# Meson nucleus bound states studied with high-resolution missing-mass spectroscopy Yoshiki Tanaka (RIKEN)



# Hadron mass



QCD vacuum : spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry

Hadron masses are dynamically generated

 $\Box \ \pi, K, \eta \ \textbf{\sim} \ Nambu-Goldstone \ boson$ 

# **Restoration of chiral symmetry**

- $\square$  Chiral symmetry can be partially restored in finite T and/or  $\rho$
- Hadron properties (e.g., mass, width) under restoration of chiral symmetry



# **Experimental approach**

#### Invariant mass spectroscopy

Reconstruct invariant-mass via e.g. e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> decays



#### Systematic measurements of meson production

transparency ratio

excitation function

momentum distribution

#### Spectroscopy of bound states in nuclei

□ Well defined quantum states
 □ Overlap with nucleus → Probe for finite density



### **Pseudoscalar mesons**



# Spectroscopy of deeply-bound pionic atoms

recent results:	Takahiro Nishi, Kenta Itahashi, et al.,		
nature physics	piAF collaboration, published March 2023		

Article

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-023-02001-x

# Chiral symmetry restoration at high matter density observed in pionic atoms

#### recent review:

Itahashi, K. (2023). Pionic Atoms in Experiment. In: Tanihata, I., Toki, H., Kajino, T. (eds) Handbook of Nuclear Physics . Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-8818-1\_36-1

# Deeply bound $\pi^-$ atom



# **Pioneering experiments at GSI**



# **Pioneering experiments at GSI**



# Precision experiments at RIKEN-RIBF (2010–)



High intensity deuteron beam (>10<sup>12</sup>/s) with SRC
 Large acceptance high-resolution spectrometer BigRIPS

# **Experimental setup**

#### Missing-mass spectroscopy of (d, <sup>3</sup>He) reaction



# Pilot run with $\pi$ -<sup>121</sup>Sn atom (2010)



# High-precision spectroscopy of $\pi$ -<sup>121</sup>Sn (2014)



piAF collaboration, RIKEN, 2014 May

# High-precision spectroscopy of $\pi$ -<sup>121</sup>Sn (2014)



T. Nishi, K. Itahashi, et al.,

**Nature Physics (2023)** 

DOI: 10.1038/s41567-023-02001-x

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			Value (keV)	Statistical	Systematic
		<i>B</i> <sub>π</sub> (1s)	3,830	±3	+78-76
Is and 2p states observed		B <sub>п</sub> (2р)	2,265	±3	+84-83
simultaneously		B <sub>π</sub> (1s)-B <sub>π</sub> (2p)	1,565	±4	±11
with high-statistics		Γ <sub>π</sub> (1s)	314	±11	+43-40
		Γ <sub>π</sub> (2p)	120	±12	+49-28
		$\Gamma_n(1s) - \Gamma_n(2p)$	194	±16	+31-42

# Deduction b<sub>1</sub> and chiral condensate at $\rho_e$

High-precision data + updates, corrections in potential analysis

isovector bl in medium

#### Ericson-Ericson potential

 $U_{\rm opt}(r) = U_s(r) + U_p(r),$ 

$$U_{s}(r) = b_{0} \rho + b_{1} (\rho_{n} - \rho_{p}) + B_{0} \rho^{2}$$

$$U_p(r) = \frac{2\pi}{\mu} \vec{\nabla} \cdot [c(r) + \varepsilon_2^{-1} C_0 \rho^2(r)] L(r) \vec{\nabla}$$

- Short range correlation:
- Measured neutron density distribution
- Green's function method for cross section calculation
- Residual interaction
- Neutron spectroscopic factors

N. Ikeno et al., PTEP 2015, 033D01 (2015) Terashima et al., PHYSICAL REVIEW C 77, 024317 (2008) Nose-Togawa et al., PRC71, 061601(R) (2005) Szwec et al., PRC104,054308

T. Nishi, K. Itahashi, et al., Nature Physics (2023) DOI: 10.1038/s41567-023-02001-x

# Deduction b<sub>1</sub> and chiral condensate at $\rho_e$



Nature Physics (2023) DOI: 10.1038/s41567-023-02001-x

# **Deduced chiral condensate**



# **Deduced chiral condensate**



# **Present and future experiments**

#### Precision and systematic spectroscopy (2021)

 $\square$  Sn isotopes from  $\pi$ -111Sn to  $\pi$ -123Sn

 $\square$  aiming at evaluation of  $\rho\text{-dependence}$ 



#### D(HI, <sup>3</sup>He) inverse-kinematics reaction

high-resolution owing to its kinematics

- $\square$   $\pi$  atom formed in projectile nucleus
  - → various beam including unstable nuclei



# Search for $\eta'$ -nucleus bound states



# η' meson

 $\eta'$  meson in vacuum

η'

□ Mass =  $958 \text{ MeV/c}^2$  (especially large), Width : 0.2 MeV, JP = 0<sup>-</sup>

 $\Box$  U<sub>A</sub>(I) anomaly and spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry





