

# Structure of Schrödinger's Nucleon: Elastic Form-Factors and Radii

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## Abstract

The Galilei invariant model of the nucleon as a system of three point particles, whose dynamics is governed by Schrödinger equation, after six Hamiltonian parameters fitting, predicts magnetic momenta, masses and charge radii of the proton and neutron with experimental precision. Now this model is applied in order to investigate nucleon charge, mass and magnetism distributions. The obtained electric and magnetic form factors at low values of momentum transfer are in satisfactory agreement with experimental information. The model predicts that neutron is a more compact system than proton.

## Keywords

Solutions of Wave Equations (Bound States), Potential Models, Proton and Neutron

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## 1. Introduction

Different and significant changes of quantum systems, composing more complex structures (for example, atoms forming molecules or solid state) are obvious. The well-known experiments of atomic nuclei structure also indicate that a nucleon embedded in a nucleus is slightly modified in comparison with a free one [1]-[3]. Therefore, for the investigation of this effect, the simple model is necessary, which is compatible with the technique of atomic nuclei description and is able to predict the changes of nucleon structure once it appears in vicinity of other nucleons.

The Schrödinger's model of nucleon [4] is introduced namely for the solution of this problem. The model considers proton and neutron as different systems of three point particles (PP) in correspondence with the Standard Model recommendations: proton as the system of two *up* (*uPP*) and one *down* (*dPP*) particle, while neutron—as a system of one *uPP* and two *dPP* particles. These particles should not be identified with the quarks of the Standard Model because only their spins ( $\hbar/2$ ), charges ( $+2e/3$  and  $-e/3$ ) and baryon numbers ( $1/3$ ) match the

respective quarks quantum numbers. Both PP of our model are different; thus isospin quantum number is not necessary. Therefore, the color quantum number, which is used in the Standard Model to antisymmetrize the wave function, is also unnecessary. In our model antisymmetry is ensured with a smaller number of wave-function's degrees of freedom. Baryon number is necessary to prevent the possibility of system excitation when one or two PP escapes to continuous spectrum. The PPs, composing the nucleon, allow defining the magnetic momenta of structureless particles in Dirac's way. The interactions of different pairs of PP ( $uu$ ,  $ud$  and  $dd$ ) contain the Coulomb and three-dimensional harmonic oscillator (spring) potentials, having four free parameters. Together with PP masses the model Hamiltonian has six free parameters. The conditions for this model are as follows. Firstly, it has to be Galilei invariant. Secondly, finite ranges of potential wells are applied in order to avoid the appearance of nonexistent bound excited states of the nucleon. Finally, the number of parameters of nucleon Hamiltonian has to be equal with the number of nucleon characteristics, applied for fitting. These are the best known characteristics of the proton and neutron—masses, magnetic momenta and charge distribution radii. The values of experimental results, given in Particle Data Group 2014 report [5] and corresponding model results are presented in **Table 1**. It is shown that six parameters of model Hamiltonian can be chosen so that the mentioned characteristics of nucleon could be predicted with experimental precision.

Thus, the eigenfunctions of introduced Hamiltonian application for nucleon structure investigation are the next interesting problem. This paper is devoted for electric and magnetic elastic form-factors and corresponding radii description.

## 2. The Galilei Invariant Form Factor Operator

The elastic form factor of nucleon is defined as density operator's Fourier image:

$$F(\sigma, A; \mathbf{q}) = \int \rho_{\sigma A}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \exp i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta}) d\boldsymbol{\eta}. \quad (1)$$

Here  $\sigma = p$  denotes the proton,  $\sigma = n$  stands for the neutron, while

$$\rho_{\sigma A}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \sum_{k=1}^3 d_{\sigma A k} \delta(\boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\eta}_k) \quad (2)$$

is density operator in the nucleon's center-of-mass reference frame ( $\boldsymbol{\eta}_k = \mathbf{r}_k - \boldsymbol{\xi}_0$ , where  $\boldsymbol{\xi}_0$  is center-of-mass radius vector).  $d_{\sigma A k}$  are  $k$ -th particle ( $k = 1, 2, 3$ ) characteristics, given in **Table 2**.

