Laser Polarized ^{3}He Target Used for a Precision Measurement of the Neutron Spin Structure

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Abstract

This thesis describes a precision measurement of the deep inelastic neutron spin structure function $g_1^n(x)$. The main motivation for the experiment is a test of the Bjorken sum rule. Because of smaller statistical errors and broader kinematic coverage than in previous experiments, we are able to study in detail the behavior of the spin structure function $g_1^n(x)$ for low values of the Bjorken scaling variable x. We find that it has a strongly divergent behavior, in contradiction to the naive predictions of the Regge theory. This calls into question the methods commonly used for extrapolation of $g_1^n(x)$ to $x = 0$. The difference between the proton and the neutron spin structure functions is less divergent at low x, so a test of the Bjorken sum rule is possible. We confirm the sum rule with an accuracy of 8%.

The experiment was performed at SLAC using a 50 GeV polarized electron beam and a polarized ^{3}He target. In this thesis the polarized target is described in detail. We used the technique of Rb optical pumping and Rb-He spin exchange to polarize the ^{3}He. Because of a novel mechanical design our target had the smallest dilution ever achieved for a high density gas target. Since this is a precision measurement, particular efforts were made to reduce the systematic errors due to the uncertainty in the target parameters. Most important parameters were measured by more than one method. We implemented novel techniques for measuring the thickness of the glass windows of the target, the ^{3}He density, and the polarization. In particular, one of the methods for measuring the gas density relied on the broadening of the Rb optical absorption lines by collisions with ^{3}He atoms. The calibration of this technique resulted in the most precise measurements of the pressure broadening parameters for ^{3}He as well as several other gases, which are described in an Appendix. The polarization of the ^{3}He was also measured by two methods, one relying on traditional NMR techniques and the other on the shift of the Rb Zeeman resonance frequency due to the ^{3}He polarization. To calibrate the frequency shift polarimetry, we performed an accurate measurement of a Rb-^{3}He spin exchange parameter, significantly improving on previous results.

A part of the thesis is devoted to the analysis of the high energy data. We present an algorithm for electron-pion discrimination based on the lateral shape of their shower in the electromagnetic calorimeter. The calculation of the radiative corrections to the deep inelastic scattering and, especially, their effect on the experimental errors is also discussed. The last chapter is devoted to the interpretation of

our results in the framework of perturbative QCD. We present a physically intuitive description of the ambiguities arising in Next to Leading Order (NLO) analysis of the spin structure functions. Using such analysis we describe the implications of our data.

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Finally, I would like to thank my parents and grandparents for guiding me to science in such a natural way, that I can't even imagine doing anything else.

Polarization data has often been the graveyard of fashionable theories. If theorists had their way they might well ban such measurements altogether out of self-protection.

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Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction

At present, all experimental observations in high energy and nuclear physics are in agreement with a theory of elementary particles and interactions known as the Standard model. This is a combination of the gauge theory of electromagnetic interactions based on a U(1) group, the weak interactions based on an $SU(2)_L$ group, and the strong interactions based on a non-Abelian $SU(3)_C$ group. While each of these theories has been studied in numerous experiments and is commonly accepted, the precision with which they are tested is drastically different. For example, the electromagnetic coupling constant is known to 0.045 ppm [1]: $\alpha_{em} = 1/137.0359895(61)$, the weak coupling constant at low energy is known to 20 ppm: $G_F = 1.16639(2) \times 10^{-5}$ GeV^{-2}, while the strong coupling constant is only known to 3%: $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118(3)$. Clearly, precision tests of the theory of strong interactions are called for.

This thesis describes an experiment whose goal is to precisely test one of the predictions of QCD. Because the fundamental objects in QCD, quarks and gluons, are never observed directly, it is difficult to find precisely testable predictions. The QCD sum rules give predictions about the integrals of the deep inelastic structure functions which are free from uncertainties associated with non-perturbative quark interactions at low energies. Several sum rules exist in QCD. The testable sum rules for unpolarized deep inelastic structure functions involve only neutrino scattering. Nevertheless, one such rule, the Gross – Llewellyn Smith sum rule, has been tested to 3%. The other fundamental sum rule that can be accurately tested is the Bjorken sum rule, which involves integrals of the proton and neutron *spin* structure functions.

The measurement of the spin structure functions requires the use of both a polarized beam and a polarized target. The experiment was conducted at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), using a 50 GeV electron beam polarized to 80%. We used a ^{3}He polarized target to measure the spin structure function of the neutron. Because of the Pauli exclusion principle, the spins of the two protons in ^{3}He are oppositely polarized and most of the spin is due to the neutron. The polarized ^{3}He gas target relies on several atomic physics techniques. We used optical pumping of Rb vapor and Rb-He spin exchange to polarize the ^{3}He. This experiment benefited from the experience of the previous SLAC ^{3}He experiment [2], which used a similar target. About half of the improvement in the statistical precision compared with the previous experiment came from the improvements in the target, especially its dilution factor. In addition, we placed a special emphasis on reducing the systematic errors originating from the target parameters.

The results of the early measurements of the proton spin structure function by EMC at CERN [3] were quite unexpected, as they seemed to imply that the fraction of the proton spin carried by the quarks was very small. This interpretation sparked considerable theoretical and experimental interest in the area, and it is still developing at a rapid pace. For reviews written in the last two years see [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11]. A relative consensus on the interpretation of the EMC result developed only recently.

This thesis is organized as follows. In Chapter 2 I introduce polarized deep inelastic scattering and spin sum rules. A brief overview of past polarized DIS experiments is given. Chapter 3 focuses on our experiment and discusses all aspects of the setup and analysis unrelated to the polarized target. In particular, we discuss the physical properties of the electromagnetic shower which can be used for discrimination between electrons and pions in our calorimeter. A full description of the analysis is given in Appendix A. We also describe the calculation of the radiative corrections to the deep inelastic scattering, in particular, their effect on the experimental errors. Chapters 4 and 5 focus on the polarized target. Chapter 4 describes the technique of optical pumping and spin exchange, fabrication of the target cells, measurements of their physical parameters and the target dilution factor. The performance of the polarized target during the run is also discussed. In Chapter 5 I describe the two techniques used for ^{3}He polarimetry. A detailed analysis of the systematic errors in each technique is given. Finally, in Chapter 6 I present the results of our experiment and their interpretation within QCD. I give a physically intuitive description of the ambiguities present in QCD analysis due to the axial anomaly, and discuss the implications of the data.

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Chapter 2

Polarized Deep Inelastic Scattering

Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS) has been a major tool in the study of hadron structure and QCD. The initial evidence for the existence of elementary particles inside the nucleon came from DIS experiments conducted at SLAC in the 60's [1]. The study of the nucleon structure using DIS has continued at SLAC, CERN and DESY, providing some of the most stringent tests of QCD. In DIS one uses a lepton probe (e, μ, or ν) whose interactions are well understood to study the properties of the nucleons (protons or neutrons). By controlling the polarization degrees of freedom one can obtain significant additional information about the structure of the nucleon.

2.1 Kinematics

Most DIS experiments use a high energy lepton beam scattering from a fixed nuclear target[1]. The definition of the kinematic variables for our experiment is shown in Figure 2.1. In other experiments μ, or ν beams are used instead of the electrons.

All kinematic variables are defined in the lab frame. The initial electron has an energy E, four momentum k^μ, and spin s^μ, while the neutron at rest in the lab frame has $p^\mu = (M, 0, 0, 0)$ and spin S^μ. The electron scatters electromagnetically from the constituents inside the neutron. Interactions through a Z^0 exchange are also possible, but for our experiment $Q^2 \ll M_Z^2$ and the exchange of the weak boson is strongly suppressed. It results, however, in a non-negligible correction which is applied to the data. The scattered electron is detected by the spectrometer, and its energy E' and momentum k'^μ are measured. The (virtual) photon energy is $\nu = E - E'$ and its momentum transfer is $Q^2 = -q^2 = (k^\mu - k'^\mu)^2$. After the scattering, the neutron breaks up into many hadronic products. Their total invariant energy is given by $W^2 = (p^\mu + q^\mu)^2 = M^2 + 2M\nu - Q^2$. We do not detect any of the hadrons, but measure an inclusive cross-section. The scattering is called deep inelastic because $W^2 \gg M^2$. In contrast, for elastic scattering the neutron remains intact and $W^2 = M^2$.

[1] Recent DIS experiments at HERA use colliding positron-proton beams.

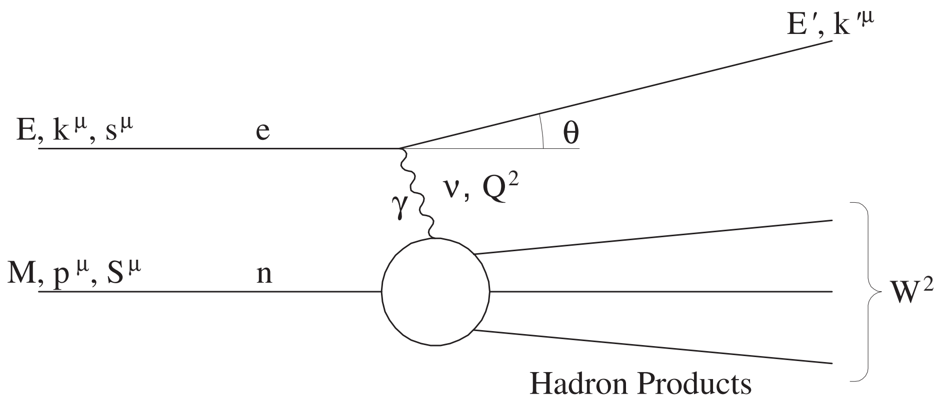

Figure 2.1: Kinematic variables used in deep inelastic scattering.

