An Overview of the MOLLER Experiment at Jefferson Lab



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Zuhal Seyma Demiroglu (CFNS, Stony Brook University) on behalf of the MOLLER Collaboration Measurement Of a Lepton Lepton Electroweak Reaction



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Parity Violation – A Precision Test of the Standard Model

- Parity-Violating Electron Scattering (PVES):
 - Measures left-right asymmetry in electron scattering.
 - Sensitive to weak interaction's violation of parity.



• Interference of electromagnetic and weak amplitudes:

$$\sigma \propto |A_{em} + A_{weak}|^2, \ A_{PV} = \frac{\sigma_R - \sigma_L}{\sigma_R + \sigma_L} \simeq \frac{|A_{em}A_{weak}|}{|A_{em}|^2 + |A_{weak}|^2} \simeq \frac{|A_{weak}|}{|A_{em}|} \simeq \frac{G_F Q^2}{4\pi\alpha}$$

- Purely leptonic system \rightarrow minimal theoretical uncertainty.
- Tiny asymmetry \rightarrow high-precision test of SM.

Evolution of PVES Precision



- PVES is a key tool for precision tests of electroweak interactions.
 - beam stability & polarimetry
 - radiation-hard detectors & cryotargets
- Evolution of PVES Precision
 - Early experiments: E122, E158 at SLAC
 - More recent: Qweak, PREX, CREX
 - MOLLER Goal: Measure A_{PV} ≈ 33 ppb at with an uncertainty of 0.8 ppb.

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Weak Mixing Angle at Low Q² – MOLLER's Impact

$$A_{PV} = -mE \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}\pi\alpha} \frac{4\sin^2\theta}{(3+\cos^2\theta)^2} Q_W^e, \qquad Q_W^e = 1 - 4\sin^2\theta_W \sim 0.075$$

• $\sin^2 \theta_W$ measurement at low Q² provides precision test of SM.



MOLLER: Indirect Searches for New Physics at the TeV Scale

- Precision Asymmetry Measurements: Indirect probe of MeV—TeV scale forces (e.g. light Z', electron compositeness, doubly charged scalars...)
- Reach: Sensitivity to contact interaction up to ~25-30 TeV
- Complements collider searches can reveal hidden quantum effects of new physics.

 Experimental Reach Comparisons: e⁺e⁻ Collisions Λ^{ee}_{LL}~8.3 TeV (LEP200 reach)

Fixed Target

 $\Lambda_{LL}^{ee} \sim 12 TeV$ (E158 reach) $\Lambda_{LL}^{ee} \sim 27 TeV$ (MOLLER reach)



Adapted from H. Davoudiasl et al., Phys. Rev. D 108, 115018

MOLLER Experiment Design and Parameters



High luminosity and acceptance:

- 65 μ A beam current at 11 GeV beam, 90% polarization
- 1.25m, 4.5kW LH₂ target
- Møller rate ~ 134 GHz - Viginia tech Jefferson Lab V.2. 10³⁹ cm⁻² s⁻¹
- Full azimuth acceptance: 5-21mrad
- Integrate time: 344 beam days \rightarrow 8256 h
- $\langle Q^2 \rangle$: 0.0058 GeV²

Controlling Noise and Systematic Uncertainty

- Rapid helicity flipping
- Stable beam and target conditions
- Precision calibration of detectors, optics, and acceptance
- Extensive background monitoring and correction strategies



Spectrometer & Collimation – Ensuring Clean Signals

- Collimation System
 - Defines experiment's acceptance
 - Specially designed to select forward/backward scattering in the COM frame
 - Protects magnet regions from the full beam
 - Shapes signal and reduces backgrounds
- Spectrometer
 - Two 7-fold symmetry toroidal magnets
 - ~100% acceptance for identical-particle Møller scattering





Integrating and Tracking Detectors

Thin Quartz Detector:

- Six concentric rings; Ring 5 is primary Møller signal
- Shower-Max Detector:
 - Additional measurement of integrated Møller flux
- Pion Detector
 - Measures pion asymmetries
- Integrating Monitors
 - Monitor beam conditions
 - Check for anomalous helicity correlations

Tracking Detectors (GEMs)

- Precision tracking at low-current beam runs
- Improve background subtraction & kinematic reconstruction



BEAMLINE



MOLLER: Status and Timeline

MOLLER Collaboration

~180 authors, 37 institutions, 6 countries Spokesperson: Krishna Kumar (UMass, Amherst) Project Manager: Ruben Fair (Jefferson Lab)

- Fabrication and qualification activity underway at Jefferson Lab.
- Will be ready for assembly later this year!
- Ready for physics in early 2027.
- The first physics results are anticipated by mid-2027.



