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# NEUTRON-PROTON DIFFERENTIAL CROSS SECTIONS IN THE RANGE 70 TO 400 GeV/$c$ *

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We report the results of an experiment which measured np elastic scattering differential cross sections over a range in $-t$ from 0.15 to ~3.6 (GeV/$c$)$^2$ for incident neutron momenta from 70 to 400 GeV/$c$. We find the logarithmic slope parameter, evaluated at $-t$ = 0.2 (GeV/$c$)$^2$, to be consistent with existing proton-proton parametrizations. The data exhibit a dip in the cross section near $-t$ = 1.4 (GeV/$c$)$^2$ for incident neutron momenta above 200 GeV/$c$. For neutron momenta less than 280 GeV/$c$, the neutron-proton cross sections are found to be higher than existing proton-proton data in the range $0.7 \leqslant -t \leqslant 1.3$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$ which is in contradiction to most Regge predictions.

## 1. Introduction

We describe here an experiment to measure neutron-proton elastic scattering differential cross sections. A brief report has already been published [1]. A more detailed description of the experimental techniques can be found in refs. [2,3]. Cross sections were measured in the momentum range 70 to 400 GeV/$c$ with an incident neutron beam at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Four-momentum transfers squared from 0.15 to ~3.6 (GeV/$c$)$^2$ were covered. Cross sections for np charge-exchange scattering have already been measured in this momentum range [4]. There is also considerable data on pp elastic scattering [5,6]. The pp data at 200 GeV/$c$ and above show an interesting dip near $|t|$ = 1.4 (GeV/$c$)$^2$ and a second maximum at larger $|t|$. One of the objectives of this experiment was to determine if the np cross sections show a similar behavior.

The organization of this paper is as follows: In sect. 2, a description of the apparatus is presented. Sect. 3 details the event reconstruction techniques and the calculation of the cross sections. The results are presented in sect. 4 in graphic and

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tabular form. In addition, various parameterizations are presented and the data are compared to existing pp data. We summarize our results in sect. 5.

## 2. Experimental apparatus

A schematic diagram of the experiment is shown in fig. 1. The neutron beam was incident upon a liquid hydrogen target, 30.5 cm long and 5.1 cm diameter. The spot size of the beam varied from 5 mm wide × 5 mm high to 20 × 30 mm, depending on the desired intensity. The beam intensity ranged from $\sim 10^5$ neutrons per 1 sec spill at the low $|t|$ settings to $\sim 2 \times 10^7$ for the large $|t|$ data. Charged particles were removed from the beam by sweeping magnets. Photons were effectively removed by two lead filters with a total thickness of approx. 11 rad. lengths. For neutron momenta of approximately 100 GeV/$c$, the $K_L^0/n$ ratio is $\approx 0.05$; above 150 GeV/$c$ it is $\lesssim 0.01$. The $\bar{n}$ contamination is negligible.

The recoil proton momentum and scattering angle were measured by a spectrometer consisting of four wire spark chamber modules SC1-SC4, each with *X-Y-U-V*

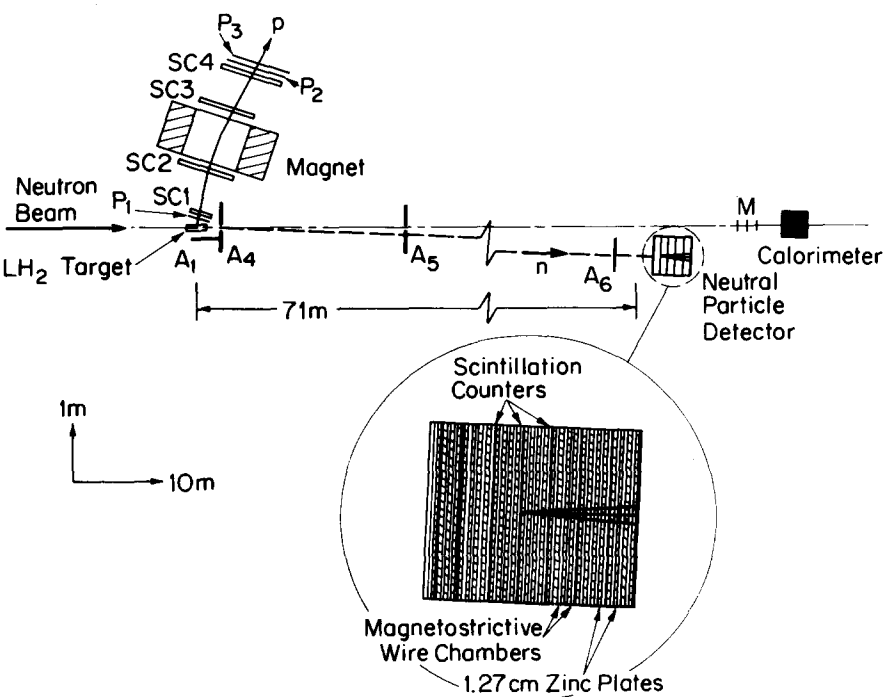


Fig. 1. Schematic layout of the experimental apparatus. The inset shows the neutron detector in more detail.

magnetostrictive readout planes, and a 105 X 100 cm analyzing magnet with a 15.1 cm gap. The strength of the magnetic field was 7.6 kG for the low $|t|$ data ($0.1 \lesssim |t| \lesssim 1.0$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$) and 12.5 kG for the high $|t|$ data ($0.8 \lesssim |t| \lesssim 3.6$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. Part of the trigger requirement was a fast coincidence between scintillation counters $P_1$, $P_2$ and $P_3$ which indicated that a charged particle had traversed the spectrometer. The scattered neutron was required to interact in a neutral-particle detector and produce a charged-particle shower. The detector contained 30 wire spark chambers, 28 zinc plates and six scintillation counters (see inset of fig. 1) and was placed 71 m downstream of the hydrogen target. We determined the interaction point to an accuracy ~2 mm FWHM by locating the vertex of the charged-particle shower in the chambers. The neutron scattering angle was then defined by the interaction point in the neutral-particle detector and a point on the proton trajectory within the illuminated part of the liquid hydrogen target. The second part of the triggering requirement was a fast coincidence between any two of the six scintillation counters indicating that at least one charged particle had passed through the neutron detector. Veto counters $A_1$, ..., $A_6$, not all of which are shown in fig. 1, were used to reduce the trigger rate from inelastic events. These almost completely surrounded the target except on the recoil proton side. All except $A_6$ consisted of lead-scintillator sandwiches with approximately 3 radiation lengths of lead, so that they were sensitive to photons from $\pi^0$ decays. The veto counters typically reduced the trigger rate a factor of 50. A counter telescope M and a total absorption calorimeter were used to monitor the beam flux.

