



Preliminary Results of the SBS-GMn Experiment with Super BigBite Spectrometer at Jefferson Lab's Hall A

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Outline

Nucleon Form Factors and the Structure of the Nucleon

SBS Program at Jefferson Lab and SBS-GMn Experiment: Brief Overview

Physics Analysis Methodology, Challenges, and Preliminary Results

Summary and outlook

Elastic *eN* Scattering and Nucleon Form Factors



Differential Cross Section in OPE Approx. (Rosenbluth Formula):

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{Mott}}\epsilon_N}{1+\tau_N} \left(\epsilon_N G_E^{N^2}(Q^2) + \tau_N G_M^{N^2}(Q^2)\right)$$

•
$$N \Rightarrow$$
 Proton (p), Neutron (n)
• $Q^2 = -q^2$
• $\tau_N = Q^2/4M_N^2$
• $\epsilon_N = (1 + 2(1 + \tau_N)\tan^2(\theta_e/2))^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} G_E^N &\Rightarrow \text{Electric Form Factor} \\ G_M^N &\Rightarrow \text{Magnetic Form Factor} \end{aligned} \quad \text{At } Q^2 = 0, \begin{cases} G_E^p(0) = 1, & G_M^p(0) = \mu_p \\ G_E^n(0) = 0, & G_M^n(0) = \mu_n \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Figure: Elastic *eN* scattering in OPE Approximation

Electromagnetic Form Factors & Nucleon Imaging

- In non-relativistic limit G_E and G_M are related to the 3D Fourier transforms of the spatial charge and current distributions within the nucleon, respectively. But relativistic corrections are large and model dependent.
- However, in the infinite momentum frame * (IMF), a model-independent density interpretation can be drawn in terms of transverse distributions by relating the form factors to Generalized Parton Distribution (GPD) moments.



Ref: Carlson et al: Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 032004 (2008)

Transverse charge density of

Longitudinally Polarized

Transverse charge density of

Longitudinally Polarized

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Super BigBite Spectrometer (SBS) Program – 2021-25



^[*] Plots from: F. Gross et al., "50 Years of Quantum Chromodynamics," Dec. 2022. arXiv: 2212.1107

- ✤ Goal: High-precision measurements of neutron and proton electromagnetic form factors in unprecedented Q² regime.
- ✤ Challenges:
 - Elastic eN scattering cross-section falls like $1/Q^{12}!!$
 - High precision tracking at very high rates.
 - Simultaneous detection of high energy nucleons with high and comparable efficiencies.

The Super BigBite Spectrometer – Design Highlights

SBS Dipole Magnet



 \circ 1.6 Tm field integral

BERKELEY LAB

- 50 msr solid angle acceptance at 15° (Achieved with a cut in the yoke for passage of the beam line)
- Separates high energy nucleons by charge

Hadron Calorimeter (HCAL)



- $\circ~~2\times3.7~m^2$ active area
- Detects both the nucleons with high & comparable efficiencies
- $\circ \approx 5 \text{ cm}$ position resolution
- $\circ \approx 1.2 \text{ ns time resolution}$

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Gas Electron Multiplier (GEM) Tracker



- \circ 50 × 150 cm² active area
- $\circ ~\approx 70 \ \mu m$ position resolution
- \circ Capable of handling hundreds of kHz rates per cm².

BigBite and Super BigBite Spectrometers in Hall A



Electron Arm: The BigBite Spectrometer (Side View)

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SBS-GMn Measurement Technique ("Ratio Method")



^[1] L. Durand, Phys. Rev. 115 1020 (1959).

- Simultaneous detection of electrons and nucleons lets us use "ratio method"^[1], which offers significant cancellation of some systematic errors.
- 3 major steps to get G_M^n :
 - Extracting QE cross section ratio, *R*^{QE}, directly from the experiment:

$$R^{QE} = \frac{\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}|_{D(e,e'n)}}{\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}|_{D(e,e'p)}}$$

Apply nuclear and radiative corrections to obtain:

$$R = \frac{\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}|_{n(e,e')}}{\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}|_{p(e,e')}} = \frac{\frac{\sigma_{\text{Mott}}\epsilon_n}{1+\tau_n} \left(\epsilon_n G_E^{n\ 2} + \tau_n G_M^{n\ 2}\right)}{\frac{\sigma_{\text{Mott}}\epsilon_p}{1+\tau_p} \sigma_{Red}^p}$$

