Search for $\psi(3770) \rightarrow$ charmless final states involving $\eta$ or $\pi^0$ mesons

The BES Collaboration

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Received: 1 October 2009 / Revised: 31 December 2009 / Published online: 21 January 2010
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Abstract We search for $\psi(3770) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\eta$, $\rho^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta$ and $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0$ using data samples of 17.3 and 6.5 pb$^{-1}$ integrated luminosities recorded at the center-of-mass energies of 3.773 and 3.65 GeV, respectively, by the BES-II detector operating at the BEPC collider. We obtain cross section measurements at both energies and upper limits on $\psi(3770)$ decay branching fractions to the final states studied.
1 Introduction

The $\psi(3770)$ has been thoroughly studied. It is popularly interpreted as a mixture of $D$-wave and $S$-wave of a $c\bar{c}$ bound state [1]. Since it lies just above the open charm pair $D\bar{D}$ threshold but below $DD^*$ threshold, it was thought to almost entirely decay into $D\bar{D}$ meson pairs [2]. Under the assumption that there is only one single $\psi(3770)$ resonance in the energy range from 3.70 to 3.89 GeV, the BES Collaboration measured the branching fraction for $\psi(3770) \rightarrow$ non-$D\bar{D}$ decays to be $(14.7 \pm 3.2\%)$ [3–7]. So far, however, the sum of the exclusive non-$D\bar{D}$ decay branching fractions measured by both the BES and CLEO Collaborations remains to be less than 2% [8–21]. The anomalously large branching fraction for $\psi(3770)$ not yet detected. In experiments, it is important to investigate more exclusive light hadron processes produced in $e^+e^-$ annihilation at and off the $\psi(3770)$ resonance peak. By comparing the measured cross sections at and off the $\psi(3770)$ resonance peak, one may derive some helpful information about the non-$D\bar{D}$ decays of $\psi(3770)$.

In this paper, we report experimental studies of the charmless processes $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\eta$, $\rho^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta$, and $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0$ at $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$ and 3.65 GeV.

2 The BES-II detector

BES-II is a conventional cylindrical magnetic detector [24, 25] operated at the Beijing Electron-Positron Collider (BEPC). A 12-layer vertex chamber (VC) surrounding the beryllium beam pipe provides input to the event trigger, as well as coordinate information. A forty-layer main drift chamber (MDC) located just outside the VC yields precise measurements of charged particle trajectories with a solid angle coverage of 85% of 4$\pi$; it also provides ionization energy loss ($dE/dx$) measurements which are used for particle identification. Momentum resolution of 1.7%/$\sqrt{1+p^2}$ (p in GeV/c) and $dE/dx$ resolution of 8.5% for Bhabha scattering electrons are obtained for the data taken at $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$ GeV. An array of 48 scintillation counters surrounding the MDC measures the time of flight (TOF) of charged particles with a resolution of about 180 ps for electrons. Outside the TOF, a 12 radiation length, lead-gas barrel shower counter (BSC), operating in limited streamer mode, measures the energies of electrons and photons over 80% of the total solid angle with an energy resolution of $\sigma_E/E = 0.22/\sqrt{E}$ (E in GeV) and spatial resolutions of $\sigma_\phi = 7.9$ mrad and $\sigma_\phi = 2.3$ cm for electrons. A solenoidal magnet outside the BSC provides a 0.4 T magnetic field in the central tracking region of the detector. Three double-layer muon counters instrument the magnet flux return and serve to identify muons with momentum greater than 0.5 GeV/c. They cover 68% of the total solid angle.

3 Data and Monte Carlo

The analyzed data samples correspond to 17.3 pb$^{-1}$ and 6.5 pb$^{-1}$ integrated luminosities, which were collected at $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$ and 3.65 GeV, respectively, with the BES-II detector at the BEPC collider. These data samples were taken during 2001 and 2003. Throughout this paper we denote the two data sets the $\psi(3770)$ and the continuum data, respectively.

For the determination of the detection efficiency and the estimation of the background, we generate Monte Carlo events of $e^+e^- \rightarrow$ exclusive light hadrons by using a phase space generator based on the Monte Carlo simulation for the BES-II detector [26]. The generator, which was used in previous analyses [10–15], includes initial state radiation (ISR) and photon vacuum polarization corrections [27] with 1/s cross section energy dependence. The generator also includes final state radiation [28], decreasing the detection efficiency by less than 0.5%.

