

# Neutron-skin "measurements"

JG U Concettina Sfienti Johannes Gutenberg-Universität - Institut für Kernphysik, Mainz





#### **61th International Winter Meeting on Nuclear Physics**

January 27 to 31, 2025 Bormio, Italy

HOME GENERAL INFORMATION - NEWS -



Long-standing conference bringing together researchers and students from various fields of subatomic physics.

The conference location is Bormio, a beautiful mountain resort in the Italian Alps.



#### 2025 Edition

The 60th edition of the Bormio conference will be held from January 27 to 31 2025 in Bormio (Italy). As for previous edition, we are foreseeing two **special** initiatives for **young students** 

#### • PRE-CONFERENCE SCHOOL

To improve the participation of students and young researchers at the conference a pre-conference school is taking place on **SUNDAY 26 January 2025**: four topical lectures will be held covering the basis of the main physics topics dealt within the conference. Students are asked to select the proper field in the registration form, if they intend to participate.

#### STUDENTS FELLOWSHIPS

A limited number of fellowships will be awarded to brilliant students to cover their accommodation and conference fee. Students who intend to apply for the fellowships are asked to send their application (cover letter, CV and abstract) in one single pdf file to organizers@bormioconf.org by OCTOBER 13th. Participation to the pre-conference school for students awarded our student fellowships is mandatory.

#### IG U Concettina Sfienti

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität - Institut für Kernphysik, Mainz

### **Nuclear Sizes**

Follow







North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the "Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times." Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!

4:49 pm - 2 Jan 2018



### **Nuclear Charge Radius**









# "Diamonds are for ever... Form Factors are ethernal"

#### http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/



### **Rutherford Scattering**

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\,\cos\theta} = \frac{\pi}{2} z^2 Z^2 \alpha^2 \left(\frac{\hbar c}{KE}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\left(1 - \cos\theta\right)^2}$$

# "Diamonds are for ever ... Form Factors are ethernal"

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# Form Factors

Qualitatively, FF accounts for the phase differences between contributions to the scattered wave from different points of the charge distribution



- At very low electron energies  $\lambda \gg r_p$ : the scattering is equivalent to that from a "point-like" spin-less object
- At low electron energies  $\lambda \sim r_p$ : the scattering is equivalent to that from a extended charged object
- At high electron energies  $\lambda < r_p$ : the wavelength is sufficiently short to resolve sub-structure. Scattering from constituent quarks

(for a nucleus, from the constituent protons and neutrons)

• At very high electron energies  $\lambda \ll r_p$ : the proton appears to be a sea of quarks and gluons.

# Form Factors

Qualitatively, FF accounts for the phase differences between contributions to the scattered wave from different points of the charge distribution

•There is nothing mysterious about form factors – similar to diffraction of plane



•The finite size of the scattering centre introduces a phase difference between plane waves "scattered from different points in space". If wavelength is long compared to size all waves in phase and  $F(\vec{q}^2) = 1$ 

For example:



### Form Factors from Elastic eN scattering

form factor: 
$$F(q^2) = \frac{1}{e} \int_0^\infty \rho(r) \frac{\sin qr}{qr} 4\pi r^2 dr$$



#MakeHumansSmartAgain

## **Nuclear Charge Radius**









- Cross section over 12 orders of magnitude!
- **THIS** is our picture of the atomic nucleus!



FIG. 11. Comparison of DME mean-field theory charge distributions in spherical nuclei (dashed lines) with empirical charge densities. The solid curves and shaded regions represent the error envelope of densities consistent with the measured cross sections and their experimental uncertainties.



Rev. Mod. Phys., Vol. 54, No. 4, October 10 stra ...

