

stadter *et al.*<sup>3</sup> gave a  $\chi^2$  of 134.7, which does not satisfy the criterion of a good fit to the  $p$ - $e$  data alone. On minimizing the  $\chi^2$  with respect to the parameters, the minimum  $\chi^2$  was found to be 24.57 with parameters  $A_1 = -0.494$ ,  $A_2 = -0.482$ ,  $A_3 = -0.0157$ ,  $A_4 = -1.141$ ,  $A_5 = -17.05$ , and  $A_6 = -15.66$ .

It is to be noted that this may not be the best fit yet, since  $\chi^2$  is a very complicated function of the parameters and, hence, there are a large number of extremum values.

An attempt was then made to improve the fit by introducing an energy dependence of the Regge form in the form factors.

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{F}_1 &= F_1(q^2) \times (z_t)^{\alpha' t}, \\ \bar{F}_2 &= F_2(q^2) \times (z_t)^{\alpha' t},\end{aligned}$$

where the "Regge slope"  $\alpha'$  is an unknown parameter, and

$$z_t = 2[ME_0 + q^2/2] / [(4M^2 - q^2)(4m_e^2 - q^2)]^{1/2}.$$

The minimum  $\chi^2$  for the same 53 pieces of data was 22.71 with the parameter values  $A_1 = -0.375$ ,

$A_2 = -0.455$ ,  $A_3 = 0.056$ ,  $A_4 = -1.284$ ,  $A_5 = -20.26$ ,  $A_6 = -14.81$ , and  $\alpha' = 0.0141$ .

It is seen that the fit is not much improved by introducing the energy dependence in the form factors but that the form factors can withstand a considerable energy dependence corresponding to the value of  $\alpha'$  given above.

The above analysis would be more meaningful in terms of the photon as a Regge pole for higher energy data which may soon be available. It is, however, understood that there is an energy dependence not only due to the possible Regge-pole character of the photon but also due to higher order exchanges as discussed by Frautschi<sup>4</sup> and Lévy.<sup>5</sup> In any case the slope  $\alpha'$  is used here only as a phenomenological parameter. It gives a convenient measure of the energy dependence of form factors for high-energy scattering.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is a pleasure to thank Professor David Wong for his constant guidance through the work.

<sup>4</sup> S. Frautschi (unpublished).

<sup>5</sup> Maurice Lévy, *Phys. Rev. Letters* **9**, 235 (1962).

## K-Leptonic Decay and Partially Conserved Currents†

GEORGE ZWEIG

*California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California*

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An operational definition for the partial conservation of the strangeness-changing vector current is given and applied to leptonic  $K^+$  and  $K_2^0$  decay. The  $K^*$  resonance is explicitly included in the calculation and quantitative agreement with experiment is obtained. A detailed comparison with the  $K^+$  data of Brown *et al.* and Dobbs *et al.* is given. Because of rapid variations of a form factor, it is found that the data of these two groups are not in contradiction. From the  $K_2^0$  experiment of Luers *et al.*,  $I = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{2}$  currents are seen to exist.  $\Delta\beta$  decay is briefly considered. It is found that an explanation for the slowness of  $K$  leptonic decay and the vector part of  $\Delta\beta$  decay may be connected with the partial conservation of the strangeness-changing vector current.

### I. DETERMINATION OF A THEORY FOR LEPTONIC K DECAY

ONE of the outstanding problems in the theory of weak interactions consists of finding a unifying principle for the strangeness changing and nonstrangeness changing decays. Attempts to use a universal Fermi interaction or to generalize the idea of a conserved nonstrangeness changing vector current have not been fruitful in the sense that an understanding of the experimental data has not been obtained.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the ideas developed in attempting to explain

the striking success of the Goldberger-Treiman formula in  $\pi - \mu\nu$  decay<sup>2</sup> have not been carried over successfully into the theory of  $K$  decays.<sup>3</sup> Many of the present difficulties may well stem from our inability to give operational definitions to such concepts as a "partially conserved current" and "universal interaction." In an attempt to sharpen our understanding of these terms, we have considered the leptonic decays of the  $K^+$ .

The assumption is made that the  $K^+ \rightarrow l^+ + \nu + \pi^0$  interaction is of the vector form, in which case we may

† This work was supported in part by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, and an IBM Fellowship.

<sup>1</sup> (a) J. Bernstein and S. Weinberg, *Phys. Rev. Letters* **5**, 481 (1960); (b) H. Chew, *ibid.* **8**, 297 (1962).

<sup>2</sup> J. Bernstein, S. Fubini, M. Gell-Mann, and W. Thirring, *Nuovo Cimento* **17**, 757 (1960).

<sup>3</sup> D. H. Sharp and W. G. Wagner, California Institute of Technology Synchrotron Laboratory Report CTSL-34, 1962 (unpublished).

