Low-energy Virtual Compton Scattering



Generalized Polarizabilities as a tool to study nucleon structure

H.Fonvieille

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content

Virtual Compton Scattering and the GPs

The dedicated low-energy experiments

Their results

Perspectives

« low energy » : Below the DIS regime Q² < 1 GeV², W < 2 GeV (W = \sqrt{s} of the γ -nucleon system)

Compton scattering: at the crossroads



Generalized Polarizabilities (GPs)



V.Olmos de Leon et al., EPJA 10 (2001) 207.

GPs = new observables = Polarizabilities as a function of the distance scale.

GPs = FF of a deformed nucleon = Fourier transform of charge and magnetization densities of a nucleon under an applied EM field

H.Arenhoevel et al., NPA 233 (1974) 153
P.Guichon et al., NPA 591 (1995) 606
D.Drechsel et al., Phys.Rev.C 55 (1997) 424
D.Drechsel et al., Phys.Rev.C 57 (1998) 941

Generalized polarizabilities



 β_{M} : para- and diamagnetic contributions $\ \Rightarrow$ not a single dipole shape

One of the successes of ChPT : α_E and β_M (in RCS) determined by pion loops («pion cloud »)

(V.Bernard et al, PRL 67 (1991) 1515).



Multipoles and GPs



Non-Born VCS amplitude : \rightarrow Multipole Expansion

GP ~ limit $|_{q' \rightarrow 0}$ of $H_{\text{non-Born}}(q_{\text{cm}},q'_{\text{cm}})$ multipole

with quantum numbers of the two EM transitions:

- ρ , ρ' = photon polarization states (0,1,2= longitudinal,magnetic,electric)
- I, I' = total angular momentum of initial (final) EM transition
- S = proton spin-flip (S=1, spin GP) or non spin-flip (S=0, scalar GP)

The six dipole GPs

Lowest order (l'=1) : 6 independent GPs = 2 scalar GPs + 4 spin GPs

$\frac{final}{\gamma}$	$\frac{initial}{\gamma^*}$	S	$\frac{P^{(\rho'L',\rho L)S}}{(q_{cm})}$	$P^{X \to Y}$	$\begin{array}{l} RCS \ limit \\ (Q^2 = 0) \end{array}$	resonances involved
E1	C1	0	$P^{(01,01)0}$	$P^{C1 \rightarrow E1}$	$-rac{4\pi}{e^2}\sqrt{rac{2}{3}}$ $oldsymbol{lpha_E}$	D_{13}, S_{11}
M1	M1	0	$P^{(11,11)0}$	$P^{M1 \to M1}$	$-rac{4\pi}{e^2}\sqrt{rac{8}{3}}~oldsymbol{eta}_M$	P_{33}, P_{11}
E1	C1	1	$P^{(01,01)1}$	$P^{C1 \rightarrow E1}$	0	D_{13}, S_{11}
M1	M1	1	$P^{(11,11)1}$	$P^{M1 \to M1}$	0	P_{33}, P_{11}
E1	M2	1	$P^{(01,12)1}$	$P^{M2 \to E1}$	$-rac{4\pi}{e^2}rac{\sqrt{2}}{3} \gamma_3$	D_{13}
M1	C2	1	$P^{(11,02)1}$	$P^{C2 \to M1}$	$-\frac{4\pi}{e^2}\sqrt{\frac{8}{27}} (\gamma_2 + \gamma_4)$	P_{33}

Model Predictions for GPs



VCS experiments : $e p \rightarrow e p \gamma$







Bethe-Heitler

VCS Born

VCS non-Born (GPs)

Dedicated experiments

High luminosity // high duty cycle // high resolution (rare process!)

Experiments at one fixed Q^2 and one fixed ϵ

Unpolarized experiments \rightarrow cross sections, structure functions, electric and magnetic GPs

Polarized experiments \rightarrow single, double polarization asymmetries

Expt	Q2 (GeV ²)	3	w	Polar.	data (pub.)
MAMI-A1	0.33	0.62	< π thresh.	no	1995-97 (2000)
JLab E93050	0.9,1.8	0.95,0.88	< π thresh.	no	1998 (2004)
Bates E97-03	0.05	0.90	< π thresh.	no	2000 (2006)
MAMI-VCS-SSA	0.33	0.48	∆ (1232)	beam	2002-04 (2007)
MAMI-VCSPOL	0.33	0.645	< π thresh.	beam+fpp	2005-06

Interface between experiment and Theory

Model-independent approach: the Low energy theorem (« LEX »)

