Nucleon Form Factors and the Nuclear Medium





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Questions to Ponder

- 1) What are the building blocks of matter?
- 2) How do the building blocks interact with each other?
- 3) Why do we use electron scattering?
- 4) What do we know about the proton's internal structure?
- 5) What can we learn from form factors?





What is the universe made of?

Macroscopic world:

Cassiopeia A



Scale: 10 ly ≈ 10¹⁷ m (across)



What is the earth made of?

Macroscopic world:

Earth



Scale: 10⁷ m



The Building Blocks of Matter

Atomic world:

Molecules

Atom



Scale: 10⁻¹⁰ - 10⁻⁹ m



Discovery of the Nucleus

Ernest Rutherford and colleagues studied the scattering of α-particles (Helium-4 nucleus) from a thin gold foil.





- $\succ \alpha$ -particles scattered at large angles at high rates.
- First evidence that atoms have a small hard nucleus.
- Nucleus is comprised of proton(s) and/or neutron(s).
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Periodic Table of Elements



Protons, neutrons, and electrons seem like our fundamental particles.



Fundamental Forces in Nature

Four Forces:

- Strong Nuclear: short range (10⁻¹⁵ m)
- Electromagnetism: long range
- Weak Nuclear: short range (10⁻¹⁸ m)
- •Gravitation: long range

- Gravity, EM and weak: adequate description (within experimentally accessible range)
- Strong: analytical description only in a small fraction of the experimentally accessible range UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA







Properties of Protons and Neutrons



Mass : ~ 940 MeV: majority of the visible mass in the universe (> 99%); neutron mass > proton mass (1.3 MeV) 1 MeV = 1.602 x 10⁻¹³ J a 150-g baseball has a mass ~ 10²⁸ MeV Charge: proton, +1; neutron, 0 Magnetic moment Spin-1/2

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Magnetic Moments

- An electric current in a wire produces a magnetic field that curls around the wire.
- > The magnetic moment ($\mu = IA$) quantifies the strength of the magnet; points from the south to the north pole of a magnet.
- An electron in a circular orbit around a nucleus has a magnetic moment that is proportional to its orbital angular momentum:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \boldsymbol{I}\boldsymbol{A} = \left(\frac{e}{2m}\right)\boldsymbol{L}$$



Spin

In 1922, Stern and Gerlach discovered that the electron has an intrinsic property: spin, either up or down for electrons.



> Spin behaves like angular momentum.

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> A particle's spin can be related to its **magnetic moment**:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \frac{e\boldsymbol{Q}}{M}\boldsymbol{S}$$

Nucleon Magnetic Moments



First hint that the proton and neutron are composite particles.

In 1933, Estermann and Stern discovered that the proton has a large anomalous magnetic moment: κ.



Why use electron scattering?

- 1) Scattering experiments reveal the proton's and neutron's internal structure.
- 2) Electrons are point particles and their interactions are understood from the theory of electromagnetism (Quantum Electrodynamics).

Electron scattering has proven to be a valuable tool to understand and investigate nucleon structure



Electron Scattering



- Electron-electron scattering obeys classic Mott (Rutherford with spin) scattering.
- Electrons are point particles. They have no structure.

Proton-Electron Scattering



- Proton-electron scattering <u>does not</u> obeys classic Mott scattering.
- Proton are not point particles. They have structure.

Neutron-Electron Scattering



- Neutron-electron scattering <u>also does not</u> obeys classic Mott scattering.
- Neutron beams or targets are a challenge.

History of Electron Nucleon Scattering

1930s proton anomalous magnetic moment was discovered (O. Stern), direct indication of proton internal structure.

 $\mu_p \approx 2.793(\mu_B) \neq 1(\mu_B)$

- Pioneered by Hofstadter *et. al* at Stanford in 1950s, first proton form factor measurement reported in 1955.
- DIS of electrons from protons by Friedman, Kendall and Taylor unravels the underlying quark structure of the proton at SLAC.
- While QCD has been tested well in the asymptotic region (David J. Gross, H. David Politzer, Frank Wilczek), understanding hadron structure in confinement region still challenging.

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➢ Nobel Prize 1961

Nobel Prize 1943

➢ Noble Prize 1990

Noble Prize 2004

So what are we really made of?

Experimental results can be explained using quarks

Basic Quark model:

- Protons are made of two up quarks and one down quark
- Neutrons are made of two down quarks and one up quark
- So it seems we are made of up quarks, down quarks, and electrons.

Subatomic world:

Scale: 10⁻¹⁵ m = 1 fm



Four forces describe all interactions: gravity, electromagnetism, weak nuclear and strong nuclear UNIVERSITY / VIRGINIA

Building Nuclei from Quarks



Nucleons: (Protons and Neutrons) Building blocks of visible matter Composed of quarks (bricks) and gluons (mortar). Structure mostly governed by the strong nuclear force, i.e., nucleons are a "natural laboratory" to study this interaction.



