## DRAFT: Probing for high momentum protons in ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$ via the ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$ reaction

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#### Abstract

Experimental cross sections for the ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$ reaction up to a missing momentum of 0.632 $\mathrm{GeV} / c$ at $x_{B}=1.24$ and $Q^{2}=2(\mathrm{GeV} / c)^{2}$ are reported. The data are compared to Relativistic Distorted Wave Impulse Approximation(RDWIA) calculations for ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right)^{3} H$ channel. Significantly more events in the triton mass region are measured for $p_{m}>0.45 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ than are predicted by the theoretical model, suggesting that the effects of initial-state multi-nucleon correlations are stronger than expected by the RDWIA model.


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## I. INTRODUCTION

Nucleon momentum distributions in atomic nuclei are ${ }^{110}$ known to be governed by an average nuclear potential ${ }^{111}$ plus additional nucleon-nucleon multi body interactions. ${ }^{112}$ Momentum distributions below the Fermi momentum es- ${ }^{113}$ sentially reflect the size of the "box" in which the nu-114 cleons are contained. One way to model this distribu- ${ }_{115}$ tion is in the simplest limit of a cluster model where $\mathrm{a}_{116}$ given nucleon interacts with the average potential of the ${ }_{117}$ other nucleons. For momenta greater than the Fermi ${ }_{118}$ momentum the cluster models of nuclear structure pro- ${ }_{119}$ vide enhanced strength in the momentum distribution ${ }_{120}$ by allowing nucleon-nucleon spatial distributions to become shorter than the average nucleon-nucleon spacing. Experimental access to proton momentum distributions ${ }_{121}$ is possible through the missing momentum $p_{m}$ and the missing energy $E_{m}$ in the $A\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$ reaction. Where $\vec{p}_{X}=\vec{p}_{e}-\vec{p}_{e^{\prime}}-\vec{p}_{p}, p_{m}=\left|\vec{p}_{X}\right|$, is the momentum ${ }^{122}$ of the residual nucleus [1]. The missing energy, $E_{m}$, of the reaction is the excitation energy of the system; it ${ }^{123}$ is the difference between the electron transferred energy ${ }^{124}$ $\left(\omega=E_{e}-E_{e^{\prime}}\right)$ and the kinetic energies of the knocked out ${ }^{125}$ proton and the residual system, $T_{p}$ and $T_{X}$, respectively: ${ }^{127}$ $E_{m}=\omega-T_{p}-T_{X}$.

Interpretation of cross sections $\sigma\left(p_{m}\right)$ to deduce nu- ${ }^{128}$ cleon momentum distributions requires the inclusion of ${ }^{139}$ final state interactions in the outgoing $\left(e^{\prime} p X\right)$ system. ${ }^{130}$

Microscopic nuclear structure calculations based on ${ }^{132}$ realistic two and three body nucleon-nucleon calcula- ${ }_{-132}^{132}$ tions are available for low mass nuclei [2]. In the case ${ }^{133}$ of ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$ proton momentum distributions have been cal ${ }_{135}{ }^{134}$ culated for proton-triton(pt) and deuteron-deuteron(dd) ${ }_{136}$ clusters. Recent measurements of proton-nucleon coin- ${ }_{137}$ cidences in the ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}\left(e, e^{\prime} p N\right)$ reaction 3-6 have shown ${ }_{138}$ strong correlations of back to back emission of nu- ${ }_{139}$ cleon pairs for large missing momentum $p_{m}>400 \mathrm{MeV} / c^{\text {. }{ }_{140}}$ Moreover, the increasing pair ratio $\frac{\# p p}{\# p n}$ as a function ${ }^{141}$ of $p_{m}>400 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ is interpreted as a sign that the ${ }_{143}^{142}$

[^0]nucleon-nucleon interaction switches from the tensor interaction to the strong repulsive short range interaction. Besides nucleon-nucleon correlations the experiment also obtained data on the proton-triton (pt) final hadronic state.

This paper provides experimental differential cross sections based on the ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) 3 N$ reaction over a range of momenta, $25<p_{m}<632 \mathrm{MeV} / c$, where $3 N={ }^{3} H$ and $X$. These experimental results are compared to state-of-the-art relativistic calculations.

