# Measurement Of Event Shape Variables In Deep Inelastic Scattering

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# Preface

The theory of Quantum ChromoDynamics (QCD) has been developed to calculate the strong interactions of coloured objects, such as quarks and gluons, at short distances. The force mediator for the strong interaction, one of the 4 fundamental forces, is the gluon itself. The resulting non-Abelian nature of the theory increases its complexity in comparison to the well tested theory of Quantum Electrodynamics (QED), where the force mediator is the uncharged photon. One of the open questions in modern high energy physics concerns the transition of parton dynamics at short distances, or hard scales, to the long distance, or soft scale, hadron dynamics. The theory of QCD deals with the interactions of partons but cannot be extended to the soft limit where the strong coupling constant, $\alpha_s$, becomes large and perturbative expansion is no longer possible. Presently, the gap between the partonic and hadronic world is bridged by phenomenological models motivated by experimental observation and theoretical considerations. A new model based on infra-red safe factorially divergent event shape variables may link the two worlds and develop our understanding of the transition region.

Historically event shape variables have been studied, along with jet rates, in $e^+e^- \to q\bar{q}$ events to extract a value for the strong coupling constant $\alpha_s$. Only recently, with the large amount of data being collected by electron proton colliding experiments, have these studies been possible using deep inelastic scattering data. These studies have previously used Monte Carlo (MC) event generators to correct the observed data back to parton level distributions. From these parton level distributions a value of $\alpha_s$ can be extracted. This has lead to measurements being dependent on the event generator used and thus large systematic uncertainties dominate.

The lack of a firm understanding of the parton to hadron transition has been a clear handicap in the study of event shape variables. Recent theoretical work has approached this problem with the use of an effective strong coupling, $\alpha_{eff}$, interceding at small scales, usually around 2 GeV. This approach results in the mean event shape variables being described by the sum of a next to leading contribution and a (relatively) simple power correction contribution of the form $1/Q$. This phenomenological concept of a power correction introduces a variable to be measured from experiment, this variable is $\overline{\alpha_0}$.

The measurement of the event shape variables thrust, $T_z$, jet broadening, $B_c$, invariant jet mass, $\rho_E$, and C parameter, $C_E$, are presented over the kinematic range of $0.0006 \leq x \leq 0.8$ and $3.75 \leq \langle Q \rangle \leq 144$ GeV$^2$. Both differential and mean distributions are shown for each variable with power corrected next to leading order predictions fitted to the mean values to determine a value for $\alpha_s$ and a new phenomenological parameter $\overline{\alpha_0}$.

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A little bit of truth makes the lie a whole lot more believable.

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# Chapter 1

# The HERA machine and ZEUS detector

In this chapter an introduction to the HERA machine and the ZEUS detector is presented. Particular emphasis is paid to the ZEUS detector components central to the data analysis included in this thesis; these include the central tracking detector and depleted uranium sampling calorimeter. An outline of the ZEUS trigger system, relevant to the analysis presented, is given. Salient information regarding the track finding algorithm is also described.

Work completed by the author relating to a graphical user interface for the central tracking detector is presented. This interface is in regular use while the ZEUS detector is collecting data and forms the initial steps of a detector wide software development programme.

## 1.1 The HERA Machine

The Hadron Elektron Ring Anlage (HERA) is the first and, at present, only electron-proton colliding beam machine in the world. The machine consists of two independent 6336 m storage rings containing counter rotating beams of protons and electrons (or positrons). The electron[1] storage ring operates at a nominal energy of 27.5 GeV[2] whilst the proton ring has a nominal energy of 820 GeV[3]. The HERA project [1] was authorised in April 1984 and the first delivered luminosity was in the summer of 1992.

The HERA injection system utilises the linear accelerators (linacs) and accumulator rings of previous DESY experiments. A schematic of the HERA injection system and the main ring is shown in Figure 1.1. The system starts with a linac injecting 500 MeV electrons into the first storage ring (PIA) where they are stored in a single bunch until the current reaches 60 mA. The bunch is then transfered to the DESY II synchrotron and accelerated to $\sim$7 GeV before transfer to the PETRA II ring. This procedure is repeated at a rate of 12.5 Hz until 70 such bunches have accumulated 28.8 m apart in the PETRA II ring. These bunches are then accelerated to 14 GeV and injected into the HERA electron ring. This injection process is repeated twice until the HERA ring contains 210 electron bunches.

The procedure for the proton beam is somewhat similar. Firstly negatively charged hydrogen ions are injected into a 50 MeV linac. The $H^-$ ions are stripped of their two electrons while entering the DESY III synchrotron and, as with the electrons, captured into a single bunch. The protons are then accelerated to 7.5 GeV and transfered to the PETRA II ring. When 70 such bunches have been collected they are accelerated to 40 GeV and injected into the proton ring of HERA. This is, as before, repeated twice to fill the HERA proton ring with 210 bunches of protons. Both the electron and proton rings have up to 220 buckets for particles bunches but only around

[1] hereafter electron is used to describe either an electron or positron.

[2] Here and throughout this thesis the natural units of $c = \hbar = 1$ are adopted.

[3] presently a higher proton energy of 920 GeV is being used.