A Study of Radiative Charged Current Interactions in ep Collisions

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by

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Abstract

Using data from the H1 experiment at HERA, measurements have been made of the inclusive charged current cross sections and the exclusive radiative charged current channel. The data were taken between 1994 and 2000 with centre of mass energies of 300 GeV and 320 GeV, using proton and electron or positron colliding beams. The data sample corresponds to a total integrated luminosity of 115 pb^{-1}.

Measurements of the single and double differential charged current cross-sections, $\frac{d\sigma}{dx}$, $\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2}$ and $\frac{d^2\sigma}{dxdQ^2}$, respectively, are obtained with different beam energies and types at the highest possible of values Q^2 and x. Calculations of the Standard Model of particle physics are compared with these data and found to be in agreement. Effects on these cross sections due to changes in beam energy and lepton type are observed.

The radiative charged current cross sections are measured for the first time at H1 and their significance with respect to the anomalous couplings of the WWγ vertex, $\Delta\kappa$ and λ, is discussed. The results presented are again shown to be in full agreement with the predictions from the Standard Model.

Authors Contribution

The analyses presented within this thesis are part of the Physics programme of the 'High p_t, high Q^2' (HiP) working group of the H1 Experiment at DESY in Hamburg, Germany. The data shown were taken by the H1 Collaboration during the years 1994 - 2000. All members of the Collaboration were involved in the data accumulation process.

The majority of the data analysis presented in this thesis is the author's own work. However, certain parts of the Charged Current (CC) analysis were a joint effort by the author and several colleagues, or - with respect to the CC results pre-1998 - the work of a group not including the author. The CC analysis from 1998 onwards has resulted in several publications, including a conference paper for the EPS99 Conference, Tampere, Finland [47]. The author's contribution to this analysis was the compilation of the data sample, calculation of the trigger efficiencies and studies of the background rejection. At the time of writing, this analysis is being prepared for publication in the European Physics Journal C [48].

A preliminary analysis of CC data taken in 1999-2000 was published in a conference paper for the ICHEP 2000 Conference in Osaka, Japan [9].

The radiative CC analysis is entirely the author's own work and is at present being prepared for publication.

The author was deeply involved with the day-to-day running of the H1 experiment. She has been an "expert on call" for the Forward Track Detector, a member of the shift crew and was responsible for the data quality monitoring for the HiP working group.

Contents

Chapter 1

Physics at HERA

HERA is an electron[1] - proton collider. It has been designed and used primarily to probe the quark and gluon structure of the proton which is now, partly due to endeavours at HERA, understood to an increasing degree [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]. At HERA, the process which is experimentally observed and is of primary interest for measurements of proton structure is that of deep-inelastic lepton proton scattering (DIS). This chapter explains DIS processes: the kinematic framework within which they are described and the theories and equations which characterise and quantify the different types of DIS interactions.

1.1 Deep-Inelastic Scattering

A deep-inelastic scattering (DIS) event is characterised by an incoming lepton scattering off a proton via the exchange of a vector boson. A schematic diagram of this process is shown in figure 1.1.

The kinematics of a typical DIS event are parameterised in terms of the following quantities:

- Q^2 4 momentum transfer squared:

$$Q^2 = -q^2 = -(k - k')^2 \tag{1.1}$$

- x Björken-x, the fraction of the proton's momentum carried by the struck

[1] Electron denotes electron or positron throughout this thesis, unless otherwise specified.

quark:

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2p.q} \tag{1.2}$$

- y Inelasticity variable, the fractional energy loss of the lepton in the proton rest frame:

$$y = \frac{p.q}{p.k} \tag{1.3}$$

where k (p) and k' (p') are the 4-momenta of the incoming and outgoing lepton (proton) and $q = k - k'$, shown in fig. 1.1. Both x and y are dimensionless variables. Q^2 has dimensions of energy squared. Natural units are used throughout this thesis.

Only two of the above variables can be independent. They are related by

$$Q^2 = sxy \tag{1.4}$$

and

$$W^2 = Q^2 \left(\frac{1-x}{x} \right) \tag{1.5}$$

where s is the square of the centre of mass (COM) energy of the ep collision (neglecting radiation effects) and W is the invariant mass of the final state system (the scattered lepton and hadronic final state in fig. 1.1).

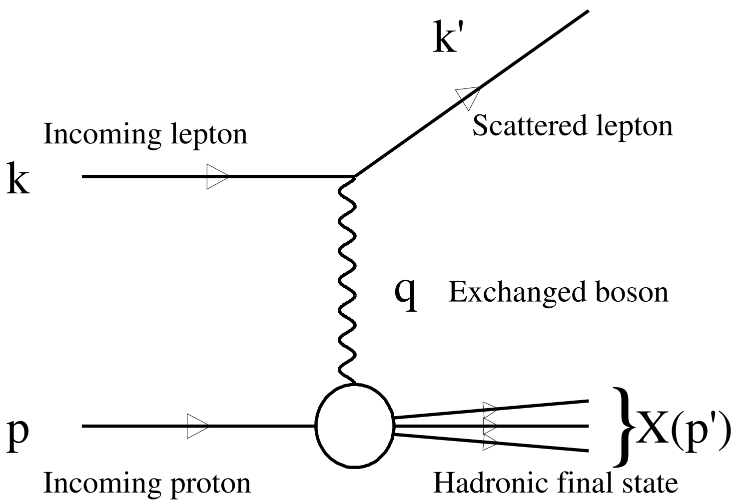

Figure 1.1: Feynman diagram for DIS.

