The production of neutral kaons in Z⁰ decays and their Bose-Einstein correlations

The OPAL Collaboration

Abstract

The production of neutral kaons in e⁺e⁻ annihilation at centre-of-mass energies in the region of the Z⁰ mass and their Bose-Einstein correlations are investigated with the OPAL detector at LEP. A total of about 1.25 × 10⁶ Z⁰ hadronic decay events are used in the analysis. The production rate of K⁰ mesons is found to be 1.99 ± 0.01 ± 0.04 per hadronic event, where the first error is statistical and the second systematic. Both the rate and the differential cross section for K⁰ production are compared to the predictions of Monte Carlo generators. This comparison indicates that the fragmentation is too soft in both Jetset and Herwig. Bose-Einstein correlations in K_S⁰K_S⁰ pairs are measured through the quantity Q, the four momentum difference of the pair. A threshold enhancement is observed in K_S⁰K_S⁰ pairs originating from a mixed sample of K⁰K⁰ and K⁰K⁰ (K_S⁺K_S⁻) pairs. For the strength of the effect and for the radius of the emitting source we find values of λ = 1.14 ± 0.23 ± 0.32 and R₀ = (0.76 ± 0.10 ± 0.11) fm respectively. The first error is statistical and the second systematic.

To be submitted to Z. Phys. C...

1 School of Physics and Space Research, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK
2 Dipartimento di Fisica dell’ Università di Bologna and INFN, I-40126 Bologna, Italy
3 Physikalisches Institut, Universität Bonn, D-53115 Bonn, Germany
4 Department of Physics, University of California, Riverside CA 92521, USA
5 Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge CB3 0HE, UK
6 Carleton University, Department of Physics, Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada
7 Centre for Research in Particle Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada
8 CERN, European Organisation for Particle Physics, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland
9 Enrico Fermi Institute and Department of Physics, University of Chicago, Chicago IL 60637, USA
10 Fakultät für Physik, Albert Ludwigs Universität, D-79104 Freiburg, Germany
11 Physikalisches Institut, Universität Heidelberg, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany
12 Indiana University, Department of Physics, Swain Hall West 117, Bloomington IN 47405, USA
13 Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, London E1 4NS, UK
14 University College London, London WC1E 6BT, UK
15 Department of Physics, Schuster Laboratory, The University, Manchester M13 9PL, UK
16 Department of Physics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA
17 Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada
18 University of Oregon, Department of Physics, Eugene OR 97403, USA
19 Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0QX, UK
20 CEA, DAPNIA/SPP, CE-Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France
21 Department of Physics, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa 32000, Israel
22 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel
23 International Centre for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, University of Tokyo, Tokyo 113, and Kobe University, Kobe 657, Japan
24 Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH, UK
25 Particle Physics Department, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel
26 Universität Hamburg/DESY, II Institut für Experimental Physik, Notkestrasse 85, D-22607 Hamburg, Germany
27 University of Victoria, Department of Physics, P O Box 3055, Victoria BC V8W 3P6, Canada
28 University of British Columbia, Department of Physics, Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1, Canada
29 University of Alberta, Department of Physics, Edmonton AB T6G 2J1, Canada
30 Duke University, Dept of Physics, Durham, NC 27708-0305, USA
Technische Hochschule Aachen, III Physikalisches Institut, Sommerfeldstrasse 26-28, D-52056 Aachen, Germany

\(^a\) Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver, Canada V6T 2A3
\(^b\) Royal Society University Research Fellow
1 Introduction

The production of hadrons in the decay of the $Z^0$ gauge boson involves the fragmentation stage, that is, the transition of coloured partons into colourless hadrons. No theoretical description exists yet for this process. Instead, a variety of phenomenological models has been developed. At the $Z^0$ energies the two most successful models are the string fragmentation model, incorporated in the Jetset program [1], and the cluster fragmentation scheme that is part of the Herwig program [2]. Both programs were developed for centre-of-mass energies from 10 GeV to about 40 GeV and were tested extensively there [3]. More recently these programs have also been tuned, individually by each LEP experiment, to accommodate various inclusive features of the hadronic decays of the $Z^0$. Details of this procedure for the OPAL experiment are given in Ref. [4]. The study of the production and correlations of strange particles has been, and is, an important tool in the tests of the fragmentation models because these particles can be identified with high purity and large statistics over a wide momentum range. Since LEP came into operation, strange particle production, in particular inclusive $K^0$ production, has been studied in $Z^0$ decays by all four LEP collaborations [5, 6, 7, 8].

In addition to the single inclusive hadron properties it is also of interest to study the correlated production of two hadrons, in particular the so called Bose-Einstein Correlations (BEC). These have been investigated in pairs of identical pions over a wide energy range and for many different initial state reactions [9]. In contrast to that only few studies were reported on the BEC in charged and neutral kaon pairs in hadronic collisions [10, 11, 12, 13] and in $e^+e^-$ annihilation at LEP [7, 14, 15].

In this paper we update with higher statistics two previous OPAL publications on the production of single $K_S^0$ and $K_L^0$-pairs. The current analysis is based on $1.25 \times 10^6$ hadronic $Z^0$ decays recorded with the OPAL detector at LEP in 1990–92 as compared to the former paper on $K^0$ production [5] which used the data collected in 1990 (140 000 hadronic $Z^0$ decays) and the study of $K_S^0K_S^0$ correlations [14] that used 750 000 events collected in 1990–1991.

The OPAL detector and the selection of the $K_S^0$ mesons are described in Section 2. We present in Section 3 the measurement of the $K^0$ rate and its differential cross section. In the same section we also relate our results to the predictions of fragmentation models and to previous studies of $K^0$ and $K^\pm$ production in $Z^0$ decays. Section 4 is devoted to a discussion of Bose-Einstein Correlations in the $K_S^0K_S^0$ system and describes both the method and the experimental results. These findings are further compared to former analyses of BEC in charged and neutral kaon pairs. Finally, a summary and conclusions are presented in Section 5.

2 OPAL detector and data selection

2.1 The OPAL detector

The OPAL detector is designed to measure outgoing particles coming from $e^+e^-$ annihilation at high energies. Details concerning the OPAL detector and its performance are given elsewhere [16]. Here we will describe briefly only those detector elements pertinent to the present analysis, namely the central tracking chambers.

These consist of a precision vertex detector, a large jet chamber and additional $z$-chambers surrounding the jet chamber. The vertex detector, a 1 m long cylindrical drift chamber of 470 mm diameter, surrounds the beam pipe and consists of an inner layer of 36 cells each
with 12 sense wires and an outer layer of 36 small angle (4°) stereo cells each with 6 sense wires. The jet chamber has a length of 4 m and a diameter of 3.7 m. It is divided into 24 sectors, each equipped with 159 sense wires ensuring a large number of measured points even for particles emerging from a secondary vertex. The z-chambers consist of 24 drift chambers, 4 m long, 50 cm wide and 59 mm thick. They are subdivided into 8 cells each with 6 sense wires perpendicular to those of the jet chamber and provide a precise measurement of the z coordinate along the beam direction\(^1\). They cover polar angles from 44° to 136° and 94% of the azimuthal angular range. All the chambers are contained in a solenoid providing an axial magnetic field of 0.435 T. The combination of these chambers leads to a momentum resolution of \(\sigma_{pt}/pt \approx \sqrt{0.02^2 + (0.0015 \cdot pt)^2}\) (\(pt\) is the transverse momentum with respect to the beam direction in GeV/c), where the first term represents the contribution from multiple scattering [18].

