

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Motivation for the determination of the total width of the η' meson	3
3	Principle of the measurement – simplicity is beautiful	7
3.1	COoler SYnchrotron COSY	8
3.2	Cluster target	10
3.3	COSY–11 detector setup	12
4	First steps on the way to the total width	17
4.1	Preselection of data	17
4.2	Calibration of detectors	19
4.2.1	Drift chambers	19
4.2.1.1	Relative time offsets of wires	19
4.2.1.2	Time-space calibration	20
4.2.1.3	Relative positions of the drift chambers	22
4.2.2	Timing of scintillator detectors	23
4.3	Properties of the cluster target stream	24
4.3.1	Diagnosis unit – wire device	25
4.3.2	Kinematic ellipse from $pp \rightarrow pp$ events	28
4.3.3	Density distribution of the cluster target stream	32
4.4	Monitoring of the stability of the proton beam	34
4.4.1	Synchrotron parameters	34
4.4.2	Atmospheric conditions	36
5	Identification of the $pp \rightarrow pp\eta'$ reaction	37
5.1	Identification of the outgoing protons	37
5.2	Determination of the relative beam momenta	38
5.3	Missing mass spectra and background subtraction	38
5.3.1	Experimental background from different energies	38
5.3.2	Background parametrisation with polynomial fit	40

5.4	Absolute beam momentum determination	42
6	Determination of the total width	45
6.1	Comparison of experimental data with simulations	45
6.2	Systematic error estimation	49
7	Summary	51
	Acknowledgments	55
	Bibliography	57