

Measurement of the W Boson Production Charge Asymmetry in $p\bar{p} \rightarrow W + X \rightarrow e\nu + X$ Events at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV

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We present a measurement of the W boson production charge asymmetry in $p\bar{p} \rightarrow W + X \rightarrow e\nu + X$ events at a center of mass energy of 1.96 TeV, using 9.7 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity collected with the D0 detector at the Fermilab Tevatron Collider. The neutrino longitudinal momentum is determined by using a neutrino weighting method, and the asymmetry is measured as a function of the W boson rapidity. The measurement extends over wider electron pseudorapidity region than previous results and is the most precise to date, allowing for precise determination of proton parton distribution functions in global fits.

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At the Fermilab Tevatron Collider, production of W^\pm bosons is dominated by the annihilation of valence quarks in the proton (u , d) and antiproton (\bar{d} , \bar{u}). The primary modes of production are $u + \bar{d} \rightarrow W^+$ and $\bar{u} + d \rightarrow W^-$. In the proton and antiproton, the u (\bar{u}) quark generally carries more momentum than the \bar{d} (d) quark; thus, W^+ bosons are boosted in the proton direction and W^- bosons in the antiproton direction [1–3]. The difference between u and d quark parton distribution functions (PDFs) results in a charge asymmetry in the W boson rapidity (y_W), defined as

$$A(y_W) = \frac{d\sigma_{W^+}/dy_W - d\sigma_{W^-}/dy_W}{d\sigma_{W^+}/dy_W + d\sigma_{W^-}/dy_W}. \quad (1)$$

Here, $d\sigma_{W^\pm}/dy_W$ is the differential cross section for W^\pm boson production, and y_W is the W^\pm boson rapidity, defined as

$$y_W = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z}, \quad (2)$$

where E and p_z are the energy and the longitudinal momentum, respectively, of the W boson, with the z axis along the proton beam direction.

Previously published results include both lepton (from the W boson decay) and W boson charge asymmetries. The lepton charge asymmetry arises from the convolution of the W boson asymmetry and the $V - A$ structure of the W boson decay. This implies that leptons at a specific rapidity originate from a wide range of W rapidities, and therefore from a wide range of parton x values (where x is the fraction of momentum of the proton carried by the parton), diluting the impact of these asymmetries when determining PDFs.

The lepton charge asymmetry in W boson decays has been measured by the CDF [4–6] and D0 [7,8] Collaborations. The latest lepton charge asymmetry measurement from the D0 Collaboration was performed in the $W \rightarrow \mu\nu$ muon channel by using data corresponding to 7.3 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [9]. The lepton charge asymmetry has also been measured at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in pp collisions by the ATLAS [10] and CMS [11] Collaborations by using integrated luminosities of 0.03 and 0.84 fb^{-1} , respectively. A direct measurement of the W boson charge asymmetry was performed by using 1 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity by the CDF [12] Collaboration.

The analysis presented in this Letter uses the $W \rightarrow e\nu$ decay mode and employs the neutrino weighting method [13]. In addition, this W boson charge asymmetry analysis uses 10 times more integrated luminosity and covers much larger rapidity range than the previous CDF result [12]. We use data corresponding to 9.7 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity [14] collected with the D0 detector [15,16] between April 2002 and September 2011. By extending the pseudorapidity coverage, we can provide information about the PDFs for a broader range of x ($0.002 < x < 0.99$ for electron pseudorapidity $|\eta^e| < 3.2$ [17]) at $Q^2 \approx M_W^2$, where Q^2 is the squared momentum scale for the parton interactions and M_W is the W boson mass. The W boson charge asymmetry result places stringent constraints on the PDFs of valence quarks, which in turn will significantly reduce the uncertainty on the measurements of M_W and on other measurements at the Tevatron and LHC.

The D0 detector [15,16] comprises a central tracking system, a calorimeter, and a muon system. The central tracking system consists of a silicon microstrip tracker and

a scintillating fiber tracker (CFT). The CFT provides coverage for charged particles at detector pseudorapidities of $|\eta_{\text{det}}| < 1.7$. Three liquid argon and uranium calorimeters provide coverage of $|\eta_{\text{det}}| < 3.5$ for electrons: the central calorimeter (CC) up to $|\eta_{\text{det}}| < 1.1$ and two end calorimeters (EC) in the range $1.5 < |\eta_{\text{det}}| < 3.5$. Gaps between the cryostats create an inefficient electron detection region between $1.1 < |\eta_{\text{det}}| < 1.5$ that is excluded from the analysis. Each calorimeter consists of an inner electromagnetic (EM) section, followed by hadronic sections.

