Future Opportunities with Lepton-Hadron Collisions

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Deep Inelastic Scattering
 Proton partonic structure
 The Electron Ion Collider
 The Large Hadron electron Collider

Input to European **PP Strategy Update**

Future Opportunities with Lepton-Hadron Collisions*

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Abstract

Deep Inelastic lepton-hadron Scattering (DIS) is a cornerstone of particle physics discovery and the precision measurement of the structure of matter. This document surveys the international DIS landscape, exploring current and future opportunities to continue this rich heritage, leading to new understandings and enabling discoveries. Of immediate relevance to the future of the field in Europe, the Large Hadron electron Collider (LHeC) offers an impactful bridge between the end of the HL-LHC and the beginning of the next CERN flagship project, both in terms of technology development and new scientific exploration from Higgs physics to the partonic structure of the proton.

More generally, the facilities described here cover centre-of-mass energies from a few GeV to multiple TeV and address a wide range of physics topics, with unique sensitivity to Quantum Chromodynamics and hadron structure at their core. In addition to their stand-alone importance, these topics enhance the precision measurement and new physics search programmes at hadron-hadron colliders.

The very high luminosity fixed-target CEBAF programme that is in progress at Jefferson Laboratory probes nucleon and light ion structure at large x in novel ways, while high energy neutrino DIS is being enabled at the FASER and SND@LHC experiments by the intense LHC beams; both have exciting potential upgrade programmes. The Electron Ion Collider (EIC) is on course for deployment at Brookhaven in the early 2030s, and will provide lepton-nucleus and double-polarised lepton-proton/light-ion collisions for the first time. Its science includes a 3-dimensional mapping of the internal structure and dynamics of hadrons, leading to a thorough understanding of the mechanisms that generate proton mass and spin, whilst establishing accelerator and detector technologies of direct relevance to next-generation facilities. Adding the LHeC provides a Europe-based lepton-hadron frontier. The LHeC extends DIS capabilities to include a complementary Higgs, top and electroweak programme to the HL-LHC, together with precise determinations of proton and nuclear structure in a kinematic range that improves HL-LHC sensitivities. In the longer term, plasma wakefield acceleration and the Future Circular Collider offer different possible pathways for major steps forward in centre-of-mass energy, extending into a low parton momentum-fraction domain where our present understanding fails and new strong interaction discoveries are guaranteed.

This review emerges from the 'DIS and Related Subjects' conference series, which provides an annual focus for the diverse community of scientists involved in Deep Inelastic Scattering, currently estimated to consist of around 3000 experimental and theoretical particle, nuclear and accelerator physicists worldwide.

The Large Hadron electron Collider as a bridge project for CERN

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Enabling future detector technology within ePIC at the EIC

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On behalf of the ePIC Collaboration

Input to the European Strategy for Particle Physics - 2026 update



DRAFT v1.0 - March 21, 2025

Synergies between a U.S.-based Electron-Ion Collider and European Research in Particle Physics

Contact Persons: Stefan Diehl¹, Raphaël Dupré², Olga Evdokimov³, Salvatore Fazio⁴, Ciprian Gal⁵, Tyler Kutz⁶, Rongrong Ma⁷, Juliette Mammei⁸, Stephen Maple⁹, Marco Radici¹⁰, Rosi Reed¹¹, Ralf Seidl¹², Zhoudunming Tu¹³

On behalf of the ePIC Collaboration and the EIC User Group

CERN-FASER-2025-001

Prospects and Opportunities with an upgraded FASER Neutrino Detector during the HL-LHC era: Input to the EPPSU FASER Collaboration

... and several others ...

- 'Future Opportunities' document: Overview and vision of current and possible future landscape, centred around DIS conference series

Supporting and adding context to separate submissions

Rutherford (1927, as President of Royal Society)



Following from the original scattering experiments (α particles on gold foil target) ...



"It would be of great scientific interest if it were possible to have a supply of electrons ... of which the individual energy of motion is greater even than that of the alpha particle."

