

Energy correlation and asymmetry of  
secondary leptons originating in

$$H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \text{ and } H \rightarrow W^+W^-$$

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**Abstract**

We study the energy correlation of charged leptons produced in the decay of a heavy Higgs particle  $H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow bl^+\nu_l\bar{b}l^-\bar{\nu}_l$  and  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^+\nu_l l^-\bar{\nu}_l$ . The possible influence of  $CP$ -violation in the  $Ht\bar{t}$  and  $HW^+W^-$  vertices on the energy spectrum of the secondary leptons is analyzed. The energy distribution of the charged leptons in the decay  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^+\nu_l l^-\bar{\nu}_l$  is sensitive to the  $CP$ -parity of the Higgs particle and yields a simple criterion for distinguishing scalar Higgs from pseudoscalar Higgs.

# 1 Introduction

We wish to report results on the energy spectrum and energy correlation of charged leptons produced in the reactions

$$H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow bl^+\nu_l\bar{b}l^-\bar{\nu}_l, \quad (1)$$

$$H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^+\nu_l l^-\bar{\nu}_l. \quad (2)$$

The above decays represent interesting leptonic signals of a heavy Higgs particle, that can be used to test the structure of Higgs couplings to fermions and gauge bosons [1]. (Note that the reaction (2), in the standard model, is about 27 times more frequent than the “gold-plated” reaction  $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^+\mu^-$ ). We carry out the analysis in a general framework in which the couplings of the  $H$  to  $t\bar{t}$  and to  $W^+W^-$  are given by:

$$Ht\bar{t} \quad : \quad i(a + ib\gamma_5), \quad (3)$$

$$HW^+W^- \quad : \quad i2m_W^2\sqrt{G_F}\sqrt{2}(Bg_{\mu\nu} + \frac{D}{m_W^2}\varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}p_{W^+}^\rho p_{W^-}^\sigma). \quad (4)$$

Here  $p_{W^+}$  and  $p_{W^-}$  are the 4-momenta of the  $W$ -bosons. The terms proportional to  $b$  and  $D$  may arise as primary or induced effects in a generalized Higgs framework. Simultaneous presence of  $a$  and  $b$  or  $B$  and  $D$  is  $CP$ -violating [2]. Results will be obtained for the energy correlation of the two charged leptons in the  $H$  rest frame. A special result is a simple criterion for distinguishing a scalar Higgs from a pseudoscalar Higgs particle on the basis of the energy spectrum of any single charged lepton in  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^+\nu_l l^-\bar{\nu}_l$ .

## 2 $H \rightarrow t\bar{t}$

The vertex  $Ht\bar{t}$  (Eq. (3)) gives rise to the following differential decay rate for  $H(P) \rightarrow t(p_t, s_+) \bar{t}(p_{\bar{t}}, s_-)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Gamma}{d\Omega_t}(s_+, s_-) &= \frac{\beta_t}{64\pi^2 m_H} \left\{ (|a|^2 + |b|^2) \left( \frac{m_H^2}{2} - m_t^2 + m_t^2 s_+ s_- \right) \right. \\ &\quad + (|a|^2 - |b|^2) \left( P s_+ P s_- - \frac{m_H^2}{2} s_+ s_- + m_t^2 s_+ s_- - m_t^2 \right) \\ &\quad \left. - \text{Re}(ab^*) \varepsilon(P, Q, s_+, s_-) - 2\text{Im}(ab^*) m_t P(s_+ + s_-) \right\}, \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

where  $P \equiv p_t + p_{\bar{t}}$ ,  $Q = p_t - p_{\bar{t}}$ , and  $s_+$  and  $s_-$  denote the polarization vectors of  $t$  and  $\bar{t}$ , respectively.  $\beta_t = \sqrt{1 - 4m_t^2/m_H^2}$  is the velocity of the top quarks in the Higgs rest frame. The symbol  $\varepsilon(a, b, c, d)$  means  $\varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} a^\mu b^\nu c^\rho d^\sigma$  with  $\varepsilon_{0123} = +1$ . The terms proportional to  $\text{Re}(ab^*)$  and  $\text{Im}(ab^*)$  represent the  $CP$ -violating part of the differential decay rate.

Using the method of Kawasaki, Shirafuji and Tsai [3], the differential decay rate  $\frac{d\Gamma}{d\Omega_t}(s_+, s_-)$  yields the following normalized energy correlation of the charged leptons produced in the decay  $H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow l^+ l^- + \dots$  [F 1]:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma}{dx dx'}(H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow l^+ l^- + \dots) &= f(x) f(x') - \frac{1}{\beta_t^2} g(x) g(x') \\ &\quad + \frac{2\text{Im}(ab^*)}{|a|^2 \beta_t^2 + |b|^2} [f(x') g(x) - f(x) g(x')], \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

where  $x$  and  $x'$  are the reduced energies

$$x = \frac{2E(l^+)}{m_t} \sqrt{\frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t}}, \quad x' = \frac{2E(l^-)}{m_t} \sqrt{\frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t}}, \quad (7)$$

