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Abstract

The electroproduction of a  $\pi^+$ -meson and of the  $\Delta^0(1236)$  nucleon resonance on hydrogen,  $e p \rightarrow e' \pi^+ \Delta^0(1236)$ , was investigated by measuring the scattered electron and the produced  $\pi^+$ -meson in coincidence. The differential cross sections as functions of  $s_0$ ,  $q^2$ ,  $t-t_{\min}$  or  $\theta_{\pi q}^+$ , and  $\phi_{\pi q}$  were determined in the following kinematical region:

$$s_0 = (\pi^+ + \Delta^0)^2 = 4.4 - 6.3 \text{ GeV}^2$$

$$|q^2| = |(e - e')^2| = 0.2 - 0.8 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$$

$$|t - t_{\min}| = 0 - 0.1 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$$

$$\theta_{\pi q}^* = 0^\circ - 20^\circ$$

$$\phi_{\pi q} = 0 - 360^\circ$$

## Introduction

In experiments on inelastic electron proton scattering, the total cross section for the absorption of virtual photons on protons has been measured.<sup>1</sup> The results show two outstanding features: This cross section as a function of the four-momentum transfer  $q^2$  drops much less rapidly with rising  $|q^2|$  than the cross section for elastic electron proton scattering. The contribution of longitudinally polarized photons to the cross section is small.

Experiments on inelastic electron scattering, detecting distinct final hadronic states, can shed more light on this behaviour.

Measurements of the electroproduction of single  $\pi^+$ -mesons on protons<sup>2,3,4</sup> show that the cross section for this reaction is dominated by a large contribution of longitudinally polarized photons in the region of small momentum transfer to the recoil nucleon. This behaviour can be described<sup>5</sup> by pion exchange in the  $t$ -channel within the Electric Born Term Model and by the Vector Dominance Model. To get further information we investigated another final state, the electroproduction of a  $\pi^+$ -meson and of the  $\Delta^0(1236)$  nucleon resonance,  $e p \rightarrow e' \pi^+ \Delta^0(1236)$  (for illustration see Fig.1).

By detecting coincidences between the scattered electron and the produced  $\pi^+$ -meson the cross section has been measured as a function of the following variables;

the four-momentum squares

$$\text{of the } \pi^+ \Delta^0 \text{ system} \quad s_0 = (\pi^+ + \Delta^0)^2 ,$$

$$\text{of the virtual photon} \quad q^2 = (e - e')^2 ,$$

$$\text{of the nucleon recoil } t - t_{\min} \quad t = (p - \Delta^0)^2 , \quad t_{\min} = \text{minimum momentum transfer,}$$

the production angle of the  $\pi^+$ -meson  $\theta_{\pi q}^*$  in the  $(\pi^+ \Delta^0)$  CMS with respect to the direction of the virtual photon  $\vec{q}$ , and the azimuthal angle  $\phi_{\pi q} \cdot \phi_{\pi q}$  is the angle between the polarization plane, subtended by  $\vec{e}$  and  $\vec{e}'$ , and the production plane, subtended by  $\vec{\pi}^+$  and  $\vec{\Delta}^0$ , as defined in Fig.1.

$e, e', \pi^+, p, \Delta^0$  are the four-momenta of the participating particles: The primary and the scattered electron, the  $\pi^+$ -meson, the target proton and the recoil nucleon resonance.

Results have been obtained in the following kinematical region:

$$\begin{aligned}
 4.4 &\leq s_0 \leq 6.3 \text{ GeV}^2 \\
 0.2 &\leq |q^2| \leq 0.8 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2 \\
 0 &\leq |t-t_{\min}| \leq 0.1 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2 \\
 0^\circ &\leq \theta_{\pi q}^* \leq 20^\circ \\
 0 &\leq \phi_{\pi q} \leq 360^\circ
 \end{aligned}$$

The transverse photon polarization  $\varepsilon = \left( 1 + 2 \frac{\vec{q}^2}{|q^2|} \text{tg}^2 \frac{\theta_{ee'}}{2} \right)^{-1}$  varied in the range of

$$0.65 \leq \varepsilon \leq 0.8 .$$

Assuming the validity of the one-photon exchange, the general form of the differential cross section for electroproduction of hadrons can be written as:<sup>6</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d^4\sigma}{ds_0 dq^2 d(t-t_{\min}) d\phi_{\pi q}} &= \frac{\alpha}{4(2\pi)^2} \frac{1}{E_e^2 \cdot M_p^2 \cdot |q^2|} \frac{(s_0 - M_p^2)}{(1 - \varepsilon)} \times \\
 &\times \left( \sigma_u(s_0, q^2, t-t_{\min}) + \varepsilon \sigma_L(s_0, q^2, t-t_{\min}) + \right. \\
 &+ \varepsilon \sigma_T(s_0, q^2, t-t_{\min}) \cos 2\phi_{\pi q} + \\
 &\left. + \sqrt{2\varepsilon(\varepsilon + 1)} \sigma_I(s_0, q^2, t-t_{\min}) \cos \phi_{\pi q} \right) . \quad (1)
 \end{aligned}$$

The cross section is separated into parts due to the two transverse and the longitudinal components of the virtual photon polarization.  $\sigma_u$  is the differential cross section for unpolarized transverse virtual photons. Therefore it can be also written as the sum of the two cross sections  $\sigma_{\parallel}$  and  $\sigma_{\perp}$  for transverse photons being polarized parallel and perpendicular to the production plane. In the limit  $q^2 = 0$  it has to approach the cross section for unpolarized real photons. The term  $\varepsilon \cdot \sigma_T \cos 2\phi_{\pi q}$  is the modification to the cross section due to the transverse linear polarization.  $\sigma_T$  is the difference between the two cross sections  $\sigma_{\parallel}$  and  $\sigma_{\perp}$ .  $\sigma_L$  is the differential cross section for photoproduction with longitudinal polarized photons. The term  $\sqrt{2\varepsilon(\varepsilon + 1)} \sigma_I \cos \phi_{\pi q}$  takes account for the interference between the transverse and longitudinal components  $\sigma_{\parallel}$  and  $\sigma_L$  of the virtual

photon polarization.

By measuring the azimuthal dependence of the cross section we have separated the components  $\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L$ ,  $\sigma_T$  and  $\sigma_I$  and have determined their dependence on  $s_0$ ,  $q^2$ ,  $t-t_{\min}$  and  $\theta_{\pi q}^*$ .

### Apparatus

The apparatus is shown in Fig.2. The scattered electron and the produced  $\pi^+$ -meson are detected in coincidence in two spark-chamber spectrometers. After being deflected by a magnetic field both particles are detected in optical spark chambers and identified in Cherenkov and shower counters. More detail of the apparatus is given elsewhere.<sup>2,7</sup> The spark chamber tracks and all counter information are photographed. The pictures are analyzed automatically.<sup>8</sup>

### Measurements

150 000 pictures have been taken for the reaction

$$ep \rightarrow e' \pi^+ (\text{additional hadrons})$$

at primary electron energies of 4.0, 4.9 and 5.4 GeV. By varying the energy, data could be taken in different  $q^2$ -regions keeping statistics constant.

For checking the calibration of the apparatus, data on elastic electron proton scattering were also taken. The measured cross sections were consistent with the published values within 5%.<sup>10</sup>

### Data Analysis

#### a) Identification of $\pi^+ \Delta^0$ -Events

The recorded events contain the following reactions:

$$ep \rightarrow e \pi^+ n$$

$$ep \rightarrow e \pi^+ \Delta^0$$

$$ep \rightarrow e \pi^+ (\text{more hadrons})$$

To separate the different reactions the mass  $M$  of the sum of all unobserved hadrons in the final state has been calculated for each event:  $M^2 = (e+p-e'-\pi^+)^2$ . A typical missing mass spectrum is shown in Fig.3. The excitation of the  $\Delta^0(1236)$  nucleon resonance shows up as a bump around  $M = 1236 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ .

b) Calculation of the Cross Sections

The calculation of the differential cross sections is done in a manner described elsewhere,<sup>2,8,9</sup> only adding the further variable  $M$ .

To get the cross sections  $\frac{d^4\sigma}{ds_o dq^2 d(t-t_{\min}) d\phi_{\pi q}}$ ,  $\frac{d^4\sigma}{ds_o dq^2 d\theta_{\pi q}^* d\phi_{\pi q}}$  for a given region  $\Delta M$ , we have to integrate the fivefold differential cross section with respect to  $M$ . This procedure results in the formula

$$\frac{d^4\sigma(V_i)}{dq^2 ds_o d(t-t_{\min}) d\phi_{\pi q}} = \frac{M_{\text{ex}}(\Delta V) S_{\text{MC}} F(V_i)}{N_e N_T N_{\text{MC}}(\Delta V)} \int_{\Delta M} F(V_i, M) dM$$

with  $\Delta V = \Delta q^2 \Delta s_o \Delta(t-t_{\min}) \Delta\phi_{\pi q} \Delta M$  five dimensional region of data taken

$V_i = \{q_i^2, s_{oi}, (t-t_{\min})_i, \phi_{\pi q_i}\}$  a point in the four dimensional space

$N_e$  = total number of primary electrons

$N_T$  = proton density of the target

$S_{\text{MC}}$  = constant density of produced events in a Monte-Carlo calculation

$N_{\text{ex}}$  = number of accepted experimental events in  $\Delta V$

$N_{\text{MC}}$  = number of accepted Monte-Carlo events in  $\Delta V$

and  $F(V) \cdot f(V, M)$ , a function describing the shapes of the cross section.

c) Separation of the  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  Cross Section

Within the mass region of the  $\Delta^0$ -bump, in addition to  $\pi^+\Delta^0$ -events the radiative tail of single  $\pi^+$ -meson production contributes as well as multipion production. The contribution of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  was separated by fitting the mass distribution weighted by the acceptance. This fit was made for bins  $\Delta q^2 \Delta s_o \Delta(t-t_{\min})$  assuming a relativistic Breit-Wigner formula<sup>11</sup> for the  $\Delta^0$ -resonance, a radiative tail for single  $\pi^+$  production and a polynomial including a term for the s-wave threshold behaviour of the phase-space for two-pion production.

