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Fermion pair production in e^+e^- collisions at 189–209 GeV and constraints on physics beyond the standard model

Dedicated to the memory of John Strong who died on July 31, 2006

The ALEPH Collaboration

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Abstract. Cross sections, angular distributions and forward-backward asymmetries are presented, of two-fermion events produced in e^+e^- collisions at centre-of-mass energies from 189 to 209 GeV at LEP, measured with the ALEPH detector. Results for e^+e^- , $\mu^+\mu^-$, $\tau^+\tau^-$, $q\bar{q}$, $b\bar{b}$ and $c\bar{c}$ production are in agreement with the standard model predictions. Constraints are set on scenarios of new physics such as four-fermion contact interactions, leptoquarks, Z' bosons, TeV-scale quantum gravity and R -parity violating squarks and sneutrinos.

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1 Introduction

In the years 1995–2000, the LEP collider delivered e^+e^- collisions at centre-of-mass energies from 130 to 209 GeV. Measurements of the $e^+e^- \rightarrow ff$ process with the ALEPH detector up to $\sqrt{s} = 183$ GeV have been published in [1]. The results obtained at seven additional energy values are presented in this paper with analyses largely unchanged with respect to [1]. The seven centre-of-mass energies are listed in Table 1, together with the corresponding luminosities. In the year 2000 the luminosity was delivered in a range of energies. The 2000 data are divided into two energy bins, from 202.5 GeV to 205.5 GeV and above.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 gives a brief description of the ALEPH detector, Sect. 3 presents the event generators used for the simulation of the signal and backgrounds, and Sect. 4 recalls some useful definitions. Measurements of hadronic, leptonic and heavy-

flavour final states are discussed in Sects. 5–7. The results are used to set constraints on new physics in Sect. 8.

2 The ALEPH detector

The ALEPH detector and performance are described in [2, 3], and only a short summary is given here.

Charged particles are detected in the central part, comprising a precision silicon vertex detector, a cylindrical drift chamber and a large time projection chamber, embedded in a 1.5 T axial magnetic field. The momentum p of charged particles is measured with a resolution of $\sigma(p)/p = 6 \times 10^{-4} p_T \oplus 0.005$ (where p_T is the momentum component perpendicular to the beam axis in GeV/c). The three-dimensional impact parameter is measured with a resolution of $(34 + 70/p) \times (1 + 1.6 \cos^4 \theta) \mu\text{m}$ (where p is measured in GeV/c and θ is the polar angle with the beam axis). In addition, the time projection chamber provides up to 344 measurements of the specific energy loss by ionisation dE/dx .

In the following, only charged particle tracks reconstructed with at least four hits in the time projection chamber, originating from within a cylinder of length 20 cm and radius 2 cm coaxial with the beam and centred at the nominal collision point, and with a polar angle fulfilling $|\cos \theta| < 0.95$ are considered.

Electrons and photons are identified by the characteristic longitudinal and transverse developments of the associated showers in the electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), a 22 radiation length thick sandwich of lead planes and proportional wires chambers with fine read-out segmentation. The relative energy resolution achieved is $0.18/\sqrt{E}$ (GeV) for isolated electrons and photons.

Muons are identified by their characteristic penetration pattern in the hadron calorimeter (HCAL), a 1.5 m thick iron yoke interleaved with 23 layers of streamer tubes, together with two surrounding double-layers of muon chambers. In association with the electromagnetic calorimeter, the hadron calorimeter also provides a measurement of the hadronic energy with a relative resolution of $0.85/\sqrt{E}$ (GeV).

The total visible energy, and therefore the event missing energy, is measured with an energy-flow reconstruction algorithm [3] which combines all the above measurements, supplemented by the energy detected down to 34 mrad from the beam axis by two additional electromagnetic calorimeters, used for the luminosity determination [4, 5]. The relative resolution on the total visible energy is $0.60/\sqrt{E}$ (GeV) for high-multiplicity final states. This algorithm also provides a list of reconstructed energy-flow objects, classified as charged particles, photons and neutral hadrons.

The luminosity is determined with small-angle Bhabha events, detected with the lead-wire luminosity calorimeter (LCAL), using the method described in [4]. The Bhabha cross section in the LCAL acceptance varies from 4.3 nb

Table 1. Luminosity weighted centre-of-mass energies and integrated luminosities for the data samples presented in this paper. The total (statistical and systematic combined) uncertainties on the integrated luminosities are given. The last column contains the data sample names used in this paper

Year	E_{cm} (GeV)	Luminosity (pb^{-1})	
1998	188.63	174.2 ± 0.8	189
1999	191.58	28.9 ± 0.1	192
	195.52	79.9 ± 0.4	196
	199.52	86.3 ± 0.4	200
	201.62	41.9 ± 0.2	202
	204.86	81.60 ± 0.4	205
2000	206.53	133.6 ± 0.6	207

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at 189 GeV to 3.6 nb at 207 GeV. The uncertainty on the measurement is smaller than 0.5%.

3 Event simulation and standard model predictions

Samples of simulated events are produced as follows. The generator BHWIDE version 1.01 [6] is used for the electron pair channel, and KK version 4.14 [7] for di-quark, di-tau and di-muon events. Interference between initial-state (ISR) and final-state (FSR) radiation is included in KK generator for the leptonic channels, whereas for the $q\bar{q}$ channel the FSR is introduced by PYTHIA in the parton shower and therefore interferences with ISR are not included. PYTHIA version 6.1 [8] is used for ZZ and Ze^+e^- production. Two-photon interactions ($e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-X$) are generated with PHOT02 [9] and HERWIG [10]. Finally, backgrounds from W -pair production are simulated with the KORALW generator version 1.51 [11]. Single- W processes are simulated with EXCALIBUR [12]. Hadronic final states were generated with hadronisation and fragmentation parameters described in [13].

Standard model (SM) predictions in the electron-pair channel are obtained from BHWIDE. The analytic program ZFITTER [14] is used in all other cases, with the steering flags and main input parameters listed in the Appendix.

4 Cross section definition

Cross section results are provided for inclusive and exclusive processes. The inclusive processes include events with hard ISR, which correspond to about 85% of the selected events, while the exclusive processes exclude these final states.

The inclusive processes correspond to a cut $\sqrt{s'/s} > 0.1$, where \sqrt{s} is the centre-of-mass energy and $\sqrt{s'}$ is defined as the invariant mass of the outgoing lepton pair for leptonic final states, and as the mass of the s channel propagator for hadronic final states. Differently from [1], exclusive processes are defined by a cut $\sqrt{s'/s} > 0.85$.

When selecting events in the analysis, the measured variable $\sqrt{s'_m}$, which provides a good approximation to $\sqrt{s'}$ when only one photon is emitted, is used to isolate exclusive processes:

$$s'_m = \frac{\sin \theta_1 + \sin \theta_2 - |\sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)|}{\sin \theta_1 + \sin \theta_2 + |\sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)|} s.$$

Here $\theta_{1,2}$ are the angles of the outgoing fermions measured with respect to the direction of the incoming electron beam or with respect to the direction of the most energetic photon seen in the apparatus and consistent with ISR [1]. In order to reduce the uncertainties related to interferences between ISR and FSR, the exclusive cross sections and asymmetries are not extrapolated to the full acceptance. They are evaluated over the reduced angular

range corresponding to $|\cos \theta| < 0.95$, where θ is the polar angle of the outgoing fermion for the hadronic cross section measurements. For the leptonic cross section and the forward-backward asymmetry measurements $|\cos \theta| < 0.95$ cut applies to both outgoing fermion and anti-fermion polar angles.

5 Hadronic final states

The selection of hadronic final states is described in [1]; events with high charged-track multiplicity are required.

For inclusive processes, the cross sections are determined, after background subtraction, using a global efficiency correction. Backgrounds and selection efficiencies, which are both obtained from Monte Carlo studies, are listed in Table 2 as a function of centre-of-mass energy. The main background arises from W pair and Z pair production. The contribution from $\gamma\gamma$ interactions is suppressed by requiring the event visible mass to be larger than $50 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. The measured cross sections are presented in Table 3, together with the ZFITTER predictions over the same acceptance as the experimental measurements.

For the exclusive cross sections the events are divided into two hemispheres (hereafter called jets) with respect to the thrust axis, determined after removing the ISR photons. The quantity $\sqrt{s'_m}/s$ is measured from the reconstructed jet directions and a cut $\sqrt{s'_m}/s > 0.85$ is applied. The $\sqrt{s'_m}/s$ distribution for the data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207 \text{ GeV}$ is displayed in Fig. 1, together with the expected background. In the exclusive region, the latter is dominated by:

- W -pair production. For these events, the thrust (T) distribution extends to lower values than for $q\bar{q}$ events, as

Table 2. Selection efficiencies and background fractions for the $q\bar{q}$ channel for the inclusive and exclusive processes, as a function of the centre-of-mass energy. The statistical uncertainties are also given

$\sqrt{s'/s}$ cut	E_{cm} (GeV)	Efficiency (%)	Background (%)
0.1	189	83.9 ± 0.2	20.2 ± 0.1
	192	83.9 ± 0.3	22.2 ± 0.1
	196	83.3 ± 0.3	22.2 ± 0.1
	200	82.5 ± 0.3	22.1 ± 0.1
	202	82.3 ± 0.3	22.3 ± 0.1
	205	81.4 ± 0.3	23.3 ± 0.1
	207	81.1 ± 0.3	23.7 ± 0.1
0.85 $ \cos \theta < 0.95$	189	81.9 ± 0.3	5.82 ± 0.07
	192	82.2 ± 0.3	6.10 ± 0.08
	196	82.3 ± 0.3	6.34 ± 0.08
	200	82.5 ± 0.3	6.56 ± 0.08
	202	83.3 ± 0.3	6.93 ± 0.08
	205	82.0 ± 0.3	8.47 ± 0.09
	207	81.9 ± 0.3	8.69 ± 0.09

Table 3. Measured $q\bar{q}$ cross sections for the inclusive and exclusive processes, as a function of the centre-of-mass energy, with their statistic and systematic uncertainties. The corresponding standard model predictions from ZFITTER are given in the last column

$\sqrt{s'}/s$ cut	E_{cm} (GeV)	Number of events	$\sigma_{q\bar{q}}$ (pb)	SM prediction (pb)
0.1	189	18617	$101.65 \pm 0.83 \pm 0.83$	99.35
	192	2898	$93.00 \pm 1.95 \pm 0.73$	95.41
	196	7776	$90.89 \pm 1.17 \pm 0.66$	90.55
	200	8102	$88.65 \pm 1.12 \pm 0.63$	86.02
	202	3710	$83.59 \pm 1.56 \pm 0.63$	83.78
	205	6989	$80.71 \pm 1.12 \pm 0.46$	80.53
	207	11183	$79.16 \pm 0.85 \pm 0.43$	78.94
0.85 $ \cos\theta < 0.95$	189	3153	$20.80 \pm 0.38 \pm 0.17$	20.58
	192	508	$20.07 \pm 0.92 \pm 0.16$	19.72
	196	1329	$18.93 \pm 0.54 \pm 0.16$	18.67
	200	1367	$17.94 \pm 0.51 \pm 0.16$	17.69
	202	658	$17.56 \pm 0.71 \pm 0.15$	17.21
	205	1238	$16.94 \pm 0.52 \pm 0.15$	16.51
	207	1958	$16.34 \pm 0.38 \pm 0.14$	16.16

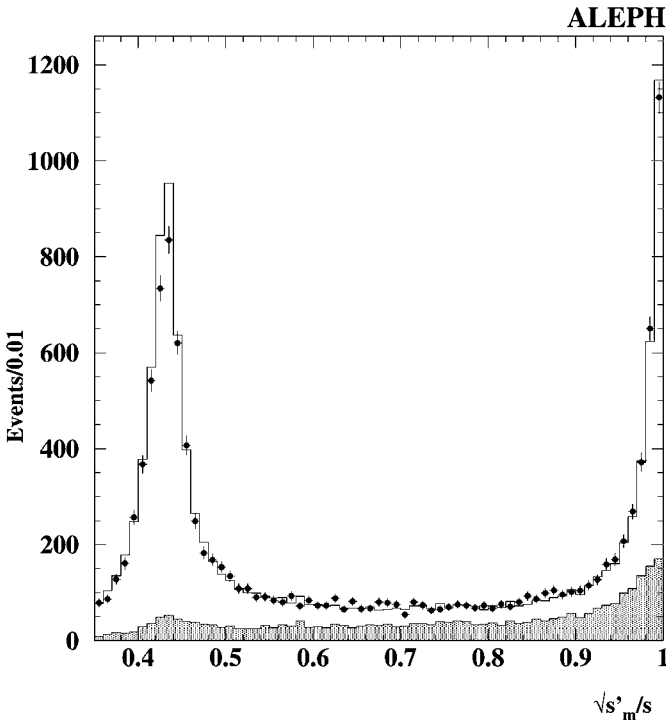


Fig. 1. The $\sqrt{s'_m}/s$ distribution for hadronic events collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207$ GeV. The data (*dots*) are compared to the Monte Carlo expectation (*histogram*). The *shaded area* shows the background contribution

shown in Fig. 2a. A cut $T > 0.85$ rejects approximately 80% of this background.

- Fermion-pair events where, due to photon radiation by both colliding electrons, the measured $\sqrt{s'_m}/s$ from the jets directions is above 0.85. This background is reduced by requiring that the event visible mass, cal-

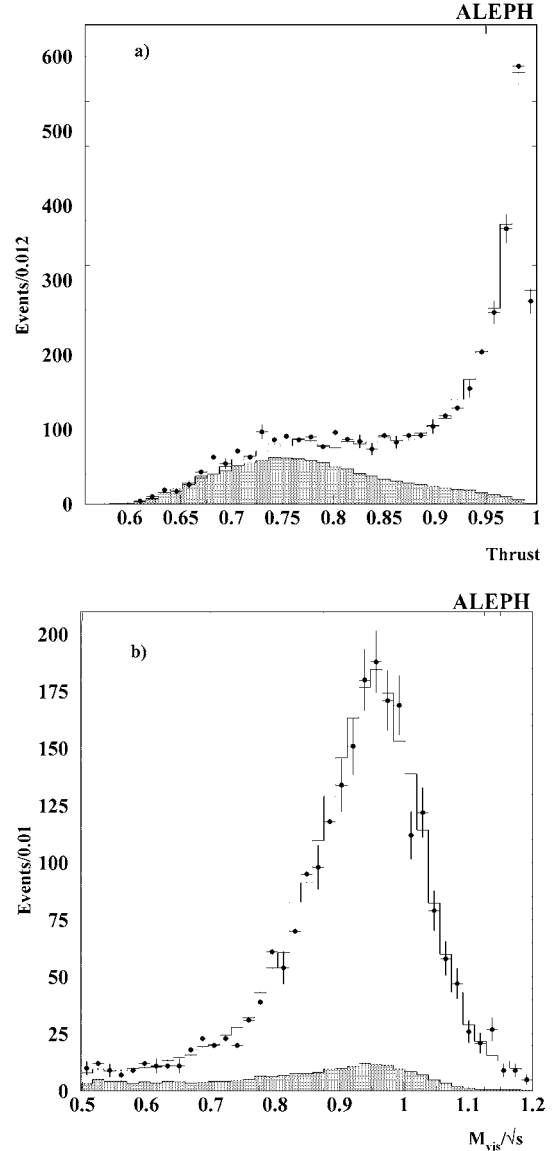


Fig. 2. For exclusive hadronic final states, at $\sqrt{s} = 207$ GeV, the distributions of the event thrust **a** and of the visible mass (normalized to the collision energy) for events with thrust > 0.85 **b**. The data (*dots*) are compared to the Monte Carlo expectation (*histograms*). The *shaded areas* show the background contribution

culated excluding ISR photons with energies above 10 GeV, is greater than 70% of the centre-of-mass energy. The residual background is called “radiative background”. Figure 2b shows the visible mass distribution for events with $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.85$ and thrust value exceeding 0.85. The systematic uncertainty on this radiative background accounts for the small discrepancy visible in Fig. 1.

