



Study of the  $\Lambda n$  final state interaction  
from  ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$  spectroscopy

K. Itabashi

for the JLab Hypernuclear Collaboration

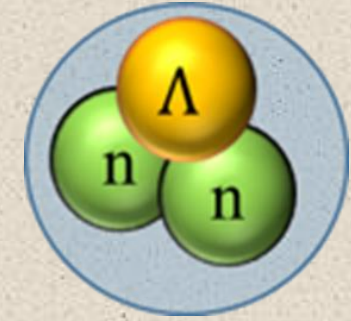
# Contents

- Physics motivation
- Experimental setup
- Missing mass spectrum in the  ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$  reaction
  - Study of the  $\Lambda n$  final state interaction

# The $nn\Lambda$ state problem

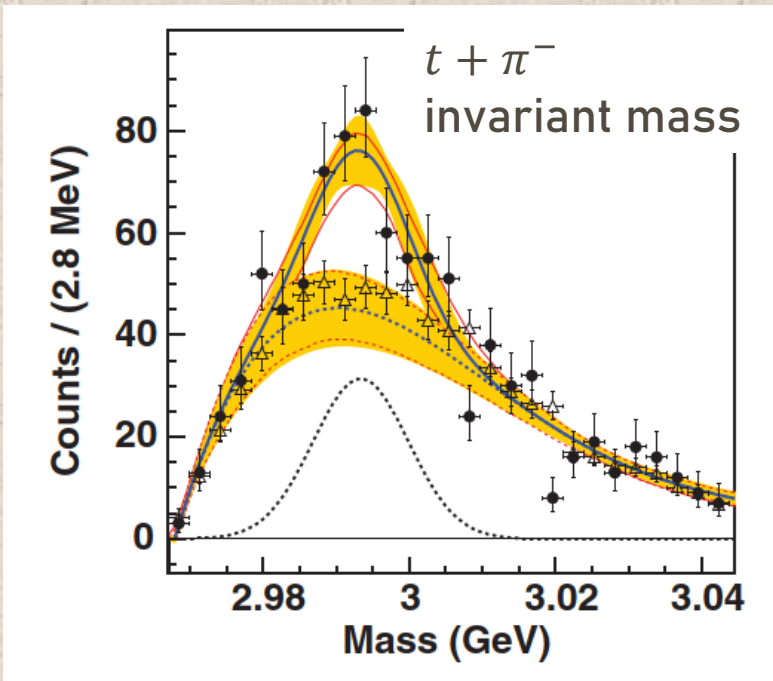
## Experimental suggestion

HypHI Collaboration at GSI reported structure that may be interpreted as **a bound state of  $nn\Lambda$  system.**



## Theoretical suggestion

- Theoretical calculation with Gaussian expansion method  
Ref.) E. Hiyama et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 061302 (2014).  
Bound state of the  $nn\Lambda$  is not realistic
- Faddeev calculation with S-wave separable potentials  
Ref.) I.R. Afnan et al., Phys. Rev. C, 92 054608 (2015).  
 $nn\Lambda$  could be resonance state when **a  $\Delta n$  potential is 5% deeper than  $\Delta p$  potential ( $s > 1.05$ ).**



C. Rappold *et al.*, (HypHI Collaboration) Phys. Rev. C 88 041001 (2013)

Existence of the  $nn\Lambda$  is not established at all  
→ Need more precise spectroscopy measurement



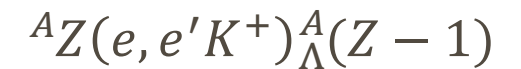
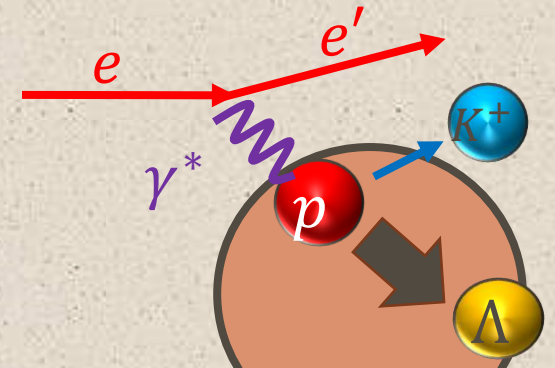
# $\Lambda$ hypernuclear experiment in the $(e, e' K^+)$ reaction

## $(e, e' K^+)$ reaction

$(e \rightarrow e' + \gamma^*)$  to produce  $\Lambda$  in the nucleus.

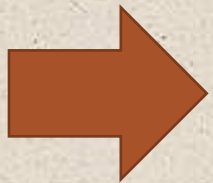
The missing mass of  $\Lambda$  hypernuclei is

$$M_X = \sqrt{(E_e + m_T - E_{e'} - E_K)^2 - (\vec{p}_e - \vec{p}_{e'} - \vec{p}_K)^2}$$



An experiment in the  $(e, e' K^+)$  reaction can achieve high energy resolution (a few MeV FWHM) and precision (a few hundreds keV) due to use

- primary beam with small beam energy spread
- energy calibration with known masses of  $\Lambda$  and  $\Sigma^0$  in the  $p(e, e' K^+) \Lambda / \Sigma^0$  reaction

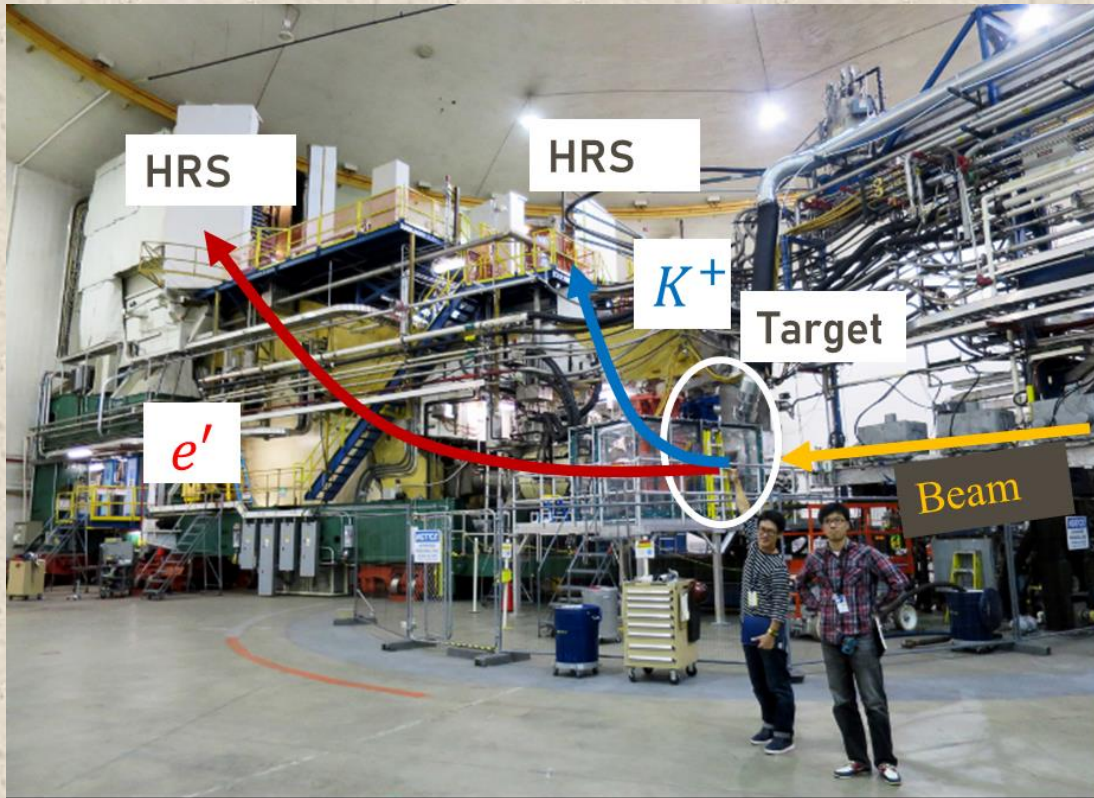


To search for  $nn\Lambda$  with high energy resolution and precision, we performed  $nn\Lambda$  experiment at JLab with the  ${}^3\text{H}(e, e' K^+) X$  reaction.

# $nn\Lambda$ search experiment (E12-17-003) at JLab

The  $nn\Lambda$  search experiment (E12-17-003) was performed at JLab in 2018.

