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Search for excited leptons in e^+e^- interactions at $\sqrt{s} = 192\text{--}202$ GeV

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Abstract

Excited leptons are searched for using the L3 detector at LEP. The data collected at centre-of-mass energies in the range from 192 up to 202 GeV correspond to a total luminosity of 233 pb^{-1} . No evidence of either pair production of excited leptons, nor of single production is found. From the searches for pair produced excited leptons, lower mass limits close to the kinematic limit are set. From the searches for singly produced excited leptons, upper limits on their couplings are derived in the mass range up to 200 GeV. © 2001 Published by Elsevier Science B.V.

1. Introduction

Several fundamental aspects of the Standard Model [1], such as the number of families and the fermion masses could be explained naturally in composite models where leptons and quarks have substructure [2–4]. The existence of excited leptons is a typical consequence of these models.

The excited leptons e^* , μ^* , τ^* , ν_e^* , ν_μ^* and ν_τ^* were extensively searched for at the LEP [5,6] e^+e^- collider. First generation excited leptons were also searched for at the HERA [7] ep collider. The increase of the LEP centre-of-mass energy, \sqrt{s} , up to 202 GeV in 1999 extends the range of potential discovery of new heavy particles.

The interactions of excited leptons are studied within a model [3] that assumes spin 1/2, and isospin

doublets with left and right handed components:

$$L^* = \begin{pmatrix} \nu^* \\ \ell^* \end{pmatrix}_L + \begin{pmatrix} \nu^* \\ \ell^* \end{pmatrix}_R,$$

with $\ell = e, \mu, \tau$ and $\nu = \nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$. Excited leptons are expected to decay into their ground states by radiating a photon ($\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\gamma$, $\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma$), via charged-current decay ($\ell^* \rightarrow \nu W$, $\nu^* \rightarrow \ell W$) or via weak neutral-current decay ($\ell^* \rightarrow \ell Z$, $\nu^* \rightarrow \nu Z$).

At e^+e^- colliders, excited leptons can be produced either in pairs ($e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell^*\ell^*$, $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu^*\nu^*$) or singly ($e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell\ell^*$, $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu\nu^*$). In pair production, the coupling of the excited leptons to the gauge bosons is described by the effective Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_{L^*L^*} = \bar{L}^* \gamma^\mu \left(g \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \vec{W}_\mu + g' Y B_\mu \right) L^*.$$

Here γ^μ are the Dirac matrices, g and g' are the Standard Model SU(2) and U(1) coupling constants, $\vec{\tau}$ denotes the Pauli matrices, $Y = -1/2$ is the hypercharge, and \vec{W} and B are the gauge fields associated with the SU(2), and U(1) groups, respectively. The couplings of excited leptons to the gauge bosons are fixed by their quantum numbers, and thus the cross section for pair production depends only on the mass of the excited lepton and the centre-of-mass energy.

The single production of excited leptons as well as their decay are described by means of an effective Lagrangian of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{L^*L} &= \frac{1}{\Lambda} \bar{L}^* \sigma^{\mu\nu} \left(g f \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \partial_\mu \vec{W}_\nu + g' f' Y \partial_\mu B_\nu \right) \\ &\times \frac{1 - \gamma^5}{2} L + \text{h.c.}, \end{aligned}$$

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Table 1
Predicted branching ratios for charged and neutral excited lepton decays, for different choices of masses and couplings

Decay channel	Branching ratios			
	$M = 95 \text{ GeV}$		$M = 190 \text{ GeV}$	
	$f = f'$	$f = -f'$	$f = f'$	$f = -f'$
$\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\gamma$	81%	–	36%	–
$\ell^* \rightarrow \nu W$	19%	93%	55%	63%
$\ell^* \rightarrow \ell Z$	0%	7%	9%	37%
$\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma$	–	81%	–	36%
$\nu^* \rightarrow \ell W$	93%	19%	63%	55%
$\nu^* \rightarrow \nu Z$	7%	0%	37%	9%

where $\sigma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2}[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu]$, Λ is the scale of new physics and f and f' are the couplings associated with SU(2) and U(1), respectively. The production rate of single excited leptons depends on their mass, \sqrt{s} , f/Λ and f'/Λ . For a given mass and centre-of-mass energy, the polar angle distribution is determined by the relative value of the couplings f and f' . The decay fractions of excited leptons into standard leptons plus gauge bosons are also determined by the relative value of f and f' [4]. Table 1 shows the branching ratios for two choices of f and f' and for different excited lepton masses.

Pair production searches are sensitive to excited leptons of mass up to values close to the kinematic limit, i.e., the beam energy, E_{beam} . Searches for single production extend the sensitivity to the mass range above the beam energy up to the centre-of-mass energy.

In the case of single production of excited electrons, the polar angle distribution depends critically on the relative values of f and f' . If $f = f'$, the t -channel photon exchange gives a large contribution at low polar angle with the electron escaping through the beam pipe. If $f = -f'$, the $e^*e\gamma$ vertex is not allowed, and only the Z mediated s - and t -channels contribute, giving rise to events with an electron visible in the detector. Thus, the efficiency for e^* selection is calculated for both scenarios: $f = f'$ and $f = -f'$. For all other flavours of excited leptons, the detection efficiency depends only slightly on the coupling assumption.

