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Extraction of $R = \sigma_L / \sigma_T$ from Deep Inelastic *e-p* and *e-d* Cross Sections*

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The quantity $R = \sigma_L / \sigma_T$ is extracted for the proton, deuteron, and neutron from deep inelastic e-p and e-d scattering cross sections measured in recent experiments at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. For $\omega \leq 5$ the kinematic behavior of νR_b is consistent with scaling, indicative of spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ constituents in a parton model of the proton. We also find that within large statistical errors, R_d and R_n are consistent with being equal to R_b .

We have extracted longitudinal and transverse virtual photoabsorption cross sections σ_L and σ_T from deep inelastic electron-proton (e - p) and electron-deuteron (e-d) scattering cross sections that were measured in two experiments^{1,2} at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). Values of $R = \sigma_L / \sigma_T$ for the proton (R_b) are presented and compared with current theoretical predictions. In an earlier experiment, $^{3}R_{b}$ was found to be consistent with the constant value 0.18 ± 0.10 . This small value of R_{b} suggested spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ constituents⁴ of the proton, but full verification of this hypothesis requires a detailed knowledge of its kinematic variation.⁵ In the present work R_{b} is determined over a larger kinematic range

and its accuracy is sufficiently improved to allow examination of its kinematic variation. The first determinations of R for the deuteron and neutron, R_d and R_n , are also reported.

The inelastic scattering of an electron of incident energy E to final energy E' through an angle θ is described in the first Born approximation by the exchange of a virtual photon of energy $\nu = E$ -*E'* and invariant mass squared $q^2 = -4EE' \sin^2(\theta/\theta)$ 2) = $-Q^2$. The differential cross section is related to σ_L and σ_T as follows⁶:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega \ dE'}(E, E', \theta) = \Gamma[\sigma_T(\nu, Q^2) + \epsilon \sigma_L(\nu, Q^2)],$$

where Γ is the flux of transverse virtual photons

and $\epsilon = [1 + 2(1 + \nu^2/Q^2) \tan^2(6/2)]^{-1}$ is the polarization of the virtual photons. Also, $W = (M^2 + 2M\nu - Q^2)^{1/2}$ is the mass of the unobserved final hadronic state, where *M* is the proton mass. We use the scaling variable ω defined by $\omega = 1/x = 2M\nu/Q^2$. The quantity *R* is related to the familiar structure functions W_1 and W_2 by

 $R = \sigma_L / \sigma_T = (W_2 / W_1) (1 + \nu^2 / Q^2) - 1.$

Extraction of *R* and σ_T at fixed (ν, Q^2) requires differential cross sections for at least two values of θ (or ϵ) and is equivalent to separation of W_1 and W_2 .

The inelastic e - p and e - d cross sections were measured with two different single-arm focusing spectrometers in separate experiments to obtain data over a large range of ϵ . The bulk of the cross-section data used in the extraction of Rhad been measured^{1,7,8} at 18° , 26° , and 34° with the SLAC 8-GeV spectrometer. Incident energies E ranged from 4.5 to 18 GeV; at each incident energy, scattered energies E' ranged from that corresponding to electroproduction threshold down to 1.5 GeV. The measured cross sections consequently spanned triangular regions of (ν, Q^2) space at each angle and permitted interpolations for radiative corrections and for extractions of R. Additional cross sections used in the analysis had been measured in an earlier experiment^{2,9,10} at 6° and 10° with the SLAC 20-GeV spectrometer and a different set of target cells. In that experiment E ranged from 4.5 to 19.5 GeV and E'ranged as low as 2.5 GeV. The analyses⁷⁻⁹ of the raw experimental data from the two experiments were similar and the radiative-correction procedures^{7,9} were identical.

A fit to the elastic e-p cross sections measured at the small angles was on the average 2% lower than the elastic e - p cross sections measured at 18° , 26° , and 34° . Detailed studies⁷ of effects that could alter the elastic and inelastic cross sections differently showed that this 2% difference was also applicable to the inelastic e-pcross sections. Therefore, the 6° and 10° inelastic e-p cross sections¹⁰ were multiplied by the relative normalization factor 1.02 ± 0.02 before the extraction of R_{p} . An accurate determination of the normalization factor for the inelastic e-dcross sections was not feasible due to the quasielastic e-d cross-section uncertainties arising both from the inelastic background subtractions and from corrections due to deuteron binding effects. Therefore, the 6° and $10^{\circ} e - d$ data were not used in the extraction of R_d and R_n .