### 2.2 Data selection

The present study was carried out with an integrated luminosity of about 45.9 pb\(^{-1}\) collected from 1990 to 1992 at center-of-mass energies on and around the \(Z^0\) mass. The criteria used to select hadronic \(Z^0\) decays were based on the energy deposited in the electromagnetic calorimeter and the charged multiplicity in the tracking chambers and were described previously in Ref. [17]. The selection accepts \((98.4 \pm 0.4)\%\) of the multihadronic events while the remaining background, such as \(e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-\), is estimated to be at the level of less than 0.2%. In addition, we have accepted only multi-hadron events recorded while the jet and z-chambers were fully operational. After this selection 1 258 785 hadronic \(Z^0\) decay events remained for the analysis.

\(K^0_S\) selection

The method for selecting \(K^0_S\) decays into \(\pi^+\pi^-\) was slightly modified with respect to Refs. [5] and [14]. It started by systematically pairing tracks of opposite charge. These tracks had to fulfil the following conditions:

- a minimum transverse momentum of 150 MeV/c with respect to the beam direction;
- either more than 40 jet chamber hits or more than 25% of the geometrically possible jet chamber hits (but at least 20 hits);
- more than 3 z-chamber hits or a reconstructed end point inside the jet chamber, determined by using the last wire with a hit [18].

The latter requirement ensured a good mass resolution by improving the measurement of the polar angle.

Intersection points of track pairs in the plane perpendicular to the beam axis were considered to be secondary vertex candidates. Additional cuts were then imposed on them.

- The radial distance from the intersection point to the primary vertex had to be larger than 1 cm and smaller than 150 cm;

\(^1\)A right-handed coordinate system is adopted by OPAL, where the x axis points to the centre of the LEP ring, and positive z is along the electron beam direction. The angles \(\theta\) and \(\phi\) are the polar and azimuthal angles, respectively.
• the reconstructed momentum vector of the K⁰⁰ candidate in the plane perpendicular to
the beam axis had to point to the beam axis within 2°;

• if the secondary vertex was reconstructed inside the jet-chamber volume, the radius of
the first jet-chamber hit associated with either of the two tracks had to be less than 3 cm
from the secondary vertex;

• if the secondary vertex was not reconstructed inside the jet-chamber volume, the radial
distance of the charged track to the beam axis at the point of closest approach was
required to exceed 3 mm;

• all track-pairs which passed these cuts were refitted in 3 dimensions with the constraint
that they originate from a common vertex;

• pairs with an invariant mass of less than 100 MeV/c², when assuming both tracks to be
electrons, were taken to be from photon conversions and were rejected;

• pairs with an invariant mass of less than 1125 MeV/c², when assuming the higher mo-
mentum track to be a proton (antiproton) and the lower momentum track to be a pion,
were taken to be Λ → pπ⁻ (Λ → pπ⁺) decays and were rejected.

In the case where both intersections of the track pair passed these cuts, the one closer to the
beam axis was taken.

The mass distribution of the reconstructed K⁰⁰ decays is shown in Fig. 1 assuming both
tracks to be pions. To determine the K⁰-parameters, mass and width, the distribution was fitted
with a Gaussian shape plus a polynomial expression for the background (not shown in Fig. 1).
The measured K⁰ mass value obtained was (497.1 ± 0.1) MeV/c², in reasonable agreement²
with the world average of (497.672 ±0.031) MeV/c² [19]. The width obtained, σ = (7.2 ± 0.1)
MeV/c², corresponds to our experimental mass resolution. The peak contains 182186 ± 521
K⁰. All errors are statistical only.

3 K⁰ production

3.1 Experimental procedure

In order to extract the number of K⁰ so as to determine the K⁰ cross section, it is
necessary to estimate the amount of background under the signal peak and to correct for the
detection efficiency. The signal was divided into 20 bins of the scaled energy xₑ (defined as
xₑ = 2 · E_K⁰/√s, where √s is the centre-of-mass energy) in the range 0.0114 ≤ xₑ ≤ 0.8. No
significant K⁰ signal is observed outside this xₑ range. As an example, four of the 20 bins are
shown in Fig. 2. In order to determine the background under the K⁰ signal, polynomial fits
to the mass spectrum were performed in each bin with the signal region (see below) excluded.
To determine the number of K⁰ per bin, the entries in the mass range from 450 MeV/c² to 550
MeV/c² (or from 400 MeV/c² to 600 MeV/c² for K⁰ momentum larger than 5.7 GeV/c) were
summed up and the background obtained from the fitted polynomial function was subtracted.

²The difference between the measured K⁰ mass and the world average can be accounted for by the uncertainty
in the mean value of the OPAL magnetic field and in the energy loss of the pions in the detector material.
This was followed by an efficiency correction performed separately in each $x_E$ bin. The detection efficiency was defined as

$$\epsilon = \frac{N_{\text{reconstructed}}^{K^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-}}{N_{\text{generated}}^{K^0 \to \pi^+ \pi^-}}.$$  

The efficiency was calculated using a sample of 1 million JETSET events$^3$ that were passed through a detailed simulation [20] of the OPAL detector and subjected to the same analysis chain as the real data. The detection efficiency is shown in Fig. 3 as a function of $x_E$. It shows a maximum of 27% at $x_E$ of about 0.1. At high $x_E$, the efficiency is limited by the requirement of 40 jet chamber hits which cannot be met by $K^0_S$ decaying too far from the beam axis. Apart from the track cut at small transverse momentum, the decrease at low $x_E$ is mainly due to the cut on the radial distance from the $K^0_S$ decay point to the primary vertex.

After correcting the data for the unobserved decay into $\pi^0\pi^0$ and for $K^0_L$ production, the differential cross section $(1/\sigma_{\text{had}})(d\sigma/dx_E)$ for $K^0$ production$^4$ was obtained as a function of $x_E$ and is shown in Fig. 4a and Table 1. To determine the total $K^0$ rate, the momentum spectrum was integrated and JETSET was used to extrapolate over the unobserved momentum region. The last contribution was estimated to be 0.4% of the total rate. The corrected rate was found to be $1.990 \pm 0.006 \text{ (stat.)} \ K^0$ per hadronic event in agreement with our previously published value of $2.10 \pm 0.02 \pm 0.14$ [5].

