DEUTSCHES ELEKTRONEN-SYNCHROTRON DESY

DESY 78/79
December 1978

THE THREE-GLUON VERTEX OF QCD

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Abstract

We show how the Q^2 evolution of gluon jets can be used to provide indirect but strong evidence for the 3 gluon vertex of QCD. We propose looking for this evolution in the $Q\bar{Q} \rightarrow 3G \rightarrow$ hadrons decay of successive 1^3S_1 quarkonium states. The results apply to other processes if G jets can be isolated.

One of the most attractive features of quantum chromodynamics (QCD) [1] is that it makes precise experimental predictions [+)] . If the theory is wrong it can be rejected. If correct, it will be possible to produce objective experimental evidence for the essential elements of the theory: colored quarks, massless colored vector gluons and the self coupling of the gluons. This last feature is central to QCD; it is a consequence of local color gauge invariance.

Finding direct evidence for QCD's 3G vertex may be difficult. In this note we discuss a potentially simple indirect way of looking for effects of this self-coupling. The idea is the following. The decay (fig. 1)

$$e^+e^- \to 1^3S_1\, Q\bar{Q} \to 3G \to h(\vec{p}) + \text{anything} \qquad (1)$$

provides a pure source of gluon jets at discrete quarkonium masses $Q^2 = M^2 = M^2_{J/\psi}, M^2_{\Upsilon}, \ldots$ (It is necessary to subtract the effects of $1^3S_1\, Q\bar{Q} \to 1\gamma \to q\bar{q} \to \text{hadrons}$, but this is now routine [3]). The normalized gluon distribution for $Q\bar{Q} \to G + \ldots, (1/\Gamma_{3G})\, d\Gamma_{3G}/dx_G$ $(x_G = 2|\vec{P}_G|/M)$ [4] is independent of M in QCD. However, the jet of hadrons from $G \to h(\vec{p}) + \ldots$ evolves with Q^2 or M^2 (thus there are violations of scaling in $z = 2|\vec{p}|/M$). The M^2 evolution of G jets depends sensitively on the 3G vertex, as we will show in the course of this note.

+) More accurately, the perturbative approach [2] to QCD (small effective coupling $\alpha_s(Q^2)$ at distances $\sim 1/\sqrt{Q^2}$) yields detailed expectations for large Q^2 processes. Without this feature, QCD would be divested of most of its predictive power.

If we describe the hadron distribution for $G \rightarrow h(\vec{p})\ldots$ by $D_G(x,M^2)$, $x = |\vec{p}|/|\vec{P}_G|$, +) then the distribution $\Gamma(z,M^2)$ of hadrons in (1) is given by

$$\Gamma(z,M^2) = \int_0^1 dx_G \int_0^1 dx\, \delta(x x_G - z)\, \frac{1}{\Gamma_{3G}} \frac{d\Gamma_{3G}}{dx_G} D_G(x, M^2) \qquad (2)$$

and on taking moments, defined by

$$\Gamma(n,M^2) \equiv \int_0^1 dz\; z^{n-1}\; \Gamma(z, M^2)$$

$$\gamma(n) \equiv \int_0^1 dx_G\; x_G^{n-1}\; \frac{1}{\Gamma_{3G}} \frac{d\Gamma_{3G}}{dx_G} \qquad (3)$$

$$D_G(n, M^2) \equiv \int_0^1 dx\; x^{n-1}\, D_G(x, M^2)$$

we find that $\Gamma(n,M^2) = \gamma(n)\, D_G(n, M^2)$. As a consequence of this factorization we have

$$\frac{\Gamma(n, M^2)}{\Gamma(n, M_0^2)} = \frac{D_G(n, M^2)}{D_G(n, M_0^2)} \qquad (4)$$

+) $D_G(x,M^2)$ is summed over hadron species and satisfies

$$D_G(x,M^2) = \sum_{h_i} D_G^{h_i}(x, M^2)\; ; \quad \int_0^1 dx\;\; x\, D_G(x, M^2) = 1$$

In other words, the ratio of moments of $Q\bar{Q} \rightarrow 3G \rightarrow$ hadron distributions at M^2 and M_0^2 is just the ratio of the moments of the gluon fragmentation functions themselves. Comparison of QCD and experiment is simplest if one extracts the moments $\Gamma(n, M^2)$ from data. We will exploit (4) in the following, where we discuss $D_G(n,M^2)$ +).

