High Transverse Momentum 2-Jet and 3-Jet Cross Section Measurements in Photoproduction

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Contents

Abstract

Using data from the H1 detector at HERA, ep cross sections in high transverse momentum, P_T^{jet} and high mass are presented for 2-jet and 3-jet event configurations. The data were taken between 1994 and 1997 and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 35.68 pb^{-1}. The kinematic regime was limited to $y < 0.9$ and $Q^2 < 4\mathrm{GeV}^2$ (photoproduction) by anti-tagging the electron in the Liquid Argon Calorimeter (LAC) and imposing a restriction on y_{JB} such that $y_{JB} < 0.9$.

In addition to testing the validity of QCD in the high P_T^{jet} photoproduction arena, the measurements are motivated by the excess of events with isolated leptons and missing P_T recently observed at H1. Similar kinematic configurations are studied but with only high P_T jets in the final state. Jets are defined using the Longitudinally Invariant K_T algorithm, with all selected events having one jet of $P_T^{jet1} > 25$ GeV and a second with $P_T^{jet2} > 15$ GeV. This asymmetric jet cut ensures the stability of the next-to-leading order QCD predictions for the 2-jet cross sections. For the 3-jet cross sections, a third jet of $P_T^{jet3} > 10$ GeV is required. All jets are required to lie in the pseudorapidity, η range -0.5 $< \eta^{jet} <$ 2.5, in order that they be fully contained in the LAC.

The hadronic ep cross sections fall by three orders of magnitude in the measured ranges. The dominant error on the measurement arises from the uncertainty in the jet energy scale. In the highest mass and P_T^{jet} bins, statistical errors also become significant. When compared to QCD predictions from the event generators PYTHIA 5.7 and HERWIG 5.9, which include $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ matrix elements, parton showering and a hadronisation scheme, and a $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ numerical integration program (JetViP 1.1), no significant deviations are observed. The PYTHIA and HERWIG predictions both require an overall scale factor to be applied, while the normalisation of the JetViP result agrees well with the data. It is concluded that for the measurements made, no additional contributions from hadronic heavy particle decay are required.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The structure of matter has been probed extensively in Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS) lepton-proton collisions [1–4]. This led to the discovery of proton structure in the 1960's and the suggestion that all hadrons were composed of pointlike partons. Subsequently, the strongly interacting theory of quarks and gluons (QCD) was proposed and has enjoyed considerable success in predicting a range of measurements ever since.

The building of HERA, the first lepton-hadron collider, has allowed detailed proton structure measurements in previously unexplored kinematic regions [5, 6]. 27.6 GeV leptons collide with 820 GeV protons in a 6.3km ring. However the wealth of physics available for study at HERA stretches far beyond the traditional measurements of proton structure. The structure of real and virtual photons has been investigated, as have diffractive and Heavy Flavour physics. Several searches for evidence of physics beyond the Standard Model have also been performed. The study of collisions between protons and almost on-shell photons (photoproduction) has been of particular interest, with the photon-proton centre-of-mass energy being extended by an order of magnitude over previous fixed target experiments. Such high energies allow hard scattering processes to be clearly observed via their characteristic

hadronic jet structure.

In this thesis, the most energetic photoproduction collisions are analysed. Using the full luminosity achieved in HERA's positron-proton mode between 1994 and 1997, jet cross section measurements in invariant mass and transverse momentum, P_T^{jet} are extended to previously unmeasured values. A dual motivation for these measurements exists. Firstly, the cross sections may be compared to the predictions of QCD in order to test the validity of the theory in the high energy photoproduction environment. Secondly, recent measurements by the H1 collaboration have revealed an excess of events consistent with the production and subsequent leptonic decay of a heavy particle. In the past, similar analyses studying hadronic heavy particle decays have been blighted by poor understanding of the QCD 'background', a problem which can be avoided by using the measurements presented in this thesis.

In Chapter 2 the H1 detector is presented, concentrating on the components used to make the cross section measurements. Chapter 3 reviews the theoretical models of ep and γp interactions. The jet algorithms used in the analysis are defined and the computer programs that implement the physics processes are discussed in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 details the full analysis chain from event selection to the correction made for detector effects and the systematic errors considered. A discussion of the cross section measurements is presented in Chapter 6, along with a comparison to the QCD predictions modelled by the event generators PYTHIA 5.7 [7] and HERWIG 5.9 [8] and the numerical integration program, JetViP 1.1 [9]. The final chapter provides a summary of the measurements made and looks at future prospects for high P_T^{jet} analyses.

Chapter 2

The H1 Experiment at HERA

The H1 detector [10] is one of two colliding beam experiments found on HERA (the Hadron Electron Ring Accelerator). Since 1992, it has been used to study electron-proton and positron-proton scattering over a wide kinematic range. In this chapter the HERA accelerator will be presented, followed by a overview of the H1 detector and a more detailed look at the detector components relevant to the measurements described in Chapter 5.

2.1 The HERA *ep* Collider

Situated in Hamburg, HERA is chiefly composed of two approximately circular, 6.3km circumference beam-pipes. In one, electrons[1] are accelerated up to 27.6 GeV while in the other, protons are injected and ramped[2] to 820 GeV . Two beam-pipes are required since the differing mass and energies of the beam particles requires

[1] The machine group at HERA is capable of switching from electrons to positrons and back and has done so in line with experimental need on several occasions. In the period relevant to this thesis, positrons were used. However, the beam lepton will be referred to as an electron, regardless of its charge.

[2] since 1998, the proton beam energy has been increased to 920 GeV .

separate magnetic configurations. Furthermore, a greater flexibility in altering individual beam energies is possible with separate beam pipes. Superconducting and non-superconducting magnets are used to accelerate the beams and bring them together (within a single beam pipe) at two interaction points; in the South Area, where the ZEUS detector is situated and in the North Area, where H1 is found. Two further fixed target experiments are located on the HERA ring. On the East side, a portion of the electron beam can be steered into a range of polarised gaseous targets, for analysis with the HERMES detector. On the opposite side of the ring, the HERA-B experiment uses the proton beam to study B-physics via interactions with a set of up to eight target wires.

Each beam is concentrated into small pulses or bunches. A subdivision into colliding and non-colliding (pilot) bunches is made. In colliding bunches, a proton bunch is paired with an electron bunch, resulting in a crossing every 96 nanoseconds. The pilot bunches have no corresponding bunch in the opposite beam and so can be used to estimate the rate of interactions between a beam and the residual gas in the beampipe (beam-gas interactions) and between the beam and the beampipe itself (beam-wall interactions). In the period 1994-1997, there were typically 160 colliding bunches and 10 pilot bunches per luminosity fill.

2.2 An overview of the H1 Detector

The H1 detector, a schematic of which is shown in figure 2.1, is a system of multiple subdetectors and components used for tagging and identifying the properties of elementary particles produced in lepton-hadron collisions. It offers almost full 4π solid angle coverage. The main region not covered is that occupied by the beam pipe.

Figure 2.1 also shows the reference frame used by H1. A right-handed set of