### 3.2 Systematic errors

In the study of the systematic error we distinguish between the systematic error of the overall normalization, that affects only the measurement of the $K^0$ rate, and a “bin-by-bin” error. This latter error quantifies the uncertainty in the shape of the differential cross section by defining a band around the measured points through a common systematic error. Within this band the shape may be distorted while retaining the measured $K^0$ rate. As sources of systematic error we consider the following contributions (shown in Table 2):

1. To estimate the systematic uncertainty arising from resolution differences between our data and the detector simulation, the $K^0_S$ selection cuts were varied. We determined the resulting error to be 0.9% on the $K^0$ rate and 2.9% bin-by-bin.

2. The uncertainty in the background subtraction described above was determined by varying the fit range and the mass range. Also, instead of a polynomial fit, a sideband method was used to calculate the background under the signal. The result was reproduced within $1.8\%$ of the total rate and within $2.9\%$ in each bin.

3. A relative uncertainty of $10\%$ was attributed to the extrapolation over the unobserved momentum region due to differences in the predictions of JETSET and HERWIG.

4. The statistical error of the efficiency calculation results in a systematic uncertainty of the rate of $0.2\%$.

---

$^3$The fragmentation parameters of the JETSET and HERWIG programs were tuned to describe the global event shapes as measured by OPAL [4]. Whenever referring to the generators throughout this paper, these tuned versions were used.

$^4$Both particle and antiparticle state are implied.
5. A source of possible systematic errors on the detection efficiency arises from the choice of the fragmentation model. For this study only events generated with the Jetset program were accessible in sufficient numbers. We can, however, get a rough estimate of the expected systematic error from a Herwig sample of 480000 events. The detection efficiency calculated from Herwig events shows a relative difference of 3% with respect to the one calculated using Jetset. This difference is not $x_F$ dependent. This study shows (see below) that the $K^0$ energy spectrum predicted by Herwig is clearly too soft. Previous studies demonstrated that Herwig failed to describe particle correlations [21], in particular the correlated production of strange particles [14, 22], in OPAL data. Therefore, we do not include this error in our quoted systematic uncertainty of the $K^0$ rate.

After adding the contribution from 1 to 5 in quadrature the resulting systematic uncertainties were found to be 2.0% on the integrated $K^0$ rate and 4.1% bin–by–bin (a momentum dependent bin–by–bin statistical error on the efficiency of 0.8 to 4.9% should be added to the bin–by–bin systematic error).

### 3.3 Comparison to models and to previous measurements

In the following our $K^0$ rate and the differential cross section for $K^0$ production are compared to model calculations, to the corresponding results from the other LEP experiments and also to the production of charged kaons.

In Table 3 the $K^0$ rate is compared to the previously published measurements at $Z^0$ energies and to the predictions of the Jetset and Herwig models. There is good agreement between the measurements within their errors. The Jetset prediction of 2.13 $K^0$ per event exceeds our result of 1.99 $K^0$ per event, and Herwig overestimates the $K^0$ production by predicting a rate of 2.31. It is worth pointing out that each experiment quotes different rate estimates from the models due to differences in tuning, as can be seen in Table 3. A comparison of the shape of the differential cross section with the model prediction is shown in Fig. 4 where the $K^0$ rate of both generators was normalized to the measured $K^0$ rate. Fig. 4a shows the model predictions together with our measurements while Fig. 4b plots the bin–by–bin difference between each model and our data in units of the combined statistical and bin–by–bin systematic error of the data points. As can be seen, the predicted $K^0$ spectrum is clearly too soft in both models, more so in Herwig than in Jetset.

As mentioned above, we have used as input to the high statistics detector simulation sample a Jetset version that was tuned to describe the global event shapes [4]. Attempts to tune Jetset to improve the agreement between predicted and measured particle inclusive rates can lead to a better agreement for the $K^0$ rate but are not successful in eliminating the discrepancy in the shape of the differential cross section.

In Fig. 5 and in Table 4 the differential cross section is presented as a function of $\xi = \ln(1/x_p)$, where $x_p = 2 \cdot p/\sqrt{s}$. This representation is especially suited to exhibit deviations between different data sets. The distribution shows the expected Gaussian shape in the region of the maximum [23]. In the framework of gluon momentum calculations in the modified leading log approximation (MLLA) [24] and assuming local parton-hadron duality (LPHD) [25], the position of the maximum of the differential cross section is of particular interest. A Gaussian fit to our data, motivated in Ref. [23], in the range of $|\xi - \xi_{\text{max}}| < 1.2$ yields $E_{\text{max}}^{K^0} = 2.71 \pm 0.04$ and is shown in Fig. 5. This value is lower than our previous one [3] of $E_{\text{max}}^{K^0} = 2.91 \pm 0.04$, as determined by a fit to the data using the MLLA “limited spectrum” expression [26]. However,
if instead of the MILA expression a Gaussian shape is fitted to our previously published values, a peak position of $\xi_{\text{max}}^{K^0} = 2.82 \pm 0.06$ is found, consistent with the result of this study. In Fig. 5 our $\xi$ distribution is also compared to the published results of the other LEP experiments. The agreement within errors between the various measurements of the differential cross sections is reasonable.

Finally, it is of interest to compare the results for neutral kaon production to the measurement of charged kaon production in this experiment [27]. In Table 5 the measured rates and the maxima of the $\xi$ spectrum are given and compared to the predictions of the Monte Carlo generators. The measured difference between the integrated rates for charged and neutral kaon production is $0.43 \pm 0.14$ where the statistical and systematic errors are added in quadrature. A value larger than zero is expected due to the preferred decay of some particles, such as the $\phi(1020)$, into charged kaons compared to their decay into neutral kaons. Our value is larger than those of JETSET and HERWIG. Note that in $e^+e^-$ annihilation at lower energies, where charm and bottom production is less significant, the difference between the $K^\pm$ and $K^0$ rates was found to be consistent with zero [19]. The $\xi$ distributions are compared in Fig. 6a. Good agreement between the shape of the distributions can be seen, in particular in Fig. 6b, where the $K^\pm$ rate was scaled to the measured $K^0$ rate. The predicted values of $x^{K^0, K^\pm}$ are too high in both generators, confirming the observation that the calculated fragmentation is too soft for both neutral and charged kaons.

4 Bose-Einstein correlations in the $K^0_S K^0_S$ system

4.1 The method

Following our previous work [14] we used the Lorentz-invariant variable $Q$ [28], the four momentum difference of the $K^0_S$ pair, which we here give as

$$Q^2 = M^2 - 4m^2,$$

(2)

where $M^2$ is the invariant mass squared of the two kaons and $m$ is the rest mass of each of them. The correlation function was then defined as

$$C(Q) = \frac{\rho(Q)}{\rho_0(Q)},$$

(3)

where $\rho(Q)$ is the measured $Q$ distribution for two $K^0_S$ mesons and $\rho_0(Q)$ is the $Q$ distribution in the absence of BEC which we will refer to as the reference sample distribution.