These measurements ran in parallel with the triplecoincidence short-range correlation experiment described in Ref. 3].

## II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

## A. Spectrometer settings

Experiments E07006 [3] and E08009 [7] at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in experimental Hall A [8, ran in February, March and April of 2011. Data for kinematic settings of 0.153 and $0.353 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ missing momentum were obtained using electron beam currents between $47 \mu A$ to $60 \mu A$, for E08009. In addition to these kinematic settings the Short Range Correlation(SRC) [3] experiment also obtained data at kinematic settings out to $0.632 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ missing momentum including the multi-body break up channel $\mathrm{p}+3 \mathrm{~N}$. These higher missing momenta data were collected using 4 to $5 \mu A$ electron beam currents but sufficient accumulated charge was measured to be able to extract cross sections beyond the original goal set for E08009. Moreover, the acceptances of the Hall A spectrometers allowed for cross sections to be determined across a larger missing momentum range than the central value kinematic settings would suggest.

The electron spectrometer was fixed in angle and central momentum while the proton spectrometer's angles and central momenta were changed.

Electron arm's kinematic settings for the experiment are as follows: incident beam energy 4.4506 GeV , electron spectrometer angle $20.3^{\circ}$ electron spectrometer momentum $3.602 \mathrm{GeV} / c$, four momentum transfer $Q^{2}=2.0$ $(\mathrm{GeV} / c)^{2}$ and Bjorken $x_{b}=1.24,3$ momentum transfer of

| Central $p_{m}$ | $\theta_{p}$ | $\theta_{p q}$ | Central momentum |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{GeV} / \mathrm{c}$ | degrees | degrees | $\mathrm{GeV} / c$ |
| 0.153 | 47.0 | -2.4 | 1.500 |
| 0.353 | 38.5 | -10.9 | 1.449 |
| 0.466 | 33.5 | -15.9 | 1.383 |
| 0.632 | 29.0 | -20.4 | 1.308 |

TABLE I. Proton spectrometer settings
$1.647 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ at an angle $\theta_{q}=49.4^{\circ}$ with respect to the ${ }^{200}$ incident electron momentum. The proton arm settings ${ }^{201}$ are in table II

## B. Cryogenic target

The cryogenic target was gas ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$ contained in an aluminum can of length 20 cm . The nominal temperature ${ }^{204}$ of the gas was $20^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ at $199 \mathrm{psia} .{ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$ enters and exits at ${ }^{205}$ the upstream end of the target.There is no outlet for the ${ }^{206}$ fluid at the downstream end of the can. A determina- ${ }^{207}$ tion of target density along the beam path was done by ${ }^{209}$ comparing the normalized yield of scattered electrons at ${ }^{209}$ $47 \mu A$ and $60 \mu A$ beam currents to the yield at $4 \mu A$. Since ${ }^{210}$ the electron spectrometer was held at a fixed momentum ${ }^{211}$ and angle the electron spectrometer served as a density ${ }_{212}$ monitor. For this target at a beam current of $4 \mu A$ a com-213 putational fluid dynamics (CFD) calculation 9 predicts ${ }_{214}$ an average density drop of $2.3 \%$ from strictly thermodynamic parameters. A comparison of the measured yield ${ }^{215}$ at $4 \mu A$ to the CFD calculation gives an uncertainty in ${ }^{216}$ the target density dependence along the beam of $1.1 \%_{\cdot 217}$ More detail for the treatment of the target density used ${ }_{218}$ in the data analysis is available in [7]. Across the $\pm_{219}$ 8 cm effective target length and for the different beam $_{220}$ currents, the target densities are summerized in table II.

