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EXCITED HYPERONS PRODUCED IN PROTON-PROTON COLLISIONS WITH ANKE AT COSY

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Excited neutral hyperons Y^{0*} produced in the $pp \rightarrow pK^+Y^{0*}$ reaction with a COSY beam momentum of 3.65 MeV/c have masses below 1540 MeV/c². The ANKE spectrometer allows the simultaneous observation of different decay modes: $Y^{0*} \rightarrow \pi^0\Sigma^0, \pi^\mp\Sigma^\pm, \pi^0\Lambda, K^-p$ by measuring kaons and pions of either charge in coincidence with protons.

We have found indications for a neutral excited hyperon resonance Y^{0*} with a mass of $M(Y^{0*}) = (1480 \pm 15)$ MeV/c² and a width of $\Gamma(Y^{0*}) = (60 \pm 15)$ MeV/c². The cross section for Y^{0*} is of the order of few hundred nanobarns. It can be either a Σ^0 or a Λ hyperon and on the basis of existing data no conclusion could be made whether it is a three-quark baryon or an exotic state.

Missing- and invariant-mass techniques have been used to identify the $\Lambda(1405)$ resonance decaying via $\Sigma^0\pi^0$. The cross section for $\Lambda(1405)$ production is equal to $(4.5 \pm 0.9_{\text{stat}} \pm 1.8_{\text{syst}})$ μb . The shape and position of the $\Lambda(1405)$ distribution are similar to those found from other decay modes, so no support is given to the two-pole model.

1. Introduction

The production and properties of hyperons have been studied for more than 50 years, mostly in pion and kaon induced reactions. Hyperon production in pp collisions has been investigated close to threshold at SATURNE (Saclay, France) and COSY-Jülich. Reasonably complete information on $\Lambda(1116)$, $\Sigma^0(1192)$, $\Sigma^0(1385)$, $\Lambda(1405)$ and $\Lambda(1520)$ can be found in the Review of Particle Physics.¹

For the $\Lambda(1405)$, in spite of rather high statistics achieved (the total world statistics is several thousand events), there are still open questions concerning the nature of this resonance: is it a singlet qqq state in the frame of SU(3) or a quark-gluon ($uds-q$) hybrid, or a KN bound state?^{2–10}

On the contrary, the $\Sigma(1480)$ hyperon is not well established yet and it is described as a 'bump' with unknown quantum numbers.¹ The Crystal Ball experiment has not seen any indications for the resonance $\Sigma(1480)$ in the $\pi^0\Lambda$ invariant mass distribution measured in the reaction $K^-p \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0\Lambda$, dominated by the $\Sigma(1385)$.¹¹

The program to investigate hyperon production from pp interactions at low energies is very well suited for the ANKE spectrometer operated at COSY-Jülich.

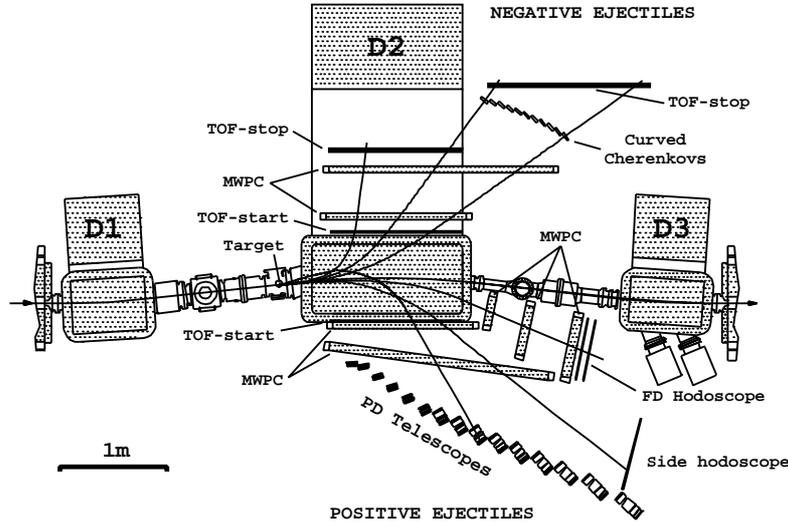


Fig. 2. ANKE spectrometer and detectors.

for kaon identification via detection of delayed signals in a so-called veto counter (with respect to prompt signals from *e.g.* a π^+ produced in the target passing over all counters of a telescope). By measuring such delayed signals from the decay of stopped kaons, positively charged kaons can be identified at ANKE in a background of pions, protons and scattered particles up to 10^6 times more intense.¹⁵ The use of veto counters causes a decrease of particle identification efficiency, typically by factor of 6. The tracks of the ejectiles, measured with multi-wire proportional chambers (MWPCs), are used to reconstruct momenta of any registered particle.

