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Forward pion-nucleon charge exchange reaction and Regge constraints^{*}

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Abstract We present our recent study of pion-nucleon charge exchange amplitudes above 2 GeV. We analyze the forward pion-nucleon charge exchange reaction data in a Regge model and compare the resulting amplitudes with those from the Karlsruhe-Helsinki and George-Washington-University partial-wave analyses. We explore possible high-energy constraints for theoretical baryon resonance analyses in the energy region above 2 GeV. Our results show that for the pion-nucleon charge exchange reaction, the appropriate energy region for matching meson-nucleon dynamics to diffractive scattering should be around 3 GeV for the helicity flip amplitude.

Key words pion-nucleon interaction, Regge model

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1 Introduction

The study of baryon resonances is always an interesting topic, and recently there is intense experimental activity to study baryon resonances in the energy range up to 2.4 GeV^[1–4]. Theoretically, the study of baryon resonances in the high energy range requires an extension of the present theoretical meson-baryon dynamical coupled-channel models from low energy range to energies above 2 GeV. In principle, partial wave amplitudes would provide the most helpful tool for such a challenging task of extension. But, there are limitations at large energies, i.e. partial wave analyses may suffer from convergence problems. For example, in the energy range from 2 GeV to 3.5 GeV, the number of partial waves employed in the KH80 analysis rises, as partial waves up to angular momentum $j = 37/2$ are necessary. Naturally, it is difficult to determine such a large number of parameters from the available data.

For very high energies the angular distributions of two-body reactions are dominated by forward scattering. Here an economic description of the t -dependence of the cross sections in forward direction as well as of their energy dependence is given by Regge phenomenology^[5], using Regge trajectories as basic degrees of freedom. Therefore, the question arises in how far the amplitudes deduced from such approaches can serve as a guideline for the envisaged extension to higher energies.

In this talk, we report on a recent study of pion-nucleon charge exchange amplitudes above 2 GeV^[6]. We survey the available information on the πN scattering amplitudes from 2 GeV up to energies where the reaction can be quantitatively described within Regge phenomenology. Specifically, we consider the amplitudes that result from the partial wave analyses of the GWU group (which reaches up to 2.5 GeV) and the KH80 solution (which covers energies up to 3.49 GeV) and predictions of Regge models, fitted to

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high energy πN data.

In section 2, we briefly introduce the employed Regge model. The angular distributions and polarizations obtained are shown in section 3 for some selected energies, followed by a discussion of the energy and momentum dependence of the differential cross sections. The resulting amplitudes are presented and discussed in section 4. Conclusions are drawn in section 5.

2 Formalism

The helicity spin non-flip amplitude \mathcal{M}_ρ^{++} and spin-flip amplitude \mathcal{M}_ρ^{+-} due to the ρ -pole exchange contribution to the $\pi^- p \rightarrow \pi^0 n$ reaction are parametrized as

$$\mathcal{M}_\rho^{++} = \beta_\rho^{++} \frac{\pi G_\rho(s, t)}{\Gamma[\alpha_\rho(t)]}, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\rho^{+-} = \sqrt{-t} \beta_\rho^{+-} \frac{\pi G_\rho(s, t)}{\Gamma[\alpha_\rho(t)]}, \quad (2)$$

where β_ρ is the residue function specified later. The Regge propagator is given by

$$G_\rho(s, t) = \frac{1 + \xi_\rho \exp[-i\pi\alpha_\rho(t)]}{\sin[\pi\alpha_\rho(t)]} \left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right)^{\alpha_\rho(t)}, \quad (3)$$

with $\xi_\rho = -1$ being the signature of the ρ -trajectory. The ρ trajectory $\alpha_\rho(t)$ is taken as

$$\alpha_\rho(t) = 1 - \alpha'_\rho m_\rho^2 + \alpha'_\rho t. \quad (4)$$

The slope parameter α'_ρ is determined by a fit to the data. s in Eq. (3) is the invariant collision energy squared and $s_0 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ serves as a scale. The Γ -function cancels the poles of the Regge propagator of Eq. (3) in the scattering region.