For charge density ( $A \equiv E$ ) they equal the PP charge  $e z_{\sigma k}$ , for magnetization density ( $A \equiv M$ )—the PP magnetic momentum operator  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\sigma k}$ , defined in [4], while for mass distribution density ( $A \equiv P$ )—the mass of the PP's  $m_{\sigma k}$ . For PP density distribution ( $A = R$ ) they equal  $1/3$ , *i.e.* the baryon number of PP. The values of  $d_{\sigma A 2}$  and  $d_{\sigma A 3}$  coincide due to indistinguishability of these PP that is why we will use only one of them in the following expressions. Applying this density definition, the form factor operator equals the sum

$$F(\sigma, A; \mathbf{q}) = d_{\sigma A 1} \exp i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta}_1) + d_{\sigma A 2} [\exp i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta}_2) + \exp i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta}_3)]. \quad (3)$$

**Table 1.** Nucleon characteristics, applied for Hamiltonian parameters fitting (experiment; data are from Ref. [5]), and results of present model (theory).

	Experiment	Theory
Proton magnetic momentum ( $\mu_p$ )	2.792847356 (23)	2.792847356
Proton charge radius (fm)	0.8775 (51)	0.87750000
Proton mass $M_p$ (GeV)	0.938272046 (21)	0.938272046
Neutron magnetic momentum ( $\mu_n$ )	-1.91304272 (45)	-1.91304272
Neutron mean-square charge radius (fm <sup>2</sup> )	-0.1161 (22)	-0.11610000
Neutron mass (GeV)	0.939565379 (21)	0.939565379
$u$ PP mass $m_u$ (GeV)	-	0.3213453699
$d$ PP mass $m_d$ (GeV)	-	0.3381741985

**Table 2.** Parameters and operators, present in density definition, Equation (2).

$A$	$d_{pA1} = d_{nA2}$	$d_{pA2} = d_{nA1}$
$E$ , Charge density	$-\frac{1}{3}e$	$\frac{2}{3}e$
$M$ , Magnetism density	$-\frac{M_p}{3m_d}(\lambda_1 + 2s_1)$	$\frac{2M_p}{3m_u}(\lambda_2 + 2s_{23})$
$P$ , Mass density	$m_d$	$m_u$
$R$ , Point particles density	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$

It is well-known that the form factors, defined experimentally, are independent of angles of the momentum transfer  $\mathbf{q}$ , therefore this expression, before estimating the mean value, needs to be averaged by spherical angles  $\Omega_q$ . All exponents have a common dependence on  $\mathbf{q}$ , so taking into account the integral of spherical harmonics scalar product, equal

$$\int (Y_l(\Omega_q) \cdot Y_l(\Omega_\xi)) d\Omega_q = \tag{4}$$

$$\sum_{m=-l}^l \left( \int Y_{lm}^*(\Omega_q) Y_{00}(\Omega_q) d\Omega_q \right) \sqrt{4\pi} Y_{lm}(\Omega_\xi) = \delta_{l,0}, \tag{5}$$

one obtains that

$$\frac{1}{4\pi} \int \exp(i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi})) d\Omega_q = \int \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} i^l j_l(q\xi) (Y_l(\Omega_q) \cdot Y_l(\Omega_\xi)) d\Omega_q = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} i^l j_l(q\xi) \delta_{l,0} = j_0(q\xi). \tag{6}$$

Here  $j_l(x)$  is the spherical Bessel function. After this operation the form factor operator equals:

$$\mathbf{F}(\sigma, A; q^2) = d_{\sigma A1} j_0(q\eta_1) + d_{\sigma A2} (j_0(q\eta_2) + j_0(q\eta_3)), \tag{7}$$

Written in Jacobi coordinates

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\xi}_{\sigma 0} \\ \boldsymbol{\xi}_1 \\ \boldsymbol{\xi}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} & \frac{m_{\sigma 2}}{v_{\sigma 0}} & \frac{m_{\sigma 3}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_1 \\ \mathbf{r}_2 \\ \mathbf{r}_3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8}$$

it takes the form

$$\mathbf{F}(\sigma, A; q^2) = d_{\sigma A1} j_0\left(q \frac{2m_{\sigma 2}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1\right) + d_{\sigma A2} \left( j_0\left(q \left| \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1 - \frac{1}{2} \xi_2 \right| \right) + j_0\left(q \left| \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1 + \frac{1}{2} \xi_2 \right| \right) \right). \tag{9}$$