3 Finally,

$$\boldsymbol{G_M^n} = -\left[\frac{1}{\tau_n} \frac{\epsilon_n (1+\tau_n)}{\epsilon_p (1+\tau_p)} \sigma_{Red}^p \boldsymbol{R} - \frac{\epsilon_n}{\tau_n} G_E^{n\,2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Kinematics of SBS-GMn

Table 1: Kinematics of SBS-GMn. Q^2 is the central Q^2 , E_{beam} is the beam energy, θ_{BB} is the BigBite central angle, θ_{SBS} is the Super BigBite central angle, ϵ is the longitudinal polarization of the virtual photon, $E_{e'}$ is the average scattered electron energy, and $E_{p'}$ is the average scattered proton energy.

Q ² (GeV/c) ²	ε	E _{beam} (GeV)	θ _{вв} (deg)	θ _{SBS} (deg)	E _e , (GeV)	E _p , (GeV)
3.0	0.72	3.73	36.0	31.9	2.12	2.4
4.5	0.51	4.03	49.0	22.5	1.63	3.2
4.5	0.80	5.98	26.5	29.9	3.58	3.2
7.4	0.46	5.97	46.5	17.3	2.00	4.8
9.9	0.50	7.91	40.0	16.1	2.66	6.1
13.5	0.41	9.86	42.0	13.3	2.67	8.1

- Data was collected at five different Q^2 points for G_M^n extraction.
- The high ϵ data at 4.5 GeV² is dedicated to the SBS-nTPE (E12-20-010) experiment, which aims to do first high precision Rosenbluth separation of the neutron form factors to shed some light on the two-photon exchange (TPE) contribution in the elastic *en* scattering.

Detector Performance Highlights

- BigBite Spectrometer:
 - Momentum resolution $\left(\frac{\sigma_p}{p}\right)$: 1 1.5%
 - Angular resolution (in-plane & out-of-plane): 1 2 mrad
 - Vertex resolution: 2 6 mm

- Super BigBite Spectrometer:
 - Hadron Calorimeter (HCAL):
 - \circ Time Resolution: 1.2 1.3 ns
 - \circ Position Resolution: 5 6 cm



Physics Analysis Methods – Introducing HCAL Δx **Variable**





• From the Δx plot we can extract D(e, e'n) & D(e, e'p) counts to form ratio of interest:

$$R^{QE} = \frac{\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}|_{D(e,e'n)}}{\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}|_{D(e,e'p)}}$$

 $x_{HCAL}^{meas} \Rightarrow$ Measured Proton/Neutron Position at HCAL $x_{HCAL}^{pred} \Rightarrow$ Predicted **Neutron** Position at HCAL

Quasi-Elastic (QE) Event Selection: $Q^2 = 3 (GeV/c)^2$



Squared invariant mass of the virtual photon-struck nucleon system:

$$W^2 = (P_N^i + q)^2$$

= M_N^2 (Elastic Scattering)

Quasi-Elastic (QE) Event Selection Across Q^2 Points



Signal Shapes from Monte Carlo (MC) Simulation

Steps to generate realistic signal shapes from MC:



Data/MC Fit to Δx Distribution: $Q^2 = 7.4 (GeV/c)^2$



Fit equation:

$$Data = N * (p_{signal}^{MC} + R_{n/p}^{sf} * n_{signal}^{MC}) + B * Inel_{bg}^{MC}$$

- Fit parameters:
 - 1. N Overall proton (p) normalization.
 - 2. $R_{n/p}^{sf}$ Relative neutron (n) to proton normalization.
 - 3. B Overall background normalization.
- ✤ Agreement of fit looks good in the entire range of interest.

GMn Extraction from Data/MC Fit : $Q^2 = 7.4 (GeV/c)^2$



Total Systematic Error Budget (Preliminary)

Table 2: Estimated contributions	(in percent) to systematic erro	$r \text{ on } R \text{ and } \frac{G_M^n}{\mu_n G_D}.$
		$\mu_n G_D$

