



The UPC related physics in heavy-ion collisions

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Coherent photons as "partons" in heavy-ion collisions



Photon four momentum: $q^u = (\omega, \ \vec{q}_T, \omega/\nu)$ $Q^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{\gamma^2} + q_T^2$ $\omega \le \omega_{max} \sim \frac{\gamma}{R}$

Coherent limitation: $Q^2 \leq 1/R^2 \Rightarrow$ quasi-real !

 View photons as "partons" being present with fast moving ions! The extent of photons swarming about the ions:

The radius of nuclear matter $R_{Nuc} \sim 6.3$ fm (Au) $R_{photons} >> R_{Nuc}$

Take the photoproduction of ρ (Au+Au 200 GeV)in ultra-peripheral collisions (UPCs) as example: $\langle R_{producton} \rangle \sim 40$ fm

Physics Today 70, 10, 40 (2017)

Photon interactions in A+A



 This large flux of quasi-real photons makes a hadron collider also a photon collider!

- ✓ Photon-nucleus interactions: Vector meson
- ✓ Photon-photon interactions: dileptons …
- Conventionally believed to be only exist in ultra-peripheral collisions (UPC) to keep "coherent"!

Vector meson photon-production

Vector meson production: ✓ chargeless 'Pomeron exchange' \checkmark Light meson production is usually treated via vector meson dominance model: ρ, direct $\pi^+\pi^-$, ω.... ✓ Heavy quarkonia production could be treated with pQCD: J/ψ, ψ', Y(1S), Y(2S), Y(3S)... Sensitive to the gluon distribution:

$$\frac{d\sigma(\gamma A \to VA)}{dt} \bigg|_{t=0} = \frac{\alpha_s^2 \Gamma_{ee}}{3\alpha M_V^5} 16\pi^3 \left[x G_A(x, Q^2) \right]$$

$$x = \frac{M_V e^{\pm y}}{\sqrt{s}} \quad Q^2 = M_V^2/4$$





J/ψ photoproduction in p+Pb UPCs

Equivalent photon Approximation:

$$\frac{d^3 N_{\gamma}(k,r)}{dk d^2 r} = \frac{Z^2 \alpha x^2}{\pi^2 k r^2} K_1^2(x)$$

- Negligible contribution of photon flux from p side
 - ✓ No ambiguity for gammaproton center-of-mass energy (in comparison with that in p+p collisions)
- Small background from gamma-gamma to lepton pair

Wγp ~ [20 – 700] GeV

 $x \approx [10^{-2} - 10^{-5}]$

The results from Run I

Eur. Phys. J. C 79 (2019) 402



Exclusive J/ ψ photoproduction off a proton with ALICE at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ = 5.02 TeV

J/ψ photoproduction in p+Pb UPCs





- Collected statistics 2-5 times compared to Run 1 data (more efficient triggering)
- Reachable gamma-proton CMS above 1 TeV
- x reaches 10⁻⁵

J/ψ photoproduction in Pb+Pb UPCs



Various precise measurements! Powerful to constrain nPDF

The results: impulse approximation



- The impulse approximation significantly overestimates the data => Significant shadowing effect
- The difference becomes smaller towards forward rapidity => Less shadowing effect towards high x

The Bayesian reweighting of nuclear PDFs

The PDFs replica f_k can be constructed by the Hessian error set:

$$f_k \equiv f_{S_0} + \sum_{i} \left(\frac{f_{S_i^+} - f_{S_i^-}}{2} \right) R_{ik}$$

JHEP**08** (2012) 052

Any quantity $\mathcal{O}[f]$ depending on PDFs can be determined via:

AT

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{N_{\text{rep}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\text{rep}}} \mathcal{O}[f_k]$$

For a new measurement, $y = \{y_1, y_2, ..., y_n\}$, the reweighted PDF could be evaluated by:

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{new}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{rep}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\text{rep}}} w_k \mathcal{O}[f_k]$$
$$w_k = \frac{(\chi_k^2)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-1)} e^{-\chi_k^2/2}}{\frac{1}{N_{\text{rep}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\text{rep}}} (\chi_k^2)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-1)} e^{-\chi_k^2/2}} \chi_k^2(y, f_k) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n (y_i - y_i[f_k]) \operatorname{cov}_{ij}^{-1}(y_j - y_j[f_k])$$

Nuclear shadowing from J/ ψ measurements in UPCs



- The UPC measurements dramatically reduce the uncertainty band of EPPS16 and nCTEQ15 PDF sets.
- Significant shadowing effect has been observed in both PDF sets at small x.