$E(l^+)$  and  $E(l^-)$  being the energies of the final leptons  $l^+$  and  $l^-$  in the Higgs rest frame.  $x$  and  $x'$  are bounded by

$$\frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t} \leq x, x' \leq 1, \quad (8)$$

assuming the narrow width approximation for the  $W$ -bosons in the top decay. The functions  $f$  and  $g$  are defined as follows (see [4]):

$$1. \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} \geq \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{2W} \frac{1 + \beta_t}{\beta_t} \begin{cases} -2 \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + \frac{m_W^4}{m_t^4} + 2x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} - x^2 \left( \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right)^2 & : I_1 \\ 1 - 2 \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + \frac{m_W^4}{m_t^4} & : I_2 \\ 1 - 2x + x^2 & : I_3 \end{cases}$$

$$g(x) = \frac{3}{W} \frac{(1 + \beta_t)^2}{\beta_t} \begin{cases} -x \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + x^2 \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} + x \ln \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} - x \ln \left( x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right) \\ + \frac{1/2}{1 + \beta_t} \left[ -2 \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + \frac{m_W^4}{m_t^4} + 2x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} - x^2 \left( \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right)^2 \right] & : I_1 \\ x - x \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + x \ln \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + \frac{1/2}{1 + \beta_t} \left[ 1 - 2 \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + \frac{m_W^4}{m_t^4} \right] & : I_2 \\ x - x^2 + x \ln x + \frac{1/2}{1 + \beta_t} [1 - 2x + x^2] & : I_3 \end{cases}$$

where the intervals  $I_i$  are given by:

$$I_1 : \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t} \leq x \leq \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t},$$

$$I_2 : \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t} \leq x \leq \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2},$$

$$I_3 : \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} \leq x \leq 1.$$

$$2. \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} \leq \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{2W} \frac{1 + \beta_t}{\beta_t} \begin{cases} -2 \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + \frac{m_W^4}{m_t^4} + 2x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} - x^2 \left( \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right)^2 & : I_4 \\ -2x + x^2 + 2x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} - x^2 \left( \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right)^2 & : I_5 \\ 1 - 2x + x^2 & : I_6 \end{cases}$$

$$g(x) = \frac{3}{W} \frac{(1 + \beta_t)^2}{\beta_t} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} -x \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + x^2 \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} + x \ln \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} - x \ln \left( x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right) \\ + \frac{1/2}{1 + \beta_t} \left[ -2 \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} + \frac{m_W^4}{m_t^4} + 2x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} - x^2 \left( \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right)^2 \right] \quad : I_4 \\ \\ -x^2 + x^2 \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} + x \ln \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t} + \frac{1/2}{1 + \beta_t} \left[ -2x + x^2 \right. \\ \left. + 2x \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} - x^2 \left( \frac{1 + \beta_t}{1 - \beta_t} \right)^2 \right] \quad : I_5 \\ \\ x - x^2 + x \ln x + \frac{1/2}{1 + \beta_t} [1 - 2x + x^2] \quad : I_6 \end{array} \right.$$

with the intervals  $I_i$ :

$$\begin{aligned} I_4 & : \quad \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t} \leq x \leq \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2}, \\ I_5 & : \quad \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2} \leq x \leq \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t}, \\ I_6 & : \quad \frac{1 - \beta_t}{1 + \beta_t} \leq x \leq 1, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$W = \left(1 - \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2}\right)^2 \left(1 + 2 \frac{m_W^2}{m_t^2}\right). \quad (9)$$

The normalizations of  $f$  and  $g$  are

$$\begin{aligned} \int f(x) dx &= 1, \\ \int g(x) dx &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

The functions  $f$  and  $g$  represent the spin-independent and spin-dependent parts of the lepton spectrum in  $t$ -decay. Eq. (6) can also be written as

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma}{dx dx'} (H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow l^+ l^- + \dots) = S_t(x, x') + \Delta A_t(x, x'), \quad (11)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
S_t(x, x') &= f(x)f(x') - \frac{1}{\beta_t^2}g(x)g(x'), \\
A_t(x, x') &= f(x')g(x) - f(x)g(x'), \\
\Delta &= \frac{2\text{Im}(ab^*)}{|a|^2\beta_t^2 + |b|^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

$S_t(x, x')$  and  $A_t(x, x')$  represent the symmetric and antisymmetric part of the energy correlation. These are plotted in Figs. (1a) and (1b).

The symmetric ( $CP$ -conserving) part of the two-dimensional distribution  $\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma}{dx dx'}$  does not depend on the coupling constants  $a$  and  $b$ . This means that in the  $CP$ -conserving limit the energy correlation of secondary leptons arising from  $H \rightarrow t\bar{t}$  is independent of the  $CP$ -parity of the decaying Higgs particle.

Integration over  $x$  or  $x'$  yields the single lepton energy spectra

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma}{dx}(H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow l^\pm + \dots) = f(x) \pm \Delta g(x). \tag{13}$$

Eq. (13) agrees with the energy spectrum obtained by Chang and Keung [5] using a different method. The single energy spectra are plotted in Fig. 2. The parameter  $\Delta$  is calculated within a 2-Higgs Doublet Model in Refs. [5, 6].

### 3 $H \rightarrow W^+W^-$

The differential decay rate for the reaction  $H(P) \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^+(q_1)\nu_l(q_2)l^-(q_3)\bar{\nu}_l(q_4)$ , arising from the  $HW^+W^-$  vertex given in Eq. (4), is

$$d^8\Gamma = 8\sqrt{2} \frac{G_F}{m_H} D_W \left[ |B|^2 \mathcal{S} + \frac{|D|^2}{m_W^4} \mathcal{P} + \frac{\text{Re}(BD^*)}{m_W^2} \mathcal{Q} - \frac{\text{Im}(BD^*)}{m_W^2} \mathcal{R} \right] \cdot dLips. \tag{14}$$

The Lorentz invariant phase space is given by

$$dLips = (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(P - q_1 - q_2 - q_3 - q_4) \prod_{i=1}^4 \frac{d^3q_i}{(2\pi)^3 2q_i^0}. \tag{15}$$

