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COMPARISON OF qqg AND $qq\gamma$ EVENTS IN e^+e^-
ANNIHILATION AT PEP

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Comparison of $q\bar{q}g$ and $q\bar{q}\gamma$ Events in e^+e^- Annihilation at PEP

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Abstract: In comparing the particle flow in the event plane of three-jet ($q\bar{q}g$) events and of radiative annihilation events ($q\bar{q}\gamma$) for similar kinematic configurations, two PEP experiments find a significant decrease in particle density in the angular region opposite to the gluon jet in $q\bar{q}g$ events, relative to the particle density in the region opposite to the photon in $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events. The effect is predicted both by QCD and by phenomenological string models.

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In this paper I will present results from two experiments at PEP, the MARK II and TPC/Two-Gamma, on the comparison of three-jet ($q\bar{q}g$) and radiative annihilation ($q\bar{q}\gamma$) events produced in e^+e^- interactions at 29 GeV. This work was in part motivated by recent QCD predictions¹ concerning the azimuthal distribution of soft gluons in the event plane of events with a large-angle gluon jet. The flow of soft gluons in such events is represented as a coherent sum of bremsstrahlung-like radiation from quark, antiquark, and hard gluon. The calculations predict a particular effect in three-jet events (see fig. 1): in the azimuthal region between q and \bar{q} , opposite to the gluon jet, negative interference of radiation from q and \bar{q} and of radiation from the gluon results in a sizable reduction of the soft-gluon density. The effect can be tested directly by comparing ($q\bar{q}g$) three-jet events with events where the gluon is replaced by a radiative photon ($q\bar{q}\gamma$), with otherwise identical kinematics. In the latter events, the negative interference is missing, resulting in a higher particle density in the region between q and \bar{q} . The experimental search for this effect tests two different aspects of the theoretical model: the underlying QCD arguments and, since in the experiment hadrons are measured instead of soft gluons, the implicit assumption of local parton-hadron duality (which assumes that the angular distribution hadrons reflects the flow of soft gluons).

The selection of the relevant event samples follows similar principles in both experiments (Fig. 2): planar three-jet $q\bar{q}g$ events are selected using fairly standard jet-finding algorithms (Fig. 2(a)). For $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events, two jets and a coplanar, well-isolated large-angle photon detected in the calorimeter are required (Fig. 2(b)). Since the rate of such events is rather low, the TPC group has considered another type of radiative annihilation event: frequently, the radiative photon is

emitted along the beam direction and escapes undetected. However, detection of two non-collinear high energy jets coplanar with the beam line provides a sufficiently clear signature to select such events (Fig. 2(c)). Beyond the general criteria above, both experiments use other detector-specific cuts to enhance purity and quality of the event samples. Details are given in refs. 2,3.

Jet (or photon) energies $E_1 > E_2 > E_3$ are reconstructed from the measured angles between jets. The third (lowest-energy) jet in three-jet events is assumed to be the gluon. Correspondingly, the photon in $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events has to have less energy than either of the two jets. Typical energies are around 13 GeV for jet 1, 10 GeV for jet 2 and 6 GeV for jet 3 or photon. The resulting samples consist of 2537 and 6585 $q\bar{q}g$ candidates for MARK II and TPC, respectively, of 117 and 320 $q\bar{q}\gamma$ candidates and of 1564 TPC events with a photon emitted along the beam line (denoted by $q\bar{q}[\gamma]$). The larger MARK II samples reflect the higher integrated luminosity (215 pb⁻¹ as compared to 144 pb⁻¹ for the TPC), the slightly higher efficiency for photon detection and less stringent cuts in the jet finding algorithms. Typical sample purities (i.e. the probability that the lowest energy jet/photon is really a gluon or radiative photon) range from 60 to 65% for $q\bar{q}g$ and from 75 to 85% for $q\bar{q}\gamma$, and are about 70% for $q\bar{q}[\gamma]$. Both experiments have performed numerous checks to ensure the integrity of their event samples. For example, in $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events the photon energy is actually measured, and one can compare the measured value with the energy derived from the angles; Fig. 3 shows this comparison for the MARK II data. The $q\bar{q}\gamma$ and $q\bar{q}[\gamma]$ event rates allow a measurement of the electromagnetic coupling constant α , providing an excellent cross-check. The TPC finds ratios of actual to expected event numbers of 0.99 ± 0.14 and 0.98 ± 0.06 for the two samples.

