

# Particle Physics I

## Lecture 10: Deep inelastic electron-proton scattering

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# Short recap and learning targets

- **Ultimate goal:** investigate high-energy electron-proton inelastic scattering where the proton breaks up in the interaction, referred to as Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS)

## Learning targets

- General Lorentz-invariant (LI) extension of the  $e^-p \rightarrow e^-p$  elastic scattering with Form Factors (FFs) replaced by structure functions
- Describe DIS in terms of QED interaction of a virtual photon with the constituent quarks inside the proton
- Interpret the experimental data in terms of the quark-parton model
- Relation between the structure functions and the parton distribution function that describe the momentum distribution of the quarks

# $e^-p$ elastic scattering at very high $q^2$

- The **Rosenbluth formula** for  $e^-p$  elastic scattering:
  - $G_E(q^2)$ : related to the **charge distribution** inside the proton
  - $G_M(q^2)$ : related to the distribution of the **magnetic moment** of the proton

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{elastic}} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E_1^2 \sin^4 \theta / 2} \cdot \frac{E_3}{E_1} \left( \frac{G_E^2 + \tau G_M^2}{1 + \tau} \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + 2\tau G_M^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

with the Lorentz-invariant quantity  $\tau = -q^2/4M^2$ , at very high  $q^2$  we have  $\tau \gg 1$  which leads to

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{elastic}} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E_1^2 \sin^2 \theta / 2} \cdot \frac{E_3}{E_1} \cdot 2\tau G_M^2$$

# $e^-p$ elastic scattering at very high $q^2$

- The **Rosenbluth formula** for  $e^-p$  elastic scattering **at high  $q^2$** :

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{elastic}} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E_1^2 \sin^2 \theta / 2} \cdot \frac{E_3}{E_1} \cdot 2\tau G_M^2$$

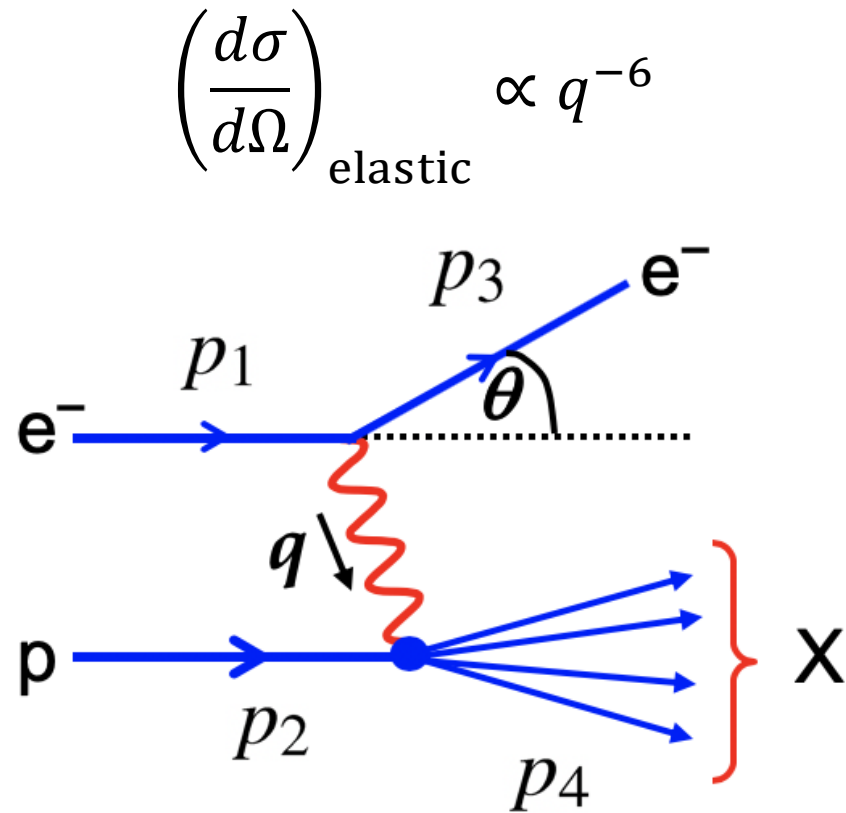
- From  $e^-p$  elastic scattering experiments we found that the proton magnetic Form Factor is

$$G_M^p(q^2) \approx \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{q^2}{0.71\text{GeV}^2}\right)^2} \propto q^{-4} \text{ at high } q^2$$

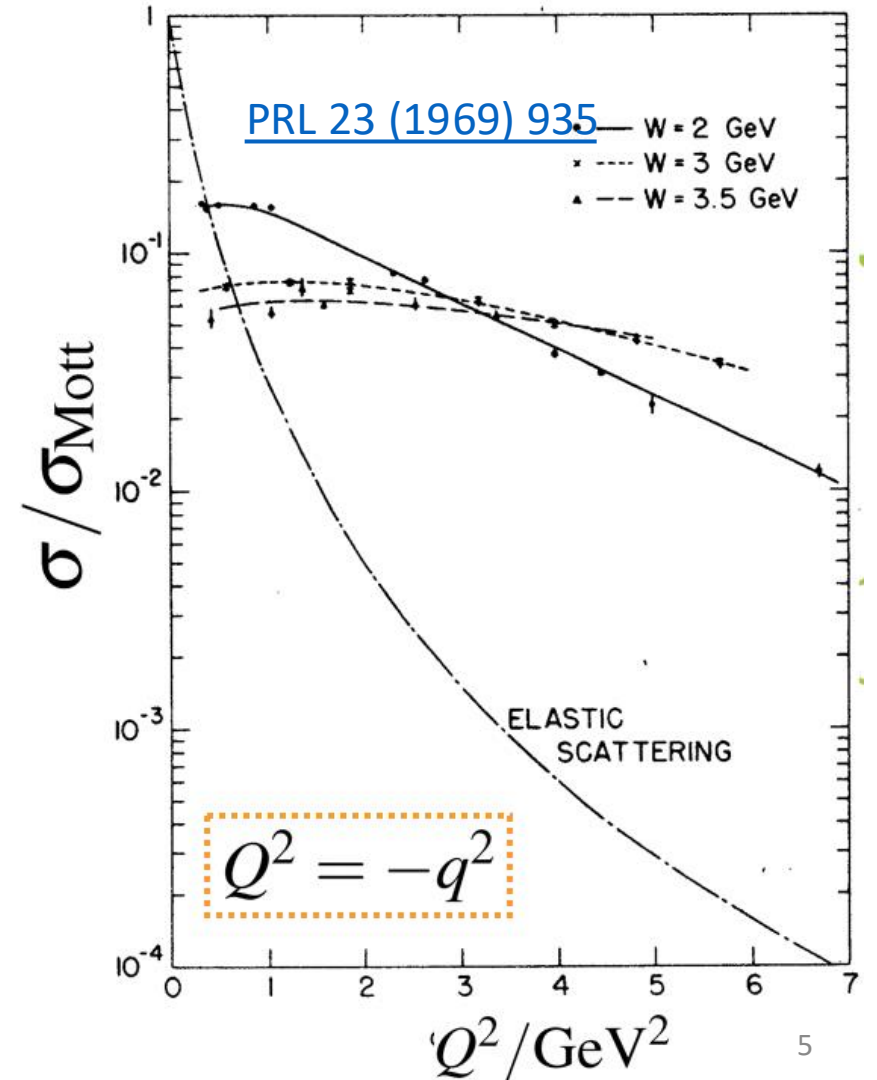
$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{elastic}} \propto q^{-6}$$

# $e^-p$ elastic scattering at very high $q^2$

- Due to the finite proton size, at high  $q^2$  elastic scattering is unlikely and inelastic interactions where the proton breaks up dominate



$$M_X^2 = W^2 = p_4^2 = (p_1 + p_2 - p_3)^2 = (q + p_2)^2$$

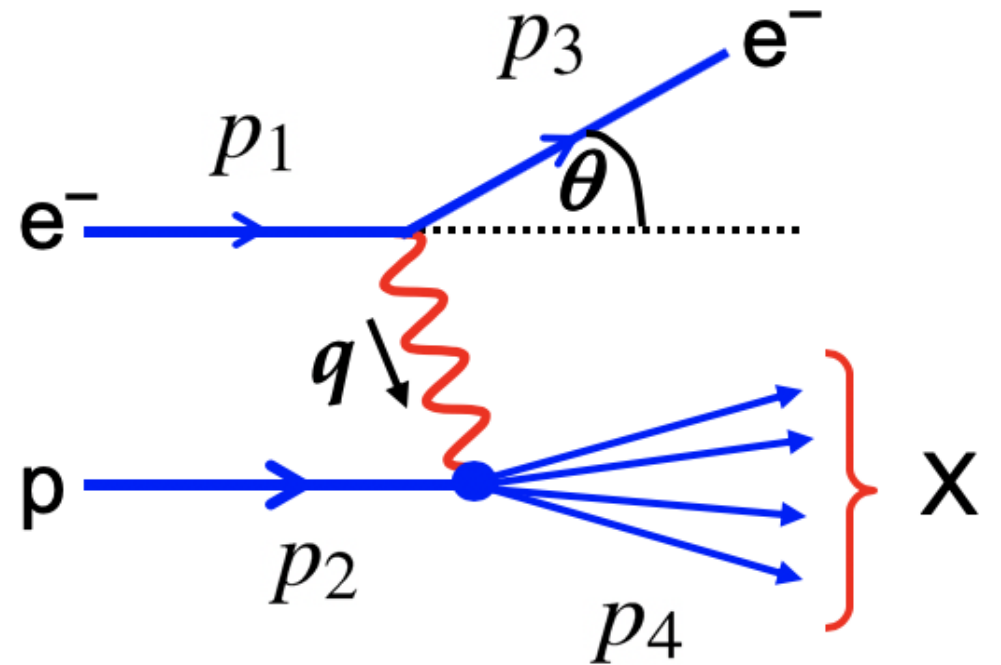


# Kinematics of $e^-p$ inelastic scattering

- For inelastic scattering the mass of the final hadronic system is no longer the proton mass  $m_p$
- The final state must contain at least one baryon, implying that  $M_X > m_p \Rightarrow$  **additional degree of freedom**
- We introduce four useful **Lorentz-invariant** quantities:  $x, y, \nu, Q^2$

$$Q^2 \equiv -q^2, \quad x \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2p_2 \cdot q}$$

$$y \equiv \frac{p_2 \cdot q}{p_2 \cdot p_1}, \quad \nu \equiv \frac{p_2 \cdot q}{m_p}$$



$$M_X^2 = p_4^2 = E_4^2 - |\vec{p}_4|^2$$

# Kinematics of $e^-p$ inelastic scattering: $\nu$ and $Q^2$

- Definition of the exchanged momentum  $Q^2$ :

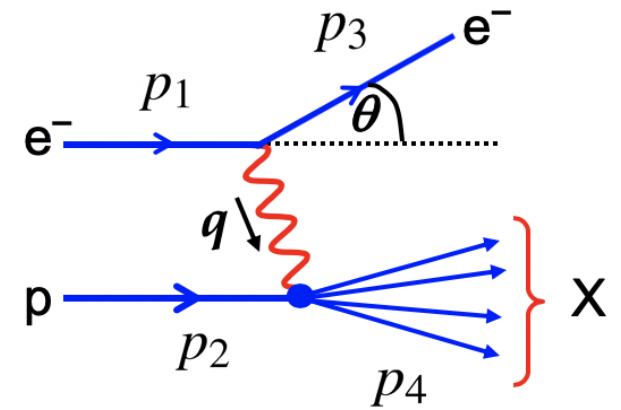
$$Q^2 \equiv -q^2 = (p_1 - p_3)^2$$

- $Q^2 = 4E_1 E_3 \sin^2 \theta / 2$  (neglecting the electron masses)

