



Simulation study of Σ^0 hyperons production from NICA-MPD experiment

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CONFERENCE** August, 21-27, 2025
ON ELEMENTARY PARTICLE PHYSICS
MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY

Outline

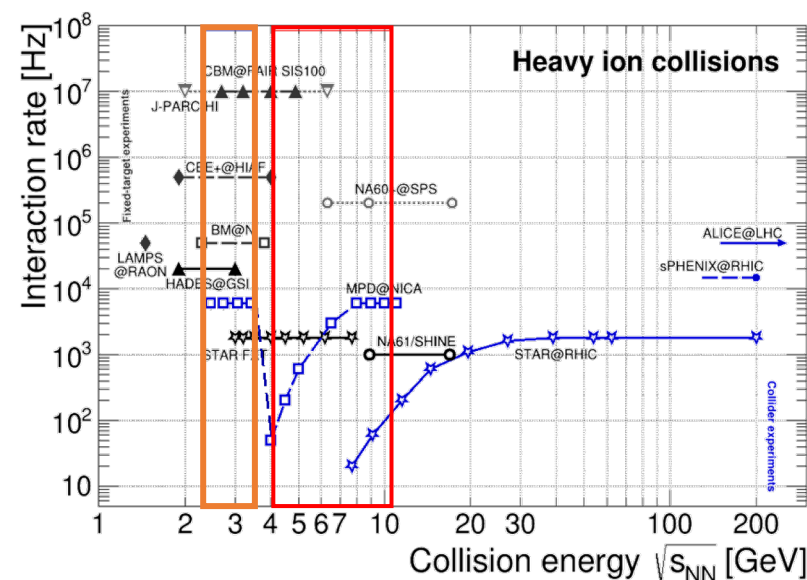
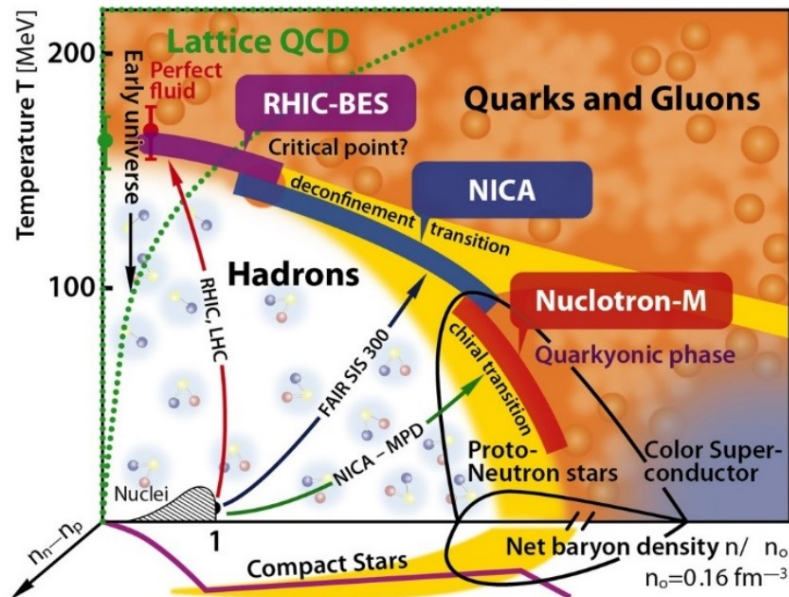


- ❑ Motivation
- ❑ The NICA-MPD experiment
- ❑ Reconstruction methodology
- ❑ Summary

Motivation

<https://nica.jinr.ru/physics.php>

T. Galatyuk, Nucl. Phys. A982(2019)



□ QCD phase diagram describe the phase structure of strongly interacting matter and look for the first order phase transition and critical end-point

□ NICA energy region (4 - 11 GeV):

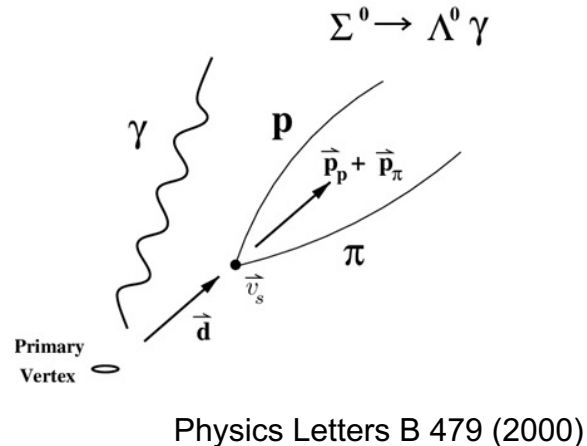
- ✓ Temperature $T_{ch} \sim 120-150$ MeV
- ✓ Baryonic chemical potential $\mu_B = 300 - 600$ MeV,
- ✓ Many ongoing (NA61/Shine, STAR-BES) and future experiments (CBM) in similar energy region

Why Study Σ^0 ?

▣ Σ^0 is an important particle in heavy-ion collisions, reconstruction by the decay channel with B. R. $\approx 100\%$:

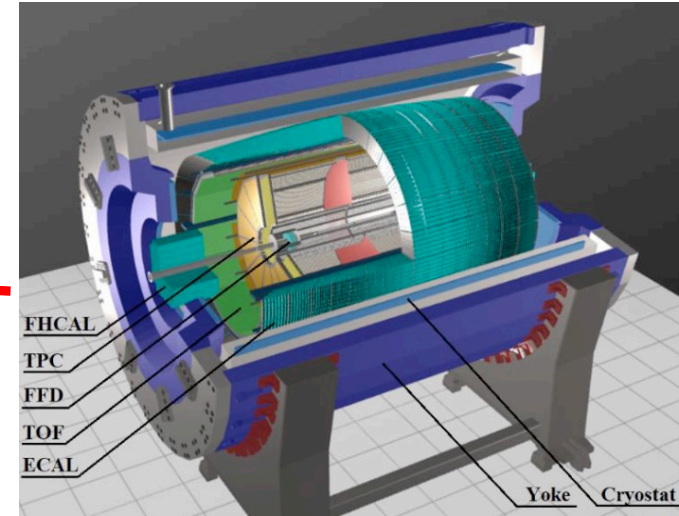
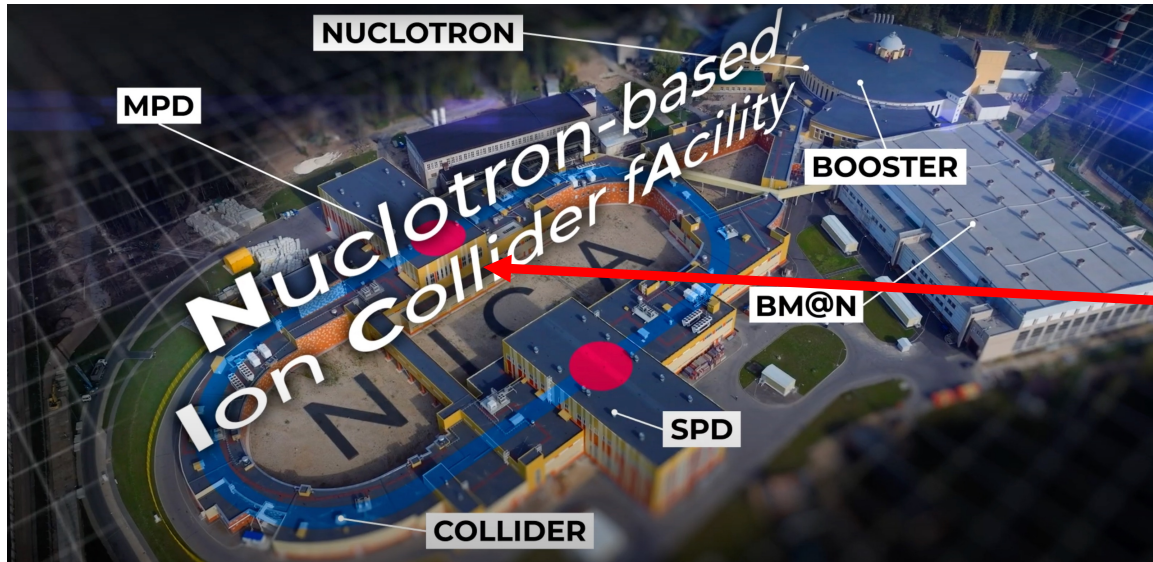
$$\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \gamma \Lambda$$

- ✓ Feed-down contribution to photon and Λ spectrum
- ✓ Study of strangeness production mechanisms
- ✓ As a reference to tune the event generators and models



| Property | Σ^0 | Λ |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Quark | uds | uds |
| Mass | 1.192 GeV/c ² | 1.116 GeV/c ² |
| Strangeness (S) | -1 | -1 |
| Isospin(I) | 1 | 0 |
| Spin | 1^+ $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1^+ $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Lifetime | $\approx 7.4 \times 10^{-20} \text{s}$ | $\approx 2.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{s}$ |
| Decay Mode | $\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \gamma \Lambda$ ($\approx 100\%$) | $\Lambda \rightarrow p \pi^-$ ($\approx 64\%$) $\Lambda \rightarrow n \pi^0$ ($\approx 36\%$) |

Nuclotron-based Ion Collider fAcility



- ❑ **NICA:** International research facility in JINR, Dubna, Russia
 - ✓ Already running in the fixed-target mode – **Baryonic Matter @ Nuclotron (BM@N)**
 - ✓ Start of operation in 2025 – **Multi-Purpose Detector (MPD)**
 - ✓ Operating on polarized deuterons later - **Spin Physics Detector (SPD)**
- ❑ **MPD:** One of two collider experiments at NICA to study heavy-ion collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 4\text{--}11$ GeV
 - ✓ Stage I: **TPC+TOF+ECal+FHCAL+FFD**
 - ✓ Stage II: **Stagel+ITS+EndCap**
- ❑ Centralized large scale and centralized Analysis Train was used to process the simulated data.

Photon Reconstruction

Two method for photon reconstruction:

✓ Electromagnetic calorimeter: measure the energy and position of photon

- Number of towers :

$$N_{\text{cell}} > 2$$

- Reconstructed energy:

$$E_{\text{cluster}} > 0.05 \text{ GeV}$$

- Shower shape:

$$\chi^2 < 4.0$$

- Time of flight:

$$T_{\text{cluster}} < 2.0 \text{ ns}$$

- Charge particle veto:

$$d\phi^{\text{TPC-ECal}} > 10 \text{ cm}$$

$$dZ^{\text{TPC-ECal}} > 10 \text{ cm}$$

✓ Photons Conversion Method (PCM): measured in the tracking system as e^+e^- conversion pairs

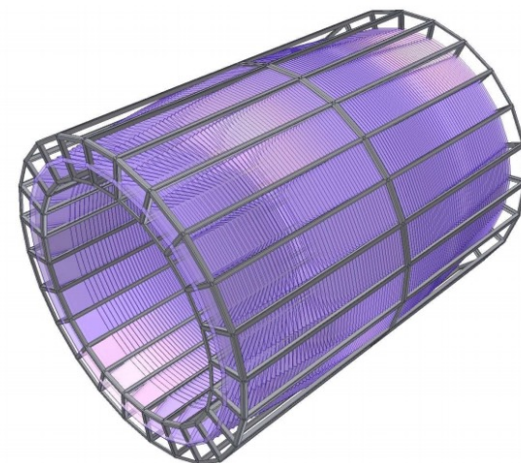
The probability of photon conversion strongly depends on the material budget

$$P = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{7}{9} \frac{x}{X_0}\right)$$

Particles 4.1(2021):55-62.

