

Measurements of the QED Structure of the Photon

The OPAL Collaboration

Abstract

The structure of both quasi-real and highly virtual photons is investigated using the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$, proceeding via the exchange of two photons. The results are based on the complete OPAL dataset taken at e^+e^- centre-of-mass energies close to the mass of the Z boson. The QED structure function F_2^γ and the differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for quasi-real photons are obtained as functions of the fractional momentum x from the muon momentum which is carried by the struck muon in the quasi-real photon for values of Q^2 ranging from 1.5 to 400 GeV². The differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for highly virtual photons is measured for $1.5 < Q^2 < 30$ GeV² and $1.5 < P^2 < 20$ GeV², where Q^2 and P^2 are the negative values of the four-momentum squared of the two photons such that $Q^2 > P^2$. Based on azimuthal correlations the QED structure functions F_A^γ and F_B^γ for quasi-real photons are determined for an average Q^2 of 5.4 GeV².

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1 Introduction

The investigation of the structure of the photon represents a fundamental test of the predictions of QED and QCD. The classical method of investigation is the measurement of photon structure functions in deep inelastic electron-photon scattering at e^+e^- colliders. The photon couples to the electric charge and it reveals its structure in the fluctuations into virtual lepton and quark pairs. The pure QED process $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$, which mainly proceeds via the exchange of two photons, is an ideal environment free of QCD effects. In the phase space region under consideration the contribution of the exchange of Z bosons is negligible. For the largest part of the cross-section, both exchanged photons are quasi-real and the electrons¹ are scattered, undetected, at small angles. If one of the photons is highly virtual the corresponding electron is usually scattered into the acceptance of the detector and the reaction $e\gamma \rightarrow e\gamma^*\gamma \rightarrow e\mu^+\mu^-$ can be described as deep inelastic electron scattering off a quasi-real photon, as illustrated in Figure 1.

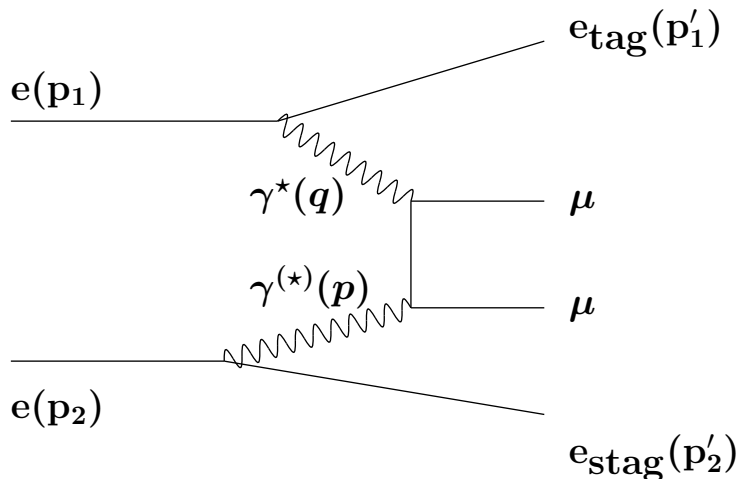


Figure 1: Diagram of the reaction $ee \rightarrow ee\gamma^*\gamma^{(*)} \rightarrow ee\mu^+\mu^-$. The symbols in brackets denote the four-vectors of the particles

In this configuration the highly virtual photon, γ^* , probes the structure of the quasi-real photon, γ , and the structure functions of the quasi-real photon can be measured. The differential cross-section [1]

$$\frac{d^2\sigma_{e\gamma \rightarrow e\mu^+\mu^-}}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{x Q^4} \left[(1 + (1 - y)^2) F_2^\gamma(x, Q^2, P^2) - y^2 F_L^\gamma(x, Q^2, P^2) \right] \quad (1)$$

at low values of y is sensitive mainly to the QED structure function F_2^γ . Here Q^2 and P^2 are the negative values of the four-momentum squared of the virtual photon and the quasi-real photon, respectively. The symbols $x = Q^2/2p \cdot q$ and $y = p \cdot q/p_1 \cdot p$

¹Electrons and positrons are referred to as electrons

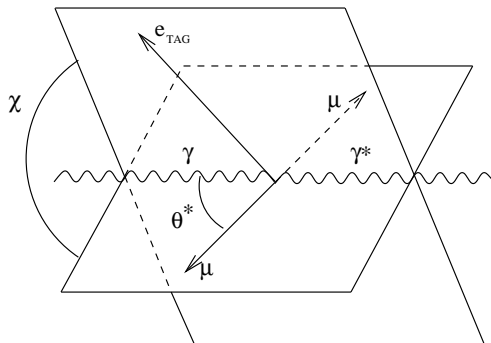


Figure 2: Illustration of the azimuthal angle χ for the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\gamma^*\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$ in the $\gamma^*\gamma$ centre-of-mass system

denote the usual dimensionless variables of deep inelastic scattering, and α is the fine structure constant. Due to the large statistics available at LEP, the dependence of F_2^γ on the small virtuality, P^2 , of the quasi-real photon can be explored. The measurement of the distribution of the azimuthal angle, χ , between the electron scattering plane and the plane containing the muon pair in the $\gamma^*\gamma$ centre-of-mass system, as defined in Figure 2, gives access to the structure functions F_A^γ and F_B^γ [2], as described in Section 2. Real photons are only transversely polarised, but in the configuration where both photons are highly virtual and both electrons are detected, the cross-section for the process $ee \rightarrow ee\gamma^*\gamma^* \rightarrow ee\mu^+\mu^-$ receives sizable contributions from longitudinal photons. These contributions are large enough to be observed.

Measurements of QED structure functions have been performed at several e^+e^- colliders [3]. Due to the clean final state, these measurements are limited mainly by statistics. At LEP, the structure function F_2^γ has been measured before by OPAL [4] using a smaller data statistics, and by DELPHI [5] and L3 [6]. The distribution of the azimuthal angle was used to measure the structure function ratio $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ by OPAL [7] and F_A^γ and F_B^γ by L3 [6]. The differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ of the reaction $ee \rightarrow ee\mu^+\mu^-$ mediated by highly virtual photons has not been measured before.

In the analysis presented here the full dataset of the OPAL detector taken at LEP in the years 1990 – 1995 at e^+e^- centre-of-mass energies close to the mass of the Z boson is used. The structure function F_2^γ and the differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for quasi-real photons are extracted in the largest kinematic range ever covered by a single experiment. In addition, the structure functions F_A^γ and F_B^γ for quasi-real photons are determined. For the first time a measurement of $d\sigma/dx$ for highly virtual photons is performed and the contributions of τ_{TL} and τ_{TT} to the cross-section are established. Here τ_{TL} and τ_{TT} are interference terms which correspond to specific helicity states of the photons, as described in detail in Section 2.

The paper is organised as follows. The theoretical framework is outlined in Section 2. After a brief description of the OPAL detector in Section 3 the kinematics and

event selection are detailed in Section 4, followed by the discussion of the results in Sections 5 and 6. Conclusions are drawn in Section 7.

2 Theoretical framework

In this section, the formalism used to extract the differential cross-section and the structure functions is outlined. For the measurement of $d\sigma/dx$ and F_2^γ , only the formulae integrated over the angular dependence of the $\mu^+\mu^-$ final state are relevant. On the other hand, the measurement of F_A^γ and F_B^γ involves the χ dependence of the $\mu^+\mu^-$ final state. These two issues are discussed in turn.

The general form of the differential cross-section for the reaction $e(p_1)e(p_2) \rightarrow e(p'_1)e(p'_2)X$, which proceeds via the exchange of two photons $\gamma_1(q)$, $\gamma_2(p)$, is given by

$$\begin{aligned} d^6\sigma &= d^6\sigma(ee \rightarrow ee X) \\ &= \frac{d^3p'_1 d^3p'_2}{E'_1 E'_2} \frac{\alpha^2}{16\pi^4 q^2 p^2} \left[\frac{(q \cdot p)^2 - q^2 p^2}{(p_1 \cdot p_2)^2 - m_e^2 m_e^2} \right]^{1/2} \\ &\quad (4\rho_1^{++}\rho_2^{++}\sigma_{\text{TT}} + 2|\rho_1^{+-}\rho_2^{+-}|\tau_{\text{TT}}\cos 2\bar{\phi} + 2\rho_1^{++}\rho_2^{00}\sigma_{\text{TL}} + 2\rho_1^{00}\rho_2^{++}\sigma_{\text{LT}} \\ &\quad + \rho_1^{00}\rho_2^{00}\sigma_{\text{LL}} - 8|\rho_1^{+0}\rho_2^{+0}|\tau_{\text{TL}}\cos\bar{\phi}), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where X denotes a fermion anti-fermion state. Here p_1 and p_2 represent the four-vectors of the incoming electrons, p'_1 and p'_2 the four-vectors of the scattered electrons and q and p the four-vectors of the exchanged photons $\gamma_1(q)$ and $\gamma_2(p)$, where $|q^2| > |p^2|$ is chosen. The scattered electrons have energies E'_1 and E'_2 , and $\bar{\phi}$ is the angle between the two scattering planes of the electrons in the photon-photon centre-of-mass system. The cross-sections σ_{TT} , σ_{TL} , σ_{LT} and σ_{LL} and the interference terms τ_{TT} and τ_{TL} correspond to specific helicity states of the photons (T=transverse and L=longitudinal) [1]. Since a real photon can only have transverse polarisation, the terms where at least one photon has longitudinal polarisation have to vanish in the corresponding limit $|q^2| \rightarrow 0$ or $|p^2| \rightarrow 0$, and these terms have the following functional form: $\sigma_{\text{LT}} \propto q^2$, $\sigma_{\text{TL}} \propto p^2$, $\sigma_{\text{LL}} \propto q^2 p^2$ and $\tau_{\text{TL}} \propto \sqrt{q^2 p^2}$. The terms ρ_1^{jk} and ρ_2^{jk} , where $j, k \in (+, -, 0)$ denote the photon helicities, are elements of the photon density matrix which only depend on the four-vectors q , p , p_1 , p_2 and on the mass of the electron, m_e . They are listed in Ref. [1].

In the case of muon pair production, $X = \mu^+\mu^-$, the cross-section is completely determined in QED. Equation 2 contains the full information, and it is sufficient to describe the reaction in terms of cross-sections. However, most of the experimental results are expressed in terms of structure functions, since in the case of quark pair production the cross-section cannot be completely calculated and has to be parametrised by structure functions. The relations between the cross-sections and the structure functions are given by [8]

$$2xF_1^\gamma = \frac{-q^2}{4\pi^2\alpha} \frac{\sqrt{(q \cdot p)^2 - q^2 p^2}}{q \cdot p} \left(\sigma_{\text{TT}}(x, q^2, p^2) - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{\text{TL}}(x, q^2, p^2) \right),$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F_2^\gamma &= \frac{-q^2}{4\pi^2\alpha} \frac{q \cdot p}{\sqrt{(q \cdot p)^2 - q^2 p^2}} \left(\sigma_{\text{TT}}(x, q^2, p^2) + \sigma_{\text{LT}}(x, q^2, p^2) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{\text{LL}}(x, q^2, p^2) - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{\text{TL}}(x, q^2, p^2) \right), \\
F_L^\gamma &= F_2^\gamma - 2xF_1^\gamma.
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

In the limit where one virtuality, e.g. $|p^2|$, is small and the other is large, $|q^2| \gg |p^2|$, Eq. 2 reduces to

$$\frac{d^4\sigma_{ee \rightarrow ee\mu^+\mu^-}}{dx dQ^2 dz dP^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{x Q^4} \cdot \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dz dP^2} \cdot [(1 + (1 - y)^2) F_2^\gamma(x, Q^2, P^2) - y^2 F_L^\gamma(x, Q^2, P^2)], \tag{4}$$

where $-q^2 = Q^2$, $-p^2 = P^2$ and $z = E_\gamma/E_b$ is the ratio of the energy of the quasi-real photon to the energy of the beam electron radiating the quasi-real photon. In this formula the flux for quasi-real photons is expressed using the equivalent photon approximation, EPA [9]:

$$\frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dz dP^2} = \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \left[\frac{1 + (1 - z)^2}{z} \frac{1}{P^2} - \frac{2 m_e^2 z}{P^4} \right]. \tag{5}$$

For the experimental situation where the electron which radiates the quasi-real photon is not detected, the EPA is often used integrated over the invisible part of the P^2 range. The integration boundary P_{min}^2 is given by four-momentum conservation and P_{max}^2 is determined by θ_{max} , the maximum angle at which an electron carrying the energy E_b of the beam electrons could possibly escape detection. The integration of the EPA formula leads to the Weizsäcker-Williams, WW, approximation [10], which is a formula for the flux of collinear real photons:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dN_\gamma}{dz} &= \int_{P_{\text{min}}^2}^{P_{\text{max}}^2} dP^2 \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dz dP^2} \\
&= \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \left[\frac{1 + (1 - z)^2}{z} \ln \frac{P_{\text{max}}^2}{P_{\text{min}}^2} - 2 m_e^2 z \left(\frac{1}{P_{\text{min}}^2} - \frac{1}{P_{\text{max}}^2} \right) \right],
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

$$\text{where } P_{\text{min}}^2 = \frac{m_e^2 z^2}{1 - z}, \quad \text{and } P_{\text{max}}^2 = (1 - z) E_b^2 \theta_{\text{max}}^2.$$

There are two potential problems with the approach of Eq. 4 which are avoided in the analysis presented here by using Eq. 2. Firstly, if only one photon is highly virtual and one electron is detected, the use of the WW approximation is not adequate for the measurement of the P^2 dependence of the structure function F_2^γ for the quasi-real photon since then the dependences on P^2 are inconsistently treated because the P^2 dependence of the EPA is integrated out, whereas the full dependence on $F_2^\gamma(x, Q^2, P^2)$ on P^2 is kept. In this case the EPA should be used. Secondly, if both photons are highly virtual and both electrons are detected, even the EPA is not applicable, since it is valid only for small values of P^2 .

