

Measurement of Charm and Beauty Jets in Deep Inelastic Scattering at HERA

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Abstract. Measurements of cross sections for events with charm and beauty jets in deep inelastic scattering at HERA are presented. Events with jets of transverse energy $E_T^{\text{jet}} > 6$ GeV and pseudo-rapidity $-1.0 < \eta^{\text{jet}} < 1.5$ in the laboratory frame are selected in the kinematic region of photon virtuality $Q^2 > 6$ GeV² and inelasticity variable $0.07 < y < 0.625$. Measurements are also made requiring a jet in the Breit frame with $E_T^{*\text{jet}} > 6$ GeV. The data were collected with the H1 detector in the years 2006 and 2007 corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 189 pb⁻¹. The numbers of charm and beauty jets are determined using variables reconstructed using the H1 vertex detector with which the impact parameters of the tracks to the primary vertex and the position of secondary vertices are measured. The measurements are compared with QCD predictions and with previous measurements where heavy flavours are identified using muons.

INTRODUCTION

The production of heavy flavour quarks in deep inelastic scattering (DIS) at the HERA electron–proton collider is of particular interest for testing calculations in the framework of perturbative quantum chromodynamics (QCD). The process has the special feature of involving two hard scales: the square root of the photon virtuality Q and the heavy quark mass m . In the case of jet production the transverse energy E_T of the jet provides a further hard scale. In leading order (LO) QCD, the photon-gluon fusion (PGF) processes $ep \rightarrow ec\bar{c}X$ and $ep \rightarrow eb\bar{b}X$ are the dominant production mechanisms for charm (c) and beauty (b) quarks respectively.

The published analysis presented here [1] reports on measurements by the H1 collaboration of the cross sections for events with a c or b jet in DIS at HERA. The analysis uses an inclusive lifetime technique following a similar procedure as used in [2] to distinguish the jets that contain c and b flavoured hadrons from those containing light flavoured hadrons.

QCD MODELS

The jet cross section data are compared here with the predictions of the NLO QCD program HVQDIS [3]. The program is based on the PGF $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ matrix element and provides weighted events with two or three outgoing partons, i.e. a heavy quark pair and possibly an additional light parton. The calculations are made using quark masses: $m_c = 1.5$ GeV, $m_b = 4.75$ GeV. At NLO the predictions of QCD depend on the choice of the scales μ_r and μ_f . To investigate the dependence of the predictions on the scales two

example choices are made. Firstly, the scale $\mu_r = \mu_f = \sqrt{(Q^2 + p_T^2 + m^2)}/2$, where p_T is the transverse momentum of the heavy quark with the highest value of p_T in the virtual photon-parton centre of mass frame, is used. Secondly, the scale $\mu_r = \mu_f = \sqrt{Q^2 + 4m^2}$ is selected. Since HVQDIS provides cross sections at the parton level, corrections to the hadron level are needed in order to compare to the data. These corrections are calculated using the RAPGAP [4] Monte Carlo event generator. In each kinematic bin of the measurement, the ratio C_{had} of the RAPGAP hadron level to parton level cross sections is calculated and applied as a correction factor to the NLO calculation. The hadron level corrections generally amount to a change in the prediction by $\leq 6\%$ for charm and $\leq 15\%$ for beauty.

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

Jets are reconstructed using the inclusive longitudinally invariant k_T algorithm with the massless P_T recombination scheme and the distance parameter $R_0 = 1$ in the $\eta - \phi$ plane. The algorithm is run in the laboratory frame using all reconstructed HFS particles and the resultant jets are required to have transverse energy $E_T^{\text{jet}} > 1.5$ GeV, in the angular range $-1.0 < \eta^{\text{jet}} < 1.5$. The η range is asymmetric since the y range chosen means few jets have $\eta < -1.0$.