The contribution from four-fermion processes other than WW production is found to be small. It is taken into account by including an additional 0.1% systematic uncertainty on the exclusive cross section measurements. Other

Table 4. Contributions to the systematic uncertainties (in %) on the measured $q\bar{q}$ cross sections, averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	$\sqrt{s'}/s$ cut	
	0.1	0.85
MC statistics	0.30	0.30
Energy scale	0.36	0.30
Detector response	0.38	0.60
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$	0.05	
WW	0.19	0.05
Radiative background		0.21
Other 4-f backgrounds		0.03
Luminosity	0.45	0.45
Total	0.78	0.89

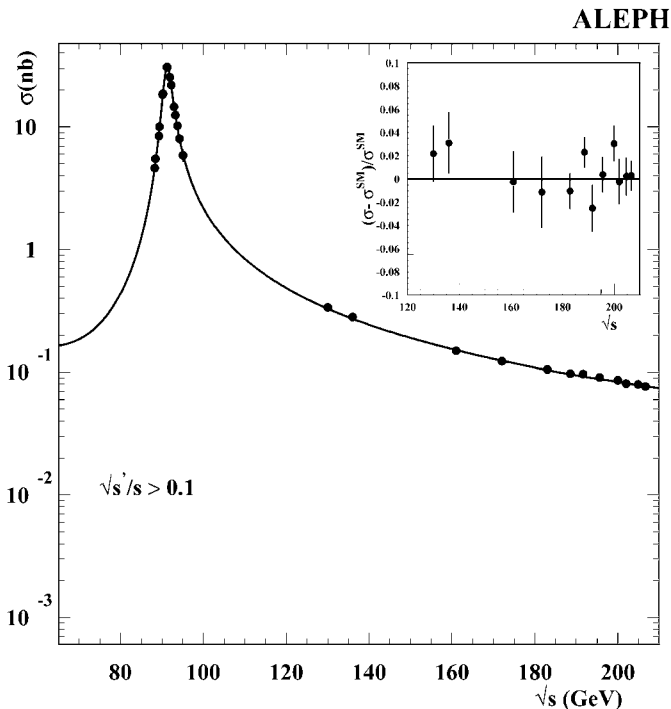


Fig. 3. Measured inclusive hadronic cross section (*dots*), as a function of the centre-of-mass energy. The *full curve* indicates the ZFITTER prediction. The *insert* shows the difference between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the predicted cross sections. Measurements at centre-of-mass energies below 189 GeV are from [16] and [1]

systematic uncertainties arise from the knowledge of the calorimeter calibration and of the detector response to the hadronization process. These uncertainties are taken as fully correlated between years. The evaluation of the detector response uncertainties includes the calorimeter effects described in [15], which were shown to have negligible impact on this measurement.

The efficiencies for the exclusive process and the background contributions are summarized in Table 2 and the measured cross sections are presented in Table 3.

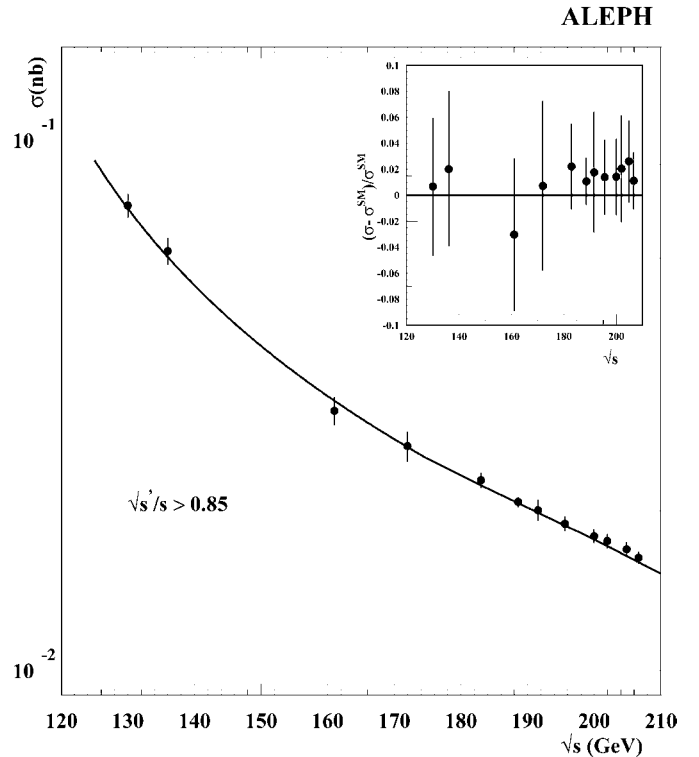


Fig. 4. Measured exclusive hadronic cross section (*dots*), as a function of the centre-of-mass energy. The *full curve* indicates the ZFITTER prediction. The *insert* shows the difference between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the predicted cross sections. The deviation of the seven highest energy points with respect to the standard model prediction, with correlations taken into account, corresponds to $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.} = 1.8$. Measurements at centre-of-mass energies below 189 GeV are from [1], corrected for the different definition of the exclusive processes

The systematic uncertainties for the inclusive and exclusive processes are listed in Table 4. Figures 3 and 4 show the measured inclusive and exclusive $q\bar{q}$ cross sections as a function of energy. The exclusive differential cross sections as a function of the thrust axis polar angle are shown in Fig. 5 (in this case the selection efficiencies have been determined in angular bins).

6 Leptonic final states

For the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ channels, cross section measurements are provided for the inclusive and exclusive processes as defined in Sect. 4. The inclusive cross sections are determined after background subtraction and a global efficiency correction, while the exclusive cross sections are computed as the sum of the measured cross sections in bins of $\cos\theta$. Asymmetries are extracted by a counting method from the $\cos\theta^*$ distributions, where θ^* is the scattering angle between the incoming e^- and the outgoing ℓ^- in the $\ell^+\ell^-$ rest frame. The asymmetry A_{FB} is

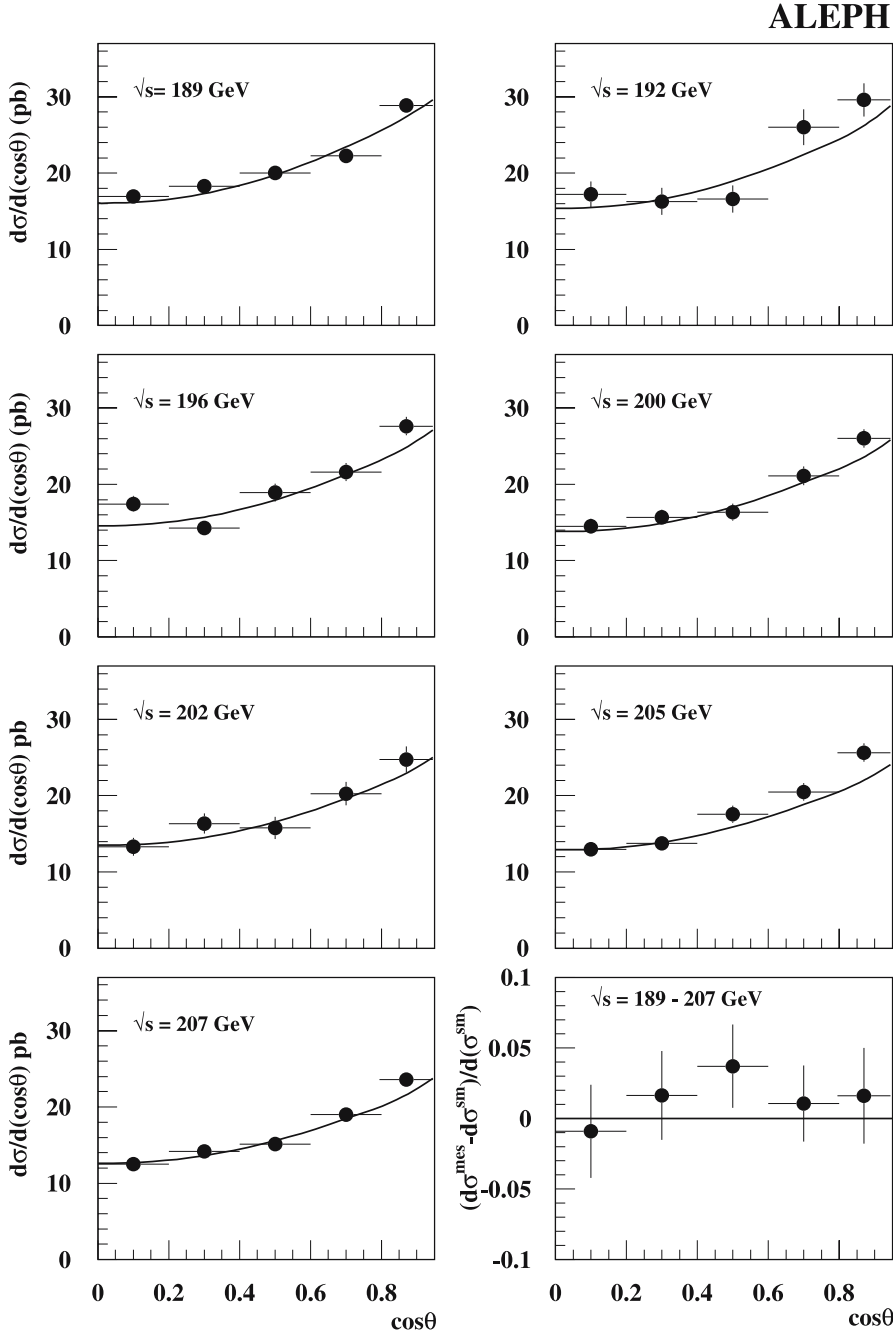


Fig. 5. Measured differential cross sections for $q\bar{q}$ exclusive production (*closed symbols*), as a function of polar angle and for several centre-of-mass energies. The *full curves* indicate the ZFITTER predictions. The *right bottom plot* shows the luminosity weighted sum of the differences between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the luminosity weighted sum of the predicted cross sections, for all energy points together

defined as:

$$A_{\text{FB}} = \frac{N_{\text{F}} - N_{\text{B}}}{N_{\text{F}} + N_{\text{B}}},$$

where N_{F} and N_{B} are the numbers of events with the negative lepton in the forward and backward regions, respectively. Acceptance corrections, as well as corrections for asymmetric distributions of the main backgrounds, are determined with Monte Carlo samples.

For the $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$ channel, because of the dominant contribution from the t -channel photon exchange, the cross section is provided only for $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.85$ over two angular ranges: $-0.9 < \cos\theta^* < 0.9$ and $-0.9 < \cos\theta^* < 0.7$.

For all leptonic channels, the background contamination, estimated from simulation, stems from $\gamma\gamma$ processes, four-fermion final states W^+W^- , ZZ , Ze^+e^- and production of other di-fermion species. As for the hadronic final state, for the exclusive selection only, events reconstructed with $\sqrt{s'_{\text{m}}}/s > 0.85$ but with a $\ell^+\ell^-$ invariant mass below $0.85\sqrt{s}$ are called radiative event background.

6.1 The $\mu^+\mu^-$ channel

The selection of muon pairs is described in [1]. For the inclusive selection, the main background comes from

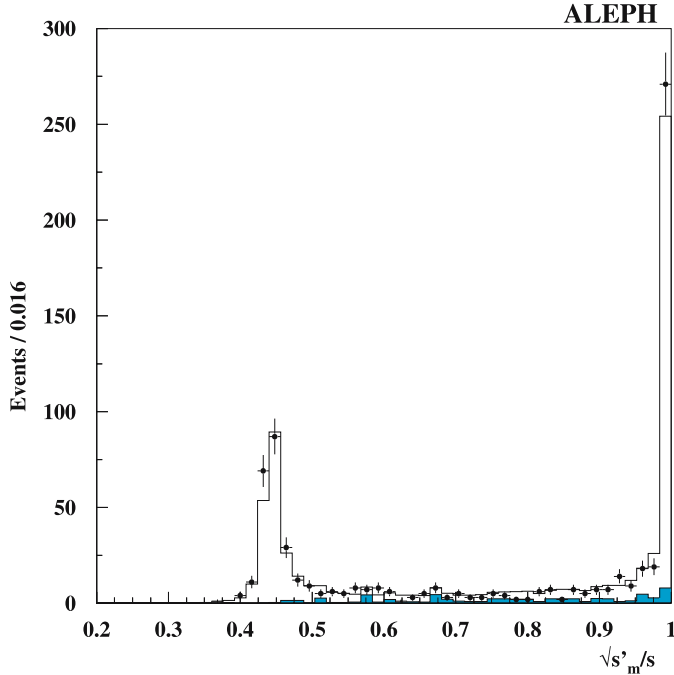


Fig. 6. The $\sqrt{s'_m/s}$ distribution for muon-pair events collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207$ GeV. The data (*dots*) are compared to the Monte Carlo expectation (*histogram*). The *filled area* shows the background contribution

Table 5. Selection efficiencies and background fractions for the $\mu^+\mu^-$ channel for the inclusive and exclusive processes. The statistical uncertainties are also given

$\sqrt{s'/s}$ cut	E_{cm} (GeV)	Efficiency (%)	Background (%)
0.1	189	74.7 ± 0.2	8.2 ± 0.5
	192	75.1 ± 0.2	7.6 ± 0.6
	196	74.6 ± 0.1	9.0 ± 0.7
	200	74.1 ± 0.1	10.4 ± 0.8
	202	74.0 ± 0.2	10.0 ± 0.8
	205	73.5 ± 0.1	11.1 ± 0.9
	207	73.1 ± 0.1	11.8 ± 1.0
0.85 $ \cos\theta < 0.95$	189	95.8 ± 0.1	1.8 ± 0.1
	192	96.1 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.1
	196	96.1 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.1
	200	96.1 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.1
	202	96.2 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.1
	205	96.1 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.1
	207	95.9 ± 0.12	1.9 ± 0.1

$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ and is largely reduced by requiring that the invariant mass of the muon pair exceeds $60 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. For the exclusive selection the background from radiative events is removed by asking that the invariant mass of the muon pair exceeds $0.8\sqrt{s}$. The $\sqrt{s'_m/s}$ distribution for the data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207$ GeV is displayed in Fig. 6.

The $\mu^+\mu^-$ selection efficiencies, evaluated using the KK Monte Carlo, are listed in Table 5. The main systematic uncertainty is due to the simulation of the muon identification efficiency and is estimated from the difference between

Table 6. Measured $\mu^+\mu^-$ cross sections for the inclusive and exclusive processes. The numbers of selected events and the predicted SM cross sections from ZFITTER are also given

$\sqrt{s'/s}$ cut	E_{cm} (GeV)	Number of events	$\sigma_{\mu^+\mu^-}$ (pb)	SM prediction (pb)
0.1	189	1090	$7.68 \pm 0.26 \pm 0.06$	7.78
	192	189	$8.04 \pm 0.66 \pm 0.07$	7.50
	196	493	$7.53 \pm 0.39 \pm 0.07$	7.15
	200	489	$6.85 \pm 0.36 \pm 0.07$	6.83
	202	238	$6.92 \pm 0.52 \pm 0.07$	6.66
	205	402	$5.96 \pm 0.35 \pm 0.06$	6.43
	207	683	$6.16 \pm 0.28 \pm 0.07$	6.31
0.85 $ \cos\theta < 0.95$	189	489	$2.88 \pm 0.13 \pm 0.02$	2.83
	192	81	$2.86 \pm 0.33 \pm 0.02$	2.73
	196	211	$2.70 \pm 0.19 \pm 0.02$	2.61
	200	252	$2.99 \pm 0.20 \pm 0.02$	2.50
	202	107	$2.64 \pm 0.26 \pm 0.02$	2.44
	205	154	$1.92 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.02$	2.36
	207	321	$2.46 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.02$	2.32

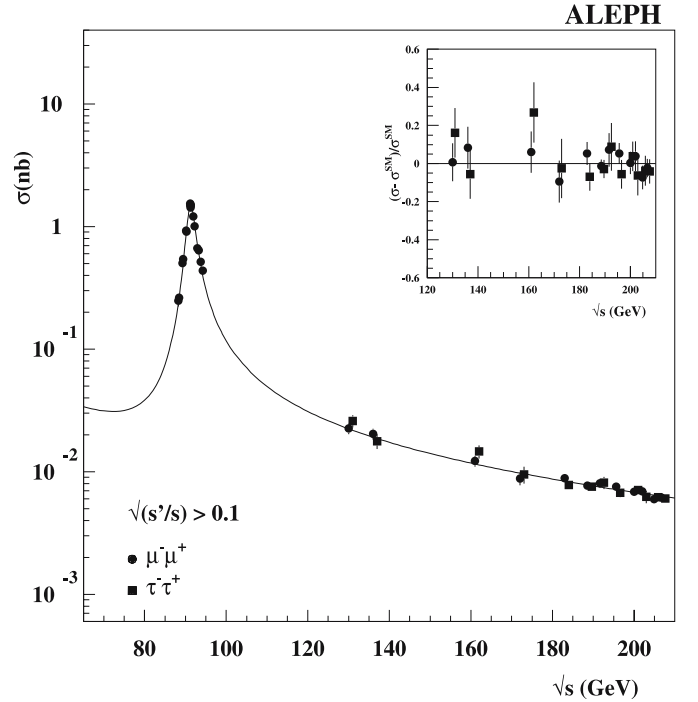


Fig. 7. Measured inclusive cross sections for muon-pair (*dots*) and tau-pair (*squares*) production, as a function of the centre-of-mass energy (points are shifted for visibility). The *full curve* indicates the ZFITTER prediction (for the $\mu^+\mu^-$ channel). The *insert* shows the difference between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the predicted cross sections. Measurements at centre-of-mass energies below 189 GeV are from [16] and [1]

data and simulation for the muon identification efficiency in muon-pair events recorded at the Z peak.

