# Study of the $\eta \to \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta$ decay with the Crystal Ball at MAMI-C

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#### Talk outline

- What  $\eta$  ' decays can be studied with the Crystal Ball at MAMI-C
- Study of  $\eta \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta \rightarrow 6 \gamma$
- Backgrounds to  $\gamma p \rightarrow \eta 'p \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta p \rightarrow 6 \gamma p$ :  $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^0 p \rightarrow 6 \gamma p$ (including  $\gamma p \rightarrow \Sigma^+ K^0_s \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^0 p$ ) and  $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 \eta p \rightarrow 4 \pi^0 p \rightarrow 8 \gamma p$
- Final remarks

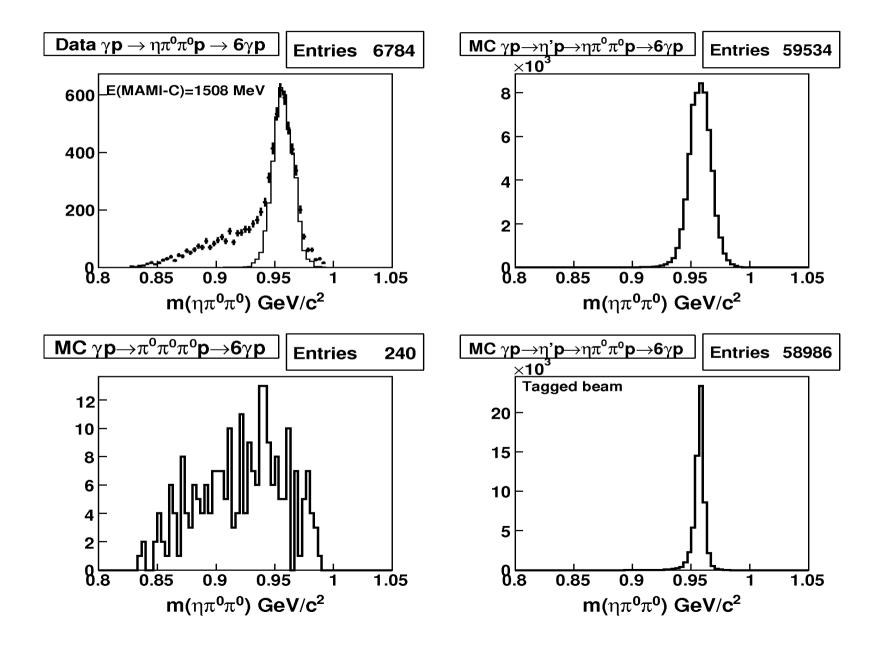
### $\eta$ ' decays with the Crystal Ball at MAMI-C

- Neutral decay modes of  $\eta$  ' are poorly known and can be studied with the CB
- $\eta \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^0$  and  $\eta \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$  decay modes with small BR have large background when  $\eta$  is produced in  $\gamma p \rightarrow \eta$  p
- Main focus is on  $\eta \to \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta \to 6\gamma$  which allows to study  $\pi \eta$  scattering

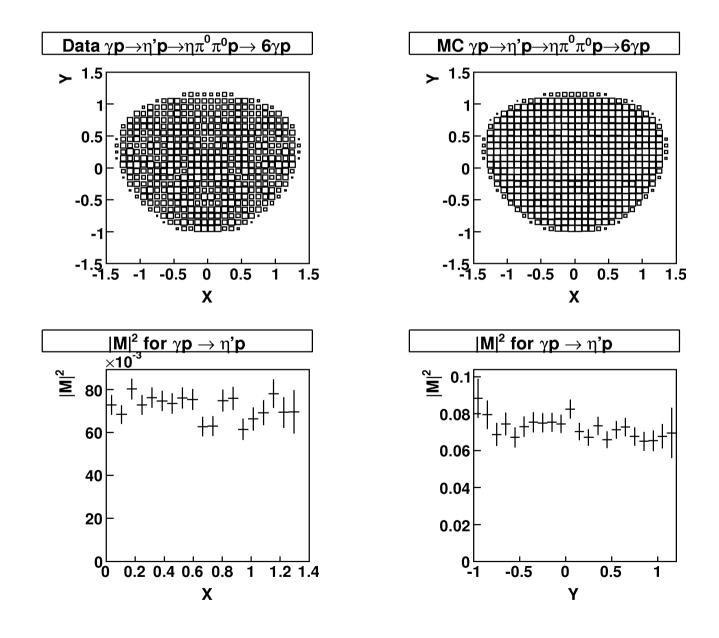
#### Selection of $\gamma p \rightarrow \eta 'p \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta p \rightarrow 6 \gamma p$ events