- Definition of  $\nu$ :

$$\nu \equiv \frac{p_2 \cdot q}{m_p}$$

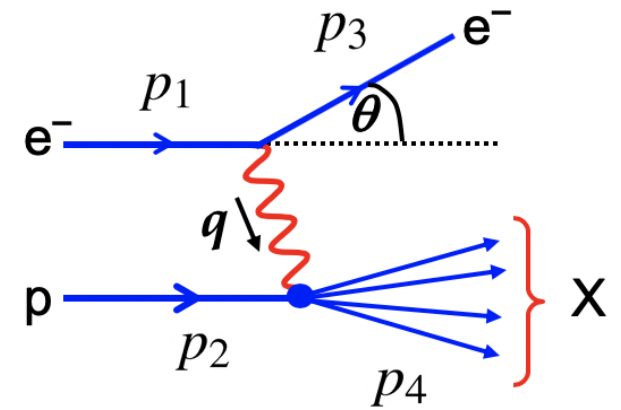
- In the frame where the proton is at rest  $\nu$  is simply the energy lost by the electron:  $\nu = E_1 - E_3$



# Kinematics of $e^-p$ inelastic scattering: Bjorken $x$

- Definition of Bjorken  $x$ :

$$x \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2p_2 \cdot q}, \text{ where } Q^2 = -q^2 > 0$$



- We can derive the following expression for the mass of the hadronic system  $M_X$  (often  $W$  is used)

$$M_X^2 = p_4^2 = (q + p_2)^2 = -Q^2 + 2q \cdot p_2 + m_p^2$$
$$\Rightarrow Q^2 = 2q \cdot p_2 + m_p^2 - M_X^2 \Rightarrow Q^2 < 2q \cdot p_2 (M_X > m_p)$$

- We get  $0 < x < 1$  for an **inelastic** process and  $x = 1$  for an **elastic** one (the proton is intact,  $M_X = m_p$ )

# Kinematics of $e^-p$ inelastic scattering: inelasticity $y$

- Definition of the inelasticity  $y$ :

$$y \equiv \frac{p_2 \cdot q}{p_2 \cdot p_1}$$

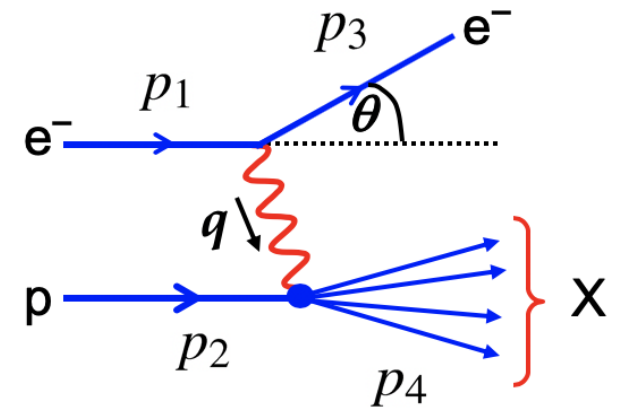
- In the lab frame:  $p_1 = (E_1, 0, 0, E_1)$ ,  $p_2 = (m_p, 0, 0, 0)$ ,  $q = (E_1 - E_3, \vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_3)$

$$y = \frac{m_p(E_1 - E_3)}{m_p E_1} = 1 - \frac{E_3}{E_1}$$

- $y$  is the fractional energy loss of the incoming particle  $0 < y < 1$
- In the CoM frame (after neglecting the electron and proton masses):

$$p_1 = (E, 0, 0, E), \quad p_2 = (E, 0, 0, -E), \quad q = (E, E \sin \theta^*, 0, E \cos \theta^*)$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos \theta^*) \text{ for } E \gg m_p$$



# Relationship between kinematic variables

- We can rewrite the new kinematic variables in terms of square CoM energy for  $e^-p$  collision  $s$ :

$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = p_1^2 + p_2^2 + 2p_1 \cdot p_2 = 2p_1 \cdot p_2 + m_p^2 + m_e^2 (m_e \approx 0)$$

$$2p_1 \cdot p_2 = s - m_p^2$$

- For a fixed CoM energy, the kinematics of inelastic scattering can be described by **any pair of the LI quantities**  $Q^2$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $x$ , and  $y$  (except  $\nu$  and  $y$ )
  - for elastic scattering ( $x = 1$ ) only one independent kinematic variable, the electron scattering angle  $\theta$

$$Q^2 \equiv -q^2, \quad x \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2p_2 \cdot q}, \quad y \equiv \frac{p_2 \cdot q}{p_2 \cdot p_1}, \quad \nu \equiv \frac{p_2 \cdot q}{m_p}$$

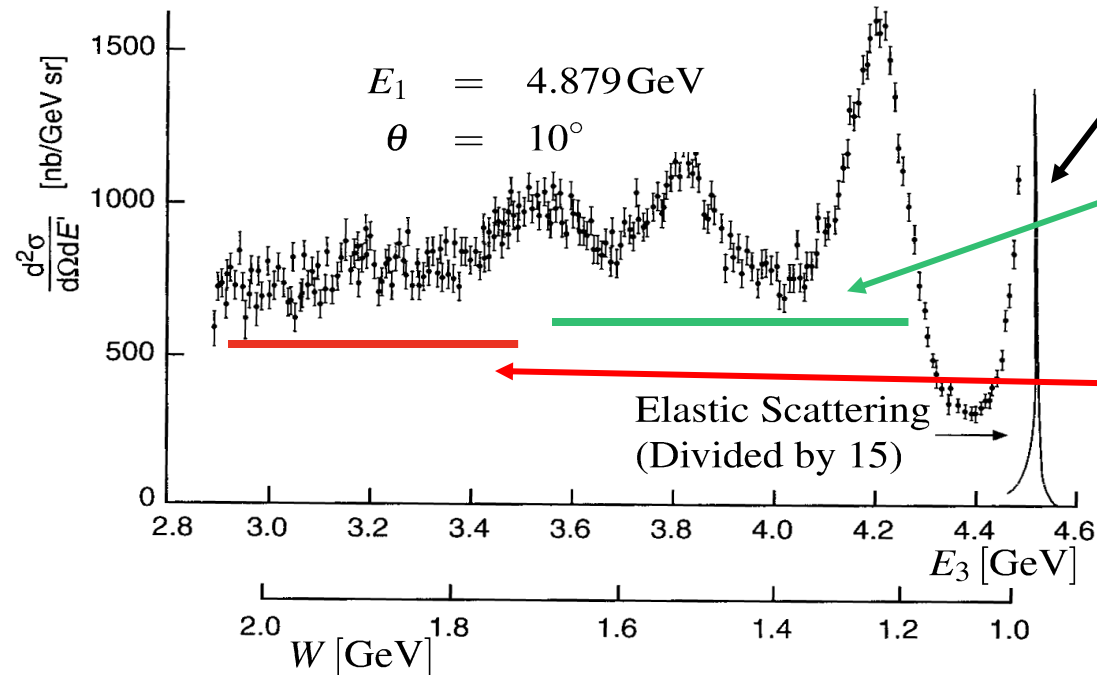


$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2m_p \nu}, \quad y = \frac{2m_p}{s - m_p^2} \nu, \quad xy = \frac{Q^2}{s - m_p^2} \implies Q^2 = (s - m_p^2)xy$$

# Inelastic scattering: example

- Example: scattering at 4.879 GeV electrons from protons at rest
- Place a detector at  $10^\circ$  with respect to the beam axis and measure the energy of the scattered  $e^-$
- Kinematics is completely determined from the electron energy and angle
- For this energy and angle the invariant mass of the final-state hadronic system is:

$$W^2 = M_X^2 = 10.06 - 2.03E_3$$



- **Elastic scattering**

- proton remains intact

- **Inelastic scattering**

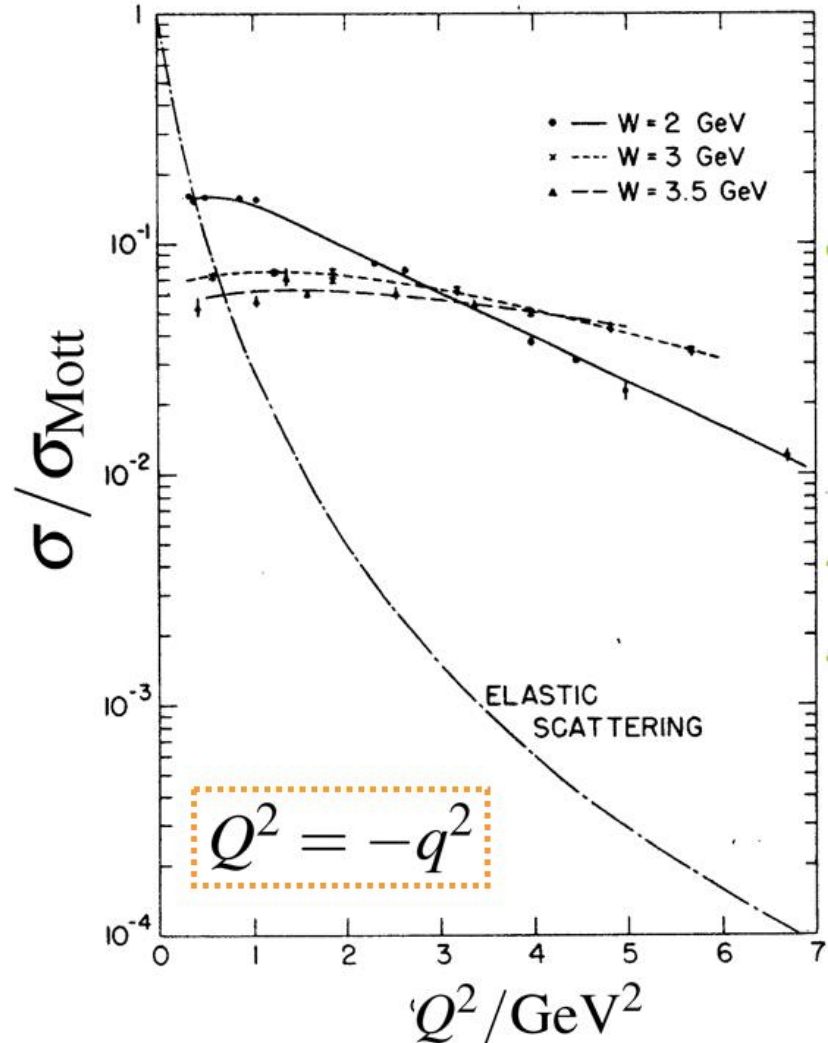
- produce excited states of the proton (e.g.  $\Delta^+(1232)$ )
- $W = M_\Delta$

- **Deep Inelastic Scattering**

- proton breaks up resulting in a many-particle final state
- **DIS = large  $W$**

# Inelastic cross sections

- Repeat the experiment at different angles/beam energies and determine the  $q^2$  dependence of the elastic and inelastic cross sections



- Elastic scattering falls off rapidly with  $q^2$  due to the proton not point-like (e.g. Form Factors)
- Inelastic scattering cross section depends only weakly on  $q^2$
- Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS) cross section almost independent of  $q^2$  ! (i.e. Form Factor  $\rightarrow 1$ )

**$\Rightarrow$  scattering from a point-like objects within the proton**

# Elastic → inelastic scattering

## Elastic scattering:

- Only **one** independent variable (scattering angle  $\theta$ )

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E_1^2 \sin^4 \theta / 2} \cdot \frac{E_3}{E_1} \left( \frac{G_E^2 + \tau G_M^2}{1 + \tau} \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + 2\tau G_M^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right), \quad \tau = Q^2 / 4m_p^2$$

*Note:* the energy of the scattered electron is determined by the angle  $\theta$ !

