We report on a phenomenological analysis of all available electron scattering data on \( ^{12}C \) (about 6600 differential cross section measurements) and on \( ^{16}O \) (about 250 measurements) within the framework of the quasielastic (QE) superscaling model (including Pauli blocking). All QE and inelastic cross section measurements are included down to the lowest momentum transfer \( q \) (including photo-production data). We find that there is enhancement of the transverse QE response function \( R_{Q}^{TE} \) and quenching of the QE longitudinal response function \( R_{Q}^{LE} \) at low \( q \) (in addition to Pauli blocking). We extract parameterizations of a multiplicative low \( q \) "Longitudinal Quenching Factor" and an additive "Transverse Enhancement" contribution. Additionally, we find that the excitation of nuclear states contribute significantly (up to 30%) to the Coulomb Sum Rule. The "Transverse Enhancement" (TE) of Coulomb Sum Rule is critical for an accurate extraction of the normalized cross sections in Monte Carlo event generators for electron and neutrino (\( \nu_e,\mu \)) scattering. Careful consideration of nuclear excitations is critical for an accurate extraction of the normalized Coulomb Sum Rule \( SL(q) \) at low \( q \) as these states can contribute up to 30%. After accounting for the dominant excitations, we extract the most accurate determination of \( SL(q) \) for \( ^{12}C \) and \( ^{16}O \) based on the global fit and compare to theoretical models. In addition, the "Transverse Enhancement" (TE) of \( R_{Q}^{TE} \) and the "Quenching Factor" of \( R_{Q}^{LE} \) are also of great interest to phase approximation (RPA) based calculations but in reasonable agreement with recent theoretical calculations such as "First Principle Green’s Function Monte Carlo".

We report on a fit to all available electron scattering data on \( ^{12}C \) (about 6600 differential cross section measurements) and on \( ^{16}O \) (about 250 measurements) within the framework of the quasielastic (QE) superscaling model (including Pauli blocking). All QE and inelastic cross section measurements are included down to the lowest momentum transfer \( q \) (including photo-production data). We find that there is enhancement of the transverse QE response function \( R_{Q}^{TE} \) and quenching of the QE longitudinal response function \( R_{Q}^{LE} \) at low \( q \) (in addition to Pauli blocking). We extract parameterizations of a multiplicative low \( q \) "Longitudinal Quenching Factor" and an additive "Transverse Enhancement" contribution. Additionally, we find that the excitation of nuclear states contribute significantly (up to 30%) to the Coulomb Sum Rule. The "Transverse Enhancement" (TE) of Coulomb Sum Rule is critical for an accurate extraction of the normalized cross sections in Monte Carlo event generators for electron and neutrino (\( \nu_e,\mu \)) scattering. Careful consideration of nuclear excitations is critical for an accurate extraction of the normalized Coulomb Sum Rule \( SL(q) \) at low \( q \) as these states can contribute up to 30%. After accounting for the dominant excitations, we extract the most accurate determination of \( SL(q) \) for \( ^{12}C \) and \( ^{16}O \) based on the global fit and compare to theoretical models. In addition, the "Transverse Enhancement" (TE) of \( R_{Q}^{TE} \) and the "Quenching Factor" of \( R_{Q}^{LE} \) are also of great interest to phase approximation (RPA) based calculations but in reasonable agreement with recent theoretical calculations such as "First Principle Green’s Function Monte Carlo".

We define \( V_{Q}^{QE}(q, \nu) \) as the reduced longitudinal QE response, which integrates to unity in the absence of any suppression (e.g. Pauli blocking). The charge form factors for the electro-excitation of nuclear states \( F_{1C}^{2}(q) \) is given by:

\[
G_{E}^{2}(Q^{2}) = \left| G_{E}^{p}(Q^{2}) + \frac{N}{Z} G_{E}^{n}(Q^{2}) \right|^{2} \frac{1 + \tau}{1 + 2\tau},
\]

where, \( G_{E}^{p} \) and \( G_{E}^{n} \) are the electric form factors of the proton and neutron respectively and \( \tau = Q^{2}/4M_{p}^{2} \). By dividing Eq. 2 by \( ZG_{E}^{2}(q) \) we obtain the normalized inelastic Coulomb Sum Rule \( SL(q) \):

\[
SL(q) = \int V_{L}^{QE}(q, \nu) d\nu + Z \sum_{all} F_{1}^{2}(q).
\]
small. At small $q$ it is expected that $S_L \rightarrow 0$ because the all form factors for inelastic processes (QE and nuclear excitations) must be zero at $q=0$.

