TRANSPORT CALCULATIONS OF $\bar{p}$-NUCLEUS INTERACTIONS*

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The Giessen Boltzmann–Uehling–Uhlenbeck transport model is extended and applied to the $\bar{p}$-nucleus interactions in a wide beam momentum range. The model calculations are compared with the experimental data on $\bar{p}$-absorption cross-sections on nuclei with an emphasis on extraction of the real part of an antiproton optical potential. The possibility of the cold compression of a nucleus by an antiproton in-flight is also considered.

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1. Introduction

Antiproton interactions with nuclei are of big interest since they deliver the information on in-medium $\bar{p}N$ interactions [1] related to the antiproton optical potential. The real and imaginary parts of $\bar{p}$ optical potential close to the nuclear centre are still poorly known [2, 3]. As shown in [4–7], a deep enough real part, $\text{Re}(V_{\text{opt}}) = -(150–200) \text{ MeV}$, might cause sizeable compressional effects in $\bar{p}$-doped nuclei.

Here, we present some results of the microscopic transport simulations within the Giessen Boltzmann–Uehling–Uhlenbeck (GiBUU) model [8]. Our goal is twofold: (i) to determine the $\bar{p}$ optical potential by comparison with the data on $\bar{p}$ absorption cross-sections on nuclei; (ii) to evaluate the probability of $\bar{p}$ annihilation in a compressed nuclear zone for the beam momenta 0.1–10 GeV/c.

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The model is described in Sec. 2. In Secs. 3 and 4, the calculations of $\bar{p}$ absorption cross-section on nuclei and of the dynamical compression of the $^{16}$O nucleus by moving antiproton are presented. The results are summarized in Sec. 5.

2. The GiBUU model

The GiBUU model [8] solves the coupled set of kinetic equations for different hadrons ($N, \bar{N}, \Delta, \bar{\Delta}, \pi \ldots$). These equations describe the time evolution of a system governed by the two-body collisions and resonance decays. The Pauli blocking for the nucleons in the scattering final states is accounted for. Between the two-body collisions, the particles propagate according to the Hamiltonian-like equations in the mean field potentials defined by the (anti)baryon densities and currents.

We use the GiBUU model in the relativistic mean field mode. The single-particle energies $\epsilon_i = V_i^0 + \sqrt{p_i^{*2} + m_i^{*2}}$ of the nucleons ($i = N$) and antinucleons ($i = \bar{N}$) depend on the effective mass $m_i^{*} = m_i + S_i$, where $S_i = g_{\sigma_i \sigma}$ is the scalar field, kinetic three-momentum $p_i^{*} = p - V_i$, and vector field $V_i^{\mu} = g_{\omega_i \omega}^{\mu} + g_{\rho_i \rho}^{3 \mu} + e_i A^{\mu}$. Here, $\sigma, \omega, \rho$ and $A$ are, respectively, the isoscalar–scalar, isoscalar–vector and isovector–vector meson fields, and the electromagnetic field.

The meson–nucleon coupling constants $g_{\sigma N}, g_{\omega N}$ and $g_{\rho N}$ are taken from the NL3 set of parameters [9] of a non-linear Walecka model. The meson–antinucleon coupling constants are motivated by the $G$-parity transformation, however, allowing for their strengths to be rescaled by a factor $0 < \xi \leq 1$ as $g_{\sigma \bar{N}} = \xi g_{\sigma N}, g_{\omega \bar{N}} = -\xi g_{\omega N}$ and $g_{\rho \bar{N}} = \xi g_{\rho N}$.

The following two-body collision processes involving an antinucleon are implemented in the model: elastic scattering and charge exchange $\bar{N}N \rightarrow \bar{N}N$, inelastic production $\bar{N}N \rightarrow BB +$ mesons, and annihilation $\bar{N}N \rightarrow$ mesons. Further details of the model can be found in [6,8,10–12] and in references therein.

