

Charged lepton flavor violation from massive neutrinos in Z decays

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The present evidence for neutrino masses and lepton flavor mixings allows us to predict, in the standard model with light neutrinos, the branching rates for the decays $Z \rightarrow e\mu, \mu\tau, e\tau$ of less than 10^{-54} , while present experimental exclusion limits from CERN LEP 1 are of the order of 10^{-5} . The GigaZ option of the TESLA Linear Collider project will extend the sensitivity down to about 10^{-8} . We study in a systematic way some minimal extensions of the standard model and show that GigaZ might well be sensitive to the rates predicted from these scenarios.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Lepton flavor violation searches are as old as our knowledge about the existence of at least two different kinds of leptons: the electron and muon. A prominent example of a *lepton flavor violating* (LFV) process is

$$\mu \rightarrow e \gamma. \quad (1.1)$$

This reaction has not been observed so far, and the best experimental upper limit of its branching fraction is [1]

$$\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) = \frac{\Gamma(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma)}{\Gamma(\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu e \bar{\nu}_e)} < 1.2 \times 10^{-11}. \quad (1.2)$$

At the Z factory CERN e^+e^- collider LEP, searches for quite similar LFV processes, but this time directed to the Z boson, became possible:

$$Z \rightarrow e\mu, \mu\tau, e\tau. \quad (1.3)$$

The corresponding branching ratios are

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow l_1^\mp l_2^\pm) = \frac{\Gamma(Z \rightarrow \bar{l}_1 l_2 + l_1 \bar{l}_2)}{\Gamma_Z}, \quad (1.4)$$

and the best direct limits (95% C.L.) are [2]

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow e^\mp \mu^\pm) < 1.7 \times 10^{-6} \quad [3], \quad (1.5)$$

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow e^\mp \tau^\pm) < 9.8 \times 10^{-6} \quad [3,4], \quad (1.6)$$

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \mu^\mp \tau^\pm) < 1.2 \times 10^{-5} \quad [3,5]. \quad (1.7)$$

These (and many other) observational facts may be described with the concept of *lepton flavor conservation* (LFC) in neutral current reactions. In the standard model of elec-

troweak interactions (SM) [6–8], lepton flavor is exactly conserved. However, the model may be extended in such a way that virtual, LFC breaking corrections can appear. One mechanism relies on the assumption of neutrinos with finite masses and lepton mixing (from a nondiagonal mass matrix of the gauge symmetry eigenstates) [9–11], leading to tiny rates for all the above processes caused by LFV one-loop effects. Historically, the ν SM—the standard model, enlarged with massive, mixing neutrinos—was the first theory allowing such predictions thanks to its renormalizability [12–14]. For the reaction (1.1) and similar low-energy reactions like $\mu \rightarrow e^- e^+ e^-$ or $\nu_1 \rightarrow \nu_2 \gamma$ the first studies were reported in Refs. [15–17], and for the LFV Z decays (1.3) in Refs. [18] and [19].¹

The most general matrix element for the interaction of an on-shell vector boson with a fermionic current, as shown in Fig. 1, may be described by four dimensionless form factors.² At one-loop order, it is convenient to parametrize

$$\mathcal{M} = -\frac{ig\alpha_W}{4\pi} \varepsilon^\rho \bar{u}_{f_2}(p_2) \Gamma_\rho u_{f_1}(-p_1), \quad (1.8)$$

with $\alpha_W = g^2/(4\pi)$, ε being the boson polarization vector, and

$$\Gamma_\rho = \gamma_\rho (f_V - f_A \gamma_5) + \frac{q^\rho}{M_W} (if_M + f_E \gamma_5) \sigma_{\rho\nu}. \quad (1.9)$$

Above, f_V and f_A stand for vector and axial-vector couplings and f_M and f_E for magnetic and electric dipole moments/transitions of equal/unlike final fermions. The form factors depend on the momentum transfer squared $Q^2 = (p_2 - p_1)^2$. For an on-shell photon, current conservation implies

¹Soon afterward, related calculations were performed in the context of flavor nondiagonal quark production with a heavy virtual top quark exchange [20–22].

²For an off-shell vector boson two more form factors contribute.

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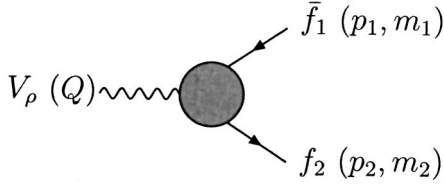


FIG. 1. The effective LFV vertex.

two additional conditions: $(m_2 - m_1)f_V = 0$ and $(m_2 + m_1)f_A = 0$. This means that LFV μ decays are exclusively due to dipole transitions, while for LFV Z decays all f_V, f_A, f_M, f_E are, in principle, nonzero.

The general expressions for the branching ratios are³

$$\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) = \frac{12\alpha_W}{\pi} \frac{M_W^2}{m_\mu^2} (|f_M^\gamma|^2 + |f_E^\gamma|^2), \quad (1.10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BR}(Z \rightarrow l_1^\mp l_2^\pm) &= \frac{\alpha_W^3}{24\pi^2} \frac{M_Z}{\Gamma_Z} \left[|f_V^Z|^2 + |f_A^Z|^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2c_W^2} (|f_M^Z|^2 + |f_E^Z|^2) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (1.11)$$

Notice that while the muon total width is $\Gamma_\mu = \alpha_W^2/(384\pi)m_\mu^5/M_W^4$, the Z width is $\Gamma_Z \approx \alpha_W/c_W^2 M_Z$. That is why $\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow l_1^\mp l_2^\pm)$ is naturally by an order of α_W smaller than $\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma)$. Furthermore, the M_W^2/m_μ^2 enhancement of Eq. (1.10) is compensated due to the chirality-flipping character of the dipole form factors, proportional to the fermion mass m_μ .

The form factors are model dependent. In the approximation of *massless electrons* (for $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$) or *massless external leptons* (for $Z \rightarrow l_1 l_2$), there is *only one independent form factor* in each case. In the simplest assumption of n Dirac virtual neutrinos ν_i with masses m_i , the mixings factor out and one can write

$$\mu \rightarrow e \gamma: \quad f_M^\gamma = f_E^\gamma \equiv \frac{s_W}{16} \frac{m_\mu}{M_W} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{V}_{\mu i} \mathbf{V}_{ei}^* V_\gamma(\lambda_i; \lambda_Q), \quad (1.12)$$

$$Z \rightarrow l_1 l_2: \quad f_V^Z = f_A^Z \equiv \frac{1}{4c_W} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{V}_{l_1 i} \mathbf{V}_{l_2 i}^* V_Z(\lambda_i; \lambda_Q), \quad (1.13)$$

$$f_M^Z = f_E^Z = 0, \quad (1.14)$$

where \mathbf{V} is the lepton-flavor mixing matrix and $V_{\gamma/Z}$ are vertex functions, fully describing the amplitudes. We have introduced the neutrino mass ratios $\lambda_i = m_i^2/M_W^2$ and the virtuality of the Z boson $\lambda_Q = Q^2/M_W^2$, that becomes λ_Z

$= M_Z^2/M_W^2$ on its mass shell.⁴ Owing to the unitarity of the mixing matrix, the amplitudes vanish for massless or degenerate virtual neutrinos, in exact analogy with the Glashow-Iliopoulos-Maiani (GIM) cancellation in the quark sector [23].

We have strong evidence for neutrino masses of the order of some fractions of eV and large mixings [24,25]. For small neutrino masses, a power-series expansion of the muon decay amplitude yields [15–17]

$$V_\gamma(\lambda_i \ll 1; 0) \approx \text{const}_\gamma + \lambda_i + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_i^2), \quad (1.15)$$

and similarly for the Z decay,⁵ but with complex coefficients [18,27,28]:

$$V_Z(\lambda_i \ll 1; \lambda_Z) \approx \text{const}_Z + (2.562 - 2.295i)\lambda_i + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_i^2). \quad (1.16)$$

The constant terms drop out after summing over the n generations of mixing neutrinos, but there survives contributions to the branching fractions proportional to the fourth power of the mass ratio m_i/M_W , for nondegenerate neutrinos, and thus unfortunately very small. Therefore an observation of such LFV decays would be indicative to the existence of new physics with a new, large mass scale involved.

