Search for muoproduction of the $X(3872)$ at COMPASS

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Abstract. Exotic charmonium-like states have been observed by various experiments over the last 15 years, but their nature is still under discussion. Photo-(muo)production is a new promising instrument to study them. COMPASS, a fixed target experiment at CERN, analyzed the full set of the data collected with a muon beam between 2002 and 2011, covering the range from 7 GeV to 19 GeV in the centre-of-mass energy of the virtual photon-nucleon system. A signal in the mass spectrum of $J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-$ with the statistical significance of $4.1\sigma$ was observed in the reaction $\mu^+ N \rightarrow \mu^+(J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-)\pi^\pm N'$. Its mass and width are consistent with those of the $X(3872)$. The shape of the $\pi^+\pi^-$ mass distribution from the observed decay into $J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-$ is different from previous observations for $X(3872)$. The observed signal may be interpreted as possible evidence of a new charmonium state $\tilde{X}(3872)$. It could be associated with a neutral partner of $X(3872)$ with $C = -1$ predicted by a tetraquark model.

1. Introduction
Over the last years a lot of new charmonium-like hadrons, so-called the XYZ states, at the mass range above 3.8 GeV/$c^2$ were discovered. Several interpretations of the new states do exist: pure quarkonia, tetraquarks, hadronic molecules, hybrid mesons with a gluon content, etc. But at the moment many basic parameters of the XYZ states have not been determined yet. New experimental input is required to distinguish between the models that provide different interpretations of the nature of exotic charmonia. The search for exotic charmonium-like states in exclusive photoproduction reactions was for the first time proposed in [1, 2, 3].

COMPASS, a fixed-target experiment on the secondary beam of SPS at CERN [4, 5], already searched for photoproduction of the state $Z_{c\pm}(3900)$ in the charge-exchange reaction $\mu^+ N \rightarrow \mu^+Z_{c\pm}(3900)\pi^\pm N'$ using the experimental data obtained for positive muons of 160 GeV/$c$ (2002-2010) or 200 GeV/$c$ momentum (2011) scattering off solid $^6$LiD (2002-2004) or NH$_3$ targets (2006-2011) [6]. The search for muoproduction of the $X(3872)$ in exclusive reactions is the continuation of these studies.

2. Exclusive muoproduction of $X(3872)$
The exotic hadron $X(3872)$ was discovered by the Belle collaboration in 2003 [7]. Its mass is $3871.69 \pm 0.17$ MeV/$c^2$ that is very close to the $D^0\bar{D}^{*0}$ threshold. The decay width of this state has not been determined yet, only an upper limit for the natural width $\Gamma_{X(3872)}$ of about 1.2 MeV/$c^2$ (CL=90%) exists. The quantum numbers $J^{PC}$ of the $X(3872)$ were determined by
2.1. New possibilities

The upgrade of the COMPASS setup related to the data taking in 2016–2017 within the framework of the GPD program [13] provides new opportunities to search for direct production...
of exotic charmonium-like states. A new, 2.5 m long liquid hydrogen target (∼0.27X₀) is much more transparent for photons than the ⁶LiD and NH₃ targets that were used before. The target is surrounded by a 4 m long recoil proton detector which can be used to reconstruct and identify recoil protons via time-of-flight and energy loss measurements. The existing system of two electromagnetic calorimeters is extended by installation of the new large-aperture calorimeter. With the new calorimetry system one can expect much better selection of exclusive events.

Searching for production of exotic charmonia that decay into final states with photons like Z⁰(3900) → J/ψπ⁰, X(3872) → Jψω, ĀX(3872) → J/ψη etc. will be possible with the upgraded setup. The final states decaying to the χc⁰, χc⁺, χc⁻-mesons could also be studied.

New results on photoproduction of exotic charmonia could be expected from the LHC experiments where sizeable statistics of J/ψ, comparable with one available at COMPASS, produced in ultra-peripheral hadronic collisions is collected [15, 16, 17, 18]. The discussing Electron-Ion Collider [19] could also be an important source of new information about photoproduction of exotic charmonia.

3. Conclusions
Lepto(photo-)production of exotic charmonia is a new direction in physics of the XYZ states started by COMPASS. A new state ĀX(3872) was observed with the statistical significance of 4.1σ in the exclusive charge-exchange reaction μ⁺N → μ⁺ J/ψπ⁺π⁻N. Its mass MĀX(3872) = 3860.0 ± 10.4 MeV/c², width ΓĀX(3872) < 51 and the decay mode ĀX(3872) → J/ψπ⁺π⁻ are consistent with the X(3872). But the observed two-pion mass spectrum shows disagreement with previous experimental results for the X(3872). A possible explanation could be that the observed state ĀX(3872) is the C = 1 partner of the X(3872) as predicted by a tetraquark model.

Estimated rates of photoproduction of exotic charmonia obtained by COMPASS or based on COMPASS results are summarized in Fig. 4 [6, 14, 12].

References