

Absorbed Mueller-Regge model for backward inclusive proton production in pion-proton collisions

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We obtain fits to recent data for the backward inclusive reaction $\pi^- + p \rightarrow p + X$ at $p_{\text{lab}} = 12 \text{ GeV}/c$, using an absorbed baryon-exchange Mueller-Regge model in the normal Regge limit.

I. INTRODUCTION

A Regge approach has been applied in the past to two-body pion-nucleon backward-scattering processes, with the exchange of baryon trajectories, and absorption models have provided adequate fits to the data.¹⁻³ Recent experiments in the Omega spectrometer at CERN now provide an opportunity to examine a Mueller-Regge model for an inclusive reaction with baryon exchange. Data are available for the process $\pi^- + p \rightarrow p + X$, which involves only Δ_6 exchange (see Fig. 1), at $p_{\text{lab}} = 12 \text{ GeV}/c$, over a range $0.8 < M_X^2 < 8.0 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $-u < 1.8 (\text{GeV}/c)^2$ (Refs. 4 and 5). We select a reduced set of data with $-u < 1.025 (\text{GeV}/c)^2$ and $M_X^2 > 4.2 \text{ GeV}^2$ and apply an absorbed Mueller-Regge model in the normal Regge limit.

MacDowell symmetry⁶ forces baryon trajectories to occur in pairs with opposite parity (parity doublets). The parity partner of the Δ_6 is not well observed experimentally and we note that a Carlitz-Kislinger cut formalism⁷ forces the unwanted partner poles onto the unphysical sheet. We calculate Gottfried-Jackson-Sopkovich absorption corrections⁸ to the basic pole model. This absorption prescription has previously been applied successfully to meson-exchange processes.⁹

II. FORMALISM

The Mueller generalized optical theorem¹⁰ relates the inclusive cross section $a + b \rightarrow c + X$ to the M_X^2 discontinuity in the forward $3 \rightarrow 3$ amplitude (Fig. 2). Using s -channel helicity amplitudes, we have the following general expression for the unpolarized cross section:

$$\frac{s}{\pi} \frac{d^2\sigma}{du dM_X^2} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2 k^2} \frac{1}{(2s_a + 1)} \frac{1}{(2s_b + 1)} \times \sum_{\lambda_a, \lambda_b, \lambda_c} H_{\lambda_a \lambda_b \lambda_c}^{\lambda_a \lambda_b \lambda_c}(s, u, M_X^2), \quad (1)$$

where λ_i are helicity labels, s_i are spins, and k

is the c.m. three-momentum. In this case ($s_a = 0$)

$$H_{\lambda_b \lambda_c}^{\lambda_a \lambda_b \lambda_c}(s, u, M_X^2) = \sum_{\kappa} J_{\mu}^{\lambda_c} \nabla^{\mu\nu} \Gamma_{\nu}^{\lambda_b \kappa} (J_{\mu}^{\lambda_c} \nabla^{\mu'\nu'} \Gamma_{\nu}^{\lambda_b \kappa})^\dagger, \quad (2)$$

where $\nabla^{\mu\nu}$ is the Reggeized propagator, $J_{\mu}^{\lambda_c}$ is an on-shell current at the particle-particle-Reggeon vertex, κ is the helicity of the missing-mass state, and $\Gamma_{\nu}^{\lambda_b \kappa}$ is the structure function at the target-proton-Reggeon vertex. The spin- $\frac{3}{2}$ propagator is given by

$$\nabla^{\mu\nu} = D^{\mu\nu}(u - m^2)^{-1},$$

where m is the mass of the $\Delta_6(\frac{3}{2}^+)$ and

$$D_{\mu\nu} = (P + m) \left(-g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{2}{3m^2} P_{\mu} P_{\nu} + \frac{1}{3} \gamma_{\mu} \gamma_{\nu} + \frac{1}{3m} (\gamma_{\mu} P_{\nu} + P_{\mu} \gamma_{\nu}) \right) - \frac{2}{3m^2} (P^2 - m^2) [\gamma_{\mu} P_{\nu} - P_{\mu} \gamma_{\nu} + (P + m) \gamma_{\mu} \gamma_{\nu}], \quad (3)$$

with $P = p_a - p_c$. Reggeization is carried out by the standard replacement¹¹

$$(u - m^2)^{-1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \alpha' \Gamma(\frac{3}{2} - \alpha(u)) (1 + i\tau e^{-i\pi\alpha(u)}) \left(\frac{s}{M_X^2} \right)^{\alpha(u) - 3/2},$$

where we have used the Gell-Mann (nonsense) ghost-eliminating mechanism, α_0 and α' are the intercept and slope of the $I = \frac{3}{2}$, $p = +$, $\tau = -(\Delta_6)$