Strong Nuclear Force

- The theory is known as Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)
- Holds nucleons and quarks together: confinement
- Difficult to solve mathematically, since gluons carry color charge and interact with themselves

> Options:

- Model with a computer (Lattice QCD)
- Make simplifications: High Energy (Perturbation theory) Low Energy (Chiral Perturbation theory)
- Theory should explain the internal dynamics of protons and neutrons and their global properties.





Effective Theories

When complexity makes the basic degrees of freedom too complicated to handle, effective theories can be used.

Legitimately a part of our description of Nature as long as connections with the fundamental theory are known.

A standard procedure in science:

e.g., geometric optics \rightarrow electromagnetism, thermodynamics \rightarrow statistical mechanics





What do we know about their internal structure?



Mass: ~ 940 MeV, but u- and d-quark mass only a few MeV each!

 $1 \text{ MeV} = 1.602 \text{ x } 10^{-13} \text{ J}$

Charge: proton, +1; neutron, 0 Magnetic moment: large part is anomalous, > 150%! Spin-1/2: but total quark spin contributes only ~ 30%!

Sum of the parts is not equal to the whole!



Target: electron, proton, or nucleus such as helium or carbon



Tools of the Trade

Electron Scattering Kinematics

One-photon exchange (Born approximation) for e-p scattering To detectors e' = (E', k') $e = (E, \vec{k})$ θ $q = (v, \bar{q})$ W $p = (M, \vec{0})$

Energy transfer:

 $\nu = E - E'$

Momentum transfer:

$$\vec{q} = \vec{k} - \vec{k'}$$

4-momentum transfer squared:

$$Q^2 = -q^2 = 4EE' \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$



Electron-Proton Scattering at Fixed Momentum (Q²)





Jefferson Lab



In Newport News, VA Continuous electron beam. Energy: 0.3 to 6 GeV. 3 Experimental Halls. Polarization: $\sim 85-90\%$. **Beam energy being** upgraded to 12 GeV! International Collaboration 29 different countries representing 120 different institutions

The rest mass energy of an electron is 0.511 MeV. At 6,000 MeV, the electron is traveling 0.999999996 times the speed of light, or eight 9's.



3 Experimental Halls



- All halls can take data at the same time.
- Different detectors allow for different types of experiments.



Cross Section in Particle Physics

Cross section: the likelihood of an interaction between particles

- In our case, between the incoming electrons and the protons in the target.
 - N_e is the number of incident electrons on the target
 - N_p is the number of protons in the target
 - N_s is the number of electrons scattered from the target
 - The cross section is related to $\frac{N_s}{N_e \cdot N_p}$







Elastic Nucleon Form Factors

Electron elastic scattering from nucleons:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sigma_{Mott} \frac{1}{1+\tau} [G_E^2 + \frac{\tau}{\varepsilon} G_M^2]$$

$$(\tau = \frac{Q^2}{4M^2}, \varepsilon = [1 + 2(1 + \tau)\tan^2\frac{\theta_e}{2}]^{-1})$$

Sachs Form Factors (FFs):Electric: $G_E(Q^2)$ $G_E \equiv F_1 - \tau F_2$ Magnetic: $G_M(Q^2)$ $G_M \equiv F_1 + F_2$

$$Q^2=0$$

 $G_{Ep}(0) = 1$ $G_{Mp}(0) = \mu_p$
 $G_{En}(0) = 0$ $G_{Mn}(0) = \mu_n$

Dipole form

$$G_D(Q^2) = (1 + \frac{Q^2}{0.71 \text{GeV}^2})^{-2}$$

 $\mu_P \frac{G_E}{G_M} = 1$

$$J^{\mu}_{hadronic} = e\overline{N}(p')[\gamma^{\mu}F_{1}(Q^{2}) + \frac{i\sigma^{\mu\nu}q_{\nu}}{2M}F_{2}(Q^{2})]N(p)$$

$$p$$
 p p p' p' p'

Lowest order perturbation theory in QED (single photon exchange)



Rosenbluth Separation

$$\sigma_{R} \equiv \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \frac{\varepsilon(1+\tau)}{\sigma_{Mott}} = \tau G_{M}^{2}(Q^{2}) + \varepsilon G_{E}^{2}(Q^{2})$$

➢ No interference between G_E and G_M

Method: Vary ε at fixed Q^2 , fit σ_R , linearly Slope $\longrightarrow G^2_E$ Intercept $\longrightarrow G^2_M$



Difficulties:

- $\succ \sigma$ is not sensitive to $G_{\rm E}$ at large Q^2 and to $G_{\rm M}$ at small Q^2
- Limited by accuracy of cross section measurement at different settings
- > Radiative correction 10-30%, 2- γ exchange (ε dependent)



Existing Data: Proton FFs

 G_{Ep} and G_{Mp} Rosenbluth Data: $G_{E} \sim G_{M}/\mu \sim G_{D}$



Cross Section is not sensitive to G_E at large Q^2 and to G_M at small Q^2



The Rise of Polarization

Polarization provides an extra handle in testing theories and models:

J. D. Bjorken: "Polarization data has often been the graveyard of fashionable theories. If theorists had their way they might well ban such measurements altogether out of self protection."

