

Inclusive Jets in PHP

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Differential inclusive-jet cross sections have been measured in photoproduction for boson virtualities $Q^2 < 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ with the ZEUS detector at HERA using an integrated luminosity of 300 pb^{-1} . Jets were identified in the laboratory frame using the k_T , anti- k_T or SIScone jet algorithms. Cross sections are presented as functions of the jet pseudorapidity, η^{jet} , and the jet transverse energy, E_T^{jet} . Next-to-leading-order QCD calculations give a good description of the measurements, except for jets with low E_T^{jet} and high η^{jet} . The cross sections have the potential to improve the determination of the PDFs in future QCD fits. Values of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ have been extracted from the measurements based on different jet algorithms. In addition, the energy-scale dependence of the strong coupling was determined.

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1. Introduction

The measurement of jet photoproduction (PHP) at HERA provides a high-statistics test of perturbative QCD (pQCD) in a process with a single hard scale, E_T^{jet} . Jet cross sections allow precise determinations of the strong coupling constant, α_s , and its energy dependence.

At leading order, so-called direct and resolved processes contribute to jet photoproduction. In direct processes, the photon interacts directly with a parton in the proton. On the other hand, the photon acts as a source of partons for the resolved contributions. Hence inclusive-jet cross sections are directly sensitive to the proton and photon PDFs.

The k_T cluster algorithm [1] in the longitudinally invariant inclusive mode [2] results in small theoretical uncertainties and hadronisation corrections in electron-proton collisions. It yields infrared- and collinear-safe cross sections at any order of QCD. More recently, new infrared- and collinear-safe algorithms like anti- k_T [3] or SIScone [4] were developed. Jet photoproduction at HERA represents a well-understood hadron-induced reaction to test and compare the performances of these different jet clustering algorithms.

NLO QCD predictions [5] are compared to the measured inclusive-jet cross sections. The renormalisation and factorisation scales were set to $\mu_R = \mu_F = E_T^{\text{jet}}$ and the number of flavours was chosen to be five. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, the ZEUS-S [6] parametrisations were used for the proton PDFs and the GRV-HO [7] sets were chosen for the photon PDFs. Hadronisation corrections were obtained using the `Pythia` [8] and `Herwig` [9] Monte Carlo (MC) programs. For comparisons, samples of `Pythia` including multi-parton interactions [10], `Pythia-MI`, were used to estimate the contribution from non-perturbative effects not related to hadronisation. For all three jet algorithms introduced above, missing terms beyond NLO represent the dominant uncertainty of the predictions.

2. Differential inclusive-jet cross sections

Single- and double-differential inclusive-jet cross sections have been measured in the reaction $ep \rightarrow e + \text{jet} + X$ for $142 < W_{\gamma p} < 293$ GeV, where $W_{\gamma p}$ is the γp centre-of-mass energy, and $Q^2 < 1$ GeV² with the ZEUS detector at HERA using an integrated luminosity of 300 pb⁻¹. The cross sections include every jet with $E_T^{\text{jet}} > 17$ GeV and $-1 < \eta^{\text{jet}} < 2.5$ [11].

Single-differential cross sections based on the k_T algorithm as functions of E_T^{jet} and η^{jet} are shown in Fig. 1. The uncertainty on the jet energy scale of $\pm 1\%$ typically leads to a $\mp 5\%$ uncertainty on the measured cross sections which is fully correlated between measurements in different bins. At high E_T^{jet} this uncertainty increases to $\mp 10\%$. The measurements are well described by NLO QCD except for $\eta^{\text{jet}} > 2$. The disagreement in the forward region disappears if the kinematic region of the measurement is restricted to $E_T^{\text{jet}} > 21$ GeV.

Alternative NLO QCD predictions based on the HERAPDF1.5 [12] and MSTW08 [13] proton PDFs instead of ZEUS-S are also shown in Fig. 1. The predictions based on HERAPDF1.5 are lower than those based on ZEUS-S in most of the investigated phase-space region. Especially at large E_T^{jet} , the usage of MSTW08 instead of ZEUS-S in the NLO QCD calculations leads to higher predictions. The high-precision measurements of inclusive-jet photoproduction have the potential to constrain the proton PDFs in future QCD fits.

