

# Search for the ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$ bound state at COSY-11

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Reactions:  $\text{dp} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He } \eta$   
 $\rightarrow {}^3\text{He } \pi^o$   
 $\rightarrow ppp\pi^-$

# Study of the $\eta$ - ${}^3\text{He}$ interaction

Unique possibility for study of  $\eta$ -N interaction  
and the properties of  $S_{11}(1535)$  In nuclear matter

*above  ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  threshold*

- $d\mathbf{p} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \eta$

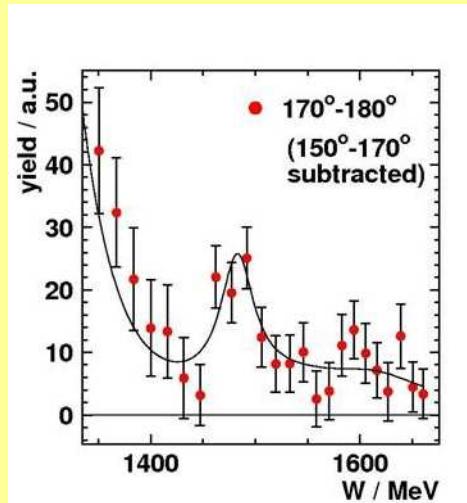
*below  ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  threshold*

- $d\mathbf{p} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \eta$  →  ${}^3\text{He} \pi^0$   
→  $p p \, p \pi$   
→ ...
- bound state
- 

# $^3\text{He}$ - $\eta$ interaction below threshold

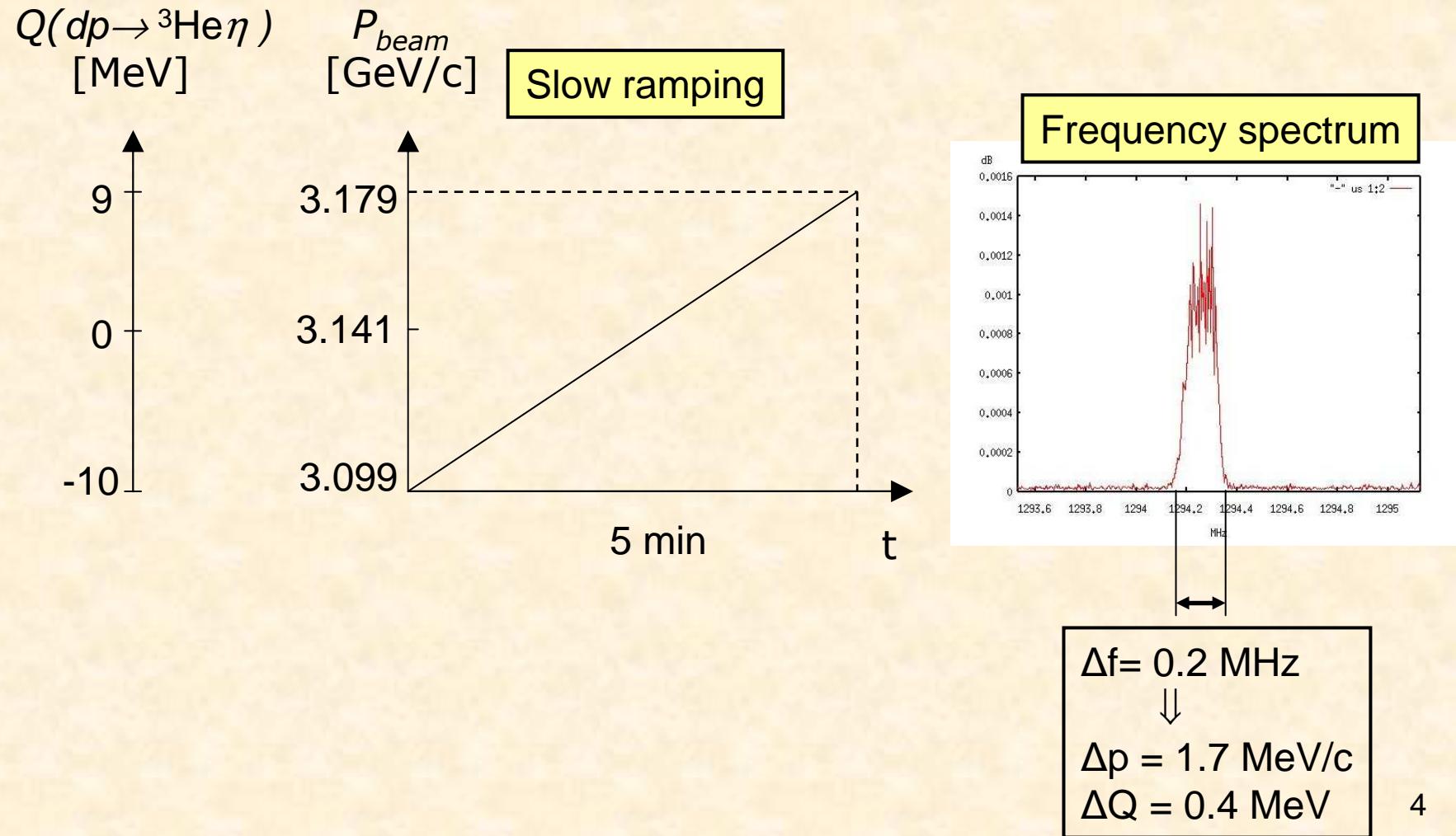
$\gamma \, ^3\text{He} \rightarrow p\pi^0 X$  data from MAMI

(M. Pfeiffer et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **92**(2004)252001)



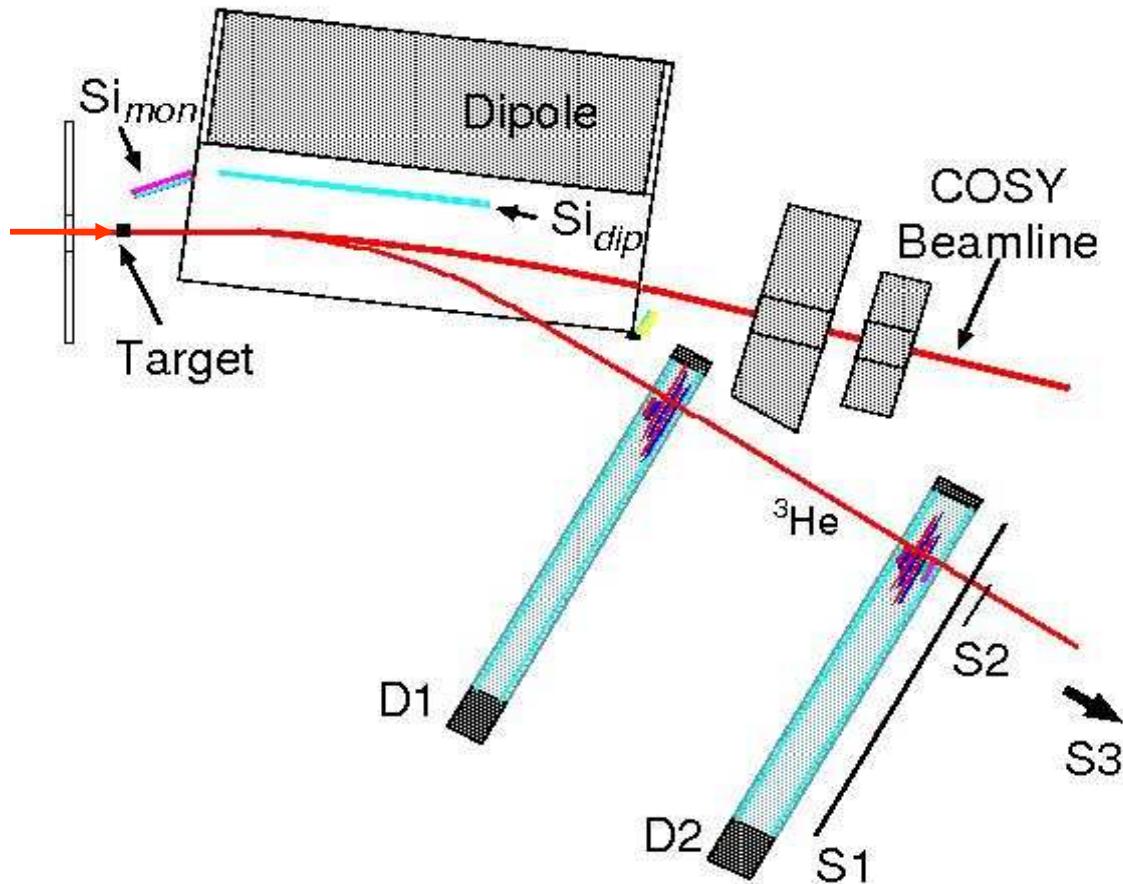
Binding energy:  $(-4.4 \pm 4.2)$  MeV  
Width:  $25.6 \pm 6.1$  MeV

# Internal COSY beam: $\sim 3 \times 10^{10}$ deuterons





# COSY-11 detection system



T1:  $d\bar{p} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He}X, X = \pi^0, \eta$

T2:  $d\bar{p} \rightarrow {}^3\text{H}\pi^+$ ,

T3:  $d\bar{p} \rightarrow d\bar{p} \eta$

T4:  $d\bar{p} \rightarrow d\bar{p}, p\bar{p} \rightarrow p\bar{p}$  (QFS)