Values of

$$\Sigma(\nu, Q^2, \theta) = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \frac{d^2 \sigma}{d\Omega dE'}(\nu, Q^2, \theta)$$

were obtained by interpolation of the e-p cross sections measured at each angle to selected kinematic points (ν , Q^2) that fell within the overlaps of two or more of the five triangles measured in the two experiments. An array of 86 kinematic points with W > 2 GeV and $Q^2 > 1$ GeV², chosen to reflect the number and distribution of measured cross sections, was used in a systematic study of the behavior of R_{ν} at fixed ω . For each (ν, Q^2) point, R_p was determined from the slope of a linear least-square fit to values of Σ versus ϵ . Values of R_{b} are given in Table I along with their statistical errors and estimates of the systematic uncertainty ΔR_{p} . Because of the interpolations, the value of R_p and its error at any point are correlated with those of neighboring kinematic points. One contribution to ΔR_{μ} at each (ν, Q^2) point arises from uncertainties in the experimental parameters (e.g., E' dependence of the spectrometer acceptance, and fluctuations in the incident beam direction) leading to systematic changes in Σ as a function of θ . This uncertainty ranges from 0.03 to 0.19 in R_{p} and generally is less than 0.08. Where cross sections from both experiments are used in the extraction of R_{b} , the 2% uncertainty in the relative normalization factor contributes an uncertainty of typically 0.07 in R_{b} . A third uncertainty arises from approximations in the radiative corrections and is estimated to range from 0.01 to 0.18 in R_{p} , with the largest uncertainty occurring at large ω or large ν . For $\omega \leq 5$, however, this uncertainty is believed to be no more than 0.06 in R_b . The systematic uncertainty quoted in Table I is the quadratic sum of the above three uncertainties.

Within parton models, the behavior of νR_p as a function of Q^2 for fixed $\omega = 1/x$ reflects the spin quantum numbers of those charged partons carrying a fraction x of the proton's momentum.^{4,5} If the charged partons have spin- $\frac{1}{2}$, light-cone algebras predict that νR_p should scale^{5,11}; i.e., νR_p = $r(\omega)$. If there are some charged spin-0 partons present,¹² then $\nu R_p = a(\omega) + b(\omega)\nu$; here, $b(\omega)$ = $W_2^{(0)}/W_2^{(1/2)}$, where $W_2^{(0)}$ and $W_2^{(1/2)}$ are the contributions to W_2 from spin-0 and spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ partons in the limit of large Q^2 . Figure 1 shows νR_p plotted versus Q^2 for $\omega = 2$, 5, and 10; the solid lines represent least-square fits of the form $\nu R_p = a$ $+ b\nu = a + (\omega/2M)bQ^2$. Best fit values of b and its statistical error are given in Table II for the ten

TABLE I. Values of R_{p} listed with statistical errors and estimated systematic uncertainties ΔR_{n} .