The mass fits were done for the full mass region  $1.0 \leq M \leq 1.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , covered by this experiment in order to separate the Breit-Wigner contribution of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  from the background as cleanly as possible. A typical example is shown in Fig.4. Thus the contribution of the  $\Delta^0$  in the resonance region is obtained for different parameter bins, and the cross section behaviours of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  and the background are separated. For further analysis of the reaction  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  data were used from a limited missing mass interval around the  $\Delta^0$ -bump with  $1.14 \leq M \leq 1.34 \text{ GeV}$  containing 9000 events. The sum of all events in this resonance region leads to a behaviour of the cross sections which combines the dependence of the reaction  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  and the dependence of the background reactions on the parameters. In the kinematic region of  $q^2$ ,  $s_0$ ,  $t-t_{\min}$  of this experiment, the contribution of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  to the measured cross section as a function of the parameters for fixed primary energy in the resonance region stays constant within  $\pm 7\%$ . To check this behaviour of the cross sections, we also investigated for the same intervals of the parameters the cross section dependences in the higher mass regions, which are mainly made up of the background reactions. For different mass intervals from  $M = 1.14 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  up to  $M = 1.54 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  the cross section dependence on the different parameters exhibits a very similar behaviour. This fact agrees well with the constant contribution of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  found in the mass fits. To show the comparison between the cross section in the mass intervals  $1.14 \leq M \leq 1.34 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and  $1.34 \leq M \leq 1.54 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , their dependence on  $s_0$ ,  $t-t_{\min}$  and  $q^2$  are given in Figs.5a, b, c. For better comparison of the dependences the data from different mass intervals are normalized in absolute height to each other by eye in order to overlap each other.

The absolute value of the cross section for  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  is then obtained as the cross section of the resonance region, multiplied by the percentage of the  $\Delta^0$ -contribution  $P_{\Delta^0}$  and further multiplied by a factor  $F_{\text{BW}}$  which cancels the loss of  $\Delta^0$  due to the missing-mass cuts of the resonance region

$$\sigma_{\pi^+\Delta^0} = \sigma_{\text{Res.Reg.}} \cdot P_{\Delta^0} \cdot F_{\text{BW}}$$

with

$$F_{\text{BW}} = \left. \int_{1.07}^{1.8} \text{BW } dM \right/ \left. \int_{1.14}^{1.34} \text{BW } dM$$



and  $BW(M) =$  shape of the  $\Delta^0$ -resonance

$$BW(M) = M_0 \cdot \frac{\Gamma(M)}{(M_0^2 - M^2)^2 + M_0^2 \Gamma^2(M)}$$

$$\Gamma(M) = \Gamma(M_0) \left( \frac{q}{q_0} \right)^3 \left( \frac{a\mu^2 + q_0^2}{a\mu^2 + q^2} \right) \left( \frac{M_0}{M} \right)$$

$$M_0 = 1.236 \text{ GeV}/c^2, \quad \Gamma(M_0) = 0.12 \text{ GeV}/c^2, \quad a = 2.2 \text{ c}^2, \quad \mu = \text{pion mass}$$

$q, q_0 =$  momentum of  $\pi^+$  in CMS for  $M, M_0$ .

The lower limit of the integral  $M = 1.07 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  is given by the pion threshold, the upper limit by the fact that the phase of  $\Delta^0$  is passing  $180^\circ$  at  $M = 1.8 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ .

### Corrections

The cross section data are corrected for efficiency loss in the trigger, Cherenkov and Shower counters, for pion-interaction and pion-decay. All these corrections sum up to a value of  $10\% \pm 3\%$ . From the total number of pictures taken, 65% were successfully analyzed by the automatic data analysis procedure and could be used for further data analysis. Rejection was mainly caused by missing sparks. It has been checked that no bias was caused by this rejection of a part of the events.

Two kinds of radiative corrections have to be considered, the radiative tail from single  $\pi^+$  production and the loss by radiation. The contribution of the radiative tail is taken into account in the missing mass fitting procedure according to a behaviour  $(m - m_n)^{-1}$ . The second kind of radiative corrections was calculated using the method of de Calan and Fuchs.<sup>12</sup> These corrections do not influence the measured  $\phi_{\pi q}$ -dependence of the cross sections. Therefore,  $\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L, \sigma_T$  and  $\sigma_I$  can be corrected by the same percentage. In this experiment this part of the radiative corrections vary between 7% and 11% of the measured cross sections in different bins. The uncertainty of all these corrections including the uncertainty of the intensity of the primary beam add up to an systematic error less than 5%.

The main error is caused by the uncertainty of the determination of the  $\Delta^0$  contribution in the missing mass fit due to the unknown missing mass shape of the background. We estimate this error to be about 20%.

### Results

The measured cross sections for fixed values of  $q^2$ ,  $s_0$ ,  $t-t_{\min}$  and  $M$  are different up to a factor of 1.5 for different primary electron energies. For electron energies of 4.0, 4.9 and 5.4 GeV the contributions of the  $\Delta^0$ -resonance to the cross section in the resonance region  $1.14 \leq M \leq 1.34 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  amounts to 42%, 33% and 27%, with an error of about  $\pm 7\%$ . This different percentage leads to a continuous dependence of the cross section of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  with respect to the parameters  $q^2$  and  $s_0$ .

The above mentioned differences in the measured cross sections are, therefore, caused by the background and may be partially due to the fact that the measurement at different energies implies different photon polarizations  $\epsilon$ .

The cross sections for  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  according to (1),  $(\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L)$ ,  $\sigma_I$  and  $\sigma_T$ , are given as functions of  $s_0$ ,  $q^2$ ,  $t-t_{\min}$ ,  $\theta_{\pi q}^*$ , respectively. We have chosen  $t-t_{\min}$  as a variable instead of  $t$  because  $t$  depends strongly on  $q^2$  and  $M$ . Taking a definite bin  $\Delta t$  causes restrictions to the recoil mass  $M$ . Both restrictions don't occur when choosing  $t-t_{\min}$ , or, alternatively,  $\theta_{\pi q}^*$ . The dependences of the overall cross sections on  $s_0$ ,  $q^2$  and  $t-t_{\min}$  in the mass intervals  $1.14 \leq M \leq 1.34 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and  $1.34 \leq M \leq 1.54 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  are shown in Fig.5a,b,c. Their behaviour is already discussed in a previous chapter.

#### $s_0$ -Dependence of $\pi^+\Delta^0$

The  $s_0$ -dependence is given in Table 1 and Fig.6 for a fixed  $t-t_{\min}$ -value and three different  $q^2$ . The cross section is dominated by  $(\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L)$ . It shows a  $s_0$ -dependence slightly steeper than  $\sigma_u$  in photoproduction<sup>13</sup> as indicated in Fig.6.  $\sigma_I$  is small compared to  $(\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L)$ , and  $\sigma_T$  is compatible with zero. Keeping the comparison of the cross sections (Figs. 5a, b, c) in different missing mass regions in mind, the behaviour of  $\sigma_I$  and  $\sigma_T$  could be strongly influenced by the background.

#### $t-t_{\min}$ -Dependence of $\pi^+\Delta^0$

The  $t-t_{\min}$ -dependence (Table 2 and Fig.7) is presented for a fixed  $s_0$ -value and two different  $q^2$ -values. Again  $(\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L)$  is dominating and showing a flat decrease with  $|(t-t_{\min})|$ . For comparison the cross section for photoproduction

of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  ( $q^2 = 0$ ) is also displayed. These values were scaled from  $W = \sqrt{s_0} = 5.56$  to  $W = 2.35$  GeV with an energy-dependence like  $(W^2 - m_p)^{-2}$ .

$\theta_{\pi q}^*$ -Dependence of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$   
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The  $\theta_{\pi q}^*$ -dependence (Table 3) exhibits a rather small decrease with increasing angle in the region covered by this experiment.

$q^2$ -Dependence of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$   
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In Table 4 and Fig.8 the  $q^2$ -dependence is shown for  $s_0 = 5.5$  GeV<sup>2</sup> and  $t-t_{\min} = -0.05$  GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup>. The cross sections for  $q^2 = -0.25$  and  $-0.35$  GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup> are measured at  $\sqrt{s_0} = 2.2$  GeV and have been scaled to  $\sqrt{s_0} = 2.35$  GeV according to the  $s_0$ -dependence found in this experiment. For illustration a cross section behaviour according to the Vector Dominance Model  $1/(m_p^2 - q^2)^2$  and to the Dipole fit  $1/(0.71 - q^2)^4$  is shown as dotted and dashed curves, respectively.

$(\sigma_u + \varepsilon \sigma_L)$  decreases monotonically with increasing  $|q^2|$ . For comparison the photoproduction cross section at  $q^2 = 0$  is also shown. The measured values of  $(\sigma_u + \varepsilon \sigma_L)$  match with the photoproduction cross section for  $q^2 = 0$ .<sup>14</sup>

This  $q^2$ -behaviour is very different compared to the behaviour observed in single  $\pi^+$ -electroproduction,<sup>2</sup> where a dominating contribution of  $\sigma_L$  leads to a cross section  $(\sigma_u + \varepsilon \sigma_L)$  increasing from the photoproduction limit up to  $|q^2| \approx 0.5$  GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup>. We therefore conclude that in  $\pi^+\Delta^0$ -production the contribution of  $\sigma_L$  is much smaller than in the reaction  $\pi^+n$ .

