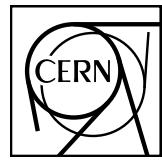


# EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH



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## **$\Lambda K$ and $\Xi^- K^\pm$ Femtoscopy in Pb-Pb Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV from the LHC ALICE Experiment**

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### **Abstract**

I present the first femtoscopic analysis of  $\Lambda K$  correlations in Pb-Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  TeV measured by the ALICE experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). All pair combinations of  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  with  $K^+$ ,  $K^-$  and  $K_S^0$  are analyzed. The femtoscopic correlations result from strong final-state interactions, and are fit with a parametrization allowing us to both characterize the emission source and measure the scattering parameters for the particle pairs. We observe a large difference in the  $\Lambda K^+$  and  $\Lambda K^-$  correlations in pairs with low relative momenta ( $k^* \lesssim 100$  MeV/c). This might suggest an effect arising from different quark-antiquark interactions within the pairs ( $s\bar{s}$  in  $\Lambda K^+$  and  $u\bar{u}$  in  $\Lambda K^-$ ), or from different net strangeness for each system. To gain further insight into this hypothesis, we are currently conducting a  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  femtoscopic analysis, for which I present preliminary results.



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## 10 1 Introduction

11 We present results from a femtoscopic analysis of  $\Lambda K$  and  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  correlations in Pb-Pb collisions at  
 12  $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 2.76$  TeV by the ALICE experiment at the LHC. All pair combinations of  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  with  $K^+$ ,  
 13  $K^-$  and  $K_S^0$  are analyzed. The femtoscopic correlations are the result of strong final-state interactions,  
 14 and are fit with a parametrization based on a model by R. Lednicky and V. L. Lyuboshitz [1]. This  
 15 allows us to both characterize the emission source and measure the scattering parameters for the particle  
 16 pairs. We observe a large difference in the  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  and  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$  correlations in pairs with low  
 17 relative momenta ( $k^* \lesssim 100$  MeV). The results suggest an effect arising from different quark-antiquark  
 18 interactions in the pairs, i.e.  $s\bar{s}$  in  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  and  $u\bar{u}$  in  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$ , or from different net strangeness for  
 19 each system. To gain further insight into this hypothesis, we currently are conducting a  $\Xi K$  femtoscopic  
 20 analysis.

## 21 2 Data Sample and Software

### 22 2.1 Data Sample

23 The analysis used “pass 2” reconstructed Pb-Pb data from LHC11h (AOD145). The runlist was selected  
 24 from runs with global quality tag “1” in the ALICE Run Condition Table. Approximately 40 million  
 25 combined central, semi-central, and minimum bias events were analyzed. Runs from both positive (++)  
 26 and negative (--) magnetic field polarity settings were used.

27 Run list: 170593, 170572, 170388, 170387, 170315, 170313, 170312, 170311, 170309, 170308, 170306,  
 28 170270, 170269, 170268, 170230, 170228, 170207, 170204, 170203, 170193, 170163, 170159, 170155,  
 29 170091, 170089, 170088, 170085, 170084, 170083, 170081, 170040, 170027, 169965, 169923, 169859,  
 30 169858, 169855, 169846, 169838, 169837, 169835, 169591, 169590, 169588, 169587, 169586, 169557,  
 31 169555, 169554, 169553, 169550, 169515, 169512, 169506, 169504, 169498, 169475, 169420, 169419,  
 32 169418, 169417, 169415, 169411, 169238, 169167, 169160, 169156, 169148, 169145, 169144, 169138,  
 33 169099, 169094, 169091, 169045, 169044, 169040, 169035, 168992, 168988, 168826, 168777, 168514,  
 34 168512, 168511, 168467, 168464, 168460, 168458, 168362, 168361, 168342, 168341, 168325, 168322,  
 35 168311, 168310, 168115, 168108, 168107, 168105, 168076, 168069, 167988, 167987, 167985, 167920,  
 36 167915

37 Analysis was also performed on the LHC12a17a\_fix (AOD149) Monte Carlo HIJING events for certain  
 38 checks. THERMINATOR2 was also used for certain aspects, such as generation of transform matrices  
 39 describing feed-down contributions, estimation of  $\lambda$  parameters, and non-femtoscopic background  
 40 modeling.

### 41 2.2 Software

42 The analysis was performed on the PWGCF analysis train using AliRoot v5-09-29-1 and AliPhysics  
 43 vAN-20180505-1.

44 The main classes utilized include: AliFemtoVertexMultAnalysis, AliFemtoEventCutEstimators, AliFem-  
 45 toESDTrackCutNSigmaFilter, AliFemtoV0TrackCutNSigmaFilter, AliFemtoXiTrackCut, AliFemtoV0PairCut,  
 46 AliFemtoV0TrackPairCut, AliFemtoXiTrackPairCut, and AliFemtoAnalysisLambdaKaon. All of these  
 47 classes are contained in /AliPhysics/PWGCF/FEMTOSCOPY/AliFemto and .../AliFemtoUser.

## 48 3 Data Selection

### 49 3.1 Event Selection and Mixing

50 The events used in this study were selected with the class AliFemtoEventCutEstimators according to the  
 51 following criteria:

- 52        – Triggers
- 53            – minimum bias (kMB)
- 54            – central (kCentral)
- 55            – semi-central (kSemiCentral)
- 56        – z-position of reconstructed event vertex must be within 10 cm of the center of the ALICE detector
- 57        – the event must contain at least one particle of each type from the pair of interest

58   The event mixing was handled by the AliFemtoVertexMultAnalysis class, which only mixes events with  
 59   like vertex position and centrality. The following criteria were used for event mixing:

- 60        – Number of events to mix = 5
- 61        – Vertex position bin width = 2 cm
- 62        – Centrality bin width = 5

63   The AliFemtoEventReaderAODChain class is used to read the events. Event flattening is not currently  
 64   used. FilterBit(7). The centrality is determined by the “V0M” method of AliCentrality, set by calling  
 65   AliFemtoEventReaderAOD::SetUseMultiplicity(kCentrality). We utilize the SetPrimaryVertexCorrec-  
 66   tionTPCPoints switch, which causes the reader to shift all TPC points to be relative to the event vertex.

### 67   **3.2 K<sup>±</sup> Track Selection**

68   Charged kaons are identified using the AliFemtoESDTrackCutNSigmaFilter class. The specific cuts used  
 69   in this analysis are as follows:

70   Track Selection:

- 71        – Kinematic range:
- 72            –  $0.14 < p_T < 1.5 \text{ GeV}/c$
- 73            –  $|\eta| < 0.8$
- 74        – FilterBit(7)
- 75            – TPC tracks
- 76        – Track Quality
- 77            – Minimum number of clusters in the TPC (fminTPCncls) = 80
- 78            – Maximum allowed  $\chi^2/N_{DOF}$  for ITS clusters = 3.0
- 79            – Maximum allowed  $\chi^2/N_{DOF}$  for TPC clusters = 4.0
- 80        – Primary Particle Selection:
- 81            – Maximum XY impact parameter = 2.4 cm
- 82            – Maximum Z impact parameter = 3.0 cm
- 83        – Remove particles with any kink labels (fRemoveKinks = true)
- 84        – Maximum allowed sigma to primary vertex (fMaxSigmaToVertex) = 3.0

85 K $^\pm$  Identification:

86 – PID Probabilities:

- 87 – K: > 0.2
- 88 –  $\pi$ : < 0.1
- 89 –  $\mu$ : < 0.8
- 90 – p: < 0.1

91 – Most probable particle type must be Kaon (fMostProbable=3)

92 – TPC and TOF N $_\sigma$  cuts:

- 93 –  $p < 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 2$
- 94 –  $0.4 < p < 0.45 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 1$
- 95 –  $0.45 < p < 0.8 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma K, \text{TOF}} < 2$
- 96 –  $0.8 < p < 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma K, \text{TOF}} < 1.5$
- 97 –  $p > 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma K, \text{TOF}} < 1$

98 – Electron Rejection: Reject if N $_{\sigma e^-, \text{TPC}} < 3$

99 – Pion Rejection: Reject if:

- 100 –  $p < 0.65 \text{ GeV}/c$ 
  - 101 \* if TOF and TPC available: N $_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} < 3$
  - 102 \* else
    - 103 ·  $p < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 3$
    - 104 ·  $0.5 < p < 0.65 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 2$
- 105 –  $0.65 < p < 1.5 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 5 \& N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} < 3$
- 106 –  $p > 1.5 \text{ GeV}/c$ : N $_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 5 \& N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} < 2$

107 The purity of the K $^\pm$  collections was estimated using the HIJING MC data, for which the true identity  
108 of each reconstructed K $^\pm$  particle is known. Therefore, the purity may be estimated as:

$$\text{Purity}(K^\pm) = \frac{N_{\text{true}}}{N_{\text{reconstructed}}} \quad (1)$$

109 Purity(K $^+$ )  $\approx$  Purity(K $^-$ )  $\approx$  97%

### 110 3.3 V0 Selection

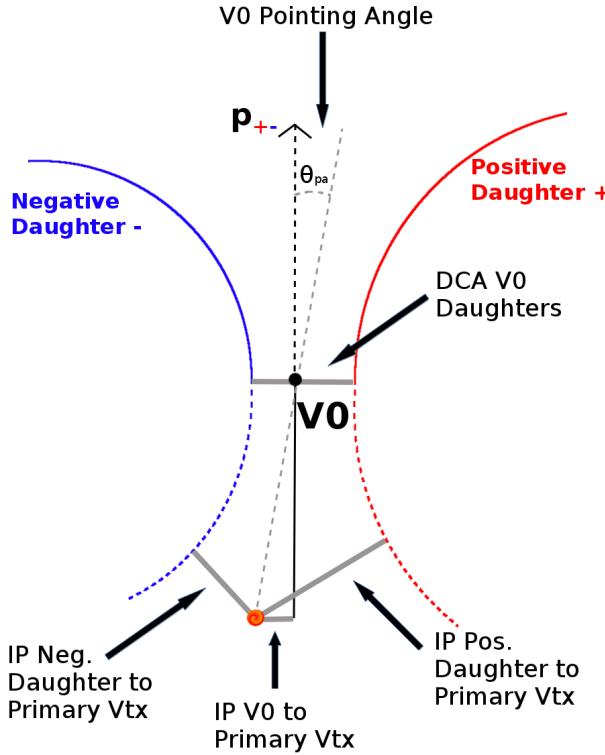
111  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  and K $_S^0$  are neutral particles which cannot be directly detected, but must instead be reconstructed  
112 through detection of their decay products, or daughters. This process is illustrated in Figure 1. In  
113 general, particles which are topologically reconstructed in this fashion are called V0 particles. The  
114 class AliFemtoV0TrackCutNSigmaFilter (which is an extension of AliFemtoV0TrackCut) is used to  
115 reconstruct the V0s.

116 In order to ensure a true and reliable signal, one must ensure good purity of the V0 collection. The purity  
117 of the collection is calculated as:

$$\text{Purity} = \frac{\text{Signal}}{\text{Signal} + \text{Background}} \quad (2)$$

<b>K<sup>±</sup> selection</b>									
$\eta$	< 0.8								
$p_T$	$0.14 < p_T < 1.5 \text{ GeV}/c$								
FilterBit	7								
Min. number of clusters in the TPC	80								
Max. allowed $\chi^2/N_{DOF}$ for ITS clusters	3.0								
Max. allowed $\chi^2/N_{DOF}$ for TPC clusters	4.0								
Maximum XY impact parameter	2.4 cm								
Maximum Z impact parameter	3.0 cm								
Remove particles with any kink labels	true								
Maximum allowed sigma to primary vertex	3.0								
PID Probabilities									
K	> 0.2								
$\pi$	< 0.1								
$\mu$	< 0.8								
p	< 0.1								
Most probable particle type	Kaon (fMostProbable=3)								
TPC and TOF N $\sigma$ Cuts									
$p < 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 2$								
$0.4 < p < 0.45 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 1$								
$0.45 < p < 0.80 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma K, \text{TOF}} < 2$								
$0.80 < p < 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma K, \text{TOF}} < 1.5$								
$p > 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma K, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma K, \text{TOF}} < 1$								
Electron Rejection	Reject if $N_{\sigma e^-, \text{TPC}} < 3$								
Pion Rejection: Reject if:									
$p < 0.65 \text{ GeV}/c$	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>if TOF and TPC available</td> <td colspan="2"><math>N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} &lt; 3 \&amp; N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} &lt; 3</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">else</td> <td><math>p &lt; 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c</math></td> <td><math>N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} &lt; 3</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td><math>0.5 &lt; p &lt; 0.65 \text{ GeV}/c</math></td> <td><math>N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} &lt; 2</math></td> </tr> </table>	if TOF and TPC available	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} < 3$		else	$p < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 3$	$0.5 < p < 0.65 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 2$
if TOF and TPC available	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 3 \& N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} < 3$								
else	$p < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 3$							
	$0.5 < p < 0.65 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 2$							
$0.65 < p < 1.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 5 \& N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} < 3$								
$p > 1.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TPC}} < 5 \& N_{\sigma \pi, \text{TOF}} < 2$								

**Table 1:** K<sup>±</sup> selection



**Fig. 1:** V0 Reconstruction

To obtain both the signal and background, the invariant mass distribution ( $m_{inv}$ ) of all V0 candidates must be constructed immediately before the final invariant mass cut. Examples of such distributions can be found in Figures 3 and 5. It is vital that the distribution be constructed immediately before the final  $m_{inv}$  cut, otherwise, it would be impossible to estimate the background. As demonstrated in Figures 3 and 5, the background is fit with a polynomial outside of the peak region of interest in order to extrapolate an estimate for the background within the region. Within the  $m_{inv}$  cut limits, the background is the region below the fit while the signal is the region above the fit.

### 3.3.1 $\Lambda$ Reconstruction

The following cuts were used to select good  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  candidates:

#### 1. Daughter Particle Cuts

##### (a) Cuts Common to Both Daughters

- i.  $|\eta| < 0.8$
- ii. SetTPCnclsDaughters(80)
- iii. SetStatusDaughters(AliESDtrack::kTPCrefit)
- iv. DCA  $\pi p$  Daughters  $< 0.4$  cm

##### (b) Pion Specific Daughter Cuts

- i.  $p_T > 0.16$  GeV/c
- ii. DCA to prim vertex  $> 0.3$  cm
- iii. TPC and TOF N $\sigma$  Cuts
  - A.  $p < 0.5$  GeV/c : N $\sigma$ <sub>TPC</sub>  $< 3$
  - B.  $p > 0.5$  GeV/c :

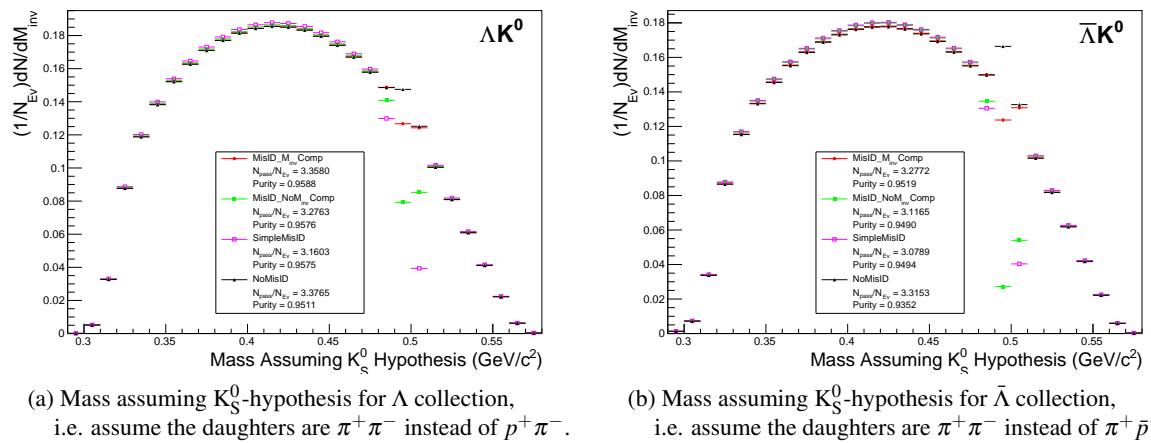
- 139           – if TOF & TPC available:  $N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3 \& N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$   
 140           – else  $N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$
- 141       (c) Proton Specific Daughter Cuts  
 142           i.  $p_T > 0.5(p)[0.3(\bar{p})] \text{ GeV}/c$   
 143           ii. DCA to prim vertex  $> 0.1 \text{ cm}$   
 144           iii. TPC and TOF  $N\sigma$  Cuts  
 145           A.  $p < 0.8 \text{ GeV}/c : N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$   
 146           B.  $p > 0.8 \text{ GeV}/c :$   
 147           – if TOF & TPC available:  $N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3 \& N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$   
 148           – else  $N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$

149       2. V0 Cuts

- 150       (a)  $|\eta| < 0.8$   
 151       (b)  $p_T > 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$   
 152       (c)  $|m_{\text{inv}} - m_{\text{PDG}}| < 3.8 \text{ MeV}$   
 153       (d) DCA to prim. vertex  $< 0.5 \text{ cm}$   
 154       (e) Cosine of pointing angle  $> 0.9993$   
 155       (f) OnFlyStatus = false  
 156       (g) Decay Length  $< 60 \text{ cm}$

157       3. Shared Daughter Cut for V0 Collection

- 158           – Iterate through V0 collection to ensure that no daughter is used in more than one V0 candidate



**Fig. 2:** Mass assuming  $K_S^0$ -hypothesis for V0 candidates passing all  $\Lambda$  (2a) and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  (2b) cuts. The “NoMisID” distribution (black triangles) uses the V0 finder without any attempt to remove misidentified  $K_S^0$ . The slight peak in the “NoMisID” distribution around  $m_{\text{inv}} = 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  contains misidentified  $K_S^0$  particles in our  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  collection. “SimpleMisID” (pink squares) simply cuts out the entire peak, which throws away some good  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  particles. “MisID\_NoM<sub>inv</sub>Comp” (green squares) uses the misidentification cut outlined in the text, but does not utilize the final invariant mass comparison step. “MisID\_M<sub>inv</sub>Comp” (red circles) utilizes the full misidentification methods, and is currently used for this analysis. “N<sub>pass</sub>/N<sub>ev</sub>” is the total number of  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  particles found, normalized by the total number of events. The purity of the collection is also listed.

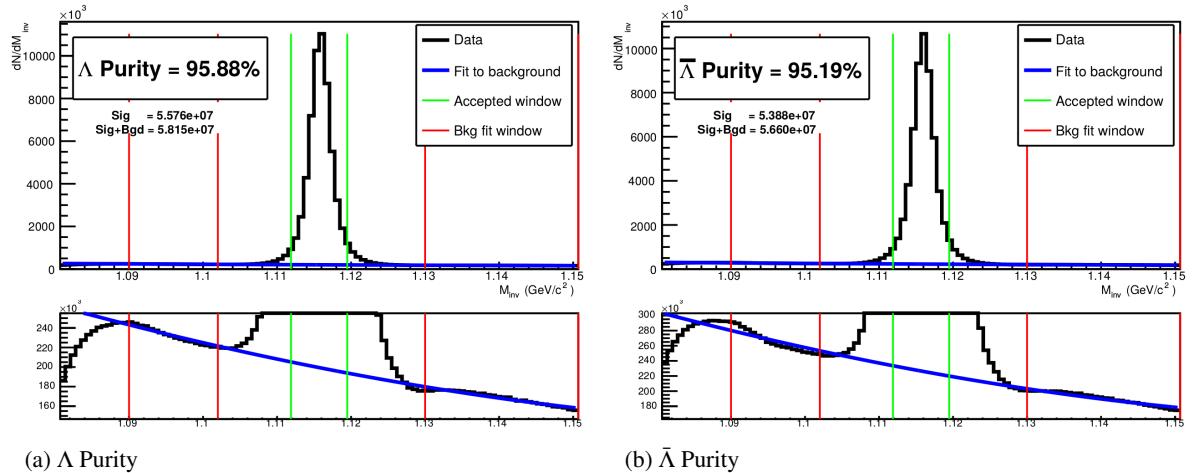
<b><math>\Lambda</math> selection</b>	
$ \eta $	< 0.8
$p_T$	> 0.4 GeV/c
$ m_{\text{inv}} - m_{\text{PDG}} $	< 3.8 MeV
DCA to prim. vertex	< 0.5 cm
Cosine of pointing angle	> 0.9993
OnFlyStatus	false
Decay Length	< 60 cm
Shared Daughter Cut	true
Misidentification Cut	true
<b>Daughter Cuts (<math>\pi</math> and <math>p</math>)</b>	
$ \eta $	< 0.8
SetTPCnclsDaughters	(80)
SetStatusDaughters	(AliESDtrack::kTPCrefit)
DCA $\pi p$ Daughters	< 0.4 cm
<b><math>\pi</math>-specific cuts</b>	
$p_T$	> 0.16 GeV/c
DCA to prim vertex	> 0.3 cm
TPC and TOF $N\sigma$ Cuts	
$p < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$
$p > 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	if TOF & TPC available else
	$N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3 \text{ & } N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$ $N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$
<b><math>p</math>-specific cuts</b>	
$p_T$	> 0.5( $p$ ) [0.3( $\bar{p}$ )] GeV/c
DCA to prim vertex	> 0.1 cm
TPC and TOF $N\sigma$ Cuts	
$p < 0.8 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$
$p > 0.8 \text{ GeV}/c$	if TOF & TPC available else
	$N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3 \text{ & } N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$ $N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$

**Table 2:**  $\Lambda$  selection

Figure 2a shows the mass assuming  $K_S^0$  hypothesis for the  $\Lambda$  collection, i.e. assume the daughters are  $\pi^+\pi^-$  instead of  $p^+\pi^-$ . Figure 2b is a similar plot, but is for the  $\bar{\Lambda}$  collection, i.e. assume the daughters are  $\pi^+\pi^-$  instead of  $\pi^+\bar{p}^-$ . The  $K_S^0$  contamination is visible, although not profound, in both, in the slight peaks around  $m_{\text{inv}} = 0.497 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . If one simply cuts out the entire peak, good  $\Lambda$  particles will be lost. Ideally, the  $\Lambda$  selection and  $K_S^0$  misidentification cuts are selected such that the peak is removed from this plot while leaving the underlying distribution continuous. To attempt to remove these  $K_S^0$  contaminations without throwing away good  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  particles, the following misidentification cuts are imposed; a  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  candidate is rejected if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

- $|m_{\text{inv}, K_S^0 \text{ Hypothesis}} - m_{\text{PDG}, K_S^0}| < 9.0 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- Positive and negative daughters pass  $\pi$  daughter cut implemented for  $K_S^0$  reconstruction
- $|m_{\text{inv}, K_S^0 \text{ Hypothesis}} - m_{\text{PDG}, K_S^0}| < |m_{\text{inv}, \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) \text{ Hypothesis}} - m_{\text{PDG}, \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})}|$

Figure 3 shows the invariant mass ( $m_{\text{inv}}$ ) distribution of all  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  candidates immediately before the final invariant mass cut. These distributions are used to calculate the collection purities. The  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  purities are found to be: Purity( $\Lambda$ )  $\approx$  Purity( $\bar{\Lambda}$ )  $\approx$  95%.



**Fig. 3:** Invariant mass ( $m_{\text{inv}}$ ) distribution for all  $\Lambda$  (a) and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  (b) candidates immediately before the final invariant mass cut. The bottom figures are zoomed to show the background with fit. The vertical green lines represent the  $m_{\text{inv}}$  cuts used in the analyses, the red vertical lines delineate the regions over which the background was fit, and the blue line shows the background fit. These distributions are used to calculate the collection purities, Purity( $\Lambda$ )  $\approx$  Purity( $\bar{\Lambda}$ )  $\approx$  95%.

### 3.3.2 $K_S^0$ Reconstruction

The following cuts were used to select good  $K_S^0$  candidates:

#### 1. Pion Daughter Cuts

- (a)  $|\eta| < 0.8$
- (b) SetTPCnclsDaughters(80)
- (c) SetStatusDaughters(AliESDtrack::kTPCrefic)
- (d) DCA  $\pi^+\pi^-$  Daughters  $< 0.3 \text{ cm}$

- 180 (e)  $p_T > 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c$
- 181 (f) DCA to prim vertex  $> 0.3 \text{ cm}$
- 182 (g) TPC and TOF  $N\sigma$  Cuts
  - 183 i.  $p < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c : N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$
  - 184 ii.  $p > 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c :$ 
    - 185 – if TOF & TPC available:  $N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3 \text{ & } N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$
    - 186 – else  $N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$

187 2.  $K_S^0$  Cuts

- 188 (a)  $|\eta| < 0.8$
- 189 (b)  $p_T > 0.2 \text{ GeV}/c$
- 190 (c)  $m_{\text{PDG}} - 13.677 \text{ MeV} < m_{\text{inv}} < m_{\text{PDG}} + 2.0323 \text{ MeV}$
- 191 (d) DCA to prim. vertex  $< 0.3 \text{ cm}$
- 192 (e) Cosine of pointing angle  $> 0.9993$
- 193 (f) OnFlyStatus = false
- 194 (g) Decay Length  $< 30 \text{ cm}$

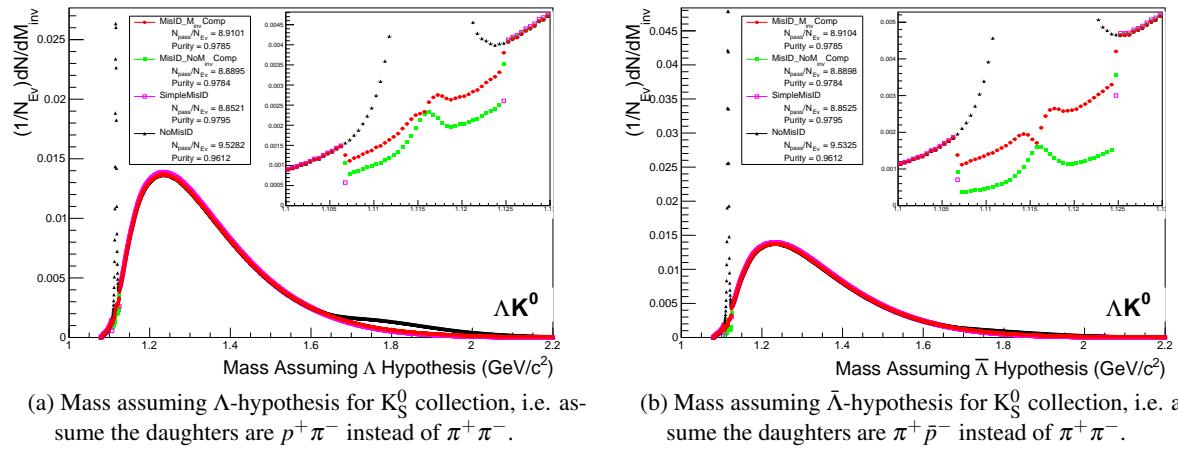
195 3. Shared Daughter Cut for V0 Collection

- 196 – Iterate through V0 collection to ensure that no daughter is used in more than one V0 candidate

<b><math>K_S^0</math> selection</b>	
$ \eta $	$< 0.8$
$p_T$	$> 0.2 \text{ GeV}/c$
$m_{\text{PDG}} - 13.677 \text{ MeV} < m_{\text{inv}} < m_{\text{PDG}} + 2.0323 \text{ MeV}$	
DCA to prim. vertex	$< 0.3 \text{ cm}$
Cosine of pointing angle	$> 0.9993$
OnFlyStatus	false
Decay Length	$< 30 \text{ cm}$
Shared Daughter Cut	true
Misidentification Cut	true
<b><math>\pi^\pm</math> Daughter Cuts</b>	
$ \eta $	$< 0.8$
SetTPCnclsDaughters	(80)
SetStatusDaughters	(AliESDtrack::kTPCRefit)
DCA $\pi^+ \pi^-$ Daughters	$< 0.3 \text{ cm}$
$p_T$	$> 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c$
DCA to prim vertex	$> 0.3 \text{ cm}$
TPC and TOF $N\sigma$ Cuts	
$p < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	$N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3$
$p > 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$	if TOF & TPC available else
	$N\sigma_{\text{TPC}} < 3 \text{ & } N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$ $N\sigma_{\text{TOF}} < 3$

Table 3:  $K_S^0$  selection

197 As can be seen in Figure 4, some misidentified  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  particles contaminate our  $K_S^0$  sample. Figure  
 198 4a shows the mass assuming  $\Lambda$ -hypothesis for the  $K_S^0$  collection, i.e. assume the daughters are  $p^+ \pi^-$

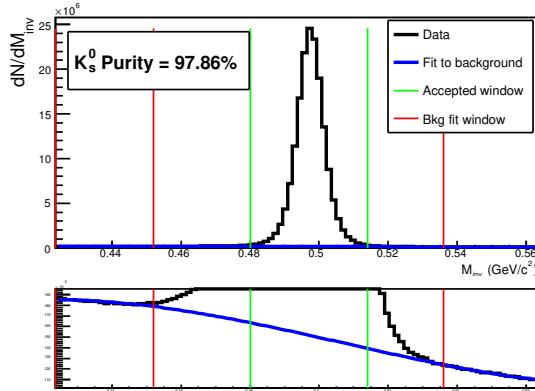


**Fig. 4:** Mass assuming  $\Lambda$ -hypothesis (4a) and  $\bar{\Lambda}$ -hypothesis (4b) for  $K_S^0$  collection. The “NoMisID” distribution (black triangles) uses the V0 finder without any attempt to remove misidentified  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$ . The peak in the “NoMisID” distribution around  $m_{\text{inv}} = 1.115 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  contains misidentified  $\Lambda$  (4a) and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  (4b) particles in our  $K_S^0$  collection. “SimpleMisID” (pink squares) simply cuts out the entire peak, which throws away some good  $K_S^0$  particles. “MisID\_NomisidComp” (green squares) uses the misidentification cut outlined in the text, but does not utilize the final invariant mass comparison step. “MisID\_MinvComp” (red circles) utilizes the full misidentification methods, and is currently used for this analysis. “ $N_{\text{pass}}/N_{\text{ev}}$ ” is the total number of  $K_S^0$  particles found, normalized by the total number of events. The purity of the collection is also listed. Also note, the relative excess of the “NoMisID” distribution around  $1.65 < m_{\text{inv}} < 2.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  shows misidentified  $\bar{\Lambda}$  (4a) and  $\Lambda$  (4b) particles in our  $K_S^0$  collection.

instead of  $\pi^+\pi^-$ . Figure 4b is similar, but shows the mass assuming  $\bar{\Lambda}$ -hypothesis for the collection, i.e. assume the daughters are  $\pi^+\bar{p}^-$  instead of  $\pi^+\pi^-$ . The  $\Lambda$  contamination can be seen in 4a, and the  $\bar{\Lambda}$  contamination in 4b, in the peaks around  $m_{\text{inv}} = 1.115 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . Additionally, the  $\bar{\Lambda}$  contamination is visible in Figure 4a, and the  $\Lambda$  contamination visible in Figure 4b, in the region of excess around  $1.65 < m_{\text{inv}} < 2.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . This is confirmed as the number of misidentified  $\Lambda$  particles in the sharp peak of Figure 4a (misidentified  $\bar{\Lambda}$  particles in the sharp peak of Figure 4b) approximately equals the excess found in the  $1.65 < m_{\text{inv}} < 2.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  region of Figure 4a (Figure 4b).

The peaks around  $m_{\text{inv}} = 1.115 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  in Figure 4 contain both misidentified  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  particles and good  $K_S^0$ . If one simply cuts out the entire peak, some good  $K_S^0$  particles will be lost. Ideally, the  $K_S^0$  selection and  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  misidentification cuts can be selected such that the peak is removed from this plot while leaving the underlying distribution continuous. To attempt to remove these  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  contaminations without throwing away good  $K_S^0$  particles, the following misidentification cuts are imposed; a  $K_S^0$  candidate is rejected if all of the following criteria are satisfied (for either  $\Lambda$ - or  $\bar{\Lambda}$ -hypothesis):

- $|m_{\text{inv}, \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) \text{ Hypothesis}} - m_{\text{PDG}, \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})}| < 9.0 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- Positive daughter passes  $p^+(\pi^+)$  daughter cut implemented for  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  reconstruction
- Negative daughter passes  $\pi^-(\bar{p}^-)$  daughter cut implemented by  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  reconstruction
- $|m_{\text{inv}, \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) \text{ Hypothesis}} - m_{\text{PDG}, \Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})}| < |m_{\text{inv}, K_S^0 \text{ Hypothesis}} - m_{\text{PDG}, K_S^0}|$



**Fig. 5:** Invariant mass ( $m_{inv}$ ) distribution for all  $K_s^0$  candidates immediately before the final invariant mass cut. The bottom figure is zoomed to show the background with fit. The vertical green lines represent the  $m_{inv}$  cut used in the analyses, the red vertical lines delineate the regions over which the background was fit, and the blue line shows the background fit. This distribution is used to calculate the collection purity,  $Purity(K_s^0) \approx 98\%$ .

### 216 3.3.3 V0 Purity Background Estimation

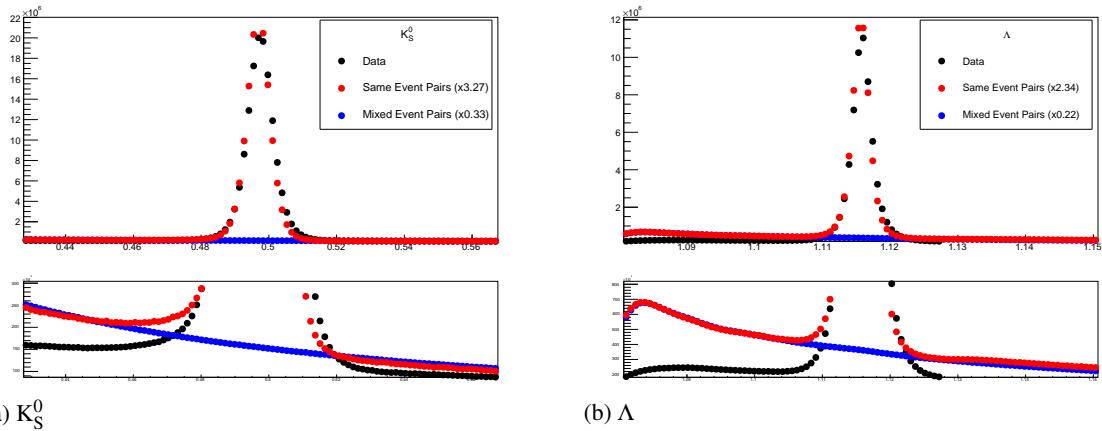
217 As previously stated, the backgrounds in the  $m_{inv}$  distributions are modeled by a polynomial which is  
 218 fit outside of the final cut region in an attempt to estimate the background within the cut region. As  
 219 this estimate of the background under the mass peak is vital for our estimate of our V0 purity, it is  
 220 important for us to ensure that our estimate is accurate. More specifically, it is necessary that we ensure  
 221 the background is well described by a polynomial fit within the cut region.

222 To better understand our background, we studied V0 candidates reconstructed with daughters from dif-  
 223 ferent events. These mixed-event V0s certainly do not represent real, physical V0s (a single V0 cannot  
 224 have daughters living in two different events!), but, rather, represent a large portion of the background  
 225 creeping into our analysis.

226 The standard AliFemto framework is not equipped to handle this situation, as most are not interested in  
 227 these fake-V0s. Therefore, we built the AliFemtoV0PurityBgdEstimator class to handle our needs. In ad-  
 228 dition to finding fake-V0s using mixed-event daughters, we also used our AliFemtoV0PurityBgdEstimator  
 229 class to find real-V0s using same-event daughters. The purpose here was to compare our simple V0 finder  
 230 (in AliFemtoV0PurityBgdEstimator) to the established V0 finder used in standard AliFemto analyses.

231 Figure 6 shows the results of our study. In the figures, the black points, marked "Data", correspond to  
 232 V0s found using the standard V0-finder, and to the V0s used in my analyses. The red points show real  
 233 V0s reconstructed with our personal V0-finder (in AliFemtoV0PurityBgdEstimator) using same-event  
 234 daughters, and the blue points show fake-V0s reconstructed with our personal V0-finder using mixed-  
 235 event daughters. Both the red and blue points have been scaled by different factors (listed in the figure's  
 236 legends) to nicely align all three data on a single plot.

237 Figure 6 shows that our personal V0-finder does a good, but not perfect, job of matching the shape of the  
 238  $m_{inv}$  plots obtained from the data. The scale factor listed in the legend reveals that we are only finding  
 239 1/3 - 1/2 of the V0s found by the standard V0-finder. These two points are not of concern, as our purpose  
 240 here was to gain a sense of the broad shape of the background. It is revealed in Fig. 6, when studying  
 241 the red and blue points, that the background distribution within the mass peak region is simply a smooth  
 242 connection of the backgrounds outside of the cut region, as we assumed. Therefore, our method of fitting  
 243 the background outside of the cut region, fitting with a smooth polynomial, and extrapolating to the cut  
 244 region is justified.



**Fig. 6:** V0 Purity Background Estimation. The black points, marked "Data", correspond to real V0s found using the standard V0-finder (i.e. the V0s used in my analyses). The red points, marked "Same Event Pairs", show real V0s reconstructed with our personal V0-finder in AliFemtoV0PurityBgdEstimator. These data are scaled by a factor (listed in the legend) to match their *Signal + Background* value in the cut region with that of the data. The blue points, marked "Mixed Event Pairs", show fake-V0s reconstructed with our personal V0-finder using mixed-event daughters. The blue points are scaled by a factor (listed in the legend) to closely match the red points in the side-band region.

### 245 3.4 Ξ Reconstruction

246 Our motivation for studying  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  systems is to attempt to better understand the striking difference in  
247 the  $\Lambda K^+$  and  $\Lambda K^-$  data at low  $k^*$  (Figure 13).

248 The reconstruction of  $\Xi$  particles is one level above V0 reconstruction. V0 particles are topologically  
249 reconstructed by searching for the charged daughters' tracks into which they decay. With  $\Xi$  particles, we  
250 search for the V0 particle and charged daughter into which the  $\Xi$  decays. In the case of  $\Xi^-$ , we search  
251 for the  $\Lambda$  (V0) and  $\pi^-$  (track) daughters. We will refer to this  $\pi$  as the "bachelor  $\pi$ ".

252 The following cuts were used to select good  $\Xi^-$  ( $\bar{\Xi}^+$ ) candidates:

253 1. V0 Daughter Reconstruction

254 (a) V0 Daughter Particle Cuts

- 255 i. Cuts Common to Both Daughters
  - 256 A.  $|\eta| < 0.8$
  - 257 B. SetTPCnclsDaughters(80)
  - 258 C. SetStatusDaughters(AliESDtrack::kTPCrefic)
  - 259 D. SetMaxDcaV0Daughters(0.4)

260 ii. Pion Specific Daughter Cuts

- 261 A.  $p_T > 0.16$
- 262 B. DCA to prim vertex  $> 0.3$

263 iii. Proton Specific Daughter Cuts

- 264 A.  $p_T > 0.5(p) [0.3(\bar{p})] \text{ GeV}/c$
- 265 B. DCA to prim vertex  $> 0.1$

266 (b) V0 Cuts

- 267 i.  $|\eta| < 0.8$

- 268 ii.  $p_T > 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c$
- 269 iii.  $|m_{inv} - m_{PDG}| < 3.8 \text{ MeV}$
- 270 iv. DCA to prim. vertex  $> 0.2 \text{ cm}$
- 271 v. Cosine of pointing angle to  $\Xi$  decay vertex  $> 0.9993$
- 272 vi. OnFlyStatus = false
- 273 vii. Decay Length  $< 60 \text{ cm}$
- 274 viii. The misidentification cuts described in Section 3.3.1 are utilized

275 2. Bachelor  $\pi$  Cuts

- 276 (a)  $|\eta| < 0.8$
- 277 (b)  $p_T < 100 \text{ GeV}/c$
- 278 (c) DCA to prim vertex  $> 0.1 \text{ cm}$
- 279 (d) SetTPCnclsDaughters(70)
- 280 (e) SetStatusDaughters(AliESDtrack::kTPCrefic)

281 3.  $\Xi$  Cuts

- 282 (a)  $|\eta| < 0.8$
- 283 (b)  $0.8 < p_T < 100 \text{ GeV}/c$
- 284 (c)  $|m_{inv} - m_{PDG}| < 3.0 \text{ MeV}$
- 285 (d) DCA to prim. vertex  $< 0.3 \text{ cm}$
- 286 (e) Cosine of pointing angle  $> 0.9992$

287 4. Shared Daughter Cut for  $\Xi$  Collection

- 288 – Iterate through  $\Xi$  collection to ensure that no daughter is used in more than one  $\Xi$  candidate
- 289 – Remove any candidate in which the bachelor  $\pi$  is also a daughter of the  $\Lambda$  (implemented in
- 290 AliFemtoXiTrackPairCut class)

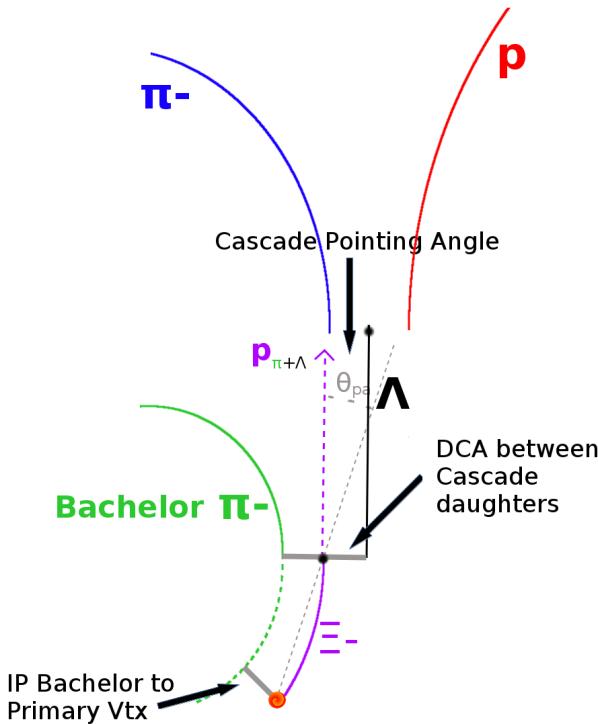
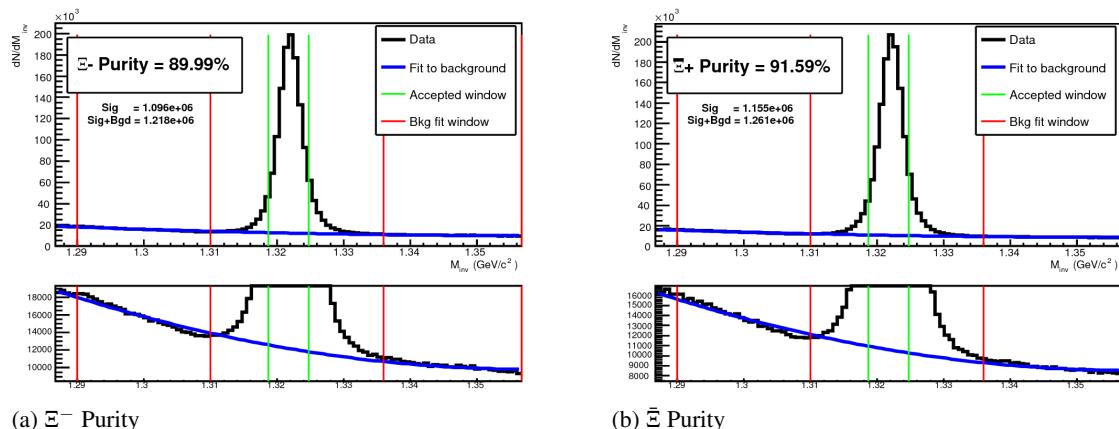
291 The purity of our  $\Xi$  and  $\bar{\Xi}$  collections are calculated just as those of our V0 collections 3.3. Figure 8,  
 292 which is used to calculate the purity, shows the  $m_{inv}$  distribution of our  $\Xi(\bar{\Xi})$  candidates just before the  
 293 final  $m_{inv}$  cut. Currently, we have Purity( $\Xi^-$ )  $\approx 90\%$  and Purity( $\bar{\Xi}^+$ )  $\approx 92\%$ .

294 3.5 Pair Selection

295 It is important to obtain true particle pairs in the analysis. In particular, contamination from pairs con-  
 296 structed with split or merged tracks, and pairs sharing daughters, can introduce an artificial signal into  
 297 the correlation function, obscuring the actual physics. We impose the following pair cuts to combat these  
 298 issues:

299 1. Shared Daughter Cut for Pairs

- 300 (a) V0-V0 Pairs (i.e.  $\Lambda K_S^0$  analyses)
  - 301 – Remove all pairs which share a daughter
  - 302 – Ex.  $\Lambda$  and  $K_S^0$  particles which share a  $\pi^-$  daughter are not included
- 303 (b) V0-Track Pairs (i.e.  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses)
  - 304 – Remove pairs if Track is also used as a daughter of the V0

**Fig. 7:**  $\Xi$  Reconstruction

**Fig. 8:** Invariant mass ( $m_{\text{inv}}$ ) distribution for all  $\Xi^-$  (a) and  $\Xi^+$  (b) candidates immediately before the final invariant mass cut. The bottom figures are zoomed to show the background with fit. The vertical green lines represent the  $m_{\text{inv}}$  cuts used in the analyses, the red vertical lines delineate the regions over which the background was fit, and the blue line shows the background fit. These distributions are used to calculate the collection purities,  $\text{Purity}(\Xi^-) \approx 90\%$  and  $\text{Purity}(\Xi^+) \approx 92\%$ .

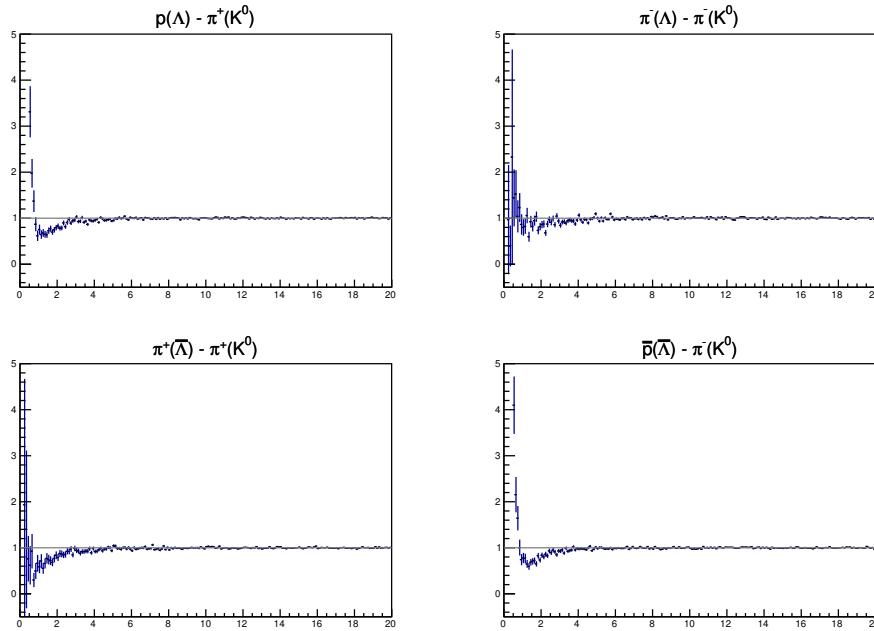
- 305 – In these analyses, this could only occur if, for instance, a K is misidentified as a  $\pi$   
306 or p in the V0 reconstruction

307 (c)  $\Xi$ -Track Pairs

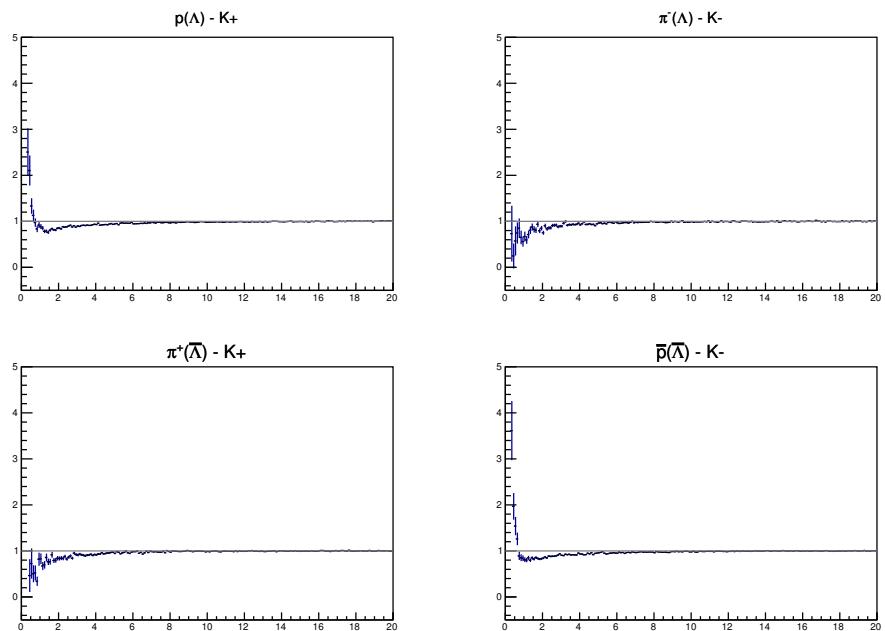
- 308 – Remove pairs if Track is also used as a daughter of the  $\Xi$   
309 – In these analyses, this could only occur if, for instance, a K is misidentified as a  $\pi$   
310 or p in the V0 reconstruction, or misidentified as bachelor  $\pi$ .

