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Search for narrow vector resonances in the Z mass range

L3 Collaboration

O. Adrianiⁿ, M. Aguilar-Benitez^w, S. Ahlen^l, J. Alcaraz^o, A. Aloisio^z, G. Alverson^j, M.G. Alviggi^z, G. Ambrosi^{ae}, Q. An^p, H. Anderhub^{as}, A.L. Anderson^m, V.P. Andreev^{ai}, L. Antonov^{am}, D. Antreasyan^g, P. Arce^w, A. Arefiev^y, A. Atamanchuk^{ai}, T. Azemoon^c, T. Aziz^{a,h}, P.V.K.S. Baba^p, S. Bachmann^a, P. Bagnaia^{ah}, J.A. Bakken^{ag}, L. Baksay^{ao}, R.C. Ball^c, S. Banerjee^h, J. Bao^e, R. Barillère^o, L. Barone^{ah}, A. Baschirotto^x, R. Battiston^{ae}, A. Bay^q, F. Becattiniⁿ, U. Becker^{m,as}, F. Behner^{as}, J. Behrens^{as}, Gy.L. Bencze^k, J. Berdugo^w, P. Berges^m, B. Bertucci^{ae}, B.L. Betev^{am,as}, M. Biasini^{ae}, A. Biland^{as}, G.M. Bilei^{ae}, R. Bizzarri^{ah}, J.J. Blaising^d, G.J. Bobbink^{o,b}, R. Bock^a, A. Böhm^a, B. Borgia^{ah}, M. Bosetti^x, D. Bourilkov^{ab}, M. Bourquin^q, D. Boutigny^d, B. Bouwens^b, E. Brambilla^z, J.G. Branson^{aj}, I.C. Brock^{af}, M. Brooks^u, A. Bujak^{ap}, J.D. Burger^m, W.J. Burger^q, J. Busenitz^{ao}, A. Buytenhuijs^{ab}, X.D. Cai^p, M. Capell^t, M. Caria^{ae}, G. Carlino^z, A.M. Cartacciⁿ, R. Castello^x, M. Cerrada^w, F. Cesaroni^{ah}, Y.H. Chang^m, U.K. Chaturvedi^p, M. Chemarin^v, A. Chen^{au}, C. Chen^f, G.M. Chen^f, H.F. Chen^r, H.S. Chen^f, M. Chen^m, W.Y. Chen^{au}, G. Chiefari^z, C.Y. Chien^e, M.T. Choi^{an}, S. Chung^m, C. Civininiⁿ, I. Clare^m, R. Clare^m, T.E. Coan^u, H.O. Cohn^{ac}, G. Coignet^d, N. Colino^o, A. Contin^g, X.T. Cui^p, X.Y. Cui^p, T.S. Dai^m, R. D'Alessandroⁿ, R. de Asmundis^z, A. Degré^d, K. Deiters^{aq}, E. Dénes^k, P. Denes^{ag}, F. DeNotaristefani^{ah}, M. Dhina^{as}, D. DiBitonto^{ao}, M. Diemoz^{ah}, H.R. Dimitrov^{am}, C. Dionisi^{ah,o}, L. Djambazov^{as}, M.T. Dova^p, E. Drago^z, D. Duchesneau^q, P. Duinker^b, I. Duran^{ak}, S. Easo^{ae}, H. El