A neutral current (NC) DIS process involves the exchange of a photon (γ) or a Z^0 boson. The final state contains a scattered electron and a hadronic system (X). At low values of Q^2, Z^0 boson exchange is highly suppressed with respect to γ exchange due to the large mass of the Z^0 boson (91.3 GeV [7]). A charged current (CC) interaction involves the exchange of a $W^{\pm}$ boson (mass 80.4 GeV [8]); the scattered lepton is an electron neutrino. The Feynman diagram for CC scattering is shown in fig. 1.2. On rare occasions, the $W^{\pm}$ boson exchanged during a CC process will itself emit a real photon. Radiation may also be emitted from the incoming or outgoing quarks or leptons. These processes are called 'radiative CC' and are described in more detail in section 1.2.

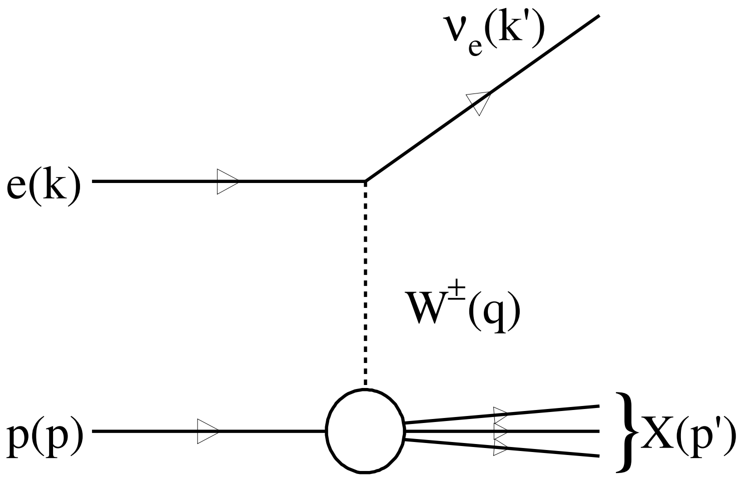

Figure 1.2: Feynman diagram for CC scattering.

Structure Functions

Structure functions relate to the properties and composition of the proton [10]. If the virtuality of the exchanged boson is high (i.e. $Q^2 \gtrsim 1$ GeV^2) then it is possible to begin to examine the substructure of the proton. The larger the Q^2 of the DIS interaction, the deeper the proton is probed and the higher the resolution of the contents.

The substructure of the proton may be expressed in terms of a minimum number of 'structure functions'. In the Quark Parton Model (QPM), where a parton is a point-like constituent of the proton, the structure functions are related to Q^2 independent parton distribution functions (PDFs), denoted $f(x)$. Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) predicts the Q^2 evolution of the PDFs at fixed x and, hence, the PDFs are denoted $f(x, Q^2)$. The $F_1(x, Q^2)$ and $F_2(x, Q^2)$ structure functions are related to the cross sections for longitudinally and transversely polarised particles, and $F_3(x, Q^2)$ is related to that for parity violating processes.

Quark Parton Model

An intuitive understanding of the structure functions is obtained by considering the QPM in which quarks are the only constituents of the proton, and interact only electromagnetically or weakly. Each constituent carries a fraction x of the proton's momentum. The PDF describes the probability that the struck parton carries a proportion x of the total momentum p. The structure functions can be written as a charge weighted sum over all the quark distributions in the proton. Naively, one might expect that each of the 3 valence quarks carries an average of one third of the total momentum.

This simplisitic treatment of the partons in the QPM was motivated by the observation at early SLAC experiments [11] of *scaling* in which the structure functions depend only on x and not on the scale, Q^2, at which the proton is probed. However, detailed measurements at pre-HERA experiments [12] [13] and then H1 [3] [5] [14] and ZEUS [4] [6] have shown that, although scaling is observed over several decades in Q^2 for values of $x \sim 0.2$, a Q^2 dependence is observed at smaller and larger x. The QPM does not give an explanation for the observed scaling violations therefore a more advanced model is required.

Quantum Chromodynamics

QCD is the theory of the strong interaction and consequently describes a more sophisticated model of partonic structure. QCD describes a model of a proton containing the valence quarks surrounded by a cloud of gluons - the electrically neutral gauge bosons - and sea-quarks - the quark anti-quark pairs created by the gluons. Gluons are the strong interaction equivalent of photons in the electromagnetic interaction and are massless. They couple to the colour charge carried by other partons within the proton.

The self-interaction of the gluons leads to the strong variation of the coupling, $\alpha_s(Q^2)$, with the scale. At low momentum transfer (or large distance scales) the coupling becomes large. This leads to *confinement*, such that quarks may only exist within bound states of hadrons. At high momentum transfer (small distance scales) the coupling becomes small enough that the quarks behave as almost free particles, interacting with each other through the exchange of gluons. The quarks in the proton radiate gluons, leading to an increase in the effective number of partons visible with increasing Q^2, and a decrease in the average momentum carried by each parton.

