Study of the J/ψ photoproduction with tagged forward proton in *p*+*p* collisions at STAR

Michaela Sverakova (for the STAR collaboration)
Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering
Czech Technical University in Prague

FACULTY OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES AND PHYSICAL ENGINEERING CTU IN PRAGUE

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The STAR Collaboration https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/ STAR/presentations

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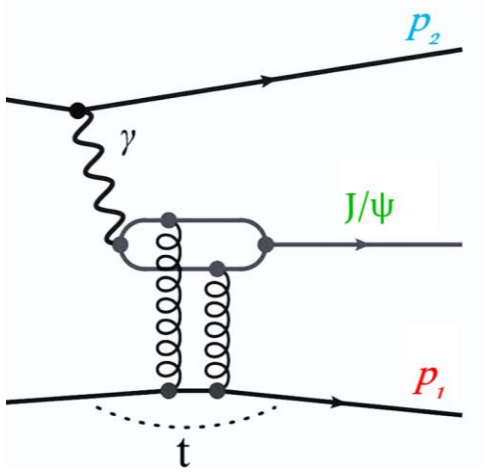
Goals of the analysis

J/ψ photoproduction in $p+p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s}$ = 510 GeV

Data from 2017 collected at the STAR experiment

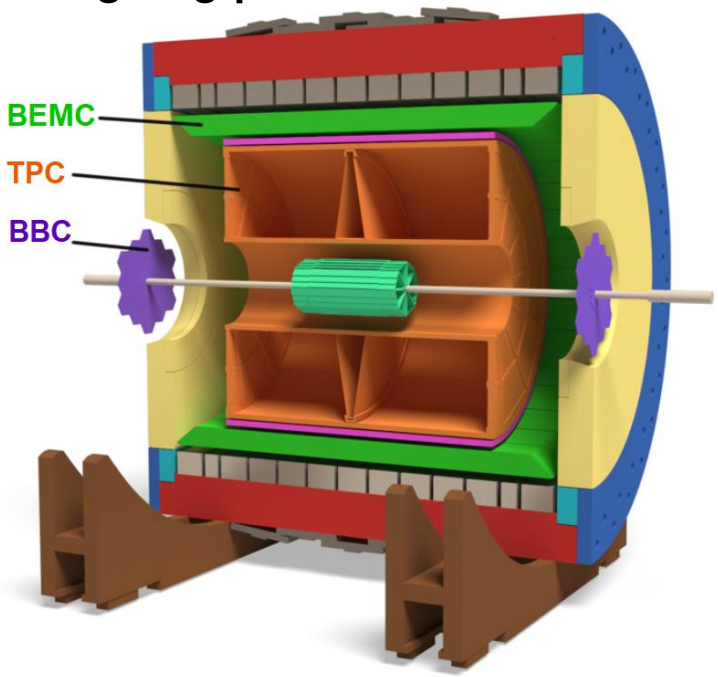
Utilizing the unique ability of the STAR experiment by detection of forward-going protons

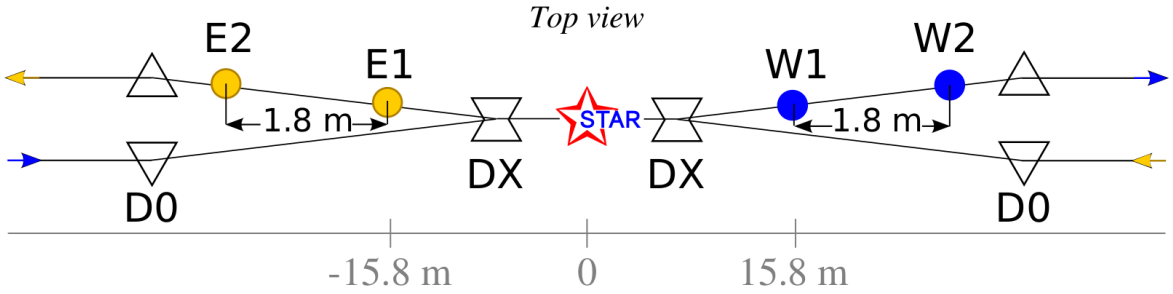


- scatters at a small angle, not measured

- ($J/\psi \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$) detected in the Time Projection Chamber and Barrel Electromagnetic Calorimeter