- Using the LI kinematic variables, we can express the differential cross section in terms of  $Q^2$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ \frac{G_E^2 + \tau G_M^2}{1 + \tau} \left( 1 - y - \frac{m_p^2 y^2}{Q^2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} y^2 G_M^2 \right]$$

which can be written as

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ f_2(Q^2) \left( 1 - y - \frac{m_p^2 y^2}{Q^2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} y^2 f_1(Q^2) \right]$$

# Elastic → inelastic scattering

## Inelastic scattering:

- For DIS we have **two independent variables**  $\Rightarrow$  **double differential cross section**
- It can be shown that the most general Lorentz-invariant expression for  $e^-p \rightarrow e^-X$  inelastic scattering (via an exchange of a single photon) is

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ \left( 1 - y - \frac{m_p^2 y^2}{Q^2} \right) \frac{F_2(Q^2, x)}{x} + y^2 F_1(Q^2, x) \right]$$

## Elastic scattering:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ \left( 1 - y - \frac{m_p^2 y^2}{Q^2} \right) f_2(Q^2) + \frac{1}{2} y^2 f_1(Q^2) \right]$$

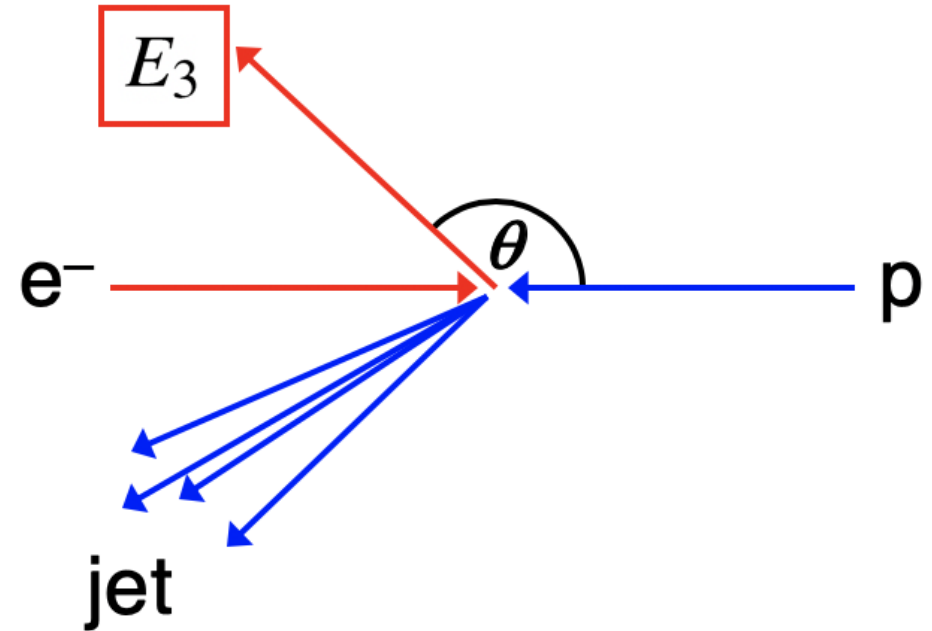
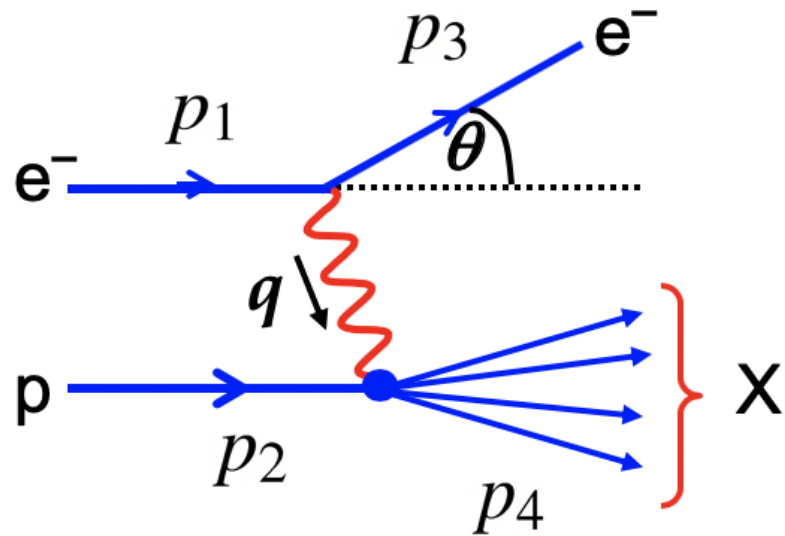
# Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS)

- The Form Factors have been replaced by structure functions:  $F_1(Q^2, x)$  and  $F_2(Q^2, x)$ 
  - $F_1(Q^2, x)$  and  $F_2(Q^2, x)$  depend on  $x \Rightarrow$  can't be interpreted as Fourier transforms of the proton charge and magnetic moment distributions but **describe the momentum distribution of the quarks inside the proton!**
  - $F_1(Q^2, x)$ : magnetic interaction
  - $F_2(Q^2, x)$ : electric and magnetic interactions
- For Deep Inelastic Scattering at very high energies ( $Q^2 \gg m_p^2 y^2$ ) we get

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ (1-y) \frac{F_2(Q^2, x)}{x} + y^2 F_1(Q^2, x) \right]$$

# Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS)

- In the lab. frame it's convenient to express the cross section in terms of the angle  $\theta$  and energy  $E_3$  of the scattered electron, which can be well-measured experimentally



$$Q^2 = 4E_1 E_3 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{2m_p(E_1 - E_3)}, \quad y = 1 - \frac{E_3}{E_1}, \quad \nu = E_1 - E_3$$

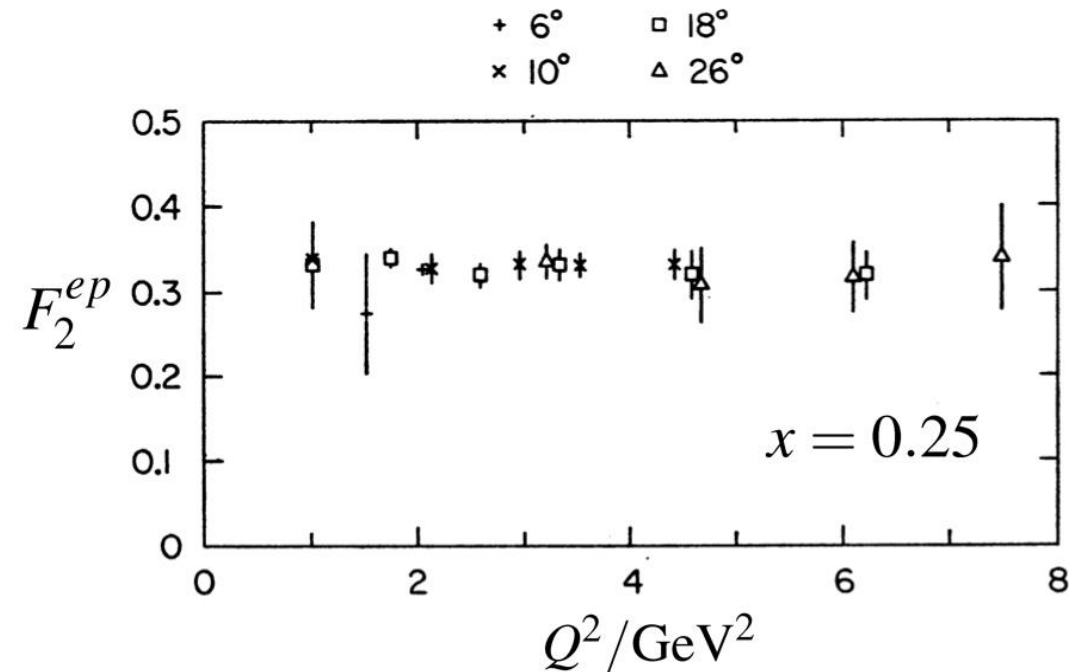
# Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS)

- In the lab. frame we get

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dE_3 d\Omega} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E_1^2 \sin^4 \theta / 2} \left( \frac{1}{\nu} F_2(Q^2, x) \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + \frac{2}{m_p} F_1(Q^2, x) \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

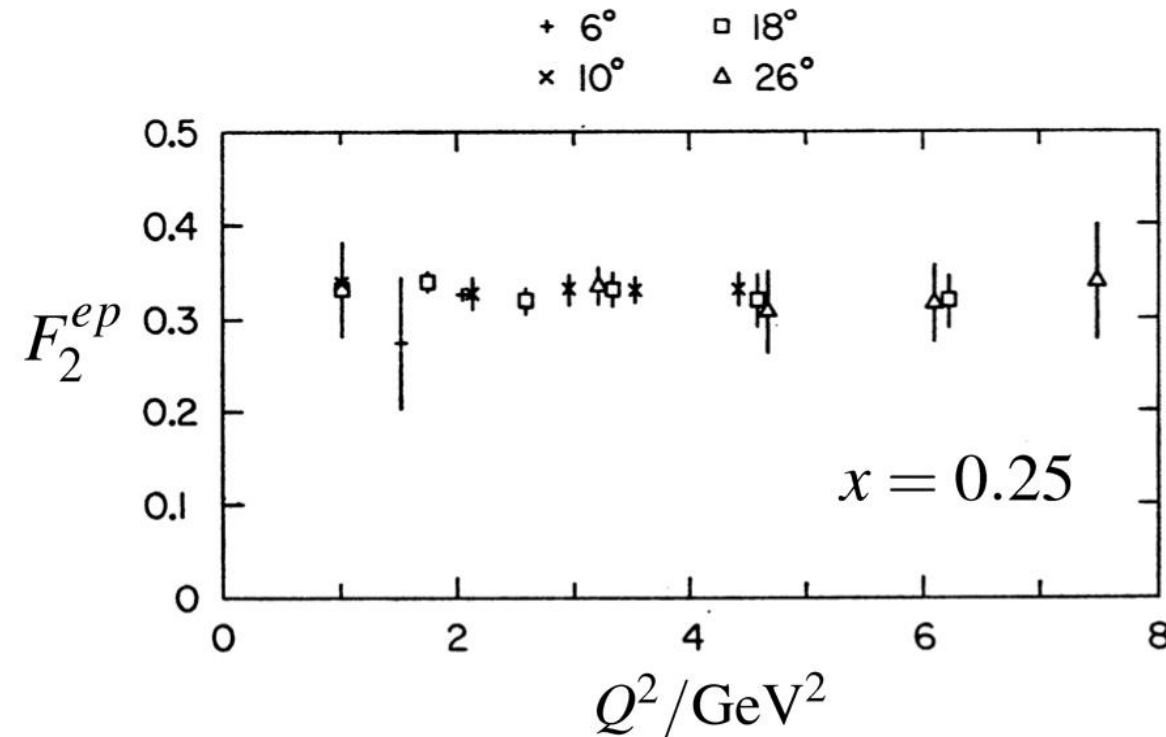
pure magnetic structure function

electric + magnetic structure function



# Measuring the structure functions

- To determine  $F_2(Q^2, x)$  and  $F_1(Q^2, x)$  for a given  $x$  and  $Q^2$  we need measurements of the differential cross section at several different scattering angles and incoming electron beam energies
- Example: the distribution of  $F_2$  vs  $Q^2$  for electron-proton scattering at fixed  $x$



