XX International Workshop on Deep-Inelastic Scattering and Related Subjects



Contribution ID: 18

Type: not specified

Spin structure of the "forward" nucleon charge-exchange reaction n + p -> p + n and the deuteron charge-exchange breakup

Wednesday 28 March 2012 14:15 (20 minutes)

The structure of the nucleon charge-exchange process n + p -> p + n is investigated basing on the isotopic invariance of the nucleon-nucleon scattering. Using the operator of permutation of the spin projections of the neutron and proton, the connection between the spin matrices, describing the amplitude of the nucleon charge-exchange process at zero angle and the amplitude of neutron elastic scattering on the proton in the "backward" direction, has been considered. Due to the optical theorem, the spin-independent part of the differential cross-section of the process n + p -> p + n at zero angle for unpolarized particles is expressed through the difference of total cross-sections of unpolarized proton-proton and neutron-proton scattering. Meantime, the spin-dependent part of this cross-section is proportional to the differential cross-section of the deuteron charge-exchange breakup $d + p \rightarrow (pp) + n$ at zero angle at the deuteron momentum {\bf k} d = 2{\bf k} n ({\bf k} n is the initial neutron momentum). Analysis shows that, assuming the real part of the spin-independent term of the "forward" amplitude of the process $n + p \rightarrow p + n$ to be smaller or of the same order as compared with the imaginary part, in the wide range of neutron laboratory momenta k_n > 700 MeV/c the main contribution into the differential cross-section of the process $n + p \rightarrow p + n$ at zero angle is provided namely by the spin-dependent term .

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Session Classification: Combined: Diffraction and vector mesons/spin physics

Track Classification: Diffraction and vector mesons/spin physics