they have a common systematic error and use $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.110 \pm 0.006$ in the final average.

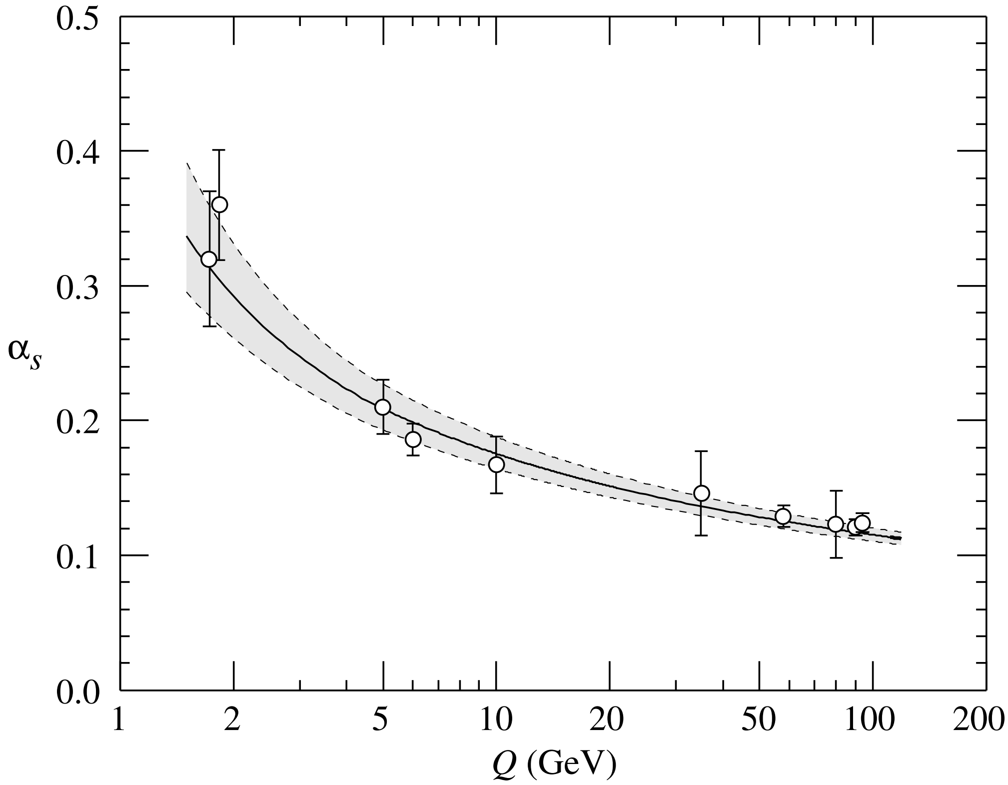

Figure 25.2: Summary of the values of $\alpha_s(Q)$ at the values of Q where they are measured. The lines show the central values and the $\pm 1\sigma$ limits of our average. The figure clearly shows the decrease in $\alpha_s(Q)$ with increasing Q.

25.9. Conclusions

An average of the values in Fig. 25.1 gives $\alpha_s(M_z) = 0.117$ with a total χ^2 of 5.9 for nine fitted points. Since, in most cases the dominant error is systematic (mainly theoretical), an estimate is to use the smallest of the individual errors on the experimental results *i.e.* ± 0.005. Our value is then $\alpha_s(M_z) = 0.117 \pm 0.005$ which corresponds to $\Lambda^{(5)} = 195 + 65 - 50$ MeV. Figure 25.2 shows the same set of data as Fig. 25.1 except that the data are plotted at the Q^2 at which they are measured.

Further discussion and all references may be found in the full *Review of Particle Properties*. The numbering of references and equations used here corresponds to that version.