Mamouni^v, A. Engler^{af}, F.J. Eppling^m, F.C. Erné^b, P. Extermann^q, R. Fabbretti^{aq}, M. Fabre^{aq}, S. Falciano^{ah}, S.J. Fan^{al}, O. Fackler^t, J. Fay^v, M. Felcini^o, T. Ferguson^{af}, D. Fernandez^w, G. Fernandez^w, F. Ferroni^{ah}, H. Fesefeldt^a, E. Fiandrini^{ae}, J. Field^q, F. Filthaut^{ab}, G. Finocchiaro^{ah}, P.H. Fisher^e, G. Forconi^q, T. Foreman^b, K. Freudenreich^{as}, W. Friebel^{ar}, M. Fukushima^m, M. Gailloud^s, Yu. Galaktionov^{y,m}, E. Galloⁿ, S.N. Ganguli^{o,h}, P. Garcia-Abia^w, D. Gele^v, S. Gentile^{ah,o}, S. Goldfarb^j, Z.F. Gong^r, E. Gonzalez^w, A. Gougas^e, D. Goujon^q, G. Gratta^{ad}, M. Gruenewald^{ad}, C. Gu^p, M. Guanziroli^p, J.K. Guo^{al}, V.K. Gupta^{ag}, A. Gurtu^h, H.R. Gustafson^c, L.J. Gutay^{ap}, K. Hangarter^a, A. Hasan^p, D. Hauschildt^b, C.F. He^{al}, J.T. He^f, T. Hebbeker^a, M. Hebert^{aj}, G. Herten^m, A. Hervé^o, K. Hilgers^a, H. Hofer^{as}, H. Hoorani^q, G. Hu^p, G.Q. Hu^{al}, B. Ille^v, M.M. Ilyas^p, V. Innocente^o, H. Janssen^o, S. Jezequel^d, B.N. Jin^f, L.W. Jones^c, A. Kasser^s, R.A. Khan^p, Yu. Kamyshkov^{ac}, P. Kapinos^{ai,ar}, J.S. Kapustinsky^u, Y. Karyotakis^o, M. Kaur^p, S. Khokhar^p, M.N. Kienzle-Focacci^q, J.K. Kim^{an}, S.C. Kim^{an}, Y.G. Kim^{an}, W.W. Kinnison^u, D. Kirkby^{ad}, S. Kirsch^{ar}, W. Kittel^{ab}, A. Klimentov^{m,y}, A.C. König^{ab}, E. Koffeman^b, O. Kornadt^a, V. Koutsenko^{m,y}, A. Koulbardi^{ai}, R.W. Kraemer^{af}, T. Kramer^m, V.R. Krastev^{am,ae}, W. Krenz^a, A. Krivshich^{ai}, H. Kuijten^{ab}, K.S. Kumar^l, A. Kunin^{l,y}, G. Landiⁿ, D. Lanske^a, S. Lanzano^z, P. Lebrun^v, P. Lecomte^{as}, P. Lecoq^o, P. Le Coultre^{as}, D.M. Lee^u, I. Leedom^j, C. Leggett^c, J.M. Le Goff^o, R. Leiste^{ar}, M. Lentiⁿ, E. Leonardi^{ah}, X. Leytens^b, C. Li^{r,p}, H.T. Li^f, P.J. Li^{al}, J.Y. Liao^{al}, W.T. Lin^{au}, Z.Y. Lin^r, F.L. Linde^o, B. Lindemann^a, L. Lista^z, Y. Liu^p, W. Lohmann^{ar,o}, E. Longo^{ah}, Y.S. Lu^f, J.M. Lubbers^o, K. Lübelmeyer^a, C. Luci^{ah}, D. Luckey^{g,m}, L. Ludovici^{ah}, L. Luminari^{ah}, W. Luster^{ar}, J.M. Ma^f, W.G. Ma^r,

