

HYPERNUCLEAR INTERACTIONS AND THE  
BINDING ENERGIES OF  $\Lambda$  AND  $\Lambda\Lambda$  HYPERNUCLEI

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## ABSTRACT

By use of variational calculations a reasonable hadronic description is obtained of the s-shell hypernuclei, of  ${}^9_{\Lambda}\text{Be}$ , and of the well depth, with  $\Lambda\text{N}$  forces which are consistent with  $\Lambda\text{p}$  scattering and which are quite strongly spin-dependent, with reasonable TPE  $\Lambda\text{NN}$  forces and with strongly repulsive dispersive-type  $\Lambda\text{NN}$  forces. For the latter we also consider a spin-dependent version which is somewhat favored by our analysis.  ${}^9_{\Lambda}\text{Be}$  is treated as a  $2\alpha + \Lambda$  system and is significantly overbound,  $\approx 1$  MeV, if only  $\alpha\alpha$  and  $\alpha\Lambda$  potentials are used. An  $\alpha\alpha\Lambda$  potential obtained from the  $\Lambda\text{NN}$  forces nicely accounts for this overbinding. The  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$  and  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  are treated as  $\alpha + 2\Lambda$  and  $2\alpha + 2\Lambda$  systems. Use of the  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  event gives  $\approx 1.5$  MeV too little binding for  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$ . The  ${}^1\text{S}_0$   $\Lambda\Lambda$  potential obtained from  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  is quite strongly attractive, comparable to the  $\Lambda\text{N}$  and also to the  $\text{NN}$  potential without OPE.

## INTRODUCTION

We review our recent work on the calculation of binding energies of  $\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei using reasonable  $\Lambda\text{N}$ ,  $\Lambda\text{NN}$  and  $\Lambda\Lambda$  interactions. Reasonable here means to be generally consistent with meson-exchange models. Effects of baryon quark structure are assumed to be short-range and capable of parameterization in the conventional way through repulsive cores and cutoffs. The aim is to learn about these interactions and in particular whether such a hadronic approach is adequate or whether more explicit quark effects must be invoked. An

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essential element in our approach is the use of 3-body  $\Lambda$ NN forces considered to be the result of eliminating  $\Sigma$ ,  $\Lambda$ , ... degrees of freedom (from a coupled channel approach which includes these and which represents a more sophisticated level of phenomenology) to obtain a reduced description in terms of only  $\Lambda$  and nucleon degrees of freedom. We consider phenomenological  $\Lambda$ NN forces both of "dispersive" and two-pion-exchange (TPE) type. A new feature of our dispersive  $\Lambda$ NN forces is that we not only consider spin independent forces but also spin dependent forces, depending on the nucleon spins, which are suggested by the suppression mechanism due to  $\Lambda$ N- $\Sigma$ N coupling. The  $\Lambda$ N and  $\Lambda$ NN forces we use are central and so mostly are our NN forces. We have studied the following systems.

1.  $\Lambda$ p scattering, the s-shell hypernuclei ( $A \leq 5$ ) including the excited state of the  $A=4$  hypernuclei, and also the  $\Lambda$  binding in nuclear matter ( $A=\infty$ ), i.e. the  $\Lambda$  well depth  $D \approx 30$  MeV.<sup>1</sup>
2. The  $\alpha$ -cluster hypernuclei  ${}^9_{\Lambda}\text{Be}(2\alpha+\Lambda)$ ,  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}(\alpha+2\Lambda)$  and  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}(2\alpha+2\Lambda)$  together with the  $\alpha$ - $\Lambda$  system  ${}^5_{\Lambda}\text{He}$  which is used to determine the  $\alpha\Lambda$  potential.<sup>2</sup> The  $\alpha$  is considered as an "elementary" constituents for these systems.

For the few-body systems (s-shell hypernuclei and  $\alpha$ -cluster hypernuclei) we use well developed variational (MC) methods;<sup>3</sup>  $D$  is calculated variationally with the Fermi hypernetted chain method.<sup>4</sup> The needed extensions are discussed in Refs. 1 and 2.

