Recent results on K⁻ absorption by few nucleons and the Bound Kaonic Nuclear State Puzzle S. Piano INFN Trieste

K⁻ absorption by few nucleons (on nuclei)

- Study of hypernuclei and their decays:
 - One nucleon absorption (pion-emission)
 - $\text{ K}^{\text{-}} \text{ N} \rightarrow \pi \text{ Y} \Rightarrow \text{ K}^{\text{-}} \text{ A} \rightarrow \Lambda(\Sigma) \ \pi \text{ X}$
- Search for possible deeply bound kaon states:
 - Two nucleon absorption (no-pion emission)
 - $\text{ K}^{\text{-}}(2N) \rightarrow N \text{ Y} \Rightarrow \text{K}^{\text{-}} A \rightarrow \Lambda(\Sigma) \text{ pX}, \text{ K}^{\text{-}} A \rightarrow \Lambda(\Sigma) \text{ nX}$
 - Three nucleon absorption (no-pion emission)
 - $\text{K}^{-}(3N) \rightarrow NN \text{ Y} \Rightarrow \text{K}^{-}A \rightarrow \Lambda(\Sigma) \text{ dX}$
 - Four nucleon absorption (no-pion emission)
 - $\text{K}^{-}(4\text{N}) \rightarrow \text{NNN Y} \Rightarrow \text{K}^{-}\text{A} \rightarrow \Lambda(\Sigma) \text{ tX}$

K⁻(2N) is an old story...

Katz et al., Phys.Rev. D 1 (1970) 1267: K⁻ absorption at rest in Helium:

TABLE III. Branching ratios for K^- absorption at rest.				
Reaction	Events/(stopping K^-) (%)			
$\begin{array}{c} K^{-}\mathrm{He}^{4} \rightarrow \Sigma^{+}\pi^{-}\mathrm{H}^{3} \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{+}\pi^{-}dn \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{+}\pi^{-}pnn \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{+}\pi^{0}nnn \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{+}nnn \\ \mathrm{Total} \ \Sigma^{+} = (17.0 \pm 2 \end{array}$	9.3±2.3 1.9±0.7 1.6±0.6 3.2±1.0 1.0±0.4 .7)%			
$\begin{array}{l} K^{-}\mathrm{He}^{4} \rightarrow \Sigma^{-}\pi^{+}\mathrm{H}^{3} \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-}\pi^{+}dn \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-}\pi^{+}pnn \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-}\pi^{0} \mathrm{He}^{3} \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-}\pi^{0} pd \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-}\pi^{0} ppn \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-} pd \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-} pd \\ \rightarrow \Sigma^{-} pn \end{array}$ Total $\Sigma^{-} = (13.8 \pm 1)$	$\begin{array}{c} 4.2 \pm 1.2 \\ 1.6 \pm 0.6 \\ 1.4 \pm 0.5 \\ 1.0 \pm 0.5 \\ 1.0 \pm 0.5 \\ 1.0 \pm 0.5 \\ 1.0 \pm 0.4 \\ 1.6 \pm 0.6 \\ 2.0 \pm 0.7 \\ \end{array}$			
$K^{-}\text{He}^{4} \rightarrow \pi^{-}\Lambda \text{ He}^{3}$ $\rightarrow \pi^{-}\Lambda \text{ pd}$ $\rightarrow \pi^{-}\Lambda \text{ pbn}$ $\rightarrow \pi^{-}\Sigma^{0} \text{ $hc}^{3}$ $\rightarrow \pi^{-}\Sigma^{0} (pd, pn)$ $\rightarrow \pi^{0}\Lambda (\Sigma^{0}) (pnn)$ $\rightarrow \Lambda (\Sigma^{0}) (pnn)$ $\rightarrow \pi^{+}\Lambda (\Sigma^{0})nnn$ $\text{Total }\Lambda (\Sigma^{0}) = (69.2\pm$	11.2 ± 2.7 10.9 ± 2.6 9.5 ± 2.4 0.9 ± 0.6 0.3 ± 0.3 22.5 ± 4.2 11.7 ± 2.4 2.1 ± 0.7 $6.6)\%$			
$1 \text{ otal} = \Lambda + 2 = (100_{-7} + 0)\%$				

No-mesonic Λ (Σ^0) 11.7% No-mesonic Σ^+ only 1.0% No-mesonic Σ^- 3.6%



∧ fast: no pion emission

TABLE V. Comparative data on the frequency of emission of various particles.

