

Determination of the beam asymmetry Σ in η - and η' -photoproduction

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I hereby declare that this thesis was formulated by myself and that no sources or tools other than those cited were used.

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Photoproduction of Pseudoscalar Mesons	4
1.2	Measurement of Polarization Observables	5
1.3	Introduction to BAYESIAN statistics	5
1.4	Motivation and Structure of this Thesis	5
2	Experimental Setup	7
2.1	Production of (polarized) high energy photon beam	7
2.1.1	Tagger	8
2.2	Beam Target	8
2.3	Calorimeters	8
2.4	Trigger	8
3	Event selection	11
3.1	Charge cut	11
3.2	Time of particles	11
4	Determination of the beam asymmetry Σ_η	15
4.1	BAYESIAN fit to event yield asymmetries	15
4.1.1	Application of method to toy Monte Carlo data	15
4.1.2	Application of method to real data	15
4.2	Event based fit	15
4.2.1	Application of method to toy Monte Carlo data	15
4.2.2	Application of method to real data	15
4.3	Discussion	15
5	Determination of the beam asymmetry $\Sigma_{\eta'}$	17
5.1	Fit to event yield asymmetries	17
5.1.1	Application of method to toy Monte Carlo data	17
5.1.2	Application of method to real data	17
5.2	Event based fit	17
5.2.1	Application of method to toy Monte Carlo data	17
5.2.2	Application of method to real data	17
5.3	Discussion	17
6	Summary and outlook	19

A Useful information	21
List of Figures	23
List of Tables	25

DRAFT

Event selection

The determination of polarization observables needs to be completed for particular reactions (cf. chapter 1), such as the photoproduction of e.g. a single η' meson. However, the recorded events contain data from the decay products of all possible final states in addition to combinatorial background. Thus, event candidates for the desired reaction have to be extracted before they are considered for further analysis. Table 3.1 shows the five most probable decay modes of the η' meson. Three of these result in final states which only contain photons and are thus reliably measurable with the CBELSA/TAPS experiment. Only the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decay channel was considered for further analysis; the $\omega\gamma$ channel provides negligible statistics and considering the acceptance of detecting six photons in the final state, the expected yield of the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decays should be roughly equal to the $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0\eta \rightarrow 6\gamma$ final state [farah]. Offering a cleaner, three-particle final state, the $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ was then favored in the course of this thesis. The process of *event selection* for the reaction $\gamma p \rightarrow p\eta' \rightarrow p\gamma\gamma$ is outlined in the

Decay mode		Branching ratio
$\pi^+\pi^-\eta$		42.6%
$\rho^0\gamma$	$\rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\gamma$	28.9% (28.9%)
$\pi^0\pi^0\eta$	$\rightarrow 6\gamma$	22.8% (8.8%)
$\omega\gamma$	$\rightarrow (\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0\gamma/\pi^0\gamma\gamma)$	2.52% (2.2%/0.21%)
$\gamma\gamma$		2.3%

Table 3.1: The five most probable decay modes of the η' meson. The most probable further decay with according branching ratio is shown in brackets.[pdg]

following chapter.

3.1 Charge cut

To improve the signal to background ratio, the charge information of the final state particles may be used as a first step. In particular, for $\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ reactions, one charged and two uncharged particles in the final state were demanded.

3.2 Time of particles

Due to its high count rate the tagging system (see section 2.1.1) will not only record beam photons which produce the detectable final state particles, but also several uncorrelated beam photons. To select only beam photons which will induce a photoproduction process the time information of the detected particles is used. It is shown in figure 3.1 for all particles involved in 2.5PED and 3PED events of η' photoproduction. In all cases prompt peaks centered around 0 ns (the trigger time) are

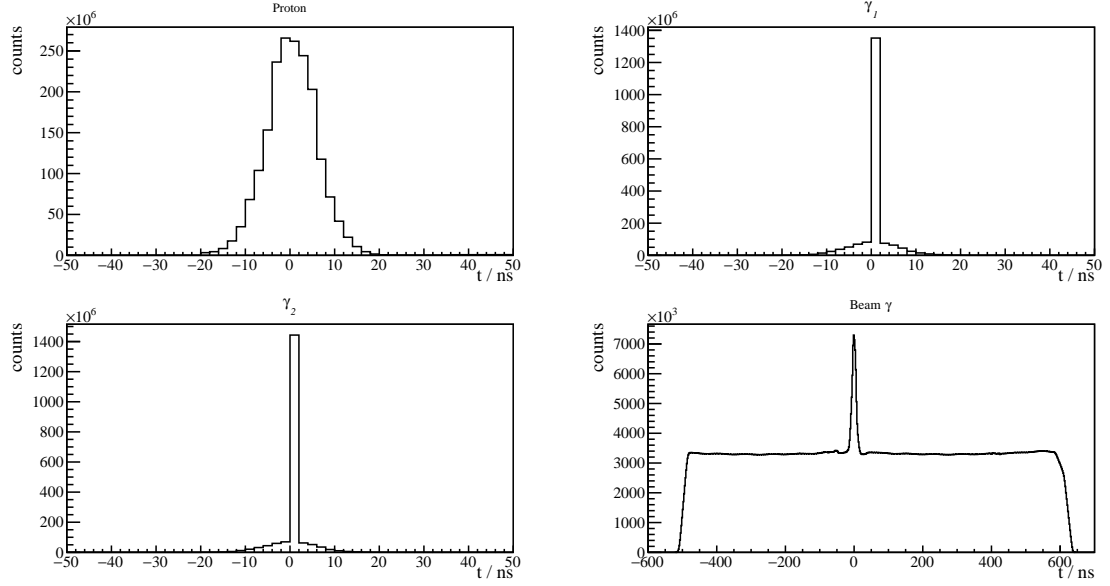


Figure 3.1: Time information of all final state particles and the beam photon for 3PED η' production

