COMITATO NAZIONALE PER L'ENERGIA NUCLEARE
Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati

LNF - 66/31
21 Giugno 1966

G. DiGiugno, M. Giorgi, I. Peruzzi, P. Schiavon, V. Silvestrini, G. Troise and F. Vanoli : A MEASUREMENTS OF THE BRANCHING RATIO $\frac{\omega \to \text{neutrals}}{\omega \to \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0}$.

(Nota interna: n. 325)

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G. Di Giugno[x], M. Giorgi[o], I. Peruzzi[x], P. Schiavon[o], V. Silvestrini, G. Troise[x], F. Vanoli[x]: A MEASUREMENT OF THE BRANCHING RATIO $\omega \to$ neutrals/$\omega \to \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0$.

(Submitted to Nuovo Cimento for publication as a letter).

We have measured the branching ratio $\omega \to$ neutrals/$\omega \to \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0$. The experiment was performed at CERN using a counter technique. Our result is

$$\frac{\omega \to \text{neutrals}}{\omega \to \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0} = (13.4 \pm 2.6)\%$$

to be compared with the world average[1]

$$R = \frac{\omega \to \text{neutrals}}{\omega \to \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0} = (10.6 \pm 1)\%^{(+)}$$

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(o) - Istituto di Fisica dell'Università di Trieste and Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sottosezione di Trieste (Italy).
(+) - This average value comes from the following results:

$R = (10 \pm 4)\%$ [2]
$R = (10 \pm 3)\%$ [3]
$R = (17 \pm 4)\%$ [4]
$R = (11 \pm 2)\%$ [5]
$R = (8 \pm 3)\%$ [6]
$R = (13 \pm 3.5)\%$ [7]
$R = (9.7 \pm 1.6)\%$ [8]

Our measurement, performed with a completely different technique, has thus a precision which is comparable or better than most of the previous results.

Since our efficiency of detection of the neutrals modes was computed in the hypothesis that the only neutral mode is the mode $\omega \rightarrow \pi^0 + \gamma$(x), the agreement of our result with the world average can be considered a further indication[9] that the mode $\omega \rightarrow \pi^0 + \gamma$ is the dominant among the neutral decay-modes. Including our result the world average becomes

$$\frac{\omega \rightarrow \text{neutrals}}{\omega \rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0} = (10.8 \pm 0.9)\%$$

We give in the following some detail on our experimental technique and method.

The experimental arrangement (Fig. 1) is essentially the same as used by us in a previously described experiment[10]: the present results were in fact obtained during check-runs for that main experiment.

A π^- beam (momentum $P_{\pi^-} = 1.35$ GeV/c) from the CERN Protonsynchrotron is incident upon a liquid hydrogen target, 20 cm long. The beam is monitored by the counters S_1, S_2, S_3. Counter S_4 in anticoincidence monitors pions interacting in the hydrogen target.

At 30^o (the maximum angle allowed by kinematics to neutrons from reaction $\pi^- + p \rightarrow \omega + n$) there is a neutron counter C_N, 3 m from the target, 10 cm wide x 50 cm high x 15 cm thick, protected by anticoincidences (S_5 and S_6).

On the line of flight of the ω (20^o) a total absorbtion lead glass cerenkov counter C protected by an anticoincidence (S_7) detects γ-rays from the decays of the ω, in order to reduce background from other reactions.

When a coincidence between a neutron and a γ-ray occurs, we print the neutron time of flight: in addition we mark if or not the hut of counters S_8, surrounding the target, had a pulse in coincidence with the event, so that the time of flight spectra for neutral and charged decays are collected together.

In Fig. 2 the neutron time of flight spectra are shown. Fig. 2a shows spectra referring to charged decays. The unshaded spectrum ("ω-measurement") has been collected in the specified conditions, and the ω peak is visible. The shaded spectrum has been collected with the neutron counter at 31^o, and at a beam momentum of 1.3 GeV/c. In this case recoil neutrons from the reaction $\pi^- + p \rightarrow \omega + n$ cannot reach the neutron counter: it is therefore a background measurement. In Fig. 2b the difference between the unshaded and shaded spectra of Fig. 2a, in the region of interest for us, is shown, and compared with the expected shape. Figs. 2c and 2d have the same meaning as Fig. 2a and 2b, but referring now to neutral decays.

"ω - measurements" and background measurements were alternatively made, changing from one situation to the other every $\sim$ 3 hours.

(x) - The efficiency of detection of our apparatus for the mode $\omega \rightarrow \pi^0 + \pi^0 + \gamma$ is approximately 5/3 of the efficiency to detect the mode $\omega \rightarrow \pi^0 + \gamma$.

