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July 1999

Published Proceedings of the 7th International Workshop on Deep Inelastic Scattering and QCD, Zeuthen, Germany, April 19-23, 1999

Operated by Universities Research Association Inc. under Contract No. DE-AC02-76CH03000 with the United States Department of Energy
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A Measurement of $xF^\nu_3 - xF^\nu_2$ and $R$ with the CCFR Detector *


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We report on a measurement of the neutrino-nucleon and antineutrino-nucleon differential cross sections in the CCFR detector. The measurement of the differential cross sections over a wide range of energies allows $\Delta xF^\nu_3 = xF^\nu_3 - xF^\nu_2$ and $R$ to be extracted. $\Delta xF^\nu_3$ is related to the difference between the contributions of the strange and charm sea in the nucleon to production of massive charm quark. The results for $\Delta xF^\nu_3$ are compared to various massive charm NLO QCD models. The $Q^2$ dependence of $R$ for $x < 0.1$ has been measured for the first time.

1. Introduction

Wide band neutrino beams provide an unique opportunity to measure $R$, the ratio of the longitudinal and transverse structure functions, and the difference between $xF^\nu_3$ and $xF^\nu_2$. A measurement of $R$ provides a test of perturbative QCD at large $x$, and probes the gluon density at small $x$. A non-zero $\Delta xF^\nu_3 = xF^\nu_3 - xF^\nu_2$ originates from the difference between the contributions of the strange and charm seas in the nucleon to massive charm quark production. Thus, a measurement of $\Delta xF^\nu_3$ can be used to extract the strange sea, and to understand massive charm production in neutrino-nucleon scattering. Previously, information on the strange sea came from the exclusive dimuon events channel ($\nu N \rightarrow \mu^- cX$, $c \rightarrow \mu^+ X'$) [1]. The dimuon analysis requires both an understanding of charm fragmentation and an acceptance correction for the detection of muons from charm decays. In previous extractions of structure functions [2], a leading order slow rescaling correction for heavy charm production was applied in order to extract a theoretically corrected $F^\nu_2$ which could be directly compared with $F^\nu_2$. However, because of theoretical uncertainties in the treatment of massive charm production [3], this correction is no longer applied.

*To be published in proceedings of the 7th International Workshop on Deep Inelastic Scattering and QCD, Zetthen, Germany, Apr. 1999.
in this analysis. Furthermore, the value of $\Delta x F_3$ plays a crucial role in the extraction of $F_2$ at low
$x$, where there is a long-standing discrepancy [2] between CCFR and NMC $F_2$ data. Therefore, it is
important to measure the structure functions without any model-dependent slow rescaling correc-
tions.

2. The CCFR experiment

The CCFR experiment collected data using the Fermilab Tevatron Quad-Triplet wide-band
$\mu$ and $\overline{\mu}$ beam. The CCFR detector [4] consists of an unmagnetized steel-scintillator tar-
get calorimeter instrumented with drift chambers, followed by a toroidally magnetized muon spectrometer. The hadron energy resolution is $\Delta E/E = 0.85/\sqrt{E} (\text{GeV})$, and the muon mo-
mentum resolution is $\Delta p/p = 0.11$. By meas-
uring the hadronic energy ($E_h$), muon momen-
tum ($p_\mu$), and muon angle ($\theta_\mu$), we construct three independent kinematic variables $x$, $Q^2$, and
$y$. The relative flux at different energies obtained from the events with low hadron energy ($E_h < 20 \text{ GeV}$) is normalized so that the neu-
trino total cross section equals the world average
$\sigma^{\nu N}/E = (0.677 \pm 0.014) \times 10^{-38} \text{ cm}^2/\text{GeV}$ and
$\sigma^{\nu N}/\sigma^{\nu N} = 0.499 \pm 0.005 [2]$. The total data sam-
ple used for the extraction of structure functions consists of 1,030,000 $\nu_\mu$ and 179,000 $\overline{\nu}_\mu$ events after fiducial and kinematic cuts ($E_\nu > 15 \text{ GeV}$, $\theta_\mu < 0.130$, $E_h > 10 \text{ GeV}$, and 30 GeV < $E_\nu < 360 \text{ GeV}$). Dimuon events are removed because of the ambiguous identification of the leading muon for high-$y$ events.

3. Measurement of differential cross sections

The differential cross sections are determined in bins of $x$, $y$, and $E_\nu$ ($0.01 < x < 0.65$, $0.05 < y < 0.95$, and 30 < $E_\nu < 360 \text{ GeV}$). Over the entire $x$ region, differential cross sections are in good agreement with NLO Mixed Flavour Scheme (MFS) [5] QCD calculation using the MRST [6] PDFs. This calculation includes an improved treatment of massive charm production. Figure 1 shows typical differential cross sections at $E_\nu = 150 \text{ GeV}$. Also shown are the prediction from a LO QCD model, which is only used in the calculation of acceptance and resolution smearing correction. The CCFR data exhibit a quadratic $y$ dependence at small $x$ for neutrino and antineutrino, and a flat $y$ distribution at high $x$ for the neutrino cross section. Note that the $y$ distributions of the CDHSW [7] differential cross sections do not agree with those of CCFR data, or with the MRST predictions (this difference is crucial in any QCD analysis).