Although QCD does not give absolute predictions for PDFs, the Q^2 evolution of the structure functions can be calculated in the HERA kinematic range using the DGLAP evolution equations, named after prominent QCD theorists [15]. These equations use the quark and gluon PDFs at a starting scale as input and predict the form of the PDFs, and hence structure functions, at a new scale. The DGLAP equations at HERA Q^2 scales agree well with the measurements made using data taken by H1, showing a logarithmic rise of F_2 with Q^2 at low x and fall of F_2 with Q^2 at high x. All QCD processes may be factorised into hard interactions, calculable in perturbative QCD (pQCD), and the PDFs for the initial state particles. These PDFs, although incalculable in pQCD, are universal for all hard interactions. That is, once measured from the data for one interaction, they can be used to make predictions for many others. The PDFs are therefore transportable between different types of experiment, i.e. *ep* or *pp*. Cross section calculations in this thesis use PDFs extracted from fits to data from many experiments.

1.1.1 The DIS Cross Section

DIS cross sections contain three types of term which describe different aspects of DIS interactions. These are **(a)** coupling terms, **(b)** propagator terms and **(c)** proton structure function terms. They are discussed here in the context of describing the behaviour of the cross section measurement made in this thesis.

The Born (first order) cross section equation for $ep \to \nu X$ (CC) scattering is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{CC}^{e\pm p}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} = \frac{G_F^2 M_W^2}{2\pi x}\left(\frac{1}{M_W^2+Q^2}\right)^2 \phi_{CC}^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \tag{1.6}$$

where

- G_F is the Fermi coupling constant, $G_F^2 = \frac{\pi^2\alpha^2}{2\sin^4\theta_W M_W^4}$;
- M_W is the mass of the $W^{\pm}$ boson;
- $\sin\theta_W$ is the Weinberg mixing angle;
- α is the fine structure constant, $\alpha = e^2/4\pi$, and
- $\phi_{CC}^{\pm}$ is a combination of the proton structure function terms , $\tilde{W}_L$, $\tilde{W}_2$ and $x\tilde{W}_3$, and a function of the inelasticity, $Y_{\pm} = 1 + (1 \pm y^2)$,

$$\phi_{CC}^{\pm} = Y_+\tilde{W}_2^{\pm}(x,Q^2) + y^2\tilde{W}_L^{\pm}(x,Q^2) \mp Y_- x\tilde{W}_3^{\pm}(x,Q^2). \tag{1.7}$$

The equivalent Born cross section equation for $ep \rightarrow eX$ (NC) scattering is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{NC}^{e\pm p}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{x}\left[\left(\frac{1}{Q^4}\right)Y_+F_2 + \left(\frac{1}{Q^2+M_Z^2}\right)^2 a_e^2\kappa_w^2 Y_+ F_2^Z \mp 2\left(\frac{1}{Q^2(Q^2+M_Z^2)}\right)a_e\kappa_w Y_- xF_3^{\gamma Z}\right] \tag{1.8}$$

where

- M_Z is the mass of the Z^0 boson
- F_2, F_2^Z and $xF_3^{\gamma Z}$ are the structure functions relating to γ exchange, Z^0 exchange and γZ interference respectively,
- a_e is the axial vector coupling of the electron and κ_w is a function of the Weinberg angle:

$$\kappa_w = \frac{1}{4\sin^2\theta_W\cos^2\theta_W}. \tag{1.9}$$

The longitudinal component of the structure function (W_L or F_L) only becomes significant at high y (see equation 1.7) and can therefore be neglected within these derivations which relate to the low y domain. The cross sections equations 1.6 and 1.8 can be compared with respect to their component parts and conclusions can be drawn about the influence of each of the terms on the overall cross sections:

(a) Coupling terms

The similarity between the vertex coupling terms for CC and NC (the first term of equations 1.6 and 1.8) becomes apparent if the Fermi coupling constant G_F is expressed in terms of g, the electroweak coupling constant

$$G_F = \frac{g^2}{4\sqrt{2}M_W^2}. \tag{1.10}$$

If the expressions for e and g are substituted into the first terms of equations 1.6 and 1.8, the terms take the following form:

$$\text{CC} \quad \frac{G_F^2 M_W^4}{2\pi x} \Rightarrow \frac{g^4}{64\pi x} \qquad\qquad \text{NC} \quad \frac{2\pi\alpha}{x} \Rightarrow \frac{e^4}{8\pi x} \tag{1.11}$$

and e and g are related by

$$g^2 = \frac{e^2}{\sin^2\theta_W} \approx 4e^2. \tag{1.12}$$

This similarity indicates that in the high Q^2 region, $Q^2 \sim M_W^2$ or M_Z^2, it is expected that the cross sections are of the same order of magnitude. This feature of the cross sections is shown in fig. 1.3, the differential cross sections for NC and CC as a function of Q^2, where for high Q^2 the cross sections are indeed similar in magnitude.

