CLAS Collaboration Meeting July 9, 2025

# **Recent Spectroscopy results from CLAS**

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### Hadron spectroscopy at CLAS: The Big Picture

Study of hadrons by measuring their mass, widths, quantum numbers, and decay properties.

- To understand how the strong force, described by QCD gives rise to the spectrum and internal structure of hadrons. A key focus is the discovery and characterization of *excited baryonic states* (N\*, Δ\*, Ξ\*) and the search for *exotic hadrons* (e.g., hybrid mesons, glueballs).
- CLAS instrumented to perform spectroscopy studies with high precision

•Electron Beam: Provides polarized beams for precise measurements of spin observables.

•**Targets**: Typically liquid hydrogen or deuterium for spectroscopy analyses.

•CLAS12 Detector: Large-acceptance spectrometer used to detect and reconstruct multi-particle final states.

•Photoproduction & Electroproduction Reactions: Tools to probe hadron resonances and internal structure.



**CERN** Courier

## **Gell-Mann and Zweig on Exotic States**

- The discovery of a lot of new particles (*Particle Zoology*) in the sixties led to a need to classify them
   → "Eightfold Way" SU(3) flavor symmetry (Gell-Mann and Ne'eman).
- Led to the Quark Model (proposed by Gell-Mann and Zweig independently) → hadrons as bound states of quarks.
- Gell-Mann and Zweig's theoretical framework allowed for the existence of "qqqqq" states (tetraquarks) and "qqqqq" states (pentaquarks), also mentioning possibilities like glueballs and hybrids.
- About 4 decades later new states (*Particle Zoology 2.0*) with unexpected features were observed, prompting renewed interest in the possibility of exotic hadrons which had been only hypothesized until then.

## **Exotic hadrons**

• Hybrids



- Exotic quantum numbers (i.e. 0<sup>+-</sup>,1<sup>-+</sup>,2<sup>+-</sup> not possible for conventional states)
- Molecules
  - Close to the threshold of the two hadrons they are made of
  - Narrow widths above threshold
    - Decay through suppressed channels
- Tetraquark, Pentaquark states
  - Narrow widths above threshold
  - Expected to have charged partners

**Strange pentaquark** Molecular (top) and compact (bottom) interpretations of the P<sub>ccs</sub>(4338) pentaquark discovered by the LHCb collaboration in 2022. Credit: D Dominguez



**Brand new** LHCb's latest tetraquarks, illustrated here as single units of tightly bound quarks, go by the names  $T^a_{c\bar{s}o}(2900)^o$  and  $T^a_{c\bar{s}o}(2900)^{++}$  in the new naming scheme. Credit: CERN

Baryonium states

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- E.g. Nucleon-Anti-nucleon bound states
- Non-resonant production
  - Threshold enhancement or cusp effect
  - Cross-channel re-scattering, intermediate mesons



# Lattice QCD Evidence that the $\Lambda(1405)$ Resonance is an Antikaon-Nucleon Molecule

Jonathan M. M. Hall, Waseem Kamleh, Derek B. Leinweber, Benjamin J. Menadue, Benjamin J. Owen<sup>1</sup>, Anthony W. Thomas, and Ross D. Young



BES-II: a)  $M(p\overline{p}) - 2m_p$ 

[1]Bai, J. Z., et al. "Observation of a Near-Threshold Enhancement in Th P Pbar Mass Spectrum from Radiative J/Psi-->gamma P Pbar Decays." *arXiv.Org*, 7 Mar. 2003, arXiv.org/abs/hep-ex/0303006v1.

[2] Ablikim, M, et al. "Spin-Parity Analysis of Ppbar Mass Threshold Structure in J/PSI and Psi' Radiative Decays." arXiv.Org, 5 Dec. 2011, arxiv.org/abs/1112.0942.

## Searches for missing (excited) hyperon states

- Excited  $\Xi$ 's
  - Improve knowledge of excited baryons with strangeness
  - Parity and polarization measurements
  - Searches for missing excited hyperon states
- Nucleon resonance studies
  - Study the baryon spectrum to map the Q<sup>2</sup> evolution of excited states
- $\Omega\text{-}$  in photo- and electro-production
  - Not seen in this production mechanism
  - First cross section measurement



#### SU(6)xO(3) Classification of Baryons



### Motivation for the analysis of the $\Lambda(1405)$ with CLAS12

- Λ(1405) [I=0, J<sup>P</sup>=1/2<sup>-</sup>, S=-1] located slightly below the K
   K
   N threshold decays into the πΣ channel through the strong interaction.
- Existence theoretically predicted in 1959 by Dalitz and Tuan, based on the analysis of the experimental data of KN scattering.
   R.H. Dalitz and S.F. Tuan, "The phenomenological description of -K-Nucleon reaction processes," Annals of Physics 8 (1959) 100–118.
- Description of the  $\Lambda(1405)$  as hadron molecular state



