Improved Parameterization of $K^+$ Production in p-Be Collisions at Low Energy Using Feynman Scaling

C. Mariani, G. Cheng, J. M. Conrad, and M. H. Shaevitz

1Columbia University, New York, NY 10027
2Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

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This paper describes an improved parameterization for proton-beryllium production of secondary $K^+$ mesons for experiments with primary proton beams from 8.89 to 24 GeV/c. The parameterization is based on Feynman scaling in which the invariant cross section is described as a function of transverse momentum, $p_T$, and a scaling variable, $x_F = p_T^{CM}/p_{CM \text{ max}}$. Various scaling parameterizations are known to describe data well above ~20 GeV [2, 3]. In this paper, we show that the F-S form describes data down to 8.89 GeV/c beam momentum. This result provides an alternative model to the traditional “Modified Sanford-Wang” [4, 5] parameterization used to describe secondary production at low primary proton beam momentum. The results from this F-S analysis have been used in the neutrino flux parameterization of the Booster Neutrino Beam (BNB) at Fermilab and has been checked against measurements by the SciBooNE experiment [6]. This parameterization will also be useful for future neutrino experiments with low primary beam energies, such as those planned for the Project X accelerator.

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I. INTRODUCTION

This paper describes a parameterization for inclusive production of secondary $K^+$ mesons in proton-beryllium collisions,

$$p + Be \rightarrow K^+ + X.$$ (1)

for experiments with low primary proton beam energies ranging in kinetic energy from below 9 to 24 GeV. The parameterization is based on Feynman scaling (F-S) [1], in which the invariant cross section is described as a function of transverse momentum, $p_T$, and a scaling variable, $x_F = p_T^{CM}/p_{CM \text{ max}}$. Various scaling parameterizations are known to describe data well above ~20 GeV [2, 3]. In this paper, we show that the F-S form describes data down to 8.89 GeV/c beam momentum. This result provides an alternative model to the traditional “Modified Sanford-Wang” [4, 5] parameterization used to describe secondary production at low primary proton beam momentum. The results from this F-S analysis have been used in the neutrino flux parameterization of the Booster Neutrino Beam (BNB) at Fermilab and has been checked against measurements by the SciBooNE experiment [6]. This parameterization will be useful for future neutrino experiments using low primary proton beam energies.

The primary motivation for this work was the simulation of neutrinos in the BNB line. This line provides neutrinos for the MiniBooNE [7] and SciBooNE [8] experiments, as well as possible future experiments, including the upcoming MicroBooNE [9] experiment. In this beam line, protons with 8 GeV kinetic energy are directed onto a 1.8 interaction length beryllium target. The charged pions and kaons which are produced are focused by a magnetic horn into a 50 m decay region, where they subsequently decay to produce neutrinos. The average energy of $\pi^+$ ($K^+$) that decay to neutrinos in the MiniBooNE detector acceptance is 1.89 (2.66) GeV. Therefore 37.6% (92.1%) of the particles decay before the end of the 50 m long decay region. The most relevant decay modes for MiniBooNE are $\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$, $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$, which produce 99.4% of the neutrino beam, and $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e$, $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \bar{\nu}_\mu$, $K^0_L \rightarrow \pi^- e^+ \nu_e$, and $K^0_L \rightarrow \pi^+ e^- \bar{\nu}_e$, which produce the remaining 0.6%.

Figure 1 shows the predicted flux for the BNB line at the MiniBooNE detector. While the flux is predominately due to $\pi^+$ decay, the $K^+$ decay is the dominant source above 2 GeV. The $\nu_e$ flux from kaon decay contributes one of the important backgrounds for neutrino oscillation searches looking for $\nu_\tau$ appearance. In addition, the kaon neutrino flux provides an interesting source of high energy events for experiments on the BNB line.
for studying neutrino cross sections. Therefore, it is important for the BNB line experiments to have a good first-principles prediction of $K^+$ production.

A first-principles prediction for $K^+$ production is obtained from fitting data from secondary production experiments with primary beam momentum ranging from 8.89 to 24 GeV/c. Nine data sets are considered, but only seven are used in the fit as it will be explained in Section III. Because these data are taken at a range of beam energies, the data must be fit to a parameterization including changes with beam momentum in order to scale the result to the 8.89 GeV/c of the BNB line momentum.

A. Feynman Scaling Formalism

Over the past several decades, many experiments have made measurements of particle production by protons of various energies on many different nuclear targets. These data have been used to study the phenomenology of particle production and have led to several scaling laws and quark counting rules. For inclusive particle production, Feynman put forward a theoretical model \[1\] where the invariant cross section is only a function of $x_F$ and $p_T$.

The invariant cross section is related to the commonly used differential cross section by:

$$
\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega} = \frac{p^2}{E} \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3}.
$$

Defining

$$
E \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp^3} = AF(x_F, p_T),
$$

this leads to:

$$
\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega} = \frac{p^2}{E} A F(x_F, p_T).
$$

$A$ is a factor and $F$ is the F-S function that depends on $x_F$ and $p_T$. The quantity $p_{CM}^{CM_{max}}$, which appears in the denominator of the definition of $x_F$, depends upon the particle being produced and is derived from the exclusive channels given in Table I.

Feynman scaling has been demonstrated for secondary meson production at primary beam energies above $\sim15$ to 20 GeV.\[2,3,4\], this paper demonstrates the validity of F-S at lower primary beam energies for $K^+$ production. One might expect F-S to be a better parameterization of $K^+$ production than the “Modified Sanford-Wang” formalism for two reasons. First, the F-S parameterization properly accounts for the kinematic effects of the large kaon mass where even at $x_F = 0$, the outgoing kaon can have a significant laboratory momentum. Second, the functional form of the parameterization typically has peak production at $x_F = 0$. This is in contrast to the “Modified Sanford-Wang” formalism, where the production rate continues to grow as $x_F$ becomes more negative.