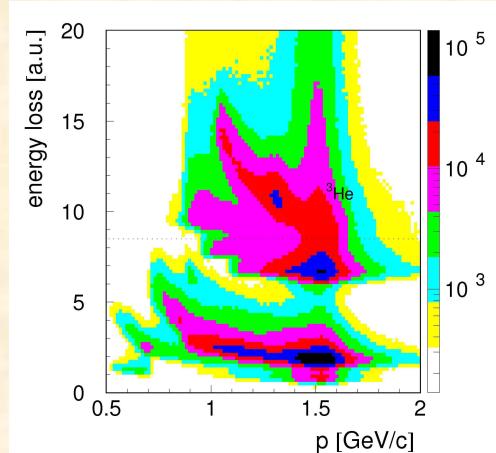
T5:  $d\bar{p} \rightarrow d\bar{p}\pi^0$

T6:  $d\bar{p} \rightarrow p\bar{p}\pi^-$

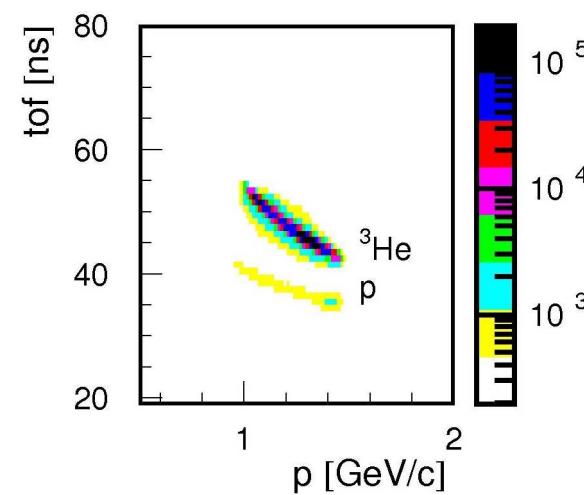
T7:  $d\bar{p} \rightarrow d\bar{p}\gamma$

# ${}^3\text{He}$ identification

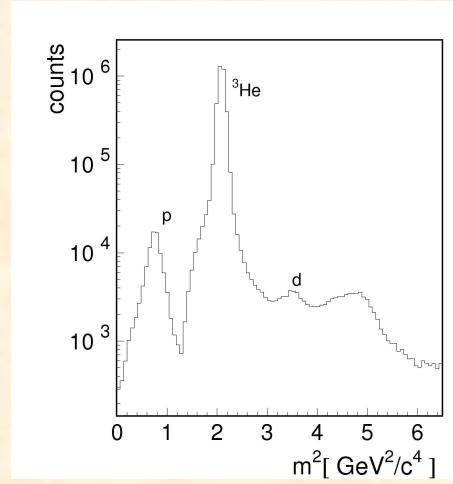
$\Delta E - p$



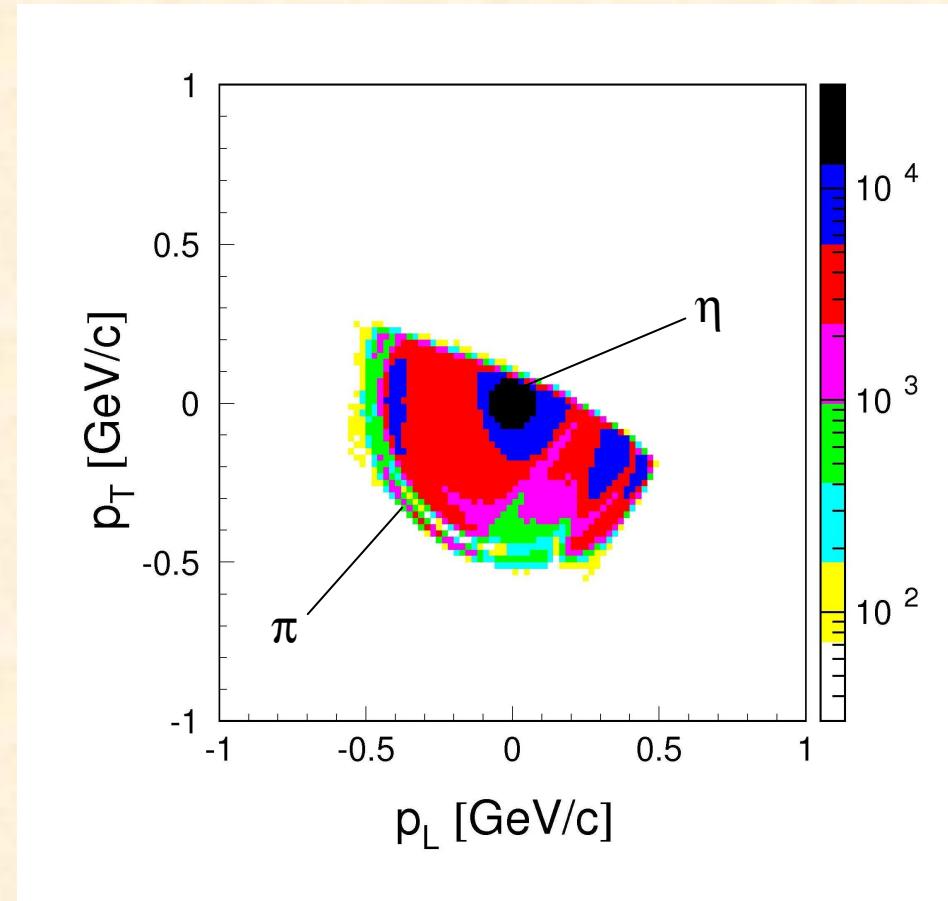
$TOF - p$



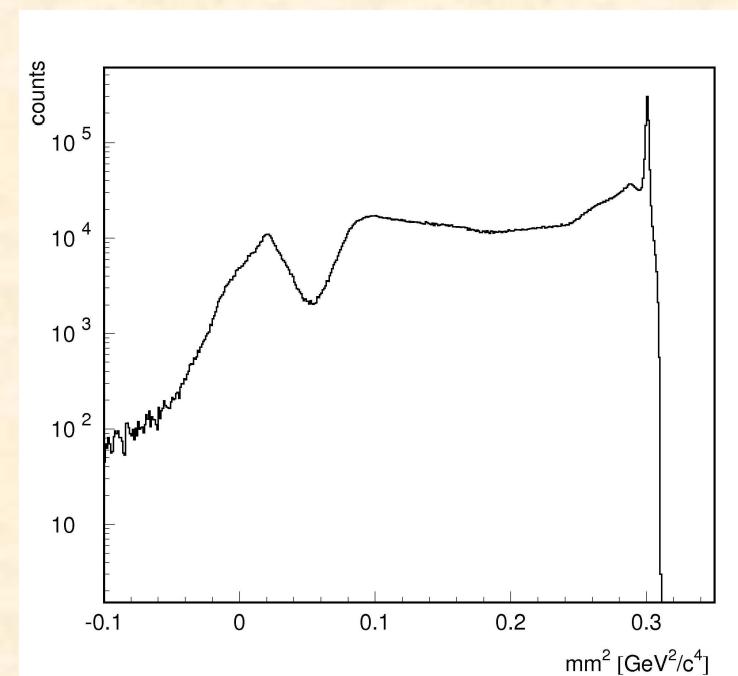
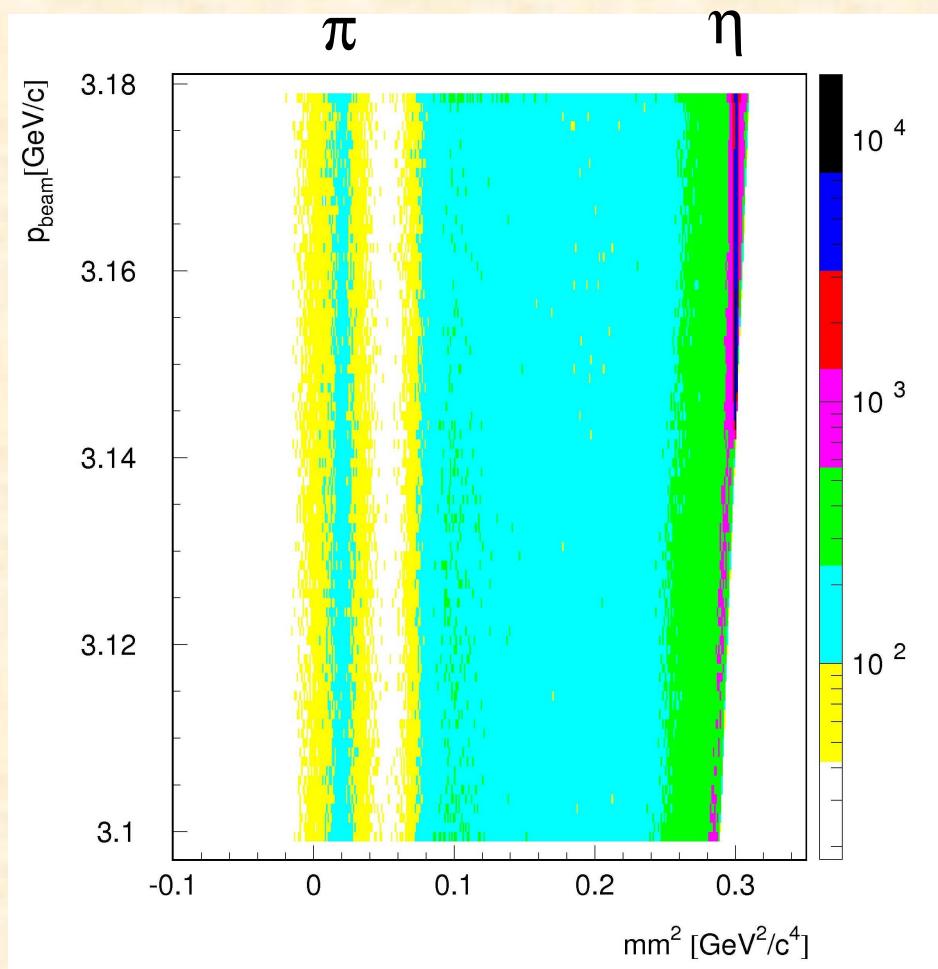
$m^2 / q^2$