Assuming a  $q^2$ -dependence of  $\sigma_u$  as predicted in the Vector Dominance Model<sup>15</sup> like  $\sigma_u \sim 1/(q^2 - m_p^2)^2$ , the ratio  $\sigma_L/\sigma_u$  has a maximum of about 0.8 around  $q^2 = -0.4$  GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup> and drops to zero at  $q^2 = 0.8$  GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup>.

Numerical calculations for electroproduction of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  are not yet available. Therefore the results can be discussed only qualitatively.

As already mentioned above, the measured values of the transverse term  $\sigma_T$  are compatible with zero.  $\sigma_T$  is the difference between the two transverse components of the cross section for  $\pi^+$ -production in a plane parallel and perpendicular to the polarization plane:  $\sigma_T = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_{\parallel} - \sigma_{\perp})$ . This implies that  $\sigma_{\parallel}$  is equal to

$\sigma_{\perp}$ . This isotropy is compatible with the measured results in photoproduction of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$ .<sup>16</sup> In the gauge invariant expanded Born-term Model<sup>17</sup> this means that in this region of fairly small energies the contact term dominates the one-pion exchange term (OPE).

In this frame for single  $\pi^+$ -electroproduction it is the OPE which gives rise to the large longitudinal contribution  $\sigma_L$ . Keeping this in mind, the absence of a dominating  $\sigma_L$  contribution in electroproduction of  $\pi^+\Delta^0$  might be explained by the minor contribution of OPE to the cross section.

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Table Captions

1)  $s_0$ -dependence of cross sections for fixed  $q^2$  and  $t-t_{\min}$ :

$$\left( \sigma_u(s_0) + \varepsilon \sigma_L(s_0), \sigma_I(s_0), \sigma_T(s_0) \right)_{q^2=\text{const.}}$$

$$t-t_{\min}=\text{const.}$$

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$t-t_{\min} = - 0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$- 0.10 \leq t-t_{\min} \leq 0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
and $q^2 = - 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$- 0.40 \leq q^2 \leq - 0.20 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
resp. $q^2 = - 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$- 0.65 \leq q^2 \leq - 0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
resp. $q^2 = - 0.67 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$- 0.80 \leq q^2 \leq - 0.55 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

2)  $t-t_{\min}$ -dependence of cross sections for fixed  $q^2$  and  $s_0$ :

$$\left( \sigma_u(t-t_{\min}) + \varepsilon \sigma_L(t-t_{\min}), \sigma_I(t-t_{\min}), \sigma_T(t-t_{\min}) \right)_{q^2=\text{const.}}$$

$$s_0=\text{const.}$$

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$s_0 = 4.85 \text{ GeV}^2,$	$4.4 \leq s_0 \leq 5.3 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = - 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$- 0.40 \leq q^2 \leq - 0.20 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
$s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2,$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = - 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$- 0.65 \leq q^2 \leq - 0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
$s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2,$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = - 0.67 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$- 0.80 \leq q^2 \leq - 0.55 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

3)  $\theta_{\pi q}^*$ -dependence of cross sections for fixed  $q^2$  and  $s_0$ :

$$\left( \sigma_u(\theta_{\pi q}^+) + \epsilon \sigma_L(\theta_{\pi q}^+), \sigma_I(\theta_{\pi q}^+), \sigma_T(\theta_{\pi q}^+) \right)_{q^2 = \text{const.}}$$

$$s_0 = \text{const.}$$

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$s_0 = 4.85 \text{ GeV}^2,$	$4.4 \leq s_0 \leq 5.3 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = -0.3 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$-0.40 \leq q^2 \leq -0.20 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
$s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2,$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$-0.65 \leq q^2 \leq -0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
$s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2,$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = -0.67 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$-0.80 \leq q^2 \leq -0.55 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

4)  $q^2$ -dependence of cross sections for fixed  $s_0$  and  $t-t_{\min}$ :

$$\left( \sigma_u(q^2) + \epsilon \sigma_L(q^2), \sigma_I(q^2), \sigma_T(q^2) \right)_{s_0 = \text{const.}}$$

$$t-t_{\min} = \text{const.}$$

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$t-t_{\min} = -0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2,$	$-0.10 \leq t-t_{\min} \leq 0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
and $s_0 = 4.85 \text{ GeV}^2,$	$4.4 \leq s_0 \leq 5.3 \text{ GeV}^2$
resp. $s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$



Figure Captions

1) Diagram of the reaction  $ep \rightarrow e\pi^+\Delta^0$

2) Experimental layout

3) Spectrum of the mass  $M = \sqrt{(e+p-e'-\pi^+)^2}$  for the reaction  $e + p \rightarrow e + \pi^+ + (\text{additional hadrons})$  obtained with a primary electron energy of 4.9 GeV.

4) Spectrum of the mass  $M = \sqrt{(e+p-e'-\pi^+)^2}$  for the reaction  $e + p \rightarrow e + \pi^+ + (\text{additional hadrons})$  obtained with a primary electron energy of 4.9 GeV in the data interval:

$$\begin{aligned} -0.55 &\leq q^2 \leq -0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2 \\ 4.75 &\leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ -0.10 &\leq t-t_{\min} \leq 0.0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2 \end{aligned}$$

Results of the fit to this distribution for  $\Delta^0$  and background are included.

5) Comparison of the cross sections in the different mass regions

$$\begin{aligned} 1.14 &\leq M \leq 1.34 \text{ GeV} \quad \text{and} \\ 1.34 &\leq M \leq 1.54 \text{ GeV}. \end{aligned}$$

a)  $s_0$ -dependence

Values of the parameters:	data interval
$t-t_{\min} = -0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.10 \leq t-t_{\min} \leq 0.0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
and $q^2 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.65 \leq q^2 \leq -0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
resp. $q^2 = -0.67 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.80 \leq q^2 \leq -0.55 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

b)  $t-t_{\min}$ -dependence

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$s_0 = 5.5 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.65 \leq q^2 \leq -0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
resp. $q^2 = -0.67 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.80 \leq q^2 \leq -0.55 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

c)  $q^2$ -dependence

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$t-t_{\min} = -0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.10 \leq t-t_{\min} \leq 0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
and $s_0 = 5.5 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$

6)  $s_0$ -dependence of the cross sections

$\sigma_u + \varepsilon \sigma_L$ ,  $\sigma_I$  and  $\sigma_T$  for fixed  $q^2$  and  $t-t_{\min}$

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$t-t_{\min} = -0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.10 \leq t-t_{\min} \leq 0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
and $q^2 = -0.3 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.40 \leq q^2 \leq -0.20 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
resp. $q^2 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.65 \leq q^2 \leq -0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
resp. $q^2 = -0.67 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.80 \leq q^2 \leq -0.55 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

Dashed lines show comparison with the  $s_0$ -dependence in photoproduction (normalized arbitrarily).

7)  $t-t_{\min}$ -dependence of the cross sections

$\sigma_u + \varepsilon \sigma_L$ ,  $\sigma_I$  and  $\sigma_T$  for fixed  $q^2$  and  $s_0$

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$s_0 = 4.85 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.4 \leq s_0 \leq 5.3 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = -0.3 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.40 \leq q^2 \leq -0.20 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
$s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = -0.5 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.65 \leq q^2 \leq -0.35 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
$s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
and $q^2 = -0.67 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.80 \leq q^2 \leq -0.55 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

8)  $q^2$ -dependence of cross sections

$\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L, \sigma_I, \sigma_T$  for fixed  $s_0$  and  $t-t_{\min}$

Values of the parameters:

	data interval
$t-t_{\min} = -0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$	$-0.10 \leq t-t_{\min} \leq 0.0 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$
and $s_0 = 4.85 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.4 \leq s_0 \leq 5.3 \text{ GeV}^2$
resp. $s_0 = 5.52 \text{ GeV}^2$	$4.85 \leq s_0 \leq 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$

For illustration a behavior according to the Vector Dominance Model

$\left( \frac{m_\rho^2}{m_\rho^2 - q^2} \right)^2$  and to the Dipole Fit  $\left( \frac{0.71}{q^2 - 0.71} \right)^4$  is shown as dotted and

dashed curves, respectively.

Table 1  $s_0$ -Dependence of Cross Sections  $\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L$ ,  $\sigma_I$  and  $\sigma_T$  for Fixed  $q^2$  and  $t-t_{\min}$

E	$\epsilon$	$-q^2$	$ t-t_{\min} $	$\sqrt{s_0}$	$\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L$ ( $\pi^+\Delta^0$ + background)	stat. error	fraction of $\pi^+\Delta^0$	BW factor	$\sigma_u + \epsilon \sigma_L$ ( $\pi^+\Delta^0$ ) (rad. corr. included)	stat. error	rad. corr.
GeV		$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	GeV	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$P_{\Delta^0}$	$F_{\text{BW}}$	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		%
4.0	0.78	0.3	0.05	2.13	24.2	1.6	.42	1.39	15.1	1.0	7.2
	0.72	0.3	0.05	2.19	23.5	2.5			14.7	1.6	7.1
4.9	0.80	0.5	0.05	2.20	15.8	1.3	.33	1.39	8.0	0.7	9.5
	0.78	0.5	0.05	2.25	13.6	0.9			6.8	0.4	9.3
	0.75	0.5	0.05	2.30	10.7	0.8			5.4	0.4	9.2
5.4	0.80	0.67	0.05	2.25	10.7	1.0	.27	1.39	4.4	0.4	10.7
	0.77	0.67	0.05	2.32	7.8	0.5			3.2	0.2	10.5
	0.72	0.67	0.05	2.43	4.3	0.2			1.8	0.1	10.1

