Measurement of Charged Current and Neutral Current Cross Sections in Positron-Proton Collisions at $\sqrt{s} \simeq 300$ GeV

DISSERTATION
zur Erlangung des Doktorgrades
des Fachbereichs Physik
der Universität Hamburg

vorgelegt von

Beate Heinemann

aus Hamburg

Hamburg
1999

Abstract

An analysis is presented of data taken in positron-proton collisions at the ep-collider HERA with a centre of mass energy of $\sqrt{s} \simeq 300$ GeV. The data were taken in the H1 detector between 1994 and 1997 and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 35.7 pb^{-1}. The inclusive single and double-differential cross sections for charged and neutral current scattering are measured with four-momentum transfer squared Q^2 between 150 and 30000 GeV^2 and with Bjorken x between 0.0032 and 0.65. The entire analysis chain necessary for the determination of the cross sections is described where the emphasis is placed on the understanding of the performance of the H1 detector.

The cross section measurements are confronted with the predictions from the Standard Model and no significant deviation is found. The Q^2 evolution of the proton parton densities is tested by comparing the data to results from a phenomenological QCD analysis. At high Q^2 electroweak effects are observed which are consistent with the Standard Model expectation.

Zusammenfassung

Diese Arbeit stellt die Analyse von Wechselwirkungen zwischen Positronen und Protonen am HERA-Beschleuniger bei einer Schwerpunktsenergie von $\sqrt{s} \simeq 300$ GeV vor. Die Daten wurden zwischen 1994 und 1997 am H1 Detektor genommen und ensprechen einer integrierten Luminosität von 35.7 pb^{-1}. Die inklusiven Wirkungsquerschnitte wurden gemessen für Prozesse des geladenen und neutralen Stromes für Werte des Quadrates des Vierer-Impuls-Übertrages Q^2 zwischen 150 und 30000 GeV^2 und Bjorken-x-Werte zwischen 0.0032 und 0.65. Die gesamte Analyse-Kette, die hierfür notwendig war, wird beschrieben; insbesondere stellt das Verständnis des Ansprechverhaltens des Detektors einen Schwerpunkt der Arbeit dar.

Die Wirkungsquerschnitte werden den Vorhersagen des Standardmodells gegenübergestellt, wobei keine signifikante Abweichung gefunden wird. Die Vorhersagen der QCD über die Entwicklung der Partondichten mit Q^2 wird anhand der Daten in einem neuen kinematischen Bereich getestet. Bei hohen Q^2 werden Einflüsse der schwachen Wechselwirkung beobachtet, welche mit den Vorhersagen des Standardmodells übereinstimmen.

Contents

Introduction

Experiments of deep inelastic scattering of leptons off nucleons have played a pivotal role in the understanding of the structure of matter and in the foundation of the Standard Model as the theory of the strong and electroweak interactions.

The first evidence for the presence of substructure in nucleons was found at the Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC) in which electrons were collided with nucleons [1]. The structure functions were found to be independent of the relevant scale Q^2 as it had been predicted by Bjorken [2]. Feynman [3] explained this behaviour by the presence of partons in the proton which were identified with the quarks postulated by Gell-Mann from the symmetry properties of the spectrum of hadrons [4]. Nowadays the interactions of partons within the nucleon are described by the theory of the strong interaction called Quantum Chromodynamics. However, the parton densities cannot be predicted by this theory yet.

The establishment of the weak interaction began in 1971 with the observation of neutral current neutrino scattering in the Gargamelle Bubble Chamber [5]. The electromagnetic and weak forces were unified in one theory developed by Glashow, Salam and Weinberg [6] which predicted the existence of two charged ($W^{\pm}$) and one neutral boson (Z) of large mass. The observation of these particles in collider experiments [7, 8] is one of the great successes of that theory. There are so far no results from high energy collider experiments which contradict this theory. However, the Higgs boson held responsible for the breaking of the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)$ gauge symmetry has not yet been observed.

In the past 30 years various DIS experiments [9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14] have helped to constrain parameters of the electroweak theory and to understand the partonic structure of the proton. The results were obtained in both neutral and charged current scattering. These experiments were all made by colliding leptons with a stationary (fixed) target of protons or heavier nuclei. The energy in the centre of mass system was restricted to $\sqrt{s} \lesssim 40$ GeV. In 1992 the H1 and ZEUS experiments at the HERA accelerator, in which both the leptons and the protons are accelerated, began to take data. Since the centre of mass energy is almost an order of magnitude larger (about 300 GeV) than in the fixed-target experiments the structure of the proton can be studied in new kinematic regimes.

