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BRANCHING RATIO AND POSSIBLE CP NONCONSERVATION IN RADIATIVE K_{π_2} DECAY

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We have determined with 90% confidence an upper limit of 1.90×10^{-4} for the branching ratio of the decay mode $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^0 + \gamma$ in the range of T_{π^+} from 55 to 80 MeV. We discuss the implications of this result for a possible CP nonconservation in radiative K_{π_2} decay.

In this Letter we report an upper limit to the branching ratio of the decay mode $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^0 + \gamma$. Interest in this mode has been aroused by the possibility^{1,2} that a comparison of $K^{\pm} \rightarrow \pi^{\pm} + \pi^0 + \gamma$ might reveal asymmetries which violate CP invariance while still satisfying TCP . The several phenomenological analyses^{3,4} have been based on the work of Good.⁵ They assume that the decay matrix element contains a direct-emission term which is of the same order as the inner-bremsstrahlung term. The contribution made to the decay by interference between these terms could show a CP -nonconserving asymmetry.

If one assumes further²⁻⁵ that the dominant direct-emission terms are $E1$ and $M1$ and sums over the photon polarization, then interference occurs only between the inner-bremsstrahlung and $E1$ terms. The branching ratio may then be written as

$$R^{\pm} = B^2 [1 + \gamma C_1 \cos(\delta_{11} - \delta_{20} \pm \varphi) + C_2(\gamma^2 + \beta^2)], \quad (1)$$

where B^2 is the branching ratio for pure inner bremsstrahlung and the second and third terms represent the contributions to the branching ratio from the direct-emission terms.³ γ and β are real positive numbers which give, respectively, the amplitudes for $E1$ and $M1$ direct emission relative to inner bremsstrahlung. In the terminology of Good,⁵ $\gamma = gA\mu^4/GM^4$ and $\beta = 2gB\mu^4/M^4$. The δ_{IJ} are $\pi\pi$ phase shifts taken at the appropriate energies and φ is a CP -nonconserving phase. B^2 , C_1 , and C_2 are functions of the kinematic limits for the decay. For T_{π^+} between 55 and 80 MeV and all allowed π^0 energies, $B^2 = 1.36 \times 10^{-4}$, $C_1 = 1.80$, and $C_2 = 2.00$.⁶

For a comparison of the K^+ and K^- decay modes, the branching-ratio asymmetry is given

by

$$A = \frac{R^+ - R^-}{R^+ + R^-} = \frac{\gamma C_1 \sin(\delta_{11} - \delta_{20}) \sin \varphi}{1 + \gamma C_1 \cos(\delta_{11} - \delta_{20}) \cos \varphi + C_2(\gamma^2 + \beta^2)} \quad (2)$$

Clearly, in order to produce a CP -nonconserving effect it is necessary that γ be nonzero, and it is of considerable interest to know the limits which can be placed on it.

The present experiment is part of a series of stopping- K^+ experiments performed at Nimrod. The apparatus (Fig. 1) has been described elsewhere.⁷ Kaons were brought to rest in the beryllium-plate spark chamber. The momentum of the outgoing π^+ was measured by a magnetic spectrometer. Pions were separated from muons by their range-momentum correlation. Electrons were identified by the Cherenkov counter. The three outgoing gamma rays were detected in the spark chambers $B1$ - $B4$, which formed four sides of a cube centered at the beryllium chamber. Each chamber contained 35 brass plates 0.12 radiation lengths thick.

