Rapidity dependence of Bose-Einstein correlations at SPS energies

S. Kniege, C. Alt, T. Anticic, B. Baatar, D. Barna, J. Bartke, L. Betev, H. Bialkowska, C. Blume, B. Boimska, M. Botje, J. Bracinik, R. Bramm, P. Bunčić, V. Cerny, P. Christakoglou, O. Chvala, J.G. Cramer, P. Csató, P. Dinkelaker, D. Flierl, Z. Fodor, P. Foka, V. Friese, J. Gál, M. Gaździcki, V. Genchev, G. Georgopoulos, E. Gładysz, K. Grebieszkow, S. Hegyi, C. Höhne, K. Kadija, A. Karev, M. Kliemant, V.I. Kolesnikov, E. Kornas, R. Korus, M. Kowalski, I. Kraus, M. Kreps, A. Laszlo, M. van Leeuwen, P. Lévai, L. Litov, B. Lungwitz, M. Makariev, A.I. Malakhov, M. Mateev, G.L. Melkumov, A. Mischke, M. Mitrovski, J. Molnár, S. Mrówczyński, V. Nicolic, G. Pálla, A.D. Panagiotou, D. Panayotov, A. Petridis, M. Pikna, D. Prindle, F. Pühlhofer, R. Renfordt, C. Roland, G. Roland, A. Rybicki, A. Sandoval, N. Schmitz, T. Schuster, P. Seyboth, F. Siklér, B. Sitarg, E. Skrzypczak, G. Stefanek, R. Stock, C. Strabel, H. Ströbele, T. Susa, I. Szentpétery, J. Sziklai, P. Szymanski, V. Trubnikov, D. Varga, M. Vassiliou, G.I. Veres, G. Vesztergombi, D. Vranić, A. Wetzler, Z. Włodarczyk, and J. Zimányi

1Fachbereich Physik der Universität, Frankfurt, Germany.
2Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Zagreb, Croatia.
3Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia.
4KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary.
5Institute of Nuclear Physics, Cracow, Poland.
6CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.
7Institute for Nuclear Studies, Warsaw, Poland.
8NIKHEF, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
9Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia.
10Department of Physics, University of Athens, Athens, Greece.
11Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.
12Nuclear Physics Laboratory, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA.
13Max-Planck-Institut für Physik, Munich, Germany.
14Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung (GSI), Darmstadt, Germany.
15Institute of Physics Świ etokrzyska Academy, Kielce, Poland.
16Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria.
17Institute for Experimental Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland.
18Fachbereich Physik der Universität, Marburg, Germany.
19Atomic Physics Department, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, Bulgaria.
20University of Houston, Houston, TX, USA.
Abstract. This article is devoted to results on $\pi^- - \pi^-$-Bose-Einstein correlations in central Pb+Pb collisions measured by the NA49 experiment at the CERN SPS. Rapidity as well as transverse momentum dependences of the correlation lengths will be shown for collisions at 20A, 30A, 40A, 80A, and 158A GeV beam energy. Only a weak energy dependence of the radii is observed at SPS energies. The $k_t$-dependence of the correlation lengths as well as the single particle $m_t$-spectra will be compared to model calculations. The rapidity dependence is analysed in a range of 2.5 units of rapidity starting at the center of mass rapidity at each beam energy. The correlation lengths measured in the longitudinally comoving system show only a weak dependence on rapidity.

Keywords: Bose-Einstein correlations, HBT
PACS: 25.75.Gz

1. INTRODUCTION

The measurement of correlations of identical bosons in heavy ion collisions provides a unique tool to investigate the space time evolution of the particle emitting source. Bose-Einstein correlations are observed as an enhancement of the yield of pairs of particles with small relative momenta. Measurements of the range and strength of the correlations in momentum space allow to derive the extension of the source in coordinate space. Due to space momentum correlations in expanding sources the correlations do not reflect the whole extensions of the source. In such a scenario, the study of the correlations in different regions of phase space helps to understand the evolution of the source. While the dependence of the correlation lengths on the mean transverse momentum $k_t = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{p}_{t,1} + \vec{p}_{t,2}|$ of the pairs reflects the transverse expansion dynamics of the source the dependence on the pair rapidity $Y = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{E_1 + E_2 + p_{z,1} + p_{z,2}}{E_1 + E_2 - p_{z,1} - p_{z,2}} \right)$, which is measured in the center of mass system, should shed light on the profile of the source in longitudinal direction. The large acceptance of the NA49 experiment allows us to obtain a comprehensive picture of the dynamical evolution of the source.

The article is organized as follows: A brief survey of the experiment, the construction of the correlation function and the fit method are presented in section 2. In section 3, crucial systematic uncertainties in the analysis due to detector effects are discussed. The results on the $k_t$- as well as the $Y$- dependence of the correlation lengths are presented in section 4 and compared to model calculations.

2. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND ANALYSIS

NA49 [1] is a fixed target experiment located at the CERN SPS comprising four large-volume Time Projection Chambers (TPC), two of which are located inside the magnetic field of two superconducting dipole magnets (Figure 1). The TPCs are read out at 90 (MTPC) and 72 (VTPC) pad rows resulting in a very good determination of the momentum of the traversing particles. A zero degree calorimeter at the downstream end of the experiment is used to trigger on the centrality of the collisions. The data presented here correspond to the 7.2% most central events for data samples taken at 20A, 30A, 40A, 80A, and 158A GeV beam energy.
FIGURE 1. NA49 detector setup.

80A, and 158A GeV beam energy. By scaling the magnetic field it was possible to obtain a similar coverage of phase space relative to the center of mass rapidity for the different beam energies. Measuring the specific energy loss $dE/dx$ of charged particles in the gas of the TPCs with a resolution of 3-4% allows particle identification. However, due to ambiguities in particle identification by specific energy loss measurements in certain regions of phase space, negative hadrons rather than identified negative pions are studied in this analysis.

The correlation function is constructed as the ratio of a distribution of the momentum difference of pairs from the same event (signal) and a mixed event background distribution (background). Following the approach of Pratt and Bertsch [2, 4] the momentum difference is decomposed into a component parallel to the beam axis $q_{long}$ and two components in the transverse plane $q_{out}$ and $q_{side}$ with $q_{out}$ defined parallel, and $q_{side}$ perpendicular to $k_t$. The correlation function is parameterised by a Gaussian function

$$C_2(q)_{BP} = 1 + \lambda \cdot \exp(-R_{out}^2 q_{out}^2 - R_{side}^2 q_{side}^2 - R_{long}^2 q_{long}^2 - 2R_{outlong}^2 q_{out} q_{long})$$

and the parameters $R_{out}$, $R_{side}$, $R_{long}$, $R_{outlong}$, and $\lambda$ are determined by a fit to the measured correlation function. The Coulomb repulsion of the particles is accounted for by weighting the theoretical Bose-Einstein correlation function $C_2(q)_{BP}$ by a factor $F(q_{inv},<r>)$ [3] in the fit procedure. The weight is determined by the invariant momentum difference $q_{inv}$ of the pair and the mean pair separation $<r>$ of the particles in the source. According to [3] this quantity can be derived from the extracted radii. We therefore determine the source parameters as well as the value of $<r>$ in an iterative fit-procedure. For following fit function was used:

$$C_2(q)_f = n \cdot (p \cdot (C_2(q)_{BP} \cdot F(q, < r >)) + (1 - p))$$

The contamination of the sample with pairs of non-identical particles and pairs of pions from long lived resonances or weak decays is accounted for by a purity factor $p$ which is determined by a VENUS/GEANT simulation. The fit parameter $n$ is introduced to account for the different statistics in signal and background distributions. Beside the uncertainties which arise due to the construction of the correlation function and the fit formalism there are further detector related effects which will be discussed in the next section.
3. SYSTEMATIC STUDIES

3.1. Two track resolution

The momentum difference of a pair is closely related to the distance of the tracks traversing the detector. Bose-Einstein correlations are restricted to a narrow window in momentum difference, hence it is crucial to understand the two track resolution of the detector. The overlap of charge clusters induced at the pad planes of the TPCs can lead to an assignment of points to the wrong track or in an extreme case to complete merging of two tracks. In this case, a pair with small relative momentum will be lost in the signal distribution and the observable Bose-Einstein enhancement will be reduced. To study the impact of the limited two track resolution on the extracted radii, the distance of the tracks was measured at each pad row where both tracks lie in the sensitive volume of the TPCs. Starting from the downstream end of the TPCs the distance of closest approach \( (d_{ca}) \) of two tracks after a given number of passed pad rows \( n_{\text{rows}} \) was determined. Pairs with a \( d_{ca} \) smaller than a given cut value \( dca_{\text{cut}} \) were rejected both from the signal and the background distribution. The impact of a variation of the two parameters \( dca_{\text{cut}} \) and \( n_{\text{rows}} \) on the correlation function is shown in Figure 2. Requiring only small values of \( dca_{\text{cut}} \) and \( n_{\text{rows}} \), tracks can approach each other very closely over a considerable part of the track length in the TPCs. In this case, track merging effects can lead to a significant loss of pairs in the signal. This effect is very pronounced at high transverse momenta and shows up in an undershoot of the projection of the correlation function onto \( q_{\text{out}} \) (Figure 2a). Increasing the cut parameters, the influence of merging effects is reduced, the undershoot of the correlation function vanishes and the extracted radii vary only by less than 0.2 fm (Figure 2b). This can serve as an estimate of the systematic error on the radii due to the specific treatment of the two track inefficiencies in this analysis.

