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MEASUREMENT OF TOTAL π^0 -PHOTOPRODUCTION CROSS SECTION
ON THE NUCLEI ${}^9\text{Be}$, ${}^{12}\text{C}$, ${}^{16}\text{O}$ IN THE ENERGY RANGE $E_\gamma=0,25-1\text{GEV}$
WITHOUT CHARGED PARTICLES IN FINAL STATE

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1. Introduction

The interactions of photons with nuclei at $E_\gamma = (0.2 - 1)$ GeV take place via excitation of baryon resonances. The theoretical consideration of the photon-nucleus process is complicated by the need to take into account the interactions of excited baryon resonances with the nucleus. Therefore, at present there is not any distinct prediction describing the behaviour of total cross section of pion photoproduction in this energy range.

In the Δ -resonance region there exist various theoretical approaches to the pion photoproduction. In ref. [1] the pion photoproductions with nuclei are treated as photoproductions with quasifree nucleons allowing for the corrections due to the variation of propagator in the nuclear medium and the interaction of Δ -isobars and pions with nucleons in the final state. In refs. [2-4] the coherent scattering of photons and pions and the π^0 -photoproduction are discussed as a unified process in the isobar doorway model. Such a discussion yields some information on the amplitude of the Δ -isobar

interaction with nucleons. The coherent π^0 -photoproduction is also discussed for the investigation of pion wave function (in the nucleus of distorted wave impulse approximation - DWIA).

At present there are papers [5-9] dealing with π^+ -photoproduction with nucleons and light nuclei, π^0 -photoproduction with nucleons, incoherent photoproduction with the nucleus. In this paper we report the first time the data on the total photoproduction cross section on the nuclei Be, O, C in the energy range (0.25 - 1) GeV.

The available data on incoherent pion photoproduction [5,9] and total hadron photoproduction cross section allow to investigate the coherent π^0 -photoproduction and the nucleus photodisintegration process.

2. Experimental setup

The measurements are carried out on the extracted electron beam of the Yerevan synchrotron. In order to obtain monochromatic photons we have used the tagged photons method. The diagram of the tagged photon beam obtaining is presented in fig. 1. The collimated beam of electrons with the intensity $\sim (0.5 - 1) \cdot 10^5 e^-$ per second produces on a radiator with the thickness $0.021X_0$ (X_0 is the radiation length) $\sim 0.3 \cdot 10^4$ bremsstrahlung photons per second tagged in the energy range 0.25 - 1 GeV.

In fig. 2 the experimental setup is presented which may be conventionally divided into two parts. The first one, consisting of an energy-analyzing magnet M, a radiator R, a tag-

ging system scintillation hodoscope T, a shower counter SC and a quantometer Q is designed for the formation and detection of tagged photon beam. The second part, consisting of a detector HD overlapping the solid angle $\sim 4\pi$, a target m and a number of veto counters \bar{A} , is used for the detection of π^0 -photoproduction events.

The tagging system hodoscope represents 16 channels of three rows (T, T', T'') of scintillation counters used in coincidence with each other. The main beam of electrons noninteracted in the radiator R strikes the quantometer Q, by whose readings we control the electron beam intensity.

The description of the shower counter with the effective area $(30 \times 30) \text{ cm}^2$ and the thickness $20 X_0$ is given in ref. [10].

The 4π -detector HD is composed of five groups of scintillation counters surrounding the target m. Each group represents a γ -telescope of four 2 cm scintillation counters with a 0.8 cm lead layer sandwiched in the first two counters. The fifth group of counters located across the γ -beam has a hole 12 cm in diameter for the passage of both the photons noninteracted in the target and the main part of electron-positron pairs produced in the target. The veto counters $\bar{A}_1 + \bar{A}_4$ are designed for discarding the trident events in radiator and for suppression of the beam "halo". The scintillation counter "x" $(10 \times 16) \text{ cm}^2$, located before the shower counter SC on a direct γ -beam, has been used for some control measurements.

