nTPE+: Measurement of the Two-Photon Exchange in Electron-Neutron and Positron-Neutron Elastic Scattering A Proposal to PAC53

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PWG Meeting July 9th, 2025



Elastic e-N scattering: Rosenbluth



Rosenbluth Measurements in *e⁻p* Scattering

- Rosenbluth technique extensively used on the proton to extract G_{F}^{p}
- Linearity in ε well tested up to $Q^2 \leq 3$ (GeV/c)²



Global Fit on Rosenbluth Slope in *e*⁻*p* Scattering

- Until GEp-I at Jefferson Lab [Phys. Rev. Lett. 84, 1398 (2000)], OPE accepted to be a sufficient approximation
- Large discrepancy between Rosenbluth and polarization transfer (for measurements at Q² ≥ 2 GeV²);
- Missing contribution likely due to Two-Photon Exchange (TPE).



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Two-Photon Exchange with Positrons

- TPE in elastic e^+N scattering:
- Hard TPE amplitude interferes with OPE amplitude:



Interference term depends on the lepton charge to the power 3:

□ TPE expected to be of same magnitude opposite sign in e^+N and e^-N ; □ measurement $e^+N / e^-N => 2$ TPE

e⁺*p* measurements

- Ratio of e^+p/e^-p measured in several experiments;
- Latest measurements in Olympus, with Q² up to 2 GeV²:

• Essentially inconclusive results

• Note: Rosenbluth/polarization discrepancy not very significant at low Q²

en Scattering Measurements

• Measurements of G_{E}^{n} :

 \square Most data below Q² = 2 GeV²;

 \square All measurements beyond Q² = 3.5 GeV² from SBS (analysis underway);

□ Rosenbluth measurements on the neutron:

• old (1960-70s), low accuracy data for $Q^2 < 2.0 \text{ GeV}^2$

♦ SBS nTPE (2022) at Q² = 4.5 GeV² (analysis underway)

Two-Photon Exchange in en Scattering

- Lack of "contradictory" measurements to evidence TPE in en scattering
- Predictions from Phys. Rev. C72, 034612 (2005) on *en* scattering:

 \square small TPE contribution at Q² around 1 GeV²;

 \Box significant at 3 GeV² and beyond;

• nTPE+: E.F. (contact), S. Alsalmi, P. Blunden, P.Datta, E. Wertz

□ Followup of LOI12+24-008: neutron TPE at $Q^2 = 3 \text{ GeV}^2$, 4.5 GeV², 5.5 GeV² □ Direct measurement of nTPE via e⁺n/e⁻n ratio → *Suggested by LOI 2024 review* □ Rosenbluth measurements of e⁻n and e⁺n cross section

 $\Box =>$ disentangle contribution of TPE in Rosenbluth/polarization discrepancies

nTPE+ with Jefferson Lab Positron Upgrade

- New injector to produce polarized positrons (and electrons)
- Promised specifications:

\Box 1µA e^+ without polarization;

 \square 60nA with polarization;

• SBS:

□ Major part of Hall A 12 GeV program at Jefferson Lab; □ SBS coupled with Bigbite for electron measurement; □ SBS uses Hadron Calorimeter (HCal) for nucleon detection / identification;

• SBS form factor program

D GMN □ *nTPE* (E12-20-010) **D**GEN **D**GEN-RP D GEP

• Other Physics: **D** KLL **D** TDIS **D** nDVCS

Neutron Measurement with Durand Technique

- Established by Durand in Phys. Rev. 115, 1020 (1959).
- Used for SBS experiments GMN, nTPE (2020), **nTPE+**:

 \square simultaneous *enlep* measurement on D_2

 \square Separation of p and n with magnet

 $\Box \sigma_{en} / \sigma_{en}$ with reduced systematics (cancellation of Fermi momentum,...)

nTPE+ Kinematics

• NTPE+ will be proposed in Hall C:

□ SBS, BigBite and target installed downstream of pivot;

D SBS, BigBite locations for our kinematics don't interfere with

HMS/SHMS at their largest angles;

nTPE+ Kinematics

• NTPE+ will be proposed in Hall C:

D SBS, BigBite and target installed downstream of pivot;

D SBS, BigBite locations for our kinematics don't interfere with

HMS/SHMS at their largest angles;

• Six kinematic settings:

 \Box each will run e^+ , e^- , LD_2 , LH_2 ;

TAC recommendation: use longer targets (30cm instead of 15cm);

