

Abstract Submitted  
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**$K^+\Lambda$  Photoproduction in the  $u$ -channel**<sup>1</sup> KEN HICKS, TSUTOMU MIBE, Ohio University, LEPS COLLABORATION — Photoproduction of the  $\gamma p \rightarrow K^+\Lambda$  reaction at backward center-of-mass angles has been measured by detecting the  $\Lambda$  at forward angles using the LEPS spectrometer. The  $K^+$  was identified by the missing mass technique. The data cover center-of-mass angles beyond  $145^\circ$  for six photon energy bins between 1.5 and 2.4 GeV. The results are sensitive to  $u$ -channel diagrams, especially at the most backward angles, where a neutral hyperon is propagated between the kaon and photon vertices. These data provide the first stringent test of  $u$ -channel diagrams in hyperon photoproduction. If available, calculations using a full coupled-channels model will be compared with photon energy-dependence of the data.

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