The background contamination is also given in Table 5. For the inclusive selection, a major contribution to the systematic uncertainty on the estimated background comes

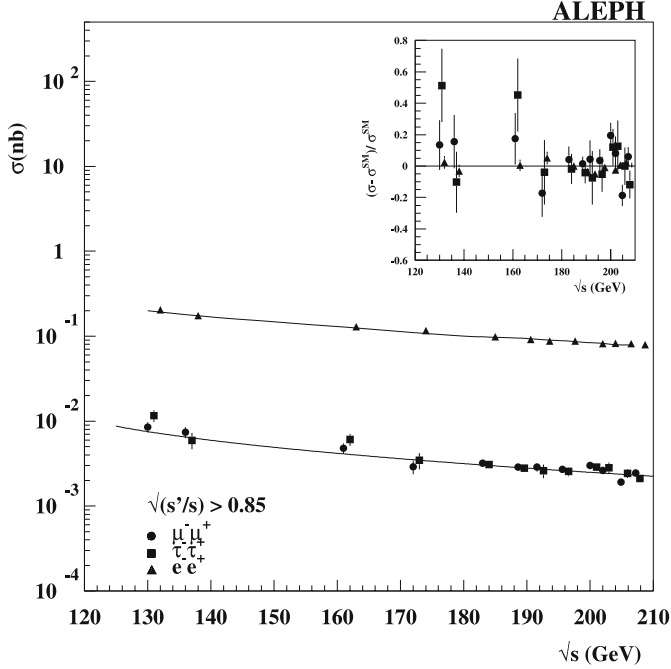


Fig. 8. Measured exclusive cross sections for di-lepton production ($|\cos\theta^*| < 0.9$ range for the e^+e^- channel), as a function of the centre-of-mass energy (points are shifted for visibility). The *full curves* indicate the BHWIDE prediction for the e^+e^- channel and the ZFITTER prediction for the $\mu^+\mu^-$ channel. The *insert* shows the difference between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the predicted cross sections. Measurements at centre-of-mass energies below 189 GeV are from [1], corrected for the different definition of the exclusive processes

from the normalization of the $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ process, and is determined by comparing data and Monte Carlo in the $\mu^+\mu^-$ mass range $15 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 50 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. Other systematic uncertainties on the inclusive background arise from the knowledge of the $\tau^+\tau^-$, W^+W^- , ZZ and Ze^+e^- cross sections, and are at the level of 3%, 1%, 5% and 10%, respectively. For the exclusive selection,

Table 7. Contributions to the systematic uncertainties (in %) on the measured $\mu^+\mu^-$ cross sections, averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	$\sqrt{s'}/s$ cut	
	0.1	0.85
MC statistics	0.76	0.17
Muon identification	0.20	0.20
Background contamination	0.20	0.53
Luminosity	0.45	0.45
Total	0.93	0.75

the dominant background systematic uncertainty comes from radiative events, and is estimated from the difference between the data and the Monte Carlo prediction in the region $60 < M_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 150 \text{ GeV}/c^2$.

The measured cross sections are presented in Table 6 and in Figs. 7 and 8, and compared to the SM prediction from ZFITTER. The dominant contributions to the systematic uncertainties on the cross sections (Table 7) come from the limited statistics of the Monte Carlo samples and from the knowledge of the integrated luminosity, of the muon identification efficiency and of the background contamination.

The differential cross sections are shown in Table 8 and Fig. 9, while the asymmetry results are presented in Table 9 and in Fig. 10. The dominant systematic uncertainty on the asymmetry comes from the statistical error on the Monte Carlo based corrections to the $\mu^+\mu^-$ acceptance.

6.2 The $\tau^+\tau^-$ channel

As described in [1], the selection of tau pairs requires two collimated jets with low charged-track multiplicity. Each event is divided into two hemispheres and is accepted if at least one hemisphere contains a tau candidate decaying

Table 8. Measured differential cross section (pb) for the $\mu^+\mu^-$ channel for $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.85$, as a function of the polar angle of the negative muon with respect to the incoming electron. Statistical and systematic uncertainties are combined

$\cos\theta$	E_{cm} (GeV)						
	189	192	196	200	202	205	207
$[-0.95, -0.80]$	0.7 ± 0.1	0.2 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.2	0.8 ± 0.3	0.3 ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.2
$[-0.80, -0.60]$	0.3 ± 0.1	0.2 ± 0.3	0.6 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.3	0.1 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.1
$[-0.60, -0.40]$	0.4 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1
$[-0.40, -0.20]$	0.8 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.4	0.6 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.3	0.3 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2
$[-0.20, 0.00]$	1.1 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.4	0.9 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2
$[0.00, 0.20]$	1.1 ± 0.2	1.8 ± 0.5	1.1 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.3	1.2 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.2
$[0.20, 0.40]$	2.1 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.6	1.9 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.3	1.7 ± 0.4	1.2 ± 0.3	1.7 ± 0.2
$[0.40, 0.60]$	2.0 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.6	2.4 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.3	2.4 ± 0.5	1.7 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.3
$[0.60, 0.80]$	3.3 ± 0.3	3.8 ± 0.7	2.8 ± 0.4	3.1 ± 0.4	2.1 ± 0.6	1.8 ± 0.4	2.9 ± 0.3
$[0.80, 0.95]$	3.8 ± 0.4	3.8 ± 0.9	3.2 ± 0.5	3.4 ± 0.5	3.8 ± 0.7	2.4 ± 0.5	2.9 ± 0.4

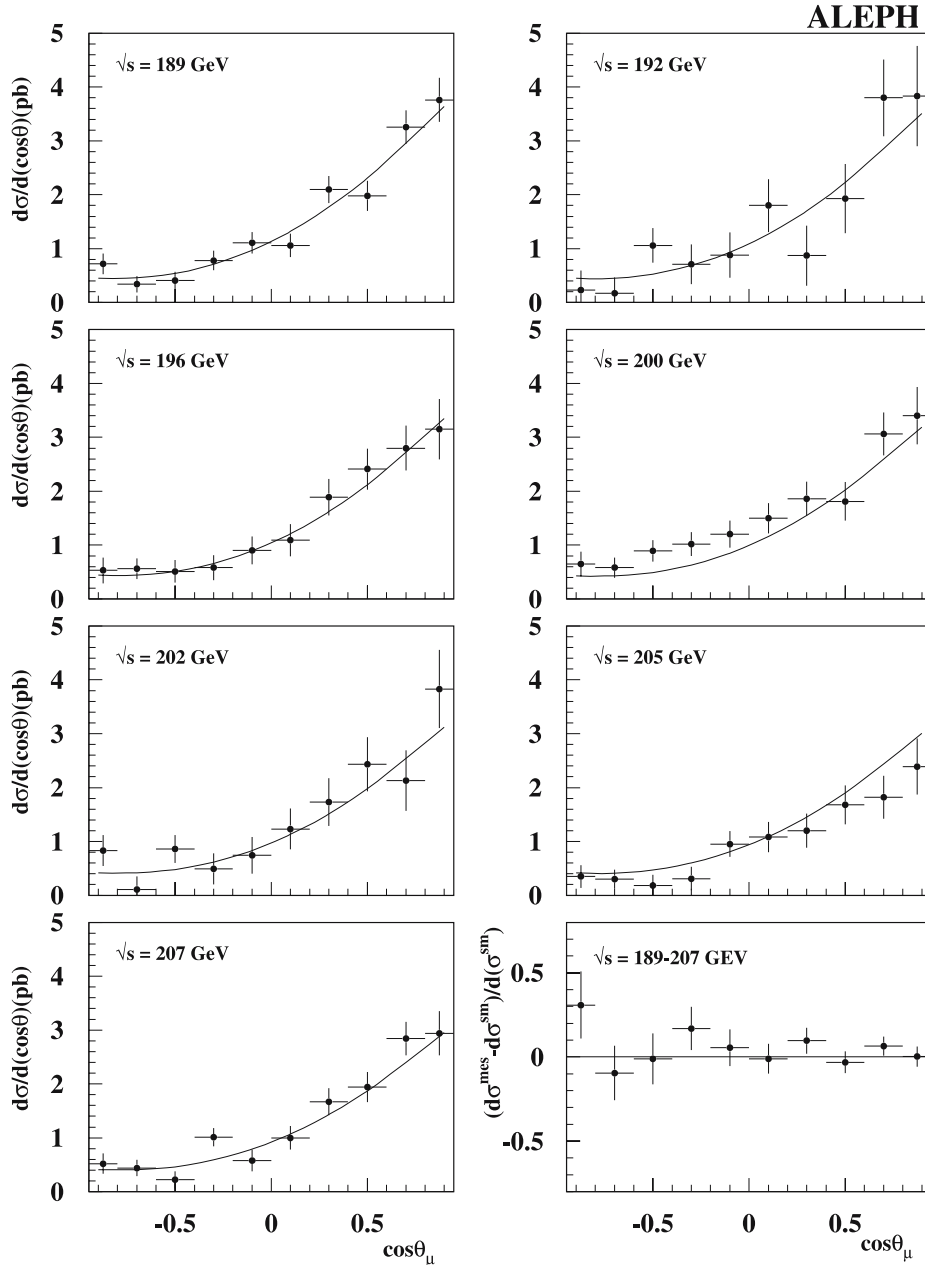


Fig. 9. Measured differential cross sections for $\mu^+\mu^-$ production (*dots*), as a function of polar angle and for several centre-of-mass energies. The *full curves* indicate the ZFITTER predictions. The *right bottom plot* shows the luminosity weighted sum of the differences between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the luminosity weighted sum of the predicted cross sections, for all energy points together

Table 9. Measured $\mu^+\mu^-$ forward-backward asymmetry for $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.85$ and in the range $|\cos\theta| < 0.95$. The SM prediction from ZFITTER is given in the last column

E_{cm} (GeV)	$A_{FB}^{\mu^+\mu^-}$	SM prediction
189	$0.576 \pm 0.036 \pm 0.009$	0.570
192	$0.580 \pm 0.090 \pm 0.009$	0.567
196	$0.553 \pm 0.057 \pm 0.006$	0.563
200	$0.442 \pm 0.056 \pm 0.006$	0.560
202	$0.573 \pm 0.078 \pm 0.010$	0.558
205	$0.572 \pm 0.066 \pm 0.010$	0.555
207	$0.570 \pm 0.046 \pm 0.007$	0.554

into either a muon, or charged hadrons, or charged hadrons plus one or more π^0 .

The dominant backgrounds are reduced in the following way. Criteria against the Bhabha process are applied to events containing two high-momentum charged tracks. An additional cut on the polar angle of both tau-jet candidates is introduced ($|\cos\theta| < 0.92$), in order to accept only tracks for which the ionisation estimator dE/dx , used to reject electron candidates, is accurately determined. *WW* events are rejected by requiring the acoplanarity angle between the two tau candidates to be smaller than 250 mrad. Dimuon events are removed by demanding that one of the two hemispheres does not contain a muon. Finally, the tau-pair visible invariant mass is required to exceed $25 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in order to reduce the $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ contamination. The $\sqrt{s'_m}/s$

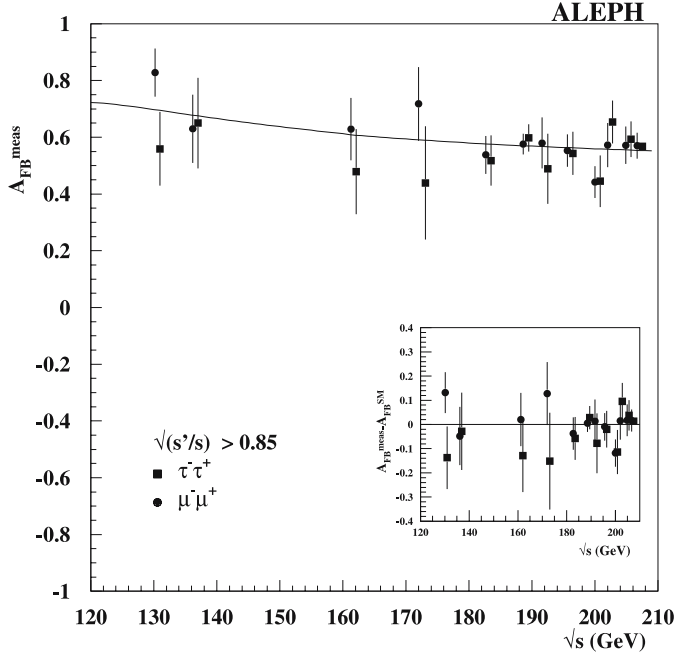


Fig. 10. Measured forward-backward asymmetries for muon-pair and tau-pair production, over the $|\cos\theta| < 0.95$ range, as a function of the centre-of-mass energy. The *curve* indicates the ZFITTER prediction. The *insert* shows the difference between the measurements and the standard model predictions. Measurements at centre-of-mass energies below 189 GeV are from [1], corrected for the different definition of the exclusive processes

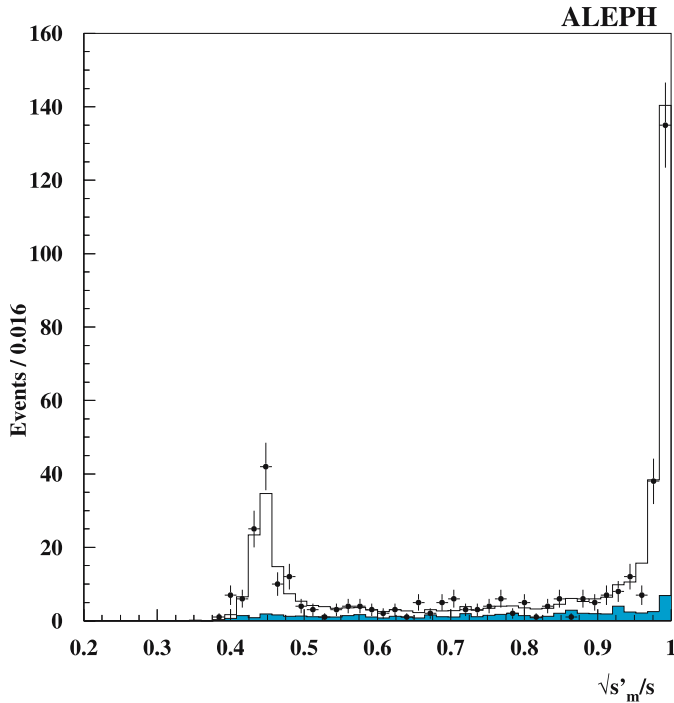


Fig. 11. The $\sqrt{s'_m/s}$ distribution for tau-pair events collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207$ GeV. The data (*dots*) are compared to the Monte Carlo expectation (*histogram*). The *filled area* shows the background contribution

Table 10. Selection efficiencies and background fractions for the $\tau^+\tau^-$ channel for the inclusive and exclusive processes. The statistical uncertainties are also given

$\sqrt{s'/s}$ cut	E_{cm} (GeV)	Efficiency (%)	Background (%)
0.1	189	42.6 ± 0.2	12.4 ± 0.5
	192	42.0 ± 0.2	12.9 ± 0.4
	196	41.7 ± 0.2	14.4 ± 0.5
	200	41.5 ± 0.2	13.9 ± 0.5
	202	41.4 ± 0.2	15.9 ± 0.6
	205	41.2 ± 0.2	15.5 ± 0.5
	207	41.0 ± 0.2	17.7 ± 0.6
0.85 $ \cos\theta < 0.95$	189	63.9 ± 0.3	14.7 ± 0.6
	192	63.8 ± 0.3	15.4 ± 0.6
	196	63.4 ± 0.3	15.2 ± 0.7
	200	63.5 ± 0.3	13.2 ± 0.6
	202	63.5 ± 0.3	14.5 ± 0.7
	205	63.2 ± 0.3	16.2 ± 0.7
	207	62.8 ± 0.3	18.3 ± 0.9

Table 11. Measured $\tau^+\tau^-$ cross sections for the inclusive and exclusive processes. The numbers of selected events and the predicted SM cross sections from ZFITTER are also given

