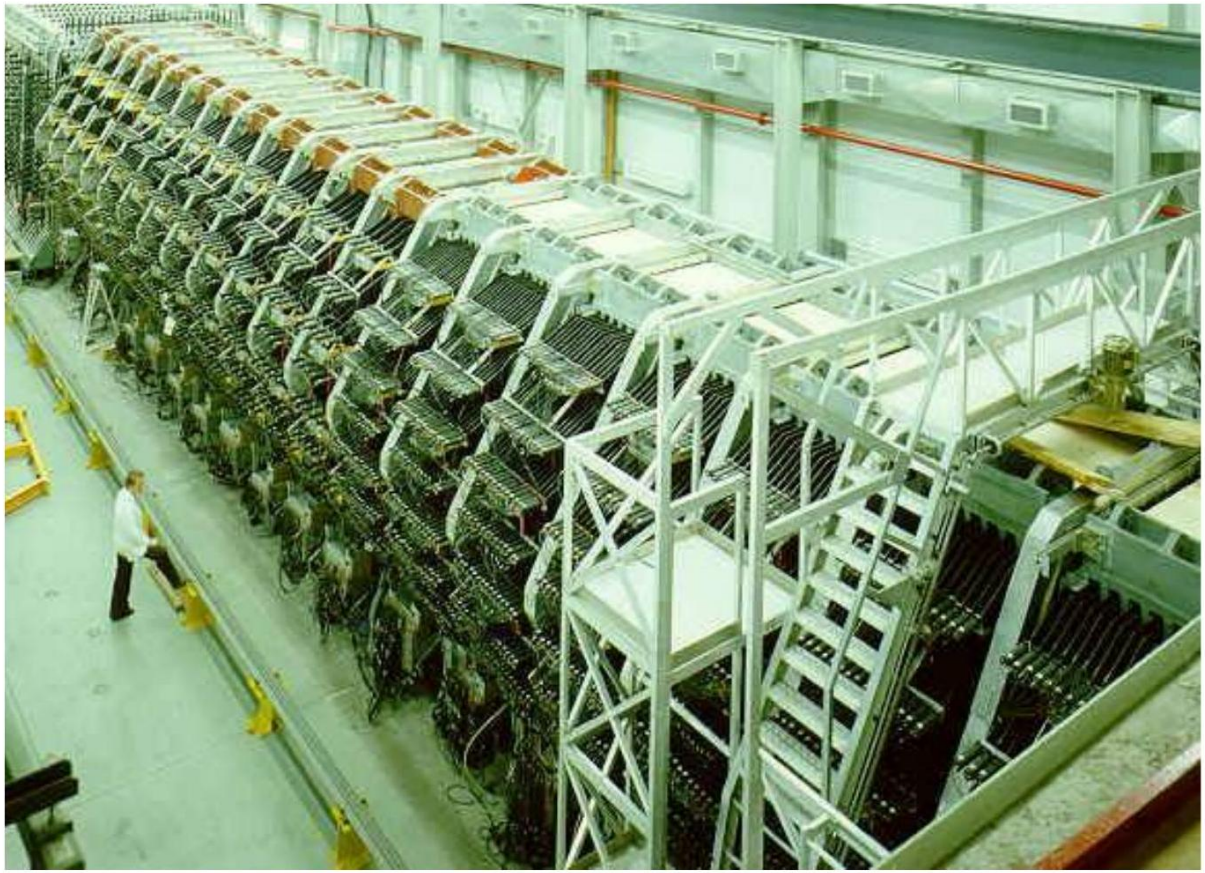
Prof. Alex Mitov, 2026



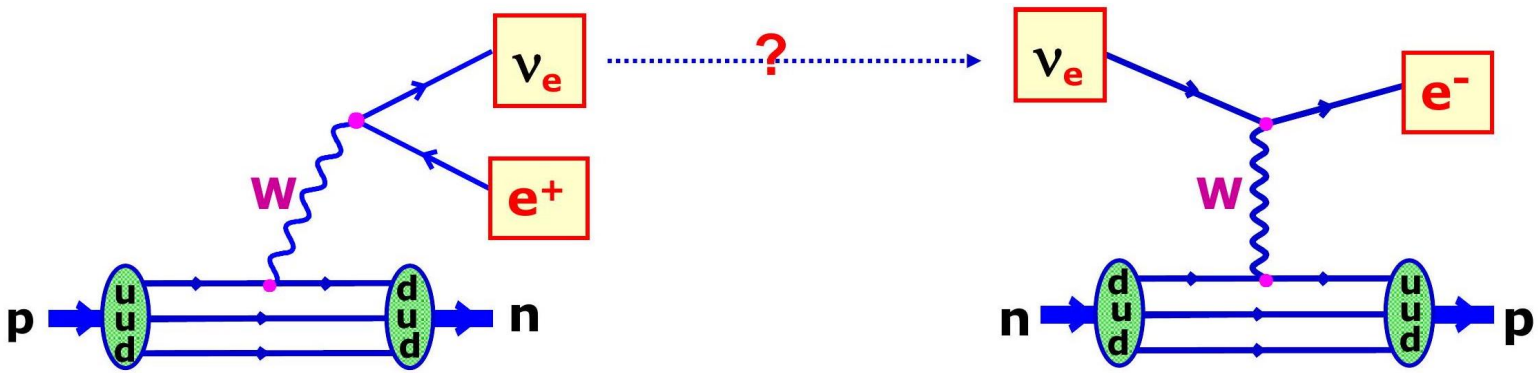
H10: Leptonic Weak Interactions and Neutrino Deep Inelastic Scattering

Aside : Neutrino Flavours

- Recent experiments (see Handout 11) imply neutrinos have mass (albeit very small).
- The textbook neutrino states, ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ, are not the fundamental particles; these are ν_1, ν_2, ν_3.
- Concepts like 'electron number' conservation are now known not to hold.
- So what are ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ ?
- Never directly observe neutrinos — can only detect them by their weak interactions. Hence by definition ν_e is the neutrino state produced along with an electron. Similarly, charged current weak interactions of the state ν_e produce an electron.

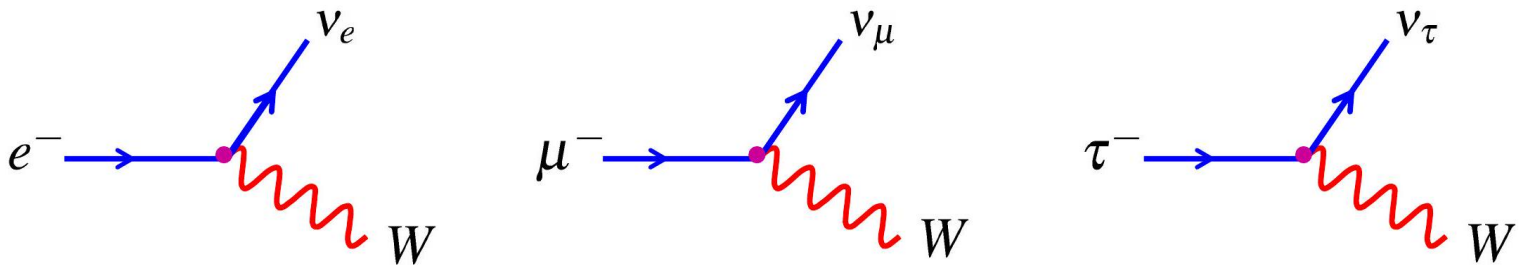
$$\boxed{\{\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau\} = \text{weak eignestates}}$$

- Unless dealing with very large distances: the neutrino produced with a positron will interact to produce an electron. For the discussion of the weak interaction continue to use ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ as if they were the fundamental particle states.

