UCRL-8994 2nd Rev.

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UCRL-8994 (2nd Rev.)
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Berkeley, California

Contract No. W-7405-eng-48

NOTE ON THE ANALYSIS OF K-MESON PRODUCTION BY $\overline{p}$ ANNIHILATION

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In a previous work on K-meson production by $\bar{p}$-annihilation, a modification of the Fermi model has been proposed by introducing an interaction volume Ω_K in addition to the customary pi-meson interaction volume Ω_π of the original model. This modified model gives a satisfactory interpretation of experimental results with Ω_π equal to eight to ten times $\Omega_0 = [4\pi(\hbar/\mu c)^3]/3$ and with $\Omega_K/\Omega_\pi \sim 0.3$, μ being the π mass. The results of analysis have been presented elsewhere.[1]

The high-momentum $\bar{p}$-annihilation data used in this work were selected from "hydrogen-like" events of a propane-bubble-chamber experiment of the Goldhaber group at Berkeley.[2] Since then, some of the problems previously treated in reference 1 have also been investigated by Goldhaber <u>et al.</u>,[2] who used a different method to select experimental data.[3] A comparison of their results with those discussed in reference 1 indicates no significant discrepancy within statistical and experimental errors. As regards their momentum spectra of the K-meson and the associated pi meson, there seems to be a noticeable smearing, which may reflect the effect due to the Fermi momentum and the nuclear scattering of the carbon events. Consequently a comparison of these results with the spectrum predicted by the statistical model is probably subject to more uncertainties than one using only the "hydrogen-like" events.

*This work was done under the auspices of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

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In this note we present another analysis of K-meson production by $\overline{p}$ annihilation according to the isobar model.[4] Since the average number of the pi mesons associated with K mesons exceeds two, it is interesting to investigate if two of these π mesons are produced in a resonant state corresponding to J = 1 and I = 1. Let $\overline{\pi\pi}$ designate this resonant state. Then for reactions involving two or more associated pi mesons, we have to consider the following processes:

$$\overline{p} + p \longrightarrow K + \overline{K} + \underbrace{\overline{\pi\pi}}_{\to 2\pi} + (n - 2)\, \pi .$$

We have investigated two cases for assumed isobar masses $\overline{\pi\pi} = 3\,\mu$ and $4\,\mu$ and have computed the K-meson momentum spectrum in the $\overline{p}$-p c.m. system according to the covariant phase-space factor for a total energy equal to $15.15\ \mu$.[5]

Figure 1 (a) shows the results for $\overline{\pi\pi} = 3\,\mu$. Each of these spectra has been normalized to the same area. For comparison, we have reproduced in Fig. 1 (b) the K-meson momentum spectra of reference 1 computed according to the Fermi model with no isobar state. Figure 2 shows a histogram representing the experimental data and the resultant K-meson momentum spectrum. To deduce this spectrum from the isobar model we combine the normalized spectra of the isobar model according to the percentages of the above reactions for n = 2, 3, and 4 as estimated from the experimental data on the multiplicity distribution of the associated pi meson [cf. reference (1)] and add the appropriate contribution from the case of one single associated pi meson computed from the simple statistical model (curve $K\overline{K}\pi$ of Fig. 1 (b)).

Because of meager statistics, the difference between the two fits with $\pi\pi = 3\ \mu$ and 4μ is not significant, nor do these fits differ appreciably from that derived from the ordinary statistical model. Nonetheless, if we compare the K production by $\bar{p}$ annihilation at 480 Mev of the experiment described by Goldhaber et al.[2] with that at rest, we should expect an increase by a factor of more than 4 if we assume an isobar mass $\pi\pi = 3\ \mu$. This seems inconsistent with the present experimental ratio, which is about 2. The disagreement is even worse if we consider the case of $\pi\pi = 4\ \mu$.

Consequently, the assumption of an isobar model of two resonant pi mesons of mass $\pi\pi \geq 3\mu$ seems to be ruled out. However, if the isobar mass turns out to be not much greater than two pion masses, then the results of this model will not differ appreciably from those of the Fermi model. In this case, the difficulty of too large an interaction volume Ω_π encountered in the Fermi model can be solved by the isobar model.

The author is grateful to Dr. E. J. Lofgren for the hospitality at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory and to Drs. G. Goldhaber, S. Goldhaber, and W. M. Powell for the opportunity to work with their experimental facilities.