$\sqrt{s'/s}$ cut	E_{cm} (GeV)	Number of events	$\sigma_{\tau^+\tau^-}$ (pb)	SM prediction (pb)
0.1	189	642	$7.56 \pm 0.36 \pm 0.12$	7.77
	192	114	$8.16 \pm 0.93 \pm 0.15$	7.49
	196	263	$6.75 \pm 0.52 \pm 0.14$	7.2
	200	295	$7.09 \pm 0.51 \pm 0.11$	6.82
	202	129	$6.24 \pm 0.70 \pm 0.09$	6.66
	205	246	$6.19 \pm 0.50 \pm 0.07$	6.43
	207	402	$6.05 \pm 0.39 \pm 0.09$	6.31
0.85 $ \cos\theta < 0.95$	189	356	$2.79 \pm 0.20 \pm 0.05$	2.91
	192	59	$2.60 \pm 0.47 \pm 0.07$	2.81
	196	158	$2.55 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.07$	2.69
	200	184	$2.88 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.07$	2.57
	202	85	$2.83 \pm 0.41 \pm 0.04$	2.51
	205	149	$2.43 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.04$	2.43
	207	220	$2.10 \pm 0.21 \pm 0.04$	2.38

Table 12. Contributions to the systematic uncertainties (in %) on the measured $\tau^+\tau^-$ cross sections, averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	$\sqrt{s'/s}$ cut	
	0.1	0.85
MC statistics	0.65	0.79
Detector response	1.37	1.61
Background contamination	0.36	0.29
Luminosity	0.45	0.45
Total	1.65	1.90

Table 13. Measured differential cross section (pb) for the $\tau^+\tau^-$ channel for $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.85$, as a function of the polar angle of the negative tau with respect to the incoming electron. Statistical and systematic uncertainties are combined

$\cos\theta$	E_{cm} (GeV)						
	189	192	196	200	202	205	207
$[-0.95, -0.80]$	0.2 ± 0.2	-0.2 ± 0.4	0.8 ± 0.3	0.6 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.3	0.9 ± 0.3	0.2 ± 0.2
$[-0.80, -0.60]$	0.4 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.3	0.8 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.2
$[-0.60, -0.40]$	0.1 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.4	0.0 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.2
$[-0.40, -0.20]$	0.9 ± 0.2	1.3 ± 0.4	0.5 ± 0.3	0.6 ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.3	0.3 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2
$[-0.20, 0.00]$	0.9 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.5	0.9 ± 0.3	1.4 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.4	0.3 ± 0.3	0.3 ± 0.2
$[0.00, 0.20]$	0.8 ± 0.3	1.7 ± 0.6	0.8 ± 0.4	1.0 ± 0.3	0.9 ± 0.5	1.3 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.3
$[0.20, 0.40]$	2.0 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.7	2.3 ± 0.4	1.6 ± 0.4	2.1 ± 0.5	1.8 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.3
$[0.40, 0.60]$	2.4 ± 0.3	2.6 ± 0.8	1.8 ± 0.5	2.0 ± 0.4	1.0 ± 0.6	1.5 ± 0.4	1.4 ± 0.3
$[0.60, 0.80]$	2.3 ± 0.4	2.1 ± 0.9	2.5 ± 0.5	3.0 ± 0.5	4.8 ± 0.7	1.4 ± 0.5	1.6 ± 0.4
$[0.80, 0.95]$	5.3 ± 0.6	2.1 ± 1.3	3.5 ± 0.8	3.9 ± 0.7	4.2 ± 1.0	5.3 ± 0.7	4.0 ± 0.6

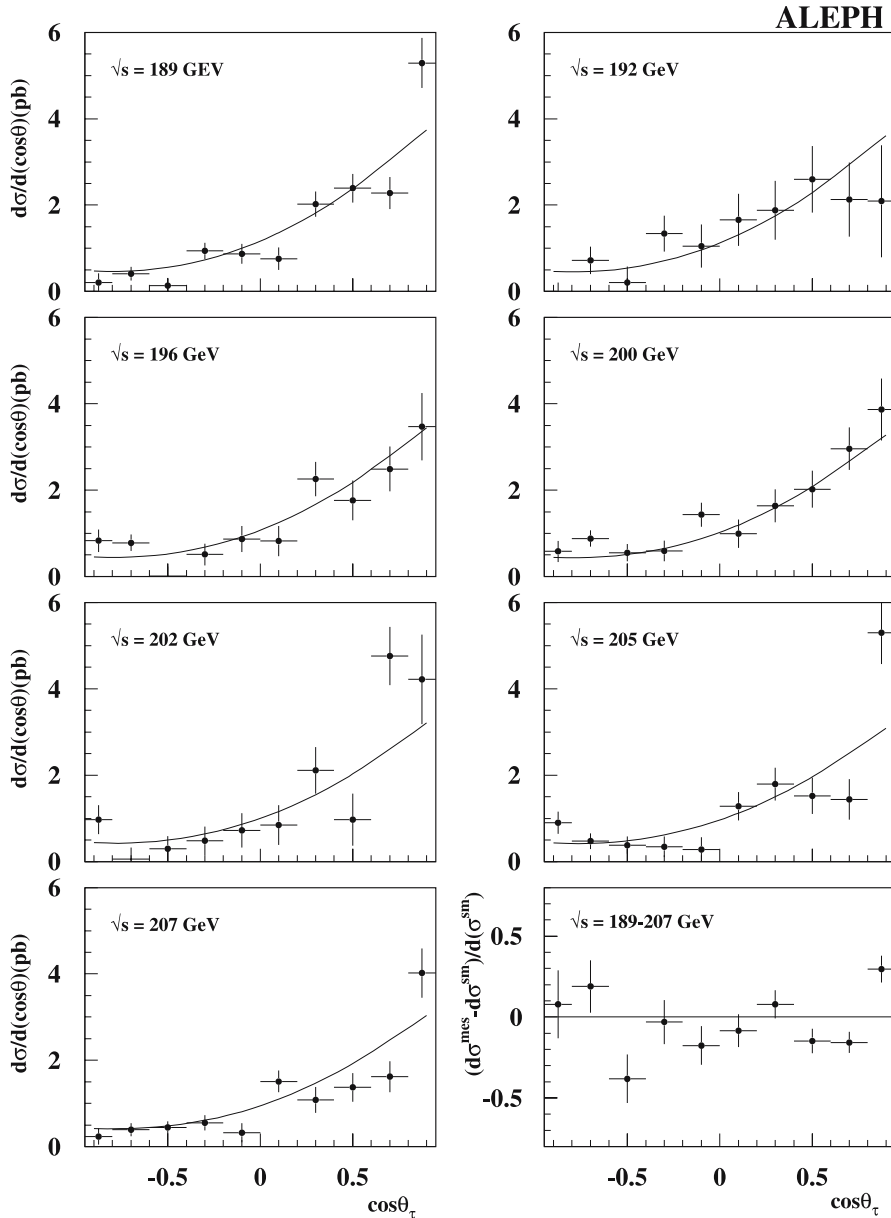


Fig. 12. Measured differential cross sections for $\tau^+\tau^-$ production (dots), as a function of polar angle and for several centre-of-mass energies. The full curves indicate the ZFITTER predictions. The right bottom plot shows the luminosity weighted sum of the differences between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the luminosity weighted sum of the predicted cross sections, for all energy points together

Table 14. Measured $\tau^+\tau^-$ forward-backward asymmetry for $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.85$ and in the range $|\cos\theta| < 0.95$. The SM prediction from ZFITTER is also given in the last column

E_{cm} (GeV)	$A_{\text{FB}}^{\tau^+\tau^-}$	SM prediction
189	$0.598 \pm 0.046 \pm 0.012$	0.570
192	$0.489 \pm 0.124 \pm 0.010$	0.567
196	$0.543 \pm 0.075 \pm 0.011$	0.563
200	$0.445 \pm 0.073 \pm 0.010$	0.560
202	$0.654 \pm 0.090 \pm 0.013$	0.557
205	$0.593 \pm 0.075 \pm 0.012$	0.555
208	$0.568 \pm 0.062 \pm 0.012$	0.554

distribution for the data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207$ GeV is displayed in Fig. 11.

The resulting selection efficiencies and the total background contamination are listed in Table 10. For the inclusive selection, the systematic uncertainty on the dominant $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ background is estimated by comparing data and Monte Carlo in the $\tau^+\tau^-$ mass range $15 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < M_{\tau^+\tau^-} < 50 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. Bhabha and WW cross section uncertainties amount to 3% and 1% respectively. The systematic uncertainty for the exclusive selection is dominated by the limited knowledge of the radiative background cross section. The uncertainty on the latter is determined as the relative difference between the simulated and the observed numbers of $\tau^+\tau^-$ events selected with a value of $\sqrt{s'_m}/s$ between 0.5 and 0.8, assumed to be identical for values in excess of 0.85.

The measured cross sections are presented in Table 11 and Figs. 7 and 8, together with the SM prediction. The systematic uncertainties on these measurements are listed in Table 12. Table 13 and Fig. 12 show the differential cross sections, while the asymmetry results are given in Table 14 and in Fig. 10. Asymmetric contributions from the main backgrounds (Bhabha and radiative events) are significant, and the statistical error on the estimated Bhabha asymmetry yields the dominant systematic uncertainty on the $\tau^+\tau^-$ asymmetry.

6.3 The e^+e^- channel

The selection of electron pairs [1] requires that the two most energetic tracks with opposite sign in the event satisfy the following conditions:

$$\sum_{i=1}^2 p_i > 0.30\sqrt{s}$$

and

$$\sum_{i=1}^2 E_i > 0.40\sqrt{s}$$

and

$$\sum_{i=1}^2 p_i + \mathcal{E}_i > 1.0\sqrt{s},$$

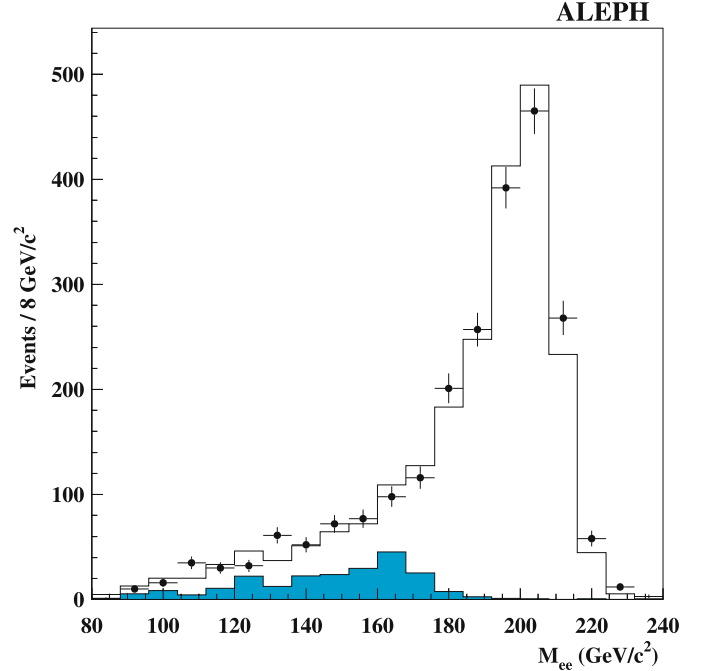


Fig. 13. The $M_{e^+e^-}$ distribution for electron-pair events collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207$ GeV in the angular range $-0.9 < \cos\theta < 0.7$. The data (dots) are compared to the Monte Carlo expectation (histogram). The filled area shows the background contribution

where p_i , E_i and \mathcal{E}_i are the track momentum, the ECAL energy deposition associated to the track, and the total calorimeter energy associated to the track (including the ECAL and HCAL energies as well as the energy from a radiated photon), respectively. The previous cuts reduce significantly the contamination from tau and muon pairs. In addition, events with both tracks identified as muons are discarded. Finally, the requirement on the invariant

Table 15. Selection efficiencies and background fractions for the e^+e^- exclusive channel for two angular ranges. The statistical uncertainties are also given

$\cos\theta^*$	E_{cm} (GeV)	Efficiency (%)	Background (%)
[-0.9, 0.9]	189	84.1 ± 0.3	7.2 ± 0.2
	192	85.7 ± 0.3	6.9 ± 0.2
	196	85.7 ± 0.3	5.9 ± 0.2
	200	86.3 ± 0.2	7.3 ± 0.2
	202	86.5 ± 0.2	8.3 ± 0.2
	205	86.8 ± 0.2	6.5 ± 0.2
	207	87.2 ± 0.2	6.9 ± 0.2
[-0.9, 0.7]	189	92.4 ± 0.4	8.8 ± 0.5
	192	92.8 ± 0.4	8.5 ± 0.5
	196	92.8 ± 0.4	6.7 ± 0.4
	200	93.9 ± 0.4	8.6 ± 0.5
	202	94.4 ± 0.4	9.7 ± 0.5
	205	93.8 ± 0.4	8.1 ± 0.5
	207	93.8 ± 0.4	8.7 ± 0.5

Table 16. Measured e^+e^- exclusive cross sections over two angular ranges. The numbers of selected events and the predicted SM cross sections from BHWIDE are also given

$\cos \theta^*$	E_{cm} (GeV)	Number of events	$\sigma_{e^+e^-}$ (pb)	SM prediction (pb)
[-0.9, 0.9]	189	14473	$91.7 \pm 0.9 \pm 0.6$	94.8 ± 0.9
	192	2321	$87.4 \pm 2.0 \pm 0.8$	91.6 ± 0.9
	196	6416	$87.3 \pm 1.2 \pm 0.9$	88.2 ± 0.8
	200	6596	$81.9 \pm 1.1 \pm 0.7$	83.9 ± 0.8
	202	3238	$82.6 \pm 1.6 \pm 0.6$	82.3 ± 0.8
	205	6226	$81.9 \pm 1.2 \pm 0.7$	79.6 ± 0.7
	207	10030	$79.5 \pm 0.9 \pm 0.6$	78.7 ± 0.7
[-0.9, 0.7]	189	3286	$18.6 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.2$	19.2 ± 0.3
	192	504	$17.1 \pm 0.9 \pm 0.2$	18.3 ± 0.3
	196	1482	$18.4 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.2$	18.0 ± 0.3
	200	1468	$16.4 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.2$	17.4 ± 0.3
	202	742	$17.1 \pm 0.7 \pm 0.2$	16.9 ± 0.3
	205	1358	$16.1 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.2$	15.8 ± 0.3
	207	2262	$16.1 \pm 0.4 \pm 0.2$	16.0 ± 0.3

Table 17. Contributions to the systematic uncertainties (in %) on the measured e^+e^- cross sections, averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	$\cos \theta^*$	
	[-0.9, 0.9]	[-0.9, 0.7]
MC statistics	0.33	0.61
Detector response	0.36	0.15
Background contamination	0.23	0.27
Luminosity	0.46	0.46
Total	0.71	0.82

mass of the e^+e^- pair candidate ($M_{e^+e^-} > 80 \text{ GeV}/c^2$) suppresses most of the residual radiative background. The $M_{e^+e^-}$ distribution for the data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 207 \text{ GeV}$ is displayed in Fig. 13.

The resulting selection efficiencies and the total background contamination are listed in Table 15. The back-

ground is dominated by radiative events whose normalization is extracted from fits to the $M_{e^+e^-}$ and $(\Sigma p + \Sigma \mathcal{E})$ experimental distributions using the expected shapes for the e^+e^- signal and radiative background. For both selections, $-0.9 < \cos \theta^* < 0.9$ and $-0.9 < \cos \theta^* < 0.7$, the statistical uncertainty on the fit result contributes the dominant systematic uncertainty on the background estimation.

The cross section measurements are compared to the SM prediction from the BHWIDE generator in Table 16 and Fig. 8. The main contributions to the systematic uncertainties are listed in Table 17. Finally, Table 18 and Fig. 14 show the measured differential cross section.

7 Heavy-flavour production

Measurements with heavy-flavour final states are described in this section. The ratios of the $b\bar{b}$ and $c\bar{c}$ cross sections to the hadronic cross section, indicated as R_b and R_c respectively, are discussed in Sects. 7.1 and 7.2. The charge forward-backward asymmetry is measured on a b -enriched (A_{FB}^b) and a b -depleted ((Q_{FB})) event sample, as presented in Sect. 7.3.

Results are given for the signal definition as in [1], with $\sqrt{s'/s} > 0.9$ and an angular range restricted to $|\cos \theta| < 0.95$. An additional acceptance cut requiring that both jets have $|\cos \theta_{\text{jet}}| < 0.9$ is applied to ensure that they are contained in the vertex detector acceptance. Table 19 gives the number of selected hadronic events at each centre-of-mass energy. The resulting efficiency is typically 78%, with a dependence on the quark flavour of less than $\pm 1\%$. The background from $q\bar{q}$ events produced outside the acceptance, but reconstructed inside, is of the order of 2.6% and varies within 0.5% depending on the quark flavour. This variation is taken as systematic uncertainty on the contribution of the radiative background. The total uncertainty of the hadronic selection efficiency in the considered angular range is of the order of 1%.

