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Collinearity Angle Distribution in e-μ Events

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Kazuo Fujikawa
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg

Noboru Kawamoto
Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology
Oh-okayama, Tokyo 152, Japan

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Kazuo Fujikawa [+)]

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg, Germany

and

Noboru Kawamoto [++)]

Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Oh-okayama, Tokyo 152, Japan

Abstract

We present an analytical formula for the collinearity angle distribution of e and μ in the process $e^+e^- \longrightarrow L^+L^-$ followed by heavy lepton decay $L \longrightarrow \nu_L' + \ell + \bar{\nu}_\ell$, $\ell = e$ or μ. Both V - A and V + A couplings are included, as is a mass for the ν_L' . At high energies we find that the collinearity angle distribution in $\cos\theta$ becomes a function of the single scaling variable $X = \beta^2\gamma^2(1-\cos\theta)/2$, where β and γ are heavy lepton boost parameters from the rest frame to the e^+e^- lab. frame. A violation of this scaling is a signal of the appearance of heavier leptons.

+) Permanent Address: Institute for Nuclear Study, University of Tokyo, Tanashi, Tokyo 188, Japan

++) INS predoctoral fellow

Perl et al. [1] recently reported the observation of e- μ events in electron-positron annihilation. The most plausible interpretation of these events is that they are due to a heavy lepton [2] L with a mass of around 1.8 GeV and an associated neutrino ν_L [1,3]. One of the dynamical variables which characterize the e- μ events is the so-called collinearity angle distribution [1,4]. An analysis of the actual experimental data is, however, complicated because of various kinematical cuts involved. The momentum cut, for example, significantly modifies the collinearity angle distribution [3].

Before discussing the detailed effects of various kinematical cuts in the experimental data, it may be useful to study the information contained in the collinearity angle distribution. In this respect it is certainly worthwhile to have an analytical formula of the collinearity angle distribution for a somewhat idealized experimental set-up, namely, no energy and angular cut-offs. In this paper we present such a formula for the sequential heavy lepton production (see Fig. 1). Unlike the ordinary sequential heavy lepton scheme [2], where the weak and electromagnetic interactions act on e, μ and L universally, we allow the V + A as well as V - A currents for the heavy lepton. The associated neutrino may also have a nonvanishing mass.

The amplitude corresponding to Fig. 1 can be readily evaluated by the standard method or, better, by the method utilized by Tsai [4], which allows us to identify the spin alignment term directly. This spin alignment term represents one of the dynamical effects which allow us to distinguish V - A and V + A coupling for the heavy lepton. In the six-body phase space reduction, the kinematical variables of the neutral particles may be first integrated over. One can then integrate over the directions of the heavy lepton with all other variables relatively fixed in the heavy lepton frame. Equivalently, the collinearity angle distribution without any angular cut-offs can be evaluated by first taking the average over the directions of the incident electrons with the final state configuration fixed [3]. In this way the six-body phase space is reduced to the following essential part (see Fig. 1 for the definition of momenta)

$$d\Phi \equiv \frac{(s-m^2)(s'-m^2)}{s\,s'} \frac{d^3p}{2p_0} \frac{d^3q}{2q_0} \delta((P-p)^2 - s)\, \delta((P'-q)^2 - s')\, ds\, ds' \tag{1}$$

The normalized distribution for V - A and V + A couplings can now be written as

$$d\Gamma = \frac{1}{N} \left[T_1 + T_2 \right] d\Phi \tag{2}$$

where the matrix elements T_1 and T_2 depend on the coupling scheme.