311 2. Average Separation Cuts (AvgSep)

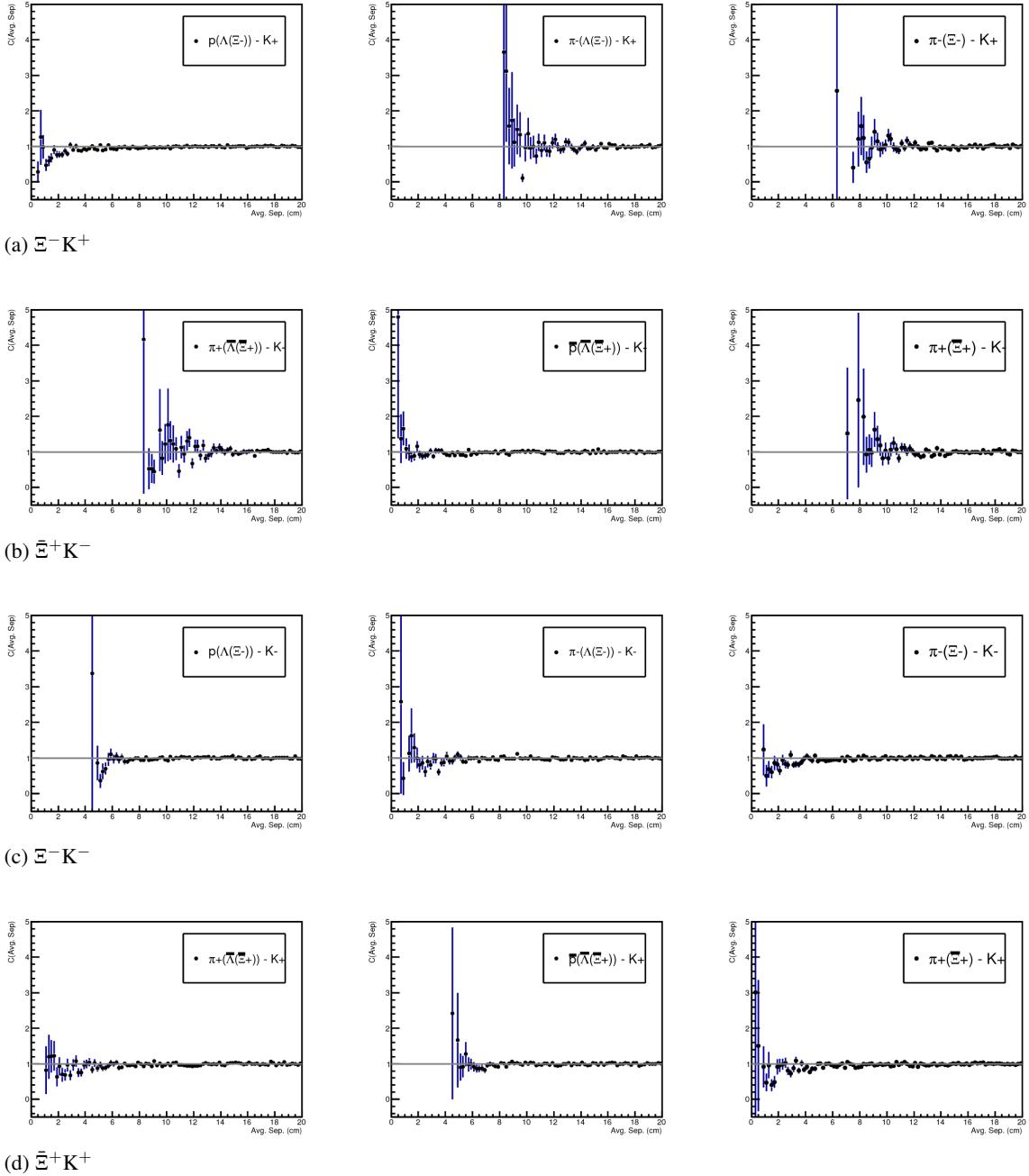
- 312     – Used to cut out splitting and merging effects  
 313     – The motivation for these cuts can be seen in Figures 9, 10, and 11, in which average separa-  
 314     tion correlation functions are presented
- 315     (a)  $\Lambda K_S^0$  Analyses  
 316       – AvgSep > 6.0 cm for like charge sign daughters  
 317        – ex. p daughter of  $\Lambda$  and  $\pi^+$  daughter of  $K_S^0$   
 318       – No cut for unlike-sign daughters
- 319     (b)  $\Lambda K^\pm$  Analyses  
 320       – AvgSep > 8.0 cm for daughter of  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  sharing charge sign of  $K^\pm$   
 321        – ex. in  $\Lambda K^+$  analysis, p daughter of  $\Lambda$  with  $K^+$   
 322       – No cut for unlike signs
- 323     (c)  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  Analyses  
 324       – AvgSep > 8.0 cm for any daughter of  $\Xi$  sharing charge sign of  $K^\pm$   
 325        – ex. in  $\Xi^- K^-$  analysis,  $\pi^-$  daughter of  $\Lambda$  daughter with  $K^-$ , and bachelor  $\pi^-$  daugh-  
 326        ter with  $K^-$   
 327       – No cut for unlike signs



**Fig. 9:** Average separation (cm) correlation functions of  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  and  $K_S^0$  Daughters. Only like-sign daughter pairs are shown (the distributions for unlike-signs were found to be flat). The title of each subfigure shows the daughter pair, as well as the mother of each daughter (in “()”), ex. top left is p from  $\Lambda$  with  $\pi^+$  from  $K_S^0$ .



**Fig. 10:** Average separation (cm) correlation functions of  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  Daughter and  $K^\pm$ . Only like-sign pairs are shown (unlike-signs were flat). In the subfigure titles, the particles in “( )” represent the mothers, ex. top left is  $p$  from  $\Lambda$  with  $K^+$ .



**Fig. 11:** Average separation (cm) correlation functions of  $\Xi$  Daughter and  $K^\pm$ . In the subfigure titles, the particles in “()” represent the mothers, ex. top left is p from  $\Lambda$  from  $\Xi^-$  with  $K^+$ .

328 **4 Correlation Functions**

329 This analysis studies the momentum correlations of both  $\Lambda K$  and  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  pairs using the two-particle  
 330 correlation function, defined as  $C(k^*) = A(k^*)/B(k^*)$ , where  $A(k^*)$  is the signal distribution,  $B(k^*)$  is the  
 331 reference (or background) distribution, and  $k^*$  is the momentum of one of the particles in the pair rest  
 332 frame. In practice,  $A(k^*)$  is constructed by binning in  $k^*$  pairs from the same event. Ideally,  $B(k^*)$  is  
 333 similar to  $A(k^*)$  in all respects excluding the presence of femtoscopic correlations [2]; as such,  $B(k^*)$   
 334 is used to divide out the phase-space effects, leaving only the femtoscopic effects in the correlation  
 335 function.

336 This analysis presents correlation functions for three centrality bins (0-10%, 10-30%, and 30-50%), and  
 337 is currently pair transverse momentum ( $k_T = 0.5|\mathbf{p}_{T,1} + \mathbf{p}_{T,2}|$ ) integrated (i.e. not binned in  $k_T$ ). The  
 338 correlation functions are constructed separately for the two magnetic field configurations, and, after  
 339 assuring consistency, are combined using a weighted average:

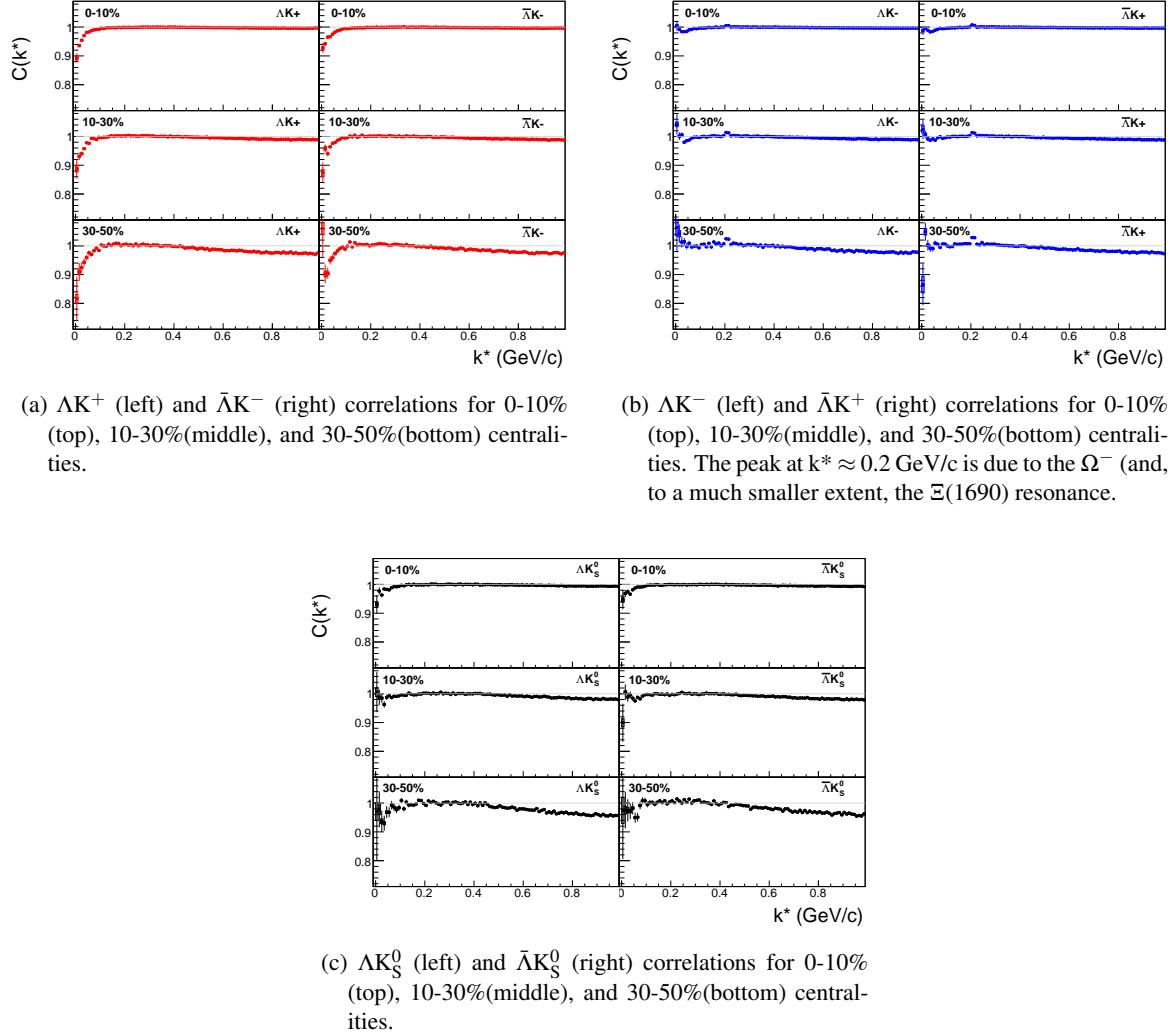
$$C_{combined}(k^*) = \frac{\sum_i w_i C_i(k^*)}{\sum_i w_i} \quad (3)$$

340 where the sum runs over the correlation functions to be combined, and the weight,  $w_i$ , is the number of  
 341 numerator pairs in  $C_i(k^*)$ . Here, the sum is over the two field configurations (++ and - -).

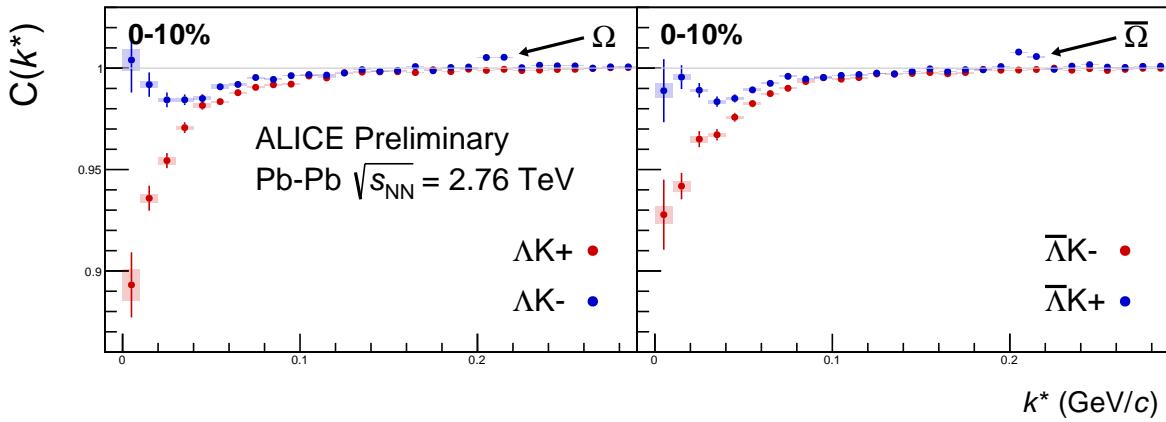
342 **4.1 Typical Correlation Function Construction**

343 In practice,  $B(k^*)$  is typically obtained by forming mixed-event pairs, i.e. particles from a given event  
 344 are paired with particles from  $N_{mix}(= 5)$  other events, and these pairs are then binned in  $k^*$ . In forming  
 345 the background distribution, it is important to mix only similar events; mixing events with different  
 346 phase-spaces can result in an unreliable background distribution, and can introduce artificial signals in  
 347 the correlation function. Therefore, in this analysis, we bin our events both in primary vertex location (2  
 348 cm bin width) and in centrality (5% bin width), and we only mix events within a given bin; i.e. we only  
 349 mix events of like centrality and of like primary vertex location. Also note, a vertex correction is also  
 350 applied to each event, which essentially recenters the the primary vertices to  $z = 0$ .

351 Figures 12a, 12b, 12c show the correlation functions for all centralities studied for  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$ ,  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$ ,  
 352 and  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda}) K_S^0$ , respectively. All were normalized in the range  $0.32 < k^* < 0.4$  GeV/c. It is interesting to  
 353 note that the average of the  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  and  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$  correlation functions is consistent with our  
 354  $\Lambda K_S^0(\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0)$  measurement.



**Fig. 12:**  $\Lambda K$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}K$  correlation functions for 0-10%, 10-30%, and 30-50% centralities. The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors.



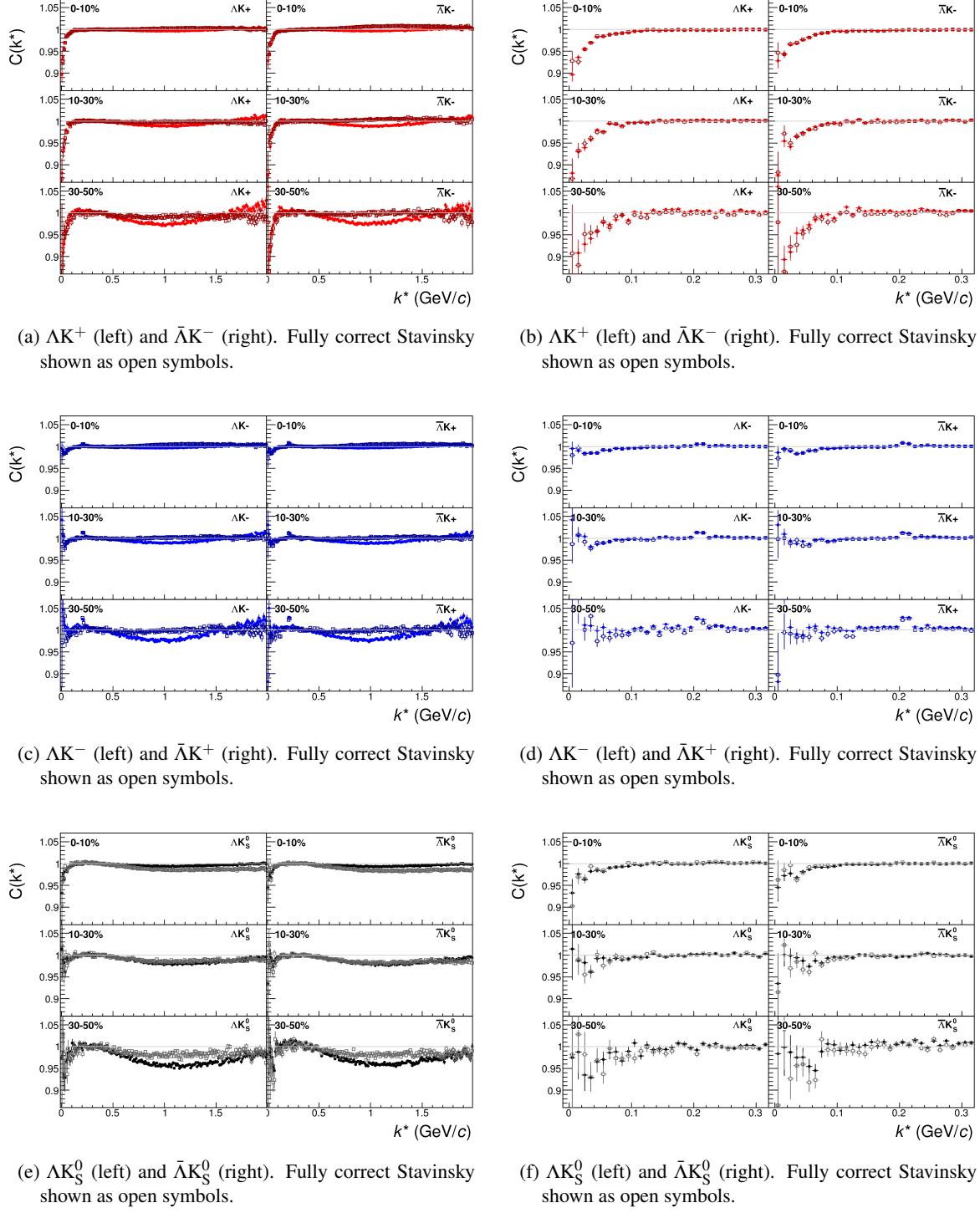
**Fig. 13:** Correlation Functions:  $\Lambda K^+$  vs  $\Lambda K^-$  ( $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$  vs  $\bar{\Lambda}K^-$ ) for 0-10% centrality. The peak in  $\Lambda K^-$  ( $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$ ) at  $k^* \approx 0.2$  GeV/c is due to the  $\Omega^-$  (and, to a much smaller extent, the  $\Xi(1690)$ ) resonance. The lines represent the statistical errors, while boxes represent systematic errors.

355    **4.2 Stavinsky Correlation Function Construction**

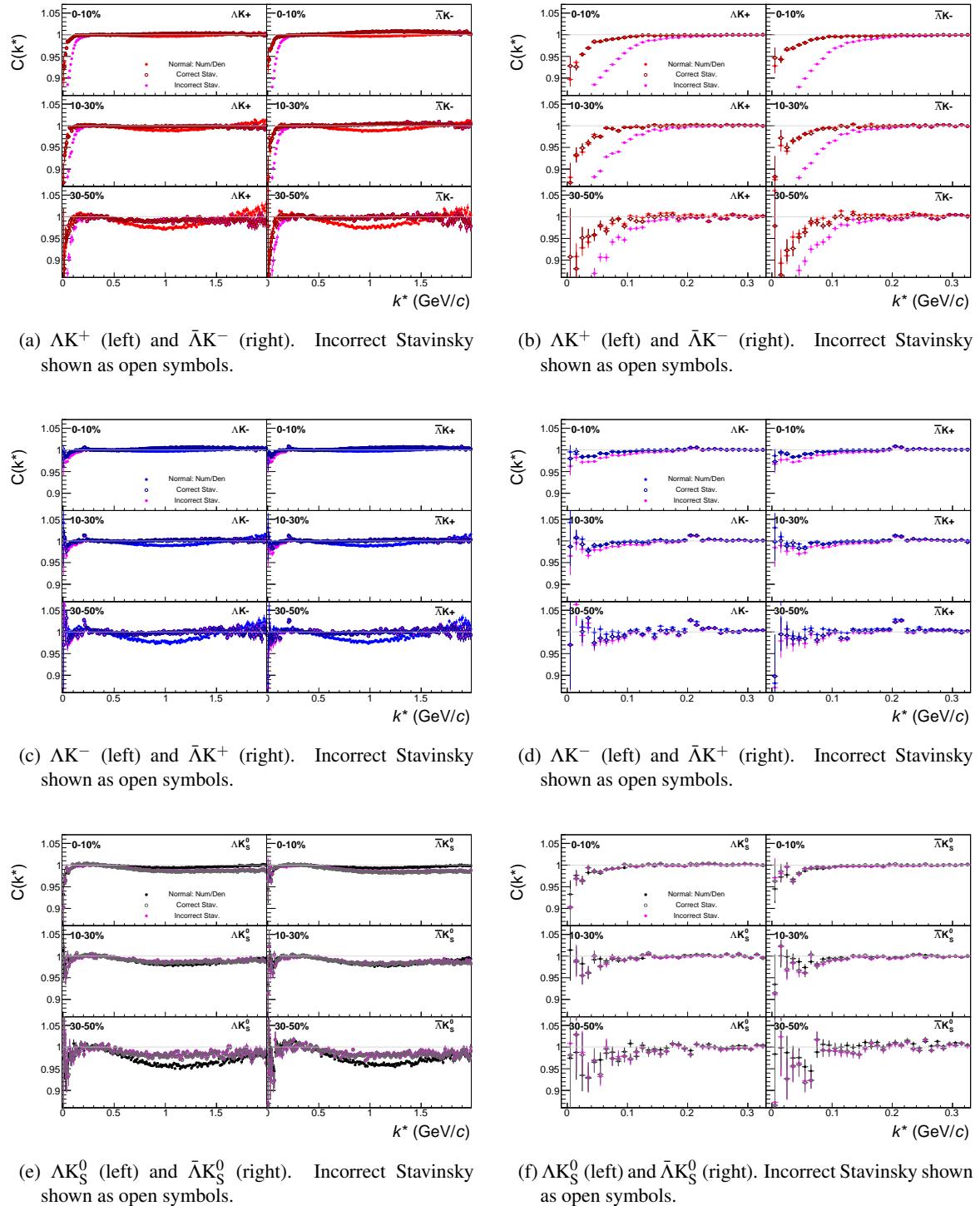
356    The purpose of the Stavinsky method is to rid the correlation functions of the non-femtoscopic back-  
357    ground. More specifically, this method is intended to handle background contributions from elliptic  
358    flow, and other sources having reflection symmetry in the transverse plane. With the Stavinsky method,  
359    mixed-event pairs are not used for the background ( $B(k^*)$ ); instead, same-event pseudo-pairs, formed  
360    by rotating one particle in a real pair by  $180^\circ$  in the transverse plane, are used as a background. This  
361    rotation rids the pairs of any femtoscopic correlation, while maintaining correlations due to elliptic flow  
362    (and other suitably symmetric contributors).

363    The results of correctly implementing such a procedure are shown in Figure 14. The figure shows the  
364    Stavinsky method does a very good job of ridding the  $\Lambda K^\pm$  correlations of their non-femtoscopic back-  
365    grounds. We also see the procedure does not work as well on the  $\Lambda K_S^0$  system.

366    Now, one must be somewhat careful when applying this Stavinsky method. We found that, in order to  
367    obtain correct results, we had to run our pseudo-pairs through the same pair cuts used in our analyses.  
368    In an ideal world, our pair cut would only remove truly bad pairs results from splitting, merging, etc. In  
369    the real world, the pair cut always throws out some of the good with the bad. For the pseudo-pairs to  
370    form a reliable background, they too must experience the pair cut, and the loss of “good” pseudo-pairs.  
371    We found this issue affected mainly our  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  analysis, as can be seen in Figure 15, which shows  
372    both a correct implementation of the Stavinsky method, and an incorrect implementation lacking the  
373    additional pair cut on the pseudo-pairs.



**Fig. 14:**  $\Lambda K$  and  $\bar{\Lambda} K$  correlation functions built using the fully correct Stavinsky method for 0-10%, 10-30%, and 30-50% centralities. In the fully correct method, the pseudo-pairs (same-event pairs with one particle rotated by  $180^\circ$  in the transverse plane) are also run through the pair cuts used in the analysis (an example of an incorrect implementation is shown in Fig. 15. Closed symbols represent correlations built using the normal mixed-event background, while open symbols represent correlations formed using the Stavinsky same-event pseudo-pairs as a background. Figures in the right column are zoomed-in versions of figures in the left column.



**Fig. 15:**  $\Lambda K$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}K$  correlation functions built, both correctly and incorrectly, using the Stavinsky method for 0-10%, 10-30%, and 30-50% centralities. This figure is the same as Fig. 14, but with results from the incorrect Stavinsky implementation shown in magenta. The closed, (red, blue, black) symbols represent correlation functions formed using the normal method with mixed-event background pairs. The open, cyan symbols represent correlation functions formed using the correct Stavinsky method. The closed, magenta symbols represent correlation functions formed using the incorrect Stavinsky method. In the correct method, the pseudo-pairs (same-event pairs with one particle rotated by  $180^\circ$  in the transverse plane) are also run through the pair cuts used in the analysis; in the incorrect method, they are not. Figures in the right column are zoomed-in versions of figures in the left column.

374 **5 Fitting**

375 **5.1 Model:  $\Lambda K_S^0, \Lambda K^\pm, \Xi^- K_S^0$**

376 The two-particle relative momentum correlation function may be written theoretically by the Koonin-  
377 Pratt equation [3, 4]:

$$C(\mathbf{k}^*) = \int S(\mathbf{r}^*) |\Psi_{\mathbf{k}^*}(\mathbf{r}^*)|^2 d^3 \mathbf{r}^* \quad (4)$$

378 where  $S(\mathbf{r}^*)$  is the pair source distribution,  $\Psi_{\mathbf{k}^*}(\mathbf{r}^*)$  is the two-particle wave-function, and  $k^*$  is the  
379 momentum of one particle in the pair rest frame. In the absence of Coulomb effects, and assuming a  
380 spherically Gaussian source of width  $R$ , and s-wave scattering, the 1D femtoscopic correlation function  
381 can be calculated analytically using:

$$C(k^*) = 1 + C_{QI}(k^*) + C_{FSI}(k^*) \quad (5)$$

382  $C_{QI}$  describes plane-wave quantum interference:

$$C_{QI}(k^*) = \alpha \exp(-4k^{*2}R^2) \quad (6)$$

383 where  $\alpha = (-1)^{2j}/(2j+1)$  for identical particles with spin  $j$ , and  $\alpha = 0$  for non-identical particles. For  
384 all analyses presented in this note,  $\alpha = 0$ .  $C_{FSI}$  describes the s-wave strong final state interaction between  
385 the particles:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{FSI}(k^*) &= (1 + \alpha) \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{f(k^*)}{R} \right|^2 \left( 1 - \frac{d_0}{2\sqrt{\pi}R} \right) + \frac{2\Re f(k^*)}{\sqrt{\pi}R} F_1(2k^*R) - \frac{\Im f(k^*)}{R} F_2(2k^*R) \right] \\ f(k^*) &= \left( \frac{1}{f_0} + \frac{1}{2} d_0 k^{*2} - ik^* \right)^{-1}; \quad F_1(z) = \int_0^z \frac{e^{x^2-z^2}}{z} dx; \quad F_2(z) = \frac{1-e^{-z^2}}{z} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

386 where  $R$  is the source size,  $f(k^*)$  is the s-wave scattering amplitude,  $f_0$  is the complex scattering length,  
387 and  $d_0$  is the effective range of the interaction.

388 An additional parameter  $\lambda$  is typically included in the femtoscopic fit function to account for the purity  
389 of the pair sample. In the case of no residual correlations (to be discussed in Section 5.4), the fit function  
390 becomes:

$$C(k^*) = 1 + \lambda [C_{QI}(k^*) + C_{FSI}(k^*)] \quad (8)$$

391 **5.2 Model:  $\Xi^- K^\pm$**

392 The two-particle correlation function may be written as:

$$C(\mathbf{k}^*) = \sum_S \rho_S \int S(\mathbf{r}^*) |\Psi_{\mathbf{k}^*}^S(\mathbf{r}^*)|^2 d^3 \mathbf{r}^* \quad (9)$$

393 where  $\rho_S$  is the normalized emission probability of particles in a state with spin  $S$ ,  $S(\mathbf{r}^*)$  is the pair  
394 emission source distribution (assumed to be Gaussian), and  $\Psi_{\mathbf{k}^*}^S(\mathbf{r}^*)$  is the two-particle wave-function  
395 including both strong and Coulomb interactions [5]:

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{k}^*}(\mathbf{r}^*) = e^{i\delta_c} \sqrt{A_c(\eta)} [e^{i\mathbf{k}^* \cdot \mathbf{r}^*} F(-i\eta, 1, i\xi) + f_c(k^*) \frac{\tilde{G}(\rho, \eta)}{r^*}] \quad (10)$$

396 where  $\rho = k^* r^*$ ,  $\eta = (k^* a_c)^{-1}$ ,  $\xi = \mathbf{k}^* \cdot \mathbf{r}^* + k^* r^* \equiv \rho(1 + \cos \theta^*)$ , and  $a_c = (\mu z_1 z_2 e^2)^{-1}$  is the two-  
 397 particle Bohr radius (including the sign of the interaction).  $\delta_c$  is the Coulomb s-wave phase shift,  $A_c(\eta)$   
 398 is the Coulomb penetration factor,  $\tilde{G} = \sqrt{A_c}(G_0 + iF_0)$  is a combination of the regular ( $F_0$ ) and singular  
 399 ( $G_0$ ) s-wave Coulomb functions.  $f_c(k^*)$  is the s-wave scattering amplitude:

$$f_c(k^*) = \left[ \frac{1}{f_0} + \frac{1}{2} d_0 k^{*2} - \frac{2}{a_c} h(\eta) - ik^* A_c(\eta) \right]^{-1} \quad (11)$$

400 where, the “h-function”,  $h(\eta)$ , is expressed through the digamma function,  $\psi(z) = \Gamma'(z)/\Gamma(z)$  as:

$$h(\eta) = 0.5[\psi(i\eta) + \psi(-i\eta) - \ln(\eta^2)] \quad (12)$$

401 In this case, the  $\lambda$  parameter may be included as:

$$C(\mathbf{k}^*) = (1 - \lambda) + \lambda \sum_S \rho_S \int S(\mathbf{r}^*) |\Psi_{\mathbf{k}^*}^S(\mathbf{r}^*)|^2 d^3 \mathbf{r}^* \quad (13)$$

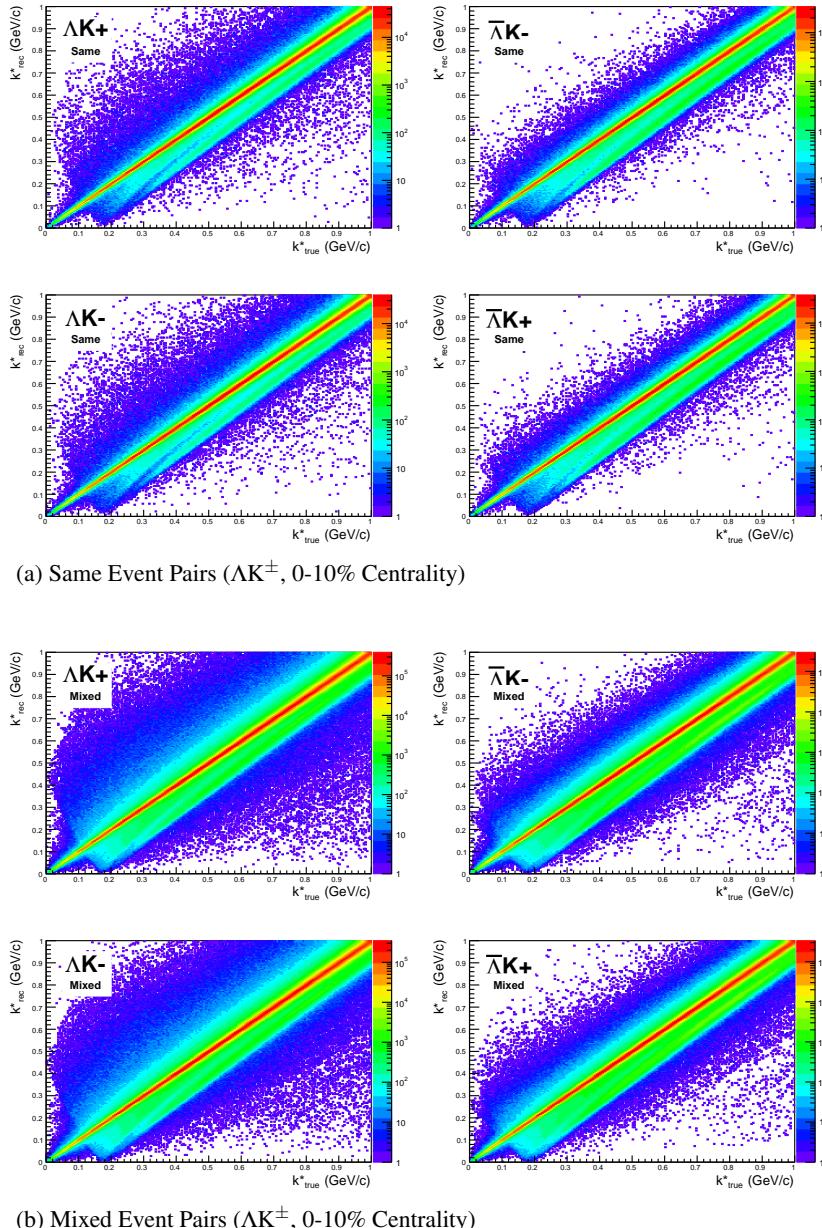
### 402 5.3 Momentum Resolution Corrections

403 Finite track momentum resolution causes the reconstructed momentum of a particle to smear around the  
 404 true value. This, of course, also holds true for V0 particles. The effect is propagated up to the pairs  
 405 of interest, which causes the reconstructed relative momentum ( $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$ ) to differ from the true momentum  
 406 ( $k_{\text{True}}^*$ ). Smearing of the momentum typically will result in a suppression of the signal. More specifically,  
 407 the smearing will broaden the signal, which would cause a decrease in the extracted radius of the system.

408 The effect of finite momentum resolution can be investigated using the HIJING MC data, for which both  
 409 the true and reconstructed momenta are available. Figure 16 shows sample  $k_{\text{True}}^*$  vs.  $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$  plots for  $\Lambda K^\pm$   
 410 0-10% analyses; Figure 16a was generated using same-event pairs, while Figure 16b was generated using  
 411 mixed-event pairs (with  $N_{\text{mix}} = 5$ ).

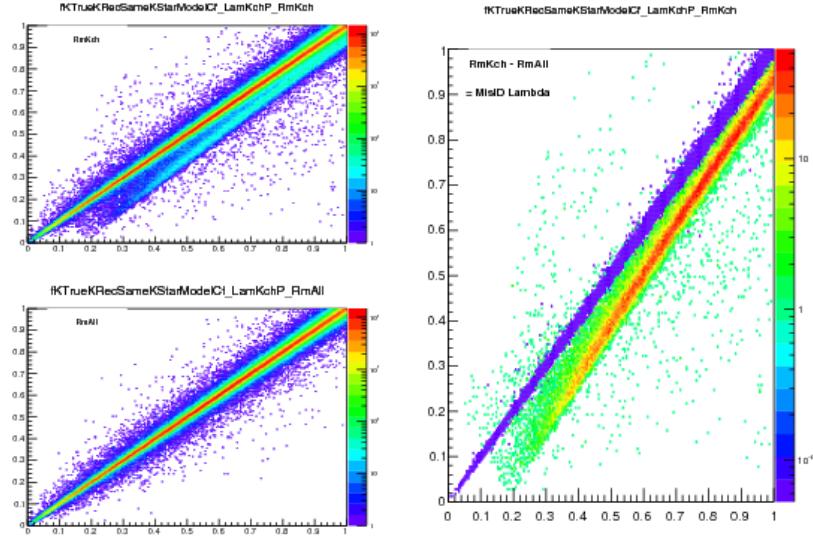
412 If there are no contaminations in our particle collection, the plots in Figure 16 should be smeared around  
 413  $k_{\text{True}}^* = k_{\text{Rec}}^*$ ; this is mostly true in our analyses. However, there are some interesting features of our results  
 414 which demonstrate a small (notice the log-scale on the z-axis) contamination in our particle collection.  
 415 The structure around  $k_{\text{Rec}}^* = k_{\text{True}}^* - 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c$  is mainly caused by  $K_S^0$  contamination in our  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  sample.  
 416 The remaining structure not distributed about  $k_{\text{Rec}}^* = k_{\text{True}}^*$  is due to  $\pi$  and  $e$  contamination in our  $K^\pm$   
 417 sample. These contaminations are more visible in Figure 17, which show  $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$  vs.  $k_{\text{True}}^*$  plots (for a  
 418 small sample of the  $\Lambda K^\pm$  0-10% central analysis), for which the MC truth (i.e. true, known identity of  
 419 the particle) was used to eliminate misidentified particles in the  $K^+(a)$  and  $\Lambda(b)$  collections. (NOTE:  
 420 This is an old figure and is for a small sample of the data. A new version will be generated shortly. It,  
 421 nonetheless, demonstrates the point well).

422 Information gained from looking at  $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$  vs  $k_{\text{true}}$  can be used to apply corrections to account for the  
 423 effects of finite momentum resolution on the correlation functions. A typical method (“Ratio” method)  
 424 involves using the MC HIJING data to build two correlation functions,  $C_{\text{Rec}}(k^*)$  and  $C_{\text{True}}(k^*)$ , using  
 425 the generator-level momentum ( $k_{\text{True}}^*$ ) and the measured detector-level momentum ( $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$ ). The data is  
 426 then corrected by multiplying by the ratio,  $C_{\text{True}}/C_{\text{Rec}}$ , before fitting. This essentially unsmears the data,  
 427 which then can be compared directly to theoretical predictions and fits. Although this is conceptually  
 428 simple, there are a couple of big disadvantages to this method. First, HIJING does not incorporate final-  
 429 state interactions, so weights must be used when building same-event (numerator) distributions. These  
 430 weights account for the interactions, and, in the absence of Coulomb interactions, can be calculated using  
 431 Eq. 5. Of course, these weights are valid only for a particular set of fit parameters. Therefore, in the fitting  
 432 process, during which the fitter explores a large parameter set, the corrections will not remain valid. As

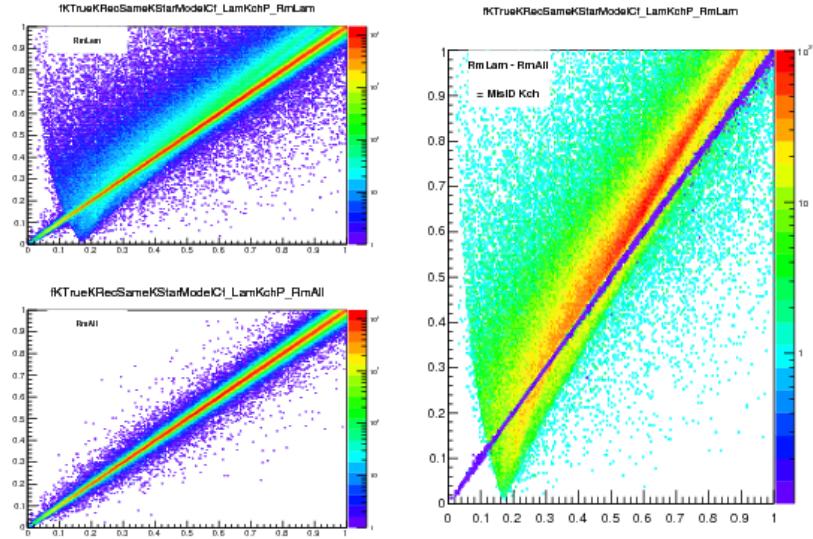


**Fig. 16:** Sample  $k^*_\text{True}$  vs.  $k^*_\text{Rec}$  plots from MC HIJING events for  $\Lambda K^\pm$  0-10% analyses. The structure which appears around  $k^*_\text{Rec} = k^*_\text{True} - 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c$  is mainly caused by  $K_S^0$  contamination in our  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  sample. The remaining structure not distributed about  $k^*_\text{Rec} = k^*_\text{True}$  is due to  $\pi$  and  $e$  contamination in our  $K^\pm$  sample. These contaminations are more clearly visible in Figure 17

such, applying the momentum resolution correction and fitting becomes a long and drawn out iterative process. An initial parameter set is obtained (through fitting without momentum resolution corrections, theoretical models, or a good guess), then the MC data is analyzed to obtain correlation functions needed to calculate the correction factor, the data is fit using the correction factor, a refined parameter set is extracted, the MC data is analyzed again to obtain the new correction factor, etc. This process continues until the parameter set stabilizes. The second issue concerns statistics. With the MC data available on the grid, we were not able to generate the statistics necessary to use the raw  $C_\text{True}/C_\text{Rec}$  ratio. The ratio was not stable, and when applied to the data, obscured the signal. Attempting to fit the ratio to use to generate the corrections also proved problematic. However, as HIJING does not include final-state interactions, the same-event and mixed-event pairs are very similar (with the exception of things like



(a) (Top Left) All misidentified  $K^+$  excluded. (Bottom Left) All misidentified  $\Lambda$  and  $K^+$  excluded. (Right) The difference of (Top Left) - (Bottom Left), which reveals the contamination in our  $\Lambda$  collection. The structure which appears around  $k_{\text{Rec}}^* = k_{\text{True}}^* - 0.15 \text{ GeV}/c$  is mainly caused by  $K_S^0$  contamination in our  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$  sample.



(b) (Top Left) All misidentified  $\Lambda$  excluded. (Bottom Left) All misidentified  $\Lambda$  and  $K^-$  excluded. (Right) The difference of (Top Left) - (Bottom Left), which reveals the contamination in our  $K^-$  collection. The structure not distributed about  $k_{\text{Rec}}^* = k_{\text{True}}^*$  is due to  $\pi$  and  $e^-$  contamination in our  $K^\pm$  sample.

**Fig. 17:** In the figure, the y-axis =  $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$ , and the x-axis =  $k_{\text{True}}^*$ . (Left)  $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$  vs.  $k_{\text{True}}^*$  plots for a small sample of the  $\Lambda K^+$  0-10% central analysis, MC truth was used to eliminate misidentified particles in the  $K^+$  (a) and  $\Lambda$  (b) collections. (Right) The difference of the top left and bottom left plots. Contaminations in our particle collections are clearly visible. Figure (a) demonstrates a  $K_S^0$  contamination in our  $\Lambda$  collection; Figure (b) demonstrates a  $\pi$  and  $e^-$  contamination in our  $K^\pm$  collection.

443 energy and momentum conservation, etc). Therefore, one may build the numerator distribution using  
444 mixed-event pairs. This corresponds, more or less, to simply running the weight generator through the  
445 detector framework.

446 A second approach (“Matrix” method) is to use information gained from plots like those in Figure 16,

447 which can be considered response matrices. The response matrix describes quantitatively how each  
 448  $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$  bin receives contributions from multiple  $k_{\text{True}}^*$  bins, and can be used to account for the effects of  
 449 finite momentum resolution. With this approach, the resolution correction is applied on-the-fly during  
 450 the fitting process by propagating the theoretical correlation function (fit) through the response matrix,  
 451 according to:

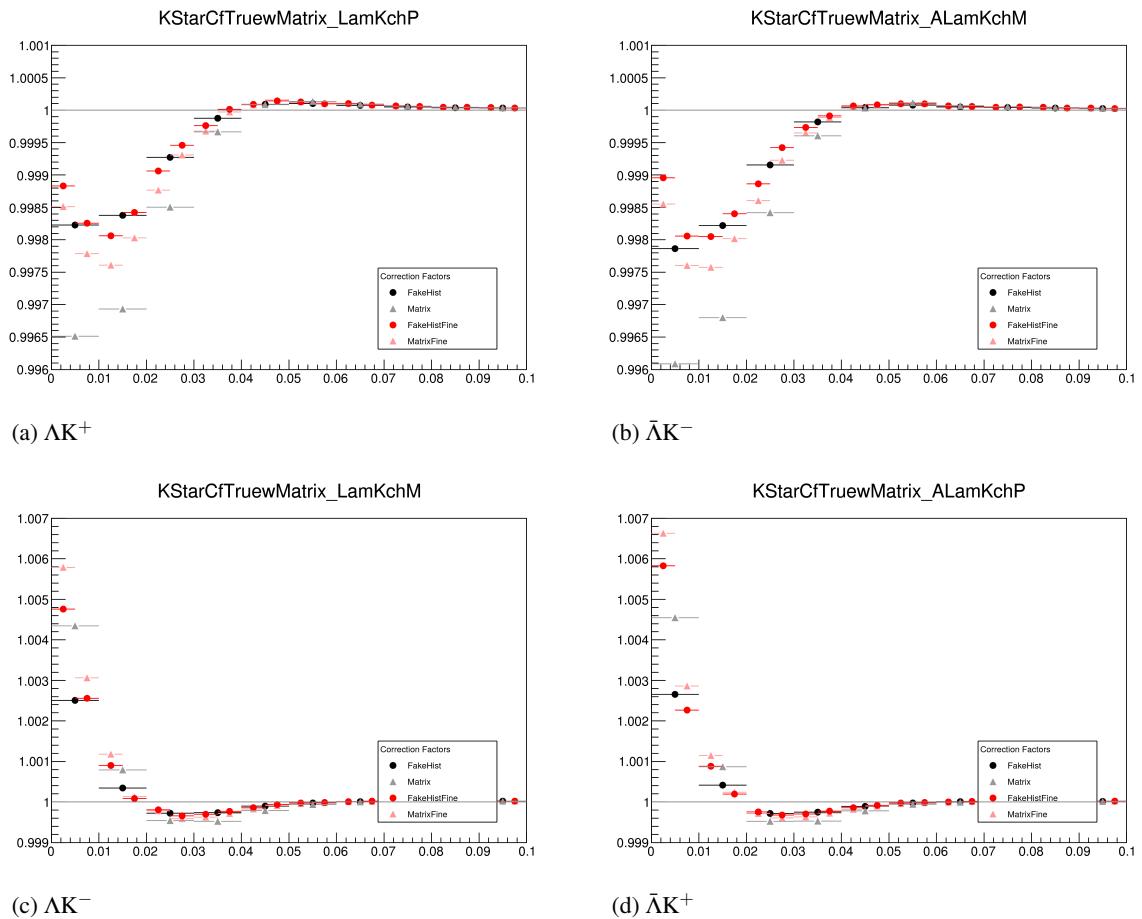
$$C_{\text{Fit}}(k_{\text{Rec}}^*) = \frac{\sum_{k_{\text{True}}^*} M_{k_{\text{Rec}}^*, k_{\text{True}}^*} C_{\text{Fit}}(k_{\text{True}}^*)}{\sum_{k_{\text{True}}^*} M_{k_{\text{Rec}}^*, k_{\text{True}}^*}} \quad (14)$$

452 where  $M_{k_{\text{Rec}}^*, k_{\text{True}}^*}$  is the response matrix (Figure 16),  $C_{\text{Fit}}(k_{\text{True}}^*)$  is the fit binned in  $k_{\text{True}}^*$ , and the denominator normalizes the result.

