Proton Form Factor Ratio, $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ from Double Spin Asymmetry

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The ratio of the electric and magnetic form factor of the proton, $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ has been measured for elastic electron-proton scattering with polarized beam and target up to four-momentum transfer squared, $Q^2 = 5.66$ (GeV/c)^2 using the double spin asymmetry for target spin orientation aligned parallel and nearly perpendicular to the beam momentum direction.

This measurement of $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ agrees with Q^2 dependence of previous recoil polarization data and reconfirms the discrepancy at high Q^2 between the Rosenbluth and the polarization-transfer method with a different measurement technique and systematic uncertainties uncorrelated to those of the recoil-polarization measurements. The form factor ratio at Q^2=2.06 (GeV/c)^2 has been measured as $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p = 0.720 \pm 0.176_{stat} \pm 0.039_{sys}$ which is in agreement with an earlier measurement with the polarized target technique at similar kinematics. At Q^2=5.66 (GeV/c)^2, the form factor ratio has been determined as $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p = 0.244 \pm 0.353_{stat} \pm 0.013_{sys}$ which represents the highest Q^2 reach with the double spin asymmetry to date.

I. INTRODUCTION

The elastic form factors are fundamental properties of the nucleon representing the effect of its structure on the response to electromagnetic probes such as electrons. Detailed knowledge of the nucleon form factors is very important to understand the nucleus. Electron scattering is an excellent tool to probe deep inside nucleons and nuclei. In the one-photon exchange (Born) approximation, the structure of the proton or neutron is characterized by the electric and magnetic (Sachs) form factors $G_E(Q^2)$ and $G_M(Q^2)$, which depend only on the four-momentum transfer squared, Q^2. At $Q^2 = 0$, the proton form factors are normalized to the charge $G_E^p(0) = 1$ (in units of e) and the magnetic moment $G_M^p(0) = \mu_p = 2.79$ (in units of nuclear magnetons).

The Rosenbluth separation technique has been the first method to separate the squares of the proton form factors G_E^p and G_M^p by measuring the unpolarized elastic electron scattering cross sections at different angles and energies at fixed Q^2 [1]. In addition, the proton form factor ratio, $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ has been extracted from measurements of polarization components of the proton recoiling from the scattering of longitudinally polarized electrons [2, 3] In the ratio of polarization components, which is proportional to G_E^p/G_M^p, many of the experimental systematic errors are canceled.

Measurement of the beam-target asymmetry using double polarization experiments with polarized target is a third technique to extract $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$, which has not been conducted as often as Rosenbluth separation or recoil polarization experiments [4, 5]. For elastic scattering of polarized electrons from a polarized target, the beam-target double asymmetry, A_p is directly related to the form factor ratio, G_E^p/G_M^p as;

$$A_p = \frac{-bR\sin\theta^*\cos\phi^* - a\cos\theta^*}{R^2 + c}, \qquad (1)$$

where $R = G_E^p/G_M^p$ with $R = 1/2.79$ at $Q^2 = 0$. The polar and azimuthal angles, θ^* and ϕ^* relative to the z and x axes, respectively, describe the orientation of the proton polarization vector relative to the direction of momentum transfer, $\vec{q} = \vec{p}_e - \vec{p}_{e'}$, where the z axis points along $\vec{q}$, the y axis perpendicular to the scattering plane defined by the electron three-momenta $(\vec{p}_e \times \vec{p}_{e'})$, and the x axis so to form a right-handed coordinate frame. The quantities a, b, c are kinematic factors given by $a = 2\tau\tan\frac{\theta_e}{2}\sqrt{1+\tau+(1+\tau)^2\tan^2\frac{\theta_e}{2}}$, $b = 2\tan\frac{\theta_e}{2}\sqrt{\tau(1+\tau)}$ and $c = \tau + 2\tau(1+\tau)\tan^2\frac{\theta_e}{2}$ with $\tau = Q^2/(4M^2)$, where θ_e is the electron scattering angle and M is the proton mass.

The world data of the proton form factor ratio, $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ from the Rosenbluth separation method [6–15] are shown in Fig. 1 along with those obtained from double polarization experiments with recoil polarization [16–30] and polarized target [31, 32]. An almost linear fall-off of the polarization data can be seen compared to the nearly flat Q^2 dependence of $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ measured with the Rosenbluth technique. One possible solution that explains the difference between the polarized and unpolarized methods is two-photon exchange (TPE) [34–43], which mostly affects the Rosenbluth data while the correction of the polarization data is small. It is also argued that other effects than TPE are responsible for the discrepancy [44–46]. Several experiments have been

conducted to validate the TPE hypothesis by probing the angular dependence of recoil polarization [16], non-linear dependence of unpolarized cross sections on ϵ [47], and by directly comparing e^+p and e^-p elastic scattering [48–51]. Evidence for TPE at $Q^2 < 2.5$ (GeV/c)^2 has been found to be smaller than expected, and more data is needed at high Q^2 to be conclusive [51].

Having formally the equivalent sensitivity as the recoil polarization technique to the form factor ratio, the third technique, beam-target asymmetry, is very well suited to verify the results of the recoil polarization technique. By measuring $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ and comparing it to the previous results, the discovery of any unknown or underestimated systematic errors in the previous polarization measurements is possible. The first such measurement was done by the experiment RSS at Jefferson Lab at $Q^2 = 1.5$ (GeV/c)^2 [32]. Carrying out the same measurement at higher Q^2 values is very important to study the consistency of the third technique, double-spin asymmetry with the first two techniques, Rosenbluth separation and recoil polarization. In this work, the polarized target method has been applied at $Q^2 = 2.06$ and 5.66 (GeV/c)^2 as a by-product of the Spin Asymmetries of the Nucleon Experiment (SANE) [52].

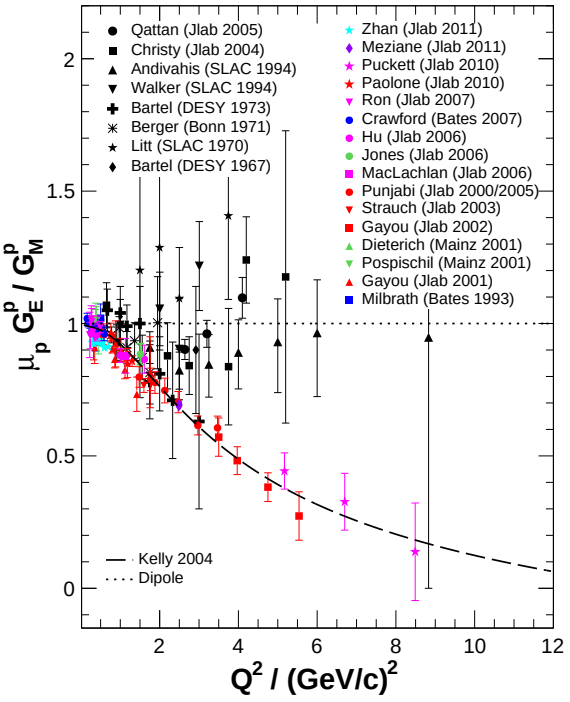

FIG. 1: Proton electric to magnetic form factor ratio from Rosenbluth-separated cross-sections (*black symbols*) [6–15] and from double-polarization experiments (colored symbols) [16–32]. The parametrization by Kelly [33] is also shown.

