

Measurements of the Neutron Longitudinal Spin Asymmetry A_1 and Structure Function g_1 in the Valence Quark Region

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Abstract

Flavor separation analysis on the current data for the nucleon-virtual photon longitudinal spin asymmetry A_1 on the proton and neutron have shown that the ratio of the polarized-to-unpolarized down-quark parton distribution functions, $\Delta d/d$, tends towards $-1/3$ at large x , in disagreement with the perturbative QCD prediction that $\Delta d/d$ approaches 1. As a part of experiment E06-014 in Hall A of Jefferson Lab, double-spin asymmetries were measured in the scattering of a longitudinally polarized electron beam of energies 4.73 and 5.89 GeV from a longitudinally and transversely polarized ^3He target in the deep inelastic scattering region, allowing for the extraction of the neutron asymmetry A_1^n and the longitudinal spin structure function g_1^n . We will discuss our analysis of the data and present results for A_1 and g_1 on both ^3He and the neutron in the kinematic range of Bjorken variable $0.2 < x < 0.65$ and virtual photon four-momentum transfer squared $2 < Q^2 < 5 \text{ GeV}^2$. Our measurements of A_1 and g_1 are compared to the world data and a new value of the second moment of g_1 , namely a_2 , is evaluated and compared to a lattice QCD calculation.