

A New Proposal to Jefferson Lab PAC48

Measurement of the Two-Photon Exchange contribution to the electron-neutron elastic scattering cross section

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Abstract

We propose to make a high precision measurement of the two-photon exchange contribution (TPE) in elastic electron-neutron scattering at a four-momentum transfer $Q^2 = 4.5$ $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$. While significant efforts to study the two-photon-exchange have focused around elastic electron-proton scattering, the impact of TPE on neutron form factors was never examined experimentally. The proposed experiment will provide the very first assessment of the two-photon exchange in electron-neutron scattering, which will be important for understanding the nucleon form factor physics.

The proposed experiment will be performed in Hall A using the BigBite (BB) spectrometer to detect the scattered electrons and the Super-BigBite (SBS) to detect the protons and neutrons. The experiment should run concurrently with the E12-09-019 G_M^n and E12-17-004 G_E^n -Recoil experiments, which are expected to run in 2021. The experimental setup of the proposed experiment will be identical to that of E12-09-019 experiment.

The “ratio” method will be used to extract the electric form factor of the neutron G_E^n by scattering unpolarized electrons from deuterium quasi-elastically at two beam energies 4.4 and 6.6 GeV and electron scattering angles 41.9 and 23.3 degrees respectively. In the proposed approach, systematic errors are greatly reduced compared to those in the traditional single electron arm configuration. Several experiments at Mainz and JLab have used the ratio method to measure the neutron magnetic form factor in the past years. The method can be extended to extract the neutron electric form factor even with less stringent requirements on the knowledge of the absolute neutron detection efficiency and experimental kinematics.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1950's, a series of experiments performed by R. Hofstadter [1] revealed that the nucleons have a substructure (would be called later the quarks and gluons). The experiment confirmed M. Rosenbluth's theory [2] based on one-photon exchange approximation. In the Born approximation, where the interaction between the electron and the nucleon occurs *via* an exchange of a one virtual photon (OPE), the unpolarized $e - N$ elastic cross section can be expressed in terms of a nucleon magnetic, G_M , and electric, G_E , form factors. These form factors describe the deviation from a point-like scattering cross section:

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{eN \rightarrow eN} = \frac{\sigma_{Mott}}{\epsilon(1 + \tau)} [\tau \cdot G_M^2(Q^2) + \epsilon \cdot G_E^2(Q^2)] = \sigma_T + \epsilon \cdot \sigma_L, \quad (1)$$

where E and E' are the incident and scattered electron energies, respectively, θ is the electron scattering angle, $\tau \equiv -q^2/4M^2$, with $-q^2 \equiv Q^2 = 4EE' \sin(\theta/2)$ being the negative four momentum transfer square, M is the nucleon mass, and $\epsilon = [1 + 2(1 + \tau) \tan^2(\theta/2)]^{-1}$ is the longitudinal polarization of the virtual photon, σ_L and σ_T are the cross sections for longitudinally and transversely polarized virtual photons, respectively.

The linear ϵ dependence of the cross section is due to σ_L term, see Eq. 1. The ratio σ_L/σ_T is a Rosenbluth slope related to G_E/G_M (in OPE), see Fig. 1. The data show that at Q^2 of 4-5 $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$ the Rosenbluth slope is three-four times larger than it suppose to be (in OPE) for the observed values of the G_E^p/G_M^p ratio.

The nucleon electromagnetic form factors can reveal a lot of information about the nucleon internal structure, as well as the quark distribution. The form factors depend only on one variable the negative square of the four-momentum transfer carried by the photon, Q^2 . In the limit of large Q^2 , pQCD provides well-motivated predictions for the Q^2 -dependance of the form factors and their ratio. However, it was never predicted at what Q^2 range the pQCD prediction (scaling) will be valid. Studies of GPDs show that pQCD validity will require a very large Q^2 of 100 $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$. It was discovered at JLab, using the double polarization methods, that the proton electric and magnetic form factors behave differently starting at

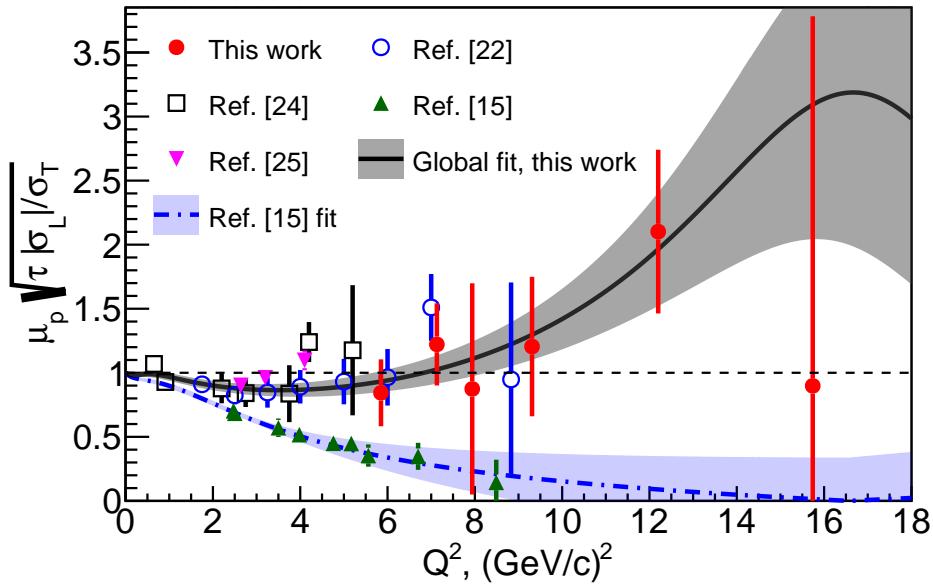


FIG. 1. The square root of Rosenbluth slope, corrected for kinematical factor $\sqrt{\tau}$ and μ_p , observed in elastic electron-proton scattering, adopted from Ref. [3].

²⁷ $Q^2 \approx 1 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$.

²⁸ Experimentally, the nucleon form factors can be measured using one of two techniques:
²⁹ polarization transfer technique and Rosenbluth technique. The polarization method exam-
³⁰ ines the polarization transfer from longitudinally polarized electron to the recoiling nucleon
³¹ and determine the resulting azimuthal asymmetry distribution using a polarimeter. Alter-
³² natively, one can use the polarized electron beam and a polarized target. While in the
³³ Rosenbluth method, the electric and magnetic form factors can be separated by making
³⁴ two or more measurements with different ϵ values (*i.e.* different beam energies and angles),
³⁵ but with same Q^2 value. Rosenbluth technique requires an accurate measurement of the
³⁶ cross section and suffers from large systematic uncertainties arising from several factors. For
³⁷ instance, an accurate knowledge of the neutron detector efficiency is required.

³⁸ When comparing the values of G_E^p/G_M^p obtained from both techniques, a significant dis-
³⁹ crepancy was observed (see Fig. 1). Such discrepancy implies a potential problem in our
⁴⁰ understanding of the nucleon substructure. Many efforts were made in order to provide
⁴¹ legitimate explanation, and it is believed that the inconsistency is due to contribution of

