PR12-23-004 A Search for a Nonzero Strange Form Factor of the Proton at 2.5 (GeV/c)²

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Strongly motivated proposal

Highlights from PAC50 final report:

Motivation: The experiment aims at measuring the strange quark contribution to the proton electromagnetic form factors. This is crucial for their flavour decomposition. This compelling physics case is motivated by recent progress in lattice QCD calculations and by phenomenological models highlighting the potential of a measurement at large Q².

Summary: The presented physics case is timely and extremely compelling.

Measurement and Feasibility: Although the setup is very simple from the kinematic point of view and the measurement is largely limited by statistical uncertainty...

From the 2023 Theory TAC: In my opinion, the possibility to observe nontrivial SFF of the nucleon is very interesting and the experiment should be approved.

Updated technical details

"The PAC would like to see the results of a detailed Geant4 simulation of the experiment confirming the claim of low background in the experiment, as the independent TAC report recommended." We developed detailed GEANT4 simulation to confirm our analytic estimates of rates and backgrounds

"In addition, a detailed design of the experimental setup (including electronics and DAQ) should be presented to assess the viability of the measurement."

We present a more complete description of the front-end electronics and DAQ

From the 2023 TAC The collaboration has done a good job of developing a GEANT4-based Monte Carlo simulation of the radiation and backgrounds and detector responses, thus addressing several of the concerns of the previous TAC. It would be advised to benchmark these simulations against measurements, perhaps using data from SBS or, when it runs, the NPS.









Charge symmetry and the nucleon form factors



Charge symmetry is assumed for the form factors, $G_E^{u,p} = G_E^{d,n}$, etc. and used to find the flavor separated form-factors, measuring $G_{E,M}^{p,n}$ to find $G_{E,M}^{u,d}$

 $G_{E}^{p} = \frac{2}{3}G_{E}^{u,p} - \frac{1}{3}G_{E}^{d,p} - \frac{1}{3}G_{E}^{s}$ $G_E^n = \frac{2}{2}G_E^{u,n} - \frac{1}{2}G_E^{d,n} - \frac{1}{2}G_E^s$

But this can broken! One way is to have a non-zero strange form-factor, which breaks the "2 equations and 2 unknowns" system

The weak form factor provides a third linear combination:

$$G_E^{p,Z} = \left(1 - \frac{8}{3}\sin^2\theta_W\right)G_E^{u,p} + \left(-1 + \frac{4}{3}\sin^2\theta_W\right)G_E^{u,p}$$

A strange quark form factor would be indistinguishable from a broken charge symmetry in u,d flavors

$$\delta G_E^u \equiv G_E^{u,p} - G_E^{d,n}$$
$$\delta G_E^d \equiv G_E^{d,p} - G_E^{u,n}$$

So, more generally: this experiment tests the assumption of charge symmetry which is crucial to the flavor decomposition of the form factors









Strangeness form factors

$$egin{aligned} A_{_{PV}} &= -rac{G_FQ^2}{4\pilpha\sqrt{2}}\cdot\left[(1-4\sin^2 heta_W) -
ight.
ight. \ &+\epsilon'(1-4\sin^2 heta_W) + \ \end{aligned}$$

 $A_{PV} = (-226 \text{ ppm}) * [0.075 + 0.542 - 6.43* (G_M^s + 0.32 G_E^s) + 0.038]$ O_w





EMFF strange form-factors axial

 $A_{PV} = 150 \text{ ppm at } \theta = 15.5^{\circ}, Q^2 = 2.5 \text{ GeV}^2 \text{ (if sFF} = 0)$

Proton strange form factors via parity violating elastic electron scattering

Strange form factors are measured to be consistent with zero at low Q^2 , but do not rule out non-zero values at higher Q²,

especially for magnetic form factor which is more accessible at higher Q²











Strange form-factor predictions



Follows work from *Phys.Rev.C* 91 (2015) 3, 035205 (LFWF to tie DIS and elastic measurements in a simple model) Conclusion: sFF small (but non-zero) at low Q², but quite reasonable to think they may grow relatively large at large Q²