- Incident-photon energy is unknown as the maximum tagging energy is 1402 MeV for 1508-MeV MAMI-C beam and 1446 MeV for 1557-MeV beam; the  $\gamma$  p $\rightarrow \eta$  'p threshold is 1.45 GeV
- Detection of the recoil proton is required to improve the resolution and background suppression
- kinematic fit is used to select  $\eta \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta \rightarrow 6\gamma$  events
- background from  $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^0 p \rightarrow 6 \gamma p$  is suppressed by the comparison of the probabilities for both the hypotheses
- further suppression of  $\gamma$  p $\rightarrow \pi^0$   $\eta$  p $\rightarrow 4$   $\pi^0$ p $\rightarrow 8$   $\gamma$  p background by tightening the CL cut
- final acceptance for  $\eta \to \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta \to 6\gamma$  events is ~30%
- Rate of taking good events  $\eta \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta \rightarrow 6 \gamma / \eta \rightarrow 3 \pi^0$  is  $\sim 1/1000$  for 1508-MeV beam and  $\sim 3.5/1000$  for 1557 MeV

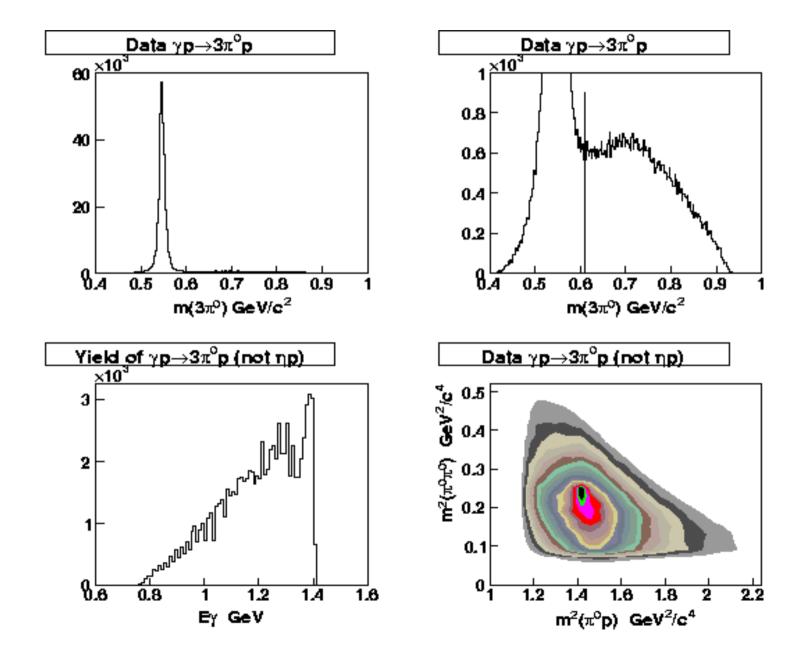
Invariant mass of  $\pi^0 \pi^0 \eta$  for  $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta p \rightarrow 6 \gamma p$  candidates for 1508-MeV beam (15% background in  $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta$ )



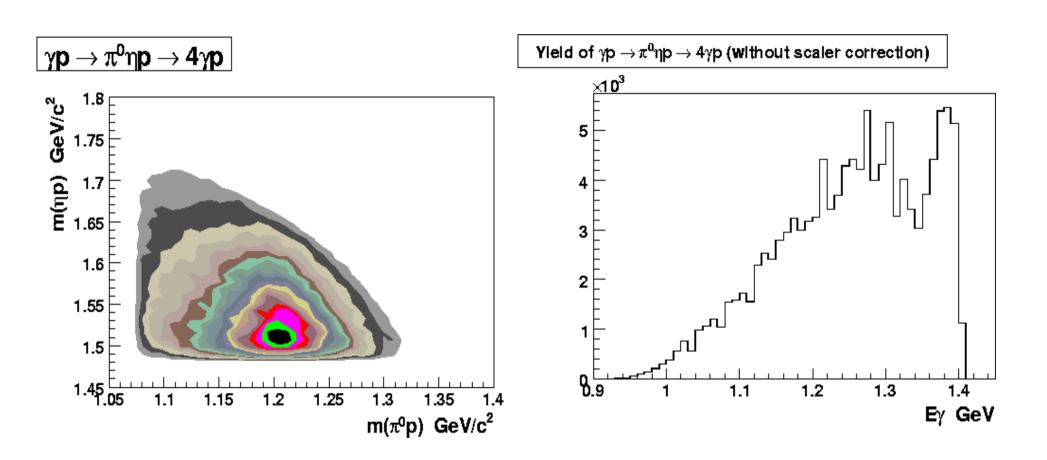
The  $\eta \to \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta$  Dalitz plot can be described by  $M^2=A(|1+\alpha Y|^2+cX^2)$ . GAMS2000:  $\alpha = -0.058\pm0.013$  and  $c=0.00\pm0.03$  based on 5K events



Process  $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^0 p \rightarrow 6 \gamma p$  contributes to the  $\eta' \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta \rightarrow 6 \gamma$  background if m( $\pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^0)$  is close to the  $\eta'$  mass



## Background process $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 \eta p \rightarrow 4 \pi^0 p$ can be understood via measuring $\gamma p \rightarrow \pi^0 \eta p \rightarrow 4 \gamma p$



#### Final remarks

- Present data-taking rate for  $\eta$  ' at MAMI-C is too small to have sufficient statistics in the  $\eta \to \pi^0 \pi^0 \eta$  Dalitz plot: ~4K events collected in 2007 with 1508-MeV beam; ~10K expected in 2009 with 1557-MeV beam
- Tagging the beam energy is needed to improve the resolution and the signal-to-background ratio