

Search for Manifestations of New Physics in Fermion–Pair Production at LEP

The L3 Collaboration

Abstract

The measurements of hadron and lepton–pair production cross sections and leptonic forward–backward asymmetries performed with the L3 detector at centre–of–mass energies between 130 GeV and 189 GeV are used to search for new physics phenomena such as: contact interactions, exchange of virtual leptoquarks, scalar quarks and scalar neutrinos, effects of TeV strings in models of quantum gravity with large extra dimensions and non–zero sizes of the fermions. No evidence for these phenomena is found and new limits on their parameters are set.

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Introduction

The study of fermion–pair production, $e^+e^- \rightarrow f\bar{f}$, at centre-of-mass energies well above the Z resonance allows to look for physics beyond the Standard Model. The successful running of LEP in 1997 and 1998 at energies of 182.7 GeV and 188.7 GeV, and the tenfold increase of luminosity compared to our previous searches [1, 2], improves substantially the sensitivity to new physics phenomena.

The results presented in this paper are based on analyses of our measurements of hadronic and leptonic cross sections and leptonic forward–backward asymmetries [3–5]. The measurements in all channels are used to search for four-fermion contact interactions. The virtual exchange of leptoquarks and scalar quarks is investigated using our hadron cross section measurements. The effects of scalar neutrino exchange are looked for in all leptonic channels. Limits on contact interactions, and on leptoquark, scalar quark and scalar neutrino couplings have been presented also by other LEP collaborations [6, 7]. The effects of TeV strings, predicted recently [8, 9] in theories of quantum gravity with extra dimensions [10], are searched for in Bhabha scattering. This is an extension of the searches for low scale gravity in fermion–pair production at LEP [7, 11]. Furthermore, a form factor ansatz is used to estimate the size of leptons and quarks.

Data and Analysis Method

Measurements of cross sections and forward–backward asymmetries for the reactions $e^+e^- \rightarrow f\bar{f}$ have been performed with the L3 detector [12] at centre-of-mass energies, \sqrt{s} , of 130.0 GeV, 136.1 GeV, 161.3 GeV, 172.3 GeV, 182.7 GeV and 188.7 GeV [3–5]. They correspond to an integrated luminosity of 265.4 pb⁻¹.

For the e^+e^- final state both leptons have to be in the polar angular range $44^\circ < \theta < 136^\circ$, where θ is the angle between the incoming electron and the outgoing lepton. Muon– and tau–pair candidates are selected with both leptons in the fiducial volume given by $|\cos\theta| < 0.9$ and $|\cos\theta| < 0.92$, respectively. Hadron events are selected in the full solid angle.

In total 28470 hadron events and 9417 lepton–pair events are selected. A minimum effective centre-of-mass energy, $\sqrt{s'_{\min}}$, or a maximum acollinearity angle in the Bhabha channel, are required to select events without substantial energy loss due to initial state radiation. The remaining samples, which are studied in this paper, contain in total 7785 hadron and 7704 lepton–pair events.

The measurements of total cross sections and leptonic forward–backward asymmetries are analysed in terms of new physics, which will manifest itself as deviations from the Standard Model predictions. The contributions of contact interactions, leptoquarks and scalar quarks are included directly into the improved Born cross section calculated with the program ZFITTER [13] and are convoluted to account for QED radiative corrections. For the analyses including the e^+e^- final state, i.e. contact interactions, scalar neutrinos, TeV strings and form factors, the effects of new phenomena are computed with dedicated programs in the improved Born approximation, taking into account QED radiative corrections. For contact interactions where both approaches are used, the results agree well with each other.

The measurements are compared to the predictions of the Standard Model [14] as calculated using the ZFITTER and TOPAZ0 [15] programs with the following parameters [16–18]: $m_Z = 91.190$ GeV, $\alpha_s(m_Z^2) = 0.119$, $m_t = 173.8$ GeV, $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)} = 0.02804$, and $m_H = 150$ GeV. The results of our analyses are not sensitive to small variations of these parameters. The theoretical

uncertainties on the Standard Model predictions are estimated to be below 1% except for large angle Bhabha scattering where the uncertainty is 2% [15].

The measurements show no statistically significant deviations from the Standard Model expectations. In their absence, limits at 95% confidence level on the contributions of new physics are determined by integrating the log-likelihood functions in the physically allowed range of the parameters describing new physics phenomena, assuming a uniform prior distribution. The statistical errors and systematic uncertainties of the measurements [5, 4], as well as the theory uncertainties given above, are combined in quadrature for all analyses.

Four-Fermion Contact Interactions

Four-fermion contact interactions offer a general framework for describing interactions beyond the Standard Model. They are characterised by a coupling strength, g , and by an energy scale, Λ , which can be viewed as the typical mass of new heavy particles being exchanged. At energies much lower than Λ , the exchange of virtual new particles is described by an effective Lagrangian [19]:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{1 + \delta_{ef}} \sum_{i,j=L,R} \eta_{ij} \frac{g^2}{\Lambda_{ij}^2} (\bar{e}_i \gamma^\mu e_i) (\bar{f}_j \gamma_\mu f_j), \quad (1)$$

where e_i and f_j denote the left- and right-handed initial-state electron and final-state fermion fields. The Kronecker symbol, δ_{ef} , is zero except for the e^+e^- final state where it is one. The parameters η_{ij} define the contact interaction model by choosing the helicity amplitudes which contribute to the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow f\bar{f}$. The value of g/Λ determines the size of the expected effects. By convention $g^2/4\pi$ is chosen to be 1 and $|\eta_{ij}| = 1$ or $|\eta_{ij}| = 0$, leaving the energy scale Λ as a free parameter. The helicity combinations of the specific models considered are defined in Table 1. Atomic physics parity violation experiments probe with high precision the couplings of electrons to quarks of the first family, and place severe constraints on the scale Λ of the order of 15 TeV [20]. The VV, AA, V0 and A0 models are parity conserving and hence are not constrained by such measurements.