(a) V - A current;

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 = {} & \left[(M^2 - m^2)\left(1 + \frac{m^2}{s}\right) + 2s - \frac{2M^2m^4}{s^2} \right] \\ & \times \left[(M^2 - m^2)\left(1 + \frac{m^2}{s'}\right) + 2s' - \frac{2M^2m^4}{(s')^2} \right] \\ & \times \left(\frac{Q^2 + 2M^2}{2M^2} \right) (Pp)(P'q) \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

$$T_2 = \left[(M^2+m^2)\left(1+\frac{m^2}{s}\right) - 2s - \frac{2M^2m^4}{s^2}\right]$$

$$\times\left[(M^2+m^2)\left(1+\frac{m^2}{s'}\right) - 2s' - \frac{2M^2m^4}{(s')^2}\right] \tag{4}$$

$$\times\left[M^2(pq)-(Pp)(Pq) - (P'p)(P'q) + \left(\frac{Q^2-2M^2}{2M^2}\right)(Pp)(P'q)\right]$$

(b) V + A current;

$$T_1 = 36\,(s-m^2)(s'-m^2)\left(\frac{Q^2+2M^2}{2M^2}\right)(Pp)(P'q) \tag{5}$$

$$T_2 = 36\,(s-m^2)(s'-m^2)$$

$$\times\left[M^2(pq) - (Pp)(Pq) - (P'p)(P'q) + \left(\frac{Q^2-2M^2}{2M^2}\right)(Pp)(P'q)\right] \tag{6}$$

and the common normalization factor is given by

$$N = \left(\frac{\pi M^6}{8}\right)^2\left(\frac{Q^2+2M^2}{2M^2}\right)\left[(1-\varepsilon^4)(1-8\varepsilon^2+\varepsilon^4) - 24\,\varepsilon^4 \ln \varepsilon\right]^2 \tag{7}$$

In Eqs. (1) ~ (7)

s = invariant mass for the $\nu_L \bar{\nu}_\mu$ system

s' = invariant mass for the $\bar{\nu}_L \nu_e$ system (8)

M = mass of the heavy lepton L

m = mass of the neutrino ν_L (9)

$Q^2 = 4E^2$ with E the energy of the incident electron (10)

$\epsilon \equiv m/M$ (11)

and p and q stand for the momenta of the muon and electron, respectively. In Eq. (2), T_2 stands for the spin alignment term. The natural phase space boundaries are provided by

$$m^2 \leq s \leq M^2 \quad \text{and} \quad m^2 \leq s' \leq M^2 \tag{12}$$

For simplicity we neglect the electron and muon masses. In this case the energy and angular integrations factorize. The integration over energy variables may be performed by using the δ -functions in (1). One can then perform the integration over s and s' within the natural boundaries (12). The final step is the integration over the angular variables with the fixed collinearity angle θ

$$\cos\theta \equiv -(\vec{p}\,\vec{q})/|\vec{p}||\vec{q}| \tag{13}$$

One finally obtains the normalized collinearity angle distribution for $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{\gamma^2}{2}\Big\{ F_1(x,\gamma^2) + \eta(\varepsilon)\Big[F_1(x,\gamma^2) - \frac{2}{2+1/\gamma^2}F_2(x,\gamma^2) + \frac{1+\cos\theta}{2+1/\gamma^2}F_3(x,\gamma^2)\Big]\Big\} \tag{14}$$

where

$$F_1(x,\gamma^2) = \frac{1}{16}\Big\{\Big[\frac{3}{(1+x)^2} - \frac{2}{\gamma^2}\frac{1}{(1+x)}\Big]L(x) + \frac{12}{(1+x)^2} + \frac{(1-1/\gamma^2)}{x(1+x)}\big[L(x)-4\big]\Big\} \tag{15}$$

$$F_2(x,\gamma^2) = \frac{1}{32}\left\{\left[\frac{15}{(1+x)^3} - \frac{12}{\gamma^2}\frac{1}{(1+x)^2}\right]L(x) + \frac{60}{(1+x)^3} + \frac{16 - 24/\gamma^2}{(1+x)^2} + \frac{3(1-1/\gamma^2)}{x(1+x)^2}\left[L(x) - 4\right]\right\} \tag{16}$$