614 π^+ were identified with a spectrometer momentum between 105 and 170 MeV/c. After double scanning 41 were found to have three or four gamma rays. These events were measured and the gamma-ray energies estimated from spark counting. The events were least-squares fitted. No events satisfied the hypothesis of $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^0 + \gamma$ at the 1% probability level with T_{π^+} between 55 and 80 MeV.⁸ The rate for three- or four-gamma-ray events could be entirely accounted for by assuming that they were due to background gamma rays in the spark chambers accompanying a K_{π_2} decay in which the π^+ interacted in the beryllium chamber before entering the spectrom-

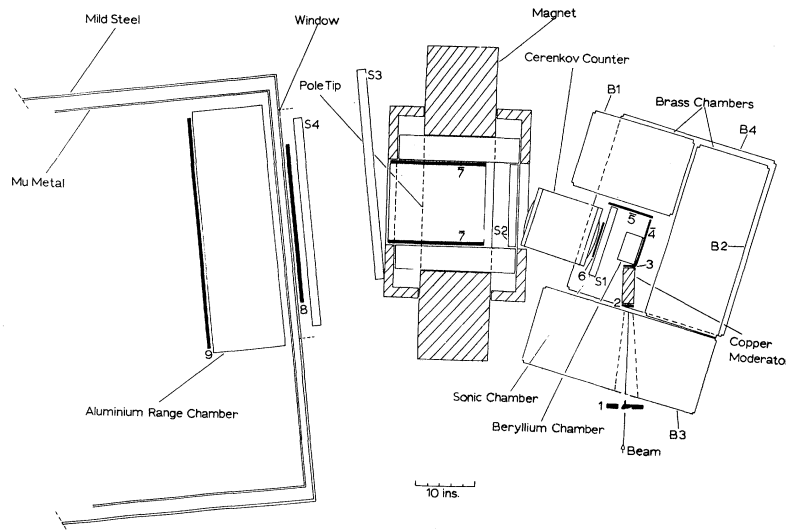


FIG. 1. Diagram of apparatus.

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Gamma rays from the K_{π_2} mode were used to determine the response of the spark chambers. The gamma-ray energy resolution from spark counting was found to be 30%. The detection efficiency of the chambers was checked by comparing real and Monte Carlo K_{π_2} gamma-ray distributions. Similar checks were made using gamma rays from the K_{e_3} mode.

For the $\pi\pi\gamma$ mode, we have calculated by Monte Carlo methods the efficiency for detecting three gamma rays in the spark chambers. We find for the inner-bremsstrahlung term of Eq. (1) that our sensitivity is such that one event (π^+ with three gamma rays) is equivalent to a branching ratio of 0.94×10^{-4} for T_{π^+} from 55 to 80 MeV, after allowing for π^+ interaction and decays in flight. The branching ratio is obtained by normalizing to K_{e_3} events.⁷ The ratios of the efficiencies, relative to inner bremsstrahlung, for the direct-emission and interference terms of Eq. (1) are

$$R_{de} = 1.67$$

and

$$R_{int} = 1.43.$$

Thus at the 90% confidence level the branching ratio limits obtained from Eq. (1) give the relation

$$1 > 3.04R_{int}\gamma \cos(\delta_{11} - \delta_{20} + \varphi) + 3.38R_{de}(\gamma^2 + \beta^2). \quad (3)$$

The 90% limit for β , assuming that $\gamma = 0$, is $\beta < 0.42$ corresponding to a branching ratio of 1.9

$\times 10^{-4}$. The 90% limit for γ , assuming that $\beta = 0$, is $\gamma < 0.19$ for $\delta_{11} - \delta_{20} + \varphi = 0$ and $\gamma < 0.96$ for $\delta_{11} - \delta_{20} + \varphi = \pi$ with branching ratios of 1.9×10^{-4} and 1.5×10^{-4} , respectively.

We have calculated the expected asymmetry from Eq. (2), assuming that $\delta_{11} - \delta_{20} = 10^\circ$ and $\beta = 0$. These results are shown in Fig. 2 for small φ together with our limits for γ . φ is expected to be close to 0 or π if CP nonconservation is a purely weak-interaction phenomenon⁴; however

