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## Search for Events with an Isolated Lepton and Missing Transverse Momentum and a Measurement of W Production at HERA

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## Search for events with an isolated lepton and missing transverse momentum and a measurement of $W$ production at HERA

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#### ABSTRACT

A search for events with an isolated high-energy lepton and large missing transverse momentum has been performed with the ZEUS detector at HERA using a total integrated luminosity of 504 pb<sup>-1</sup>. The results agree well with Standard Model predictions. The cross section for production of single W bosons in electron–proton collisions with unpolarised electrons is measured to be 0.89<sup>+0.25</sup>(stat.) ± 0.10(syst.) pb.

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## 1. Introduction

The production of  $W$  bosons in electron<sup>53</sup>–proton ( $ep$ ) collisions is an interesting Standard Model (SM) process with a small cross section. This process, with subsequent leptonic decay of the  $W$  boson, also constitutes one of the most important SM backgrounds to many new physics searches [1,2], for which high-energy leptons and large missing transverse momentum,  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$ , are common signatures. Such searches have been performed previously by both the H1 [2–4] and ZEUS [1,5,6] Collaborations. The H1 Collaboration observed an excess of electron or muon events with large hadronic transverse momentum,  $P_T^X$ , over the SM predictions. Previous ZEUS results have not confirmed this excess.

This Letter presents a new search and a measurement of the cross section for  $W$  production at HERA. The study was performed by selecting events containing isolated electrons or muons with high transverse momentum,  $P_T^l$ , in events with large  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$ . The data used were taken from 1994 to 2007. The total integrated luminosity analysed was  $504 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ , a four-fold increase compared to previous ZEUS searches [1,6].

## 2. Standard Model expectations

The SM predicts the production of single  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons in  $ep$  collisions at HERA. The event topology studied here is large  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  and an isolated lepton with large  $P_T^l$ .

*W production:*  $ep \rightarrow eWX$  or  $ep \rightarrow \nu WX$ .

Neutral current  $W$  production,  $ep \rightarrow eWX$ , with subsequent leptonic decay,  $W \rightarrow l\nu$ , is the dominant SM process that produces events matching the desired topology. Charged current  $W$  production,  $ep \rightarrow \nu WX$ , with subsequent leptonic decay also produces such events.

The SM production cross section, obtained from a calculation including Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) corrections at next-to-leading-order (NLO) [7,8], is 1.1 pb and 1.3 pb for the relevant centre-of-mass energies,  $\sqrt{s}$ , of 300 GeV and 318 GeV respectively. The estimated uncertainty on this calculation is 15%. Monte Carlo (MC) events have been generated with the leading-order EPVEC generator [9] and weighted by a factor dependent on the transverse momentum and rapidity of the  $W$ , such that the resulting cross sections correspond to the NLO calculation [10]. The EPVEC MC is also used to generate  $ep \rightarrow \nu_e WX$  events. The contribution of  $ep \rightarrow \nu_e WX$  to the total  $W$  production cross section is approximately 7%.

*Z production:*  $ep \rightarrow eZ(\rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu})X$ .

The process  $ep \rightarrow eZ(\rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu})X$  can produce high-energy scattered electrons and large  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$ . The visible cross section for this process as calculated by EPVEC is less than 3% of the predicted  $W$  production cross section. It was neglected in this analysis.

Several SM processes can produce events with large  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  and high-energy leptons as a result of mismeasurements.

*Neutral current deep inelastic scattering (NC DIS):*  $ep \rightarrow eX$ .

Genuine isolated high-energy electrons are produced in NC DIS. Together with a fake  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  signal from mismeasurement, they form the dominant fake signal in searches for isolated electrons at high  $P_T^X$ . Neutral current DIS events were simulated using the generator DJANGO6 [11], an interface to the MC programs HERACLES 4.5 [12] and LEPTO 6.5 [13]. Leading-order

<sup>53</sup> In this Letter “electron” refers both to electrons and positrons unless stated otherwise.

electroweak radiative corrections were included and higher-order QCD effects were simulated using the colour-dipole model of ARIADNE 4.08 [14]. Hadronisation of the partonic final state was performed by JETSET [15].

*Charged current deep inelastic scattering (CC DIS):*  $ep \rightarrow \nu X$ .

A CC DIS event can mimic the selected topology if it contains a fake electron as there is real  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  due to the escaping neutrino. Charged current DIS events were simulated using the generator DJANGO6 as described for the NC DIS events.

*Lepton pair production:*  $ep \rightarrow e^+l^-X$ .

Lepton pair production can mimic the selected topology if one lepton escapes detection or measurement errors cause apparent missing momentum. Lepton pair production is the dominant fake signal in searches for isolated high- $P_T$  muons. This process was simulated using the GRAPE [16] dilepton generator.

*Photoproduction of jets:*  $\gamma p \rightarrow X$ .