The Monte Carlo simulation is also used to define hadron and parton level jets before they are processed by the simulation of the detector response. Hadron level jets are defined by running the same jet algorithm as for reconstructed jets using all final state particles, including neutrinos, but excluding the scattered electron. A Monte Carlo jet at the reconstructed or hadron level is defined as a ‘ b jet’ if there is at least one b hadron within a cone of radius 1 about the jet axis in the $\eta - \phi$ plane. A jet is defined as a ‘ c jet’ if there is at least one c hadron within the same cone and that c hadron does not arise from the decay of a b hadron. Jets that have not been classified as c or b jets are called ‘light jets’. Parton level jets are defined for the Monte Carlo samples and for the NLO calculation by running the same jet algorithm on final state partons. A parton level jet is defined as a b jet if there is at least one b quark within a cone of radius 1 about the jet axis in the $\eta - \phi$ plane. A parton level jet is defined as a c jet if there is at least one c quark and no b quark within the cone.

The separation of b , c and light jets using the H1 vertex detector follows closely the procedure fully described in [2]. The separation is performed using the properties of well measured silicon tracks which are within a cone of radius 1 from the jet axis in the $\eta - \phi$ plane. The number of these tracks in the jet is called N_{track} . The impact parameter δ of a track is the transverse distance of closest approach of the track to the position of the beam interaction region. The sign of δ for a track is defined with respect to the azimuthal angle of the jet [2]. The track significance S is defined as $S = \delta/\sigma(\delta)$, where $\sigma(\delta)$ is the uncertainty on δ . The significances S_1 , S_2 and S_3 are defined as the significance of the track with the highest, second highest and third highest absolute significance, respectively. For jets with $N_{\text{track}} \geq 3$ where S_1 , S_2 and S_3 all have the same sign an artificial neural network (NN) is used to produce a distribution that combines several variables in order to provide an optimal discrimination between b and c jets. The inputs

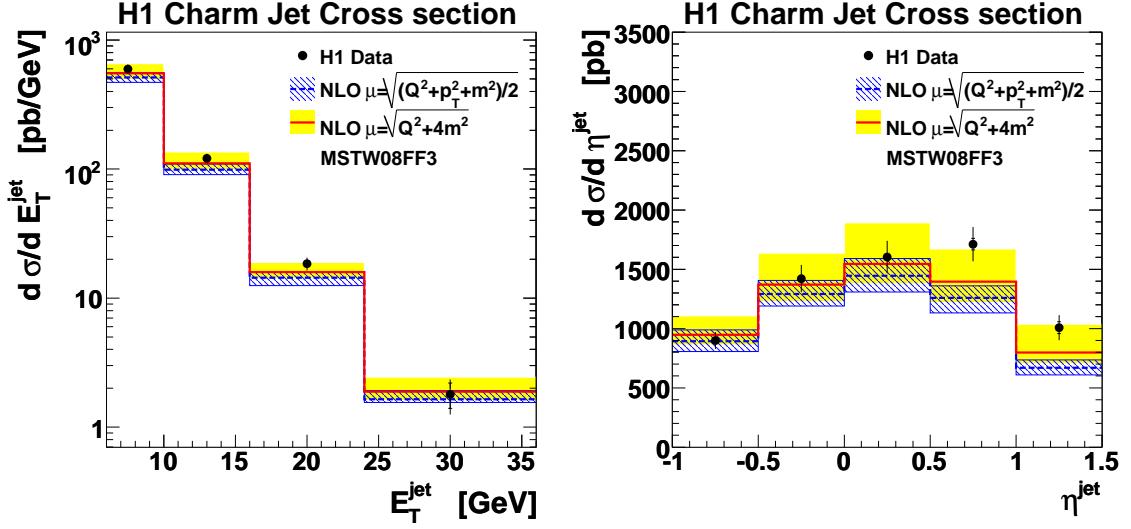


FIGURE 1. The cross sections for c jet production in the laboratory frame as a function of E_T^{jet} and η^{jet} . The data are compared with the predictions of NLO QCD.