It is convenient to parametrize the scattering by two dimensionless variables, whose values range from 0 to 1. One defines:

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2p\cdot q} = \frac{Q^2}{2M\nu} \tag{2.1}$$

$$y = \frac{p\cdot q}{p\cdot k} = \frac{\nu}{E} \tag{2.2}$$

where the first equality gives a Lorentz invariant definition and the second is true only in the Lab frame. As we will see, x plays a very special role in deep inelastic processes, while y is the fractional energy loss of the scattered electron. Several useful relations between the kinematic variables are given below:

$$Q^2 = 4EE'\sin^2(\theta/2) = 2EMxy \tag{2.3}$$

$$W^2 = M^2 + Q^2(1-x)/x \tag{2.4}$$

Thus, the deep inelastic limit $W^2 \gg M^2$ is also equivalent to the Bjorken scaling limit $Q^2 \gg M^2$ at constant x. From equation (2.3) one can see that the minimum x accessible to an experiment is $x_{\text{min}} \sim Q^2/2EM$ (for $y \sim 1$). For deep inelastic scattering one would like to have $Q^2 \gg 1$ GeV^2. However, experiments show that the results approach the deep inelastic limit even for $Q^2 \sim 1$ GeV^2. Therefore, partly by convention, the deep inelastic region is defined as $Q^2 > 1$ GeV^2, $W^2 > 4$ GeV^2. This gives $x_{\text{min}} \sim 1/2E(\text{GeV})$. So, with a 48 GeV beam at SLAC we can reach to $x \approx 0.01$. At CERN, using 190 GeV muon beam, the DIS measurements can be done down to $x = 0.003$.

2.2 The Scattering Cross-Section

Using the usual rules of relativistic scattering theory, we can write the electron scattering cross-section in the following form [2, 3]:

$$d\sigma = \left|\langle f\left|\mathcal{M}\right|i\rangle\right|^2 \frac{(2\pi)^4}{4EM}\delta^4\left(p+q-\sum_{i=1}^{N}p_i\right)\frac{d^3k'}{2E'\,(2\pi)^3}\prod_{i=1}^{N}\frac{d^3p_i}{(2p_i^0)\,(2\pi)^3} \tag{2.5}$$

where p_i, $i = 1\ldots N$ are the momenta of the hadron products in the final state, and the scattering matrix is given by:

$$i\mathcal{M} = \left(-ie^2\right)\left(\frac{-g_{\mu\nu}}{q^2}\right)\langle k', s'\left|j^\mu(0)\right|k, s\rangle\,\langle X, S'\left|J^\nu(0)\right|n, S\rangle \tag{2.6}$$

Here X denotes the final hadronic state produced by the collision, $j^\mu(0)$ and $J^\nu(0)$ are the leptonic and hadronic electromagnetic currents respectively. One can separate the square of the matrix element into a product of purely leptonic and hadronic tensors, which are usually defined by:

$$\left|\langle f\left|\mathcal{M}\right|i\rangle\right|^2 = \frac{e^4}{q^4}L^{\mu\nu}W_{\mu\nu} \tag{2.7}$$

The leptonic part is given by:

$$L^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{s'}\langle k', s'\left|j^\mu(0)\right|k, s\rangle\,\langle k, s\left|j^\nu(0)\right|k', s'\rangle \tag{2.8}$$

where we sum over the final electron spin states, since they are not distinguished in the detector.

In the rest frame of a spin 1/2 particle[2] the spin vector can be defined as follows:

$$2\vec{s} = u^\dagger(k, s)\,\vec{\sigma}u(k, s) = \overline{u}(k, s)\,\vec{\gamma}\gamma^5u(k, s) \tag{2.9}$$

We use a normalization of the Dirac spinors $u^\dagger u = 2E$. In the rest frame of the particle of mass m polarized in the $\hat{z}$ direction $\vec{s} = m\hat{z}$. Thus, the polarization vector has units of mass. This expression is generalized to a Lorentz invariant form:

$$2s^\mu = \overline{u}(k, s)\,\gamma^\mu\gamma^5u(k, s) \tag{2.10}$$

For an ultrarelativistic particle polarized along is momentum (definite helicity) one gets $s^\mu = \lambda k^\mu$, where $\lambda = \pm 1$ is the helicity.

[2]Some polarized DIS experiments are done with a spin-1 D target. In this case the expressions are slightly modified.

The main advantage of deep inelastic scattering is that the lepton electromagnetic current has a well known Dirac form:

$$\langle k', s' | j^{\mu}(0) | k, s\rangle = \overline{u}(k', s')\gamma^{\mu} u(k, s) \tag{2.11}$$

Summing the leptonic tensor (2.8) over the final electron spin s' we get:

$$L^{\mu\nu} = 2\left(k'^{\mu}k^{\nu} + k'^{\nu}k^{\mu} - \left(k \cdot k' - m^2\right) g^{\mu\nu} - i\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} q_{\rho} s_{\sigma}\right) \tag{2.12}$$

From now on we will neglect the electron mass m. Note that the electron spin contributes only to the anti-symmetric part of the lepton tensor.

The hadronic tensor is given by:

$$W_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_{X,S'} (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p + q - p_X) \langle X, S' | J_{\mu}(0) | n, S\rangle \langle n, S | J_{\mu}(0) | X, S'\rangle \tag{2.13}$$

where we sum over all possible final states X and final spin directions S'. Since the proton and the final state are not elementary Dirac particles, we do not know the electromagnetic current. However, we can greatly restrict the possible form of the current by using symmetry and invariance properties. Lorentz invariance implies that $W_{\mu\nu}$ should transform as a rank 2 tensor, so it can be formed only from available four vectors: p_{μ}, q_{μ}, S_{μ} and tensors $g_{\mu\nu}$, $\varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$. The conservation of the hadronic electromagnetic current, time reversal invariance and parity invariance[3] allows one to specify the hadronic tensor in terms of 4 independent scalar functions of the two independent Lorentz invariant scalars, chosen to be x and Q^2 [3]:

$$\begin{aligned} W_{\mu\nu} &= F_1\left(x, Q^2\right)\left(-g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{q_{\mu}q_{\nu}}{q^2}\right) + \frac{F_2(x, Q^2)}{p \cdot q}\left(p_{\mu} - \frac{p \cdot q}{q^2} q_{\mu}\right)\left(p_{\nu} - \frac{p \cdot q}{q^2} q_{\nu}\right) \\ &+ i\frac{g_1(x, Q^2)}{p \cdot q}\varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} q^{\rho} S^{\sigma} \\ &+ \frac{i}{(p \cdot q)^2} g_2\left(x, Q^2\right)\varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} q^{\rho}\left[(p \cdot q) S^{\sigma} - (S \cdot q)\, p^{\sigma}\right] \end{aligned} \tag{2.14}$$

In this way the hadronic interactions are completely parametrized by four functions: F_1, F_2, g_1, and g_2, which are called the structure functions. g_1 and g_2, in particular, are called the spin structure functions. Note that g_1 and g_2 contribute only to the antisymmetric part of the hadronic tensor. When $W_{\mu\nu}$ is contracted with $L^{\mu\nu}$, the spin structure functions contribute to the cross-section only if both the electron and the neutron are polarized[4].

[3] For neutrino scattering parity is violated which results in additional terms in the hadronic tensor.

[4] For spin-1 targets there is a contribution for an unpolarized beam, but it is difficult to measure.

It is instructive to calculate the structure functions for a target which is an elementary Dirac spinor. In this case the scattering is elastic at the tree level. $W_{\mu\nu}$ is given by the same formula (2.8) as for the leptons and we get:

$$F_1 = \frac{1}{2}\delta\left(1 - \frac{Q^2}{2M\nu}\right) \tag{2.15}$$

$$F_2 = \frac{Q^2}{2M\nu}\delta\left(1 - \frac{Q^2}{2M\nu}\right) \tag{2.16}$$

$$g_1 = \frac{1}{2}\delta\left(1 - \frac{Q^2}{2M\nu}\right) \tag{2.17}$$

$$g_2 = 0 \tag{2.18}$$

The delta function comes from momentum conservation for elastic scattering (i.e. $W^2 = M^2$).

2.3 Scaling

The first deep inelastic scattering experiments found, of course, large deviations from the simple Dirac form of the structure functions. However, they found a very interesting behavior that for high momentum transfer $Q^2 > 1$ GeV^2 the structure functions depend only on one variable $x = Q^2/2M\nu$, and are independent of Q^2 at constant x. This behavior, known as *scaling* [4, 5] was interpreted as evidence that the nucleons are made of elementary, weakly interacting particles, which were called partons.

In this approximations one assumes that the electron scatters from one of the partons, which is assumed to be "free" during the interaction. The scattering is an incoherent sum of the contributions from different partons. We assume that each parton carries a fraction α of the nucleon momentum and introduce parton distribution functions $q(\alpha) = dP/d\alpha$ equal to the probability of finding a parton inside the nucleon carrying momentum fraction between α and $\alpha + d\alpha$. In QCD, the partons which carry electric charge and contribute to the scattering are quarks. They are elementary Dirac particles and should have elementary form factors.

Since the partons have momentum $p_q = \alpha p$, we should replace $\nu = p \cdot q/M$ by $\alpha\nu$. This results in the replacement of $\delta(1 - Q^2/2M\nu)$ by $\delta(\alpha - Q^2/2M\nu) = \delta(\alpha - x)$ in equations (2.15-2.18). Thus, an electron with kinematic variable x can scatter only from a parton carrying a fraction x of the momentum of the nucleon. If the partons are non-interacting, then $q(x)$ is a probability distribution that depends only on the properties of the nucleon, not on the details of the scattering. Therefore, the scattering cross-section should depend only on x and not on Q^2 or ν separately. The structure functions can be written in terms of the parton distributions as follows:

$$F_1\left(x, Q^2\right) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_i e_i^2 q_i\left(x\right) \tag{2.19}$$

$$F_2\left(x, Q^2\right) = x\sum_i e_i^2 q_i\left(x\right) \tag{2.20}$$

$$g_1\left(x, Q^2\right) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_i e_i^2\left(q_i^{\uparrow}\left(x\right) - q_i^{\downarrow}\left(x\right)\right) \tag{2.21}$$

$$g_2\left(x, Q^2\right) = 0 \tag{2.22}$$

where the sum runs over all partons in the nucleon weighted by the square of their electric charge e_i (in units of the electron charge), and the polarized distributions are defined as the probability of finding the parton with the same $q_i^{\uparrow}(x)$ or opposite $q_i^{\downarrow}(x)$ helicity as the parent nucleon.

