

Kaon-nuclei interaction studies at low energies (the AMADEUS experiment)

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Summary. — The AMADEUS experiment aims to perform dedicated precision studies in the sector of low-energy kaon-nuclei interaction at the DAΦNE collider at LNF-INFN. In particular the experiment plans to perform measurements of the so-called deeply bound kaonic nuclei (by stopping kaons in cryogenic gaseous targets ³He and ⁴He) and to study the low-energy interaction of negative kaons in various targets. The AMADEUS dedicated setup will be installed inside the KLOE drift chamber.

PACS 13.75.Jz – Kaon-baryon interactions.

PACS 25.80.Nv – Kaon-induced interactions.

PACS 21.65.Jk – Mesons in nuclear matter.

1. – Introduction

The AMADEUS (Antikaon Matter At DAΦNE Experiments with Unraveling Spectroscopy) experiment [1, 2] will study the low-energy interactions of kaons with nucleons and nuclei. AMADEUS aims to search for the most fundamental Deeply Bound Kaonic Nuclear States (DBKNS), that are the kaonic dibaryon states (K^-pp , K^-pn),

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produced by stopping K^- in a ^3He target and, as a next step, the kaonic tribaryon states (K^-ppn , K^-pnn) using a ^4He target. Also important objectives are the measurements of low-energy cross-sections of charged kaons on H, d, and He (for kaons momentum lower than 100 MeV) and the study of nuclear interactions of K^- in these targets. Kaonic nuclear states will be studied both in the formation process, by means of missing-mass spectroscopy, and in the decay process. As DBKNS are expected to decay into states containing Λ and Σ hyperons, neutral (neutrons and photons) as well as charged particles are to be detected, with momenta in a wide range. The detection requirements are satisfied by the KLOE detector, which is made of a 4π cylindrical drift chamber (DC) and a calorimeter, with an acceptance of 96%.

2. – The dedicated AMADEUS setup

The AMADEUS setup will be implemented inside the KLOE DC, between the beam pipe (6 cm diameter) and the DC entrance wall (50 cm diameter). Charged kaons produced back to back by ϕ decay, will be stopped after passing a degrader and a trigger system [3, 4], in a high density cryogenic gaseous target, filled with ^3He as a first step, ^4He in a second phase. A similar target was recently installed in DAΦNE, for the SIDDHARTA [5] experiment and our group will take advantage of the gained experience.

3. – Analysis of the KLOE data searching for K^- - ^4He interactions

Presently, we are performing dedicated Monte Carlo simulations, to study the performance of the AMADEUS setup. In parallel, we are analysing the existing KLOE data. Indeed the KLOE drift chamber is mainly filled with ^4He (90% helium 10% isobutane) and the analysis of KLOE Monte Carlo showed, that about 0.1% of kaons from DAΦNE should stop in the inner volume of the drift chamber. This represents a unique opportunity to check the reconstruction capability for Σ and Λ particles and for studying the hadronic interactions of K^- in such an active target. Up to now, data for a total luminosity of 1.8 fb^{-1} were analysed from a sample of 2005 KLOE data [6]. An excellent result was already achieved in reconstructing the $\Lambda(1116)$ invariant mass, with a statistical error of 3 keV; the systematics, being presently under evaluation.

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