2. Data sample and event simulation

The data sample analysed was collected in 1999 with the L3 detector [8] at four different centre-of-mass energies, 191.6 GeV, 195.5 GeV, 199.5 GeV and 201.7 GeV, with corresponding integrated luminosities of 29.7 pb^{-1} , 83.7 pb^{-1} , 82.8 pb^{-1} and 37.0 pb^{-1} .

Standard Model processes are simulated by different Monte Carlo programs. Radiative Bhabha events are generated using BHWIDE [9] and TEEGG [10]. For other radiative dilepton events, $\mu\mu\gamma$, $\tau\tau\gamma$ and $\nu\nu\gamma$, the KORALZ [11] generator is used. KK2F [12] is used for $q\bar{q}(\gamma)$ production. The GGG [13] Monte Carlo is used for final states with only photons. Four-fermion processes are generated with EXCALIBUR [14] for $q\bar{q}e\nu$, $llll$ and $ll\nu\nu$ final states. PYTHIA [15] is used for final states coming from Z pair and Zee production not covered with EXCALIBUR. Further final states from W pair production are modelled with KORALW [16]. The production of hadrons in two-photon interactions is described by PHOJET [17] while DIAG36 [18] is used to model lepton production.

Several samples for different flavours and masses of excited leptons are generated in order to optimise the selections and estimate the efficiencies. Pair produced excited leptons are generated with a mass of 95 GeV which is close to the expected limits. In the case of single production, excited leptons with masses 100, 150 and 195 GeV are generated, and a linear interpolation is used to estimate the selection efficiency for masses

in the range from 90 to 200 GeV. The expected differential cross sections [3] and decay modes [4] are modelled. Initial state radiation is not implemented in the generation, but is taken into account in cross section calculations.

The L3 detector response is simulated for all Monte Carlo samples using the GEANT program [19], which takes into account the effects of energy loss, multiple scattering and showering in the detector. Time dependent inefficiencies, as monitored during the data taking period, are reproduced in these simulations.

3. Selection strategy

The selection of candidate events for excited lepton production is performed with criteria similar to those used at $\sqrt{s} = 189$ GeV [5], for the most significant experimental signatures. These criteria are modified to follow the evolution of the signal topology, that manifests a larger boost of the decay particles with the higher \sqrt{s} . In addition, some new selections are performed to complement the search in decay channels which were not investigated previously. All selections are based on the identification of the decay products of the excited leptons.

Photons and electrons are identified as clusters with energy above 1 GeV in the BGO electromagnetic calorimeter. Photons must be isolated whereas electrons must be associated to a charged track. In order to be well inside the angular acceptance of the central tracking chamber, the polar angle of electrons and photons must satisfy $|\cos\theta| < 0.95$.

Muons are reconstructed either from tracks in the muon spectrometer pointing to the interaction vertex and in time with the event, or via energy depositions in the calorimeters consistent with a minimum ionising particle.

Tau leptons are reconstructed from low multiplicity hadronic jets, or from identified electrons or muons. The neutrino from the tau decay carries away part of the energy, giving rise to events with missing energy along the tau direction. In some selections where a kinematic fit is applied, this signature is imposed by requiring the fitted energy of the tau to be greater than the visible energy of the corresponding jet or lepton.

To reduce the background from the radiative return to the Z and from two-photon interactions, the missing

momentum is required to point away from the beam axis in most of the selections.

The discovery potential is maximised for the topologies in which it is possible to reconstruct the invariant mass of the excited leptons. Pair production and single production of excited leptons are discussed below.

4. Pair production

The search for pair produced excited leptons is optimised for excited leptons of masses close to the kinematic limit. For excited leptons of mass up to 100 GeV, the neutral-current decay branching ratio is always below 15%, and depends on the mass and the relative value of f and f' . Thus, only the radiative and the charged-current decays are considered. The production cross section can reach a few pb, depending on the excited lepton mass. For example at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV and an excited lepton mass of 95 GeV, the cross section for pair production is 1.1 pb for ℓ^* and 0.7 pb for ν^* .

Table 2 lists the selections and summarises the efficiencies and the number of events found in data and expected from Standard Model background processes. The relative importance of the selections is given by the coupling assumption.

4.1. Radiative decays

The radiative decays $\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\gamma$ and $\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma$ provide the maximum sensitivity in the $f = f'$ and the $f = -f'$ scenarios respectively. Event selection for the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell^*\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma\gamma$ process requires low multiplicity events with two photons and two same flavour charged leptons. To reduce the background from radiative dilepton production, at least one of the photons is required to lie in the central region of the detector ($|\cos\theta_\gamma| < 0.75$, where θ_γ is the photon polar angle). After a kinematic fit, which imposes energy and momentum conservation, the difference of the lepton–photon invariant masses is required to be smaller than 10 GeV and their sum greater than 100 GeV.

