

# The meson-nucleus interaction and the search for meson-nucleus bound states

---

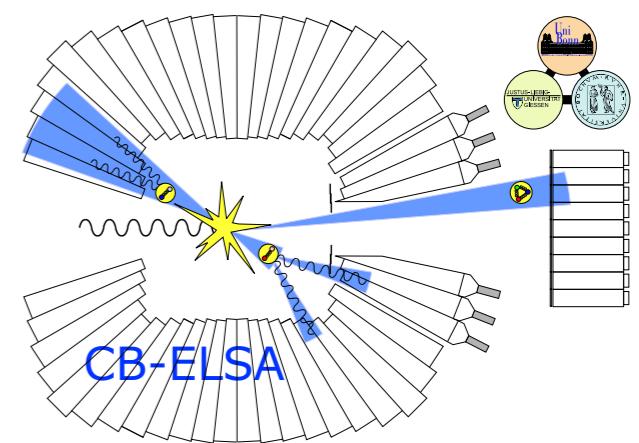
Volker Metag, Mariana Nanova  
II. Physikalisches Institut



- I. Introduction: theoretical predictions
- II. mass shifts and broadening from meson line shape analysis
- III. meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions,  
momentum distributions and transparency ratios
- IV. meson-nucleus interaction from meson-nucleus bound states
- V. summary and outlook



Reimei workshop  
“Hadrons in dense matter at J-PARC”  
Feb. 21-23. 2022

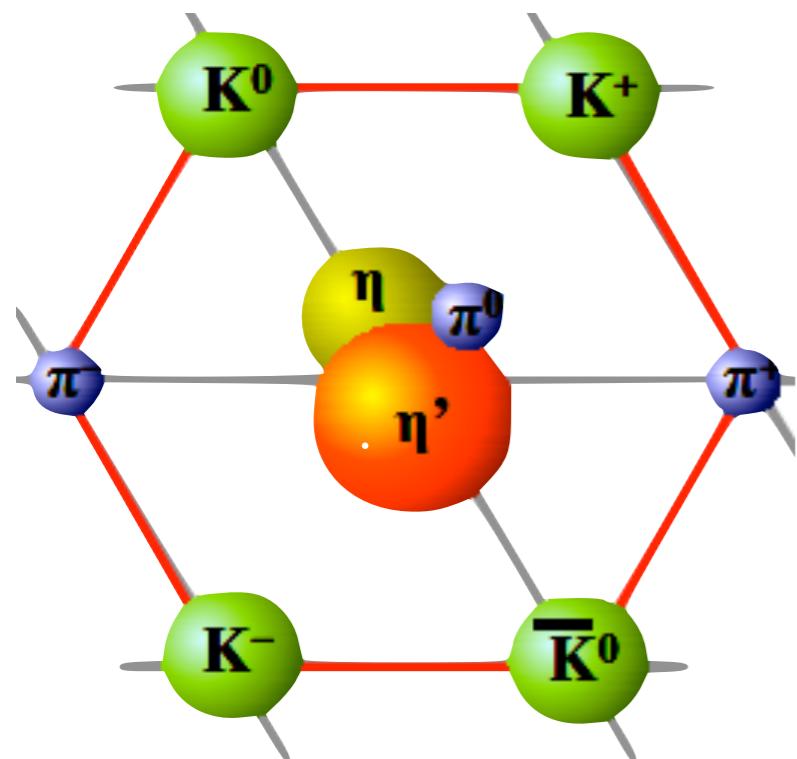


I.

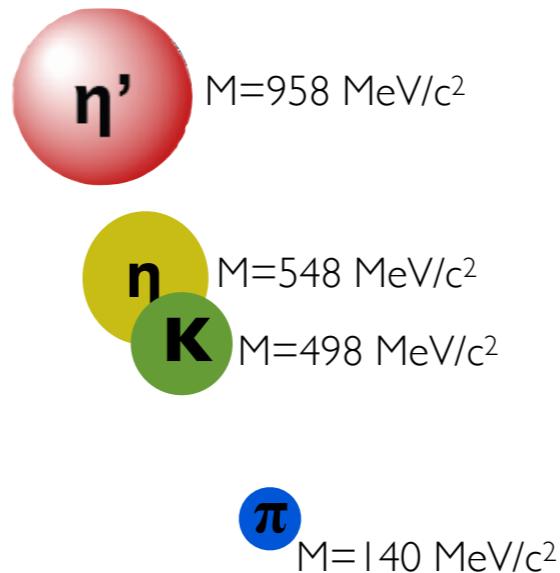
# Introduction

## (theoretical predictions)

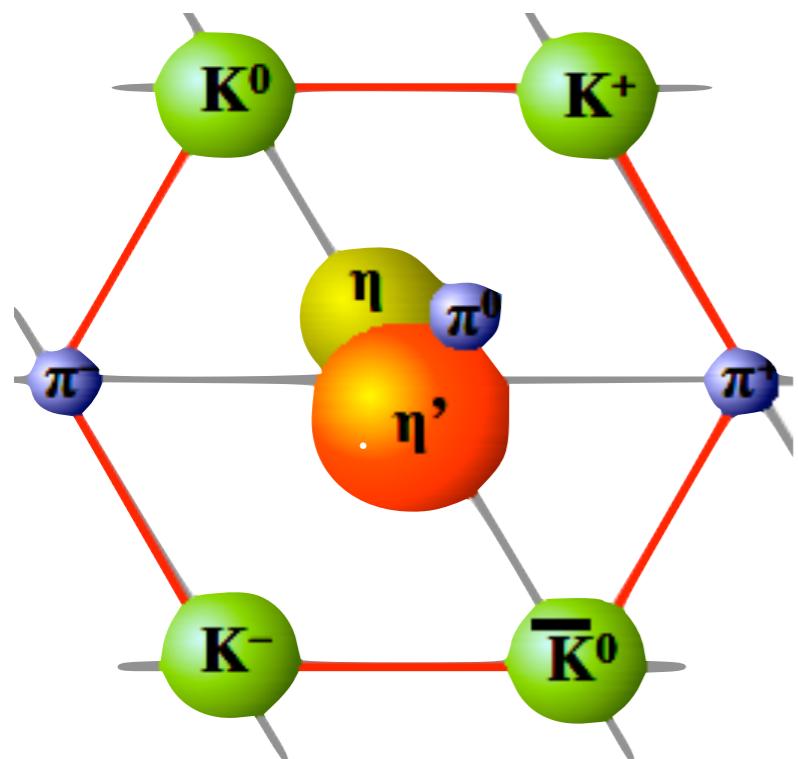
# Symmetry breaking in the hadronic sector



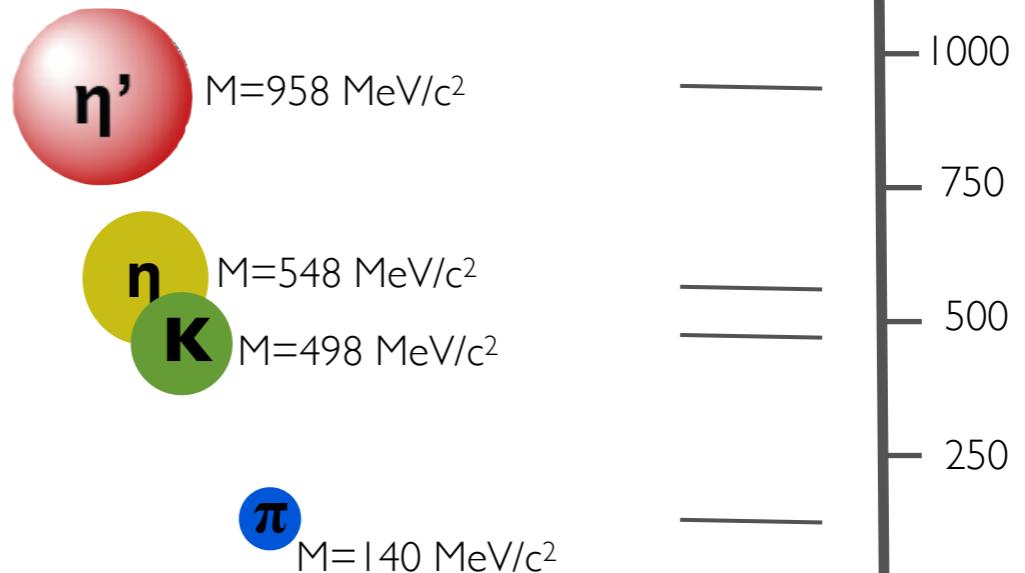
nonet of  
pseudoscalar  
mesons



# Symmetry breaking in the hadronic sector



nonet of  
pseudoscalar  
mesons

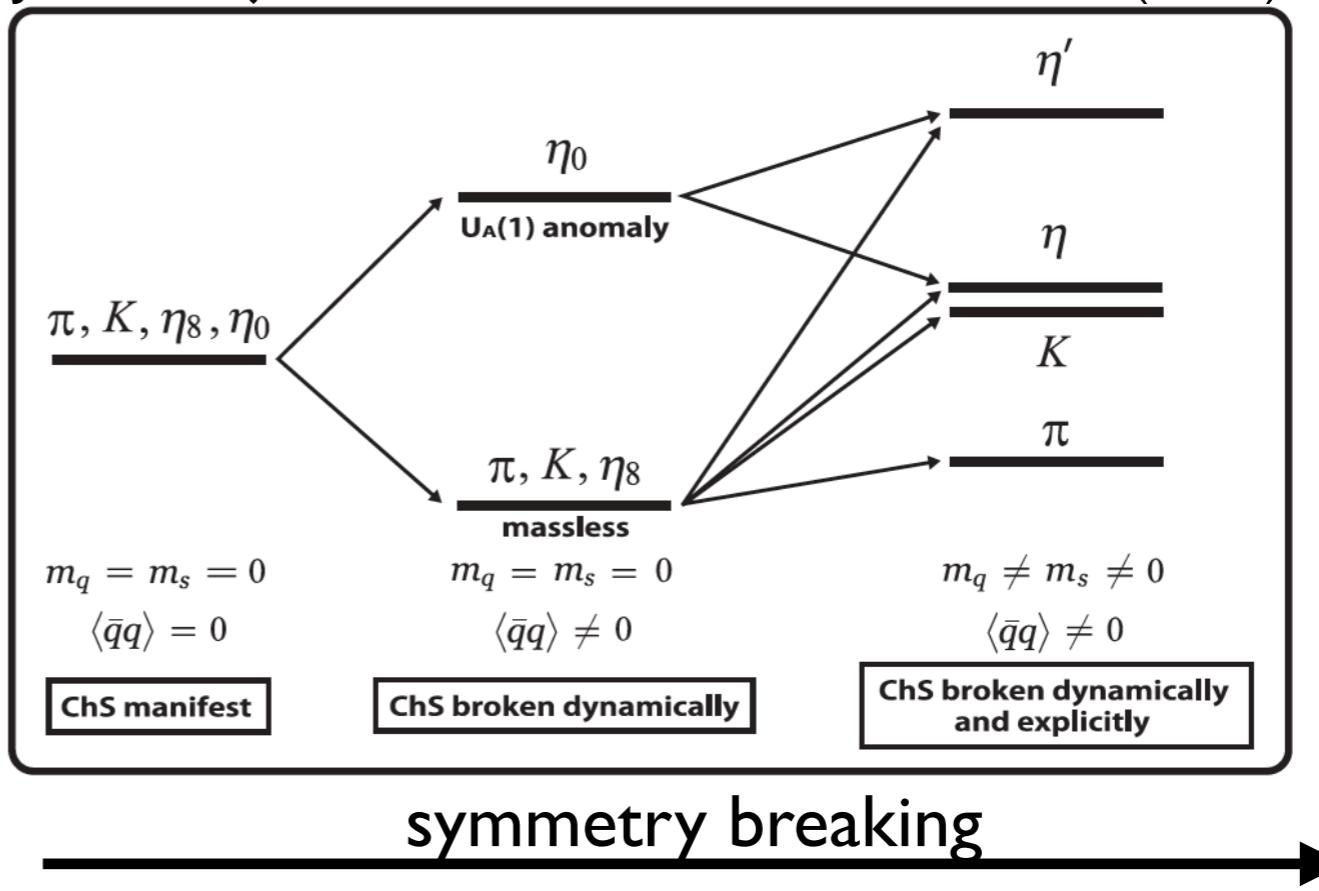


V. Bernard, R.L. Jaffe, U.-G. Meissner, NPB 308 (1988) 753

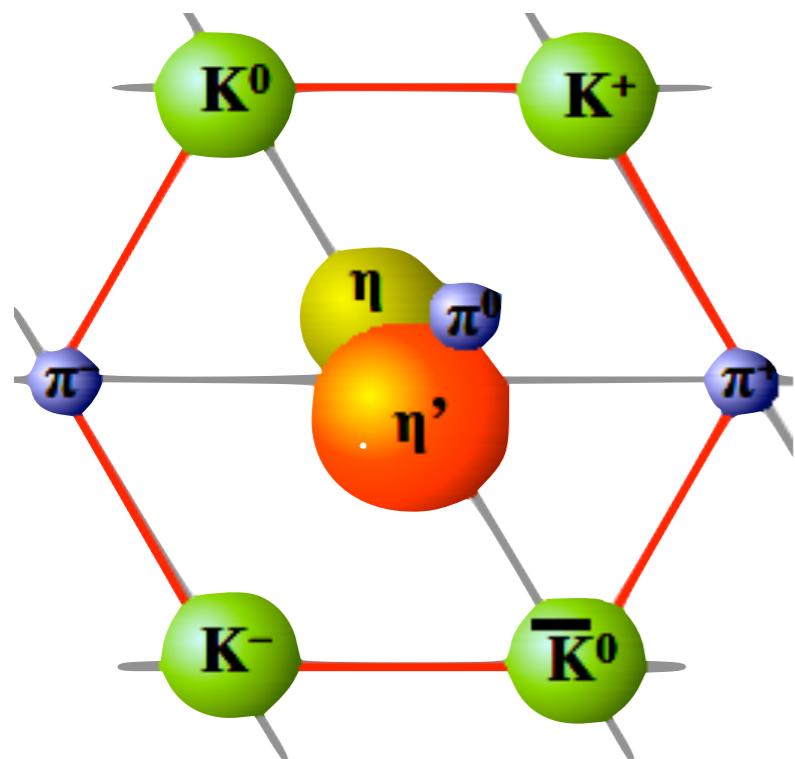
S. Klimt, M. Lutz, U. Vogel, W. Weise, NPA 516 (1990) 429

H. Nagahiro, D. Jido, H. Fujioka, K. Itahashi, S. Hirenzaki, PRC87 (2013) 045201

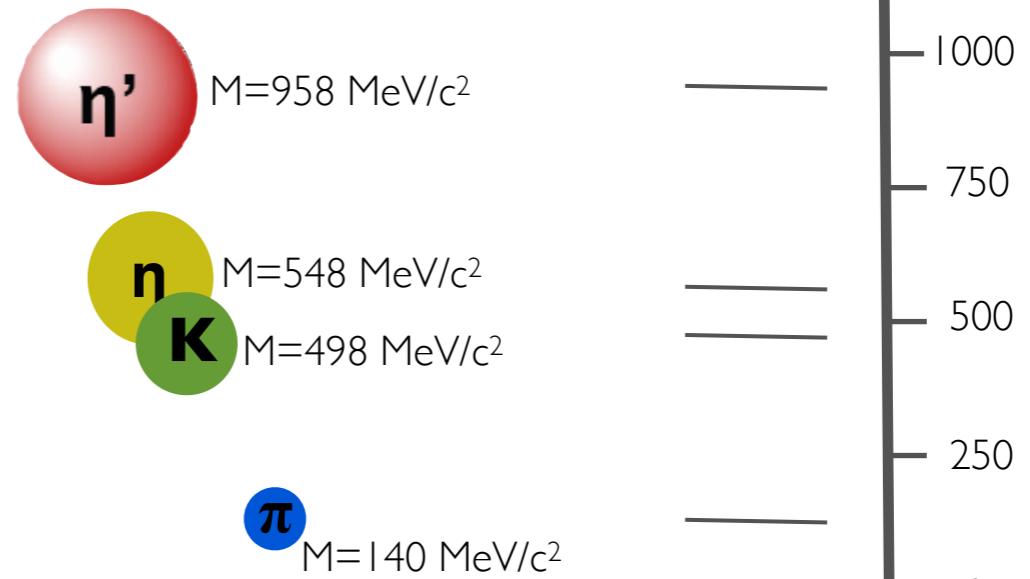
mass as a result of  
symmetry breaking



# Symmetry breaking in the hadronic sector



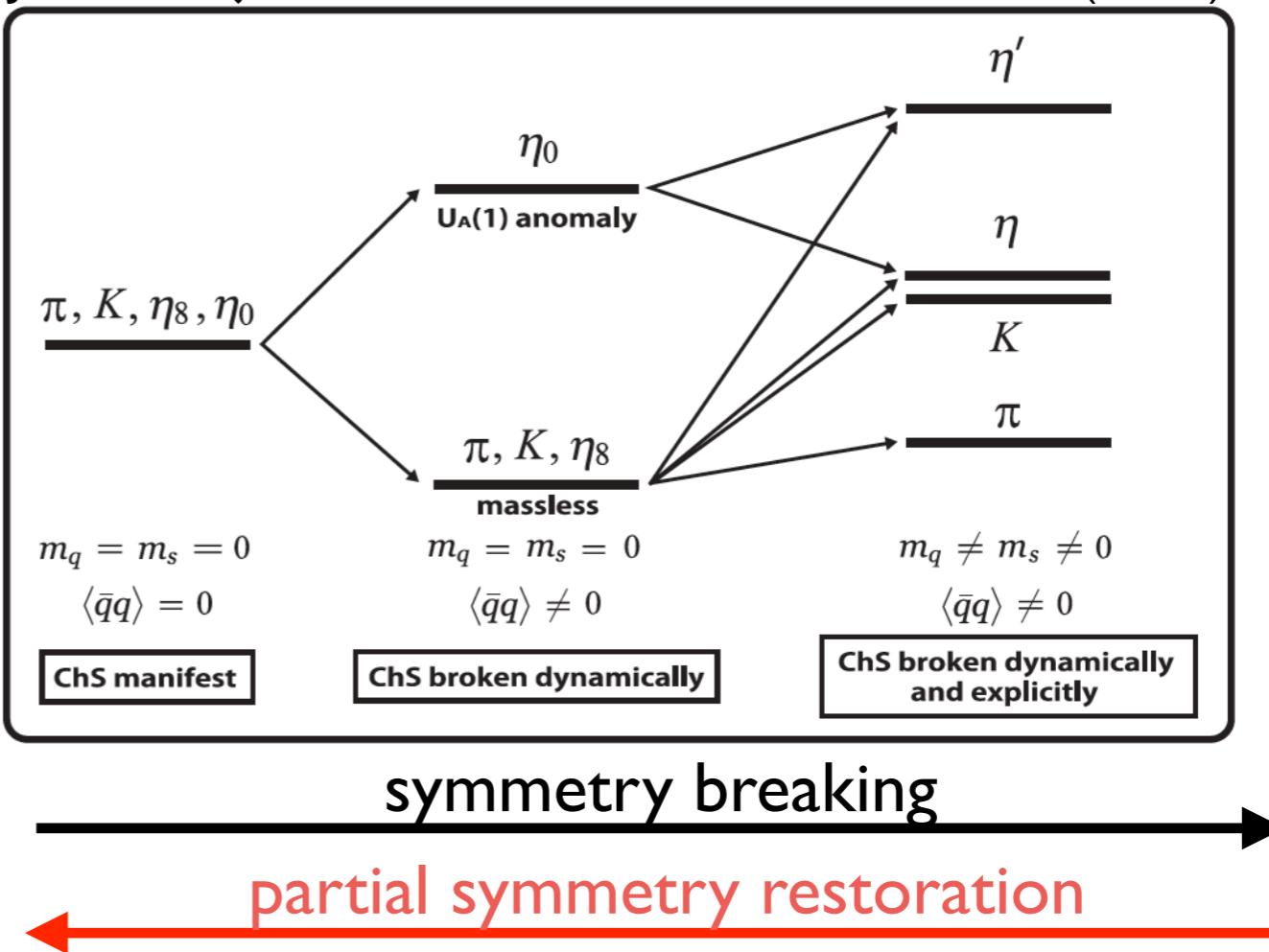
nonet of  
pseudoscalar  
mesons



V. Bernard, R.L. Jaffe, U.-G. Meissner, NPB 308 (1988) 753  
 S. Klimt, M. Lutz, U. Vogel, W. Weise, NPA 516 (1990) 429  
 H. Nagahiro, D. Jido, H. Fujioka, K. Itahashi, S. Hirenzaki, PRC87 (2013) 045201

mass as a result of  
symmetry breaking

partial restoration of  
chiral symmetry  
predicted to occur  
in a nucleus  $\Rightarrow$  impact  
on meson masses ??

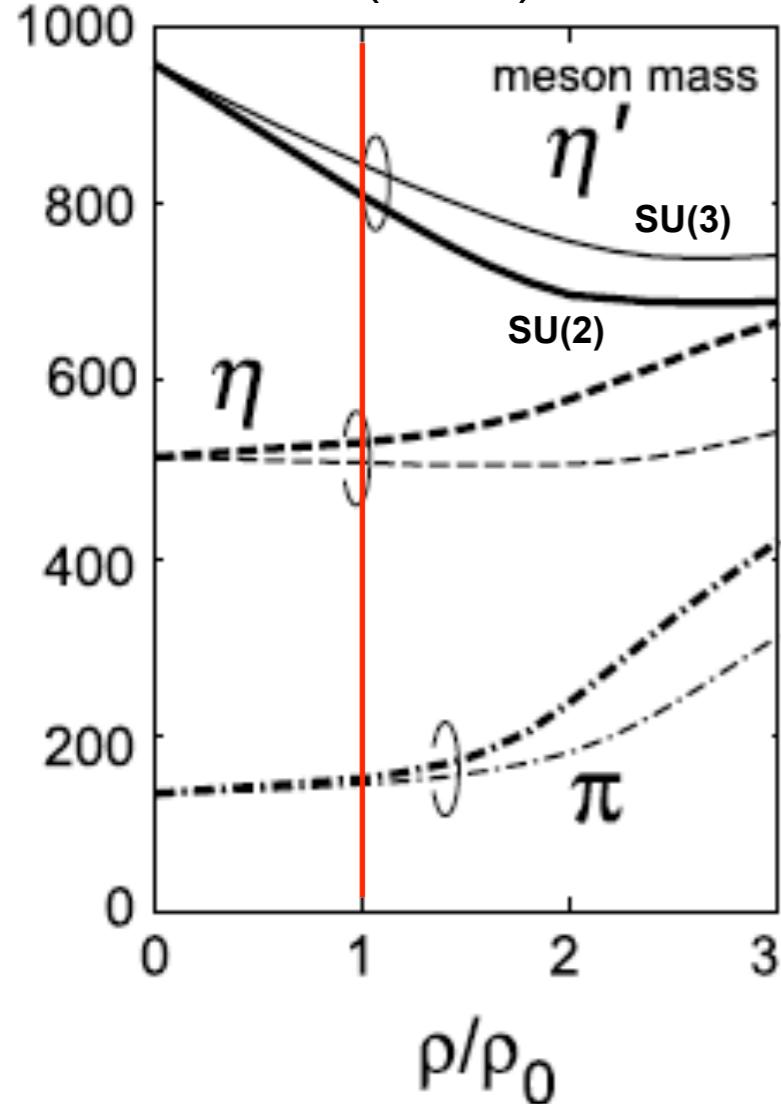


# Predictions for in-medium changes

$\eta, \eta'$

## NJL-model

H. Nagahiro et al.,  
PRC 74 (2006) 045203



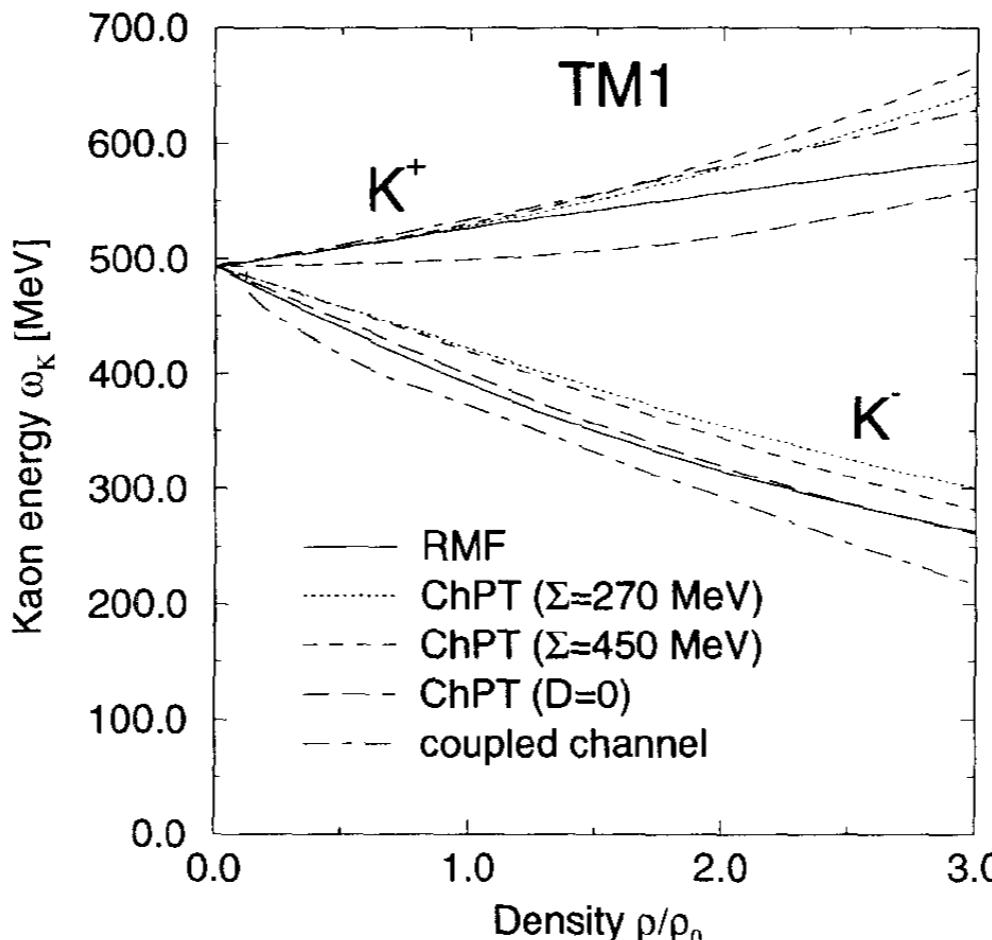
$$\Delta m_{\eta'}(\rho_0) \approx -150 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta m_\eta(\rho_0) \approx +20 \text{ MeV}$$

$K^+, K^-$

## RMF-approach

J.Schaffner-Bielich et al.,  
Nucl. Phys.A625 (1997) 325



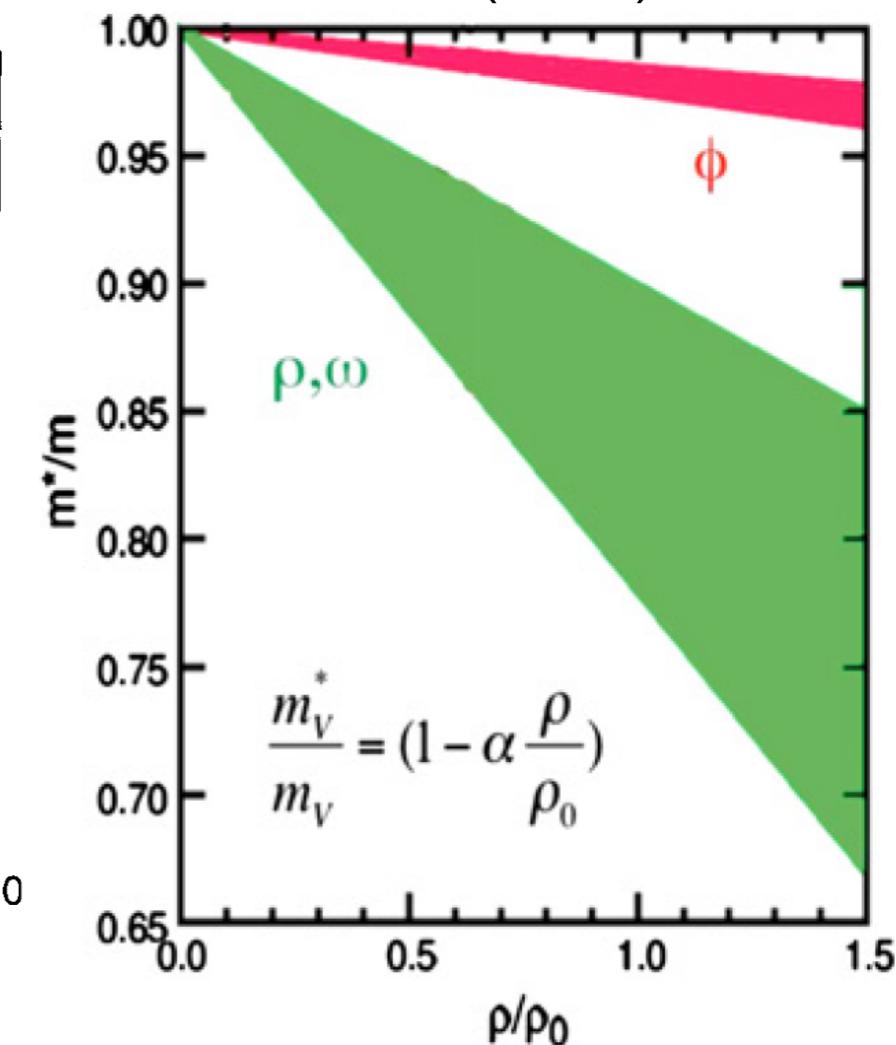
$$\Delta m_{K^+}(\rho_0) \approx +30 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta m_{K^-}(\rho_0) \approx -100 \text{ MeV}$$

