



DVCS on a longitudinally polarised proton target

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S. Polcher Rafael – CLAS collaboration meeting July 2025

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Introduction

- **Outstanding question : How does the** nucleon's mass and spin arise from partons?
- First step is to map out the nucleon
- GPDs (Generalized Parton Distributions) describe • correlations between the longitudinal momentum and transverse position of partons in the nucleon





- Access to its → mechanical properties
- Access to the spin decomposition of the nucleon

$$=\sum_{q}^{q} \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \, x(H^{q}(x,\xi,0) + E^{q}(x,\xi,0)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \, H^{g}(x,\xi,0) + E^{g}(x,\xi,0)^{\frac{2}{4}}$$

[Phys.Rept.418:1-387] [Eur. Phys. J. C78 no. 11, 890]

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 $\frac{1}{2} = \sum J^q + J^g$

Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering

- DVCS offers the most straightforward access to GPDs
- DVCS can be factorised into :
 - → Hard part y*q scattering computed in perturbative QCD
 - → Soft part described by 4 GPDs H, Ĥ, E, Ĕ at leading order & twist
- Two indistinguishable processes, DVCS and Bethe-Heitler

$$|T|^{2} = |T_{\rm DVCS}|^{2} + |T_{\rm BH}|^{2} + \underbrace{T_{\rm DVCS}T_{\rm BH}^{*} + T_{\rm DVCS}^{*}T_{\rm BH}}_{\rm I}$$

The amplitude is expressed as a function of FFs and CFFs which are functions of GPDs

$$\mathcal{F} = \int_{-1}^{1} dx F(\mp x, \xi, t) \left[\frac{1}{x - \xi + i\epsilon} \pm \frac{1}{x + \xi - i\epsilon} \right]$$

[Eur. Phys. J. A 52, 151]

l'(k')l(k)hard $x+\xi$ $x-\xi$ soft **GPDs** N'(p')N(p)t



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Observables

- · Asymmetries in the DVCS cross section are sensitive to CFFs
- Beam spin asymmetry (BSA), polarised electron and unpolarised proton

$$A_{\rm LU}(\phi) \sim \frac{s_{1,\rm unp}^{\mathcal{I}}\sin\phi}{c_{0,\rm unp}^{\rm BH} + (c_{1,\rm unp}^{\rm BH} + c_{1,\rm unp}^{\mathcal{I}} + \ldots)\cos\phi...} \qquad s_{1,\rm unp}^{\mathcal{I}} \propto \Im m[F_1\mathcal{H} + \xi(F_1 + F_2)\widetilde{\mathcal{H}} - \frac{t}{4M^2}F_2\mathcal{E}].$$

• Target spin asymmetry (TSA), unpolarised electron and longitudinally polarised proton

$$A_{\rm UL}(\phi) \sim \frac{s_{1,\rm LP}^{\mathcal{I}}\sin\phi}{c_{0,\rm unp}^{\rm BH} + (c_{1,\rm unp}^{\rm BH} + c_{1,\rm unp}^{\mathcal{I}} + \ldots)\cos\phi + \ldots} \qquad s_{1,\rm LP}^{\mathcal{I}} \propto \Im[F_1\widetilde{\mathcal{H}} + \xi(F_1 + F_2)(\mathcal{H} + \frac{x_b}{2}\mathcal{E}) - \xi(\frac{x_b}{2}F_1 + \frac{t}{4M^2}F_2)\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}]$$

Double spin asymmetry (DSA), aligned and anti-aligned electron and proton spin

$$A_{\rm LL}(\phi) \sim \frac{c_{0,\rm LP}^{\rm BH} + c_{0,\rm LP}^{\mathcal{I}} + (c_{1,\rm LP}^{\rm BH} + c_{1,\rm LP}^{\mathcal{I}})\cos\phi}{c_{0,\rm unp}^{\rm BH} + (c_{1,\rm unp}^{\rm BH} + c_{1,\rm unp}^{\mathcal{I}} + \ldots)\cos\phi\ldots} \qquad \qquad c_{0,\rm LP}^{\mathcal{I}}, c_{1,\rm LP}^{\mathcal{I}} \propto \Re e[F_1\widetilde{\mathcal{H}} + \xi(F_1 + F_2)(\mathcal{H} + \frac{x_b}{2}\mathcal{E}) - \xi(\frac{x_b}{2}F_1 + \frac{t}{4M^2}F_2)\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}]$$

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The RGC experiment

- New polarised target APOLLO, cryogenic solid target
- Dynamically polarised hydrogen or deuterium in NH3 or ND3 cells
- Data taking from June 2022 to March 2023 in three run periods, we will mainly focus on Summer 22 data
- Goal of this analysis: Measure BSA, TSA and DSA on polarised proton