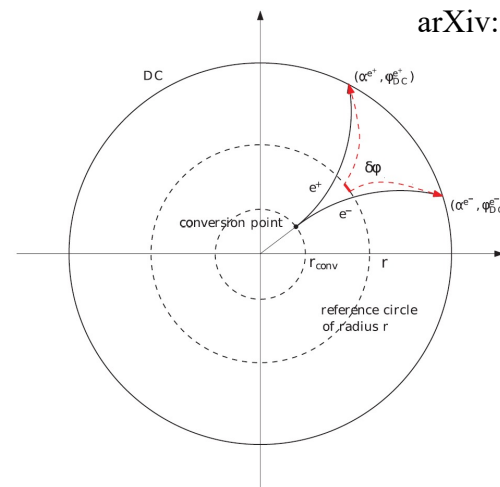
Beam pipe ($r = 4\text{cm}$): $0.3\% X_0$

TPC structures($r = 27\text{cm}$): $2.4\% X_0$



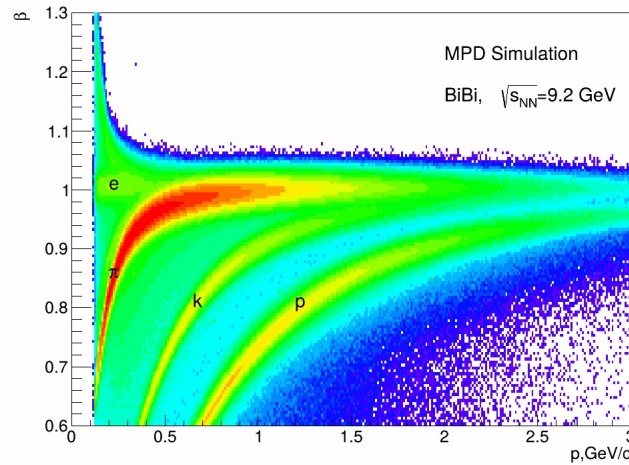
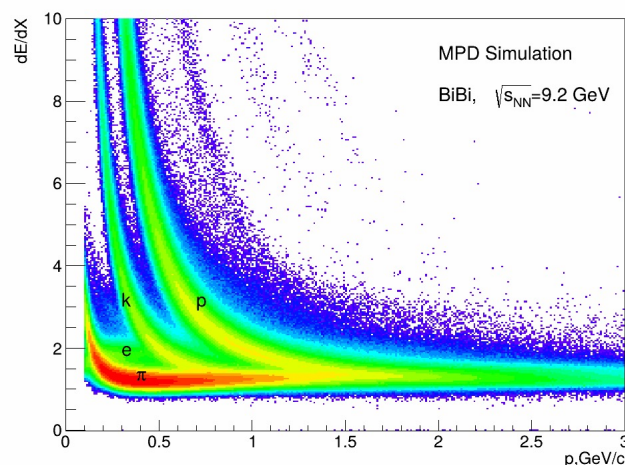
Electromagnetic calorimeter

arXiv:1907.08893

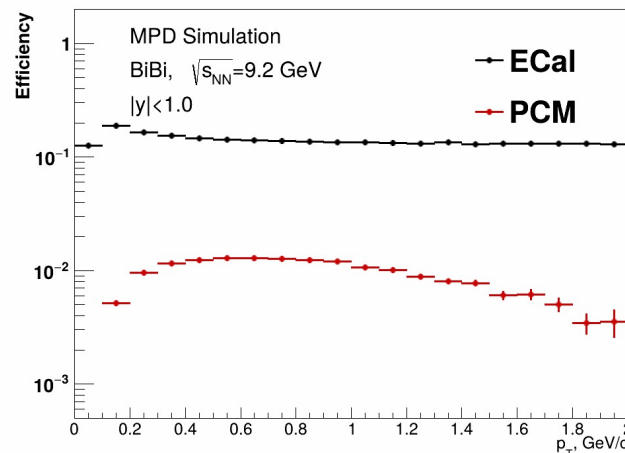
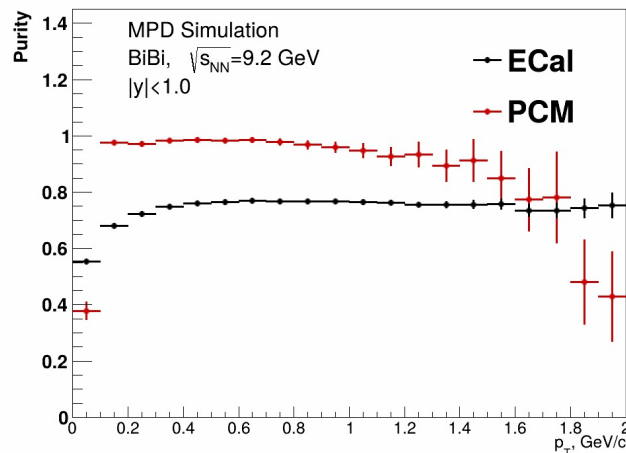


Photon conversion

Photon Conversion Method (PCM)



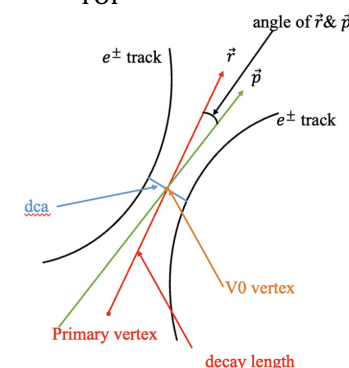
✓ For electron identification, the TPC (dE/dx) and TOF (β) is used



✓ PCM has higher purity but lower efficiency, ECal method is more effective in high energy

e^+ / e^- tracks:

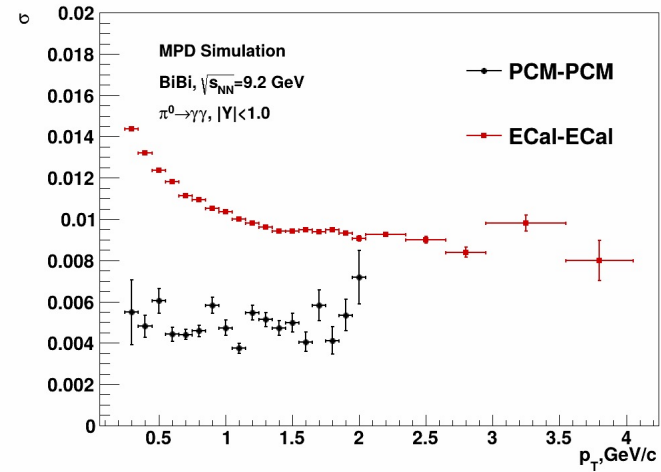
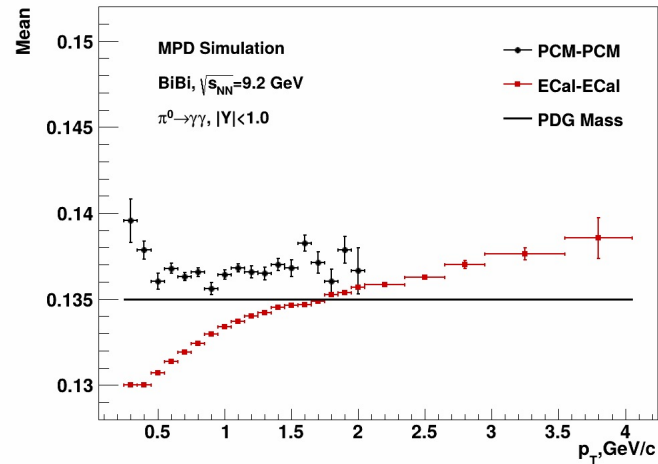
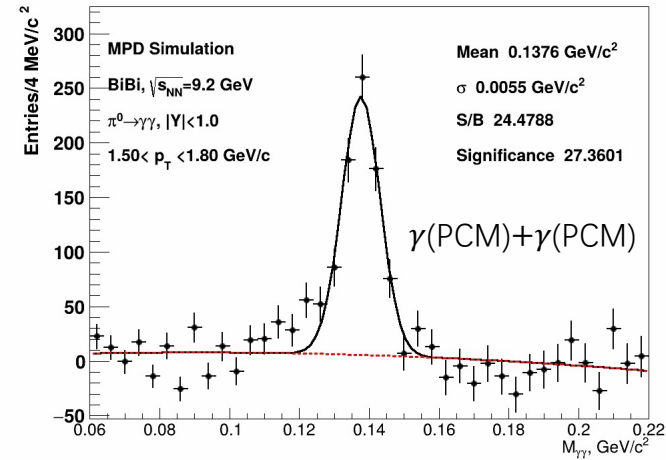
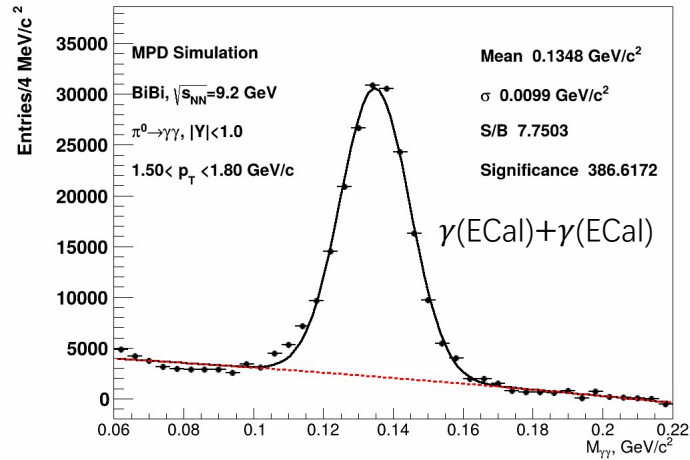
- $N_{\text{hits}}^{\text{TPC}} > 10$
- $p_T > 0.03 \text{ GeV}/c$
- TPC: $2\sigma_{\text{TPC}}^e$
- TOF: $2\sigma_{\text{TOF}}^e$ in case of track matching to the TOF



The topological structure of e^+e^- pairs:

- $dca_{e^+ \text{ to } e^-} < 1.25 \text{ cm}$
- $\chi_{V^0}^2 < 6.0$
- $\text{angle}_{e^+e^-} < 0.10 \text{ rad}$
- $\text{decay}_{V^0 \text{ to } PV} > 25 \text{ cm}$
- $\text{Mass}_{e^+e^-} < 0.035 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
- $\phi_V < 0.25 \text{ rad}$

π^0 Reconstruction



✓ The width of π^0 reconstruction by ECal method are larger than that of by using photon conversion method

Λ Reconstruction

Λ reconstruction by the decay channel with B. R. $\approx 64.1\%$:

$$\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^-$$

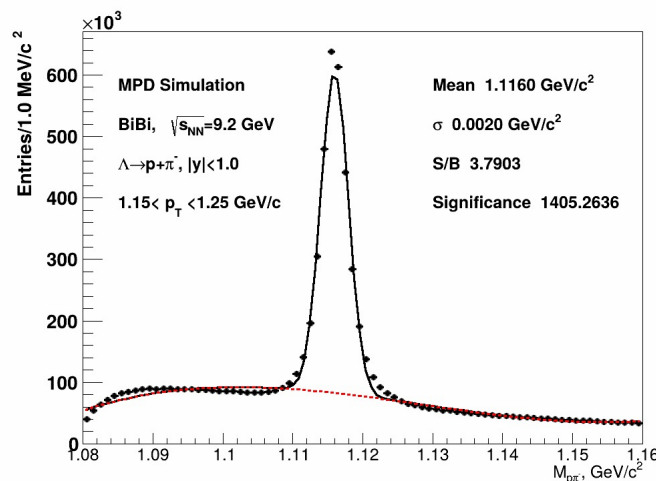
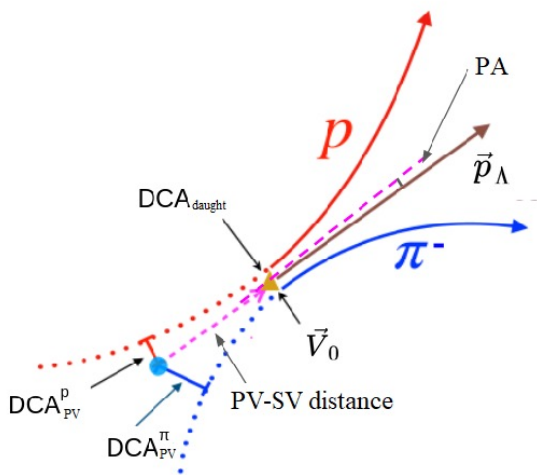
p and π^- are selection by TPC and TOF

p / π^- tracks:

- $N_{\text{hits}}^{\text{TPC}} > 20$
- $p_T > 0.1 \text{ GeV}/c$
- $2\sigma_{\text{TPC}}^{\pi^-}$ and $2\sigma_{\text{TOF}}^{\pi^-}$ in case of track matching to the TOF
- $\chi_{\pi^- \text{ to PV}}^2 > 7.0$
- $dca_{\pi^- \text{ to PV}} > 1.5 \text{ cm}$
- $2\sigma_{\text{TPC}}^p$ and $2\sigma_{\text{TOF}}^p$ in case of track matching to the TOF
- $\chi_{p \text{ to PV}}^2 > 3.0$
- $dca_{p \text{ to PV}} > 0.4 \text{ cm}$

$p \pi^-$ pairs:

- $dca_{p \text{ to } \pi^-} < 1.25 \text{ cm}$
- $\chi_{V^0}^2 < 6.0$
- $\text{angle}_{p\pi^-} < 0.10 \text{ rad}$
- $\text{decay}_{V^0 \text{ to PV}} > 4.0 \text{ cm}$



With high S/B and Significance by using the topological structure of Λ decay

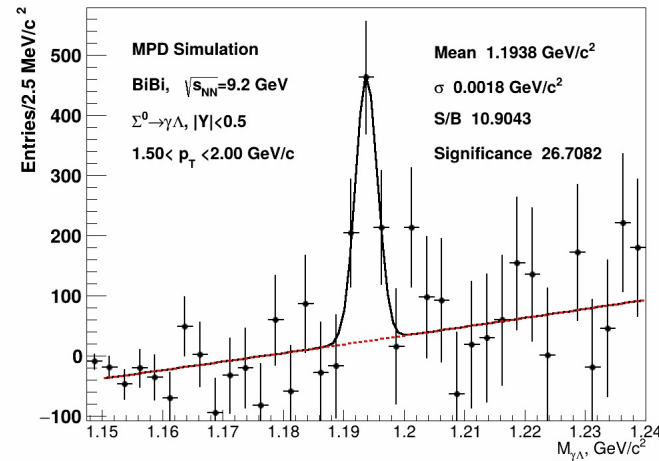
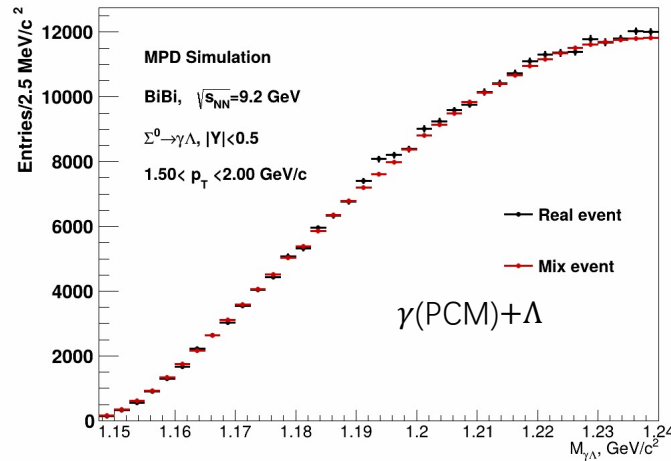
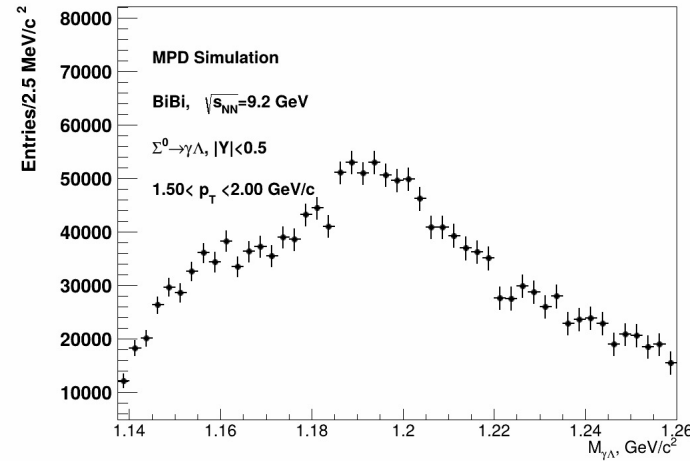
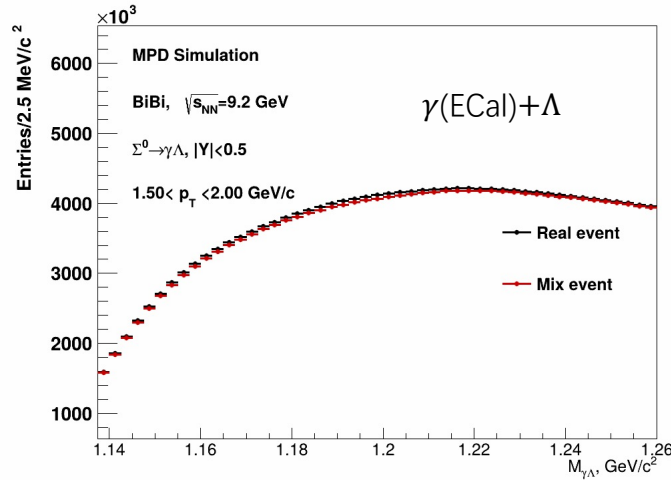
The $|M_{p\pi^-} - M_\Lambda| < 2\sigma_\Lambda$ as Λ candidate for Σ^0 reconstruction

$$M_\Lambda = 1.115683 \text{ GeV}/c^2, \sigma_\Lambda = 0.002 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