The spin non-flip amplitude \mathcal{M}_c^{++} and spin flip amplitude \mathcal{M}_c^{+-} due to the ρ -cut exchange, which represents the initial and final state interactions, are parametrized as

$$\mathcal{M}_c^{++} = \beta_c^{++} \frac{\pi G_c(t, s)}{\Gamma[\alpha_c(t)]} \ln^{-1}(s/s_0), \quad (5)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_c^{+-} = \sqrt{-t} \beta_c^{+-} \frac{\pi G_c(t, s)}{\Gamma[\alpha_c(t)]} \ln^{-1}(s/s_0), \quad (6)$$

where the prescription of $G_c(t, s)$ is similar to that of $G_\rho(t, s)$ except that $\alpha_\rho(t)$ is replaced by $\alpha_c(t)$. Here $\alpha_c(t)$ is the ρ -cut trajectory taken as

$$\alpha_c(t) = 1 - \alpha'_\rho m_\rho^2 + \frac{\alpha'_\rho \alpha'_P}{\alpha'_\rho + \alpha'_P} t, \quad (7)$$

with $\alpha'_P = 0.1 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ being the slope of the Pomeron trajectory, which is well defined from the analysis of elastic scattering data.

The residue functions for all amplitudes are parameterized in a similar way, namely by

$$\beta(t) = \beta_0 \exp(bt), \quad (8)$$

where the coupling constant β_0 and the slope b in the exponential formfactor are determined by a fit to the data.

The total helicity spin non-flip amplitude \mathcal{M}^{++} and spin-flip amplitude \mathcal{M}^{+-} are given by the sum of the above amplitudes, i.e.

$$\mathcal{M}^{++} = \mathcal{M}_\rho^{++} + \mathcal{M}_c^{++}, \quad (9)$$

$$\mathcal{M}^{+-} = \mathcal{M}_\rho^{+-} + \mathcal{M}_c^{+-}. \quad (10)$$

The differential cross section is given by

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{|\mathcal{M}^{++}|^2 + |\mathcal{M}^{+-}|^2}{s q^2}, \quad (11)$$

and the polarization by

$$P = \frac{2 \text{Im}[\mathcal{M}^{++} \mathcal{M}^{+-*}]}{|\mathcal{M}^{++}|^2 + |\mathcal{M}^{+-}|^2}. \quad (12)$$

The difference of the $\pi^- p$ and $\pi^+ p$ total cross sections is

$$\Delta\sigma \equiv \sigma_{\pi^- p} - \sigma_{\pi^+ p} = -\frac{4\sqrt{2\pi}}{q\sqrt{s}} \text{Im}\mathcal{M}^{++}(t=0). \quad (13)$$

The parameters are listed in Table 1. Those parameters have been determined by fitting the data on $\pi^- p \rightarrow \pi^0 n$ angular distributions and polarizations for pion beam momenta above 4 GeV ($\sqrt{s} \geq 3 \text{ GeV}$) and for four-momentum transfer squared $|t| \leq 2 \text{ GeV}^2$.

Table 1. Parameters of the amplitudes.

Parameter	ρ	ρ -cut
$\beta_0^{++}/[\mu\text{b}^{1/2} \cdot \text{GeV}]$	-23.8 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.3
b^{++}/GeV^{-2}	2.5 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.4
$\beta_0^{+-}/\mu\text{b}^{1/2}$	151.3 ± 1.1	-113.7 ± 2.2
b^{+-}/GeV^{-2}	1.7 ± 0.1	4.3 ± 0.3
$\alpha'_\rho/\text{GeV}^{-2}$	0.81 ± 0.01	

3 Cross sections and polarization

The differential cross sections and polarizations obtained from our Regge-cut model are shown in Figs. 1 and 2 for a few selected energies. A more systematic comparison with data will be presented elsewhere^[7]. In Figs. 1 and 2, the solid lines represent the results from our Regge-cut model. The data for the differential cross sections are taken from Refs. [8–14], and the data for the polarization are taken from Refs. [15–19].