Probing the Proton with Electrons

Simple uncertainty principle arguments:

Resolved dimension:
$$\Delta x \sim \frac{200 \text{MeV}}{\text{E}}$$
 fm

... need a beam energy of ~200 MeV to see proton structure (~1 fm)



Fig. 2. This figure shows a schematic diagram of a modern electron-scattering experimental area. The track on which the spectrometers roll has an approximate radius of 13.5 feet.

Hoffstadter's Results



... Interpreting scattered electron pattern to determine spatial distribution of the target charge distribution

→ proton radius ~1fm

Probing the Proton with Higher Energy Electrons

... 1-2 more orders of magnitude \rightarrow 0.1-0.01 fm ^e





ESA experiment at SLAC (1969)

~20 GeV electrons on fixed proton target

Absence of dependence of suitably scaled cross section on momentum transfer (wide-angle scattering) implies point-like constituents of target (quarks)

Bjorken Scaling



James Bjorken (22 June 1934 - 6 Aug 2024)





 The only ever collider of electron with proton beams: √s_{ep} ~ 300 GeV

- Equivalent to **50 TeV** electrons on fixed target

... Resolved dimension ~ 10⁻²⁰ m

→ Source of much of our knowledge of proton (longitudinal) structure, extending to partons of $x < 10^{-4}$ mom^m fraction





BUT ... → Only ~0.5 fb⁻¹ per experiment → No deuterons or nuclei → No polarisæd

targets

Inclusive Neutral Current DIS: ep→ eX ... Kinematics



x = fraction of proton momentum carried by struck quark

Q² = |4-momentum transfer squared| (photon virtuality) ... measures the hardness /scale of collision ... inverse of (squared) resolved dimension

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 $s = {Q^2}/{xy}$ with inelasticity y < 1... i.e. Maximum Q² and minimum x governed by CMS energy, \sqrt{s}

Example Inclusive Neutral Current Data from HERA / Previous Experiments

Fixed target and (early) HERA data at a single Q^2 value (15 GeV²)





• Photon-exchange component of NC data measures

 $\frac{d\sigma}{dxdQ^2} \sim F_2 = \sum_q e_q^2 x \left(q + \overline{q}\right)$

• Due to e_q² photon coupling, this mainly constrains **u** & **ubar** ... shape of quark densities already qualitatively apparent

Variations of the cross sections with Q^2 tell us about the role of gluons $\frac{10}{...}$

QCD Evolution and the Gluon Density

H1 and ZEUS



 \rightarrow Fits to data to extract proton parton densities

Proton PDFs from HERA only (HERAPDF2.0)



Constraining PDFs with LHC Data

→ Need precise PDFs for interpretation of LHC physics ...BUT ALSO... → LHC can tell us more about PDFs → <u>'Global Fits'</u>



Main observables included in global fits

- Electroweak gauge bosons (and Drell Yan) \rightarrow quarks
- Jet production \rightarrow gluons
 - ... more forward (i.e. high $|\eta|$) accesses lower x

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LHC Parton Luminosities and Physics



... could many of the tensions between data sets / methodologies be avoided if it were possible to constrain PDFs from DIS data only?..

Hadron Structure and Dynamics are much richer than longitudinal PDFs ...

Transverse degrees of freedom, correlations in momentum and position via TMDs, GPDs through exclusive processes, SIDIS ... \rightarrow First glimpses of 3D structure & mechanical properties from Jlab data



*

charge

Duran et al. method 1

Duran et al. method 2

g

PDG

Ŧ

q+g

mass

q



[Barbara Pasquini, Thia Keppel, **DIS251**



Current & Proposed Lepton-Hadron Facilities

Facility	Years	E_{cm}	Luminosity	Ions	Polarisation	Status
		(GeV)	$(10^{33}/cm^2/s)$	*(depends on)		
JLab 11 JLab 22	Running Late 2030's	4.5 - 6.5	$10^2 - 10^6$	$p \rightarrow Pb$	${\rm e, \ p, \ } _{\rm nuclei}^{\rm \ Light}$	Running Concept
FASER FPF/AdvSND	$\frac{\rm Running}{2030's}$	30 — 90	0.3 - 10	W, Ar	no	Running Advanced
EIC	> 2034	30 - 140	1 — 10	$\mathbf{p} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$	$e,p,d,^{3}He$	Approved
EicC	>Late 2030's	15 - 20	2-3	$\mathbf{p} \to \mathbf{U}$	$^{ m e,p,d,^{3}He}$	Concept
LHeC	>Late 2030's	1200	24	*LHC	e possible	Advanced
Plasma-based schemes	2040's	530 - 9000	$10^{-5} - 10^{-1}$	*SPS/LHC	e possible	Concept
FCC-eh	> 2050	3500	15	*FCC-hh	e possible	Concept