In the massless fermion approximation,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{S} &= (q_2 \cdot q_3)(q_1 \cdot q_4), \\
\mathcal{P} &= -\left\{ (q_2 \cdot q_3)(q_1 \cdot q_4) - (q_2 \cdot q_4)(q_1 \cdot q_3) \right\}^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{m_W^4}{4} \left\{ (q_2 \cdot q_3)^2 + (q_1 \cdot q_4)^2 + 2(q_2 \cdot q_4)(q_1 \cdot q_3) - \frac{m_W^4}{4} \right\}, \\
\mathcal{Q} &= \varepsilon(q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4) \left\{ (q_2 \cdot q_3) + (q_1 \cdot q_4) \right\}, \\
\mathcal{R} &= \left\{ (q_2 \cdot q_3) - (q_1 \cdot q_4) \right\} \left\{ \frac{m_W^4}{4} + (q_2 \cdot q_3)(q_1 \cdot q_4) - (q_2 \cdot q_4)(q_1 \cdot q_3) \right\}, \quad (16)
\end{aligned}$$

while  $D_W$  is the propagator factor

$$D_W = m_W^4 \prod_{j=1}^2 \frac{g^2}{(s_j - m_W^2)^2 + m_W^2 \Gamma_W^2}, \quad (17)$$

with  $s_1 = (q_1 + q_2)^2$ ,  $s_2 = (q_3 + q_4)^2$ . In the narrow width approximation, the total decay rate is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma(H \rightarrow W^+ W^- \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l l^- \bar{\nu}_l) &= \frac{g^6 m_H^3 \beta_W}{9 \cdot 2^{16} \pi^3 \Gamma_W^2} \left\{ \right. \\
&\quad \left. |B|^2 (3 - 2\beta_W^2 + 3\beta_W^4) + 8|D|^2 \beta_W^2 \right\}, \quad (18)
\end{aligned}$$

in agreement with the result of Osland and Skjold [7].

We now introduce scaled energy variables in the  $H$  rest frame:

$$y = \frac{4E(l^+)}{m_H}, \quad y' = \frac{4E(l^-)}{m_H}, \quad (19)$$

which are bounded by

$$1 - \beta_W \leq y, y' \leq 1 + \beta_W, \quad (20)$$

where  $\beta_W = \sqrt{1 - 4m_W^2/m_H^2}$ . The two-dimensional spectrum in the variables  $y$  and  $y'$  is then given by

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma}{dy dy'} (H \rightarrow W^+ W^- \rightarrow l^+ l^- + \dots) = \frac{1}{|B|^2 (3 - 2\beta_W^2 + 3\beta_W^4) + 8|D|^2 \beta_W^2} \cdot \frac{9}{32\beta_W^6}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left\{ |B|^2 \left[ (3 + 2\beta_W^2 + 3\beta_W^4) ((y-1)^2 - \beta_W^2) ((y'-1)^2 - \beta_W^2) \right. \right. \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. \left. + 2\beta_W^2 (1 - \beta_W^2)^2 (y - y')^2 \right] \right. \\
& + 4\beta_W^2 |D|^2 \left[ ((y-1)^2 + \beta_W^2) ((y'-1)^2 + \beta_W^2) - 4\beta_W^2 (y-1)(y'-1) \right] \\
& \left. + 8\beta_W^2 \text{Im}(BD^*) (1 - \beta_W^2) \left[ \beta_W^2 - (y-1)(y'-1) \right] (y - y') \right\}. \quad (21)
\end{aligned}$$

Neglecting terms proportional to  $|D|^2$ , the correlation can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma}{dydy'} (H \rightarrow W^+ W^- \rightarrow l^+ l^- + \dots) = S_W(y, y') & + \frac{\text{Im}(BD^*)}{|B|^2} A_W(y, y') \\
& + O(|D|^2/|B|^2). \quad (22)
\end{aligned}$$

Here  $S_W(y, y')$  and  $A_W(y, y')$  represent the symmetric and antisymmetric parts of the energy correlation of the charged leptons, the latter being multiplied by the  $CP$ -violating coefficient  $\text{Im}(BD^*)/|B|^2$ . These functions are plotted in Figs. (3a) and (3b).

There is an interesting difference in the energy characteristics of the leptons emanating from  $H \rightarrow W^+ W^- \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l l^- \bar{\nu}_l$ , dependent on whether  $H$  is a scalar ( $0^+$ ) or pseudoscalar ( $0^-$ ) particle. The correlated energy spectrum of the  $l^+ l^-$  pair can be derived from Eq. (21) by taking  $D = 0$  (scalar case) or  $B = 0$  (pseudoscalar case), with the result

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma(0^+)}{dydy'} = S_W(y, y') & = \frac{9}{32\beta_W^6} \frac{1}{3 - 2\beta_W^2 + 3\beta_W^4} \left[ 2\beta_W^2 (1 - \beta_W^2)^2 (y - y')^2 \right. \\
& \left. + (3 + 2\beta_W^2 + 3\beta_W^4) ((y-1)^2 - \beta_W^2) ((y'-1)^2 - \beta_W^2) \right], \quad (23) \\
\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma(0^-)}{dydy'} = P_W(y, y') & = \frac{9}{64\beta_W^6} \left[ ((y-1)^2 + \beta_W^2) ((y'-1)^2 + \beta_W^2) \right. \\
& \left. - 4\beta_W^2 (y-1)(y'-1) \right]. \quad (24)
\end{aligned}$$

These two functions are strikingly different, as shown in Figs. (3a) and (3c). This difference persists even if we consider the energy spectrum of a single lepton. Inte-



grating Eqs. (23, 24) over  $y'$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma(0^+)}{dy} = \frac{3}{2\beta_W} \frac{1 + \beta_W^4 - 2(y-1)^2}{3 - 2\beta_W^2 + 3\beta_W^4}, \quad (25)$$

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d\Gamma(0^-)}{dy} = \frac{3}{8\beta_W^3} (\beta_W^2 + (y-1)^2). \quad (26)$$

These distributions are clearly quite distinct (Fig. 4) and provide a simple criterion for distinguishing  $0^+$  and  $0^-$  objects decaying into  $W^+W^-$  pairs. Indeed, the single lepton spectra (Eqs. (25), (26)) are also valid for the inclusive process  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^\pm X$ , where only one of the  $W$ -bosons decays leptonically. The difference in the lepton energy spectrum for the  $0^+$  and  $0^-$  cases is intimately related to the different helicity structure of the  $W$ -bosons produced in the two cases [8]. It should be stressed that the correlations and spectra given above (Eqs. (21)–(26)) refer directly to energies measured in the  $H$  rest frame, and do not require reconstruction of the decay planes of  $W^+$  and  $W^-$ . In this respect, the present criterion provides a useful alternative to other criteria that have recently been proposed in the literature [8, 9]. Finally, we note that the energy spectrum in the  $0^+$  case agrees with that obtained by Chang and Keung [5], after correction of a minor typographical error [F 2].

