

Charm and strange particles production at ZEUS

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Inclusive $K_0^*K_0^*$ production in ep collisions at HERA was studied with the ZEUS detector using an integrated luminosity of 0.5 fb^{-1} . Enhancements in the mass spectrum were observed and are attributed to the production of $f_2(1270)/a_2(1320)$, $f_2'(1525)$ and $f_0(1710)$. Masses and widths were obtained using a fit which takes into account theoretical predictions based on $SU(3)$ symmetry arguments, and are consistent with the PDG values. The $f_0(1710)$ state, which has a mass consistent with a glueball candidate, was observed with a statistical significance of 5 standard deviations. However, if this state is the same as that seen in $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow K_0^*K_0^*$, it is unlikely to be a pure glueball state.

The production of excited charm, $D_1(2420)^0$ and $D_2^*(2460)^0$, and charm-strange, $D_{s1}(2536)^{\pm}$, mesons in ep collisions was measured with the ZEUS detector at HERA using an integrated luminosity of 126 pb^{-1} . Masses, widths and helicity parameters were determined. The measured yields were converted to the rates of c quarks hadronising as a given excited charm meson and to the ratios of the dominant $D_2^*(2460)^0$ and $D_{s1}(2536)^{\pm}$ branching fractions. A search for the radially excited charm meson, $D^{**}(2640)^{\pm}$, was also performed. The results are compared with those measured previously and with theoretical expectations.

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