$\rho, \omega, \Phi$

## QCD sum rules

T. Hatsuda, S. Lee  
PRC46 (1992)R34



$$\Delta m_\rho(\rho_0) \approx - (80-160) \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta m_\omega(\rho_0) \approx - (80-160) \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta m_\phi(\rho_0) \approx -(20-30) \text{ MeV}$$

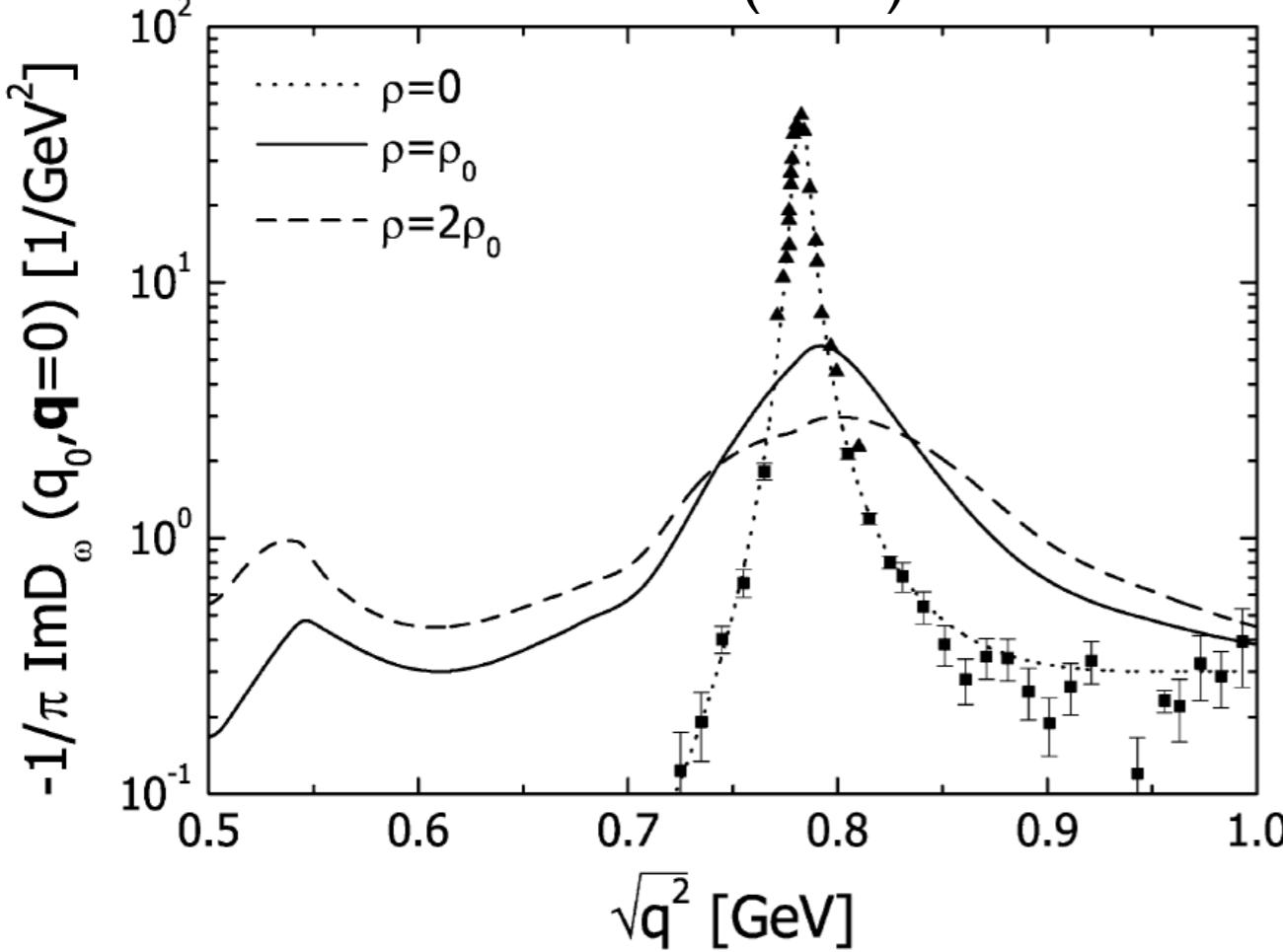
# Predictions for in-medium broadening

in the nuclear medium mesons have additional “decay”- options  
they can be removed by inelastic reactions, e.g.  $\omega N \rightarrow \pi N$   
 $\rightarrow$ shorter lifetime  $\rightarrow$ larger in-medium width



unitary coupled channel  
effective Lagrangian model

P. Mühlich et al.,  
NPA 780 (2006) 187

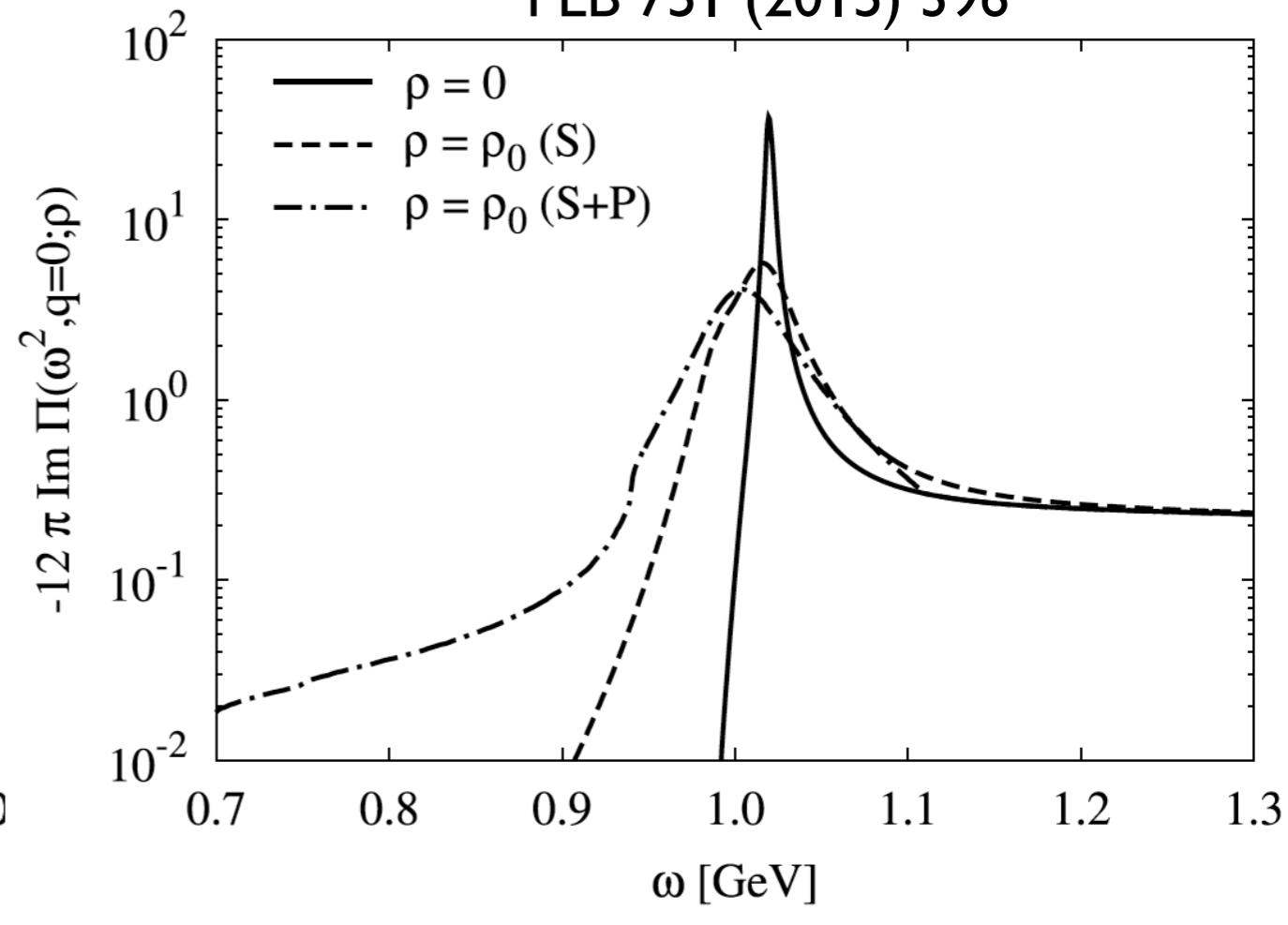


$$\Gamma_\omega(\rho=\rho_0) \approx 60 \text{ MeV}$$



chiral-SU(3)  
effective field theory

P. Gubler, W. Weise  
PLB 751 (2015) 396



$$\Gamma_\Phi(\rho=\rho_0) \approx 45 \text{ MeV}$$

# From theoretical predictions to experimental observables

calculations of meson spectral functions assume:

- infinitely extended nuclear matter in equilibrium at  $\rho, T = \text{const.}$ ;
- meson at rest in nuclear medium

# From theoretical predictions to experimental observables

calculations of meson spectral functions assume:

- infinitely extended nuclear matter in equilibrium at  $\rho, T = \text{const.}$ ;
- meson at rest in nuclear medium

theoretical  
predictions



experimental  
observables

# From theoretical predictions to experimental observables

calculations of meson spectral functions assume:

- infinitely extended nuclear matter in equilibrium at  $\rho, T = \text{const.}$ ;
- meson at rest in nuclear medium

transport calculations (GiBUU, HSD, UrQMD, JAM,...)  
are needed for comparison with experiment !!!

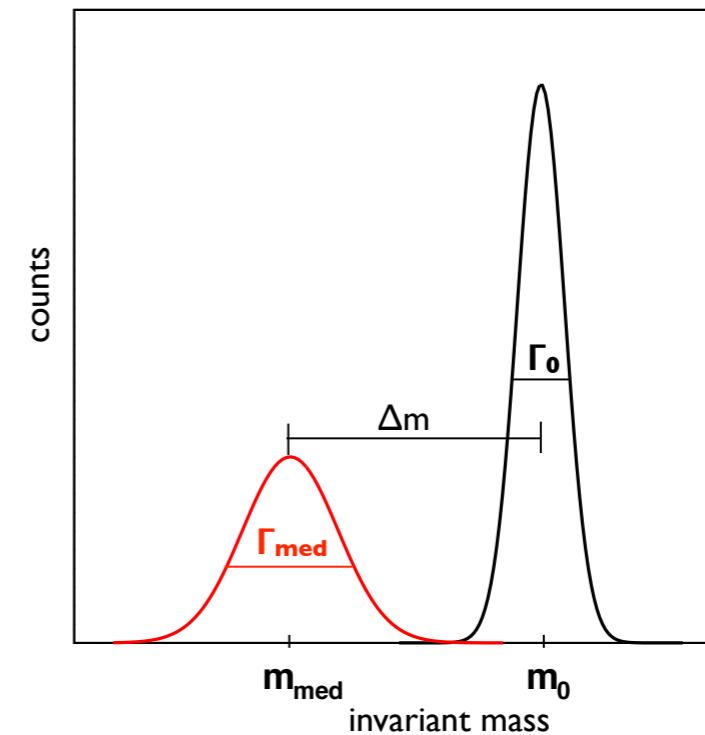
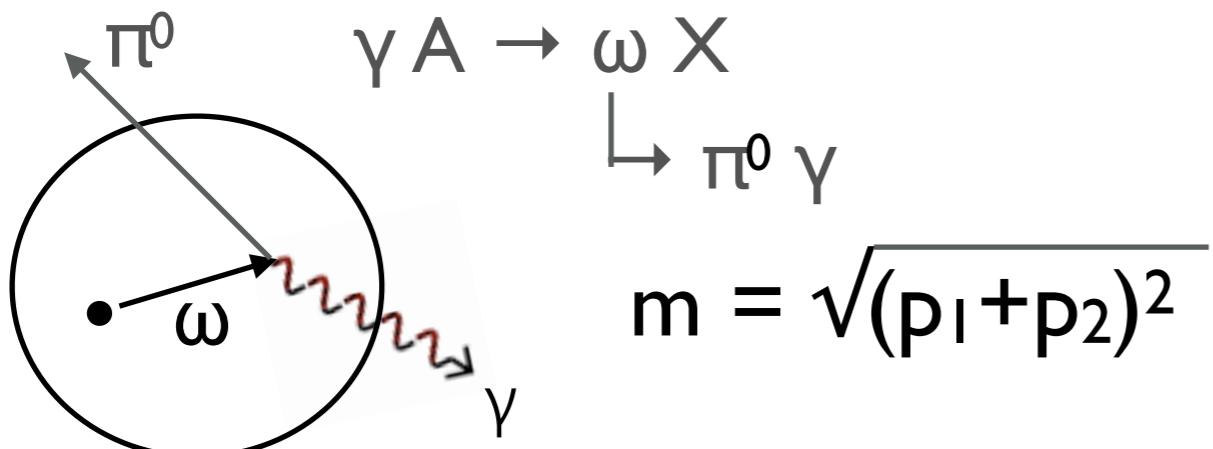


- initial state effects: absorption of incoming beam particles
- non equilibrium effects: varying density and temperature
- absorption and regeneration of mesons in the nuclear medium
- fraction of decays inside of the nuclear environment
- final state interactions: distortion of momenta of decay products

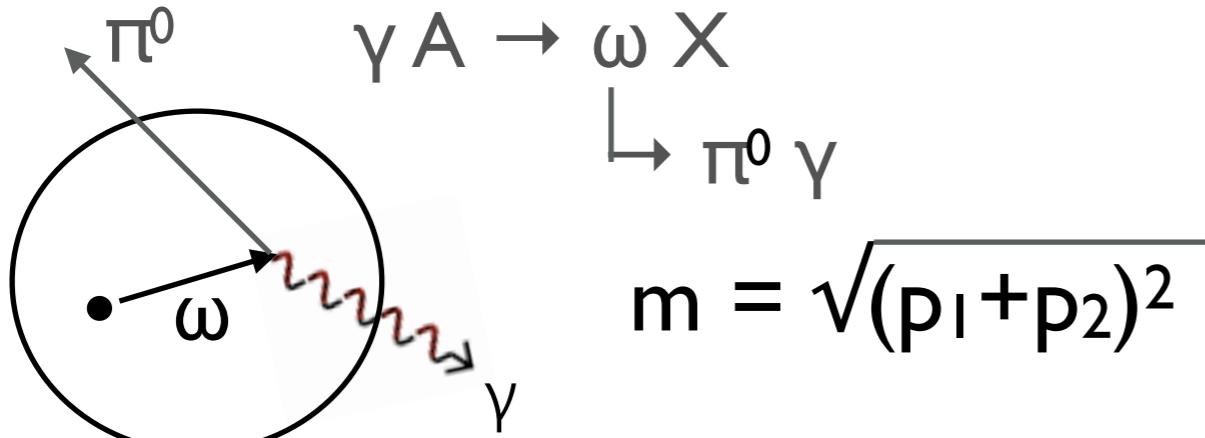
## II.

# Meson line shape analysis (sensitive to nuclear density at the decay point)

# problems in line shape analysis



# problems in line shape analysis



three effects limit the sensitivity:

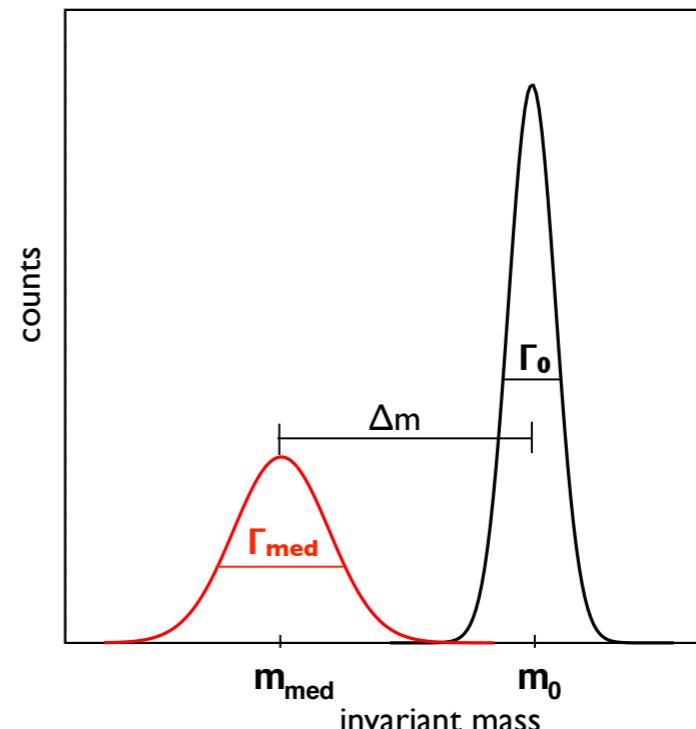
- I.) only fraction of decays occur within the nucleus:

$$\text{decay length } s = \gamma \cdot \beta \tau = \frac{p}{m} \cdot \tau$$

$$s_\omega = 22 \text{ fm} \gg R_{\text{nucleus}} \text{ for } \frac{p}{m} \approx 1.0$$

- 2.) in-medium decays occur over wide range of nuclear densities (nuclear density profile)

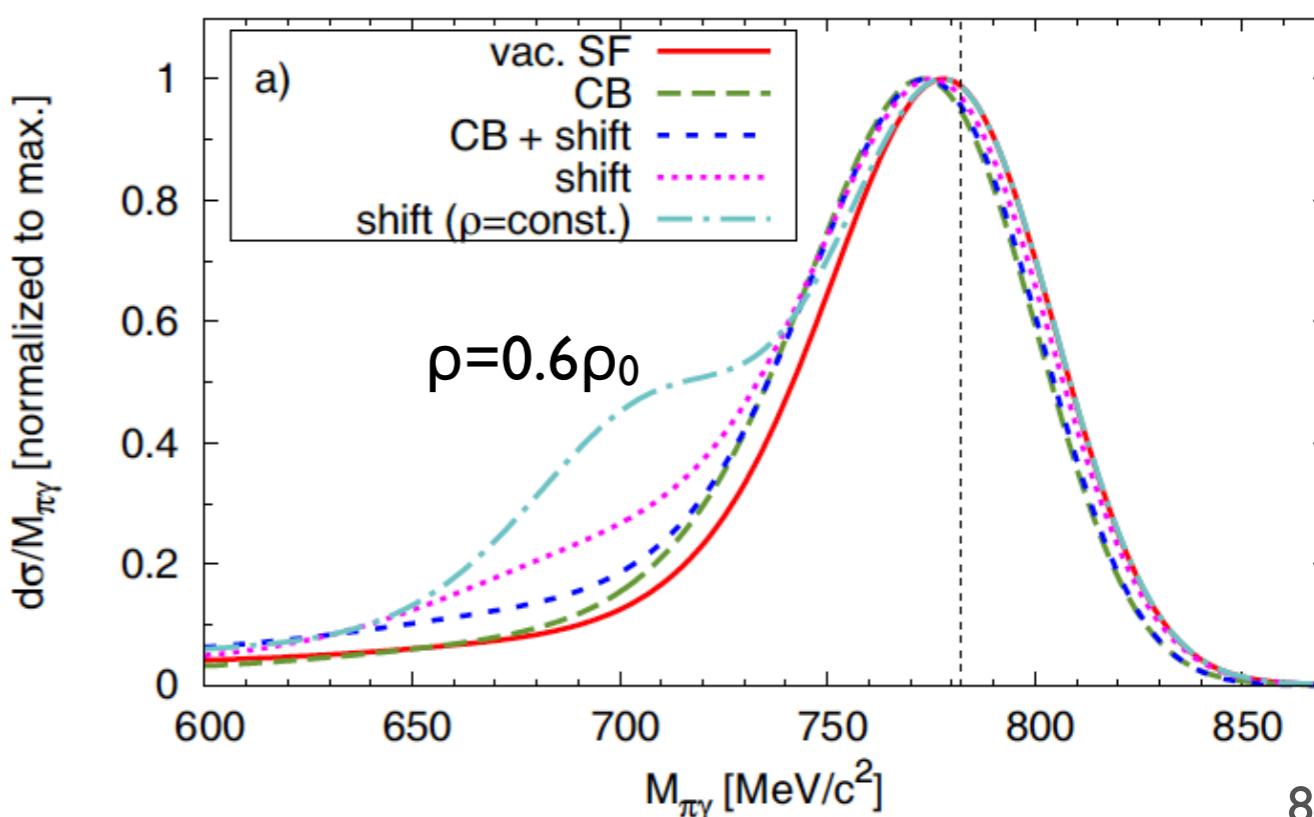
- 3.) additional complication for  $\omega \rightarrow \pi^0 \gamma$ : observation of in-medium decays hampered by  $\pi^0$  absorption



GiBUU simulation:

$$\Delta m/m = -16\%; \Gamma_{\text{coll}} = 140 \text{ MeV}; \sigma_{\text{res}}/m = 3\%$$

$$E_\gamma = 900 - 1100 \text{ MeV}$$

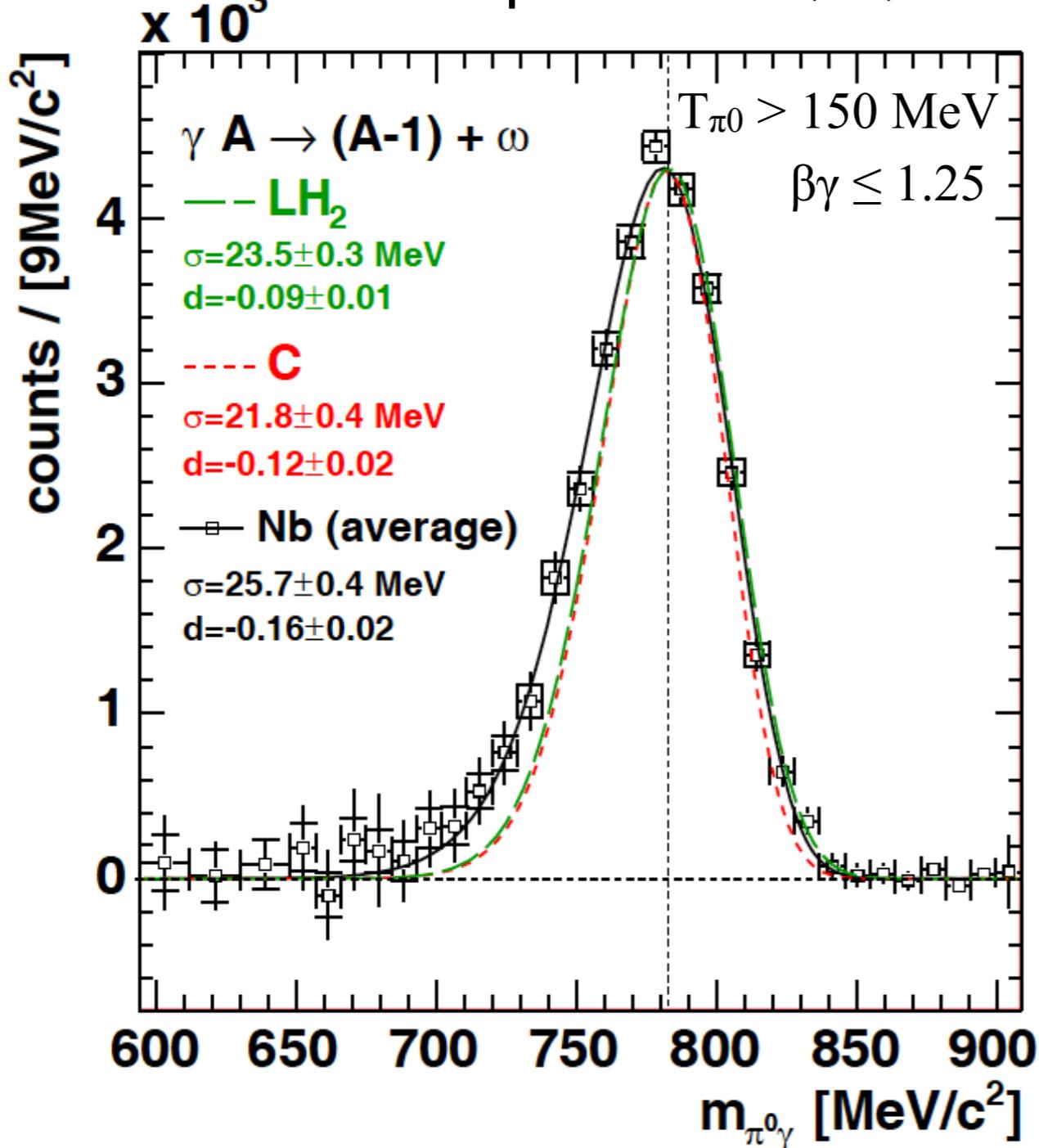


# $\omega$ line shape in $\omega \rightarrow \pi^0\gamma$

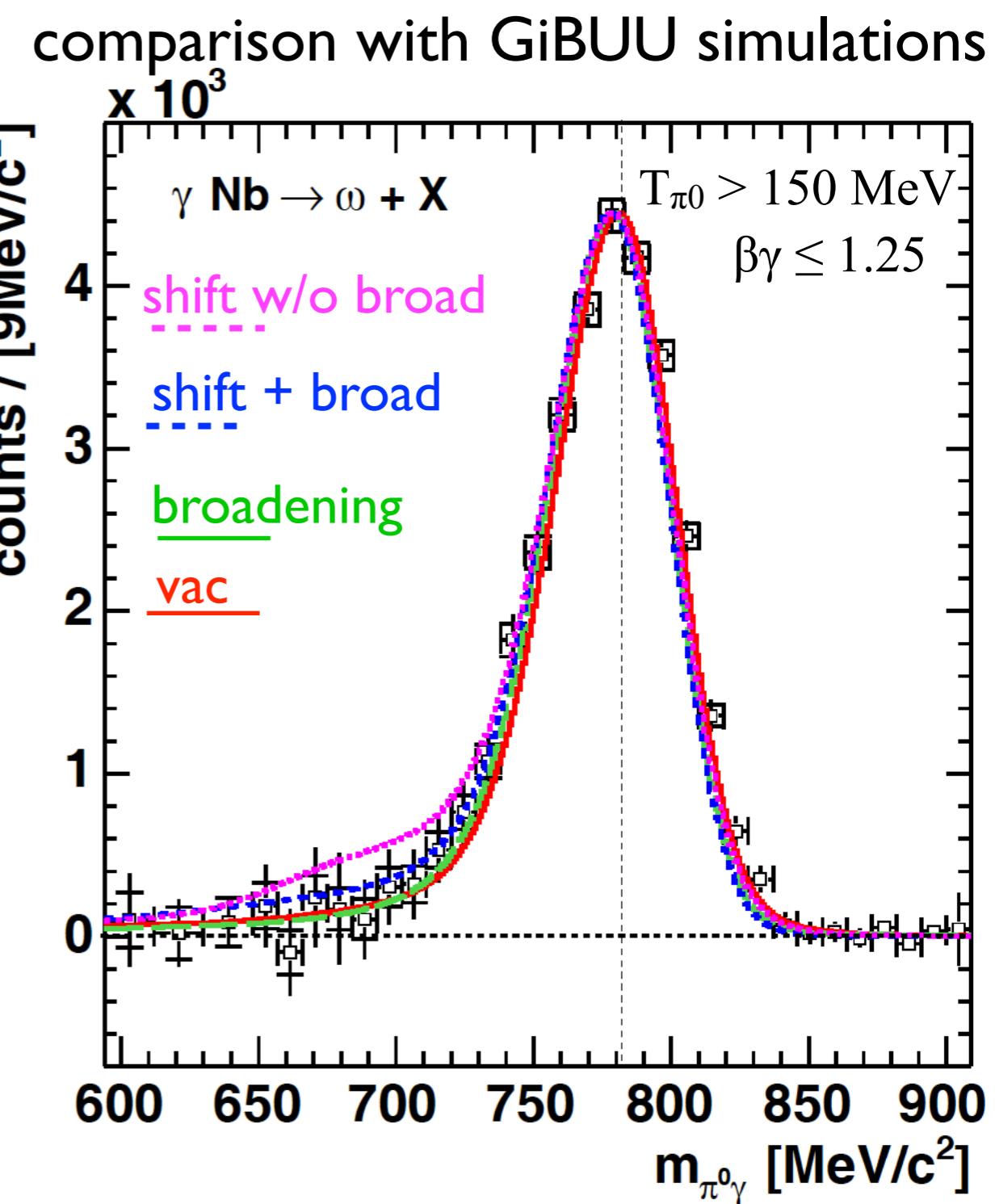
$\gamma A \rightarrow \omega X ; E_\gamma = 900-1300 \text{ MeV}$