The selection of the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma\gamma$ channel requires two photons in the central region of the detector with energies E_γ in the range $0.2 < E_\gamma/E_{\text{beam}} < 0.8$. There should be no tracks in the central tracker nor in the muon spectrometer, and the en-

Table 2

Number of candidates N_D , number of background events N_B , and average signal efficiencies ϵ , in the pair production (upper part) and the single production (lower part) searches

	Charged excited leptons				Excited neutrinos			
	Signal	N_D	N_B	ϵ	Signal	N_D	N_B	ϵ
Pair production	$e^*e^* \rightarrow ee\gamma\gamma$	1	0.8	46%	$\nu_e^*\nu_e^* \rightarrow eeWW$	0	0.2	19%
	$\mu^*\mu^* \rightarrow \mu\mu\gamma\gamma$	1	0.5	44%	$\nu_\mu^*\nu_\mu^* \rightarrow \mu\mu WW$	0	0.7	22%
	$\tau^*\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\tau\gamma\gamma$	0	0.2	43%	$\nu_\tau^*\nu_\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\tau WW$	2978	2993	69%
	$\ell^*\ell^* \rightarrow \nu\nu WW$	2978	2993	65%	$\nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma\gamma$	2	1.9	45%
	$e^*e^* \rightarrow e\gamma\nu W$	13	11	57%	$\nu_e^*\nu_e^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma eW$	18	12	38%
	$\mu^*\mu^* \rightarrow \mu\gamma\nu W$	5	8	43%	$\nu_\mu^*\nu_\mu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma\mu W$	18	12	28%
	$\tau^*\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\gamma\nu W$	56	45	37%	$\nu_\tau^*\nu_\tau^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma\tau W$	18	12	19%
Single production	$ee^* \rightarrow ee\gamma$	682	714	61%	$\nu\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma$	230	232	64%
	$\mu\mu^* \rightarrow \mu\mu\gamma$	72	67	61%		230	232	64%
	$\tau\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\tau\gamma$	50	69	42%		230	232	64%
	$ee^* \rightarrow e\nu_e W$	728	764	67%	$\nu_e\nu_e^* \rightarrow \nu_{ee}W$	728	764	65%
	$\mu\mu^* \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu W$	684	694	60%	$\nu_\mu\nu_\mu^* \rightarrow \nu_\mu\mu W$	684	694	65%
	$\tau\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\nu_\tau W$	1365	1377	55%	$\nu_\tau\nu_\tau^* \rightarrow \nu_\tau\tau W$	1365	1377	56%
	$ee^* \rightarrow eeZ$	663	692	58%	$\nu\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\nu Z$	350	357	29%
	$\mu\mu^* \rightarrow \mu\mu Z$	608	617	52%		350	357	29%
	$\tau\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\tau Z$	1307	1308	34%		350	357	29%

ergy of any other calorimetric cluster should be less than 5 GeV. The background from the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$ process is efficiently reduced by requiring the photon acoplanarity to be greater than 10° .

4.2. Charged-current decays

The charged-current decays $\ell^* \rightarrow \nu W$ and $\nu^* \rightarrow \ell W$ are dominant in the $f = -f'$ and the $f = f'$ scenarios, respectively. Final states from $e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell^*\ell^* \rightarrow \nu\nu WW$ are experimentally similar to Standard Model W pair production. To achieve a high signal efficiency, pair production of excited leptons is searched for as an enhancement of the W pair-like event rate. A combination of four selections, named qqqq, qq ν , qq $\mu\nu$ and qq $\tau\nu$, selects such events.

For the qqqq selection, events with at least three hadronic jets and visible energy greater than 140 GeV are selected. For at least one pair of jets, their invariant mass must be in the range between 50 GeV and 110 GeV, the recoiling mass against these two jets must be greater than 50 GeV and the sum of invariant plus recoil masses must be greater than 120 GeV. Fig. 1(a) shows the sum of invariant and recoil masses for this pair of jets. The signal distribution corresponds to the $f = -f'$ coupling assumption.

For the qq $\ell\nu$ selections, high multiplicity events with missing momentum greater than 20 GeV, visible energy below $0.8\sqrt{s}$ and an isolated lepton are retained. The invariant mass of the hadronic system must be compatible with the W mass. In the qq $\tau\nu$ selection, the qq $\bar{q}(\gamma)$ background is further reduced by