We begin by parameterizing the measurements of the $L$ and $T$ form factors for the electro-excitation of all nuclear states in $^{12}\text{C}$ with excitation energies ($E_x$) less than 16.0 MeV (the approximate proton removal energy from $^{12}\text{C}$). For these states the measurements are straightforward since the QE cross section is zero for $E_x < 16$ MeV.

For $E_x > 16$ MeV the extractions of form factors require corrections for the QE contribution. We perform a reanalysis of all published cross sections with in $E_x < 55$ MeV and use our fitted QE model (described below) to extract $L$ and $T$ form factors. For $E_x > 20$ MeV (region of the Giant Dipole resonances) we group the strength from multiple excitations into a few states with a large width $E_x$ and extract effective form factors accounting for all states in this region. The top two panels of Fig. 1 show comparisons of our fit (red) to $R_L$ measurements by Yamaguchi (blue) 1996 with $E_x > 14$ MeV. An estimated resolution smearing of 600 keV has been applied to the excitations in the fit to match the data. While individual states are well reproduced at low excitation energy, above 20 MeV the effect of grouping several excitations together into broad effective states in the fit can be seen. While the fit does not capture the structure from individual states, the total strength is seen to be well reproduced. A similar analysis has been done for $^{16}\text{O}$. The fits to the form factors for $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}$ are included in a longer paper (in preparation).

The contribution of nuclear excitation to $S_L(q)$ (factor $Z \sum_{all} \frac{F_i^2(q)}{q^2}$ in eq. 4) is calculated using the parametrizations of the form factors. The bottom two panels of Fig. 1 show the contributions of nuclear excitations to $S_L(q)$ for $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}$. The contribution of all excitations is largest ($\approx 0.29$) at $q=0.22$ GeV. Although the contributions of different $E_x$ regions to $S_L(q)$ is different for $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}$, the total contribution turns out to be similar for the two nuclei. The total contribution of excitations to $S_L(q)$ in $^{12}\text{C}$ can be parameterized as:

$$Z \frac{F_i^2(q)}{q^2} = N_1 e^{-(x-C_1)^2/D_{1}} + N_2 e^{-(x-C_2)^2/D_{2}} + N_3 e^{-(x-C_3)^2/D_{3}}$$

where $x = q/K_F$ ($K_F = 0.228$ GeV), $N_1 = 0.260$, $C_1 = 1.11$, $D_1 = 0.50$, $N_2 = 0.075$, $C_2 = 0.730$, $D_2 = 0.30$, and $N_3 = 0.01$, $C_3 = 2.0$, $D_3 = 0.30$. The uncertainty in the total contribution of excited states was estimated to 15% plus a systematic error to account for the choice of parametrization at very low $q$ (±0.01) added in quadrature.

The universal fit to the $^{12}\text{C}$ data is an update of the 2012 fit by Bosted and Mynany [9]. The QE contribution is modeled by the superscaling approach [10, 18] with Pauli blocking calculated using the Rosenfelder [13, 14] method. The superscaling function extracted from the fit is similar to the superscaling functions of Amaro 2005 [11] and Amaro 2020 [12] and yields similar Pauli suppression.

In modeling the QE response we use the same scaling function for both $R_L^{\text{QE}}(q, \nu)$ and $R_T^{\text{QE}}(q, \nu)$ and fit for empirical corrections to the response functions. For $R_T^{\text{QE}}$ we extract an additive "Transverse Enhancement/MEC" TE(q, $\nu$) contribution (which includes both single nucleon and two nucleon final states). As shown in ref. [16], TE(q, $\nu$) increases $R_T^{\text{QE}}$ with the largest fractional contribution around $Q^2=0.3$ GeV$^2$. For $R_L^{\text{QE}}$ we extract a

![Fig. 1: Top two panels: Comparison of $R_L(q, \nu)$ extracted from our $^{12}\text{C}$ fit (red) to a sample of experimental data (blue) [8]. For $E_x$ less than 12 MeV the values are multiplied by 1/6. Bottom two panels: The contributions of longitudinal nuclear excitations (between 2 and 55 MeV) to the Coulomb sum rule ($Z \sum_{all} \frac{F_i^2(q)}{q^2}$) in equation 4 for $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}$.](image-url)
FIG. 2: Comparison of the fit to electron scattering \( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\nu} \) measurements\(^{17, 23, 24}\) at \( q \) values close to 0.30, 0.38 and 0.57 GeV (and different scattering angles). Shown are total \( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\nu} \) (solid-purple line), total minus the contribution of the nuclear excitations (solid-blue), the QE cross section without TE (dashed-blue), the TE contribution (solid-red) and inelastic pion production (dot-dashed black line). Additional comparisons are included in supplemental materials\(^{37}\).

