The measurement of R_b and R_c at LEP

Massimo Caccia

University and I.N.F.N. - Milano
DELPHI Collaboration

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Abstract

The measurement of R_b and R_c, the fraction of hadronic Z boson decays into $b\bar{b}$ and $c\bar{c}$ final states, provides a tight test on the Standard Model.

The LEP experiments achieved a precision on the R_b measurement at the 0.5% level and an accuracy on R_c at the 3% level. The analysis techniques are reviewed; the evolution of the measurement is traced back and the current results are presented.