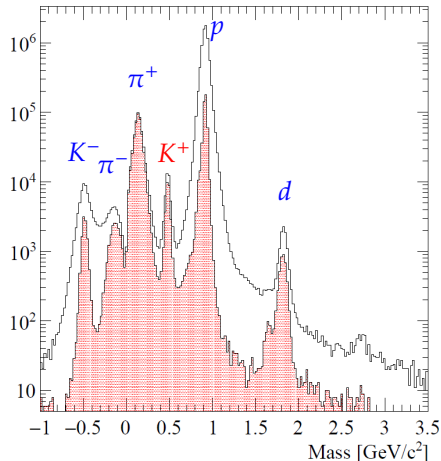
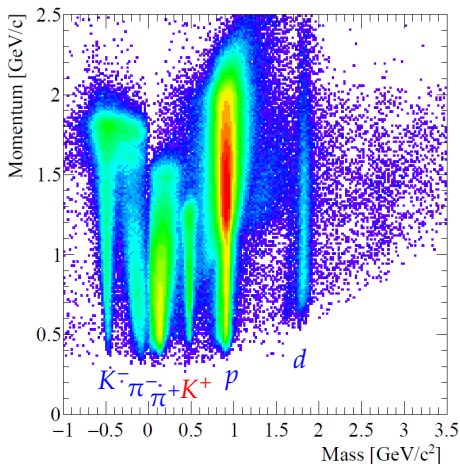
# $^{12}\text{C}(K^-, K^+)$ Reaction Event



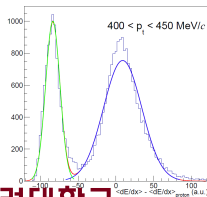
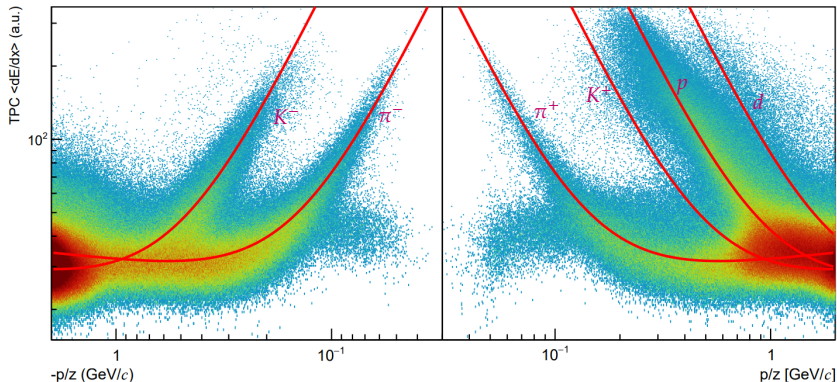
- Reconstructed  $K^-$  beam and outgoing  $K^+$  tracks share the vertex at the diamond target position.
- Two Vs are seen in the HypTPC and four decay particles hit the HTOF.

# Scattered Particles at Forward Angles

- We reconstructed the masses and momenta for scattered particles successfully with the forward  $K^+$  spectrometer.



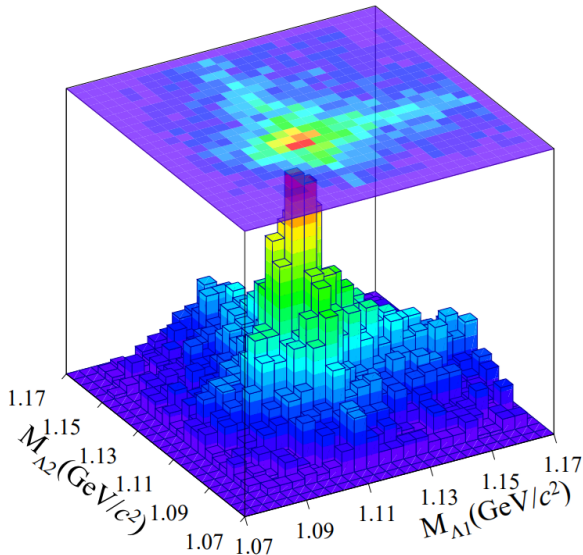
# Particle Identification with HypTPC



- $\langle dE/dx \rangle_{20\% \text{ truncated}}$  vs  $p/z$  for reconstructed HypTPC tracks in the diamond target dataset ( $C(K^-, K^+)X$  reactions).
- $\sigma_{dE/dx} / \langle dE/dx \rangle \sim 20\%$  for the range  $0.40 < p_T < 0.45$  GeV/c.