In QCD the partons in the nucleon are quarks and gluons. The gluons are not charged, while the quarks carry fractional charges: $e_u = 2/3$, $e_d = -1/3$, $e_s = -1/3$. The neutron is made from 2 d quarks and 1 u quark, while the proton from 2 u quarks and 1 d quark. Actually, the quarks scheme with specific charges and masses was proposed by Gell-Mann and Zweig before the creation of QCD or the discovery of scaling [6] to explain the abundance of hadrons and mesons. QCD also predicts the existence of "sea" quarks, created out of the vacuum by gluon interactions.

2.4 Sum Rules

One of the most fruitful and robust consequences of the quark parton model (QPM) are the sum rules for structure functions. They give a prediction for the integral over x of various combinations of the structure functions. Most of them are modified only by calculable radiative corrections when full interactions of QCD are taken into account. Thus, they allow a model independent test of the QPM and its QCD modifications. For unpolarized structure functions the only testable sum rules involve neutrino scattering. They are [7]:

$$Gross - Llewellyn\ Smith\ (baryon) : \int_0^1 dx\left(F_3^{\nu p}\left(x\right) + F_3^{\nu n}\left(x\right)\right)/2 = 3 \tag{2.23}$$

$$Adler : \int_0^1 dx\left(F_2^{\nu n}\left(x\right) - F_2^{\nu p}\left(x\right)\right)/x = 2 \tag{2.24}$$

Here F_3 is an additional structure function, which is present because of parity violation in neutrino interactions. Presently, the baryon sum rule is tested to 3% (with 2 σ deviation from the theoretical prediction), and the Adler sum rule is tested to 20% [7]. For polarized structure functions two more sum rules exist: the Bjorken sum rule

[8] and the Ellis-Jaffe [9] sum rule, which are discussed in detail below. With the data from our experiment the Bjorken sum rule can be tested to 8%.

In the parton model we can express the average helicity of each quark using our definition of the polarized quark momentum distributions:

$$\Delta q_i = \int_0^1 \left(q_i^{\uparrow}(x) - q_i^{\downarrow}(x) + \bar{q}_i^{\uparrow}(x) - \bar{q}_i^{\downarrow}(x) \right) dx \tag{2.25}$$

where $\bar{q}_i(x)$ denotes the momentum distribution of the anti-quarks. The integral of the spin structure function g_1 gives us a linear combination of the helicities carried by each quark flavor:

$$\Gamma_1 = \int_0^1 g_1(x)\, dx = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{4}{9}\Delta u + \frac{1}{9}\Delta d + \frac{1}{9}\Delta s\right) \tag{2.26}$$

which follows from equation (2.21). On the other hand, using equation (2.10) the helicity carried by each quark can be calculated from the following matrix element:

$$2\Delta q_i s^{\mu} = \left\langle N \left| \bar{q}_i \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 q_i \right| N \right\rangle \tag{2.27}$$

If the nucleon were a Dirac particle made of one quark then $\Delta q = 1$. In the quark parton model the two expressions for quark helicity, (2.25) and (2.27), are identified with each other. We will come back to the validity of this assumption later.

We can now derive the Bjorken sum rule. Recall from the theory of weak interactions that the weak current matrix element for the neutron decay is defined as [10]:

$$\langle \bar{p} \left| J_w \right| n \rangle = \left\langle \bar{p} \left| \tau^+ \gamma^{\mu} \left(1 - \gamma^5\right) \right| n \right\rangle = \bar{U} \gamma^{\mu} \left(1 - \frac{g_A}{g_V}\gamma^5\right) U = 2\left(p^{\mu} - \frac{g_A}{g_V} s^{\mu}\right) \tag{2.28}$$

where U stands for a Dirac spinor and τ is a Pauli matrix acting in the isospin space. g_A/g_V is an empirical quantity that parametrizes the deviation of the neutron weak axial coupling from that of a Dirac particle. Experimentally, $g_A/g_V = 1.2601 \pm 0.0025$ [11]. Using properties of the isospin operators $[\tau^+, \tau^-] = \tau^3$ and $\tau^- |p\rangle = |n\rangle$, the axial current can be converted to a matrix element between proton states:

$$\left\langle \bar{p} \left| \tau^+ \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 \right| n \right\rangle = \left\langle \bar{p} \left| \tau^3 \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 \right| p \right\rangle \tag{2.29}$$

With the isospin assignments for the quarks: $\tau^3 u = u$, $\tau^3 d = -d$, and $\tau^3 s = 0$ we get:

$$\left\langle \bar{p} \left| \tau^3 \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 \right| p \right\rangle = \left\langle \bar{p} \left| \bar{u} \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 u - \bar{d} \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 d \right| p \right\rangle = 2 s^{\mu} \left(\Delta u_p - \Delta d_p\right) \tag{2.30}$$

Thus

$$\left\langle \bar{p} \left| \tau^+ \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 \right| n \right\rangle = 2 s^{\mu} \frac{g_A}{g_V} = 2 s^{\mu} \left(\Delta u_p - \Delta d_p\right) \tag{2.31}$$

To extract the appropriate combination of the quark helicities from DIS measurements we form the difference between the integrals of g_1 for the proton and the neutron and use isospin invariance to set $\Delta u_p = \Delta d_n$, $\Delta d_p = \Delta u_n$, and $\Delta s_p = \Delta s_n$. By convention, the quark momentum distributions refer to the distributions in the proton: $\Delta u = \Delta u_p$. The neutron momentum distributions can be obtained by isospin invariance. This gives us

$$\Gamma_1^p - \Gamma_1^n = \frac{1}{6}(\Delta u - \Delta d) = \frac{1}{6}\frac{g_A}{g_V} \tag{2.32}$$

which is the Bjorken sum rule, derived by Bjorken in 1966 and, at that time, called a "worthless equation" [8] because of inaccessibility of the spin degrees of freedom.

In this derivation we only used the assignment of electric and isospin charges to the quarks, the isospin symmetry, and the identification of the quark helicity matrix element (2.27) with the integral of the quark momentum distribution. The assignment of the charges is fundamental to the parton model and QCD, and isospin symmetry violations due to finite quark mass and electromagnetic interactions are expected to be very small. The last assumption, however, requires further justification. The quark momentum distributions are measured in DIS at high Q^2, while the quark helicity matrix elements are related to weak decay constants measured at $Q^2 = 0$. In the non-interacting quark parton model the scaling is exact and the structure functions do not depend on Q^2. Thus the two expressions for the quark helicities are identical. This is not true in QCD, where there are scaling violations which become large and incalculable at low Q^2. However, it turns out that the particular combination of quark helicities $a_3 = \Delta u - \Delta d$ is independent of Q^2 because of axial flavor current conservation, and the relationship remains valid to zeroth order in α_s. The only modification from QCD is due to radiative corrections for the photon-quark interactions. They can be calculated using, for example, the techniques of operator product expansion [3]. Thus, the Bjorken sum rule which rests on a small number of very fundamental assumptions, remains valid in QCD. This has led Feynman to conclude that "its verification or failure [the Bjorken Sum Rule] would have a most decisive effect on the direction of future high energy theoretical physics" [12].

One can carry this analysis further and consider the implications of the full $SU(3)_f$ symmetry of u, d and s quarks. This neglects the mass of the s quark, which is significant, and, therefore, on somewhat theoretically weaker grounds. Using SU(3) symmetry one can show that:

$$a_8 = \Delta u + \Delta d - 2\Delta s = 3F - D \tag{2.33}$$

where F and D are two constants that parametrize the deviation of the axial current from its Dirac form in the baryon octet [10]. a_8 is the second diagonal element of the axial flavor current in SU(3) and is independent of Q^2 due to the conservation of the current. From the data on the semileptonic weak decays of baryons one can determine F and D. Further, it can be argued that the polarization of the s quarks should be small on the basis of the OZI rule [9] or helicity conservation of the gluon-quark interactions [13]. If one assumes that $\Delta s = 0$, the values for Γ_1^p and Γ_1^n can be predicted separately:

$$\Gamma_1^p = \frac{1}{18}(9F - D) \tag{2.34}$$

$$\Gamma_1^n = \frac{1}{18}(6F - 4D) \tag{2.35}$$

which is known as the Ellis-Jaffe sum rule [9]. The status of this rule is much less solid in QCD because the assumption that $\Delta s = 0$ is not well justified and not even well defined. Recent experiments observed violations of the Ellis-Jaffe sum rule for both the neutron and the proton.

Thus, there are several predictions for the integrals of the spin structure functions of varying degree of reliability. To test these predictions one has to measure g_1 over a large kinematic range and calculate the integral for both the neutron and the proton.