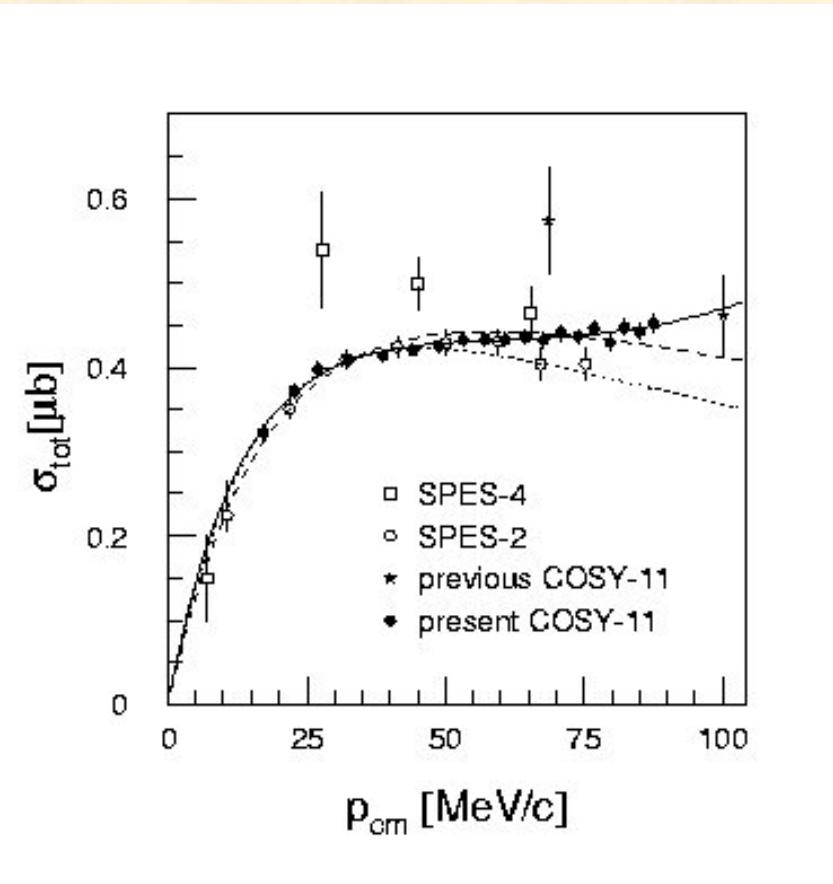
# $^3\text{He}$ c.m. momentum distribution