The evolution of gluon jets in M^2 is coupled to the evolution of quark jets. This is depicted in fig. 2. The M^2 change of $D_G(z,M^2)$ comes from $G \rightarrow GG$ and $G \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, where the observed hadron comes from a final G or q or $\bar{q}$. Similarly, $q \rightarrow Gq$ yields an M^2 dependence of the "singlet" quark fragmentation function

$$D_S(x, M^2) \equiv \sum_{h_i} \sum_{q,\bar{q}} D_q^{h_i}(x, M^2)$$

$$D_S(n, M^2) \equiv \int_0^1 dx\, x^{n-1} D_S(x, M^2) \tag{5}$$

$$D_S(2, M^2) = 2N_F$$

The solution to this jet mixing problem is abundantly discussed in the literature (5),(6). The moments $D_G(n,M^2)$ and $D_S(n,M^2)$ obey coupled homogeneous differential equations in the variable $s = \ln[\ln M^2/\Lambda^2/\ln M_0^2/\Lambda^2]$ ++) whose solution is

+) Equation (4) has been noted independently by J. Ellis (private communication).

++) Equations (6) are reliable to lowest order in α_s if the quanta in fig. (2) give rise to jets. However, the interpretation of Λ may be uncertain. We believe it to be an effective nonperturbative jet $\langle p_\perp \rangle \sim O(1/2\text{ GeV})$. We set Λ = .5 GeV in the following.

$$\frac{D_G(n,M^2)}{D_G(n,M_0^2)} = \frac{\mu_+ e^{\lambda_+ s} - \mu_- e^{\lambda_- s}}{\mu_+ - \mu_-} - \frac{\mu_+ \mu_- (e^{\lambda_+ s} - e^{\lambda s})}{\mu_+ - \mu_-} \frac{D_S(n,M_0^2)}{D_G(n,M_0^2)} \tag{6}$$

$$\frac{D_S(n,M^2)}{D_S(n,M_0^2)} = \frac{\mu_+ e^{\lambda_- s} - \mu_- e^{\lambda_+ s}}{\mu_+ - \mu_-} + \frac{e^{\lambda_+ s} - e^{\lambda_- s}}{\mu_+ - \mu_-} \frac{D_G(n,M_0^2)}{D_S(n,M_0^2)}$$

where

$$2\lambda_\pm = -d_n^{qq} - d_n^{GG} \pm \left[(d_n^{GG} - d_n^{qq})^2 + 4 d_n^{Gq} d_n^{qG} \right]^{1/2} \tag{7}$$

$$4 N_F d_n^{Gq} \mu_\pm = d_n^{GG} - d_n^{qq} \mp \left[(d_n^{GG} - d_n^{qq})^2 + 4 d_n^{Gq} d_n^{qG} \right]^{1/2}$$

and

$$d_n^{qq} = \frac{1}{2\pi b} \frac{2}{3} \left[1 - \frac{2}{n(n+1)} + 4 \sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{1}{j} \right]$$

$$d_n^{GG} = \frac{1}{2\pi b} \frac{3}{2} \left[\frac{1}{3} - \frac{4}{n(n-1)} - \frac{4}{(n+1)(n+2)} + 4 \sum_{j=2}^{n} \frac{1}{j} + \frac{2 N_F}{9} \right] \tag{8}$$

$$d_n^{Gq} = -\frac{1}{2\pi b} \frac{4}{3} \left[\frac{n^2+n+2}{n(n^2-1)} \right]$$

$$d_n^{qG} = -\frac{1}{2\pi b} N_F \left[\frac{n^2+n+2}{n(n+1)(n+2)} \right]$$

are anomalous dimensions, where $2\pi b = (33 - 2N_F)/6$, with N_F the number of quark flavors. These anomalous dimensions are moments of lowest order QCD fragmentation functions $q \to qG$, $G \to GG$, $q\bar{q}$ for physical transverse G polarization. +)