Consider now the hypothetical case of large neutrino masses. Neutrinos with large masses are accommodated by many extensions of the SM like grand unified theories [29] or superstring-inspired models with an E_6 symmetry [30]. Heavy neutrinos are also well motivated by the seesaw mechanism [31–33]. From the exact expression of the LFV μ decays [34],

$$V_\gamma(\lambda_i; 0) = \text{const}_\gamma + \Phi(\lambda_i); \quad (1.17)$$

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{x(1 - 6x + 3x^2 + 2x^3 - 6x^2 \ln x)}{(1 - x)^4}, \quad (1.18)$$

one obtains $\Phi(x \gg 1) \rightarrow 2$. In contrast, for the LFV Z decays [19];

$$V_Z(\lambda_i \gg 1; \lambda_Q) \approx \text{const}_Z + \frac{\lambda_i}{2} + \mathcal{O}(\ln \lambda_i). \quad (1.19)$$

Let us summarize the phenomenologically relevant differences between the LFV μ and Z decays: (i) the very different origin of the form factors intervening (dipoles in the μ case and mostly vector and axial vector in the Z case); (ii) the “typical size” of the rates due to the different powers of the coupling constant α_W appearing in the branching fractions; and (iii) for fixed mixings, the Z branching ratio rises with virtual neutrino masses while the μ branching ratio reaches a plateau.

⁴The values $M_W = 80.41$ GeV, $M_Z = 91.187$ GeV, $c_W = M_W/M_Z$, $g = e/s_W$, and $\Gamma_Z = 2.49$ GeV will be taken throughout this work.

⁵This is in clear distinction to Eq. (6) of Ref. [26] (with a logarithmic mass dependence), where from the recent neutrino data a prediction was derived to be $\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \mu^\mp \tau^\pm) \approx \mathcal{O}(10^{-8} - 10^{-5})$.

³For the quark flavor-changing $Z \rightarrow \bar{q}_1 q_2$, multiply by a color factor $N_c = 3$.

In the rest of this work, we will concentrate on one-loop induced LFV Z decays. For these and other rare Z decays, the branching fractions are typically

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \text{rare}) \sim \left(\frac{\alpha_W}{\pi} \right)^2 \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-6}). \quad (1.20)$$

There are many studies on such processes, in relation to, e.g., CP violation [35,36], heavy neutral singlets [37,38], supersymmetry [39,40], and superstrings [41,42], or induced by a mixing with a heavy Z' [43]. See also the summary report of the LEP 1 workshop [44] and the later study on the high luminosity LEP 1 project [45], in particular Ref. [46]. The discovery reach of LEP 1 was indeed not very large, after comparing the experimental limits (1.5)–(1.7) with the order of magnitude of the potential effects (1.20).

In a few years from now, a new high energy e^+e^- linear collider could be constructed. Interesting enough, with the GigaZ option of the TeV Energy Superconducting Linear Accelerator (TESLA) project one may expect the production of about $10^9 Z$ bosons at resonance [47]. This huge rate, about a factor 1000 higher than the one at LEP 1, will make possible checks of the SM and its minimal supersymmetric extension (MSSM) at the two-loop level [48], as well as searches for any kind of rare Z decays with unprecedented precision. A careful analysis [49] shows that in particular the LEP 1 discovery limits could be reduced to

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow e^\mp \mu^\pm) < 2 \times 10^{-9}, \quad (1.21)$$

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow e^\mp \tau^\pm) < \kappa \times 6.5 \times 10^{-8}, \quad (1.22)$$

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \mu^\mp \tau^\pm) < \kappa \times 2.2 \times 10^{-8}, \quad (1.23)$$

with $\kappa = 0.2$ – 1.0 . This means one might have a chance of observation if the lepton mixings are not tiny and the masses of the neutrinos are at least of the order of the weak scale. Furthermore, in view of the expected sensitivities it might well be that the predictions are such that not only the asymptotic limit for large internal masses but *an exact calculation of the effective vertex is needed*: at least, it will be important to know where the large-mass limit fails.

We perform a complete recalculation of the branching ratio (1.4) in presence of heavy Dirac or Majorana neutrinos and study the prospects for GigaZ in view of present, related experimental facts. We also compare to earlier studies and revise some of them. Many technical details of more pedagogical character may be found in Ref. [27]. In Sec. II the case of Dirac neutrinos is considered; Majorana neutrinos are treated in Sec. III and our conclusions are drawn in Sec. IV. The Appendix collects notations, conventions and useful expressions for the tensor integrals and the vertex functions as well as their low and large neutrino-mass limits.

II. LFV Z DECAYS IN THE ν SM

The simplest extension of the SM accounting for nonvanishing LFV Z decay rates consists of extending the particle content of the SM with three right-handed ν singlets, thus forming three massive, mixing neutrino states *à la*

Kobayashi-Maskawa. This is in conformity with compatible results from present solar, atmospheric, reactor, and accelerator neutrino experiments.

On basically the same footing one may also study the case of an additional sequential, but heavy neutrino state. This case implies the existence of a heavy charged lepton as well, in order to keep total lepton number L conserved.⁶ It is not a very favored scenario but we consider it as a simple application.

The final state charged leptons may be assumed massless. The amplitude is then purely left handed and it is described by a single form factor,

$$\mathcal{M} = - \frac{ig\alpha_W}{16\pi c_W} \mathcal{V}(Q^2) \varepsilon_Z^\rho \bar{u}_{l_2}(p_2) \gamma_\rho (1 - \gamma_5) u_{l_1}(-p_1). \quad (2.1)$$

Using the same vertex function V_Z introduced in Eq. (1.13) one has

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{Dir}}(Q^2) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{V}_{l_1 i} \mathbf{V}_{l_2 i}^* V_Z(\lambda_i; \lambda_Q). \quad (2.2)$$

In the 't Hooft Feynman gauge, the amplitude receives contributions from the set of diagrams of Fig. 2:

$$V_Z(\lambda_i; \lambda_Q) = v_W(i) + v_{WW}(i) + v_\phi(i) + v_{\phi\phi}(i) + v_{W\phi}(i) + v_\Sigma(i). \quad (2.3)$$

The vertex diagrams D1 to D5 (Fig. 2) yield, respectively,

$$v_W(i) = - (v_i + a_i) [\lambda_Q (C_0 + C_{11} + C_{12} + C_{23}) - 2C_{24} + 1] - (v_i - a_i) \lambda_i C_0, \quad (2.4)$$

$$v_{WW}(i) = 2c_W^2 (2I_3^L) [\lambda_Q (\bar{C}_{11} + \bar{C}_{12} + \bar{C}_{23}) - 6\bar{C}_{24} + 1], \quad (2.5)$$

$$v_\phi(i) = - (v_i + a_i) \frac{\lambda_i^2}{2} C_0 - (v_i - a_i) \frac{\lambda_i}{2} \left[\lambda_Q C_{23} - 2C_{24} + \frac{1}{2} \right], \quad (2.6)$$

$$v_{\phi\phi}(i) = - (1 - 2s_W^2) (2I_3^L) \lambda_i \bar{C}_{24}, \quad (2.7)$$

$$v_{W\phi}(i) = - 2s_W^2 (2I_3^L) \lambda_i \bar{C}_0. \quad (2.8)$$

The self-energy corrections to the external fermion lines $D\Sigma$ contribute with

$$v_\Sigma(i) = \frac{1}{2} (v_i + a_i - 4c_W^2 a_i) [(2 + \lambda_i) B_1 + 1]. \quad (2.9)$$

The definitions of weak neutral vector and axial-vector couplings are as usual:

⁶A fourth generation of quarks is also needed to keep the theory anomaly-free.

