Hadronic Fragmentation Studies in *ep* Scattering at HERA

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Abstract

Deep inelastic ep scattering (DIS) data recorded in 1996 using the H1 detector at HERA are analysed in the Breit frame of reference. A review of the theory relevant to this thesis and a description of the detector are included.

The details behind the author's publication of a test on the jet finding cone algorithm are given. This test was performed by examining the algorithm's performance when it operates over a random distribution of particles in a detector. The resulting distributions, particularly the energy profiles, show similar trends to published spectra from various sources.

The event shape variable Thrust (T_z) is studied in the current hemisphere of the Breit frame. A method is devised for obtaining the proportion of gluons in the proton (BGF events) as a function of $x_{Bjorken}$, effectively the fraction of the proton's four–momentum carried by the struck quark. This is achieved by comparison with Monte Carlo models.

Rapidity, pseudo–rapidity and invariant energy spectra are examined in the Breit frame. Comparisons are made with various "Monte Carlo" simulation models and to MLLA/LPHD predictions. The rapidity distributions do not show the trends predicted by some theories at low particle transverse momentum. The invariant energy distributions show fair agreement with MLLA/LPHD predictions made for e^+e^- data over a wide range of energy scales; the data move closer to the prediction as energy scale increases and/or as selections are made to remove leading order processes.

Declaration

No portion of the work referred to in this thesis has been submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other institute of learning.

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For my Faye.

Preface

This thesis has two distinct aspects. The major section examines various spectra resulting from electron–proton (and positron–proton) scattering at HERA but other topics are considered. The HERA analysis uses data taken by the H1 detector in the 1996 run period and examines it in the Breit frame of reference. The result of the thesis is not a calculated number but rather a series of figures which are compared to theory.

Chapter one gives details of the HERA collider and the H1 detector. Particular attention is paid to the areas of the detector that are used in the analysis. Chapter two describes the kinematics and physics processes occurring at HERA and concentrates on DIS processes that are examined later in the analysis. QCD predictions are discussed further in Chapter three, which goes on to review the Monte Carlo models that are later compared to data.

Chapter four is not part of the H1 analysis and is based on a two author paper which explores how the jet–finding cone algorithm deals with random noise in a typical calorimeter system and compares its findings to results published by a variety of experiments.

The event selection and the cuts that are applied to the data and Monte Carlo are given in Chapter five and the Breit frame is described in Chapter six. Chapter seven details how the data are corrected using Monte Carlo models and gives the of resolution and purity of variables used later in the analysis.

The event shape variable Thrust (T_z) is studied in Chapter eight. A method is devised for obtaining the proportion of gluons in the proton (BGF events) as a function of $x_{Bjorken}$. This is achieved by comparison with Monte Carlo models.

Rapidity, pseudo–rapidity and invariant energy spectra are examined in the Breit frame in Chapter nine. This work has been published in a paper, a conference paper and in another paper to be published in the near future.