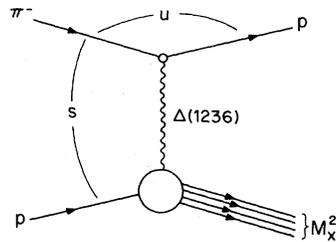


FIG. 1. Basic baryon-exchange process.

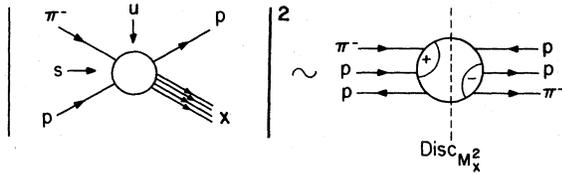


FIG. 2. Representation of Mueller generalized optical theorem.

baryon trajectory. The current is given by¹²

$$J_\mu^{\lambda c} = g \bar{u}(p_c, \lambda_c) Q_\mu,$$

where Q is the difference of the momenta of the incoming and outgoing baryons and u is the spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ wave function. The coupling constant g is connected to the on-shell coupling found from the Δ_b width.¹³

To examine the behavior of the structure functions, we sum over κ , contract with Rarita-Schwinger spin- $\frac{3}{2}$ wave functions denoted by v_α , and apply the optical theorem:

$$T(\bar{\Delta}p) = (A_S p_b^\alpha p_b^{\alpha'} - B_S g^{\alpha\alpha'}) \bar{v}_\alpha(P, r) v_{\alpha'}(P, r) \bar{u}(p_b, \lambda_b) u(p_b, \lambda_b) + (A_V p_b^\alpha p_b^{\alpha'} - B_V g^{\alpha\alpha'}) \bar{v}_\alpha(P, r) \gamma^\rho v_{\alpha'}(P, r) \bar{u}(p_b, \lambda_b) \gamma_\rho u(p_b, \lambda_b) \quad (6)$$

and

$$M_X^2 \sigma_{\text{tot}}(\bar{\Delta}p) = \text{Im} \sum_{\lambda_b, r} \bar{T}(\bar{\Delta}p). \quad (7)$$

Comparing Eqs. (7) and (4), and considering the overall s dependence of the cross section, we see that the dominant contribution will come from the term with form factor A_V . We have assumed that the $\bar{\Delta}p$ total cross section will approach a constant for large M_X^2 and then the term involving A_V in the inclusive cross section will be at least a factor of s larger than the remaining terms. So we take

$$\sum_{\lambda_b, \kappa} \Gamma_\nu^{\lambda_b \kappa} \Gamma_\nu^{\lambda_b \kappa *} = \sum_{\lambda_b} 2 \text{Im}(A_V) p_{b\nu} p_b p_{b\nu}. \quad (8)$$

We estimate the size of $\text{Im}(A_V)$ by assuming it is the only contribution to Eq. (7). In the limit $2p_b \cdot P \gg m^2 m_b^2$ we have the approximation

$$p_b^\alpha \bar{v}_\alpha(P, r) \gamma^\mu v_{\alpha'}(P, r') p_b^{\alpha'} = \frac{4}{3m^2} (p_b \cdot P)^2 P^\mu \delta_{rr'},$$

and get

$$\text{Im}(A_V) \sim \frac{3m^2}{M_X^4} \sigma_{\text{tot}}(\bar{\Delta}p). \quad (9)$$

$$H_{\lambda_c \text{abs}}^{\lambda c}(s, u, M_X^2) = \int_0^\infty \tau' d\tau' \int_0^\infty \tau_1 d\tau_1 \int_0^\infty b db \int_0^\infty b_1 db_1 J_\nu(b\tau) J_\nu(b\tau') S(b) J_{\nu_0}(b_1 \tau_1) J_{\nu_0}(b_1 \tau_1') S^*(b_1) H_{\lambda_c}^{\lambda c}(s, \tau, \tau_1, M_X^2),$$

and finally

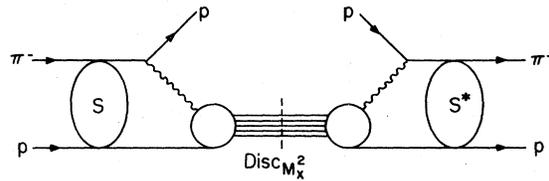


FIG. 3. Rescattering correction to helicity amplitudes.