Section II presents a description of the experimental setup. Section III discusses details of the data analysis method, including the elastic event selection, raw and physics asymmetry determinations, extraction of the proton form factor ratio, $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$, and estimation of the systematic uncertainties. Section IV presents the final results of the experiment which are discussed in Section V in light of the proton form factor ratio discrepancy. Section VI presents the conclusion with the impact of the measurement on the world database of the proton electromagnetic form factor ratio.

II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The experiment SANE (E07-003) is a single-arm inclusive-scattering experiment [53–58]. The goal of SANE was to measure the proton spin structure functions $g_1(x, Q^2)$ and $g_2(x, Q^2)$ at four-momentum transfer squared $2.5 < Q^2 < 6.5$ (GeV/c)^2 and values of the Bjorken scaling variable $0.3 < x < 0.8$, which is an extension of the kinematic coverage of experiment RSS performed in Hall C, Jefferson Lab [59].

SANE measured the inclusive double spin asymmetries with the target spin aligned parallel and nearly perpendicular ($\approx$80°) to the beam direction for longitudinally polarized electron scattering from a polarized target [60]. The experiment was carried out in the experimental Hall C at Jefferson Lab from January to March, 2009. A subset of the data was used to measure the beam-target spin asymmetry from elastic electron-proton scattering. Recoiled protons were detected by the High-Momentum Spectrometer (HMS) at 22.3° and 22.0°, and central momenta of 3.58 and 4.17 GeV/c, respectively, for the two different beam energies. Scattered electrons were detected by the Big Electron Telescope Array (BETA) in coincidence with the protons in the HMS. In addition to that configuration, single-arm electron scattering data were also taken by detecting the elastically scattered electrons in the HMS at a central angle of 15.4° and a central momentum of 4.4 GeV/c for an electron beam energy of 5.89 GeV for both target spin configurations

The Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF) at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility delivered longitudinally polarized electron beams of up to 6 GeV with $\sim$ 100 % duty factor simultaneously to the three experimental halls A, B, and C [61]. The CEBAF accelerator has recently been upgraded to 12 GeV with the addition of a fourth hall (D) [62]. The Hall C arc dipole magnets were used as a spectrometer to measure the energy of the electron beam as it entered the Hall. Using the curvature of the beam over its 34.4° deflection by dipoles and the precise knowledge of the arc dipole fields, the energy of the beam entered to the hall is determined with an accuracy of $\Delta E/E \sim 10^{-4}$. The beam polarization was measured with the Hall C Møller polarimeter [63] and was obtained to be nearly 85% with a quantum efficiency of 1%. The fast-raster system with

a uniform square beam spot of 1×1 mm^2 [64, 65], 25 meters upstream of the target is designed to increase the effective beam size in order to prevent damage to the targets due to the high current and very localized energy deposit.

In addition to the standard Hall C beam-line instrumentation, SANE required extra beamline equipment to accommodate a polarized target. A slow-raster system was added to spread the beam over an even larger area of the target material. This second raster was circular, with a diameter of 2 cm [66]. Because the raster system rapidly changed the actual beam position on the target during the experiment, SANE monitored the beam position relative to the beam center by recording the raster X and Y amplitudes. The target polarization was maintained and oriented with a strong magnetic field. When the target magnetic field is nearly perpendicular to the beam, the electron beam would be deflected down, away from the target center. To counteract this, the beam was sent through a chicane of magnets which bent it down and then back upward at the target so that it does not miss the center of the target. Even after the beam passed through the target center, it would continue to bend downwards, deflecting away from the standard beam dump in the Hall. Therefore, an 80-foot-long helium bag was used as the beam line from the scattering chamber to the beam dump. The exit windows of this beam line were large enough to accept the different beam deflections 2.8° and 2.2° due to different beam energies 4.72 and 5.89 GeV, respectively.

The primary apparatus for the elastic data was based on the superconducting High Momentum Spectrometer (HMS), which has a large solid angle and momentum acceptance, providing the capability of analyzing high momentum particles up to 7.4 GeV/c. The spectrometer is equipped with a set of detectors to register and track charged particles scattered from the target. In the standard configuration, the HMS detector package consists of a pair of gas drift chambers (DC1 and DC2) [67], four planes of scintillator hodoscopes (S1X, S1Y, S2X, S2Y) [68], a gas Cherenkov detector, and a lead-glass calorimeter. The two drift chambers provide the particle tracking information at the focal plane which is an imaginary plane defined in the middle between the two drift chambers. The scintillator hodoscopes are used for triggering the detector read-out and provide timing information while the gas Cherenkov detector and the lead-glass calorimeter provide information for particle identification (PID).

In order to perform a coincidence experiment with the proton detected in HMS, the electron detector required to have a large acceptance to match with the proton acceptance defined by the HMS collimator. The lead-glass electromagnetic calorimeter, BigCal as a part of BETA, provided the needed acceptance with enough energy and angular resolution. The calorimeter was assembled by the GEp-III collaboration [16, 17]. This has a large solid angle of approximately 0.2 sr with the face of the calorimeter placed 3.50 m from the target cell. In addition to BigCal, BETA consists of Cherenkov counters and scintillating fiber trackers for particle identification (PID) and directional information.

As a double polarization experiment, SANE used a polarized proton target in form of crystalized ammonia (NH_3). The protons in the NH_3 molecules were polarized using Dynamic Nuclear Polarization (DNP) [69–71]. The SANE polarized target setup replaced the standard Hall C scattering chamber. The target system consisted of a target insert, a superconducting pair of Helmholtz magnets, a liquid helium evaporation refrigerator system and a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) system. The target insert was roughly 2 m long which provided room for four different containers of target materials, in 2.5 cm diameter cups. Two cups called *top* and *bottom* were filled with crystalized NH_3 beads which were used as the proton targets. In addition to the crystalized ammonia, ^{12}C and Polyethylene (CH_2) targets were also used for detector calibration purposes. The target insert was immersed in a liquid He bath to maintain the target material at 1 K temperature, which was cooled down from 4 K by pumping off the liquid from the evaporation refrigerator in order to optimize the target polarization. The superconducting pair of Helmholtz magnets provided 5 T magnetic field in the target region. It can be rotated around the target in order to change the target field direction and hence the target polarization direction.

The spin direction of the polarized proton can be aligned parallel (positive polarization) or anti-parallel (negative polarization) to the applied field direction by changing the frequency of the microwave radiation. The microwave horns were used on each NH_3 target cup for this purpose. Data was taken at both microwave frequencies. The NMR coils embedded into the NH_3 target cups provided an online target polarization and recorded the operating conditions. More details on the operation of the target can be found in Ref. [53].

The beam-target asymmetry, A_p shown in Eq. (1) is maximal when the proton spin is aligned perpendicular to the four-momentum transfer direction. However, due to a constraint on the rotation of the Helmholtz magnets, the maximum spin direction one could reach was 80° without blocking the BETA acceptance.