## 3. Data analysis

The differential cross sections were computed by reconstructing the event from the raw data which had been written on magnetic tape by the on-line computer. This was accomplished by first computing the recoil-proton momentum and scattering angle from the charged-particle spectrometer data. The neutron scattering angle was then determined by extracting the shower vertex from the neutral-particle detector data. This point and a point in the $LH_2$ target on the proton trajectory defined the scattering angle. Thus, all kinematic variables were measured except for the momenta of the incident and scattered neutrons. Momentum and energy conservation allowed a two-constraint fit to the hypothesis of np elastic scattering. The fitting program calculated the unmeasured momenta and a $\chi^2$ for the fit. Events with $\chi^2 < 10$ were considered to be elastic and were binned according to the incident neutron momentum and the four-momentum transfer squared, $t$. In fig. 2, $\chi^2$ distributions are shown for a low $|t|$ range where the background is expected to be small and for the region $1.8 \leqslant -t \leqslant 3.0$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$ where the background is expected to be more significant. The smooth curves show the expected distributions for a two-constraint fit to a sample of elastic events. The distributions are dominated by inelastic events for $\chi^2 \gtrsim 8$.

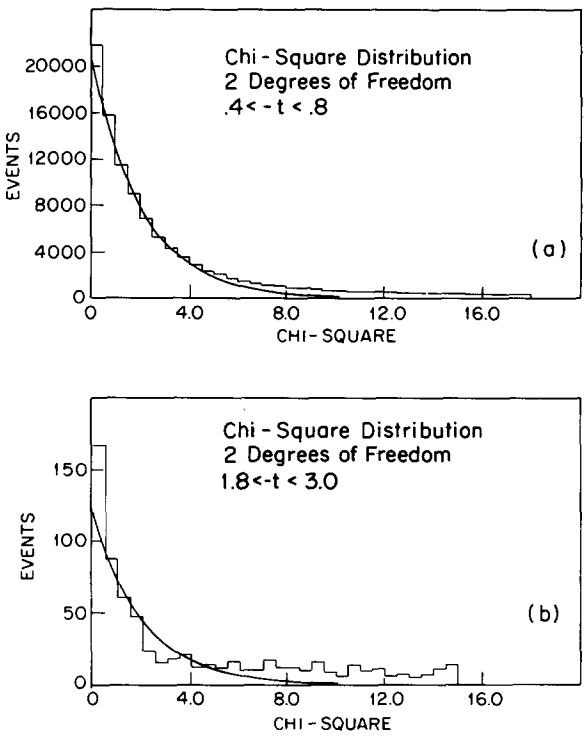


Fig. 2. $\chi^2$ distributions for the fitted events with (a) $0.4 \leqslant -t \leqslant 0.8$ $(\mathrm{GeV}/c)^2$ and (b) $1.8 \leqslant -t \leqslant 3.0$ $(\mathrm{GeV}/c)^2$. The solid curve represents the expected distribution for a two-constraint fit.

Various corrections have been applied to the data. We have calculated the geometric acceptance by a Monte Carlo technique which was checked using an approximate analytic method. Two positions of the detectors were used to cover the desired $|t|$ range. Fig. 3 shows the variation of the geometric acceptance with $t$ for incident momenta of 100 and 200 GeV/$c$ for the two positions.

Inelastic background corrections, as estimated from the $\chi^2$ distributions, amounted to less than 3% at small $|t|$ and less than 35% at large $|t|$. Corrections for nuclear absorption of the recoil proton ranged from 2 to 4%. Target-empty corrections were negligible. It is important to note that the neutron detection efficiency, which was about 65%, does not significantly affect the $t$-dependence of the measured cross sections because the energy of the scattered neutron differs from that of the incident neutron by at most 2%.

We have estimated the uncertainties in the calculated incident momentum $P$ and the measured value of the four-momentum transfer squared $t$. This was accomplished by examining the fitted errors in the neutron and proton scattering angles and the proton momentum as determined by the kinematic reconstruction program.

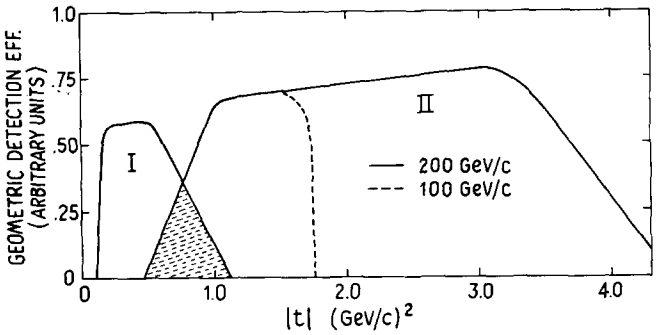


Fig. 3. The geometric detection efficiency for the low $|t|$ (I) and high $|t|$ (II) data at 200 GeV/$c$. At 100 GeV/$c$ (dotted line) the neutron detector limits the acceptance at large $|t|$.

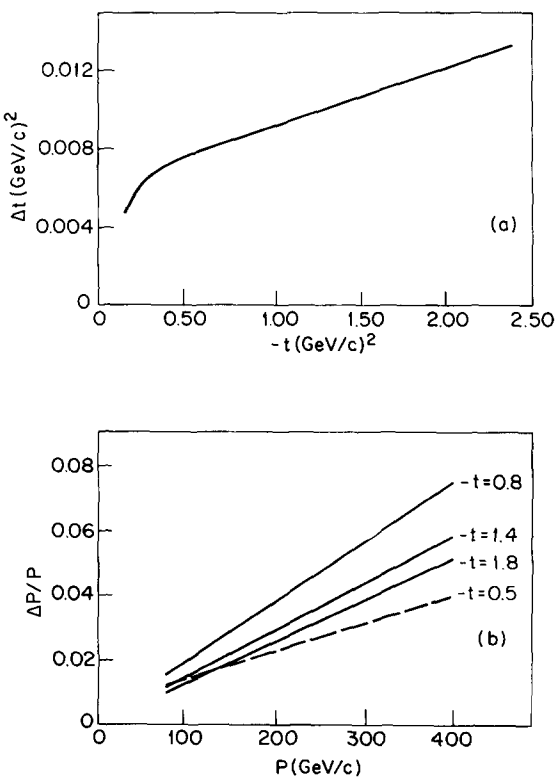


Fig. 4. Experimental resolution of the data: (a) the uncertainty in the four-momentum transfer squared; and (b) the fractional uncertainty in the incident neutron momentum for several values of the four-momentum transfer squared.