Data originally taken for scalar meson¹⁶ and ϕ ¹⁷ production have been used to study the production of low-lying hyperon resonances in pp collisions with ANKE@COSY. Experiments have been performed in 2002 and 2005, respectively.

In Table 2 details of the experimental conditions are given.

Table 1. Experimental details.

	4 weeks in 2002 for $Y^{0*}(1480)$	4 weeks in 2005 for $\Lambda(1405)$
integrated luminosity	6 pb ⁻¹	70 pb ⁻¹
coincidences	3 particles (p, K ⁺ , π^+ or π^-)	4 particles (p, p, K ⁺ , π^+)
K ⁺ / π^+ momentum		0.2 - 0.9 GeV/c
p momentum		> 0.75 GeV/c
π^- momentum	0.4 - 1.0 GeV/c	0.2 - 1.0 GeV/c
delayed veto for K ⁺	yes	no
detection efficiency	7%	55%
mass resolution	~ 10 MeV/c ²	~ 20 MeV/c ²

3. Excited neutral hyperon $Y^{0*}(1480)$

Final states comprising a proton, a positively charged kaon, a pion of either charge and an unidentified residue X were investigated in the reaction $pp \rightarrow pK^+Y \rightarrow pK^+\pi^\pm X^\mp$ at the beam momentum of 3.65 GeV/c. Kaons are identified by measuring delayed signals from the their decay, which, together with well-defined pions and protons, are used to determine the mass of X.

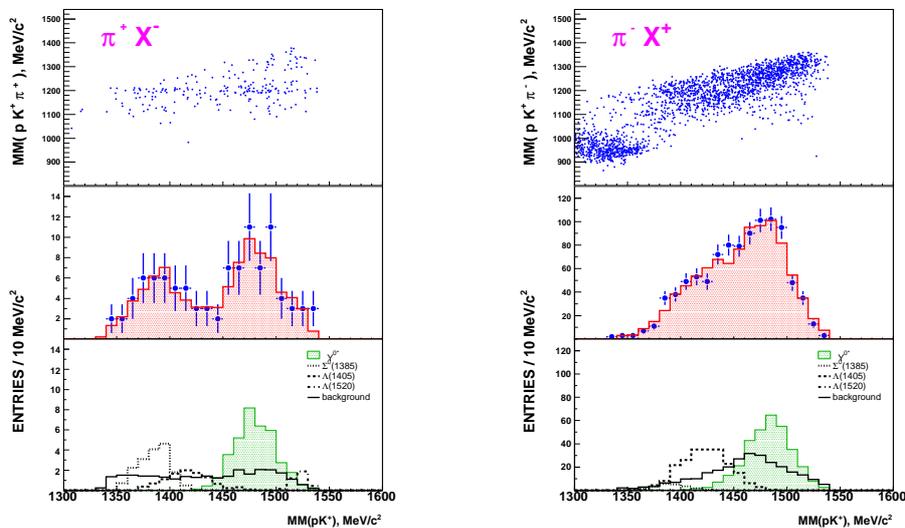


Fig. 3. Missing-mass $MM(pK^+)$ spectra for the reaction $pp \rightarrow pK^+\pi^+X^-$ (left) and $pp \rightarrow pK^+\pi^-X^+$ (right). Upper parts: $MM(pK^+)$ versus $MM(pK^+\pi)$ for π^+ (right) and π^- (left). Middle parts: Comparison of experimental (points) and simulated (shaded histograms) distributions. Lower parts: Non-resonant and resonant contributions to the overall simulated histograms.