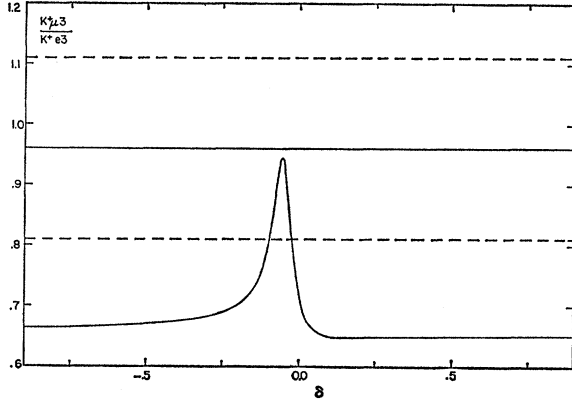


FIG. 1. The branching ratio  $K_{\mu 3}^+/K_{e 3}^+$  is plotted as a function of the parameter  $\delta$ . The experimental value for the branching ratio of  $0.96 \pm 0.15$  is represented by the horizontal solid and dashed lines. This indicates that the range of  $\delta$  is limited to  $-0.1 \leq \delta \leq -0.025$ . The sharp rise is due to the zero in the form factor  $f_+(s)$  which suppresses the  $K_{e 3}^+$  rate more than the  $K_{\mu 3}^+$  rate because  $K_{e 3}^+$  depends only on  $f_+(s)$ , while  $K_{\mu 3}^+$  depends on both  $f_+(s)$  and  $f_-(s)$ .

write for the decay amplitude,

$$\langle l^+ \nu \pi^0 | K^+ \rangle = i \frac{G}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{m_\nu}{E_\nu} \frac{m_l}{E_l} \right)^{1/2} \bar{\nu} \gamma_\alpha (1 + \gamma_5) l^+ \langle \pi^0 | s_\alpha^V | K^+ \rangle, \quad (1)$$

where  $s_\alpha^V$  is the strangeness-changing vector current, and  $G$  is the weak interaction constant equal to  $1.4 \times 10^{-49}$  erg  $\times$  cm<sup>3</sup>. By Lorentz invariance arguments, the matrix element  $\langle \pi^0 | s_\alpha^V(0) | K^+ \rangle$  may be thrown into the form

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \pi^0 | s_\alpha^V(0) | K^+ \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (4E_K E_\pi)^{-1/2} \times [(\not{p}_K + \not{p}_\pi)_\alpha f_+(s) + (\not{p}_K - \not{p}_\pi)_\alpha f_-(s)], \quad (2)$$

where  $s = -(\not{p}_K - \not{p}_\pi)^2$ . The four-momenta of the  $K$  and  $\pi$  are  $\not{p}_K$  and  $\not{p}_\pi$ . Using causality arguments, one can show that  $f_+(s)$  and  $(m_K^2 - m_\pi^2)f_+(s) + s f_-(s)$  satisfy subtracted dispersion relations.

It is not difficult to show that  $f_+$  receives contributions (in the sense of dispersion theory) only from  $p$ -wave intermediate states. Also, since the matrix element  $\langle \pi^0 | \partial_\alpha s_\alpha(0) | K^+ \rangle$  of the divergence of  $s_\alpha^V$  is proportional to  $(m_K^2 - m_\pi^2)f_+(s) + s f_-(s)$ , it is precisely this combination of form factors that receives contributions from  $s$ -wave intermediate states. We now explicitly take into account the  $K^*$  ( $K\pi$  spin  $1^-$  resonance at 884 MeV), the only known particle or resonance that contributes to our form factors.<sup>4</sup> Hence, we write

$$f_+(s) = \gamma \left\{ \frac{1}{1 - (s/M^2)} + v(s) \right\}, \quad (3)$$

$$\langle \pi^0 | \partial_\alpha s_\alpha^V(0) | K^+ \rangle \propto \Delta m^2 f_+(s) + s f_-(s) = \gamma \Delta m^2 d(s), \quad (4)$$

where  $\Delta m^2 = m_K^2 - m_\pi^2$ ,  $M$  is the mass of the  $K^*$ , and  $\gamma$

<sup>4</sup> Later in this paper we discuss the effects of other possible  $K\pi$  resonances.

is a coupling constant that measures the strength of the  $K^* - K\pi$  interaction. Because we do not know of any zero mass particle that would give rise to poles in our form factors, we find

$$f_+(s) = \gamma \left\{ d(0) + \frac{s}{M^2} \frac{1}{1 - (s/M^2)} + v(s) - v(0) \right\}, \quad (5)$$

and

$$f_-(s) = -\gamma \frac{\Delta m^2}{M^2} \left\{ \frac{1}{1 - (s/M^2)} + \frac{M^2}{s} [v(s) - v(0)] - \frac{M^2}{s} [d(s) - d(0)] \right\}. \quad (6)$$

