

**A theoretical support for the discovery
of the $\bar{K}NN$ nucleus at J-PARC
and its perspective/implication in heavy ion collision**

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(Kyoto Prefectural Univ.)

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- [1] T. S. , E. Oset and A. Ramos, PTEP 2016 123D03.
 - [2] T. S. , E. Oset and A. Ramos, JPS Conf. Proc. 26 (2019) 023009.
 - [3] T. S. , E. Oset, and A. Ramos, under discussion.



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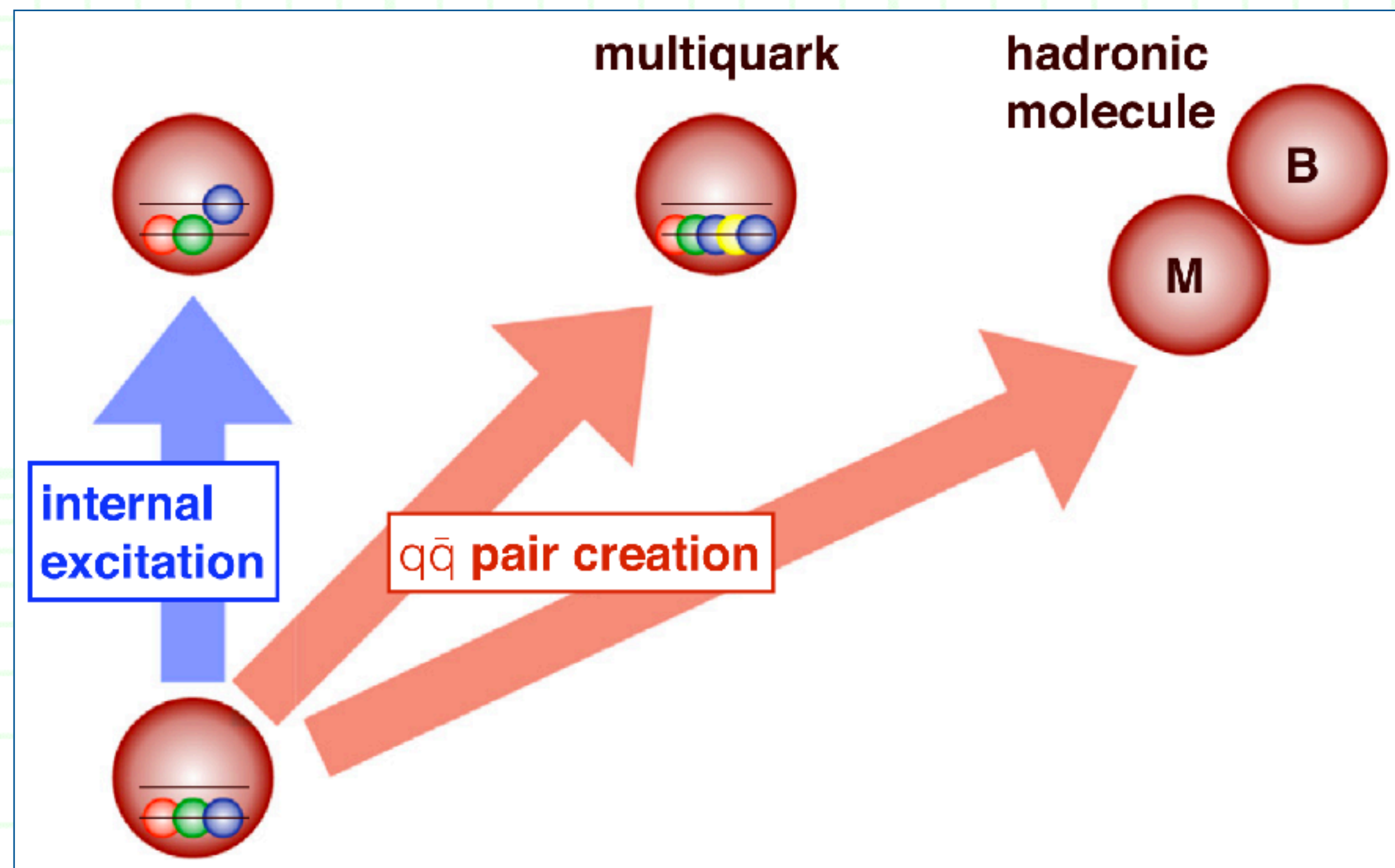
1. Introduction
2. Reaction calculation for the $\bar{K}NN$ nucleus production in the J-PARC E15 experiment: $K^- \text{}^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \text{} p \text{} n$
3. Perspective/implication in heavy ion collisions
4. Summary

1. Introduction

1. Introduction

++ Exotic states in the hadron spectrum ++

- **Hadrons = Particles composed of quarks, interact via strong interactions.**
- Underlying theory for strong interactions: **Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD).**



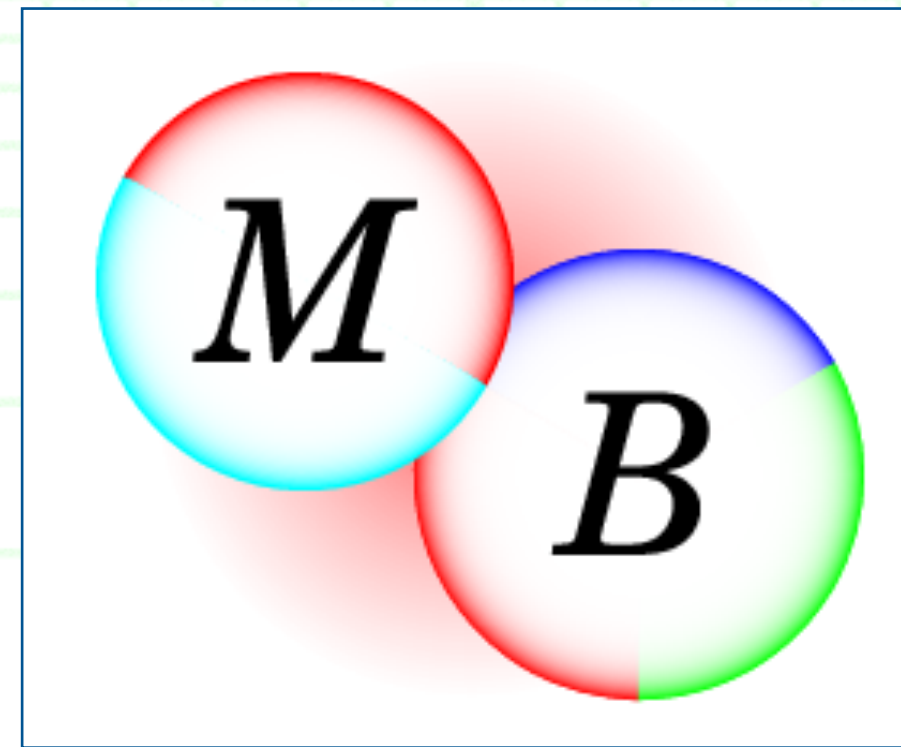
Cho et al., Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 95 (2017) 279.

- **Ground-state hadrons are described well by quark models.**
- qqq for baryons, $q\bar{q}$ for mesons.
- **Then, how about excited states ... ?**

1. Introduction

++ Exotic states in the hadron spectrum ++

- We focus on the hadronic molecules.
- Meson-baryon, baryon-baryon, meson-meson, ...



Hadronic molecules composed of meson and baryon.

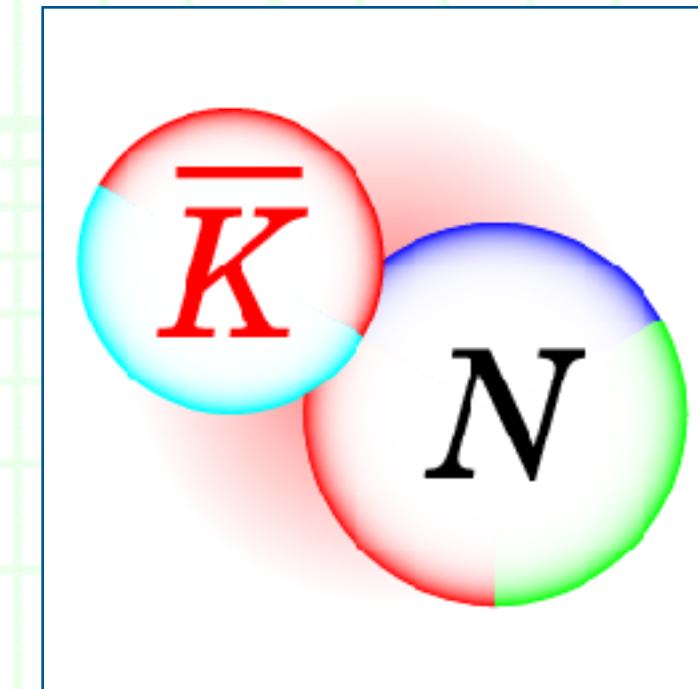
- In particular, meson degree of freedom is interesting, because meson number does not conserve.
- We can expect that exotic states in which meson degree of freedom is significant may be “embedded” in the hadron spectrum.

1. Introduction

++ The $\Lambda(1405)$ as a classic ++

■ The most famous candidate of the hadronic molecules is the $\Lambda(1405)$ resonance.

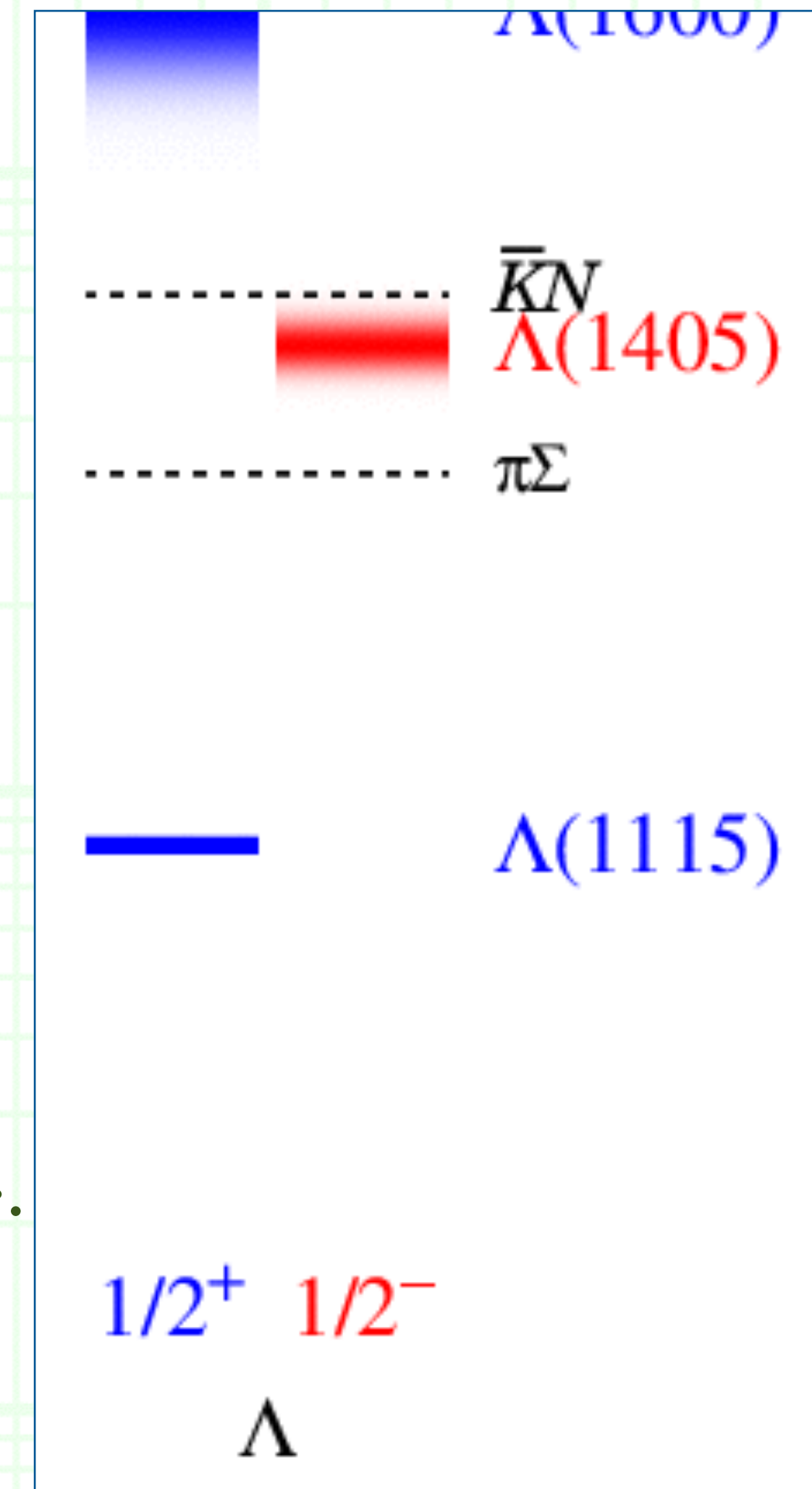
- The spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry.
- The $\bar{K}N$ interaction in chiral dynamics is attractive enough to generate a bound state as $\Lambda(1405)$.



Bound state as $\Lambda(1405)$!

■ Theoretical studies support the $\bar{K}N$ molecular nature of the $\Lambda(1405)$ resonance.

- **Compositeness** = the norm of the two-body wave function.
T. S. , Hyodo and Jido, PTEP 2015 063D04; Kamiya and Hyodo, PTEP 2017 023D02; ...
- Dominant $\bar{K}N$ component in **lattice QCD simulations**.
Hall et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 114 (2015) 132002.



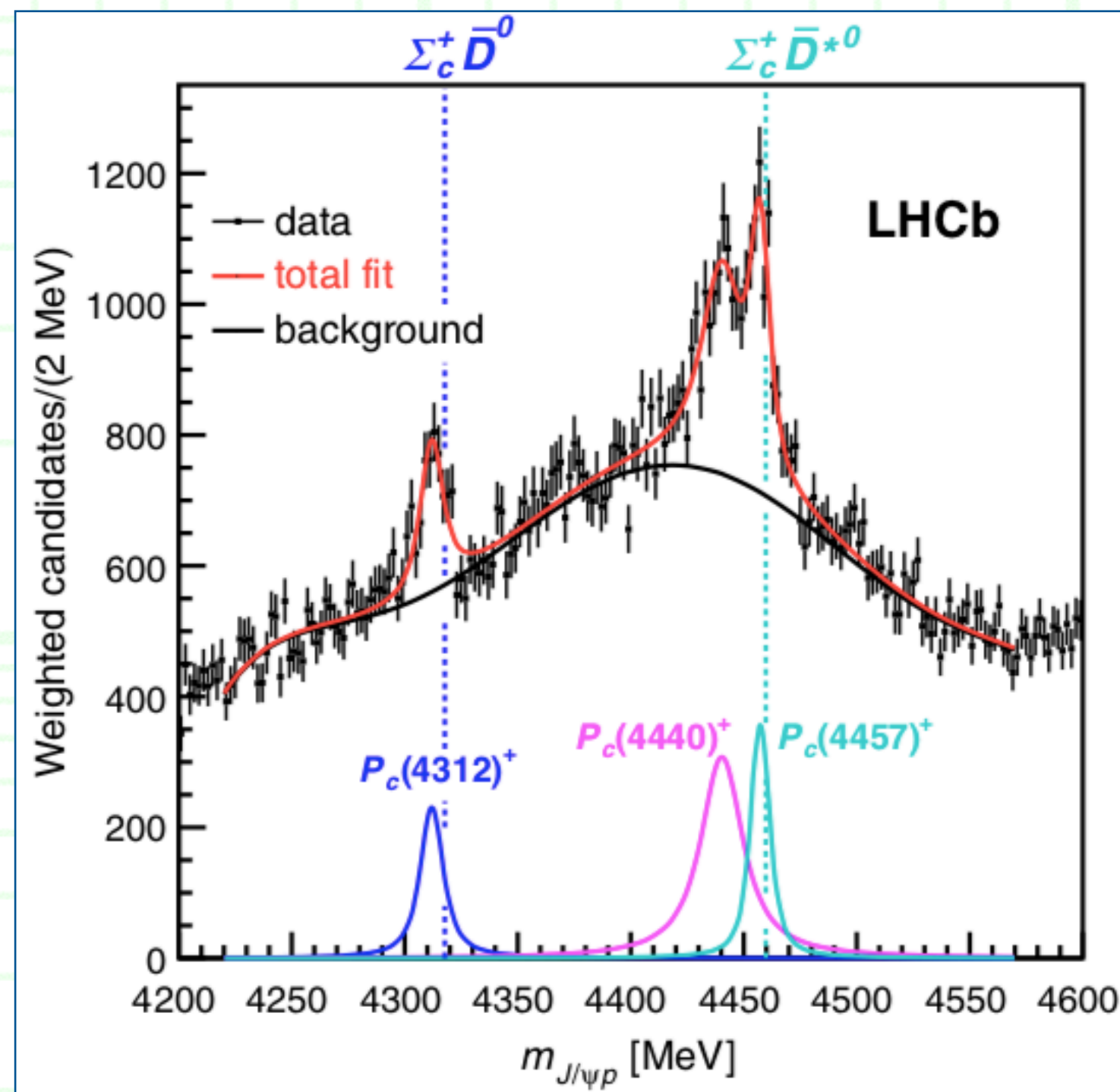
1. Introduction

++ Further hadrons at thresholds ++

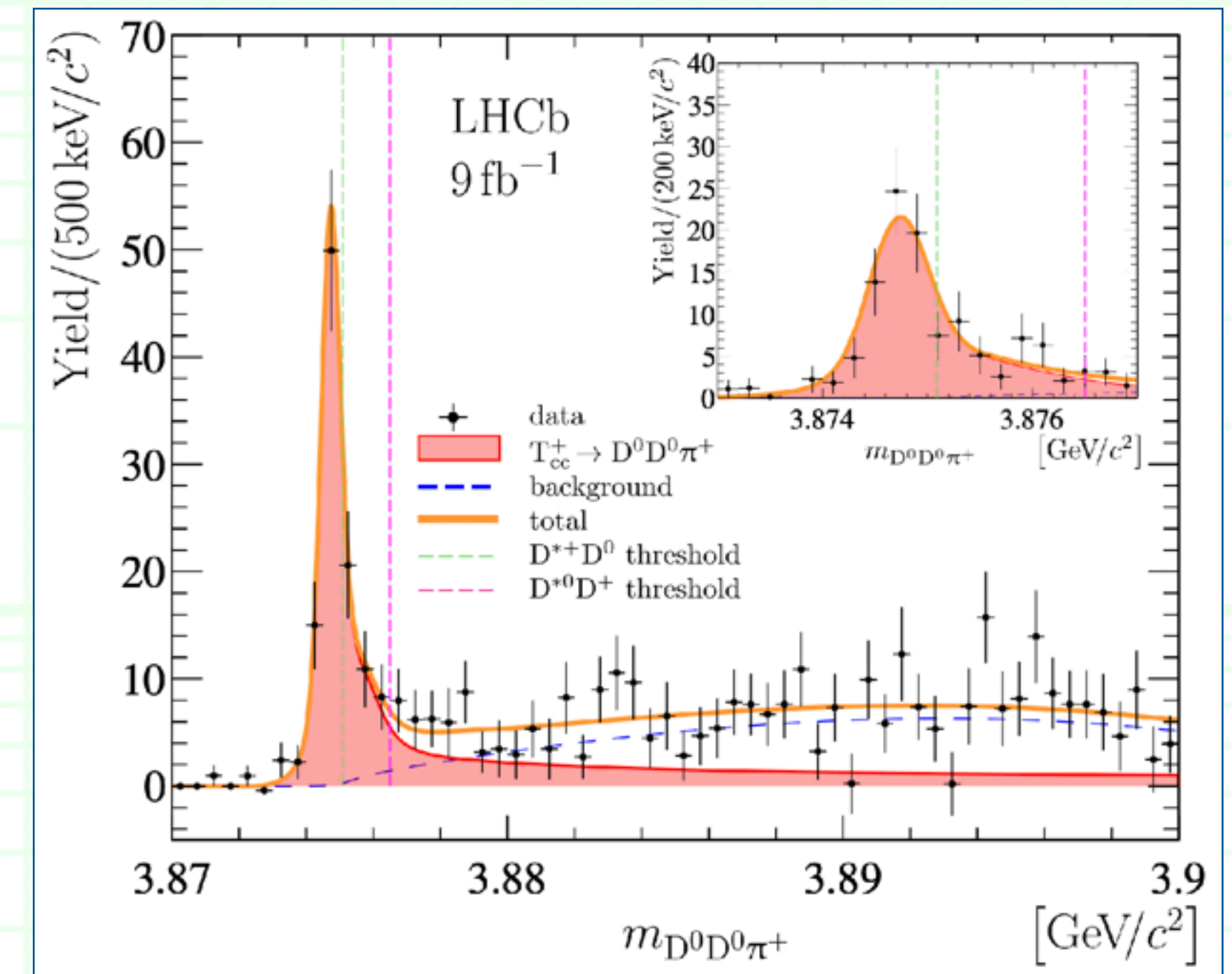
■ Hadronic molecule candidates have also been found in the heavy-quark sector.

□ The charmonium-pentaquark P_c s.

□ The doubly charmed tetraquark T_{cc} .



LHCb, Phys. Rev. Lett. 122 (2019) 222001.



LHCb, Nature Commun. 13 (2022) 3351.

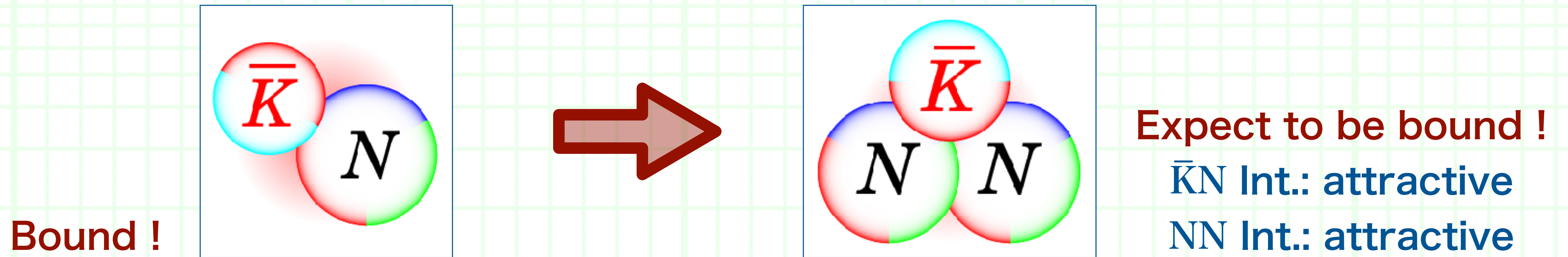
■ They exist just below the meson-baryon and meson-meson thresholds.

– Someone said: “Interesting things happen at thresholds.”

1. Introduction

++ The “ $K^- pp$ ” state ++

- We can extend the discussion from the $\bar{K}N$ to the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state (nucleus)
 - so-called “ $K^- pp$ ” state – as the simplest kaonic nuclei.



- There have been many studies on the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state, both in the theoretical and experimental sides.
 - Theoretically, the strongly attractive $\bar{K}N$ interaction indicates that the $\bar{K}NN$ system is bound.
 - Experimentally, the J-PARC E15 Exp. observed a signal of the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state.