Events used in this analysis were collected with a set of calorimeter-based single-electron triggers. To select $W \rightarrow e\nu$ events, we require one EM shower with transverse energy will respect to the beam $25 < E_T < 100$ GeV measured in the calorimeter, accompanied by large missing transverse energy of $\cancel{E}_T > 25$ GeV. \cancel{E}_T is estimated by the vector sum of the transverse components of the energy deposited in the calorimeter (u_T) and the electron E_T . An isolation requirement is imposed on the electron candidate, which is also required to have a significant fraction of its energy deposited in the EM calorimeter, compared to that deposited in the hadron calorimeter. Candidates in the CC must be in the range $|\eta_{\text{det}}| < 1.1$, and those in the EC must be within $1.5 < |\eta_{\text{det}}| < 3.2$, to allow a precise measurement of electron energy. The shower shape [18] must be consistent with that expected for an electron, and the candidate is required to be spatially matched to a reconstructed track. Because the CFT detector does not cover the entire η_{det} region used in the analysis, electron selection criteria are separately defined in four categories: CC electrons with full CFT coverage, EC electrons with full CFT coverage, EC electrons with partial CFT coverage, and EC electrons without CFT coverage. Events are further required to have the reconstructed $p\bar{p}$ interaction vertex located within 40 cm of the detector center along the z axis, a reconstructed W boson transverse mass (M_T) between 50 and 130 GeV, where $M_T = \sqrt{2E_T\cancel{E}_T(1 - \cos \Delta\phi)}$, and $\Delta\phi$ is the azimuthal angle between the electron and \cancel{E}_T , u_T less than 60 GeV, and SET less than 250 or 500 GeV depending on the data collection period, where SET is the scalar sum of all transverse energies measured by the calorimeter except those energies associated with electrons or with potential noise, reflecting the total activity in the event.

After applying the selection criteria described above, we retain 6 083 198 W boson candidates. Of these, 4 466 735 are events with the electron in the CC region and 1 616 463 with the electron in the EC region. We have checked that the asymmetry results for $y_W > 0$ are consistent with those for $y_W < 0$, so we assume CP invariance—i.e., $A(y_W)$ is equivalent to $-A(-y_W)$ —and fold the data appropriately to increase the statistics in each y_W bin. The forward-backward charge asymmetries are measured in 14 bins of y_W in the range $|y_W| < 3.2$. The bin widths are chosen by considering the sample size and the detector geometry to ensure that high $|y_W|$ bins retain sufficient statistics.

Mismeasurement of the charge sign of the electron may result in a dilution of the W boson charge asymmetry. We measure the charge misidentification rate with $Z \rightarrow ee$ events, using a “tag-and-probe” method [19]. The tag electron must satisfy tight selection criteria to ensure its charge is determined correctly. The charge misidentification rate varies from $(0.18 \pm 0.01)\%$ at $|\eta^e| = 0$ to $(9.6 \pm 0.9)\%$ at $|\eta^e| = 3.0$, where tracking momentum resolution is poor. The direction of the D0 solenoid magnetic fields was reversed during data taking every two weeks on average, significantly reducing the charged particle reconstruction asymmetry in the detector; thus, the charge misidentification rates of electrons and positrons are consistent for different magnet polarities. At $|\eta^e| = 3.0$, the charge misidentification rates are $(9.4 \pm 1.3)\%$ for electrons and $(9.8 \pm 1.3)\%$ for positrons and are also consistent with each other at other $|\eta^e|$ values.

Monte Carlo (MC) samples for the $W \rightarrow e\nu$ process are generated by using the PYTHIA [20] event generator with CTEQ6L1 PDFs [21], followed by a GEANT-based simulation [22] of the D0 detector. This simulation is then corrected for higher-order effects not included in PYTHIA. The MC events are reweighted at the generator level in two dimensions (W boson transverse momentum, p_T^W , and y_W) to match RESBOS [23] predictions. To improve the accuracy of the MC detector simulation, further corrections are applied to the MC simulations including electron energy scale and resolution, recoil system scale and resolution, selection efficiencies, trigger efficiencies, instantaneous luminosity and SET , charge misidentification, and relative efficiency for identification of positrons and electrons (K_{eff}^{\pm}). These corrections are derived by comparing the $Z \rightarrow ee$ data and PYTHIA MC distributions. Because of imperfections in the modeling of the tracking detector, differences between the efficiency for electrons and positrons vary from 0.0% at $|\eta^e| = 0$ to 1% at $|\eta^e| = 3.0$.