- Ongoing experiments revealing new properties of matter
- An approved new accelerator exploring new fundamental topics
- Longer-term plans aligned with core PP and NP priorities



Crude Mapping Between Physics & Facilities



The Electron-Ion Collider (BNL)



Fundamental questions for EIC

- What does the proton look like in 3D?

... How is proton mass generated from quark and gluon interactions? ... How is proton spin generated?

... What is the mechanism behind confinement?

 How are parton properties and dynamics altered in nuclei?

 ... How do quarks and gluons
 interact with the nuclear medium?
 ... What is the QCD-science of
 high density systems of gluons?
 ... How is the low x growth
 of the gluon density tamed?



Atom: Binding/Mass = 0.00000001 Nucleus: Binding/Mass = 0.01 Proton: Binding/Mass = 100





A Detector for the EIC



Electron beam

Magnet

New 1.7 T SC solenoid, 2.8 m bore diameter

Tracking

- Si Vertex Tracker MAPS wafer-level stitched sensors (ALICE ITS3)
- Si Tracker MAPS barrel and disks
- Gaseous tracker: MPGDs (µRWELL, MMG) cylindrical and planar

PID

- high performance DIRC (hpDIRC)
- dual RICH (aerogel + gas) (forward)
- proximity focussing RICH (backward)
- ToF using AC-LGAD (barrel+forward)

EM Calorimetry

- imaging EMCal (barrel)
- W-powder/SciFi (forward)
- PbWO₄ crystals (backward)

Hadron calorimetry

- FeSc (barrel, re-used from sPHENIX)
- Steel/Scint W/Scint (backward/forward)
- 9m long x 5m wide
- Hermetic (central detector $-4 < \eta < 4$)
- Extensive beamline instrumentation (see later)
- Much lower radiation fluxes than LHC widens technology options ²¹



Proton/Ion beam

Tracking Detectors

Primarily based on MAPS silicon defectors (65nm technology)

- Leaning heavily on ALICE
- Stitched wafer-scale sensors, thinked and bent around beampipe

 \rightarrow Very low material budget (0.05% X₀ per layer for inner layers)

- 20x20µm pixels

Backward M

- 5 barrel layers + 5 disks (total 8.5m² silicon)







Interaction Region / Beamline Instrumentation

- Extensive beamline instrumentation integrated into IR design
- Tagging electrons and photons in backward direction for lowest Q² physics studies and lumi monitoring via photon counting in $ep \rightarrow ep\gamma$



More Novel Detector Cc





B0pf combined function magnet

9/28/2023

EIC Kinematic Range v Previous Data



Inclusive ep DIS

→ Closing gap and overlapping between fixed target & HERA → High x, moderate Q^2 precision

Polarised target ep & eA DIS → Completely unexplored regions, extending to low x



EIC Impact on Proton Parton Densities

Fractional total uncertainties with / without simulated EIC data added to HERA (lin-x scale)

... EIC brings reduction in large x uncertainties relative to HERA for all parton species

Up quarks improve relative to global fits including LHC (not shown)

Precision high x data also yield world-leading strong coupling precision

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- \alpha_s(M_Z^2) to 0.3%
(cf world data \rightarrow 0.6% now)
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Proton Spin

- Very little known about gluon helicity contribution and low x region



Jaffe-Manohar sum rule:

Quark helicity Gluon helicity Quark canonical orbital angular momentum Gluon canonical orbital angular momentum momentum orbital angular momentum orbital angular momentum orbital angular significant impact on polarised gluon and quark densities → orbital angular

 $\hbar/2$

Room left for potential OAM contributions to the proton spin from partons with x > 0.001

momentum constrained by implication ... Full decomposition down to $x \sim 10^{-3}$.