Results are given in Figs. 4 and 5. Fig. 4 shows the particle flow as a function of the angle ϕ in the event plane for the TPC (a) and MARK II data (b). The highest energy jet (1) defines $\phi = 0$, jet 2 is typically around 150° and jet 3 around 230° . In the angular regions near the cores of jets 1 and 2, the distributions for $q\bar{q}g$ and $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events agree very well. Of course, the third jet is missing in the $q\bar{q}\gamma$ sample. In the region between jets 1 and 2, opposite to gluon jet or photon, both the TPC and MARK II data show a depletion in particle production for $q\bar{q}g$ as compared to $q\bar{q}\gamma$. In order to make this statement quantitative, and to account for the small differences in opening angle between jets 1 and 2 for the different samples, particle distributions are given as a function of the normalized angle $x = \phi/\phi_{12}$ (ϕ_{12} is the angle between jet 1 and jet 2). The direction of jet 1 corresponds to $x=0$, the jet 2 direction to $x=1$. Fig. 5 shows the ratio of the particle density per event, $(1/N_{\text{event}})(dn/dx)$, for $q\bar{q}g$ and $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events as a function of x . The TPC $q\bar{q}\gamma$ and $q\bar{q}[\gamma]$ data sets and the MARK II $q\bar{q}\gamma$ data set are consistent with each other and shown a clear depletion in particle density opposite to the gluon jet in $q\bar{q}g$ events, as compared to $q\bar{q}\gamma$. Data are consistent with QCD predictions (shaded area in Fig. 5(a)). Based on Monte Carlo simulations using independent-fragmentation schemes (where coherence effects do not occur), both experimental groups have verified that the observed depletion cannot be caused by a bias introduced in event selection or data analysis.

Fig. 4(b) also includes curves based on the Lund string model⁴. The model predicts a depletion effect very similar to the QCD interference effect, and describes the data well. In the string picture, the explanation for the effect is obvious: in $q\bar{q}g$ events, a color string is spanned from the q via the gluon to the \bar{q} . The qg and $\bar{q}g$ string segments are moving away from the region between jet 1 and 2. This boost causes a

depletion of particle density in the region. This is the well-known "string effect"⁵. In contrast, in $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events the string is spanned directly between q and \bar{q} , i.e. between jet 1 and jet 2. At first, the agreement of predictions from string phenomenology and QCD may seem a striking coincidence. An explanation is given in ref. 1: it can be shown that the particle flow predicted in the string model, i.e. the incoherent superposition of particles from the qg and $\bar{q}g$ string segments, reproduces the QCD result up to non-leading terms suppressed by powers of $1/N_c$ (N_c is the number of colors). In other words, string phenomenology can be seen as a neat way to summarize the leading QCD coherence effects. The importance of this result - the equivalence of string model and QCD and the agreement with experiment - is that for the first time we have an indication from QCD why the string model is so eminently successful in the description of event topologies.

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Figure captions

- Fig. 1 Directivity diagram of soft gluon flow in $q\bar{q}g$ (solid) and $q\bar{q}\gamma$ (dashed) events, projected into event planes defined by the q and \bar{q} momentum vectors. The distance from the origin represents the density of soft gluons emitted at an angle ϕ with respect to the quark jet. Note that the radial scale is logarithmic. From ref. 1.
- Fig. 2 Signatures for the different event types: (a) $q\bar{q}g$, (b) $q\bar{q}\gamma$ (both viewed along the beam axis) and (c) $q\bar{q}[\gamma]$ (viewed from the side)
- Fig. 3 Difference between measured and calculated photon energies for MARK II $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events. Δ_γ is defined as $(E_{\gamma}^{\text{meas.}} - E_{\gamma}^{\text{calc. from angles}})/E_{\text{beam}}$. The full line shows the expected distribution in Δ_γ , based on a Monte-Carlo simulation including detector effects.
- Fig. 4 Charged track density as a function of the event plane angle ϕ . The distributions are normalized to the number of events in each sample. (a) TPC data, represented in a polar plot corresponding to Fig. 1. (b) MARK II data, for all tracks (top) and for tracks with at least 0.3 GeV/c momentum out of the event plane (bottom). Also shown: predictions of string model ("Lund") and independent-fragmentation model ("Ali").
- Fig. 5 Ratio R of the particle flow in $q\bar{q}g$ and $q\bar{q}\gamma$ events, in the region between jets 1 and 2, as a function of the scaled angle $x = \phi/\phi_{12}$. (a) TPC data for the $q\bar{q}\gamma$ and $q\bar{q}[\gamma]$ topologies. The shaded area represents the range of QCD predictions. (b) MARK II data.