 $G_D = 0.0477 \text{ at } 2.5 \text{ GeV}^2$ uncertainty here ranges from (0.036,-0.051)

$G_s/G_D \sim 1$ is not excluded

 \rightarrow possible $\delta A_{PV} \sim \pm 22$ ppm, $\sim \pm 15\%$ of A_{PV}^{ns}

Tim Hobbs and Jerry Miller have both joined the collaboration





Strange form-factors on the lattice



Some lattice calculations predict non-zero central values that would be visible with the proposed precision

J. Green et al., Phys. Rev. D 92, 031501 (2015)





Q² dependence of Q⁴F₁

$$F_{1p} = e_u F_1^u + e_d F_1^d + e_s F_1^s$$

$$F_{1n} = e_u F_1^d + e_d F_1^u + e_s F_1^s$$

$$F_1^u = 2F_{1p} + F_{1n} - F_1^s \qquad F_1^d = 2F_{1n} + F_{1p} - F_1^s$$

Assuming $\delta G_{E,M}^s \sim G_D \sim 0.048 \longrightarrow \delta(Q^4 F_1^u) \sim \pm 0.17$

$$F_1 = \frac{G_E + \tau G_M}{1 + \tau} = \frac{G_E + 0.7G_M}{1.7} \sim \frac{G_D}{1.7}$$

- So far, these have relied on poorly tested assumptions of strange quark contributions.
- significant contributions (at level of 1x-2x the green band)

This measurement is needed



• Flavor separated form factors are a crucial piece of information for GPDs / nuclear femtography. • Experimentally not ruled out (at level of yellow band) and lattice calculations do not rule out





Experiment context





Experimental concept

- 6.6 GeV beam
- 10 cm LH₂ target, 65 μ A, $\mathcal{L} = 1.7 \times 10^{38}$ cm⁻²/s
- Full azimuthal coverage, ~42 msr
- Elastic kinematics between electron and proton
- Angular correlation e-p
 - Scattered electron at 15.5 degrees
 - Scattered proton at 42.4 degrees
- High resolution calorimeter for electron arm
- Calorimeter trigger for proton arm

Pipelined triggered readout, recording events with:

- E>threshold in calorimeter
- polar and azimuthal coincidence
- ECAL cluster center vs HCAL block matches ep elastic

Off-line analysis

• pixel hodoscope adds more precise proton position

р

• Tighten cuts, especially polar angle



Detector System

HCAL - hadron calorimeter

- Detector elements from the SBS HCAL
- 288 blocks, each 15.5 x 15.5 x 100 cm³
- iron/scintillator sandwich with wavelength shifting fiber readout

ECAL - electron calorimeter

- Detector elements from the NPS calorimeter
- 1200 blocks, each 2 x 2 x 20 cm³
- PbWO₄ scintillator
- 1 cm lead shield

Scintillator array

- New detector, requires construction
- 7200 blocks, each 3 x 3 x 10 cm³
- Used for position resolution in front of HCAL
- Not used to form trigger
- 5cm Lead shield in front to reduce photon load





Calorimeters reusing components

NPS electromagnetic calorimeter

- 1200 PBWO₄ scintillators, PMTs + bases
- will run in future NPS experiment
- Only PMT base region needs cooling for required performance



SBS hadronic calorimeter

- 288 iron/scintillator detectors,
 PMTs + bases
- Already in use with SBS





Scintillator Array



New detector, must be built for this experiment • Extruded plastic scintillator block • Readout with wavelength-shifting fiber • Each fiber read by pixel on multi-anode PMT • 7200 blocks, each 3 x 3 x 10 cm³ • Pipeline TDC readout (VETROC)