From (6) we see that knowing $D_G(n,M_0^2)$, $D_S(n,M_0^2)$ determines $D_G(n,M^2)$, $D_S(n,M^2)$ for any large M^2. The evolution in M^2 from (6) is shown in fig. (3). Fig. (3a) shows $D_G(n,M^2)/D_G(n,M^2) = \Gamma(n,M^2)/\Gamma(n,M_0^2)$ and fig. (3b) shows $D_S(n,M^2)/D_S(n,M_0^2)$ for comparison. We set $M^2 = 100\ \mathrm{GeV}^2 \simeq M_\Upsilon^2$, $D_G(n,M_0^2) = D_S(n,M_0^2)/2N_F$, and present the ratios from $M^2 = 10\ \mathrm{GeV}^2 \simeq M_{J/\psi}^2$ to $M^2 = 5000\ \mathrm{GeV}^2$. (Somewhere in the range above M^2 we hope for at least one more new $Q\bar{Q}$ state.) From fig. (3) it is evident that quark and gluon jets evolve quite differently. The evolution of gluon jets is essentially determined by $G \to GG$ (whose strength relative to $G \to q\bar{q}$ is $33 : 2\,N_F$; here and in the following we set $N_F = 3$).

A word about the input to fig. 3 is in order. From (6) we see that both $D_S(n,M_0^2)$ and $D_G(n,M_0^2)$ affect the evolution of $D_G(n,M^2)$. In principle, $D_G(n,M_0^2)$ and $D_S(n,M_0^2)/2N_F$ can be fixed by experiment at M_0^2. We have chosen them equal at $M_\Upsilon^2 = M_0^2$. This appears consistent with experiment [(3)]. (An exception may be large n moments, corresponding to $z \to 1$, where data hardly exist.) In order to test the sensitivity of our results to $D_S(n,M^2)/2N_F D_G(n,M^2)$, we varied this ratio from 1 to 4 for $n > 2$. No significant change in the results in fig. (3) is observed. Thus our results for $\Gamma(n,M^2)/\Gamma(n,M_0^2)$ are insensitive to large variations in $D_S(n,M_0^2)/2N_F D_G(n,M_0^2)$, and are dominated by the parameter independent part of (6).

+) $q \to q$ and $G \to G$ fragmentation functions must be regularized at $x \to 1$ [(5)]. Thus d_n^{GG} depends on the 3G vertex and on the $Gq\bar{q}$ vertex.

The M^2 evolution of $\Gamma(n,M^2)$ depends in an essential way on the 3G vertex. In order to illustrate this, we have constructed two alternative models. The anomalous dimensions (8) for these models are found in a straightforward way by calculating the fragmentation functions $q \rightarrow qG$ (or $G \rightarrow GG$) for physical transverse G polarization. The models are:

(1) QCD with no 3G vertex. (We have actually varied the strength of the $G \rightarrow GG$ vertex using the above prescription; only results for $G \not\rightarrow GG$ are shown.) In addition, we have replaced $\alpha_s(M^2) \rightarrow \alpha_\infty$ = const. (a fixed point value) +). With $\alpha_\infty = \alpha_s(100\ \text{GeV}^2)$ we obtain the results shown in fig. (4a). The scaling violations in gluon jets practically disappear! (This also holds if we let "α" increase or decrease slowly with M^2.)

(2) An Abelian model with colored quarks and a massless, colorless vector gluon (7)++). Because "G" $\rightarrow q\bar{q}$ now counts flavors and colors, the scaling violations in $D_G(n,M^2)$ will be increased somewhat over case (1). Results for α_∞ = .1 are shown in fig. 4b. Besides these small scaling violations, we find that $D_S(n,M^2)$ and $D_G(n,M^2)$ are hardly distinguishable for any α_∞, unlike the case for QCD shown in figs. (3a) and (3b). (Here, as previously, we set $D_S(n,M_0^2)/2N_F\, D_G(n,M_0^2) = 1$)

We have found that the M^2 evolution of gluon fragmentation functions is extremely sensitive to the strength of the 3G vertex of QCD. Observation of these effects will offer quite good indirect evidence for this 3G coupling. This test is especially appealing, as gluon jet evolution in QCD is dominated by the anomalous dimensions of the theory alone.

+) The relevant variable in (6) is then $t = \ln M^2/M_0^2$

++) We do not represent this as a realistic alternative to QCD. It possesses an unpleasant color degeneracy of the "hadrons", and does not fit deep inelastic data (7).

