2019 JSA Sabbatical/Research Leave Final Report
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Dates of Award: January 1 – June 30, 2019

During the period January–June 2019, I was on research leave from Florida State University and spent this time resident at Jefferson Lab with the support of the JSA Sabbatical and Research Leave Support Program. This was a very productive period, as being at the lab allowed me to participate in the commissioning of two new experiments in Hall D, and interact with a large cross section of scientists and students working at the lab. During this time, I participated in the following projects:

- **Publication of First Measurement of \(J/\psi\) Photoproduction at GlueX:** Upon joining the GlueX Collaboration in 2013, the first project I embarked on was the study of the prospects for measuring \(J/\psi\) photoproduction at GlueX, which has been one of my major research focuses during this time. The first identification of \(J/\psi\) events at GlueX was made with the commissioning data taken in 2016, and since then the focus has been on performing the detailed detector studies required in order to determine the cross section for \(J/\psi\) production. My focus in 2018 was working with Hall D Staff Scientist Lubomir Pentchev in order to extract these first cross sections, which is a very demanding measurement. During the period of this award, I was able to finalize the systematic studies required for this paper, particularly those involving radiative corrections, wrote fitting software required to analyze these cross sections for the possible production of the “charmed pentaquarks” reported by LHCb, and moved the analysis and paper through the GlueX Collaboration approval process. Being located at JLab helped not only work closely with Lubomir, but also opened the opportunity to talk frequently to members of the JLab theory group, which was invaluable in implementing the models used in the fitting software. The paper describing this research was submitted and accepted for publication in Physical Review Letters, and represents the second paper published by the GlueX Collaboration.

- **Hall D Data Taking (DIRC Commissioning and Primex–\(\eta\))**: I actively participated in GlueX data taking during the period Feb. 8–April 15, 2019. As Calibration Coordinator for the GlueX Collaboration, in addition to my usual oversight of calibrations and data quality new software and procedures were required for the experimental activities during this run period. The first 2 weeks of this period were dedicated to the commissioning of the new DIRC detector for the second phase of the GlueX experiment. I rewrote some of the low-level software required for the analysis of the data from this new detector. The rest of this period was dedicated to the first run of the Primex–\(\eta\) experiment. This experiment was dedicated to a precision measurement of the partial width of the \(\eta \to \gamma\gamma\) decay, running under very different conditions from the standard GlueX running, including the addition of a new calorimeter, turning off the main solenoid magnet, and turning off the drift chambers for most of the run time. Since most standard GlueX calibration procedures rely on the reconstruction of charged tracks, these procedures had to be rethought for this experiment. I updated the standard GlueX reconstruction and calibration software to work properly for this experimental configuration, and worked closely with the main Primex–\(\eta\) analysis group to develop some of the calibration procedures required for the new calorimeter.

- **GlueX Calibrations and Reconstruction Software**: Other major task which I had
primary responsibility for was the preparation of the full GlueX-I data for reconstruction. Finalizing the calibrations of this data was helped by being able to interact with the other people performing these calibrations, nearly all of whom are resident at the lab. During the process, some unexpected behaviors of the reconstruction were identified, and I worked closely with several people resident at the lab in order to try and understand them and to improve the reconstruction software, particularly for charged particles. These people included Hall D staff scientists Simon Taylor and Beni Zihlmann, FSU postdoc Daniel Lersch, and FSU graduate student Ashley Ernst. Many improvements have been made, particularly for events with displaced vertices, and these efforts continue. Finally, another ongoing major task is updating our detector simulation model to accurately reflect the data which has been collected. In addition to closely working with the Working Groups responsible for these updates, I organized a half-day “Workshop on Comparison of Data and Monte Carlo” after the Gluex May 2019 Collaboration Meeting to discuss the status and prospects surrounding these issues in detail. This was attended by a large percentage of the Collaboration, generated much fruitful conversation and goals for a follow-up workshop in the Fall, in addition to a summary report for the workshop.