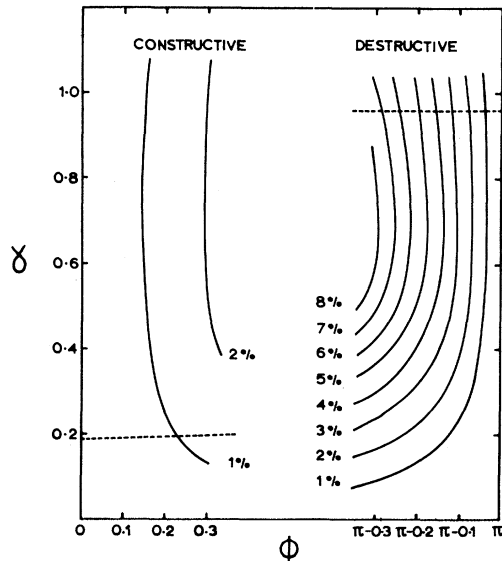


FIG. 2. CP -nonconserving asymmetry A for $\delta_{11} - \delta_{20} = 10^\circ$ and $\beta = 0$. Lines of constant asymmetry are shown as a function of γ and φ for constructive and destructive interference. The two broken lines show the outer limits for γ set at the 90% confidence level by this experiment.

it has been suggested¹⁰ that CP nonconservation might be due to interference between weak and electromagnetic interactions. In this case φ could approach $\frac{1}{2}\pi$. In this case Eq. (3) gives $\gamma < 0.4$. An upper limit to the asymmetry for large φ is 14%.

Our branching-ratio limit is compatible with the result $(2.2 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-4}$ of Cline and Fry.¹¹ Clearly our limit allows a large value of γ for interference as favored by Cline¹² but this would be in conflict with the results of Wolff and Aubert.¹³ However, like all present measurements, our result remains consistent with $\gamma = 0$ and $\beta = 0$.

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STUDY OF HYPERON-NUCLEON INTERACTION IN THE REACTION $K^-d \rightarrow \pi^-p\Lambda$ AT REST*

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A Λp system with high statistics and mass resolution was studied in detail. The broad bump in the low-mass region can be attributed to contribution from both the impulse and final-state-interaction mechanisms. The low-energy Λp scattering parameters are deduced to be $a_0 = -2.0 \pm 0.5$ and $r_0 = 3.0 \pm 1.0$ F. The higher mass spectrum can be fitted to two Breit-Wigner resonant structures with $M_1 = 2128.7 \pm 0.2$, $\Gamma_1 = 7.0 \pm 0.6$, and $M_2 = 2138.8 \pm 0.7$, $\Gamma_2 = 9.1 \pm 2.4$ MeV. Attempts were carried out to understand these peaks via a ΣN final-state-interaction model.

An experiment to investigate hyperon-nucleon production in K^-d interactions at rest was carried out by exposing the Columbia-Brookhaven National Laboratory 30-in. deuterium bubble chamber to a low-energy separated K^- beam at the alternating-gradient synchrotron. We present here results from the study of reaction $K^-d \rightarrow \pi^-p\Lambda$. A detailed analysis on a precisely measured Λp mass spectrum was carried out with the aid of a final-state hyperon-nucleon-interaction model as is schematically represented by the diagram in Fig. 1. In particular, we have attempted to determine the nature of the observed enhancement near the 2129-MeV region¹⁻³ and to extract information on Λp and Σ^+n scatterings.

Our data include 2470 events from sample (a) where all particles were measured and 2431 events from sample (b) where Λ was missing.

All events from (a) satisfied a two-vertex seven-constraint (7C) fit while events from (b) satisfied a 1C fit. No ambiguity in the fit between Λ and Σ^0 production was found. To minimize the measurement errors a fiducial volume was imposed to ensure that at least 10 cm of measurable track length is available for all nonstopping charged tracks. Events with a stopping proton track

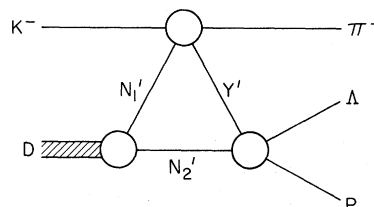


FIG. 1. Schematic diagram showing final-state hyperon-nucleon interaction.