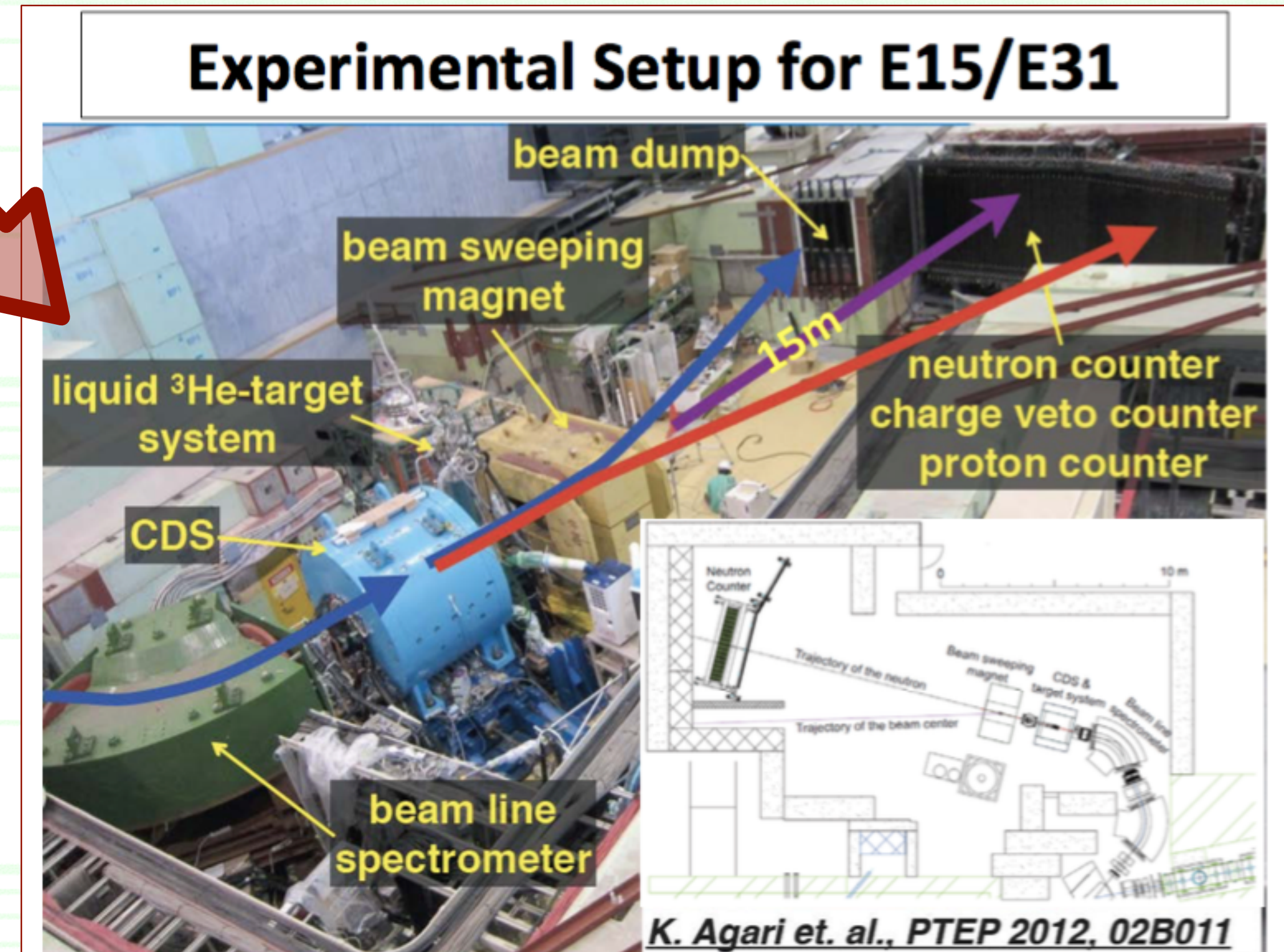
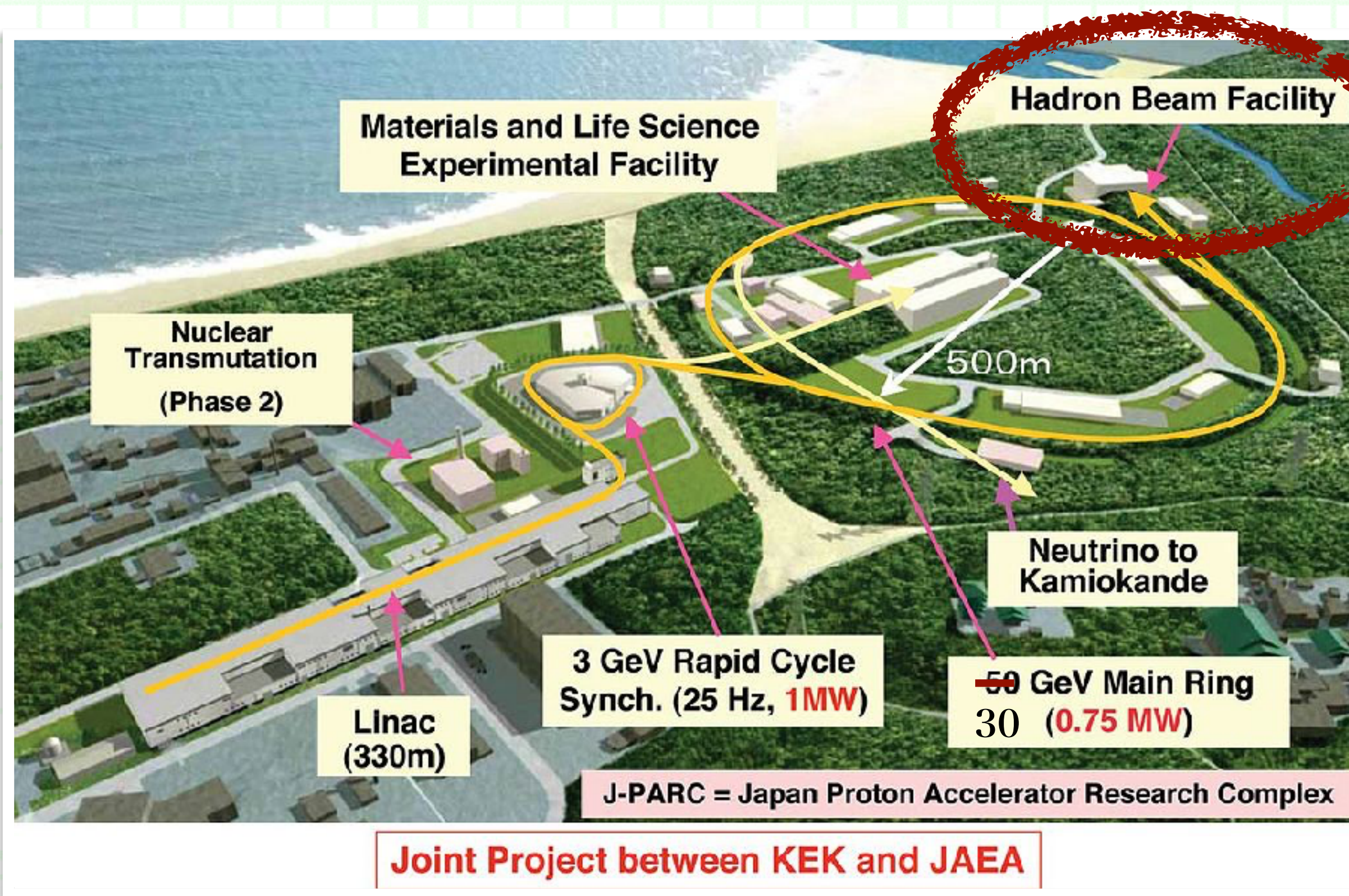
1. Introduction

++ J-PARC E15 Exp., a breakthrough ++

■ Today the world's highest-intensity kaon beam is available at J-PARC !

□ The J-PARC E15 Exp. was performed to search for the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state in the $K^- {}^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda p n$ reaction with forward n.

Sakuma-san, talk at ECT* (2017).



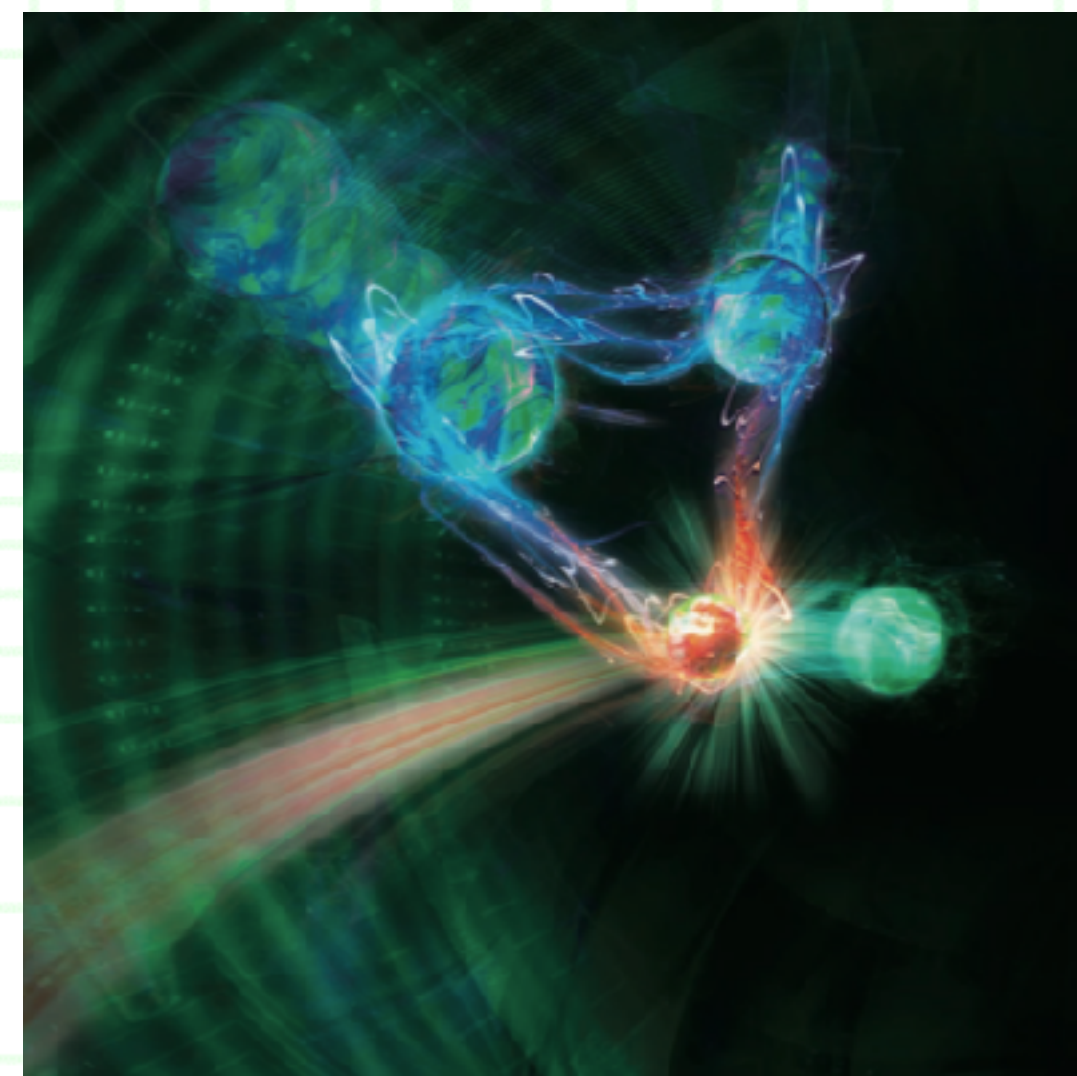
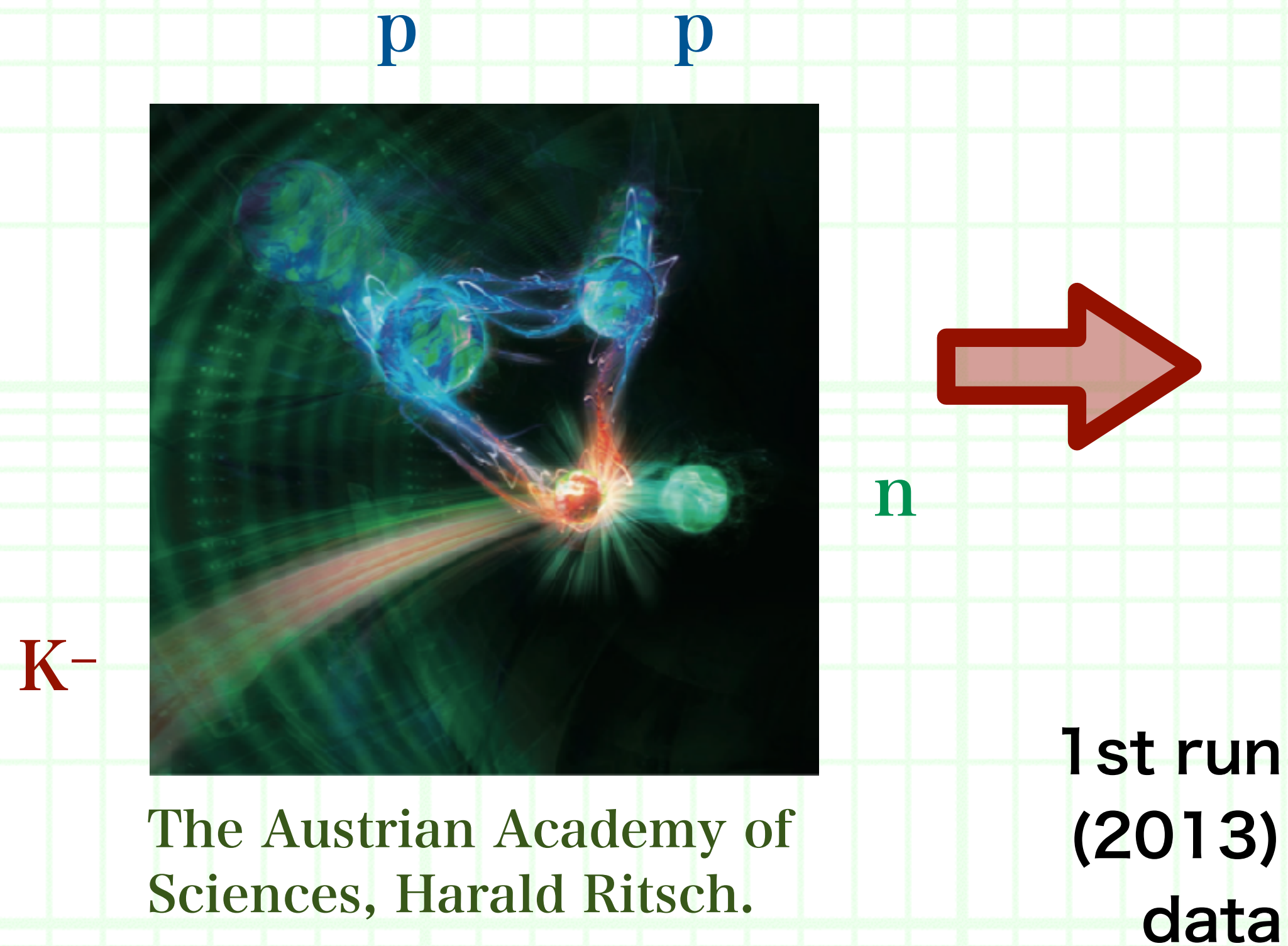
1. Introduction

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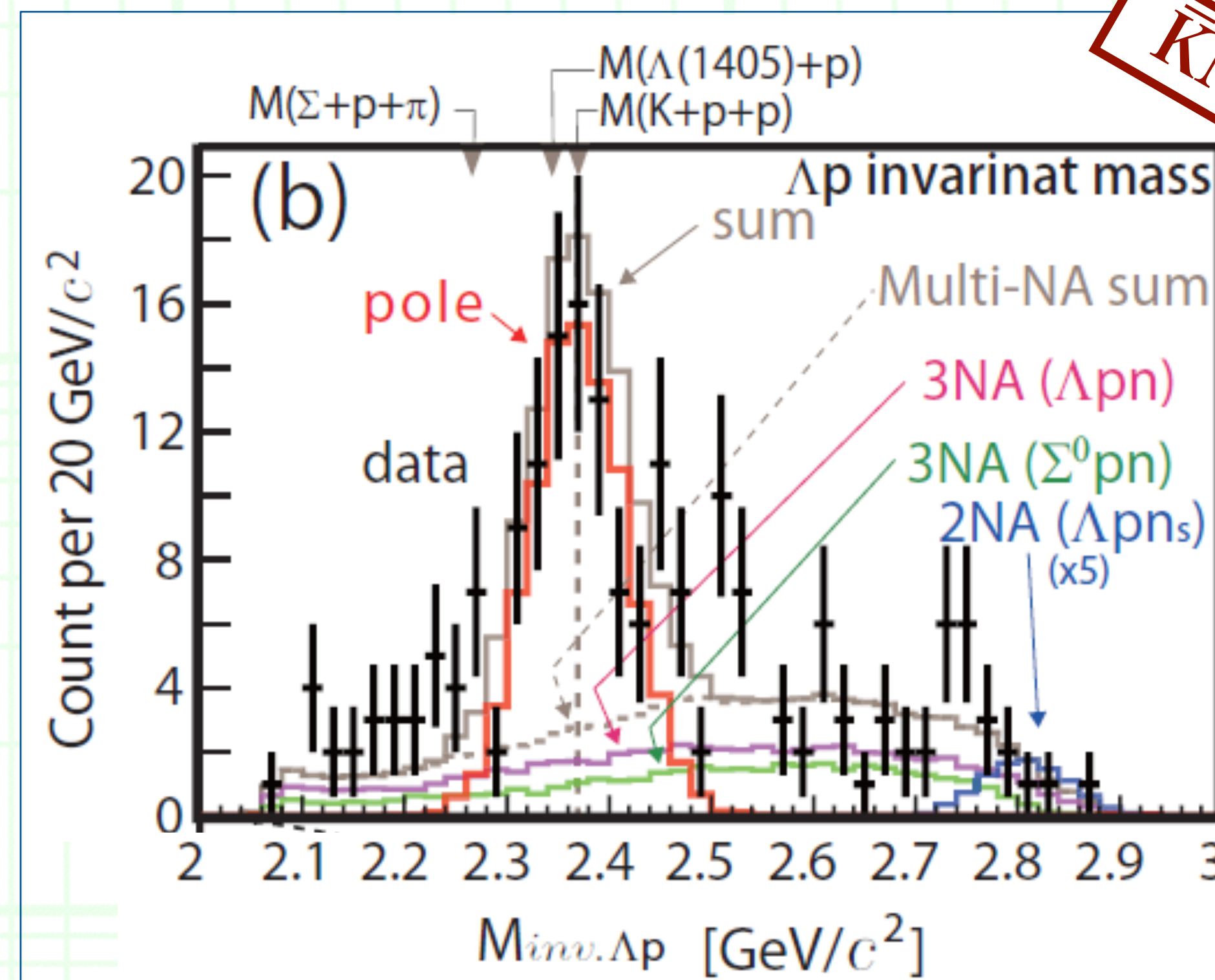
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Y. Sada et al., PTEP 2016 051D01.



The Austrian Academy of Sciences, Harald Ritsch.



$\bar{K}NN (?) \rightarrow \Lambda p$

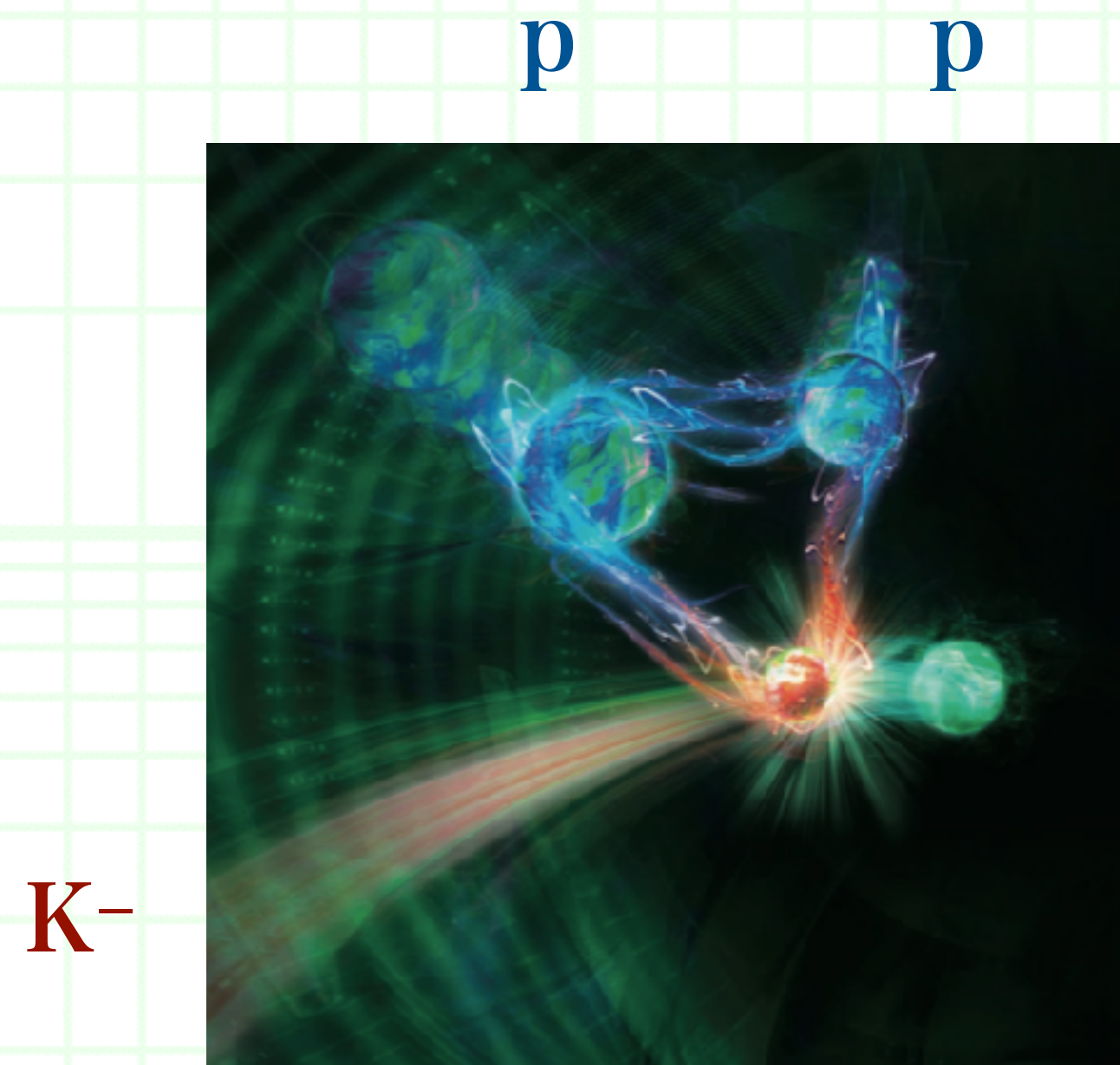
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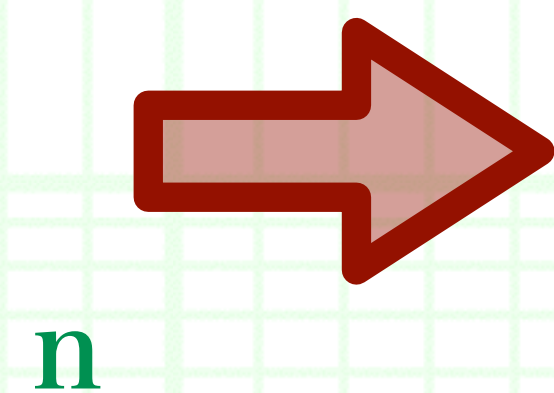
□ The J-PARC E15 Exp. was performed to search for the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state in the $K^- ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda p n$ reaction with forward n.