- **Analysis of the Reaction $\gamma p \rightarrow K_SK_Sp$:** I worked on an analysis of the reaction $\gamma p \rightarrow K_SK_Sp$ with FSU graduate student Gabriel Rodriguez. With 20% of the GlueX-I data, evidence for peaks corresponding to several scalar or tensor mesons was seen, including the $f_0(1500)$ or $f_2^0(1525)$ and $f_0(1710)$. Although the firm identification of these states will require an amplitude analysis of the full GlueX-I data, as a first step Gabriel is extracting the t-dependence of the production cross sections of these states.

- **GlueX PWA Challenge:** After the GlueX May 2019 Collaboration Meeting, a “PWA Challenge” was proposed in which samples of simulated data would be generated and the analyzed by standard GlueX amplitude analysis software, in order to help develop expertise in how to run this software and to enhance the software toolsets available to perform these analysis. This type of analysis is key to the full analysis of the $K\overline{K}$ final state. My participation in this exercise was greatly assisted by being able to frequently talk to the experts in this software resident at JLab, particularly Alex Austregeslio, Colin Gleason, and Carlos Salgado.

- **Presentations and Other Workshops:** During the period of the award, I presented the opening plenary talk at the MENU 2019 international conference and an invited plenary talk at the APS GHP 2019 workshop based on the ongoing GlueX physics program which I am involved in. A presentation on the $J/\psi$ measurement described above was accepted to the HADRON 2019 international conference and will be presented in August, 2019. I was also one of the conveners of the GlueX/PANDA Workshop held in Ashburn, VA in May, 2019.

In summary, this was a very productive and successful period, which has accelerated the research program that I am building at FSU. I am very grateful for the opportunities that this program provided, as otherwise I would not have been able to spend this time resident at the lab. I hope that JSA continues to offer this program, and that it continues to be available to other early career faculty who otherwise would not be able to spend such an extended period of time at the lab when on research leave.
First measurement of near-threshold $J/\psi$ exclusive photoproduction off the proton


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We report on the measurement of the $\gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi p$ cross section from $E_{\gamma} = 11.8$ GeV down to the threshold at 8.2 GeV using a tagged photon beam with the GlueX experiment. We find the total cross section falls toward the threshold less steeply than expected from two-gluon exchange models. The differential cross section $d\sigma/dt$ has an exponential slope of $1.67 \pm 0.39 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ at 10.7 GeV average energy. The LHCb pentaquark candidates $P_c^+$ can be produced in the $s$-channel of this reaction. We see no evidence for them and set model-dependent upper limits on their branching fractions $B(P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p)$. 

INTRODUCTION

The exclusive production of charmonium near threshold provides a unique probe for studying the gluonic field in the nucleon and its dynamical coupling to the valence quarks. Recently, there has been increased interest in $J/\psi$ photoproduction in the beam energy region of $E_\gamma = 9.4 - 10.1$ GeV, as it can be used to search for the pentaquark candidates reported by LHCb in the $J/\psi p$ channel of the $\Lambda_b^0 \to J/\psi pK^- \to J/\psi p\pi^-\pi^+$ decay [1][2]. The upgraded 12 GeV Jefferson Lab electron accelerator provides the unique opportunity — correct energy and high intensity beams — to study $J/\psi$ photoproduction from the maximum accelerator energy down to the threshold at $E_\gamma = 8.2$ GeV.

The LHCb collaboration initially claimed two pentaquark states, $P_c^+(4380)$ and $P_c^+(4450)$ [3]. Very recently, they reported the observation of three narrow pentaquark states, $P_c^+(4312)$, $P_c^+(4440)$, and $P_c^+(4457)$, where the previously reported $P_c^+(4450)$ was resolved into the latter two states with narrower widths [2]. In photoproduction, these resonances can be produced in the $s$-channel: $\gamma p \to P_c^+ \to J/\psi p$ [3][5], which is free from the three-body re-scattering effects proposed as one of the possible explanations of the structures observed by LHCb [7][8]. This reaction can be described by the $P_c^+ \to J/\psi p$ decay plus its time inversion, with the $J/\psi - \gamma$ coupling determined by Vector Meson Dominance (VMD) [10]. The Breit-Wigner cross section depends on the measured width of the pentaquark, the VMD coupling obtained from the leptonic decay of the $J/\psi$, and only one unknown parameter, the branching fraction of the $P_c^+ \to J/\psi p$ decay that enters quadratically. The pentaquarks produced in the $s$-channel would appear as structures in the $J/\psi$ photoproduction cross section as a function of energy, possibly interfering with the non-resonant continuum. By measuring the resonant contribution one can estimate this branching fraction, which is complementary to the LHCb results.