B. Feynman Scaling Parameterization for the Particle Production Cross Section

The Feynman model can be used to describe the expected $x_F$ and $p_T$ dependence using theoretically inspired functions for these dependences. For the $x_F$ dependence, a parameterization proportional to $\exp(-a |x_F|^b)$ or $(1 - |x_F|^c)^c$ has the properties consistent with a flat rapidity plateau around $x_F = 0$. The expectation of a limited $p_T$ range is provided by including exponential moderating factors for powers of $p_T$.

Using this guidance, a F-S parameterization has been developed to describe kaon production. In order to allow some coupling between the $x_F$ and $p_T$ distribution an additional exponential factor has been added that uses the product, $[p_T \times x_F]$. The $c_i$’s are the seven coefficients of the F-S function. The kinematic threshold constraint for $K^+$ production is imposed by setting $\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega}$ equal to zero for $|x_F| > 1$.

Including these factors, the final parameterization has the form:

$$
\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega} = \frac{p_K^2}{E_K} \left( \frac{E_K}{p_K} \right) \frac{d^3\sigma}{dp_K^3} = \left( \frac{p_K^2}{E_K} \right) c_1 \times \exp \left[ c_3 |x_F| c_4 - c_7 \left| p_T \times x_F \right|^c - c_2 p_T - c_5 p_T^2 \right]
$$

C. The “Modified Sanford-Wang” Parameterization

Many neutrino experiments have used the “Modified Sanford-Wang” parameterization\[4,5\] (S-W):

| Produced Hadron | Exclusive Reaction | $M_X$ (GeV/c^2) | $\sqrt{S_{thresh}}$ (GeV) | $E_{beam_{thresh}}$ (GeV) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| $\pi^+$        | pp$\pi^+$          | 1.878          | 2.018                    | 1.233                    |
| $\pi^-$        | pp$\pi^+\pi^-$     | 2.016          | 2.156                    | 1.54                     |
| $\pi^0$       | pp$\pi^0$          | 1.876          | 2.011                    | 1.218                    |
| $K^+$          | $\Lambda^0 pK^+$   | 2.053          | 2.547                    | 2.52                     |
| $K^-$          | pp$K^+K^-$         | 2.37           | 2.864                    | 3.434                    |
| $K^0$          | p$\Sigma^+ K^0$   | 2.13           | 2.628                    | 2.743                    |

**TABLE I. Threshold production channels for proton + proton production of various mesons.** The exclusive reaction is the final state with the minimum mass, $M_X$. $\sqrt{S_{thresh}}$ and $E_{beam_{thresh}}$ are the threshold center of mass (CM) and laboratory energy.
\[ \frac{d^2\sigma}{dp\Omega} = c_1 p_K c_2 \left(1 - \frac{p_K}{p_{BEAM} - c_0}\right) \times \]
\[ \times \exp \left[ -c_3 p_K c_4 \frac{p_K}{p_{BEAM} c_5} - c_6 \theta_K \left(p_K - c_7 p_{BEAM} \cos^2 \theta_K\right) \right] \]

This functional form allows for some phenomenological parameterization of the variations associated with beam energy and process thresholds. As noted in one of the initial Sanford-Wang papers [4, 5], the coefficients for \( \pi^+ \) production are approximately given by: \( c_2 = 0.5, c_4 = c_5 = 1.67, \) and the \( \cos \theta \) term is negligible. With these substitutions, the formula shows a close although not perfect relationship with F-S (see Eq. 3):

\[ E^4 \sigma^{Sanford-Wang} = A' F'(X) e^{-C_{PF}}, \]

where

\[ F'(X) = X^{1/2}(1 - X) e^{-BX^{5/3}} \]

and

\[ X = \frac{p}{p_{BEAM}} \]

Therefore, the S-W fits to the \( K^+ \) data will show only approximate consistency with F-S. At low beam energy, produced particle mass effects can become important. Table II gives the minimum mass channels, their invariant mass, and the beam energy threshold for different particle production processes. In the S-W formula, the parameter \( c_0 \) is included to approximately provide the kinematic limit for produced particle momentum. Investigations of the exact kinematic threshold for \( K^+ \) production show that the maximum \( p_K \) is approximately equal to \( p_{BEAM} - P_{Diff} \) where \( P_{Diff} \) varies from 1.7 to 2.2 GeV as \( \theta_K \) goes from 0 to 0.3 rad. One would therefore expect that \( c_0 \) would take on values similar to \( P_{Diff} \). On the other hand, the factor \( (1 - \frac{p_K}{p_{BEAM} - c_0}) \) introduces violations of the scaling behavior away from this limiting region.

An additional problem with the S-W parameterization is that most of the function parameters \( (c_i) \) will be effectively fixed by the scaling constraints, and this will be limiting the flexibility of the function to match the \( x_F \) and \( p_T \) behavior. The parameter \( c_2 \), for example, should be close to unity to provide the conversion from invariant to differential cross section. The parameter \( c_9 \) needs to be approximately equal to 2.0 GeV to provide the maximum \( p_K \) dependence, and the parameters \( c_4 \) and \( c_5 \) should be equal in order to preserve a basic \( x_F \) dependence. Thus, the S-W parameterization has very little flexibility to fit the data distributions over the full kinematic range and therefore a formalism like Feynman scaling is required. In many of the following plots, we will compare prediction results coming from S-W and F-S parameterizations.

