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Single Photon and Radiative Events at LEP

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Abstract

Experimental studies of exotic photon production at the LEP e^+e^- collider are summarised. Emphasis is given to the potential signals of anomalous boson self interactions: searches for $ZZ\gamma$ couplings in $\nu\bar{\nu}\gamma$ final states, Z^0 resonance decays into three photons and the decay $Z^0 \rightarrow \gamma$ + Higgs. A brief account of studies on possible non-standard fermion-photon couplings is also given.

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Introduction

Photon production at LEP allows a broad range of physics, both within and beyond the Standard Model, to be explored. Within the Standard Model photons do not couple directly to the Z^0 . Instead, as depicted in Fig.1, photons originate mainly from incoming (1a) or outgoing (1b) fermions. Particularly in hadronic Z^0 decays photons may originate from hadron decays like $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (1c). In addition, two photons may be produced by an electron t-channel exchange (1d). With the exception of hadron decays these contributions are theoretically understood to high precision and have been used to study QED at the highest energies, electroweak couplings of all fermions and QCD.

The main characteristics of these photons are their typical bremsstrahlung spectra with a preference for small angles $\sim 1/\alpha_{f,\gamma}$ with respect to the emitting fermion and for low energies $\sim 1/E_{\gamma}$. On the Z^0 , initial state photons are suppressed due to the large drop in cross section below the resonance. More important for most experimental studies are photons emitted from the outgoing fermions. Photons from hadron decays like $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ in $Z^0 \rightarrow$ hadrons or $\tau^+\tau^-$ are also emitted dominantly along the fermion direction. They are in general surrounded by other hadrons and can be suppressed by isolation requirements on the photon candidate. Somewhat different is the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ process, which, in the absence of higher order photon emission (e.g. 1d), leads to monoenergetic photons of beam energy.

Any deviation from these rather strict expectations, either of the photon yield or of their properties, is an unambiguous sign for physics outside the Standard Model. This, together with their rather clear experimental signature, makes photons at LEP a sensitive probe for non-standard physics.



Figure 1: Standard Model photon sources (a-d) and possible non-standard contributions (f-g).

Radiative events appear in many scenarios of Standard Model extensions, some of which are addressed in [1]. In the context of vector boson self interactions three processes (Fig.1f-g) are of particular interest.

	$ u u \gamma$	$\mu\mu\gamma$	$ au au\gamma$	$q \bar{q} \gamma$
		_	_	
$E_{\gamma}^{min}({ m GeV})$	1.5	2	3	5
$ \cos heta_{\gamma} ^{max}$	0.7	0.98	0.94	0.94
$\alpha_{f,\gamma}^{min}(\mathrm{deg.})$		5	10	10-15
ALEPH	16 pb^{-1}			41 pb ⁻¹
DELPHI		40 pb^{-1}	40 pb^{-1}	80 pb^{-1}
L3	80 pb^{-1}	17 pb ⁻¹	$17 \ {\rm pb^{-1}}$	40 pb^{-1}
OPAL	40 pb^{-1}	7 pb^{-1}	7 pb^{-1}	80 pb^{-1}
Physics	ν counting	Z'	Z'	QCD
	ν^* , magn.moment		el., magn. moments	el.weak

Table 1: Data samples used at LEP for $f\bar{f}\gamma$ analyses. Typical values are given for cuts on the minimum photon energy E_{γ}^{min} , the minimum angle θ_{γ} with respect to the beam direction, and the minimum angle $\alpha_{f,\gamma}^{min}$ between the outgoing fermion and the photon. The data samples used by the various experiments for published or preliminary analyses are also given.

- Similar to possible $(\gamma Z)WW$ couplings, which will be explored at LEP2, also $(\gamma Z)Z\gamma$ couplings may be anomalous. On the Z^0 especially the decay $Z^0 \to Z^{0*}\gamma$ is potentially rewarding (Fig.1e) with a sensitivity to anomalous $ZZ\gamma$ couplings.
- The Standard Model also inhibits a Z^0 decay into three photons at the tree level. Such a decay may occur if the Z^0 is composite (Fig.1f).
- Within the Standard Model photons may be produced e.g. together with a Higgs boson by the loop correction displayed in Fig.1g. For Higgs masses smaller than m_{Z^0} and anomalous boson couplings this contribution may become observable at LEP.

