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Abstract. The NA22 data on $\pi^+\pi^-$ correlations are analyzed in terms of a number of two- and three-dimensional parametrizations (Gaussian space-time, Goldhaber, Bowler models, etc.). Contrary to the results obtained for $e^+e^-$ and $pp$ collisions, the Goldhaber parametrization, as well as string-like models, fail in describing the hadron-hadron data. Better fits are obtained in the framework of surface-emitting fireball-like models, both when including and excluding hydrodynamical expansion of nuclear matter. Our results indicate that pion radiation occurs at earlier stages of matter evolution than in nuclear collisions.

1 Introduction

Boson interferometry provides a powerful tool for the investigation of the space-time structure of particle-production processes (for recent reviews see [1-5]). The Bose-Einstein correlations (BEC) of two identical bosons at small four-momentum difference, $q = p_1 - p_2$, reflect both geometrical and dynamical properties of the particle-radiating source. In an over-simplified picture, one assumes the source to consist of motionless (in the source rest frame) point-like emitters, which radiate identically (independently of their space-time velocities with respect to each other, leading to strong dynamical effects alters the interference pattern. This influence on the BEC is considered in the framework of the color string ([7] or a longitudinally expanding central fireball in ultrarelativistic nuclear collisions [7]). The interplay between geometrical and dynamical effects alters the interference pattern. This influence on the BEC is considered in the framework of the color string ([7] or a longitudinally expanding central fireball in ultrarelativistic nuclear collisions [7]).

This simple geometrical interpretation of the interference pattern can be invalid when emitters move at relativistic velocities with respect to each other, leading to strong dynamical correlations between space-time and momentum-energy coordinates of emitted particles. Dynamical correlations of this type are inherent for expanding sources, such as a color string in lepton-induced reactions [6] or a longitudinally expanding central fireball in ultrarelativistic nuclear collisions [7]. The interplay between geometrical and dynamical effects alters the interference pattern. This influence on the BEC is considered in the framework of the color string ([7] or a longitudinally expanding central fireball in ultrarelativistic nuclear collisions [7]).

In this work, an attempt is undertaken to distinguish between an expanding (string-like or hydrodynamical) and a non-expanding (fireball-like) pattern of multiparticle production in hadronic reactions. This attempt is executed by means of an experimental study of the two- and three-dimensional BEC of pairs of negative pions in ($\pi^+K^+$) interactions at 250 GeV/c. The sets of two- and three-dimensional variables and parametrizations of the correlation function used in this analysis are given in Sect. 2. Experimental results are presented in Sect. 3 and conclusions are summarized in Sect. 4.
2 Variables and parametrizations

The following pairs or triplets of variables are used for the two- and three-dimensional analyses:

a) \(|q|\) versus \(q_0\), where \(q = p_1 - p_2\) and \(q_0 = |E_1 - E_2|\) are, respectively, the momentum and energy difference of the two identical pions (in the CMS).

b) The Lorentz-invariant variables \(Q_1^2\) versus \(Q_2^2\), where \(Q_1\) is the component of \(q\) perpendicular to the collision axis, and \(Q_2^2 = q_1^2 - q_0^2\), where \(q_0^2\) is the component of \(q\) parallel to the collision axis.

c) \(q_L = |q_L|\) versus \(Q_T(= |Q_T|)\) and \(q_0\) versus \(Q_{T0}\) and \(Q_{Tn}\), where \(Q_{T0}\) is the 'out' component of \(Q_T\) parallel to pair transverse momentum \(p_T = p_{T1} + p_{T2}\) and \(Q_{Tn}\) is the 'side' component of \(Q_T\) perpendicular to \(p_T\) (see Fig. 1):

\[
Q_{T0} = \frac{Q_T \cdot p_T}{|p_T|} \quad Q_{Tn} = \frac{Q_T \times p_T}{|p_T|}
\]

d) \(q_T = |q_T|\) versus \(q_0\), where \(q_T\) is the component of \(q\) perpendicular to \(p = p_1 + p_2\) (in the CMS).

The following parametrizations are used for the normalized two-particle density:

\[
R(p_1, p_2) = \frac{\rho(p_1, p_2)}{\rho_1(p_1) \rho_2(p_2)}
\]

1. The Gaussian form

\[
R(q^2, q_0^2) = \gamma [1 + \lambda \exp(-\beta_1 q_0^2 - \beta_2 q_0^2)] (1 + \delta q^2 + \epsilon q_0^2)
\]

In (1), \(\lambda \leq 1\) is the coherence parameter, \(\gamma\) is an overall normalization and \((1 + \delta q^2 + \epsilon q_0^2)\) is introduced to account for a possible slow variation of \(R\) outside the interference peak.

