

Spectroscopy and scattering: applications (day 1)

Jeremy R. Green

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY

Frontiers and Challenges in Lattice Gauge Theory

MITP Summer School 2025

July 21 to August 1, 2025

Quantum chromodynamics

Elementary quantum field theory describing the strong nuclear force.

- ▶ $SU(3)$ gauge symmetry, “colour”
- ▶ *gluons*: massless gauge bosons (colour octet)
- ▶ *quarks*: massive fermions (colour triplets)

Quantum chromodynamics

Elementary quantum field theory describing the strong nuclear force.

- ▶ $SU(3)$ gauge symmetry, “colour”
- ▶ *gluons*: massless gauge bosons (colour octet)
- ▶ *quarks*: massive fermions (colour triplets)

Confinement: only colour singlets appear in the QCD spectrum.

Quantum chromodynamics

Elementary quantum field theory describing the strong nuclear force.

- ▶ $SU(3)$ gauge symmetry, “colour”
- ▶ *gluons*: massless gauge bosons (colour octet)
- ▶ *quarks*: massive fermions (colour triplets)

Confinement: only colour singlets appear in the QCD spectrum.

Hadrons described by quark model:

- ▶ *mesons* typically $q\bar{q}$
- ▶ *baryons* typically qqq

Anything else is considered “exotic”.

Quantum chromodynamics

Elementary quantum field theory describing the strong nuclear force.

- ▶ $SU(3)$ gauge symmetry, “colour”
- ▶ *gluons*: massless gauge bosons (colour octet)
- ▶ *quarks*: massive fermions (colour triplets)

Confinement: only colour singlets appear in the QCD spectrum.

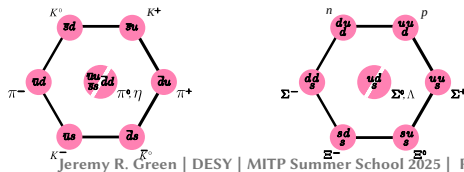
Hadrons described by quark model:

- ▶ *mesons* typically $q\bar{q}$
- ▶ *baryons* typically qqq

Anything else is considered “exotic”.

Useful to classify into multiplets of approximate flavour symmetry.

$SU(3)$ octets: $J^P = 0^-$ mesons and $\frac{1}{2}^+$ baryons.



Decays of hadrons

Except for proton and some nuclei, hadrons are unstable. It matters how they decay.

- ▶ Weak, e.g. $n \rightarrow pe^- \bar{\nu}$ ($\tau \approx 900$ s), $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$ or $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-8}$ s).
- ▶ Electromagnetic, e.g. $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-16}$ s), $\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \Lambda\gamma$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-19}$ s).
- ▶ Strong, e.g. $\rho(770) \rightarrow \pi\pi$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-24}$ s).

Decays of hadrons

Except for proton and some nuclei, hadrons are unstable. It matters how they decay.

- ▶ Weak, e.g. $n \rightarrow pe^- \bar{\nu}$ ($\tau \approx 900$ s), $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$ or $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-8}$ s).
- ▶ Electromagnetic, e.g. $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-16}$ s), $\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \Lambda\gamma$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-19}$ s).
- ▶ Strong, e.g. $\rho(770) \rightarrow \pi\pi$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-24}$ s).

Key distinction: whether or not a hadron can decay via the strong interaction.
If yes, then name includes approximate mass: $\rho(770)$, $\Delta(1232)$, $f_0(500)$, etc.

A particle that decays strongly is not an asymptotic state within QCD.

It is a **resonance**.

E.g. $\rho(770)$ is a resonance in p -wave $\pi\pi$ scattering.

Most hadrons are resonances. The rest are stable within QCD.

Decays of hadrons

Except for proton and some nuclei, hadrons are unstable. It matters how they decay.

- ▶ Weak, e.g. $n \rightarrow pe^- \bar{\nu}$ ($\tau \approx 900$ s), $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu$ or $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-8}$ s).
- ▶ Electromagnetic, e.g. $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-16}$ s), $\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \Lambda\gamma$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-19}$ s).
- ▶ Strong, e.g. $\rho(770) \rightarrow \pi\pi$ ($\tau \approx 10^{-24}$ s).