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## Footnotes

[F 1 ] Some of the essential steps in the procedure of Ref. [3] can be found in Ref. [4].

[F 2 ] Eq. (15) of Ref. [5] should read

$$\frac{1}{N} \frac{dN}{dx(l^\pm)} = \left( \frac{(1 + \beta_W^2)^2}{3 - 2\beta_W^2 + 3\beta_W^4} \right) \frac{3[\beta_W^2 - (1 - x)^2]}{4\beta_W^3} + \sum_{s=-1,+1} \dots$$

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## Figure Captions

- Fig. 1.  $CP$ -conserving (a) and  $CP$ -violating (b) part of the normalized energy correlation in the decay  $H \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow l^+l^- + \dots$  for  $m_H = 400$  GeV and  $m_t = 150$  GeV.
- Fig. 2. Single particle energy spectra of  $l^+$  (dotted curve) and  $l^-$  (full curve) in the decay  $H \rightarrow t\bar{t}$  for  $\Delta = 0.1$ ,  $m_H = 400$  GeV and  $m_t = 150$  GeV.
- Fig. 3.  $CP$ -conserving (a) and  $CP$ -violating (b) part of the normalized energy correlation in the decay  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^+l^- + \dots$  for  $m_H = 300$  GeV. Fig. 3(c) shows the normalized energy correlation for the decay of a pseudoscalar Higgs  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^+l^- + \dots$  for  $m_H = 300$  GeV.
- Fig. 4. Energy distribution of a single lepton in the decay  $H \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow l^\pm + \dots$  for  $m_H = 300$  GeV. The full curve represents the scalar case and the dotted curve shows the pseudoscalar case.

$$\Gamma^{-1} d\Gamma/dx \text{ (H} \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow l^\pm + \dots)$$

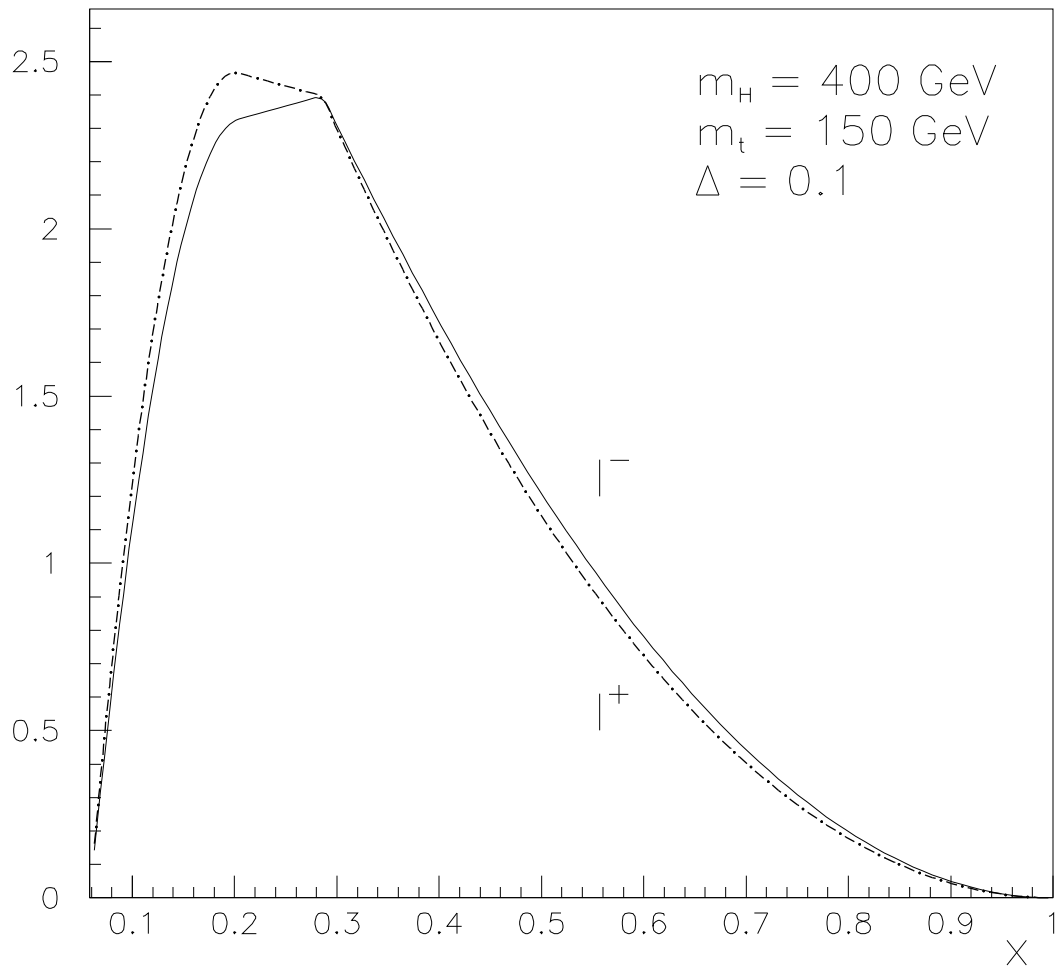


Fig. 2.

$$\Gamma^{-1} d\Gamma/dy \text{ (H} \rightarrow \text{W}^+ \text{W}^- \rightarrow \text{l}^\pm + \dots)$$