	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
FT	ON	OFF	ON
Magnets (solenoid, torus)	-1, -1	-1, -1 / +1, -1	-1, -1 / -1, +1
Run range	16089 - 16788	16843 - 17183 /	17477 - 17768 /
		17185 - 17408	17769 - 17811
PAC days	28	30	22
Total charge on NH_3 [mC]	4.5	3.5 / 2.2	1.7 / 0.3





[DOI: 10.25777/36yz-ft35]

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DVCS candidate selection

- Request at least one electron, one proton, and one photon in the event
- Kinematic cuts:
 - Q² > 0.95 GeV²/c⁴
 - W > 1.95 GeV/c²
 - Electron P > 1 GeV/C
 - Photon E > 2 GeV
- Apply DC, ECAL, FTCAL fiducial cuts and PID cuts
- QADB selection of events fit for asymmetry measurements
- Application of GEMC based momentum corrections
- All three outgoing particles are detected so we can build exclusivity variables



DVCS event selection

- Application of broad exclusivity cuts on 8 variables (level 2 cuts)
- Instead of applying fine cuts on all variable we compute a distance from each event to an ideal exclusive event (ME=0, $\Delta \phi$ =0, ...)
- The relative weights of each variable needs to be scaled to account for different with of the distributions, different units ...
 - Mahalanobis distance: distance weighted by the covariance matrix between the different variables

$$d(ec{x},ec{y}) = \sqrt{(ec{x}-ec{y})^T \Sigma^{-1} (ec{x}-ec{y})}$$

- Covariance matrices computed from a GEMC simulation of DVCS events on a proton target (separated matrices for photons in the FD and FT)
- Apply an exclusivity cut on one variable instead of 8 → simpler to adjust and improved efficiency





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DVCS event selection

- Nuclear background
 - Data taken on a carbon target of similar area density to NH3 → background estimate
- Cut at distance < 5, able to cut almost all nuclear background





Nuclear background

$$A_{UL} = \frac{1}{D_f} \frac{N^{++} + N^{-+} - N^{+-} - N^{--}}{P_t^{-}(N^{++} + N^{-+}) + P_t^{+}(N^{+-} + N^{--})}$$

• To take into account the remaining nuclear background, the TSA and DSA are scaled by the dilution factor



$$n_{NH3}=f_c[(L-l_{NH3})
ho_{He}\Delta\sigma_{He}+l_{NH3}
ho_{NH3}(rac{1}{6}\Delta\sigma_C+3\Delta\sigma_H)]$$

• The dilution factor is the fraction of the total number of events that comes from the polarised free protons

$$Df = rac{3 l
ho_{NH3} \Delta \sigma_{H}}{(L-l)
ho_{He} \Delta \sigma_{He} + l
ho_{NH3} (rac{7}{6} \Delta \sigma_{C} + 3 \Delta \sigma_{H})}$$

RGC took data with multiple targets:

- Empty target \rightarrow Foil contribution
- He bath \rightarrow He contribution
- Carbon \rightarrow Nitrogen contribution
- CH2 \rightarrow Hydrogen contribution

[S.E. Kuhn]

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Dilution factor

- Foil contribution is neglected because less than 10 DVCS events collected in the empty target runs
- Helium contribution is very small
- Dilution factor is stable across all kinematic variables at 91 ± 1%
- Packing fraction, $58 \pm 1 \%$



Binning

- Two bins in Q^2 and x_b and three bins in t, same number of DVCS events in each bin
- The binning in ϕ follows the distribution in each bin, with the following requirements
 - → A minimum of 300 events per ϕ bin
 - → At least 15° wide



π^0 subtraction method



Significant background that needs to be subtracted

A $\pi^0 \rightarrow \chi \chi$ decay can pass the DVCS selection if one of the

$$N^{bt} = \frac{Y^{bt}}{\text{Charge}^{bt}} (1 - R^{bt})$$

• R is estimated from a data π^0 sample, each π^0 is decayed 1000x and passed through the CLAS12 simulation.

$$R = \frac{S^{\rm fDVCS}}{S^{\pi^0}} \times \frac{Y^{\pi^0}}{Y^{\rm DVCS}}$$

Yⁱ are the raw yields, Sⁱ are the weighted number of decays that pass the DVCS or π^0 selection



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π^0 contamination in data

- Contamination of up to 60% in some kinematic bins (largest contamination in bin #8)
- The contamination is larger in central ϕ bins where the Bethe-Heitler cross-section is small