![Figure 1. Preliminary CCFR differential cross section data at $E_\nu = 150 \text{ GeV}$ (both statistical and major systematic errors are included for the CCFR and CDHSW data). There is good agreement with the NLO MFS QCD calculation using MRST PDFs, and with LO QCD model which is used in the CCFR Monte Carlo. A disagreement is observed in the $y$ distribution between CCFR data and CDHSW data.](image-url)
4. Measurement of $\Delta xF_3$ and $R$

Values of $\Delta xF_3$ and $R$ are extracted from the sums of neutrino and anti-neutrino differential cross sections. The sum of the two differential cross sections can be written as:

$$F(\epsilon) \equiv \left[ \frac{d^2 \sigma^+}{dxdy} + \frac{d^2 \sigma^-}{dxdy} \right] \frac{1-(1-y)\epsilon}{y'^2 G_F^2 M E}$$

$$= 2xF_1[1+\epsilon R] - \frac{1}{1+(1-y)^2} \Delta xF_3$$

where $\epsilon \equiv 2(1-y)/(1+(1-y)^2)$ is the polarization of virtual $W$ boson. To fit $\Delta xF_3$, $R$, and $2xF_1$ at a given $x$ and $Q^2$ is very challenging because of the strong correlation between the $\Delta xF_3$ and $R$ terms, unless the full range of $\epsilon$ is covered by the data. Covering this range (especially the low $\epsilon$ region corresponding to high $y$) is difficult because of the low acceptance at high $y$.

Since the contribution of $\Delta xF_3$ to $F(\epsilon)$ increases with $Q^2$ while that from $R$ decreases, our strategy is to fit $\Delta xF_3$ and $2xF_1$ for $Q^2 > 5$ where the $\Delta xF_3$ contribution is relatively larger, constraining $R$ with $R_{world}$ [8]. ($\Delta xF_3$ fits are done only for $x < 0.1$, because its contribution is small for $x > 0.1$.) It is reasonable to use $R_{world}$ (an empirical fit for all available $R$ data), because above $Q^2 = 5$, $R$ for neutrino and muon scattering are expected to be the same, and $R_{world}$ is in good agreement with the NMC muon data [9].

In the $Q^2 < 5$ region, where the contribution from $R$ is larger, we fit $R$ and $2xF_1$ with $\Delta xF_3$ constrained to the model predictions. This allows us to study the $Q^2$ dependence of $R$ for neutrino scattering at low $Q^2$. In the $Q^2 > 5$ region, we test which scheme is favored for the massive charm treatment, based on the extracted $\Delta xF_3$ results. Then the favored scheme is used in constraining $\Delta xF_3$ for the $Q^2 < 5$ analysis.

Before the structure function extraction, we apply an electroweak radiative correction (Bardin) and corrections for the $W$ boson propagator, and a non-isoscalar target (the 6.85% excess of neutrons over protons in iron; this effect is valid only at high $x$). The values of $\Delta xF_3$ and $R$ are sensitive to the energy dependence of the neutrino flux, but are insensitive to the absolute normalization. The uncertainty on the flux shape is estimated by using the constraint that $F_2$ and $xF_3$ should be flat over $y$ (or $E_\nu$) for each $x$ and $Q^2$ bin.
and $x < 0.1$. Even for $Q^2 > 5$, we extract $R$ in order to investigate its $Q^2$ dependence. The extracted values of $R$ at fixed $x$ vs $Q^2$ are shown in Fig. 3. The new data reveal the $Q^2$ dependence of $R$ at $x < 0.1$ for the first time ($R$ decreases as $Q^2$ increases for fixed $x$). The NMC data shown in Fig. 3 are integrated over $Q^2$, and the two nearest NMC $x$ bins are shown together. At higher $x$, our measurements agree with the other world data for $R$ [8,9,15,16]. Figure 3 also shows a comparison with $R_{\text{world}}$ with $m_c = 0$ (muon scattering or with slow rescaling correction in neutrino scattering) and $m_c = 1.3$ (without slow rescaling correction in neutrino scattering). The CCFR $R$ data at $x = 0.015$ do not show $R$ approaching zero as $Q^2$ goes zero (as expected in neutrino scattering, but not in electron scattering).

5. Conclusions

New measurements of $\Delta x F_3$ and $R$ have been extracted from the CCFR differential cross section data. The $R$ data are extended to lower $x$ and higher $Q^2$ than previous measurements. The $Q^2$ dependence of $R$ at lower $x$ region has been measured for the first time. The $\Delta x F_3$ data from $Q^2 > 5$ region agree with various schemes for the treatment of massive charm production. Further reduction of the errors in $\Delta x F_3$ is expected by including lower $Q^2$ data. The effect of $\Delta x F_3$ on the extraction of $F_2$ is currently under study. In addition, new data from the recent NuTeV run (1996-97), taken with sign selected neutrino beams, are expected to yield more precise determinations of $\Delta x F_3$, $F_2$ and $R$ at low $x$.

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