







NERGY

Science



TEASING STRANGE MATTER FROM THE ORDINARY



New insights from Jefferson Lab reveal details of how strange matter forms in ordinary matter

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It's a result that has been decades in the making. The dataset was originally collected in 2004. Lamiaa El Fassi, now an associate professor of physics at Mississippi State University and principal investigator of the work, first analyzed these data during her thesis project to earn her graduate degree on a different topic.

Nearly a decade after completing her initial research with these data, El Fassi revisited the dataset and led her group through a careful analysis to yield these unprecedented measurements. The dataset comes from experiments in Jefferson Lab's Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF), a DOE user facility. In the experiment, nuclear physicists tracked what happened when electrons from CEBAF scatter off the target nucleus and probe the confined quarks inside protons and neutrons. The results <u>were recently</u> <u>published in *Physical Review Letters*</u>.



NEWS RELEASE 18-APR-2023

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Peer-Reviewed Publication

DOE/THOMAS JEFFERSON NATIONAL ACCELERATOR FACILITY



024 JLUO Annual Meeting



APRIL 27, 2023 | 4 MIN READ

Physicists See 'Strange Matter' Form inside Atomic Nuclei

New research attempts to discern how bizarre particles of strange matter form in the nuclei of atoms

BY STEPHANIE PAPPAS



Particle Physics

A new physics result two decades in the making has found a surprisingly complex path for the production of strange matter within atoms.

Lamiaa El Fass



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physicsworld

particle and nuclear

Q

- f PARTICLE AND NUCLEAR | RESEARCH UPDATE
- Strange-matter observation points to existence of diquarks in
- in barvons
- 15 May 2023





Surprising observation: evidence for lambda baryons and the involvement of diquarks in their production has been spotted in data taken at Jefferson Lab's CEBAF Large Acceptance Spectrometer. (Courtesy: DOE/Jefferson Lab)



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Daily Press

How nuclear physicists at Jefferson Lab found something SciTechDailu

'strange' in the ordinary

Eliza Noe, Daily Press

April 25, 2023 · 2 min read

"Extremely Surprising" – Nuclear Physicists Ha

Groundbreaking Observation of "Strange Matte

Physics and Astronomy's El Fassi first to observe formation of rare 'strange

matter'

MISSISSIPPI STATE

MSU physicist first to observe formation of rare 'strange matter'

Contact: Sam Kealhofer

STARKVILLE, Miss.—A Mississippi State physicist and her colleagues are the first scientists to observe how subatomic particles—known as lambda particles—are formed, helping researchers learn more about their production and formation in atomic nuclei, deepening the overall understanding of the dynamics of subatomic structure that governs most of the visible matter in the universe.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

APRIL 27 2023 4 MIN READ

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koto feja/Getty Images



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Week of June 19, 2023 | Archiv

PARTICLE AND NUCLEAR | RESEARCH UPDATE

Strange-matter observation points to existence of diquarks in barvons 15 May 2023



has been spotted in data taken at Jefferson Lab's CEBAF Large Acceptance Spectrometer. (Courtesy, DOE/lefferson Lab)



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Week of June 19, 2023 | Archiv

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MSU physicist first to observe formation of rare 'strange matter'

Teasing Strange Matter from Ordinary

New insights reveal details of how strange matter forms.



- Physics Motivation
- Highlights of Previous Measurement
- Recent CLAS Results
 - Mesons Channel: Pions
 - Baryon Channel: Lambda
- Ongoing CLAS12 Hadronization Studies
- Summary and Outlook

How does the colored bare, quark, evolves to a fully dressed hadron?

• Probe QCD confinement dynamics via hard scattering:

Nucleon



Hard Probe + Nucleon



How does the colored bare, quark, evolves to a fully dressed hadron?

• Probe QCD confinement dynamics via hard scattering:

Nucleon



Hard Probe + Nucleon





Hadron fragmentation from struck color objects



Images from CERN Courier Strong Interactions Feature (2004)

How does the colored bare, **quark**, evolves to a fully dressed hadron?

