SEARCH FOR EXOTICS AND CHARM AT THE CERN CHEGA SPECTROMETER

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1. Introduction

This paper reports some recent interesting results obtained with the CERN R-spectrometer, concerning both traditional and "new" means spectroscopy. The experimental programme carried out at CERN with the R-spectrometer is schematically shown in Table 1. Operations at R started in June 1973 and ended on July 2, 1975, somewhat later than scheduled. In fact, shortly before the West Hall was due to shut down (for the construction of the SPS tunnel), an exciting possibility to look for charmed particles was offered to CERN physicists.

During these three years of operation the Ω -spectrometer was given ~ 250 days running time, and about 20 different experiments were performed using the several trigger facilities available. About 5 X 10^7 events have been recorded, needing something like 500C hours of CPU on a CDC-7600 for the first reduction, i.e. to obtain gaometric quantities like momenta and angles of the tracks, and some kinematic fits. It is not unlikely that the analysis of this data will take another 5000 hours, and this makes it pretty obvious why one cannot expect quick results out of this enormous amount of magnetic tapes, unless huge collaborations are set-up (18 labs and 52 names for the Charm Search experiment).

So far, no experimental result has been published. In my opinion, this is due to an underestimation of the difficulty encountered in the data reduction. Nevertheless, preliminary results have been presented at London (1974) and Falermo (1975) Conferences. These papers are reviewed hereafter, together with other recent results not mentioned in previous reviews 1).

2. The CERN Onega

The Ω -spectrometer consists essentially of a large sperture magnet with superconducting coils, yielding a field of 1.8 T over a volume of $11\,\mathrm{m}^3$ (Fig. 1). A large hole in the top pole allows TV cameras of the plumbicon type $^{2)}$ to view optical spark chambers occupying a volume of 3.2 x 1.5 x 1.2 m 3 in the central region of the magnet. A

good parametrization of such non-uniform field is possible and, especially for tracks faster than 2.5 GeV/c, the tracing need not to be done in step with the Runge-Kutta method: a fast program using a polynomial approximation for (B.dl works well 3). Anyway, the non-uniformity of the field remains a limitation for on-line momentum analysis of the particles, therefore rendering fancy triggers difficult to realise. Some of the technical characteristics of OMEGA are given in Table 2.

An unseparated beam (* 18 x and * 0.38 % of momentum up to 19 GeV/c impinges on a 30 (or 60)cm long H2 or D2 target. Beam particles are identified in three Čerenkov counters, their trajectory is measured (\pm 0.2 mrad) in four small MMPC, and their momentum can be determined to \pm 0.3%. An intensity of 7 x 105particles/burst is available, but only less than 2 x 105 has been generally used, because the number of old beam tracks recorded in the spark chambers makes the pattern-recognition efficiency drop to unacceptable values, especially for multi-pronged events.

The program used for pattern recognition and goometry reconstruction (NOMEO) has been developed at CERN for about three years and during the past year physicists were given the "last" version every month or so. Today a typical efficiency of 80% for 4-prong events and 50% for 6-prong events is considered satisfactory.

A number of different trigger facilities makes it relatively easy to setup a new experiment at R. although the complexity of the system does not allow an infinite flexibility. There is a series of four large MWPC which can be used to require a given multiplicity or to select certain momenta by a predefined correlation matrix; there is a Cerenkov counter (isobutane atmospheric pressure) which covers the forward cone and helps to separate pions from kaons and protons in the momentum band of 2.7-9.8 GeV/c; there is a smaller Corenkov counter (freen at 5 atmosphere) which allows the separation of kaons from protons in the momentum band of 5-10 GeV/c; there is an array of long scintillation counters which has been used to . identify protons, either on-line or off-line, by precise measurement of their time-of-flight; there is a neutron counter which also uses time-offlight techniques to select a given band of missing masses to the neutron. The fact that these devices are constantly available made it possible. last springtime, to set-up the "Search for charmed particles" experiment in less than six weeks.

3. Traditional Meson Spectroscopy

Some of the results presented at Palermo are summarised in the following. The trigger names given in Table 1 are used.

3.1 SN (#*12)

A study of the reaction $\tau^-p + \omega^-n$ at 12 GeV/c using the Slow Neutron Trigger was presented at Palerso (A). Fig. 3 shows a beautiful ω^- peak which this authors use to measure the differential cross section in the range $0.02 < |t| < 0.65 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$. They also produce the ω decay density matrix elements and make comparison with a Regge model. The question whether ω^- exchange has to be added to ρ and B is not answered yet.