P.Guichon et al., NPA 591 (1995) 606

2. Model-dependent approach: dispersion relations (« DR »)

B.Pasquini et al., Eur.Phys.J.A 11 (2001) 185 D.Drechsel et al., Phys.Rept. 378 (2003) 99

1. The Low Energy Theorem

the unpolarized ($ep\gamma$) cross section below pion threshold:





(proton FF)

VCS Structure Functions =

 $\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{LL}}\,,\,\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{TT}}\,,\,\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{LT}}$

= combinations of GPs

One fixed $\varepsilon \rightarrow two$ structure functions

The VCS Structure Functions

$$P_{LL}(q_{cm}) = -2\sqrt{6} M_N G_E(\tilde{Q}^2) P^{(01,01)0}(q_{cm})$$

$$P_{TT}(q_{cm}) = -3 G_M(\tilde{Q}^2) \frac{q_{cm}^2}{\tilde{q}_0} \times \left[P^{(11,11)1}(q_{cm}) - \sqrt{2}\tilde{q}_0 P^{(01,12)1}(q_{cm}) \right]$$

$$P_{LT}(q_{cm}) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{M_N q_{cm}}{\tilde{Q}} G_E(\tilde{Q}^2) P^{(11,11)0}(q_{cm}) + \frac{3}{2} \frac{\tilde{Q} q_{cm}}{\tilde{q}_0} G_M(\tilde{Q}^2) P^{(01,01)1}(q_{cm})$$

$$() \cdot \beta_M$$

GPs depend on q_{cm} or equivalently $Q^2 = 2M_p \left(\left[M_p^2 + q_{cm}^2 \right]^{1/2} - M_p \right)$

2. The Dispersion Relation Model for VCS

- Dispersive integrals for NonBorn amplitudes
- πN part given by MAID pion photo-& electro-production amplitudes:



- unconstrained: asymptotic parts and contributions beyond πN
- Spin GPs are fixed by Dispersion Relations
- Scalar GPs have to be parametrized

$$\alpha_{\mathsf{E}}(\mathsf{Q}^2) - \alpha_{\mathsf{E}}^{\mathsf{m}\mathsf{N}}(\mathsf{Q}^2) = \frac{\left[\alpha_{\mathsf{E}}^{\mathsf{exp}}(\mathbf{0}) - \alpha_{\mathsf{E}}^{\mathsf{m}\mathsf{N}}(\mathbf{0})\right]}{(1 + \mathsf{Q}^2 / \Lambda_{\alpha}^2)^2} \quad (\text{same for } \beta_{\mathsf{M}})$$

Fit the dipole mass parameters Λ_{α} , Λ_{β}

 \rightarrow fit the scalar GPs at any given Q²

World data on Structure Functions



(DR model: single dipole assumption is not mandatory)

Most recent:

Bates, Q²=0.06 GeV²

2 new results at Q²=0.33 GeV ² :

LEX analysis on a new datasetglobal DR fit of 3 datasets



New LEX analysis at $Q^2 = 0.33 \text{ GeV}^2$



preliminary <

Courtesy of Peter JANSSENS (PhD), Gent Univ.

From Structure Functions to GPs :

The LEX formalism contains only structure functions.

- ★ Unpolarized VCS: 2 (or 3) SFs
 P_{LL} P_{TT/ε} , P_{LT} for 6 GPs
 → cannot disentangle scalar
 and spin GPs. NEED A MODEL.
 Subtract spin part using DR.
 - ★ Doubly polarized VCS:
 6 SFs for 6 GPs
 → in principle disentangling is possible, but difficult.



The DR model: not totally predictive: is a better feature ! Allows to fit directly the 2 scalar GPs.

also works in the Delta(1232) resonance region.

Gives consistent extractions of the GPs above and below pion threshold.

World data on proton GPs



(Model-dependent picture !)

 $\alpha_{\rm E}$: fall-off does not look fully dipolar

 β_M : extremum at low Q² seems confirmed

RCS + Bates → mean square electric polarizab. radius: $<r^2> = 2.16 \pm 0.31 \text{ fm}^2$ HBChPT : 1.7 fm² (mesonic effects!)

Hard to get small error bars (RCS: 40 years, VCS: 10 years)

About experimental error bars in VCS:

The GP effect is 10-15 % of the $(ep\gamma)$ cross section. Syst.errors on the cross section are about ±3 %, so about ±20-30 % of the GP effect itself.

Which uncertainties can be reduced ?

Statistical error Radiative corrections ? Solid angle ?

Proton form factors ?

They enter the BH+Born cross section , and the GPs are always extracted by measuring the *deviation* to BH+Born.