2.5 Experimental Observables

To access the spin structure functions experimentally, one has to measure the cross-section for the scattering of a polarized lepton on a polarized nucleon. Using the equations for the hadronic and leptonic tensors we can easily calculate the differential cross-section of deep inelastic scattering [14]:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2\sigma}{dxdQ^2} &= \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^4 x}\left[\frac{Q^4}{4M^2E^2x}F_1\left(x,Q^2\right) + \left(1 - \frac{Q^2}{2MEx} - \frac{Q^2}{4E^2}\right)F_2\left(x,Q^2\right)\right] \\ &+ \frac{P_bP_t4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^2MEx}\left[\left(2 - \frac{Q^2}{2MEx} - \frac{Q^2}{2E^2}\right)g_1\left(x,Q^2\right) - \frac{2Mx}{E}g_2\left(x,Q^2\right)\right]\end{aligned} \tag{2.36}$$

for longitudinally polarized beam with polarization P_b and target with polarization P_t. Experimentally, it is easier to measure an asymmetry between the cross-section with $P_bP_t > 0$ and $P_bP_t < 0$. The relative asymmetry is defined assuming 100% beam and target polarizations:

$$A_{\|} = \frac{d\sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow} - d\sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow}}{d\sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow} + d\sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow}} \tag{2.37}$$

and is given by the ratio of the polarized to the unpolarized cross-sections. One can also measure an asymmetry with the target polarization transverse to the beam:

$$A_{\perp} = \frac{d\sigma^{\downarrow\leftarrow} - d\sigma^{\uparrow\leftarrow}}{d\sigma^{\downarrow\leftarrow} + d\sigma^{\uparrow\leftarrow}} \tag{2.38}$$

Sometimes it is convenient to think about the scattering cross-section for a virtual photon shown in Figure 2.1. In this case we replace the lepton electromagnetic tensor $L^{\mu\nu}$ by the virtual photon polarization vector $\varepsilon^{\mu}_{\lambda}$ for the external photon line and remove the photon propagator:

$$|\langle f\,|\mathcal{M}|\,i\rangle|^2 = \varepsilon^{\mu *}_{\lambda}\varepsilon^{\nu}_{\lambda}W_{\mu\nu} \tag{2.39}$$

Also the flux factor $1/2E$ in the expression for the cross-section (2.5) should be replaced by $1/2K$, where $K = \left(W^2 - M^2\right)/2M = \nu + q^2/2M$ is a Lorentz invariant. For a real photon $q^2 = 0$ and $K = \nu$. The index λ labels different initial polarizations of the photon. One usually defines [3]:

$$\varepsilon^{\mu}_{\pm} = (0, \mp 1, -i, 0)/\sqrt{2} \tag{2.40}$$

$$\varepsilon^{\mu}_{0} = 1/Q\left(\sqrt{\nu^2 + Q^2}, 0, 0, \nu\right) \tag{2.41}$$

which satisfy the condition $\varepsilon^{\mu}q_{\mu} = 0$. ε_0 corresponds to a longitudinally polarized photon and is allowed because the photon is virtual. One can define four cross-sections corresponding to different initial polarization states [14, 15]:

$$\sigma_{1/2} = \sigma(+1, -1/2) = \frac{4\pi^2\alpha}{MK}\left(F_1 + g_1 - \gamma^2 g_2\right) \tag{2.42}$$

$$\sigma_{3/2} = \sigma(+1, +1/2) = \frac{4\pi^2\alpha}{MK}\left(F_1 - g_1 + \gamma^2 g_2\right) \tag{2.43}$$

$$\sigma_{L} = \sigma(0, +1/2) = \frac{4\pi^2\alpha}{MK}\left(-F_1 + F_2\left(1 + \gamma^2\right)/2x\right) \tag{2.44}$$

$$\sigma_{TL} = \sigma(|+1, -1/2\rangle, |0, +1/2\rangle) = \frac{4\pi^2\alpha}{MK}\sqrt{2}\gamma\,(g_1 + g_2) \tag{2.45}$$

where $\sigma(\lambda_i, S_i)$ denotes the cross-section with initial photon helicity λ_i and initial proton spin S_i along the $\hat{z}$ axis. σ_{TL} is the contribution of the interference term between the $|+1, -1/2\rangle$ and $|0, +1/2\rangle$ states. Here $\gamma = \sqrt{Q^2/\nu^2} = 2x\sqrt{M^2/Q^2} \to 0$ as $Q^2 \to \infty$ with constant x.

It is interesting to consider this result in terms of helicity conservation at high energy. For an ultrarelativistic fermion $(1 \pm \gamma^5)$ projects out the helicity states [2]:

$$\frac{1}{2}\left(1 - \gamma^5\right)u \approx u_L \tag{2.46}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}\left(1 + \gamma^5\right)u \approx u_R \tag{2.47}$$

Using the properties of the γ matrixes one can show that the electromagnetic current conserves helicity: $\bar{u}\gamma^{\mu}u = \bar{u}_L\gamma^{\mu}u_L + \bar{u}_R\gamma^{\mu}u_R$. Figure 2.2 shows an electromagnetic interaction between an electron and a quark. It is assumed that both the quark and the electron scatter backwards in the center of mass frame. Other cases can be expressed by using rotation properties of the angular momentum operators. Both the electron and the quark are ultrarelativistic. Using the conservation of helicity we can see that the electron is more likely to emit a longitudinally polarized photon and preserve its helicity. The quark is more likely to absorb the photon if its initial spin is opposite to the photon spin, so it can preserve its helicity as well.

It is interesting to see what happens if we use the elementary particle form of the structure functions (2.19-2.22). In the limit of deep inelastic scattering $\gamma \to 0$ and to zeroth order in γ we get:

$$\sigma_{1/2} = \frac{4\pi^2\alpha}{MK}\delta(1-x) \tag{2.48}$$

$$\sigma_{3/2} = \sigma_L = \sigma_{TL} = 0 \tag{2.49}$$

Thus, only the dominant helicity process, shown in Figure 2.2 contributes to scattering.

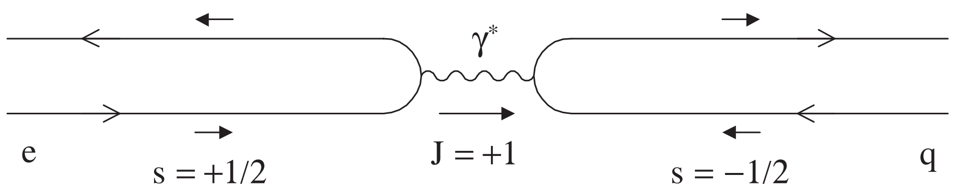

Figure 2.2: The dominant spin scattering cross-section due to the helicity conservation.

Since the nucleon is more complicated than a single quark, all of the cross-sections contribute. It is natural to define virtual photon asymmetries A_1 and A_2 as follows:

$$A_1 = \frac{\sigma_{1/2} - \sigma_{3/2}}{\sigma_{1/2} + \sigma_{3/2}} \tag{2.50}$$

$$A_2 = \frac{2\sigma_{TL}}{\sigma_{1/2} + \sigma_{3/2}} \tag{2.51}$$

In addition one defines $R = 2\sigma_L / \left(\sigma_{1/2} + \sigma_{3/2}\right)$ which measures the deviation of the unpolarized structure functions from the Callan-Gross identity $2xF_1 = F_2$ [16].

Several simple predictions can be made for A_1 based on the quark-parton model. For $x \to 1$ we expect that only one quark carries all of the momentum and spin of the nucleon. Therefore, the cross-section is given by equation (2.48) and $A_1 = 1$ [17]. If we assume the SU(6) model for the flavor and spin wavefunction of the quarks inside the nucleon, then $\Delta u = 4/9$, $\Delta d = -1/9$ and using:

$$A_1 = \frac{\sum e_i^2 \Delta q_i}{\sum e_i^2 q_i} \tag{2.52}$$

we get $A_1^p = 5/9$ and $A_1^n = 0$ independent of x. Thus, the proton asymmetry is expected to be large and positive, while the neutron asymmetry is close to zero.

Since we cannot create a multi-GeV beam of virtual photons, we use polarized electrons (or muons) to create the photons with known polarization properties. Then A_1 and A_2 are related to the measured asymmetries $A_{||}$ and $A_\perp$ by the following kinematic factors [14]:

$$A_{||} = D\,(A_1 + \eta A_2) \tag{2.53}$$
$$A_\perp = d\,(A_2 - \zeta A_1) \tag{2.54}$$

where

$$D = \frac{1 - \varepsilon E'/E}{1 + \varepsilon R} \tag{2.55}$$
$$\eta = \varepsilon \frac{\sqrt{Q^2}}{E - \varepsilon E'} \tag{2.56}$$
$$d = D\sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}} \tag{2.57}$$
$$\zeta = \eta \frac{(1+\varepsilon)}{2\varepsilon} \tag{2.58}$$
$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{1 + 2\,(1 + \nu^2/Q^2)\tan^2(\theta/2)} \tag{2.59}$$

D can be thought of as a depolarization factor of the photon due to the fact it is not emitted parallel to the initial nucleon spin. The factors D and η are plotted vs. x for the 2.75° spectrometer in Figure 2.3.

Using equations (2.42-2.45) and (2.55-2.59) we get:

$$g_1 = \frac{F_1}{1+\gamma^2}(A_1 + \gamma A_2) = \frac{F_1}{D'}\left(A_{||} + \tan(\theta/2)\,A_\perp\right) \tag{2.60}$$
$$g_2 = \frac{F_1}{1+\gamma^2}(A_2/\gamma - A_1) = \frac{F_1}{D'}\frac{y}{2\sin(\theta)}\left(\frac{E + E'\cos(\theta)}{E'}A_\perp - \sin(\theta)\,A_{||}\right) \tag{2.61}$$

where

$$D' = \frac{(1-\varepsilon)(2-y)}{y\,(1+\varepsilon R)} \tag{2.62}$$
$$F_1 = F_2 \frac{1+\gamma^2}{2x\,(1+R)} \tag{2.63}$$

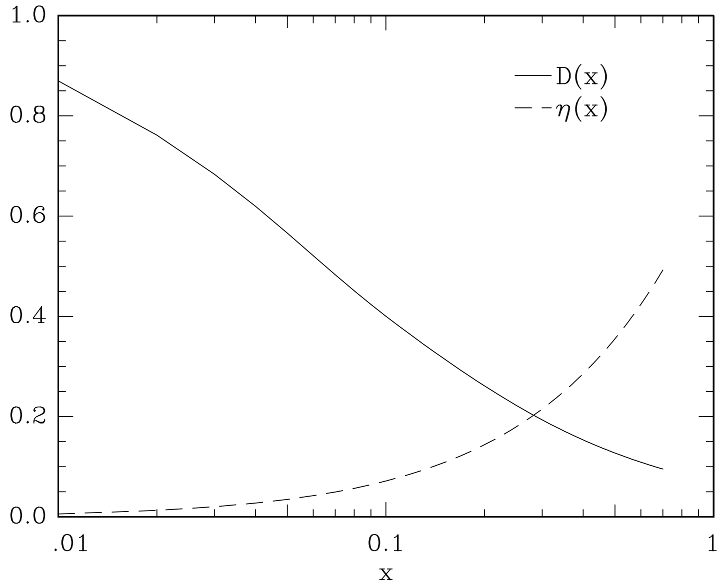

Figure 2.3: The kinematic factors D and η as a function of x for the $2.75°$ spectrometer.

