# Feasibility studies of double hypernuclei spectroscopy at PANDA

### **Alicia Sanchez Lorente**

Institut für Kernphysik

Joh. Gutenberg-Univ., Mainz, Germany

- General Motivation
- Introduction to Experimental concept
- Detection Strategies
- Background Suppression Methods
- Outlook







Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung





# Physics of Hypernuclei

- the (low energy) Y-N interactions
  - the role played by quark degrees of freedom, flavour symmetry and chiral models in nuclear and hypernuclear phenomena
  - the nuclear structure, e.g. the origin of the spin-orbit interaction
  - relevance for dense stellar systems
- Weak decays
  - baryon-baryon weak interactions
  - asymmetries of w.d. and the role of two-meson/ $\sigma$  exchange
  - role of FSI and nuclear structure



free  $\Lambda$  decay

non-mesonic decay

of hypernuclei

mesonic decav

of hypernuclei

- nuclear medium properties of hyperons  $(\Lambda, \Sigma, \Xi)$  and (anti) meson
- Hypernuclei a bridge between traditional nuclear physics and hadron physics



### Double hypernuclei spectroscopy status

- Study of Y-Y interaction ( AA Hypernuclei ) offers additional information about the B-B interaction
- $\Delta B_{\Lambda\Lambda} \sim B_{\Lambda\Lambda} 2 B_{\Lambda}$  provides information about Y-Y interaction
  - **Present results on ΔB<sub>ΛΛ</sub> not consistent** (Emulsion tech., charged particles, low Statistic, assignment not unique)





### Double hypernuclei spectroscopy status

- Study of Y-Y interaction ( AA Hypernuclei ) offers additional information about the B-B interaction
- $\Delta B_{\Lambda\Lambda} \sim B_{\Lambda\Lambda} 2 B_{\Lambda}$  provides information about Y-Y interaction
  - **Present results on ΔB<sub>ΛΛ</sub> not consistent** (Emulsion tech., charged particles, low Statistic, assignment not unique)
    - Additional information via Gamma Spectroscopy of possible excited states
    - Need to Investigate :

٠

٠

- 1. Do Excited states of these system exist ? Up to now, only theoretical cal. (*Hiyama et al*)
- 1. What is the probability to create them ?
- 2. Is it possible to develop a strategy to uniquely identify and assign them to  $\gamma$  transitions?



## Spectroscopy of AA-hypernuclei

E. Hiyama, M. Kamimura, T.Motoba, T. Yamada and Y. Yamamoto Phys. Rev. 66 (2002), 024007



- many excited, particle stable states in double hypernuclei predicted
- level structure reflects levels of core nucleus
- high statistics is needed, about 2 or 3 order of magnitude larger



## **The PANDA Detector**

- $4\pi$  acceptance
- high resolution for tracking, pid, calorimetry
- high rate capability
- versatile redout and event selection

**Target Spectrometer** 

QCD bound states Non-perturb. QCD Hadrons in nuc. matter Hypernuclear Physics Electro. Processes Elektroweak physics



Forward Spectrometer

# Gamma Spectroscopy of double hypernuclei at PANDA



- p̄ +Nucleus->Ξ<sup>-</sup> +Ξ<sup>+</sup> at 3GeV/c
   Other Exp. E906 AGS-BNL, JPARC
   (K<sup>-</sup> + p -> K<sup>+</sup> + Ξ<sup>-</sup>)
- Cross section 2µb
- Luminosity 10<sup>32</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>/s to 7.10<sup>5</sup> Ξ<sup>-</sup> +Ξ<sup>+</sup> hour
- Ξ⁻ p -> ΛΛ + 28 MeV
- energy release may give rise to the emission of excited hyperfragments (<sup>13</sup><sub>AA</sub>B<sup>\*</sup>)
- Two-step production mechanism requires a
  - 1. devoted setup
  - 2. spectroscopy: decay products

## How to identify $\Lambda\Lambda$ - Hypernuclei



- Spectroscopy studies cannot be based on two body reactions
- detection of charged decay products, only limited to light nuclei
- unique assignment of gamma transitions
  - sequential mesonic weak decay
- Up to now no excited states have been observed
- But theoretically have been predicted

### Integration in the PANDA Detektor





### Integration in the PANDA Detektor



Feasibility studies by means of a Monte Carlo simulation

- Double hypernuclei production mechanism
- Identification strategy
- Background suppression

# MC Simulation of multi--step mechanism: Production

 $\cdot \overline{p} + {}^{12}C \rightarrow \Xi + \Xi$ 



Intra. Nucl. Cascade (*F. Ferro et al*)
URQMD extension (*A. Galoyan*)
Choice of primary target

• <u>∃</u>- Capture in a <sup>12</sup>C:

•Stopping  $\Xi - vertexes$  in absorber

•Hyp. Production: Population of particle stable excited states within a Statistical Decay Model

Input: Ξ binding energy 4 MeV

• Gamma-spectroscopy in coincidence with the detection of the weak (mesonic) decay products.

