

# Diffractive dissociation and “fine structure” of diffraction peak

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(Submitted February 17, 1976)

*Pis'ma Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz.* **23**, No. 7, 403–407 (5 April 1976)

It is shown that the peripheral contributions of the inelastic diffraction processes produce in the elastic-scattering cross section a large-scale and a small-scale periodic structure in  $t$ . In  $pp$  scattering this structure is revealed by a “kink”  $t \approx -0.15(\text{GeV}/c)^2$ , by large-scale oscillations observed at large  $t$  ( $1 \lesssim \sqrt{|t|} \lesssim 4$   $\text{GeV}/c$ ), and by small-scale oscillations in the region of small  $t$  ( $\lesssim 0.4$   $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$ )

PACS numbers: 13.80.Dh

We show in this paper that the three singularities observed in the cross section of elastic  $p$ - $p$  scattering, namely the “kink” at  $t = -0.15$   $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$ ,<sup>[1]</sup> the small-scale oscillations with period  $\Delta t \approx 0.1-0.3$   $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$  separated from  $t$

ta at  $0.1 \lesssim |t| \lesssim 0.4$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup>,<sup>[2]</sup> and the large-scale oscillations with  $\Delta t$  1.5–2 (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup>, obtained at  $1 \lesssim |t| \lesssim 4$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup>,<sup>[3]</sup> can be explained as a manifestation of one and the same mechanism, which is connected with diffraction dissociation. We confine ourselves here to a simple semiquantitative analysis which yields, nevertheless, without introducing any free parameters, reasonable quantitative description of all the indicated effects. A more detailed discussion will be presented in a subsequent article. The proposed model close in spirit to the model of Henyey *et al.*,<sup>[4]</sup> proposed for the explanation of the “kink.” The essential difference lies in the fact that we are using a more realistic description of diffraction dissociation and consider also oscillatory effects, besides the “kink.”

We neglect the possible small contributions of spin-flip effects and the real part of the elastic-scattering amplitude is  $T_{e1}$ . We then get from the  $s$ -channel parity in the impact-parameter representation

$$T_{e1}(\rho) = 2i(1 - \sqrt{1 - G(\rho)}), \quad (1)$$

where  $G(\rho) \equiv \sum_n |T_n(\rho)|^2$  is the inelastic overlap function, which takes into account the contribution of all the inelastic processes. We represent  $G$  as a sum  $+ \Delta G$ , where  $G_0$  has by assumption a central character and is responsible for the principal part of the elastic peak, including the structure at  $t \approx -1.4$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup>.  $\Delta G$  takes into account the contribution of the inelastic diffraction processes. To calculate  $\Delta G$ , we use the peripheral model with absorption,<sup>[5]</sup> which describes adequately all the main features of diffractive dissociation at all  $t$ . We consider first the excitation of a nucleon in states with small mass. The main contribution is made here by the transition  $N \rightarrow N + \pi$  with small change in the  $s$ -channel helicity  $\Delta\lambda = 0$  is given by

$$T_d(\rho) = \frac{iA}{2} \left\{ \frac{\exp\left[\frac{-\rho^2}{2(B+B_1)}\right]}{B+B_1} - \frac{\sigma b(B+B_1) \exp\left[-\frac{\rho^2(B+B_1+b)}{2b(B+b)}\right]}{4\pi(B+B_1+b)^2} \right\} \quad (2)$$

in the  $t$ -representation

$$T_d(t) = iA \left\{ \exp\left[\frac{(B+B_1)t}{2}\right] - \frac{\sigma \exp\left[\frac{(B+B_1)bt}{2(B+B_1+b)}\right]}{4\pi(B+B_1+b)} \right\}. \quad (3)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the total cross section of the  $pp$  interaction;  $b$ ,  $B$ , and  $B_1$  are the parameters of the  $NN$ - and  $\pi N$ -scattering cross sections and functions  $t$  describe the vertex and the propagator of the emitted pion. Just as in<sup>[5]</sup>, put  $b \approx B \approx B_1 = 10$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup> and  $\sigma \approx 40$  Mb. Expression (3) vanishes at  $-0.2$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup>, leading to the minimum recently observed in the cross section of the reaction  $pp \rightarrow \pi^+ np$ .<sup>[6]</sup> It is seen from (2) that  $T_d(\rho)$  has a peripheral file—a “ring” with radius  $R \sim 1$  F. Recognizing that  $G \ll 1$  at  $\rho \gtrsim 1$  F, we can approximately write down (1) in the form  $T_{e1} \approx T_0 + \Delta G$ , where according to (2)

$$\Delta G(t) = i \frac{A^2}{2} \left\{ \frac{\exp\left[\frac{t(B+B_1)}{4}\right]}{B+B_1} + \frac{\sigma^2 \exp\left[\frac{tb(B+B_1)}{4(B+B_1+b)}\right]}{16\pi^2 b(B+B_1)(B+B_1+b)} - \frac{\sigma \exp\left[\frac{tb(B+B_1)}{2(B+B_1+b)}\right]}{\pi(B+B_1)(B+B_1+2b)} \right\}.$$

As expected from (1),  $\Delta G(t)$  behaves like a Bessel function

$$\Delta G(t) \sim i f(t) J_0(R\sqrt{-t}) \quad (1)$$

with  $R \sim 1$  F (see Fig. 1). The elastic-scattering differential cross section can be expressed in terms of  $T_0$  and  $\Delta G$  in the form

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = (|T_0|^2 + 2T_0^* \Delta G) + |\Delta G|^2. \quad (2)$$

