

# Combination of $D^*$ Differential Cross-Section Measurements in Deep-Inelastic ep Scattering at HERA

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H1 and ZEUS have published single-differential cross sections for inclusive  $D$  meson production in deep-inelastic ep scattering at HERA from their respective final data sets. These cross sections are combined in the common visible phase space region of photon virtuality  $Q^2 > 5 \text{ GeV}^2$ , electron inelasticity  $0.02 < y < 0.7$  and the  $D$  meson's transverse momentum  $p_T(D) > 1.5 \text{ GeV}$  and pseudorapidity  $|\eta(D)| < 1.5$ . The combination procedure takes into account all relevant correlations yielding significantly reduced experimental uncertainties. To extend the kinematic range down to  $Q^2 > 1.5 \text{ GeV}^2$ , double-differential cross sections are also combined with a subset of earlier  $D^*$  data. Perturbative next-to-leading order QCD predictions are compared to the results.

**Primary author:** GEISER, Achim (DESY Hamburg)

**Presenter:** GEISER, Achim (DESY Hamburg)

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