In the upper part of Fig. 3 the missing mass distributions $MM(pK^+\pi)$ versus $MM(pK^+)$ are shown for the reactions $pp \rightarrow pK^+\pi^+X^-$ (left) and $pp \rightarrow pK^+\pi^-X^+$ (right). Since the probability for detecting three-particle coincidences ($pK^+\pi^+$) is about an order of magnitude smaller than for ($pK^+\pi^-$), the resulting numbers of events are also drastically different. In the distribution for the reaction $pp \rightarrow pK^+\pi^+X^-$ (left) an enhancement corresponding to $X^- = \Sigma^-(1197)$, is observed on a low background. In the charge-mirrored $pp \rightarrow pK^+\pi^-X^+$ case (right), the π^- may originate from different sources, *e.g.* a decay with the $\Sigma^+(1189)$ or a secondary decay of $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$, arising from the major background reaction $pp \rightarrow pK^+\Lambda \rightarrow pK^+\pi^-p$. Protons from this reaction are easily rejected by cutting the missing mass $MM(pK^+\pi^-)$ around the proton mass.

If only events around the Σ mass are selected, then the missing mass spectrum $MM(pK^+)$ in the reaction $pp \rightarrow pK^+\pi^+X^-$ shows two peaks, see in the middle-left part in Fig. 3. One of them corresponds to the contribution of $\Sigma^0(1385)$ and $\Lambda(1405)$ hyperons. The second peak is located at a mass ~ 1480 MeV/ c^2 . In the π^-X^+ case, the distribution also peaks at 1480 MeV/ c^2 , see the right-middle part in Fig. 3.

We have assumed that the measured missing mass $MM(pK^+)$ spectra can be explained by the production of hyperon resonances and non-resonant contributions. Detailed Monte Carlo simulations have been performed including the production of well established excited hyperons ($\Sigma^0(1385)$, $\Lambda(1405)$, $\Lambda(1520)$) and non-resonant contributions like $pp \rightarrow NK^+\pi X$ and $pp \rightarrow NK^+\pi\pi X$; X denotes any hyperon which could be produced in the experiment. For both final states the shape of the measured distributions cannot be reproduced by the simulations and an excess of events is observed around the missing mass of 1480 MeV/ c^2 . Thus, an excited hyperon Y^{0*} decaying via $\pi^\pm X^\mp$ was included into simulations. The best fit to the experimental data was obtained for the Y^{0*} with a mass $M(Y^{0*}) = (1480 \pm 15)$ MeV/ c^2 and a width $\Gamma(Y^{0*}) = (60 \pm 15)$ MeV/ c^2 , see lower parts in Fig. 3. There have been identified 100 and 1000 events for π^+X^- and π^-X^+ case, respectively. The statistical significance of the signal, assuming that this is due to the production of the Y^{0*} , is between 4 and 6 σ depending on a procedure. The production cross section is of the order of few hundred nanobarns.¹⁸

4. The $\Lambda(1405)$ hyperon

The $pp \rightarrow pK^+p\pi^-X^0$ reaction is selected by a multiparticle final state, containing two protons, a positively charged kaon, a negatively charged pion and an unidentified residue X^0 . In the $\Sigma^0(1385) \rightarrow \Lambda\pi^0$ decay the X^0 residue is a π^0 while, for the $\Lambda(1405) \rightarrow \Sigma^0\pi^0$ decay, $X^0 = \pi^0\gamma$ (see Fig. 1). In the upper part of Fig. 4 a distribution of $MM(p_{Fd}K^+)$ versus $MM(pK^+\pi^-p)$ is plotted for events with the invariant mass $M(p_{Sd}\pi^-)$ of the $p_{Sd}\pi^-$ pairs corresponding to the mass of the Λ , *i.e.* between 1112 and 1120 MeV/ c^2 . The two horizontal bands show the four-particle missing-mass $MM(pK^+\pi^-p)$ criteria used to separate the $\Sigma^0(1385)$ candidates from those of the $\Lambda(1405)$. The lower band is optimised to identify a π^0 whereas the upper one selects masses significantly greater than $m(\pi^0)$.