The four-fermion contact interactions for the different types of final-state fermions are tested separately as well as for all flavours combined and lower limits on the scale Λ are derived. The lower limits on Λ obtained from lepton-pair final states are summarised in Table 2 and Figure 1. It is important to note that the pure leptonic case is only accessible at LEP.

For hadronic final states the cases where the contact interactions affect either all flavours at the same time, or only one flavour of up-type or down-type quarks, are analyzed. The results are given in Table 3 and depicted in Figure 2, together with the combined results for all charged fermions. Similar limits are obtained from studies of deep inelastic scattering at HERA [21, 22] and proton-antiproton collisions at the TEVATRON [23, 24].

Leptoquarks

Leptoquarks couple to quark-lepton pairs from the same family, preserving the baryon number B and the lepton number L . Leptoquarks carry fermion numbers, $F = L + 3B$. Following the notation in Reference [25], scalar leptoquarks S_I and vector leptoquarks V_I are indicated based on spin and isospin I . Isomultiplets with different hypercharges are denoted by an additional tilde.

In the process $e^+e^- \rightarrow$ hadrons, leptoquarks of the first generation can be exchanged in the t -channel ($F = 0$) or in the u -channel ($F = 2$). The coupling of leptoquarks to quark-lepton pairs, g , is referred to as g_L or g_R , according to the chirality of the lepton. The contributions of leptoquark exchange to $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ depend on g^2 .

Studying the exchange of different types of leptoquarks separately, limits on $|g|$ are derived depending on the mass, m_{LQ} , of the exchanged leptoquark. The states S_0 , $S_{1/2}$ and V_0 , $V_{1/2}$ couple to both left- and right-handed quarks. Here, only g_L or g_R is assumed to be non-zero since low energy processes and rare decays of π and K constrain the product $g_L g_R$ [26]. Upper limits on the allowed values for $|g|$ are presented in Figure 3 for scalar leptoquarks and in Figure 4 for vector leptoquarks.

For a coupling of electromagnetic strength, $g = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha}$, where α is the fine-structure constant, mass limits can be derived. The results for these lower bounds on leptoquark masses are given in Table 4. In case of $\tilde{S}_{1/2}(L)$ exchange, i.e. coupling to left-handed fermions, the assumption $g_L = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha}$ yields a very small contribution to the hadron cross section that is not observable with the precision of our measurements.

The results at LEP complement the leptoquark searches at HERA. In most cases the indirect limits on leptoquark masses and couplings obtained in our analysis are more stringent than the corresponding limits presented by the H1 collaboration [22]. The indirect search covers regions at high leptoquark masses above the reach of direct leptoquark searches [27].

R-Parity Violating Scalar Neutrinos and Scalar Quarks

Even in a minimal supersymmetric model [28] the most general superpotential contains interactions violating R-parity in the trilinear couplings of superfields. The only renormalisable gauge invariant operator that couples fermions and their scalar partners is given by [29]:

$$W_R = \lambda_{ijk} L_i L_j \bar{E}_k + \lambda'_{ijk} L_i Q_j \bar{D}_k + \lambda''_{ijk} \bar{U}_i \bar{D}_j \bar{D}_k, \quad (2)$$

where L and E are the leptonic, and Q , U and D are the quark superfields. The family indices are i , j and k , e.g. λ_{121} for $\tilde{\nu}_\mu$ exchange in the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$.

The exchange of scalar neutrinos can produce resonance peaks at LEP energies. From an analysis of our measurements in the leptonic channels upper limits on the coupling strength λ as a function of the scalar neutrino mass are determined. The results for the e^+e^- , $\mu^+\mu^-$ and $\tau^+\tau^-$ final states are shown in Figure 5. In all cases, large and previously unexplored areas in the $(m_{\tilde{\nu}_\mu}, \lambda_{121})$, $(m_{\tilde{\nu}_\tau}, \lambda_{131})$, $(m_{\tilde{\nu}_\tau}, \sqrt{\lambda_{131}\lambda_{232}})$ and $(m_{\tilde{\nu}_\mu}, \sqrt{\lambda_{121}\lambda_{233}})$ planes are excluded.

From the analysis of the hadronic cross section measurements, upper limits on the Yukawa couplings $|\lambda'_{1jk}|$ ($j, k = 1, 2, 3$) are derived depending on the mass of exchanged scalar quarks. One single Yukawa coupling at a time is assumed to be much larger than the others which are neglected. Two cases are analysed:

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\tilde{U}} &\gg m_{\tilde{D}} && \text{with } \tilde{U} = \tilde{u}, \tilde{c}, \tilde{t} \text{ and } \tilde{D} = \tilde{d}, \tilde{s}, \tilde{b} \\ m_{\tilde{U}} &\ll m_{\tilde{D}}. \end{aligned}$$

Only the exchange of the much lighter scalar quark type is important. Due to quark universality the limits on $|\lambda'_{1jk}|$ coincide for each of the two cases of mass relation.

The R-parity breaking Yukawa couplings are mainly restricted by virtual exchange of right-handed scalar down-type quarks in the u -channel which couple in the same way as S_0 leptoquarks with $|g_L|$. Their amplitudes interfere with the equal-helicity amplitude (LL) of the Standard Model.

