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G. Barbiellini, F. Ceradini, M. L. Ferrer, S. Orito, L. Paoluzi,  
R. Santonico and T. Tsuru: MULTI-HADRONS PRODUCTION  
THROUGH THE PHOTON-PHOTON INTERACTION.

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R. Santonico<sup>(x)</sup> and T. Tsuru: MULTI-HADRONS PRODUCTION THROUGH  
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ABSTRACT. -

The process  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$  multi-hadrons has been investigated in the Frascati electron positron storage ring Adone, via the reaction  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- mh$ , where  $m > 2$  is the number of hadrons  $h$  in the final state. The equivalent mass of the hadronic system has been measured with two counters tagging the final state electrons.

One event was observed in the  $\eta'$  mass region; depending on the evaluation of non resonant contribution of  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow mh$ , the value of  $\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} = 11_{-6}^{+8}$  keV or alternatively an upper limit  $\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} \leq 33$  keV with 95% confidence level is obtained.

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The reaction  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- X$ , where  $X$  is an hadronic system, provides a powerful method to study the coupling of the  $C=+1$  mesonic states with two photons. In particular if the hadronic system is a resonance  $R$  of mass  $M$  and spin  $J$  its decay width in two gammas  $\Gamma_{R \rightarrow \gamma\gamma}$  can be obtained by measuring the cross section  $\sigma$  of the process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- R$  that in the equivalent photon approximation<sup>(1, 2, 3)</sup> is given by the equation

$$(1) \quad \sigma = \frac{8(2J+1)}{M^3} \alpha^2 \Gamma_{R \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} f(E)$$

In this relationship  $\alpha$  is the fine structure constant and the function  $f(E)$  takes into account the virtual photons energy spectrum at the energy  $E$  of the colliding beams.

In this paper, we study the interaction  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$  multihadrons through the process

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- mh$$

The experiment was performed with Adone, the Frascati  $e^+, e^-$  storage ring. The experimental set-up is shown schematically in Fig. 1. It consists of two tagging systems<sup>(4)</sup>  $T_+$  and  $T_-$  used to detect the outgoing forward emitted  $e^+$  and  $e^-$ , and of two wide angle telescopes, forming the "main apparatus"<sup>(5)</sup>, used here to detect the particles produced in the photon-photon collisions.  $T_{+(-)}$  consists of two plastic scintillators whose geometrical acceptance is approximately 50% for the scattered  $e^{\pm}$  with momentum in the interval  $(0.2 E - 0.85 E)$ . The tagging technique adopted<sup>(4)</sup> utilizes the machine bending magnets as momentum analyzers, correlating the momentum  $p_e$  of the detected  $e^{+(-)}$  with the impact point in  $T_{+(-)}$ . Typical momentum resolution is  $\Delta p_e \approx 60$  MeV.

The relevant part of the wide angle detector<sup>(5)</sup> as shown in Fig. 2, consists essentially of two counter and optical chamber telescopes covering a solid angle of about  $0.25 \times 4\pi$ . In addition six scintillation counters, three above ( $A_i$ ) and three below the vacuum chamber ( $B_i$ ), increase