- detected in Roman Pot detectors (stations E2,E1,W1,W2)





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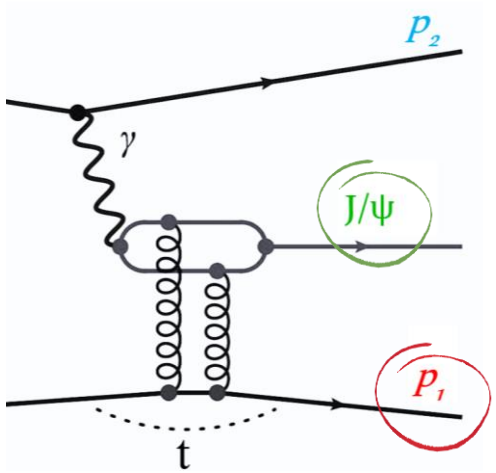

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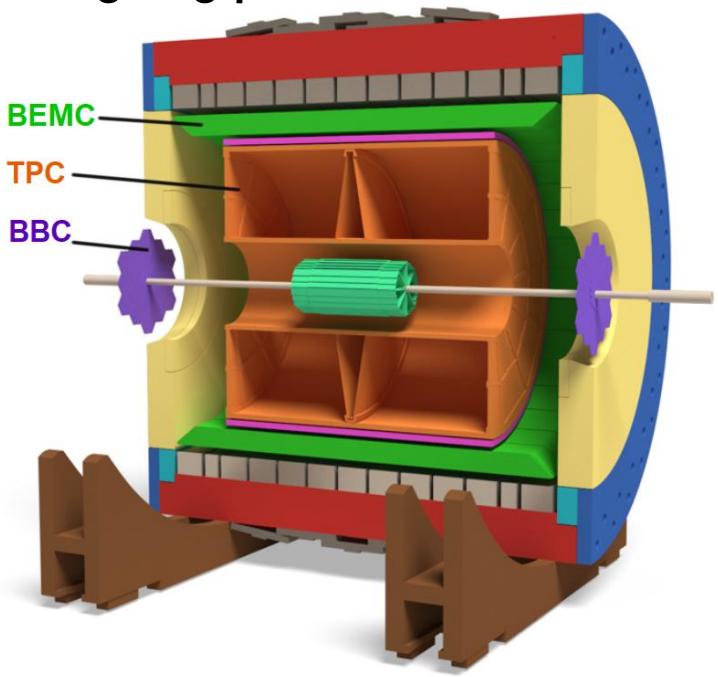