M. MacDermott^{as}, P.K. Malhotra^{h,3}, R. Malik^p, A. Malinin^y, C. Maña^w, M. Maolinbay^{as}, P. Marchesini^{as}, F. Marion^d, A. Marin¹, J.P. Martin^v, L. Martinez-Laso^w, F. Marzano^{ah}, G.G.G. Massaro^b, K. Mazumdar^h, P. McBride^l, T. McMahon^{ap}, D. McNally^{as}, M. Merk^{af}, L. Merola^z, M. Meschiniⁿ, W.J. Metzger^{ab}, Y. Mi^s, G.B. Mills^u, Y. Mir^p, G. Mirabelli^{ah}, J. Mnich^a, M. Möller^a, B. Monteleoniⁿ, R. Morand^d, S. Morganti^{ah}, N.E. Moulai^p, R. Mount^{ad}, S. Müller^a, A. Nadtochy^{ai}, E. Nagy^k, M. Napolitano^z, F. Nessi-Tedaldi^{as}, H. Newman^{ad}, C. Neyer^{as}, M.A. Niaz^p, A. Nippe^a, H. Nowak^{ar}, G. Organtini^{ah}, D. Pandoulas^a, S. Paolettiⁿ, P. Paolucci^z, G. Pascala^{ah}, G. Passaleva^{n,ae}, S. Patricelli^z, T. Paul^e, M. Pauluzzi^{ae}, C. Paus^a, F. Pauss^{as}, Y.J. Pei^a, S. Pensotti^x, D. Perret-Gallix^d, J. Perrier^q, A. Pevsner^e, D. Piccolo^z, M. Pieri^o, P.A. Piroué^{ag}, F. Plasil^{ac}, V. Plyaskin^y, M. Pohl^a, V. Pojidaev^{y,n}, H. Postema^m, Z.D. Qi^{af}, J.M. Qian^c, K.N. Qureshi^p, R. Raghavan^h, G. Rahal-Callot^{as}, P.G. Rancoita^a, M. Rattaggi^x, G. Raven^b, P. Razis^{aa}, K. Read^{ac}, D. Ren^{as}, Z. Ren^p, M. Rescigno^{ah}, S. Reucroft^j, A. Ricker^a, S. Riemann^{ar}, B.C. Riemers^{ap}, K. Riles^c, O. Rind^c, H.A. Rizvi^p, F.J. Rodríguez^w, B.P. Roe^c, M. Röhner^a, S. Röhner^a, L. Romero^w, J. Rose^a, S. Rosier-Lees^d, R. Rosmalen^{ab}, Ph. Rosselet^s, W. van Rossum^b, S. Roth^a, A. Rubbia^m, J.A. Rubio^o, H. Rykaczewski^{as}, M. Sachwitz^{ar}, J. Salicio^o, J.M. Salicio^w, G.S. Sanders^u, A. Santocchia^{ae}, M.S. Sarakinos^m, G. Sartorelli^{bp}, M. Sassowsky^a, G. Sauvage^d, C. Schäfer^a, V. Schegelsky^{ai}, D. Schmitz^a, P. Schmitz^a, M. Schneegans^d, H. Schopper^{at}, D.J. Schotanus^{ab}, S. Shotkin^m, H.J. Schreiber^{ar}, J. Shukla^{af}, R. Schulte^a, S. Schulte^a, K. Schultze^a, J. Swanenke^a, G. Schwering^a, C. Sciacca^z, I. Scott^l, R. Sehgal^p, P.G. Seiler^{aq}, J.C. Sens^{o,b}, L. Servoli^{ae}, I. Sheer^{aj}, D.Z. Shen^{af}, S. Shevchenko^{ad}, X.R. Shi^{ad}, E. Shumilov^y, V. Shoutko^y, D. Son^{an}, A. Sopczak^{aj}, C. Spartiotis^e, T. Spickermann^a, P. Spillantiniⁿ, R. Starosta^a, M. Steuer^{g,m}, D.P. Stickland^{ag}, F. Sticozzi^m, H. Stone^{ag}, K. Strauch^l, B.C. Stringfellow^{ap}, K. Sudhakar^h, G. Sultanov^p, L.Z. Sun^{r,p}, H. Suter^{as}, J.D. Swain^p, A.A. Syed^{ab}, X.W. Tang^f, L. Taylor^j, G. Terzi^x, Samuel C.C. Ting^m, S.M. Ting^m, M. Tonutti^a, S.C. Tonwar^h, J. Tóth^k, A. Tsaregorodtsev^{ai}, G. Tsipolitis^{af}, C. Tully^{ag}, K.L. Tung^f, J. Ulbricht^{as}, L. Urbán^k, U. Uwer^a, E. Valente^{ah}, R.T. Van de Walle^{ab}, I. Vetlitsky^y, G. Viertel^{as}, P. Vikas^p, U. Vikas^p, M. Vivargent^d, H. Vogel^{af}, H. Vogt^{ar}, I. Vorobiev^y, A.A. Vorobyov^{ai}, L. Vuilleumier^s, M. Wadhwa^d, W. Wallraff^a, C. Wang^m, C.R. Wang^r, G.H. Wang^{af}, X.L. Wang^r, Y.F. Wang^m, Z.M. Wang^{p,r}, A. Weber^a, J. Weber^{as}, R. Weill^s, T.J. Wenaus^t, J. Wenninger^q, M. White^m, C. Willmott^w, F. Wittgenstein^o, D. Wright^{ag}, S.X. Wu^p, S. Wynhoff^a, B. Wyslouck^m, Y.Y. Xie^{af}, J.G. Xu^f, Z.Z. Xu^r, Z.L. Xue^{af}, D.S. Yan^{af}, B.Z. Yang^r, C.G. Yang^f, G. Yang^p, C.H. Ye^p, J.B. Ye^r, Q. Ye^p, S.C. Yeh^{au}, Z.W. Yin^{af}, J.M. You^p, N. Yunus^p, M. Yzerman^b, C. Zaccardelli^{ad}, P. Zemp^{as}, M. Zeng^p, Y. Zeng^a, D.H. Zhang^b, Z.P. Zhang^{r,p}, B. Zhou¹, G.J. Zhou^f, J.F. Zhou^a, R.Y. Zhu^{ad}, A. Zichichi^{g,o,p} and B.C.C. van der Zwaan^b