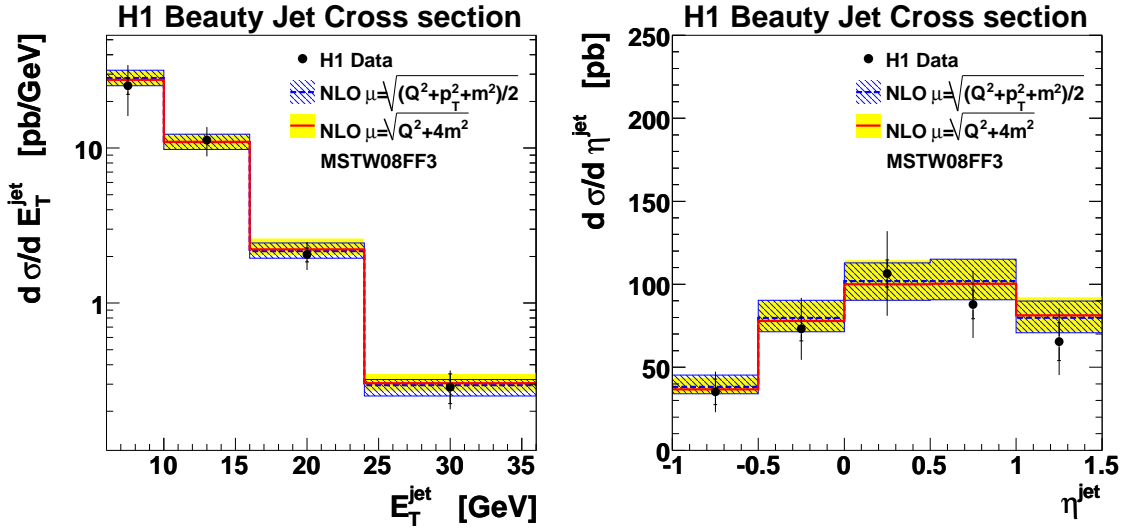


FIGURE 2. The cross sections for b jet production in the laboratory frame as a function of E_T^{jet} and η^{jet} . The data are compared with the predictions of NLO QCD.

to the NN are S_1, S_2, S_3 , the significance of the transverse distance between the secondary and primary vertex, the transverse momenta of the tracks with the highest and second highest transverse momentum, the number of selected silicon tracks and the number of reconstructed tracks at the secondary vertex. The fractions of events with c , b and light jets in the data are extracted using a least squares simultaneous fit to the S_1, S_2 and NN output distributions, and the total number of events after DIS and jet selection.

RESULTS

The cross sections for c and b jets in the laboratory frame are measured in the kinematic range $Q^2 > 6 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $0.07 < y < 0.625$ for the heavy flavour jet with the highest E_T^{jet} with $E_T^{\text{jet}} > 6 \text{ GeV}$ and $-1.0 < \eta^{\text{jet}} < 1.5$. The differential c jet cross sections are shown as a function of E_T^{jet} and η^{jet} in figure 1. The data are compared with the NLO predictions of HVQDIS including hadronisation corrections. In general the NLO expectations describe the charm data reasonably well in all differential distributions although the predictions with the scale $\mu = \sqrt{(Q^2 + p_T^2 + m^2)}/2$ fall somewhat below the data at low E_T^{jet} and in the forward η^{jet} region. The differential b jet cross sections in the laboratory frame are shown as a function of E_T^{jet} and η^{jet} in figure 2. HVQDIS gives a good description of the beauty data with little dependence on the choice of scale.

The data were also compared with the predictions of Monte Carlo programs based on leading order matrix elements with the effect of higher orders modelled by initial and final state parton showers. The predictions of the RAPGAP Monte Carlo program are found to give a good description of the data. The Monte Carlo CASCADE [5], based on the CCFM evolution equation, is found to overshoot the charm data at small Q^2 , and high η^{jet} . It provides a better prediction of the beauty cross section normalisation than it does for charm but still tends to overestimate the data at low Q^2 and high η^{jet} .

The b jet cross sections are also compared with b jet measurements obtained from muon tagging by H1 [6] and ZEUS [7]. The muon data are corrected for the $b \rightarrow \mu$ branching fraction and for the extrapolation from the phase space of the muon measurement, which had restrictions on p_T^μ and η^μ , to the phase space of the present analysis. An additional uncertainty of around 10% is added to the corrected muon measurements to account for theoretical uncertainties on the extrapolation factors coming from uncertainties on the perturbative scales and fragmentation model used. The present data is found to agree with the H1 and ZEUS muon data within the large uncertainties of the measurements.

SUMMARY

The present heavy flavour jet measurements show that charm and beauty production in deep inelastic scattering is adequately described by NLO QCD in the presence of an additional hard scale provided by a jet.

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