Hard Photo-disintegration of proton pairs in $^3$He

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Experiment E03-010  Hall A / Jlab collaboration

Hard deuteron photo-disintegration has been investigated for 20 years, as its cross section follows the constituent counting rule and it provides insight into the interplay between hadronic and quark-gluon degrees of freedom in high- momentum transfer exclusive reactions. We have now measured for the first time hard pp-pair disintegration in the reaction $\gamma^3$He $\rightarrow$ pp + n, using kinematics corresponding to a spectator neutron. Cross sections were measured for 90° c.m at 8 beam energies, from 0.8 to 4.7 GeV. Preliminary results will be presented and compared to the hard deuteron photo-disintegration data.