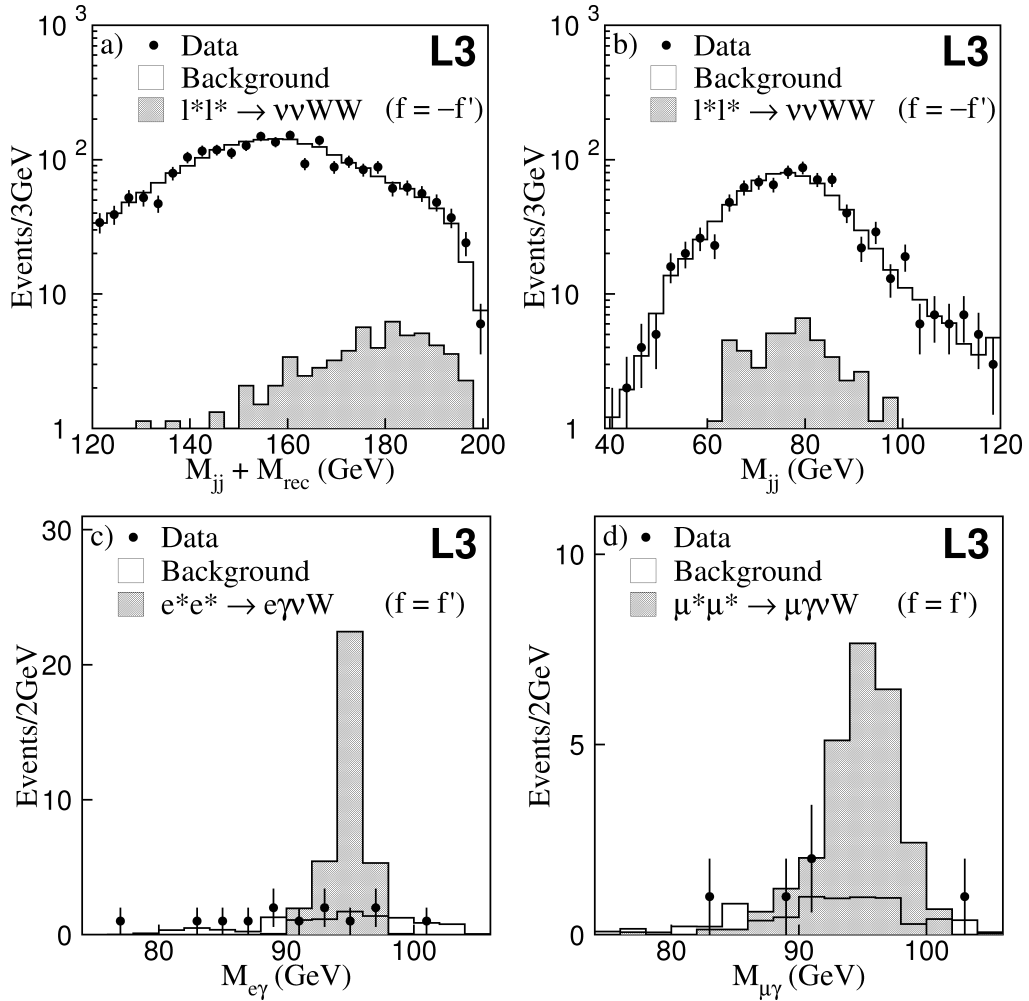


Fig. 1. Distributions of (a) the sum of invariant, M_{jj} , and recoil mass, M_{rec} , for two jets in the $qqqq$ selection; (b) the hadronic invariant mass, M_{jj} , in the $qq\ell\nu$ selection; (c) the electron photon invariant mass in the $e\gamma\nu W$ selection and (d) the muon photon invariant mass in the $\mu\gamma\nu W$ selection. The expected signal for an excited lepton with a mass of 95 GeV is shown together with data and Standard Model background; its luminosity averaged cross section is 0.93 pb.

requiring the missing momentum along the longitudinal direction to be smaller than 55 GeV, and rejecting events with high energy photons. Fig. 1(b) shows the hadronic invariant mass for the $qq\ell\nu$ selected events.

The experimental signatures of the process $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \ell\ell WW$ are also similar to Standard Model W pair production. Thus, the $qqqq$ and $qq\ell\nu$ selections described above are used to investigate them. Moreover, in the $eeWW$ and $\mu\mu WW$ channels, the final state leptons may be detected, providing a very clean

signature. Therefore, for these channels the signal sensitivity is enhanced by requiring two additional isolated electrons or muons in the event, with energy in the range between 3 GeV and 25 GeV.

4.3. Mixed decays

The processes $e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell^*\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\gamma\nu W$ and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma\ell W$ give rise to events with an energetic photon, a lepton, and the decay products of a W bo-

son. Both the hadronic and the leptonic decays of the W are considered. The selected events must contain an energetic photon at high polar angle. The additional criteria for each final state are discussed below.

In the $e^*e^* \rightarrow e\gamma\nu W$ and $\mu^*\mu^* \rightarrow \mu\gamma\nu W$ channels, an energetic electron or muon is required. Moreover, the sum of the invariant and recoil masses of the lepton–photon pair, i.e., the masses of the ℓ^* candidates, must be greater than 160 GeV and their difference smaller than 10 GeV in the electron case and 20 GeV in the muon case. Fig. 1(c) and (d) show the $e\gamma$ and $\mu\gamma$ invariant masses for the selected events. For the signal distributions, $f = f'$ is assumed to set the branching ratios.

For the $\tau^*\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\gamma\nu W$ and $\nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma\ell W$ channels, a low multiplicity jet, an electron or a muon must be present. In high multiplicity events, the signature of a W boson is imposed by requiring the invariant mass of the hadronic system to be in the range from 60 GeV to 100 GeV, whereas low multiplicity events must contain only the photon and no more than two leptons. For the $\tau^*\tau^* \rightarrow \tau\gamma\nu W$ channel, the invariant mass and the energy of the νW system correspond to the τ^* mass and the beam energy, respectively. This signature is used by requiring the recoil mass of the tau-photon system to exceed 80 GeV, and the visible energy of the rest of the event to be smaller than 120 GeV. For the $\nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma\ell W$ channel, after excluding the photon, the visible energy of the rest of the event must be smaller than 120 GeV and 70 GeV for the hadronic and leptonic decays of the W, respectively.