Proton FF presently known to ~ \pm 1.5 % in the low-Q² region : (0-1) GeV². Know them better \rightarrow better inputs to VCS, DVCS, PV experiments ...

Nucleon elastic form factors



4-0ct-1997 15: 48: 28

File: gep97.PCM

Nucleon elastic form factors



From LEDEX JLab expt, arxiv/0706.0128. Ratio < 1 : comes mainly from $G_E / G_{Dipole} < 1$

Soon new measurements of

 G_E and G_M on the proton at JLab and MAMI at low Q^2 , with better control of syst. errors.

MAMI-A1: cross sections + global fit (or Rosenbluth)
Goal: uncertainty on FF << 1 % (errmax ~1 % on G_E at Q² = 1 GeV²)

- JLab: Rosenbluth + polarisation transfer

Polarized VCS. Single Polarization

Beam spin asymmetry in the Delta(1232) resonance region with longitudinally polarized beam

Numerator	=	Δσ (VCS) +	$\Delta \sigma$ (Interf.	VCS-BetheHeitler)
	=	proportional	to Im(VCS	amplitude)

SSA measurement = direct test of Im(VCS)

Unitarity relates photon and pion electroproduction.

In the DR formalism for VCS, test of the dispersive input = MAID π -N multipoles (should be the dominant contribution in the Δ (1232) region).

Same asymmetry as in DVCS but different interpretation. BetheHeitler process: amplifies the asymmetry.

Interference with Bethe-Heitler Process



Missing mass squared: $e p \rightarrow e' p' X$ with $X = \gamma$ or π^0



Beam Single-Spin Asymmetry $Q^2=0.35 \text{ GeV}^2$, W=1.19 GeV, $\varepsilon=0.48$, $\phi=220^\circ$



Beam Single-Spin Asymmetry $Q^2=0.35 \text{ GeV}^2$, W=1.19 GeV, $\varepsilon=0.48$, $\phi=220^\circ$



Complementary diagnostic w.r.t. more traditional measurements in pion electroproduction

Sensitivity to the interf. between the dominant M1+ multipole and small non-resonant ones: S0+, S1+.

(MAMI-A1) I.Bensafa et al., EPJA 32 (2007) 69.

Polarized VCS. Double Polarization

Polarized LET below pion threshold / M.Vanderhaeghen, PLB 402 (1997) 243

$$P_x = \frac{d^5 \sigma_x^{\uparrow} - d^5 \sigma_x^{\downarrow}}{d^5 \sigma_x^{\uparrow} + d^5 \sigma_x^{\downarrow}} = \frac{\Delta d^5 \sigma_x}{2 \ d^5 \sigma}$$

$$\Delta d^5 \sigma_i^h = \Delta d^5 \sigma_i^{BH+Born} + \phi \mathbf{q}' \Delta \Psi_0^i + \phi \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{q}'^2) \quad \checkmark \quad \mathbf{\Box}$$

$$\begin{split} \Psi_{0} &= v_{1}(\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}} - \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}}/\epsilon) + v_{2}\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{T}} \\ \Delta\Psi_{0}^{z} &= 4 h \left[v_{1}^{z} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}} + v_{2}^{z}\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{T}}^{z} + v_{3}^{z} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{T}}'^{z} \right] \\ \Delta\Psi_{0}^{x} &= 4 h \left[v_{1}^{x} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{T}}^{\perp} + v_{2}^{x} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}}^{\perp} + v_{3}^{x} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}}'^{\perp} + v_{4}^{x} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{T}}'^{\perp} \right] \\ \Delta\Psi_{0}^{y} &= 4 h \left[v_{1}^{y} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{T}}^{\perp} + v_{2}^{y} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}}^{\perp} + v_{3}^{y} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}}'^{\perp} + v_{4}^{y} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{T}}'^{\perp} \right] \end{split}$$

Need to measure the polarization components **Px**, **Py**, **Pz** of the recoil proton in the γ p center-of-mass

measurement over a wide enough range in $\theta_{\gamma\gamma_{CM}} \rightarrow$ in principle enough constraints to extract 5 GPs (or 6 if out-of-plane)



Expected Double Polarization Asymmetries



(Mami Kinem.)