454 Equation 14 describes that, for a given  $k_{\text{Rec}}^*$  bin, the observed value of  $C(k_{\text{Rec}}^*)$  is a weighted average of  
 455 all  $C(k_{\text{True}}^*)$  values, where the weights are the normalized number of counts in the  $[k_{\text{Rec}}^*, k_{\text{True}}^*]$  bin. As  
 456 seen in Figure 16, overwhelmingly the main contributions comes from the  $k_{\text{Rec}}^* = k_{\text{True}}^*$  bins. Although  
 457 the correction is small, it is non-negligible for the low- $k^*$  region of the correlation function.

458 Here, the momentum resolution correction is applied to the fit, not the data. In other words, during  
 459 fitting, the theoretical correlation function is smeared just as real data would be, instead of unsmearing  
 460 the data. This may not be ideal for the theorist attempting to compare a model to experimental data, but  
 461 it leaves the experimental data unadulterated. The current analyses use this second approach to applying  
 462 momentum resolution corrections because of two major advantages. First, the MC data must be analyzed  
 463 only once, and no assumptions about the fit are needed. Secondly, the momentum resolution correction  
 464 is applied on-the-fly by the fitter, delegating the iterative process to a computer instead of the user.

465 The two methods described above, Ratio and Matrix, should reproduce the same results at the parameter  
 466 set used to generate the  $C_{\text{True}}/C_{\text{Rec}}$  needed for the Ratio method. Figure 18 shows that the two methods  
 467 converge as the binning size is decreased.



**Fig. 18:** Comparison of the two methods, Ratio and Matrix, for accounting for momentum resolution effects with HIJING. The Ratio method corresponds to the “FakeHist” histograms (circles), while the Matrix method corresponds to the “Matrix” histograms (triangles). Black shows a course binning, while red shows a finer binning.

468 **5.4 Residual Correlations**

469 The purpose of this analysis is to study both the interaction, and the scale of the emitting source, of  
 470 the pairs. In order to obtain correct results, it is important for our particle collections to consist of  
 471 primary particles. In practice, this is difficult to achieve for our  $\Lambda$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}$  collections. Many of our  $\Lambda$   
 472 particles are not primary, but originate as decay products from other hyperons, including  $\Sigma^0$ ,  $\Xi^0$ ,  $\Xi^-$  and  
 473  $\Sigma^{*(+,-,0)}(1385)$ . Additionally, many of our K particles are not primary, but decay from  $K^{*(+,-,0)}(892)$   
 474 parents. In these decays, the daughter  $\Lambda$  or  $K_S^0$  carries away a momentum very similar to that of its parent.  
 475 As a result, the correlation function between a secondary  $\Lambda$  and, for instance, a  $K^+$  will be sensitive to,  
 476 and dependent upon, the interaction between the parent of the  $\Lambda$  and the  $K^+$ . In effect, the correlation  
 477 between the parent of the  $\Lambda$  and the  $K^+$  (ex.  $\Sigma^0 K^+$ ) will be visible, although smeared out, in the  $\Lambda K^+$   
 478 data; we call this a residual correlation resulting from feed-down. The contributions from the primary  
 479 correlation, residual correlations, and fake pairs on the finally measure data is shown schematically in  
 480 Figure 19. Residual correlations are important in an analysis when three criteria are met [6]: i) the parent  
 481 correlation signal is large, ii) a large fraction of pairs in the sample originate from the particular parent  
 482 system, and iii) the decay momenta are comparable to the expected correlation width in  $k^*$ .

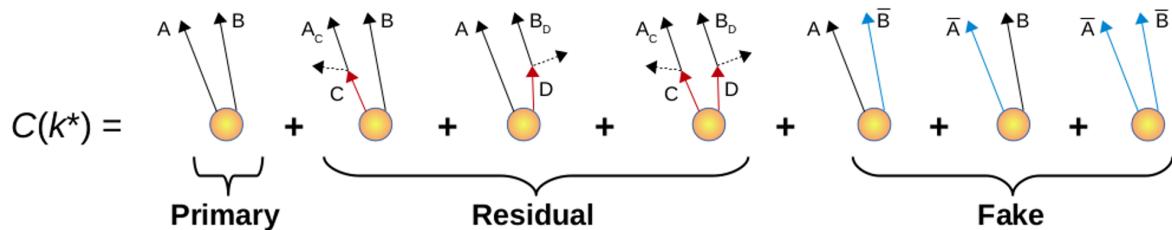


Fig. 19: A schematic representation of the contributions to the finally measured data from the primary correlation, residual correlations, and fake pairs.

483 As it is difficult for us to eliminate these residual correlations in our analyses, we must attempt to account  
 484 for them in our fit. To achieve this, we will simultaneously fit the data for both the primary correlation  
 485 function and the residual correlations. For example, in the simple case of a  $\Lambda K^+$  analysis with residuals  
 486 arising solely from  $\Sigma^0 K^+$  feed-down:

$$C_{measured}(k_{\Lambda K^+}^*) = 1 + \lambda_{\Lambda K^+}[C_{\Lambda K^+}(k_{\Lambda K^+}^*) - 1] + \lambda_{\Sigma^0 K^+}[C_{\Sigma^0 K^+}(k_{\Lambda K^+}^*) - 1]$$

$$C_{\Sigma^0 K^+}(k_{\Lambda K^+}^*) \equiv \frac{\sum_{k_{\Sigma^0 K^+}^*} C_{\Sigma^0 K^+}(k_{\Sigma^0 K^+}^*) T(k_{\Sigma^0 K^+}^*, k_{\Lambda K^+}^*)}{\sum_{k_{\Sigma^0 K^+}^*} T(k_{\Sigma^0 K^+}^*, k_{\Lambda K^+}^*)} \quad (15)$$

487  $C_{\Sigma^0 K^+}(k_{\Sigma^0 K^+}^*)$  is the  $\Sigma^0 K^+$  correlation function from, for instance, Equation 5, and  $T$  is the transform  
 488 matrix generated with THERMINATOR. The transform matrix is formed for a given parent pair, AB,  
 489 by taking all  $\Lambda K$  pairs originating from AB, calculating the relative momentum of the parents ( $k_{AB}^*$ )  
 490 and daughters ( $k_{\Lambda K}^*$ ), and filling a two-dimensional histogram with the values. The transform matrix  
 491 is essentially an unnormalized probability distribution mapping the  $k^*$  of the parent pair to that of the  
 492 daughter pair when one or both parents decay. An example of such transform matrices can be found in  
 493 Figures 20 and 21.

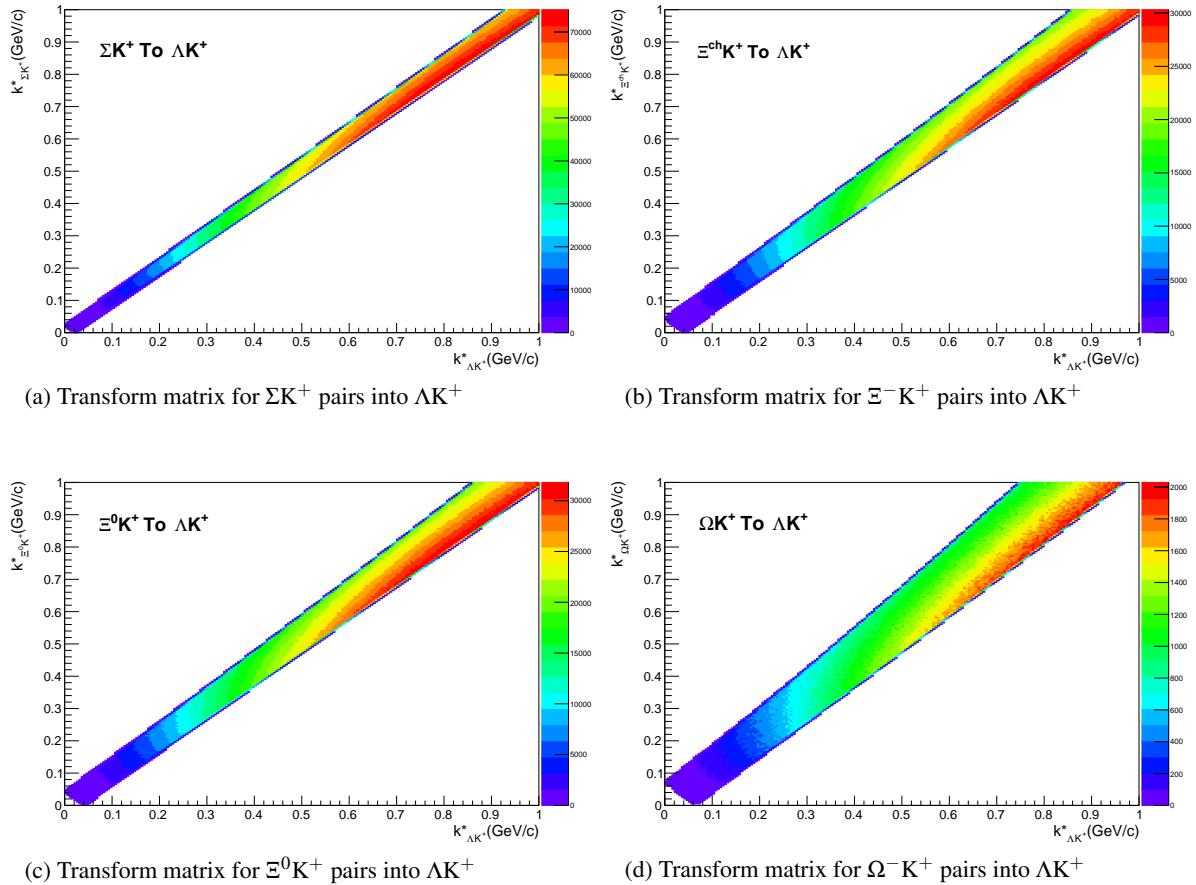
494 The above equation can be easily extended to include feed-down from more sources:

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{measured}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) &= 1 + \lambda_{\Lambda K}[C_{\Lambda K}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) - 1] + \lambda_{\Sigma^0 K}[C_{\Sigma^0 K}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) - 1] + \dots \\
&\quad + \lambda_{P_1 P_2}[C_{P_1 P_2}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) - 1] + \lambda_{other}[C_{other}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) - 1]
\end{aligned}
\tag{16}$$

$$C_{P_1 P_2}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) \equiv \frac{\sum_{k_{P_1 P_2}^*} C_{P_1 P_2}(k_{P_1 P_2}^*) T(k_{P_1 P_2}^*, k_{\Lambda K}^*)}{\sum_{k_{P_1 P_2}^*} T(k_{P_1 P_2}^*, k_{\Lambda K}^*)}$$

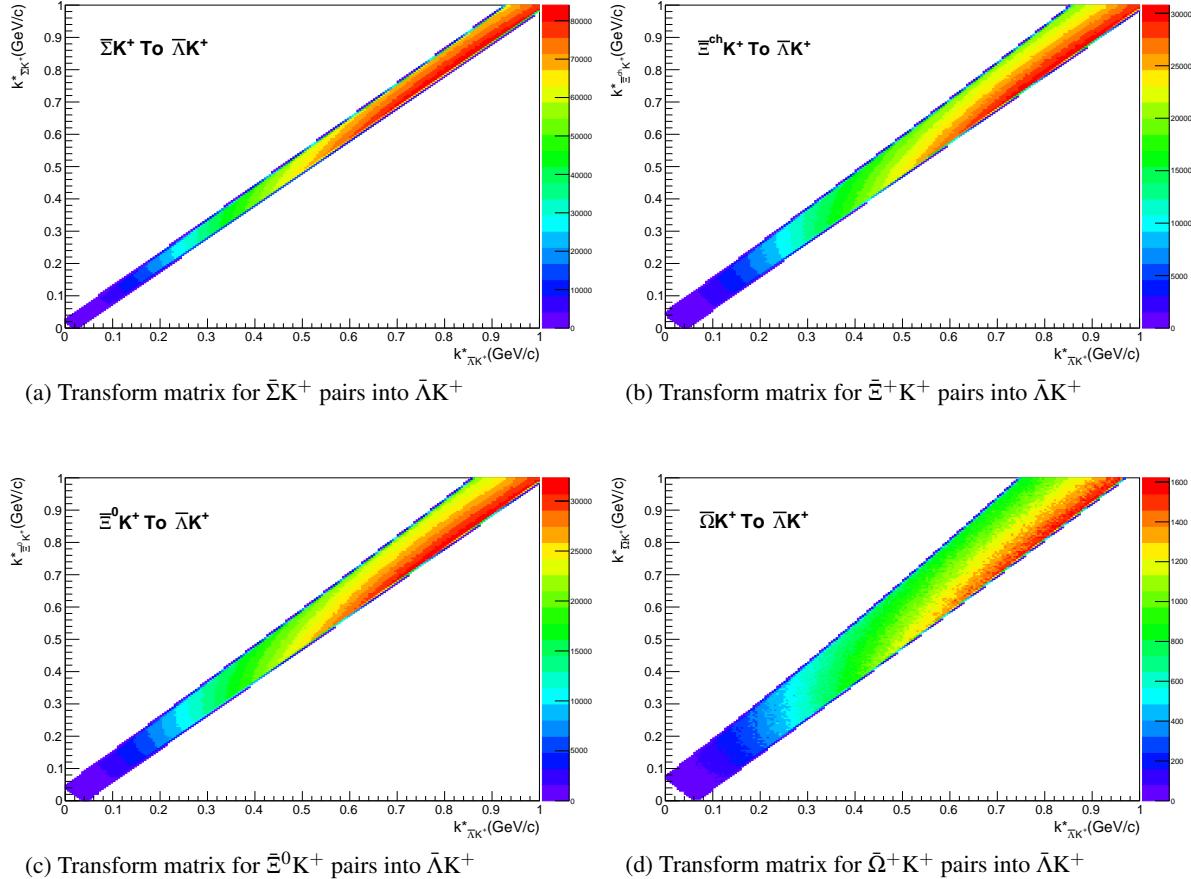
495 Or, more compactly:

$$C_{measured}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) = 1 + \sum_i \lambda_i [C_i(k_{\Lambda K}^*) - 1] \tag{17}$$



**Fig. 20:** Sample Transform Matrices generated with THERMINATOR for  $\Lambda K^+$  Analysis

496 So, in practice, we model the correlation function of the parents (ex.  $\Sigma^0 K^+$ ), and run the correlation  
497 function through the appropriate transform matrix to determine the contribution to the daughter corre-  
498 lation function (ex.  $\Lambda K^+$ ). A few questions still remain. First, what  $\lambda$  values should be used in the above  
499 equation? One option would be to leave all of these  $\lambda$ -parameters free during the fit process. However,  
500 this would introduce a huge number of new parameters into the fitter, and would make the fit results less  
501 trustworthy. The  $\lambda$  parameters roughly dictate the strength of the parent contribution to the daughter  
502 pair. Additionally, as found in [7], the reconstruction efficiency for primary  $\Lambda$  particles is nearly equal  
503 to that of  $\Lambda$  particles originating from  $\Sigma$ ,  $\Sigma^*$ ,  $\Xi^0$ ,  $\Xi^-$ , and  $\Omega$  hyperons. Therefore, the  $\lambda$  parameter for



**Fig. 21:** Sample Transform Matrices generated with THERMINATOR for  $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$  Analysis

parent system AB can be estimated using THERMINATOR as the total number of  $\Lambda K$  pairs originating from AB ( $N_{AB}$ ) divided by the total number of  $\Lambda K$  pairs ( $N_{Total}$ ):

$$\lambda_{AB} = \frac{N_{AB}}{N_{Total}} \quad (18)$$

Note, for our study, we consider a particle to be primary if its parent has a proper decay length of  $< 4$  fm. The  $\lambda$  values used can be found in Table 4, for the case of both three and ten residual contributors. In the table, we also list the  $\lambda$  values used for “Other” and “Fakes”. The “Other” category contains pairs which are not primary, and which do not originate from the (3 or 10) residual pairs included in the fit. The “Fakes” category represents pairs that are mistakenly identified as  $\Lambda K$ . To estimate this  $\lambda_{Fakes}$  value, we assumed that the number of fake pairs was equal to the total number of pairs multiplied by the  $\Lambda$  purity (i.e. assuming perfect purity for the kaons); or, more simply,  $\lambda_{Fakes} = 1.0 - \text{Purity}(\Lambda)$ . For both of these contributors (“Other” and “Fakes”), we assume that these correlations average to unity, and therefore do not contribute to the final correlation function.

$\Lambda K^+$ residuals		$\bar{\Lambda}K^-$ residuals		$\Lambda K^-$ residuals		$\bar{\Lambda}K^+$ residuals		$\Lambda K_S^0$ residuals		$\bar{\Lambda}K_S^0$ residuals	
Pair System	$\lambda$ value	Pair System	$\lambda$ value	Pair System	$\lambda$ value	Pair System	$\lambda$ value	Pair System	$\lambda$ value	Pair System	$\lambda$ value
3 Residuals											
$\Lambda K^+$	0.488	$\bar{\Lambda}K^-$	0.488	$\Lambda K^-$	0.487	$\bar{\Lambda}K^+$	0.489	$\Lambda K_S^0$	0.505	$\bar{\Lambda}K_S^0$	0.507
$\Sigma^0 K^+$	0.103	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^-$	0.102	$\Sigma^0 K^-$	0.102	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^+$	0.102	$\Sigma^0 K_S^0$	0.112	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K_S^0$	0.111
$\Xi^0 K^+$	0.046	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K^-$	0.040	$\Xi^0 K^-$	0.046	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K^+$	0.041	$\Xi^0 K_S^0$	0.050	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K_S^0$	0.044
$\Xi^- K^+$	0.063	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K^-$	0.056	$\Xi^- K^-$	0.062	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K^+$	0.057	$\Xi^- K_S^0$	0.068	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K_S^0$	0.062
Other	0.252	Other	0.261	Other	0.255	Other	0.259	Other	0.217	Other	0.222
Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048
10 Residuals											
$\Lambda K^+$	0.317	$\bar{\Lambda}K^-$	0.319	$\Lambda K^-$	0.317	$\bar{\Lambda}K^+$	0.318	$\Lambda K_S^0$	0.342	$\bar{\Lambda}K_S^0$	0.344
$\Sigma^0 K^+$	0.105	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^-$	0.105	$\Sigma^0 K^-$	0.104	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^+$	0.106	$\Sigma^0 K_S^0$	0.113	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K_S^0$	0.114
$\Xi^0 K^+$	0.047	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K^-$	0.042	$\Xi^0 K^-$	0.047	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K^+$	0.042	$\Xi^0 K_S^0$	0.051	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K_S^0$	0.045
$\Xi^- K^+$	0.064	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K^-$	0.058	$\Xi^- K^-$	0.063	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K^+$	0.059	$\Xi^- K_S^0$	0.069	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K_S^0$	0.063
$\Sigma^{*+} K^+$	0.049	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*-} K^-$	0.047	$\Sigma^{*+} K^-$	0.048	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*-} K^+$	0.048	$\Sigma^{*+} K_S^0$	0.052	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*-} K_S^0$	0.051
$\Sigma^{*-} K^+$	0.044	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*+} K^-$	0.046	$\Sigma^{*-} K^-$	0.044	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*+} K^+$	0.047	$\Sigma^{*-} K_S^0$	0.047	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*+} K_S^0$	0.050
$\Sigma^{*0} K^+$	0.044	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*0} K^-$	0.041	$\Sigma^{*0} K^-$	0.044	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*0} K^+$	0.042	$\Sigma^{*0} K_S^0$	0.047	$\bar{\Sigma}^{*0} K_S^0$	0.045
$\Lambda K^{*0}$	0.041	$\bar{\Lambda}K^{*0}$	0.042	$\Lambda \bar{K}^{*0}$	0.041	$\bar{\Lambda}K^{*0}$	0.042	$\Lambda K^{*0}$	0.020	$\bar{\Lambda}K^{*0}$	0.020
$\Sigma^0 K^{*0}$	0.037	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$	0.037	$\Sigma^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$	0.037	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^{*0}$	0.037	$\Sigma^0 K^{*0}$	0.017	$\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^{*0}$	0.018
$\Xi^0 K^{*0}$	0.017	$\bar{\Xi}^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$	0.015	$\Xi^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$	0.017	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K^{*0}$	0.015	$\Xi^0 K^{*0}$	0.008	$\bar{\Xi}^0 K^{*0}$	0.007
$\Xi^- K^{*0}$	0.022	$\bar{\Xi}^+ \bar{K}^{*0}$	0.021	$\Xi^- \bar{K}^{*0}$	0.022	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K^{*0}$	0.021	$\Xi^- K^{*0}$	0.011	$\bar{\Xi}^+ K^{*0}$	0.010
Other	0.166	Other	0.174	Other	0.169	Other	0.171	Other	0.176	Other	0.181
Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048	Fakes	0.048

**Table 4:**  $\lambda$  values for the individual components of the  $\Lambda K$  correlation functions for the case of 3 and 10 residual contributions.

515 Now, the remaining question is how do we model the parent correlation functions? In an ideal world, we  
 516 would simply look up the parent interaction in some table, and input this into our Lednicky equation (for  
 517 the case of one or more charge neutral particle in the pair), or run it through the CoulombFitter machinery  
 518 described in Sec.5.2. Unfortunately, the world in which we live is not perfect, such a table does not exists,  
 519 and little is know about the interaction between the residual pairs in this study. One solution would be  
 520 to introduce a set of scattering parameters and radii for each residual system. However, as was the case  
 521 of the  $\lambda$ -parameters above, this would introduce a large number of additional fit parameters, and would  
 522 make our fitter too unconstrained and would yield untrustworthy results. The second option, which is  
 523 adopted in this analysis, is to assume all residual pairs have the same source size as the daughter pair,  
 524 and all Coulomb-neutral residual pairs also share the same scattering parameters as the daughter pair (the  
 525 case of charged pairs, such as  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  or  $\Sigma^{*\pm} K^\pm$ , will be described below).

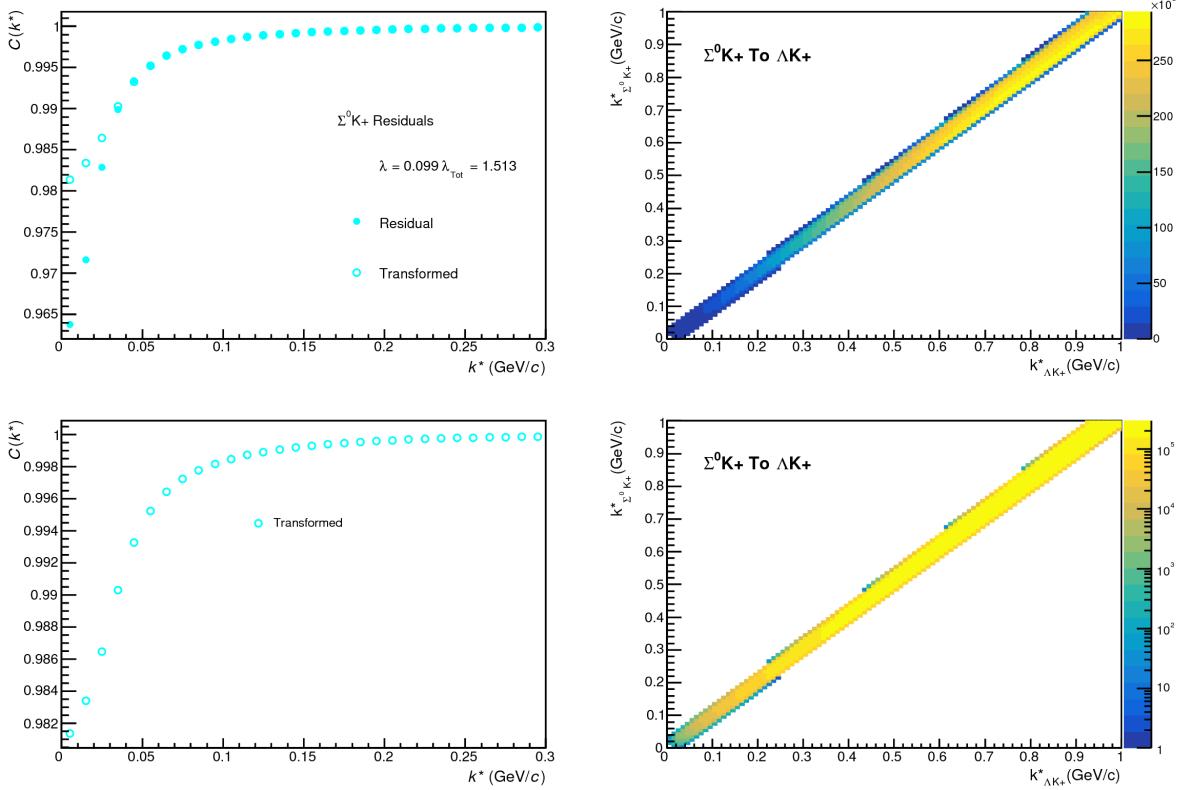
526 Concerning the radii of the residual parent pairs, it was suggested that these should be set to smaller  
 527 values than those of the daughter pair. In the interest of minimizing the number of parameters in the  
 528 fitter, we tested this by introducing an  $m_T$ -scaling of the parents' radii. The motivation for this scaling  
 529 comes from the approximate  $m_T$ -scaling of the radii observed in ???. To achieve this scaling, we assume  
 530 the radii follow an inverse-square-root distribution:  $R_{AB} = \alpha m_T^{-1/2}$ . Then, it follows that we should scale  
 531 the parent radii as:

$$R_{AB} = R_{\Lambda K} \left( \frac{m_{T,AB}}{m_{T,\Lambda K}} \right)^{-1/2} \quad (19)$$

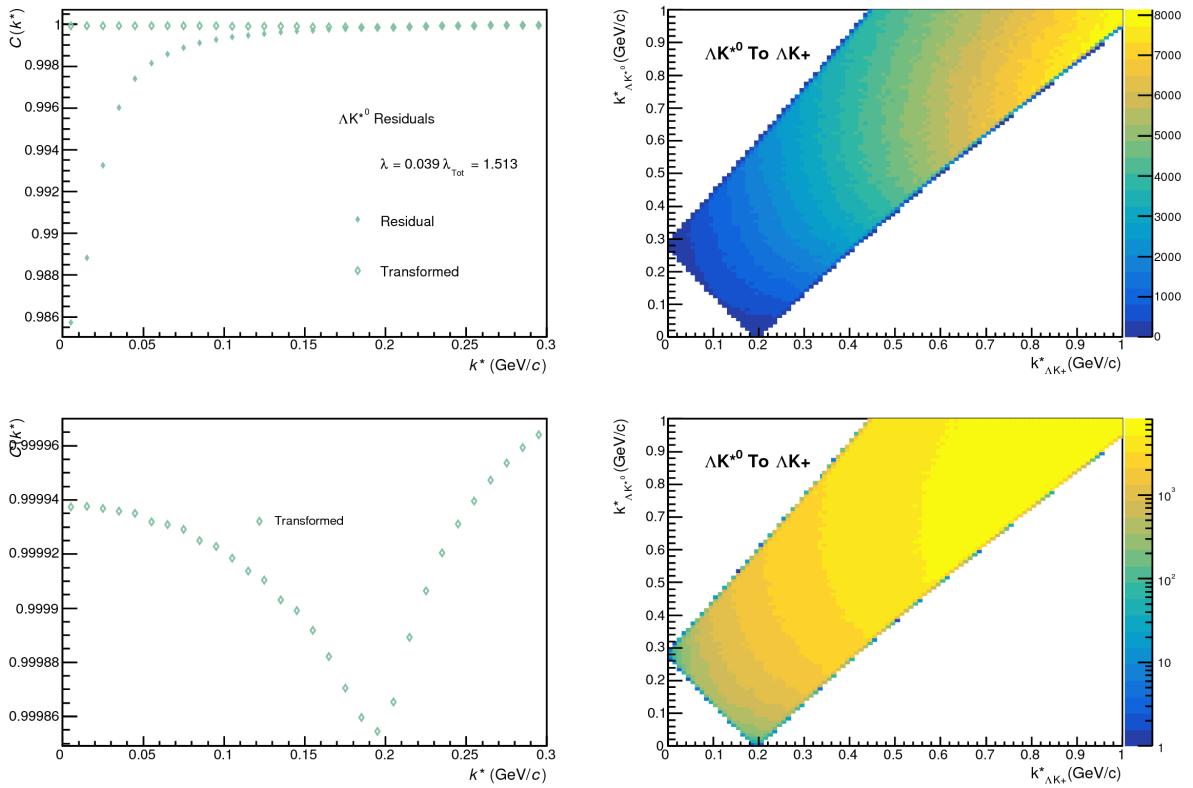
532 The values of  $m_T$  for each pair system were taken from THERMINATOR. As the fitter dances around  
 533 parameter space and selects a new radius for the  $\Lambda K$  system, the radii of the residuals is simply the  $\Lambda K$   
 534 radius scaled by the appropriate factor, given above (Eq.19). In the end, this scaling factor made no  
 535 significant difference in our fit results, so this complication is excluded from our final results. Note that  
 536 this is not surprising, as the most extreme scaling factor was, in the case of using 10 residual systems,  
 537 between  $\Lambda K^+$  with  $m_{T,\Lambda K^+} \approx 1.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and  $\Xi^- K^{*0}$  with  $m_{T,\Xi^- K^{*0}} \approx 1.8 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , resulting in a scale  
 538 factor of  $\approx 0.9$ .

539 Now, as hinted above, accounting for charged residuals adds a complication in that they necessitate the  
 540 inclusion of the CoulombFitter (described in Sec. 5.7) into the process. The complication of combining  
 541 the two fitters is not troubling; however, the substantial increase in the fitting time is (the parallelization  
 542 of the CoulombFitter across a large number of GPU cores, to drastically decrease run-time, is currently  
 543 underway). We have two solutions to bypass such a large increase in run time. First, we can use our  
 544 experimental  $\Xi^{\text{ch}} K^{\text{ch}}$  data to represent all charged parent pair system. In this case, there is no need to  
 545 make any assumption about scattering parameters or source sizes, as we already have the experimental  
 546 data. The downside is that, especially in the 30-50% centrality bin, the statistics are low and error bars  
 547 large. Alternatively, we can assume the strong interaction is negligible in the charged residual, and  
 548 generate the parent correlation function given radius and  $\lambda$  parameters. We find in our  $\Xi^{\text{ch}} K^{\text{ch}}$  study  
 549 that a Coulomb-only description of the system describes, reasonably well, the broad features of the  
 550 correlation. The strong interaction is necessary for the fine details. However, as these correlations are  
 551 run through a transform matrix, which largely flattens out and fine details, a Coulomb-only description  
 552 should be sufficient. In practice, this Coulomb-only scenario is achieved by first building a large number  
 553 of Coulomb-only correlations for various radii and  $\lambda$  parameter values, and interpolating from this grid  
 554 during the fitting process. We find consistent results between using the  $\Xi K$  data and the Coulomb-only  
 555 interpolation method. When quantifying the  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  residual contribution, the experimental  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  data  
 556 is always used. When the number of residual pairs used is increased to 10, so that contributors such  
 557 as  $\Sigma^{*+} K^-$  enter the picture, the Coulomb-only interpolation method is used. In other words, the  $\Xi K$   
 558 experimental data is only used to model the  $\Xi K$  residual contribution, all other charged pairs are treated  
 559 with the Coulomb-only interpolation method.

560 Two examples of how very different transform matrices can alter a correlation function are shown in  
 561 Figures 22 and 23 below. These figures were taken using parameter values obtained from fits to the data.  
 562 In the top left corner of the figures, the input correlation function (closed symbols) is shown together  
 563 with the output, transformed, correlation function (open symbols). In the bottom left, the transformed  
 564 correlation is shown by itself (with zoomed y-axis). This is especially helpful when the  $\lambda$  parameter is  
 565 very small, in which case the contribution in the top left can look flat, but the zoomed in view in the  
 566 bottom left shows the structure. The right two plots in each figure show the transform matrix without  
 567 (top right) and with (bottom right) a log-scale on the z-axis. Note, more examples of these transforms  
 568 can be found in Sec. 9.



**Fig. 22:**  $\Sigma^0 K^+$  Transform. These figures were taken using parameter values obtained from fits to the data. In the top left corner of the figures, the input correlation function (closed symbols) is shown together with the output, transformed, correlation function (open symbols). In the bottom left, the transformed correlation is shown by itself. The right two plots in each figure show the transform matrix without (top right) and with (bottom right) a log-scale on the z-axis.

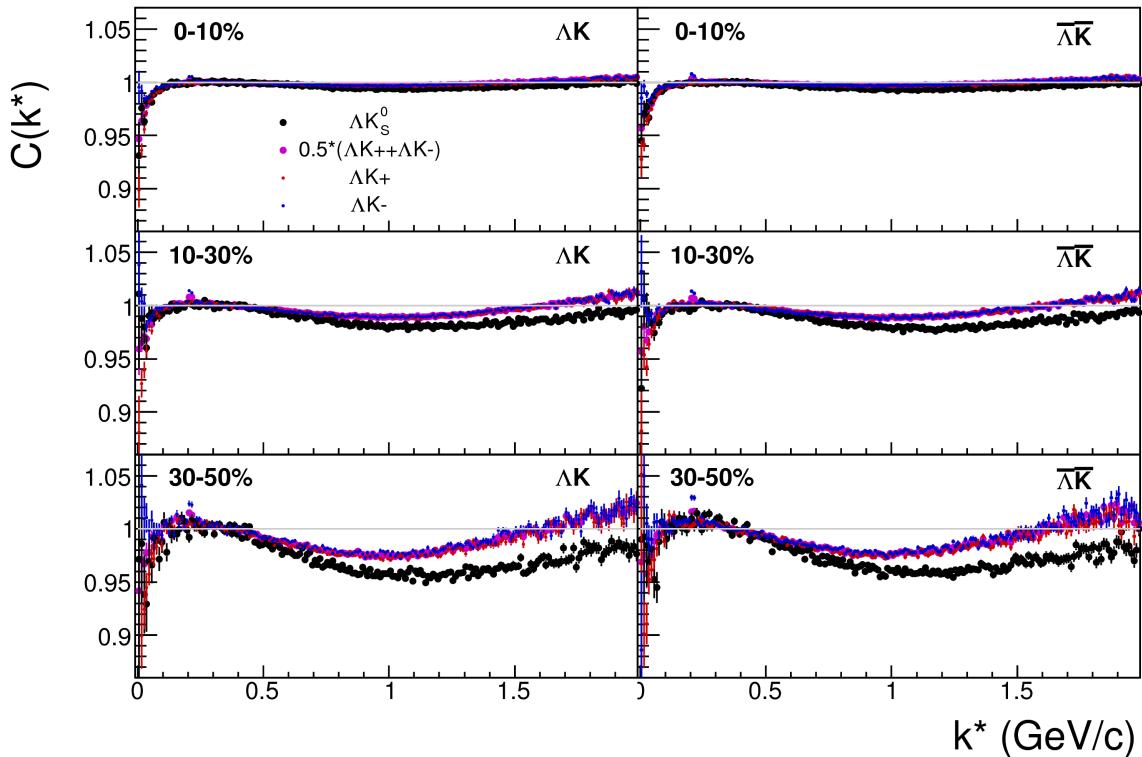


**Fig. 23:**  $\Lambda K^*0$  Transform. These figures were taken using parameter values obtained from fits to the data. In the top left corner of the figures, the input correlation function (closed symbols) is shown together with the output, transformed, correlation function (open symbols). In the bottom left, the transformed correlation is shown by itself. The right two plots in each figure show the transform matrix without (top right) and with (bottom right) a log-scale on the z-axis.

569 **5.5 Non-Flat Background**

570 We observe a significant non-femtoscopic, non-flat, background in all of our correlations at large  $k^*$ .  
 571 This background increases with decreasing centrality, is the same amongst all  $\Lambda K^\pm$  pairs, and is more  
 572 pronounced in the  $\Lambda K_S^0$  system, as can be seen in Fig. 24. Figure 25a shows that THERMINATOR 2  
 573 simulation does a good job of describing the difference in backgrounds between  $\Lambda K^\pm$  and  $\Lambda K_S^0$ .

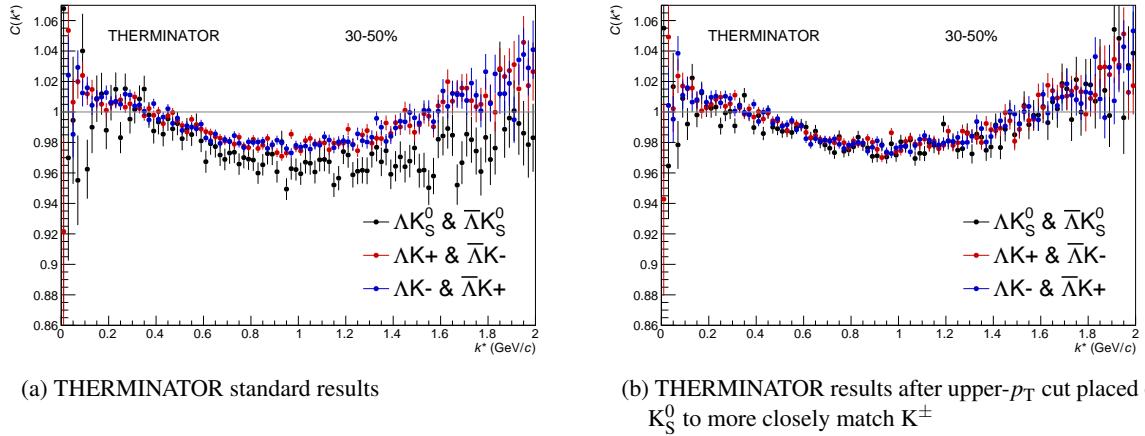
574 Before beginning, it is important to note that the difference in  $\Lambda K^\pm$  and  $\Lambda K_S^0$  backgrounds is due mainly  
 575 to the difference in kinematic cuts, not due to any interesting physics. Figure 25b shows that, for THER-  
 576 MINATOR simulation, when restrictions are imposed on the  $p_T$  of the  $K_S^0$  to more closely match the  
 577  $K^\pm$  cuts, the backgrounds align much better. Therefore, we conclude that the difference in background  
 578 between  $\Lambda K^\pm$  and  $\Lambda K_S^0$  observed in our experimental data is simply due to a difference in kinematic cuts  
 579 between  $K^\pm$  and  $K_S^0$  particles.



**Fig. 24:** A comparison on the non-femtoscopic backgrounds observed in our our  $\Lambda K$  experimental data.

580 It is suggested that this background effect is due primarily to particle collimation associated with elliptic  
 581 flow [8]. More specifically, these backgrounds result from mixing events with unlike event-plane angles  
 582 ( $\Psi_{EP}$ ). As explained in [8], when elliptic flow is present, all particles are more likely to be emitted  
 583 in a specific direction (in-plane), as opposed to a perpendicular direction. Therefore, the difference in  
 584 momenta for pairs of particles tends to be smaller, compared to the case of no flow. In the case of mixed-  
 585 event pairs, the two events used do not share an event-plane, and therefore there is no collimation effect  
 586 in the pairs from flow. As a result, pairs with larger momentum are more likely when mixed-events are  
 587 used, causing the correlation function to be observed below unity. In general, a dip below unity, at a given  
 588  $k^*$ , means it is more probable to find a pair at that  $k^*$  when the daughters are taken from mixed-events, as  
 589 compared to when they are taken from the same event.

590 This same reasoning suggests that the background should lead to an enhancement at low- $k^*$ . The en-  
 591 hancement at high- $k^*$  ( $k^* \gtrsim 1.5 \text{ GeV}/c$ ) does not result from the collective flow of the system. We are not



**Fig. 25:** THERMINATOR 2 simulation for  $\Lambda K^+$  (red),  $\Lambda K^-$  (blue), and  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (black). In 25a, we show the standard THERMINATOR 2 results. THERMINATOR 2 does a good job describing qualitatively the different between the  $\Lambda K^\pm$  and  $\Lambda K_S^0$  backgrounds. In 25b, an upper- $p_T$  cut was placed on the  $K_S^0$  particles to more closely match the  $K^\pm$  kinematic cuts. After this tweak, the  $\Lambda K^\pm$  and  $\Lambda K_S^0$  backgrounds agree much better.

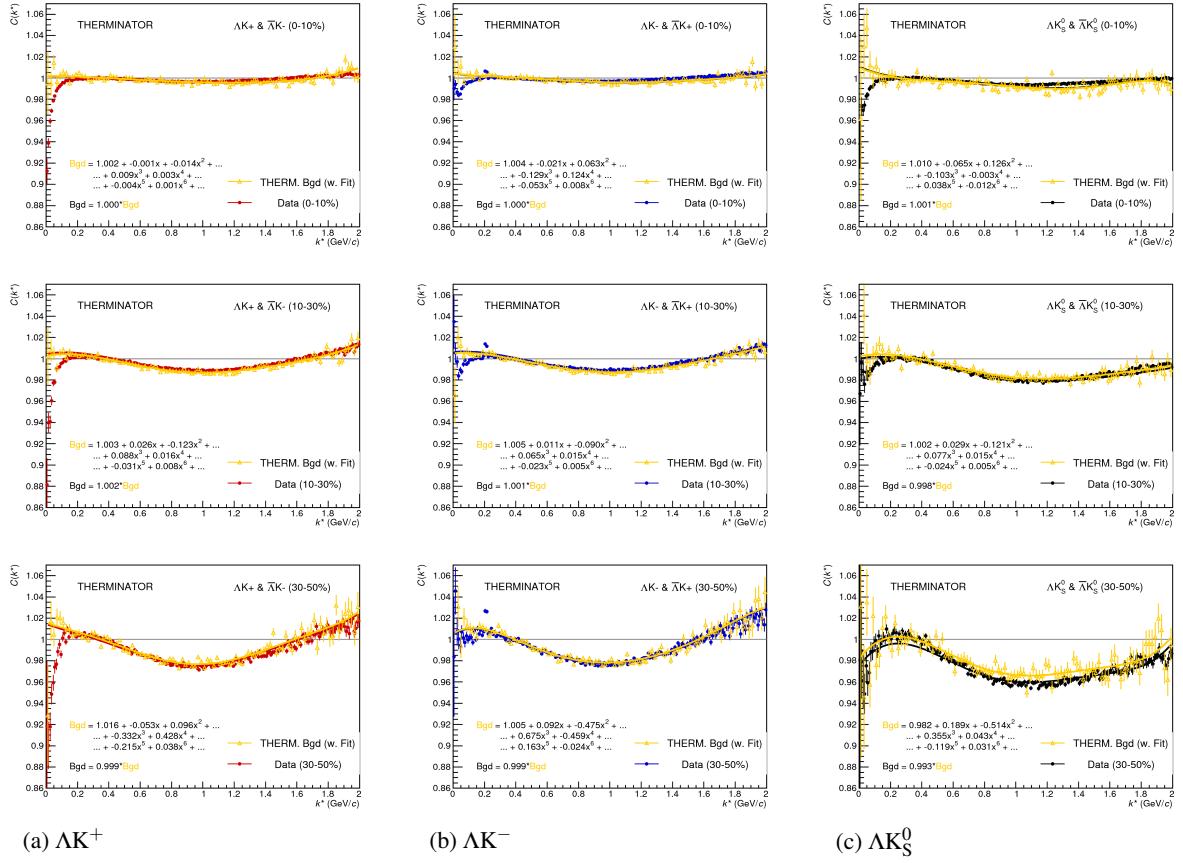
592 certain was causes this enhancement, but typical suspects are jet-like correlations and resonance decays.

593 We can split our correlation functions into three main regions. First, the low- $k^*$  region ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3$  GeV/c)  
 594 contains the femtoscopic correlations, as well as a likely enhancement from the background. The  
 595 intermediate- $k^*$  region ( $0.3 \lesssim k^* \gtrsim 1.5$  GeV/c) contains a suppression from the background. Finally,  
 596 the high- $k^*$  region ( $k^* \gtrsim 1.5$  GeV/c) contains an enhancement with unknown origin.

597 THERMINATOR 2 simulation has been shown to reproduce the background features in a  $\pi K$  analysis  
 598 [8]. As the background effect can be attributed mainly to elliptic flow, which is a global feature of the  
 599 system, we suspected THERMINATOR 2 could also, at least qualitatively, describe our backgrounds.  
 600 After ensuring each simulated event received a random event-plane angle ( $\Psi_{EP}$ )<sup>1</sup>, we found THERMI-  
 601 NATOR 2 did a good job of describing our data qualitatively, and, in many cases, quantitatively. Figure  
 602 26 shows the THERMINATOR 2 simulation (gold) together with experimental data (red, blue, or black).  
 603 The figure also shows a 6<sup>th</sup>-order polynomial fit to the simulation (gold), as well as the fit polynomial  
 604 scaled to match the data (red, blue, black).

605 Figure 27 shows three different correlation function generated using THERMINATOR 2 simulation (“Cf  
 606 w/o Bgd (A)”, “Cf w. Bgd (B)”, “Bgd(C)”), as well as two histograms describing the relation between  
 607 the three (“Ratio (B/C)”, “1+Diff(B-C)”). “Cf w/o Bgd (A)” shows a correlation function with a femto-  
 608 scopic correlation, but without background. When THERMINATOR 2 is run without randomizing event  
 609 planes, and therefore having all events share a common event plane, no background is observed, as ex-  
 610 pected. The femtoscopic correlation effect was introduced by assuming a set of scattering parameters for  
 611 the system, and weighting the numerators appropriately. The second correlation, ”Cf w. Bgd (B)”, shows  
 612 a correlation function with both a femtoscopic correlation and a background (most closely matches our  
 613 situation in experiment). To generate the background, each event was given a random event-plane angle,  
 614 as is given to us in experiment. To generate the femtoscopic correlation, the same numerator weighting  
 615 procedure was used. Finally, ”Bgd (C)”, shows a correlation function with a non-femtoscopic back-  
 616 ground, but no femtoscopic correlation, i.e. background only. This is generated just as ”Cf w. Bgd (B)”,  
 617 with randomized event planes, but unit weights are used when filling the numerators, so no femtoscopic  
 618 effects are included.