Table 1 continued

E	$\epsilon$	$-q^2$	$ t-t_{\min} $	$\sqrt{s_0}$	$\sigma_I$	stat. error	fraction of $\pi^+\Delta^0$	BW factor	$\sigma_I$	stat. error	rad. corr.
GeV		$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	GeV	$(\pi^+\Delta^0 + \text{background})$	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$	$P_{\Delta^0}$	$F_{\text{BW}}$	$(\pi^+\Delta^0)$	$(\text{rad. corr. included})$	%
									$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		
4.0	0.78	0.3	0.05	2.13	9.5	3.8	.42	1.39	5.9	2.3	7.2
	0.72	0.3	0.05	2.19	0.8	6.2			0.5	3.9	7.1
4.9	0.80	0.5	0.05	2.20	3.6	3.2	.33	1.39	1.8	1.7	9.5
	0.78	0.5	0.05	2.25	6.9	2.1			3.5	1.1	9.3
	0.75	0.5	0.05	2.30	5.1	2.0			2.5	1.1	9.2
5.4	0.80	0.67	0.05	2.25	2.2	2.4	.27	1.39	0.9	1.1	10.7
	0.77	0.67	0.05	2.32	3.6	1.2			1.5	0.5	10.5
	0.72	0.67	0.05	2.43	3.6	0.3			1.5	0.2	10.1
					$\sigma_T$				$\sigma_T$		
4.0	0.78	0.3	0.05	2.13	- 1.4	3.3	.42	1.39	- 0.9	2.1	7.2
	0.72	0.3	0.05	2.19	3.3	3.6			2.0	2.3	7.1
4.9	0.80	0.5	0.05	2.20	1.3	2.4	.33	1.39	0.7	1.2	9.5
	0.78	0.5	0.05	2.25	0.7	1.8			0.35	1.1	9.3
	0.75	0.5	0.05	2.30	0.7	1.7			0.35	0.8	9.2
5.4	0.80	0.67	0.05	2.25	- 0.3	1.7	.27	1.39	- 0.12	0.6	10.7
	0.77	0.67	0.05	2.32	0.4	1.1			0.17	0.5	10.5
	0.72	0.67	0.05	2.43	- 0.5	0.3			- 0.21	0.2	10.1

Table 2  $t-t_{\min}$ -Dependence of Cross Sections for Fixed  $q^2$  and  $s_0$

E	$\epsilon$	$-q^2$	$ t-t_{\min} $	$\sqrt{s_0}$	cross section for $\pi^+\Delta^0$ +background						cross section for $\pi^+\Delta^0$						rad. corr.				
					$\sigma_{u+\epsilon\sigma_L}$	stat. error	$\sigma_I$	stat. error	$\sigma_T$	stat. error	frac- tion of $\pi^+\Delta^0$	BW fac- tor	$\sigma_{u+\epsilon\sigma_L}$	stat. error	$\sigma_I$	stat. error		$\sigma_T$	stat. error		
GeV		$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	GeV	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$P_{\Delta^0}$	$F_{BW}$	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		%
4.0	0.72	0.3	0.009	2.2	22.7	1.5	4.2	2.3	-0.4	1.7	.42	1.39	14.3	1.0	2.7	2.3	-0.25	1.7	7.4		
	0.72	0.3	0.031	2.2	27.2	3.8	-7.5	6.2	6.7	3.3			16.9	2.4	-4.7	5.9	4.3	3.0	7.2		
	0.72	0.3	0.060	2.2	19.8	5.6	-1.0	8.9	3.3	4.7			12.4	3.5	-0.6	8.6	2.0	4.5	7.0		
4.9	0.72	0.5	0.007	2.35	11.1	0.6	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.8	.33	1.39	5.6	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.15	0.6	9.4		
	0.72	0.5	0.025	2.35	9.9	0.7	4.3	1.1	0.5	0.9			4.9	0.3	2.2	0.8	0.25	0.6	9.2		
	0.72	0.5	0.047	2.35	8.3	0.9	5.1	1.5	-0.3	1.2			4.1	0.4	2.5	1.2	-0.15	1.1	9.0		
	0.72	0.5	0.072	2.35	9.9	1.8	-2.6	2.9	4.0	1.8			4.9	0.9	-1.3	2.1	2.0	1.4	8.8		
	0.72	0.5	0.102	2.35	9.2	3.0	0.0	4.7	1.6	2.7			4.6	1.5	0	3.6	0.78	2.0	8.6		
5.4	0.76	0.67	0.007	2.35	7.9	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.9	0.6	.27	1.39	3.31	0.17	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.3	10.8		
	0.76	0.67	0.027	2.35	8.4	0.4	0.9	0.6	-0.3	0.6			3.51	0.17	0.3	0.3	-0.1	0.3	10.6		
	0.76	0.67	0.052	2.35	6.6	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.2	0.8			2.8	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.5	10.4		
	0.76	0.67	0.077	2.35	6.1	0.9	1.7	1.4	-1.2	1.2			2.5	0.41	0.61	0.9	-0.5	0.9	10.2		
	0.76	0.67	0.102	2.35	5.1	1.5	-0.3	1.9	0.5	2.1			2.1	0.6	-0.1	1.2	0.2	1.4	10.0		

Table 3  $\theta_{\pi q}^*$ -Dependence of Cross Sections for Fixed  $q^2$  and  $s_0$

E	$\epsilon$	$-q^2$	$\theta_{\pi q}^*$	$\sqrt{s_0}$	cross section for $\pi^+\Delta^0$ +background							cross section for $\pi^+\Delta^0$							rad. corr.
					$\sigma_{u+\epsilon\sigma_L}$	stat. error	$\sigma_I$	stat. error	$\sigma_T$	stat. error	frac-tion of $\pi^+\Delta^0$	BW fac-tor	$\sigma_{u+\epsilon\sigma_L}$	stat. error	$\sigma_I$	stat. error	$\sigma_T$	stat. error	
GeV		$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	o	GeV	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{P}{\Delta}$	$F_{\text{BW}}$	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		%
4.0	0.72	0.3	2.5	2.2	31.7	2.7	1.0	2.6	-2.1	4.9	.42	1.39	19.9	1.7	0.6	2.4	-1.6	4.6	7.6
	0.72	0.3	7.5	2.2	31.6	3.4	0.4	3.6	-0.6	4.7			19.8	2.3	0.3	3.4	-0.4	4.5	7.4
	0.72	0.3	12.0	2.2	30.1	5.0	-3.2	5.2	7.0	6.2			18.9	3.1	-2.0	4.8	4.4	5.8	7.2
	0.72	0.3	16.0	2.2	21.9	6.0	2.8	6.2	2.9	7.6			13.6	3.8	1.8	5.8	1.8	7.2	7.0
4.9	0.72	0.5	2.5	2.35	19.5	1.5	-0.4	1.8	6.6	3.8	.33	1.39	9.8	0.8	-0.2	1.4	3.3	2.8	9.5
	0.72	0.5	7.5	2.35	16.3	0.9	5.4	1.0	-2.8	2.3			8.2	0.5	2.7	0.8	-1.4	1.7	9.3
	0.72	0.5	12.0	2.35	16.7	1.7	2.3	2.2	2.0	3.6			8.4	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.0	2.7	9.0
	0.72	0.5	16.0	2.35	12.6	2.0	2.0	2.4	1.3	4.1			6.3	1.0	1.0	1.8	3.6	3.0	8.8
	0.72	0.5	21.5	2.35	16.4	4.9	-3.6	5.7	4.9	8.7			8.1	2.4	-1.8	4.2	2.4	6.4	8.5
5.4	0.76	0.67	2.5	2.35	14.2	1.1	2.5	1.3	-0.6	3.2	.27	1.39	5.9	0.5	1.0	0.7	-0.2	1.9	11.0
	0.76	0.67	7.5	2.35	15.4	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	2.2			6.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.4	10.7
	0.76	0.67	12.0	2.35	13.5	1.0	3.1	1.2	-0.6	2.6			5.6	0.4	1.3	0.8	-0.2	1.6	10.2
	0.76	0.67	16.0	2.35	11.1	1.6	4.3	1.8	-3.1	4.4			4.6	0.7	1.8	1.1	-1.3	2.7	10.0

Table 4  $q^2$ -Dependence of Cross Sections for Fixed  $s_0$  and  $t-t_{\min}$

E	$\epsilon$	$-q^2$	$ t-t_{\min} $	$\sqrt{s_0}$	cross section for $\pi^+\Delta^0$ +background							cross section for $\pi^+\Delta^0$							rad. corr.
					$\sigma_{u+\epsilon\sigma_L}$	stat. error	$\sigma_I$	stat. error	$\sigma_T$	stat. error	frac- tion of $\pi^+\Delta^0$	BW fac- tor	$\sigma_{u+\epsilon\sigma_L}$	stat. error	$\sigma_I$	stat. error	$\sigma_T$	stat. error	
GeV		$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	$\frac{\text{GeV}^2}{c^2}$	GeV	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$P_{\Delta^0}$	$F_{\text{BW}}$	$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		$\frac{\mu\text{b}}{\text{GeV}^2}$		%
4.0	0.73	0.25	0.05	2.2	20.1	2.0	7.8	3.2	0.7	1.9	.42	1.39	12.6	1.3	4.9	3.0	0.4	1.8	6.8
	0.70	0.35	0.05	2.2	19.1	1.2	5.6	1.9	-0.2	1.6			12.0	0.8	3.5	1.8	-0.13	1.5	7.2
4.9	0.77	0.4	0.05	2.35	12.1	1.1	4.4	1.8	1.4	1.2	.33	1.39	6.1	0.5	2.2	1.4	0.7	1.1	8.6
	0.75	0.5	0.05	2.35	9.5	0.4	4.0	0.7	0.4	0.6			4.8	0.2	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.5	9.0
	0.74	0.6	0.05	2.35	6.1	0.5	1.3	0.8	-0.2	0.7			3.1	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.5	9.3
5.4	0.77	0.6	0.05	2.35	9.1	0.5	3.2	0.8	1.2	0.7	.27	1.39	3.8	0.2	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	10.2
	0.76	0.7	0.05	2.35	6.7	0.3	1.6	0.5	-0.5	0.5			2.8	0.1	0.7	0.3	-0.2	0.3	10.5
	0.74	0.8	0.05	2.35	4.2	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.6			1.8	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.3	10.7