## **Nuclear Charge Radius**



# ...did somebody already mentionedRAMPneutron-skin to you?

The neutron skin measures how much neutrons stick out past protons





# ...did somebody already mentioned**TRAMP**neutron-skin to you?

The neutron skin measures how much neutrons stick out past protons

Symmetry energy favours moving them to the surface

### Surface tension favours spherical drop of uniform equilibrium density







# The spoiler: reality!



$$\mathcal{E}(\rho, \alpha) = \mathcal{E}(\rho, \alpha = 0) + \left[ S(\rho) \alpha^2 + \dots \right]$$
$$\mathcal{E}(\rho) = J + \left[ L \left( \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right) + \frac{1}{2} K_{\text{sym}} \left( \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^2 + \dots \right]$$

X. Roca-Maza, at al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 106, 252501 (2011)



slope parameter



## The stairway to heaven

### The answer to the ultimate question



# The stairway to heaven

### NONE is an actual MEASUREMENT of neutron skin!



# The stairway to heaven

### NONE is an actual MEASUREMENT of neutron skin!



# (or the highway to hell, depending on your level of optimism)







# (or the highway to hell, depending on your level of optimism)

(Personal selection) **PV-Asymmetry** long. polarized unpolarized γ, **Ζ**<sup>0</sup> target Resonance **PVES** Strength ????.. **Cross-section** Collective **Excitation** BURNE COUNSIS DEFAT I THINK IM Hadronic **EM Probes Probes** Theo. uncertainties (a.u) per aspera ad stra .. VCETTINASFIENTI

# (or the highway to hell, depending on your level of optimism)



### **Exercise nr. 1** (let's walk down the highway to hell)

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### Step 1: Create a Flow Diagram: Create a flow

### diagram of the analysis procedure.



(\*) this is not an acceptable flow diagram!

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## The shortest road



- Mediated by 3 massive gauge bosons: W<sup>±</sup>, Z<sup>0</sup>
- W<sup>±</sup> and Z<sup>0</sup> can interact with each other
- $W^{\pm}$  and  $\gamma$  can interact
- two types of weak interaction: charge (CC) and neutral (NC) currents
- W<sup>±</sup> and Z<sup>0</sup> also couple to the weak charges of the fermions:

Fermion	electric charge	weak charge
ν <sub>e</sub> , ν <sub>μ</sub> , ν <sub>τ</sub>	0	
e,µ,T,	-1	
u, c, t	2/3	
d, s, b	1/3	
p (uud)	+1	
n (udd)	0	
and the is		

- Mediated by 3 massive gauge bosons: W<sup>±</sup>, Z<sup>0</sup>
- W<sup>±</sup> and Z<sup>0</sup> can interact with each other
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- two types of weak interaction: charge (CC) and neutral (NC) currents
- W<sup>±</sup> and Z<sup>0</sup> also couple to the weak charges of the fermions:

Fermion	electric charge	weak charge	
Ve, Vµ, VT	0	1	
e,μ,τ,	-1	$-1+4\sin^2\Theta_{w}\approx 0$	
u, c, t	2/3	$1-8/3sin^2\Theta_{\omega}$	
d, s, b	1/3	$-1+4/3sin^2\Theta_{w}$	
p (uud)	+1		
n (udd)	0	≈ 1	
and the state			



Non-PV e-scattering

Electron scattering  $\gamma$  exchange provides  $R_p$  through nucleus FFs

PV e-scattering

Electron also exchange Z, which is parity violating and primarily couples to neutron









martAgain

## Parity violation in electron scattering

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PARITY NONCONSERVATION IN THE FIRST ORDER IN THE WEAK-INTER-ACTION CONSTANT IN ELECTRON SCAT' 'EP'N' AND OTHER SEFFECTS

#### Ya. B. ZEL' DOVICH

Submitted to JETP editor December 25, 1958

J Exp'1. To sort. To S. (U.S.S.A.) ?0, 362-966 (M. r. h, 195)



Electron-proton Weak Scattering



WE assume that besides the weak interaction that causes beta decay,

$$g(\overline{PON})(\overline{e}^{-}Ov) + \text{Herm. conj.},$$
 (1)

there exists an interaction

$$g(\overline{P}OP)(\overline{e}^{-}Oe^{-})$$
(2)

with  $g \approx 10^{-49}$  and the operator  $O = \gamma_{\mu} (1 + i\gamma_5)$ characteristic<sup>1</sup> of processes in which parity is not conserved.\*

Then in the scattering of electrons by protons the interaction (2) will interfere with the Coulomb scattering, and the nonconservation of parity will appear in terms of the first order in the small quantity g. Owing to this it becomes possible to test the hypothesis used here experimentally and to determine the sign of g.