Error Sources		$Q^2 (\epsilon)$						
			4.5~(0.51)	7.4(0.46)	9.9~(0.50)	13.5(0.41)		
	Inelastic Cont.	0.33	0.75	0.84	0.75	2.67		
	Nucleon Det. Effi.	2.00	2.01	2.01	2.02	2.02		
$\Lambda(D)$	Radiative Corr.	2.31	3.32	3.77	3.87	5.47		
$\Delta(h)_{sys}$	Cut Stability	0.16	0.15	0.40	0.67	0.60		
	FSI	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03		
	Total	3.08	3.95	4.37	4.48	6.44		
$\Delta(rac{G_M^n}{\mu_n G_D})_{sys}$	Inelastic Cont.	0.17	0.38	0.42	0.37	1.34		
	Nucleon Det. Effi.	1.00	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.01		
	Radiative Corr.	1.16	1.66	1.88	1.94	2.73		
	Cut Stability	0.03	0.07	0.20	0.33	0.30		
	\mathbf{FSI}	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01		
	σ^p_{Red}	0.82	0.92	1.35	1.52	1.33		
	G_E^n	0.55	0.65	0.62	0.66	0.55		
	Total	1.83	2.27	2.64	2.79	3.53		

Preliminary Results



Statistical and Systematic errors have been added in quadrature.

Impact on the Quark Form Factors (Preliminary)



- The bands represent flavor decomposition from Ye 2018 fit.
- The points are obtained by replacing G_M^n values from the fit with the ones from this work.

Summary and Outlook

- High-precision measurements of the nucleon form factors in a wide range of Q^2 reveals their electromagnetic structure. The SBS program at JLab's Hall A will extend these measurements up to and beyond 10 (GeV/c)².
- SBS-GMn, the first SBS experiment, finished data collection in Feb 2022, to extend the range of high-precision G_M^n measurement from $Q^2 = 4$ to 13.5 (GeV/c)².
- The extracted preliminary results is in line with our precision goal and will vastly advance the current understanding of the neutron's internal structure.
- Significant efforts are ongoing to publish these beautiful results as soon as possible. Stay tuned!

Acknowledgements

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SBS Collaboration Meeting (July 2023, JLab)



Thank You for Your Attention! Questions? Comments?

Backup Slides

Quark Flavor Decomposition of Nucleon Form Factors

Assumption of charge symmetry enables us to perform a quark flavor decomposition of the nucleon form factors, $F_1^{p(n)}$ and $F_2^{p(n)}$, in the form:





FIG. 3 (color). The Q^2 dependence for the *u* and *d* contributions to the proton form factors (multiplied by Q^4). The data points are explained in the text.

Scaling goes like $1/Q^4$. Indicates 2 gluons exchange i.e., probing inside the diquark.

Scaling goes like $1/Q^2$. Indicates

1 gluon exchange i.e., scattering

- \succ u and d quark FFs show dramatically different Q² dependence!
- > Naïve scaling argument proposed by Gerry Miller invokes diquark degrees of freedom.

e-

Far-Reaching Significance of Form Factor Measurements

• By assuming charge symmetry, flavor decomposition of the nucleon form factors is possible. The u and d quark form factors show dramatically different Q^2 dependence. A possible explanation invokes diquark degrees of freedom within the nucleons.

$$F_{1(2)}^{u} = 2F_{1(2)}^{p} + F_{1(2)}^{n}$$
 $F_{1(2)}^{d} = 2F_{1(2)}^{n} + F_{1(2)}^{p}$

• Nucleon form factors constraint GPDs through sum rules and enable their extraction from hard exclusive processes.

$$F_1^q(t) = \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x H_v^q(x,t) \qquad F_2^q(t) = \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x E_v^q(x,t)$$

The CEBAF at Jefferson Lab (JLab)



CEBAF at Jefferson Lab (JLab) [Aerial View]

- Jefferson Lab (JLab) is a DoE owned national accelerator facility located in Newport News, VA.
- The Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF) at Jefferson Lab is a racetrack-shaped electron accelerator located 25 feet underground.
- It can deliver up to 12 GeV continuous wave (CW) electron beam with unparalleled intensity and precision.
- JLab has 4 experimental Halls A, B, C, & D. SBS-GMn ran in Hall A.

BigBite Calorimeter (BBCAL): Pre-Shower





- PS is made of 52 rad-hard lead-glass blocks.
- Signals generated in each block are readout by a PMT.
- Block dimension: 9 x 9 x 29.5 cm³
- Blocks are stacked in 26 rows of 2 columns facing each other.
- mu-metal shielding around each block.



BigBite Calorimeter (BBCAL): Shower





- BB Shower is made of 189 lead-glass blocks.
- Signals generated in each block are readout by a PMT.
- Block dimension: 8.5 x 8.5 x 34 cm³
- Blocks are stacked in 27 rows of 7 columns facing the spectrometer axis.
- mu-metal shielding outside & between rows.