From Fig. 1 one sees that our Regge-cut model reproduces the data on differential cross section reasonably well. In the Regge-cut model, the contribution

of the rho-pole dominates both the helicity non-flip and the helicity flip amplitudes. The rho-cut amplitudes are a correction which are mainly required to fill the dip near $-t = 0.6 \text{ GeV}^2$. One observes a maximum of the angular distribution near $-t = 0.03 \text{ GeV}^2$ which allows to disentangle the helicity flip and non-flip amplitudes.

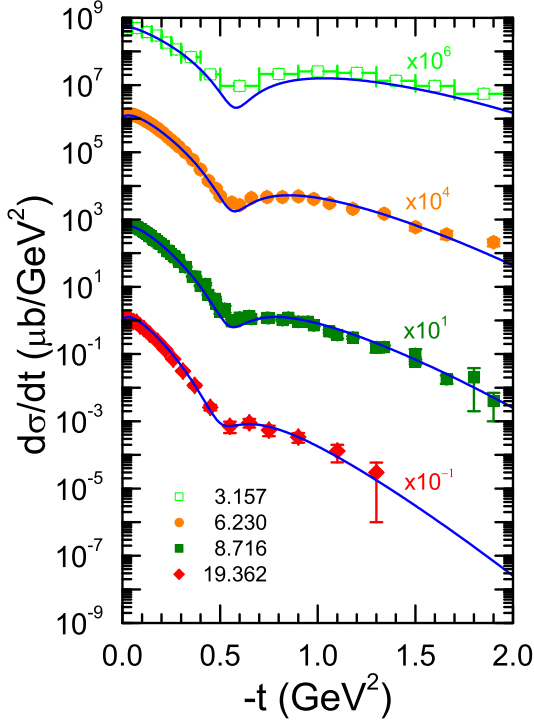


Fig. 1. Differential cross sections for the reaction $\pi^-p \rightarrow \pi^0n$ as a function of the four-momentum transfer squared for different collision energies indicated in the legend.

As is well known, the pure Regge-pole model predicts zero polarization since there is no relative phase between the spin flip and spin non-flip amplitudes (see Eqs. (1) and (2)). With the rho-cut amplitudes included in our Regge model, we get results for the polarization very close to the data (see Fig. 2). Here the maximum of the polarization which occurs close to $-t = 0.6 \text{ GeV}^2$, is correlated with the first minimum of the angular distributions, as expected from Eq. (12). One notes that the experimental data have large uncertainties, and different sets even conflict. To get a better theoretical description of the $\pi^-p \rightarrow \pi^0n$ reaction, more precise polarization data are needed.

The helicity flip and non-flip cross sections are observables which, in principle, could be measured directly. The differential cross section for $t = 0$ is entirely determined by the helicity non-flip transition, which opens the possibility to separate the two

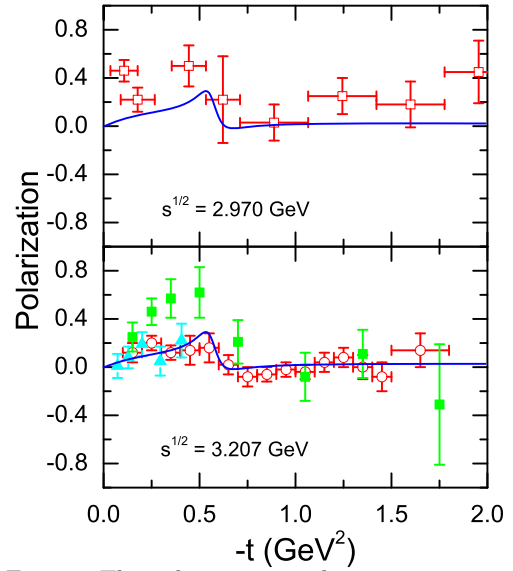


Fig. 2. The polarization in the reaction $\pi^-p \rightarrow \pi^0n$ as a function of four-momentum transfer squared for different collision energies indicated in the legends.