Σ^0 Reconstruction

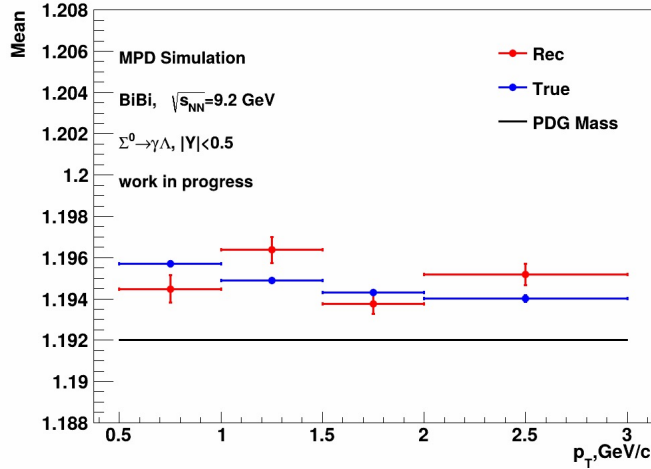
Σ^0 reconstruction by the decay channel with B. R. $\approx 100\%$:

$$\Sigma^0 \rightarrow \gamma + \Lambda$$

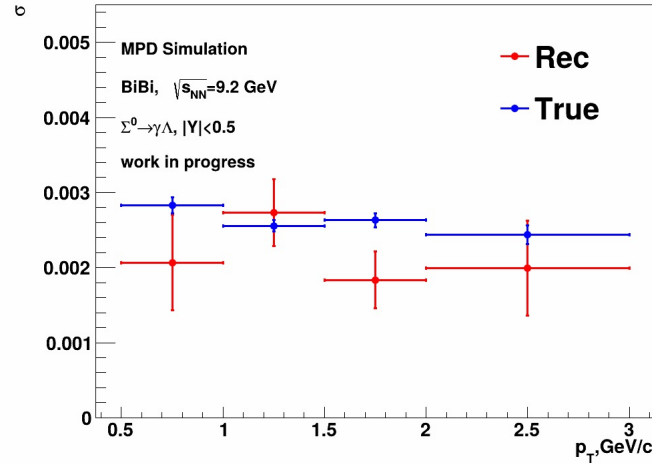


- ✓ The energy of photon from Σ^0 is very soft.
- ✓ Photon conversion method more suitable for Σ^0 reconstruction.
- ✓ The mix event method was used to remove the combinatorial background.
- ✓ Gaussian and polynomial function fitting are used to extract the signal

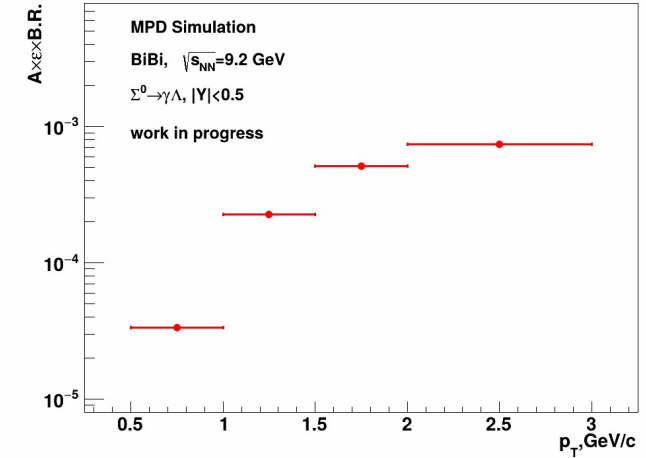
p_T Dependence



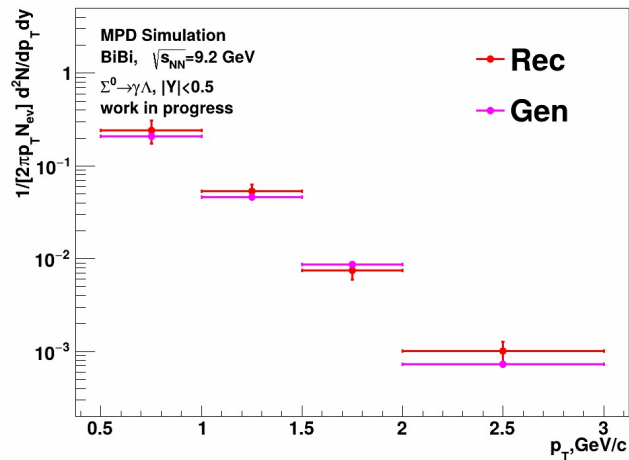
Mean



Width



Efficiency



Yield

$$\text{Yield} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{event}}} \cdot \frac{N_{\text{sig}}}{2\pi p_T dp_T dy} \cdot \frac{1}{A \times \epsilon \times \text{B.R.}}$$

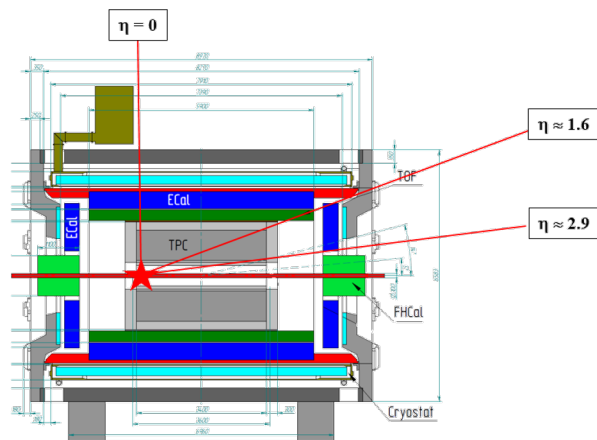
$$N_{\text{sig}} = \int_{\text{mean}-2\sigma}^{\text{mean}+2\sigma} f_{\text{Gaus}}(M) dM$$

- ✓ Measurements for Σ^0 are possible starting from $p_T \sim 500$ MeV/c in a rapidity range $|y| < 0.5$.
- ✓ The yields obtained for Σ^0 by reconstruction are consistent with truly generated.