II. EXTERNAL DATA SETS AND KINEMATIC COVERAGE

Several \( K^+ \) production measurements have been made for beam momentum less than 25 GeV/c and are reported in Table III. Those experiments, except for Piroue, have beam momenta higher than the BNB value of 8.89 GeV/c although some of them such as Aleshin and Vorontsov are fairly close to the BNB beam momentum. The kaons that produce neutrinos in MiniBooNE span the kinematic region with \(-0.1 < x_F < 0.5 \) and \( 0.05 < p_T (GeV/c) < 0.5 \) as shown in Figure 2 which is nicely covered by the experimental data sets listed in Table III. Of course, we are using the assumption that one can extrapolate these higher beam momentum data to the BNB energy value using a parameterization such as F-S. Thus, the first question to be answered is whether the data appears to follow these scaling parameterizations.

![FIG. 2. Values of \( x_F \) and \( p_T \) for the data points of the various data sets in Table III. The distribution for kaons that produce \( \nu_e \) events in the MiniBooNE detector is shown as open boxes.](image)

The F-S hypothesis says that the invariant cross section \( E^2 \sigma^{F-S} \) should only depend on \( x_F \) and \( p_T \). This hypothesis can further be tested by scaling all the data to a common beam momentum and checked by the behavior of the invariant cross section against the scaled value of \( p_K \) and \( \theta_K \). Figure 3 shows the invariant cross section for scaled kaon momentum and angle bins using the F-S assumption. For this plot, the data from each data set is converted first to \( x_F \) and \( p_T \) and then scaled to \( p_K^{8.89} \) and \( \theta_K^{8.89} \) for a 8.89 GeV/c beam momentum. For example, given a cross section point at \( P_{BEAM} = 20 \) GeV/c with a given \( P_K \) and \( \theta_K \), one can calculate the \( x_F \) and \( p_T \) for this point. One can then find the equivalent \( p_K' \) and \( \theta_K' \) that would have the same \( x_F \) and \( p_T \) at \( P_{BEAM} = 8.89 \) GeV/c. As seen from the plots, the data appears to obey the scaling hypothesis reasonably well except for the Lundy, Piroue, and Vorontsov data sets. Due to the disagree-
TABLE II. Data sets for $K^+$ production with proton momentum lower 24 GeV/c. $P_B$ indicates the beam momentum and $\sigma_n$ gives the normalization error for the experimental data.

| $K^+$ Data | Ref. | $P_B$(GeV/c) | $P_K$(GeV/c) | $\theta_K$(rad) | $x_F$ | $p_T$(GeV/c) | $\sigma_{Norm}$ |
|------------|------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------|---------------|-----------------|
| Abbott     | 10   | 14.6         | 2 - 8        | 0.35 - 0.52    | -0.12 - 0.07 | 0.2 - 0.7      | 10%             |
| Aleshin    | 11   | 9.5          | 3 - 6.5      | 0.06           | 0.3 - 0.8   | 0.2 - 0.4      | 10%             |
| Allaby     | 12   | 19.2         | 3 - 16       | 0 - 0.12       | 0.3 - 0.9   | 0.1 - 1.0      | 15%             |
| Dekkers    | 13   | 18.8, 23.1   | 4 - 12       | 0.09           | 0.1 - 0.5   | 0.0 - 1.2      | 20%             |
| Eichten    | 14   | 24.0         | 4 - 18       | 0 - 0.10       | 0.1 - 0.8   | 0.1 - 1.2      | 20%             |
| Lundy      | 15   | 13.4         | 3 - 6        | 0.03, 0.07, 0.14| 0.1 - 0.6   | 0.1 - 1.2      | 20%             |
| Marmer     | 16   | 12.3         | 0.5 - 1      | 0.09, 0.17     | -0.2 - -0.05| 0.0 - 0.15     | 20%             |
| Piroue     | 17   | 2.74         | 0.5 - 1      | 0.23, 0.52     | -0.3 - 1.0   | 0.15 - 0.5     | 20%             |
| Vorontsov  | 18   | 10.1         | 1 - 4.5      | 0.06           | 0.03 - 0.5  | 0.1 - 0.25     | 25%             |

The fit uses a $\chi^2$ minimization technique using Minuit to perform the numerical minimization. Each experiment is allowed to have an independent normalization parameter that is constrained by the published normalization uncertainty. The fit minimizes the following function for an experiment $j$:

$$\chi^2_j = \sum_i \frac{(N_j \times SF_i - Data_i)^2}{(f \times \sigma_i)^2} + \frac{(1 - N_j)^2}{\sigma_{N_j}^2}, \quad (10)$$

where $i$ is the $(P_K, \theta_K)$ bin index, $SF$ is the scaling function prediction evaluated at the given $(p_{BEAM}, \theta_K, P_K)$, $Data_i$ is the measurement at a given $(p_{BEAM}, \theta_K, P_K)$, $\sigma_i$ is the data error for measurement $i$, $f$ is the scaling factor to bring the $\chi^2/d.o.f.$ $= 1$, $N_j$ is the normalization factor for experiment $j$, $\sigma_{N_j}$ is the normalization uncertainty for experiment $j$, and d.o.f. indicates degree of freedom. The total $\chi^2$ for external data sets is then the sum over the experiments of the individual $\chi^2_j$ values,

$$\chi^2 = \sum_j \chi^2_j. \quad (11)$$

The $\chi^2$ is minimized in order to obtain the best values and uncertainties for the parameterization coefficients $c_j$, given in Eq. 3 (or 4) and for the normalization factors $N_j$. The uncertainties on the fit values at 1σ are determined from a $\Delta \chi^2 = 1$ change with respect to $\chi^2_{min}$ and the fit also yields a covariance matrix that can be used to propagate correlated errors associated with the parameterization of the cross section.

