

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Motivation</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Spectator model</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Experimental tools</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1	Cooler Synchrotron COSY . . . . .	25
4.2	COSY-11 facility . . . . .	26
4.3	Measurement method – general remarks . . . . .	28
<b>5</b>	<b>Calibration of the detectors</b>	<b>31</b>
5.1	Time-space calibration of the drift chambers . . . . .	31
5.2	Time calibration of the S1 and S3 hodoscopes . . . . .	32
5.3	The neutral particle detector . . . . .	34
5.3.1	Time signals from a single detection unit . . . . .	36
5.3.2	Relative timing between modules . . . . .	37
5.3.3	General time offset and the time walk correction . . . . .	39
5.3.4	Efficiency determination . . . . .	43
5.4	Veto detector . . . . .	44
5.5	Spectator detector . . . . .	46
5.5.1	Scheme of the spectator detector . . . . .	46
5.5.2	Energy calibration and position optimization . . . . .	48
<b>6</b>	<b>Analysis of the experimental data</b>	<b>51</b>
6.1	Event selection . . . . .	51
6.1.1	Proton identification . . . . .	51
6.1.2	Neutron identification . . . . .	52
6.2	Determination of the excess energy . . . . .	53
6.3	Identification of the $pn \rightarrow pn\eta'$ reaction . . . . .	57
6.3.1	Method of background subtraction . . . . .	59
6.3.2	Background subtracted missing mass distribution . . . . .	62
<b>7</b>	<b>Luminosity determination</b>	<b>65</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>Excitation function</b>	<b>73</b>
8.1	Upper limit of the total cross section . . . . .	73
8.2	Ratio . . . . .	75
<b>9</b>	<b>Comparison with model predictions</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Summary and perspectives</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Precision of the neutron momentum determination</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Parameterisation of the <math>pp \rightarrow pp\eta'</math> total cross section</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>References</b>	<b>87</b>