# Missing mass



# $\sigma_{TOT}$ ( $d p \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \eta$ )



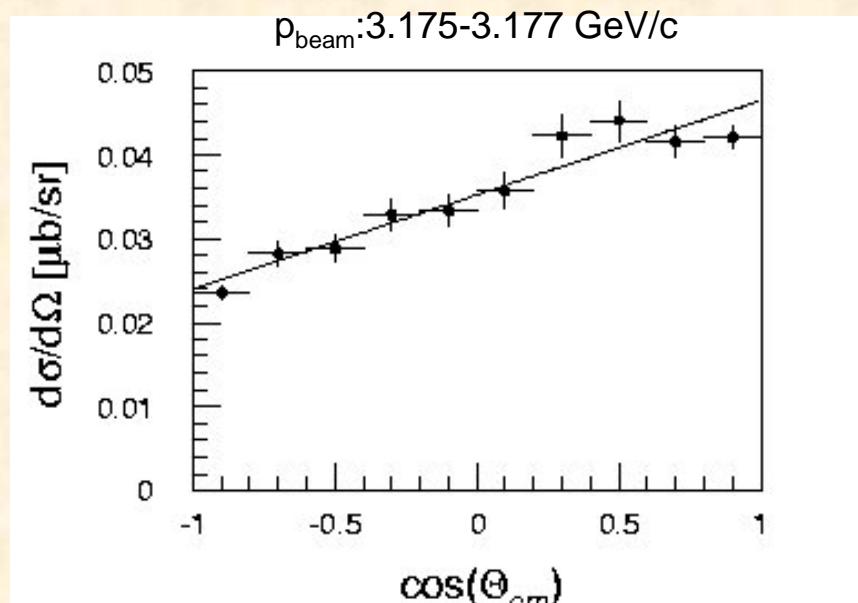
$$T^0 \sim \frac{1}{1 - ip_{cm}a}$$

$$T^1 \sim p_{cm}$$

Fitted:  $|T^0|$ ,  $|T^1|$ ,  $a$

$$|a|=4.3 \pm 0.5 \text{ fm}, \quad \chi^2/\text{nfree}=0.4$$

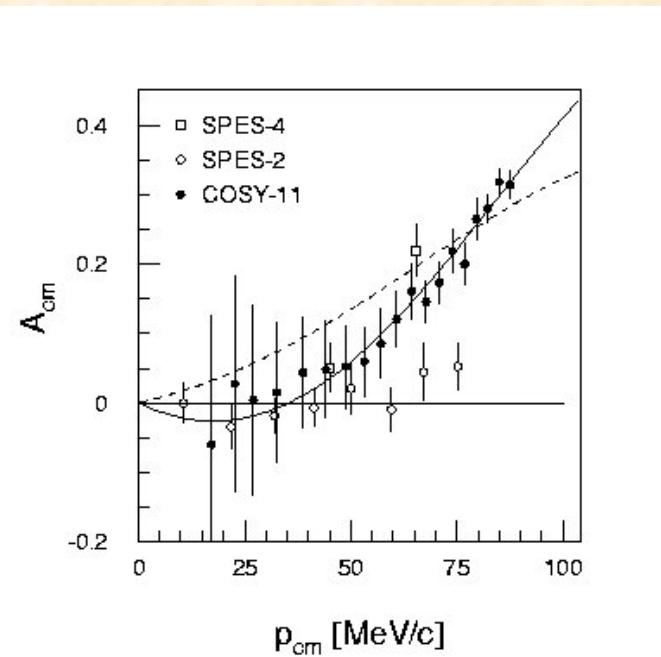
## *Angular distributions*



$$d\sigma/d\Omega_{cm} = \sigma_{tot}/4\pi [1 + A_{cm} \cos(\theta_{cm})]$$

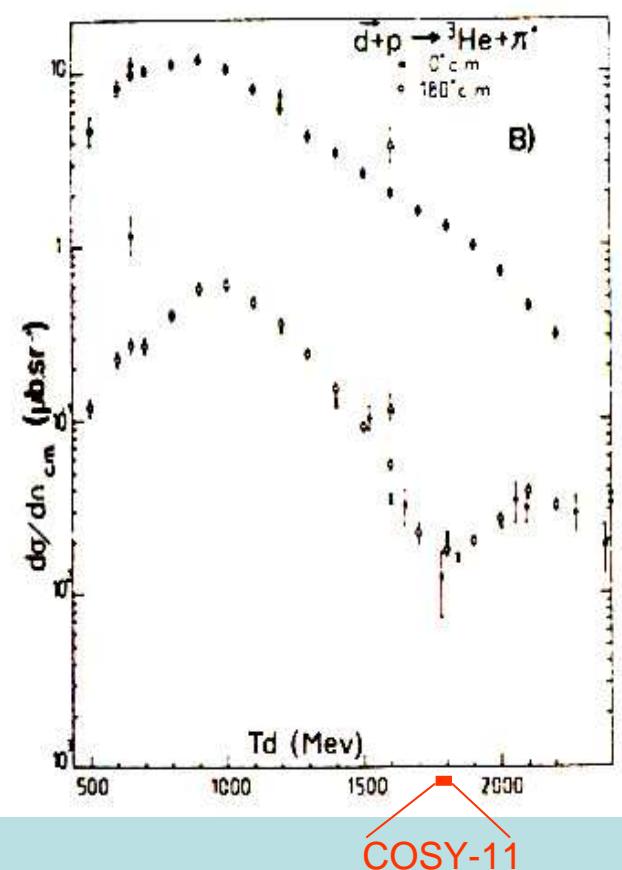
## *Forward-backward asymmetries*

$$A_{cm} \sim \frac{2 \operatorname{Re}(T^0 T^{1*})}{|T^0|^2 + |T^1|^2}$$

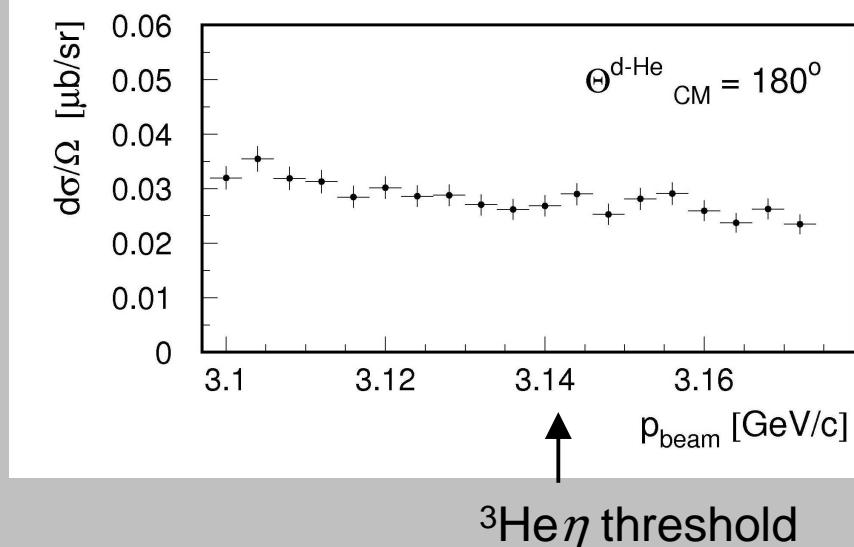


# $d p \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \pi^0$

Fig. from C. Kerboul et al., PL B181(1986)28

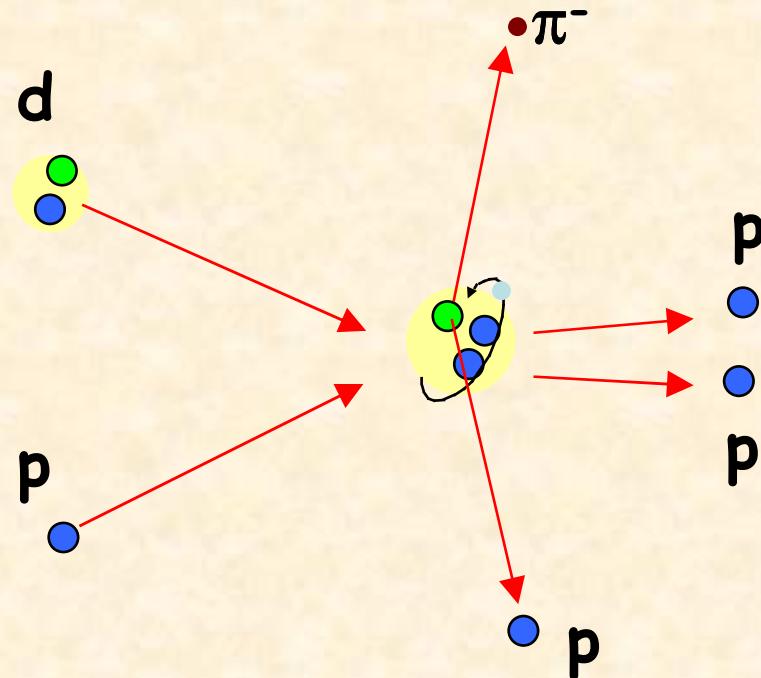


COSY-11



$$\sigma(d p \rightarrow ({}^3\text{He} - \eta)_{\text{bound}} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \pi^0) < 0.07 \mu\text{b}$$

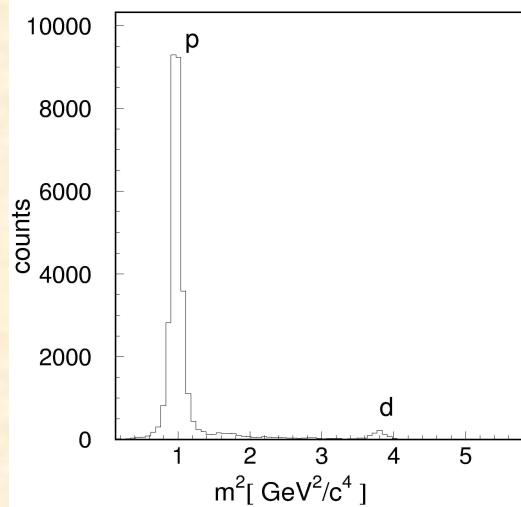
# Preliminary results for $d p \rightarrow p p p \pi^-$



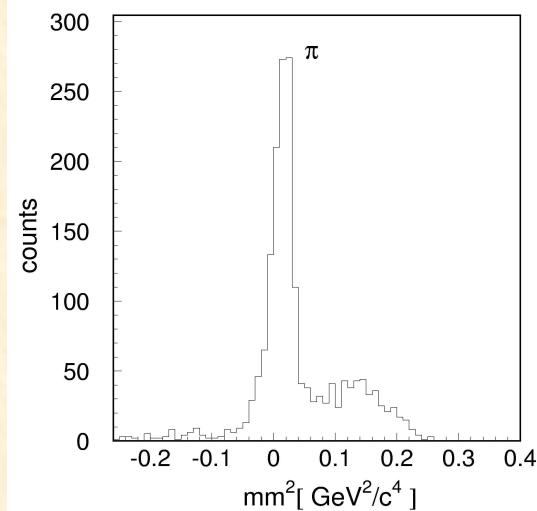
- $p-\pi^-$  back-to-back emission:  $\theta_{cm} \sim 180^\circ$
- proton spectators :  $p_{cm} \sim 100 \text{ MeV}/c,$

