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It is well known that the groups $U(6,6)$ and $SL(6,C)$ suggested by a number of authors^{/1-6 et al/} as relativistic generalizations of the $SU(6)$ symmetry, give predictions which disagree with the experimental data concerning four-particle processes. The situation is much better for three-particle vertices, where the agreement is usually very good. The reason for this could be that electromagnetic and weak vertices, similarly as forward and backward scattering, two-meson annihilation of a baryon-antibaryon pair at rest et al, can always be considered to be colinear processes in some coordinate system. In such a case the application of the inhomogeneous $U(6,6)$ or $SL(6,C)$ groups practically reduces to the application of certain "colinear" subgroups^{/7,8/}, such as $SU(6)_w$ or $SU(3) \times SU(3)$. Thus the assumptions made in calculations concerning colinear processes (e.g. vertices) are weaker than those for general processes and it is quite possible that the neglected symmetry breaking is not so important in this case.

For these reason it is interesting to consider all possible colinear processes. In this paper we shall consider the meson electromagnetic current in the framework of the nonhomogeneous $SL(6,C)$ group. We shall use the formalism developed by Nguyen van Hieu^{/6/}, which has been applied to the baryon currents in^{/9/}.

The $U(6,6)$ invariant meson current has been considered in^{/10/} and experiments concerning the creation of meson pairs in colliding electron-positron beam experiments were suggested to test the corresponding predictions. An analogous method was used to study the baryon currents^{/11/} and baryon-antibaryon annihilation into mesons^{/12/} in the inhomogeneous $U(6,6)$ symmetry.

The mesons, transforming as an $SU(6)$ 35-plet in the rest system, are described by four spinors with respect to $SL(6,C)$ $\Phi_B^A, \Phi_B^{\dot{A}}, \Phi_B^{\dot{A}}, \Phi_B^A$ satisfying invariant equations of the Pauli - Fierz type^{/13/}. We use these spinors and the 36-dimensional initial and final state momenta $Q_B^A, Q_B^{\dot{A}}$ and

$P_B^A, P_B^{\dot{A}}$ to construct the most general matrix elements of the currents $I_B^A, I_B^{\dot{A}}$ transforming like the corresponding $SL(6,C)$ spinors. We shall consider the current to be hermitean

$$I_B^{+A} = I_A^B \quad I_B^{+\dot{A}} = I_A^{\dot{B}} \quad (1)$$

i.e.

$$\langle Q | I_B^A | P \rangle^* = \langle P | I_A^B | Q \rangle \quad \langle Q | I_B^{\dot{A}} | P \rangle^* = \langle P | I_A^{\dot{B}} | Q \rangle$$

and take P and C invariance and current conservation into account.

Setting $K=P-Q$, $L=P+Q$, taking the equations for the spinors and relations for the momenta (of the type $K_B^A K_C^B = K_B^{\dot{A}} K_C^{\dot{B}} = k^2 \delta_C^A$) into account we obtain :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle P | I_B^A | Q \rangle = & F_1 [\Phi_C^{+A} \Phi_B^C + \Phi_C^{+A} \Phi_B^{\dot{C}} + \Phi_B^{+\dot{C}} \Phi_C^A + \Phi_B^{+\dot{C}} \Phi_C^{\dot{A}}] + \\ & + F_2 [\Phi_B^{+\dot{B}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^A \Phi_D^{\dot{C}} - \Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_B^D \Phi_C^A + \Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^A \Phi_B^D - \Phi_C^{+\dot{A}} (\frac{iK}{m})_B^D \Phi_D^{\dot{C}}] + \\ & + F_3 [\Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_B^D \Phi_C^A - \Phi_B^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_D^A \Phi_C^{\dot{D}} + \Phi_D^{+\dot{A}} (\frac{iK}{m})_B^C \Phi_C^D - \Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^A \Phi_B^{\dot{D}}] + \\ & + F_4 [\Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^A (\frac{iK}{m})_B^E \Phi_E^D + \Phi_E^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^A (\frac{iK}{m})_B^D \Phi_D^E + \\ & + \Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_E^A (\frac{iK}{m})_B^D \Phi_C^E + \Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_E^A (\frac{iK}{m})_B^E \Phi_C^E] + \\ & + F_5 [\Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^D (\frac{iK}{m})_E^A \Phi_B^E + \Phi_C^{+\dot{A}} (\frac{iK}{m})_B^C (\frac{iK}{m})_E^D \Phi_E^D + \\ & + \Phi_D^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^D (\frac{iK}{m})_B^E \Phi_E^A + \Phi_B^{+\dot{C}} (\frac{iK}{m})_C^A (\frac{iK}{m})_E^D \Phi_E^E] + \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

It follows from P-invariance that we obtain a completely analogous expression with the same formfactors for $\langle P | I_B^A | Q \rangle$. In (2) we have taken into account that $\Phi_F^{+\bar{K}} K_E^F = \Phi_F^{+E} K_E^F$ and $K_E^D \Phi_D^E = K_E^D \Phi_D^E$. All the formfactors F_i are functions of the square k^2 of the momentum transfer.