The amplitudes for left-handed scalar up-type quark exchange in the t -channel are the same as for $\tilde{S}_{1/2}$ leptoquark exchange and interfere with the opposite-helicity amplitude (LR). The latter is suppressed in comparison to (LL). The results on $|\lambda'_{1jk}|$ can be taken from Figure 3 considering $S_0(L)$ and $\tilde{S}_{1/2}$. Assuming scalar up-type and down-type quark masses to be equal and both contributing to the hadronic cross section yields similar limits as for the case $m_{\tilde{U}} \gg m_{\tilde{D}}$.

TeV Strings

Recently, it has been realized that in a string theory of quantum gravity [8, 9] there are new phenomenological consequences. For instance, massive string mode oscillations can lead to contact interactions, which may have stronger effects than those caused by the virtual exchange of gravitons.

The effects of TeV scale strings on Bhabha scattering are computed [9] by multiplying the leading-order scattering amplitudes by a common form factor, which depends on the string scale M_S and the Mandelstam variables s and t . The Standard Model cross section for Bhabha scattering is modified as follows:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} = \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} \right)_{SM} \left| \frac{\Gamma(1 - \frac{s}{M_S^2})\Gamma(1 - \frac{t}{M_S^2})}{\Gamma(1 - \frac{s}{M_S^2} - \frac{t}{M_S^2})} \right|^2, \quad (3)$$

where Γ is the gamma function.

The differential cross sections measured at 183 and 189 GeV are used to derive a lower limit on the string scale M_S of 0.49 TeV. The result of the analysis at 189 GeV is depicted in Figure 6.

Form Factors and Fermion Sizes

In the Standard Model the fermions and the gauge bosons are considered to be pointlike. If this is not the case, form factors or anomalous magnetic dipole moments of the fermions could be observed [30].

The fermion-pair measurements above the Z pole are analysed for such effects. The Standard Model cross sections for the reactions $e^+e^- \rightarrow f\bar{f}$ are modified as follows:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dq^2} = \left(\frac{d\sigma}{dq^2} \right)_{SM} F_e^2(q^2)F_f^2(q^2), \quad (4)$$

where q^2 is the Mandelstam variable s or t for s - or t -channel exchange, and the form factors of the initial and final state fermions are denoted as F_e and F_f , respectively. They are parametrized by a Dirac form factor:

$$F(q^2) = 1 + \frac{1}{6}q^2R^2, \quad (5)$$

where R is the radius of the fermion.

The upper limits on the fermion radii obtained from our data are shown in Table 5. They are derived with the assumption $F_e = F_f$. For the $\mu^+\mu^-$, $\tau^+\tau^-$ and $q\bar{q}$ final states the limits given in Table 5 will increase by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$ under the most conservative assumption that the electron is pointlike ($F_e \equiv 1$). The expected effects on the differential cross section for the e^+e^- final state are shown in Figure 6.

The limits for quarks derived in this paper are more stringent than similar limits from high energy analyses of interactions involving quarks and electrons by the H1 collaboration [22] in deep inelastic scattering, and by the CDF collaboration [23] from study of the Drell-Yan process.

Limits on lepton radii have been extracted from the high precision low energy measurements of the magnetic dipole moment ($g - 2$) of the electron and the muon [30,31]. In the case where the deviations from the Standard Model of the magnetic dipole moments of the leptons depend linearly on their mass, the measurements of dipole moments can be interpreted as giving much more stringent limits. By contrast, in the case where the deviations depend quadratically on the masses, our limit on the electron size is one order of magnitude lower, and our limit on the muon size is similar to the limits derived from ($g - 2$) measurements.

Conclusions

The measurements of fermion-pair cross sections and forward-backward asymmetries, performed with the L3 detector at centre-of-mass energies between 130 GeV and 189 GeV, are used to search for effects of new physics phenomena. No hint of manifestations of physics beyond the Standard Model is found.

The sensitivity of the searches, performed at energies above the Z pole, has improved substantially compared to our previous publications. Limits on the energy scale Λ of four-fermion contact interactions in the range 3.8 – 14.4 TeV for leptons, and in the range 2.8 – 6.1 TeV for quarks are obtained. The effects of the exchange of leptoquarks or R-parity violating scalar quarks and scalar neutrinos are studied. In both cases, upper limits on the coupling constants, $|g_L|$ and $|g_R|$, or $|\lambda'|$ and $|\lambda|$ are determined as a function of the particle masses. Lower limits on the mass of leptoquarks between 55 GeV and 560 GeV, depending on the leptoquark type, are derived assuming $g = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha}$.

In addition, new searches are performed for the effects of TeV strings, predicted in quantum gravity models, and a lower limit on the string scale M_S of 0.49 TeV is set. From an analysis of form factors, upper limits on the size of the different leptons and quarks in the range (2.2 – 4.0) 10^{-19} m are derived.

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Model	LL	RR	LR	RL	VV	AA	V0	A0	LL-RR
η_{LL}	± 1	0	0	0	± 1	± 1	± 1	0	± 1
η_{RR}	0	± 1	0	0	± 1	± 1	± 1	0	∓ 1
η_{LR}	0	0	± 1	0	± 1	∓ 1	0	± 1	0
η_{RL}	0	0	0	± 1	± 1	∓ 1	0	± 1	0

Table 1: Models of contact interaction considered. The parameters η_{ij} ($i, j = L, R$) define to which helicity amplitudes the contact interactions contribute.

