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NEUTRON FORM FACTORS FROM ANALYSIS OF  
DEUTERON ELECTRODISINTEGRATION EXPERIMENTS

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Abstract

Electromagnetic form factors of the neutron are calculated from recent quasi-elastic electron-deuteron scattering experiments done at Orsay and Stanford. The theory used in the analysis includes a realistic description of the deuteron and rescattering corrections.

## Introduction

Recently we presented, together with D. Braess<sup>1)</sup>, the results of an analysis of an inelastic electron-deuteron scattering experiment done by Hughes, Griffy, Yearian and Hofstadter at Stanford<sup>2)</sup>. In this experiment only the scattered electron was detected and the electron-deuteron cross section at the quasi-elastic peak was measured with high accuracy. Our analysis was restricted to the data with momentum transfers  $q^2$  below  $5 f^{-2}$ , since in this range of  $q^2$  final state interaction effects are important. The Stanford measurements were made up to  $q^2 = 35 f^{-2}$ . Therefore, we find it worthwhile to extend our analysis in order to have results for neutron form factors in the  $q^2$  range from  $q^2 = 1 f^{-2}$  up to  $q^2$  around  $30 f^{-2}$  based on the theoretical picture which was developed by D. Braess and one of us<sup>3)</sup>. The experimental data in ref. 2 have already been analysed towards neutron form factors by the experimenters using Durand's simple theory<sup>4)</sup> supplemented by rescattering corrections extrapolated from the theoretical work of Nuttall and Whippman<sup>5)</sup> and a deuteron-pole term contribution. Unfortunately, it is doubtful whether this deuteron-pole term should be added since this contribution should be contained in the final-state interaction correction. Since for the higher  $q^2$  the rescattering corrections and the deuteron-pole contribution seem to be small<sup>2)</sup> we do not expect very different neutron form factors above  $q^2 = 10 f^{-2}$  compared to the results obtained in ref. 2. So our emphasis is more on the application of a uniform theory to the analysis of the high accuracy quasi-elastic electron-deuteron scattering data for all  $q^2$  up to  $f^{-2}$ .

Besides the Stanford data we analyse some recent measurements of the Orsay group around  $q^2 = 3.5 f^{-2}$ <sup>(6)</sup> which have been also analysed already by the experimenters<sup>6)</sup> and by Bosco, Grossetête and Quarati<sup>7)</sup>. We think that the theoretical description of the deuteron electro-disintegration process at the quasi-elastic peak as presented in ref.3 is superior to the description used by these two groups.

Unfortunately, we are not able to treat recent data from inelastic electron-deuteron scattering experiments where the outgoing electron and one of the nucleons have been detected in coincidence<sup>8)</sup>. Before doing this case we would like to know several corrections to the simple nucleon-pole approximation. Our theory in ref. 3 was only pursued up to the end for noncoincidence measurements.

In Section II we collect some formulas which are the basis of our analysis. Section III contains the results.

## II. Theoretical Preliminaries

In accordance with (II) the cross section for the process  $e+d \rightarrow e+p+n$  is written in the following way:

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE'} = \sigma_{\text{Mott}} \frac{m^2 p}{\pi \sqrt{m^2 + p^2}} I(\theta, E') \quad (1)$$

with

$$\sigma_{\text{Mott}} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E^2} \frac{\cos^2 \theta/2}{\sin^4 \theta/2} \quad (2)$$

The notation is as in (I),  $E$  and  $E'$  are the laboratory energies of the initial and final electron,  $\theta$  is the electron scattering angle in the laboratory system.  $m$  is the nucleon mass and  $p$  the momentum of the outgoing proton or neutron in the c.m.-system. In the one-photon exchange approximation the function  $I(\theta, E')$  is linear in  $\tan^2 \theta/2$  with coefficients which can be expressed by the longitudinal part  $I_l = I_l(E')$  and transversal part  $I_t = I_t(E')$  of the cross section in the following form (see eq. (II,4) and eq. (II,9))<sup>9)</sup>

$$I(\theta, E') = I_l(E') + I_t(E') \cdot y \quad (3)$$

with

$$y = \frac{q^2}{4m^2} (1 + (1 + q^2/4m^2) 2 \tan^2 \theta/2) \quad (4)$$

$q^2$  is the invariant square of the momentum transfer  $q$  and  $q^2 = q^2 - q_0^2$ .