A heavy quark system like the $J/\psi$ interacts with the light quarks of the proton via gluon exchange. Close to threshold a large momentum is transferred to the proton ($|t| = 2.2$ GeV$^2$ at threshold). The energy dependence of the total cross section at high-$t$ has been addressed within several approaches. Based on dimensional scaling rules, the energy dependence of the $J/\psi$ photoproduction cross section was predicted with a dependence on the number of hard gluons involved in the reaction [11]. Near threshold all valence quarks of the proton are expected to participate in the reaction, requiring the involvement of three high-$x$ gluons, while at higher energies one or two hard gluons can be involved. In Ref. [12], it is argued that the $t$-dependence of the exclusive reaction is defined by the proton gluonic form-factor, for which a dipole form is assumed in analogy with the electromagnetic form factors:

$$F(t) \propto 1/(1 - t/m_0^2)^2,$$

though with a different mass scale $m_0$. The total cross section is proportional to the integral of $F^2(t)$ over a $t$-range that, near threshold, depends strongly on energy. According to Ref. [13], $J/\psi$ photoproduction near threshold is dominated by the real part of the $J/\psi p$ elastic amplitude, which is of critical interest, since it contains the trace anomaly term related to the fraction of the nucleon mass arising from gluons. In Ref. [14] it was demonstrated that, in the near-threshold region, the shape of the cross section as a function of energy and $t$ depends on the contribution of gluons to the nucleon mass.

In this Letter, we report on the first measurement of the cross section of the exclusive reaction $\gamma p \to J/\psi p$ from threshold up to $E_\gamma = 11.8$ GeV. We identify the $J/\psi$ by its decay into an electron-positron pair. Previous measurements near threshold were inclusive and done on nuclear targets. The only published result in our energy region is at $E_\gamma \approx 11$ GeV, measured at Cornell [15]. Measurements at SLAC have been performed at photon beam energies of 13 GeV and above [16].

The data were collected by the GlueX experiment located in Hall D at Jefferson Lab during 2016 and 2017, representing about 25% of the total data accumulated by the experiment to date.

THE EXPERIMENT

The GlueX experiment uses a linearly-polarized, tagged photon beam produced by the 12 GeV Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF). The electron beam is incident on a diamond radiator, and produces a bremsstrahlung spectrum proportional to $1/E_\gamma$, and a primary coherent peak adjusted to be in the energy range of $8.2 - 9.0$ GeV. We also use data taken with an aluminum radiator, which does not produce coherent radiation. The scattered electron is analyzed with a 9 T-m dipole magnet and detected in a tagging scintillator array allowing the photon energy to be determined with a resolution of 0.2%. The photon beam is collimated through a 5 mm diameter hole at a distance of 75 m from the radiator. Following this, the photon flux and energy are monitored by an electron-positron pair spectrometer system [17].
The GlueX detector is based on a 2 T, 4-m-long solenoid magnet and has full azimuthal and 1° < θ < 120° polar angle coverage. A 30 cm-long liquid hydrogen target is placed inside the solenoid. A scintillating start counter surrounding the target helps to select the beam bunch. Charged particle reconstruction around the target is performed by the Central Drift Chamber (CDC), consisting of straw tubes grouped in 28 layers with axial and stereo orientation. In the forward direction 24 planes of drift chambers with both wire and cathode strip readout are used. The two drift chamber systems are surrounded by a lead-scintillator electromagnetic barrel calorimeter (BCAL) and a fixed target calorimeter (FCAL). Electronically, the calorimeter is grouped in 192 azimuthal segments and in four radial layers, allowing the reconstruction of both transverse and longitudinal shower development.

