

High Energy Physics - Experiment

Measurement of the gamma gamma* --> eta_c transition form factor

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We study the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \eta_c$, $\eta_c \rightarrow K_S K^+ \pi^-$ and obtain η_c mass and width values $2982.2^{+0.4^{+1.6}} \text{ MeV}/c^2$ and $31.7^{+1.2^{+0.8}} \text{ MeV}$, respectively. We find $\Gamma(\eta_c \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)B(\eta_c \rightarrow K \bar{K} \pi) = 0.374^{+0.009^{+0.031}} \text{ keV}$, and measure the gamma gamma* --> η_c transition form factor in the momentum transfer range from 2 to 50 GeV^2 . The analysis is based on 469 fb⁻¹ of integrated luminosity collected at PEP-II with the BABAR detector at e^+e^- center-of-mass energies near 10.6 GeV.

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