Here one should note that in the decay of $Z^0 \rightarrow K^0_S K^0_S + \text{hadrons}$ one cannot determine if the kaons originated from identical bosons ($K^0_S K^0_S$ or $\bar{K}^0_S \bar{K}^0_S$) or if they are the product of a $K^0_S \bar{K}^0_S$ boson-antiboson pair. From a sample of Monte Carlo generated events, to be described later, we have estimated that about 2/3 (3/4 for $Q < 1$ GeV) of our data sample of two $K^0_S$ events originate from a $K^0_S \bar{K}^0_S$ pair and the rest from pairs of $K^0_S$ or $\bar{K}^0_S \bar{K}^0_S$ mesons.

However, even in the case where the $K^0_S K^0_S$ originate from a boson-antiboson pair, it has been shown in Refs. [14, 29, 30] that a BEC-like effect should be present. In fact, one can write the probability amplitude for a given charge conjugation eigenvalue $C$ of the $K^0 \bar{K}^0$ system as:

$$|K^0; \bar{K}^0\rangle_{C=\pm1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ |K^0(\bar{p}); \bar{K}^0(-\bar{p})\rangle + |\bar{K}^0(\bar{p}); K^0(-\bar{p})\rangle \right],$$

(4)

$^5$Particle decays in our HERWIG version are modelled as in JETSET.
where $\vec{p}$ is the three-momentum vector defined in the $K^0\bar{K}^0$ centre-of-mass system. In the limit of $\vec{p} = 0$ ($Q = 0$), where the BEC should be maximal, Eq. 4 reads

$$\left|K^0; \bar{K}^0\right\rangle_{C=\pm 1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left|K^0(0); \bar{K}^0(0)\right\rangle \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left|\bar{K}^0(0); K^0(0)\right\rangle.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

This means that at $Q = 0$ the probability amplitude for the $C = -1$ state (odd $\ell$ values) is zero, whereas that of the state $C = +1$ (even $\ell$ values) is maximal. As is well known, the $K^0$ and the $\bar{K}^0$ bosons are described in terms of the two CP eigenstates, the $K^0_S$ with CP=$+1$ and the $K^0_L$ with CP=$-1$. Therefore, the $K^0_S K^0_S$ and $K^0_L \bar{K}^0_L$ pairs are in a $C = +1$ state, whereas the $K^0_S \bar{K}^0_L$ pairs form a $C = -1$ state. From this it follows that, as $Q$ approaches zero, an enhancement should be observed in the number of $K^0_S K^0_S$ pairs and $K^0_L \bar{K}^0_L$ pairs whereas a depletion should occur in the number of $K^0_S \bar{K}^0_L$ pairs.

It is worthwhile to note that Eqs. 4 and 5 do hold for any $S\bar{S}$ pair, where $S$ is a spinless boson. By defining the two possible states of the $S\bar{S}$ system through the even and odd $\ell$ states, rather than by the charge conjugation eigenvalues, a universal behaviour of the correlation function $C(Q)$ as a function of $Q$ can be obtained [30] which covers also the identical boson case where only even $\ell$ states are allowed. This behaviour is shown schematically in Fig. 7 for the $K^0\bar{K}^0$, $K^0\bar{K}^0$ and $K^0\bar{K}^0$ systems, where the even $\ell$ branch is the one expected for our $K^0_S K^0_S$ data sample.

### 4.2 Experimental results

In order to reduce the background in the $K^0_S K^0_S$ pair sample for the BEC analysis a cut on the measured mass of the $K^0_S$ candidate of $\pm 25$ MeV/$c^2$ from the mean fitted value was introduced. This cut reduced the background to $(11 \pm 1)\%$, as calculated from the polynomial fit to the data, coming mainly from accidentally reconstructed secondary vertices and from some (about 0.5\%) misidentified $\Lambda$-hyperons. The estimated background in the $K^0_S$ pair candidates sample, which hereafter will be referred to as $K^0_S K^0_S$ pairs, was then $(21 \pm 1)\%$. In this way the data sample consisted of a total of 16 166 events containing 18 767 $K^0_S K^0_S$ pairs.

The mass distribution, $M_{KK}$, of these $K^0_S K^0_S$ pairs is shown in Fig. 8a. This distribution, which reaches its maximum near threshold, is seen to decrease smoothly as $M_{KK}$ increases. In particular, unlike our findings with lower statistics [14], no indication is observed for the presence of the two $J^{PC} = 2^{++}$ resonances, $f^\prime_2(1525)$ and $f^\prime_1(1710)$, in our current data. Two lower mass resonances, the $f_0(980)$ and $a_0(980)$, established through their decays to $\pi\pi$ and $\eta\pi$ respectively, are known to exist below the $K\bar{K}$ threshold. In principle, their decays can contribute to the $K^0_S K^0_S$ mass distribution in the neighbourhood of the $K\bar{K}$ threshold. To estimate this contribution one requires knowledge of their production rate in $Z^0$ decays, their decay rate to $K\bar{K}$, and a model to describe the $K\bar{K}$ mass spectrum above threshold. Presently none of these factors are known with sufficient certainty. Furthermore, the former analyses of the $K\bar{K}$ decay mode have not addressed the question of a BEC enhancement in the $K^0_S K^0_S$ channel.

To construct the correlation function $C(Q)$ it is necessary to have a reference sample distribution $\rho_0(Q)$ which should simulate the data distribution $\rho(Q)$, shown in Fig. 8b (full circles), in all its features except the BEC. As the reference sample we chose a Monte Carlo sample of $1.5 \times 10^6$ events which were generated with the Jetset program with the BEC option switched off. The events were passed through a detailed detector simulation and analyzed with the same programs as our data events. To verify that the Monte Carlo events are suited to use as a ref-
ereference sample we have checked that those features of $K_S^0$ pairs which are relatively insensitive to the BEC effect were in good agreement with the data.

The correlation function, $C(Q)$, was obtained by dividing the data distribution by the reference sample distribution, shown in Fig. 8b, which was normalized to the total number of $K_S^0 K_S^0$ data pairs within the range of $0.6 \leq Q \leq 2$ GeV. This range was chosen so as to exclude the region where the BEC effect is expected. The resulting $C(Q)$ distribution is given in Table 6 and shown in Fig. 9a.

To extract the values of $\lambda$ and $R_0$, we fitted via the minimum $\chi^2$ method the following expression to the data, assuming a Gaussian shape of the particle source [9, 14, 31]:

$$C(Q) = N(1 + f(Q)\lambda e^{-Q^2R^2})(1 + \delta Q),$$

where $N$ is a normalization factor and the parameter $R$ is related to the boson emitter size $R_0$ in fm through the relation $R_0 = \hbar c R$. The parameter $\lambda$, often called the strength or chaoticity parameter, measures the strength of the effect and can vary between 0 and 1. In order to keep $\lambda$ as the strength parameter only for the boson under study, one introduces a function $f(Q)$ that should account for the background effects and their possible $Q$ dependence. Monte Carlo studies showed that the background was essentially independent of $Q$ and consequently $f(Q)$ was set to 0.79, corresponding to the 21% background in our $K_S^0 K_S^0$ pair sample. The $\delta$ term accounts for the rise of $C(Q)$ at large $Q$ values due to long range two-particle correlations.