Hadron Calorimeter (HCAL)





Kinematics of SBS-GMn (Detailed)

Table I: Kinematics of SBS-GMn. Q^2 is the central Q^2 , E_{beam} is the beam energy, $\theta_{BB}(d_{BB})$ is the BigBite central angle (target-magnet distance), $\theta_{SBS}(d_{SBS})$ is the Super BigBite central angle (target-magnet distance), $\theta_{HCAL}(d_{HCAL})$ is the HCAL central angle (target-HCAL distance), ϵ is the longitudinal polarization of the virtual photon, $E_{e'}$ is the average scattered electron energy, and $E_{p'}$ is the average scattered proton energy.

SBS config.	Q² (GeV/c)²	ε	E _{beam} (GeV)	θ _{вв} (deg)	d _{вв} (m)	θ _{SBS} (deg)	d _{sвs} (m)	θ _{HCAL} (deg)	d _{HCAL} (m)	E _e , (GeV)	E _p , (GeV)
4	3.0	0.72	3.73	36.0	1.79	31.9	2.25	31.9	11.0	2.12	2.4
9	4.5	0.51	4.03	49.0	1.55	22.5	2.25	22.0	11.0	1.63	3.2
8	4.5	0.80	5.98	26.5	1.97	29.9	2.25	29.4	11.0	3.58	3.2
14	7.4	0.46	5.97	46.5	1.85	17.3	2.25	17.3	14.0	2.00	4.8
7	9.9	0.50	7.91	40.0	1.85	16.1	2.25	16.0	14.0	2.66	6.1
11	13.6	0.41	9.86	42.0	1.55	13.3	2.25	13.3	14.5	2.67	8.1

Reconstruction Challenges – Looking for Needle in a Haystack! GEM Layers on a Single Event Display ($Q^2 = 4.5(GeV/c)^2$)



Challenge: Due to very high luminosity number of 2D hit combinatorics can get astronomically high making reconstruction impossible!



- Remedy: Define a smaller track search region based on the position of highest energy BBCAL cluster.
- BBCAL constraint reduces the track search region to 2-3% of the entire GEM active area enabling reconstruction. But it required maintaining excellent gain-matching and calibration of BBCAL during run!

Physics Analysis Methods – Introducing HCAL Δx and Δy



Figure I: A conceptual and exaggerated diagram introducing HCAL Δx and Δy variables. **NOTE:** The presence of the SBS magnet has been **ignored** here.

- $\widehat{x} =$ Vertical/Dispersive direction
- \widehat{y} = Transverse direction
- **Definition of** Δx : The difference between the observed (x_{HCAL}^{obs}) and expected (x_{HCAL}^{exp}) nucleon position on HCAL in the vertical (dispersive) direction.
- **Definition of** Δy : The difference between the observed (y_{HCAL}^{obs}) and expected (y_{HCAL}^{exp}) nucleon position on HCAL in the horizontal (non-dispersive) direction.

HCAL Δx and Δy Correlation

$Q^2 = 3$ (GeV/c)², SBS 50% Field

Elastic Spot (LH₂ Data)





Analysis Cuts

Good e Track Selection Cuts:

- 1. Track Quality
 - 1. No. of GEM layers with hits > 3
 - 2. $|(vertex)_z| < 0.08 \text{ m}$
 - 3. E/p
 - 4. BB optics validity
- 2. PID Cuts
 - 1. Pre-Shower energy > 0.2 GeV
 - 2. GRINCH cluster size > 2

Good HCAL Event Selection:

- 1. HCAL energy
- 2. HCAL active area
- 3. Shower-HCAL ADC coincidence time

Quasi-Elastic Event Selection Cuts:

- 1. W² cut
- 2. $\Delta x \Delta y$ correlation / θ_{pq} cut
- 3. Δy cut

Fiducial Cut

 to match acceptance for proton and neutron

Effect of Fiducial Cut

 $Q^2 = 3 (GeV/c)^2$

No Fiducial Cut



—— HCAL Physical Boundary

---- HCAL Active Area

---- HCAL Safety Margin

With Fiducial Cut



Fiducial cut effectively matches the acceptances for D(e,e'n) and D(e,e'p) events, essential to reduce systematic error in the ratio.