	Hydrogen	Deuterium	Capture nucleus Helium (this experiment)	Helium (Helium Bubble Chamber Collaboration)*	(76% CF ₃ Br) +(24% C ₃ H ₈)	Nuclear
[\pi \][K^]	0.64	0.67	0.55±0.05	0.55	0.45	0.40
$[\pi^{-}]/[\pi^{+}]$	0.46	1.95	4.9 ± 1.0	5.5	3.8	3.9
$[\Sigma^{\pm}]/[K^{-}]$	0.64	0.46	$0.31 {\pm} 0.03$	0.27	0.19	0.187
$[\Sigma^+]/[\Sigma^-]$	0.46	0.73	1.2 ± 0.2	1.16	1.05	0.79
$\lceil \Sigma^+ + \pi^- \rceil / \lceil \Sigma^- + \pi^+ \rceil$	0.46	0.85	1.8 ± 0.5	1.82	1.52	1.43
Multinucleon (i.e., nonpionic) capture		0.01	0.16±0.03	0.17±0.04 ^b	0.25	0.15-0.30

* Reference 2.

^b Nonpionic ratio of (32±2)% for K⁻ in He⁴ was quoted by M. M. Block, in Proceedings of the International Conference on Hypernuclear Physics, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, 1969, edited by A. R. Bodmer and L. G. Hyman (ANL, Argonne, 1969).

A-dependence: no-mesonic production increasing with A

⁶Li(K⁻_{stop},Λ)X Phase Space Simulations



To measure the no-mesonic channels spectrometers are needed capable to detect p(n,d,t)and Λ with high resolution in the high momentum region (mesonless Λ -production region)



Λ momentum from K-_{stop}



Inclusive proton spectra E549 and FINUDA



No mono-energetic emission of N and Y: (Oset,Toki PRC74(2006)015207) Only on ⁶Li FINUDA observes a bump (FINUDA Coll., NPA 775 (2006), 35) : two nucleon absorption reaction on quasi-deuteron: K-"d" $\rightarrow \Sigma$ +p [⁶Li = α + d] See P.Genova talk

2NA: K⁻ pp identification with FINUDA

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- 1. Data taking 2003-2004: – 200 pb⁻¹
- 2. reconstruction of Λ's
 - p_{Λ} > 300 MeV/c
 - 6 MeV FWHM
- 3. A and p angular correlation
 - Events with a Λ-p coincidence: ~ 5%
 - Light targets only (3x ¹²C, 2x ⁶Li, 1x ⁷Li)
 - A p should be oppositely emitted, apart from FSI

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Ap invariant mass in FINUDA

- High resolution tracks only
- A bump is observed
 - Two nucleon absorption
 - K⁻ + (pp) → Λp
 peak expected at 2.34 GeV
 - K⁻ + (pp) → Σ⁰p → Λγ p
 74 MeV lower distribution, and broadened
 - Kaon nuclear bound state formation
 - $K^{-}(pp) \rightarrow X \rightarrow \Lambda p$

 $\rightarrow \Sigma^{0} \mathbf{p} \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma \mathbf{p}$

 $B = 115^{+6}_{-5} (stat)^{+3}_{-4} (sys) MeV$ $\Gamma = 67^{+14}_{-11} (stat)^{+2}_{-3} (sys) MeV$

SEMI-EXCLUSIVE ANALYSIS



Alternative interpretations of the Ap bump

- K⁻pp→[K-pp]→Ap: [K-pp] bound state (FINUDA)
- QF-2NA K-pp \rightarrow followed by FSI (Magas et al.)
- Dominance of Σ^0 production over Λ : QF-2NA K⁻pp $\rightarrow \Sigma^0$ p followed by $\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$ decay
- QF-2NA K⁻NN→ΣN followed by ΣN→ΛN conversion reaction:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathsf{K}^{-}\mathsf{A} {\rightarrow} \Sigma^{0,+} \pi^{0,-}\mathsf{X} & \mathsf{K}^{-}\mathsf{A} {\rightarrow} \Sigma^{0,+}\mathsf{n}\mathsf{X} & \mathsf{K}^{-}\mathsf{A} {\rightarrow} \Sigma^{0,-}\mathsf{p}\mathsf{X} \\ \Sigma^{0}\mathsf{p} {\rightarrow} \mathsf{\Lambda}\mathsf{p} & \Sigma^{0}\mathsf{p} {\rightarrow} \mathsf{\Lambda}\mathsf{p} & \Sigma^{0}\mathsf{p} {\rightarrow} \mathsf{\Lambda}\mathsf{p} \\ \Sigma^{+}\mathsf{n} {\rightarrow} \mathsf{\Lambda}\mathsf{p} & \Sigma^{+}\mathsf{n} {\rightarrow} \mathsf{\Lambda}\mathsf{p} & \Sigma^{-}\mathsf{p} {\rightarrow} \mathsf{\Lambda}\mathsf{n} \end{array}$$