<sup>1</sup>default was for all events to share a common event plane



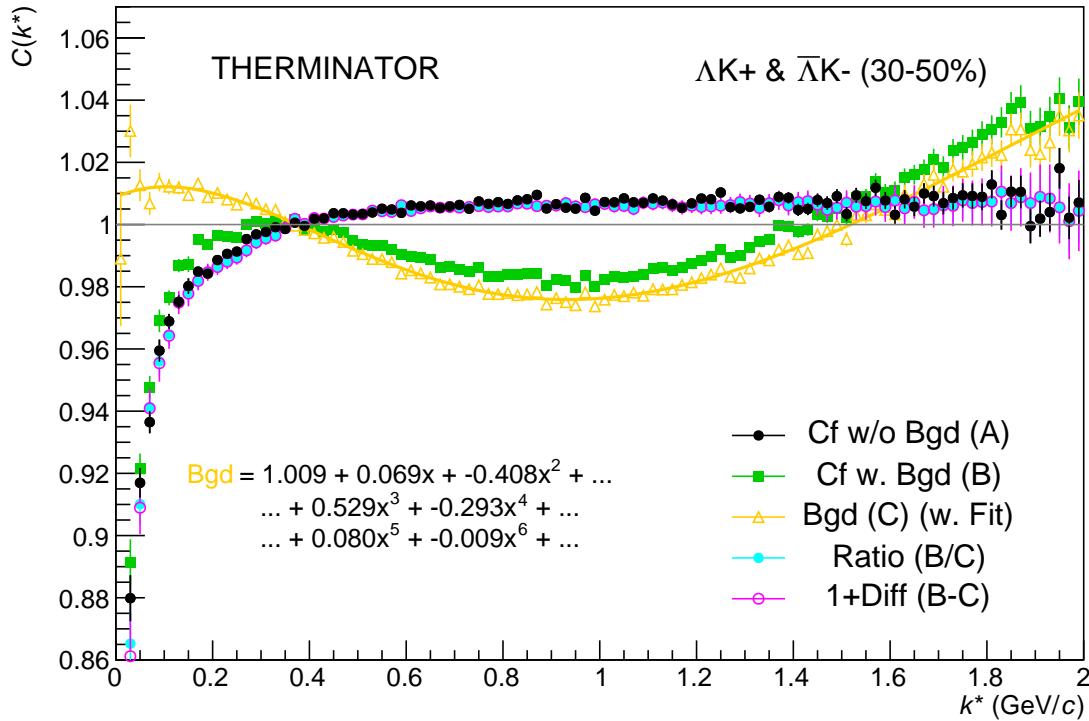
**Fig. 26:** THERMINATOR 2 simulation (gold) together with experimental data (red, blue, or black). The left column shows results for  $\Lambda K^+$  (26a), middle for  $\Lambda K^-$  (26b), and right for  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (26c). A 6<sup>th</sup>-order polynomial fit to the simulation is shown as a solid gold line, and whose fit parameters are printed on the lower left of each plot. This polynomial is scaled to match the experimental data; the value of this scale is printed in the lower left corner of each plot. The polynomial fit with scale factor applied is drawn in a color matching the experimental data (red, blue, black).

619 The main point of Fig. 27 is that the black points match the blue (and purple) points; or, equivalently:

$$C_{fw/oBgd} = \frac{C_{fw.Bgd}}{Bgd} \rightarrow C_{theory} = \frac{C_{exp}}{F_{Bgd}} \rightarrow C_{exp} = C_{theory} \cdot F_{Bgd} \quad (20)$$

620 As shown and described in Fig 27 and Eq. 20, THERMINATOR 2 simulation shows the non-femtosscopic  
621 background affects the correlation function as a separable scale factor. We expect this behavior to be  
622 roughly the same in the experimental data.

623 Figure 28 demonstrates the use of the Stavinsky method with THERMINATOR 2. In the figure, unit  
624 weights were used for all numerators, so no femtoscopic signal is included, only background effects.  
625 The black points show an ideal, experimentally unreachable, situation of aligning all of the event-plane  
626 angles. With THERMINATOR 2, when the event-planes are aligned, the background signal is killed.  
627 The green points show the case of random event-plane angles, a situation more closely matching that  
628 of experiment. The purple points show the affect of applying the Stavinsky method to the case of  
629 random event-planes. The figure shows that this method effectively kills the non-flat background (i.e.  
630 the procedure takes the green points to the purple). Finally, the blue points show the effect of applying  
631 the Stavinsky method when all of the event-planes are aligned. This shows that the Stavinsky method



**Fig. 27:** Correlation with background decomposition with THERMINATOR. "Cf w/o Bgd (A)" shows a correlation function with a femtoscopic correlation, but without background. "Cf w. Bgd (B)", shows a correlation function with both a femtoscopic correlation and a background (most closely matches our situation in experiment). "Bgd (C)", shows a correlation function with a non-femtoscopic background, but no femtoscopic correlation, i.e. background only.

632 does not introduce any signal to an already flat background.

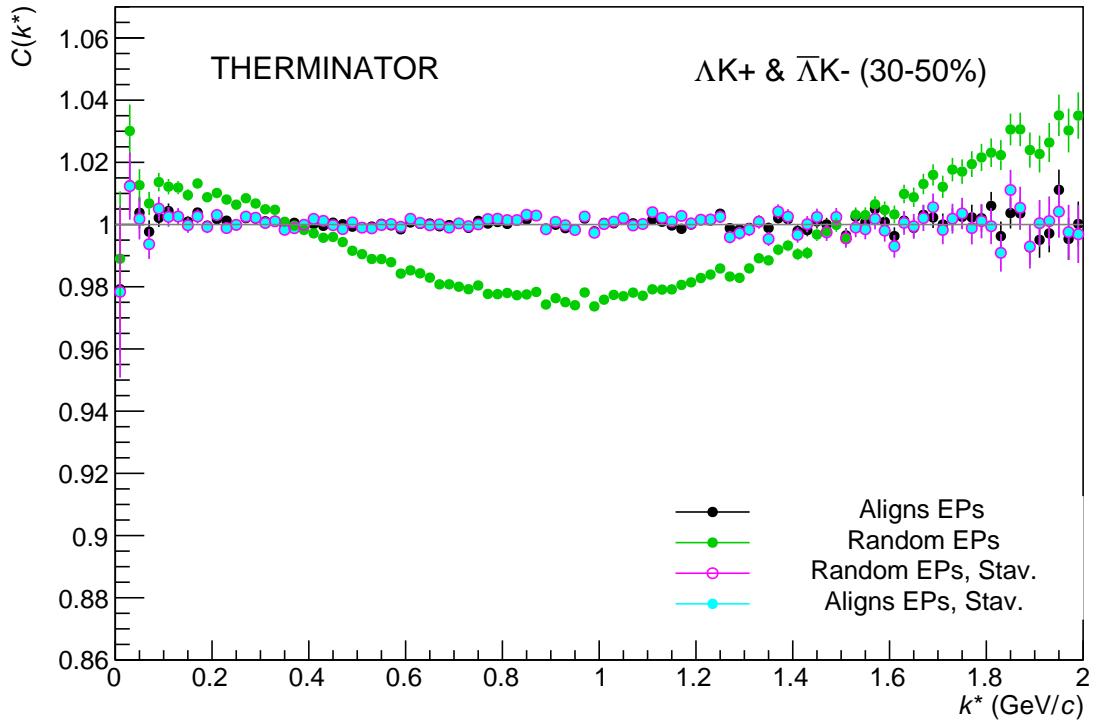
## 633 5.6 LednickyFitter

634 The code developed to fit the data is called "LednickyFitter", and utilizes the ROOT TMinuit implemen-  
 635 tation of the MINUIT fitting package. In short, given a function with a number of parameters, the fitter  
 636 explores the parameter space searching for the minimum of the function. In this implementation, the  
 637 function to be minimized should represent the difference between the measured and theoretical corre-  
 638 lation functions. However, a simple  $\chi^2$  test is inappropriate for fitting correlation functions, as the ratio of  
 639 two Poisson distributions does not result in a Poisson distribution. Instead, a log-likelihood fit function  
 640 of the following form is used [2]:

$$\chi_{PML}^2 = -2 \left[ A \ln \left( \frac{C(A+B)}{A(C+1)} \right) + B \ln \left( \frac{A+B}{B(C+1)} \right) \right] \quad (21)$$

641 where  $A$  is the experimental signal distribution (numerator),  $B$  is the experimental background distribu-  
 642 tion (denominator), and  $C$  is the theoretical fit correlation function.

643 The LednickyFitter uses Equations 5 – 7 to build the theoretical fit, and Equation 21 as the statistic  
 644 quantifying the quality of the fit. The parameters to be varied by MINUIT are:  $\lambda$ ,  $R$ ,  $f_0$  ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$  and  $\mathbb{I}f_0$   
 645 separately),  $d_0$ , and normalization  $N$ . The fitter currently includes methods to correct for momentum  
 646 resolution and a non-flat background. These corrections are applied to the fit function, the data is never



**Fig. 28:** The use of the Stavinsky method with THERMINATOR 2. Unit weights were used for all numerators, so no femtoscopic signal is included, only background effects. The black points show an ideal, experimentally unreachable, situation of aligning all of the event-plane angles. The green points show the experimental situation of random event-plane angles. The purple points shown the affect of applying the Stavinsky method to the case of random event-planes. Finally, the blue points show the effect of applying the Stavinsky method when all of the event-planes are aligned.

- 647 touched. The fitter is able to share parameters between different analyses and fit all simultaneously.
- 648 In a typical fit, a given pair is fit with its conjugate (ex.  $\Lambda K^+$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ) across all centralities (0-10%,  
649 10-30%, 30-50%), for a total of 6 simultaneous analyses. Each analysis has a unique  $\lambda$  and normalization  
650 parameter. The radii are shared between analyses of like centrality, as these should have similar source  
651 sizes. The scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0, \mathbb{I}f_0, d_0$ ) are shared amongst all.
- 652 Initially, we left open the possibility for the  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  and  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$  systems to have different source  
653 radii. After always finding these two to be consistent, we decided to join the radii parameters between these  
654 systems. So, now, in a typical fit of our  $\Lambda K^\pm$  data, all  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses ( $\Lambda K^+, \bar{\Lambda} K^-, \Lambda K^-, \bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ) are fit  
655 simultaneously across all centralities. Scattering parameters are shared between pair-conjugate systems  
656 (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+ & \bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^- & \bar{\Lambda} K^+$   
657 system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared amongst all pairs. Each analysis has a  
658 unique normalization parameter.
- 659 In the case of fitting with residuals, the  $\lambda_{Fit}$  parameter serves as an overall normalization shared by all  
660 contributors, such that Eqn 17 becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{measured}(k_{\Lambda K}^*) &= 1 + \sum_i \lambda'_i [C_i(k_{\Lambda K}^*) - 1] \\
\lambda'_i &= \lambda_{Fit} \lambda_i \\
\sum_i \lambda'_i &= \lambda_{Fit} \sum_i \lambda_i = \lambda_{Fit}
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

where  $\lambda_i$  is obtained from THERMINATOR, as explained in Section 5.4, and whose values are presented in Tables ?? through ???. For Coulomb-neutral pairs, such as  $\Lambda K$ ,  $\Sigma^0 K$ , and  $\Xi^0 K$ ,  $C_i(k_{\Lambda K}^*)$  is calculated from Eqn. 5, with the help of Eqn. 7. For those residual pairs which include a Coulomb interaction,  $C_i(k_{\Lambda K}^*)$  is either calculated using the CoulombFitter method (Sections 5.2 and 5.7) with no strong interaction, or by using the  $\Xi^{ch} K^{ch}$  data directly. Unless otherwise stated, the  $\Xi^{ch} K^{ch}$  residual contribution is modeled using the experimental  $\Xi^{ch} K^{ch}$  data, and all other charged contributors (ex.  $\Sigma^{*ch} K^{ch}$ ) are modeled using the CoulombFitter technique with no strong interaction contribution.

To summarize, the complete fit function is constructed as follows:

1. The uncorrected, primary, correlation function,  $C_{\Lambda K}(k_{True}^*)$ , is constructed using Eq. 22 (with the help of Eqns. 5 and 7)
2. If residuals are included:
  - the parent correlation functions are obtained using:
    - Eq. 22 (with the help of Eqns. 5 and 7) for the case of Coulomb-neutral pairs
    - $\Xi^- K^\pm$  experimental data for  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  contributions
    - a Coulomb-only curve, with the help of Secs. 5.2 and 5.7, for pairs including the Coulomb interaction
  - the contribution to the  $\Lambda K$  correlation function is found by running the parent correlation function through the appropriate transform, via Eq.16
3. The primary and residual correlations are combined, via Eq.17, to form  $C'_{Fit}(k_{True}^*)$ 
  - in the case of no residual contributions included in the fit,  $\lambda_i = \lambda_{\Lambda K}$  in Eq. 22 is set equal to 1. Then, the extracted  $\lambda_{Fit}$  parameter should be roughly equal to the pair purity
  - when residuals are included, the  $\lambda_i$  values are presented in Table 4
4. The correlation function is corrected to account for momentum resolution effects using Eq. 14

$$C'_{fit}(k_{Rec}^*) = \frac{\sum_{k_{True}^*} M_{k_{Rec}^*, k_{True}^*} C'_{fit}(k_{True}^*)}{\sum_{k_{True}^*} M_{k_{Rec}^*, k_{True}^*}}$$

5. Finally, the non-flat background correction is applied, and the final fit function is obtained

$$C_{Fit}(k_{Rec}^*) = C'_{Fit}(k_{Rec}^*) * F_{Bgd}(k_{Rec}^*)$$

Figures 32, 33, and 34 (37, 38, and 39, or 44, 45, and 46), in Section 7, show experimental data with fits for all studied centralities for  $\Lambda K_S^0 (\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0)$ ,  $\Lambda K^+ (\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$ , and  $\Lambda K^- (\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$ , respectively. In the figures, the black solid line represents the “raw” fit, i.e. not corrected for momentum resolution effects nor non-flat background. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after momentum resolution, non-flat background, and residual correlations (if applicable) corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are also printed on the figures.

693 **5.7 Coulomb Fitter**

694 When fitting the  $\Xi^-(\bar{\Xi}^+)K^\pm$  results, it is necessary to include both strong and Coulomb effects. In this  
 695 case, Equation 5 is no longer valid, and, in fact, there is no analytical form with which to fit. We therefore  
 696 must take a more basic approach, and integrate out Eq.4 by hand. To achieve this, one has two options.  
 697 The first option is to numerically integrate Eq.4. The second option is to simulate a large sample of  
 698 particle pairs, calculate the wave function describing the interaction, and average to obtain the integral.  
 699 Having no experience with either of these options, we elected the latter of simulating pairs. The code  
 700 developed to achieve this functionality is called “CoulombFitter”. Currently, in order to generate the  
 701 statistics needed for a stable fit, we find that  $\sim 10^4$  simulated pairs per 10 MeV bin are necessary. The  
 702 nature of this process means that the “CoulombFitter” takes much longer to run than the “LednickyFitter”  
 703 of Section 5.1.

704 Unfortunately, with this analysis, we are not sensitive to, and therefore not able to distinguish between,  
 705 the iso-spin singlet and triplet states. We proceed with our analysis, but the results must be interpreted  
 706 as iso-spin averaged scattering parameters.

707 As stated before, to generate a fit correlation function, we must simulate a large number of pairs, calculate  
 708 the wave-function, and average  $\Psi^2$  over all pairs in a given  $k^*$  bin. Essentially, we calculate Equation 9  
 709 by hand:

$$\begin{aligned} C(\mathbf{k}^*) &= \sum_S \rho_S \int S(\mathbf{r}^*) |\Psi_{\mathbf{k}^*}^S(\mathbf{r}^*)|^2 d^3\mathbf{r}^* \\ &\longrightarrow C(|\mathbf{k}^*|) \equiv C(k^*) = \sum_S \rho_S \langle |\Psi^S(\mathbf{k}_i^*, \mathbf{r}_i^*)|^2 \rangle_i \\ &\longrightarrow C(k^*) = \lambda \sum_S \rho_S \langle |\Psi^S(\mathbf{k}_i^*, \mathbf{r}_i^*)|^2 \rangle_i + (1 - \lambda) \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

710 where  $\langle \rangle_i$  represents an average over all pairs in a given  $k^*$  bin.

711 In summary, for a given  $k^*$  bin, we must draw  $N_{pairs} \sim 10^4$  pairs, and for each pair:

712 1. Draw a random  $\mathbf{r}^*$  vector according to our Gaussian source distribution  $S(\mathbf{r}^*)$

713 2. Draw a random  $\mathbf{k}^*$  vector satisfying the  $|\mathbf{k}^*|$  restriction of the bin

714 – We draw from real  $k^*$  vectors obtained from the data

715 – However, we find that drawing from a distribution flat in  $k^*$  gives similar results

716 3. Construct the wave-function  $\Psi$

717 After all pairs for a given  $k^*$  bin are simulated and wave-functions obtained, the results are averaged to  
 718 give the fit result.

719 Construction of the wave-functions, Equation 10, involves a number of complex functions not included  
 720 in standard C++ or ROOT libraries (namely,  $h(\eta)$ ,  $\tilde{G}(\rho, \eta)$ ), and  $F(-i\eta, 1, i\xi)$ . These functions were  
 721 even difficult to find and implement from elsewhere. Our solution was to embed a Mathematica kernel  
 722 into our C++ code to evaluate these functions. However, having Mathematica work on-the-fly with the  
 723 fitter was far too time consuming (fitter would have taken days, maybe weeks to finish). Our solution  
 724 was to use Mathematica to create matrices representing these functions for different parameter values.  
 725 During fitting, these matrices were then interpolated and the results used to build the wave-functions.  
 726 This method decreased the running time dramatically, and we are not able to generate results in under  $\sim$   
 727 1 hour. This process will be explained in more detail in future versions of the note.

728 **6 Systematic Errors**

729 In order to understand my systematic uncertainties, the analysis code was run many times using slightly  
 730 different values for a number of important cuts, and the results were compared. To quantify the systematic  
 731 errors on the data, all correlation functions built using all varied cut values were bin-by-bin averaged,  
 732 and the resulting variance of each bin was taken as the systematic error. The cuts which were utilized in  
 733 this study are presented in Sections 6.1.1 ( $\Delta K_S^0$ ) and 6.2.1 ( $\Delta K^\pm$ ).

734 Similarly, the fit parameters extracted from all of these correlation functions were averaged, and the  
 735 resulting variances were taken as the systematic errors for the fit parameters. As with the systematic  
 736 errors on the data, this was performed for all varied cut values. Additionally, a systematic analysis was  
 737 done on our fit method (which, for now, just includes our choice of fit range and functional form used to  
 738 model the non-femtoscopic background). These two sources of uncertainty were combined in quadrature  
 739 to obtain the final systematic uncertainties on the extracted fit parameters.

740 **6.1 Systematic Errors:  $\Delta K_S^0$**

741 **6.1.1 Particle and Pair Cuts**

742 The cuts included in the systematic study, as well as the values used in the variations, are listed below.  
 743 Note, the central value corresponds to that used in the analysis.

$\Delta K_S^0$ systematics	
DCA $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	4, 5, 6 mm
DCA $K_S^0$	2, 3, 4 mm
DCA $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Daughters	3, 4, 5 mm
DCA $K_S^0$ Daughters	2, 3, 4 mm
$\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Cosine of Pointing Angle	0.9992, 0.9993, 0.9994
$K_S^0$ Cosine of Pointing Angle	0.9992, 0.9993, 0.9994
DCA to Primary Vertex of $p(\bar{p})$ Daughter of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	0.5, 1, 2 mm
DCA to Primary Vertex of $\pi^-(\pi^+)$ Daughter of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	2, 3, 4 mm
DCA to Primary Vertex of $\pi^+$ Daughter of $K_S^0$	2, 3, 4 mm
DCA to Primary Vertex of $\pi^-$ Daughter of $K_S^0$	2, 3, 4 mm
Average Separation of Like-Charge Daughters	5, 6, 7 cm

Table 5:  $\Delta K_S^0$  systematics

744 **6.1.2 Non-Flat Background**

745 We fit our non-flat background with a linear function. To study the contribution of this choice to our sys-  
 746 tematic errors, we also fit with a quadratic and Gaussian form. The resulting uncertainties are combined  
 747 with the uncertainties arising from our particle cuts.

748 **6.1.3 Fit Range**

749 Our choice of  $k^*$  fit range was varied by  $\pm 25\%$ . The resulting uncertainties in the extracted parameter  
 750 sets were combined with our uncertainties arising from our particle and pair cuts.

751 **6.2 Systematic Errors:  $\Lambda K^\pm$**

752 **6.2.1 Particle and Pair Cuts**

753 The cuts included in the systematic study, as well as the values used in the variations, are listed below.  
 754 Note, the central value corresponds to that used in the analysis.

$\Lambda K^\pm$ systematics	
DCA $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	4, 5, 6 mm
DCA $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Daughters	3, 4, 5 mm
$\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Cosine of Pointing Angle	0.9992, 0.9993, 0.9994
DCA to Primary Vertex of $p(\bar{p})$ Daughter of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	0.5, 1, 2 mm
DCA to Primary Vertex of $\pi^-(\pi^+)$ Daughter of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	2, 3, 4 mm
Average Separation of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Daughter with Same Charge as $K^\pm$	7, 8, 9 cm
Max. DCA to Primary Vertex in Transverse Plane of $K^\pm$	1.92, 2.4, 2.88
Max. DCA to Primary Vertex in Longitudinal Direction of $K^\pm$	2.4, 3.0, 3.6

Table 6:  $\Lambda K^\pm$  systematics

755 **6.2.2 Non-Flat Background**

756 We fit our non-flat background with a linear function. To study the contribution of this choice to our sys-  
 757 tematic errors, we also fit with a quadratic and Gaussian form. The resulting uncertainties are combined  
 758 with the uncertainties arising from our particle cuts.

759 **6.2.3 Fit Range**

760 Our choice of  $k^*$  fit range was varied by  $\pm 25\%$ . The resulting uncertainties in the extracted parameter  
 761 sets were combined with our uncertainties arising from our particle and pair cuts.

762 **6.3 Systematic Errors:  $\Xi K^\pm$**

763 **6.3.1 Particle and Pair Cuts**

764 The cuts included in the systematic study, as well as the values used in the variations, are listed below.  
 765 Note, the central value corresponds to that used in the analysis.

$\Xi^- K^\pm$  systematics

$\Xi^- K^\pm$ systematics	
Max. DCA $\Xi(\bar{\Xi})$	2, 3, 4 mm
Max. DCA $\Xi(\bar{\Xi})$ Daughters	2, 3, 4 mm
Min. $\Xi(\bar{\Xi})$ Cosine of Pointing Angle to Primary Vertex	0.9991, 0.9992, 0.9993
Min. $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Cosine of Pointing Angle to $\Xi(\bar{\Xi})$ Decay Vertex	0.9992, 0.9993, 0.9994
Min. DCA Bachelor $\pi$	0.5, 1, 2 mm
Min. DCA $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	1, 2, 3 mm
Max. DCA $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Daughters	3, 4, 5 mm
Min. DCA to Primary Vertex of $p(\bar{p})$ Daughter of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	0.5, 1, 2 mm
Min. DCA to Primary Vertex of $\pi^-(\pi^+)$ Daughter of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$	2, 3, 4 mm
Min. Average Separation of $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})$ Daughter and $K^\pm$ with like charge	7, 8, 9 cm
Min. Average Separation of Bachelor $\pi$ and $K^\pm$ with like charge	7, 8, 9 cm
Max. DCA to Primary Vertex in Transverse Plane of $K^\pm$	1.92, 2.4, 2.88
Max. DCA to Primary Vertex in Longitudinal Direction of $K^\pm$	2.4, 3.0, 3.6

**Table 7:**  $\Xi^- K^\pm$  systematics

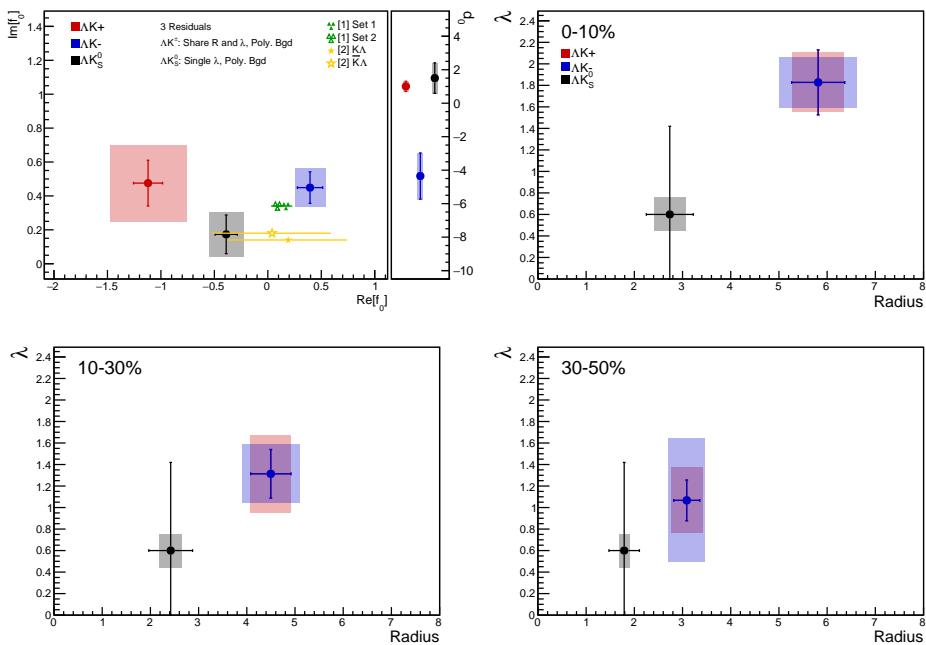
766 **7 Results and Discussion**

767 **7.1 Results:  $\Lambda K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda K^\pm$**

768 In the following sections, we present results assuming (i) no residual correlations (Sec. 7.1.1), (ii) three  
 769 residual contributors (Sec. 7.1.2), and (iii) ten residual contributors (Sec. 7.1.3). We find the case of  
 770 three and ten contributors to be consistent; therefore, for simplicity, we will quote the result utilizing  
 771 three residuals as our final result.

772 For the results shown, unless otherwise noted, the following hold true: All correlation functions were  
 773 normalized in the range  $0.32 < k^* < 0.40$  GeV/c, and fit in the range  $0.0 < k^* < 0.30$  GeV/c. For the  
 774  $\Lambda K^-$  and  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  analyses, the region  $0.19 < k^* < 0.23$  GeV/c was excluded from the fit to exclude the  
 775 bump caused by the  $\Omega^-$  resonance. The non-femtoscopic background was modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-order  
 776 polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  radii are shared with  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$ , while  
 777 the  $\Lambda K_S^0(\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0)$  radii are unique. In the figures showing experimental correlation functions with fits, the  
 778 black solid line represents the primary ( $\Lambda K$ ) correlation's contribution to the fit. The green line shows  
 779 the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after all residuals' contributions have  
 780 been included, and momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied.

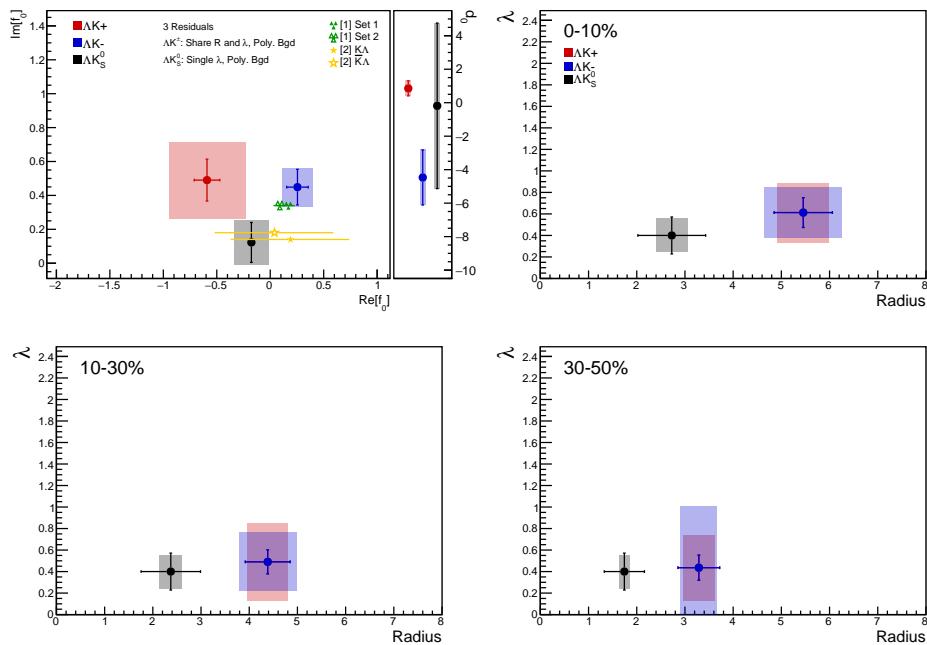
781 Before beginning, I first collect a summary of my final results in Figure 29. In the summary plot, we  
 782 show the extracted scattering parameters in the form of a  $\text{Im}[f_0]$  vs  $\text{Re}[f_0]$  plot, which includes the  $d_0$   
 783 values to the right side. We also show the  $\lambda$  vs. radius parameters for all three of our studied centrality  
 784 bins. In Fig. 29, three residual contributors were used, and the background was modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-  
 785 order polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. For the  $\Lambda K_S^0$  results shown in the figure, the  $\Lambda K_S^0$   
 786 and  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$  analyses were fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%); scattering  
 787 parameters and a single  $\lambda$  parameter were shared amongst all, the radii were shared amongst results  
 788 of like-centrality, and each has a unique normalization parameter. For the  $\Lambda K^\pm$  results shown, all four  
 789 pair combinations were fit simultaneously ( $\Lambda K^+, \bar{\Lambda} K^-, \Lambda K^-, \bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ) across all centralities. Scattering  
 790 parameters were shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  
 791 and a separate set describing  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters were shared  
 792 between all pairs. Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter.



**Fig. 29:** Extracted scattering parameters for the case of 3 residual contributors for all of our  $\Lambda K$  systems. [Top Left]:  $\text{Im}[f_0]$  vs.  $\text{Re}[f_0]$ , together with  $d_0$  to the right. [Top Right (Bottom Left, Bottom Right)]:  $\lambda$  vs. Radius for the 0-10% (10-30%, 30-50%) bin. The green [9] and yellow [10] points show theoretical predictions made using chiral perturbation theory.

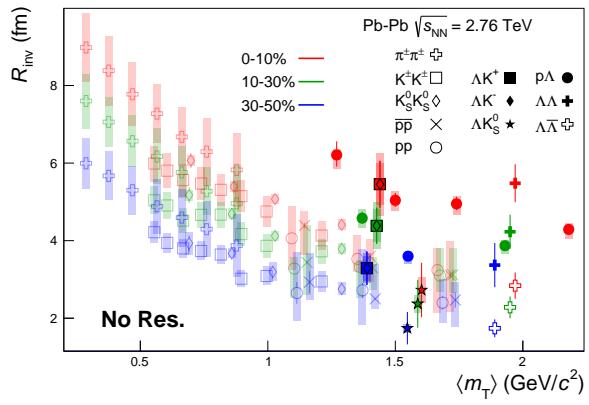
793 **7.1.1 Results:  $\Lambda K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda K^\pm$ : No Residual Correlations Included in Fit**

794 Figure 30 nicely collects and summarizes all of our extracted fit parameters for the case of no included  
 795 residual contributors. Figure 31 presents our extracted fit radii, along with those of other systems pre-  
 796 viously analyzed by ALICE [11], as a function of pair transverse mass ( $m_T$ ). Figures 32, 33, and 34  
 797 show the experimental correlation functions with fits, assuming no residual contributors, for all studied  
 798 centralities for  $\Lambda K_S^0$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda K^+$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ , and  $\Lambda K^-$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ , respectively. The parameter sets  
 799 extracted from the fits can be found in Tables 10 and 11.

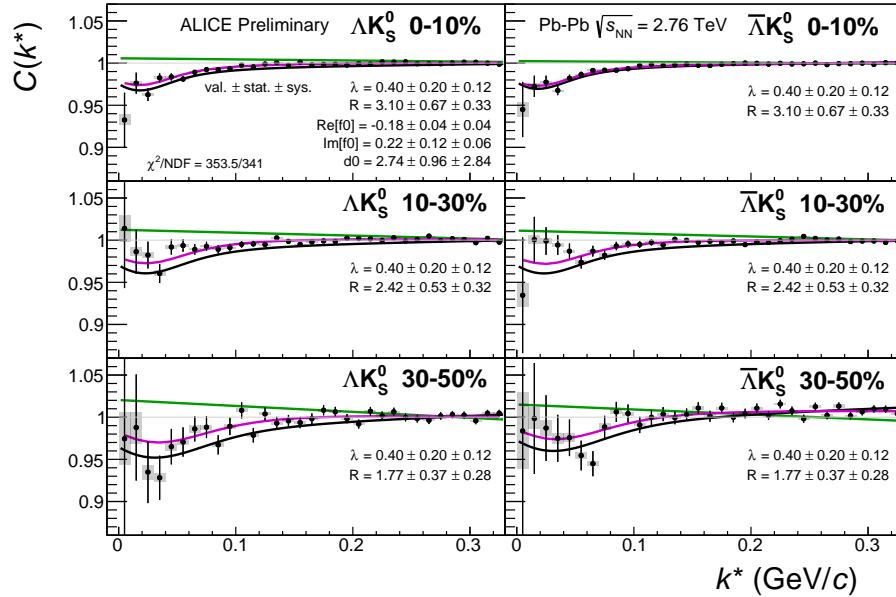


**Fig. 30:** Extracted scattering parameters for the case of NO residual contributors for all of our  $\Lambda K$  systems. [Top Left]:  $\text{Im}[f_0]$  vs.  $\text{Re}[f_0]$ , together with  $d_0$  to the right. [Top Right (Bottom Left, Bottom Right)]:  $\lambda$  vs. Radius for the 0-10% (10-30%, 30-50%) bin. The green [9] and yellow [10] points show theoretical predictions made using chiral perturbation theory.

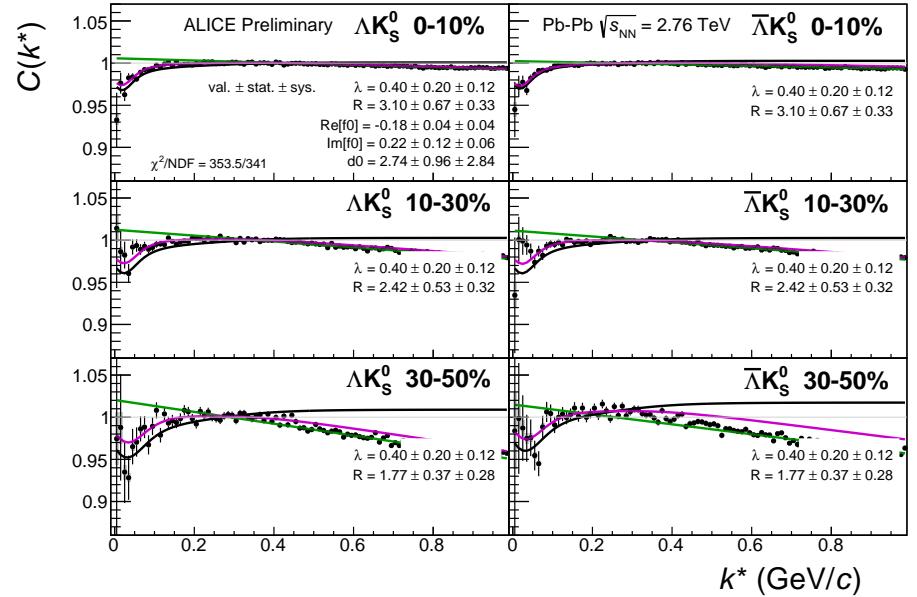
800 Figure 31 shows extracted  $R_{\text{inv}}$  parameters as a function of tranverse mass ( $m_T$ ) for various pair systems  
 801 over several centralities. The published ALICE data [11] is shown with transparent, open symbols. The  
 802 new  $\Lambda K$  results are shown with opaque, filled symbols. The radii shown an increasing size with increas-  
 803 ing centrality, as is expected from the simple geometric picture of the collisions. The radii decrease  
 804 in size with increasing  $m_T$ , and we see an approximate scaling of the radii with transverse mass, as is  
 805 expected in the presence of collective flow in the system.



**Fig. 31:** No residual correlations in  $\Lambda K$  fits. Extracted fit  $R_{\text{inv}}$  parameters as a function of pair transverse mass ( $m_T$ ) for various pair systems over several centralities. The ALICE published data [11] is shown with transparent, open symbols. The new  $\Lambda K$  results are shown with opaque, filled symbols. In the left, the  $\Lambda K^+$  (with its conjugate pair) results are shown separately from the  $\Lambda K^-$  (with its conjugate pair) results. In the right, all  $\Lambda K^\pm$  results are averaged.

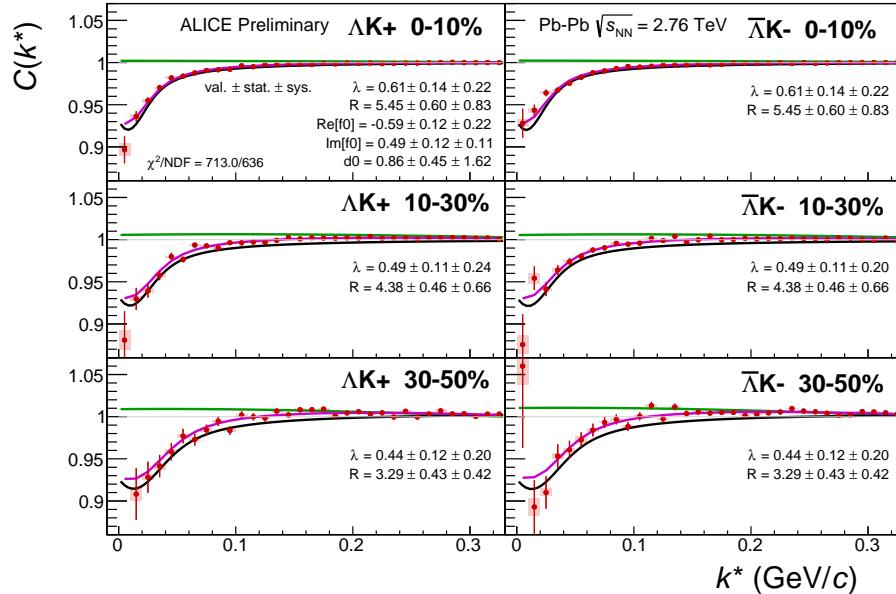


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

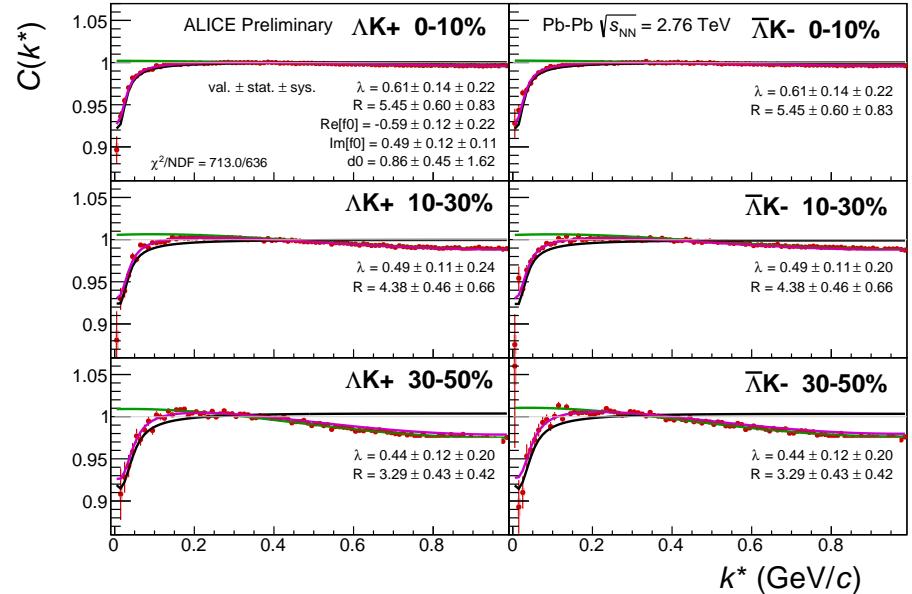


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

**Fig. 32:** Fits, with NO residual correlations included, to the  $\Lambda K_s^0$  (left) and  $\bar{\Lambda} K_s^0$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. A single  $\lambda$  parameter is shared amongst all. Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The radii are shared between analyses of like centrality, as these should have similar source sizes. The scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R} f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I} f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared amongst all. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the “raw” primary fit, i.e. not corrected for momentum resolution effects nor non-flat background. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.

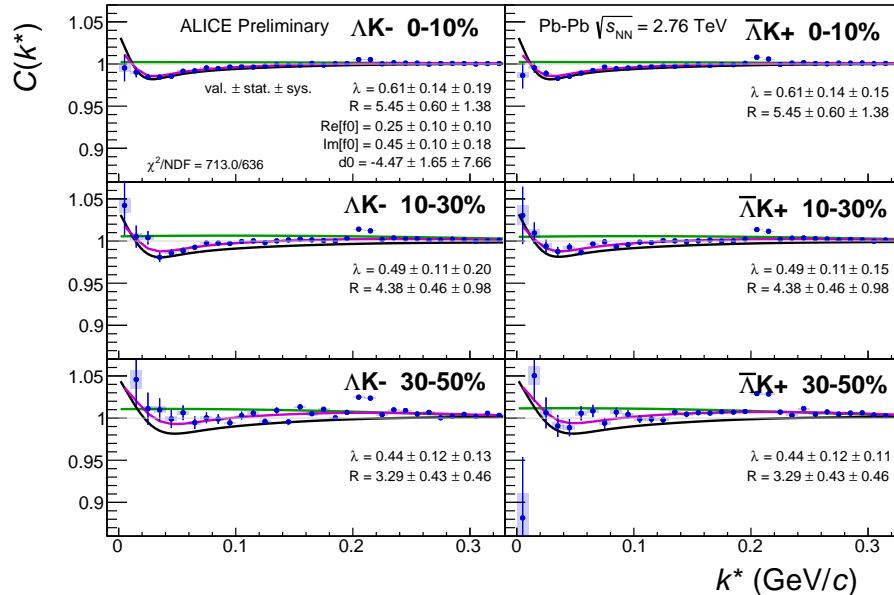


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

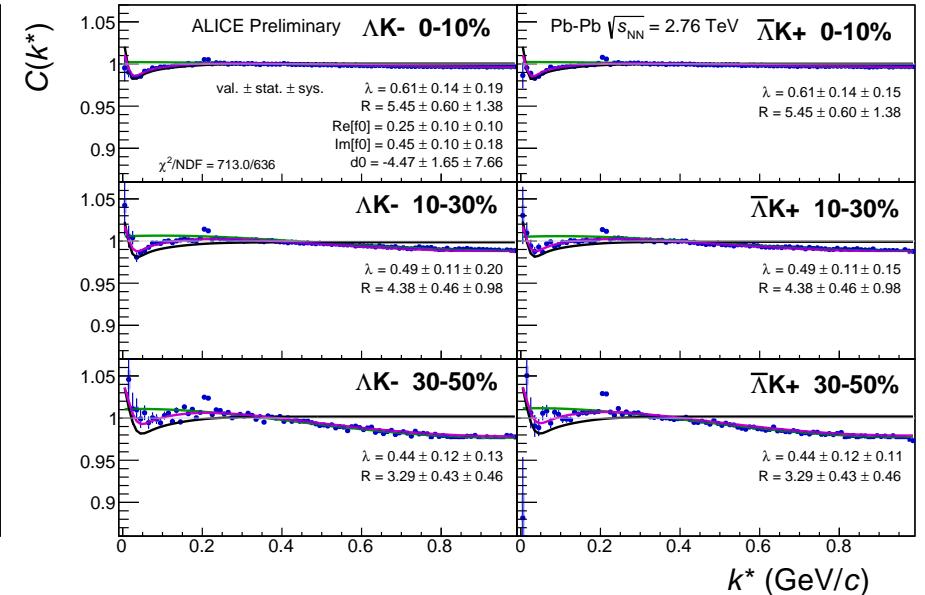


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

**Fig. 33:** Fits to the  $\Lambda K^+$  (left) and  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the “raw” primary fit, i.e. not corrected for momentum resolution effects nor non-flat background. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.



(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )



(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

**Fig. 34:** Fits, with NO residual correlations included, to the  $\Lambda K^-$  (left) with  $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $Re[f_0]$ ,  $Im[f_0]$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda}K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda}K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the “raw” primary fit, i.e. not corrected for momentum resolution effects nor non-flat background. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.

		Fit Results $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K_S^0$				
System	Centrality	Fit Parameters				
		$\lambda$	$R$	$\mathbb{R}f_0$	$\mathbb{I}f_0$	$d_0$
$\Lambda K_S^0 \& \bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$	0-10%			$2.73 \pm 0.70$ (stat.) $\pm 0.33$ (sys.)		
	10-30%	$0.40 \pm 0.17$ (stat.) $\pm 0.16$ (sys.)	$2.37 \pm 0.62$ (stat.) $\pm 0.23$ (sys.)	$-0.18 \pm 0.04$ (stat.) $\pm 0.16$ (sys.)	$0.12 \pm 0.12$ (stat.) $\pm 0.13$ (sys.)	$-0.19 \pm 4.95$ (stat.) $\pm 0.62$ (sys.)
	30-50%			$1.74 \pm 0.42$ (stat.) $\pm 0.11$ (sys.)		

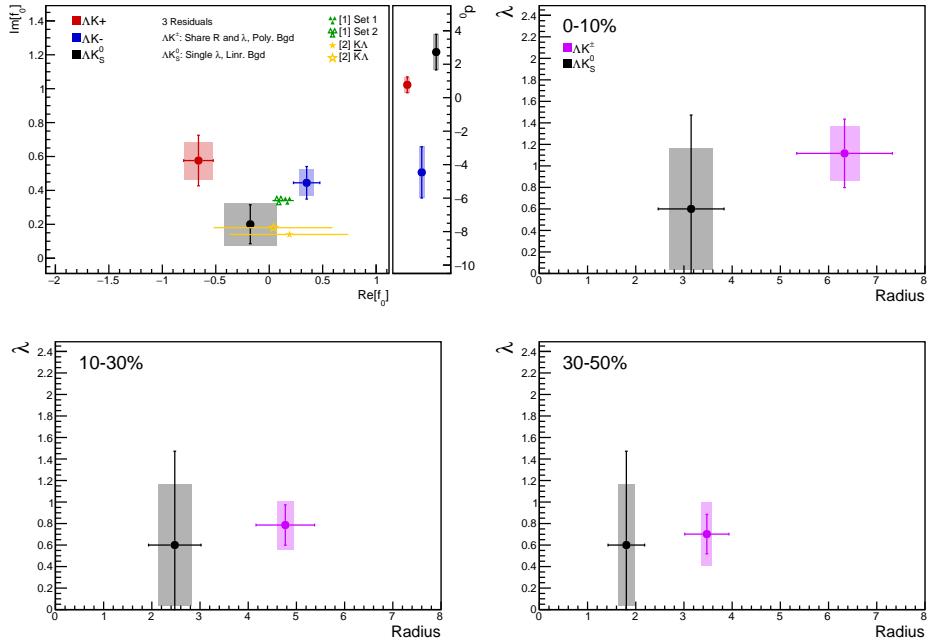
**Table 8:** Fit Results  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K_S^0$ , with no residual correlations included. Each pair is fit simultaneously with its conjugate (ie.  $\Lambda K_S^0$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$ ) across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%), for a total of 6 simultaneous analyses in the fit. A single  $\lambda$  parameter is shared amongst all. Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The radii are shared between analyses of like centrality, as these should have similar source sizes. The scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared amongst all. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The fit is done on the data with only statistical error bars. The errors marked as “stat.” are those returned by MINUIT. The errors marked as “sys.” are those which result from my systematic analysis (as outlined in Section 6).

		Fit Results $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K^\pm$				
System	Centrality	Fit Parameters				
		$\lambda$	$R$	$\mathbb{R}f_0$	$\mathbb{I}f_0$	$d_0$
$\Lambda K^+ \& \bar{\Lambda} K^-$	0-10%	$0.61 \pm 0.14$ (stat.) $\pm 0.28$ (sys.)	$5.45 \pm 0.60$ (stat.) $\pm 0.54$ (sys.)	$-0.59 \pm 0.12$ (stat.) $\pm 0.36$ (sys.)	$0.49 \pm 0.12$ (stat.) $\pm 0.23$ (sys.)	$0.86 \pm 0.45$ (stat.) $\pm 0.53$ (sys.)
	10-30%	$0.49 \pm 0.11$ (stat.) $\pm 0.36$ (sys.)	$4.38 \pm 0.46$ (stat.) $\pm 0.42$ (sys.)			
$\Lambda K^+ \& \bar{\Lambda} K^-$	30-50%	$0.44 \pm 0.12$ (stat.) $\pm 0.31$ (sys.)	$3.29 \pm 0.43$ (stat.) $\pm 0.32$ (sys.)	$0.25 \pm 0.10$ (stat.) $\pm 0.14$ (sys.)	$0.45 \pm 0.10$ (stat.) $\pm 0.11$ (sys.)	$-4.47 \pm 1.65$ (stat.) $\pm 1.33$ (sys.)