Equations (2.60-2.61) can also be obtained directly from the expression for the lepton cross-section (2.36).

So, to extract g_1 one has to measure both $A_{||}$ and $A_{\perp}$. However, because $\tan(\theta/2)$ is small in our experiment, $A_{\perp}$ gives only a very small contribution. One also needs to know F_2 and R, which have been measured with sufficient accuracy in unpolarized deep inelastic scattering experiments [18, 19].

Experiments cannot measure $g_1(x)$ over the entire range of 0 to 1, which is needed to test the sum rules. At low x the range is limited by the $Q^2 > 1$ GeV^2 Bjorken scaling cut, and at high x by the $W^2 > 4$ GeV^2 deep inelastic cut and limited statistics due to very small DIS cross-section. Therefore, theoretical input is needed to extrapolate the data to $x = 0$ and $x = 1$. For extrapolation to $x = 1$ one usually assumes that $A_1 \to 1$ based on helicity conservation, as described on page 14. The contribution to the integral of g_1 is small, because $F_1 \to 0$ as $x \to 1$. The uncertainty due to high x extrapolation is usually very small.

The extrapolation to low x is more uncertain. This is one of the main reasons that the polarized DIS experiments have been conducted at increasingly higher energy to access a lower x region. One historically has used Regge theory for low x extrapolation, which predicts that [20, 21]:

$$g_1(x) \sim x^{-\alpha_1}, \ \ x \to 0 \tag{2.64}$$

where α_1 is constrained between $-0.5 < \alpha_1 < 0$. This implies that g_1 goes to zero or stays constant as $x \to 0$. The validity of this assumption is questionable. Several other models exist [22, 23, 24], which predict various forms for the low x behavior of g_1 diverging at $x = 0$ with various degrees of severity. In most experimental papers the Regge theory with $\alpha_1 = 0$ has been used for extrapolation.

Another issue that has to be addressed in interpreting experimental results is the dependence of g_1 on Q^2. Although in QPM the scaling is exact, QCD introduces scaling violations which depend of $\log Q^2$. The sum rules derived in Section 2.4 have to be evaluated at constant Q^2. However, because of kinematic constraints, g_1 is measured over a range of Q^2 correlated with x. In addition, different experiments measure g_1 at different Q^2. It is observed experimentally that $A_1 \sim g_1/F_1$ has no Q^2 dependence within errors. In QCD this is explained by the fact that F_1 and g_1 have very similar Q^2 evolution. Experimental analyses usually assume that A_1 is independent of Q^2. Since F_1 has been measured over a wide range of x and Q^2, this allows one to calculate the Q^2 dependence of g_1. The questions of low x behavior and Q^2 dependence will be considered in more detail in Chapter 6.

2.6 Past Experiments

The first polarized deep inelastic scattering experiments were carried out at SLAC in the 70's - early 80's. The first experiment E-80 [25] was also the first high energy experiment ever to use a polarized electron beam. The electron energy was 6-13 GeV. Polarized electrons were produced by photo-ionization of Li atoms polarized by Stern-Gerlach technique. The electron polarization was 50–80%, however the beam current was limited to 10^8 electrons per pulse. The polarization of the electron beam was measured at the source by Mott scattering and at the target by Møller scattering. E-80 used a butanol solid target polarized by the dynamic nuclear polarization technique (DNP) [26]. The only significant non-zero spin element in butanol is hydrogen, so it is equivalent to a proton target with a dilution factor of 0.11. Polarizations up to 50% were achieved. However, the radiation resistance of the material was low, and, in fact, was a limiting factor for the beam current. The experiment collected data in the range $0.1 < x < 0.5$ at an average Q^2 of 2 GeV^2. The virtual photon asymmetry A_1 was found to be close to the SU(6) prediction of 5/9 in the range $0.3 < x < 0.5$ and falling down at lower x.

The next experiment E-130 [27] was done using a higher beam energy of 22 GeV to measure the asymmetry at higher Q^2. The beam and target polarizations were 85% and 50% respectively and a dedicated spectrometer was built at $\theta = 11°$. The measurements were performed in the range $0.2 < x < 0.65$ and 2 GeV$^2 < Q^2 <$ 6 GeV^2. The results were in good agreement with E-80 and confirmed the predictions of the SU(6) model.

Although the first SLAC experiments were very successful in confirming the basic picture of the proton spin structure, they lacked data at sufficiently low x to calculate the first moment of g_1 and check the Ellis-Jaffe sum rule. The next polarized deep inelastic experiment was carried out at CERN by the European Muon Collaboration (EMC) [28]. This and subsequent CERN experiments used a muon beam with an energy of 100-200 GeV to access very low x at high Q^2. The muon beam is produced at CERN from the decay of pions and kaons generated by stopping a proton beam in a tungsten target. The muons are naturally polarized due to the V-A structure of the weak decays. The average muon polarization during the run was 80%. An ammonia solid state target was used in the experiment, polarized by DNP to 80%. The target consisted of two sections, each 36 cm long, polarized in opposite directions. The resolution of the spectrometer was sufficient to trace the scattered electron to one of the two target halves. The direction of the target polarization was periodically reversed to reduce uncertainties due to variations in the spectrometer acceptance. However, the time drifts of the acceptance were the dominant source of the systematic error. The main limitation of the experiment was low statistics due to low intensity of the secondary muon beam. The data were collected in the range $0.01 < x < 0.7$ at $3.5\ \mathrm{GeV}^2 < Q^2 < 30\ \mathrm{GeV}^2$. Based on these data EMC calculated $\Gamma_1^p = 0.126 \pm 0.010$ (stat.) $\pm$ 0.015 (syst.) The Ellis-Jaffer sum rule, which assumes $SU(3)_f$ symmetry and negligible polarization of the strange quarks, predicts $\Gamma_1^p(EJ) = 0.189 \pm 0.005$ based on the numbers for F and D available at that time. Thus, the experimental result disagreed by 3 σ with the Ellis-Jaffe sum rule. If the constraint $\Delta s = 0$ is removed, then one finds using equations (2.26, 2.32, 2.33):

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta u &= 0.78 \pm 0.06 && (2.65)\\
\Delta d &= -0.47 \pm 0.06 && (2.66)\\
\Delta s &= -0.19 \pm 0.06 && (2.67)\\
\Delta\Sigma &= \Delta u + \Delta d + \Delta s = 0.12 \pm 0.17 && (2.68)
\end{aligned}$$

The EMC result was particularly surprising since it gave a value for $\Delta\Sigma$ consistent with zero. In contract, in the naive quark-parton model the quarks carry most of the proton spin and $\Delta\Sigma \simeq 1$. This situation was called "the proton spin crisis" and sparked a lot of interest in the study of spin structure among both theorists and experimentalists.

At this point it is appropriate to briefly review the theoretical progress in this area, which has been quite active since the release of the EMC result. For reviews written in the last two years see [7, 15, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35]. Soon after the results were released, it was realized (see, however, [29]) that QCD significantly modifies the QPM interpretation of $\Delta\Sigma$ due to non-conservation of the singlet axial current and the axial anomaly, which will be discussed in detail in Chapter 6 . In addition, gluons can contribute to g_1 to first order in α_s. While one expects that $\Delta\Sigma \simeq 1$ as measured at low Q^2, the connection to the DIS measurements is not unique. We will defer the detailed discussion of the QCD analysis to Chapter 6. It suffices to say here that a relative consensus on this issue developed only recently.

The next experimental challenge was to measure the spin structure of the neutron to test the Bjorken sum rule. Since a free neutron target is not feasible, two alternative approaches were pursued. At CERN a Spin Muon collaboration (SMC) was formed to specifically study the nucleon spin structure. To obtain data on the neutron [36] they used a deuterated butanol target. The deuteron is equivalent to a sum of the neutron and the proton up to small nuclear corrections. A deuterated solid target can be as thick as a proton target, which is very important for statistics limited muon experiments. On the other hand, the proton asymmetry is large, while the neutron asymmetry is small. So, to extract the neutron data from measurements on the deuteron, one has to subtract a large proton asymmetry from a large deuteron asymmetry to get a small neutron asymmetry. In the process of this subtraction both the statistical and the systematic errors are amplified. The experiment used a new target similar in design to the EMC target, and the muon polarization was measured directly by looking at the asymmetry of the muon decays, whereas the EMC experiment determined the muon polarization based on a Monte Carlo.

At approximately the same time a new spin structure program was started at SLAC. To obtain the data on the neutron the E-142 collaboration used a ^{3}He gas target [37]. In ^{3}He the two protons are combined in a spin-0 state because of the Pauli exclusion principle, and the spin of ^{3}He is mostly due to a single neutron. Thus, one is sensitive directly to the neutron asymmetry. The thickness of the gas target is much smaller than a solid target, but this is not a problem for a high intensity electron beam at SLAC. The ^{3}He was polarized by spin exchange with optically pumped Rb atoms. In many aspects the polarized target [38] was similar to the target used for this experiment. The target polarization was on average 33% during the run. The polarized electron beam was produced by photoemission from an unstrained GaAs crystal. This technique has a theoretical polarization limit of 50%, and the average polarization during the run was 36%. Its main advantage is a larger beam current. The number of electrons per pulse was 3×10^{11}, 3 orders of magnitude higher than in E80/E130. Despite lower target and beam polarizations, the results of E-142 had much smaller statistical errors than SMC because of a much larger event sample.