3. Antiproton absorption and annihilation on nuclei

Fig. 1 shows the antiproton absorption cross-section on $^{12}$C. The GiBUU calculation without nuclear part of the antibaryon mean field ($\xi = 0$) is in a very close agreement with the Glauber model prediction $[13]^2$.

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1 Pure $G$-parity transformed nuclear fields are obtained with $\xi = 1$, but this leads to an unrealistically deep real part of the $\bar{p}$ optical potential, $\text{Re}(V_{\text{opt}}) \approx -660$ MeV.

2 Except for momenta less than $\sim 0.2$ GeV/c, where the Coulomb potential causes the deviation.
The attractive real part of an antiproton optical potential

$$\text{Re}(V_{\text{opt}}) = S\bar{p} + V^0\bar{p} + \frac{S^2\bar{p} - (V^0\bar{p})^2}{2m_N}$$

(1)

bends the $\bar{p}$ trajectory towards the nuclear centre and increases the $\bar{p}$ absorption cross-section. One can see from Fig. 1, that the finite values of the scaling factor $\xi \simeq 0.2$ are needed to describe the antiproton absorption cross-section data at $p_{\text{lab}} = 470–880 \text{ MeV/c}$ measured at KEK [2]. The best fit of the data [2] on $\bar{p}$ absorption cross-sections on the $^{12}\text{C}$, $^{27}\text{Al}$ and $^{64}\text{Cu}$ nuclei by GiBUU calculations is reached with $\xi \simeq 0.21 \pm 0.03$, which produces $\text{Re}(V_{\text{opt}}) \simeq -(150 \pm 30) \text{ MeV}$ in the nuclear centre.

The imaginary part of the $\bar{p}$ optical potential can be calculated as

$$\text{Im}(V_{\text{opt}}) = -\frac{1}{2} \left\langle v_{\bar{p}N} \sigma_{\text{tot}}^{\text{med}} \right\rangle \rho_N,$$

(2)

where $v_{\bar{p}N}$ is the relative velocity of the antiproton and a nucleon; $\sigma_{\text{tot}}^{\text{med}}$ is the total $\bar{p}N$ cross-section including the in-medium effect of Pauli blocking for the final state nucleon in the $\bar{N}N \rightarrow \bar{N}N$ channel; $\rho_N$ is the local nucleon density. The averaging in Eq. (2) is taken with respect to the nucleon Fermi distribution. Using (2), we obtain $\text{Im}(V_{\text{opt}}) \simeq -(105 \pm 5) \text{ MeV}$ in the nuclear centre, where a small uncertainty is due to different considered nuclei. More details on the extraction of an antiproton optical potential by GiBUU calculations can be found in [12].
4. Dynamical compression of a nucleus by an antiproton

Fig. 2 shows the time evolution of nucleon and antiproton densities for the case of an antiproton initialized at the nuclear periphery with momentum of 0.3 GeV/c directed towards the nuclear centre. The calculation has been done without the $\bar{N}N$ annihilation channel in the collision term, but allowing for the $\bar{N}N$ and $NN$ scattering. We observe that the antiproton attracts surrounding nucleons catching them into a potential well of about 70–100 MeV depth. The nucleon density bump moves with the $\bar{p}$ or slightly behind it due to some delay in the reaction of the nucleon density on the perturbation created by the antiproton.

![Density evolution](image)

**Fig. 2.** (Color online) Nucleon (thick solid lines) and antiproton (thin solid lines) densities along the $z$-axis passing through the nuclear centre $(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 0)$ for the $\bar{p}^{16}\text{O}$ system at different times. The antiproton has been initialized at the coordinates $(0, 0, -2.5)$ fm with momentum components $(0, 0, 0.3)$ GeV/c. The scaling factor of the antiproton–meson coupling constants $\xi = 0.22$ is used. Annihilation is switched-off.