Effects of Analysis Cuts

 $Q^2 = 3 (GeV/c)^2$



Inclusive W^2

 $Q^2 = 13.6 (GeV/c)^2$



• Inclusive W^2 distribution with and without $\theta_{pq} < 0.6 \deg$ cut.

Qualitative Data/MC Comparison of W^2 Distribution

 $Q^2 = 13.6 (GeV/c)^2$



• Qualitative data/MC comparison looks encouraging even for the most challenging kinematics.

Qualitative Data/MC Comparison for H(e, e'p) Events



Data/MC Comparisons of Hydrogen Elastics

Data/MC Fit to Δx Distribution for Higher Q² Points

 $Q^2 = 9.9 \text{ GeV}^2$, $0.2 \le W^2 \le 1.32 \text{ GeV}^2$, Fiducial Cuts

 $Q^2 = 13.6 \text{ GeV}^2$, $0.16 \le W^2 \le 1.44 \text{ GeV}^2$, Fiducial Cuts



Inelastic Contamination

$Q^2 = 7.4 (GeV/c)^2$



- Perform data/MC fit to Δx distribution using multiple background models.
 - Compute standard deviation of $R_{n/p}^{sf}$ values extracted from these fits.
- Quote the result as the systematic uncertainty due to inelastic contamination.

Cut Stability

- The choice of optimal cut region has some associated uncertainty.
- We vary each cut range by +10% and -10% while keeping the other cuts constant at their optimized values. Then, for each variation extract $R_{n/p}^{sf}$.
- One standard deviation of the resulting $R_{n/p}^{sf}$ distribution is quoted as the associated systematic uncertainty.



"True" HCAL NDE for MC



- One of the biggest sources of systematic errors for SBS-GMn/nTPE analysis.
- Very high detection efficiencies, almost independent of nucleon momentum, are expected from simulation.
- MC also show comparable detection efficiencies for proton and neutron, as expected from the design of HCAL.

HCAL pDE – Data/MC Comparison



Predicted TPE Contribution

Credit: Andrei Afanasev

$E_e {\rm GeV}$	$\theta_{e'} \deg$	$Q^2 \ { m GeV}^2$	$(1+\delta)_p$	$(1+\delta)_n$	$(1+\delta)_p/(1+\delta)_n$
3.73	36.0	2.99	1.01809	1.00107	1.01696
4.03	49.0	4.5	1.01746	0.999145	1.01833
5.97	46.5	7.46	1.0202	0.998075	1.02217
7.91	40.0	9.83	1.02168	0.998083	1.02364
9.86	42.0	13.5	1.02242	0.998544	1.02391

Table 1: Table of relevant kinematics in *ep*- and *en*- scattering. The last three columns represent the two-photon corrections for a proton neutron target. The last column is the ratio of the corrections off protons vs neutrons.





Impact on the Quark Form Factors (Preliminary)



• Possible zero-crossing of F_1^d at $Q^2 = 9.8 \pm 1.8 (\text{GeV/c})^2$ (obtained from a linear fit to data).

Impact on the Quark Form Factors (Preliminary) contd.

$$\begin{split} F_1^d &= 2F_1^n + F_1^p \\ &= 2\frac{\tau_n G_M^n + G_E^n}{1 + \tau_n} + \frac{\tau_p G_M^p + G_E^p}{1 + \tau_p} \\ &= \frac{2\tau_n}{1 + \tau_n} G_M^n + \frac{2}{1 + \tau_n} G_E^n + \frac{\tau_p}{1 + \tau_p} G_M^p + \frac{1}{1 + \tau_p} G_E^p \\ &= G_D \left[\frac{2\tau_n}{1 + \tau_n} \frac{G_M^n}{G_D} + \frac{2}{1 + \tau_n} \frac{G_E^n}{G_D} + \frac{\tau_p}{1 + \tau_p} \frac{G_M^p}{G_D} + \frac{1}{1 + \tau_p} \frac{G_E^p}{G_D} \right] \\ &\approx G_D \left[1.6 \frac{G_M^n}{G_D} + 0.4 \frac{G_E^n}{G_D} + 0.8 \frac{G_M^p}{G_D} + 0.2 \frac{G_E^p}{G_D} \right] \\ &\approx G_D \left[(-2.239 \pm 0.085) + (0.249 \pm 0.203) + (1.947 \pm 0.023) + (-0.015 \pm 0.033) \right] \end{split}$$