The electronic logic circuit is presented in fig. 3.

3. Measurement technique

Measurements are carried out for beryllium, carbon and water targets with the diameter 5 cm and thickness $0.1X_0$.

In order to detect π^0 -mesons against the background of charged hadrons in the target, the first row of the 4π -detector counters, as is seen from fig. 3, is connected in veto with the remaining rows. Such a method excludes the possibility of detecting the incoherent π^0 -meson production process with proton accompaniment $\sigma_{inc}(\gamma A \rightarrow A'\pi^0 p)$. Thus, we measure the total π^0 -photoproduction cross section as a sum of total cross section of coherent π^0 -photoproduction on nuclei and the total cross section of incoherent π^0 -photoproduction with neutron accompaniment.

$$\sigma_{tot} = \sigma_{coh}(\gamma A \rightarrow A'\pi^0) + \sigma_{inc}(\gamma A \rightarrow A'\pi^0 n)$$

We measure the number of produced π^0 -mesons per photon hitting the target. It corresponds to the ratio of the coincidence of logical signals from one of the tagging system channels and 4π -detector at the absence of signals from the shower counter and veto counters to the number of photons. The number of photons is measured by the coincidence of logical signals from one of the channels of tagging system and shower counter.

During the experiment the shower counter inefficiency is regularly measured as a ratio of the signals coincidence of one of the tagging system channels and detector "x" (see fig. 2) at the absence of a signal from the shower counter to the triple coincidence of signals from the shower counter, counter "x"

and one of the tagging system channels.

A certain portion of electron-positron pairs produced at large angles, due to the inefficiency of the 4π -detector veto counters ($\sim 5\%$) will be detected by the 4π -detector, simulating the case of π^0 -photoproduction. We determine the number of such cases per photon as a triple coincidence of logical signals from the shower counter, 4π -detector and one of the tagging system channels. Such a measurement, taking into account the shower counter inefficiency, makes it possible to estimate the portion of electromagnetic cases detected along with the real number of π^0 -photoproduction cases.

All measurements are carried out both with and without targets of ^9Be , ^{12}C , H_2O . During the experiment the level of accidental coincidences was regularly measured by introducing an additional delay (~ 120 nsec) in the strobing signal (see fig. 3).

4. Data analysis

The total π^0 -photoproduction cross section is calculated

as

$$\sigma_{tot}(\gamma, \pi^0) = \frac{1}{N_0} \frac{M}{N}$$

where M is the number of photons producing π^0 -mesons; N is the number of incident photons; N_0 is the number of target nuclei per unit area.

When analyzing the results the following factors, affecting M and N , are taken into account;

1. γ -beam attenuation in air and targets. The correction determined by it is (1 - 1.5)% and (5 - 7)%, respectively.

2. Inefficiency of the order (2 - 3)% of photons detection by a shower counter.

3. The contribution of π^0 -mesons, discarded by the shower counter, is (1 - 4)% versus photon energy.

4. The total efficiency of 4 π -detector scintillation counters is 90%.

5. We have calculated by the Monte Carlo method:

a) the contribution of multiple bremsstrahlung processes in the radiator with the thickness $0.021X_0$ for a 100 MeV threshold of photon detected by a shower counter. The correction due to it is (2 - 6)% versus photon energy.

b) the efficiency of π^0 -meson detection allowing for the 4 π -detector geometrical efficiency and photons conversion efficiency for a 0.8 cm thickness of the lead layer in the detector (see fig. 2) versus γ -quanta energy and π^0 -meson angular distribution. The calculated value of efficiency is (60 - 90)% for $E_\gamma = (0.25 - 1)$ GeV.

6. The contribution of the inefficiency ($\sim 5\%$) of the first row of 4 π -detector counters allowing to detect a certain portion of cases of the charged hadron photoproduction.