III. DATA ANALYSIS

Standard calibrations for all of the HMS detector components have been performed [72]. In addition, a large number of π^0 events were produced in the target. These neutral pions decayed very rapidly into two photons. The BigCal energy calibration was done using the energy deposited in two separate clusters in BigCal from these two photons from π^0 decay. More details of the BigCal calibration method and procedure can be found in appendix D in Ref. [57].

The determination of the particle trajectory and mo-

mentum at the target using the HMS was done in two major steps. The first step was to find the trajectory, the positions and angles, X_{fp} and θ_{fp} (Y_{fp} and ϕ_{fp}) in the dispersive (non-dispersive) direction at the detector focal plane using the two HMS drift chambers.

The second step was to reconstruct the target quantities by mapping the focal plane coordinates to the target plane coordinates using a reconstruction matrix which represents the HMS spectrometer optics based on a COSY model [73]. The reconstructed target quantities are Y_{tar}, ϕ_{tar}, θ_{tar} and δ, where Y_{tar} is the horizontal position at the target plane perpendicular to the central spectrometer ray, θ_{tar} and ϕ_{tar} are the in-plane (non-dispersive) and out-of-plane (dispersive) scattering angles relative to the central ray. The HMS relative momentum parameter, $\delta = (P - P_0)/P_0$, where P_0 is the central momentum of the HMS, determines the momentum P of the detected particle.

A. Elastic Event Selection

Single-arm electrons were identified in HMS with PID and momentum acceptance cuts. The Cherenkov and the lead glass calorimeter in HMS were used to discriminate e^- from π^-, requiring the number of photoelectrons seen by the Cherenkov counter $N_{cer} > 2$ (Cherenkov cut) and the relative energy deposited in the lead glass calorimeter, $E_{cal}/P > 0.7$ (calorimeter cut), where P is the reconstructed electron momentum in the HMS spectrometer.

The invariant mass, W of the elastic ep scattering can be written as a function of the scattered electron momentum, P, angle, θ_e and beam energy, E as

$$W(P,\theta_e) = M^2 + 2M(E-P) - 4EP\sin^2\theta_e/2. \quad (2)$$

Figure 2 shows the relative momentum δ for the single-arm electron data as a function of invariant mass, W. The nominal momentum acceptance is given by $-8\% < \delta < 10\%$, which is usually applied as a fiducial cut in addition to the PID cuts. This eliminates events that are outside of the nominal spectrometer acceptance, but end up in the detectors after multiple scattering in the magnets or exit windows. Because a significant number of elastic events populated the region of larger δ values as, $10\% < \delta < 12\%$, where the reconstruction matrix elements are not well known, these data were analyzed individually so that the systematic effect from the HMS reconstruction matrix could be determined separately. Therefore, two δ regions, $-8\% < \delta < 10\%$ and $10\% < \delta < 12\%$, were used separately in addition to the PID cuts to extract the elastic events. About $\sim 40\%$ of extra elastic events were obtained by using this higher δ region.

The elastic events from the coincidence data were selected using both HMS and BigCal quantities. The horizontal (vertical) coordinate of the scattered electron at the entrance plane of BigCal, X_{BETA} (Y_{BETA}) was measured, and also calculated from the proton coordinates reconstructed by HMS, X_{HMS} (Y_{HMS}) using elastic kinematics for the known electron beam energy, E and the recoil proton angle, θ_p. The recoil proton momentum P_p was not used for the kinematic calculation because of its larger uncertainty. An elliptic cut was applied to the differences, $\Delta Y = (Y_{HMS} - Y_{BETA})$, and $\Delta X = (X_{HMS} - X_{BETA})$,

$$\left(\frac{\Delta X}{X_{cut}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta Y}{Y_{cut}}\right)^2 \leq 1.$$

with X_{cut} and Y_{cut} representing the half axes, to reduce the backgrounds most effectively as illustrated in Fig. 3. Here, $(X_{cut}, Y_{cut}) = (7, 10)$ cm.

Based on energy and momentum conservation for electron-proton elastic scattering, the recoil proton momentum, $P_p(\theta_p)$ could be calculated from the recoil pro-

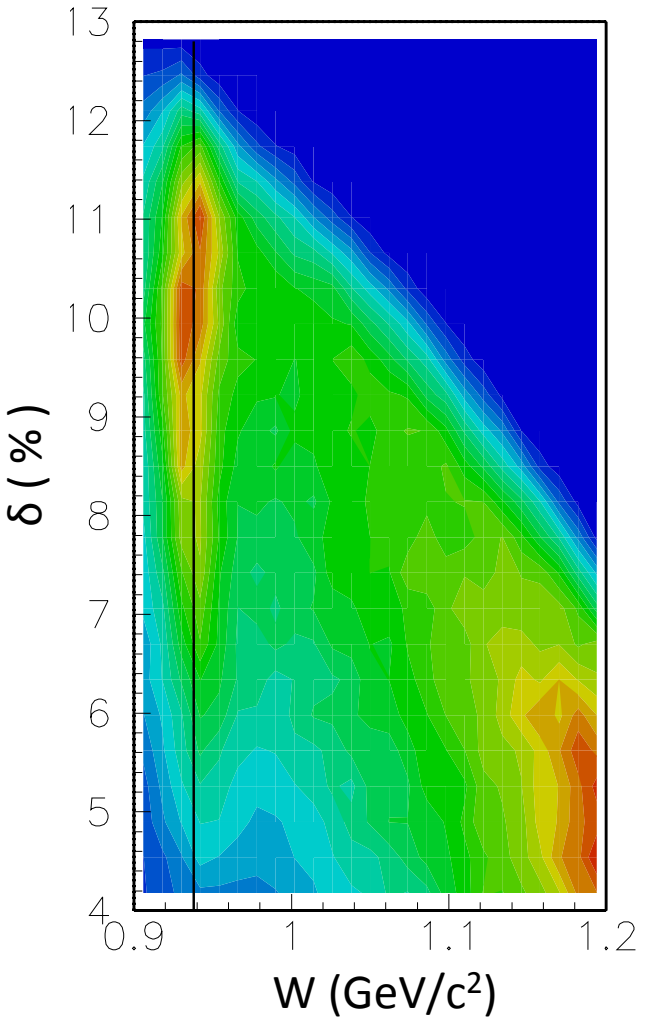

FIG. 2: The relative momentum δ for the single-arm elastic electron data as a function of invariant mass, W.