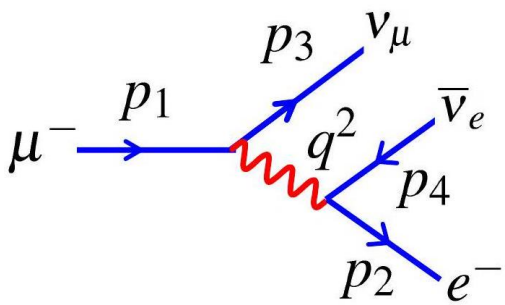


Muon Decay and Lepton Universality

- The leptonic charged current ($W^{\pm}$) interaction vertices are:



- Consider muon decay:



- It is straight-forward to write down the matrix element

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_W^{(e)} g_W^{(\mu)}}{8 m_W^2} [\bar{u}(p_3)\gamma^\mu(1-\gamma^5)u(p_1)] g_{\mu\nu} [\bar{u}(p_2)\gamma^\nu(1-\gamma^5)v(p_4)].$$

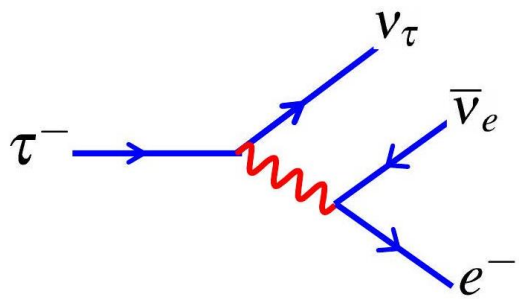
- Note: for lepton decay $q^2 \ll m_W^2$ so propagator is a constant (Fermi theory limit!).
- The evaluation of this matrix element together with the appropriate three-body phase space to get the muon decay rate leads to the result (so-called 'Sargent's Rule') quoted over page:

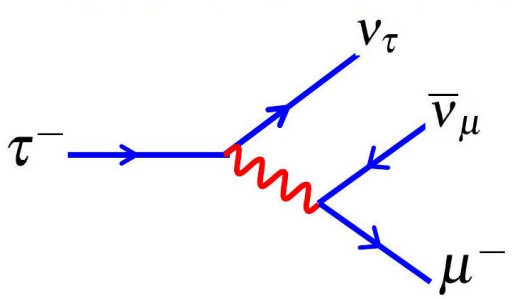
Measuring the ratio of G_F^τ to G_F^μ.

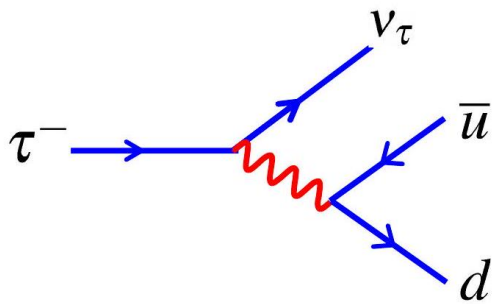
- The muon to electron decay rate is:

$$\Gamma(\mu \to e\nu\bar{\nu}) = \frac{G_F^e G_F^\mu m_\mu^5}{192\pi^3} = \frac{1}{\tau_\mu} \qquad \text{with} \qquad G_F = \frac{g_W^2}{4\sqrt{2}m_W^2}.$$

- Similarly for tau to electron $\Gamma(\tau \to e\nu\bar{\nu}) = \frac{G_F^e G_F^\tau m_\tau^5}{192\pi^3}$ however, the tau can decay to a number of final states:







- Taking the ratio of the above decay rates gives:

$$\frac{\Gamma(\tau \to e\nu\bar{\nu})}{\Gamma(\mu \to e\nu\bar{\nu})} = \frac{G_F^e G_F^\tau m_\tau^5}{G_F^e G_F^\mu m_\mu^5}$$

so

$$\frac{G_F^\tau}{G_F^\mu} = \frac{m_\mu^5 \cdot \Gamma(\tau \to e\nu\bar{\nu})}{m_\tau^5 \cdot \Gamma(\mu \to e\nu\bar{\nu})} = \frac{m_\mu^5}{m_\tau^5} \cdot \frac{\Gamma_\tau BR(\tau \to e\nu\bar{\nu})}{\Gamma_\mu \cdot 1} = \frac{m_\mu^5 \tau_\mu}{m_\tau^5 \tau_\tau} \cdot BR(\tau \to e\nu\bar{\nu}).$$

Charged Current Lepton Universality

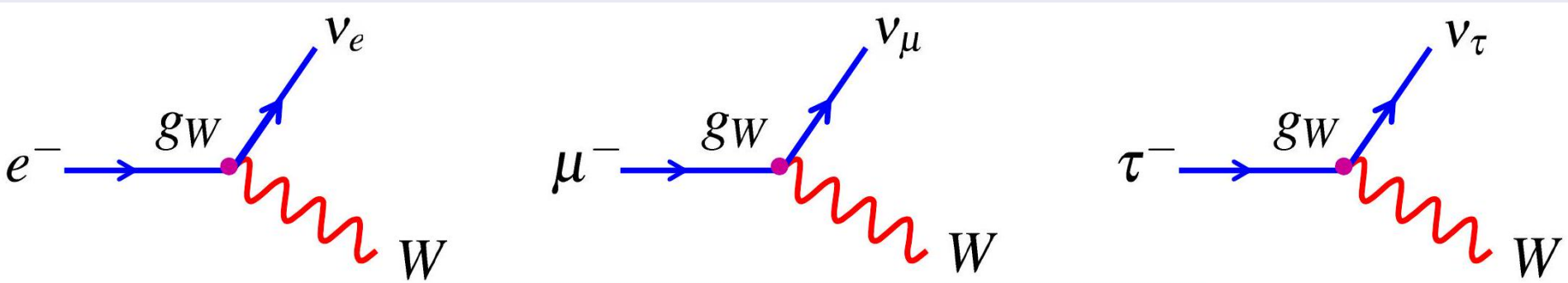
- All these quantities are precisely measured: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m_\mu = 0.1056583692(94)\,\mathrm{GeV} \\ m_\tau = 1.77699(28)\,\mathrm{GeV} \\ \tau_\tau = 0.2906(10) \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{s} \\ \tau_\mu = 2.19703(4) \times 10^{-6}\,\mathrm{s} \\ Br(\tau \to e\nu\nu) = 0.1784(5) \end{array} \right\}$ so

$$\frac{G_F^\tau}{G_F^\mu} = \frac{m_\mu^5 \tau_\mu}{m_\tau^5 \tau_\tau} Br(\tau \to e\nu\nu) = 1.0024 \pm 0.0033.$$

- Similarly by comparing $Br(\tau \to \mu\nu\nu)$ and $Br(\tau \to e\nu\nu)$

$$\frac{G_F^e}{G_F^\mu} = 1.000 \pm 0.004.$$

The above demonstrates the weak charged current is the same for all leptonic vertices. This is referred to as 'Charged Current Lepton Universality'.



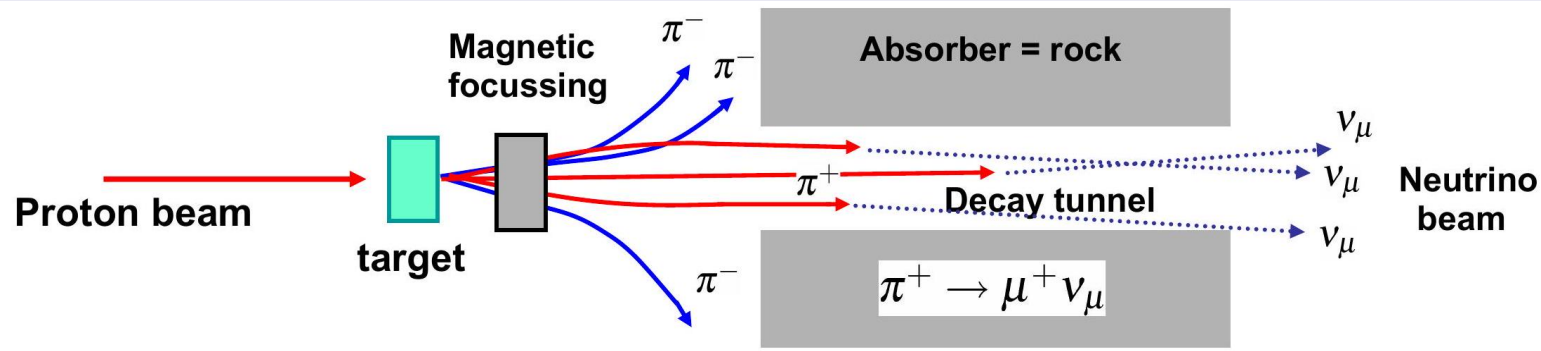
Neutrino Scattering

In Handout 6 considered electron-proton Deep Inelastic Scattering where a virtual photon is used to probe nucleon structure.