Model	e^+e^-		$\mu^+\mu^-$		$\tau^+\tau^-$		$\ell^+\ell^-$	
	Λ_-	Λ_+	Λ_-	Λ_+	Λ_-	Λ_+	Λ_-	Λ_+
LL	4.9	4.3	3.8	8.5	4.7	5.4	5.2	9.0
RR	4.9	4.3	3.6	8.1	4.4	5.1	5.1	8.7
LR	5.8	5.1	2.0	6.5	1.8	3.7	6.4	6.3
RL	5.8	5.1	2.0	6.5	1.8	3.7	6.4	6.3
VV	10.1	9.6	6.5	14.4	9.5	7.6	10.3	14.4
AA	5.4	6.8	6.7	9.7	5.5	8.6	7.1	12.4
V0	6.8	6.3	5.4	11.7	6.6	7.3	7.3	12.5
A0	8.0	7.5	2.1	9.0	1.9	5.0	9.0	8.9
LL-RR	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.4	2.9	3.3	3.8	4.6

Table 2: The one-sided 95% confidence level lower limits on the parameter Λ of contact interaction derived from fits to lepton-pair cross sections and asymmetries. The limits Λ_+ and Λ_- given in TeV correspond to the upper and lower signs of the parameters η_{ij} in Table 1.

Model	$q\bar{q}$		$u\bar{u}$		$d\bar{d}$		$f\bar{f}$	
	Λ_-	Λ_+	Λ_-	Λ_+	Λ_-	Λ_+	Λ_-	Λ_+
LL	2.8	4.2	4.1	7.0	6.5	3.9	5.5	8.3
RR	3.8	3.1	3.6	1.5	1.8	2.9	4.9	9.0
LR	3.5	3.3	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.5	5.9	6.1
RL	4.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.8	1.8	6.0	7.9
VV	5.5	4.2	5.8	9.8	2.2	4.6	9.8	15.0
AA	3.8	6.1	5.0	7.4	7.5	5.1	7.6	11.3
V0	3.7	4.4	5.2	9.2	7.7	4.7	7.2	12.1
A0	5.2	3.1	3.2	2.3	2.9	2.5	8.3	10.0
LL-RR	3.2	5.1	3.2	2.3	2.1	3.6	3.5	5.5

Table 3: The one-sided 95% confidence level lower limits on the parameter Λ of contact interaction derived from fits to hadron cross sections, and for all fermions combined. The limits Λ_+ and Λ_- given in TeV correspond to the upper and lower signs of the parameters η_{ij} in Table 1.

LQ type	$m_{\text{LQ}}[\text{GeV}]$	LQ type	$m_{\text{LQ}}[\text{GeV}]$
$S_0(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{eu}$	390	$V_{1/2}(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{ed}$	190
$S_0(\text{R}) \rightarrow \text{eu}$	300	$V_{1/2}(\text{R}) \rightarrow \text{eu, ed}$	170
$\tilde{S}_0(\text{R}) \rightarrow \text{ed}$	80	$\tilde{V}_{1/2}(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{eu}$	140
$S_1(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{eu, ed}$	200	$V_0(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{e}\bar{\text{d}}$	560
$S_{1/2}(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{e}\bar{\text{u}}$	55	$V_0(\text{R}) \rightarrow \text{e}\bar{\text{d}}$	130
$S_{1/2}(\text{R}) \rightarrow \text{e}\bar{\text{u}}, \text{e}\bar{\text{d}}$	110	$\tilde{V}_0(\text{R}) \rightarrow \text{e}\bar{\text{u}}$	280
$\tilde{S}_{1/2}(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{e}\bar{\text{d}}$	-	$V_1(\text{L}) \rightarrow \text{e}\bar{\text{u}}, \text{e}\bar{\text{d}}$	380

Table 4: Lower limits on the mass of leptoquarks at 95% confidence level derived from hadronic cross section measurements assuming $g = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha}$.

Channel	R [m]
e^+e^-	$3.1 \cdot 10^{-19}$
$\mu^+\mu^-$	$2.4 \cdot 10^{-19}$
$\tau^+\tau^-$	$4.0 \cdot 10^{-19}$
$\ell^+\ell^-$	$2.2 \cdot 10^{-19}$
$\text{q}\bar{\text{q}}$	$3.0 \cdot 10^{-19}$

Table 5: Upper limits on the fermion radii at 95 % confidence level for electrons, muons, taus, all leptons combined, and for quarks.

