Study of Trileptonic Final States with High Transverse Momenta at H1

Diploma Thesis

submitted by
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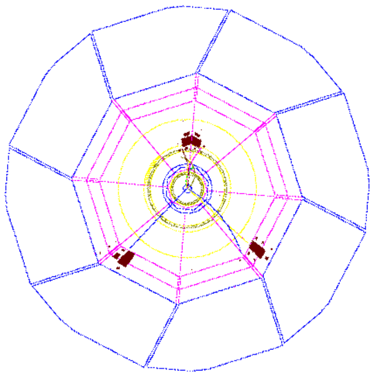

July 1998
Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zürich

Erwarte nicht / Das dreimal glühende Licht!
Goethes Faust, Z.1318/9

Zusammenfassung

Das Massenspektrum von trileptonischen Endzuständen bei hochenergetischer Positron-Proton-Streuung, $ep \to eeeX$, bestimmt anhand der von H1 während der Jahre 1994-1997 akkumulierten Daten, ist in Übereinstimmung mit den Vorhersagen von Monte-Carlo-Simulationen, die sowohl Bethe-Heitler- als auch Compton-Graphen in Betracht ziehen. Für transversale Impulse von $p_{\perp 1} > 10\,\mathrm{GeV}$ und $p_{\perp 2} > 5\,\mathrm{GeV}$ für beliebige zwei Leptonen des Endzustandes ergibt sich für den sichtbaren Winkelbereich der Wirkungsquerschnitt $\sigma^{\mathrm{vis}}_{ep\to eeeX} = \left(1.17 \pm 0.19^{+0.21}_{-0.27}\right)\mathrm{pb}$, während $\sigma^{\mathrm{vis,\,MC}}_{ep\to eeeX} = 1.47\,\mathrm{pb}$ von Monte-Carlo erwartet wird.

Abstract

The mass spectrum of trileptonic final states of high energy positron-proton scattering is determined from H1 1994 to 1997 data and is found to be in agreement with Monte-Carlo simulation of Bethe-Heitler and Compton graphs. For transverse momenta $p_{\perp 1} > 10\,\mathrm{GeV}$ and $p_{\perp 2} > 5\,\mathrm{GeV}$ for any two of the final state leptons, the cross-section is calculated for the visible angular range to $\sigma^{\mathrm{vis}}_{ep\to eeeX} = \left(1.17 \pm 0.19^{+0.21}_{-0.27}\right)\mathrm{pb}$ while $\sigma^{\mathrm{vis,\,MC}}_{ep\to eeeX} = 1.47\,\mathrm{pb}$ is expected by Monte-Carlo simulation.

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Chapter 1

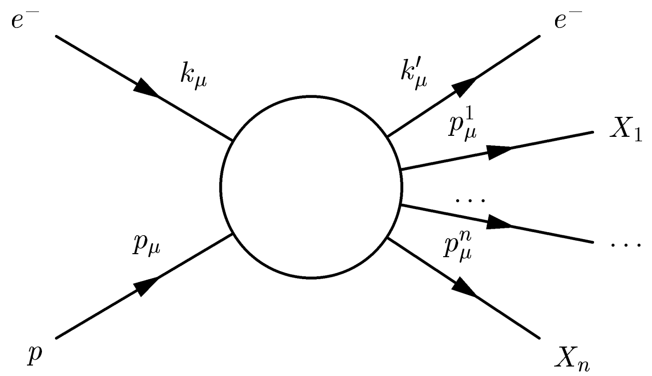
Introduction

This analysis is concerned with the generation of *ee* pairs by *ep*-collision at the HERA storage ring of DESY Foundation in Hamburg. The data examined includes data collected by the H1 experiment during the years 1994-1997, amounting to an integrated luminosity of 36.3 pb. Lepton pairs are dominantly produced through two-photon-processes. In addition to these, resonances may occur at energies that correspond to the mass of a heavy particle, such as a heavy quark bound state or the Z^0 vector boson.

This introductory chapter has the aim of making the text more self-contained. It supplies a short review of some facts about the Standard Model and standard definitions in particle physics. In section 1.4, a brief motivation for the present analysis is given.

1.1 Kinematics of Electron-Proton Scattering

Consider the collision of an electron with a proton represented in the picture below. The incoming electron's 4-momentum is k_μ, the scattered one's is k'_μ. The transferred momentum is $q_\mu = (k'_\mu - k_\mu)$. The incoming proton has a 4-momentum of p_μ and is fragmented into n remnant particles (set $n = 1$ for elastic scattering) with 4-momenta $p_\mu^{1..n}$.