Key distinction: whether or not a hadron can decay via the strong interaction.
If yes, then name includes approximate mass: $\rho(770)$, $\Delta(1232)$, $f_0(500)$, etc.

A particle that decays strongly is not an asymptotic state within QCD.

It is a **resonance**.

E.g. $\rho(770)$ is a resonance in p -wave $\pi\pi$ scattering.

Most hadrons are resonances. The rest are stable within QCD.

This can change as quark masses are varied. If $2m_\pi > m_\rho$, then the ρ becomes stable.

0 quarks glueball — no clear identification

Quark content in hadrons

0 quarks glueball — no clear identification

1 quark no colour singlet possible

2 quarks $q\bar{q}$ ordinary mesons

3 quarks qqq ordinary baryons

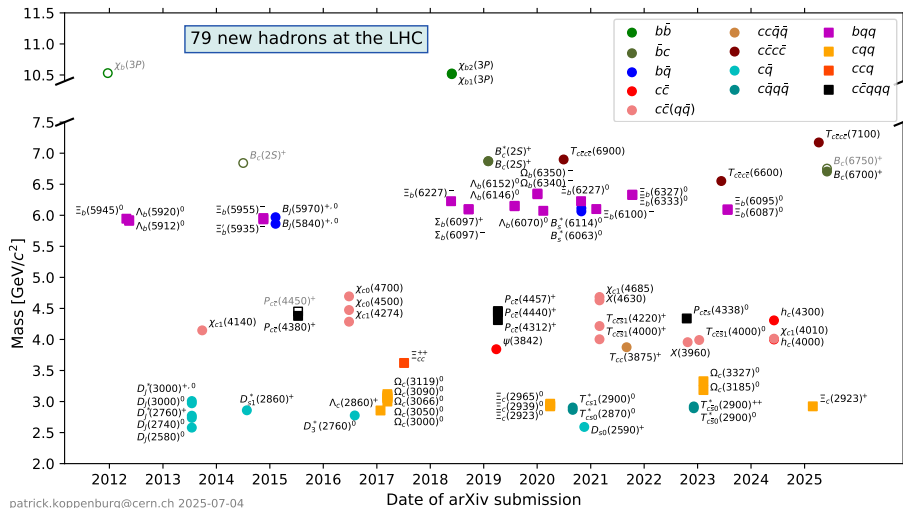
Quark content in hadrons

- 0 quarks** glueball — no clear identification
- 1 quark** no colour singlet possible
- 2 quarks** $q\bar{q}$ ordinary mesons
- 3 quarks** qqq ordinary baryons
- 4 quarks** $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$ tetraquark or mesonic molecule
 - ▶ T_{cc}^+ ($cc\bar{u}\bar{d}$)
 - ▶ Z_c charged charmonium ($c\bar{c}u\bar{d}$)
 - ▶ X and Y states, which don't fit in quark model
- 5 quarks** $qqqq\bar{q}$ pentaquark or baryon-meson molecule
 - ▶ P_c ($uudc\bar{c}$)

Quark content in hadrons

- 0 quarks** glueball — no clear identification
- 1 quark** no colour singlet possible
- 2 quarks** $q\bar{q}$ ordinary mesons
- 3 quarks** qqq ordinary baryons
- 4 quarks** $qq\bar{q}\bar{q}$ tetraquark or mesonic molecule
 - ▶ T_{cc}^+ ($cc\bar{u}\bar{d}$)
 - ▶ Z_c charged charmonium ($c\bar{c}u\bar{d}$)
 - ▶ X and Y states, which don't fit in quark model
- 5 quarks** $qqqq\bar{q}$ pentaquark or baryon-meson molecule
 - ▶ P_c ($uudc\bar{c}$)
- 6 quarks** $qqqqqq$ “hexaquark” dibaryon
 - ▶ deuteron ($uuuddd$) “ pn molecule” $B_d = 2.2$ MeV
 - ▶ conjectured H dibaryon ($uuddss$)

Ordinary and exotic hadrons at the LHC



LHCb collaboration, P. Koppenburg, List of hadrons observed at the LHC, LHCb-FIGURE-2021-001, 2021, and recent updates.

Questions in nuclear physics

NN interaction (and NNN) leads to nuclei.
How fine tuned is the universe?