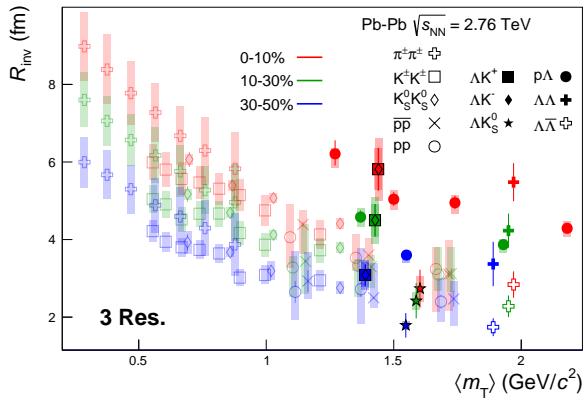
**Table 9:** Fit Results  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K^\pm$ , with no residual correlations included. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The fit is done on the data with only statistical error bars. The errors marked as “stat.” are those returned by MINUIT. The errors marked as “sys.” are those which result from my systematic analysis (as outlined in Section 6).

806 **7.1.2 Results:  $\Lambda K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda K^\pm$ : 3 Residual Correlations Included in Fit**

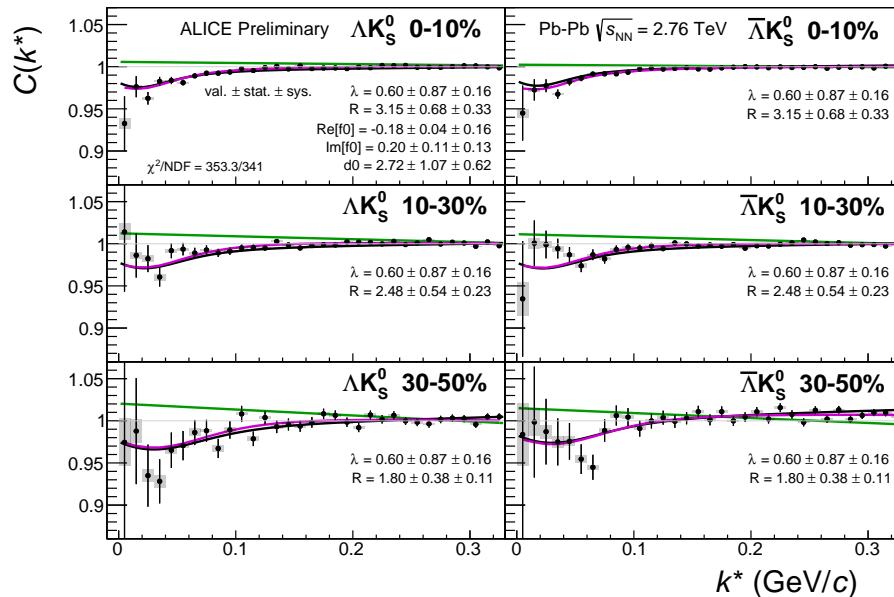
807 Figure 35 nicely collects and summarizes all of our extracted fit parameters for the case of 3 included  
 808 residual contributors. Figure 36 presents our extracted fit radii, along with those of other systems pre-  
 809 viously analyzed by ALICE [11], as a function of pair transverse mass ( $m_T$ ). Figures 37, 38, and 39  
 810 show the experimental correlation functions with fits, assuming 3 residual contributors, for all studied  
 811 centralities for  $\Lambda K_S^0$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda K^+$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ , and  $\Lambda K^-$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ , respectively. The parameter sets  
 812 extracted from the fits can be found in Tables 10 and 11.



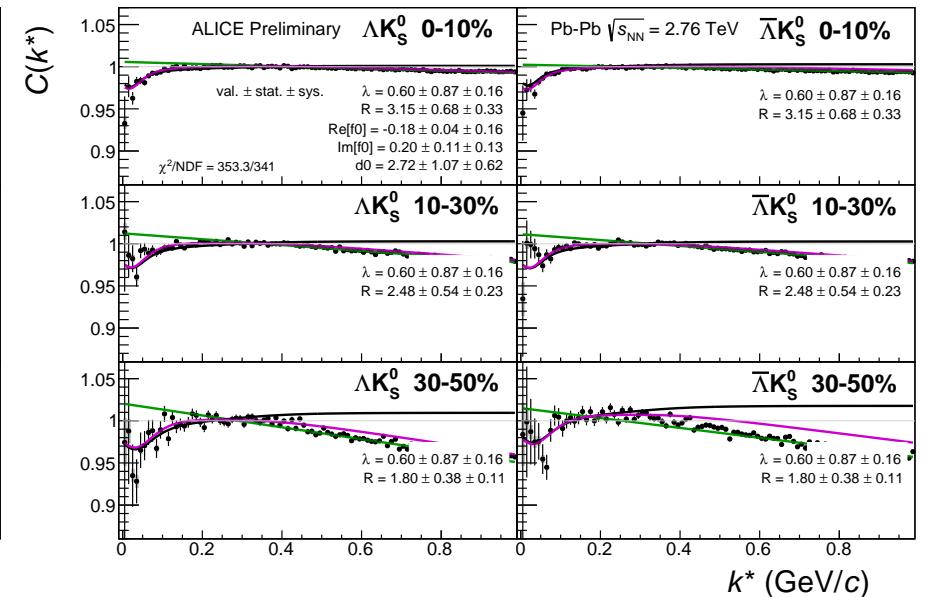
**Fig. 35:** Extracted scattering parameters for the case of 3 residual contributors for all of our  $\Lambda K$  systems. [Top Left]:  $\text{Im}(f_0)$  vs.  $\text{Re}(f_0)$ , together with  $d_0$  to the right. [Top Right (Bottom Left, Bottom Right)]:  $\lambda$  vs. Radius for the 0-10% (10-30%, 30-50%) bin. The green [9] and yellow [10] points show theoretical predictions made using chiral perturbation theory.



**Fig. 36:** 3 residual correlations in  $\Lambda K$  fits. Extracted fit  $R_{\text{inv}}$  parameters as a function of pair transverse mass ( $m_T$ ) for various pair systems over several centralities. The ALICE published data [11] is shown with transparent, open symbols. The new  $\Lambda K$  results are shown with opaque, filled symbols. In the left, the  $\Lambda K^+$  (with its conjugate pair) results are shown separately from the  $\Lambda K^-$  (with its conjugate pair) results. In the right, all  $\Lambda K^\pm$  results are averaged.

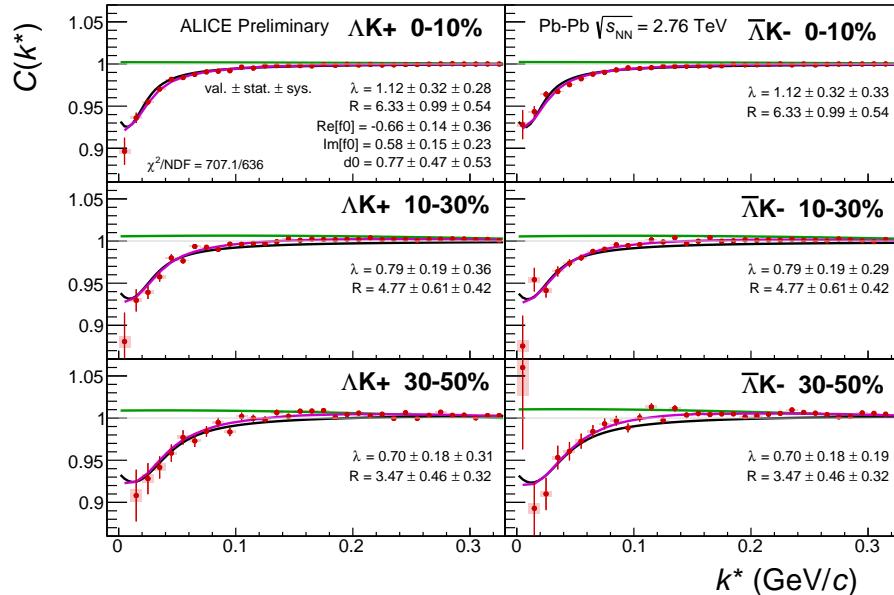


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

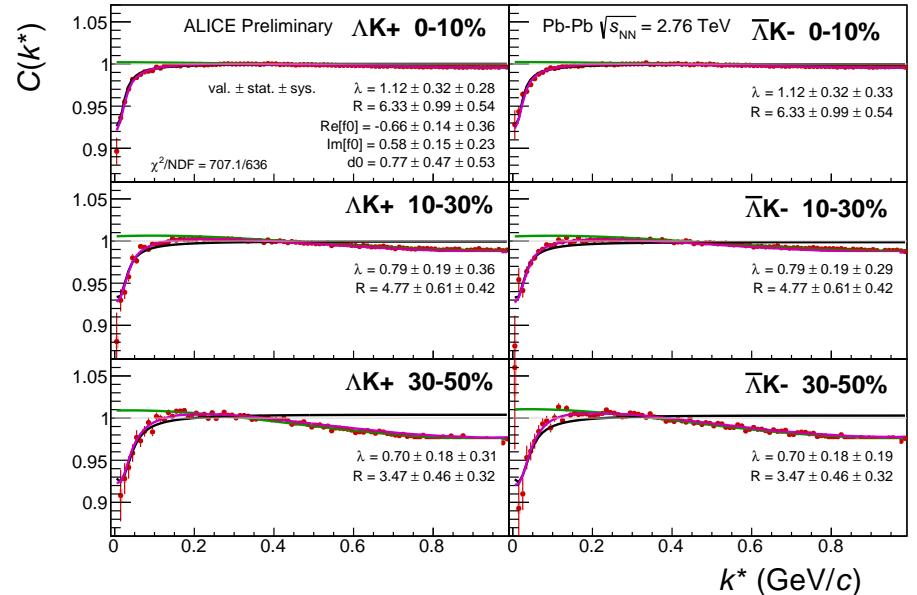


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

**Fig. 37:** Fits, with 3 residual correlations included, to the  $\Lambda K_s^0$  (left) and  $\bar{\Lambda} K_s^0$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. A single  $\lambda$  parameter is shared amongst all. Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The radii are shared between analyses of like centrality, as these should have similar source sizes. The scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R} f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I} f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared amongst all. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the primary ( $\Lambda K$ ) correlation's contribution to the fit. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after all residuals' contributions have been included, and momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.

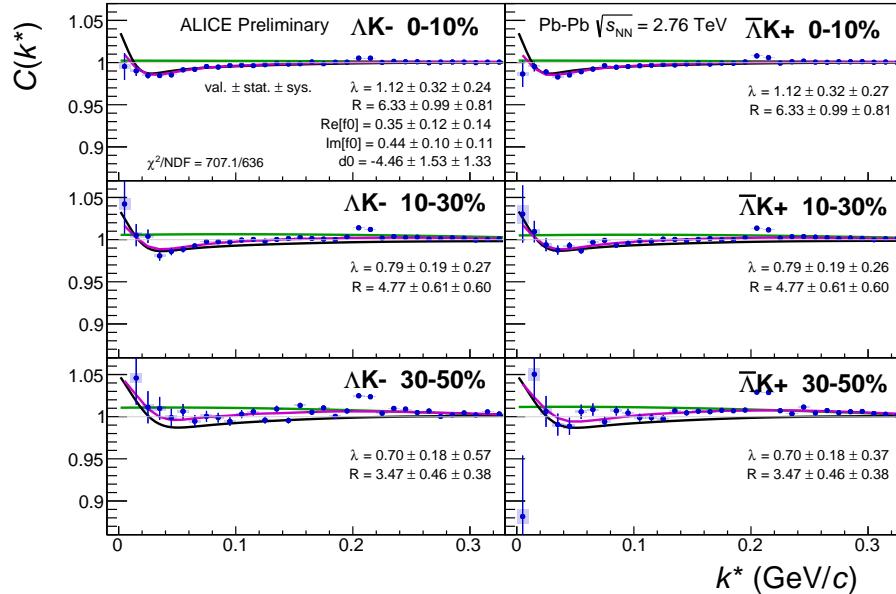


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

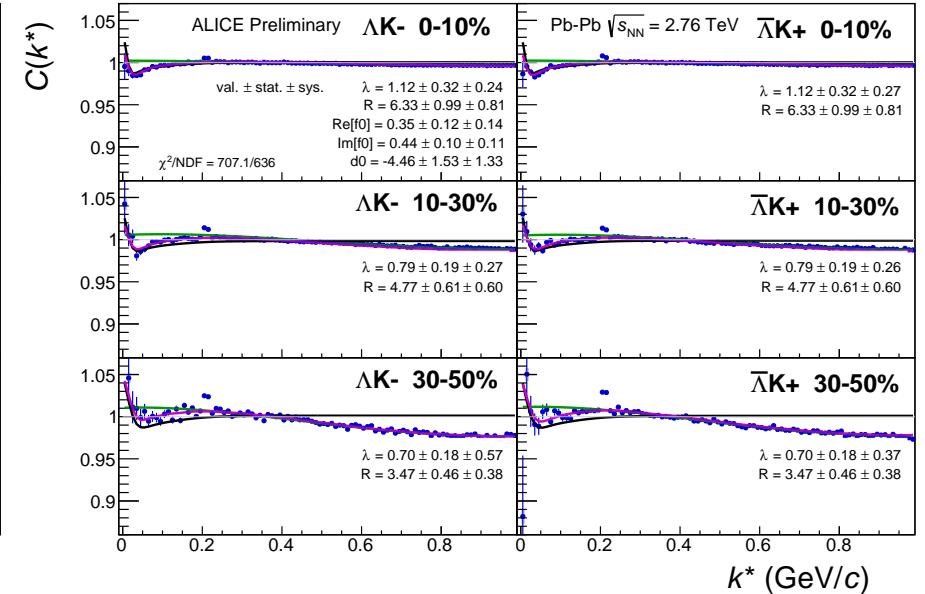


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

**Fig. 38:** Fits, with 3 residual correlations included, to the  $\Lambda K^+$  (left) and  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $\text{Re}[f_0]$ ,  $\text{Im}[f_0]$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the primary ( $\Lambda K$ ) correlation's contribution to the fit. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after all residuals' contributions have been included, and momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.

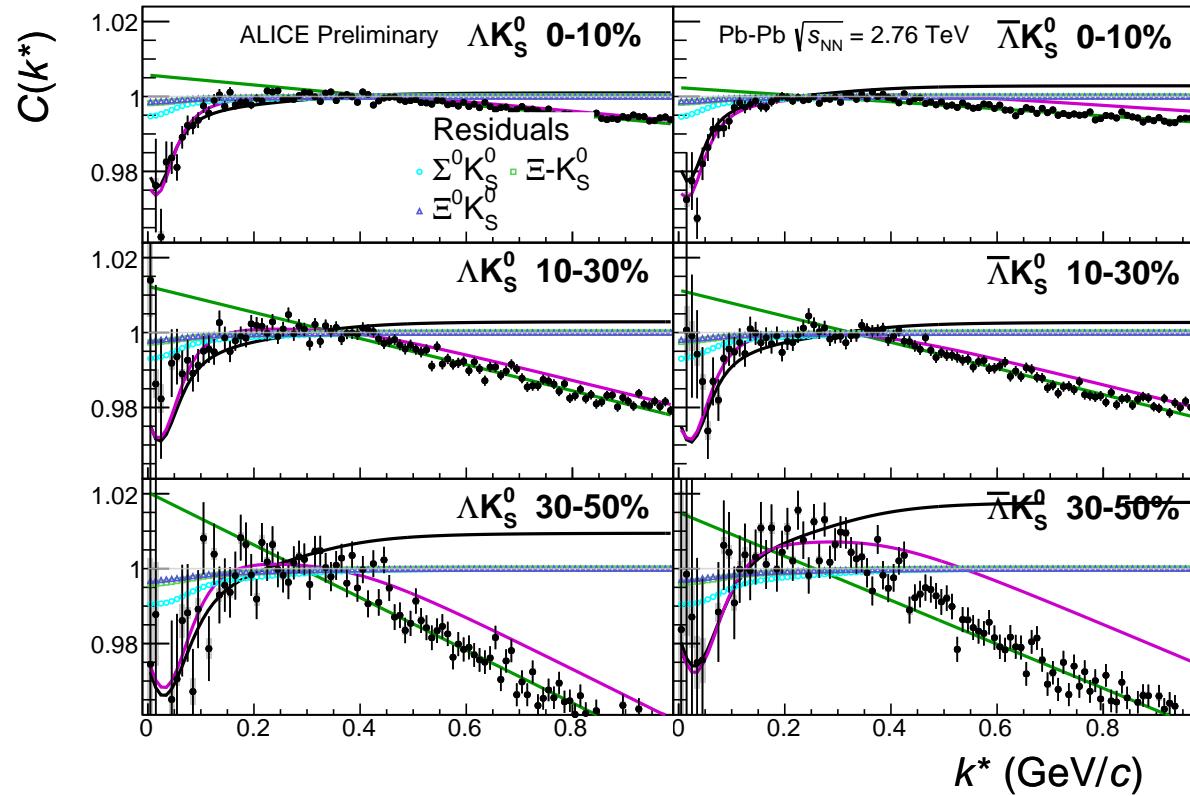


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

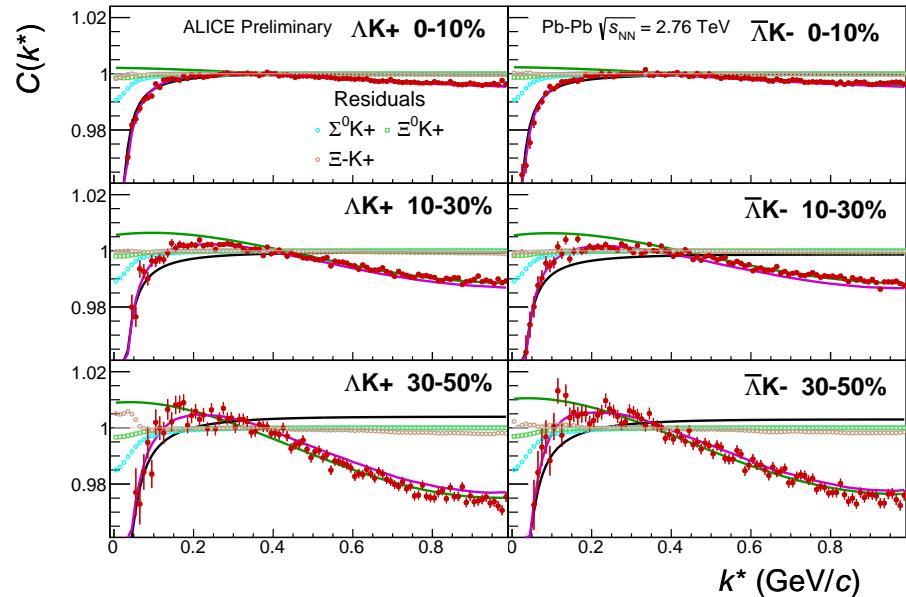


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

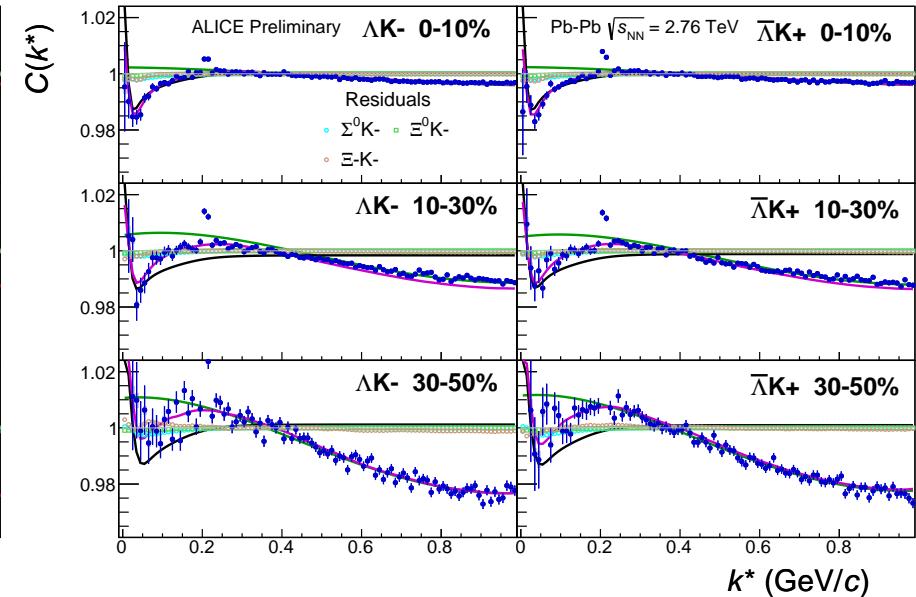
**Fig. 39:** Fits, with 3 residual correlations included, to the  $\Lambda K^-$  (left) with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the “raw” fit, i.e. not corrected for momentum resolution effects nor non-flat background. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.



**Fig. 40:** Fits, with 3 residual correlations included and shown, to the  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (left) and  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The three parent pairs used for the residual correction to the  $\Lambda K_S^0$  ( $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$ ) fit are  $\Sigma^0 K_S^0$ ,  $\Xi^0 K_S^0$ , and  $\Xi^- K_S^0$  ( $\bar{\Sigma}^0 K_S^0$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^0 K_S^0$ , and  $\bar{\Xi}^+ K_S^0$ ).



(a)  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$  fits with residual contributions shown for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom)



(b)  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda}K^+)$  fits with residual contributions shown for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom)

**Fig. 41:** Fits, with 3 residual correlations included and shown, to the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda}K^-$  (left) and  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The three parent pairs used for the residual correction to the  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$  fit are  $\Sigma^0 K^+$ ,  $\Xi^0 K^+$ , and  $\Xi^- K^-$  ( $\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^0 K^-$ , and  $\bar{\Xi}^+ K^-$ ).

Fit Results $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K_S^0$						
System	Centrality	Fit Parameters				
		$\lambda$	$R$	$\mathbb{R}f_0$	$\mathbb{I}f_0$	$d_0$
$\Lambda K_S^0 \text{ & } \bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$	0-10%			$3.15 \pm 0.68 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.45 \text{ (sys.)}$		
	10-30%	$0.60 \pm 0.87 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.57 \text{ (sys.)}$	$2.48 \pm 0.54 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.35 \text{ (sys.)}$	$-0.18 \pm 0.04 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.25 \text{ (sys.)}$	$0.20 \pm 0.11 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.13 \text{ (sys.)}$	$2.72 \pm 1.07 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 2.12 \text{ (sys.)}$
	30-50%			$1.80 \pm 0.38 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.17 \text{ (sys.)}$		

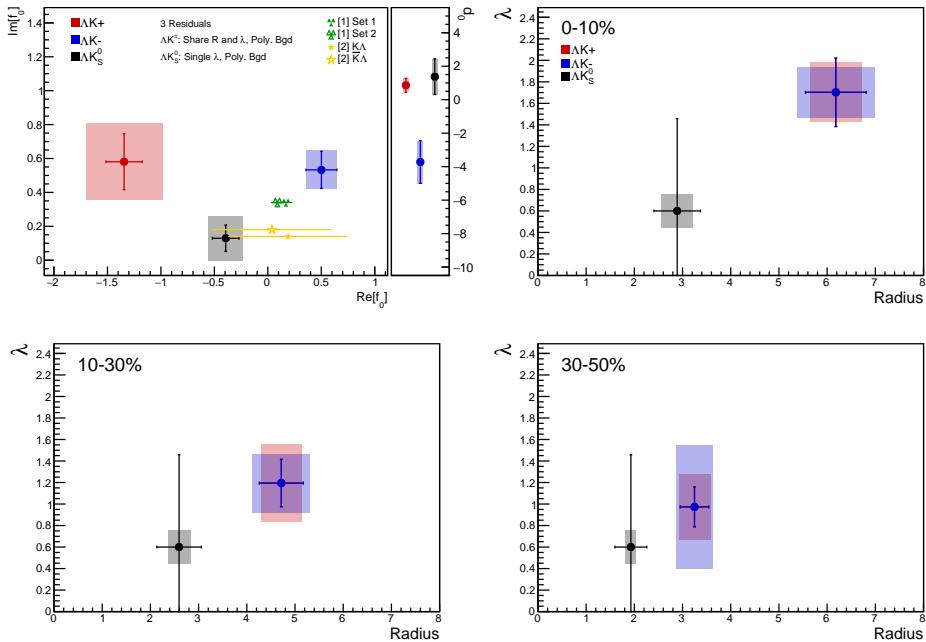
**Table 10:** Fit Results  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K_S^0$ , with 3 residual correlations included. Each pair is fit simultaneously with its conjugate (ie.  $\Lambda K_S^0$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$ ) across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%), for a total of 6 simultaneous analyses in the fit. A single  $\lambda$  parameter is shared amongst all. Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The radii are shared between analyses of like centrality, as these should have similar source sizes. The scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared amongst all. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The fit is done on the data with only statistical error bars. The errors marked as “stat.” are those returned by MINUIT. The errors marked as “sys.” are those which result from my systematic analysis (as outlined in Section 6).

Fit Results $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K^\pm$						
System	Centrality	Fit Parameters				
		$\lambda$	$R$	$\mathbb{R}f_0$	$\mathbb{I}f_0$	$d_0$
$\Lambda K^+ \text{ & } \bar{\Lambda} K^-$	0-10%	$1.12 \pm 0.32 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.25 \text{ (sys.)}$	$6.33 \pm 0.99 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.31 \text{ (sys.)}$	$-0.66 \pm 0.14 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.13 \text{ (sys.)}$	$0.58 \pm 0.15 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.11 \text{ (sys.)}$	$0.77 \pm 0.47 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 1.66 \text{ (sys.)}$
	10-30%	$0.79 \pm 0.19 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.23 \text{ (sys.)}$	$4.77 \pm 0.61 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.17 \text{ (sys.)}$			
$\Lambda K^+ \text{ & } \bar{\Lambda} K^-$	30-50%	$0.70 \pm 0.18 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.30 \text{ (sys.)}$	$3.47 \pm 0.46 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.10 \text{ (sys.)}$	$0.35 \pm 0.12 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.07 \text{ (sys.)}$	$0.44 \pm 0.10 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.08 \text{ (sys.)}$	$-4.46 \pm 1.53 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 1.36 \text{ (sys.)}$

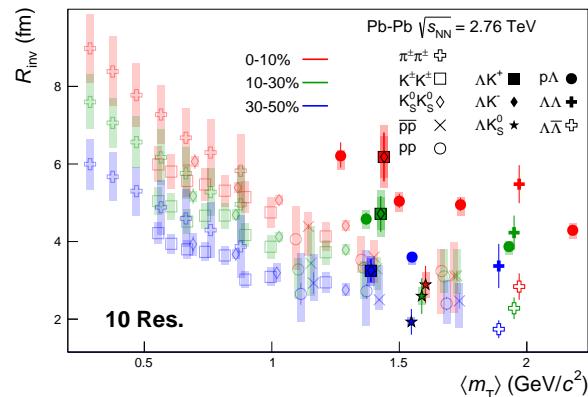
**Table 11:** Fit Results  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K^\pm$ , with 3 residual correlations included. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+ \text{ & } \bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^- \text{ & } \bar{\Lambda} K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+, \bar{\Lambda} K^-, \Lambda K^-, \bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The fit is done on the data with only statistical error bars. The errors marked as “stat.” are those returned by MINUIT. The errors marked as “sys.” are those which result from my systematic analysis (as outlined in Section 6).

### 813 7.1.3 Results: $\Lambda K_S^0$ and $\Lambda K^\pm$ : 10 Residual Correlations Included in Fit

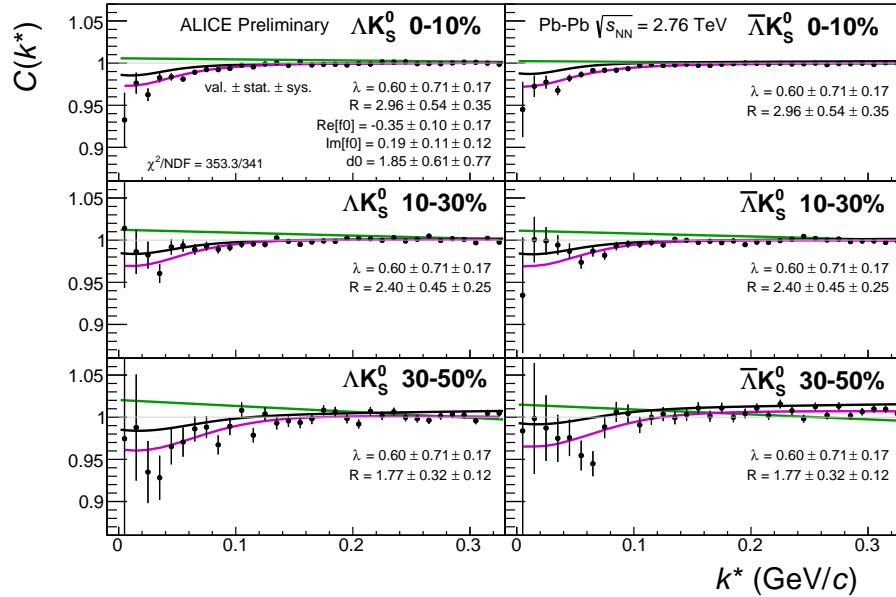
814 Figure 42 nicely collects and summarizes all of our extracted fit parameters for the case of 10 included  
 815 residual contributors. Figure 43 presents our extracted fit radii, along with those of other systems pre-  
 816 viously analyzed by ALICE [11], as a function of pair transverse mass ( $m_T$ ). Figures 44, 45, and 46  
 817 show the experimental correlation functions with fits, assuming 10 residual contributors, for all studied  
 818 centralities for  $\Lambda K_S^0$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda K^+$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ , and  $\Lambda K^-$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ , respectively. The parameter sets  
 819 extracted from the fits can be found in Tables 12 and 13.



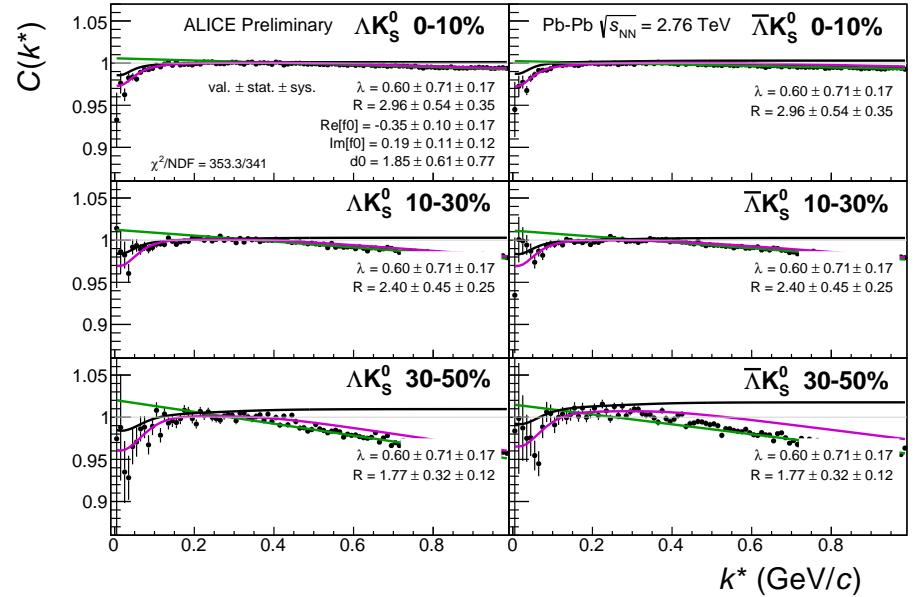
**Fig. 42:** Extracted scattering parameters for the case of 10 residual contributors for all of our AK systems. [Top Left]:  $\text{Im}[f_0]$  vs.  $\text{Re}[f_0]$ , together with  $d_0$  to the right. [Top Right (Bottom Left, Bottom Right)]:  $\lambda$  vs. Radius for the 0-10% (10-30%, 30-50%) bin. The green [9] and yellow [10] points show theoretical predictions made using chiral perturbation theory.



**Fig. 43:** 10 residual correlations in AK fits. Extracted fit  $R_{\text{inv}}$  parameters as a function of pair transverse mass ( $m_T$ ) for various pair systems over several centralities. The ALICE published data [11] is shown with transparent, open symbols. The new AK results are shown with opaque, filled symbols. In the left, the  $\Lambda K^+$  (with its conjugate pair) results are shown separately from the  $\Lambda K^-$  (with its conjugate pair) results. In the right, all  $\Lambda K^\pm$  results are averaged.

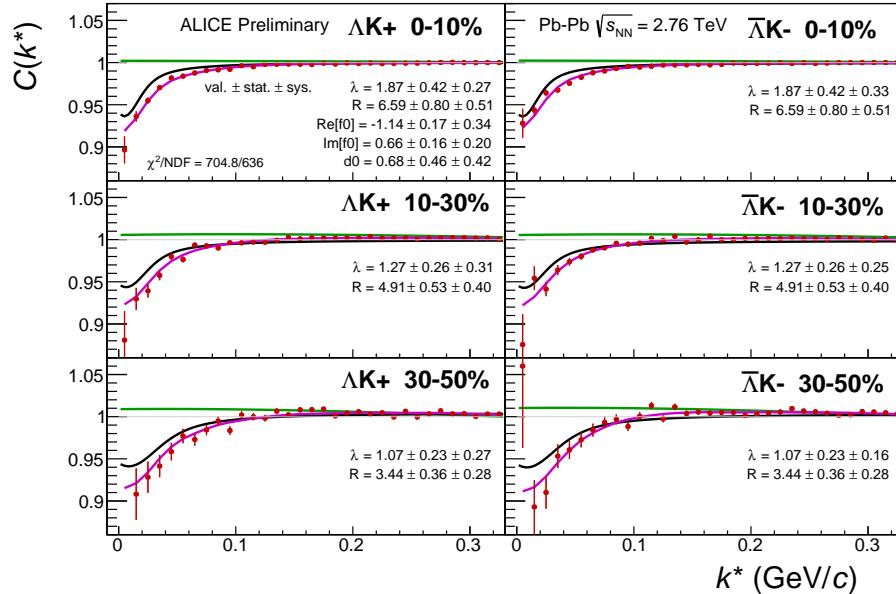


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

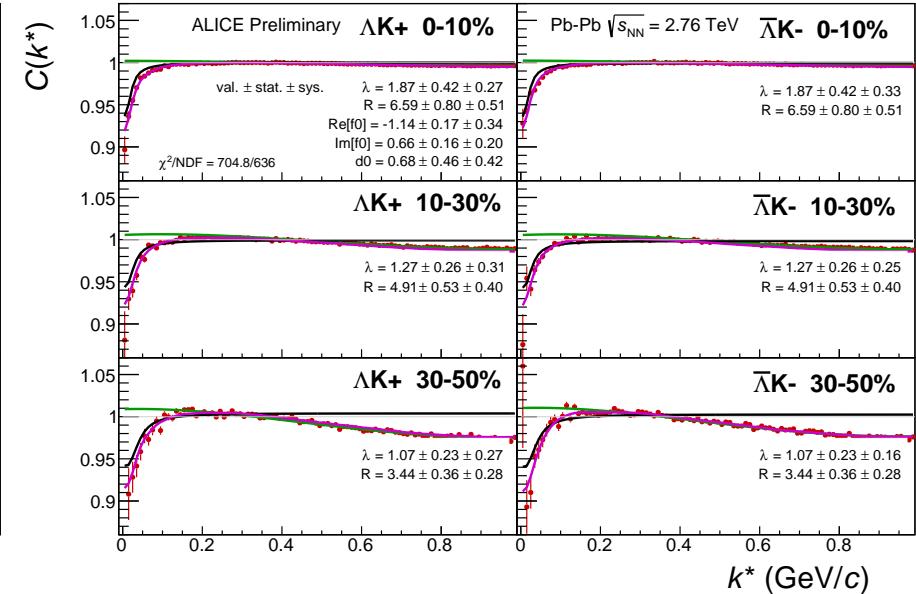


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

**Fig. 44:** Fits, with 10 residual correlations included, to the  $\Lambda K_s^0$  (left) and  $\bar{\Lambda} K_s^0$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. A single  $\lambda$  parameter is shared amongst all. Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The radii are shared between analyses of like centrality, as these should have similar source sizes. The scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R} f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I} f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared amongst all. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the primary ( $\Lambda K$ ) correlation's contribution to the fit. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after all residuals' contributions have been included, and momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.

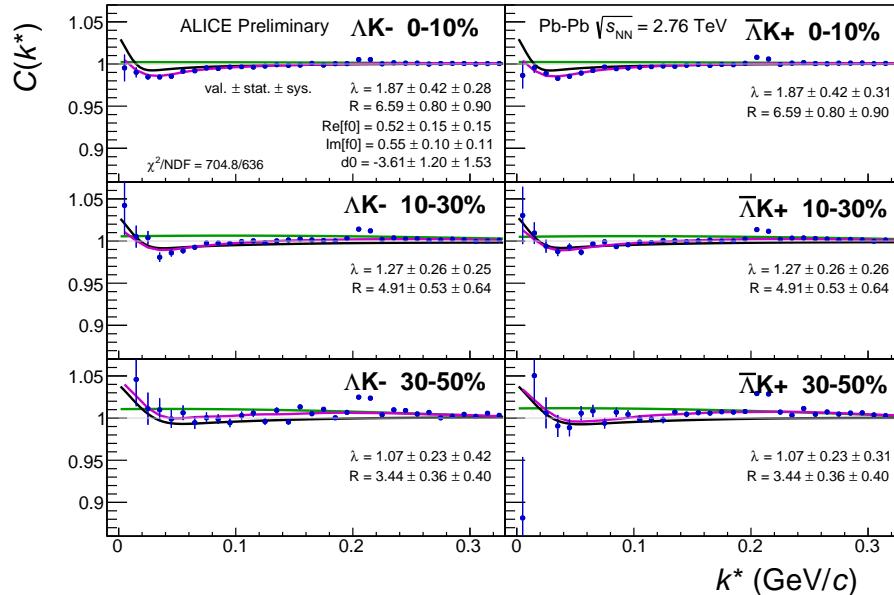


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

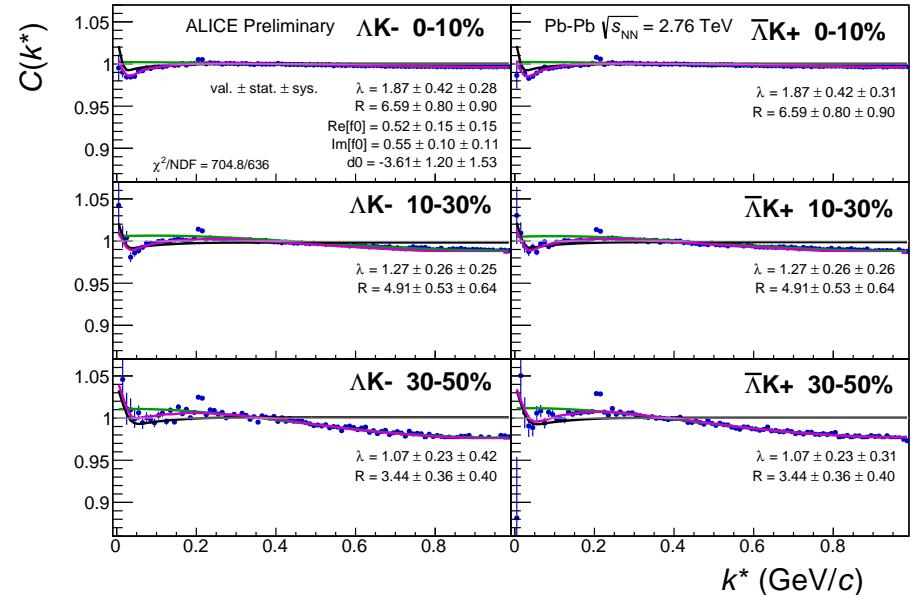


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

**Fig. 45:** Fits, with 10 residual correlations included, to the  $\Delta K^+$  (left) and  $\bar{\Delta}K^-$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. All  $\Delta K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $\text{Re}[f_0]$ ,  $\text{Im}[f_0]$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Delta K^+$  &  $\bar{\Delta}K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Delta K^-$  &  $\bar{\Delta}K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Delta K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Delta}K^-$ ,  $\Delta K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Delta}K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the primary ( $\Delta K$ ) correlation's contribution to the fit. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after all residuals' contributions have been included, and momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.

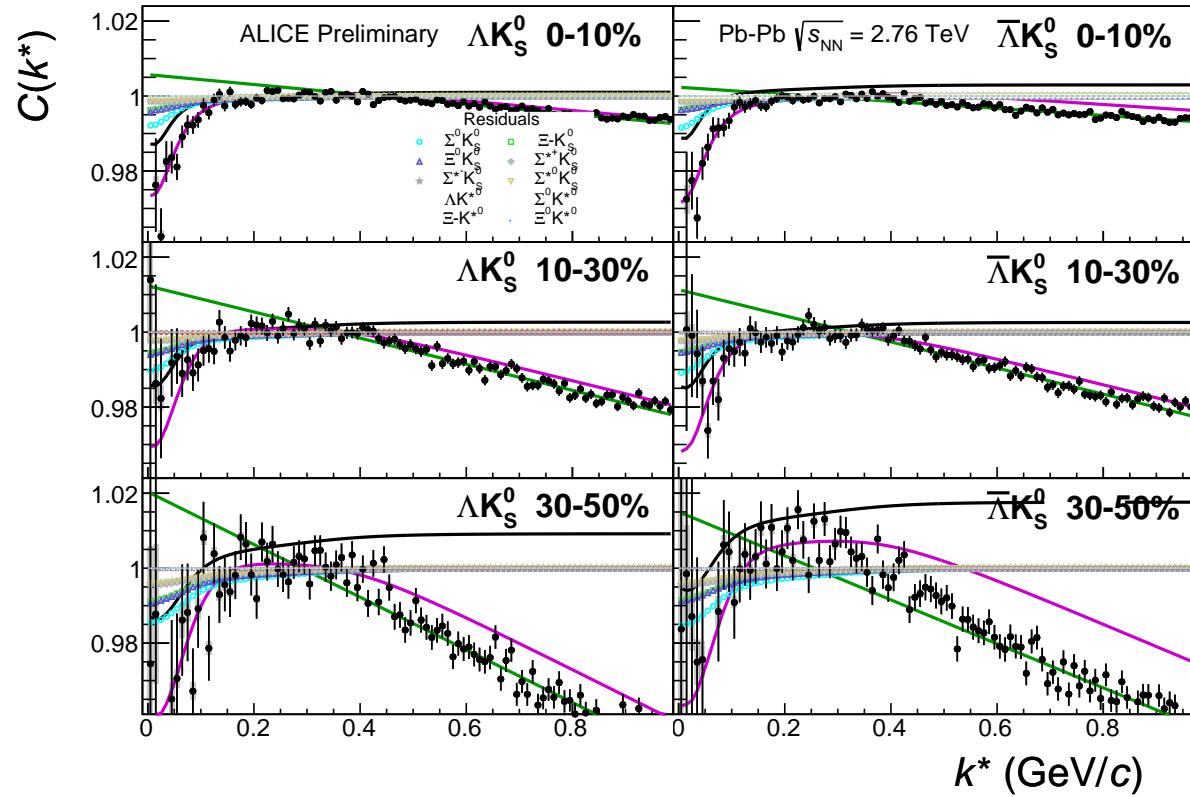


(a) Signal region view ( $k^* \lesssim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

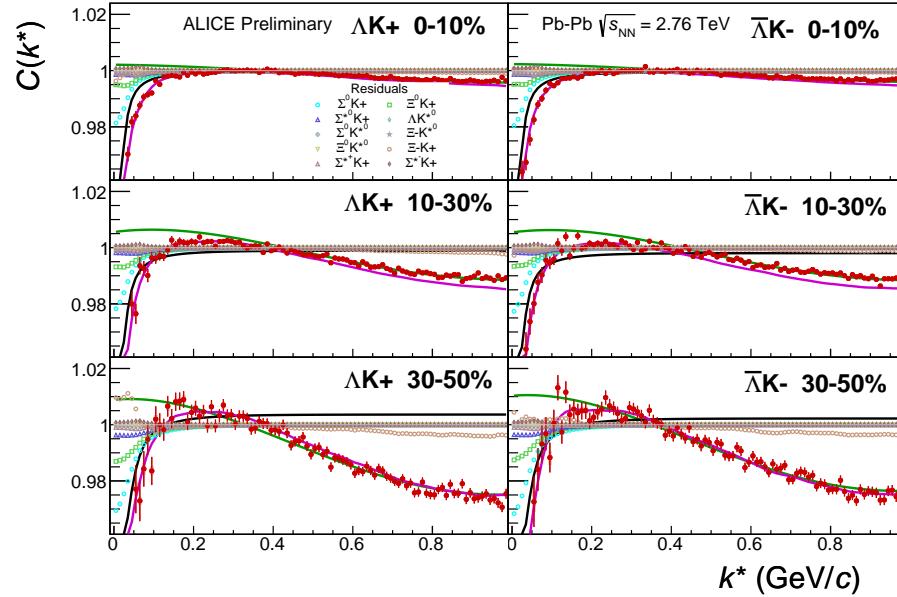


(b) Wide view ( $k^* \lesssim 1.0 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

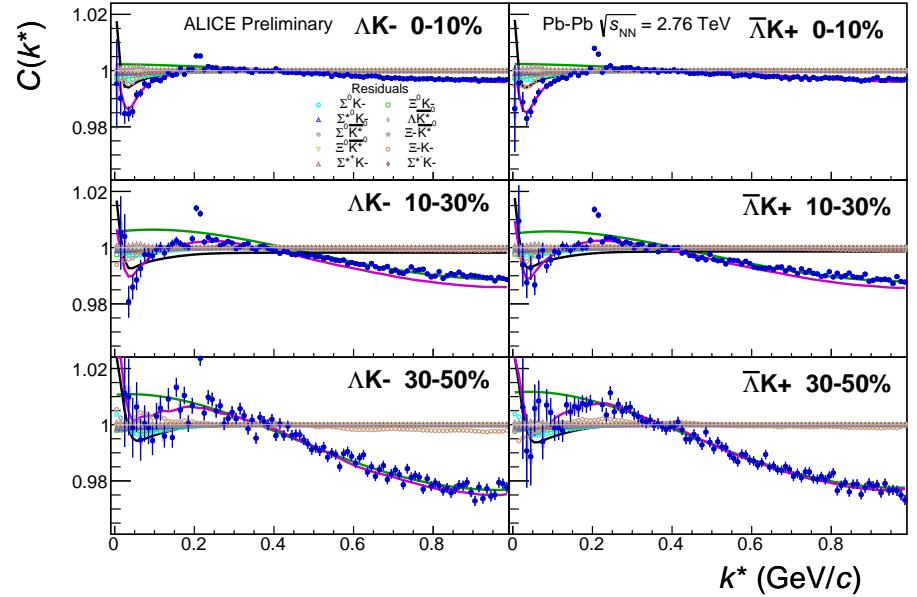
**Fig. 46:** Fits, with 10 residual correlations included, to the  $\Lambda K^-$  (left) with  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The lines represent the statistical errors, while the boxes represent the systematic errors. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $Rf_0$ ,  $I_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The black solid line represents the primary ( $\Lambda K$ ) correlation's contribution to the fit. The green line shows the fit to the non-flat background. The purple points show the fit after all residuals' contributions have been included, and momentum resolution and non-flat background corrections have been applied. The extracted fit values with uncertainties are printed.



**Fig. 47:** Fits, with 10 residual correlations included and shown, to the  $\Lambda K_s^0$  (left) and  $\bar{\Lambda} K_s^0$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The ten parent pairs used for the residual correction to the  $\Lambda K_s^0$  ( $\bar{\Lambda} K_s^0$ ) fit are  $\Sigma^0 K_S^0$ ,  $\Xi^0 K_S^0$ ,  $\Xi^- K_S^0$ ,  $\Sigma^{*(+,-,0)} K_S^0$ ,  $\Lambda K^{*0}$ ,  $\Sigma^0 K^{*0}$ ,  $\Xi^0 K^{*0}$ , and  $\Xi^- K^{*0}$  ( $\bar{\Sigma}^0 K_S^0$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^0 K_S^0$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^+ K_S^0$ ,  $\bar{\Sigma}^{*(+,-,0)} K_S^0$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} \bar{K}^{*0}$ ,  $\bar{\Sigma}^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$ , and  $\bar{\Xi}^+ \bar{K}^{*0}$ ).