- Two high resolution spectrometers (HRSs) ( $\Delta p/p \sim 2.0 \times 10^{-4}$ )
- Tritium gas target ( $84.8 \text{ mg/cm}^2$ )

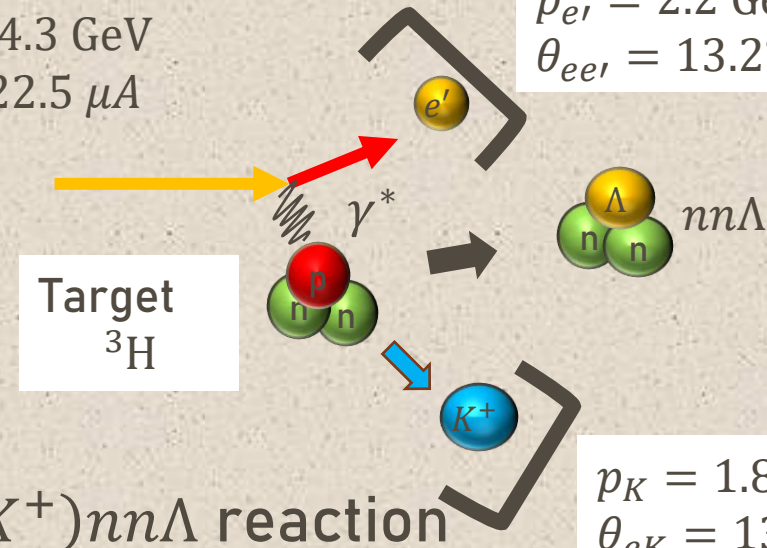


The missing mass of the  $nn\Lambda$  was obtained by measuring momenta of  $K^+$  and  $e'$  with the HRSs

$$M_X = \sqrt{(E_e + m_T - E_{e'} - E_K)^2 - (\vec{p}_e - \vec{p}_{e'} - \vec{p}_K)^2}$$

Electron beam  
 $E_e = 4.3 \text{ GeV}$   
 $I_e = 22.5 \mu\text{A}$

$p_{e'} = 2.2 \text{ GeV}/c$   
 $\theta_{ee'} = 13.2^\circ$



$p_K = 1.8 \text{ GeV}/c$   
 $\theta_{eK} = 13.2^\circ$

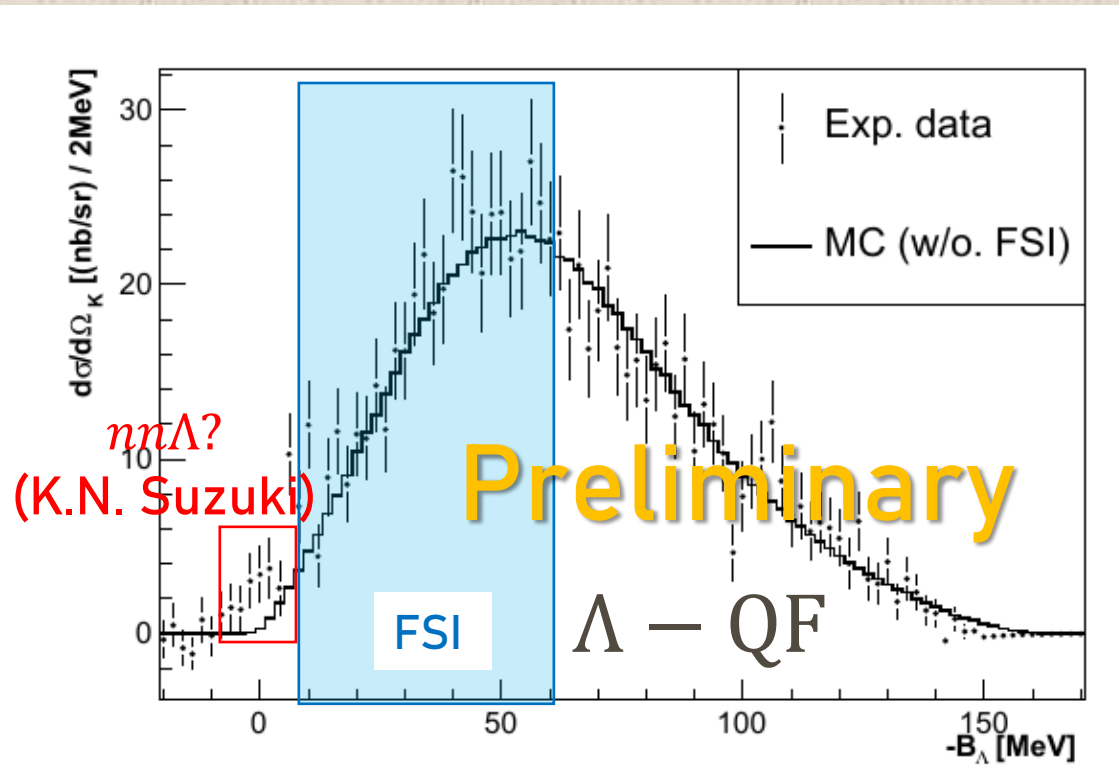
${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)nn\Lambda$  reaction



# Missing mass spectrum in the ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$

Distribution of the  $\Lambda$ -QF production was estimated by Monte Carlo simulation (SIMC)

## ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$ spectrum



The MC distribution was generated by SIMC with physics effects as

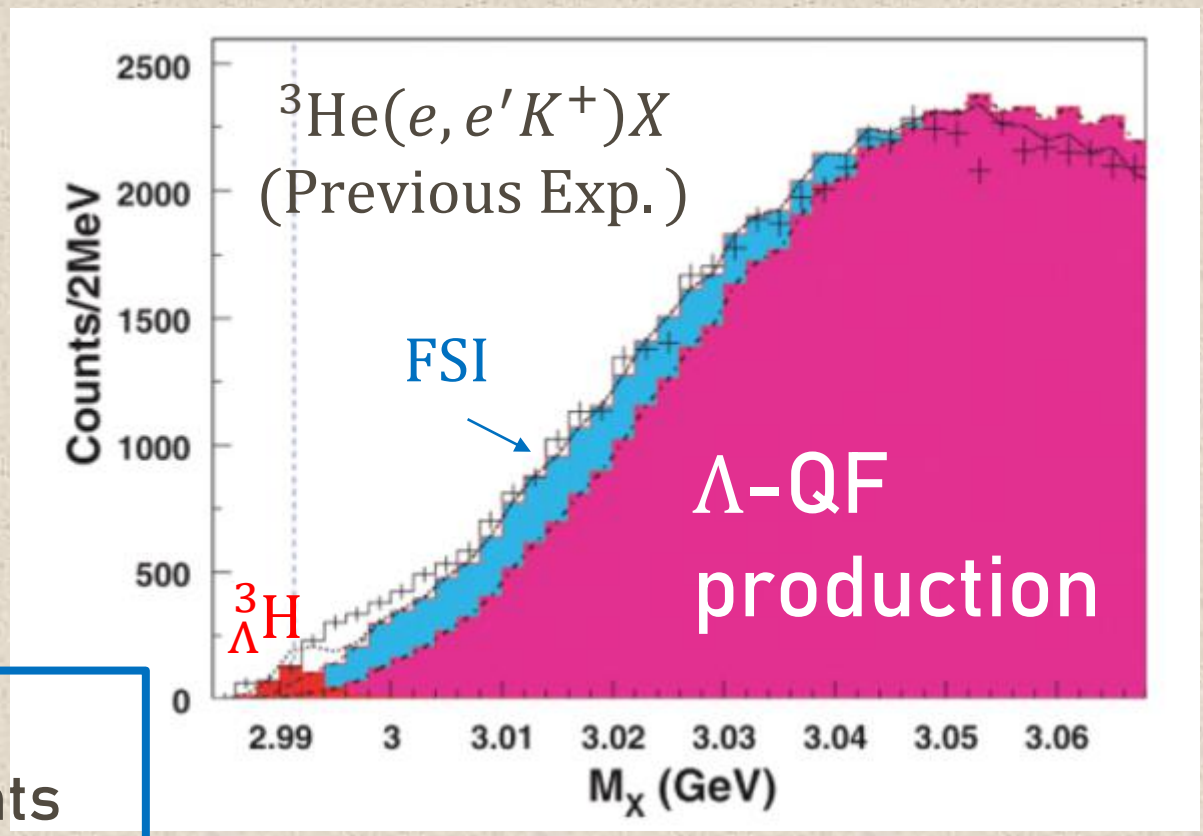
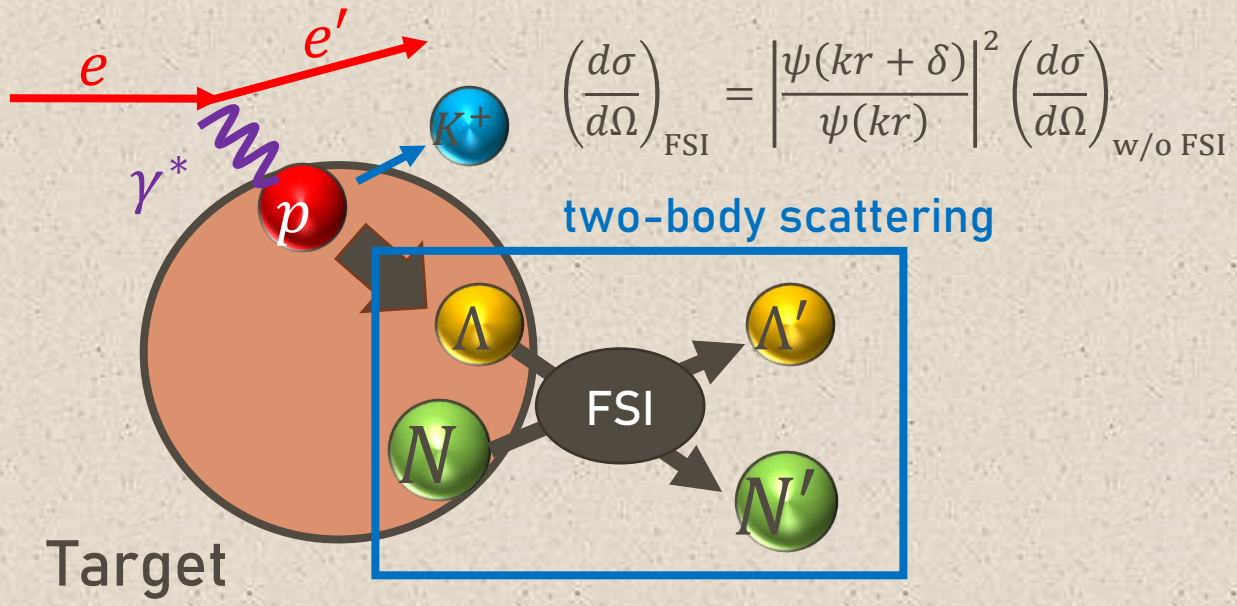
- Fermi momentum of proton in  ${}^3\text{H}$   
Ref.) R. B. Wiringa Phys. Rev. C 43, 1585 (1991).
- Kaon decay effect
- Radiative effects