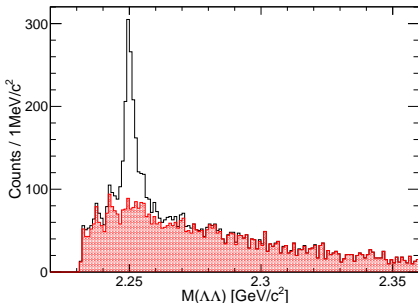
# $\Lambda\Lambda$ Production in the $(K^-, K^+)$ Reactions



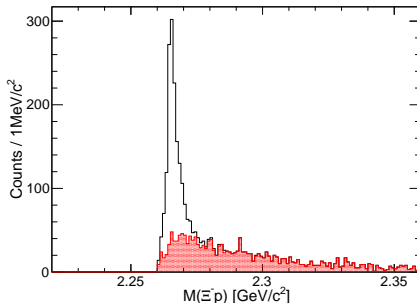
# Simulated $\Lambda\Lambda$ and $\Xi^-p$ Mass Spectra

- Simulated invariant-mass spectra for  $H(2250) \rightarrow \Lambda\Lambda$ <sup>a</sup> and  $H(2265) \rightarrow \Xi^-p$  decays.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Simulation on two-step processes is based on INC calculation by Y. Nara, A. Ohnishi, T. Harada and A. Engel, Nucl. Phys. A614 (1997) 433.

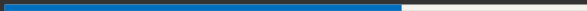


Simulated  $\Lambda\Lambda$  Spectrum for  $H(2250)$  assuming  $d\sigma/d\Omega = 1.0 \mu\text{b/sr}$ .



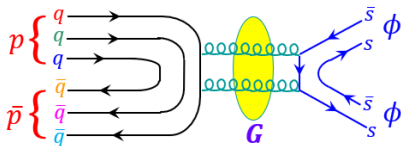
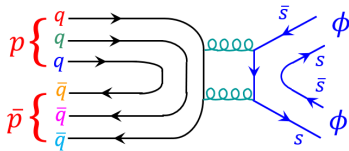
Simulated  $\Xi^-p$  Spectrum for  $H(2265)$  assuming  $d\sigma/d\Omega = 1.0 \mu\text{b/sr}$ .

GLUEBALLS



# $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$ Reaction

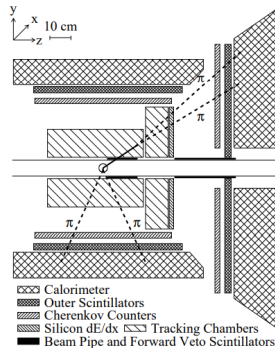
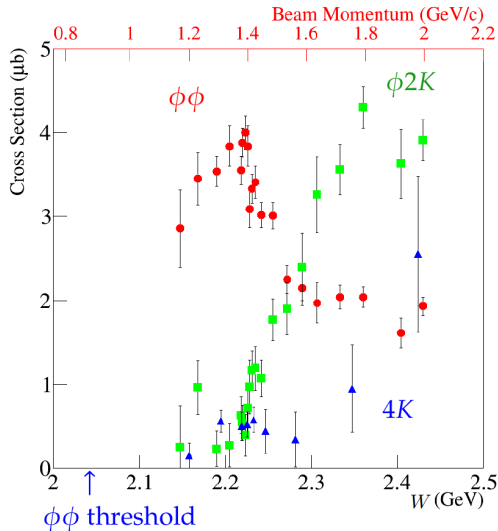
- The reaction  $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$  may proceed via **two gluon emission** from  $\bar{q}q$  annihilation.