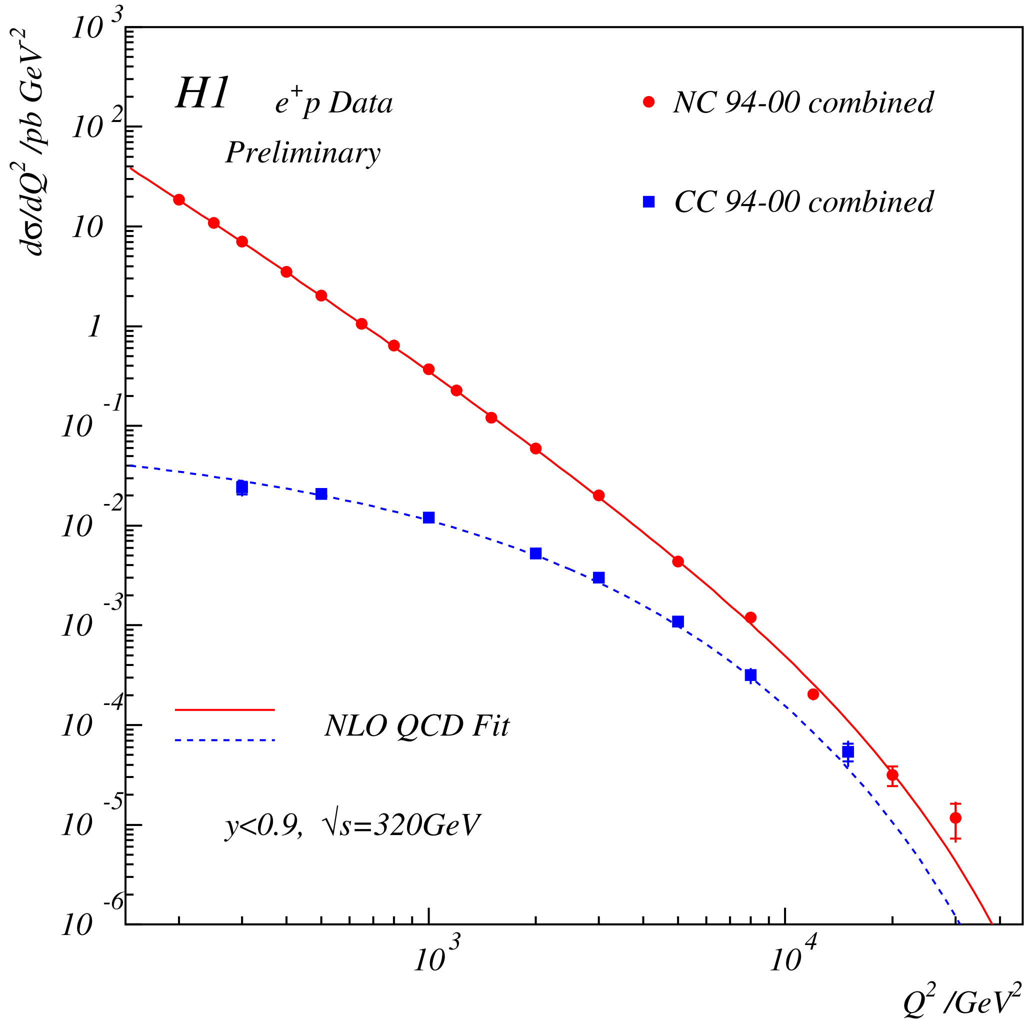

Figure 1.3: The Q^2 dependence of the CC and NC cross section measurements made using the combined 1994 - 2000 e^+p data taken by H1 [9]. The red solid circles are NC data and red solid line is the SM expectation for the NC cross section. The blue solid squares are CC data and the blue dashed line is the SM expectation for the CC cross section. Model expectations are determined from the NLO QCD fit to the 94-7 e^+p H1 data [9].

(b) Propagator terms

The propagator term relates to the exchanged boson itself and is the main factor which determines the Q^2 dependence of the cross sections. The terms in each case are:

$$\text{CC} \quad \left(\frac{1}{Q^2 + M_W^2}\right)^2 \tag{1.13}$$

$$\text{NC} \quad \left(\frac{1}{Q^4}\right), \quad \left(\frac{1}{Q^2 + M_Z^2}\right)^2, \quad \pm\left(\frac{1}{Q^2(Q^2 + M_Z^2)}\right) \tag{1.14}$$

In the CC case it is evident that the behaviour changes for $Q^2 \ll M_W^2$ and for $Q^2 \gtrsim M_W^2$:

(i) as $Q^2 \to 0$, the propagator term $\to$ a constant;

(ii) as $Q^2 \to \infty$, the propagator term $\to 1/Q^4$.

This behaviour is exhibited in fig.1.3 by the reduction in cross section size as a function of Q^2. Below $Q^2 \approx M_W^2$ the cross section is suppressed by the $1/M_W^4$ dependence and decreases slowly with respect to Q^2, influenced by other factors. Above $Q^2 \approx M_W^2$ it decreases rapidly exhibiting the $1/Q^4$ dependence.

For NC, the cross section displays a very simple $1/Q^4$ decrease until $Q^2 \approx M_Z^2$ when the contribution from the coupling and structure function terms, shown in equation 1.14, introduces a significant effect, as shown in figure 1.3.

At low Q^2, the CC cross section is suppressed with respect to the NC cross section due to the large W boson mass since, in this region, the NC cross section is dominated by photon exchange. However, at high Q^2 the cross sections are of comparable magnitude due to the similarity in mass of the W and Z bosons.