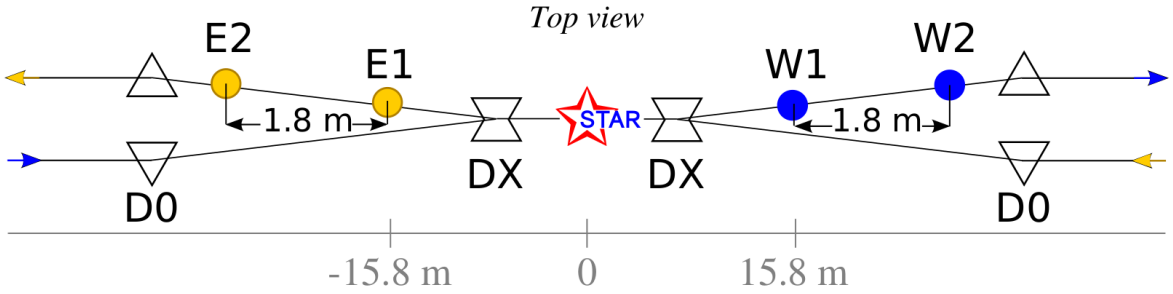

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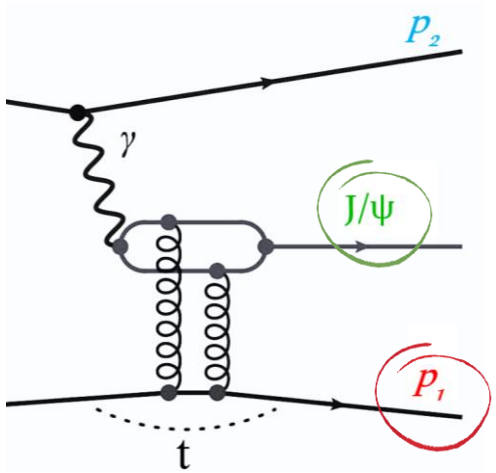

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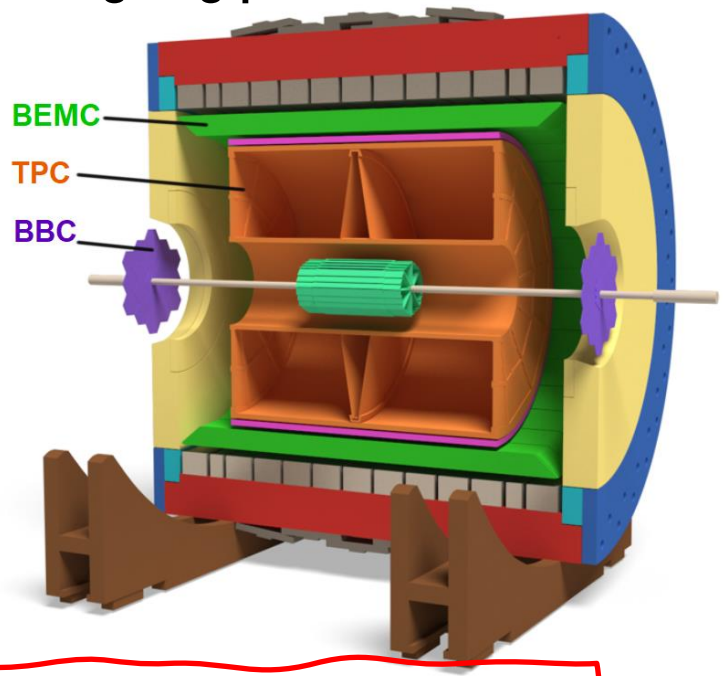
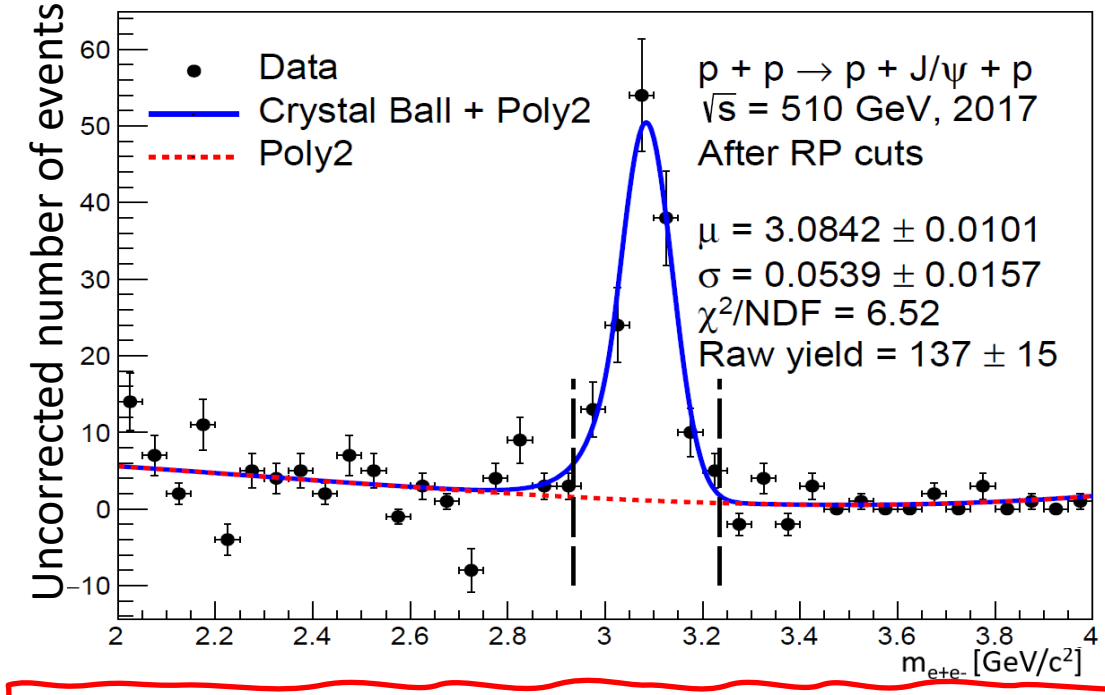