[Friedman, Kendall, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 22 \(1972\) 203](#)

- It is observed experimentally that both  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are (almost) independent of  $Q^2$

# Bjorken scaling and Callan-Gross relation

- The near independence of the structure functions on  $Q^2$  is known as Bjorken scaling

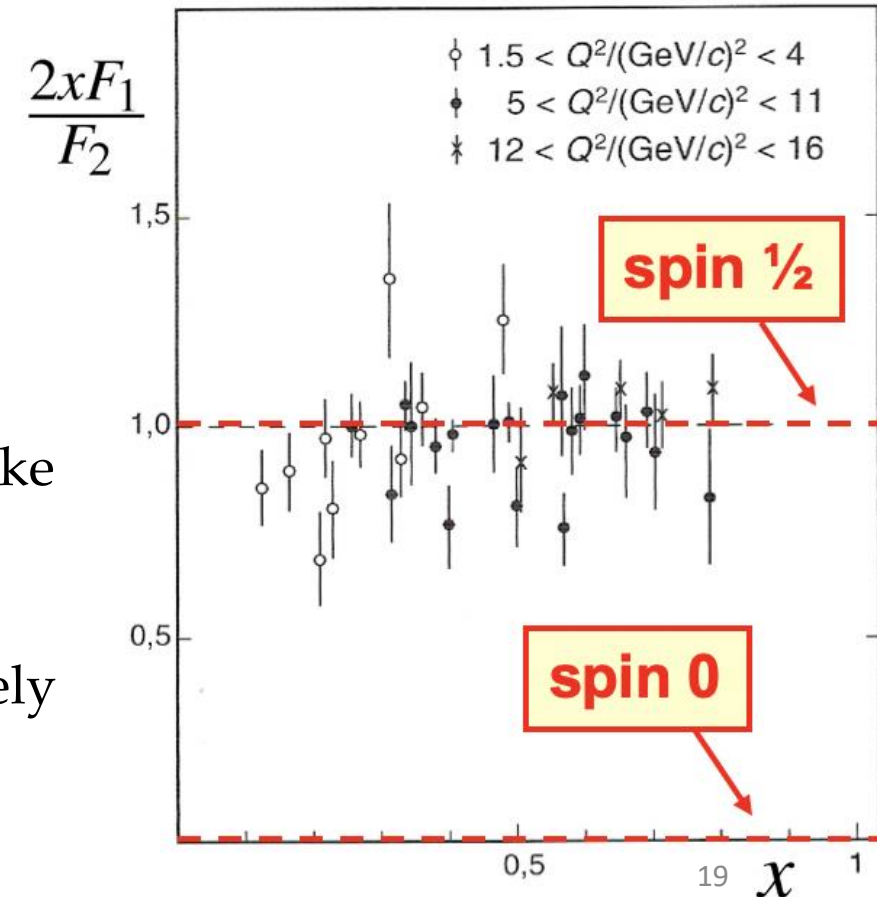
$$F_1(Q^2, x) \rightarrow F_1(x), \quad F_2(Q^2, x) \rightarrow F_2(x)$$

- Highly suggestive of elastic scattering from **point-like constituents** within the proton

- It is also observed that  $F_1(x)$  and  $F_2(x)$  are not independent but satisfy the **Callan-Gross relation**:

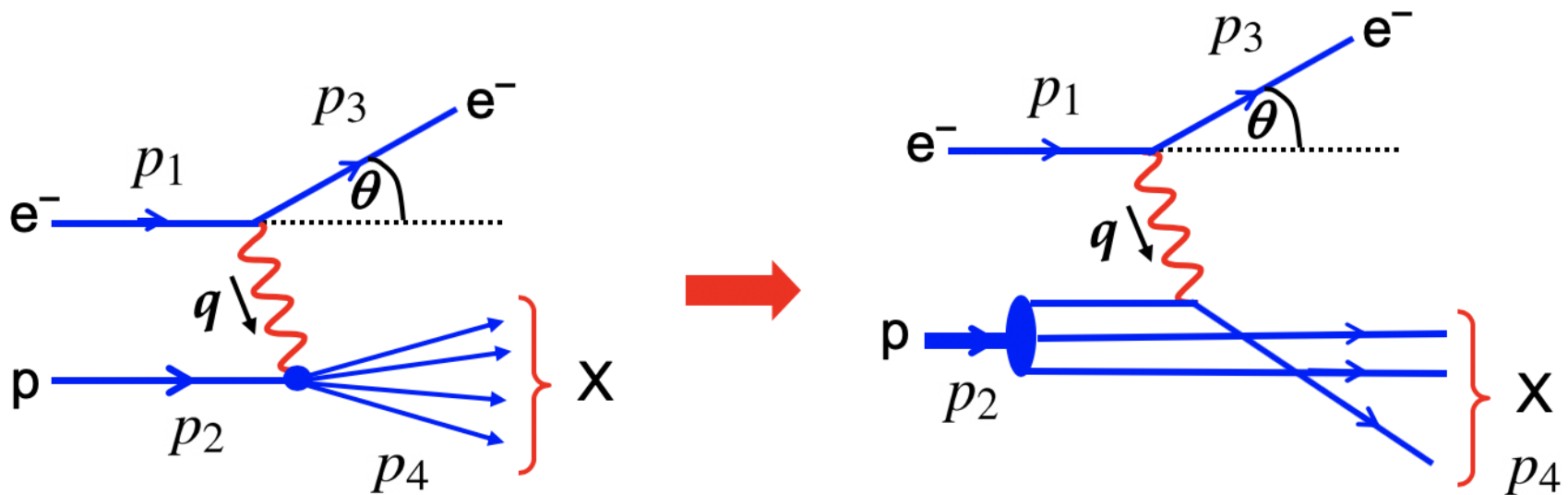
$$F_2(x) = 2xF_1(x)$$

- This is exactly what you would expect for scattering from point-like quarks inside the proton
- Note:* if quarks were spin-zero particles, we would expect the purely magnetic structure function to be zero (i.e.  $F_1(x) = 0$ )!



# The quark-parton model

- Before quarks and gluons were generally accepted, Feynman proposed that the proton was made up of point-like constituents which he called “partons”
- Both Bjorken scaling and Callan-Gross relationship can be explained by assuming that DIS is dominated by the scattering of a single virtual photon from point-like spin-half constituents of the proton



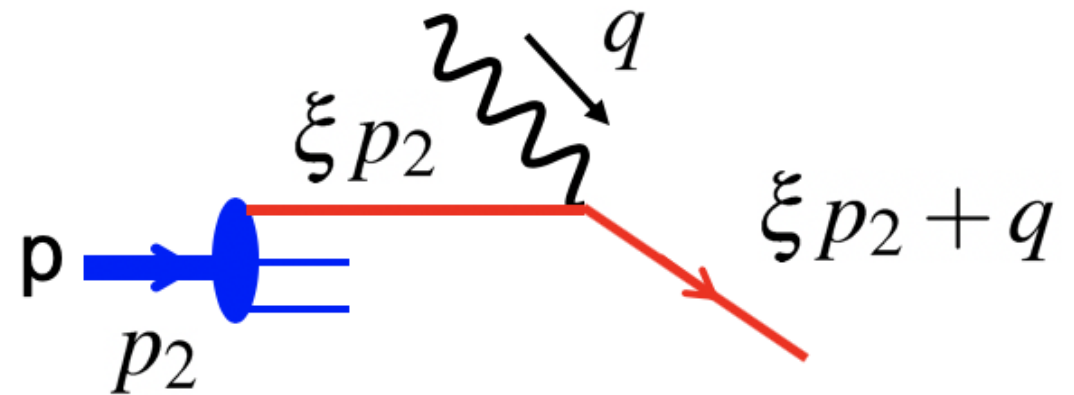
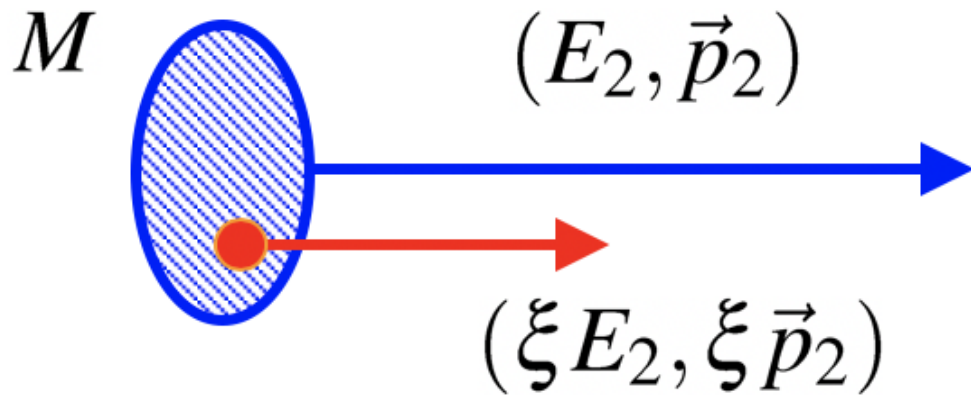
**Scattering from a proton  
with structure functions**

**Scattering from a point-like  
quark within the proton**

- How do these two pictures of the interaction relate to each other?

# The quark-parton model

- In the parton model the basic interpretation is elastic scattering from “quasi-free” spin-half quarks in the proton (i.e. quark as a free particle)
- The parton model is most easily formulated in a frame where the proton has a very high energy, often referred to as “infinite momentum frame”, where we can neglect the proton mass and  $p_2 = (E_2, 0, 0, E_2)$
- In this frame we can also neglect the mass of the quark and any momentum transverse to the direction of the proton
- Let the quark carry a fraction  $\xi$  of the proton’s four-momentum



# The quark-parton model

- After the interaction, the struck quark's four-momentum is  $\xi p_2 + q$

$$(\xi p_2 + q)^2 = m_q^2 \approx 0 \implies q^2 + 2\xi p_2 \cdot q = 0 \implies \xi = \frac{Q^2}{2p_2 \cdot q} = x$$

- Bjorken  $x$  can be identified as the fraction of the proton momentum carried by the struck quark (in a frame where the proton has a very high energy)
- In terms of the proton momentum:

$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2 \approx 2p_1 \cdot p_2, \quad y = \frac{p_2 \cdot q}{p_2 \cdot p_1}, \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{2p_2 \cdot q}$$

# The quark-parton model

- After the interaction, the struck quark's four-momentum is  $\xi p_2 + q$

$$s_q = (p_1 + xp_2)^2 = 2xp_1p_2 = xs$$

$$y_q = \frac{p_q \cdot q}{p_q \cdot p_1} = \frac{xp_2 \cdot q}{xp_2 \cdot p_1} = y$$