- All three valence quarks in  $p$  annihilate with the corresponding three antiquarks in  $\bar{p}$  to produce **a purely gluonic state** from which  $\phi\phi$  is formed. This should be OZI-suppressed without an intermediate resonant gluonic state (**glueball**).



# $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$ (JETSET)



○ JETSET observed unexpectedly large magnitude for  $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$  cross section <sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup>JETSET, Il Nuovo Cimento 107, 2329 (1994); JETSET, Phys. Rev. D 57, 5370 (1998).

# Reaction Mechanisms for $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$

- A substantial OZI rule violation could be the signal of interesting new physics.
  1. Production of glueballs
  2. Coupling to **four quark states involving  $\bar{s}s$**  such as  $\phi(2170)/X(2239)^a$ .
  3. Non-strange quark component of the  $\phi$  meson, due to the actual mixing of the vector meson singlet and octet:<sup>b</sup>

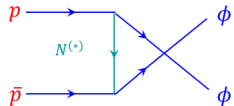
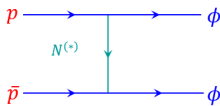
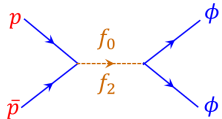
$$\sigma(\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi) = \tan^4 \delta \cdot \sigma(\bar{p}p \rightarrow \omega\omega) \approx 10 \text{ nb},$$

4. The presence of substantial  **$\bar{s}s$  content in  $\bar{p}p$**  wave functions,
5. Instanton induced interactions between quarks
6. Hadron production and its **rescattering** in which each individual transition is OZI-allowed,
7. **Baryon exchange in  $t$ - and  $u$ - channel diagrams.**

<sup>a</sup>H.-W. Ke and X.-Q. Li, Phys. Rev. D 99, 036014 (2019); Q.-F. Lü et al., Chinese Phys. C 44, 024101 (2020).

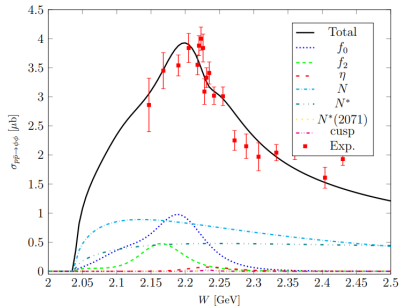
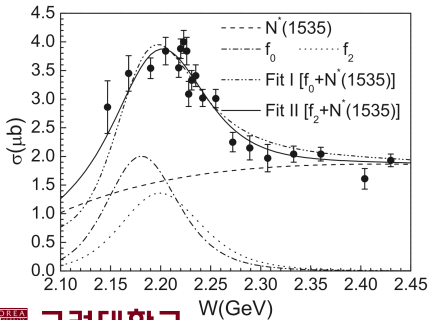
<sup>b</sup>The angle  $\delta (= \Theta_i - \Theta)$  denotes the difference between **the ideal mixing angle  $\Theta_i = 35.3^\circ$  ( $\sin \Theta_i = 1/\sqrt{3}$ )** and **the mixing** between  $(\phi, \omega)$  mesons and the SU(3) states  $(\omega_0, \omega_8)$ .

# $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$ Reaction



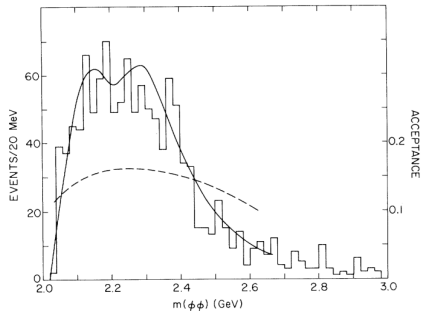
- Theoretical calculations describe the JETSET results **within an effective Lagrangian approach.** <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>J.-J. Xie, L.-S. Geng, X.-R. Chen, Phys. Rev. C 90, 048201 (2014); D.Y. Lee, J.K. Ahn, S.i. Nam, to be submitted in PRC.



