

## Backward nucleon production by heavy baryonic resonances in proton-nucleus collisions

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The production of backward nucleons,  $N(180^\circ)$ , at  $180^\circ$  in the nuclear target rest frame in proton-nucleus ( $\tilde{p} + \tilde{A}$ ) collisions is studied. The backward nucleons appearing outside of the kinematically allowed range of proton-nucleon ( $\tilde{p} + \tilde{N}$ ) reactions are shown to be due to secondary reactions of heavy baryonic resonances produced inside the nucleus. Baryonic resonances  $R$  created in primary  $\tilde{p} + \tilde{N}$  reactions can change their masses and momenta due to successive collisions  $R + N \rightarrow R + N$  with other nuclear nucleons. Two distinct mechanisms and kinematic restrictions are studied: the reaction  $R + N \rightarrow N(180^\circ) + N$  and the resonance decay  $R \rightarrow N(180^\circ) + \pi$ . Simulations of  $\tilde{p} + \tilde{A}$  collisions using the Ultra-relativistic Quantum Molecular Dynamics model support these mechanisms and are consistent with available data on proton backward production.

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