The long lifetime and large decay multiplicity of b hadrons allow the separation of $b\bar{b}$ final states from other quarks. The same tagging variables, complemented by ad-

Table 18. Measured differential cross section (pb) for the e^+e^- channel for $\sqrt{s'/s} > 0.85$, as a function of polar angle. Statistical and systematic uncertainties are combined

$\cos \theta^*$	E_{cm} (GeV)						
	189	192	196	200	202	205	207
[-0.95, -0.80]	0.7 ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.4	2.0 ± 0.5	0.8 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.3
[-0.80, -0.60]	1.5 ± 0.2	1.8 ± 0.7	1.3 ± 0.4	1.3 ± 0.3	1.3 ± 0.5	1.0 ± 0.3	1.1 ± 0.2
[-0.60, -0.40]	1.9 ± 0.3	2.0 ± 0.6	2.1 ± 0.4	1.5 ± 0.3	1.3 ± 0.5	1.4 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.3
[-0.40, -0.20]	2.3 ± 0.3	1.3 ± 0.6	2.4 ± 0.5	2.2 ± 0.4	3.0 ± 0.7	2.5 ± 0.4	1.7 ± 0.3
[-0.20, 0.00]	4.2 ± 0.4	3.8 ± 0.9	3.6 ± 0.5	3.7 ± 0.5	4.1 ± 0.8	2.8 ± 0.5	3.3 ± 0.4
[0.00, 0.20]	5.6 ± 0.5	4.5 ± 1.0	5.9 ± 0.7	5.8 ± 0.7	5.5 ± 0.9	5.5 ± 0.6	5.3 ± 0.5
[0.20, 0.40]	11.8 ± 0.7	11.5 ± 1.6	12.8 ± 1.0	8.8 ± 0.8	12.1 ± 1.4	9.0 ± 0.9	8.7 ± 0.7
[0.40, 0.60]	30 ± 1	27 ± 2	27 ± 1	26 ± 1	26 ± 2	26 ± 1	28 ± 1
[0.60, 0.80]	120 ± 2	112 ± 5	112 ± 3	104 ± 2	109 ± 4	105 ± 3	100 ± 2
[0.80, 0.95]	374 ± 5	362 ± 11	355 ± 7	339 ± 6	331 ± 9	338 ± 6	328 ± 5

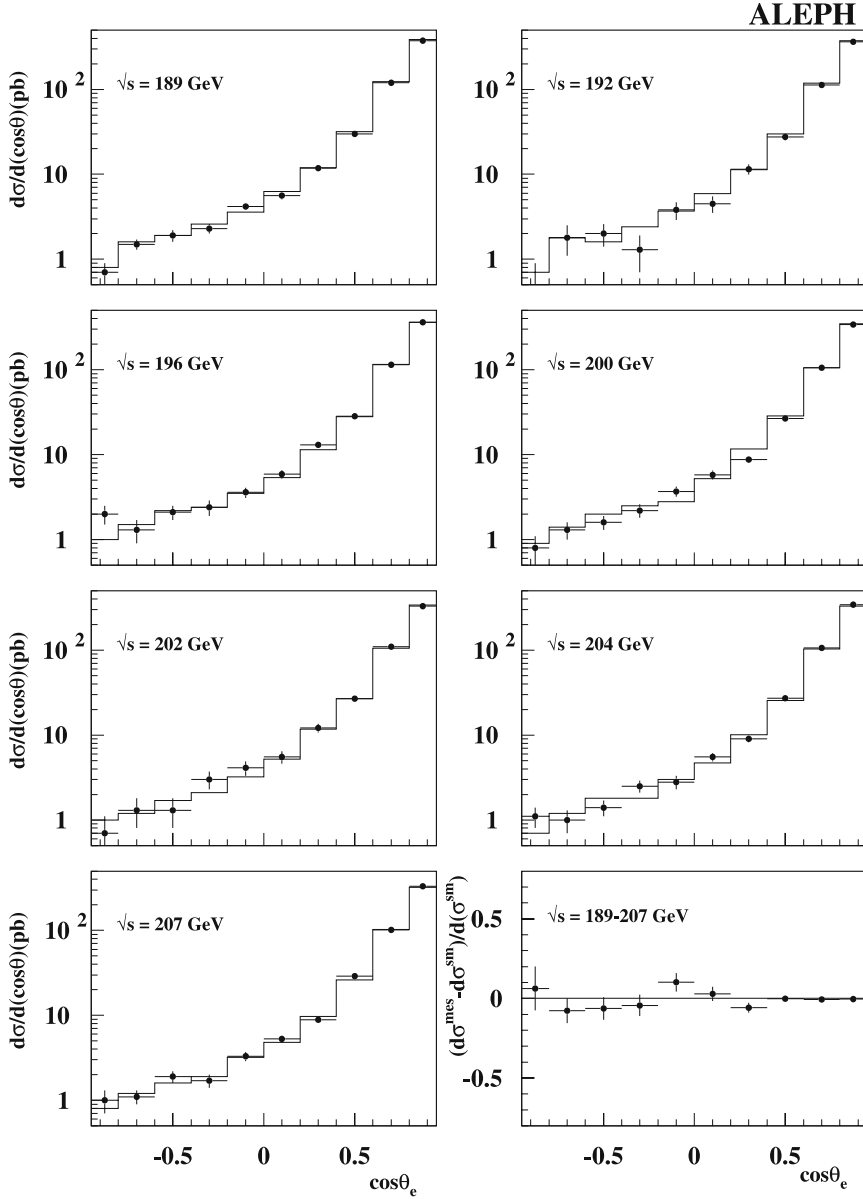


Fig. 14. Measured differential cross sections for e^+e^- production (dots), as a function of polar angle and for several centre-of-mass energies. The full curves indicate the BH-WIDE predictions. The right bottom plot shows the luminosity weighted sum of the differences between the measurements and the standard model predictions, normalized to the luminosity weighted sum of the predicted cross sections, for all energy points together

Table 19. Numbers of selected hadronic events for the heavy-quark measurements

E_{cm} (GeV)	Number of events
189	2952
192	485
196	1256
200	1279
202	611
205	1128
207	1814

ditional variables, can be used to separate $c\bar{c}$ final states from light quarks. These selections have a moderate dependence on b -quark and c -quark physics modeling uncertainties [17–19], listed in Tables 20 and 21.

Table 20. Uncertainties on b -quark physics modeling [17–19]

Source	Uncertainty (%)
<i>B</i> -hadron fractions:	
B^+	3.3
B^0	3.3
B_s^+	13.1
A_b	17.2
Semileptonic decays	8.0
B^0/\bar{B}^0 mixing	5.0
Multiplicity	1.2
Lifetime:	
B^+	1.7
B^0	2.1
B_s^+	4.1
A_b	6.5

Table 21. Uncertainties on c -quark physics modeling [17–19]

Source	Uncertainty (%)
<i>D</i> -hadron fractions:	
D^+	10.2
D^*	6.5
D^0	3.9
D_s^+	31.0
Λ_c	27.7
Multiplicity	4.3
Lifetime:	
D^+	1.9
D^0	0.7
Branching ratios:	
$D^+ \rightarrow \ell X$	12.0
$D^0 \rightarrow \ell X$	11.0
$D^+ \rightarrow K X$	7.5
$D^0 \rightarrow K X$	11.5

7.1 Measurement of R_b

Events containing b hadrons are tagged using the procedure developed by ALEPH at LEP1 [20]. For each charged track, a probability (\mathcal{P}_T) that it originates at the primary vertex is evaluated using the measured impact parameter significance. This is defined as the signed distance of closest approach of the track to the interaction point divided by the uncertainty on that distance. By taking all tracks or by grouping them according to which hemisphere or which jet they populate, the probability that the event (\mathcal{P}_E), the hemisphere (\mathcal{P}_H) or the jet (\mathcal{P}_J) contains only light-quark jets can be determined. A low value of the probability indicates the presence of long-lived states, which arise dominantly from b -quark production. The b tagging therefore corresponds to a cut on the appropriate probability.

In order to reproduce the detector resolution in the simulation, the procedure to smear the impact parameter significance used for the LEP1 analyses [21] is employed.

This is based on the $\sim 3 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ calibration data taken at the Z peak each year, in order to optimize the smearing parameters for that year's data (Fig. 15).

The crucial factor in the determination of R_b is the b -tag efficiency. The highly accurate measurements of R_b at LEP1 were made possible by the use of a double-tag method, relying on the fact that b -quarks are produced in pairs which populate opposite hemispheres [21]. The use of single- and double-hemisphere tags enables the efficiency, as well as the rate of $b\bar{b}$ production, to be determined from the data, leaving only the level of background to be obtained from the simulation. Furthermore, uncertainties arising from the background knowledge can be minimized with hard cuts.

Unlike at LEP1, the double-tag method is not practical at LEP2 because of the much smaller statistics. For this reason, previous ALEPH measurements of R_b at 130–183 GeV [1] were made with a single overall event tag. The efficiency was then determined either directly from the simulation, or by correcting the simulated efficiency by the ratio of the R_b value measured with each year Z peak data to the world average. Neither method was satisfactory as they both require an extrapolation (either from the basic simulation or from the Z to LEP2 energies), with mostly unknown related systematic uncertainties.

The full LEP2 data sample, however, has become sufficiently large for an average R_b value to be measured with the double-tag procedure, with reduced and controlled systematic uncertainty. An overall efficiency correction can therefore be obtained by taking the ratio of the average values of R_b over all centre-of-mass energies, measured with the double- and single-tag methods respectively, so that

$$R^k = R_s^k \frac{\bar{R}_d}{\bar{R}_s},$$

where R^k is the final value of R_b at energy k , R_s^k is the value of R_b determined by the single-tag procedure at energy k , and \bar{R}_d and \bar{R}_s are the values of R_b , averaged over all energy points, as measured with the double-

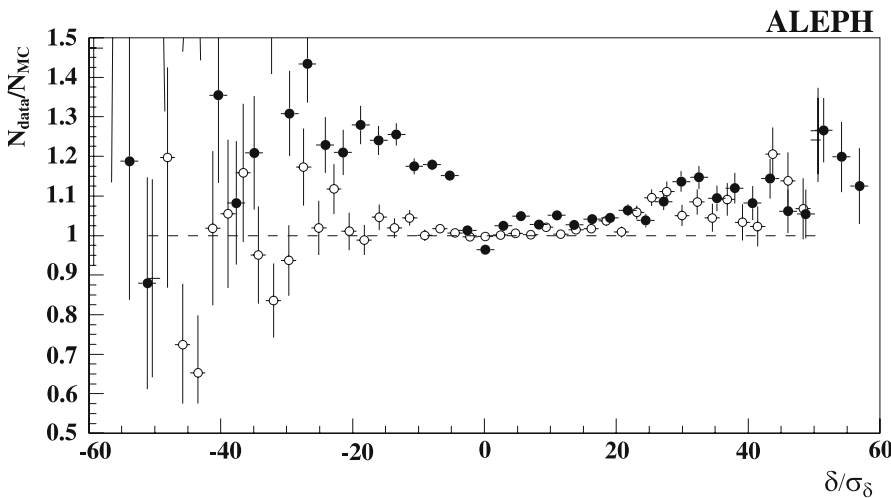


Fig. 15. Ratio between Z -peak data and Monte Carlo simulation, as a function of the impact parameter significance, before (dots) and after (open symbols) smearing the Monte Carlo resolution

Table 22. Contributions to the systematic uncertainties on the measured values of R_b , averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	Uncertainty
<i>b</i> tagging:	
jet reconstruction	0.0029
track selection	0.0055
smearing procedure	0.0015
hemisphere correlations	0.0003
<i>b</i> physics	0.0005
Radiative hadronic background	0.0013
udsc background	0.0022
MC statistics	0.0002
Total	0.0069

or single-tag method respectively. The above correction, which amounts to about 1.05, assumes that the ratio between the double- and single-tag efficiencies is energy independent, which is true as long as the cuts are not changed on an energy-by-energy basis. It does not require the *b*-tag cut to be the same for both methods. The optimal selection cut for both the event and hemisphere tags is taken to be the point where the total fractional error on R_b is minimized. The *b*-tag cut corresponds to a *b*-selection efficiency of 49% (69%) and to a purity of 80% (72%) for the event (hemisphere) tag. The correlation between the single- and double-tag methods is estimated to be 0.95 from the simulation.

The final statistical uncertainty is dominated by the statistical precision on \bar{R}_d . To determine the systematic uncertainty, it is assumed that both the uncertainty for each method and the correlation between them are energy independent. It can then be shown that the relative systematic uncertainty at each energy is given to a good approximation by the relative systematic uncertainty on the average double-tag determination. The systematic uncertainties for the double-tag method are calculated over the

Table 23. Measured values of R_b (with their statistical and systematic uncertainties), as a function of the centre-of-mass energy, for $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.9$ and $|\cos\theta| < 0.95$. The SM prediction from ZFITTER is given in the last column

E_{cm} (GeV)	R_b	SM prediction
189	$0.159 \pm 0.016 \pm 0.007$	0.1654
192	$0.144 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.007$	0.1649
196	$0.148 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.007$	0.1642
200	$0.173 \pm 0.021 \pm 0.008$	0.1636
202	$0.128 \pm 0.024 \pm 0.006$	0.1633
205	$0.135 \pm 0.019 \pm 0.006$	0.1528
207	$0.146 \pm 0.016 \pm 0.007$	0.1526

full data set, and the contributions are given in Table 22. The dominant sources come from the *b*-tagging parameters (used to define the track selection and the jet reconstruction) and from the smearing procedure [22]. In addition, by comparing the average efficiency obtained with the double-tag method between data and simulation, the uncertainty on the *uds* and *c* backgrounds is found to be smaller than 11%.

The measured average value of R_b is

$$R_b = 0.151 \pm 0.012 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.007 \text{ (syst.)}$$

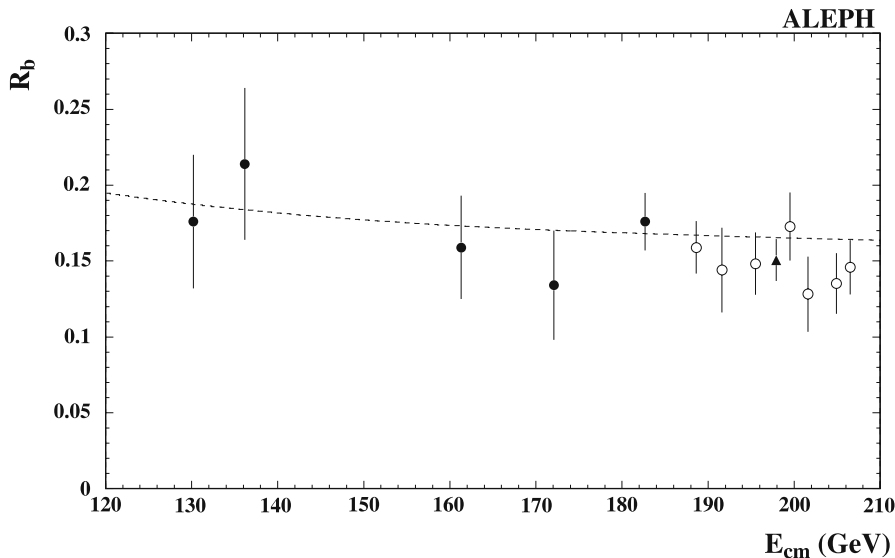
$$(\langle\sqrt{s}\rangle = 198 \text{ GeV}).$$

The individual values determined at each energy point are presented in Table 23 and in Fig. 16.

7.2 Measurement of R_c

The ratio of the $c\bar{c}$ cross section to the hadronic cross section, R_c , is measured from the hadronic sample pre-selected as described above.

In a first step, the background from $b\bar{b}$ events is reduced to 4% of the hadronic sample with a cut on \mathcal{P}_E

**Fig. 16.** Measured values of R_b (open symbols), as a function of centre-of-mass energy, together with the SM prediction (dashed curve). The dots show previous results [1] and the triangle the average value obtained over the 189–209 GeV energy range

($\log \mathcal{P}_E > -2$), which retains 86% of the $c\bar{c}$ events and close to 100% of the light-quark events. The efficiency of this cut is controlled on a sample of WW events, and the resulting systematic uncertainty is about 1%.

The final selection of $c\bar{c}$ events uses a neural network (NN) algorithm trained to separate jets originating from c quarks from jets originating from light quarks. The nine input variables, exploiting the lifetime of D mesons, their masses and their decays into leptons or kaons, are:

- \mathcal{P}_J , as defined in Sect. 7.1.
- The probability that tracks having a high rapidity with respect to the jet axis originate from the primary vertex.
- The decay length significance of a reconstructed secondary vertex[23].
- The p_T , with respect to the jet axis, of the last track used to build a $2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ mass system, tracks being ordered by increasing \mathcal{P}_T .