# Particle identification

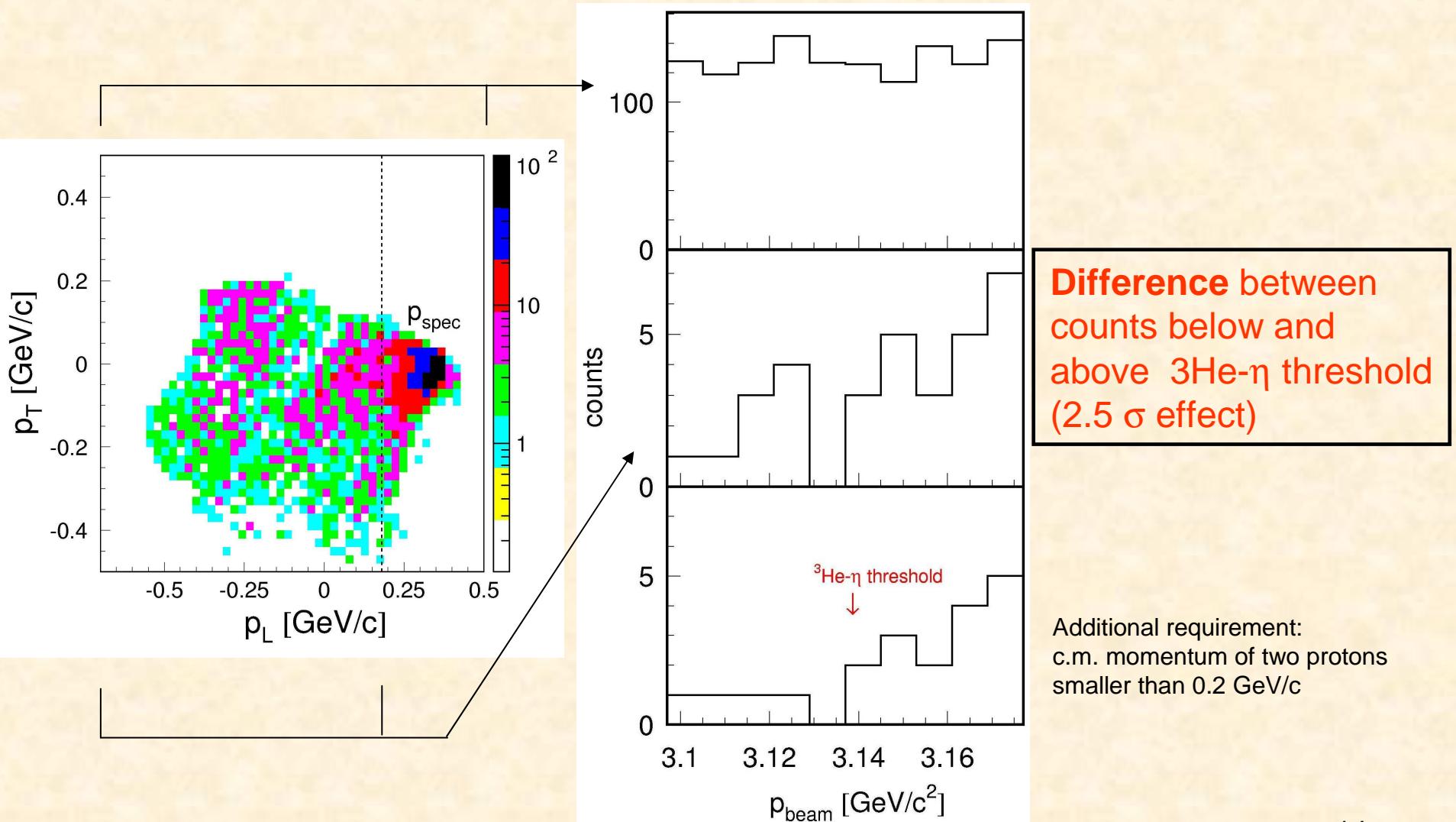
**invariant mass**



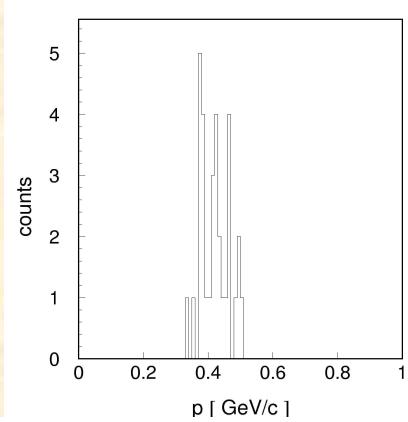
**missing mass**



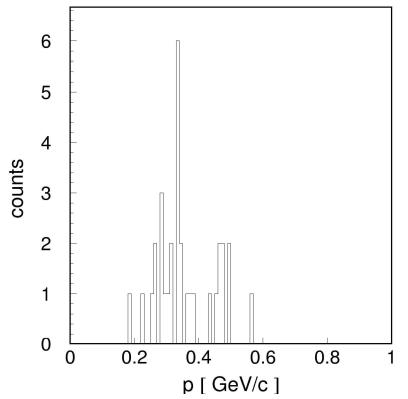
# Counting rate near threshold



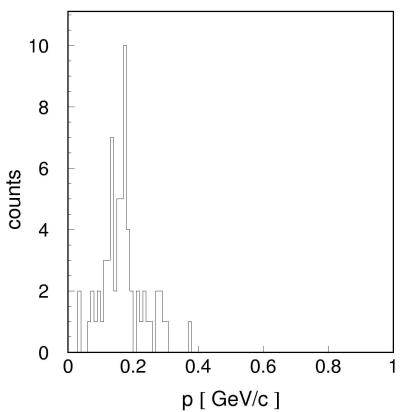
pions



„leading“  
protons

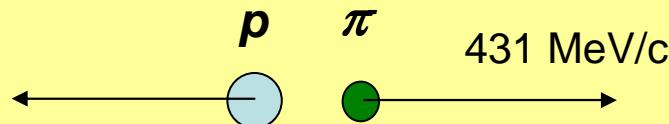


„spectator“  
protons

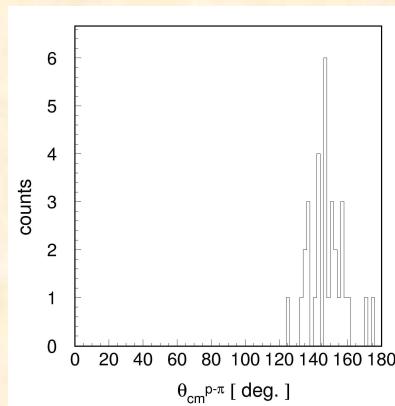


Suggested scenario:

${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  FSI leading to absorption of eta on neutron and conversion to  $p-\pi$  pair



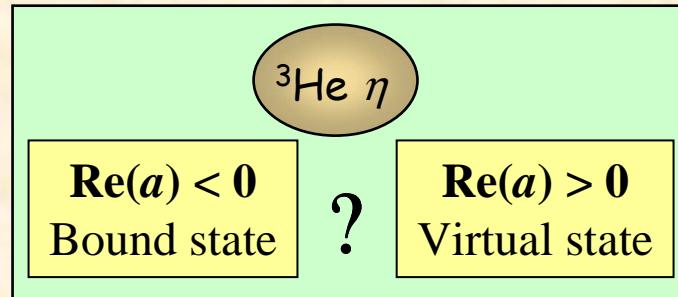
Pion-proton  
c.m. angle



# Summary

- Strong enhancement of  $\sigma_{\text{TOT}}$  due to S-wave  ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  FSI;  $|a|=4.3 \pm 0.5$  fm
- Non-zero forward-backward asymmetries: S- and P-wave interference; indication of a pole in the  ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  S-wave scattering amplitude
- We see no signal from decay of  ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  bound state in the  $d p \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \pi^0$  channel
- Observed difference between counting rate for the  $d p \rightarrow p p p \pi^-$  reaction below and above the  ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  threshold ( $2.5 \sigma$  effect).  
Suggested scenario:  
 ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$  FSI leading to absorption of eta on neutron and conversion to  $p-\pi^-$  pair

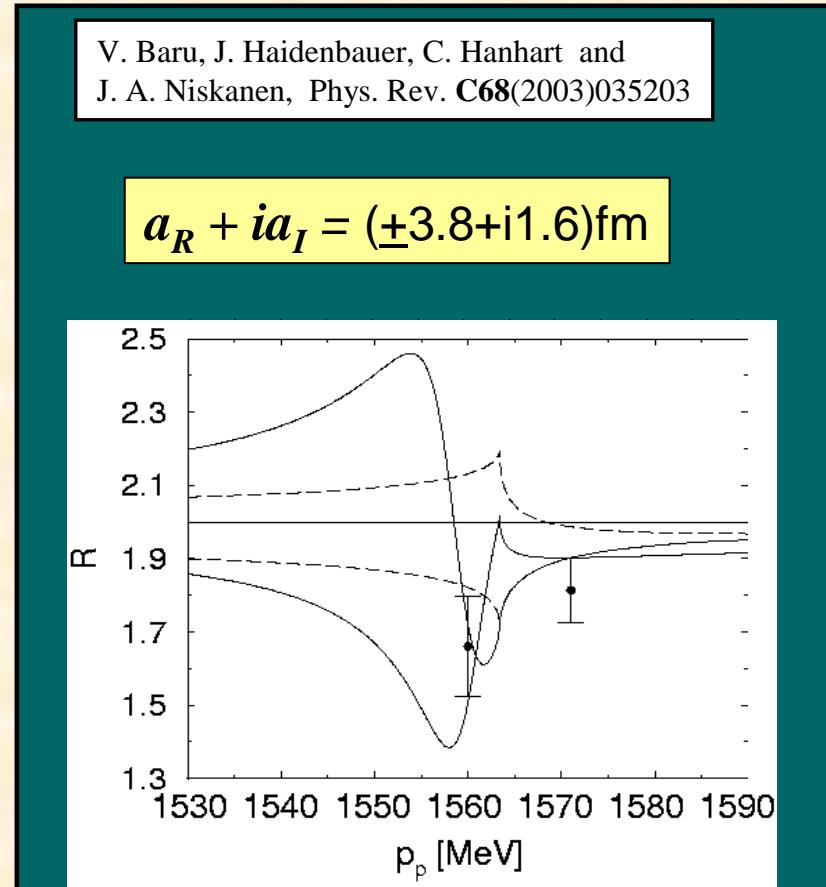
# Structures at the $\eta$ threshold



**$\pi$ - $\eta$  mixing**

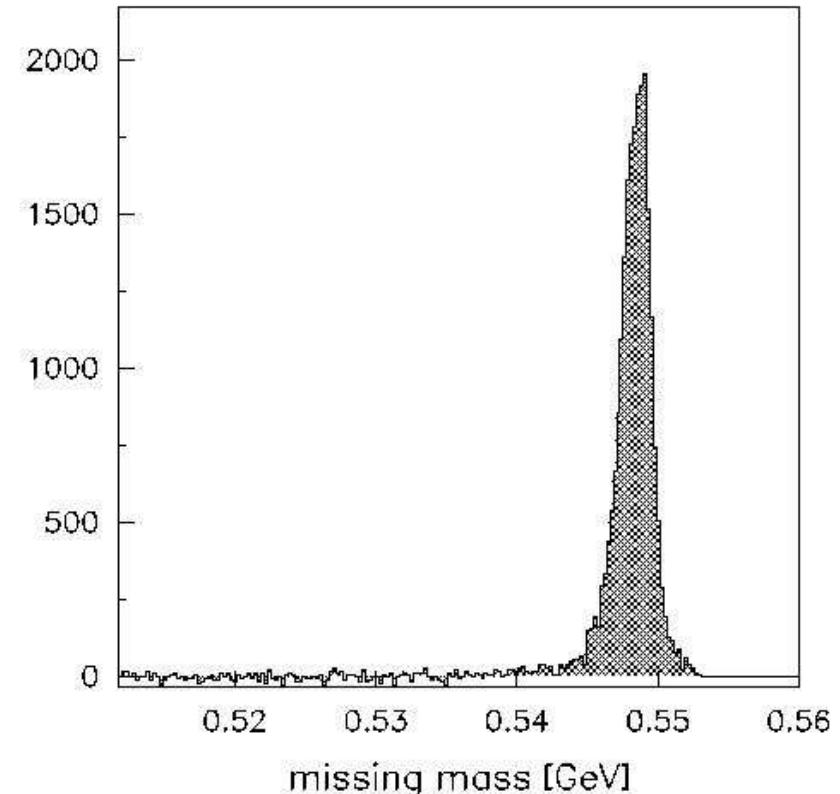
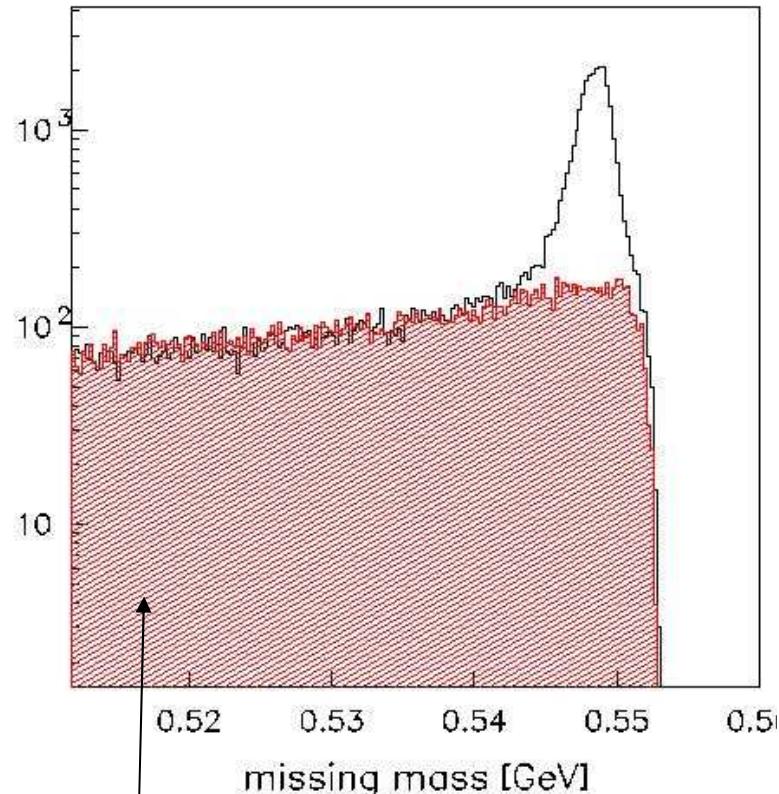
$$R = \frac{d\sigma/d\Omega(pd \rightarrow {}^3\text{H} \pi^+)}{d\sigma/d\Omega(pd \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \pi^0)}$$

$$= \frac{p_{\pi^+}}{p_{\pi^0}} \frac{|T_{\pi^+}|^2}{|T_{\tilde{\pi}^0} + \theta_m T_{\tilde{\eta}}|^2}$$