(c) Structure function term

As discussed previously, the structure function terms describe the proton substructure. Since the propagator probes the proton, the charge it carries becomes an important factor. For CC interactions the only propagator is the $W^\pm$ boson. The charge of the

W boson is determined by the charge of the incoming lepton. The structure functions $\tilde{W}_2$ and $x\tilde{W}_3$ are related to the charges of the quarks:

$$\tilde{W_2}^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}W_2^{\pm}(x, Q^2) \qquad x\tilde{W_3}^{\pm} = \mp\frac{1}{2}xW_3^{\pm}(x, Q^2) \tag{1.15}$$

where

$$W_2^+(x, Q^2) = 2x[d(x, Q^2) + s(x, Q^2) + b(x, Q^2) + \bar{u}(x, Q^2) + \bar{c}(x, Q^2)] \tag{1.16}$$

$$xW_3^+(x, Q^2) = 2x[d(x, Q^2) + s(x, Q^2) + b(x, Q^2) - \bar{u}(x, Q^2) - \bar{c}(x, Q^2)] \tag{1.17}$$

$W_2^-(x, Q^2)$ and $xW_3^-(x, Q^2)$ take the same form as equations 1.16 and 1.17 respectively, but the quarks concerned are of the *up* type (u or c with charge $+\frac{2}{3}$) as opposed to the *down* type (d, s or b with charge -$\frac{1}{3}$) or vice-versa. d(x, Q^2) etc. are the PDFs of the particular quarks within the proton. The *top* quark is ignored here as its mass is too large to contribute within the kinematic range at HERA.

It follows that the structure function term ϕ_{CC} is dependent on the quark densities in the proton:

$$\phi_{CC}^+ = x[\bar{u} + \bar{c}] + (1 - y)^2 x[d + s + b] \tag{1.18}$$

$$\phi_{CC}^- = x[u + c] + (1 - y)^2 x[\bar{d} + \bar{s} + \bar{b}] \tag{1.19}$$

In the high x domain of CC ep scattering, the $W^{\pm}$ will be sensitive to the quarks in the proton of the opposite sign. To exhibit this effect, the reduced cross section is introduced. The reduced cross section for CC (which is, in effect, the cross section with all kinematic factors removed) is given by

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{CC} = \frac{2\pi x}{G_F}\left[\frac{Q^2 + M_W^2}{M_W^2}\right]^2 \frac{\mathrm{d}^2\sigma_{CC}}{\mathrm{d}x\mathrm{d}Q^2} = \phi_{CC}^+(1 + \delta_{CC}^{weak}) \tag{1.20}$$

and fig. 1.4 shows this for different lepton beam types and indicates that different quarks are seen by the probe. The results with the electron beam are sensitive to the positively charged quarks in the proton, those with the positron beam to the negatively charged quarks: to first order there are 2 u valence quarks for every d in the proton which carry the largest momentum fractions, hence the cross section for e^-p scattering is larger.

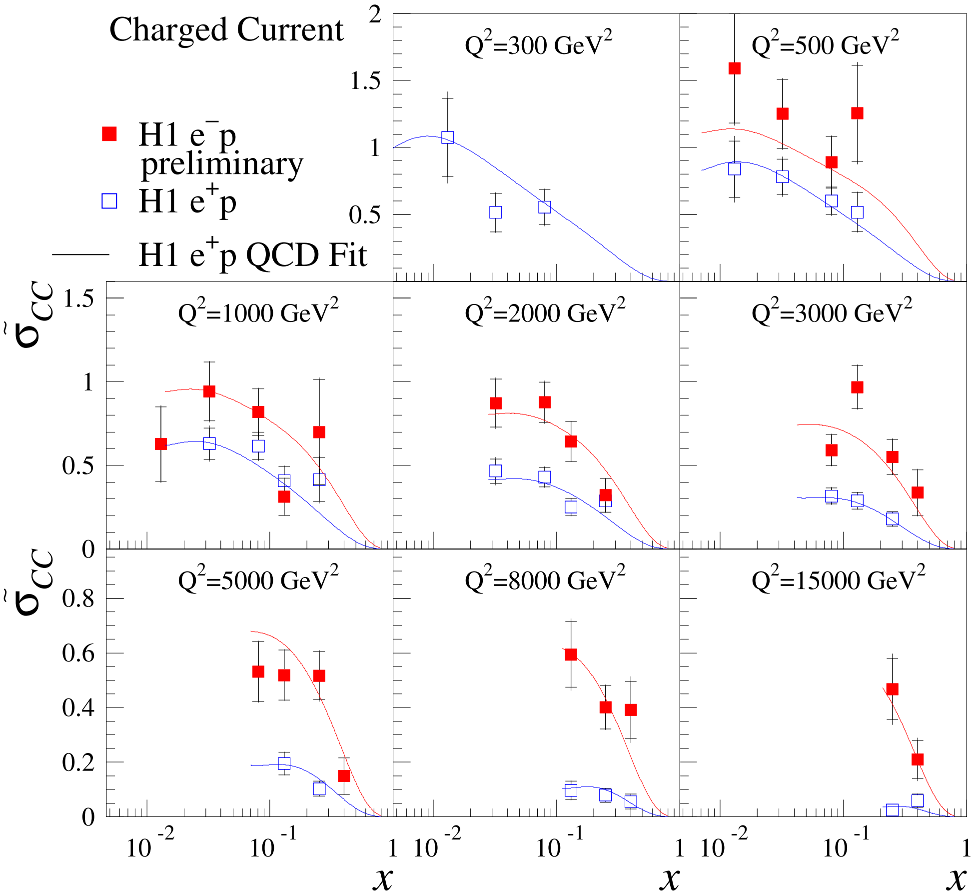

Figure 1.4: The x dependence of the reduced cross section in bins of Q^2 for both lepton beam types. Red (solid) squares are e^-p data and blue (open) squares are e^+p data. Lines are SM predictions.