In the first years of data taking at HERA the physics program was largely concerned with measuring the proton structure function and QCD dynamics at low x where the partons carry only a very small fraction of the total momentum of the proton

[15, 16, 17, 18]. The strong rise of the structure function towards low x can be understood in terms of QCD as shown in [19]. Only now have the H1 and ZEUS experiments accumulated sufficient data to probe the high Q^2 region which is the topic of this thesis. The absolute value of the squared four-momentum transfer of the exchanged boson Q^2 is related to its wave-length via $\lambda = 1/\sqrt{Q^2}$ [1]. At the highest obtainable values of Q^2 the substructure of the proton is therefore resolved down to distances of $\lambda \approx 10^{-18}$ m which is about one thousandth of the proton radius. At these high values of Q^2 the weak sector of the Standard Model may also be tested. An earlier analysis of the Q^2 dependence of the charged current cross section revealed the mass of the exchanged boson to be consistent with the mass of the W boson measured elsewhere [20, 21, 22, 23].

In this thesis a measurement of charged current and neutral current cross sections is presented in the kinematic range $150 \leq Q^2 \leq 30000$ GeV^2 and $0.0032 \leq x \leq 0.65$. The analysis is based on a data set collected in the years 1994-97 in positron-proton collisions with an integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 35.7$ pb^{-1}. The data set is more than 10 times larger and the kinematic region is extended to higher Q^2 and higher x than previous measurements [19, 24, 21, 23]. The results obtained in this thesis are published in [25].

In the first chapter a theoretical overview of deep inelastic scattering is given. The influence of possible contributions from physics beyond the Standard Model is also briefly discussed. In the second chapter the HERA accelerator ring and the H1 experiment are described. The third and fourth chapters are devoted to the Monte Carlo simulation and the kinematic reconstruction respectively. The fifth chapter is devoted to the determination of the positron scattering angle. The subjects of the sixth chapter are the measurements of positron and hadronic energies and the estimation of their uncertainties. The seventh chapter describes the selection of neutral current events and the eighth that of charged current events. In the ninth chapter the correction procedure used to determine the cross section is given. The tenth chapter is devoted to the presentation and interpretation of the cross sections. It is shown that both the neutral and charged current cross sections can be understood in terms of Quantum Chromodynamics. The neutral current cross section shows clear evidence for the presence of the Z boson as predicted by the Standard Model. The charged current cross section is found to be consistent with the Standard Model expectation of one exchanged W boson. Constraints on physics beyond the Standard Model which can be deduced from the results are presented. Finally the results are summarised and an outlook is given.

[1]The units in this thesis are chosen such that $\hbar = c = 1$. Therefore energies, momenta and masses are all quoted in units of GeV.

Chapter 1

Theoretical Overview

This analysis is concerned with the measurement of the cross sections for deep inelastic positron proton scattering. The basics for the theoretical understanding of this process are introduced in this chapter. Firstly the deep inelastic scattering process is explained. Then the cross sections and their relation to the structure functions are discussed, followed by a brief outline of the theory of the strong interaction. Finally some ideas are presented on physics beyond the Standard Model.

1.1 Deep Inelastic Scattering

There are two contributions to deep inelastic scattering (DIS), both of which can be measured at HERA: neutral current (NC) interactions, $ep \rightarrow eX$ and charged current (CC) interactions, $ep \rightarrow \nu X$. In the Standard Model a photon (γ) or Z boson is exchanged in a NC interaction, and a W boson in a CC interaction. The diagrams for these processes are shown in figure 1.1.

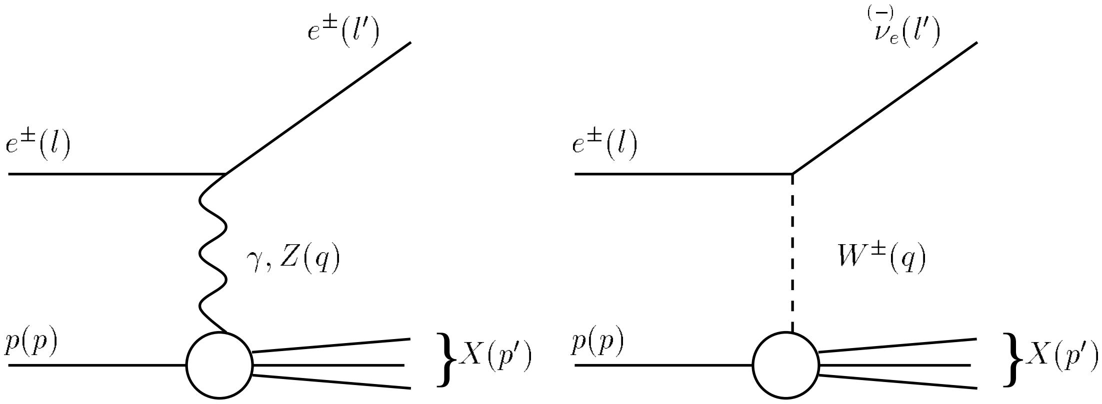

Figure 1.1: *Diagrams for deep inelastic NC (left) and CC (right) scattering. The particle types and their four-momenta are indicated.*

The 4-momenta of the particles involved in the scattering process are indicated, they are

- l for the incoming electron [1]
- l' for the outgoing lepton
- p for the incoming proton
- p' for the system of particles X in the outgoing hadronic final state
- $q = l - l'$ for the exchanged boson

The kinematics of the scattering process can be uniquely described by two variables for a fixed ep centre-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s}$. Variables which are commonly used are the virtuality Q^2, Bjorken-x and the inelasticity y, which are defined as

$$Q^2 = -q^2 = -(l-l')^2, \qquad x = \frac{Q^2}{2p \cdot q}, \qquad y = \frac{p \cdot q}{p \cdot l} \tag{1.1}$$

These variables are related to the centre-of-mass energy via $s = (p+l)^2 = Q^2/xy$.