In the scattering of fast (~10<sup>9</sup> ev) longitudinally polarized electrons through large angles by unpolarized target nuclei it can be expected that the cross-sections for right-hand and left-hand electrons (i.e., for electrons with  $\sigma \cdot p > 0$  and  $\sigma \cdot p < 0$ ) can differ by 0.1 to 0.01 percent. Such

an effect is a specific test for an interaction not conserving parity.



### PVeS: How to ....



- One of the incident beams longitudinally polarised
- Change sign of longitudinal polarisation
- Measure fractional rate difference

The matrix element of the Coulomb scattering is of the order of magnitude  $e^2/k^2$ , where k is the momentum transferred ( $\hbar = c = 1$ ). Consequently, the ratio of the interference term to the Coulomb term is of the order of  $gk^2/e^2$ . Substituting  $g = 10^{-5}/M^2$ , where M is the mass of the nucleon, we find that for  $k \sim M$  the parity nonconservation effects can be of the order of 0.1 to 0.01 percent.

The series of a  $|A_{EM} + A_{weak}|^2$   $\sim |A_{EM}|^2 + [2A_{EM}A_{weak}^*] \cdots$ Parity-violating  $A_{PV} = \frac{\sigma_4 - \sigma_4}{\sigma_4 + \sigma_4} \sim \frac{A_{weak}}{A_{EM}} \sim \frac{G_F Q^2}{4 \pi \alpha}$   $Q^2 \approx 0.1 - 1 \text{ GeV}^{2} \rightarrow A_{PV} \leq 10^{-6} - 10^{-4}$   $Q^2 = 4EE' \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$  $M_{PV} = \frac{Q^2}{2} = 4EE' \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$ 



### ppm







# ppb



### 1 sec in 32 years!





### PVeS: How to ....





### ...so where is hell?







- Essentially means 1.5% on  $A_{_{PV}}$
- $A_{PV}$  is 40 parts per billion
- $\delta(A_{PV})$  is 0.6 parts per billion

$$\delta(A_{PV}) \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$



P. Souder and K. Paschke, Front. Phys. 11(1), 111301 (2016)



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 $\delta(A_{PV}) \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$ 

# .... need a few N=10<sup>18</sup> e<sup>-</sup> ... close to 10<sup>11</sup> electrons/s

...but statistics is not everything! 😡







# ... if you are going through hell keep going!







# Have you blinded your analyst?



Just a coincidence that there are several measurements in a row that have close to the same central values? Even with such large uncertainties?



Credit: D. Armstrong





# Armstrongs' criterion: when to blind



Blinding is a good idea\* for any analysis in which:

a) there is judgment involved -eg.setting cuts, choosing data sets, deciding on background subtraction techniques, which polarimeter to trust, linear regression vs. beam modulation, Q<sub>2</sub>ambiguities, GEANT 3 vs GEANT 4 radiative corrections, *etc.* 

#### and

b) there is an "expected" answer, eg.from precise previous experiments or theoretical prediction –eg.....ALWAYS!

\*translation: *absolutely flipping essential* 





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#### F. Sammarucca Symmetry 2024, 16(1), 34