The detector hermeticity in the forward direction outside of the magnet is achieved by the Time-of-Flight (TOF) scintillator wall and the lead-glass electromagnetic Forward Calorimeter (FCAL), both located approximately 6 m from the target. Both calorimeters, FCAL and BCAL, are used to trigger the detector readout, requiring sufficient total energy deposition. A pipelined readout of all detectors allows operation at high trigger rate (~40 kHz) and small dead time. The intensity of the beam in the region above the J/ψ threshold was 2 × 10^7 photons/s in 2016 and the first period of 2017, and was then increased to 5 × 10^7 photons/s for the rest of 2017, resulting in a total accumulated luminosity of ~ 68 pb^-1. In 2016 the maximum tagged photon energy was 11.85 GeV, while for 2017 it was lowered to 11.40 GeV. In 2017 the solenoid field was increased by 12% compared to 2016 running period.

We study the exclusive reaction γp → e^+e^- in the region of the e^+e^- invariant mass M(e^+e^-) > 0.90 GeV, which includes the narrow φ and J/ψ peaks, and the continuum dominated by the Bethe-Heitler (BH) process. Figure 1 shows the M(e^+e^-) spectrum data after applying the event selection criteria described below. We normalize the J/ψ total cross section to that of BH in the invariant mass range 1.20 – 2.50 GeV, thus canceling uncertainties from factors like luminosity and common detector efficiencies.

The challenging part of this measurement is the suppression of the pion background in the BH region. The e/π separation is achieved mainly by applying selections on p/E, where the charged particle momentum p comes from the kinematic fit described below, and E is the energy deposited in the calorimeters. We require −3σ < p/E − (p/E) < +2σ for both lepton candidates, where the mean (p/E) is close to unity and the resolution σ of p/E for the sample of leptons in the BH region is 3.9% for FCAL and 6.8% for BCAL. We also take advantage of the radial layer structure of the BCAL, using the energy deposited in the innermost layer, E_{pre}, and requiring lepton candidates emitted at a polar angle θ to have E_{pre, sinθ} > 30 MeV, taking into account the pathlength through the calorimeter. This rejects a significant number of pions, which deposit small amounts of energy in this layer compared to electrons. We require all charged particles to have momenta > 0.4 GeV and polar angle > 2° in order to reduce the contamination from the π^+π^-p final state and poorly reconstructed events. Due to the steeper t-dependence of BH compared to π^+π^- production, to minimize the pion background we select the BH process only in the low-t region, −(t−t_{min}) < 0.6 GeV^2.

Protons with momenta ≲ 1 GeV are identified by their energy deposition in the CDC. The three final-state particles are required to be consistent in time with the same electron beam bunch (±2 ns for most of the data). The tagged beam photons that are in time with this bunch qualify as possible candidates associated with the reaction. The contribution from beam photons accidental in time is subtracted statistically using a sample of photons that are out-of-time with respect to the reaction beam bunch. Only one track combination per event for the three final state particles is selected; the fraction of the rejected combinations is below 6%. Loose selections are applied on the squared missing mass (∼ 0.25 GeV^2) and the missing transverse momentum of the reaction (∼ 0.5 GeV).

Taking advantage of the exclusivity of the reaction and the relatively precise measurement of the beam energy, we use a kinematic fit to improve the resolution of the measured charged particle momenta. The fit enforces momentum and energy conservation and requires a common vertex for the three final-state particles. The electron-positron invariant mass spectrum in Fig. 1 is obtained using the results of the kinematic fit, which allows us to achieve a 13 MeV standard deviation (SD) mass resolution for the J/ψ. Studies of the kinematic fit show that the results are constrained primarily by the direction and magnitude of the proton momentum and the directions of the two leptons. In contrast to protons, the leptons are produced on average with higher momenta and smaller angles where the momenta are reconstructed with larger uncertainties. Therefore they do not affect the kinematic fit noticeably.

We extract the J/ψ and BH yields in bins of beam energy or t. The J/ψ yield is obtained by performing a binned likelihood fit to the invariant mass spectra, as in Fig. 1 with a Gaussian signal and linear background.