### $\Lambda$ N POTENTIAL AND $\Lambda$ p SCATTERING

We use a central Urbana-type  $\Lambda$ N potential<sup>5</sup>  $V_{\Lambda N} = V_c - V_{2\pi}$  where  $V_c$  is a repulsive core close to that for the NN potential and where  $V_{2\pi}$  has a TPE (square of the OPE tensor potential) shape involving the (attractive) singlet and triplet strengths as adjustable parameters, or equivalently the spin-average strength  $\bar{V} = 1/4V_s + 3/4V_t$  and the spin-dependent strength  $V_\sigma = V_s - V_t > 0$ . The low-energy  $\Lambda$ p scattering data (average over the singlet and triplet states) determines  $\bar{V}^{\Lambda p}$  for  $\Lambda$ p scattering quite well but  $V_\sigma$  only very poorly. The charge symmetric strength  $\bar{V}$  (average over  $\Lambda n$  and  $\Lambda p$ ) can then be determined from  $\bar{V}^{\Lambda p}$  using the CSB interaction determined from the  $A=4$  hypernuclei.<sup>6</sup>  $\bar{V}$  is essentially the only  $\Lambda$ N strength relevant for hypernuclei with core nuclei having zero spin, i.e.  ${}^5_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ ,  ${}^9_{\Lambda}\text{Be}$  and  $D$ . With only  $\Lambda$ N forces one then has the well known problem of overbinding: thus for  $B_{\Lambda}$

(experimental) vs.  $B_\Lambda$  (calculated) one has in MeV: 3.1 vs.  $\approx 6({}_\Lambda^5\text{He})$ , 6.7 vs.  $\approx 12({}_\Lambda^9\text{Be})$ , 11.7 vs.  $\approx 22({}_\Lambda^{13}\text{C})$  and 30 vs.  $\approx 60(\text{D})$ .

### ANN POTENTIALS

For a reasonable phenomenology which accounts for this overbinding we include ANN forces, assumed to arise mostly from coupling of the  $\Lambda\text{N}$  to the  $\Sigma\text{N}$  channel, which when eliminated will give many-body ANN, etc. forces. An alternate approach is to explicitly include the  $\Sigma\text{N}$  channel. However, except for lowest order G matrix calculations of D, this has not been adequately implemented within a variational framework either for  $A \leq 5$  or for D.

We consider both dispersive ANN forces, of the form used in Ref. 7 for NNN forces, and two-pion exchange (TPE) ANN forces.<sup>8</sup> Both arise from elimination of the  $\Sigma\text{N}$  channel, with the former, which are repulsive, assumed to arise mostly from medium suppression of the  $\Sigma\text{N}$  channel in the TPE  $\Lambda\text{N}$  interaction. For the dispersive-type forces we consider two types:  $V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{\text{D}}$  which is spin-independent, and  $V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{\text{DS}}$  which has a novel spin-dependence suggested by a spin-dependence of the  $\Lambda\text{N}$ - $\Sigma\text{N}$  suppression mechanism where this operates in the triplet but not in the singlet  $\Lambda\text{N}$  channel.<sup>9</sup> (Thus,  $V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{\text{DS}} = V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{\text{D}} [1 + 1/6 \vec{\sigma}_\Lambda \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_1 + \vec{\sigma}_2)]$ , where 1 and 2 label the two nucleons.)  $V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{\text{D}}$  and  $V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{\text{DS}}$  are completely equivalent when the core nuclei have zero spin, in particular for  ${}_\Lambda^5\text{He}$ ,  ${}_\Lambda^9\text{Be}$  and D, but differ for  $A \leq 4$ . The TPE ANN potential  $V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{2\pi}$  is spin-independent but angle-dependent and its effect is quite sensitive to appropriate ANN correlations for  $A \leq 5$  which can result in an overall attractive contribution of  $V_{\Lambda\text{NN}}^{2\pi}$  for the s-shell hypernuclei.<sup>1</sup>

### INTERACTIONS FROM THE s-SHELL HYPERNUCLEI AND D

We very briefly summarize, together with appropriate caveats, the main conclusions obtained from  $\Lambda p$  scattering, the s-shell hypernuclei and D.<sup>1</sup> Overall, we obtain a satisfactory description of all these systems.

1. Our  $\Lambda\text{N}$  potential is consistent with  $\Lambda p$  scattering and the CSB interaction as determined from  $A=4$ .
2. The s-shell hypernuclei require TPE ANN forces whose strength is consistent with theoretical expectation.<sup>8</sup> In particular, these forces cannot account for the overbinding of  ${}_\Lambda^5\text{He}$  and give only a relatively small reduction in D.