Hard photoproduction processes can also contribute to the fake signal rate. This may occur when a particle from the hadronic final state is interpreted as an isolated lepton together with a fake  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  signal arising from mismeasurement. Photoproduction processes as simulated with HERWIG 6.1 [17] make a negligible contribution to the SM expectation.

### 3. The ZEUS detector

A detailed description of the ZEUS detector can be found elsewhere [18]. Charged particles were tracked in the central tracking detector (CTD) [19] which operated in a magnetic field of 1.43 T provided by a thin superconducting solenoid. Before the 2003–2007 running period, the ZEUS tracking system was upgraded with a silicon micro vertex detector (MVD) [20]. The high-resolution uranium–scintillator calorimeter (CAL) [21] consisted of three parts: the forward, the barrel and the rear calorimeters. The smallest subdivision of the CAL was called a cell. A three-level trigger was used to select events online [22] requiring large  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  or well isolated electromagnetic deposits in the CAL.

### 4. Event reconstruction

Electrons were identified by an algorithm that selects candidate electromagnetic clusters in the CAL and combines them with tracking information. The algorithm was optimised for maximum electron-finding efficiency and electron–hadron separation for NC DIS events [23]. Electromagnetic clusters were classified as isolated electron candidates when the energy not associated with the cluster in an  $\{\eta, \phi\}$  cone of radius 0.8 around the electron direction was less than 5 GeV and less than 5% of the electromagnetic cluster energy measured with the calorimeter, where  $\eta = -\log(\tan(\theta/2))$ .

Muons were identified through their signature as minimum ionising particles (MIPs). Their energy depositions can be spread over several calorimeter clusters. Therefore, neighbouring clusters were grouped together into larger-scale objects which, provided they passed topological and energy cuts, were classified as CAL MIPs. In this analysis a muon candidate was selected if a CAL MIP matched an extrapolated CTD track from the primary vertex to within 20 cm.

The missing transverse momentum was determined from calorimetric and tracking information. The magnitude of the missing transverse momentum measured with the CAL was defined as

$$P_T^{\text{CAL}} = \sqrt{\left(\sum_i p_{X,i}^{\text{CAL}}\right)^2 + \left(\sum_i p_{Y,i}^{\text{CAL}}\right)^2},$$

where  $p_{X,i}^{\text{CAL}} = E_i \sin \theta_i \cos \phi_i$  and  $p_{Y,i}^{\text{CAL}} = E_i \sin \theta_i \sin \phi_i$  were calculated from individual energy deposits,  $E_i$ , in clusters of CAL cells corrected [24] for energy loss in inactive material. In  $W \rightarrow e\nu$  events,  $P_T^{\text{CAL}}$  as defined above is an estimate of the missing transverse momentum carried by the neutrino,  $P_T^\nu$ . In  $W \rightarrow \mu\nu$  events, the muon deposits very little energy in the calorimeter and therefore a better estimate of  $P_T^\nu$  can be obtained if the momentum of the muon is calculated from its track measured in the CTD ( $p^{\mu,\text{track}}$ ). Combination with the above estimate of the total transverse momentum from the calorimeter leads to

$$P_T^{\text{miss}} = \sqrt{\left(\sum_i p_{X,i}^{\text{CAL}} + p_X^{\mu,\text{track}}\right)^2 + \left(\sum_i p_{Y,i}^{\text{CAL}} + p_Y^{\mu,\text{track}}\right)^2}.$$

The hadronic transverse momentum,  $P_T^X$ , was defined as the sum over those calorimeter cells that are not assigned to lepton-candidate clusters.

The charged-lepton transverse momentum,  $P_T^l$ , was calculated from the calorimeter cluster for  $l=e$  and from the track momentum for  $l=\mu$ . The transverse mass for  $W$  bosons decaying via  $W \rightarrow l\nu$  is defined as:

$$M_T = \sqrt{2P_T^l P_T^\nu (1 - \cos \phi^{l\nu})},$$

where  $\phi^{l\nu}$  is the azimuthal separation of the lepton and  $P_T^\nu$  vectors.

The following event properties were used to suppress backgrounds from mismeasured large  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  and fake high-energy leptons. Selection cuts on these event properties will be briefly described in Section 5.

The quantity  $\xi_e^2$  was defined as

$$\xi_e^2 = 2E'_e E_e (1 + \cos \theta_e),$$

where  $E'_e$  is the energy of the final-state electron,  $E_e = 27.5$  GeV is the electron beam energy and  $\theta_e$  is the polar angle of the electron measured in the calorimeter. For NC DIS events, where the scattered electron is identified as the isolated lepton,  $\xi_e^2$  corresponds to the virtuality of the exchanged boson,  $Q^2$ . Neutral current DIS events generally have low values of  $\xi_e^2$  whilst electrons from  $W$  decay will generally have high values of  $\xi_e^2$ .

The acoplanarity angle,  $\phi_{\text{acop}}$ , is the azimuthal separation in the  $\{X, Y\}$  plane of the outgoing lepton and the vector that balances the hadronic transverse momentum vector. For well measured NC DIS events,  $\phi_{\text{acop}}$  is close to zero.

