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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  $\nu R_b$  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  $\sigma_L$  and  $\sigma_T$ from deep inelastic electron-proton  $(e-p)$  and electron-deuteron  $(e-d)$  scattering cross sections that were measured in two experiments<sup>1,2</sup> at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). Values of  $R = \sigma_{1}/\sigma_{T}$  for the proton  $(R_{p})$  are presented and compared with current theoretical predictions. In an earlier experiment,<sup>3</sup>  $R_p$  was found to be consistent with the constant value 0.18  $\pm 0.10$ . This small value of  $R_b$  suggested spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ constituents<sup>4</sup> of the proton, but full verification of this hypothesis requires a detailed knowledge of its kinematic variation.<sup>5</sup> In the present work  $R_{\rho}$  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,  $R_a$  and  $R_n$ , are also reported.

The inelastic scattering of an electron of incident energy  $E$  to final energy  $E'$  through an angle  $\theta$  is described in the first Born approximation by the exchange of a virtual photon of energy  $v = E - E'$  and invariant mass squared  $q^2 = -4EE'\sin^2(\theta)$  $2$ ) =  $-Q<sup>2</sup>$ . The differential cross section is related to  $\sigma_L$  and  $\sigma_T$  as follows<sup>6</sup>:

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

where  $\Gamma$  is the flux of transverse virtual photons

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

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

Extraction of R and  $\sigma_T$  at fixed  $(\nu, Q^2)$  requires differential cross sections for at least two values of  $\theta$  (or  $\epsilon$ ) 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  $\epsilon$ . The bulk of the cross-section data used in the extraction of  $R$ had been measured<sup>1,7,8</sup> at  $18^\circ$ ,  $26^\circ$ , and  $34^\circ$  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  $(\nu, Q^2)$ 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<sup>2, 9, 10</sup> 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  $2.5 \,\text{GeV}$ . The analyses<sup>7-9</sup> of the raw experimental data from the two experiments were similar and the radiative-correction procedures<sup>7,9</sup> 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  $18^\circ$ ,  $26^\circ$ , and  $34^\circ$ . Detailed studies<sup>7</sup> of effects that could alter the elastic and inelastic cross sections differently showed that this  $2\%$  difference was also applicable to the inelastic  $e$ - $\phi$ cross sections. Therefore, the  $6^\circ$  and  $10^\circ$  inelastic  $e$ - $\dot{p}$  cross sections<sup>10</sup> were multiplied by the relative normalization factor  $1.02 \pm 0.02$  before the extraction of  $R_{\rho}$ . An accurate determination of the normalization factor for the inelastic  $e-d$ cross 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  $6^\circ$  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  $(\nu, Q^2)$  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  $Q^2 > 1$  GeV<sup>2</sup>, chosen to reflect the number and distribution of measured cross sections, was used in a systematic study of the behavior of  $R_{\phi}$  at fixed  $\omega$ . For each  $(\nu, Q^2)$ point,  $R_{\phi}$  was determined from the slope of a linear least-square fit to values of  $\Sigma$  versus  $\epsilon$ . Values of  $R_b$  are given in Table I along with their statistical errors and estimates of the systematic uncertainty  $\Delta R_{\rho}$ . 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  $\Delta R_{\rho}$  at each  $(\nu, Q^2)$ 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  $\Sigma$  as a function of  $\theta$ . This uncertainty ranges from 0.03 to 0.19 in  $R_b$  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  $R_{\phi}$ . A third uncertainty arises from approximations in the radiative corrections and is estimated to range from 0.01 to 0.18 in  $R_{\nu}$ , with the largest uncertainty occurring at large  $\omega$  or large  $\nu$ . For  $\omega \le 5$ , however, this uncertainty is believed to be no more than 0.06 in  $R_{\phi}$ . The systematic uncertainty quoted in Table I is the quadratic sum of the above three uncertainties.

Within parton models, the behavior of  $\nu R_{\star}$  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.<sup>4,5</sup> If quantum numbers of those charged partons carrying a fraction x of the proton's momentum.<sup>4,5</sup> If the charged partons have spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ , light-cone algebras predict that  $vR_b$  should scale<sup>5,11</sup>; i.e.,  $vR_b$  $= r(\omega)$ . If there are some charged spin-0 parton<br>present.<sup>12</sup> then  $\nu R = a(\omega) + b(\omega)\nu$ ; here,  $b(\omega)$ 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  $\nu R_{\gamma}$  plotted versus  $Q^2$  for  $\omega = 2$ , 5, and 10; the solid lines represent least-square fits of the form  $vR_p = a$  $+b \nu = a + (\omega/2M)bQ^2$ . Best fit values of b and its statistical error are given in Table II for the ten

 $\overline{a}$ 

TABLE I. Values of  $R_b$  listed with statistical errors and estimated systematic uncertainties  $\Delta R_a$ .