## III. DATA ANALYSIS

For this experiment, event triggers were performed ${ }_{225}^{224}$ by coincident signals from scintillator arrays. Particle ${ }^{225}$ tracks were reconstructed using the high resolution spec- ${ }^{226}$ trometer's vertical drift chambers. The small $\pi^{-}$back- ${ }^{227}$ ground in the electron arm was rejected using a $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ gas ${ }^{228}$ Cherenkov detector. In the proton spectrometer, coin- ${ }^{229}$ cident $\pi^{+}$, and other positively charged nuclei like ${ }^{2} \mathrm{H}_{, 230}$ and ${ }^{3} \mathrm{H}$ were separated from the protons using the time ${ }_{231}$ difference between particles detected in the two spec-232 trometers. Most of the accidental coincident events were ${ }_{233}$ rejected by cuts on the difference between interaction ${ }_{234}$ points in the target along the beam as reconstructed by ${ }_{235}$ the two spectrometers. The remaining accidental back-236 ground was subtracted using the coincidence timing be-237 tween the spectrometers. Fig. 1 shows a coincidence time ${ }_{238}$ of flight for the $353 \mathrm{MeV} / \mathrm{c}$ kinematics. The number of $\mathrm{f}_{23}$
real coincidence events in a 20 ns time window around the peak were obtained by subtracting the accidentals under the peak considering a flat background under the whole spectrum. 1 .

For the determination of the cross section the following cuts are applied to the data for both electron and proton spectrometers: horizontal angle $\pm 0.04$ radians, vertical angle $\pm 0.03$ radians, vertex position $\pm 8 \mathrm{~cm}$ and the deviation from central momentum $\pm 4.5 \%$. The full data set after accidental and background subtraction is presented in figure 2.

The average cross section for the ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$ reaction per missing momentum bin was extracted for the triton region and it is given by:

$$
\begin{equation*}
<\sigma\left(p_{m}\right)>=\frac{n\left(p_{m}\right) * R S C}{\Delta \Omega_{e} \Delta \Omega_{p} \Delta E_{e} N_{e} N_{t g t} * E F F} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

- $n\left(p_{m}\right)$ is the net counts in the triton region between missing energies of 0.017 GeV to 0.022 GeV , after randoms and background subtraction. The three nucleon region, 3 N , lies between 0.017 GeV and 0.029 GeV in the missing energy spectrum. Background subtraction in the triton region was done using either a simple constant background or a sloped straight line background below 0.029 GeV .
- $R S C$ is the radiative and straggling correction factor, more details on this correction are given in section IIIB.
- $\Delta \Omega_{e}$ and $\Delta \Omega_{p}$ are the geometrical solid angles of the spectrometer apertures.
- $\Delta E_{e}$ is the size of the electron's momentum bin in coincidence with protons. There is an uncertainty in $\Delta E_{e}$ of $10 \%$ which is included in the error bars of the cross sections.
- $N_{e}=Q / e$, the number of electrons that passed through the target, where $e$ is the charge on an electron and $Q$ is the total charge.
- $N_{t g t}=\rho(I) * z_{t g t}$ is the number of nuclei per $\mathrm{cm}^{2}$ in the beam. $I$ is the beam current, $\rho(I)$ is the number of nuclei per $\mathrm{cm}^{3}$ and $z_{t g t}$ is the effective target length. Target densities along the $\pm 8 \mathrm{~cm}$ effective target length for different beam currents are presented in table $\Pi$
- $E F F$ is the efficiency factor and it accounts for: a missing momentum acceptance factor (explained in section III A, data acquisition live time, electronics live time, wire chamber and tracking efficiencies. The live time of the trigger acquisition system, LTdaq, was $0.916 \pm 0.01$, and $0.95 \pm 0.01$ for the $153 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ and $353 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ kinematics, respectively. For the higher missing momentum settings, LTdaq was larger than 0.99. The remaining efficiencies are displayed in table III.


FIG. 1. Coincidence time of flight spectrum for the 353 $\mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting.