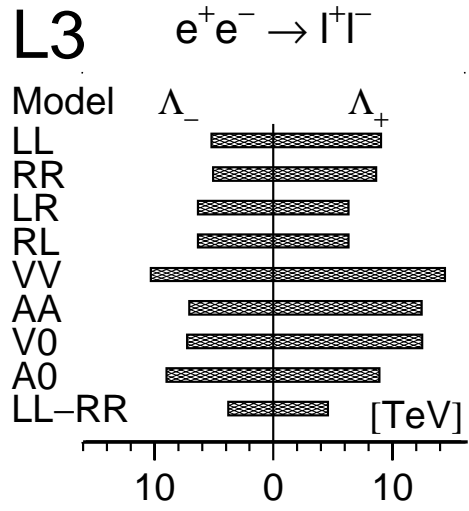
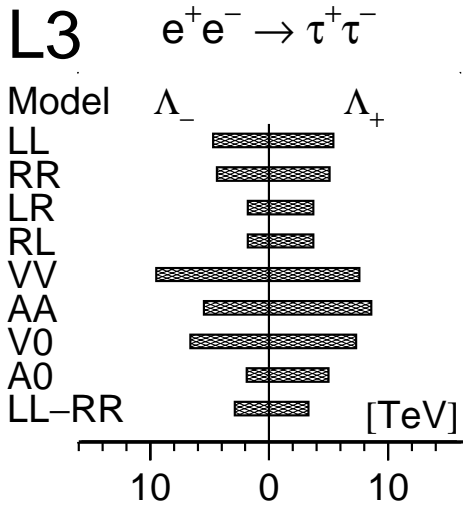
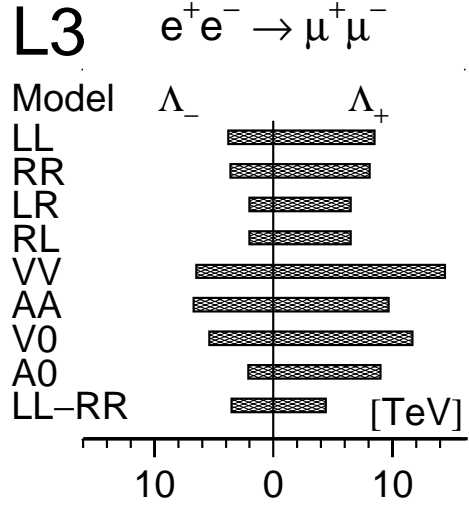
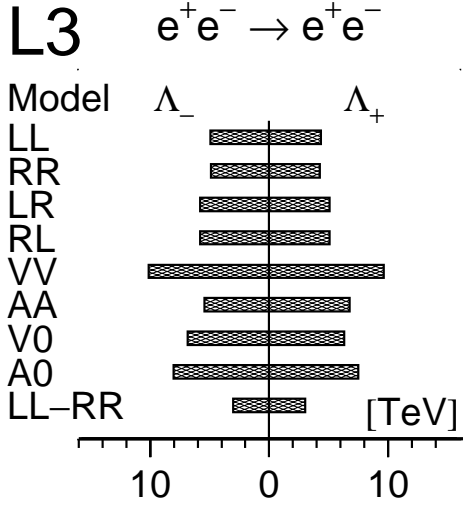


Figure 1: One-sided 95% confidence level lower limits on the scales Λ_+ and Λ_- for contact interactions in leptonic channels. The limits correspond to the values given in Table 2.

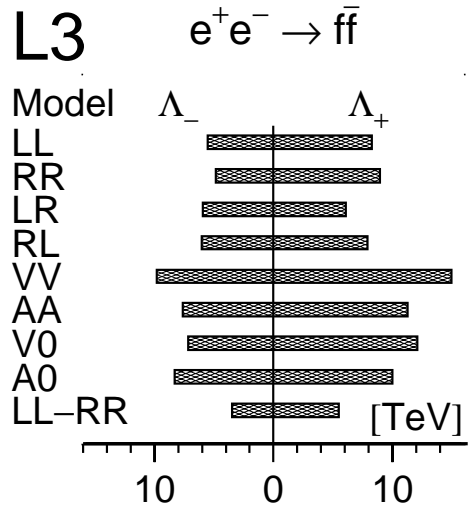
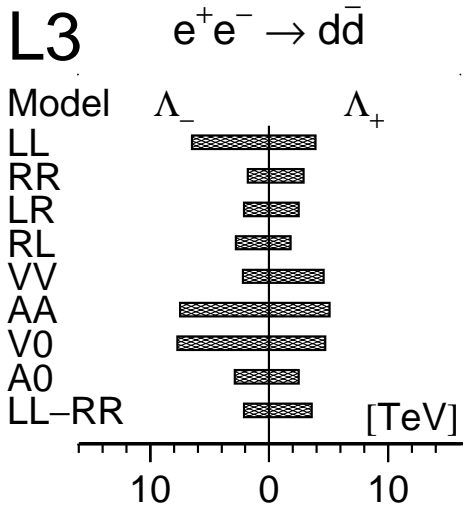
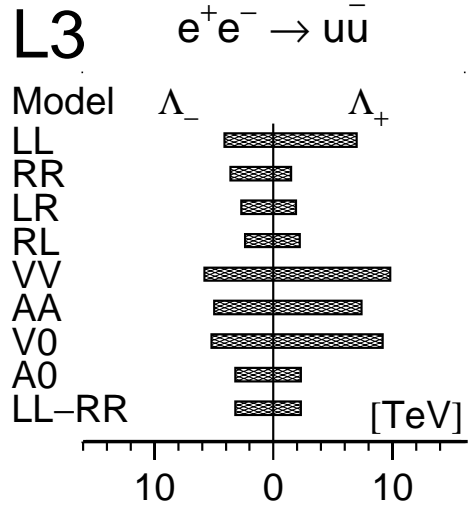
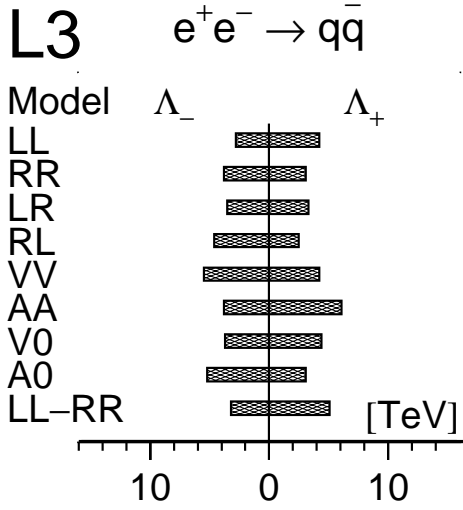


Figure 2: One-sided 95% confidence level lower limits on the scales Λ_+ and Λ_- for contact interactions in hadronic channels and in all channels combined. The limits correspond to the values given in Table 3.

