The BigBite Drift Chambers for the Measurement of $G^n_E$ at High $Q^2$ in Hall A

BRANDON CRAVER, University of Virginia, E02-013 COLLABORATION, HALL A COLLABORATION — A precision measurement of the electric form factor of the neutron $G^n_E$ has been carried out in Jefferson Lab’s Hall A for $Q^2$ values of 1.2 to 3.5 GeV$^2$ using a highly polarized $^3$He target and the quasi-elastic semi-exclusive $^3He(e,e'n)$ reaction. The experiment detected the ejected neutron with an array of scintillators and the scattered electron with the newly commissioned BigBite spectrometer. This new spectrometer has a large angular acceptance (80 msr), complementing the existing 6 msr high-resolution spectrometers, and will enable a new generation of low-rate experiments with lower resolution requirements. A package of three multi-wire drift chambers was constructed in order to allow the spectrometer to operate under high rate conditions and achieve a spatial resolution of $\sigma \sim 200 \mu m$. Novel construction techniques used for the drift chambers will be discussed. Online results showing chamber performance at raw hit rates up to 20 MHz per plane will be presented.

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