Study hard processes in nuclei to probe QCD confinement dynamics:
 Color propagation and fragmentation - Hadronization process



Hadron Formation Complementarity

- Study hard processes in nuclei to probe QCD confinement dynamics:
 - > Color propagation and fragmentation Hadronization process
 - > Creation and evolution of small size hadrons Color Transparency (CT)

Ongoing CLAS12 RG-D studies

Color neutral object (pre-hadron) Small Size Configuration e' **Point Like Configuration** Nucleon Fully dressed Hadron

Complementarity in Studying Hadronization Stages

Nuclear Deep Inelastic Scattering (DESY, JLab):

- > Quark propagation
- Hadron Formation
- Final state interactions (FSIs) effects



Heavy Ion Collisions (RHIC, CERN):

- > Quark propagation
- Hadron Formation
- ISIs and FSIs effects



Complementarity in Studying Hadronization Stages



Heavy Ion Collisions (RHIC, CERN):

- > Quark propagation
- Hadron Formation
- ISIs and FSIs effects



Probing Hadronization Time-distance Scales

- Explore semi-inclusive deep inelastic scattering (SIDIS) production to access the hadronization time-distance scales:
 - **Production time** τ_p : time spent by a deconfined quark to neutralize its color charge.
 - Formation time τ_f : time required to form a regular hadron (h).



Probe Hadronization Time-distance Scales

Explore SIDIS production to access the hadronization time-distance scales
 their extraction via a comparison of QCD dynamics in



Vacuum (nucleons or deuteron)



- Production time τ_p: time spent by a deconfined quark to neutralize its color charge
 Transverse momentum broadening due to medium-stimulated energy loss via gluon bremsstrahlung
- Formation time τ_f : time required to form a regular hadron (h)
 - Hadron suppression in measured multiplicity ratios due to (pre)hadron elastic or inelastic scattering and/or energy loss of hadron-fragmented struck quark(s)

SIDIS Kinematics



v: Electron energy loss;

- \equiv Initial energy of a struck quark
- *Q*²: Four-momentum transferred;
 - $\sim 1/(\text{spatial resolution})$ of the probe

 $y = v/E_{\text{beam}}$: Electron energy fraction transferred to a struck quark; $W = \sqrt{M_n^2 + 2vM_n - Q^2}$: Total mass of the hadronic final state, where M_n is the nucleon mass $z_{\rm h}$: Fraction of the struck quark's initial energy carried by the formed hadron (0 < $z_{\rm h}$ < 1) p_{τ} : Hadron transverse momentum with regard to the virtual photon direction; $x_F = \frac{P_L}{P_T^{max}}$, Feynman variable: Fraction of the center-of-mass (CM) longitudinal momentum carried by the observed hadron

T. Chetry

SIDIS Kinematics and Cuts



Drawing courtesy of T. Chetry (former postdoc)

*Q*²: Four-momentum transferred;

> 1 GeV², to probe the intrinsic structure of nucleons

 $y = v/E_{\text{beam}}$: Electron energy fraction transferred to a struck quark;

< 0.85, to reduce radiative effects (*based on former HERMES studies*) $W = \sqrt{M_n^2 + 2vM_n - Q^2}$: Total mass of the hadronic final state, where M_n is the nucleon mass > 2 GeV, to avoid a contamination from the resonance region

- x_F : Fraction of the CM longitudinal momentum carried by the observed hadron;
 - > 0, selects the forward (current) fragmentation region
 - < 0, selects the backward (target) fragmentation region

Later

discussion

Experimental Observables

Transverse Momentum Broadening

$$\Delta p_T^2 = < p_T^2 >_A - < p_T^2 >_D$$

 Q^2 , v XXXXXX v? z, p_T

Grant access to τ_{p} via production of different hadrons and quark flavors off various nuclei



0.05

Deuterium Target

1.6

1.8

Experimental Observables

Transverse Momentum Broadening

$$\Delta p_T^2 = < p_T^2 >_A - < p_T^2 >_D$$



Grant access to τ_p via production of different hadrons and quark flavors off various nuclei



Previous Study: HERMES Multiplicity Ratios



Pions flavors and K⁻ experienced similar attenuation.