The longitudinal and transversal parts of the cross section depend on the proton form factors  $G_{1E}$  and  $G_{1M}$  and the neutron form factors  $G_{2E}$  and  $G_{2M}$ . For the theory developed in (I) this dependence is as follows (see eq. (II,8))

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_l &= (G_{1E}^2 + G_{2E}^2) A_l + 2 G_{1E} G_{2E} B_l \\
 I_t &= (G_{1M}^2 + G_{2M}^2) A_t + 2 G_{1M} G_{2M} B_t + (G_{1E}^2 + G_{2E}^2) C_t \\
 &\quad + 2 G_{1E} G_{2E} D_t + 2(G_{1E} G_{1M} + G_{2E} G_{2M}) E_t \\
 &\quad + 2 (G_{1E} G_{2M} + G_{2E} G_{1M}) F_t.
 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

The coefficients  $A_l$ ,  $B_l$ ,  $A_t$ ,  $B_t$  etc. are determined by the theory. Similar to the cases with  $q^2 < 5 f^{-2}$  already treated in (II) we find also for the higher  $q^2$  that  $C_t$ ,  $D_t$ ,  $E_t$  and  $F_t$  are completely negligible compared to  $A_t$  and  $B_t$ . The numerical results of the remaining coefficients  $A_l$ ,  $B_l$ ,  $A_t$  and  $B_t$  are collected for possible further application in Table 1 but only for the  $q^2$  needed to analyse the experimental data of ref. 6 and ref. 2. The momentum transfer  $q^2$  for the quasi-elastic e-d scattering differ slightly from the momentum transfer of the corresponding elastic e-p scattering. The  $q^2$  for the e-p scattering measurements at Stanford were  $q^2 = 7.5, 10.0, 12.5, 15.0, 20.0, 25.0, 30.0$  and  $35.0$  measured in  $f^{-2}$  which are used later on to refer to the corresponding quasi-elastic e-d data in particular in all tables except Table 1.

### III. Analysis and Results

#### A. Orsay Measurements

We start with the analysis of the Orsay data<sup>6)</sup>. Grossetête, Jullian

and Lehmann measured with an accuracy of roughly 4 % the cross section  $d^2\sigma/d\Omega dE'$  for two scattering angles  $\theta = 60^\circ$  and  $\theta = 130^\circ$  and five incident electron energies  $E$  at the quasi-elastic peak. Their results together with the parameters which are of interest to us are given in Table 2. From these data we calculated  $I(\delta, E')$  according to formula (1). Since the two measurements around  $q^2 = 2.9 \text{ f}^{-2}$  for  $\theta = 60^\circ$  and  $\theta = 130^\circ$  do not yield the same  $q^2$ , we interpolated  $I(\theta, E')$  for  $q^2 = 2.9 \text{ f}^{-2}$  from the three data available for  $\theta = 60^\circ$ . Then the empirical values for  $I_\perp$  and  $I_\parallel$  are determined by a least-squares fit of the relation (3) to the data. The results of this fit are exhibited in Table 3 together with the proton form factor  $G_{1E}$  and  $G_{1M}$  needed for further analysis. The proton form factors are calculated from a three parameter interpolation formula constructed in (II). Now the computation of  $G_{2E}$  and  $G_{2M}$  is straightforward.

$G_{2E}$  is obtained from eq. (II,4):

$$G_{2E} = G_{1E} \left( -\frac{B_1}{A_1} \pm \sqrt{\frac{I_\perp}{G_{1E}^2 A_1} + \left(\frac{B_1}{A_1}\right)^2 - 1} \right) \quad (6)$$

Unfortunately, it is not quite clear which sign in front of the square root in formula (6) should be attributed to the physical  $G_{2E}$ .