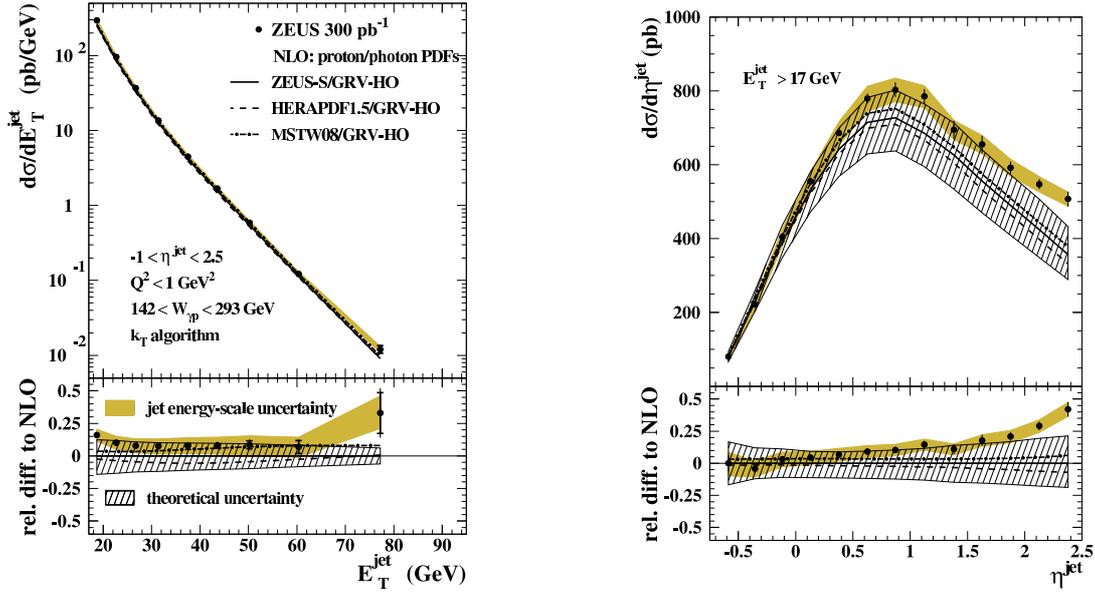


Figure 1: Single-differential cross sections $d\sigma/dE_T^{\text{jet}}$ (left) and $d\sigma/d\eta^{\text{jet}}$ (right) based on the k_T algorithm. The data are compared to NLO QCD predictions based on different proton PDFs.

In addition, inclusive-jet cross sections based on the k_T algorithm were determined as functions of E_T^{jet} in different regions of η^{jet} . As observed for the single differential cross sections, the data are well described by NLO QCD except at $E_T^{\text{jet}} < 21$ GeV for $\eta^{\text{jet}} > 2$.

3. Impact of multi-parton interactions

The effect of multi-parton interactions is not included in the NLO QCD calculations described in Sec. 1. Instead, correction factors were obtained using `Pythia-MI` including multi-parton interactions with a minimum transverse momentum of the secondary scatter, $p_{T,\text{min}}^{\text{sec}}$, of 1, 1.5 and 2 GeV. Single-differential cross sections based on the k_T algorithm as functions of E_T^{jet} and η^{jet} are compared to NLO QCD predictions where these correction factors have been applied are shown in Fig. 2. The inclusion of multi-parton interactions increase the predictions at low E_T^{jet} and large η^{jet} . The best description of the data is observed for $p_{T,\text{min}}^{\text{sec}} = 1.5$ GeV.

4. Comparison of different jet algorithms

Differential cross sections for inclusive-jet photoproduction as functions of E_T^{jet} and η^{jet} were measured for the k_T , anti- k_T and SIScone jet algorithms. The hadronisation corrections are largest for the SIScone algorithm while similar corrections were found for the k_T and anti- k_T algorithms. As shown for the k_T algorithm above, the measurements based on anti- k_T and SIScone are well described by NLO QCD except at large η^{jet} .