Previous Study: HERMES Multiplicity Ratios



Previous Study: HERMES Multiplicity Ratios



Previous Study: HERMES p_{T} Broadening



- Possible flavor dependence due to different behavior of K⁺ and pions p_{T} broadening!
- Reduced broadening at high z indicates no (pre)hadron elastic scattering;

Previous Study: HERMES p_{T} Broadening



- Possible flavor dependence due to different behavior of K^+ and pions p_T broadening!
- Reduced broadening at high z indicates no (pre)hadron elastic scattering;
- Perturbative QCD description of p_T broadening:

 $\Delta p_T^2 \propto \frac{\Delta E}{dx}, \text{ where}$ $\Delta p_T^2 \propto L \propto A^{1/3} \& \Delta E \propto L^2 \propto A^{2/3}$

• Similar Δp_T^2 dependence on $A^{1/3} \otimes A^{2/3} \implies$ Motivation for JLab/CLAS studies!

JLab 6 GeV CLAS (CLAS6) Experiment

- Fixed-target experiment performed early 2004 (EG2 run group) with the decommissioned CLAS6 spectrometer and dual targets assembly:
 - Liquid deuteron (LD2) + solid target (C or Fe or Pb or Al or Sn)







CLAS6 Hadronization Studies: Charged Pions



GIBUU (Giessen Boltzmann-Uehling-Uhlenbeck) uses hadronic degrees of freedom, it incorporates formation times, prehadron interactions, CT, and nuclear shadowing. Ingredients successfully used to describe nuclear modifications of DIS hadrons production in the HERMES and EMC experiments.

nFF (nuclear fragmentation functions by P. Zurita) is based on a comparison of the LIKEn21 set of nFFs extracted from a fit to HERMES data and the De Florian / Sassot/Stratmann (DSS) FFs as a baseline. The nFF Q² dependence is dictated by the same evolution equations as FFs.

GK (Guiot and Kopeliovich) is based on a combination of quark-energy loss and prehadron absorption. The latter is the most relevant mechanism to describe HERMES data. The model attempts to describe the modification of the leading hadrons only; i.e., z > 0.5.

CLAS6 Hadronization Studies: Neutral Pion



T. Mineeva *et al*. (2023)

PRL-targeted paper under external journal review

- Measured attenuation varies from a maximum of 25% on C to 75% on Pb
- No dependence on Q^2 and v observed
- Results are quantitatively compatible with HERMES data

See S. Paul talk in the 2023 JLUO Meeting featuring EG2 mesons and dihadrons results

CLAS6 Hadronization Studies: Λ Baryon

 First-ever study of Λ SIDIS production off C, Fe, and Pb nuclei in the forward¹ and backward² fragmentation regions

> SIDIS Λ production: e + A \longrightarrow e' + Λ + X



Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 142301 (2023)



L. Trentadue & G. Veneziano, Phys. Lett. B 323, 201-211 (1994)

CLAS6 Hadronization Study: Λ Baryon

- First-ever study of Λ SIDIS production off C, Fe, and Pb nuclei in the current and target fragmentation regions;
 - > Two-region separation is crucial since As show a significant leading particle effect by carrying a substantial fraction of incoming proton momenta ($\equiv x_F < 0$) and thus small p_T



F. Ceccopieri and D. Mancusi, Eur. Phys. J. C **73**, 2435 (2013) F. Ceccopieri, Eur. Phys. J. C **76**, 69 (2016)



Lambda Identification and Yield Extraction

- > Λ is identified via its decay particles, π and proton.
- Combinatorial background is subtracted using the event mixing technique and *RooFit* modeling and fitting toolkit.



CLAS6 Λ Multiplicity Ratios



Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 142301 (2023)



CLAS6 Λ Multiplicity Ratios



CLAS6 Λp_{T} Broadening Results



> Measured p_T broadening increases with z and A;

Trend favors A^{1/3} dependence >> Dominance of partonic stage within nuclei;

CLAS6 Λp_T Broadening Results



- > Measured P_T broadening increases with z and A;
- Trend favors A^{1/3} dependence >> Dominance of partonic stage within nuclei;
- > Larger $p_{\rm T}$ broadening compared to HERMES meson results;

CLAS6 Λp_T Broadening Results

- > Larger p_{T} broadening compared to HERMES meson results:
 - Could it be due to the size and mass of the propagating color object?
 - Could it be that the virtual photon is absorbed by a diquark instead of a single quark?



nDIS Studies with CLAS12 @ JLab: Run Group E Experiments

- Design luminosity L ~ 10³⁵ cm⁻² s⁻¹
- High luminosity & large acceptance: concurrent measurement of exclusive, semiinclusive, and inclusive processes
- Acceptance for photons and e⁻s:
 2.5° < θ < 125°
- Acceptance for all charged particles:
 5° < θ < 125°
- Acceptance for neutrons:
 5° < θ < 120°