3.2 PA (* B)

Some preliminary results on backward K $_{890}$ production in the reaction w p \rightarrow Λ^0 K* at 8 GeV/t were presented at Palarmo 51 . The data was taken using a fant Λ^0 trigger, i.e. selecting the proton coming from the Λ^0 decay. Fast pions were rejected by the Cerenkov counter placed downstream

m) Typical CERN PS operation has bursts of 400 masc every 2 mac.

after the OMEGA magnet. Fig. 4a whose the Λ^0 mass distribution and Fig.4b the Λ^0 missing mass distribution for events having one or two associated charged tracks. The total backward cross section for $\kappa^a_{~990}$, after several corrections, turns out to be (0.5 ± 0.1) µb. No results are quoted for the $\kappa^a_{~1420}$.

This experiment is able to analyze the Λ^0 polarization and indeed it is claimed that the Λ^0 is always highly polarized, except when $u^*=0.1~(GeV/c)^2$ where it is compatible with zero. Correspondingly, there is one point in the differential cross-section plot which is 4 standard deviation lower than its neighbours. We explanation whatsoever is presented.

3.3 FP (= 12)

Preliminary results on the backward reaction $\overline{y} p \rightarrow p \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \overline{y} = 12$ GeV/c were presented at Palarmo by the Fast Proton Triggor group 6). Figs. 5a and 5b show the $\pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \overline{y} = 10$ mass spectra, respectively. All well known resonances are observed, and the production mechanism will be carefully attained in a forthcosting paper.

The same experiment can study the 3x system in detail. At present, only the backward A₂ cross section has been estimated to be (0.34 : 0.18)ub, where the uncertainty also takes into account an error in the acceptance calculation.

3.4 FA (K+ 12) by-products

The Fast $\tilde{\Lambda}$ Trigger selected fast (p > 2.9 GeV/c) forward \tilde{p} without any restriction on the $\tilde{\Lambda}$ decay region, to avoid biases. Moreover, the K were also accepted because no use was made of the high pressure Čerenkov, which has a smaller acceptance. The experiment, set-up to study $\tilde{\Lambda}$ production, therefore contains some by-products.

i) Reaction K* p → ppK*p 7) is dominated by a pp threshold enhancement which is about 200 MeV/c² wide. It seems that in most cases the pp system is associated with a backward K*. Quantitative analysis is in progress.

The K^{-}_{1} mass distribution shows a peak at 1520 MeV/c² which the authors identify with a \widetilde{Y}^{0} (Fig. 6a). The production angular distribution is strongly in favour of a baryon exchange mechanism.

ii) Reaction K^{*}p + K^{*}K^{*}p ⁸ allows the K^{*}K mass spectrum to be studied in detail up to 1.8 GeV/c². Apart from a strong φ signal there is no evidence for any other K^{*}K resonant state in this mass region (Fig. 6b solid line). One cannot attribute the lack of f' to acceptance problems, Because another Ω experiment, with a very similar trigger in a similar reaction (K^{*}p + K^{*}K^{*}p) at almost the same energy (10 GeV/c instead of 12 GeV/c), does see a huge f' signal (Fig. 6b dashed line) ⁹⁾.

, 3.5 PA (K+12)

A study of $\overline{\Lambda}$ production in K^{*}p interactions at 12 GeV/c was presented at Palermo¹⁰⁾. Fig. 7a shows the $\overline{\Lambda}$ mass spectrum which allows the selection of the K^{*}p $\rightarrow \overline{\Lambda}$ + anything channel to be made. In particular the authors focus their attention on the reactions where a $\overline{\Lambda}$ is produced with a proton and a nucleon sometimes accompanied by a π^* or π^* . Adding up the different channels they can produce a total mass spectrum with a peak at 3.1 $\frac{\text{GeV/c}^2}{2\pi}$ (Fig 7b). The signal remains also after subtraction of Δ^{++} , Δ^+ and $\overline{\chi}^{-+}$ events. No interpretation is given for this effect.

4. Search for Exotic Mesons

In April 1975 an experiment was performed to search for exotic mesons 11) produced in the reaction π n + pX at 12 GeV/c, using the forward Fast Proton Trigger and the Slow Proton counter (Fig. 8). The X final state is in fact $\tilde{p}p\pi^*\pi^*$ and it is hoped to identify the \tilde{p} by comparing the on-line measured time-of-flight with the one which can be calculated by the off-line measured momentum of that track. This experiment, called FPSP (π^*142) in Table 1, should be able to reach a sensitivity of \sim (0.3-0.1) events/ $p\pi$ b in the X mass interval (2.5-2.9) GeV/c^2 .