If both photons are highly virtual, Eq. 2 can be evaluated in the limit $Q^2 \gg m_e^2$ and $P^2 \gg m_e^2$, leading to

$$d^6\sigma = \frac{d^3p'_1 d^3p'_2}{E'_1 E'_2} \frac{\alpha^2}{16\pi^4 q^2 p^2} \left[\frac{(q \cdot p)^2 - q^2 p^2}{(p_1 \cdot p_2)^2 - m_e^2 m_e^2} \right]^{1/2} 4\rho_1^{++} \rho_2^{++} \cdot \left(\sigma_{\text{TT}} + \sigma_{\text{TL}} + \sigma_{\text{LT}} + \sigma_{\text{LL}} + \frac{1}{2} \tau_{\text{TT}} \cos 2\bar{\phi} - 4\tau_{\text{TL}} \cos \bar{\phi} \right). \quad (7)$$

If the interference terms τ_{TT} and τ_{TL} are independent of $\bar{\phi}$, the integration over $\bar{\phi}$ of the terms containing $\cos \bar{\phi}$ and $\cos 2\bar{\phi}$ vanishes, and the cross-section is proportional to $\sigma_{\text{TT}} + \sigma_{\text{TL}} + \sigma_{\text{LT}} + \sigma_{\text{LL}}$. In this case, Eq. 3 can be used to define an effective structure function of virtual photons, as performed in Ref. [11]. The total cross-sections and interference terms formally depend only on Q^2 , P^2 , on the invariant mass squared, W^2 , of the muon system and on the mass of the muon, m_μ^2 . However, there is a kinematical correlation between these variables and $\bar{\phi}$, which leads to the fact that in several kinematical regions, like the one used in the analysis presented, τ_{TT} and τ_{TL} are not independent of $\bar{\phi}$. Consequently, the terms proportional to $\cos \bar{\phi}$ and $\cos 2\bar{\phi}$ do not vanish even when integrated over the full range in $\bar{\phi}$ [12]. The resulting contributions can be very large, depending on the ratios Q^2/P^2 , Q^2/W^2 and P^2/W^2 . Numerical results of this effect can be found in Section 5. Due to the large interference terms, cancellations occur between the cross-section and interference terms and therefore no clear relation of a structure function to the cross-section terms can be found. In this situation the cleanest experimentally accessible measurement is the differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ as predicted by Eq. 7.

The measurement of F_A^γ and F_B^γ requires the measurement of the χ distribution. Expressing the differential cross-section in terms which have the same angular dependence with respect to the azimuthal angles χ and $\bar{\phi}$ and combinations thereof, the differential cross-section can be written using 13 structure functions as explained in Ref. [12]. By integrating over all angular dependences except the χ dependence, and factoring out the structure function F_2^γ , only the structure function ratios F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ remain for the deep inelastic electron photon scattering process and these ratios can be obtained from a measurement of the χ distribution. For deep inelastic electron photon scattering, the angle χ is defined as the angle between the deeply inelastically scattered electron and the muon which, in the photon-photon centre-of-mass frame, is scattered at positive values of $\cos \theta^*$, as illustrated in Figure 2. To achieve sensitivity to the structure function F_A^γ the definition of χ is different from that used in Ref. [7]. The old definition lead to a vanishing term, proportional to $\cos \chi$, when integrated over $\cos \theta^*$. With this new definition, the integration of Eq. 5 of Ref. [7] over $\cos \theta^*$ in the range -1 to 1 leads to ²:

$$\frac{d\sigma(e\gamma \rightarrow e\mu^+\mu^-)}{dx dQ^2 d\chi/2\pi} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{xQ^4} (1 + (1-y)^2) \times$$

²The definition of F_A^γ in Ref. [6] differs by a factor $-1/2$ from that used here, because in Ref. [6] the angle χ is defined differently and the integration over $\cos \theta^*$ is performed in the range 0 to 1 only

$$F_2^\gamma \left(1 + \rho(y)(F_A^\gamma/F_2^\gamma) \cos \chi + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon(y)(F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma) \cos 2\chi \right). \quad (8)$$

Here $\rho(y) = (2-y)\sqrt{1-y}/(1+(1-y)^2)$ and $\epsilon(y) = 2(1-y)/(1+(1-y)^2)$ as in Ref. [2]. Both are close to unity for small values of y . Thus, F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ are obtained from a fit to the χ distribution. By measuring F_2^γ in addition, F_A^γ and F_B^γ can be calculated. Equation 8 is based on the structure functions for real photons, $P^2 = 0$. The formulae for the structure functions F_2^γ , F_A^γ and F_B^γ are taken from Ref. [13] and they keep the full dependence on the mass of the muon up to terms of order m_μ^2/W^2 . The mass dependent formulae are significantly different, especially for the structure functions F_A^γ from the leading logarithmic approximation as, for example, listed in Ref. [14]. For example for $Q^2 = 5.4 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $x = 0.8$, F_A^γ from Ref. [13] is about 10% higher than F_A^γ using the leading logarithmic form of Ref. [14]. The functions, which are explicitly used for the reweighting procedure explained in Section 6, have the following form:

$$F_A^\gamma(x, \beta) = \frac{4\alpha}{\pi} x \sqrt{x(1-x)} (1-2x) \left\{ \beta \left[1 + (1-\beta^2) \frac{1-x}{1-2x} \right] + \frac{3x-2}{1-2x} \sqrt{1-\beta^2} \arccos \left(\sqrt{1-\beta^2} \right) \right\}, \quad (9)$$

$$F_B^\gamma(x, \beta) = \frac{4\alpha}{\pi} x^2 (1-x) \left\{ \beta \left[1 - (1-\beta^2) \frac{1-x}{2x} \right] + \frac{1}{2} (1-\beta^2) \left[\frac{1-2x}{x} - \frac{1-x}{2x} (1-\beta^2) \right] \log \left(\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta} \right) \right\}, \quad (10)$$

$$F_2^\gamma(x, \beta) = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} x \left\{ [x^2 + (1-x)^2] \log \left(\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta} \right) - \beta + 8\beta x (1-x) - \beta (1-\beta^2) (1-x)^2 + (1-\beta^2) (1-x) \left[\frac{1}{2} (1-x) (1+\beta^2) - 2x \right] \log \left(\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta} \right) \right\}, \quad (11)$$

$$\text{where } \beta = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\mu^2}{W^2}}.$$

The QED cross-section, Eq. 2, which keeps the full dependence on the virtualities of both photons, is implemented in the Monte Carlo programs Vermaseren [15, 16], BDK [17] and GALUGA [18]. In the implementations used here, all programs only contain the multiperipheral diagram shown in Figure 1. The contributions from the bremsstrahlung processes [16] are small at low Q^2 and get more important as Q^2 increases. In this analysis the bremsstrahlung processes are treated as background using the predictions of the FERMISV [19] and the grc4f [20] programs, and possible interferences are neglected. The BDK program, in addition, contains radiative corrections. In the analysis presented here the Vermaseren program is used to generate a large size event sample which is fully simulated and treated like the data. The BDK program is used to determine the radiative corrections and the GALUGA program is used to calculate the individual contributions to the cross-section in Eq. 2.

In the analysis presented here, the measurement of the differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for events where one electron is observed (singly-tagged events) is compared to the QED prediction of Eq. 2. The interpretation in terms of the structure function F_2^γ uses the relation between the cross-sections and the structure functions, Eq. 3. The measurement of the differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for events where both electrons are observed (doubly-tagged events) is compared to the QED predictions using Eq. 7. The structure functions F_A^γ and F_B^γ are obtained from a fit to the χ distribution using Eq. 8.

3 The OPAL detector

The OPAL detector is described in detail elsewhere [21]. Here only the subdetectors which are most relevant for this analysis are briefly discussed. In the OPAL right-handed coordinate system the x -axis points towards the centre of the LEP ring, the y -axis points upwards and the z -axis points in the direction of the electron beam. The polar angle θ and the azimuthal angle ϕ are defined with respect to the z -axis and x -axis respectively.

The OPAL detector has a uniform magnetic field of 0.435 T along the beam direction throughout the central tracking region, with electromagnetic and hadronic calorimetry and muon chambers outside the coil. The small-angle silicon tungsten calorimeter (SW) covers the region in θ from 25 to 59 mrad at each end of the OPAL detector. The unobstructed acceptance of the forward detectors (FD) covers the θ region from 60 to 140 mrad at each end of the OPAL detector. Both ends of the OPAL detector are equipped with electromagnetic endcap calorimeters (EE) covering the polar angle range from 200 to 630 mrad on each side. Charged particles are detected by a silicon microvertex detector, a drift chamber vertex detector, a large volume jet chamber and a set of z -chambers. The resolution of the transverse momentum for charged particles is $\sigma_{p_t}/p_t = \sqrt{(0.02)^2 + (0.0015 p_t)^2}$ for central tracks, where p_t is in GeV, and degrades for higher values of $|\cos\theta|$. The magnet return yoke is instrumented with streamer tubes for hadron calorimetry and is surrounded by several layers of muon chambers.

4 Kinematics and data selection

The observed electron which radiated the photon of higher virtuality is denoted as 'tag' and, in doubly-tagged events, the second observed electron is called 'stag'. The virtualities of the photons, Q^2 and P^2 with $Q^2 > P^2$, are determined from the energies, E_{tag} and E_{stag} , and polar angles, θ_{tag} and θ_{stag} , of the detected electrons using the relations $Q^2 = 2 E_b E_{\text{tag}} (1 - \cos\theta_{\text{tag}})$ and $P^2 = 2 E_b E_{\text{stag}} (1 - \cos\theta_{\text{stag}})$, where E_b denotes the energy of the beam electrons. By measuring the two electrons and the two muons, or by assuming that the second electron is scattered at $\cos\theta_{\text{stag}} = \pm 1$ in the

case of singly-tagged events, the kinematics is constrained. This constrain is used to improve on the calorimetric energy measurement of the electrons. Using conservation of energy and longitudinal momentum, the relation

$$E_{\text{tag}} = \frac{p_{\mu^+\mu^-} \cos \theta_{\mu^+\mu^-} + (2E_b - E_{\mu^+\mu^-}) \cos \theta_{\text{stag}}}{\cos \theta_{\text{stag}} - \cos \theta_{\text{tag}}} \quad (12)$$

is derived. This formula allows to calculate the electron energies from their polar angles, and the energy $E_{\mu^+\mu^-}$, the momentum $p_{\mu^+\mu^-}$ and polar angle $\cos \theta_{\mu^+\mu^-}$ of the muon pair. The dimensionless variables of deep inelastic scattering are calculated using:

$$y = 1 - \frac{E_{\text{tag}}}{2E_b} (1 + \cos \theta_{\text{tag}}), \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + W^2 + P^2}. \quad (13)$$

For the singly-tagged events, P^2 is much smaller than Q^2 and is therefore neglected in the determination of x .

The event selection requires in addition to one or two electrons of high energy detected in the electromagnetic calorimeters SW, FD or EE, the presence of exactly two charged particles with opposite charge which are not associated with the energy clusters of the scattered electrons. At least one of the charged particles has to be identified as a muon. The samples of singly-tagged events are denoted hereafter by the abbreviation of the calorimeter in which the scattered electron is detected, SW, FD or EE. The samples of doubly-tagged events are denoted DB. If a sample is further subdivided in Q^2 and P^2 , the subsamples are called, for example, SW1 or FD2. The samples are defined in Table 1. For singly-tagged events, all events are vetoed which contain electromagnetic clusters with an energy larger than a certain fraction of E_b in the hemisphere opposite to the one containing the observed electron. For the SW, FD and EE samples the different background contributions lead to energy fraction cuts of 20%, 20% and 5%, respectively.

Electromagnetic clusters are accepted as electrons if they fulfill the following criteria:

1. The energy of the cluster is larger than half the energy of the beam electrons.
2. The polar angle θ of the cluster is in the range 28 – 55 mrad (SW), 60 – 120 mrad (FD) or 210 – 540 mrad (EE) with respect to either beam direction, respectively. The numbers are chosen such that the electrons are well contained in the calorimeters. As the cross-section for the signal events falls off more steeply with θ than the cross-section for the bremsstrahlung processes, the upper limit of θ for the EE sample is taken to be 540 mrad. This is a tighter limit than that required for good containment, but is applied to the EE sample to ensure a high signal to background ratio.

A track is accepted as a charged particle if it satisfies the following criteria:

1. It has at least 20 hits in the jet chamber.

2. The distance of the point of closest approach to the origin in the $r\phi$ -plane is less than 1.0 cm in the $r\phi$ -plane and less than 20 cm in the z -direction.
3. The momentum is between 0.3 and 20 GeV, and the transverse momentum relative to the z -direction is greater than 0.1 GeV.
4. The polar angle of the track is within the clean acceptance of the OPAL jet chamber which extends to $|\cos\theta| = 0.96$.

A particle is identified as a muon if it meets the following criteria:

1. The momentum is greater than 1 GeV.
2. The energy deposit in the electromagnetic calorimeter associated with the track is less than 1.5 GeV.
3. It produces a muon signal either in the hadron calorimeter or in the muon chambers, as described in Ref. [4].