We now make the assumption that the current  $s_\alpha^V$  is "partially conserved," by which we mean that  $d(s)$  is slowly varying and  $|d(s)| \ll 1$ , in the physical region for  $s$ .<sup>5</sup> This justifies neglecting the term  $-(M^2/s)[d(s) - d(0)]$  is the expression for  $f_-(s)$ . Note that this definition for the partial conservation of  $s_\alpha^V$  differs from the ones usually adopted. Previously, the partial conservation of  $s_\alpha^V$  has been taken to mean  $\partial_\alpha s_\alpha^V = 0$  in the limit of some higher symmetry where baryon mass difference and meson mass difference vanish.<sup>6</sup> Alternative definitions have stipulated that  $\langle \pi^0 | \partial_\alpha s_\alpha^V | K^+ \rangle \rightarrow 0$  as  $s \rightarrow \infty$ .<sup>7</sup> Since neither one of these latter two conditions is directly measurable in any decay experiment, we have chosen to redefine the concept of a partially conserved current.

In order to obtain an expression for  $f_+$  and  $f_-$  that may be easily compared with experiment, we make the rather crude approximation that  $v(s) - v(0)$  is proportional to  $s$ . We may then write

$$f_+(s) = \lambda \left\{ \frac{s}{M^2} \frac{1}{1 - s/M^2} + \delta \right\}, \quad (7)$$

and

$$f_-(s) = -\lambda \frac{\Delta m^2}{M^2} \frac{1}{1 - s/M^2}, \quad (8)$$

where

$$\delta = \frac{d(0)}{1 + M^2 [dv(s)/ds]_{s=0}} \ll 1$$

and

$$\lambda = \gamma \left( 1 + M^2 \frac{dv(s)}{ds} \right) \Big|_{s=0}.$$

We now have a two-parameter theory.  $\lambda$  may be determined from the known  $K_{e 3}^+$  decay rate, while  $\delta$  should follow from the observed  $K_{\mu 3}^+/K_{e 3}^+$  branching ratio.

<sup>5</sup> A necessary condition for the validity of this assumption is that no particle exists with the quantum numbers of  $\partial_\alpha s_\alpha^V$ . Hence, according to our definition of a "partially conserved" current, it would not be correct to say that the axial vector nonstrangeness changing current  $j_\alpha^4$  is "partially conserved" because  $\partial_\alpha j_\alpha^4$  has the quantum numbers of the  $\pi$  meson. If we were to insist incorrectly on applying our above definition of partial conservation to  $j_\alpha^4$ , then we could no longer derive the Goldberger-Treiman relation.

<sup>6</sup> See, for example, S. Okubo, Nuovo Cimento 13, 292 (1959).

<sup>7</sup> See, for example, reference 1(a).

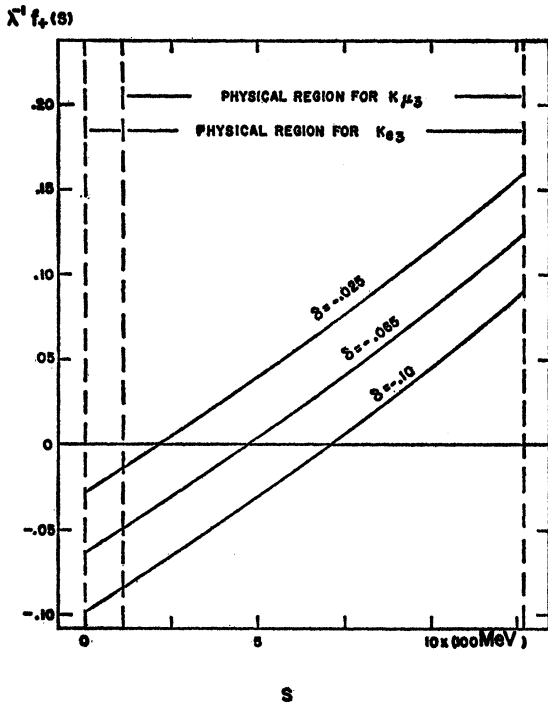


FIG. 2. The form factor  $f_+(s)$  is given for three values of the parameter  $\delta$  within the range determined by the branching ratio  $K_{\mu 3}^+/K_{e 3}^+$ . The coupling constant  $\lambda$  has been divided out of  $f_+(s)$ .

II. PREDICTIONS AND EXPERIMENTAL CONFIRMATIONS OF THE THEORY

In Fig. 1 we have plotted the branching ratio  $K_{\mu 3}/K_{e 3}$  vs  $\delta$ . The curve is flat except for a very sharp rise near  $\delta=0$ . The structure of this spike is a result of the combined hypotheses of a partially conserved current and "dominating"  $K^*$  pole. In the region of  $\delta$  near the peak, not only the branching ratio, but also the spectra of all the particles, along with the longitudinal polarization of the  $\mu$ , are extremely sensitive functions of  $\delta$ . The size of  $\delta$  should be compared with the pole term which has strength 1. A strictly conserved current would mean  $\delta=0$ , a theoretically impossible situation ( $\delta=0$  also gives an incorrect branching ratio). Regardless of the value of  $\delta$ , we may say in general that  $K_{\mu 3}^+/K_{e 3}^+ \leq 0.95$ . The measured branching ratio is  $0.96 \pm 0.15$ . This gives  $\delta = -0.05_{-0.05}^{+0.025}$ . Figure 2 shows some typical  $f_+$ 's. Note that this form factor goes through zero in the physical region. Using the known rate for  $K_{e 3}^+$  decay, we may find  $\lambda^2$  as a function of  $\delta$ . The result is given in Fig. 3. Figure 4 shows the rate for  $K_{l 3}$  as a function of  $\delta$ ,  $\lambda$  being held fixed.

