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Components of polarization-transfer to a bound proton in a deuteron measured by quasi-elastic scattering

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I will report measurements of the transverse (P_x and P_y) and longitudinal (P_z) components of the polarization transfer to a bound proton in the deuteron via the reaction, over a wide range of missing momentum. The measurements were done at the Mainz Microtron (MAMI). A precise determination of the electron beam polarization reduces the systematic uncertainties on the individual components, to a level that enables a detailed comparison to a state-of-the-art calculation of the deuteron that uses free-proton electromagnetic form factors. We observe very good agreement between the measured and the calculated P_x/P_z ratios, but deviations of the individual components. Our results cannot be explained by medium modified electromagnetic form factors. They point to an incomplete description of the nuclear reaction mechanism in the calculation.

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