Summary

- MOLLER provides a high-precision test of electroweak theory in a low-energy setting.
 - Can help resolve discrepancies in $\sin^2 \theta_W$ measurements.
 - With a projected sensitivity to new contact interactions up to ~25–30 TeV scales, MOLLER offers discovery potential for new physics that is complementary to the LHC and future colliders.
- The experiment's construction is on track.
 - Key components are being built and tested in 2024–2025.
 - Installation/Assembly in Hall-A is targeted to begin later this year!
 - First data is expected by 2027, meaning the physics results are just around the corner after two decades since E158's pioneering measurement.
- MOLLER's results will inform theory and guide the direction of particle physics, demonstrating the power of precision experiments in the quest for new physics.







Backup



Weak Mixing Angle Measurements at Low Energy

Effective weak mixing angle:

$$\sin^2\theta_{eff}^l \equiv \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{v_l}{a_l} \right)$$

- MOLLER A_{PV} would be the first low Q^2 measurement to match the precision of the single best high energy measurement at the Z⁰ resonance.
- MOLLER projection:

$$\delta(\sin^2 \theta_W) = \pm 0.00023(stat) \pm 0.00012(syst)$$
$$\rightarrow \sim 0.1\%$$



J. Erler, arXiv:1908.07346v1

All measurements of the effective leptonic weak mixing angle.



New Physics Beyond the Standard Model

- Most sensitive probe of new flavor and CP-conserving neutral current interactions over next decade.
 - high energy (multi-TeV) scale dynamics (Z', electron compositeness, supersymmetry, doubly charged scalars,...)



 $M_{H_{P}^{\pm\pm}}$ could be probed up to $\simeq 10$ TeV for a $\mathcal{O}(1)$ Yukawa coupling by MOLLER \rightarrow This is far beyond the direct search capability of LHC or even future 100 TeV colliders. **APS Global Physics Summit 2025**

Polarized Electron Source





- Generated with a circularly polarized laser beam.
 - Pockels cell controls the spin of the electron beam.
- New technology needed: RTP (Rubidium Titanyl Phosphate) cell
 - Requiring high ~2kHz flip rates, ~11 μ s transitions
 - Two crystals, transverse field
 - No piezo-electric ringing artifacts
 - Much faster and more stable



The requirements for helicity-correlated beam asymmetries during MOLLER

	HAPPEX-II	$Q_{ m weak}$	PREX-2	CREX	MOLLER
	(achieved)	(achieved)	(achieved)	(achieved)	(required)
Intensity asymmetry	400 ppb	30 ppb	25 ppb	-88 ppb	10 ppb
Energy asymmetry	0.1 ppb	0.4 ppb	$0.8\pm 1~{ m ppb}$	$0.1 \pm 1.0 { m ppb}$	< 1.4 ppb
position differences	1.7 nm	4.4 nm	$2.2\pm4~\mathrm{nm}$	-5.2 ± 3.6 nm	0.6 nm
angle differences	0.2 nrad	0.1 nrad	$< 0.6 \pm 0.6$ nrad	-0.26 ± 0.16 nrad	0.12 nrad
size asymmetry (quoted)	_	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 3 imes 10^{-5}$	$< 3 imes 10^{-5}$	$< 10^{-5}$



How Do We Take the Bulk of Our Data?



Parameter	Random Noise (65 μ A)
Statistical width (0.5 ms)	\sim 82 ppm
Target Density Fluctuation	30 ppm
Beam Intensity Resolution	10 ppm
Beam Position Noise	7 ppm
Detector Resolution (25%)	21 ppm (3.1%)
Electronics noise	10 ppm
Measured Width (σ_{pair})	91 ppm

MOLLER specification is 10 ppm resolution for relative beam intensity measurement for 1 kHz window pairs.