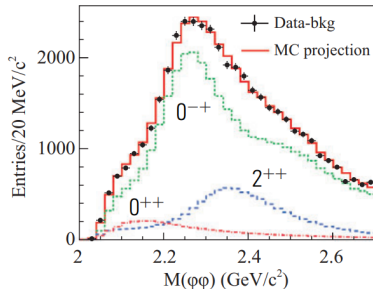
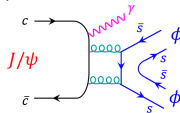
# $\pi^- p \rightarrow \phi\phi n$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \gamma\phi\phi$

- Based on 1203 events of the reaction  $\pi^- p \rightarrow \phi\phi n$  at 22 GeV/c, a BNL experiment reported an observation of two  $2^{++}$  mesons at 2160 and 2320 MeV.<sup>a</sup>



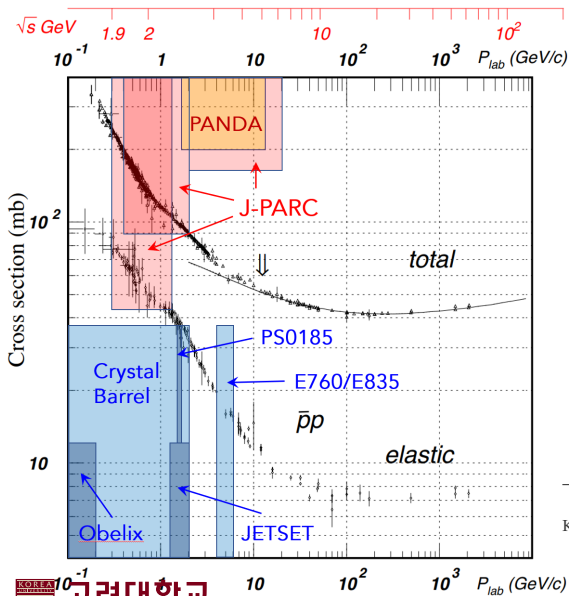
<sup>a</sup> A. Etkin *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 49, 1620 (1982).

- BESIII reported an observation of  $f_0(2100)$ ,  $f_2(2010)$ ,  $f_2(2300)$  and  $f_2(2340)$ .<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> BESIII, Phys. Rev D 93, 112011 (2016).

# $\bar{p}p$ Cross Sections and Experiments



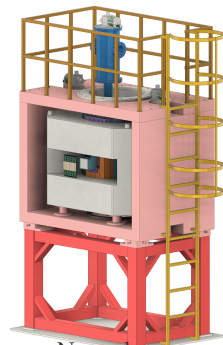
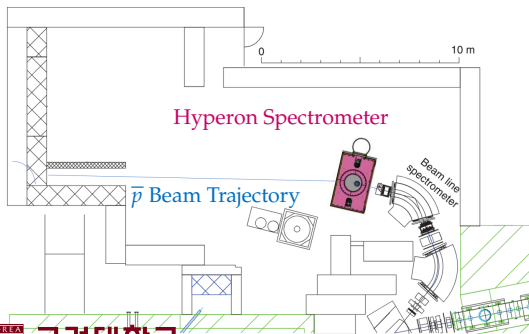
- **PANDA** awaits the construction of HESR, which could start in early 2030's.
- **J-PARC** provides antiproton beams from 0.3 GeV/c to 20 GeV/c.
- J-PARC K1.8BR beam line delivered  $2 \times 10^5 \bar{p}$  per spill (5.2 s) during the 50kW operation <sup>1</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> T. Hashimoto *et al.*, Beam measurement at K1.8BR, June 2023.