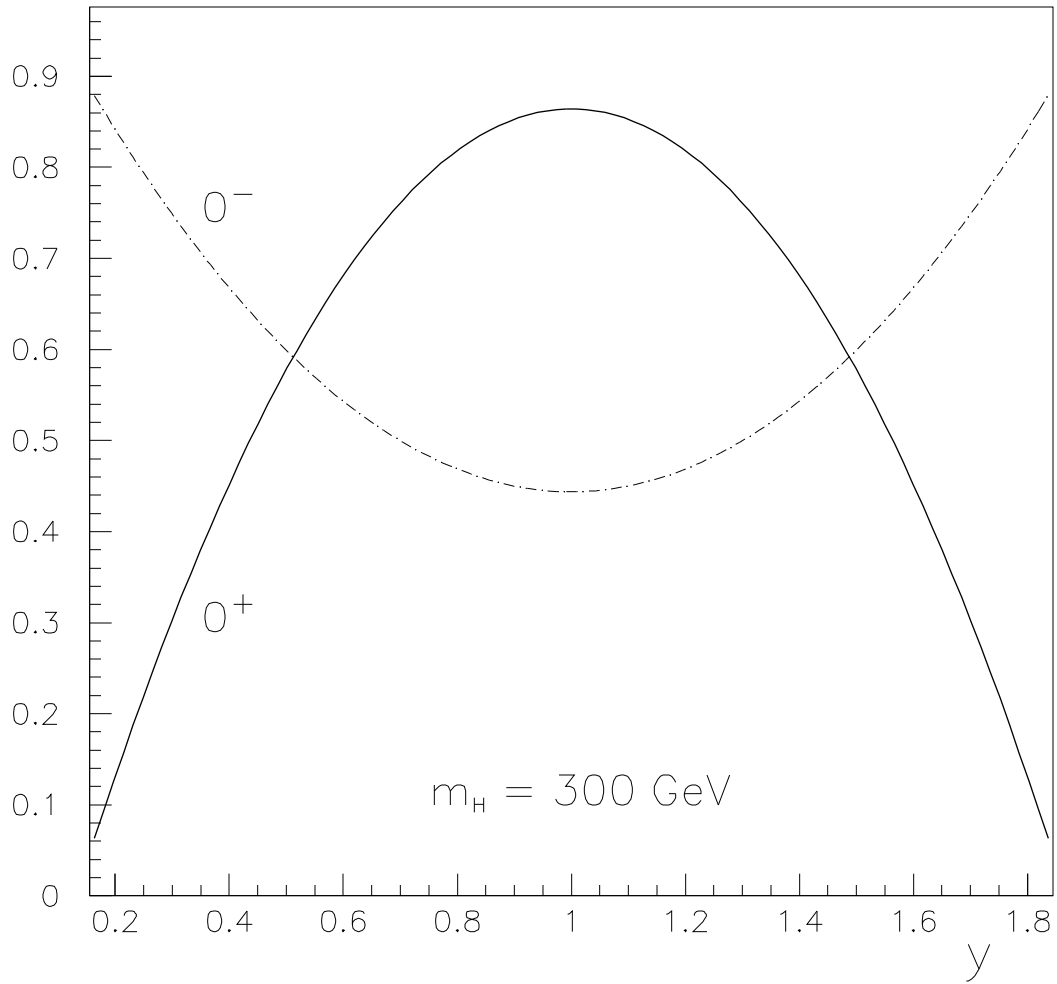


Fig. 4.