□ Three settings at 2 pass, two settings at 3 pass, one setting at 1.5 pass.

| Kinematic | e^+/e^- - I_{beam} | Q^2 | Ε | E^{\prime} | θ_{BB} | p' | $	heta_{SBS}$ | ϵ |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| | (μA) | $({\rm GeV/c})^2$ | (GeV) | (GeV) | degrees | $({\rm GeV/c})$ | degrees | |
| 1+/- | $e^{+/-}$ (1.0) | 4.5 | 4.4 | 2.00 | 41.9 | 3.20 | 24.7 | 0.600 |
| 2+/- | $e^{+/-}$ (1.0) | 4.5 | 6.6 | 4.20 | 23.3 | 3.20 | 31.2 | 0.838 |
| 3+/- | $e^{+/-}$ (1.0) | 3.0 | 3.3 | 1.71 | 42.8 | 2.35 | 29.5 | 0.638 |
| 4+/- | $e^{+/-}$ (1.0) | 3.0 | 4.4 | 2.81 | 28.5 | 2.35 | 34.7 | 0.808 |
| 5+/- | $e^{+/-}$ (1.0) | 5.5 | 4.4 | 1.47 | 54.9 | 3.75 | 18.7 | 0.420 |
| 6+/- | $e^{+/-}$ (1.0) | 5.5 | 6.6 | 3.67 | 27.6 | 3.76 | 26.9 | 0.764 |

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nTPE+ Measurements: e+le- ratios R_{2v}

• R^{n}_{2v} measurement with Durand technique:

□ Measure $R_{n/p} = \sigma_{en} / \sigma_{ep}$ consecutively for positrons and electrons; □ $\rho_{\pm} = \left(\frac{\sigma_{e^{+n}}}{\sigma_{e^{+p}}}\right) / \left(\frac{\sigma_{e^{-n}}}{\sigma_{e^{-p}}}\right) = R_{2y}^n / R_{2y}^p$ for **Q**² = **3 GeV**², **4.5 GeV**², **5.5 GeV**² □ e⁻ data at same beam intensity as e⁺ data (1µA)

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nTPE+ Measurements: Rosenbluth slopes Sⁿ

• Rosenbluth measurement with Durand technique:

□ Measure
$$R_{n/p} = \sigma_{en}/\sigma_{ep}$$
 for both ε points;
□ $A = \frac{R_{n/p}^{\epsilon_1}}{R_{n/p}^{\epsilon_2}} \simeq \frac{1 + \epsilon_2 S^p}{1 + \epsilon_1 S^p} \times (1 + S^n \Delta \epsilon)$
□ Rosenbluth e^+p up to $Q^2 = 5.5 \text{ GeV}^2$ sourced from PR12+23-012
(M. Nycz et al.):
1.5
 $A = \frac{R_{n/p}^{\epsilon_1}}{C_2} \simeq \frac{1 + \epsilon_2 S^p}{1 + \epsilon_1 S^p} \times (1 + S^n \Delta \epsilon)$
 $A = \frac{R_{n/p}^{\epsilon_2}}{R_{n/p}^{\epsilon_2}} \simeq \frac{1 + \epsilon_1 S^p}{1 + \epsilon_1 S^p} \times (1 + S^n \Delta \epsilon)$
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 $A = \frac{R_{n/p}^{\epsilon_2}}{1 +$

• Sources of systematics for $R_{n/p}$:

Preliminary estimation of systematics for GMn/nTPE analysis:
 (*) => Divided by a factor 3 to account for possible improvements
 Introduced factors of covariance for correlations between settings

| $Q^2 \; (({\rm GeV/c})^2)$ | 3.0 | 4.5 | 5.5 | $\delta_{cov, e+/e-}$ | $\delta_{cov, \epsilon_1/\epsilon_2}$ |
|---|------|------|------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Radiative corrections [*] | 0.77 | 1.11 | 1.26 | +0.80 | 0.0 |
| Inelastic contamination | 0.33 | 0.75 | 0.84 | +0.5 | 0.0 |
| Nucleon detection efficiency [*] | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | +0.95 | +0.5 |
| Nucleon charge exchange in FSI | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.02 | +0.95 | 0.0 |
| Selection stability | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.40 | +1.00 | 0.0 |
| $\Delta R_{n/p}$ | 1.10 | 1.52 | 1.72 | - | - |
| $\Delta \rho_{\pm} / \rho_{\pm}$ | 0.44 | 0.74 | 0.83 | _ | _ |
| $\Delta A/A$ | 1.40 | 2.03 | 2.32 | _ | _ |