After summarising general aspects of the LEP photon samples, we will discuss the experimental studies of these processes at LEP in more detail.

The LEP Data

As of the end of '94 each of the LEP experiments has collected data samples of about 140 pb⁻¹ or 5.5 million Z^0 decays. In general only a small fraction of these has been publicized in searches for beyond the Standard Model effects. For the $f\bar{f}\gamma$ analyses the statistics used by the various experiments, typical cuts, and some principle physics motivations are listed in in Table .

In general LEP experiments identify photons in most of the phase space. Some restrictions apply to the $\nu\nu\gamma$ and $q\bar{q}\gamma$ channels. For the neutrino analysis events with just a single photon

Experiment	Ref.	\mathcal{L}_{eff}	$E_{\gamma} > 15 \text{ GeV}$	$E_{\gamma} > 23 \mathrm{GeV}$
ALEPH L3 OPAL	[5] [4] [6]	6.3 pb^{-1} 35.0 pb^{-1} 16.7 pb^{-1}	0 (exp. 0) 9 (exp. 8) 5 (exp. 1.4)	$egin{array}{l} 0 \ ({ m exp.} \ 0) \ 1 \ ({ m exp.} \ 1.2) \ 0 \ ({ m exp.} \ 0) \end{array}$
Combined		48.0 pb^{-1}	14 (exp. 9.4)	1 (exp. 1.2)

Table 2: Number of high energy single photons observed (and expected).

in the detector are selected. Since up to now the main goal has been the counting of neutrino species, the experimental emphasis was on low energy photons. To make sure that no particle evades detection in the blind area of the beam pipe, photons at a large polar angle are selected. In the case of $q\bar{q}\gamma$ the main experimental challenge is to suppress the π^0 background. This is achieved by requiring the photon candidate to be fairly energetic and isolated. This implies a large $\alpha_{f,\gamma}$.

Searching for Anomalous $ZZ\gamma$ Couplings

In its most general form the $Z^0 \to Z^{0*}\gamma$ production can be expressed [2] by four form factors h_i . All of them violate charge conjucation, two of them (i=1,2) are CP violating, the other two are CP conserving. Neglecting the charge of the fermions, the cross sections are identical for $h_1=h_3$ (and $h_2=h_4$). In the Standard Model $h_i=0$. In its extensions at some typical scale Λ , the h_i are expected to be $\mathcal{O}(m_{Z^0}^4/\Lambda^4)$ for $s << \Lambda^2$.

At LEP the potential signature for an anomalous coupling is an excess of photons in the process $e^+e^-(\to Z^0) \to \gamma f \bar{f}$ where the $f \bar{f}$ are fermion pairs produced with a composition of the standard Z^0 decays (i.e. $\sim 20\% \ \nu \bar{\nu}, \sim 10\% \ l^+l^-, \sim 70\% \ q\bar{q}$). Within the cuts of $\alpha_{f,\gamma} > 100$ mrad, $|\cos \theta_{\gamma}| < 0.95$, and $E_{\gamma} > 5$ GeV, typically used at LEP, anomalous couplings would, according to the calculation of [3], lead to cross sections (given in pb)

$$\sigma_{anomalous} \sim 1.7 |h_3|^2 BR(Z^0 \to f\bar{f}) \quad or \quad \sim 0.25 |h_4|^2 BR(Z^0 \to f\bar{f}) \tag{1}$$

which has to be compared to the Standard Model background of

$$\sigma_{ISR} \sim 45 \cdot BR(Z^0 \to f\bar{f}) \quad and \quad \sigma_{FSR} \sim 2400 \cdot e_f^2 \cdot BR(Z^0 \to f\bar{f})$$
(2)

here e_f is the electric charge of the outgoing fermion.