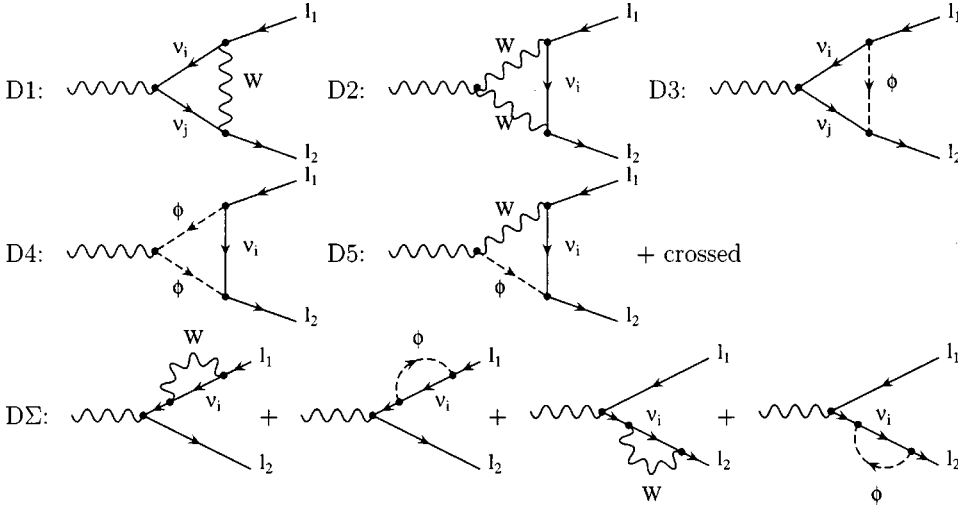


FIG. 2. Feynman diagrams for the lepton-flavor changing Z decay. In the case of virtual, ordinary Dirac neutrinos, the $Z\nu_i\nu_j$ vertices in D1 and D3 are flavor diagonal. The analogous quark-flavor changing process can be obtained by replacing l_k by down quarks and ν_i by up quarks.

$$\nu_i = I_3^{iL} - 2Q_i s_W^2 = I_3^{iL}(1 - 4s_W^2 |Q_i|), \quad (2.10)$$

$$a_i = I_3^{iL}, \quad (2.11)$$

and the dimensionless one-loop tensor integrals C_0 , \bar{C}_0 , C_{ab} , \bar{C}_{ab} , and B_1 are given in the Appendix, taking arguments $\lambda_i = \lambda_j$ for the C functions.

The form factor \mathcal{V} describing the amplitude (2.1) is finite and no renormalization is needed, as expected because there is no tree-level coupling of a Z boson to two fermions of different flavor. Nonetheless, a nontrivial cancellation of infinities takes place, since C_{24} , \bar{C}_{24} , and B_1 are UV divergent. Actually, the vertex function $V_Z(\lambda_i; \lambda_Q)$ is still infinite but has *divergences independent of λ_i* , that makes possible the cancellation of the divergent terms in the amplitude, thanks to unitarity of the mixing matrix.

A. Contributions from light neutrinos

Disregarding the controversial results of the Liquid Scintillation Neutrino Detector (LSND) accelerator experiment, all neutrino experiments are compatible with the oscillation of three neutrino species. We will now estimate the LFV branching ratios under the assumption that there are three generations of light neutrino flavors and that their mixing is given by the unitary mixing matrix \mathbf{V} constrained by the experiments. The mixing is described by three angles ϑ_{12} , ϑ_{13} , ϑ_{23} , and one CP -violating phase δ as in the quark Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) case.⁷

A global analysis of atmospheric neutrino data favors $\nu_\mu - \nu_\tau$ oscillations [50],

⁷Oscillation experiments cannot distinguish between the Dirac or Majorana character of the neutrinos. If they happen to be Majorana particles, two additional CP -violating “Majorana” phases α , β are needed since for *strictly* neutral particles less phase factors may be “eaten” by redefining complex fermion fields. They are set here to $\alpha = \beta = 0$.

$$\Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2 = \Delta m_{23}^2 \approx (1-6) \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2, \quad (2.12)$$

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{\text{atm}} = \sin^2 2\vartheta_{23} \approx 0.8-1.0. \quad (2.13)$$

The solar neutrino deficit is compatible with $\nu_e - \nu_\mu$ oscillations [50],

$$\Delta m_\odot^2 = \Delta m_{12}^2 \approx 10^{-10} - 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2, \quad (2.14)$$

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_\odot = \sin^2 2\vartheta_{12} = \text{free}. \quad (2.15)$$

There are solutions for vacuum and matter oscillations compatible with a wide range of masses and mixing angles, although the large mixing angle (LMA) solution with maximal mass splitting seems favored. From reactor searches, there are no hints of $\nu_e - \nu_\tau$ oscillations [51], which allows us to assume

$$\sin^2 2\vartheta_{13} = 0. \quad (2.16)$$

Taking this information into the standard parametrization for the mixing matrix [2] one has

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}s_{12} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}c_{12} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}s_{12} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}c_{12} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.17)$$

Using the unitarity of \mathbf{V} and $l_1 \neq l_2$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BR}(Z \rightarrow l_1^\pm l_2^\pm) &= \frac{\alpha_W^3 M_Z}{192 \pi^2 c_W^2 \Gamma_Z} \\ &\times \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 \mathbf{V}_{l_1 i} \mathbf{V}_{l_2 i}^* [V_Z(\lambda_i, \lambda_Z) - V_Z(0, \lambda_Z)] \right|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.18)$$

Performing a well justified low neutrino mass expansion of the vertex function (see Appendix Sec. 1), one finds [18,27]