The quantity  $\frac{V_{\text{ap}}}{V_{\text{p}}}$  is defined as the ratio of anti-parallel to parallel components of the measured calorimeter transverse momentum with respect to its direction. It is a measure of the azimuthal balance of the event: events with one or more high- $P_T$  particles that do not deposit energy in the calorimeter normally have low values of  $\frac{V_{\text{ap}}}{V_{\text{p}}}$ .

The quantity  $\delta$  was defined as:

$$\delta = \sum_i E_i (1 - \cos \theta_i),$$

where the sum runs over energy deposits as with  $P_T^{\text{CAL}}$ . Due to longitudinal momentum conservation,  $\delta$  peaks at twice the electron beam energy for fully contained events. Values of  $\delta$  much larger than  $2E_e = 55$  GeV are usually caused by the superposition of a NC DIS event with additional energy deposits in the rear calorimeter not related to  $ep$  collisions.

### 5. Event selection

The data samples used in this analysis, the beam configurations and integrated luminosities,  $\mathcal{L}$ , are given in Table 1. From



**Table 1**

Details of the different data subsamples over the 1994–2007 running period. From 2003 onwards the electron beam was longitudinally polarised.

Period	Beams	Electron energy (GeV)	Proton energy (GeV)	$\sqrt{s}$ (GeV)	$\mathcal{L}$ (pb <sup>-1</sup> )
1994–1997	$e^+p$	27.5	820	300	48.2
1998–1999	$e^-p$	27.5	920	318	16.7
1999–2000	$e^+p$	27.5	920	318	65.1
2003–2004	$e^+p$	27.5	920	318	40.8
2004–2006	$e^-p$	27.5	920	318	190.9
2006–2007	$e^+p$	27.5	920	318	142.4

**Table 2**

Selection criteria for the isolated electron and muon searches.

Variable	Electron	Muon
$P_T^{\text{CAL}}$	> 12 GeV	> 12 GeV
$P_T^{\text{miss}}$	> 12 GeV	> 12 GeV
$D_{\text{track}}$	> 0.5 for $\theta_e > 45^\circ$	> 0.5
$P_T^l$	> 10 GeV	> 10 GeV
$\theta_l$	$15^\circ < \theta_e < 120^\circ$	$15^\circ < \theta_\mu < 120^\circ$
$\delta$	$5 < \delta < 50$ GeV	< 70 GeV
$\phi_{\text{acop}}$	> $20^\circ$	> $10^\circ$
$\xi_l^2$	> 5000 GeV <sup>2</sup> for $P_T < 25$ GeV	–
$\frac{V_{\text{ap}}}{V_p}$	< 0.5 (< 0.15 for $P_T^e < 25$ GeV)	< 0.5 (< 0.15 for $P_T^{\text{CAL}} < 25$ GeV)
$D_{\text{jet}}$	implicit	> 1.0
# isolated $\mu$	0	1
$P_T^X$	–	> 12 GeV

2003 onwards, the electron beam was longitudinally polarised with average polarisation of approximately  $\pm 30\%$ . The amount of data with left- and right-handed electrons was approximately equal.

Offline,  $P_T^{\text{CAL}}$  and  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$  were required to be greater than 12 GeV. The value of  $P_T^{\text{CAL}}$  calculated excluding the inner ring of calorimeter cells around the forward beam-pipe hole also had to be greater than 9 GeV. These cuts were more stringent than the corresponding online trigger thresholds. Other preselection cuts were the requirement that the Z-coordinate of the tracking vertex be reconstructed within 50 cm (30 cm) of the nominal interaction point for 1994–2000 (2003–2007) data and that there was a track from this vertex associated with the lepton. Cuts on the calorimeter timing and algorithms based on the pattern of tracks were used to reject beam-gas, cosmic-ray and halo-muon events. After these preselection criteria were applied, events with isolated electrons and muons were selected separately using the criteria listed in Table 2. These criteria are described below.

In the search for isolated high-energy electrons, electromagnetic clusters were selected as described in Section 4. The distance of closest approach of the track associated with the electromagnetic cluster was required to be less than 10 cm. Since most fake electrons are misidentified hadrons close to jets, the fake signal was further reduced by requiring that the electron track be separated by a distance,  $D_{\text{track}}$ , of at least 0.5 units in  $\{\eta, \phi\}$  space from other “good” tracks in the event. A track was labelled good if it had momentum larger than 0.2 GeV, was associated with the event vertex and lay within  $15^\circ < \theta < 164^\circ$ . To maintain efficiency in the forward region, this track isolation cut was not used for  $\theta_e < 45^\circ$ . Requiring that the matching electron track have transverse momentum greater than 5 GeV also removed fake electrons. The isolated electrons were required to have  $P_T^e > 10$  GeV and lie within the region  $15^\circ < \theta_e < 120^\circ$ . The fake signal rate from NC DIS was strongly suppressed by requiring  $5 < \delta < 50$  GeV and further suppressed by requiring that  $\phi_{\text{acop}} > 20^\circ$  for events that have

a well defined  $P_T^X$ , i.e. larger than 1 GeV (otherwise no acoplanarity angle cut was applied). In addition, for low values of  $P_T^{\text{CAL}}$  (< 25 GeV), where NC DIS events dominate,  $\xi_e^2$  was required to be greater than 5000 GeV<sup>2</sup>. A  $P_T^e$ -dependent cut on  $\frac{V_{\text{ap}}}{V_p}$  was applied.

