Parity-violating Electron Scattering and Strangeness in the Nucleon: Results from HAPPEX-II



L. J. Kaufman University of Massachusetts

The HAPPEX Collaboration

Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility – Argonne National Laboratory – CSU, Los Angeles -William and Mary – Duke – DSM/DAPNIA/SPhN CEA Saclay - FIU – Harvard - INFN, Rome - INFN, Bari – IAE, Beijing – IPT Kharkov - Jozef Stefan Institute – Kent State - MIT – NPIRAS, St. Petersburg – ODU – Rutgers - Smith College – Syracuse – Temple – U. Blaise Pascal – U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – UMass, Amherst – U. of Kentucky – U. of Virginia – UST, Heifei

Strangeness of the Proton



Quark Model: proton = uud

- → QCD : proton = uud + "sea"
- → Sea = $q\overline{q}$ pairs of *u*, *d*, *s* quarks

Probing strange quarks \longrightarrow Access only the Sea

Compares Quark Model to QCD

Sea Life

The three "constituent" quarks contribute

- only 1% of the proton mass
- only 30% of the proton spin
- The sea provides the rest!





Measurements say that somewhere in the range of • 0 to 20% of the proton mass

• 0 to 10% of the proton spin may be due to strange quarks.

Dominant uncertainty is from messy details in interpreting the data.

At JLab, we can make a VERY CLEAN measurement of the strange quark contributions to the proton's *Charge* and *Magnetization*

Strange Charge and Magnetism

Elastic electron scattering from the nucleus measures *charge* and *magnetization* (average locations and motion of quarks).



Isolating Strange Form Factors

Electromagnetic elastic scattering (3 active quark flavors):

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

Charge Symmetry: $p \leftrightarrow n$, $u \leftrightarrow d$, $s \leftrightarrow s$

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

Need a third linear independent relationship between quark form factors \implies Weak neutral current

$$G_{E,M}^{pZ} = \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{3}\sin^2\theta_W\right)G_{E,M}^u - \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3}\sin^2\theta_W\right)(G_{E,M}^d + G_{E,M}^s)$$

Parity-Violating Electron Scattering

For a proton:



For ⁴He: G_E^s alone

$$A^{PV} = -\frac{A_0}{2} \left(2\sin^2\theta_W + \frac{G_E^s}{G_E^{p\gamma} + G_E^{n\gamma}} \right)$$

PV Electron Scattering to Measure Weak NC Amplitudes



 $\sigma = \left| \mathcal{M}^{\gamma} + \mathcal{M}^{Z} \right|^{2}$

Interference with EM amplitude makes NC amplitude accessible

$$A_{PV} = \frac{\sigma_R - \sigma_L}{\sigma_R + \sigma_L} \sim \frac{\gamma}{|\gamma_R|^2} \sim \frac{Z^0}{|\gamma_R|^2} \sim \frac{\mathcal{M}^Z}{\mathcal{M}^\gamma} \sim \frac{Q^2}{(M_z)^2}$$

Experimental Mirror

How to measure the weak scattering probability?
Exploit a peculiar property of the weak force: it does not obey mirror ("parity") symmetry

Flipping beam polarization creates mirrorsymmetric configurations.

Compare scattering rate between mirrorsymmetric configurations. Any difference is due to the Weak Force!



The difference is only 1 part in a million

How do you measure such a small number with precision? Flip polarization 30 times a second, measure the asymmetry each time with 0.05% precision... and do this mini-experiment 25 million times!

Jefferson Laboratory

A

CEBAF Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility

Hall

1500 MHz RF with 3 interleaved 500 MHz beams
Independent extraction to 3

- experimental halls
- High current and polarization

Hall A



Spectrometer and Detector

Very clean separation of elastic events by HRS optics



High-Power Cryogenic Target





20 cm 1.8% R.L. LH₂ 20 cm 2.2% R.L. ⁴He gas cell - Cold (6.6K), dense (230 psi) Al wall thickness - 4 mils (H)

- 10 mils (He)



Major effort was applied to reducing beam asymmetries at the polarized source

Beam must look the same for the two polarization states!



Also, major work on by Center for Advanced Studies of Accelerators (CASA) on beam transport to avoid amplifying beam asymmetry.

Result: Average position the same to ~1 nanometer for hydrogen measurement

Major achievement from close collaboration between nuclear and accelerator scientists

¹H Preliminary Results

Raw Parity Violating Asymmetry

~25 M pairs, width ~540 ppm

A_{raw} correction ~11 ppb





 $Q^2 = 0.1089 \pm 0.0011 GeV^2$

 A_{raw} = -1.418 ppm ± 0.105 ppm (stat)

⁴He Preliminary Results

Raw Parity Violating Asymmetry

35 M pairs, total width ~1130 ppm

A_{raw} correction ~ 0.12 ppm





 $Q^2 = 0.07725 \pm 0.0007 \text{ GeV}^2$

A_{raw} = 5.253 ppm ± 0.191 ppm (stat)

HAPPEX-II 2005 Preliminary Results

HAPPEX-⁴He:

 $Q^2 = 0.0772 \pm 0.0007 (GeV/c)^2$ $A_{PV} = +6.43 \pm 0.23 (stat) \pm 0.22 (syst) ppm$

 $A(G^{s}=0) = +6.37 ppm$ $G_{E}^{s} = 0.004 \pm 0.014_{(stat)} \pm 0.013_{(syst)}$

HAPPEX-H:

 $Q^2 = 0.1089 \pm 0.0011 (GeV/c)^2$ $A_{PV} = -1.60 \pm 0.12 (stat) \pm 0.05 (syst) ppm$

 $A(G^{s}=0) = -1.640 \text{ ppm } \pm 0.041 \text{ ppm}$

 G_{E}^{s} + 0.088 G_{M}^{s} = 0.004 ± 0.011_(stat) ± 0.005_(syst) ± 0.004_(FF)

HAPPEX-II 2005



World Data near Q² ~0.1 GeV²



High precision of HAPPEX-II places very tight bounds on strange contributions

<1% of proton charge density <5% of proton magnetic density

The strange quarks are in there... but all measurements of static properties (mass, charge, spin, etc...) are consistent with **zero!**

There is no known fundamental reason why this should be!

Is there an unknown symmetry of the Strong Force that requires this contribution to be small?

Can We Measure the Contribution of Strange Quarks to Form Factors?