The values of π^0 -production cross sections, calculated by the measured values of the number of cases of π^0 -meson production per photon hitting the target, allowing for measurements and above corrections for the targets of ^9Be , ^{12}C , ^{16}O in the tagged photon energy range (250 - 1000) MeV, are presented in Table 1.

5. Discussion of results

Energy dependences of the total π^0 -photoproduction cross section on the nuclei ^9Be , ^{12}C , ^{16}O are presented in figs. 4, 5, 6, respectively.

In fig. 4, along with our experimental results, for comparison are also presented the data on π^0 -photoproduction calculated by the values of total hadron photoproduction cross section and total charged hadron photoproduction cross section taken from [11]. For the comparison with theoretical predictions we have determined the coherent part of π^0 -meson photoproduction. During the calculations, along with the π^0 -photoproduction cross sections obtained by us, we have also used the values of incoherent pion photoproduction with proton accompaniment [5] and the ratio of the cross sections of charged pions photoproduction on ^{12}C [9]. Similar calculations are carried out also for ^{16}O with an assumption that the incoherent pion photoproduction cross section for ^{16}O and ^{12}C makes the same percentage of total cross sections of hadron photoproduction on ^{16}O and ^{12}C . In figs. 7 and 8 these results are presented together with theoretical predictions [12,2] of coherent π^0 -photoproduction energy dependences. The use of total cross sections of charged pions photoproduction [5] as well as of measured hadron and π^0 -photoproduction total cross sections allowed to calculate the nuclear photodisintegration cross section for ^{12}C . The comparison of this cross section with the equation:

$$\sigma = L \frac{N \pm Z}{A} \sigma_d^{ex}$$

where σ_d^{ex} is the meson exchange part of the deuteron photodisintegration cross section, N, Z are the number of neutrons and protons in nucleus, $A = N + Z$ makes it possible to determine the Levinger factor L . At $E_\gamma = 250 \pm 60$ MeV and 320 ± 30 MeV we have obtained for carbon $L = 15.7 \pm 1.9$ and 11.7 ± 1.4 respectively, which coincides well with L presented in ref. 13.

In conclusion we would like to express our thanks to A.Ts.Amatuni, H.A.Vartapetyan for their interest in the work, to V.M.Aslanyan, I.A.Hakopyan, A.R.Voskanyan, A.G.Movsisyan, S.O.Tatevosyan and Sh.K.Shiroyan for the help in the work as well as to the synchrotron staff for providing us with a beam.

TABLE 1

Total π^0 -photoproduction cross section

$E_\gamma \pm \Delta E_\gamma$ MeV target	250 ± 60	320 ± 30	460 ± 50	600 ± 50	710 ± 50	890 ± 90	1060 ± 90
^9Be	1.08 ± 0.11	1.33 ± 0.35	0.88 ± 0.14	0.59 ± 0.2	0.49 ± 0.14	0.44 ± 0.11	0.35 ± 0.12
^{12}C	1.23 ± 0.124	1.55 ± 0.28	1.17 ± 0.22	0.64 ± 0.23	0.72 ± 0.09	0.51 ± 0.17	0.53 ± 0.09
^{16}O	1.36 ± 0.07	1.45 ± 0.10	1.18 ± 0.09	0.87 ± 0.12	0.51 ± 0.13	-	-

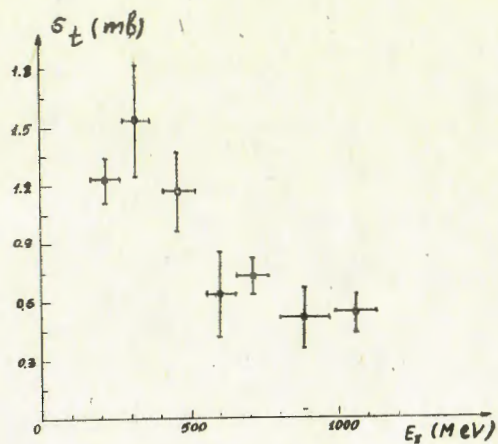


Fig. 5 Energy dependence of the total cross section of π^0 -photoproduction for carbon.