In the Quark-Parton-Model (QPM) the DIS process is interpreted as the interaction of a lepton with a constituent of the proton, a so-called "parton". The remaining partons in the proton form the proton remnant system. The variable x is the fractional momentum of the proton carried by the struck parton if the proton and parton masses are neglected. In the QPM these partons are interpreted as quarks in the proton. The largest fraction of the proton momentum is assigned to the three "valence quarks".

1.2 Cross Sections and Structure Functions

The cross sections for deep inelastic ep scattering can be expressed by one propagator term and a structure function term. The Born cross section for the **NC process** is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathrm{d}^2\sigma_{\mathrm{NC}}^{e^\pm p}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} &= \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{x}\left[\frac{1}{Q^2}\right]^2 \phi_{\mathrm{NC}}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) & (1.2)\\ \text{with } \phi_{\mathrm{NC}} &= Y_+\tilde{F_2}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) + y^2\tilde{F_L}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \mp Y_- x\tilde{F_3}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) & (1.3)\end{aligned}$$

in which $\alpha = e^2/4\pi$ is the fine structure constant. The NC "structure function term" ϕ_{NC} is a linear combination of the generalised structure functions $\tilde{F}_L$, $\tilde{F}_2$ and $x\tilde{F}_3$. $\tilde{F}_L$ is known as the longitudinal structure function. The dependence on the inelasticity is contained in the functions $Y_\pm = 1 + (1 \pm y^2)$.

The generalised structure functions are composed of five structure functions that discriminate between pure γ exchange, γZ interference and pure Z exchange and

[1] The expression "electron" is used as a generic word for electrons and positrons unless stated explicitly otherwise.

that are independent of the lepton charge. For scattering of unpolarised particles these are

$$\tilde{F}_2^{\pm} = F_2 - v_e \left[\frac{\kappa_w Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2}\right] F_2^{\gamma Z} + (v_e^2 + a_e^2) \left[\frac{\kappa_w Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2}\right]^2 F_2^Z \tag{1.4}$$

$$x\tilde{F}_3^{\pm} = \pm a_e \left[\frac{\kappa_w Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2}\right] xF_3^{\gamma Z} \mp 2 a_e v_e \left[\frac{\kappa_w Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2}\right]^2 xF_3^Z \tag{1.5}$$

Here F_2 arises from the pure photon exchange, $F_2^{\gamma Z}$ and $xF_3^{\gamma Z}$ arise due to the γZ interference and F_2^Z and xF_3^Z due to the pure Z exchange. v_e and a_e are the vector and axial-vector couplings of the electron respectively which are related to its weak isospin $I_{3e} = -\frac{1}{2}$ via $v_e = I_{3e} + 2\sin^2\theta_W$ and $a_e = I_{3e}$. M_Z is the mass of the Z boson and κ_w is a function of the Weinberg angle

$$\kappa_w = \frac{1}{4\sin^2\theta_W \cos^2\theta_W}.$$

In the QPM the structure functions F_2, $F_2^{\gamma Z}$ and F_2^Z are related to the sum of the quark and anti-quark densities

$$[F_2, F_2^{\gamma Z}, F_2^Z] = x \sum_q [e_q^2, 2e_q v_q, v_q^2 + a_q^2]\{q(x,Q^2) + \bar{q}(x,Q^2)\} \tag{1.6}$$

and the structure functions $xF_3^{\gamma Z}$ and xF_3^Z to the difference between quark and anti-quark densities:

$$[xF_3^{\gamma Z}, xF_3^Z] = x \sum_q [2e_q a_q, 2v_q a_q]\{q(x,Q^2) - \bar{q}(x,Q^2)\} \tag{1.7}$$

The sums are over all quark flavours q. The function $q(x,Q^2)dxdQ^2$ is the probability of finding a quark of flavour q in the proton with momentum fraction between x and $x + dx$ at a scale between Q^2 and $Q^2 + dQ^2$. e_q is the charge of quark q in units of the electron charge. The vector and axial-vector couplings of the quarks are given by

$$v_q = I_{3q} - 2e_q \sin^2\theta_W, \qquad a_q = I_{3q} \tag{1.8}$$

where I_{3q} is the weak isospin of the quark.

