

Pion and Kaon Vector Form Factors

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Abstract

The pion and kaon coupled-channel vector form factors are described by making use of the resonance chiral Lagrangian results together with a suitable unitarization method in order to take care of the final state interactions. A very good reproduction of experimental data is accomplished for the vector form factors up to $\sqrt{s} \leq 1.2$ GeV and for the $\pi\pi$ P-wave phase shifts up to $\sqrt{s} \leq 1.5$ GeV.

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1 Unitarization

Using an appropriate unitarization method we take into account the final state interaction corrections to the tree level amplitudes calculated from lowest order χPT [1] and from the inclusion of explicit resonance fields in a chiral symmetry fashion as given in ref. [2]. A similar procedure has already been used in the scalar sector to describe the scalar form factor associated with the strange-change scalar current $\bar{u}s$ in ref. [3]. Starting from the unitarity of the S -matrix and the introduction of the electromagnetic meson form factor $F_{MM'}(s)$:

$$\langle \gamma(q) | T | M(p) M'(p') \rangle = e \epsilon_\mu (p - p')^\mu F_{MM'}(s) \quad (1)$$

with $q^2 = s$, e the modulus of the electron charge and ϵ_μ the photon polarization vector, we arrive at the expression:

$$\text{Im} F_{MM'}(s) = \sum_\alpha F_\alpha^*(s) \frac{p_\alpha(s)}{8\pi\sqrt{s}} \theta(s - 4m_\alpha^2) p_\alpha(s) \frac{T(s)_{\alpha, MM'}}{p_{MM'}(s)} \quad (2)$$

where $\theta(x)$ is the usual Heaviside function. On the other hand $p_{MM'}(s)$ and $p_\alpha(s)$ are respectively the moduli of the three momenta of the mesons in the final and intermediate meson states, and we sum over intermediate two-meson states.

We will work in the isospin limit, with $|\pi\pi\rangle$ and $|K\bar{K}\rangle$ states (and the ρ resonance) in the $I = 1$ channel and only the $|K\bar{K}\rangle$ state (and the ω and ϕ resonances) in the $I=0$ channel. Using a matrix notation, the P-wave amplitudes $T^I(s)$ can be written as [4]:

$$T^I = [1 + K^I(s) \cdot g(s)]^{-1} \cdot K^I(s) \quad (3)$$

where $K_{ij}^I(s)$ are the tree level amplitudes derived from lowest order χPT plus s-channel vector resonance exchange contributions [2] corresponding to the transition $i \rightarrow j$. From eqs. (2) and (3) it follows, after some algebra, that $F^I(s)$ can be written as:

$$F^I(s) = \left[1 + \tilde{Q}(s)^{-1} \cdot K^I(s) \cdot \tilde{Q}(s) \cdot g^I(s) \right]^{-1} \cdot R^I(s) \quad (4)$$

where $\tilde{Q}_{ij}(s) = p_i(s)\delta_{ij}$ and $K^I(s)$ is the matrix collecting the tree level amplitudes between definite $\pi\pi$ and $K\bar{K}$ isospin states. $F^I(s)$ is the column matrix $F^I(s)_i = F_i^I(s)$, $R^I(s)$ is a vector made up by functions without any cut and $g^I(s)$ is the diagonal matrix given by the loop with two meson propagators:

$$g_i^I(s) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left[-2 + d_i^I + \sigma_i(s) \log \frac{\sigma_i(s) + 1}{\sigma_i(s) - 1} \right] \quad (5)$$

where $\sigma_i(s) = \sqrt{1 - 4m_i^2/s}$. We will label pions with 1 and kaons with 2 in the $I = 1$ case. In the $I = 0$ case we only have kaons.

In the large N_c limit loop physics is suppressed and then $F^I(s) = R_{N_c \text{ leading}}(s) = F_t^I(s)$, where $F_t^I(s)$ is the tree level form factor.¹