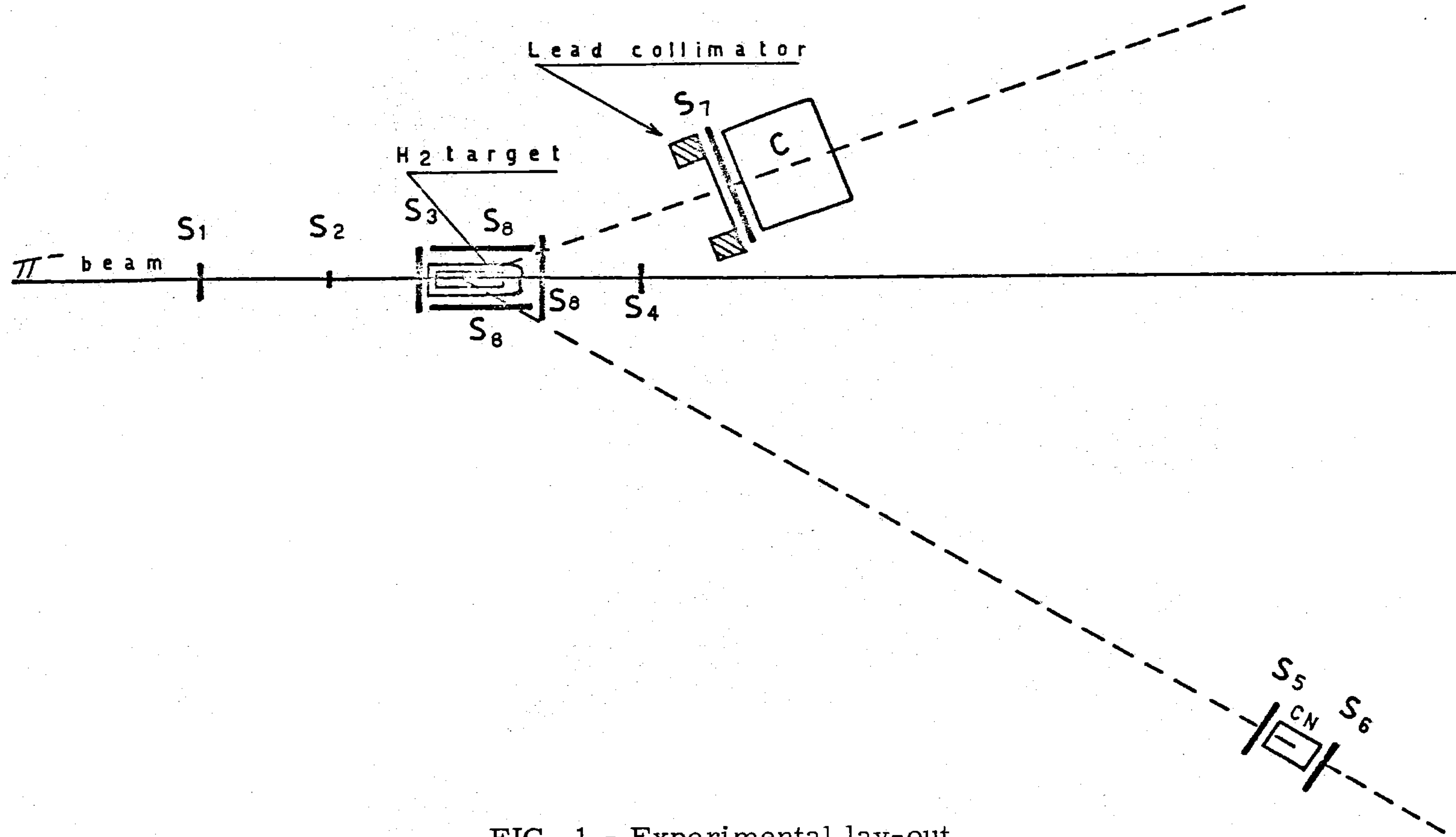

FIG. 1 - Experimental lay-out

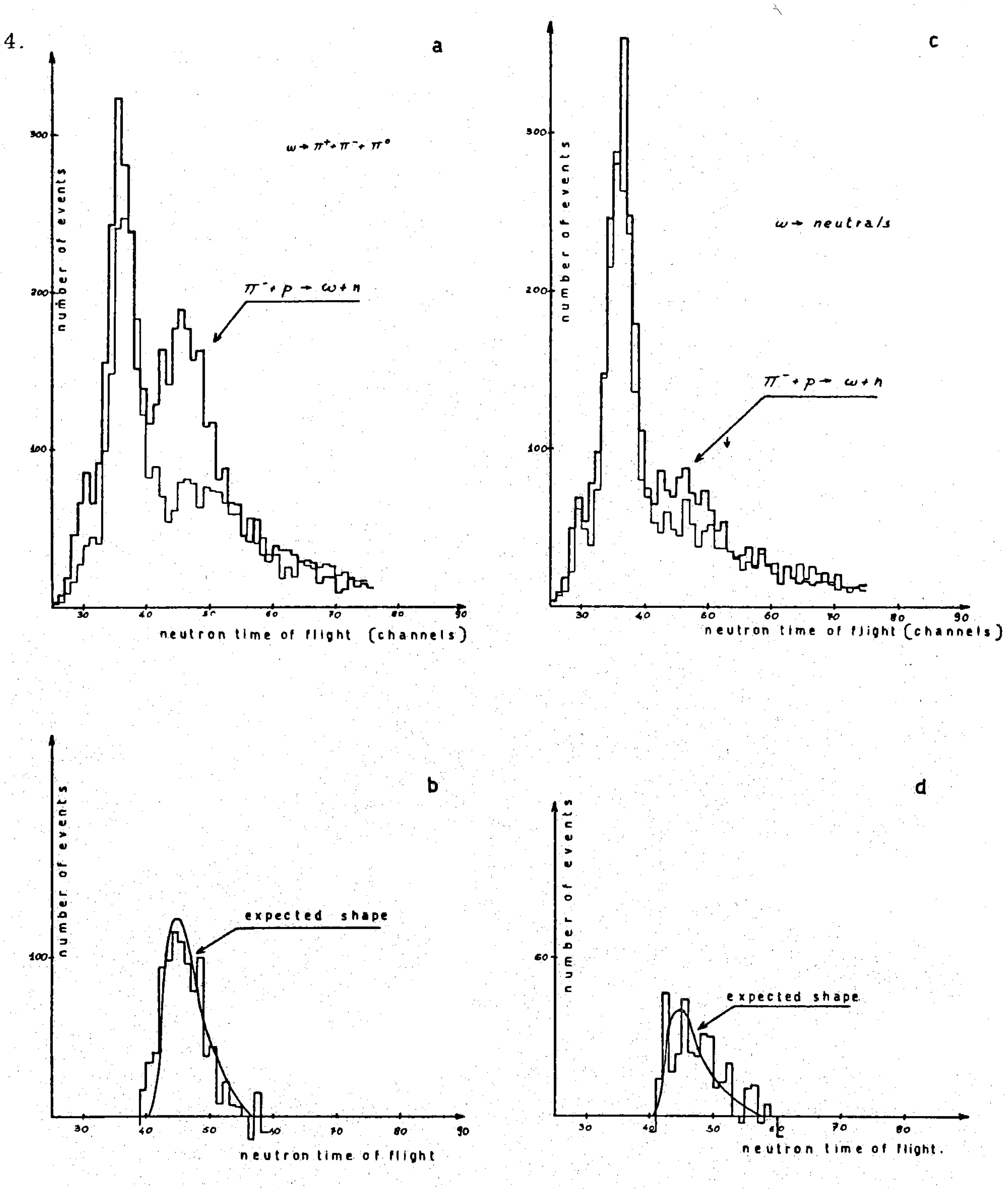

FIG. 2 - Neutron time of flight spectra.
a) Time of flight spectra of neutrons in coincidence with a γ-ray in C and least a charged particle in S_8: unshaded spectrum: "ω - measurement" (C_N at 30^o and P_{π^-} = 1. 35 GeV/c); shaded spectrum: background measurement (C_N at 31^o and P_{π^-} = 1. 3 GeV/c).
b) Difference between the unshaded and shaded spectra of fig. 2a): the experimental spectrum is compared with the expected one.
Figs. 2c) and 2d) have the same meaning as figs. 2a) and 2b), but referring now to ω's decaying into neutrals (no charged particles in S_8).

The efficiencies of our cerenkov to detect the modes $\omega \to \pi^0 + \gamma$ and $\omega \to \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0$ were computed by a Montecarlo calculation, taking into account finite dimensions of the target and counters and angular and momentum spread of the incident beam.

A possible polarization of the ω does not affect our results, since the ratio between the efficiencies of detection of the concerned decay modes would be left unchanged.

Thanks are due to prof. R. Querzoli for continous advice and help; to prof. G. Fidecaro and his group, for their stimulating interest and valuable technical assistance. Thanks are due to prof. W. Paul and P. Preiswerk for the warm hospitality at CERN and for their interest in our work.

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