Design matches CDET scintillator array built for GEP

- 2400 elements, 0.5 x 4 x 50 cm³
- Already built, will run next year









Installation in Hall C

3.5 m target shift downstream from pivot due to space limitation on the SHMS side Will need a very substantial frame to support HCAL





Scattering chamber

Cylindrical scattering chamber with large Al window to pass 15° electrons and 45° protons Design uses a cone with "ribs", plus an inverted hemisphere center, windows could be as thin as 0.5mm



Requires air gap - will use He bag (not shown) to transport beam, so open air gap is only ~50cm









Triggering

Grouping calorimeter "subsystems" for energy threshold and coincidence triggering of event record • each polar column of detectors, overlapping with neighbors • sum amplitude with conservative coincidence timing window

- compare to conservative energy threshold

Electron subsystems



- 1200 PbWO₄ crystals
- 2x2x20 cm³
- 5x5 grouping for subsystem
- 240 overlapping subsystems

Advantage: simplicity over dynamic clusterization, and fully sufficient for acceptance, resolution, and background

•trigger when complementary (ECAL and HCAL) subsystems are both above threshold ~ only about 35 kHz



Proton subsystems

N.B. definitely triggered (not "streaming") readout. I had to get educated about what people meant when they said that word...

- 288 iron/scintillators
- 15.5x15.5x100 cm³
- 3x3 grouping for subsystem
- 96 overlapping subsystems







Buffered readout for fast counting

Readout for fast counting is now a very common challenge and enabled by new, and now common, technologies. In particular, SOLID will face this challenge in measurement of PV-DIS, and this experiment will be an important testing ground for precise asymmetry counting measurements.

Concept very similar to the HPS DAQ, HPS 2019 Setup: used in 2019 or NPS DAQ:

JLab FADC250 for HCAL and ECAL readout Provides the pulse information for a fast, "deadtime-less" trigger



One VXS crate will handle one sixth of ECAL + HCAL, also provide external trigger for ScintArray pipelineTDC readout

Expect ~35kHz total, ~450 Mb/s data rate, distributed over 6 separate crates





Scintillator TDC readout

Two workable options, based on previously implements MAPMT pipeline readout

model based on CDET detector (GEP)

- NINO chip module, VETROC for scintillator readout.
- Need 38 boards, 3 crates.
- Pipeline event record triggered by calorimeter coincidence trigger.
- Use HCAL subsystem number to select scint elements for readout
- Record time, time-over-threshold for scint elements (preferred)
- 35 kHz trigger rate, 8 Bt/read, 225 elements = 65 MB/sec

model based on CLAS12 RICH

- MAROC3a FPGA readout module
- discriminated signal
- SSP readout board for scintillator readout.
- Need 38 front-end boards, 2 SSP, 1 crate.
- Event record triggered by calorimeter coincidence trigger.
- All elements recorded hit or not, 35kHz*7200 bits = 32 MB/sec

Other possible discriminator boards, if availability is limited (such as SAMPA...)













ECAL cluster rates

Rates and Precision

Trigger (online)

- Elastic coincidence 18 kHz signal in full detector
- Inelastic (pion production) coincidence trigger rate ~16 kHz
- Accidental coincidence rate < 2 kHz
 - ~150 kHz total singles rate in ECAL > 4.5 GeV energy threshold, 240/5 unique subsystems
 - ~19 MHz total singles rate in HCAL > 50 MeV energy threshold, 96/3 unique subsystems
 - Temporal coincidence cut 20ns
- ~35 kHz total coincidence trigger rate
- Live time (1-35kHz*20ns) ~99.9%

Offline analysis

- Accepted elastic signal reduced to 13 kHz production statistics

Beam polarization 85% 40 days production runtime \rightarrow Raw asymmetry statistical precision $\delta(A_{raw}) \sim 5$ ppm $\rightarrow A_{PV} = -150 + / - 6.2 \text{ ppm}$