This allows us to write:

$$F^I(s) = \left[1 + \tilde{Q}(s)^{-1} \cdot K^I(s) \cdot \tilde{Q}(s) \cdot g^I(s) \right]^{-1} \cdot [F_t^I(s) + R_{\text{subleading}}^I(s)] \quad (6)$$

with $R_{\text{subleading}}^I(s)$ being of $\mathcal{O}(N_c^{-1})$. If we require that the vector form factor from eq. (6) vanishes for $s \rightarrow \infty$ as is suggested by the experiments, we find that the subleading part of $R^I(s)$, which at first can be an arbitrary polynomial (the poles coming from the resonances are in the leading part $F_t^I(s)$), must be a constant. In order to fix the constants $R_{\text{subleading}}^I(s)$ and $d_i^I(s)$ of $g_i^I(s)$ we match our results with those of one loop χPT . We take $R_{\text{subleading}}^{I=1}(s) = 0$ in order to constrain further our approach. This can be done since we can match our results with one loop χPT by choosing appropriate values for $d_1^{I=1}$ and $d_2^{I=1}$. The values of the other constants given by the matching are:

$$\begin{aligned} d_1^{I=1} &= \frac{m_K^2}{m_K^2 - m_\pi^2} \left(\log \frac{m_\pi^2}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{m_K^2}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ d_2^{I=1} &= \frac{-2 m_\pi^2}{m_K^2 - m_\pi^2} \left(\log \frac{m_\pi^2}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{m_K^2}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ d^{I=0} &= \frac{1}{3} + \log \frac{m_K^2}{\mu^2} \\ R_{\text{subleading}}^{I=0} &= -\frac{m_K^2}{16\sqrt{2}\pi^2 f^2} \left(\frac{1}{3} + \log \frac{m_K^2}{\mu^2} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

The bare masses of the resonances (which appear in the tree level quantities) are fixed by the requirements that the moduli of the $\pi\pi$ $I = 1$ and $K\bar{K}$ $I=0$ P-wave amplitudes

¹We evaluate the tree level form factors and scattering amplitudes using the lowest order χPT Lagrangian [1] plus the chiral resonance Lagrangian [2].

have a maximum for $\sqrt{s} = M_\rho^{physical}$ MeV and for $\sqrt{s} = M_\phi^{physical}$ MeV, respectively. For the mass of the ω we take directly 782 MeV since there are no experimental data in the region of the ω and its contributions to other physical regions do not depend on such fine details since the ω is very narrow. On the other hand, the coupling of the vector resonances [2] to mesons and photons are described by two real parameters G_V and F_V respectively. We use their experimental value, $G_V=53$ MeV (from a study of the pion electromagnetic radii [1]) and $F_V=154$ MeV (from the observed decay rate $\Gamma(\rho^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-)$ [2]).

2 Results and conclusions.

As can be seen in fig. 1, we can describe in a very precise way the vector pion form factor and the P-wave $\pi\pi$ phase shifts up to about $s=1.44$ GeV² (even for higher energies in the case of phase shifts). For values of \sqrt{s} higher than 1.2 GeV new effects appear: 1) the presence of more massive resonances, ρ' , ω' , ϕ' ... 2) The effect due to multiparticle states, e.g. 4π , $\omega\pi$... which are non negligible. In figure 2, we compare our results with those of χPT . We can see that the resummation of our scheme leads to a much better agreement with the two loop χPT pion vector form factor than with the one loop one. The resonance regions are also well reproduced.