In (II) we decided for the negative sign to have a smooth variation of  $G_{2E}$  with  $q^2$  taking into account that the slope of  $G_{2E}$  at  $q^2 = 0$  has a value around  $0.02 \text{ f}^2$  as measured in neutron-electron scattering experiments. With this sign we obtain the values labelled  $G_{2E}^{(-)}$  in Table 3. For later comparison also the values with the positive square root, labelled  $G_{2E}^{(+)}$  in Table 3, are shown. In every column for  $G_{2E}$  in Table 3 three values are given, the upper and lower numbers are upper and lower bounds where only the uncertainty from  $I_\perp$  is included but not the uncertainty from the empirical proton form factors.

$G_{2M}$  is calculated from eq. (II,16)

$$G_{2M} = G_{1M} \left( -\frac{B_t}{A_t} - \sqrt{\frac{I_t}{G_{1M}^2 A_t} - 1 + \left(\frac{B_t}{A_t}\right)^2} \right) \quad (7)$$

Here no ambiguity concerning the sign of the square root exists since we do not expect  $G_{2M}$  to change sign in the  $q^2$  range considered. The result of our calculation for  $G_{2M}/\mu^2$  is also shown in Table 3 ( $\mu^2 = -1.913$ )

#### B. Stanford Measurements

Hughes et al.<sup>(2)</sup> have presented their experimental e-d scattering results in terms of  $R_0$ , the corrected ratio of the elastic electron-proton cross section to the quasi-elastic electron-deuteron cross section. Then  $I(\theta, E')$  must be calculated from  $R_0$  with the formula (see eq. (II,11)):

$$I(\theta, E') = \pi \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}}{m^2 p} \frac{G_p(\theta, q^2)}{1 + \frac{2E}{m} \sin^2 \theta/2} \frac{1}{R_0} \quad (8)$$

where  $G_p(\theta, q^2)$  is the elastic electron-proton scattering cross section divided by the nuclear cross section (see eq.(II,12)). To evaluate  $I(\theta, E')$  according to eq.(8) we need the proton form factor at exactly the same  $q^2$  for which  $R_0$  was measured. For this purpose we consider the three-pole-fit of Jannssens, Hofstadter, Hughes and Yearian<sup>(10)</sup> as a good interpolation formula for the proton form factor in the  $q^2$  range we are interested in. The form factors  $G_{1E}$  and  $G_{1M}$  obtained from this fit were checked against recent analysis of elastic e-p data including measurements from DESY<sup>(11)</sup> in such cases where the  $q^2$  coincided.

The agreement, in particular for  $G_{1M}$ , is inside 3 %. The influence

of slightly different proton form factors on the results for the neutron form factors will be discussed later. The  $I(\theta, E')$  computed from the empirical  $R_0$  and proton form factors  $G_{1E}$  and  $G_{1M}$  are fitted to eq. (3) and the longitudinal and transversal cross sections  $I_1$  and  $I_t$  respectively are determined. The results are given in Table 4. The neutron form factors again follow from eq. (6) and eq. (7). First we consider results for  $G_{2M}/\mu_2$  shown in Table 5. Compared to the results of the analysis in ref. 2 we obtained somewhat smaller values for  $G_{2M}/\mu_2$ . The column for  $G_{2M}/\mu_2$  in Table 5 should be compared with the columns for  $G_{1E}$  and  $G_{1M}/\mu_1$  in Table 4 as a test of the relation  $G_{1E} = G_{2M}/\mu_2 = G_{1M}/\mu_1$  ( $\mu_1 = 2.793$ ). In Fig. 1 we have collected the data about the ratio  $G_{1M}/\mu_1 / G_{2M}/\mu_2$  from ref.1 and this analysis. Except for the points in the low  $q^2$  range, the three form factors  $G_{1E}$ ,  $G_{1M}$  and  $G_{2M}$  follow rather well the law

$$G_{1M}/\mu_1 = G_{2M}/\mu_2 = G_{1E}$$

up to  $q^2 = 30.0 \text{ f}^{-2}$ . Furthermore, we remark that the rescattering corrections for  $G_{2M}/\mu_2$  are not negligible. They produce a change of  $G_{2M}$ , compared to the Born approximation values, by maximal 5%. The correction has its maximum around  $q^2 = 15 \text{ f}^{-2}$  for the  $q^2$  considered in this analysis. Table 1 shows that the neutron-proton interference is negligible for  $q^2$  above  $10 \text{ f}^{-2}$ .