The polar angle distributions of initial and final state radiation and for an anomalous coupling $|h_3|=5$ are shown in Fig.2a. A cut on the polar angle like $|\cos \theta| < 0.8$ suppresses the contribution from ISR significantly. The resulting distribution of the photon energy is shown in Fig.2b. Applying an additional cut on the photon energy like $2E_{\gamma}/E_{cm} > 0.5$, i.e. $E_{\gamma} > 23$ GeV,



Figure 2: Properties of various photon sources in the $\mu\mu\gamma$ final state. The open histogram shows the FSR and the dark histogram the ISR contributions. An anomalous coupling of $|h_3| = 5$ would lead to the cross hatched distribution. Distributions are shown after incremental cuts: a. polar angle $\cos\theta$ with wide cuts (see text); b. photon energy E_{γ} after $|\cos\theta_{\gamma}| < 0.8$; c. minimum angle $\alpha_{f,\gamma}$ for $E_{\gamma} > 23$ GeV; d. angle α^* in fermionic rest system after cut on $\alpha_{f,\gamma} > 100$ degrees.

eliminates the ISR contribution almost completely, while hardly affecting anomalous contributions. As shown in Fig.2c and d the much more abundant FSR background is much harder to suppress and only at the price of a substantial loss in efficiency for anomalous production. Since it is free of final state photons, the $\nu \bar{\nu} \gamma$ channel becomes the outstanding mode for testing for anomalous $ZZ\gamma$ couplings.

The photon energy spectrum of L3 [4] is shown in Fig.3a together with the Standard Model expectation and an expectation for an anomalous coupling $|h_3|=1$ which leads to high energy photons. Together with the results from ALEPH [5], and OPAL [6] the observed yields for $E_{\gamma} > 15$ and 23 GeV are listed in Table 2. Also listed is the effective luminosity

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = \epsilon_{\gamma} \sum_{i} \frac{\sigma(E_{cm}^{i})}{\sigma(M_{Z^{0}})} \mathcal{L}_{nom}^{i}$$
(3)

where \mathcal{L}_{nom}^i is the experimental luminosity collected at the c.m. energy E_{cm}^i . These luminosities are weighted by the ratio of the cross sections at this energy and at the Z^0 peak, ϵ_{γ} is the



Figure 3: (a) Photon energy spectrum for $\nu \bar{\nu} \gamma$ events. (b) Allowed region of anomalous couplings $h_3(h_1)$ and $h_2(h_4)$ from both LEP and the Tevatron. Both figures from ref [4].

experimental photon detection efficiency.

No significant excess of high energy photons is observed. Based on the LEP data sample the production of more than four γZ^{0*} events with an energy of more than 23 GeV can be excluded at 95% C.L.. This can be interpreted as

$$|h_{1,3}^Z| < 0.73 \qquad |h_{2,4}^Z| < 1.96 \qquad (4)$$

Here it was assumed that just one coupling constant contributes. In principle the two either CP conserving or violating contributions could interfer. The allowed region in the (h_3, h_4) and (h_1, h_2) parameter space as obtained by L3 is displayed in Fig.3b. Also shown are the corresponding limits from $Z\gamma$ final states as observed by CDF [7]. In comparing LEP and Tevatron limits a few differences have to be noted. Firstly, the $p\bar{p}$ result does not discriminate between the $\gamma\gamma Z$ and $ZZ\gamma$ couplings. Secondly, at LEP the couplings are determined at a fixed c.m. energy where the sensitivity to $h_2(h_4)$ is less than the one to $h_1(h_3)$. At the Tevatron the limits are derived from the energy dependence of the production. Since the anomalous contributions grow like $(E_{cm}/M_Z)^3$ and $(E_{cm}/M_Z)^5$ for the two coefficients, one is more sensitive to $h_2(h_4)$. As a result the LEP and Tevatron limits are rather orthogonal. This energy dependence at the Tevatron also requires them to introduce a form-factor behaviour to avoid unitarity violation. CDF uses $h_i = h_i^0/(1 + s/\Lambda^2)^n$, with n=3 for i=1,3, and n=4 for i=2,4 for some assumed values of Λ .

Combining LEP and CDF, limits of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ are obtained for $|h_i|$. This is the first direct constraint on a potential anomalous $(Z, \gamma)Z\gamma$ coupling, which is, however, still several orders of magnitude above the expectation for some new effects.