FOOTNOTES

1. T. F. Hoang, W. B. Fowler, and W. M. Powell, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory Report UCRL-8994, January 1960.
2. S. Goldhaber, G. Goldhaber, W. M. Powell, and R. Silberberg, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory Report UCRL-9319, August 1960; Phys. Rev., in press.
3. At this point we would like to note that the scanning procedure used in reference 1 is slightly different, namely the fiducial volume for scanning was set 10 cm ahead of that used in reference 2. Consequently about 20% of events were not included in reference 2, and the average $\bar{p}$ momentum was ~15 Mev/c higher than the value quoted in other works of the same experiment. As regards our charged K mesons, 10% of our $K^{\pm}$ do not end inside the chamber; they are identified as such by curvature and gap counting (compared to some well-identified track of the same event).
4. The author is indebted to Prof. G. Chew for suggesting this problem and drawing his attention to the paper by F. Cerrulus in Nuovo cimento **14**, 827 (1959).
5. For details of calculation, refer to the report: T. F. Hoang and Jonatham Young, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory Report UCRL-9050, January 1960.

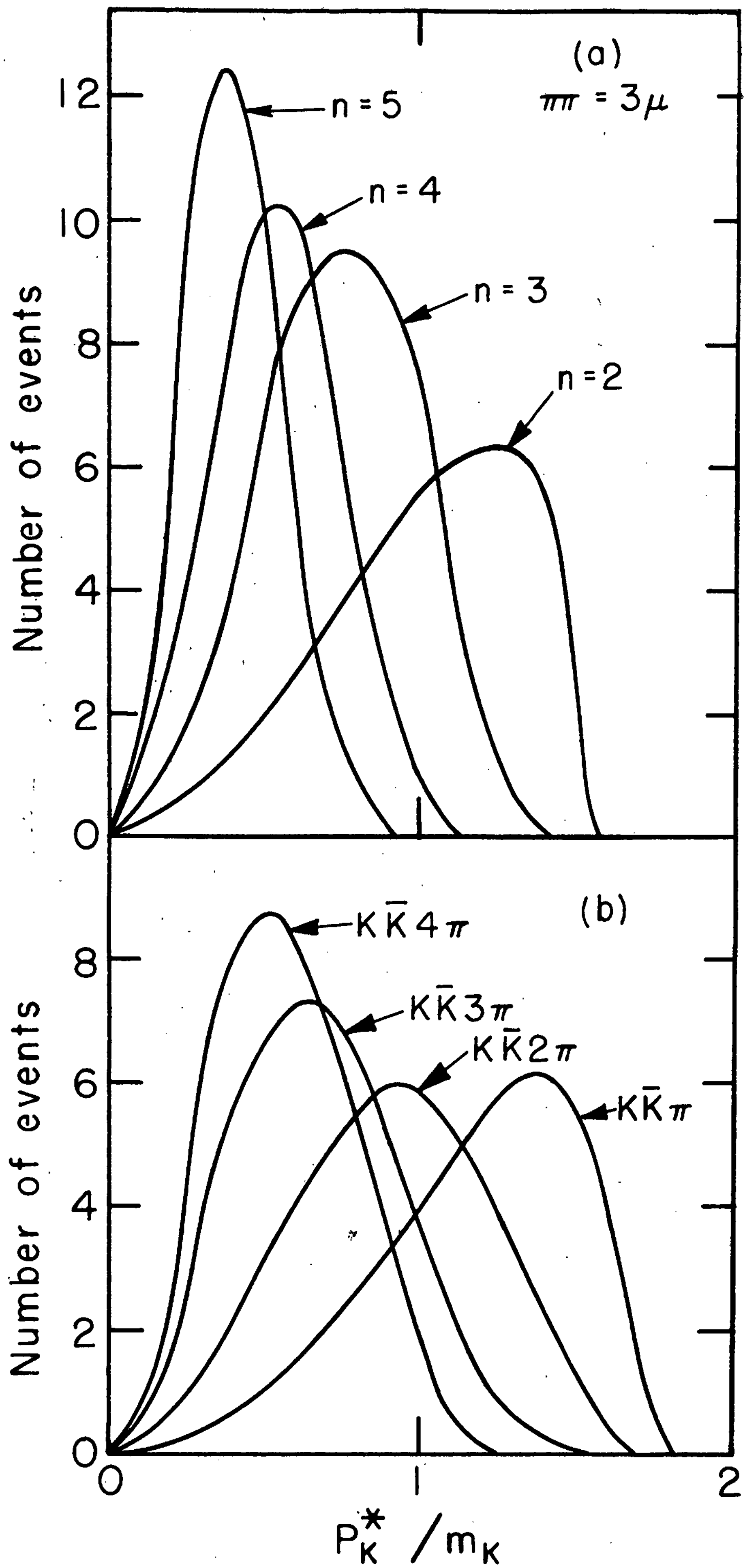
LEGENDS

Fig. 1. Momentum spectrum for K mesons in the $\bar{p}$-p c.m. system. The curves represent spectra computed according to the covariant phase-space factor and are normalized to the same area. (a) Curves for the Fermi model corresponding to the reaction $\bar{p} + p \longrightarrow K + \bar{K} + n\,\pi$. (b) Curves for the isobar model corresponding to the reactions