In fig. 4a, the uncertainty in $t$, $\Delta t$, is plotted against $t$. Because the value of $t$ is measured directly, the uncertainty in $t$ is not dependent on the incident neutron momentum. Since multiple Coulomb scattering is responsible for a large fraction of the uncertainty in $t$, the error increases nearly linearly with increasing $|t|$. The fractional uncertainty is approximately constant at 1% which implies that at $|t| = 1.0$ $(\mathrm{GeV}/c)^2$, the error in $t$ is 0.01 $(\mathrm{GeV}/c)^2$. Since the bins are 0.1 $(\mathrm{GeV}/c)^2$ wide in this region, the error is only 10% of the bin width and hence does not appreciably affect the cross-section measurement.

The uncertainty in the incident neutron momentum, $\Delta P$, was dependent on both $P$ and $t$. This dependence is shown in fig. 4b. In the case of small $|t|$ and large $P$, the error in $P$ was nearly 40% of the bin width in $P$. The uncertainty in incident momentum is dependent on the horizontal width of the beam. For the small $|t|$ setting, a smaller beam spot was used. The dashed line in fig. 4b shows the typical behavior of $\Delta P/P$ for the small $|t|$ setting. The solid lines in fig. 4b show the errors for the large $|t|$ setting.

The uncertainty in the incident neutron momentum smears out the neutron spectrum. Since the resolution varies with $t$, this effect is $t$ dependent. Corrections for this were only significant for the highest momentum bin where they were $<4\%$.

Both low $|t|$ and high $|t|$ data were collected in each of two running periods which were spaced six months apart. In principle, it is possible to use either the telescope "M" or the total absorption calorimeter to provide relative normalization between data sets. However, because of possible shifts in the energy spectrum due to different production angles of the neutral beam for the two running periods, the data sets were normalized relative to each other by tying the data together in various overlap regions. This typically involved five data points per data set and we estimate the uncertainty in this procedure to be approximately 4%. After the data were combined, the overall normalization was calculated by fitting the data to the form $\mathrm{d}\sigma/\mathrm{d}|t| = Ae^{Bt+Ct^2}$ in the range $0.17 \leqslant |t| \leqslant 0.7$ and extrapolating to $t = 0$. The intercept was then adjusted to the optical theorem point as given by

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma(t=0)}{\mathrm{d}|t|} = \frac{1}{16\pi}\sigma_{\mathrm{T}}^2(1+\rho^2)\,. \tag{1}$$

The values of $\sigma_{\mathrm{T}}$ used were calculated from a fit of np total cross-section data given by Murthy et al. [7]. If we assume that the ratio of the real to imaginary parts of the forward scattering amplitude, $\rho$, for np elastic scattering is approximately the same as that for pp scattering (8), the contribution of the $\rho^2$ term in eq. (1) is negligible. The uncertainty in the overall normalization is estimated to be $^{+}_{-}{}^{5}_{15}\%$, mainly due to the uncertainty in the extrapolation to $t = 0$.

## 4. Results

The differential cross sections for np elastic scattering as measured by this experiment are presented in fig. 5. The continuous neutron spectrum has been divided into

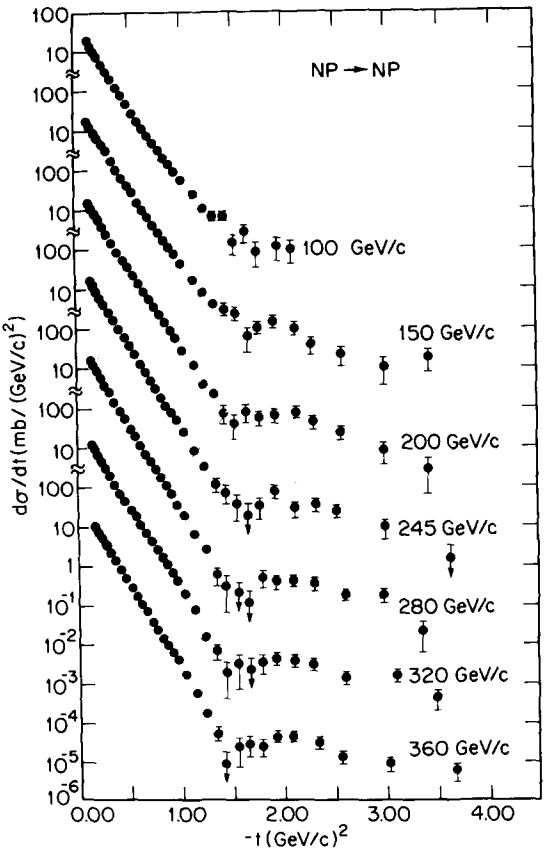


Fig. 5. Neutron-proton elastic differential cross sections from 70 to 400 GeV/$c$ as measured by this experiment.

seven momentum bins. Each data set in fig. 5 has been labeled with the nominal momentum value of that bin. The momentum ranges were chosen to provide comparable statistical accuracy for each bin, while making them narrow enough to preserve any energy-dependent effects that may exist. The width of the $t$ bins increases as $|t|$ increases in order to partially compensate for the lower data-collection rate at higher $|t|$. While bins smaller than 0.1 (GeV/$c$)$^2$ in the region $-t \approx 1.4$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$ would have been desirable, it was not possible given the number of events in that region.