$$S_W(y, y')$$

$m_H = 300 \text{ GeV}$

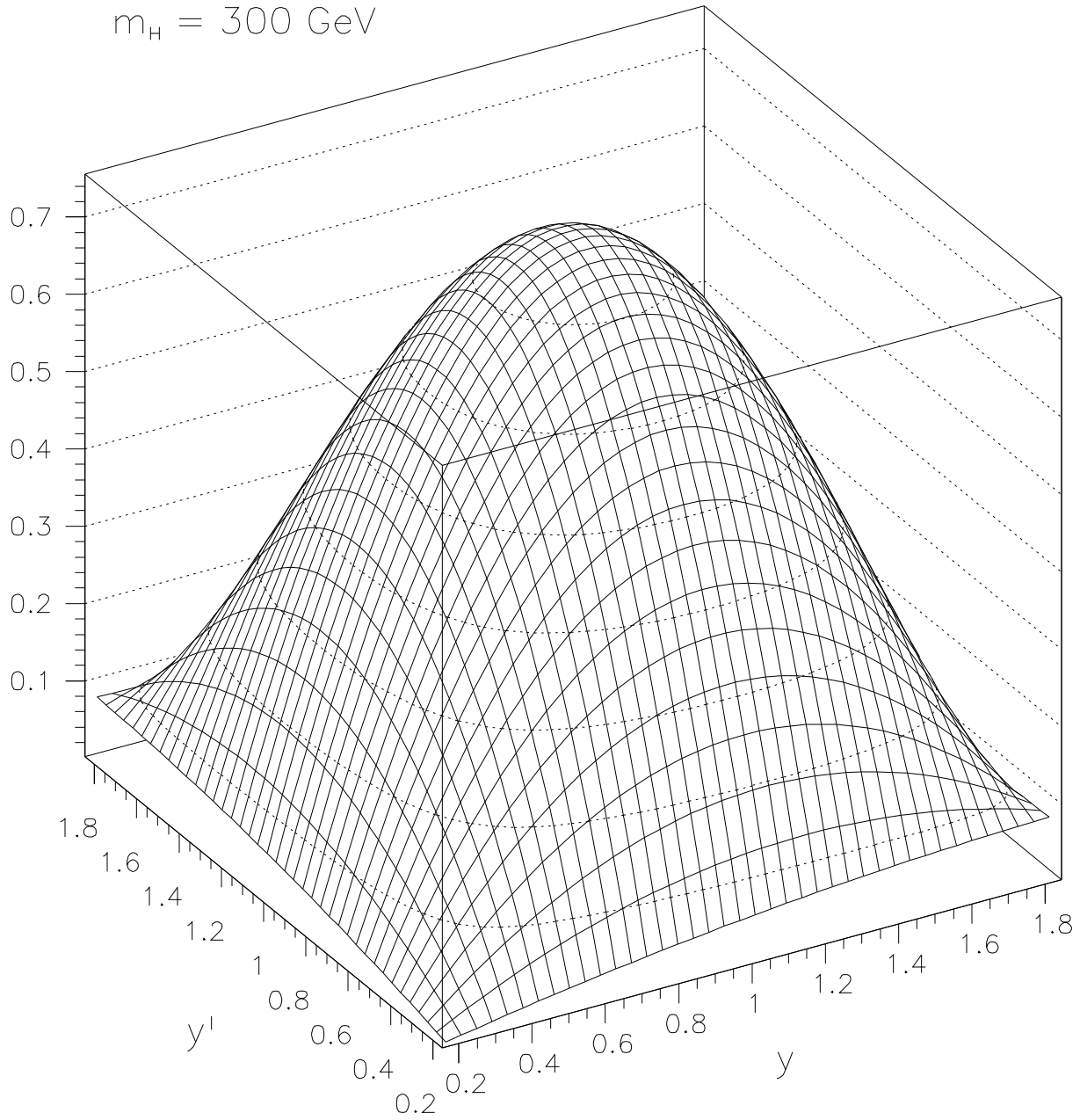


Fig. 3(a).

$$A_W(y, y')$$

$m_H = 300 \text{ GeV}$

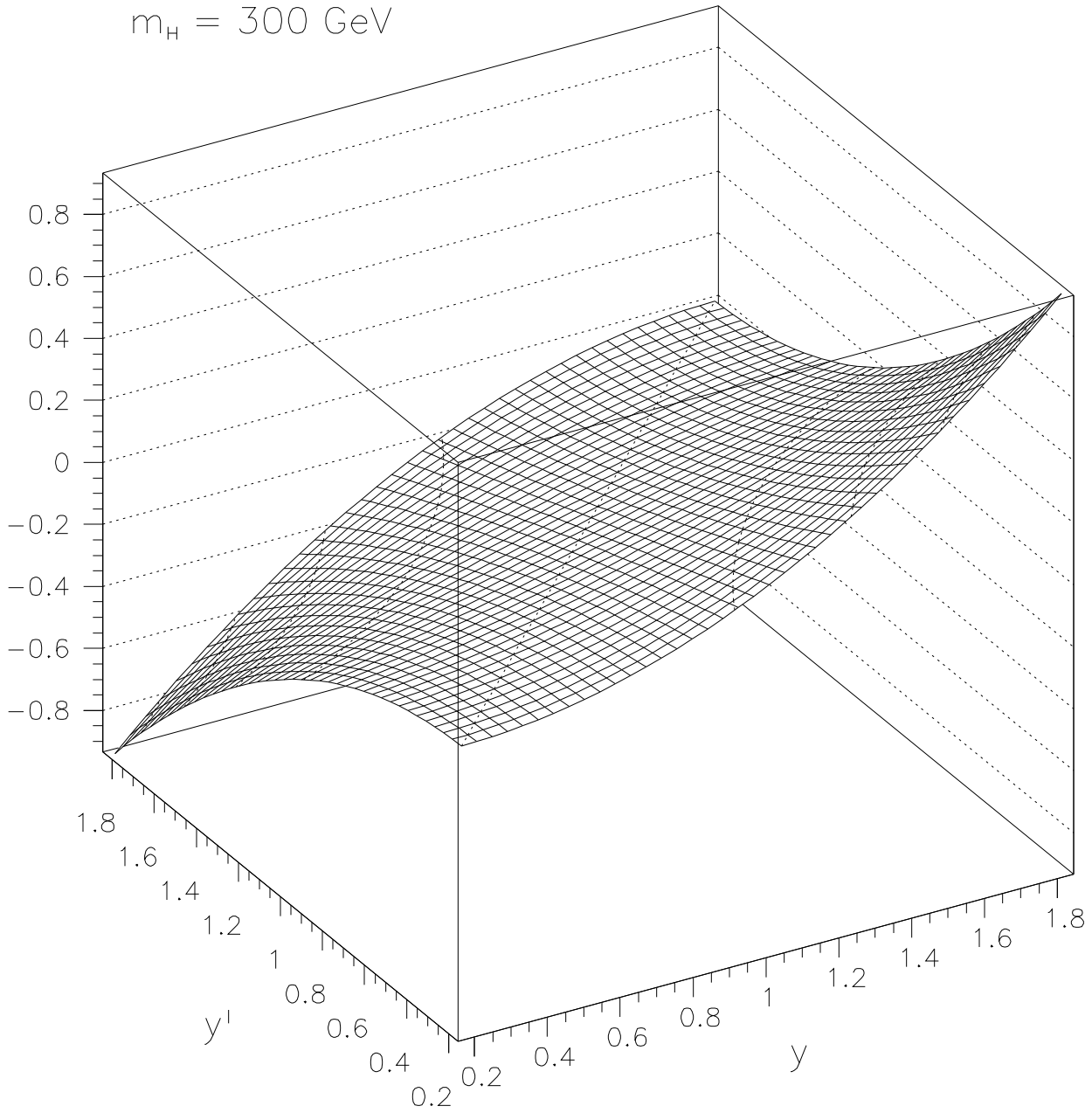


Fig. 3(b).