$$F_3(x,\gamma^2) = \frac{1}{256}\left\{3\left[\frac{35}{(1+x)^4} - \frac{(8/\gamma^2)(6-1/\gamma^2)}{(1+x)^3} + \frac{8}{\gamma^4}\frac{1}{(1+x)^2}\right]L(x) + 20\left[\frac{21}{(1+x)^4} - \frac{2(1+4/\gamma^4)}{(1+x)^3}\right] + 3\left[\frac{(10-8/\gamma^2)(1-1/\gamma^2)}{x(1+x)^3} + \frac{3(1-1/\gamma^2)^2}{x^2(1+x)^2}\right]\left[L(x) - 4 + \frac{8}{3}x\right]\right\} \tag{17}$$

with

$$L(x) = 2\ln\left[1 + 2x + 2\sqrt{x(1+x)}\right]\Big/\sqrt{x(1+x)} \tag{18}$$

$$x \equiv \frac{\beta^2\gamma^2}{2}(1 - \cos\theta) \tag{19}$$

and β and γ are the Lorentz factors for the heavy lepton $(\gamma \equiv E/M)$. The parameter $\eta(\varepsilon)$ in (14) is a function of the mass ratio, $\epsilon = m/M$, and it characterizes the structure of the heavy lepton current.[5)]

$$\eta(\varepsilon) = 1 \qquad \text{for V + A} \tag{20}$$

$$\eta(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{9}\left[\frac{(1-\varepsilon^2)(1-11\varepsilon^2-47\varepsilon^4-3\varepsilon^6) - 12\varepsilon^4(3+2\varepsilon^2)\ln\varepsilon}{(1-\varepsilon^4)(1-8\varepsilon^2+\varepsilon^4) - 24\varepsilon^4\ln\varepsilon}\right]^2 \qquad \text{for V-A,} \tag{21}$$

Eq. (21) is plotted in Fig. 2. $\eta = 0$ corresponds to the vanishing spin alignment effects. We emphasize that the formula (14) is valid for arbitrary mass values of L and ν_L'. The only constraint is that the energy cut-off, if any, is kept small and the counter covers (approximately) 4π angles.

At threshold $\gamma = 1$ (and $\beta = 0$), (14) becomes

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{1}{2}\left[1 + \frac{1}{3}\eta(\varepsilon)\cos\theta \right] \tag{22}$$

which is a generalization of the formula given by Tsai [4]. In the forward direction

$$\left(\frac{d\Gamma}{d\cos\theta}\right)_{\theta=0} = \frac{\gamma^2}{30}\left\{ \left(20 - 5/\gamma^2\right) + \eta(\varepsilon)\frac{2\gamma^2}{(2\gamma^2+1)}\left[8 - 1/\gamma^2 + 1/(2\gamma^4) \right] \right\} \tag{23}$$

which shows that the cos θ distribution has a sharp peak around $\theta \simeq 0$ at high energies. The height of the peak is different for V - A and V + A currents. Another interesting result is obtained at large values of γ^2, where (14) can be rewritten as

$$\beta^2\frac{d\Gamma}{dx} \cong F_1(x,\infty) + \eta(\varepsilon)\left[F_1(x,\infty) - F_2(x,\infty) + F_3(x,\infty) \right] \tag{24}$$

The right hand side is a <u>universal</u> function of x characterized by the parameter $\eta(\varepsilon)$ which contains the dynamical information. Eq. (24) shows that $\beta^2 d\Gamma/dx$ distribution becomes "scale invariant" at high energies in terms of the x variable (this scaling starts around $\gamma \simeq 2$ and works very well above $\gamma \simeq 3$). Thus one can compare the data from various values of γ corresponding to the same x. The scaling formula (24) in the small x region is plotted in Fig. 3. For the V - A current we used $\eta(\epsilon) = 1/9$ (see also Fig. 2). Fig. 3 shows that a discrimination between V - A and V + A may be possible even at high energies. The definition of X in (19) and Fig. 3 indicate that the major part of the collinearity angle distribution (i.e. about 70 %) is concentrated in $\epsilon \leq X \lesssim 2$, namely [6]

