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Observed Deviations from Scale Invariance in High-Energy Muon Scattering

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Abstract

Scale-noninvariance is observed in 150 and 56 GeV muon scattering from an iron target. In the range $1<q^2<40$ $(\mathrm{GeV}/c)^2$, νW_2 rises with q^2 at fixed $\omega' \geq 6$ and falls at $\omega' \leq 6$. The scale-breaking is statistically and systematically significant, and persists with alternate choices of scaling variable. It can be parameterized roughly by a constant $b = \partial^2 \ln(\nu W_2)/\partial \ln(\omega')\partial \ln(q^2)$ with a value near 0.09

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Indications of scale-noninvariance in inelastic muon scattering from an iron target have been reported,[1] most recently in ratios[2] of cross-sections in beams of 150 and 56 GeV. This letter compares these cross-sections with lower-energy electron-scattering values.[3] Within fixed bands of ω, variations of νW_2[4] are evaluated over the full q^2 range of the data. Thereby, with accurate Monte Carlo simulation of the experiment, a scaling test more precise than in Ref. 1 is possible.

The muon spectrometer was described earlier.[1] Two fully independent but convergent data analyses were accomplished; for brevity one is presented here. Events were identified, fit, and cut as recently reported[2], except that event selection to equate the 150 and 56 GeV beam radius distributions was not required. Data collected with two spectrometer configurations at each beam energy first were tested for internal consistency by comparing ratios of data to Monte Carlo rates in common bins smaller than the experimental resolution. Similar comparisons then tested the consistency of data at the two energies. In all cases the confidence levels established good consistency, permitting the merger of the four samples.

The Monte Carlo simulation generated events using a parameterization of $\nu W_2(\omega')$ from electron scattering data[5], with $R = 0.18$. The iron target nucleus was modeled as a collection of nucleons in Fermi motion[6]. Radiative corrections used a peaking approximation differing from the more exact correction[7] by less than 3%. The correction for coherent wide-angle bremsstrahlung rose from less than 3% for $\omega < 20$ to 15% at ω near 50[8]. The simulated muons suffered Coulomb scattering, energy loss, straggling from μ-e scattering and bremmstrahlung in the iron, and mismeasurement by the spark chambers. Further analysis treated real and simulated data identically.

A number of tests establish the accuracy of the simulation. Shapes of real and simulated distributions in azimuth and radius of tracks near fiducial boundaries agree well. The simulation accounts for tails in distributions of χ^2 and reconstructed energy through 2.5 decades in population. Also, it accurately models differences between momentum reconstruction algorithms which use different points on the muon trajectories. We believe that inaccuracies in simulating the acceptance and resolution contribute negligibly to the overall error.

Ratios of observed to simulated events are shown in Fig. 1 (a)-(h) vs. q^2 for 8 overlapping bands of ω[9]. Results of straight-line fits to these data points, along with the widths of the ω bands, are given in Table 1. The points show a rising trend with q^2 at high ω, and a falling trend at low ω. Fitting a power-law q^2-dependence in each ω band yields an overall χ^2 of 45.6 for 51 degrees of freedom. Scale-invariance in ω' requires each set of points to exhibit no q^2-dependence. This hypothesis raises the χ^2 by 36.6 with the addition of 8 degrees of freedom. Statistically, such a fluctuation has a probability smaller than 2×10^{-5}. These 8 fitted slopes $\partial \ln \nu W_2(\omega', q^2)/\partial \ln q^2$ are plotted vs. ω in Fig. 2(a). In the range of these data, the scale-breaking may be parameterized by a quantity $b = \partial^2 \ln(\nu W_2)/\partial \ln(\omega')\partial \ln(q^2)$. If independent of both q^2 and ω, b has the magnitude 0.099 ± 0.018.

The stability of the scale-noninvariance is reinforced by convergence with the other independent analysis of the data, which yields $b = 0.076$. Sub-samples of data from individual spectrometer configurations or beam energies give values of b consistent with the overall result but not with zero. Agreement is excellent with the value of b recently obtained[10]

using a different analysis philosophy.