^a I Physikalisches Institut, RWTH, W-5100 Aachen, FRG¹

and III. Physikalisches Institut, RWTH, W-5100 Aachen, FRG¹

^b National Institute for High Energy Physics, NIKHEF, NL-1009 DB Amsterdam, The Netherlands

^c University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

^d Laboratoire d'Annecy-le-Vieux de Physique des Particules, LAPP, IN2P3-CNRS, B.P. 110, F-74941 Annecy-le-Vieux Cedex, France

^e Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

^f Institute of High Energy Physics, IHEP, 100039 Beijing, China

^g INFN, Sezione di Bologna, I-40126 Bologna, Italy

^h Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay 400 005, India

¹ Boston University, Boston, MA 02215, USA

^j Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, USA

^k Central Research Institute for Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, H-1525 Budapest 114, Hungary²

^l Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

- ^m *Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA*
ⁿ *INFN, Sezione di Firenze and University of Florence, I-50125 Florence, Italy*
^o *European Laboratory for Particle Physics, CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland*
^p *World Laboratory, FBLJA Project, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland*
^q *University of Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland*
^r *Chinese University of Science and Technology, USTC, Hefei, Anhui 230 029, China*
^s *University of Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland*
^t *Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550, USA*
^u *Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87544, USA*
^v *Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, IN2P3-CNRS, Université Claude Bernard, F-69622 Villeurbanne Cedex, France*
^w *Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas, CIEMAT, E-28040 Madrid, Spain*
^x *INFN, Sezione di Milano, I-20133 Milan, Italy*
^y *Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics, ITEP, Moscow, Russian Federation*
^z *INFN, Sezione di Napoli and University of Naples, I-80125 Naples, Italy*
^{aa} *Department of Natural Sciences, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus*
^{ab} *University of Nijmegen and NIKHEF, NL-6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands*
^{ac} *Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, USA*
^{ad} *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA*
^{ae} *INFN, Sezione di Perugia and Università Degli Studi di Perugia, I-06100 Perugia, Italy*
^{af} *Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA*
^{ag} *Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA*
^{ah} *INFN, Sezione di Roma and University of Rome, "La Sapienza", I-00185 Rome, Italy*
^{ai} *Nuclear Physics Institute, St Petersburg, Russian Federation*
^{aj} *University of California, San Diego, CA 92093, USA*
^{ak} *Dept de Fisica de Partículas Elementales, Univ de Santiago, E-15706 Santiago de Compostela, Spain*
^{al} *Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, SIC, Shanghai, China*
^{am} *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Mechatronics, BU-1113 Sofia, Bulgaria*
^{an} *Center for High Energy Physics, Korea Advanced Inst of Sciences and Technology, 305-701 Taejeon, South Korea*
^{ao} *University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486, USA*
^{ap} *Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA*
^{aq} *Paul Scherrer Institut, PSI, CH-5232 Villigen, Switzerland*
^{ar} *DESY - Institut für Hochenergiephysik, O-1615 Zeuthen, FRG*
^{as} *Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, ETH Zürich, CH-8093 Zürich, Switzerland*
^{at} *University of Hamburg, W-2000 Hamburg, FRG*
^{au} *High Energy Physics Group, Taiwan, China*