$$P_w(y, y')$$

$m_H = 300 \text{ GeV}$

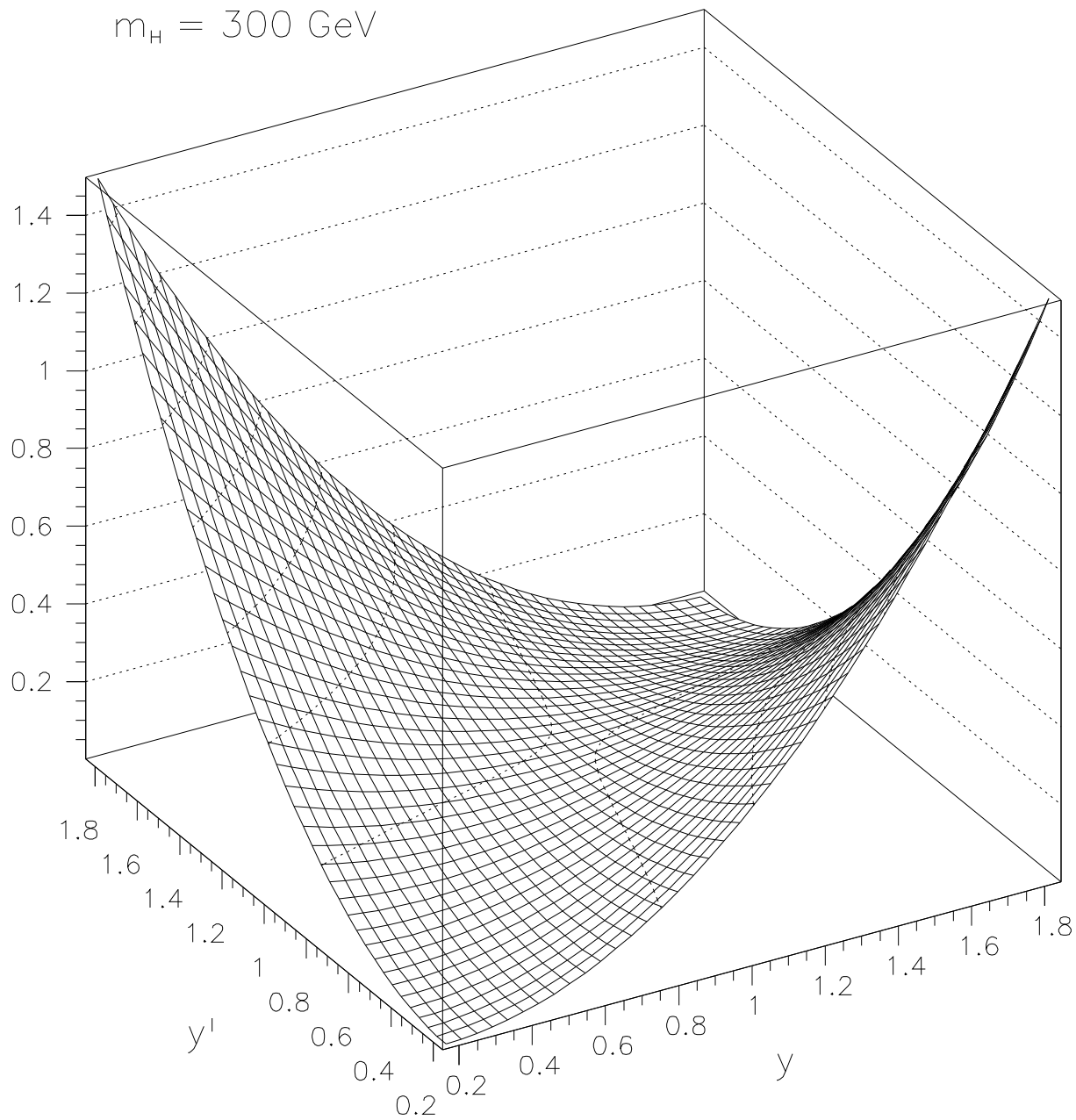


Fig. 3(c).

$$S_t(x, x')$$

$$m_H = 400 \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_t = 150 \text{ GeV}$$