FIG. 2. Missing Energy spectra for all the kinematical set- ${ }^{26}$ tings. Data are in blue and the simulated two body breakup ${ }^{269}$ channel is in red. From top to Bottom: (a) $p_{m}=153 \mathrm{MeV} / c{ }^{270}$ (b) $p_{m}=353 \mathrm{MeV} / c$, (c) $p_{m}=466 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ and (d) $p_{m}=632^{271}$ $\mathrm{MeV} / c$

| Beam current <br> $(\mu \mathrm{A})$ | Target density <br> nuclei $/ \mathrm{cm}^{2}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 4.014 | $7.84 \pm 0.087 \times 10^{22}$ |
| 45.46 | $6.732 \pm 0.077 \times 10^{22}$ |
| 60.71 | $5.662 \pm 0.065 \times 10^{22}$ |

TABLE II. Target density dependence on beam heating as a function of beam current.

| Efficiency | value | Uncertainty (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Electronic live time | 1 | 0 |
| Trigger efficiency | 0.97 | 1 |
| Wire chamber efficiency | 0.995 | 0.1 |
| Tracking efficiency | 0.9895 | 0.75 |

TABLE III. General uncertainties

Data analysis is aided by the Monte Carlo simulation(GEANT 3.2 [10]) of the transport of the incident electron, scattered electron and proton through the target cell into the spectrometer apertures assuming a $\mathrm{p}+$ triton final hadronic state. The identification of the p + triton final state is possible by calculating the missing energy in the scattered electron +p state. A peak in the missing energy spectrum corresponding to the triton ground state mass identifies the ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right)^{3} H$ reaction, where $\mathrm{m}_{X}=$ triton mass, as seen in figure 2 .

## A. Missing momentum acceptance efficiency

The wide momentum acceptance of the spectrometers allows for a broad missing momentum acceptance. In the simulation a vertex point in the gas target is chosen which gives the incoming electron's momentum at interaction point. Then hit points within the apertures of the spectrometers for the outgoing electron and proton are randomly selected. Each point within the spectrometers' apertures has an equal probability of being selected. This allows for the vertex angles of the electron and proton to be determined. An energy for the outgoing electron is chosen within the momentum acceptance of the electron spectrometer. From the incident electron's momentum, the scattered electron's momentum and the angles for the ejected proton three body kinematics for the ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right)^{3} H$ reaction allows for the proton's vertex momentum to be determined. The electron and proton are followed from the vertex to the final hit points in the spectrometers' apertures. Thus complete information about the location and momenta at the vertex and the spectrometers' apertures is known.

The three body kinematical and geometrical limitations for particles arriving at the hit points within the apertures are calculated by GEANT and thus allows the
missing momentum, $\overrightarrow{p_{m}}=\overrightarrow{p_{1}}-\overrightarrow{p_{2}}-\overrightarrow{p_{p}}$ to be calculated. In the analysis we bin $\left|p_{m}\right|$ into $50 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ bins. We define the missing momentum acceptance factor, $f\left(p_{m}\right)$, for a bin of missing momentum centered around $p_{m}$ as

$$
\begin{equation*}
f\left(p_{m}\right)=\frac{n\left(p_{m}\right)}{\sum n\left(p_{m}\right)} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $n\left(p_{m}\right)$ is the number of triton events in the missing momentum bin centered on $p_{m}$ and $\sum n\left(p_{m}\right)$ is the total number of triton events over all missing momenta for the particular proton kinematic setting. The same Gaussian broadening used for the simulation fit in figure 2 (b) is used to generate the values of $p_{m}$ needed to calculate $f\left(p_{m}\right)$.

Experimental cross sections are given in table IV.

## B. Peak broadening effects

Straggling and external bremsstrahlung obtained from the GEANT simulation produce a broadening and a characteristic tail on the missing energy spectrum. In practice the long target introduces additional broadening beyond the intrinsic point source resolution of the spectrometers. The additional broadening is included in the simulation by a Gaussian broadening of the momenta at the apertures This additional broadening typically is a factor of three to four bigger than the resolution for the point source peak. The amount of Gaussian smearing needed is determined by the best fit of a strong missing energy data peak such as at the lowest missing momentum. An example of the fit is seen in figure 2 (b).

Corrections to the cross section due to the tail on the missing energy spectrum are determined by comparing the number of events in a 5 MeV window centered on the triton peak to the total number of events in the simulation.