Further systematic errors on the radii arise due to uncertainties concerning the treatment of the Coulomb interaction (which can significantly influence the parameters \( R_{\text{out}} \) and \( \lambda \)), the missing particle identification, the finite momentum resolution of the detector and

![FIGURE 2. a) Impact of two track resolution inefficiencies on the shape of the correlation function and b) fit results for \( R_{\text{out}} \) for different combinations of the cut parameters \( dca_{\text{cut}} \) and \( n_{\text{rows}} \).](image-url)
the normalisation of the correlation function. The overall systematic error on the radii is not specified for each $k_t$-$Y$-bin but estimated to be smaller than 1 fm for all extracted radii.

4. RESULTS

4.1. The $k_t$-dependence

Figure 3 presents the $k_t$-dependence of the radii at midrapidity. Radius and $\lambda$ parameters were obtained from fits of (2) to the correlation function in bins of $Y$ and $k_t$. Since the influence of the finite momentum resolution was found to be small, no corrections were applied for this effect. The bin width in $k_t$ was chosen to be 0.1 GeV/c and increased to 0.2 GeV/c for the last bin ((0.4-0.6) GeV/c) to obtain sufficient statistics at all energies. A strong decrease of $R_{\text{long}}$ with $k_t$ is observed. $R_{\text{out}}$ is slightly larger than $R_{\text{side}}$ for all energies indicating a finite duration of particle emission [4]. Also shown in this picture is a fit of the $k_t$-dependence of the radii according to a blast wave parameterisation [5] of the source. In this model the source is treated as boost invariant in the longitudinal direction. In the transverse direction a box-shaped density profile and a linearly increasing flow profile is assumed. Space momentum correlations induced by flow reduce the measured correlation lengths. This effect is partly compensated in case of a superimposed thermal velocity field. Therefore ambiguities arise in the two model parameters temperature and flow, which can not be resolved by only analysing the $k_t$-dependence of the radii. To resolve these ambiguities the single particle $p_t$-spectra of protons and negatively charged pions measured by NA49 were fitted to a parameterisation derived from the same model. The lines in Figure 3 correspond to a combined fit to the radii and the particle $p_t$-spectra. As expected from the weak energy dependence of the radii only small variations of the extracted source parameters were observed. The extracted parameters were the temperature $T$, the maximum transverse flow rapidity $\rho$, the transverse geometrical radius $R$, the emission time $\tau$ and the emission duration $\Delta\tau$. The fit results are inserted in Figure 3. The temperature $T$ slightly increases with the beam energy, transverse flow and geometrical radius stay approximately constant over the observed energy range. For the emission time we obtain values of 5.4 to 6.8 fm/c. The fit slightly overpredicts $R_{\text{side}}$ at high $k_t$ but still results in a finite emission duration of 2.2-3.2 fm/c. The fit might be further constrained by adding more particle spectra or by including contributions from resonance decays in the model.

4.2. $Y$-dependence

The model described in section 4.1 is only applicable in case of a longitudinally boost invariant source. Under such conditions it is expected that the cross term $R_{\text{outlong}}$ vanishes [6]. Considering the systematic error of 1 fm this condition is fulfilled to good approximation at midrapidity. In Figure 4 the rapidity dependence of $R_{\text{long}}$, $R_{\text{side}}$, $R_{\text{out}}$, and $R_{\text{outlong}}$ is shown at $k_t$=(0.0-0.1) GeV/c for the different beam energies. In [7] the impact of a non-boost invariant expansion on the parameter $R_{\text{outlong}}$ is studied.
An increase of $R_{outlong}$ with increasing rapidity is predicted due to the decrease of the inclusive pion yields and is in agreement with the results for all energies. However a change in the longitudinal expansion dynamics which is indicated by the change in $R_{outlong}$ is not reflected in the rapidity dependence of the other observables. $R_{side}$, which is supposed to determine the geometrical size of the source [8] does not change significantly with rapidity. $R_{out}$ is approximately constant over the investigated rapidity region. Only slight changes in $R_{long}$ are observed. These are even less pronounced at higher transverse momenta.

In summary, a distinct energy dependence of the radii is not observed even though there is a dramatic change in the energy dependence of other hadronic observables like e.g. the kaon to pion ratio [9]. Furthermore the radii do not show a pronounced rapidity dependence, in contrast to the particle yields which decrease strongly with rapidity.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This work was supported by the US Department of Energy Grant DE-FG03-97ER41020/A000, the Bundesministerium fur Bildung und Forschung, Germany, the Virtual Institute VI-146 of Helmholtz Gemeinschaft, Germany, the Polish State Committee for Scientific Research (1 P03B 097 29, 1 PO3B 121 29, 2 P03B 04123), the
Hungarian Scientific Research Foundation (T032648, T032293, T043514), the Hungarian National Science Foundation, OTKA, (F034707), the Polish-German Foundation, the Korea Research Foundation Grant (KRF-2003-070-C00015) and the Bulgarian National Science Fund (Ph-09/05).