We use this SU(6,C) invariant current to construct the usual vector (electromagnetic) current, invariant with respect to SU(3) \times L, where L is the Lorentz group. To do this we project all momenta into the physical space

$$K_B^A \rightarrow \hat{k}_b^a \delta_{\beta}^{\alpha} \quad K_B^A \rightarrow \hat{k}_b^a \delta_{\beta}^{\alpha} \quad (3)$$

and reduce the meson functions according to [6]

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_B^A &= -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\hat{i}\hat{p}}{m} \right)_c^a \sigma_{\mu b}^c \xi_{\mu\beta}^a + \frac{1}{2} \delta_b^a \phi_{\beta}^a \\ \Phi_B^A &= -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\hat{i}\hat{p}}{m} \right)_c^a \sigma_{\mu b}^c \xi_{\mu\beta}^a - \frac{1}{2} \delta_b^a \phi_{\beta}^a \\ \Phi_B^A &= \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\mu b}^a \xi_{\mu\beta}^a - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\hat{i}\hat{p}}{m} \right)_b^a \phi_{\beta}^a \\ \Phi_B^A &= \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\mu b}^a \xi_{\mu\beta}^a + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\hat{i}\hat{p}}{m} \right)_b^a \phi_{\beta}^a \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Defining the vector current matrix elements as

$$\langle P | j_{\mu} | Q \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\mu a}^b \Lambda_a^{\beta} \langle P | I_B^A | Q \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\mu a}^b \Lambda_a^{\beta} \langle P | I_B^A | Q \rangle \quad (5)$$

where $\Lambda = \frac{1}{2} (\Lambda_3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Lambda_8)$ is the charge matrix, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle P | j_{\mu} | Q \rangle &= (f_1 + \frac{k^2}{2m^2} f_2) i \ell_{\mu} (\phi^+ \Lambda \phi)_F + \\ &+ i (-f_1 + f_2 + f_3) [\xi_{\mu}^+ (i \ell \xi) + \xi_{\mu} (i \ell \xi^+)] + (f_1 + \frac{k^2}{2m^2} f_2) i \ell_{\mu} (\xi^+ \xi) + \\ &+ \frac{f_3}{m^2} i \ell_{\mu} (\ell \xi^+) (\ell \xi) (V^+ \Lambda V)_F + \\ &+ \frac{1}{2m} (f_1 - f_2 - f_3) \epsilon_{\rho\mu} k_{\rho} \ell_r [\xi_{\nu}^+ (V^+ \Lambda \phi)_D - \xi_{\nu} (\phi^+ \Lambda V)_D] \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where e.g.

$$(\phi^+ \Lambda \phi)_F = \phi_\gamma^{+\alpha} \Lambda_\alpha^\beta \phi_\beta^\gamma - \phi_\gamma^{+\alpha} \phi_\alpha^\beta \Lambda_\beta^\gamma$$

$$(\phi^+ \Lambda V)_D = \phi_\gamma^{+\alpha} \Lambda_\alpha^\beta V_\beta^\gamma + \phi_\gamma^{+\alpha} V_\alpha^\beta \Lambda_\beta^\gamma$$

and

$$f_1 = -\frac{1}{2m} (F_1 + \frac{k^2}{m^2} F_4), \quad f_2 = \frac{F_2}{m}, \quad f_3 = -\frac{F_3}{m},$$

We see that only three combinations of the five $SL(6, C)$ formfactors contribute to the vector current (all five would contribute to the axial vector current) and that the five formfactors corresponding to $SU(3) \times L$ can be expressed with the help of three functions.

It follows from (6) that the formfactor $f_m = f_1 - f_2 - f_3$ determines both the radiation decay probability for vector mesons and their magnetic moments. Unfortunately no data on the vector meson magnetic moments are available so that it is so far not possible to make a comparison with experiments. The current (6) can be used to calculate the cross section of the processes

$$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow M + M$$

i.e. the creation of meson pairs in colliding electron-positron beam experiments, however, no simple relations between the cross sections of various processes can be obtained (they will depend significantly on the energy).

There is a simple connection between the meson current in $U(6,6)^{10/}$ and in $SL(6, C)$: for $f_2 = f_3$ the relation (6) goes over into the corresponding $U(6,6)$ current. Thus we have an additional relation in $U(6,6)$: the formfactor for pseudoscalar mesons is equal to the charge formfactor for vector mesons.

It is interesting that our results in certain points contradict those of Rühl^{14/} for the meson electromagnetic vertex. The reason is that we use different assumptions concerning the transformation properties of photons with respect to $SL(6, C)$. In^{14/} the three-meson vertex (with no irregular couplings) is considered and a photon is substituted for one of the vector mesons. The absence of irregular couplings in this case corresponds to the assumption that the photon has a finite mass, obeys the same invariant equations as the mesons and that its mass should be limited to zero in the final expression. We only assume that the electromagnetic current is given by (5) where I_B^A , $I_B^{\dot{A}}$ transform like the corresponding $SL(6, C)$ spinors. The absence of scalar and longitudinal photons is ensured by current conservation.

Both our current and that in^{/14/} depend on three formfactors only, however the five $SU(3) \times L$ formfactors are connected by different relations. E.g. there is no relation between the $V \rightarrow PS + \gamma$ decay probability and vector mesons magnetic momenta in^{/14/}. Thus the equality of the corresponding formfactors could be a criterion of the two alternative hypotheses.

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