

Dear Referee, dear Editor,

We thank you for the useful comments received. Most of them have been implemented. In the following we will go through the comments and answer to each one of them in the order they appear in the text.

1. Introduction, the use of “apparent”: The word apparent is sometimes used in literature specific to the OZI rule and means that although the measured cross section ratio is very different from the OZI prediction, it may not be a true violation of the OZI rule in the sense of broken quark lines. For example, if the initial state contains hidden strangeness, the cross section of  $\phi$  production can be very high. This is not an OZI violation in the strict sense since quark lines are connected, and is therefore sometimes labeled “apparent”. However, we agree that this is easily misunderstood by the reader and since it is not necessary for the rest of the paper, we have left out the word “apparent” in the following.
2. Section 2: We have rephrased the initial sentences in a way that we think reads more nicely.
3. Section 2: We changed from “for detection of recoil protons” to “for recoil protons” as you suggested.
4. Section 2: We changed to “momentum and angle acceptance” according to your comment.
5. Section 3.1, ECAL resolutions: We have added the resolutions obtained in this analysis. The resolution is not the same for ECAL1 and ECAL2 and we have therefore quoted the obtained resolution for three cases: when both photons hit ECAL1 ( $10 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ ), when both hit ECAL2 ( $5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ ) and when one hit ECAL1 and the other ECAL2 ( $8 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ ).
6. Section 3.1, RICH background: We have specified that we here mean the distribution of background photons in the RICH and also added a reference where details can be found.
7. Section 3.3, mass spectra for other  $x_F$  regions than  $0.6 - 0.7$ : The plots shown in Figure 3. are meant as an example. They are very typical and very little additional information is gained by adding more spectra for the remaining  $x_F$  regions that are shown below in Fig. A. We have, however, added a reference to a Ph.D. thesis where other mass spectra can be found.
8. Figure 2: You are completely correct and we have therefore changed the caption of the middle panel. We also noted that the labels of the top panel are misleading: they show acceptances for the  $p\omega p$  and  $p\phi p$  final states and are obtained from MC simulations of these channels, and not from prompt  $p\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0 p$  or  $pK^+K^- p$  as the figure label suggests. This has now been changed.

9. Eq. 3: We have added  $dN/(d\cos\theta d\phi)$ , which is not equal to but proportional to  $W(\cos\theta, \varphi)$ . We have also tried to clarify this in the text.
10. Eq. 3: The variable  $\phi$  has been changed to  $\varphi$ . Thanks for spotting this.
11. Section 5.1: We have removed “on one hand” according to your comment.
12. Section 5.1: We changed from “on the other hand” to “conversely” according to your suggestion.
13. Discussion: There was a comment to the sentence “The fact that no structures are visible in the  $p\phi$  spectrum and the observation that the  $\phi$  meson is unaligned in the  $p\phi$  helicity system indicates that  $N^*$  decays into  $p\phi$  are OZI suppressed, reflecting the internal structure of the resonance.” You write that “This was also evident by the absence of structures in the  $p\phi$  invariant mass.” We completely agree but we think that this is clear from the first part of the sentence.

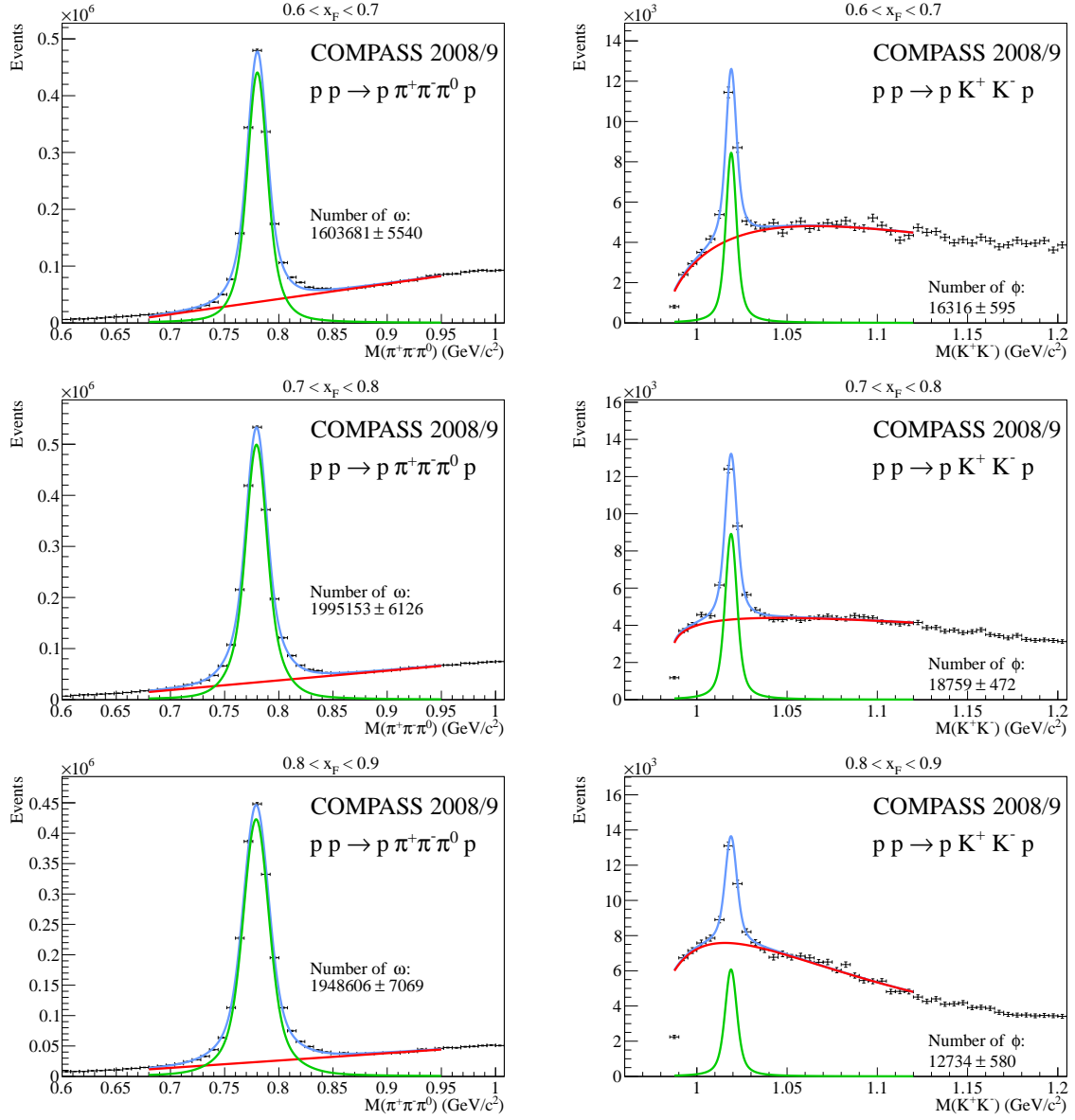


Figure A: Left column: Fit to the invariant mass distribution of the  $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$  system. Right column: Fit invariant mass distribution of the  $K^+K^-$  system. From top to bottom: Different  $x_F$  regions of the fast proton with the intervals  $0.6 < x_F < 0.7$ ,  $0.7 < x_F < 0.8$  and  $0.8 < x_F < 0.9$ . The signal is marked in green, the background in red and the overall fit in blue.