At \(\beta_1, \beta_2 > 0\), these two parameters are related, respectively, to the mean radius and the mean radiation time of a fireball-like (volume emitting) source with a Gaussian space-time distribution. At negative \(\beta_2\), and \(\beta \equiv \beta_1 = -\beta_2\), (1) reduces to the Goldhaber parametrization [24]

\[
R(q^2, q_0^2) = \gamma [1 + \lambda \exp(-\beta q_0^2)] (1 + \delta Q^2)
\]

with the Lorentz-invariant variable \(Q^2 = q_0^2 - q_0^2\) and a parameter \(\beta\) related to the r.m.s. radius \((\beta = r^2 / 3)\) of a source being of a spherically symmetric Gaussian form in the dipion rest frame.

2. The Bowler parametrizations for a string-like source [8, 10]:

\[
R(Q_1, Q_2) = \gamma [1 + \lambda \exp(-\beta_1 Q_1^2 - \beta_2 Q_2^2)] \\
\times (1 + \delta Q_1^2 + \epsilon Q_2^2)
\]

and

\[
R(Q_1, Q_2) = \gamma \left[ 1 + \frac{A}{2(|\beta_1|Q_1^4 - 1)} \ln(|\beta_1|Q_1^4) \exp(-\beta_T Q_T^2) \right] \\
\times (1 + \delta Q_1^2 + \epsilon Q_2^2)
\]

where \(\beta_1\) and \(\beta_T\) correspond to the longitudinal and transverse size of the string segment radiating the BE correlated pions, respectively. The parameter \(A\) has the definition of \(A = 1/[y_{max}^2]\), where \(y_{max}\) is the maximum rapidity \(y\), above which the \(y\) distribution drops rapidly.

3. The two- and three-dimensional Gaussian parametrizations used for a hydrodynamically expanding cylindrical source (see e.g. [13,15,19,21,22,23]):

\[
R(q_L, Q_T) = \gamma [1 + \lambda \exp(-\frac{1}{2} Q_T^2)] \\
\times (1 + \delta q_L + \epsilon Q_T)
\]

\[
R(q_L, Q_{T0}, Q_{Tn}) = \gamma [1 + \lambda \exp(-\frac{1}{2} Q_{T0}^2) - \frac{1}{2} \delta q_L + \epsilon Q_{T0}] \\
\times (1 + \delta q_L + \epsilon Q_{T0} + \xi Q_{Tn})
\]

where \(q_L, r_T, r_0, r_s\) are, respectively, the longitudinal (along the cylinder axis), transverse, 'out' and 'side' effective dimensions of the source segment radiating the BE correlated pion pairs, while \(q_{out}\) represents an "out-longitudinal" cross term recently introduced in [22] and, depending on the particular emission model, corresponding to e.g. the duration of particle emission. In comparing our results to those of other experiments, it is important to note that some authors use 

(5) and (6) without the factors 1/2 in the exponents.

4. The Kopylov-Podgoretskii parametrization [25]:

\[
R(q_T, q_0) = \gamma \left[ 1 + \frac{2 J_1(r T q_T)}{r_T q_T} \right] \left( 1 + r_T^2 q_0^2 \right)^{-1} \\
\times (1 + \delta q_T + \epsilon q_0)
\]

where \(J_1\) is the first-order Bessel function and where \(r_T\) is the radius of a surface-emitting spherical source decaying exponentially with the mean time \(\tau\).

3 The results

The data were obtained from the NA22 experiment, performed at the CERN SPS with the help of the European Hybrid Spectrometer [26]. Recent results concerning BEC
in $\pi^+p$ and $K^+p$ collisions in the same experiment are published in [27,28,29,30], where the experimental procedure is described in detail. A related, but alternative analysis in terms of an inverse power-law behavior of $R$ is presented in Fig. 20 of [31].