- The raw signal from the detectors integrated for each helicity window (0.52 ms) and asymmetry formed from in a single helicity patterns.
 - MOLLER is designing around a helicity flip rate of 1.92 kHz.

$$A_{i} = \left(\frac{F_{R} - F_{L}}{F_{R} + F_{L}}\right)_{i} \cong \left(\frac{\Delta F}{2F}\right)_{i}; A_{raw} = \langle A_{i} \rangle$$

• Remove the correlations of flux to beam intensity, position, angle, and energy fluctuations:

$$A_{i} = \left(\frac{\Delta F}{2F} - \frac{\Delta I}{2I}\right)_{i} - \sum \left(\alpha_{j} \left(\Delta X_{j}\right)_{i}\right)$$

• Repeat 30 billion times to get desired statistical error.

MOLLER Kinematics and Acceptance

e-

• Identical particles.

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- Measure either forward or backward scattering in CM frame.
- Full azimuthal acceptance for Møller scatters from 6 < θ_{lab} < 20 mrad

Acceptance defining collimator 7-fold symmetry



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Liquid Hydrogen Target





The MOLLER target is designed using CFD to meet the demanding requirements:

- Target power: 4 kW, Target flow: 25 l/s, Density fluctuation: <30 ppm
- The Q_{weak} target (3kW, 17 I/s) demonstrated the capability of high-power, high-stability targets and CFD design tools.

Target Parameters			
Cell length	125 cm		
Cell thickness	8.93 g/cm ²		
Radiation length	14.6%		
р, Т	35 psia, 20K		
ϕ acceptance	5 mrad (0.3°)		
Target power	4000 W		





MOLLER Spectrometer





• Extent of spectrometer scope is 26.5 m.



Integrating and Tracking Detectors Overview





Detector Plane Segmentation



- The thin detector array consist of 6 rings and 224 detectors.
 - 28 segments around the annulus
 - Each segment has a total of 8 detector modules
 - 84 detectors in Ring 5 and 28 in each of the other rings
 - Each detector module consists of a quartz, tile, an air-core light guide, and a PMT.
- High level of segmentation separates irreducible backgrounds from Møller signal.
 - The modules must overlap slightly, to cover the azimuth so that the rings need to staggered along the beam direction. They also need to be spaced such that assembly and access to quartz tiles is possible.



Radial dist. at detector plane 26.5m from target, all φ includes rad. eff.

MELLER

MOLLER Backgrounds

- Irreducible backgrounds arise from scattering off the target material that will pass through the spectrometer and arrive at the detector plane.
 - The principal irreducible background under the Møller "peak" is radiative elastic ep scattering.
- Other background sources
 - Photons and neutrons from 2 bounce collimation system.
 - Pions and muons: photo-production and DIS





Background Deconvolution



- Deconvolute the signal from the background using the segmented detector plane.
- Elastic ep: ~10% of the signal, asymmetry is well known.
- Inelastic ep: <0.3% of the signal but asymmetry is ~20x larger, not well known.
- The inelastic contribution is prominent in Rings 2 and 3, will be measured there.

Potential Background Asymmetries from Ferrous Materials



Bellows: Inconel 625 Hall A Pivot, Tie Rod ends, Detector support: mild steel Drift pipe and downstream torus support: mild steel

Elevation view of the MOLLER spectrometer, marked up from JLab CAD drawings. The locations of potentially ferromagnetic materials are indicated.