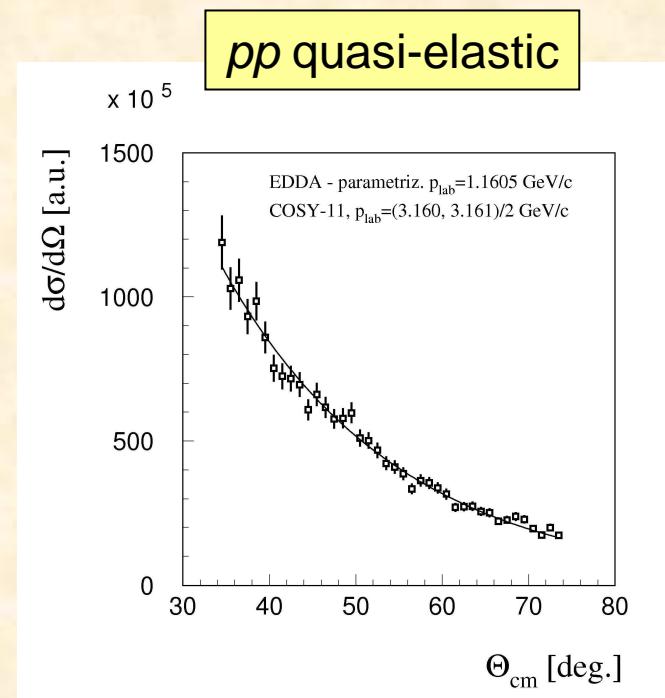
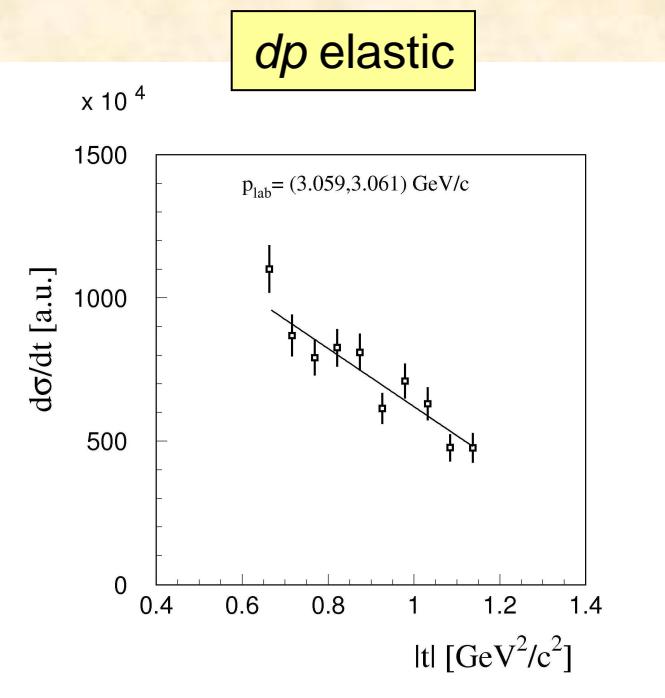
# Background subtraction

$3.166 \text{ GeV}/c < p_{\text{beam}} < 3.170 \text{ GeV}/c$     $Q \sim 6.5 \text{ MeV}$



Background:  
 $3.134 \text{ GeV}/c < p_{\text{beam}} < 3.138 \text{ GeV}/c$

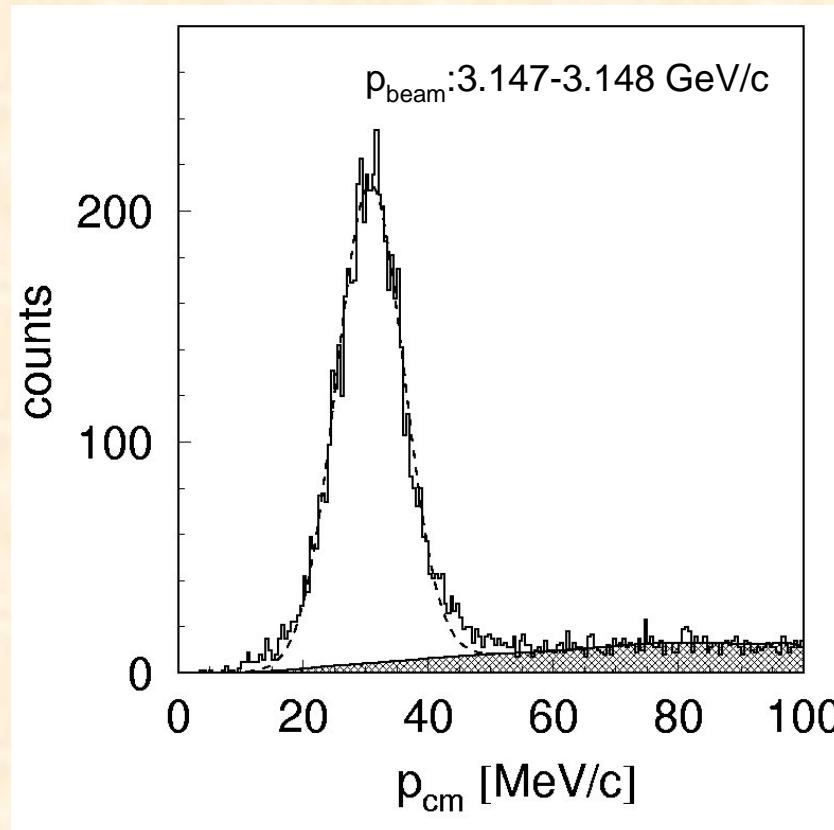
# Luminosity determination



Absolute normalization:  $\pm 12\%$

Relative normalization:  $\pm 0.3\%$

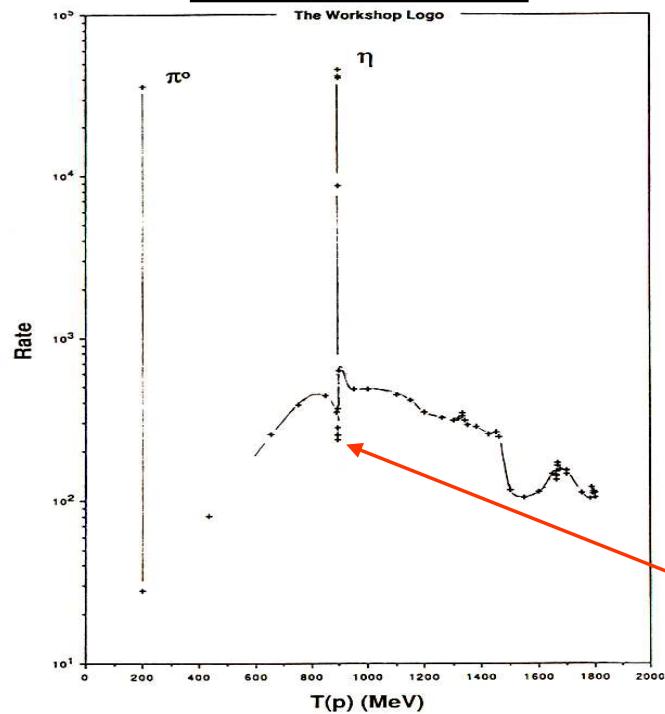
# Beam momentum determination



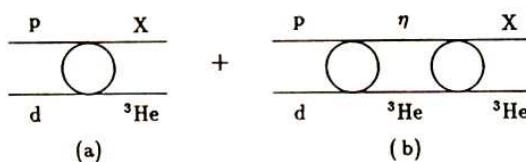
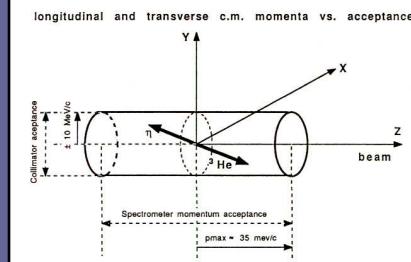
**Correction:  $\Delta p_{beam} = -3.0 \pm 0.2 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.8 \text{ (eta mass) MeV}/c$**