### Multiplicative \( q \)-Dependent Longitudinal Quenching Factor

A multiplicative \( q \)-dependent "Longitudinal Quenching Factor", \( F_{\text{quench}}(q) \), which decreases \( R_L^{QE} \) at low \( q \).

Since \( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega d\nu} \) measurements span a large range of \( \theta \) and \( q \), parametrizations of both TE(\( q, \nu \)) and \( F_{\text{quench}}^L(q) \) can be extracted. The analysis includes all data for a large range of nuclei. However, in this paper we only include data on \(^{12}\)C and \(^{16}\)O. Briefly, the updated fit includes:

1. All electron scattering data on \(^1\)H, \(^2\)H, \(^{12}\)C and \(^{16}\)O in addition to the data in the QE\(^{17}\) and resonance\(^{18}\) data archives.

2. Coulomb corrections\(^{19}\) using the Effective Momentum Approximation (EMA) in modeling scattering from nuclear targets.

3. Updated nuclear elastic+excitations form factors.

4. Superscaling \( FN(\psi') \) parameters are re-extracted including the Fermi broadening parameter \( K_F \).

5. Parameterizations of the free nucleon form factors\(^{20}\) are re-derived from all \(^1\)H and \(^2\)H data.

6. Rosenfelder Pauli suppression\(^{13-15}\) which reduces and changes the QE distribution at low \( q \) and \( \nu \).

7. Updates of fits\(^{20}\) to inelastic electron scattering data (in the nucleon resonance region and inelastic continuum) for \(^1\)H and \(^2\)H.

8. A \( q \)-dependent \( E_{\text{shift}}^{QE}(q) \) parameter for the QE process to account for the optical potential\(^{21}\) of final state nucleons.

9. Photo-production data in the nucleon resonance region and inelastic continuum\(^{22}\). The \( K_F \) parameters for pion production and QE can be different.

10. Parametrizations of the medium modifications of both the L and T structure functions responsible for the EMC effect (nuclear dependence of inelastic structure functions). These are applied to the free nucleon cross sections prior to application of the Fermi smearing.

11. Parametrizations of TE(\( q, \nu \)) and \( F_{\text{quench}}^L(q) \) as described below.

12. QE data at all values of \( Q^2 \) down to \( Q^2=0.01 \) GeV\(^2 \) (\( q=0.1 \) GeV) (which were not included in the Bosted-Mamyan fit).

The average (over \( \nu \)) Pauli suppression factor for \( x < 2.5 \) (\( x = q/K_F, K_F=0.228 \) GeV) is described by:

\[
\langle F_{\text{Pauli}}^{\text{This analysis}}(q) \rangle = \sum_{j=0}^{j=3} k_j(x)^j.
\] (6)

Using the Rosenfeld method with superscaling function used in this analysis, we find \( k_0=0.3054, k_1=0.7647, \)
$k_2=-0.2768$ and $k_3=0.0328$. The Pauli suppression factor for $x > 2.5$ is 1.0.

Comparisons of the fit to electron scattering $d^2\sigma/dq^2$ measurements\cite{17,23,24} at different values of $\theta$ for $q$ values close to 0.30, 0.38 and 0.57 GeV (corresponding to extractions of $R_L$ and $R_T$ by Jourdan\cite{25}) are shown in Fig. 2. Shown are the total $d^2\sigma/dq^2$ cross section (solid-purple line), the total minus the contribution of nuclear excitations (solid-blue), the QE cross section without TE (dashed-blue), the TE contribution (solid-red), and inelastic pion production (dot-dashed black). An estimated resolution smearing of 3.5 MeV has been applied to the excitations to better match the data.

The fit is in good agreement with all electron scattering data for both small and large $\theta$.

The extracted QE "Longitudinal Quenching Factor" $F^L_{\text{quench}}(q)$ is unity for $x>3.75$, and is zero for $x<0.35$. For $0.35 < x < 4.0$ it is parameterized by:

$$F^L_{\text{quench}}(q) = \frac{(x - 0.2)^2}{(x - 0.18)^2} \left[ 1.0 + A_1(3.75 - x)^{1.5} + A_2(3.75 - x)^{2.5} + A_3(3.75 - x)^{3.5} \right]$$

with $A_1=-0.13152$, $A_2=0.11693$, and $A_3=-0.03675$. The top-left panel of Fig. 3 shows the extracted $F^L_{\text{quench}}(q)$ (black-dotted line). The yellow band includes the statistical, parameterization and a normalization error of 2% (all added in quadrature).