The reduction of the background in the BH region by more than three orders of magnitude after applying the e/π selections event-by-event is not enough to completely eliminate the pion contamination. On average the remaining sample contains 54% pions. To extract the BH yield we fit the peak and the pion background of the p/E distribution for one of the lepton candidates, while applying the p/E selection for the other candidate.

We have performed Monte Carlo simulations of both J/ψ and continuum BH production. The BH diagrams can be calculated in QED. We have used two BH generators, one based on analytical calculations [21] and another [22] based on numerical calculations of the diagrams. We generate the J/ψ-proton final state using an exponential t-dependence.

The accumulated luminosity of
and a cross section as a function of the beam energy obtained from our measurement, followed by the $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decay assuming helicity conservation.

The response of the GlueX detector to the generated events was simulated using GEANT3 [23]. Accidental tagger signals and out-of-time and detector noise signals were extracted from randomly triggered real data and injected into the generated events. We use these simulations to calculate the BH and $J/\psi$ reconstruction efficiencies, $\varepsilon_{BH}$ and $\varepsilon_{J/\psi}$. BH simulations are also used to integrate the BH cross section over the region used for normalization.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We calculate the total cross section in 10 bins of beam energy using the following formula:

$$\sigma_{J/\psi}(E_\gamma) = \frac{N_{J/\psi}(E_\gamma)}{N_{BH}(E_\gamma)} \times \frac{\sigma_{BH}(E_\gamma)}{B_{J/\psi}} \times \varepsilon_{BH}(E_\gamma) \times \varepsilon_{J/\psi}(E_\gamma).$$

(2)

Here $N_{J/\psi}$ and $N_{BH}$ are the $J/\psi$ and BH yields, $\sigma_{BH}$ is the calculated BH cross section, and $B_{J/\psi}$ is the $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$ branching ratio of 5.97% [24]. Note that the result depends on the relative BH to $J/\psi$ efficiency. Effects due to variations in the photon flux over a given energy bin also cancel under the assumption that the $J/\psi$ cross section varies slowly across a bin. The study of features in the $J/\psi$ cross section that are narrower than an energy bin, such as those due to narrow pentaquarks, requires, in addition to the binned total cross sections, taking into account the finer flux structure.
We obtain results for the differential cross section in 7 bins of \( t \) integrated over the region \( E_\gamma = 10.00 - 11.80 \) GeV. Closer to threshold, due to the strong variation of \( t_{\min} \) and the smaller \( t \)-range, such an analysis requires slices in beam energy for which we do not have sufficient statistics. For the normalization of the differential cross section we use the total BH yields instead of the yields in bins of \( t \).

The total cross section in bins of beam energy and the differential cross section as a function of \(- (t - t_{\min})\), together with the statistical and systematic errors are given as Supplemental Material. We estimate the overall normalization uncertainty to be 27\%. The main contribution comes from the uncertainty in the relative BH to \( J/\psi \) efficiency determined from simulations, as the two processes occupy different kinematic regions. To test the accuracy of the simulations, we study the ratio of the measured BH cross section to the calculated one as a function of several kinematic variables, such as proton momentum and polar angle. The available statistics only allows us to perform this comparison as a function of one variable at a time. Comparing these ratios obtained for the BH and \( J/\psi \) kinematic regions, we find the largest relative difference to be \((23 \pm 18)\%\). We note that this difference is not statistically significant, and take the central value of 23\% to be the uncertainty due to this source.

The radiation of the electrons and positrons in the material is part of the GEANT simulation. The radiative correction to the \( J/\psi \) decay is simulated using the PHOTOS package \[25\]. The results show that the kinematic fit recovers the \( J/\psi \) electron-positron invariant mass to its value before radiation. This is expected because the dominant constraint to the fit is the recoil proton, which is decoupled from the \( J/\psi \) decay. In contrast, for the BH process all the three final-state particles might be affected by the radiation. In Ref. \[26\] the radiative corrections to the BH process are calculated as a function of the cut on the radiative photon energy, however, how this energy is distributed between the final-state particles is ambiguous. In the extreme case, we assume that the electron-positron invariant mass is not affected by the radiation, and only the proton is. This results in an upper limit of 8.3\% for the BH radiative correction, which we conservatively take as a systematic uncertainty.