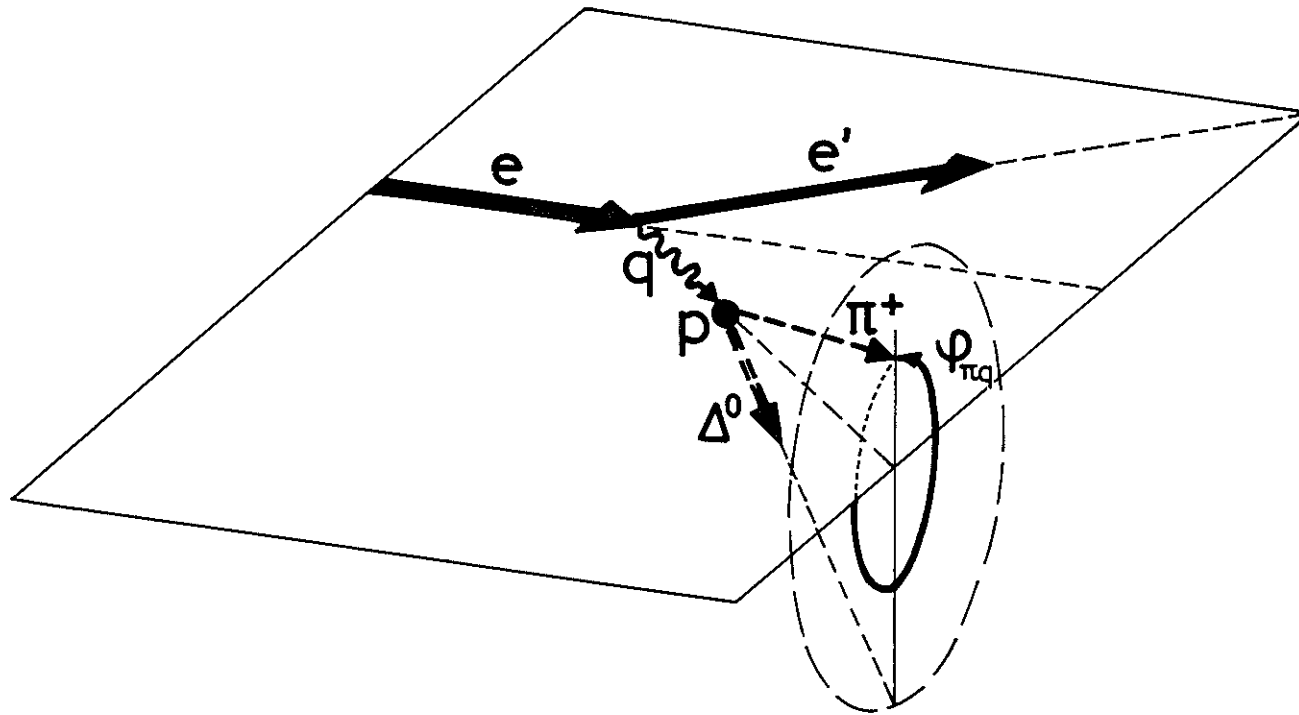


Fig. 1

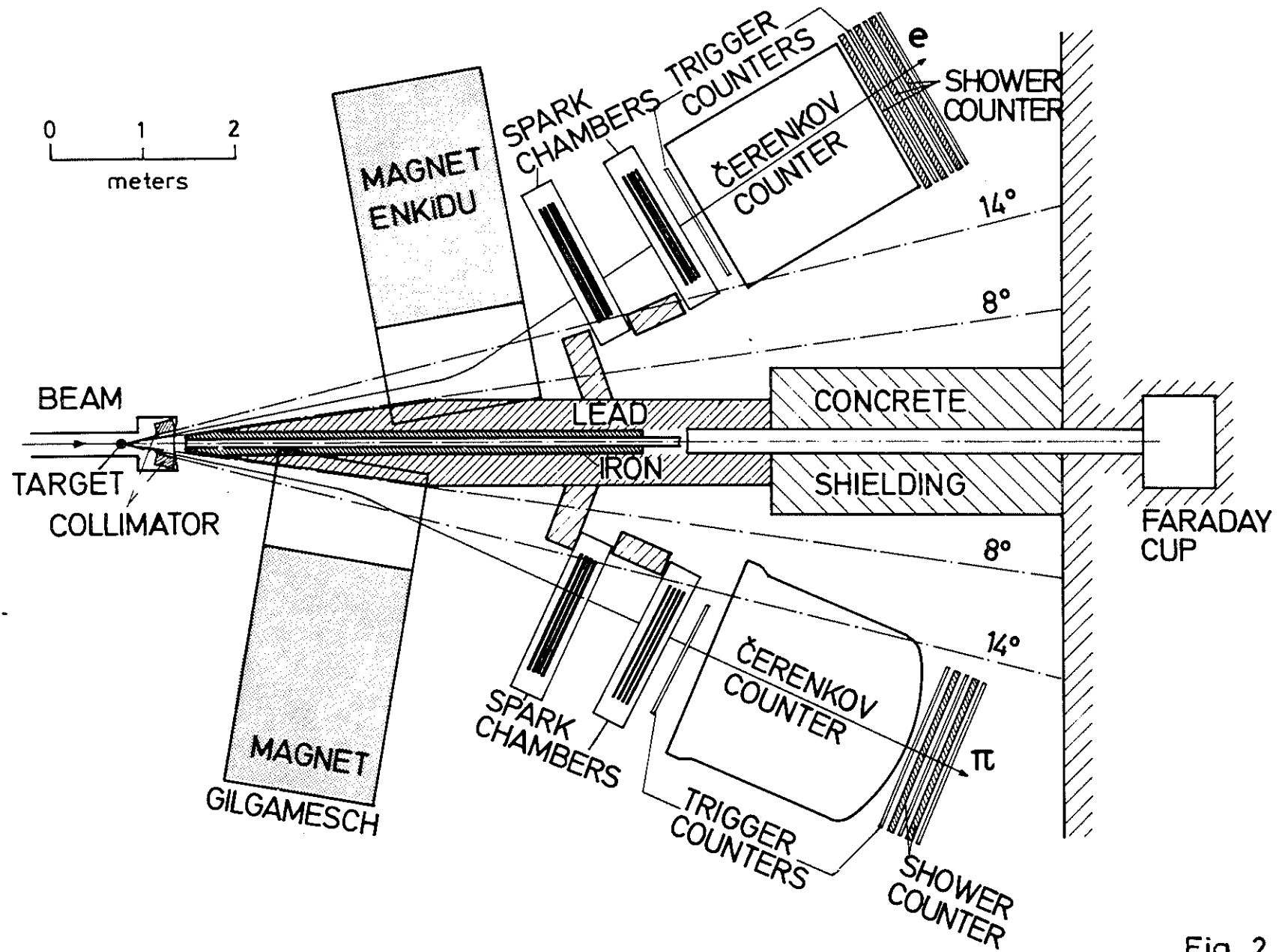


Fig. 2

# Missing Mass Spectrum

$E_e = 4,9 \text{ GeV}$

30037 Events

$e+p \rightarrow e' + \pi^+ + \text{Hadron}(s)$

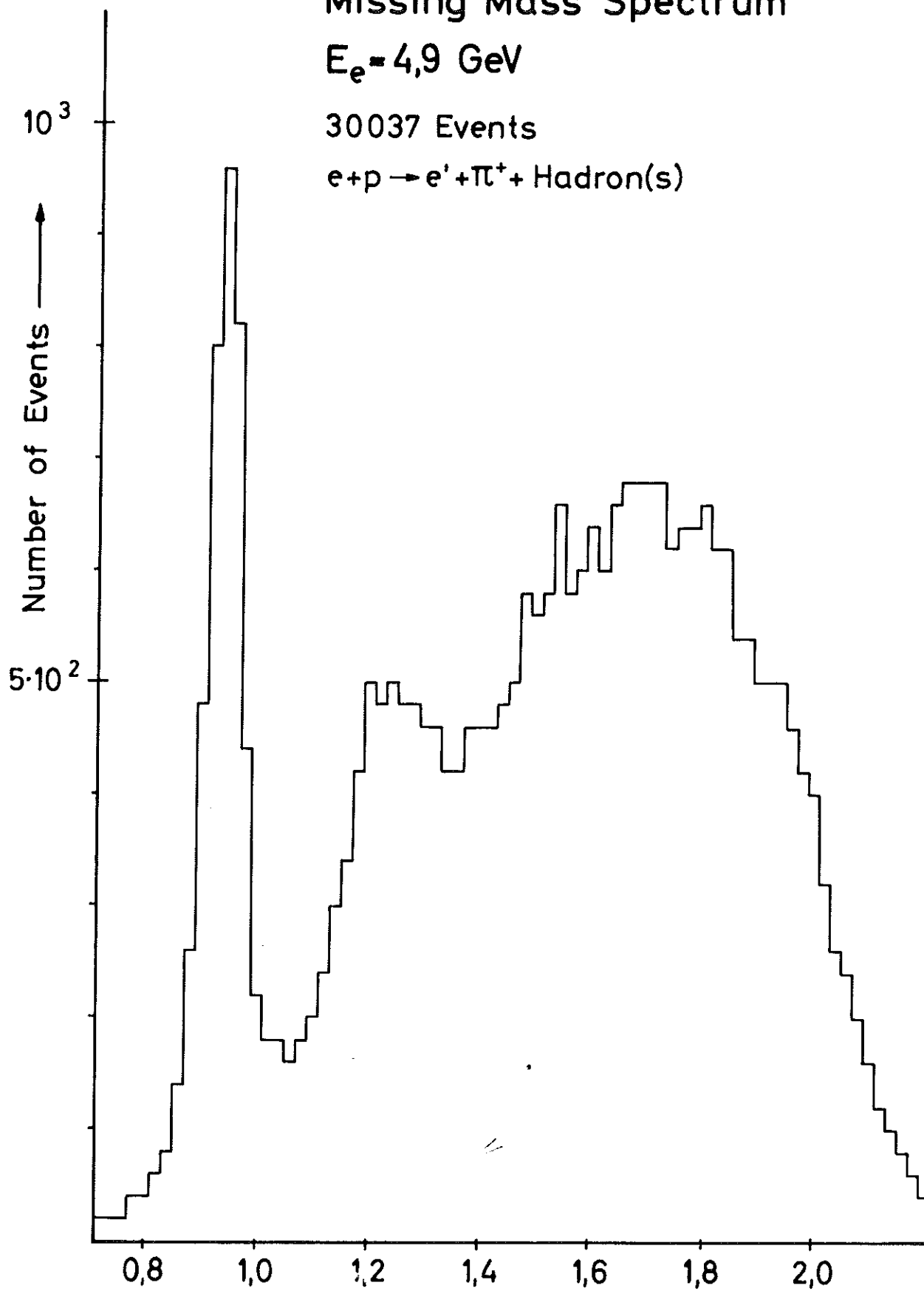


Fig. 3

M [GeV/c<sup>2</sup>]