$$\sum_{\lambda_b, r} \bar{v}^\nu(P, r) \Gamma_\nu^{\lambda_b \kappa} \Gamma_\nu^{\lambda_b \kappa *} v^{\nu'}(P, r) = M_X^2 \sigma_{\text{tot}}(\bar{\Delta}p). \quad (4)$$

We also obtain an alternative, completely general expression for the $\bar{\Delta}p$ total cross section. The elastic, no spin-flip $\bar{\Delta}p$ amplitude is given by¹⁴

$$T(\bar{\Delta}p) = \sum_j D_j^{\alpha\alpha'} X_{j\alpha\alpha'}, \quad (5)$$

where $D_j^{\alpha\alpha'} = A_j p_b^\alpha p_b^{\alpha'} - B_j g^{\alpha\alpha'}$ and X_j runs over scalar, tensor, axial-vector, vector, and pseudoscalar couplings. From this general ansatz, only vector and scalar contributions survive in the forward direction, so

Since we have not taken the full expression for the $\bar{\Delta}p$ total cross section, we do not expect Eq. (9) to be an exact result, but consider that it will, at worst, provide sensible M_X^2 dependence and an order of magnitude estimate for $\text{Im}(A_V)$.

In the absorption prescription we employ, impact-parameter amplitudes are modified to take into account absorptive (unitarity) effects due to initial- and final-state rescatterings. The elastic scattering matrix $S(b)$, where b is the impact parameter, is introduced,

$$H_{\lambda_c \text{abs}}^{\lambda c}(b', b) = S^{1/2*}(b') H_{\lambda_c}^{\lambda c}(b', b) S^{1/2}(b),$$

with the usual Gaussian form

$$S(b) = 1 - C e^{-\lambda b^2},$$

where C is the opacity and $\lambda = R^{-2}$ (R = radius of interaction). Clearly, rescattering can be expected in both $ab(\bar{a}\bar{b})$ and $\bar{c}b(c\bar{b})$ channels, but we make the additional simplifying assumption that

$$S_{ab}^{1/2} S_{\bar{c}b}^{1/2} \approx \frac{S_{ab} + S_{\bar{c}b}}{2} = S,$$

and then we have (see Fig. 3)

$$H_{\lambda_c^{\text{abs}}}^{\lambda_c}(s, \tau, M_X^2) = \int_0^\infty \tau' d\tau' \int_0^\infty \tau_1' d\tau_1' H_{\lambda_c^{\text{abs}}}^{\lambda_c}(s, \tau', \tau_1', M_X^2) \left[\frac{1}{\tau} \delta(\tau - \tau') - \frac{C}{2\lambda} \exp\left(-\frac{\tau^2 + \tau'^2}{4\lambda}\right) I_\nu\left(\frac{\tau\tau'}{2\lambda}\right) \right] \\ \times \left[\frac{1}{\tau} \delta(\tau - \tau_1') - \frac{C}{2\lambda} \exp\left(-\frac{\tau^2 + \tau_1'^2}{4\lambda}\right) I_{\nu'}\left(\frac{\tau\tau_1'}{2\lambda}\right) \right],$$

with $\tau^2 q/k = u_{\text{min}} - u$, where k and q are the initial and final c.m. three-momenta and ν and ν' are the total helicity flip on each side of the M_X^2 discontinuity. $J_\nu(z)$ is the Bessel function and $I_\nu(z)$ is the Bessel function of imaginary argument. We assume that the dominant configuration has no flip at the inclusive vertex. This can be justified using angular momentum arguments¹⁵ and there is an absence of phenomenological evidence to the contrary. C and λ can be found from elastic scattering data, in this case $C \sim 0.7$ and $\lambda \sim 0.068$ (GeV/c)⁻². For the evaluation of the absorbed amplitude, $\Gamma(\frac{3}{2} - \alpha(u))$ is approximated by a double

exponential¹⁶ $\sum_{j=1}^2 A_j \exp(B_j u)$, with a conventional Δ_6 trajectory [$\alpha_0 = 0.05$ and $\alpha' = 0.9$ (GeV/c)⁻²] $A_1 = 0.444798$, $A_2 = 0.440391$, $B_1 = 0.813327$ (GeV/c)⁻², and $B_2 = -0.825487$ (GeV/c)⁻². We give full expressions for the amplitudes in the Appendix.