A F-S fit to all the experimental data sets with $0.0 < P_{K,89}^8$(GeV/c) $< 6.0$ gives a $\chi^2/d.o.f.$ equal to 4.03 with large $\chi^2$ contributions from data with $P_{K,89}^8 < 1.2$ GeV/c and $P_{K,89}^8 > 5.5$ GeV/c. Therefore for the final scaling fits, the points with the larger pull terms, defined as $(N_j \times SF_i - Data_i)/\sigma_i$, have been eliminated by only using data with $1.2 < P_{K,89}^8$(GeV/c) $< 5.5$.

The 1.2 GeV/c cut effectively removes data at negative $x_F$ where the nuclear environment starts to play an important role. This cut also eliminates all the Marmer data points.

With all of these requirements, the $\chi^2/d.o.f.$ for the F-S fit is reduced to 2.28. The uncertainties for the fitted cross section need to be corrected for this $\chi^2/d.o.f.$, which is larger than 1.0. This is accomplished by scaling up the errors of each of the data points by $\sqrt{\chi^2/d.o.f.}$ before doing the fit. Figure 4 shows the pull terms for the seven parameter F-S fit where the errors have been scaled up by this $\sqrt{\chi^2/d.o.f.} = \sqrt{2.28} = 1.51$.

A S-W fit to all the experimental data has been performed as well. To be able to directly compare the S-W with the F-S fit we have included in the S-W fit only data with $1.2 < P_{K,89}^8$(GeV/c) $< 5.5$. The $\chi^2/d.o.f.$ for the S-W fit is equal to 6.05.

IV. COMPARISON OF FEYNMAN SCALING TO SANFORD-WANG RESULTS AND NEUTRINO PREDICTIONS

Tables III and IV report the final fit values for the coefficients and the normalization factors for the F-S and S-W parameterizations respectively. Figures 5 and 6 show the fit function curves for the F-S and S-W parameterizations as compared to the data. The fits are stable with respect to parameter starting values and yield positive definite covariance matrices. The error bands in
As seen from the plots, the F-S function gives a very good description of the data over the full kaon momentum range used in the fit and has a reasonable $\chi^2$/d.o.f. = 2.3. Below 1.2 GeV/c, the F-S prediction has some disagreement with a few of the Marmer (not included in the fit) and Abbott data points but in general is also fitting that well in that region. The normalization factors for the F-S fits are within $1\sigma$ of the quoted experimental error except for the Vorontsov data (see Table III). As mentioned above, the Vorontsov data shows a systematically low normalization with respect to the other sets of scaled data. Therefore, for all the scaling fits, the Vorontsov data has only been used for shape information by giving the normalization a large uncertainty (500%).

In contrast, the S-W final fit parameterization has rather large discrepancies with the data in almost all regions and has a much larger $\chi^2$/d.o.f. = 6.05. Additionally, the normalization factors given in Table IV are very much outside of the quoted experimental errors and, for example, the factors for Eichten and Allaby differ from 1.0 by 2 to 3$\sigma$.

Tables V and VI list the differential cross sections for several different kinematic points for kaon production. The uncertainties are obtained by propagating the covariance matrix for the $c_j$ coefficients into the scaling function. The first three points in Table V and VI correspond to the mean kaon production points that produce electron neutrino of 0.35, 0.65, and 0.95 GeV in MiniBooNE. The fourth point corresponds to the kaon kinematics that produce average energy neutrinos from all kaon decays (called the “kaon sweet spot”), and the fifth point is associated with the mean kaon kinematics for the highest energy kaon-decay muon neutrinos ob-
FIG. 4. Values of the pull terms, \((N_i \times SF_i - Data_i)/\sigma_i\), for each data point for the F-S fit for 1.2< \(P_{K}^{89}(GeV/c)\) <5.5. The data errors, \(\sigma_i\), have been scaled up by \(\sqrt{\chi^2/d.o.f.} = \sqrt{2.28} = 1.51\). The Gaussian fit gives a \(\chi^2/\text{number of degree of freedom} = 35.51/35\), with a mean value of \((-0.18 \pm 0.11)\) and sigma = \((0.90 \pm 0.17)\).

TABLE III. Results for the F-S fits to the \(K^+\) data including a single normalization factor for each experiment. The data errors have been scaled up by a factor of \(\sqrt{\chi^2/d.o.f.} = f = 1.51\) when included in the fit but the \(\chi^2/d.o.f.\) value listed is for the data without this scaling. d.o.f. indicates here degree of freedom and "no f" means no correction factor applied.

| Feynman Scaling | 1.2< \(P_{K}^{89}(GeV/c)\) <5.5 | \(\chi^2/d.o.f.\) (no f) | \(\chi^2/d.o.f.\) (f) |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fit Value Error |                           | Input Error      |                  |
| c1 11.70 1.05   |                           |                  |                  |
| c2 0.88 0.13    |                           |                  |                  |
| c3 4.77 0.09    |                           |                  |                  |
| c4 1.51 0.06    |                           |                  |                  |
| c5 2.21 0.12    |                           |                  |                  |
| c6 2.17 0.43    |                           |                  |                  |
| c7 1.51 0.40    |                           |                  |                  |
| Aleshin 1.09 0.07 |                      |                  |                  |
| Allaby 1.04 0.07 |                      |                  |                  |
| Dekkers 0.84 0.06 |                      |                  |                  |
| Vorontsov 0.53 0.04 |                     |                  |                  |
| Abbott 0.76 0.07 |                      |                  |                  |
| Eichten 1.00 0.07 |                      |                  |                  |

