

vert hidden-variable emergence rates into quantum mechanical counting rates.

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Ξ RESONANCES IN $K^-p \rightarrow \Xi\pi K$ AT 2.87 GeV/c*

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Evidence is presented for four Ξ resonances in the reaction $K^-p \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+ K^0$. In addition to the well known $\Xi(1530)$, significant structures are observed in the $\Xi\pi$ system at masses of 1630, 1800, and 1960 MeV, although the latter two are not statistically distinguishable from a single broad structure at 1950 MeV. No significant enhancements at these masses are observed in the $\Xi^- \pi^0 K^+$ final state.

Ξ resonances are produced with relatively small cross sections, cannot be studied in formation experiments, and have complex decay topologies. For these reasons, only large bubble-chamber exposures have yielded significant information bearing on the existence and properties of these particles. This experiment, designed for the study of Ξ resonances below a mass of 2 GeV, involves 10^6 pictures of K^-p interactions at 2.87 GeV/c taken at the Brookhaven National Laboratory 31-in. bubble chamber at the alternating-gradient synchrotron.¹ The equivalent of 24 events/ μb has been accumulated to date. In this Letter, we report on $\Xi\pi$ mass spectra observed in the reactions

$$K^-p \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+ K^0, \quad (1)$$

$$K^-p \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^0 K^+. \quad (2)$$

For this study, all film was scanned twice for events with at least two visible decays of strange particles. Those events with one or more successful kinematic fits (confidence level $\geq 0.1\%$) were inspected for consistency with observed ionizations. A total of 635 events achieved a unique

fit to Reaction (1), while 265 events fit Reaction (2) uniquely. The 94 events fitting both reactions² have been apportioned to each with a weight of 0.5.

The Dalitz plot for Reaction (1), shown in Fig. 1, shows strong production of $\Xi^0(1530)$ and

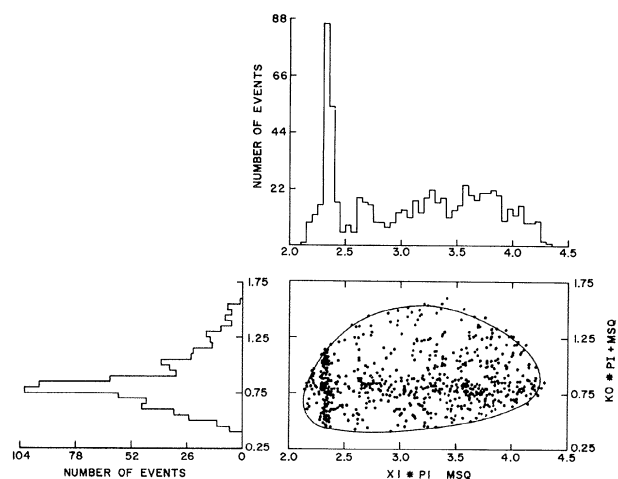


FIG. 1. Dalitz plot for the reaction $K^-p \rightarrow \Xi^- \pi^+ K^0$, with $M^2(\Xi^- \pi^+)$ and $M^2(K^0 \pi^+)$ projections.

$K^{*+}(890)$. Further structure in the $\Xi^{-}\pi^{+}$ system can be seen more clearly in the mass projection of Fig. 2(a). The plot shows, in addition to the $\Xi(1530)$, peaking near 1630, 1800, and 1960 MeV. Of the four peaks, the structure at 1630 MeV has not been previously observed, and corresponds to a >3 standard deviation effect.³ Resonances in the 1750- to 2000-MeV region have been previously reported,⁴⁻⁸ but no enhancement in $M(\Xi\pi)$ spectra has been seen near 1800 MeV. All peaks remain, with reduced significance, when events in the $K^{*+}(890)$ band are removed (shaded spectrum). On the other hand, the $M(\Xi^{-}\pi^{0})$ spectrum of Reaction (2) [see Fig. 2(b)] with less than half the events and poorer resolution,⁹ exhibits no obvious structure in addition to the $\Xi^{-}(1530)$ and $K^{*+}(890)$ (latter not shown).