If the theory is correct, it should be possible to fit both the  $\pi^0$  and  $\mu^+$  energy spectra in  $K_{\mu 3}^+$  decay by picking some value of  $\delta$  in the range  $-0.025 \leq \delta \leq -0.1$ . Let us, therefore, look at Figs. 5 and 6 where the data from the experiment of Brown *et al.*<sup>8</sup> is displayed.

<sup>8</sup> J. L. Brown, J. A. Kadyk, G. H. Trilling, R. T. Van de Walle, B. P. Roe, and D. Sinclair, Phys. Rev. Letters 8, 450 (1962).

We see that the constant form factors ( $f_-/f_+ \equiv \xi = -9$ ) used by Dobbs *et al.* and Boyarski *et al.*<sup>9</sup> in their experiments cannot possibly fit either the observed  $\pi^0$  or  $\mu^+$  energy distributions as measured by Brown *et al.* The curve corresponding to  $\delta = -0.065$  gives reasonable agreement with experiment. Note that Brown *et al.* use two parameters in their fit while we use one. We find that  $\delta$  comes out small compared to one, as our theory predicts.

Using the  $\delta$  obtained from the experiment of Brown *et al.*, we may compute what we would expect Dobbs *et al.* and Boyarski *et al.* to find in their experiments. The result is given in Fig. 7. Clearly, the form factors determined by Brown *et al.* do not fit the data of Dobbs *et al.* and Boyarski *et al.*, while  $\delta = -0.065$  gives a result consistent with experiment.

Because Dobbs *et al.* and Boyarski *et al.* measure only the upper part of the  $\mu$  spectrum, while Brown *et al.* measure the  $\pi^0$  energy spectrum and the bottom part of the  $\mu$  spectrum, it is possible that the data of these three groups are not in contradiction. A contradiction arises only if we assume that the form factors are essentially constant. Figures 8 and 9 give theoretical curves (without experimental biases) for the  $\mu^+$  and  $\pi^0$  energy spectra.

Using the model with a fixed value for  $\delta$ , the  $\mu$  longitudinal polarization spectrum may be computed.

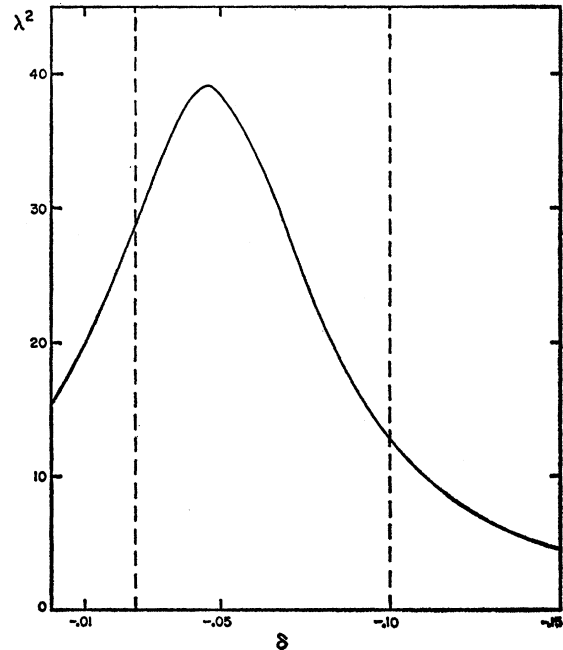


FIG. 3. The effective coupling constant squared  $\lambda^2$  is plotted as a function of  $\delta$ . The experimental rate of  $4.0 \times 10^6 \text{ sec}^{-1}$  for  $K_{e 3}^+$  decay has been used. The dashed vertical lines indicate the restriction placed on  $\delta$  by the known  $K_{\mu 3}^+/K_{e 3}^+$  branching ratio.

<sup>9</sup> J. M. Dobbs, K. Lande, A. K. Mann, K. Reibel, F. J. Sciulli, H. Uto, D. H. White, and K. K. Young, Phys. Rev. Letters 8, 295 (1962); A. M. Boyarski, E. C. Loh, L. Q. Niemela, D. M. Ritson, R. Weinstein, and S. Ozaki, Phys. Rev. 128, 2398 (1962).