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The hadronic lineshape of the Z has been analysed for evidence of signals of new, narrow vector resonances in the Z-mass range. The production rate of such resonances would be enhanced due to mixing with the Z. No evidence for new states is found, and it is thus possible to exclude, at the 95% confidence level, a quarkonium state in the mass range from 87.7 to 94.7 GeV.

1. Introduction

The importance of measuring hadron production in e^+e^- interactions to probe the hadronic substructure was recognized at the first experiments at high-energy e^+e^- colliders [1]. The classic example of such a situation is the ρ - ω interference [2] in the vicinity of 780 MeV. The search for narrow vector resonances is

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of great interest because they would correspond to the bound states of new heavy quarks or to new gauge particles. We have searched for narrow resonances produced in the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow$ hadrons.

The production of a narrow vector resonance is strongly enhanced due to mixing with the Z if the resonance mass (M_V) is within the Z mass range, that is if $|M_V - M_Z| \lesssim \Gamma_Z$.

Both vector ($J^{PC} = 1^{--}$) and axial vector (1^{++}) resonances can mix with the Z. If the new resonance is a quarkonium of SU(3) colour quarks, such as the top or a fourth generation b' , its mixing with the Z can be calculated using potential models developed for lower mass quarkonia. It can be shown that the decay width of the resonance is increased by approximately two orders of magnitude due to the mixing. This enhancement makes our search sensitive to such resonances over the full mass range we study, in spite of the coarse sampling of center-of-mass energies in the data.

We report here on a search carried out over the mass range $87 < M_V < 95$ GeV with the L3 detector at LEP, using a total e^+e^- luminosity of 18.2 pb^{-1} accumulated in the period from 1989 through 1991. This search is also sensitive to resonances formed of constituents with new quantum numbers provided that the resonance couples to the Z so that mixing can take place.

Searches for narrow resonances produced in radiative decays of the Z have been reported by the L3 Collaboration [3] and others [4].

2. The L3 detector

The L3 detector covers 99% of 4π [5]. It consists of a central tracking chamber (TEC), a high-resolution electromagnetic calorimeter composed of bismuth germanium oxide (BGO) crystals, a ring of scintillation counters, a uranium and brass hadron calorimeter with proportional wire chamber readout, and a high precision muon spectrometer. These detectors are located in a 12 m diameter magnet which provides a uniform field of 0.5 T along the beam direction. Forward BGO arrays, on either side of the detector, measure the luminosity by detecting small angle Bhabha events.

3. The hadronic cross section

The cross section for $e^+e^- \rightarrow$ hadrons, σ_h , measured at 24 center-of-mass energies, is presented in table 1. The details of the analysis have been reported in previous publications [6,7]. In addition to the statistical error shown in table 1, there are systematic errors associated with the selection of hadronic events and the acceptance. The systematic error for hadrons at the Z peak is estimated for each of the three running periods in 1989, 1990 and 1991 to be 1.0%, 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively. The systematic errors at different center-of-mass energy points are partially correlated. We conservatively treat this as a point-to-point error in the following analysis. In contrast, the systematic error in the luminosity, which is evaluated to be 2.0%,

Table 1
The measured cross section, σ_h , for $e^+e^- \rightarrow$ hadrons. Quoted errors are statistical only.