Based on these numbers one may estimate the final potential of LEP1¹. At the end of '95, running at the Z^0 pole will be completed and some 200 pb⁻¹ will be collected per experiment. Allowing for an improved efficiency for high energy photons of ~70% and taking into account the distribution of c.m. energies around the Z^0 -pole, we expect a ~ tenfold increase in effective luminosity from the combination of all experiments. The sensitivity to anomalous couplings will then improve by ~ $\sqrt{10}$ to $|h_{1,3}| < 0.2$ and $|h_{2,4}| < 0.6$.

The Fermion - Photon Coupling

Apart from searching for anomalous *boson* self couplings, the photon spectra may also be interpreted in terms of *fermion* - photon couplings. For example, the $\nu\bar{\nu}\gamma$ measurement [4] has been used by L3 to set limits on an anomalous magnetic moment of the τ neutrino of $\mu_{\nu_{\tau}} < 4.1 \cdot 10^{-6} \mu_B$ with μ_B the Bohr magneton. Similar analyses can be performed for charged leptons.



Figure 4: (a) Photon energy spectrum in $\tau \tau \gamma$ events [8]. (b) Ratio theory/data for isolated photon production in hadronic events. The light grey region indicates the one standard deviation range of the LEP average with only the experimental uncertainties. For the dark grey area theoretical uncertainties are included.

The photon energy spectrum for τ pairs from a preliminary measurement of DELPHI [8] is

¹The prospects at LEP2 are addressed by Busenitz at this conference.

shown in Fig.4a to be in agreement with the Standard Model expectation. Using the calculation of [9], anomalous magnetic or electric moments F_2^{τ} and F_{EDM}^{τ} of τ 's would lead to an essentially energy *independent* distribution. The observed distribution can be translated into

$$F_2^{\tau}(q^2 = 0) < 0.072$$
 $F_{EDM}^{\tau}(q^2 = 0) < 4 \cdot 10^{-16}$ (5)

both at 95% confidence. These measurements complement the tighter bounds obtained from τ pair production at $q^2 > (2m_{\tau})^2$ in the e^+e^- continuum.

The $\mu\mu\gamma$ events were used by OPAL [10] and DELPHI [11] to study event properties at c.m. energies several GeV below the pole. No deviation from the Standard Model expectations are observed allowing limits to be set on possible additional Z' gauge bosons.

Because of its wide potential for QCD and electroweak quark studies [12] photon bremsstrahlung from quarks has been rather actively scrutinized at LEP (for a review see [13]). All experiments have compared *isolated* photon production with matrix element calculations of $\mathcal{O}(\alpha \alpha_s)$. In Fig.4b the ratio $R_{q\bar{q}\gamma}$ of the calculation [14] over the data [15] are displayed. The selection criteria for the various experiments are slightly different but lead to consistent values of $R_{q\bar{q}\gamma}$ which can be averaged to yield

$$R_{q\bar{q}\gamma} = \frac{\sigma_{theory}}{\sigma_{measurement}} = 1.077 \pm 0.042 \pm 0.04 \tag{6}$$

indicating agreement with the Standard Model. The two uncertainties are due to the experimental analysis and to the theoretical calculation, particularly the value of α_s , the dependence of the cut - off against the quark - photon singularity and hadronisation [16].



Figure 5: Cross section for $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma(\gamma)$ in the central region of the DELPHI detector [18]. Open and full circles represent data collected in different years, the line is the QED expectation.

Searching for $Z^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma \gamma$

Whereas the Z^0 decay into two photons is forbidden due to Yang's theorem, it is the Standard Model dynamics that prohibits the decay of the Z^0 into three photons at tree level. Loop contributions give rise to BR $(Z^0 \to \gamma \gamma \gamma) \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-10})$, much below the sensitivity of current LEP experiments. Z^0 decays into three photons may be largely enhanced in extensions of the Standard Model, if, for example, the Z^0 is built up from charged constituents of size $1/\Lambda$. Its charge may be 'felt' by the photon depending on its resolution power $1/E_{cm}$. According to [17], within such models

$$\Gamma(Z^{0} \to \gamma \gamma \gamma) = \frac{64\alpha^{3}}{9} (\pi^{2} - 9) M_{Z} \frac{|\phi(0)|^{2} N_{c} N_{H} < Q^{6} >}{4\pi M_{Z}^{3}}$$
(7)

where $|\phi(0)|$ is the value of the wave function at the origin, N_c and N_H are the number of colours and hypercolours of the constituents and Q their electric charge. This leads to estimates of BR $(Z^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma \gamma) \sim 2 \cdot 10^{-4} < Q^6 >$.

