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On the Coupling of  $\phi$  Meson to Nucleons and Backward  $\phi$  Production

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Abstract: Some analyses of the electromagnetic form factors of the nucleon and some analyses of the nucleon-nucleon potential favor a large coupling of the  $\varphi$  meson to nucleons. This is frequently quoted by advocates of a large ss component of the nucleon. It is shown that such large OZI-violating couplings are incompatible with data on  $\varphi$  production in backward direction via nucleon exchange.

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