From missing mass spectrum in the  ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$  reaction, the following physics have been studied

1. Upper limit of the  $nn\Lambda$  from an event excess ( $-B_\Lambda \sim 0$  MeV)  
Ref.) K.N. Suzuki *et al.*, Prog. of Theo. and Exp. Phys, 2022, 013D01 (2022).
2.  $\Lambda n$  final state interaction from the  $\Lambda$ -QF spectrum ( $0 \leq -B_\Lambda \leq 60$  MeV)

# Previous study of **Final State Interaction (FSI)**

The recoil  $\Lambda$  interacts with a nucleon within a target system ( $\Lambda N$  scattering)



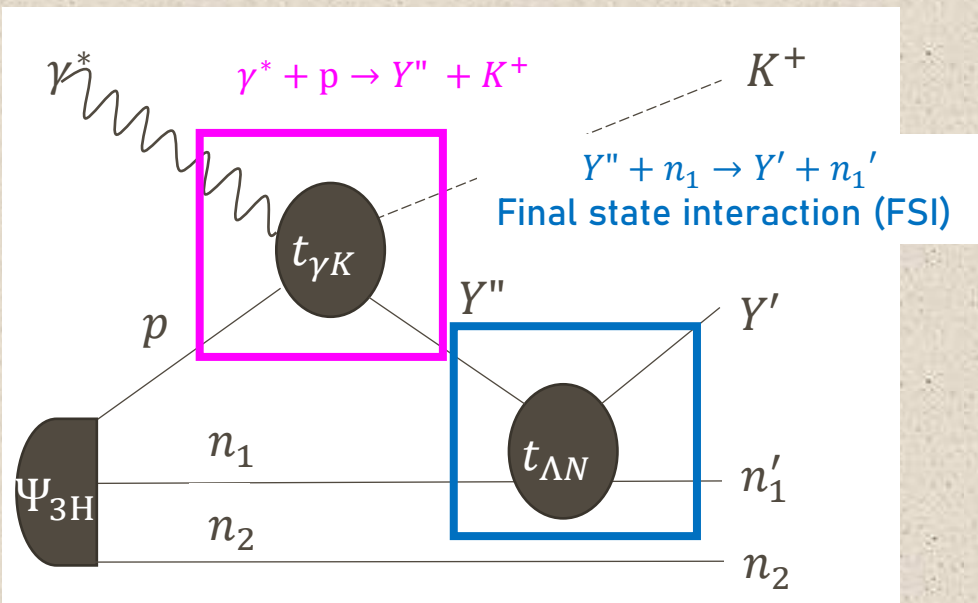
**$\Lambda N$  final state interaction (FSI)**  
 → Successfully reproduced the excess events

# Calculation of $\Lambda n$ final state interaction

$\Lambda n$  final state interaction (FSI) : The recoil  $\Lambda$  interacts with a neutron within  $nn$  system.

FSI can be written with influence factor  $I(k_{rel})$  as following

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{FSI} = \left|\frac{\psi(kr + \delta)}{\psi(kr)}\right|^2 \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{w/o FSI} = I(k_{rel}) \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{w/o FSI} = \frac{1}{|J_l(k_{rel})|^2} \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{w/o FSI}$$



In the ERA ( $k \cot \delta = 1/a + 1/2r_e k^2$ ), the Jost function is written with potential parameters, scattering length ( $a$ ) and effective range ( $r_e$ ) as :

$$J_{l=0}(k_{rel}) = \frac{k_{rel} - i\beta}{k_{rel} - i\alpha}$$

There are three free parameters ( $a, r, k_{rel}$ )

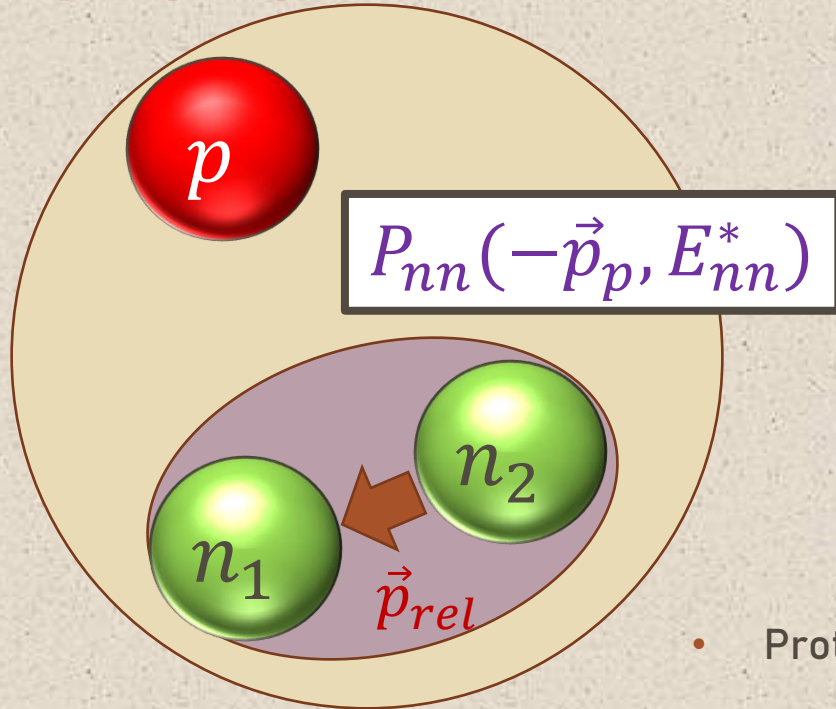
$$\frac{1}{2} r_e (\alpha - \beta) = 1, \quad \frac{1}{2} r_e \alpha \beta = -\frac{1}{a}$$

$(a, r)$  : determined by models  
Need to calculate  $k_{rel}$



# Neutron momentum calculation

$$P_p(\vec{p}_p, E_p)$$



Stopped tritium target  $\rightarrow \vec{p}_p + \vec{p}_{n1} + \vec{p}_{n2} = 0$

Relative momentum was defined as  $\vec{p}_{rel} = \frac{M_n \vec{p}_{n1} - M_n \vec{p}_{n2}}{2M_n}$

$$\vec{p}_{n1(n2)} = -\frac{1}{2} \vec{p}_p + \vec{p}_{rel}$$

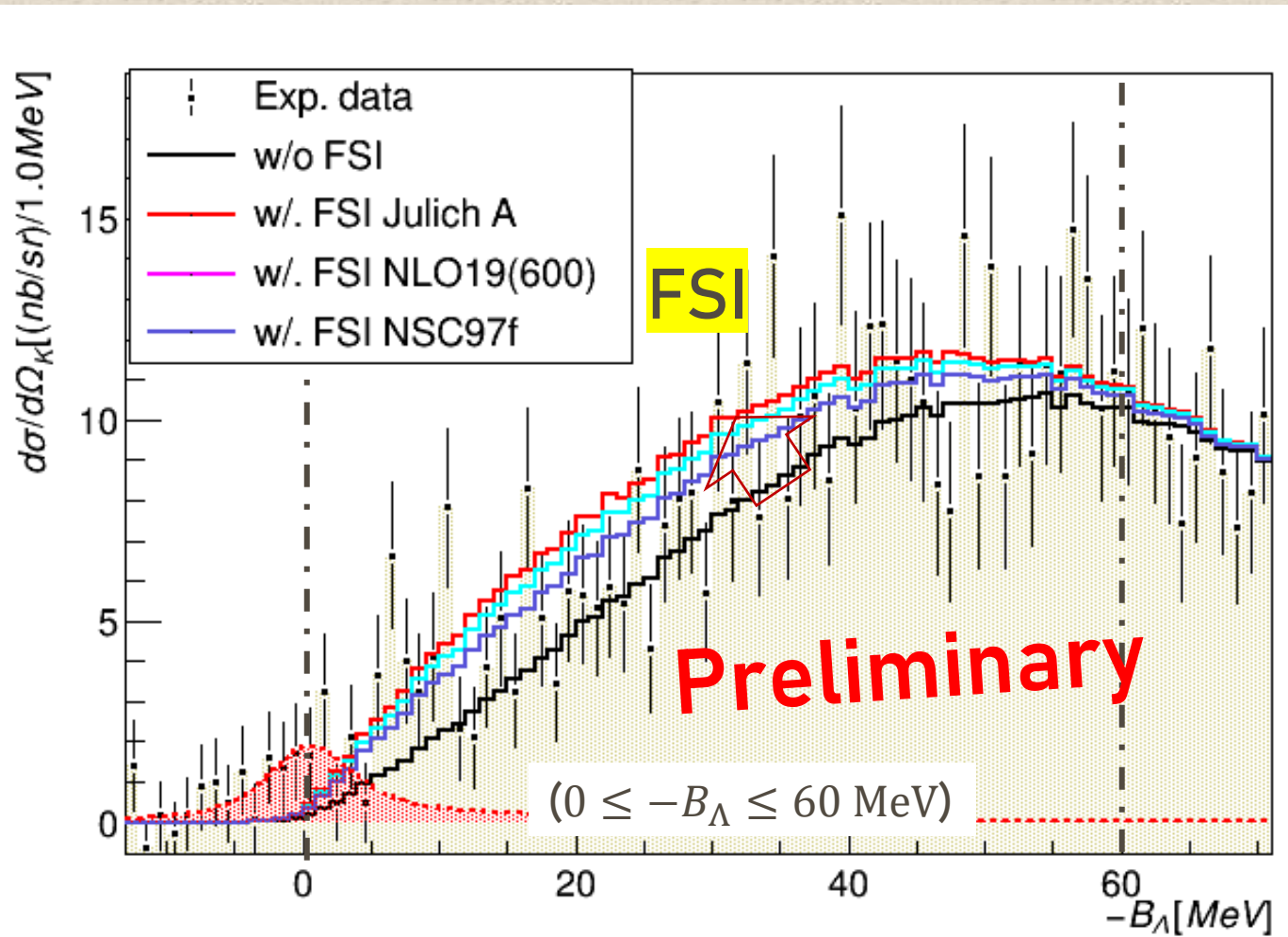
$$|\vec{p}_{n1(n2)}| = \sqrt{|\vec{p}_{rel}|^2 + \frac{|\vec{p}_p|^2}{4} \mp |\vec{p}_p| |\vec{p}_{rel}| \cos\theta}$$