The maximum background contribution of the \( \rho \) production to the \( e^+ e^- \) continuum of 7\% is estimated by comparing the results for two invariant mass ranges: 1.20 - 2.00 and 2.00 - 2.50 GeV. Based on Ref. \[21\] the contribution of Timelike Compton Scattering to the BH cross section is estimated to be less than 4\%. Due to uncertainties of the Generalized Parton Distribution model used in this estimation, we double this value as a systematic uncertainty.

We assign the systematic uncertainties of the individual data points to the maximum deviations of the results obtained by varying the procedures for fitting the \( J/\psi \) peak in the \( e^+ e^- \) invariant mass spectrum and the BH electron/positron peak in the \( p/E \) distribution. We assign the systematic error for the \( t \)-slope to the maximum deviation of the slope obtained with different \( J/\psi \) fitting methods. The uncertainties of the parameters used in the \( J/\psi \) simulations (\( t \)-slope, energy dependence) have a small effect.

As a cross-check, we have compared the total cross sections versus beam energy obtained from the 2016 and 2017 data sets, which represent different experimental conditions (solenoid field, photon beam intensity and spectrum). They are statistically consistent with an average ratio of 0.95 ± 0.14. Based on the missing mass distribution, we set a 5\% upper limit for the target excitation contribution, \( \gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi p n^0 \).

In Fig. 2 we show the \( t \)-dependence of the differential cross section for beam energies of 10.00 - 11.80 GeV with an average of 10.72 GeV. We obtain an exponential \( t \)-slope of 1.67 ± 0.35 (stat.) ±0.18 (syst.) GeV\(^{-2}\), which can be compared with the Cornell result at \( E_\gamma \approx 11 \) GeV of 1.25 ± 0.20 GeV\(^{-2}\) \[15\] and the SLAC result at \( E_\gamma = 19 \) GeV of 2.9 ± 0.3 GeV\(^{-2}\) \[10\]. All these results are consistent with the hypothesis in Ref. \[12\] of the dipole \( t \)-dependence for the differential cross section assuming a mass scale of 1.14 GeV, as given in Eq. (1).

The measured total cross section in bins of beam energy is shown in Fig. 3 and compared to the earlier measurements at Cornell \[15\] and SLAC \[16\]. Note that the SLAC experiment measured \( d\sigma/dt \) at \( t = t_{\min} \). In order to estimate the total cross section, we have integrated over \( t \) assuming the dipole \( t \)-dependence with \( m_0 = 1.14 \) GeV.

Comparing the \( J/\psi \) cross section to the Brodsky et al. model \[11\], we find that our data do not favor either pure two- or three-hard-gluon exchange separately, and a combination of the two processes is required to fit the data adequately. Such a combination is shown in Fig. 4 assuming no interference between the two contributions. It appears that three-hard-gluon exchange dominates near threshold, consistent with the expectation that all the constituents should participate in the reaction.

The total cross section calculations of Kharzeev et al. \[13\] imply a large gluonic contribution to the nuclear mass and are shown in Fig. 5 multiplied by a factor 2.3. The shape of the curve agrees well with our measurements and the overall scale factor is within the claimed uncertainty of the calculation.