Now we come to the analysis towards the electric form factor of the neutron. Here, the situation is as bad as we met it in our analysis of the low  $q^2$  data<sup>1)</sup>. Again the experimental values of  $I_1$  are such that a rather complete cancellation takes place in the radicand  $r$ :

$$r = \frac{I_1}{G_{1E}^2 A_1} - \left(1 - \left(\frac{B_1}{A_1}\right)^2\right) \quad (9)$$

of the square root in eq.(6). Unfortunately,  $r$  is not always positive even when we take into account the experimental errors of  $I_1$ . To see



this explicitly we have listed  $I_1 - G_{1E}^2 A_1$  as a function of  $q^2$  in Table 4

$$\left(\frac{B_1}{A_1}\right)^2 G_{1E}^2 A_1$$

being negligible. For the four higher  $q^2$  this difference is just zero inside the experimental errors of  $I_1$ .

For the first three  $q^2$ ,  $I_1 - G_{1E}^2 A_1$  is definitely negative. This failure can lie as well in the application of an incorrect theory as in systematic errors of the experimental data for  $I_1$ . A measure for the relative change needed to arrive at  $G_{2E} + \frac{B_1}{A_1} G_{1E} \approx G_{2E} = 0$  is given by the value of  $r$  which we exhibit in Table 5. So appreciable changes of  $I_1$  or  $G_{1E}^2 A_1$  are necessary to make  $r \geq 0$ . In the three cases where  $r \geq 0$  inside the experimental accuracy we are allowed to give upper and lower limits for  $G_{2E}$ , they are shown in Table 5. To see how far the hypothesis  $G_{2E} = 0$  is supported by the empirical data we plotted in Fig. 2  $I_1/G_{1E}^2 A_1$  for the measurements at Stanford and Orsay and compare with the theoretical curve  $I_1/G_{1E}^2 A_1 = 1$  as a function of  $q^2$ .  $I_1$  for  $q^2 < 5 \text{ f}^{-2}$  has been taken from ref. 1. Any conclusions from this figure will be left to the reader.

Our results, in particular those concerning  $G_{2E}$ , are insensitive to changes of the form factors of the proton. We varied  $G_{1E}$  and  $G_{1M}$  by  $\pm 5\%$  and in that indeed  $I_1$  and  $I_t$  change by the same amount but the radicand  $r$  is not altered since it depends on  $\frac{I_1}{G_{1E}^2}$  and  $\frac{I_t}{G_{1M}^2}$

respectively. So negative  $r$ 's cannot be cured by assuming that the proton form factors differ from the Stanford three-pole fit.

Table Captions:

Table 1: Coefficients of longitudinal and transversal cross section  $I_l$  and  $I_t$ .

Table 2: Orsay data around  $q^2 = 3.5 \text{ f}^{-2}$ .

Table 3:  $I_l$  and  $I_t$  from Orsay data, together with proton and neutron form factors.

Table 4:  $I_l$  and  $I_t$  from Stanford data and  $G_{1E}$  and  $G_{1M}$  from Stanford three pole fit.

Table 4: Results for  $G_{2E}$  and  $G_{2M}$  from analysis of Stanford data.

Figure Captions:

Fig. 1: Comparison of the magnetic form factors of the neutron and proton for  $q^2 \leq 30.0 \text{ f}^{-2}$ .

Fig. 2: Test of the hypothesis  $G_{2E} = 0$

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- 9) Unfortunately formula (4) in (II) was written down incorrectly.  
It must read

$$I(\theta, E') = I_{\perp}(E') + I_t(E') \frac{q^2}{4m^2} (1 + q^2/4m^2) \left[ \frac{1}{1+q^2/4m^2} + 2 \tan^2 \theta/2 \right]$$

Only with this definition of  $I_t$  the numerical results in Table 2 of (II) are brought out. Therefore, also  $y$  in eq.(10) of (II) must be:

$$y = q^2/4m^2 (1 + 2(1 + q^2/4m^2) \tan^2 \theta/2)$$

Other corrections in (II) (Z.f.Physik 198, 527 (1967)) are:

p.535 ..... In the representation of  $I_t$  the coefficients  $C_t, D_t, \dots$ ,  
p.536 ..... fit to all measurements of the particular  $q^2$  for  $I_{\perp}:I_t$   
=  $112.9 \pm 10.5$  ..... to be compared with the results in  $I_t$  in  
Table 2.