Our remarks apply to gluon jets observed in any process. It is, however, essential to isolate gluon jets. This appears easiest in quarkonium decay, where one can compare moments of hadron distributions at J/ψ, Υ, ...

Acknowledgement

K.K. and P.M.Z. wish to express their thanks for the hospitality of the theory group during the summer, when this work was begun.

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Figure Captions

Fig. 1 The decay $Q\bar{Q} \to 3G \to h(\vec{p}) + \ldots$; the detected hadron can come from any of the 3 gluon jets.

Fig. 2 a) Perturbation diagrams entering in the evolution of a G jet.

b) The evolution of a q jet.

Fig. 3 a) The QCD ratio $\Gamma(n, M^2)/\Gamma(n, M_0^2)$ for $M_0^2 = 100\ \mathrm{GeV}^2$, 3 flavors and n = 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. As initial condition, $D_S(n, M_0^2)/2N_F D_G(n, M_0^2) = 1$

b) The QCD ratio $D_S(n,M^2)/D_S(n,M^2)$ corresponding to a).

Fig. 4 a) The ratio $D_G(n,M^2)/D_G(n,M^2)$ for a QCD-like model but with no 3G vertex. Here also, $M_0^2 = 100\ \mathrm{GeV}^2$, $D_S(n,M^2)/2N_F D_G(n,M^2) = 1$, and $N_F = 3$. We chose α_∞ fixed, $\alpha_\infty = \alpha_s\ (100\ \mathrm{GeV}^2)$.

b) The same ratio for an abelian model described in the text.

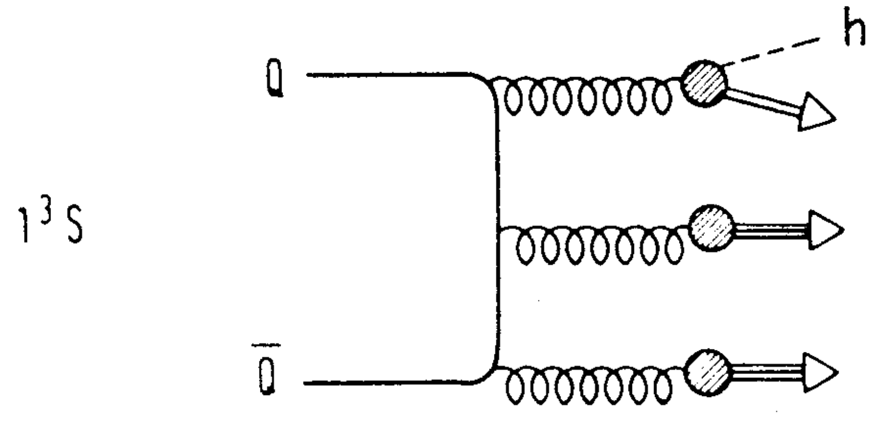
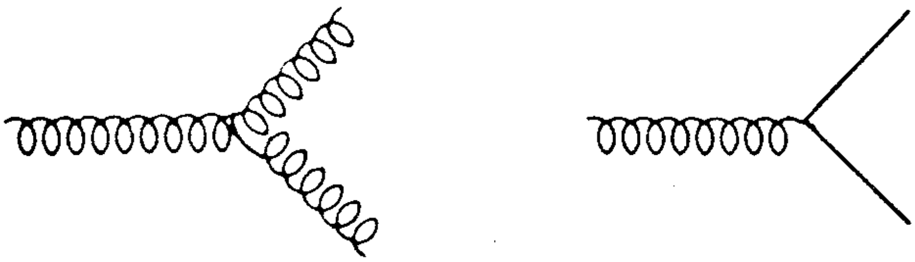
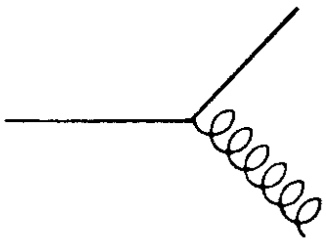