$\omega$	$\boldsymbol{\nu}$ (GeV)	$\mathbf{q}^2$ $\left( \mathrm{GeV}\right) ^{2}$	$R_p$	$\Delta R$ p	$\omega$	$\boldsymbol{\nu}$ (GeV)	$\mathbf{Q}^2$ $(GeV)^2$	$\mathbf{R}_{\rm p}$	$\Delta R_p$	$\omega$	$\boldsymbol{\nu}$ (GeV)	$\mathbf{Q}^2$ $(SeV)^2$	$R$ <sub>p</sub>	$\Delta R_p$
1.5	5.0	6.26	$0.11 \pm 0.17$	0.08	2.5	3.0	2.25	$0.20 \pm 0.08$	0.13	5.0	3.0	1.13	$0.40 \pm 0.12$	0.20
1.5	6.0	7.51	$0.05 \pm 0.08$	0.08	2.5	4.0	3.00	$0.16 \pm 0.05$	0.08	5.0	4.0	1.50	$0.48 \pm 0.12$	0.15
1.5	7.0	8.76	$0.64 \pm 0.26$	0.13	2.5	5.0	3.75	$0.17 \pm 0.06$	0.09	5.0	5.0	1.88	$0.20 \pm 0.07$	0.09
1.5	8.0	10.01	$0.76 \pm 0.35$	0.17	2.5	6.0	4.50	$0.14 \pm 0.06$	0.07	5.0	6.0	2.25	$0.15 \pm 0.07$	0.09
1.5	9,0	11.26	$0.12 \pm 0.18$	0.09	2.5	7.0	5.25	$0.08 \pm 0.06$	0.08	5.0	7.0	2.63	$0.16 \pm 0.07$	0.08
1.5	10.0	12.51	$-0.10 \pm 0.15$	0.06	2.5	8.0	6.00	$0.03 \pm 0.06$	0.06	5.0	8.0	3.00	$0.18 \pm 0.09$	0.11
1.5	12.0	15.01	$0.26 \pm 0.58$	0.18	2.5	9.0	6.76	$0.22 \pm 0.14$	0.07	5.0	9.0	3.38	$0.30 \pm 0.13$	0.14
$\sim$					2.5	10.0	7.51	$0.26 \pm 0.18$	0.07	5.0	10.0	3.75	$0.18 \pm 0.12$	0.12
1.75	4.0	4.29	$0.04 \pm 0.09$	0.07	2.5	11.0	8.26	$0.25 \pm 0.27$	0.12	5.0	11.0	4.13	$0.12 \pm 0.12$	0.11
1.75	5.0	5.36	$0.22 \pm 0.08$	0.08	2.5	12.0	9.01	$0.01 \pm 0.20$	0.09					
1.75	6.0	6.43	$0.14 \pm 0.07$	0.08						6.0	4.0	1.25	$0.52 \pm 0.15$	0.18
1.75	7.0	7.51	$0.32 \pm 0.16$	0.08	3.0	3.0	1.88	$0.05 \pm 0.06$	0.10	6.0	5.0	1.56	$0.14 \pm 0.09$	0.10
1.75	8.0	8.58	$0.01 \pm 0.14$	0.06	3.0	4.0	2.50	$0.18 \pm 0.06$	0.08	6.0	6.0	1.88	$0.22 \pm 0.09$	0.10
1.75	9.0	9.65	$-0.05 \pm 0.15$	0.06	3.0	5.0	3.13	$0.14 \pm 0.05$	0.07	6.0	7.0	2.19	$0.33 \pm 0.09$	0.11
1.75	10.0	10.72	$-0.03 \pm 0.13$	0.06	3.0	6.0	3.75	$0.01 \pm 0.06$	0.08	$6.0$	8.0	2.50	$0.41 \pm 0.10$	0.12
1.75	12.0	12.87	$0.09 \pm 0.45$	0.15	3.0	7.0	4.38	$0.13 \pm 0.08$	0.09	6.0	9.0	2.82	$0.41 \pm 0.14$	0.15.
					3.0	8.0	5.00	$0.08 \pm 0.09$	0.08	6.0	10.0	3.13	$0.24 \pm 0.13$	0.13
2.0	4.0	3.75	$0.07 \pm 0.06$	0.07	3.0	9.0	5.63	$0.08 \pm 0.07$	0.08	6.0	11.0	3.44	$0.12 \pm 0.13$	0.12
2.0	5.0	4.69	$0.12 \pm 0.06$	0.08	3.0	10.0	6.26	$0.63 \pm 0.34$	0.16	6.0	12.0	3.75	$0.09 \pm 0.16$	0.11
2.0	$6.0\,$	5.63	$0.18 \pm 0.08$	0.07	3.0	11.0	6.88	$0.40 \pm 0.34$	0.13					
2.0	7.0	6.57	$0.08 \pm 0.07$	0.06	3.0	12.0	7.51	$0.22 \pm 0.26$	0.12	7.5	5.0	1.25	$0.15 \pm 0.10$	0.09
2.0	8.0	7.51	$-0.08 \pm 0.10$	0.05						7.5	6.0	1,50	$0.17 \pm 0.09$	0.09
2.0	9.0	8.44	$-0.08 \pm 0.13$	0.05	4.0	3.0	1.41	$0.23 \pm 0.07$	0.12	7.5	7.0	1.75	$0.35 \pm 0.10$	0.11
2.0	10.0	9.38	$0.02 \pm 0.15$	0.06	4.0	4.0	1.88	$0.31 \pm 0.10$	0.13	7.5	8.0	2.00	$0.59 \pm 0.15$	0.13
2.0	11.0	10.32	$0.20 \pm 0.15$	0.07	4.0	5.0	2.35	$0.26 \pm 0.08$	0.10	7.5	9.0	2.25	$0.61 \pm 0.16$	0.13
2.0	12.0	11.26	$0.47 \pm 0.60$	0.20	4.0	6.0	2.82	$0.22 \pm 0.06$	0.10	7.5	10.0	2.50	$0.26 \pm 0.18$	0.14
					4.0	7.0	3.28	$0.16 \pm 0.08$	0.10	7.5	11.0	2.75	$0.19 \pm 0.17$	0.13
					4.0	8.0	3.75	$0.10 \pm 0.10$	0.09	7.5	12.0	3.00	$0.21 \pm 0.23$	0.14
					4.0	9.0	4.22	$0.06 \pm 0.09$	0.08					
					4.0	10.0	4.69	$0.01 \pm 0.08$	0.08	10.0	6.0	1.13	$0.16 \pm 0.11$	0.09
					4.0	11.0	5.16	$0.57 \pm 0.48$	0.16	10.0	7.0	1.31	$0.30 \pm 0.14$	0.10
										10.0	8.0	1.50	$0.35 \pm 0.14$	0.10
										10.0	9.0	1.69	$0.32 \pm 0.15$	0.10
										10.0	10.0	1.88	$0.35 \pm 0.16$	0.10
										10.0	11.0	2.06	$0.58 \pm 0.31$	0.20
										10.0	12.0	2.25	$1.03 \pm 0.57$	0.26