- Can also consider the weak interaction equivalent: Neutrino Deep Inelastic Scattering where a virtual W-boson probes the structure of nucleons. **This provides additional information about parton structure functions.**
- provides a good example of calculations of weak interaction cross sections.

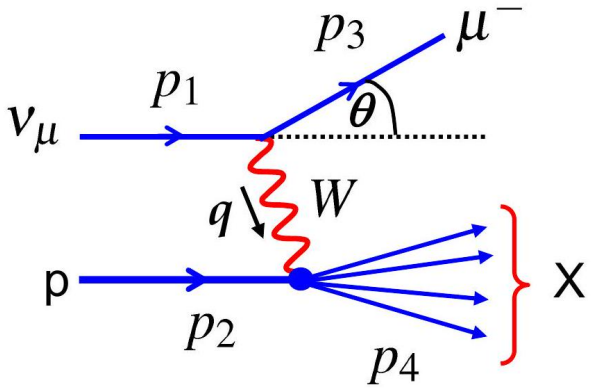
Neutrino beams are needed. To make them:

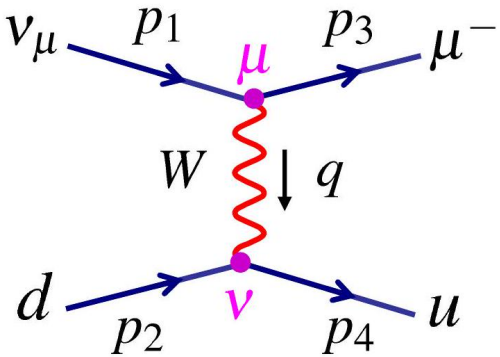
- Smash high energy protons into a fixed target to make hadrons.
- Focus positive pions/kaons.
- Allow them to decay $\pi^+ \to \mu^+\nu_\mu + K^+ \to \mu^+\nu_\mu (BR \approx 64\%)$;
- this gives a beam of "collimated" ν_μ.
- Focus negative pions/kaons to give beam of $\bar{\nu}_\mu$.



Neutrino-Quark Scattering

- For ν_μ-proton Deep Inelastic Scattering the underlying process is $\nu_\mu d \to \mu^- u$





- In the limit $q^2 \ll m_W^2$ the W-boson propagator is $\approx i g_{\mu\nu}/m_W^2$. so the Feynman rules give:

$$-iM_{fi} = \left[-i\frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}}\bar{u}(p_3)\gamma^\mu \tfrac{1}{2}(1-\gamma^5)u(p_1)\right]\frac{ig_{\mu\nu}}{m_W^2}\left[-i\frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}}\bar{u}(p_4)\tfrac{1}{2}\gamma^\nu(1-\gamma^5)u(p_2)\right]$$

so

$$\boxed{M_{fi} = \frac{g_W^2}{2m_W^2}g_{\mu\nu}\left[\bar{u}(p_3)\gamma^\mu \tfrac{1}{2}(1-\gamma^5)u(p_1)\right]\left[\bar{u}(p_4)\tfrac{1}{2}\gamma^\nu(1-\gamma^5)u(p_2)\right].}$$

- Evaluate the matrix element in the extreme relativistic limit where the muon and quark masses can be neglected.

- In this limit the helicity states are equivalent to the chiral states. Furthermore

$$\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma^5)u_\uparrow(p_1)=0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma^5)u_\downarrow(p_1)=u_\downarrow(p_1)$$

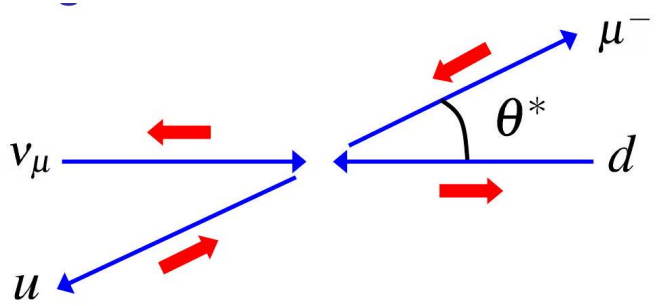
  so $M_{fi}=0$ for $u_\uparrow(p_1)$ and $u_\uparrow(p_2)$.

- Since the weak interaction 'conserves the helicity', the only helicity combination where the matrix element is non-zero is

$$M_{fi}=\frac{g_W^2}{2m_W^2}g_{\mu\nu}\left[\bar{u}_\downarrow(p_3)\gamma^\mu u_\downarrow(p_1)\right]\left[\bar{u}_\downarrow(p_4)\gamma^\nu u_\downarrow(p_2)\right].$$

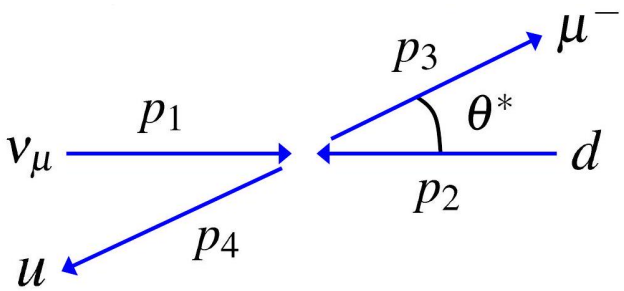
  (We could have written this down straight away as in the ultra-relativistic limit only LH helicity particle states participate in the weak interaction.)

- We will next consider this scattering in the C.o.M frame:



Evaluation of Neutrino-Quark Scattering Matrix Element

- Go through the calculation in gory detail (fortunately only one helicity combination)
- In the $\nu_\mu d$ CMS frame, neglecting particle masses:



$$p_1 = (E, 0, 0, E),$$
$$p_2 = (E, 0, 0, -E)$$
$$p_3 = (E, E\sin\theta^*, 0, E\cos\theta^*)$$
$$p_4 = (E, -E\sin\theta^*, 0, -E\cos\theta^*)$$

- Dealing with LH helicity particle spinors. From Handout 2 (page 79), for a massless particle travelling in direction θ, ϕ:

$$u_\downarrow = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix} -s \\ ce^{i\phi} \\ s \\ -ce^{i\phi} \end{pmatrix} \qquad c = \cos\frac{\theta}{2}; \qquad s = \sin\frac{\theta}{2}$$

- Here $(\theta_1, \phi_1) = (0, 0)$; $(\theta_2, \phi_2) = (\pi, 0)$; $(\theta_3, \phi_3) = (\theta^*, 0)$; $(\theta_4, \phi_4) = (\pi - \theta^*, \pi)$ giving:

$$u_\downarrow(p_1) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}; \quad u_\downarrow(p_2) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad u_\downarrow(p_3) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix} -s \\ c \\ s \\ -c \end{pmatrix}; \quad u_\downarrow(p_4) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix} -c \\ -s \\ c \\ s \end{pmatrix}.$$

Neutrino-Quark scattering (cont.)