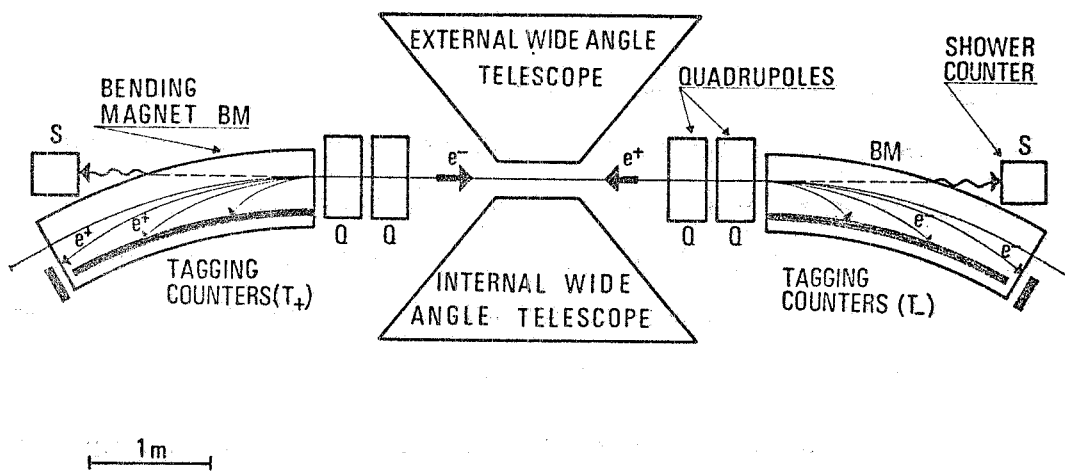


FIG. 1

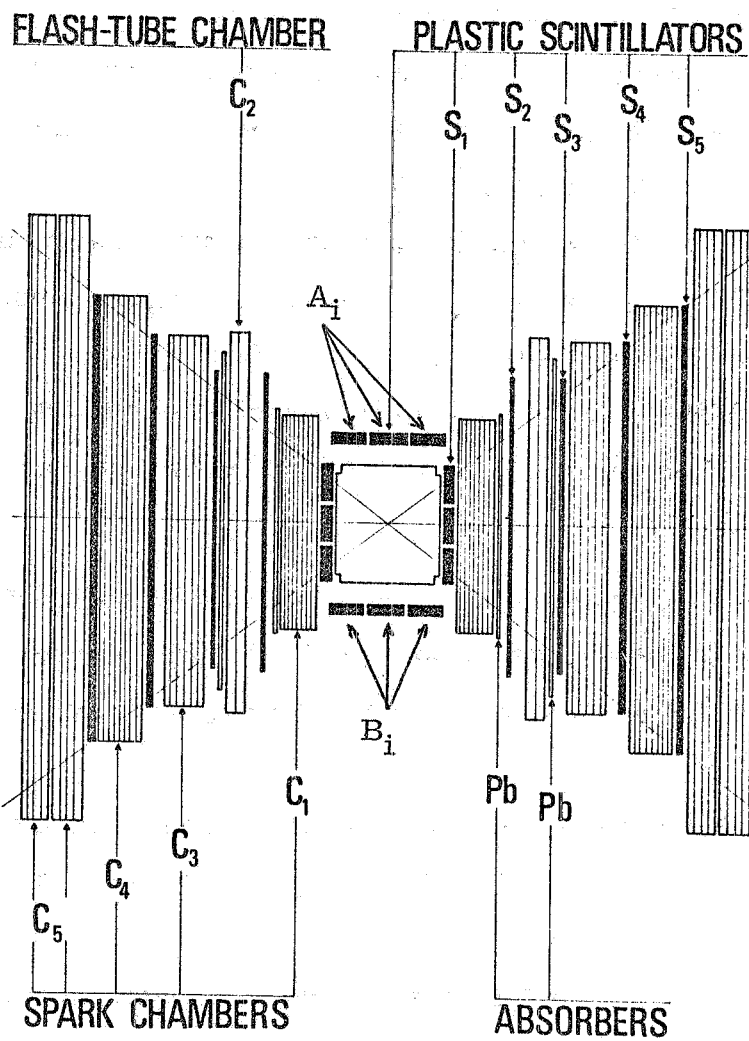


FIG. 2

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the solid angle covered to about  $0.5 \times 4\pi$ .

Finally two shower detectors<sup>(6)</sup>, S, are used to veto the real photons from beam-beam and beam-gas bremsstrahlung.

Runs were carried out at beam energies  $E = 1.3, 1.4$  and  $1.5$  GeV for a total integrated luminosity  $\int L dt = 350 \text{ nb}^{-1}$ . The chambers were triggered by a master coincidence requiring:

1) A 5-fold coincidence among the counters of the main apparatus, which implied a minimum penetration of  $10 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$  of iron equivalent in one telescope and  $22 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$  in the other;

2) coincident pulses in both tagging systems,  $T_+$  and  $T_-$ ;

3) time coincidence with the instant of beam-beam collision.

The events candidates for process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- mh$  are required, in addition, to fulfil the following criteria:

4) at least two tracks, one in each telescope, converging within  $\pm 3 \text{ cm}$  at a common origin in the  $e^+e^-$  interaction region, must be found in the thin-foil "kinematical" spark chambers C1;

5) for two-track events the non-coplanarity angle  $\Delta\varphi$ , defined as the angle between two planes containing the beam and each of the tracks, must be  $\Delta\varphi > 8^\circ$ .