While in the case of elastic scattering, one scalar variable alone (e.g. q^2) is sufficient to describe event kinematics, the fragmentation of the proton in inelastic scattering involves additional degrees of freedom, so that 3 variables are needed for a description. Out of the following standard definitions of scalars:

$$
\begin{aligned}
x &= \frac{-q^2}{2p_\mu q^\mu}, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\
y &= \frac{p_\mu q^\mu}{p_\mu k^\mu}, \quad 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\
s &= (k_\mu + p_\mu)^2 \\
t &= (k'_\mu - k_\mu)^2 = q^2 \\
u &= \left(k_\mu - \sum p^i_\mu\right)^2 \\
Q^2 &= -q^2 = -t
\end{aligned}
$$

one choice would be (s, x, y). x and y are called the *Bjorken variables*, s, t and u are the *Mandelstam variables*. The physical interpretation of these quantities is as follows: In a parton model, x represents the fraction of proton momentum carried by the proton constituent participating in the scattering. y is the fraction of energy lost by the electron in the system of the resting proton, $\sqrt{s}$ is the center-of-mass energy and $t = q^2 = -Q^2$ is the transferred momentum squared, so that $Q^2 \rightarrow xys$ for momenta large in comparison to particle masses.

1.2 The Standard Model and New Physics

The Standard Model accounts for the three known non-gravitational interactions and for all known particles. These include 6 quarks (strongly interacting) and 6 leptons (not strongly interacting) as well as four types of gauge bosons mediating the interactions, not counting the respective anti-particles (c.f. figure 1.1).

All of these particles have by now been seen [1], and they would complete the Standard Model but for the postulation of the undiscovered $Higgs-particle$ that would account for the masses of the W and Z gauge-bosons by means of spontaneous symmetry-breakdown (SSB), uniting the electromagnetic (γ) and weak (W, Z) interactions (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg, 1967).

The logical structure of the Standard Model is to postulate existence of the known fermions with their respective masses and to require local gauge invariance, thereby generating the gauge bosons. The gauge groups SU(3)⊗SU(2)⊗U(1) generate strong, weak and electromagnetic interactions

quarks		leptons		gauge-bosons
$q = +2/3$	$q = -1/3$	$q = -1$	$q = 0$	e.m., weak & strong forces
u (up)	d (down)	e^- (electron)	ν_e	γ (photon)
c (charm)	s (strange)	μ^- (muon)	ν_μ	$Z^0, W^\pm$
t (top/truth)	b (bottom/beauty)	τ^- (tau)	ν_τ	g_{ij} (gluons)

Table 1.1: *Known particles sorted by spin and charge. Not included are fermionic anti-particles. Both quarks and gluons carry colour ("strong charge") and come in three and eight varieties, respectively.*

respectively. The notation as a direct product alludes to the hope to unify these groups in one supergroup and thus explain the three interactions as the spontaneously broken version of one gauge interaction (Grand Unified Theory, GUT). The chief candidate for this is supersymmetry (SUSY), linking fermions and bosons. No, or very inconclusive, experimental evidence for supersymmetry has been found [2]. As SUSY introduces a host of new particles and interactions, resonances would become visible at the corresponding (possibly very high) energies which would induce a breakdown of the Standard Model. No scientific world-views, not even aesthetically pleasing ones like Newton's, have been subjected to equally enormous efforts towards their deconstruction without exhibiting any noticeable flaw as has been the case with the direct sum (Standard Model $\oplus$ General Relativity), so that empirically, not conceptually, the Standard Model is the best theory available.

It has become clear that possession of a theory is far from being equivalent to the understanding of that theory. The Standard Model would be working as well without the concept of spontaneous symmetry breakdown or indeed the general proof of its renormalisability (t'Hooft, 1971). In this sense, discovery of SSB has been a promising example of how an empirically sound theory can later turn out to be more aesthetically pleasing than was at first evident.

In spite of this, the first experimental step towards a conceptually satisfying physical world-picture boils down to the mission to *find any failure of the Standard Model.*

1.3 Cross-Sections

A short review of the definition of a cross-section is given as a reminder of the origin of the predicted values that measured quantities are going to be compared with. See chapters 3 and 6 of Weinberg's book [3] for more details.