In NC scattering, photons interact equally with the different quarks in the proton until, at high Q^2, the contribution of Z exchange becomes significant. The complex effects of the Z exchange and γZ interference become apparent at high Q^2, as seen in figure 1.5, where the interference is positive for e^-p scattering, and negative for e^+p scattering.

The sensitivity to the quark density within the proton for NC scattering where photon exchange dominates is given by a combination of the PDFs:

$$\phi^{\pm}_{NC} = Y_+ x\left[\frac{4}{9}(u+\bar{u}+c+\bar{c}) + \frac{1}{9}(d+\bar{d}+s+\bar{s}+b+\bar{b})\right] \tag{1.21}$$

in which the u quark is shown to be the main contributor since at high x it is the valence quarks of the proton which are probed.

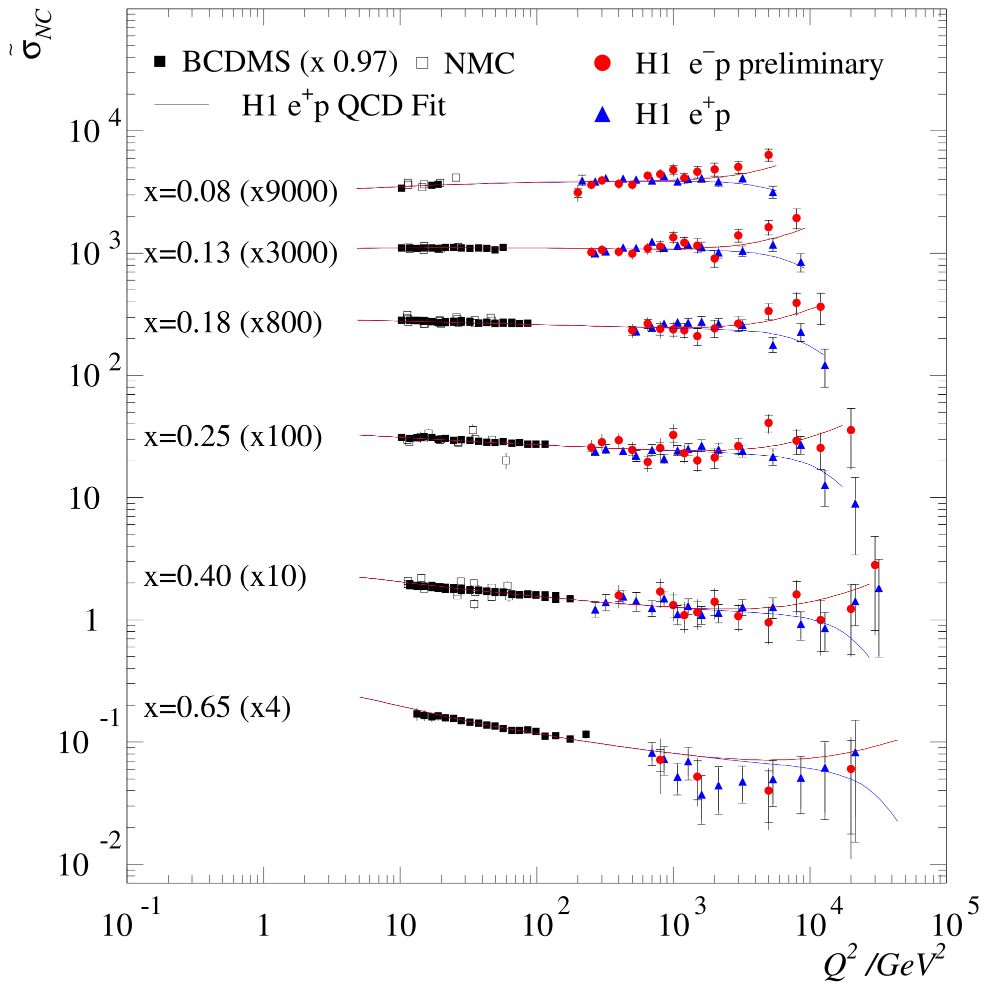

Figure 1.5: The Q^2 dependence of the reduced NC cross section. The red squares are the H1 e^-p data and the blue triangles are the H1 e^+p data taken in 1994-7. The lines are SM predictions.

1.2 Radiative Charged Current

In the Standard Model of Electroweak interactions, the couplings of the charged W boson to its neutral counterparts, the photon (γ) and the Z^0 boson, are fixed by the the non-abelian nature of the SU(2)xU(1) gauge symmetry. This thesis examines the WWγ triple boson vertex, which becomes accessible when the W boson exchanged during a CC event radiates a photon, shown in fig. 1.6: so-called 'radiative CC' events. The diagrams shown in fig. 1.7 illustrate that the photon can also be emitted from the lepton or quark lines, but these do not contribute to the understanding of the triple boson vertex.