$$\theta \lesssim 3/\beta\gamma \approx 2\left[(M/2)/(|\vec{P}|/3) \right] \tag{25}$$

or $\theta \lesssim 20^\circ$ at $\gamma \approx 10$, which may be attainable at the next generation of colliding machines [7] if the heavy lepton mass is not large [1]. The $\cos\theta$ distribution at lower energies is more sensitive to the energy cut-off [3] and varying values of ϵ , and Eq. (14) is not quite adequate for a quantitative analysis of the existing data [1]. However, a numerical analysis at lower energies indicates that a V + A current still gives rise to more events at smaller values of θ compared with a V - A current for the identical values of ϵ and cut-off energy. See also the threshold formula (22).

Finally several comments are in order:

(i) At high energies the incident electrons are usually (transversely) polarized. This polarization may modify the collinearity angle distribution at a fixed outgoing angle of the muon (or electron) with respect to the incident beam direction. If one assumes a 4π counter and integrates over the directions of the outgoing muon (or electron), however, the effects of the polarization of incident particles are smeared and the collinearity angle distribution is still correctly given by our formula (14), which is based on an unpolarized incident beam. This fact can be most easily understood by observing that the collinearity angle distribution without any angular cut-off can be evaluated by first taking the average over the directions of the incident electrons with the final state configuration fixed [3].

(ii) For a finite energy cut-off, the collinearity angle distribution (14) is modified. One of the modifications is a strong suppression of the $\cos\theta$ distribution at large values of θ compared with the formula (14). Another important modification arises from the different energy spectrum of the muon (or electron) which depends on V - A or V + A coupling assumed for the heavy lepton [8]. In other words, the T_1 terms in Eqs. (3) and (5) also give rise to different collinearity angle distributions for a finite energy cut-off, in addition to the spin alignment term T_2. In this respect it should be noted that the distribution (14), which is valid when one does not impose any significant energy cut-off, corresponds to the pure phase space distribution given by Eq. (1) when the spin alignment effects vanish, namely, $\eta = 0$.

In conclusion the exact formula (14) combined with the X variable will provide a convenient basis for the analysis of collinearity angle distributions at high energies. A more detailed discussion of the effects of the finite energy cut-off and varying values of ε will be given elsewhere.

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References and Footnotes

1) M.L. Perl et al., SLAC report, SLAC-PUB-1626 (1975).
M.L. Perl, Lectures on Electron-Positron Annihilation, Part II, SLAC-PUB-1592 (1975).

2) A review of earlier works on heavy leptons is found in M.L. Perl and P. Rapidis, SLAC report, SLAC-PUB-1496 (1974). For earlier experimental searches for e-μ events, see S. Orito et al., Phys. Lett. 48B, 165 (1974) and references therein.

3) K. Fujikawa and N. Kawamoto, Contribution to the 1975 Int. Symposium on Lepton and Photon Interactions at High Energies, Stanford University (August, 1975), and INS report, INS-Rep. 239 (1975).

4) Y.S. Tsai, Phys. Rev. D4, 2821 (1971).

5) A generalization of Eq. (14) to an arbitrary combination of V and A currents for the heavy lepton, α (V-A) + (V+A) with $-\infty < \alpha < +\infty$, can be readily made. One should just replace $\eta(\varepsilon)$ by

$$\eta(\varepsilon,\alpha) = \left[\frac{A(\varepsilon) + \alpha^2 B(\varepsilon) + 2\alpha C(\varepsilon)}{(1+\alpha^2) A(\varepsilon) + 2\alpha C(\varepsilon)} \right]^2$$

where

$$A(\varepsilon) = (1-\varepsilon^4)(1-8\varepsilon^2+\varepsilon^4) - 24\varepsilon^4 \ln \varepsilon$$

$$B(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{3}\left[(1-\varepsilon^2)(1-11\varepsilon^2-47\varepsilon^4-3\varepsilon^6) - 12\varepsilon^4(3+2\varepsilon^2)\ln \varepsilon\right]$$

$$C(\varepsilon) = -2\varepsilon\left[(1-\varepsilon^2)(1+10\varepsilon^2+\varepsilon^4) + 12\varepsilon^2(1+\varepsilon^2)\ln \varepsilon\right]$$