- To calculate

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_W^2}{2m_W^2} g_{\mu\nu} \left[\bar{u}_\downarrow(p_3)\gamma^\mu u_\downarrow(p_1)\right] \left[\bar{u}_\downarrow(p_4)\gamma^\nu u_\downarrow(p_2)\right]$$

need twice to evaluate terms of the form

$$\begin{aligned}
\overline{\psi}\gamma^0\phi &= \psi^\dagger\gamma^0\gamma^0\phi = \psi_1^*\phi_1 + \psi_2^*\phi_2 + \psi_3^*\phi_3 + \psi_4^*\phi_4, \\
\overline{\psi}\gamma^1\phi &= \psi^\dagger\gamma^0\gamma^1\phi = \psi_1^*\phi_4 + \psi_2^*\phi_3 + \psi_3^*\phi_2 + \psi_4^*\phi_1, \\
\overline{\psi}\gamma^2\phi &= \psi^\dagger\gamma^0\gamma^2\phi = -i(\psi_1^*\phi_4 - \psi_2^*\phi_3 + \psi_3^*\phi_2 - \psi_4^*\phi_1), \\
\overline{\psi}\gamma^3\phi &= \psi^\dagger\gamma^0\gamma^3\phi = \psi_1^*\phi_3 - \psi_2^*\phi_4 + \psi_3^*\phi_1 - \psi_4^*\phi_2.
\end{aligned}$$

- Using

$$u_\downarrow(p_1) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix}0\\1\\0\\-1\end{pmatrix};\quad u_\downarrow(p_2) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix}-1\\0\\1\\0\end{pmatrix};\quad u_\downarrow(p_3) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix}-s\\c\\s\\-c\end{pmatrix};\quad u_\downarrow(p_4) = \sqrt{E}\begin{pmatrix}-c\\-s\\c\\s\end{pmatrix}$$

we get

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned}\bar{u}_\downarrow(p_3)\gamma^\mu u_\downarrow(p_1) &= 2E(c, s, -is, c)\\ \bar{u}_\downarrow(p_4)\gamma^\nu u_\downarrow(p_2) &= 2E(c, -s, -is, -c)\end{aligned}}$$

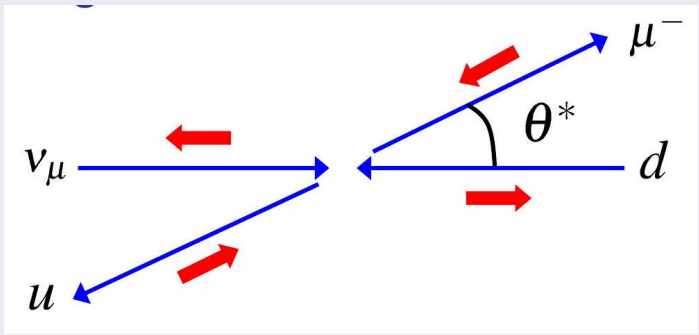
$$\Longrightarrow \boxed{M_{fi} = \frac{g_W^2}{2m_W^2} 4E^2(c^2 + s^2 + s^2 + c^2) = \frac{g_W^2 \hat{s}}{m_W^2}} \qquad \text{where} \quad \hat{s} = (2E)^2.$$

Neutrino-Quark scattering (cont.)

Note that the Matrix Element is isotropic:

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_W^2}{m_W^2}\hat{s}.$$

We could have anticipated this since the helicity combination (spins anti-parallel) has $S_z = 0$ so expect no preferred polar angle.



- As before need to sum over all possible spin states and average over all possible initial state spin states. Here only one possible spin combination ($LL \to LL$) and only two possible initial state combinations (the neutrino is always produced in a LH helicity state).

$$\left\langle |M_{fi}|^2 \right\rangle = \frac{1}{2}\left|\frac{g_W^2}{m_W^2}\hat{s}\right|^2$$

  The factor of a half arises because half of the time the quark will be in a RH states and won't participate in the charged current Weak interaction.
- From Handout 1, in the extreme relativistic limit, the cross section for any $2 \to 2$ body scattering process is

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2\hat{s}}\langle |M_{fi}|^2 \rangle.$$

Neutrino-Quark scattering (conclusion).

- Therefore:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2\hat{s}}\langle|M_{fi}|^2\rangle = \frac{1}{64\pi\hat{s}}\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{g_W^2\hat{s}}{m_W^2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{g_W^2}{8\sqrt{2}\pi m_W^2}\right)^2\hat{s}.$$

- Using $\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{g_W^2}{8m_W^2}$ the above simplifies to

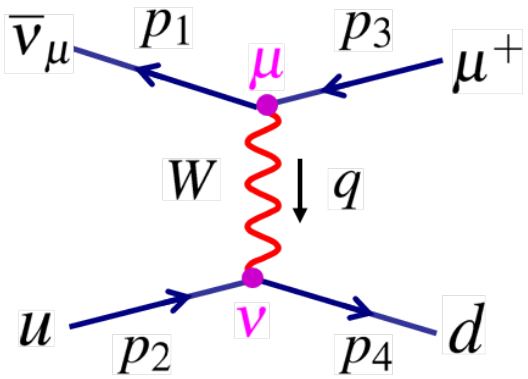
$$\boxed{\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{G_F^2}{4\pi^2}\hat{s}} \tag{115}$$

and integrating this isotropic distribution over $d\Omega^*$ gives

$$\boxed{\sigma_{\nu q} = \frac{G_F^2\hat{s}}{\pi}} \tag{116}$$

- Since the cross section is a (longitudinally) Lorentz invariant, (116) is also the cross section for scattering in the lab frame.

Antineutrino-Quark Scattering



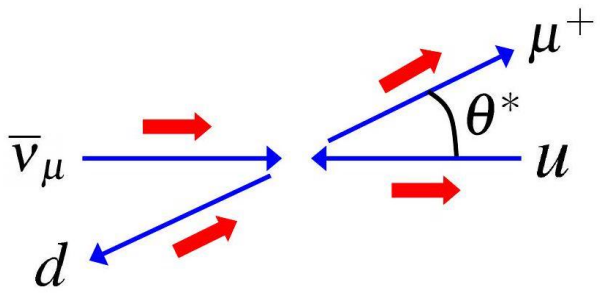
- In the ultra-relativistic limit, the charged-current interaction matrix element is:

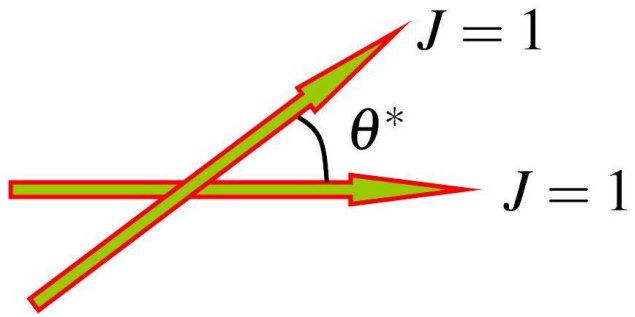
$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_W^2}{2m_W^2} g_{\mu\nu} \left[\bar{v}(p_1)\gamma^\mu \tfrac{1}{2}(1-\gamma^5)v(p_3)\right] \left[\bar{u}(p_4)\gamma^\nu \tfrac{1}{2}(1-\gamma^5)u(p_2\right.$$

- In the extreme relativistic limit only LH Helicity particles and RH Helicity anti-particles participate in the charged current weak interaction:

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_W^2}{2m_W^2} g_{\mu\nu} \left[\bar{v}_\uparrow(p_1)\gamma^\mu v_\uparrow(p_3)\right] \left[\bar{u}_\downarrow(p_4)\gamma^\nu u_\downarrow(p_2)\right]$$

In terms of the particle spins it can be seen that the interaction occurs in a total angular momentum $J = 1$ state:

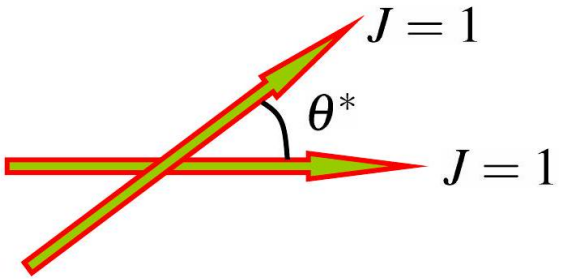




Antineutrino-Quark Scattering (cont.)