#### **Previous CLAS results**

- Position of poles measurement
- Study of Q<sup>2</sup> dependence not possible due to limited statistic
  - Possible with high statistics obtained with CLAS12



M. Mai, Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top. (2021) 230:1593-1607

\* S. Navas et al. (Particle Data Group), "83. Pole Structure of the Λ(1405) Region", Phys. Rev. D 110, 030001 (2024)

#### Expect two states in one resonance!



<sup>\*</sup> H. Lu et al., Phys. Rev. C 88, 045202 (2013)

#### Courtesy of Tatsuhiro Ishige – Tohoku U.

## Analysis of the $\Lambda(1405)$ with CLAS12

#### Search for the $\Lambda(1405)$ in the reaction: $ep \rightarrow e'K^+(X)$ by missing mass technique

• RG-K data (*E*beam = 7.5 *GeV*, 6.5 *GeV*)



Mass (GeV/c<sup>2</sup>)

Courtesy of Tatsuhiro Ishige – Tohoku U. 7

## Analysis of the $\Lambda(1405)$ with CLAS6

Analysis of the  $\Lambda(1405)$  Cross Section as a function of -t

• g-12 data (*E*beam = 5.7 *GeV*)



#### Preliminary – under analysis review

- Trevor Reed thesis (2024) differential cross-section measurements for Λ(1405) photoproduction
- Results in good agreement with prior photoproduction measurements (CLAS g11) with extended energy range over g-11 data.

### Motivation for Baryon – Antibaryon analyses with CLAS12



[b] Li, Hao. "Baryon-Antibaryon Photoproduction Off the Proton." Carnegie Mellon U, 2023.

- Search for Baryon-Antibaryon structures in electroproduction off proton target with CLAS12 RGA data
  - High statistics (significantly higher statistics than CLAS photoproduction sample)
    - Results shown based on CLAS12 RGA Spring-19 data (~ 15% of RGA-2018/19 dataset → > factor 10 increase in signal yields obtained in electroproduction compared to CLAS6 photoproduction data sample)
  - Investigate multiple channels with Baryon-Antibaryon particles in the final state
  - High statistics allow for amplitude analysis

## **Baryon – Antibaryon** electroproduction off the proton at CLAS12

- Reactions •
  - $ep \rightarrow eppp$
  - $ep \rightarrow epp\pi^-\overline{n}$
  - $ep \rightarrow ep\overline{p}\pi^+n$

 $ep \rightarrow epp(\overline{p})$ 



- Fit

recoil electron detected in the FD

1.0MM(epp)[GeV/C<sup>2</sup>]

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7000

5000 ·

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3000

2000

1000

ounts / 10 MeV 00 00

₹ 2500

\$1 2000

3 1500

1000 50

0.8

1.0

 $Q^2 \in [1, 6]$ 

- Missing mass technique used
- Electron in EC or Forward Detector

#### **Preliminary**

#### recoil electron detected in the FT





 $Q^2 [GeV^2/c^2]$ 

• Binning Missing Mass distribution by  $Q^2$ 

•  $Q^2 \in [0.6, 6]$  with 9 equally spaced bins

 $Q^2$  Bins

8000

**Preliminary** 









|                                | ep | γp    |
|--------------------------------|----|-------|
| $\frac{Y_n}{Y_{\overline{p}}}$ | 4% | 0.52% |







#### Analysis Goals:

- First time high statistics cross section • extractions of Baryon-Antibaryon in electroproduction
- Amplitude analyses

Courtesy of Leonel Martinez – FIU, with contributions from FIU students Alexander Lohr and Edward Morell

### Motivation for Cascade Baryons analyses with CLAS12

#### **Missing Cascade States**

- Number of excited  $\Xi$ 's predicted from SU(3) symmetry greater than the number of states seen experimentally
- Incomplete knowledge of quantum numbers
- Production mechanism still unclear

| Particle    | $J^P$ | Overall<br>status | Status as seen in — |             |            |                |                |
|-------------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|             |       |                   | $\Xi\pi$            | $\Lambda K$ | $\Sigma K$ | $\Xi(1530)\pi$ | Other channels |
| Ξ(1318)     | 1/2 + | ****              |                     |             |            |                | Decays weakly  |
| Ξ(1530)     | 3/2 + | ****              | ****                |             |            |                |                |
| Ξ(1620)     |       | **                | **                  |             |            |                |                |
| Ξ(1690)     |       | ***               | **                  | ***         | **         |                |                |
| Ξ(1820)     | 3/2 - | ***               | **                  | ***         | **         | **             |                |
| Ξ(1950)     |       | ***               | **                  | **          |            | *              |                |
| $\Xi(2030)$ |       | ***               |                     | **          | ***        |                |                |
| Ξ(2120)     |       | *                 |                     | *           |            |                |                |
| $\Xi(2250)$ |       | **                |                     |             |            |                | 3-body decays  |
| Ξ(2370)     |       | **                |                     |             |            |                | 3-body decays  |
| $\Xi(2500)$ |       | *                 |                     | *           | *          |                | 3-body decays  |