The SW, FD, EE and DB samples have different kinematical distributions for the muons and electrons and different contributions from background processes. Therefore, the samples have to fulfill different trigger conditions and some specific cuts are applied in addition to those previously described.

1. SW sample:

In order to ensure a trigger efficiency close to 100%, which can reliably be estimated from the data, it is required that at least one muon is observed in the region $|\cos\theta_\mu| \leq 0.74$. This restricted range in $|\cos\theta_\mu|$ however is only required for the measurement of F_2^γ and $d\sigma/dx$ and not when measuring the χ distribution to obtain F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$. This choice is made because the accuracy of the measurement of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ is limited by the statistical error, and the measurement only relies on event ratios and does not use absolute cross-sections. Therefore in order to retain the highest possible number of events all muons up to $|\cos\theta_\mu| = 0.96$ are accepted for the measurement of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$.

2. EE sample:

A large background comes from $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ events with a high-energy photon radiated by one of the muons and where this photon is identified as an electron. As these photons tend to be close to the muons, this background is effectively rejected by requiring that the distance $R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$ between the momentum vector of the electron candidate and the momentum vector of the closest muon is larger than unity. Here $\eta = -\ln(\tan(\theta/2))$ is the pseudorapidity with respect to the z -axis and ϕ the azimuthal angle. In addition, at least one muon with momentum larger than 5 GeV and a minimum invariant mass squared, $W^2 > 1 \text{ GeV}^2$, is required.

3. DB sample:

Due to the requirement of two observed electrons, the background is much reduced. The isolation requirement is loosened to $R \geq 0.5$ with respect to the electron candidates in the EE calorimeter.

The $ee \rightarrow ee\mu^+\mu^-$ events are triggered with high efficiency by the large energy deposits of the scattered electrons in the electromagnetic calorimeters and by the muons detected in the tracking devices and muon chambers. The trigger efficiency for events fulfilling all kinematical cuts is determined from the data using triggers which are either related to the scattered electrons or to the muon tracks. The trigger efficiency is studied separately for the individual samples. For the EE and the FD samples completely independent triggers for electrons and muons are available and the trigger efficiencies are found to be 100% and 98%, respectively, and do not vary with x . For the SW sample the situation is more complicated because no trigger is available which is only based on the electromagnetic cluster produced by the electron. Therefore the acceptance in polar angle for at least one of the muons has to be reduced to get a reliable trigger estimate, especially for large values of x which correspond to low invariant masses of the muon system. The trigger efficiency for the SW sample is found to be 98% to 99% and does not vary with x in the ranges of x used for the analysis, as listed in Table 1. The error on the trigger efficiencies are conservatively taken as the difference of the evaluated trigger efficiencies from 100%.

Due to different detector configurations and status requirements, the available luminosities for the various samples are different. The luminosities used amount to 67.4 pb^{-1} for the SW and DB samples, to 81.3 pb^{-1} for the FD sample, and to 129.1 pb^{-1} for the EE sample. The number of events observed, together with the Monte Carlo predictions, are given in Table 1. The integrated luminosities of the signal events, simulated with the Vermaseren program, amount to 336 pb^{-1} for the SW and FD samples, 919 pb^{-1} for DB samples and 964 pb^{-1} for the EE sample. It is verified that the cross-sections obtained with the Vermaseren [15,16] and GALUGA [18] programs agree with each other to within 1% for all samples. The background processes considered are $\gamma\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ and $\gamma\gamma^* \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$, based on the Vermaseren and HERWIG [22] generators, $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$, $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$, $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ simulated with KORALZ [23], and all processes with γ or Z boson exchange containing four fermions in the final states as predicted by grc4f [20] and FERMISV [19]. The by far dominant source of background is the process $\gamma\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ in all samples. For the EE sample the reaction $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ is of similar importance as the reaction $\gamma\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$. All Monte Carlo events are passed through the GEANT simulation of the OPAL detector [24] and are subject to the same analysis as the OPAL data.

5 Results for F_2^γ and $d\sigma/dx$

The differential cross-sections $d\sigma/dx$ and the structure functions F_2^γ are unfolded from the observed distribution in x of the data by means of a regularised unfolding technique [25]. The data from the different samples are analysed separately. For the unfolding of the structure function $F_2^\gamma(x, Q^2, P^2)$, the $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ and $\langle P^2 \rangle$ values listed in Table 1 are used. The average values of $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ and $\langle P^2 \rangle$ for the different samples as predicted by the Monte Carlo agree well with the values observed in the data. The

value for $\langle P^2 \rangle$ for the SW, FD and EE samples is taken from the Monte Carlo. The signal definition is based on the multipheripheral diagram only and the bremsstrahlung diagrams are treated as background. The contribution of the bremsstrahlung diagrams to the cross-section is less than 0.5% for the SW and FD sample and approximately 1.6% for the EE sample. The resolution in Q^2 is determined from the signal Monte Carlo. The resolution increases with increasing Q^2 and ranges from about 2.3% for electrons detected in the SW calorimeter to about 3.2% for electrons detected in the EE calorimeter.

For each of the samples, the agreement between the data and the Monte Carlo predictions, for signal and background events, is checked by comparing quantities reconstructed from the electrons and the muons. The variables used are the energies $E_{\text{tag}}, E_{\text{stag}}, E_1, E_2$, and angles $\theta_{\text{tag}}, \theta_{\text{stag}}, \theta_1, \theta_2$, of the detected electrons and of the first (1) and second (2) muon, and the derived quantities y, Q^2, P^2 and W . Good agreement of the distributions is found both in shape and normalisation for all samples. The agreement between the data and the Monte Carlo predictions of the SW and FD samples is similar to the findings of Ref. [7]. Some examples of control distributions for the EE sample and the DB samples are shown in Figures 3 and 4. The data with their statistical errors are compared to the signal Monte Carlo with the background added to it before the unfolding is performed, and to the Monte Carlo distributions after reweighting the signal events, where the weights are obtained from the unfolding procedure. All distributions show a good description of the data by the sum of signal and background Monte Carlo events. Figure 5 shows a comparison between the data and the Monte Carlo prediction for the DB samples before the unfolding using statistical errors only. Shown are the measured azimuthal angle $\bar{\phi}$ between the two scattering planes of the electrons in the photon-photon centre-of-mass system and the measured azimuthal angle, χ , which, for doubly-tagged events, is defined with respect to the plane containing the electron which radiated the photon of higher virtuality. Both angular distributions of the data are well reproduced by the Vermaseren program. The data exhibit a strong dependence on $\bar{\phi}$ which is well described by the prediction of Eq. 2. These distributions in principle give access to several other structure functions [12] but, due to the low statistics, no detailed analysis of these distributions has been performed.

The differential cross-sections $d\sigma/dx$ and the structure functions F_2^γ are unfolded from the observed x distribution of the data, shown in Figure 6. The distributions in Figure 6 are not corrected for radiative effects and trigger inefficiencies. Because the predicted x distributions are close to the observed distributions, the results of the unfolding are also very close to the QED prediction. The method used to unfold the cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ and the structure function F_2^γ closely follows the procedure applied to the measurement of the hadronic structure function $F_{2,\text{had}}^\gamma$ and is described in detail in Ref. [26]. There is however a very important difference between the $\mu^+\mu^-$ final state and the hadronic final state. The resolution in x of the $\mu^+\mu^-$ final state which, as determined from the signal Monte Carlo, amounts to about 0.03, is much better than the resolution in x for the hadronic final state due to the good measurement of

the invariant mass of the muon pair. Therefore a much finer binning in x with much reduced correlations between the bins, could be chosen here.

The differential cross-sections $d\sigma/dx$ and the structure functions F_2^γ , normalised by the fine structure constant α , unfolded from the data, are shown in Figure 7 and Figure 9 for the independent samples of singly-tagged events and in Figure 8 and Figure 10 for the combined SW and FD samples. The measured values are corrected both for radiative effects and for the trigger inefficiencies. The radiative corrections are based on the ratio of the predicted cross-sections by the BDK and Vermaseren programs in bins of x . The radiative corrections vary with Q^2 and x and amount up to about $\pm 9\%$. The structure function values are given at the centres of the x bins. Because, in a given bin in x , the average value of F_2^γ is different from the value of F_2^γ at the centre of the x bin, the results has to be corrected for this bin size effect. The measured average value of F_2^γ in a given bin in x , as obtained from the unfolding, is corrected for the bin size effect by multiplying the measured value of F_2^γ with the QED prediction of the ratio of F_2^γ at the centre of the bin and the average F_2^γ in the bin. In general the corrections are small and the largest corrections occur at low, and high values of x . The corrections are below 1% in all but the lowest and highest bins in x , for all samples. In the lowest and highest bins in x the correction is always positive, and amounts up to 7% in the lowest x bins, and in the highest x bins it is around 5%, with the exception of the SW1 sample, where it is largest and amounts to 19%. The vertical error bars show both the statistical error and the full error, which is obtained from the quadratic sum of statistical and systematic errors. In all unfolded results, the statistical error is obtained from the quadratic sum of the statistical error of the data events and the signal Monte Carlo events. The measured values for the cross-sections $d\sigma/dx$ are listed in Tables 2–5 and the structure functions in Tables 6–8. For the cross-section measurement of the singly-tagged events, the corrected data correspond to the phase space defined by $y < 0.5$, $P^2 < 1.4 \text{ GeV}^2$ and the Q^2 ranges listed in Table 1. The full range of W is used, except for the EE sample where $W^2 > 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ is required. For the doubly-tagged events, the corrected data correspond to the phase space defined by $y < 0.5$ and the Q^2 and P^2 ranges listed in Table 1.

The systematic error receives contributions from several sources. The determination of x and Q^2 is based on the measurement of the muon and electron momenta. The uncertainties in these measurements are taken into account by shifting the reconstructed quantities in the Monte Carlo samples according to resolution and repeating the unfolding. The variations performed are the following.

1. The transverse momentum of the muons is shifted by 0.25% for tracks in the region $|\cos\theta_\mu| < 0.90$ and by 5% for very forward tracks, which are less well measured up to $|\cos\theta_\mu| = 0.96$.
2. The polar angle and the azimuthal angle of the muons are shifted by 0.2 mrad for tracks in the region $|\cos\theta_\mu| < 0.90$ and by 1 mrad for very forward tracks up to $|\cos\theta_\mu| = 0.96$.
3. The polar angle of the observed electron is shifted by 0.3 mrad, 0.7 mrad and

5 mrad for electrons observed in the SW, FD and EE calorimeters, respectively.

The differences of the results based on the central values and the results obtained using the shifted values are added in quadrature. The systematic errors due to the uncertainties in the determination of trigger efficiencies and of the radiative corrections are also added in quadrature. The uncertainty is dominated in almost all bins by the statistical error.

The predicted structure function F_2^γ is strongly suppressed for $P^2 = \langle P^2 \rangle$ compared to $P^2 = 0$. The measured structure functions Figures 9 and 10 are distinctly different from the predictions for $P^2 = 0$ for all values of Q^2 . In general there is good agreement between the data and the predictions for all ranges in Q^2 , and the corresponding χ^2 probabilities $P(\chi^2)$ are listed in Tables 2–8. Some small differences between the data and the predictions can be seen for $Q^2 > 10 \text{ GeV}^2$. For the individual FD samples, FD2 and FD3, the data shows a slightly different shape for $x < 0.5$ than the predicted differential cross section, Figure 7(d,e), and the structure function, Figure 9(d,e), and for the EE sample the predicted differential cross section, Figure 7(f), and the structure function Figure 9(f), are slightly higher than what is observed in the data for all x .

The cross-sections for the samples DB1 and DB2, unfolded from the data, are listed in Table 5 and shown in Figure 11, together with the predictions from the Vermaseren and GALUGA programs. The data are well described by both Monte Carlos using the full cross-section from Eq. 2. Using the GALUGA predictions, the influence of the non-vanishing terms proportional to $\cos \bar{\phi}$ and $\cos 2\bar{\phi}$ can be seen. If these terms are neglected, the predicted cross-section grossly overestimates the measured cross-section. This shows that both terms, τ_{TT} and τ_{TL} , are present, mainly at $x > 0.1$, and that the corresponding contributions to the cross-section are negative. The contribution from τ_{TL} is especially very large in the specific kinematical region of the DB samples. There is also good agreement between the number of events predicted and observed for the DB3 sample but, because of its low statistics, no cross-section is evaluated for that sample.