## IV. RESULTS

## A. Comparison of data to theoretical predictions

Experimental differential cross sections are compared ${ }_{326}$ to relativistic distorted wave impulse approximation cal- ${ }_{327}$ culations of the Madrid theory group $[11,14]$. The ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}_{328}$ ground state is described by a relativistic solution of the ${ }_{329}$ Dirac equation phenomenologically adjusted to fit the ob-330 served radius and binding energy of ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$. These calcula-331 tions were first introduced in [15].

Vertex values of the incident electron's momentum at333 various positions within the target and the momenta of $f_{34}$ the scattered electron and ejected proton were provided $d_{355}$ to the Madrid theory group for calculation of the cross ${ }_{336}$


FIG. 3. E08009 Data compared to Madrid full theoretical calculations. Blue squares are for the $153 \mathrm{MeV} / \mathrm{c}$ setting, green circles are for the $353 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting, red inverted triangles are for the $466 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting and cyan triangles are for the $632 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting. Theoretical calculation follow the same color code as the data for each momentum setting.


FIG. 4. E08009 Data compared to Madrid EMA theoretical calculations. Blue squares are for the $153 \mathrm{MeV} / \mathrm{c}$ setting, green circles are for the $353 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting, red inverted triangles are for the $466 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting and cyan triangles are for the $632 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting. Theoretical calculation follow the same color code as the data for each momentum setting.
section at each event vertex in the GEANT simulation. The GEANT simulation also contains the detected electron and proton momenta at the spectrometers' apertures. In this way the vertex cross section can be associated with the missing momentum at the apertures.

Theoretical cross sections integrated over the experimental acceptances for the full Madrid treatment and using the effective momentum approximation, EMA, treatment are presented in tables V and VI Plots of the data for the two theoretical treatments are shown in figures 3 and 4

Data and calculations show the same missing momenta dependence for the measured or calculated cross section as a function of kinematic setting. Even though the same
magnitude of $p_{m}$ is reached for different proton angles the cross section does not simply factor as a function of $p_{m}$. Good agreements between the Madrid calculation and the data extend to about $420 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ in missing momentum. It can be also noticed that both data and theory exhibit an inflection in the slope of the cross section between 300 and $400 \mathrm{MeV} / c$. In recent calculations on light nuclei [2], an inflection in the proton momentum distributions was predicted in the momentum range between 1 and $3 \mathrm{fm}^{-1}$. For ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$, this inflection appears to be due to the triton+proton cluster distribution exhibiting a deep minimum in the proton momentum distribution. When added to the deuteron deuteron cluster distribution, the inflection appears below and close to $2 \mathrm{fm}^{-1}$ in the total proton density distribution, which is in agreement with the one we see in these data.

## V. DISCUSSION

For this experiment, the three momenta of the outgoing proton and scattered electron in the ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$ reaction are measured. Using the known momentum of ${ }^{391}$ the initial state we deduce the missing momentum of the ${ }_{393}^{392}$ residual hadronic state $X$. The theoretical analysis of ${ }^{393}$ the data here is limited to a specific exit channel, $X={ }^{394}$ ${ }^{3} \mathrm{H}$. However, considering the theoretical cluster contri- ${ }^{395}$ butions to the proton momenta [2] in ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$, the contri- ${ }^{396}$ bution of the $p t$ cluster to the proton momentum dis- ${ }^{397}$ tribution is expected to be negligible above about $p_{m^{398}}$ $=250 \mathrm{MeV} / c$.

The ratio of experimental cross section to the Madrid ${ }^{400}$ full predictions; in logarithmic scale, is shown in figure ${ }^{401}$ 55 for the four proton spectrometer central momentum ${ }^{402}$ settings. The blue squares; at the lowest missing mo- ${ }^{403}$ mentum setting, hover around a ratio of 1 , showing good404 agreement between data and predictions. The green dots405 are for the $0.353 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ setting and we see a distinctive406 pattern for these data. The ratio at $0.225 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ is 0.34 ,407 substantially different from the model prediction. This ${ }^{408}$ behavior cannot be traced to a statistical fluctuation be-409 cause as we see in figure 2 (b), there is a substantial410 peak at the triton missing energy location. The cross411 section decreases by a factor of 12 between 0.225 and ${ }^{412}$ $0.325 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ and over the full range in missing momen-413 tum for this proton angle setting the cross section falls414 by a factor of 30 . This fluctuation of the data to theory $4_{415}$ ratio suggests that some significant physics is not ade-416 quately included in the theoretical model for this range $4_{417}$ of missing momentum with these spectrometer settings. 418 For the data at the 0.466 and $0.632 \mathrm{GeV} / c$ settings the $4_{419}$ ratio again shows a smooth missing momentum depen-420 dence.