M.Thiel et al., EPJA 49 (2013) 132

line shapes for  $\text{LH}_2, \text{C}, \text{Nb}$



signal broader for Nb  
than for LH<sub>2</sub>, C

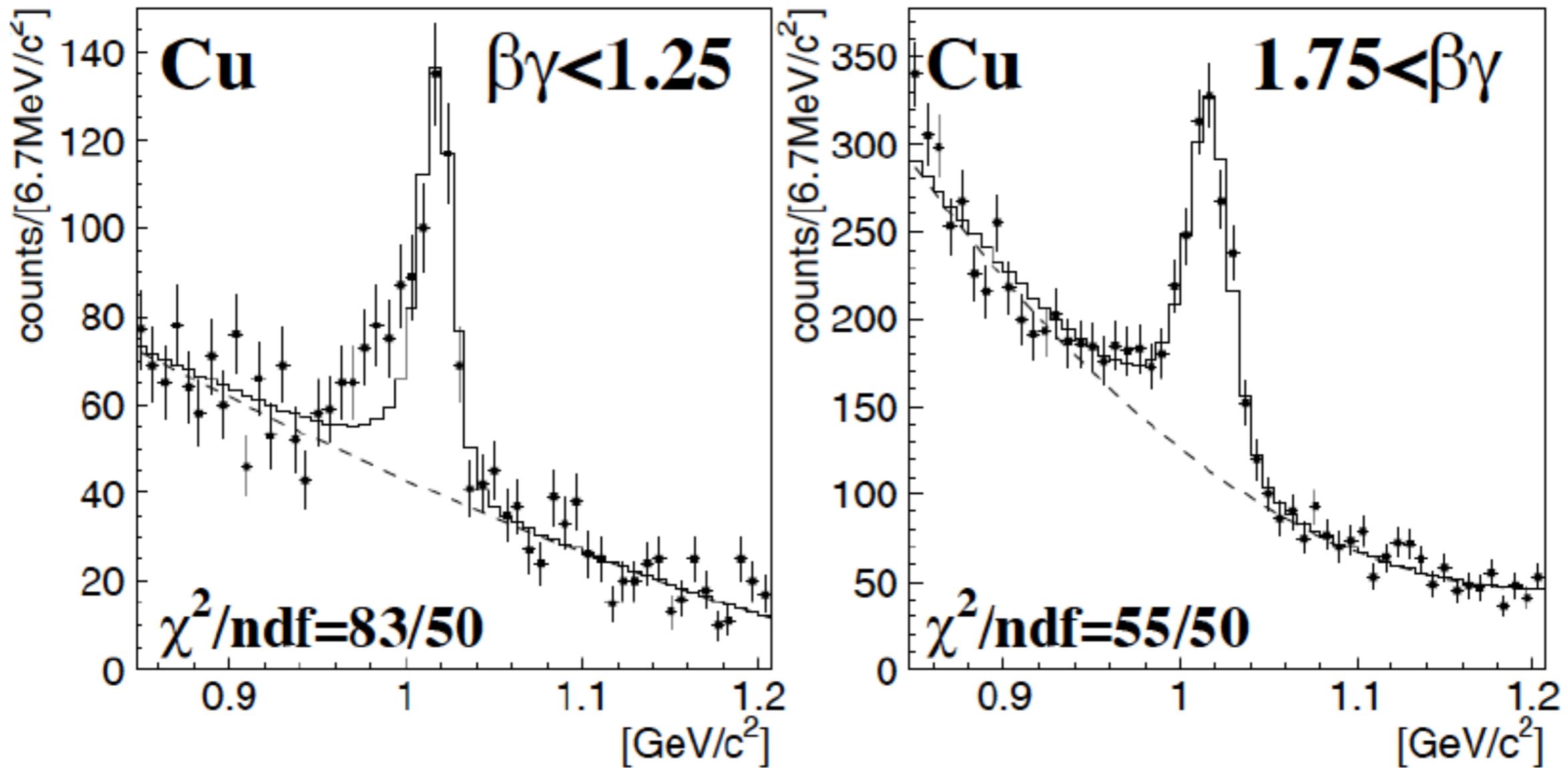


statistics not sufficient to  
differentiate various scenarios

# Line shape analysis: $\Phi$ meson

$p + C, Cu \rightarrow \Phi + X @ 12 \text{ GeV}$

KEK E325: R.Muto et al. PRL 98 (2007) 042501



deviation from expected line shape for slow  $\Phi$ s with  $\beta\gamma < 1.25$

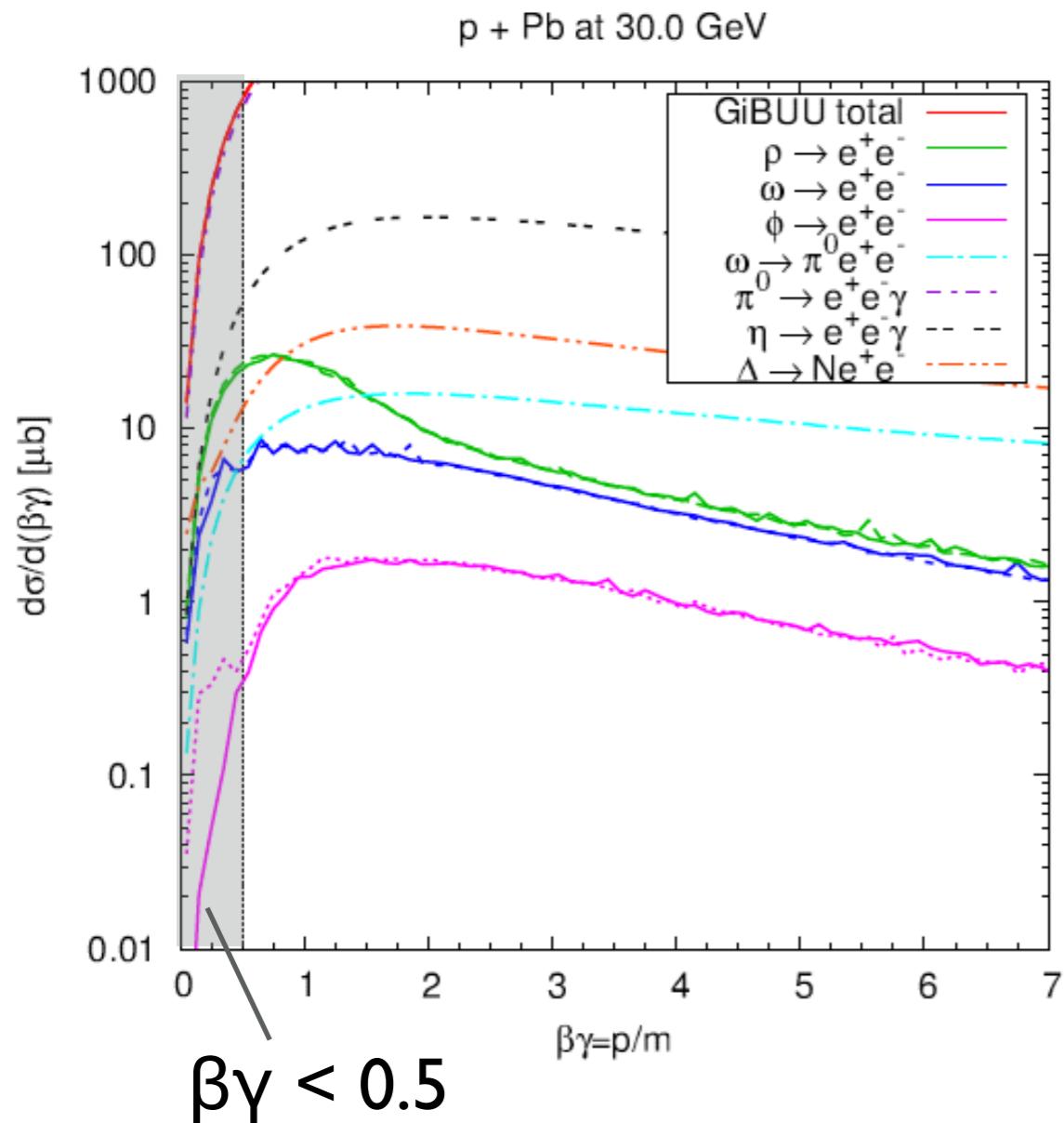
$$V_0 = \Delta m (\rho=\rho_0) = (35 \pm 7) \text{ MeV}; W(\rho=\rho_0) = 7^{+4}_{-3} \text{ MeV}$$

# $\Phi \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decays

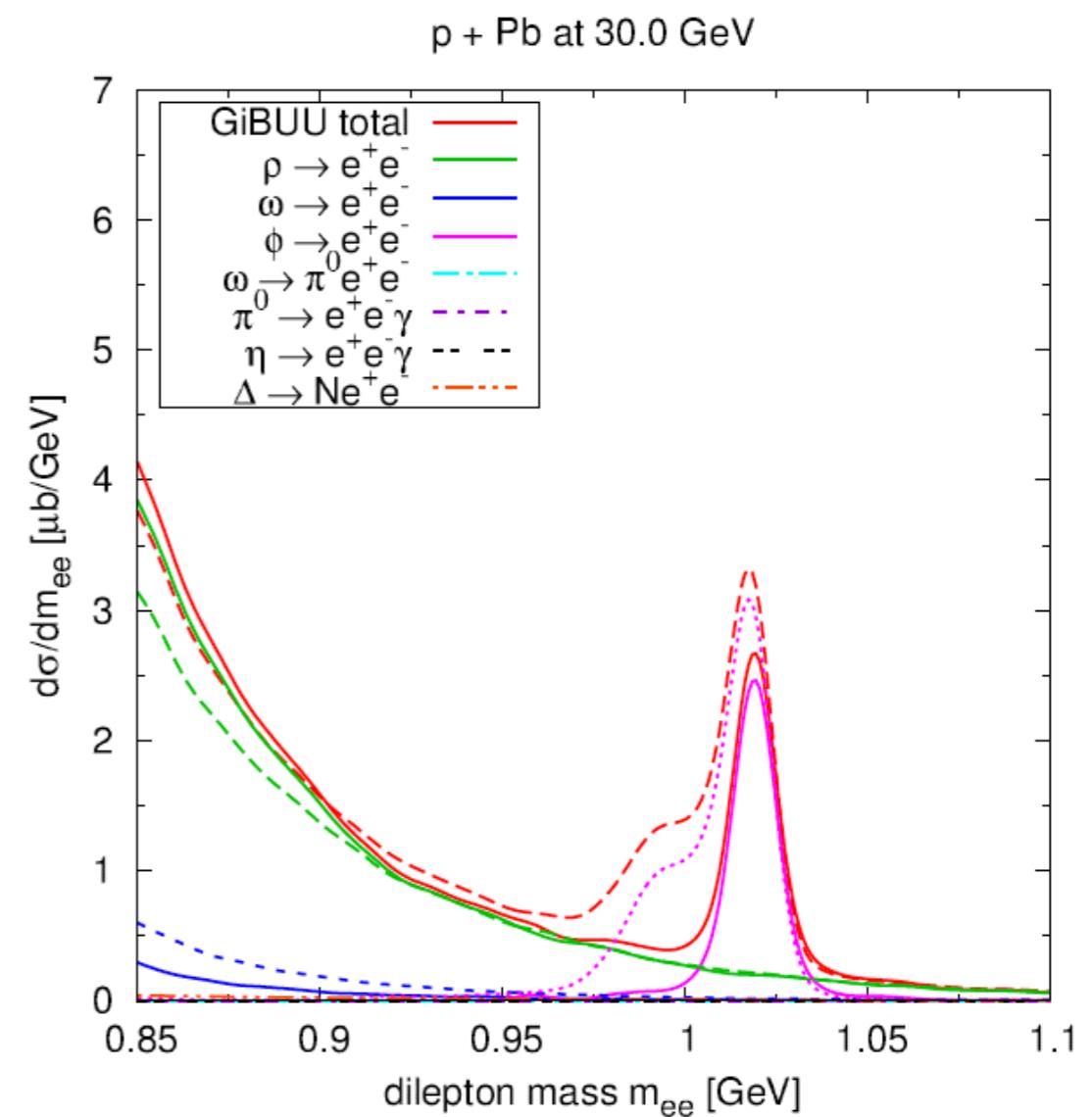
Janus Weil (Univ. Frankfurt): J-PARC workshop 2015

GiBUU simulation: p + Pb 30 GeV (E16)

to enhance in-medium decays select  
low momentum  $\Phi$  mesons:  $\beta\gamma < 0.5$



mass shift 3.4% + broadening by 3.6



tiny fraction of  $\Phi$  mesons going  
backwards in cm; almost at rest in lab

E16 experiment: S.Yokkaichi et al.  
 $p + A \rightarrow \Phi + X$  at 30 GeV

### III.

Meson-nucleus potential from measuring  
excitation functions, momentum distributions  
and transparency ratios

(sensitive to nuclear density at the production point)

# Meson-nucleus potential

H. Nagahiro, S. Hirenzaki, PRL 94 (2005) 232503

$$U(r) = V(r) + i W(r)$$

attractive ?  
repulsive ?

absorption

$$V(r) = \Delta m(\rho_0) \cdot \rho(r)/\rho_0$$

$$\begin{aligned} W(r) &= -\Gamma_0/2 \cdot \rho(r)/\rho_0 \\ &= -1/2 \cdot \hbar c \cdot \rho(r) \cdot \sigma_{\text{inel}} \cdot \beta \end{aligned}$$

# Meson-nucleus potential

H. Nagahiro, S. Hirenzaki, PRL 94 (2005) 232503

$$U(r) = V(r) + iW(r)$$

attractive ?  
repulsive ?

absorption

$$V(r) = \Delta m(\rho_0) \cdot \rho(r)/\rho_0$$

$$\begin{aligned} W(r) &= -\Gamma_0/2 \cdot \rho(r)/\rho_0 \\ &= -1/2 \cdot \hbar c \cdot \rho(r) \cdot \sigma_{\text{inel}} \cdot \beta \end{aligned}$$

- excitation function
- momentum distribution

- transparency ratio measurement

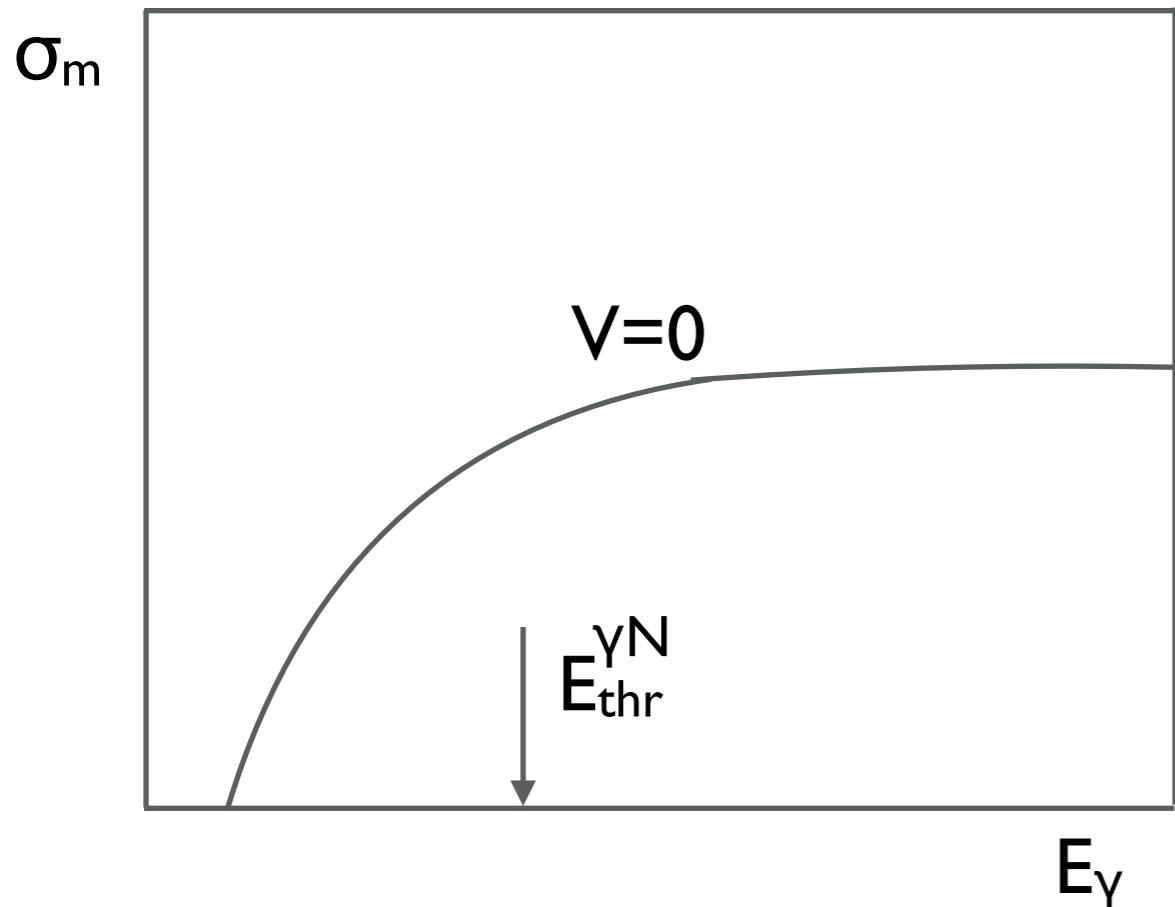
$$T_A = \frac{\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow \eta' X}}{A \cdot \sigma_{\gamma N \rightarrow \eta' X}}$$

D. Cabrera et al., NPA733 (2004) 130

# Determining the real part of the meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions and momentum distributions

sensitive to nuclear density at the production point

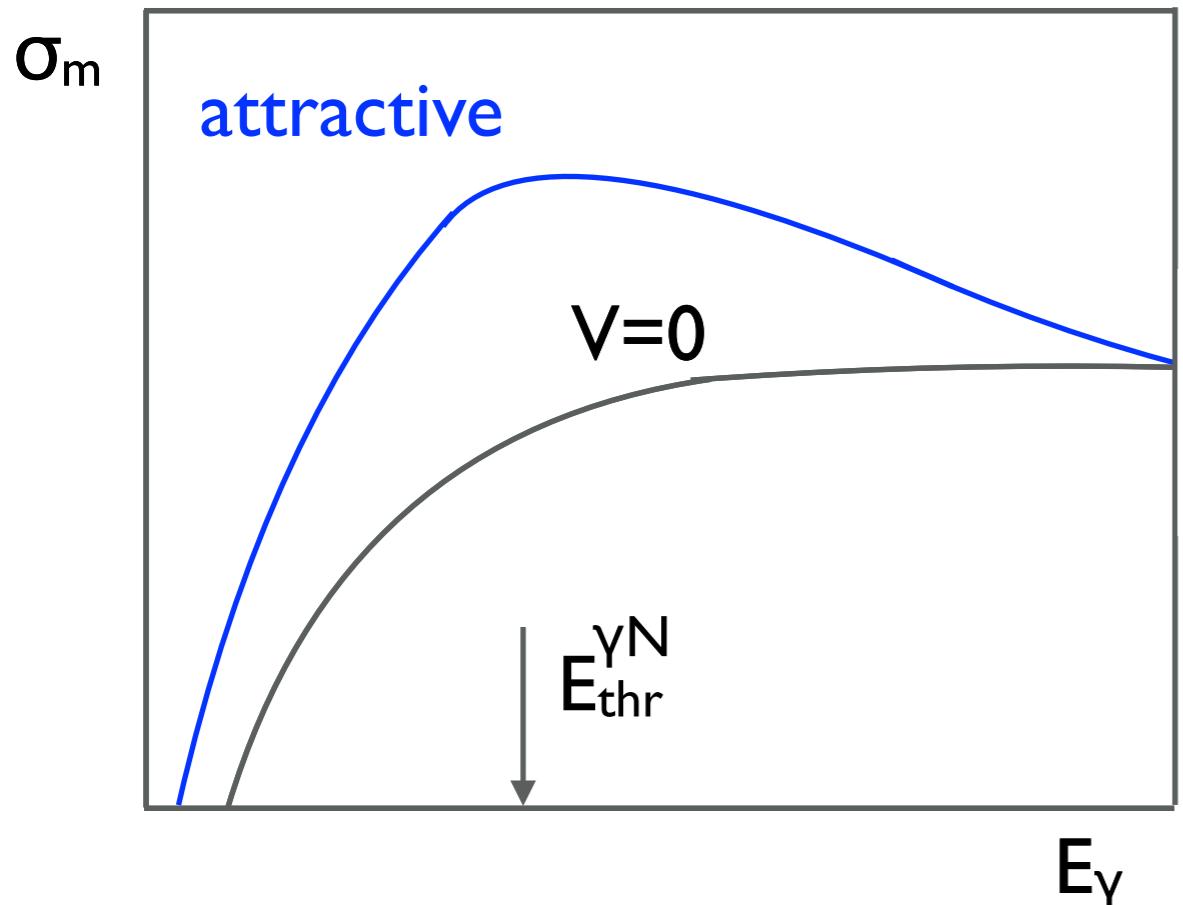
excitation function



# Determining the real part of the meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions and momentum distributions

sensitive to nuclear density at the production point

excitation function

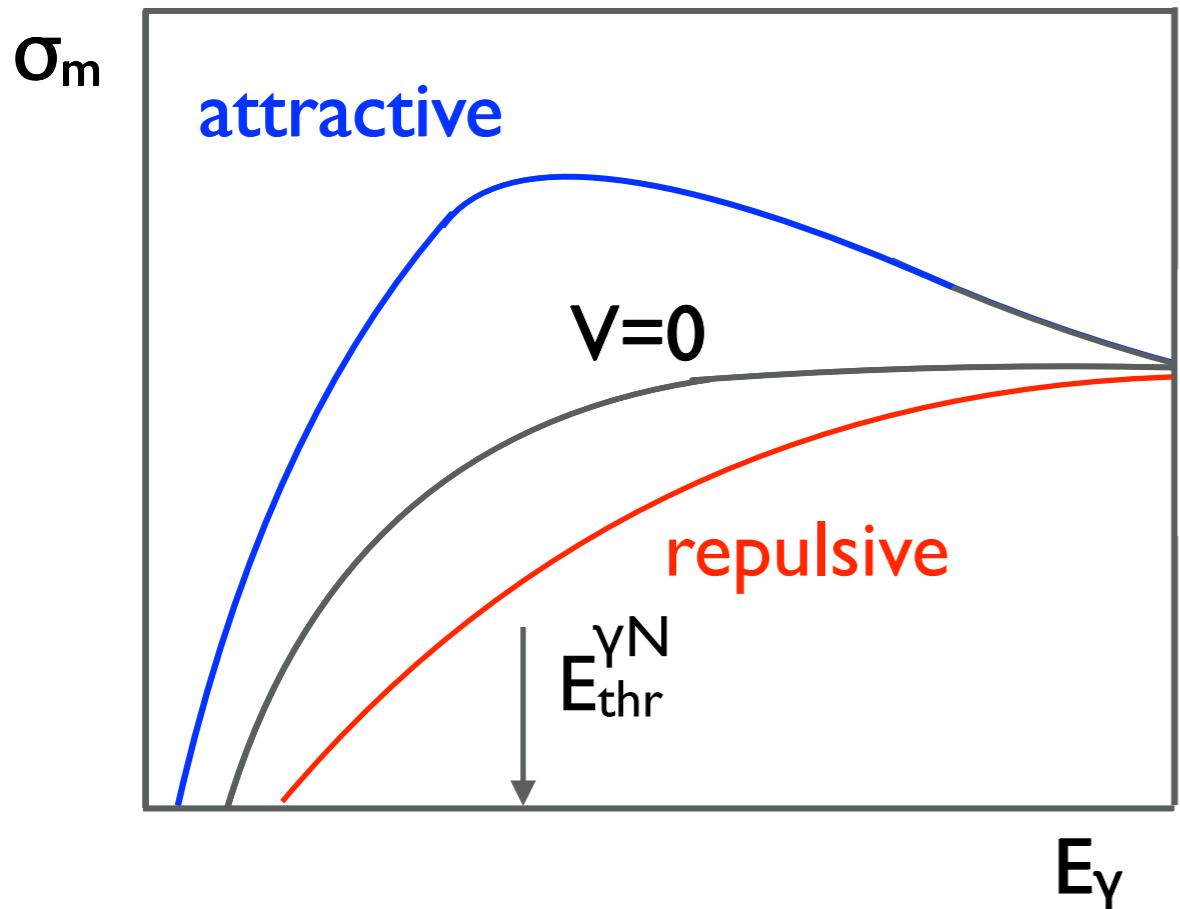


attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass drop  $\rightarrow$   
lower threshold  $\rightarrow$  larger phase space  $\rightarrow$   
larger cross section

# Determining the real part of the meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions and momentum distributions

sensitive to nuclear density at the production point

excitation function



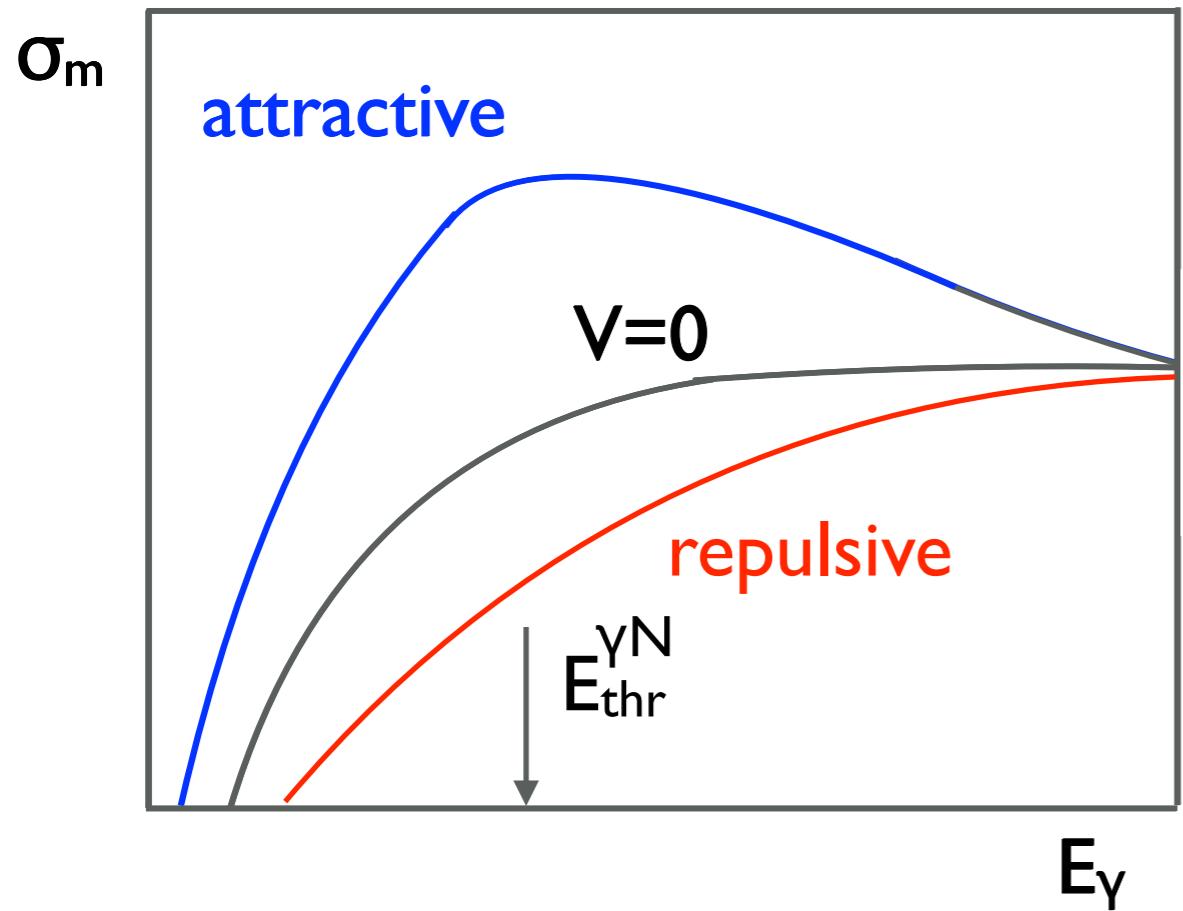
attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass drop  $\rightarrow$   
lower threshold  $\rightarrow$  larger phase space  $\rightarrow$   
larger cross section

repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass increase  $\rightarrow$   
higher threshold  $\rightarrow$  smaller phase space  $\rightarrow$   
smaller cross section