5. Single production

The search for singly produced excited leptons complements the search for pair production in the mass range from E_{beam} to \sqrt{s} . The selections are optimised to cover this wide range of masses with high efficiency. The radiative decays of excited leptons, as well as the charged-current decays and the neutral-current decays are investigated, as described below. Both the hadronic and the leptonic decays of W and Z bosons are considered.

Table 2 lists the selections and summarises the efficiencies and the number of events found in data and expected from Standard Model background processes.

5.1. Radiative decays

The event selection for $e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma$ identifies final states with two leptons and one photon with energy greater than 20 GeV. The background from radiative dilepton production is reduced by requiring the photon to be in the central region of the detector, $|\cos\theta_\gamma| < 0.75$. After a kinematic fit, at least one of the two possible $\ell\gamma$ invariant masses must be greater than 70 GeV. Events with just an identified electron and a photon, with invariant mass above 70 GeV, are also accepted for the excited electron selection. Thus, a high signal efficiency is kept for the signal events originating from the t -channel photon exchange where one electron escapes along the beam pipe. Fig. 2(a)–(c) show all combinations of lepton–photon invariant masses above 90 GeV.

Final states from $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma$ are selected by requiring a single photon with energy greater than $0.15\sqrt{s}$ at high polar angle $|\cos\theta_\gamma| < 0.75$. Neither tracks in the tracking chamber, nor in the muon spectrometer should be present. Fig. 2(d) shows the distribution of the normalised photon energy.

5.2. Charged-current decays

The experimental signatures of $e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\nu W$ and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\ell W$ are similar to W pair production. For the final states containing a pair of hadronic jets from the W decay, the $qq\ell\nu$ selections described above are applied. However, in order to be sensitive to charged excited leptons with mass close to the W mass, and to excited neutrinos with mass close to \sqrt{s} , where the final state neutrino carries low momentum, no cuts on the missing momentum or visible energy are applied. Fig. 3(a)–(c) show the recoil mass against the identified lepton in the $qqe\nu$, $qq\mu\nu$ and $qq\tau\nu$ selections, indicating the mass of the ℓ^* candidates. Fig. 3(d)–(f) show the event invariant mass for the $qqe\nu$, $qq\mu\nu$ and $qq\tau\nu$ selected events, indicating the mass of the ν^* candidates.

For the cases in which the final state lepton escapes undetected, the $qq\ell\nu$ selections are complemented with a $qq\nu\nu$ selection which requires two acoplanar hadronic jets with invariant mass between 60 GeV and 100 GeV, visible energy smaller than 150 GeV and recoil mass below 70 GeV.

