Searches for New Physics at HERA

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For the H1 and ZEUS Collaborations

HERA, the world’s only ep Collider at DESY, Hamburg running 1991-2007, was ideally suited for searches for physics beyond the Standard Model due to its unique initial state. The H1 and ZEUS experiments with their asymmetric design provided 4π Coverage, excellent lepton ID and HFS reconstruction to detect any exotic signatures. This poster presents recent results on searches at HERA, most of them utilising the full HERA dataset of about 0.5 fb⁻¹ per experiment and including the first combined H1+ZEUS results.

Multi-Leptons

The first combined paper by H1 and ZEUS presents a study of events with at least two high transverse momentum leptons (electrons or muons). This signature is sensitive to physics beyond the Standard Model. The overall agreement with the SM prediction is good, but at high invariant masses, more interesting events are observed than predicted. The plots show the invariant mass of the two highest P_T leptons M_{ll} and the sum of the lepton transverse momenta \sum P_T.

Isolated Leptons and Missing P_T

A search for events containing isolated leptons (electrons or muons) and missing transverse momentum is performed by the H1 and ZEUS experiments in a common phase space. The observed event yields are compared to the prediction from the Standard Model which is dominated by single W production. In general good agreement is found. The total single W boson production cross section is measured to be 1.07±0.18 pb, in agreement with the Standard Model expectation of 1.26±0.19 pb.

At high P_T the isolated leptons signature is the same as for anomalous single top production via FCNC. This is studied using effective couplings \kappa_u/\kappa_d. The resulting HERA limits on \kappa_u explore a domain not covered by other colliders.

General Search

A model-independent search for deviations from the Standard Model prediction is performed. All event topologies involving isolated leptons, photons, muons, neutrinos and jets with transverse momenta above 20 GeV are investigated in a single analysis. Events are assigned to exclusive classes according to their final state (left plots). A dedicated algorithm is used to search for deviations from the Standard Model in the distributions of the scalar sum of transverse momenta or the invariant mass of final state particles and to quantify their significance (lower right plot). Variables related to angular distributions and energy sharing between final state particles are also introduced to study the final state topologies (upper right plot). No significant deviation from the Standard Model expectation is observed in the phase space covered by the analysis. Many channels covered by the analysis are investigated in dedicated analyses, some of which are also shown on this poster.

Contact Interactions

A search for deviations of the inclusive NC cross sections from the SM prediction at high Q^2 is performed. Since no significant deviations are observed, various BSM models can be constrained. Limits are derived on the effective mass scale \Lambda in eeeq contact interactions (\Lambda > 3.8–8.9 TeV), on the mass to the Yukawa coupling ratio for heavy-leptoquark models (M_{tq}/\Lambda_{tq} > 0.41–1.58 TeV), on the effective Planckmass scale in models with large extra dimensions (M_{pl} > 0.94 TeV) and on the quark charge radius (R_q < 0.63–10^{-3} cm).

Excited Fermions

A search for excited fermions (electrons, neutrinos and quarks) is performed. The interactions are described by an effective Lagrangian for gauge mediated models where the excited fermions couple to the electroweak and strong gauge groups, parametrised by coupling parameters f_t and f_u, respectively.

All decay channels are considered for all fermion types. No evidence for excited fermion production is found. Mass dependent exclusion limits on excited fermion production cross sections and on the ratio f_t/f_u of the coupling to the compositeness scale are derived. These limits extend the excluded region compared to previous excited fermion searches.