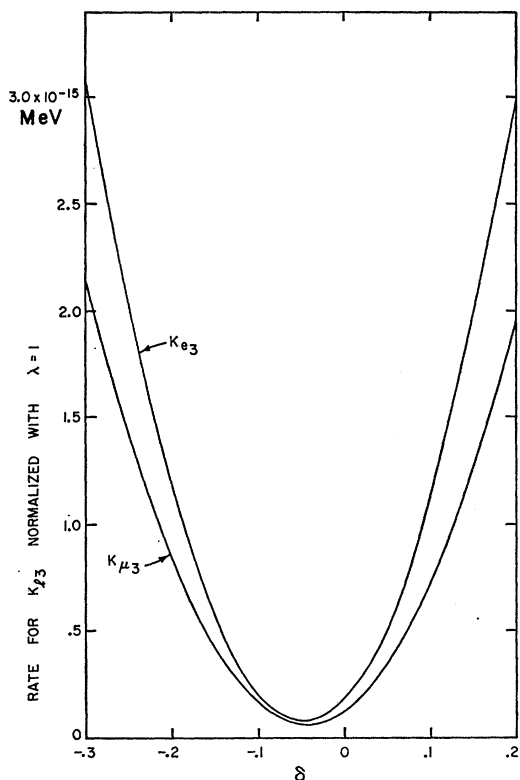


FIG. 4. The  $K$  leptonic decay rates are given as a function of  $\delta$  with  $\lambda$  set equal to 1.

Figure 10 gives some typical polarization curves. For large  $\mu$  kinetic energies ( $T_\mu > 110$  MeV), the polarization comes out negative for all reasonable  $\delta$  (all values of  $\delta$  compatible with the  $K_{\mu 3}/K_{e 3}$  branching ratio). For intermediate values of  $T_\mu$  ( $35 \text{ MeV} < T_\mu < 75 \text{ MeV}$ ), the polarization is positive for all reasonable  $\delta$ . For  $T_\mu < 75$

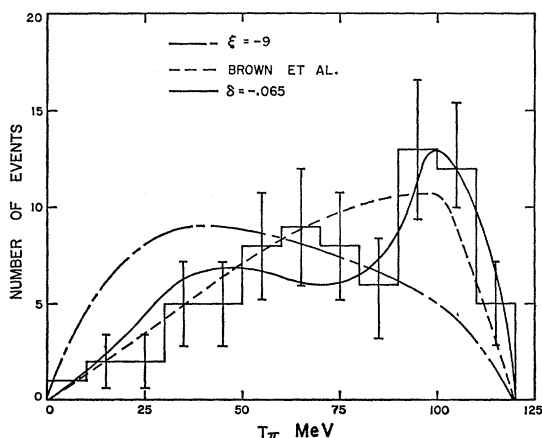


FIG. 5. The histogram gives the  $\pi$  energy spectrum in the  $K_{\mu 3}^+$  decay as measured by Brown *et al.* The kinetic energy of the  $\pi$  is  $T_\pi$ . The smooth theoretical curves have been corrected for experimental biases. Brown *et al.* use a two-parameter fit, while the theory proposed in this paper uses the one-parameter  $\delta$ . The curve labeled  $\xi = -9$  is the constant form factor theory implied by the experiments of Dobbs *et al.* and Boyarski *et al.*

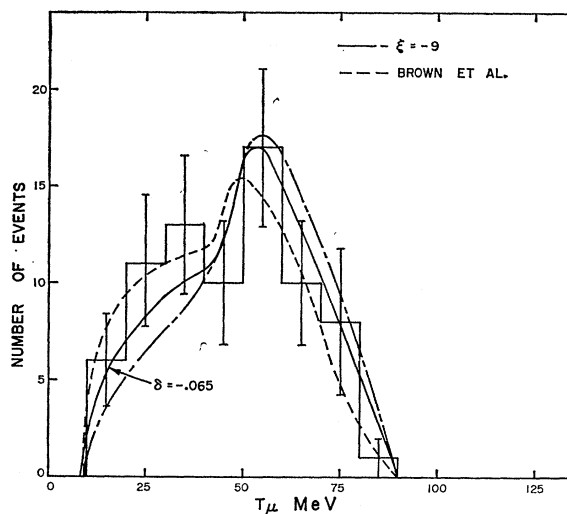


FIG. 6. The histogram gives the  $\mu^+$  energy spectrum in the  $K_{\mu 3}^+$  decay as measured by Brown *et al.* The kinetic energy of the  $\mu$  is  $T_\mu$ . The smooth theoretical curves have been corrected for experimental biases. Brown *et al.* use a two-parameter fit, while the theory proposed in this paper uses the one-parameter  $\delta$ .

MeV, the polarization can be either positive or negative.