4 Analysis

To select candidate events for the processes $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\eta$, $\rho^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta$, and $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0$, we reconstruct the $\pi^0$, $\eta$ and $\rho^0$ particles through the decays $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, $\eta \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, and $\rho^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$, respectively.

4.1 Criteria of event selection

For the event selection, we require that there are at least two or four charged tracks in each event. All charged tracks used in this analysis are required to be well reconstructed in the MDC with good helix fits. They are required to be within $|\cos \theta| < 0.85$, where $\theta$ is the polar angle with respect to the beam axis, and to originate from the interaction region $V_x^2 + V_y^2 < 2.0$ cm and $|V_z| < 20.0$ cm, where, $V_x$, $V_y$ and $V_z$ are the x, y and z coordinates of the point of the closest approach of the charged track relative to the beam axis. For each charged track, the combined $dE/dx$ and TOF measurements are used to calculate the $\chi^2(=\chi^2_{dE/dx}+\chi^2_{TOF})$ values and the corresponding confidence levels for the hypotheses that the particle is a pion, kaon, or proton (CL$_{\pi}$, CL$_{\bar{K}}$, CL$_{\pi}$).
Photon emission direction is less than 37°. The angle between the cluster development direction and the central track combination. Those combinations are retained if the χ^2 probability of the fit is greater than 0.01. For each process, it is likely that there are more than one combination satisfying the above selection criteria in each event. In this case we choose the combination with the largest χ^2 probability.

For the final states π^+π^−η and K^+K^−η, to veto the background events from the process ψ(3686) → J/ψη with J/ψ → μ^+μ^− or J/ψ → e^+e^−, which are produced via initial state radiative return, we require that the invariant masses of the π^+π^- and K^+K^- combinations be less than 3.0 GeV/c^2, respectively. To suppress background events from the process e^+e^- → (γ)e^+e^-, we require that the sum of the energies deposited in the BSC of the two charged tracks should be less than 1.1 GeV. To remove background events from the process e^+e^- → (γ)μ^+μ^-, we require that at least one of the two charged tracks be within |cosθ| < 0.68 and have momentum greater than 0.5 GeV/c, but it must not be identified as muon [9]. To study the process e^+e^- → ρ^0π^+π^−η, we calculate the π^+π^- invariant masses M_{π^+π^-} of the selected π^+π^-π^+π^-γγ events, with the fitted momentum vectors from the kinematic fit. The mass window of |M_{π^+π^-} − 0.7755| < 0.15 GeV/c^2 is taken as the ρ^0 signal region.

4.2 Candidate events observed from the data

The γγ invariant masses M_{γγ} of the selected π^+π^-γγ, K^+K^-γγ, p̅pγγ, π^+π^-π^+π^-γγ, K^+K^-π^+π^-γγ, p̅pπ^+π^-γγ and p̅pK^+K^-γγ candidates are calculated with the fitted momentum vectors from the kinematic fit. Figures 1 and 2 show the γγ invariant masses for the candidate events of the processes studied. Using a Gaussian function to describe the η signal and a flat background, we fit the γγ invariant mass spectra in Figs. 1(a), (a'), (c), (d), (d'), (e) and (f). From the fits, we get the observed numbers N_{obs} of events from the data.

In Fig. 1(e') [(f')], no obvious η signal is observed. There are 10 (6) events in the η signal region, and 17 (5) events...
outside the \( \eta \) signal region. By supposing that the distribution of the combinatorial \( \gamma \gamma \) background is flat, \( 5.7 \pm 1.4 \) \( (1.7 \pm 0.7) \) background events are estimated in the \( \eta \) signal region. After background subtraction, we obtain \( 4.3 \pm 3.4 \) \( (4.3 \pm 2.6) \) events for \( e^+e^- \rightarrow K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) \( (p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta) \) observed from the continuum data. In the other figures, only a few events are observed. We obtain the numbers \( N_{\text{obs}} \) of events by counting the events with \( M_{\gamma\gamma} \) in the \( \eta \) or \( \pi^0 \) signal region. The mass window of \( |M_{\gamma\gamma} - M_{\eta/\pi^0}| < 3\sigma_{M_{\eta/\pi^0}} \) is taken as the \( \eta/\pi^0 \) signal region, where \( M_{\eta/\pi^0} \) is the \( \eta/\pi^0 \) nominal mass \([7]\), \( \sigma_{M_{\eta/\pi^0}} \) is the \( \eta/\pi^0 \) mass resolution determined by the Monte Carlo simulation.