# SATURNE $pd \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} X$ threshold excitation curve

SATURNE  
results

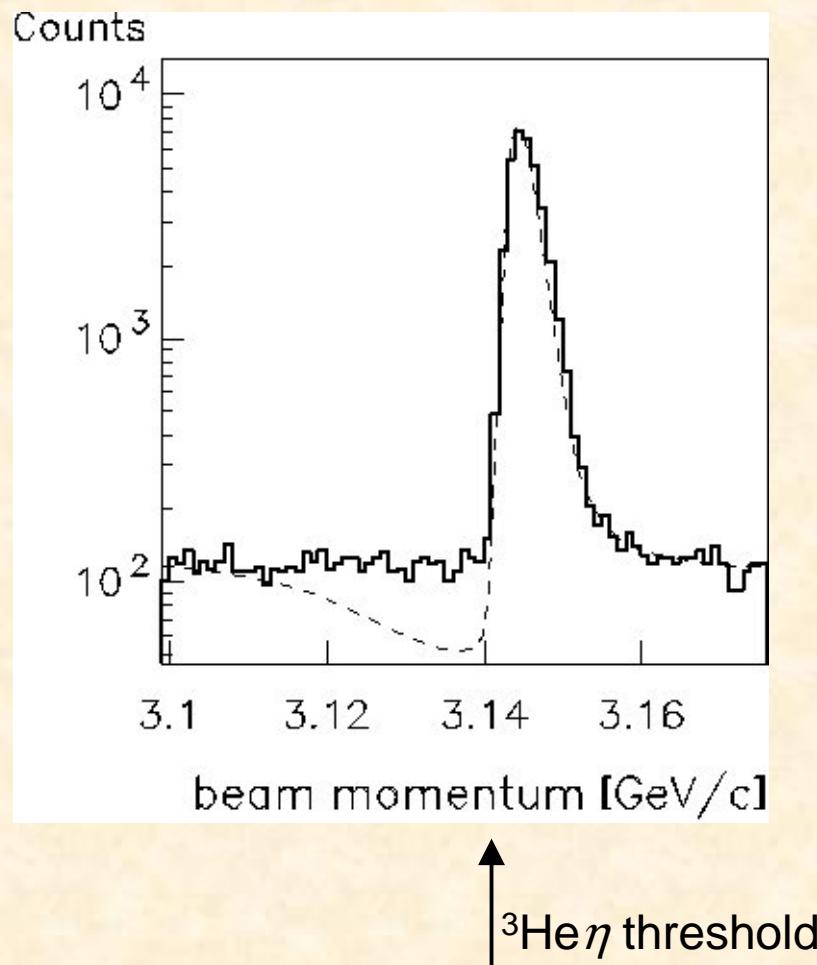


Spectrometer  
momentum  
acceptance



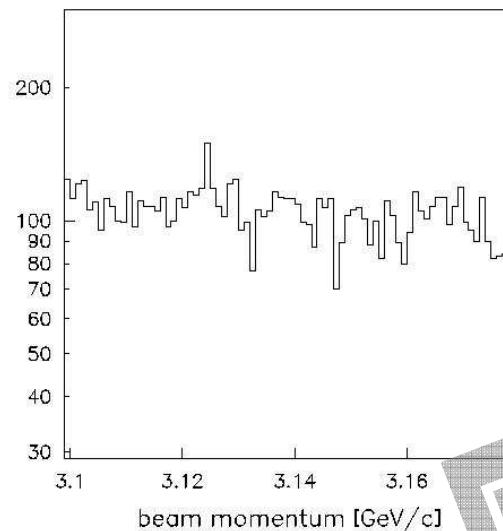
C. Wilkin, in "Production and Decay of Light Mesons",  
edited by P. Fleury, p.187

# COSY-11 $pd \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} X$ threshold excitation curve



# Excitation curves for

*dp* elastic  
at backward angles

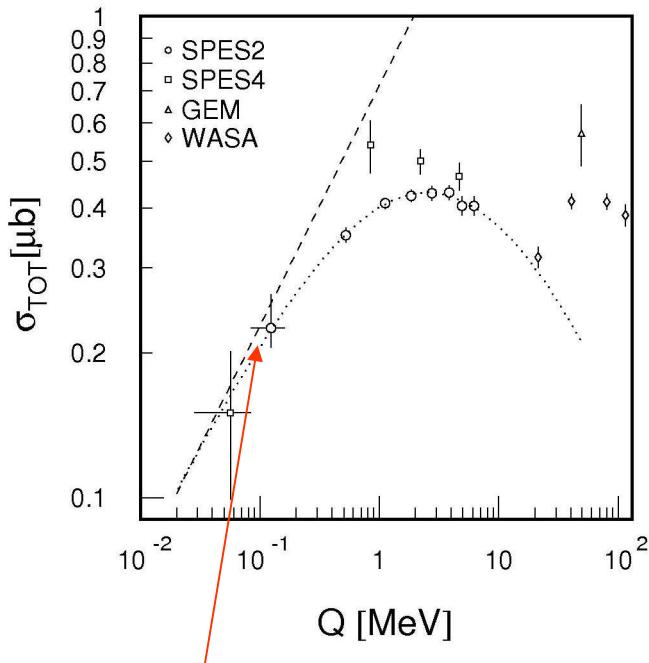


↑  
 ${}^3\text{He}\eta$  threshold

Preliminary

# $^3\text{He}-\eta$ scattering length

$d\text{p} \rightarrow ^3\text{He}\eta$



Scattering length  
 $a = |3.8 \pm 0.6| + i(1.6 \pm 1.1) \text{ fm}$

## questions:

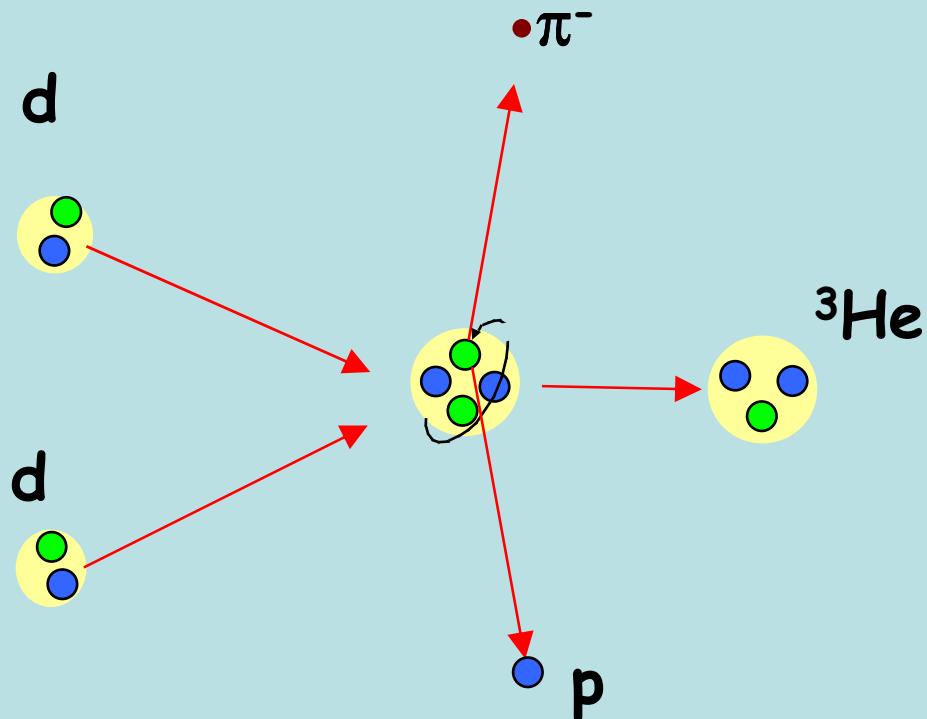
(A. Sibirtsev et al., Eur. Phys. J. **A22**(2004)495)

- inconsistencies between data sets
- contributions from higher partial waves to  $\sigma_{tot}$  at  $Q < 10 \text{ MeV}$
- $|a_R| > a_s$  (?) (necessary condition for bounding)  
data very close to threshold ( $Q < 1 \text{ MeV}$ ) needed