Standard Model background to this resonance decay is the pure QED process (Fig.1d) via a t-channel electron exchange with an additional photon emitted from the incoming electron. This cross section decreases like $\sim 1/E_{cm}^2$. A direct Z^0 decay, however, should show up as a resonance structure of the cross section. No such enhancement is observed, see, for example, Fig.5 of ref. [18].

Alternatively the direct $Z^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma \gamma$ decay could be established from the energy spectrum of the least energetic photon. For the Standard Model background its energy should be distributed according to the $1/E_{\gamma}$ bremsstrahlung spectrum. Assuming for the direct decay a phase space distribution, the energy of the least energetic photon tends towards $M_Z/3$. Such a search has been performed by L3 [19]. The most restrictive limits on direct Z^0 decays are, at 95 % confidence,

$$BR(Z^0 \to \gamma\gamma\gamma) < 1.7 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ (DELPHI)}; < 1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ (L3)}$$

Anomalous Higgs Production

Searches for the Standard Model Higgs boson at LEP have up to now been based on the Bjorken process $Z^0 \to Z^{0*}H^0$ [20] allowing limits of $m_H > 64.5$ GeV to be set [21]. An alternative Higgs production mechanism (Fig.1g) is the decay $Z^0 \to \gamma H^0$ which proceeds dominantly via W loops [22]. Because of the larger phase space its Z^0 branching ratio exceeds the one of the Bjorken mechanism for $m_H > 70$ GeV, albeit its branching ratio of $10^{-6} - 10^{-7}$ is too small to be observed at LEP.

It may increase if the couplings among bosons are anomalous. Expressing the new interactions at some scale Λ by an effective Lagrangian, one finds [23]

$$\Gamma(Z^0 \to H^0 \gamma) = \frac{\alpha}{96m_Z} (m_Z^2 - m_H^2)^3 \left| c_{SM} + \frac{\delta_{new}}{\Lambda^2} \right|^2$$
(9)



Figure 6: Invariant mass of the $\tau^+\tau^-$ system produced in association with a photon [26].

where c_{SM} denotes the Standard Model contribution and δ_{new}/Λ^2 parametrises the contribution from new boson interactions. Even taking into account constraints from measurements at low energy, from LEP and from the Tevatron, these non Standard Model contributions may increase the $H^0\gamma$ production by several orders of magnitude while at the same time weaken the standard Higgs limits.

The decay rates of a Standard Model Higgs boson are unambigously predicted. For the range of m_H of 12-80 GeV, relevant for the current Higgs searches at LEP, 85% of the Higgses should decay into a beauty pair. Extensions of the Standard Model may imply different branching ratios. For example, anomalous boson couplings could enhance the decay branching ratio $H^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ to even become the dominant decay mode. At LEP this would lead to a resonant $\gamma \gamma$ state with associated production of fermion pairs. A couple of years ago, the L3 collaboration claimed an excess of this kind in $(\mu^+\mu^-, e^+e^-)\gamma\gamma$ events with $M_{\gamma\gamma} \sim 60$ GeV [24]. With increased statistics and extending the search to other channels this observation was not confirmed by the other LEP experiments [25].

All LEP experiments have performed searches for a narrow resonance in the channel $\gamma f \bar{f}$ with f being either neutrinos, charged leptons or quarks. The mass of the fermionic system recoiling against the photon can either be reconstructed from the photon energy alone using

$$M_{recoil} = E_{cm} \sqrt{1 - 2E_{\gamma}/E_{cm}} , \qquad (10)$$

or from kinematical fits exploiting the precise knowledge in e^+e^- collisions of the total c.m. energy and momentum ($\sum \vec{p} = 0$). These methods allow a good mass resolution even if the scalar particle decays hadronically yielding $\delta M_{recoil} \sim 1$ GeV for large masses and $\sim 2-3$ GeV for small masses.