6) The average muon (or electron) momentum is about one third of the heavy lepton momentum at high energies, and the maximum transverse

momentum of the muon (or electron) with respect to the heavy lepton direction is M/2. Thus Eq. (25) is physically reasonable. The scaling in x may be compared with the scaling in p_T^2 in hadron physics.

7) At high energies the identification of electrons and muons becomes easier, and the non-coplanarity cut-off may not be a major obstacle to measure small θ . We thank S. Orito for a comment on this point.

8) This difference in the energy spectrum is well known for the case of muon decay. See, for example, J.D. Bjorken and S.D. Drell, Relativistic Quantum Mechanics (McGraw - Hill Book Company, New York (1964)) p. 263.

Figure Captions

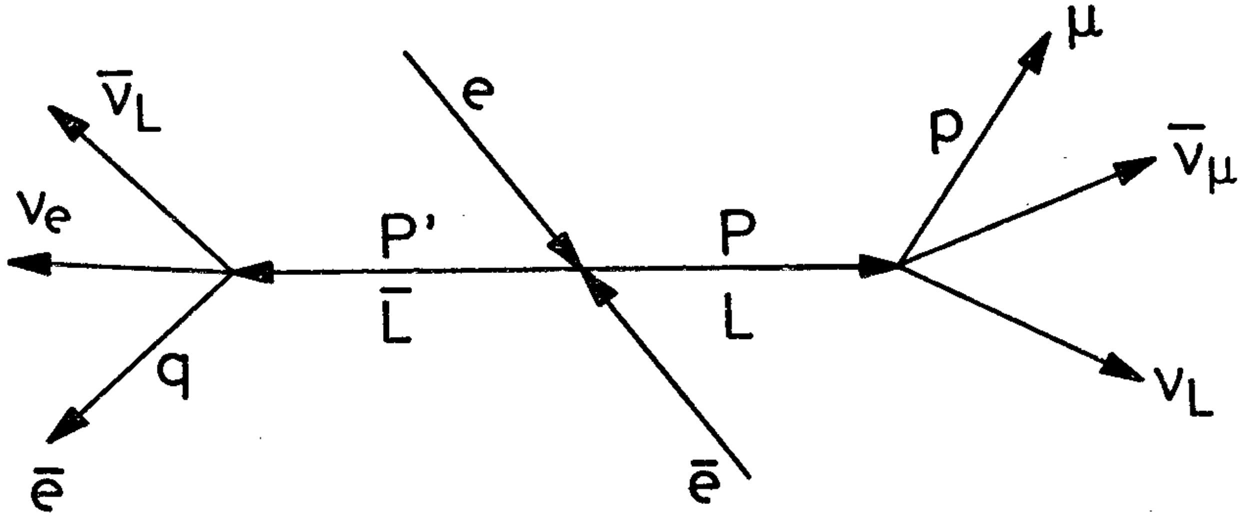
Fig. 1 e-μ events via heavy lepton production

Fig. 2 The parameter $\eta(\epsilon)$ for a V - A current given by Eq. (21)

Fig. 3 Scale invariant distribution given by Eq. (24)