visible. Since the final state photons move with velocity c their timing information does not underlie fluctuations, as is the case for the final state proton on the contrary. The tagged, uncorrelated beam photons are visible as flat background underneath the prompt peak in the time of the beam photon. Naturally, only coincident events may be referred to as η' candidates for the further analysis and thus only events with time information of at least one final state particle are kept. Photons need to be detected in the MiniTAPS or forward detector to acquire time information. To determine coincidence it is convenient to define the *reaction time*

$$t_{\text{reaction}} = \begin{cases} t_{\text{beam}} - t_{\text{meson}} & \text{meson time exists} \\ t_{\text{beam}} - t_{\text{recoil}} & \text{meson time does not exist,} \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

where the meson time t_{meson} is appointed either the averaged time of both decay photons or the time of a single photon if only one photon has time information. t_{beam} and t_{recoil} are the time of the beam photon and recoil proton, respectively. Figure 3.2 shows the reaction time for 2.5PED and 3PED events; a clear prompt peak centred at 0 is visible, the colored area indicates the chosen range of $t_{\text{reaction}} \in [-8, 5]\text{ns}$. However, this cut still contains random time background underneath the prompt peak. This may be accounted for by *sideband subtraction*, assuming the background is flat. All events residing in the prompt peak with $t_r \in [-8, 5]\text{ns}$ will be assigned a weight of $w_p = +1$ while sideband

events with $t_r \in [-200, -100]\text{ns} \vee t_r \in [100, 200]\text{ns}$ will be assigned a weight of $w_s = -\frac{13}{200}$. Any histogram N that is filled in the following will then consist of prompt peak events N_{prompt} and sideband events N_{sideband}

$$N = N_{\text{prompt}} + w_s \cdot N_{\text{sideband}},$$

such that the random time background underneath the prompt peak is subtracted. In addition, the time difference between meson and proton and between the two photons is demanded to be within $[-10, 10]\text{ns}$. All described cuts to the data, including the sideband subtraction are referred to as the *time cut* in the following.

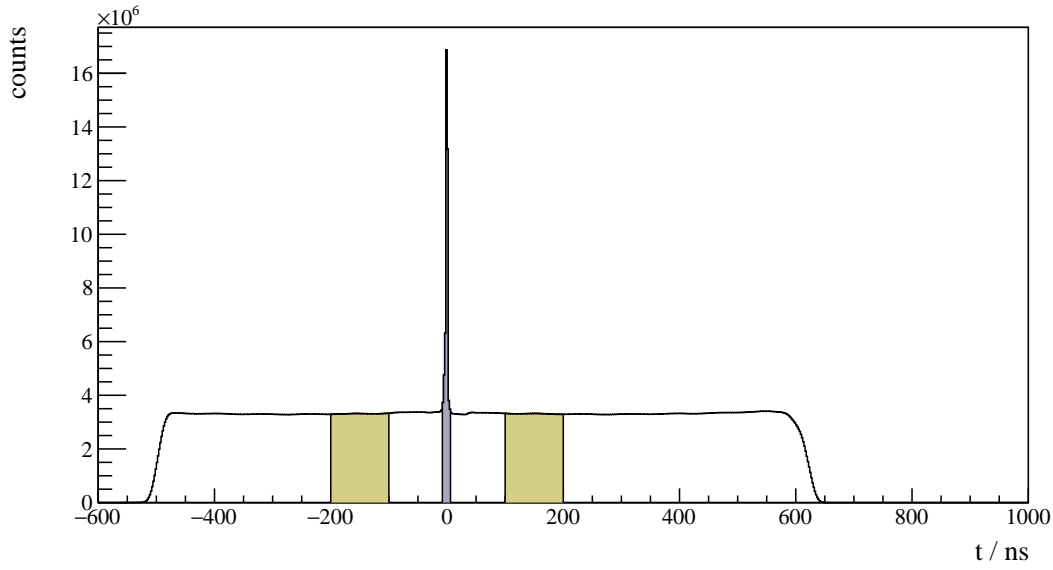


Figure 3.2: Reaction time t_r for 3PED η' production

List of Figures

1.1	Running coupling of QCD. The colored data points represent different methods to obtain a value for α_s . For more details it may be referred to [pdg]	2
1.2	Calculated nucleon (isospin $I = 1/2$) resonances compared to measurements. Left in each column are the calculations [bonnmodel] , the middle shows the measurements and PDG rating [pdg]	3
1.3	FEYNMAN diagram for the s-channel photoproduction of pseudoscalar mesons, adapted from [farahphd]	4
2.1	[cb]	7
2.2	[cb]	8
2.3	[cb]	8
2.4	D. WALTHER in [urban]	9
2.5	[cb]	9
2.6	[cb]	10
3.1	Time information of all final state particles and the beam photon for 3PED η' production	12
3.2	Reaction time t_r for 3PED η' production	13

List of Tables

1.1	Summary of the particles of the SM	1
1.2	Allowed quantum numbers for the intermediate resonance state N^*/Δ^*	4
3.1	The five most probable decay modes of the η' meson. The most probable further decay with according branching ratio is shown in brackets.[pdg]	11