To compare the different jet algorithms in detail, the ratios of the measured cross sections anti- k_T/k_T , SIScone/ k_T and anti- k_T /SIScone were determined and are shown in Fig. 3. The cross

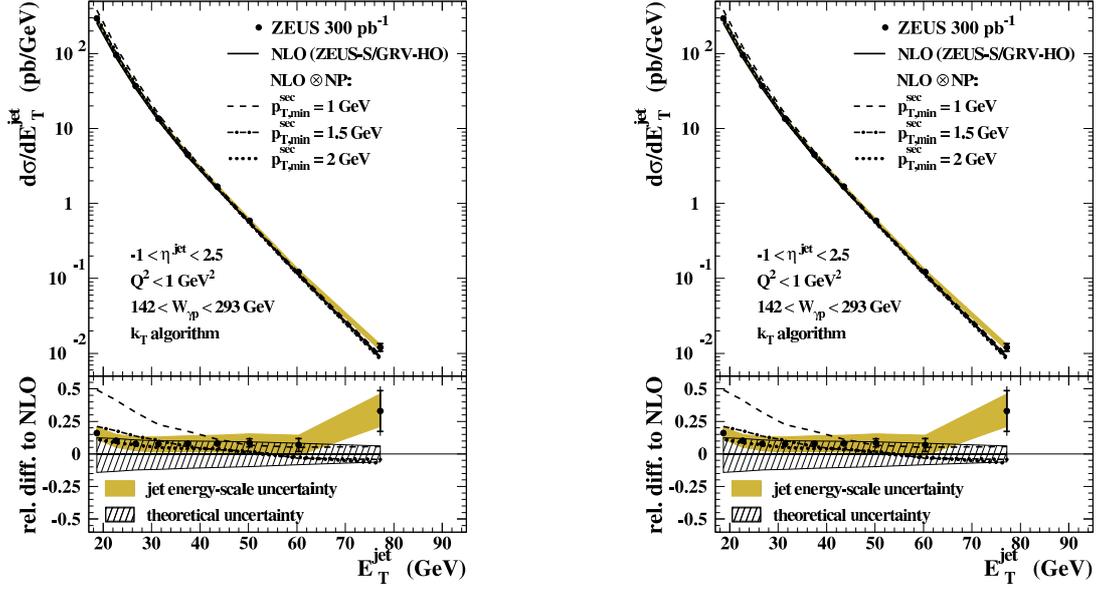


Figure 2: Single-differential cross sections $d\sigma/dE_T^{\text{jet}}$ (left) and $d\sigma/d\eta^{\text{jet}}$ (right) based on the k_T algorithm. The data are compared to NLO QCD predictions. For comparison, the NLO QCD calculations including an estimation of non-perturbative effects are shown in addition.

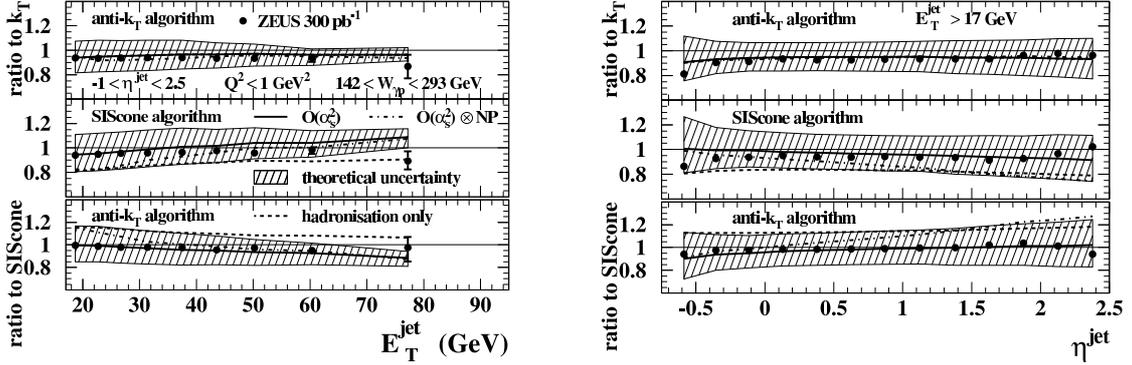


Figure 3: The ratios of the measured cross sections anti- k_T/k_T , SIScone/ k_T and anti- k_T /SIScone as functions of E_T^{jet} (left) and η^{jet} (right).