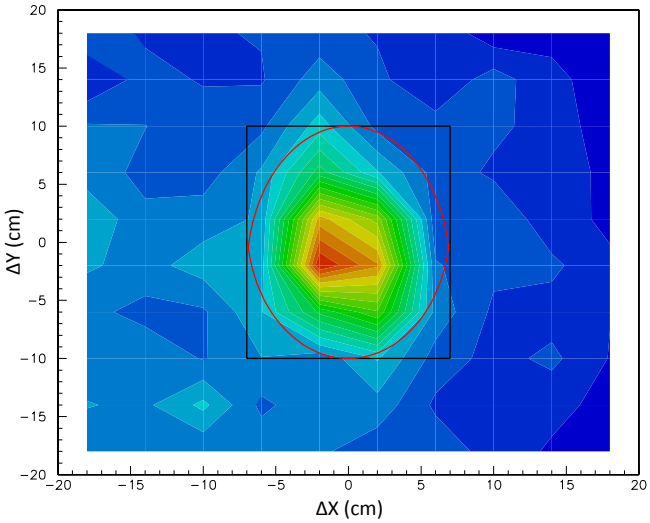

FIG. 3: The elliptical cut (red) with $(X_{cut}, Y_{cut}) = (7, 10)$ cm applied to the ΔY vs ΔX distributions at $Q^2 = 6.26$ $(\mathrm{GeV/c})^2$.

ton angle, θ_p, as

$$P_p(\theta_p) = \frac{2ME(E+M)\cos\theta_p}{M^2 + 2ME + E^2\sin^2\theta_p}. \quad (3)$$

The residual difference between the proton momentum detected by HMS, P_p and the proton momentum calculated by the recoiled proton angle, $P_p(\theta_p)$, expressed as a percentage of the HMS central momentum, P_0 is given as

$$\Delta_p = \frac{P_p - P_p(\theta_p)}{P_0} \times 100. \quad (4)$$

The variance of Δ_p was found to be 0.7%. A $\pm 3\sigma$ cut around the central peak of Δ_p was chosen for further background suppression for the coincidence data. The spectrum of Δ_p is shown in Fig. 4.

B. Corrections to Event Reconstruction

The presence of the target magnetic field affects the electron and proton trajectories. The standard matrix elements for δ and ϕ_{tar} take the vertical position of the beam at the target into account, hence the determinations of δ and of the out-of-plane angle, ϕ_{tar} are sensitive to a vertical beam position offset. The slow-raster system would vary the vertical position about its assumed average value. The HMS optics matrix has been determined originally without the presence of a target magnetic field. Therefore, an additional particle transport through the target magnetic field has been added to the existing HMS particle-tracking algorithm to account for the additional particle deflection due to the target magnetic field. The treatment of this additional particle transport was developed in an iterative procedure. First, the particle track was reconstructed to the target from the focal plane quantities by the standard HMS reconstruction coefficients, assuming no target magnetic field but a certain vertical beam position. Using these target coordinates, the particle track was linearly propagated forward to the field-free region at 100 cm from the target center and then transported back to the target plane through the known target magnetic field, to determine the newly tracked vertical position. If the difference between the newly tracked vertical position at the target center and the assumed vertical position of the beam was observed then a new effective vertical position was assumed and the procedure was iterated until the difference between the tracked and assumed vertical positions became less than 1 mm [55].

Comparisons of data and Monte Carlo simulation (MC) were used to determine the target vertical and horizontal position offsets relative to the beam center. In MC, events were generated at assumed positions of the target and transported through the target magnetic field to an imaginary plane ouside the field region. Then they were reconstructed back to the target using the standard HMS optics matrix. In the data, however, the events were reconstructed to the target positions using the same HMS optics matrix without the knowledge of the target offsets. The target horizontal position offset, X_{off}, was determined by comparison of data to Montecarlo simulation yields for the reconstructed horizontal position at the target, Y_{tar}. In the single-arm data, the *ep* invariant mass W elastic peak was slightly correlated with ϕ_{tar} as in Fig. 5 (left). Because both ϕ_{tar} and δ have first-order dependences on the vertical positions of the target in the reconstruction matrix element, the vertical beam position deviation from the target center, Y_{off}, can have effects on the reconstructed ϕ_{tar} as well as δ and hence

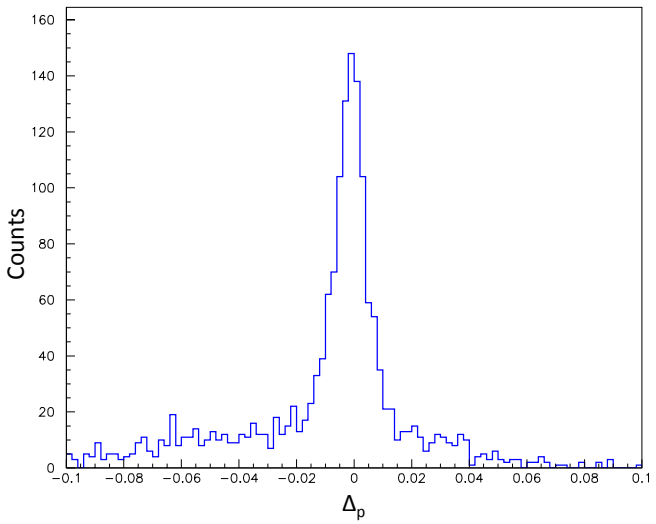

FIG. 4: The Δ_p spectrum of all coincidence events at $Q^2 = 6.26$ $(\mathrm{GeV/c})^2$ after applying the elliptical cut.

P. This sensitivity caused the correlation of ϕ_{tar} with the invariant mass, W as seen in Fig. 5 (left).

The same correlation can be reproduced by the Monte Carlo simulation by reconstructing the particle to a different vertical position than from where it was generated. The Montecarlo generated correlation is shown in Fig. 5 (right). Reproduction of the ϕ_{tar} vs W correlation in MC generates confidence that the same correlation seen in the data are due to the reconstruction of the particle track to the incorrect vertical target position. Therefore, the target vertical position offsets relative to the beam center were introduced and determined for the measured data by data-to-Monte Carlo simulation comparisons. This has been a very suitable method to re-check the target vertical position offsets for the polarized target experiments.

Similarly, correlations of the HMS quantities ϕ_{tar} vs Δ_p and the BETA quantities, ΔY vs Y_{BETA} were also observed in the coincidence data, as seen in Fig. 6. Since all of these correlations are related to the vertical position or angle, a correction of out-of-plane angle due to the target magnetic field was considered the best explanation. Subsequently, all these correlations were reproduced by the Monte Carlo simulation and corrected by applying an azimuthal angle dependence to the target magnetic field. The so-determined azimuthal angle dependence was added to the target field map which was finally used for the reconstruction of particle tracks to the target center. That changed the particles reconstructed momentum and, therefore, the reconstructed vertical position, which eliminated the above dependencies.

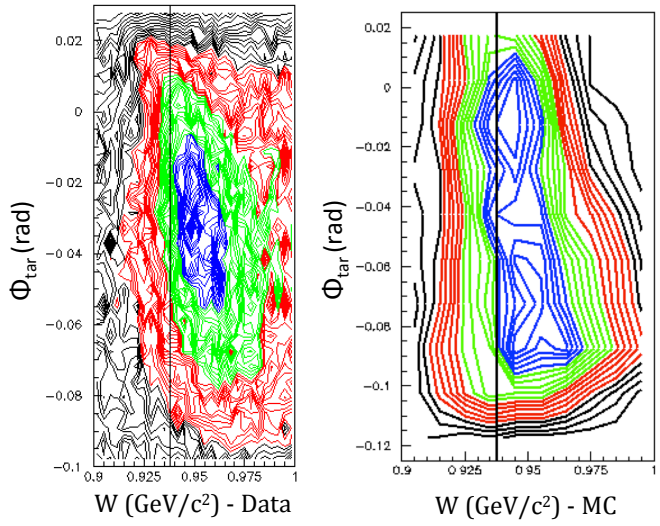

FIG. 5: The correlation of ϕ_{tar} with W for single-arm electron data on HMS (left) and the same generated for MC (right).