3. Strongly repulsive dispersive ANN forces are required, essentially to account for the overbinding obtained with only AN forces. For  ${}^5_{\Lambda}\text{He}$  AN tensor forces could possibly significantly reduce the overbinding;<sup>10</sup> however, for  $A>5$ , in particular for D, this seems quite unlikely.<sup>11</sup>
4. The spin-dependent ANN potential  $V_{\text{ANN}}^{\text{DS}}$  is somewhat preferred by our analysis when all systems ( $A\leq 5$  and D) are considered.
5. We obtain an appreciable spin-dependence  $V_{\sigma}$  for the AN potential, the magnitude of which depends on whether or not a spin-dependence is included in the dispersive ANN potential.

The AN spin-dependence is rather directly related to the observed splitting  $\approx 1$  MeV between the ground  $0^+$  and the excited (spin flip)  $1^+$  state of  ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{H}$ ,  ${}^4_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ . With  $V_{\text{ANN}}^{\text{D}}$ , i.e. no ANN spin-dependence, this splitting is essentially determined entirely by the AN spin-dependence, whereas with  $V_{\text{ANN}}^{\text{DS}}$ , i.e. with a ANN spin-dependence,  $\approx 1/3$  of this splitting is due to  $V_{\text{ANN}}^{\text{DS}}$ , leading to a reduced AN spin-dependence. The effect of the ANN spin-dependence is consistent with a larger AN-NN suppression (more repulsion) in the triplet than in the singlet state since the former is more heavily weighted in the  $1^+$  than in the  $0^+$  state.<sup>9</sup> Our ANN spin dependence should be considered as a phenomenological representation of this differential suppression effect which maximizes this. However, our results show that even with ANN spin-dependence there is still a very appreciable AN spin-dependence. Thus, the scattering lengths we obtain are:

$$\text{With } V_{\text{ANN}}^{\text{D}}: a_s \approx -3.0 \text{ fm}, a_t \approx -1.5 \text{ fm}$$

$$\text{With } V_{\text{ANN}}^{\text{DS}}: a_s \approx -2.5 \text{ fm}, a_t \approx -1.6 \text{ fm}$$

Our analysis thus shows that the  $0^+-1^+$  splitting for  $A=4$  makes it very difficult to avoid the conclusion that there is an appreciable AN spin-dependence even if a significant part of the splitting is due to the spin-dependence of a ANN force. This strong AN spin-dependence is not consistent with the Nijmegen potential D and F,<sup>12</sup> but is in better agreement with the more recent potential of the Nijmegen group.<sup>13</sup>

#### THE $\alpha$ -CLUSTER HYPERNUCLEUS ${}^9_{\Lambda}\text{Be}$

Calculations for  ${}^9_{\Lambda}\text{Be}$  are made with a  $2\alpha+\Lambda$  cluster model.<sup>2</sup> The potential between the constituents are local and accurately describe the component subsystems  ${}^8\text{Be}$  and  ${}^5_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ . A variety of (s-state)  $\alpha\alpha$  potentials  $V_{\alpha\alpha}$  (which include the Coulomb interaction) are used, all

fitted to the  $aa$  scattering data. Several  $a\Lambda$  potentials  $V_{a\Lambda}$  were used, all determined from  ${}^5_\Lambda\text{He}$  for some  $V_{\Lambda N}$  and  $V_{\Lambda NN}$  and all giving the experimental  $a\Lambda$  separation energy of  $B_\Lambda({}^5_\Lambda\text{He})=3.12$  MeV.

In particular, some of our  $V_{a\Lambda}$  were obtained from our 5-body ( $\Lambda NNNN$ ) variational Monte-Carlo (MC) calculations of  ${}^5_\Lambda\text{He}$ .<sup>1</sup> Thus from the 5-body wave function the  $\Lambda$  density  $\rho_\Lambda(r_{a\Lambda})$  relative to the four nucleons (i.e. relative to the  $a$  particle) in  ${}^5_\Lambda\text{He}$  is obtained numerically. The "trivially equivalent" local  $a\Lambda$  potential is then obtained from the  $a\Lambda$  "wave function"  $\phi_\Lambda=\rho_\Lambda^{1/2}(r_{a\Lambda})$  by solving the corresponding Schrödinger equation for  $V_{a\Lambda}$ . These (MC)  $V_{a\Lambda}$  include many-body effects not present in  $a\Lambda$  potentials which are the variational equivalent of Brueckner-Hartree calculations. The latter are obtained with effective  $\Lambda N$  and  $\Lambda NN$  potentials which include just the effect of 2-body  $\Lambda N$  correlations obtained from well depth calculations for a  $\Lambda$  in nuclear matter. In particular, these many-body effects give a central repulsion in the MC  $V_{a\Lambda}$  even with only  $\Lambda N$  potentials (adjusted in strength to fit  $B_\Lambda({}^5_\Lambda\text{He})$  but then no longer fitting the  $\Lambda p$  data). This effect was first pointed out in the context of reaction matrix calculations.<sup>14</sup> Repulsive  $\Lambda NN$  potentials give an additional large central repulsion in  $V_{a\Lambda}$ .