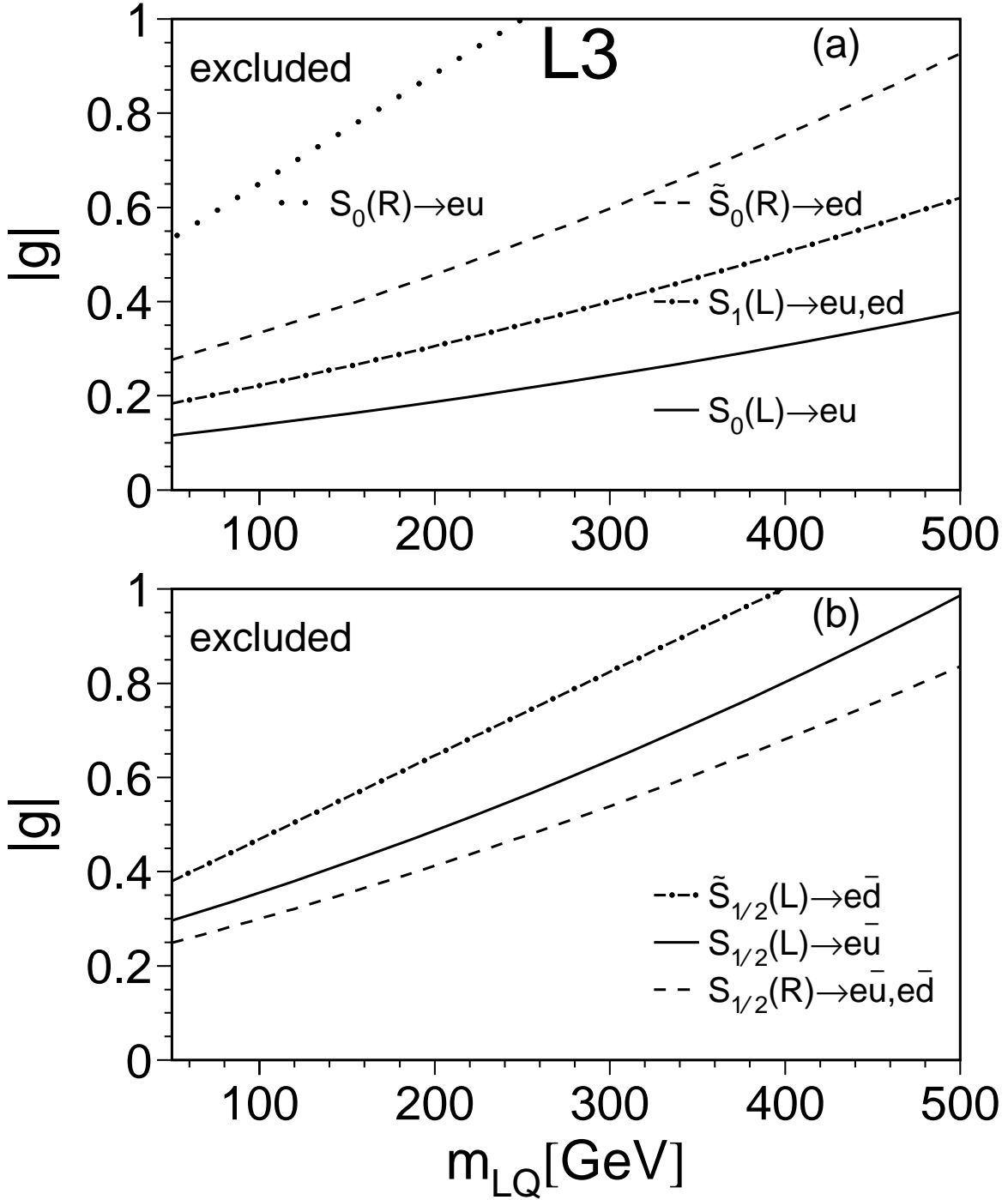


Figure 3: The 95% confidence level upper limits on $|g_L|$ or $|g_R|$ as a function of m_{LQ} for various scalar leptoquarks derived from hadronic final state cross sections. Limits are shown for fermion number $F=2$ (a) and for $F=0$ (b). Bounds on the R-parity violating couplings $|\lambda'_{1jk}|$ for the exchange of scalar down-type quarks in the u -channel and scalar up-type quarks in the t -channel correspond to limits on $|g_L|$ for the $S_0(L)$ and $\tilde{S}_{1/2}$ leptoquark exchange, respectively.