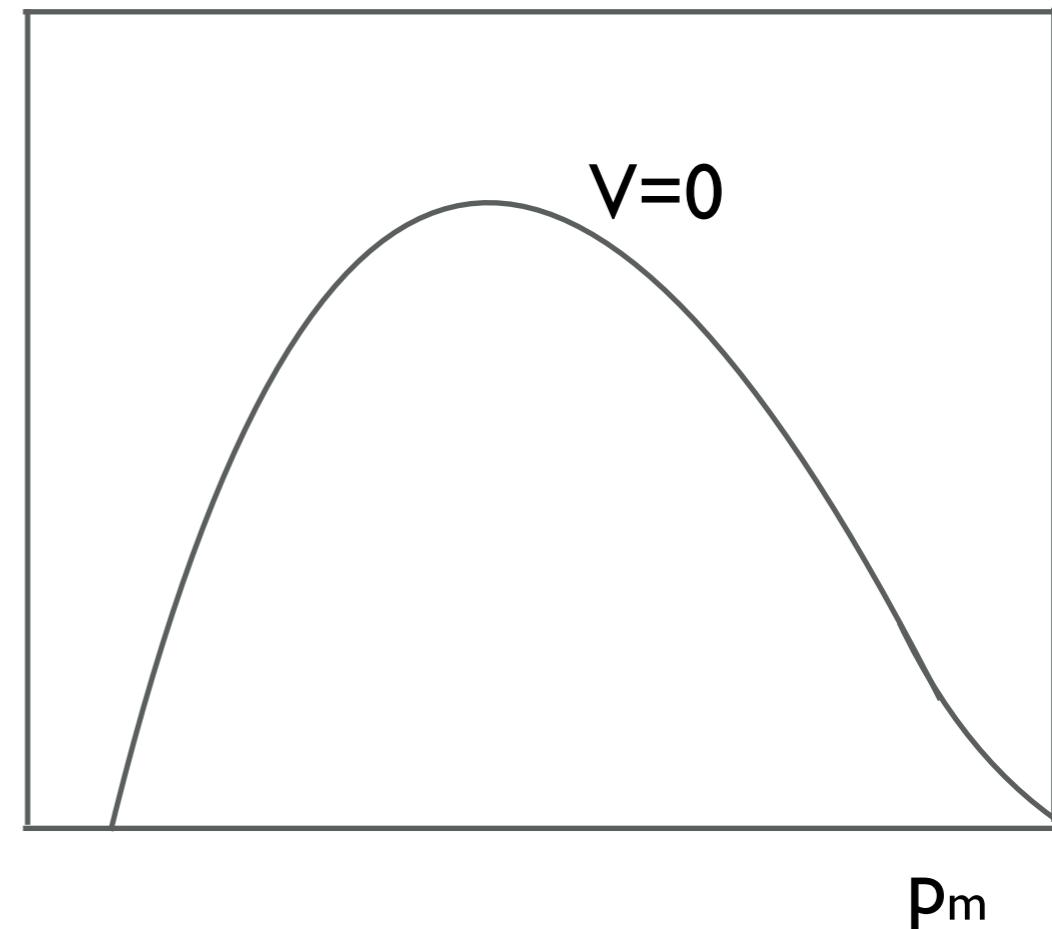
# Determining the real part of the meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions and momentum distributions

sensitive to nuclear density at the production point

excitation function



momentum distribution

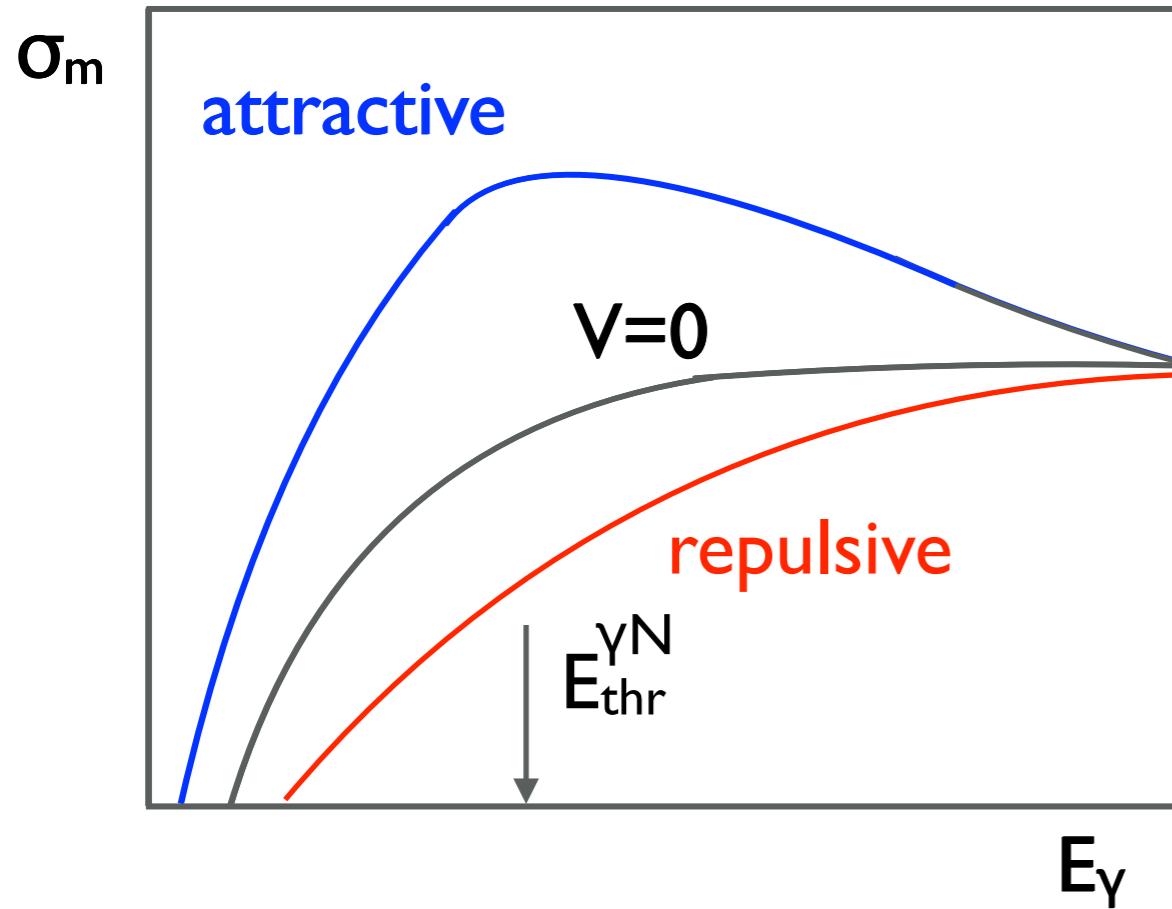


attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass drop  $\rightarrow$   
lower threshold  $\rightarrow$  larger phase space  $\rightarrow$   
larger cross section

repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass increase  $\rightarrow$   
higher threshold  $\rightarrow$  smaller phase space  $\rightarrow$   
smaller cross section

# Determining the real part of the meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions and momentum distributions

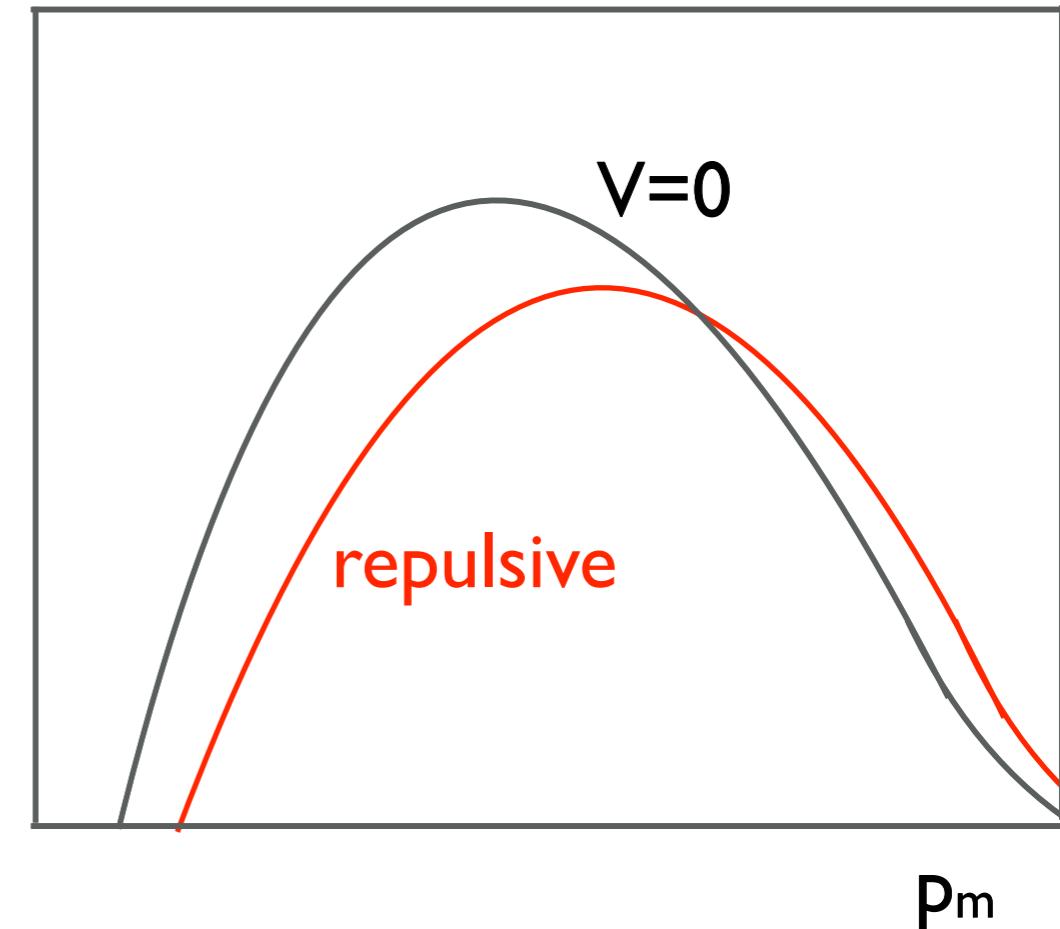
sensitive to nuclear density at the production point  
excitation function



attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass drop  $\rightarrow$   
lower threshold  $\rightarrow$  larger phase space  $\rightarrow$   
larger cross section

repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass increase  $\rightarrow$   
higher threshold  $\rightarrow$  smaller phase space  $\rightarrow$   
smaller cross section

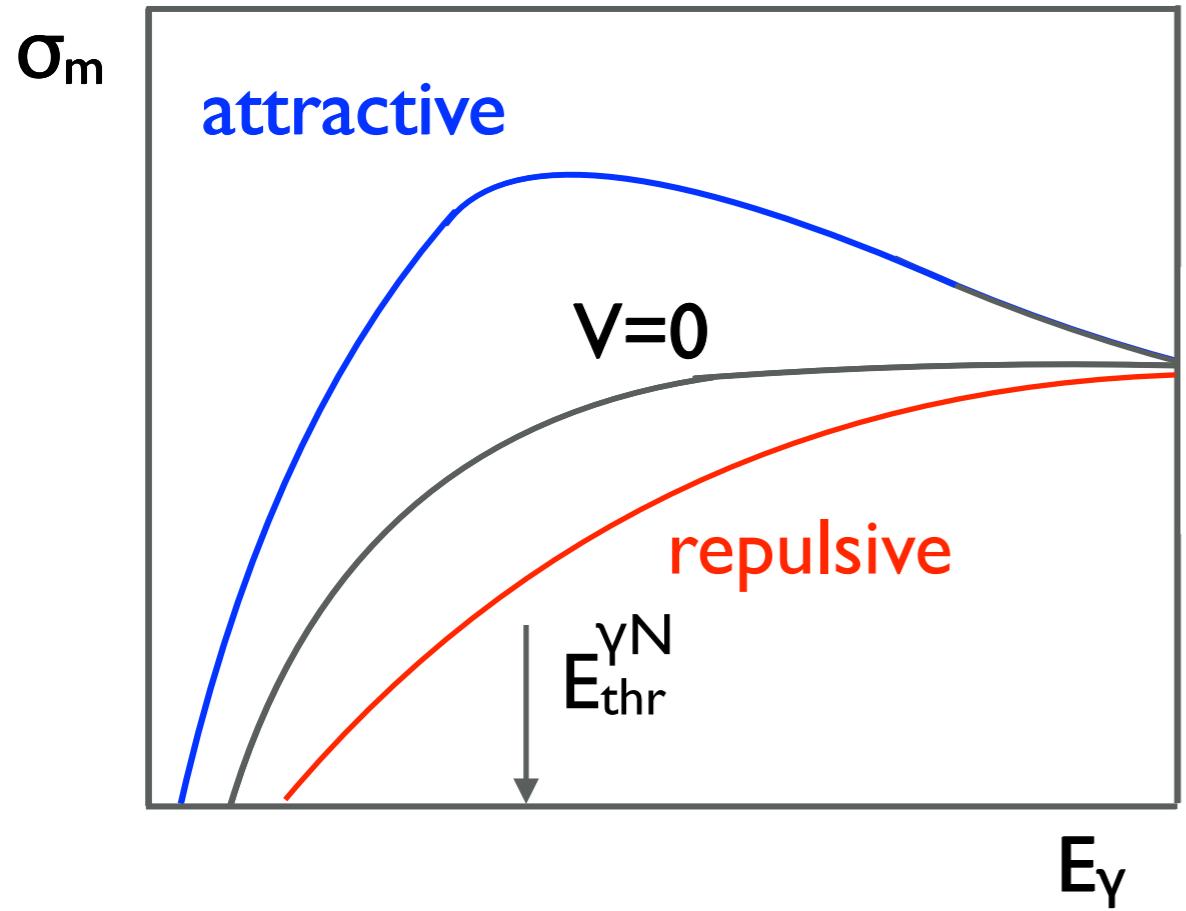
momentum distribution



repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  extra kick  $\rightarrow$   
shift to higher momenta

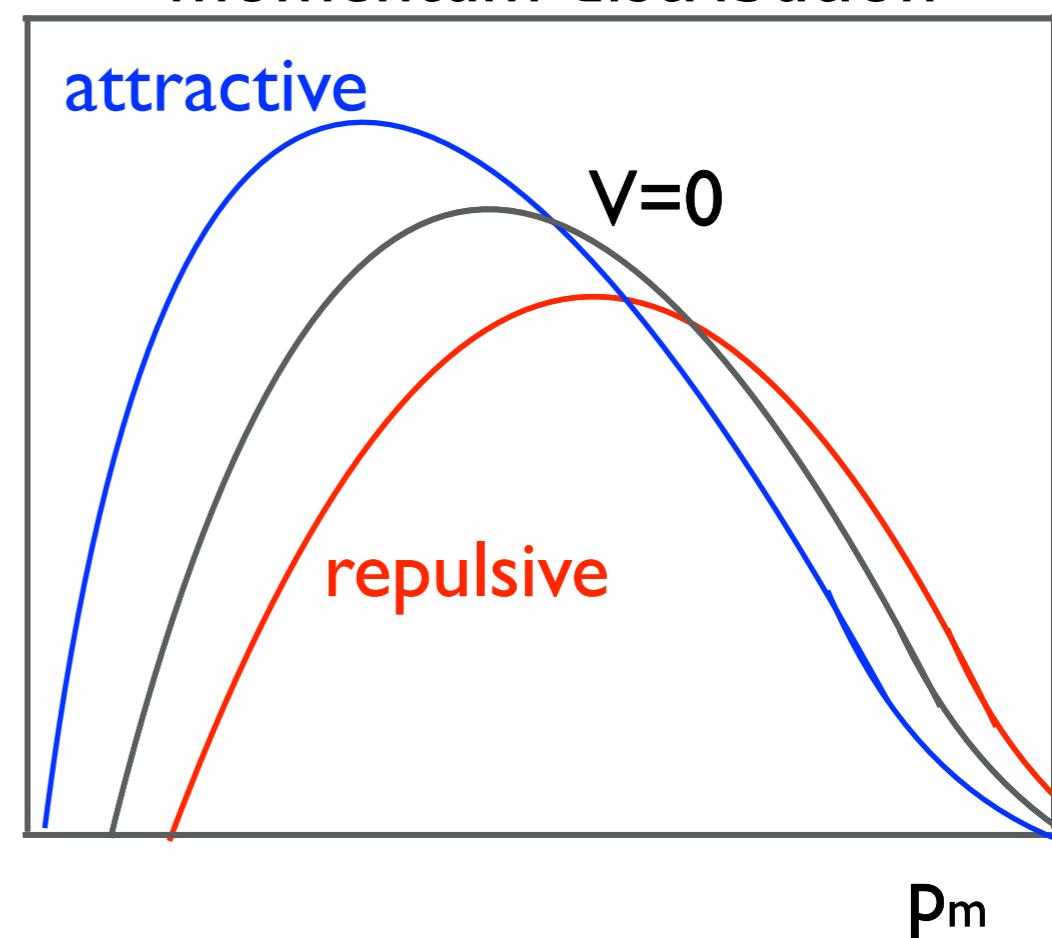
# Determining the real part of the meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions and momentum distributions

sensitive to nuclear density at the production point  
excitation function



attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass drop  $\rightarrow$   
lower threshold  $\rightarrow$  larger phase space  $\rightarrow$   
larger cross section

repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass increase  $\rightarrow$   
higher threshold  $\rightarrow$  smaller phase space  $\rightarrow$   
smaller cross section

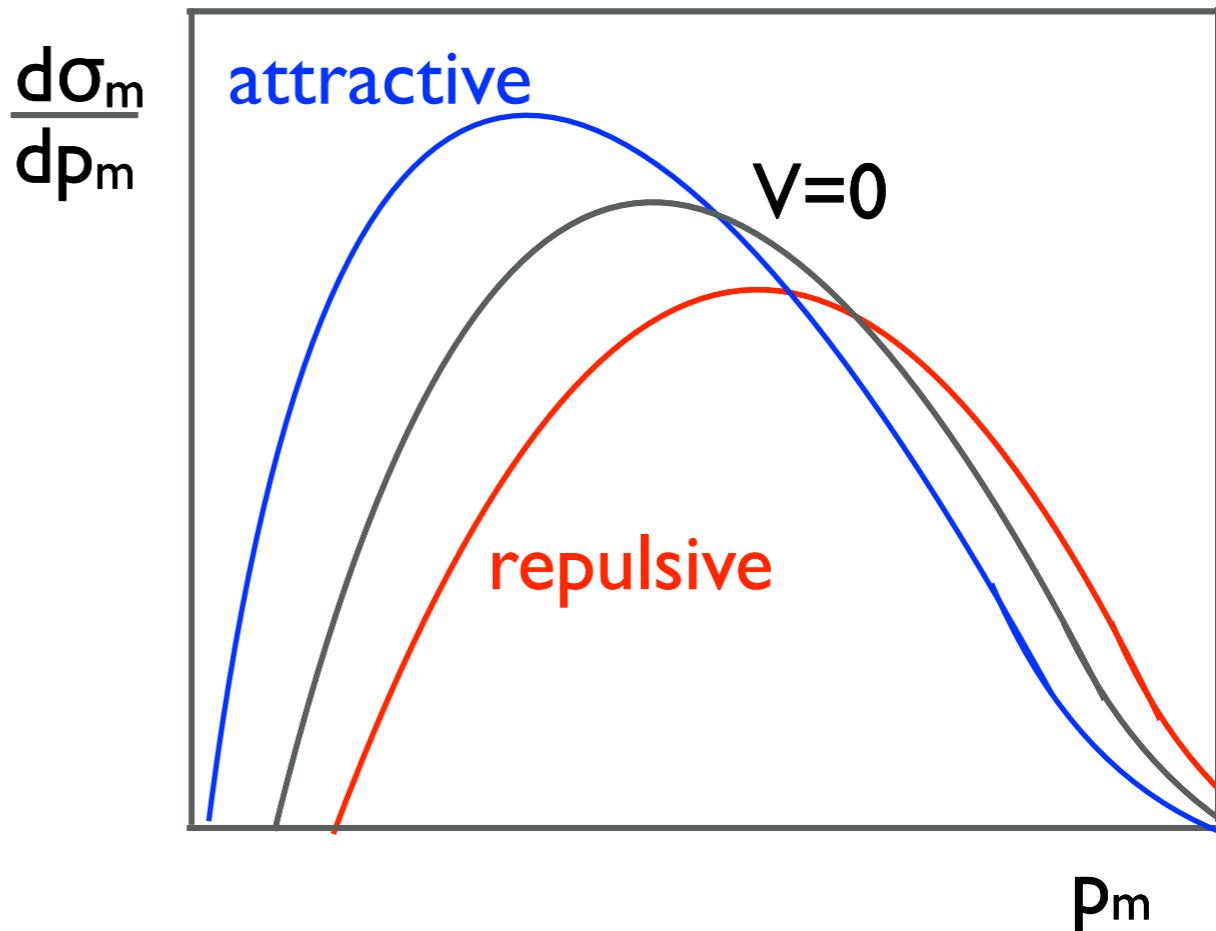
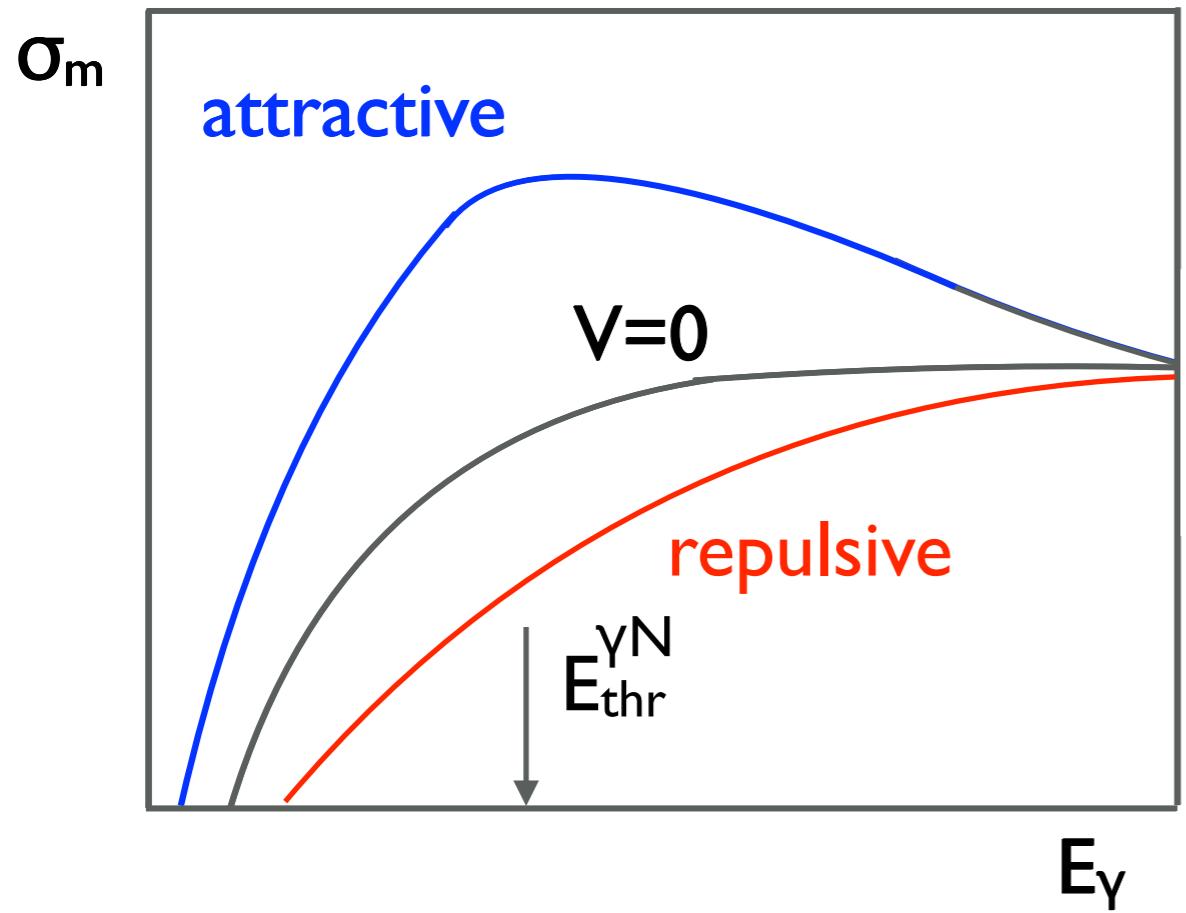


repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  extra kick  $\rightarrow$   
shift to higher momenta

attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$   
meson slowed down  $\rightarrow$   
shift to lower momenta

# Determining the real part of the meson-nucleus potential from excitation functions and momentum distributions

sensitive to nuclear density at the production point  
excitation function      momentum distribution



attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass drop  $\rightarrow$   
lower threshold  $\rightarrow$  larger phase space  $\rightarrow$   
larger cross section

repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  mass increase  $\rightarrow$   
higher threshold  $\rightarrow$  smaller phase space  $\rightarrow$   
smaller cross section

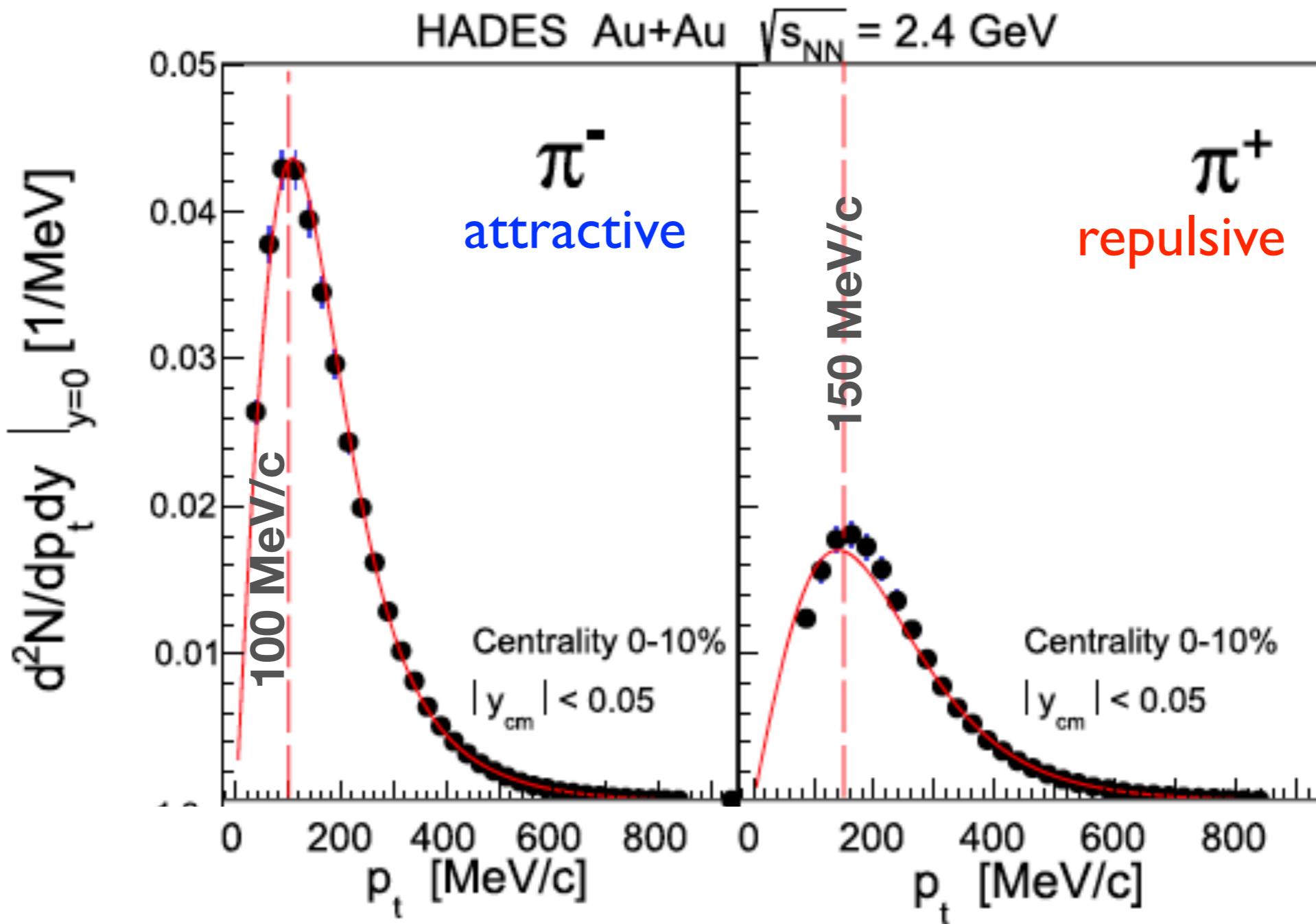
repulsive interaction  $\rightarrow$  extra kick  $\rightarrow$   
shift to higher momenta

attractive interaction  $\rightarrow$   
meson slowed down  $\rightarrow$   
shift to lower momenta