The results of this paper are based on an analysis of about 140k events of $(\pi^+/K^+p)$ interactions at 250 GeV/c, including 101,147 events containing at least two negative tracks with momentum resolution better than 4%. (Depending on the momentum, the average momentum resolution varies from 1% to 2.5%). All negative particles are assumed to have pion mass. The contamination from other particles is estimated to be $(7\pm3)\%$. Each accepted track is required to lie in the region of Feynman variable $q^2$, i.e., at fixed $Q^2 = q^2 - q^2_0 \approx 0$. While parametrization (2) predicts no $q^2$-dependence at fixed $Q^2$, the data exhibit a strong $q^2$-dependence. Figure 2d shows the $Q^2$-dependence of $R(q^2,q^2_0)$ integrated over the region $q^2$, $q^2_0 > 0.8$ GeV$^2$. In the framework of fireball-like models (with independent space- and decay-time distributions of emitters within the fireball volume or on the fireball surface), no interference effects are expected at large $q^2$ and/or $q^2_0$. On the other hand, parametrization (2) predicts an interference enhancement at small $Q^2$, irrespective of the values of $q^2$ and $q^2_0$. Our data exclude the applicability of (2) to the region of large $q^2$ and $q^2_0$.

Our data shown in Fig. 2 are in contrast with those obtained in the hard processes of $e^+e^-$-annihilation [32] and muon-nucleon scattering [33]. In these types of collisions, the extracted parameters $\beta_1$ and $\beta_2$ satisfy the relation $\beta \equiv \beta_1 = -\beta_2$ (parametrization (2)) is not too large a $\chi^2 (\chi^2/NDF = 846/321$ and $1468/321$ for the data presented in Figs. 2a and 2b, respectively). Two crucial tests for parametrization (2) are presented in Figs. 2c and 2d. Figure 2c shows the dependence of $R(q^2,q^2_0)$ on $q^2$ along the diagonal $q^2 \approx q^2_0$, i.e., at fixed $Q^2 = q^2 - q^2_0 \approx 0$. While parametrization (2) predicts no $q^2$-dependence at fixed $Q^2$, the data exhibit a strong $q^2$-dependence. Figure 2d shows the $Q^2$-dependence of $R(q^2,q^2_0)$ integrated over the region $q^2$, $q^2_0 > 0.8$ GeV$^2$. In the framework of fireball-like models (with independent space- and decay-time distributions of emitters within the fireball volume or on the fireball surface), no interference effects are expected at large $q^2$ and/or $q^2_0$. On the other hand, parametrization (2) predicts an interference enhancement at small $Q^2$, irrespective of the values of $q^2$ and $q^2_0$. Our data exclude the applicability of (2) to the region of large $q^2$ and $q^2_0$.

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Experimentally, the normalized two-particle densities $R$ are determined as the ratio of the number of pairs (at given values of the kinematical variables) to that of the reference (background) sample composed by combining tracks randomly chosen from different events of the same charged particle multiplicity. The fraction of a given multiplicity in the reference sample is equal to that in the real event sample. Both samples are normalized to an equal number of combinations in the whole interval of variation of the corresponding kinematical variables.

Below, we present the results of the analysis of BEC using the different sets of variables for the two- and three-dimensional analyses described in Sect. 2.

### 3.1 $q^2$ versus $q^2_0$

The normalized two-dimensional distribution in the variables $q^2$ and $q^2_0$ is shown in Figs. 2a and 2b for two different ranges and scales. Note, that the large deviations of the ratio $R(q^2,q^2_0)$ from unity in the region of relatively large $q^2$ and $q^2_0 (> 0.3$ GeV$^2$) are due to statistical fluctuations and, therefore, have large errors.

The fit results of $R(q^2,q^2_0)$ obtained according to parametrization (1) are presented in Table 1 for two different ranges and binnings in the variables $q^2$ and $q^2_0$. The fit leads to a negative value of the parameter $\beta_2$, thus excluding a volume-emitting fireball-like source of spherically symmetric Gaussian space-time distribution.

On the other hand, the absolute value of $\beta_2$ is much smaller than the value of $\beta_1$. A fit under the condition $\beta \equiv \beta_1 = -\beta_2$ (parametrization (2)) is too large a $\chi^2 (\chi^2/NDF = 846/321$ and $1468/321$ for the data presented in Figs. 2a and 2b, respectively). Two crucial tests for parametrization (2) are presented in Figs. 2c and 2d. Figure 2c shows the dependence of $R(q^2,q^2_0)$ on $q^2$ along the diagonal $q^2 \approx q^2_0$, i.e., at fixed $Q^2 = q^2 - q^2_0 \approx 0$. While parametrization (2) predicts no $q^2$-dependence at fixed $Q^2$, the data exhibit a strong $q^2$-dependence. Figure 2d shows the $Q^2$-dependence of $R(q^2,q^2_0)$ integrated over the region $q^2$, $q^2_0 > 0.8$ GeV$^2$. In the framework of fireball-like models (with independent space- and decay-time distributions of emitters within the fireball volume or on the fireball surface), no interference effects are expected at large $q^2$ and/or $q^2_0$. On the other hand, parametrization (2) predicts an interference enhancement at small $Q^2$, irrespective of the values of $q^2$ and $q^2_0$. Our data exclude the applicability of (2) to the region of large $q^2$ and $q^2_0$.