421
However, the overall dependence of the cross section ${ }_{422}$ by the Madrid full model in figure 3 is qualitatively de-423 scribed.

424
From [2], the high proton momentum is attributed ${ }_{425}$


FIG. 5. Ratio of the experimental cross section to the theoretical Madrid full (pt) cross section versus missing momentum. Squares are for the $153 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting, circles are for $353 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting, inverted triangles are for the $466 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting and triangles are for the $632 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ setting.
to the repulsive nucleon-nucleon core. Fig. 2 shows a broad peak in the missing energy spectrum which shifts in position kinematically with the photon being absorbed on a correlated pair of nucleons. This feature has been previously seen in ${ }^{3} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) p n$ measurements in Ref. [16] and 17] and in ${ }^{4} H e\left(e . e^{\prime} p\right) X$ continuum channel in Ref. 18.

The measurements of 3] are consistent with the NN short range force becoming repulsive. However, it is counter intuitive and in disagreement with theoretical expectations [2] that tritons should be ejected from ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}$ along with protons emerging from short range encounters.

The fact that we observe events in the triton region up to $632 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ involves processes beyond the impulse approximation. Final state interactions of the outgoing proton may take a proton knocked out of a pt cluster initially at a low value of $p_{p}$ to appear as if its momentum at the vertex was $p_{m}$. This is accounted for to some extent by the optical model potential treatment of the final $p t$ unbound state. We see good agreement between the theory and data in figure 3 up to about $p_{m}=420 \mathrm{MeV} / c$.

Beyond about $450 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ in $p_{m}$ substantially more triton region events are measured than what the Madrid full theory predicts. In this case three nucleons emitted at high $p_{m}$ may be a signature of other reactions allowing the three nucleon cluster to emerge as a bound or quasi bound state. Since the kinematics for the electron were chosen for $x_{b}=1.24$, protons in more intimate interactions with neighbors than quasi-elastic conditions $\left(x_{b} \approx\right.$ 1) may favor other reactions leading to three nucleon clusters exiting in the missing energy region near the triton.

Portions of the missing energy spectrum in the triton energy range are shown in figures 6. We see a change in
the distribution of events as a function of missing momentum going from $153 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ to $575 \mathrm{MeV} / c$. At low missing momenta the triton peak is centered at the expected value of 19.8 MeV . At higher missing momenta, the event are higher in missing energy by few MeVs . From left to right, the three arrows in each figure point to the expected locations of the thresholds of the hadronic states $\mathrm{X}=(\mathrm{t}), \mathrm{X}=(\mathrm{n}, \mathrm{d})$ and $\mathrm{X}=(\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{n})$, respectively.

An interesting question is the impact of three-nucleon forces, $V_{i j k}$, at high $p_{m} . V_{i j k}$ are known to increase the binding energy of nuclei [19] so they would be natural actors in the formation of bound tritons or closely bound three nucleon groups among the outgoing hadronic channels, $X$, at high missing momentum. The principal sources of data to help refine models of possible threenucleon interactions are binding energies of ground and excited states of $A<8$ nuclei and point proton charge distributions [19]. However, these data are not extensive enough to select unambiguously a particular set of parameters or models for $V_{i j k}$ and other observables are needed as discussed in [19] [20].

More extensive and detailed data in the three nucleon triton mass region and the existence of microscopic calculations for these nuclei opens the possibility of exploiting the shapes of the missing energy spectra in $A\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$ reactions as additional observables for developing models of three-nucleon interactions.