In the search for isolated muons, the muon candidate was required to be isolated by a distance,  $D_{\text{jet}}$ , of at least one unit in  $\{\eta, \phi\}$  space from any jet with  $E_T^{\text{jet}} > 5$  GeV and  $-3 < \eta^{\text{jet}} < 3$ . The fake signal rate was reduced by requiring that  $D_{\text{track}}$  be at least 0.5. Events containing such isolated muon candidates with  $P_T^\mu > 1$  GeV were excluded from the isolated-electron search. Events in which more than one isolated muon with  $P_T^\mu > 1$  GeV were found were rejected. The cut  $\delta < 70$  GeV removed superpositions of NC DIS events with non- $ep$  energy deposits in the RCAL. The muon was required to lie in the phase space  $P_T^\mu > 10$  GeV and  $15^\circ < \theta_\mu < 120^\circ$ . Cuts on  $\phi_{\text{acop}}$  and  $\frac{V_{\text{ap}}}{V_p}$  were applied to reduce the fake signal rate from dilepton production. The quantity  $P_T^X$  was required to be greater than 12 GeV.

## 6. Systematic uncertainties

The major experimental sources of systematic uncertainty on the number of events expected from SM processes originated from the luminosity measurement, the calorimeter energy scale and the simulation of processes in the extremities of phase space. Uncertainties on the expectation for the observed rate of  $W$  production arising from lepton identification were negligible for the electron search and  $\pm 5\%$  for the muon search.

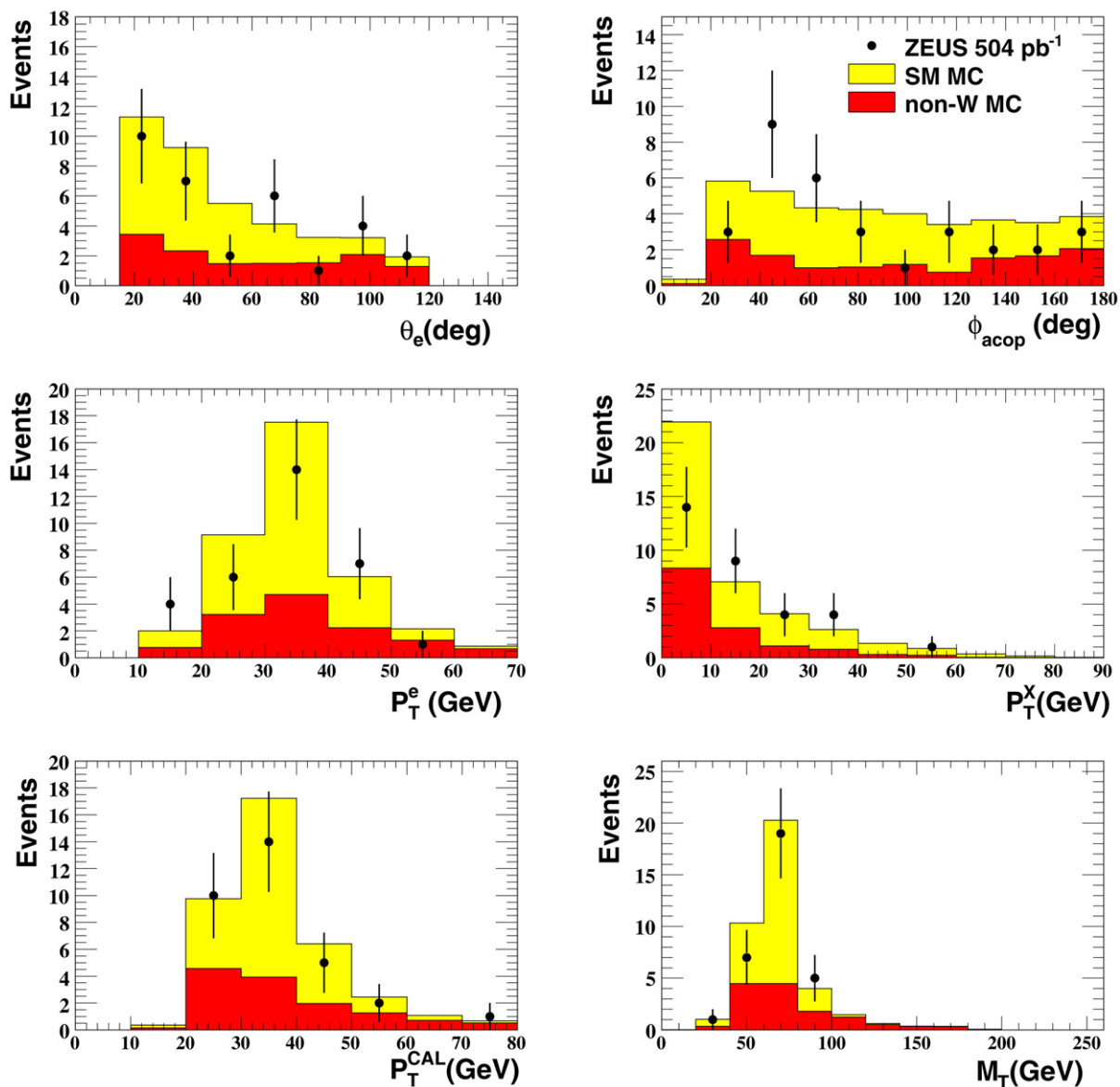
The uncertainties on the luminosity measurements gave an overall uncertainty of approximately  $\pm 2.9\%$  ( $\pm 3.4\%$ ) on the expected SM event rate for  $e^+p$  ( $e^-p$ ) data.