C. Raw/ Physics Asymmetries

The measured double polarization raw asymmetries of the extracted elastic events were formed by,

$$A_{raw} = \frac{N^+ - N^-}{N^+ + N^-}, \tag{5}$$

where N^+ and N^- are the raw elastic yields normalized by the dead time corrected charge. They are defined by $N^+ = N^{\uparrow\uparrow} + N^{\downarrow\downarrow}$ and $N^- = N^{\uparrow\downarrow} + N^{\downarrow\uparrow}$, where the first index refers to the beam helicity and the second index refers to the target polarization.

The physics asymmetry,

$$A_p = \frac{A_{raw}}{P_B P_T f} + N_c \tag{6}$$

was obtained by dividing the A_{raw} by target and beam polarizations, P_T and P_B, and the dilution factor, f.

The dilution factor is the ratio of the yields of scattering off free protons to that from the entire target. The N_c term is a correction to the measured raw asymmetry

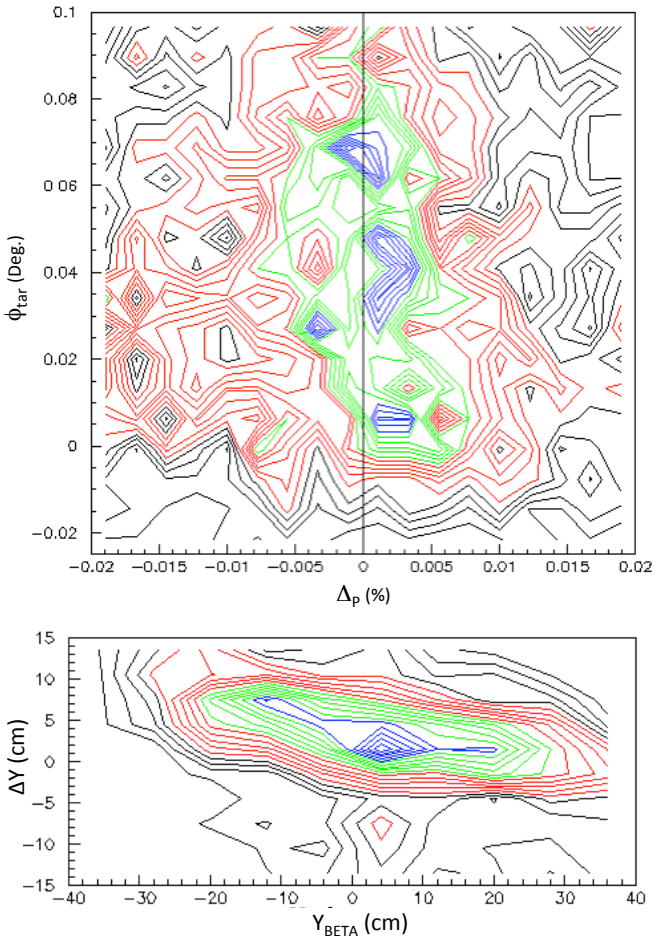

FIG. 6: The correlation of the HMS quantities, ϕ_{tar} vs Δ_p (*Top*) and the correlation of the BETA quantities, ΔY vs Y_{BETA} (*Bottom*) for the coincidence data.

to account for the quasi-elastic scattering contribution to the polarized ^{14}N which was considered to be negligible [32].

The ratio of the volume taken by the ammonia crystals to the entire target cup volume is known as the *packing fraction*, which was determined by normalizing the measured data with the simulated yields. The different packing fractions give rise to the different target material contributions inside the target cup. More details about the packing fraction determination can be found in Ref. [58]. Both target cups were used during the data taking, the packing fractions were determined on top target as 55±5% and bottom target as 60±5%.

The dilution factor represents the fraction of polarizable material in the beam, from which electrons can scatter. The SANE target was immersed in a liquid He bath, hence electron scattering can occur from all the materials inside the target cup, as well as from all the materials in the beam path toward the target cup which are H, N, He and Al. Contributions from Al arise from the target cup lids, the 4 K shield and the refrigerator's tailpiece. In addition to the electron scattering off from the protons in H, the background contributions rise from the additional target cup materials, N, He and Al needed to estimate. A Monte Carlo simulation was used to estimate these backgrounds in order to determine the dilution factor, f. The weighted amount of target materials inside each target cup were calculated, taking into account the packing fraction. The scattering yields due to H, N, He and Al were simulated using their individual cross sections and compared with the single-arm elastic data to estimate the backgrounds. The simulated target contributions for the top target for the two different δ regions are shown in Fig. 7 (left column).

The dilution factors were calculated for both *top* and *bottom* targets by taking the ratio of the difference between the total raw yields and the Monte Carlo background yields (N+He+Al) to the total raw yield,

$$f = \frac{Y_{data} - Y_{MC}}{Y_{data}}, \tag{7}$$

where $Y_{data} = N_+ + N_-$ is the total raw yield of the measured data and Y_{MC} is the total Monte Carlo background yield from N, He, and Al. The obtained dilution factors are shown in Fig. 7 (middle) for the top target for two different δ regions. The dilution factor is the largest in the elastic region where $0.91 < W < 0.97$ GeV/c^2.

The physics asymmetry, A_p, was evaluated for the selected elastic events using Eq. (6) for average values of $P_B = 73 \pm 1.5\%$, $P_T = 70 \pm 5.0\%$, and by normalizing with the dilution factor, f. Figure 7 (*right*) shows the physics asymmetries for the top and bottom targets and for the two different δ regions, as a function of W. The physics asymmetries were constant in the elastic region of $0.91 < W < 0.97$ GeV/c^2 where the dilution factor is the largest, which supports that the functional dependence of f on W as in Fig. 7 (middle) is accurate. The average physics asymmetries and uncertainties of this constant region were determined for both targets and δ regions using an error-weighted mean of the W bins in the interval of 0.91<W<0.97 GeV/c^2. The weighted average A_p was obtained for each δ region by combining the average physics asymmetries from both top and bottom targets. The weighted average asymmetry results are shown in Fig. 9 (*left*), and are listed in Tab. I (*left half*).

For the coincidence data, the Monte-Carlo simulation was generated using the known C and H cross sections. The background shape under the elastic peak was determined by normalizing the C background to the data for the region of $0.03 < \Delta_p < 0.08$ where the data and the background distributions match each other. A comparison between the measured data and the simulated yields is shown in Fig. 8. Because of low statistics, the dilution factor f for the coincidence data was not calculated as a function of W (or Δ_p) as done for elastic single-arm data. Instead, the average dilution factor was determined by an integration method using the normalized carbon MC yields and the measured data yields under the elastic peak in the interval of $|\Delta_p|$<0.02 (3σ) and then by using Eq. (7). The procedure was done separately for both beam energies 5.895 GeV and 4.725 GeV. The average dilution factors based on the integration method for the top and bottom targets for the beam energy of 5.895 GeV were determined as $f = 0.785 \pm 0.039$ and 0.830 ± 0.042, respectively. Only the *bottom* target was used for 4.725 GeV and the dilution factor was determined as $f = 0.816 \pm 0.041$.