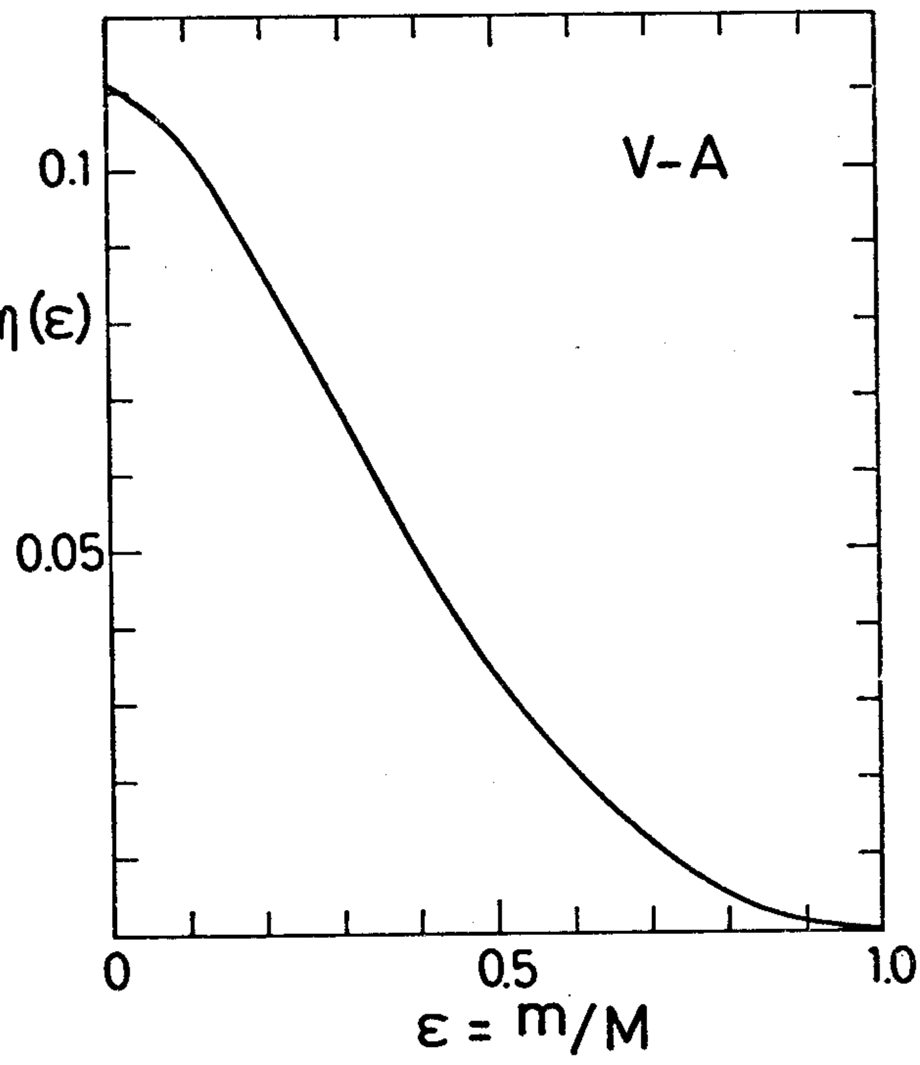
Note added:

After completing the present work, a related work by Park and Yildiz (Harvard report) came to our attention. Their result significantly differs from ours except at threshold $\beta = c$. This, we believe, is due to the incorrect phase space boundary for energy variables in Eq. (3) in their paper.