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The data are plotted in Fig. 2a. The points with error bars correspond to the data, the points without error bars correspond to the fitted values. The fit results of the analysis of BEC using the different sets of variables for the two- and three-dimensional analyses described in Sect. 2.

### 3.2 $Q^2_\ell$ versus $Q^2$

The dependence of the ratio $R$ on $Q^2_\ell$ and $Q^2$ is plotted in Fig. 3. One can see that, at least at small $Q^2_\ell$, for which our data are statistically more abundant, the ratio $R(Q^2_\ell,Q^2)$ is enhanced at $Q^2_\ell \sim 0$. This enhancement does not grow as $Q^2_\ell$ becomes negative. This behavior is in contrast with that found in the $e^+e^-$ [32] and $p\bar{p}$ [34] data, where, in accordance with the string fragmentation picture [10], an increase of the ratio $R$ is observed for negative $Q^2_\ell$.

The fit according to the Bowler parametrization (3) results in too low a confidence level (Table 2). The results of the fit are plotted in Fig. 3b-3p. The agreement with the data is worst at $Q^2_\ell < 0$ due to the exponential rise of the curves corresponding to (3), although a separate fit of the data at
Table 1. Fit results according to parametrization (1) to the ratio $R$ as a function of $q^2$ and $Q^2_f$ for different ranges and binnings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range of variables, $GeV^2$</th>
<th>Binning of variables, $GeV^2$</th>
<th>$\gamma$</th>
<th>$\lambda$</th>
<th>$\beta_1$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\beta_2$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\delta$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\epsilon$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\chi^2$/NDF</th>
<th>CL (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.10 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0.20 GeV^2</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.135 ± 0.015</td>
<td>0.451 ± 0.027</td>
<td>20.58 ± 2.11</td>
<td>-2.92 ± 2.19</td>
<td>-0.24 ± 0.037</td>
<td>0.010 ± 0.035</td>
<td>386/319</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.20 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0.22 GeV^2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.007 ± 0.007</td>
<td>0.377 ± 0.015</td>
<td>7.37 ± 0.47</td>
<td>-2.74 ± 0.86</td>
<td>-0.02 ± 0.005</td>
<td>-0.05 ± 0.006</td>
<td>360/319</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Fit results according to parametrization (3) to the ratio $R$ as a function of $Q^2_f$, $Q^2_b$ for different ranges of $Q^2_f$ (at $Q^2_b$ < 0.5(GeV/c)^2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range of variables, $GeV^2$</th>
<th>$\gamma$</th>
<th>$\lambda$</th>
<th>$\beta_1$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\beta_2$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\delta$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\epsilon$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\chi^2$/NDF</th>
<th>CL (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-0.25 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0.5</td>
<td>0.879 ± 0.007</td>
<td>0.454 ± 0.024</td>
<td>5.65 ± 0.76</td>
<td>5.27 ± 0.74</td>
<td>0.029 ± 0.098</td>
<td>0.025 ± 0.126</td>
<td>1837/929</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0.3</td>
<td>0.729 ± 0.024</td>
<td>0.707 ± 0.055</td>
<td>6.50 ± 0.44</td>
<td>2.38 ± 0.21</td>
<td>0.450 ± 0.067</td>
<td>0.229 ± 0.042</td>
<td>1077/619</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0.5 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0</td>
<td>no fit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Fit results according to parametrization (4) to the ratio $R$ as a function of $Q^2_f$ and $Q^2_b$ for different ranges of $Q^2_f$ (at $Q^2_b$ < 0.5 GeV^2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range of $Q^2_f$</th>
<th>$\gamma$</th>
<th>$A$</th>
<th>$\beta_1$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\beta_2$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\delta$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\epsilon$, $GeV^{-2}$</th>
<th>$\chi^2$/NDF</th>
<th>CL (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-0.5 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0.5</td>
<td>0.982 ± 0.010</td>
<td>0.346 ± 0.021</td>
<td>8.80 ± 1.31</td>
<td>7.85 ± 0.61</td>
<td>-0.225 ± 0.018</td>
<td>-0.001 ± 0.027</td>
<td>1083/929</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0.5</td>
<td>0.864 ± 0.035</td>
<td>0.292 ± 0.022</td>
<td>3.63 ± 1.34</td>
<td>3.91 ± 0.38</td>
<td>0.041 ± 0.054</td>
<td>0.179 ± 0.057</td>
<td>1084/619</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0.5 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0</td>
<td>no fit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 &lt; $Q^2_f$ &lt; 0.5</td>
<td>0.990 ± 0.013</td>
<td>0.371 ± 0.025</td>
<td>10.08 ± 1.74</td>
<td>9.34 ± 0.82</td>
<td>-0.259 ± 0.026</td>
<td>0.067 ± 0.028</td>
<td>678/621</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 4. a) Lego plot for the ratio $R(Q_1^2, Q_2^2)$ at $0 \leq Q_1^2 \leq 0.5$ GeV$^2$ and $0 \leq Q_2^2 \leq 0.5$ GeV$^2$ and (b–p) its slices in different intervals of $Q_1^2$. The curves are the fit results obtained according to parametrization (4).