The numbers of observed events together with the expected backgrounds for all final states studied are quoted in the second and third columns of Tables 1 and 2.

4.3 Background estimation

At \( \sqrt{s} = 3.773 \) and 3.65 GeV, the exclusive light hadron processes are produced from \( e^+e^- \) annihilation continuum. However, \( J/\psi \) and \( \psi(3686) \) decays are also produced due to initial state radiative return. These decays may contaminate the exclusive light hadron processes. Due to the misidentification between charged kaon and pion, the other exclusive light hadron processes may also contaminate the processes in question. The \( \psi(3770) \) decays, including the final states of \( D\bar{D}, J/\psi\pi^+\pi^-, J/\psi\eta, J/\psi\pi^0 \) and \( \gamma\chi_{cJ}(J = 0, 1, 2) \), may also contaminate the processes under study. We estimate the number of such background events as in Refs. \([10–15]\) from the Monte Carlo simulation.

### Table 1

| Process                  | \( N_{\text{obs}} \) | \( N^b \) | \( N_{\text{net}} \) (or \( N^{\uparrow} \)) | \( \epsilon \) [%] | \( \delta_{\text{sys}} \) [%] | \( \sigma \) (or \( \sigma^{\uparrow} \)) [pb] |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| \( e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 12.5 \pm 5.1 | 0.8 \pm 0.6 | 11.7 \pm 5.1 | 11.90 \pm 0.17 | 11.5 | 14.5 \pm 6.3 \pm 1.7 |
| \( K^+K^-\eta \) | 3 | – | <7.42 | 5.68 \pm 0.11 | 8.9 | <21.1 |
| \( p\bar{p}\eta \) | 5.8 \pm 2.7 | 1.0 \pm 0.2 | 4.8 \pm 2.7 | 16.19 \pm 0.19 | 11.0 | 4.4 \pm 2.5 \pm 0.5 |
| \( \rho^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 41.8 \pm 7.6 | 0.4 \pm 0.1 | 41.4 \pm 7.6 | 4.83 \pm 0.10 | 11.5 | 126.0 \pm 23.1 \pm 14.5 |
| \( K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 18.0 \pm 6.3 | 1.9 \pm 0.6 | 16.1 \pm 6.3 | 3.76 \pm 0.09 | 12.2 | 63.0 \pm 24.6 \pm 7.7 |
| \( p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 6.9 \pm 3.3 | 0.3 \pm 0.0 | 6.6 \pm 3.3 | 6.54 \pm 0.12 | 13.0 | 14.8 \pm 7.4 \pm 1.9 |
| \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta \) | 0 | – | <2.44 | 0.88 \pm 0.03 | 12.6 | <46.6 |
| \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0 \) | 0 | – | <2.44 | 1.99 \pm 0.06 | 12.4 | <8.2 |

### Table 2

| Process                  | \( N_{\text{obs}} \) | \( N^b \) | \( N_{\text{net}} \) (or \( N^{\uparrow} \)) | \( \epsilon \) [%] | \( \delta_{\text{sys}} \) [%] | \( \sigma \) (or \( \sigma^{\uparrow} \)) [pb] |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| \( e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 8.6 \pm 3.8 | 0.2 \pm 0.2 | 8.4 \pm 3.8 | 12.96 \pm 0.17 | 10.1 | 25.4 \pm 11.5 \pm 2.6 |
| \( K^+K^-\eta \) | 0 | – | <2.44 | 6.03 \pm 0.11 | 8.9 | <17.4 |
| \( p\bar{p}\eta \) | 1 | – | <4.36 | 16.99 \pm 0.19 | 8.3 | <11.0 |
| \( \rho^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 10.7 \pm 4.1 | 0.0 \pm 0.0 | 10.7 \pm 4.1 | 4.87 \pm 0.10 | 11.5 | 86.0 \pm 32.9 \pm 9.9 |
| \( K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 4.3 \pm 3.4 | 0.3 \pm 0.3 | 4.0 \pm 3.4 | 3.99 \pm 0.09 | 13.5 | 39.2 \pm 33.3 \pm 5.3 |
| \( p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | 4.3 \pm 2.6 | 0.0 \pm 0.0 | 4.3 \pm 2.6 | 6.39 \pm 0.12 | 12.3 | 26.3 \pm 15.9 \pm 3.2 |
| \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta \) | 0 | – | <2.44 | 0.149 \pm 0.007 | 13.0 | <73.6 |
| \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0 \) | 0 | – | <2.44 | 1.59 \pm 0.04 | 12.4 | <27.3 |
(see Ref. [10] for more details). The expected background abundances, \( N^b \), are given in the third columns of Tables 1 and 2.