Tabulations of the differential cross sections are presented in tables 1–7. The heading of each table gives the range of incident neutron momentum for that bin ($P_{\mathrm{lab}}$), the average c.m. energy squared ($s_{\mathrm{ave}}$), the np total cross section ($\sigma_{\mathrm{T}}$) and

Tables 1–7

Neutron-proton differential cross sections and errors *versus* average four-momentum transfer squared, $t_{ave}$. The cross sections are normalized by the optical theorem, eq. (1); the total cross sections $\sigma_T$ are taken from ref. [7].

Table 1

$P_{LAB}$ = 70–125 GeV/c, $s_{ave}$ = 189 $(GeV/c)^2$

($\sigma_T$ = 38.8 mb, P* = 6.82 GeV/c)

| $t_{ave}$ | dσ/dt mb/$(GeV/c)^2$ | Error | θ* deg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| .152 | .191E+02 | .97E+00 | 3.278 |
| .175 | .141E+02 | .63E+00 | 3.517 |
| .205 | .999E+01 | .45E+00 | 3.807 |
| .238 | .743E+01 | .34E+00 | 4.105 |
| .279 | .475E+01 | .22E+00 | 4.441 |
| .323 | .313E+01 | .15E+00 | 4.779 |
| .373 | .208E+01 | .11E+00 | 5.132 |
| .423 | .120E+01 | .72E-01 | 5.469 |
| .473 | .822E+00 | .55E-01 | 5.787 |
| .521 | .474E+00 | .38E-01 | 6.073 |
| .576 | .270E+00 | .13E-01 | 6.381 |
| .625 | .170E+00 | .83E-02 | 6.648 |
| .674 | .111E+00 | .56E-02 | 6.905 |
| .723 | .709E-01 | .38E-02 | 7.152 |
| .773 | .500E-01 | .28E-02 | 7.396 |
| .824 | .327E-01 | .20E-02 | 7.636 |
| .874 | .199E-01 | .14E-02 | 7.865 |
| .924 | .142E-01 | .11E-02 | 8.087 |
| .972 | .897E-02 | .78E-03 | 8.295 |
| 1.043 | .547E-02 | .44E-03 | 8.593 |
| 1.150 | .241E-02 | .28E-03 | 9.024 |
| 1.247 | .102E-02 | .18E-03 | 9.397 |
| 1.346 | .654E-03 | .15E-03 | 9.764 |
| 1.449 | .639E-03 | .16E-03 | 10.132 |
| 1.539 | .140E-03 | .71E-04 | 10.443 |
| 1.649 | .260E-03 | .12E-03 | 10.810 |
| 1.756 | .839E-04 | .50E-04 | 11.157 |
| 1.957 | .114E-03 | .64E-04 | 11.780 |
| 2.093 | .994E-04 | .58E-04 | 12.184 |

Table 2

$P_{LAB}$ = 125–175 GeV/c, $s_{ave}$ = 283 $GeV^2$

($\sigma_T$ = 39.1 mb, P* = 8.36 GeV/c)

| $t_{ave}$ | dσ/dt mb/$(GeV/c)^2$ | Error | θ* deg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| .152 | .182E+02 | .87E+00 | 2.672 |
| .174 | .129E+02 | .56E+00 | 2.862 |
| .204 | .922E+01 | .41E+00 | 3.098 |
| .239 | .675E+01 | .30E+00 | 3.351 |
| .279 | .454E+01 | .21E+00 | 3.623 |
| .323 | .302E+01 | .14E+00 | 3.895 |
| .373 | .173E+01 | .87E-01 | 4.186 |
| .422 | .100E+01 | .56E-01 | 4.455 |
| .473 | .605E+00 | .39E-01 | 4.714 |
| .524 | .409E+00 | .30E-01 | 4.964 |
| .576 | .276E+00 | .13E-01 | 5.201 |
| .625 | .153E+00 | .73E-02 | 5.419 |
| .674 | .992E-01 | .48E-02 | 5.628 |
| .724 | .664E-01 | .34E-02 | 5.833 |
| .774 | .414E-01 | .23E-02 | 6.032 |
| .825 | .269E-01 | .16E-02 | 6.227 |
| .873 | .171E-01 | .11E-02 | 6.406 |
| .924 | .112E-01 | .81E-03 | 6.591 |
| .972 | .768E-02 | .62E-03 | 6.760 |
| 1.041 | .423E-02 | .33E-03 | 6.996 |
| 1.144 | .169E-02 | .18E-03 | 7.334 |
| 1.245 | .792E-03 | .12E-03 | 7.652 |
| 1.345 | .403E-03 | .89E-04 | 7.954 |
| 1.451 | .298E-03 | .80E-04 | 8.262 |
| 1.552 | .229E-03 | .68E-04 | 8.545 |
| 1.662 | .652E-04 | .40E-04 | 8.843 |
| 1.758 | .107E-03 | .36E-04 | 9.095 |
| 1.921 | .146E-03 | .43E-04 | 9.509 |
| 2.124 | .101E-03 | .33E-04 | 10.000 |
| 2.278 | .401E-04 | .18E-04 | 10.357 |
| 2.567 | .225E-04 | .10E-04 | 10.996 |
| 2.986 | .106E-04 | .67E-05 | 11.862 |
| 3.404 | .183E-04 | .10E-04 | 12.669 |

Table 3

$P_{LAB}$ = 175-225 GeV/c, $s_{ave}$ = 377 GeV$^2$
($\sigma_T$ = 39.5 mb, P* = 9.66 GeV/c)