A maximum-likelihood fit to the events of Reaction (1) has been carried out to obtain the masses, observed widths, and percentages of the four $\Xi\pi$ enhancements.¹⁰ The results of this fit are given in Table I, and the best fit curve is superimposed on the histogram of Fig. 2(a). An average¹¹ χ^2 of 18.3 is calculated from the $\Xi^{-}\pi^{+}$ mass spectrum for 12 degrees of freedom. An equally acceptable fit to Reaction (1) is obtained when the resonant amplitudes at 1800 and 1960 MeV are replaced by a single amplitude (χ^2 of 23.6 for 15 degrees of freedom); the resulting mass and width in this case are 1952 ± 26 MeV and 300 ± 110 MeV, respectively.¹² A similar fit to Reaction (2), including $\Xi(1530)$, $K^{*}(890)$, and phase space, yields a χ^2 of 18.8 for 19 degrees of freedom. The curve corresponding to this fit is superimposed on the histogram of Fig. 2(b). There is no evidence for additional resonant activity¹³ in the $\Xi^{-}\pi^{0}$ system.

We now compare our results with those of other groups reporting resonances in $M(\Xi\pi)$ spectra

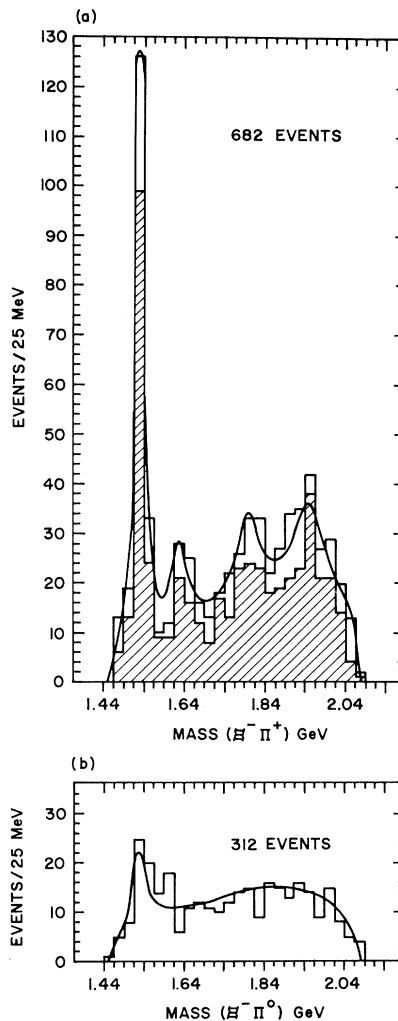


FIG. 2. (a) Mass of the $\Xi^{-}\pi^{+}$ system of Reaction (1). The shaded distribution shows the spectrum after removal of $K^{*}(890)$ events [$865 < M(K\pi) < 915$ MeV]. (b) Mass of the $\Xi^{-}\pi^{0}$ system of Reaction (2). The solid curves result from maximum-likelihood fits to the data (see text).

Table I. Best values of resonant masses, observed widths, and fractions of resonance production and phase space, resulting from maximum-likelihood fits to the $\Xi\pi K$ final state (see text). Underlined numbers were not varied in the fit.

Process	$K^{-}p \rightarrow \Xi^{-}\pi^{+}K^{0}$			$K^{-}p \rightarrow \Xi^{-}\pi^{0}K^{+}$		
	M (MeV)	Γ (MeV)	(%)	M (MeV)	Γ (MeV)	(%)
$\Xi(1530)K$	<u>1530</u>	13 ± 2	22 ± 2	<u>1530</u>	28 ± 22	12 ± 3
$\Xi(1630)K$	1628 ± 5	15 ± 5	3 ± 1			
$\Xi(1800)K$	1801 ± 13	78 ± 33	9 ± 2			
$\Xi(1960)K$	1962 ± 14	147 ± 55	22 ± 3			
$\Xi K^{*}(890)$	<u>891</u>	72 ± 12	44 ± 4	<u>891</u>	65 ± 30	26 ± 5
Phase space			0 ± 5			62 ± 6