(a)  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$  fits with residual contributions shown for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom)



(b)  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda}K^+)$  fits with residual contributions shown for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom)

**Fig. 48:** Fits, with 10 residual correlations included and shown, to the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda}K^-$  (left) and  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda}K^+$  (right) data for the centralities 0-10% (top), 10-30% (middle), and 30-50% (bottom). The ten parent pairs used for the residual correction to the  $\Lambda K^+$  ( $\bar{\Lambda}K^-$ ) fit are  $\Sigma^0 K^+$ ,  $\Xi^0 K^+$ ,  $\Xi^- K^+$ ,  $\Sigma^{*(+,-,0)} K^+$ ,  $\Lambda K^{*0}$ ,  $\Sigma^0 K^{*0}$ ,  $\Xi^0 K^{*0}$ , and  $\Xi^- K^{*0}$  ( $\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^0 K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^+ K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Sigma}^{*(+,-,0)} K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda}K^{*0}$ ,  $\bar{\Sigma}^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$ ,  $\bar{\Xi}^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$ , and  $\bar{\Xi}^+ \bar{K}^{*0}$ ).

Fit Results $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K_S^0$						
System	Centrality	Fit Parameters				
		$\lambda$	$R$	$\mathbb{R}f_0$	$\mathbb{I}f_0$	$d_0$
$\Lambda K_S^0 \& \bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$	0-10%			$2.89 \pm 0.48$ (stat.) $\pm 0.33$ (sys.)		
	10-30%	$0.60 \pm 0.86$ (stat.) $\pm 0.16$ (sys.)	$2.59 \pm 0.46$ (stat.) $\pm 0.23$ (sys.)	$-0.39 \pm 0.12$ (stat.) $\pm 0.16$ (sys.)	$0.13 \pm 0.08$ (stat.) $\pm 0.13$ (sys.)	$1.38 \pm 1.06$ (stat.) $\pm 0.62$ (sys.)
	30-50%			$1.93 \pm 0.33$ (stat.) $\pm 0.11$ (sys.)		

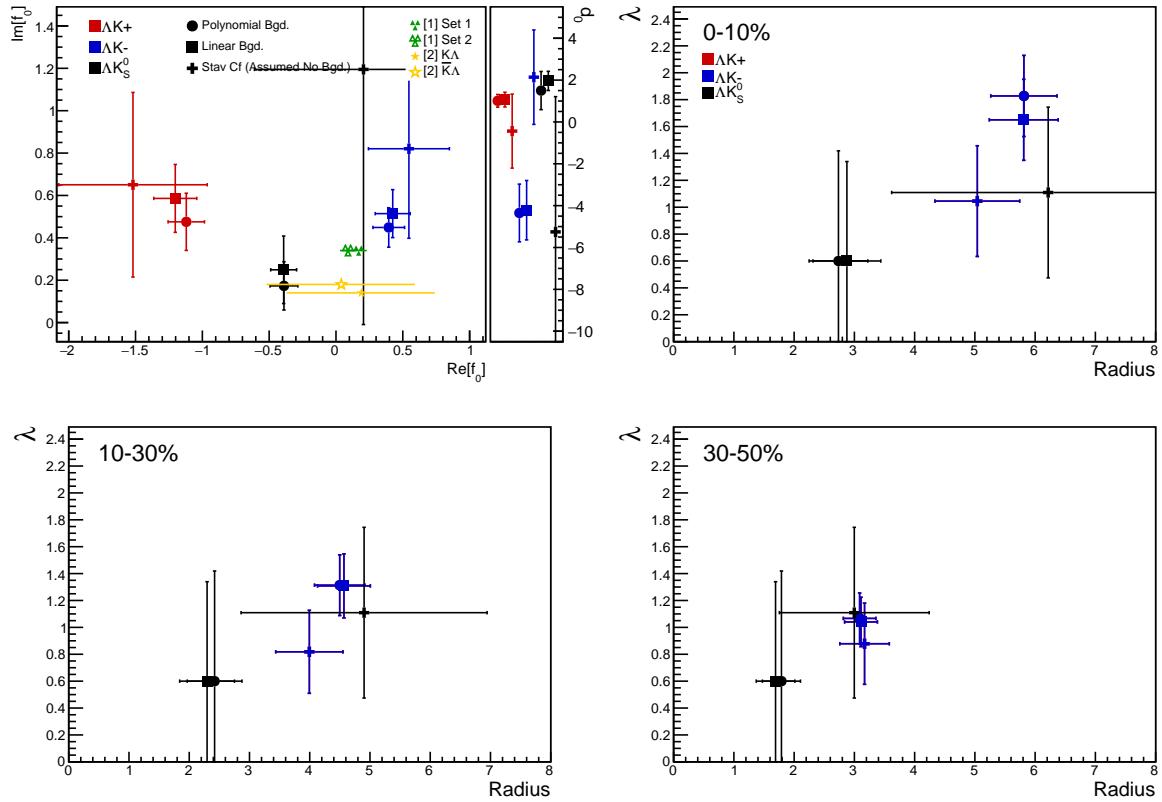
**Table 12:** Fit Results  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K_S^0$ , with 10 residual correlations included. Each pair is fit simultaneously with its conjugate (ie.  $\Lambda K_S^0$  with  $\bar{\Lambda} K_S^0$ ) across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%), for a total of 6 simultaneous analyses in the fit. A single  $\lambda$  parameter is shared amongst all. Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The radii are shared between analyses of like centrality, as these should have similar source sizes. The scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared amongst all. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The fit is done on the data with only statistical error bars. The errors marked as “stat.” are those returned by MINUIT. The errors marked as “sys.” are those which result from my systematic analysis (as outlined in Section 6).

Fit Results $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K^\pm$						
System	Centrality	Fit Parameters				
		$\lambda$	$R$	$\mathbb{R}f_0$	$\mathbb{I}f_0$	$d_0$
$\Lambda K^+ \& \bar{\Lambda} K^-$	0-10%	$1.70 \pm 0.32$ (stat.) $\pm 0.28$ (sys.)	$6.18 \pm 0.63$ (stat.) $\pm 0.54$ (sys.)	$-1.34 \pm 0.17$ (stat.) $\pm 0.36$ (sys.)	$0.58 \pm 0.17$ (stat.) $\pm 0.23$ (sys.)	$0.86 \pm 0.42$ (stat.) $\pm 0.53$ (sys.)
	10-30%	$1.19 \pm 0.22$ (stat.) $\pm 0.36$ (sys.)	$4.72 \pm 0.45$ (stat.) $\pm 0.42$ (sys.)			
$\Lambda K^+ \& \bar{\Lambda} K^-$	30-50%	$0.97 \pm 0.19$ (stat.) $\pm 0.31$ (sys.)	$3.25 \pm 0.30$ (stat.) $\pm 0.32$ (sys.)	$0.50 \pm 0.14$ (stat.) $\pm 0.14$ (sys.)	$0.53 \pm 0.11$ (stat.) $\pm 0.11$ (sys.)	$-3.72 \pm 1.28$ (stat.) $\pm 1.33$ (sys.)

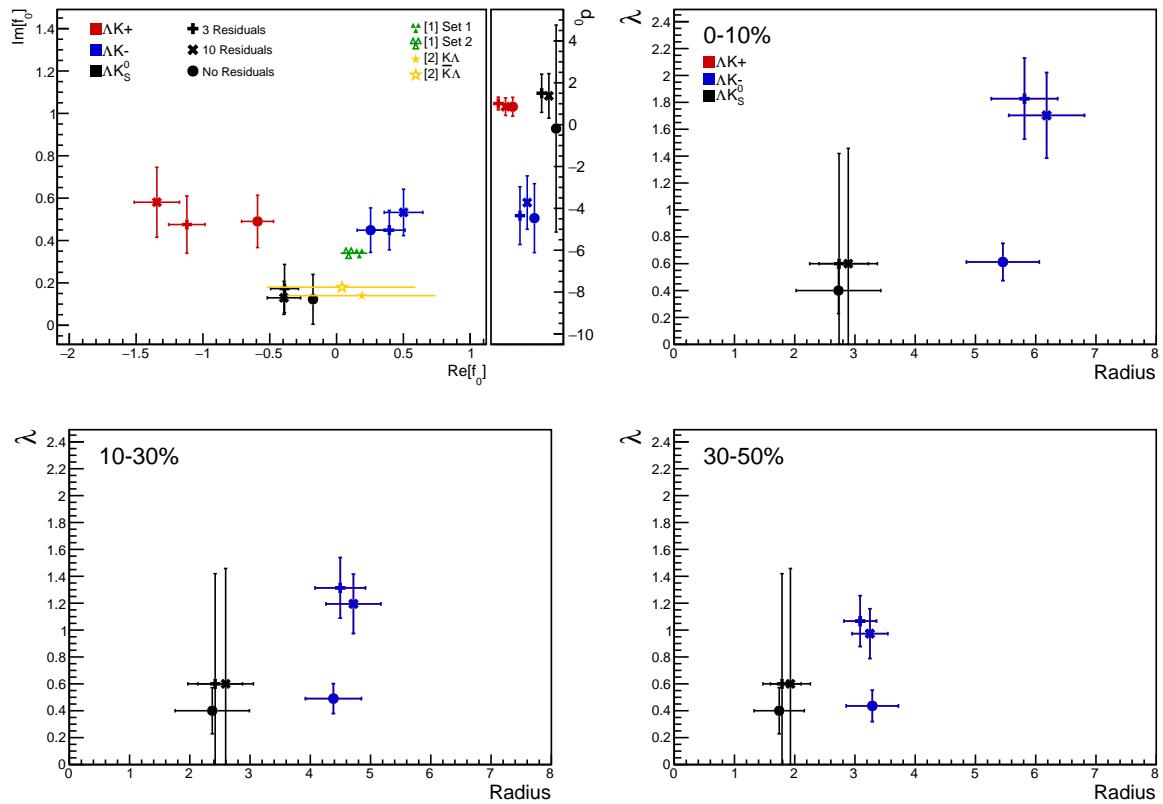
**Table 13:** Fit Results  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K^\pm$ , with 10 residual correlations included. All  $\Lambda K^\pm$  analyses are fit simultaneously across all centralities (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). Scattering parameters ( $\mathbb{R}f_0$ ,  $\mathbb{I}f_0$ ,  $d_0$ ) are shared between pair-conjugate systems (i.e. a parameter set describing the  $\Lambda K^+$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$  system, and a separate set describing the  $\Lambda K^-$  &  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  system). For each centrality, a radius and  $\lambda$  parameters are shared between all pairs ( $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$ ). Each analysis has a unique normalization parameter. The background is modeled by a (6<sup>th</sup>-)degree polynomial fit to THERMINATOR simulation. The fit is done on the data with only statistical error bars. The errors marked as “stat.” are those returned by MINUIT. The errors marked as “sys.” are those which result from my systematic analysis (as outlined in Section 6).

820 **7.1.4 Results:  $\Lambda K_S^0$  and  $\Lambda K^\pm$ : Fit Method Comparisons**

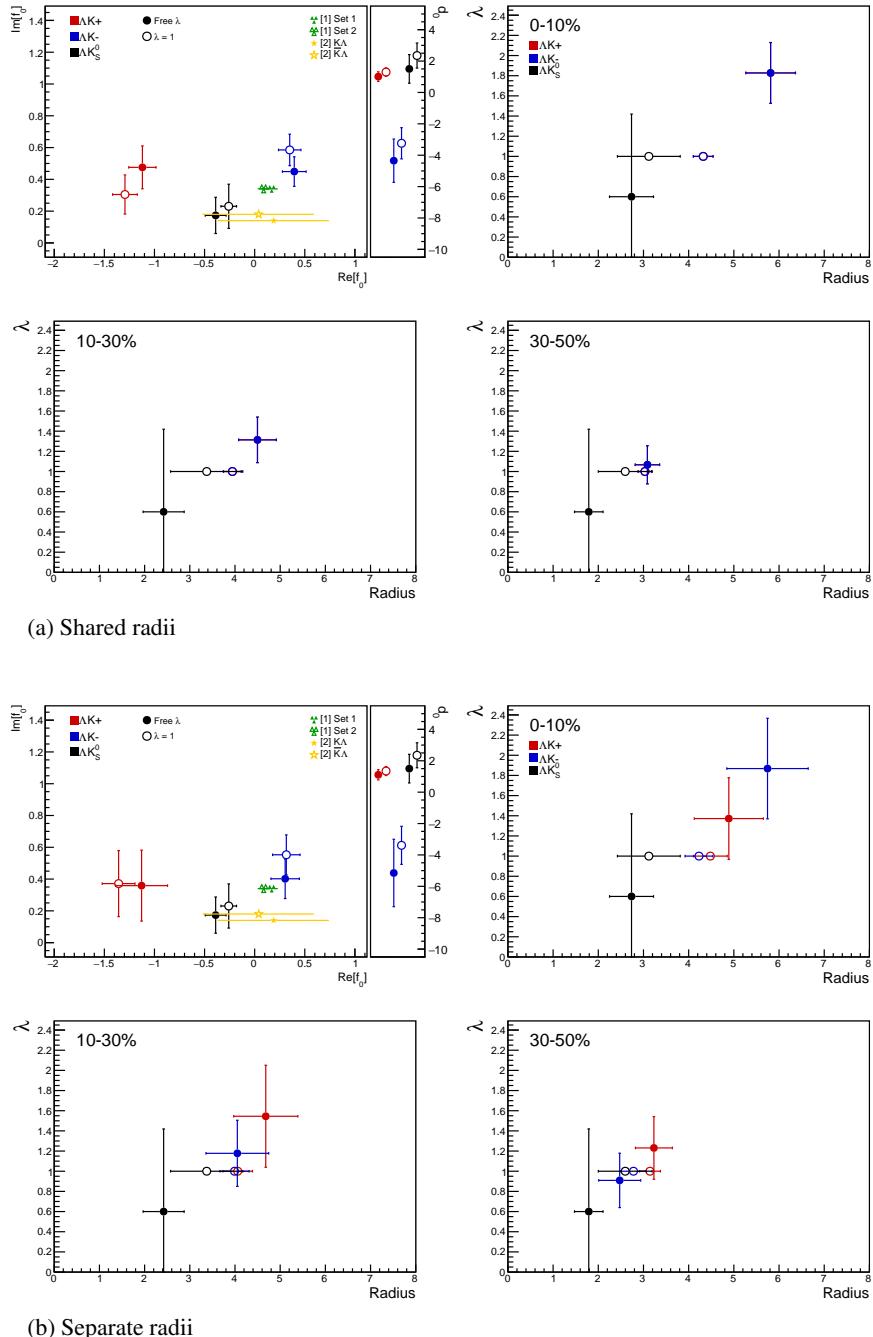
821 In Figure 49, we show extracted fit parameters for the case of  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  sharing radii with  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$ .  
 822 The figure shows results for three different treatments of the non-femtoscopic background: a polynomial  
 823 fit to THERMINATOR 2 simulation to model the background (circles), a linear fit to the data to model  
 824 the background (squares), and the Stavinsky method (crosses).



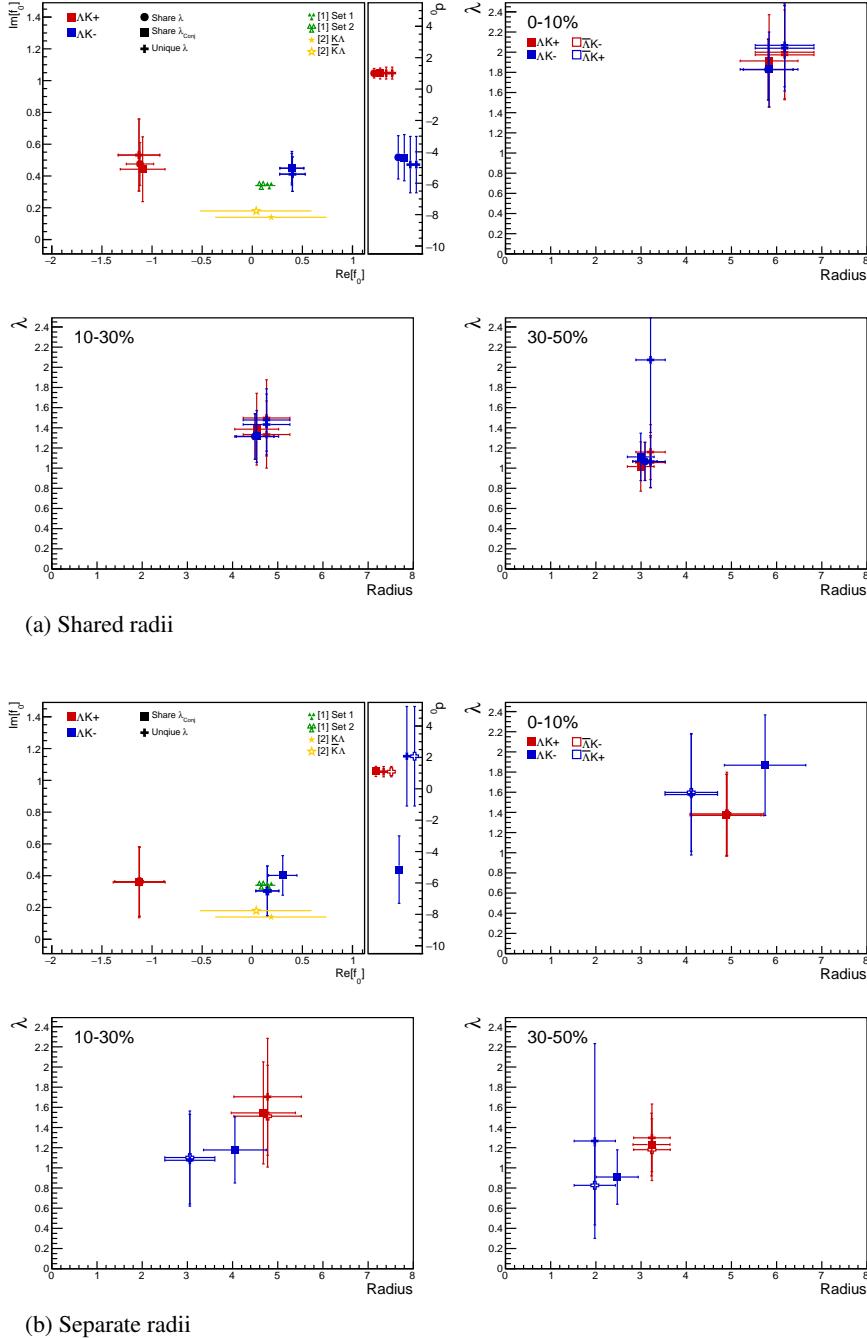
**Fig. 49:** Compare Fit Parameters: Background treatment: Extracted fit results for all of our  $\Lambda(\bar{\Lambda})K^\pm$  systems across all studied centrality bins (0-10%, 10-30%, 30-50%). The  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  and  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$  systems share both a radius and a  $\lambda$  parameter for each centrality bin (i.e. 3 total radius parameters, 3 total  $\lambda$  parameters). The figure shows results for three different treatments of the non-femtoscopic background: a polynomial fit to THERMINATOR 2 simulation to model the background (circles), a linear fit to the data to model the background (squares), and the Stavinsky method (crosses). The green [9] and yellow [10] points show theoretical predictions made using chiral perturbation theory.



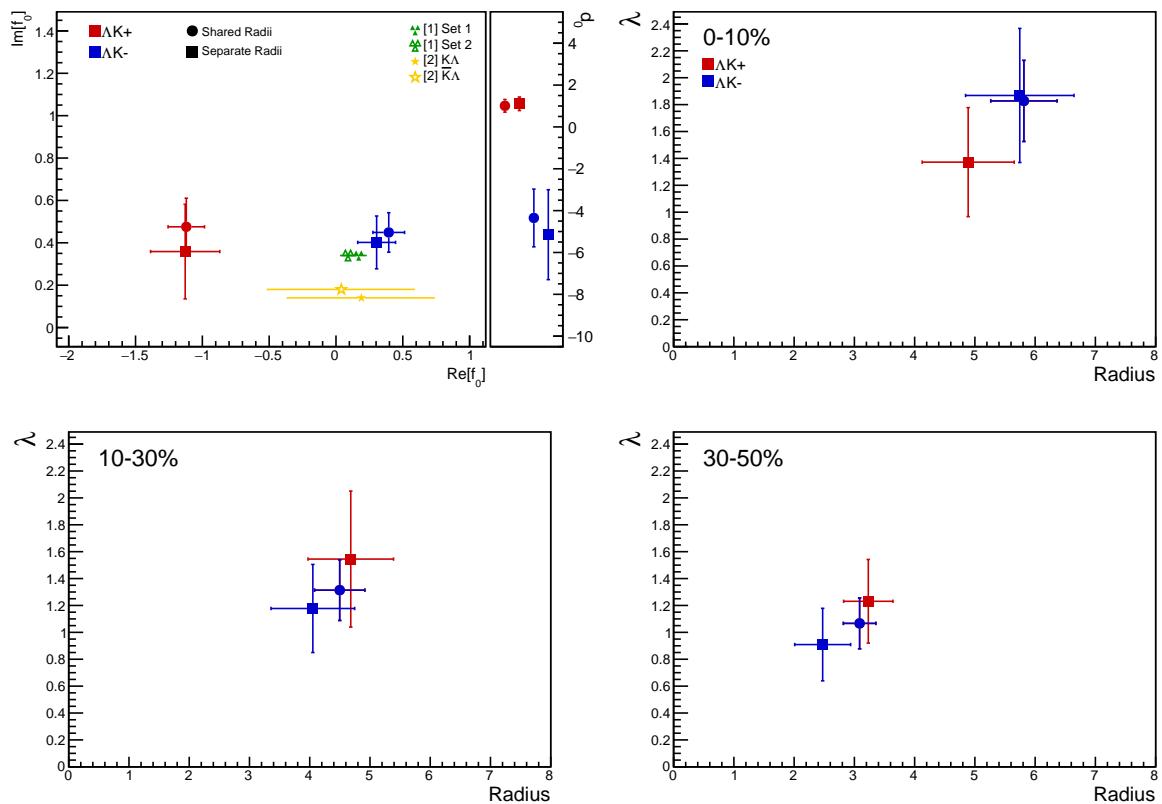
**Fig. 50:** Compare Fit Parameters: Number of residuals: Results shown for the case of 3 (+), 10 (X), and no (circles) residual contributors.



**Fig. 51:** Compare Fit Parameters: Free vs fixed  $\lambda$ : Results shown for  $\lambda$  parameters left free (filled symbols) and fixed to 1 (open symbols). In the top plot (51a), the  $\Lambda K^+$  and  $\Lambda K^-$  analyses share radii, whereas in the bottom (51b) they have unique radii.



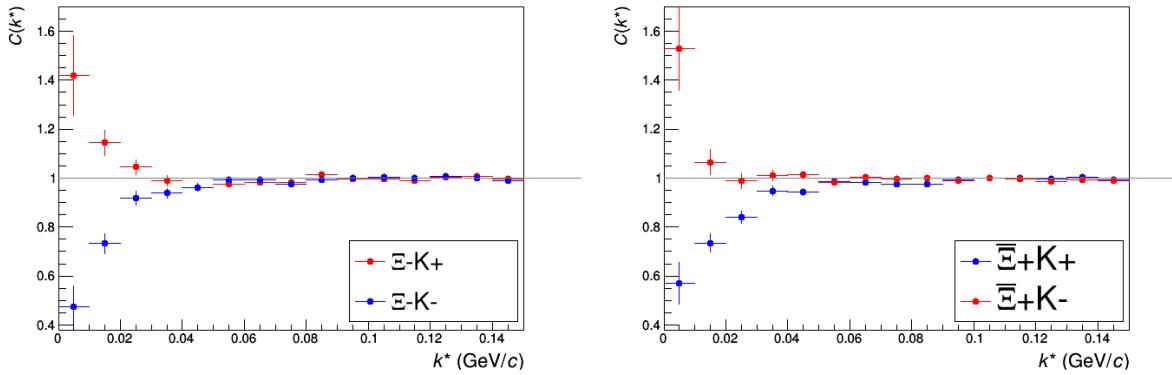
**Fig. 52:** Compare Fit Parameters: Shared vs unique  $\lambda$ : Results shown for different sharing of the  $\lambda$  parameters between analyses and systems. In the top (52a), the  $\Lambda K^+$  and  $\Lambda K^-$  analyses share radii, whereas in the bottom (52b), they do not. “Share  $\lambda$ ” (circles) is the case where a single  $\lambda$  is shared amongst all analyses for a given centrality bin (i.e., in 52a, 3 radius parameters and 3  $\lambda$  parameters). “Share  $\lambda_{Conj}$ ” (squares) means that conjugate pairs (ex.  $\Lambda K^+$  and  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ) share a  $\lambda$  parameter for each centrality. This corresponds to 6 total  $\lambda$  parameters (for each of the 3 centrality bins, the  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  receives a unique  $\lambda$ , as does  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$ ). Finally, in “Unique  $\lambda\lambda$  parameter. This corresponds to 12  $\lambda$  parameters (for each of the 3 centrality bins, each  $\Lambda K^+$ ,  $\bar{\Lambda} K^-$ ,  $\Lambda K^-$ , and  $\bar{\Lambda} K^+$  receives a unique  $\lambda$ ).



**Fig. 53:** Compare Fit Parameters: Shared vs. Separate Radii: Results shown for the case of radii being shared between  $\Lambda K^+(\bar{\Lambda} K^-)$  and  $\Lambda K^-(\bar{\Lambda} K^+)$  (circles) vs not shared (squares).

## 825 7.2 Results: $\Xi K^\pm$

826 Even without any fits to the data, the fact that the  $\Xi^- K^+$  data dips below unity (Fig. 54) is exciting, as  
 827 this cannot occur purely from a Coulomb interaction. We hope that this dip signifies that we are able to  
 828 peer through the overwhelming contribution from the Coulomb interaction to see the effects arising from  
 829 the strong interaction.

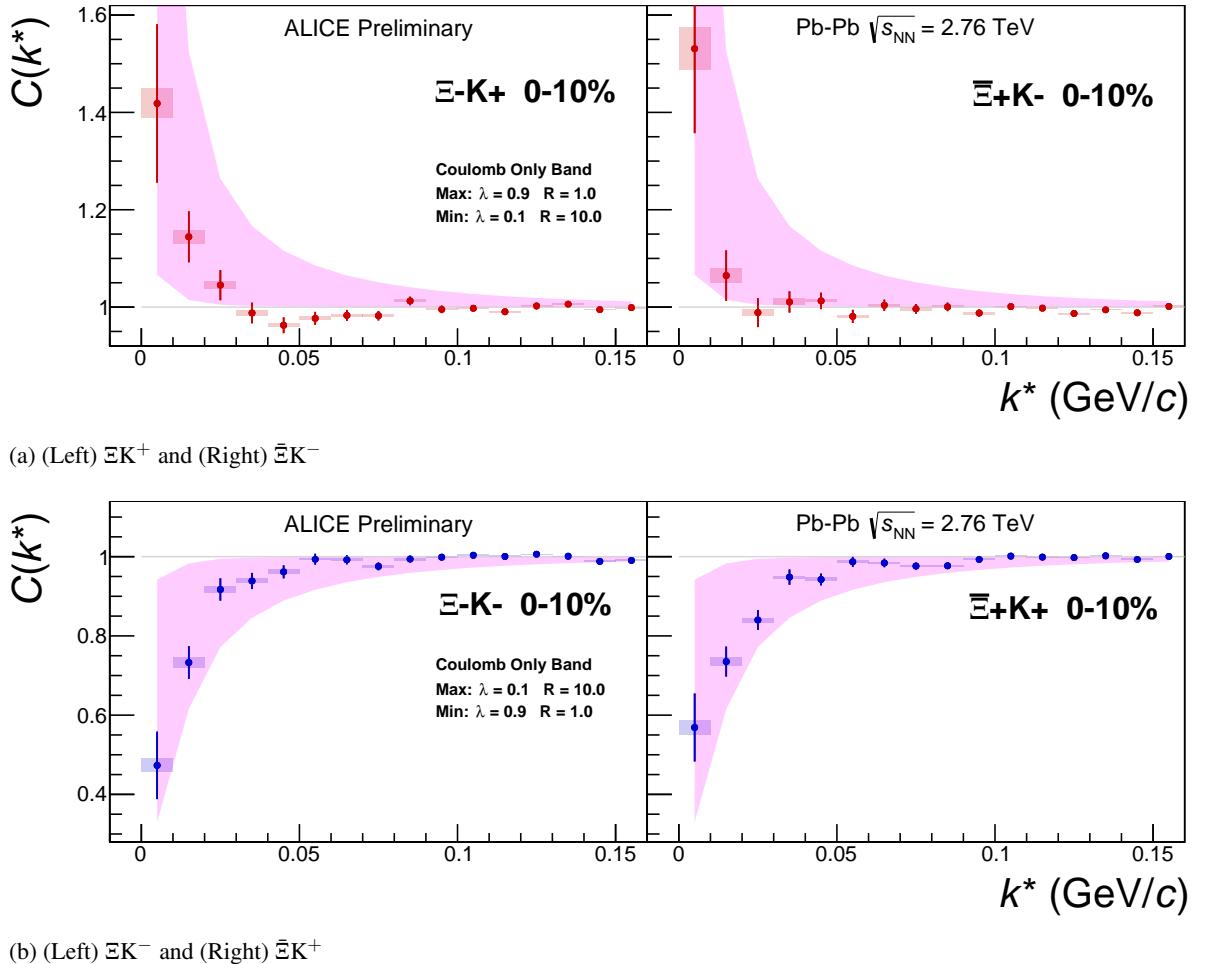


**Fig. 54:**  $\Xi K^\pm$  Results for 0-10% Centrality. (Left)  $\Xi^- K^+$  and  $\Xi^- K^-$  (Right)  $\Xi^+ K^+$  and  $\Xi^+ K^-$

830 Figure 55 demonstrates graphically, that the  $\Xi^- K^+$  results cannot be described by solely the Coulomb  
 831 interaction. In this figure, we present the data along with a Coulomb-only band. The Coulomb-only  
 832 band is spanned by two Coulomb-only curves, whose parameters are given in the figure. The Coulomb-  
 833 only curves were generated using a technique identical to the generation of the fit function, described  
 834 in Sec. 5.2, except, of course, with the nuclear scattering parameters all set to zero. The Coulomb-only  
 835 curves change monotonically with varying  $\lambda$  or varyin radius parametre, therefore, any curves built with  
 836 parameter sets intermediate to those use in the Coulomb-only band will be contained in the band.

837 Including the strong interaction into the simulation can change, sometimes dramatically, the resulting  
 838 correlation function, as shown in Figure 56. In the figure, the solid line represents a Coulomb-only curve,  
 839 i.e. a simulated correlation function with the strong interaction turned off. The dashed lines represent a  
 840 full simulation, including both the strong and Coulomb interactions. The two dashed lines differ only in  
 841 the real part of the assumed scattering length: positive in Set 1, and negative in Set 2. In the top figure,  
 842 for the  $\Xi^- K^+$  simulation, we see that parameter set 2, with a negative real part of the scattering length,  
 843 causes the simulated curve to dip below unity, as is seen in the data. If there is a parallel to be drawn  
 844 between this analysis and the  $\Lambda K$  analysis, we expect to see similar effects in the  $\Lambda K^+$  system and the  
 845  $\Xi^- K^+$  systems. In these systems, we could have an  $s\bar{s}$  annihilation picture. Or, another possible way of  
 846 thinking about these systems is in terms of net strangeness. The  $\Lambda K^+$  system has  $S=0$ , while the  $\Lambda K^-$   
 847 has  $S=-2$ . The  $\Xi^- K^+$  has  $S=-1$ , while the  $\Xi^- K^-$  has  $S=-3$ .

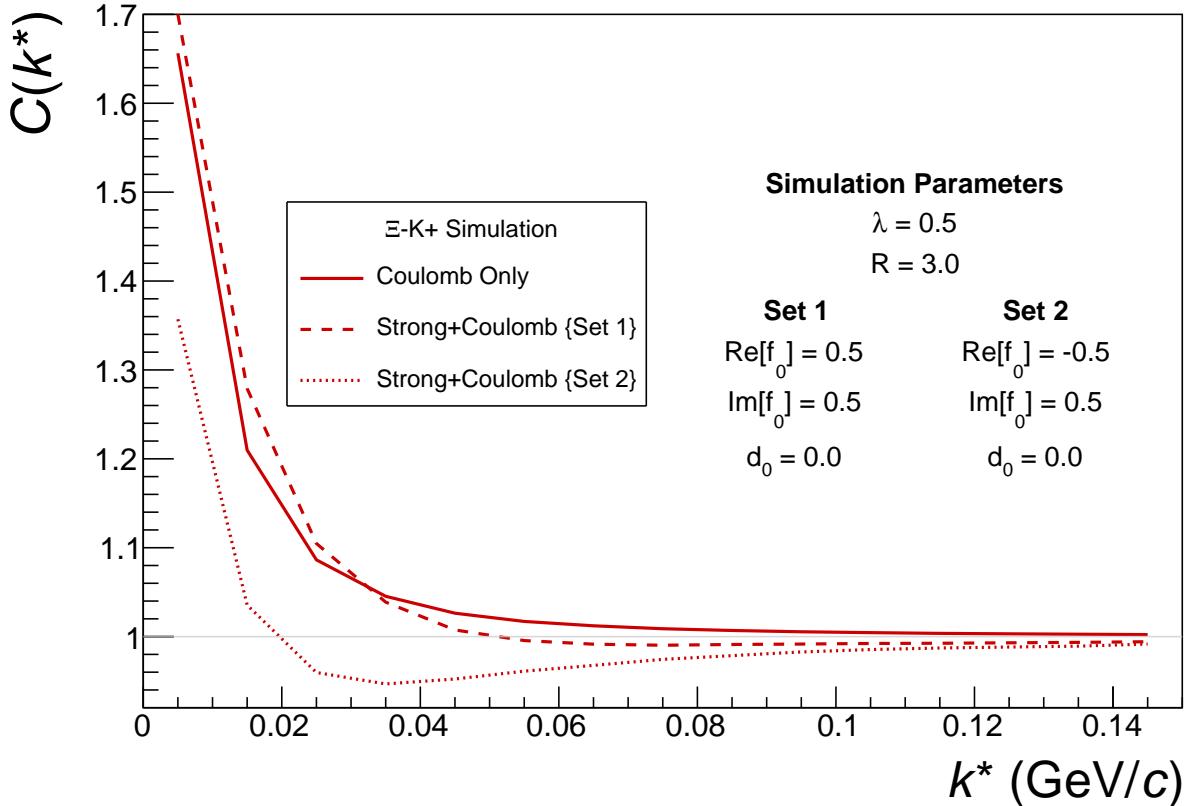
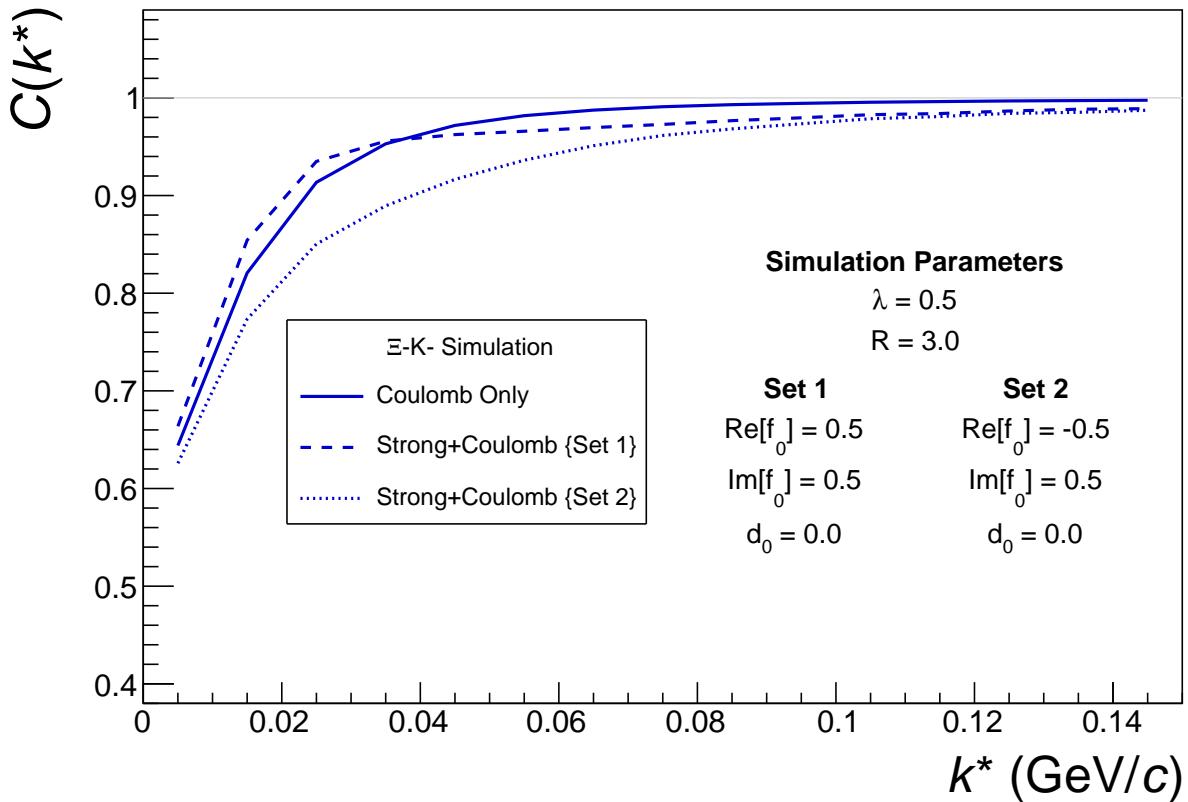
848 The author was asked to perform a global Coulomb-only fit to the data, to ensure that the system truly  
 849 could not be described simply by the Coulomb interaction. In order words, in the fit, the strong force was  
 850 turned off, and the  $\Xi^- K^+$ ,  $\Xi^+ K^-$ ,  $\Xi^- K^-$ ,  $\Xi^+ K^+$  systems all share one sinlge radius parameter, while the  
 851 pair and conjugate pair systems share a  $\lambda$  parameter. The results of this fit are shown in Figures 57 and  
 852 58. In Fig. 57, there was a lower limit of 0.1 fm placed on the radius parameter, and the radius parameter  
 853 was initialized to 3 fm (as seems reasonable, when considering the transverse mass of the system and  
 854 looking at Fig. ??). As is shown in the results, the radius parameter reached this unrealistic lower bound  
 855 of 0.1 fm. In Fig. 58, the parameters were all unbounded, and the radius parameter was initialized to 10  
 856 fm. In this case, the radius parameters reamins high, and ends at an unrealistic value of 10.84 fm. In both  
 857 cases, the  $\lambda$  parameters are too low. From these figures, we conclude that a global Coulomb-only fit is  
 858 not suitable for the data.



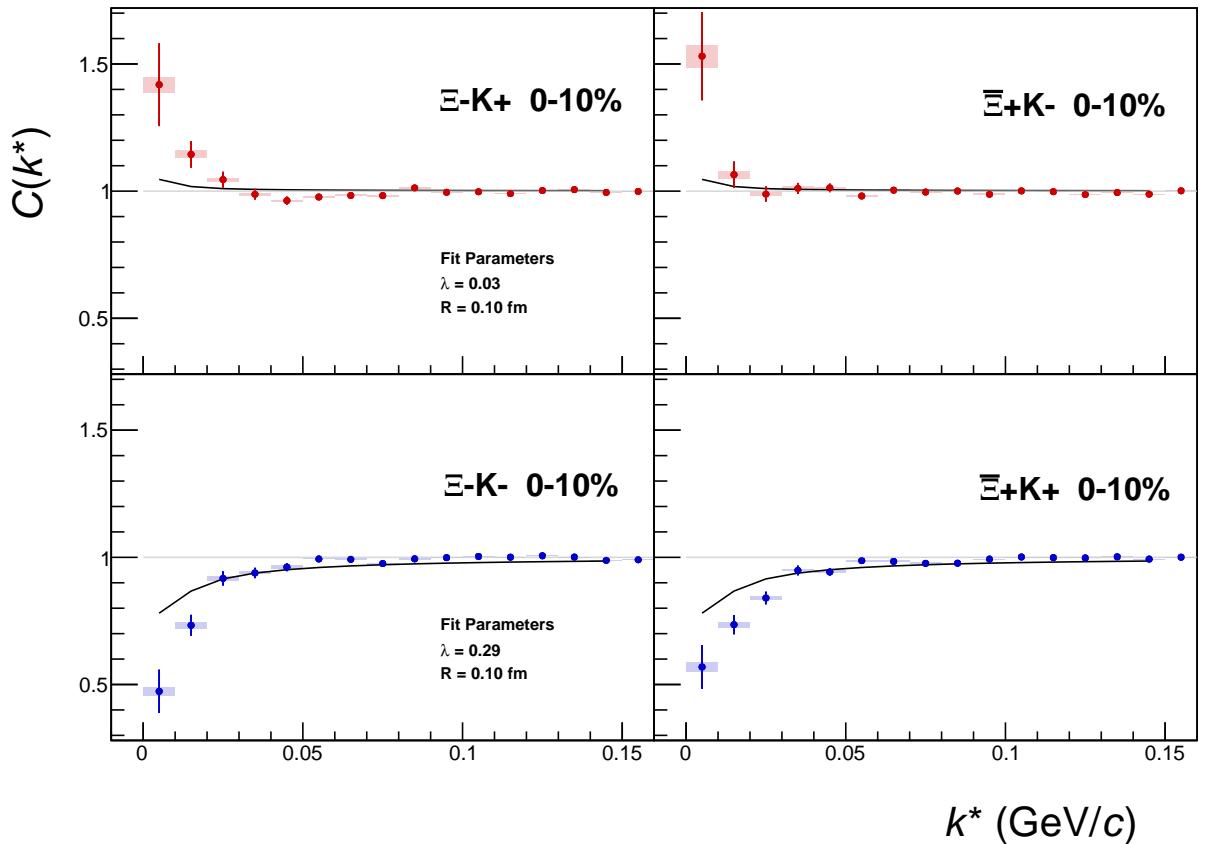
**Fig. 55:**  $\Xi K^\pm$  data with Coulomb-only bands for the 0-10% centrality bin. The Coulomb-only bands span two sets of Coulomb-only curves: (1)  $\lambda = 0.9$ ,  $R = 1.0$  fm and (2)  $\lambda = 0.1$ ,  $R = 10.0$  fm. The Coulomb-only curves are simulated correlation functions for the respective pair system assuming only a Coulomb interaction, i.e. ignoring the strong interaction. The Coulomb-only curves change monotonically with varying  $\lambda$  and varying  $R$ , therefore, any intermediate parameter set will fall within this Coulomb-only band.

Although the global Coulomb-only fit failed, it is possible that a Coulomb-only fit performed on  $\Xi^- K^+$  and  $\bar{\Xi}^+ K^-$  separately from  $\Xi^- K^-$  and  $\bar{\Xi}^+ K^+$  could be suitable. The result of such fits are shown in Figures 59 and 60. Figure 59, shows that the fit is not able to describe the dip in the  $\Xi^- K^+$  data below unity. Of course, this is obviously true for an attractive Coulomb-only fit. The radius parameter of 8.43 fm extracted from this fit is unrealistically large. In Figure 60 shows the Coulomb-only fit can described the  $\Xi^- K^-$  data reasonable well; although the extracted radius of 3.73 fm is somewhat larger than expected.

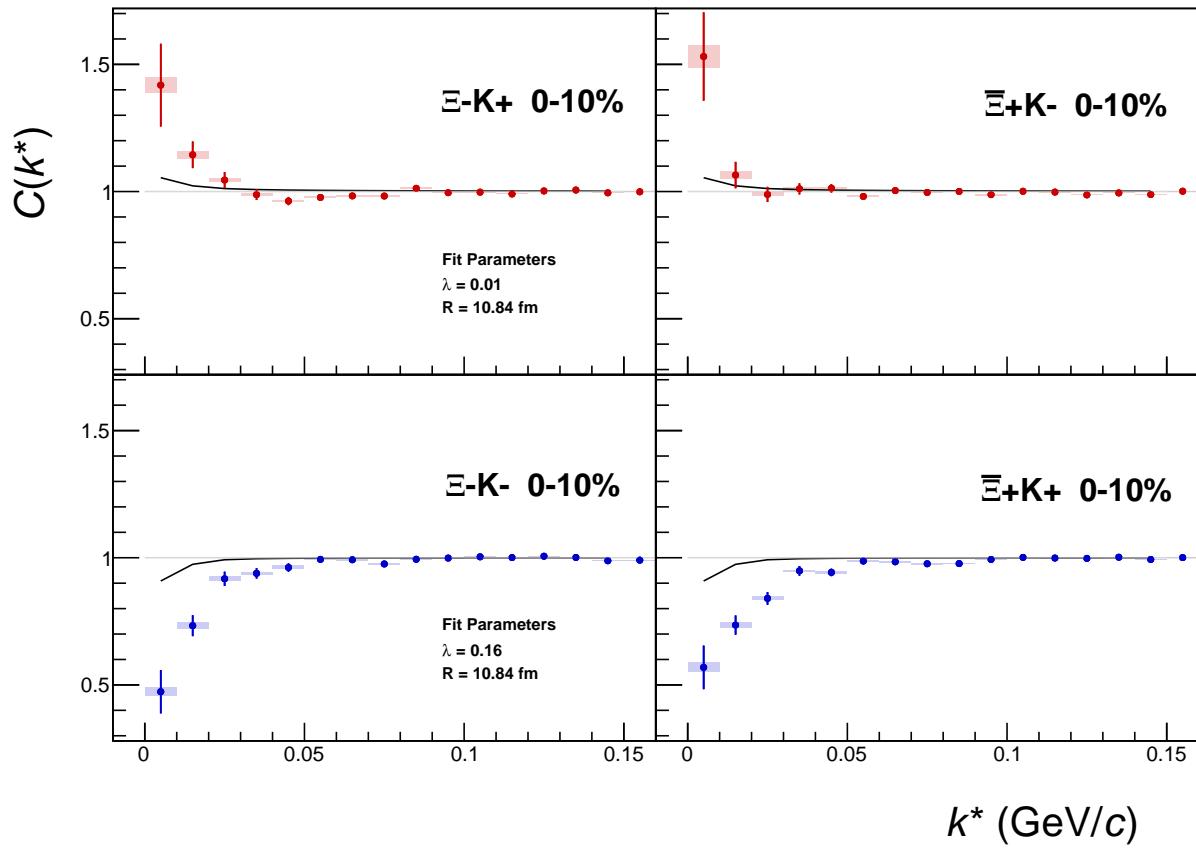
## 8 To Do

(a)  $\Xi K^+$  and  $\bar{\Xi} K^-$  simulation(b)  $\Xi K^-$  and  $\bar{\Xi} K^+$  simulation

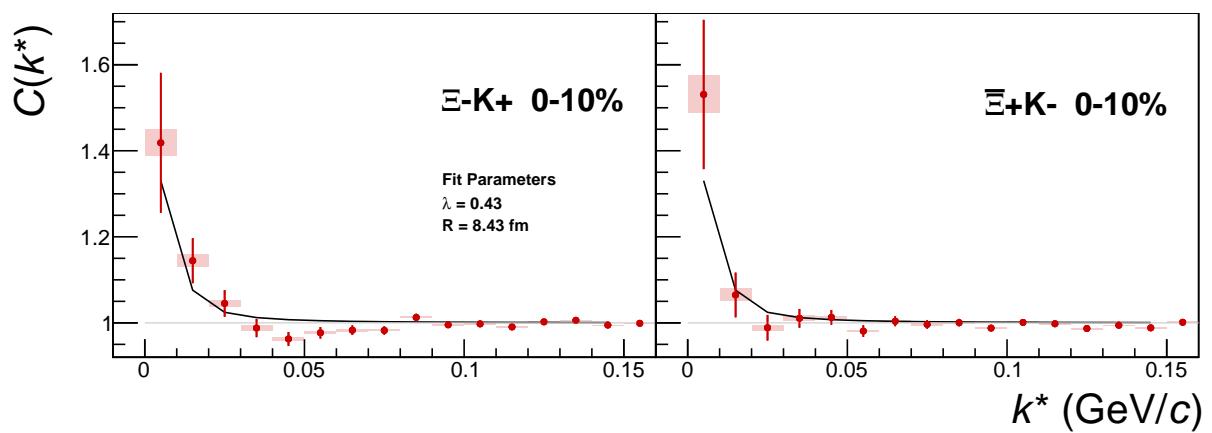
**Fig. 56:** Effect on the Coulomb-only curve of including the strong interaction for  $\Xi K^\pm$  systems. The solid line represents a Coulomb-only curve, i.e. a simulated correlation function with the strong interaction turned off. The dashed lines represent a full simulation, including both the strong and Coulomb interactions. The two dashed lines differ only in the real part of the assumed scattering length: positive in Set 1, and negative in Set 2.