\sqrt{s} (GeV)	σ_h (nb)	Period	\sqrt{s} (GeV)	σ_h (nb)	Period
88.231	4.53 ± 0.11	1990	91.278	30.30 ± 0.62	1989
88.279	5.45 ± 0.40	1989	91.529	29.62 ± 0.59	1989
88.480	5.17 ± 0.09	1991	91.967	24.51 ± 0.24	1991
89.236	8.50 ± 0.14	1990	92.226	21.78 ± 0.26	1990
89.277	8.76 ± 0.41	1989	92.280	20.82 ± 0.79	1989
89.470	10.08 ± 0.12	1991	92.966	14.36 ± 0.16	1991
90.228	18.12 ± 0.18	1991	93.228	12.36 ± 0.16	1990
90.238	18.60 ± 0.25	1990	93.276	12.56 ± 0.55	1989
90.277	19.77 ± 0.70	1989	93.716	10.02 ± 0.13	1991
91.030	30.41 ± 0.74	1989	94.223	8.20 ± 0.14	1990
91.230	30.38 ± 0.12	1990	94.278	7.17 ± 0.54	1989
91.222	30.26 ± 0.13	1991	95.036	7.04 ± 0.86	1989

1.0% and 0.6% for the same three periods, is independent of beam energy and, therefore, is not considered further in this analysis.

The experimental cross section is compared to the Standard Model prediction to search for the signal of a new resonance. We use only the lineshape of the Z resonance predicted by the Standard Model and ignore the absolute normalization. The Standard Model cross section is calculated using the ZFITTER program [8] with four adjustable parameters: α_s , M_Z , M_t and M_H . The last two parameters are the masses of the top quark and the Higgs particle, respectively. The strong coupling α_s is constrained to the range 0.124 ± 0.005 which has been determined from a study of hadronic Z and τ decays [7]. The other parameters must be fit from the data.

In order to make the overall fit to the Z resonance insensitive to a possible narrow resonance, the fit value of the Z resonance curve at each center-of-mass energy, E_i , is calculated using all data except those points within the interval $[E_i \pm 0.75]$ GeV, and the Standard Model parameters are determined from the remaining data. The resulting cross section, $\sigma_{SM}(E_i)$, is compared with the omitted data points in order to determine local deviations from the Standard Model lineshape. This procedure is repeated for each group of data points.

The uncertainty in the theoretical cross section is estimated by repeating the fits with extreme values of the parameters within the ranges given below:

$$\alpha_s = 0.124 \pm 0.005,$$

$$M_Z = 91.195 \pm 0.007 \text{ GeV},$$

$$M_t = 45\text{--}200 \text{ GeV},$$

$$M_H = 50\text{--}1000 \text{ GeV}.$$

The changes in the predicted cross section are found to be limited to the range ± 0.2 nb for all energies E_i in the data. We therefore assign a systematic error $\delta\sigma_{SM} = 0.20$ nb to the Standard Model cross section.

We derive upper and lower limits (σ^\pm) on the cross section (σ_V) for a new resonance which is observed either as an enhancement or as a reduction over the Z lineshape predicted by the Standard Model. For the 95% CL bounds $\sigma_V > \sigma^-$ and $\sigma_V < \sigma^+$ we obtain

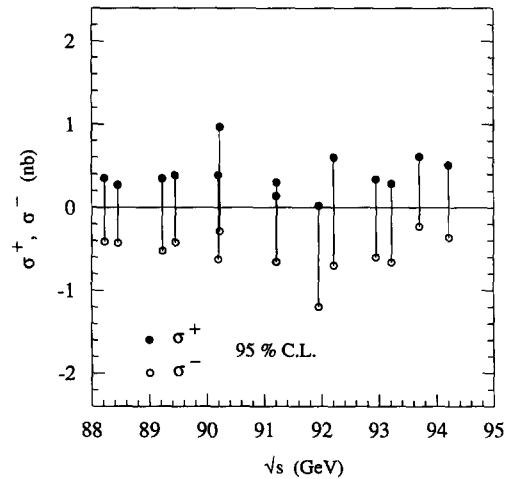


Fig. 1. The 95% CL limits σ^+ and σ^- versus center-of-mass energy. Each bar represents the interval outside of which a fluctuation in the cross section due, for example, to an interfering narrow resonance is excluded. The limits are shown for the data taken in 1990 and 1991 (see text).