- Similarly to the neutrino-quark scattering calculation obtain:

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\bar{\nu}q}}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{d\sigma_{\nu q}}{d\Omega^*}\frac{1}{4}(1+\cos\theta^*)^2$$



- The factor $\frac{1}{4}(1+\cos\theta^*)^2$ can be understood in terms of the overlap of the initial and final angular momentum wave-functions.
- Integrating over solid angle:

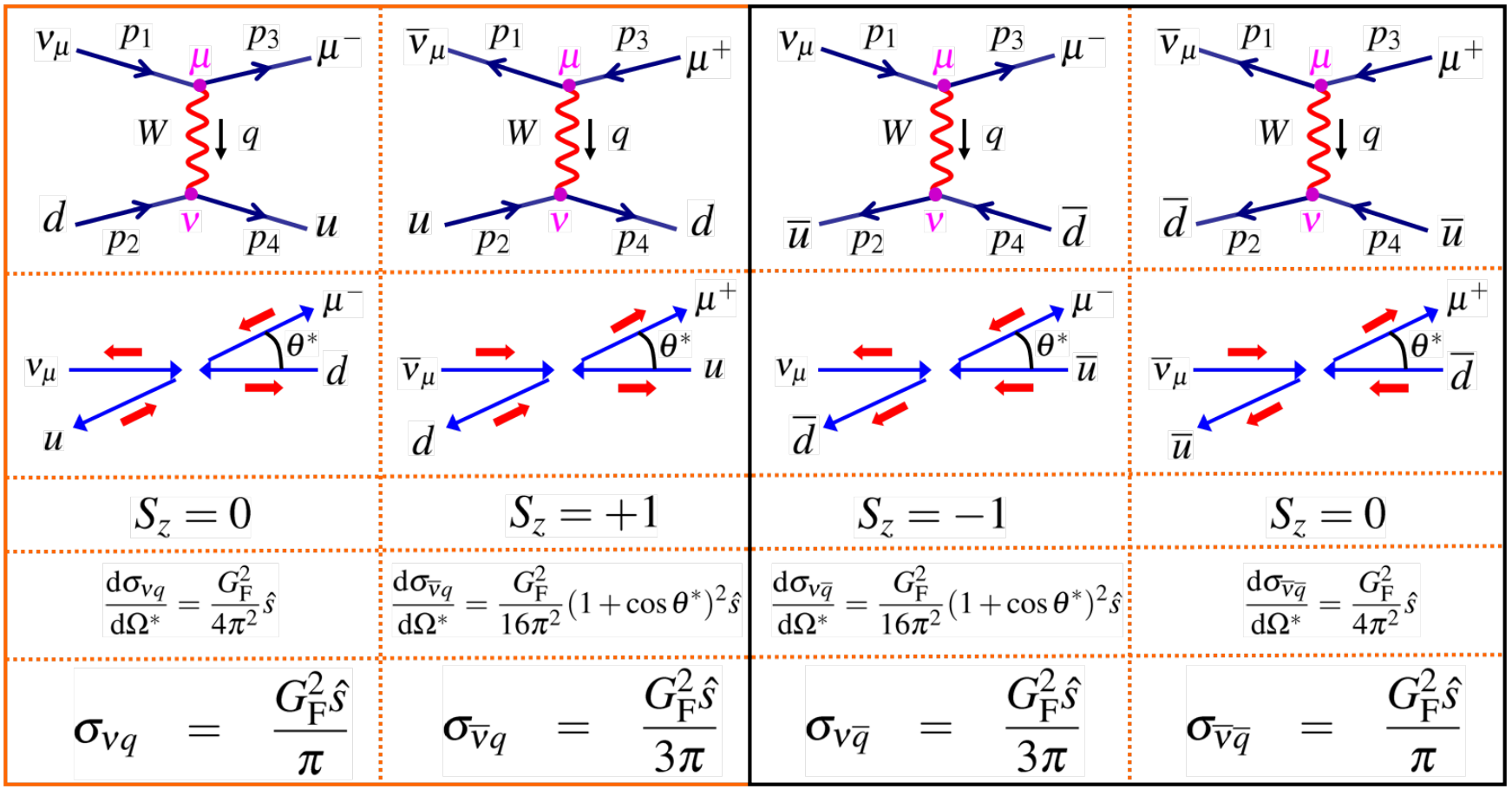
$$\int (1+\cos\theta^*)^2\, d\Omega^* = 2\pi \int_{-1}^{+1} (1+\cos\theta^*)^2\, d(\cos\theta^*) = \frac{16\pi}{3}$$

$$\Longrightarrow \qquad \boxed{\sigma_{\bar{\nu}q} = \frac{G_F^2 \hat{s}}{3\pi}}.$$

- This is a factor three smaller than the neutrino quark cross-section: $\boxed{\frac{\sigma_{\bar{\nu}q}}{\sigma_{\nu q}} = \frac{1}{3}}$.

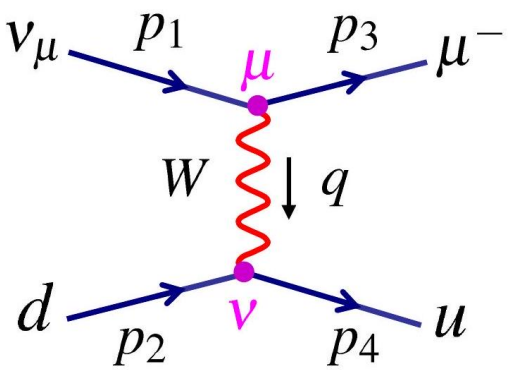
(Anti)neutrino-(Anti)quark Scattering

- Non-zero anti-quark component to the nucleon also consider scattering from q
- Cross-sections can be obtained immediately by comparing with quark scattering and remembering to only include LH particles and RH anti-particles



Differential Cross Section in form $d\sigma/dy$

- We derived the differential neutrino scattering cross sections in C.o.M frame. Let us convert them to Lorentz invariant form.



- As for DIS use Lorentz invariant $y \equiv \dfrac{p_2.q}{p_2.p_1}$.
- In relativistic limit y can be expressed in terms of the C.o.M. scattering angle: $y = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos\theta^*)$.
- In the lab. frame $y = 1 - \dfrac{E_3}{E_1}$.

- Convert from $\dfrac{d\sigma}{d\Omega^*} \to \dfrac{d\sigma}{dy}$ using

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy} = \left|\frac{d\cos\theta^*}{dy}\right| \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta^*} = \left|\frac{d\cos\theta^*}{dy}\right| 2\pi \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega^*} = 4\pi \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega^*}.$$

- But we already found (in (115)) that: $\dfrac{d\sigma}{d\Omega^*} = \dfrac{G_F^2}{4\pi^2}\hat{s}$ hence:

$$\boxed{\frac{d\sigma_{\nu q}}{dy} = \frac{d\sigma_{\bar{\nu}\bar{q}}}{dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}\hat{s}}.$$

Similarly

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\bar{\nu}q}}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{d\sigma_{\nu\bar{q}}}{d\Omega^*} = \frac{G_F^2}{16\pi^2}(1+\cos\theta^*)^2\hat{s}$$

becomes

$$\boxed{\frac{d\sigma_{\bar{\nu}q}}{dy} = \frac{d\sigma_{\nu\bar{q}}}{dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}(1-y)^2\hat{s}}$$

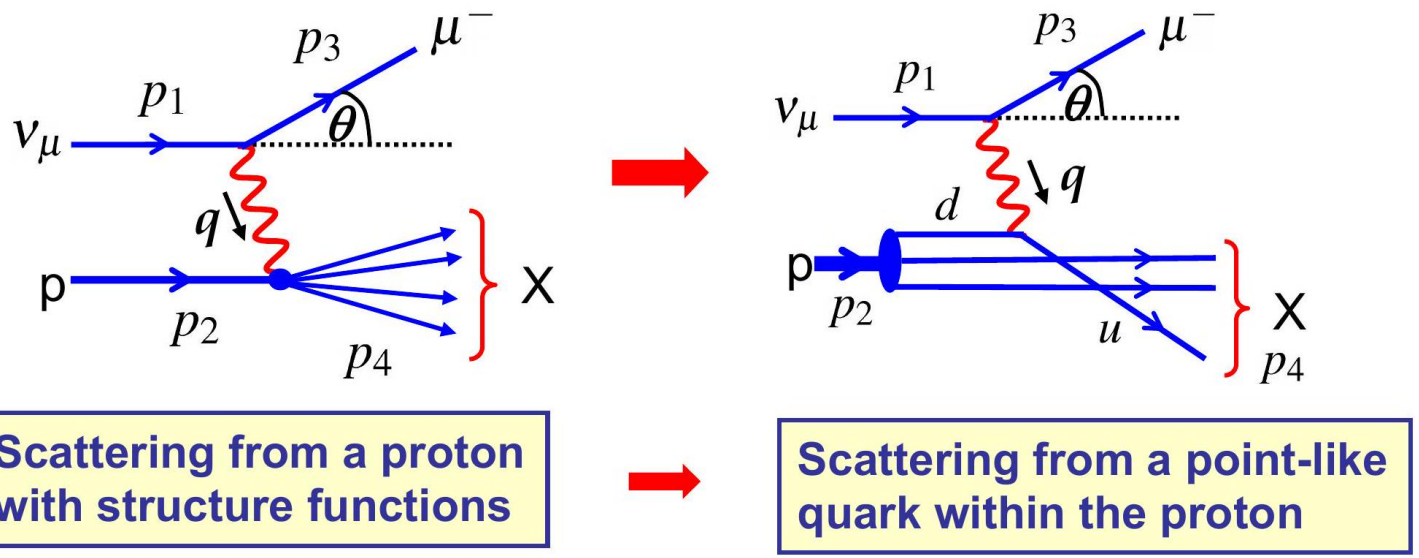
through use of $y = \frac{1}{2}(1-\cos\theta^*) \;\rightarrow 1-y = \frac{1}{2}(1+\cos\theta^*)$.
For comparison, the electro-magnetic $e^{\pm}q \rightarrow e^{\pm}q$ cross section is:

QED: $$\frac{d\sigma_{e^{\pm}q}}{dy} = \frac{2\pi\alpha^2}{q^4}e_q^2\left[1+(1-y)^2\right]\hat{s}$$

Weak: $$\frac{d\sigma_{\bar{\nu}q}}{dy} = \frac{d\sigma_{\nu\bar{q}}}{dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}(1-y)^2\hat{s}.$$

(Differences are in (i) Helicity Structure, and (ii) in interaction+propagator.)

Parton Model For Neutrino Deep Inelastic Scattering



- **Neutrino**-proton scattering can occur via scattering from a **down-quark** or from an **up-antiquark**.
- In the parton model, number of down quarks within the proton in the $x \to x + dx$ momentum fraction range is $d^p(x)\,dx$. Their contribution to the neutrino scattering cross-section is obtained by multiplying by the $\nu_\mu d \to \mu^- u$ cross-section derived previously

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\nu p}}{dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}\hat{s}d^p(x)\,dx$$

where $\hat{s}$ is the centre-of-mass energy of the $\nu_\mu d$.

- Similarly for the $\bar{u}$ contribution

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\nu p}}{dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}\hat{s}(1-y)^2\bar{u}^p(x)\,dx.$$

- The neutrino-**proton** scattering cross section is obtained by summing the two contributions and using $\hat{s} = xs$ to give:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu p}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}sx\left[d^p(x) + (1-y)^2\bar{u}^p(x)\right].$$

- The anti-neutrino **proton** differential cross section can be obtained in the same manner:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\bar{\nu} p}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{GF^2}{\pi}sx\left[(1-y)^2u^p(x) + \bar{d}^p(x)\right].$$

- For (anti)neutrino-**neutron** scattering:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu n}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}sx\left[d^n(x) + (1-y)^2\bar{u}^n(x)\right]$$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\bar{\nu} n}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi}sx\left[(1-y)^2u^n(x) + \bar{d}^n(x)\right].$$

- As before, define neutron distributions functions in terms of those of the proton
  $u(x) \equiv u^{\mathrm{p}}(x) = d^{\mathrm{n}}(x); \qquad d(x) \equiv d^{\mathrm{p}}(x) = u^{\mathrm{n}}(x)$
  $\overline{u}(x) \equiv \overline{u}^{\mathrm{p}}(x) = \overline{d}^{\mathrm{n}}(x); \qquad \overline{d}(x) \equiv \overline{d}^{\mathrm{p}}(x) = \overline{u}^{\mathrm{n}}(x)$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu p}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} sx \left[d(x) + (1-y)^2 \bar{u}(x) \right] \tag{117}$$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\bar{\nu} p}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} sx \left[(1-y)^2 u(x) + \bar{d}(x) \right] \tag{118}$$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu n}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} sx \left[u(x) + (1-y)^2 \bar{d}(x) \right] \tag{119}$$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\bar{\nu} n}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{\pi} sx \left[(1-y)^2 d(x) + \bar{u}(x) \right] \tag{120}$$

- Because neutrino cross sections are very small, need massive detectors. These are usually made of iron, hence, one experimentally measurea a combination of proton/neutron scattering cross sections.

- For an isoscalar target (i.e. equal numbers of protons and neutrons), the mean cross section per nucleon, N:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu N}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu p}}{dx\,dy} + \frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu n}}{dx\,dy}\right)$$

$$\Longrightarrow \boxed{\frac{d^2\sigma^{\nu N}}{dx\,dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{2\pi} sx\left[u(x) + d(x) + (1-y)^2(\bar{u}(x) + \bar{d}(x))\right]}.$$

- Integrate over momentum fraction x:

$$\boxed{\frac{d\sigma^{\nu N}}{dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{2\pi} s\left[f_q + (1-y)^2 f_{\bar{q}})\right]} \tag{121}$$

where f_q and $f_{\bar{q}}$ are the total momentum fractions carried by the quarks and by the anti-quarks within a nucleon:

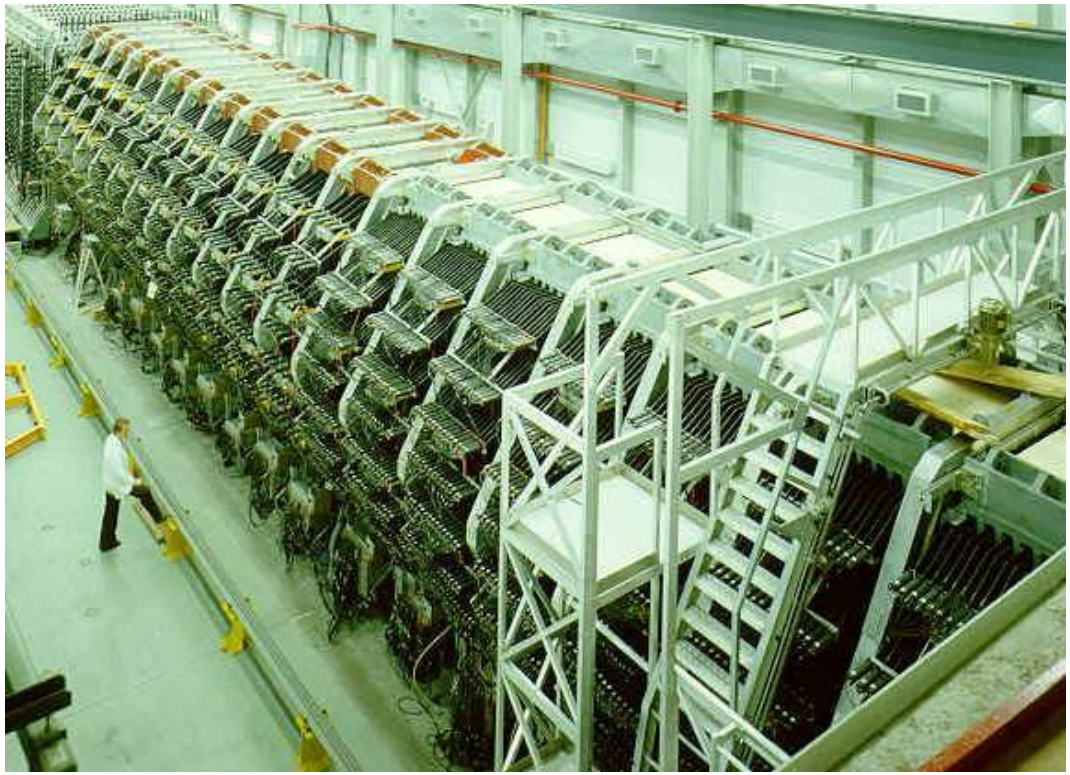
$$f_q \equiv f_d + f_u = \int_0^1 x\left[u(x) + d(x)\right]\,dx; \qquad f_{\bar{q}} \equiv f_{\bar{d}} + f_{\bar{u}} = \int_0^1 x\left[\bar{u}(x) + \bar{d}(x)\right]\,dx.$$