TABLE IV. Results for the S-W scaling fits to the \(K^+\) data including a single normalization factor for each experiment. The data errors have been scaled up by a factor of \(\sqrt{\chi^2/d.o.f.} = f = 2.46\) when included in the fit but the \(\chi^2/d.o.f.\) value listed is for the data without this scaling. d.o.f. indicates here degree of freedom and "no f" means no correction factor applied.

|  \(P_{K}^{89}(GeV/c)\) | \(\theta_K\) (rad) | \(\sigma_{K\ prod}(mb)\) |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| \(E_\nu = 0.35\) GeV | 1.52 0.213 | 9.37 ± 0.73 (7.8%) |
| \(E_\nu = 0.65\) GeV | 2.07 0.127 | 10.69 ± 0.75 (7.0%) |
| \(E_\nu = 0.90\) GeV | 2.45 0.103 | 10.22 ± 0.71 (6.9%) |
| Kaon Sweet Spot | 2.80 0.106 | 8.67 ± 0.60 (6.9%) |
| HE \(\nu_\mu\) Events | 4.30 0.055 | 4.73 ± 0.33 (7.0%) |

TABLE V. Differential cross section values for various kinematic points for the 1.2< \(P_K<5.5\) GeV/c F-S fit. The first three results are for the average kaon kinematics that give electron neutrinos with the given energy. The last result is for the average kaon kinematics associated with highest energy \(\nu_\mu\) events in MiniBooNE.

| \(P_{K}^{89}(GeV/c)\) | \(\theta_K\) (rad) | \(\sigma_{K\ prod}(mb)\) |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| \(E_\nu = 0.35\) GeV | 1.52 0.213 | 4.25 ± 0.77 (18%) |
| \(E_\nu = 0.65\) GeV | 2.07 0.127 | 8.99 ± 1.34 (15%) |
| \(E_\nu = 0.90\) GeV | 2.45 0.103 | 9.91 ± 1.43 (14%) |
| Kaon Sweet Spot | 2.80 0.106 | 7.73 ± 1.13 (15%) |
| HE \(\nu_\mu\) Events | 4.30 0.055 | 5.24 ± 0.84 (16%) |

TABLE VI. Differential cross section values for various kinematic points for the 1.2< \(P_K<5.5\) GeV/c S-W scaling fit. The first three results are for the average kaon kinematics that give electron neutrinos with the given energy. The fourth result is the previous point used for a kaon sweet spot. The last result is for the average kaon kinematics associated with highest energy \(\nu_\mu\) events in MiniBooNE.

served in MiniBooNE. As seen from Table IV and VI, the two parameterizations give much different results for the cross section values and uncertainties with the F-S fit giving a larger value by a factor 2 for the lowest energy neutrino bin at 0.35 GeV. The source of the this discrepancy is a large drop in the invariant cross section of the S-W parameterization at large angles.

\(\chi^2/d.o.f. (no f) = 6.05 (d.o.f. = 117)\)
FIG. 5. Invariant kaon production cross section in $mb \times c^3/GeV^2$ versus kaon momentum for all data along with the results of the F-S fit to data with $1.2 < P_K^{89 GeV/c} < 5.5$. The $P_K, \theta_K,$ and invariant cross section fits and the data points have been scaled to a beam momentum of 8.89 GeV/c assuming F-S and normalized according to the fit results. This plot shows data and fit results for various value of $\theta$ in bins from 0 to 0.225 rad. The three solid curves show the central value and 1$\sigma$ uncertainty for the F-S fit.

The predictions for the size and kinematic dependence of the invariant differential cross section as function of $K^+$ momentum are quite different for the F-S and S-W parameterizations as shown in Figure 7, especially for low value of the $K^+$ momentum.

To illustrate the difference between the F-S and the S-W predictions, we have used an analytic simulation of the BNB neutrino beam line designed for the Mini-BooNE experiment (described in Reference [20]). Table VIII gives the comparison of the predicted $\nu_e$ event rate from $K^+ \rightarrow \pi e^+ \nu_e$ using the above F-S and S-W production parameterizations as calculated using this BNB simulation.

V. HIGH ENERGY PARAMETERIZATION

The hypothesis of F-S has also been verified to hold with different parameterizations over a wide range of primary proton beam energies (from 24 GeV to 450 GeV). In Bonesini et al. data at higher proton energies has been empirically parameterized as a function of the transverse momentum ($p_T$) and the scaling variable $x_R = E^*/E_{max}^*$ where $E^*$ is the energy of the particle in center-of-mass frame. The choice of these variables for the description of the invariant cross section (radial scaling) is motivated again by an assumed scaling behavior of the invariant cross section. The radial scaling variable is approximately equal to the F-S variable at high energy and has the property of never taking on a negative value. (A de-
FIG. 6. Invariant kaon production cross section in \( \text{mb} \times c^3/\text{GeV}^2 \) versus kaon momentum for all data along with the results of the S-W scaling fit to data with \( 1.2 < P_K^\text{lab} < 5.5 \). The \( P_K, \theta_K \), and invariant cross section fits and the data points have been scaled to a beam momentum of 8.89 GeV/c assuming F-S and normalized according to the fit results. This plot shows data and fit results for various value of \( \theta \) in bins from 0 to 0.225 rad. The three solid curves show the central value and 1\( \sigma \) uncertainty for the S-W scaling fits.