values of  $\omega$  studied. The three effects leading to the aforementioned uncertainties in  $R_{\nu}$  also give uncertainties in  $b$ ; the systematic uncertainty  $\Delta b$  is the quadratic sum of these three uncertainties. For  $\omega \le 5$  the slope b is small and consistent with zero, indicative of predominantly spin- $\frac{1}{2}$  partons. Over this range of  $\omega$ , 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  $\omega$ 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  $R_{\rho}$ = $Q^2/\nu^2$  or the simple vector-dominance 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  $vR_b = a + bv$ . Also given are the estimated systematic uncertainties  $\Delta b$  and average values of  $\delta = R_d - R_b$ for the range  $1.5 \le \omega \le 5.0$  where these data are available. Only statistical errors in  $\delta$  are given.

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



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

=  $0.16 \pm 0.01$  ( $\chi^2$  = 138) with an estimated systematic error of  $\pm 0.09$ . An even better fit is obtained with the form<sup>12</sup>  $R_{\rho}=f(\omega)Q^2/\nu^2$ , where  $f(\omega)$  $=g\omega^2$  or, equivalently,  $R_b=4gM^2/Q^2$ . The best fit coefficient is  $g = 0.13 \pm 0.01$  ( $\chi^2 = 110$ ) with an estimated systematic error of  $\pm 0.06$ . This deviation from simple  $Q^2/\nu^2$  behavior at large  $\omega$ , predicted from Regge arguments<sup>12</sup> in the framework of light-cone algebras<sup>5</sup> and deduced<sup>13</sup> from  $\rho$ -elec-<br>troproduction data,<sup>14</sup> is apparent in Fig. 1 where troproduction data, $^{\rm 14}$  is apparent in Fig. 1 where the dashed lines represent  $R_{\rho} = Q^2/\nu^2$ .

Since only 18°, 26°, and 34°  $e$ -d data were used in the analysis,  $R_d$  and  $R_n$  are less well known than  $R_{\rho}$ . The quantity  $\delta = R_{d} - R_{\rho}$  was extracted at each of the  $(\nu, Q^2)$  points where interpolated cross sections at two or more of these angles were available. This quantity is determined' from the slope of the ratio of deuteron-to-proton cross sections,  $\sigma_d/\sigma_b$ , plotted versus  $\epsilon' = \epsilon(1)$ +  $\epsilon R_{\phi}$ )<sup>-1</sup>, and is insensitive to the choice of  $R_{\rho}$ . The major systematic uncertainties disappear in this ratio<sup>8</sup> and the uncertainties in  $\delta$  are predominantly statistical. The extracted values of  $\delta$  are everywhere consistent with zero, within large statistical errors. Values of  $\delta$  averaged over  $Q^2$ at fixed  $\omega$  are presented in Table II. The value

of  $\delta$  averaged over the full kinematic range 1.5  $\leq \omega \leq 5.0$  is  $0.02 \pm 0.03$ . It can be shown<sup>8</sup> that  $R_a$  $= R_{\phi}$  implies  $R_{\eta} = R_{\phi}$  and therefore, within the experimental errors,  $R_a$  and  $R_n$  are consistent with being equal to  $R_p$ .

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