The vector coupling of the electron $v_e = -\frac{1}{2} + 2\sin^2\theta_W \approx 0.04$ can, at large Q^2, be neglected and the structure functions become

$$\tilde{F}_2^{\pm} \simeq F_2 + a_e^2 \left[\frac{\kappa_w Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2}\right]^2 F_2^Z \tag{1.9}$$

$$x\tilde{F}_3^{\pm} \simeq \mp 2a_e \left[\frac{\kappa_w Q^2}{Q^2 + M_Z^2}\right] xF_3^{\gamma Z} \tag{1.10}$$

In this approximation $\tilde{F}_2$ is only sensitive to the contributions from pure γ and Z exchange and is therefore the same for electron-proton and positron-proton scattering. On the other hand, $x\tilde{F}_3$ depends only on the γZ interference term. The cross section can then be written as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2\sigma_{NC}^{e^\pm p}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} \simeq \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{x}\left\{\frac{1}{Q^4}Y_+F_2 + a_e^2\kappa_w^2\left[\frac{1}{Q^2+M_Z^2}\right]^2 Y_+F_2^Z \right.$$
$$\left. \mp 2a_e\kappa_w\left[\frac{1}{Q^2(Q^2+M_Z^2)}\right]Y_-xF_3^{\gamma Z}\right\} \qquad (1.11)$$

Now the three contributions due to γ exchange, Z exchange and γZ interference are clearly seen from the propagator terms. Due to the destructive interference of the γ and Z boson in e^+p scattering the cross section is decreased at very high Q^2 compared to the cross section for e^-p scattering that is increased since in this case the interference is constructive.

The expected corrections to the cross section due to the presence of the Z are shown in figure 1.2 for e^+p scattering as a function of Q^2 at $x = 0.4$. Also indicated are the corresponding y values. For $Q^2 < 1000$ GeV^2 the influence of the Z is negligible. At $Q^2 = 20000$ GeV^2 the γZ interference reduces the cross section by about 45% whilst the Z exchange increases it by 25%. The net effect of the presence of the Z at this x value is a reduction of the cross section by about 30% at $Q^2 = 20000$ GeV^2.

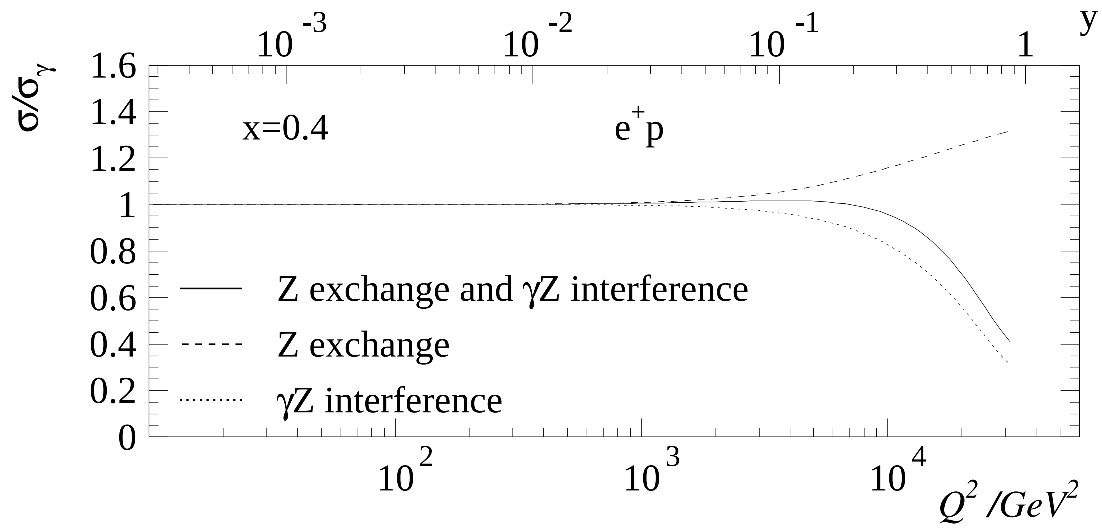

Figure 1.2: *The ratio of the NC cross section to the cross section when only γ exchange takes place (solid line). In addition the influences of the pure Z exchange (dashed line) and the γZ interference (dotted line) are shown separately.*

For **CC interactions** the expression for the cross section is similar to that for NC interactions (see eq. 1.2)

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2\sigma_{\mathrm{CC}}^{e^\pm p}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} = \frac{G_F^2M_W^4}{2\pi x}\left[\frac{1}{Q^2+M_W^2}\right]^2\phi_{\mathrm{CC}}^\pm(x,Q^2) \qquad (1.12)$$

$$\text{with } \phi_{\mathrm{CC}}^\pm = Y_+\tilde{W}_2^{\pm}(x,Q^2) + y^2\tilde{W}_L^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \mp Y_-x\tilde{W}_3^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \qquad (1.13)$$

where M_W is the mass of the W and G_F is the Fermi constant:

$$G_F = \frac{\pi\alpha}{\sqrt{2}\sin^2\theta_W M_W^2} = \frac{g^2}{4\sqrt{2}M_W^2} \tag{1.14}$$

with g being the electroweak coupling constant. The structure functions for CC interactions are defined in analogy to the NC case and are called $\tilde{W}_L$, $\tilde{W}_2$, $x\tilde{W}_3$.