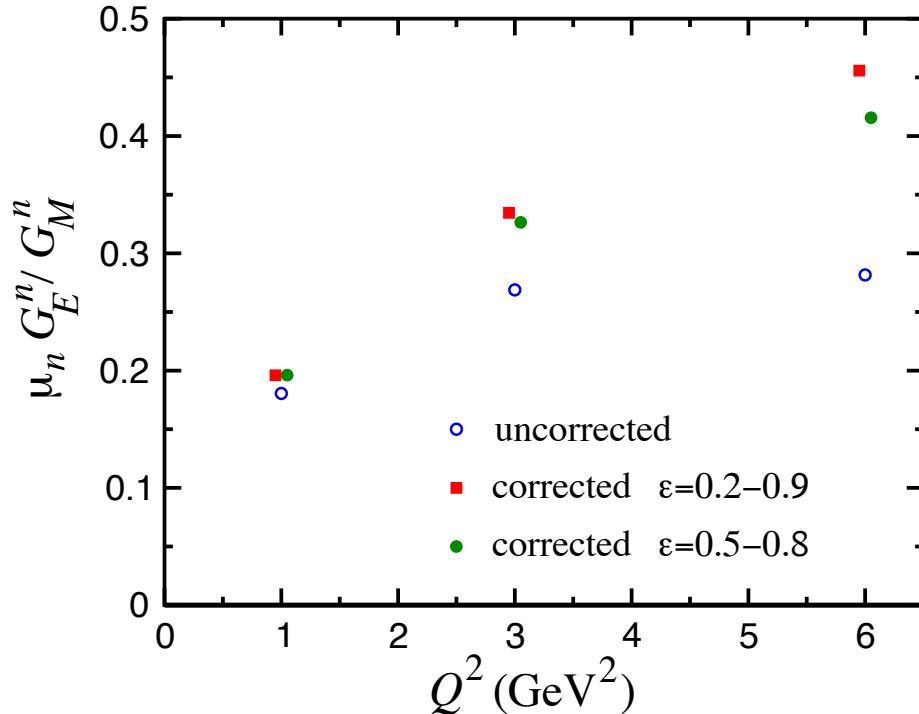


FIG. 2. Projected impact of TPE on G_E^n/G_M^n using LT separation, according to Ref. [4].

42 two-photon exchange in $e - N$ elastic scattering process, see Refs. [5, 6]. Predictions made
 43 for the neutron case are shown in Fig. 2 , adopted from [4]. The contribution of TPE could
 44 reach about 30% of Rosenbluth slope value at 5 (GeV/c) 2 .

45 In the following we propose to make precision L/T separation of the elastic electron-
 46 neutron cross section and first experimental assessment of the two-photon exchange contri-
 47 bution on the neutron magnetic form factor measurements (see also Ref. [7]). The result of
 48 the nTPE experiment will likely add a new component to our understanding of the elastic
 49 electron-nucleon process.

50

II. PHYSICS MOTIVATION

51 The nucleon plays the same central role in hadronic physics that the hydrogen atom does
 52 in atomic physics and the deuteron in the physics of nuclei. The structure of the nucleon
 53 and its specific properties, such as charge, magnetic moment, size, mass; the elastic electron
 54 scattering form factors, resonances; and structure functions in DIS, are of fundamental sci-
 55 entific interest. The isospin is a fundamental property of the nucleon, so both the proton and
 56 neutron investigations are important to do. By using data on the proton and neutron form
 57 factors the flavour structure could be explored [8]. It is already provided the most direct
 58 evidence for a diquark correlation in the nucleon [9–11].

59 Hadron structure, as seen in elastic electron scattering, in one-photon approximation,
 60 defined by two functions of four momentum transfer square. They are: the helicity conserving
 61 Dirac form factor, F_1 , which describes the distribution of the electric charge, and the helicity
 62 non-conserving Pauli form factor, F_2 , describes the distribution of the magnetic moment.
 63 These two form factors are the ingredients of the hadronic current. These form factors
 64 contain information on the transverse charge distribution for an unpolarized and transversely
 65 polarized nucleon, respectively, in the infinite momentum frame [12, 13].

66 The Sachs form factors, G_E and G_M , the ratio of which will be extracted directly from
 67 the data, are related to F_1 and F_2 by

$$F_1 = \frac{G_E + \tau G_M}{1 + \tau} \text{ and } F_2 = \frac{G_M - G_E}{\kappa(1 + \tau)}, \quad (2)$$

68 where κ is the nucleon anomalous magnetic moment.

69 Already twenty four years ago, important developments in QCD phenomenology has
 70 been the exploration of the generalized parton distribution (GPD) formalism [14–16], which
 71 provides relations between inclusive and exclusive observables. The nucleon elastic form
 72 factors F_1 and F_2 are given by the first moments of the GPDs

$$F_1(t) = \sum_q \int_0^1 H^q(x, \xi, t, \mu) dx \text{ and } F_2(t) = \sum_q \int_0^1 E^q(x, \xi, t, \mu) dx, \quad (3)$$

73 where H^q and E^q are two of the generalized parton distributions, x is the standard Bjorken
 74 x , ξ is the “skewness” of the reaction, t is the four-momentum transferred by the electron,

⁷⁵ μ is a scale parameter necessary from the evolution over Q^2 , analogous to DIS parton distributions, and the sum is over all quarks and anti-quarks. These may be accessed through processes such as deeply virtual Compton scattering, where the interaction is factorized into a hard part with the virtual photon/photon interactions with an individual quark and a soft part of the residual system where the GPD information is contained.

⁸⁰ Fundamental nucleon feature, the spin, is related to GPDs, as shown by X. Ji [15]. The moments of GPDs can yield information, according to the Ji's Angular Momentum Sum Rule, on the contribution to the nucleon spin from quarks and gluons, including both the quark spin and orbital angular momentum.

⁸⁴ At present, experimental measurements of GPDs are still scarce. Until high Q^2 DVCS data becomes available, work has been done to attempt to parameterize these GPDs, which rely heavily on data from electromagnetic form factors and parton distributions from DIS as constraints [17]. Data at high Q^2 for G_E^n would contribute significantly in the development of these models.

⁸⁹ As we presented above the form factors are important components for GPDs development. However, the cross section of elastic $e-p$ scattering contains a significant contribution to σ_L , which at high Q^2 is much larger than theory calculations expected [18]. Such an alarming observation underlines that understanding of TPE effect is essential for hadron physics.

93

III. TECHNIQUE

94 This proposal is based on instrumentation, simulation, and analysis development made
 95 by the GMn/SBS collaboration for the GMn, E12-09-019, experiment [?]. The GMn
 96 experiment is one of several form factor experiments approved by JLab PAC. The SBS
 97 spectrometer was funded by DOE with large contributions provided by the collaborating
 98 institutions from USA, Italy, UK, and Canada. The apparatus and DAQ installation will
 99 start in 2020 and the data taking run is expected to be in summer-fall 2021.

100 The neutron form factors are challenging to be determine experimentally especially be-
 101 cause there is no free neutron target. However, since the deuterium is a loosely coupled
 102 system, it can be viewed as the sum of a proton target and a neutron target. In fact, quasi-
 103 elastic scattering from deuterium has been used to extract the neutron magnetic form factor,
 104 G_M^n , at modestly high Q^2 for decades [19, 20] in the single arm (e,e') experiments. How-
 105 ever, the proton cross section needs to be subtracted by applying a single-arm quasi-elastic
 106 electron-proton scattering. This “proton-subtraction” technique suffers from a number sys-
 107 tematic uncertainties e.g. contributions from inelastic and secondary scattering processes.

108 Many year ago, L. Durand [21] proposed the so-called “ratio-method” based on the mea-
 109 surement of both $D(e,e'n)$ and $D(e,e'p)$ reactions. In this method, many of the systematic
 110 errors are cancel out. Several experiments [22–24] have applied the ratio-method to deter-
 111 mine the neutron magnetic form factor.

112 The GMn/SBS experiment [?] will take data for elastic $e - n$ scattering for several
 113 kinematics with Q^2 from 3.5 up to 13.5 $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$. We propose to use this method to
 114 measure Rosenbluth slope and extract (in OPE approximation) the neutron electric form
 115 factor, G_E^n , at one value of momentum transfer. In fact, one of required data points will
 116 be taken by the GMn experiment, so an additional measurement is needed only for one
 117 kinematics.

118 Data will be collected for quasi-elastic electron scattering from deuteron in process
 119 $D(e, e'n)p$. A complementary $D(e, e'p)n$ data will be taken to calibrate the experiment ap-
 120 paratus. The current knowledge of the $e - p$ elastic scattering cross section (obtained in the
 121 single arm $H(e,e')p$ and $H(e,p)e'$ experiments) will be also used for precision determination

¹²² the experiment kinematics.