Since νW_2 (per nucleon in iron) varies slowly over resolution widths in the ω range of Fig. 1(a)-(d), it may be equated to those plotted values multiplied by 0.305[5]. Figure 2(b) displays the structure function used in the Monte Carlo, and Fig. 2(c) shows ratios of the observed νW_2 to that function at $q^2 = 3(\mathrm{GeV}/c)^2$. The electron-nucleus[11] scattering results[3,12] are consistent with these values within the normalization uncertainties (Fig. 2 caption).

Normalization and energy calibration of the data followed the procedures recently discussed[2], and dominate the systematic error in b (Fig. 2(a)). Uncertainties of 10% (7%) are ascribed to absolute (relative) normalization of data at the two beam energies. The 1% uncertainties in scattered muon energy calibration at each beam energy are correlated to yield a 1% relative error. The systematic error in b is ± 0.032 with only this correlation, rising to ± 0.041 with worst-case correlation of 150 GeV energy calibration and normalization. That is, b would lie near zero if, at 150 GeV, scattered energies were raised by 2.6% and cross-sections simultaneously were reduced by 18%. However, these shifts would only transform the form of the scale-breaking into a relative depletion of event rate at 150 GeV. Moreover, the χ^2 which measures the overall smoothness and consistency of data at the two energies would rise by more than 40 if these shifts were imposed. Combining results and reasonably correlating all errors, b is 0.09 ± 0.04, exceeding zero with 98% confidence.

The scale-noninvariance is insensitive to the assumed form of $\nu W_2(\omega')$, because the data are analyzed within bands of ω.[13] If the Monte Carlo instead uses a $\nu W_2(\omega')$ which brings the q^2-averaged ratios in

Fig. 1(a)-(h) near unity (Fig. 2(b)), b drops by 10%. Other choices of $\nu W_2(\omega')$[12] produce similar perturbations. The q^2-dependence of νW_2 for $\omega \leq 6$ is coupled to the assumed form of its approach to asymptotic behavior. Use of ω as a scaling variable increases the scale-noninvariance in this range (Fig. 2(a)), while use of $(\omega + 1.4/q^2)$ largely cancels it. Conversely, the q^2-dependence of νW_2 for $\omega \geq 6$ is inconsistent with scaling in any variable not wildly different from ω, since νW_2 is nearly independent of ω in this range. If νW_2 depends upon ω and also upon a second variable ω_W defined by two adjustable parameters[14], the data can be fit within systematic errors (Fig. 2(a)). Ignoring all data with $q^2 < 4$ raises the confidence level for scaling in ω' to 14%. Variation of R between ∞ at $q^2 = 1$ and 0 at $q^2 = 5\ (GeV/c)^2$ can account for only 1/4 of the scale-noninvariance at $\omega \approx 25$.

The rising q^2-dependence of νW_2 at $\omega \geq 6$ might be attributed to excitation of new hadronic degrees of freedom[15], with the opposite behavior for $\omega \leq 6$ offset by a clairvoyant choice of scaling variable. Field theories[16] with anomalous dimensions or asymptotic freedom predict scale-noninvariance at both low and high ω of a character[17] similar to that observed here.

While adequately describing the scale-noninvariance, the logarithmic fits serve only to facilitate discussion of its stability. They neither predict the behavior of data in extended ranges of q^2 and ω, nor antitipate the results of more exact fits to the form of νW_2 which will be published elsewhere[18]. We express again our gratitude to all who have contributed to this experiment.

References

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(1) D. J. Fox et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 33, 1504 (1974).

(2) Y. Watanabe et al., to be published.

(3) J. S. Poucher et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 32, 118 (1974).

(4) Our notation follows that of Ref. 1.

(5) This function is graphed in Fig. 2(b). Beyond $\omega' = 7$ we fixed $\nu W_2 = 0.305$.

(6) Results are insensitive to the parameters of this model, since the smearing in ω is scale-invariant and small (12%) compared to the resolution.

(7) L. W. Mo and Y. S. Tsai, Rev. Mod. Phys. 41, 205 (1969).

(8) An approximate cross-section is found in R. H. Siemann et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 22, 421 (1969).

(9) $\langle\omega\rangle$ and $\delta(\omega)/\omega$ are the antilog of the mean, and the root variance of a distribution in $\ln(\omega)$ of simulated events which lie in the pertinent bin of reconstructed ω. The error in $\langle\omega\rangle$ is negligible.

(10) The value reported was $b = 0.090 \pm 0.028$ (Ref. 2).