Here  $v_{\sigma 0} = m_{\sigma 1} + m_{\sigma 2} + m_{\sigma 3}$  is sum of PP masses. The mean value of this form factor operator at low  $q$  values provides important information about the system. When  $q^2 = 0$

$$\langle \mathbf{F}(\sigma, A; 0) \rangle = \langle d_{\sigma A1} + 2d_{\sigma A2} \rangle, \tag{10}$$

it equals the nucleon charge, magnetic momentum, mass  $v_{\sigma 0}$  and unity correspondingly. The form factor presentation in a dimensionless and normalized form is

$$G(\sigma, A; q^2) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{F}(\sigma, A; q^2) \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{F}(\sigma, A; 0) \rangle}, \tag{11}$$

so that its value in zero equals one. The only exception is the electric form factor of the neutron  $F(n, E; 0)$ , which equals zero. In order for  $G(n, E; q^2)$  to be dimensionless it is modified dividing by the elementary charge  $e$ . The next member of form factor expression in vicinity of  $q^2 = 0$  equals:

$$-\frac{1}{3!}q^2 \left[ d_{\sigma A1} \left( \frac{2m_{\sigma 2}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1 \right)^2 + 2d_{\sigma A2} \left[ \left( \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1 \right)^2 + \left( \frac{1}{2} \xi_2 \right)^2 \right] \right]. \quad (12)$$

Thus,

$$-6 \frac{dF(\sigma, A; q^2)}{d(q^2)} \Big|_{q^2=0} = d_{\sigma A1} \left( \frac{2m_{\sigma 2}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1 \right)^2 + 2d_{\sigma A2} \left[ \left( \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1 \right)^2 + \left( \frac{1}{2} \xi_2 \right)^2 \right] \quad (13)$$

is proportional to the square of corresponding radius operator, *i.e.*:

$$-6 \frac{dG(\sigma, A; q^2)}{d(q^2)} \Big|_{q^2=0}. \quad (14)$$

Inserting the charges of PP's one obtains the expressions presented in [4] for the squared charge radius operators of the proton and neutron.

### 3. Expectation Values of Form Factor Operator

Elastic form-factors of nucleon as functions of momentum transfer  $q^2$  are defined as ratio of mean values of form-factor operator, Equation (9) applying wave functions' superposition defined in [4]:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ \left| \left( (1, 1/2) 1/2, (1, (1/2, 1/2) 1) 1/2, m \right) \right| + \left| \left( (1, 1/2) 3/2, (1, (1/2, 1/2) 1) 2) 1/2, m \right) \right| \right]. \quad (15)$$

Here both basic functions are bound angular and spin momenta functions

$$\left| \left( (\lambda_1, s_1) j_1, (\lambda_2, (1/2, 1/2) s_{23}) j_{23} \right) j = 1/2, m \right\rangle, \quad (16)$$

where the parentheses indicate the operation of momenta binding,  $\lambda_1$  is angular momentum of the first Jacobi coordinate  $\xi_1$ ,  $s_1 = 1/2$  is spin momentum of the first particle,  $\lambda_2$  indicates the angular momentum of the second Jacobi coordinate  $\xi_2$ , for which according to [6] the spin momenta of the second and third particles need to be set. The  $j_1, j_{23}$  are total momenta of respective Jacobian subsystems. Their sum  $j = 1/2$  equals the nucleon momentum, *i.e.* its spin. The radial wave functions, dependent on different Jacobi variables, present in front of superposition (15)  $u_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}(x)$  are given in Equation (19) of [4]:

$$u_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}(x) = N \begin{cases} x^{\lambda+1} e^{-x^2/2} \Phi \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( \lambda + \frac{3}{2} - \varepsilon_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)} \right), \lambda + \frac{3}{2}; x^2 \right), & \text{if } 0 \leq x < \sqrt{2\tau_{\sigma\alpha}}, \\ L h_{\lambda}^{(1)}(i\kappa x), & \text{if } x \geq \sqrt{2\tau_{\sigma\alpha}}, \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