# Fit to the Weighted Mass Distribution W

3643 Events at  $E_e = 4.9$  GeV

$q^2 = -0.5$  GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup>

$s_0 = 5.5$  GeV<sup>2</sup>

$t - t_{\min} = -0.05$  GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup>

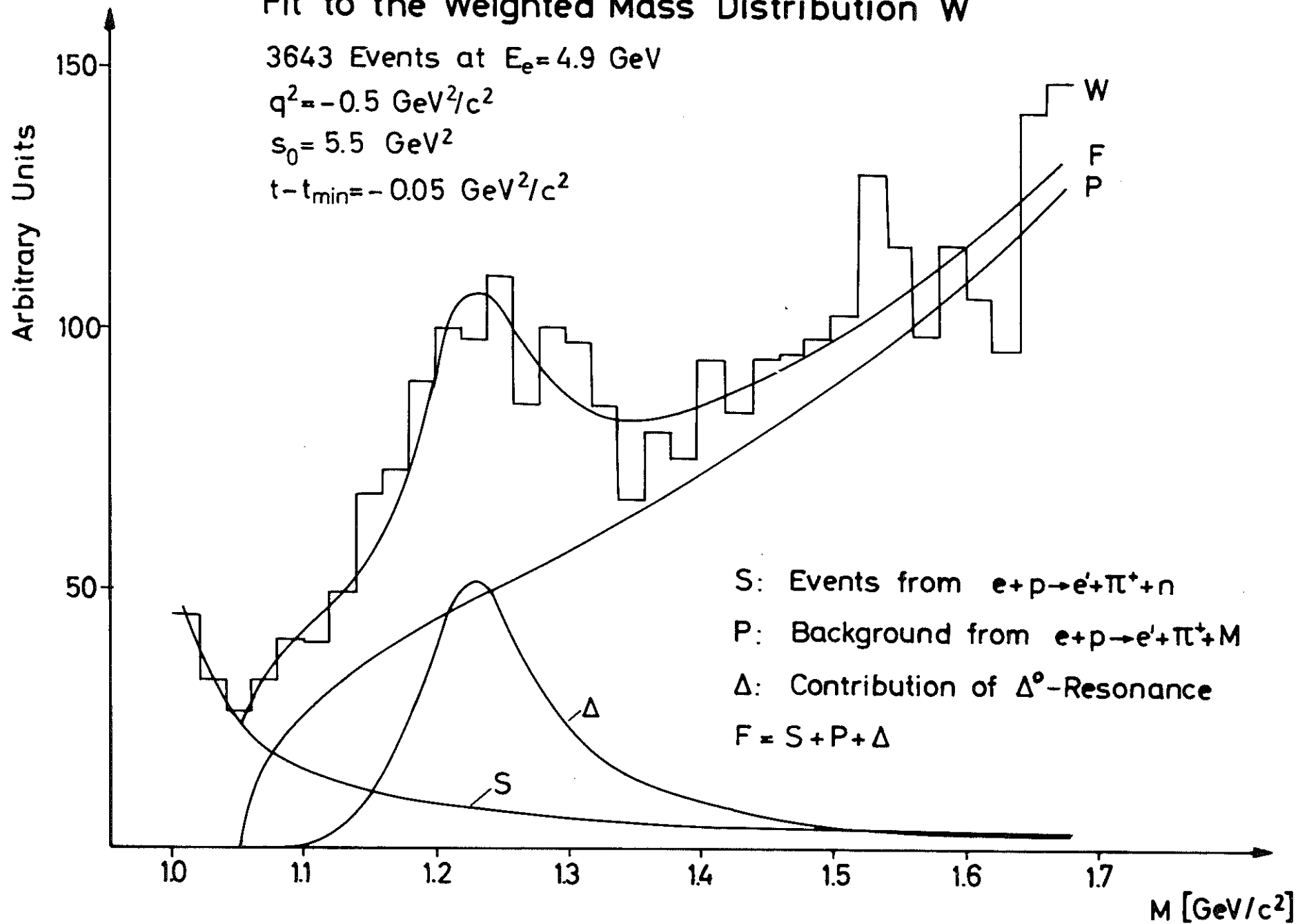


Fig. 4

# Comparison of Cross Sections: $s_0$ -Dependence in Different Mass Regions

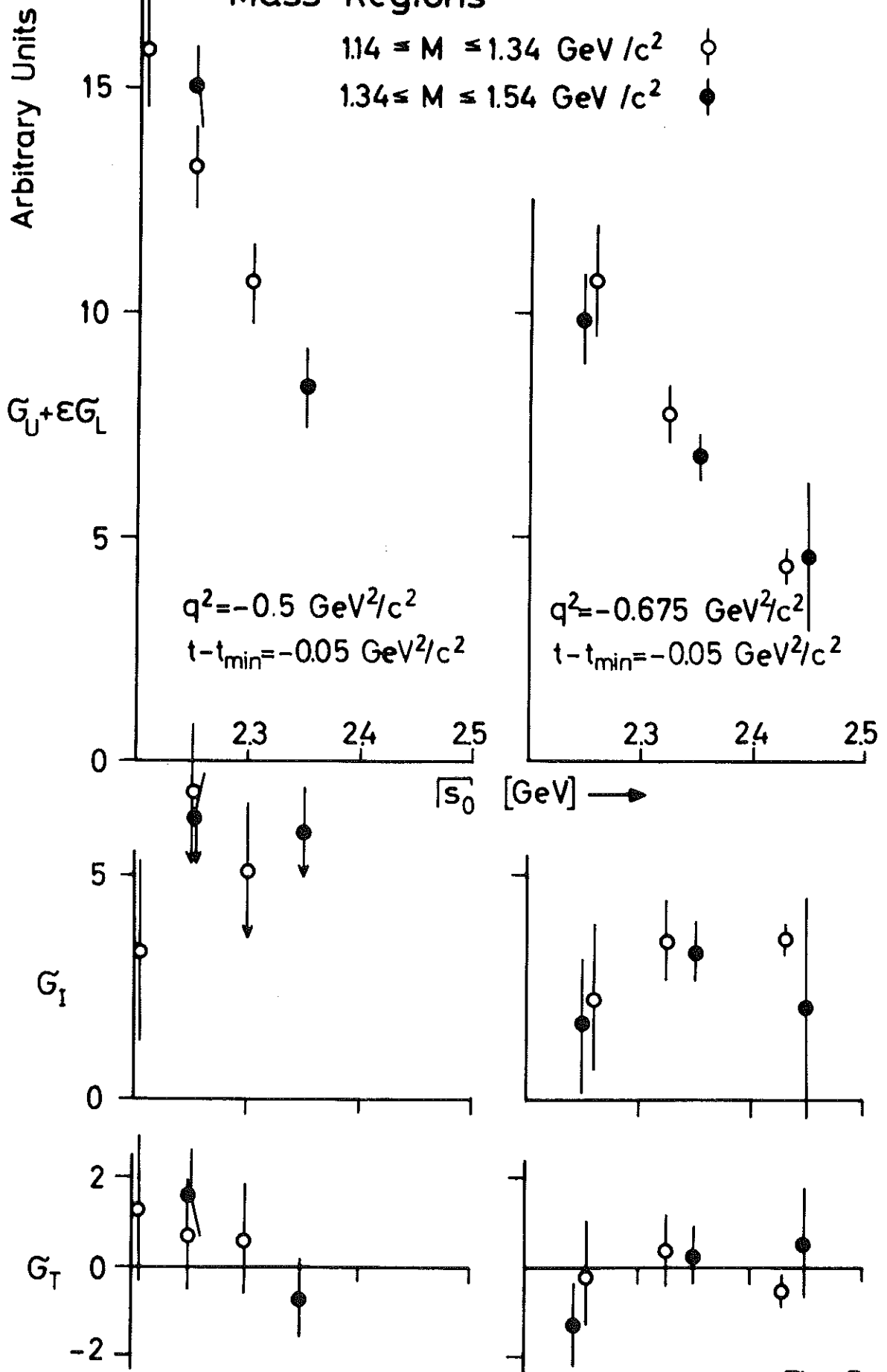