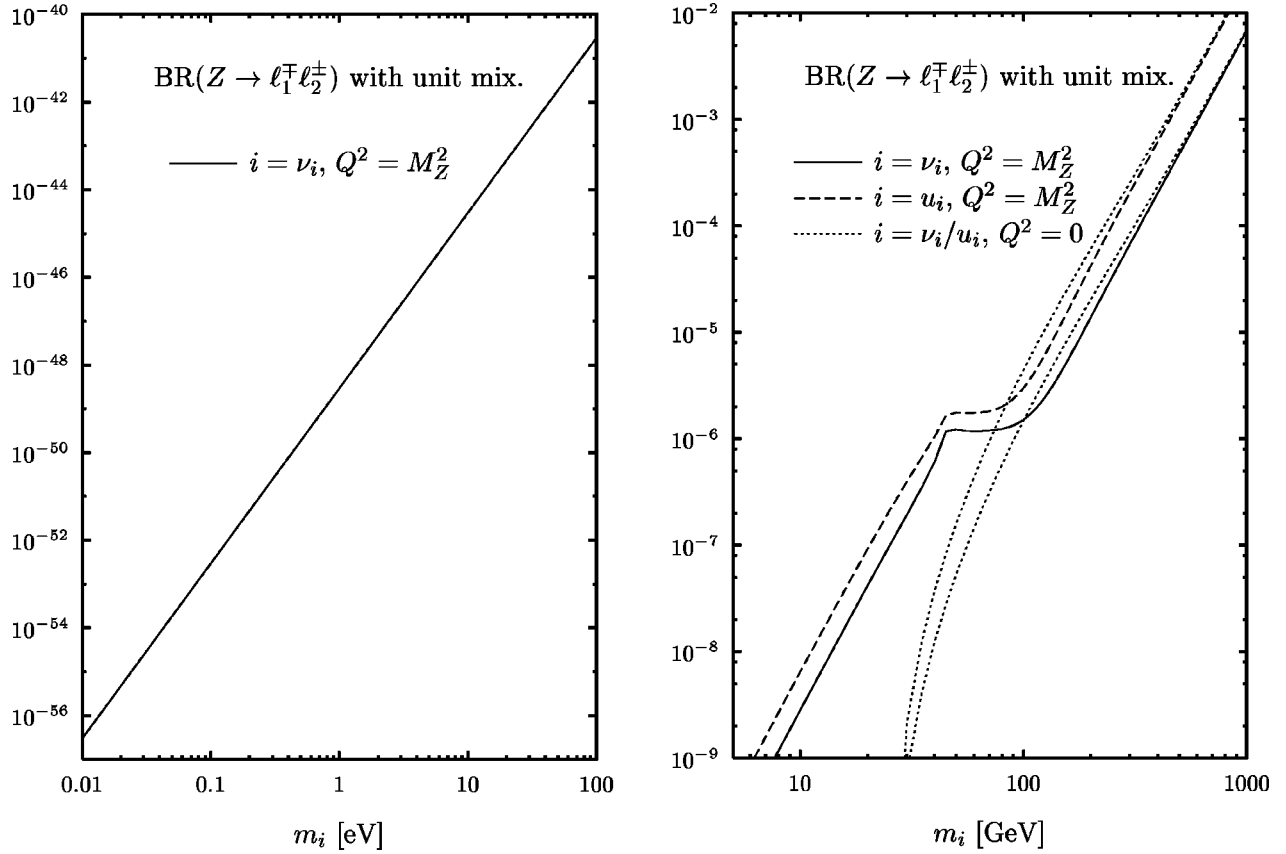


FIG. 3. Contribution of one neutrino generation i to the LFV $Z \rightarrow l_1^\mp l_2^\pm$ decays for ordinary Dirac neutrinos in the small and large neutrino mass regions, and the analogous quark case. The mixing factor has been set to $\mathbf{V}_{l_1 i} \mathbf{V}_{l_2 i}^* = 1$.

$$V_Z(\lambda_i, \lambda_Z) - V_Z(0, \lambda_Z) = a_1 \lambda_i + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_i^2), \quad (2.19)$$

$$a_1 = 2.5623 - 2.2950i. \quad (2.20)$$

Therefore $\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow l_1^\mp l_2^\pm)$ goes as m_i^4 for low neutrino masses. This behavior is shown in Fig. 3. It is valid over a large mass range until about $m_i \approx 30$ GeV, i.e., just below the Z mass.

Taking now into account the phenomenological squared mass differences $\lambda_{ij} \equiv \Delta m_{ij}^2 / M_W^2$ and the mixing angles (2.12)–(2.16), one can determine the finite expectation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \mu^\mp \tau^\pm) &\approx 3 \times 10^{-6} \times |s_{12}^2 \lambda_{12} - \lambda_{23}|^2 \\ &\approx (1-30) \times 10^{-55}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

and the upper limit:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BR}(Z \rightarrow e^\mp \mu^\pm) &\approx \text{BR}(Z \rightarrow e^\mp \tau^\pm) \\ &\approx 6 \times 10^{-6} \times c_{12}^2 s_{12}^2 \lambda_{12}^2 \lesssim 4 \times 10^{-60}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.22)$$

These extremely small rates are far beyond experimental verification. This justifies taking the light neutrino sector as massless in the following sections where we discuss extensions providing larger rates.

B. Contributions from one heavy ordinary Dirac neutrino

Assume the neutrino of generation N to be the only heavy one, mixing with a light sector with negligible masses. Then, using again the unitarity of the mixing matrix:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BR}(Z \rightarrow l_1^\mp l_2^\pm) &= \frac{\alpha_w M_Z}{192 \pi^2 c_W^2 \Gamma_Z} |\mathbf{V}_{l_1 N} \mathbf{V}_{l_2 N}^*|^2 |V_Z(\lambda_N; \lambda_Z) \\ &\quad - V_Z(0; \lambda_Z)|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

In the large Dirac neutrino mass limit, the following approximation works well (see Appendix Sec. 2):

$$\begin{aligned} V_Z(\lambda; \lambda_Z) &= \frac{1}{2} \left[-4 c_W^2 \Delta_\epsilon + \lambda + \left(3 - \frac{\lambda_Z}{6} (1 - 2 s_W^2) \right) \ln \lambda \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{18} (-66 - \lambda_Z + 96 s_W^2 + 5 s_W^2 \lambda_Z) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{3} (-8 + 2 \lambda_Z - 32 s_W^2 - 4 s_W^2 \lambda_Z) y \arctan \left(\frac{1}{2y} \right) \right] \\ &\quad + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{\ln \lambda}{\lambda} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (2.24)$$

with

$$y = \sqrt{1/\lambda_Z - 1/4}. \quad (2.25)$$

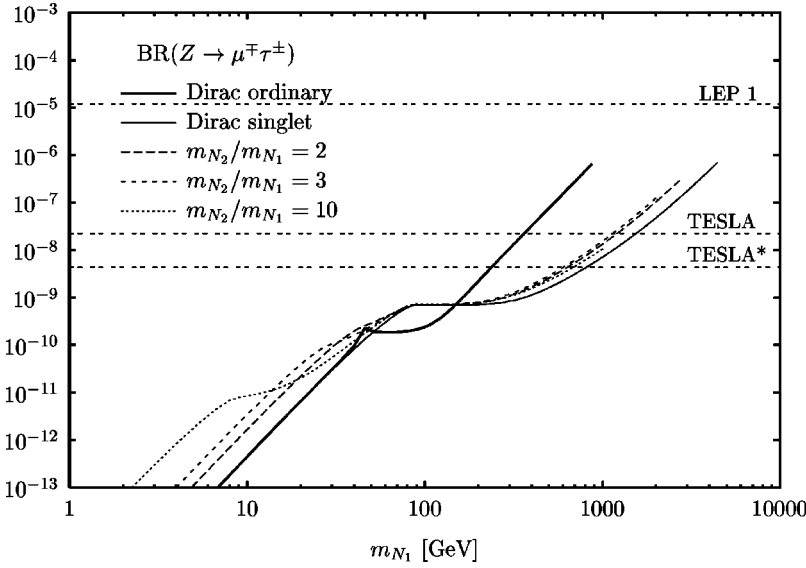


FIG. 4. Upper limit of $\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow \mu^\mp \tau^\pm)$ assuming a light neutrino sector mixing with: (i) one heavy ordinary (thick-solid) or singlet (thin-solid) Dirac neutrino of mass m_{N_1} ; (ii) two heavy right-handed singlet Majorana neutrinos (dashed lines) with masses m_{N_1} and m_{N_2} .

The vertex function contains a constant term proportional to $\Delta_\epsilon = 2/(4-d) + \gamma + \ln 4\pi$, divergent in $d=4$ dimensions. This term drops out in the physical amplitude, as expected, since the unitarity of the mixing matrix demands the subtraction of $V_Z(0; \lambda_Q)$, with identical divergences. Its expression can be found in Sec. 1 of the Appendix. For an on-shell Z ,

$$V_Z(\lambda_N; \lambda_Z) - V_Z(0; \lambda_Z) = \frac{1}{2} [\lambda_N + 2.88 \ln \lambda_N - (6.99 + 2.11i)] + \mathcal{O}(\ln \lambda_N / \lambda_N). \quad (2.26)$$

The exact results are depicted in Fig. 3, where the simpler calculation with $Q^2=0$ [52] is also displayed. We find agreement with earlier calculations [19], also for quark flavor-changing Z decays [21,22]. Of course, the results for $Q^2=0$ are a good approximation only when $m_N^2 \gg M_Z^2$.