positive $Q_1^2$ improves the description only slightly (Table 2). Only the data at $Q_1^2 < 0$ cannot be fitted by (3).

The first two lines of Table 3 present the fit results according to parametrization (4). The description of the data is bad for both intervals of $-0.5 \leq Q_1^2 \leq 0.5$ GeV$^2$ and $0 \leq Q_1^2 \leq 0.5$ GeV$^2$. Only the data at $Q_1^2 < 0$ cannot be fitted by (4). A satisfactory description (CL $\approx 5\%$) by parametrization (4) is achieved for the ratio $R$ as a function of $Q_1^2$ and the modulus $|Q_2^2|$, plotted in Fig. 4. The parameter values $\beta_1 = 10.1 \pm 1.7$ GeV$^{-2}$ and $A = 0.37 \pm 0.03$ are within the range predicted (8). The parameter $\beta_1$, characterizing the transverse size of the string, is not predicted in the model (8). Our estimate of the transverse size, $r_T = 0.60 \pm 0.03$ fm, agrees with $r_T = 0.64 \pm 0.07$ fm (24) extracted from the $e^+e^-$ data.

Contrary to the results presented in this and the previous subsection, an acceptable fit to the same data by the Goldhaber parametrization (2) was obtained in previous analysis (28). The Goldhaber formula, however, does not consider the space and time variables (or, alternatively, the longitudinal and transverse variables) separately. The Goldhaber formula was applied in (28) to fit our one-dimensional $Q^2$ data, which in fact are obtained by means of integration of two-dimensional data over $q$ and $q_0$ (at fixed $Q^2 = q^2 - q_0^2$, see (1)) or, alternatively over $Q_L$ and $Q_T$ (at fixed $Q^2 = Q_L^2 + Q_T^2$, see (3)). The two-dimensional parametrizations (1) or (3) could be reduced to parametrization (2) if $\beta_1 = -\beta_2$ in (1) or $\beta_1 = \beta_T$ in (3), i.e., if (in the framework of the string-like model) the longitudinal and transverse sizes of the string segment (radiating the BE correlated pions) were equal. Our data show that this is not the case. The acceptable fit of the one-dimensional data with (2) in (28) allows us to extract an averaged (over the dipion rest frames) r.m.s. radius of the source assumed to be of a spherically symmetric Gaussian form in the dipion rest frame. It does not necessarily mean an acceptable fit of the two-dimensional data with $\beta_1 = -\beta_2$ in (1) or $\beta_L = \beta_T$ in (3).

3.3 $q_L$ versus $Q_T$ and $q_L$ versus $Q_{T_0}$ and $Q_{T_5}$

In this subsection we present the results of the analysis of BE correlation in the framework of hydrodynamical models describing the space-time evolution of a centrally produced hadronic fireball. The evolution pattern includes the thermalization of the hadron matter at some proper time $\tau$, its longitudinal expansion (along the collision axis), and final breakup at a final (freeze-out) temperature $T_f$. For a centrally produced pion pair with an average rapidity $|y| = \frac{1}{2}|y_1 + y_2| < Y$ (below the value $Y = 1.5$ in the CMS is used) the Bose-Einstein correlation can be approximately parametrized as (5) (19). In contrast with the case
where the parameter $\tau(y) = \tau_l = \text{const}$ is the proper time of thermalization for the Bjorken scaling model [7]. For the Landau non-scaling model (see [14]) the parameter $\tau(y)$ has the definition of an inverse gradient of the longitudinal four-velocity of the hydrodynamical flow, $\tau(y) = (du_L/dx_L)^{-1}$, and may slightly depend on $y$ (for the hydrodynamical models $\tau(y) \leq \tau(0)$). Recently, the hydrodynamical formula (8) has experimentally been verified by results from pion and kaon interferometry in nuclear collisions at 200 GeV per nucleon [35,36,37].