 Decay of heavier kaonic nuclei (Mares et al.) <u>QF-2NA = Quasi Free Two Nucleon Absorption</u>

A different interpretation of the $M_{p\Lambda}$ bump

- Magas, Oset et al, PRC74 (2006), 0252006
 - The peak is due to ~90% FSI of p and Λ, no DBKS
 - The bump is a result of the angular cuts applied in the analysis (i.e., a deformation of a flat distribution)
 - 115 MeV as a binding energy is quite too much!
- ...but:
 - The newest analysis shows that the deformation of the spectrum is not due to angular cuts
 - The newest analysis shows no strong dependence on angular distribution from A=6 to A=16
 - FSI alone cannot explain the full spectrum
 - Back-to-back correlation belongs to the data themselves





Angular distributions: a closer look

 FSI alone cannot explain at the same time the inv. mass spectrum and angular distribution measured by FINUDA

 The angular correlation between Ap pairs comes naturally from the data without any constraint



E549: ⁴He(K⁻_{stop},ΛN)X missing mass



E549: ⁴He(K⁻_{stop}, AN)X invariant mass



E549 interpretation:

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Cp,n}: \text{K}^{\text{-4}}\text{He} \rightarrow \Sigma\pi(3\text{N}) \\ \Sigma\text{N} \rightarrow \Lambda\text{N} \\ \text{Ap,n}: \text{K}^{\text{-4}}\text{He} \rightarrow \Lambda\text{N}(2\text{N}) \end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{BR}_{\mathsf{Ap}}/\mathsf{BR}_{\mathsf{An}} \sim 0.1 \text{ K-pn} >> \mathsf{K-pp} \\ \mathsf{BR}_{\mathsf{Ap}} \sim 0.2\% \text{ ; } \mathsf{BR}_{\mathsf{An}} \sim 2\% \text{ ;} \\ \mathsf{BR}_{\mathsf{AN}} \sim 11.7\% \text{ (Katz)} \Rightarrow \mathsf{BR}_{\mathsf{Bp,n}} \sim 80\% \text{ AN} \\ \mathsf{Bp}/\mathsf{Ap} >> \mathsf{Bn}/\mathsf{An} \Rightarrow \mathsf{no} \mathsf{FSI} \\ \mathsf{Bp,n}: ? \\ \mathsf{Bp,n}: \mathsf{K}^{-4}\mathsf{He} \rightarrow \Sigma\mathsf{N}(2\mathsf{N}) (\Sigma \rightarrow \Lambda\gamma 30\% \mathsf{Bp,n}) \\ \Sigma\mathsf{N} \rightarrow \Lambda\mathsf{N} \\ \mathsf{Bp,n}: \mathsf{dibaryon; tribaryon} \end{array}$

FINUDA: ⁶Li(K⁻_{stop},Λp)X 2006-2007 Data Taking

- 8x statistics on: ⁶Li (⁷Li, ⁹Be)
- Improved tracking efficiency
- Extended range of the reconstructed momentum
- Improved selections (missing mass)
- Statistics large enough to study single tgt spectra



















Only a minor fraction of the bump can be associated to $K^-pp \rightarrow \Sigma^0 p \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$



But ...the Missing Mass selection cannot exclude $\Sigma N \rightarrow \Lambda N$ conversion reactions:

FINUDA: $\Sigma N \rightarrow \Lambda N$ conversion reactions



Alternative interpretations of <a>/>

- K-pp→[K-pp]→Λp: [K-pp] bound state (FINUDA)
- -QF-TNA K-pp→Ap followed by FSI (Magas et al.)
- Dominance of Σ^0 production over A:
 - \neg CF-TNA K-pp \rightarrow Σ^{0} p followed by $\Sigma^{0} \rightarrow \Lambda \gamma$ decay
- \neg CF-TNA K-NN \rightarrow Σ N followed by Σ N \rightarrow AN conversion

reaction:



 Decay of heavier kaonic nuclei (Mares et al.) <u>QF-TNA = Quasi Free Two Nucleon Absorption</u>

Alternative interpretations of Ap bump

- K-pp \rightarrow [K-pp] \rightarrow Ap: [K-pp] bound state (FINUDA) ullet
- E 2NIA K nn . An followod by ESI (Magaa Inayas
- Dominance of Σ^0 production over Λ .