sections for anti- k_T have the same shape as those for k_T , but are about 6% smaller. The measured cross sections based on SIScone have a slightly different shape than those based on k_T or anti- k_T . The QCD calculations with up to three partons in the final state describe the measured ratios.

5. Determination of α_s and its energy-scale dependence

The measured single-differential cross sections $d\sigma/dE_T^{\text{jet}}$ for $21 < E_T^{\text{jet}} < 71$ GeV based on the k_T , anti- k_T and SIScone jet algorithms were used to determine $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ [14]. Consistent results were obtained for all three jet algorithms:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_s(M_Z)|_{k_T} &= 0.1206^{+0.0023}_{-0.0022} \text{ (exp.) } ^{+0.0042}_{-0.0035} \text{ (th.)}, \\ \alpha_s(M_Z)|_{\text{anti-}k_T} &= 0.1198^{+0.0023}_{-0.0022} \text{ (exp.) } ^{+0.0041}_{-0.0034} \text{ (th.)}, \\ \alpha_s(M_Z)|_{\text{SIScone}} &= 0.1196^{+0.0022}_{-0.0021} \text{ (exp.) } ^{+0.0046}_{-0.0043} \text{ (th.)}.\end{aligned}$$

The results are in agreement with other determinations of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ [11]. In addition, values of α_s were extracted at the mean values, $\langle E_T^{\text{jet}} \rangle$, of the bins in E_T^{jet} without assuming the running of α_s . The extracted values of α_s as a function of E_T^{jet} are shown in Fig. 4. This measurement confirms the running of α_s over a wide E_T^{jet} range. The observed running is in good agreement with the two-loop QCD prediction.

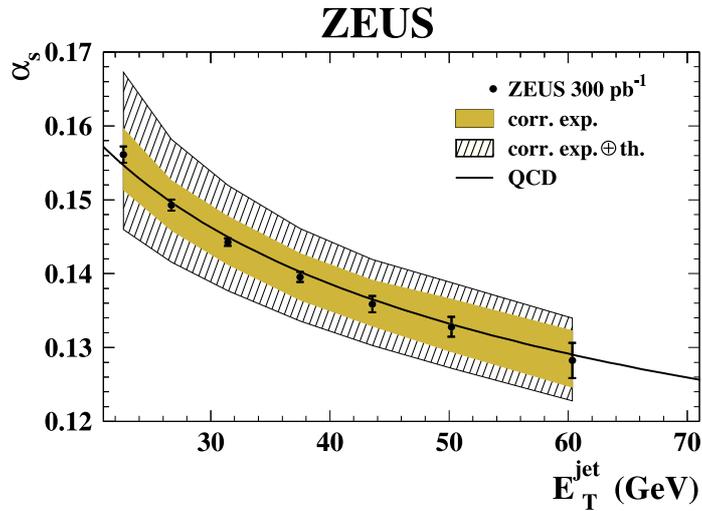


Figure 4: α_s extracted at various $\langle E_T^{\text{jet}} \rangle$ values from the measured $d\sigma/dE_T^{\text{jet}}$ cross sections based on the k_T algorithm.

6. Summary and conclusions

Inclusive-jet cross sections in photoproduction were measured using the ZEUS detector. The data are generally well described by NLO QCD predictions. The inclusion of multi-parton interactions improves the predictions at low E_T^{jet} and large η^{jet} . The presented measurements have the potential to improve the photon and proton PDFs in future QCD fits. The strong coupling constant was extracted at the Z mass with competitive precision compared to other measurements and over a wide E_T^{jet} range.

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