For a study of the size of the branching ratios, the knowledge of the light-heavy mixing elements involved in Eq. (2.23) is crucial. Their values do not only influence potential LFV processes but also flavor-diagonal ones. Using a general formalism developed in Ref. [53] one can exploit measurements of flavor diagonal processes (checks of lepton universality and CKM unitarity, Z boson invisible width, etc.) [54–57] to obtain *indirect* experimental bounds on such light-heavy mixings [58], defined as

$$s_{\nu_l}^2 \equiv \left| \sum_i \mathbf{V}_{lN_i} \right|^2. \quad (2.27)$$

The most recent indirect bounds [59],

$$s_{\nu_e}^2 < 0.012, \quad (2.28)$$

$$s_{\nu_\mu}^2 < 0.0096, \quad (2.29)$$

$$s_{\nu_\tau}^2 < 0.016, \quad (2.30)$$

are only improved by the impressive accuracy of the *direct* searches for LFV processes involving the first two lepton generations. In fact, for heavy enough neutrinos one can rewrite Eq. (1.10):

$$\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) \approx \frac{3\alpha}{8\pi} s_{\nu_e}^2 s_{\nu_\mu}^2, \quad (2.31)$$

and from Eq. (1.2) a stringent “mass-independent” limit can be extracted [60]:

$$s_{\nu_e}^2 s_{\nu_\mu}^2 < 1.4 \times 10^{-8}. \quad (2.32)$$

The limit above sends the $Z \rightarrow e \mu$ process beyond any experimental reach, even if the neutrinos are very heavy.

At this point, it is important to realize that, although the branching fractions for large neutrino masses grow as

$$\text{BR}(Z \rightarrow l_1 l_2) \propto s_{\nu_{l_1}}^2 s_{\nu_{l_2}}^2 m_N^4, \quad (2.33)$$

there is a “natural” upper limit for the heavy neutrino mass. In this case of one sequential heavy neutrino, whose mass is acquired exclusively by a Yukawa coupling to the Higgs field, such a limit is determined by partial-wave unitarity bounds from the process $NN \rightarrow NN$ via Higgs/ Z exchange [61–63]:

$$m_N \lesssim 880 \text{ GeV}. \quad (2.34)$$

For illustration, we show the less constrained upper limits for $Z \rightarrow \mu^\mp \tau^\pm$ in Fig. 4 (thick-solid line), assuming the present (indirect) upper bounds on the corresponding mixings (2.29) and (2.30). The curve has been cut at the perturbative unitarity bound (2.34). Of course, since there are at least two unknowns, a neutrino mass and a combination of mixings, the LFV Z decays cannot improve the bounds on the mixings without assuming a value for the heavy neutrino mass(es). This is in contrast to the LFV μ decays for sufficiently heavy neutrinos (2.31).

III. LFV Z DECAYS IN THE ν SM WITH RIGHT-HANDED MAJORANA SINGLETs

Let us now consider the case when the heavy neutrinos are Majorana particles. Actually this is a very interesting possibility since such states belong to the particle content of most grand unified theories (GUT), such as SO(10). Furthermore, they may participate in the seesaw mechanism, that explains the smallness of the observed neutrino masses by introducing a general Majorana neutrino [64] mass matrix, incorporating ordinary Dirac mass terms m_D , of a size typical to the charged lepton sector, and lepton-number violating Majorana mass terms at a higher scale $M_R \gg m_D$. Majorana mass terms $M_R \bar{\nu}_R^c \nu_R + \text{H.c.}$, with ν_R being right-handed singlets under the SM group, are gauge invariant, but violate lepton number by two units. The physical states after diagonalization of the mass matrix are, respectively, light and heavy Majorana neutrinos with masses

$$m_\nu \approx m_D^2/M_R, \quad m_N \approx M_R \gg m_\nu. \quad (3.1)$$

If there is only *one* generation of heavy neutrinos, the light-heavy mixings are fixed to be very small,

$$s_\nu \approx m_D/M_R \approx \sqrt{m_\nu/m_N}, \quad (3.2)$$

leading to unobservable LFV effects.

But this is not the case when one includes *several* right-handed Majorana neutrinos with intergeneration mixings [58,65,66]. We will focus on the most conservative case of *two heavy right-handed singlets*.

A. LFV with Majorana neutrinos

Let us consider n_G generations of charged leptons (Dirac fermions), whose left-handed components ($l_L^0 = e_L, \mu_L, \tau_L, \dots$) belong to the same isodoublet as n_G left-handed neutrinos ($\nu_L^0 = \nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau, \dots$) and, in addition, n_R right-handed neutrino singlets. The interaction eigenstates are a mixture of physical states given by [58,67,68]

$$l_{Li}^0 = \sum_{j=1}^{n_G} U_{ij}^{lL} l_{Lj}, \quad (3.3)$$

$$\nu_{Li}^0 = \sum_{j=1}^{n_G+n_R} U_{ij} \nu_{Lj}, \quad (3.4)$$

where $\nu = \eta \nu^c$ are $n_G + n_R$ Majorana fields (i.e., self-conjugate up to a phase η).

In the charged-current interactions, one must replace the leptonic mixing matrix \mathbf{V} by its generalized version, the rectangular $n_G \times (n_G + n_R)$ matrix \mathbf{B} ,

$$\mathbf{B}_{ij} \equiv \sum_{k=1}^{n_G} U_{ki}^{lL} U_{kj}^*. \quad (3.5)$$

Therefore, in the physical basis,

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{L}_{CC} &= \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu \bar{l}_{Li}^0 \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_{Li}^0 + \text{H.c.} \\ &= \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu \mathbf{B}_{ij} \bar{l}_{Li}^0 \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_{Lj} + \text{H.c.}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

where $P_{R,L} = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \gamma_5)$.

But the main feature distinguishing Dirac and Majorana cases is the existence of *nondiagonal* $Z \nu_i \nu_j$ vertices (flavor-changing neutral current), *coupling both left- and right-handed* components of the Majorana mass eigenstates to the Z boson,

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{L}_{NC}^Z &= \frac{g}{2c_W} Z_\mu [\bar{\nu}_{Li}^0 \gamma^\mu P_L \nu_{Li}^0 - \bar{\nu}_{Li}^{0c} \gamma^\mu P_R \nu_{Li}^{0c}] \\ &= \frac{g}{2c_W} Z_\mu \bar{\nu}_i^0 [\mathbf{C}_{ij} \gamma^\mu P_L - \mathbf{C}_{ij}^* \gamma^\mu P_R] \nu_j, \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

where $\nu_L^{0c} = C \bar{\nu}_L^{0T}$ is the charge conjugate of ν_L^0 , which is right handed, and

$$\mathbf{C}_{ij} \equiv \sum_{k=1}^{n_G} \mathbf{U}_{ki}^* \mathbf{U}_{kj}, \quad (i, j = 1, \dots, n_G + n_R), \quad (3.8)$$

a quadratic $(n_G + n_R)^2$ matrix. Such flavor-changing neutral current vertices appear in graphs D1 and D3 of Fig. 2 where Majorana neutrinos couple directly to the Z, and a W or a Goldstone boson ϕ is exchanged:

$$\begin{aligned} v_W(i, j) &= -\mathbf{C}_{ij} [\lambda_Q (C_0 + C_{11} + C_{12} + C_{23}) - 2C_{24} + 1] \\ &\quad + \mathbf{C}_{ij}^* \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} C_0, \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

$$v_\phi(i, j) = -\mathbf{C}_{ij} \frac{\lambda_i \lambda_j}{2} C_0 + \mathbf{C}_{ij}^* \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}}{2} \left[\lambda_Q C_{23} - 2C_{24} + \frac{1}{2} \right]. \quad (3.10)$$

The other diagrams remain unchanged compared to the Dirac case and the resulting form factor reads⁸

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{Maj}}(Q^2) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{n_G+n_R} \mathbf{B}_{i1} \mathbf{B}_{i2}^* V_Z(i, j), \quad (3.11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_Z(i, j) &= v_W(i, j) + v_\phi(i, j) + v_{WW}(i) + v_{\phi\phi}(i) \\ &\quad + v_{W\phi}(i) + v_\Sigma(i). \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

We have used the Feynman rules in Refs. [70] and [71] to properly handle interactions involving Majorana particles.