Decay of heavier kaonic nuclei (Mares et al.) ulletQ2-TNA = Quasi Free Two Nucleon Absorption

3NA: FINUDA study of ⁶Li(K⁻_{stop}, Ad)X

- Ad invariant mass to measure K⁻ ppn absorption
- Use of ⁶Li target: low background
- ⁶Li is a well known [α+d] cluster
 - Bump observed at $M_{\Lambda d}$ = 3251 MeV,

 $\Gamma_{\Lambda d}$ =37 MeV

 25 events in the peak, statistical significance 3.9σ

- Yield: (4.4±1.4)x10⁻³/K⁻_{stop}





Critical review of the $M_{\Lambda d}$ bump

Magas, Oset and Ramos [PRC77(2008)065210] explain Λd FINUDA data with K⁻ absorption from three nucleons leaving the rest as spectator: ⁶Li(K⁻_{stop}, Λd)A' with 0% FSI.

But ... FINUDA analysis showed that the missing kinetic energy of 3 body absorption can explain only a little fraction of the bump ...



FINUDA: ⁶Li(K⁻_{stop}, Ad)X 2006-2007 Data Taking

- 8x statistics
- Improved tracking efficiency
- Extended range of the rec. momentum
- Improved selections (missing mass)



3 well defined states in missing mass with Λ d emitted back-to-back: $\frac{2805 \pm 4 \text{ MeV/c}^2 \Rightarrow \text{QF-3NA: K-6Li} \rightarrow \Lambda \text{dt}}{2824 \pm 11 \text{ MeV/c}^2}$ $2852 \pm 6 \text{ MeV/c}^2$



FINUDA: ⁶Li(K⁻_{stop}, Ad)X 2006-2007 Data Taking



The Λd bump published is a superimposition of three different final states. The QF-3NA is identified (<u>K-6Li \rightarrow Λdt).</u> The nature of the other two states will soon be clarified (analysis in progress). The Σ^0 doesn't play a relevant role.



E549: Ad correlation from ⁴He(K⁻_{stop}, d)



- $K^{-4}He \rightarrow \Lambda d(n)$
- detected back-to-back d p pairs with π^- in coincidence
- Λ discriminated from Σ⁰ (Λγ) event by missing mass
- Λ d peak at 3282 MeV/c² just below mass threshold
- interpreted as 3N absorption K-ppn (n) $\rightarrow \Lambda d$ (n)
- accepted d p back-to-back only, spectra are shaped by the limited phase-space
- spectra are not corrected for the apparatus acceptance

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FINUDA: study of A(K⁻, Λt)X (A=⁶Li, ⁷Li, ⁹Be) (I)



- $K^- A \rightarrow \Lambda t X$
- A = ⁶Li,⁷Li,⁹Be
- FINUDA thresholds:
 - − Λ 140 MeV/c
 - t 430 MeV/c

Direct measurement of K⁻ absorption on ⁴He



- A signal background free
- Λ, t pairs emitted back-to-back
- High momenta for Λ, t

Only one measurement exists so far, from bubble chamber: 3 events by kin fit 40 events observed in FINUDA Capture rate: ~1x10⁻³/K⁻

FINUDA: study of A(K⁻, Λt)X (A=⁶Li, ⁷Li, ⁹Be) (II)



Many body K[¬] absorption role Simulations of different phase space reactions with cos(⊕_{At})<-0.9 (filtered through apparatus

acceptance)

∧ and t momentum distribution compatible with:

- a) Four nucleon absorption with (Λt) or (Σt) emission
- b) Four nucleon absorption with (Λt)N emission
- c) NOT with $(\Lambda t)\pi$: too small Λ momentum
- d) 2-step pickup reaction (suppressed?)

Outlook and Conclusions

- $[K-pp] \rightarrow \Lambda p$:
 - M_{Ap} signal on different targets
 - $\cos \Theta_{\Lambda p} \sim 1$
 - FSI alone cannot explain at the same time $M_{\Lambda p}$ and $Cos \Theta_{\Lambda p}$
 - Needed a realistic model: K⁻ dynamics (bound state) + proton pairs momenta
 - What is the role of short-range correlated proton pairs ?

(R. Subedi et al., Science 320(2008)1476)

- The models should explain most the observables !
- $[K^-ppn] \rightarrow \Lambda d:$
 - Cos $\Theta_{\Lambda d}$ ~ 1
 - K⁻ is absorbed on quasi " α " (⁶Li = α + d)
 - Identified the QF-3NA
 - Identified other two final states (analysis in progress)
 - The role of Σ^0 seems negligible
- [K-ppnn] $\rightarrow \Lambda t$:
 - $\cos\Theta_{\Lambda t} \sim 1$
 - Direct measurement of K⁻ absorption on ⁴He
 - Capture rate: ~1x10⁻³/K⁻
- $[K^-p] \rightarrow \Sigma^{\pm} \pi^{\mp}$: - See N. Grion talk

FINUDA: $\Sigma N \rightarrow \Lambda N$ conversion reactions





∧ identification with FINUDA

FINUDA FRONTAL VIEW

VERTEX REGION