The dependence of the ratio $R$ on $q_L$ and $Q_T$ is plotted in Fig. 5 and the fit results according to parametrization (5) are presented in Table 4. The observed effective longitudinal size of $r_L = 1.23 \pm 0.06 \text{ fm}$ significantly exceeds the transverse size of $r_T = 0.89 \pm 0.04 \text{ fm}$.

The effective longitudinal size $r_L$ at different $y$, shown in Fig. 6a, demonstrates a behavior consistent with the $(ch\gamma)^{-1}$ dependence predicted by (8) (the dashed curve). Note that $p_T$ dependence on $y$ is negligible and the average transverse mass $\langle m_T \rangle$ is practically the same ($\langle m_T \rangle = 0.36 \pm 0.37 \text{ GeV}/c^2$) in all intervals of $y$ considered.

The observed dependence $r_L(y)$ is expected to disappear (at $\tau(y) = \text{const}$) or to be reduced (at $\tau(y) \neq \text{const}$) in the so-called longitudinal CMS (LCMS) [38], in which the longitudinal momentum sum is zero, i.e., $y^* = \frac{1}{2}(y_1^* + y_2^*) = 0$. This expectation is confirmed by the results of our analysis in the LCMS (Fig. 6b), indicating that the parameter $\tau(y)$ is almost independent of $y$ (the average rapidity of the pion pair in the CMS).

The data at $|y| < 1.5$ were analyzed in the LCMS in two different regions, $m_T < 0.35 \text{ GeV}$ (with $\langle m_T \rangle = 0.26 \pm 0.05 \text{ GeV}$) and $m_T = 0.35 \pm 1 \text{ GeV}$ (with $\langle m_T \rangle = 0.45 \pm 0.09 \text{ GeV}$). The results presented in Table 5 show a decrease of the parameters $r_L$ and $r_T$ with increasing $m_T$. The variation of $r_L$ is consistent with the $1/\sqrt{m_T}$ dependence predicted by the hydrodynamical formula (8). Assuming the hadronization temperature to be of order $T_f \sim T_H \approx 140 \text{ MeV}$, and using $r_L/\sqrt{m_T} = 0.67 \pm 0.07 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ from Table 5, one can estimate the parameter

$$cr(y) \approx c\tau(0) = r_L \frac{\sqrt{m_T}}{2T_f} = 1.3 \pm 0.2 \text{ fm},$$

which, being almost independent of $y$, can be considered as the source-thermalization proper time $\tau_l$ at which the source breaks up instantly into pions.

In agreement with an unexpected observation of [36], we find (last column of Table 5) that $\tau_T$ is also compatible with an $\sqrt{m_T}$ scaling. In [21,23,39] this scaling has been related to a transverse expansion and/or transverse gradient of the local temperature for a cylindrically symmetric, longitudinally expanding finite source.

A more general scenario of the hydrodynamical evolution of hadronic matter includes the transverse expansion of the hydrodynamical tube and a non-vanishing duration time $\Delta T_f$ of the pion emission at the freeze-out temperature $T_f$ [21,38]. In this case, the interference pattern can be described by the three-dimensional dependence (6) (rather than the two-dimensional (5)), where the 'out' and 'side' interferometric radii $r_L$ and $r_T$ may differ. For example, in the case of non-relativistic transverse hydrodynamical flow,
the effective radius \( r_0 \) along the dipion transverse momentum \( p_T \) is sensitive to the duration time \( \Delta \tau_f \) and exceeds the radius \( r_0 \) (perpendicular to \( p_T \)) which measures the geometrical transverse size of the hydrodynamical tube. Under the assumption that the freeze-out time \( \tau_f \) obeys a Gaussian distribution of width \( \Delta \tau_f < \tau_f \), the following relation holds [38]:

\[
r_0^2 = r_T^2 + 2v_T \Delta \tau_f^2,
\]

where \( v_T \) is the transverse pion-pair velocity in the LCMS, the average value of which is estimated from our data as \( v_T = 0.484 \).