$\theta$ : angle between proton and relative momentum

- Proton momentum ( $p_p$ ): Fermi momentum distribution  
Ref.) R. B. Wiringa Phys. Rev. C 43, 1585 (1991).
- Angle between  $\vec{p}_p$  and  $\vec{p}_{rel}$  ( $\theta$ ): Assuming spherical uniform distribution
- Relative momentum ( $\vec{p}_{rel}$ ): Given by an excited energy of nn system ( $E_{nn}^*$ )

$E_{nn}^*$  was estimated by spectral function of  $^3\text{H}$  Ref.) C. Ciofi degli Atti et al., Phys. Rev. C, 21 (1980).

# Calculation of the $\Lambda n$ final state interaction



$nn\Lambda$  peak ( $-B_\Lambda \sim 0$  MeV):

Breit-Wigner with  $(-B_\Lambda, \Gamma) = (0.55, 4.7)$  MeV

Ref.) K.N. Suzuki *et al.*, Prog. of Theo. and Exp. Phys, 2022, 013D01 (2022).

Scaling factors ( $w_{FSI}, w_{nn\Lambda}$ ) were determined by chi-square ( $0 \leq -B_\Lambda \leq 60$  MeV).

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i^{N_{\text{bin}}} \frac{(y_{\text{data}}^i - w_{FSI} \cdot y_{FSI}^i + w_{nn\Lambda} \cdot y_{nn\Lambda}^i)^2}{\sigma_{\text{data}}^i}$$

With FSI : Succeeded in producing a structure ( $0 \leq -B_\Lambda \leq 60$  MeV)

Model difference : Small

- Not enough statistic to identify the model

# Search for best $(a, r)$ parameters with chi-square

$\Lambda n$  FSI : calculated by Jost function with the  $(a, r)$  potential parameters

- Search for the best  $(a, r)$  parameters by changing them

There are four  $\Lambda n$  potential parameters  $(a_s, r_s, a_t, r_t)$

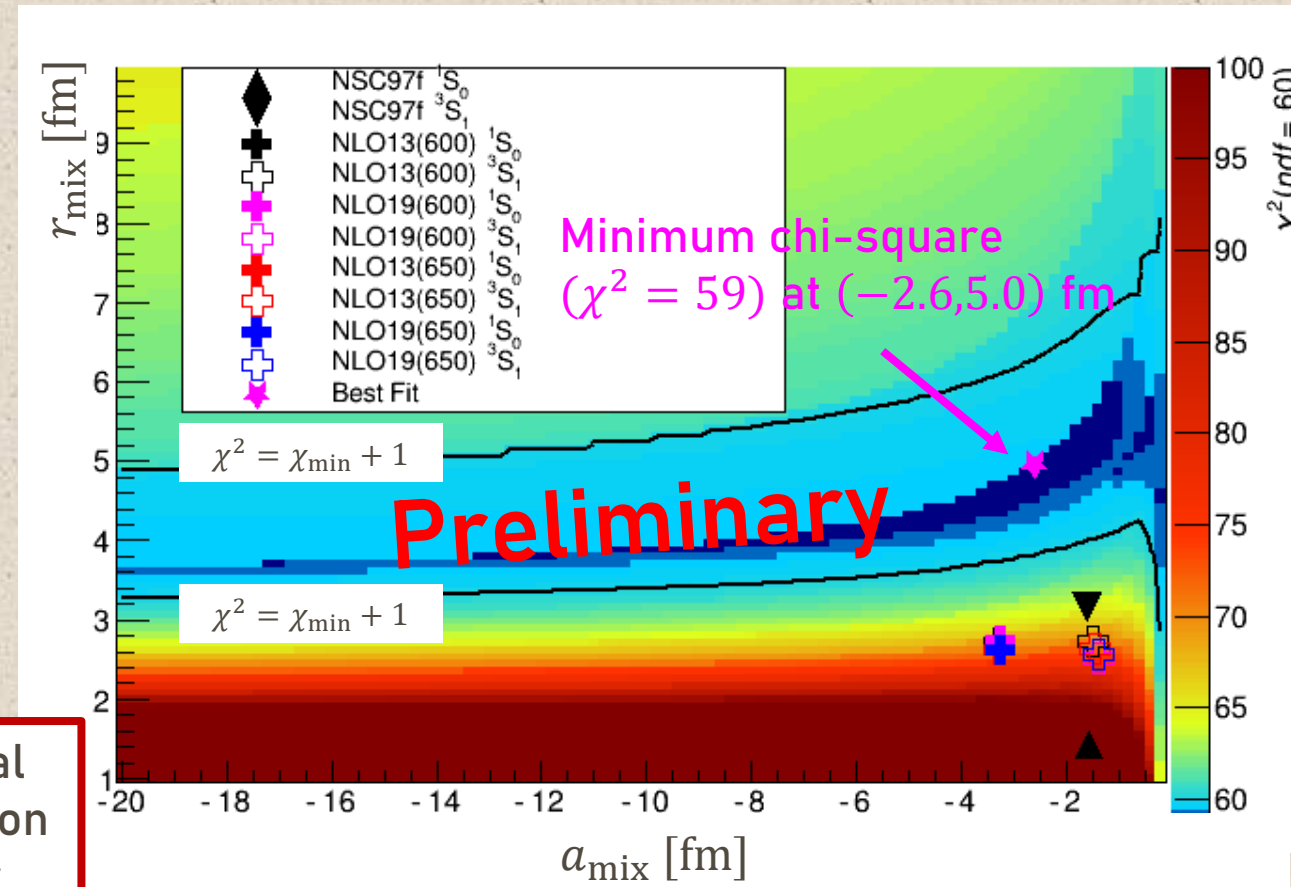
$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{FSI}} = \left( \left| \frac{1}{J_s(k_{\text{rel}})} \right|^2 + 3 \left| \frac{1}{J_t(k_{\text{rel}})} \right|^2 \right) \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{w/o FSI}}$$

In this study, two potential parameters  $(a_{\text{mix}}, r_{\text{mix}})$  were used (mixed spin state of  $a$  and  $r$ )

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{FSI}} = \left( \left| \frac{1}{J_{\text{mix}}(k_{\text{rel}})} \right|^2 \right) \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{w/o FSI}}$$

Assuming  $a_{\text{mix}} = -2.6$  fm

(Preliminary)  $r_{\text{mix}} = 5.0_{-1.2}^{+1.3}$  (stat.) fm



$(a_{\text{mix}}, r_{\text{mix}})$  is not directly comparable with the theoretical models.  $\rightarrow$  I will consult with theorists and give restriction on the  $\Lambda n$  potential parameters  $(a_s, r_s, a_t, r_t)$  in this study.