# K1.8BR Beamline and Hyperon Spectrometer

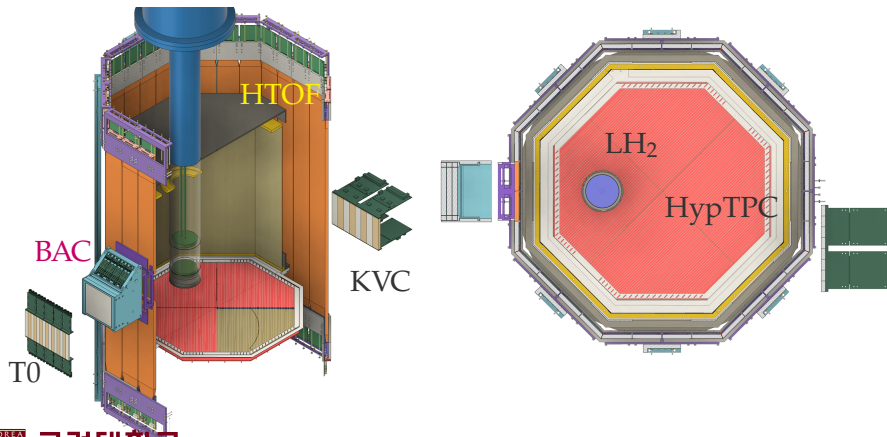
- The K1.8BR beamline delivered  $2 \times 10^5 \bar{p}$  per spill during the 5.2 s duration (40 kHz) in the 50 kW operation.<sup>a</sup>
- The  $\bar{p}$  beam intensity can be scaled to **64 kHz at 80 kW**.
- The background  $\pi^-$  beam intensity is roughly double that of the  $\bar{p}$  beam, resulting in a total beam intensity of 180 kHz or 720k/spill.

<sup>a</sup>T. Hashimoto *et al.*, Beam profile measurement at K1.8BR, June 2023.

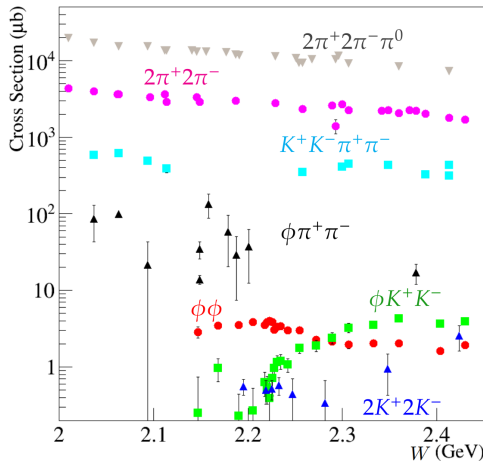


# HypTPC and Trigger Counters

- The **BAC** will reject unwanted beam particles such as  $\pi^-$  and  $\mu^-$ .
- The beam will enter the HypTPC and may interact with a proton within a liquid hydrogen target located inside the HypTPC.



# Background $\bar{p}p \rightarrow 4\text{-prong Reactions}$



| $\bar{p}p$ Reactions | $p_{\text{thre}}^{\text{lab}}$ (GeV/c) |
|----------------------|--|
| $2\pi^+2\pi^-\pi^0$  | 0                                      |
| $2\pi^+2\pi^-$       | 0                                      |
| $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-$   | 0                                      |
| $\phi\pi^+\pi^-$     | 0                                      |
| $2K^+2K^-$           | 0.662                                  |
| $\phi K^+K^-$        | 0.767                                  |
| $\phi\phi$           | 0.866                                  |
| $\bar{p}p\pi^+\pi^-$ | 1.219                                  |
| $\bar{p}p\phi$       | 3.403                                  |

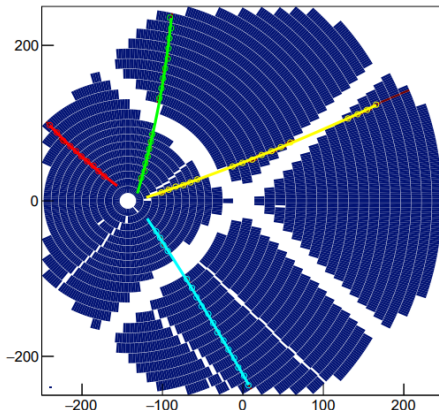
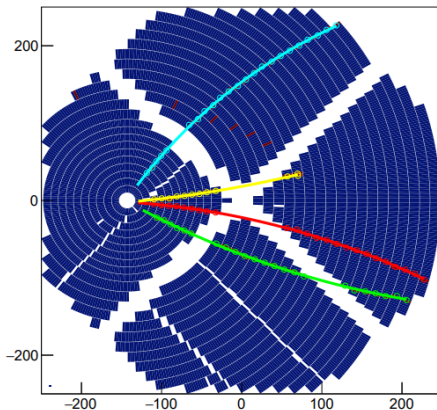
- Multipion production processes dominate  $\bar{p}p$  reactions with four charged-particle emission. <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> V. Flaminio, W.G. Moorhead, D.R.O. Morrison, N. Riviere, CERN-HERA 84-01, 17, April 1984.