- The sum of the rapidities, with respect to the jet axis, of all energy-flow objects within 40 degrees of this axis.
- The total energy of the four most energetic energy-flow objects in the jet.
- The missing energy per jet defined as the difference between the beam energy and the reconstructed jet energy.
- The largest rapidity of lepton candidates with respect to the jet axis.
- The largest momentum of kaon candidates. Here a charged particle track is identified as a kaon candidate if its ionization energy loss (dE/dx) is compatible with that expected from a kaon within three standard deviations, and more compatible with that expected from a kaon than with that expected from a pion.

The distribution of the NN output for light-quark jets in the simulation is corrected with the data by comparing enriched samples of light-quark jets selected with a cut applied to the opposite hemisphere. The correction is applied energy by energy. The statistical error on this correction is taken as systematic uncertainty; an additional uncertainty originates from the residual $c\bar{c}$ background in the selected sample. An example of the distributions used to derive the correction and the correction itself are shown in Fig. 17. A $b\bar{b}$ -enriched sample is used to control the fraction of $b\bar{b}$ background in the final event sample to 5%. Other sources of systematic uncertainties come from the limited statistics of the Monte Carlo samples, the knowledge of the luminosity, detector effects (smearing and momentum corrections), the hadronic pre-selection, and the modeling of c -quark physics. They are listed in Table 24.

The distribution of the sum of the NN outputs for both jets in the event is shown in Fig. 18. At each energy point, the NN cuts (indicated in Fig. 18 for the $\sqrt{s} = 189 \text{ GeV}$ case) are chosen so as to minimize the total uncertainty. The upper cut suppresses about 5% of the remaining b background with a signal loss of less than 1%.

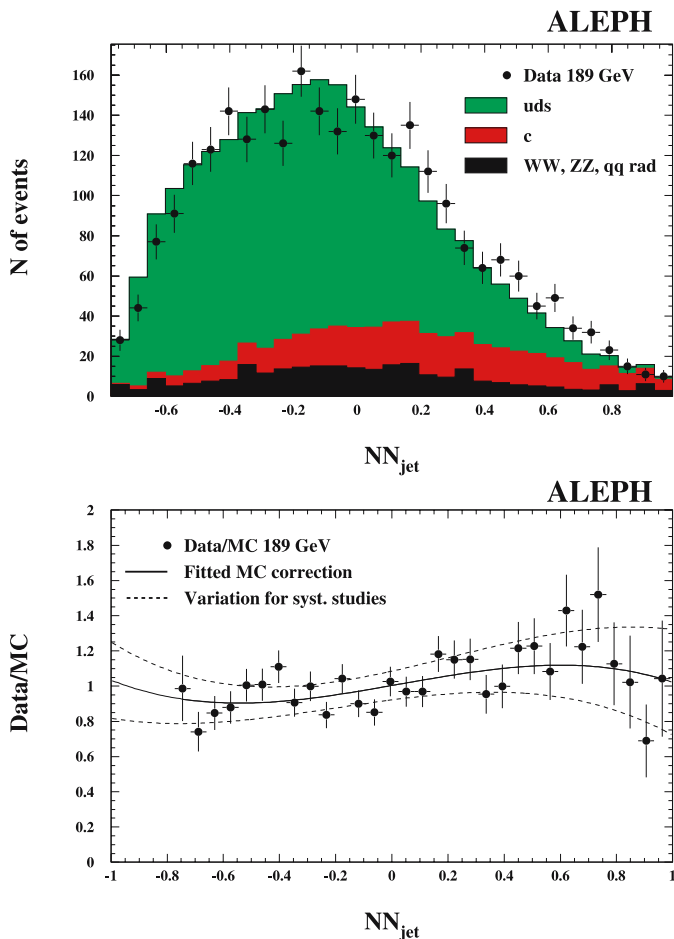


Fig. 17. *Top:* output of the c -tag neural network for a uds -enriched sample from the data (*dots*) and the simulation (*histograms*). The Monte Carlo distribution is normalized to the data. *Bottom:* ratio between data and Monte Carlo as a function of the neural network output for a uds -enriched sample. The third degree polynomial fit to this distribution (*full curve* with the *error band*) is used to correct the simulation (see text)

Table 24. Contributions to the systematic uncertainties on the measured values of R_c , averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	Uncertainty
MC statistics	0.0017
Luminosity	0.0022
Pre-selection	0.0054
Detector response	0.0018
uds correction	0.0074
$udsc$ selection	0.0075
b rejection	0.0022
c modelling :	
hadron fractions	0.0004
lifetime	0.0001
multiplicity	0.0007
branching ratios	0.0005
Total	0.0125

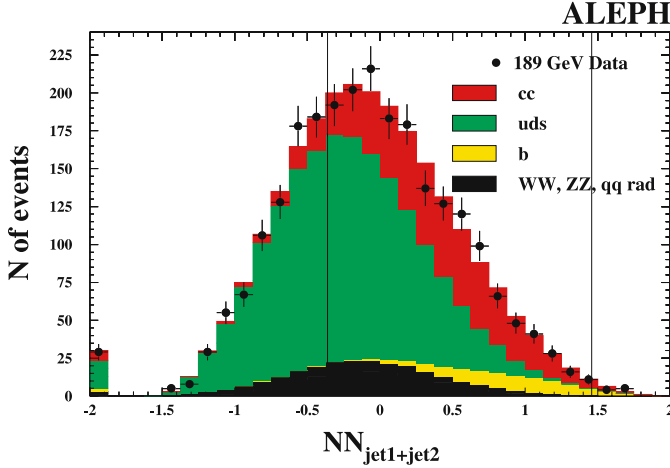


Fig. 18. Distribution of the sum of the c -tag neural network outputs for the two jets in the event for the data (dots) and the simulation (histograms). The region between the two vertical lines is selected for the R_c measurement. The bin at NN output = -2 contains events for which some of the NN input variables are not available

Table 25. Measured values of R_c (with their statistical and systematic uncertainties), as a function of the centre-of-mass energy, for $\sqrt{s'/s} > 0.9$ and $|\cos\theta| < 0.95$. The SM prediction from ZFITTER is given in the last column

E_{cm} (GeV)	R_c	SM prediction
189	$0.245 \pm 0.023 \pm 0.013$	0.2525
192	$0.283 \pm 0.059 \pm 0.015$	0.2533
196	$0.287 \pm 0.033 \pm 0.012$	0.2544
200	$0.258 \pm 0.035 \pm 0.013$	0.2554
202	$0.307 \pm 0.050 \pm 0.013$	0.2560
205	$0.299 \pm 0.037 \pm 0.013$	0.2567
207	$0.280 \pm 0.029 \pm 0.013$	0.2571

The typical efficiency is 75% with a signal-to-background ratio of 50%. The resulting R_c measurements are listed in Table 25.

7.3 Measurements of A_{FB}^b and $\langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle$

The A_{FB}^b and $\langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle$ measurements are both extracted from hadronic events pre-selected as described above. A b -enriched sample and a b -depleted sample are obtained using appropriate cuts on \mathcal{P}_E ($\log \mathcal{P}_E < -4.3$ and $\log \mathcal{P}_E > -2$, respectively). The cuts are set with the aid of the simulation, and correspond to a b content of the order of 90% and 4% for the two samples, respectively. The selection efficiencies vary only slightly with the centre-of-mass energy.

The jet charge Q_{jet} of each jet is defined as

$$Q_{\text{jet}} = \frac{\sum_i q_i \cdot p_{\parallel,i}^\kappa}{\sum_i p_{\parallel,i}^\kappa},$$

where the sums extend over the reconstructed charged tracks in the jet and q_i and $p_{\parallel,i}$ are the track charge and track momentum parallel to the jet axis, respectively. The parameter κ is optimized with simulated events so as to maximize the charge separation between b jets and \bar{b} jets. It is found to be fairly independent of the centre-of-mass energy and the average value of 0.36 is used. The same κ value is also used for the b -depleted event sample.

The mean charge asymmetry $\langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle = \langle Q_{\text{jet}}^{\text{F}} - Q_{\text{jet}}^{\text{B}} \rangle$ is measured on both the b -enriched and b -depleted samples as the average of the jet charge difference between the forward and backward hemispheres, defined with respect to the thrust axis. It is related to the quark forward-backward asymmetries (A_{FB}^q) as follows

$$\langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle = \frac{\sum \varepsilon_q \sigma_q \delta_q A_{\text{FB}}^q + \sum \varepsilon_x \sigma_x \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^x \rangle}{\sum \varepsilon_q \sigma_q + \sum \varepsilon_x \sigma_x},$$

where the index q indicates the quark flavours (u, d, s, c and b) and the index x indicates the various background components (WW, ZZ and radiative $q\bar{q}$). In this expression $\langle Q_{\text{FB}}^x \rangle$ indicates the background mean charge asymmetry, $\varepsilon_{q,x}$ the selection efficiencies and δ_q the charge separation (defined as the mean of the $Q_q - Q_{\bar{q}}$ distribution).

The asymmetry A_{FB}^b is obtained from the b -enriched sample; it is extracted from $\langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{enr}} \rangle$, the charge asymmetry measured from the data, using the previous formula. The background mean charge asymmetry, the selection efficiencies and the charge separations are taken from the simulation. The non- b quark cross sections σ_q and asymmetries A_{FB}^q are computed with ZFITTER for the signal definition $\sqrt{s'/s} > 0.9$, with $|\cos\theta| < 0.9$ for both quark and anti-quark. It is possible to reduce the dependence of this measurement on the b efficiency estimated from the simulation by replacing the product $\varepsilon_b \sigma_b$ with $N_{\text{data}}^b / \mathcal{L}$, where N_{data}^b is the number of b events in the data and \mathcal{L} is the integrated luminosity. It follows:

$$A_{\text{FB}}^b = \frac{N_{\text{data}}^b \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{enr}} \rangle - \sum_{q \neq b} \mathcal{L} \varepsilon_q \sigma_q \delta_q A_{\text{FB}}^q - \sum \mathcal{L} \varepsilon_x \sigma_x \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^x \rangle}{(N_{\text{data}}^b - N_{\text{MC}}^{\text{bkg}}) \delta_b},$$

where $N_{\text{MC}}^{\text{bkg}}$ is the number of background events predicted by the simulation. The measurement is corrected by a factor 1.03 to extrapolate from the range $|\cos\theta| < 0.9$ to the nominal range $|\cos\theta| < 0.95$. The potentially large uncertainty originating from the $c\bar{c}$ contamination in the b -enriched sample is reduced to a negligible level by a tight cut on \mathcal{P}_E .

In order to evaluate the systematic uncertainty on the jet charge separation, δ_q is measured with the data, using semileptonic b decays for b quarks and semileptonic WW events for light and c quarks. Semileptonic b decays are selected by requiring an electron or muon with high transverse momentum in one jet. The charge of the opposite b jet is then known. Because of the low event statistics surviving this selection, data taken at all energies must be combined. The difference between the jet charge distributions in data and simulation (Fig. 19) is propagated as systematic uncertainty to the A_{FB}^b measurement, representing the dominant systematic effect. A similar procedure is ap-

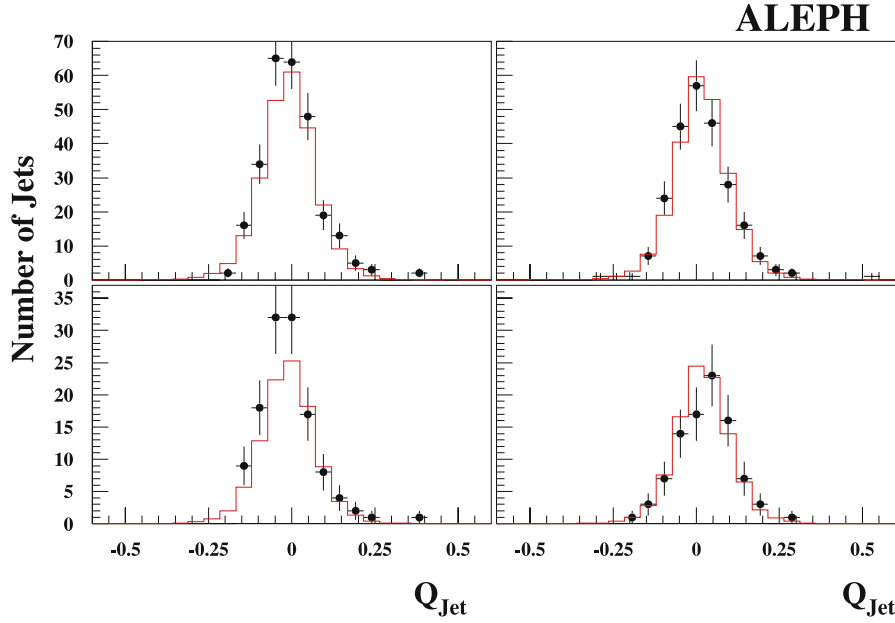


Fig. 19. Distributions of the b -jet charge from b -enriched event samples with a high- p_T lepton in the hemisphere opposite to the jet, for the data (dots) and the simulation (histograms). The top (bottom) plots are for $p_T > 1 \text{ GeV}/c$ ($p_T > 1.7 \text{ GeV}/c$), the left (right) plots are for positive (negative) leptons

plied to a selected sample of semileptonic W -pair events to measure the average lighter quarks charge separation.

These and other sources of systematic uncertainties are summarized in Table 26. The A_{FB}^b measurements are presented in Table 27.

Table 26. Contributions to the systematic uncertainties on the measured values of A_{FB}^b over the angular range $|\cos \theta| < 0.9$, averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	Uncertainty
MC statistics	0.0064
Luminosity	0.0003
Pre-selection	0.0015
Detector response	0.0062
c background	0.0089
uds background	0.0015
Jet charge	0.0713
b modeling :	
Hadron fractions	0.0026
Leptonic branching ratio	0.0034
Multiplicity	0.0046
Mixing	0.0030
Total	0.0727

Finally, the difference $\Delta = \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{depl}} \rangle - \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{MC}} \rangle$, measured with b -depleted samples, constrains simultaneously A_{FB}^q and σ_q ($q = u, d, s$ or c), providing additional sensitivity to physics beyond the standard model.

Assuming small deviations from the SM, the linearized equation

$$\Delta = \sum_q \frac{\partial \langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle}{\partial \sigma_q} \Delta \sigma_q + \sum_q \frac{\partial \langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle}{\partial A_{\text{FB}}^q} \Delta A_{\text{FB}}^q$$

Table 27. Measured values of A_{FB}^b as a function of centre-of-mass energy, together with the statistical and systematic uncertainties, for $\sqrt{s'}/s > 0.9$ and $|\cos \theta| < 0.95$. The SM prediction from ZFITTER is given in the last column

E_{cm} (GeV)	A_{FB}^b	SM prediction
189	$0.335 \pm 0.167 \pm 0.066$	0.569
192	$0.566 \pm 0.599 \pm 0.108$	0.571
196	$0.205 \pm 0.243 \pm 0.041$	0.574
200	$0.605 \pm 0.206 \pm 0.116$	0.576
202	$0.678 \pm 0.476 \pm 0.139$	0.578
205	$0.642 \pm 0.350 \pm 0.079$	0.579
207	$-0.263 \pm 0.240 \pm 0.053$	0.580

Table 28. Coefficients of the linear constraints between the deviations $\Delta \sigma_q$ and ΔA_{FB}^q of the cross sections an asymmetries from the SM, and the measured values of $\Delta = \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{depl}} \rangle - \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{MC}} \rangle$, for the two extreme centre-of-mass energies

E_{cm} (GeV)	$\partial \langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle / \partial \sigma_q$ (pb^{-1})					$\partial \langle Q_{\text{FB}} \rangle / \partial A_{\text{FB}}^q$				
	u	d	s	c	b	u	d	s	c	b
189	33.3	-26.6	-31.3	15.6	-5.6	295.1	-112.4	-138.0	156.1	-23.1
207	40.7	-31.1	-36.3	20.9	-6.8	286.3	-106.4	-128.1	159.6	-22.7

Table 29. Contribution to the systematic uncertainties (multiplied by 10^4) on the measured values of $\langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{depl}} \rangle$, averaged among the centre-of-mass energies

Source	Uncertainty ($\times 10^4$)
MC statistics	2.10
Luminosity	0.01
Pre-selection	1.45
Detector response	0.58
b rejection	0.72
Jet charge	20.26
D fraction	1.26
Multiplicity	1.16
Total	20.52

Table 30. Measured values of $\Delta = \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{depl}} \rangle - \langle Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{MC}} \rangle$ as a function of centre-of-mass energy

E_{cm} (GeV)	$\Delta \times 10^4$
189	$-28.80 \pm 31.58 \pm 28.77$
192	$34.46 \pm 81.78 \pm 15.97$
196	$43.79 \pm 44.74 \pm 17.37$
200	$-137.16 \pm 50.47 \pm 15.47$
202	$104.47 \pm 67.97 \pm 13.23$
205	$0.91 \pm 50.83 \pm 18.15$
207	$68.17 \pm 38.25 \pm 19.79$

is used to constrain the deviations of A_{FB}^q and σ_q from the SM with the measured values of Δ at each centre-of-mass energy, as described in [1]. Examples of the coefficients of the above equations are shown in Table 28.