### **Detection strategy: Signal**

• Use different light nuclear targets, (<sup>9</sup>Be, <sup>10</sup>B, <sup>11</sup>B, <sup>12</sup>C and <sup>13</sup>C) to study the population of individual excited states.

• Identification of  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernucleus through sequential weak decay via  $\pi$ - emission:

- 1. in light nuclei the pionic weak decay dominates
- 2. the pion kinetic energy is proportional to  $\Delta B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$
- 3. the pion momentum is monoenergetic
- 4. coincidences between two pions help to trace
- Combination of gamma spectroscopy and sequential pionic decay
   as to identify uniquely double hypernuclei.



•\_π momentum is monoenergetic: used as fingerprint

1. 
$$A_{\Lambda\Lambda}Z \rightarrow \pi_H + A_{\Lambda}(Z+1)$$

2. 
$${}^{A}_{\Lambda}(Z+1) \rightarrow \pi_{L} + {}^{A}(Z+2)$$

# Performance of Target system

- <sup>12</sup>C micro ribbons target:
- *n* and X-ray background
- rescattering processes
- thickness 0.02 μm :
- beam fraction 0.005
- Production rate:
- 3 10<sup>6</sup> interactions / s
- Influence of beam loses
- hadronic interactions
- beam lifetime ~3000 s
- acumulation time HESR (~1000s)
- Temperature increment ~500 K
- Diamond 3920 K, graphit 3948 K



# Performance of Target system

Geometry given by  $\Xi$  lifetime:

- Thickness ~30 mm
- Absorber layer ~1 cm
- silicon layer ~300 μm

#### Deceleration

Tracking charged decay products





## Population of double hypernuclei states

Statistical model: (E. Fermi, J.P. Bondorf et al)

- De-excitation of light nuclei via Fermi break-up process
- Conservation of A, Z, H, Energy and momentum



### Input:

- Light nuclei. p, n, d, t... <sup>9</sup>Be, <sup>10</sup>B, <sup>11</sup>B, <sup>12</sup>C, <sup>13</sup>C and excited states
- existing single hypernuclei masses and excited states
- Theo. And Exp. Double hypernuclei masses( T. Yamada et al)
- Theo. Predicted excited states, (E. Hiyama et al).

# Fermi Break up of an excited hypernuclei with double strangeness



 $\Xi^{-} + {}^{12}C \rightarrow {}^{13}_{\Lambda\Lambda}B^{*}$ 

- DHP : double hypernuclei
- SHP : single hypernuclei
- THP : twins hypernuclei
- Maximum energy available 40 MeV
- $\Xi^{-}$  binding energy not yet known

 Theoretical calculations on Ξ<sup>-</sup> nuclear potencial leads to 0.6 – 3.7 MeV (*C.J Batty et al, Aoki et al*)

#### production of excited states of DHP are significant.

# Population of individual excited states with different light nuclear Targets



- 1.  $B_{\Xi} = 0.5$  MeV,
- 2. (0.5-6 MeV) main trend.
- 3. But, relative population of specific ex. levels may depend on  $B_{\Xi}$
- 4. Most probable DHP <sup>10</sup>Be, <sup>11</sup>Be, <sup>9</sup>Li, <sup>12</sup>B
- 5. The production yield is proportional to the squares area
- 6. Comparison of the expected yields for each target offers a strategy for the unique assigment of observable transitions.

### Identification of double hypernuclei: γ + weak decay

- 1. Mesonic weak decay of the order of 10%
- 2. Sequential mesonic decay of DHP releasing 2 pions
- 3. 50 % data taking available
- 4. Approx. Running time two weeks
- 5. Detection of NMWD may improve the final rate





### Background Suppression Strategy: Low Momenta Kaon identification



- p
   +Nucleus->Ξ<sup>-</sup> +Ξ<sup>+</sup> at 3GeV/c
- Cross section 2µb
- $\overline{p}$  + p , total cross section 50 mb

• Exp.Challenge: 
$$\frac{\sigma(\Xi^-\Xi^+)}{\sigma(\overline{p}p)} \approx 4 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

- 1. Background reactions are a factor 25000 larger than  $\Xi^- + \Xi^+$  prod.
- 2. Background suppression is mandatory
- 3. kaon ( $\Xi^+$  annihilation) identification can be used to tag the  $\Xi^- + \Xi^+$  prod.
- 4. Pion-Pion Correlation technique( sequential pionic decay) and
- 5. Gamma Spectroscopy .(arXiv:0903.3905v1 [hep:exp])

### **Detection Options:**

DIRC : not for momentum particles below 700 MeV/c

TPC/STT Use of (dE/dx) for PIDTPC/STT + TOF detector system :







Start detector:

Scintillator fiber array : 1200 fibers

> CVD Diamond (*Timing use, E. Bederman et al, Proc. IEEE*(2009)

≻Stop detector : Scint. tof barrel ~16 Slabs ~6 bars or RPC.