Two other A experiments have carried out some search for exotics:

4.1 FA (K 12) exotic

In the paper already mentioned about $\overline{\Lambda}$ production 10) another puzzling effect is shown. In the reaction $\overline{K}^*p + \overline{\Lambda}p + \overline{\Lambda}p$

4.2 FA (x 12)

Using the forward Fast Λ Trigger (section 3.2) an experiment has been performed at 12 GeV/c to study the reaction $v p + \Lambda^* X^{*+}$. The results, presented at Pelermo ¹²⁾ and reported in Fig. 10, are based on the Λ^* missing-mass smooth spectra. The shaded area corresponds to events with $u^* > -0.5$ (GeV/c)², a cut which should enhance beryon exchange mechanism. The estimated upper limits for the production cross section of the reaction $v p + \Lambda^* X^{*+}$ are:

- σ (EXOTICS) < 150 mb in the range (2.5-3.0) GeV/c²
- σ (EXOTICS) < 60 mb in the range (3.0-3.5) GeV/c²

5. Search for Charm Associated Production

5.1 FK (* 16)

A short experiment was performed in November-December 1974 by the so-called Rare Decays Collaboration triggering on a forward K with some cut on its transverse momentum. A Pb wall extended the Ω from yokes so as to provide a rough identification of muons in a MNPC placed behind it. The idea is to look at K n or K we mans combinations conociated to a μ . A sensitivity of 1000 cv/ μ b has been reached for the production of charmed meson pairs having a total mass of 4.5 GV/c^2 . Analysis is in progress.

5.2 FK (* 19)

A search for the production of charmed particles in mp interactions at 19 GeV/c has been carried out and a preliminary analysis of the 4prong and 6-prong events has been presented at Palermo by the OMEGA groups 13)

The trigger required a forward K or \bar{p} with transverse momentum greater than ~ 0.5 GeV/c, to enhance the signal produced by the decay products of massive charmed particles. A total energy of 6 GeV in the π \bar{p} center of mass system was available for the production of a charmed pair of either two measons or a meson and a baryon. Some 3.2 million triggers were recorded and about 1.3 satisfy the requirements of an interaction vertex in the target volume and a forward fast K with $P_{\bar{p}} > 0.5$ GeV/c. These events have been analysed in terms of the following final states:

Fig. 11 shows one of the scatter plots which have been studied for the first of the above reactions. An accumulation of events somewhere along the diagonal would be considered as evidence for the associated production of two charmed mesons. The upper limits for the production cross section of all the considered reactions are calculated in such a way that a 2 standard deviation statistical fluctuation below this limit would produce as many events in an 80 X 80 (MeV/c²)² bin as the maximum one actually observes.

Remours have spread around Palermo about 9 events found in one bin of the (K^-p) Vs $(K^+\pi^+\pi^-\pi^-)$ scatter plot. Now, it is hard to deny that these events are there, but it is hazardous to interpret them exclusively as due to charmed meson-haryon production. They could be due to a pure statistical fluctuation (\leq 1% probability) or to traditional resonant

states with or without some interference effects. Anyway, if the events were due to an associated CD° production, the observed cross section times the branching ratios of C° + K°p and D° + K°s°s° if final state would be * 50mb. The angular distribution of these events is not different from that one which is typical of diffractive dissociation, i.e. the K°p system is slow and the K°r°s°s° system goes cusentially forward. This is hard to explain in terms of single quark diagrams, likewise for the s°p + K°z° reaction the forward K° are forbidden and actually not observed experimentally. A last piece of information concerning the masses: the 9 events all fell in the mass interval of (2.74-2.78) GeV/c² for the (K°p) and (1.78-1.82) GeV/c² for the (K°p) and (1.78-1.82) GeV/c² and 30 MeV/c², respectively.

As it is often the case, the relevance of this result is tied to the "prediction" made by theoreticians. Let us keep in mind nevertheless that there is at least 1% probability that the observed effect be due to a statistical fluctuation.