The correspondence between the NC and CC cross sections can easily be seen when the cross sections are expressed in terms of the couplings e and g:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2\sigma_{\mathrm{NC}}^{e^\pm p}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} = \frac{e^4}{8\pi x}\left[\frac{1}{Q^2}\right]^2 \phi_{\mathrm{NC}}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \tag{1.15}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2\sigma_{\mathrm{CC}}^{e^\pm p}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} = \frac{g^4}{64\pi x}\left[\frac{1}{Q^2+M_W^2}\right]^2 \phi_{\mathrm{CC}}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \tag{1.16}$$

The Q^2 dependence of the cross sections principally arises from the propagator term which is $1/Q^4$ for the NC and $1/(Q^2+M_W^2)^2$ for the CC interaction. While the NC cross section decreases very rapidly with increasing Q^2, the CC cross section falls much less steeply until $Q^2 \approx M_W^2$. Since the coupling constants of the weak and electromagnetic interactions are related in the Standard Model by $g^2 = e^2/\sin^2\theta_W \approx 4e^2$ the NC and CC cross sections are expected to be of similar size at the electroweak unification scale $Q^2 \gtrsim M_W^2 \approx M_Z^2$ if $\phi_{\mathrm{CC}} \approx \phi_{\mathrm{NC}}$. This is seen in figure 1.3 where the Q^2 dependence of the CC and NC cross sections is shown for e^+p and e^-p scattering. At low Q^2 the NC cross section is about three orders of magnitude larger than the CC one. With increasing Q^2 they become more similar. In e^+p scattering the CC cross section remains even at the highest Q^2 smaller than the NC cross section. In e^-p scattering it is expected to be larger for $Q^2 > 10,000$ GeV^2. These differences arise from the coupling to different quark flavours depending on the lepton charge and will be discussed below. A complication to this picture also arises from the Z exchange so that not only the photon propagator but also the Z propagator $1/(Q^2+M_Z^2)^2$ is of importance (see eq. 1.11) at these high values of Q^2.

For unpolarised particles the generalised CC structure functions are

$$\tilde{W_2}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) = \frac{1}{2}W_2^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \tag{1.17}$$

$$x\tilde{W_3}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) = \mp\frac{1}{2}xW_3^{\pm}(x,Q^2). \tag{1.18}$$

They are related to the parton densities in the QPM via

$$W_2^+(x,Q^2) = 2x\left\{d(x,Q^2)+s(x,Q^2)+\bar{u}(x,Q^2)+\bar{c}(x,Q^2)\right\} \tag{1.19}$$

$$xW_3^+(x,Q^2) = 2x\left\{d(x,Q^2)+s(x,Q^2)-[\bar{u}(x,Q^2)+\bar{c}(x,Q^2)]\right\} \tag{1.20}$$

$$W_2^-(x,Q^2) = 2x\left\{u(x,Q^2)+c(x,Q^2)+\bar{d}(x,Q^2)+\bar{s}(x,Q^2)\right\} \tag{1.21}$$

$$xW_3^-(x,Q^2) = 2x\left\{u(x,Q^2)+c(x,Q^2)-[\bar{d}(x,Q^2)+\bar{s}(x,Q^2)]\right\} \tag{1.22}$$

Note that both the bottom and top quark don't contribute since the top quark is too massive to be produced in the kinematic range available at HERA.