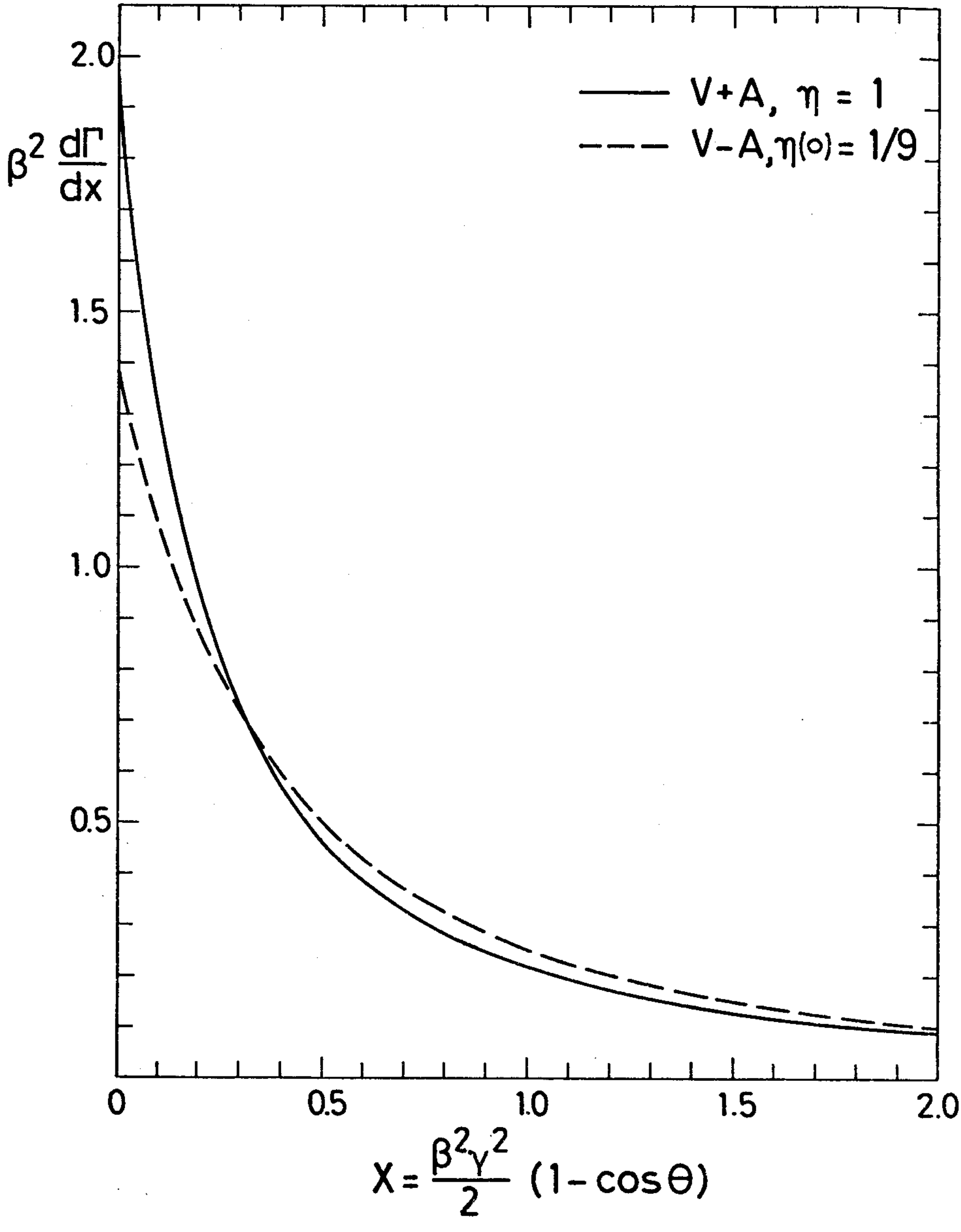
$\bar{\nu}_L$
ν_e
q
$\bar{e}$
e
P'
$\bar{L}$
P
L
$\bar{e}$
p
μ
$\bar{\nu}_\mu$
ν_L

Fig.1



V-A
0.1
0.05
$\eta(\varepsilon)$
0
0.5
1.0
$\varepsilon = m/M$

Fig. 2



$\beta^2 \frac{d\Gamma}{dx}$
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
V+A, η = 1
V−A, η(0) = 1/9
0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
$X = \frac{\beta^2\gamma^2}{2}(1-\cos\theta)$

Fig. 3