1.3.1 S-Matrix and Invariant Amplitudes

The probability amplitude for the transition of some initial state $|\alpha\rangle$ into some final state $|\omega\rangle$ is the scalar product

$$S_{\omega\alpha} = \langle\alpha|\omega\rangle \,.$$

This array of complex amplitudes is known as the *S-Matrix*, $|\omega\rangle = S\,|\alpha\rangle$; the rate of a reaction $|\alpha\rangle \to |\omega\rangle$ is proportional to $|S_{\omega\alpha} - \delta(|\alpha\rangle - |\omega\rangle)|^2$. S is connecting two complete sets of orthonormal states, and because of the completeness relation it must be unitary:

$$\int \mathrm{d}\beta\, S^*_{\beta\gamma} S_{\beta\alpha} = \int \mathrm{d}\beta\, \langle\gamma_{t\to\infty}|\beta_{t\to-\infty}\rangle\, \langle\beta_{t\to-\infty}|\alpha_{t\to\infty}\rangle = \delta(\gamma-\alpha)$$

i.e. $S^\dagger S = SS^\dagger = 1$. S exhibits all symmetries of the theory, notably Lorentz invariance and CPT-symmetry, and it enforces 4-momentum conservation by a $\delta(p_\omega - p_\alpha)$ term. The delta-function-free part of S is called the *Invariant Amplitude M*:

$$S_{\omega\alpha} = -2i\pi\delta(p_\omega - p_\alpha)M_{\omega\alpha}.$$

The *transition rate* $\mathrm{d}\Gamma$ of a given process is the transition probability per unit time; for two particles in initial state, enclosed in a macroscopic volume V, this is

$$\mathrm{d}\Gamma(|\alpha\rangle \to |\omega\rangle) = (2\pi)^4 V^{-1} |M_{\omega\alpha}|^2 \delta^4(p_\omega - p_\alpha)\mathrm{d}\omega.$$

The rate is proportional to V^{-1}, that is the density of either particle at the position of the other one. The *flux* Φ of either particle at the position of the other one is the product of particle density and relative velocity,

$$\Phi_\alpha = u_\alpha/V; \quad u_\alpha = \frac{\sqrt{(p_1\cdot p_2)^2 - m_1^2 m_2^2}}{E_1 E_2}.$$

Finally, the differential *cross-section* of the process is defined as the transition rate per flux,

$$\mathrm{d}\sigma = \mathrm{d}\Gamma(|\alpha\rangle \to |\omega\rangle)/\Phi_\alpha = (2\pi)^4 u_\alpha^{-1} |M_{\omega\alpha}|^2 \delta^4(p_\omega - p_\alpha)\mathrm{d}\omega.$$

It has the dimension of an area.

1.3.2 Perturbation Theory

If the interaction is expressed by means of a Hamiltonian $H_1(t)$, access to perturbative calculation of S is provided by the *Dyson series*

$$S = \mathrm{T}\ \exp\left(-i\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}t\ H_1(t)\right)$$

(Dyson 1949) where the time ordering operator T indicates ordering of each term in the series expansion. Dyson's approach makes use of the diagrammatic technique proposed by Feyman in a path-integral context at the 1948 Poconos Conference with the invaluable advantage of manifest Lorentz covariance. The structure of a specific Feynman diagram visualizes the pairing of the interaction Hamiltonians in the corresponding series term. Again, see [3].

1.3.3 Visible Cross-Sections

Calculated cross-sections provide a direct link of quantum field theory with experiment: The cross-section of any process is directly proportional to the number of events observed. Cross-sections are areas, and a convenient unit in the present context is the *picobarn*, $1\,\mathrm{pb} = 10^{-40}\mathrm{m}^2$. The integrated luminosity L of an experiment is simply the number of events N accumulated per unit area cross-section, so that $\sigma = N/L$.

Now the cross-section has to be constrained to regions of phase-space visible to the detector (angular regions, minimal momenta etc.). Also, the efficiency ε of actual reconstruction of an occurred event by the complex ensemble of hardware and software has to be carefully determined, so that finally the visible cross-section is

$$\sigma_{\mathrm{vis}} = \frac{N}{\varepsilon \cdot L}.$$

1.4 Motivation of this Analysis

1.4.1 High-Q^2-Events at H1

Events with high momentum transfer are sparse. Yet the luminosity accumulated by HERA over the years allows analysis up to values of $Q^2 \approx 10^4\,\mathrm{GeV}^2$. In 1997, analysis of the 1994-1996 data seemed to exhibit an excess of high Q^2-events over the values predicted by the Standard Model for both neutral current (NC, exchange of an uncharged gauge boson) and charged current (CC, exchange of a charged W boson) processes [4]. Statistics were low indeed, but hopes were high that these observations were heralding the impending collapse of the Standard Model [5],[6]. Unfortunately, 1997 data does not appear to be backing these trends and the excesses have been swamped by increased statistics rather than amplified, so chances are that the effect had been due to statistical fluctuation. However, also the decrease of the effect could be such, and it is still conceivable that there are new particles just out of reach.