# test of method

Coulomb interaction among charged pions and the fireball in heavy-ion collisions

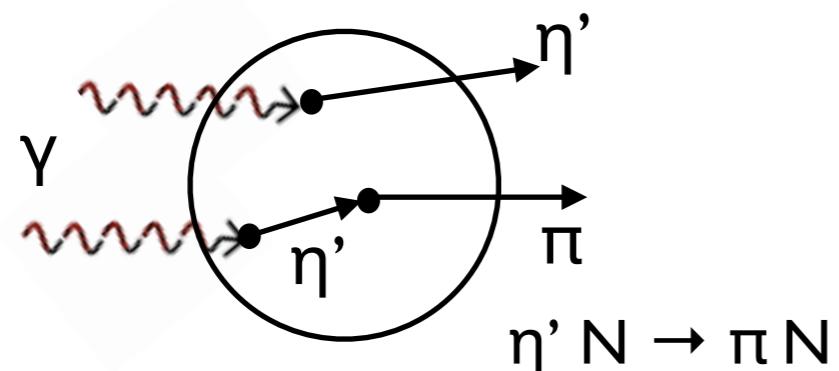
Eur. Phys. J.A 56 (2020) 259



spectrum shifted to smaller (larger) momenta for  $\pi^+$  ( $\pi^-$ ) mesons

$V_c \approx 15 \text{ MeV}$ ; paper in preparation

# Determining the imaginary part of the meson-nucleus potential from transparency ratio measurements



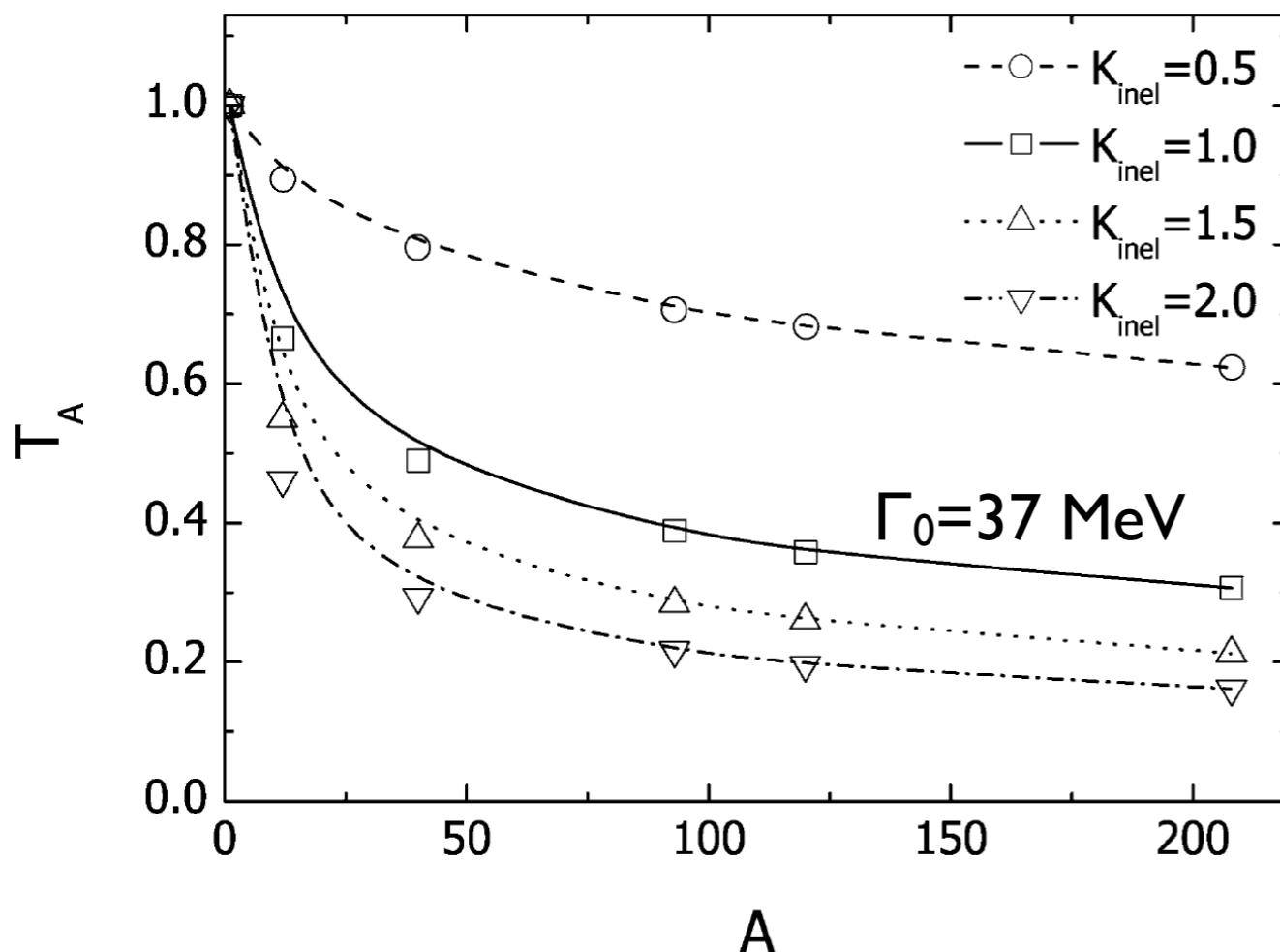
$$T_A = \frac{\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow \eta' X}}{A \cdot \sigma_{\gamma N \rightarrow \eta' X}}$$

D. Cabrera et al.,  
NPA733 (2004) 130

transport model calculation: GiBUU

P. Mühlich and U. Mosel, NPA 773 (2006) 156

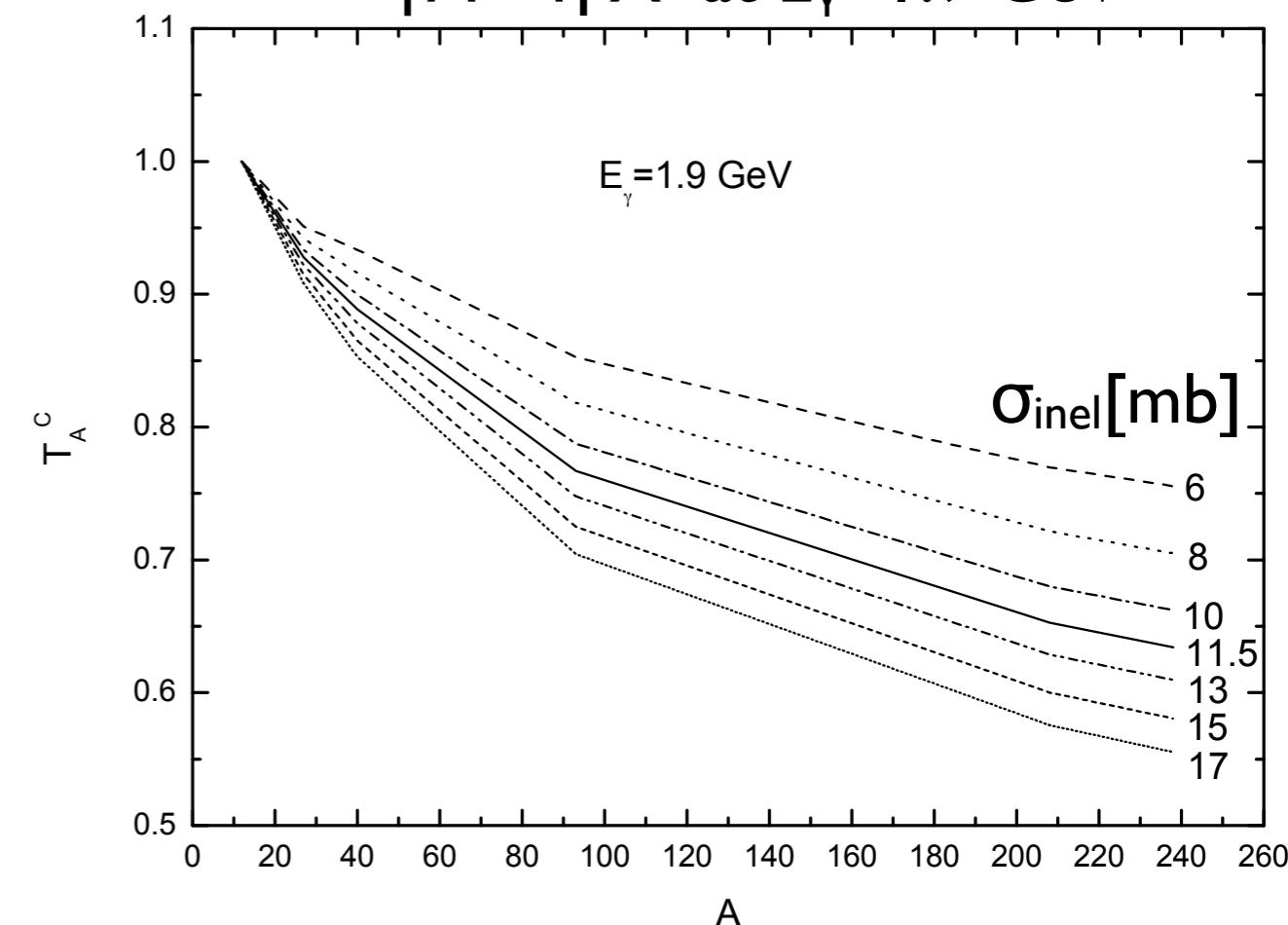
$\gamma A \rightarrow \omega X$  at  $E_\gamma = 1.5$  GeV



collision model calculation

E.Ya. Paryev, J. Phys.G 40 (2013) 025201

$\gamma A \rightarrow \eta' X$  at  $E_\gamma = 1.9$  GeV

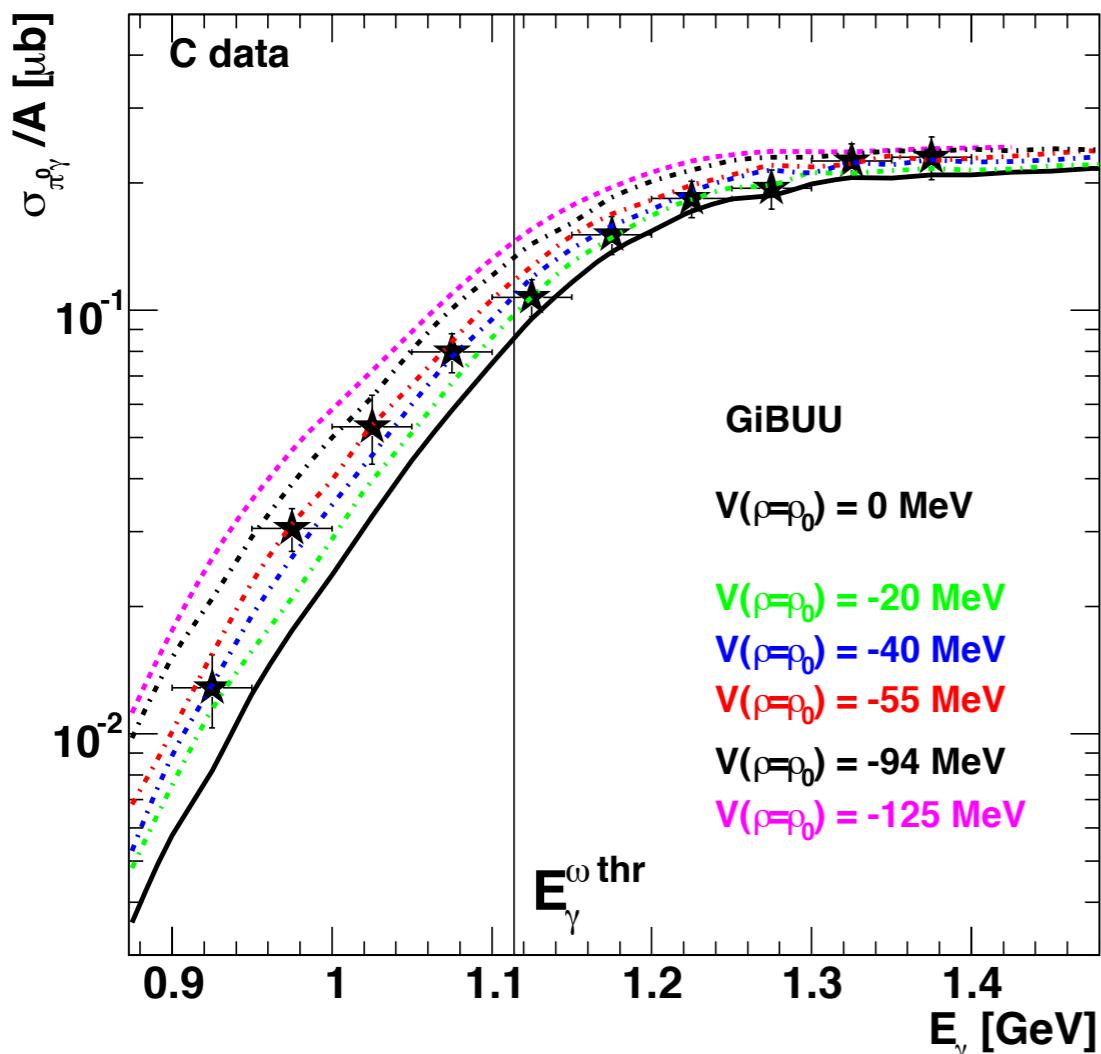


$$W(\rho = \rho_0) = -\Gamma/2 \quad (\rho = \rho_0) = -1/2 \cdot \hbar c \cdot \rho_0 \cdot \sigma_{inel} \cdot \beta$$

# Determining the real part and imaginary part of the $\omega$ -nucleus potential from measurement of excitation function and transparency ratio

## real part from excitation function

V. Metag et al., Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 67 (2012) 530



including information from momentum distributions (S. Friedrich et al. PLB 736 (2014) 26)

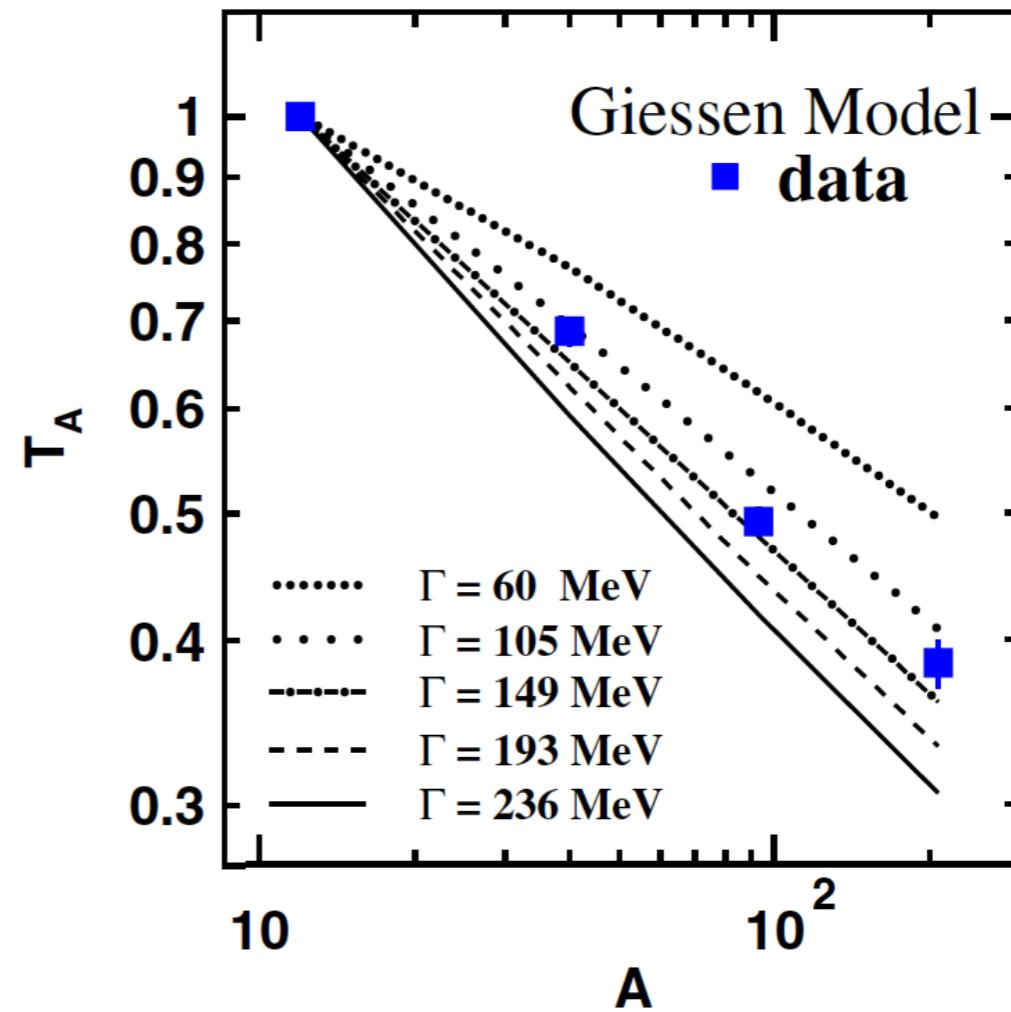
$$V_{\omega A}(\rho=\rho_0) = - (29 \pm 19(\text{stat}) \pm 20(\text{syst})) \text{ MeV}$$

## imaginary part from transparency ratio

$$T_A = \frac{\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow \omega X}}{A \cdot \sigma_{\gamma N \rightarrow \omega X}}$$



M. Kotulla et al., PRL 100 (2008) 192302  
PRL 114 (2015) 199903

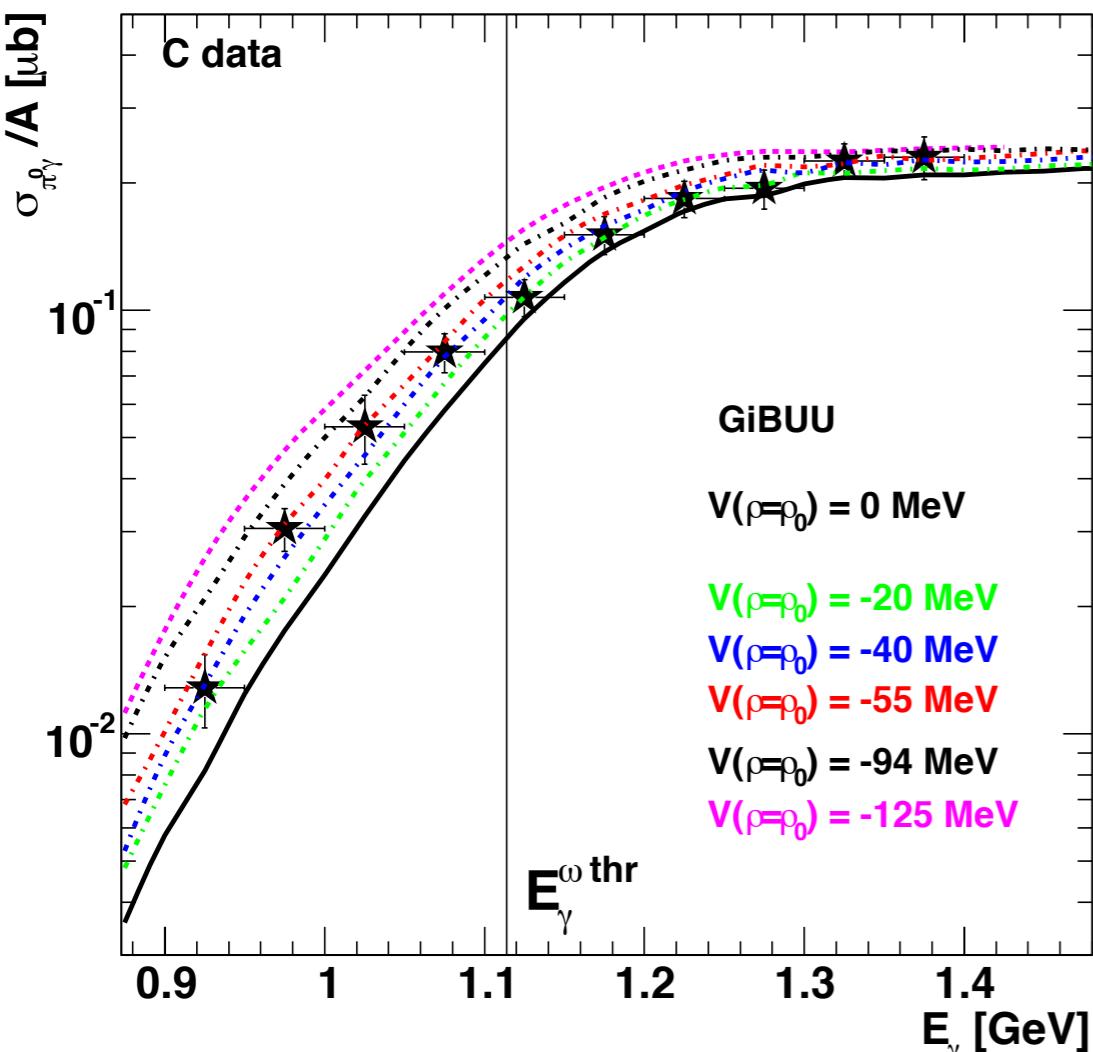


$$\Gamma(\rho=\rho_0) \approx 120 \text{ MeV}$$

# Determining the real part and imaginary part of the $\omega$ -nucleus potential from measurement of excitation function and transparency ratio

## real part from excitation function

V. Metag et al., Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 67 (2012) 530



including information from momentum

distributions (S. Friedrich et al. PLB 736 (2014) 26)

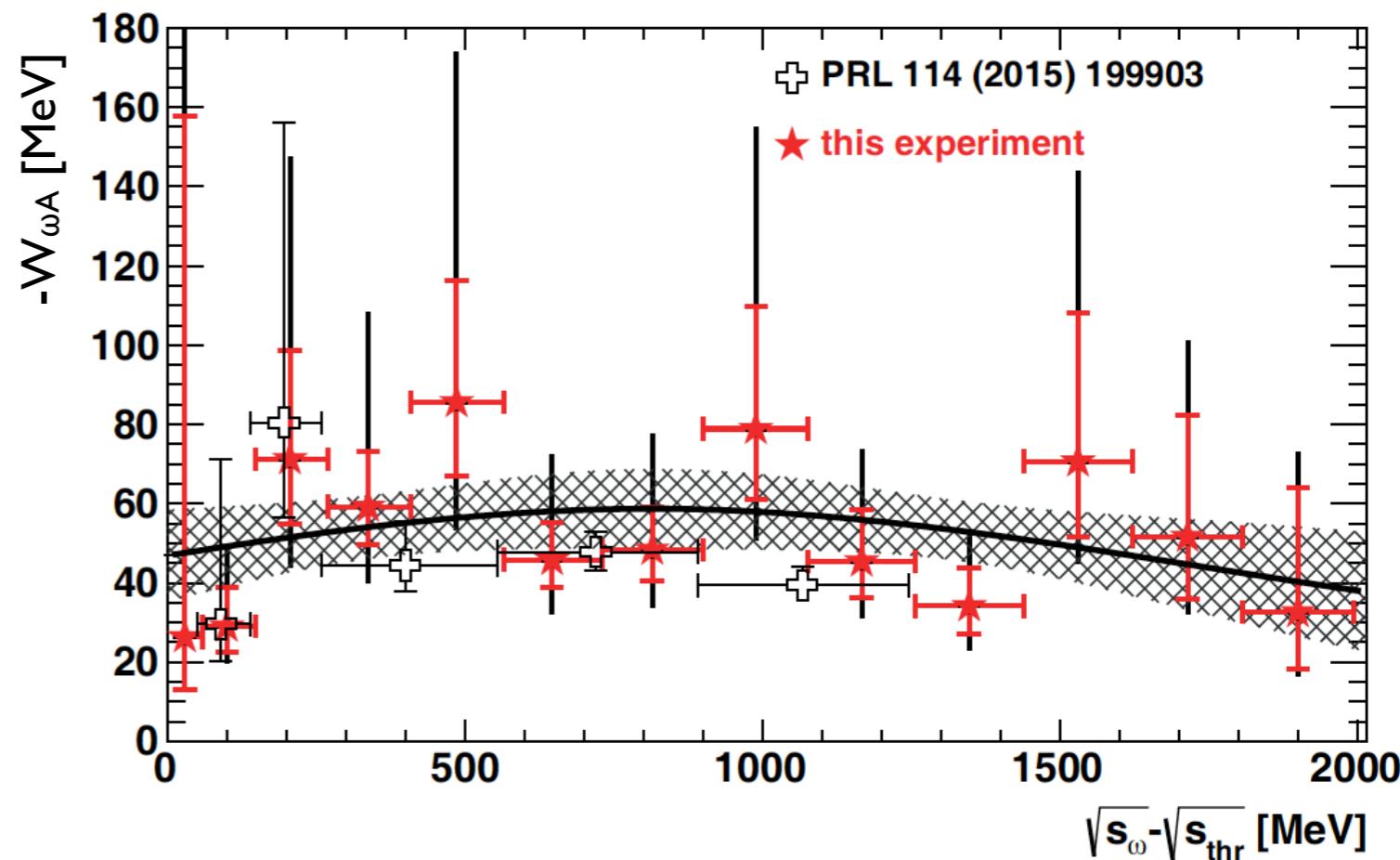
$$V_{\omega A}(\rho=\rho_0) = -(29 \pm 19(\text{stat}) \pm 20(\text{syst})) \text{ MeV}$$

## imaginary part from transparency ratio

$$T_A = \frac{\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow \omega X}}{A \cdot \sigma_{\gamma N \rightarrow \omega X}}$$

$\omega$

S. Friedrich et al. EPJA 52 (2016) 297  
momentum dependence of  $W$



$$W_{\omega A}(\rho_\omega=0) = -(48 \pm 12(\text{stat}) \pm 9(\text{syst})) \text{ MeV}$$

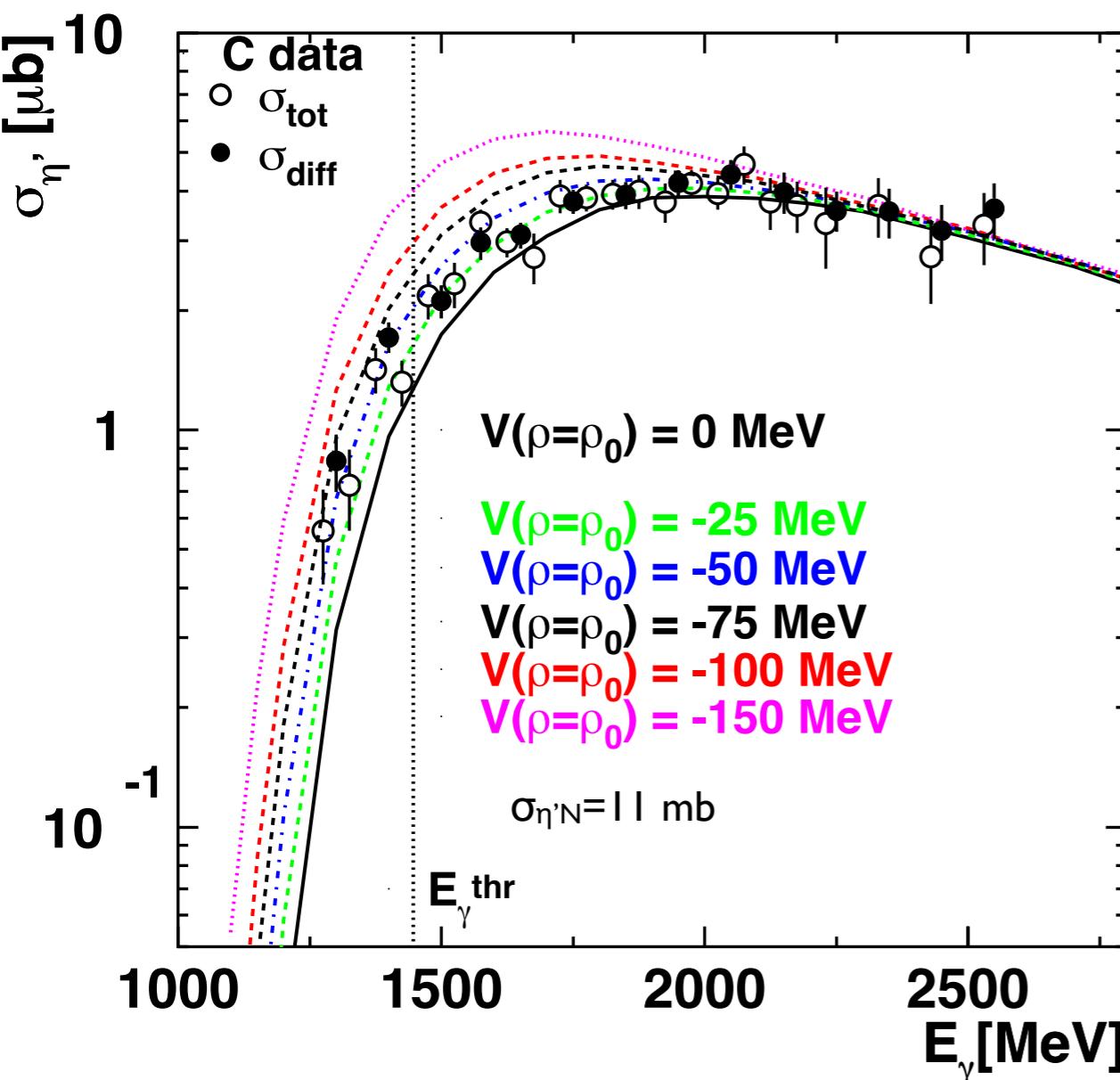
$|V| \lesssim |W|$  !!  $\omega$  no good candidate for meson-nucleus bound states !!