| \( \theta_K \) (rad) | \( K^0_{\Lambda} \) Feynman Scaling Fit | \( K^0_{\Sigma} \) Sanford-Wang Fit |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                 | All \( E_\nu (\text{GeV}) \) | \(<1 \text{ GeV}\) | \(>2 \text{ GeV}\) | All \( E_\nu (\text{GeV}) \) | \(<1 \text{ GeV}\) | \(>2 \text{ GeV}\) |
| 0.015           | 36.7                           | 2.6                          | 18.0             | 43.4                        | 3.3                          | 19.3             |
| 0.045           | 92.5                           | 8.4                          | 35.9             | 111.0                       | 12.0                         | 35.9             |
| 0.075           | 110.5                          | 13.7                         | 27.0             | 141.3                       | 22.6                         | 26.5             |
| 0.105           | 96.8                           | 17.2                         | 4.4              | 138.3                       | 32.6                         | 4.1              |
| 0.135           | 59.1                           | 21.8                         | 0.0              | 100.5                       | 45.8                         | 0.0              |
| 0.175           | 39.4                           | 32.4                         | 0.0              | 83.7                        | 73.9                         | 0.0              |
| 0.225           | 21.9                           | 21.9                         | 0.0              | 56.8                        | 56.8                         | 0.0              |
| Total           | 476.6                          | 137.9                        | 85.3             | 731.2                       | 303.4                        | 85.9             |

TABLE VII. Electron neutrino event rate in MiniBooNE for \( 5.0 \times 10^{20} \) proton on target for \( K^0_{\Lambda} \) decays with F-S and S-W parameterizations. The events were calculated using MiniBooNE simulation and are for a beam radius less than 6.0 m. The different columns list the selected electron neutrino events for all \( E_\nu \), \( E_\nu < 1 \text{ GeV} \), and \( E_\nu > 2 \text{ GeV} \). Uncertainty in the neutrino event rate due to the F-S or S-W parametrization is 7% and 15% respectively as described in Table V and VI.
FIG. 7. Invariant kaon production cross section in units of $mb \times c^3/GeV^2$ versus kaon momentum in GeV/c for the S-W, F-S and radial scaling (Bonesini) parameterizations for a beam momentum of 8.89 GeV/c. The results are shown for various $\theta$ bins from 0 to 0.225 rad. The three solid curves, respectively for the F-S and S-W fits, show the central value and 1σ uncertainty for each of the fits.
talled comparison of radial scaling and F-S can be found in [3, 21], where the authors compare different models with the production data at different energies down to about 24 GeV.)

Bonesini et al. [2] has obtained an empirical parameterization based on radial scaling fits to data collected with 400 GeV/c and 450 GeV/c protons incident on a Be target. The results from this parameterization are compared in Figure 7 to the predictions of F-S and S-W models at a proton momentum of 8.89 GeV/c. As seen from Figure 7 this radial scaling model underestimates $K^+$ production at a beam momentum of 8.89 GeV/c by more than a factor of two even though the parameterization describes well the high proton momentum data (>24 GeV/c) [2].

VI. THE SCIBooNE $K^+$ MEASUREMENTS

The SCIBooNE collaboration has reported a measurement [22] for $K^+$ production in the BNB with respect to the Monte Carlo (MC) beam simulation. The SCIBooNE experiment collected data in 2007 and 2008 with neutron (0.99 $\times$ 10$^{20}$ protons on target (POT)) and antineutrino (1.53 $\times$ 10$^{20}$ POT) beams in the FNAL BNB line. The SCIBooNE detector is located 100 m downstream from the neutrino production target. The flux-averaged mean neutron energy is 0.7 GeV in neutrino running mode and 0.6 GeV in antineutrino running mode.

The SCIBooNE detector consists of three detector components; SCIBar, Electromagnetic Calorimeter (EC) and Muon Range Detector (MRD). SCIBar is a fully active and fine grained scintillator detector that consists of 14,336 bars arranged in vertical and horizontal planes. SCIBar is capable of detecting all charged particles and performing dE/dx-based particle identification. The EC is located downstream of SCIBar. The detector is a spaghetti calorimeter with thickness of 11 radiation lengths and is used to measure $p^0$ and the intrinsic $\nu_e$ component of the neutrino beam. The MRD is located downstream of the EC in order to measure the momentum of muons up to 1.2 GeV/c with range. It consists of 2-inch thick iron plates sandwiched between layers of plastic scintillator planes.

In the SCIBooNE experiment, particle production is simulated using the methods described in Ref. [20]. The production of $K^+$ is simulated using the F-S formalism as described in Section IV A with the coefficients reported in Table III. The predicted double differential cross section at the mean momentum and angle for kaons which produce neutrinos in SCIBooNE ($p_K = 3.87$ GeV/c and $\theta_K = 0.06$ rad) is

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega} = (6.3 \pm 0.44) \text{mb/(GeV/c x sr)}, \quad (12)$$

The error on the double differential cross section prediction using the F-S parametrization at the SCIBooNE $p_K$ and $\theta_K$ is 7%. The SCIBooNE and MiniBooNE collaboration have adopted a conservative error of 40%. This larger error was chosen because of the uncertainties in extrapolating the $K^+$ prediction data from high to low proton beam energy using the F-S and S-W models as explained in References [20, 22].

