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PHASE SHIFTS FOR HIGH-ENERGY NUCLEON-NUCLEON SCATTERING

Burton D. Fried*

Radiation Laboratory, Department of Physics
University of California, Berkeley 4, California

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Several attempts have recently been made to fit nucleon-nucleon scattering data using a small number of phase shifts.[1] In particular, Thaler and Bengston have shown that with seven phase shifts---^1S, ^3S, ^1P, ^3P and a single ^3D ---it is possible to get a good fit to both the p-p and n-p differential cross sections at an energy of 260 Mev. It is of interest to see whether the recent experiments by Chamberlain et al.[2] on the scattering of polarized protons at a similar energy are consistent with the Thaler and Bengston phase shifts.

If partial waves with $L > 2$ are excluded and Coulomb effects are neglected, then, for an incident beam of completely polarized protons,

$$(d\sigma/d\Omega)_{p-p} = k^{-2}\left[A_0P_0(\cos\theta) + A_2P_2(\cos\theta) + A_4P_4(\cos\theta) + B_1\cos\phi\sin\theta\, P_1(\cos\theta)\right], \qquad (1)$$

where k is the wave number of the relative motion, θ and ϕ are the usual center-of-mass polar angles, and the initial momentum and polarization of the incident protons have been chosen along the z and y axes, respectively. Explicit expressions for A_0, A_2, and A_4 in terms of phase shifts are given by Thaler, Bengston and Breit.[3] In the same notation,

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* Now at the Ramo-Wooldridge Corp., Los Angeles, California.

$$B_1 = 9S(\delta_{11}, \delta_{12}) + 6S(\delta_{10}, \delta_{12}), \tag{2}$$

where $S(x,y) = -S(y,x) = \sin x \cdot \sin y \cdot \sin(x - y)$, and δ_{1J} are the ^3P phase shifts.

In their analysis, Thaler and Bengston assumed that (a) the nuclear interaction is charge-independent; (b) the triplet phase shifts are all equal

$$\delta_{21} = \delta_{22} = \delta_{23} \equiv {}^3K_2 \; ; \tag{3}$$

(c) the mixing of ^3S and ^3D waves, such as would result from a tensor force or other noncentral interaction, can be neglected. The cross section for polarized protons scattered by neutrons is then

$$(d\sigma/d\Omega)_{p-n} = \tfrac{1}{2}(d\sigma/d\Omega)_{p-p} + \tfrac{1}{2}k^{-2}\left\{ \sum_0^4 C_n P_n(\cos\theta) + \cos\phi \sin\theta \left[D_0 P_0(\cos\theta) + D_2 P_2(\cos\theta) \right] \right\} . \tag{4}$$

Again, the C_n are given by TBB[3], while

$$D_0 = 5S({}^3K_0, \delta_{12}) - 3S({}^3K_0, \delta_{11}) - 2S({}^3K_0, \delta_{10})$$

and

$$D_2 = 5\left[5S({}^3K_2, \delta_{12}) - 3S({}^3K_2, \delta_{11}) - 2S({}^3K_2, \delta_{10})\right] \tag{5}$$

where $^3K_0$ is the ^3S phase shift.

An examination of the qualitative features of Eqs. (1) and (4) shows that they are incompatible with the data on the scattering of polarized protons as presented in Figs. 2 and 3 of the preceding letter. The following points may be made: (1°) According to Fig. 3, $(P\sigma)_{p-p}$ contains an appreciable amount of fourth harmonic, whereas Eq. (4) allows none; (2°) The amplitudes of the second harmonic components of $(P\sigma)_{p-p}$ and $(P\sigma)_{p-n}$ have a ratio of 1.41 instead of the ratio of 4.00 predicted by Eqs. (1) and (4); (3°) The $(P\sigma)_{p-p}$ data cannot be fitted with a second harmonic term alone.

One obvious conclusion which may be drawn from these observations is that partial waves with $L > 2$ are necessary, as is certainly to be expected at this energy ($k^{-1} = 5.1 \times 10^{-14}$ cm). In particular, since only triplet partial waves can contribute to the polarization, the fourth harmonic in $(P\sigma)_{p-p}$ requires at least a ^3F term. However, it may be noted that the discrepancies (1°) and (2°) above could be resolved without using partial waves with $L > 2$. The absence of a second harmonic term in $(P\sigma)_{p-n} - \frac{1}{4}(P\sigma)_{p-p}$ and the lack of a fourth harmonic term in $(P\sigma)_{p-n}$ are both consequences of the special assumptions (b) and (c) mentioned above. If the requirement (3°) and the assumption that ^3S and ^3D do not mix are dropped, then the missing second and fourth harmonic terms will appear (the former arising from interference effects between the $^3S(Y_0^0)$ and $^3D(Y_2^{\pm 1})$ partial waves, the latter from interference between different ^3D partial waves). Thus, it may be possible to fit the data of Figs. 2 and 3 and also the ordinary n-p and p-p differential cross sections (for unpolarized protons) by using the most general set of phase shifts consistent with $L \leq 2$, together with a single ^3F phase shift (to give the sin 4θ term in $(P\sigma)_{p-p}$).

The number of parameters available in this scheme is 13(12 real phase shifts plus one real "mixing parameter" for the $J = 1$; $L = 0, 2$ part of the scattering matrix[4]), while a Fourier analysis of the data will provide 18 Fourier coefficients--2 from $(P\sigma)_{p-p}$, 5 from $(P\sigma)_{p-n}$, and 4 and 7 from the unpolarized p-p and n-p cross sections, respectively). Of course, even aside from the experimental uncertainties in these Fourier coefficients, it is not likely that a unique set of phase shifts can be found, for as can be seen from Eqs. (2) and (5), the Fourier coefficients are by no means single-valued functions of the phase shifts. Calculations aimed at finding a set of phase shifts consistent with the present knowledge of the cross sections are now in progress.

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