# Conclusion

## Study of the $\Lambda n$ potential dependence (preliminary)

- Fitting by chi-square ( $0 \leq -B_\Lambda \leq 60$  MeV)
- NSC97f is the smallest chi-square in seven potential models

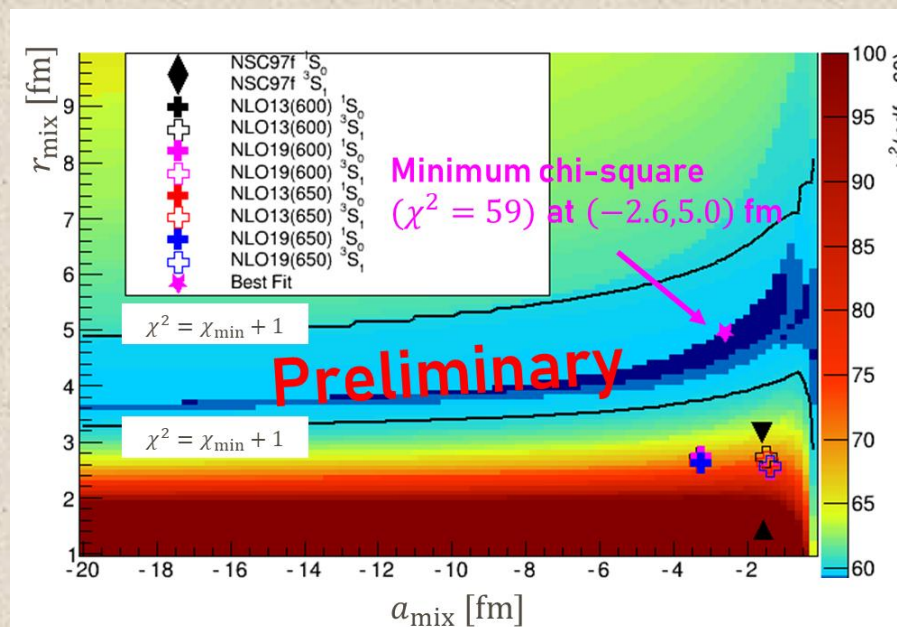
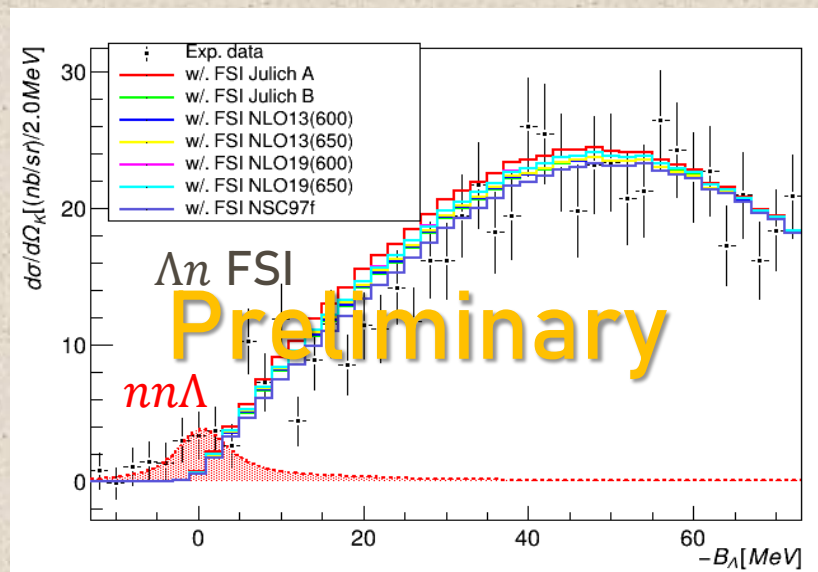
$\Lambda n$ Potential	Reduced chi-square ( $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ )
w/o FSI (w/o nnL peak)	1.24
w/o FSI	1.09
Jülich A	1.40
Jülich B	1.15
NSC97f	1.05
NLO13(600)	1.16
NLO13(650)	1.17
NLO19(600)	1.22
NLO19(650)	1.22

Preliminary

## Search for the best fit of $\Lambda n$ FSI (preliminary)

- Minimum chi-square ( $\chi^2 = 59$ ) at  $(-2.6, 5.0)$  fm
- $a_{\text{mix}} = -2.6$  fm is comparable with the  $\Lambda n$  potential models
- The effective range ( $r_{\text{mix}}$ ) can be limited for a given  $a_{\text{mix}}$ .

$(a_{\text{mix}}, r_{\text{mix}})$  is not directly comparable with the theoretical models.  
 → I will consult with theorists and give restriction on the  $\Lambda n$  potential parameters ( $a_s, r_s, a_t, r_t$ ) in this study.



# SUMMARY

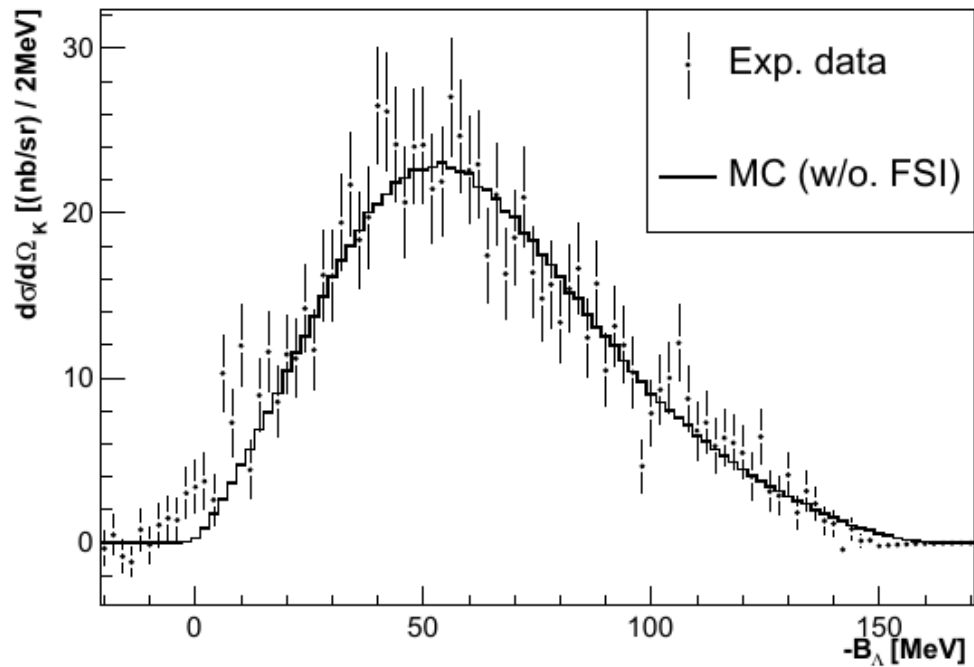
- The information of the  $\Lambda N$  interaction can be obtained by  $\Lambda$  hypernuclear spectroscopy.
- The  $nn\Lambda$  search experiment was performed in 2018 at JLab.
- $\Lambda n$  FSI was studied by fitting the  $\Lambda$ -QF distribution in the  ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$  reaction.
  - $\Lambda n$  FSI was calculated with Jost function in the ERA
  - NSC97f got smallest chi-square in the seven potential models
  - The effective range ( $r_{\text{mix}}$ ) were limited for a given  $a_{\text{mix}}$ .
  - Assuming  $a = -2.6$  fm, the effective range was obtained as  $r_{\text{mix}} = 5.0_{-1.2}^{+1.3}$  (stat.) fm (preliminary)

# Backup



# Monte Carlo Simulation (SIMC)

Distribution of the  $\Lambda$ -QF production was estimated by Monte Carlo simulation (SIMC)



The MC distribution was generated by SIMC with physics effects as

- Fermi momentum of proton in  ${}^3\text{H}$

Ref.) R. B. Wiringa Phys. Rev. C 43, 1585 (1991).

- Kaon decay effect
- Radiative effects

$60 < -B_\Lambda < 150$  MeV : Good agreement with data

$0 < -B_\Lambda < 60$  MeV : There are events excesses

$\rightarrow \Lambda n$  FSI effect

# Study of the $\Lambda N$ interaction from $\Lambda$ hypernuclei

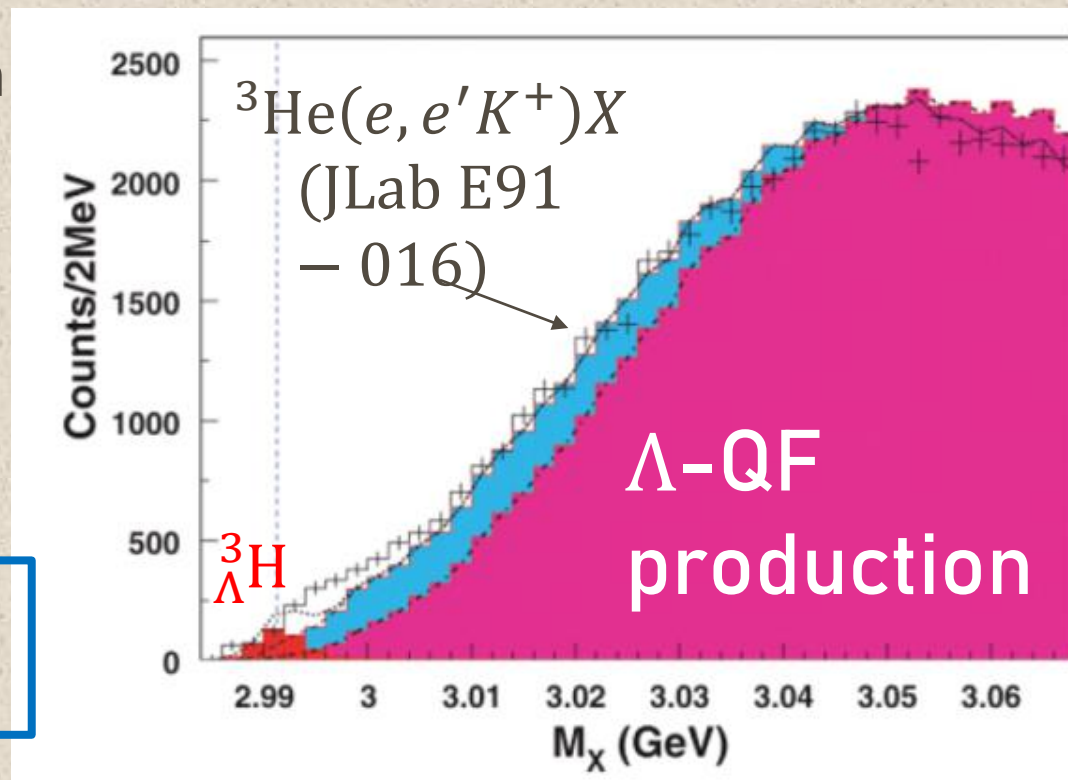
In the  $\Lambda$  hypernuclear spectroscopy experiment, missing mass of  $\Lambda$  hypernuclei and  $\Lambda$  quasi-free ( $\Lambda$ -QF) productions would be measured.