Questions in nuclear physics

NN interaction (and NNN) leads to nuclei.

How fine tuned is the universe?

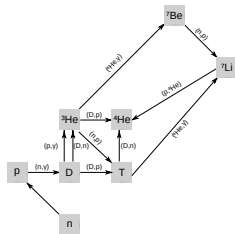
Hoyle state (7.65 MeV excitation of ^{12}C) plays essential role in triple-alpha process for stellar nucleosynthesis of carbon.

Questions in nuclear physics

NN interaction (and NNN) leads to nuclei.

How fine tuned is the universe?

Hoyle state (7.65 MeV excitation of ^{12}C) plays essential role in triple-alpha process for stellar nucleosynthesis of carbon.



(By Pamputt [CC-BY-SA-4.0], via Wikimedia Commons)

Big Bang nucleosynthesis has *deuterium bottleneck*: low deuteron binding energy 2.2 MeV delays onset of nucleosynthesis.

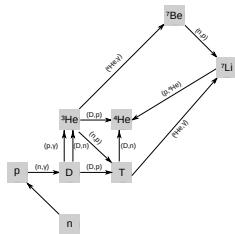
→ controls abundances of light elements.

Questions in nuclear physics

NN interaction (and NNN) leads to nuclei.

How fine tuned is the universe?

Hoyle state (7.65 MeV excitation of ^{12}C) plays essential role in triple-alpha process for stellar nucleosynthesis of carbon.



(By Pamputt [CC-BY-SA-4.0], via Wikimedia Commons)

Big Bang nucleosynthesis has *deuterium bottleneck*: low deuteron binding energy 2.2 MeV delays onset of nucleosynthesis.

→ controls abundances of light elements.

How strongly does deuteron binding depend on quark masses?

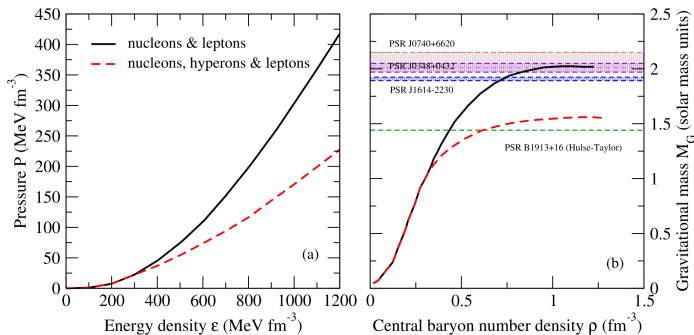
Could pp or nn bind?

Hyperon interactions

NN interaction thoroughly studied in experiments. What about strange baryons (*hyperons*)?
Hyperon interactions with $S = -1$ or -2 less well known.

Hyperon interactions

NN interaction thoroughly studied in experiments. What about strange baryons (*hyperons*)?
Hyperon interactions with $S = -1$ or -2 less well known.



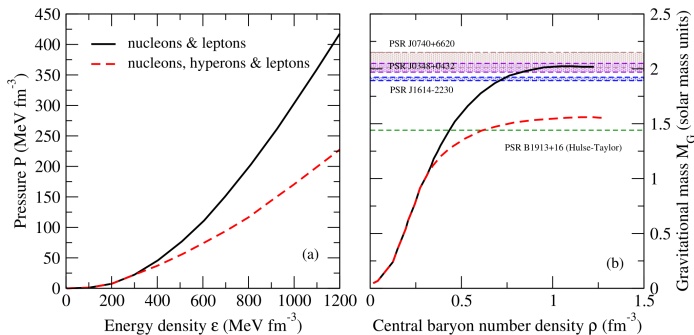
Λ baryons can reduce Fermi pressure in neutron stars.

Contradicted by detection of neutron stars with $M \approx 2M_{\odot}$.

I. Vidaña, EPJ Web Conf. **271**, 09001 (2022)

Hyperon interactions

NN interaction thoroughly studied in experiments. What about strange baryons (*hyperons*)?
Hyperon interactions with $S = -1$ or -2 less well known.



