

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: Analysis of Quantum sounds and 3rd Dimension!

Second Subtitle: Re: Analysis of Quantum sounds and 3rd Dimension!

Author: wizanda

Date: 1153491915

URL: https://www.wizanda.com/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=64

Quote:

Strange Quarks Contribute to the Structure of the Proton

In research performed in Hall C, nuclear physicists have found that strange quarks contribute to the structure of the proton. This result indicates that, just as previous experiments have shown, strange quarks in the proton's quark-gluon sea contribute to a proton's parton distribution. The work, from work performed by the G-Zero collaboration, an international group of scientists from various institutions, and was presented at a Jefferson Lab physics seminar on June 10.

Protons are found in the heart of all matter: the nucleus of the atom. Physicists believe that protons are primarily built of particles called quarks, along with particles called gluons that hold the quarks together. There are three permanent quarks in the proton that contribute to its structure and one "down."

Up and down quarks are the lightest of the possible six flavors of quarks in the universe. In addition to the proton's three resident quarks, the peculiar nature of quarks allow other particles to appear from time to time. These ghostly particles exist for a small fraction of a second, but it's possible that they stay around long enough to affect the structure of the proton. Nuclear physicists set out to catch some of these ghostly particles. They determined that the next lightest quark, the "strange" quark, would be the most likely to cause the effect.

According to Doug Beck, a professor of physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the spokesperson for the G-Zero collaboration, one way to see these strange quarks is through the weak interaction. "If we look with photons via the electromagnetic interaction, we see quarks inside the proton. And then, if we do it with the weak interaction, we get a yet distinctly different view of the quarks. And it's by comparing those two views that we see the strange quark contribution," Beck says.

Since the hydrogen nucleus consists of a single proton, G-Zero researchers fired a beam of electrons into a hydrogen target. They then watched to see how many protons were essentially knocked out of the target, by the electrons.

Throughout the experiment, the researchers alternated the electron beam polarization. They run the beam with polarization in one direction, and we look to see how many protons are scattered. Then we turn the beam around, in polarization at least, and measure for a different time again and look to see how many protons are scattered. And there will be a difference of about 10 parts per million," Beck says. That's because the electromagnetic interaction (the electrons' spin will not affect the number of protons scattered), which is

(electrons polarized one way will interact slightly differently than electrons polarized the other way).

"The relative difference in those counting rates tells us how big the weak scattering of electrons from protons. We compare it to the strength of the interaction between electrons and protons, and that gives us the answer that we're looking for."

What the researchers found was that strange quarks do contribute to the proton's magnetization. In particular, Beck says the collaboration found that strange quarks contribute to the proton's charge and magnetic fields -- in other words, its charge distribution and magnetization.

"All quarks carry charge, and one of the things we measure is where the charge is in the proton's overall charge distribution," Beck explains, "And then there are these charged quarks inside the protons, and they're moving around. As they move around, they can create a magnetic field. In G-Zero, we also measure the contribution of the strange quarks to the proton's magnetization."

G-Zero allowed the researchers to extract a quantity representing the strange quark's contribution to the proton's magnetization. "The data indicate that the strange quark's contributions are non-zero over the entire range of our measurements," Beck says. "There are a couple of points that overlap other measurements. They agree, so that's good."

However, by itself, the G-Zero result does not yet allow the researchers to separate the strange quark's contribution to the charge from its contribution to the magnetization. A new experiment is being run coming up in December, and that will help us to try to disentangle the strange quark's contribution to the charge and the magnetization. So that will give us one more piece of information that will allow us to look at those quantities separately," Beck notes.

www.azom.com