Neutron Detection Efficiency Measurement

- Neutron and protons detection efficiencies similar, but not identical;
 Determine absolute detection efficiency for both protons and neutrons;
- Explicit beam request to measure γp → π⁺n at "kinematic end-point":
 □ π⁺ measured by BigBite, n measured by HCal;
 □ Strict kinematic selection to ensure γp → π⁺n exclusivity;
 - \Box LH₂ target with 6 % X_0 copper upstream to enhance photon production ;
 - □ Electron beam to increase luminosity;
 - \square Coverage of ~1/4 of HCal surface sufficient to determine neutron efficiency

• Systematics specific to R_{2v}^{n} and S^{n} :

| $Q^2~(({ m GeV/c})^2)$ | 3.0 | 4.5 | 5.5 |
|--|------|------|------|
| $\Delta \rho_{\pm}/\rho_{\pm} \ (\text{stat})$ | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.58 |
| $\Delta \rho_{\pm}/\rho_{\pm} $ (syst) | 0.44 | 0.74 | 0.83 |
| $\Delta R^p_{2\gamma}/R^p_{2\gamma}$ [13] | 0.78 | 0.42 | 0.79 |
| $\Delta R_{2\gamma}^n/R_{2\gamma}^n$ (syst) | 0.93 | 0.89 | 1.28 |

 $R_{2\gamma}^{n}$

| $\rm Q^2((GeV/c)^2)$ | $3.0 \ (e^-)$ | $3.0 \ (e^+)$ | $4.5 \ (e^-)$ | $4.5 \ (e^+)$ | $5.5~(e^-)$ | $5.5 \ (e^+)$ |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| $\Delta A/A \text{ (stat, \%)}$ | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.58 | 0.58 |
| $\Delta A/A \text{ (syst, \%)}$ | 1.40 | 1.40 | 2.03 | 2.03 | 2.32 | 2.32 |
| $S^{p} \; [3, 14]$ | 0.1056 | -0.0267 | 0.0616 | -0.0608 | 0.0478 | -0.0773 |
| ΔS^p [3, 14] | 0.0160 | 0.0114 | 0.0165 | 0.0164 | 0.0170 | 0.0254 |
| ΔS^n | 0.100 | 0.096 | 0.103 | 0.103 | 0.087 | 0.094 |

 S^n

[3] Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 10, 102002
[13] A. Schmidt *et al.* PR12+23-008
[14] M. Nycz *et al.* PR12+23-012

nTPE+ Time Request

- **TAC recommendation**: use longer targets to maximize luminosity
- 6 kinematics with e+/e- LD2/LH2 30 cm (instead of 15 cm): 34.5 PAC days total □ 536 PAC hours (about 22 days) beam on target:
 - □ 292 additional PAC hours (584 real hours) for setting changes:
 - ♦ 144 PAC hours (288 real hours) for 6 e^+/e^- changes;

♦ 148 PAC hours (296 real hours) for 5 magnet angles and pass changes);