Type of Measurement	Extracted Neutron Skin in <sup>208</sup> Pb	
Proton-nucleus scattering [4]	0.083 - 0.111	
Proton-nucleus scattering [5]	$0.211 \begin{array}{c} +0.054 \\ -0.063 \end{array}$	
Proton-nucleus scattering [6]	$0.20 \pm 0.04$	
Proton-nucleus scattering [7]		
Polarized proton-nucleus scattering [8]	$0.16\pm0.05$	
Polarized proton-nucleus scattering [9]		
Polarized proton-nucleus scattering [5]	$0.211 \substack{+0.054 \\ -0.063}$	
Pionic probes [10]	$0.11 \pm 0.06$	
Pionic probes [11]		
Coherent $\pi$ photoproduction [12]	$0.15\pm 0.03^{+0.01}_{-0.03}$	
Coherent $\pi$ photoproduction [13]	$0.20 + 0.01 \\ 0.03 \\ 0.03 \\ 0.03 \\ 0.03 \\ 0.03 \\ 0.05 \\ $	
Antiprotonic atoms [14]	$0.20 (\pm 0.04) (\pm 0.05)$	
Antiprotonic atoms [15]	$0.16 (\pm 0.02) (\pm 0.04)$	
Antiprotonic atoms [16]	$0.15\pm0.02$	
Electric dipole polarizability [17]	0.13 - 0.19	
Electric dipole polarizability [18]	0.165 (±0.09) (±0.013) (±0.021)	
Electric dipole polarizability		
via polarized scattering at forward angle [19]	$0.156  {}^{+0.025}_{-0.021}$	
Electric dipole polarizability [20]		
Pygmy dipole resonances [21]	$0.18\pm0.035$	
Interaction cross sections [22]		
$(\alpha, \alpha')$ GDR 120 MeV [23]	$0.19\pm0.09$	
$\alpha$ -particle scattering [24]		



# ... if you are going through hell keep going!







# ... if you are going through hell keep going!



per aspera ad stia





### **Data analysis**





## The art of being consistently wrong

$$A_{PV} = \frac{G_F Q^2}{4\pi\alpha\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{Q_W}{A} \cdot \frac{F_W(Q^2)}{F_{ch}(Q^2)} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{\Delta F_W}{F_W} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta A_{PV}}{A_{PV}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta Q^2}{Q^2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta Q_W}{Q_W}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta F_{ch}}{F_{ch}}\right)^2}$$





## The art of being consistently wrong

$$A_{PV} = \frac{G_F Q^2}{4\pi\alpha\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{Q_W}{A} \cdot \frac{F_W(Q^2)}{F_{ch}(Q^2)} \longrightarrow \frac{\Delta F_W}{F_W} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta A_{PV}}{A_{PV}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta Q^2}{Q^2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta Q_W}{Q_W}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta F_{ch}}{F_{ch}}\right)^2}$$

$$\begin{split} A_{corr} &= A_{det} - A_{beam} - A_{trans} - A_{nonlin} - A_{blind} \\ A_{phys} &= R_{radcorr} \; R_{accept} \; R_{Q^2} \frac{A_{corr} - P_L \sum_i f_i A_i}{P_L (1 - \sum_i f_i)} \end{split}$$

Systematic Error	Absolute (ppm)	Relative (%)
Polarization	0.0083	1.3
Detector Linearity	0.0076	1.2
Beam current normalization	0.0015	0.2
Rescattering	0.0001	0
Transverse Polarization	0.0012	0.2
Q <sup>2</sup>	0.0028	0.4
Target Backing	0.0026	0.4
Inelastic States	0	0
TOTAL	0.0140	2.1





## The art of being consistently wrong

$$A_{PV} = \frac{G_F Q^2}{4\pi\alpha\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{Q_W}{A} \cdot \frac{F_W(Q^2)}{F_{ch}(Q^2)} \longrightarrow \frac{\Delta F_W}{F_W} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta A_{PV}}{A_{PV}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta Q^2}{Q^2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta Q_W}{Q_W}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta F_{ch}}{F_{ch}}\right)^2}$$

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$$-q^{2} = Q^{2} = 4EE'\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\theta_{e}}{2}\right) = \frac{4E^{2}\sin^{2}\frac{\theta_{e}}{2}}{1 + \frac{2E}{M_{N}}\sin^{2}\frac{\theta_{e}}{2}}$$

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Q <sup>2</sup>	0.0028	0.4
Target Backing	0.0026	0.4
Inelastic States	0	0
TOTAL	0.0140	2.1





## The shortest road ...





Polarisation > 85%

# ... need a few N=10<sup>18</sup> electrons! close to 10<sup>11</sup> electrons/s Beam current 150 μA High precision polarimetry





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### **Discussion** (let's walk down the highway to hell)





The E122 Experiment at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center



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Physics with Parity-Violating Electron Scattering