Ajimura et al., Phys. Lett. B789 (2019) 620.

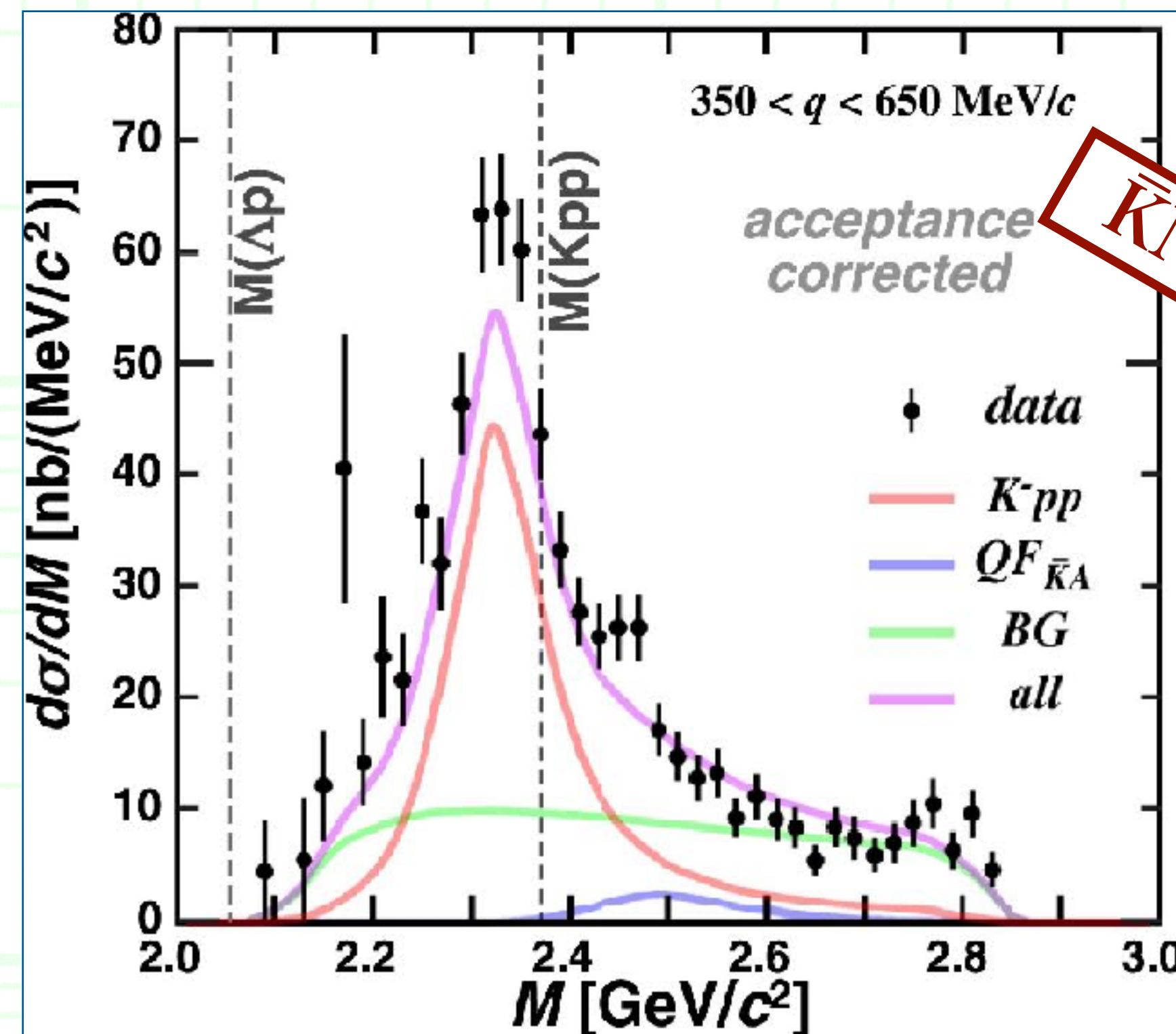


K^-

The Austrian Academy of Sciences, Harald Ritsch.



2nd run
(2015)
data



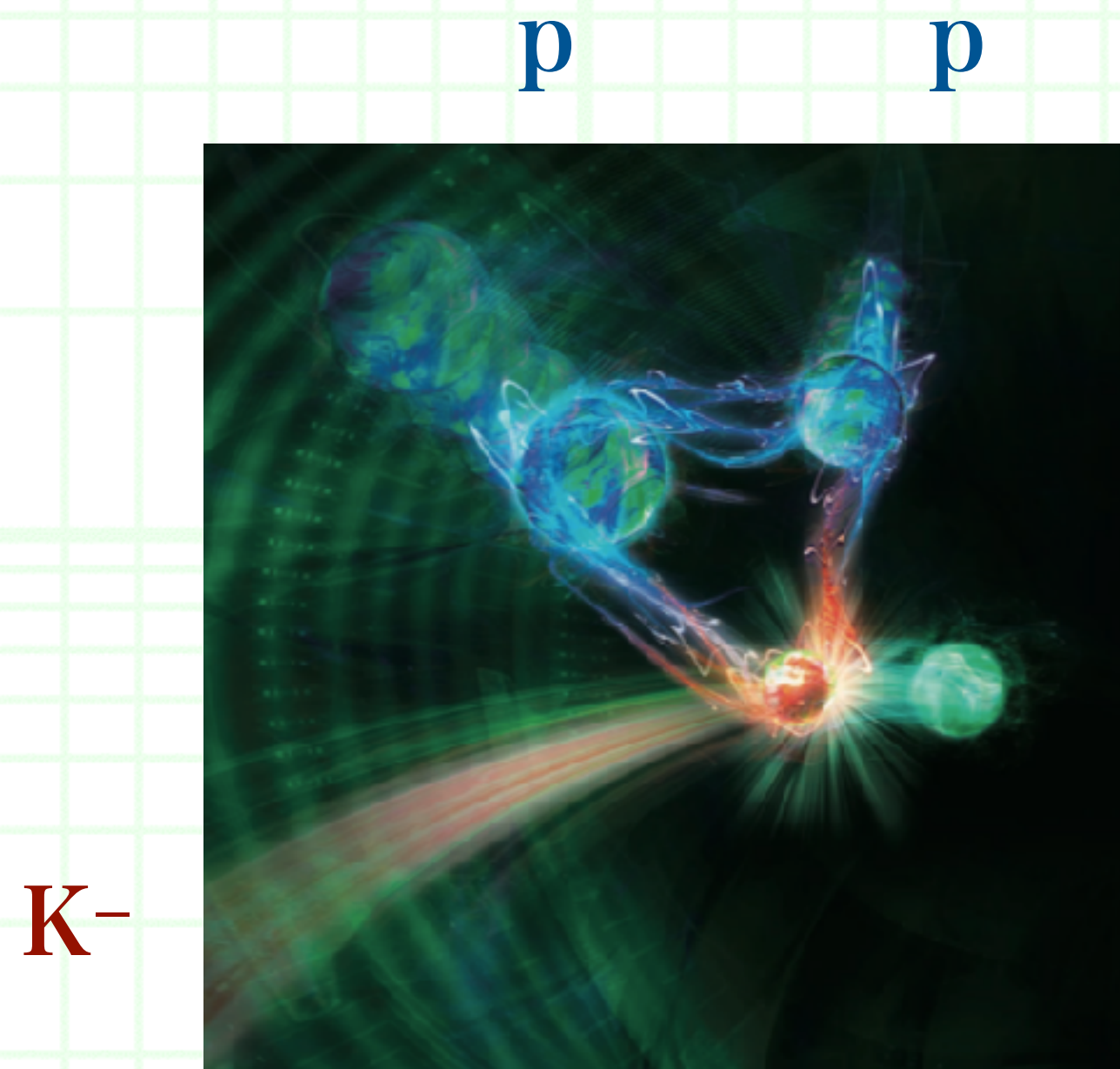
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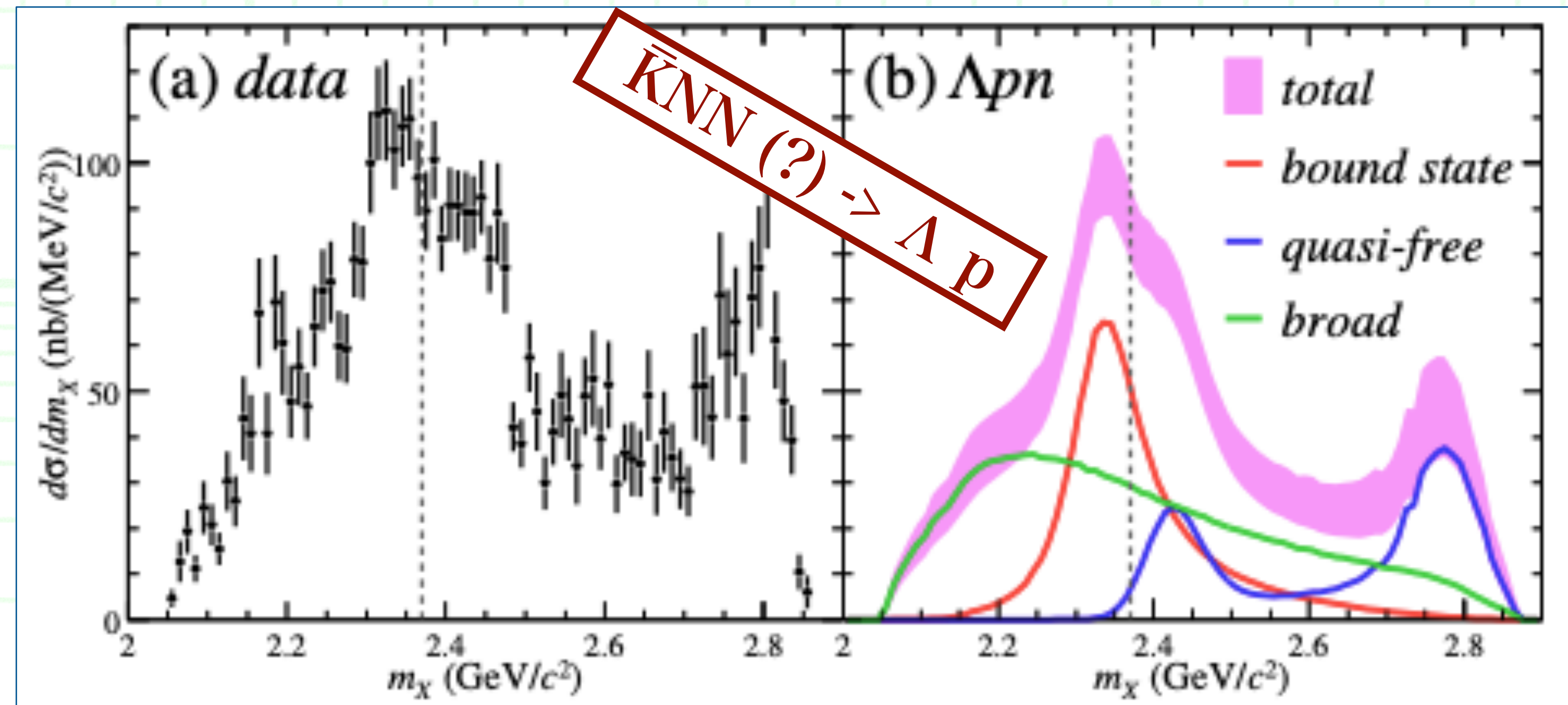
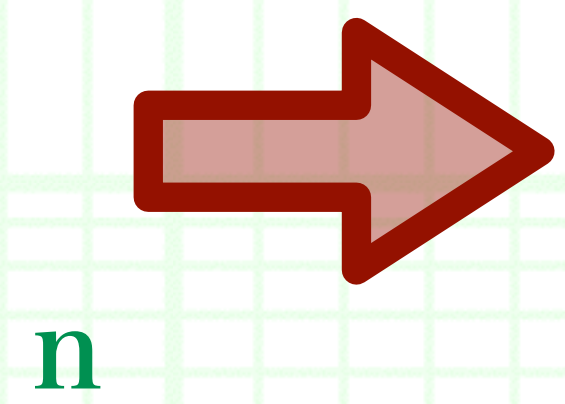
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Yamaga et al., Phys. Rev. C102 (2020) 044002.



The Austrian Academy of Sciences, Harald Ritsch.



Analysis in the latest version

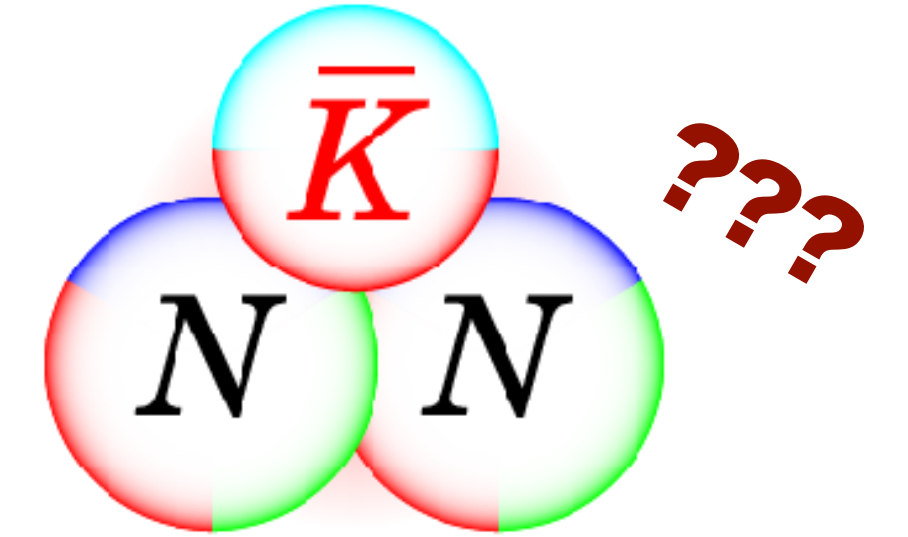


1. Introduction

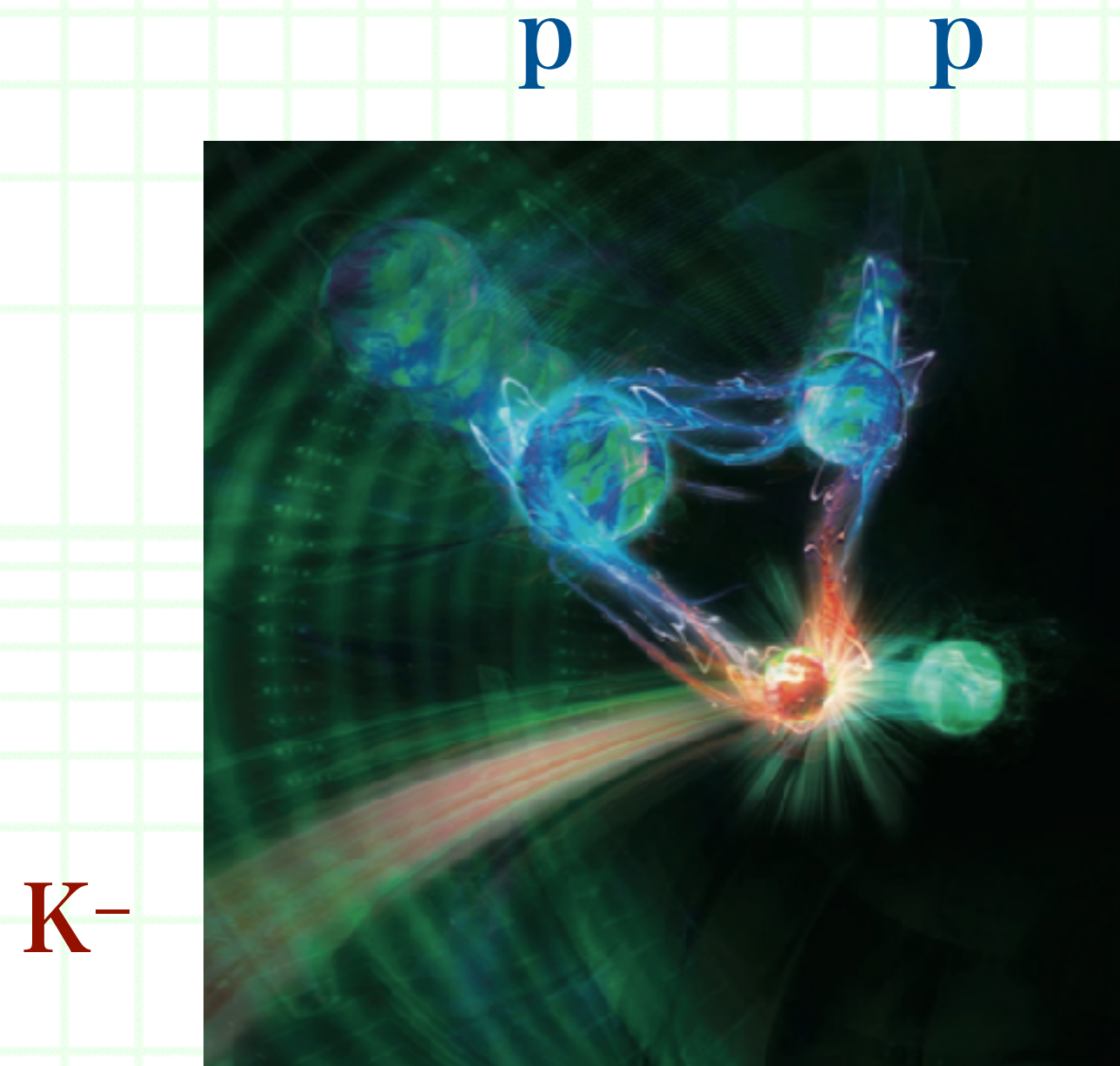
++ J-PARC E15 Exp., a breakthrough

- Today the world's highest-intensity kaon beam is available
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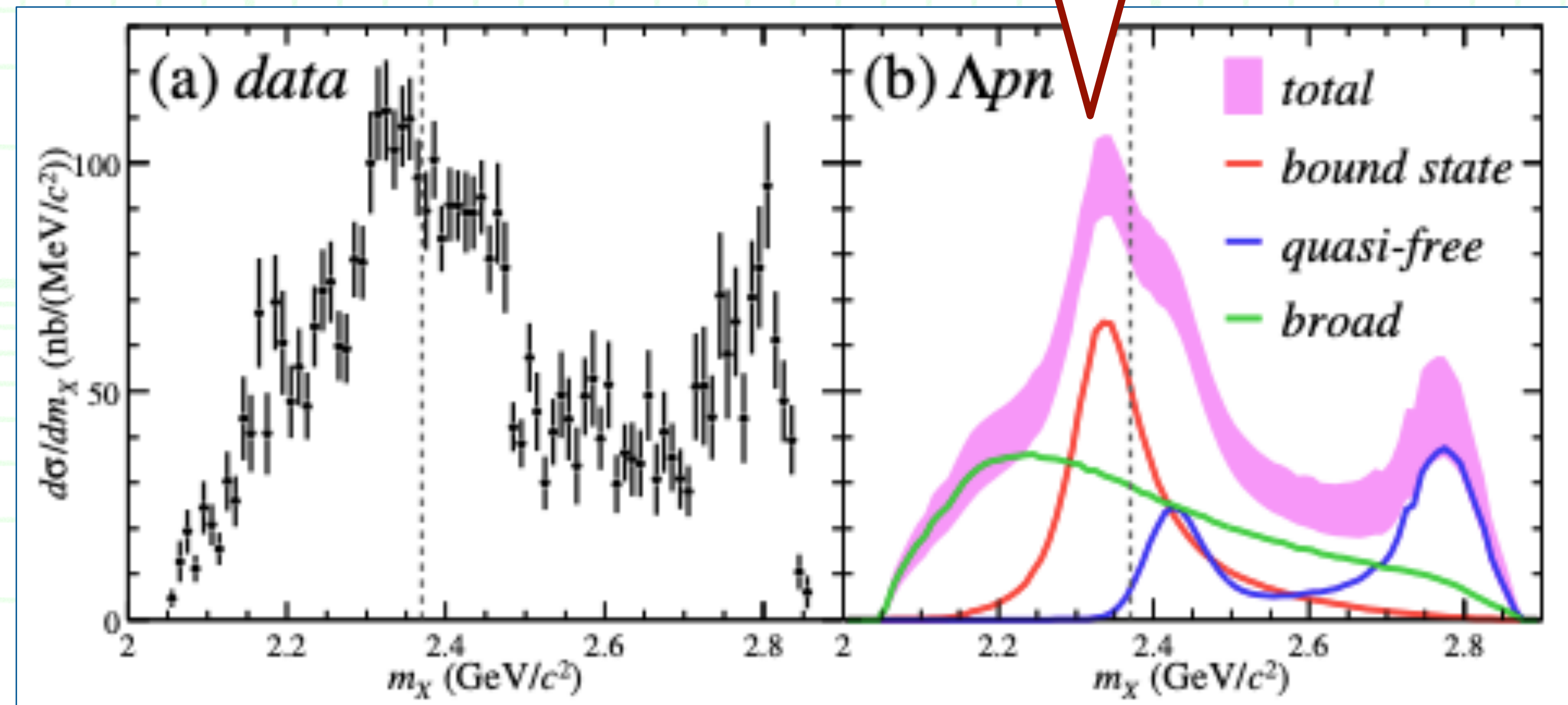
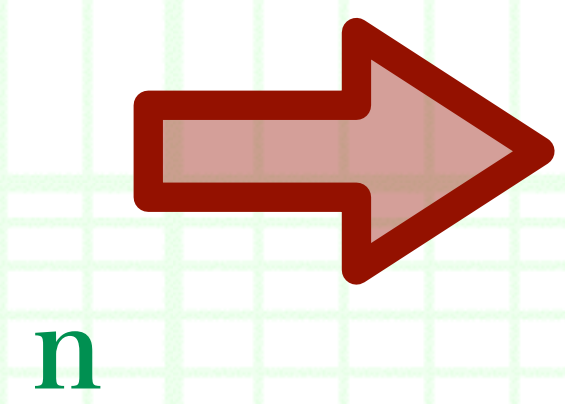
Really the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state signal ???



Yamaga et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 112501 (2015)



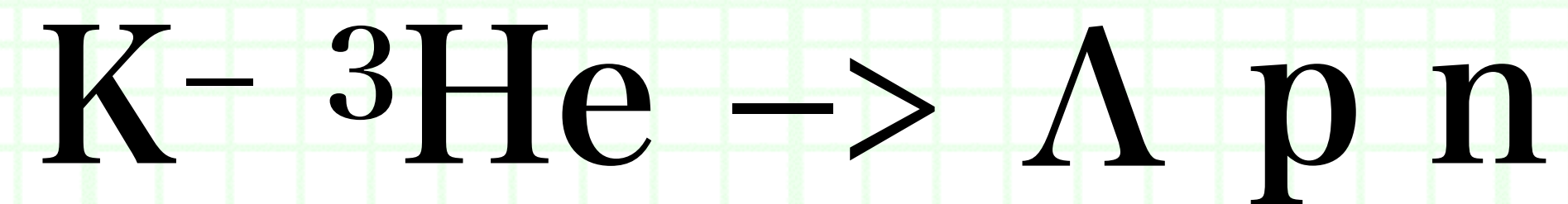
The Austrian Academy of Sciences, Harald Ritsch.