⁸We have compared our formulas with Eq. (B1) of Ref. [69] and found disagreement, in particular the appearance of a tensor integral C_{22} at several instances. C_{22} is UV finite and has no numerical impact on the amplitudes for large neutrino masses, where we find full agreement. However, the rearrangement of Eq. (3.14) leads to the well established Dirac vertices only when using our expressions.

It turns out convenient to cast Eq. (3.12) as

$$V_Z(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \delta_{ij} F(\lambda_i) + \mathbf{C}_{ij} G(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) + \mathbf{C}_{ij}^* \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} H(\lambda_i, \lambda_j). \quad (3.13)$$

The Dirac vertex function (2.3) is then

$$V_Z(\lambda_i) = F(\lambda_i) + G(\lambda_i, \lambda_i). \quad (3.14)$$

The form factor (3.11) is UV finite, but the vertex function $V_Z(\lambda_i, \lambda_j)$ is not. The divergences are such that they exactly cancel due to unitarity relations among the mixing matrix elements of \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} [27,58]. The same relations allow to write \mathcal{V}_{Maj} in terms of only the heavy sector, assuming the light sector being massless:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_{\text{Maj}}(Q^2) = & \sum_{i,j=1}^{n_R} \mathbf{B}_{l_1 N_i} \mathbf{B}_{l_2 N_j}^* \{ \delta_{N_i N_j} [F(\lambda_{N_i}) - F(0) + G(\lambda_{N_i}, 0) \\ & + G(0, \lambda_{N_i}) - 2G(0, 0)] + \mathbf{C}_{N_i N_j} [G(\lambda_{N_i}, \lambda_{N_j}) \\ & - G(\lambda_{N_i}, 0) - G(0, \lambda_{N_j}) + G(0, 0)] \\ & + \mathbf{C}_{N_i N_j}^* \sqrt{\lambda_{N_i} \lambda_{N_j}} H(\lambda_{N_i}, \lambda_{N_j}) \}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

B. ν SM with two heavy Majorana singlets

In the simple case of $n_R = 2$ heavy right-handed singlet neutrinos N_1 and N_2 , mixing with a massless sector, the \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} matrices are fully determined by the ratio of the two physical heavy masses squared $r \equiv m_{N_2}^2 / m_{N_1}^2$ and the light-heavy mixings $s_{\nu_l}^2$, here

$$s_{\nu_l}^2 \equiv \sum_i |\mathbf{B}_{l N_i}|^2. \quad (3.16)$$

Their explicit values are [58]

$$\mathbf{B}_{l N_1} = \frac{r^{1/4}}{\sqrt{1+r^{1/2}}} s_{\nu_l}, \quad (3.17)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{l N_2} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{1+r^{1/2}}} s_{\nu_l}, \quad (3.18)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{N_1 N_1} = \frac{r^{1/2}}{1+r^{1/2}} \sum_l s_{\nu_l}^2, \quad (3.19)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{N_2 N_2} = \frac{1}{1+r^{1/2}} \sum_l s_{\nu_l}^2, \quad (3.20)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{N_1 N_2} = -\mathbf{C}_{N_2 N_1} = \frac{i r^{1/4}}{1+r^{1/2}} \sum_l s_{\nu_l}^2. \quad (3.21)$$

The mass ratio r is a free parameter and the light-heavy mixings are constrained by present experiments as shown in Sec. II B. Upper values for the branching ratios of $Z \rightarrow \mu^\pm \tau^\pm$, obtained from the experimental bounds given the heavy masses m_{N_1}, m_{N_2} , are also displayed in Fig. 4.

The case of two equal-mass Majorana neutrinos $m_{N_1} = m_{N_2}$ is equivalent to one heavy singlet Dirac neutrino,⁹ and it approaches rapidly the ordinary Dirac case for small masses. This phenomenon is just another example of the “practical Dirac-Majorana confusion theorem” [72] (see also the recent discussion in Refs. [73] and [74] and references therein). If both masses m_{N_1} and m_{N_2} are small, the amplitude goes as $\sqrt{r} \lambda_{N_1} = m_{N_1} m_{N_2} / M_W^2$ with the same global factor a_1 as in the ordinary Dirac case (2.20). This can be seen in Fig. 4 not far below the Z peak, where the branching ratios grow with $\lambda_{N_1}^2$ and scale with the ratio of the two neutrino masses squared.

If one of the neutrinos has the mass of the Z boson, the imaginary parts of the amplitudes $\mathcal{V}_{\text{Dir, Maj}}$ [coming from the subtraction(s) at $\lambda_N = 0$] dominates, both for the Dirac and the Majorana cases. This happens since the real parts are slowly varying for $M_N \leq M_Z$, while the imaginary parts vanish for $M_Z < M_N + M_{N'}$. Further, since these imaginary parts necessarily come from accounting the subtractions of the zero mass limits, they are independent of the value of r . This results in common values of the branching ratios for $m_{N_1} = M_Z$ for any value of m_{N_2} . Nevertheless, the subtraction of the light sector implied by the unitarity constraints is not the same for the cases of a heavy ordinary Dirac neutrino and heavy Majorana singlets. One finds explicitly

$$\frac{\mathcal{I}m(\mathcal{V}_{\text{Dir}})}{s_{\nu_{l_1}} s_{\nu_{l_2}}} = -1.0524, \quad \frac{\mathcal{I}m(\mathcal{V}_{\text{Maj}})}{s_{\nu_{l_1}} s_{\nu_{l_2}}} = -2.0653. \quad (3.22)$$

The expansion of the form factor (3.15) in the large neutrino mass limit $\lambda_{N_1} \gg 1$, at fixed r , leads to (see Appendix Sec. 2)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_{\text{Maj}}(Q^2) = & s_{\nu_{l_1}} s_{\nu_{l_2}} \left\{ \frac{\Sigma_l s_{\nu_l}^2}{(1+r^{1/2})^2} \left(\frac{3}{2} r + \frac{r^2 + r - 4r^{3/2}}{4(1-r)} \ln r \right) \lambda_{N_i} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{2} \left(3 - \frac{1-2s_W^2}{6} \lambda_Q \right) \ln \lambda_{N_1} \right\} + \mathcal{O}(1), \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

that agrees with Ref. [58] for the unphysical value $\lambda_Q = 0$. The constant in front of the leading term coincides for $r = 1$ with the ordinary Dirac case, except for an extra damping factor $\Sigma_l s_{\nu_l}^2$, that makes the Dirac singlet case in particular, and the Majorana case in general, more sensitive to the present bounds on the light-heavy mixings. The constant in front of the $\ln \lambda$ term, subleading but not so much mixing suppressed, is identical to the one in the ordinary Dirac case (2.24).

⁹In fact, two equal-mass Majorana neutrinos with opposite CP parities form a Dirac neutrino.

We have cut again the curves at large neutrino masses: the perturbative unitarity condition on the decay width of a heavy Majorana neutrino [75,76],

$$\Gamma_{N_i} \simeq 2 \times \frac{\alpha_W}{8M_W^2} m_{N_i}^2 \sum_l |\mathbf{B}_{lN_i}|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} m_{N_i}, \quad (3.24)$$

leads to a constraint on the mass and the light-heavy mixing:

$$m_{N_1}^2 \equiv \frac{1}{r} m_{N_2}^2 < \frac{2M_W^2}{\alpha_W} \frac{1+r^{1/2}}{r} \left[\sum_{k=1}^3 s_{\nu_k}^2 \right]^{-1}. \quad (3.25)$$

In other words, expression (3.25) shows that the unacceptable large-mass behavior of the amplitudes ($\propto m_N^2$) is actually cured when a sensible light-heavy mixing (at most $\propto m_N^{-2}$) is taken into account [77,78]. Masses beyond the end points are acceptable only if the mixings are smaller than the upper bounds. Of course, since there are at least two unknowns, a neutrino mass and a combination of mixings, the LFV Z decays cannot improve the bounds on the mixings without assuming a value for the heavy neutrino mass(es). This is in contrast to the LFV μ decays for sufficiently heavy neutrinos (2.31).