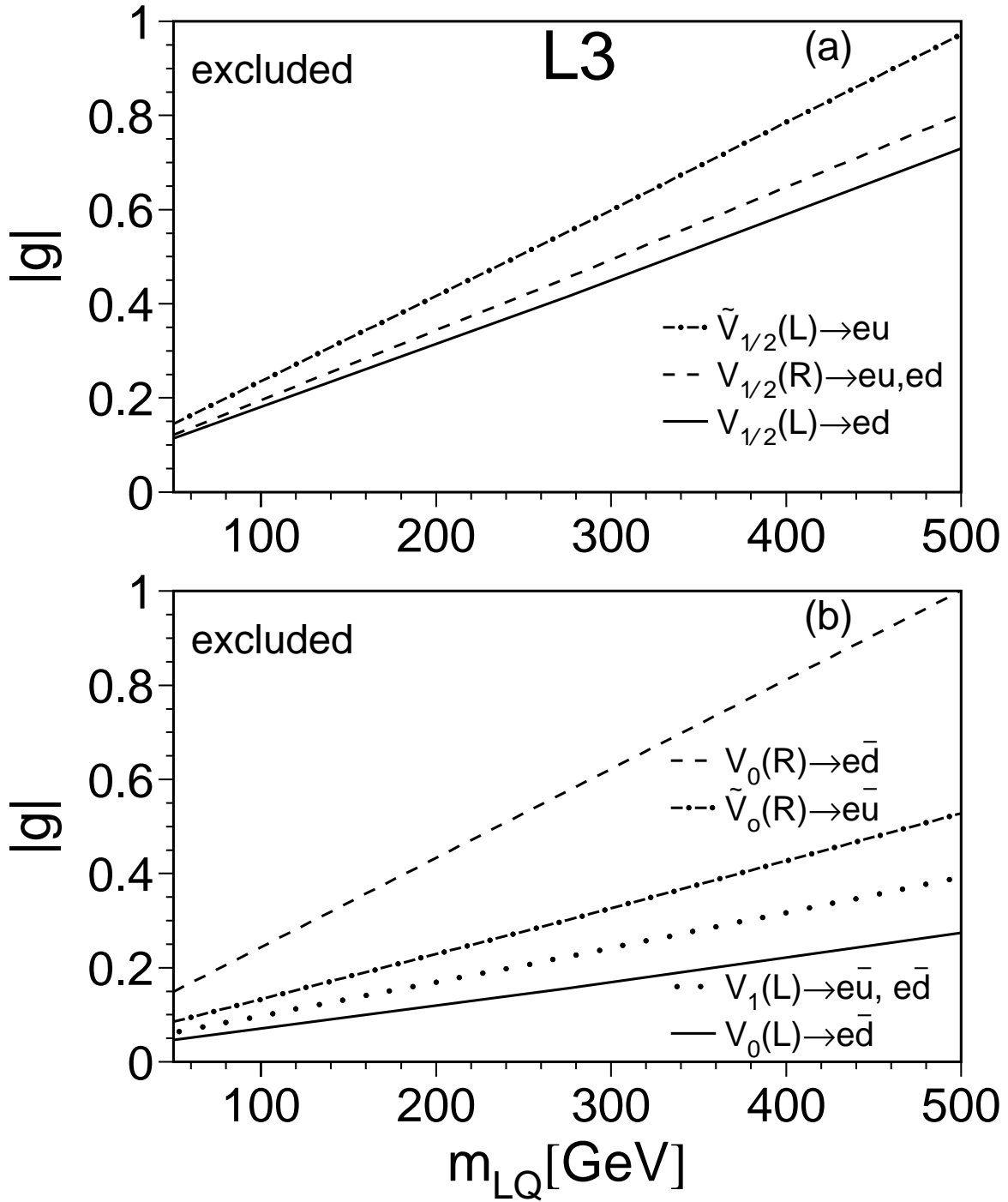


Figure 4: The 95% confidence level upper limits on $|g_L|$ or $|g_R|$ as a function of m_{LQ} for various vector leptoquarks derived from hadronic cross sections. Limits are shown for fermion number $F=2$ (a) and for $F=0$ (b).