Analysis in the latest version



**2. Reaction calculation
for the $\bar{K}NN$ nucleus production
in the J-PARC E15 experiment:**



2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \text{ } ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \text{ p n}$

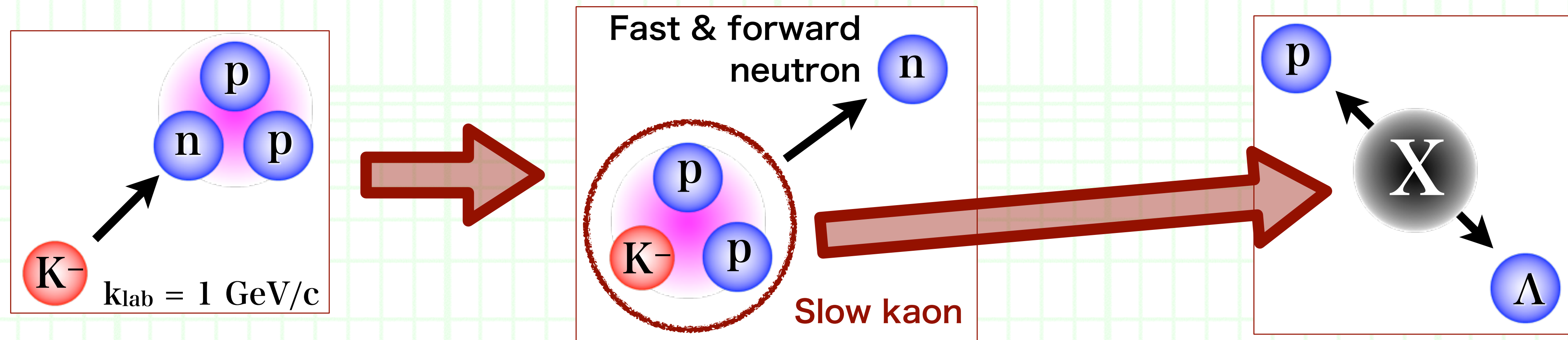
++ Expected reaction mechanism ++

■ The expected mechanism of the reaction: $K^- \text{ } ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \text{ p n}$.

1. K^- kicks out a neutron. \rightarrow Fast neutron ejected forward.

2. \bar{K} becomes slow and generates a bound state together with two nucleons.

3. The $\bar{K}NN$ bound state (or something X) decays into $\Lambda \text{ p}$.



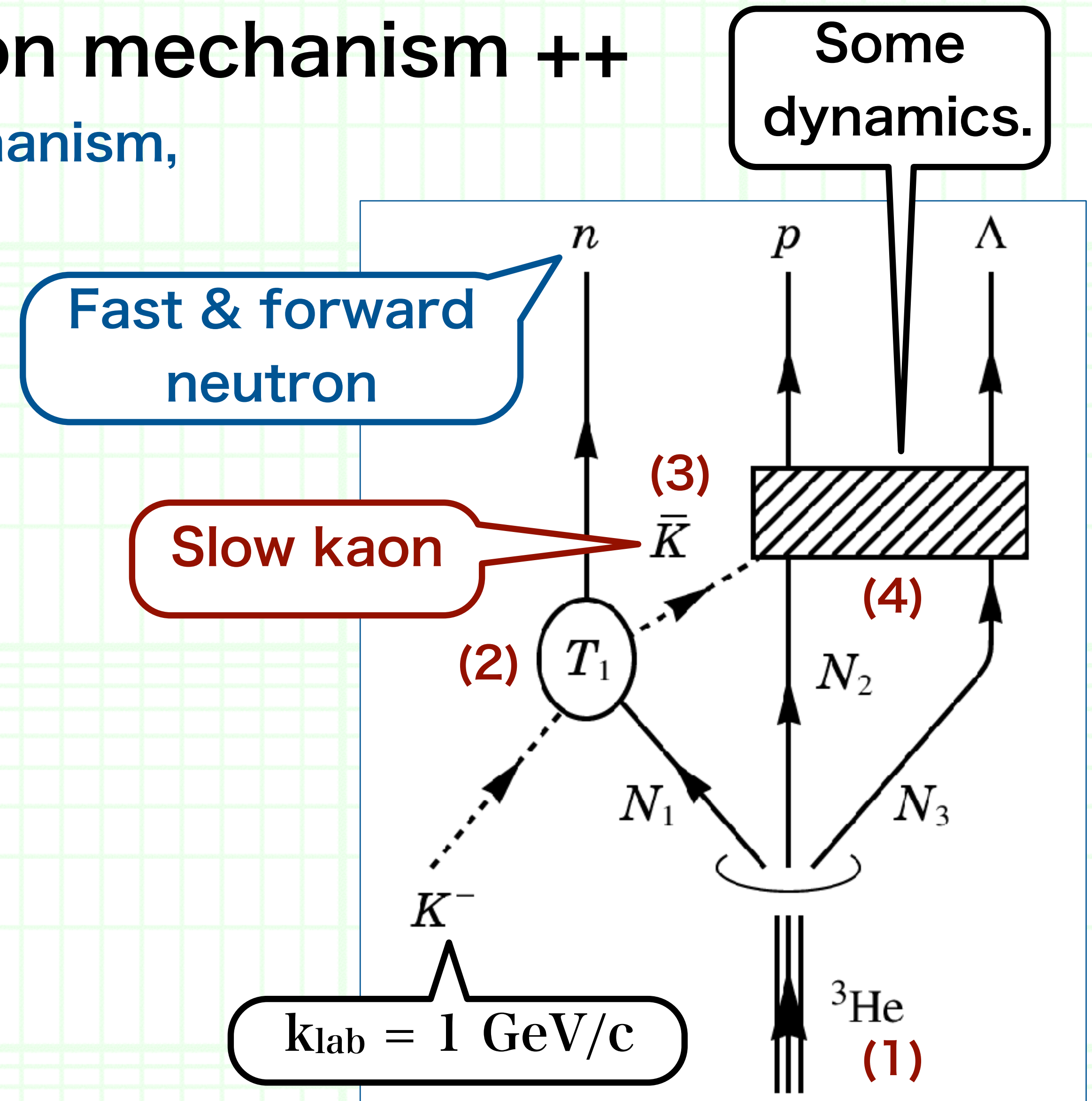
2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$

++ Expected reaction mechanism ++

■ Therefore, to confirm this reaction mechanism, we perform the reaction calculation of the $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$.

□ The reaction diagram is composed of:

- (1) ^3He wave function.
 - (2) Amplitude T_1 ($k_{\text{lab}} = 1 \text{ GeV}/c$).
 - (3) Propagator for the slow \bar{K} .
 - (4) $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \bar{K}NN$ three-body amplitude \times $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \Lambda p$ transition amplitude.
- Below we focus on (4), in which the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state is generated.



2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$

++ Three-body amplitude ++

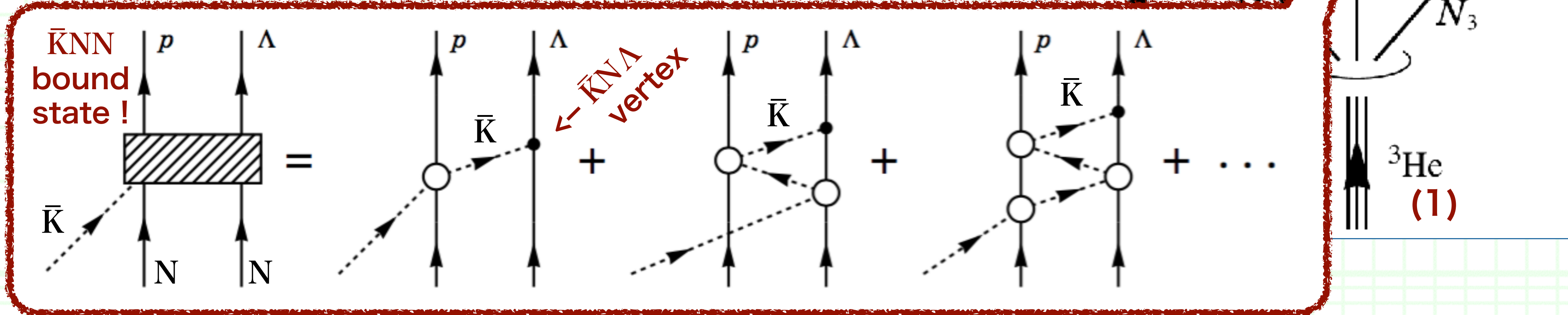
■ Calculate the spectrum by assuming that the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state is generated.

(4) $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \bar{K}NN$ three-body amplitude
 × $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \Lambda p$ transition amplitude.

→ Solve the $\bar{K}NN$ Faddeev Eq.

by so-called **fixed-center Approx.**

– Two nucleons are treated in a kind of **adiabatic Approx.**

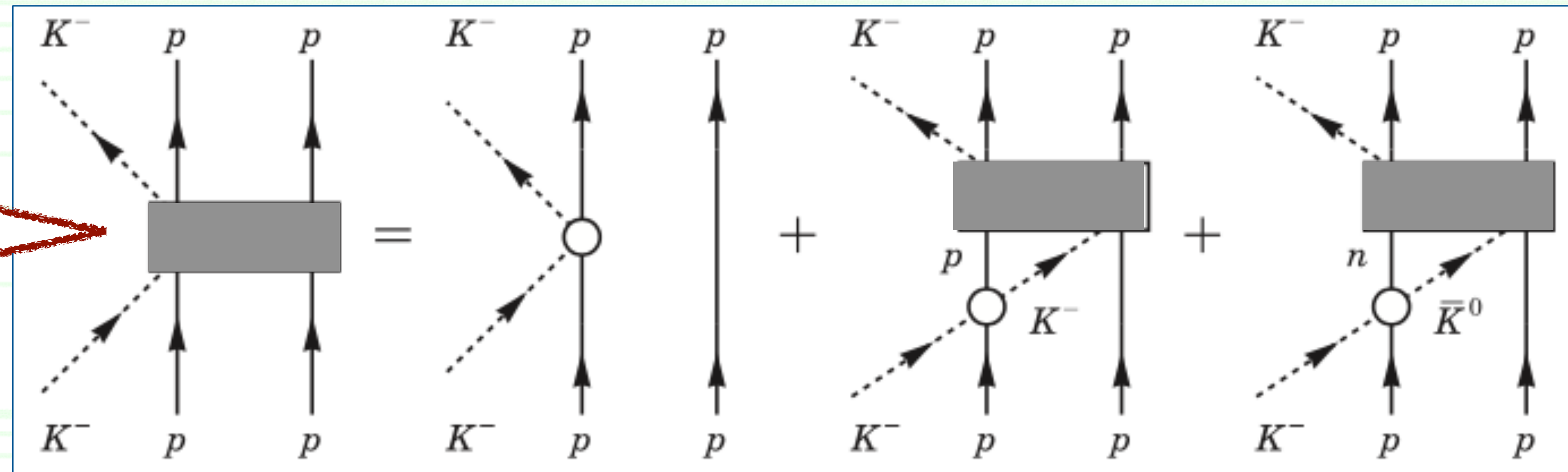


2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$

++ Fixed-center approximation ++

- To solve the $\bar{K}NN$ Faddeev Eq., we employ **the so-called fixed-center Approx.**
- A kind of **adiabatic Approx.**

Bound state pole at
 $E_{\text{pole}} = 2354 - 36 i \text{ MeV}$.
 $\rightarrow B_E \sim 15 \text{ MeV}$,
 $\Gamma \sim 70 \text{ MeV}$.



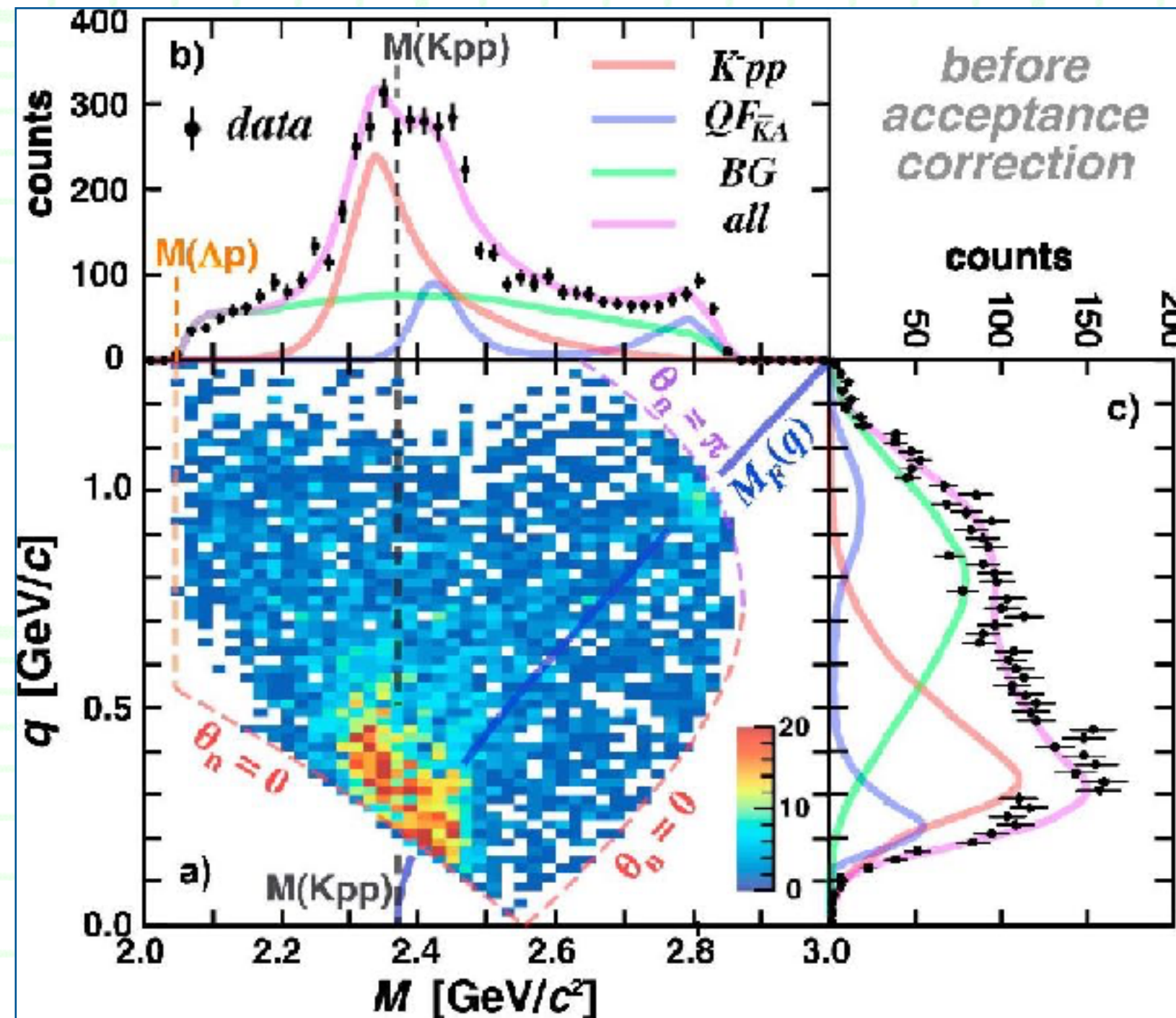
- Only the $\bar{K}N$ amplitude is explicitly taken into account.
- We employ **the chiral dynamics** for the $\bar{K}N$ amplitude.
- The **distance between two nucleons** are the model parameter.
- **Fixed to be the distance in the ^3He nucleus.**

2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$

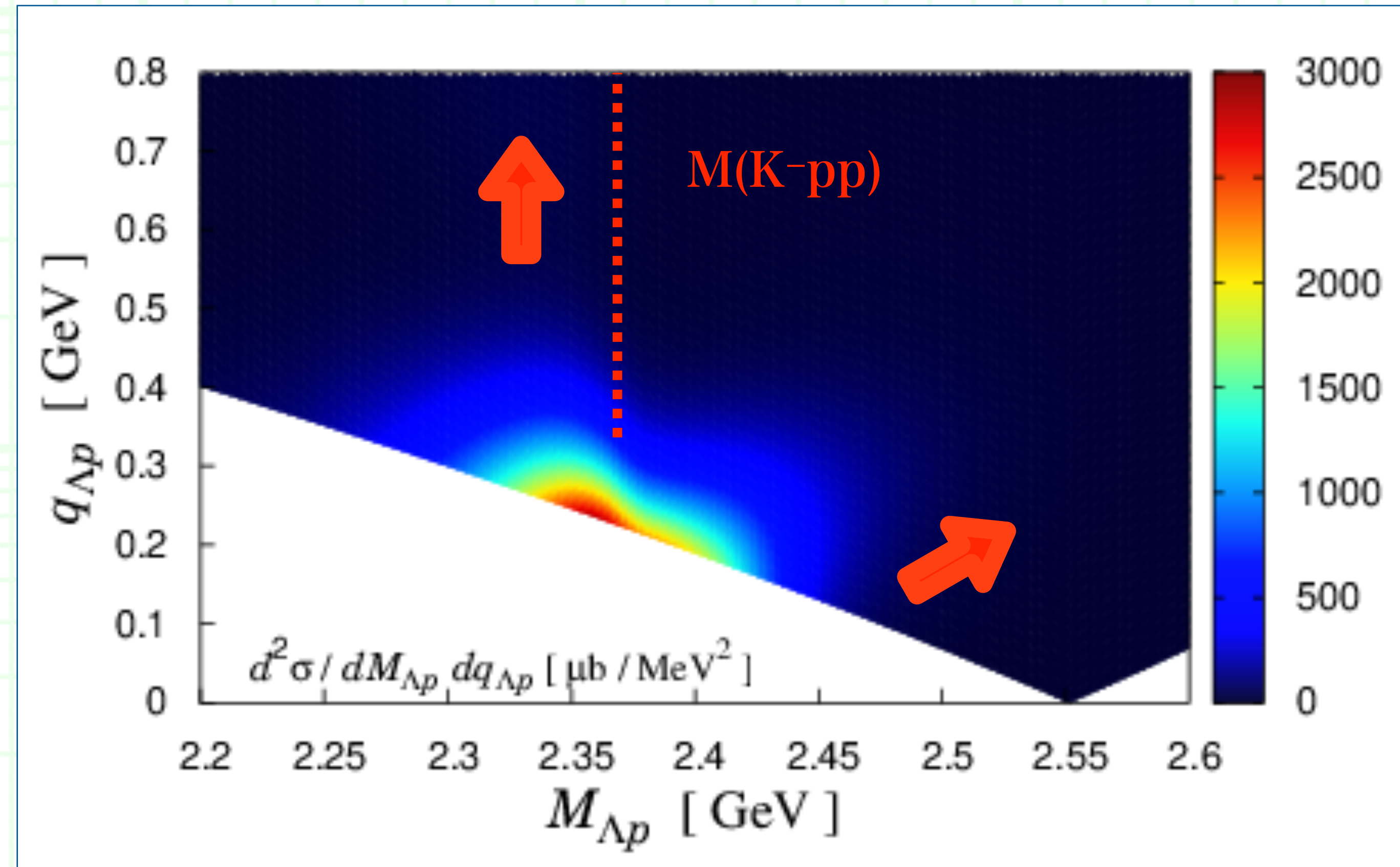
++ Production calculation ++

- Calculate the spectrum by assuming that the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state is generated.

T.S., Oset and Ramos, JPS Conf. Proc. 26 (2019) 023009.



Ajimura et al., Phys. Lett. B789 (2019) 620.



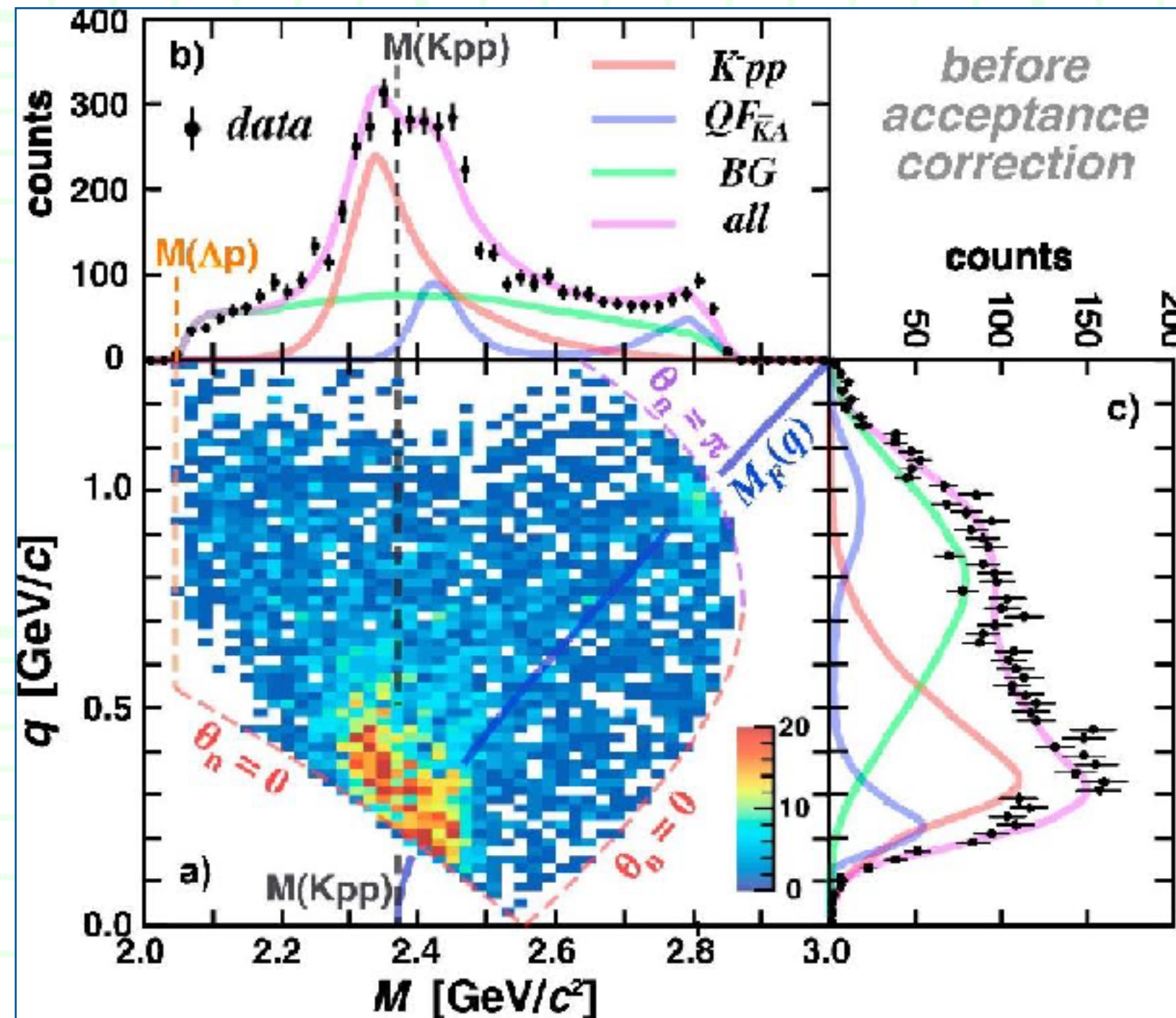
- **The same behavior** for the differential cross section.