As the reference fit we chose three free parameters: $\lambda$, $R_0$ and $\delta$. The normalization factor $N$ was determined by the requirement that the area under the fitted $C(Q)$ curve be equal to that given by the data points. This fit yielded

$$\lambda = 1.14 \pm 0.23 \quad R_0 = (0.76 \pm 0.10) \text{ fm} \quad \delta = (0.10 \pm 0.05) \text{ GeV}^{-1}.$$  

The correlation function and the reference fit are shown in Fig. 9a. Since we saw no indication for the presence of the $f'_2(1525)$ and $f_2(1710)$ resonances in the invariant mass distribution of the $K_S^0$-pairs, the full $Q$-range of $0 \leq Q \leq 2$ GeV was used in the fit. Unlike our previous results [14] the data do not yield a $\delta$ value consistent with zero. This may indicate the presence of long range correlations, such as energy conservation, phase space constraints and strangeness compensation [31]. For comparison we also fitted the correlation function with a 4-parameter fit ($\lambda$, $R_0$, $\delta$, $N$), a 3-parameter fit ($\lambda$, $R_0$, $N$) and a 2-parameter fit ($\lambda$, $R_0$). The results of these fits are shown in Table 7. All fits have acceptable values for $\chi^2$/d.o.f. and result in consistent values for the parameters $\lambda$ and $R_0$.

### 4.3 Systematic errors

To estimate the dependence of our results on the $K_S^0$ selection criteria we have repeated the analysis after varying these criteria within plausible ranges. The results of the corresponding 3-parameter fits are summarized in Table 8. We have changed the cut on the reconstructed mass of the $K_S^0$ over the range from $\pm 10$ MeV/$c^2$ to $\pm 40$ MeV/$c^2$ (row [a] in Table 8) and estimated the systematic uncertainty from the standard deviation of the differences to the reference fit. The track selection was changed by limiting the acceptance range to tracks with a polar angle between $44^\circ$ and $136^\circ$ (row [b]). To examine the dependence of the parameters on the $Q$ range chosen for the normalization and the fit, we proceeded as follows. First, we used the limited $Q$-range 0 to 1.1 and 1.6 to 2 GeV (row [c]) to exclude the range of possible influence of the $f'_2(1525)$ and $f_2(1710)$ resonances. Then we used for $f(Q)$, instead of a constant,
a linear function in $Q$, namely $f(Q) = 0.76 + 0.03 \cdot Q$ (row $[d]$). This slope is derived from Monte Carlo studies of the background under the $K_S^0$ peak and we chose the maximum slope allowed within one standard deviation from the mean value. We estimated the systematic error of the sources $[b]$–$[d]$ from the difference of the fit result to the reference fit. We further assumed the individual deviations, given in Table 8, to be independent and thus, by adding them in quadrature, we obtained an uncertainty of ± 0.21 and ± 0.08 fm for $\lambda$ and $R_0$, respectively.

As observed in previous BEC studies of charged pion pairs, an important source of systematic errors stems from the particular choice of the reference sample. These systematic errors were estimated in the di-pion studies from a comparison of several acceptable reference samples. Here, however, we are limited to only one reference sample and have therefore adopted the following method to estimate the systematic uncertainties. Event samples were generated with the JETSET program by varying one at a time, its free parameters within one standard deviation of the optimized values. The limits for the following parameters were given in Ref. [32]. They are: the QCD cut-off parameter $\Lambda_{QCD}$, the $Q_0$ parameter, which specifies the minimum parton virtuality to which partons may evolve, $\sigma_{\perp}$, which controls the transverse momentum spectrum of hadrons and the parameter $a$, which determines the longitudinal momentum spectrum. The higher value for the ratio of strange vector mesons to vector plus pseudoscalar mesons is derived from the mean value and the errors given in Ref. [33], while the lower value was the one presented by this experiment in Ref. [34]. Finally we used for the strangeness suppression factor $\gamma_s/\gamma_u$ the lower value given in Ref. [34].

The resulting $Q$ distributions were then divided by the standard generated distribution before detector simulation to obtain $Q$-dependent weights to modify the standard reference sample with full detector simulation. With these modified distributions we repeated the BEC analysis. The values of the changed parameters and the variation of the fit results are given in Table 9. Although we find no numerical evidence for a significant variation, we quote the standard deviation of the differences to the reference fit as the systematic uncertainty. We assume the deviations to be uncorrelated and, by adding them in quadrature, obtain uncertainties of ± 0.24 for $\lambda$ and ± 0.08 fm for the $R_0$ value. Finally we added in quadrature the contributions from the variation of the selection and the fit conditions to the reference sample uncertainties yielding a total systematic uncertainty of ± 0.32 for $\lambda$ and ± 0.11 fm for $R_0$.

### 4.4 Comparison to previous measurements

In Table 10 we present our $\lambda$ and $R_0$ values together with former results from BEC studies of kaon pairs which have extracted an $R_0$ value\(^4\), including the recent $K^0 S K^0 S$ results from the LEP experiments. For comparison we also give the LEP results for the BEC in like-sign charged pion pairs. In comparing our results with those listed in Table 10 one should keep the following in mind:

1. The $\lambda$ values for the BEC obtained in hadronic reactions are in general lower than those obtained in $e^+e^-$ annihilation [9].

2. No systematic errors are given in Refs. [10], [11] and [13] and therefore the errors quoted in the table are statistical only.

\(^4\)In addition to the $\lambda$ and $R_0$ values given in Table 10, recent analyses [35, 36] studied the $K^\pm K^\pm$ BEC in heavy ion collisions. These yielded similar results to those obtained for $\pi^\pm \pi^\pm$ pairs in the same reactions. In these heavy ion collisions $R_0$ is known to increase as $A_{\text{projectile}}^{1/3}$ (see e.g. Zajc in Ref. [31]).
3. In the BEC analyses of charged pions it was observed that those experiments which have used the variables \( q_t, q_0 \), proposed in Ref. [37], tend to yield higher values of \( R_0 \) than those obtained through the analysis of the \( Q \) variable [9]. In fact, the \( R_0 \) values obtained for charged kaons are larger than our measurement. Our result for \( R_0 \) is consistent with that reported by the BEC study of \( K_S^0 K_S^0 \) pairs, described in Ref. [13]. That experiment, however, did not extract a value for the chaoticity parameter \( \lambda \).

4. The recently published \( K_S^0 K_S^0 \) BEC analyses by DELPHI [15] and ALEPH [7] have followed rather closely the first published OPAL work [14] in both their method and choice of reference sample. However, both analyses perform a subtraction of the \( f_0(980) \) decay contribution to the low mass \( K_S^0 K_S^0 \) enhancement. To this end, they used the \( K \bar{K} \) branching ratio given by the Particle Data Group [38] and the mean \( f_0(980) \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \) multiplicity of \( 0.10 \pm 0.04 \) with \( x_F(f_0(980)) > 0.1 \) as measured by DELPHI in \( Z^0 \) hadronic decays [39]. We did not adopt this approach for the reasons given in Section 4.2. Instead, we have looked for evidence of the presence of the \( f_0(980) \) and \( a_0(980) \) in the \( K^+ K^- \) mass spectrum [34]. At this time we cannot draw any conclusions due to the limited sensitivity. Consequently, although no reliable quantitative estimate is possible from these analyses, we cannot presently exclude that a part of the enhancement is in fact due to scalar meson decays.