The uncertainty on the CAL energy scale was investigated by globally scaling energy as measured in the electromagnetic section of the calorimeter (EMC) by  $\pm 2\%$ . The shifts in the expectations in the different  $P_T^X$  bins were  $\pm(0.5\text{--}3.5)\%$  in the electron search while they were negligible for the muon search. The hadronic energy-scale uncertainty was varied by globally scaling energy as measured in the hadronic section of the calorimeter by  $\pm 3\%$ . The effect on the SM prediction was  $\pm(2\text{--}5)\%$  in both the electron and muon searches.

Alternative event samples were used to verify that the fake signal rates were well simulated by the MC. The contribution of NC DIS to the electron search was studied by selecting a sample of isolated electrons in the phase space  $\theta_e < 120^\circ$ ,  $P_T^e > 10$  GeV and  $P_T^{\text{CAL}} > 12$  GeV. The fraction of the sample arising from NC DIS was enhanced by applying in addition the requirement that  $\delta > 30$  GeV and that  $\phi_{\text{acop}} < 17^\circ$ . A systematic uncertainty of  $\pm 15\%$  on the fake signal rate from NC was determined from the level of agreement between data and MC for this selection. The effect of this uncertainty on the SM prediction was  $\pm(1\text{--}4)\%$  for the electron search and was negligible in the muon search.

The contribution from CC DIS to the electron search arises mainly from fake isolated electron candidates originating from the hadronic system. To assess the ability of the MC to reproduce these events, a sample of NC DIS candidates with additional electron candidates other than the scattered DIS electron was selected. The additional electrons were required to be isolated according to the same isolation criteria as used in the isolated-lepton search. The phase space of the additional electron was  $\theta_e < 120^\circ$  and  $P_T^e > 10$  GeV. From the agreement between data and MC, a systematic uncertainty of  $\pm 25\%$  was determined for the fake signal rate from CC. The effect of this uncertainty on the SM prediction was  $\pm(2\text{--}8)\%$  for the electron search and was negligible in the muon search.

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**Fig. 1.** Distributions of the isolated electron events (points) compared to the SM expectation for the  $e^\pm p$  collision data. The light-shaded histogram represents the Standard Model MC prediction, the dark shaded area being the prediction for events not arising from  $ep \rightarrow lWX$ . The error bars on the data points correspond to  $\sqrt{N}$  where  $N$  is the number of events. The variables shown are described in detail in the text.

Dilepton events produce a significant fake signal rate in the isolated muon search. A dimuon enriched sample was selected in the phase space  $P_T^{\text{CAL}} > 12$  GeV,  $P_T^\mu > 10$  GeV and  $5^\circ < \theta_\mu < 120^\circ$ . The dimuon component was enhanced by requiring that  $\phi_{\text{acop}} < 20^\circ$  and  $\frac{V_{\text{ap}}}{V_p} < 0.2$ . An uncertainty of  $\pm 25\%$  on the dilepton fake signal rate was determined from the level of agreement between data and MC. The effect of this uncertainty on the SM prediction was  $\pm(4\text{--}6)\%$  for the muon search and was negligible in the electron search.

The theoretical uncertainty of  $\pm 15\%$  on the  $W$  production cross section gave the largest uncertainty on the total SM prediction in both searches, being approximately  $\pm 12\%$  in the muon search and  $\pm(8\text{--}12)\%$  for the electron search.