Summary

- Two methods for photon reconstruction were study :
 - ✓ ECal method is more effective in high energy.
 - ✓ Photon conversion method is a powerful tool at low momentum.
- Λ reconstruction were study with high high S/B and Significance .
- Photon conversion method more suitable for Σ^0 reconstruction.

Outlook :



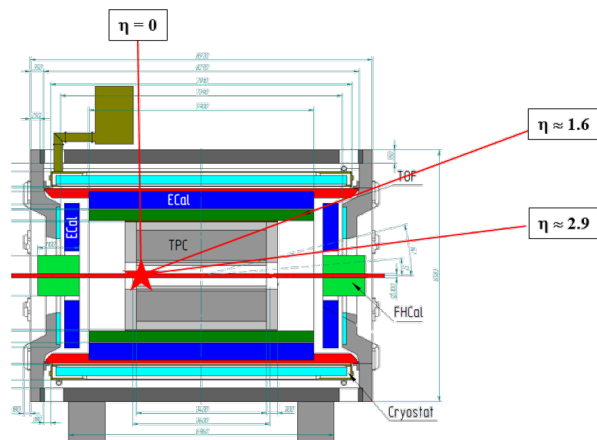
Fixed-targe mode

- Start of MPD commissioning by the end of 2025.
- Fixed-target mode extends energy range of MPD to $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.4-3.5$ GeV (overlap with HADES, BM@N and CBM).

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Outlook :



Fixed-targe mode

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Thanks!

Backup

Physics program at MPD



G. Feofilov, P. Parfenov

Global observables

- Total event multiplicity
- Total event energy
- Centrality determination
- Total cross-section measurement
- Event plane measurement at all rapidities
- Spectator measurement

V. Kolesnikov, Xianglei Zhu

Spectra of light flavor and hypernuclei

- Light flavor spectra
- Hyperons and hypernuclei
- Total particle yields and yield ratios
- Kinematic and chemical properties of the event
- Mapping QCD Phase Diag.

K. Mikhailov, A. Taranenko

Correlations and Fluctuations

- Collective flow for hadrons
- Vorticity, Λ polarization
- E-by-E fluctuation of multiplicity, momentum and conserved quantities
- Femtoscopy
- Forward-Backward corr.
- Jet-like correlations

D. Peresunko, Chi Yang

Electromagnetic probes

- Electromagnetic calorimeter meas.
- Photons in ECAL and central barrel
- Low mass dilepton spectra in-medium modification of resonances and intermediate mass region

Wangmei Zha, A. Zinchenko

Heavy flavor

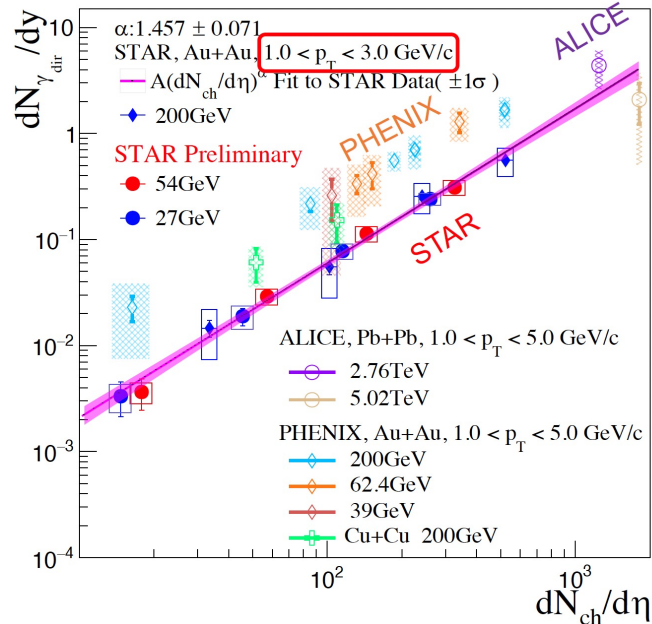
- Study of open charm production
- Charmonium with ECAL and central barrel
- Charmed meson through secondary vertices in ITS and HF electrons
- Explore production at charm threshold

- ❑ Organized and developed in 5 Physics Working Groups
- ❑ Physics feasibility studies using large-scale Monte Carlo productions

Physics in NICA Energy Region

□ Direct photons

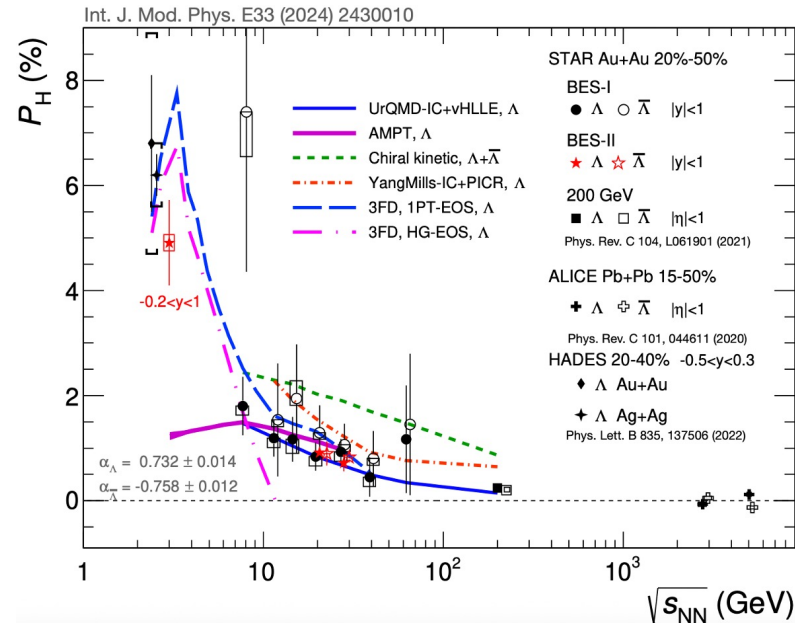
Xianwen Bao @ Hard Probes 2024



- ✓ Measurements of direct photons over centralities and energies
- ✓ Direct photon puzzle still there
- ✓ NICA can extend the study to the lower energies