# Determining the real part of the $\eta'$ -nucleus potential from measurement of excitation function and momentum distributions

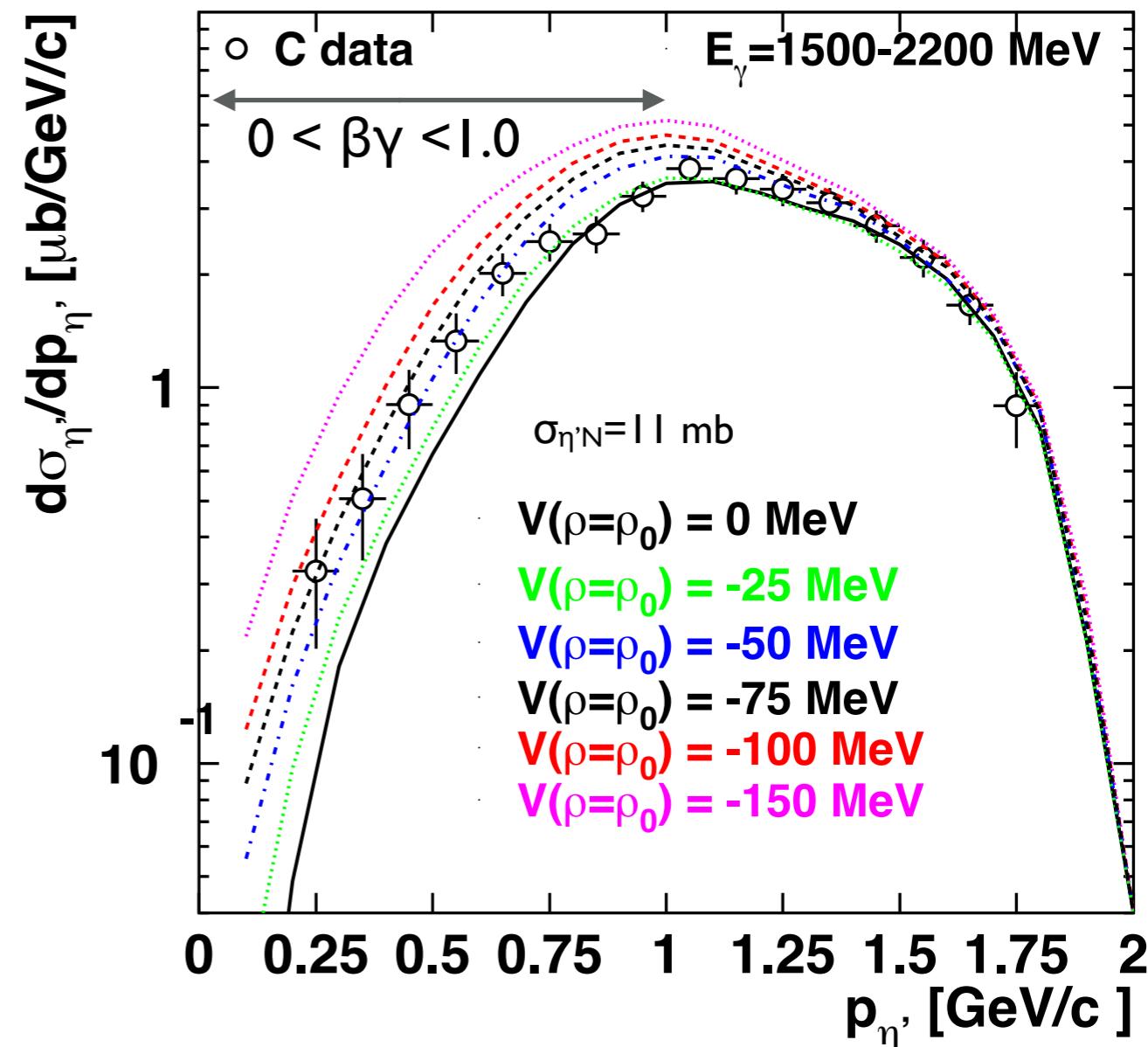
CBELSA/TAPS @ ELSA  
 $\gamma C \rightarrow \eta' X$

data: M. Nanova et al., PLB 727 (2013) 417  
 calc.: E. Paryev, J. Phys. G 40 (2013) 025201

$\eta'$



$$V_{\eta'}(\rho=\rho_0) = -(40 \pm 6) \text{ MeV}$$



$$V_{\eta'}(< p_{\eta'} > \approx 1.1 \text{ GeV}/c; \rho=\rho_0) = -(32 \pm 11) \text{ MeV}$$

data disfavour strong mass shifts

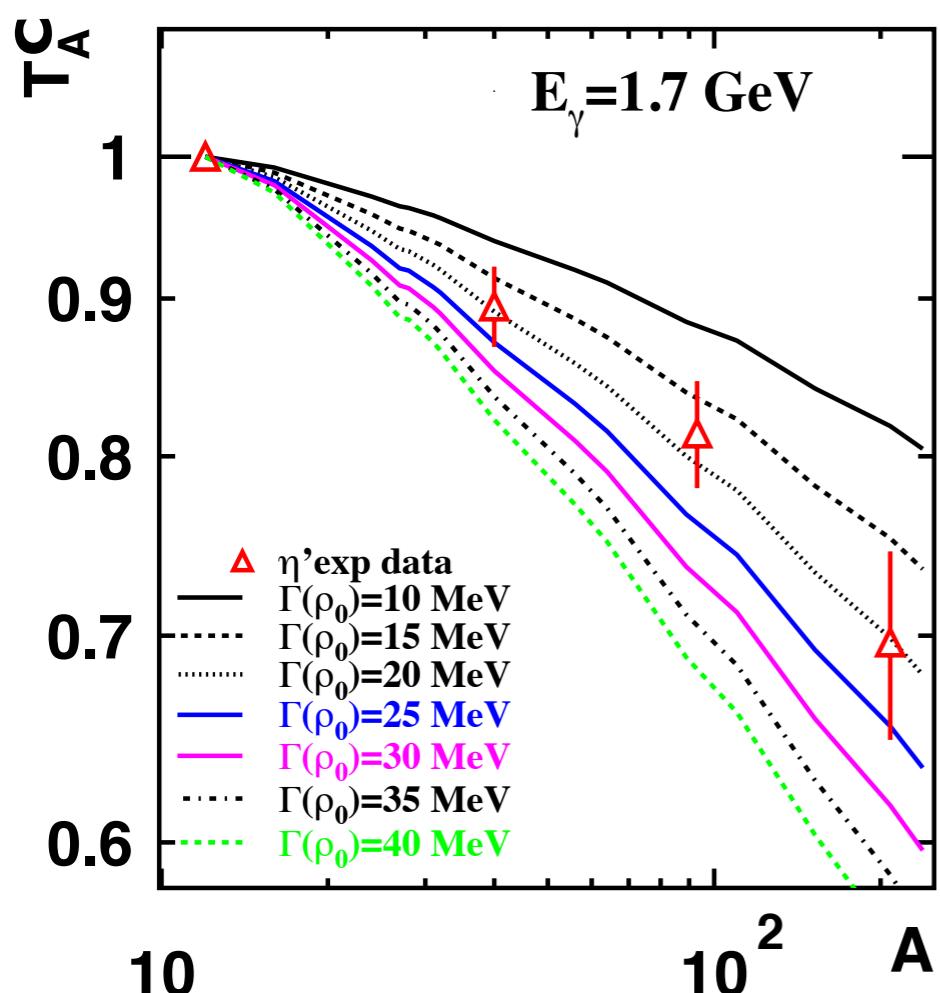
# Determining the imaginary part of the $\eta'$ - nucleus potential from transparency ratio measurements

$\eta'$

$$T_A = \frac{\sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow \eta' X}}{A \cdot \sigma_{\gamma N \rightarrow \eta' X}}$$

mass dependence of  $T_A$

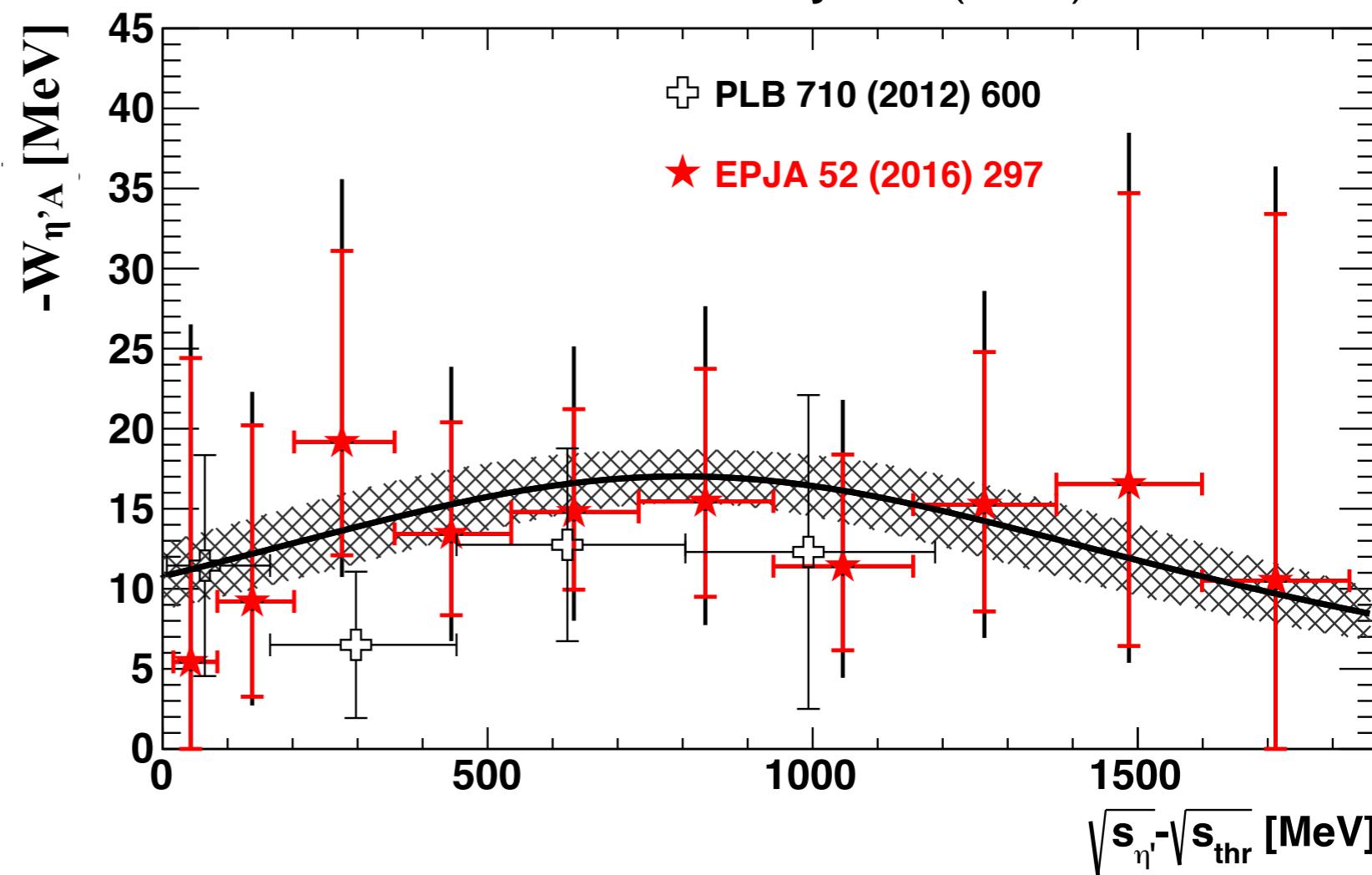
M. Nanova et al., PLB 710 (2012) 600



$$\Gamma_{\eta'}(\rho=\rho_0) = 15-25 \text{ MeV}$$

momentum dependence of  $W_0$

S. Friedrich et al., EPJA 52 (2016) 297

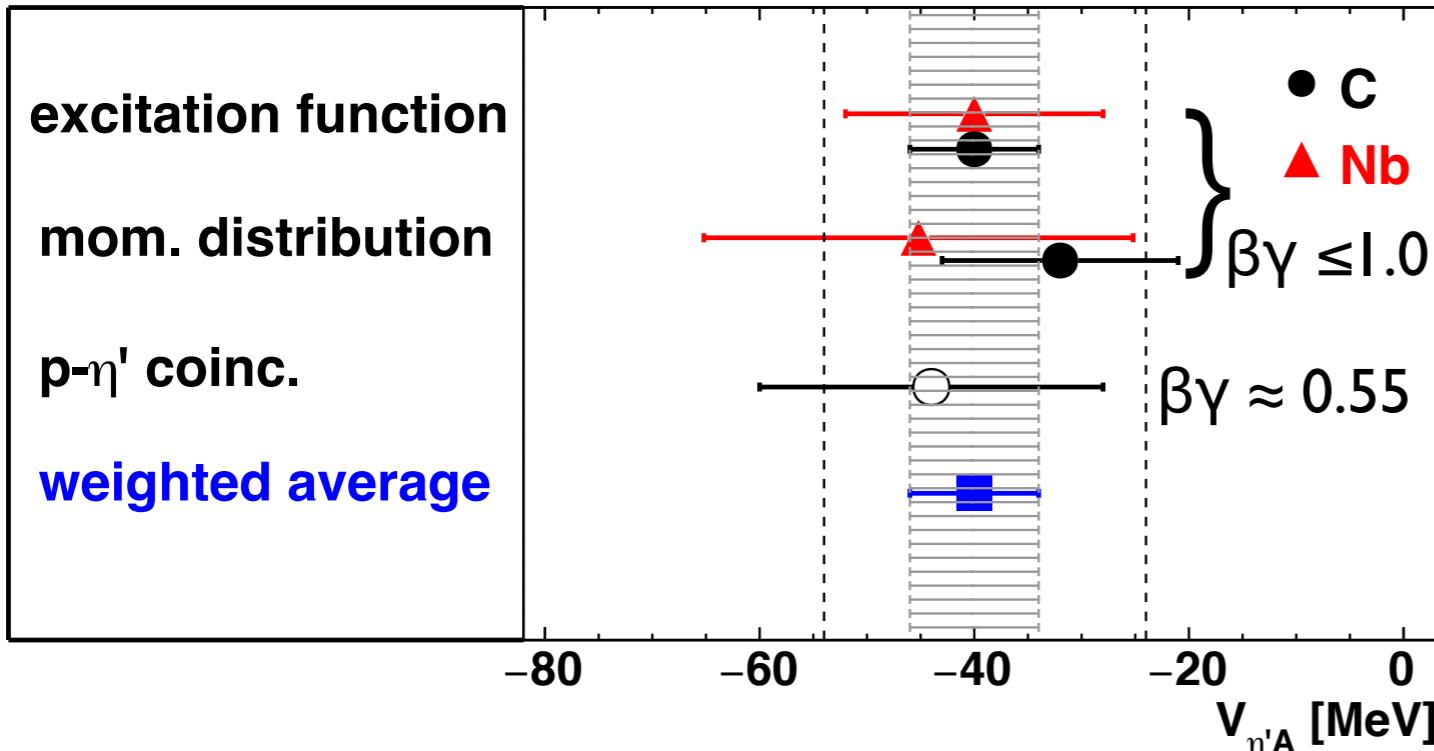


$$W_0 = \text{Im } U(\rho=\rho_0, p_{\eta'}=0) = -[13 \pm 3(\text{stat}) \pm 3(\text{syst})] \text{ MeV}$$

# Real and imaginary part of the $\eta'$ - nucleus potential

n'

- M. Nanova et al., PLB 727 (2013) 417  
M. Nanova et al., PRC 94 (2016) 025205  
M. Nanova et al., EPJA 54 (2018) 182  
S. Friedrich et al., EPJA 52 (2016) 297



$$V_0 = \Delta m(\rho=\rho_0) = -[40 \pm (\text{stat}) \pm 15(\text{syst})] \text{ MeV}$$

$$W_0 = \text{Im } U(\rho=\rho_0, p_{\eta'} \approx 0) = -[13 \pm 3(\text{stat}) \pm 3(\text{syst})] \text{ MeV}$$

observed mass shift in agreement with QMC model predictions

S. Bass and T. Thomas, PLB 634 (2006) 368

# Real and imaginary part of the $\eta'$ - nucleus potential

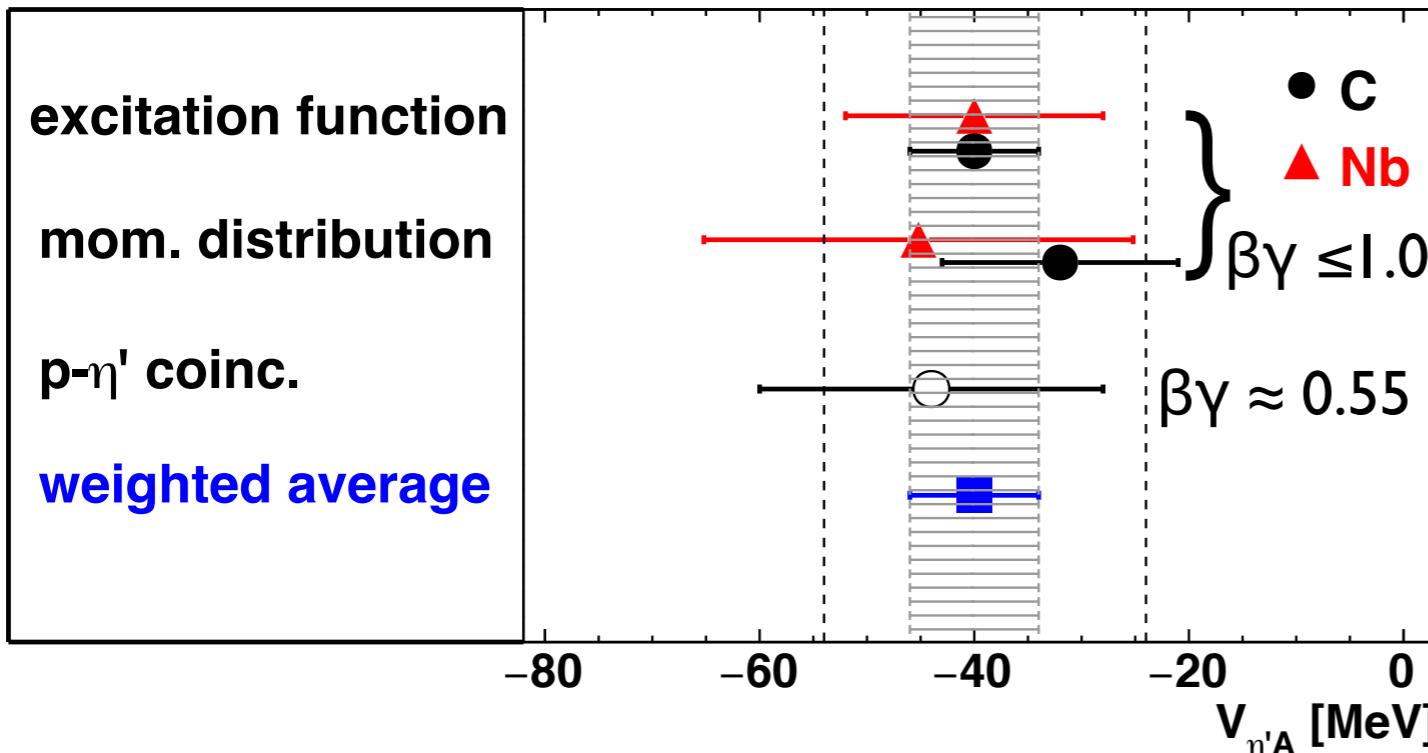
$\eta'$

M. Nanova et al., PLB 727 (2013) 417

M. Nanova et al., PRC 94 (2016) 025205

M. Nanova et al., EPJA 54 (2018) 182

S. Friedrich et al., EPJA 52 (2016) 297



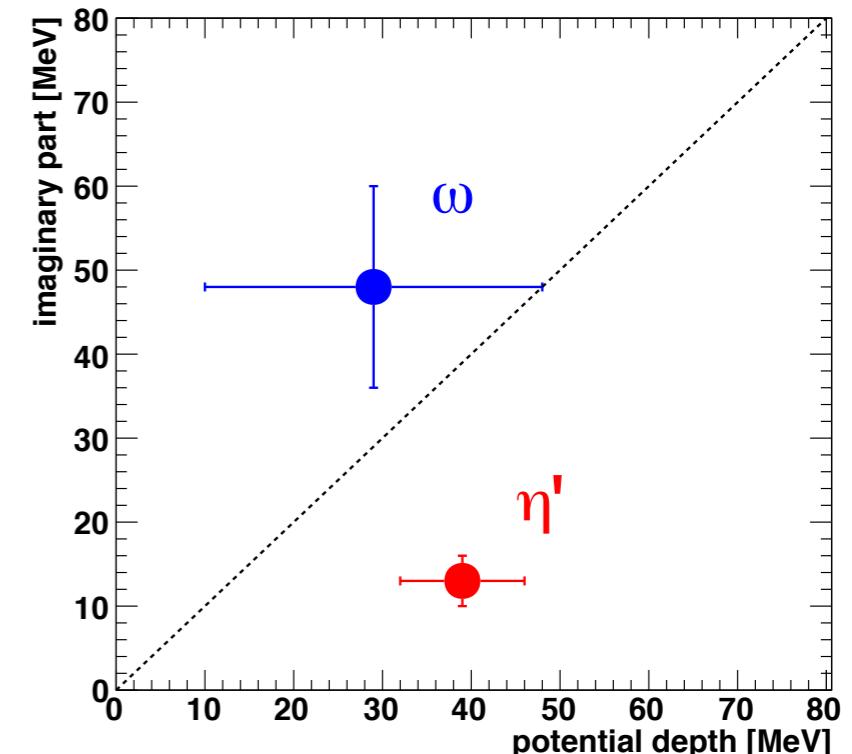
$$V_0 = \Delta m(\rho=\rho_0) = -[40 \pm (\text{stat}) \pm 15(\text{syst})] \text{ MeV}$$

$$W_0 = \text{Im } U(\rho=\rho_0, p_{\eta'} \approx 0) = -[13 \pm 3(\text{stat}) \pm 3(\text{syst})] \text{ MeV}$$

observed mass shift in agreement with QMC model predictions

S. Bass and T. Thomas, PLB 634 (2006) 368

$\eta'$ :  $|V_0| \gg |W_0| \rightarrow$  better candidate for search for meson-nucleus bound states than the  $\omega$  meson!

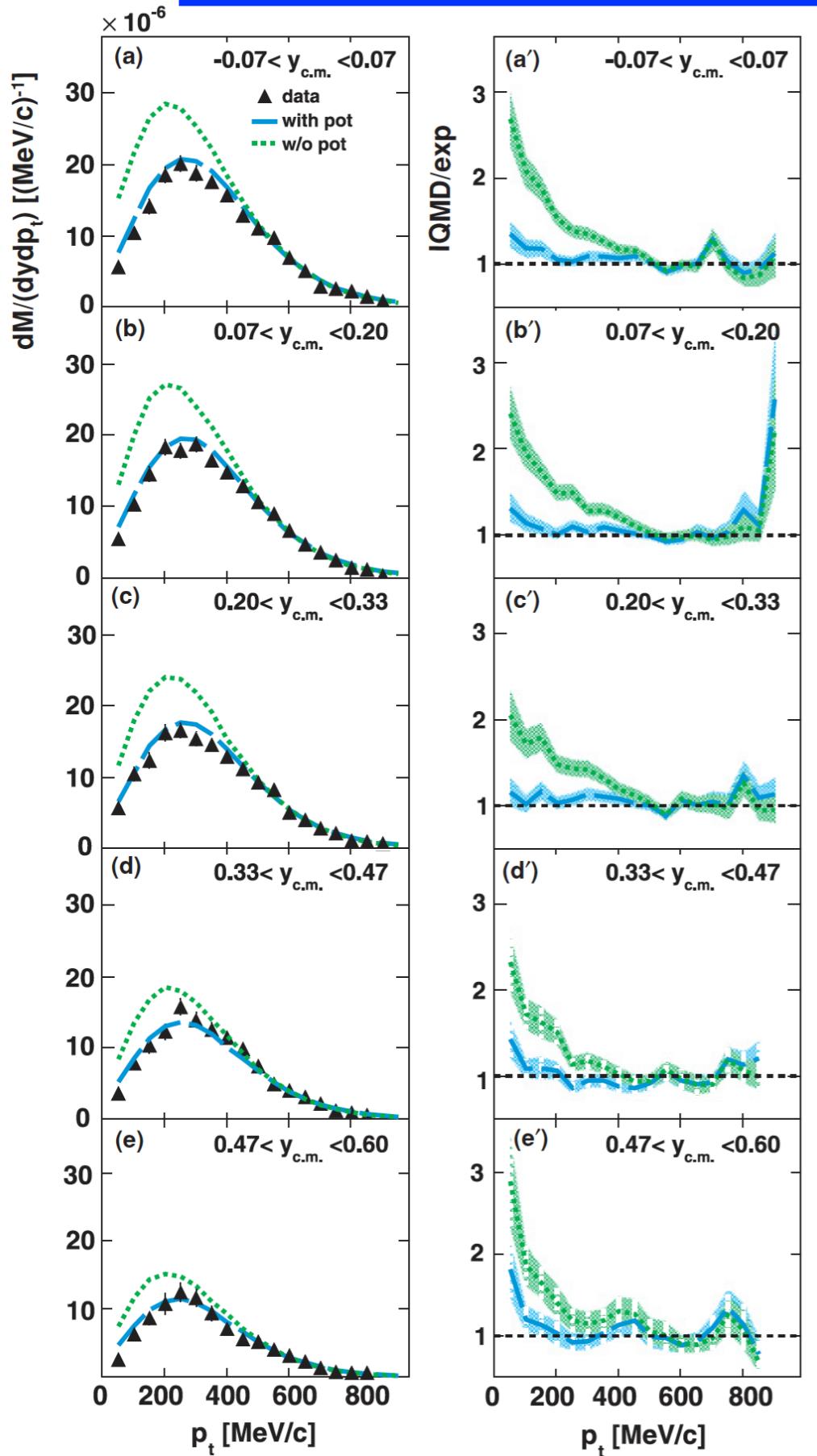


$$\omega: |V_0| \lesssim |W_0|$$

$$\eta': |V_0| \gg |W_0|$$

# Determining the real part of the $K^0$ -nucleus potential from measurement of momentum distributions

$K^0$



HADES: Ar + KCl at 1.756 AGeV  
G.Agakishiev et al., PRC90 (2014) 054906

$K^0$  transverse momentum spectra  
compared to IQMD transport calculations  
without potential (green dotted)  
and with repulsive potential  
of +46 MeV (blue dashed curve)

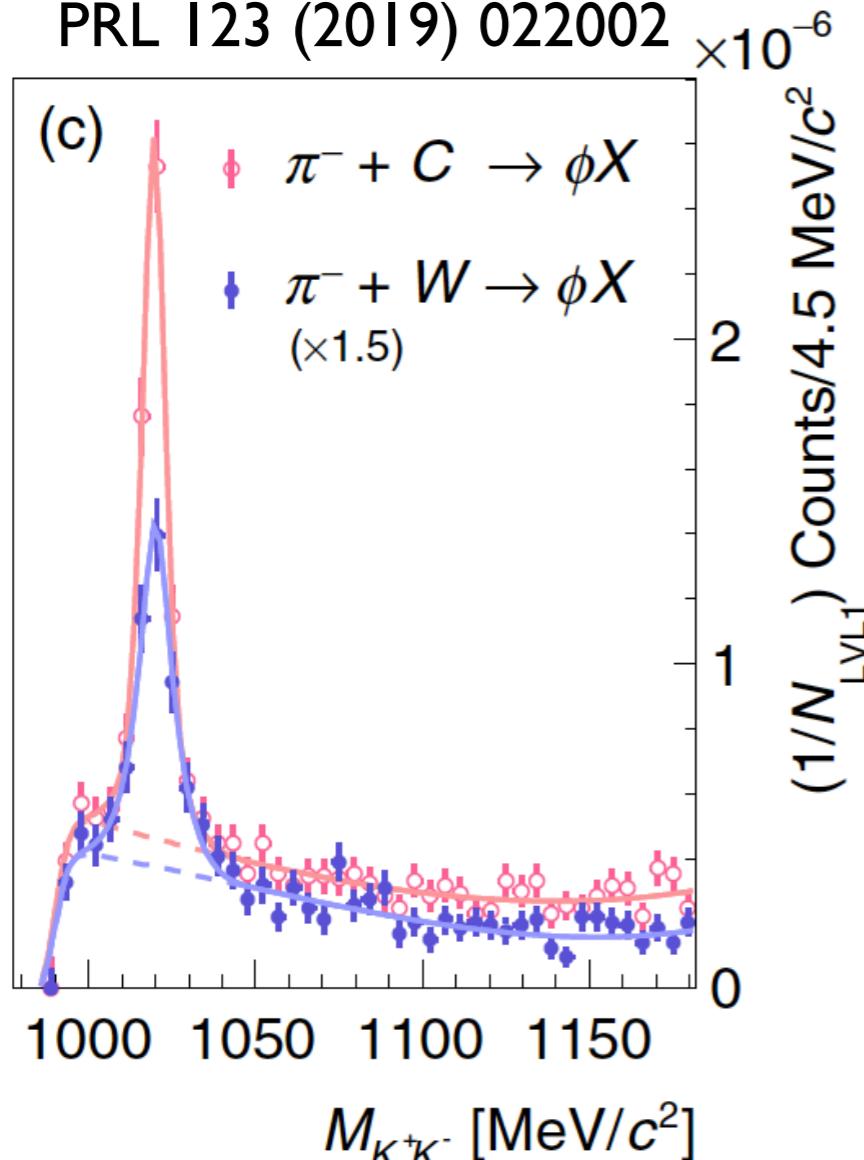
$V \approx +40 \text{ MeV}$

# Φ → K<sup>+</sup>K<sup>-</sup> decays

HADES: π<sup>-</sup> + C,W at p<sub>π</sub> = 1.7 GeV/c

J.Adamczewski-Musch et al.,

PRL 123 (2019) 022002



$$(K^-/K^+)_{\text{W}}/(K^-/K^+)_{\text{C}} = 0.32 \pm 0.01$$

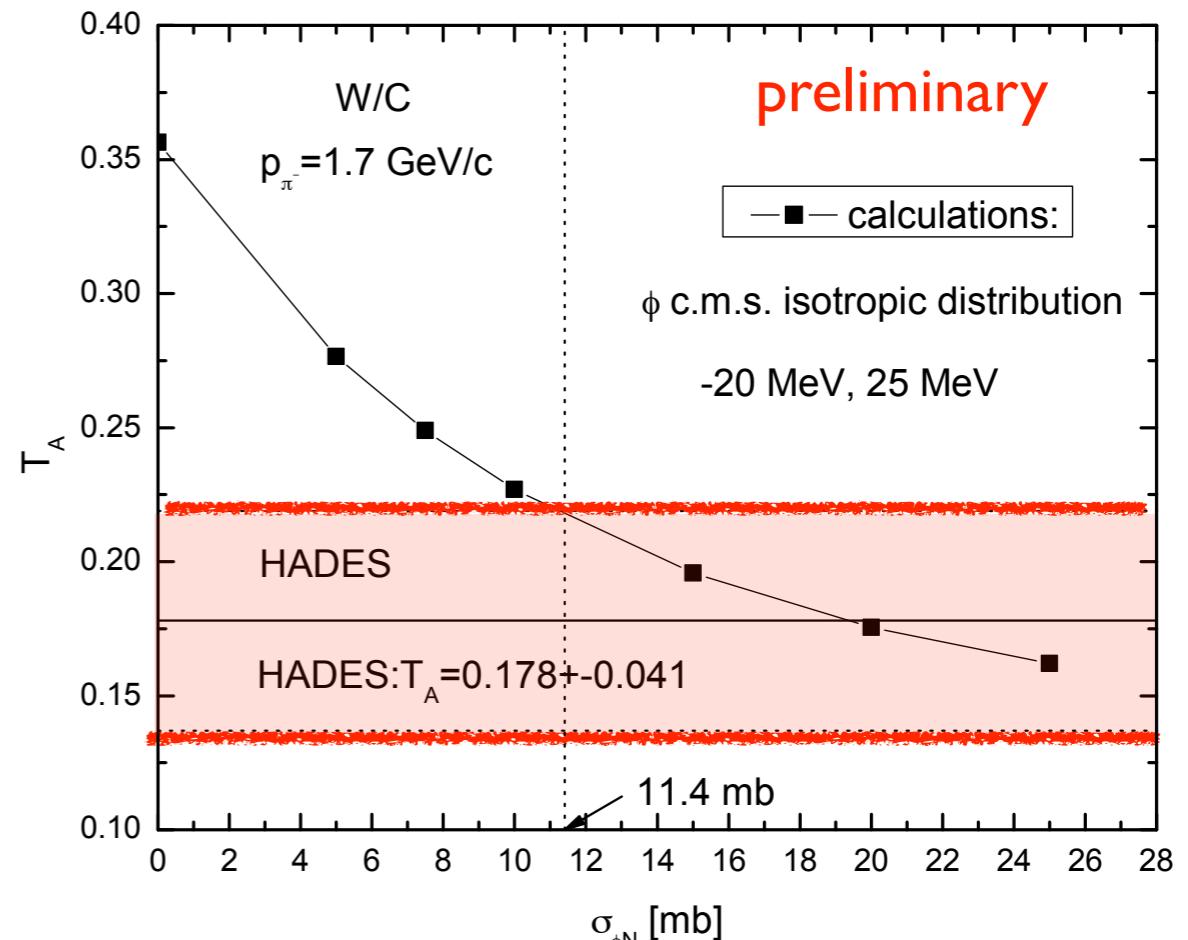
→ strong K<sup>-</sup> absorption

$$(\Phi/K^-)_{\text{C}} = 0.55 \pm 0.04 \approx (\Phi/K^-)_{\text{W}} = 0.63 \pm 0.06$$

→ sizeable Φ absorption

$$T = \frac{12}{184} \cdot \frac{\sigma_W \phi}{\sigma_C \phi} = 0.18 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.01^{+0.04}_{-0.043}$$

E.Ya. Paryev, Chin. Phys. C 42 (2018) 084101  
and priv. com.