In addition, rather than looking at the BEC effect in an inclusive sample, DELPHI used Jetset to correct for those events in which the \( K_S^0 K_S^0 \) pairs are the decay product of the heavy charm and bottom quarks.

5. Finally it should also be mentioned that a meaningful comparison of the \( \lambda \) and \( R_0 \) values given in Table 10 is difficult because the various experiments have used different types of reference samples and different methods to offset the background and account for Coulomb effects.

Notwithstanding these reservations, our values for the OPAL data are in good agreement with our previously published values of \( \lambda = 1.12 \pm 0.33 \pm 0.29 \) and \( R_0 = (0.72 \pm 0.17 \pm 0.19) \) fm [14] and those presented recently by the DELPHI and ALEPH collaborations. This is also illustrated in Fig. 9b in a 2-dimensional plot of \( \lambda \) versus \( R_0 \) where the contours represent confidence levels of 39%, 86% and 99% as calculated from the statistical errors.

Finally it is of interest to compare our results for the dimension of the \( K_S^0 \) source and its chaoticity parameter to those found for the pion source in \( e^+ e^- \) annihilation at the same energy. In this case, a direct comparison is possible since the type of reaction and the chosen observables are identical. As can be seen from Table 10, our values for \( \lambda \) and \( R_0 \) are similar to those obtained for like-sign charged pions.

5 Summary and conclusions

The production and Bose-Einstein correlations of neutral kaons in \( e^+ e^- \) annihilation at \( \sqrt{s} \approx M_{Z^0} \) have been studied in 1 258 785 hadronic events recorded with the OPAL detector at LEP during 1990–92.

The \( K^0 \) yield was found to be \( 1.99 \pm 0.01 \pm 0.04 \) \( K^0 \) per hadronic event. This rate is lower than the Jetset and Herwig predictions. The differential cross sections are found to be too soft in both Jetset and Herwig. A similar trend was observed by this experiment in a study of the production of charged kaons [27]. Both the rate and the differential cross section as a
function of \( \ln(1/x_p) \) agree well with the other published measurements of \( K^0 \) production at \( Z^0 \) energies.

An enhancement at small \( Q \) values is seen in our sample of \( K^0\bar{K}_s^0 \) pairs originating from a mixed sample of \( K^0\bar{K}_s^0 \) and \( K^0\bar{K}_s^0 \) \((\bar{K}^0\bar{K}^0)\) pairs. If we attribute this enhancement entirely to the Bose-Einstein correlations, a fit to our data yields

\[
\lambda = 1.14 \pm 0.23 \pm 0.32 \quad R_0 = (0.76 \pm 0.10 \pm 0.11) \text{ fm}.
\]

These values are in good agreement with our former results and with the published BEC studies at \( Z^0 \) energies.

**Acknowledgements:**

It is a pleasure to thank the SL Division for the efficient operation of the LEP accelerator, the precise information on the absolute energy, and their continuing close cooperation with our experimental group. In addition to the support staff at our own institutions we are pleased to acknowledge the

- Department of Energy, USA,
- National Science Foundation, USA,
- Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, UK,
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Canada,
- Fussefeld Foundation,
- Israel Ministry of Science,
- Israel Science Foundation, administered by the Israel Academy of Science and Humanities,
- Minerva Gesellschaft,
- Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (the Monbusho) and a grant under the Monbusho International Science Research Program,
- German Israeli Bi-national Science Foundation (GIF),
- Direction des Sciences de la Matière du Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique, France,
- Bundesministerium für Forschung und Technologie, Germany,
- National Research Council of Canada,
- A.P. Sloan Foundation and Junta Nacional de Investigação Científica e Tecnológica, Portugal.
References


[3] For a study of strange particle production in $e^+e^-$ annihilation at lower energies see e.g.


[9] For a recent summary of BEC results see e.g. E. A. De Wolf, to be published in the
   Proceedings of the XXIV International Symposium on Multiparticle Dynamics, Eds. A.


   1481;


[34] OPAL Collaboration, P.D. Acton et al., Z. Phys. C56 (1992) 521.