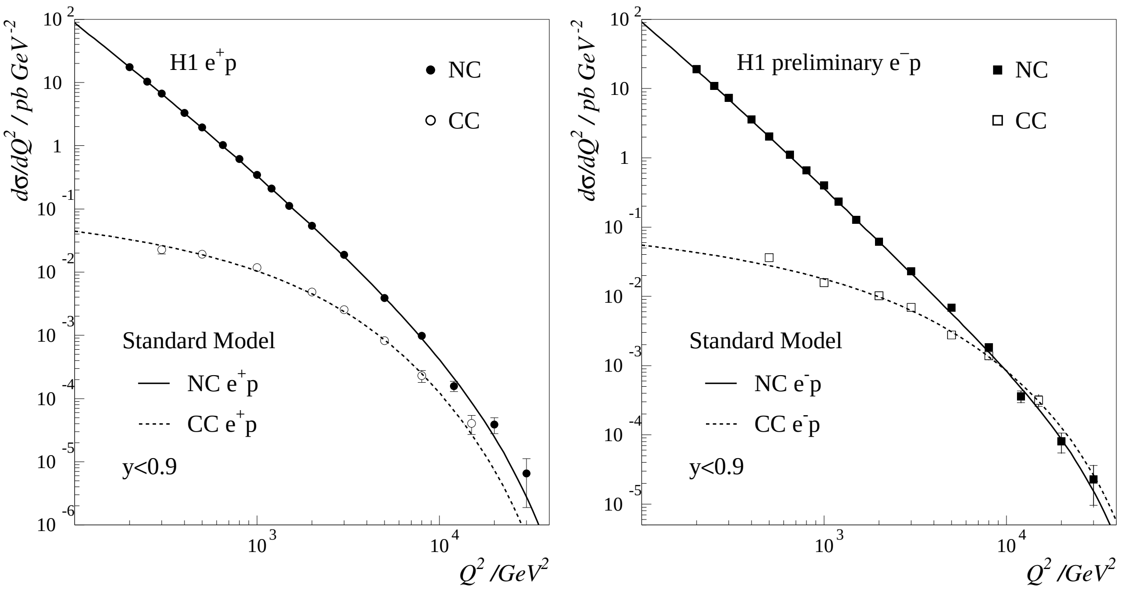

Figure 1.3: *The cross sections* $\mathrm{d}\sigma/\mathrm{d}Q^2$ *for CC and NC scattering (a) in positron-proton and (b) in electron-proton collisions. Shown are the H1 measurements (symbols) and the theoretical predictions (curves).*

When neglecting the contribution from Z exchange and F_L to the NC structure function term, the structure function terms of CC and NC interactions are related to the quark densities in the QPM via

$$\phi^{\pm}_{\mathrm{NC}} \simeq Y_+F_2 = Y_+x\left[\frac{4}{9}(u+\bar{u}+c+\bar{c})+\frac{1}{9}(d+\bar{d}+s+\bar{s}+b+\bar{b})\right] \quad (1.23)$$

$$\phi^{+}_{\mathrm{CC}} = x\left[\bar{u}+\bar{c}\right]+(1-y)^2x\left[d+s\right] \quad (1.24)$$

$$\phi^{-}_{\mathrm{CC}} = x\left[u+c\right]+(1-y)^2x\left[\bar{d}+\bar{s}\right] \quad (1.25)$$

It can be seen that the NC cross section is, in this simple picture, mainly sensitive to the u-quark density, while the e^+p CC cross section is sensitive to the d-quark density at low y and to the $\bar{u}$- and $\bar{c}$-densities at high y. For e^-p scattering the CC cross section mainly probes the u-quark density.

1.3 Quantum Chromodynamics

The interactions of the partons within the QPM can be described by the theory of the strong interaction, Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD). QCD is a non-abelian gauge theory which is invariant under $SU(3)$ colour transformation. The gauge bosons are called gluons and couple to the colour-charge which is carried by all partons. Quarks appear in three colours; eight gluons carry different combinations of colour charges. The gluons are massless like the photons in the electromagnetic interaction but they interact, in contrast to the photon, with one another. This results in a strong dependence of the coupling strength α_s on the scale (e.g. Q^2). However, at small distances (high Q^2) the couplings between the quarks and gluons become small: this is known as "asymptotic freedom". At large distances the couplings increase which leads to “confinement”: quarks and gluons are not free but only appear in hadronic bound states. Therefore α_s is a function of the scale of the interaction which is in this analysis Q^2. In leading order the coupling strength is given by

$$\alpha_s(Q^2) = \frac{12\pi}{(33 - 2n_f)\ln(Q^2/\Lambda^2_{\mathrm{QCD}})}$$

At high Q^2 α_s is sufficiently small so that QCD can be treated as a perturbation theory like the electroweak theory. Within perturbative QCD it is not possible to calculate the parton densities, but at higher Q^2 it can be tested whether the predictions of perturbative QCD about the evolution of these parton densities with x and Q^2 are correct. The evolution as function of $\ln(Q^2)$ is given by the DGLAP [26] evolution equations. The parton densities also evolve as function of $\ln(1/x)$ as it is described by the BFKL [27] equations.

The DGLAP evolution equations are given by

$$\frac{\partial q(x,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\alpha_s(t)}{2\pi}\int_x^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}}{y}\left[q(y,t)P_{qq}(\frac{x}{y}) + g(y,t)P_{qg}(\frac{x}{y})\right] \tag{1.26}$$

$$\frac{\partial g(x,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\alpha_s(t)}{2\pi}\int_x^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}}{y}\left[q(y,t)P_{gq}(\frac{x}{y}) + g(y,t)P_{gg}(\frac{x}{y})\right] \tag{1.27}$$

where $t = \ln(Q^2)/\Lambda_{\mathrm{QCD}}$ and P_{ab} are the splitting functions. They give the probability of parton b with momentum fraction y producing parton a with momentum fraction x when Q^2 changes to $Q^2 + \ln Q^2$. The Feynman diagrams corresponding to the four splitting functions are shown in figure 1.4.

