

## Perturbative QCD and the Determination of $\alpha_s$

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### Abstract

The precise determination of the coupling  $\alpha_s$  is one of the most important results in perturbative QCD. After a brief review of some open questions in the extraction of  $\alpha_s$  from the hadronic decays of the  $\tau$  lepton, I discuss a new determination of  $\alpha_s(M_\tau^2)$ , based on an improved perturbation expansion of the Adler function.