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## VI. APPENDIX

Experimental differential cross sections for ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) \mathrm{X}$; in $n b / s r^{2} / \mathrm{MeV}$, are summarized in table IV for the four different spectrometer settings. The analysis was done on $50 \mathrm{MeV} / c$ wide bins on missing momentum, $p_{m}$. Errors are both statistics and systematics added in quadrature. The systematic uncertainty of $10 \%$ was included in the cross sections due to defining the size of the energy window, $d E_{e}$, on the electron spectrum.

Tables VI and $\overline{\text { V }}$ summarize the Madrid EMA and full calculations respectively in the momentum range from 12.5 to $637.5 \mathrm{MeV} / c$.


FIG. 6. From top to bottom: Missing energy region up to 50 MeV of excitation in ${ }^{4} \mathrm{He}\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$ for $p_{m}=153,352,475$ and $575 \mathrm{MeV} / c$, respectively. The three arrows point to the expected locations of the thresholds of the hadronic states $\mathrm{X}=(\mathrm{t}), \mathrm{X}=(\mathrm{n}, \mathrm{d})$ and $\mathrm{X}=(\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{n})$.

| $p_{m}$ <br> $(\mathrm{MeV} / c)$ | 153 <br> $\theta_{p}=47^{\circ}$ | 353 <br> $\theta_{p}=38.5^{\circ}$ | 466 <br> $\theta_{p}=33.5^{\circ}$ | 632 <br> $\theta_{p}=29^{\circ}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25 | $(3.38 \pm 0.52)$ |  |  |  |
| 75 | $(1.13 \pm 0.17)$ |  |  |  |
| 125 | $(3.13 \pm 0.48) \times 10^{-1}$ |  |  |  |
| 175 | $(7.18 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-2}$ |  |  |  |
| 225 | $(1.44 \pm 0.22) \times 10^{-2}$ | $(4.40 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-3}$ |  |  |
| 275 | $(3.06 \pm 0.57) \times 10^{-3}$ | $(1.27 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-3}$ |  |  |
| 325 |  | $(6.11 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-4}$ |  |  |
| 375 |  | $(3.57 \pm 0.88) \times 10^{-4}$ |  |  |
| 425 |  | $(1.44 \pm 0.59) \times 10^{-4}$ | $(6.59 \pm 2.7) \times 10^{-4}$ |  |
| 475 |  | $(3.22 \pm 0.89) \times 10^{-4}$ |  |  |
| 525 |  |  | $(1.68 \pm 0.45) \times 10^{-4}$ |  |
| 575 |  |  | $(0.91 \pm 0.43) \times 10^{-4}$ |  |
| 632 |  |  |  |  |

TABLE IV. Experimental differential cross sections, $\frac{d \sigma^{5}}{d \Omega_{p} d \Omega_{e} d E_{e}}$, for ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right) X$; where $X={ }^{3} H$ or $3 N$, from E08009, for different kinematical settings given by the proton spectrometer central angle. Units are $n b / s r^{2} / \mathrm{MeV}$.
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| $p_{m}$ <br> $(\mathrm{MeV} / \mathrm{c})$ | 153 <br> $\theta_{p}=47^{\circ}$ | 353 <br> $\theta_{p}=38.5^{\circ}$ | 466 <br> $\theta_{p}=33.5^{\circ}$ | 632 <br> $\theta_{p}=29^{\circ}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12.5 | 2.2059 |  |  |  |
| 37.5 | 1.8287 |  |  |  |
| 62.5 | 1.3139 |  |  |  |
| 87.5 | $8.516 \mathrm{e}-01$ |  |  |  |
| 112.5 | $5.070 \mathrm{e}-01$ |  |  |  |
| 137.5 | $2.699 \mathrm{e}-01$ |  |  |  |
| 162.5 | $1.311 \mathrm{e}-01$ |  |  |  |
| 187.5 | $5.987 \mathrm{e}-02$ |  |  |  |
| 212.5 | $2.583 \mathrm{e}-02$ | $1.918 \mathrm{e}-02$ |  |  |
| 237.5 | $1.044 \mathrm{e}-02$ | $6.724 \mathrm{e}-03$ |  |  |
| 262.5 | $3.951 \mathrm{e}-03$ | $2.209 \mathrm{e}-03$ |  |  |
| 287.5 | $1.370 \mathrm{e}-03$ | $6.686 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 312.5 | $4.901 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $3.578 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 337.5 | $1.858 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $3.095 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 362.5 | $9.309 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $2.687 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 387.5 | $5.639 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $2.077 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 412.5 |  | $1.419 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $5.283 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |
| 437.5 |  | $8.366 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $3.402 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |
| 462.5 |  | $4.808 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $2.225 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |
| 487.5 |  | $2.739 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $1.262 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $2.206 \mathrm{e}-04$ |
| 512.5 |  | $1.542 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $6.542 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $1.491 \mathrm{e}-04$ |
| 537.5 |  | $9.478 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $2.980 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $8.585 \mathrm{e}-05$ |
| 562.5 |  |  | $1.289 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $4.400 \mathrm{e}-05$ |
| 587.5 |  |  | $5.077 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $1.977 \mathrm{e}-05$ |
| 612.5 |  |  | $2.008 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $7.741 \mathrm{e}-06$ |
| 637.5 |  |  | $8.357 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $2.834 \mathrm{e}-06$ |