The results of the three-dimensional fit by parametrization (6) in the LCMS are presented in the first line of Table 6. The fit results in \( r_L > r_0 > r_T \). The value of \( r_{0,L} \) is of the same size as that of \( r_T \), but its statistical significance is less than 3 standard deviations. For that reason, and to be able to compare our results to earlier ones [37], we repeat the fit after fixing \( r_{0,L} \) at value 0.0. The results are given in the second line of Table 6 and do not differ from the first line outside errors. Projections onto the three axes are shown in Fig. 7, using 40 MeV cuts on the non-projected components. Note that the quoted 'side' radius \( r_T = 0.76 \pm 0.10 \) fm is close to the proton radius. Using the results of Table 6 and the average transverse velocity \( v_T = 0.484 \), one obtains from (10): \( c \Delta \tau_f = 1.3 \pm 0.3 \) fm, i.e., \( \Delta \tau_f \sim 1.5 \). The quoted value of \( \Delta \tau_f \) does not satisfy the condition \( \Delta \tau_f < \tau_f \) which is necessary for the validity of (10). Nevertheless, if \( \Delta \tau_f \) could be accepted as a rough estimate of the duration time of pion radiation, then a possible interpretation of \( \Delta \tau_f \sim \tau_f \) might be that the radiation process occurs during all the hydrodynamical evolution of the hadronic matter. This pattern is in contrast with that observed in nuclear collisions for which the duration time is found to be much shorter \( (\Delta \tau_f < 2 \) fm) than the freeze-out time \( c \tau_f \sim 4 \) fm [37].

Another distinction between interferometric data in hadronic and nuclear collisions is revealed when comparing the ratio of the freeze-out volume (proportional to \( r_T^3 \)) and the density of pions \( \rho(y) = d/n_{\pi} \) in the central rapidity region. In nuclear collisions, this ratio is found [37] to be \( k = r_T^3 / \rho(y) = 2.00 \pm 0.15 \) fm\(^3\) for all considered combinations of colliding nuclei (with atomic number varying from 12 to 197). As concluded in [37], the constancy of \( k \) indicates that the hadronic matter breaks up and radiates pions at constant particle density (inversely proportional to \( k \)). In our experiment, \( r_T^3 = 1.01 \pm 0.29 \) fm\(^3\) and the density in the central rapidity region \((|y| < 1.5)\) is \( \rho(y) = 0.910 \pm 0.003 \) for the sample with two or more \( \pi + \) mesons. The ratio \( k = 1.1 \pm 0.3 \) fm\(^3\) is smaller than that for the nuclear data, indicating that in hadronic collisions the pion radiation occurs during earlier stages of matter evolution and at higher densities than in nuclear collisions.
In lines 3 and 4 of Table 6, the fits according to (6) are repeated in two charged particle multiplicity ranges. For \( n < 10 \) \( \rho(y) = 0.500 \pm 0.001 \) and \( n \geq 10 \) \( \rho(y) = 1.120 \pm 0.002 \), we obtain \( k = 1.3 \pm 0.5 \) and \( 1.0 \pm 0.3 \), respectively. Therefore, here also, \( k \) does not depend on the density, even though such a dependence cannot be excluded because of the large statistical errors.

It is interesting to compare our results related to the transverse evolution of the hadronic matter with predictions of the Bjorken hadronization picture of an expanding shell [40]. The latter is supposed to be a single layer of closely packed pions. Just after the hadronization, the average differential multiplicity \( d(n)/dyd \varphi \) (per unit of rapidity and azimuthal angle) of pions, seen in the reference frame where they emerge at \( 90^\circ \), is related to the squared transverse radius of the source shell at the hadronization time:

\[
R_{th}^2 = (1.2\text{fm})^2 \frac{d(n)}{dyd \varphi}.
\]

Assuming \( \langle n \rangle = 3 \langle n_c \rangle \), we obtain: \( d(n)/dyd \varphi = 0.434 \), and \( R_{th} = 0.793 \text{fm} \). This result agrees with the 'side' radius \( r_s = 0.76 \pm 0.10 \text{fm} \) (Table 6) measured in the LCMS where a pion pair emerges at \( 90^\circ \).

The thickness of the shell predicted in [40] is between 0.2 – 0.4 fm (if the collision has occurred only by one pair of constituent quarks) and 0.5 – 1.5 fm (if more than one pair of quarks has participated in the collision). On the other hand, the finiteness of the shell thickness can be attributed to the non-vanishing duration time of hadronization and the transverse flow of pion pairs, which lead to a non-vanishing difference between 'out' and 'side' radii, \( r_0 - r_s = 0.42 \pm 0.16 \text{fm} \) (see Table 6). This difference, which can be considered an effective thickness of the radiating shell, is within the range predicted in [37].