5 Observed cross sections

In this analysis we ignore possible interference between resonance and continuum production, and neglect the difference of the vacuum polarization corrections at \( \sqrt{s} = 3.773 \) and 3.65 GeV. The observed cross section for the process \( e^+e^- \to f \) (\( f \) denotes a exclusive light hadron final state) can be determined by

\[
\sigma_{e^+e^-\to f} = \frac{N_{\text{net}}}{\mathcal{L} \times \epsilon \times B(\eta/\pi^0 \to \gamma\gamma)},
\]

where, \( N_{\text{net}} \) is the number of signal events for \( e^+e^- \to f \), \( \mathcal{L} \) is the integrated luminosity of the data collected, \( \epsilon \) is the efficiency for detection of the exclusive process, \( B(\eta/\pi^0 \to \gamma\gamma) \) is the branching fraction for \( \eta/\pi^0 \to \gamma\gamma \).

The measured cross sections are quoted in the last columns of Tables 1 and 2, where the first error given is statistical and the second systematic. The latter error includes uncertainties in the integrated luminosity (\( \sim 2.1\% \) [4]), the photon selection (\( \sim 2.0\% \) per photon), the tracking efficiency (\( \sim 2.0\% \) per track), the particle identification (\( \sim 0.5\% \) per pion or kaon, \( \sim 2.0\% \) per proton), the kinematic fit (\( \sim 1.5\% \) [32]), the Monte Carlo statistics (\( \sim [1.1-4.7]\% \)), the background estimation (\( \sim [0-7.0]\% \)), the fit to the mass spectrum (\( \sim [0-5.8]\% \)), and the Monte Carlo modeling (\( \sim 6.0\% \) [10]).

For other processes, however, only a few events are observed in the data. We set upper limits \( \sigma_{\text{up}} \) on their observed cross sections at 90% C.L., which are also quoted in the last columns of Tables 1 and 2. In this procedure, upper limits on the observed numbers of events for these processes are set by using the Feldman-Cousins method [33] and neglecting background.

6 Upper limits on the observed cross section and the branching fraction for \( \psi(3770) \to f \)

Assuming that there are no other unknown structures and dynamics effects in addition to a single \( \psi(3770) \) between 3.70 and 3.89 GeV, we can determine the observed cross section for \( \psi(3770) \to f \) at \( \sqrt{s} = 3.773 \) GeV by

\[
\sigma_{\psi(3770)\to f} = \sigma_{e^+e^-\to f}^{3.773 \text{ GeV}} - f_s \times \sigma_{\bar{e}^+e^-\to f}^{3.65 \text{ GeV}},
\]

where, \( \sigma_{e^+e^-\to f}^{3.773 \text{ GeV}} \) and \( \sigma_{\bar{e}^+e^-\to f}^{3.65 \text{ GeV}} \) are the observed cross sections for \( e^+e^- \to f \) and \( \bar{e}^+e^- \to f \) measured at \( \sqrt{s} = 3.773 \) and 3.65 GeV, respectively; \( f_s \) is the normalization factor for 1/s dependence of the cross section. The results on the numbers of \( \sigma_{\psi(3770)\to f} \) for the final states \( \pi^+\pi^-\eta \), \( p\bar{p}\eta \), \( p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta \), \( K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) and \( p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) are summarized in the second column of Table 3, where the first error is statistical, the second (third) energy-dependent (common) systematic error. The energy-dependent systematic uncertainty is from the uncertainties in the Monte Carlo statistics, the fit to the mass spectrum and the background estimation, while the common systematic uncertainty is from other uncertainties.