where  $\tau_{\sigma\alpha}$  is the depth of dimensionless Hamiltonian well, which width equals  $\sqrt{2\tau_{\sigma\alpha}}$ .  $\varepsilon_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}$  is eigenvalue (here  $\lambda$  is angular momentum quantum number, while  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  equals the number of eigenfunction nodes).  $\kappa = \sqrt{2(\tau_{\sigma\alpha} - \varepsilon_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)})} > 0$ , while  $\Phi(a, c; x^2)$  denotes a degenerate hypergeometric function [7] [8]. In the area where a potential equals zero, radial function equals spherical Hankel function of imaginary argument  $h_{\lambda}^{(1)}(i\kappa x)$  [8]. The conditions of equality of both parts of the function and their logarithmic derivatives at point  $x = \sqrt{2\tau_{\sigma\alpha}}$  defines the constant  $L$  and eigenvalue  $\varepsilon_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}$ , while the constant  $N$  is defined by the normalization condition

$$\int_0^{\infty} |u_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}(x)|^2 dx = 1. \quad (18)$$

Integration of the first member of right side of Equation (9) is straightforward. For calculation of the second

and third integrals one needs spherical Bessel function expansion [8]:

$$j_0(q|\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{b}|) = 4\pi \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} j_k(qa) j_k(qb) (Y_k(\Omega_a) \cdot Y_k(\Omega_b)). \quad (19)$$

The sum of two functions of this kind present in (9) equals

$$4\pi \sum_{k=0,2,4,\dots}^{\infty} j_k\left(q \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1\right) j_k\left(q \frac{1}{2} \xi_2\right) (Y_k(\Omega_{\xi_1}) \cdot Y_k(\Omega_{\xi_2})). \quad (20)$$

Having in mind the structure of nucleon wave function, only two first terms of expansion, corresponding  $k = 0, 2$  give nonzero contribution to the form factor integral.

Finally, after some angular momentum algebra, the form factor can be presented as

$$\langle \mathbf{F}(\sigma, A; q^2) \rangle = \langle \mathbf{d}_{\sigma A 1} \rangle I_{\sigma 1}(q) + 2 \langle \mathbf{d}_{\sigma A 2} \rangle I_{\sigma 2}(q) + \left( \frac{7}{5} + \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{5}} \right) \langle \mathbf{d}_{\sigma A 2} \rangle I_{\sigma 3}(q), \quad (21)$$

where

$$I_{\sigma 1}(q) = \int_0^{\infty} |u_{01}^{(\sigma 1)}(\xi_1)|^2 j_0\left(q \frac{2m_{\sigma 2}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1\right) d\xi_1, \quad (22)$$

$$I_{\sigma 2}(q) = \int_0^{\infty} |u_{01}^{(\sigma 1)}(\xi_1)|^2 j_0\left(q \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1\right) d\xi_1 \int_0^{\infty} |u_{01}^{(\sigma 2)}(\xi_2)|^2 j_0\left(q \frac{1}{2} \xi_2\right) d\xi_2, \quad (23)$$

$$I_{\sigma 3}(q) = \int_0^{\infty} |u_{01}^{(\sigma 1)}(\xi_1)|^2 j_2\left(q \frac{m_{\sigma 1}}{v_{\sigma 0}} \xi_1\right) d\xi_1 \int_0^{\infty} |u_{01}^{(\sigma 2)}(\xi_2)|^2 j_2\left(q \frac{1}{2} \xi_2\right) d\xi_2. \quad (24)$$

Here, the radial wave functions as functions of  $\xi_{\alpha}$ , having the length dimension, are proportional to the present above functions  $u_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}(x)$  in a following way:

$$u_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}(\xi_{\alpha}) = u_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}(x = \xi_{\alpha}/b_{\sigma\alpha}) / \sqrt{b_{\sigma\alpha}}, \quad (25)$$

where  $b_{\sigma\alpha}$  are potential wells parameters, given in [4]. These wave functions normalization condition looks as

$$\int_0^{\infty} |u_{n\lambda}^{(\sigma\alpha)}(\xi_{\alpha})|^2 d\xi_{\alpha} = 1. \quad (26)$$

Obviously, the momentum transfer  $q$  in all given expressions has dimension  $\text{fm}^{-1}$ . The widely accepted dimension of this momentum  $Q$  is  $\text{GeV}/c$ . Therefore, the slight modification is necessary due to these momenta dependence:

$$q[\text{fm}^{-1}] = Qc[\text{GeV}]/\hbar c[\text{GeV} \cdot \text{fm}]. \quad (27)$$

Here, in square brackets the dimensions of corresponding quantities are written. The value of conversion factor  $\hbar c = 0.1973269718(44) \text{GeV} \cdot \text{fm}$  is defined in Ref. [5].