### 3.4 \( q_T \) versus \( q_0 \)

The ratio \( R(q_T, q_0) \) is shown in Fig. 8. The fit results according to parametrization (7) for \( q_T < 1 \text{ GeV} \) and different ranges of the variable \( q_0 \) (in the CMS) are presented in Table 7 and Figs. 8b-8f. The description of the data at \( q_0 < 0.3 \text{ GeV} \) and 0.6 GeV is better than that obtained by the volume-emitting Gaussian parametrizations discussed in Subsect. 3.1 or that of string-like models described in Subsect. 3.2. At \( q_0 < 0.15 \text{ GeV} \), the quoted values for \( \lambda \) and \( r_K \) are consistent within errors with those obtained for the pion induced data in our experiment [28]. The results obtained for \( \tau \) differ, however; the reasons being that in the present work:

i) the combined \( \pi^+ / K^+ \) data are used;

ii) the fraction of a given multiplicity in the reference sample is taken equal to that in the real event sample (see Sect. 3),

iii) an overall normalization is used for the two-dimensional plot (Fig. 8), while in [28] 5 slices of the two-dimensional plot are normalized independently,

iv) a background factor \( (1 + \delta q_T + \epsilon q_0) \) is introduced in (7) (absent in [28]).

The confidence level of the fit is low (1.1%), particularly due to the low value of the model prediction at low \( q_0 \) and \( q_T \) (see Figs. 8a and 8b) consistent with the power-law behavior observed in [31]. The averaged parameters characterizing the space-time structure of the source are estimated to be \( r_K = 1.44 \pm 0.18 \text{ fm} \), \( c_T = 1.2 \pm 0.2 \text{ fm} \), \( \lambda = 0.42 \pm 0.04 \). The quoted errors include the dispersion of the parameters due to different ranges of \( q_0 \).

Note that, despite the satisfactory description of the data with parametrization (7), the extracted parameter \( r_K \) should be considered as a mean radius of the source approximated...
by a spherically-symmetric form. The fit results according to (7) at different intervals of angle $\theta$ between the vectors $q$ and the collision axis are presented in Table 8. One can see that the longitudinal size of the source (at $|\cos \theta| > 0.7$) exceeds the transverse one (at $|\cos \theta| < 0.3$). The dependence of BEC on the orientation of $q$ observed recently in [28,29,41,42] also grants a prolate form of the particle emitting region. Note the extracted value $\tau$ of the mean radiation time also reveals angular dependence. Contrary to $\tau_K$, however, it decreases with increasing $|\cos \theta|$ (see also [28]).

### 4 Summary

Bose-Einstein correlations have been studied in two and three dimensions for pairs of negative pions in $(\pi^-/K^-)p$-interactions at 250 GeV/c.

In the variables $q^2$ and $q_\pi^2$, our data exclude a volume-emitting fireball-like spherically symmetric source with a Gaussian space-time distribution (parametrization (1)). Contrary to data from $e^+e^-$ and $\mu N$ collisions, our data, furthermore, cannot be described as a function of the single variable $Q_c^2 = q^2 - q_\pi^2$ and are thus inconsistent with parametrization (2). The space-time evolution of multiparticle production, therefore, is different in hadron- and lepton-induced reactions.

Our data do not confirm the expectation from the string type model [10], which predicts an exponential rise of the BE correlation function in the region of negative $Q_c^2$ (parametrization (3)). Comparatively more successful is the description in the variables $[Q_c^2]$ and $Q_2^2$ used in the framework of the string model developed in [8].

A good description of our data is, however, achieved in the framework of the hydrodynamical expanding source model. The two-dimensional analysis (parametrization (5)) reveals the $y$- and $m_T$-dependence of the longitudinal interferometric radius $r_L$ predicted by the model (formula (8)).

The proper freeze-out time of hadronic matter is estimated to be $\tau_f = 1.3 \pm 0.2$ fm (at $\tau_f = 140$ MeV). The three-dimensional analysis (parametrization (6)) leads to the relation $r_L > r_K > r_\pi$ with the 'side' radius (assumed to measure the geometrical transverse size of the hydrodynamical tube) $r_\pi = 0.76 \pm 0.10$ fm. An indication is obtained that in meson-proton collisions the pion radiation occurs during earlier stages of matter evolution and at higher densities than in nuclear collisions.

Alternatively, (except for the smallest $q^2$ and $q_\pi^2$) our data are also described in the framework of a non-expanding surface-emitting fireball-like source with mean radius $r_K = 1.44 \pm 0.18$ fm and mean decay time $\tau_f = 1.2 \pm 0.2$ fm (parametrization (7)). The shape of the fireball is found to be prolate rather than spherically symmetric.

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