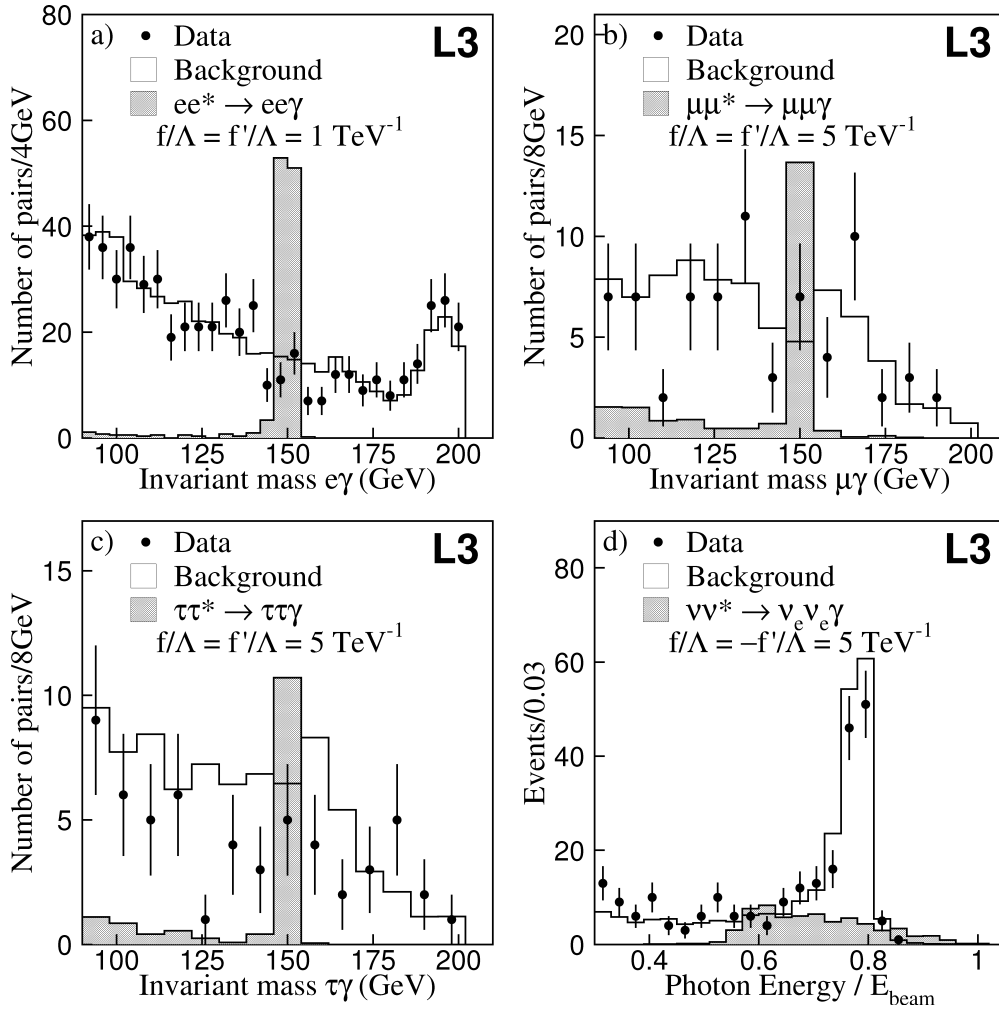


Fig. 2. The invariant mass distributions for (a) $e\gamma$, (b) $\mu\gamma$, and (c) $\tau\gamma$ pairs. (d) The normalised energy distribution of single photon events. The expected signal for an excited lepton with a mass of 150 GeV is shown together with data and Standard Model background. The signals are plotted for the arbitrary choice of couplings displayed in the figures.

If the W boson decays leptonically, the event contains two charged leptons and two neutrinos, $ll^* \rightarrow l\nu W \rightarrow l\nu l\nu$ or $\nu\nu^* \rightarrow \nu l W \rightarrow \nu ll\nu$. For this signature, low multiplicity events containing two charged leptons with acoplanarity between 10° and 170° are selected. The energy of the most energetic lepton must exceed 20 GeV and the second lepton must exceed 3 GeV. To reject the background from two-photon interactions, the transverse missing momentum must be greater than 10 GeV.

5.3. Neutral-current decays

The processes $e^+e^- \rightarrow ll^* \rightarrow llZ$ and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\nu Z$ give rise to four visible experimental signatures according to the decay channel of the Z boson: $qqll$, $qq\nu\nu$, $llll$ and $ll\nu\nu$. The $qqll$, $qq\nu\nu$ and $ll\nu\nu$ signatures are investigated making use of the same selections used in the search for single excited leptons decaying via charged current. For the $llll$ final state, low multiplicity events with at least three