Beam and target: 60 uA on 10 cm $LH_2 =>$ luminosity is 1.6 x 10³⁸ cm⁻²/s

• ECAL cluster center, scintillator array to improve geometric cuts, cut edge hits, ECAL cut, 4 ns timing

• Inelastic (pion production) < 0.4%, accidentals < 1×10^{-5} due to angular precision and higher E cut





Elastic event discrimination







dashed lines = offline cuts

Fraction of total by event type	Online	(
Elastic scattering	0.531	
Quasi-elastic scattering (target windows)	0.430 0.015	
π^0 photo-production	0.004	

"sideband" analyses will help verify QE and inelastic asymmetries







Error budget

quantity	value	contributed uncertainty					
Beam polarization	$85\% \pm 1\%$	1.2%					
Beam energy	6.6 + / - 0.003 GeV	0.1%					
Scattering angle	$15.5^\circ \pm 0.03^\circ$	0.4%					
Beam intensity	<100 nm,<10 ppm	0.2%					
Backgrounds	< 0.2 ppm	0.2%					
G_E^n/G_M^n	-0.2122 ± 0.017	0.9%					
G^p_E/G^p_M	0.246 ± 0.0016	0.1%					
σ_n/σ_p	0.402 ± 0.012	1.2%					
$G_A^{Zp}/G_{ m Dipole}$	-0.15 ± 0.02	0.9%					
Total systema	2.2%						

There is also an uncertainty from radiative correction, is small except for a dominant "anapole" piece. If the anapole uncertainty is not improved, this would contribute at additional 4.1 ppm (2.7%) uncertainty

or 3.3 ppm

Statistical precision for A_{PV}: 6.2 ppm (4.1%)

Projected result $\delta A_{PV} = \pm 6.2 \text{ (stat)} \pm 3.3 \text{ (syst)}$



- $\delta (G_E^s + 3.1G_M^s) = \pm 0.013 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.007 \text{ (syst)} = 0.015 \text{ (total)}$

If $G_M^s = 0$, $\delta G_E^s \sim 0.015$, (about 34% of G_D) If $G_E^s = 0$, $\delta G_M^s \sim 0.005$, (about 11% of G_D)

The proposed measurement is especially sensitive to G_M^s

The proposed error bar reaches the range of lattice predictions, and the empirically unknown range is much larger.



Configuration $\#$	Procedure	Beam current, μA	time, days
C1	Beam parameters	1-70	1
C2	Detector calibration	10	2/3
C3	Dummy target data	20	1/3
C4	Moller polarimetery	1-5	3
C5	$A_{\scriptscriptstyle PV}$ data taking	60	40
	Total requested time		45

- 10+ years after the last sFF searches were performed, a new experiment is proposed for much higher Q^2 , motivated by interest in flavor decomposition of electromagnetic form factors
- Projected accuracy at 11% of the dipole value allows high sensitivity search for non-zero strange form factor.
- The proposed error bar is in the range possibly suggested by lattice predictions, and significantly inside the range from the simple extrapolation from previous data
- Technical case has been fleshed out, with a detailed MonteCarlo, significant CAD design work,
- We are requesting PAC approval of 45 days of beam time (65 uA on 10 cm long LH2 target).

Summary



Backup slides

Helicity-correlated Beam Asymmetries

Position differences (like angle, but angle ~10x smaller): APV roughly proportional to Q^3 , so sensitivity $\delta A / \delta \theta \sim 3 \delta \theta / \theta$

Assume very large (by today's standards) position difference of 200 nm, to be compared to 79cm radius of ECAL

200nm / 79 cm ~ 250 nrad
$$\rightarrow \frac{\delta\theta}{\theta}$$
 ~1 ppm, or $\frac{\delta A}{A}$ ~ 3

Azimuthal symmetry leads to excellent cancellation, so the net effects will be very small. Similarly, energy, assuming 200 nm in dispersive bpm (~1m dispersion) \rightarrow 0.2 ppm, or 0.15% Can be corrected with regression

Charge asymmetry

Using feedback, <10ppm easily achievable. 1% calibration \rightarrow 0.1ppm systematic, 0.06%

A sense of scale in important here: Qweak ($\sigma \sim 10$ ppb), PREX-2 (16ppb) and CREX (100ppb) were between 60x - 600x more precise in terms of the absolute asymmetry error bar, they were all much more sensitive to beam asymmetries (by factors of 4x-100x), and they all successfully kept the total beam correction uncertainty to be small compared to their statistical error.