There is some ambiguity about the overall normalization. We have the traditional problem of extrapolating to baryon-exchange poles to determine the coupling constant.¹⁷ The known Δ_6 width provides a coupling which is too high in parameter-free two-body Regge models.² Also, we do not expect $\sigma_{\text{tot}}(\Delta p)$, which appears in Eq. (9), to corres-

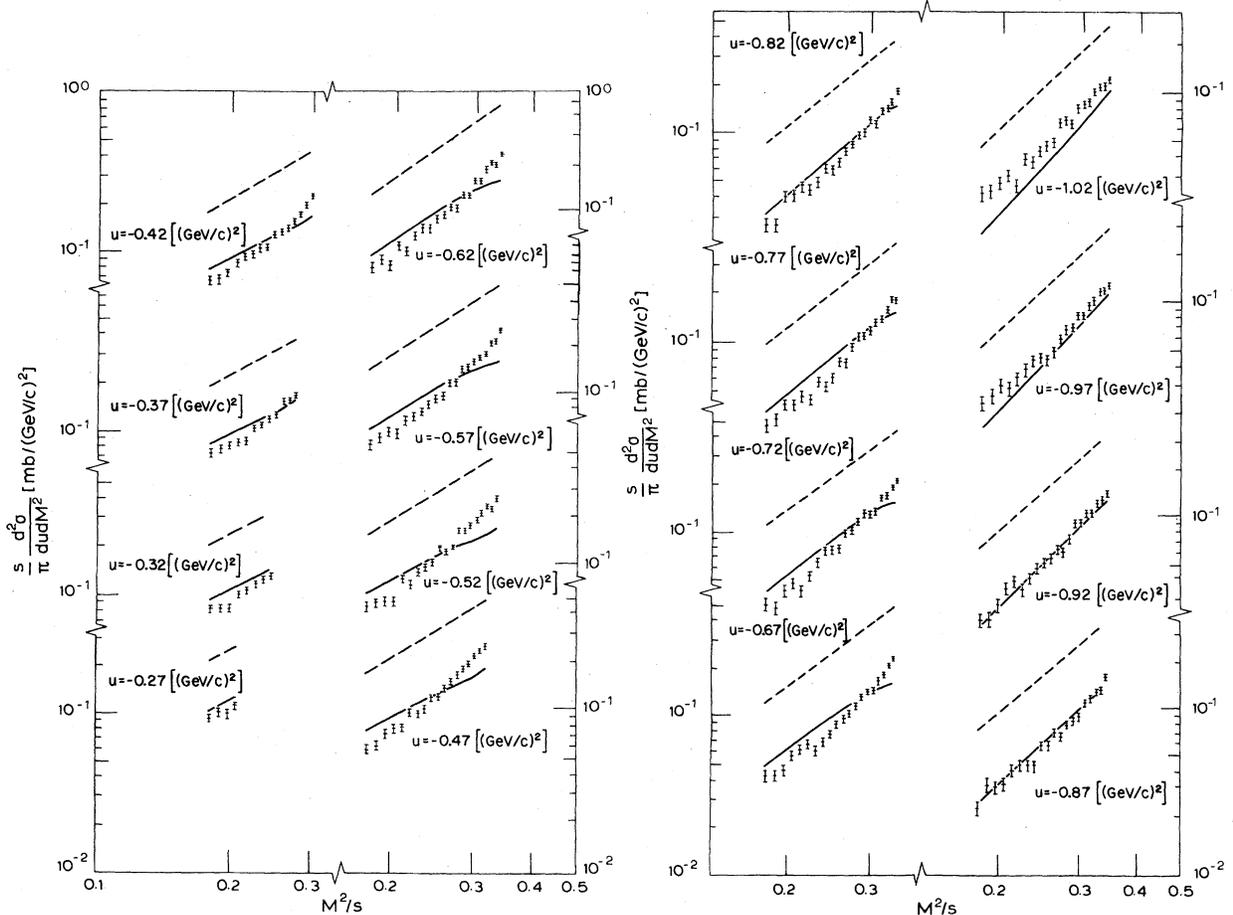


FIG. 4. Differential cross section plotted against M_X^2/s for fixed values of u for $\pi^+ p \rightarrow p + X$ at $s = 23.41$ GeV². (The dashed line represents the pole-only contribution while the continuous line represents the absorbed curve of the present model.)