- Similarly

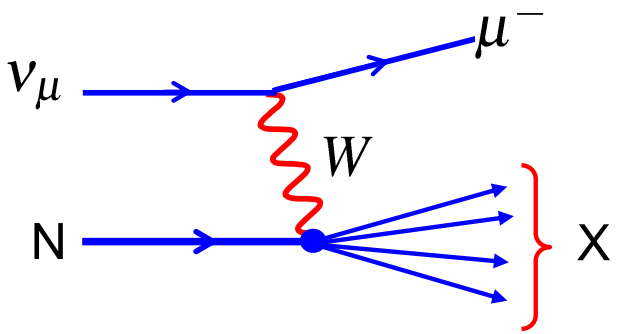
$$\boxed{\frac{d\sigma^{\bar{\nu} N}}{dy} = \frac{G_F^2}{2\pi} s\left[(1-y)^2 f_q + f_{\bar{q}})\right]}. \tag{122}$$

CDHS Experiment (CERN 1976-1984)

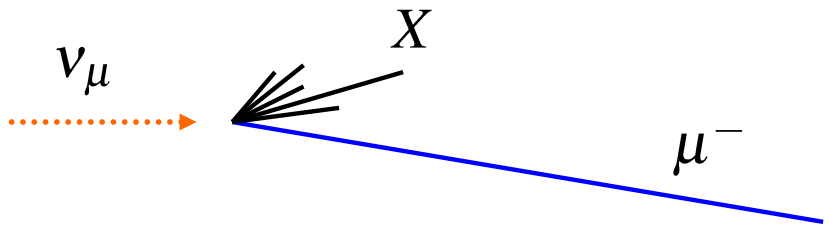
- 1250 tons
- Magnetized iron modules
- Separated by drift chambers



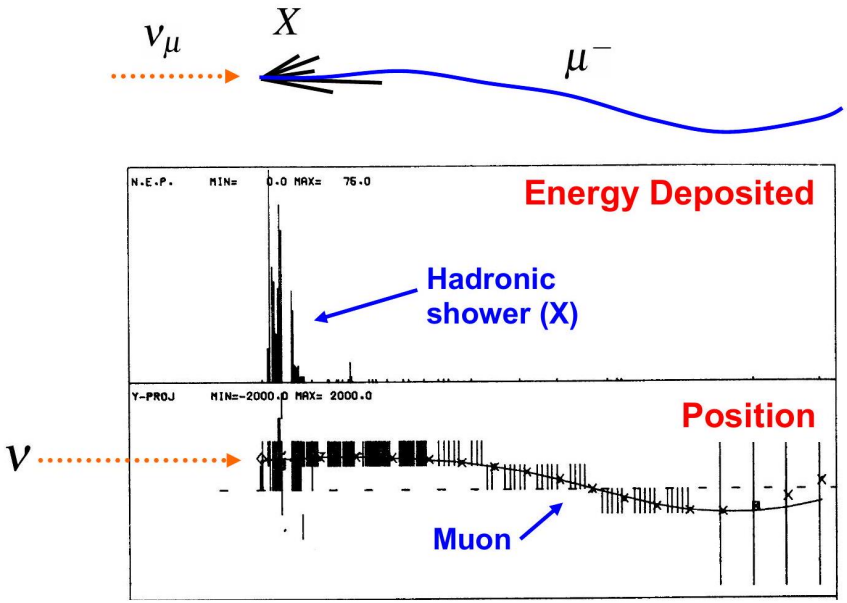
Study Neutrino Deep Inelastic Scattering



Experimental Signature:



CDHS (cont.)



- Measure energy of X, and call it E_X,
- Measure muon momentum from curvature in B-field. and call it E_μ.
- For each event can then determine neutrino energy and y. We get the former by summing the hadronic energy, the muon energy, and subtracting the nucleon rest mass:

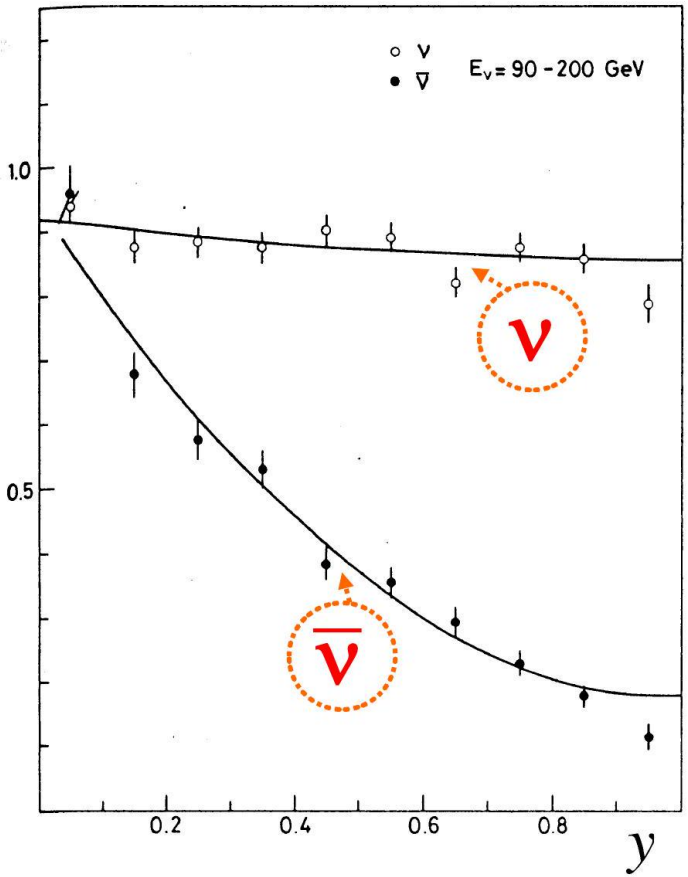
$$E_\nu = E_X + E_\mu - M_N.$$

The latter may be obtained from (98) i.e. from

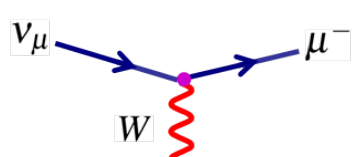
$$y = \left(1 - \frac{E_\mu}{E_\nu}\right).$$

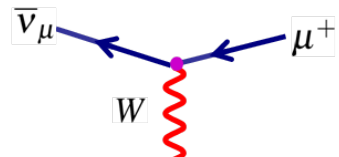
Measured y Distribution

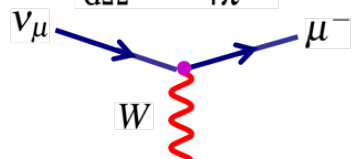
- CDHS measured y distribution
- Shapes can be understood in terms of (anti)neutrino – (anti)quark scattering

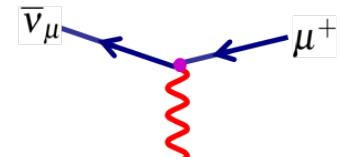


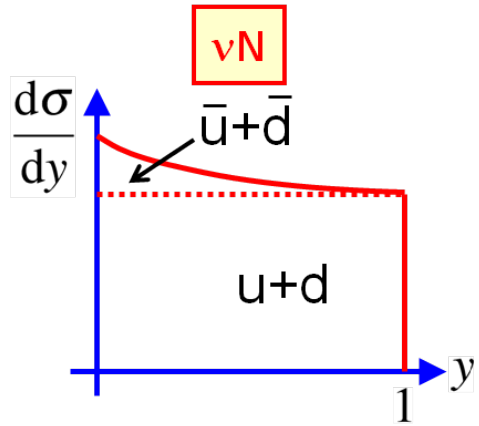
J. de Groot et al., Z.Phys. C1 (1979) 143