From C.W.Kao et al., hep-ph/0408095

Large asymm. from BH+Born (30-50 %)

Small asymm. from VCS Non-Born (polarizabilities) (2-6 %)

FIG. 3: Deviation of the double-polarization VCS asymmetry from the BH+Born result, calculated within the LEX formalism in MAMI kinematics as function of the photon scattering angle. Upper panels: lowest order HBChPT predictions from Refs. [4, 5] (dotted curves); results including the next order HBChPT corrections for the spin-flip GPs, as calculated in this work, and using the leading order predictions for the spin-independent GPs (dashed curves); dispersion relation results [16, 18] (solid curves). The effect of the anomaly contribution (i.e. t-channel π^0 pole) is neglected in all the three model-predictions. In the lower panels, a comparison is shown between the dispersive predictions without the anomaly contribution (dashed curves) and with the anomaly contribution (solid curves).

experimental status

More than 2000 hours of beamtime (2005-2006). ~ 10^5 usable events Analysis in progress . Likelihood method :

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_{i=1}^{N} \left[1 - A_C(\theta_{fpp}, T_{CC}) \cdot P_{beam} \cdot \left(P_{fpp}^y \cos \phi_{fpp} - P_{fpp}^x \sin \phi_{fpp} \right) \right]$$
$$P_{fpp}^y = a_{yx}^i P_{cm}^x + a_{yy}^i P_{cm}^y + a_{yz}^i P_{cm}^z$$
$$P_{fpp}^x = a_{xx}^i P_{cm}^x + a_{xy}^i P_{cm}^y + a_{xz}^i P_{cm}^z$$

Two polarization components of the proton in the focal plane \rightarrow three components at the target

analysis overview

P_{cm}: contains six independent structure functions (or 6 indep. GPs)

Present data: cannot extract all GPs GP signal too small and/or limited statistics

Have to use physical constraints, like P_{z cm} given by BH+Born evt/evt

Presently fit ONE structure function, which has the largest effect on the asymmetry : P_{LT}^{\perp}

Use unpolarized results (P_{LL} – P_{TT} / ϵ , P_{LT}) at denominator of asymm.



Courtesy of Luca DORIA (PhD), Mainz Univ.

Bins in Θ are made only for graphical representation

Stat.error of \pm 3-5 % on P_x

(wiggles: due to not yet projected to nominal kinematics)

	\mathbf{P}_{LT}^{\perp}	(GeV ⁻²)
This expt (prelim.)	- 13.7	± 2.8 _{stat} ± 2.2 _{syst}
HBChPT	- 10.7	
Disp.Rel.	- 9.0	

Exp. result almost insensitive to the choice of proton FF.

Syst.err. includes: variation of the constraints on other SFs, and beam pol.

Can one separate P_{LL} and P_{TT} using these data?



Courtesy of Peter JANSSENS (PhD), Gent Univ.

Nucleon FF at low Q²

Friedrich-Walcher fit: (EPJA 17 (2003) 607) Smooth part (dipole) + bump/dip in region 0.2- 0.5 GeV² = Constituent quarks + pion cloud

All 4 FF show this «structure» (a tiny 2-3 % effect)



(plot courtesy of J.Bernauer, MAMI-A1)

World data on proton GPs

_ _ DISPERSION RELATION MODEL --- (if dipole) --- / (0.70,0.63)GeV



Pion cloud :

Old notion (1950) Central to the nucleon structure at low energy π = manifestation of Chiral Symmetry of QCD

enhanced effect of the pion cloud in the polarizabilities w.r.t. FF ...

Need to map out α_E and β_M in the low Q^2 region !

other polarizability-related measurements

Photoabsorption cross sections

(e,e') cross sections

Generalized Baldin Sum Rule on the proton

[α + β](Q², Q²)

Y.Liang et al., PRC 73 (2006) 065201 (JLab)



Generalized Baldin Sum Rule on the proton in VVCS and $(\alpha+\beta)$ in VCS



Perspectives

Performant machines:
 MAMI (1.5 GeV) / JLab (e)
 HIGS (γ) spin polarizabilities
 * * * Polarization degrees of freedom: beam, target, recoil

Ongoing theoretical activity in the field Calculation of VCS observables in covariant ChPT at order p⁴ (S.Scherer, N.Gegelia, D.Djukanovic, B.Pasquini)

GPs = new physics observables Can be measured more extensively at low Q² Must work out more precise measurements GPs sensitive to the pion cloud and to the nucleon resonance spectrum.



Learn more about nucleon structure

New global DR fit at $Q^2 = 0.33 \text{ GeV}^2$

- All photon electroproduction cross sections (3 data sets)

-Fit the 2 free parameters of the model by comparison to exp. data (χ^2 minimization). -Contour plots at χ^2_{min} + 1.

- combined \rightarrow $\alpha_{E} = (6.1 \pm 2.2 \pm 1.0) \ 10^{-4} \text{ fm}^{-3}$ $\beta_{M} = (0.8 \pm 1.1 \pm 0.5) \ 10^{-4} \text{ fm}^{-3}$