| $t_{ave}$ | dσ/dt | Error | θ* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | mb/(GeV/c)$^2$ | | deg. |
| .152 | .159E+02 | .73E+00 | 2.312 |
| .174 | .119E+02 | .51E+00 | 2.476 |
| .204 | .870E+01 | .37E+00 | 2.681 |
| .239 | .613E+01 | .26E+00 | 2.899 |
| .279 | .398E+01 | .18E+00 | 3.133 |
| .323 | .256E+01 | .12E+00 | 3.371 |
| .373 | .155E+01 | .74E-01 | 3.622 |
| .423 | .863E+00 | .46E-01 | 3.857 |
| .474 | .572E+00 | .33E-01 | 4.083 |
| .524 | .383E+00 | .25E-01 | 4.293 |
| .576 | .237E+00 | .11E-01 | 4.500 |
| .625 | .145E+00 | .66E-02 | 4.689 |
| .674 | .878E-01 | .41E-02 | 4.870 |
| .723 | .584E-01 | .28E-02 | 5.044 |
| .773 | .363E-01 | .19E-02 | 5.215 |
| .823 | .239E-01 | .13E-02 | 5.381 |
| .873 | .154E-01 | .92E-03 | 5.543 |
| .923 | .898E-02 | .61E-03 | 5.699 |
| .974 | .613E-02 | .46E-03 | 5.855 |
| 1.039 | .281E-02 | .22E-03 | 6.047 |
| 1.147 | .127E-02 | .13E-03 | 6.354 |
| 1.242 | .416E-03 | .74E-04 | 6.612 |
| 1.345 | .227E-03 | .58E-04 | 6.881 |
| 1.426 | .747E-04 | .36E-04 | 7.086 |
| 1.530 | .410E-04 | .26E-04 | 7.340 |
| 1.644 | .828E-04 | .38E-04 | 7.609 |
| 1.768 | .582E-04 | .23E-04 | 7.891 |
| 1.919 | .658E-04 | .23E-04 | 8.222 |
| 2.121 | .769E-04 | .21E-04 | 8.644 |
| 2.291 | .447E-04 | .16E-04 | 8.985 |
| 2.560 | .239E-04 | .81E-05 | 9.499 |
| 2.975 | .850E-05 | .46E-05 | 10.242 |
| 3.401 | .286E-05 | .22E-05 | 10.952 |

Table 4

$P_{LAB}$ = 225-265 GeV/c, $s_{ave}$ = 461 GeV$^2$
($\sigma_T$ = 39.7 mb, $P^*$ = 10.7 GeV/c)

| $t_{ave}$ | dσ/dt | Error | θ* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | mb/(GeV/c)$^2$ | | deg. |
| .151 | .179E+02 | .82E+00 | 2.081 |
| .174 | .135E+02 | .57E+00 | 2.236 |
| .204 | .960E+01 | .41E+00 | 2.421 |
| .239 | .666E+01 | .29E+00 | 2.618 |
| .279 | .446E+01 | .20E+00 | 2.829 |
| .323 | .275E+01 | .12E+00 | 3.044 |
| .373 | .175E+01 | .83E-01 | 3.271 |
| .423 | .996E+00 | .52E-01 | 3.486 |
| .473 | .665E+00 | .38E-01 | 3.685 |
| .524 | .387E+00 | .26E-01 | 3.878 |
| .575 | .229E+00 | .10E-01 | 4.062 |
| .625 | .134E+00 | .61E-02 | 4.235 |
| .674 | .835E-01 | .39E-02 | 4.398 |
| .723 | .530E-01 | .26E-02 | 4.555 |
| .774 | .335E-01 | .17E-02 | 4.713 |
| .824 | .193E-01 | .11E-02 | 4.863 |
| .873 | .121E-01 | .75E-03 | 5.005 |
| .924 | .801E-02 | .55E-03 | 5.150 |
| .975 | .511E-02 | .39E-03 | 5.290 |
| 1.045 | .250E-02 | .19E-03 | 5.477 |
| 1.147 | .884E-03 | .10E-03 | 5.738 |
| 1.242 | .345E-03 | .64E-04 | 5.971 |
| 1.349 | .113E-03 | .37E-04 | 6.223 |
| 1.446 | .712E-04 | .32E-04 | 6.443 |
| 1.552 | .378E-04 | .25E-04 | 6.675 |
| 1.649 | .195E-04 | .19E-04 | 6.881 |
| 1.759 | .341E-04 | .18E-04 | 7.107 |
| 1.914 | .765E-04 | .23E-04 | 7.414 |
| 2.108 | .291E-04 | .12E-04 | 7.781 |
| 2.309 | .371E-04 | .13E-04 | 8.145 |
| 2.507 | .241E-04 | .75E-05 | 8.487 |
| 2.983 | .955E-05 | .46E-05 | 9.259 |
| 3.606 | .151E-05 | .16E-05 | 10.183 |

Table 5

$P_{LAB}$ = 265-300 GeV/c, $s_{ave}$ = 527 GeV$^2$

($\sigma_T$ = 39.9 mb, P* = 11.4 GeV/c)

| $t_{ave}$ | dσ/dt | Error | θ* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | mb/(GeV/c)$^2$ | | deg. |
| .151 | .156E+02 | .71E+00 | 1.946 |
| .174 | .116E+02 | .49E+00 | 2.092 |
| .204 | .821E+01 | .35E+00 | 2.265 |
| .239 | .551E+01 | .24E+00 | 2.449 |
| .279 | .360E+01 | .16E+00 | 2.646 |
| .323 | .241E+01 | .11E+00 | 2.847 |
| .373 | .134E+01 | .65E-01 | 3.061 |
| .423 | .815E+00 | .43E-01 | 3.258 |
| .474 | .528E+00 | .31E-01 | 3.449 |
| .522 | .282E+00 | .20E-01 | 3.621 |
| .575 | .195E+00 | .87E-02 | 3.799 |
| .625 | .116E+00 | .53E-02 | 3.960 |
| .674 | .743E-01 | .34E-02 | 4.112 |
| .723 | .458E-01 | .22E-02 | 4.259 |
| .773 | .293E-01 | .15E-02 | 4.404 |
| .823 | .183E-01 | .10E-02 | 4.545 |
| .874 | .114E-01 | .68E-03 | 4.683 |
| .924 | .691E-02 | .47E-03 | 4.816 |
| .973 | .355E-02 | .29E-03 | 4.942 |
| 1.038 | .197E-02 | .15E-03 | 5.104 |
| 1.140 | .679E-03 | .86E-04 | 5.349 |
| 1.239 | .263E-03 | .53E-04 | 5.577 |
| 1.347 | .599E-04 | .26E-04 | 5.815 |
| 1.433 | .301E-04 | .23E-04 | 5.998 |
| 1.554 | .212E-04 | .17E-04 | 6.246 |
| 1.658 | .113E-04 | .12E-04 | 6.452 |
| 1.784 | .511E-04 | .22E-04 | 6.693 |
| 1.922 | .427E-04 | .16E-04 | 6.948 |
| 2.080 | .432E-04 | .13E-04 | 7.228 |
| 2.289 | .352E-04 | .12E-04 | 7.583 |
| 2.591 | .192E-04 | .60E-05 | 8.068 |
| 2.951 | .169E-04 | .56E-05 | 8.612 |
| 3.328 | .217E-05 | .15E-05 | 9.146 |