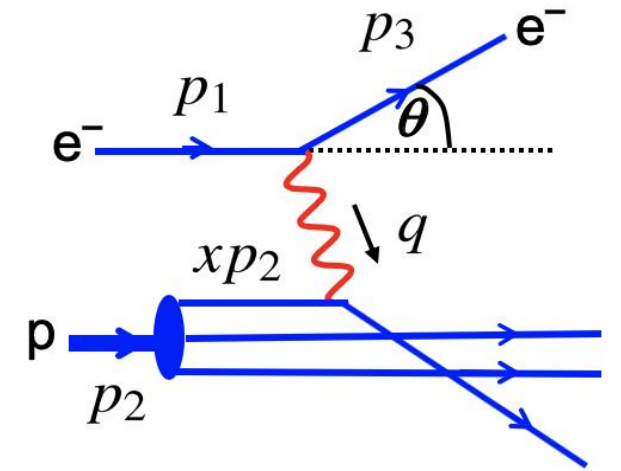
$$x_q = 1 \text{ (elastic, quark does not break up)}$$

- Previously derived LI cross section for  $e^- \mu^- \rightarrow e^- \mu^-$  elastic scattering in the ultra-relativistic limit applied to  $e^- q \rightarrow e^- q$  scattering:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dq^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2 e_q^2}{q^4} \cdot \left[ 1 + \left( 1 + \frac{q^2}{s_q} \right)^2 \right], e_q = +2/3(-1/3)$$

- Using  $Q^2 = -q^2 = (s_q - m_q^2)x_q y_q \Rightarrow \frac{q^2}{s_q} = -y_q = -y$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2 e_q^2}{Q^4} \cdot [1 + (1 - y)^2]$$



# The quark-parton model

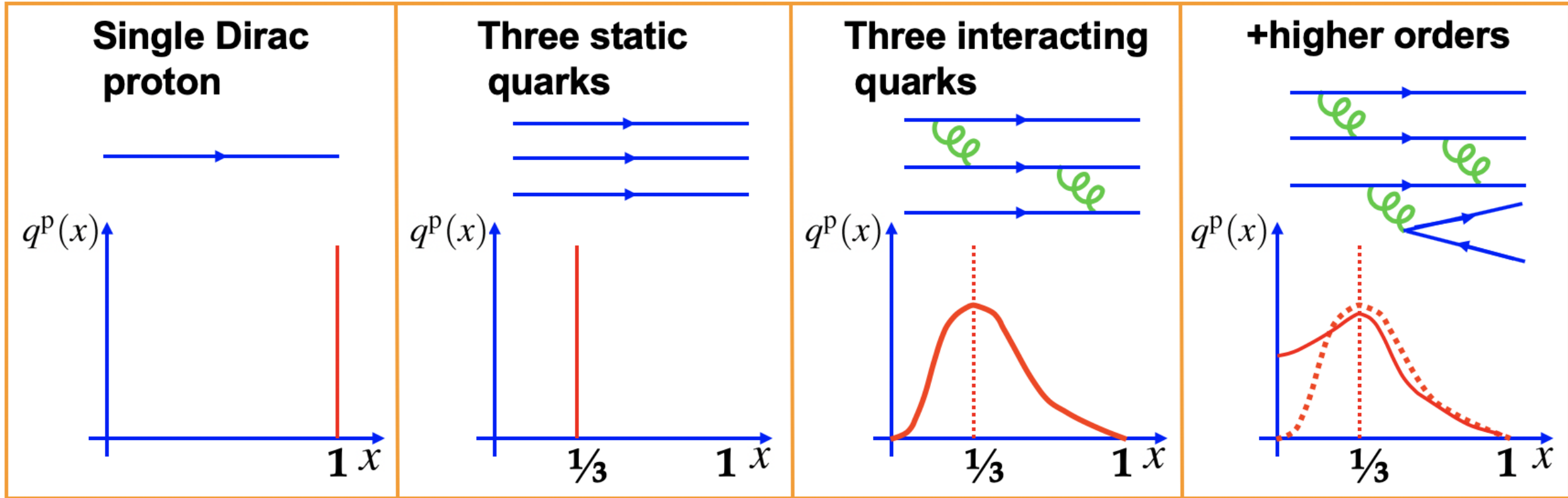
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2 e_q^2}{q^4} \cdot [1 + (1 - y)^2]$$

- This is the expression for the differential cross section for **elastic**  $e^- q \rightarrow e^- q$  scattering from a quark carrying a fraction  $x$  of the proton momentum
- Now we need to account for the distribution of quark momenta within the proton
- Introduce **parton distribution functions** such that  $q^p(x)dx$  is the number of quarks of type  $q$  within a proton with momentum fraction between  $x$  and  $x + dx$

*What form would you expect for the parton distribution functions?*

# The quark-parton model

- Expected form of the parton distribution functions?



# The quark-parton model

- The cross section for scattering from a particular quark type within the proton which is in the range from  $x$  to  $x + dx$ :

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ (1 - y) + \frac{y^2}{2} \right] \times e_q^2 q^p(x) dx$$

- Summing over all types of quarks within the proton gives the expression for the electron-proton scattering cross section:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{ep}}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ (1 - y) + \frac{y^2}{2} \right] \sum_q e_q^2 q^p(x)$$

# The quark-parton model

- Compare with electron-proton scattering cross section in terms of the structure functions

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{ep}}{dx dQ^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4} \cdot \left[ (1-y) \frac{F_2(Q^2, x)}{x} + y^2 F_1(Q^2, x) \right]$$

- Comparing the equations from the previous slide we get the parton model prediction for the structure functions in general LI from for the differential cross section

$$F_2^p(Q^2, x) = 2xF_1^p(Q^2, x) = x \sum_q e_q^2 q^p(x)$$

# Predictions of the quark-parton model

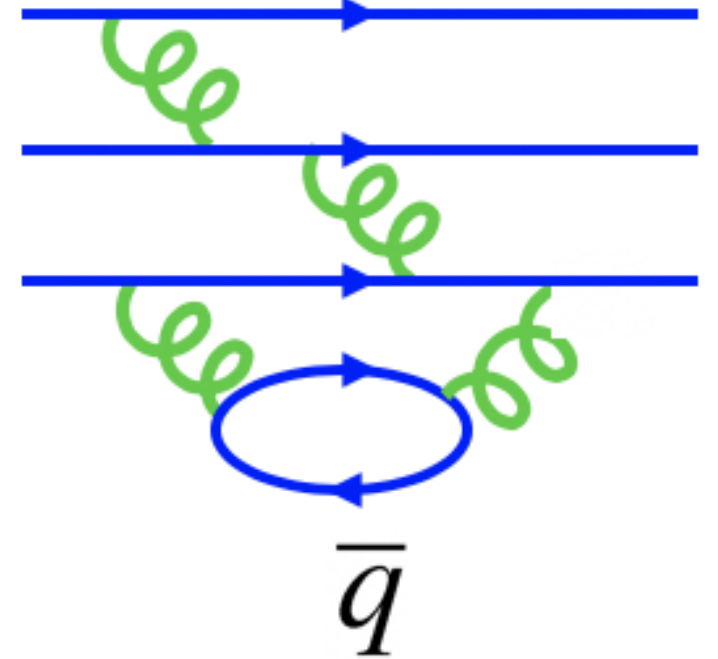
- **Bjorken scaling:**  $F_1(Q^2, x) \rightarrow F_1(x)$ ,  $F_2(Q^2, x) \rightarrow F_2(x)$ 
  - due to scattering from point-like particles within the proton
- **Callan-Gross relation:**  $F_2(x) \rightarrow 2xF_1(x)$ 
  - due to scattering from **spin-half Dirac particles** inside the proton
  - the magnetic moment is directly related to the charge  $\Rightarrow$  the “electro-magnetic” and “pure magnetic” structure functions are fixed with respect to each other
- At present parton distribution functions can't be calculated from QCD
  - can't use perturbation theory because the strong coupling constant,  $\alpha_s$ , is large
- Measurement of the structure functions enable us to determine the parton distribution functions

# Predictions of the quark-parton model

- For electron-proton scattering we have

$$F_2^p(x) = x \sum_q e_q^2 q^p(x)$$

- Due to higher order effects, the proton contains not only up and down quarks but also anti-up, anti-down
  - for now, we will neglect the small contributions from heavier quarks



# Predictions of the quark-parton model

- For electron-proton scattering we have

$$F_2^{ep}(x) = x \sum_q e_q^2 q^p(x) = x \left( \frac{4}{9} u^p(x) + \frac{1}{9} d^p(x) + \frac{4}{9} \bar{u}^p(x) + \frac{1}{9} \bar{d}^p(x) \right)$$

- For electron-neutron scattering we have

$$F_2^{en}(x) = x \sum_q e_q^2 q^n(x) = x \left( \frac{4}{9} u^n(x) + \frac{1}{9} d^n(x) + \frac{4}{9} \bar{u}^n(x) + \frac{1}{9} \bar{d}^n(x) \right)$$

- We can assume “isospin symmetry”, the neutron ( $ddu$ ) is the same as a proton ( $uud$ ) with up and down quarks interchanged

$$d^n(x) = u^p(x), \quad u^n(x) = d^p(x)$$

and define the neutron distribution functions in terms of those of the proton

$$u(x) \equiv u^p(x) = d^n(x), \quad d(x) \equiv d^p(x) = u^n(x)$$

$$\bar{u}(x) \equiv \bar{u}^p(x) = \bar{d}^n(x), \quad \bar{d}(x) \equiv \bar{d}^p(x) = \bar{u}^n(x)$$

# Predictions of the quark-parton model

- Which gives:

$$F_2^{ep}(x) = 2xF_1^{ep}(x) = x \left( \frac{4}{9}u(x) + \frac{1}{9}d(x) + \frac{4}{9}\bar{u}(x) + \frac{1}{9}\bar{d}(x) \right)$$

$$F_2^{en}(x) = 2xF_1^{en}(x) = x \left( \frac{4}{9}d(x) + \frac{1}{9}u(x) + \frac{4}{9}\bar{d}(x) + \frac{1}{9}\bar{u}(x) \right)$$

- Integrating the above equations, we get

$$\int_0^1 F_2^{ep}(x) dx = \int_0^1 x \left( \frac{4}{9}[u(x) + \bar{u}(x)] + \frac{1}{9}[d(x) + \bar{d}(x)] \right) dx = \frac{4}{9}f_u + \frac{1}{9}f_d$$

$$\int_0^1 F_2^{en}(x) dx = \int_0^1 x \left( \frac{4}{9}[d(x) + \bar{d}(x)] + \frac{1}{9}[u(x) + \bar{u}(x)] \right) dx = \frac{4}{9}f_d + \frac{1}{9}f_u$$

- $f_u = \int_0^1 [xu(x) + x\bar{u}(x)] dx$  is the fraction of the proton momentum carried by the up and anti-up quarks