For some final states, such as \( K^+K^-\eta \), \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta \) and \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0 \), no event is observed in the continuum data. Upper limit \( \sigma_{\psi(3770)\to f}^{\text{up}} \) on the observed cross section for \( \psi(3770) \to f \) is set by \( \sigma_{\text{up}} \), which is upper limit on the observed cross section for \( e^+e^- \to f \) at \( \sqrt{s} = 3.773 \) GeV set at 90% C.L. For other final states, however, \( \sigma_{\psi(3770)\to f}^{\text{up}} \) is set under the Gaussian distribution hypothesis for \( \sigma_{\psi(3770)\to f} \). These are quoted in the third column of Table 3.

| Decay mode          | \( \sigma_{\psi(3770)\to f} \) [pb] | \( \sigma_{\text{up}}^{(3770)\to f} \) [pb] | \( B_{\psi(3770)\to f}^{\text{up}} \) \( \times 10^{-3} \) |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| \( \pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | \( -9.3 \pm 12.5 \pm 1.6 \pm 0.8 \) | \( <15.8 \) | \( <2.3 \) |
| \( K^+K^-\eta \)   | \( - \)                                | \( <21.1 \) | \( <3.1 \) |
| \( p\bar{p}\eta \) | \( 4.4 \pm 2.5 \pm 0.3 \pm 0.4 \)          | \( <7.7 \)  | \( <1.1 \) |
| \( \rho^0\pi^+\pi^- \) | \( 45.5 \pm 38.5 \pm 3.3 \pm 5.1 \)     | \( <98.3 \) | \( <14.5 \) |
| \( K^+K^-\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | \( 26.3 \pm 39.7 \pm 3.0 \pm 3.0 \)  | \( <84.0 \) | \( <12.4 \) |
| \( p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta \) | \( -9.8 \pm 16.6 \pm 0.8 \pm 1.2 \) | \( <22.2 \) | \( <3.3 \) |
| \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta \) | \( - \)                                | \( <46.6 \) | \( <6.9 \) |
| \( p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0 \) | \( - \)                                | \( <8.2 \)  | \( <1.2 \) |


Acknowledgements

The BES collaboration thanks the staff of BEPC for their hard efforts. This work is supported in part by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under contract Nos. 10225524, 10225525, 10425523, 10935007, the Chinese Academy of Sciences under contract No. KJ 95T-03, the 100 Talents Program of CAS under Contract Nos. U-11, U-24, U-25, the Knowledge Innovation Project of CAS under Contract Nos. U-602, U-34 (IHEP), the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Contract No. 10225522 (Tsinghua University). This work is also supported by Young Innovation Project of CAS under Contract Nos. U-602, U-344, U-345. The observed cross section for $\psi(3770)$ production at $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$ GeV was measured to be $\sigma_{\psi(3770)}^{\text{obs}} = (7.15 \pm 0.27 \pm 0.27)$ nb [3, 10, 34] by the BES Collaboration. Upper limit on the branching fraction for $\psi(3770) \rightarrow f$ can be determined by

$$B_{\psi(3770) \rightarrow f}^{\text{up}} = \frac{\sigma_{\psi(3770) \rightarrow f}^{\text{up}}}{\sigma_{\psi(3770)}^{\text{obs}}} \times (1 - \delta),$$

which are quoted in the last column of Table 3. Here, the $\delta$ is to consider the uncertainty of the measured $\sigma_{\psi(3770)}^{\text{obs}}$.

7 Summary

By analyzing the data samples of 17.3 and 6.5 pb$^{-1}$ integrated luminosities taken at $\sqrt{s} = 3.773$ and 3.65 GeV with the BES-II detector at the BEPC collider, we derive cross sections or upper limits on cross sections for the processes $e^+e^- \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\eta$, $\rho^0\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $K^+K^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}\pi^+\pi^-\eta$, $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\eta$ and $p\bar{p}K^+K^-\pi^0$ at both energies. From these measurements, we extract upper limits on observed cross sections and branching fractions for $\psi(3770)$ decay into these final states at 90% C.L.

Acknowledgements The BES collaboration thanks the staff of BEPC for their hard efforts. This work is supported in part by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under contracts Nos. 10491300, 10225524, 10225525, 10425523, 10935007, the Chinese Academy of Sciences under contract No. KJ 95T-03, the 100 Talents Program of CAS under Contract Nos. U-11, U-24, U-25, the Knowledge Innovation Project of CAS under Contract Nos. U-602, U-34 (IHEP), the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Contract No. 10225522 (Tsinghua University). This work is also supported by Young Innovation Fund of IHEP (No. H95461E).

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