New Frontier of Kaonic Nuclei at J-PARC



on behalf of the J-PARC E15/E80/E89 collaboration



Many Thanks, Prof. Toshimitsu Yamazaki

-- A pioneer of kaonic nuclei --

- We had many discussions on kaonic nuclei, especially on "K⁻K⁻pp" experiments
 - p^{bar}+³He / p+p reactions
- He provided many wonderful ideas
 - lead to the systematic study of kaonic nuclei
- Thank you very much for nearly 20 years of inspiration and support
 - since the beginning of my career





What Are "Kaonic Nuclei"?

• Kaonic nuclei = anti-kaon – nucleus bound states

✓ Predicted from attractive $\overline{K}N$ interaction in I=0 channel



$\overline{K}N$ Interaction and $\Lambda(1405)$



Λ (1405) to "Kaonic Nuclei"

- $\Lambda(1405)$ = considered as a quasi-bound state of $\overline{K}N$
 - \rightarrow possible \overline{K} -nucleus quasi-bound states has been widely discussed
- first idea from Y.Nogami PL7(1963)288
 - Pioneering calculation by Y.Akaishi, T.Yamazaki PRC65(2002)044005, PLB535(2002)70
 - Many calculations showing the existence of kaonic nuclei
- $\overline{K}NN$ system : the simplest \overline{K} -nucleus system, so called "K⁻pp"
 - It has attracted interest from both theory and experiment.



Theoretical Calculations of $\overline{K}NN$



"K⁻pp" Bound State Searches



"K⁻pp" Bound State Searches



Experimental Searches at J-PARC

– via in-flight (K-,n) reactions –







J-PARC Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex



Neutrino Experimental Facility Material and Life Science Experimental Facility 12

Hadron Experimental Facility (HEF)

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Hadron Experimental Facility (HEF)



Experimental Setup @ K1.8B K.Agari et, al., PTEP(2012)02B011 Beam Dump

Beam Sweeping Magnet

K.pt

3He

NC format.

CDS

Missing mass spectroscopy

Invariant mass

spectroscopy

1GeV/c

K⁻ beam

Liquid ³He-target System

Cylindrica Detector System

Beam Line pectrometer

Neutron Counter Charge Veto Counter Proton Counter

missing

"K⁻pp" Search w/ Momentum Transfer Analysis

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"K⁻pp" Search w/ Momentum Transfer Analysis

 Momentum transfer analysis using the (K⁻,n) reaction

✓ M(Ap) vs. q
 ✓ give a clear information on reaction processes





A peak structure independent of *q* = A bound state exists

"K⁻pp" Search w/ Momentum Transfer Analysis **Quasi-free K⁻ scattering**

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(+2NA absorption)

1 GeV/c

A peak structure

K⁻

³He



• Momentum transfer analysis using the (K⁻,n) reaction

 \checkmark M(Λ p) vs. q \checkmark give a clear information on reaction processes



A PWIA-based Interpretation



Deep binding = Strong K^{bar}N int. B_{Kpp}(BW) ~ 40 MeV, $\Gamma_{Kpp}(BW)$ ~ 100 MeV

Binding energy

Decay width

Large Q = Suggesting a compact system $Q_{km} \sim 400 \text{ MeV}$

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Form factor

A Theoretical Interpretation

A calculation based on chiral unitary approach reproduces the data well using the $\overline{K}NN$ bound state



What We Observed at E15?

Low momentum \overline{K}

✓ A peak structure below the mass threshold M(Kpp) that does NOT depend on momentum transfer

➤A bound state exists

≻~10 times the binding energy of normal light nuclei

➤Generated by large momentum transfer

✓ Evidence of quasi-free K⁻ scattering → An intermediate \overline{K} exists during the reaction

Consistent with a theoretical calculation using "K-pp"

Observed structure = "K-pp" bound state



K⁻pp

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Need Further Investigations

to establish the kaonic nuclei

- Λ(1405) state
 - $-\overline{K}N$ qusi-bound state as considered?
 - Relation between $\overline{K}N$ and $\overline{K}NN$?
- Further details of the $\overline{K}NN$
 - Mesonic decay modes? → PRC110(2024)014002.
 - Spin and parity of the "K⁻pp"?
 - Compact and dense system?
- Heavier kaonic nuclei
 - Mass number dependence?
- Double kaonic nuclei
 - Much compact and dense system?





K⁻pp

K⁻p



Mass Number Dependence of Kaonic Nuclei



 Systematic measurements will provide more conclusive evidence of the kaonic nuclei AY: PRC65(2002)044005, PLB535(2002)70. WG: PRC79(2009)014001. BGL: PLB712(2012)132. OHHMH: PRC95(2017)065202. Kanada: EPJA57(2021)185.