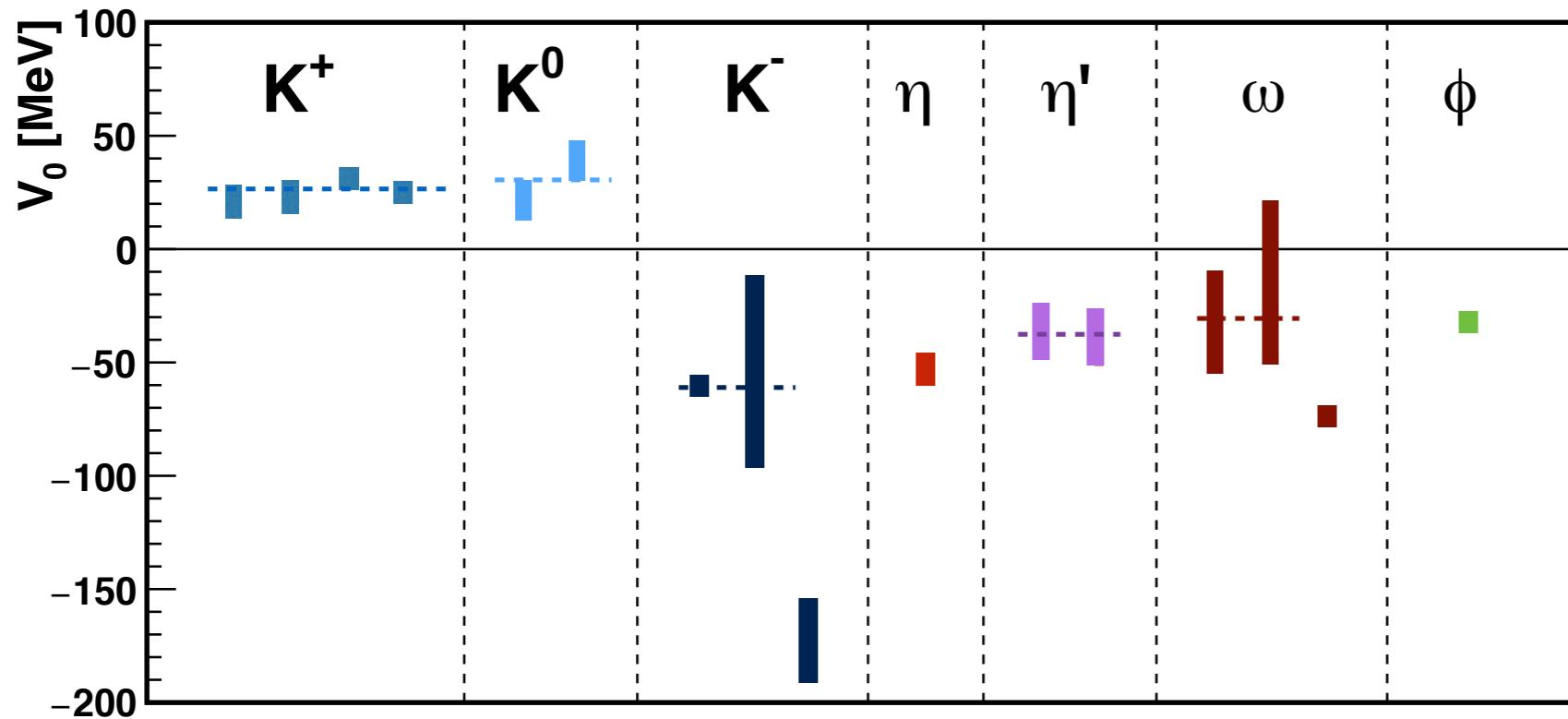
$$\sigma_{\text{abs}} \phi \approx 20 \text{ mb}; W(\rho = \rho_0) \approx -20 \text{ MeV}$$

earlier determinations of  $\sigma_{\text{abs}} \phi$

LEPS:  $(35^{+17}_{-11}) \text{ mb}$ ; ANKE: (15-25) mb

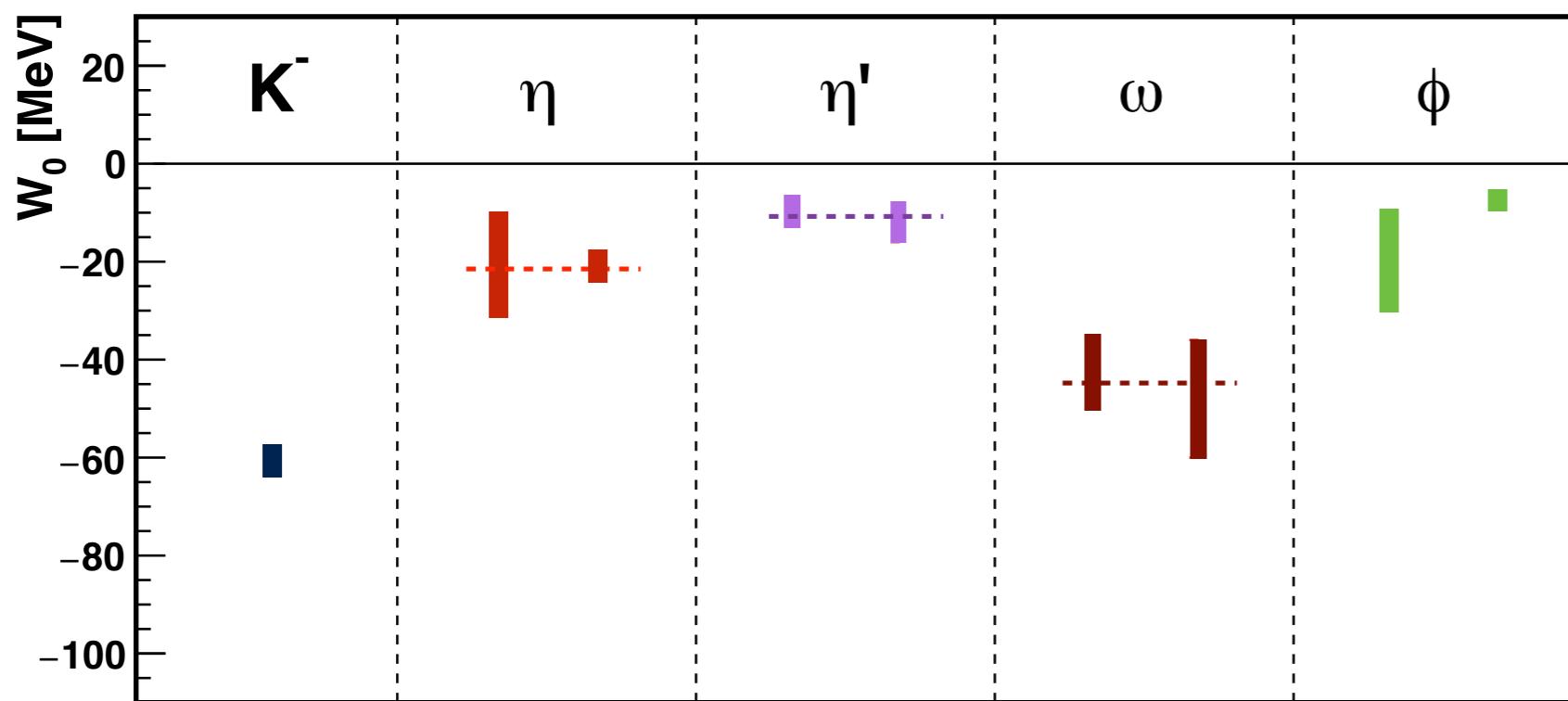
# The meson-nucleus potential $U(p_0) = V(p_0) + iW(p_0)$

V. Metag, M. Nanova and E.Ya. Paryev, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 97 (2017) 199



real potential  $V(p_0)$

$K^+, K^0$ : 20-40 MeV; repulsive  
 $K^-$  : - (30 - 100) MeV  
 $\eta, \eta', \omega, \Phi$  : - (20 - 50) MeV



imaginary potential  $W(p_0)$

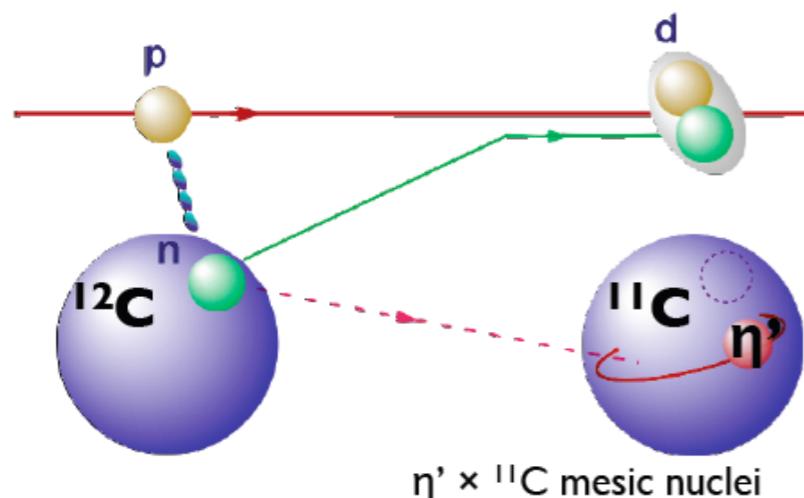
$\eta' : \approx -10$  MeV  
 $\eta, \Phi : \approx -20$  MeV  
 $\omega : \approx -40$  MeV quite broad  
 $K^- : \approx -60$  MeV very broad

$\eta'$  promising candidate for mesic state:  $|W_0| \approx 13$  MeV  $\ll |V_0| \approx 40$  MeV

## IV.

# Information on meson - nucleus interaction from meson-nucleus bound states

# Search for $\eta'$ - nucleus bound states in $^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})\eta'\text{X}$



recoilless production in  $^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})$  reaction

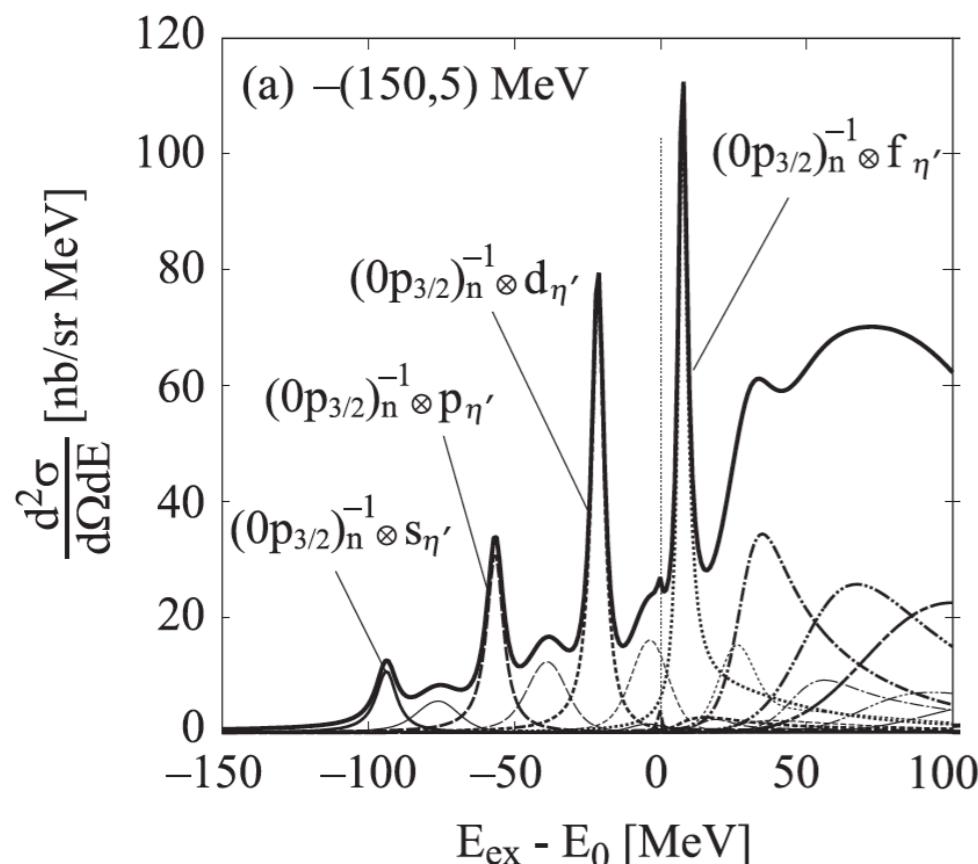


collaboration (2012)

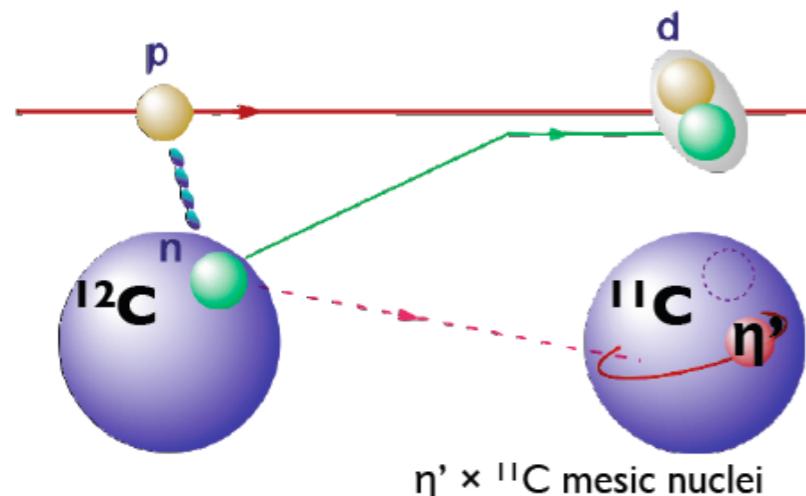
K. Itahashi et al., Exp. S 437

theoretical expectation

H. Nagahiro et al., PRC 87(2013) 045201



# Search for $\eta'$ - nucleus bound states in $^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})\eta'\text{X}$



recoilless production in  $^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})$  reaction



collaboration (2012)

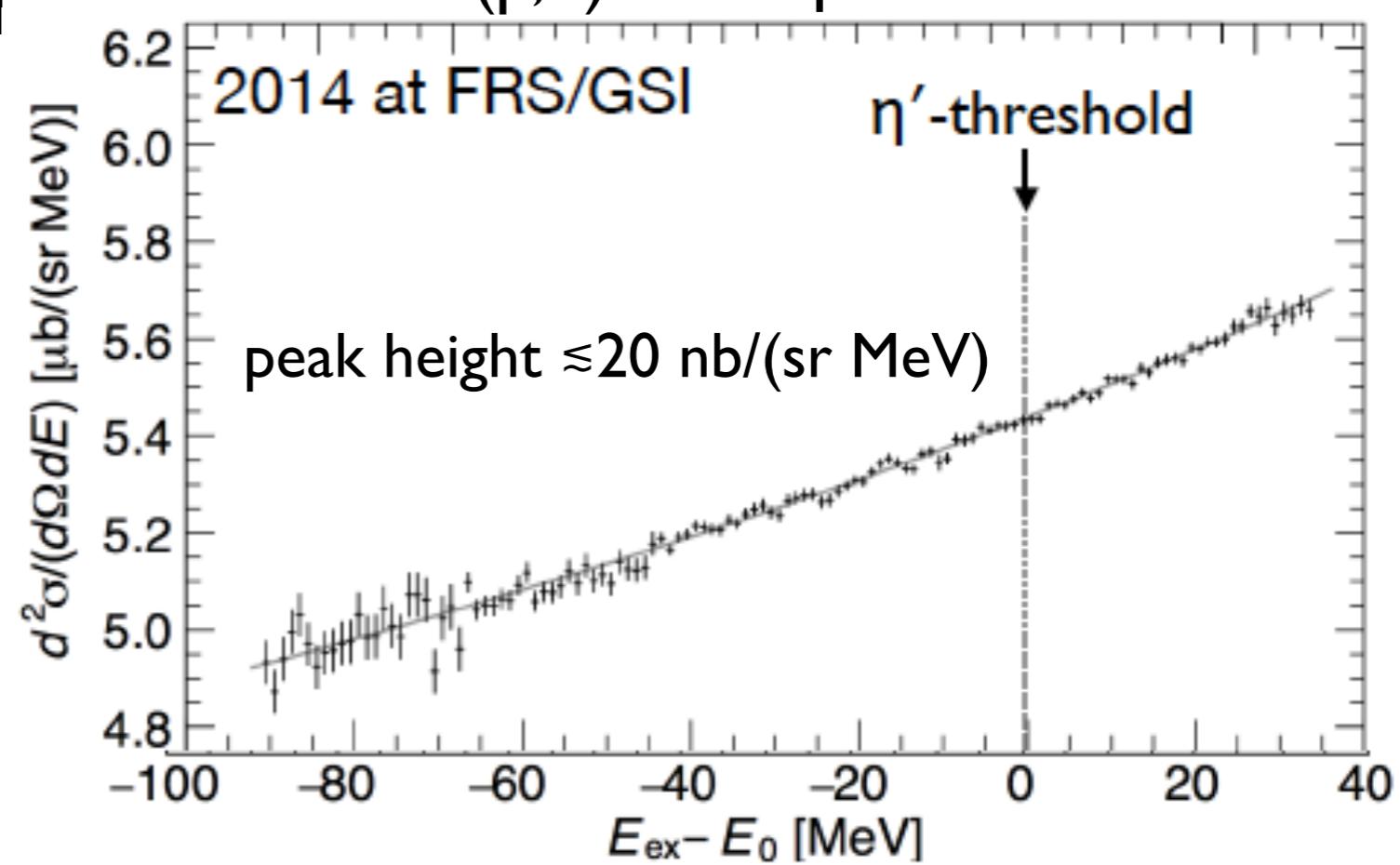
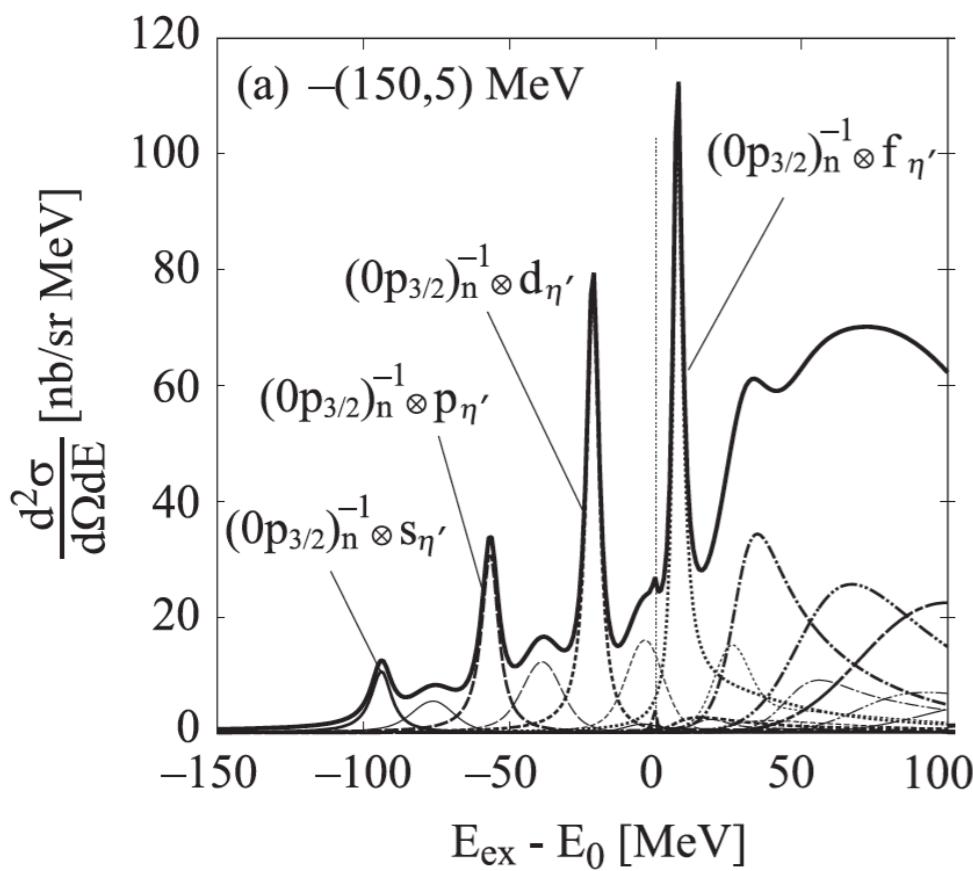
K. Itahashi et al., Exp. S 437

Y.K. Tanaka et al., PRL 117 (2016) 202501

Y.K. Tanka et al., PRC 97 (2018) 015202

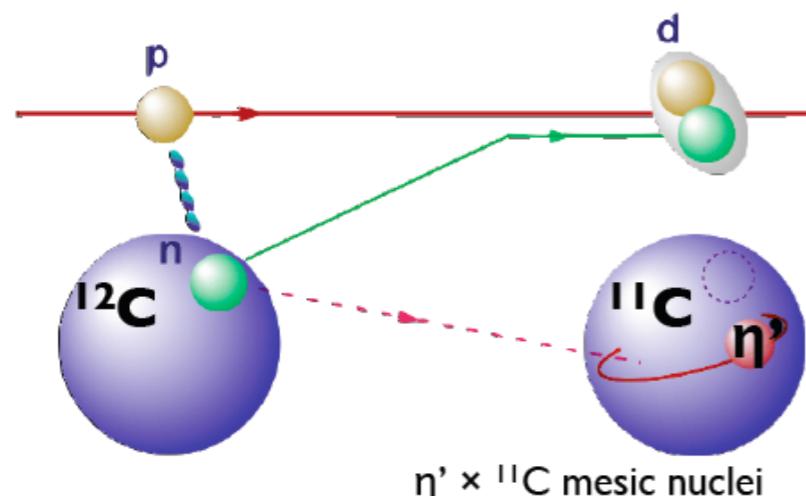
$^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})$  near  $\eta'$  - threshold

theoretical expectation  
H. Nagahiro et al., PRC 87(2013) 045201



high statistical sensitivity sets constraints on  $\eta'$ - ${}^{11}\text{C}$  interaction:  $| V_0 | < 100$  MeV

# Search for $\eta'$ - nucleus bound states in $^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})\eta'\text{X}$



recoilless production in  $^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})$  reaction



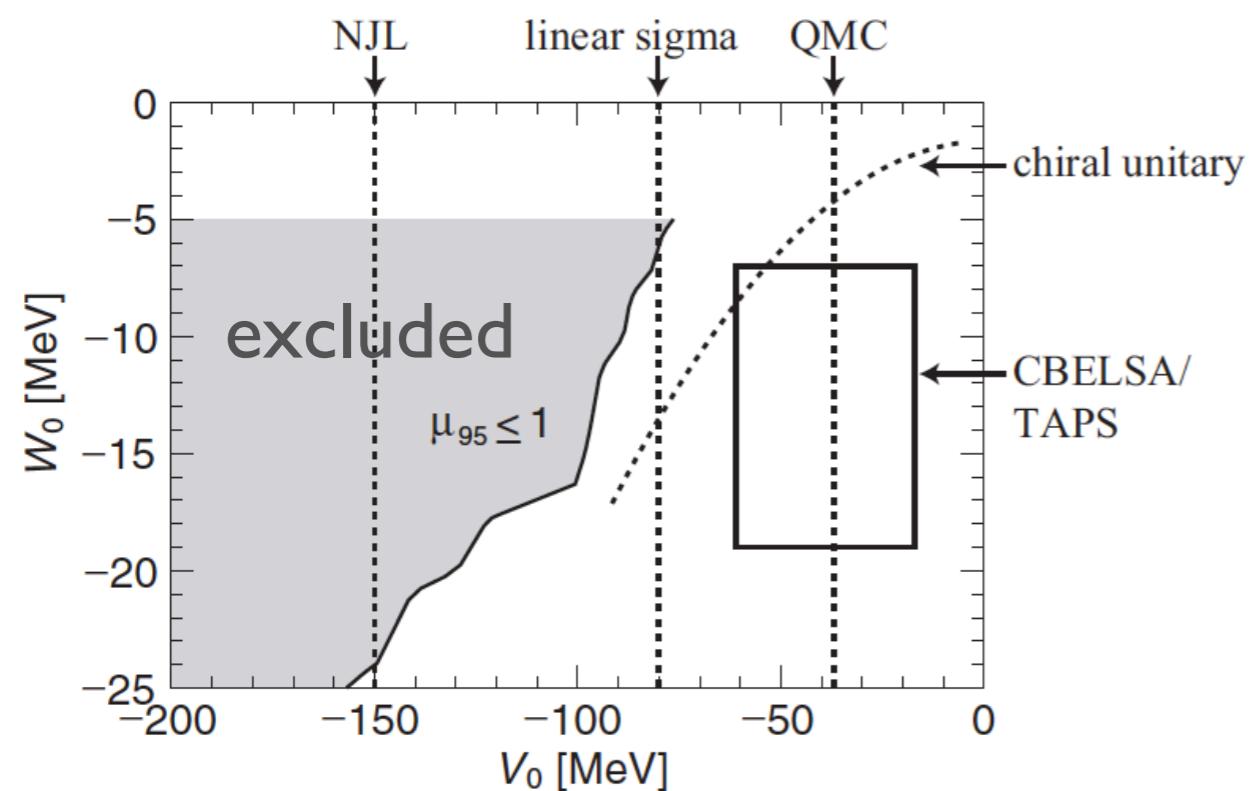
collaboration (2012)