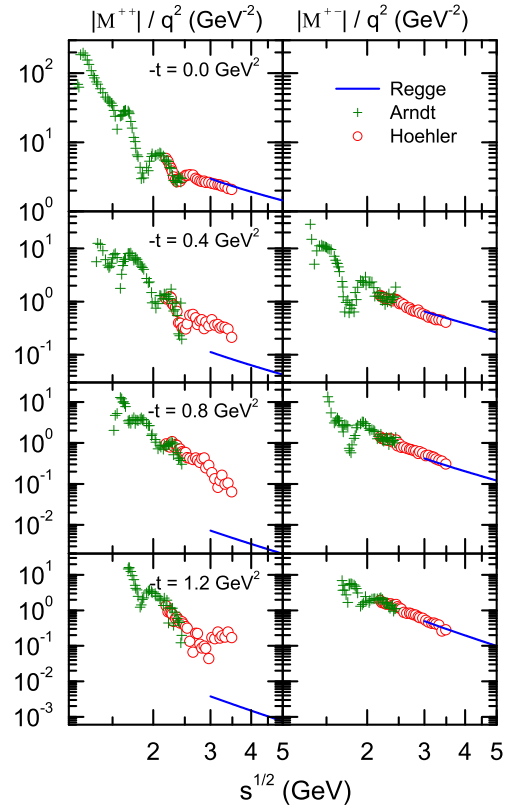


Fig. 3. Moduli of the spin non-flip and spin-flip amplitudes for the reaction $\pi^-p \rightarrow \pi^0n$ divided by the center-of-mass momentum squared at fixed t as a function of the collision energy \sqrt{s} . The solid lines represent the results from our Regge model. The “+” symbols and the open circles represent the results of the partial wave analysis from the GWU group and the Karlsruhe-Helsinki group, respectively.

contributions to the cross section within the Regge model by studying the t -dependence of the cross sections. In Fig. 3, we show the energy dependence of the moduli of the helicity flip and non-flip amplitudes. Here we also include results based on two πN phase shift analyses, namely the ones by the GWU^[20] and the Karlsruhe-Helsinki^[21] groups. The results for the GWU analysis are those of their current solution taken from the SAID Program^[22]. With regard to Karlsruhe-Helsinki we use the preliminary updated solution KH80 as tabulated in Table 2.2.2.2 of Ref. [21].

For the helicity flip amplitude, one sees that the KH80 analysis joins the Regge fits smoothly. For the helicity non-flip amplitude, the moduli match at $t = 0$, as expected, but at larger four-momentum transfers, the Regge-cut model produces an amplitude which is much smaller than the KH80 result. The helicity non-flip amplitudes of the KH80 analysis show large fluctuations above 2.5 GeV for all values $-t \geq 0.8 \text{ GeV}^2$. One should note that the helicity non-flip amplitude is fairly small above $\sqrt{s} \approx 2.5 \text{ GeV}$, which makes its determination difficult. Direct measurements of polarization and spin rotation parameters for forward angles would help.

4 Amplitudes

In Figs. 4 and 5 we present a systematic comparison of the energy dependence of the amplitudes from our Regge model and those from partial wave analyses by the GWU^[20] and the Karlsruhe-Helsinki^[21] groups.

Let us first discuss the real and imaginary parts of the helicity flip amplitudes which are shown in Fig. 4. For energies from around $\sqrt{s} \approx 2.3 \text{ GeV}$ onwards the GWU analysis and the KH80 analysis start to deviate from each other. For energies above $\sqrt{s} \approx 3 \text{ GeV}$ the imaginary parts of the amplitudes from KH80 are close to those from our Regge model for practically all t -values considered. The real parts of the helicity flip amplitude generated by our Regge fit are not in line with the KH80 results. The largest difference occurs around $-t \approx 0.8 \text{ GeV}^2$.

The amplitudes for the helicity non-flip amplitudes are shown in Fig. 5. Also here one observes a deviation of the GWU amplitudes from the KH80 result from around 2.3 GeV onwards. For $t = 0$, the KH80 analysis and our Regge model are in reasonable agreement for energies above $\sqrt{s} \approx 2.5 \text{ GeV}$. Note that $\text{Im} M^{++}(t = 0)$ is proportional to the difference of the $\pi^- p$ and $\pi^+ p$ cross section (see Eq. (13)) and,

