## *u*-channel $\rho^0$ Benchmark Figures

benchmark\_rho\_mass.pdf: This figure shows the reconstruction of the  $\rho^0$  mass. The black histogram is the invariant mass of each MC  $\pi^+\pi^-$  pair after being processed by the afterburner. The blue histogram is the invariant mass of reconstructed  $\pi^+\pi^-$  pairs with no cuts on acceptance. PDG codes were used to select pions, although this PID is unrealistic. In the absence of PID, the  $\rho^0$  will be reconstructed from each oppositely-charged track. The dominant combinatorial background from this approach comes from pairing protons with the  $\pi^-$ . This  $m_{p\pi^-}$  background is shown by the red histogram. The sum of the signal and background is shown in magenta.

benchmark\_rho\_mass\_cuts.pdf: This figure shows  $\rho^0$  mass reconstruction for events in which both MC-level pions should be within the B0 acceptance (9<  $\theta$  <13 mrad with respect to the hadron beam pipe). The **black** histogram is the invariant mass of each MC  $\pi^+\pi^-$  pair which passes this  $\theta$  cut after being processed by the afterburner. The **magenta** histogram is the invariant mass of reconstructed  $\pi^+\pi^-$  pairs for these same events. PDG codes were used to select pions. The **magenta** and **black** distributions were integrated over 0.6 < m < 1 GeV to calculate the  $\rho^0$  reconstruction efficiency.

benchmark\_rho\_dNdu.pdf: To make this figure, the Mandelstam  $u=(p_{\rho^0}-p_{pbeam})^2$  was calculated for each event and events were binned in -u. The initial momentum of the proton beam is from the afterburned generator-level MC event information. The momentum of the  $\rho^0$  was calculated three ways. The first method shown in **blue** reconstructs the  $\rho^0$  from afterburned MC-level pions. The second method shown in **blue** reconstructs the  $\rho^0$  from reconstructed tracks which are then confirmed to be pions by their PDG codes. The third method shown in **magenta** is more realistic and reconstructs the  $\rho^0$  from each reconstructed  $p\pi^-$  and  $\pi^+\pi^-$  pair. The **magenta** curve is higher in amplitude than the **black** because in many events both the proton and  $\pi^+$  were successfully reconstructed so there is some double counting. We are interested in the exponential drop-off of the cross section with increasing -u. So the distributions were fit over  $0.2 < -u < 1.2 \text{ GeV}^2$  with a function of the form  $\sim \exp[\alpha(-u)]$  to evaluate the slope parameter  $\alpha$  reconstruction.

benchmark\_rho\_efficiencies.pdf: This figure is the efficiencies of pion reconstruction binned in  $p_T$  vs.  $\eta$  and  $\eta$  vs  $\phi$  (azimuth) where  $\eta$  is defined with respect to the hadron beam pipe. The kinematics were calculated from the afterburned MC-level pion kinematics. Then the pions were counted as reconstructed if one of reconstructed tracks matched the PDG ID of that pion.

benchmark\_rho\_recoquality.pdf: This shows the momentum and  $p_T$  reconstruction quality of charged pions. For each reconstructed charged pion, its PDG code was used to identify it. Then the reconstructed momentum and  $p_T$  were compared against the afterburned MC-level kinematic information.