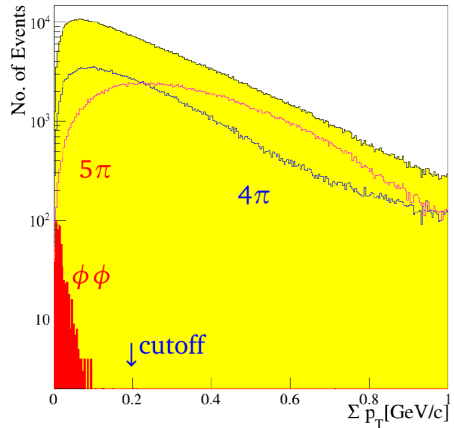
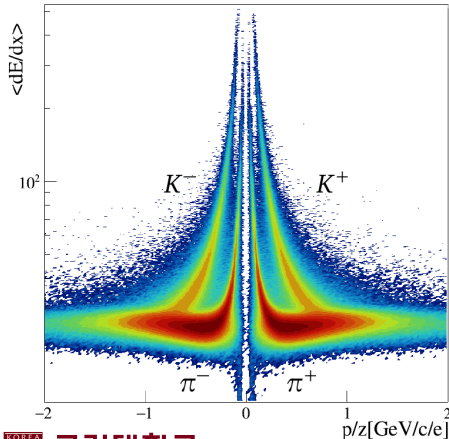
# Simulated Events for $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$ and $2\pi^+2\pi^-$

- HypTPC event displays for  $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$  and  $2\pi^+2\pi^-$  reactions.
- All charged tracks are assumed to share the same vertex at the target.



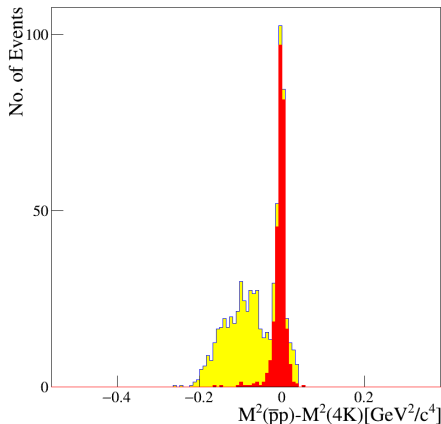
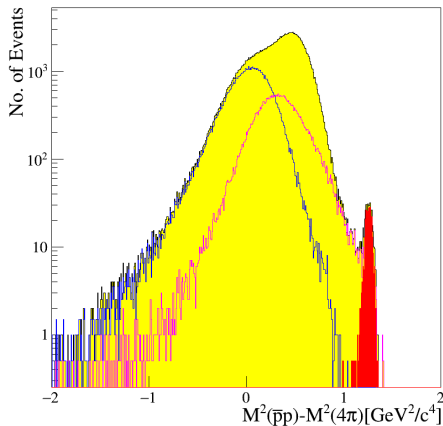
# Particle ID and Momentum Balance Constraints

- This energy-loss information assists in identifying particles based on the particle identification function  $(dE/dx|_{\text{meas}} - dE/dx|_K)^2/\sigma_K^2$ .
- The  $5\pi$  events are then further rejected by **requiring transverse momentum balance**.