The weighted average physics asymmetry and uncertainty between the *top* and *bottom* targets for the beam energy of 5.895 GeV were obtained as $A_p = 0.083 \pm 0.074$, while that for the beam energy of 4.725 GeV resulted in $A_p = 0.248 \pm 0.138$.

Figure 9 (*right*) shows the extracted weighted average physics asymmetries for both beam energies for the coincidence data. The results are shown in Tab. I (*right half*).

D. Extraction of the G_E^p/G_M^p Ratio

One can extract $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ for a kown target spin orientation from the beam-target asymmetry in Eq. (1) by solving for R.

The four-momentum transfer squared, $Q^2(E, E', \theta_e)$ can be obtained for elastic events from θ_e or E' alone. Since Q^2 from θ_e is more accurate than Q^2 from E', Q^2 we used the electron angle θ_e to calculate Q^2 for already selected elastic events and found to agree with the Q^2 distribution from the Monte Carlo simulation yields. The mean value of the Q^2 distribution was used to calculate τ which is used in the terms a, b, c in Eq. (1). The mean of the detected (or calculated using elastic kinematics of the proton in HMS) electron scattering angle, θ_e was determined by the θ_e distribution for the selected electrons on single-arm (coincidence) data. The polar and azimuthal

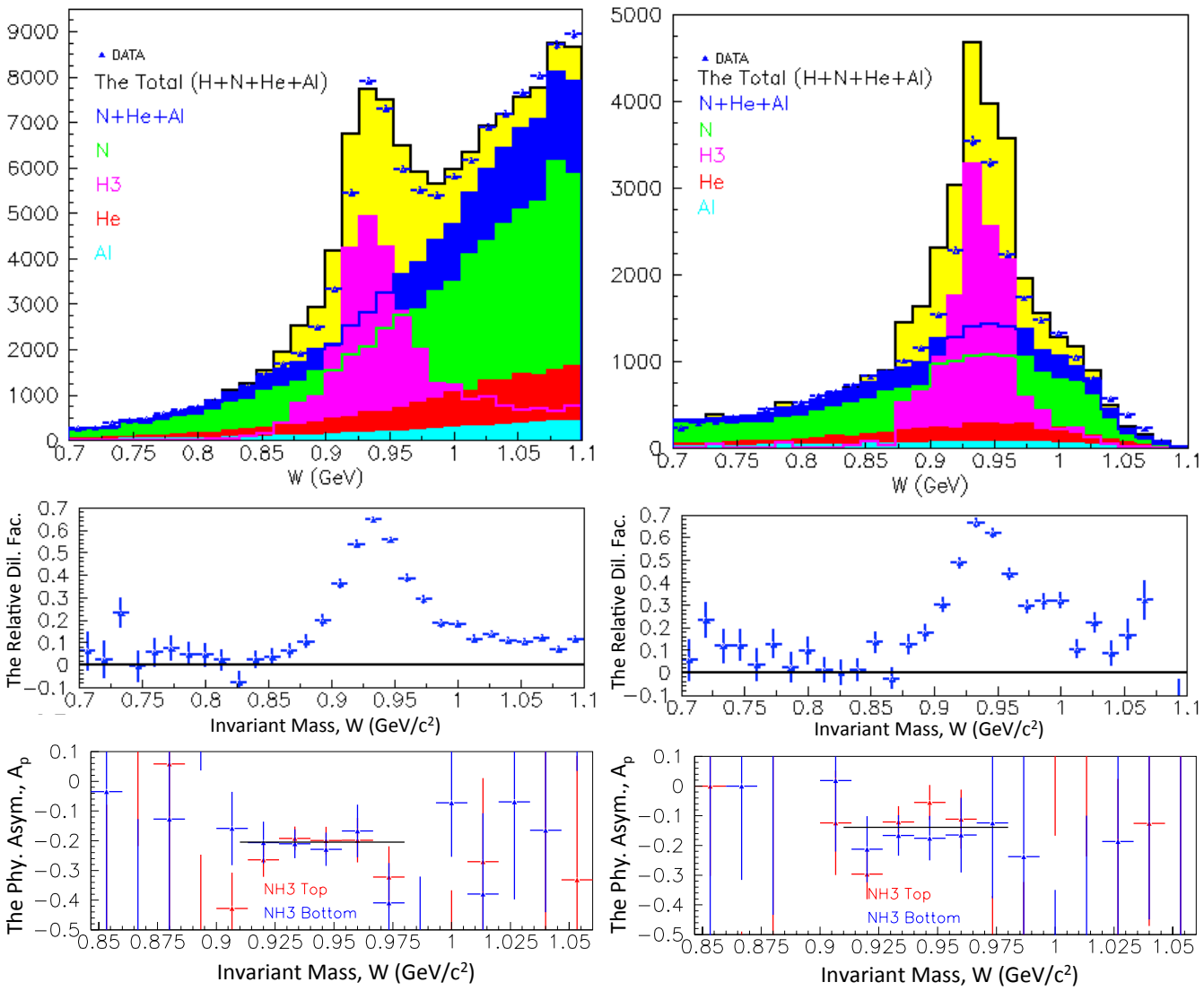

FIG. 7: Yields, dilution factor, and physics asymmetries as a function of W for $-8\% < \delta < 10\%$ (*left column*) and $10\% < \delta < 12\%$ (*right column*). *Top row*: The simulated target contributions at the elastic peak compared to the data as a function of W for the top target. Different colors show different target type contributions to the yield. *Middle row*: The dilution factors inferred from simulated yields as a function of W for the top target. *Bottom row*: The resulting physics asymmetries for the top and bottom targets as a function of W.

angles, θ^* and ϕ^* were calculated as

$$\theta^* = \arccos(-\sin\theta_q \cos\phi_e \sin\beta + \cos\theta_q \cos\beta) \quad (8)$$

$$\phi^* = -\arctan\left(\frac{\sin\phi_e \sin\beta}{\cos\theta_q \cos\phi_e \sin\beta + \sin\theta_q \cos\beta}\right) + 180^\circ$$

The out-of-plane angle of the scattered electron at the target plane, ϕ_e is the mean of the detected ϕ_e distribution for the elastic events. The three-momentum transfer vector, $\vec{q}$ points at an angle θ_q, which is identical with the elastically scattered proton angle, and is measured event-by-event for the elastic kinematics of the electron (proton) in the HMS. The mean value of the θ_q distribution was used in Eq. (8). The target magnetic field direction was oriented with β=80° toward the BETA detector package from the beam line direction within the horizontal plane. The distribution of ϕ^* arises from the ϕ_e acceptance distribution. If $\phi_e = 0$ then $\phi^* = 0°$ for single-arm data and $\phi^* = 180°$ for coincidence data.

The physics asymmetries A_p, and the extracted proton form factor ratios, $R = G_E^p/G_M^p$ together with the average kinematic parameters for both single-arm and coincidence data are shown in Tab. I.