We would like to emphasize that certain very sensitive quantities, like the polarization of the  $\mu$  in  $K_{\mu 3}^+$  decay or the  $\pi^0$  energy spectrum in  $K_{e 3}^+$  decay, will not be very well determined within the framework of

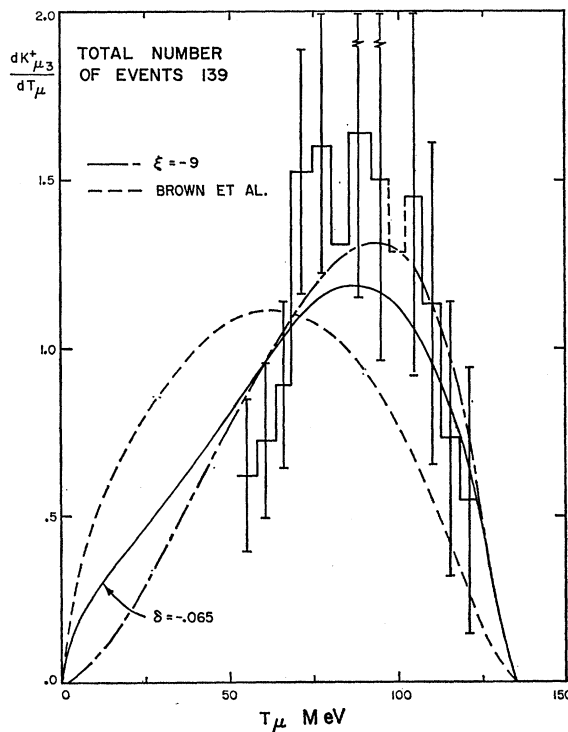


FIG. 7. The experimental  $\mu^+$  energy spectrum, as measured by Dobbs *et al.*, is represented by the histogram. The histogram has been corrected for experimental biases.

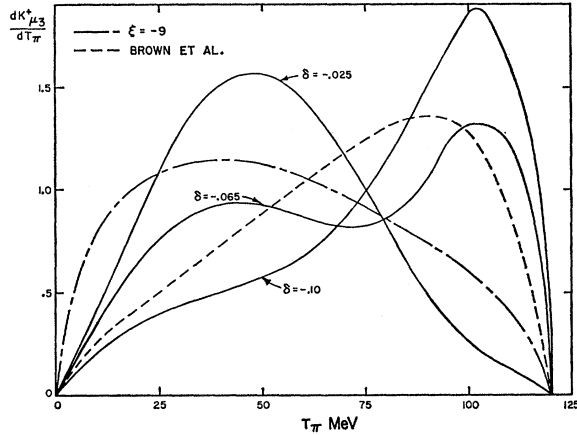


FIG. 8. The  $\pi$  energy spectrum predicted by various theories is given. Note the sensitivity of the spectrum to values of  $\delta$ . The dip in the spectrum for the curve  $\delta = -0.065$  is due to the zero of  $f_+(s)$  in the physical region of  $s$ .

our approximations. Quadratic terms in  $s$  should also be included if we expect good agreement with experiment.

If we introduce a particle  $X$  to mediate the weak interactions, then we may summarize its effect by a change of form factors.

$$f_- \rightarrow f_- - \frac{\Delta m^2}{M_x^2} \frac{f_+}{1 - (s/M_x^2)}, \quad f_+ \rightarrow \frac{1}{1 - (s/M_x^2)} f_+,$$

where  $M_x$  is the mass of the  $X$ . Because we lack detailed knowledge of  $v(s)$  and  $d(s)$ , the leptonic decays of the  $K$  meson seem to be a poor place for isolating the effects of the  $X$ . Figure 11 gives some indication of the size of  $X$  effects.

The concept of a universal Fermi interaction has never been very well defined. For example, to test for universality in  $K_{l3}^+$  decay, it has been customary to consider  $Gf_+(0) \equiv S_0$  as an effective coupling constant. Since it turns out that  $S_0^2 \ll G^2$ , a universal form for the interaction is not apparent. However, if  $f_+(s)$  is rapidly varying with  $s$ , then this test for universality may not be fair. Perhaps we should evaluate  $Gf_+(s)$  at a different value of  $s$  when forming  $S_0$  and making our

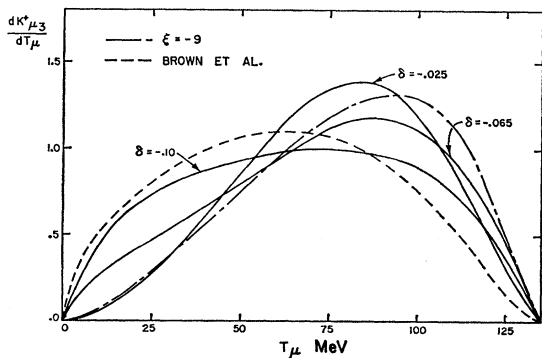


FIG. 9. The  $\mu^+$  energy spectrum predicted by various theories is given.