A) Cross-section of J/ψ photoproduction as a function of transferred momentum $|-t|$

B) Possibility to have a precise measurement of the p_T of the virtual photon thanks to the measurement of forward proton in Roman Pot detectors: $p_{2,T} = (p_{J/\psi} + p_1)_T$

Results

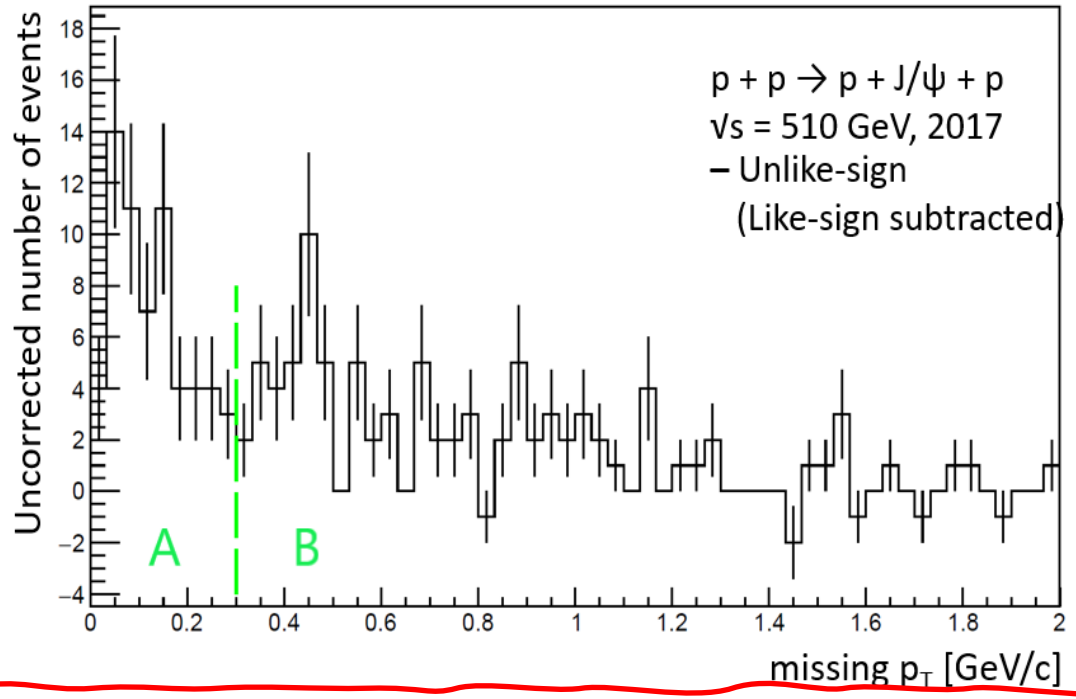
Raw Mass Spectra



- Prominent peak visible in the uncorrected invariant mass distribution
- Raw yield of $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$ in $p+p$ collisions with RP proton tagging extracted for the first time