| Kin | e^+ or e^- | E_{Beam} (pass) | $I_{\rm Beam}$ | Q^2 | θ_{BB} / θ_{SBS} | target | PAC (real) Time | (inc | ludin | iq one | we | ek fo | r pass | change at 1 | 5 pass) |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|--|-------------|--|----------------------|-----------|--|------------|
| | | (GeV) | μA | $({\rm GeV/c})^2$ | (degrees) | | (hours) | | | <u> </u> | | | • | | |
| Optics | e- | 4.4 (2) | 10.0 | 3.0 | 28.5/34.7 | C-foil | 16 | | Pass change + BB/SBS magnet configuration change | | | | | 16(32) | |
| 2- | e^- | 4.4(2) | 1.0 | 3.0 | 28.5/34.7 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 8/8 | 4+ | e^+ | 6.6(3) | 1.0 | 4.5 | 23.3/31.2 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 24/8 |
| Reconfiguration to positrons | | | | | 24 (48) [†] | Reconfiguration to electrons | | | | | | 24~(48) [†] | | | |
| 2+ | e^+ | 4.4 (2) | 1.0 | 3.0 | 28.5/34.7 | LD2 $30 \text{cm}/\text{LH2}$ 30cm | 8/8 | 4- | e^- | 6.6(3) | 1.0 | 4.5 | 23.3/31.2 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 24/8 |
| BB/SBS magnet configuration change | | | | | 16 (32) | | | BB/SB | S magi | net configu | ration chang | ge | 16(32) | | |
| 3+ | e^+ | 4.4(2) | 1.0 | 4.5 | 41.9/24.7 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 48/16 | 6- | e^- | 6.6(3) | 1.0 | 5.5 | 27.6/26.9 | LD2 $30 \text{cm}/\text{LH2} 30 \text{cm}$ | 18/6 |
| Reconfiguration to electrons | | | | | 24 (48) [†] | Reconfiguration to positrons | | | | | 24~(48) [†] | | | | |
| NDE | e^- | 4.4 (2) | 10.0 | 4.5 | 41.9/24.7 | LH2 30cm+6% Cu Rad | 8 | 6+ | e^+ | 6.6(3) | 1.0 | 5.5 | 27.6/26.9 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 18/6 |
| 3- | e ⁻ | 4.4 (2) | 1.0 | 4.5 | 41.9/24.7 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 48/8 | Special Pass change $(1.5 \text{ pass}) + \text{BB/SBS}$ magnet configuration change | | | | | 84 (168) | | |
| | | BB/SB | S mag | net configu | ration chang | e | 16 (32) | 1+ | e^+ | $3.3~(3^*)$ | 0.5 | 3.0 | 42.8/29.5 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 24/12 |
| 5- | e^- | 4.4 (2) | 1.0 | 5.5 | 54.9/18.7 | LD2 30cm/LH2 30cm | 60/20 | Reconfiguration to electrons | | | | | | 24~(48) [†] | |
| Reconfiguration to positrons | | | | 24~(48) [†] | 1- | e^- | 3.3(1.5) | 0.5 | 3.0 | 42.8/29.5 | LD2 $30 \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{LH2}$ $30 \mathrm{cm}$ | 24/12 | | | |
| 5+ | e^+ | 4.4 (2) | 1.0 | 5.5 | 54.9/18.7 | LD2 30cm/LH2 30cm | 60/20 | Optics | e^- | 3.3(1.5) | 10.0 | 3.0 | 42.8/29.5 | C-foil | 16 |
| | | | | | | | | Total | beam | | | | | | 536 |
| | | | | | | | | Total | time req | uest | | | | | 828 (1656) |

Total time request

nTPE+ Projections

• $R^n_{2\nu}$ for all 6 settings:

nTPE+ Projections

• Estimations of $e^{+}n$ and $e^{-}n$ Rosenbluth slopes

□ Superimposed on nTPE (2022) preliminary analysis by E. Wertz* "A Measurement of the Neutron Electromagnetic Form Factor Ratio from a Rosenbluth Technique with Simultaneous Detection of Neutrons and Protons", Ph.D Thesis, William & Mary (July 2025).

 $\square \mu_n G_E^n / G_M^n$ calculated from projected Rosenbluth slopes;

 \square Other G_E^n measurements and projections are polarization data;

July 9th 2025

Summary

• nTPE+: unprecedented measurements on Two-Photon Exchange on Neutron:

 \Box Direct measurements of TPE in neutron with R^{n}_{2n}

 \square Rosenbluth measurements for $e^{+}n$ and $e^{-}n$:

• both complementary and "contradictory" to existing G_{F}^{n} measurements;

complements current SBS Form Factors program;

• nTPE+ will benefit from the return of experience of the nTPE analysis

Extraction method worked out;

Systematics mostly under control;

Thank you for your attention !

Super BigBite Spectrometer: BigBite

- Detector package tilted 10% behind dipole magnet
- Function: Electron measurement;
- Detector package:
 - **D** GEMs:

♦ 4 front layers 40 x 150 cm², 1 back layer 60 x 200 cm²

momentum trivector + vertex measurement

♦ 1% momentum resolution, 1mr angular resolution;

- **GRINCH**:
 - C4F8 Cherenkov radiator
 - Cherenkov light readout by 510 PMTs
 - ♦ Electron ID ~98% Pion rejection
- Calorimeter: (shower+preshower)
 - Shower: 7x27 lead glass modules
 - PreShower: 2x26 lead glass modules
 - ♦ Trigger
 - ♦ Electron ID/Pion rejection
- □ Hodoscope:
 - ♦ 90 Scintillators 60 x 2.5 x2.5 cm³
 - scintillators readout on both ends
 - ♦ Precision Timing: 500 ps resolution