Spin degrees of freedom provide a more complete understanding of theory.



Recoil Polarimetry

> Direct measurement of form factor ratios by measuring the ratio of the transferred polarization P_t and P_l .

$$I_{0}P_{t} = -2\sqrt{\tau(1+\tau)}G_{E}G_{M}\tan\frac{\theta_{e}}{2}$$

$$I_{0}P_{I} = \frac{E_{e} + E_{e'}}{M}\sqrt{\tau(1+\tau)}G_{M}^{2}\tan^{2}\frac{\theta_{e}}{2}$$

$$\frac{G_{E}}{G_{M}} = -\frac{P_{t}}{P_{I}}\frac{(E_{e} + E_{e'})}{2M}\tan\frac{\theta_{e}}{2}$$

Advantages:

- > Only one measurement is needed for each Q^2 .
- \succ Much better precision than a cross section measurement.
- Complementary to XS measurements.



Beam Target Asymmetry



> Polarized cross section: $\sigma = \Sigma + h\Delta$

> Beam helicity h=±1:
$$A = \frac{\sigma_{+} - \sigma_{-}}{\sigma_{+} + \sigma_{-}} = \frac{\Delta}{\Sigma}$$

Super ratio of asymmetries:

$$\mu_{p} \frac{G_{E}^{p}}{G_{M}^{p}} = -\mu_{p} \frac{a(\tau,\theta)\cos\theta_{1}^{*} - \frac{f_{2}}{f_{1}}\Gamma a(\tau,\theta)\cos\theta_{2}^{*}}{\cos\phi_{1}^{*}\sin\theta_{1}^{*} - \frac{f_{2}}{f_{1}}\Gamma\cos\phi_{2}^{*}\sin\theta_{2}^{*}}$$

$$a(\tau,\theta) = \sqrt{\tau(1 + (1 + \tau)\tan^2(\theta_e/2))},$$
$$\Gamma = \frac{A_1}{A_2}$$

A. J. R. Puckett et al., PRC 85 045203 (2012)



Guichon and Vanderhaeghen, PRL 91, 142303 (2003): "This discrepancy is a serious problem as it generates confusion and doubt about the whole methodology of lepton scattering experiments."



A. J. R. Puckett et al., PRC 85 045203 (2012)





Lowest order perturbation theory in QED (single photon exchange)





Two photon exchange partially included by using infrared (IR) divergent part. An IR-finite contribution is neglected and has a significant ε dependence.

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J. Arrington, W. Melnitchouk, and J. Tjon, PRC 76, 035205 (2007)

Models of two photon exchange (TPE) largely resolve the difference, moving the Rosenbluth results towards the polarization results **UNIVERSITY** of VIRGINIA

E05-015: Search for TPE Effects

Measurements of Target Single-Spin Asymmetries in the Quasi-elastic ³He¹(e, e') reaction





Theoretical Prediction



A. Afanasev et al., PRD 72, 013008 (2005)

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$$A_{y} \propto \frac{\operatorname{Im}\left(T_{1\gamma}T_{2\gamma}^{*}\right)}{\left|T\right|^{2}}$$

A. DeRujula et al., Nuc. Phys. B 35 (1971) 365

Born Approximation: $T_{2\gamma} = 0, T_{1\gamma} = real \longrightarrow A_y = 0$

Include 2γ exchange: $T_{2\gamma}$ has an imaginary part $\longrightarrow A_{y} \neq 0$

N. Christ and T.D. Lee, Phys. Rev. 143, 1310 (1966)

Experimental Results



Extracted neutron asymmetries from the measured ³He results
 First time a non-zero A_y with high-precision (~10⁻⁴ level) was measured.

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Experimental Results



Q ² [GeV ²]	Prediction [%] ^[5]	Experiment [%]
0.13	0.16	$-2.93 \pm 0.35 \pm 0.84$
0.46	-0.15	$-1.84 \pm 0.20 \pm 0.13$
0.97	-1.35	$-1.45 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.09$

Analysis by Y.-W. Zhang (Rutgers)

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Quark Orbital Angular Momentum

Calculations reproduce recently observed falloff in G_E/G_M

Descriptions differ in details, but nearly all were directly or indirectly related to quark angular momentum



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What can we learn from form factors?

 ➢ At small Q² → larger length scale, closely related to the proton size.
 ➢ In the non-relativistic limit:

$$\left\langle r_{E,M}^{2} \right\rangle = \frac{-6}{G_{E,M}(0)} \left[\frac{d}{dQ^{2}} G_{E,M}(Q^{2}) \right]_{Q^{2}=0}$$

The slope of the form factors versus Q² is related to the charge and magnetic radius of the proton.