Missing p_T

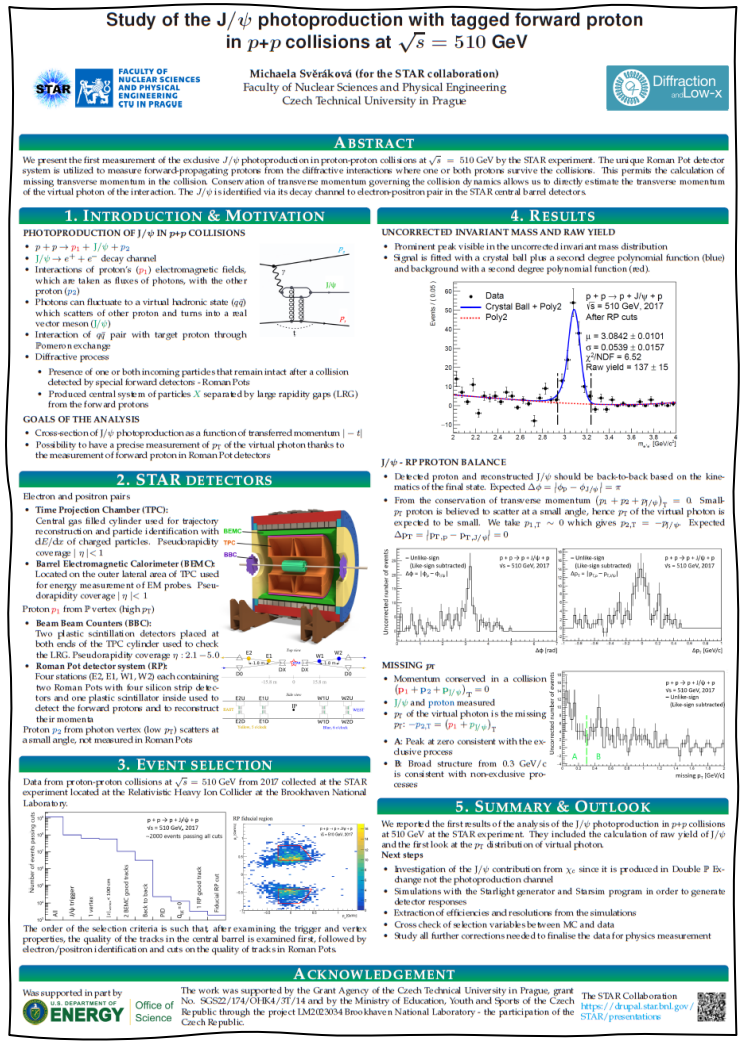
- Momentum conserved in a collision $(p_1 + p_2 + p_{J/\psi})_T = 0$
- J/ψ and proton measured
- p_T of virtual photon is the missing p_T: $- p_{2,T} = (p_1 + p_{J/\psi})_T$



A: Peak near zero consistent with the exclusive process

B: Broad structure from 0.3 GeV/c is consistent with non-exclusive processes

Thank you for your attention!
See you at my poster:



Study of the J/ψ photoproduction with tagged forward proton in p+p collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 510$ GeV

Michaela Svěráková (for the STAR collaboration)
Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering
Czech Technical University in Prague

Abstract

We present the first measurement of the exclusive J/ψ photoproduction in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 510$ GeV by the STAR experiment. The unique Roman Pot detector system is utilized to measure forward-propagating protons from the diffractive interactions where one or both protons survive the collisions. This permits the calculation of missing transverse momentum in the collision. Conservation of transverse momentum governing the collision dynamics allows us to directly estimate the transverse momentum of the virtual photon of the interaction. The J/ψ is identified via its decay channel to electron-positron pair in the STAR central barrel detectors.