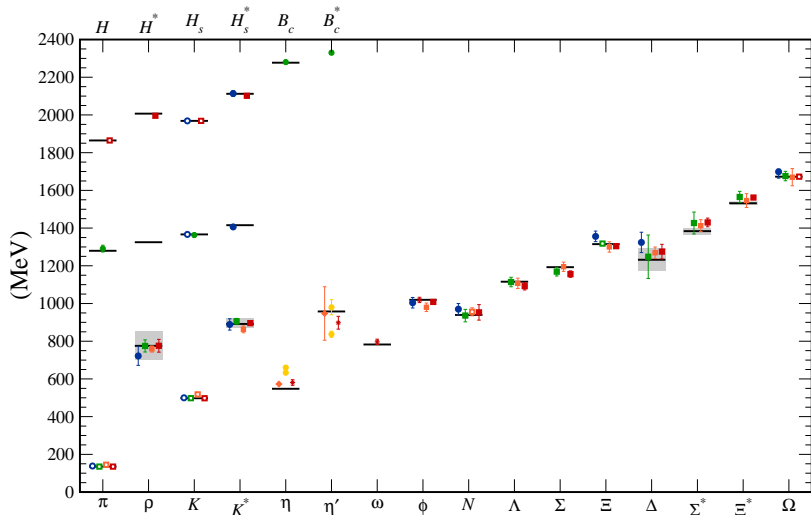
Λ baryons can reduce Fermi pressure in neutron stars.

Contradicted by detection of neutron stars with $M \approx 2M_{\odot}$.

I. Vidaña, EPJ Web Conf. **271**, 09001 (2022)

Do hyperon-hyperon (YY) or NNY interactions play a role?

Lattice QCD in 2012: stable hadrons



Calculations by different collaborations using different actions.

Some include $m_\pi \rightarrow m_\pi^{\text{phys}}$ and $a \rightarrow 0$ extrapolations.

Open symbols: inputs.

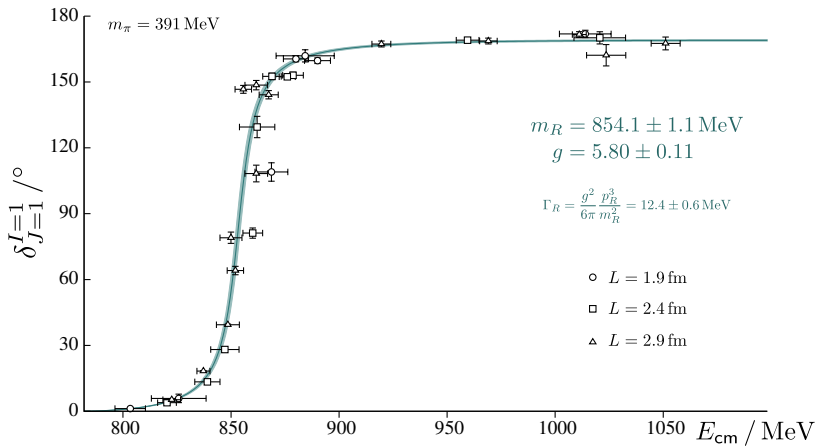
Grey bands: resonance widths from experiment.

Uncontrolled approximation on the lattice!

A. S. Kronfeld, *Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.* **62**, 265–284 (2012) [1203.1204]

(B mesons shifted by -4 GeV.)

Lattice QCD in 2012: unstable hadron



ρ meson as resonance in
 p -wave $\pi\pi$ scattering.

Single lattice spacing,
single pion mass.

J. J. Dudek, R. G. Edwards, C. E. Thomas (Hadron Spectrum Collaboration),
Phys. Rev. D **87**, 034505 (2013); **90**, 099902(E) (2014) [1212.0830]

Two-point correlation functions

- ▶ spectral decomposition
- ▶ variance
- ▶ variational method

Two-point correlation functions

- ▶ spectral decomposition
- ▶ variance
- ▶ variational method

Interpolating operators

- ▶ quantum numbers in rest frame and moving frames
- ▶ single-hadron interpolators
- ▶ smearing
- ▶ two-hadron interpolators

Two-point correlation functions

- ▶ spectral decomposition
- ▶ variance
- ▶ variational method

Interpolating operators

- ▶ quantum numbers in rest frame and moving frames
- ▶ single-hadron interpolators
- ▶ smearing
- ▶ two-hadron interpolators

Computing correlation functions

- ▶ example Wick contraction
- ▶ distillation