2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \text{ } ^3\text{He} \rightarrow$

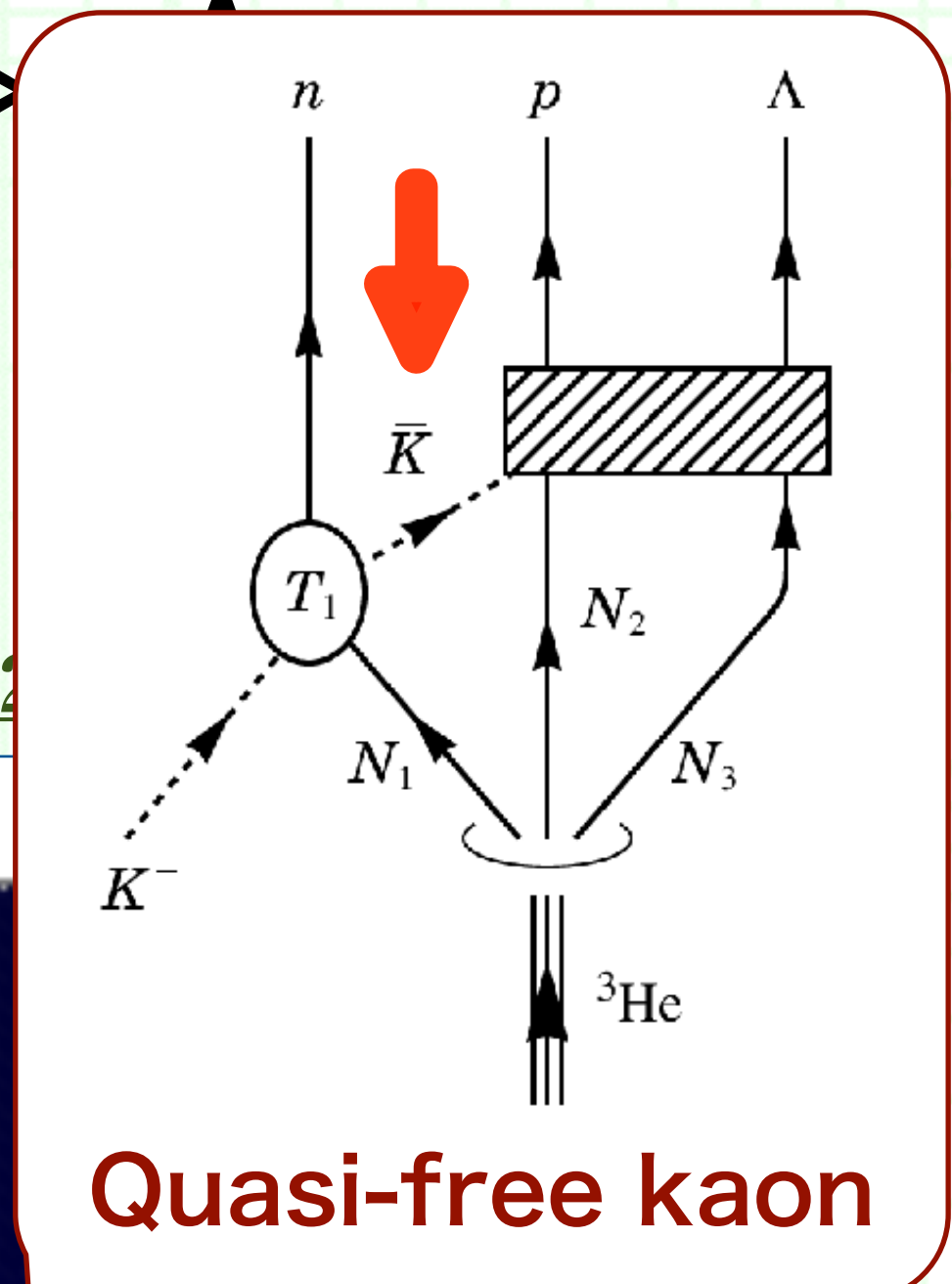
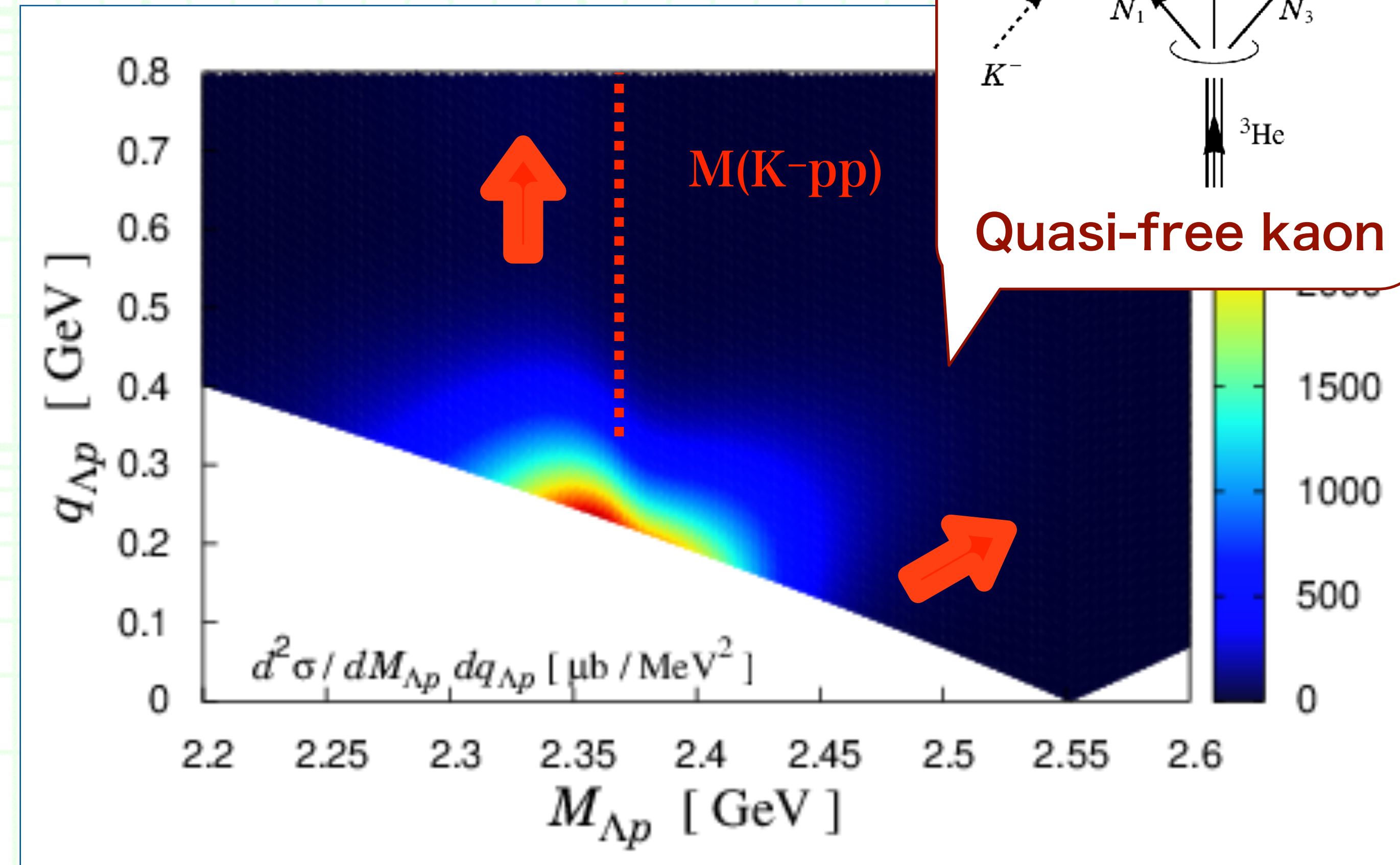
++ Production calculation ++

- Calculate the spectrum by assuming that the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state is

T.S., Oset and Ramos, JPS Conf. Proc. 2



Ajimura et al., Phys. Lett. B789 (2019) 620.



- **The same behavior** for the differential cross section.



2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \text{ } ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \text{ } p \text{ } n$

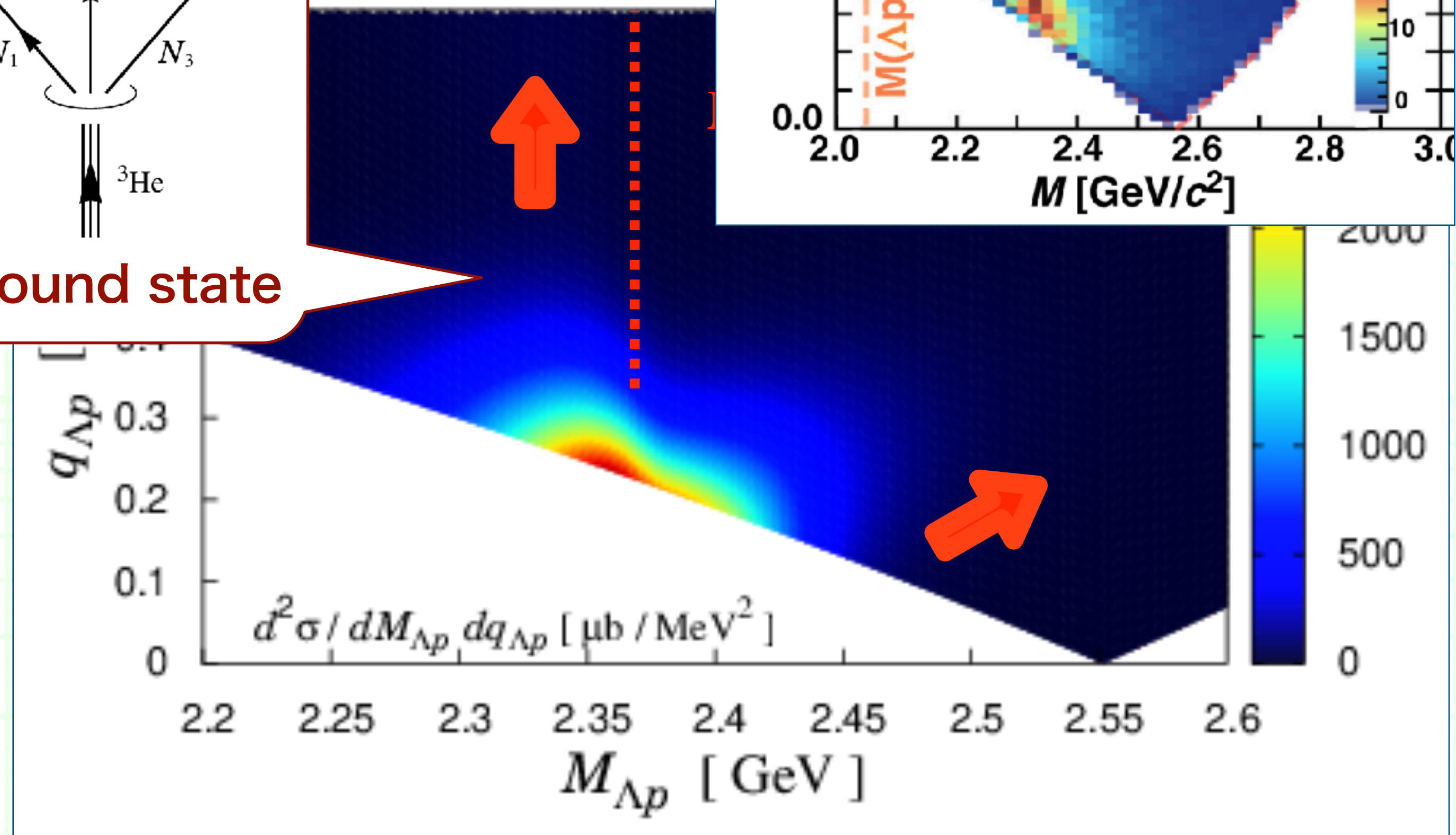
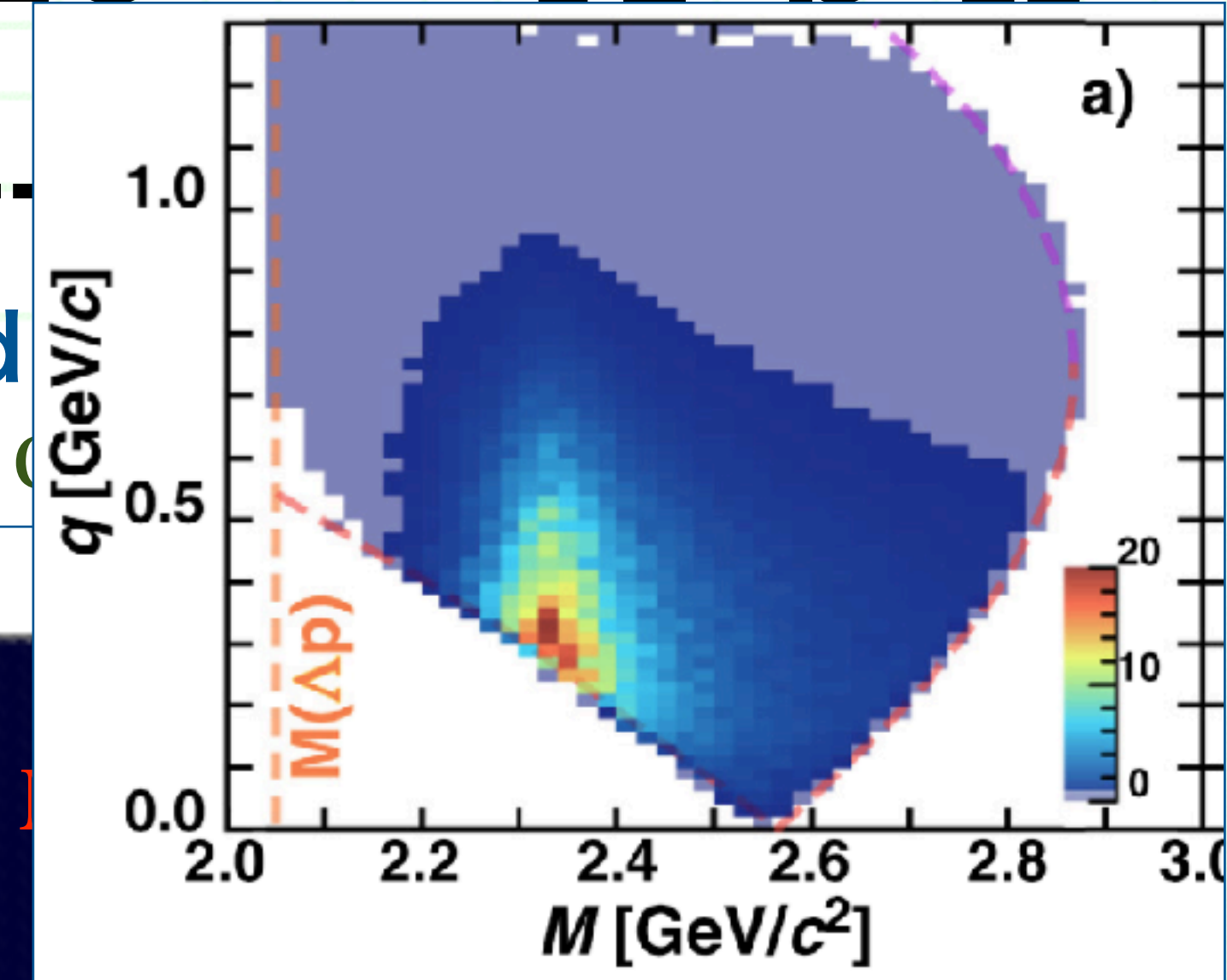
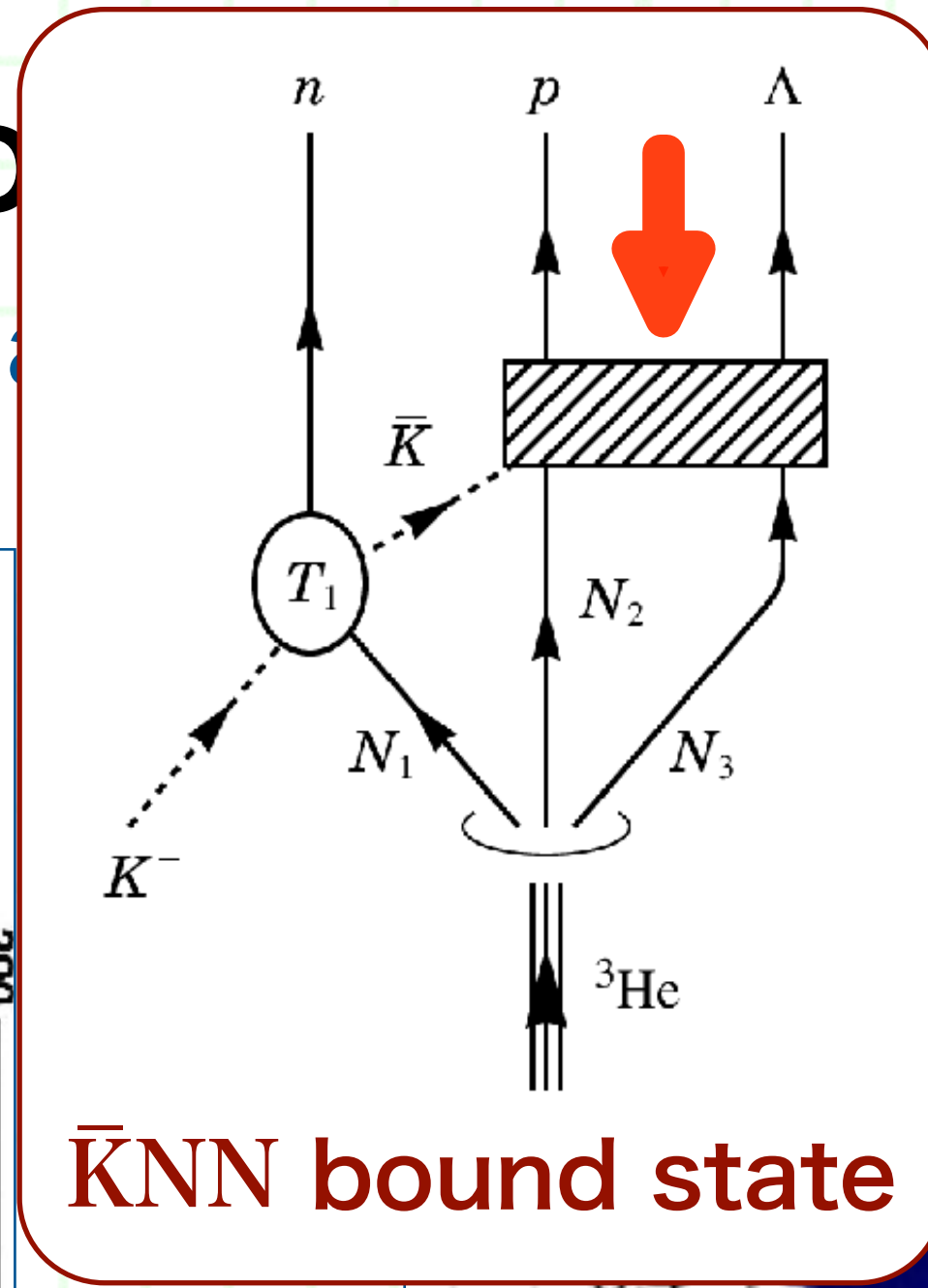
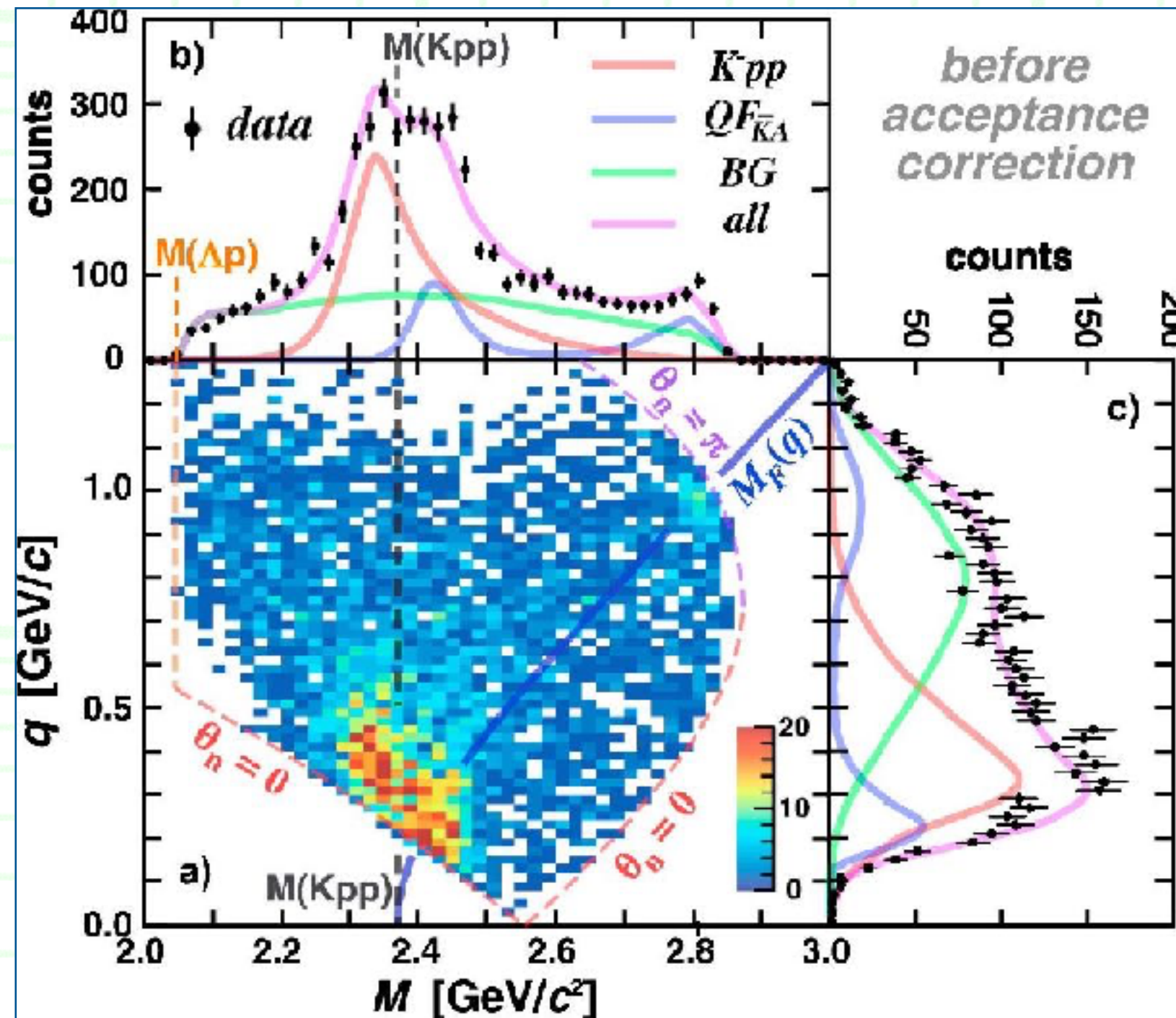
++ Pro

Calculation ++

- Calculate the spectrum by

the $\bar{K}NN$ bound

et and Ramos, JPS



Ajimura et al., Phys. Lett. B789 (2019) 620.