JLab experiment (E91-016) with  $(e, e'K^+)$  reaction there were excess events ( $2.99 < M_x < 3.05$  GeV).

- Black dot points : Experimental data
- magenta histogram :  $\Lambda$ -QF distribution (simulation)

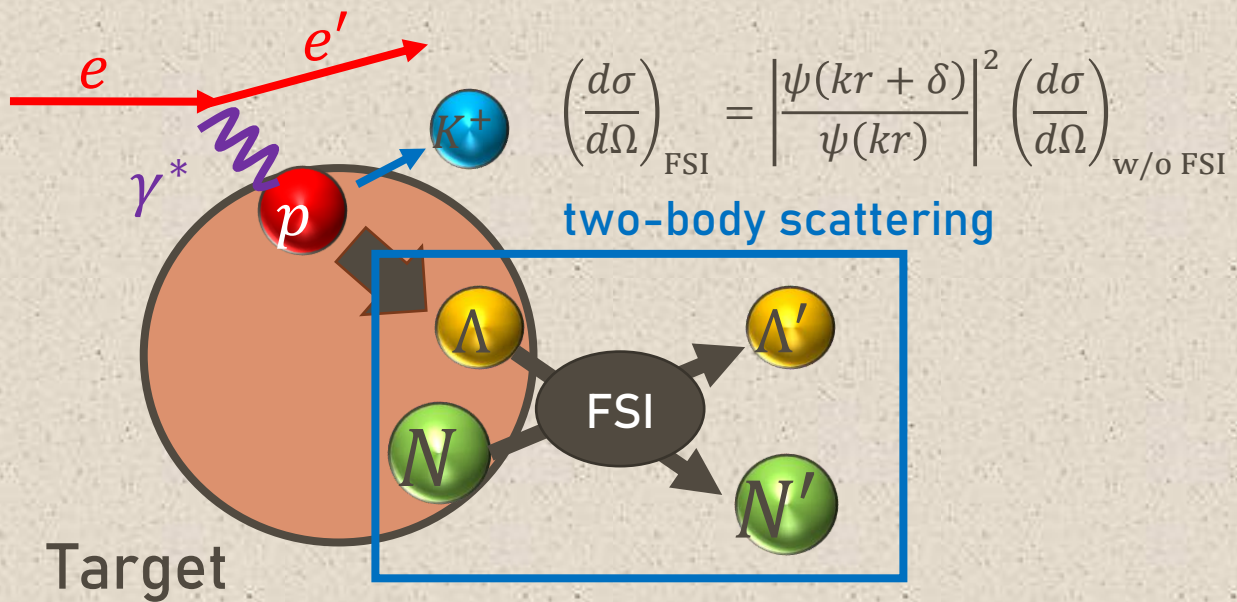
$\Lambda N$  final state interaction (FSI)

→ Successfully reproduced the excess events

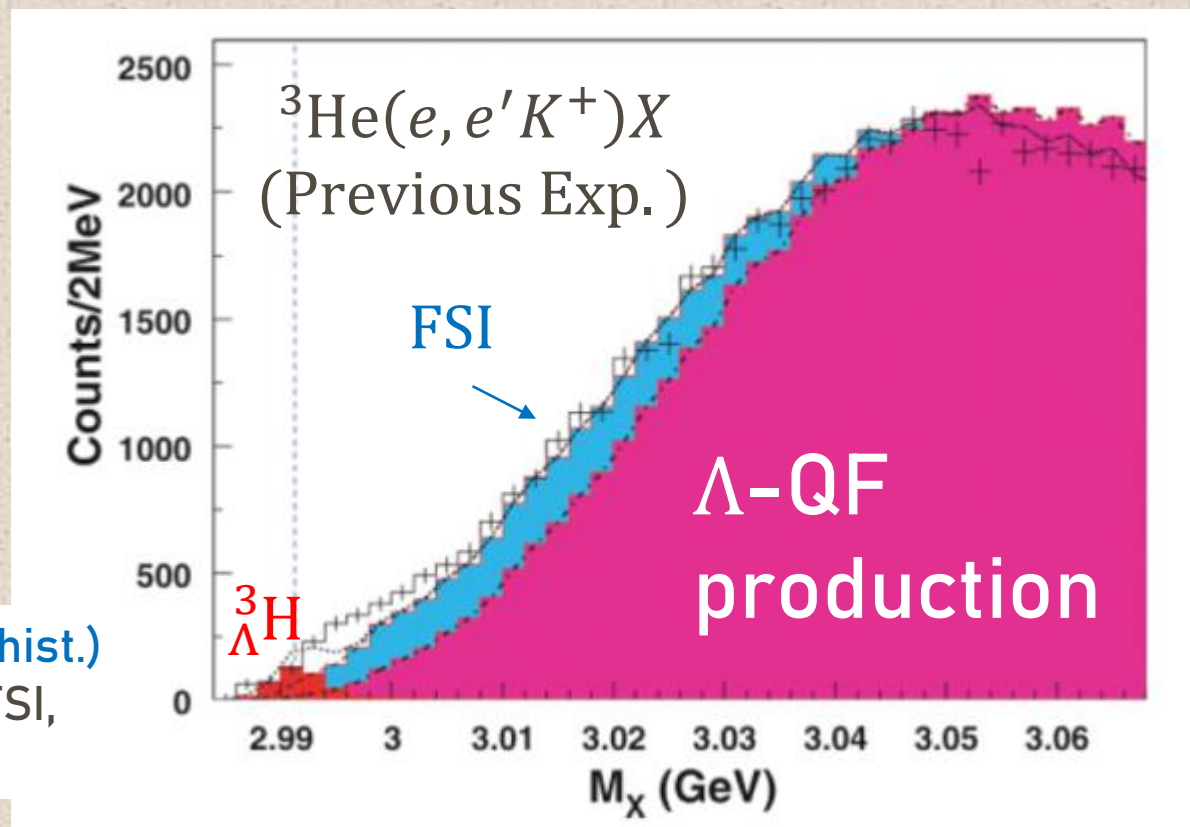


# Study of Final State Interaction (FSI)

The recoil  $\Lambda$  interacts with a nucleon within a target system ( $\Lambda N$  scattering)



The  $\Lambda N$  scattering in the nucleus make enhancement (blue hist.)  
 → By fitting experimental data with  $\Lambda$ -QF distribution with FSI, information of  $\Lambda N$  interaction can be obtained

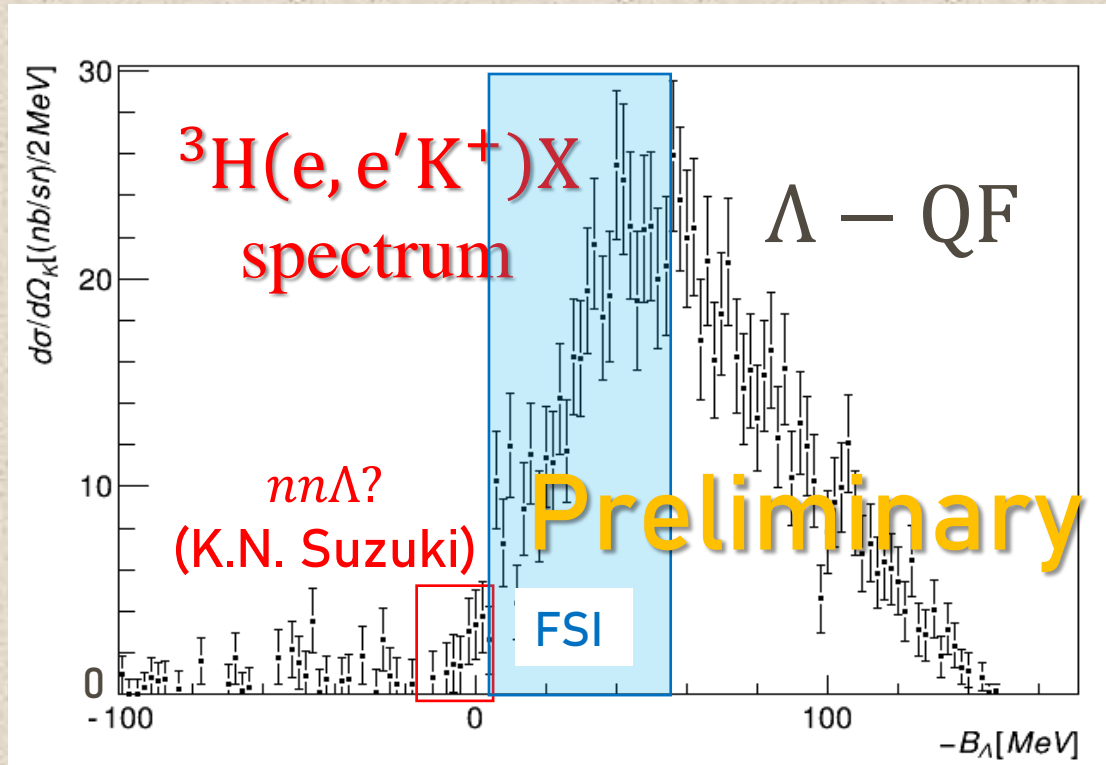




# Missing mass spectrum in the ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$

The differential cross section of  $\Lambda$  – QF production calculation was calculated by