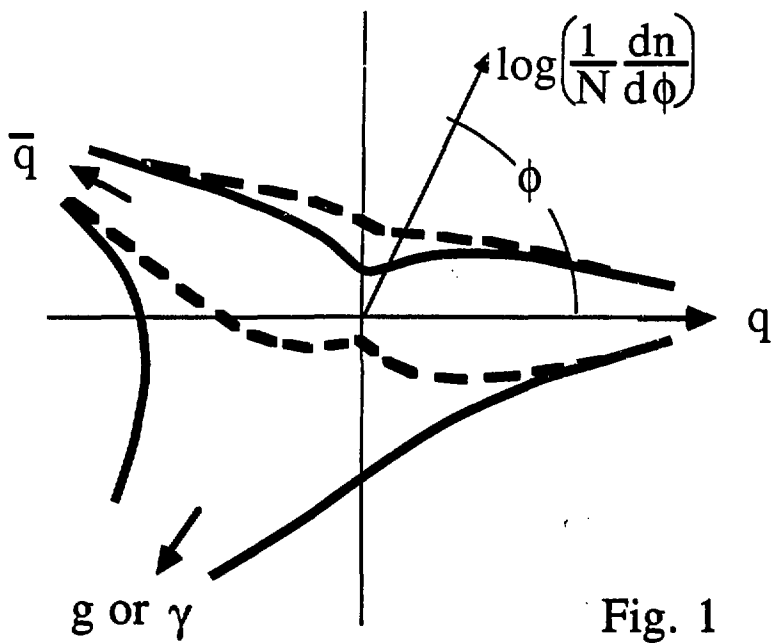


Fig. 1

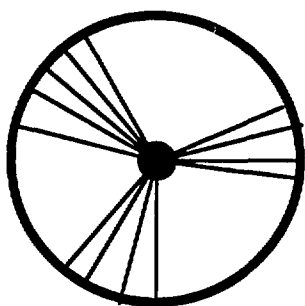
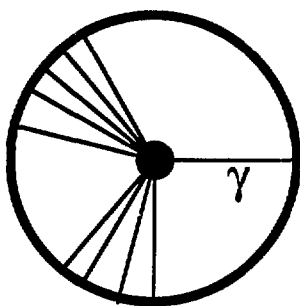
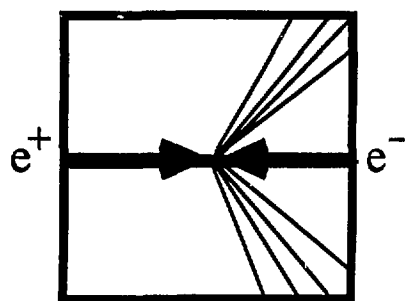


Fig. 2(a)



2(b)



2(c)