Following the neutron experiments, both SLAC (E-143) [39] and CERN (SMC) [40] conducted the second round of experiments with proton targets. They also used a deuterium solid target to obtain another measurement of the neutron spin structure [41, 42]. A new experimental program (HERMES) to study the nucleon spin structure recently started at DESY. During their first run a ^{3}He target was used to make a measurement on the neutron [43]. For the HERMES experiment polarized ^{3}He was injected directly into the beam line of a positron storage ring at DESY, providing an "internal target". While the target thickness is very small, it is compensated by a very large current in the storage ring. Such a target is also free from any dilution due to scattering from unpolarized material. HERMES used the technique of metastability-exchange pumping to polarize ^{3}He. They achieved an average 50% target polarization and 60% beam polarization. Their first results were released concurrently with our data.

Thus, at present there is a relatively large number of polarized spin structure measurements, whose results are shown in Figure 2.4 for the proton and Figure 2.5 for the neutron.

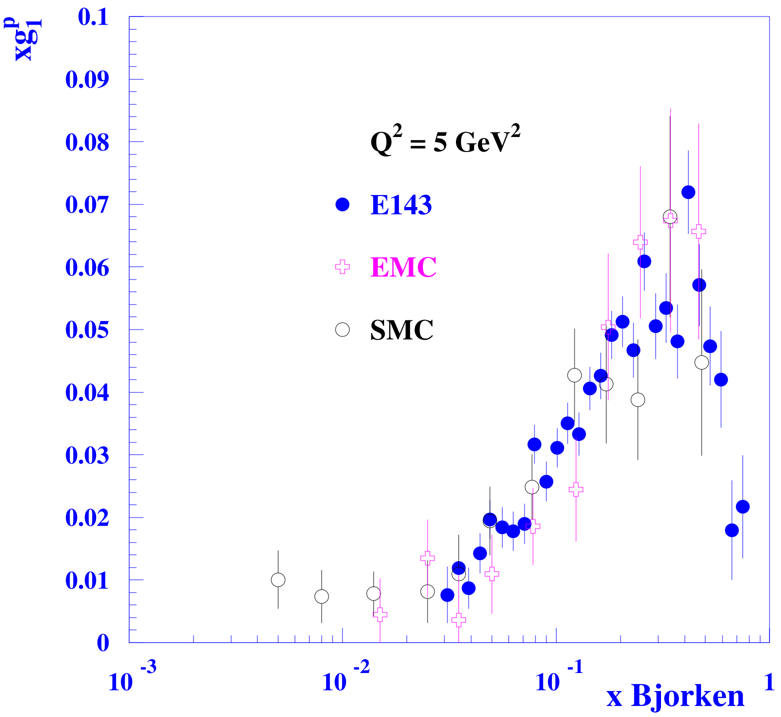

Figure 2.4: World data on the proton spin structure function g_1^p. Note that xg_1^p is plotted on the vertical axis.

As can be seen, there is a substantial amount of data, which are consistent with each other. However, the errors of the structure function g_1 are much larger than, for example, unpolarized structure function F_2. There is clearly room for more accurate measurements. This is particularly true in the low x region, where only SMC data are available. The low x region is very important for extrapolation to $x = 0$, which is necessary to test the sum rules. Therefore, our experiment was designed to achieve substantially higher accuracy than any previous measurements, and also to extend the precision data down to $x = 0.014$, below previous SLAC experiments.

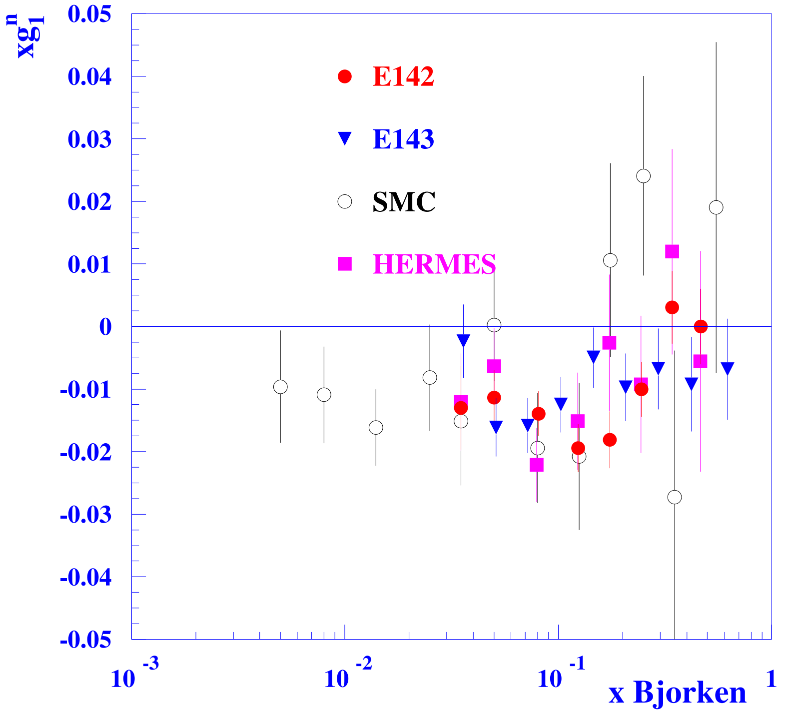

Figure 2.5: World data on the neutron spin structure function g_1^n. Note that xg_1^n is plotted on the vertical axis.

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Chapter 3

The E-154 Experiment

The experiment was conducted at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center[1] in Menlo Park, California. The accelerator provides a polarized electron beam with energy up to 50 GeV. A new beam line was constructed to direct the electrons into the End Station A (ESA), were the experiment was conducted. The polarization of the electrons was measured in the ESA using a single arm Møller polarimeter. The electrons were scattered from a polarized ^{3}He target and detected in two spectrometers, one located at approximately 2.75° and the other at 5.5°. Each spectrometer consisted of 2 Cherenkov tanks, several hodoscope planes and a shower counter. In this experiment no hardware trigger was used. All data collected during a beam pulse were digitized and stored on tape for later off-line analysis. The data were collected during a 2 month run in October and November of 1995. In this chapter I describe the experimental setup and data analysis unrelated to the polarized target.

3.1 Polarized Electron Beam

The polarized electrons at SLAC are produced by photoemission from a strained GaAs cathode. For a review of polarized electron sources see [1] and references therein. The SLAC source, in particular, is described in [2]. The level diagram of the conduction and valence bands in strained GaAs crystal is shown in Figure 3.1 [2]. The valence band consists of $P_{3/2}$ and $P_{1/2}$ levels which are split by spin-orbit interaction Δ_{SO}. By introducing a uniaxial strain in the crystal one can also split the $P_{3/2}$ level into sublevels with different values of $|m_j|$ (light holes and heavy holes). In effect, the strain induces a quadrupole splitting. The amount of splitting δ is approximately proportional to the strain. A circularly polarized laser beam is used to excite the electrons from the valence band to the conduction band. If the laser is tuned to have an energy between E_g and $E_g + \delta$, then only electrons from the $P_{3/2}$, $m_j = -3/2$ state

[1]The accelerator is operated by the U.S. Department of Energy.

can be excited to the $S_{1/2}$, $m_j = -1/2$ state for right circularly polarized light. Thus, the polarization of the electrons in the conduction band can theoretically reach 100%. If the crystal is not strained, the $P_{3/2}$ state is four-fold degenerate and the maximum polarization is limited to $(3-1)/(3+1) = 50\%$. To achieve high polarization the splitting δ should be larger than the width of the levels due to crystal defects and thermal smearing.

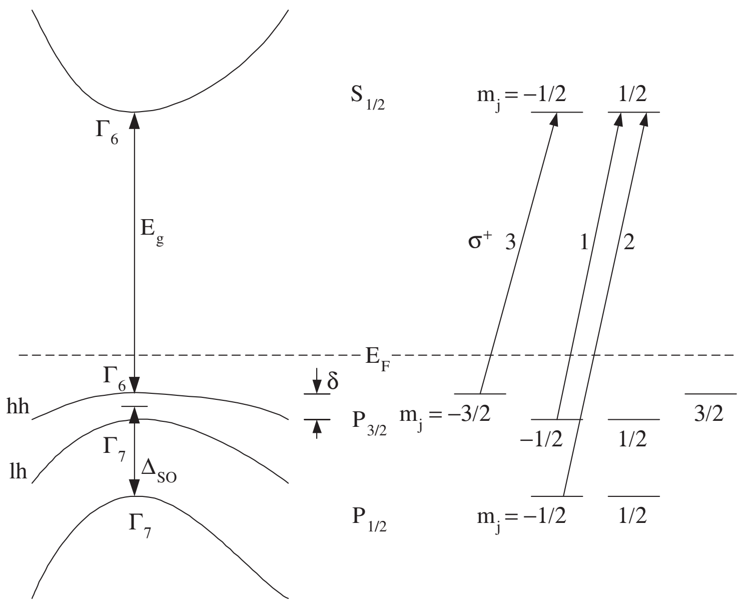

Figure 3.1: The energy level diagram for strained GaAs crystal. The numbers next to the transition lines indicate relative transition strength.

The strain is achieved by growing GaAs on a substrate of $GaAs_{0.72}P_{0.28}$ as shown in Figure 3.2. $GaAs_{0.72}P_{0.28}$ has a lattice spacing smaller by about 1% than the spacing in pure GaAs and therefore results in tensile stress of the GaAs active layer [3, 4]. The active layer is sufficiently thin to prevent relaxation of the strain. Finally, a critical feature of a photoemission cathode is its negative electron affinity (NEA). The behavior of the energy levels near the surface of the cathode is shown in Figure 3.3. A very thin film of Cs-F lowers the energy of the conduction band below the vacuum energy, which allows the excited electrons to escape from the crystal. The cathode is maintained at a negative voltage of 60-120 kV which gives the electrons an initial acceleration. Then they are magnetically focused, accelerated by RF fields and injected into the linear accelerator.