Table 6

$P_{LAB}$ = 300-340 GeV/c, $s_{ave}$ = 602 GeV$^2$

($\sigma_T$ = 40.1 mb, P* = 12.2 GeV/c)

| $t_{ave}$ | dσ/dt | Error | θ* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | mb/(GeV/c)$^2$ | | deg. |
| .151 | .136E+02 | .62E+00 | 1.820 |
| .174 | .108E+02 | .45E+00 | 1.956 |
| .204 | .743E+01 | .32E+00 | 2.118 |
| .239 | .527E+01 | .22E+00 | 2.290 |
| .279 | .335E+01 | .15E+00 | 2.472 |
| .323 | .207E+01 | .92E-01 | 2.662 |
| .373 | .123E+01 | .58E-01 | 2.861 |
| .423 | .747E+00 | .38E-01 | 3.047 |
| .474 | .457E+00 | .26E-01 | 3.224 |
| .524 | .276E+00 | .18E-01 | 3.391 |
| .577 | .195E+00 | .87E-02 | 3.557 |
| .624 | .117E+00 | .52E-02 | 3.700 |
| .674 | .731E-01 | .33E-02 | 3.846 |
| .723 | .454E-01 | .21E-02 | 3.983 |
| .775 | .284E-01 | .14E-02 | 4.124 |
| .824 | .173E-01 | .92E-03 | 4.253 |
| .873 | .113E-01 | .65E-03 | 4.377 |
| .923 | .700E-02 | .45E-03 | 4.501 |
| .971 | .439E-02 | .32E-03 | 4.617 |
| 1.041 | .203E-02 | .15E-03 | 4.780 |
| 1.141 | .817E-03 | .89E-04 | 5.005 |
| 1.241 | .165E-03 | .37E-04 | 5.220 |
| 1.343 | .699E-04 | .29E-04 | 5.430 |
| 1.434 | .194E-04 | .15E-04 | 5.611 |
| 1.551 | .334E-04 | .26E-04 | 5.836 |
| 1.671 | .241E-04 | .21E-04 | 6.057 |
| 1.780 | .364E-04 | .19E-04 | 6.252 |
| 1.918 | .462E-04 | .15E-04 | 6.490 |
| 2.095 | .403E-04 | .12E-04 | 6.783 |
| 2.277 | .329E-04 | .10E-04 | 7.072 |
| 2.588 | .146E-04 | .50E-05 | 7.540 |
| 3.086 | .157E-04 | .50E-05 | 8.235 |
| 3.479 | .445E-05 | .23E-05 | 8.745 |

Table 7

$P_{LAB}$ = 340-400 GeV/c, $s_{ave}$ = 677 GeV$^2$
($\sigma_T$ = 40.3 mb, P* = 13.0 GeV/c)

| $t_{ave}$ | dσ/dt mb/(GeV/c)$^2$ | Error | θ* deg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| .175 | .115E+02 | .52E+00 | 1.847 |
| .205 | .829E+01 | .36E+00 | 1.999 |
| .239 | .588E+01 | .25E+00 | 2.159 |
| .279 | .378E+01 | .17E+00 | 2.332 |
| .322 | .234E+01 | .11E+00 | 2.506 |
| .372 | .143E+01 | .68E-01 | 2.693 |
| .423 | .847E+00 | .45E-01 | 2.872 |
| .473 | .512E+00 | .30E-01 | 3.036 |
| .524 | .293E+00 | .15E-01 | 3.196 |
| .572 | .178E+00 | .11E-01 | 3.341 |
| .623 | .116E+00 | .78E-02 | 3.485 |
| .672 | .755E-01 | .59E-02 | 3.619 |
| .724 | .398E-01 | .19E-02 | 3.757 |
| .773 | .258E-01 | .13E-02 | 3.882 |
| .824 | .150E-01 | .81E-03 | 4.009 |
| .873 | .101E-01 | .59E-03 | 4.126 |
| .924 | .667E-02 | .42E-03 | 4.245 |
| .973 | .418E-02 | .30E-03 | 4.356 |
| 1.041 | .175E-02 | .13E-03 | 4.506 |
| 1.144 | .603E-03 | .72E-04 | 4.724 |
| 1.241 | .182E-03 | .40E-04 | 4.920 |
| 1.346 | .530E-04 | .24E-04 | 5.124 |
| 1.414 | .882E-05 | .99E-05 | 5.252 |
| 1.550 | .254E-04 | .18E-04 | 5.499 |
| 1.651 | .302E-04 | .16E-04 | 5.676 |
| 1.774 | .256E-04 | .12E-04 | 5.883 |
| 1.920 | .480E-04 | .15E-04 | 6.121 |
| 2.079 | .474E-04 | .12E-04 | 6.369 |
| 2.327 | .338E-04 | .11E-04 | 6.739 |
| 2.549 | .136E-04 | .48E-05 | 7.054 |
| 3.012 | .936E-05 | .38E-05 | 7.668 |
| 3.662 | .604E-05 | .28E-05 | 8.457 |

the c.m. momentum ($P^*$). In the tables, $t_{ave}$ is the average value of $|t|$ for all events in the bin, and $\theta^*$ is the c.m. scattering angle.

The errors plotted in fig. 5 and listed in tables 1–7 include statistical uncertainties as well as the point-to-point systematic errors. However, the uncertainty of the overall normalization of the data, estimated to be $^{+5}_{-15}$% for each momentum bin, has not been included in the error assignment. The point-to-point systematics reflect the uncertainties of various corrections such as geometric detection efficiency, nuclear absorption of protons, and so forth. This estimate was added in quadrature to the statistical uncertainties in the number of good events and background events to yield the final error assignments. Uncertainties due to possible $K^0_L$ contamination in the beam at lower energies have not been included.

The following observations can be made. The data exhibit the usual diffraction peak which shrinks with increasing energy. Above 200 GeV/$c$, the data show the gradual evolution of a dip in the cross section near $|t| = 1.4$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$ as the incident neutron energy increases. While the dip is similar to that previously reported in pp elastic scattering [5,6,9], the np cross sections are generally higher in this region and do not appear to vary as rapidly as a function of energy in the dip region. The cross sections then rise to a second maximum and begin to fall in a much slower fashion. As in pp data, the logarithmic slope beyond the second maximum is $\sim 2$ (GeV/$c$)$^{-2}$.