A. SCIBooNE $K^+$ Production Measurement

The SCIBooNE data can be used as an additional constraint in fits to $K^+$ production cross sections. In SCIBooNE, neutrinos from $K^+$ decay are selected using high energy $\nu_\mu$ interactions within the volume of the SCIBar detector. The high-energy selection is accomplished by isolating charged current interactions that produce a muon that crosses the entire MRD. This sample is further divided into three sub-samples based on whether 1, 2, or 3 reconstructed SCIBar tracks are identified at the neutrino interaction vertex in the SCIBar detector. Since the reconstruction of the energy of the muon is not possible because the muon exits the MRD detector, the reconstructed muon angle relative to beam axis is used as the primary kinematic variable to separate neutrinos from pion and kaon decay. The values for $\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega}$ for neutrino, antineutrino, and combined data mode running are given in Table VIII along with the mean energy and angles for the corresponding $K^+$ samples. The F-S and S-W prediction values are obtained using the parametrizations described in Section IV A and IV C along with the parameters listed in Table III and IV.

| $E_{K^+}$ (GeV) | $\theta_{K^+}$ (rad) | $\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega}$ (mb/(GeV/c x sr)) |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| $\nu$-mode | 3.81 $\pm$ 0.03 | 0.07 $\pm$ 0.01 | 5.77 $\pm$ 0.83 |
| $\bar{\nu}$-mode | 4.29 $\pm$ 0.06 | 0.03 $\pm$ 0.01 | 3.18 $\pm$ 1.94 |
| $\nu + \bar{\nu}$-mode | 3.90 $\pm$ 0.03 | 0.06 $\pm$ 0.01 | 5.34 $\pm$ 0.76 |
| F-S prediction | 3.90 | 0.06 | 6.30 $\pm$ 0.44 (7%) |
| S-W prediction | 3.90 | 0.06 | 6.84 $\pm$ 1.09 (16%) |

TABLE VIII. Measured $\frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega}$, mean energy, and mean angle with respect to proton beam direction for the selected $K^+$ in neutrino, antineutrino, and the combined neutrino and antineutrino samples using MiniBooNE MC. Errors on the mean energy and mean angle values correspond to the error on the mean for the relative distributions. F-S and S-W predictions are also reported at the mean SCIBooNE $K^+$ energy and angle.

The $K^+$ momentum versus angle distribution for the 2-track SCIBar sample in the simulation is shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8 shows the kinematics of the selected $K^+$...
The SciBooNE measurement is a direct test of the extrapolation of parameterizations found from higher beam energies to the MiniBooNE beam energy. The predictions for the double differential cross section for the F-S and S-W models are reported in Table VIII and shows a good agreement with the SciBooNE measurement, a better agreement is found in the case of the F-S parametrization.

The SciBooNE $K^+$ production measurements can also be added to the F-S fit as additional external data using the following procedure. First we retrieve all the SciBooNE MC $K^+$ events with their $\theta_i$ and $p_i$ for the neutrino and antineutrino sample. Then we calculate the following quantities:

$$N_i = \sum_i \frac{d^2\sigma}{dpd\Omega}(c_{\text{fit}}, \theta_i, p_i)$$

$$N_0 = \sum_i 1$$

These quantities are then used at each fit step to build a pull term, defined in Eq. 15, to be added to the $\chi^2$ of the fit.

$$\text{pull term}_{\nu,\bar{\nu}} = \frac{\left(N_i - N_0 - K^+_{\text{prod,SB}}\right)}{\text{error } K^+_{\text{prod,SB}}}^2$$

Each data point in $\theta_i$ and $p_i$ is reweighted using the double differential cross section value for the current set of

c_i coefficients of Eq. 5 computed at each step of the Minuit fit. The set of coefficient used in the MC is labeled as $c_{MC}$, the values of these coefficients is listed in Table III. The $K^+_{\text{prod,SB}}$ and error $K^+_{\text{prod,SB}}$ in the Eq. 15 are the values of the SciBooNE production measurement and error (see Table VIII), respectively.

Two separate pull terms are added to the fit $\chi^2$ corresponding to the SciBooNE neutrino and antineutrino $K^+$ production measurements.

The results of scaling function fit to all experiments with $1.2 < P_K^{8.89} < 5.5$ GeV/c, including the SciBooNE data, are given in Table IX. The covariance matrix is given in Table X and the correlation matrix is presented in Figure 10.

Table XI lists the differential cross section for the kaon production at the various kaon kinematic points. The uncertainties are obtained as described in Section IV.

Table X gives the covariance matrix for the baseline scaling fit using kaon production data with $1.2 < P_K^{8.89} < 5.5$ GeV/c. The correlation matrix is basically made of two blocks, one associated with the $c_1$ through $c_7$ parameters and one associated with the experimental normalization factors. The only coupling of these two
TABLE IX. Results for the F-S fits to the $K^+$ data including a single normalization factor for each experiment and including the two SciBooNE pull term constraints. Error treatment is the same as described in Section III. d.o.f. indicates here degree of freedom and "no f" means no correction factor applied.

| Scaling Fits | $1.2 < P_{K^+}^{8.89} (GeV/c) < 5.5$ |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Value        | Error                                |
| $c_1$        | 11.29 0.93                           |
| $c_2$        | 0.87 0.13                            |
| $c_3$        | 4.75 0.09                            |
| $c_4$        | 1.51 0.06                            |
| $c_5$        | 2.21 0.12                            |
| $c_6$        | 2.17 0.43                            |
| $c_7$        | 1.51 0.40                            |
|              |                                      |
| Aleshin      | 1.12 0.07 0.10                        |
| Allaby       | 1.07 0.06 0.15                        |
| Dekkers      | 0.87 0.06 0.20                        |
| Vorontsov    | 0.55 0.04 5.00                        |
| Abbott       | 0.79 0.07 0.15                        |
| Eichten      | 1.03 0.06 0.15                        |
| $\chi^2$/df (no f) | 2.28 (d.o.f. = 119) |

sets is through $c_1$ which has significant correlations with the normalization factors. This is expected since the $c_1$ parameter sets the normalization of the scaling function and should be determined by the data normalizations.