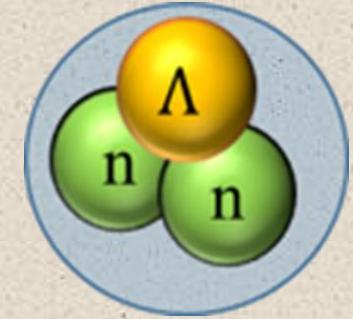
$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\text{QF}}}{d\Omega_K}\right) = \frac{1}{N_T} \frac{1}{N_{\gamma^*}} \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{\text{det}}} \sum_i^{N_{\text{QF}}} \frac{1}{\varepsilon_K^i(\vec{p}_K^i) d\Omega_K(\vec{p}_K^i)}$$



From missing mass spectrum in the  ${}^3\text{H}(e, e'K^+)X$  reaction, the following physics have been studied

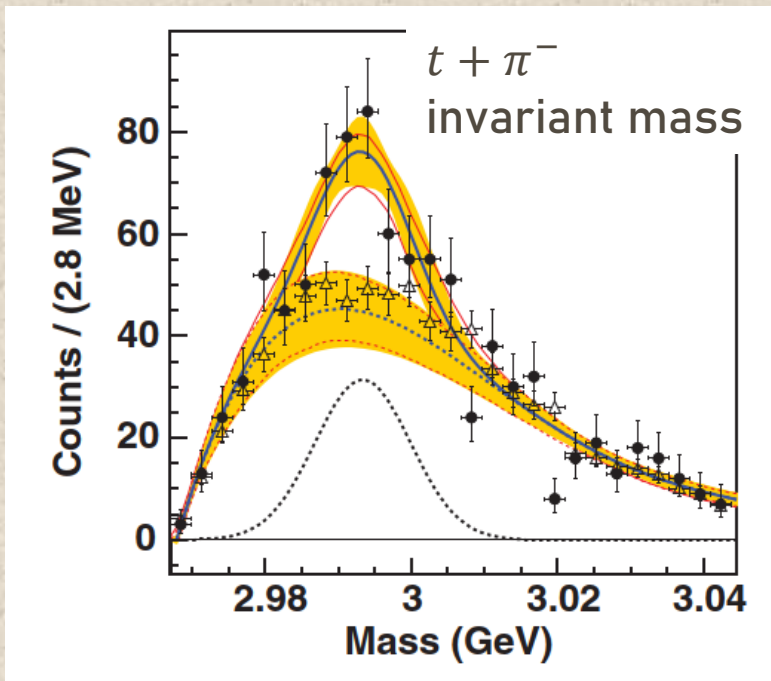
1. Upper limit of the  $nn\Lambda$  from an event excess ( $-B_\Lambda \sim 0 \text{ MeV}$ )  
Ref.) K.N. Suzuki *et al.*, Prog. of Theo. and Exp. Phys, 2022, 013D01 (2022).
2.  $\Lambda n$  final state interaction from the  $\Lambda$ -QF spectrum ( $0 \leq -B_\Lambda \leq 60 \text{ MeV}$ )

# The $nn\Lambda$ state problem



A  $nn\Lambda$  is a neutron- $\Lambda$  system with no charge.

→ Existence of  $nn\Lambda$  is not established at all.



HypHI Collaboration at GSI reported structure that may be interpreted as a bound state of  $nn\Lambda$  system.

Experimental data(GSI)

- Invariant mass :  $m_{nn\Lambda} = 2994.3 \pm 1.1(\text{stat.}) \pm 2.2(\text{sys.}) \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- Lifetime :  $\tau_{nn\Lambda} = 190_{-35}^{+47}(\text{stat.}) \pm 36(\text{sys.}) \text{ ps}$

→ Peak events imply **bound state of the  $nn\Lambda$**

However, GSI did not measure enough significance.

C. Rappold *et al.*, (HypHI Collaboration) Phys. Rev. C 88 041001 (2013)

# $nn\Lambda$ state problem (theoretical discussion)

HypHI collaboration measured the events which indicate bound state of  $nn\Lambda$ .

However, theoretical calculations cannot reproduce bound state of  $nn\Lambda$ .

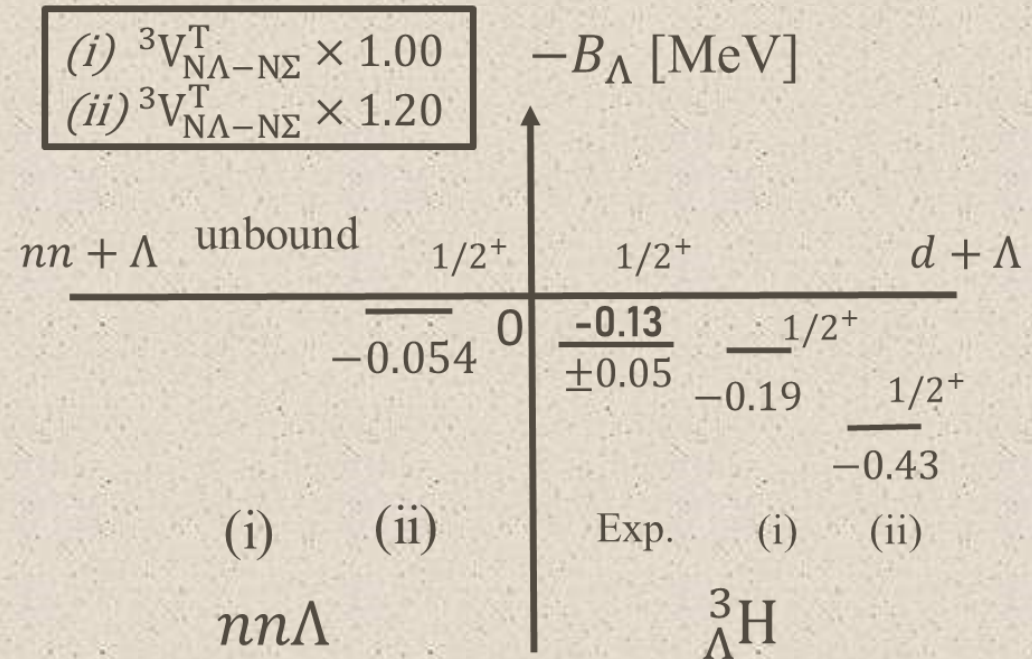
## Theoretical calculation with Gaussian expansion method

$\Lambda N$  interaction : NSC97f model including  $\Lambda N - \Sigma N$  coupling effect

E. Hiyama et al., Phys. Rev. C 89, 061302 (2014).

The binding energies in  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  and  ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{He}$  are reproduced

if  ${}^3V_{N\Lambda-N\Sigma}^T$  parameter increase 20%,  
 $nn\Lambda$  will be bound, but  ${}^3_{\Lambda}\text{H}$  will be over bound  
 → **The bound state of  $nn\Lambda$  is unrealistic**

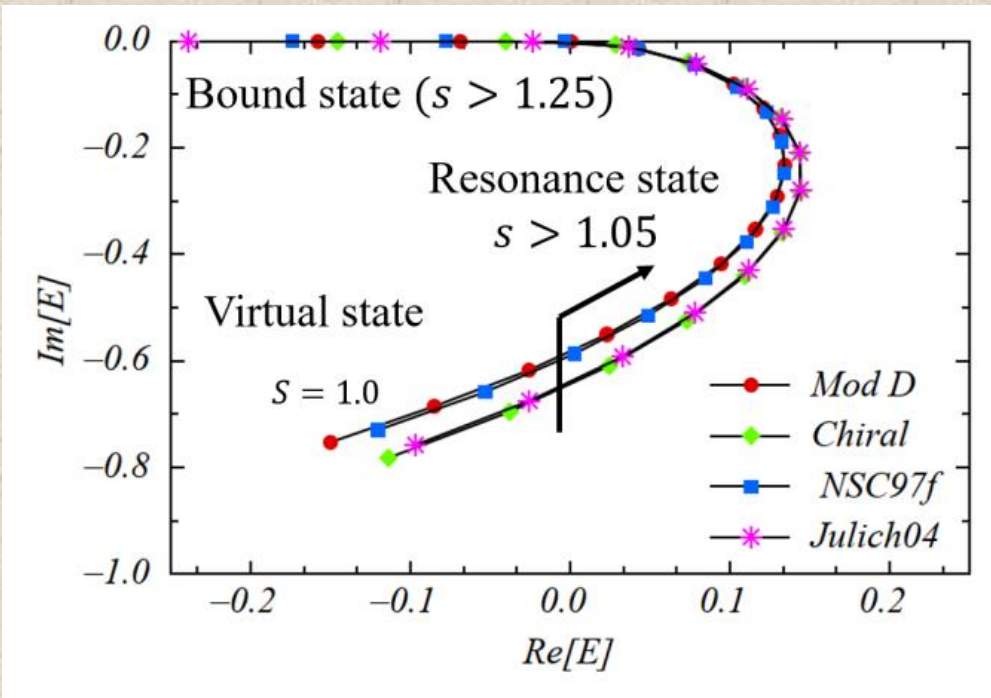




# $nn\Lambda$ state problem (theoretical discussion)

Faddeev calculation with S-wave separable potentials suggested that  $nn\Lambda$  could be resonance state

when a  $\Lambda n$  potential is 5% deeper than  $\Lambda p$  potential ( $s > 1.05$ ).