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Table 1

$q^2$ [f <sup>-2</sup> ]	$A_1$ [f]	$B_1$ [f]	$A_t$ [f]	$B_t$ [f]
2.917	3.504	-0.2839	3.499	-0.3091
3.790	2.763	-0.1590	2.736	-0.1837
4.115	2.558	-0.1286	2.526	-0.1530
7.496	1.401	-0.0199	1.381	-0.0455
10.01	1.026	-0.0044	1.014	-0.0246
12.44	0.8069	-0.00028	0.7964	-0.0139
14.97	0.6541	+0.0016	0.6443	-0.0075
19.97	0.4690	-0.0003	0.4634	-0.0062
24.96	0.3593	-0.0004	0.3552	-0.0049
29.97	0.2868	-0.0007	0.2844	-0.0049
34.94	0.2356	-0.0000	0.2338	-0.0003

Table 2

E [MeV]	$\theta$ [deg]	E' [MeV]	$q^2$ [F <sup>-2</sup> ]	$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE'}$ [10 <sup>-33</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> ]
363.8	60	302.6	2.829	10.11 ± 3.5 %
219.9	130	157.3	2.908	1.905 ± 3.5 %
426.6	60	345.3	3.786	6.334 ± 3.9 %
447.1	60	356.7	4.099	5.30 ± 3.8 %
268.9	130	180.0	4.089	1.1092 ± 3.1 %

Table 3

$f^{-2}$	$\frac{I}{f}$	$f^I t$	$G_{1E}$	$G_{1M/\mu_1}$	$G_{2E} (-)$	$G_{2E} (+)$	$G_{2M/\mu_2}$	$G_{2M/\mu_2}/G_{1M/\mu_1}$
2.917	$1.842 \pm 0.162$	$25.26 \pm 1.35$	0.7299	0.7255	<0.059	0.266	0.8378	$1.15 \pm 0.032$
					<0.059	>0.059	$\pm 0.023$	
					-0.147	>0.059		
4.115	$1.19 \pm 0.11$	$13.39 \pm 0.63$	0.6581	0.6471	<0.033	0.312	0.690	$1.07 \pm 0.08$
					-0.153	0.219	$\pm 0.047$	
					-0.246	>0.033		