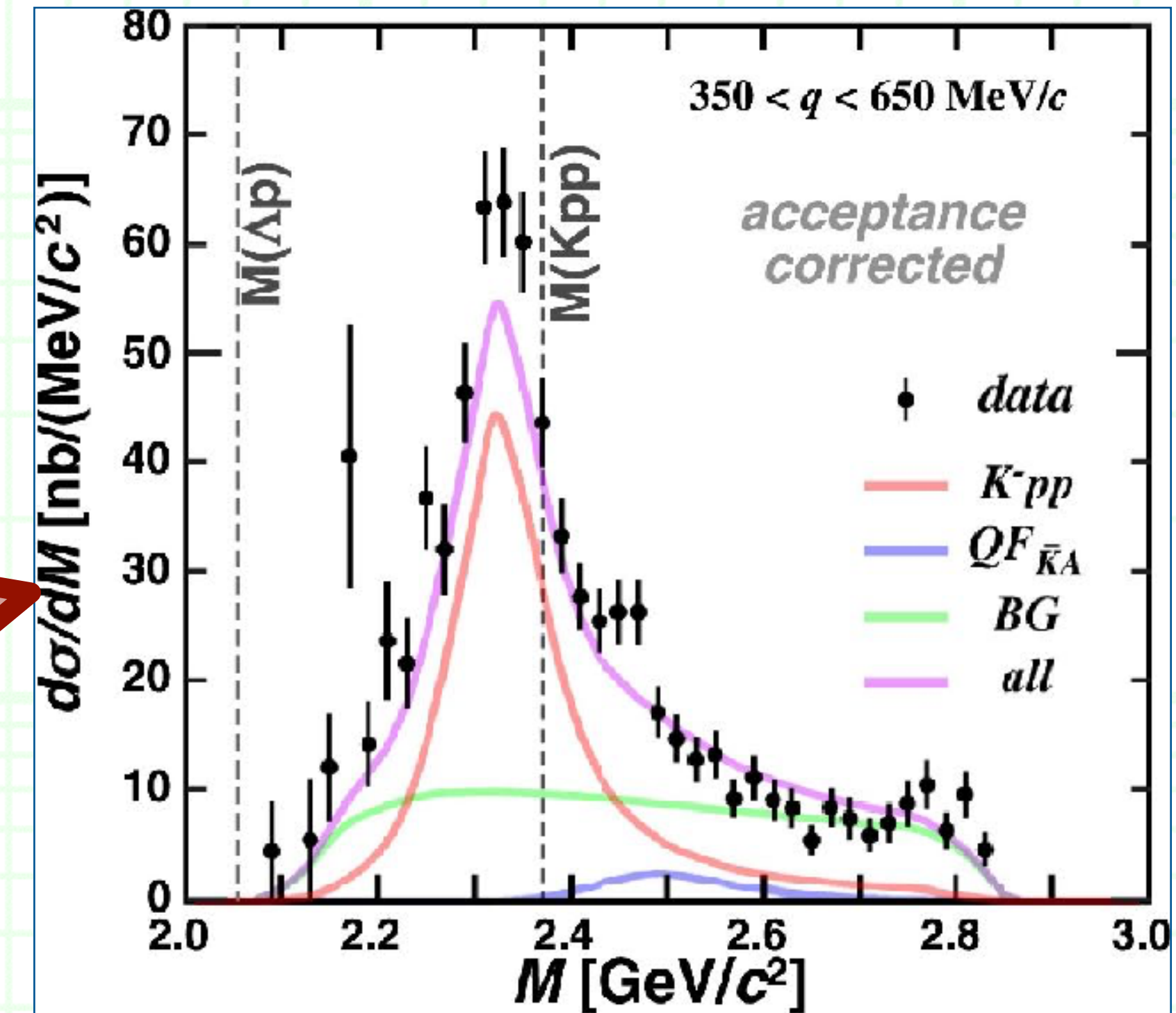
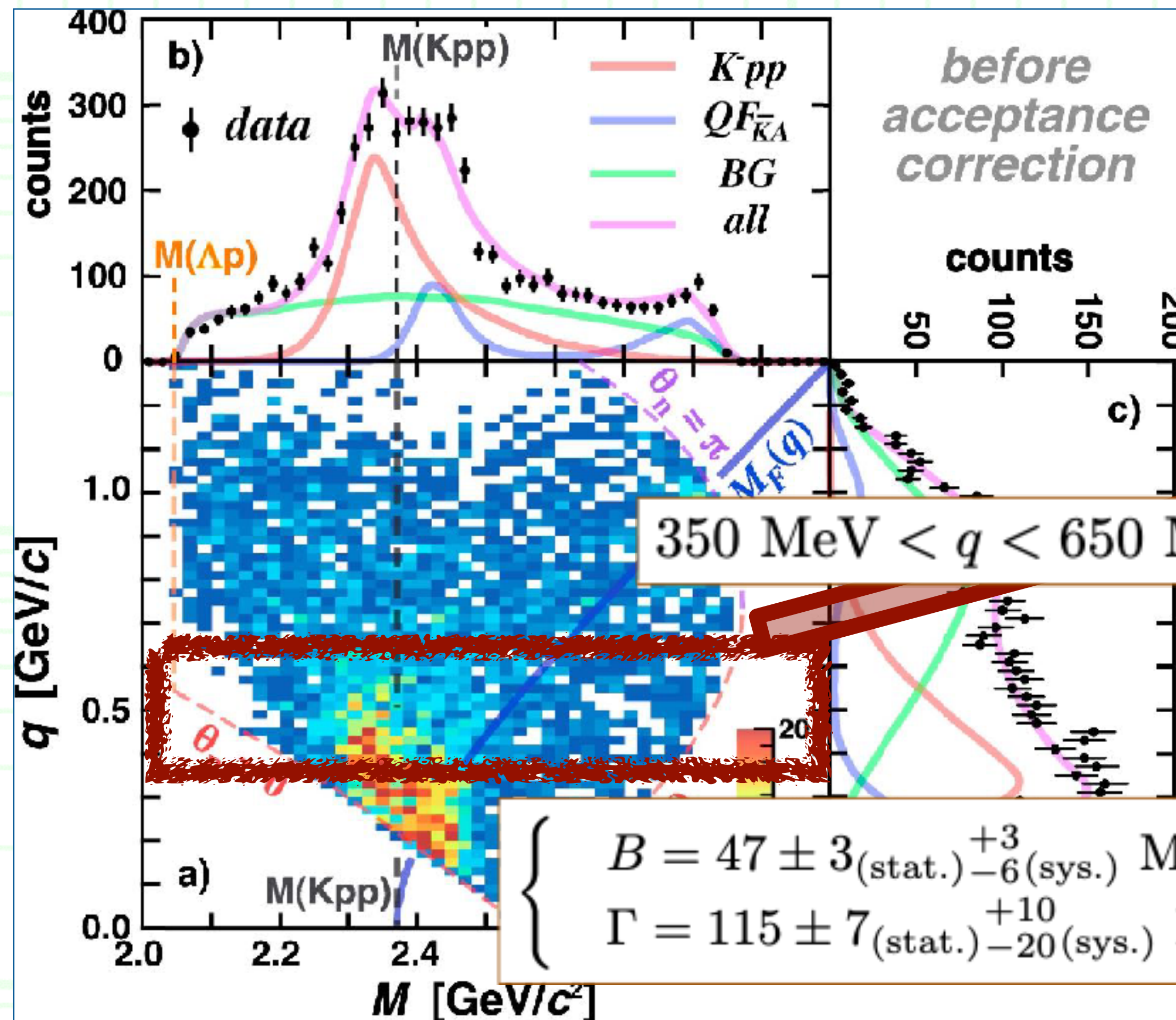
- The same behavior for the differential cross section.

2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$

++ Momentum transfer cut ++

■ Cut of the momentum transfer in Exp. analysis.

Ajimura et al., Phys. Lett. B789 (2019) 620.

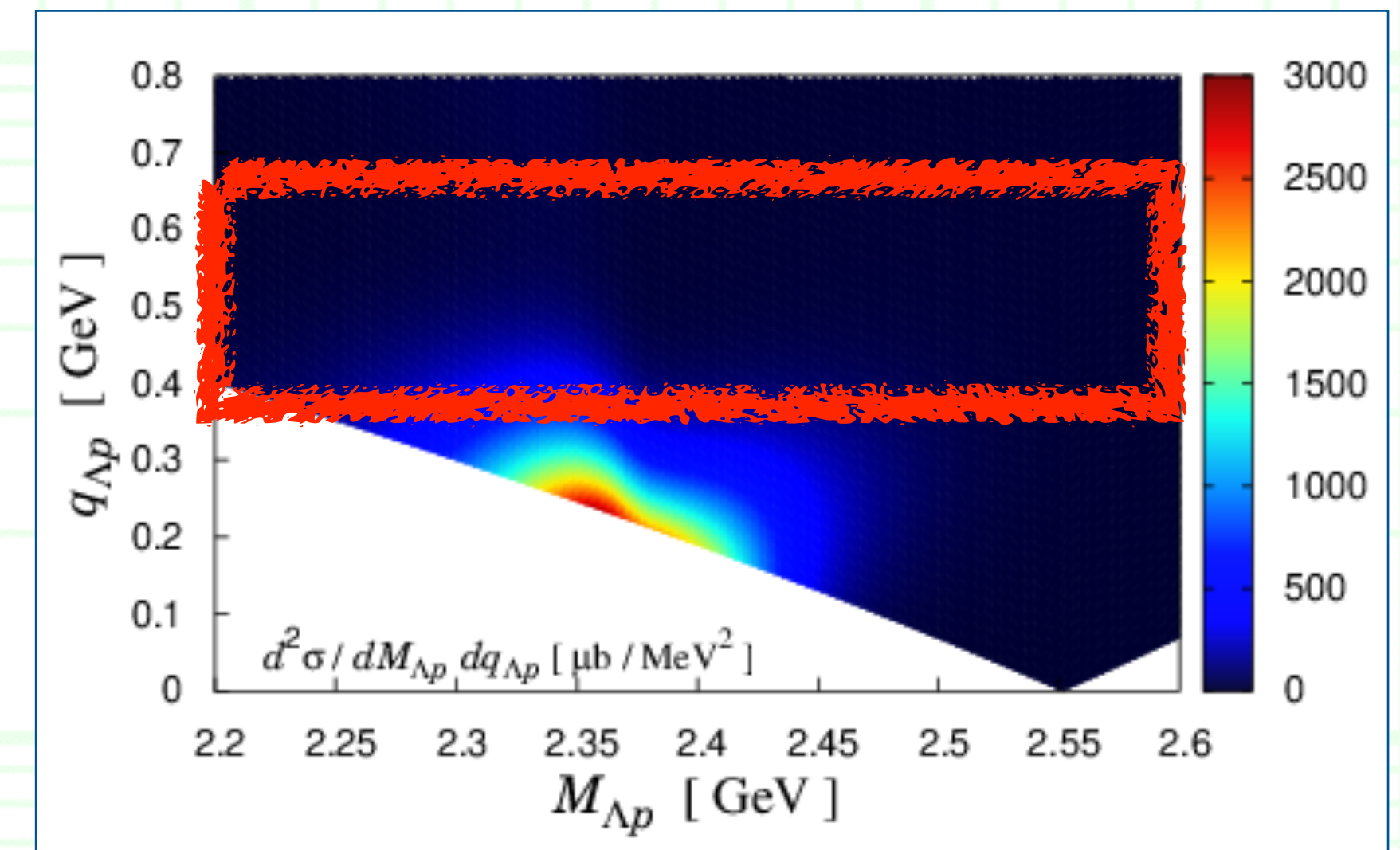
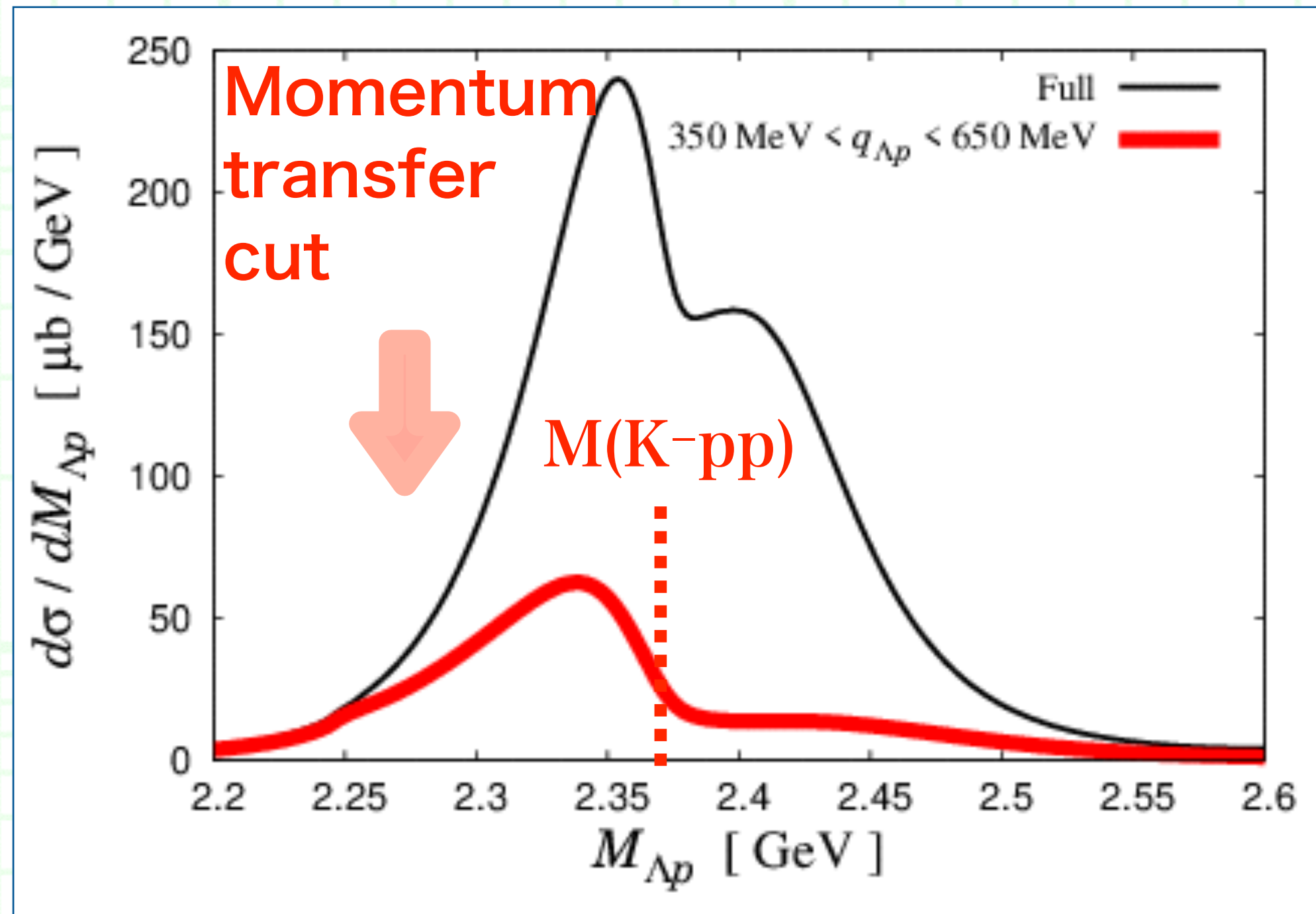


□ Cutting the quasi-free kaon part, they observed a clear peak !

2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$

++ Momentum transfer cut ++

- Perform the same cut for the momentum transfer as the Exp. analysis.



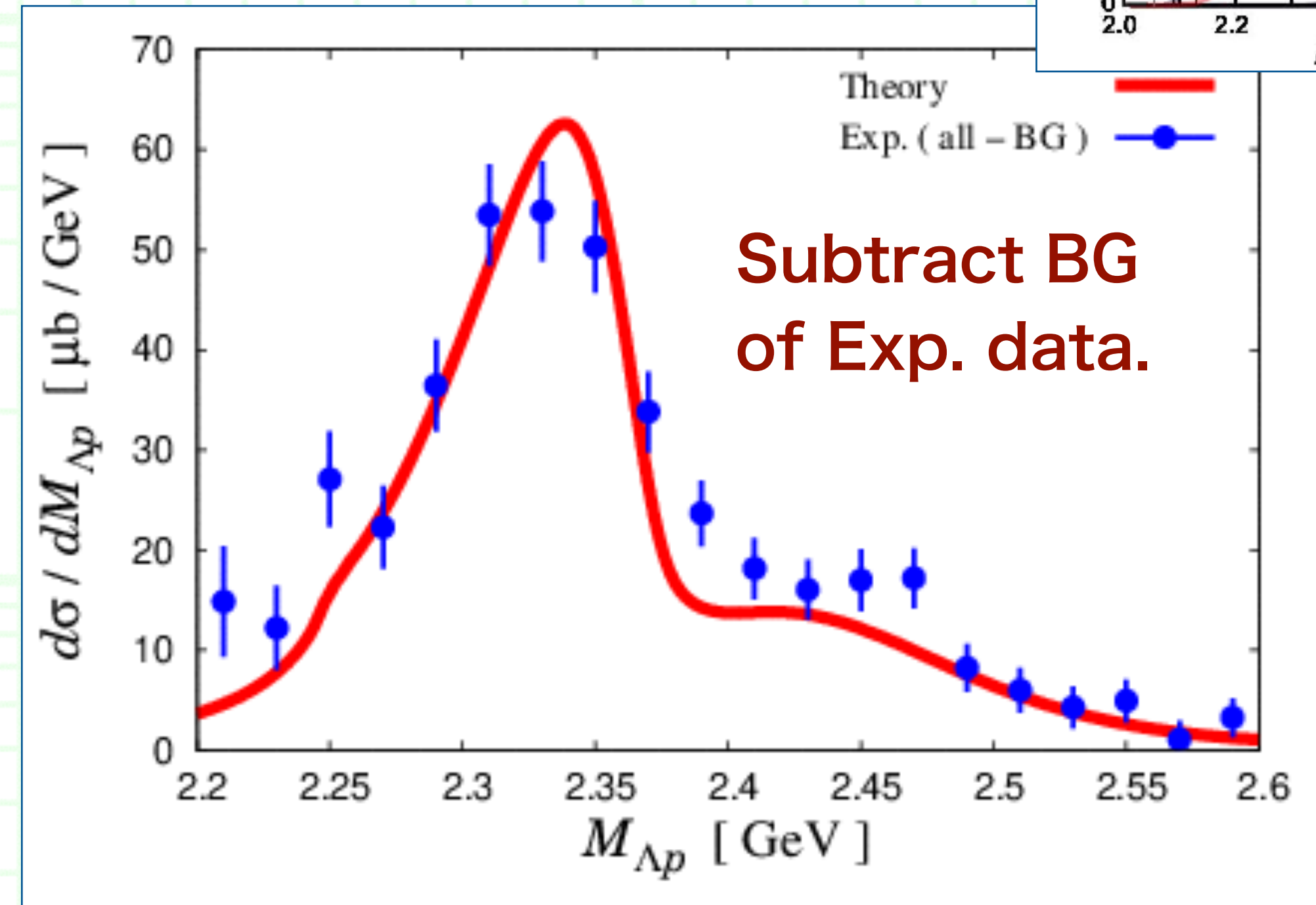
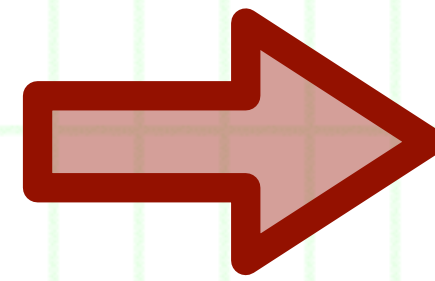
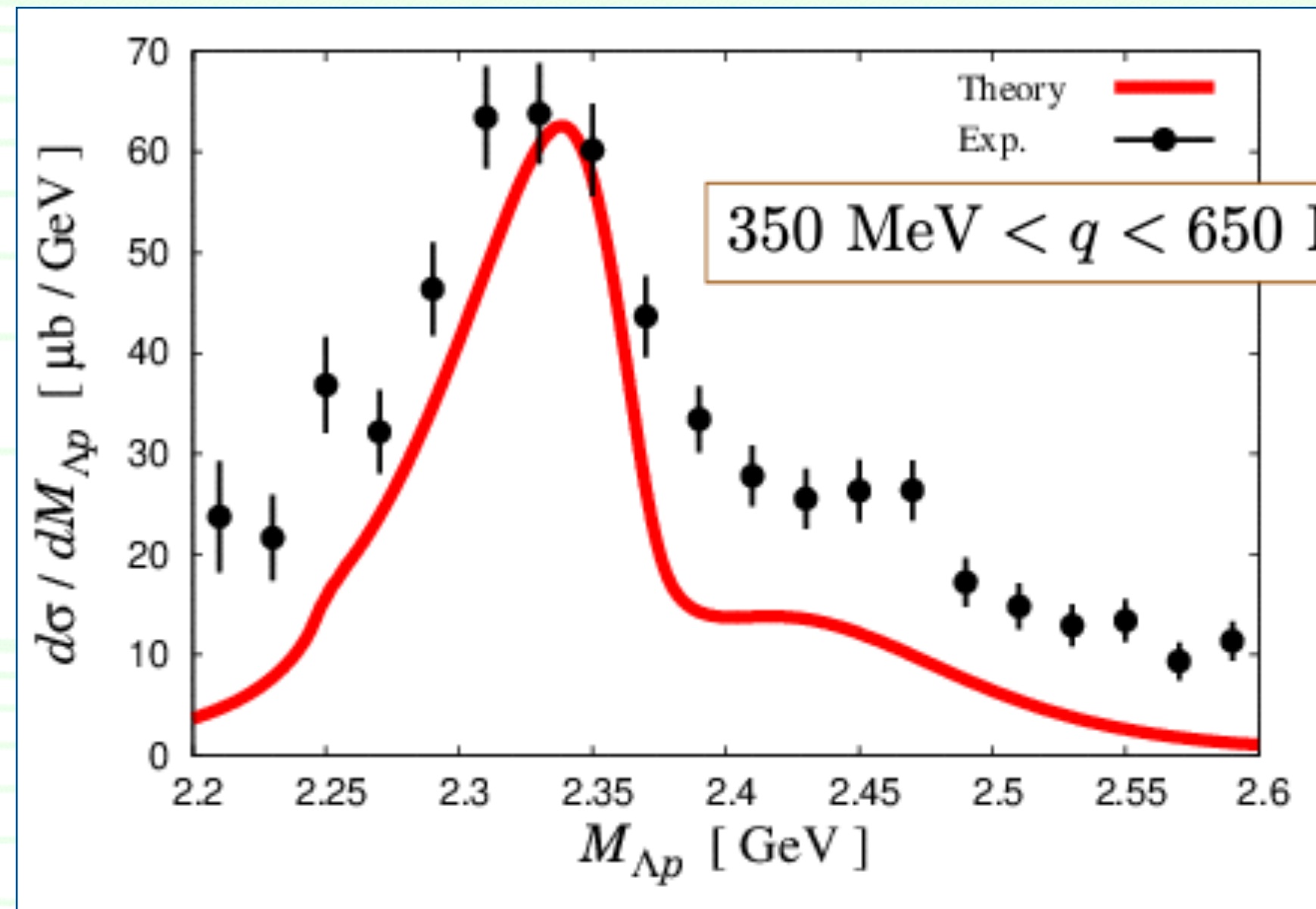
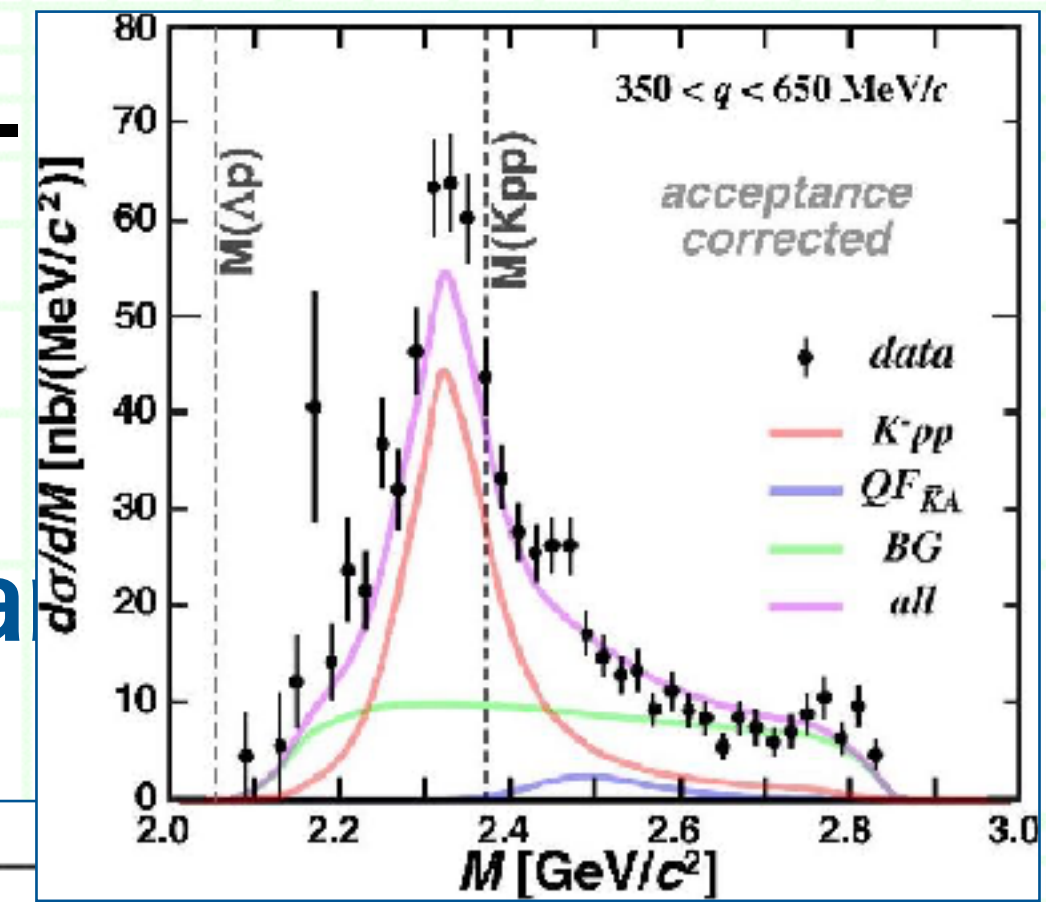
– $350 \text{ MeV} < q_{\Lambda p} < 650 \text{ MeV}$.