The narrow LHCb states, \( P_1^+ (4312) \), \( P_1^+ (4440) \), and \( P_1^+ (4457) \), produced in the s-channel would appear as structures at \( E_\gamma = 9.44, 10.04 \) and 10.12 GeV in the cross-section results shown in Fig. 3. We see no evidence for such structures. The initial report \[1\] claims the two states, \( P_1^+ (4380) \) and \( P_1^+ (4450) \), may have spin 3/2 or 5/2 with opposite parity. The spins/parities of the new states, \( P_1^+ (4312) \), \( P_1^+ (4440) \), and \( P_1^+ (4457) \), have not been determined yet. We evaluate the branching fraction limits \( B(P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p) \) individually for each \( P_c^+ \) assuming \( J^P = 3/2^- \), with the lowest angular
momentum $L = 0$ of the $J/\psi p$ system. As VMD leads to an increase in the cross section for increasing $L$ [4], $L = 0$ minimizes the resulting cross section and therefore yields a maximal upper limit on the branching fraction. We fit our data, in which the statistical and systematic uncertainties on the individual points are added in quadrature, with a variation of the JPAC model [6] where the non-resonant component is described by a combination of Pomeron and tensor amplitudes [28]. To take into account the fine flux variations (see Supplemental Material), in each bin the data are fitted with the integral of the model function weighted by the normalized flux distribution across the extent of the bin. The upper limits on the branching fractions are determined by integrating the profile likelihood of the fit as a function of the branching fraction. The profile likelihood is determined by a procedure based on the one described in Ref. [29], in which uncertainties on the model parameters can be incorporated. As an example of the sensitivity of our measurement, we plot in Fig. 3 the model prediction for $P_c^+(4440)$ with $\mathcal{B}(P_c^+(4440) \rightarrow J/\psi p) = 1.6\%$, which is the estimated upper limit at 90% confidence level when taking into account the errors of the individual data points only. Similar curves for the other resonances are shown in the Supplemental Material. Including systematic uncertainties due to the non-resonant parametrization, Breit-Wigner parameters, and overall cross-section normalization, we determine upper limits at 90% confidence level of 4.6%, 2.3%, and 3.8% for $P_c^+(4312)$, $P_c^+(4440)$, and $P_c^+(4457)$, respectively. These upper limits become a factor of 5 smaller if $J^P = 5/2^+$ is assumed. Note that these results depend on the interference between the pentaquarks and the non-resonant continuum that is model dependent and the interference between the pentaquarks that is not taken into account.

A less model-dependent limit is found for the product of the cross section at the resonance maximum and the branching fraction, $\sigma_{\text{max}}(\gamma p \rightarrow P_c^+) \times \mathcal{B}(P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p)$, using an incoherent sum of a Breit-Wigner and the non-resonant component of the model described above. Applying the same likelihood procedure that includes the systematic uncertainties, yields upper limits at 90% confidence level of 4.6, 1.8, and 3.9 nb for $P_c^+(4312)$, $P_c^+(4440)$, and $P_c^+(4457)$, respectively.

In Refs. [30–32] the partial widths of the $P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p$ decays were calculated and shown to be orders of magnitude different for two pentaquark models, the hadrocharmonium and molecular models. Our upper limits on the branching fractions do not exclude the molecular model, but are an order of magnitude lower than the predictions in the hadrocharmonium scenario.

In summary, we have made the first measurement of the $J/\psi$ exclusive photoproduction cross section from $E_\gamma = 11.8$ GeV down to the threshold, which provides important inputs to models of the gluonic structure of the proton at high $x$. The measured cross section is used to set model-dependent upper limits on the branching fraction of the
FIG. 3: GlueX results for the $J/\psi$ total cross section vs beam energy, compared to the Cornell [15] and SLAC [16] data, the theoretical predictions [11, 13], and the JPAC model [6] corresponding to $B(P_c^+(4440) \to J/\psi p) = 1.6\%$ for the $J^P = 3/2^-$ case as discussed in the text. All curves are fitted/scaled to the GlueX data only. For our data the quadratic sums of statistical and systematic errors are shown; the overall normalization uncertainty is 27%.

LHCb $P_c^+$ states, which allow to discriminate between different pentaquark models.

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First measurement of near-threshold J/ψ exclusive photoproduction off the proton: Supplemental Material

The total cross-section in bins of beam energy and the differential cross-section as function of \( -(t - t_{\text{min}}) \) are given in Tables I and II together with the statistical and systematic errors for the individual data points. Table III summarizes our estimate of the systematic errors for the overall cross-section normalization.