The dominant systematic uncertainty originates from the jet charge, determined as explained above. This and other sources are listed in Table 29, while the measurement results are reported in Table 30.

8 Interpretation in terms of new physics

New physics, if present, could give rise to deviations of the measured cross sections and asymmetries from the Standard Model expectations. The results presented in the previous Sections indicate good agreement between the data and the SM predictions. As an example the global fit of the muon, tau and hadronic exclusive cross sections and of the muon and tau asymmetries at the seven energies gives $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.} = 29.79/35$. Stringent limits can be placed on scenarios beyond the standard model.

Predictions of several models of new physics are fitted to the data using binned maximum likelihoods, as explained in [1]. For this purpose, the measurements described in this paper are combined with those at lower energies reported in [1].

Following the conclusions in [24], theoretical uncertainties of 0.26%, 0.4%, 0.4%, 0.5% and 2.0% are assigned to the $q\bar{q}$, $\mu^+\mu^-$, $\tau^+\tau^-$, e^+e^- (forward) and e^+e^- (central) cross section predictions, respectively.

Table 31. Four-fermion interaction models considered in this paper

Model	η_{LL}	η_{RR}	η_{LR}	η_{RL}
LL	1	0	0	0
RR	0	1	0	0
VV	1	1	1	1
AA	1	1	-1	-1
LR	0	0	1	0
RL	0	0	0	1
LL + RR	1	1	0	0
LR + RL	0	0	1	1

Table 32. Limits on contact interactions coupling to di-lepton final states. The 68% C.L. range is given for the fitted variable ε , while 95% C.L. lower limits are given for Λ^\pm . The results for the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ process assume lepton universality of the contact interactions

Model	$[\varepsilon^-, \varepsilon^+] \text{ (TeV}^{-2}\text{)}$	$\Lambda^- \text{ (TeV)}$	$\Lambda^+ \text{ (TeV)}$
$e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$			
LL	$[-0.005, +0.038]$	7.0	4.5
RR	$[-0.005, +0.039]$	6.8	4.4
VV	$[-0.006, +0.002]$	12.5	10.3
AA	$[-0.010, +0.001]$	10.6	8.3
LR, RL	$[-0.012, +0.011]$	6.9	6.5
LL + RR	$[-0.018, +0.002]$	9.8	6.4
LR + RL	$[-0.006, +0.010]$	9.6	9.5
$e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$			
LL	$[-0.001, +0.017]$	9.5	6.6
RR	$[-0.013, +0.019]$	9.1	6.3
VV	$[-0.001, +0.007]$	15.9	10.5
AA	$[-0.002, +0.006]$	12.6	10.5
LR, RL	$[-0.210, +0.018]$	2.0	6.1
LL + RR	$[-0.001, +0.009]$	13.2	9.0
LR + RL	$[-0.002, +0.006]$	11.9	10.1
$e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$			
LL	$[-0.021, +0.001]$	5.8	7.9
RR	$[-0.024, +0.001]$	5.5	7.6
VV	$[-0.008, +0.000]$	9.3	12.8
AA	$[-0.008, +0.003]$	9.0	10.5
LR, RL	$[-0.213, +0.000]$	2.1	6.4
LL + RR	$[-0.011, +0.001]$	8.1	10.8
LR + RL	$[-0.016, +0.003]$	2.1	8.7
$e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$			
LL	$[-0.001, +0.011]$	10.3	7.9
RR	$[-0.002, +0.012]$	9.8	7.7
VV	$[-0.001, +0.003]$	17.1	14.0
AA	$[-0.001, +0.004]$	14.8	12.2
LR, RL	$[-0.006, +0.008]$	8.5	8.2
LL + RR	$[-0.001, +0.005]$	14.2	11.0
LR + RL	$[-0.003, +0.004]$	12.1	11.5

8.1 Contact interactions

Four-fermion contact interactions, expected to occur for example if fermions are composite, are characterized by a scale Λ , interpreted as the mass of a new heavy particle exchanged between the incoming and outgoing fermions, and a coupling g giving the strength of the interaction. Conventionally, g is assumed to satisfy $g/\sqrt{4\pi} = 1$. Following the notation of [25], the effective Lagrangian for the four-fermion contact interaction in the process $e^+e^- \rightarrow f\bar{f}$ is given by

$$L^{\text{CI}} = \frac{g^2 \eta_{\text{sign}}}{(1 + \delta) \Lambda^2} \sum_{i,j=L,R} \eta_{ij} [\bar{e}_i \gamma^\mu e_i] [\bar{f}_j \gamma_\mu f_j],$$

with $\delta = 1$ if $f = e$ and $\delta = 0$ otherwise. The fields $e_{L,R}$ ($f_{L,R}$) are left- or right-handed projections of electron (fermion) spinors, and the coefficients η_{ij} specify the relative contribution of the different chirality combinations. New physics can add constructively or destructively to the SM Lagrangian, according to the sign of η_{sign} . Several models, defined in Table 31, are considered in this analysis.

In the presence of contact interactions, the differential cross section for $e^+e^- \rightarrow f\bar{f}$ as a function of the polar angle θ of the outgoing fermion with respect to the e^- beam can be written as

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d \cos \theta} = F_{\text{SM}}(s, t) \left[1 + \varepsilon \frac{F_{\text{IF}}^{\text{Born}}(s, t)}{F_{\text{SM}}^{\text{Born}}(s, t)} + \varepsilon^2 \frac{F_{\text{CI}}^{\text{Born}}(s, t)}{F_{\text{SM}}^{\text{Born}}(s, t)} \right],$$

where s, t are the Mandelstam variables and $\varepsilon = g^2 \eta_{\text{sign}} / (4\pi \Lambda^2)$. F_{SM} is the standard model cross section. $F_{\text{IF}}^{\text{Born}}$ and $F_{\text{CI}}^{\text{Born}}$ are the contributions from the interference between the standard model and the contact interaction and from the pure contact interaction, respectively. The above formula is fitted to the data using a binned maximum likelihood function, as described in [1]. Limits are quoted at the 95% C.L. for Λ^\pm corresponding to $\eta_{\text{sign}} = \pm 1$.

For leptonic final states, limits on the scale Λ are derived from the leptonic differential cross sections. The results are shown in Table 32 and Fig. 20.

For generic hadronic final states, limits on Λ are obtained from fits to the hadronic cross sections assuming that the contact interaction affects all flavours with equal

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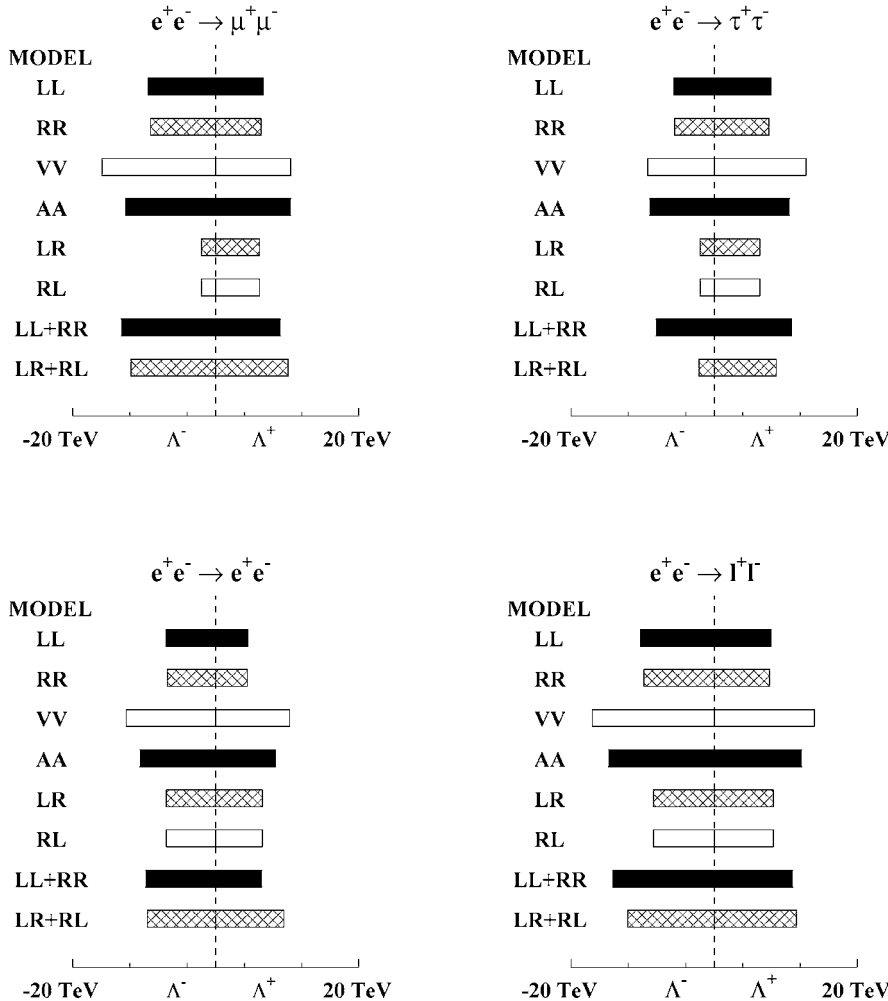


Fig. 20. The 95% C.L. excluded values of the scale of contact interaction Λ from dilepton final states and for various models. The results for the $e^+e^- \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ process assume lepton universality of the contact interactions

Table 33. Limits on contact interactions coupling to hadronic final states. The 68% C.L. range is given for the fitted variable ε , while 95% C.L. lower limits are given for Λ^\pm . The results for the $c\bar{c}$ and $b\bar{b}$ final states assume that the contact interactions affect only c or b quarks

Model	$[\varepsilon^-, \varepsilon^+]$ (TeV $^{-2}$)	Λ^- (TeV)	Λ^+ (TeV)	Λ^- (TeV)	Λ^+ (TeV)
$e^+e^- \rightarrow c\bar{c}$					
LL	$[-0.036, -0.006]$	4.4	5.8	Including hadron measurements	
RR	$[-0.045, +0.402]$	3.8	1.5	5.6	9.4
VV	$[-0.018, -0.002]$	6.1	9.1	4.8	+6.9
AA	$[-0.024, -0.005]$	5.4	8.4	7.9	12.0
LR	$[-0.026, +0.183]$	3.4	2.1	3.8	2.2
RL	$[-0.067, +0.103]$	2.9	2.5	3.1	2.7
LL+RR	$[-0.022, -0.003]$	5.5	8.7	7.2	12.2
LR+RL	$[-0.024, +0.119]$	3.9	2.6	4.5	2.7
$e^+e^- \rightarrow b\bar{b}$					
LL	$[-0.027, -0.007]$	4.9	9.4		
RR	$[-0.130, -0.031]$	2.6	6.5		
VV	$[-0.035, -0.013]$	4.5	10.9		
AA	$[-0.016, -0.003]$	5.7	11.3		
LR	$[-0.103, +0.033]$	2.8	3.9		
RL	$[-0.032, +0.019]$	4.6	2.4		
LL+RR	$[-0.019, -0.005]$	5.8	11.1		
LR+RL	$[-0.031, +0.056]$	4.4	3.5		
$e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$					
LL	$[-0.011, +0.002]$	8.0	9.7	Including heavy-flavour measurements	
RR	$[-0.021, +0.001]$	5.6	7.6	7.2	12.9
VV	$[-0.008, +0.000]$	9.0	12.2	5.3	10.2
AA	$[-0.006, +0.001]$	10.6	12.9	8.3	16.9
LR	$[-0.004, +0.042]$	5.2	4.1	5.1	4.3
RL	$[-0.015, +0.008]$	6.0	3.8	6.0	8.2
LL+RR	$[-0.008, +0.001]$	9.3	12.3	8.6	16.3
LR+RL	$[-0.006, +0.060]$	7.0	3.6	6.8	3.7

strength. In addition, limits on models involving only couplings to c or b quarks can be derived from the R_c and $Q_{\text{FB}}^{\text{depl}}$ or R_b and A_{FB}^b measurements respectively. The results are shown in Table 33 and Fig. 21. Combining hadronic cross section measurements with observables in the charm sector improves the overall sensitivity, whereas the gain is marginal for the bottom sector.

In summary, the ALEPH limits on the scale of contact interactions Λ are in the range 2–17 TeV, and most stringent for the VV and AA models. Constraints on $e^+e^-l^+l^-$, $e^+e^-b\bar{b}$ and $e^+e^-c\bar{c}$ contact interactions are of particular interest because these couplings are not accessible at $p\bar{p}$ and ep colliders.

8.2 R -parity violating sneutrinos

Supersymmetric theories with R -parity violation have terms in the Lagrangian of the form $\lambda_{ijk}L_iL_j\bar{E}_k$, where L denotes a left-handed lepton doublet superfield and \bar{E} a right-handed lepton singlet superfield [26]. The parameters λ are Yukawa couplings and i, j, k are generation indices. The couplings λ_{ijk} , assumed to be real in this analysis, are non-vanishing only for $i < j$. These terms allow for single production of sleptons in e^+e^- collisions.

At LEP, R -parity violating sneutrinos could be exchanged in the s or t channel, leading to deviations of

Table 34. 95% For the R -parity violating models considered in the analysis, and for each dilepton channel, the involved coupling and the type of exchanged sneutrino in the s or t channel

λ^2	e^+e^-	$\mu^+\mu^-$	$\tau^+\tau^-$
λ_{121}^2	$\tilde{\nu}_\mu(s, t)$		
λ_{131}^2	$\tilde{\nu}_\tau(s, t)$		
$\lambda_{121}\lambda_{233}$			$\tilde{\nu}_\mu(s)$
$\lambda_{131}\lambda_{232}$		$\tilde{\nu}_\tau(s)$	

di-lepton production from the SM expectations. Table 34 shows the most interesting cases. Sneutrino exchange in the s channel gives rise to a resonant state, assumed here to have a width of 1 GeV/ c^2 [26]. Limits on couplings are extracted as explained in [1] using leptonic differential cross section measurements. Figures 22–24 show the resulting constraints for processes involving sneutrino exchange.