Only two events passed the criteria 1)...5), one with  $M = 800 \text{ MeV}$  and the other with  $M = 1400 \text{ MeV}$ , where  $M$  is the two interacting photons equivalent mass, which is measured by the tagging system with a typical accuracy  $\Delta M = \pm 90 \text{ MeV}$ .

The event with  $M = 800 \text{ MeV}$  exhibits two tracks with  $\Delta\varphi = 30^\circ$  and a pulse from one of the three counters  $A_i$ . The event with  $M = 1400 \text{ MeV}$  shows two tracks with  $\Delta\varphi = 24^\circ$ .

The background simulating these events is negligible for the following reasons.

a) The events due to beam-gas interaction give signals in at most

one tagging counter. These events are rejected by the condition 2. Events due to accidental double tagging give a negligible background, as estimated from the rate of the tagging counters. No event satisfying requirements 1...5 has been found during the runs with separated beams.

b) No background is expected from the processes  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$  two bodies, such as  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$  or  $\pi^+\pi^-$  or  $e^+e^-$ , because the double tagging at forward angle implies  $\Delta\varphi \leq 5^\circ$  for two-body events<sup>(7)</sup>.

Therefore the two selected events provide evidence for the process  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$  multihadrons.

The event with the equivalent mass of the hadronic system  $M = 800$  MeV is compatible within the uncertainty in the mass determination with the hypothesis that it is originated from the process

$$(2) \quad e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\eta'$$

Contributions to this event, due to other known resonances are excluded because these have either a much smaller wide angle detection efficiency or a mass value far away from the detected one. The contribution of the non resonant production cannot be excluded because of the uncertainty on the value of the cross section.

The detection efficiency for the process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\eta'$  has been calculated by a Montecarlo simulation of the experiment based on the equivalent photon approximation. The validity of this approximation has been checked in a previous experiment<sup>(7)</sup> in which the processes  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-e^+e^-$  and  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$  were investigated.

In Table I are shown the calculated experimental efficiencies for the apparatus to detect the relevant decay modes of the  $\eta'$ .

The total efficiency of the experimental apparatus to detect the  $\eta'$  is  $\varepsilon = \sum B_i \varepsilon_i = (0.53 \pm 0.03)\%$ . The calculated value of the cross section of the process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\eta'$  properly averaged over the different energies involved in the experiment is  $\sigma = 4.8 \cdot 10^{-35} \Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ KeV}^{-1(3)}$ . If the multi-hadron event with  $M = (800 \pm 90 \text{ MeV})$  is interpreted as an  $\eta'$

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production, the  $\gamma\gamma$  decay width of the  $\eta'$  is  $\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} = (11 \pm_{-8}^{+15})$  KeV; if the event is coming from a non resonant contribution of  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow m\pi$  the upper limit of  $\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma}$  is 33 KeV with 95% confidence level.

TABLE I

$\eta'$ Decay-channels (i)	Branching ratio $B_i$	Efficiency $\varepsilon_i$
$\pi^+ \pi^- \gamma$	26%	$(1.45 \pm 0.07)\%$
$\pi\pi\eta \rightarrow 2\pi^+ 2\pi^- + \text{neutral}$	14%	$(0.89 \pm 0.06)\%$
$\pi\pi\eta \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- + \text{neutral}$	41%	$(0.06 \pm 0.01)\%$

The total width obtained through the known branching ratio<sup>(8)</sup> is respectively

$$\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \text{all}} = (0.6 \pm_{-0.4}^{+0.8}) \text{ MeV}.$$

$$\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \text{all}} \leq 1.8 \text{ MeV}$$

The value of  $\Gamma_{\eta'}$  is in agreement with the recent experimental determination<sup>(9)</sup> and with the theoretical estimate<sup>(10)</sup>. The analysis of the event with  $M = 1400$  MeV could be carried out in a similar way. However, the interpretation of this event as due to a high-mass resonance decay, is made more complicate by the number of resonances that in a mass interval around  $M = 1400$  MeV as large as the experimental mass resolution.

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