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Search for the decay $Z_c^\pm \rightarrow \rho^\pm \eta c$

A study of the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\pi^0 \eta c$ process is performed using data samples collected with the BESIII detector at center-of-mass energies $\sqrt{s} = 4.226, 4.258, 4.358, 4.416$, and 4.600 GeV . The Born cross section times branching fraction product, $\sigma_B(e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^\mp Z_c(3900)^\pm) \times B(Z_c(3900)^\pm \rightarrow \rho^\pm \eta c)$, is measured. The corresponding $B(Z_c^\pm \rightarrow \rho^\pm \eta c)/B(Z_c^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm J/\psi)$ ratio, which has been suggested as a useful quantity for distinguishing between molecular and QCD-tetraquark interpretations of the $Z_c(3900)$, is reported.

Primary author: YIN, Junhao (高能所)

Presenter: YIN, Junhao (高能所)

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