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The Generalized Polarizabilities of the proton

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The Generalized Polarizabilities (GPs) are fundamental quantities of the nucleon and as such they are extremely valuable for a complete understanding of the nucleon structure. The GPs can be accessed experimentally through measurements of the Virtual Compton Scattering reaction. They can be seen as Fourier transforms of local polarization densities (electric, magnetic, and spin) and are a probe of the nucleon dynamics, allowing us to study the role of the pion cloud and of the quark core contributions at various length scales. In this talk recent results from MAMI will be presented and future experimental prospects at JLab will be discussed.

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