We see from Fig. 4 that GigaZ has a discovery potential, preferentially in the large neutrino mass region, if the light heavy-mixings are not much below the present upper limits. Due to the different coupling structure, the simple sequential Dirac neutrino case does not constitute a limiting case for large masses.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The sensitivity of the GigaZ mode of the future TESLA linear collider to rare, lepton-flavor violating Z decays has been studied. We have determined the full one-loop expectations for the *direct* lepton-flavor changing process $Z \rightarrow \bar{l}_1 l_2$ with virtual Dirac or Majorana neutrinos. This is an interesting theoretical issue in view of the evidences for tiny neutrino masses from astrophysics, which might be also indicative for the existence of heavy neutrinos in some grand unifying theory. Both the exact analytical form and the large and small neutrino mass limits of the branching ratios are given, thereby cross checking the existing literature. From our numerical studies, taking into account the present experimental results, we conclude that: (i) the contributions from the observed light neutrino sector are far from experimental verification ($\text{BR} \leq 10^{-54}$); (ii) the GigaZ mode of the future TESLA linear collider, sensitive down to about $\text{BR} \sim 10^{-8}$, might well have a chance to produce such processes, if heavy neutrinos exist in nature and if they mix with the light ones in a sizeable way. Finally, we have shown that we could gain from observation of the LFV Z decays alternative informations compared to the LFV μ decays.

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APPENDIX: TENSOR INTEGRALS AND VERTEX FUNCTIONS

We have introduced dimensionless two- and three-point one-loop functions:

$$\mathbb{B}_1(\lambda_i) \equiv B_1(0; m_i^2, M_W^2), \quad (A1)$$

$$\bar{\mathbb{C}}_{..}(\lambda_i) \equiv M_W^2 C_{..}(0, Q^2, 0; m_i^2, M_W^2, M_W^2), \quad (A2)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{..}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) \equiv M_W^2 C_{..}(0, Q^2, 0; M_W^2, m_i^2, m_j^2), \quad (A3)$$

from the usual loop integrals [14,79] with the tensor decomposition (Minkowski metric):

$$B^\mu(p^2; m_0^2, m_1^2) = p^\mu B_1, \quad (A4)$$

$$C^\mu(p_1^2, Q^2, p_2^2; m_0^2, m_1^2, m_2^2) = p_1^\mu C_{11} + p_2^\mu C_{12}, \quad (A5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} C^{\mu\nu}(p_1^2, Q^2, p_2^2; m_0^2, m_1^2, m_2^2) \\ = p_1^\mu p_1^\nu C_{21} + p_2^\mu p_2^\nu C_{22} \\ + (p_1^\mu p_2^\nu + p_2^\mu p_1^\nu) C_{23} + g^{\mu\nu} M_W^2 C_{24}. \end{aligned} \quad (A6)$$

The tensor integrals are numerically evaluated with the computer program LOOPTOOLS [80], based on FF [81]. All the numerical results for the Dirac case have been carefully checked against an older approach described in Ref. [19].

The following definitions of the integrals in d dimensions are useful:

$$\mathbb{B}_1(\lambda_i) = -\frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{2} + \int_0^1 dx x \ln[(1-\lambda_i)x + \lambda_i - i\epsilon], \quad (A7)$$

$$C_{24}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 dx \int_0^x dy \ln D_{ijw}, \quad (A8)$$

$$C_{0,11,23}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = - \int_0^1 dx \int_0^x dy [1-y, y(1-x)] \frac{1}{D_{ijw}}, \quad (A9)$$

with $\lambda_i = m_i^2/M_W^2$, $\Delta_\epsilon = 2/(4-d) - \gamma + \ln 4\pi$ and

$$D_{ijw} \equiv \lambda_Z xy + (1-\lambda_j)x + [-\lambda_Z + (\lambda_i-1)]y + \lambda_j - i\epsilon. \quad (A10)$$

To get the barred tensor integrals $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$, replace D_{ijw} by

$$D_{wwi} \equiv \lambda_Z xy - (1-\lambda_i)x + [-\lambda_Z - (\lambda_i-1)]y + 1 - i\epsilon. \quad (A11)$$

The functions \mathbb{B}_1 , \mathbb{C}_{24} , and $\bar{\mathbb{C}}_{24}$ are UV divergent but the physical amplitudes are finite.

1. Light neutrino mass expansions

Let us first list the value of the necessary tensor integrals for massless neutrinos and $\lambda_Q \neq 0$ [19]:

$$B_1(0) = -\frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{2} - \frac{1}{4}, \quad (A12)$$

$$C_0(0,0) = -c_0, \quad (A13)$$

$$C_{11}(0,0) = -\frac{1}{\lambda_Q} (c_0 - 1 + \ln \lambda_Q - i\pi), \quad (A14)$$

$$C_{12}(0,0) = C_{11}(0,0), \quad (A15)$$

$$C_{23}(0,0) = -\frac{1}{\lambda_Q^2} \left[(\lambda_Q + 2)c_0 - \frac{\lambda_Q}{2} - 2 + 2(\ln \lambda_Q - i\pi) \right], \quad (A16)$$

$$C_{24}(0,0) = \frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{4} + \frac{1}{4\lambda_Q} [-2(\lambda_Q + 1)c_0 + 3\lambda_Q + 2 - (\lambda_Q + 2) \times (\ln \lambda_Q - i\pi)], \quad (A17)$$

$$\bar{C}_0(0) = -\bar{c}_0, \quad (A18)$$

$$\bar{C}_{11}(0) = \frac{1}{\lambda_Q} (\bar{c}_0 - B + 1), \quad (A19)$$

$$\bar{C}_{12}(0) = \bar{C}_{11}(0), \quad (A20)$$

$$\bar{C}_{23}(0) = -\frac{2}{\lambda_Q^2} \left(\bar{c}_0 - B + 1 - \frac{\lambda_Q}{4} \right), \quad (A21)$$

$$\bar{C}_{24}(0) = \frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{4} - \frac{1}{2\lambda_Q} \left[\bar{c}_0 - B + 1 - \frac{3}{2}\lambda_Q + \pi\lambda_Q y - 2\lambda_Q y \arctan(2y) \right], \quad (A22)$$

with

$$\lambda_Q c_0 = \frac{\pi^2}{6} - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{1+\lambda_Q}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\ln^2(1+\lambda_Q) + \pi \ln(1+\lambda_Q)i, \quad (A23)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_Q \bar{c}_0 &= \frac{\pi^2}{6} - \text{Li}_2(1-\lambda_Q) \\ &+ 2\Re \text{Li}_2\left[(\lambda_Q - 1)\left(\frac{\lambda_Q}{2} - 1 + \lambda_Q y i\right)\right] \\ &- 2\Re \text{Li}_2\left(1 - \frac{\lambda_Q}{2} - \lambda_Q y i\right), \end{aligned} \quad (A24)$$

$$B = 2y \left[\arctan(2y) + \arctan\left(\frac{\lambda_Q - 1}{3 - \lambda_Q} 2y\right) \right]. \quad (A25)$$

After expanding the tensor integrals for small neutrino masses (see Appendix D.2 of Ref. [27]), the vertex function for the case of a light Dirac neutrino reads

$$V_Z(\lambda \ll 1; \lambda_Q \neq 0) = V_Z(0; \lambda_Q) + a_1 \lambda + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2), \quad (A26)$$

where the terms proportional to $\lambda \ln \lambda$ have cancelled out and

$$\begin{aligned} V_Z(0; \lambda_Q) &= -2c_W^2 \Delta_\epsilon + \frac{2+3\lambda_Q}{2\lambda_Q} (\ln \lambda_Q - \pi i) \\ &- \frac{1}{4\lambda_Q^2} (7\lambda_Q^2 + 14\lambda_Q - 8) \frac{(1+\lambda_Q)^2}{\lambda_Q} c_0 \\ &+ \frac{2}{\lambda_Q^2} (1+2\lambda_Q)(\bar{c}_0 - B) \\ &+ \frac{6}{\lambda_Q} [\pi y - 2y \arctan(2y)]. \end{aligned} \quad (A27)$$