Operators, present in right hand side of Equation (13), having in mind the definitions (14), (11) and (10) are necessary for radii calculation. Together with precise calculation, the values of radii can be determined from the slopes of corresponding form factors in the limit of zero momentum transfer  $q^2$ .

## 4. Results

The obtained charge, magnetic, mass and point particles radii are present in the “theory” column of **Table 3**.

The known experimental values of corresponding radii are given in the “experiment” column. The charge radii of nucleon are applied for fitting, hence their values are equal to the ones, recommended by the Particle Data Group 2014 report [5]. The straightforward evaluation of magnetic radii of nucleon is problematic, hence only few estimates of proton and only one—for neutron magnetic radius are known. The evaluations for mass and point particles radii are absent in literature.

**Table 3.** Values of different radii of the proton and neutron.

	Experiment	Theory
Proton charge radius (fm)	0.8775 (51) [5]	0.877500
	0.8768 (69) [9]	
	0.879 (6) [10]	
	0.84184 (56) [11]	
Proton magnetic radius (fm)	0.777 (16) [5]	0.832087
	0.876 (19) [12]	
	0.848 (6) [13]	
Proton mass radius (fm)	-	0.809988
Proton PP radius (fm)	-	0.811174
Neutron mean-square charge radius (fm <sup>2</sup> )	-0.1161 (22) [5]	-0.116100
	-0.1149 (35) [14]	
	-0.134 (3) [15]	
Neutron magnetic radius (fm)	0.862 (9) [5]	0.759587
Neutron mass radius (fm)	-	0.767979
Neutron PP radius (fm)	-	0.766703

In **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**, the electric and magnetic form factors for the proton  $G(p, E; Q^2)$  and  $G(p, M; Q^2)$  together with best fits of corresponding experimental results, given in [16] as ratio of two polynomials ( $A = E$  and  $M$ )

$$G(p, A; Q^2) = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^3 a_{Ak} Q^k}{\sum_{k=0}^5 b_{Ak} Q^k} \quad (28)$$

with parameters  $a_{Ak}$  and  $b_{Ak}$ , are present.

The neutron electric form factor  $G(n, E; Q^2)$  and double-polarization data, taken from [17], are present in **Figure 3**.

The comparison of calculated and given by standard dipole approximation

$$G_D(q^2) = \left(1 + (Qc/Q_0c)^2\right)^{-2} \quad (29)$$

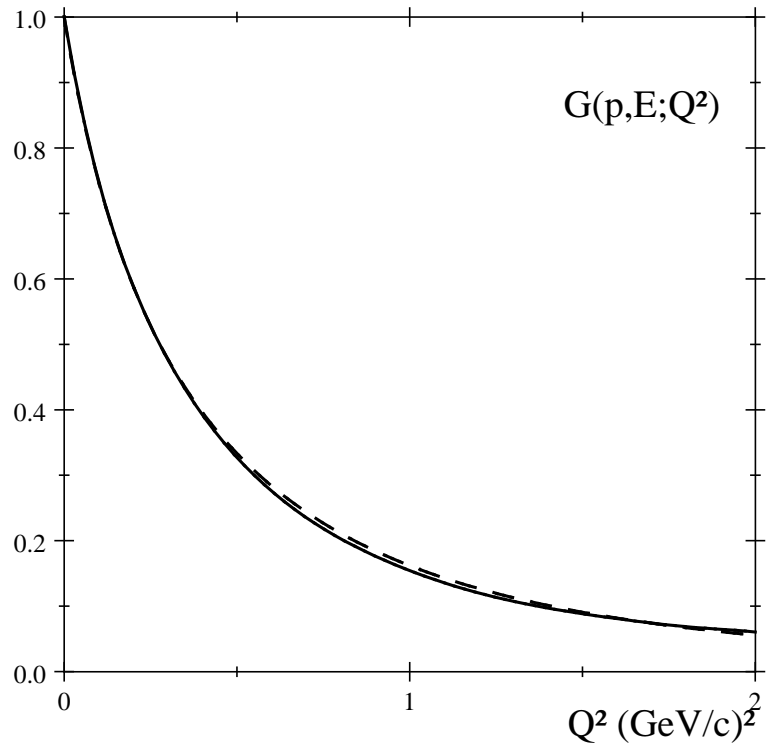
with  $Q_0c = \sqrt{0.71}$  GeV the neutron magnetic form factor  $G(n, M; Q^2)$  is present in **Figure 4**.