Table 1: The differential cross section for K⁰ production. The errors given are the statistical and bin–by-bin systematic errors. A normalization error of 2.0% should be added. The appropriate position of the data points within the xE bins, x_{iw}, was determined according to the procedure given in Ref. [40].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>xE</th>
<th>x_{iw}</th>
<th>((1/\sigma_{\text{tot}}) , d\sigma/dx_E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.014 - 0.02</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>25.4 ± 0.4 ± 1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.02 - 0.03</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>24.3 ± 0.2 ± 1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.03 - 0.04</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>19.1 ± 0.2 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.04 - 0.05</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>15.3 ± 0.1 ± 0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.05 - 0.06</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>13.0 ± 0.13 ± 0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.06 - 0.07</td>
<td>0.065</td>
<td>11.0 ± 0.12 ± 0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.07 - 0.08</td>
<td>0.075</td>
<td>9.24 ± 0.11 ± 0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.08 - 0.09</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>8.36 ± 0.10 ± 0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.09 - 0.10</td>
<td>0.095</td>
<td>6.92 ± 0.09 ± 0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.10 - 0.125</td>
<td>0.111</td>
<td>5.66 ± 0.05 ± 0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.125 - 0.15</td>
<td>0.136</td>
<td>4.43 ± 0.05 ± 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.15 - 0.20</td>
<td>0.172</td>
<td>3.06 ± 0.03 ± 0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.20 - 0.25</td>
<td>0.223</td>
<td>1.92 ± 0.02 ± 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.25 - 0.30</td>
<td>0.273</td>
<td>1.25 ± 0.019 ± 0.055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.30 - 0.35</td>
<td>0.323</td>
<td>0.849 ± 0.016 ± 0.039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.35 - 0.40</td>
<td>0.373</td>
<td>0.572 ± 0.014 ± 0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.40 - 0.45</td>
<td>0.424</td>
<td>0.389 ± 0.012 ± 0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.45 - 0.50</td>
<td>0.474</td>
<td>0.250 ± 0.009 ± 0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.50 - 0.60</td>
<td>0.549</td>
<td>0.161 ± 0.005 ± 0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.60 - 0.80</td>
<td>0.689</td>
<td>0.050 ± 0.002 ± 0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of systematic error</td>
<td>error on $K^0$ rate</td>
<td>bin–by–bin error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>detector simulation</td>
<td>± 0.9%</td>
<td>± 2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>background subtraction</td>
<td>± 1.8%</td>
<td>± 2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>statistical error of efficiency</td>
<td>± 0.2%</td>
<td>± (0.8 – 4.9)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unobserved momentum region</td>
<td>± 0.04%</td>
<td>± 0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total syst. error on $K^0$ rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>± 2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Systematic errors of the $K^0$ production rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiment</th>
<th>$K^0$ rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>measured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELPHI</td>
<td>1.962 ± 0.022 ± 0.056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L3</td>
<td>2.04 ± 0.02 ± 0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEPH</td>
<td>2.061 ± 0.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPAL</td>
<td>1.99 ± 0.01 ± 0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Summary of $K^0$ production rates in $Z^0$ hadronic decays. Also given are the measurements of the other LEP experiments and the predictions of the Monte Carlo programs, tuned individually by each experiment.
Table 4: The measured ξ distribution for K⁰ production. The errors given are the statistical and bin-by-bin systematic errors, not including an overall normalization error of 2.0%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ξ</th>
<th>(1/σ_had) dσ/dξ</th>
<th>ξ</th>
<th>(1/σ_had) dσ/dξ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.2 - 0.4</td>
<td>0.025 ± 0.002 ± 0.001</td>
<td>3.0 - 3.2</td>
<td>0.667 ± 0.007 ± 0.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4 - 0.6</td>
<td>0.061 ± 0.002 ± 0.003</td>
<td>3.2 - 3.4</td>
<td>0.645 ± 0.008 ± 0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.6 - 0.8</td>
<td>0.111 ± 0.003 ± 0.006</td>
<td>3.4 - 3.6</td>
<td>0.574 ± 0.008 ± 0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.8 - 1.0</td>
<td>0.177 ± 0.004 ± 0.010</td>
<td>3.6 - 3.8</td>
<td>0.517 ± 0.008 ± 0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 - 1.2</td>
<td>0.267 ± 0.005 ± 0.014</td>
<td>3.8 - 4.0</td>
<td>0.459 ± 0.008 ± 0.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 - 1.4</td>
<td>0.346 ± 0.005 ± 0.018</td>
<td>4.0 - 4.2</td>
<td>0.356 ± 0.008 ± 0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 - 1.6</td>
<td>0.421 ± 0.006 ± 0.022</td>
<td>4.2 - 4.4</td>
<td>0.291 ± 0.009 ± 0.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 - 1.8</td>
<td>0.510 ± 0.006 ± 0.027</td>
<td>4.4 - 4.6</td>
<td>0.194 ± 0.008 ± 0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 - 2.0</td>
<td>0.576 ± 0.006 ± 0.031</td>
<td>4.6 - 4.8</td>
<td>0.128 ± 0.009 ± 0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 - 2.2</td>
<td>0.628 ± 0.006 ± 0.034</td>
<td>4.8 - 5.0</td>
<td>0.094 ± 0.008 ± 0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 - 2.4</td>
<td>0.679 ± 0.007 ± 0.036</td>
<td>5.0 - 5.2</td>
<td>0.090 ± 0.009 ± 0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 - 2.6</td>
<td>0.702 ± 0.007 ± 0.037</td>
<td>5.2 - 5.4</td>
<td>0.040 ± 0.006 ± 0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 - 2.8</td>
<td>0.710 ± 0.007 ± 0.038</td>
<td>5.4 - 5.6</td>
<td>0.034 ± 0.008 ± 0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 - 3.0</td>
<td>0.696 ± 0.007 ± 0.037</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: The integrated rate and ξ_max for charged [27] and neutral kaons measured in Z⁰ decays. For the particle rates the statistical and systematic errors were added in quadrature while only the error of the fit is quoted for ξ_max.
Table 6: The measured correlation function $C(Q)$ in the range $0 \leq Q \leq 2$ GeV. The errors represent the combined statistical uncertainty of the data and the Monte Carlo samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$Q$ [GeV]</th>
<th>correlation function $C(Q)$</th>
<th>$Q$ [GeV]</th>
<th>correlation function $C(Q)$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0 - 0.2</td>
<td>$1.59 \pm 0.19$</td>
<td>1.1 - 1.2</td>
<td>$1.02 \pm 0.06$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.2 - 0.4</td>
<td>$1.18 \pm 0.06$</td>
<td>1.2 - 1.3</td>
<td>$0.97 \pm 0.06$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4 - 0.5</td>
<td>$0.93 \pm 0.06$</td>
<td>1.3 - 1.4</td>
<td>$1.13 \pm 0.07$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 - 0.6</td>
<td>$1.03 \pm 0.06$</td>
<td>1.4 - 1.5</td>
<td>$1.10 \pm 0.07$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.6 - 0.7</td>
<td>$0.89 \pm 0.05$</td>
<td>1.5 - 1.6</td>
<td>$1.00 \pm 0.07$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.7 - 0.8</td>
<td>$0.89 \pm 0.05$</td>
<td>1.6 - 1.7</td>
<td>$1.03 \pm 0.07$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.8 - 0.9</td>
<td>$1.00 \pm 0.05$</td>
<td>1.7 - 1.8</td>
<td>$0.93 \pm 0.07$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.9 - 1.0</td>
<td>$1.05 \pm 0.06$</td>
<td>1.8 - 1.9</td>
<td>$0.94 \pm 0.07$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 - 1.1</td>
<td>$1.01 \pm 0.06$</td>
<td>1.9 - 2.0</td>
<td>$1.09 \pm 0.08$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Results of the $\chi^2$ fits to $C(Q)$, as defined in Eq. 6, in the range of $0 \leq Q \leq 2$ GeV. The errors are statistical only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fit</th>
<th>$\chi^2$/d.o.f.</th>
<th>$\lambda$</th>
<th>$R_0$ [fm]</th>
<th>$\delta$ [GeV$^{-1}$]</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reference fit ($\lambda$, $R_0$, $\delta$)</td>
<td>17.1/15</td>
<td>$1.14 \pm 0.23$</td>
<td>$0.76 \pm 0.10$</td>
<td>$0.10 \pm 0.05$</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-parameter ($\lambda$, $R_0$, $\delta$, N)</td>
<td>17.1/14</td>
<td>$1.19 \pm 0.34$</td>
<td>$0.76 \pm 0.11$</td>
<td>$0.08 \pm 0.05$</td>
<td>$0.93 \pm 0.07$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-parameter ($\lambda$, $R_0$, N)</td>
<td>20.0/15</td>
<td>$1.03 \pm 0.32$</td>
<td>$0.83 \pm 0.12$</td>
<td>$0.00$</td>
<td>$0.99 \pm 0.02$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-parameter ($\lambda$, $R_0$)</td>
<td>20.5/16</td>
<td>$1.05 \pm 0.22$</td>
<td>$0.84 \pm 0.11$</td>
<td>$0.00$</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8: Systematic errors on the BEC analysis due to changes in the selection criteria and the fit conditions.
Table 9: Systematic uncertainties in the BEC analysis due to changes in the parameters of the Jetset reference sample which control the momentum distribution of hadrons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Reaction</th>
<th>√s [GeV]</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>λ</th>
<th>R₀ [fm]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K⁺K⁺</td>
<td>pp, pp, αα</td>
<td>53 - 126</td>
<td>qₒ, q₀</td>
<td>0.58 ± 0.31</td>
<td>2.4 ± 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K⁺K⁺</td>
<td>pp</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>qₒ, q₀</td>
<td>0.57 ± 0.26</td>
<td>1.87 ± 0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K⁰K⁰</td>
<td>pância</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>qₒ, q₀</td>
<td>——</td>
<td>0.9 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K⁰K⁰</td>
<td>e⁺e⁻</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>q</td>
<td>1.13 ± 0.54 ± 0.23</td>
<td>0.90 ± 0.19 ± 0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K⁰K⁰</td>
<td>e⁺e⁻</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>0.96 ± 0.21 ± 0.40</td>
<td>0.65 ± 0.07 ± 0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K⁰K⁰</td>
<td>[this study]</td>
<td>e⁺e⁻</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>1.14 ± 0.23 ± 0.32</td>
<td>0.76 ± 0.10 ± 0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>π⁺π⁺</td>
<td>e⁺e⁻</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>0.51 ± 0.04 ± 0.11</td>
<td>0.65 ± 0.04 ± 0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>π⁺π⁺</td>
<td>e⁺e⁻</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>1.06 ± 0.05 ± 0.16</td>
<td>0.49 ± 0.01 ± 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>π⁺π⁺</td>
<td>e⁺e⁻</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>1.08 ± 0.05 ± 0.14</td>
<td>0.93 ± 0.02 ± 0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10: Results for λ and R₀ obtained from BEC studies of like-sign charged kaons and K⁰ pairs using the Goldhaber variable Q and the variables qₒ and q₀ of Kopylov and Podgoretskii [37]. These are defined as follows: if q = p₁ - p₂ = (q₀, q) then qₒ denotes the component of q perpendicular to p₁ + p₂, where p₁, p₂ and q are the three momenta vectors. For comparison are also shown the results for like-sign charged pions obtained by the LEP experiments.
Figure Captions