6. A Concluding Remark

The G spectrometer, after a difficult start in 1972 when one coil broke down, has worked satisfactory during 3 years. Less than 20% of the beam time allocated to G was lost for major break-downs of the apparatus. The efficiency of the experimental groups using G has been slightly worse; it can be estimated to be 50% by dividing the total number of useful triggers which have been actually recorded and the calculated ones. May be I am pessinistic, but my feeling is that using G to repeat bubble chamber experiments has not been a good investment. Let us hope that the SPS operation will be more fruitful.

I am grateful to many colleagues for illuminating discussions and in particular to P. Sonderegger for his ancouraging suggestions.

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TABLE II - CENN CHEGA SPECTROHETER

MAGHET Superconducting coils - Gap volume 6x6x1.5 m

FIELD 1.8 T - Good parametrization to a few tens of a Cause

SPARK "MAMBERS Optical - Plumbicon cameras for digitisation - 1 us memory time - Not 4, added in beam region -

Poor target surrounding

READ-OUT Plumbicon with 12-18 msec dead time

Resulution 1 cm - Zero crossing for different brightness

ACCURACY 2 0.5 mm (Staggering corrected off-line)

R*-width = 14 MeV due to bad extrapolation in target region

∆p/p ≈ 0.72

TARGET 30 or 50 cm (H2/D2)

BEAM up to 19 GeV/c unseparated (1% K, 3%, p, C identification)

Momentum measured to 0.3% (angle 0.2 sred) Intensity 7 x 105/burst, but in fact <2 x 105 usable

DATA TAKING RATE Typically 500 msec over 2.5 sec (or 400 msec over 2 sec)
15 trigger/burst saturates (~ 100mb cross section and 105c)

TRIGGER FACILITIES Terget Side Scintillation counter (avoid plate interaction)

HMPC after target (multiplicity)
Atmospheric pressure Carenkov (* from K.p 2.7 - 9.8 GeV/c)

High pressure Cerenkov (*, K from p 5-10 GeV/c)

Slow proton counter (<1 GeV/c)

TYPICAL BREAKDOWNS Compressor, Data Acquisition Computer, MAPC, Spark Boxes.

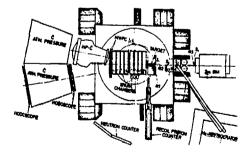


Fig. 1 - Layout of the CERN OMEGA spectrometer. See Table 2 for technical details.

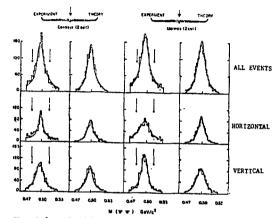
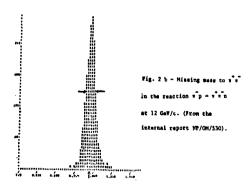
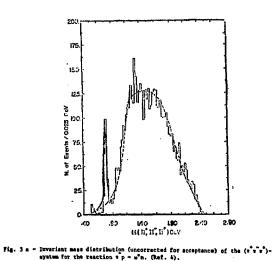


Fig. 2 a - Plots of K^a mans for different classes of events together with the corresponding calculated distributions. Full lines are Breit-Wigner functions fitted within the mass limits shown by arrows. (From the internal report MP/CM/SOI).





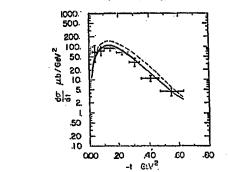
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62 E6519 EVENTS

63 E6519 EVENTS

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Fig. 4 a - Distribution of the $(p\pi)$ effective mass squared in the reaction for all V^* topologies found by the analysing program ROMEO.



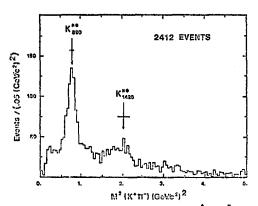
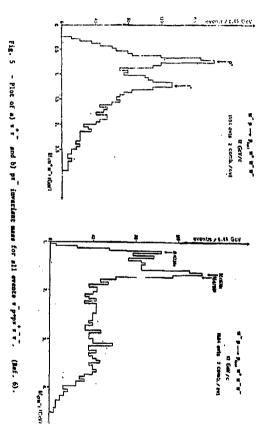


Fig. 3 b - The π p + un differential cross section normalized to 23.4 ub.

Fig. 4 b - Missing mass squared to the Λ for events with both K and π measured or with either the K or the π missing. (Ref. 5).



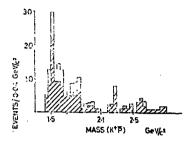


Fig. 6 a - Effective mass distribution for $K^{\bullet p}$ 4C-fit events in the reaction $K^{\bullet p} \mapsto K^{\bullet p}pp$. (Ref. 7).