To achieve NEA it is extremely important to have a very clean cathode surface and very high vacuum when the Cs-F film is formed. The overall probability for the electron to diffuse to the surface of the crystal and escape, before decaying back to the

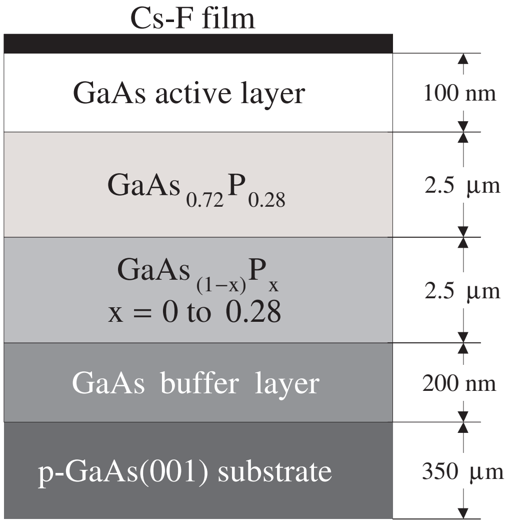

Figure 3.2: The layered structure of the strained GaAs cathode.

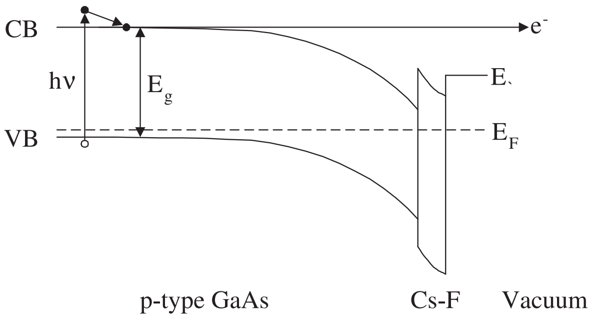

Figure 3.3: Deposition of a Cs-F film on the surface results in a negative workfunction for the electrons in the conduction band.

valence band is called the quantum efficiency (QE) of the cathode. For the cathodes used at SLAC over the last several years the QE varied from 0.007 to 10%. This indicates how sensitive the cathodes are to the preparation process. The combination of high vacuum and high voltage requirements make the polarized source an extremely complicated and delicate device. The SLAC source operates with ultrahigh vacuum at 10^{-11} torr and 40 kV/cm electric field gradient with a leakage current of 10nA. A special system is implemented that allows to install the cathode without breaking the vacuum. The Cs film on the surface of the cathode is periodically replenished (a process called cesiation) by an automated system. The overall reliability of the source is over 95%.

The cathode is pumped by a flashlamp-pumped Ti:Sapphire laser which delivers

$\sim$200 ns pulses with an energy of 80 μJ. The circular polarization of the light is controlled by fast Pockel cells. For each pulse the polarization is chosen by a pseudo-random number generator. This information is sent via several channels (polarization bits) to the data acquisition system. Feedback systems control the intensity of the laser pulses to minimize the charge asymmetry between the left and right handed electron pulses.

The electrons from the source are accelerated to about 48 GeV by 240 klystrons in a 2-mile long linear accelerator. A new beam-line was constructed to deflect the electrons to the End Station through a 24.5° angle. When an electron is deflected, its spin processes due to the anomalous magnetic moment $a_e = (g-2)/2$. The amount of the precession is related to the deflection angle [5, 6]:

$$\theta_{prec} = \gamma \frac{g-2}{2} \theta_{bend} \tag{3.1}$$

The factor of γ can be thought of as due to the time dilation in the rest frame of the electron. Longitudinally polarized electrons remain longitudinally polarized if θ_{prec} is a multiple of π. This implies that full polarization can only be achieved at a discrete set of energies, and also allows one to measure the energy of the beam very precisely by measuring its polarization. In our experiment $\theta_{bend} = 24.5°$ and $\theta_{prec} = 15\pi$ for electron energy of 48.35 GeV in the ESA (about 400 MeV are lost due to synchrotron radiation in the bend).

3.2 Møller Polarimeter

The beam polarization was measured in the ESA using a single arm Møller polarimeter [7, 8]. Møller scattering is elastic scattering of electrons on electrons. The scattering cross-section is strongly spin dependent due to helicity conservation (see Chapter 2). To calculate the cross-section we can virtually carry over the results from Chapter 2 for an elementary Dirac particle. The only modification is due to the fact that the electrons are indistinguishable particles, which results in a contribution from an additional diagram with initial and final particles interchanged. The result, written in the center of mass frame, is [8]:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\alpha^2}{s} \frac{\left(3+\cos^2\theta\right)^2}{\sin^4\theta} \left(1 - P_B P_T A(\theta)\right) \tag{3.2}$$

$$A(\theta) = \frac{\left(7+\cos^2\theta\right)\sin^2\theta}{\left(3+\cos^2\theta\right)^2} \tag{3.3}$$

The asymmetry is maximum for the center of mass scattering angle of $\theta_{CM} = 90°$ and is equal to $A(90°) = 7/9$. For $\theta_{CM} = 90°$ scattering in the lab frame both electrons have the same energy ($E_{beam}/2$) and scatter by an equal, but opposite angle $\theta_{LAB} = 0.26°$.

The measured asymmetry

$$A_m = \frac{\sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow} - \sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow}}{\sigma^{\uparrow\downarrow} + \sigma^{\uparrow\uparrow}} = P_B P_T A(\theta_{CM}) \tag{3.4}$$

is proportional to the beam and target polarizations and can be used to measure the beam polarization if the target polarization is known.

A ferromagnetic material is usually used as a target of polarized electrons. In our case the target was a foil made of 49% Fe, 49% Co and 2% Va. This is a soft ferromagnetic material, and it is driven to saturation by placing the foil in an 100 G magnetic field. Only 2 electrons in Fe and Va are polarized, so the average electron polarization is about 8%. The foils are 3 cm wide, 35 cm long and range in thickness from 20 μm to 154 μm, although the bulk of the data was collected with a 40 μm foil. Because the foil is very thin, it can only be magnetized along its plane. This follows from the boundary conditions on B and H fields [5]:

$$B_1 \cdot n = B_2 \cdot n \tag{3.5}$$

$$B_1 \times n = \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_2} B_2 \times n \tag{3.6}$$

$$H_1 \cdot n = \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1} H_2 \cdot n \tag{3.7}$$

$$H_1 \times n = H_2 \times n \tag{3.8}$$

Thus, the normal component of the magnetic field B has to be continues across the boundary, while the parallel component increases by the ratio of the magnetic permeabilities. Therefore, for maximum asymmetry the foil should be placed parallel to the beam. However, the electron beam cannot travel along the foil. The solution is to place the plane of the foil at an angle, so the electron polarization along the direction of the beam is equal to $P_T \cos\theta_f$. In our case the angle was 20.7°, decreasing the target polarization by a factor of 0.935 and increasing the target thickness by a factor of 2.83.

To determine the polarization of the foil we use a pick-up coil to measure the amount of flux in the foil [9]. The coil has $N_c = 500$ turns and is wrapped around the foil. The flux through the coil is given by $\Phi = A_c B$, where A_c is the cross-sectional area of the coil and $B = H + 4\pi M$. By sweeping the magnetic field from 100 G to -100 G one can reverse the direction of the magnetization. The voltage across the coil is given by $V = -d\Phi/dt$. An integrating voltmeter is used to measure

$$I_f = \int V(t)\,dt = \Phi_{fin} - \Phi_{in} = 2N_c\left(HA_c + 4\pi M A_f\right) \tag{3.9}$$

where A_f is the cross-sectional area of the foil. The measurement is repeated without the foil in place. In the absence of the foil $B = H$. Because the foil is very thin, the H field is not affected by the presence of the foil. This follows from the fact that the component of H parallel to the foil is continues across the boundary. By subtracting the result of the second measurement we cancel the contribution from the H field and get:

$$I_f - I_0 = 2A_f N_c 4\pi M \tag{3.10}$$

The cross-sectional area is determined by measuring the length and the mass of the foil and using the known density of the material.

To convert the foil magnetization into a value for the electron spin polarization one has to correct for the contribution of the orbital angular momentum. For the spin contribution one has $M_s = g_e \mu_B S$, where $g_e \simeq 2$ is the gyromagnetic ratio of a free electron, while for the orbital angular momentum $M_o = \mu_B L$. The magnetomechanical ratio of a material is defined by [10]: $M = g' \mu_B (L + S)$. It was measured for an alloy consisting of 50% Fe and 50% Co to be $g' = 1.916 \pm 0.002$ [11]. We assume that it is not affected by the presence of 2% of Va, however, the error is increased to 0.02 to allow for a small effect. One can show that the fraction of the angular momentum carried by the spin is $(g' - 1) / (g_e - 1)$, and the electron spin polarization is:

$$P_T = 2 \frac{M}{n_e \mu_B g'} \left(\frac{g' - 1}{g_e - 1} \right) \tag{3.11}$$

The polarizations of the foils were measured several times and were reproducible to about 1%. The average polarization was 8.2% with slight differences between the foils.

The Møller electrons were deflected by a dipole magnet and detected by a silicon strip detector. A mask was put in front of the magnet to define the angular acceptance. A septum placed inside the magnet shielded unscattered electrons from the magnetic field. Two sets of silicon strip detectors were used. The top detector was finely segmented, so the elastic Møller peak was about 6 channels wide. The scattering angle in the CM frame was 94°. Five bottom detectors usually contained the peak in just one channel and covered CM angle from 93° to 104°. The raw asymmetry was about 5%.

The signals were fit to a lineshape expected for Møller scatters plus a quadratic background. The theoretical lineshapes included the effect of the correlation between the atomic motion of the electrons and their polarization. This effect, first identified by Levchuk [12], is due to the fact that the two polarized electrons in Fe and Co are in the 3D shell, while the inner shells are unpolarized. The electrons in the inner shells have a relatively larger momentum than the polarized electrons due to atomic motion. Although the momentum of the electrons is only about 100 keV, much smaller than the beam energy, it is not negligible compared with the electron rest mass, and can alter the scattering angle by up to 10%. As a result, the elastic peak from the unpolarized inner electrons is significantly wider than the peak from the polarized electrons. This effect needs to be taken into account to extract the Møller asymmetry, otherwise it can result in errors up to 15% [13].

After the data are fitted to the appropriate lineshape, the background is subtracted, which increases the asymmetry by about 20%. This number is insensitive to particular ways of estimating the background and the lineshape. The final error in the measurement of the polarization is 2.8%, dominated by the uncertainty in the foil polarization (1.9%) and background subtraction (2%).