¹²³ Applying Rosenbluth technique to measure G_E^n requires accurate measurement of the cross
¹²⁴ section and suffers from large uncertainties. To overcome this issue, we propose to extract
¹²⁵ the value of G_E^n from the ratio of quasi-elastic yields, $R_{n/p}$, in scattering from a deuteron
¹²⁶ target as follows:

$$R_{n/p} \equiv R_{observed} = \frac{N_{e,e'n}}{N_{e,e'p}} \quad (4)$$

¹²⁷ $R_{observed}$ needs to be corrected to extract the ratio of e-n/e-p scattering from nucleons:

$$R_{corrected} = f_{corr} \times R_{observed} , \quad (5)$$

¹²⁸ where the correction factor $f_{correction}$ takes into account the variation in the hadron efficiencies
¹²⁹ due to changes of $e - N$ Jacobian, the radiative corrections, and absorption in path from the
¹³⁰ target to the detector, and small re-scattering correction.

¹³¹ In one-photon approximation, $R_{corrected}$ can be presented as:

$$R_{corrected} = \frac{\sigma_{Mott}^n \cdot (1 + \tau_p)}{\sigma_{Mott}^p \cdot (1 + \tau_n)} \times \frac{\epsilon \sigma_L^n + \sigma_T^n}{\epsilon \sigma_L^p + \sigma_T^p} \quad (6)$$

It is important that the ratio $R_{Mott} = \frac{\sigma_{Mott}^n \cdot (1 + \tau_p)}{\sigma_{Mott}^p \cdot (1 + \tau_n)}$ could be determine with very high relative accuracy even with modest precision for the beam energy, electron scattering angle, and detector solid angle. Now, let us write the $R_{corrected}$ at two values of ϵ using $R_c^{n(p)} = \sigma_L^{n(p)} / \sigma_T^{n(p)}$ as:

$$R_{corrected,\epsilon_1} = R_{Mott,\epsilon_1} \times \frac{\epsilon_1 \sigma_L^n + \sigma_T^n}{\epsilon_1 \sigma_L^p + \sigma_T^p} \quad R_{corrected,\epsilon_2} = R_{Mott,\epsilon_2} \times \frac{\epsilon_2 \sigma_L^n + \sigma_T^n}{\epsilon_2 \sigma_L^p + \sigma_T^p}$$

In these two equations there are two unknown variables: σ_L^n and σ_T^n . The dominant contribution to the uncertainty of the slope of the cross section vs. ϵ , $S_c^n = \sigma_L^n / \sigma_T^n$, will come from the uncertainty of S_c^p . At $Q^2=4.5$ (GeV/c)², according to the global analysis of $e - p$ cross section [3], the value of S_c^p is close to $1/(\tau \mu_p^2) = 0.107$ with uncertainty of 0.01. The resulting equation for S_c^n is:

$$A = B \times \frac{1 + \epsilon_1 S_c^n}{1 + \epsilon_2 S_c^n} \approx B \times (1 + \Delta \epsilon \cdot S_c^n),$$

where the variable $A = R_{corrected,\epsilon_1}/R_{corrected,\epsilon_2}$ will be measured with relative precision of 0.1%. Assuming, for this estimate, equal values of Q^2 for two kinematics, the τ and σ_T for two kinematics are canceled out, and the variable $B = R_{M,\epsilon_1}/R_{M,\epsilon_2} \times (1 + \epsilon_2 S_c^p)/(1 + \epsilon_1 S_c^p)$. For actual small range of ϵ and small value of the slope, the $B \approx (1 - \Delta\epsilon \cdot S_c^p)$. The value of B will be determined from global proton $e - p$ data to a precision of 0.25×0.01 .

At $Q^2=4.5$ (GeV/c) 2 the ratio $\mu_n G_E^n/G_M^n$ is of 0.55 ± 0.05 , see the review [25]. In a simplest model, the slope S_c^n is a sum of the slope due to G_E^n/G_M^n and the TPE contribution. If we use for TPE the prediction [4], shown in Fig. 2, the TPE leads to increase of S_c^n by a factor of 2, so the result of this experiment for TPE will be $0.069 \pm 0.012 \pm 0.01$, where the first uncertainty is due to accuracy of G_E^n/G_M^n and the second one due to projected precision of this experiment. It would be a 4-4.5 sigma observation of the neutron TPE.

143

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

144 As illustrated in Fig. 3, this experiment will study electron scattering from a 15 cm
 145 long liquid Deuterium target held in a vacuum. The scattered electron will be detected
 146 in the BigBite spectrometer with an upgraded electron detector stack. The neutron arm is
 147 arranged with a dipole magnet 48D48 (SBS) and a segmented hadron calorimeter HCAL. The
 148 whole detector package was designed and is now under assembling for the GMn, E12-09-019,
 149 experiment.

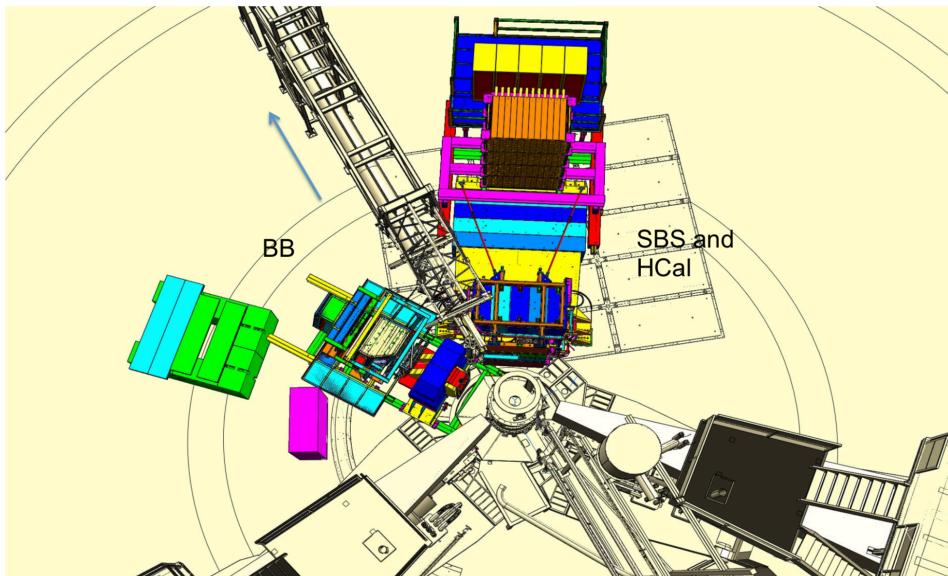


FIG. 3. Layout of the experimental setup in nTPE.

150

1. Parameters of the SBS

151 The 48D48 magnet from Brookhaven was acquired as part of the Super Bigbite project
 152 and will be available for this experiment. It consists of a large dipole magnet which provides
 153 a field integral of about $1.7 \text{ T} \cdot \text{m}$, allowing for quasielastic protons to be sufficiently deflected
 154 to allow clear differentiation from neutrons. The active field volume has an opening of $46 \times$
 155 $25 \text{ vertical} \times \text{horizontal}$), matching the aspect ratio of the neutron arm, and a depth of 48
 156 cm.

157 The placement of this magnet will be 1.6 m away from the target, which would normally
158 interfere with the beamline. To accommodate this, modifications were made to the iron yoke
159 such that the beamline will pass through the magnet yoke area.

160 The field configuration will be such that positively charged particles will be deflected
161 upwards away from the hall floor. For a field integral of 1.7 Tesla-m, protons of momentum
162 2.5 GeV/c will be deflected 250 mrad, which translates to a displacement of xxm. Including
163 expected detector resolution, the $p_{miss,\perp}$ distribution will be similar to what was seen in
164 E02-013, so cuts of < 100 MeV/c will be appropriate. Monte Carlo simulations show a
165 contamination of charged quasielastics to be negligible.

166 The presence of the magnet also works to sweep low energy charged particles from the
167 target away from the neutron arm. Particles of momentum less than 1.3 GeV/c will be
168 entirely swept outside of the neutron arm acceptance. This greatly reduces the amount of
169 charged low energy background.

