24. CROSS-SECTION FORMULAE FOR SPECIFIC PROCESSES

24.1. Leptoproduction

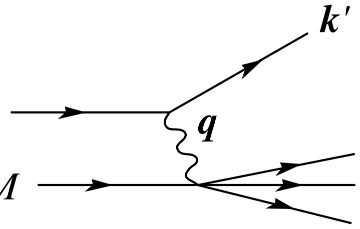

Figure 24.1: Kinematic quantities for description of lepton-nucleon scattering. k and k' are the four-momenta of incoming and outgoing leptons, P is the four-momentum of a nucleon with mass M. The exchanged particle is a γ, $W^{\pm}$, or Z^0; it transfers four-momentum $q = k - k'$ to the target.

Invariant quantities:

$\nu = \dfrac{q \cdot P}{M} = E - E'$ is the lepton's energy loss in the lab (in earlier literature sometimes $\nu = q \cdot P$). Here, E and E' are the initial and final lepton energies in the lab.

$Q^2 = -q^2 = 2(EE' - \overrightarrow{k} \cdot \overrightarrow{k}') - m_\ell^2 - m_{\ell'}^2$ where $m_\ell (m_{\ell'})$ is the initial (final) lepton mass. If $EE' \sin^2(\theta/2) \gg m_\ell^2$, $m_{\ell'}^2$, then

$\approx 4EE' \sin^2(\theta/2)$, where θ is the lepton's scattering angle in the lab.

$x = \dfrac{Q^2}{2M\nu}$ In the parton model, x is the fraction of the target nucleon's momentum carried by the struck quark. See section on QCD.

$y = \dfrac{q \cdot P}{k \cdot P} = \dfrac{\nu}{E}$ is the fraction of the lepton's energy lost in the lab.

$W^2 = (P + q)^2 = M^2 + 2M\nu - Q^2$ is the mass squared of the system recoiling against the lepton.

$$s = (k + P)^2 = \frac{Q^2}{xy} + M^2$$