Fig. 5a

# Comparison of Cross Sections: ( $t-t_{\min}$ ) Dependence in Different Mass Regions

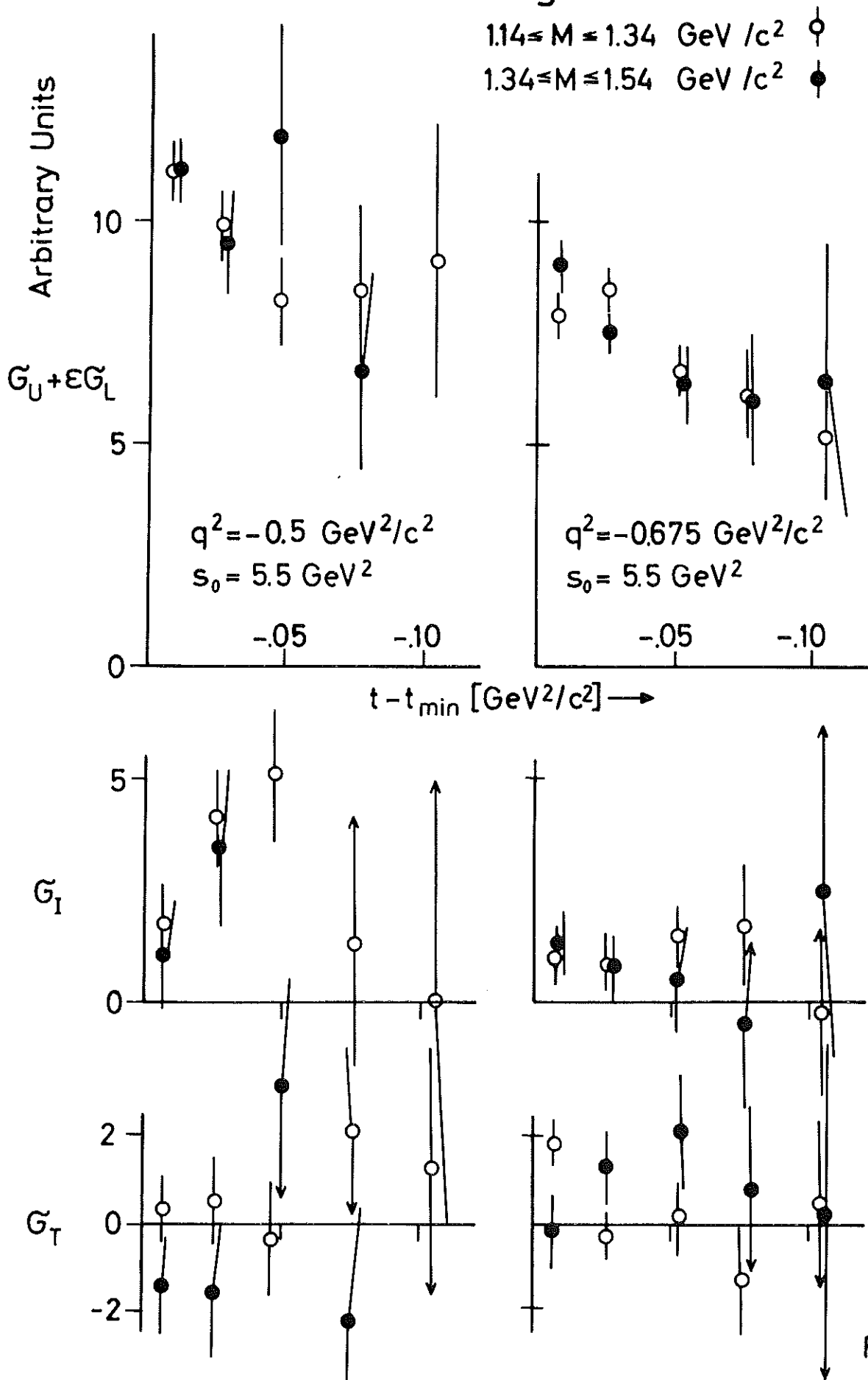


Fig. 5b

# Comparison of Cross Sections: $q^2$ -Dependence in Different Mass Regions

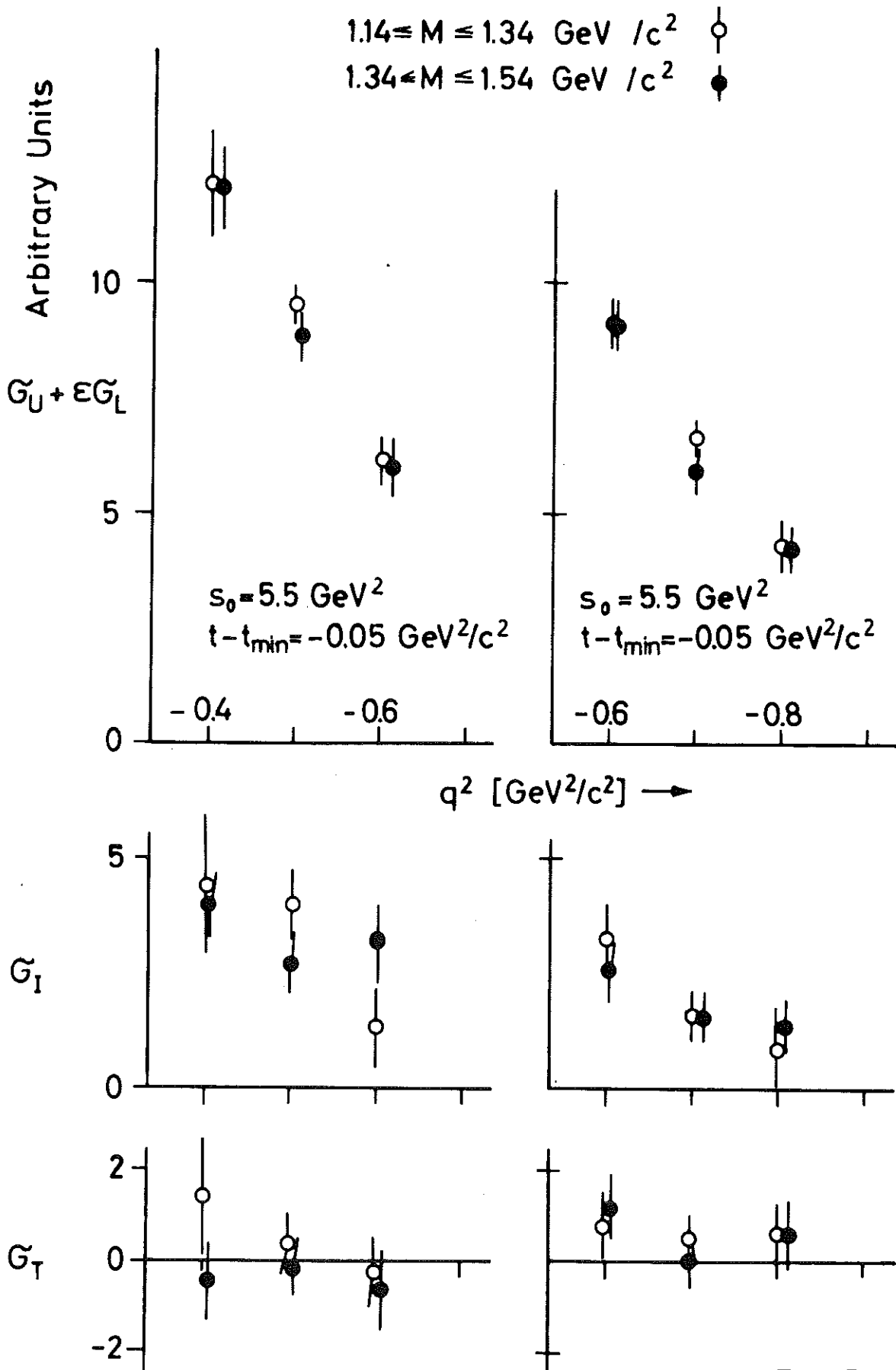


Fig. 5c

# Cross Sections

$s_0$ -Dependence

$t-t_{\min} = -0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$