Fig.1

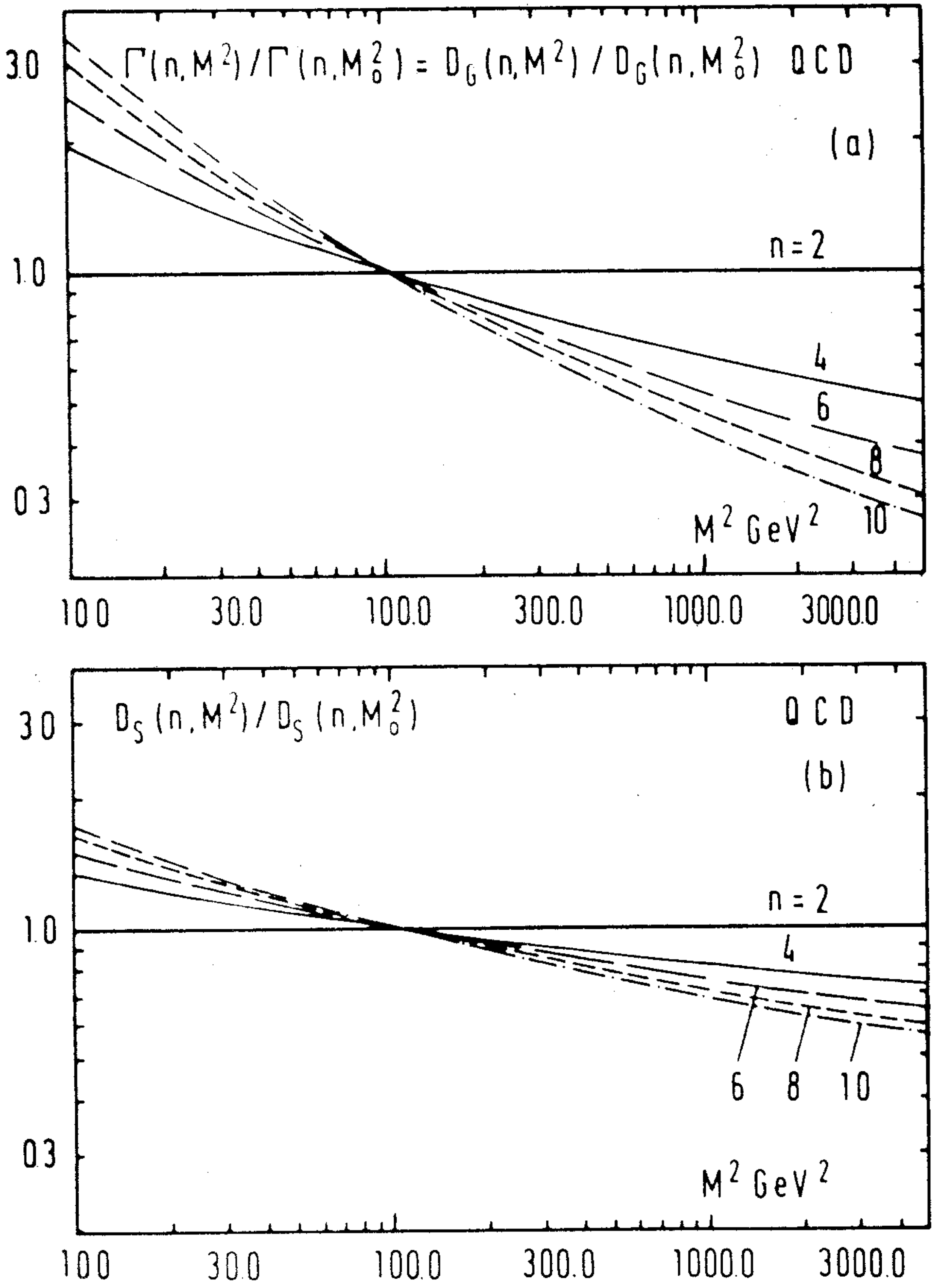


(a)