TABLE V. Madrid full theoretical cross sections integrated over the experimental acceptances for ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right)^{3} H$ for E08009, for different kinematical settings given by the proton spectrometer central angle. Units are $n b / s r^{2} / \mathrm{MeV}$.

| $p_{m}$ <br> $(\mathrm{MeV} / \mathrm{c})$ | 153 <br> $\theta_{p}=47^{\circ}$ | 353 <br> $\theta_{p}=38.5^{\circ}$ | 466 <br> $\theta_{p}=33.5^{\circ}$ | 632 <br> $\theta_{p}=29^{\circ}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 37.5 | 2.681 |  |  |  |
| 62.5 | 1.916 |  |  |  |
| 87.5 | 1.235 |  |  |  |
| 112.5 | $7.297 \mathrm{e}-01$ |  |  |  |
| 137.5 | $3.839 \mathrm{e}-01$ |  |  |  |
| 162.5 | $1.834 \mathrm{e}-01$ |  |  |  |
| 187.5 | $8.159 \mathrm{e}-02$ | $9.031 \mathrm{e}-02$ |  |  |
| 212.5 | $3.382 \mathrm{e}-02$ | $3.628 \mathrm{e}-02$ |  |  |
| 237.5 | $1.282 \mathrm{e}-02$ | $1.295 \mathrm{e}-02$ |  |  |
| 262.5 | $4.433 \mathrm{e}-03$ | $3.933 \mathrm{e}-03$ |  |  |
| 287.5 | $1.362 \mathrm{e}-03$ | $9.986 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 312.5 | $4.312 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $3.423 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 337.5 | $1.705 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $2.643 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 362.5 | $1.130 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $2.487 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 387.5 | $8.817 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $2.083 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |  |
| 412.5 |  | $1.547 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $4.550 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |
| 437.5 |  | $9.853 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $3.082 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |
| 462.5 |  | $6.482 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $2.064 \mathrm{e}-04$ |  |
| 487.5 |  | $4.261 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $1.206 \mathrm{e}-04$ | $1.778 \mathrm{e}-04$ |
| 512.5 |  |  | $6.435 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $1.215 \mathrm{e}-04$ |
| 537.5 |  |  | $3.036 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $7.084 \mathrm{e}-05$ |
| 562.5 |  |  | $1.360 \mathrm{e}-05$ | $3.702 \mathrm{e}-05$ |
| 587.5 |  |  | $5.527 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $1.717 \mathrm{e}-05$ |
| 612.5 |  |  | $2.251 \mathrm{e}-06$ | $7.010 \mathrm{e}-06$ |
| 637.5 |  |  | $9.483 \mathrm{e}-07$ | $2.695 \mathrm{e}-06$ |

TABLE VI. Madrid EMA theoretical cross sections integrated over the experimental acceptances for ${ }^{4} H e\left(e, e^{\prime} p\right)^{3} H$ for E08009, for different kinematical settings given by the proton spectrometer central angle. Units are $n b / s r^{2} / \mathrm{MeV}$.


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