The dominant source of background originates from multijet events, with one jet misreconstructed as an electron and with significant \cancel{E}_T due to the mismeasurement of the jet energy. Smaller background contributions arise from other standard model (SM) processes and are estimated by using PYTHIA MC samples normalized to the highest order available cross sections [24]. These include $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$ events where the tau decays to an electron and neutrinos, $Z \rightarrow ee$ events where one of the electrons is not identified, and $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events with one tau decaying to an electron and the other not identified. The multijet background is estimated by using collider data by fitting the M_T distribution in the region 50–130 GeV (after other SM backgrounds have been subtracted) to the sum of the shape predicted by the $W \rightarrow e\nu$ signal MC sample and the shape obtained from a multijet-enriched data sample. The multijet-enriched sample is selected by reversing the shower shape requirement on the electron candidates. The background contributions are determined as a function of y_W , and average

contributions are 4.0% multijet events, 2.6% $Z \rightarrow ee$, 2.2% $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$, and 0.2% $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$.

In the determination of the longitudinal momentum of the neutrino (p_z^ν) [13], M_W is fixed to the world average value of 80.385 GeV [25]. The mass-energy relation constraint using the energy and momentum of the neutrino and electron,

$$M_W^2 = (E_e + E_\nu)^2 - (\vec{P}_e + \vec{P}_\nu)^2, \quad (3)$$

implies that there are two solutions in p_z^ν . The twofold ambiguity can be partly resolved on a statistical basis from the known $V - A$ decay distribution by using the decay angle between the electron and the proton (θ^*) and from the W^+ and W^- production cross sections as a function of y_W . As expected, many off-shell W boson decays do not satisfy the M_W^2 constraint. In this case, we obtain complex values for the p_z^ν , assume that the neutrino transverse momentum (p_T^ν) is misreconstructed, and therefore scale E_T to the value for which the imaginary part equals zero. This new E_T value is then used to determine p_z^ν and therefore y_W . To obtain the W boson rapidity distributions, we assign different probabilities to the two p_z^ν solutions. This probability is related to the quark and antiquark W^\pm boson production by

$$P_\pm(\cos\theta^*, y_W, p_T^W) = (1 \mp \cos\theta^*)^2 + Q(y_W, p_T^W)(1 \pm \cos\theta^*)^2, \quad (4)$$

where $P_\pm(\cos\theta^*, y_W, p_T^W)$ is the probability for W boson production with a particular $\cos\theta^*$, y_W , and p_T^W . The first term in Eq. (4) represents the contribution from annihilation with two quarks, and the second term the contribution from annihilation with at least one antiquark. The ratio $Q(y_W, p_T^W)$ between quark and antiquark W boson production is a function of W boson rapidity and transverse momentum. At the Tevatron, the W boson production contribution from the antiquark and gluons is $\sim 10\%$.

Understanding the antiquark contribution is important for the asymmetry measurement, because W bosons produced by antiquarks have opposite polarization from those produced by quarks. The ratio of antiquark to quark W boson production is determined by the angular distribution of $W \rightarrow e\nu$ decays. We use the prediction of the fractions of antiquark to quark contributions from MC@NLO [26], using the CTEQ6.6 PDF set, and parametrize the angular distributions as functions of y_W and p_T^W , using an empirical function to fit the ratio.

We use both P_\pm and the differential cross section $d\sigma_W^\pm/dy_W$ to define weights as in Eq. (5). The W boson production cross section decreases in the forward region due to the scarcity of high- x quarks, and so solutions leading to a central W production are weighted more heavily than forward W solutions. The weight factors w_i for W^+ and W^- are

$$w_i^\pm = \frac{P_\pm(\cos\theta_i^*, y_i, p_T^W) d\sigma^\pm(y_i)/dy_W}{\sum_i P_\pm(\cos\theta_i^*, y_i, p_T^W) d\sigma^\pm(y_i)/dy_W}, \quad (5)$$

where $i = 1, 2$ are the two solutions. We use the predicted differential cross section $d\sigma_W^\pm/dy_W$ at next-to-next-to-leading order [27] as input when calculating the weight factors for each neutrino p_z^ν solution. We iterate by updating values of $d\sigma_W^\pm/dy_W$ to those obtained by using the weight factor. This procedure converges after three or four iterations.