Further measurements from Run 2 at mid-rapidity



J/ψ -> e⁺ e⁻



Counts/50 MeV/c² 25 ALICE Preliminary, Pb-Pb \s_{NN} = 5.02 TeV $J/\psi \rightarrow p \overline{p}$ UPC, $L_{\rm int} \approx 95 \mu b^{-1}$ 20 Coherent enriched sample $p_{\tau} < 0.2 \text{ GeV}/c$ 15 Opposite sign Like sign 10 Signal $N_{J/\psi}=36\pm6$ 5 2.4 2.6 3.2 3.4 3.6 3.8 $\begin{array}{c} 4 & 4.2 \\ M_{p \overline{p}} (\text{GeV}/c^2) \end{array}$ 2.8 з

 $J/\psi \rightarrow p \bar{p}$

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- Significant enhancement of J/ψ yield observed in p_T interval 0 – 0.3 GeV/c for peripheral collisions (50 – 90%).
- Can not be described by hadronic production modified by the hot medium or cold nuclear matter effects!

Origin from coherent photon-nucleus interactions?

The observations at STAR



- Significant enhancement of J/ψ yield observed at p_T interval 0 – 0.2 GeV/c for peripheral collisions.
- No significant difference between Au+Au and U+U collisions.



- Similar structure to that in UPC case!
- Indication of interference!
 - Interference shape from calculation PRC 97 (2018) 044910
- Similar slope parameter!
 - ✓ Slope from STARLIGHT prediction in UPC case – 196 (GeV/c)⁻²
 - ✓ Slope w/o the first point: 177 ± 23 (GeV/c)⁻² $\chi^2/NDF = 1.7/2$

Comparison with model calculation



- Well described by the coherent photoproduction mechanism for peripheral collisions
- Hint of disruption from the medium
 - ✓ The observation effect PRC 99, 061901 (2019)
 - ✓ The QGP swallowing

The observations at Run 2



Comparison with model calculation



- Well described by the coherent photoproduction mechanism for peripheral collisions
- Hint of disruption from the medium
 - ✓ More statistics at mid-rapidity
 - ✓ More precise measurements toward central collisions

Photon-photon interactions in UPC

• Test QED --- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$ Dileptons

 \checkmark Z α ~ 0.6, so perturbation theory might fail



Data is in excellent agreement with lowest order QED!

The measurements in non-UPC collisions



- Significant excess in 60-80% central Au + Au and U + U collisions for the whole invariant mass range!
- The excess can be described by the coherent photon-photon process!

The puzzle: pair p_T broadening



- The equivalent photon approximation could not describe the pair p_T distribution
- Possible medium effects --- magnetic field trapped in the QGP?

The puzzle: pair p_T broadening



S.R. Klein etal, PRL122 (2019) 132301

The physics origin of the puzzle

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Final-state broadening



Initial-state broadening



The excess observed from Run 2 data



- Significant excess has been observed in peripheral collisions
- Can be described the lowest-order QED calculation (initial broadening)

Check the broadening baseline in UPCs



Control the "centralities" in UPCs

Significant "centrality" dependence for the broadening in UPCs

The "centrality" trigger capability in UPC at ALICE



Excellent "centrality" trigger capability in UPCs

Summary

- The J/ψ photoproduction in p+Pb UPCs
 ✓ Constrain the gluon PDF in proton at small x
- The J/ψ photoproduction in Pb+Pb UPCs
 ✓ Significant shadowing effect
- Excess of J/ ψ production at very low p_T in Pb+Pb peripheral collisions
 - ✓ Existence of coherent photoproduction in non UPCs
 - ✓ Novel probe for QGP?
- Dielectron photoproduction in UPC
 - ✓ Agree well with lowest order QED
- Excess of dielectron at very low p_T in Pb+Pb peripheral collisions
 - ✓ Coherent photon-photon interaction in non UPCs
 - \checkmark Can be described by initial broadening

Outlook