ΔR_{j}	^R p	Q^2 (GeV) ²	ν (GeV)	ω	ΔR _p	Rp	Q ² (GeV) ²	ν (GeV)	ω	ΔR _p	Rp	Q^2 (GeV) ²	ν (GeV)	ω
0.2	0.40±0.12	1.13	3.0	5.0	0.13	0.20 ± 0.08	2.25	3.0	2.5	0.08	0.11 ± 0.17	6.26	5.0	1.5
0.1	0.48 ± 0.12	1.50	4.0	5.0	0.08	0.16 ± 0.05	3.00	4.0	2.5	0.08	0.05 ± 0.08	7.51	6.0	1.5
0.0	0.20 ± 0.07	1.88	5.0	5.0	0.09	$\textbf{0.17} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	3.75	5.0	2.5	0.13	$\textbf{0.64} \pm \textbf{0.26}$	8.76	7.0	1.5
0.0	0.15 ± 0.07	2.25	6.0	5.0	0.07	0.14 ± 0.06	4.50	6.0	2.5	0.17	$\textbf{0.76} \pm \textbf{0.35}$	10.01	8.0	1.5
0.0	$\textbf{0.16} \pm \textbf{0.07}$	2.63	7.0	5.0	0.08	$\textbf{0.08} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	5.25	7.0	2.5	0.09	0.12 ± 0.18	11.26	9.0	1.5
0.1	$\textbf{0.18} \pm \textbf{0.09}$	3.00	8.0	5.0	0.06	$\textbf{0.03} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	6.00	8.0	2.5	0.06	-0.10 ± 0.15	12.51	10.0	1.5
0.1	0.30 ± 0.13	3.38	9.0	5.0	0.07	$\textbf{0.22}\pm\textbf{0.14}$	6.76	9.0	2.5	0.18	$\textbf{0.26} \pm \textbf{0.58}$	15.01	12.0	1.5
0.1	$\textbf{0.18} \pm \textbf{0.12}$	3.75	10.0	5.0	0.07	0.26 ± 0.18	7.51	10.0	2.5					
0.1	$\textbf{0.12} \pm \textbf{0.12}$	4.13	11.0	5.0	0.12	$\textbf{0.25} \pm \textbf{0.27}$	8.26	11.0	2.5	0.07	$\textbf{0.04} \pm \textbf{0.09}$	4.29	4.0	1.75
					0.09	$\textbf{0.01} \pm \textbf{0.20}$	9.01	12.0	2.5	0.08	$\textbf{0.22} \pm \textbf{0.08}$	5.36	5.0	1.75
0.1	0.52 ± 0.15	1.25	4.0	6.0						0.08	0.14 ± 0.07	6.43	6.0	1.75
0.1	0.14 ± 0.09	1.56	5.0	6.0	0.10	$\textbf{0.05} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	1.88	3.0	3.0	0.08	0.32 ± 0.16	7.51	7.0	1.75
0.1	0.22 ± 0.09	1.88	6.0	6.0	0.08	$\textbf{0.18} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	2.50	4.0	3.0	0.06	$\textbf{0.01} \pm \textbf{0.14}$	8.58	8.0	1.75
0.1	0.33 ± 0.09	2.19	7.0	6.0	0.07	$\textbf{0.14} \pm \textbf{0.05}$	3.13	5.0	3.0	0.06	$\textbf{-0.05} \pm \textbf{0.15}$	9.65	9.0	1.75
0.1	0.41 ± 0.10	2.50	8.0	6.0	0.08	$\textbf{0.01} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	3.75	6.0	3.0	0.06	-0.03 ± 0.13	10.72	10.0	1.75
0.1	0.41 ± 0.14	2.82	9.0	6.0	0.09	$\textbf{0.13} \pm \textbf{0.08}$	4.38	7.0	3.0	0.15	0.09 ± 0.45	12.87	12.0	1.75
0.1	0.24 ± 0.13	3.13	10.0	6.0	0.08	$\textbf{0.08} \pm \textbf{0.09}$	5.00	8.0	3.0					
0.1	0.12 ± 0.13	3.44	11.0	6.0	0.08	$\textbf{0.08} \pm \textbf{0.07}$	5.63	9.0	3.0	0.07	$\textbf{0.07} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	3.75	4.0	2.0
0.1	$\textbf{0.09} \pm \textbf{0.16}$	3.75	12.0	6.0	0.16	$\textbf{0.63} \pm \textbf{0.34}$	6.26	10.0	3.0	0.08	$\textbf{0.12} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	4.69	5.0	2.0
					0.13	$\textbf{0.40} \pm \textbf{0.34}$	6.88	11.0	3.0	0.07	$\textbf{0.18} \pm \textbf{0.08}$	5.63	6.0	2.0
0.0	0.15 ± 0.10	1.25	5.0	7.5	0.12	0.22 ± 0.26	7.51	12.0	3.0	0.06	0.08 ± 0.07	6.57	7.0	2.0
0.0	$\textbf{0.17} \pm \textbf{0.09}$	1.50	6.0	7.5						0.05	-0.08 ± 0.10	7.51	8.0	2.0
0.1	0.35 ± 0.10	1.75	7.0	7.5	0.12	0.23 ± 0.07	1.41	3.0	4.0	0.05	-0.08 \pm 0.13	8.44	9.0	2.0
0.1	0.59 ± 0.15	2.00	8.0	7.5	0.13	0.31 ± 0.10	1.88	4.0	4.0	0.06	$\textbf{0.02}\pm\textbf{0.15}$	9.38	10.0	2.0
0.1	0.61 ± 0.16	2.25	9.0	7.5	0.10	$\textbf{0.26} \pm \textbf{0.08}$	2.35	5.0	4.0	0.07	$\textbf{0.20} \pm \textbf{0.15}$	10.32	11.0	2.0
0.14	0.26 ± 0.18	2.50	10.0	7.5	0.10	$\textbf{0.22} \pm \textbf{0.06}$	2.82	6.0	4.0	0.20	$\textbf{0.47} \pm \textbf{0.60}$	11.26	12.0	2.0
0.1	$\textbf{0.19} \pm \textbf{0.17}$	2.75	11.0	7.5	0.10	$\textbf{0.16} \pm \textbf{0.08}$	3.28	7.0	4.0					
0.14	0.21 ± 0.23	3.00	12.0	7.5	0.09	$\textbf{0.10} \pm \textbf{0.10}$	3.75	8.0	4.0					
					0.08	$\textbf{0.06} \pm \textbf{0.09}$	4.22	9.0	4.0					
0.0	$\textbf{0.16} \pm \textbf{0.11}$	1.13	6.0	10.0	0.08	$\textbf{0.01} \pm \textbf{0.08}$	4.69	10.0	4.0					
0.10	$\textbf{0.30} \pm \textbf{0.14}$	1.31	7.0	10.0	0.16	$\textbf{0.57} \pm \textbf{0.48}$	5.16	11.0	4.0					
0.10	0.35 ± 0.14	1.50	8.0	10.0										
0.10	0.32 ± 0.15	1.69	9.0	10.0										
0.10	$\textbf{0.35} \pm \textbf{0.16}$	1.88	10.0	10.0										
0.20	0.58 ± 0.31	2.06	11.0	10.0										
0.26	1.03 ± 0.57	2.25	12.0	10.0										