If another formalism is used to model QE scattering (e.g. RFG or spectral functions) then the quenching factor for the model $F^L_{\text{model}}(q)$ is given by:

$$F^L_{\text{model}}(q) = \frac{(F^L_{\text{This-analysis}}(q))}{(F^L_{\text{Pauli}}(q))} F^L_{\text{quench}}(q)$$

The top right panel of Fig. 3 shows the various contributions to the measured $SL(q)$ for $^{12}$C (dotted blue line with yellow error band). Shown are the QE contribution with only Pauli suppression (dotted-purple), QE suppressed by both "Pauli Suppression" and $F^L_{\text{quench}}(q)$ labeled as QE total suppression (solid-green), and the contribution of nuclear excitations (red-dashed line). The green error band is 15% plus 0.01 added in quadrature.

The left panel on the bottom of Fig. 3 shows a comparison of the extracted $SL(q)$ for $^{12}$C (dotted-blue curve with yellow error band) to theoretical calculations. These include the Lovato 2016\cite{26} "First Principle Green’s Function Monte Carlo" (GFMC) calculation (solid-purple line), Mihaila\cite{27} 2000 Coupled-Clusters based calculation (AV18+UIX potential, dashed-green),
and Cloet 2016 RPA calculation (RPA solid-red). Our measurement for $^{12}\text{C}$ are in disagreement with Cloet 2016 RPA, and in reasonable agreement with Lovato 2016 and Mihaila 2000 except near $q \approx 0.30$ GeV where the contribution from nuclear excitations is significant.

There is not enough QE data for $^{16}\text{O}$ to perform a complete analysis. We find that the QE fit parameters for $^{12}\text{C}$ also describe all available data on $^{16}\text{O}$. A difference in $SL(q)$ between $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}$ could be the contribution of nuclear excitations. However as shown in Fig. 4 the contributions of nuclear excitations to the $SL(q)$ for $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{16}\text{O}$ are consistent with being equal.

The bottom right panel of Fig. 4 shows $SL(q)$ for $^{16}\text{O}$ (dotted-blue with green error band) compared to theoretical calculations. These include the Sobczyk 2020 "Coupled-Cluster with Singles-and Doubles (CCSD) NNLOsat" (red-dashed line), and Mihaila 2000 Coupled-Cluster calculation with (AV18+U1X potential, dashed green line). The data are in reasonable agreement with Sobczyk 2020 and Mihaila 2000 calculations for $^{16}\text{O}$ except near $q \approx 0.30$ GeV where the contribution from nuclear excitations is significant.

The $TE(q, \nu)$ contribution to the QE transverse structure function $F_T(q, \nu)$ for $^{12}\text{C}$ is parameterized as a distorted Gaussian centered around $W \approx 0.88$ GeV and a Gaussian at $W \approx 1.2$ GeV [30] with $Q^2$ dependent width and amplitude. $F^{MEC}_1=0$ for $\nu < \nu_{min}$ ($\nu_{min}=16.5$ MeV). For $\nu > \nu_{min}$ it is given by:

$$F^{MEC}_1 = \max((f_1^A + f_1^B), 0)$$

$$f_1^A = a_1 Y \cdot (W^2 - W_{\text{min}}^2)^{1.5} \cdot e^{-(W^2-b_1^2/2c_1^2)}$$

$$f_1^B = a_2 Y \cdot (Q^2 + Q_{\text{min}}^2)^{1.5} \cdot e^{-(W^2-b_2^2/2c_2^2)}$$

$$Y = A e^{-Q^2/12.715} \left(\frac{Q^2 + Q_{\text{min}}^2}{0.13380 + Q^2/0.90679}\right)$$

$$a_1 = 0.091648, \quad a_2 = 0.10223$$

$$W_{\text{min}}^2 = M_p^2 + 2M_p\nu_{\text{min}} - Q^2$$

where $Q^2$ is in units of GeV$^2$, $M_p$ is the proton mass, $A$ is the atomic weight, $q_0^2 = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$, $b_1 = 0.77023$, $c_1 = 0.077051 + 0.26795Q^2$, $b_2 = 1.275$, and $c_2 = 0.375$.

The parameters of the empirical model of $TE(q, \nu)$ contribution in electron scattering can be used to predict the $TE(q, \nu)$ contribution in neutrino scattering [31].