E. Systematic Error Estimation

The systematic error of the form factor ratio G_E^p/G_M^p, $\Delta(G_E^p/G_M^p)$ was determined by propagating the errors from the experimental parameters to the physics asym-

	single-arm		Coincidence	
	$-8\%<\delta<10\%$	$10\%<\delta<12\%$		
E (GeV)	5.895	5.895	5.893	4.725
θ_q (Deg)	44.38	46.50	22.23	22.60
ϕ_q (Deg)	171.80	172.20	188.40	190.90
θ_e (Deg)	15.45	14.92	37.08	43.52
ϕ_e (Deg)	351.80	352.10	8.40	10.95
Q^2 (GeV/c)^2	2.20	1.91	6.19	5.14
θ^* (Deg)	36.31	34.20	101.90	102.10
ϕ^* (Deg)	193.72	193.94	8.40	11.01
$A_p \pm \delta A_p$	-0.205 ± 0.018	-0.139 ± 0.026	0.083 ± 0.074	0.248 ± 0.138
$\mu_p R \pm \delta(\mu_p R)$	0.576 ± 0.217	0.973 ± 0.298	0.439 ± 0.411	-0.379 ± 0.690
$\mu_p R$ (expected)	0.73	0.78	0.305	0.38
A_p (expected)	-0.186	-0.171	0.107	0.097

TABLE I: The experimental parameters together with the physics asymmetries and the extracted form factor ratios $\mu_p R = \mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ for both single-arm and coincidence data. The expected ratio $\mu_p R$ from Kelly's form factor parametrization [33] for each Q^2 and the calculated asymmetry A_p from the expected $\mu_p R$ are also shown. The errors δA_p and $\delta(\mu_p R)$ are statistical.

metry, ΔA_p.

The errors arising from the kinematic quantities were estimated by varying each quantity, one at a time by its corresponding uncertainty ($\delta E = 0.05\%$ for the beam energy, $\delta P = 0.1\%$ for the central momenta, and $\delta\theta_e = 0.5$ mrad for the spectrometer angle), and by propagating these errors to a Monte Carlo extracted G_E^p/G_M^p ratio. The resulting difference between the extracted G_E^p/G_M^p ratio from the value at the nominal kinematics and the value shifted by the kinematic uncertainty was taken as the contribution to the systematic uncertainty in the G_E^p/G_M^p ratio due to that quantity. In general, the uncertainties due to the kinematic variables, $E, E'(=P)$ and θ_e are less than 1%.

Using the Jacobian of the elastic electron-proton reaction, the error on the momentum transfer angle, $\delta\theta_q$ was obtained from δE and the $\delta\theta_e$ and estimated as $\delta\theta_q = 0.03°$. In addition, by assuming an error of the target magnetic field direction of $\delta\beta = 0.1°$, the uncertainties of θ^* and ϕ^* were estimated to be $\delta\theta^* = 1.22$ mrad and $\delta\phi^* = 0.3$ mrad. The error of G_E^p/G_M^p from the $\delta\theta^*$ was determined as 0.54%, while that from the $\delta\phi^*$ was determined as 0.01%. The systematic error on the target polarization was estimated as 5%, which constitutes the largest systematic uncertainty [53]. The error on the beam polarization measurement comes from a global error of the Møller measurements and the error due to the fit to these measurements. The beam polarization uncertainty during SANE was measured as 1.5% [53].

For both single-arm and coincidence data sets, the dilution factors have been determined using the comparison of data-to-Monte Carlo simulated yields. Since the simu-

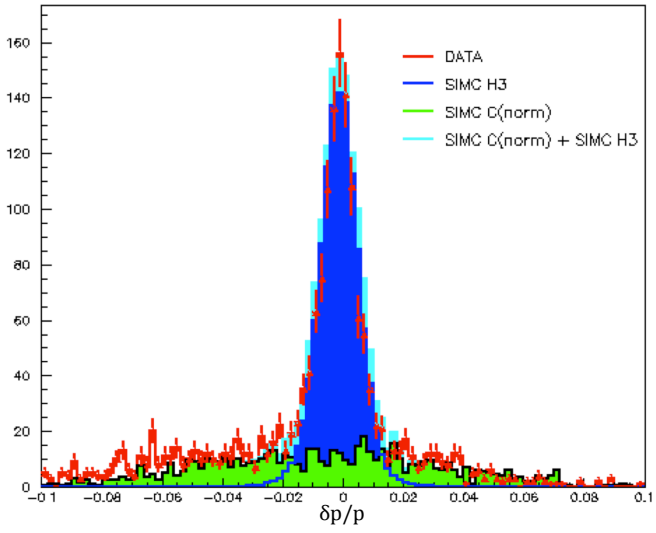

FIG. 8: *Left*: The normalized carbon background (green) and H (blue) comparison to the coincidence data (red) for the beam energy 5.895 GeV.

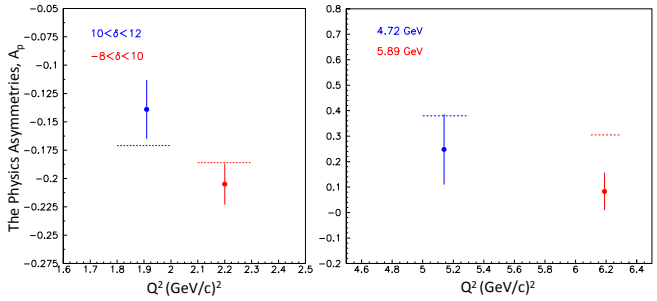

FIG. 9: (*Left*): The weighted average physics asymmetries for two different δ regions as a function of Q^2. The expected physics asymmetries from the known form factor ratio for each Q^2 by Kelly's form factor parametrization [33] are also shown by dashed lines separately for the two different δ regions. *Right*: The weighted average physics asymmetries for the two beam energies 4.725 GeV (blue) and 5.895 GeV (red) are shown. The dashed lines are the expected values of the physics asymmetries for the two beam energies calculated from the known form factor ratio for each Q^2 bin by Kelly's form factor parametrization [33].

lated yields were based on the packing fraction, the error of 5% on the packing fraction measurement propagates to the dilution factor. Therefore, the uncertainty of the form factor ratio, G_E^p/G_M^p due to the error of the dilution factor was determined as 1.34%.

Single-arm data were analyzed using an extended momentum acceptance for the region of 10%<δ<12%, where the HMS optics were not well-tested. The reconstruction of the particle tracks from this region was not well-understood. Therefore, the uncertainty of the spectrometer optics on this region was a particular source of systematic uncertainty for the single-arm data [73]. This has been tested with the Monte Carlo simulation. The biggest loss of events in this higher δ region, 10%<δ<12% was found to be at the HMS vacuum pipe exit. By applying ±2 mm offsets to the vacuum pipe positions on both vertical and horizontal directions separately in MC, and taking the standard effective solid angle change between the offset and the nominal vacuum pipe position, the uncertainty due to higher-momentum electron tracks hitting the edge of the vacuum pipe exit was determined. The resulting uncertainty due to the particle track reconstruction and effective solid angle change was estimated as 0.68%.

Table II summarizes non-negligible contributions to the systematic uncertainty of the single-arm data. Each source of systematics, the uncertainty of each quantity, and the resulting contribution to the relative systematic uncertainty of the $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ ratio (=$\mu_p R$) are shown. The relative systematic uncertainty was obtained by summing all the individual contributions linearly and quadratically. The linear sum represents the maximum possible error of the measurement, which propagates to the error on $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ and was estimated as 9.13%. The final error on the form factor ratio represents by the quadratic sum and was estimated as 5.44%. The polarizations of the beam and target and the packing fraction were the dominant contributions to the systematic uncertainty. For the coincidence data, which are statistically limited, the systematic uncertainty was estimated based on the detailed systematics study at the single-arm data and found to be very small.