# Predictions of the quark-parton model

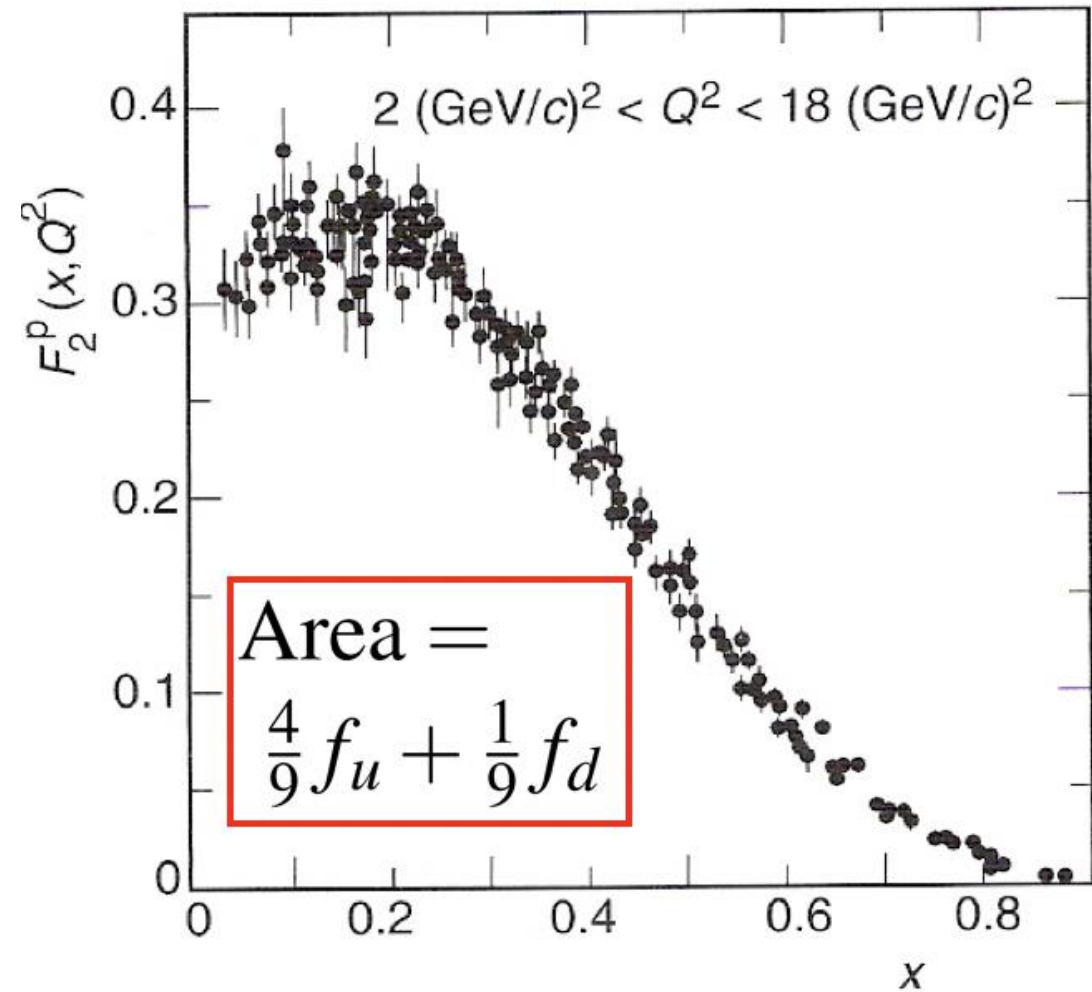
- Experimentally:

$$\int F_2^{ep}(x) dx \approx 0.18$$

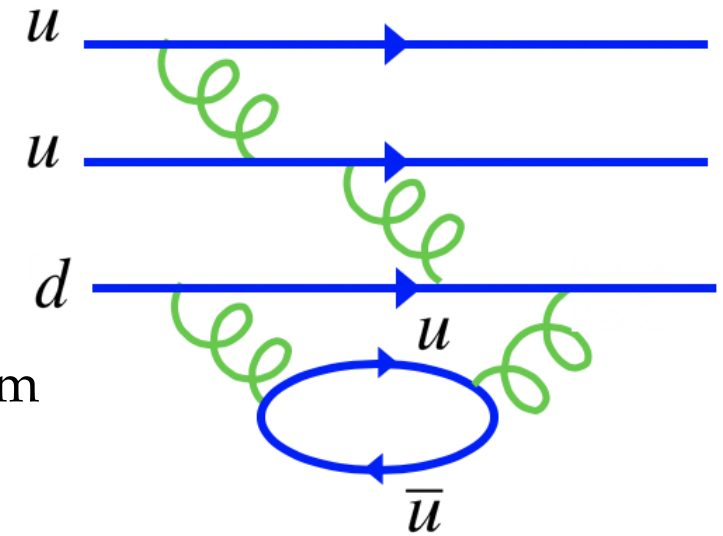
$$\int F_2^{en}(x) dx \approx 0.12$$

$$\Rightarrow f_u \approx 0.36, f_d \approx 0.18$$

- In the proton, as expected, the up quarks carry twice the momentum compared to the down quarks
- The quarks carry just over 50% of the total proton momentum
- The rest is carried by gluons (gluons are neutral and don't contribute to electron-nucleon scattering!)



# Valence and sea quarks



- As we are beginning to see, the proton is complex!
- The parton distribution function  $u^p(x) = u(x)$  includes contributions from the “valence” quarks and virtual quarks produced by gluons: **the “sea”**

- Resolving into valence and sea contributions:

$$u(x) = u_V(x) + u_S(x)$$

$$d(x) = d_V(x) + d_S(x)$$

$$\bar{u}(x) = \bar{u}_S(x)$$

$$\bar{d}(x) = \bar{d}_S(x)$$

- The proton contains two valence up quarks and one valence down quark so we would expect

$$\int_0^1 u_V(x) dx = 2, \quad \int_0^1 d_V(x) dx = 1$$

- **No a priori expectation for the total number of sea quarks!**

# Valence and sea quarks

- Sea quarks arise from gluon quark-antiquark pair production and with  $m_u = m_d$  it is reasonable to expect

$$u_S(x) = d_S(x) = \bar{u}_S(x) = \bar{d}_S(x) = S(x)$$

- Using this relation, we can obtain for  $F_2^{ep}(x)$  and  $F_2^{en}(x)$  from slide 31

$$F_2^{ep}(x) = x \left( \frac{4}{9} u_V(x) + \frac{1}{9} d_V(x) + \frac{10}{9} S(x) \right)$$

$$F_2^{en}(x) = x \left( \frac{4}{9} d_V(x) + \frac{1}{9} u_V(x) + \frac{10}{9} S(x) \right)$$

- Which gives the ratio

$$\frac{F_2^{en}(x)}{F_2^{ep}(x)} = \frac{4d_V(x) + u_V(x) + 10S(x)}{4u_V(x) + d_V(x) + 10S(x)}$$

# Valence and sea quarks

- The sea component arise from processes such as  $g \rightarrow u\bar{u}(d\bar{d}, s\bar{s}, \dots)$
- Due to the  $1/q^2$  dependence of the gluon propagator, much more likely to produce low-energy gluons
- We expect the sea to comprise **low-energy  $q/\bar{q}$**
- Therefore, at low  $x$  we expect the sea quarks to dominate:

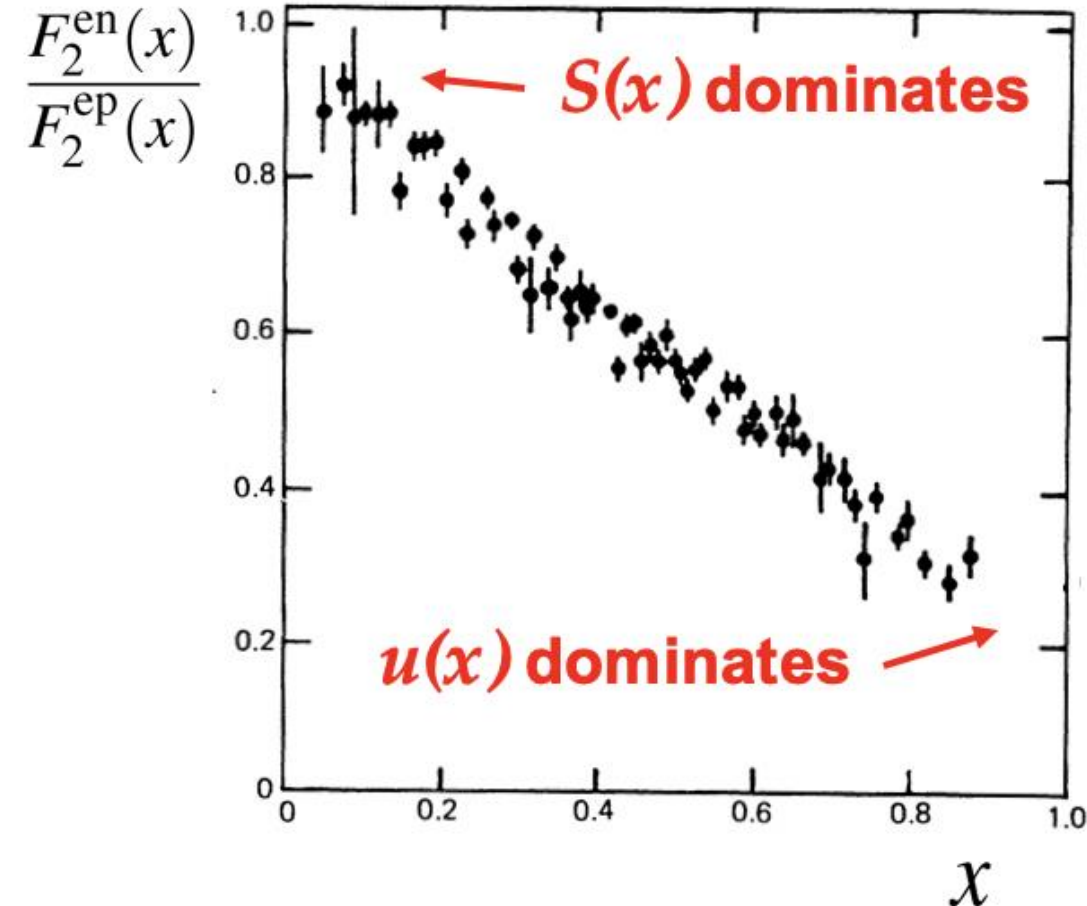
$$\frac{F_2^{en}(x)}{F_2^{ep}(x)} \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } x \rightarrow 0$$

## Observed experimentally

- At high  $x$  we expect the sea contribution to be small

$$\frac{F_2^{en}(x)}{F_2^{ep}(x)} = \frac{4d_V(x) + u_V(x)}{4u_V(x) + d_V(x)} \text{ as } x \rightarrow 1$$

Note:  $u_V = 2d_V$  would give ratio  $2/3$  as  $x \rightarrow 1$



# Valence and sea quarks

Experimentally we observe:

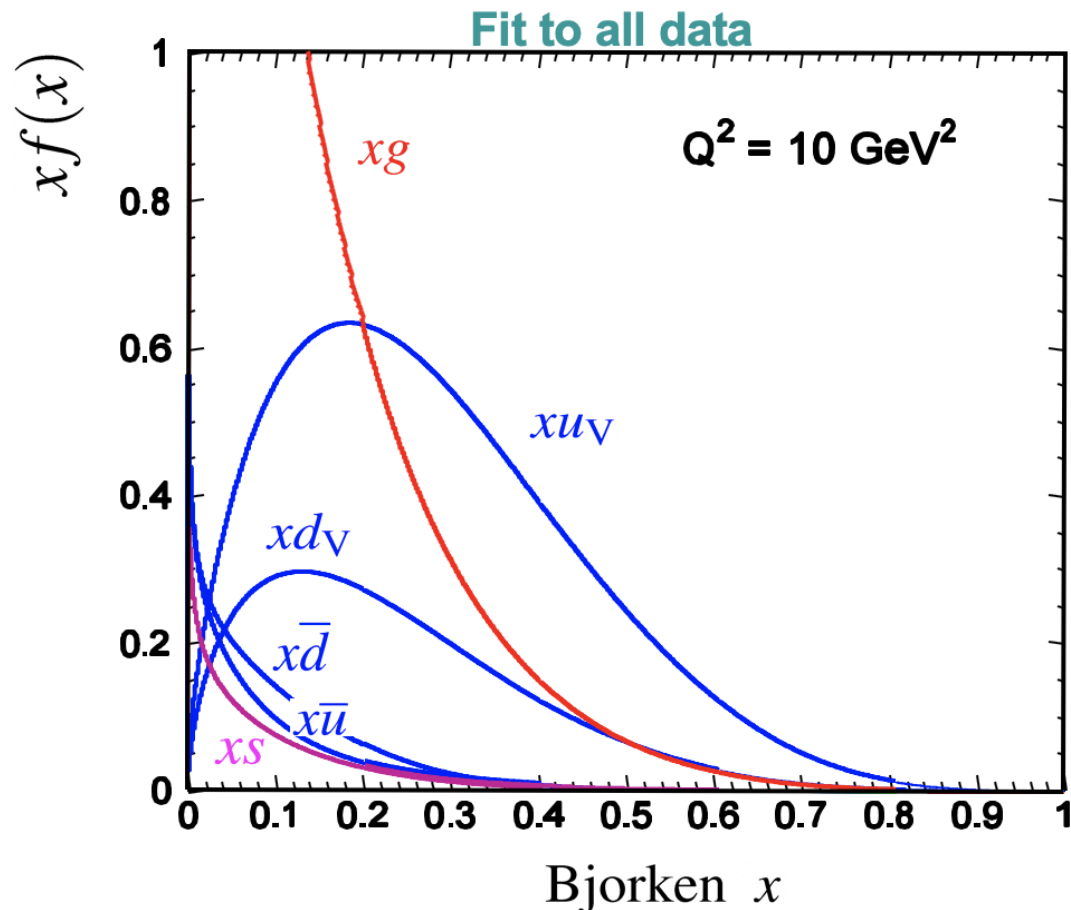
$$F_2^{en}(x)/F_2^{ep}(x) \rightarrow 1/4 \text{ as } x \rightarrow 1$$

$$\Rightarrow d(x)/u(x) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } x \rightarrow 1$$

**This behaviour is not well understood**

# Parton distribution functions (PDF)

- Ultimately the parton distribution functions are obtained from a fit to all experimental data including neutrino scattering
- **Hadron-hadron collisions** give information about the **gluon PDF  $g(x)$**



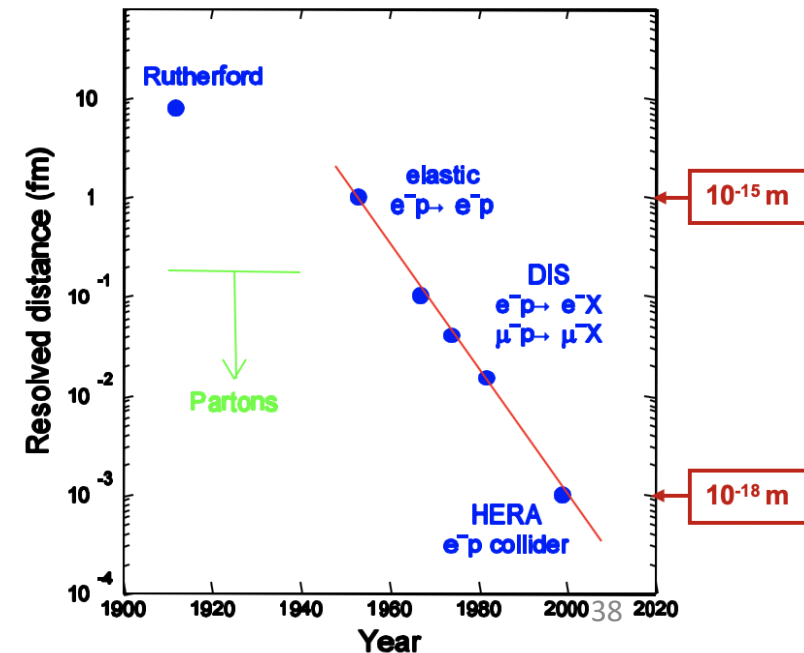
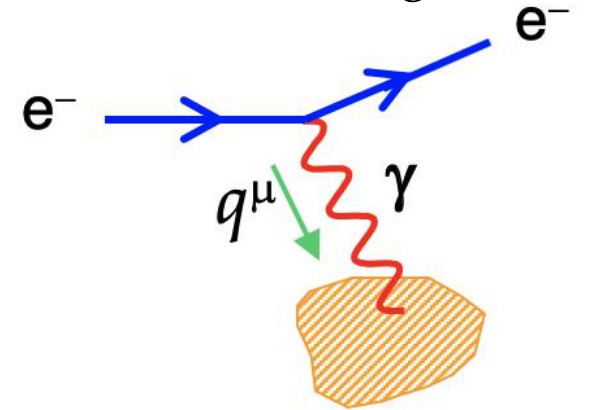
- Apart from large  $x$ :  $u_v(x) \approx d_v(x)$
- For  $x < 0.2$  gluons dominate
- In fits to data assume  $u_s(x) = \bar{u}(x)$
- $\bar{d}(x) > \bar{u}(x)$  not understood – exclusion principle?
- Small strange quark component  $s(x)$

# Scaling violations

- In the last 40 years, experiments have probed the proton with virtual photons of ever-increasing energy
- The non-point like nature of the scattering becomes apparent when  $\lambda_\gamma \sim$  size of the scattering centre

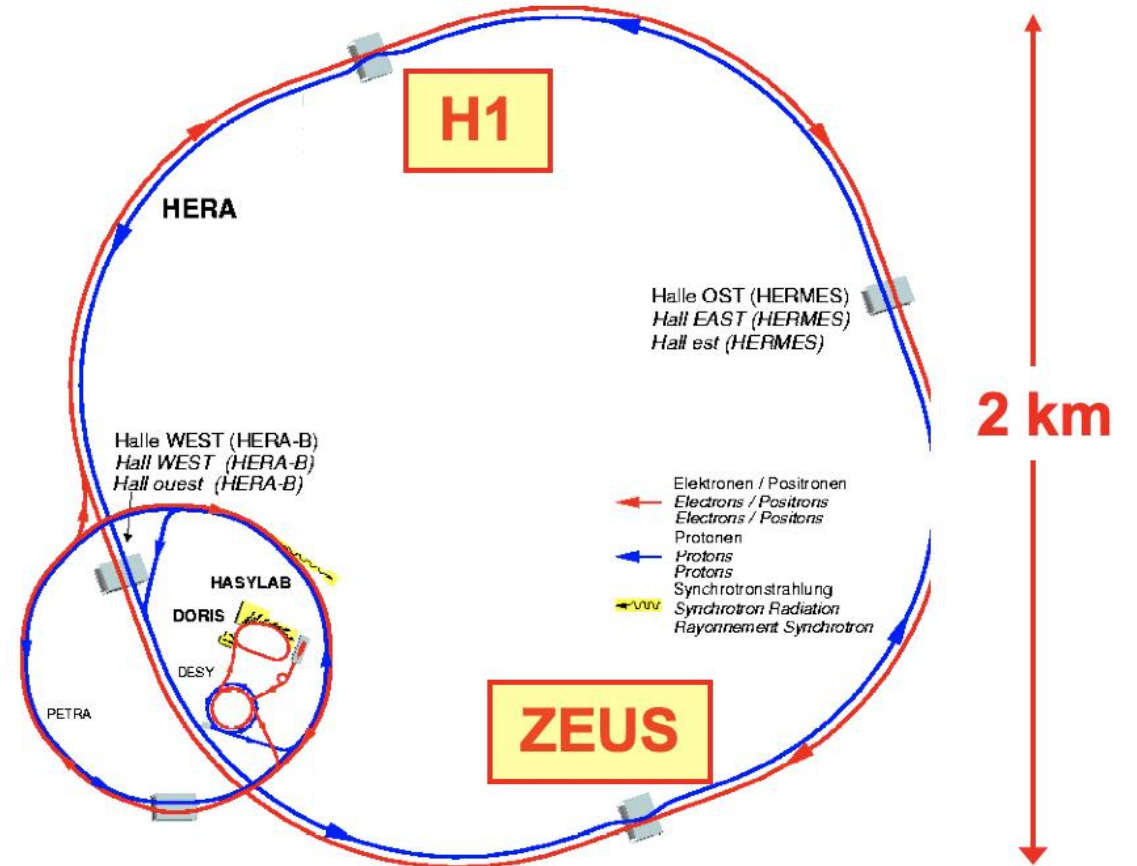
$$\lambda_\gamma = \frac{h}{|\vec{q}|} \sim \frac{1 \text{ GeV} \cdot \text{fm}}{|\vec{q}|(\text{GeV})}$$

- Scattering from point-like quarks gives rise to **Bjorken scaling** (no  $q^2$  cross section dependence)
- If quarks were not point-like, at high  $q^2$  (when  $\lambda_\gamma \sim$  size of a quark) we would observe rapid decrease in cross section with increasing  $q^2$
- To search for quark sub-structure we need to go to highest  $q^2$ : **HERA**



# HERA $e^\pm p$ collider: 1991 – 2007

★ DESY (Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron) Laboratory, Hamburg, Germany

