# First measurement of near threshold J/ $\psi$ photoproduction

- Study γp -> J/ψp in the energy range from the threshold at 8.2 to 11.8 GeV – poorly covered by old experiments, while our measurements are the first one that extend down to the threshold
- Significant interest due to the LHCb pentaquarks,  $P_c(4380)$  and  $P_c(4450)$ , if exist should be seen in the s-channel of the reaction. Can set upper limit on the  $P_c(4450)$ -> J/ $\psi$ p branching ratio.
- Using VMD, can study J/ψp-> J/ψp reaction and make important conclusions about:
  - proton gluonic form-factor
  - contribution of the gluons to the proton mass
  - gluon distributions at high x

Note: Hall C pentaquark experiment ( $007^{J/\psi}$ ) starts January 30 2019; the intent is to get some online results and publication within 6 months

#### Data reconstruction

- Standard Hall D framework: REST files from latest reconstruction (August 2018) for all 2016 and 2017 data
- Plugin (γp->e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup>p) with looser (than standard) cuts on timing, missing mass. Using KF with 4-momentum and vertex constrained.
- No requirements about the number of unused tracks, but additional cuts on  $p_{Tmiss}$ <0.5 GeV,  $\chi^2_{KF}$ <5000 (NDF=7)
- Most restrictive cuts are needed for the pion suppression
- Simulations: BH,  $\phi$ , and J/ $\psi$  simulated data analyzed in exactly the same way as the experimental data

## $e/\pi$ separation: p/E cuts



TABLE I: p/E mean, R.M.S. and cuts for the data and MC and the two calorimeters. Note: before applying the cuts, MC is smeared and shifted to match the data.

## $e/\pi$ separation: BCAL pre-shower and fiducial cuts



## Accidental background



- Within each events: energy (accidental) and track combinations
- Three beam bunches on each side of the in-time peak
- $\Delta M$  for each pair of combos vs M
- The 45<sup>0</sup>-band disappears in the difference



## Track combinatorial background



- Not accidental: due to track splitting, (p,e<sup>+</sup>) combinations
- 5-7% effect

- Which combo to choose: most of the combos have very close parameters- few MeV difference in invariant mass
- Extra combos counted and subtracted



#### Bethe-Heitler process: generators

- Two generators using completely different methods giving almost identical results within kinematic region used for normalization (t<0.6 GeV2,  $p_e$ >0.4 GeV,  $\theta_e$ >2<sup>0</sup>):
- Hall B (R.Paremuzyan) based on analytical formulas
- Hall D (R.Jones) numerical calculations of Feynman diagrams



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## Bethe-Heitler process: $\pi$ background



• After applying all the cuts still significant background in the continuum

- First, create π sample using 3σ anti-electron cut on one of the lepton candidate
- Fit p/E distribution with polynomial used as background shape



## Bethe-Heitler process: $\pi$ background



- 2<M<2.5 GeV, -t<0.6 GeV<sup>2</sup> using both calorimeters (p/E shifted to 1)
- Apply all the cuts on one of the leptons and look at p/E for the other
- Fit with background normalization (p0) and Gaussian (p1-p3)
- background/all = 0.508 ± 0.013
- Same procedure done in bins of  $E_{\gamma}$  and t

## Bethe-Heitler process: efficiencies



- Flat, except at low t (small proton momentum)
- 2017 efficiencies lower due to higher rates random hits included in the simulations proportionally from each run

## Bethe-Heitler process: t-dependence



- Data corrected for background (π cont. and combinatorial) 10-11.8 GeV
  - π increasingly dominate at high t (no el. peak visible above 0.9 GeV<sup>2</sup>) using t<0.6 GeV<sup>2</sup> for norm.
  - Data/MC consistent with constant – 30% additional inefficiency



#### Invariant mass spectrum: t-depedence



## Bethe-Heitler process: beam energy dependence



## $J/\psi$ photoproduction: efficiency



- J/ψ events generated using bggen\_jpsi generator within standard MCwrapper
- Assumptions:
  - t-slope of 1.4 GeV-2 (discussed later)
  - helicity conservation
  - certain energy dependence

### $J/\psi$ photoproduction: t-dependence



- Invariant mass peak
  fits in bins of t using
  RooFit, binned
  likelihood method
- Accidentals subtracted before fitting
- All fits stable

## $J/\psi$ photoproduction: t-dependence



- Only 10-11.8 GeV region t<sub>min</sub> changes significantly with E
- Yields corrected for accidentals, track combos, efficiency and flux
- Overall cross-section normalized to BH (factor of 1.34 ± 0.086)

## $J/\psi$ photoproduction: beam energy dependence



- Invariant mass peak fits in bins of E using RooFit, binned likelihood method
- Accidentals subtracted before fitting
- All fits converge, 3<sup>rd</sup>
  bin not always stable

## $J/\psi$ photoproduction: beam energy dependence



- Cross-section calculations: contributions from different terms
- BH kinematic region used for normalization doesn't matter

#### Systematics: 2016 vs 2017



#### Systematics: $J/\psi$ simulations



## Systematics: other and summary

Systematic error from	Estimate, $\%$	
BH to $J/\psi$ relative efficiency	17	
BH cross-section calculations (TCS)	10	
$J/\psi$ simulations	9	
Pion contamination in BH	7	
total	22.8	

Remarks:

- 17% is the error of the average comparison 2016/2017, may require additional syst. error for the lowest energy point – delicate balance b/n two effects near threshold: proton momentum increase and angle decrease
- Max TCS contribution is 10%, Marie Boer is working on estimating more precise limit
- Systematics from the t-dependence in J/ $\psi$  simulations has to be estimated point-by-point
- Other effects expected to have lower contribution but have to be checked: helicity conservation, slope of the  $J/\psi$  cross-section with energy

## Interpretation of the results – t-dependence and proton gluonic form factor



 $F(t) \sim \frac{1}{(1-t/m_{2a}^2)^4}$ 

- Frankfurt and Strikman
  PRD66 (2002) suggested
  t-depedence defined by
  the proton gluonic FF
- Explains t-slope change with energy (due to t<sub>min</sub> dependence) in wide energy range:

FNAL <E>=100 GeV SLAC 13-21 GeV Cornell 11 GeV GlueX 10-11.8 GeV

#### $J/\psi$ cross-section – comparison with other measurements



Using F(t) to calculate total cross-section from the SLAC  $d\sigma/dt$  at  $t_{min}$ 

Cornell data: horizontal errors represent acceptance

#### $J/\psi$ cross-section – near threshold production mechanism



Using F(t) to calculate total cross-section from the SLAC d $\sigma$ /dt at t<sub>min</sub>

Cornell data: horizontal errors represent acceptance

Brodsky at.al fit of the GlueX data ONLY using F(t) as t-dependence

#### $J/\psi$ cross-section – mass of the proton



Using F(t) to calculate total cross-section from the SLAC  $d\sigma/dt$  at  $t_{min}$ 

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Kharzeev et al. 1999 – gluonic contribution to the mass of the proton – 80% if calculations are verified





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## Backup slide: J/ $\psi$ threshold photoproduction and the mass of the proton



Kharzeev et al. Eur. Phys. C9 (1999) – Absolute (factor 2-3 uncertainty) perturbative calculations using gluon **PDFs** "... at low energies the photoproduction amplitude is proportional to the matrix element of the gluon part of the trace of the QCD energy-momentum tensor evaluated over the nucleon state; this quantity arises from the scale anomaly of QCD. The resulting contribution to the photoproduction amplitude is real ... The low-energy J/ $\psi$  photoproduction data can thus be used to extract the fraction of the nucleon's mass arising from gluons..."