

RECENT DEVELOPPEMENTS IN ELECTROMAGNETIC HADRON FORM FACTORS

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New data on electromagnetic hadron form factors have triggered large theoretical and experimental efforts and inspired new ideas and several proposals at different accelerators. A review of the experimental status, in space-like and time-like regions, together with inconsistencies, new ideas and future perspectives will be proposed. The main results come from polarization experiments, which showed that the electric and magnetic contributions in the proton are different and that the neutron electric form factor is small but does not vanish. The possibility to achieve large Q^2 values and the inconsistencies among form factors extracted from polarized and unpolarized experiments suggest to search for the two-photon contribution. The experimental evidence of such mechanism, not found in the existing data, would bring a serious revision of the elastic and inelastic data produced in experiments induced by electrons on nuclei and nucleons. The necessity of a global description of hadron form factors in space-like and time-like regions requires a careful study of their analyticity properties. Model independent properties of form factors, based on C-invariance, crossing symmetry, and T-reversal, connect scattering and annihilation reactions and will be underlined all along the presentation. These results are especially useful as a guide for the extended experimental programmes which are in preparation in the time-like region.