To measure the W boson charge asymmetry, we apply unfolding corrections to the measured W^+ and W^- distributions to correct detection effects. The matrix inversion method [28] is used to correct for event migration effects. First, the product of acceptance and efficiency is applied to each bin to correct for the event selection effects, and the K_{eff}^\pm correction is used to equalize the efficiency response between electrons and positrons. The migration matrices are obtained by using the number of events in both the generator level y_W bin j and the reconstruction level y_W bin i , divided by the number of events in the reconstruction level y_W bin i . The migration matrices provide information about the relation between events selected at reconstruction level and the original events at generator level and are used to correct the data for detector resolution effects. The procedure is validated by using events generated with MC@NLO, where we find good agreement between the unfolded and the generated W boson charge asymmetry.

The primary systematic uncertainties on asymmetry come from the unfolding procedure including the uncertainties from the event migration correction, the acceptance and efficiency correction, and the PDF inputs (fractional uncertainty, $[1.1-5.0] \times 10^{-3}$). To estimate the uncertainty from the PDF inputs, we determine the $Q(y_W, p_T^W)$ correction with 45 CTEQ6.6 PDF sets, perform the measurement with different $Q(y_W, p_T^W)$ [29], and extract the uncertainty for each y_W bin by using the prescription described in Ref. [21]. Other systematic uncertainties arise from the modeling of the p_T^W distribution and the final state radiation modeling ($[0.1-2.4] \times 10^{-4}$), electron identification corrections ($[0.1-0.7] \times 10^{-3}$), electron energy modeling ($[0.1-0.5] \times 10^{-3}$), hadronic recoil modeling ($[0.1-0.8] \times 10^{-3}$), background modeling ($[0.1-1.0] \times 10^{-3}$), MC modeling imperfections ($[0.2-2.6] \times 10^{-3}$), electron charge misidentification ($[0.1-2.0] \times 10^{-3}$), and the relative efficiency for positrons and electrons (K_{eff}^\pm) ($[0.1-0.6] \times 10^{-3}$).

Figure 1 shows the measured values of the W boson asymmetry together with the result from CDF [12]. The data are compared to the MC@NLO prediction with the NNPDF2.3 [30] PDF set, next-to-leading order RESBOS prediction with PHOTOS [31] using the CTEQ6.6 central PDF set, and MC@NLO using MSTW2008NLO [32] central PDF set. In the predictions, we require both the electron and neutrino transverse momentum to be

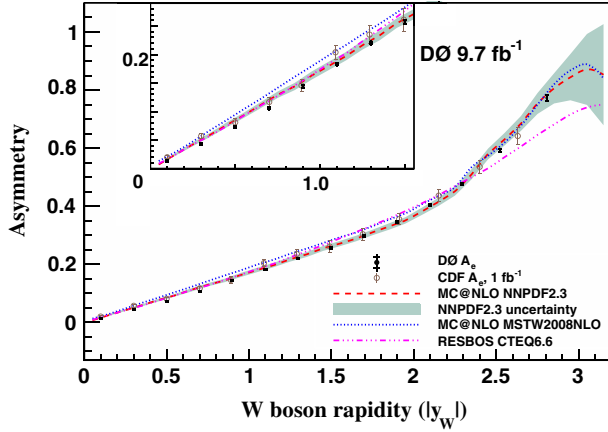


FIG. 1 (color online). Measured W boson charge asymmetry, after CP folding, compared to predictions and the CDF 1 fb^{-1} result. The points show the measured asymmetry, with the horizontal bars delineating the statistical uncertainty component and the vertical lines showing the total uncertainty. The central value and uncertainty from MC@NLO using NNPDF2.3 PDF sets and the prediction from RESBOS using the CTEQ6.6 central PDF set, MC@NLO using the MSTW2008NLO central PDF set are also shown. The inset focuses on the y_W region from 0 to 1.5.