### Start (SciF or CVD)+TPC + TOF



- •Tof barrel (STOP)
- Time resolution ~ 80ps
- Scint. fiber ~450 ps
  CVD Diamond Detector (START)

Time resolution ~ 80 ps

- •TPC : tracking system
  - Track Length + P
  - P/Mass =  $\beta * \gamma$
- Geo. Acceptance:
- Hyp IP :15°--90°
- TS IP : 144° -- 22°

### STRATEGY : identification of at least one kaon per event. ( kaon multiplicity trigger)

MC Simulation :

Extended UqmdSmm (A.Galoyan) Event Generator :

Signal : 200,000 Ξ<sup>-</sup> +Ξ<sup>+</sup> events

Background : 100,000  $\overline{p}$  + <sup>12</sup>C

 $\Xi^+$  annihilates ~85 %

K+ prod. 40 %

Background : 100,000 p +Nucleus

Calculations performed at B = 1T

Tracking effciency : 60%

PID efficiency 95 % (80 ps), 50% (450 ps) associated positive kaon distribution at generation vertex



# Mass reconstruction spectra



# Results

• Applying the kaon trigger,



A trigger efficiency of ~40% would be desiderable

Other possibility : TOF system + TPC+ DIRC

### Rate estimates

$\overline{\mathbf{p}}$ interaction rate	$3 \cdot 10^{6} s^{-1}$
$\overline{\mathbf{p}}$ momentum	$3 \mathrm{GeV}/c$
internal target	$Z \approx 12$
reactions of interest	$\overline{p}p \rightarrow \overline{\Xi}^+\Xi^-$
	$\overline{p}n \rightarrow \overline{\Xi}^+ \Xi^0$
cross section $(\overline{p}N)$	$2\mu{ m b}$
rate	$100  {\rm s}^{-1}$
$\Xi^- PF$	$7.5 \cdot 10^{-2}$
total stopped $\Xi^-$	$648000~{\rm per}$ day
$\Xi^- p \rightarrow \Lambda \Lambda$ conversion probability	5%
produced $\Lambda\Lambda$ hypernuclei	32400 per day
probability of individual transition	10%
target escape probability ( $E_{\gamma} = 1 \mathrm{MeV}$ )	70%
full energy peak efficiency	2.75%
trigger efficiency	2030%
detected individual transitions	690 per month

Table 2: Rate considerations for hypernuclear physics with  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy. The UrQMD+SMM event generator was used for  $\overline{pp} \rightarrow \overline{\Xi}^+ \Xi^-$  generation.

## SUMMARY

- Statistical decay model extended to excited hypernuclei
- Production of excited double Lambda hypernuclei is significant
- Production and detection of double hypernuclei at PANDA seems feasible

# Identification of double hypernuclei : gamma decay

1. Electromagnetic decay





Energy per bin 50 keV

Expected resolution less than 10 keV

Observed 1, 1.68 and 3 MeV  $\gamma\text{-}$  transition

For an unique assignment one needs obviously additional experimental information

# Identification of double hypernuclei: weak decay

- 1. Mesonic weak decay of the order of 10%
- 2. Sequential mesonic decay of DHP releasing 2 pions



- After Stat. dec. 7400 excited  $\Xi^-$  SHP
- 14800 charged tracks reconstructed
- 8300 assigned to pions
- Strong correlation of two pion momenta
- Silicon Sensor strip pitch 100µm
- Tracking : Kalman Filter
- Combination between two pions
- Cuts on pion--pion correlation

### STRATEGY : identification of at least one kaon per event. ( kaon multiplicity trigger)

Requirements :

Central Tracker + Tof radius  $\approx 0.5$  m

- $P_T = 0.3*Q*B*Radius$
- B = 2 T, kaon Pt  $\approx$  0.3 GeV/c
- B = 1T, kaon Pt = 0.150 GeV/c (*FINUDA, ALICE, CDF*)
- B = 0.5 , kaon Pt = 0.075 GeV/c (*ALICE*)



associated positive kaon distribution at generation vertex



### Cut on accepted kaon candidates at B=0.5 T

- Tagging on at least one kaon : 764 absorbed  $\Xi^-$  events
- Secondary target: 15000  $\Xi^-$  absorbed
- Event Generator : 200,000  $\Xi^-$  + $\Xi^+$  events
- S/N = 3:1 gamma energy spectra



### **p** + Nucleus background contribution (Urgmd+Smm, A. Galoyan et al)



- magnetic field value 0.5T
- start(80 ps)
- 100,000 p+Nucleus reactions

- 3206 rec. kaons
- No signal



### Conclusions:

- Multiplicity kaon trigger based on TOF helps for background suppression but statistic regarding p+Nucleus should be improved.
- 2. Tracking information from Sec. Target has to be used complementary.
- 3. B = 0.5 T increases the kaon identification acceptance
- 4. A possible start detector solution: diamond detector with a time resolution of about 90 ps, example. HADES)
- 5. The use of a TOF barrel detector will help in the identification of Double –Lambda Hypernuclei at PANDA.







### Radiation hardness study