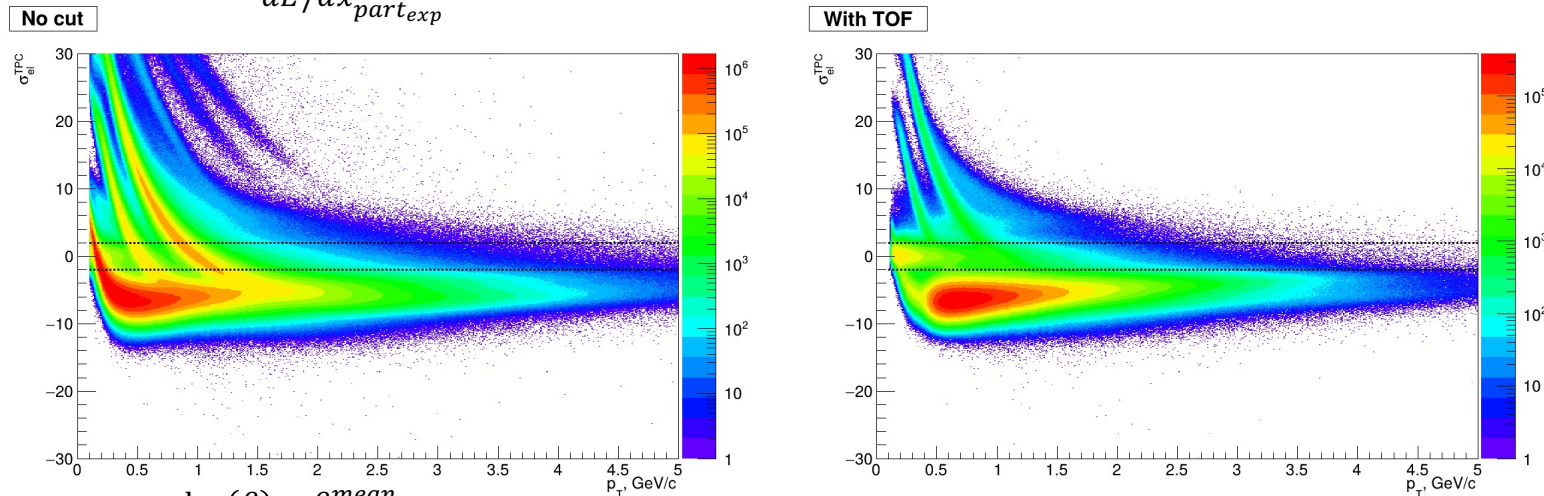
□ Λ Global polarization

- ✓ Increases towards lower energies
- ✓ Expected to be high at NICA energies



The σ^{TPC} and σ^{TOF}

$$\sigma_{\text{part}}^{\text{TPC}} = \frac{\log(dE/dx) - dE/dx_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{mean}}}{dE/dx_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{sigma}}}$$

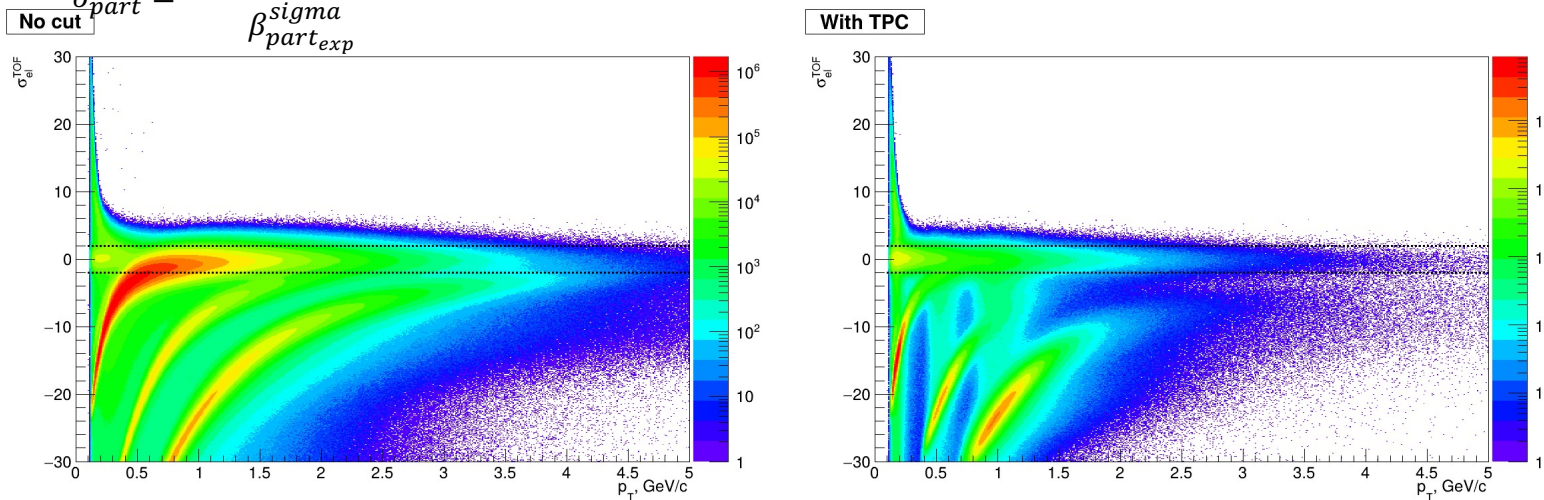


dE/dx : energy measure in TPC

$dE/dx_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{mean}}$: the expected mean dE/dx value for a particle

$dE/dx_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{sigma}}$: the expected sigma dE/dx value for a particle

$$\sigma_{\text{part}}^{\text{TOF}} = \frac{\log(\beta) - \beta_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{mean}}}{\beta_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{sigma}}}$$



β : measure in TOF

$\beta_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{mean}}$: the expected mean β value for a particle

$\beta_{\text{part exp}}^{\text{sigma}}$: the expected sigma β value for a particle