1.4.2 Trileptonic Final States

W-production with leptonic W-decay, $ep \to ee\nu_e X$ is difficult to distinguish from pair production $ep \to eeeX$ with one e undetected. The generated neutrino will tend to carry away transverse momentum that will appear to be "missing". An analysis of events with high energy leptons and missing transverse momentum has found an excess over expectation [7]. The purpose of this analysis is to see if such an excess is also found in pair production events, i.e. events with low missing transverse momentum.

The dominant contribution to the production of lepton pairs are from two-photon-processes. The cross-section of these diverges for low invariant masses of the generated pair, rending simulation impracticable. Therefore, events with high invariant mass pairs or with high $p_\perp$ particles should be looked for. Resonances from heavy quark productions do not play a rôle in this analysis because the high threshold imposed on particle transverse momenta suppresses these (except for the $t\bar{t}$ resonance which at some 350 GeV is out of reach for HERA).

1.4.3 Pair Invariant Mass

The aim of this analysis is to plot the spectrum of invariant mass of the generated leptons. The invariant mass of a four-vector is a Lorentz scalar:

$$m(p_\mu) = p^\mu p_\mu = E^2 - p_x^2 - p_y^2 - p_z^2.$$

Thus, if a resonant particle decays into several daughter particles, the sum of their 4-momenta still yields the original invariant mass, $m_{123\ldots} = m(p_\mu^1 + p_\mu^2 + p_\mu^3 \ldots)$.

Since we have an e present already in the initial state, and since an e in the final state cannot be determined to be either a scattered or a generated particle, the invariant mass is taken of whichever two leptons have a sufficiently high transverse momenta to show up in the calorimeter. Only in a very few cases three leptons are detected. These events are treated seperately and are represented in the appendix.

1.4.4 A Word on Muons

Only the first lepton generation (e) is at all considered in this analysis. Higher generation leptons have higher masses and as a consequence they have a finite lifetime, decaying into lighter particles. Apart from this, they have exactly the same properties as first generation leptons. While the τ lepton has too short a mean life to allow direct detection (even at $E_\tau \approx$ 100 GeV, a τ will only travel a few cm), an analysis of μ pair production $ep \to e\mu\mu X$ is perfectly feasible, and has indeed been performed for 1994 data [24]. Because the generated particles are distinguishable from the incident lepton, the combinatorical problem of which final state leptons to pair does not arise and also there will be no contribution from crossed graphs. Other impediments emerge though, notably background from cosmic muons. A new analysis is in preparation [18].

Chapter 2

DESY, HERA and H1

DESY (*Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron*) was founded in 1959. Today, some 2600 scientists from 280 universities in 35 countries are doing research at DESY. H1 has some 410 members from 37 institutes in 11 countries. See table 2.1 for historical details.

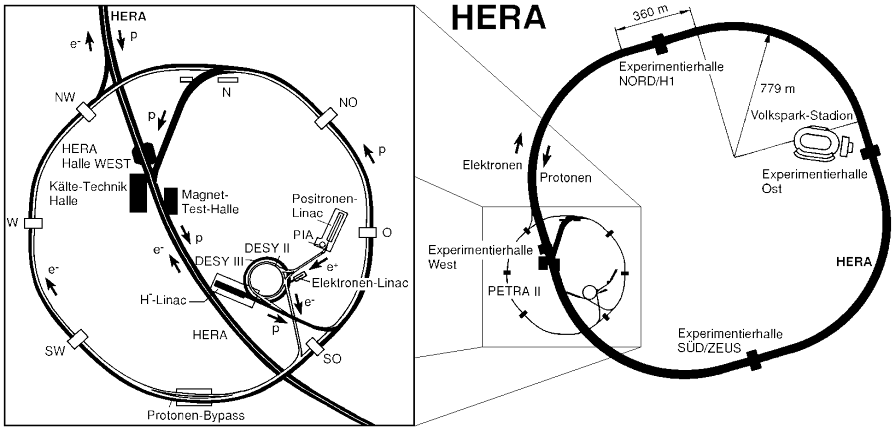
2.1 The HERA Storage Ring

HERA (Hadron Electron Ring Accelerator) is situated in Hamburg, Germany. Electrons and protons are accelerated in opposing directions in two independent storage rings at 27.5 GeV and 820 GeV respectively for the benefit of four physics experiments – H1 to the north and ZEUS to the south working with colliding beams, and HERMES to the east and HERA-B to the west, both operating in fixed target mode (c.f. figure 2.1).