170

A. The BigBite Spectrometer

171 Scattered electrons will be detected in the BigBite spectrometer. The spectrometer con-
 172 sists of a single dipole magnet (with magnetic field approximately 1.2 T) and a detection
 173 system, see Fig. 4.

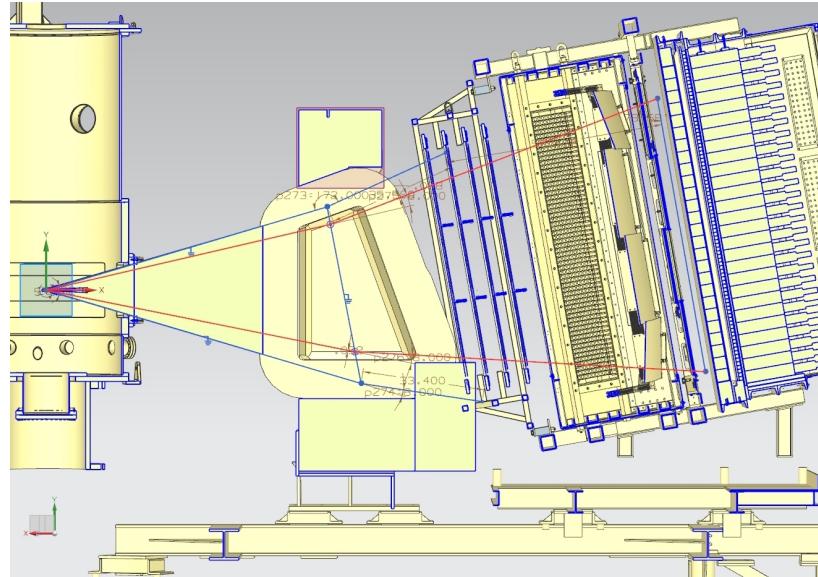


FIG. 4. The BigBite spectrometer with the upgraded detector stack.

174

1. GEM Chambers

175 To perform the tracking of charged particles under the high rates anticipated for this
 176 experiment, the drift chambers were replaced with gas electron multiplier (GEM) detectors.
 177 These detectors have proven to be capable of operating under luminosities of 25 kHz/mm^2
 178 for the COMPASS experiment at CERN and the spatial resolution of each of these chambers
 179 is anticipated to be about $70 \mu\text{m}$. There will be two sets of GEMs placed on each side of the
 180 GRINCH Cherenkov detector.

181 The set of GEMs in front of the GRINCH is composed of four layers of GEMs. Two of
 182 these layers have been built by will the SBS collaborators from INFN. They are composed

183 three modules each, measuring $40 \times 50 \text{ cm}^2$, such that each layer covers $40 \times 150 \text{ cm}^2$ (the
 184 long dimension being vertical, along the dispersive direction). The readout of these modules
 185 are oriented in the x/y direction *i.e.* parallel and perpendicular to the dispersive direction
 186 (horizontal and vertical). The two other layers are being built by the SBS collaborators from
 187 UVA. They are composed of a single module measuring $40 \times 150 \text{ cm}^2$, the long dimension
 188 again being vertical and along the dispersive direction. The readout of these modules are
 189 oriented in the u/v direction *i.e.* ± 30 degrees with respect to the horizontal direction.

190 The set of GEMs behind the GRINCH has been built by the SBS collaborators from
 191 UVA. It is composed of a single layer composed of four modules measuring $50 \times 60 \text{ cm}^2$,
 192 such that the layer covers $60 \times 200 \text{ cm}^2$ (the long dimension again being along the dispersive
 193 direction). The readout of these modules are all oriented in the x/y direction.

194 The level background in the GEMs have been evaluated, thanks to G4SBS ([?] abd
 195 Sec. V) for the G_M^n experimental readiness review. For the G_M^n highest Q^2 point (which is the
 196 most constraining, since it combines mandatory maximum luminosity and smaller BigBite
 197 angles, the background level in the front GEMs are of the order of 120 kHz/cm^2 for the front
 198 GEM layers, and below 50 kHz/cm^2 for the back GEM. To perform the GEM tracking within
 199 such a background environment, we use the cluster reconstructed in the BigBite shower as
 200 a track seed to clean the large combinatorics that would otherwise be created by the large
 201 number of hits. After this, the main challenge is the separation by the clustering algorithm
 202 of the signal and background hits to minimize track smearing. At this level of background, a
 203 TreeSearch tracking algorithm combined with a fairly simple cluster separation algorithm has
 204 already proven to achieve 70% efficiency at nominal luminosity. A better cluster separation
 205 algorithm is currently being developed and should allow to significantly improve this figure.

206

2. Shower/Preshower

207 The electromagnetic calorimeter configuration consists of two planes of lead glass blocks
 208 which we call the preshower and shower. The preshower, located about 80 cm behind
 209 the first GEM chamber, consists of a 2×26 plane of $37 \text{ cm} \times 9 \text{ cm}$ blocks. The shower, about
 210 1 m behind the first GEM chamber, consists of an 7×27 array of $8.5 \text{ cm} \times 8.5 \text{ cm}$ blocks.

211 Sums over these blocks form the physics event trigger for the experiment.

212 The preshower signal can be used to provide an additional method of pion rejection.
213 By selecting low preshower signals, a pion rejection factor of 1:50 can be achieved through
214 optimization. Despite higher particle rates, pion rejection performance is anticipated to
215 be similar to that achieved for Transversity, E06-010. By measuring the pedestal widths
216 and resolution for E06-010 and scaling to this proposal's conditions, overall relative energy
217 resolution for the detector is expected to become worse by a factor of 1.6, to about $\sigma_{\delta E/E} =$
218 25%.

219 *3. Timing hodoscope*

220 The BigBite timing hodoscope has been built the the SBS collaborators from Glasgow,
221 to replace the BigBite scintillator plane. It will be composed of 90 bars stacked in a plane,
222 each with dimensions 1 in. \times 1 in. \times 60 cm. The paddle stack will be oriented such as
223 the long dimension of the bars is horizontal *i.e.* perpendicular to the dispersive direction.
224 Each of these elements are readout by a PMT on each side, mostly to provide measurement
225 redundancy.

226 This plane will primarily be used to provide a signal for nucleon time of flight reconstruc-
227 tion. A time resolution of 200 ps is anticipated. This fine segmentation is meant to lower the
228 rates in the detector. Background studies made for the G_M^n experimental readiness review [?]
229] demonstrated that the rates experienced by each element was \leq 500 kHz at a luminosity
230 of 2.8×10^{38} cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-2}$. The PMTs pulses are processed by NINO front-end cards which,
231 when the PMT pulse crosses the NINO threshold, will produce a digital signal to be readout
232 by CAEN 1190 TDCs which record a leading time and a trailing time.

233 *4. GRINCH cherenkov detector*

234 The main purpose of the Ring Imaging Cherenkov is to provide additional particle iden-
235 tification for offline pion rejection. The GRINCH consists of a tank with a maximum depth
236 of 88.9 cm, with 4 cylindrical mirrors focussing the cherenkov light directly onto a 510 PMT

²³⁷ array (60 lines of PMTs, with lines of 9 PMTs alternating with lines of 8 PMTs) placed away
²³⁸ from the beam. The radiation gas will be C_4F_8 , which is by far the best compromise between
²³⁹ light yield for electrons and operating cost. With $n - 1 = 1.35 \times 10^{-3}$, the π threshold is only
²⁴⁰ about 2.7 GeV, so the additional pion rejection will be most effective below this threshold.

²⁴¹ As for the timing hodoscope The PMTs pulses are processed by NINO front-end cards
²⁴² which, when the PMT pulse crosses the NINO threshold, will produce a digital signal to
²⁴³ be readout by VETROC TDCs, which for each PMT hit will record a leading time and a
²⁴⁴ trailing time. The analog signal will not be recorded however, which means that for each
²⁴⁵ PMT hit, the information of the number of not directly available (although it can in theory
²⁴⁶ be deduced from the time over threshold).