Traditionally, elastic scattering has been characterized in the diffraction region by the logarithmic slope parameter $b^*(s, t)$ with the interpretation that the radius of the strong interaction is proportional to $b^*$, where $b^*$ is defined as

$$b^*(s, t) \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left\{\ln \frac{d\sigma}{dt}(s, t)\right\}.$$

We have fit the data to the form

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = Ae^{Bt+Ct^2}$$

in the region $0.17 \leqslant -t \leqslant 0.67$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. For this parametrization, $b^*$ is given by

$$b^*(s, t) = B(s) + 2C(s)t\,.$$

We have evaluated $b^*$ at $t = -0.2$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. The results are shown in fig. 6, where the data from this experiment are compared to previous np and pp data [3,9–11]. The slope parameters have been plotted as a function of $s$, the c.m. energy squared.

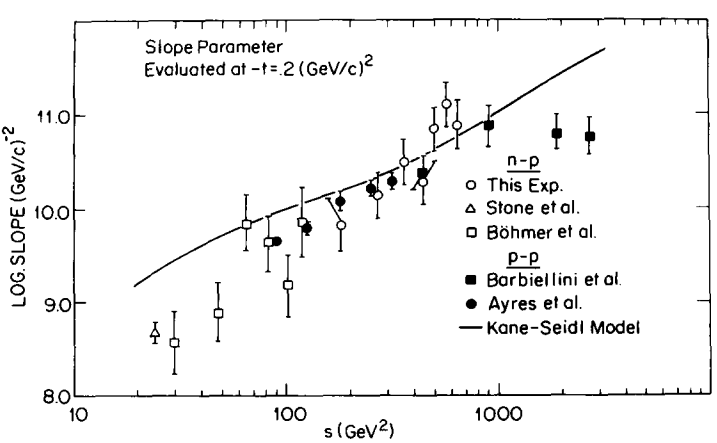


Fig. 6. Logarithmic slope parameter evaluated at $-t = 0.2$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$ for neutron-proton and proton-proton elastic scattering. The solid curve is the prediction of Kane and Seidl [12].

Also shown is the prediction of the reggeized absorption model of Kane and Seidl [12]. There seems to be very little difference between the np and pp slope parameters over the interval $100 \leqslant s \leqslant 1000$ GeV$^2$.

One of the more interesting areas of comparison between np and pp data is in the region $-t \approx 1.4$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. Given the dip in pp data, it is of interest to look for similar structure in the np data and to see if it develops in the same manner. In fig. 7 we compare our data at 200 GeV/$c$ with the pp data of Akerlof et al. [6], and to the preliminary data of Bomberowitz et al. [13].

As discussed earlier, the development of the dip in np scattering seems to be less dramatic than in pp scattering. Whereas only a shoulder exists in the np data at 200 GeV/$c$, a rather pronounced dip occurs in the pp data. The np data appear to be higher in the dip region, but given the rather large errors in both the pp and np data it is not possible to draw strong conclusions.

While examination of the dip region does not lead to any definite conclusions, some interesting comparisons can be made in the region $0.6 \leqslant -t \leqslant 1.2$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. In fig. 8, the np data are compared to the pp elastic scattering data of Akerlof et al., Bomberowitz et al., and Kwak et al. [4] in the range $0.70 \leqslant -t \leqslant 1.50$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. At 100 GeV/$c$, the np and pp cross sections are comparable up to $-t \approx 0.8$. At

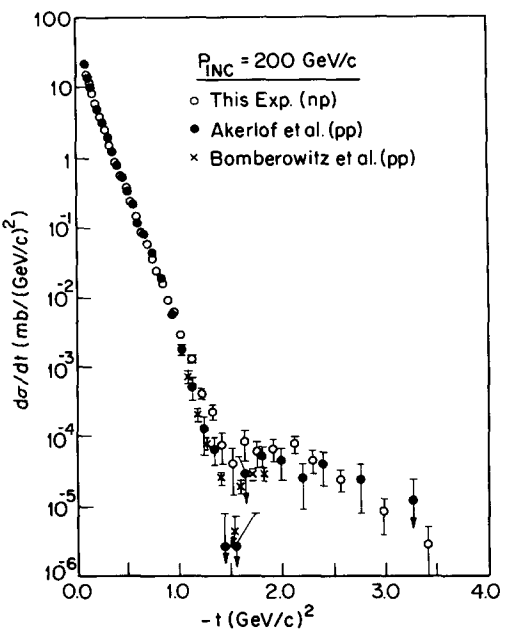


Fig. 7. Comparison of neutron-proton elastic differential cross sections from this experiment and proton-proton elastic differential cross sections from Akerlof et al. [6] and Bomberowitz et al. [13] at 200 GeV/$c$.

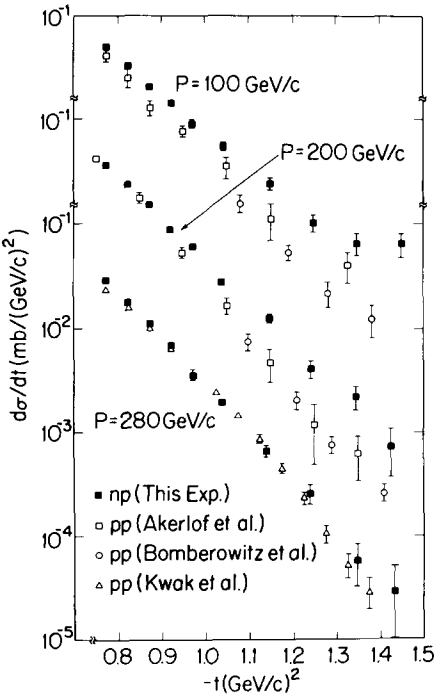


Fig. 8. Neutron-proton differential cross sections for 75–125 GeV/$c$, 175–225 GeV/$c$ and 265–300 GeV/$c$ bins. Also shown are the 200 GeV/$c$ proton-proton data of Akerlof et al. [6], preliminary data from Bomberowitz et al. [12], and the 280 GeV/$c$ pp data of Kwak et al. [14].

larger $|t|$, they begin to diverge with the np cross section approximately 3 times the pp cross section near $-t \approx 1.25$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. This difference persists out to $-t \approx 1.4$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. At 200 GeV/$c$ the cross sections remain comparable out to $-t \approx 0.95$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$, beyond which they begin to differ. As in the 100 GeV/$c$ data, the np data is approximately three times the pp data at $-t \approx 1.25$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. (In order to see if the np data exhibit a strong energy dependence, we have also binned the data for the incident momentum range 200 to 240 GeV/$c$. The cross sections remain unchanged out to $-t \approx 1.3$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$.)