The compression process of Fig. 2 has to be complemented with the calculation of an antiproton survival probability

$$P_{\text{surv}}(t) = \exp \left\{ - \int_0^t dt' \Gamma_{\text{ann}}(t') \right\},$$

(3)

where $\Gamma_{\text{ann}} = \rho_N \langle v_{\bar{p}N} \sigma_{\text{ann}} \rangle$ is the antiproton annihilation width and $\sigma_{\text{ann}}$ is the $\bar{p}N$ annihilation cross-section (other notations are the same as in Eq. (2)). In the case of the process shown in Fig. 2, the antiproton survives with the probability $P_{\text{surv}} \sim 10^{-3}$ at the time 10 fm/c when the nucleon density maximum is reached. The experimental detection of the nuclear compression by the antiproton is only possible, if $\bar{p}$ annihilates in the compressed zone of a nucleus. The corresponding probability is $P_{\text{compr}}(\rho_c) = P_{\text{surv}}(t_1) - P_{\text{surv}}(t_2)$, where $t_1 < t_2$ are the times delimiting
the time interval, when the maximum density of a nuclear system exceeds some preselected value \( \rho_c \). In concrete calculations, we set \( \rho_c = 2 \rho_0 \) with \( \rho_0 = 0.148 \text{ fm}^{-3} \) being the nuclear saturation density.

In the case of a real antiproton–nucleus collision, we apply, first, the GiBUU model in the standard parallel ensemble mode to determine the coordinates \( r \) and momentum \( p \) of the antiproton at its annihilation time moment event-by-event. Next, we initialize \( \bar{p} \) at \((r, p)\) and run GiBUU without annihilation. This allows us to compute \( P_{\text{compr}} \) for a given annihilation event, i.e. to determine the probability that this event will take place in a compressed nuclear zone. Finally, we calculate the cross-section of a \( \bar{p} \) annihilation in the compressed zone by weighting with the impact parameter as \( \sigma_{\text{compr}} = \int_0^\infty \! db \, 2\pi b \, \overline{P}_{\text{compr}}(\rho_c, b) \), where the upper line denotes averaging over annihilation events with a given impact parameter \( b \).

In Fig. 3, we present the probability of \( \bar{p} \) annihilation in a compressed zone given by the ratio \( \sigma_{\text{compr}}/\sigma_{\text{ann}} \), where \( \sigma_{\text{ann}} \) is the total annihilation cross-section of \( \bar{p} \) on the oxygen nucleus. The rise of the ratio with the beam momentum between about 1 and 3 GeV/c is caused by opening the pion production channels \( \bar{NN} \rightarrow \bar{NN}\pi(\pi\ldots) \), which leads to more intensive stopping of an antibaryon before annihilation, and, therefore, to larger compression probabilities.

![Graph](attachment:graph.png)

Fig. 3. The probability of antiproton annihilation at the nucleon density exceeding \( 2 \rho_0 \) as a function of the beam momentum for \( \bar{p}^{16}\text{O} \) collisions.

### 5. Summary and conclusions

We have performed the microscopic transport GiBUU simulations of \( \bar{p} \)-nucleus collisions. The antiproton mean field potential has been described applying the non-linear Walecka model supplemented by appropriate scaling of the meson–antinucleon coupling constants.
The extracted antiproton optical potential from comparison with the KEK data on $\bar{p}$ absorption cross-section below 1 GeV/c is $V_{\text{opt}} = -(150 \pm 30) - i(105 \pm 5)$ MeV in the nuclear centre, which is comparable with the well known phenomenological values [2,3]. However, the BNL and Serpukhov data on $\bar{p}$ absorption above 1 GeV/c require much deeper real part of about $-660$ MeV, close to the $G$-parity value. It is important, therefore, to perform the new measurements of the $\bar{p}$ absorption cross-section on nuclei above 1 GeV/c at FAIR.

The probability of the antiproton annihilation in a compressed nuclear zone is maximal at the beam momenta below 0.5 GeV/c. However, it is also big enough ($\sim 10^{-5}$) at the beam momenta from 3 to 10 GeV/c. The possibility of additional triggering, e.g. on a high-momentum proton, would prefer this beam momentum range with respect to the low beam momenta for the study of annihilation events in the compressed nuclear zone.

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[8] http://gibuu.physik.uni-giessen.de/GiBUU