(11) Nuclear shadowing is discussed by N. Nikolaev and V. Zakharov, Phys. Lett. 55B, 397 (1975).

(12) S. Stein et al., preprint SLAC-PUB-1528 (1975). Electron structure functions here and in Ref. 3 change by 5-10% with reasonable variations of R.

(13) The bands are defined by bins in reconstructed ω. Definition by ω' makes little difference since the bands are broad.

(14) F. W. Brasse et al., Nucl. Phys. B39 (1972), p. 421. We used $x_W = \omega_W^{-1} = (q^2 + 0.351)/(2M\nu + 1.512)$ and $\nu W_2 = (x/x_W)(1-x_W)^3 f(1-x_W)$, with f a polynomial of order 4. The constants fit SLAC-MIT D_2 data (E.M. Riordan, private communication).

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(18) L. N. Hand et al., to be published.

Table 1. ln(data/MC) fit to $c+b\ln(q^2/3)$

$\langle\omega\rangle$ [a]	$\frac{\delta(\omega)}{\omega}$ [a]	c =	b =	% confidence
3.5	0.60	0.04±0.07	-0.076±0.031	54
3.8	0.53	0.07±0.07	-0.064±0.028	30
4.7	0.52	0.12±0.04	-0.017±0.033	73
5.9	0.56	0.13±0.03	0.043±0.032	69
8.3	0.60	0.19±0.02	0.038±0.031	77
12.3	0.58	0.17±0.03	0.052±0.036	10
19.7	0.58	0.20±0.03	0.166±0.043	19
32.8	0.66	0.14±0.04	0.107±0.049	38
fits to all 8 ω bands				52

[a] Defined in Ref. 9.

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Ratio of observed to simulated event rate vs. q^2 for 8 ranges of ω. Widths of these ranges and parameters of the straight-line fits are detailed in Table 1. Errors are statistical.

Figure 2. (a) Fit slopes in $\ln(q^2)$ for the 8 ω ranges. Errors are statistical. Dashed lines depict effects of (1) raising E' by 1% at 150 GeV, (2) same at 56 GeV, (3) raising 150 GeV cross-sections by 7%. Assuming scaling in ω rather than ω' in the Monte Carlo yields the points indicated by "X". Using the form in Ref. 14 yields the diamond-shaped points.
(b) $\nu W_2(\omega, q^2=3)$ per nucleon used in the Monte Carlo, with scaling in ω' and $R = 0.18$. The dashed line is the alternate form described in the text.
(c) Ratio of νW_2 at $q^2=3$ to the form in (b). Errors on muon data, from fits detailed in Table 1, include energy calibration errors but not the normalization error of ±10%. Errors on SLAC-MIT e^-D scattering data do not include systematic uncertainties of 4-6% (Ref. 3). The e^-Fe points use the same deuterium data with A-dependences from Ref. 12. Their systematic errors relative to deuterium are 7%.