8.3 Leptoquarks and R -parity violating squarks

At LEP, the t channel exchange of a leptoquark can modify the $q\bar{q}$ cross section and jet charge asymmetry. In scenarios where leptoquarks couple to the first-generation leptons

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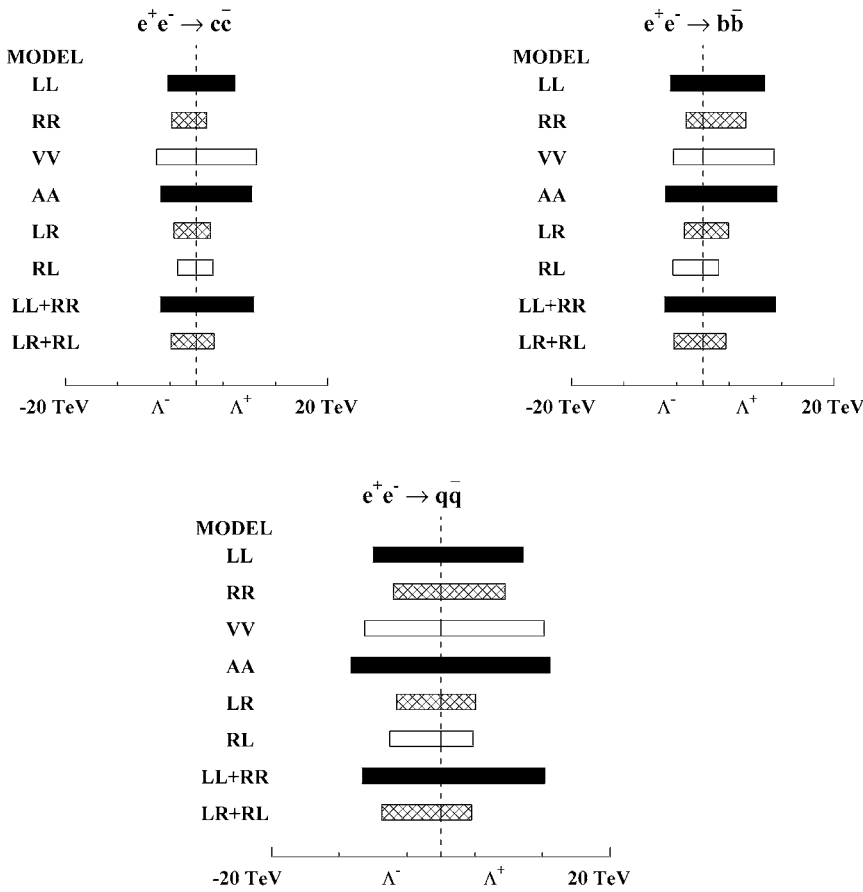


Fig. 21. The 95% C.L. excluded values of the scale of contact interaction Λ from hadronic final states. The results for $c\bar{c}$ and $b\bar{b}$ final states assume that the contact interactions affect only c and b quarks

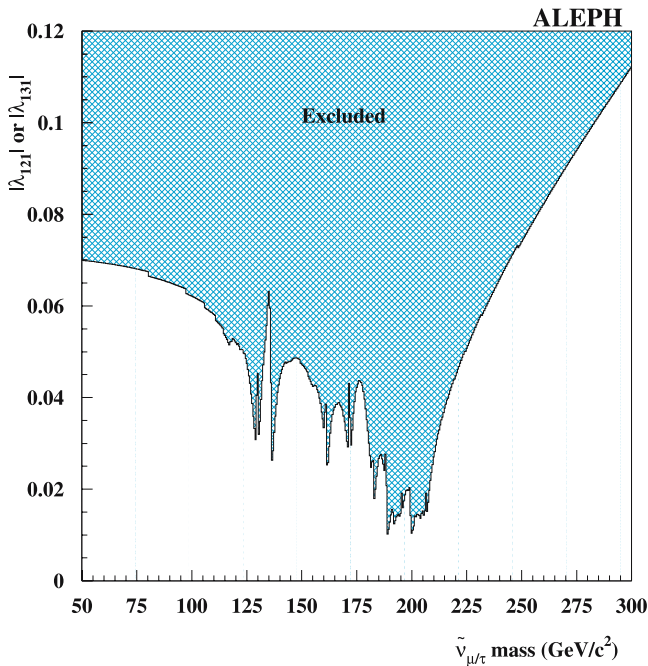


Fig. 22. The 95% C.L. upper limits on the $|\lambda_{121}|$ coupling versus the assumed $\tilde{\nu}_{\mu}$ mass and on the $|\lambda_{131}|$ coupling versus the assumed $\tilde{\nu}_{\tau}$ mass, as obtained from the Bhabha cross section measurement. The $\tilde{\nu}_{\mu/\tau}$ width is assumed to be $1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

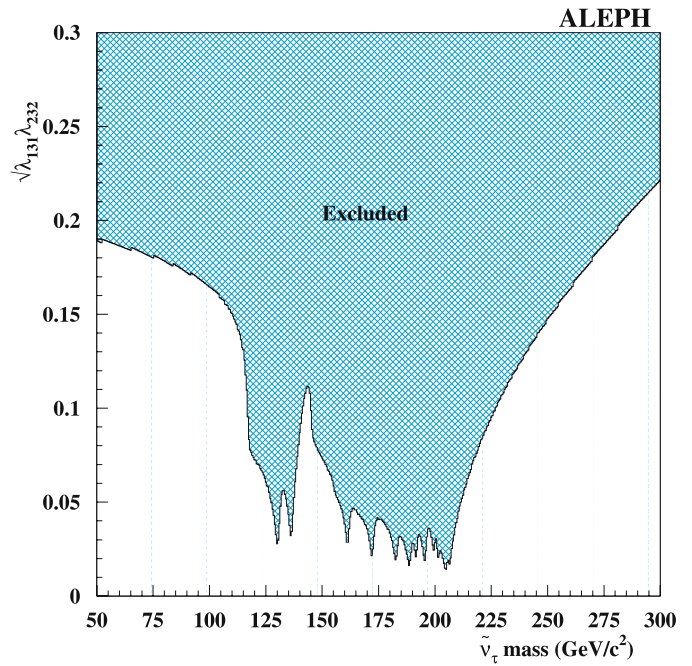


Fig. 23. The 95% C.L. upper limits on $\sqrt{|\lambda_{131}\lambda_{232}|}$ versus the assumed $\tilde{\nu}_{\tau}$ mass, as obtained from the $\mu^+\mu^-$ cross section measurement. The $\tilde{\nu}_{\tau}$ width is assumed to be $1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

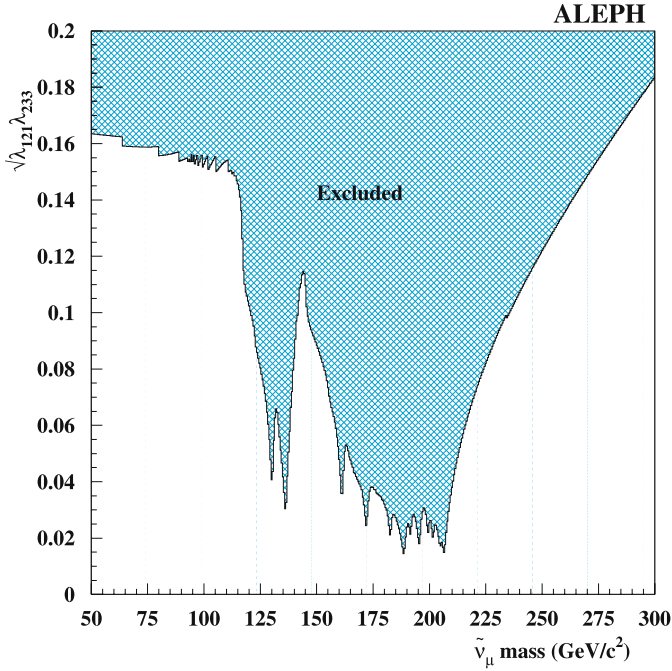


Fig. 24. The 95% C.L. upper limits on $\sqrt{|\lambda_{121}\lambda_{233}|}$ versus the assumed $\tilde{\nu}_\mu$ mass, as obtained from the $\tau^+\tau^-$ cross section measurement. The $\tilde{\nu}_\mu$ width is assumed to be $1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

and to the second- or third-generation quarks, more stringent limits can be placed by using in addition the relevant heavy-flavour observables R_b , R_c and A_{FB}^b . Comparisons of the measurements with the predictions given in [27] al-

Table 35. The 95% C.L. lower limits (in GeV/c^2) on the mass of leptoquarks of various species, coupling to the first, second or third generation of quarks with strength $g = e$. A dash indicates that no limit can be set, while NA denotes leptoquarks coupling only to top quarks and hence not visible at LEP

Quark generation	$S_0(\text{L})$	$S_0(\text{R})$	$\tilde{S}_0(\text{R})$	$S_{\frac{1}{2}}(\text{L})$	$S_{\frac{1}{2}}(\text{R})$	$\tilde{S}_{\frac{1}{2}}(\text{L})$	$S_1(\text{L})$
1st	490	211	189	182	194	–	474
2nd	544	103	194	161	185	–	517
3rd	NA	NA	336	NA	220	–	769

	$V_0(\text{L})$	$V_0(\text{R})$	$\tilde{V}_0(\text{R})$	$V_{\frac{1}{2}}(\text{L})$	$V_{\frac{1}{2}}(\text{R})$	$\tilde{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}(\text{L})$	$V_1(\text{L})$
1st	581	155	407	254	223	175	629
2nd	581	157	395	253	207	163	601
3rd	540	194	NA	320	177	NA	540

low upper limits to be set on the leptoquark coupling as a function of its mass.

Leptoquarks are classified according to the spin, weak isospin I and hypercharge. Scalar and vector leptoquarks are denoted by symbols S_I and V_I , and different hypercharge states are indicated by a tilde. In addition, “L” or “R” specifies if the leptoquark couples to the right- or left-handed leptons exclusively. The $\tilde{S}_{1/2}(\text{L})$ and $S_0(\text{L})$ leptoquarks are equivalent to up-type anti-squarks and down-type squarks, respectively, in supersymmetric theories with an R -parity breaking term $\lambda'_{1jk} L_1 Q_j \bar{D}_k$ ($j, k = 1, 2, 3$). Limits on leptoquark couplings are then equivalent to limits on λ_{1jk} .

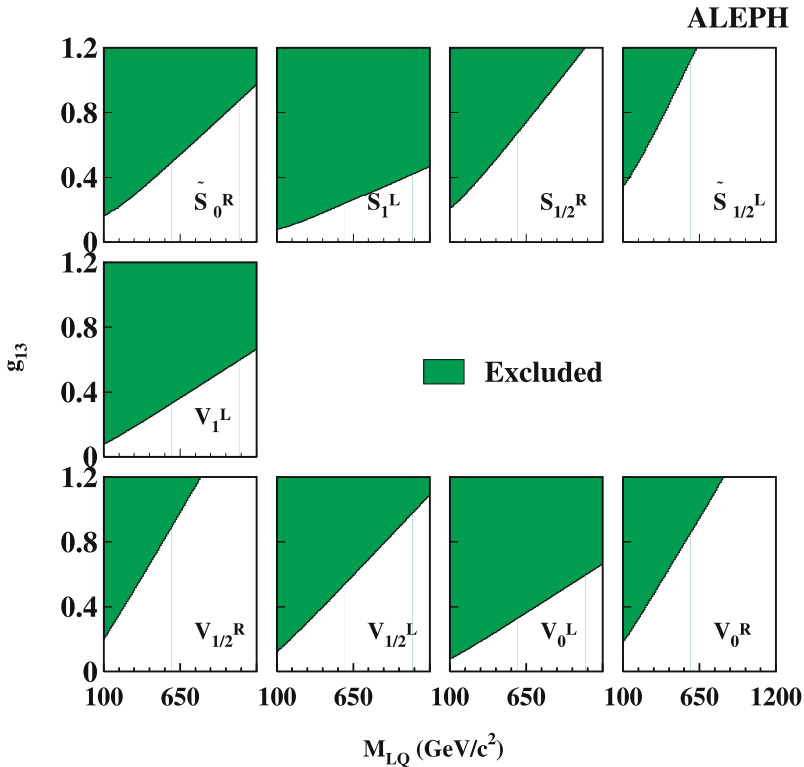


Fig. 25. The 95% C.L. upper limits on the coupling versus mass for leptoquarks coupling to the third quark generation

Table 35 gives, for various leptoquark type, the 95% C.L. lower limit on the mass M_{LQ} assuming the leptoquark couples with strength $g^2 = 4\pi\alpha_{em}^2$. Figure 25 shows the exclusion contour in the plane coupling-mass for leptoquarks coupling to the third quark generation.

8.4 Extra Z bosons

Several extensions to the standard model [28] predict the existence of at least one additional neutral gauge boson Z' . Two classes of models are considered here: E_6 models and left-right (LR) models. In E_6 models, the Z' properties depend on the breaking pattern of the gauge symmetry, governed by the parameter θ_6 . Limits on the Z' mass are derived here for the choices $\theta_6 = 0, \pi/2, \pm \arctan \sqrt{5/3}$, known as the χ, ψ, η and I models. In LR models, right-handed extensions to the standard model gauge group are introduced. The Z' couplings to fermions depend on the parameter α_{LR} , which is set here to the value $\alpha_{LR} = 1.53$ (as predicted in LR symmetric models). More details can be found in [1].

Limits on the Z' mass are derived using the method described in [1]. The theoretical predictions for the two-fermion exclusive cross-sections and asymmetries are obtained from ZFITTER 6.10 used together with ZEFIT [29] and they are compared to the corresponding measurements presented above.

The most conservative $m_{Z'}$ lower limits, with respect to the Z/Z' mixing angle, are presented in Table 36. Constraints on extra gauge boson have been also set at the Tevatron [30–32].

8.5 Limits on TeV-scale gravity

A solution to the hierarchy problem has been proposed in [33], where gravity is characterized by a fundamental scale M_D which could be as low as 1 TeV, provided that space has δ extra dimensions compactified to a size R . The effective gravitational constant is then given by $g_N^{-1} = 8\pi R^\delta M_D^{2+\delta}$. Hence, gravity can become strong at small distances, leading for example to deviations of the $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$ differential cross section from the SM expectation. These deviations are parametrized by a cut-off Λ_T [34] of the same order of magnitude as M_D .

Figure 26 shows the $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$ differential cross sections measured with data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 189\text{--}209$ GeV,

Table 36. 95% C.L. lower limits on the Z' mass in the five considered models

Model	$m_{Z'}$ limit (GeV)
$E_6(\chi)$	680
$E_6(\psi)$	410
$E_6(\eta)$	350
$E_6(I)$	510
LR symmetric	600

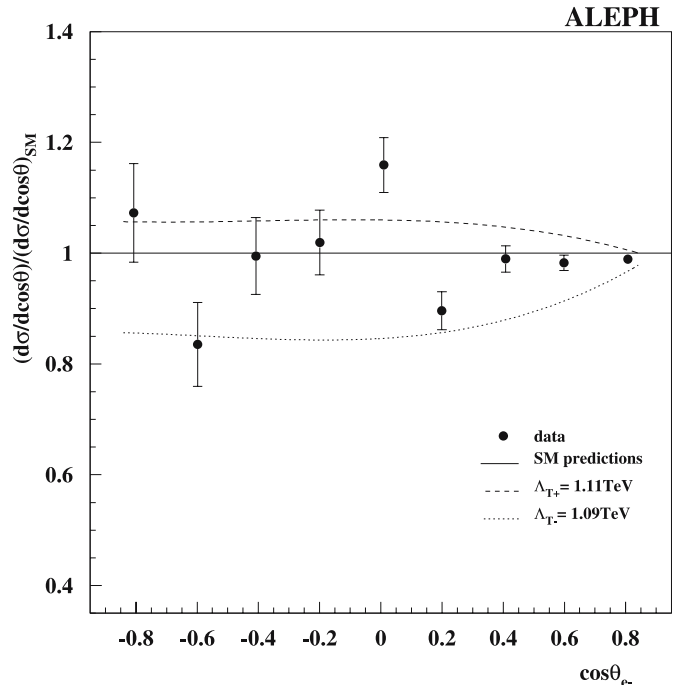


Fig. 26. Ratio between the measured cross sections and the SM cross sections for Bhabha scattering, as a function of polar angle, obtained using data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 189\text{--}209$ GeV. The *dashed* and *dotted* curves indicate the expected ratios in the presence of TeV-scale gravity, for two values of the cut-off parameters Λ_T^\pm

normalized to the SM prediction, together with the expected deviations from TeV-scale gravity models. Using all data, a lower limit of 1.1 TeV (1.2 TeV) is obtained on Λ_T^- (Λ_T^+), for destructive (constructive) interference with the SM prediction. In computing the limits the luminosity measurement was assumed unaffected and the theoretical errors of 0.5% (2.0%) assigned to the forward (central) e^+e^- cross sections were taken as uncorrelated.

9 Conclusions

Several measurements of di-fermion final states using data collected by ALEPH at $\sqrt{s} = 189\text{--}209$ GeV have been presented. In the leptonic sector, total and differential cross sections, as well as muon and tau forward-backward asymmetries, have been derived. In the hadronic sector, cross sections, forward-backward charge asymmetries for light and c quarks, b quark forward-backward asymmetries, and the R_b and R_c ratios have been measured. Similar measurements have been performed by the DELPHI [35], L3 [36] and OPAL [37] Collaborations.

The results are consistent with the standard model expectations and have been used to place constraints on several scenarios of new physics: four-fermion contact interactions, R -parity violating sneutrinos and squarks, leptoquarks, additional Z bosons and TeV-scale gravity. These constraints improve on previous ALEPH lim-

its, and are similar to those obtained by the other LEP Collaborations.

Additional interpretations in terms of new physics, using measurements presented in this paper, can be found in [38, 39].

Appendix: ZFITTER steering flags and input parameters

The main flags used in the ZFITTER Monte Carlo are listed below:

- General flags. As advised in [24], $CONV = 2$ is used to properly take into account the angular dependence of the electroweak box diagrams; $INTF = 2$ is used to include the contribution from initial and final state interferences; $BOXD = 2$ is selected to take into account box contributions.
- Hadron flags. $FINR = 0$ describes $\sqrt{s'}$ as the mass of the propagator excluding FSR.
- Lepton flags. $FINR = 1$ describes $\sqrt{s'}$ as the invariant mass of the outgoing lepton system.

The input parameters required by ZFITTER have been set as follows:

- $m_Z = 91.1875 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
- $m_t = 174.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
- $m_H = 150 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
- $1/\alpha_{\text{QED}}^Z = 128.896$
- $\alpha_s = 0.118$

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