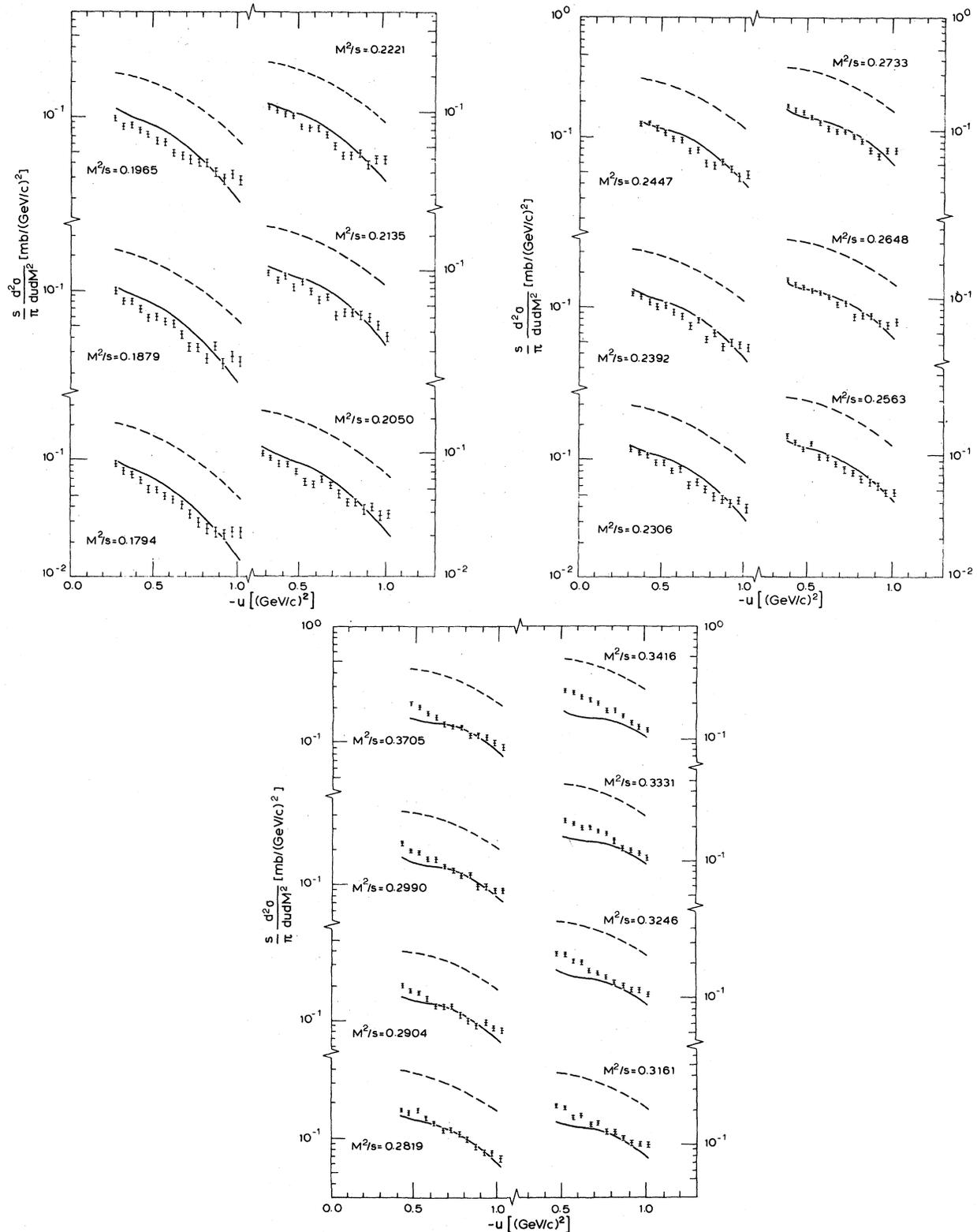


FIG. 5. Differential cross section plotted against u for fixed values of M_X^2/s for $\pi^- + p \rightarrow p + X$ at $s = 23.41 \text{ GeV}^2$. (The dashed line represents the pole-only contribution while the continuous line represents the absorbed curve of the present model.)

pond to the full asymptotic $\bar{\Delta}p$ total cross section. Although we might expect some resonance effects in the M_X^2 range under consideration, the data are for the most part smooth so we take $\sigma_{\text{tot}}(\bar{\Delta}p) \sim \sigma'$, a constant. Now we introduce a normalization N , and the overall adjustable normalization is $N\sigma'$.

