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Production of $D^{*\pm}$ Mesons in Deep–Inelastic Diffractive Interactions at HERA

H1 Collaboration

A study is presented of inclusive $D^{*\pm}$ meson production in deep-inelastic diffraction with $Q^2 \geq 1$ GeV^2 at the HERA ep collider. The production cross section and its dependence on the transverse momentum (p_T) of the $D^{*\pm}$ are quantified. Approximately 6 pb^{-1} of data from the 1994, 1995 and 1996 running periods are used. The results are compared with theoretical models motivated either by the partonic structure of diffractive exchange as determined in a QCD analysis of the diffractive structure function, or by perturbative QCD calculations of two-gluon exchange.