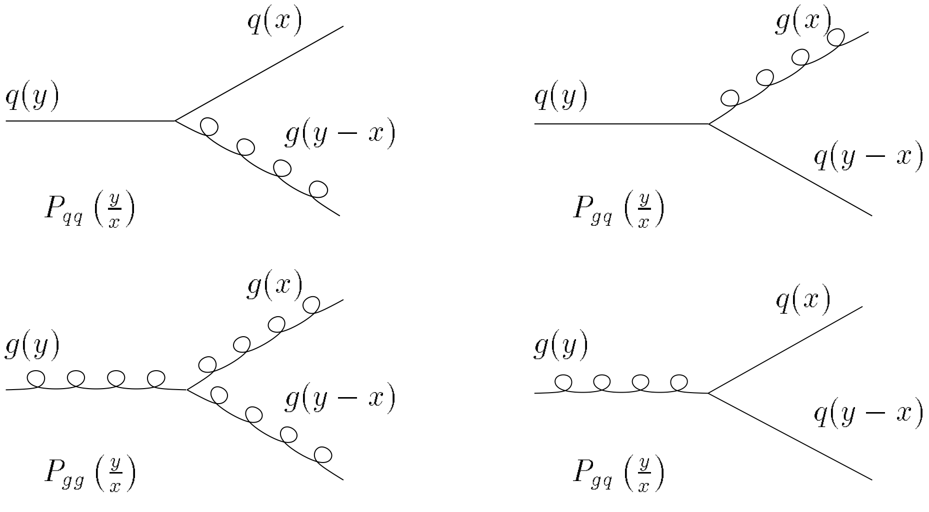

Figure 1.4: *The Feynman diagrams for the four splitting functions in the DGLAP evolution equation.*

The predictions of QCD are tested against data by making a fit to the data where the parton densities are parametrised by a functional form of typically five parameters (see e.g. [28], [29]).

1.4 Physics Beyond the Standard Model

In the kinematic region covered by this measurement there was a hint of possible physics beyond the Standard Model. In the analysis of the data taken in 1994-96 there was an excess of the observed number of events above the Standard Model expectation reported for $Q^2 > 15000$ GeV^2 by the H1 and ZEUS collaboration [30, 31]. In H1 this excess was found to be most pronounced at $M = \sqrt{sx} = 200$ GeV. A large number of theoretical explanations were given (see e.g. [32]) where possible new physics scenarios, which could lead to the observed excess, were discussed. The three most favoured scenarios are the interference of the Standard Model bosons with a new heavy boson (contact interaction), the production of a leptoquark (LQ) at $M_{LQ} \approx 200$ GeV and production of a super-symmetric squark $\tilde{q}$ at $M_{\tilde{q}} \approx 200$ GeV. These three scenarios are now briefly discussed.

Contact Interactions In the process $e^+p \to e^+X$ any new particles may produce indirect effects through the interference of a virtual particle exchange with the γ and Z bosons in the Standard Model. For particle masses above the centre of mass energy, such indirect signatures can be investigated by searching for a 4-fermion point-like $(\bar{e}e)(\bar{q}q)$ contact interaction. The Lagrangian for contact interactions [33] includes vector and axial couplings as well as couplings to left- and right- handed particles. The new particle may interfere destructively or constructively.

The coupling coefficients are given by $\eta_{if} \equiv \pm \left(g/\Lambda_{if}^{\pm}\right)^2$ where i and f denote the helicity of the lepton and quark, respectively. The coupling strength is conventionally chosen $g \equiv 4\pi$ and Λ denotes then the compositeness scale. Constraints on such new particles are expressed in terms of the compositeness scale Λ for different chiral models (LL,LR,...) and assuming constructive or destructive interference.

Presently the limits on the compositeness scale for $(\bar{e}e)(\bar{q}q)$ are $\Lambda \approx 1-5$ TeV as obtained at LEP, Tevatron and HERA.

Leptoquarks Leptoquarks are colour triplet bosons of spin 0 or 1, carrying lepton and baryon number. They appear naturally in many theories beyond the Standard Model, such as Grand Unified Theories [34] and Superstring inspired E_6 models [35], and in some Compositeness [36] and Technicolour [37] models. They can be produced at HERA in the s-channel if $M_{LQ} \lesssim \sqrt{s}$ or exchanged in the u-channel. The contact interaction analysis, described above, is mainly sensitive to the u-channel exchange, i.e. in this case $\eta_{if} = c_{if}(\lambda/M_{LQ})^2$ where λ is the coupling of the leptoquark.

Leptoquarks which are produced in the s-channel decay subsequentally. If they decay into eq, their existence cannot experimentally be distinguished on an event basis from DIS events, but can be inferred by analysing events in terms of the mass M_{LQ}- and the y-distribution. The mass of the leptoquark is related to the x-Bjorken value in DIS via $M_{LQ} = \sqrt{xs}$. The y-dependence of the cross section is sensitive to the spin of the leptoquark since y is related to the scattering angle θ^* in the centre of mass system via $1 - y = \cos^2(\theta^*/2)$. The cross section is independent of y

for leptoquarks of spin 0 and $\propto (1-y)^2$ for spin-1-leptoquarks. In both cases the y-dependence is different to DIS where at fixed x the cross section is $\propto 1/y^2$. The typical signature is an excess of events above the Standard Model expectation at a given mass M_{LQ} or x value and high y.

Squarks In Supersymmetry theories the super partner of the quark may be a squark which at HERA could be produced in the s-channel like a leptoquark. This is only possible under the condition that R-parity is not conserved. The observed excess discussed above has often been discussed (see e.g. [38]) in terms of the production of a stop quark $\tilde{t}$, the super-partner of the top quark. In this scenario it is also possible to explain an abnormally high rate of events observed by the H1 collaboration with a high momentum μ and a hadronic final state with high transverse momentum [39].