The absorbed model is fitted to 277 data points with bin sizes 0.05 (GeV/c)^2 in u and 0.2 GeV^2 in M_X^2 . The χ^2 function is minimized¹⁸ by allowing the normalization ($N\sigma'$) and the trajectory parameters (α_0 and α') to vary. The result is shown by the solid line in Fig. 4 (fixed u) and Fig. 5 (fixed M_X^2/s). The values obtained are $N\sigma' = 0.46$, $\alpha_0 = 0.0085$, and $\alpha' = 0.97 \text{ (GeV/c)}^{-2}$. For comparison, this normalization is then applied to a pole-only calculation with a conventional trajectory and the result corresponds to the dashed line on the figures. The graphs are computer plotted.^{19,20} Errors shown are statistical and there is an additional 9% systematic error.

III. DISCUSSION

We see that for the reaction $\pi^- + p \rightarrow p + X$ in a normal Regge limit, both pole-only and absorbed

models provide qualitatively good fits to the data. The fitted values for the trajectory parameters from the absorbed model correspond closely to the results expected from hadron spectroscopy. The absorbed model shows more structure and seems to indicate that more M_X^2 dependence is needed, but the assumption that $\sigma' \sim \text{constant}$ has oversimplified our M_X^2 behavior.

A previous analysis^{4,5} of these data over the full available M_X^2 range used a simple triple-Regge model with Pomeron and baryon third-leg exchanges and found that a Δ_0 slope of $\sim 0.5 \text{ (GeV/c)}^{-2}$ was obtained. We are satisfied that the nature of our fit allows us to conclude that the usual baryon trajectory is acceptable. Some discrepancy is expected since we understand that there is evidence that the data may be contaminated by production of $N\bar{N}$ pairs and $N^*\Delta$ resonances.

Our absorption model is factorizable and has identically zero momentum transfer at the bottom vertex and consequently predicts zero polarization, as of course does the pole-only case. As always in the inclusive Regge approach, measurement of the polarization will be of great interest.

Note added in proof. The model developed in the present paper has been extended to include the exchange of the $N_\alpha(938)$ baryon trajectory. The expression corresponding to Eq. (6) resulting from $N_\alpha(938)$ exchange is

$$4T(\bar{N}N) = A_S \bar{v}(P, r) v(P, r') \bar{u}(P, \lambda_b) u(P, \lambda_b) + \frac{1}{2} A_T \bar{v}(P, r) \sigma^{\rho\delta} v(P, r') \bar{u}(P, \lambda_b) \sigma_{\rho\delta} u(P, \lambda_b) \\ + A_A \bar{v}(P, r) i\gamma_5 \rho v(P, r') \bar{u}(P, \lambda_b) i\gamma_5 \rho u(P, \lambda_b) + A_V \bar{v}(P, r) \gamma^\rho v(P, r') \bar{u}(P, \lambda_b) \gamma_\rho u(P, \lambda_b) \\ + A_P \bar{v}(P, r) \gamma_5 v(P, r') \bar{u}(P, \lambda_b) \gamma_5 u(P, \lambda_b).$$

If we sum over target spins, i.e., κ , then only A_S and A_V survive giving

$$T(\bar{N}N) = 4m A_S + 4 P p_a A_V.$$

Applying the optical theorem, this then gives

$$4m \text{Im} A_S + 4 P p_a \text{Im} A_V = \Delta^{1/2} (M_X^2, m_N^2, m_N^2) \sigma_{\text{tot}}(\bar{N}N),$$

which, in the triple-Regge limit, becomes

$$\text{Im} A_V + \frac{m}{p_a} \text{Im} A_S = \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\text{tot}}(\bar{N}N),$$

giving, at high energy, $\text{Im} A_V \sim \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\text{tot}}(\bar{N}N)$.