- Only the bound-state peak survives after the cut.
- Supports the validity of the Exp. cut.

2. Reaction calculation: $K^- - {}^3\text{He}$ –

++ Momentum transfer cut ++

■ Perform the same cut for the momentum transfer as the Exp. a



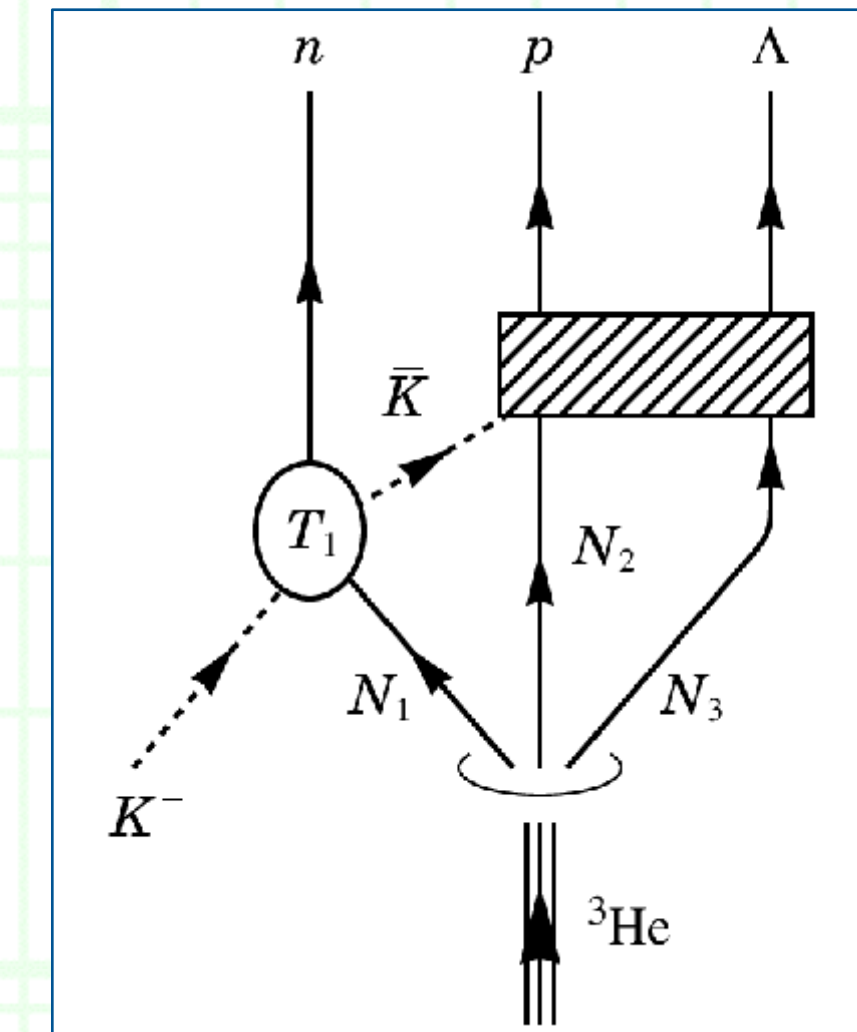
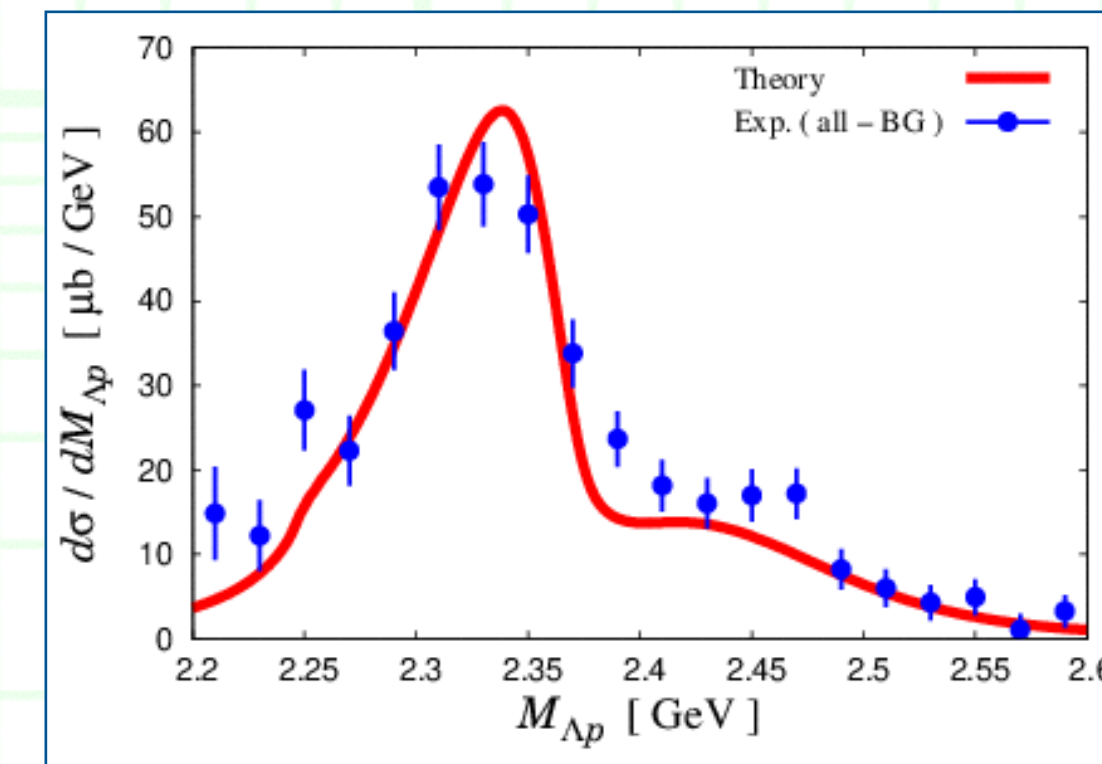
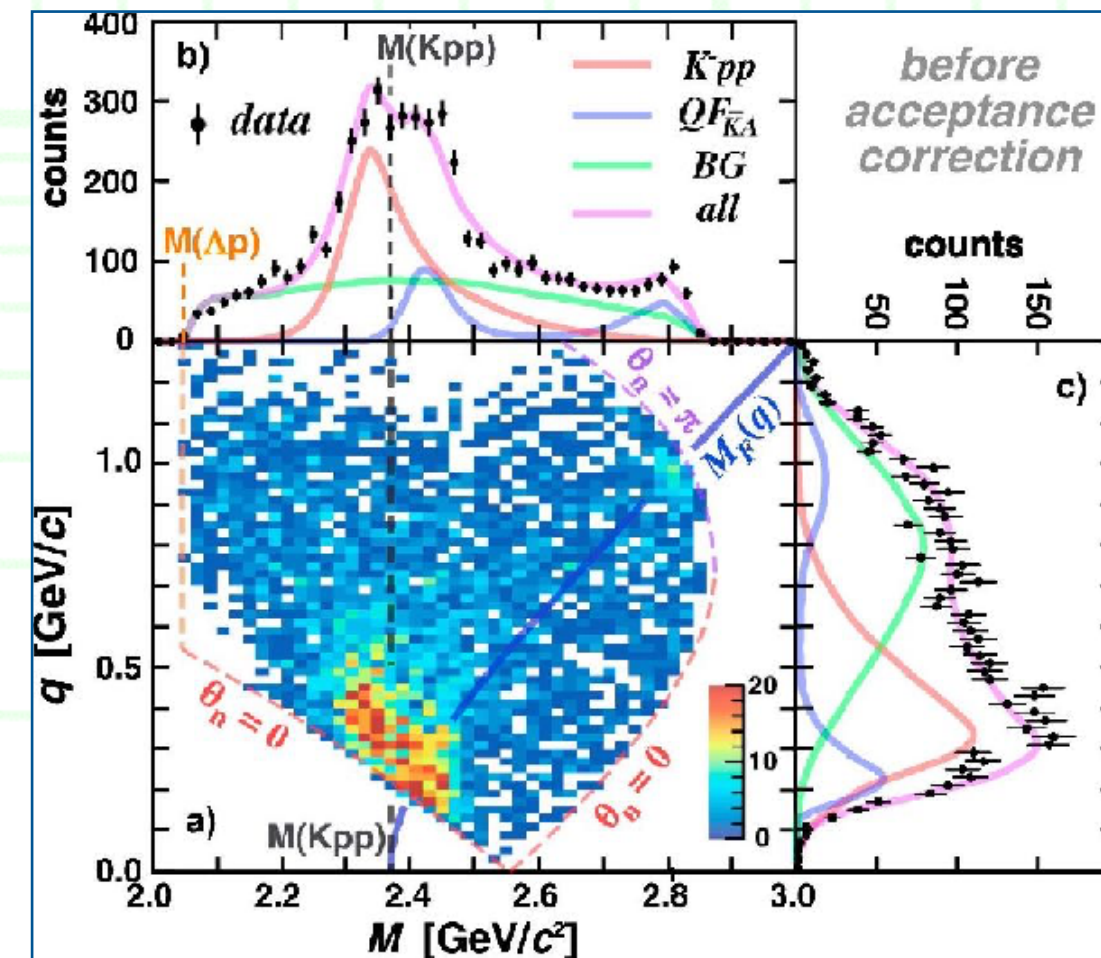
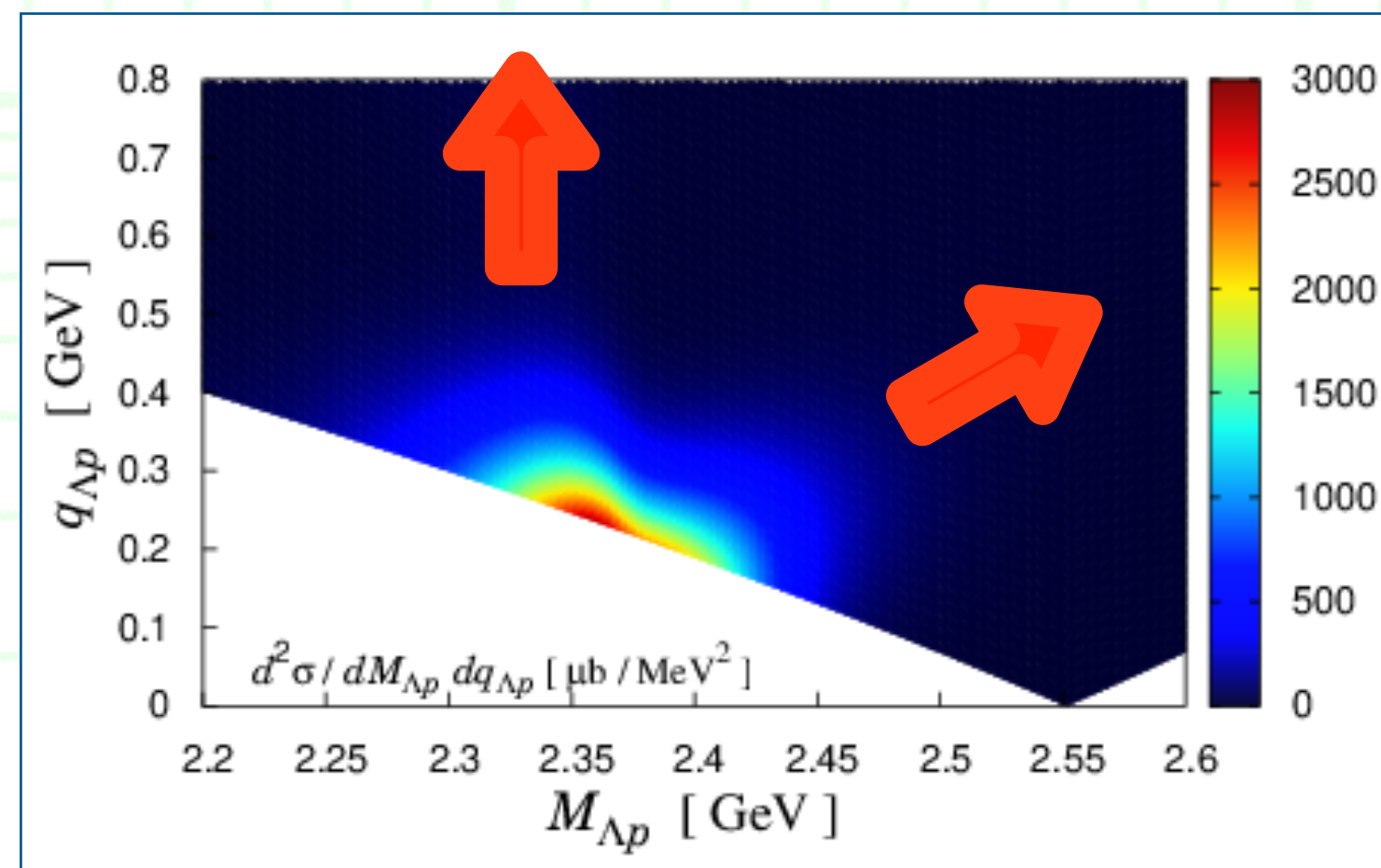
□ The calculation reproduces well the peak structure.

→ Supports the production of the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state.

2. Reaction calculation: $K^- \ ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda \ p \ n$

++ Theoretical support ++

- Calculate the spectrum by assuming that the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state is generated.



1. Appearance of the quasi-free kaon line.

→ \bar{K} is indeed mediated.

2. The q independent signal is almost same as the theoretical calculation.

→ Strongly support the existence of the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state.

3. Perspective/implication in heavy ion collisions

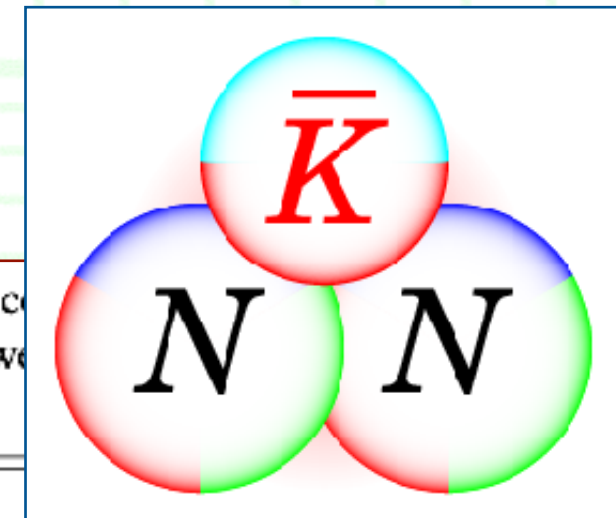
3. Perspective/implication in HIC

++ Exotic hadrons in heavy ion collisions ++

■ The ExHIC collaboration predicted production yields of exotic hadron candidates.

Cho et al., Phys. Rev. C84 (2011) 064910.

□ The $\bar{K}NN$ bound state was in the list.



Coalescence / Statistical model ratio at LHC

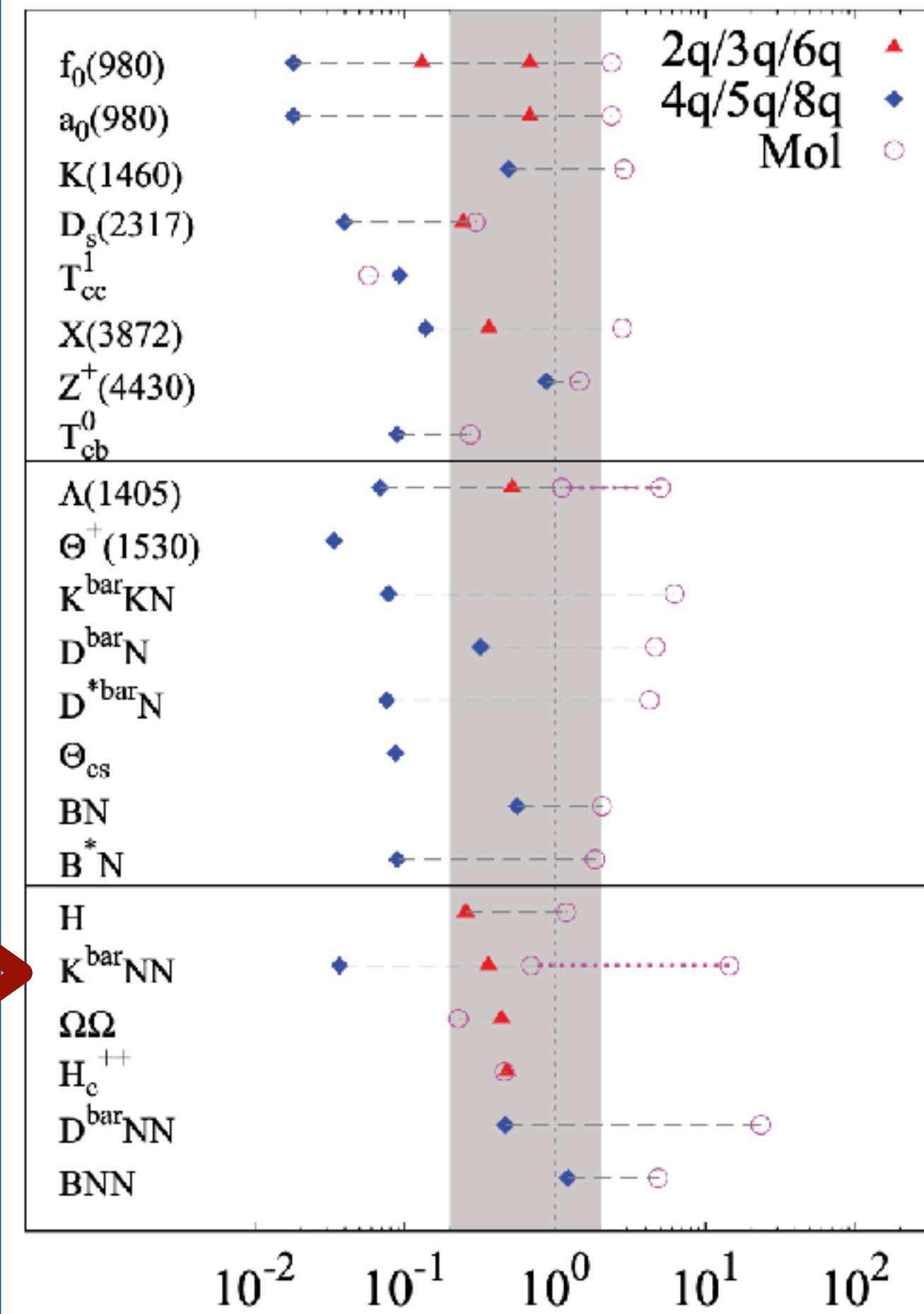


TABLE V. Exotic hadron yields in central Au + Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV at RHIC and in central Pb + Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.5$ TeV at LHC from the quark coalescence (2q/3q/6q and 4q/5q/8q) and the hadron coalescence (Mol.), as well as from the statistical model (Stat.)

	RHIC				LHC			
	2q/3q/6q	4q/5q/8q	Mol.	Stat.	2q/3q/6q	4q/5q/8q	Mol.	Stat.
...								
Dibaryons								
H^a	3.0×10^{-3}	—	1.6×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-2}	8.2×10^{-3}	—	3.8×10^{-2}	3.2×10^{-2}
$\bar{K}NN^b$	5.0×10^{-3}	5.1×10^{-4}	0.011–0.24	1.6×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-2}	1.4×10^{-3}	0.026 – 0.54	3.7×10^{-2}
$\Omega\Omega^a$	3.2×10^{-5}	—	1.5×10^{-5}	6.4×10^{-5}	8.6×10^{-5}	—	4.4×10^{-5}	1.9×10^{-4}
H_c^{++a}	3.0×10^{-4}	—	3.3×10^{-4}	7.5×10^{-4}	2.0×10^{-3}	—	1.9×10^{-3}	4.2×10^{-3}
$\bar{D}NN^a$	—	2.9×10^{-5}	1.8×10^{-3}	7.9×10^{-5}	—	2.0×10^{-4}	9.8×10^{-3}	4.2×10^{-4}
BNN^a	—	2.3×10^{-7}	1.2×10^{-6}	2.4×10^{-7}	—	9.2×10^{-6}	3.7×10^{-5}	7.6×10^{-6}

^aParticles that are newly predicted by theoretical model.

^bParticles that are not yet established.