HERMES

CLAS6 (done or ongoing)									
meson	сτ	mass	flavor content	baryon	сτ	mass	flavor content		
π0	25 nm	0.13	uudd	p	stable	0.94	ud		
π^+,π^-	7.8 m	0.14	ud, du	Ţ.	stable	0.94	ud		
η	170 pm	0.55	uuddss	Λ	79 mm	1.1	uds		
ω	23 fm	0.78	uuddss	A(1520)	13 fm	1.5	uds		
η '	0.98 pm	0.96	uuddss	Σ^+	24 mm	1.2	us		
ϕ	44 fm	1.0	uuddss	Σ-	44 mm	1.2	ds		
fI	8 fm	1.3	uuddss	Σ^0	22 pm	1.2	uds		
K ⁰	27 mm	0.50	ds	Ξ^{o}	87 mm	1.3	us		
K ⁺ , K ⁻	3.7 m	0.49	us, us	Ξ^{-}	49 mm	1.3	ds		

My group interest

- Production of various hadrons off a wider range of nuclei
 - better understanding of hadron formation mechanism and A dependence;
- Cover much broader phase space with 10 times higher luminosity compared to CLAS6 (1E3 higher than Hermes)
 - Determines the two hadronization time-scales and constrain the competing theoretical models to describe them!
- Investigate the quark-diquark nucleon structure with more baryon channels.

My group interest
 HERMES
 CLAS6 (done or ongoing)

	meson	cτ	mass	flavor content	flavor ontent baryon		mass	flavor content
	π0	25 nm	0.13	uudd	p	stable	0.94	ud
	π+, π	7.8 m	0.14	ud, du	_p	stable	0.94	ud
	η	170 pm	0.55	uuddss		79 mm	1.1	uds
	ω	23 fm	0.78	uuddss	A(1520)	13 fm	1.5	uds
	η'	0.98 pm	0.96	uuddss	Σ^+	24 mm	1.2	us
	ϕ	44 fm	1.0	uuddss	Σ	44 mm	1.2	ds
	fl	8 fm	1.3	uuddss	Σ^0	22 pm	1.2	uds
	K ⁰	27 mm	0.50	ds	Ξ^0	87 mm	1.3	us
)	K+, K-	3.7 m	0.49	us, us	Ξ	49 mm	1.3	ds

Spring 2024 data-taking using CLAS12 in its standard configuration and dual-target assembly:
 LD2 + solid foils (C or Cu or Pb or Al or Sn)



See Apr. 3rd JLab News Briefs



Spring 2024 data-taking using CLAS12 in its standard configuration and dual-target assembly:
 LD2 + solid foils (C or Cu or Pb or Al or Sn)



See Apr. 3rd JLab News Briefs



Summary and Outlook

- The hadronization study is a direct probe of QCD confinement dynamics in cold and hot nuclear matter;
 - A detailed understanding of its mechanisms helps constrain the existing theoretical models.
- CLAS6 SIDIS production of Λ in the current and target fragmentation regions show
 - Similar trend as HERMES proton results but with more enhancement at low z;
 - Larger p_T broadening than those of mesons as an indication of diquark scattering!
 - Further calibration of theoretical models is needed to describe these results.
- Ongoing CLAS12 RG-E studies will provide the multi-dimensional data needed to extract the hadronization production and formation time-scales.
- The future EIC will extend ongoing hadronization studies to heavy quarks and provide a wider kinematics coverage to study the in-medium evolution, parton energy loss, and diquark correlations in nucleon structure.
 Thank you !

This work is supported in part by the U.S. DOE award #: DE-FG02-07ER41528

Backup Slides

GIBUU Predictions: A nDIS Production

- GIBUU underestimates Λp_{τ} broadening due to
 - i. Inaccurate angular distributions in the initial elementary production process of Λ , or
 - ii. Final State Interactions in the current model's string fragmentation functions are not realistic.