Quantity	Error	$\frac{\delta(\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p)}{\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p}$
E (GeV)	0.003	0.07%
E' (GeV)	0.004	0.13%
θ_e (mrad)	0.5	0.54%
θ^* (mrad)	1.22	0.54%
ϕ^* (mrad)	0.3	0.01%
P_T (%)	5.0	5.0%
P_B (%)	1.5	1.5%
Packing Fraction, pf (%)	5	1.34%
Linear sum :		9.13%
Quadratic sum :		5.44%

TABLE II: Systematic uncertainty of each parameter and the relative systematic uncertainty on the $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ ratio due to the propagated uncertainty for the single-arm data. The maximum possible systematic uncertainty is obtained by the linear sum of all individual contributions. The final systematic uncertainty is obtained by the quadratic sum of all individual contributions.

IV. RESULTS

The results for the proton elastic form factor ratio, $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$, determined for both single-arm and coincidence data are shown in Tab. I. For the single-arm data, the resulting form factor ratio from the two δ regions of the HMS momentum acceptance was determined by extrapolating both measurements to the average Q^2 using Kelly's parametrization [33] and then taking the weighted average of the two form factor ratios. The resulting form factor ratio, $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p = 0.720 \pm 0.176_{stat} \pm 0.039_{sys}$ was obtained for an average four-momentum transfer squared $Q^2 = 2.06$ (GeV/c)^2.

The form factor ratios from the coincidence data from two beam energies were also combined and the weighted average $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ was obtained at the average $Q^2 = 5.66$ (GeV/c)^2. Since the errors on the coincidence data were largely dominated by statistics, the systematic uncertainties were not explicitly studied. Instead, the systematics from single-arm data were applied for an estimation. The resulting form factor ratio for the coincidence data was obtained as $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p = 0.244 \pm 0.353_{stat} \pm 0.013_{sys}$ for an average $Q^2 = 5.66$ (GeV/c)^2.

Table III shows the final values for the $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ ratio together with the statistical and systematic uncertainties at each average Q^2 value.

$< Q^2 >$ / (GeV/c)^2	$\mu_p R \pm \delta(\mu_p R_{stat}) \pm \delta(\mu_p R_{sys})$
2.06	0.720 ± 0.176 ± 0.039
5.66	0.244 ± 0.353 ± 0.013

TABLE III: Results of the form factor analysis from the experiment SANE. The systematic error is based on the quadratic sum of individual contributions in Tab. II.

Figure 10 shows the form factor measurements from SANE together with the world data as a function of Q^2. The inner-error bars represent the statistical and the outer-error bars the quadratic sum of the statistical and systematic errors.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Measurements of the proton's elastic form factor ratio, $\mu_p G^p{}_E/G^p{}_M$, from the polarization-transfer experiments at high Q^2 continue to show a dramatic discrepancy with the ratio obtained from the traditional Rosenbluth technique in unpolarized cross section measurements as shown in Fig 10. The measurement of the beam-target asymmetry in the elastic ep scattering is an independent, third technique to determine the proton form factor ratio. The results from this method are in full agreement

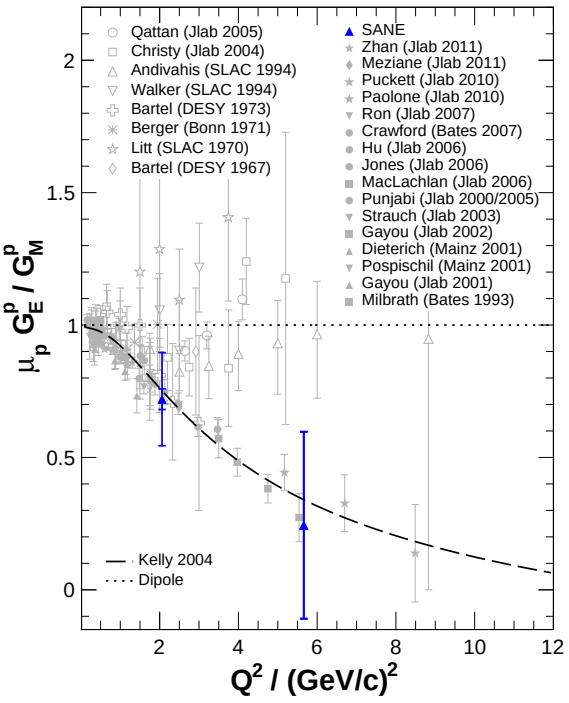

FIG. 10: The form factor measurements from SANE together with the world data as a function of Q^2. The inner-error bars are systamatic and the outer-error bars are the quadratic sum of the statistical and systematic errors.

with the proton recoil polarization data, which validates the polarization-transfer method and reaffirms the discrepancy between Rosenbluth and polarization data with different systematics. Two-photon exchange (TPE) continues to be a possible explanation for the form factor discrepancy at high Q^2. However, the discrepancy may or may not be due to TPE, and further TPE measurements at high Q^2 need to be made before a final conclusion on TPE can be achieved.

Since the sensitivity of the beam-target asymmetry to TPE effect is formally the same as in the recoil-polarization, this method was expected to show consistent results with the recoil-polarization method. Having different systematic errors from the Rosenbluth method and the polarization-transfer technique, by measuring G_E/G_M with the polarized target technique, the discovery of unknown or underestimated systematic errors in the previous measurement techniques is possible.

Our result for $\mu_p G^p{}_E/G^p{}_M$ at Q^2=2.06 (GeV/c)^2 is consistent with the previous measurement of the beam-target asymmetry at Q^2=1.5 (GeV/c)^2 [32] and agrees very well with the existing recoil-polarization measurements. Our measurement did not reveal any unknown systematic difference from the polarization-transfer method.

The result at Q^2=5.66 (GeV/c)^2 has a larger statistical uncertainty due to the small number of counts. As a byproduct measurement of the SANE experiment, the precision of this result is limited by statistics. However, the measurement with HMS was not under optimized conditions. A gas leak in HMS drift chamber during the coincidence data taking resulted in only 40% efficiency for elastic proton detection with the HMS. In addition, due to a damage of the superconducting Helmholtz coils that used to polarize the NH_3 target, the production data-taking time was reduced. Therefore, single-arm data were taken for only about ∼12 hours in total while coincidence data for elastic kinematics were taken for only about one week for both beam energies 4.725 GeV and 5.895 GeV, ∼40 hours and ∼155 hours, respectively. The target spin orientation was not optimized for the measurement of G_E/G_M. Nevertheless, the obtained precision confirms the suitability of using the beam-target asymmetry for determinations of the $\mu_p G_E^p/G_M^p$ ratio at high Q^2.

Under optimized conditions, it would have been possible to take at least four times the amount of data in the same time period, which would decrease the error bars on both measurements by at least a factor of two. It is hence suitable to extend the polarized-target technique to higher Q^2 and achieve high precision with a dedicated experiment under optimized conditions.

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