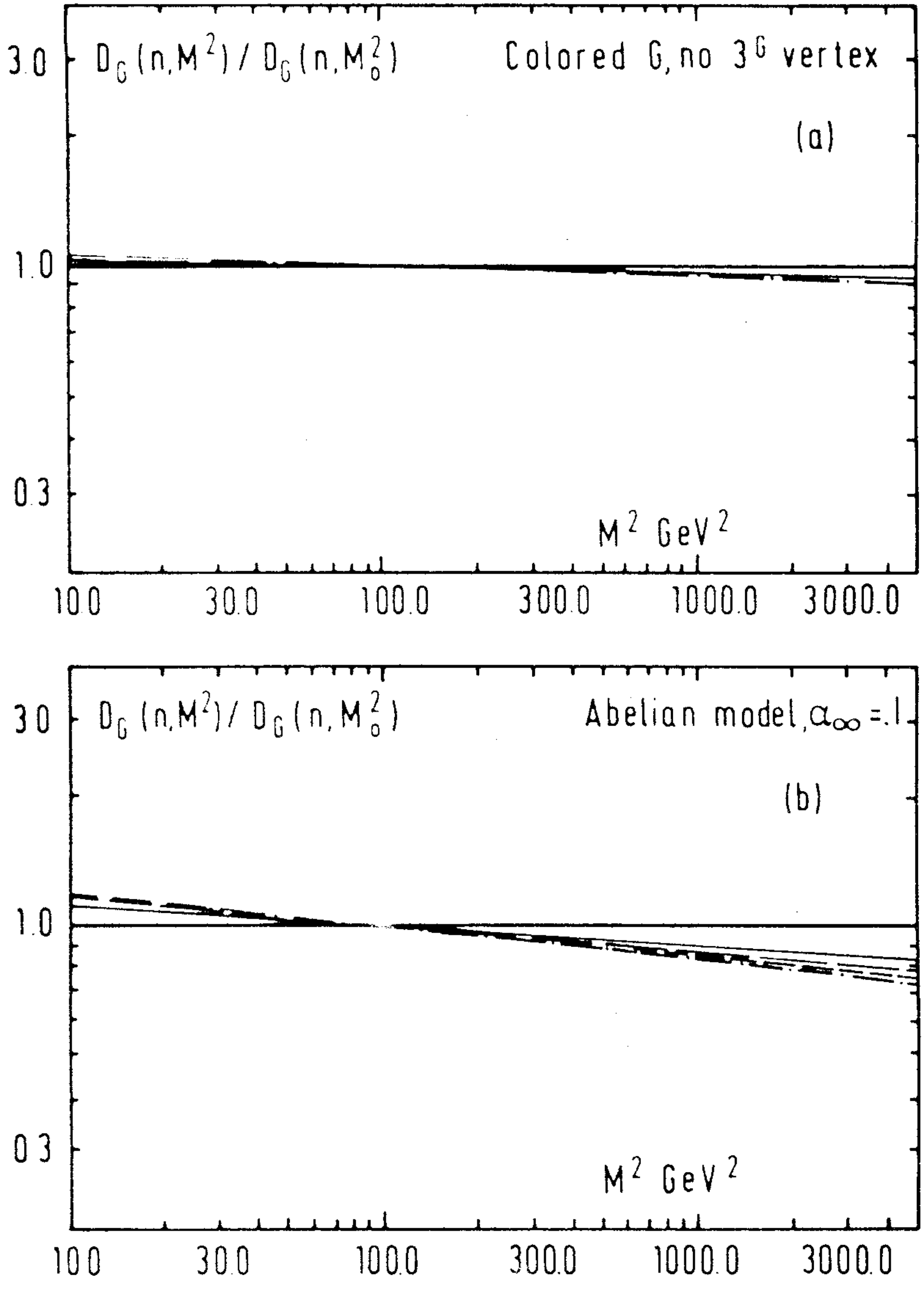
(b)

Fig. 2



Γ(n, M²) / Γ(n, M₀²) = D_G(n, M²) / D_G(n, M₀²) QCD
(a)
n = 2
4
6
8
10
M² GeV²
3.0
1.0
0.3
10.0
30.0
100.0
300.0
1000.0
3000.0
D_S(n, M²) / D_S(n, M₀²)
QCD
(b)
n = 2
4
6
8
10
M² GeV²
3.0
1.0
0.3
10.0
30.0
100.0
300.0
1000.0
3000.0

Fig. 3



$D_G(n,M^2)/D_G(n,M_0^2)$
Colored G, no 3G vertex
(a)
3.0
1.0
0.3
M^2 GeV^2
10.0
30.0
100.0
300.0
1000.0
3000.0
$D_G(n,M^2)/D_G(n,M_0^2)$
Abelian model, α_∞ =.1
(b)
3.0
1.0
0.3
M^2 GeV^2
10.0
30.0
100.0
300.0
1000.0
3000.0

Fig. 4