A number of diagnostic tests was performed with the Møller polarimeter in the beginning of the run. The frequency of the Ti-Sapphire laser pumping the cathode was scanned from 840 nm to 850 nm which changed the polarization from 76% to 80% with a maximum near 850 nm. The energy of the beam was scanned, mapping out one half of the oscillation cycle due to the anomalous magnetic moment (see equation 3.1). The polarization was observed to change sign when the energy was reduced from 48.3 to 46.5 GeV. Based on the fit to these data the energy of the beam was determined independently of the magnetic field measurements in the bend line. After these tests the beam polarization was very stable at an average value of 82.4%. It was found to increase slightly when the beam current was reduced from 9×10^{10} to $(3 - 5)\times10^{10}$ electrons per pulse. A plot of the polarization vs. run number for the experiment is shown in Figure 3.4.

3.3 Spectrometers

The overall spectrometer layout is shown in Figure 3.5. The experiment utilized two separate spectrometers which detected the electrons scattered by approximately 2.75° and 5.5° degrees. Each spectrometer consisted of a set of magnets, used for momentum determination and elimination of neutral backgrounds, and a detector package to track the scattered particles.

The spectrometers were designed to have a broad kinematic coverage from 10 to 44 GeV. To eliminate the background from neutral particles the spectrometers had a "double bounce" geometry, which means that the neutral particles had to scatter at least twice from the magnets or the collimators to reach the detectors [14, 15]. The two dipole magnets in each spectrometer bent the electrons in the vertical plane in opposite directions, while the quadrupole in the 2.75° spectrometer defocused the electrons to reduce rates per detector element. Collimators were used to define the acceptance of the spectrometer. The position of the collimators in the 2.75° spectrometer was adjusted during the run to provide a constant rate as the beam current and target thickness were changed. Figure 3.6 shows the kinematic coverage in the $x - Q^2$ plane by the spectrometers. The field of the magnets was mapped prior

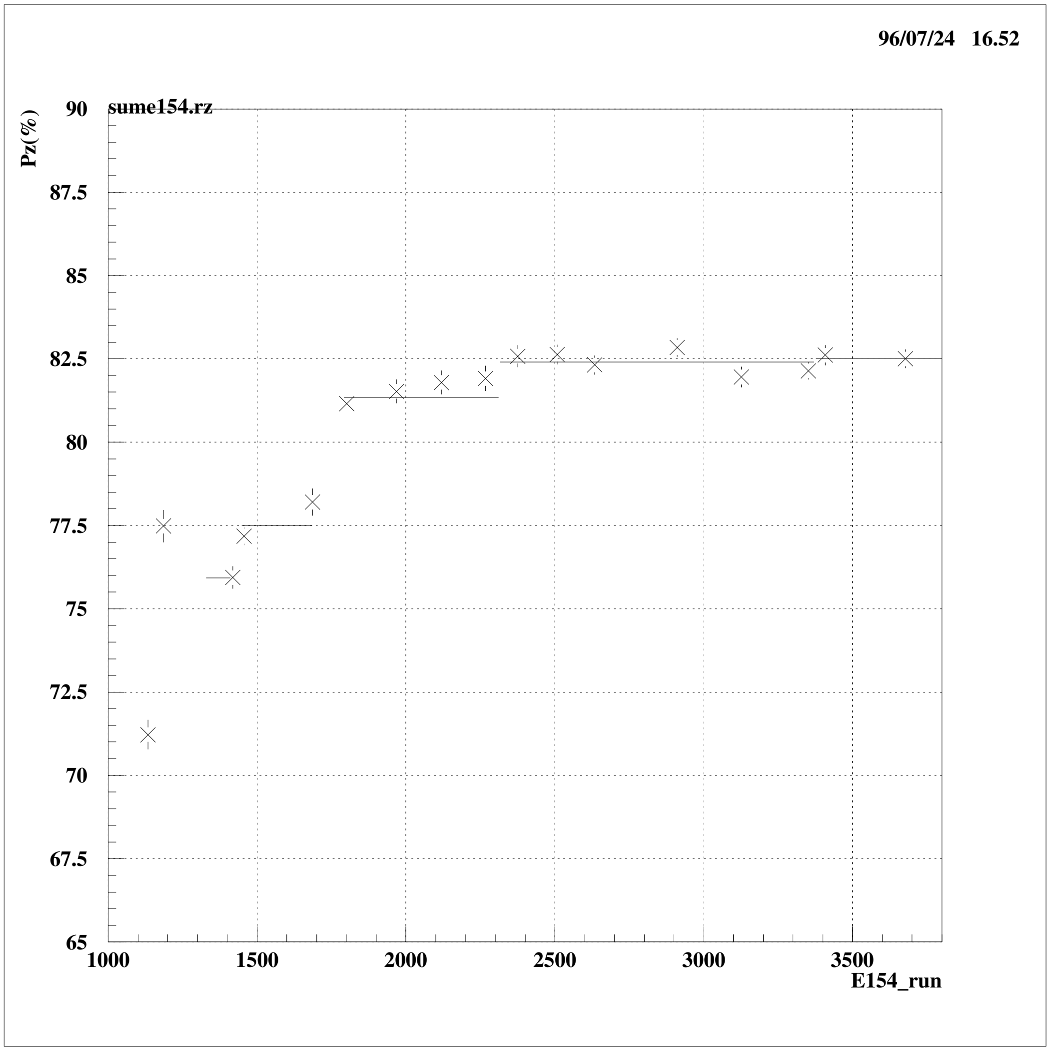

Figure 3.4: The polarization of the electron beam vs. run number.

to the experiment. They were monitored during the experiment by NMR probes. An optics model was constructed which provided a mapping between the position and direction of a track in the spectrometer and the initial momentum and angle of the scattered electron [16]. The calibration of the spectrometer was checked by a special 8 GeV run in which the energy of the proton elastic peak was measured.

The detector system in each spectrometer consisted of 2 Cherenkov tanks, 2 banks of hodoscopes and a shower counter. It was designed to identify the scattered electrons and measure their momentum and scattering angle in the presence of a large background of pions and neutral particles.

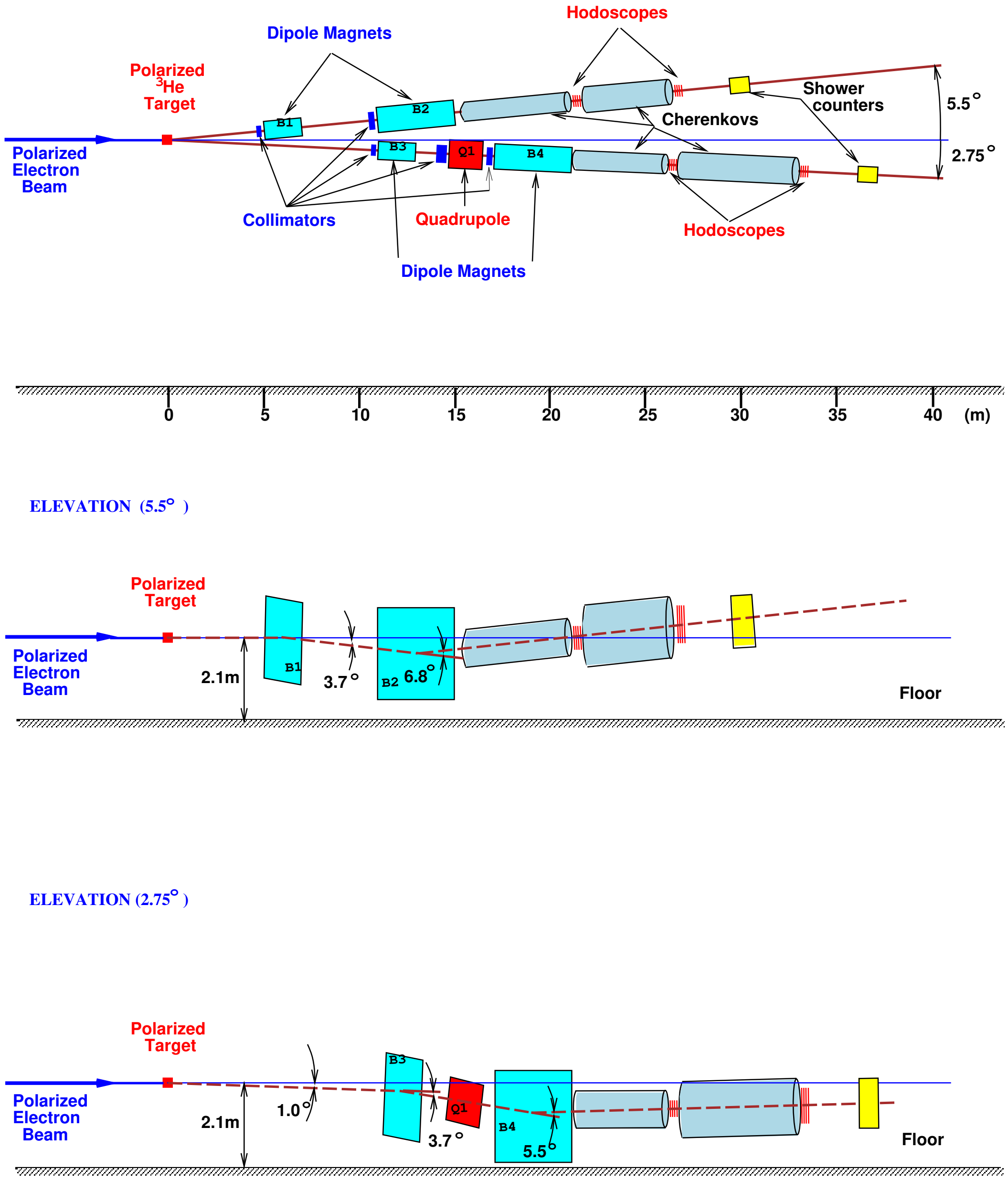

Figure 3.5: Layout of the E-154 spectrometers.