values of ω studied. The three effects leading to the aforementioned uncertainties in R_p also give uncertainties in b; the systematic uncertainty Δb is the quadratic sum of these three uncertainties. For $\omega \leq 5$ the slope b is small and consistent with zero, indicative of predominantly spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ partons. Over this range of ω , we get a 2 standard deviation upper limit of 20% for the contribution of spin-0 partons to W_2 . For $\omega > 5$, b may be different from zero, but the data for these ω lie in a small range of low Q^2 and a nonzero slope might reflect only the low- Q^2 threshold behavior of R_p .

We have made a number of least-square fits to the 86 values of R_p listed in Table I. A constant value of R_p provides a better fit to the data than $R_p = Q^2/\nu^2$ or the simple vector-dominance¹³ forms $K_p = cQ^2$ or $R_p = cQ^2(1-x)^2$. We obtain R_p

TABLE II. Best fit values of the coefficient *b* and their statistical errors from least-square fits of the form $\nu R_p = a + b\nu$. Also given are the estimated systematic uncertainties Δb and average values of $\delta = R_d - R_p$ for the range $1.5 \le \omega \le 5.0$ where these data are available. Only statistical errors in δ are given.

ω	b	riangle b	δ
1.5	0.11 ± 0.28	0.14	-0.09 ± 0.09
1.75	0.02 ± 0.15	0.08	0.08 ± 0.07
2.0	0.04 ± 0.10	0.06	0.13 ± 0.06
2.5	0.03 ± 0.07	0.06	0.04 ± 0.06
3.0	0.12 ± 0.07	0.07	-0.01 ± 0.08
4.0	0.02 ± 0.07	0.06	-0.25 ± 0.12
5.0	0.02 ± 0.09	0.08	-0.20 ± 0.21
6.0	0.20 ± 0.13	0.12	• • •
7.5	0.66 ± 0.19	0.17	• • •
10.0	0.80 ± 0.31	0.18	•••

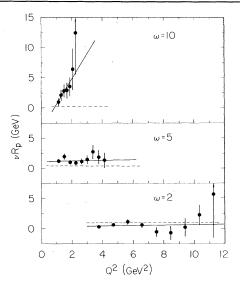


FIG. 1. Values of νR_p plotted with their statistical errors versus Q^2 for fixed values of ω . The solid lines represent least-square fits of the form $\nu R_p = a + b\nu = a + (\omega/2M) bQ^2$, and the dashed lines represent $R_p = Q^2/\nu^2$.

= 0.16 ± 0.01 (χ^2 = 138) with an estimated systematic error of ±0.09. An even better fit is obtained with the form¹² $K_p = f(\omega)Q^2/\nu^2$, where $f(\omega)$ = $g\omega^2$ or, equivalently, $R_p = 4gM^2/Q^2$. The best fit coefficient is $g = 0.13 \pm 0.01$ ($\chi^2 = 110$) with an estimated systematic error of ±0.06. This deviation from simple Q^2/ν^2 behavior at large ω , predicted from Regge arguments¹² in the framework of light-cone algebras⁵ and deduced¹³ from ρ -electroproduction data,¹⁴ is apparent in Fig. 1 where the dashed lines represent $R_p = Q^2/\nu^2$.

Since only 18°, 26°, and 34° e-d data were used in the analysis, R_d and R_n are less well known than R_p . The quantity $\delta = R_d - R_p$ was extracted at each of the (ν, Q^2) points where interpolated cross sections at two or more of these angles were available. This quantity is determined⁷ from the slope of the ratio of deuteron-to-proton cross sections, σ_a/σ_p , plotted versus $\epsilon' = \epsilon(1$ $+ \epsilon R_p)^{-1}$, and is insensitive to the choice of R_p . The major systematic uncertainties disappear in this ratio⁸ and the uncertainties in δ are predominantly statistical. The extracted values of δ are everywhere consistent with zero, within large statistical errors. Values of δ averaged over Q^2 at fixed ω are presented in Table II. The value of δ averaged over the full kinematic range 1.5 $\leq \omega \leq 5.0$ is 0.02 ± 0.03 . It can be shown⁸ that R_d $= R_p$ implies $R_n = R_p$ and therefore, within the experimental errors, R_d and R_n are consistent with being equal to R_p .

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