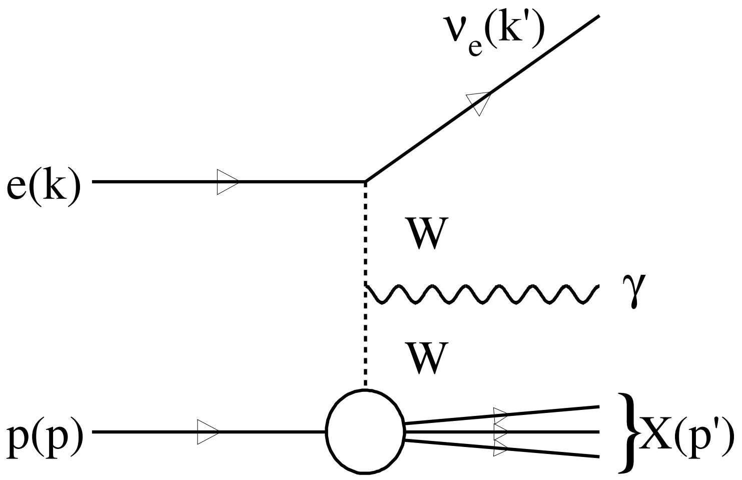

Figure 1.6: Feynman diagram for radiative CC scattering.

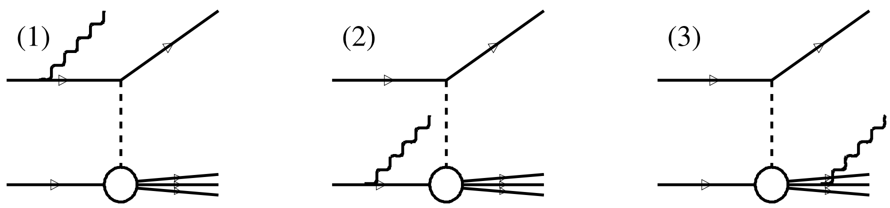

Figure 1.7: Feynman diagrams for scattering with radiation.

It is interesting to look for events with the topologies predicted for radiative CC within the phase space available at HERA for two reasons:

(i) to examine the *anomalous* couplings of the WWγ vertex, $\Delta\kappa$ and λ, which arise if the restrictions of the SU(2) gauge symmetry are released

(ii) to compare the cross sections calculated from the data for this process to Standard Model and Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) predictions.

The measurement of the tri-linear couplings of the electroweak gauge bosons is a stringent test of the SM. As such, it is also a useful probe for new physics. The most general Lorentz invariant parameterisation of the WWγ vertex can be defined in terms of 7 independent couplings. Assuming electromagnetic gauge invariance, C - and P- conservation, the 7 couplings can be reduced to 2 parameters: $\Delta\kappa$ and λ. Non-zero values of these anomalous couplings would be contrary to the expectation from the SM [17] [18]. The anomalous couplings themselves are terms which govern the behaviour of the magnetic dipole moment and electric quadrupole moment of the bosons, and hence their coupling to other bosons.

Radiative CC events are very rare at HERA so the anomalous coupling measurements are not expected to be competitive with those achieved by the LEP experiments due to the very limited statistical accuracy available [19]. However, the examination of the cross sections for events selected with the required topology for the different beam types and COM energies used at HERA will allow comparisons with SM expectation within the available phase space. The region of phase space probed differs considerably from that probed by the LEP experiments due to the different beam types and COM energies.

In addition, it is also currently of particular importance as the H1 experiment has observed an excess of 'single W production' events [21] which arise from the NC scattering interaction $ep \rightarrow eWX$ (see fig. 6.5 in section 6.5 for a Feynman diagram of this type of event). Analysis of radiative CC type interactions can be, with this in mind, a valuable consistency check with the NC single W production cross section [20] and a useful verification of the contribution to the event sample from radiative CC events.

1.2.1 The Radiative CC Cross Section

An intuitive idea of the expectations for the cross section for radiative CC may be constructed if the likely sources of radiation in CC events are separated out. Each contribution is shown in figs. 1.6 and 1.7. The likelihood of the incoming lepton or $W^{\pm}$ boson radiating a photon is the same whether the lepton is an electron or positron. Radiation from the incoming quark may be neglected as it will probably be emitted co-linear to the beam and, hence, follow the proton remnant down the beam-pipe.

The significant radiation, in addition to that from the incoming lepton and the W boson, is therefore expected to be that from the outgoing quark. Since the radiation term from $e^{+}p$ scattering is likely to have an outgoing u quark, the radiation contribution ($\propto$ charge^2) is naively expected to be slightly larger than that from $e^{-}p$ scattering, despite the cross section for CC scattering being shown to be contrary to this. However, this naive prediction will be discussed later in this section and compared to the measurements.

A more formal definition of the differential cross section for the $ep \rightarrow \nu\gamma X$ process is given by the following [16]:

- for e^+p

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{e^+p}_{CC\gamma}}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{\alpha^3}{4\pi^2 s}\frac{1}{\sin^4\theta_W x}\mathrm{d}^3PS\Bigg(\sum_{f=d,s,b} q_f|\mathcal{M}|^2 + \sum_{\bar{f}=\bar{u},\bar{c}} q_{\bar{f}}|\bar{\mathcal{M}}|^2\Bigg) \tag{1.22}$$