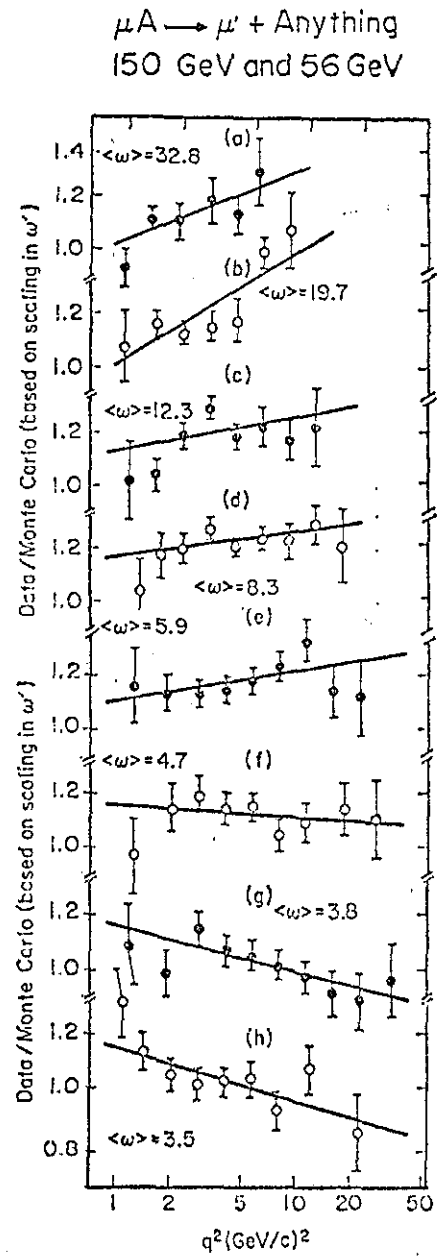

Figure 1

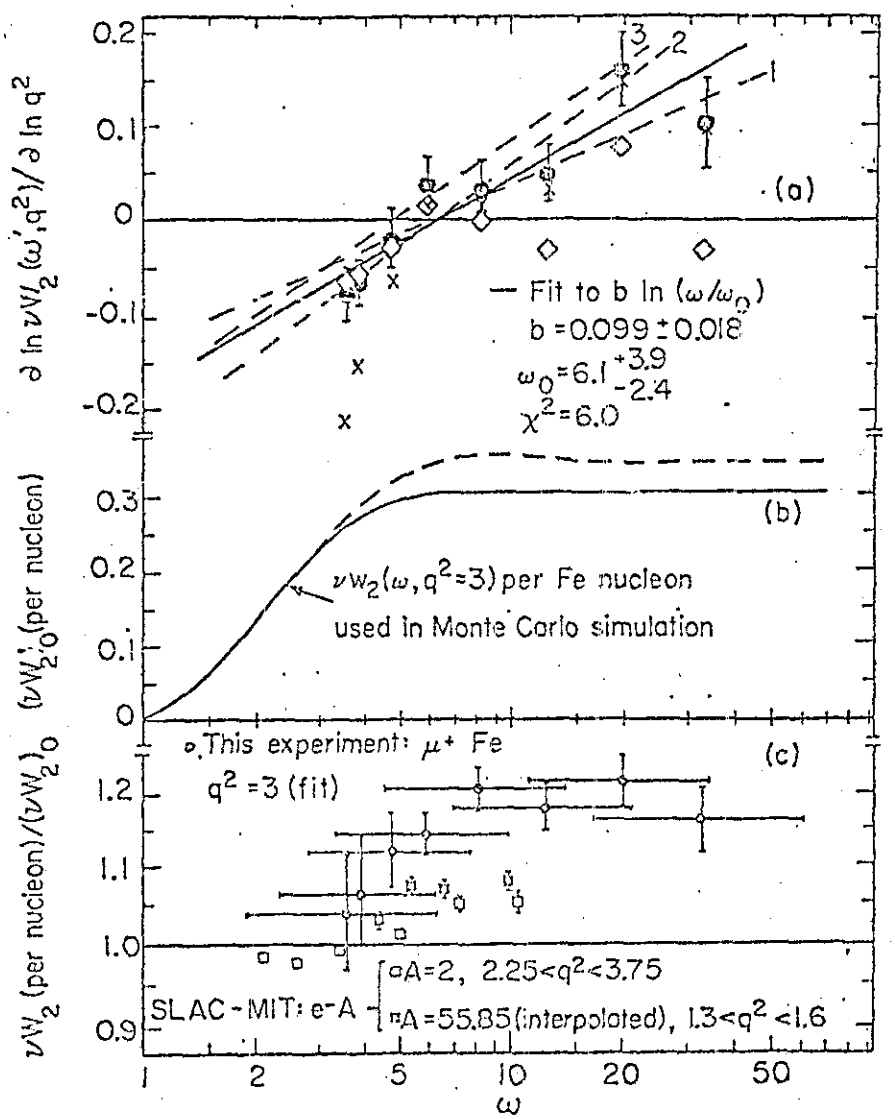
(a)
— Fit to b ln (ω/ω0)
b = 0.099 ± 0.018
ω0 = 6.1 +3.9 -2.4
χ² = 6.0
∂ ln νW2 (ω', q²)/∂ ln q²
(b)
νW2(ω, q²=3) per Fe nucleon
used in Monte Carlo simulation
(νW2)0 (per nucleon)
(c)
This experiment: μ+ Fe
q² = 3 (fit)
SLAC - MIT: e-A
A=2, 2.25<q²<3.75
A=55.85 (interpolated), 1.3<q²<1.6
νW2 (per nucleon)/(νW2)0
ω

Figure 2.