²⁴⁷ All of this implies that the electron selection relies on the number of GRINCH PMT
²⁴⁸ firing, instead of relying on the signal amplitude.

249

B. Hadron Calorimeter (HCal)

250 The Hadron Calorimeter (HCal) has been designed specifically to measure the recoil
 251 nucleon for the SBS experiments. Specifically for this experiment (and for G_M^n), HCal
 252 combined with the SBS (48D48) magnet provides identification of the recoil nucleon, as
 253 well as additional kinematic constraint and possibly timing information on the measured
 254 interaction. Nucleon identification is illustrated on Fig. 5. This figure shows the compared
 255 proton and neutron position distribution in HCal at the same electron kinematics. The
 256 proton distribution is being shifted upwards by about 1 m compared to the neutron.

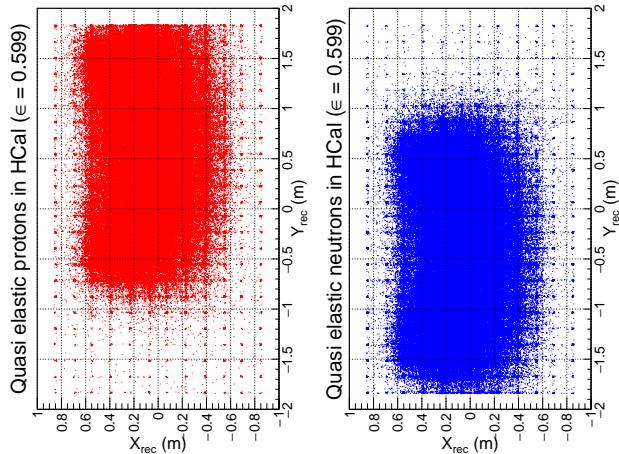


FIG. 5. Reconstructed HCal cluster from quasi-elastic events generated by G4SBS. The left distribution in red is for the proton, the right distribution in blue is for the neutron.

257

258

259 The HCal is composed of 288 modules arranged in an array of 12×24 (Fig. ??) In front
 260 of the full assembly is located a $3/4$ in steel plate which purpose is double:
 261

- 262 • initiate the hadronic shower to optimize the calorimeter response;
- 263 • shield the modules from a fraction of the low energy secondaries;

264 Each of these modules measures $6 \times 6 \text{ in}^2$ section, for 3 ft length. They are composed of
 265 alternating tiles of scintillators and iron around a central light guide which collects the light

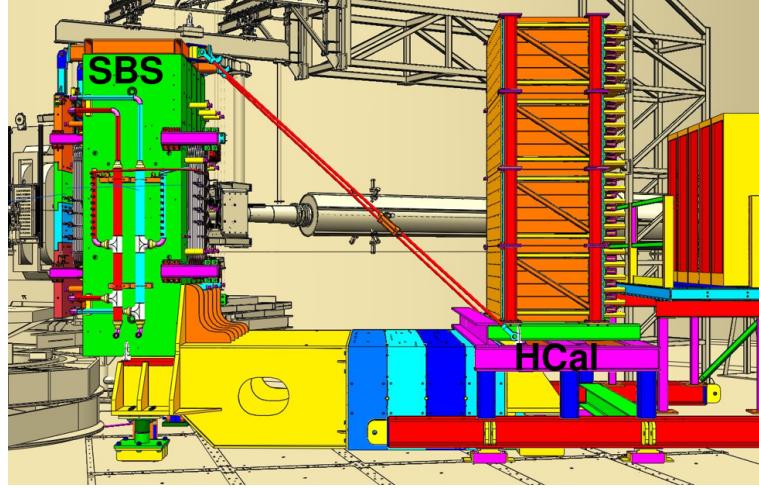


FIG. 6. CAD representation of HCal (right) with the SBS magnet (left)

²⁶⁶ generated in the scintillators by the hadronic shower, and guides it to the PMT at the end of
²⁶⁷ the block. Cosmics tests have determined that the average light yield for the HCal modules
²⁶⁸ is around 5 photoelectrons per MeV deposited in the scintillator tiles.

²⁶⁹ The PMTs are readout with FAD250 which sample the PMT signal every 40 ns and allow
²⁷⁰ to reconstruct the PMT pulse shape, hence its timing. They are also readout by TDCs which
²⁷¹ provide additional timing information. Thanks to this, the timing resolution can be better
²⁷² than 1 ns, which cosmics tests (in progress) seem to confirm.

²⁷³ The energy resolution is intrinsically broad (see Fig. 9 in Section V), due mostly to the
²⁷⁴ small fraction of energy from the hadronic shower actually measured by the scintillator tiles
²⁷⁵ (≤ 0.1 - refer yet again to Fig. 9).

276 **V. SIMULATIONS, ESTIMATIONS OF COUNTING RATES AND**
 277 **ACCIDENTALS**

278 The estimations of counting rates accidentals have been performed using G4SBS, the
 279 GEANT4-based simulation package developed for the SBS experiment [?]. This package
 280 includes a wide range of event generators, which allows to evaluate the rates for both events
 281 of interest (signal) and background. The representation of the experiment apparatus in
 282 G4SBS is shown in the high ϵ configuration on Fig. 7.

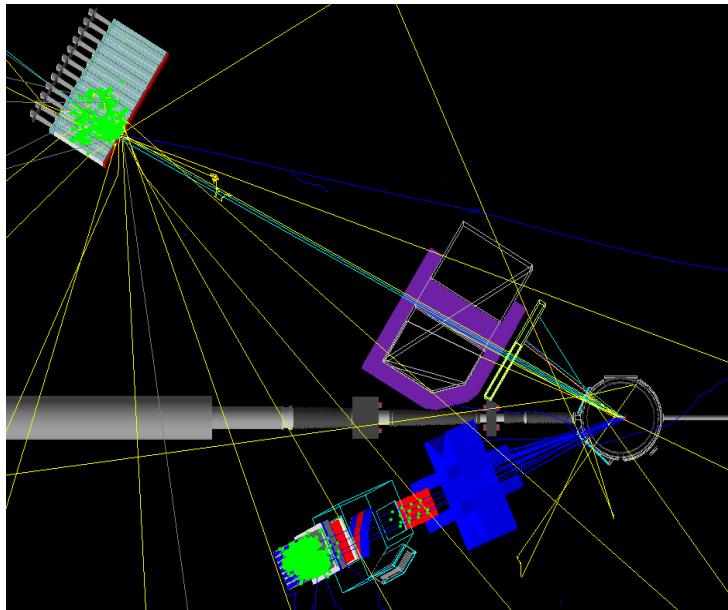


FIG. 7. Top view of the experimental apparatus model in G4SBS, shown in the high ϵ configuration. The beam direction is indicated, as well as the main elements (HCal, SBS magnet, BigBite spectrometer)

283
 284 **A. Background and trigger rates**

285 The main processes expected to contribute the trigger rates for the BigBite spectrometer
 286 are:

288 • the inelastic electron nucleon scattering process;

289 • photons from inclusive π^0 production;

290 • and to a lesser extent, charged pions.

291 One the other hand, we expect all sorts of hadronic backgrounds to contribute to the rates in
 292 HCal, the dominant ones being pions. Both the inelastic scattering and the inclusive neutral
 293 and charged pion production are implemented in G4SBS, the latter relying on the Wiser
 294 parametrization [?]. We may also considered the minimum-bias “beam-on-target” gener-
 295 ator for the HCal background, especially at lower angle (all electromagnetic and hadronic
 296 processes being built-in in G4SBS).

297 The thresholds to apply to each arm are determined as a function of the elastic peak. For
 298 the electron arm, the threshold has been set at $\mu_E - 2.5\sigma_E$, μ_E and σ_E being respectively
 299 the position and width of the fitted elastic peak. Fig. 8 presents the distributions of rate of
 300 energy deposit for the different processes involved in the BigBite trigger rates.