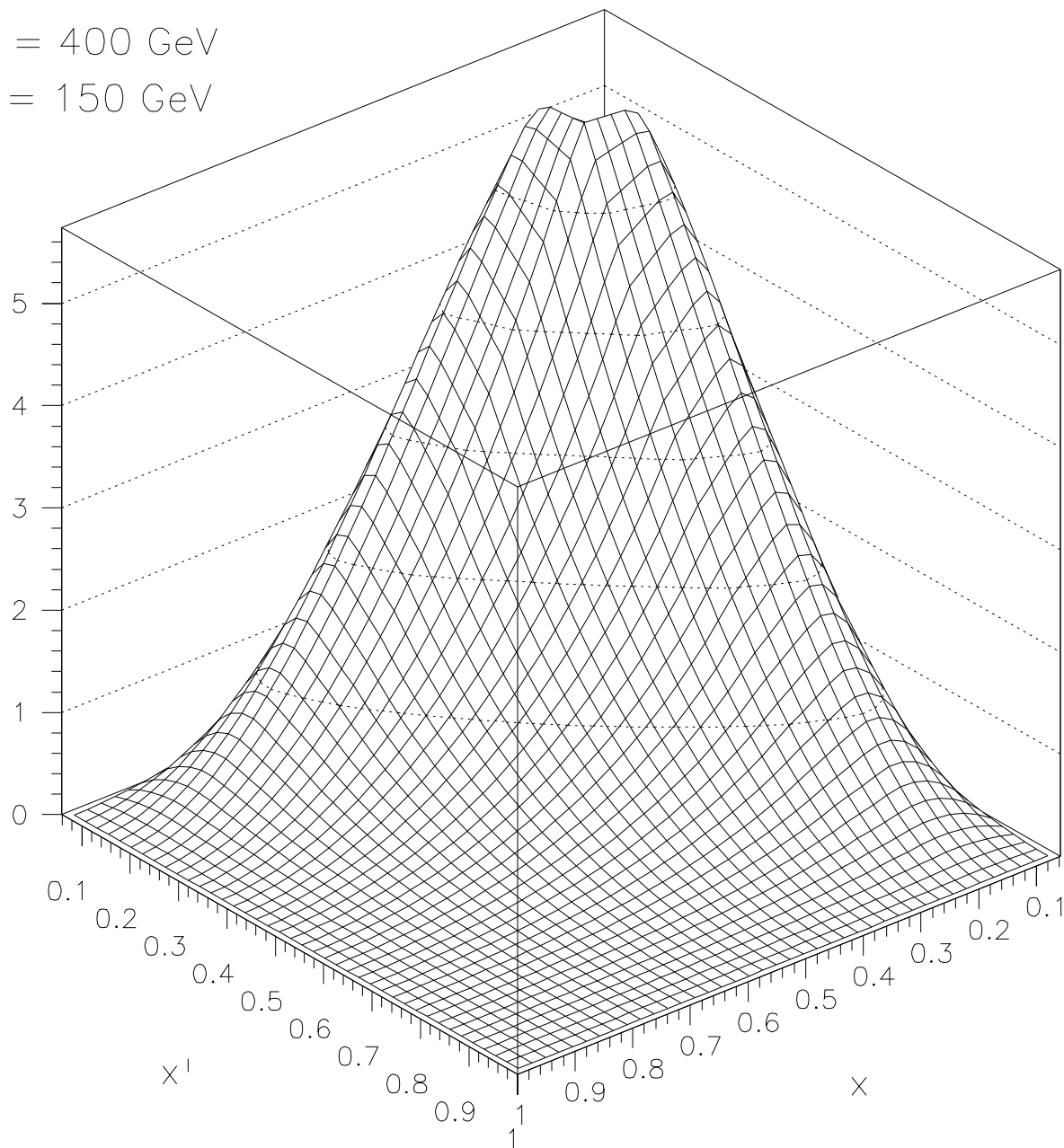


Fig. 1(a).

$$A_t(x, x')$$

$$m_H = 400 \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_t = 150 \text{ GeV}$$

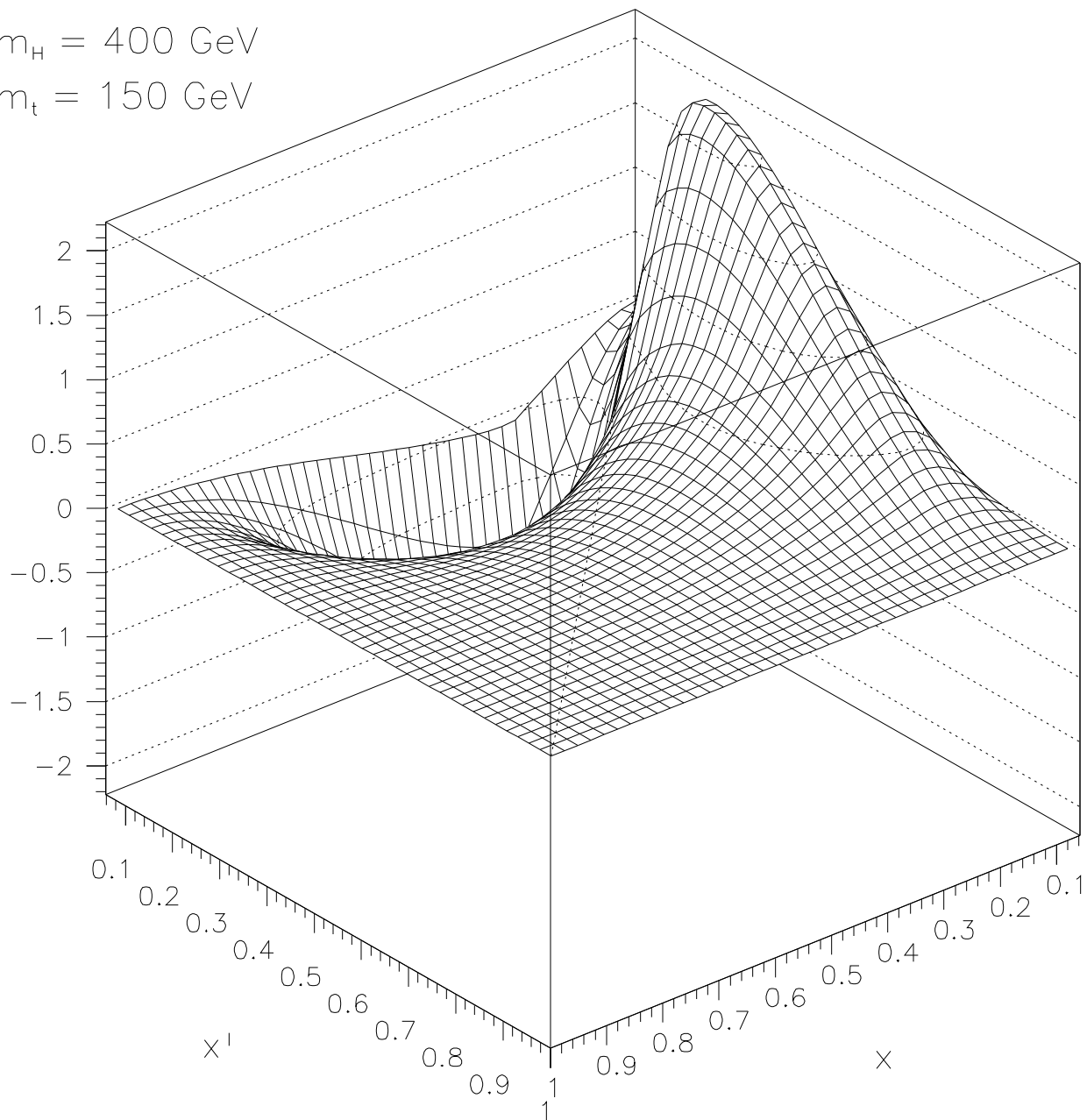


Fig. 1(b).