Chapter 2

HERA and the H1 Detector

In this chapter a brief overview of the HERA machine and the H1 detector are given. First the HERA machine is briefly introduced. Then the H1 detector is described with focus on the components which are important for the present measurement.

2.1 HERA

The HERA accelerator ring is situated at DESY in Hamburg and has a circumference of 6.4 km. It consists of two storage rings, one for electrons or positrons, and one for protons. In 1994-97 positrons were accelerated to an energy of $E_e = 27.6$ GeV and protons to an energy of $E_p = 820$ GeV leading to a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 301$ GeV. In 1998 HERA accelerated electrons and the proton beam energy was increased to $E_p = 920$ GeV.

The positrons and protons are stored in up to 220 bunches in the two rings with a time interval of 96 ns between two consecutive bunches. The typical number of colliding bunches was ≈ 175. In addition there are so-called "pilot bunches" of positrons and protons which are not colliding with any bunch from the other beam. Every bunch consists of approximately 10^{11} particles. The particle density within a bunch follows in longitudinal direction a gaussian distribution with a width of $\sigma \approx 11$ cm. The proton bunch has a complicated longitudinal structure which leads to the presence of several "satellite bunches" near the "main bunch".

The positron and proton beam collide in two interaction regions where the detectors H1 and ZEUS have taken data since 1992. There are two more experiments, HERMES and HERA-B, which use only one of the beams. In the HERMES detector the longitudinally polarised positron beam is collided with a polarised hydrogen-, deuterium- or helium-gas target with the aim of measuring the spin structure of the nucleon. The HERA-B experiment is still under construction. It will start taking data in the beginning of 2000 to investigate CP violation in the $\bar{B}^0 B^0$ system by studying interactions of protons from the beam halo with a Wolfram wire target.

During the four years of positron-proton running the integrated luminosity delivered by HERA per year was steadily increased. For the present analysis the luminosities are $\mathcal{L}_{94} = 2.74$ pb^{-1}, $\mathcal{L}_{95} = 3.76$ pb^{-1}, $\mathcal{L}_{96} = 7.88$ pb^{-1}and $\mathcal{L}_{97} = 21.30$ pb^{-1}amounting to a total integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 35.68$ pb^{-1}.

2.2 H1

The H1 detector (see 2.1) is situated in the North Hall of HERA. It is designed as a multi-purpose detector to study high-energy electron-proton collision events. It has almost hermetic coverage around the beam axis. The limitation comes from the space taken up by the beam pipe itself. Points within the H1 detector are described with a coordinate system (X, Y, Z) in which the nominal interaction point defines the origin, X is the direction to the centre of the HERA ring, Y is the upwards direction and Z is the direction of the proton beam. The polar and azimuthal angles are defined correspondingly, so that the polar angle is $\theta = 0^o$ in proton beam direction and $\theta = 180^o$ in electron beam direction. The azimuthal angle is $\phi = \arctan Y/X$ so that it is positive for positive values of Y.

Since the proton momentum is significantly larger than the electron momentum most particles produced in the interaction are scattered in the proton direction. Therefore the detector is asymmetric with more instrumentation in this region that is often referred to as "forward" region.

A schematic view of the 1994 setup of the H1 detector is shown in Fig. 2.1. The interaction region is surrounded by a tracking system which consists of a central $\boxed{2}$ and forward $\boxed{3}$ part. It is enclosed in the calorimeters. The central and forward regions are covered by the Liquid-Argon calorimeter (LAC) which consists of electromagnetic $\boxed{4}$ and hadronic sections $\boxed{5}$. In the backward region it is supplemented by a backward calorimeter (BEMC) $\boxed{12}$ and the backward proportional chamber (BPC). A super-conducting coil $\boxed{6}$ surrounding the calorimeters provides a homogeneous magnetic field of 1.2 T. The Iron return yoke $\boxed{10}$ contains layers of streamer tubes $\boxed{9}$ to measure the tails from hadronic energy showers and to identify muons. In the forward direction the measurement of muons is made by six layers of drift chambers $\boxed{9}$, three on either side of the toroid magnet $\boxed{11}$. In the forward region the PLUG calorimeter $\boxed{13}$ is installed. In the negative Z direction the luminosity system is placed close to the beam-pipe $\boxed{1}$. In the forward direction Forward Proton Spectrometers (FPS) and a Forward Neutron Calorimeter (FNC) are installed to investigate interactions containing a leading baryon. In 1995 the BEMC and BPC were replaced by a Spaghetti Calorimeter (SPACAL) and a Backward Drift Chamber (BDC). In 1996 a Central Silicon Tracker (CST) was installed close to the beam-pipe around the interaction vertex for the precise measurement of charged particles. It was supplemented in 1997 in the backward region by the Backward Silicon Tracker (BST) which measures the angle of electrons scattered into the backward region.

A detailed description of the H1 detector can be found in [40]. In the following only the components important for the present analysis are described.