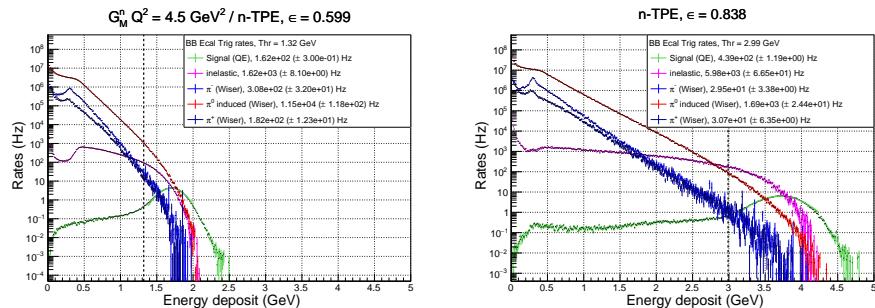


FIG. 8. Rates of the different process contributing to the BigBite electron arm trigger, for the low ϵ (left) and the high ϵ (right). Quasi-elastic is in green, inelastic in magenta, π^0 in red, π^- in blue, and π^+ in dark blue. Note the resolution for the elastic peak in the BigBite shower is ~ 0.3 GeV.

301

302

303 Since HCal is a sampling calorimeter (meaning that only a fraction of the shower energy
 304 is measured), it's resolution is significantly wider (~ 0.7 GeV). Due to this, the threshold
 305 is at 90% efficiency (which corresponds to ~ 0.1 GeV for both kinematics. Fig. 9 presents

306 the distributions of rate of energy deposit for the different processes involved in the BigBite
 307 trigger rates.

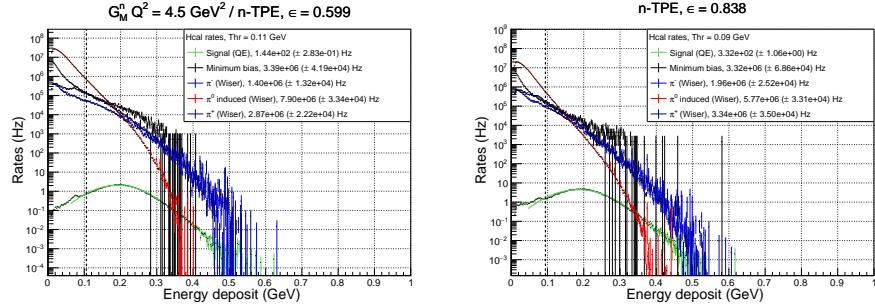


FIG. 9. Rates of the different process contributing to the HCal trigger, for the low ϵ (left) and the high ϵ (right). Quasi-elastic is in green, minimum bias in black, π^0 in red, π^- in blue, and π^+ in dark blue. Note the peak itself is around 0.2 GeV for 3.2 GeV nucleons.

308

309

310 The thresholds and trigger rates for each arm, as well as the coincidence rate (assuming
 311 30ns coincidence window), are summarized in Table. I.

312

313 Note that for HCal, the “total rates” is either the sum of inclusive charged and neutral pions
 314 evaluated with the Wiser cross sections *or* the “minimum bias” beam on target. We have
 315 good reasons to think that the Wiser code results actually overestimate the HCal rates, but
 316 for the sake of thoroughness, we have checked the coincidence rates assuming the sum of the
 317 inclusive pions (evaluated with the Wiser cross sections) as the HCal rates.

318 In the worst case scenario, the coincidence rates could be as high as 5kHz, which might be
 319 at the limit of manageability for the DAQ. However, a slight increase on the HCal threshold
 320 (which would drop the efficiency from ∼90% to ∼85%) would decrease the total HCal rates by
 321 ∼35% to 40% in this worst case scenario, which would make the situation more manageable
 322 (3.3 kHz).

Point (ϵ)	1 (0.599)		2 (0.838)	
	BigBite rates (Hz)	HCal rates (Hz)	BigBite rates (Hz)	HCal rates (Hz)
threshold (GeV)	1.32	0.106	2.99	0.090
Quasi-elastic	1.62×10^2	1.44×10^2	4.39×10^2	3.48×10^2
Inelastic	1.62×10^3	-	5.98×10^3	-
π^- (Wiser)	3.08×10^2	1.40×10^6	2.95×10^2	1.96×10^6
π^0 (Wiser)	1.15×10^4	7.90×10^6	1.69×10^3	5.77×10^6
π^+ (Wiser)	1.82×10^2	2.87×10^6	3.07×10^2	3.34×10^6
Minimum bias	-	3.39×10^6	-	3.32×10^6 (*)
<i>Total</i>	1.37×10^4	1.22×10^7	8.17×10^3	1.11×10^7
(min. bias - HCal only)		/ 3.39×10^6		/ 3.32×10^6
Coincidence rate	5.01×10^3		2.72×10^3	
(with min. bias HCal)	1.39×10^3		8.14×10^2	

TABLE I. Trigger rates for BigBite and HCal, with the different process contributions separated, and the sum. For HCal, the total rates is either the sum of the (Wiser) inclusive pions or the minimum bias. The coincidence rates assume a 30 ns coincidence window.

323

B. Accidentals: contamination from inelastic

324

The main source of contamination for the quasi-elastic comes from the inelastic electron-nucleon scattering. Most of this contamination can be cleaned out thanks to a selection on the center of mass energy

$$W^2 = M_N^2 + 2M_N^2(E - E') - Q^2, \quad (7)$$

327 and the missing transverse momentum of the nucleon

$$p_{\perp miss} = \sqrt{(q_x - p'_x)^2 + (q_y - p'_y)^2}, \quad (8)$$

328 where M_N is the mass of the nucleon, E and E' the initial and final energy of the electron,
329 and $q_{x,y}$, $p'_{x,y}$ are the projections on x , y of the vectors of the virtual photon and final nucleon.

³³⁰ The distributions of these quantities (weighted with cross section and including detector res-
³³¹ olutions) are displayed for quasi-elastic and inelastic scattering, and for proton and nucleon,
³³² on Fig. 10 for the low ϵ kinematic, and on Fig. 11 for the high ϵ kinematic. Provided that

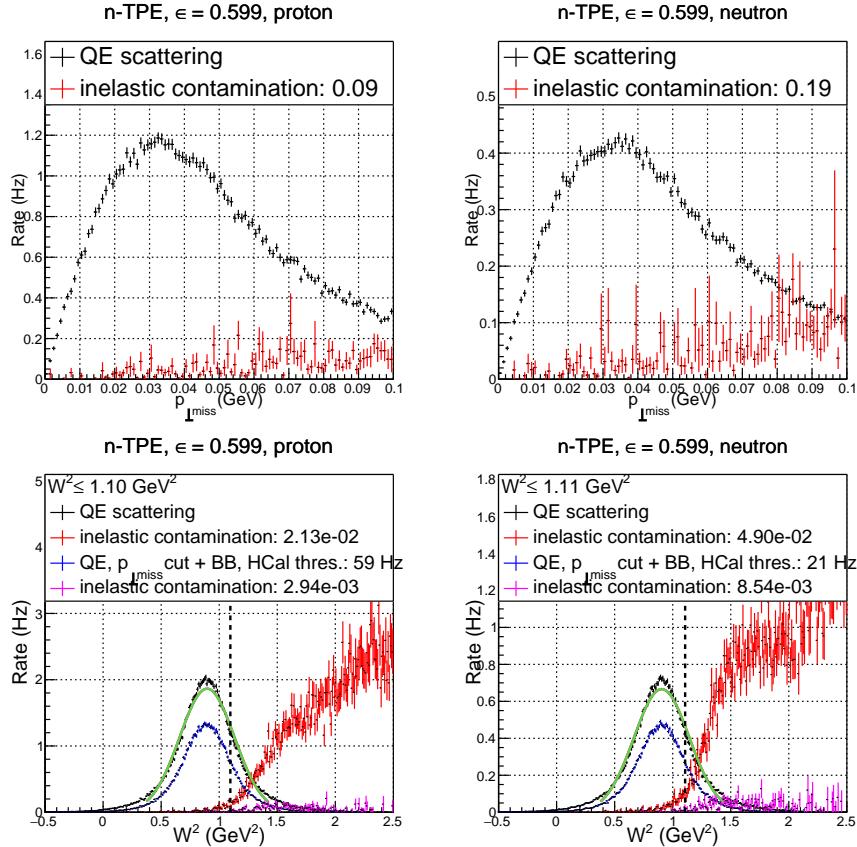


FIG. 10. Compared quasi-elastic and inelastic distributions (including detectors resolutions) for $p_{\perp \text{miss}}$ (top) and W^2 (bottom), for the low ϵ kinematic. Comparison for protons is on the left, and comparison for neutrons is on the right. On the bottom panel, black and red are before the $p_{\perp \text{miss}} \leq 0.1$ GeV selection, while blue and magenta are after $p_{\perp \text{miss}} \leq 0.1$ GeV selection and application of BigBite shower and HCal thresholds.