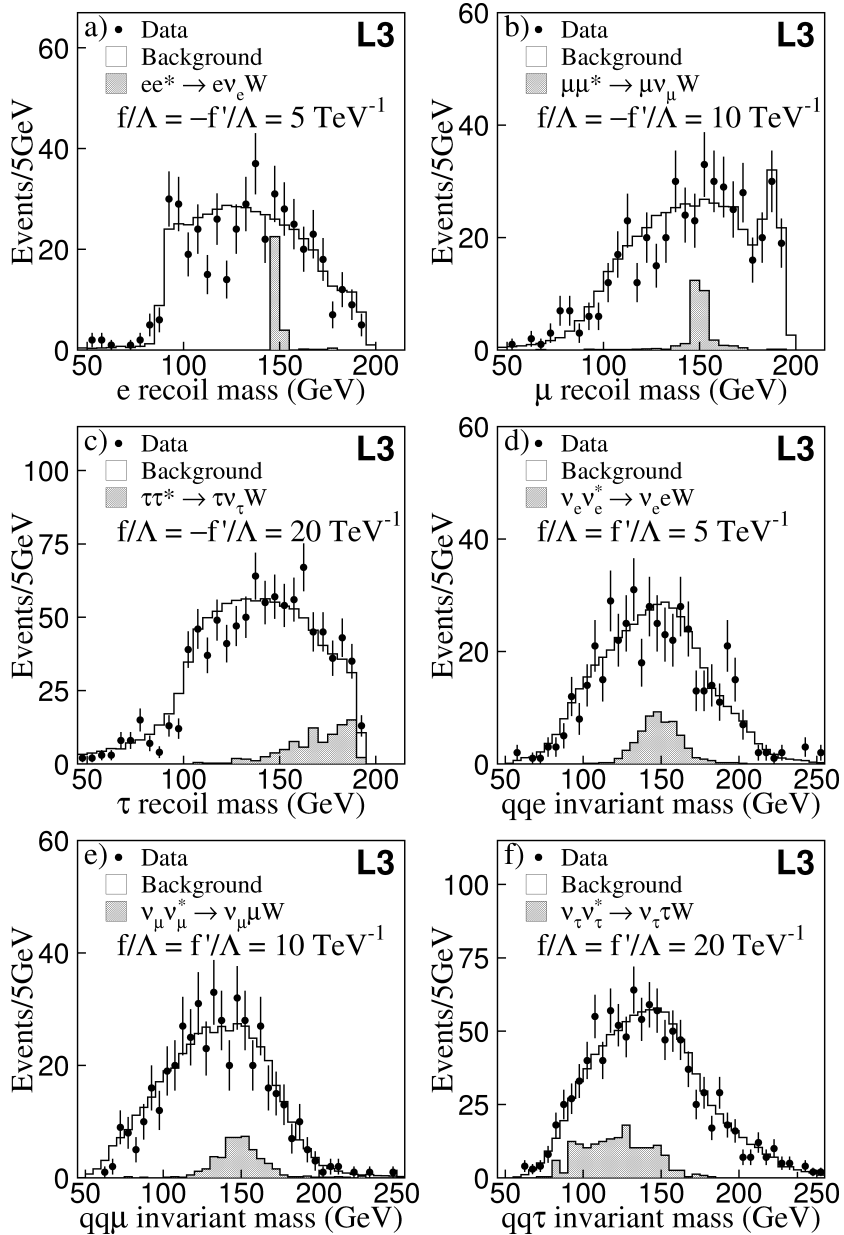


Fig. 3. Lepton recoil mass distributions for the (a) $qqe\nu$, (b) $qq\mu\nu$ and (c) $qq\tau\nu$ selections. Invariant mass distributions for (d) $qqe\nu$, (e) $qq\mu\nu$ and (f) $qq\tau\nu$ selected events. The expected signal for an excited lepton with a mass of 150 GeV is shown together with data and Standard Model background. The signals are plotted for the arbitrary choice of couplings displayed in the figures.

charged leptons are selected. The invariant mass of a pair of these leptons must be in the range from 80 GeV to 100 GeV.

6. Results

The number of events observed in the data for each of the selections described above is consistent with the Standard Model background expectation, as shown in Table 2. For some signatures of excited leptons, a sizable signal efficiency is achieved with very low background, giving sensitivity to production cross sections as low as 0.1 pb.

For each flavour of excited lepton, all selections are combined to derive an upper limit to the signal cross section, taking into account the luminosity, the branching fractions and the efficiencies. The results from the four centre-of-mass energies analysed are presented together, but are treated separately for the calculation of limits, as the signal cross sections depend on \sqrt{s} . These combinations include the results from $\sqrt{s} = 189$ GeV [5]. The limit is set at 95% confidence level, using Bayesian statistics and assuming a flat positive a priori distribution for the signal cross section. Two different scenarios are considered in order to present limits. In the first one, $f = f'$, the radiative decay is allowed for charged excited leptons whereas it is forbidden for excited neutrinos. In the second one, $f = -f'$, the situation is the opposite: the radiative decay is forbidden for charged excited leptons and is allowed for excited neutrinos.

In the case of pair production, lower mass limits are derived from the cross section upper bounds. A scan is performed for all the possible relative values of f and f' . For each value, the corresponding decay fractions $\ell^*\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma\gamma$, $\ell^*\ell^* \rightarrow \nu\nu WW$ and $\ell^*\ell^* \rightarrow \ell\gamma\nu W$ or $\nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma\gamma$, $\nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \ell\ell WW$ and $\nu^*\nu^* \rightarrow \nu\gamma\ell W$ in the case of excited neutrinos are calculated, and a mass limit is set. In Table 3 the limits corresponding to the $f = f'$ and $f = -f'$ scenarios are presented together with the lowest limit obtained in the scan. This limit corresponds to the ratio of the couplings f/f' that, given the signal efficiencies and the number of expected candidates, maximise the compatibility of the data with the existence of excited leptons. The lowest mass limits correspond to the branching ratios that, given the signal efficiencies

Table 3

95% confidence level lower mass limits for the different excited leptons obtained from pair production searches. For each flavour, the mass limits for $f = f'$, $f = -f'$ and for the coupling independent case, are shown

Excited lepton	95% CL mass limit (GeV)		
	$f = f'$	$f = -f'$	Any coupling
e^*	100.0	93.4	93.3
μ^*	100.2	93.4	93.4
τ^*	99.8	93.4	92.2
ν_e^*	99.1	99.4	98.2
ν_μ^*	99.3	99.4	98.3
ν_τ^*	90.5	99.4	87.8

and the number of expected candidates, maximise the compatibility of the data with the existence of excited leptons.

In the case of single production searches, an upper limit to the cross section is obtained as a function of the excited lepton mass. The distributions of the variables presented in Figs. 2 and 3 are investigated for each mass hypothesis. The number of candidates found in data and expected from background, as well as the efficiency are calculated in the range where the signal is expected. For the charged-current decay with the W decaying leptonically, and for the neutral-current decay, all the selected events are considered as candidates for all the mass hypotheses. The results from all selections are combined to derive a cross section limit which is interpreted in terms of an upper limit to the effective coupling constant $|f|/\Lambda$. Fig. 4 shows the upper limits to the effective coupling $|f|/\Lambda$ for charged excited leptons and excited neutrinos for the $f = f'$ and $f = -f'$ scenarios. The left-hand edge of the curves indicates the lower mass limit derived from pair production searches whereas the rise of the curves in the high excited lepton mass region reflects the lack of experimental sensitivity due to the low expected signal cross section. The limits corresponding to charged excited leptons in the $f = f'$ scenario and excited neutrinos in the $f = -f'$ scenario are derived mainly from the radiative decay searches, highly sensitive to the signal. These limits are therefore more stringent than the limits obtained in the complementary scenarios in which the radiative decays are forbid-