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Target polarisation



$$A_{th} = \frac{A_{exp}}{P_b P_t}$$
 $A_{exp} = \frac{N^+ - N^-}{D_f (N^+ + N^-)}$

- The target polarisation is extracted from the ratio of theoretical to measured elastic asymmetry
 - → P_t⁺ = 86 ± 3 %
 - → $P_{t} = 80 \pm 3 \%$
- Efforts are ongoing to cross-check elastic results with target polarisation measured from DIS asymmetries, and from MNR readings



N. Pilleux

Comparison with RGA BSA on unpolarised proton

- RGA BSA measurement on a liquid hydrogen target, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 211902]
 - Same kinematic reach and no nuclear background \rightarrow Good cross check
- This work only includes part of the systematics uncertainties



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Comparison with CLAS6 TSA

- CLAS6 eg1-dvcs TSA measurement [Phys. Rev. D 91, 052014] → Different beam energy and kinematic reach
- This work only includes part of the systematics uncertainties



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Comparison with CLAS6 DSA

- The main contribution to the DSA is from the Bethe-Heitler asymmetry which is differs with the beam energy
- This work only includes part of the systematics uncertainties



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Comparison with models

- In the next slides the asymmetries are compared to models from the <u>Partons</u> and <u>Gepard</u> libraries
- Three models/fits are compared:
 - KM15 implemented in Gepard
 - GK19 implemented in Partons
 - CFFNN, 2019 CFF fit with a neural network parametrisation implemented in Partons. The comparison is restricted to bins with $-t/Q^2 < 0.2$, where the fit is constrained
- The model points are computed at the average kinematics of each ϕ bin, and over 100 ϕ points at the average kinematics of the Q², x_b, t bin to have a continuous line.



Thanks to K. Kumerički and P. Sznajder for their help !



Comparison with models, TSA

• The model points are computed at the average kinematics of each specific phi bin, and the model line is computed at the kinematics of the Q², x_b, t bin



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First look at the Fall 22 and Spring 23 BSA

- The QADB timelines are not available for Fall 22 and Spring 23 and no careful run selection has been done yet
- Fall 22 in the FTOFF configuration \rightarrow different kinematic reach



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Summary & outlook



- The analysis of DVCS spin asymmetries on the polarised proton with RGC data is well advanced
- Tools are in place to take into account nuclear and $\pi^{\scriptscriptstyle 0}$ backgrounds
- Preliminary results are consistent with previous measurements by the CLAS collaboration
- The main remaining steps are:
 - Improvement of the momentum correction
 - Careful systematic uncertainty evaluation
 - Study how the different run period could be merged

Analysis overview

To measure the BSA, TSA, and DSA we need the following elements:

- Corrected DVCS yields N^{bt} in each beam and target spin configurations
 - Selection of DVCS candidates
 - Subtract π^0 contamination
- Dilution factor D_f,
 - Accounts for the nuclear background in the NH3 target
- Target polarisation P_t
 - Measured from elastic scattering
- Beam polarisation P_b
 - Measured with a Moeller polarimeter in the experimental hall, P_b = 82.5 ± 0.2%

$$A_{LU} = \frac{1}{P_b} \frac{P_t^-(N^{++} - N^{-+}) + P_t^+(N^{+-} - N^{--})}{P_t^-(N^{++} + N^{-+}) + P_t^+(N^{+-} + N^{--})}$$

$$A_{UL} = \frac{1}{D_f} \frac{N^{++} + N^{-+} - N^{+-} - N^{--}}{P_t^{-}(N^{++} + N^{-+}) + P_t^{+}(N^{+-} + N^{--})}$$

$$A_{LL} = \frac{1}{D_f P_b} \frac{N^{++} + N^{--} - N^{+-} - N^{-+}}{P_t^{-}(N^{++} + N^{-+}) + P_t^{+}(N^{+-} + N^{--})}$$

Fiducial cuts

• DC fiducial cuts on the edge variable

Torus polarity	Region 1 [cm]	Region $2 [\mathrm{cm}]$	Region 3 [cm]
Inbending	4	3	7
Outbending	3	3	10

- PCAL, medium fiducial cuts, lu > 29 , lv,lv > 14cm
- FTCAL, cut using the the x,y coordinate of the track at the surface of FTCAL, 8.25 < sqrt(x²+y²) < 15.75 cm

Centre x [cm]	Centre y [cm]	Radius [cm]
-8.42	9.89	1.6
-9.89	-5.33	1.6
-6.15	-13	2.3
3.7	-6.5	2