I.R. Afnan et al., Phys. Rev. C, 92 054608 (2015).

$s = 1$  assuming charge symmetry ( $V_{\Lambda n} = 1.0 \times V_{\Lambda p}$ )

$\Lambda p$  interaction has uncertainty

The  $nn\Lambda$  is expected to be resonance state ( $\Delta s > 0.05$ ) within the experimental error.

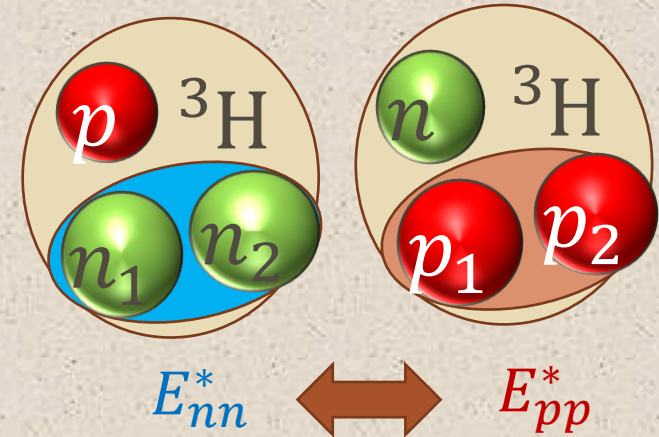
# Spectral function of $^3\text{He}$

One of the nucleon momentum in  $^3\text{H}$  was calculated with spectral function (SF)

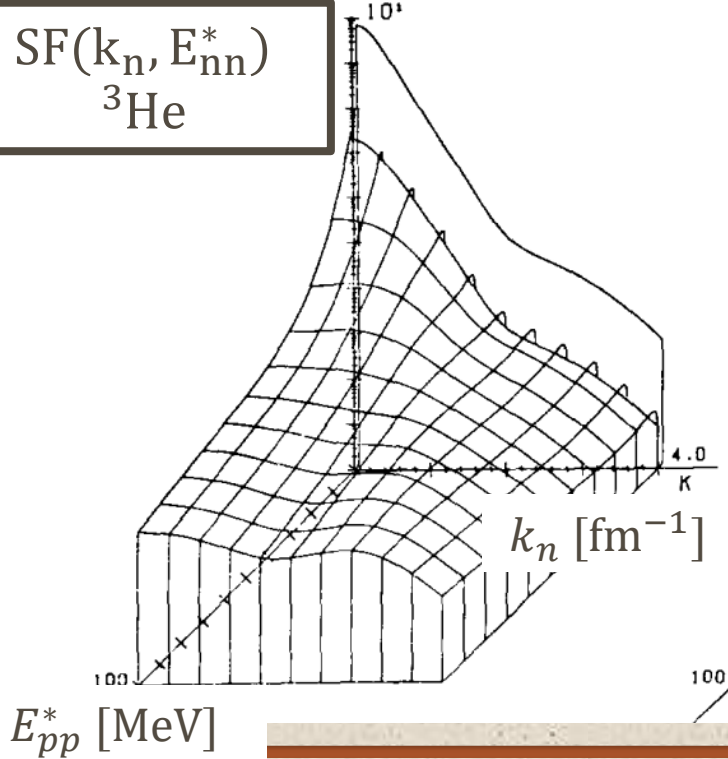
However, spectral function of  $^3\text{H}$  could not reproduced

→ Using SF of  $^3\text{He}$  assuming charge symmetry

Mirror system



SF( $k_n, E_{nn}^*$ )  
 $^3\text{He}$



The relative momentum was written by the excited energy of residual system

$$E_{pp}^* = \frac{|\vec{p}_{rel}|^2}{2\mu} = \frac{|\vec{p}_{rel}|^2}{m_p}$$

The proton momentum in  $^3\text{He}$

$$|\vec{p}_p^{3\text{He}}| = \sqrt{m_p E_{pp}^* + \frac{|\vec{p}_n|^2}{4} \mp |\vec{p}_n|(m_p E_{pp}^*) \cos\theta}$$

$$|\vec{p}_n^{3\text{H}}| = \sqrt{m_n E_{pp}^* + \frac{|\vec{p}_p|^2}{4} \mp |\vec{p}_p|(m_n E_{pp}^*) \cos\theta}$$

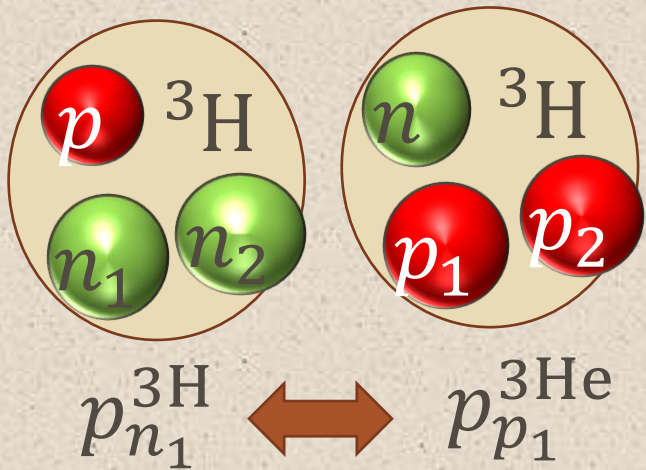
Assuming charge symmetry

$$E_{nn}^* = E_{pp}^*$$

# Charge symmetry between ${}^3\text{H}$ and ${}^3\text{He}$

One of the neutron (proton) momenta in  ${}^3\text{H}$  ( ${}^3\text{He}$ ) were calculated by excited energy of residual systems ( $E_{pp}^*$ )

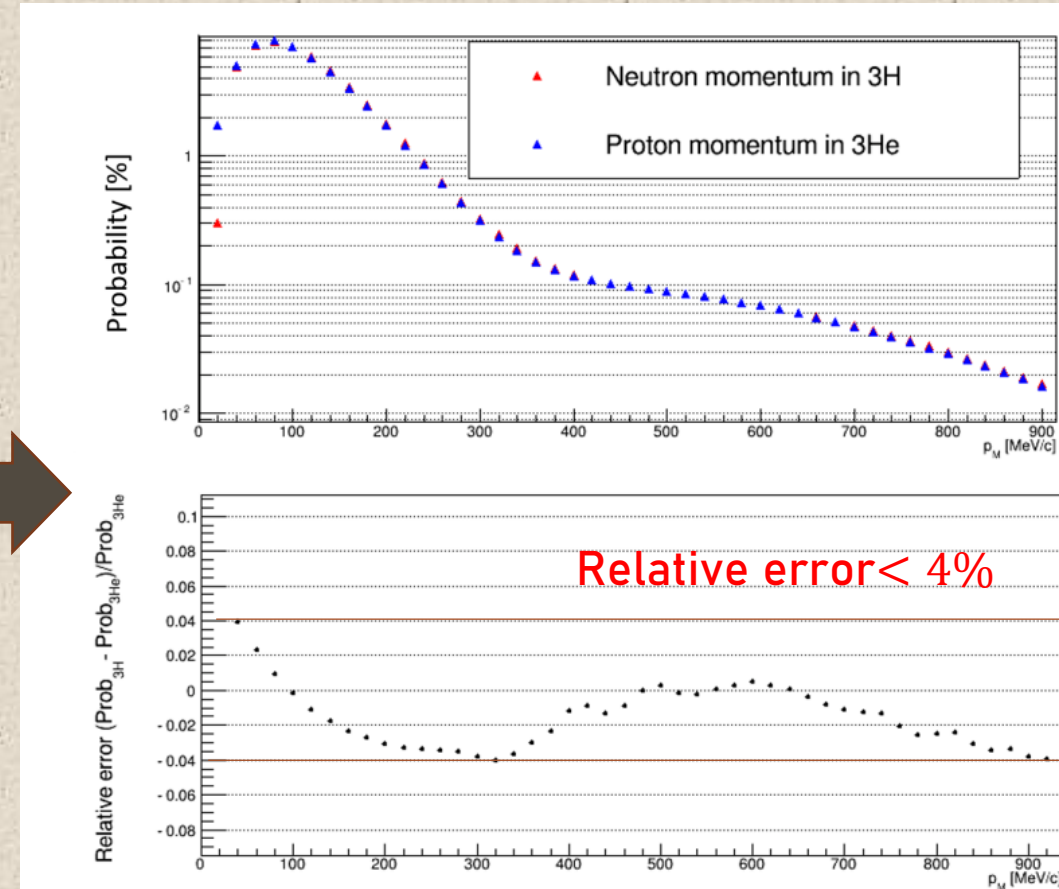
The relative error of the nucleon momentum is expected to be same as one of the Fermi momentum



$$R_{\text{resi}} = \frac{P_{3\text{H}}(\vec{p}_{n_1}^{\text{nn}}) - P_{3\text{He}}(\vec{p}_{p_1}^{\text{pp}})}{P_{3\text{He}}(\vec{p}_{p_1}^{\text{pp}})}$$

$$R_{\text{Fer}} = \frac{P_{3\text{H}}(\vec{p}_{n_1}^{\text{Fer}}) - P_{3\text{He}}(\vec{p}_{p_1}^{\text{Fer}})}{P_{3\text{He}}(\vec{p}_{p_1}^{\text{Fer}})}$$

The relative error of the Fermi momentum distribution at each momentum is **less than 4%**





# Calculation of final state interaction

There are three parameters ( $p_{\Lambda n}$ ,  $a$ ,  $r$ )