³³³

³³⁵

³³⁶ we are not limited by statistics and the sample purity is capital for our experiment, we set
³³⁷ the selection criteria on W^2 and $p_{\perp \text{miss}}$ to maximize inelastic contamination (ideally below
³³⁸ 1 %). Setting $p_{\perp \text{miss}} \leq 0.1$ GeV and $W^2 \leq 1.1$ GeV^2 , the inelastic contamination of the

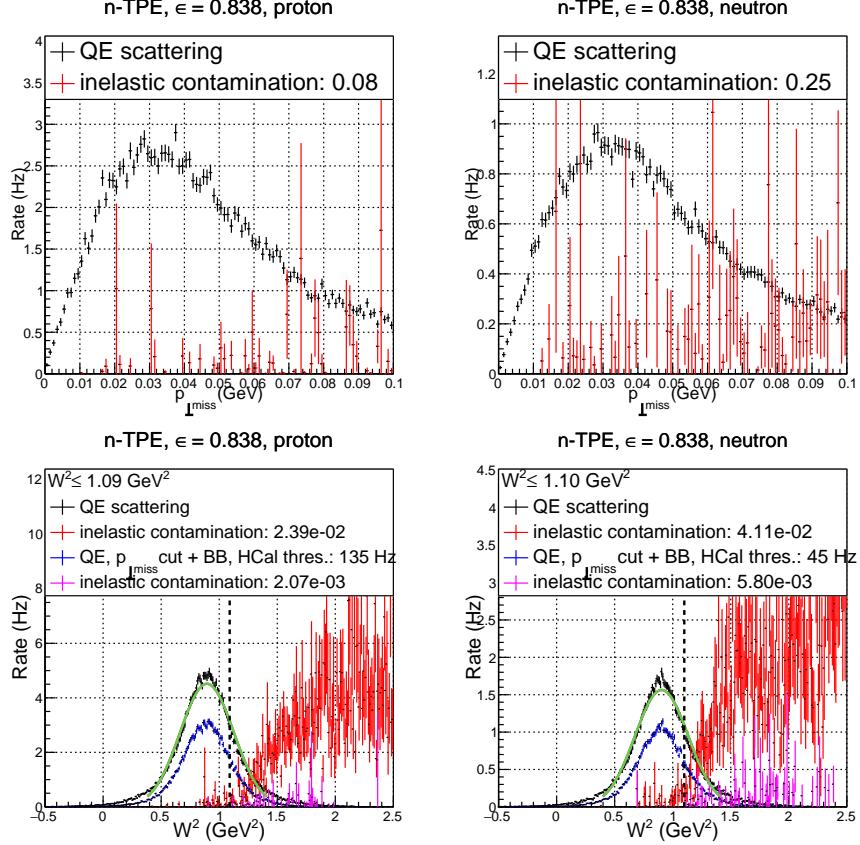


FIG. 11. Compared quasi-elastic and inelastic distributions (including detectors resolutions) for $p_{\perp \text{miss}}$ (top) and W^2 (bottom), for the high ϵ kinematic. Comparison for protons is on the left, and comparison for neutrons is on the right. On the bottom panel, black and red are before the $p_{\perp \text{miss}} \leq 0.1 \text{ GeV}$ selection, while blue and magenta are after $p_{\perp \text{miss}} \leq 0.1 \text{ GeV}$ selection and application of BigBite shower and HCal thresholds.

³³⁹ elastic sample ranges from 0.2 % to 0.9 %, while retaining ≥ 60 %.

340

C. Quasi-elastic counting rates

³⁴¹ The signals for this experiment have been generated using the G4SBS elastic/quasi-elastic
³⁴² generator. We generated 1M events sample for each kinematics, on a solid angle that was
³⁴³ larger than the detector acceptance. To evaluate the detector solid angle, we define simple

³⁴⁴ criteria that each event has to pass, defined as the following;

- ³⁴⁵ • require a primary track, going through all 5 GEM layers (electron arm);
- ³⁴⁶ • require non-zero energy deposit in both the preshower and shower (electron arm);
- ³⁴⁷ • require non-zero energy deposit in HCal (hadron arm).

³⁴⁸ The detector solid angle, for both proton and neutron, are defined in Table. II

Point (ϵ)	$\Delta\Omega_e$ (msr)	$\Delta\Omega_e \otimes \Delta\Omega_n$ (msr)	$\Delta\Omega_e \otimes \Delta\Omega_p$ (msr)
1 (0.599)	52.4	46.7	47.2
2 (0.838)	32.7	20.8	22.2

TABLE II. Kinematics electron solid angle, and convoluted electron/hadron solid angle

³⁴⁹

³⁵⁰ Then, we evaluate the detection efficiency. For the electron, we require the energy recon-
³⁵¹ structed in the BigBite calorimeter to be above a threshold defined as $thr = \mu_E - 2.5 * \sigma_E$,
³⁵² as well as a minimum number of GRINCH PMTs fired due to the primary electron; For
³⁵³ HCal, we require the threshold to be such as we obtain 90% efficiency. These values are
³⁵⁴ summarized in Table. III.

Point (ϵ)	BB thr. (GeV)	HCal thr. (GeV)	$\eta_{det\ e}$	$\eta_{det\ n}$	$\eta_{det\ p}$	$\eta_{sel\ n}$	$\eta_{sel\ p}$
1 (0.599)	1.32	0.11	0.902	0.904	0.892	0.589	0.605
2 (0.838)	2.99	0.09	0.808	0.889	0.882	0.617	0.647

TABLE III. Kinematics electron thresholds, particle detection efficiencies (η_{det}), and efficiency of
quasi-elastic selection η_{sel} separated for the proton and the neutron.

³⁵⁵

356 The counting rates are evaluated using the events that have passed the selection described
357 above, and weighting those events with the cross section calculated by G4SBS, multiplied
358 by the generation solid angle, using the formula:

$$N_{est} = \mathcal{L} \Delta t \times \sum_{i \in \text{accepted evts}} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} * \Delta\Omega_{Gen}/N_{Gen} \quad (9)$$

359 Events are “accepted” if they meet the following criteria:

- 360 • the electron is in the BigBite acceptance;
- 361 • the electron passes the BigBite threshold defined in Table III and gives signal in the
362 GRINCH;
- 363 • the nucleon is in the HCal acceptance and passes the HCal threshold defined in Ta-
364 ble III;
- 365 • the event passes the quasi-elastic selection defined in the previous section *i.e.* $W^2 \leq 1.1 \text{ GeV}^2$
366 and $p_{\perp miss} \leq 0.10 \text{ GeV}$.