Energy loss corrections

- Monte-Carlo based momentum corrections on the electron and proton
- Small correction for the electron and proton in the CD (<1%)
- Proton in FD, correction split in two θ region at 27° to account for the difference in material crossed



 $f(p) = a + b/p + c/p^2 + d/p^3$

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π^0 acceptance maps

- The DVCS analysis needs to be restricted to areas of the detector where π^0 can be measured so that the contamination can be estimated
- Flat generation of events of π^0 decays between 0 and 10 GeV over FD sector 1 and FT
- Count the number of well reconstructed π^{o} and generated π^{o} in bins of the leading photon position and momentum
- If a DVCS photon is in a bin where the leading photon of a π^0 decay has a less than 10% chance being detected, the event is cut
- Survival rate of DVCS events: 97%



Contamination fraction in data



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Asymmetries and uncertainties

• Two sources of uncertainty are included:

 $N = \frac{1}{FC} \left(Y^{\rm D} - \frac{S^{\rm fD}}{S^{\pi^0}} Y^{\pi^0} \right)$

- Statistical uncertainty on the DVCS yield
- Statistical uncertainty in the $\pi^{\scriptscriptstyle 0}$ yield used in the $\pi^{\scriptscriptstyle 0}$ subtraction
- No systematic uncertainty on the dilution factor, on the target/beam polarisation or on the π^0 "acceptance ratio" is included

$$A_{LU} = \frac{1}{P_b} \frac{P_t^- (N^{++} - N^{-+}) + P_t^+ (N^{+-} - N^{--})}{P_t^- (N^{++} + N^{-+}) + P_t^+ (N^{+-} + N^{--})}$$
$$A_{UL} = \frac{1}{D_f} \frac{N^{++} + N^{-+} - N^{+-} - N^{--}}{P_t^- (N^{++} + N^{-+}) + P_t^+ (N^{+-} + N^{--})}$$
$$A_{LL} = \frac{1}{D_f P_b} \frac{N^{++} + N^{--} - N^{+-} - N^{-+}}{P_t^- (N^{++} + N^{-+}) + P_t^+ (N^{+-} + N^{--})}$$

$$\sigma_{N} = \frac{1}{FC} \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial N}{\partial Y^{\rm D}}\right)^{2} \sigma_{Y^{\rm D}}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial N}{\partial Y^{\pi^{0}}}\right)^{2} \sigma_{Y^{\pi^{0}}}^{2}}$$

$$\sigma_{N} = \frac{1}{FC} \sqrt{\sigma_{Y^{\rm D}}^{2} + \left(\frac{S^{\rm fD}}{S^{\pi^{0}}}\right)^{2} \sigma_{Y^{\pi^{0}}}^{2}}$$

$$\sigma_{N} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial A}{\partial N^{++}}\right)^{2} \sigma_{N^{++}}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial A}{\partial N^{+-}}\right)^{2} \sigma_{N^{-+}}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial A}{\partial N^{-+}}\right)^{2} \sigma_{N^{-+}}^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial A}{\partial N^{--}}\right)^{2} \sigma_{N^{-+}}^{2}}$$

Comparison to models, BSA

• The model points are computed at the average kinematics of each specific phi bin, and the model line is computed at the kinematics of the Q², x_b, t bin



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Comparison to CLAS6 BSA

- CLAS6 BSA measurement [Phys. Rev. D 91, 052014] at JLab 6GeV → Different beam energy and kinematic reach
- The published results include systematic uncertainties and this work only includes statistical uncertainties.



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Comparison to CLAS6 DSA

- CLAS6 DSA measurement [Phys. Rev. D 91, 052014] at JLab 6GeV → Different beam energy and kinematic reach
- The published results include systematic uncertainties and this work only includes statistical uncertainties



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π^0 selection & decays

- Sample is selected with broad exclusivity cuts, to also include events from nuclear background and semi-inclusive channels
- Each π^0 is then decayed 1000x, decays are passed through the CLAS12 simulation software and weighted
- The π^0 selection is applied to the decays and weighted. The simulated decays and data distributions match.



 π^0 mass vs proton missing mass

mass [GeV/c²] 0.10 0.14

۴0 ·

0.0

0.06

π^0 subtraction validation

- Apply the method to a π^0 simulation
- All events selected as DVCS are π^0 contamination
 - Contamination fraction of a 100%
- Check if the subtraction method is able to reproduce the generated false DVCS background



π^0 subtraction validation



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Integrated asymmetries



Comparison with models, DSA

• The model points are computed at the average kinematics of each specific phi bin, and the model line is computed at the kinematics of the Q², x_b, t bin



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Cut comparison



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Cut comparison, TSA



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