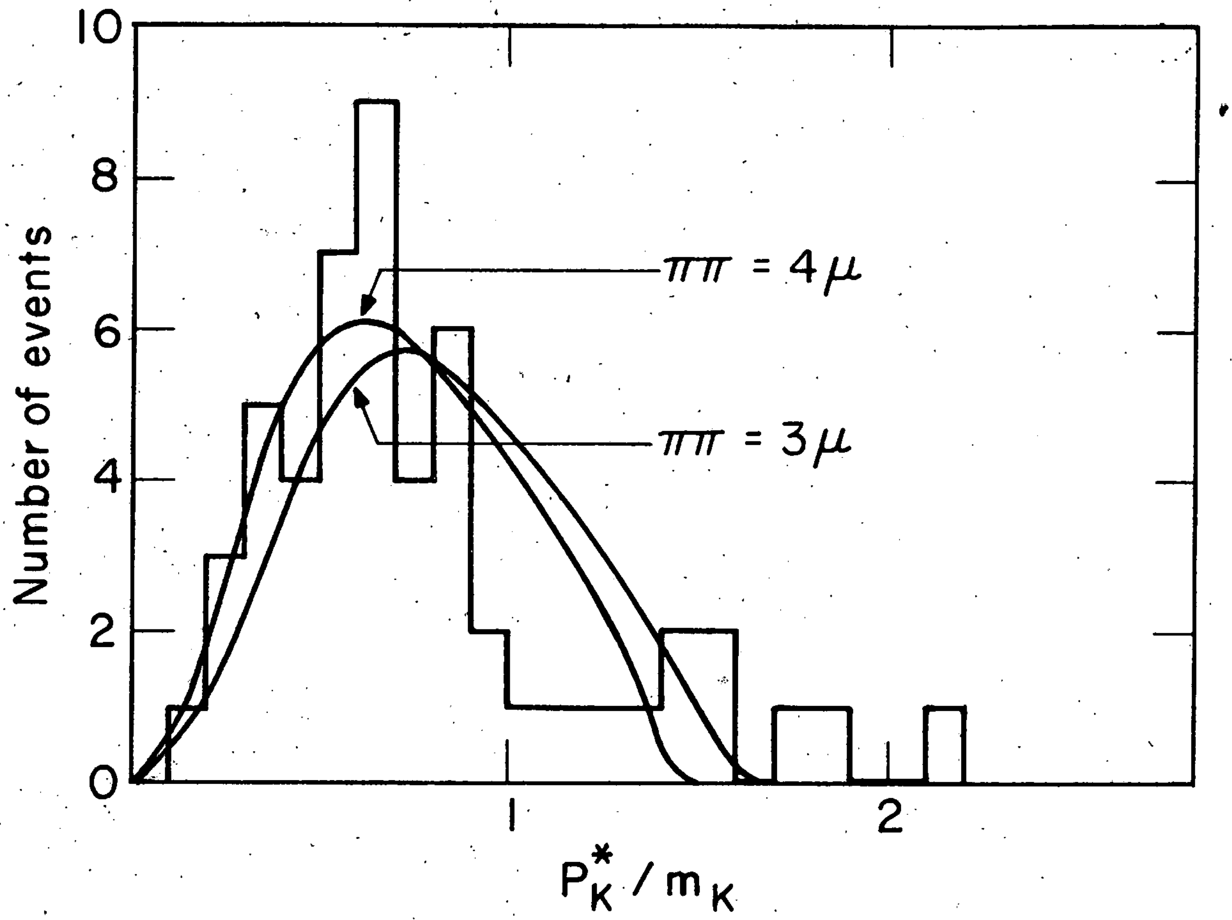
$\bar{p} + p \longrightarrow K + \bar{K} + \pi\pi + (n - 2)\,\pi$ with $n \geq 2$ and $\pi\pi = 3\,\mu$.

2 π

Fig. 2. Comparison of the observed K-meson momentum spectrum with theory. The histogram shows the observed K-meson momentum spectrum. The solid curves are those calculated from the isobar model assuming a mass of the π-π isobar equal to $3\,\mu$ and 4μ.


(a)
$\pi\pi = 3\mu$
n = 5
n = 4
n = 3
n = 2
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Number of events
(b)
$K\bar{K}4\pi$
$K\bar{K}3\pi$
$K\bar{K}2\pi$
$K\bar{K}\pi$
8
6
4
2
0
Number of events
0
1
2
P_K^* / m_K

585?8-1



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