70. ρ(770)

Updated September 2019 by S. Eidelman (Novosibirsk) and G. Venanzoni (Pisa).

The determination of the parameters of the $\rho(770)$ is beset with many difficulties because of its large width. In physical region fits, the line shape does not correspond to a relativistic Breit-Wigner function with a P-wave width, but requires some additional shape parameter. This dependence on parameterization was demonstrated long ago [1]. Bose-Einstein correlations are another source of shifts in the $\rho(770)$ line shape, particularly in multiparticle final-state systems [2].

The same model dependence afflicts any other source of resonance parameters, such as the energy dependence of the phase shift δ_1^1, or the pole position. It is, therefore, not surprising that a study of $\rho(770)$ dominance in the decays of the η and η' reveals the need for specific dynamical effects, in addition to the $\rho(770)$ pole [3,4].

The cleanest determination of the $\rho(770)$ mass and width comes from e^+e^- annihilation and τ-lepton decays. Analysis of ALEPH [5] showed that the charged $\rho(770)$ parameters measured from τ-lepton decays are consistent with those of the neutral one determined from e^+e^- data [6]. This conclusion is qualitatively supported by the later studies of CLEO [7] and Belle [8]. However, comparison of the two-pion mass spectrum in τ decays from OPAL [9], CLEO [7], and ALEPH [10,11], and the $e^+e^- \to \pi^+\pi^-$ cross section from CMD-2 [12,13], showed significant discrepancies between the two shapes which can be as high as 10%above the ρ meson [14,15]. This discrepancy remains after measurements of the two-pion cross section in e^+e^- annihilation at KLOE [16,17,18,19], SND [20,21], BaBar [22] and, more recently BESIII [23] The effect is not accounted for by isospin breaking [24,25,26,27], but the accuracy of its calculation may be overestimated [28,29].

This problem seems to be solved after a recent analysis in [30] which showed that after correcting the τ data for the missing ρ - γ mixing contribution, besides the other known isospin symmetry violating corrections, the $\pi\pi$ I=1 part of the hadronic vacuum polarization contribution to the muon g - 2 is fully compatible between τ based and e^+e^- based evaluations. The global fit of the whole set of the ρ, ω, and ϕ decays, taking into account mixing effects in the hidden local symmetry model, also showed consistency of the data on τ decays to two pions and e^+e^- annihilation [31,32]. However, because of the progress in e^+e^- data, the τ input is now less precise and less reliable due to additional theoretical uncertainties [33] decreasing importance of τ versus e^+e^- comparison for the determination of $\rho(770)$ parameters and other applications, like, e.g., calculations of hadronic vacuum polarization.

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