6 Results for F_A^γ and F_B^γ

For the combined SW and FD samples, the quantities F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ are obtained in bins of x from the azimuthal angle distributions shown in Figure 12. The resolution in χ is about 20 mrad over the whole range of χ . The measured distributions do not exhibit directly the $\cos \chi$ and $\cos 2\chi$ dependences predicted by QED in Eq. 8. This is mainly due to the loss of muons close to the beam axis in the region $|\cos \theta_\mu| > 0.96$. In order to extract F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$, the azimuthal angle distributions are corrected for this and other detector effects using a bin-by-bin correction in χ for ranges of x . The correction factor in a given bin is obtained from the distribution of the generated χ for events passing the selection cuts, where each event is weighted by $1/(1 + F_A^\gamma/F_2^\gamma \cos \chi +$

$\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma \cos 2\chi$). The ratios F_A^γ/F_2^γ and F_B^γ/F_2^γ used in the weighting function are determined from the analytical QED structure functions Eq's. 9–11. The weighted distribution is equivalent to what would be obtained from a flat χ distribution. The corrected distributions are shown in Figure 13. They are fitted to the following function:

$$F(\chi) = A(1 + B \cos \chi + C \cos 2\chi), \quad (14)$$

where A is a normalisation factor, which is left free in the fit, $B = F_A^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$, and $C = \frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$, for $\epsilon = \rho = 1$. The correlation coefficients between the parameters B and C resulting from the fits are 0.04 over the whole x range and 0.26, 0.13, -0.11 and -0.29 for the different bins in x , as given in Table 9. The measured average values of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ in bins of x , as obtained from the fit, are corrected for the bin size effect as before. The measured values of $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ are in good agreement with the previous OPAL measurement of $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ [7]. The corrected values of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ are listed in Table 9 and shown in Figure 14 compared to the QED predictions for $Q^2 = 5.4 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\epsilon = \rho = 1$. The QED predictions for the full range in x of $F_A^\gamma/F_2^\gamma = -0.027$ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma = 0.078$ are in good agreement with the measured values, $F_A^\gamma/F_2^\gamma = -0.036 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.004$ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma = 0.061 \pm 0.013 \pm 0.004$. The measured values of $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ as a function of x are significantly different from zero and the measured shape agrees with the QED prediction, although it is not significantly different from a constant.

The sources of systematic errors are

1. Detector effects:

The same variations as carried out for the measurement of F_2^γ and $d\sigma/dx$ and described in Section 5, have been performed.

2. Reweighting procedure:

The reweighting procedure is tested by using a version of the TWOGEN [27] generator where the structure functions F_A^γ and F_B^γ can be chosen arbitrarily. By choosing one of the two structure functions to be a constant and measuring the other structure function, systematic uncertainties varying between 0.03% and 3.3% for the measurement of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and between 0.7% and 3.8% for $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ in the different x ranges are found.

3. Background:

As the background is not subtracted from the data, the fit to the data is a superposition of the fit to the signal and background distributions contributing with their relative fractions. To take the effect of the background distribution into account in the estimation of the systematic error, the χ distribution of the background is corrected, using the same procedure as for the data, and then fitted like the data. The parameters B and C of this fit are weighted by the relative contribution of the background to the data for each range in x . They constitute the estimate of the systematic error, which varies from 1.4% to 4.2% between the low and high x range.

The strength of the χ dependence varies with the scattering angle $\cos \theta^*$ of the muons in

the photon-photon centre-of-mass system. Reducing the acceptance of $\cos\theta^*$ enhances the χ dependence but, to obtain a result for F_A^γ and F_B^γ which is valid for the full range of $\cos\theta^*$ the measurement has to be extrapolated using the predictions of QED. The measurements of Ref. [6] are obtained in the range $|\cos\theta^*| < 0.7$, and extrapolated to the full range in $\cos\theta^*$, whereas the measurement presented here is valid for the full angular range $|\cos\theta^*| < 1$. Taking this into account, the results for F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ obtained here and the measurements of Ref. [6] are consistent.

From the measurements of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ and F_2^γ , the values of F_A^γ and F_B^γ are obtained in the following way. The data from the SW and FD sample are combined and the structure function F_2^γ is unfolded using the same bins as those used for the measurement of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$. As Eq's. 9–11, used for the measurement of F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$, are only valid for $P^2 = 0$, the measurement of F_2^γ is corrected for the effect of non-zero P^2 in the data by multiplying the result of the unfolding for $\langle P^2 \rangle = 0.05 \text{ GeV}^2$ by the ratio of F_2^γ for $P^2 = 0$ and F_2^γ for $\langle P^2 \rangle = 0.05 \text{ GeV}^2$ as predicted by QED. Then F_A^γ and F_B^γ are calculated by multiplying the measured ratios by F_2^γ and corrected for the bin size effect as before. The corrected values for F_2^γ , F_A^γ and F_B^γ are listed in Table 10, and F_A^γ and F_B^γ are shown in Figure 15. The QED predictions for $Q^2 = 5.4 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\epsilon = \rho = 1$ nicely describe the data.

7 Summary and conclusions

The complete set of data collected by the OPAL experiment at centre-of-mass energies close to the mass of the Z boson are used to extract information about the QED structure of the photon. The structure function F_2^γ and the differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for quasi-real photons are measured in the Q^2 range from 1.5 to 400 GeV^2 , the largest kinematic range ever covered by a single experiment. The predictions of QED are found to be in good agreement with the data, and the predicted P^2 suppression of the structure function F_2^γ is clearly observed.

For the first time, the detailed quantitative analysis of the QED structure of the photon has been extended to highly virtual photons. Due to the non-vanishing interference terms τ_{TL} and τ_{TT} in the kinematical region studied, strong cancellations in the differential cross-section occur between the cross-section and interference terms. Consequently, no clear relation of a structure function to the cross-section terms can be found. Therefore the differential cross-section for the reaction $ee \rightarrow ee\mu^+\mu^-$, proceeding via the exchange of two highly virtual photons is measured instead, for the range $1.5 < Q^2 < 30 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $1.5 < P^2 < 20 \text{ GeV}^2$. The QED predictions using the GALUGA program show good agreement with the data for the full cross-section and also the presence of the interference terms τ_{TL} and τ_{TT} in the data.

The azimuthal correlations between electrons and muons are used to extract the structure functions F_A^γ and F_B^γ in bins of x . The results are consistent with those

already published and with the QED predictions. The measurements presented here supersede the earlier structure function results of OPAL [7, 4]

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Sample	SW1	SW2	SW
Q^2 [GeV ²]	1.5–3	3–7	1.5–7
P^2 [GeV ²]	–	–	–
x	0–0.97	0–0.97	0–0.97
y	0–0.5	0–0.5	0–0.5
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$ [GeV ²]	2.2	4.2	3.0
$\langle P^2 \rangle$ [GeV ²]	0.05	0.05	0.05
data	3259 ± 57	2292 ± 48	5551 ± 75
signal	3176 ± 25	2273 ± 21	5449 ± 33
background	47.9 ± 6.7	60.6 ± 9.2	108.6 ± 11.4

Sample	FD1	FD2	FD3	FD
Q^2 [GeV ²]	6–10	10–15	15–30	6–30
P^2 [GeV ²]	–	–	–	–
x	0–0.97	0–0.97	0–0.97	0–0.97
y	0–0.5	0–0.5	0–0.5	0–0.5
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$ [GeV ²]	8.4	12.4	21.0	13.4
$\langle P^2 \rangle$ [GeV ²]	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
data	1058 ± 33	790 ± 28	719 ± 27	2567 ± 51
signal	988 ± 16	803 ± 14	738 ± 13	2531 ± 25
background	41.4 ± 4.0	39.5 ± 3.9	38.2 ± 3.9	119.1 ± 6.8

Sample	EE	DB1	DB2	DB3
Q^2 [GeV ²]	70–400	1.5–6	6–30	70–300
P^2 [GeV ²]	–	1.5–6	1.5–20	1.5–20
x	0.1–0.9	0–0.65	0–0.75	0–1
y	0–0.5	0–0.5	0–0.5	0–0.5
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$ [GeV ²]	130	3.6	14.0	140
$\langle P^2 \rangle$ [GeV ²]	0.05	2.3	5.0	16
data	163 ± 12.8	111 ± 10.5	116 ± 10.8	8 ± 2.8
signal	161.9 ± 4.7	85.0 ± 2.5	102.1 ± 2.7	7.9 ± 0.8
background	17.4 ± 2.7	6.4 ± 3.1	7.5 ± 1.4	2.0 ± 0.7

Table 1: The sample definitions in terms of P^2 , Q^2 , x and y , the average values $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ and $\langle P^2 \rangle$ as obtained from the data and Monte Carlo and the number of events selected from the data (data), together with the predictions of the signal Monte Carlo (signal) and background events (background). The SW and the FD samples are not statistically independent from the other samples, i.e. the SW sample contains all events from SW1 and SW2 and the FD sample contains all events from FD1, FD2 and FD3

x	SW1	SW2	SW
	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]
0.00–0.10	$409.0 \pm 23.6 \pm 16.3$	$164.4 \pm 15.0 \pm 25.0$	$562.3 \pm 28.3 \pm 33.2$
0.10–0.20	$443.4 \pm 19.7 \pm 16.7$	$217.4 \pm 13.0 \pm 8.2$	$663.0 \pm 25.4 \pm 22.3$
0.20–0.30	$423.2 \pm 18.8 \pm 16.2$	$223.8 \pm 12.3 \pm 8.2$	$647.9 \pm 24.4 \pm 22.4$
0.30–0.40	$430.9 \pm 18.3 \pm 13.8$	$220.9 \pm 11.8 \pm 6.6$	$650.3 \pm 23.6 \pm 21.4$
0.40–0.50	$377.7 \pm 17.6 \pm 10.9$	$185.7 \pm 10.1 \pm 4.9$	$556.3 \pm 21.6 \pm 12.5$
0.50–0.60	$366.0 \pm 18.3 \pm 10.3$	$184.8 \pm 10.8 \pm 5.5$	$542.4 \pm 22.6 \pm 15.0$
0.60–0.70	$380.1 \pm 19.9 \pm 12.4$	$198.3 \pm 11.1 \pm 4.9$	$578.7 \pm 24.3 \pm 23.4$
0.70–0.80	$329.5 \pm 20.6 \pm 7.8$	$181.0 \pm 11.1 \pm 3.6$	$500.9 \pm 24.3 \pm 12.3$
0.80–0.90	$302.5 \pm 19.4 \pm 7.4$	$166.7 \pm 11.1 \pm 3.6$	$467.7 \pm 23.9 \pm 28.0$
0.90–0.97	$181.6 \pm 18.7 \pm 41.9$	$124.3 \pm 11.0 \pm 13.5$	$304.9 \pm 22.3 \pm 45.5$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	2.2 GeV ²	4.2 GeV ²	3.0 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.79	0.26	0.46

Table 2: The measured differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for the SW samples. In addition, the average Q^2 value for each sample, $\langle Q^2 \rangle$, and the χ^2 probabilities, $P(\chi^2)$, are listed. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The SW sample contains all events from SW1 and SW2. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	FD1	FD
	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]
0.00–0.10	$35.4 \pm 4.8 \pm 2.8$	$61.2 \pm 6.7 \pm 4.2$
0.10–0.20	$69.4 \pm 5.6 \pm 4.9$	$116.2 \pm 8.1 \pm 6.0$
0.20–0.30	$66.2 \pm 5.8 \pm 4.0$	$109.6 \pm 7.9 \pm 5.0$
0.30–0.40	$67.9 \pm 5.5 \pm 3.6$	$123.2 \pm 8.1 \pm 5.7$
0.40–0.50	$71.2 \pm 5.5 \pm 3.8$	$111.5 \pm 7.5 \pm 4.4$
0.50–0.60	$71.3 \pm 5.4 \pm 3.3$	$124.2 \pm 7.5 \pm 5.1$
0.60–0.70	$65.3 \pm 5.4 \pm 2.5$	$134.5 \pm 7.7 \pm 5.7$
0.70–0.80	$64.8 \pm 5.3 \pm 2.2$	$128.3 \pm 7.4 \pm 4.3$
0.80–0.90	$72.1 \pm 5.8 \pm 3.5$	$124.2 \pm 7.6 \pm 4.8$
0.90–0.97	$57.5 \pm 5.6 \pm 3.7$	$104.6 \pm 7.0 \pm 5.8$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	8.4 GeV ²	13.4 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.61	0.13

x	FD2	FD3
	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]
0.00–0.15	$20.2 \pm 2.9 \pm 1.6$	$11.5 \pm 2.7 \pm 1.2$
0.15–0.30	$26.4 \pm 3.0 \pm 1.5$	$21.9 \pm 2.8 \pm 1.5$
0.30–0.45	$27.6 \pm 2.8 \pm 1.7$	$22.9 \pm 2.9 \pm 1.6$
0.45–0.60	$24.7 \pm 2.5 \pm 1.9$	$26.9 \pm 2.8 \pm 1.4$
0.60–0.75	$35.7 \pm 2.9 \pm 1.9$	$30.5 \pm 2.7 \pm 1.3$
0.75–0.90	$27.9 \pm 2.8 \pm 1.1$	$28.9 \pm 2.5 \pm 1.1$
0.90–0.97	$24.5 \pm 2.9 \pm 1.0$	$23.6 \pm 3.0 \pm 1.0$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	12.4 GeV ²	21.0 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.07	0.09

Table 3: The differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for the FD samples. In addition, the average Q^2 value for each sample, $\langle Q^2 \rangle$, and the χ^2 probabilities, $P(\chi^2)$, are listed. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The FD sample contains all events from FD1, FD2 and FD3. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	EE
	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]
0.1–0.4	$2.78 \pm 0.76 \pm 0.28$
0.4–0.6	$4.27 \pm 0.58 \pm 0.38$
0.6–0.8	$5.79 \pm 0.67 \pm 0.39$
0.8–0.9	$5.88 \pm 0.68 \pm 0.30$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	130 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.48

Table 4: The measured differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for the EE sample. In addition, the average Q^2 value for the sample, $\langle Q^2 \rangle$, and the χ^2 probability, $P(\chi^2)$, are listed. The sample definition is given in Table 1. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	DB1	x	DB2
	$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]		$d\sigma/dx$ [pb]
0.00–0.20	$9.77 \pm 1.62 \pm 0.78$	0.00–0.25	$5.26 \pm 0.82 \pm 0.99$
0.20–0.40	$10.45 \pm 1.26 \pm 0.59$	0.25–0.50	$6.87 \pm 0.78 \pm 0.74$
0.40–0.65	$4.34 \pm 1.07 \pm 0.21$	0.50–0.75	$2.75 \pm 0.60 \pm 0.22$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	3.6 GeV ²	$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	14.0 GeV ²
$\langle P^2 \rangle$	2.3 GeV ²	$\langle P^2 \rangle$	5.0 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.26	$P(\chi^2)$	0.32