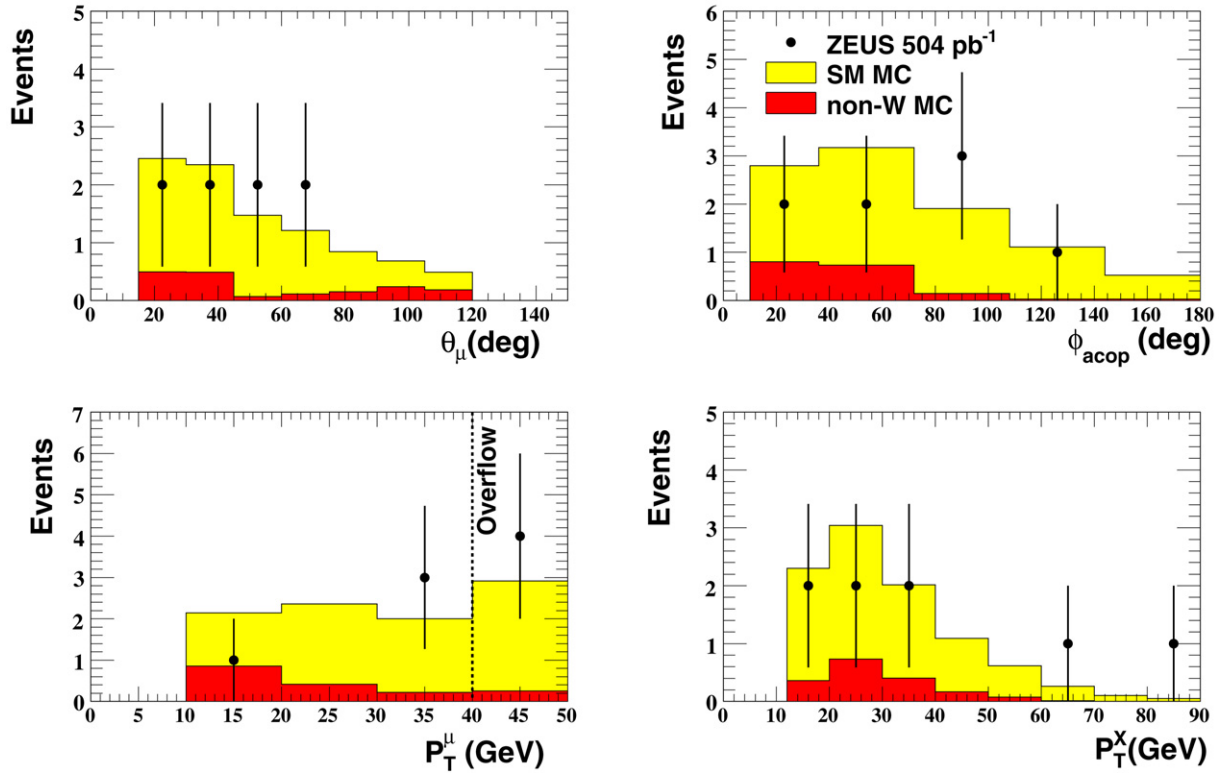
The total systematic uncertainty on the SM prediction was obtained by summing all of the individual effects in quadrature. It was  $\pm(11\text{--}13)\%$  for the various  $P_T^X$  bins in the electron search and was  $\pm(14\text{--}15)\%$  in the muon search.

## 7. Isolated-lepton search results

Distributions of  $\theta_e$ ,  $P_T^e$ ,  $M_T$ ,  $\phi_{\text{acop}}$ ,  $P_T^X$  and  $P_T^{\text{CAL}}$  for the isolated electron sample are compared to the expectation from the MC simulation normalised to the luminosity in Fig. 1. The data are well described by the SM Monte Carlo predictions. This is also the case when the data are separated into  $e^+p$  collision and  $e^-p$  collision samples. The expectation from the SM and the fraction arising from  $W$  production, in bins of  $P_T^X$  for the electron search are given in Table 3. No significant excess over the SM predictions is observed.

Distributions of  $\theta_\mu$ ,  $P_T^\mu$ ,  $\phi_{\text{acop}}$  and  $P_T^X$  for the isolated muon sample are compared to the expectation from the MC simulation normalised to the luminosity in Fig. 2. The data are well described by the SM Monte Carlo predictions. This is also the case when the data are separated into  $e^+p$  collision and  $e^-p$  collision samples. The expectation from the SM and the fraction arising from  $W$  production, in bins of  $P_T^X$ , are given in Table 4.

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**Fig. 2.** Isolated muon data (points) compared to the SM expectation for the  $e^\pm p$  collision data. For  $P_T^\mu > 50$  GeV the resolution of tracking used becomes significant compared to the bin width, such events have been grouped together in the overflow bin in this figure. Other details as in the caption to Fig. 1.

**Table 3**

Results of the search for events with isolated electrons and missing transverse momentum. The number of observed events is compared to the SM prediction (observed/expected). The fraction of the SM expectation arising from  $W$  production is given as a percentage in parentheses. The quoted errors contain statistical and systematic uncertainties added in quadrature.