- Potential backgrounds to the Møller scattering asymmetry due to scattering from polarized materials along the beam line or elsewhere in the Hall. \rightarrow polarized materials are most likely due to ferromagnetic materials/components.
- Estimate false asymmetry A_f as; •

$$A_f = f_r P_e P_s A_n$$

 f_r : rate fraction of process P_e : incident electron polarization P_s : material electron polarization A_n : analyzing power

- Goal: $A_f < 10^{-11}$
 - In ~1G ambient field: Mild steel: $P_s \sim 10^{-2}$ Stainless steel: $P_{s} \sim 10^{-5} \sim 10^{-7}$ Inconel 625: $P_{\rm s} \sim 10^{-8}$ Aluminum (paramagnetic): $P_s < 10^{-9}$ Conservative estimate: $P_e A_n \sim 10^{-3}$



The Projected Statistical and Systematic Uncertainties

Error Source	Fractional Error (%)		
	Run1	Ultimate	
Statistical	11.4	2.1	
Absolute Norm. of the Kinematic Factor	3	0.5	
Beam (second moment)	2	0.4	
Beam polarization	1	0.4	
$e + p(+\gamma) \rightarrow e + X(+\gamma)$	2	0.4	
Beam (position, angle, energy)	2	0.4	
Beam (intensity)	1	0.3	
$e + p(+\gamma) \rightarrow e + p(+\gamma)$	0.6	0.3	
$\gamma^{(*)} + p \rightarrow (\pi, \mu, K) + X$	1.5	0.3	
$e + Al(+\gamma) \rightarrow e + Al(+\gamma)$	0.3	0.15	
Transverse polarization	2	0.2	
Neutral background (soft photons, neutrons)	0.5	0.1	
Linearity	0.1	0.1	
Total systematic	5.5	1.1	

$$A_{PV} = \frac{\frac{A_{expt}}{P_b} - f_b A_b}{1 - f_b}$$

Run	PAC Days	Stat Error		Efficiency
Period	(prod)	$\sigma(A_{meas})$	$\sigma(A_{PV})$	
I	14	2.96ppm	11.4%	40%
П	95	1.08ppm	4.2%	50%
Ш	235	0.65ppm	2.5%	60%

Summary of notional run phases, with production and calibration estimates used for collaboration planning, to achieve the ultimate precision goals of the MOLLER experiment.

Conceptual Overview of the Experimental Technique



•Optical pumping of a GaAs wafer: "black magic" chemical treatment to boost quantum efficiency

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Krishna Kumar

•Rapid helicity reversal: polarization sign flips > 100 Hz to minimize the impact of drifts

•Helicity-correlated beam motion: under sign flip, beam stability at the sub-micron level



"Flux Integration": very high rates

direct scattered flux to background-free region



Beam Corrections



Remove correlations to beam intensity, position, angle, and energy fluctuations:

$$(A_{cxpt})_i = \left(\frac{\Delta F}{2F} - \frac{\Delta I}{2I}\right)_i - \sum_j \left(\alpha_j \left(\Delta X_j\right)_i\right)$$

Creates noise and also a systematic false asymmetry from average difference

Parameter	Noise (65 µA)	
Statistical Width	~82 ppm	
Beam Intensity Resolution	10 ppm	
Beam Position Noise	7 ppm	

Keep beam asymmetries small

- Special techniques with the polarized source laser optics
- Beam transport configuration to avoid exacerbating differences
- "slow reversals" that flip the sign of beam asymmetries
- feedback

Monitor resolution

Calibration imprecision

Beam	Assumed	Accuracy of	Required 1 kHz	Required cumulative	Systematic
Property	Sensitivity	Correction	random fluctuations	helicity-correlation	contribution
Intensity	1 ppb / ppb	$\sim \! 1\%$	< 1000 ppm	< 10 ppb	$\sim 0.1 \; { m ppb}$
Energy	-0.7 ppb / ppb	$\sim 5\%$	$< 108 \mathrm{~ppm}$	< 1.4 ppb	$\sim 0.05~{ m ppb}$
Position	1.7 ppb / nm	$\sim 5\%$	$< 47 \ \mu { m m}$	< 0.6 nm	$\sim 0.05~{ m ppb}$
Angle	8.5 ppb / nrad	$\sim 5\%$	$< 4.7 \ \mu rad$	< 0.12 nrad	$\sim 0.05~{ m ppb}$
Spot Size	0.012 ppb / ppm	-	-	< 10 ppm $_{26}$	$\sim 0.1~{ m ppb}$

Error Source	Fractional Error (%)
Beam (position, angle, energy)	0.4
Beam (intensity)	0.3