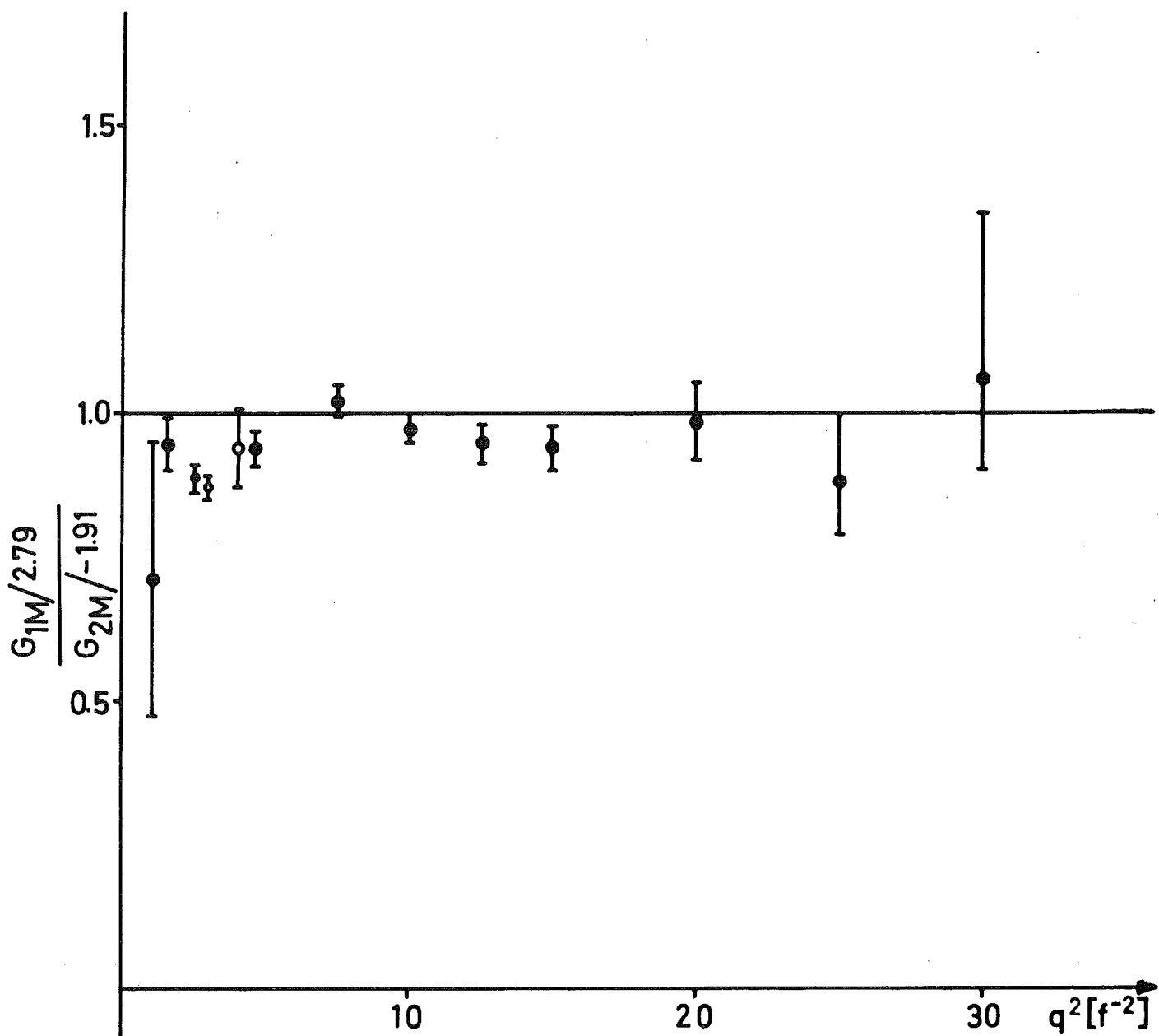


Table 4

$q^2$ [f <sup>-2</sup> ]	$I_1$ [f]	$I_t$ [f]	$G_{1E}$	$G_{1M/\mu_1}$	$I_1 - G_{1E}^2 A_1$
7.5	0.2985 ± 0.0148	3.689 ± 0.058	0.4941	0.4798	-0.044 ± 0.015
10.0	0.1406 ± 0.0095	1.936 ± 0.033	0.4127	0.4008	-0.034 ± 0.009
12.5	0.07496 ± 0.01102	1.125 ± 0.028	0.3506	0.3426	-0.0242 ± 0.0110
15.0	0.05009 ± 0.009731	0.6840 ± 0.0209	0.3019	0.2965	-0.00952 ± 0.00973
20.0	0.01724 ± 0.00777	0.2874 ± 0.0134	0.2308	0.2301	-0.00774 ± 0.00777
25.0	0.003786 ± 0.01403	0.1539 ± 0.0137	0.1822	0.1847	-0.00814 ± 0.01403
30.0	0.003998 ± 0.01372	0.07394 ± 0.00854	0.1471	0.1522	-0.0022 ± 0.0137

Table 5

$q^2$ [F <sup>-2</sup> ]	$G_{2M}/\mu_2$	$r$	$G_{2E}$
7.5	0.468 ± 0.012	-0.128 ± 0.043	-
10.0	0.410 ± 0.011	-0.194 ± 0.055	-
12.5	0.362 ± 0.013	-0.245 ± 0.111	-
15.0	0.316 ± 0.014	-0.162 ± 0.163	0.00 ± 0.01
20.0	0.234 ± 0.016	-0.304 ± 0.310	0.00 ± 0.02
25.0	0.210 ± 0.024	-0.684 ± 1.172	0.00 ± 0.13
30.0	0.144 ± 0.031	-0.357 ± 2.206	0.00 ± 0.20