| State       | PDG rating | Width (MeV) | $J^P$              |
|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| $\Xi(1320)$ | ****       |             | $\frac{1}{2}^+$    |
| $\Xi(1530)$ | ****       | 9.5         | $\frac{3}{2}^+$    |
| $\Xi(1690)$ | ***        | < 30        | $\frac{1}{2}^{-}?$ |
| $\Xi(1820)$ | ***        | 24          | $\frac{3}{2}^{-}$  |
| $\Xi(1950)$ | ***        | 60          | ?                  |
| $\Xi(2030)$ | ***        | 20          | $\frac{5}{2}$ ?    |



Evidence of existence is only fair. Evidence of existence is poor.

• Search for excited Cascades in the exclusive reaction:  $ep \rightarrow e'K^+K^-(\Xi^-)$  [missing mass technique]

Courtesy of Bianca Gualtieri - FIU

Jose Carvajal, Ph.D. thesis "First Time Measurement of Ground State Ξ<sup>-</sup> Hyperon Cross Section in Electroproduction" (2024)

- First cross section measurement for the ground state Cascade in electroproduction
- RG-A data (*E*beam = 10.2 *Ge*V)



### **Cascade Baryons** analyses with CLAS12

#### Search for excited Cascades in the reaction: $ep \rightarrow e'K^+K^-(\Xi^-)$ by missing mass technique

• RG-K data (*E*beam = 7.5 *GeV*, 6.5 *GeV*)





Q^2 Bin Average (GeV^2)

Courtesy of Bianca Gualtieri - FIU

## **Cascade Baryons** analyses with CLAS12

2.3

MM(K<sup>+</sup>K<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup>

Search for the  $\Xi(1690)$  in the reactions:  $ep \rightarrow e'K^+ K^+K^-(\Lambda)$  and  $ep \rightarrow e'K^+ K^+\pi^-(\Xi^0)$  (missing mass technique) • RG-A data (*E*beam = 10.2 *GeV*)

- $ep \rightarrow e'K^+ K^+ K^-(\Lambda)$  channel:  $\Xi(1690)^- \rightarrow K^-\Lambda$
- Reconstructing 3 kaons
- Contamination from  $ep \rightarrow e' \phi(\rightarrow K^+ K^-) N^*(\rightarrow \Lambda K^+)$



- $ep \rightarrow e'K^+ K^+ \pi^-(\Xi^0)$  channel:  $\Xi(1690)^- \rightarrow \pi^- \Xi^0$
- Reconstructing 2 kaons and a pion
- Contribution from  $ep \rightarrow e' K^+ Y^* (\rightarrow K^+ \Xi^- (\rightarrow \Lambda \pi^-))$



- First analysis to search for the  $\Xi(1690)$  in electroproduction
- Analysis to be done 6x more statistics
- Goal is to extract J<sup>P</sup> and branching ratios

Courtesy of Asli Acar – University of York

#### Strangeness Production Studies with $\Lambda$ 's



<sup>1.50</sup> m((p π') (π<sup>\*</sup>)) (GeV)

### Polarization Observables for $\Lambda$ 's

#### First observation of the reaction ep $\rightarrow$ e' $\Lambda K^*(892)^+$ in electroproduction using RGK Pass-2 data (6.5, 7.5 GeV)

- Clean  $\Lambda$  spectrum  $\rightarrow$  reduces background in extraction of physics observables from mis-reconstructed  $\Lambda$  candidates
- Studies of beam-recoil spin transfer in electro-produced  $K^+\Lambda$  final states from unpolarized proton target have shown that the  $\Lambda$  polarization is predominantly in the direction of the spin of the virtual photon.
- For the **electro-produced K\***+ $\Lambda$  final state, the spin of the u-quark is the same as for K+ $\Lambda$ 
  - $\rightarrow$  test hypothesis that the  $\Lambda$  spin direction should flip.