K. Itahashi et al., Exp. S 437

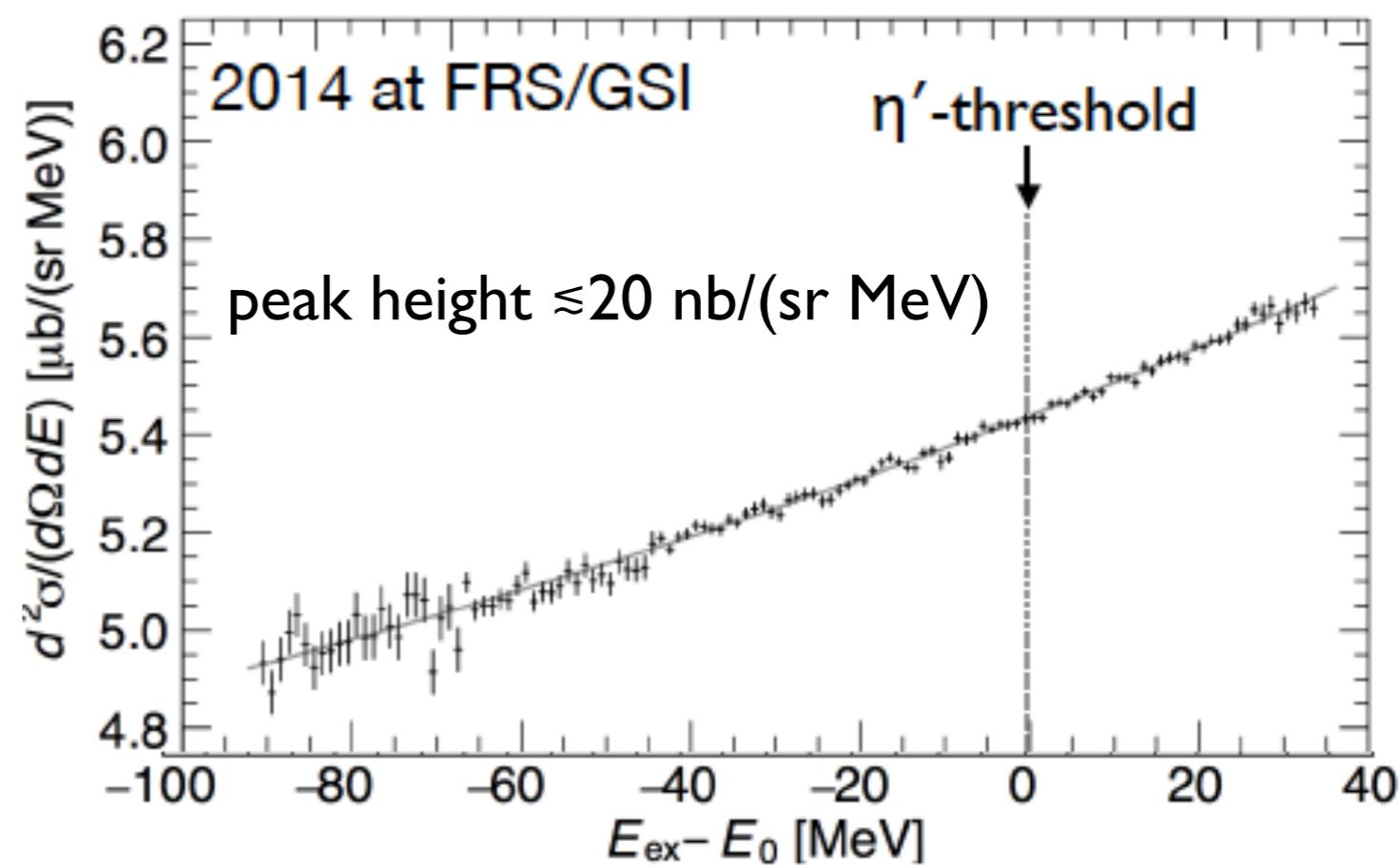
Y.K. Tanaka et al., PRL 117 (2016) 202501

Y.K. Tanka et al., PRC 97 (2018) 015202

$^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})$  near  $\eta'$  - threshold



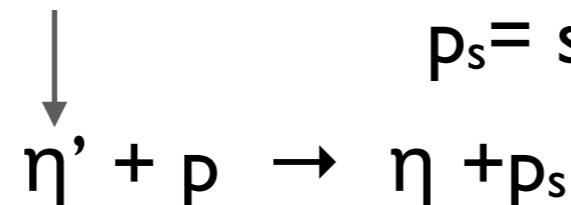
high statistical sensitivity sets  
constraints on  $\eta'$ - ${}^{11}\text{C}$  interaction:



improved experiment detecting formation and decay of mesic state ongoing

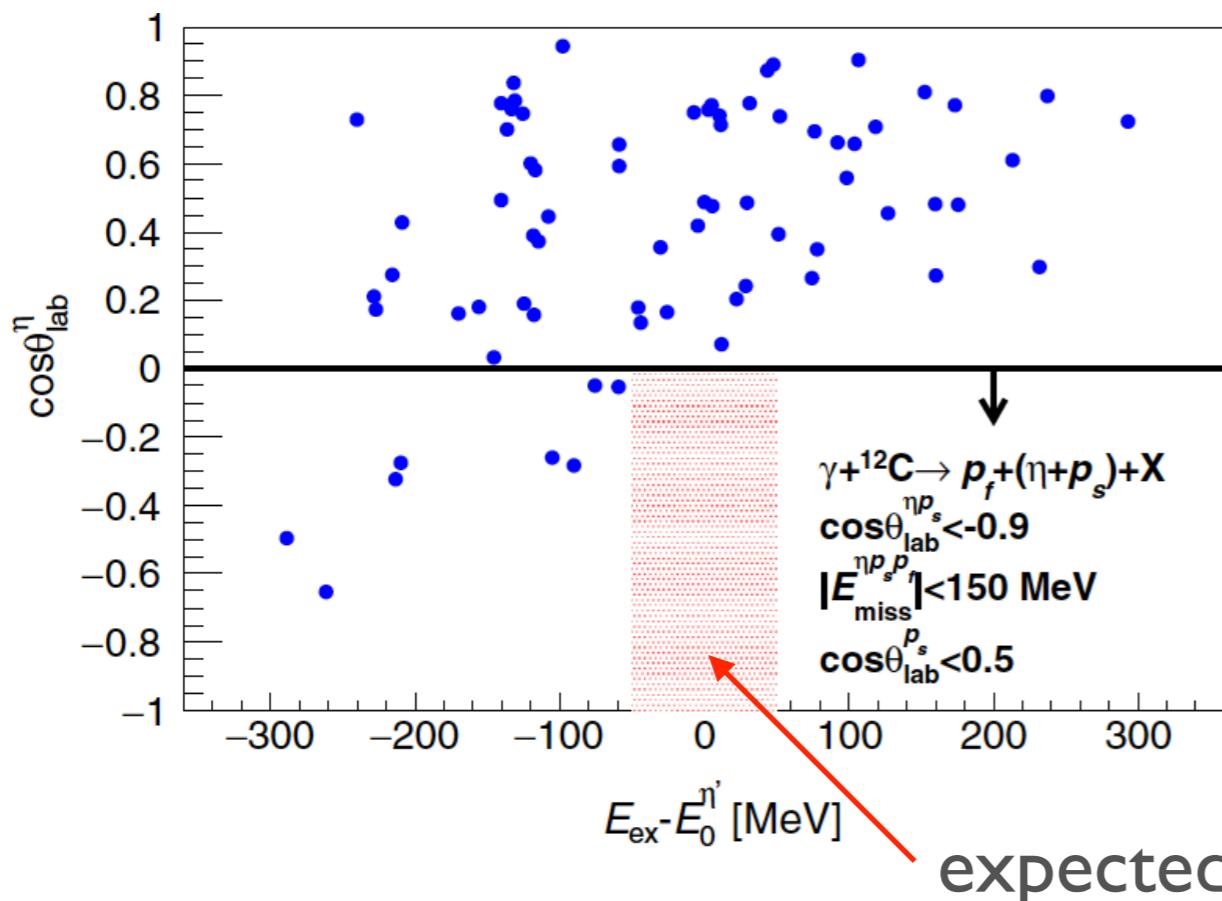
# Search for $\eta'$ mesic states in $^{12}\text{C}(\gamma, \text{p})$ reaction

N. Tomida et al. PRL 124 (2020) 202501



$p_f$  = forward going proton

$p_s$  = sideward going proton



simultaneous measurement of forward going proton (production of mesic state) and almost back-to-back ( $\eta$ ,  $p_s$ ) pair (decay of mesic state)

upper limit for branching ratio  $\text{BR}(\eta' \text{N} \rightarrow \eta \text{N}) \approx 24\%$  for  $V_0 = -100 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\approx 80\%$  for  $V_0 = -20 \text{ MeV}$

these limits questioned in H. Fujioka et al. PRL 126 (2021) 019201

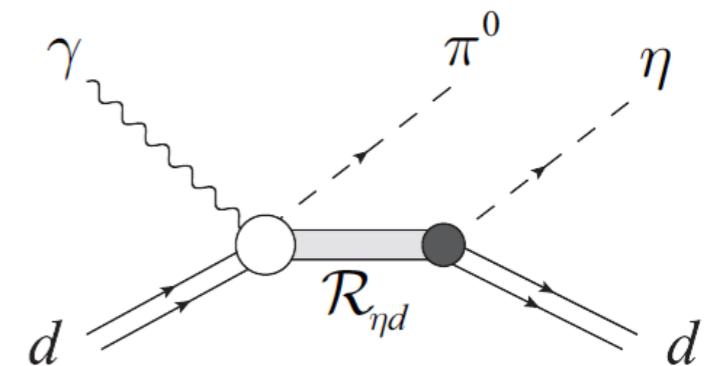
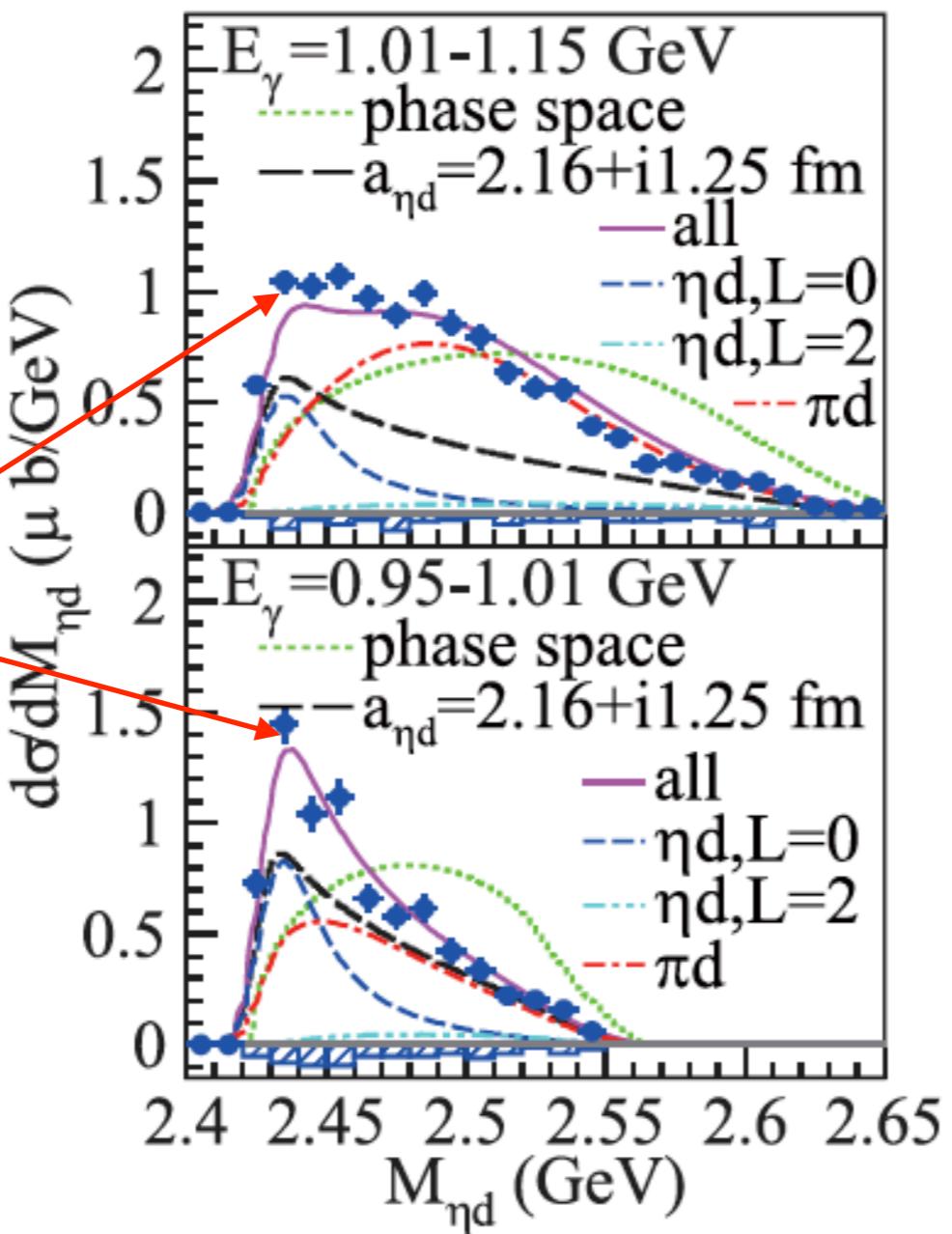
# Search for $\eta$ -d mesic states in $\gamma d \rightarrow \pi^0 \eta d$ reaction

T. Ishikawa et al., PRC 104 (2021) L052201; arXiv:2111.01388

coherent  $\pi^0 \eta$  photoproduction off nuclei

forward going high momentum  $\pi$  takes over most of the beam momentum  
so that low energy  $\eta$  can couple to the intact nucleus

resonance like  
structure in  $M_{\eta d}$   
observed near  
threshold  
(more  
pronounced  
at lower  $E_\gamma$ )



$$\text{mass} = (2.427^{+0.013}_{-0.006}) \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_\eta + m_d = 2.4235 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\text{width} = 0.029^{+0.006}_{-0.029} \text{ GeV}$$

isoscalar I-  $\eta NN$  bound state  
or virtual  $\eta d$  state

$\eta d$  scattering length:

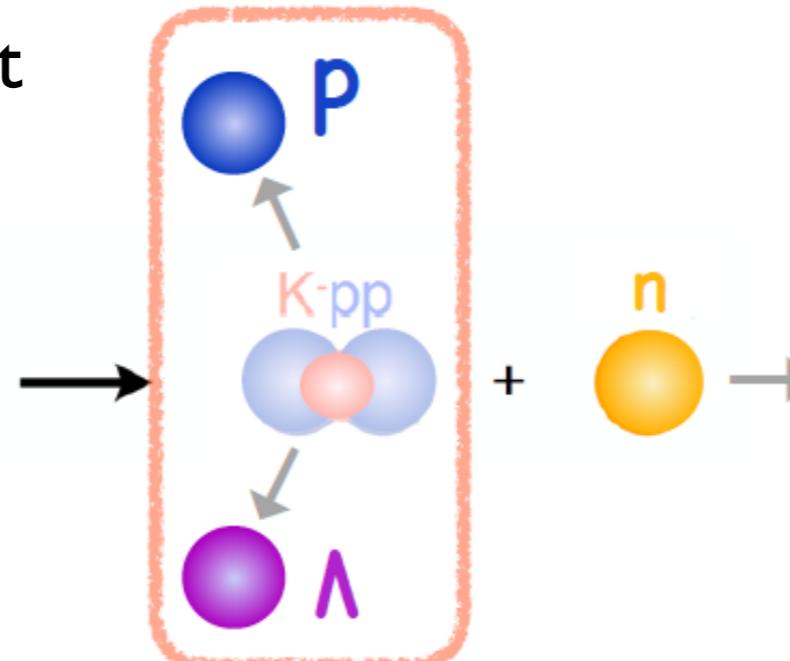
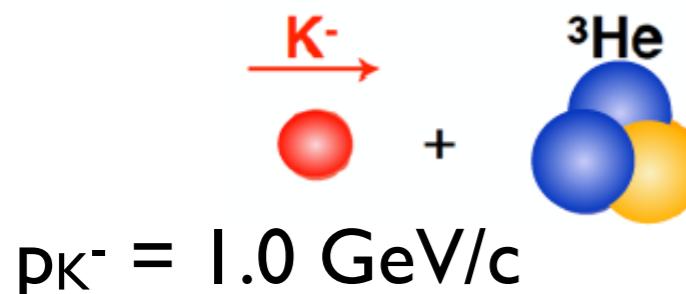
$$a_{\eta d} = \pm(0.7^{+0.8}_{-0.6} + i(0.00^{+1.5}_{-0.0})) \text{ fm}$$

coherent  $\gamma A \rightarrow \pi^0 \eta A$  promising tool for studying  $\eta$ -A interaction

# Search for K-pp clusters

J-PARC E15 experiment

M. Iwasaki et al.



strategy:

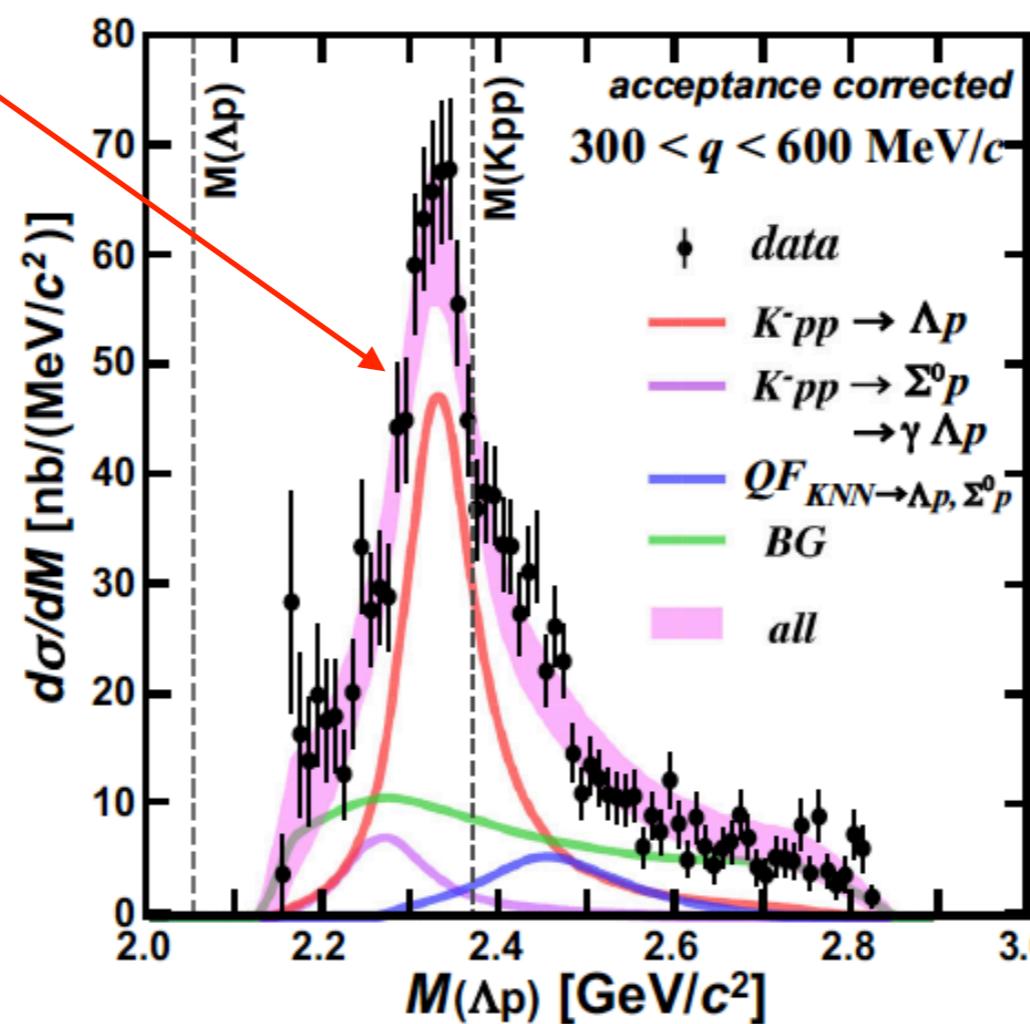
detect  $\Lambda p$  pairs from K-pp decay in coincidence with forward-going neutron

K-pp bound state formed  
decaying into  $\Lambda p$

$$BE = (42 \pm 3(\text{stat})^{+3}_{-2}(\text{syst})) \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Gamma = (100 \pm 7(\text{stat})^{+19}_{-9}(\text{syst})) \text{ MeV}$$

new era of studying  
kaonic nuclei  
in J-PARC E80



- Y. Sada et al.,  
PTEP 2016, 05ID01
- S. Ajimura et al.  
Phys. Lett. B 789 (2019) 620
- T. Yamaga et al.  
PRC 102 (2020) 044002

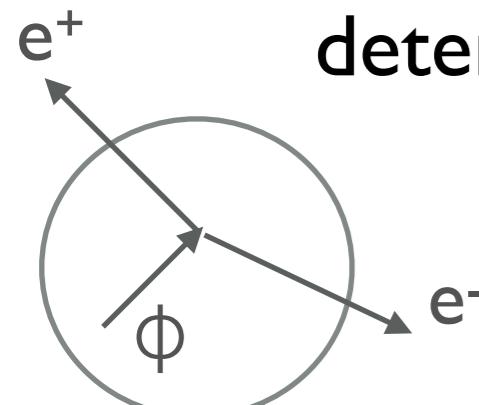
## Summary and conclusions

---

- mesons change properties in the nuclear medium as predicted theoretically !!
  - mesons masses are lowered for attractive and increased for repulsive meson-nucleus interactions:  $m_{K^+, K^0} \nearrow$ ;  $m_{K^-} \searrow$ ;  $m_{\eta'} \searrow$
  - in-medium lifetimes are shortened by hadronic interactions within the nucleus → in-medium broadening
- experimental approaches:
  - line shape analysis (sensitive to nuclear density at decay point)
  - real and imaginary part of meson-nucleus potentials from excitation functions, momentum distributions and transparency ratios (sensitive to nuclear density at production point; model dependent !)
- model independent information on meson-nucleus potential from observation of meson-nucleus bound states:
  - evidence for existence of virtual  $\eta d$  state and bound  $K\text{-pp}$  cluster
  - studies of kaonic nuclei and search for  $\eta' \otimes A$  ongoing
- **vivid field: new results are eagerly awaited !!**

# Back up slides

# Line shape analysis



determine mass from in-medium decay:

e.g.,  $\Phi \rightarrow e^+e^-$

$$m = \sqrt{(p_1 + p_2)^2}$$

probability for decay:

$$\frac{dP_{\text{decay}}}{dl} = \frac{mc}{P} \cdot \frac{l}{\hbar c} \cdot \Gamma_{\text{decay}} = 6.5 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ /fm}$$

$$\Gamma_{\Phi \rightarrow e^+e^-} = 1.3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ MeV} \quad (\text{for } \approx \frac{mc}{P} \approx 1.0)$$

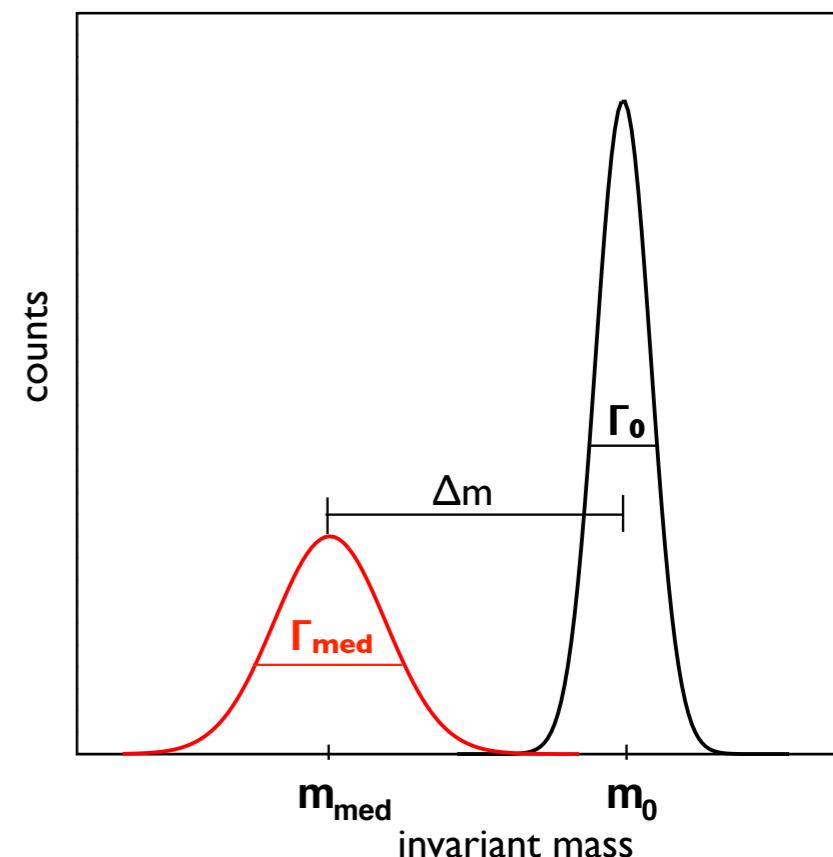
probability for absorption:

$$\frac{dP_{\text{abs}}}{dl} = \sigma_{\text{abs}} \cdot \rho(r) = 0.3/\text{fm} \text{ at } \rho = \rho_0$$

$$\sigma_{\text{abs}} \approx 20 \text{ mb}$$

more favourable decay/absorption ratio only at lower densities near the surface where in-medium modifications are reduced

sensitive to nuclear density at decay point !!



$$\frac{P_{\text{decay}}}{P_{\text{abs}}} \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

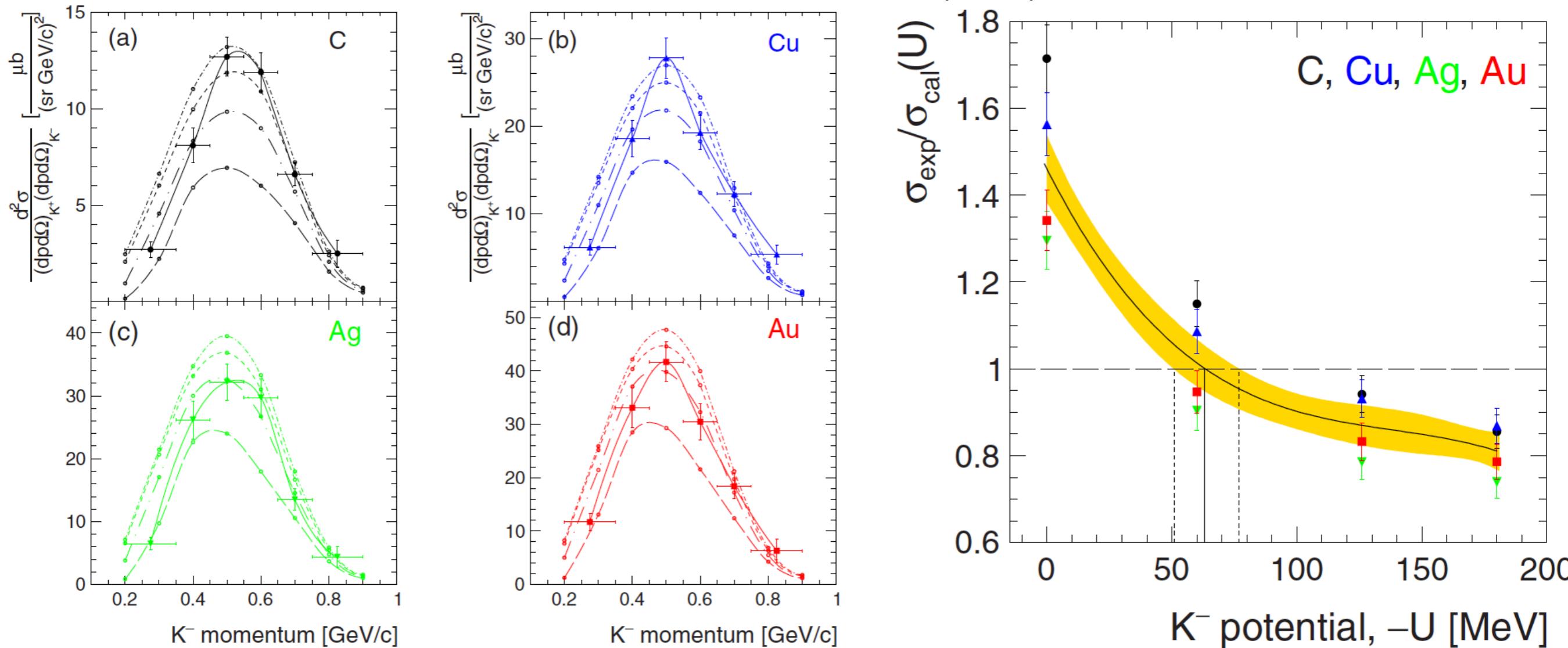
50 000 times more likely  
to get absorbed than to decay

# Determining the real part of the K<sup>-</sup>-nucleus potential from momentum distributions

$p + C, Cu, Ag, Au \rightarrow K^+ K^- + X$   
 K<sup>+</sup> K<sup>-</sup> pairs not from  $\Phi$  decay

K-

ANKE: Yu.T. Kiselev et al., PRC92 (2015) 065201



K<sup>-</sup>-momentum spectra in coincidence with K<sup>+</sup> ( $200 \leq p_{K^+} \leq 600$  MeV/c) compared to collision model calculations: E. Paryev et al., J. Phys. G 42 (2015) 075107

$V_{K^-} (\rho = \rho_0) = -63^{+50}_{-30}$  MeV accounting for systematic uncertainties

# Search for $\eta'$ - nucleus bound states in $^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})\eta'\text{X}$

Y.K.Tanaka et al., PRL 117 (2016) 202501

Y.K.Tanaka et al., PRC 97 (2018) 015202

$^{12}\text{C}(\text{p},\text{d})$  near  $\eta'$  - threshold