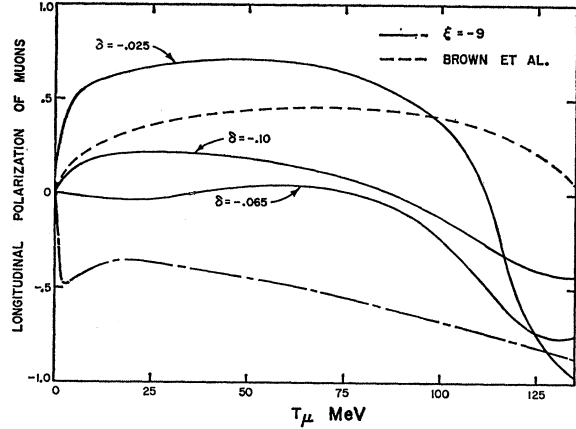


FIG. 10. The longitudinal polarization of the  $\mu$  in  $K_{\mu 3}^+$  decay is plotted as a function of  $\mu$  kinetic energy. Although the polarization fluctuates wildly with small changes in  $\delta$ , large  $\mu$  energies always yield negative polarizations.

comparison with  $G$ . The slowness of the leptonic decay of the  $K^+$  might then be explained on the basis of a partially conserved current. The rate is slow because the matrix element is of the order of  $\langle \pi^0 | \partial_\alpha s_\alpha^V | K^+ \rangle$  which is a small quantity because  $s_\alpha^V$  is partially conserved.

In concluding this section on  $K^+$  decay, we would like to re-emphasize that the existence of a *partially* conserved current implies a profound deviation from what would be expected on the basis of phase-space arguments or almost constant form factors. If both the experiments of Brown *et al.* and Dobbs *et al.* prove to be correct, the hypothesis of almost constant form factors will no longer be tenable, while the assumption of a partially conserved current may finally attain some degree of experimental confirmation.

As a further application of our hypothesis of a "dominating"  $K^*$  and a partially-conserved current, we have computed the form factors for neutral  $K$  leptonic decay and have compared our results for  $K_2^0 \rightarrow e^\mp + \nu + \pi^\pm$  with the experiment of Luers *et al.*<sup>10</sup>

If we denote the corresponding form factors for  $K_2^0$  leptonic decay by  $h_+(s)$  and  $h_-(s)$ , we end up with the familiar form

$$h_+(s) = \lambda_2 \left\{ \frac{1}{1 - (s/M^2)} - 1 + \delta_2 \right\}, \quad (9)$$

$$h_-(s) = -\lambda_2 \frac{\Delta m^2}{M^2} \frac{1}{1 - (s/M^2)}. \quad (10)$$

If there was only an  $I = \frac{1}{2}$  current, then the spectra in  $K^+$  and  $K_2^0$  leptonic decay would be identical. In  $K_{e3}^+$  decay we found that the  $\pi^0$  energy spectrum had a zero when the kinetic energy of the  $\pi^0$  was about 85 MeV (see Fig. 11). Since such a zero is not observed by Luers *et al.* in  $K_{2e3}^0$  decay, we must have both  $I = \frac{3}{2}$  and

<sup>10</sup> D. Luers, I. S. Mitra, W. J. Willis, and S. S. Yamamoto, Phys. Rev. Letters 7, 255 (1961).

$I = \frac{1}{2}$  currents. The present data do not allow a useful determination of  $\lambda_2$  and  $\delta_2$ .

It is interesting to note that if there exists a spin 1  $K\pi$  resonance other than the  $K^*$ ,<sup>11</sup> then irrespective of the isotopic spin of this new particle, the form factors  $f_+(s)$ ,  $f_-(s)$ ,  $h_+(s)$ , and  $h_-(s)$  still have the same effective representations (7), (8), (9), and (10) if we neglect quadratic terms in  $s$ . Only the physical interpretation of  $\lambda$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\lambda_2$ , and  $\delta_2$  changes. Hence, within the approximations made, our theory is not sensitive to the possible existence of other spin 1  $K\pi$  resonances.

Let us now briefly turn to the leptonic decay of the  $\Lambda$ . There, the strong interaction matrix elements of interest are

$$\begin{aligned} \langle p | s_\mu^V(0) | \Lambda \rangle &= (m_p m_\Lambda / E_p E_\Lambda)^{1/2} \bar{u}_p \{ i \gamma_\mu F_1(s) \\ &\quad + i \frac{1}{2} [\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu s_\nu] F_2(s) + s_\mu F_3(s) \} u_\Lambda, \\ \langle p | s_\mu^A(0) | \Lambda \rangle &= (m_p m_\Lambda / E_p E_\Lambda)^{1/2} \bar{u}_p \{ i \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 G_1(s) \\ &\quad + i \frac{1}{2} [\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu s_\nu] \gamma_5 G_2(s) + \gamma_5 s_\mu G_3(s) \} u_\Lambda, \end{aligned}$$

where  $s_\mu = (\not{p}_\Lambda - \not{p}_p)_\mu$  and  $s = -s_\mu s_\mu$ .