The cross sections at 280 GeV/$c$ agree out to $-t \approx 1.2$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. Thus, as the incident momentum increases, the np and pp cross sections agree out to larger values of $t$. In Regge theory the difference between np and pp elastic scattering is caused by a difference in the sign of the $\rho$ and $A_2$ isovector amplitudes. The magnitude of these reggeon amplitudes should decrease with increasing energy. The comparison of the np data with existing pp data indicates just such an effect. From this comparison, the contribution of the $\rho$ and $A_2$ above 280 GeV/$c$ would seem to be small, at least for $t \lesssim 1.4$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$. However, in simple Regge models, the np cross sections are expected to be *less* than or equal to the pp cross sections. The

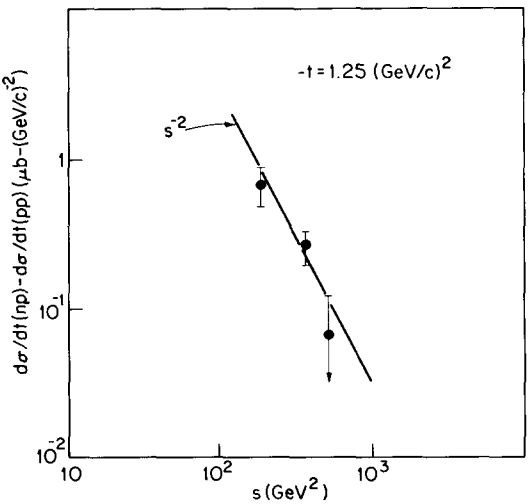


Fig. 9. Difference between neutron-proton and proton-proton elastic differential cross sections plotted against $s$ for $-t = 1.25$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$.

comparison of the np cross sections measured by this experiment with existing pp data indicate the opposite effect. In fig. 9, the difference $(d\sigma/dt)_{np} - (d\sigma/dt)_{pp}$ is plotted against $s$ at fixed $t$. Although there are only three data points, they are approximated by a straight line with slope ~(−2). One example of a mechanism which could account for greater np cross sections would be the interference between the $f_0$ and the $A_2$ net helicity-flip amplitudes [15]. If an interference term between the $f_0$ and $A_2$ is responsible for the greater np cross sections, then it should go like

$$\left.\frac{d\sigma}{dt}\right|_{np} - \left.\frac{d\sigma}{dt}\right|_{pp} \propto s^{2\alpha(t)-2},$$

where $\alpha(t) \simeq 0.4 - 0.85\,|t|$. For $-t = 1.25$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$, this corresponds to a power in $s \sim -3.3$. If, on the other hand, an interference term between the pomeron and an isovector were responsible, the difference should go like $s^{\alpha(t)-1}$ or $s^{-1.7}$. Although the data would seem to favor a pomeron-reggeon interference term, the data are inadequate to distinguish clearly between pomeron-reggeon and reggeon-reggeon interference terms.

## 5. Summary

Differential cross sections for neutron-proton elastic scattering have been measured over the incident neutron momentum range to 70 to 400 GeV/$c$. The results can be summarized as follows.

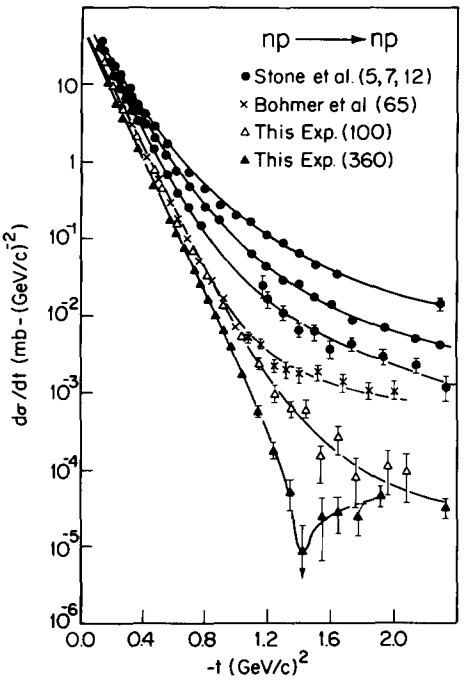


Fig. 10. Composite of neutron-proton elastic differential cross sections for this experiment, Stone et al. [3], and Böhmer et al. [9]. The number in parentheses gives the incident momentum.

(i) At $-t = 0.2$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$, the np logarithmic slope parameters agree with existing pp data for $s \lesssim 1000$ GeV$^2$.

(ii) In the region $0.8 \leqslant -t \leqslant 1.2$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$ for incident momenta less than 280 GeV/$c$, np cross sections are significantly higher than the pp cross sections which indicates that net helicity-flip amplitudes may be important in this region.

(iii) As the incident momentum increases, better agreement is reached between the np and pp cross sections, in qualitative agreement with Regge theory.

(iv) A dip in the np cross section above 200 GeV/$c$ has been confirmed although the detailed behavior seems to be different from that of the pp data.

A synopsis of neutron-proton elastic scattering over a large momentum range is presented in fig. 10 where some representative np elastic scattering data have been plotted against $|t|$ over a large energy range. (The numbers after the references in parentheses give the incident momentum.) If we fix $-t = 2.0$ (GeV/$c$)$^2$, the scattering angles in the c.m.s. go from $\theta_{\mathrm{cms}} \sim 40^\circ$ at low momenta to $\theta_{\mathrm{cms}} \sim 8^\circ$ at Fermilab energies. The lower momenta cross sections (3) at this $|t|$ drop like $s^{-n}$ where $n \sim 8$–$10$, while between 100 and 360 GeV/$c$ the cross sections at $-t = 2$ show little change.

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