$$\sigma^+ = (\sigma_h + 1.64 \Delta\sigma_h) - (\sigma_{SM} - \delta\sigma_{SM}),$$

$$\sigma^- = (\sigma_h - 1.64 \Delta\sigma_h) - (\sigma_{SM} + \delta\sigma_{SM}),$$

where σ_h is the measured cross section with a standard deviation $\Delta\sigma_h$ obtained by summing in quadrature the statistical and the systematic errors.

Fig. 1 shows σ^+ and σ^- versus \sqrt{s} . For each data point a bar is drawn between σ^+ and σ^- representing the allowed range of the deviation of the measurement of the cross section at that energy from the Standard Model fit. For the data points with high statistics σ^\pm lie within the band ± 0.5 nb, which corresponds to $\pm 1.5\%$ of the cross section at the peak of the Z resonance. We do not observe any significant deviations from the Standard Model lineshape that could be interpreted as the signal of a new resonance.

4. Limits on resonances

We use the experimental limits on the deviation of the hadronic cross section from the Standard Model lineshape to set limits on the production of new narrow resonances.

The production cross section of a narrow vector resonance in the Z mass region is proportional to the

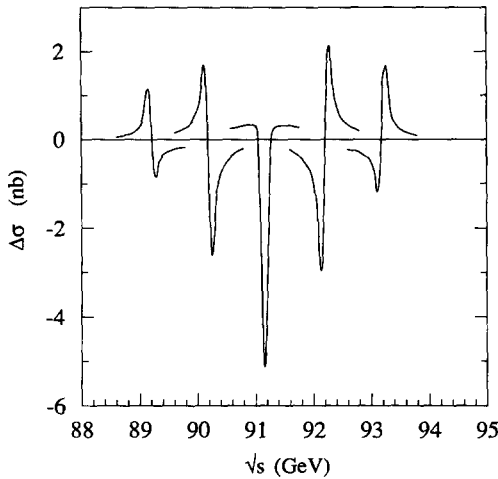


Fig. 2. Predicted deviation of the hadronic cross section from the Standard Model value due to the presence of narrow resonances mixing with the Z. Resonances with a mass of $M_V - M_Z = (-2, -1, 0, +1$ and $+2)$ GeV have been simulated, including the effect of the energy spread of the LEP beams. The value of the mixing parameter is chosen for a quarkonium state of charge $2/3$ quarks.

strength of its mixing with the Z [9,10]. Following the formalism of ref. [10], this mixing is parametrized by the off-diagonal mass term, δm^2 , in the 2×2 mass matrix of the Z-V system. The resonance acquires a decay width, Γ_V , which is proportional to $(\delta m^2)^2$ and which can be expressed as

$$\Gamma_V \approx \frac{(\delta m^2)^2}{M_Z^2 \Gamma_Z}$$

for the case where $M_V \approx M_Z$. To the extent that $\Gamma_V \gg \Gamma_V^0$, where Γ_V^0 is the bare width of the resonance, the resonance will decay essentially as a Z. The Z resonance parameters, however, are not significantly modified by the mixing. The narrow resonance signal consists of an interference effect in the Z production cross section at the center of mass energy $\sqrt{s} \approx M_V$.

