



Structure functions in the three nucleon system

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Contents

Contents	i
List of Figures	iii
List of Tables	v
Abstract	vii
Résumé (French summary)	ix
Statement	xi
Acknowledgements	xiii
1 Introduction	1
2 The three nucleon wave function	7
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Notation	8
2.3 The partial wave expansion	10
2.4 Separable potential	10
2.5 The three-nucleon wave function	11
2.6 Numerical results	15
3 Structure functions and convolution formalism	19
3.1 The electromagnetic cross section	20
3.2 Particularly interesting cross sections	23
3.2.1 Unpolarised scattering	23
3.2.2 Polarised scattering	23
3.3 The convolution formalism	24
3.3.1 The partial wave impulse approximation	24
3.3.2 Convolution of the structure functions	29

4	Spectral functions and light-cone momentum distributions of the three nucleon system	33
4.1	The spectral function	34
4.2	The case of ${}^3\text{He}$	36
4.2.1	Neutron in ${}^3\text{He}$	36
4.2.2	Proton in ${}^3\text{He}$	39
4.3	Results	40
5	Unpolarised structure functions of the three nucleon system	45
5.1	Parton model	46
5.2	EMC effect	47
5.3	Gottfried sum rule	50
5.4	The neutron structure function F_2^n	52
6	Polarised structure functions of the three nucleon system	59
6.1	Parton model	60
6.2	Off-shell corrections	61
6.3	Non-nucleonic degrees of freedom	62
6.4	The neutron in ${}^3\text{He}$	65
6.5	The proton in tritium	70
7	Conclusions	73
A	The kernel of the homogeneous Faddeev equation	79
B	The permutation term	85
	Bibliography	89
	List of Publications	97

Abstract

In this thesis, we study the structure functions, both polarised and unpolarised, of the three nucleon system and how they can give us information on two aspects of nuclear physics. First, we examine how to extract information on the free neutron structure functions and second we ask how does the nucleon's structure change in nuclei. Starting from a non-relativistic wave function for the three nucleon system, we use the standard convolution formalism to produce both polarised and unpolarised structure functions of ${}^3\text{He}$ and ${}^3\text{H}$. In the unpolarised case we demonstrate a new way of extracting the unpolarised structure function F_2 of the neutron from the measurement of the EMC effects in both ${}^3\text{He}$ and ${}^3\text{H}$. In the polarised case we discuss how close an approximation $g_1^{3\text{He}}$ is to g_1^n . We also study the different corrections which must be included to obtain the best possible estimate for g_1^n . In this case we study the nuclear effects included in the convolution formalism, the contribution of the Δ -resonance and novel off-shell corrections to the free structure functions inside ${}^3\text{He}$ computed in QMC (Quark Meson Coupling model). With respect to the effects of the nuclear medium on nucleons, this thesis presents estimates of the EMC effect in both ${}^3\text{He}$ and ${}^3\text{H}$ and of the nuclear medium on the Gottfried sum rule. Finally, we present a clear signature of off-shell effects on the proton inside ${}^3\text{H}$. In this case off-shell corrections from QMC have been used but the results show that a variety of off-shell effects are, in fact, enhanced by the convolution formalism and consequently, can be similarly identified.