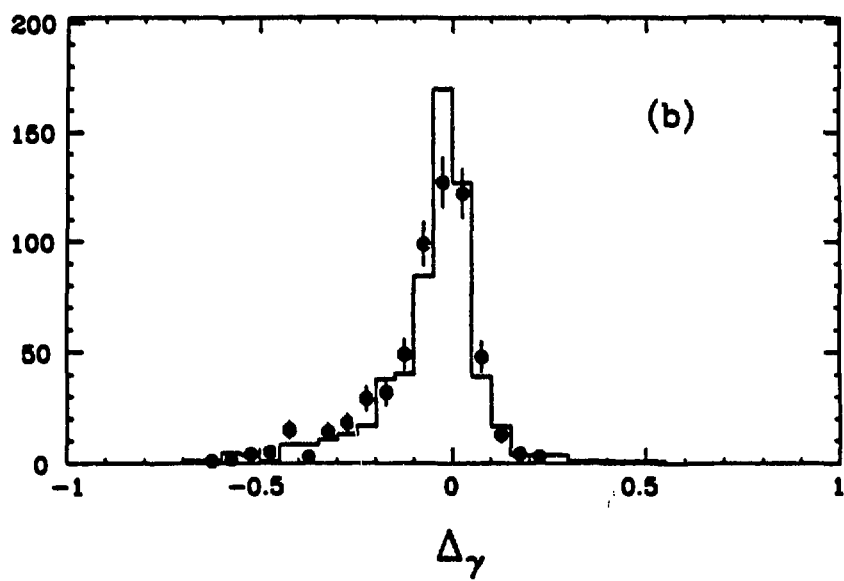


Fig. 3

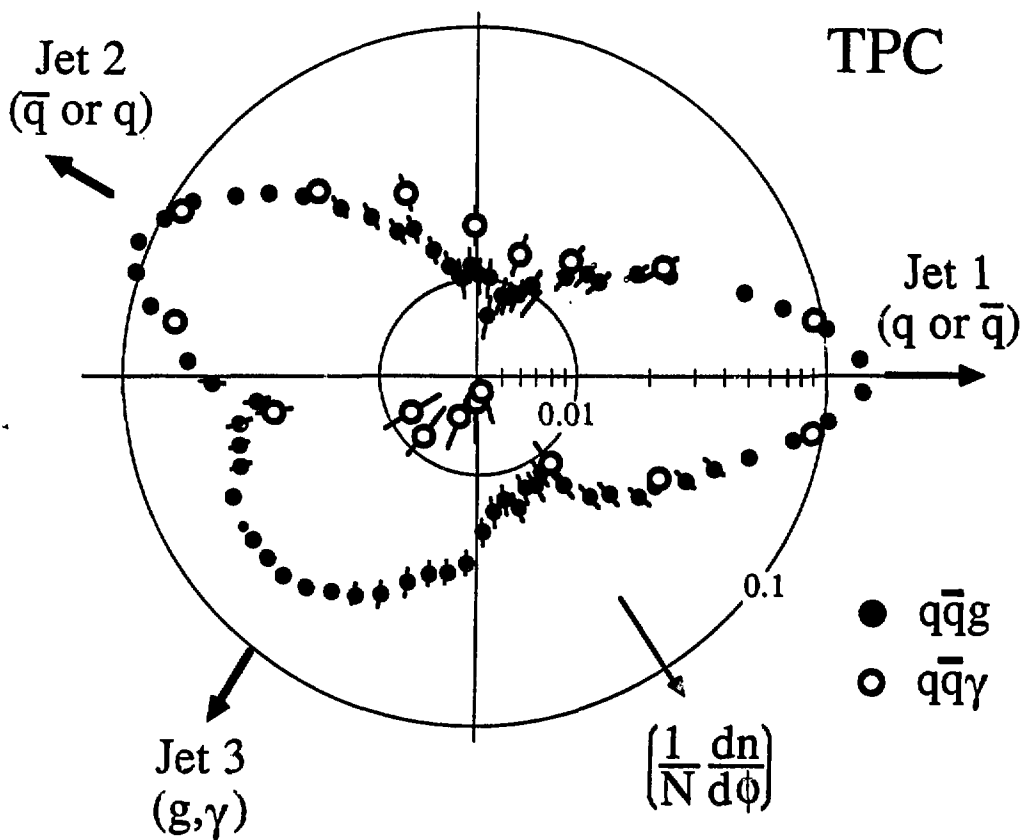


Fig. 4(a)

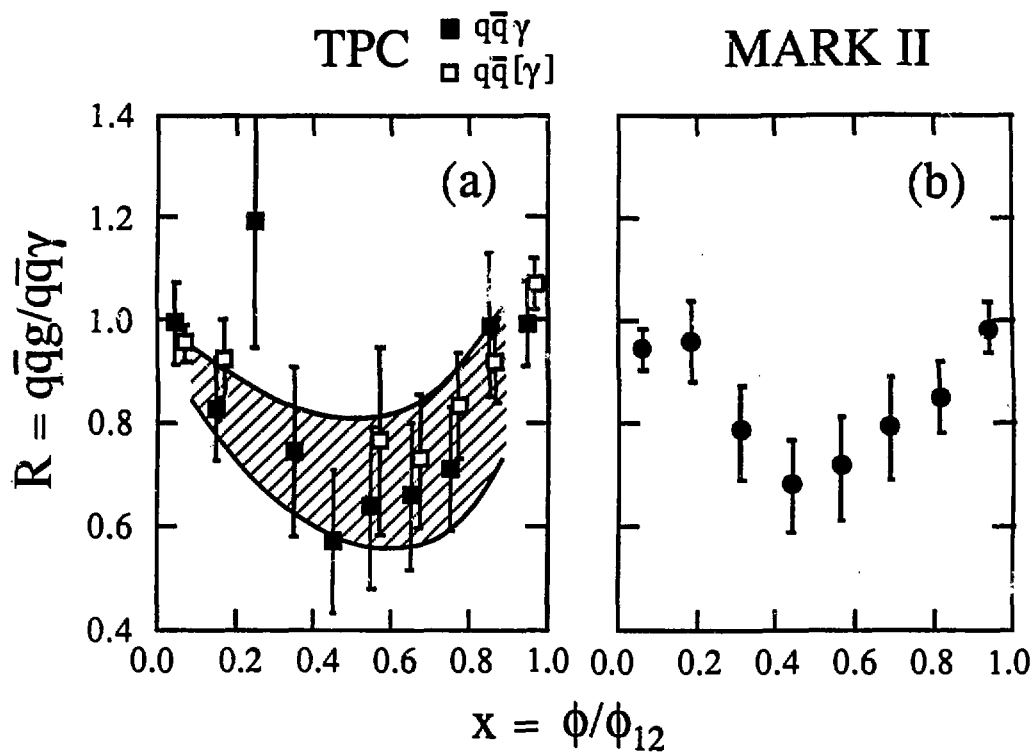


Fig. 5

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