To suppress the principle background from final state bremsstrahlung photons, angular cuts can be imposed. For example, one can use α^* , the angle between the fermion and the photon



Figure 7: Invariant mass of the hadronic system produced in association with a photon [27].

in the fermionic rest system. Whereas bremsstrahlung photons tend to be aligned with the emitting fermion, a Higgs decay leads to an isotropic distribution.

Preliminary spectra of the τ pair [26] and hadronic recoil masses [27], based on 1.1, respectively 1.8 million hadronic Z^0 decays, are shown in Figs.6,7. No resonance structure is observed in either of these distributions. The spectra can be interpreted in terms of limits on the product branching ratios $BR(Z^0 \to S^0 \gamma) \times BR(S^0 \to f\bar{f})$ at 95% confidence level as being smaller than typically ~ 5 $\cdot 10^{-6}$ for charged leptons [26] (Fig.8) and ~ 3 $\cdot 10^{-5}$ for quarks [27, 28].

Given the probable preference of the scalar to decay into beauty quarks, one can improve limits by invoking beauty tagging. Selecting hadronic events with a secondary vertex, beauty events can be enriched with a rather high efficiency. Tagging of $b\bar{b}\gamma$ events has been used by OPAL [27] and DELPHI [28] who retain 60 (20) % of all beauty events while rejecting 90 (95) % of events with final state photon radiation from other quark species. The spectrum from OPAL is shown in Fig.9. No significant resonance structure is observed. The result can be interpreted as (see Fig.10)

$$BR(Z^0 \to S^0 \gamma) \times BR(S^0 \to b\bar{b}) < 2 - 3 \cdot 10^{-5}$$
(11)

which restricts some of the allowed parameter region used in the calculation of [23] or for a composite Higgs [29].

Combining the results of the LEP experiments and assuming a 2-4 fold increase in statistics until the end of LEP1, limits of $5 \cdot 10^{-6}$ for $b\bar{b}$ and some factor five less for leptons are in reach.



Figure 8: Lower limits at 95% CL for the branching ratio BR($Z^0 \to S^0 \gamma$) BR($S^0 \to \tau^+ \tau^-$) as a function of the $\tau^+ \tau^-$ mass [26].

Conclusions

Anomalous photon production is predicted in various extensions of the Standard Model and has been searched for in many different ways at LEP. On the basis of typically 40-50 pb^{-1} no signal has yet been observed.

Using the $Z \to \nu \bar{\nu}$ decay, limits are derived for anomalous $ZZ\gamma$ couplings of

$$|h_{1,3}^Z| < 0.73$$
 $|h_{2,4}^Z| < 1.96$

Photon production in events with charged leptons and quarks also agree with the Standard Model expectation allowing various new measurements particularly for the τ . The respective limits on an anomalous magnetic moment of the ν_{τ} , of the τ itself and the electric dipole moment of the τ are

$$\mu_{\nu_{\tau}} < 4.1 \cdot 10^{-6} \mu_B$$
 $F_2^{\tau}(q^2 = 0) < 0.072$ $F_{EDM}^{\tau}(q^2 = 0) < 4 \cdot 10^{-16}$

Negative searches have been performed on resonant $\gamma\gamma\gamma$ production leading to limits of

$$\Gamma(Z^0 \to \gamma \gamma \gamma) / \Gamma(Z^0) < 1 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

Finally, studies on scalar resonance production in conjunction with γ emission have been made. No narrow signal has been observed and limits on the product branching ratio $BR(Z^0 \rightarrow S^0\gamma)BR(S^0 \rightarrow f\bar{f})$ of $\sim 5 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (charged leptons) and $\sim 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (hadrons, beauty pairs) have been set.



Figure 9: Invariant mass of the $b\bar{b}$ system produced in association with a photon [27].

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Figure 10: Lower limits at 95% CL for the branching ratio $BR(Z^0 \rightarrow S^0\gamma) BR(S^0 \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ as a function of the scalar mass (thick full line). Also given is the Standard Model expectation (thin full line) and those for a composite Higgs assuming various values of the composite scale Λ .

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