above 25 GeV and merge the radiated photons into the electron if they fall within a cone of radius $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2} < 0.3$. There is agreement between the data and predictions, although the predictions are systematically higher than the data by ~ 1 standard deviation in all measurements for $|y_W|$ between 0.1 and 1. Values of the asymmetry in bins of y_W , average bin positions, and predictions are shown in Table I. The experimental uncertainties are substantially smaller than the uncertainties from the NNPDF2.3 PDF sets in all y_W bins, demonstrating the importance of this analysis to improve PDFs. Table II lists the correlations between central values in different y_W bins that are introduced by the ambiguity in p_z^ν . The correlation

TABLE I. CP -folded W charge asymmetry for data and predictions from MC@NLO using NNPDF2.3 PDFs tabulated in percent (%) for each $|y_W|$ bin. The $\langle |y_W| \rangle$ is calculated as the cross section weighted average of y_W in each bin from RESBOS with PHOTOS. For data, the first uncertainty is statistical and the second is systematic. The uncertainties on the prediction come from both the PDF uncertainties and α_s uncertainties.

Bin index	$ y_W $	$\langle y_W \rangle$	Data	Prediction
1	0.0–0.2	0.10	$1.40 \pm 0.17 \pm 0.12$	1.61 ± 0.19
2	0.2–0.4	0.30	$4.32 \pm 0.18 \pm 0.19$	5.06 ± 0.33
3	0.4–0.6	0.50	$7.33 \pm 0.19 \pm 0.27$	8.50 ± 0.41
4	0.6–0.8	0.70	$10.59 \pm 0.20 \pm 0.32$	12.05 ± 0.53
5	0.8–1.0	0.90	$14.36 \pm 0.21 \pm 0.34$	15.36 ± 0.66
6	1.0–1.2	1.10	$18.32 \pm 0.22 \pm 0.37$	18.86 ± 0.74
7	1.2–1.4	1.30	$22.06 \pm 0.24 \pm 0.39$	22.52 ± 0.80
8	1.4–1.6	1.50	$25.74 \pm 0.27 \pm 0.36$	26.30 ± 0.85
9	1.6–1.8	1.70	$29.75 \pm 0.31 \pm 0.34$	29.89 ± 0.92
10	1.8–2.0	1.90	$34.46 \pm 0.35 \pm 0.38$	34.04 ± 1.08
11	2.0–2.2	2.10	$40.42 \pm 0.40 \pm 0.43$	39.77 ± 1.31
12	2.2–2.4	2.29	$47.55 \pm 0.44 \pm 0.43$	47.73 ± 1.62
13	2.4–2.7	2.52	$59.10 \pm 0.46 \pm 0.44$	61.81 ± 1.74
14	2.7–3.2	2.81	$77.33 \pm 0.93 \pm 0.56$	78.05 ± 4.36

coefficients of systematic uncertainties between different y_W are negligible.

In summary, we have measured the W boson charge asymmetry in $p\bar{p} \rightarrow W \rightarrow e\nu$ events by using data corresponding to 9.7 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity collected by the D0 experiment at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$. By using the neutrino weighting method, the most precise direct measurement of the W boson charge asymmetry to date is obtained. With coverage extended to $|\eta^e| = 3.2$, this measurement can be used to improve the precision and accuracy of next-generation PDF sets; in particular, it provides more accurate information for PDFs at high x , compared with measurements of the lepton charge

TABLE II. Correlation coefficients between central values of asymmetry in different $|y_W|$ bins.

$ y_W $ bin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	1.00	0.84	0.57	0.38	0.29	0.25	0.21	0.16	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01
2		1.00	0.85	0.58	0.39	0.29	0.24	0.16	0.11	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.02
3			1.00	0.85	0.58	0.38	0.26	0.16	0.10	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.03
4				1.00	0.83	0.52	0.29	0.16	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.06
5					1.00	0.78	0.42	0.19	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.10
6						1.00	0.74	0.37	0.22	0.19	0.22	0.22	0.20	0.15
7							1.00	0.76	0.50	0.38	0.34	0.31	0.29	0.21
8								1.00	0.84	0.62	0.47	0.38	0.34	0.27
9									1.00	0.87	0.65	0.48	0.40	0.31
10										1.00	0.89	0.67	0.51	0.36
11											1.00	0.89	0.66	0.41
12												1.00	0.86	0.45
13													1.00	0.50
14														1.00

asymmetry, which is crucial for many beyond SM searches.

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