"K⁻ppn" Search with K⁻⁴He $\rightarrow \Lambda dn$

- An analysis of the Λdn final state with K⁻⁴He reaction at 1 GeV/c has been conducted
 - > T77: lifetime measurement of ${}^{4}_{\Lambda}$ H in 2020
- The results will be updated with a part of the E73 controlled data
 - > E73: lifetime measurement of ${}^{3}_{\Lambda}$ H in 2024-25



"K⁻ppn" Search with K⁻⁴He $\rightarrow \Lambda$ dn



- Two distributions are quite similar
- structure below the threshold (seems q-independent), QF-K, BG

"K⁻ppn" Search with K⁻⁴He $\rightarrow \Lambda dn$

2D fit on the (M,q) space with similar shapes to E15:

Breit-Wigner wtih Gaus. form factor (PWIA), QF-K⁻, and Broad BG



If the Observed Structure Is "K⁻ppn",



- The binding energy is comparable with some theoretical predictions
- The width is larger than theoretical predictions

AY: PRC65(2002)044005, PLB535(2002)70. WG: PRC79(2009)014001. BGL: PLB712(2012)132. OHHMH: PRC95(2017)065202. Kanada: EPJA57(2021)185.

New Kaonic Nuclei Project at J-PARC

- from the $\overline{K}N$ to $\overline{K}NNNN$ systems and more –



Systematic investigation of the light kaonic nuclei

- •Systematic measurement will be promoted at J-PARC
 - mass number dependence
 - binding energy, branching ratio, q dependence, ..
 - spin/parity determination
- Extract internal structure with theoretical investigations

		Reaction	Key Decay Mode
6	$\overline{K}N$	d(K⁻,n)	$\pi^{\pm 0}\Sigma^{\mp 0}$
	$\overline{K}NN$	³ He(K⁻,N)	Λ p/ Λ n
•	$\overline{K}NNN$	⁴ He(K⁻,N)	Λ d/ Λ pn
E	$\overline{K}NNNN$	⁶ Li(K⁻,d)	Λ t/ Λ dn
:	$\overline{K}NNNNN$	⁶ Li(K⁻,N)	$\Lambda lpha / \Lambda$ dd $/ \Lambda$ dpn
	$\overline{K}NNNNNN$	⁷ Li(K⁻,N)	$\Lambda lpha$ n/ Λ ddn
	<i>K</i> <i>K</i> N <i>N</i>	$ar{p}$ + 3 He	ΛΛ





$\overline{K}NNN @ E80$

via ⁴He(1 GeV/c K⁻, n) reaction

① Establish the existence of $\overline{K}NNN$

≻ "K-ppn" → Λ d 2-body decay

2 Study the multi-particle decay mode of $\overline{K}NNN$ toward understanding its internal structure



Paul Kienle^{a,b}, Yoshinori Akaishi^{c,d}, Toshimitsu Yamazaki^{d,e,*}







2 Determine the spin/parity of $\overline{K}NN$

→ spin-spin correlation measurement of "K⁻pp" → Λ p

There are two possible configurations for the $\overline{K}NN$ ground state.





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New Cylindrical Detector System (CDS)



✓ Solid angle: x1.6 (59% → 93%) ✓ Neutron eff.: x7 (3% → 12%x1.6) + forward TOF counter + proton polarimeter (in future)

Construction Status of the CDS

Return York:

SC Solenoid:

completed

completed

development with prototypes, to be completed this year

The experiment will be ready in early 2027

CDC:

completed, in commissioning

Summary

- We observed the "K⁻pp" bound state in ³He(K⁻, Λp)n
 ✓ PLB789(2019)620., PRC102(2020)044002.
- ●We also obtained hints of mesonic decays of "K-pp" ✓ PRC110(2024)014002.
- We observed the sign of the "K⁻ppn" in ⁴He(K⁻, ∧d)n
 ✓ will be published soon with x3 statistics
- ●New project has started from E80, "K⁻ppn", aiming at the systematic study of the kaonic nuclei
 - Constructing a large solenoid spectrometer
 - will start in early 2027

J-PARC E80 Collaboration

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New era of kaonic nuclei

Thank you for your attention!

A first step of the project

How to measure the spin-spin correlation

T.Yamaga, 39th J-PARC PAC 39

Necessary Position Resolution for the Tracker

Expected spectra for $\alpha_{\Lambda p}$ measurment

Exclusive measurement

Takumi Yamaga (RIKEN) for the J-PARC E15/E80/P89 collaboration WNCP2023 @ Osaka Univ. (2023.11.27-29)

$K^{-4}He \rightarrow \Lambda dn$ Analysis with the T77 Data

What is the observed structure?