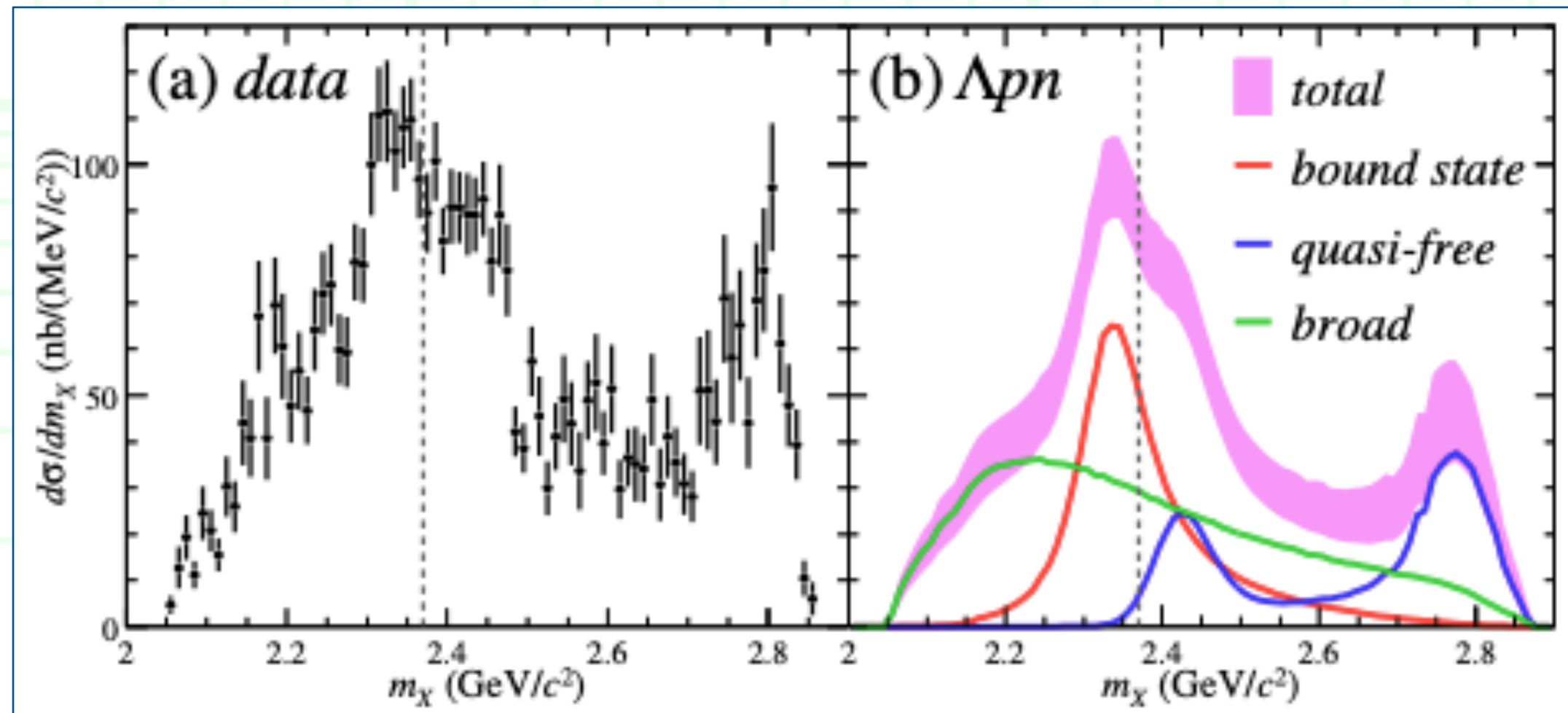
– However, at that time the $\bar{K}NN$ was not yet established.

□ Now that the existence of the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state is strongly supported, we can say something about it.

3. Perspective/implication in HIC

++ Properties of the $\bar{K}NN$ nucleus ++

- From the experimental data, the experimentalists concluded:



$$M_K = 2.328 \pm 0.003(\text{stat.})_{-0.003}^{+0.004}(\text{syst.}) \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

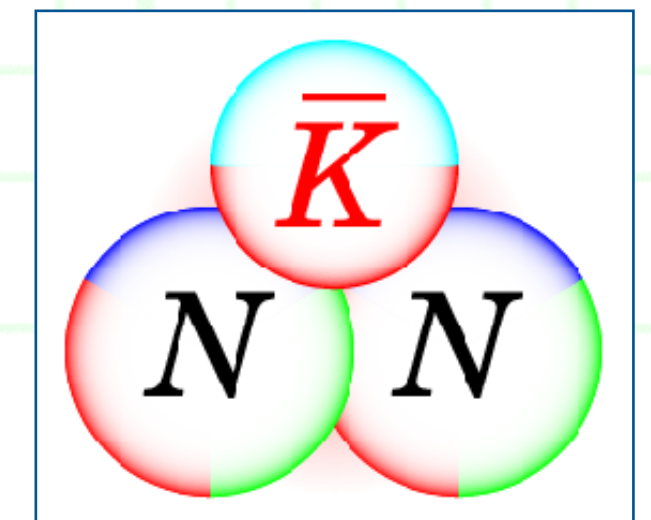
$$(B_K = 42 \pm 3(\text{stat.})_{-4}^{+3}(\text{syst.}) \text{ MeV}),$$

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

- Fit with the Breit-Wigner (-like) formula.

Yamaga et al., Phys. Rev. C102 (2020) 044002.

- Just below the K -pp threshold (2370 MeV).
 - Note: Peak position \neq Real part of the pole position.
- Large width ~ 100 MeV.
 - Mesonic $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \pi \Lambda N, \pi \Sigma N$
 - & Non-mesonic $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \Lambda N, \Sigma N$ (two-nucleon absorption, **2NA**).



3. Perspective/implication in HIC

++ Two-nucleon absorption (2NA) in $\bar{K}NN$ ++

■ Three-body is different.

- There exists 2NA in the $\bar{K}NN$ system owing to the **non-conservation of the meson number**.

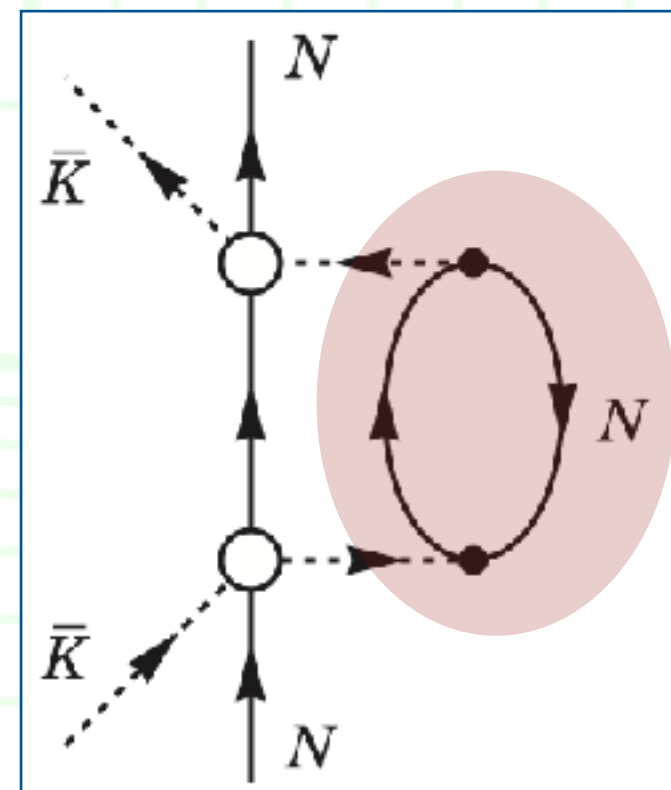
$$\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Lambda N \\ \Sigma N \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \bar{K}NN$$

– No analogue in NNN.

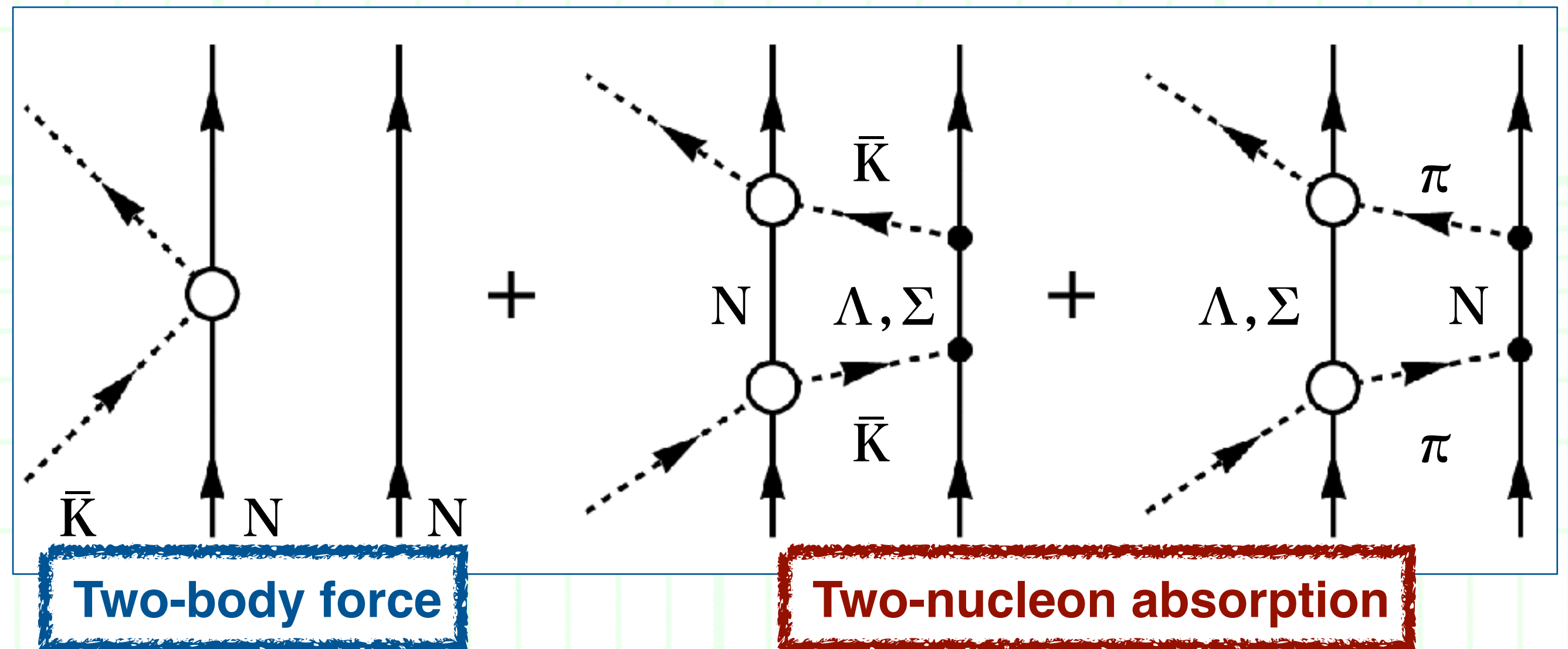
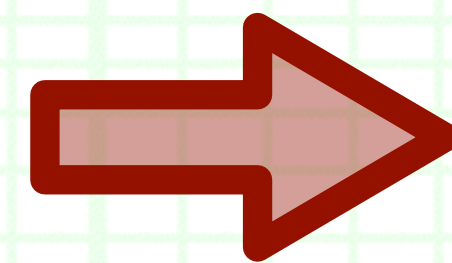
- The 2NA can be **explicitly added to the two-body $\bar{K}N$ interaction** as:

Bayar and Oset, Phys. Rev. C88 (2013) 044003; T.S., Oset and Ramos, in preparation.

Reaction calculation in Sec. 2 has been done with:



$$\frac{1}{(p_{ex}^\mu)^2 - m_K^2 + im_K \Gamma_K}$$

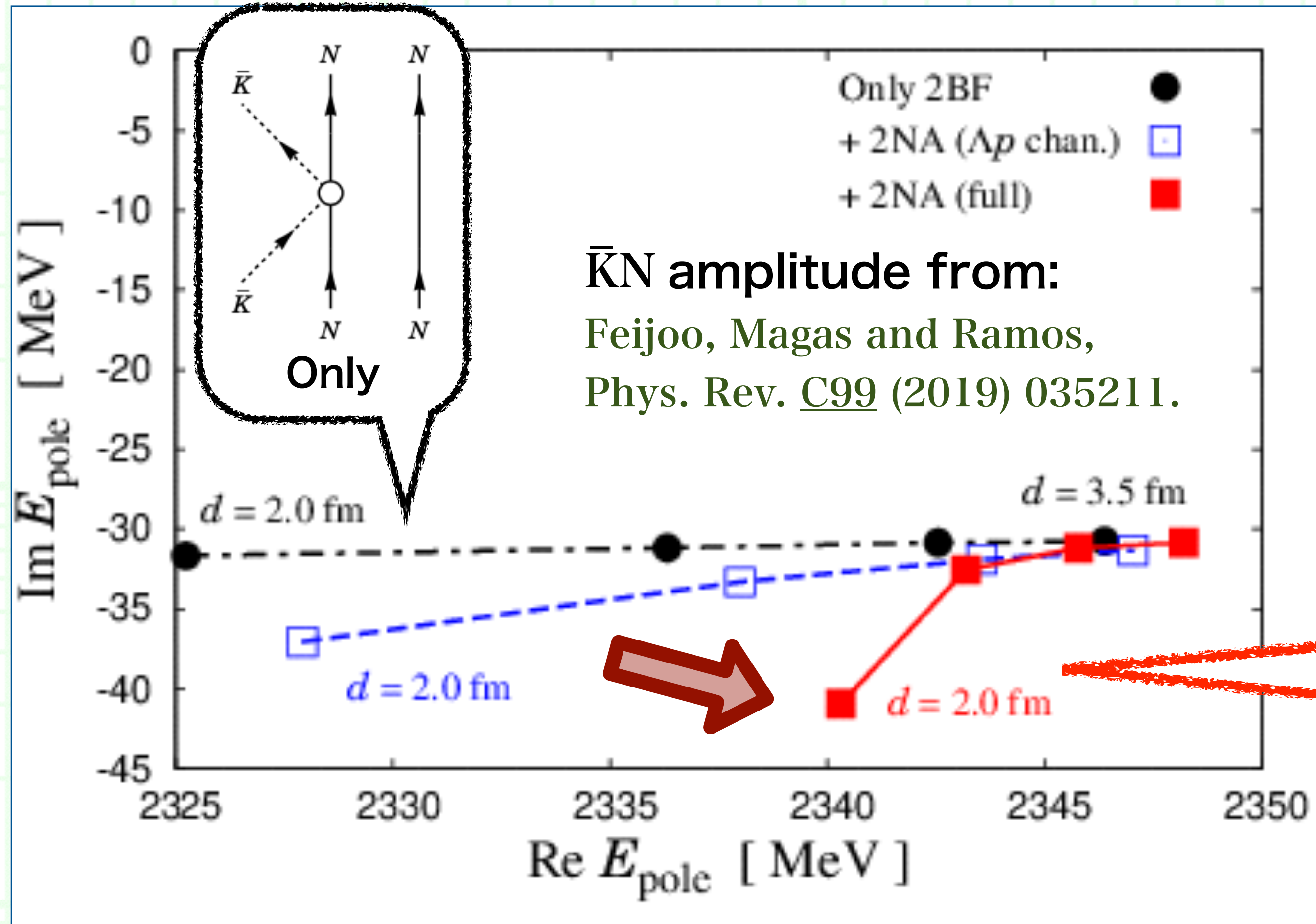


- The 2NA has **real part** as well as **imaginary part**.

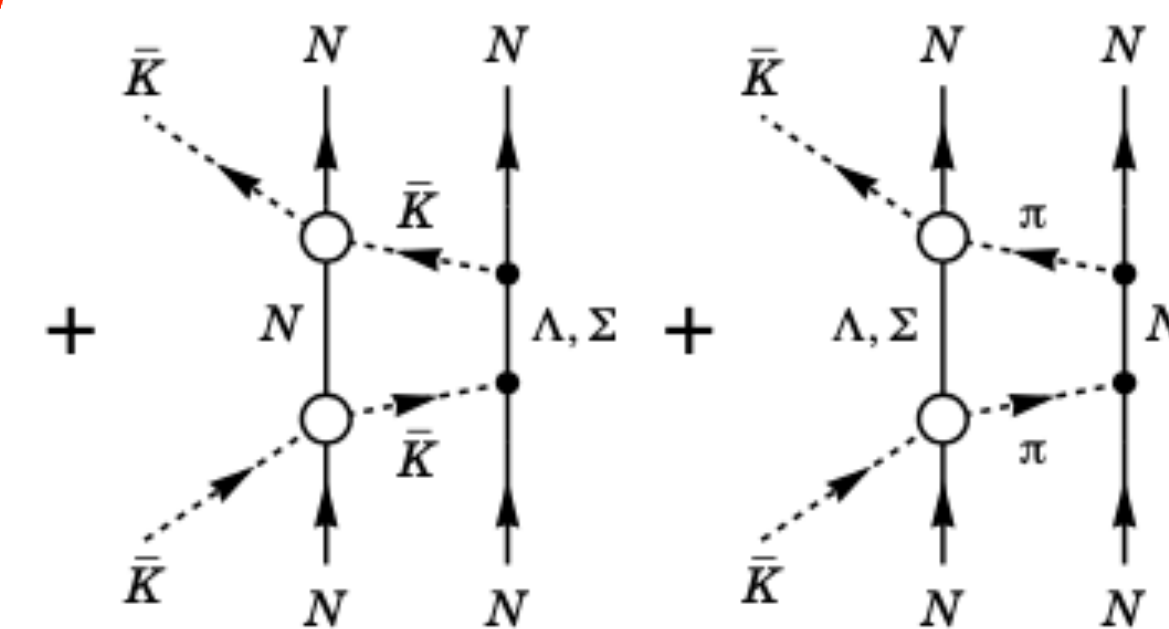
3. Perspective/implication in HIC

++ Pole position ++

■ We obtain the pole of the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state in the scattering amplitude.



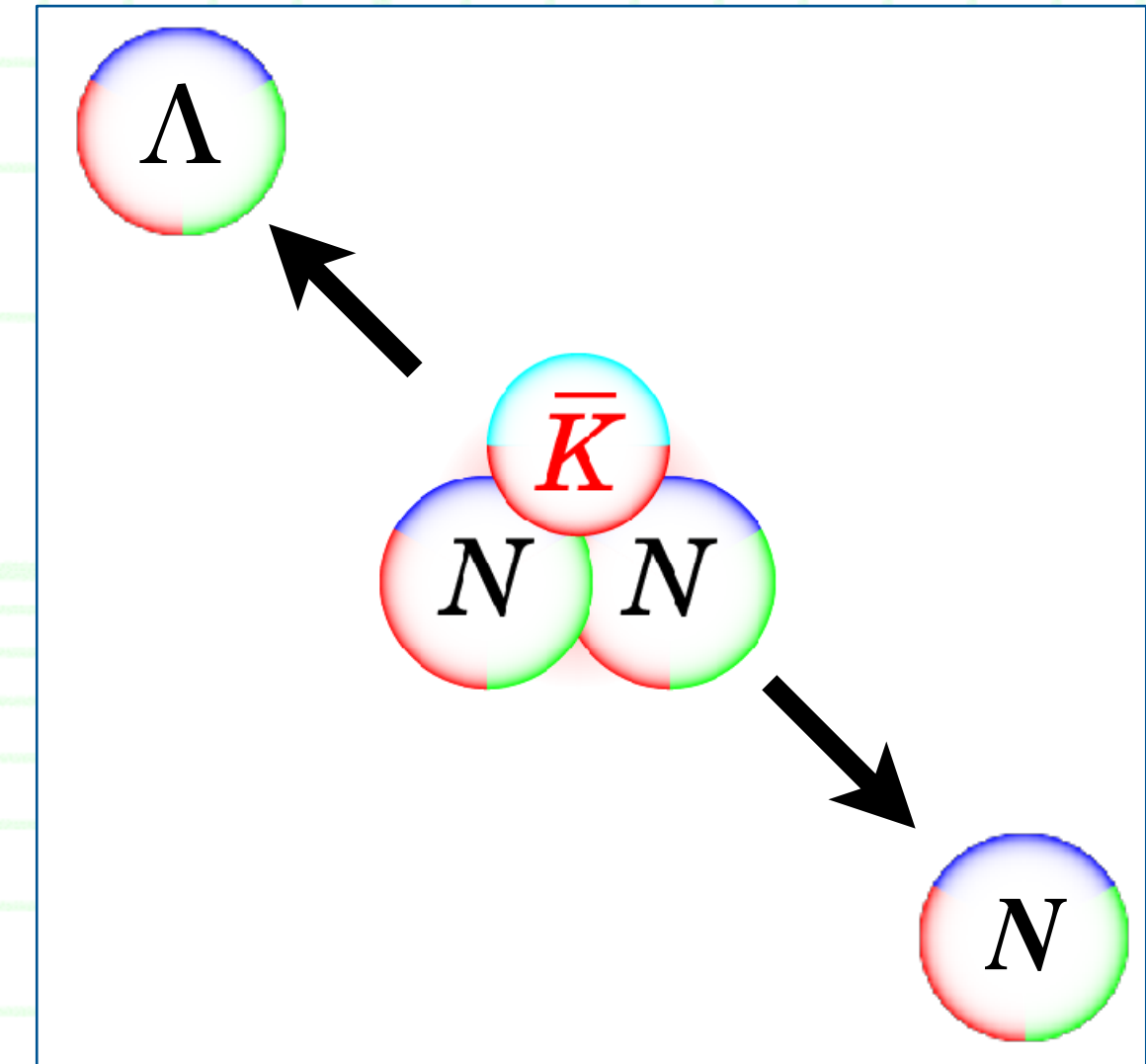
- Parameter: NN distance d .
- The 2NA gives **repulsion** (real part) and **absorption** (imaginary part).
- At $d = 2$ fm, **the pole shift via the 2NA is $\Delta E_{\text{pole}} = +15 - 9i$ MeV** ($E_{\text{pole}} = 2340 - 41i$ MeV).



3. Perspective/implication in HIC

++ Perspective ++

- The $\bar{K}NN$ bound state has large decay width ~ 100 MeV.
 - Mesonic $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \pi \Lambda N, \pi \Sigma N$ & Non-mesonic $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \Lambda N, \Sigma N$.
 - The Λp and Σp channels will be important when we want to observe the signal of the $\bar{K}NN$ in the heavy ion collision.
 - However, the signal may be “buried” in the spectrum owing to the large width.
- Similar things may happen to other exotic candidates.
 - Large decay width.
 - Fortunately, some of the exotic candidates have small decay widths.
 - Meson absorption owing to the non-conservation of the meson number.
 - In such a case, inclusion of three-body effects might be important.

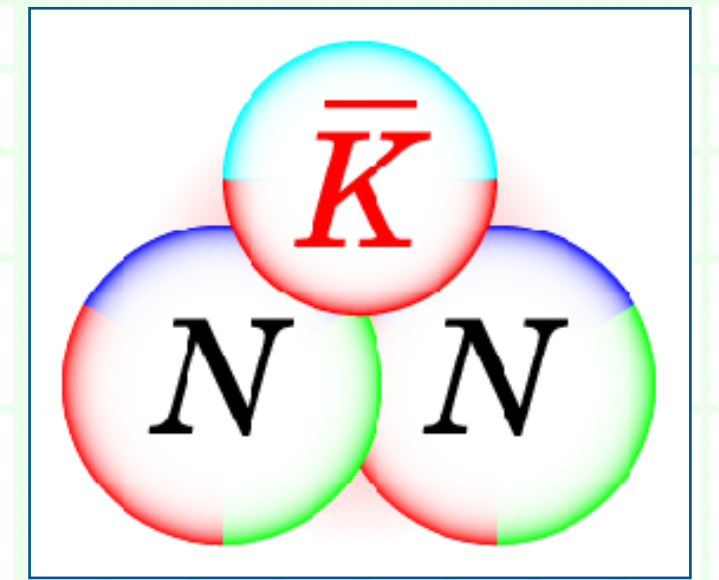


cf. Du et al., Phys. Rev. D105 (2022) 014024; Meng et al., arXiv:2204.08716.

4. Summary

4. Summary

++ Summary ++



- There should exist the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state, which is generated by the strongly attractive interaction between \bar{K} and nucleons.
 - Results in the J-PARC E15 Exp. with the $K^- ^3\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda p n$ reaction give us key clues to understand the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state.
 - We have performed a reaction calculation to support that the observed peak in the J-PARC E15 Exp. is indeed the signal of the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state.
- The $\bar{K}NN$ bound state has large decay width ~ 100 MeV.
 - Mesonic $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \pi \Lambda N, \pi \Sigma N$ & Non-mesonic $\bar{K}NN \rightarrow \Lambda N, \Sigma N$.
 - Can we observe the signal of the $\bar{K}NN$ bound state in heavy ion collisions ?
 - Large decay width / meson absorption may happen to other exotic candidates.

**Thank you very much
for your kind attention !**