With regard to the challenges of HCBA, this proposal is far inside the envelope of the tools we have used many times here at JLab.

3 ppm, ~2%.





Strawman Budget

scattering chamber	Vacuum chamber – large pipe+window Scattoring chamber shift	500k
seattering chamber	Scattering champer shift	
	ECAL support	200k
	ECAL cooling	tbd
	Lead shield for ECAL	tbd
ECAL/HCAL support	HCAL support	300k
	FADCs (exist for HCAL/ECAL)	exists
	VTP, DAQ crates + CPUs + data links	mostly exists
Scintillator array construction		
~ 7200 elements	Scint array maPMTs (125x64 channels)	450k
	Scint array extruded scint	50k
	Scint array support	100k
Scintillator array readout	Lead shield for scint array	tbd
	Scint Array TDC + front end	400k
	Total, a bit over	\$2000k



Component

Target chamber and detector structure

HCAL design and assembly

ECAL design and assembly

Scint array design and fabrication

DAQ

Analysis software

Beam Polarimetry

Polarized beam and source

Work packages

Collaboration institutions have expressed interest in various components

	Lead or interested groups
e	JLAB target and design groups
	JLab design, +
	AANL, with expert advice from Orsay
	LaTech, Indiana
	JLab DAQ Group, UVa, Ohio
	Ohio, LaTech
	UVa, Temple, JLab Hall A/C
	Indiana



Pion electro-production contribution ep detection of inelastic scattering.

Largest contribution from Delta, with strong exclusion from coincidence geometery



Angular separation:

 6° (at Δ peak) 2.8° (at π threshold)

Angular resolution $\sim 0.6^{\circ}$ (polar)

Proton cone around Δ recoil, projected to polar angle: RMS = 2° (so, 2.5 σ separation for Δ)

Fraction to elastic rate < 0.3%





Single pion photo-production contribution pion (ECAL) - proton (HCAL) coincidence

EPA: functions $N(\omega)$, different E



 $\pi 0$

proton

 $d\sigma$ ____ $\overline{dt}_{\gamma n-1}$

N



Remaining single pion events < 0.1% of elastic rate

$$_{\to\pi^- p} = 1.7 \times 0.83 \times \left(\frac{10}{s \,[\text{GeV}^2]}\right)^7 (1-z)^{-5} (1+z)^{-4} \,(\text{nb/GeV}^2),$$

$$f_{\pi^- p} = \frac{d\sigma}{dt} \prod_{\pi^- p} \frac{p_{\pi^-}^2}{\pi} \Delta \Omega_{\pi^-} f_{\pi^- p} \left[\frac{\Delta E_{\gamma}}{E_{\gamma}} \frac{t_{rad}}{X_o} \mathcal{L}_{en} \right]$$

Near the end point the photon yield is going down \rightarrow reduction in factor t_{rad}/X_0

 $f_{\pi-p}$ takes care of the cuts on angular correlation/resolution

Fraction of total by event type Onlin	
Elastic scattering 0.53 Inelastic (pion electro-production) 0.450 Quasi-elastic scattering (target windows) 0.01 π^0 photo-production 0.00	$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0.98 \\ 0 & 0.00 \\ 5 & 0.00 \\ 4 & 0.00 \end{array}$



39)1

Accidental background coincidence calculation

Online:

Electron arm single rate for $E_{e'} > 4.5$ GeV is ~150 kHz : 3 kHz/subsystem Proton arm single rate 19 MHz : 0.6 MHz/subsystem Time window in the trigger 20 ns -> total accidental coincidence rate \sim 38 Hz x 48 subsystems: 2 kHz

Offline:

Time window in analysis 4 ns, smaller area (high resolution part) and geometry cuts

 \rightarrow Accidental rate is <10 Hz



Proton sub-system

Background events from Al

- assumed 5 mils target cell windows, ~5% nucleon
- B/S < 0.1%
- a dummy target will be used to check accepted rate

• Fermi energy smears quasi-elastic scattering distribution, about 80x suppression

Beam Background - per subsystem





In the context of a very large discrepancy from SAMPLE, the anapole radiative correction was investigated as a possible cause

$$\tilde{G}_{A}^{e}(Q^{2}) = \left[\tau_{3}g_{A}(1+R_{A}^{(T=1)}) + \frac{3F-D}{2}R_{A}^{(T=0)} + (1+R_{A}^{(0)})\Delta s\right]G_{A}^{D}(Q^{2})$$

The 1-quark and many-quark corrections to the axial charges in the MS renormalization scheme.

	$R_A^{(T=1)}$	$R_A^{(T=0)}$	$R_{A}^{(0)}$
1-quark	-0.172	-0.253	-0.551
Many-quark Total	-0.086(0.34) -0.258(0.34)	0.014(0.19) -0.239(0.20)	- -0.551

values from Shi-Lin Zhu, S.J. Puglia, Barry R. Holstein, M.J. Ramsey-Musolf, Phys. Rev. D 62 (2000) 033008.

Q² dependence was explored at that time - suggested that it may be significant, but hasn't been evaluated since, or to high Q^{2} .

(Here, I believe this F(Q²) multiplies only the many-quark $R_{\Delta}^{(T=1)}$ = -0.086 contribution.)

Anapole Moment

Suggests a coefficient on the axial term at $Q^2 = 0$: $(1 + R_A^{(T=1)}) = 0.74 \pm 0.34$ Without improvement, this would correspond to 4.1ppb, or 2.7% of A_{PV}







Additional radiative correction to Q_W

$$Q^p_W = (1 + \Delta
ho + \Delta_e) \left(1 - 4 \sin^2 heta_W(0) +
ight)$$

Here, $\prod_{\gamma Z}^{v}(0) = 0.0095 \pm 0.0005$ and $\prod_{\gamma Z}^{a}(0) = -0.0036 \pm 0.0004$ which together is about 1.33 ± 0.14 ppm (0.9 $\pm 0.1\%$)



Gamma-Z Box

 $\Delta_{e}^{\prime} + \Box_{WW} + \Box_{ZZ} + \Box_{\gamma Z}(0)$

For Qweak, added ~0.5% uncertainty

Caveat: this calculation is for forward direction. Off-forward expected to be greatly reduced (but this is also model dependent).

> Axial piece smaller, didn't receive as much recent attention/update, seems stable with energy













JLab Fast Electronics FADC250 / VTP







JLab FADC250 for HCAL and ECAL readout Provides the input for a fast, "deadtime-less" trigger



VTP (VXS Trigger Processor) Performs the trigger logic computation





VXS/VME Crate

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	V 9	ME S 10	Slot i 11	num 12	ber 13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
CPU	u n u s e d	FADC250	FADC250	FADC250	FADC250	FADC250	FADC250	FADC250	FADC250	V T P	SD	FADC250	F A D C 2 5 0	F A D C 2 5 0	FADC250	F A D C 2 5 0	F A D C 2 5 0	u n s e d	u n u s e d	TI	
			Electron Calorimeter Inputs											PI	oto	n Ca	alori	imet	er Ir	npu	

One VXS crate will handle one sector of ECAL + HCAL, also provide external trigger for ScintArray TDC readout



This six synchronized but independent systems will form the full DAQ

DAQ Diagram