U<sub>A</sub>(I) anomaly contributes η' mass through ChSB

H. Nagahiro, D. Jido et *al*, PRC 87, 045201 (2013).

D. Jido, H. Nagahiro, S. Hirenzaki, PRC 85, 032201 (2012).

# η' meson



### η'-nucleus potential

η'-nucleus optical potential : 
$$V_{\eta'} = (V_0 + iW_0) \frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_0}$$
$$V_0 = \Delta m(\rho_0), W_0 = -\Gamma(\rho_0)/2$$

Theoretical predictions

 $\Delta m(\rho_0) \sim -150 \text{ MeV/c}^2 (NJL), -80 \text{ MeV/c}^2 (linear \sigma), -37 \text{ MeV/c}^2 (QMC)$ 

Experimental indications (CBELSA/TAPS)

 $\Box$  V<sub>0</sub> ~ -40 MeV (excitation function, mom. distribution)

 $\square$  W<sub>0</sub> = -13 ±3(stat) ±3(syst) MeV (transparency ratio)

H. Nagahiro et al., PRC 74, 045203(2006). S. Sakai, D. Jido, PRC 88, 064906 (2013). S.D. Bass, A.W. Thomas, PLB 634, 368 (2006)

M. Nanova *et al.*, PRC 94 025205 (2016)
M. Nanova *et al.*, PLB 727, 417 (2013).
M. Nanova *et al.*, PLB 710, 600 (2012).
S. Friedrich *et al.*, EPJA 52, 297 (2016).

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M. Nanova <i>et al.</i> , PLB 727, 417 (2013).
M. Nanova <i>et al.</i> , PLB 710, 600 (2012).
5. Flieulich <i>et al.</i> , EFJA 52, 297 (2010).

E. Czerwiński et al.,

A. V. Anisovich et al., PLB 785 (2018) 626

PRL 113, 062004 (2014)

 $\eta$ 'p scattering length

$$pp \rightarrow pp\eta'$$
 :  $Re(a_{\eta'p}) = 0 \pm 0.43 \text{ fm}, Im(a_{\eta'p}) = 0.37 \stackrel{+0.40}{_{-0.16}} \text{ fm}$ 

 $\gamma p \rightarrow p \eta'$  :  $|a_{\eta' p}| = 0.403 \pm 0.015 \pm 0.060$  fm,  $\delta = (87\pm 2)^{\circ}$ 

Direct experimental study is needed. If  $|W_0| < |V_0| \rightarrow possibility$  of observing bound states

# Experimental search for η'-mesic nuclei



# Experimental search for η'-mesic nuclei



# Experimental search for $\eta$ '-mesic nuclei



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H. Nagahiro, Nucl. Phys. A 914, 360 (2013).

Coincidence measurement of decay proton and forward deuteron



decay proton and forward deuteron

Y. Higashi

~ 100 improvement in Signal / BG ratio

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

H. Nagahiro, Nucl. Phys. A 914, 360 (2013).

Coincidence measurement of decay proton and forward deuteron

### WASA-FRS beam time in 2022

![](_page_32_Picture_1.jpeg)

WASA-FRS / Super-FRS Experiment collaboration

# **WASA-FRS Experimental Setup**

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **WASA-FRS Experimental Setup**

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **Analysis Status (FRS)**

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)

R. Sekiya, et al., presentation in Hadron2023, Y. K. Tanaka et al., Acta Phys. Pol. B Proc. Suppl.16, 4-A27 (2023)

# **Analysis Status (FRS)**

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

R. Sekiya, et al., presentation in Hadron2023, Y. K. Tanaka et al., Acta Phys. Pol. B Proc. Suppl.16, 4-A27 (2023)

# **Analysis Status (FRS)**

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Analysis Status (WASA)

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

R. Sekiya, et al., presentation in Hadron2023, Y. K. Tanaka et al., Acta Phys. Pol. B Proc. Suppl.16, 4-A27 (2023)

# Analysis Status (WASA)

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

R. Sekiya, et al., presentation in Hadron2023, Y. K. Tanaka et al., Acta Phys. Pol. B Proc. Suppl.16, 4-A27 (2023)

### Summary

- Meson-nucleus bound states are well-defined quantum states with finite overlap between meson and a nucleus and therefore provide possibilities to study QCD phenomena in finite nuclear density.
- $\Box$  Spectroscopy of deeply-bound  $\pi$ -atoms have contributed to experimental evaluation of partial restoration of chiral symmetry in finite nuclear density.
  - A recent high-precision experiment evaluated 23 ± 2% reduction of chiral condensate at density  $\rho_e = 0.58 \rho_0$  ( $\rho_0$ : normal nuclear density)
  - Further investigation of its ρ-dependence is ongoing by high-precision and systematic spectroscopy of pionic atoms with a wide range of nuclei.
- $\label{eq:properties} \begin{subarray}{c} \label{eq:properties} \label{eq:properties} \begin{subarray}{c} \label{eq:properties} \label{eq:properties} \label{eq:properties} \begin{subarray}{c} \label{eq:properties} \label{eq:properti$ 
  - First experiments did not observe bound states and evaluated upper limits on the formation cross section as well as on η'-nucleus potential parameters.
  - A new semi-exclusive experiment to search for η'-mesic nuclei with improved sensitivity has been performed in 2022 with the WASA-FRS setup at GSI/FAIR.
     Data analysis is in progress.