Beam correction analysis

Two calibration techniques

- beam modulation for calibration
- linear regression

Combined, for precision and accuracy in the PREX-2 analysis

- Removed >90% noise
- 4% precision on total correction



BCM Resolution

A	A Contraction of the second se
Kent Paschke	

Parameter	Noise (65 µA)	
Statistical Width (1016 µs)	~82 ppm	
Target Density Fluctuation	30 ppm	
Beam Intensity Resolution	10 ppm	
Beam Position Noise	7 ppm	
Detector Resolution (25%)	21 ppm	
Electronics Noise	10 ppm	
Measured Width	91 ppm	

Existing BCM receivers

- Bench tests with well known receivers = 42 ppm
- Seven monitors (for MOLLER), average to get ~ 16 ppm resolution
- Would imply 92ppm ultimate pair width (instead of 91ppm) if not improved Would prefer to do better, to enable systematic studies with better resolution

Two strategies for improvement

- · New version of JLab electronics has been fielded
 - Expect 2x better (~22 ppm) resolution for single monitor
 - Bench tests suggest further improvements by improving local oscillator
- LBNL digital processor prototype (Kolomensky and group)
 - Uses fast sampling ADC's capable of direct RF sampling
 - Eliminates need for local oscillator
 - Initial bench studies give ~ 10 ppm resolution for 960 Hz window pairs

Readout

- Existing receivers use Digital-to-Analog Convertor → Integrators, matching detector readout chain
- Option to use digital readout favored, still being explored



LBNL prototype receiver

Technical and Operational Experience from 3rd Generation PV Experiments Kent Paschke

Careful configuration of the polarized source kept beam difference averages very small during PREX-2

RTP Pockels Cell: Improved control of beam fluctuations

Beam correction calibration, analysis and cross-checks Total beam corrections:









Polarimetry in the Experimental Hall

- Two independent measurements which can be cross checked.
- Continuous monitoring during production (protects against drifts, precession)
- Statistical power to facilitate cross normalization (get to systematic limit in about 1 hour)

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Compton Polarimetry

- Continuous, non-invasive measurement
- Utilized integrating technique with photon detector
- Polarimeter runs will be taken
 continuously alongside the main detector



Moller Polarimetry

- Low-current, invasive measurement
- 0.5% instrumental precision for Hall C polarimeter
- Polarimeter runs will be taken approximately every week





Source configuration

Adiabatic Damping

• Good beam match keeps variation small

Slow Reversals

- Laser optics reversals (e.g. IHWP)
- Injector Spin Manipulation ("Wien" rotators)
- g-2 precession
- Net factor ~10 suppression of beam asymmetries

PREX-II showed ISM cancellation of position differences



Injector Spin Manipulation

- Solenoids + 2 Wien rotations
- ~80 reversals during run phase 2&3 (weekly)



g-2 rotation

- Beam energy (ΔE~100 MeV)
- ~few reversals during run phases 2 and 3

Meeting MOLLER beam differences



- Injector source laser
- e- beam delivery (adiabatic damping)
- cancellation with "slow" reversals
- detector symmetry
- correction calibration (beam modulation)

HAPPEX-II: Zero position differences



20-50 nm in 5MeV injector factor of 10-100 from adiabatic damping factor of 2-10 Factor >10 in sensitivity 10% precision

HAPPEX-II: position difference convergence



Factor of two in beam position asymmetry would be a small hit on total error bar

uncertainty			
statistical	2.1%		
systematic (total)	1.1%		if doublod
beam (position, angle, E)		0.4%	total syst $\sim 1.3\%$
beam(intensity)		0.3%	
beam (2nd moment)		0.4%	

Phase 1 Injector Upgrade

M LLER Kent Paschke





Shower-Max Detector



- Goal: second, independent measurement of Møller peak.
- Electromagnetic sampling calorimeter; layered quartz and tungsten
- 28 modules intercepting physics signal flux 1.7 m downstream of Ring 5.



Pion Detector





- Goal: Quantify pion background contamination in Møller signal asymmetries.
- 28 identical acrylic Cherenkov detectors, located downstream of the Shower-max detectors.
- Encased in Pb donut, downstream of shower-max detectors to suppress Møller electrons by > 10³