In order to extract the $\Lambda(1405)$ distribution from the measured $\Sigma^0\pi^0$ decay, the non-resonant contributions have been fitted to the experimental data. After subtracting them from the data, the distribution shown as experimental points in the lower panel of Fig. 4 was obtained. 156 events have been identified in this spectrum.¹⁹

The $(\Sigma\pi)^0$ invariant-mass distributions have been previously studied in two hydrogen bubble chamber experiments. Thomas *et al.* found ~ 400 $\Sigma^+\pi^-$ or $\Sigma^-\pi^+$ events corresponding to the $\pi^-p \rightarrow K^0\Lambda(1405) \rightarrow K^0(\Sigma\pi)^0$ reaction at a beam momentum of 1.69 GeV/ c .²⁰ Hemingway used a 4.2 GeV/ c kaon beam to investi-

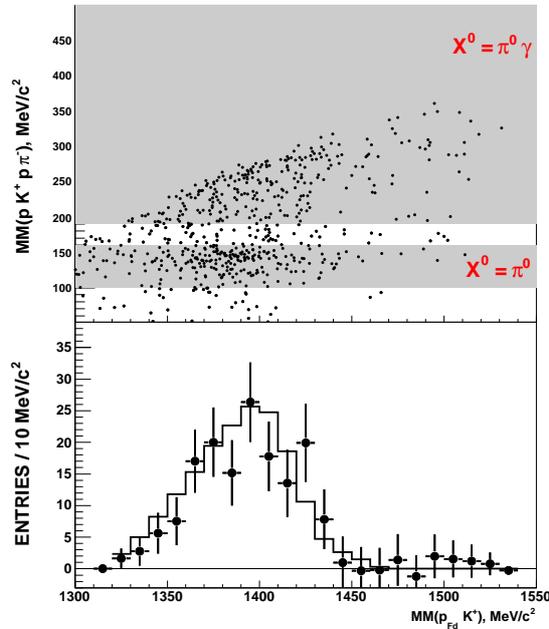


Fig. 4. Upper panel: Missing mass $MM(pK^+\pi^-p)$ versus $MM(p_{Fd}K^+)$ with the shaded horizontal boxes showing the $MM(pK^+\pi^-p)$ bands used for event selection. The lower one is located around the π^0 mass and the upper one selects $MM(pK^+\pi^-p) > 190 \text{ MeV}/c^2$, significantly greater than the π^0 mass. Lower panel: The background-subtracted line shape of the $\Lambda(1405)$ decaying into $\Sigma^0\pi^0$ (points) compared to the spectrum of the $\Lambda(1405)$ from the LEPS experiment for photon energy range of $1.5 < E_\gamma < 2.0 \text{ GeV}$ (solid line).

gate $K^-p \rightarrow \Sigma^+(1660)\pi^- \rightarrow \Lambda(1405)\pi^+\pi^- \rightarrow (\Sigma^+\pi^-)\pi^+\pi^-$ and measured 1106 events.²¹ Recently, the LEPS experiment has investigated the $\Lambda(1405)$ hyperon production in the $\gamma p \rightarrow K^+Y^*$ reaction.²² The $\Lambda(1405)$ hyperon was measured in the $(K^+\Sigma^\pm\pi^\mp)$ final state, where the contamination from $\Sigma^0(1385)$ was estimated from the $(K^+\Lambda\pi^0)$ final state. In the lower panel in Fig.4 our experimental points are compared to the results of the LEPS experiment (for comparison with data of Thomas and Hemingway see Ref. 19). Despite the very different production mechanisms, all four distributions have similar shapes and positions. This might suggest that, if there are two states present in this region, then the reaction mechanisms in the four cases are preferentially populating the same one. It should, however, be noted that by identifying a particular reaction mechanism, the proponents of the two-state solution can describe the shape of the distribution that we have found.²³

5. Outlook

The decay of excited hyperons Y^{0*} via $\Lambda\pi^0$ and $\Sigma^0\pi^0 \rightarrow \Lambda\gamma\pi^0$ can be detected directly in electromagnetic calorimeters by registering neutral particles, *i.e.* γ and/or π^0 . Measurements of such channels are discussed for γp reactions with CB/TAPS at ELSA²⁴ and are also planned in pp collisions with WASA at COSY²⁵

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