Table 5: The measured differential cross-section $d\sigma/dx$ for the DB samples. In addition, the average Q^2 and P^2 values for each sample, $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ and $\langle P^2 \rangle$, and the χ^2 probabilities, $P(\chi^2)$, are listed. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	SW1	SW2	SW
	F_2^γ	F_2^γ	F_2^γ
0.00–0.10	$0.115 \pm 0.007 \pm 0.005$	$0.108 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.016$	$0.113 \pm 0.006 \pm 0.007$
0.10–0.20	$0.219 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.008$	$0.237 \pm 0.014 \pm 0.009$	$0.230 \pm 0.009 \pm 0.008$
0.20–0.30	$0.282 \pm 0.012 \pm 0.011$	$0.320 \pm 0.018 \pm 0.012$	$0.300 \pm 0.011 \pm 0.010$
0.30–0.40	$0.347 \pm 0.015 \pm 0.011$	$0.378 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.011$	$0.363 \pm 0.013 \pm 0.012$
0.40–0.50	$0.356 \pm 0.017 \pm 0.010$	$0.373 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.010$	$0.364 \pm 0.014 \pm 0.008$
0.50–0.60	$0.400 \pm 0.020 \pm 0.011$	$0.421 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.012$	$0.409 \pm 0.017 \pm 0.011$
0.60–0.70	$0.483 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.016$	$0.519 \pm 0.029 \pm 0.013$	$0.507 \pm 0.021 \pm 0.020$
0.70–0.80	$0.491 \pm 0.031 \pm 0.012$	$0.556 \pm 0.034 \pm 0.011$	$0.516 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.013$
0.80–0.90	$0.532 \pm 0.034 \pm 0.013$	$0.601 \pm 0.040 \pm 0.013$	$0.574 \pm 0.029 \pm 0.034$
0.90–0.97	$0.308 \pm 0.032 \pm 0.071$	$0.470 \pm 0.041 \pm 0.051$	$0.397 \pm 0.029 \pm 0.059$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	2.2 GeV ²	4.2 GeV ²	3.0 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.79	0.26	0.46

Table 6: The measured structure function F_2^γ for the SW samples. In addition, the average Q^2 value for each sample, $\langle Q^2 \rangle$, and the χ^2 probabilities, $P(\chi^2)$, are listed. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The SW sample contains all events from SW1 and SW2. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	FD1	FD
	F_2^γ	F_2^γ
0.00–0.10	$0.090 \pm 0.012 \pm 0.007$	$0.095 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.007$
0.10–0.20	$0.271 \pm 0.022 \pm 0.019$	$0.264 \pm 0.018 \pm 0.014$
0.20–0.30	$0.334 \pm 0.029 \pm 0.020$	$0.319 \pm 0.023 \pm 0.014$
0.30–0.40	$0.409 \pm 0.033 \pm 0.022$	$0.428 \pm 0.028 \pm 0.020$
0.40–0.50	$0.496 \pm 0.038 \pm 0.026$	$0.446 \pm 0.030 \pm 0.018$
0.50–0.60	$0.563 \pm 0.043 \pm 0.026$	$0.558 \pm 0.034 \pm 0.023$
0.60–0.70	$0.596 \pm 0.049 \pm 0.023$	$0.698 \pm 0.040 \pm 0.030$
0.70–0.80	$0.687 \pm 0.056 \pm 0.023$	$0.770 \pm 0.044 \pm 0.026$
0.80–0.90	$0.891 \pm 0.072 \pm 0.044$	$0.871 \pm 0.053 \pm 0.033$
0.90–0.97	$0.761 \pm 0.074 \pm 0.049$	$0.795 \pm 0.053 \pm 0.044$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	8.4 GeV ²	13.4 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.61	0.13

x	FD2	FD3
	F_2^γ	F_2^γ
0.00–0.15	$0.151 \pm 0.022 \pm 0.012$	$0.117 \pm 0.028 \pm 0.012$
0.15–0.30	$0.297 \pm 0.033 \pm 0.017$	$0.302 \pm 0.039 \pm 0.021$
0.30–0.45	$0.402 \pm 0.041 \pm 0.025$	$0.403 \pm 0.051 \pm 0.029$
0.45–0.60	$0.434 \pm 0.044 \pm 0.034$	$0.559 \pm 0.058 \pm 0.030$
0.60–0.75	$0.758 \pm 0.062 \pm 0.041$	$0.782 \pm 0.070 \pm 0.034$
0.75–0.90	$0.723 \pm 0.072 \pm 0.028$	$0.907 \pm 0.080 \pm 0.033$
0.90–0.97	$0.714 \pm 0.085 \pm 0.030$	$0.802 \pm 0.103 \pm 0.033$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	12.4 GeV ²	21.0 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.07	0.09

Table 7: The measured structure function F_2^γ for the FD samples. In addition, the average Q^2 value for each sample, $\langle Q^2 \rangle$, and the χ^2 probabilities, $P(\chi^2)$, are listed. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The FD sample contains all events from FD1, FD2 and FD3. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	EE
	F_2^γ
0.1–0.4	$0.343 \pm 0.094 \pm 0.034$
0.4–0.6	$0.578 \pm 0.079 \pm 0.052$
0.6–0.8	$0.936 \pm 0.109 \pm 0.063$
0.8–0.9	$1.125 \pm 0.130 \pm 0.057$
$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	130 GeV ²
$P(\chi^2)$	0.48

Table 8: The measured structure function F_2^γ for the EE sample. In addition, the average Q^2 value for the sample, $\langle Q^2 \rangle$, and the χ^2 probability, $P(\chi^2)$, are listed. The sample definition is given in Table 1. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	F_A^γ/F_2^γ	$\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$
$x < 0.25$	$0.176 \pm 0.031 \pm 0.010$	$0.075 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.008$
0.25 – 0.50	$0.018 \pm 0.028 \pm 0.008$	$0.099 \pm 0.024 \pm 0.010$
0.50 – 0.75	$-0.171 \pm 0.029 \pm 0.007$	$0.081 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.011$
$x > 0.75$	$-0.228 \pm 0.037 \pm 0.014$	$0.037 \pm 0.033 \pm 0.011$

Table 9: The measured values of the structure function ratios F_A^γ/F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2}F_B^\gamma/F_2^\gamma$ for the combined SW and FD sample. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

x	F_2^γ	F_A^γ	F_B^γ
$x < 0.25$	$0.249 \pm 0.006 \pm 0.008$	$0.039 \pm 0.007 \pm 0.003$	$0.029 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.003$
0.25 – 0.50	$0.523 \pm 0.011 \pm 0.014$	$0.011 \pm 0.016 \pm 0.004$	$0.101 \pm 0.025 \pm 0.011$
0.50 – 0.75	$0.738 \pm 0.017 \pm 0.019$	$-0.122 \pm 0.021 \pm 0.006$	$0.121 \pm 0.041 \pm 0.017$
$x > 0.75$	$0.871 \pm 0.027 \pm 0.021$	$-0.201 \pm 0.033 \pm 0.013$	$0.063 \pm 0.056 \pm 0.018$

Table 10: The measured values of the structure functions F_2^γ , F_A^γ and F_B^γ for the combined SW and FD sample. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The first error is statistical and the second systematic

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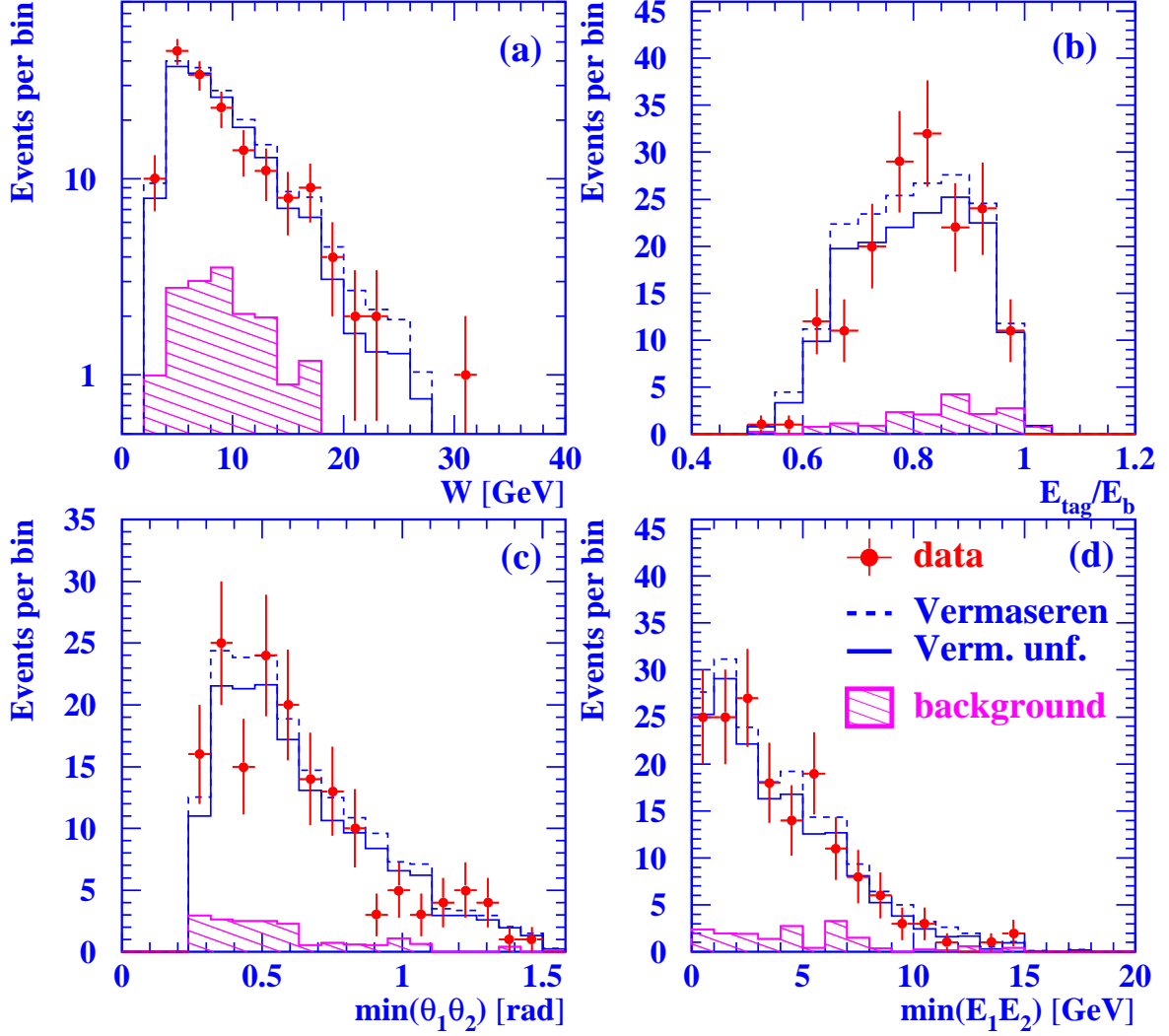


Figure 3: Comparison of the data with the Monte Carlo predictions for the EE sample. Shown are (a) the measured invariant mass, W , (b) the energy of the detected electron normalised to the energy of the beam electrons, E_{tag}/E_b , (c) the polar angle of the muon which is scattered closer to the beam direction, $\min(\theta_1, \theta_2)$, and (d) the energy of the muon with lower energy, $\min(E_1, E_2)$. The points represent the data with the statistical error only. The dashed lines denote the distributions of the Vermaseren Monte Carlo with the background added to it before the unfolding is performed, the full lines are the same distributions after reweighting based on the unfolding procedure, and the hatched histograms represent the background contribution