Experimentally one has  $B_\Lambda=6.71\pm0.04$  MeV for the ground state of  ${}^9_\Lambda\text{Be}$ . Our variational calculations give  $B_\Lambda\approx 8.2\pm0.2$  MeV where the error is mostly due to uncertainties in  $V_{aa}$  and  $V_{a\Lambda}$ . For  ${}^9_\Lambda\text{Be}$  the  $\Lambda N$  p-state potential  $V_p$  can make a significant contribution. The  $\Lambda p$  scattering data is consistent with  $V_p\approx 1/2 V_{\Lambda N}$  ( $V_{\Lambda N}$  is the s-state potential) which gives a reduction of  $\approx 0.4$  MeV from a number of independent estimates<sup>1,15</sup> (see Ref. 1 for a discussion). With this reduced p-state interaction we then obtain  $B_\Lambda\approx 7.8$  MeV.

Thus our calculations predict  ${}^9_\Lambda\text{Be}$  to be overbound by about 1 MeV for  $aa$  and  $a\Lambda$  potentials which accurately describe the component two-body systems. Because we have made a variational calculation any improvement in the trial wave function can only given even more overbinding. Furthermore, the  $a$ -cluster model is internally consistent in that the calculated rms  $aa$  separation of  $\approx 3.7$  fm is appreciably larger than twice the rms  $a$ -particle radius of 1.47 fm. We thus believe that this overbinding is a significant result whatever its detailed explanation may be.

In fact it is quite striking that this overbinding is quite naturally and quantitatively accounted for by the repulsive  $\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda$  dispersive forces. Thus, the  $\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda$  potential not only gives a repulsive contribution to  $V_{a\Lambda}$  (due to the  $\Lambda$  interacting with a pair of nucleons in the same  $a$ , and required to avoid overbinding  ${}^5_{\Lambda}\text{He}$ ), but will also give a contribution due to the interaction of the  $\Lambda$  with a pair of nucleons each in a different  $a$ . By a suitable folding procedure this gives an effective  $aa\Lambda$  potential  $V_{aa\Lambda}$  which is repulsive and completely determined. With inclusion of this  $V_{aa\Lambda}$  our variational calculations then give  $B_{\Lambda} \simeq 6.9$  MeV, corresponding to  $\langle V_{aa\Lambda} \rangle \simeq 1$  MeV, i.e. just about the necessary decrease in  $B_{\Lambda}$  to compensate for the overbinding obtained with only  $V_{aa}$  and  $V_{a\Lambda}$ !

### THE $\Lambda\Lambda$ HYPERNUCLEI ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$ AND ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$

These provide the only presently available information about the  $\Lambda\Lambda$  potential  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  in the  ${}^1S_0$  state, appropriate to the ground state of  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei. Our variational calculations treat  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$  as an  $\alpha+2\Lambda$  system and  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  as a  $2\alpha+2\Lambda$  system. The potentials  $V_{aa}$ ,  $V_{a\Lambda}$  and  $V_{aa\Lambda}$  are those discussed for  ${}^9_{\Lambda}\text{Be}$ . For  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda} = V_c - V_A$  we used a variety of shapes, with a range of repulsive cores  $V_c$  (including the same  $V_c$  as used for  $V_{\Lambda N}$ , and also  $w$ -exchange potentials), and attractive potentials  $V_A$  (including a TPE potential  $V_{2\pi}$  and a  $\sigma$ -meson exchange potential  $V_{\sigma}$ ). The experimental separation energy  $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  of both  $\Lambda$ s then determines, through the variational calculations, just one strength parameter, that of  $V_A$ , for each  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernucleus. We give more weight to the  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  event<sup>16</sup> since this has been thoroughly checked and since also the quoted error for  $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  is smaller than for the  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$  event.<sup>17</sup>