● Stanford data  
○ Orsay data

Fig.1

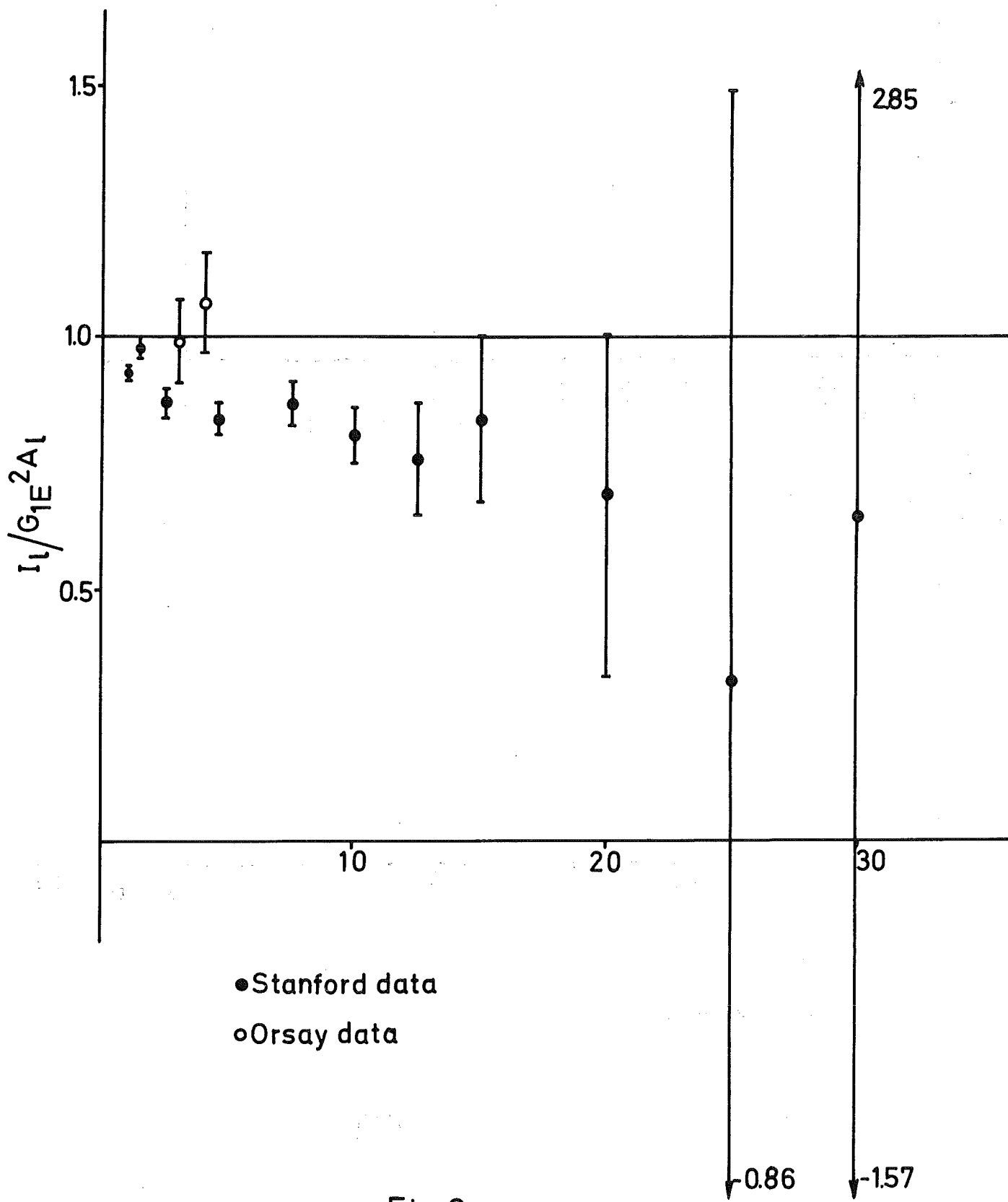


Fig.2