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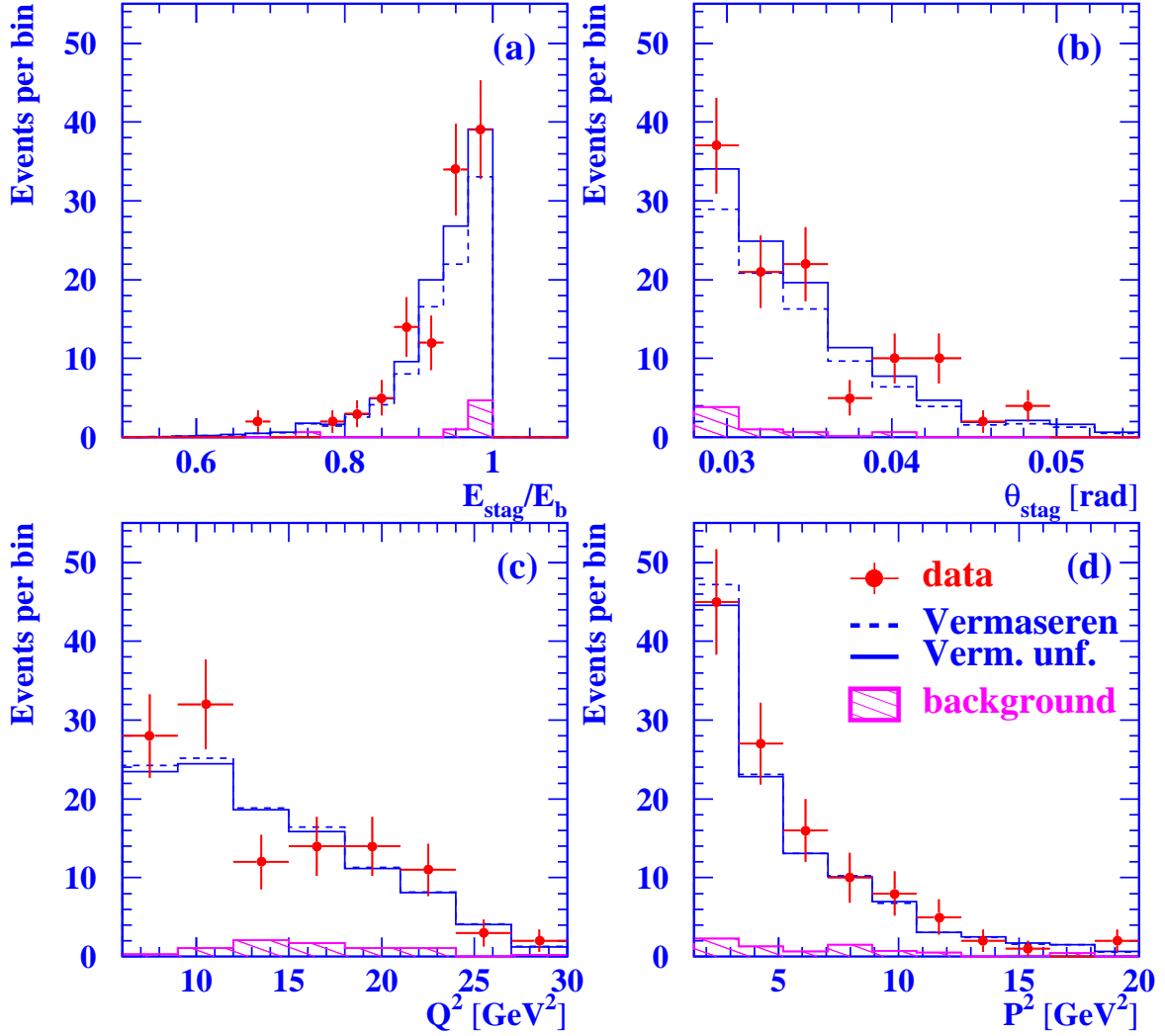


Figure 4: Comparison of the data with the Monte Carlo predictions for the DB samples. Figures (a,b) and (c,d) are for the DB1 and DB2 samples, respectively. Shown are (a) the energy of the second detected electron normalised to the energy of the beam electrons, E_{stag}/E_b , (b) the polar angle of the second detected electron, θ_{stag} , (c) the measured Q^2 , and (d) the measured P^2 . The points represent the data with the statistical error only. The dashed lines denote the distributions of the Vermaseren Monte Carlo with the background added to it before the unfolding is performed, the full lines are the same distributions after reweighting based on the unfolding procedure, and the hatched histograms represent the background contribution

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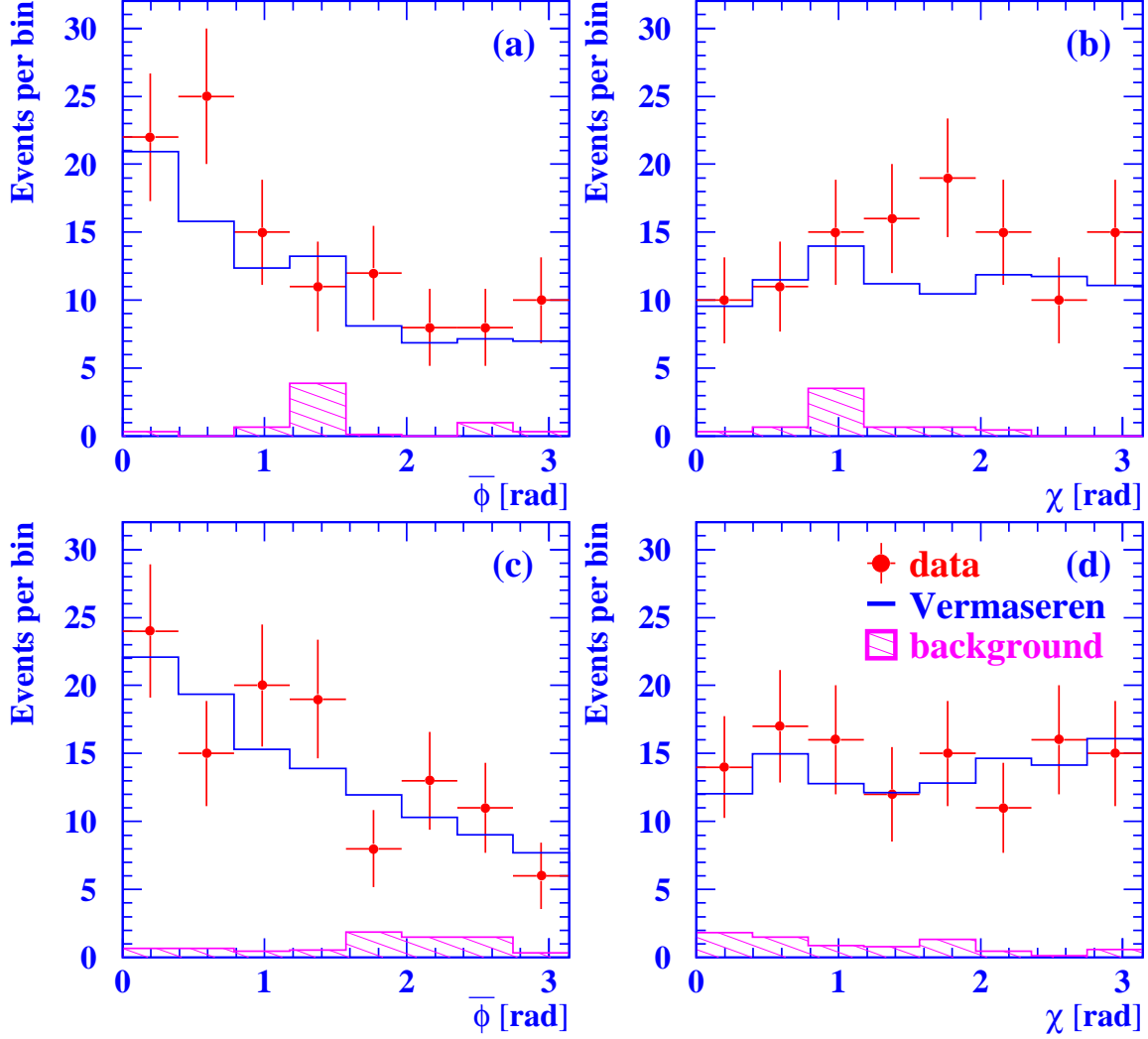


Figure 5: Comparison of the data with the Monte Carlo predictions for the DB samples. Figures (a,b) and (c,d) are for the DB1 and DB2 samples, respectively. Shown are (a,c) the angle $\bar{\phi}$ between the two scattering planes of the electrons in the photon-photon centre-of-mass system, and (b,d) the measured azimuthal angle, χ , defined with respect to the plane containing the electron which radiated the photon of higher virtuality. The points represent the data with the statistical error only. The full lines denote the distributions of the Vermaseren Monte Carlo with the background added to it, and the hatched histograms represent the background contribution

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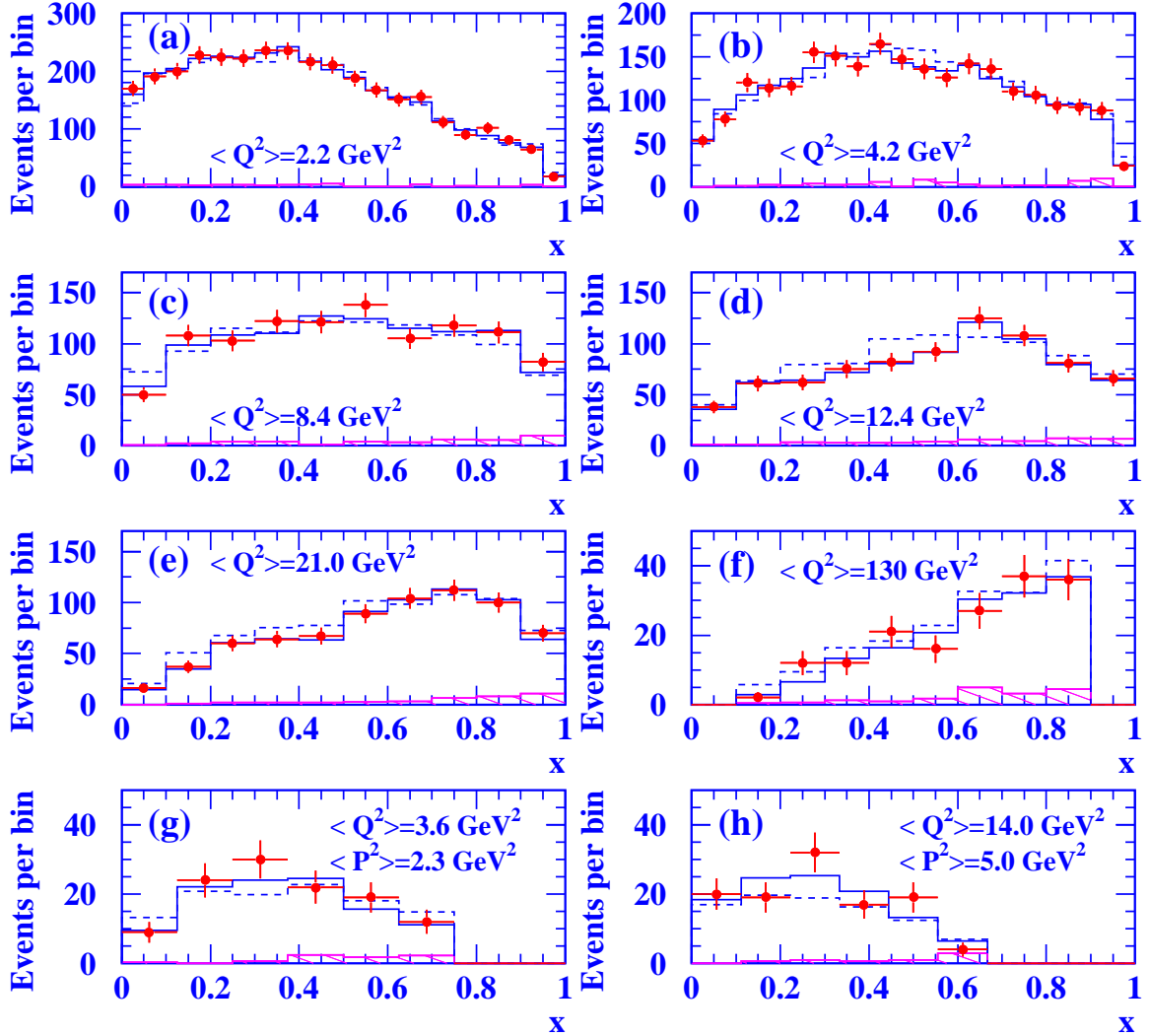


Figure 6: The measured x distributions for the various samples (a) SW1, (b) SW2, (c) FD1, (d) FD2, (e) FD3, (f) EE, (g) DB1 and (h) DB2. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The points represent the data with the statistical error only. The dashed lines denote the distributions of the Vermaseren Monte Carlo with the background added to it before the unfolding is performed, the full lines are the same distributions after reweighting based on the unfolding procedure, and the hatched histograms represent the background contribution

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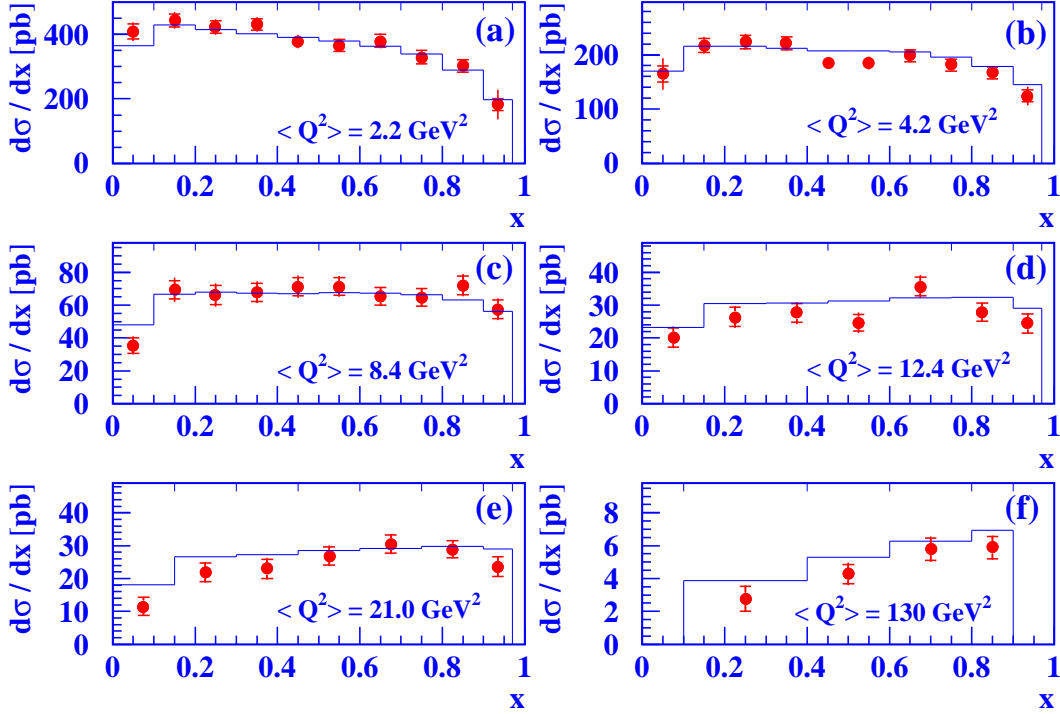