## A Search for the $\Omega^{-} Baryon$ in RGA Data

- Not observed in electro- (photo-) production
- Part of Very Strange program
- Possible *evidence* for a peak in m((p  $\pi^-$ ) K<sup>-</sup>) distribution consistent with the  $\Omega^-$



• Spring-18 RG-A dataset to be included

## Meson Spectroscopy with photons at CLAS12

 Quasi-real photoproduction with CLAS12 (Low Q<sup>2</sup> electron scattering) using a Forward Tagger detector to investigate the light quark meson spectrum and search for hybrid meson states



#### The MesonEx Program:

- Detailed mapping of the meson spectrum up to 2.5 GeV mass.
- Search for rare or poorly known states (strangeness-rich, scalars, ...).
- Search states with unconventional quark-gluon configurations.
- Ongoing di-meson photoproduction analyses:
  - Current analyses of final states with charged mesons ( $\pi$ , K)  $\rightarrow$  better resolution (acceptance correction, background modeling).
  - Model-independent moment analyses, Partial Wave Analyses (PWA) → structures in the moments can suggest the presence of resonances.
  - Analysis techniques to be extended to vector-pseudoscalar final states.

- Detection of multiparticle final state from meson decay in the large acceptance spectrometer CLAS12
- Detection of the scattered electron for tagging the quasi-real photon in the CLAS12 Forward Tagger (low angle detection 2.5 to 4.5°)
- High-intensity and high-polarization tagged
  "photon" beam; degree of polarization can be
  determined event-by-event from the electron
  kinematics

### **MesonEx** analyses with CLAS12

#### Moment analysis for the reaction: $\gamma p \rightarrow p \pi^+ \pi^-$ using RG-A data (*E*beam = 10.6 *GeV* on LH2 target)

 $\gamma p \rightarrow p \ \pi^+\pi^-$  channel:

- Detection of all particles in the final state
- Clear observation of the  $\rho(770)$ , f<sub>2</sub>(1270),  $\rho(1690)$ 
  - Moment, PWA analysis taking baryon into account ongoing
  - Preliminary results in good agreement with expectations from S-channel helicity conservation and pomeron exchange
- Similar ongoing analysis of the  $\gamma p \rightarrow \gamma p \text{ K}^+\text{K}^-$  channel (Charlie Velasquez, U. of York)







Courtesy of Derek Glazier– University of Glasgow

## Motivation for the search for the exotic $\pi_1(1600)$ with CLAS12

Evidence from COMPASS in pion diffraction data:

- 3-pion final state analysis to search for the exotic spin-1 isovector meson  $\pi_1(1600)$  [I=1, J<sup>PC</sup> = 1<sup>-+</sup>]
- Seen in  $\eta\pi$ ,  $\eta'\rho$ ,  $\rho(770)(\rightarrow\pi^+\pi^-)\pi$  channels



#### Feasibility of PWA with CLAS12

- $\gamma p \rightarrow n\pi^{+}\pi^{+}\pi^{-}$  process is described as sum of 8 isobar channels:
  - $a_2 \rightarrow \rho \pi$  (D-wave)
  - a<sub>1</sub>  $\rightarrow \rho \pi$  (S-wave)
  - a<sub>1</sub>  $\rightarrow$  ρ π (D-wave) π<sub>2</sub>  $\rightarrow$  ρ π (P-wave)
  - $\pi_2 \rightarrow \rho \pi (\text{P-wave})$  $\pi_2 \rightarrow \rho \pi (\text{F-wave})$
  - $\pi_2 \rightarrow f_2 \pi$  (S-wave)
  - $\pi_2 \rightarrow f_2 \pi$  (D-wave)

 $\pi_1 \rightarrow \rho \pi$  (P-wave) (exotic)

- Amplitudes calculated by A. Szczepaniak and P. Guo
  - CLAS12 acceptance projected and fitted
  - PWA is stable against CLAS12 acceptance / resolution distortion



## *MesonEx* analysis: a search for the exotic $\pi_1(1600)$ with CLAS12

#### Search for the $\pi_1(1600)$ in the reaction: $\gamma p \rightarrow n \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$ using RG-A data (*E*beam = 10.6 *GeV* on LH2 target)

 $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+ \pi^-(n)$  channel:

• Preliminary results on subsample of dataset shows feasibility to carry out the analysis with complex PWA involving multiple isobars



Courtesy of Derek Glazier– University of Glasgow

#### **Summary**

- High precision and large data sample provided with CLAS12 allows for a rich spectroscopy program.
  - Various targets, beam energy to probe production mechanism and allow for an extended physics reach over CLAS6.
- CLAS12 well positioned to contribute to exotic hadrons searches and observations of excited baryons as part of its hadron spectroscopy program.
  - Ability to reconstruct final states with multiple particles.
- Tools for PWA analyses in place to study spin-parity assignments of identified states.
- Future directions: continued analyses on newly collected and processed large data samples to further studies of resonance decays and multi-hadron final states.
- Collaborative efforts among experimentalists and the involvement of theorists greatly impacts the success of this program.

# BACK-UP SLIDES

## **CLAS12 Event Display**







#### **CLAS12 PID**





Forward Calorimeter sampling fraction for electrons