The all four obtained form factors demonstrate good enough comparison with known experimental data at low values of momentum transfer, that characterises the nucleons, present in an atomic nucleus. Moreover, ratio of electric and magnetic form factors of neutron at  $Q^2 = 1.58$  (GeV/c)<sup>2</sup> obtained in [18] is 0.250 (58). Corresponding ratio of our form factors equals 0.257.

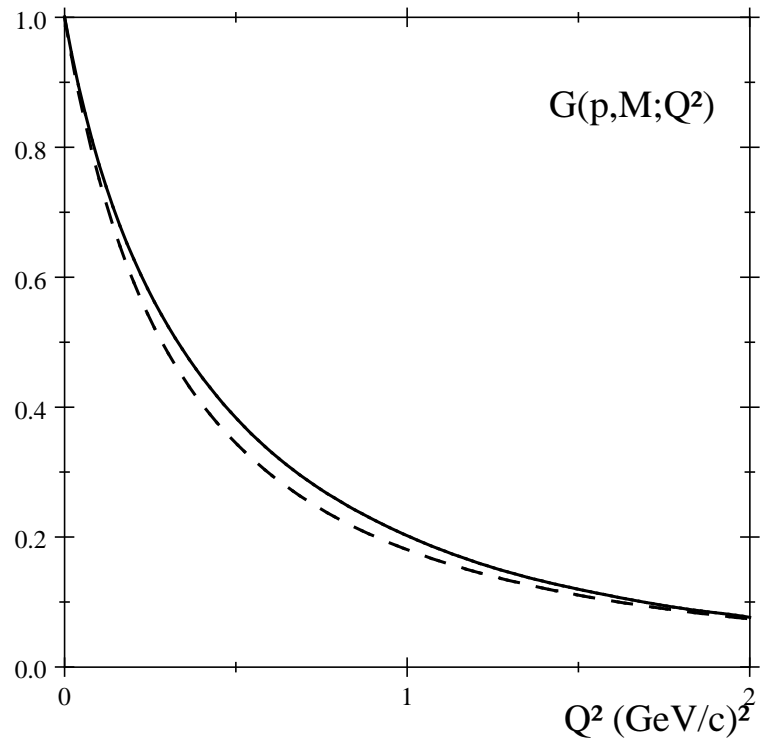
The mass and point particles form factors for proton  $G(p, P; Q^2)$ ,  $G(p, R; Q^2)$  and neutron  $G(n, P; Q^2)$ ,  $G(n, R; Q^2)$  are not present, due to the absence of experimental information and due to the trivial dependence on momentum transfer  $Q^2$ , looking correspondingly like the proton and neutron magnetic form factors with slightly different slopes at origin.