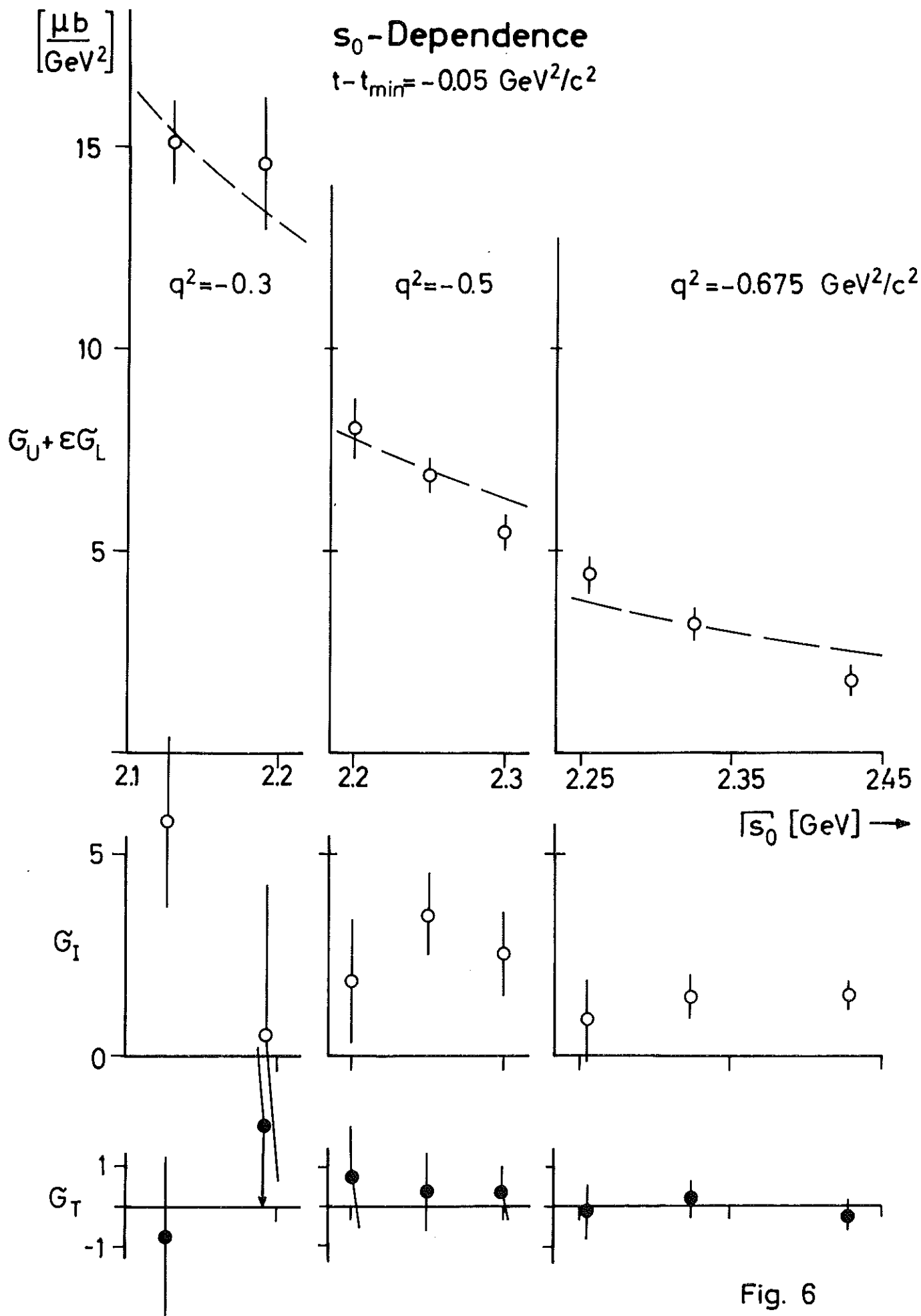


Fig. 6



# Cross Sections t-t<sub>min</sub> Dependence

$$s_0 = 5.5 \text{ GeV}^2$$

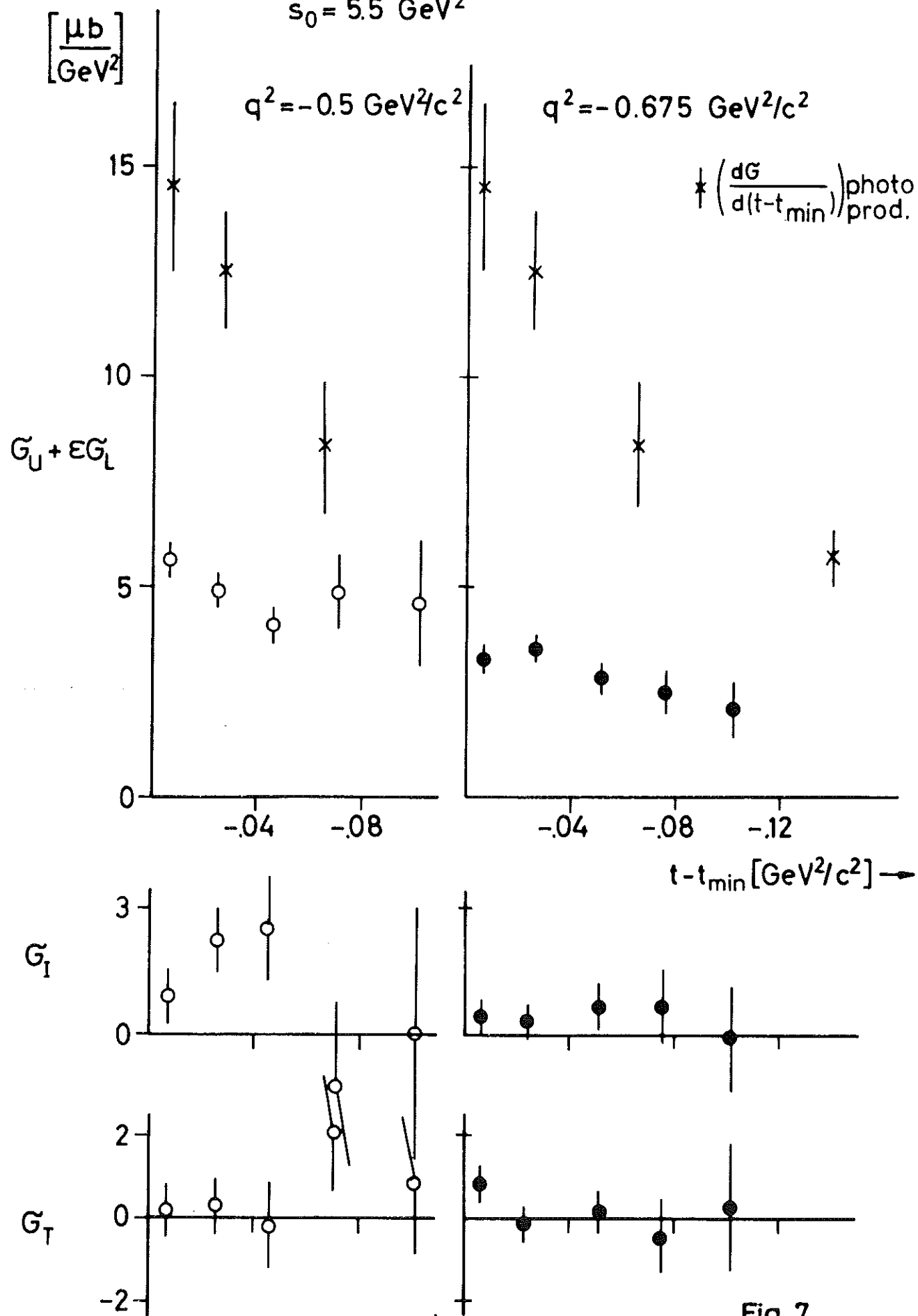


Fig. 7

# Cross Sections

## $q^2$ -Dependence

$$s_0 = 5.5 \text{ GeV}^2$$

$$t - t_{\min} = -0.05 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$$

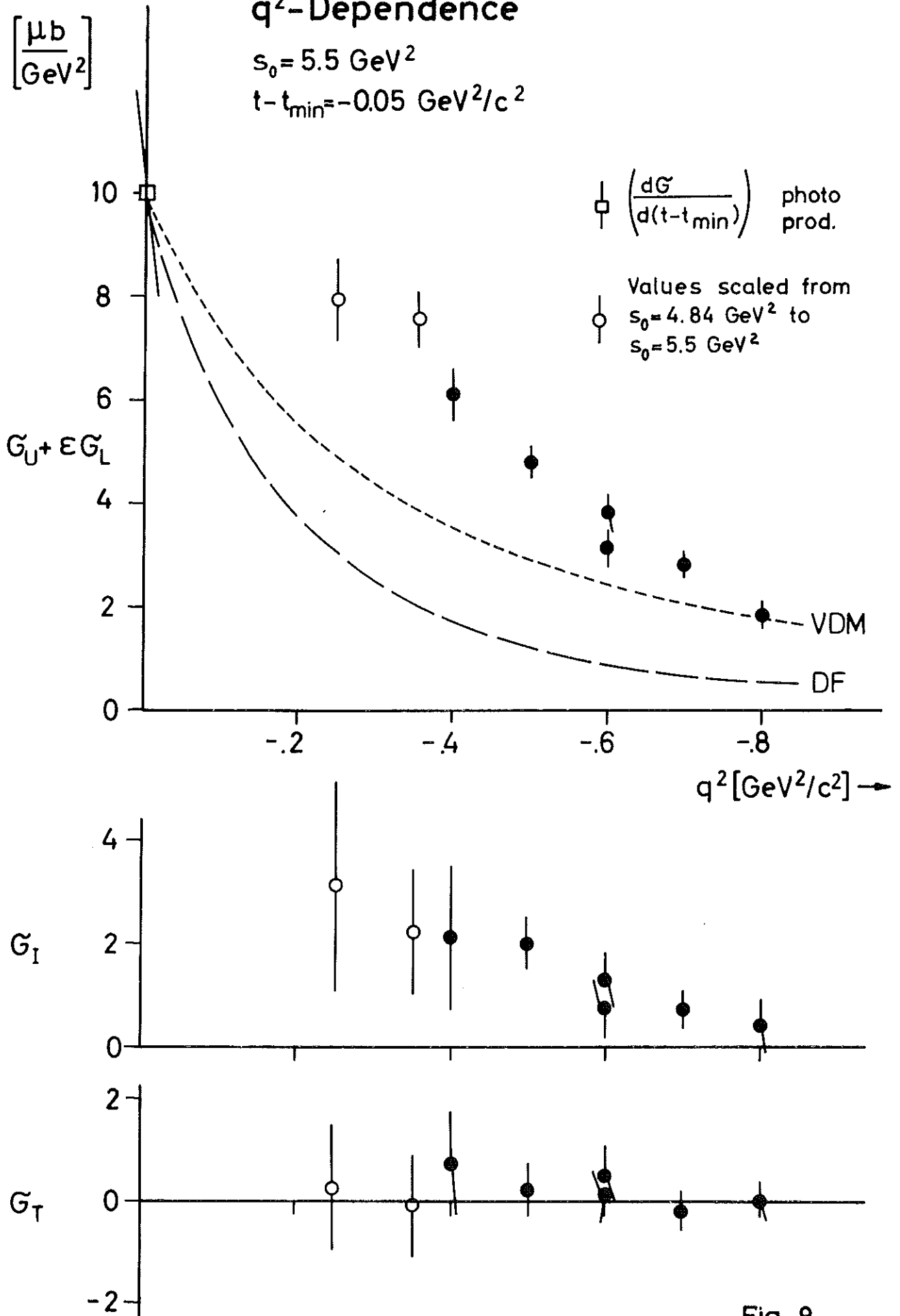


Fig. 8