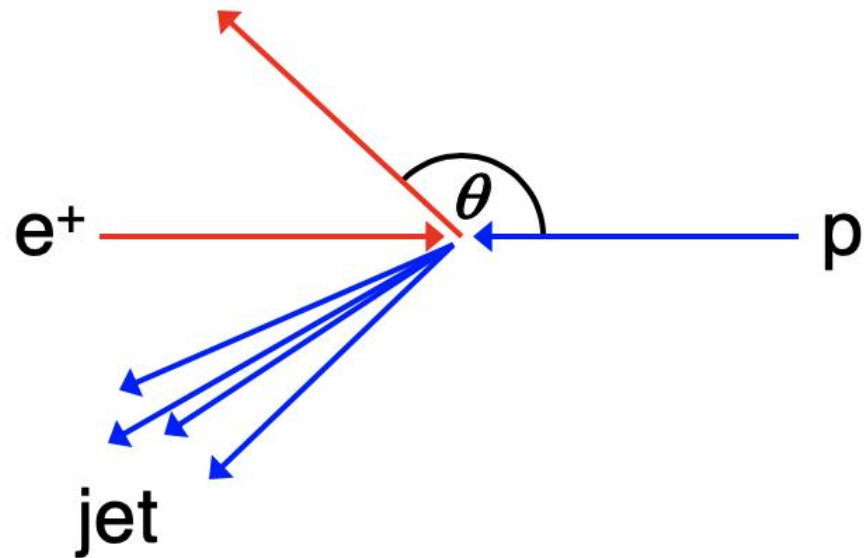


★ Two large experiments : H1 and ZEUS

★ Probe proton at very high  $Q^2$  and very low  $x$

# Examples of high $Q^2$ event in H1

★ Event kinematics determined from electron angle and energy

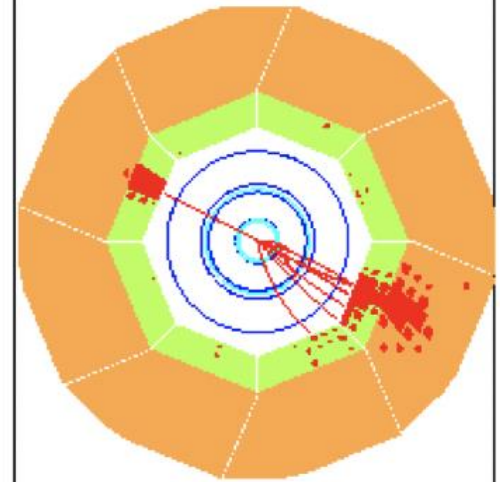
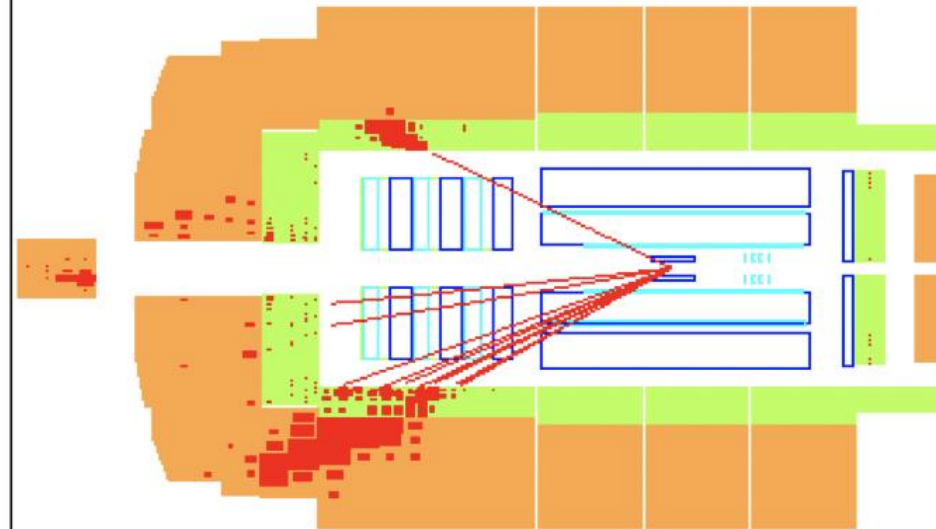


★ Also measure hadronic system (although not as precisely) – gives some redundancy

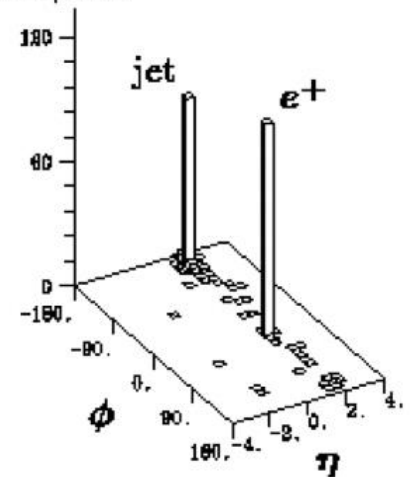
H1 Run 122145 Event 69506

Date 19/09/1995

$Q^2 = 25030 \text{ GeV}^2$ ,  $y = 0.56$ ,  $M = 211 \text{ GeV}$



$E_t/\text{GeV}$



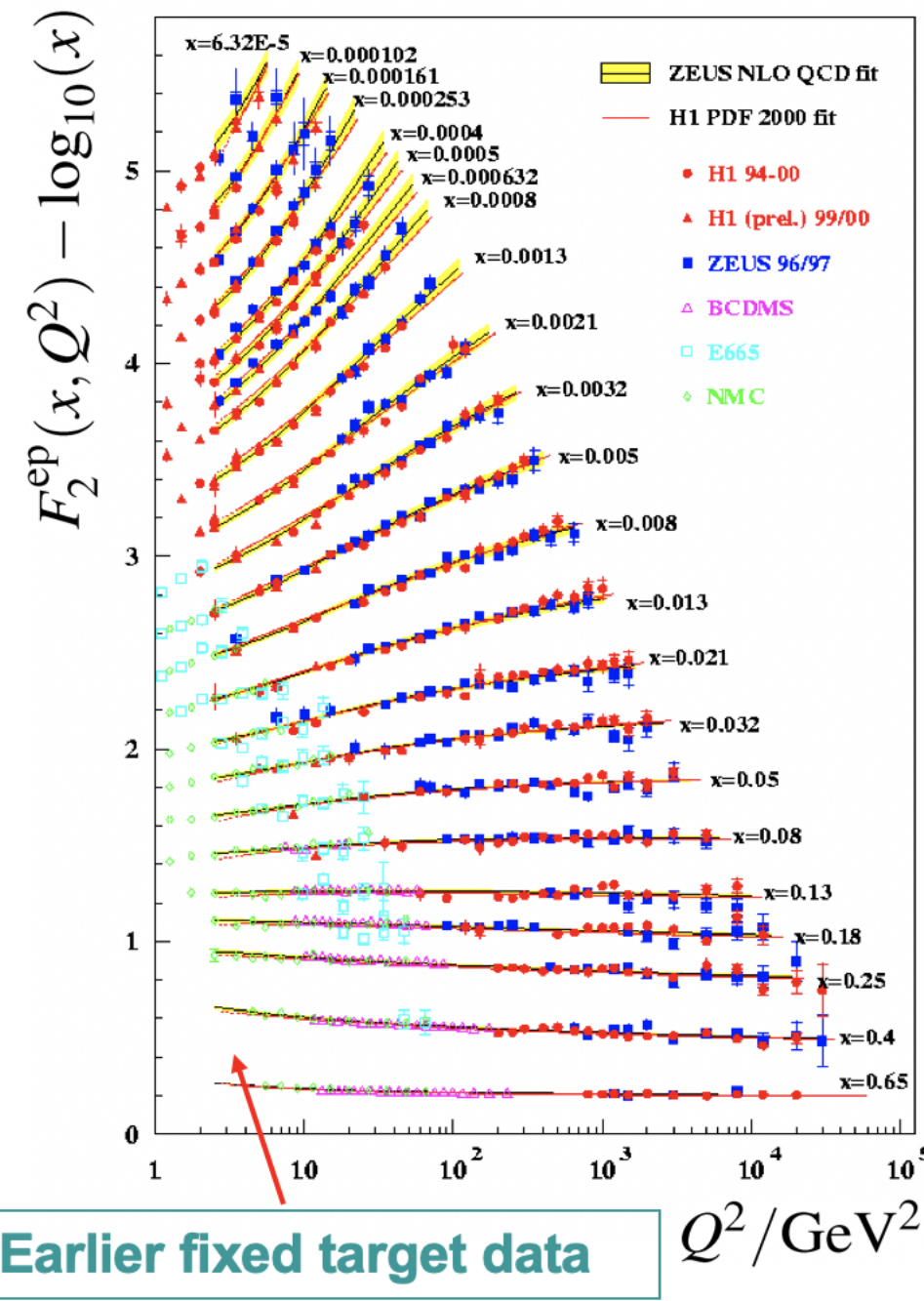
# $F_2(Q^2, x)$ results

- No evidence of rapid decrease of cross section at highest  $Q^2$

$$\Rightarrow R_{\text{quark}} < 10^{-18} \text{ m}$$

- For  $x > 0.05$ , only weak dependence of  $F_2$  on  $Q^2$ 
  - consistent with the expectations from the quark-parton model
- We observe clear scaling violations, particularly at low  $x$ :

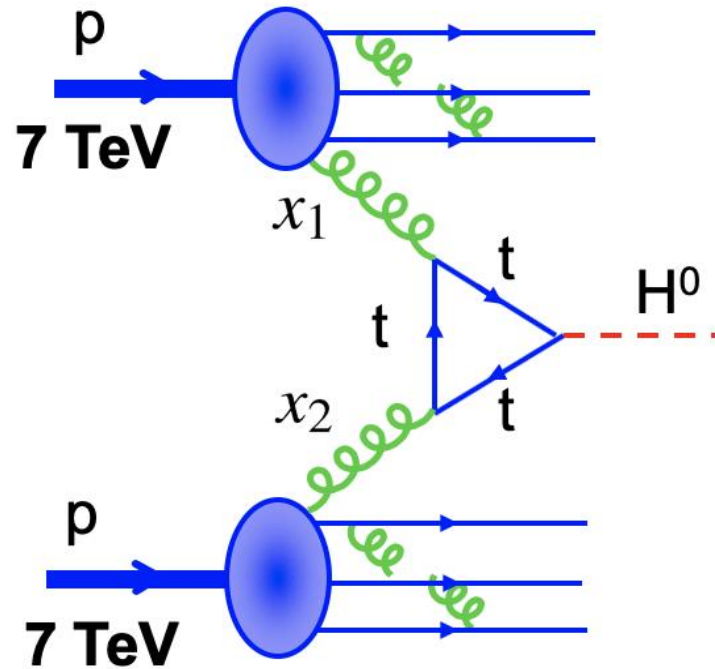
$$F_2(Q^2, x) \neq F_2(x)$$





# Proton-proton collisions at the LHC

- Measurement of the structure functions not only provides a powerful test of QCD but also the parton distribution functions are essential for the cross section calculations at  $pp$  and  $p\bar{p}$  colliders
- Example: Higgs production at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)
  - LHC collided 6.5 TeV protons on 6.5 TeV protons
  - Underlying collisions are between partons
  - Higgs boson production at the LHC dominated by “gluon-gluon” fusion

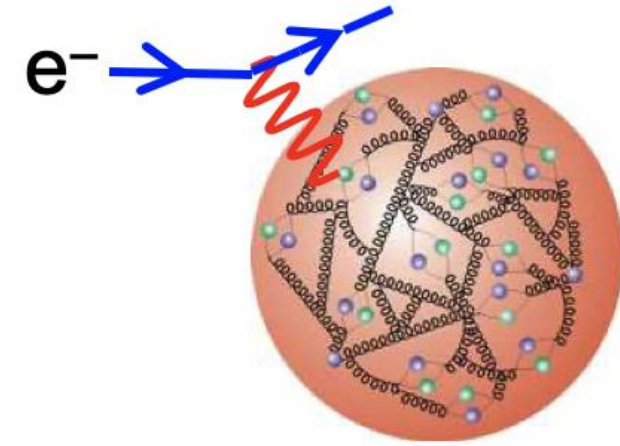


- The cross section depends on the gluon PDF

$$\sigma(pp \rightarrow H) \sim \int_0^1 \int_0^1 g(x_1)g(x_2)\sigma(gg \rightarrow H)dx_1dx_2$$

- Uncertainty in the gluon PDFs leads to a  $\pm 5\%$  uncertainty in Higgs boson production cross section (now approaching per cent level)
- Prior to HERA data uncertainty was  $\pm 25\%$

# Summary of Lecture 10



## Main learning outcomes

- At very high electron energies  $\lambda \ll r_p$  the proton appears to be a sea of quarks and gluons
- Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS) = Elastic scattering from the quasi-free constituent quarks
  - Bjorken scaling:  $F_1(Q^2, x) \rightarrow F_1(x)$  **point-like scattering**
  - Callan-Gross relation:  $F_2(Q^2, x) = 2xF_1(x)$  **scattering from spin-half particles**
- Describe scattering in terms of parton distribution function  $u(x)$ ,  $d(x)$ , ... which describe the momentum distribution inside a nucleon
- The proton is much more complex than just  $uud$  – sea of quarks, antiquarks, and gluons
- Quarks carry only about 50% of the momentum of the proton – the rest is due to low-energy gluons