Figure 7: Differential cross-sections $d\sigma/dx$ unfolded from the data for the various independent samples of singly-tagged events. The samples shown are (a) SW1, (b) SW2, (c) FD1, (d) FD2, (e) FD3 and (f) EE. The points represent the data with their statistical (inner error bars) and total errors (outer error bars). The full line is the differential cross-sections as predicted by the Vermaseren Monte Carlo. The tick marks at the top of the figures indicate the bin boundaries

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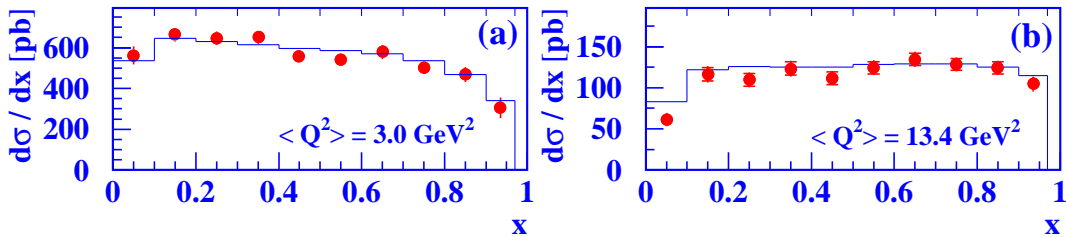


Figure 8: Differential cross-sections $d\sigma/dx$ unfolded from the data for the two combined samples of singly-tagged events. The samples shown are (a) SW and (b) FD. The symbols are as defined in Figure 7

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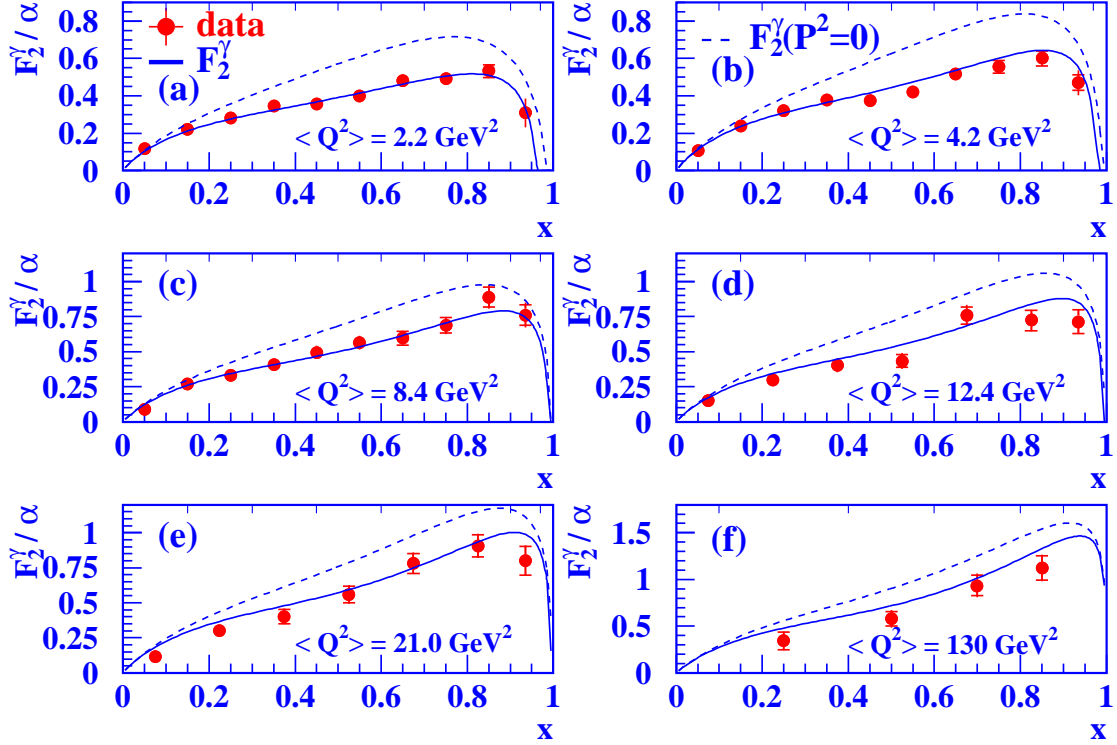


Figure 9: Structure functions F_2^γ normalised by the fine structure constant α for the various independent samples of singly-tagged events. The ordering of sub-figures is the same as in Figure 7. The points represent the data with their statistical (inner error bars) and total errors (outer error bars). The full line is the structure function F_2^γ normalised by the fine structure constant α for the $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ and $\langle P^2 \rangle$ values listed in Table 1, and the dashed line shows the structure function F_2^γ normalised by the fine structure constant α for the same $\langle Q^2 \rangle$ but for $P^2 = 0$. The tic marks at the top of the figures indicate the bin boundaries

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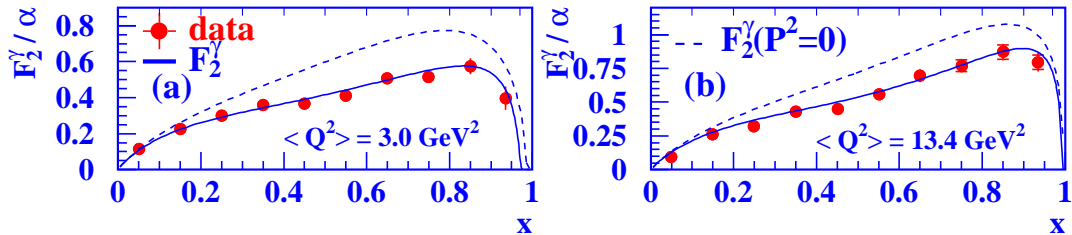


Figure 10: Structure functions F_2^γ normalised by the fine structure constant α for the two combined samples of singly-tagged events. The samples shown are (a) SW and (b) FD. The symbols are as defined in Figure 9

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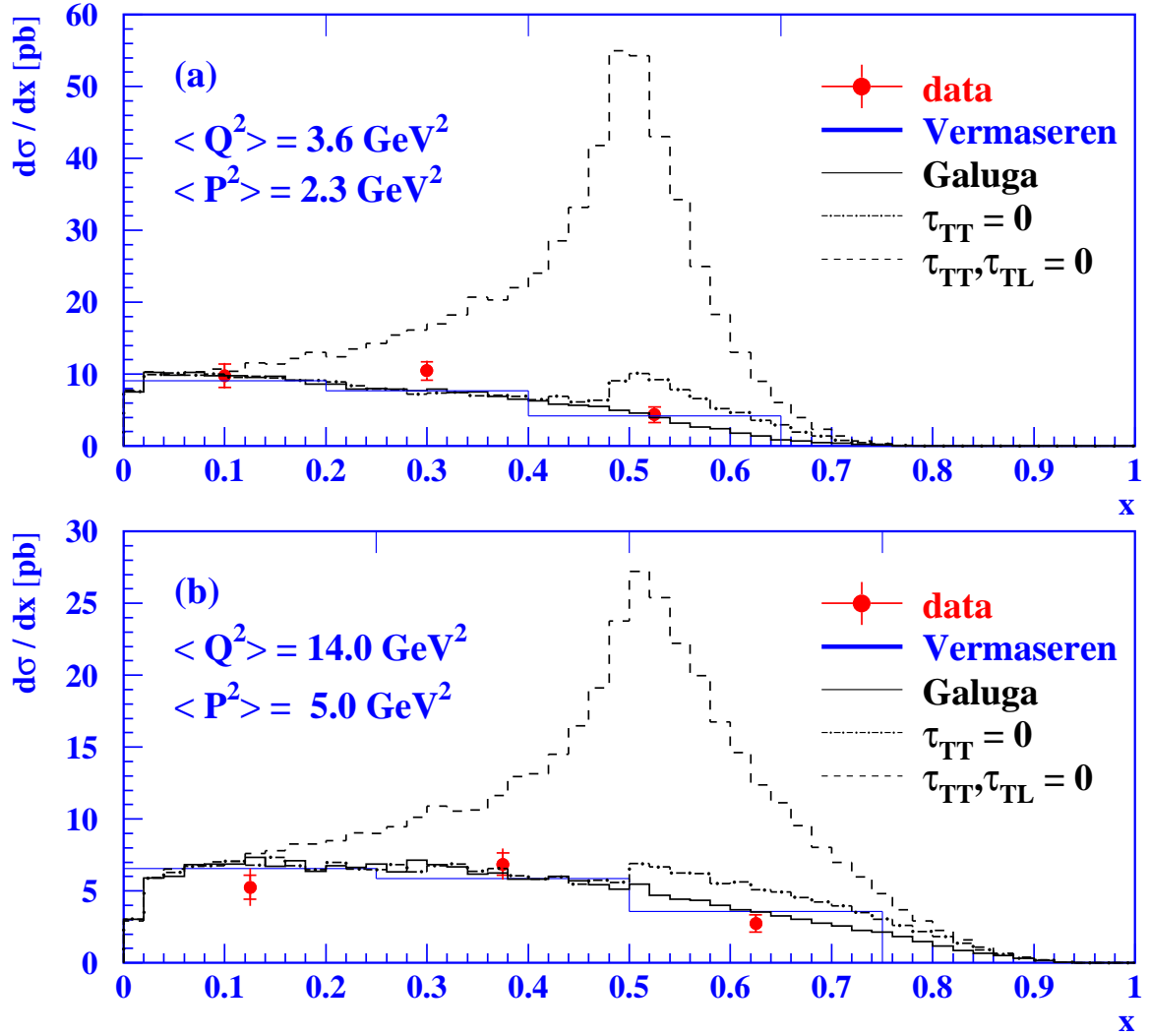


Figure 11: Differential cross-sections $d\sigma/dx$ unfolded from the data, (a) for the DB1 sample and (b) for the DB2 sample. The sample definitions are given in Table 1. The points represent the data with their statistical (inner error bars) and total errors (outer error bars). The full line denotes the differential cross-sections as predicted by the Vermaseren Monte Carlo using the same bins as for the data. The additional three histograms represent the cross-section calculations from the GALUGA Monte Carlo for three different scenarios: the full cross-section (full line), the cross-section obtained for vanishing τ_{TT} (dot-dash) and the cross-section obtained for vanishing τ_{TT} and τ_{TL} (dash), as defined in Eq. 2. The tic marks at the top of the figures indicate the bin boundaries

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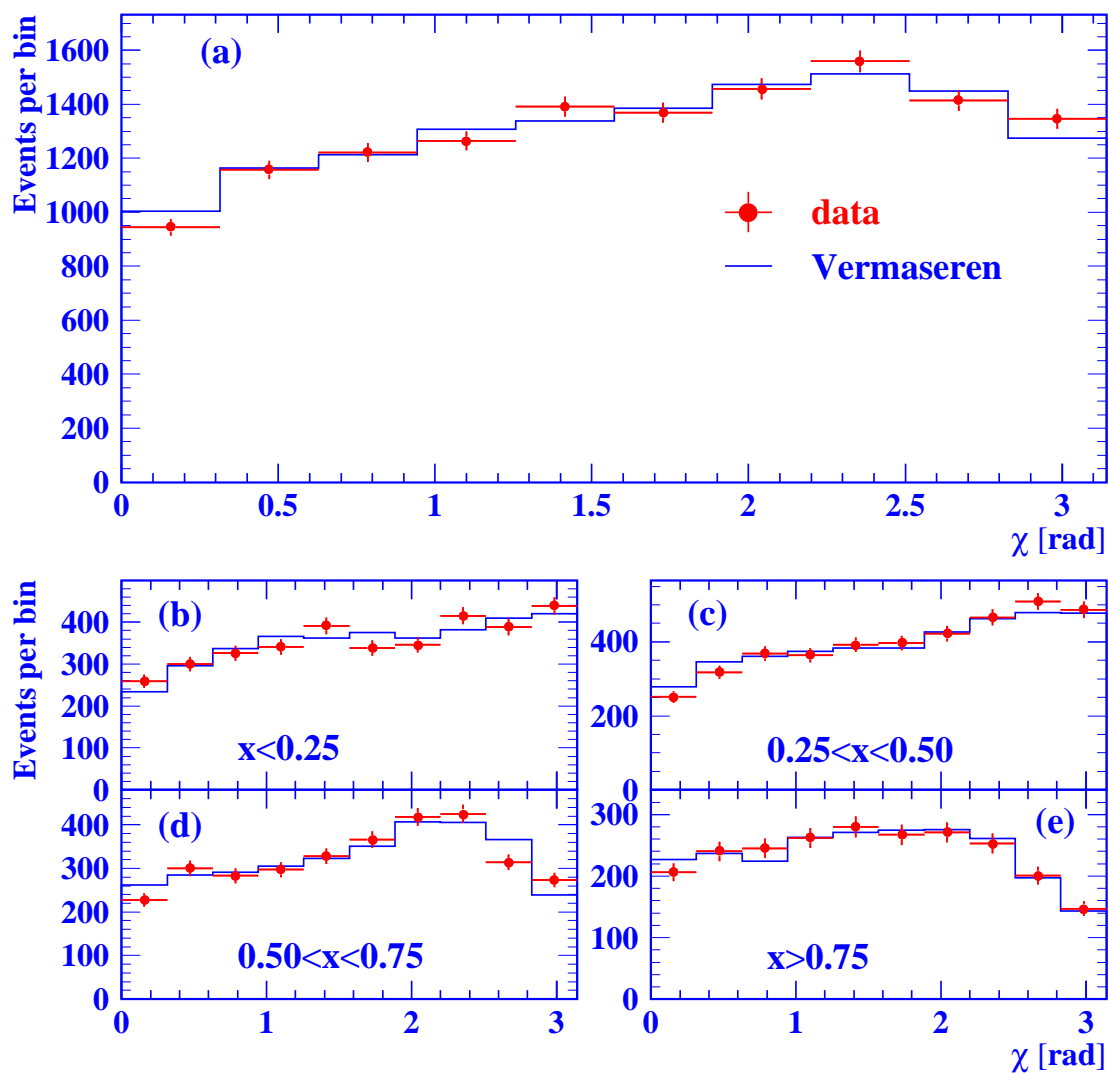


