New $K^+\Lambda$ and $K^+\Sigma^0$ photoproduction results from CLAS and the search for missing baryon resonances

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Abstract

The CLAS Collaboration has recently published high-statistics and wide-kinematic coverage differential cross-section and recoil polarization results for the $K^+\Lambda$ (PRC 81, 025201 (2010)) and $K^+\Sigma^0$ (PRC 82, 025202 (2010)) channels. These results incorporate an additional coverage of 300-MeV in \sqrt{s} over previous results that will help elucidate the role of nonresonant t- and u-channel processes. Our polarization results (P_{Λ}, P_{Σ}) add significant precision and kinematic coverage over previously published results. The SU(6) quark model prediction of $P_{\Lambda} \sim -P_{\Sigma}$ is seen to be valid in the high energy and forward-angle regime, but is found to be broken in some of the mid-angle bins. Prospects of a partial wave analysis and searches for missing baryon resonances using these latest CLAS results and other available polarization results will also be described.