Isolated $e$ candidates	$P_T^X < 12$ GeV	$12 < P_T^X < 25$ GeV	$P_T^X > 25$ GeV
$e^- p$ 208 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	9/11.3 $\pm$ 1.5 (54%)	5/3.4 $\pm$ 0.5 (62%)	3/3.2 $\pm$ 0.5 (69%)
$e^+ p$ 296 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	7/12.6 $\pm$ 1.7 (68%)	5/3.9 $\pm$ 0.6 (72%)	3/4.0 $\pm$ 0.6 (77%)
$e^\pm p$ 504 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	16/23.9 $\pm$ 3.1 (61%)	10/7.4 $\pm$ 1.0 (67%)	6/7.3 $\pm$ 1.0 (73%)

**Table 4**

Results of the search for events with isolated muons and missing transverse momentum. Other details as in the caption to Table 3.

Isolated $\mu$ candidates	$12 < P_T^X < 25$ GeV	$P_T^X > 25$ GeV
$e^- p$ 208 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	1/1.6 $\pm$ 0.3 (77%)	2/2.3 $\pm$ 0.4 (85%)
$e^+ p$ 296 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	2/2.2 $\pm$ 0.3 (82%)	3/3.4 $\pm$ 0.5 (81%)
$e^\pm p$ 504 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	3/3.8 $\pm$ 0.6 (80%)	5/5.7 $\pm$ 0.8 (83%)

**Table 5**

Results of the search for events with isolated electrons or muons and missing transverse momentum. Other details as in the caption to Table 3.

Isolated lepton candidates	$P_T^X < 12$ GeV	$12 < P_T^X < 25$ GeV	$P_T^X > 25$ GeV
$e^- p$ 208 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	9/11.3 $\pm$ 1.5 (54%)	6/5.1 $\pm$ 0.7 (67%)	5/5.5 $\pm$ 0.8 (75%)
$e^+ p$ 296 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	7/12.6 $\pm$ 1.7 (68%)	7/6.2 $\pm$ 0.9 (75%)	6/7.4 $\pm$ 1.0 (79%)
$e^\pm p$ 504 $\text{pb}^{-1}$	16/23.9 $\pm$ 3.1 (61%)	13/11.2 $\pm$ 1.5 (71%)	11/12.9 $\pm$ 1.7 (77%)

The muon and electron search results are combined in Table 5. No excess over the SM predictions is observed. The good agreement between the SM predictions and observed data makes it possible to extract the  $W$  production cross section.

## 8. Extraction of $W$ production cross section

In order to enhance the fraction of events from  $W$  production in the electron search, an additional requirement of  $\theta_e < 90^\circ$  was applied to the sample of Section 5. For  $e^- p$  ( $e^+ p$ ) collisions, this cut removed 3 (3) events from data compared to a SM expectation of 2.6 (2.5). This final sample and the  $\mu$  sample from Section 2 were used to measure the cross section for the process  $ep \rightarrow lWX$  assuming a branching fraction,  $\mathcal{BR}(W \rightarrow l\nu_l)$ , of 10.8% [25] per lepton. The EPRC MC reweighted as described in Section 2 was used in the unfolding process to calculate acceptances.

In the  $W \rightarrow e\nu_e$  channel, the measured phase space is  $15^\circ < \theta_e < 90^\circ$ ,  $P_T^e > 10$  GeV and  $P_T^{\text{miss}} > 12$  GeV. In the  $W \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu$  channel, the measured phase space is  $15^\circ < \theta_\mu < 120^\circ$ ,  $P_T^\mu > 10$  GeV,  $P_T^{\text{miss}} > 12$  GeV and  $P_T^X > 12$  GeV. The efficiency in the measured phase space in the  $W \rightarrow e\nu_e$  ( $W \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu$ ) channel is 55% (40%). The total acceptance,  $A_i$ , for each channel is given by an extrapolation factor from the measured phase space to the full  $ep \rightarrow lWX$  phase space multiplied by the efficiency for reconstructing an event within the measured phase space. The acceptance for the  $W \rightarrow e\nu_e$  ( $W \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu$ ) channel was 33% (11%). The small contribution from  $W \rightarrow \tau\nu_\tau$  decays was taken into account.

The cross section was determined from the likelihood for observing  $n_i$  events in each search channel, defined by:

$$L(\sigma) = \prod_i \left( \alpha_i \int_0^\infty dx G_i(x) \frac{e^{(-x)\chi^{n_i}}}{(n_i!)} \right),$$

**Table 6**

Extracted  $W$  production cross sections. The predicted SM cross section,  $\sigma_{\text{SM}}$ , is given in the last column and has an estimated uncertainty of  $\pm 15\%$ .