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<th>Energy bin, GeV</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.2-8.56</td>
<td>0.116</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.56-8.92</td>
<td>0.343</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>0.082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.92-9.28</td>
<td>0.313</td>
<td>0.127</td>
<td>0.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.28-9.64</td>
<td>0.835</td>
<td>0.194</td>
<td>0.185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.64-10</td>
<td>0.868</td>
<td>0.196</td>
<td>0.109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-10.36</td>
<td>0.949</td>
<td>0.187</td>
<td>0.102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.36-10.72</td>
<td>1.383</td>
<td>0.284</td>
<td>0.323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.72-11.08</td>
<td>1.274</td>
<td>0.206</td>
<td>0.184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.08-11.44</td>
<td>2.158</td>
<td>0.421</td>
<td>0.657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.44-11.8</td>
<td>3.245</td>
<td>0.928</td>
<td>0.384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE I: \( \gamma p \to J/\psi p \) total cross-sections, statistical and systematic errors of the individual points in bins of beam energy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( -(t - t_{\text{min}}) ) bin, GeV</th>
<th>( d\sigma/dt ), nb/GeV(^2)</th>
<th>stat. error, nb/GeV(^2)</th>
<th>syst. error, nb/GeV(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-0.15</td>
<td>1.643</td>
<td>0.334</td>
<td>0.058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.15-0.3</td>
<td>1.249</td>
<td>0.265</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.3-0.45</td>
<td>1.088</td>
<td>0.248</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.45-0.6</td>
<td>0.627</td>
<td>0.182</td>
<td>0.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.6-0.75</td>
<td>0.599</td>
<td>0.163</td>
<td>0.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.75-0.9</td>
<td>0.470</td>
<td>0.145</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.9-1.05</td>
<td>0.400</td>
<td>0.134</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE II: Differential cross-sections, statistical and systematic errors of the individual points in bins of \( -(t - t_{\text{min}}) \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Estimate, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \varepsilon_{\text{BH}}/\varepsilon_{J/\psi} ) relative efficiency</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiative corrections</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCS contribution to BH</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \rho' ) contribution to BH</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE III: Contributions to the total normalization error added quadratically.

The total cross-section calculated from the SLAC data and shown in Fig. 3 of the paper is given in Table IV.

The tagged GlueX beam energy spectrum, given as an accumulated luminosity, is shown in Fig. 4. It is a result of using both, diamond (dominantly) and amorphous radiators.

In Fig. 5 the GlueX, SLAC, and Cornell results for the total cross-section are compared to the JPAC model curves for the three LHCb pentaquarks separately with branching fractions corresponding to the upper limits as estimated in the paper, when using only the errors of the individual data points.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy, GeV</th>
<th>( \sigma, \text{ nb} )</th>
<th>Error, nb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.240</td>
<td>0.472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.304</td>
<td>0.560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.312</td>
<td>0.840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.515</td>
<td>0.606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.866</td>
<td>0.543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.750</td>
<td>0.586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.389</td>
<td>0.586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>7.986</td>
<td>0.532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.667</td>
<td>0.630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE IV: Total cross-section vs beam energy calculated from \( d\sigma/dt \) (at \( t = t_{\text{min}} \)) from the SLAC data assuming dipole \( t \)-dependence, Eq.(1) \( m_0 = 1.14 \text{ GeV} \) in the paper.

FIG. 4: The tagged photon luminosity as a function of beam energy.

The results for the upper limits of the pentaquark branching fractions \( B(P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p) \) are summarized in Table V.
FIG. 5: GlueX results for the $J/\psi$ total cross-section vs beam energy, Cornell [15], and SLAC [16] data compared to the JPAC model [6] corresponding to $B(P_c^+ (4312) \rightarrow J/\psi p) = 2.9\%$, $B(P_c^+ (4440) \rightarrow J/\psi p) = 1.6\%$, and $B(P_c^+ (4457) \rightarrow J/\psi p) = 2.7\%$, for the $J^P = 3/2^-$ case as discussed in the paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$B(P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p)$ Upper Limits, $%$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{\text{max}} \times B(P_c^+ \rightarrow J/\psi p)$ Upper Limits, nb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>p.t.p. only</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_c^+ (4312)$</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_c^+ (4440)$</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_c^+ (4457)$</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE V: Summary of the estimated upper limits for the $P_c^+$ states as discussed in the paper. Separately shown are the results when using the errors of the individual data points (p.t.p.) only and the total ones that include the uncertainties in the model parameters and the overall normalization.