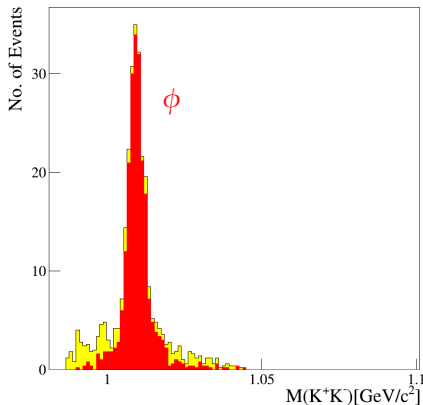
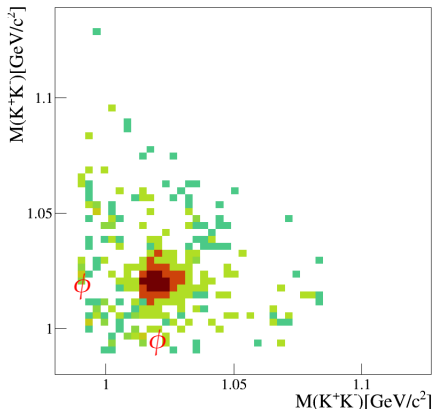
# Event Selection with Energy Balance Constraints

- Energy balance constraints in the center-of-mass energy  
( $\Delta m^2 = (p_{\bar{p}} + p_p)^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^4 p_i)^2 = 0$ , where  $p_i$  denotes a four-momentum of particle  $i$ ) between the initial and final states.



# Reconstructed $\phi\phi$ Events

- From two  $K^+$  and two  $K^-$  tracks, the correct pair of two oppositely charged kaons is chosen by selecting the pair with a mass closer to  $M_\phi$ .
- Background events involving pions are located on a parabolic curvature away from  $M_\phi$ .



# Expected Yield $\bar{p}p \rightarrow \phi\phi$ Events

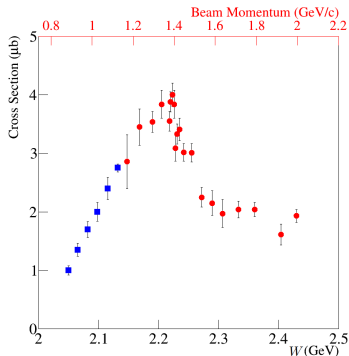
- For the 80 kW MR operation the trigger rate is 0.046 Hz.
- Background processes ( $2\pi^+2\pi^-$ ,  $2\pi^+2\pi^-\pi^0$ ) are largely suppressed by imposing kinematic constraints and ensuring excellent  $\pi/K$  separation of the HypTPC.
- Reconstruction efficiency for the  $\phi\phi$  events ( $\epsilon_{\text{recon}} = 0.6$ ).
- Assuming the accelerator operates constantly 90% of the time ( $\epsilon_{\text{acc}} = 0.9$ ), the number of  $\phi\phi$  events ( $\sigma = 3 \mu\text{b}$ ) collected in a day is

$$N_{2\phi} = 0.046/\text{s} \cdot \epsilon_{\text{acc}} \cdot \epsilon_{\text{recon}} \cdot \text{Br}(\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-)^2 \cdot 8.64 \times 10^4 \text{ s/d} \\ \approx 5.2 \times 10^2/\text{d}$$

# Beam Time Request

- We are requesting **6.5 days of beam time**. Three days will be dedicated to the high-statistics data collection at 1.15 GeV/c to measure **spin observables**.
- The remaining 3 days will be allocated to measuring the reaction at other five momentum settings, allowing the statistical uncertainties within the range of **5%–10%**.

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Beam switch   | ● 0.1 days                 |
| Trigger study | ● 0.4 days                 |
| 0.90 GeV/c    | ● 1.0 days (~ 200 events)  |
| 0.95 GeV/c    | ● 0.5 days (~ 150 events)  |
| 1.00 GeV/c    | ● 0.5 days (~ 200 events)  |
| 1.05 GeV/c    | ● 0.5 days (~ 250 events)  |
| 1.10 GeV/c    | ● 0.5 days (~ 300 events)  |
| 1.15 GeV/c    | ● 3.0 days (~ 1500 events) |



# Double $\phi$ Production in $\bar{p}p$ Reactions near Threshold

- The proposed experiment is meant as a **feasibility study and independent confirmation** of the enhancement of the production cross section **near the threshold**.
- Detailed studies of the production mechanism are the perspective for future work, both in theory and experiment.