Process	$P_T^X > (\text{GeV})$	$\langle\sqrt{s}\rangle (\text{GeV})$	$\sigma$ (pb)	$\sigma_{\text{SM}}$ (pb)
$ep \rightarrow IW X$	0	316	$0.090^{+0.032}_{-0.028}(\text{stat.})^{+0.013}_{-0.013}(\text{syst.})$	0.13
$W \rightarrow e\nu_e$				
$ep \rightarrow IW X$	12	316	$0.044^{+0.022}_{-0.018}(\text{stat.})^{+0.006}_{-0.006}(\text{syst.})$	0.05
$W \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu$				
$e^+p \rightarrow IW X$	0	315	$0.82^{+0.31}_{-0.26}(\text{stat.})^{+0.08}_{-0.08}(\text{syst.})$	1.2
$e^-p \rightarrow IW X$	0	318	$1.03^{+0.45}_{-0.38}(\text{stat.})^{+0.16}_{-0.16}(\text{syst.})$	1.3
$ep \rightarrow IW X$	0	316	$0.89^{+0.25}_{-0.22}(\text{stat.})^{+0.10}_{-0.10}(\text{syst.})$	1.2

where the product runs over all samples being combined and  $G_i(x)$  is a Gaussian function centred on  $m_i$  with width  $\delta_i$ ;  $m_i = b_i(x) + A_i \mathcal{B}\mathcal{R}_i \mathcal{L}\sigma$ , where  $b_i$  is the number of events expected from the background and  $\mathcal{B}\mathcal{R}_i$  is the branching ratio for the channel. The quantity  $\delta_i$  is the statistical uncertainty on the background prediction and  $\alpha_i = (\int_0^\infty dx G_i(x))^{-1}$ . The measured value of the cross section,  $\sigma_{\text{meas}}$ , is that which minimises  $-\ln L(\sigma)$ . The upper and lower bounds on  $\sigma_{\text{meas}}$  are the values at which  $-\ln L(\sigma) = -\ln L(\sigma_{\text{meas}}) + 0.5$ . Cross sections for the exclusive  $W \rightarrow e\nu_e$  and  $W \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu$  decay channels were evaluated by combining  $e^+p$  and  $e^-p$  samples in the same manner.

Systematic uncertainties on the extracted cross section were evaluated by considering the effects discussed in Section 6. In addition, the extrapolation factor for the muon channel is sensitive to the  $P_T^X$  distribution. In order to take this into account, the cross section in the  $P_T^X < 12$  GeV region was varied by the theoretical uncertainty on the total cross section,  $\pm 15\%$ , leading to variations in the extrapolation factor of  $\pm 9\%$ . The variation observed on the combined cross section from this change was  $\pm 3\%$ . The systematic uncertainties from individual effects were added in quadrature. The dominant contribution to the total systematic uncertainty came from the uncertainty on the fake signal rate from CC DIS; this contributed uncertainties of about  $\pm 11\%$  ( $\pm 5\%$ ) to the cross section for  $e^-p$  ( $e^+p$ ) collisions.

The cross sections are given in Table 6. The cross section is given at the luminosity-weighted mean of  $\sqrt{s}$  for the data samples used. The mean polarisation of the electron beam in the  $e^-p$  and  $e^+p$  data sets is less than 3%. The effect of such levels of polarisation on the inclusive cross section,  $\sigma_{ep \rightarrow IW X}$ , is predicted by EPVEC to be less than 1% and was neglected. The cross section is therefore quoted for a mean polarisation of 0. When  $e^+p$  and  $e^-p$  data are combined the cross section is quoted for the luminosity-weighted mean of the  $e^+p$  and  $e^-p$  cross sections. The measured cross sections are consistent with the SM predictions. The statistical significance of the  $\sigma_{ep \rightarrow IW X}$  measurement was evaluated by considering the probability of measuring an equal or larger cross section in data for a prediction containing no  $W$  production. When the systematic uncertainties were (were not) taken into account this probability was  $1.1 \times 10^{-6}$  ( $1.1 \times 10^{-7}$ ), corresponding to a significance of  $4.7\sigma$  ( $5.2\sigma$ ). The full likelihood curve including both systematic and statistical uncertainties is available from the ZEUS web page [26].

## 9. Summary

A search was made for isolated high-energy electrons and muons in events with large  $P_T^{\text{miss}}$ , compatible with single  $W$  production with subsequent decay  $W \rightarrow e\nu_e$  or  $W \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu$  in  $ep$  col-

lisions at a centre-of-mass energy of about 320 GeV. A data sample with a total integrated luminosity of  $504 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  was used. The rate of production of such events at high hadronic transverse momentum was found to be consistent with the SM predictions. The excess in these types of events observed by the H1 Collaboration is not confirmed. The total cross section for single  $W$  production was measured to be

$$\sigma_{ep \rightarrow IW X} = 0.89^{+0.25}_{-0.22}(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.10(\text{syst.}) \text{ pb},$$

consistent with SM predictions. The measurement represents a four-fold improvement in precision relative to the previously published ZEUS value. This measurement constitutes strong evidence for  $W$  production in  $ep$  collisions at HERA with a significance of  $4.7\sigma$ .

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