Older storage rings, DESY II, DESY III and PETRA (Positron Electron Tandem Ring Accelerator) are used for the injection of electrons and protons at 12 GeV and 40 GeV respectively. Table 2.3 lists the preaccelerators used for HERA together with their length/circumference and the type of particles accelerated. In 1995, lepton beam polarity has been reversed in order to maximize beam lifetime, so for most of the data looked at for this analysis (96%), protons have been colliding with positrons rather than electrons. See table 2.2 for mean currents attained by HERA.

2.2 The H1 Detector

The H1 detector is described in detail in reference [8]. H1 (as well as ZEUS) was built to enable measurement of the proton structure function in deep inelastic scattering and more generally to explore new regions of phase space in the hope of discovery of unknown particles. H1's size is approximately $x \times y \times z = 12\,\mathrm{m} \times 14\,\mathrm{m} \times 10\,\mathrm{m}$ at a mass of 2800 metric tons. It has been commissioned in spring 1992.



year of commissioning	1992
circumference	6336 m
particle bunch number	210
bunch crossing time	96 ns
max. center of mass energy	$\sqrt{s} = 314\,\mathrm{GeV}$
max. luminosity	$1.5 \cdot 10^{31}\,\mathrm{cm}^{-2}\mathrm{s}^{-1} = 15\,\mathrm{mb}^{-1}\mathrm{s}^{-1}$

Figure 2.1: *the HERA storage ring*

1959	Desy Foundation established on December 18th in Hamburg
1960-1964	construction of the electron synchrotron DESY
1964	commissioning of electron linear accelerator LINAC I
1969	commissioning of positron linear accelerator LINAC II
1969-1974	construction of the double storage ring DORIS
1976-1978	construction of the $e^{\pm}$ tandem ring accelerator PETRA
1979	discovery of the gluon at PETRA
1984-1990	construction of the hadron-electron ring accelerator HERA
1987	commissioning of the electron synchrotron DESY II
1988	commissioning of the H^{-}/p linear accelerator LINAC III and the proton synchrotron DESY III
1988-1992	assembly of the HERA detectors H1 and ZEUS
1990	commissioning of PETRA as preaccelerator for $e^{\pm}$ and p
1991	October 19th, first ep collisions in HERA
1992	start of particle physics experiments at HERA in June
1994-1995	assembly of the HERMES detector at HERA
1995	February, approval of HERA-B, the fourth experiment at HERA

Table 2.1: *History of DESY [9]*

year	$\langle I_e \rangle$ (mA)	$\langle I_p \rangle$ (mA)	L (pb^{-1})
1994	17.0	41.0	5.27
1995	18.4	54.0	9.94
1996	20.6	60.3	14.46
1997	28.2	73.5	33.36

Table 2.2: *HERA 1994-1997: mean beam currents and delivered integrated luminosity.*

accelerator	particles	energy	length
LINAC II	$e^{\mp}$	450 MeV	70 m
LINAC III	p	50 MeV	32 m
PIA	$e^{\mp}$	450 MeV	29 m
DESY II	$e^{\mp}$	8 GeV	293 m
DESY III	p	7.5 GeV	317 m
PETRA II	$e^{\mp}/p$	12 GeV/40 GeV	2304 m

Table 2.3: *Type of particle accelerated, energy attained and length/circumference for the preaccelerators used for HERA [9]*

The coordinate system is defined as shown in figure 2.2: The positive z axis is pointing in the direction of the proton beam, y skywards, x to the ring center, $\theta = 0$ points in positive z-direction, $\phi = 0$ in direction of positive x .

Due to the imbalanced distribution of beam energies, generated particles will be scattered predominantly into the forward region. This has motivated an asymmetric design of the detector with a superior instrumentation of the forward region (direction of the center of mass system).

2.2.1 Calorimetry

An overview over calorimeter properties is given in table 2.4. Solely calorimeters relevant to this analysis are referred to here. Not treated are the system for muon detection (muon chamber, instrumented iron) and the forward detector (PLUG).

Liquid Argon (LAr)

The liquid argon calorimeter is designed to provide high position and energy resolution. Its inner section, the *electromagnetic* one (ECAL), is composed of lead absorbers and gaps filled with liquid argon allowing the detection of electromagnetic showers ($\gamma, e^{\mp}$) at a resolution of $4 \times 8\,\mathrm{cm}^2$. The outer,