Preshower

GRINCH

Hodoscope

Shower

GEMs

BigBite magnet

Super BigBite Spectrometer: HCal

- 12 x 24 iron/scintillator modules 15 x 15 * 90 cm³
- Function: Nucleon measurement:
 - \square Position resolution ~5.5cm
 - □ Timing resolution (ADC only) ~1.5 ns
 - □ Energy resolution ~50 %
- Nucleon identification (see next)

nTPE+ Updated for 2025

Feedback for LOI-E12+24-008

- Reviewers recommends: \Box measuring ratios of cross sections $\left(\frac{\sigma_{e^{+n}}}{\sigma_{e^{+p}}}\right) / \left(\frac{\sigma_{e^{-n}}}{\sigma_{e^{-p}}}\right)$ at each ϵ point;
 - would provide $\delta^{n}_{TPE}(\epsilon_{2}) \delta^{n}_{TPE}(\epsilon_{1})$ and $\delta^{p}_{TPE}(\epsilon_{2}) \delta^{p}_{TPE}(\epsilon_{1})$
 - hydrogen data (e^+ , e^-) needed to check systematics
 - same nucleon footprint on σ_{e+n} , σ_{e-n} may reduce HCal systematics
- Reviewers concerned with:

 \Box difference of current between e⁺ (1µA) and e⁻ (10µA) running;

- Not so relevent for Rosenbluth measurements;
- becomes more important in $\sigma_{e+n}/\sigma_{e-n}$
- Reviewers suggest another point at higher Q^2

Global Fit on Rosenbluth Slope in *e*⁻*p* Scattering

• Note: Rosenbluth/polarization discrepancy not very significant at low Q²

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nTPE+ Systematics: GMn/nTPE Analysis

• Analysis: extraction of *n*/*p* ratios:

Systematic uncertainties: Inelastic contamination

Systematic uncertainties: Inelastic contamination

- Latest improvements on estimation of inelastic contamination:

 Inelastic Monte Carlo combined with out-of-time events
 neutron/proton cross section ratio obtained with newest function compared with:
 - ◆ 2nd and 4th order polynomials, gaussian to fit inelastic background;

 $\bullet \Delta y$ side-band selection

□ Reweight MC events with HCal non-uniformity map;

HCAL Non-Uniformity Corrections

 Reweight MC events with HCal non-uniformity map: □ Analysis of all combined SBS8 LH2 settings for map efficiency: Display="block-transform: series of the seri \Box Correction modifies $\sigma_{_{en}}/\sigma_{_{en}}$ by ~0.2 % (SBS8) and ~0.5 % (SBS9); D Other sources of systematics:

- Lack of absolute neutron detection efficiency measurement;
- \bullet Absolute proton detection efficiency uncertainty larger at high Q²;

Systematic uncertainties: Radiative corrections

• Radiative corrections (analysis credit: P. Datta, LBNL):

□ SIMC events with the following configurations for radiative effects:

- ♦ (1) No radiative corrections i.e. none of the tails are radiated
- \bullet (2) One tail = 0 => All (e, e', and p) tails are radiated
- \bullet (3) One tail = -3 => All but p tails are radiated

 \square SIMC events processed through g4sbs \rightarrow libsbsdig \rightarrow SBS-offline;

 \square Properly weighted Δx distribution for all types of events with the same selection \square Extract individual yields and then quantify the correction

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• Final state interactions calculated by M. Sargsian: \Box calculations of final state charge exchange $ep \rightarrow en$ and $en \rightarrow ep$ on deuterium

 \square Since D is symmetric, $ep \rightarrow en \equiv en \rightarrow ep$:

- ratio $R_{n/p}$ basically not affected
- uncertainty on ratio $R_{n/p}$ extremely small

Preliminary systematic uncertainties

• Systematics analysis credit: P. Datta (LBNL);

 $\hfill\square$ Improvement can be achieved for radiative corrections and nucleon detection efficiency

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

| | Error Sources | | | $Q^2~(\epsilon)$ | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| | Entor Sources | 3(0.72) | 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 |
| $\Delta(n)_{sys}$ | 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 |
| | 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 |
| $\Delta(\frac{G_M^n}{\mu_n G_D})_{sys}$ | Cut Stability | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.20 | 0.33 | 0.30 |
| $\mu_n C D^{-1} c$ | 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 |