367 The total quasi-elastic statistics N_{QE} , as well as the total form factor: F^2

$$F^2 = \frac{N_{QE}}{\mathcal{L}_{exp} \cdot \Delta t \cdot d\sigma_{Mott}/d\Omega \cdot \Delta\Omega \cdot \eta} \quad (10)$$

368 and its statistical error $\Delta F^2 = F^2/\sqrt{N_{QE}}$ are compiled for both kinematics in Table. ??,
369 assuming a running time $\Delta t = 12$ hours of running at a beam intensity of $I_{exp} = 30 \mu\text{A}$ on
370 a liquid deuterium target with length $l_{tgt} = 15 \text{ cm}$ and density $d_{tgt} = 0.169 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$.

371

372 The expression of the total form factor F^2 is: where Δt the running time, $\Delta\Omega$ is the
373 convoluted BigBite-HCal solid angle, η is the product of all efficiencies (detection efficiencies
374 $\eta_{det} \times$ selection efficiency η_{sel}) , and \mathcal{L}_{exp} is the experimental luminosity:

$$\mathcal{L}_{exp} = \frac{I_{exp}}{q_e} * L_{tgt} * d_{tgt} \frac{\mathcal{N}_A}{m_D}. \quad (11)$$

Point (ϵ)	N_{QE} (e-n)	N_{QE} (e-p)	F_n^2 ($\times 10^{-3}$)	ΔF_n^2 ($\times 10^{-6}$)	F_p^2 ($\times 10^{-3}$)	ΔF_p^2 ($\times 10^{-6}$)
1 (0.599)	9.07×10^5	2.55×10^6	0.99	1.04	2.73	1.70
2 (0.838)	1.94×10^6	5.83×10^6	0.72	0.52	1.93	0.80

TABLE IV. Quasi-elastic counting rates, and “reduced cross section” as defined by Eq. 10. These rates assume $\Delta t = 12$ hours of running at a beam intensity of $I_{exp} = 30 \mu\text{A}$ on a liquid deuterium target with length $l_{tgt} = 15 \text{ cm}$ and density $d_{tgt} = 0.169 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$

³⁷⁵ The calculation of the F_2 term requires the evaluation of the Mott cross section

$$\frac{d\sigma_{Mott}}{d\Omega} = (\hbar c \alpha_{EM})^2 \left(\frac{e}{2E} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\cos\theta_e/2}{\sin^2\theta_e/2} \right)^2 \frac{E'}{E} \quad (12)$$

³⁷⁶ The Mott cross section has been calculated with the weighted average of the electron variables
³⁷⁷ (momentum and polar angle).

Point (ϵ)	$\langle \theta_e \rangle$ (deg)	$\langle k' \rangle$ (GeV)	$\langle Q^2 \rangle$ (GeV 2)	σ_{Mott} (nb sr $^{-1}$)
1 (0.599)	41.7	2.01	4.47	6.62
2 (0.838)	22.9	4.26	4.40	48.0

TABLE V. Cross-section weighted average of kinematic variables over the BigBite acceptance. The Mott cross section has been evaluated at these values.

³⁷⁸

379

VI. PROPOSED MEASUREMENTS

380 We propose to use the same experimental setup of E12-09-019 experiment. We will add
 381 a kinematic point at $Q^2 = 4.5 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$, but with a higher ϵ value. This additional point
 382 along with the data point of E12-09-019 experiment will allow us to perform LT separation
 383 and obtain (in one-photon approximation) the G_E^n value. Table 1 displays the kinematic
 384 setting of the proposed experiment.

Point	Q^2 (GeV/c) ²	E (GeV)	E' (GeV)	θ_{BB} degrees	θ_{SBS} degrees	ϵ (%)	$\Delta\sigma$ (%)	ΔTPE (%)
1	4.5	4.4	2.0	41.88	24.67	0.599		
2	4.5	6.6	4.2	23.23	31.2	0.838		

TABLE VI. Kinematic settings of the proposed experiment. The blue row is a kinematic point of E12-09-019 experiment.

385

386

VII. BEAM TIME REQUEST

387 **We request 48 hours total time (32 hours of beam-on target)** to measure the
 388 two-photon effect (and G_E^n in one-photon approximation) at $Q^2 = 4.5$ (GeV/c)² through a
 389 measurement of the cross sections of the reaction D(e,e'N) at a large value of the virtual
 390 photon polarization $\epsilon=0.84$. *The measurement at $Q^2 = 4.5$ (GeV/c)², $\epsilon=0.60$ is already*
 391 *scheduled as part of the SBS G_M^n experiment E12-09-019.*

392 We plan to take 12 hours of data at a full luminosity of $2.86 \times 10^{38} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, which
 393 corresponds to a beam intensity of $I_{exp} = 30 \mu\text{A}$ on a liquid deuterium target with length
 394 $l_{tgt} = 15 \text{ cm}$ and density $d_{tgt} = 0.169 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$. To have a better handle on our backgrounds,
 395 we also plan to take 12 hours of data at half luminosity (basically by lowering the beam
 396 intensity by a factor 2). In each of these configurations, we also need to take data on a
 397 “dummy” target (*i.e.* on a target cell identical to the one used for production, but empty)
 398 to understand the contamination of our data from the target walls.

399 In addition to this beam time, we also require 16 hours (two shifts) to change the exper-
 400 imental configuration. This configuration change means:

- 401 • SBS magnet and the hadronic calorimeter (HCal) angle change;
- 402 • BigBite spectrometer angle and distance change;
- 403 • Beam energy change;

404 These tasks may be done in parallel, but the SBS configuration is the most-time consuming
 405 task, and determines the time required to perfomr this configuration change.

406 The projected use of this time is summarized in Table. ??.

407

408 This experiment will take place in Hall A, along the already scheduled SBS G_M^n experiment
 409 E12-09-019, utilizing the BigBite spectrometer to detect electrons scattered off the liquid
 410 deuterium target, and HCal calorimeter to detect the recoiling neutron and proton.

Task	Target	I_{exp}	time requested
Data taking (Prod.)	15 cm LD ₂	30 μ A	12 hours
Data taking (Syst.)	15 cm “Dummy”	30 μ A	4 hours
Data taking (Prod.)	15 cm LD ₂	15 μ A	12 hours
Data taking (Syst.)	15 cm “Dummy”	15 μ A	4 hours
Setting changes (SBS, BigBite angles, beam energy)			16 hours
Total			48 hours

TABLE VII. Summary table for the beam time request. Setting changes include SBS and BigBite angles change, as well as a beam energy change.

⁴¹¹ Data taking (if approved by PAC48) will take place in summer 2021 during the approved
⁴¹² and scheduled run of the GMn, E12-09-019, experiment, which is going to measure the $e - n$
⁴¹³ elastic scattering cross section at $Q^2 = 4.5$ (GeV/c)² at $\epsilon=0.60$.

⁴¹⁴ The set of instrumentation and required beam current for proposed measurement is identical
⁴¹⁵ to one in the GMn experiment. The beam energy of 6.6 GeV will be used. One of two
⁴¹⁶ data points required for the cross section LT separation is already in the data taking plan of
⁴¹⁷ GMn.

⁴¹⁸ There are no other measurements of TPE in the $e - n$ elastic scattering and knowledge
⁴¹⁹ of the TPE is essential for the understanding of the elastic electron scattering from neutron
⁴²⁰ (and proton) and hadron structure. Furthermore, it is a necessary input in the analysis and
⁴²¹ interpretation of a wide range of electron scattering processes.

⁴²² The kinematics of our measurements emphasize the same Q^2 range where TPE in $e - p$
⁴²³ elastic scattering was observed to dominate in Rosenbluth slope. Measuring at this high
⁴²⁴ momentum transfers will provide unique input for testing TPE calculations [4].

⁴²⁵ We propose to measure the Rosenbluth slope and extract (in one-photon approximation)
⁴²⁶ $\delta G_E^n/G_M^n$ to an accuracy of 0.15, which would bring its precision to a level comparable with
⁴²⁷ that of the double polarization experiments GEN-RP and GEN-He3 at such value of Q^2 .
⁴²⁸ Such precision should be sufficient to detect the TPE contribution to the $e - n$ Rosenbluth
⁴²⁹ slope on the three sigma level.

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