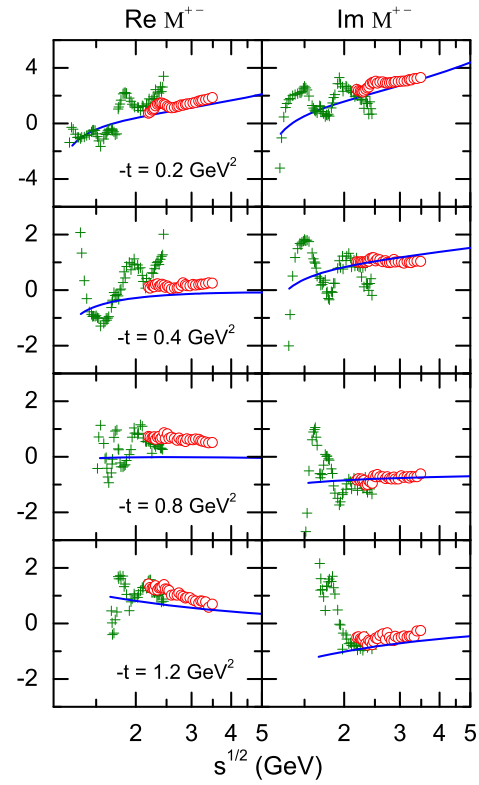


Fig. 4. Helicity flip amplitudes for the reaction $\pi^- p \rightarrow \pi^0 n$ at fixed t as a function of the collision energy \sqrt{s} . Same description of curves as in Fig. 3.

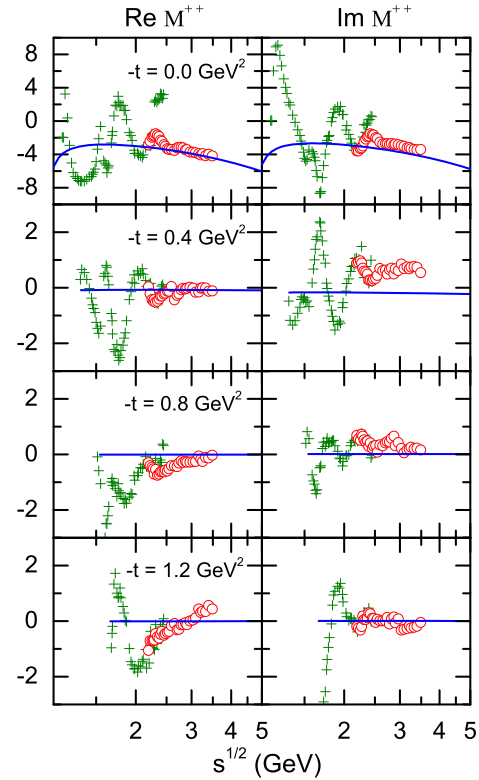


Fig. 5. Helicity non-flip amplitudes for the reaction $\pi^- p \rightarrow \pi^0 n$ at fixed t as a function of the collision energy \sqrt{s} . Same description of curves as in Fig. 3.

therefore, an empirically accessible quantity. For $-t \geq 0.8 \text{ GeV}^2$, the result for $\text{Im}M^{++}$ from our Regge-cut model approaches zero as suggested by the Karlsruhe Helsinki analysis. Surprisingly, the real part of M^{++} of the KH80 analysis exhibits a significant energy dependence for fairly large values of $|t|$ which is not reproduced by the Regge-cut model.

5 Conclusions

We have presented a Regge-cut model which reproduces the differential cross sections down to energies $\sqrt{s} \approx 3 \text{ GeV}$ and for four-momentum transfer squared $-t < 2 \text{ GeV}^2$. We then compared the resulting amplitudes with those determined in the

Karlsruhe-Helsinki (KH80) partial wave analysis. It turned out that the magnitudes of the helicity non-flip amplitudes are not well constrained, while the magnitudes of the helicity flip amplitudes derived from the Regge-cut model join the corresponding quantities obtained in the KH80 partial wave analysis smoothly in the vicinity of $\sqrt{s} = 3 \text{ GeV}$. We conclude that the appropriate energy region for matching meson-nucleon dynamics to diffractive scattering could be around approximately 3 GeV for the helicity flip amplitude of the πN charge-exchange reaction.

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