Figure 1: The $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass distribution of the $K^0_S$ candidates.

Figure 2: The $\pi^+\pi^-$ invariant mass distribution of the $K^0_S$ candidates in four selected bins of $x_E$.

Figure 3: The detection efficiency for $K^0_S \to \pi^+\pi^-$ as a function of its scaled energy $x_E$.

Figure 4: a) The differential cross section $(1/\sigma_{br}) (d\sigma/dx_E)$ vs. $x_E$ for $K^0$ production. The error bars show the combined statistical and bin-by-bin systematic contributions. An overall normalization error of 2.0% should be added.  
b) The difference between the measured differential cross section and the generator predictions in units of the error of the data points.

Figure 5: The measured $\xi = \ln(1/x_p)$ distribution for $K^0$ production. The error bars show the combined statistical and bin-by-bin systematic contributions. An overall normalization error of 2.0% should be added. The line shows the result of a Gaussian fit to the spectrum. The OPAL measurement is compared to the published measurements of the other LEP experiments [6, 7, 8].

Figure 6: a) The measured $\xi = \ln(1/x_p)$ distributions of the OPAL charged [27] and neutral kaons. The error bars show the combined statistical and bin-by-bin systematic contributions. The line and the shaded area indicate the interpolation function used in the analysis of the $K^\pm$ and its one sigma range, respectively. An overall normalization error of 2.0% should be added for the $K^0$ analysis. 
b) Same as a) where, for comparison, the $K^\pm$ rate is scaled to the $K^0$ rate.

Figure 7: Schematic behaviour of the correlation function $C(Q)$ as a function of $Q$ for the $K^0\bar{K}^0$ system in the charge conjugation eigenvalue $C= +1$ (even $\ell$) state and in the $C= -1$ (odd $\ell$) state [30]. The sum of these two eigenvalue states is independent of $Q$ and is represented by the dotted horizontal line.

Figure 8: a) The invariant mass distribution, $M_{KK}$, of the $K^0_SK^0_S$ pairs. 
b) The $Q$ distribution for the data (full circles) compared to the same distribution obtained from the Monte Carlo simulated events (histogram). The area under the Monte Carlo distribution is normalized to the data in the range $0.6 \leq Q \leq 2.0$ GeV. The statistical errors of the Monte Carlo sample are of about the same magnitude as those of the data.

Figure 9: a) The measured Bose-Einstein correlation function $C(Q)$. The solid line represents the best fit to the data using Eq. 6 with a 3-parameter $\chi^2$ fit. 
b) $\lambda$ versus $R_0$. The full circle represents our best values. The contours show the allowed regions within one, two and three standard deviations of $\lambda$ and $R_0$ (corresponding to confidence levels of 39%, 86%, and 99%, respectively), calculated from the statistical errors only. Published results from DELPHI [15] and ALEPH [7] are shown, with their statistical errors only, for comparison.
Figure 1

The figure shows a distribution of entries per 1 MeV/c^2 in the OPAL experiment. The x-axis represents the invariant mass squared ($M_{\pi\pi}$) in GeV/c^2, ranging from 0 to 0.75. The y-axis represents the entries per 1 MeV/c^2, ranging from 0 to 10,000. The data displays a peak around the value of interest, indicating a significant concentration of events.
figure 2

- $0.011 < x_E \leq 0.02$
- $0.06 < x_E \leq 0.07$
- $0.15 < x_E \leq 0.20$
- $0.40 < x_E \leq 0.50$

entries per 2.5 MeV/c$^2$

entries per 5 MeV/c$^2$

entries per 10 MeV/c$^2$
figure 3

$K^0_s$ detection efficiency [%]

$X_E$

OPAL
figure 4

(a) OPAL

- data
- JETSET
- HERWIG

(b) normalized difference

- data - JETSET
- data - HERWIG

x_E
Figure 5

\[
\frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{had}}} \frac{d\sigma}{d\xi}
\]

ALEPH
DELPHI
\bullet\ OPAL
\square\ L3
\[ \frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{had}}} \frac{d\sigma}{d\xi} \]

**OPAL**

- \( K^0 \)
- \( K^\pm \)

**Figure 6**

(a) and (b) plots showing the distribution of \( \frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{had}}} \frac{d\sigma}{d\xi} \) for \( K^0 \) and \( K^\pm \) particles with error bars. The shaded areas represent the statistical uncertainties. 

\( \xi \) range from 0 to 6.
Correlation Function $C(Q)$

- Even $l$: $C = +1$
- Odd $l$: $C = -1$

Figure 7
figure 8

a) OPAL

entries per 30 MeV/c^2

b) OPAL

entries per 100 MeV

\[ M_{KK} \quad [\text{GeV/c}^2] \]

\[ Q \quad [\text{GeV}] \]
Correlation Function $C(Q)$

$Q$ [GeV]

$R_0$ [fm]

a) OPAL

b) OPAL

ALEPH $K^0\overline{K}^0$
DELPHI $K^0\overline{K}^0$
OPAL $K^0\overline{K}^0$

Figure 9