Figure 12: Measured azimuthal angle distributions for the combined SW and FD sample for different ranges in x . The points represent the data with the statistical error only, and the full line is the prediction of the Vermaseren Monte Carlo normalised to the number of events in the data

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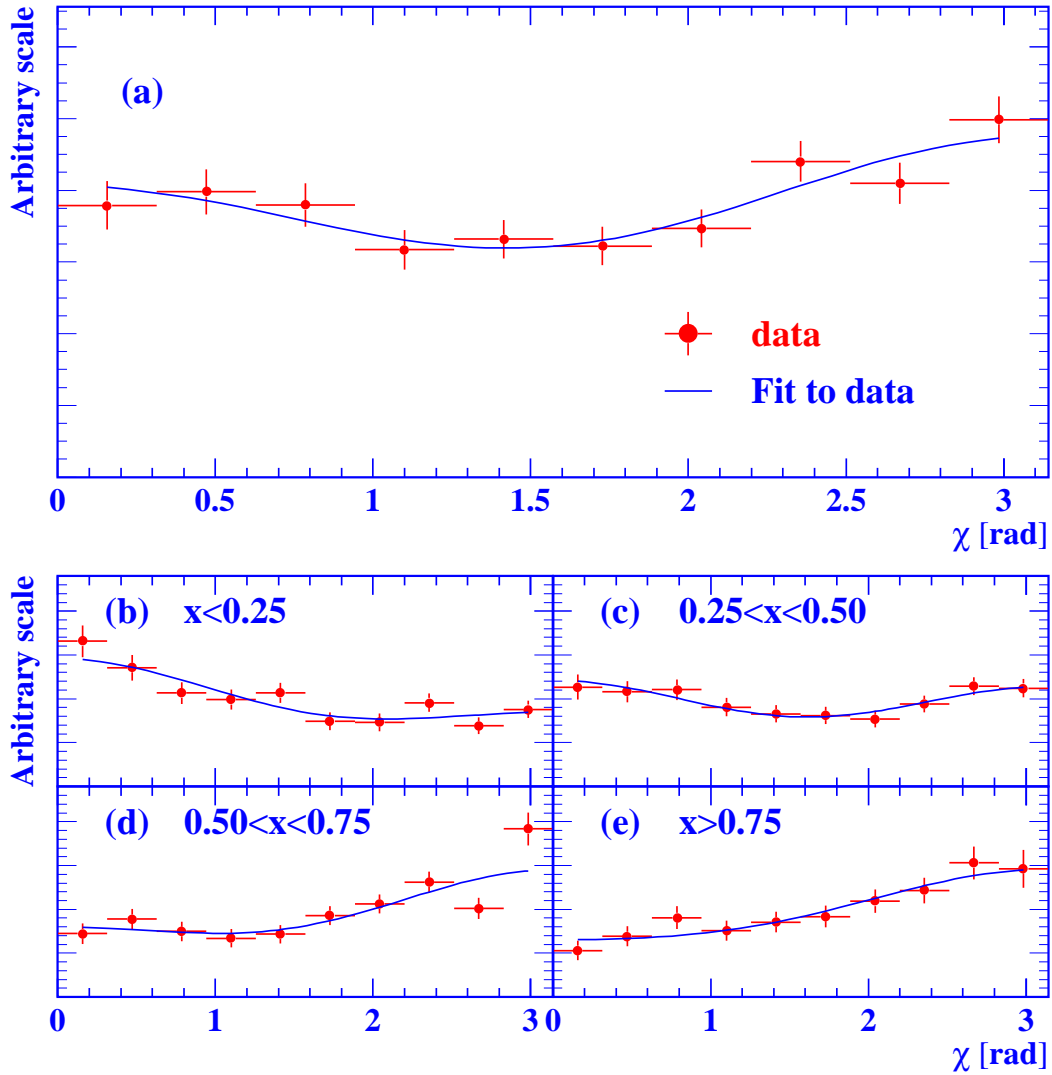


Figure 13: Corrected azimuthal angle distributions for the combined SW and FD sample for different ranges of x . The points represent the corrected data with the statistical error only, and the full line is a fit to the data based on Eq. 14

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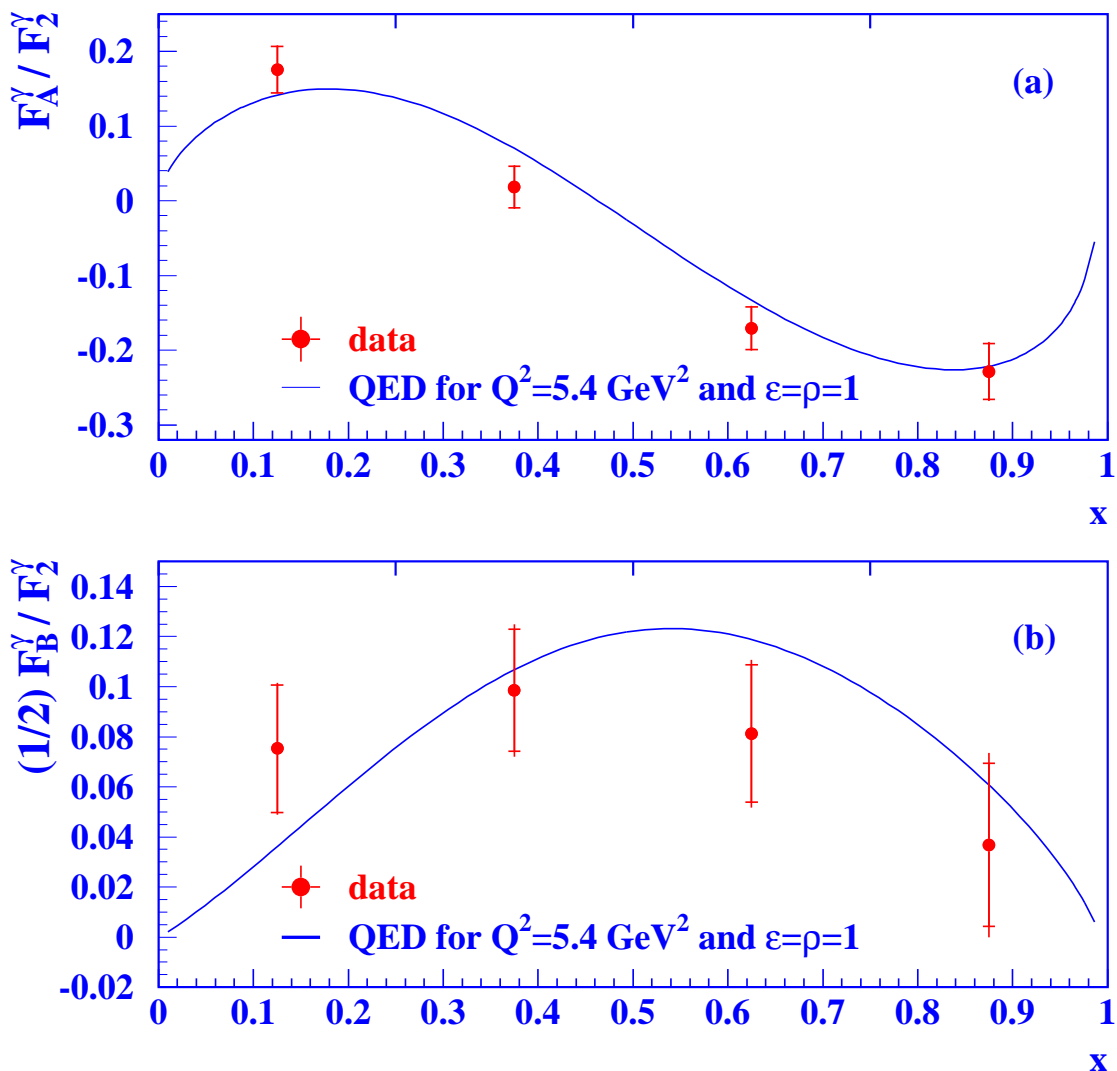


Figure 14: The measured structure function ratios F_A^γ / F_2^γ and $\frac{1}{2} F_B^\gamma / F_2^\gamma$ for the combined SW and FD sample. The points represent the data with their statistical (inner error bars) and total errors (outer error bars). The solid lines are the QED predictions for $Q^2 = 5.4 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\epsilon = \rho = 1$. $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 5.9/4$ for F_A^γ / F_2^γ and $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 4.4/4$ for $\frac{1}{2} F_B^\gamma / F_2^\gamma$

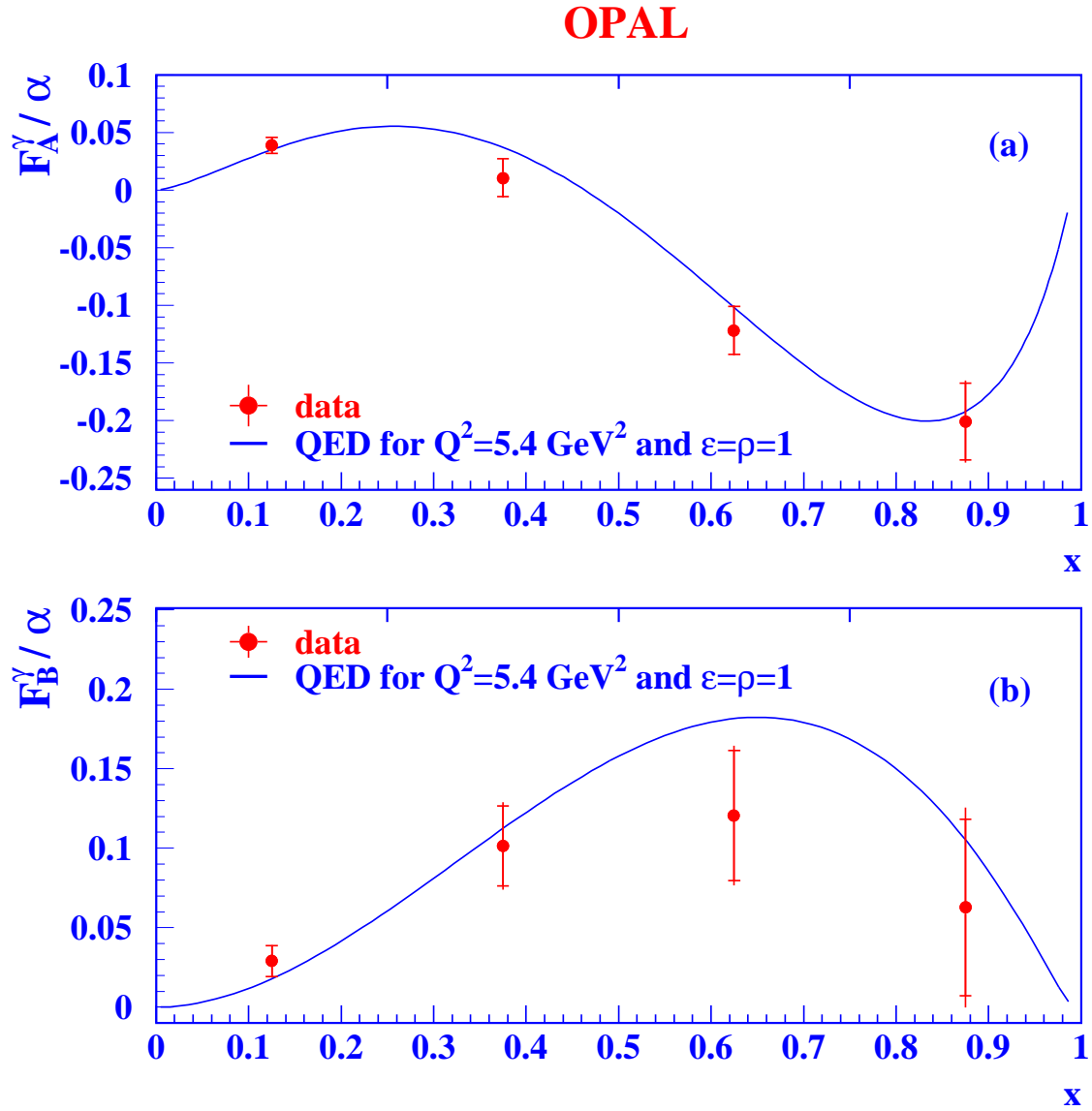


Figure 15: The measured structure functions F_A^γ and F_B^γ for the combined SW and FD sample. The points represent the data with their statistical (inner error bars) and total errors (outer error bars). The solid lines are the QED predictions for $Q^2 = 5.4 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\epsilon = \rho = 1$. $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 3.5/4$ for F_A^γ and $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 3.8/4$ for F_B^γ