## 5. Conclusions

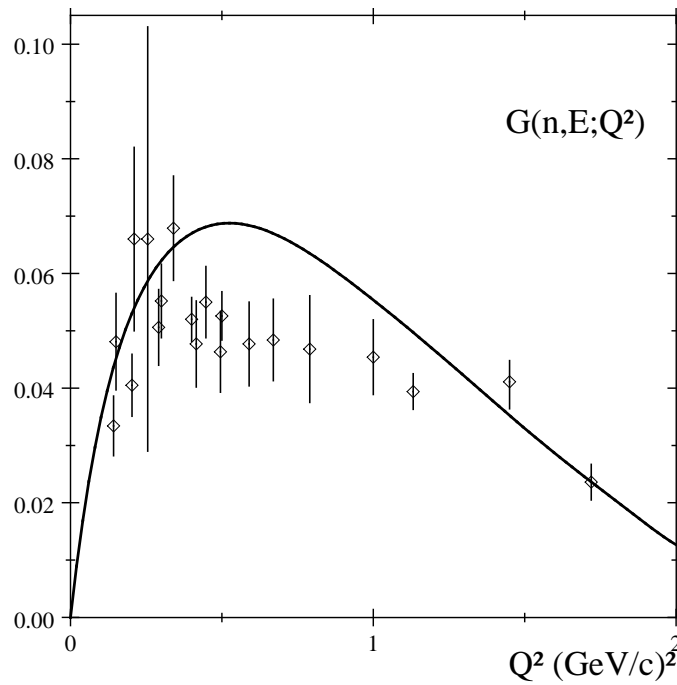
The most interesting result of radii calculation is that the neutron appears as a more compact system than the proton, although the results of the magnetism distribution radii, presented in [5], show different relations. The obtained compactness of the neutron nicely fits with the well-known fact that the surface of the heavy nuclei is



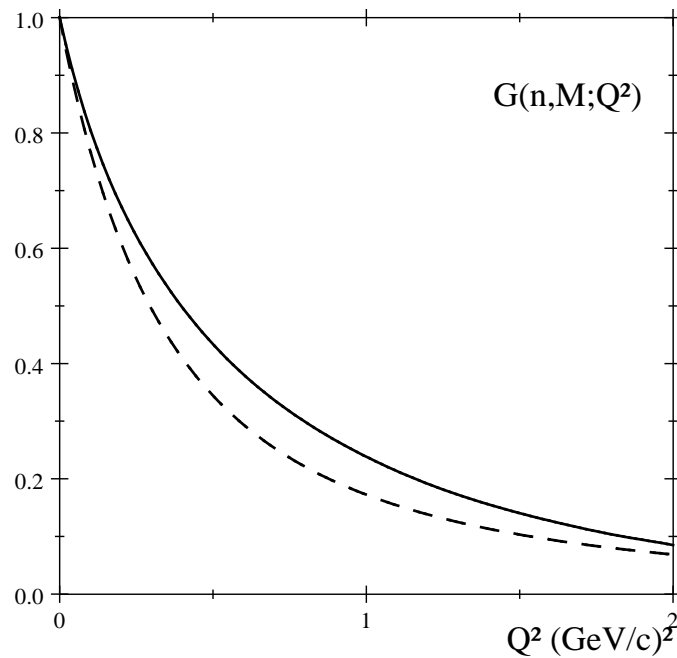
**Figure 1.** The electric form factor of the proton (solid line). The fit  $G_E^p$  from Ref. [16] is shown for comparison (dashed line).



**Figure 2.** The magnetic form factor of the proton (solid line). The fit  $G_M^p/\mu$  from Ref. [16] is shown for comparison (dashed line).



**Figure 3.** The electric form factor of the neutron (solid line). The double-polarization data from Ref. [17].



**Figure 4.** The magnetic form factor of the neutron (solid line). The standard dipole form factor, Equation (29) (dashed line).

more well-defined than the one of the proton [19]. As follows from our investigation, the proton's density decreases smoothly and is much more spread out through the sphere than the one of the neutron. There is a surplus of the neutrons in heavy nuclei which usually distribute on the surface of the nucleus and can determine the mentioned effect. Moreover, compact distribution of neutron constituents gives larger probability of weak process, producing its decay.



Therefore, the obtained precision of nucleon description allows concluding that the calculations of other characteristics of the proton and neutron with obtained wave function may give some interesting and rather reliable results. It is well known that realistic potentials of nucleon-nucleon interaction, carefully fitted with the two-nucleon data, give smaller than experimental nuclear binding energies. It looks like that the introduced model is able to give a chance for this problem solution. As it is known from the solid state theory, when the distance between two potential wells decreases, the isolated levels of each well convert to the system of two levels, one of them is more bound than the other one. If Pauli principle allows the constituents of nucleon to occupy the best bound level, this may help us to improve the description of atomic nuclei, taking into account the changes of nucleon structure when merging into groups.

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