A comparison between our extraction of $R_L(q, \nu)$ and $R_T(q, \nu)$ and the extraction (for only three values of $q$) by Jourdan [25] is shown in Fig. 4. At the lowest $q$ our $R_L(q, \nu)$ is a somewhat lower and our $R_T(q, \nu)$ is a somewhat higher (the Jourdan analysis includes data from only two experiments). Also shown are two 1-body+2-body current (1b+2b) calculations: GFMC [26] and "Energy Dependent-Relativistic Mean Field" (ED-RMF) [32]. In our fit, we show each nuclear excitation with excitation energy $L$, the transverse enhancement in both 1b and 2b currents is included in the total.
both 1b and 2b currents are included. The curves labeled 2b in Fig. 4 show the enhancement in $R^{QE}_{\text{LR}}(q,\nu)$ from 2b currents only [i.e. $(1b+2b)$ minus $(1b$ only)], while our empirical extraction of $T E(q,\nu)$ shown in Fig. 4 models the enhancement in $R_{\text{LR}}(q,\nu)$ from all sources.

In summary, using all available electron scattering data we extract parameterizations of the quenching of the $R^{QE}_{\text{LR}}(q,\nu)$ and the enhancement of $R^{QE}_{\text{LR}}(q,\nu)$ over a large range of $q$ and $\nu$, and obtain the best measurement of the Coulomb Sum Rule $SL(q)$ to date. The measured $SL(q)$ for $^{12}$C are inconsistent with Cloet 2016 RPA, but in reasonable agreement with Lovato 2016 and Mihaila 2000 calculations. The sum rule $SL(q)$ for $^{16}$O is in reasonable agreement with Sobczyk 2020 and Mihaila 2000 calculations.

The contribution of nuclear excitations to $SL(q)$ is significant (up to 20%). Theoretical studies show that at low $q$ nuclear excitations are also significant in $\nu_{e,\mu}$ scattering\cite{33,34}. Therefore, nuclear excitations should be included in both electron and $\nu_{e,\mu}$ MC generators. Decays of excitations with $E_x$ above proton removal threshold can have a proton in the final state (which in $\nu_{e,\mu}$ experiments cannot be distinguished from QE events).

Additional comparisons of our fit to experimental data are included in the supplemental materials\cite{57}. New precision $^{12}$C QE data from both Hall C\cite{35} (at low $q$ and forward angles) and Hall A (specifically taken to examine the saturation of the CSR) are expected to be finalized soon and to further improve the separation of longitudinal and transverse cross sections via future fitting efforts. This Research is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, under University of Rochester grant number DE-SC0008475, and the Office of Science, Office of Nuclear Physics under contract DE-AC05-06OR23177.

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0.854 GeV.

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[37] Supplemental materials [URL will be inserted by publisher]

I. SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Additional comparisons of the universal fit to some of the measurements of \( \frac{d^2\sigma}{dtd\Omega} \) on \(^{12}\)C and \(^{16}\)O.
FIG. 5: Radiatively corrected inelastic electron scattering cross sections on $^{12}$C for excitation energies less than 50 MeV. The cross sections for excitation energies less than 12 MeV have been multiplied by (1/6). The pink solid line is the predicted $d^2\sigma/d\omega dQ^2$ from our fit which include nuclear states excitation form factor, quasielastic scattering (dashed blue line), "Transverse Enhancement/MEC" (solid red line) and inelastic pion production (at higher excitation energies). Most of the data is from Yamaguchi 1971 (Phys. Rev. D3 (1971) 1750). The data for 54 MeV and 180$^0$ are from Goldemberg 1964 (Phys. Rev. 134 (1964) B963), and the data for 65 MeV and 180$^0$ are from deForest 1965 (Phys. Letters 16 (1965), 311).
FIG. 6: Comparisons our fit to a subset of electron scattering differential cross section data with $Q^2 < 0.12$ GeV$^2$. The total $d^2\sigma / d\Omega dE'$ is shown as the solid purple line. The dashed blue line is the QE differential cross section. The TE contribution to the QE differential cross section is shown as the solid red line. Inelastic pion production processes are shown as the dot-dashed black line. The fit is in good agreement with the cross section data for both small and large angles. The values of $Q^2$ increase from top bottom from $Q^2 = 0.009$ to $Q^2 = 0.121$ GeV$^2$. Data are from Barreau 1983 (Nucl. Phys. 402A (1983) 515) and Baran 1988 (Phys. Rev. Lett. 61 (1988) 400).
FIG. 7: Comparison of our fit (using $^{12}$C parameters) to all available $\frac{d^2\sigma}{dE d\Omega}$ measurements on $^{16}$O. Data are from O'Connell 1987 (Phys. Rev. C35 (1987) 1063), Anghinolfi 1995 (J. Phy. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 21 L9, 1995) and Anghinolfi 1996 (Nucl. Phys. A602 (1996) 405).