

Experiments at MIT-Bates(I. Nuclear Physics)

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Experiments at MIT-Bates

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We have been collaborating with a group of University of Massachusetts since 1988 for experiments at MIT-Bates. Bates Experiment #89-09 (Measurement of the Elastic Magnetic Form Factor and the Threshold Breakup of ^3He at High Momentum Transfer) was accepted in 1989 and performed in 1997. Data analysis of the experiment was completed using one and a half years. A new proposal, Bates-Experiment #97-03 (Virtual Compton Scattering on the Proton Below Pion Threshold) has been scheduled in the early summer of 2000.

I. Bates Experiment #89-09 Measurement of the Elastic Magnetic Form Factor and the Threshold Breakup of ^3He at High Momentum Transfer¹

The ^3He elastic magnetic form factor was measured at five different momentum transfers between $Q^2 = 5.75$ and 42.6 fm^{-2} ; the two highest points are in the unexplored region. The experiment was performed at the MIT-Bates Linear Accelerator Center using a 1% duty-factor electron beam and a high-density cryogenic ^3He gas target. Scattered electrons were detected with a magnetic spectrometer (OHIPS) at a scattering angle of 160° . The ^3He target system was operated at a temperature of 23 K and a pressure of 50 atm. The length of the target cell was 19.6 cm. The spectrometer detector system consisted of two layers of vertical drift chambers for tracking, a gas Cherenkov detector and a lead-glass shower counter for particle identification, and three layers of plastic scintillators for triggering and timing.

Figure 1 compares our magnetic form factors to previously published values; Coulomb contributions were assessed from the sum-of-Gaussian fit to published results. The new data at $Q^2 = 18.8$ and 21.8 fm^{-2} agree with existing data, which consequently strengthen the conclusion that the diffraction minimum lies close to $Q^2 = 18 \text{ fm}^{-2}$. In contrast, data at $Q^2 = 36.3$ and 42.6 fm^{-2} appeared considerably smaller than what would be anticipated by extrapolating the existing Saclay results. The calculations represented in Fig.1 are by Hadjimichael *et al.* [1], Marcucci *et al.*[2], and Strueve *et al.*[3], as well as by impulse approximation (IA).

In calculations without non-nucleonic effects, a diffraction minimum of the squared magnetic form factor $|F_M(Q^2)|^2$ of ^3He due to a destructive interference between *S*- and *D*-state components of the

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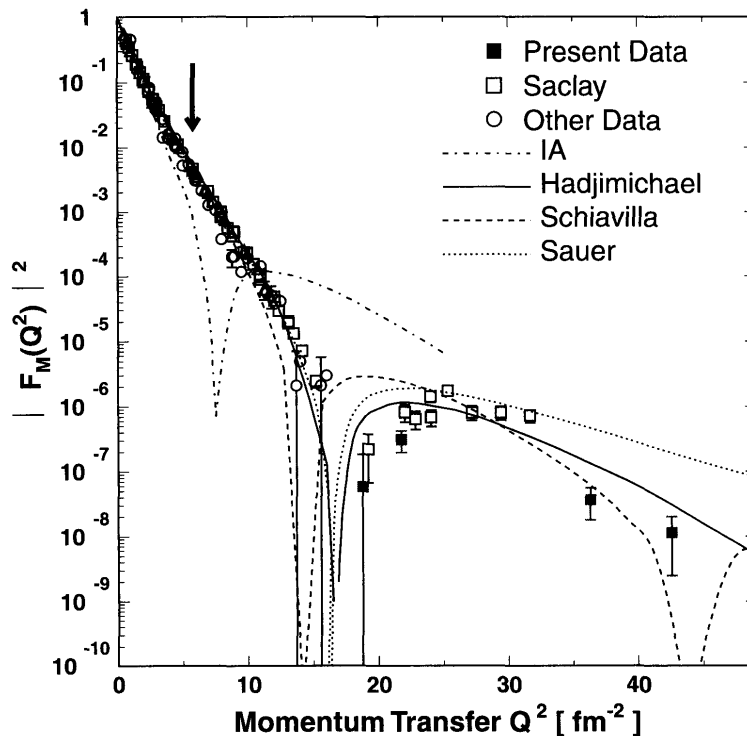


Fig.1. The elastic magnetic form factor of ${}^3\text{He}$. Present results are represented by solid squares, Saclay data [4] by open squares, and other data [5] by open circles. The arrow indicates our measurement at $Q^2 = 5.75 \text{ fm}^{-2}$.

ground state wave function lies near $Q^2 = 8 \text{ fm}^{-2}$, in striking disagreement with the experimental results. A dramatic upward shift in Q^2 is qualitatively explained by calculations that include meson-exchange and Δ -isobar currents. Significant differences are observed in the various theoretical predictions at $Q^2 \geq 30 \text{ fm}^{-2}$. For the high momentum transfers probed in this experiment, the theoretical results are sensitive to the non-nucleonic effects, and also to the assumed form of the nucleon form factor. The calculation by Marcucci *et al.* predicts the first diffraction minimum at too low Q^2 . The trend of the calculation by Struerve *et al.* is to overestimate the high Q^2 results by an order-of-magnitude. This may be due to the large Δ -isobar component in the model. Although the prediction of Hadjimichael *et al.* remains close to the experimental results for $F_M(Q^2)$ throughout the entire Q^2 range, the Coulomb form factor of ${}^3\text{H}$ calculated by this group lies far from the data. In conclusion no existing theoretical calculation satisfactorily accounts for the available data of the both trinucleons ${}^3\text{H}$ and ${}^3\text{He}$. In the kinematical region spanned by our data there is mounting theoretical evidence of the need to consider relativistic dynamics and quark-gluon degrees-of-freedom. Additional incentive for further theoretical developments is provided by a planned experiment [6] at Jefferson Laboratory that seeks to measure the ${}^3\text{He}$ magnetic form factor out to $Q^2 > 60 \text{ fm}^{-2}$.

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