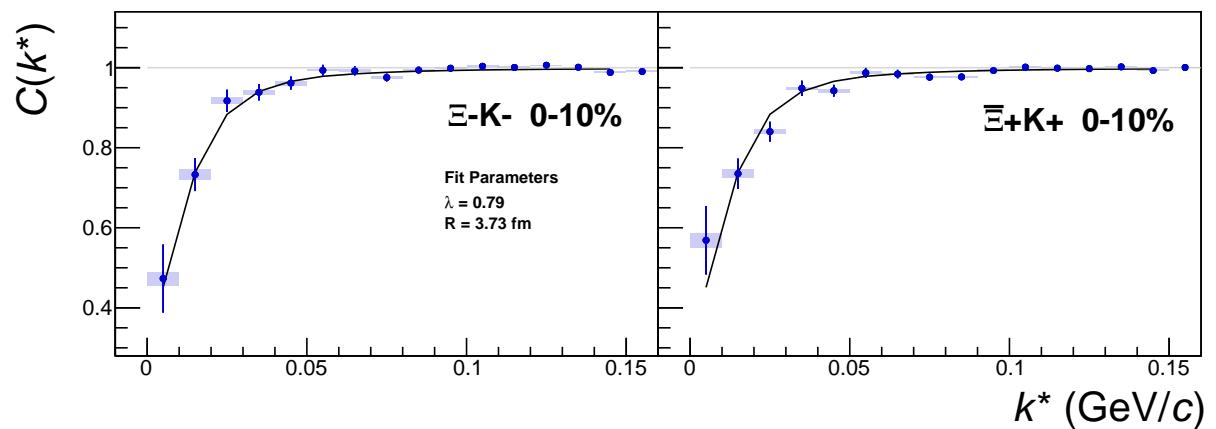
**Fig. 57:**  $\Xi K^\pm$  Global Coulomb-only fit (Set 1) for 0-10% centrality. In this fit, there was a lower limit of 0.1 fm placed on the radius parameter, and the radius parameter was initialized to 3 fm (as seems reasonable, when considering the transverse mass of the system and looking at Fig. ??). As is shown in the results, the radius parameter reached this unrealistic lower bound of 0.1 fm. Also, the extracted  $\lambda$  parameters are too low.



**Fig. 58:**  $\Xi K^\pm$  Global Coulomb-only fit (Set 2) for 0-10% centrality. In this fit, the parameters were all unbounded, and the radius parameter was initialized to 10 fm. In this case, the radius parameter remains high, and ends at an unrealistic value of 10.84 fm. Also, the extracted  $\lambda$  parameters are too low.



**Fig. 59:**  $\Xi^- K^+$  Coulomb-only fit for 0-10% centrality

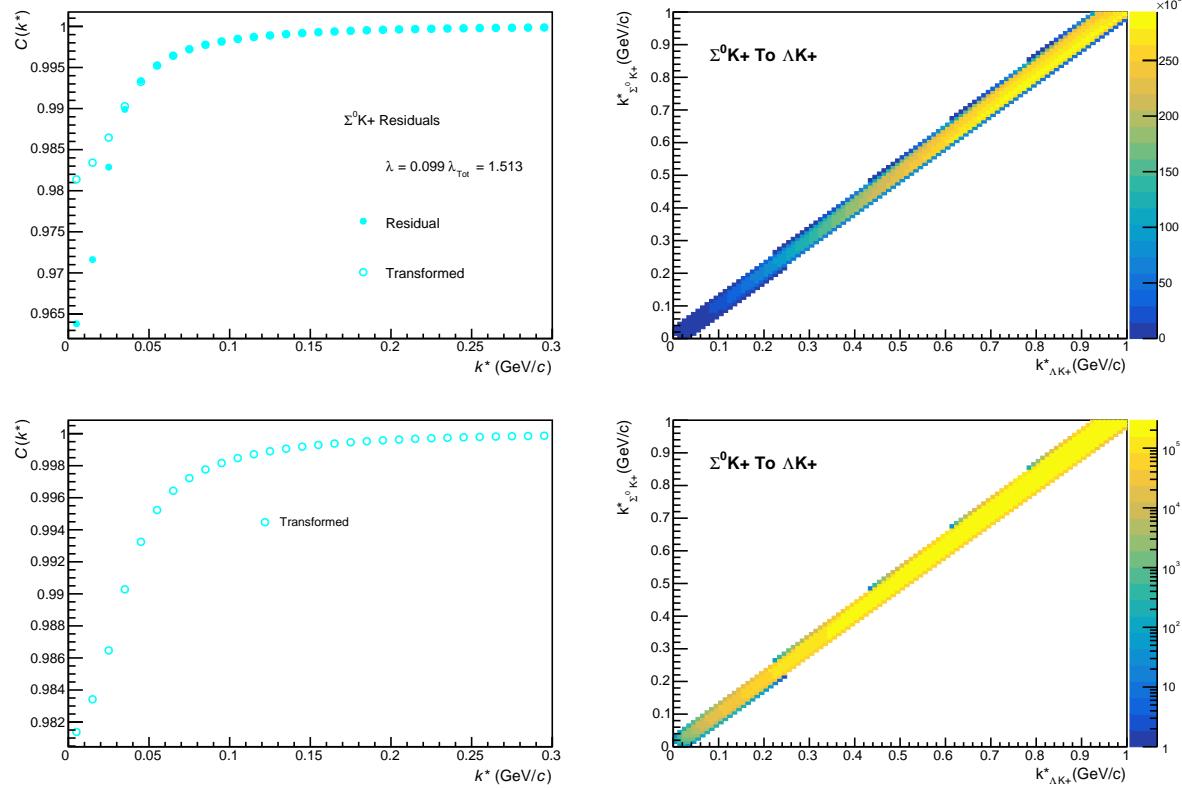


**Fig. 60:**  $\Xi^- K^-$  Coulomb-only fit for 0-10% centrality

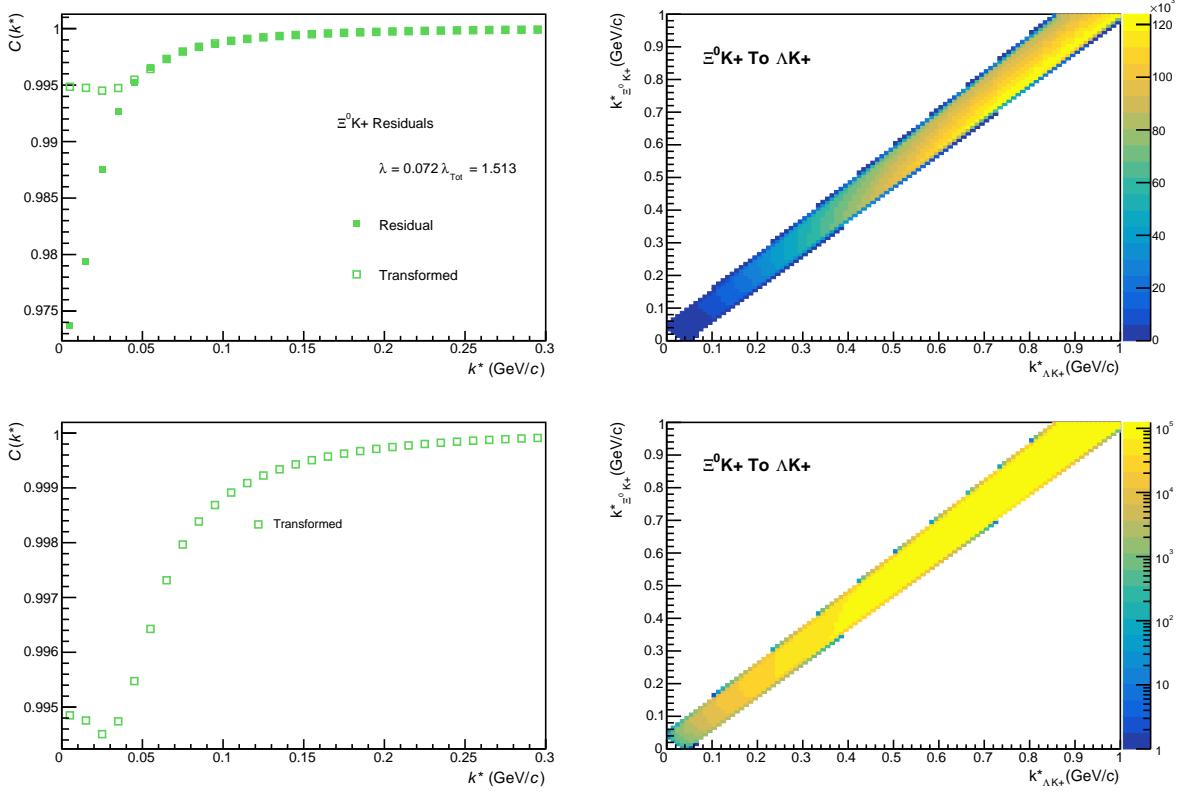
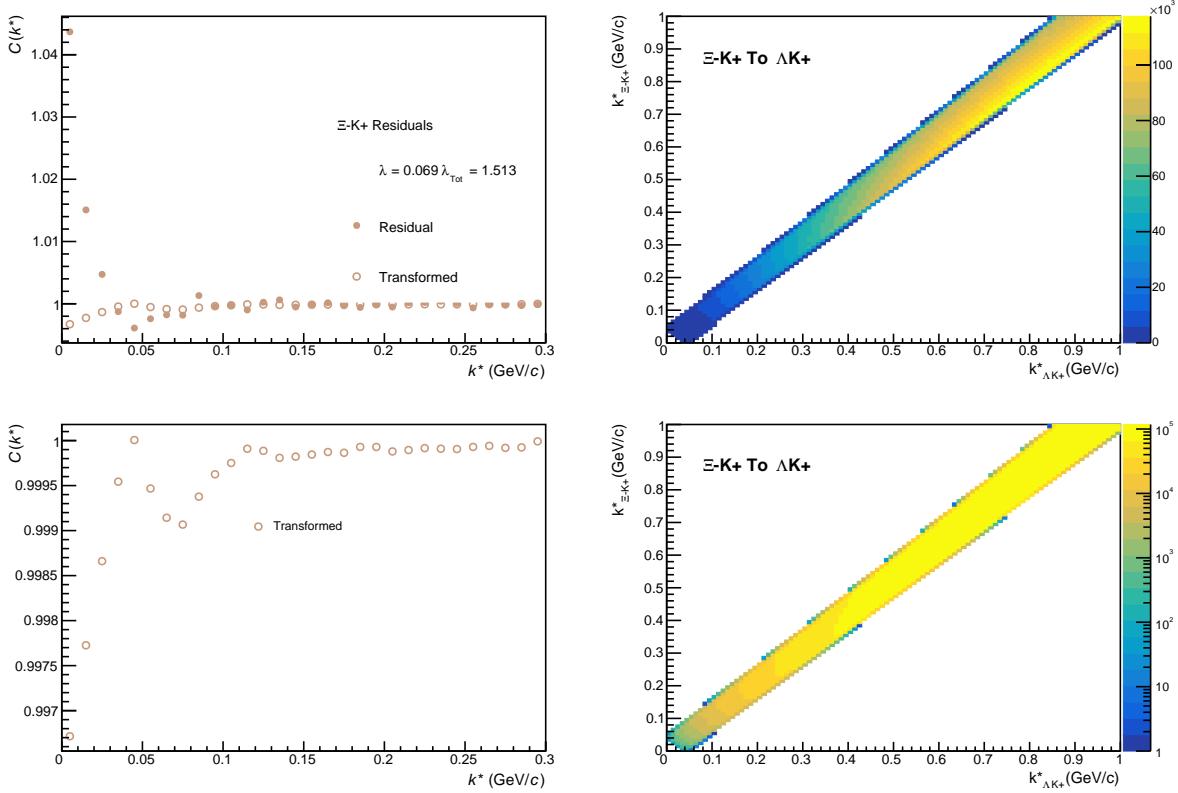
867 **9 Additional Figures**

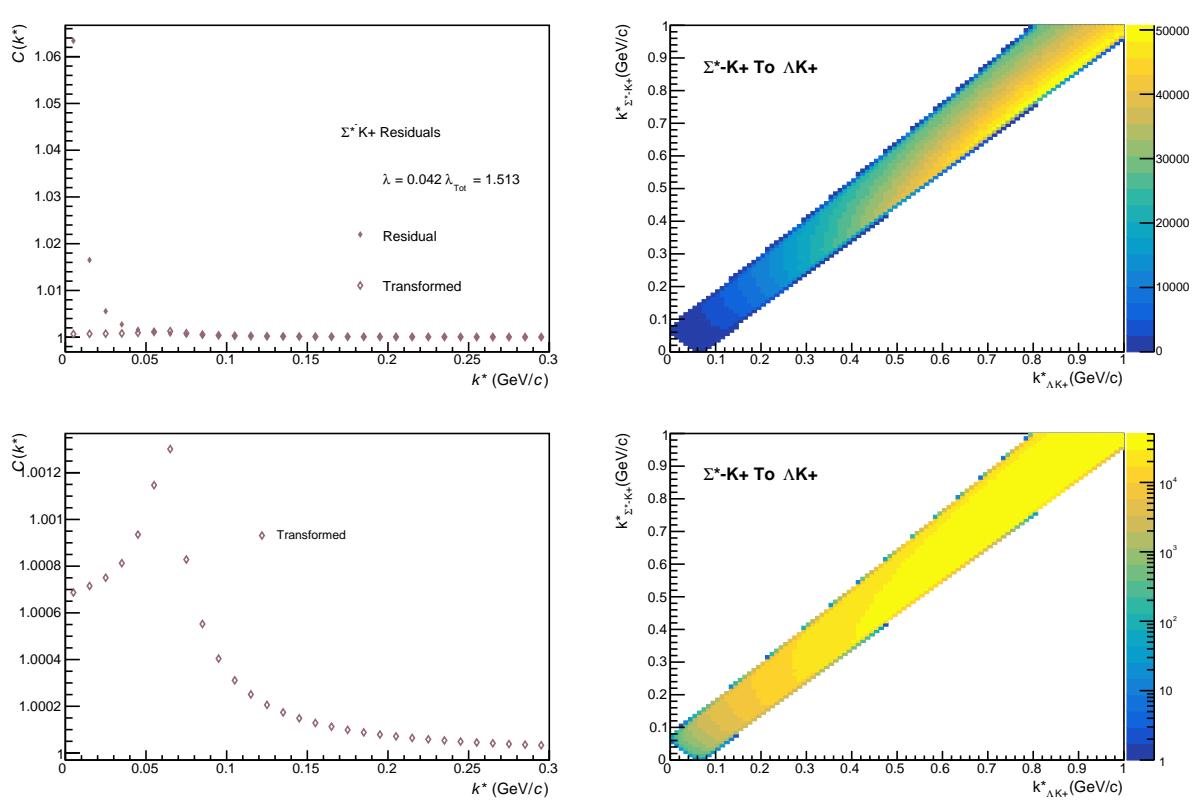
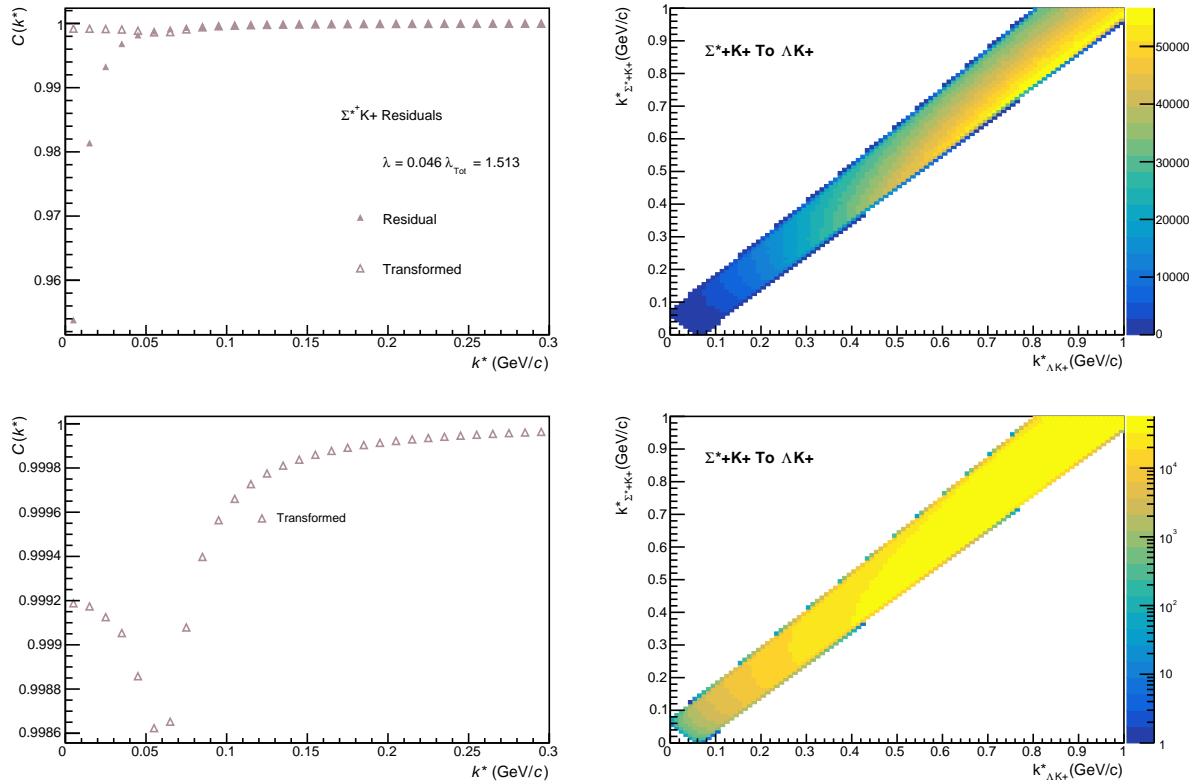
868 **9.1 Residuals**

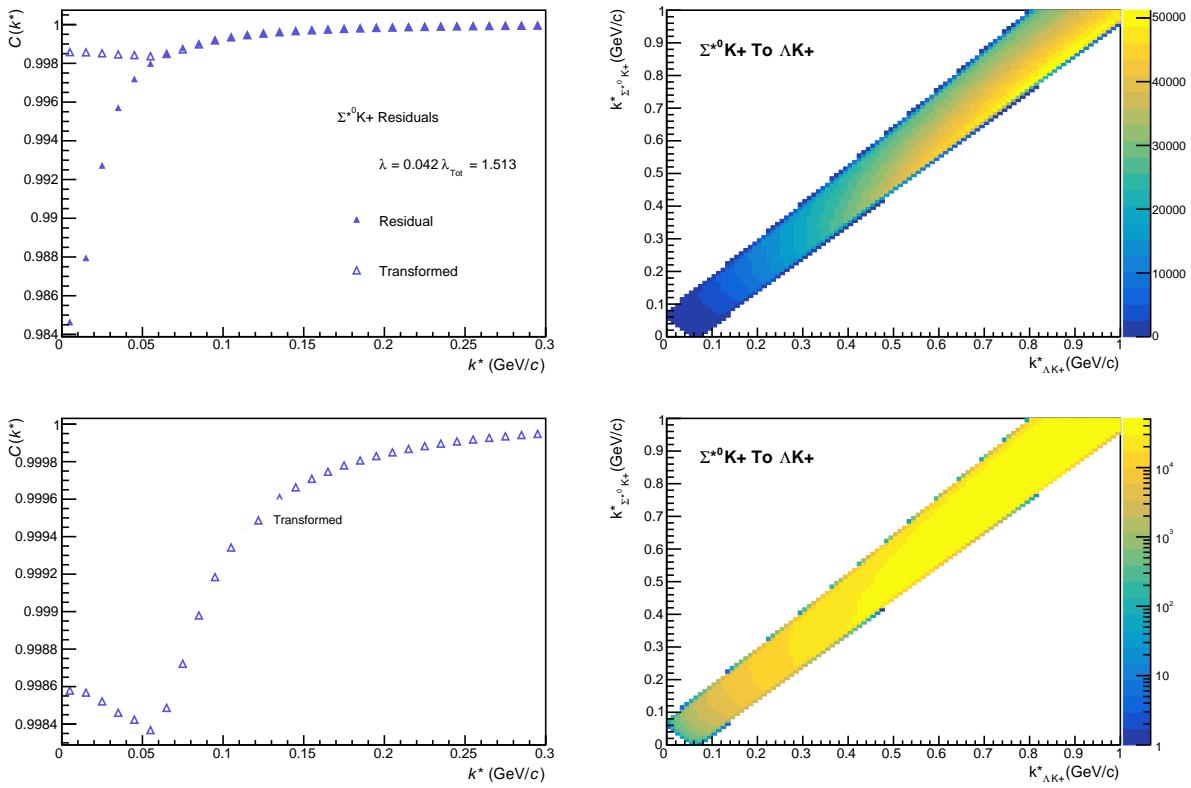
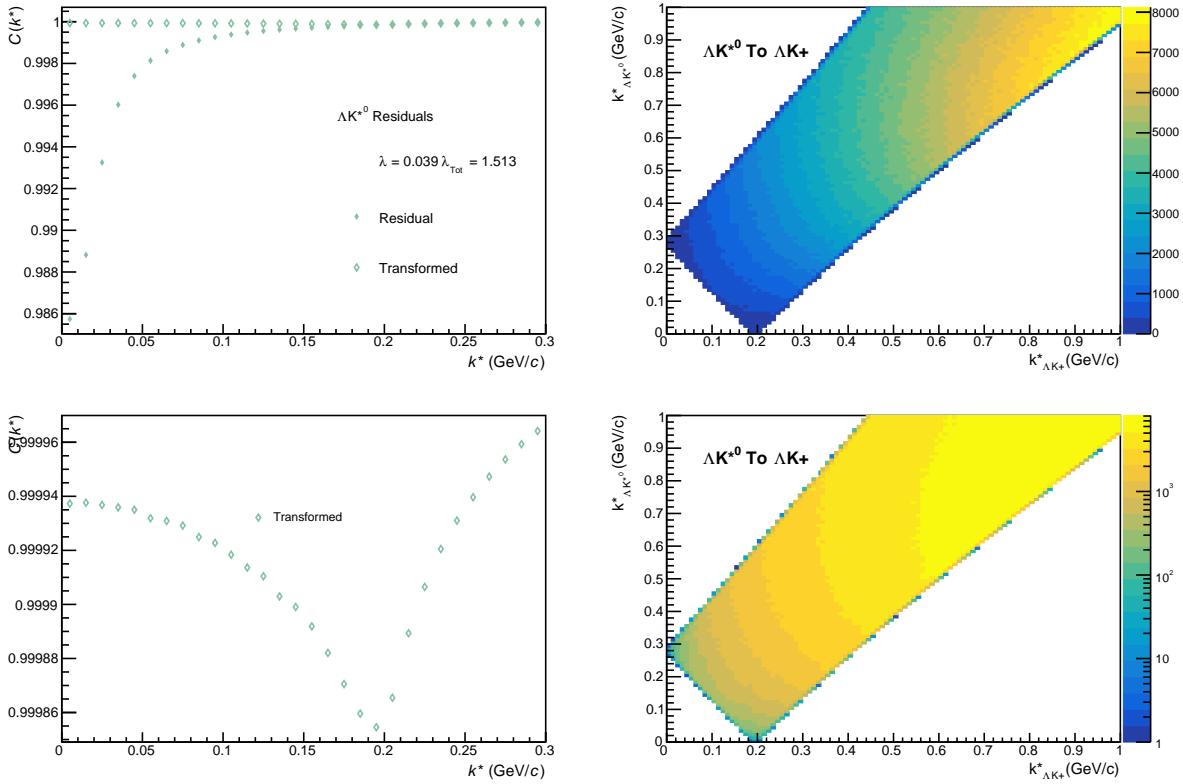
869 **9.1.1  $\Lambda K^+$  Residuals**

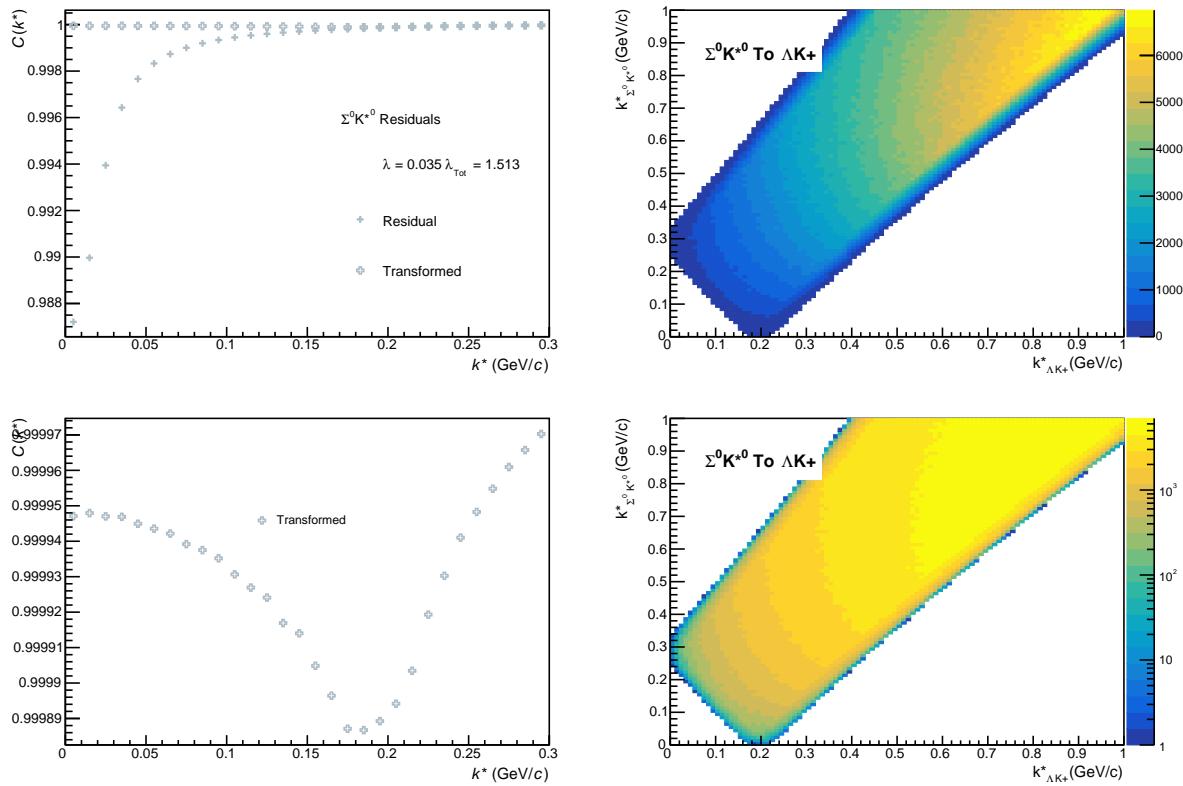


**Fig. 61:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^0 K^+$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)

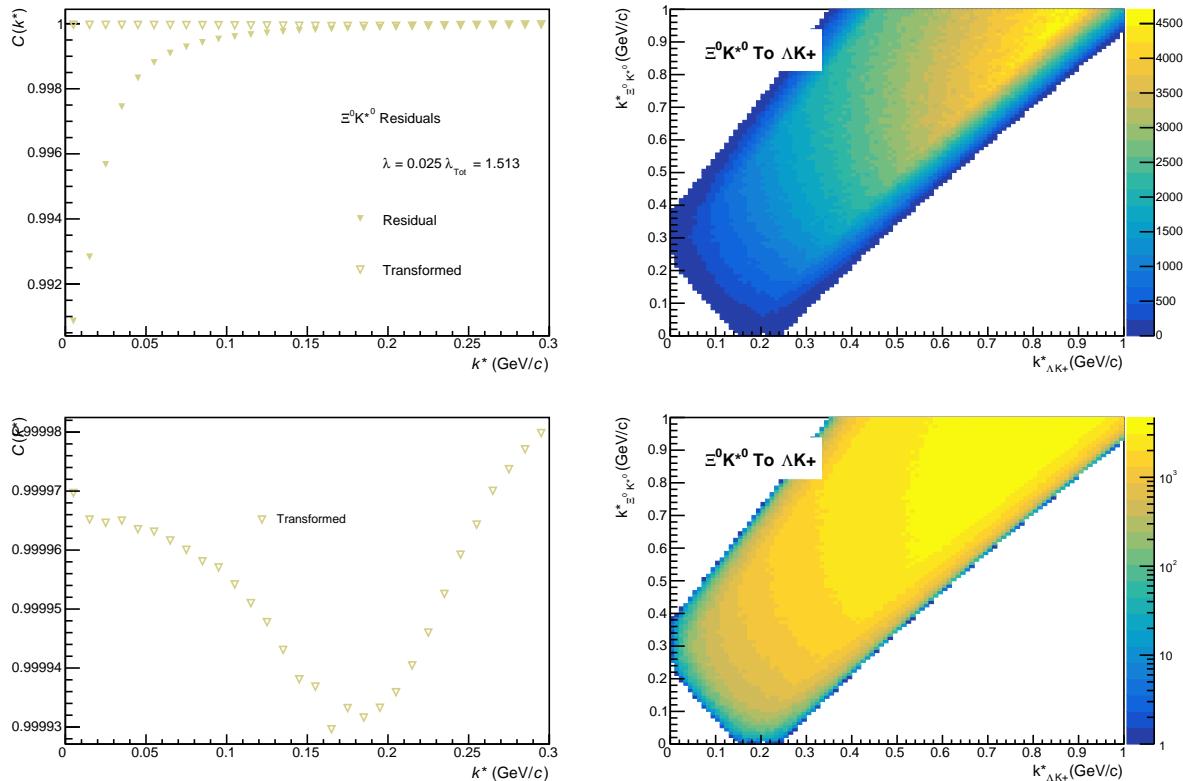

**Fig. 62:** Residuals:  $\Xi^0 K^+$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)

**Fig. 63:** Residuals:  $\Xi^- K^+$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)



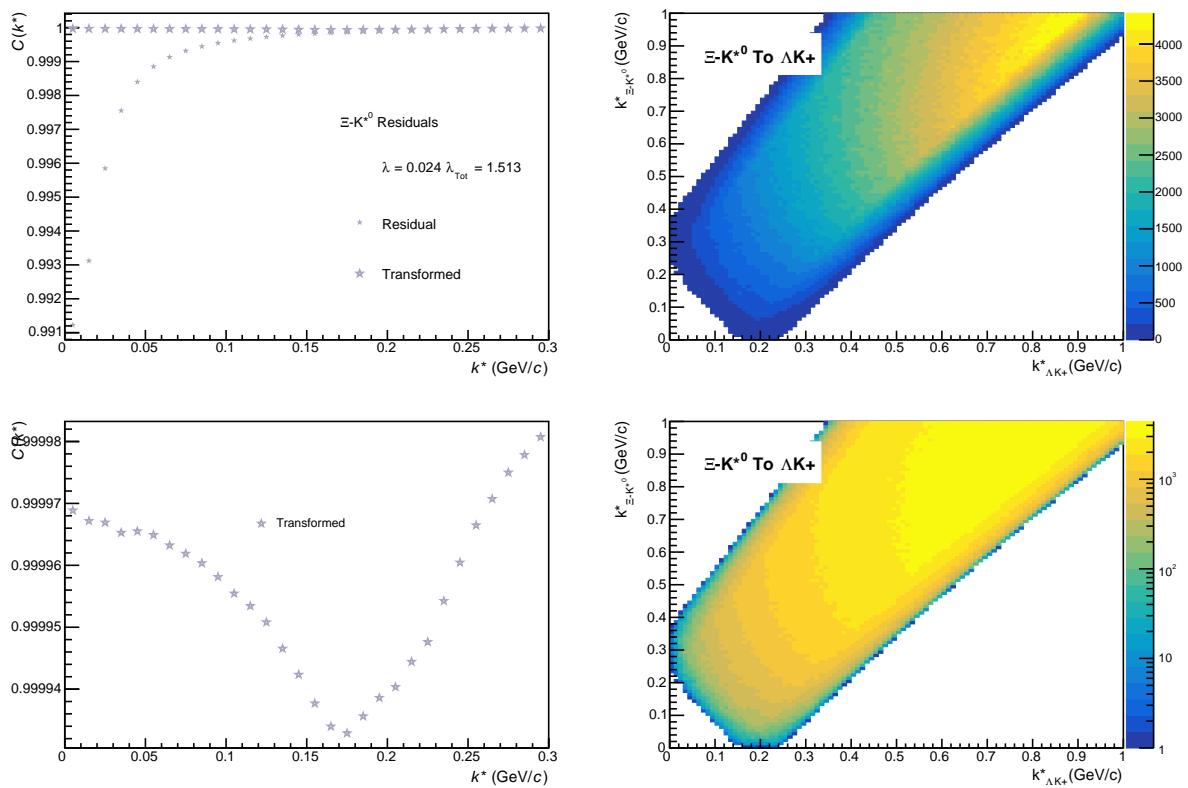

 Fig. 66: Residuals:  $\Sigma^{*0} K^+$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)

 Fig. 67: Residuals:  $\Lambda K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)



**Fig. 68:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^0 K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)

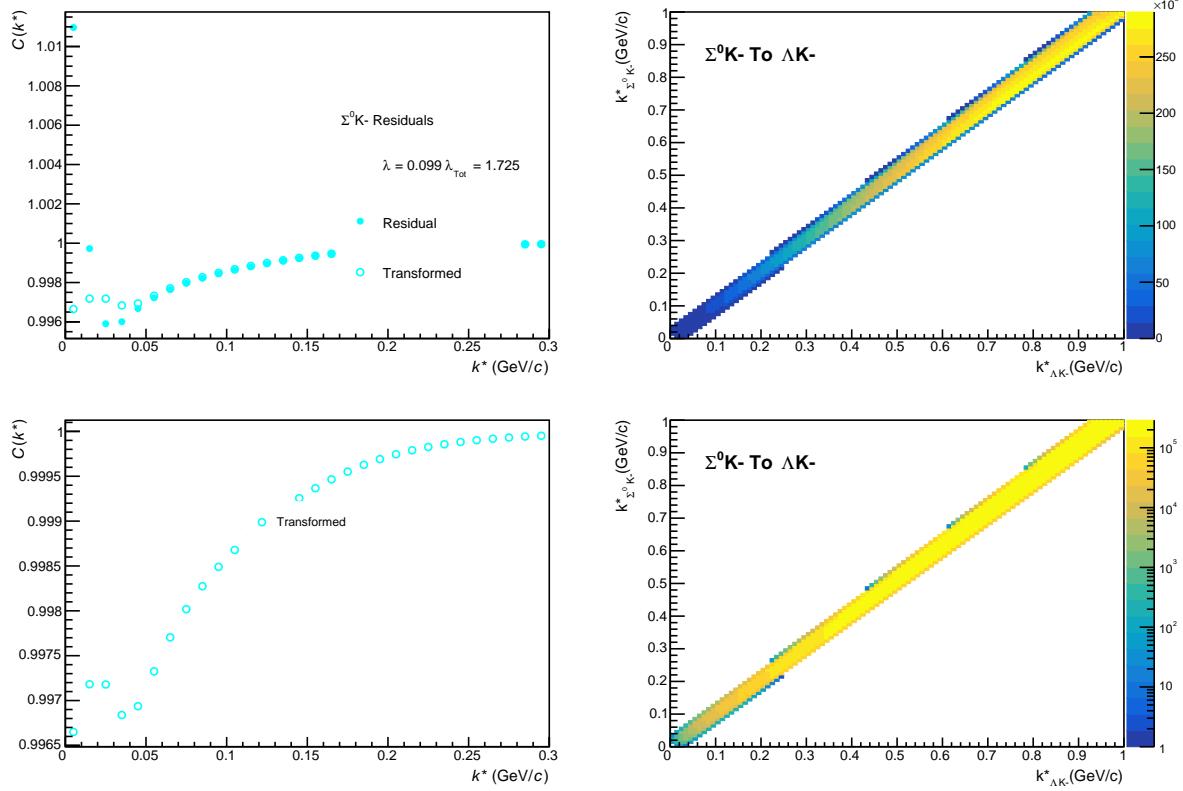


**Fig. 69:** Residuals:  $\Xi^0 K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)

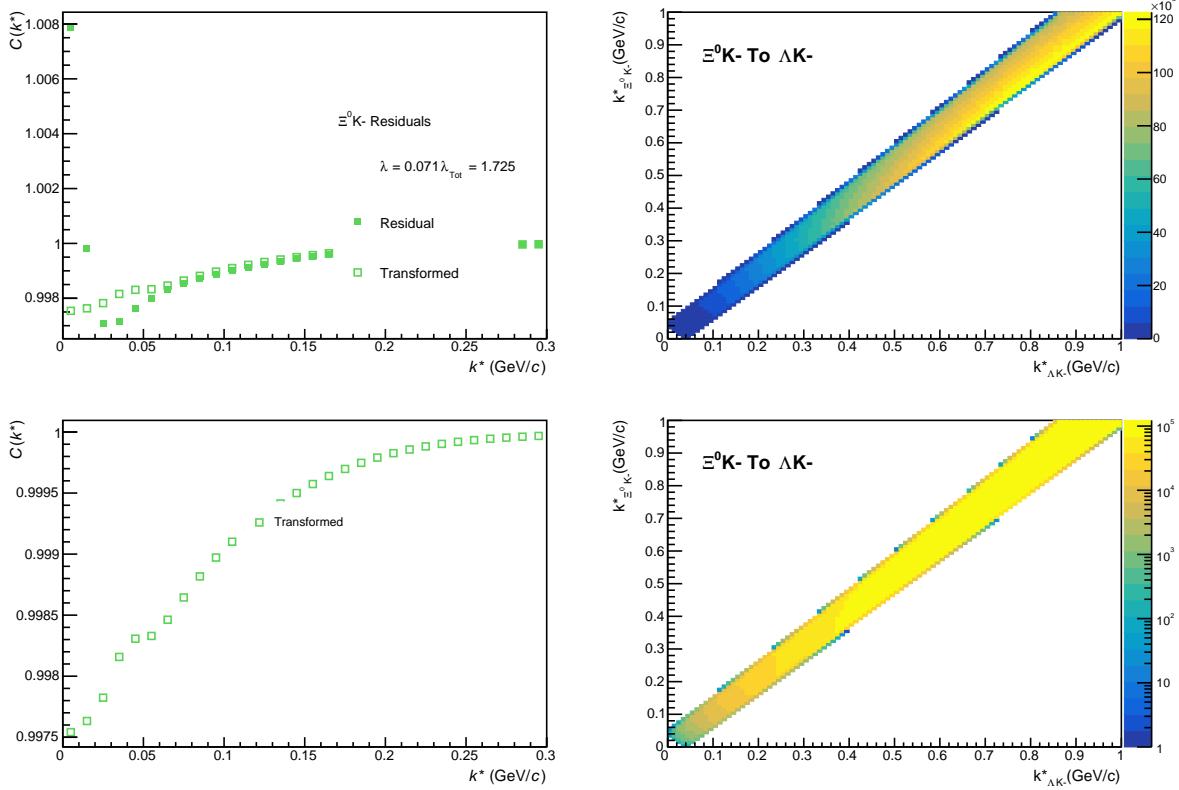


**Fig. 70:** Residuals:  $\Xi-K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K^+$  (0-10% Centrality)

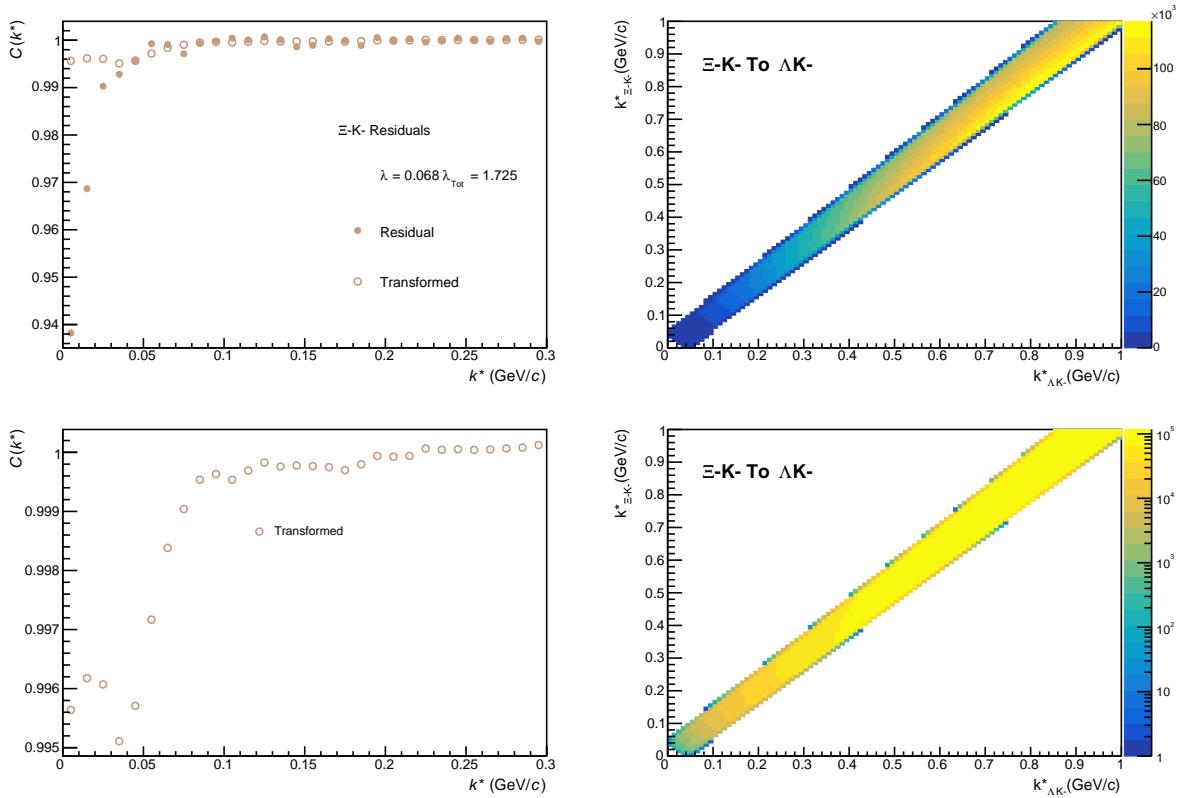
870 **9.1.2  $\Lambda K^-$  Residuals**



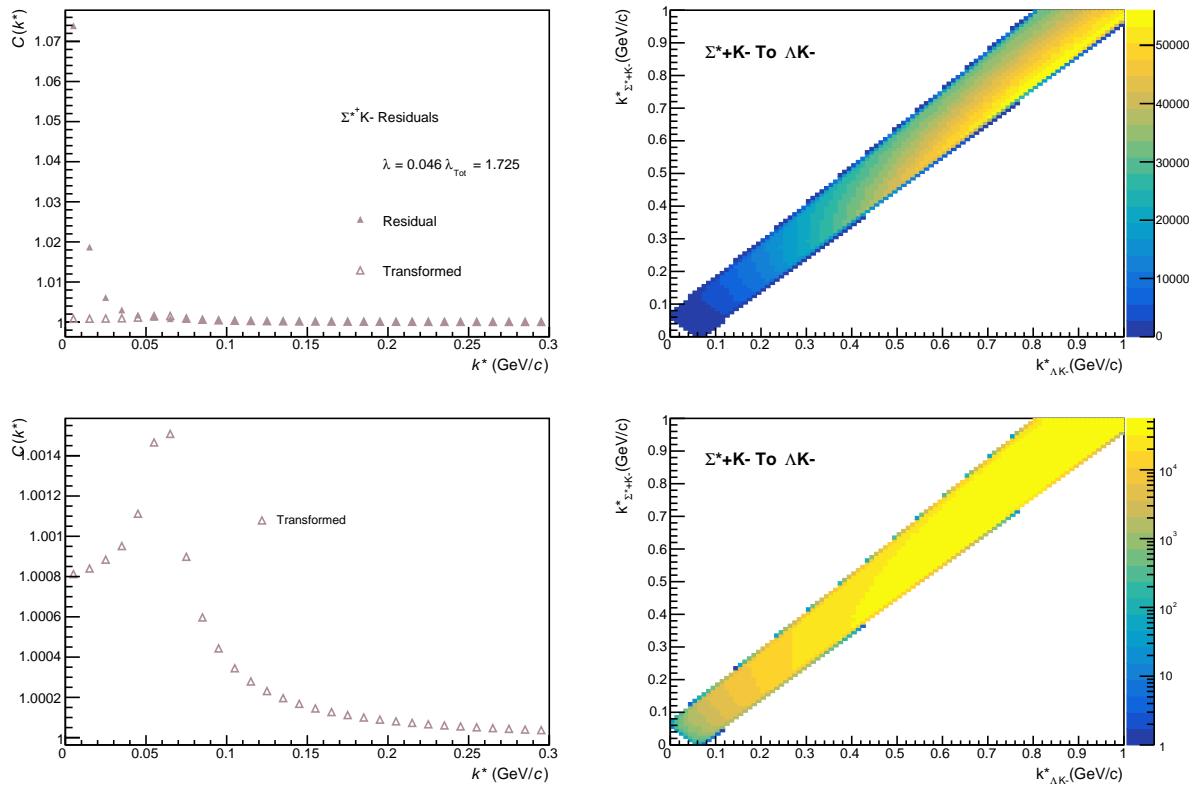
**Fig. 71:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^0 K^-$  to  $\Lambda K^-$  (0-10% Centrality)



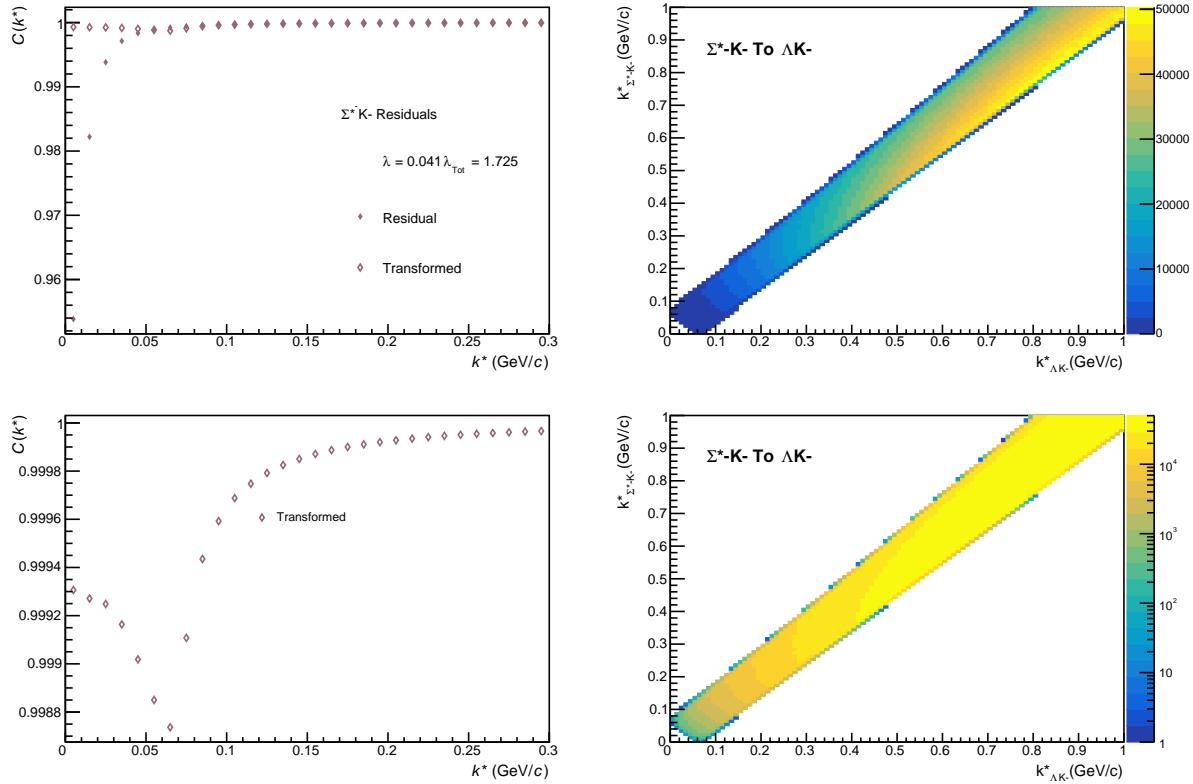
**Fig. 72:** Residuals:  $\Xi^0 \text{K}^-$  to  $\Lambda \text{K}^-$  (0-10% Centrality)