- for e^-p

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{e^-p}_{CC\gamma}}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{\alpha^3}{4\pi^2 s}\frac{1}{\sin^4\theta_W x}\mathrm{d}^3PS\Bigg(\sum_{f=u,c} q_f|\mathcal{M}|^2 + \sum_{\bar{f}=\bar{d},\bar{s},\bar{b}} q_{\bar{f}}|\bar{\mathcal{M}}|^2\Bigg) \tag{1.23}$$

where s is the COM energy and q_f are the parton distribution functions. The 3 - particle phase space is parameterised as follows:

$$\mathrm{d}^3PS = \frac{\pi E_{q'}E_\gamma}{4S_4}\mathrm{d}E_\gamma\mathrm{d}(\cos\theta_\gamma)\mathrm{d}(\cos\theta_{q'})\mathrm{d}\phi \tag{1.24}$$

where

$$S_4 = E_e + xE_p - E_\gamma - (E_e - xE_e - E_\gamma\cos\theta_\gamma)\cos\theta_{q'} + E_\gamma\cos\phi\sin\theta_{q'}\sin\theta_\gamma \tag{1.25}$$

and E_e and E_p are the energies of the lepton and proton beam respectively[2]. The neutrino momentum and overall azimuthal orientation have been integrated out. The $\mathcal{M}$ terms are the sum of the matrix elements of the Feynman diagrams for radiation from the initial lepton, initial quark and scattered quark - parts 1, 2 and 3 in fig. 1.7 respectively - and intermediate charged W boson, shown in fig. 1.6. These terms depend on the products of the particles 4-momenta. The anomalous couplings, $\Delta\kappa$ and λ, only contribute in terms involving radiation from the W boson.

Predictions using this formal cross section calculation, given in chapter 9, give results which are contrary to those discussed as a intuitive prediction. However, the data results are more closely in agreement with this idea, although they are inconclusive since the statistical sample of events is so limited.

1.3 Beyond the Standard Model

There are many different theories which propose physics beyond the Standard Model. These theories frequently predict the occurence of events which have a characteristic imbalance of transverse momentum, with or without the additional requirement of an isolated photon.

[2] These equations are valid for unpolarized electrons.

One such theory - that of the 'composite' model [22] - predicts 'excited neutrinos' which would give a signature of missing momentum and an isolated photon. Excited neutrinos would be observable if the neutrino in a CC event were to decay:

$$ep \to \nu^* X \to \nu\gamma X \tag{1.26}$$

If excited neutrinos were found, this would be convincing evidence for the substructure of fermions, which are currently believed to be point-like particles. ep collisions at HERA energies provide an excellent hunting ground for the observation of such states and an analysis is currently underway [23] to examine the possibility of the existence of such decays. Although no such evidence has yet been found, if the radiative CC analysis were to reveal an excess of events, excited neutrinos would be one possible explanation.

Another model which could produce possible candidates with the appropriate topology is *supersymmetry* (SUSY) with gauge mediated breaking [24]. This produces final states with high momentum, isolated photons but these models predict very large squark masses and have, to date, not been explored at HERA due to the extremely high COM collisions required.

Chapter 2

The H1 Detector at HERA

2.1 The HERA collider

The Hadron Electron Ring Anlage (HERA) is situated to the west of the city of Hamburg. It was built between 1984 and 1990 and is composed of two circular storage rings inside a tunnel approximately 30m below ground level. The tunnel has a circumference of 6.3km. Electrons or positrons are accelerated clockwise (if viewed from above) around one storage ring to 27.5 GeV, and in the other storage ring protons are accelerated to 920 GeV anti-clockwise. Collisions occur at two predetermined points on the ring and detectors are built around these points: H1 is at the northern interaction point and ZEUS is at the southern. The resulting COM energy $\sqrt{s}$ at these interaction points is approximately 320 GeV. Until 1998 the COM energy was 300 GeV due to a lower proton beam energy of 820 GeV.

The electrons and protons circle around the storage rings with currents of about 30 mA and 100 mA respectively, in a maximum of 220 bunches each separated by 96 ns. The storage rings intersect at the two interaction points. The typical number of colliding bunches which meet at the interaction points is 175. The non-colliding bunches are referred to as ‘pilot bunches’ and are used to determine certain background levels. These backgrounds are due to ‘beam gas’ and ‘beam wall’ interactions where a proton or electron from the beam interacts with residual gas in the beam pipe or with the beam pipe itself. The proton bunch has a complex structure: it has a longitudinal structure with a gaussian distribution of length $\sim$ 11cm. The beam undergoes compression to achieve this 11cm length but during this process some of the current becomes separated to form 'satellite' bunches, removed from the main bunches by 72cm. The maximum design luminosity of the system is at present 1.4×10^{30} cm^{-2}s^{-1} but during the year to come (2001) this will undergo a significant upgrade.

2.2 The H1 Detector

The H1 detector, shown in figure 2.1, was designed to study a wide range of *ep* physics processes. Due to the variety of processes which occur in high energy electron - proton collisions, it was necessary for the design of H1 to satisfy the following criteria:

- hermetic coverage
- asymmetric detector design to compensate for different beam energies
- accurate tracking and calorimetry for momentum and energy measurement
- fast triggering
- luminosity measurement.

Descriptions in this section will be almost entirely restricted to the detector systems which are essential to the measurements presented in this thesis.

2.2.1 The Coordinate System

The H1 detector provides almost hermetic coverage of the space accessible to particles emanating from the electron - proton interactions. Points within the detector are defined using Cartesian coordinates (x, y, z) with respect to the origin, taken to be the nominal interaction point. The positive z direction follows the proton beam direction (right to left in fig. 2.1) through the detector. The y direction is vertically upwards, and x points horizontally towards the centre of the HERA ring. A spherical polar coordinate system (r, θ, ϕ) is used to describe angles in the detector, such that the polar angle $\theta = 0°$ is along the $+z$ axis and the azimuthal angle ϕ is an angle in the x-y plane. In accordance with H1 accepted convention, the 'forward' region refers to the region of low θ.