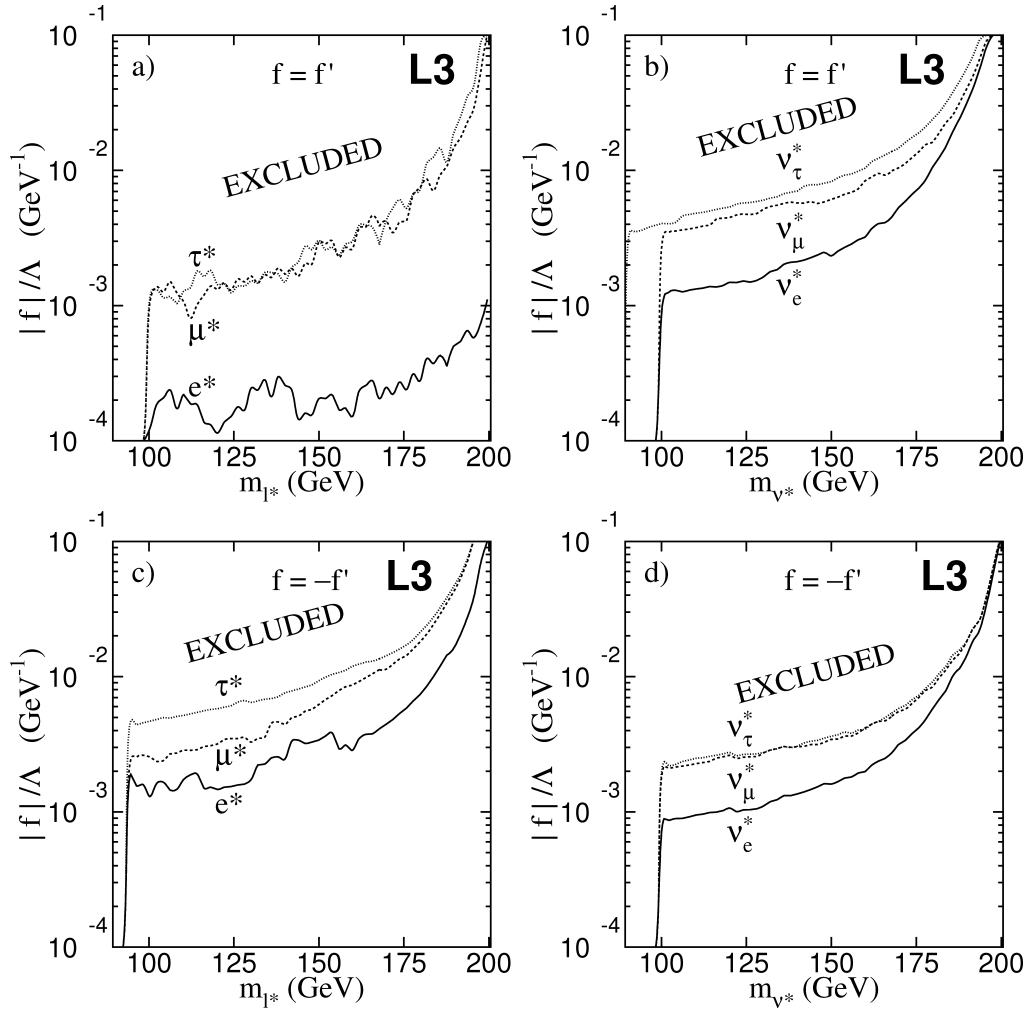


Fig. 4. 95% confidence level upper limits on the effective coupling $|f|/\Lambda$, as a function of the excited lepton mass with $f = f'$: (a) e^* , μ^* and τ^* , (b) ν_e^* , ν_μ^* and ν_τ^* , and with $f = -f'$: (c) e^* , μ^* and τ^* , (d) ν_e^* , ν_μ^* and ν_τ^* .

den. Moreover, the limits corresponding to excited leptons of the first generation are significantly lower due to the higher cross section explained by the t -channel contribution.

The systematic uncertainties are conservatively taken into account for the limit calculations by lowering the background expectation and the signal efficiency in all the selections. A variation close to 2.6% in the background, depending on the selection, accounts for the uncertainties related to background cross sections, limited Monte Carlo statistics, detector simulation and

selection efficiency. A similar variation in the signal efficiency accounts for the uncertainties coming from signal Monte Carlo statistics, the extrapolation to different centre-of-mass energies and excited lepton masses and detector simulation. The effect of systematics is quite significant for the limits extracted from high statistics selections, as in the case of ν_τ^* in the $f = f'$ scenario.

In conclusion, lower mass limits as high as 98.3 GeV are set for any value of the couplings. Upper limits on the couplings $|f|/\Lambda$ ranging from 10^{-1} to

10^{-4} GeV $^{-1}$ are derived in the mass range from 90 GeV to 200 GeV.

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