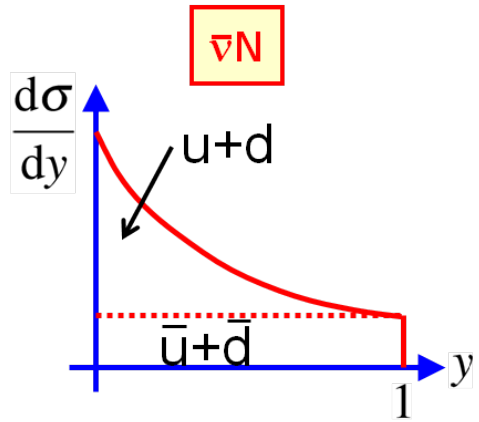












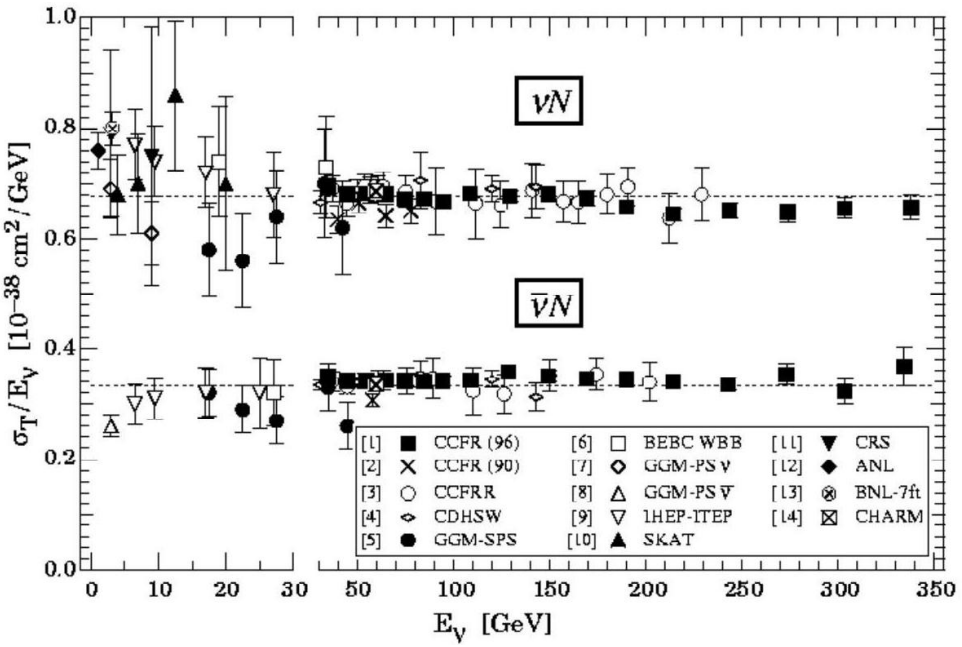
Measured Total Cross Sections

- Integrating the expressions for $\frac{d\sigma}{dy}$ (equations (121) and (122)):

$$\boxed{\sigma^{\nu N} = \frac{G_F^2 s}{2\pi}\left[f_q + \frac{1}{3}f_{\bar{q}}\right]} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\sigma^{\bar{\nu} N} = \frac{G_F^2 s}{2\pi}\left[\frac{1}{3}f_q + f_{\bar{q}}\right]}.$$

- In lab frame $p^\mu(\nu) = (E_\nu, 0, 0, +E_\nu)$ and $p^\mu(p) = (m_p, 0, 0, 0)$ so $s = (E_\nu + m_p)^2 - E_\nu^2 = 2E_\nu m_p + m_p^2 \approx 2E_\nu m_p$ therefore **the Neutrino DIS cross section is approximately proportional to lab. frame neutrino energy!**

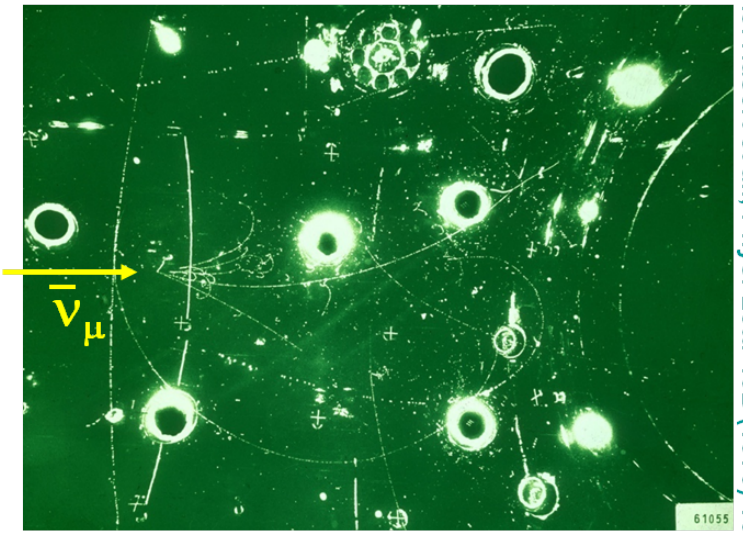
- Measure cross sections can be used to determine fraction of protons momentum carried by quarks, f_q, and fraction carried by anti-quarks, $f_{\bar{q}}$.
- Find: $f_q \approx 0.41$; $f_{\bar{q}} \approx 0.08$.
- $\sim 50\%$ of momentum carried by gluons (which don't interact with virtual W-boson).
- If no anti-quarks in nucleons expect $\frac{\sigma^{\nu N}}{\sigma^{\bar{\nu} N}} = 3$.
- Including anti-quarks $\frac{\sigma^{\nu N}}{\sigma^{\bar{\nu} N}} \approx 2$.



Weak Neutral Current

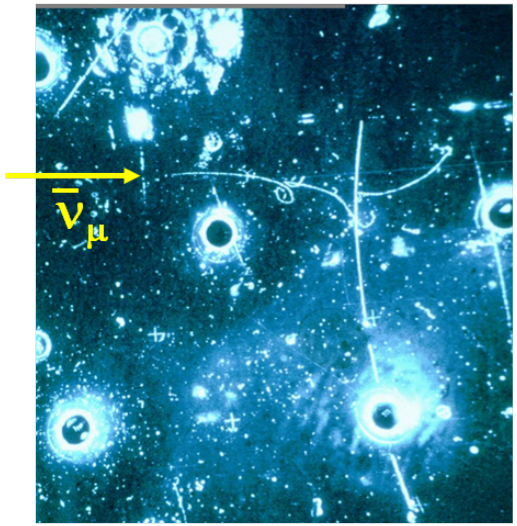
- Neutrinos also interact via the Neutral Current. First observed in the Gargamelle bubble chamber in 1973. Interaction of muon neutrinos produce a final state muon.

$\bar{\nu}_\mu + N \to \bar{\nu}_\mu + \text{hadrons}$



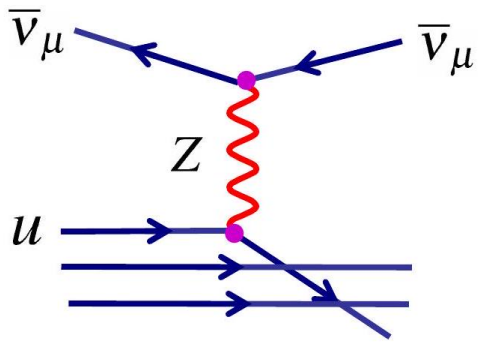
F.J. Hasert et al., Phys. Lett. 46B (1973) 138

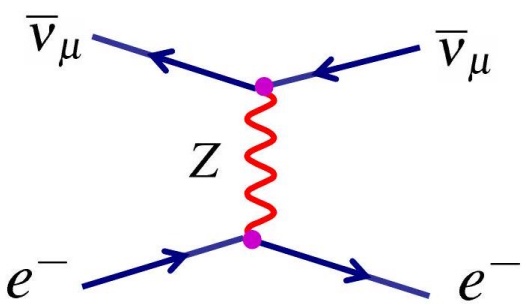
$\bar{\nu}_\mu + e^- \to \bar{\nu}_\mu + e^-$



F.J. Hasert et al., Phys. Lett. 46B (1973) 121

- Cannot be due to W exchange – this is first evidence for Z-boson!





Summary

- Derived neutrino/anti-neutrino – quark/anti-quark weak charged current (CC) interaction cross sections.
- Neutrino-nucleon scattering allows us to measure anti-quark content of protons nad neutrons because:
  - ν couples to d and $\bar{u}$,
  - $\bar{\nu}$ couples to u and $\bar{d}$,
  - $\nu\bar{q}$ scattering is suppressed by factor $(1-y)^2$ compared with νq, and
  - $\bar{\nu}q$ scattering is suppressed by factor $(1-y)^2$ compared with $\bar{\nu}\bar{q}$.
- Further aspects of neutrino deep-inelastic scattering (expressed in general structure functions) are covered in Appendix XIX.
- Finally observe that neutrinos interact via weak neutral currents (NC).