The terms of the covariance matrix from the F-S fit function and six normalization factor parameters after applying the SciBooNE constraint to the fit due to the $K^+$ production measurement.

The SciBooNE measurement confirms the validity of the F-S parametrization and including the SciBooNe measurement as an additional experimental data to the Feynman Scaling fit contributes in improving both the error uncertainty on the parametrization coefficients and in lowering the total uncertainty in the predicted $K^+$ production at 8.89 GeV/c proton momentum.

B. SciBooNE $K^+$ Rate Measurement

In addition to a measurement of $K^+$ production, the SciBooNE collaboration has also published a measurement of the observed to MC predicted ratio for $K^+$ produced neutrinos and antineutrinos interacting in the SciBar detector. The results are summarized in Table X. The SciBooNE rate is the product of the $K^+$ production and neutrino cross section on carbon as explained in Ref. [22]. Since this result also includes the neutrino interaction cross section, it cannot be directly compared with the other experimental data presented in Table III. This constraint not only covers the neutrino flux from $K^+$ decay but also constrains the neutrino interaction cross section because the two targets are composed of similar material. It should be noted that this analysis is a specific application to MiniBooNE and is not a
|                      | $P_{K}^{S9}$ (GeV/c) | $\theta_{K}$ (rad) | $\sigma_{K \text{ prod}}$ (mb) |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| $E_{\nu} = 0.35$ GeV | 1.52                 | 0.213              | 9.05 ± 0.62 (6.9%)            |
| $E_{\nu} = 0.65$ GeV | 2.07                 | 0.127              | 10.32 ± 0.62 (6.0%)           |
| $E_{\nu} = 0.90$ GeV | 2.45                 | 0.103              | 9.87 ± 0.58 (5.9%)            |
| Kaon Sweet Spot      | 2.80                 | 0.106              | 8.37 ± 0.49 (5.9%)            |
| HE $\nu_{\mu}$ Events| 4.30                 | 0.055              | 4.57 ± 0.27 (5.9%)            |

TABLE XI. Differential cross section values for various kinematic points as in Table V but including in the F-S fit the SciBooNE production measurement for neutrino and antineutrino.

general result. Nevertheless, the SciBooNE $K^+$ neutrino rate measurement can be directly applied to MiniBooNE analysis as a constraint on the electron and muon neutrinos from $K^+$ decay. Electron neutrinos from $K^+$ decays are one of the important background in the $\nu_\mu$ to $\nu_e$ oscillation search. Understanding this background will result in a reduction of the systematic uncertainty in the MiniBooNE oscillation analysis.

| $\nu$-mode | $\bar{\nu}$-mode | Combined $\nu + \bar{\nu}$ mode |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| $K^+$ Rate | 0.94±0.05±0.11    | 0.54±0.09±0.30                  | 0.88±0.04±0.10                  |

TABLE XII. $K^+$ rate measurement results relative to the MC beam prediction for the neutrino, antineutrino, and combined neutrino and anti-neutrino samples. Errors include statistical and systematic errors.

This SciBooNE $K^+$ rate measurement has been included in a version of the F-S fit and the best fit results for the parameters including the normalization for the data sets is reported in Table XIII. The covariance matrix is reported in Table XIV and correlation matrix is displayed in Figure 13. Table XV lists the differential cross section values for kaon production at several kinematic points.

In order to apply the SciBooNE constraint to the Mini-
BooNE neutrino event prediction, one needs to consider the $K^+$ kinematic regions that contribute to the two samples.

Figure 8 shows the regions that contribute to the two samples.

The F-S fit results including the SciBooNE rate measurement.

VII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The F-S parameterization given in Eq. 5 has a theoretically motivated form that takes into account low beam momentum production thresholds from exclusive channels in contrast to many other models. For example, the S-W parameterization does not have the proper scaling properties or expected behavior for the $x_F < 0$ regions. Also, extrapolations using data at much higher beam momentum appear to have difficulty describing lower momentum $K^+$ production measurements.

The F-S parameterization describes the $K^+$ production data well for beam momentum in the range of 8.89 to 24 GeV/c. Fits involving different experimental data sets have been performed and show good agreement with the experimental data as shown in Figure 5 where the data have been scaled by the normalization factors given in Table III. The normalization values (except for the Vorontsov data) are in good agreement within the 10% to 20% uncertainties quoted by the experiments.

The F-S fits including the full covariance matrix can be used to predict $K^+$ production for low beam momentum neutrino experiments such as the BNB at 8.89 GeV/c. The overall uncertainty from the fit is about 7% and is consistent with the combination of the experiments with ~15% uncertainties. The fits also give the dependence on produced $K^+$ kinematics in angle and momentum, which is important for accurate neutrino flux predictions using magnetic horn focusing devices.

A cross check of the F-S parameterization using neutrino data from the SciBooNE collaboration measurement reported in Ref. 22 confirms the accuracy of the model at low primary beam momenta and its validity as a better representation of $K^+$ production with respect to the S-W model. The F-S parameterization derived from the low energy kaon production experiments including this SciBooNE production constraint should therefore be a good representation of $K^+$ production for low energy neutrino beam simulations. We, therefore, suggest that the parameters shown in Table X be used along with the covariance given in Table X.

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