For any  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  (including some strength for  $V_A$ ) our variational calculations of both  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$  and  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  give the  $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  of each. From calculations for a large variety of  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  one then obtains essentially a linear relation between  ${}^6B_{\Lambda\Lambda} \equiv B_{\Lambda\Lambda}({}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He})$  and  ${}^{10}B_{\Lambda\Lambda} \equiv B_{\Lambda\Lambda}({}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be})$ :  ${}^6B_{\Lambda\Lambda} \simeq -4.17 + 0.76 {}^{10}B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  (MeV). The experimental value  ${}^{10}B_{\Lambda\Lambda} = 17.7 \pm 0.1$  MeV then predicts, effectively independently of any details of  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ , that  ${}^6B_{\Lambda\Lambda} = 9.25 \pm 0.08$  MeV<sup>16</sup> compared to the quoted value of  $10.92 \pm 0.6$  MeV.<sup>17</sup> Thus,  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$  is underbound by  $\simeq 1.5$  MeV. In view of the uncertainties associated with the  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$  event, the significance of this underbinding is unclear. However, this comparison of the  $B_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  of two

$\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei does demonstrate very clearly that more  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclear events could lead to valuable information about both the  $\Lambda\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda$ -nuclear interactions.

#### THE $\Lambda\Lambda$ INTERACTION FROM ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$

We use the  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  event to obtain the  $\Lambda\Lambda$  interaction since the experimental errors are less than for  ${}^6_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{He}$  and also since this event has been thoroughly checked. For each  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  the experimental  ${}^{10}\text{B}_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ , through the use of the variational calculations, determines the strength of the attractive part  $V_A$  of  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  and hence the corresponding scattering length  $a_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  (and also the effective range). For a given intrinsic range  $b$  (the effective range when  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  just gives a bound state)  $a_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  is found to be approximately independent of the detailed shape of  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ . A  $V_{2\pi}$  potential together with the same  $V_c$  as for  $V_{\Lambda N}$  has  $b \approx 2$  fm and gives  $a_{\Lambda\Lambda} \approx -4$  fm, whereas a  $\sigma$  exchange potential with this same  $V_c$  has  $b \approx 2.5$  fm and gives  $a_{\Lambda\Lambda} \approx -6$  fm. As the range  $b$  increases  $-a_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  increases and becomes  $\infty$  at  $b \approx 3$  fm corresponding to a bound state. Since such large repulsive cores seem implausible, it seems quite unlikely that the  ${}^1\text{S}_0$   $\Lambda\Lambda$  system has a bound state. (In fact, quark exchange models of the repulsive core suggest this could be appreciably softer for the  $\Lambda\Lambda$  than for the NN system.) In any case, the  $\Lambda\Lambda$  interaction obtained from  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  is quite strongly attractive with  $2 \lesssim -a_{\Lambda\Lambda} \lesssim 5$  fm.

The phenomenological  $V_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  obtained from  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be}$  is more or less consistent with at least one published meson-exchange potential, namely the Nijmegen potential D.<sup>11</sup> Thus, Bando et al.<sup>18</sup> have shown that this potential gives a reasonable value for  ${}^6\text{B}_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  and hence will also give a more or less reasonable value for  ${}^{10}\text{B}_{\Lambda\Lambda}$ . Thus, the large value of  $-a_{\Lambda\Lambda}$  cannot be taken as a possible indication of an H dibaryon which is just unbound.

The existence of  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei would seem to exclude an H strongly bound with respect to  $2M_\Lambda$ . Clearly, further  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclear events would very much strengthen this argument. However, the binding of  $\Lambda\Lambda$  hypernuclei would permit a weakly bound H with  $2M_\Lambda - M_H \lesssim 18$  MeV, in which case the strong decay  ${}^{10}_{\Lambda\Lambda}\text{Be} \rightarrow {}^8\text{Be} + \text{H}$  would be energetically forbidden.

Finally, it is interesting to compare the  ${}^1\text{S}_0$  NN,  $\Lambda N$  and  $\Lambda\Lambda$  potentials. For this comparison to be significant the same shape  $V_c$ -

$V_{2\pi}$  is used for all three potentials, and for the NN potential we consider  $V_{NN}-V_{\pi}$ , i.e. with the OPE part subtracted out. Then  $a_{NN}=-3.5$  fm, instead of  $-17.5$  fm as for  $V_{NN}$ , which is to be compared with  $a_{\Lambda N}\approx -3$  fm, and  $a_{\Lambda\Lambda}\approx -4$  fm. It seems remarkable that these (and the corresponding strengths of  $V_{2\pi}$ ) are so close to each other, indicating that, excluding OPE for  $V_{NN}$ , the three  $^1S_0$  interactions are effectively very similar.

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