- 1. $\underline{(X')} \rightarrow \Lambda d \text{ decay mode is unique evidence of } I_{x''} = 0$
 - $I(J^P): \Lambda = O(1/2^+), d = O(1^+), K^- = 1/2(0^-), {}^{3}He = 1/2(1/2^+), {}^{4}He = O(0^+)$
- 2. <u>**"X"="K⁻ppn" with J**"_{X"} = 1/2 would be likely</u>

• J_{"X"} = 1/2:

- \blacktriangleright ⁴He initial state is I(J) = 0(0), and remaining "NNN" would be I(J) = 1/2(1/2)
- \blacktriangleright low-momentum intermediate \overline{K} would react with "NNN" in S-wave
- Exclusion of "X"="Y*(I=1)NN":
 - "NN" is I(J) = 1(0)
 - → "Y*(I=1)NN" → Λ d decay would be suppressed
 - ✓ spin/isospin flip is needed to reconfigure "NN" into "d" [I(J) = O(1)]
 - ✓ Apn decay would be dominant for "Y*(I=1)NN"

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Mesonic Decay Modes of KNN

S. Ohnishi, et al.,

- Mesonic decays will give us further information on $\overline{K}NN$ Phys. Rev. C 88 (2013) 025204.
 - ✓ internal structure
 - $\checkmark \overline{K}N$ interaction below the threshold $\Gamma_{YN} \ll \Gamma_{\pi YN}$

Mesonic

2N absorption

1N absorption

T.Yamaga et.al., <u>arXiv:2404.01773 [nucl-ex]</u>

Mesonic Decay Analysis with the E15 Data

• with neutron detection using a thin scintillation counter array (CDH)

small efficiency (3~9%)

🙁 BG from the inner wall of the magnet

 $K^{-}pp^{-} \rightarrow \Lambda p$

$$K^{-}pp^{-}
ightarrow \pi^{\pm} \Sigma^{\mp} p$$

$$K^-pp^{-} o \pi^+\Lambda \eta$$

 $\overline{K}^0 n n^{-} \rightarrow \pi^- \Lambda p$

T.Yamaga et.al., <u>arXiv:2404.01773 [nucl-ex]</u>

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Mesonic Decay Analysis with the E15 Data

• $\Gamma_{YN} << \Gamma_{\pi YN}$: mesonic decay is dominant • $\Gamma_{\pi\Sigma N} \sim \Gamma_{\pi\Lambda N}$: significant contribution of the $I_{KN} = 1$ as well as $I_{KN} = 0$ • $\Gamma_{\pi+\Lambda n} / \Gamma_{\pi-\Lambda p} \sim 2$: if we assume $Br_{K-pp \rightarrow \pi+\Lambda n} = Br_{K0nn \rightarrow \pi-\Lambda p} \rightarrow \sigma_{K-pp} / \sigma_{K0nn} \sim 2$ $\overline{K}^{0}nn^{"} \rightarrow \pi^{-}\Lambda p$ $K^-pp^{"} \rightarrow \pi^+\Lambda n$ $"K^-pp" \to \Lambda p$ $K^{-}pp^{"}
ightarrow \pi^{+}\Sigma^{-}p^{-}$ $\sigma_{\overline{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $\sigma_{\overline{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $\sigma_{\overline{\kappa}_{NN}}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $\sigma_{\overline{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ 9.3 \pm 0.8^{+1.4}₋₁₀ [all] $38 \pm 3 \pm 3$ [all] $62 \pm 11 \pm 9$ [all] $29 \pm 3 \pm 3$ [all] $5.5 \pm 0.5^{+0.8}_{-0.6}$ [<M(KNN)] $15.5 \pm 2.7 \pm 2.1$ [<M(KNN)] $7.2 \pm 0.6 \pm 0.7$ [<M(KNN)] $3.2 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.2$ [<M(KNN)] $"K^-pp" \to \Sigma^0 p$ $K^{-}pp^{-} \rightarrow \pi^{-}\Sigma^{+}p^{-}$ More precise measurements $\sigma_{\overline{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ $\sigma_{\overline{K}NN}^{tot} \times Br(\mu b) =$ 5.3 \pm 0.4^{+0.8}_{-0.6} [all] $110 \pm 8 \pm 8$ [all] and theoretical investigations $3.1 \pm 0.2^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$ [<M(KNN)] $9.4 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.7$ [<M(KNN)] are needed

KNNN Searches so far

Acceptance for K⁻⁴He reaction

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