Systematic Uncertainties for Λ nDIS Analysis

- Multiplicity Ratios budget:
- Particle identification cuts
- Symmetric mass range (9 σ)
- Dual-target vertex corrections
- Number of combinations of uncorrelated protons and pions pairs.
- Different AC 6-D map variables and bins
- Variation of AC weight cuts
- Different shapes of Breit Wigner functions: Relative BW, Ross-Stodolosky, and Soding
- Variation of LD2 end caps correction
- Radiative effects corrections
- ✓ Total point-to-point systematic uncertainties
 ≈ 6 to 30%
- $\checkmark\,$ Total normalization uncertainties ≈ 1 to 3%

- <u>Transverse Momentum Broadening</u> <u>budget</u>:
- Particle identification cuts
- Dual-target vertex corrections
- Different AC 6D map variables and bins
- Variation of AC weight cuts
- Sideband background subtraction
- Radiative effects corrections
- ✓ Total point-to-point systematic uncertainties ≈ 10% (1.4%) and 81% (8.5%) for *z* (*A*) dependence.
- ✓ Total normalization uncertainties $\approx 1\%$

Λ-analysis Cuts and Corrections

• Final-state Λ events: one e⁻, and at least one π^- and proton to identify Λ s.





- Electron ID: Positive response in DC, CC, SC, and EC;
- Pion ID: Matching signal in DC and SC;
- Proton ID: Momentum time-dependent analysis using a ROOT's TSpline method;
- SIDIS cuts: W > 2 GeV, $Q^2 > 1$ GeV², and y < 0.85;
- Corrections:
 - Vertex corrections;
 - Proton energy loss and electron momentum corrections;
 - CLAS6 acceptance corrections (AC);
 - Radiative corrections based on Pythia and RadGen event generators;
 - LD2 end caps corrections.



Corrected e⁻ z-vertex distributions for CLAS6 six sectors

See Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 142301 (2023) and its Supplemental Material

Preliminary CLAS6 p_{τ} Broadening: Charged Pions



Preliminary charged pions results show similar behavior, but smaller broadening!

Preliminary CLAS6 Proton Multiplicity Ratios



M. Wood, J.P. Garces *et al.* (2023) (Under internal CLAS Collaboration review)

Λ Yield Extraction

> Identify Λ via its decay particles, π and proton;



- Use event mixing technique and RooFit modeling and fitting toolkit for CB subtraction;
- > (π^{-} , p) invariant mass after CB subtraction to extract Λ yield (*dashed distribution*).



Λ Yield Extraction

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Λ Kinematics and Mass Distributions





Λ Kinematics



Λ Kinematics



Λ Kinematics

See Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 142301 (2023) and its Supplemental Material



CLAS6 Acceptance Correction for Λ nDIS Analysis

Total Bins = 648# of Bins Variable **Bin width** Range W [GeV] 2.0 - 2.80.4 2 $0.\overline{6}$ 2.25 - 4.253 ν 0.0 - 360.02 180.0 φ₋₋ [deg] 0.0 - 360.03 120.0 $\Phi_{a'A}$ [deg] 0.1 - 4.253 1.383 p₄ [GeV/c] 0.28 - 1.0vary* 6 Ζ

- W: Total CM energy
- v: Electron energy loss
- $\varphi_{\pi^{\text{-}}}$: Decay angle of $\pi^{\text{-}}$ in Λ rest frame
- $\Phi_{\mathbf{e}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}}\!\!:$ Angle between leptonic and hadronic planes
 - p_{Λ} : Λ momentum
 - z: Fraction of the struck quark's initial energy carried by the formed hadron
- Generated 1B Λ events using PYTHIA event generator for each target (Fe, C, Pb, and LD2)
- Six dimensional (6D) binning
- → z-bins
 +:

Bin $\#$	1	2	3	4	5	6
z_{min}	0.28	0.38	0.44	0.51	0.60	0.75
z_{max}	0.38	0.44	0.51	0.60	0.75	1.00

$$\begin{split} Bin, \quad & k = \left(W, \nu, \phi_{\pi^-}^*, p_\Lambda, \Phi_{e'\Lambda}, z\right) \\ eff_k &= \frac{N_{acc}(W, \nu, \phi_{\pi^-}^*, p_\Lambda, \Phi_{e'\Lambda}, z)}{N_{gen}(W, \nu, \phi_{\pi^-}^*, p_\Lambda, \Phi_{e'\Lambda}, z)} \\ \\ \text{Weight,} \quad & w_k = \frac{1}{eff_k} \end{split}$$

See Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 142301 (2023) and its Supplemental Material