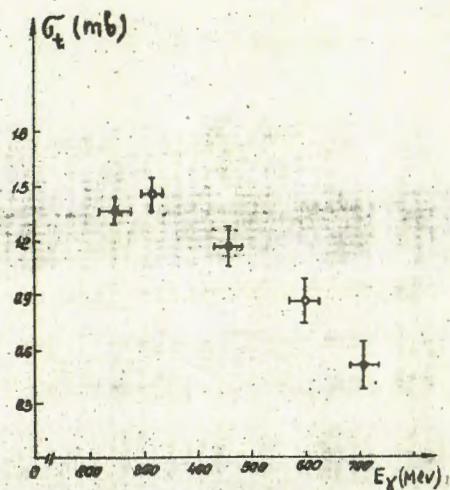


Fig. 6 Energy dependence of the total cross section of π^0 -photoproduction for oxygen.

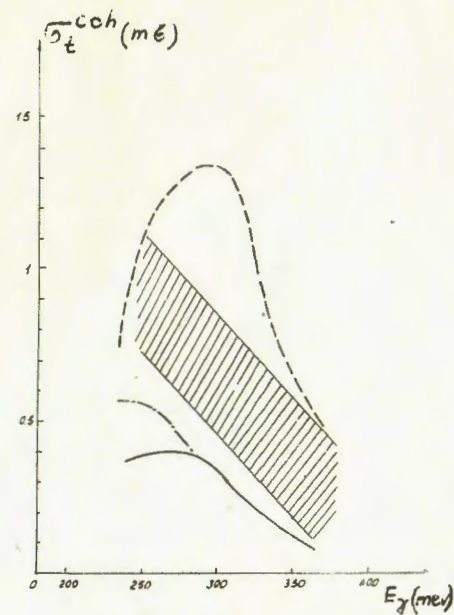


Fig. 7 Total coherent π^0 -photoproduction cross section for carbon versus photon energy.

- - - plane wave impulse approximation (PWIA)
 - · - · - distorted wave impulse approach (DWIA)
 ——— "isobar doorway" approximation calculation.
 The shaded region corresponds to the results of this paper. Theoretical curves are taken from ref. [12].

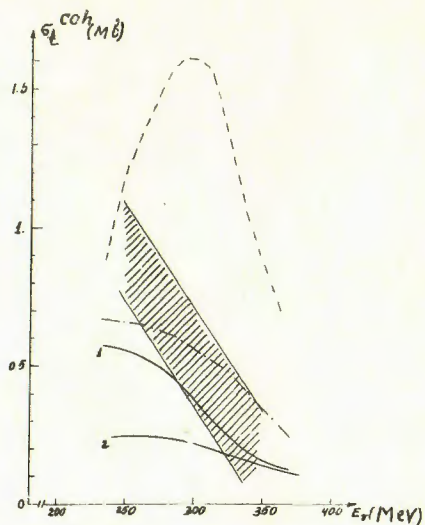


Fig. 8 Total coherent π^0 -photoproduction cross section for oxygen versus photon energy.

— — — plane wave impulse approximation (PWIA)

— — — distorted wave impulse approach (DWIA)

— — — "isobar doorway" approximation calculation.

Curve 1 corresponds to ref. [12], curve 2 and the other theoretical curves to ref. [2]. The shaded region corresponds to the results obtained in this paper.

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ИЗМЕРЕНИЕ ПОЛНОГО СЕЧЕНИЯ ФОТООБРАЗОВАНИЯ
 π^0 - МЕЗОНОВ НА ЯДРАХ Be, C, O, В ИНТЕРВАЛЕ ЭНЕРГИИ
 $E_\gamma = (0,25-1)$ ГЭВ БЕЗ ЗАРЯЖЕННЫХ ЧАСТИЦ В
КОНЕЧНОМ СОСТОЯНИИ

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