Only the functions \bar{C}_i develop imaginary parts, and only for $\lambda_Q > 4\lambda_i$. At the Z peak the numerical result is

$$V_Z(0; \lambda_Z) = -2c_W^2 \Delta_\epsilon + 1.2584 + 1.0524i. \quad (A28)$$

The linear term in the expansion (A26) has the coefficient [18,27,28]

$$\begin{aligned} a_1(\lambda_Z) &= -\frac{2}{\lambda_Z} (1+\lambda_Z)c_0 + \frac{1}{2\lambda_Z^2} (4\lambda_Z^2 - 5\lambda_Z - 6)\bar{c}_0 \\ &- \frac{2}{\lambda_Z} (\ln \lambda_Z - \pi i) + \frac{1}{8\lambda_Z^2} (25\lambda_Z^2 - 38\lambda_Z - 24) \\ &+ \frac{1}{2\lambda_Z} (2 - \lambda_Z)\pi y \\ &+ \frac{1}{\lambda_Z^2} (\lambda_Z^2 + 7\lambda_Z + 6)y \arctan(2y) \\ &+ \frac{3}{\lambda_Z^2} (3\lambda_Z + 2)y \arctan\left(\frac{\lambda_Z - 1}{3 - \lambda_Z} 2y\right) \\ &= 2.5623 - 2.2950i. \end{aligned} \quad (A29)$$

The behavior of Eq. (A26) is *in contrast to the case* $\lambda_Q = 0$ for which [19,27,52]

$$V_Z(\lambda \ll 1; \lambda_Q = 0) = \frac{1}{2} (-4c_W^2 \Delta_\epsilon + 6\lambda + 2\lambda \ln \lambda) + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2). \quad (A31)$$

2. Heavy neutrino mass expansions

The limits of the necessary tensor integrals and the vertex function in the Dirac case for large neutrino masses can be found in Appendix D of Ref. [27]. We collect below the large mass expansions of the tensor integrals that are also needed for the Majorana case, namely one or two identical neutrinos running in the loop:

$$B_1(\lambda_i) = -\frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \ln \lambda_i - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{\ln \lambda_i}{\lambda_i} - \frac{1}{2\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^2), \quad (A32)$$

$$\bar{C}_0(\lambda_i) = -\frac{\ln \lambda_i}{\lambda_i} - \left[1 - 4y \arctan\left(\frac{1}{2y}\right) \right] \frac{1}{\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^3), \quad (A33)$$

$$\bar{C}_{11}(\lambda_i) = \bar{C}_{12}(\lambda_i) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\ln \lambda_i}{\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^2), \quad (A34)$$

$$\bar{C}_{23}(\lambda_i) = -\frac{1}{6} \frac{\ln \lambda_i}{\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^2), \quad (A35)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{C}_{24}(\lambda_i) = & \frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{4} - \frac{1}{4} \ln \lambda_i + \frac{3}{8} + (-6 + \lambda_Q) \frac{\ln \lambda_i}{12\lambda_i} \\ & + \left[-30 + 5\lambda_Q + 24(4 - \lambda_Q)y \arctan\left(\frac{1}{2y}\right) \right] \\ & \times \frac{1}{72\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^2), \end{aligned} \quad (A36)$$

$$C_0(\lambda_i, \lambda_i) = -\frac{1}{\lambda_i} + \frac{\ln \lambda_i}{\lambda_i^2} - (12 + \lambda_Q) \frac{1}{12\lambda_i^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^3), \quad (A37)$$

$$C_{11}(\lambda_i, \lambda_i) = C_{12}(\lambda_i, \lambda_i) = \frac{1}{4\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^2), \quad (A38)$$

$$C_{23}(\lambda_i, \lambda_i) = -\frac{1}{18\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^2), \quad (A39)$$

$$C_{24}(\lambda_i, \lambda_i) = \frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{4} - \frac{1}{4} \ln \lambda_i + \frac{1}{8} + (-9 + \lambda_Q) \frac{1}{36\lambda_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda_i^2), \quad (A40)$$

with

$$y = \sqrt{1/\lambda_Q - 1/4}. \quad (A41)$$

Substituting the expressions above in Eq. (2.3) one gets the Dirac vertex function of Eq. (2.24).

Besides, we need some additional expansions for two Majorana fermions with different large masses $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$,

$$\begin{aligned} C_0(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = & -\frac{1}{\lambda_i - \lambda_j} \left[\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_i - 1} \ln \lambda_i - \frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_j - 1} \ln \lambda_j \right] \\ & + \frac{\lambda_Q}{(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2} \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{2\lambda_i}{\lambda_i - \lambda_j} \right) \ln \lambda_i \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{2\lambda_j}{\lambda_i - \lambda_j} \right) \ln \lambda_j \right] + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^3), \end{aligned} \quad (A42)$$

and, to a lower accuracy in the expansion parameters:

$$C_{11}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1 + \ln \lambda_i}{\lambda_i - \lambda_j} + \frac{\lambda_j \ln \lambda_j - \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i}{2(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^2), \quad (A43)$$

$$C_{12}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = C_{11}(\lambda_j, \lambda_i), \quad (A44)$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_{23}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = & -\frac{1}{6(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2} \\ & \times \left[(\lambda_i + \lambda_j) - \frac{2\lambda_i \lambda_j}{\lambda_i - \lambda_j} (\ln \lambda_i - \ln \lambda_j) \right] \\ & + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^2), \end{aligned} \quad (A45)$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_{24}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = & \frac{3}{8} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{(\lambda_i + 1) \ln \lambda_i - (\lambda_j + 1) \ln \lambda_j}{\lambda_i - \lambda_j} \\ & - \frac{\lambda_Q}{2} C_{23}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^2). \end{aligned} \quad (A46)$$

Actually, C_{11} and C_{12} are irrelevant for large neutrino masses.

Finally, in Eq. (3.15) we need loop integrals where one neutrino mass is large and the other one vanishes. They are all irrelevant except C_{24} in this limit, but we show their expansions for completeness:

$$C_0(\lambda, 0) = -\frac{\ln \lambda}{\lambda} - \frac{\ln \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \frac{\lambda_Q}{2\lambda^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^3), \quad (A47)$$

$$C_{12}(0, \lambda) = C_{11}(\lambda, 0) = \frac{1}{2\lambda} + (3 + \lambda_Q) \frac{1}{6\lambda^2} - \frac{\ln \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^3), \quad (A48)$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_{11}(0, \lambda) = C_{12}(\lambda, 0) = & \frac{1}{2\lambda} + (3 + 2\lambda_Q) \frac{\ln \lambda}{6\lambda^2} + \frac{\lambda_Q}{3\lambda^2} \\ & + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^3), \end{aligned} \quad (A49)$$

$$C_{23}(\lambda, 0) = -\frac{1}{6\lambda} - (2 + \lambda_Q) \frac{1}{12\lambda^2} - \frac{\ln \lambda}{6\lambda^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^3), \quad (A50)$$

$$C_{24}(\lambda, 0) = \frac{\Delta_\epsilon}{2} + \frac{3}{8} - \frac{\ln \lambda}{4} - \frac{\lambda_Q}{12\lambda} + \mathcal{O}(1/\lambda^2), \quad (A51)$$

and

$$C_{0,23,24}(0, \lambda) = C_{0,23,24}(\lambda, 0). \quad (A52)$$

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