$$|f|^2 = \frac{|f_p|^2}{1 + 2a_s q + |a_s|^2 q^2}$$

# Search for the ${}^4\text{He}-\eta$ bound state in $d$ - $d$ collisions

Principle of measurements

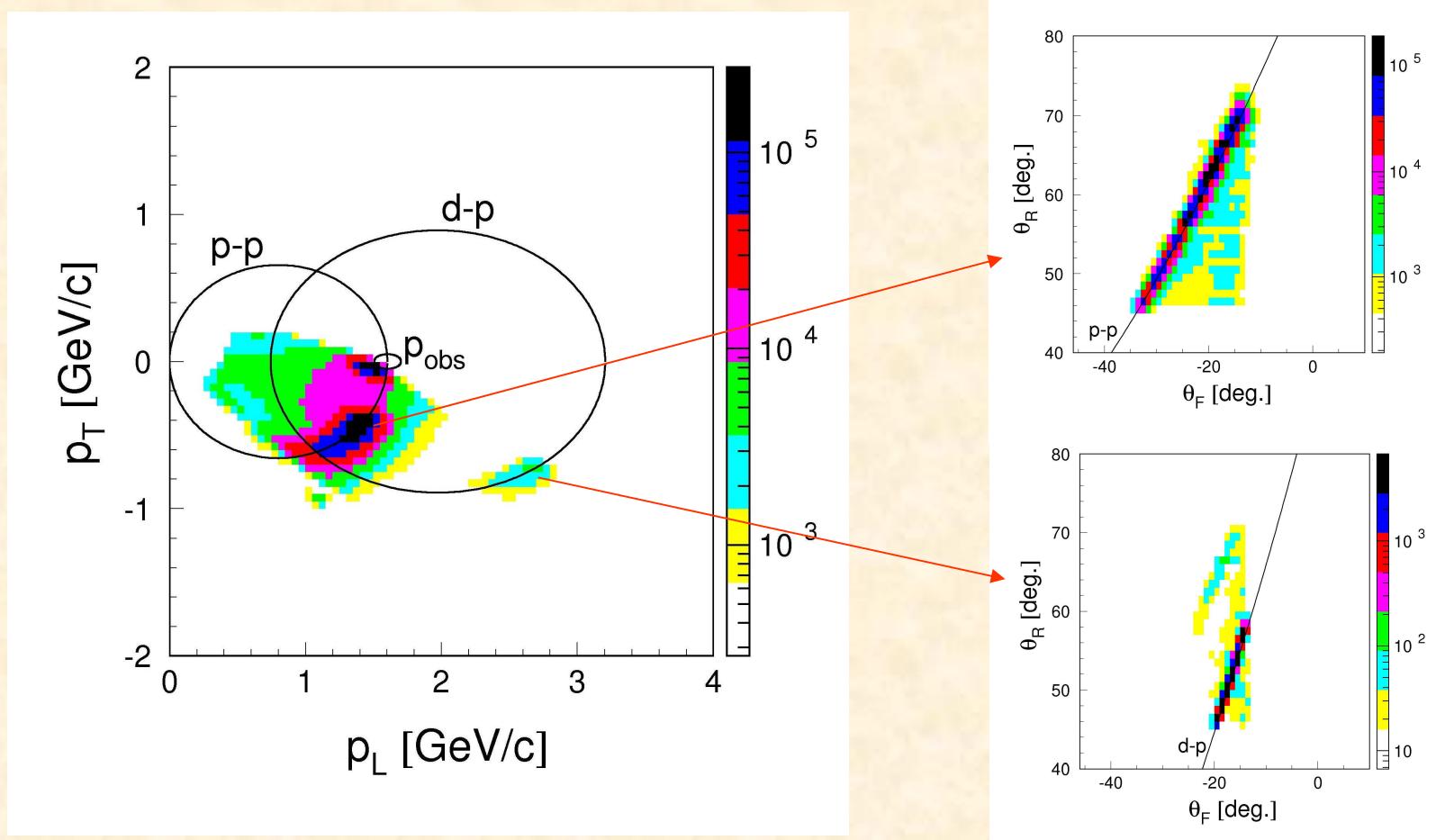


- $p$ - $\pi^-$  back-to-back emission:  $\theta_{cm} \sim 180^\circ$
- ${}^3\text{He}$  is a spectator :  $p_{cm} \sim 50 \text{ MeV}/c$ ,  
 $\theta_{lab} \sim 50/1500 \text{ rad} = 1.9^\circ$

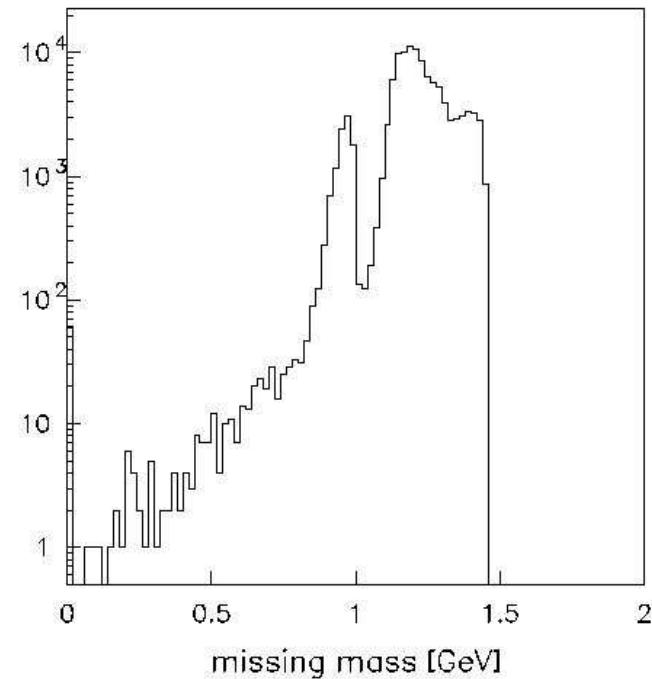
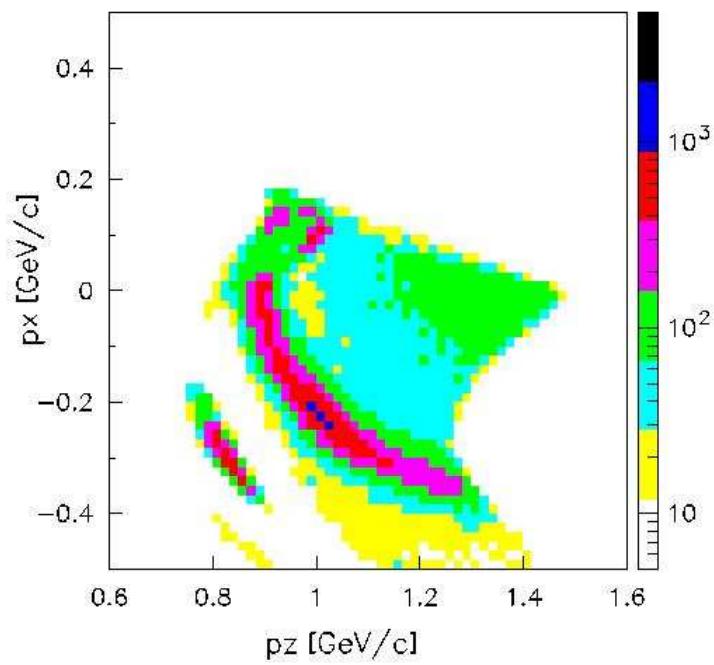
Experiment  
**WASA@COSY**



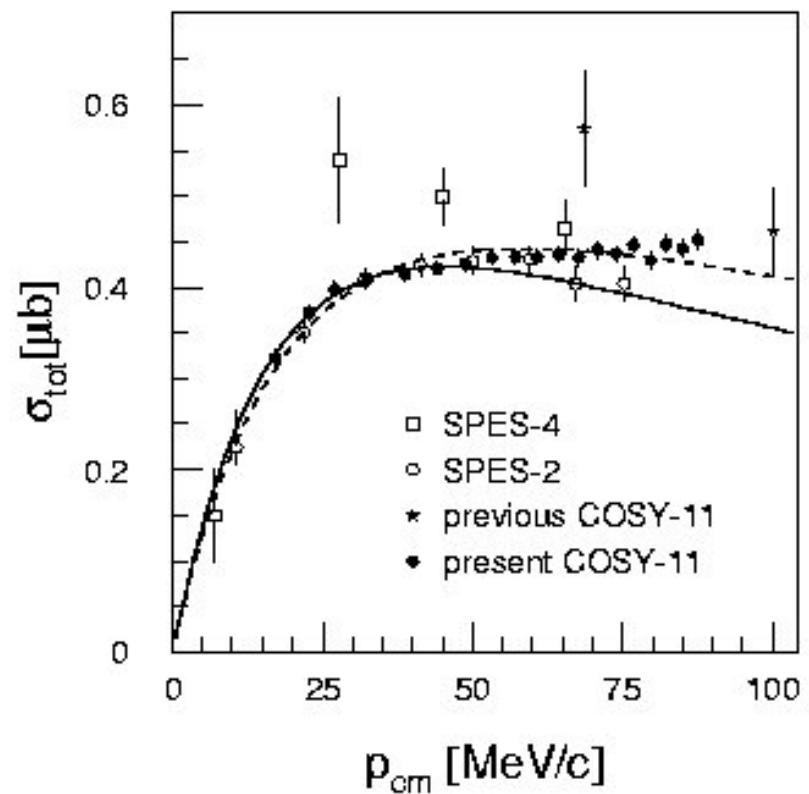
# $dp$ elastic and $pp$ quasi-elastic scattering



# $d\mu$ elastic scattering at backward cm angles



# $\sigma_{TOT} (dp \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} \eta)$



$$\sigma_{TOT} = \frac{p_{cm}}{p_{beam}^{cm}} \left| \frac{f}{1 - ip_{cm}a} \right|^2$$

(data below 50 MeV/c)

$|a_R| = 2.9 \pm 2.7 \text{ fm}, \quad a_i = 3.2 \pm 1.8 \text{ fm}$

$|a| = 4.3 \pm 0.5 \text{ fm}$

$\chi^2/\text{nfree} = 0.5$

# Centrifugal barrier model

- A plane wave  $e^{ipz} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (2l+1)i^l j_l(pr)P_l(\cos\theta)$
- For  $pr = \frac{2\pi r}{\lambda} \ll 1$   
$$j_l(pr) \approx \frac{(pr)^l}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (2l+1)}$$
- $T^l \sim p^l$   $T^{1-} \sim p$

# Transition amplitudes

- Final state  ${}^3\text{He}-\eta$
- Cross section

$l=0, J=1/2$	$T^0$
$l=1, J=1/2$	$T^{1-}$
$l=1, J=3/2$	$T^{1+}$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \sim |T^0|^2 + |T^{1-}|^2 + |T^{1+}|^2 (1 + 3\cos^2 \theta) + 2 \operatorname{Re}(2T^0 T^{1+*} + T^0 T^{1-*}) \cos \theta + 2 \operatorname{Re}(2T^{1+} T^{1-*})(3\cos^2 \theta - 1)$$

- For

$$T^{1+} \equiv 0$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \sim |T^0|^2 + |T^{1-}|^2 + 2 \operatorname{Re}(T^0 T^{1-*}) \cos \theta$$