The CERN Large Hadron electron Collider

- Proposal for CERN to further-exploit the LHC in the 2040s
- Add a Recirculating Energy-Recovery Linac (ERL) electron accelerator
- Baseline plan is several years standalone running after HL-LHC \rightarrow 1ab⁻¹



'Sustainable' acceleration: ~100 MW for ERL

Energy Recover Linacs

- Demonstrating ERL scalability is critical path
- Prototype (PERLE @ IJCLab) implementation started
- First stage (one turn) by 2028.





Photo-cathode





How could LHeC fit into global landscape?

- Not the next CERN flagship project

- Possible 'bridge' in event of significant time gap, due to funding constraints or pivot away from FCC-ee due to competition, or scientific developments



- Highly impactful science from strong interaction discovery to Higgs 31
- Opportunity for accelerator and detector technology development

Overview of LHeC Physics Programme



Higgs, Top, EW and BSM programme → General purpose particle physics detector ... high p_T capabilities

Precision QCD and PDFs, including very low x parton dynamics → Dedicated Deep Inelastic Scattering experiment... hermetic & reconstructing all final state particles

Detector Overview (as in 2020 CDR Update)

Compact 13m x 9m (c.f. CMS 21m x 15m, ATLAS 45m x 25m)

Hermetic - 1º tracking

acceptance $e \longrightarrow$ forward & backward.

<u>Beamline also</u> well instrumented



'Could be built now', but many open questions:

- A snapshot in time, borrowing heavily from (HL)-LHC (particularly ATLAS)
- Possibly lacking components for some ep/eA physics (eg. Particle ID)
- Not particularly well integrated or optimized
 ... Synergies with EIC, LHCb, ALICE, future e⁺e⁻ or μ⁺μ⁻ colliders



Proton PDF Precision

- PDF knowledge transformed over wide kinematic range, extending from $x \sim 10^{-6}$ to $x \rightarrow 1$

- Resolving current ambiguities

- First full and precise flavour decomposition

- α_s to 0.14%, including running



- $M_{\rm W}$ to few MeV
- $sin^2\theta_w$ to 0.0002 including running
- Best axial and vector Z-light quark couplings

Enabling HL-LHC: parton lumi's revisited



Extends upper mass reach of many LHC BSM searches
 Facilitates LHC precision measurements

 ...Theory uncertainty on LHC Higgs cross section
 ... M_W PDF systs → 2 MeV, enabling 3 MeV measurement
 ... sin²θ_W → 0.0008





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Influence on LHC Higgs Programme

LHeC extends Higgs programme at the LHC by:

1) Improving HL-LHC pp precision through PDFs

2) The LHeC Higgs production programme



Dominant production mechanism charged current (WW), distinguished event-by-event from sub-dominant neutral current (ZZ)

Charged Current cross section ~ 0.2pb for P=-0.8 \rightarrow ~200,000 events for 1ab⁻¹

Studies in Kappa-3 framework (SMEFIT group)

'HL-LHC (improved)' shows Impact of LHeC PDFs

... improvements HL-LHC \rightarrow LHeC about same as LHC \rightarrow HL-LHC



Influence on Higgs Coupling Precision



eg for HL-LHC \rightarrow LHeC \rightarrow FCC-ee ...

- LHeC PDF constraints already improve HL-LHC substantially
- LHeC impact for most couplings
 - \rightarrow Dominates W throughout
 - \rightarrow Major impact for Z
 - \rightarrow Likely first 5 σ c observation
 - \rightarrow Also invisible, undetected

pp, ee, ep synergies for best results





SUMMARY

Historically: Lepton-hadron scattering consistently led to surprises and discoveries about the structure of matter

Vibrant field with running and fast-developing projects Jlab Fixed target, LHC Neutrinos ...

From the early 2030s: The Electron Ion Collider will transform our understanding of nucleon and nuclear structure, including emergent properties such as mass and spin

From the early 2040s:

The Large Hadron electron Collider can enable LHC discovery via precision, discover new strong interaction phenomena, and explore the Higgs sector in complementary ways

"Circles in a circle", Wassily Kandinsky (1923), Philadelphia Museum of Art