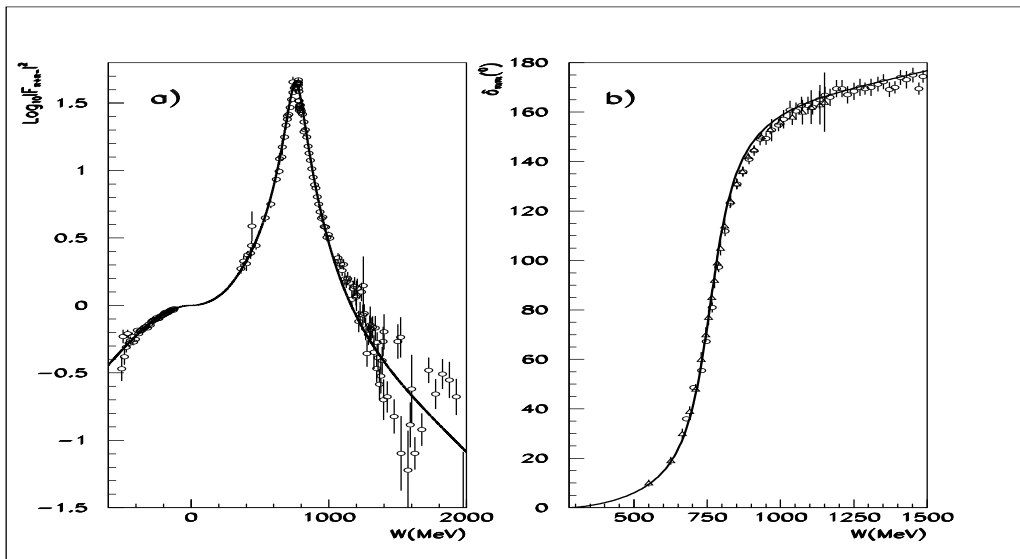


Figure 1: W is defined as \sqrt{s} for $s > 0$ and as $-\sqrt{-s}$ for $s < 0$. a) $\pi^+\pi^-$ vector form factor. b) $\pi\pi$ P-wave phase shifts. Both are compared with several experimental data.

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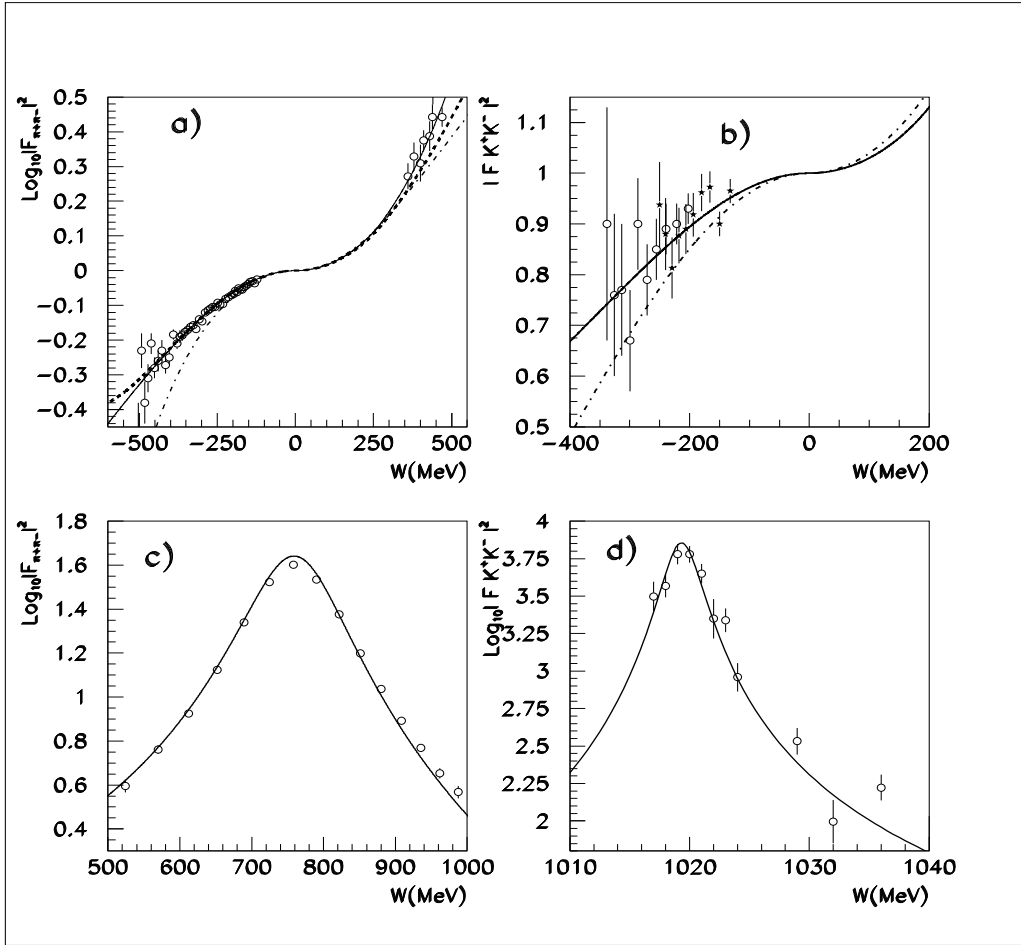


Figure 2: W is defined as \sqrt{s} for $s > 0$ and as $-\sqrt{-s}$ for $s < 0$. From left to right and top to bottom: a) Vector pion form factor. The dashed-dotted line represents one loop χPT ref. [1] and the dashed one the two loop χPT result ref. [5]. b) K^+K^- form factor. The meaning of the lines is the same as before. c) Vector pion form factor in the ρ region. Data from tau decay. d) K^+K^- form factor. All the results are compared with data.

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