In fig. 2 we show the predicted deviation of the hadronic cross section from the Standard Model value for five resonance masses. We use the value of $\delta m^2 = 18 \text{ GeV}^2$, which is applicable to a toponium state in this mass range with $\Gamma_V \approx 16 \text{ MeV}$. However, the interference effects that are produced are general and apply to any resonance mixing with the Z. The characteristic features are a dip in the cross section for

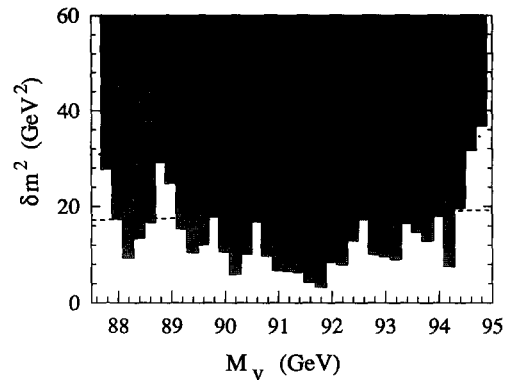


Fig. 3. Limits on the mixing parameter δm^2 as a function of the resonance mass. We exclude, at the 95% CL, values of δm^2 above the histogram (shaded region). The value of δm^2 expected from a potential model is plotted for quarkonia of d-type (dotted line) and u-type (dashed line) quarks. Resonances whose mixing with the Z is larger than the limits shown on δm^2 are excluded by this search.

the case $M_V = M_Z$ and a dispersion shaped interference pattern for other values of M_V . The sharp features of a resonance signal are smeared further by the intrinsic energy spread of the LEP beams. This effect has been included in the plots of fig. 2 by convoluting them with a gaussian of $\sigma = 50 \text{ MeV}$ [11].

We use the predicted interference signal to calculate an upper limit on the parameter δm^2 as a function of M_V . For each value of M_V , incrementing in 10 MeV steps, the predicted deviation in the cross section is compared to data while varying δm^2 . The resulting 95% CL upper limit on δm^2 is shown in fig. 3. The upper limit is in the range 10–30 GeV^2 for resonance masses in the interval from 88 to 94.5 GeV.

The mixing parameter for quarkonium of u-type quarks is given by

$$\delta m^2 = 2\sqrt{3} |\psi(0)| \sqrt{M_V} \left(\frac{e(1 - \frac{2}{3} \sin^2 \theta_w)}{4 \sin \theta_w \cos \theta_w} \right),$$

where e is the positron electric charge and $\psi(0)$ is the wave-function of the $Q\bar{Q}$ bound state at the origin, which can be calculated from potential models. We plot in fig. 3 the expected value of δm^2 for ground-state quarkonia of u-type and d-type quarks with $|\psi(0)|^2 \approx 64 \text{ GeV}^3$ [12]. The upper limit on δm^2 rules out, at the 95% CL, new resonances of d-type quarks in the mass range $87.7 < M_V < 94.7 \text{ GeV}$,

while resonances of u-type quarks are excluded in the mass ranges $87.9 < M_V < 88.7$ GeV and $89.1 < M_V < 94.3$ GeV. These limits are valid for the ground state quarkonium. This search is less sensitive to the radial excitations of the ground state and to the 1^{++} state, whose mixing with the Z is suppressed by a smaller $|\psi(0)|$.

The limits on the resonance mass can be translated to limits on the quark mass, M_Q , through

$$2M_Q = (M_V + E_b),$$

where E_b is the binding energy. Assuming that $E_b = 1$ GeV [13] we exclude the mass range $44.4 < M_Q < 47.8$ GeV for d-type quarks and the range $45.0 < M_Q < 47.5$ GeV for u-type quarks, without any assumptions about their decay modes. These limits extend the model-independent limits of $M_b > 45$ GeV [14] obtained from the width of the Z and $M_t > 45$ GeV [15], obtained from the width of the W, both at the 95% CL. Model-dependent mass limits have been reported in refs. [16,17].

Our search is also sensitive to resonances formed of constituents with new quantum numbers. Even if the resonance does not couple to ordinary fermions, its mixing with the Z, via virtual loops, would produce a signal in the Z mass range. The upper limit on δm^2 , shown in fig. 3, applies to such a resonance as well and can be used to constrain the coupling of its constituents to the Z, subject to assumptions about $|\psi(0)|$.

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