1. Introduction & Motivation

PHOTOPRODUCTION OF J/ψ IN p+p COLLISIONS

- $p + p \to p_1 + J/\psi + p_2$
- $J/\psi \to e^+ + e^-$ decay channel
- Interactions of proton's (p_1) electromagnetic fields, which are taken as fluxes of photons, with the other proton (p_2)
- Photons can fluctuate to a virtual hadronic state ($q\bar{q}$) which scatters of other proton and turns into a real vector meson (J/ψ)
- Interaction of $q\bar{q}$ pair with target proton through Pomeron exchange
- Diffractive process
  - Presence of one or both incoming particles that remain intact after a collision detected by special forward detectors - Roman Pots
  - Produced central system of particles X separated by large rapidity gaps (LRG) from the forward protons

GOALS OF THE ANALYSIS

- Cross-section of J/ψ photoproduction as a function of transferred momentum $|-t|$
- Possibility to have a precise measurement of p_T of the virtual photon thanks to the measurement of forward proton in Roman Pot detectors

2. STAR detectors

Electron and positron pairs

- **Time Projection Chamber (TPC):** Central gas filled cylinder used for trajectory reconstruction and particle identification with dE/dx of charged particles. Pseudorapidity coverage $|\eta| < 1$
- **Barrel Electromagnetic Calorimeter (BEMC):** Located on the outer lateral area of TPC used for energy measurement of EM probes. Pseudorapidity coverage $|\eta| < 1$

Proton p_1 from P vertex (high p_T)

- **Beam Beam Counters (BBC):** Two plastic scintillation detectors placed at both ends of the TPC cylinder used to check the LRG. Pseudorapidity coverage $\eta : 2.1 - 5.0$
- **Roman Pot detector system (RP):** Four stations (E2, E1, W1, W2) each containing two Roman Pots with four silicon strip detectors and one plastic scintillator inside used to detect the forward protons and to reconstruct their momenta

Proton p_2 from photon vertex (low p_T) scatters at a small angle, not measured in Roman Pots

3. Event selection

Data from proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 510$ GeV from 2017 collected at the STAR experiment located at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at the Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The order of the selection criteria is such that, after examining the trigger and vertex properties, the quality of the tracks in the central barrel is examined first, followed by electron/positron identification and cuts on the quality of tracks in Roman Pots.

4. Results

UNCORRECTED INVARIANT MASS AND RAW YIELD

- Prominent peak visible in the uncorrected invariant mass distribution
- Signal is fitted with a crystal ball plus a second degree polynomial function (blue) and background with a second degree polynomial function (red).

J/ψ - RP PROTON BALANCE

- Detected proton and reconstructed J/ψ should be back-to-back based on the kinematics of the final state. Expected $\Delta\phi = |\phi_p - \phi_{J/\psi}| = \pi$
- From the conservation of transverse momentum $(p_1 + p_2 + p_{J/\psi})_x = 0$. Small-$p_T$ proton is believed to scatter at a small angle, hence p_T of the virtual photon is expected to be small. We take $p_{1,T} \sim 0$ which gives $p_{2,T} = -p_{J/\psi}$ Expected $\Delta p_T = |p_{T,p} - p_{T,J/\psi}| = 0$

MISSING p_T

- Momentum conserved in a collision $(p_1 + p_2 + p_{J/\psi})_T = 0$
- J/ψ and proton measured
- p_T of the virtual photon is the missing p_T: $-p_{2,T} = (p_1 + p_{J/\psi})_T$
- **A:** Peak at zero consistent with the exclusive process
- **B:** Broad structure from 0.3 GeV/c is consistent with non-exclusive processes

5. Summary & Outlook

We reported the first results of the analysis of the J/ψ photoproduction in p+p collisions at 510 GeV at the STAR experiment. They included the calculation of raw yield of J/ψ and the first look at the p_T distribution of virtual photon.

Next steps

- Investigation of the J/ψ contribution from χ_c since it is produced in Double P Exchange not the photoproduction channel
- Simulations with the Starlight generator and Starsim program in order to generate detector responses
- Extraction of efficiencies and resolutions from the simulations
- Cross check of selection variables between MC and data
- Study all further corrections needed to finalise the data for physics measurement

Acknowledgement

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