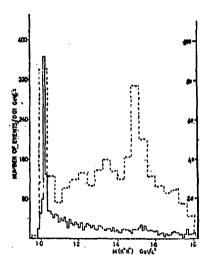


Fig. 6 b - Effective mass distribution (without acceptance correction) for K⁰K⁻ combinations in the reaction K⁰p → K⁻K⁻K⁰p, (Ref. 8). The dashed line shows the same plot for the similar reaction K⁻p → K⁻K⁻K⁰p at almost the same incident momentum (10 GeV/c instead of 12 GeV/c), (Ref. 9).

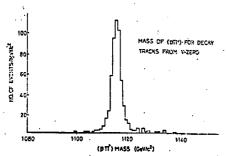


Fig. 7 a - Distribution of the $p\pi^+$ invariant mass in the reaction $K^+p \to p\pi^+$ anything for all V^+ topologies satisfying the trigger.

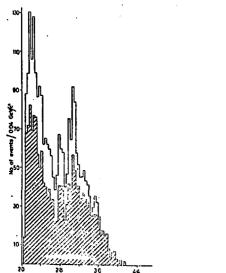
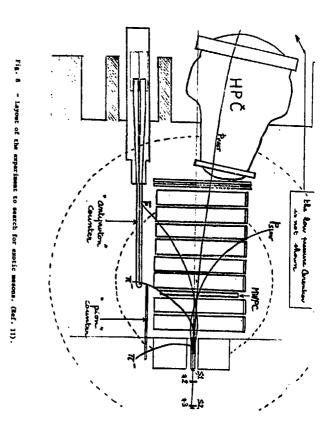


Fig. 7 b - Combined AN mass spectrum for the final states App, Appn*, Apn*. The dashed area corresponds to unweighted events. (Ref. 10).



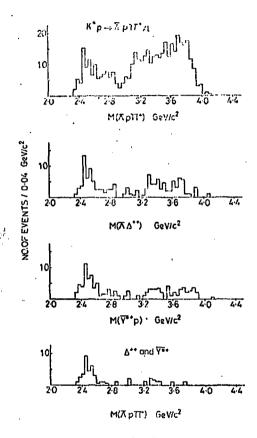


Fig. 9 - Effective mass distributions Λ̄ρπ*, Λ̄Δ*, \(\frac{\pi^*}{\pi^*}\)p in the reaction K*p-Λ̄ρπ*n. (Ref. 10). The peak at 2.5 GeV/c² for the "exotic" combination is not fully understood yet.

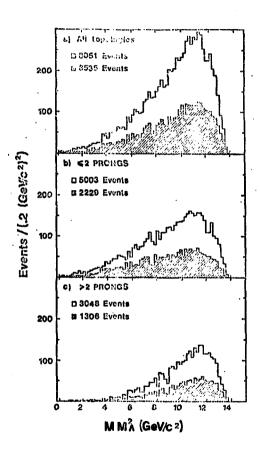


Fig. 10 - Missing mass squared to the \hbar in the reaction $\pi^+_p \to \Lambda^* \chi^{++}$. Shaded events correspond to $u^* > -0.5$ (GeV/c²)². (Ref. 12).

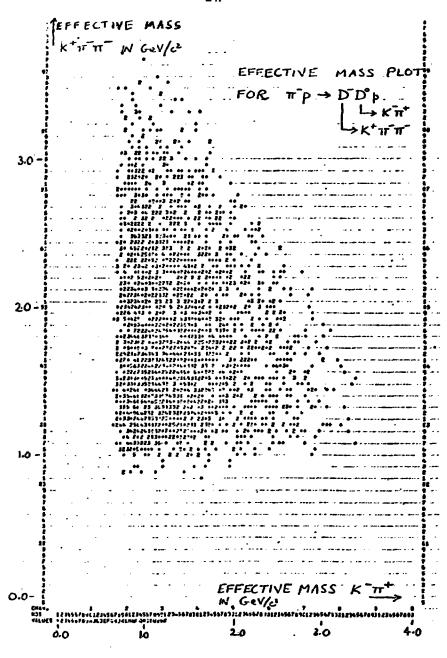


Fig. 11 - Scatter plot of the effective mass K π π versus K π for the reaction π p + (K π π) + (K π π) + p at 19 GeV/c. (Ref. 13). The associated production of two charmed mesons should appear as an accumulation of points along the diagonal.