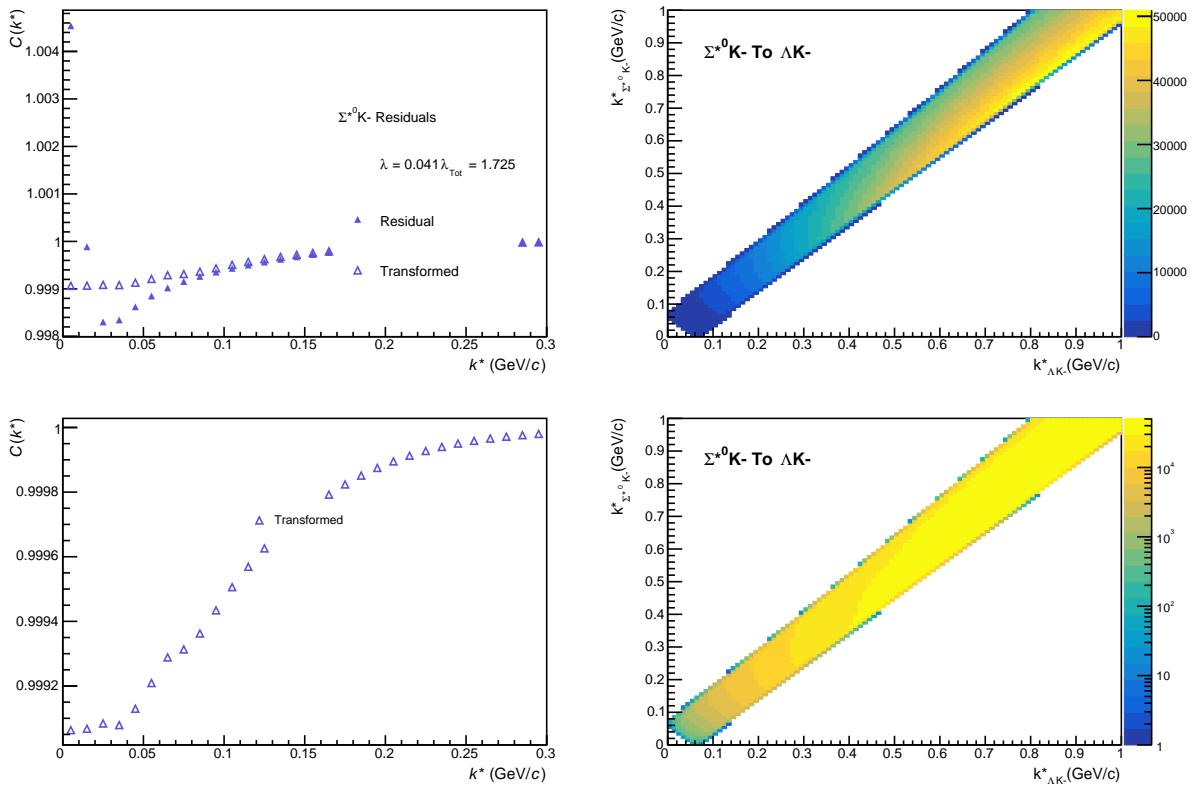
**Fig. 73:** Residuals:  $\Xi^- \text{K}^-$  to  $\Lambda \text{K}^-$  (0-10% Centrality)



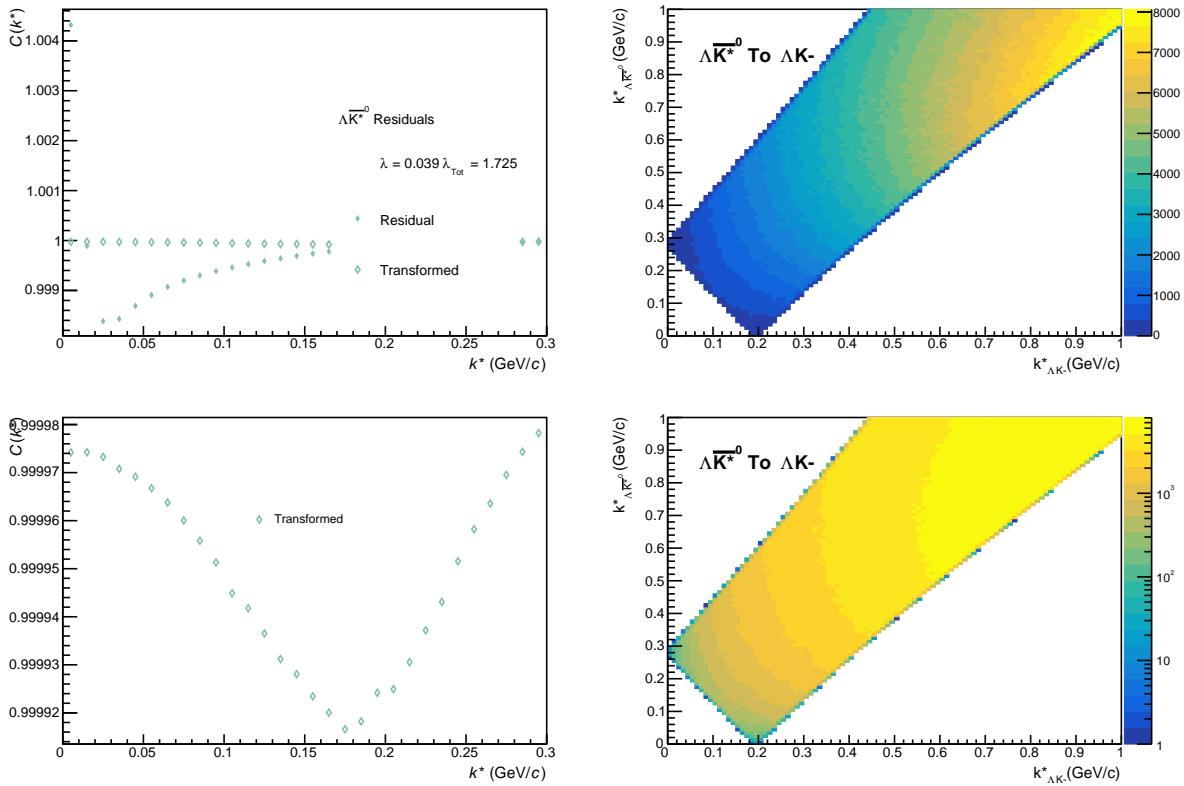
**Fig. 74:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^+K^-$  to  $\Lambda K^-$  (0-10% Centrality)



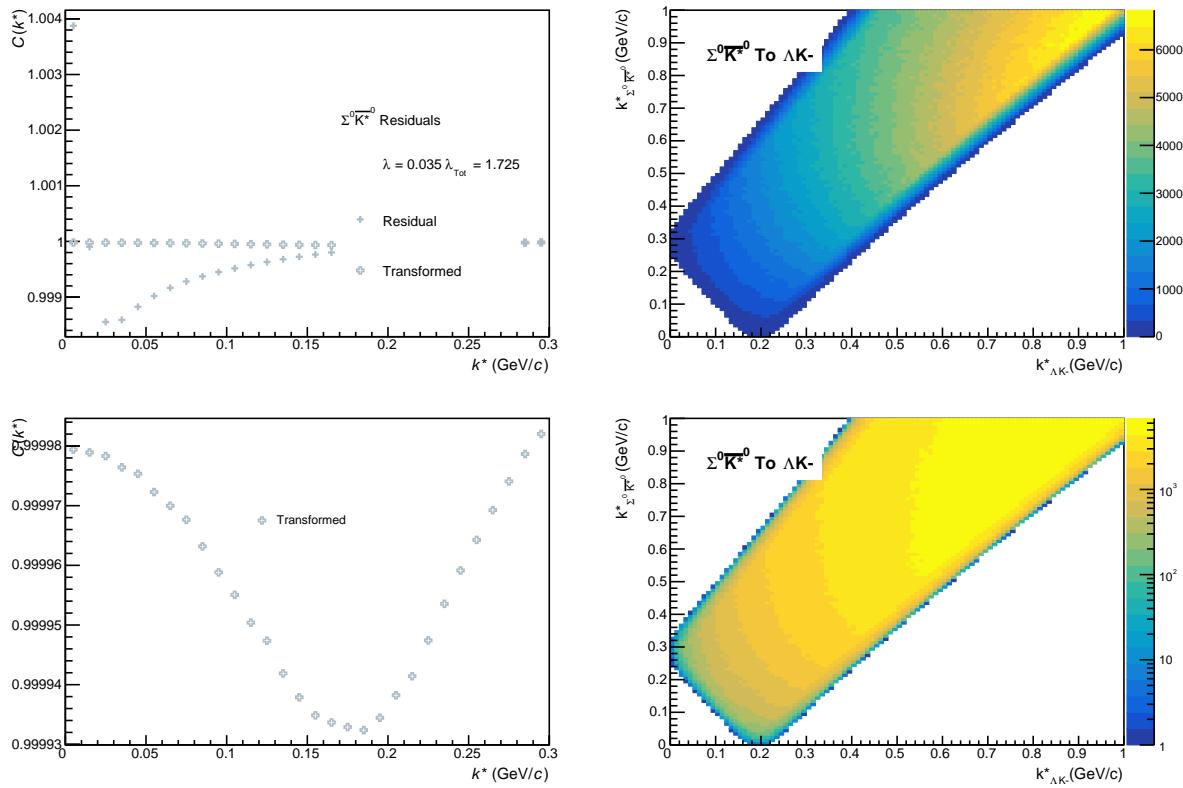
**Fig. 75:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^-K^-$  to  $\Lambda K^-$  (0-10% Centrality)



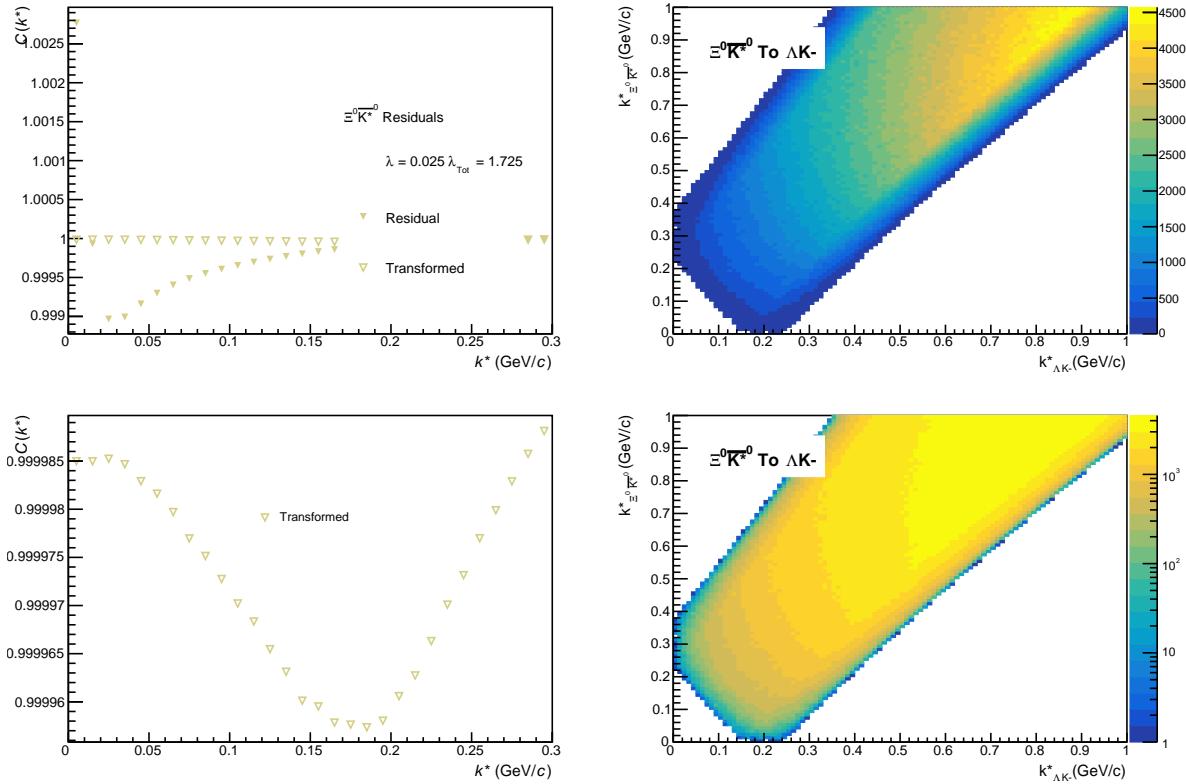
**Fig. 76:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^{*0} \text{K-}$  to  $\Lambda \bar{K}$  (0-10% Centrality)



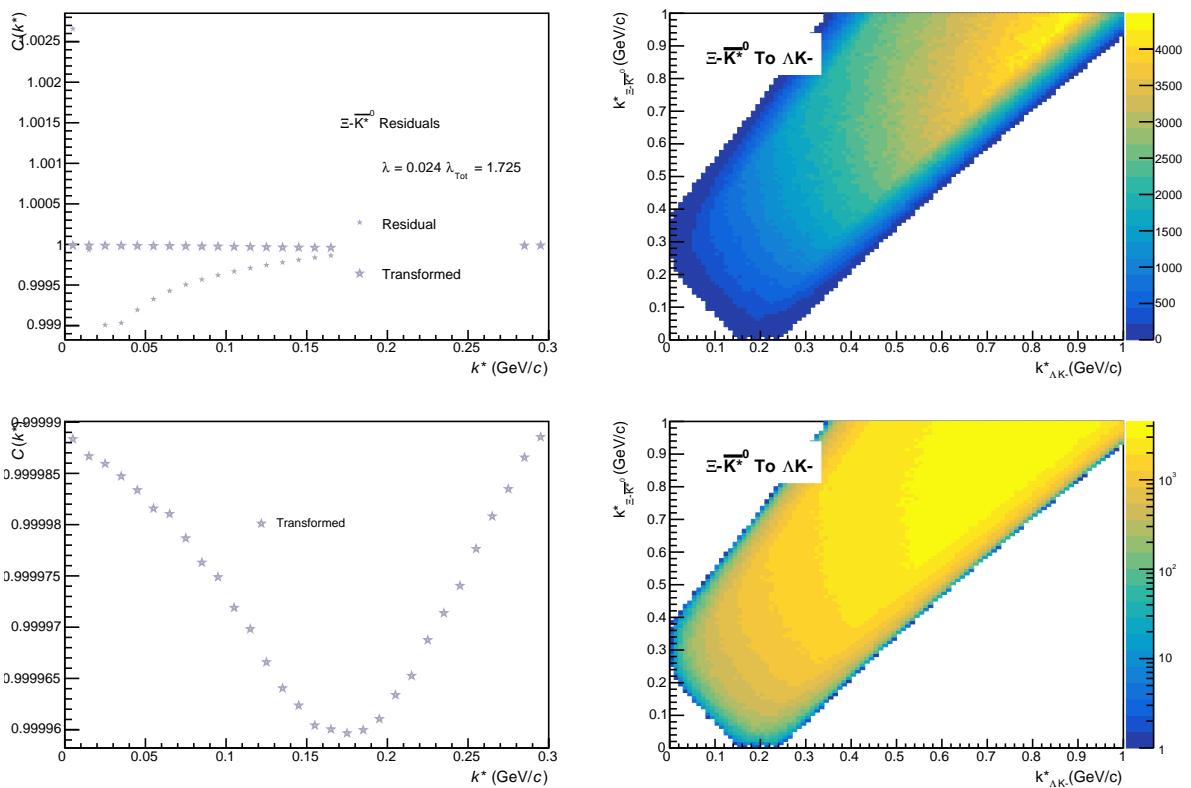
**Fig. 77:** Residuals:  $\Lambda \bar{K}^* \text{ To } \Lambda \bar{K}$  (0-10% Centrality)



**Fig. 78:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K^-$  (0-10% Centrality)

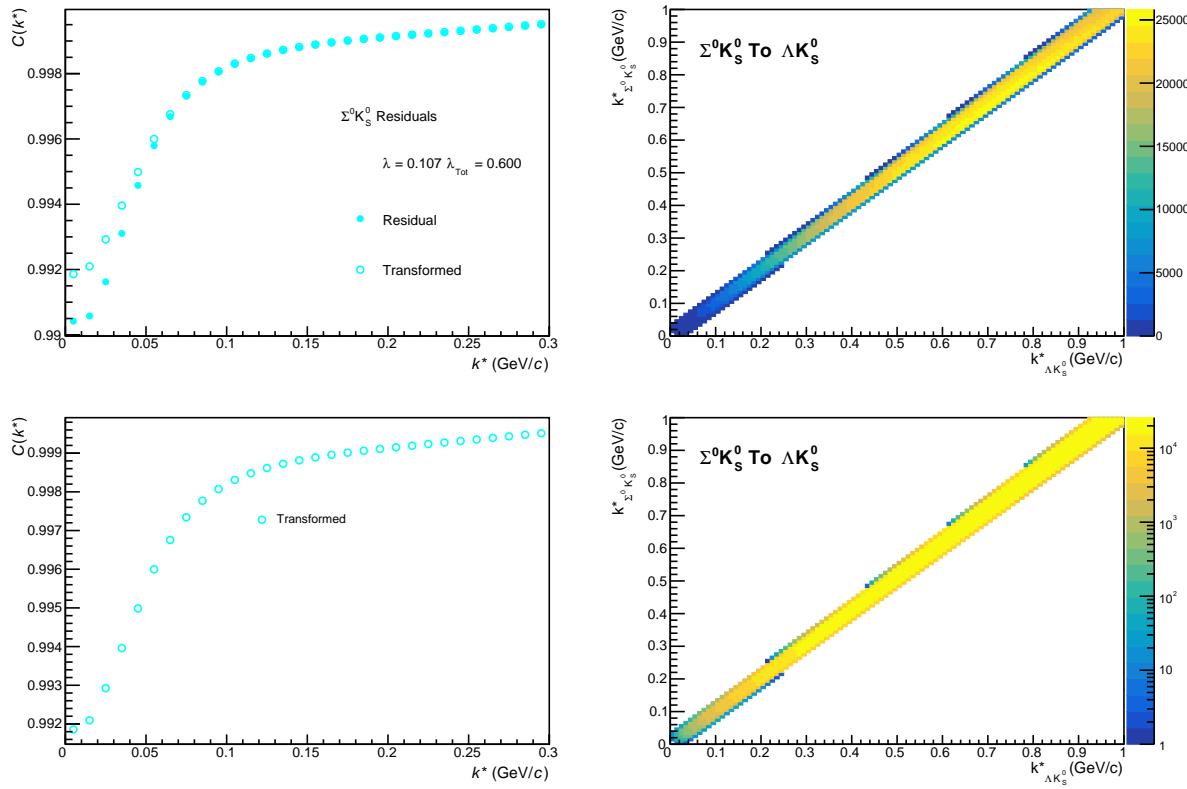


**Fig. 79:** Residuals:  $\Xi^0 \bar{K}^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K^-$  (0-10% Centrality)

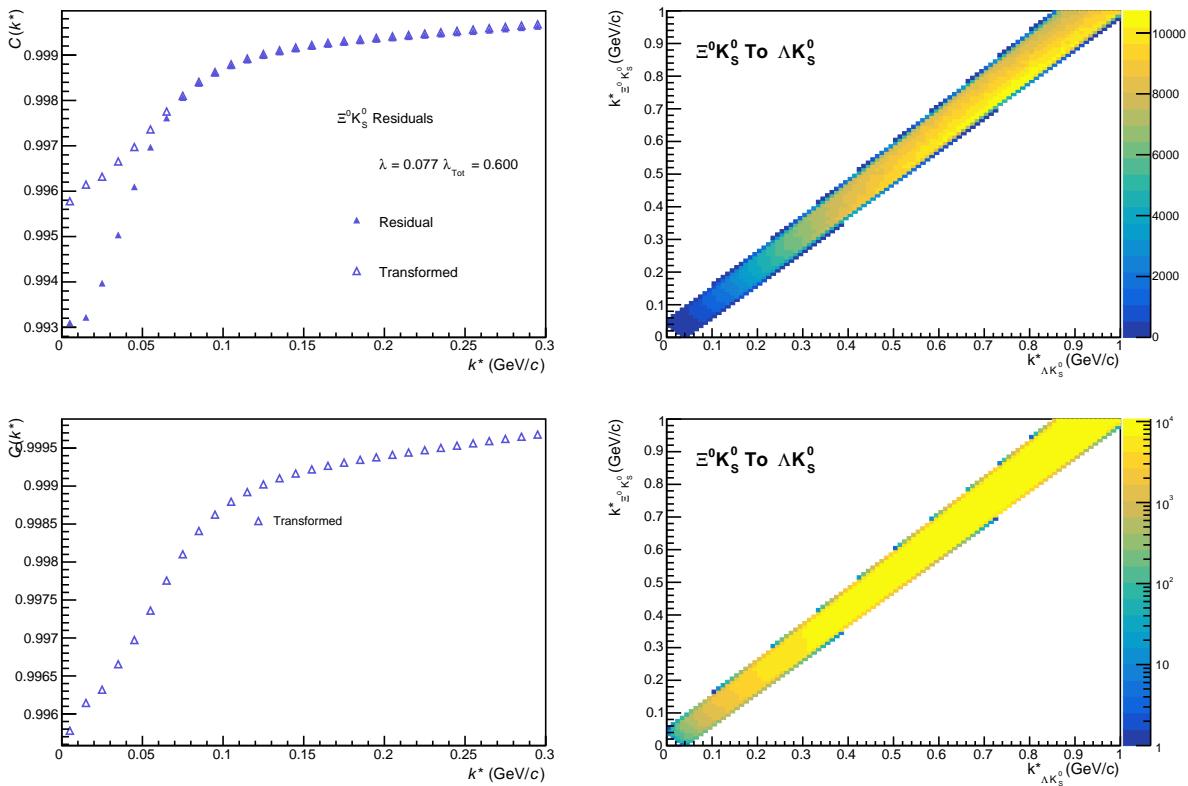


**Fig. 80:** Residuals:  $\Xi\bar{K}^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K^-$  (0-10% Centrality)

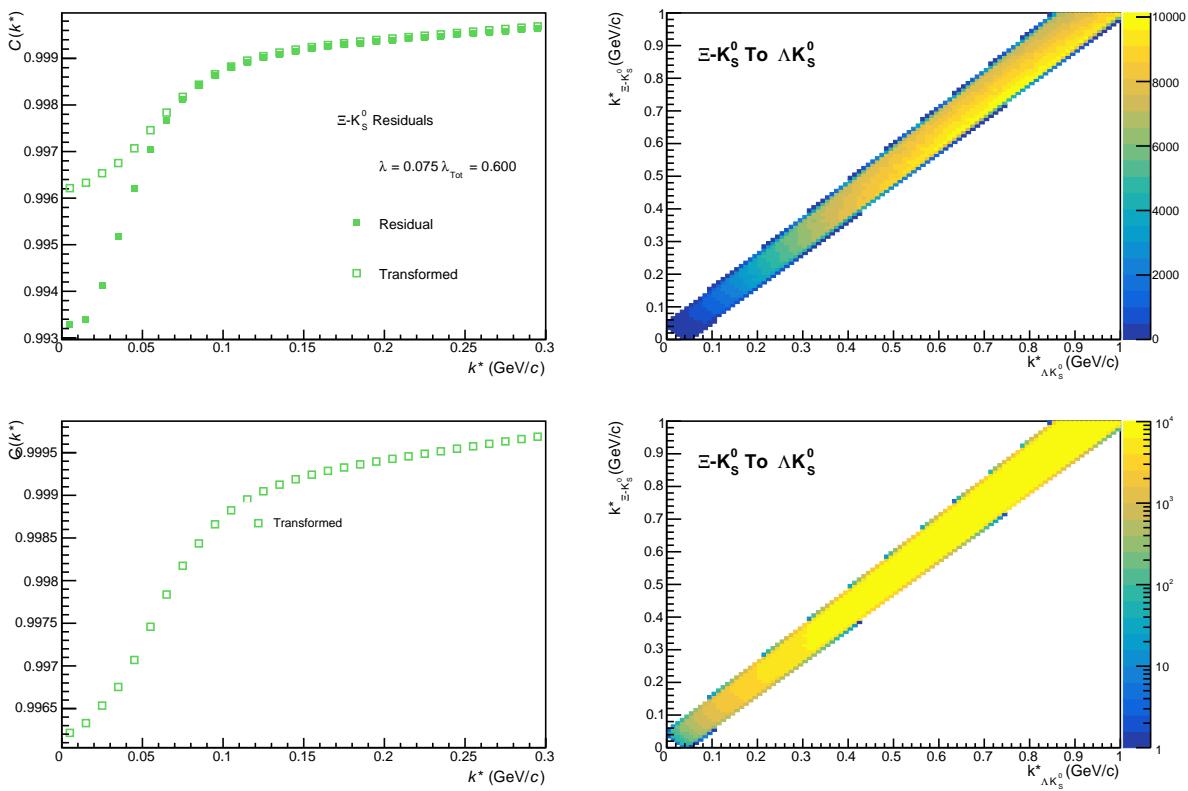
871 **9.1.3  $\Lambda K_S^0$  Residuals**



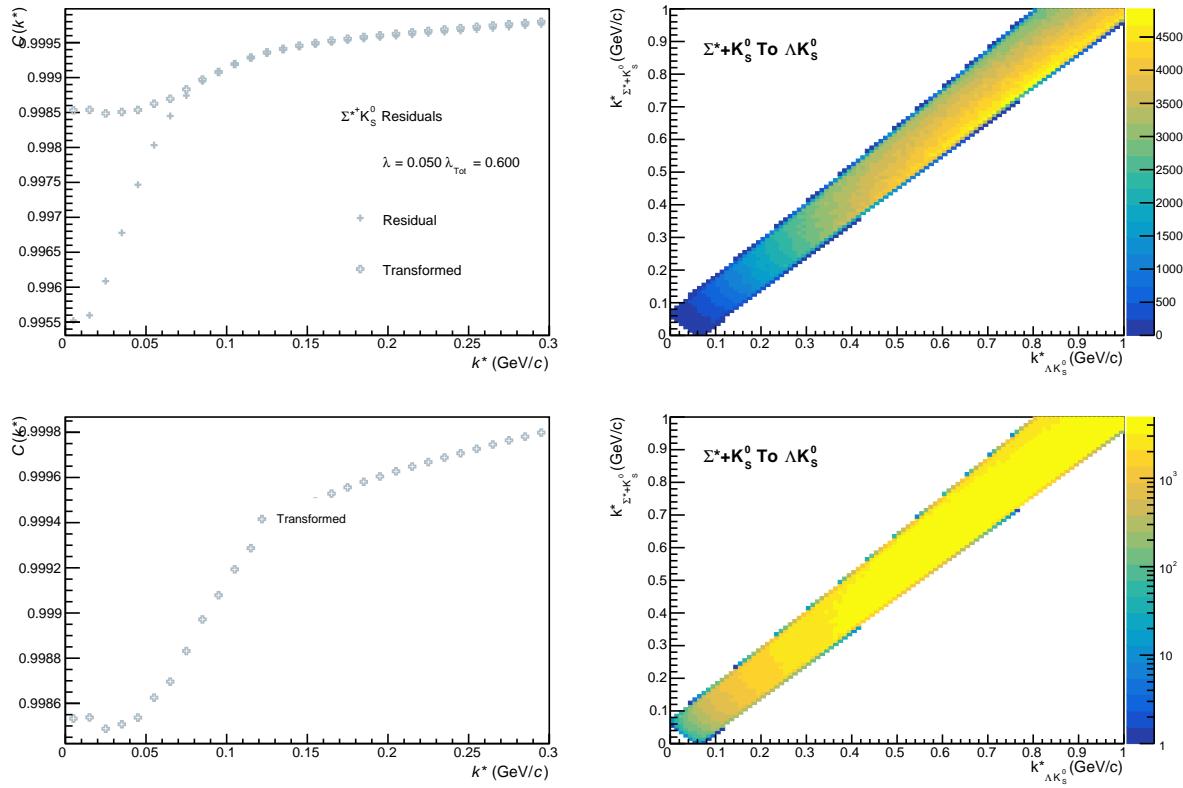
**Fig. 81:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^0 K_S^0$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)



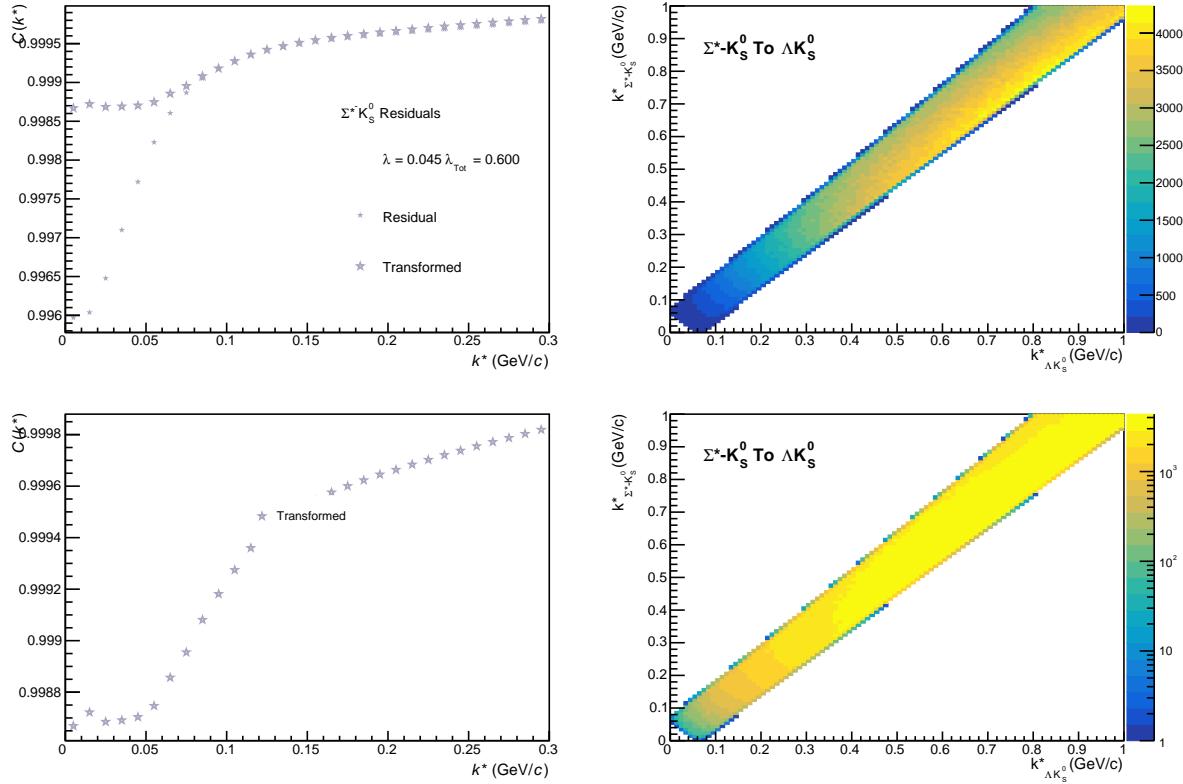
**Fig. 82:** Residuals:  $\Xi^0 K_S^0$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)



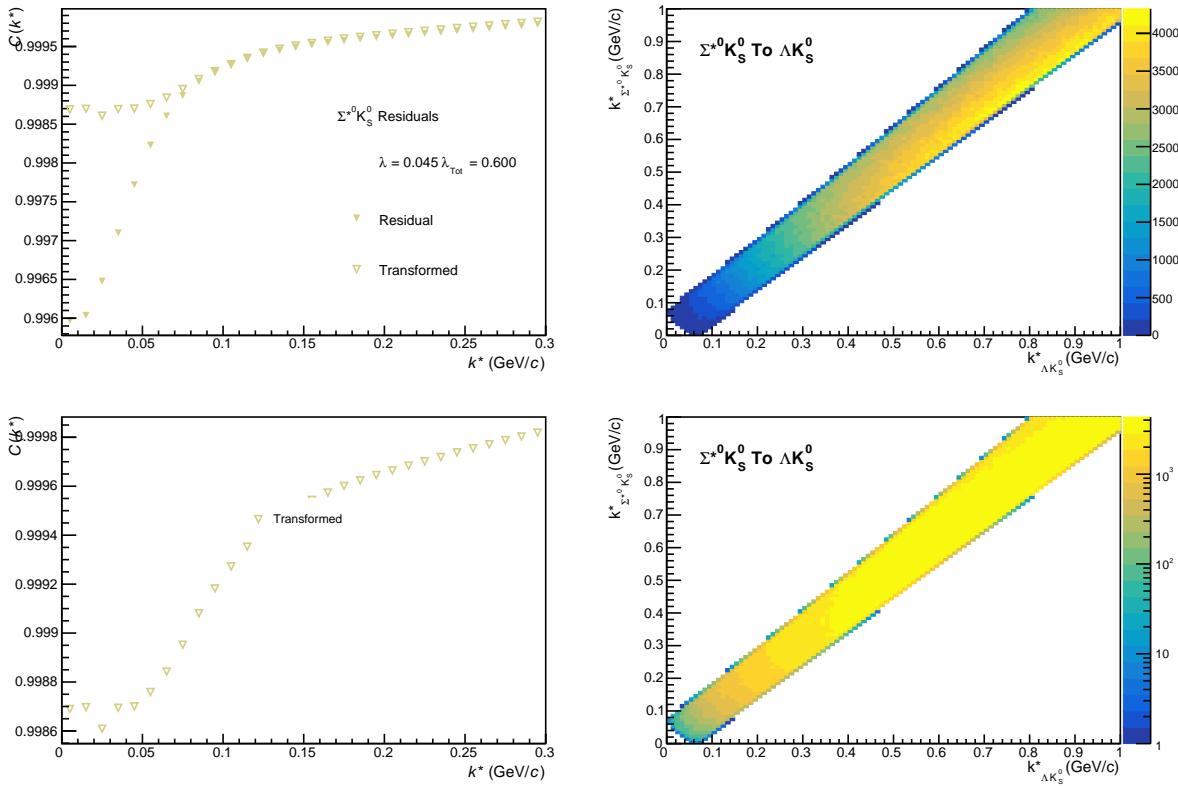
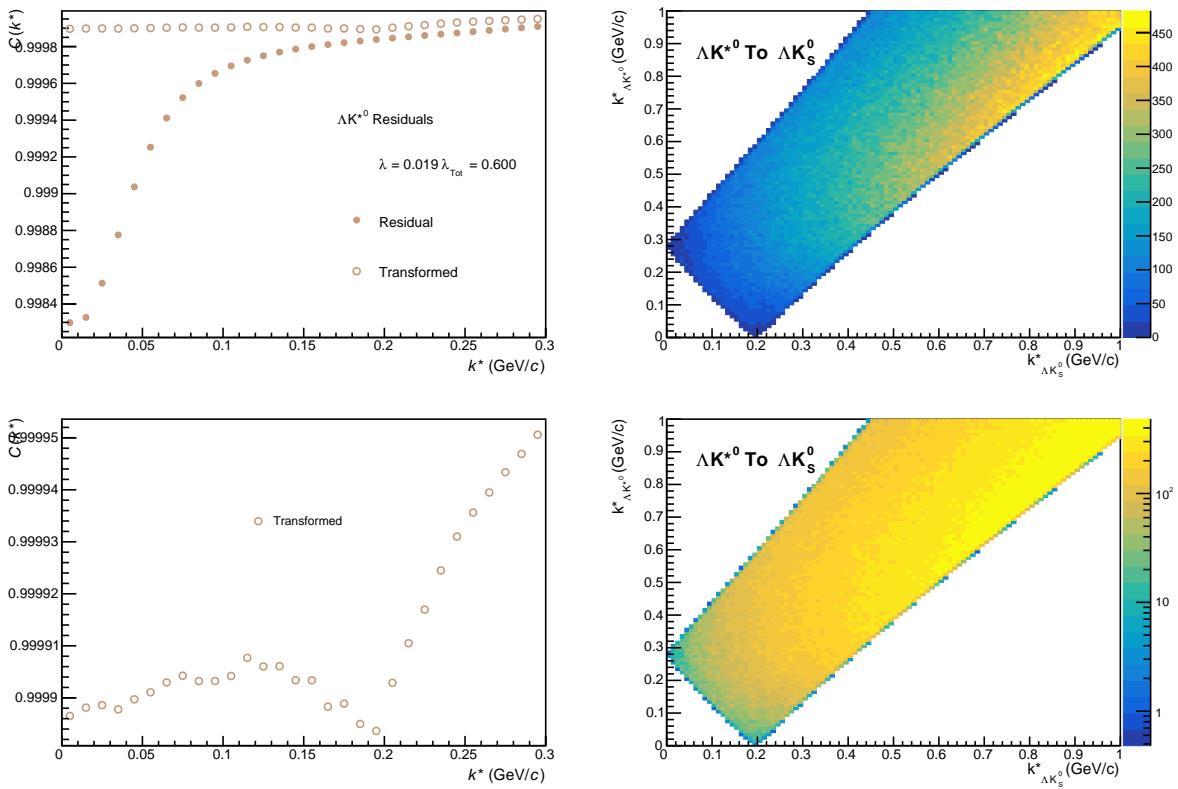
**Fig. 83:** Residuals:  $\Xi^- K_S^0$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)

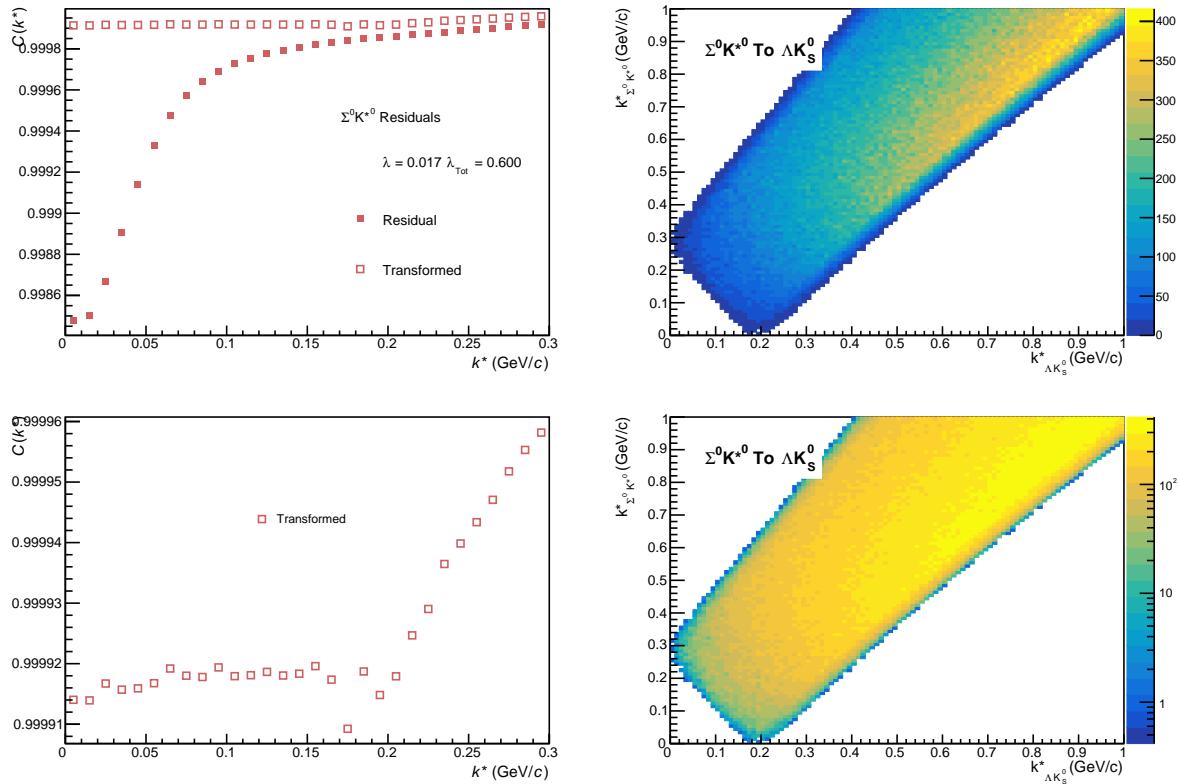


**Fig. 84:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^*+K_s^0$  to  $\Lambda K_s^0$  (0-10% Centrality)

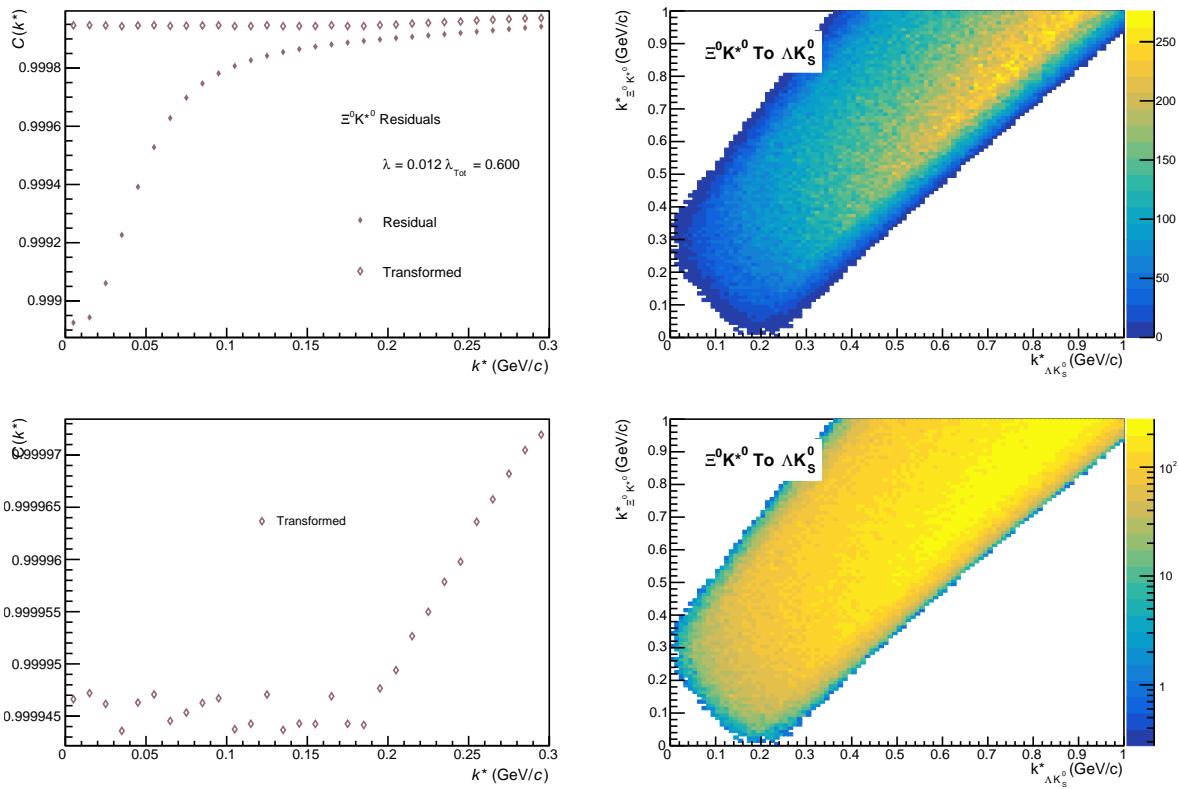


**Fig. 85:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^*-K_s^0$  to  $\Lambda K_s^0$  (0-10% Centrality)

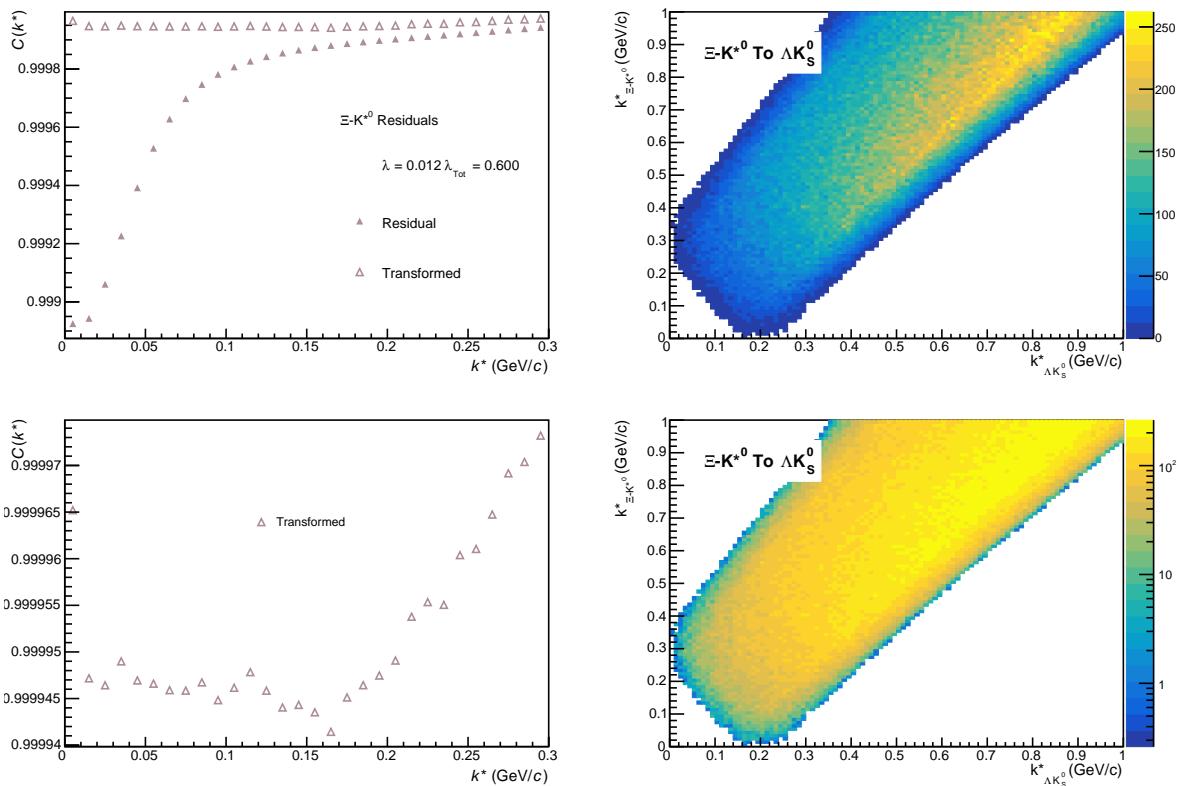

**Fig. 86:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^{*0} K_S^0$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)

**Fig. 87:** Residuals:  $\Lambda K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)



**Fig. 88:** Residuals:  $\Sigma^0 K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)



**Fig. 89:** Residuals:  $\Xi^0 K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)



**Fig. 90:** Residuals:  $\Xi^- K^{*0}$  to  $\Lambda K_S^0$  (0-10% Centrality)

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