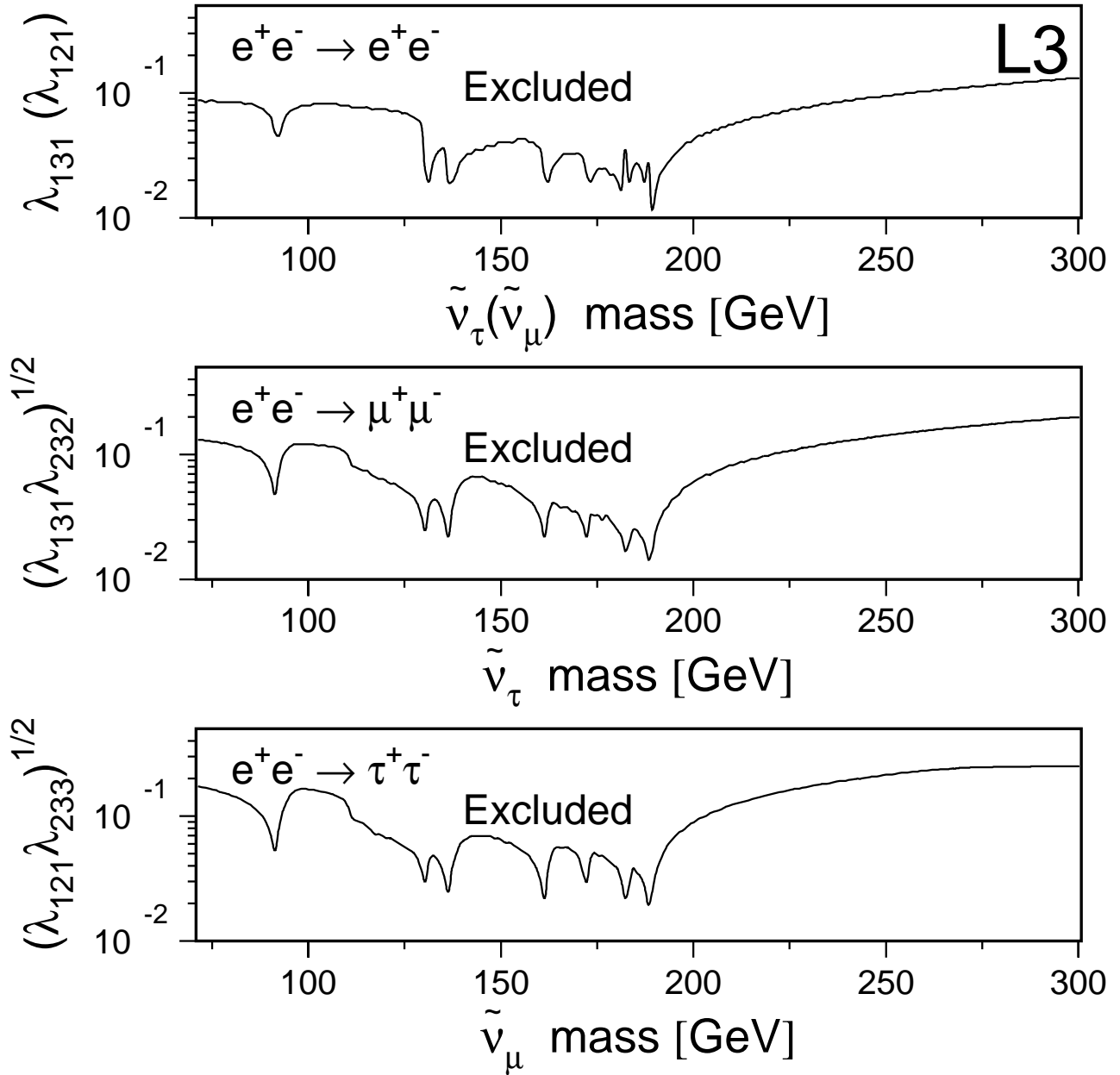


Figure 5: Upper limits at 95% confidence level on the coupling strengths λ_{ijk} of scalar leptons to leptons as a function of the scalar neutrino mass, derived from measurements of lepton-pair production e^+e^- , $\mu^+\mu^-$ and $\tau^+\tau^-$.

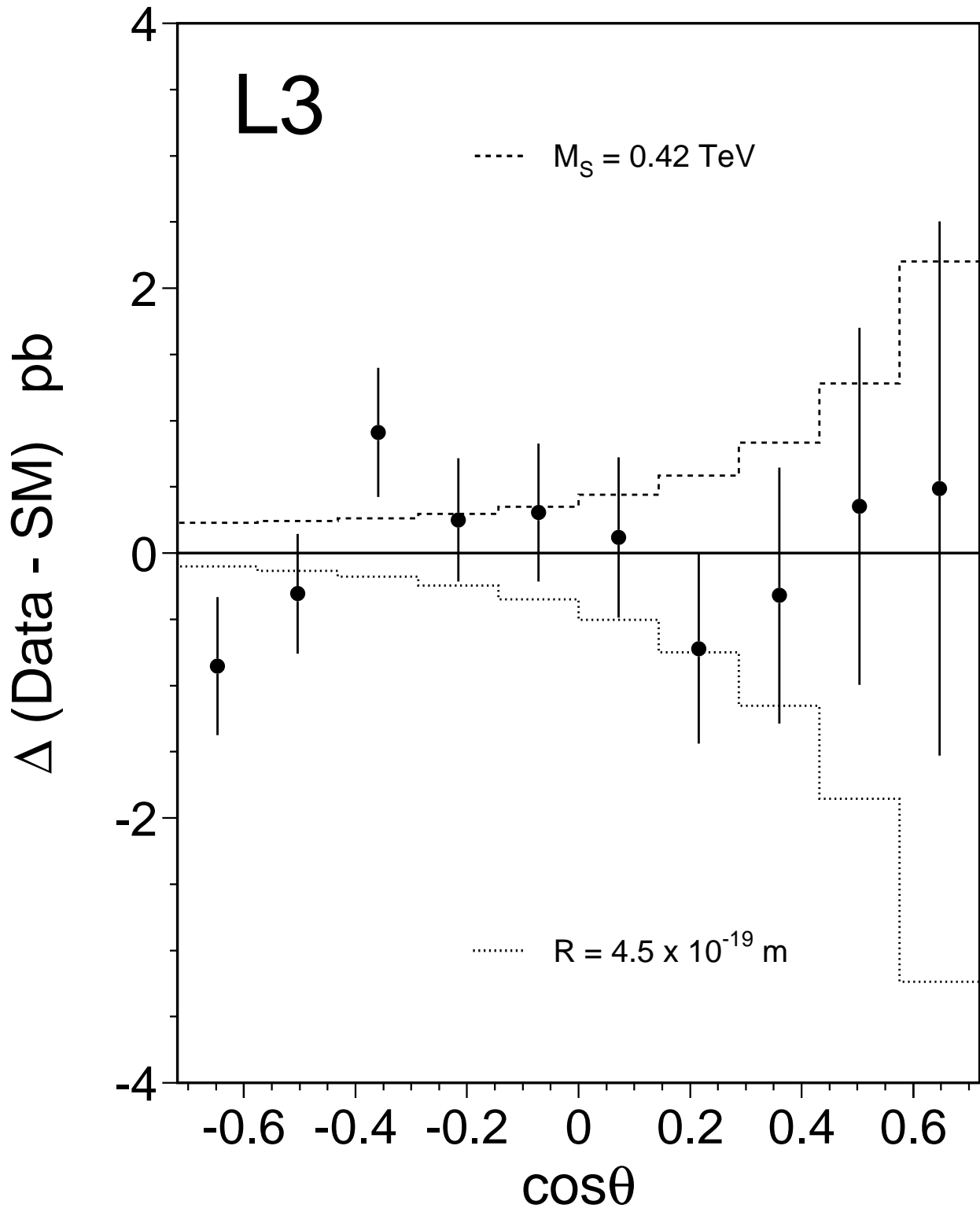


Figure 6: Deviations of the measured differential cross section for Bhabha scattering at $\sqrt{s} = 189$ GeV from the Standard Model prediction. The effects expected in string models and for non-zero electron size are also shown.