We consider the structure of  $s_\mu^V$ . Proceeding as before, we find that  $F_1$  receives only  $p$ -wave contributions and that

$$\langle p | \partial_\alpha s_\alpha^V(0) | \Lambda \rangle \propto \Delta m F_1(s) + s F_3(s) = \omega \Delta m D(s)$$

receives only  $s$ -wave contributions.  $\Delta m = m_\Lambda - m_p$ . Because we do not know of any zero mass particle that would give rise to poles in our form factors, we find

$$\begin{aligned} F_1(s) &= \omega \left\{ D(0) + \frac{s}{M^2} \frac{1}{1 - (s/M^2)} + V(s) - V(0) \right\}, \\ F_3(s) &= -\omega \frac{\Delta m^2}{M^2} \left\{ \frac{1}{1 - (s/M^2)} + \frac{M^2}{s} [V(s) - V(0)] \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{M^2}{s} [D(s) - D(0)] \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $V(s)$  represents all  $p$ -wave contributions to  $F_1(s)$  other than those of the  $K^*$ .  $M$  is the mass of the  $K^*$ , and as in the case of  $K$  leptonic decay, we assume that  $|D(s)| \ll 1$  in the physical region for  $s$ .

The point we wish to stress is that while  $F_3(s)$  may be treated as being essentially constant,  $F_1(s)$  is now a rapidly varying function of  $s$  and may even pass through zero in the physical region. Up to this time, it has been customary to take all form factors constant<sup>12</sup> and, because of the small momentum transfers involved  $(m_\Lambda - m_p)^2 \leq s \leq m_i^2$ , the terms containing  $F_2(s)$  and  $F_3(s)$  have been neglected compared to the term containing  $F_1(s)$ . It is quite possible that this procedure is not justified.

Once again the concept of a universal Fermi interac-

<sup>11</sup> There is some experimental evidence for the existence of such a resonance with a mass of 730 MeV. See G. Alexander, G. R. Kalbfleisch, D. H. Miller, and G. A. Smith, Phys. Rev. Letters 8, 447 (1962); or in *Proceedings of the 1962 Annual International Conference on High-Energy Physics*, edited by J. Prantki (CERN, Geneva, 1962).

<sup>12</sup> See, for example, R. Norton, Phys. Rev. 126, 1216 (1962).

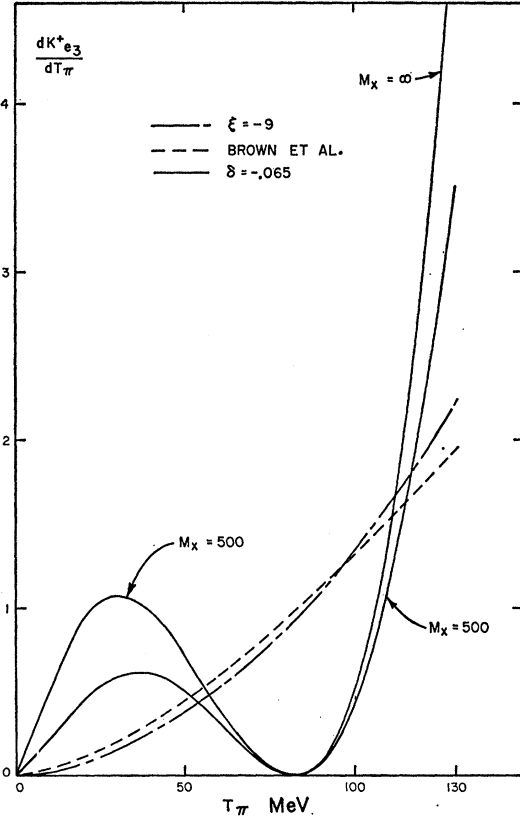


FIG. 11. The size of effects due to a vector boson  $X$  mediating the weak interactions is given for the electron energy spectrum in the  $K_{e3}^+$  decay. Although strong interactions could give rise to similar variations in the electron spectrum, the zero in the spectrum is a definite peculiarity of our theory arising from the zero of  $f_+(s)$  in the physical region of  $s$ . A direct measurement of this spectrum would be a crucial test for the hypothesis of a partially conserved current.

tion is ill defined because of the rapid variation of  $F_1(s)$ . As in leptonic  $K$  decay, an explanation for the slowness of the vector part of  $\Lambda\beta$  decay may be connected with the partial conservation of  $s_\alpha^V$ . Because of the lack of experimental evidence and the wealth of unknown constants in the form factors, we are not able to say more about the problem at this time.

*Note added in proof.* A paper on  $K$  leptonic decay which arrives, from a different viewpoint, at a set of form factors essentially equivalent to those given in Eqs. (7) and (8) has been recently called to the attention of the author. It is as follows: N. Brene, L. Egardt, B. Qvist, and D. A. Geffen, Nucl. Phys. 30, 399 (1962).

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