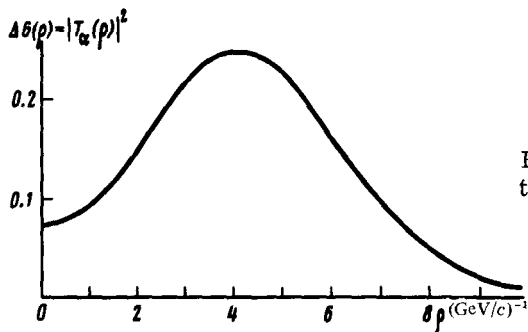


FIG. 1. Profile of  $\Delta G(\rho) \equiv |T_d(\rho)|^2$  in the impact-parameter representative

Assuming that  $T_0(t)$  at small  $|t|$  can be described by a simple exponential or by the function  $\exp(B_0 t) J_1(R_1 \sqrt{-t})/R_1 \sqrt{-t}$ , which appears in many geometrical models, and taking (4) into account, we see immediately that the expression in the brackets in (6) describes a diffraction peak with a kink due to the term  $2T_0^* \Delta G$ . At the same time the quadratic term  $|\Delta G|^2$  yields small-scale oscillations about the average value of the cross section (Fig. 3). One can expect the "ring" effect to be manifest also at larger  $|t|$ . Continuing (5) into the region of large  $|t|$ , we obtain large-scale oscillations with a period  $\Delta\sqrt{|t|} \sim 1.5$  (GeV/c), similar to those observed recently in<sup>[3]</sup>, and small-scale oscillations with  $\Delta t \sim 0.7$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup>.

To obtain a kink on the order of that observed in experiment we must have  $A^2 \sim 200$ . The cross section oscillations due to  $|\Delta G|^2$  will then be on the order of several percent, and the increment of the slope at the "kink" will be

$[\Delta G(0)/T_0(0)]R^2 \sim 2(\text{GeV}/c)^2$ . Estimates show that to obtain this value of  $A^2$  is necessary to take into account the contribution of the excitations of the nucleon up to sufficiently large masses ( $> 5 \text{ GeV}$ ) under the assumption that the peripheral character of the profile is preserved for the different contributions. The model of <sup>f51</sup> leads to a practically universal behavior of  $\Delta G_{\Delta\lambda}(\Delta\lambda \neq 0)$ , corresponding to a ring with  $R \sim 1 \text{ F}$ . This is illustrated by the behavior of  $G_{\Delta\lambda=1}(t)$  in Fig. 2.

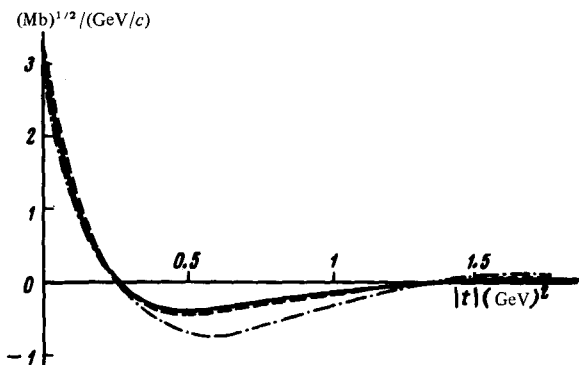


FIG. 2. Contribution made to the amplitude of elastic  $pp$  scattering by diffractive dissociation: solid— $\Delta G(t)$  in accordance with formula (3), dashed—in accordance with  $3.1 \exp(1.7t) J_0(4.7\sqrt{-t})$ ; dash-dot— $\Delta G_{\Delta\lambda=1}(t)$  (arbitrary scale).

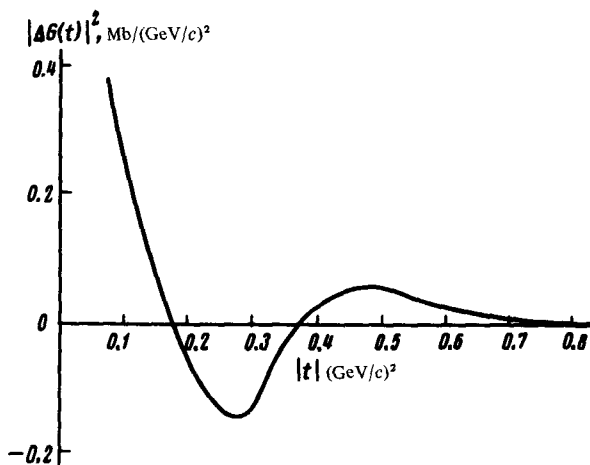


FIG. 3. The contribution  $|\Delta G(t)|^2$  gives the "fine structure" of the peak relative to the average behavior. The averaging was over the interval  $0.1 \leq |t| \leq 0.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ .

We do not discuss here many important problems, such as the  $s$ -dependence of the amplitude, the self-consistency of the considered pomeron model, etc. This will be done later. We confine ourselves here to only one remark. By applying a Mellin transformation we can obtain the  $t$ -channel partial wave con-

responding to the considered amplitude. It can be shown that for a large class of the functions  $R(s)$  the contribution  $\Delta G$  corresponds to complex singularities. For example, for the simplest cast  $R(s) = R_0 \ln s$  we obtain a pair of complex-conjugate branch points at  $\alpha_{\pm}(t) = \alpha_R(t) \pm iR_0 \sqrt{-t}$ . We thus arrive (discarding inessential details) at the pomeron picture proposed in<sup>[21]</sup>, where the small-scale structure is ascribed to complex components of the pomeron.

It is obvious that the mechanism considered above should manifest itself also in other elastic-scattering processes, as well as in inelastic reactions.

The authors are grateful to Yu. M. Antipov, A. M. Baldin, S. P. Denisov, and E. L. Feinberg for useful discussions.

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