between 1750 and 2000 MeV. Badier et al.,⁴ at incident K^- momentum of 3.0 GeV/c, observed an enhancement ($M = 1933 \pm 16$, $\Gamma = 140 \pm 35$) representing $26 \pm 6\%$ of 150 events in Reaction (1). In 44 events of Reaction (2), no enhancements were observed. Considering the limited statistics at 3 GeV/c, the results of Badier et al. are consistent with the gross features of the $\Xi^- \pi^+ K^0$ state found in this experiment. On the other hand, Dauber et al.⁶ at 2.7 GeV/c, find no significant structure in the same mass region of Reaction (1) from a sample of 312 events, while in Reaction (2) an enhancement ($M = 1894 \pm 18$, $\Gamma = 98 \pm 23$) representing $25 \pm 7\%$ of 150 events is observed. The lowering of their peak position may be explained by the limited phase space available at their energy, but this does not explain the absence of a significant signal at this mass in the $M(\Xi^- \pi^+)$ spectrum. Finally, Alitti et al.⁷ have observed a resonance in the $M(\Xi^- \pi^+)$ spectrum ($M = 1930 \pm 20$, $\Gamma = 80 \pm 40$) representing 13% of 150 events in the $\Xi^- \pi^+ \pi^- K^+$ final state. This narrower structure could be associated with the $\Xi(1960)$ state observed in this experiment.

In summary, our study of the $\Xi \pi K$ channel indicates a probable new resonant state in the $\Xi \pi$ system at 1630 MeV, and suggests a splitting of the broad high mass enhancement into two narrower states at 1800 and 1960 MeV.

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¹A description of the beam may be found in H. Brown, Brookhaven National Laboratory EP&S Divison Technical Note No. 6, 1967 (unpublished). The chamber parameters are described in D. Gordan et al., Brookhaven National Laboratory Report No. 11641 (unpublished).

²The ambiguous events show no structure in $M(\Xi \pi)$

but contain a substantial percentage of $K^*(890)$. The inclusion or deletion of these events does not significantly alter our conclusions.

³We have used binomial statistics in the region $1565 \text{ MeV} < M(\Xi^- \pi^+) < 1715 \text{ MeV}$ to establish the significance of this peak.

⁴J. Badier, M. Demoulin, J. Goldberg, B. P. Gregory, C. Pelletier, A. Rouge, M. Ville, R. Barloutaud, A. Leveque, C. Louedec, J. Meyer, P. Schlein, A. Verglas, D. J. Holthuizen, W. Hoogland, and A. G. Tenner, Phys. Letters **16**, 171 (1965).

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⁶P. M. Dauber, J. P. Berge, J. R. Hubbard, D. W. Merrill, and R. A. Muller, Phys. Rev. **179**, 1262 (1969). This work partially updates that of Ref. 5.

⁷J. Alitti, E. Flaminio, W. Metzger, D. Radojicić, R. R. Rau, C. R. Richardson, N. P. Samios, I. Skili-corn, D. Bassano, M. Goldberg, and J. Leitner, Phys. Rev. Letters **21**, 1119 (1968).

⁸J. Alitti, V. E. Barnes, E. Flaminio, W. Metzger, D. Radojicić, R. R. Rau, C. R. Richardson, N. P. Samios, D. Bassano, M. Goldberg, and J. Leitner, Phys. Rev. Letters **22**, 79 (1969).

⁹The $M(\Xi \pi)$ resolution in Reaction (1) varies from ± 3 MeV in the $\Xi(1530)$ region to ± 10 MeV in the 1900-MeV mass region. The $M(\Xi^- \pi^0)$ resolution of Reaction (2) is approximately ± 14 MeV in all regions.

¹⁰These fits to the Dalitz plot of Reaction (1) include phase space, $K^*(890)$ and $M(\Xi \pi)$ Breit-Wigner amplitudes with momentum-independent widths. No interference is assumed between these processes. The fitting program MURTLBEBERT was used. For a description of the method, see J. Friedman, Alvarez Group Programming Note No. P-156, 1966 (unpublished).

¹¹The χ^2 is calculated by averaging over five different binnings of the mass spectrum. Mass bins of 25 MeV, with starting values of the first bin differing by 5 MeV, were used for the χ^2 determination.

¹²The existence of a $\Xi(2030)$ resonance has been reported in Ref. 8. If such a state decays to $\Xi^- \pi^+$, its presence could systematically increase our width determination in the high $M(\Xi \pi)$ region.

¹³The addition of a resonant amplitude at 1952 MeV with a width of 300 MeV gives a χ^2 of 18.3 for 16 degrees of freedom. The fitted production rate of $7 \pm 10\%$ is consistent with zero. On the other hand, a fit to the $\Xi^- \pi^+ K^0$ channel without any high $\Xi \pi$ mass enhancement gives a χ^2 of 68.8 for 18 degrees of freedom. This implies the clear need for additional resonant activity in $\Xi^- \pi^+$.