This model has been applied to the data²¹ on $K^- + p \rightarrow \Lambda + X$, which is mediated by $N_\alpha(938)$ baryon exchange. The $\Lambda \rightarrow p + K^-$ coupling is known. The results are encouraging²² and indicate that, in addition to obtaining sensible parameters for the $N_\alpha(938)$ Regge trajectory, the absolute normalization of the single-particle-inclusive differential cross section is predictable. This is also the case³ in two-body exclusive reactions mediated by $N_\alpha(938)$ baryon exchange.

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APPENDIX

The absorbed helicity amplitude in the c.m. is given by

$$H_{\lambda_c \lambda_{\text{abs}}}^{\lambda_c}(\tau, \tau') = N' \{ C' [f(\tau) - f_{\text{abs}}(\tau)] [f(\tau') - f_{\text{abs}}(\tau')]^* \\ + S [g(\tau) - g_{\text{abs}}(\tau)] [g(\tau') - g_{\text{abs}}(\tau')]^* \},$$

with

$$N' = N \sigma' g^2 \frac{6m^2}{M_X^4} (E_a E_b + k^2)^2,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
C' &= 2(E_b E_c - kq)[(m - m_c)^2 - m_a^2] \\
&\quad + 4(E_a E_b + k^2)(E_a E_c + kq) \\
&\quad + 4(m - m_c)m_c(E_a E_b + k^2), \\
S &= 2(E_b E_c + kq)[(m - m_c)^2 - m_a^2] \\
&\quad + 4(E_a E_b + k^2)(E_a E_c - kq) \\
&\quad + 4(m - m_c)m_c(E_a E_b + k^2),
\end{aligned}$$

and defining

$$\begin{aligned}
M_0 &= \frac{1}{2}\alpha'(s/M^2)^{\alpha_0 + \alpha'u_{\min} - 1.5}, \\
\phi_j &= -(q/k)[B_j + \alpha' \ln(s/M^2)], \\
\xi_0 &= -i \exp(-i\pi\alpha_0 - i\pi\alpha'u_{\min}), \\
\beta_0 &= i\pi\alpha'q/k, \\
\alpha_j &= A_j \exp(B_j u_{\min}),
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\psi_j = \phi_j + \beta_0,$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}
f(\tau) &= M_0 \sum_j \alpha_j [\exp(\phi_j \tau^2) + \xi_0 \exp(\psi_j \tau^2)] \left(1 - \frac{\tau^2}{4k^2}\right)^{1/2}, \\
g(\tau) &= M_0 \sum_j \alpha_j [\exp(\phi_j \tau^2) + \xi_0 \exp(\psi_j \tau^2)] \frac{\tau}{2k}, \\
f_{\text{abs}}(\tau) &= \frac{C}{2\lambda} \exp\left(-\frac{\tau^2}{4\lambda}\right) M_0 \sum_j \alpha_j [F(\phi_j, \tau) + \xi_0 F(\psi_j, \tau)],
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{\text{abs}}(\tau) &= \frac{C}{2\lambda} \exp\left(-\frac{\tau^2}{4\lambda}\right) M_0 \\
&\quad \times \sum_j \alpha_j [G(\phi_j, \tau) + \xi_0 G(\psi_j, \tau)].
\end{aligned}$$

The functions $F(\alpha_j, \tau)$ and $G(\alpha_j, \tau)$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
F(\alpha_j, \tau) &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{\tau}{\lambda}\right)^{1/2} \frac{\Gamma(1.25)}{\Gamma(1.5)} (-E_j)^{-1.25} \\
&\quad \times \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B(n) \left(\frac{1}{4k^2 E_j}\right)^n \Phi\left(n + \frac{5}{4}, \frac{3}{2}; Z\right), \\
G(\alpha_j, \tau) &= \frac{1}{8k} \left(\frac{\tau}{\lambda}\right)^{1/2} \frac{\Gamma(1.75)}{\Gamma(1.5)} (-E_j)^{1.75} \Phi\left(\frac{7}{4}, \frac{3}{2}; Z\right),
\end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
E_j &= \alpha_j - \frac{1}{4\lambda}, \\
Z &= -\frac{\tau^2}{16\lambda^2 E_j}, \\
B(n) &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n (n-1 + \frac{5}{4})(n-2 + \frac{5}{4}) \cdots (\frac{5}{4}),
\end{aligned}$$

and Φ is the degenerate hypergeometric function.

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