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# Lepton pair photoproduction in peripheral relativistic heavy-ion collisions

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## Introduction

## > Theoretical framework

### > Numerical results



# **Breit-Wheeler process**

#### Collisions of Light Produce Matter/Antimatter from Pure Energy

Study demonstrates a long-predicted process for generating matter directly from light – plus evidence that magnetism can bend polarized photons along different paths in a vacuum

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Making matter from light: Two gold (Au) ions (red) move in opposite direction at 99.995% of the speed of light (v, for velocity, = approximately c, the speed of light). As the ions pass one another without colliding, two photons (v) from the electromagnetic cloud surrounding the ions can interact with each other to create a matter-antimater pair, an electron (e<sup>3</sup>) and pairton (e<sup>3</sup>).

#### STAR PRL 127, 052302 (2021)



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### PHYSICAL REVIEW

SCATTERING OF HARD  $\gamma$ -RAYS By C. Y. Chao\* Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology (Received October 13, 1930)

PHYSICS: C. Y. CHAO

THE ABSORPTION COEFFICIENT OF HARD γ-RAYS By C. Y. Chao\*

NORMAN BRIDGE LABORATORY OF PHYSICS, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOG Communicated May 15, 1930



#### Collision of Two Light Quanta

G. BREIT\* AND JOHN A. WHEELER,\*\* Department of Physics, New York University (Received October 23, 1934)



# **Equivalent Photon Approximation**



The photon flux are proportional to the F.T. of the Poynting vector.

Weizsacker- Williams, 1934

# **Strong EM fields in RHIC**



•  $eB \sim 10^{18}G$  in Au+Au collisions

at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{GeV}$ 

Quasi-real energetic photons

- Hadronic processes are suppressed in Ultra-peripheral collision ( $b > 2R_A$ )
- UPC provides an opportunity to study the QED under extreme conditions.

# Lepton pair photoproduction in UPC

### $> \gamma \gamma \rightarrow l^+ l^-$ processes has been measured in UPC

STAR, J. Adam et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 052302 (2021), 1910.12400.
ATLAS, G. Aad et al., Phys. Rev. C 104, 024906 (2021), 2011.12211.
CMS, A. M. Sirunyan et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 122001 (2021), 2011.05239.
ALICE, Abbas, E et al., Eur.Phys.J.C 73 (2013)11, 2617, 1305.1467.

# Lepton pair photoproduction in PC

# $ightarrow \gamma\gamma \rightarrow l^+l^-$ processes has also been measured in peripheral collisions (*b* < 2*R*<sub>A</sub> PC)

STAR, J. Adam et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 132301 (2018), 1806.02295.
ATLAS, M. Aaboud et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 212301 (2018), 1806.08708.
ALICE, Sebastian Lehner et al., PoS LHCP2019 (2019) 164, 1909.02508.

# Lepton pair photoproduction in PC



• Excesses above hadronic production has been observed at low transverse momenta of dileptons ( $P_T^{ee}$ )

# $P_T^{ee}$ broadening in PC



STAR PRL 121, 132301 (2018)

- Higher  $\sqrt{(P_T^{ee})^2}$  seen in PC than UPC
- STARlight do not have such impact parameter dependence
- Final state interaction of lepton with medium? Lorentz force effects?
- Initial photon transverse momentum distribution and Sudakov factor can lead to  $P_T^{ee}$  broadening effect, which provide a baseline for the medium effect.

## **Azimuthal asymmetry & vacuum birefringence**



The vacuum birefringence are thought to be related to the azimuthal asymmetry of lepton pairs in the Breit-Wheeler process.



 $\Delta \phi = \Delta \phi[(e^+ + e^-), (e^+ - e^-)]$  $\approx \Delta \phi[(e^+ + e^-), e^+]$ 

#### STAR PRL 127, 052302 (2021) C. Li, J. Zhou, and Y.-J. Zhou, 1903.10084, 1911.00237.

# Main theoretical methods

≻ EPA

A. J. Baltz, Y. Gorbunov, S. R. Klein, and J. Nystrand, 0907.1214

W. Zha, L. Ruan, Z. Tang, Z. Xu, and S. Yang, 1804.01813

➢ QED in background field approach and Generalized EPA

M. Vidovic, M. Greiner, C. Best, and G. Soff, 1993

K. Hencken, G. Baur, and D. Trautmann, 0402061

W. Zha, J. D. Brandenburg, Z. Tang, and Z. Xu, 1812.02820

Transverse momentum dependent distribution (TMD) and Wigner function factorization formalism

C. Li, J. Zhou, and Y.-J. Zhou, 1903.10084, 1911.00237.

B.-W. Xiao, F. Yuan, and J. Zhou PRL, 125, 232301

S. Klein, A. H. Mueller, B.-W. Xiao, and F. Yuan, 2003.02947

What is the connection between these methods?

RJW, Shi Pu, Qun Wang, PRD 2021

# **Cross section for photoproduction**

# Starting point: Wave packets form of nuclear state $|A_1A_2\rangle_{in} = \int \frac{d^3P_1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3P_2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\phi(P_1)\phi(P_2)e^{ib_T \cdot P_1}}{\sqrt{2E_{P1}}} |P_1P_2\rangle_{in}$ $\sigma = \int d^{2}\boldsymbol{b}_{T} \sum_{\{f\}} \int \frac{d^{3}k_{1}}{(2\pi)^{3}2E_{k1}} \frac{d^{3}k_{2}}{(2\pi)^{3}2E_{k2}} \prod_{f} \frac{d^{3}K_{f}}{(2\pi)^{3}2E_{Kf}} \\ \times \left| out^{\left\langle k_{1}, k_{2}, \sum_{f} K_{f} \middle| A_{1}A_{2} \right\rangle} in \right|^{2}$



# **Cross section for photoproduction**

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^{3}k_{1}d^{3}k_{2}} = \frac{1}{32(2\pi)^{6}} \frac{1}{E_{k1}E_{k2}} \int d^{2}b_{T}d^{2}b_{1T}d^{2}b_{2T} \int d^{4}p_{1}d^{4}p_{2}$$

$$\times \delta^{2}(b_{T} - b_{1T} + b_{2T})(2\pi)^{4}\delta^{4}(p_{1} + p_{2} - k_{1} - k_{2})$$

$$\times \int \frac{d^{2}P_{(1+1')T}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \frac{d^{2}P_{(2+2')T}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \frac{1}{v\sqrt{E_{P1}E_{P2}E_{P1'}E_{P2'}}}$$

$$\times G^{2}\left[(P_{1}^{\prime T} - P_{A1}^{2})^{2}\right]\phi_{T}(P_{1T})\phi_{T}(P_{2T})\phi_{T}(P_{2T})$$

$$\times S_{\sigma\mu}(p_{1}, b_{1T})S_{\rho\nu}(p_{2}, b_{2T})$$

$$\times \sum_{\text{spin of }\overline{ll}} L^{\mu\nu}(p_{1}, p_{2}, k_{1}, k_{2})L^{*\sigma\rho}(p_{1}', p_{2}', k_{1}, k_{2})$$

$$Lepton part$$

$$Wigner functions for photons in Born level:$$

$$S_{\sigma\mu}(p_{1}, b_{1T}) = \int \frac{d^{2}\Delta_{1T}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \frac{d^{4}y_{1}}{(2\pi)^{4}}e^{ip_{1}\cdot y_{1}}\langle P_{1}'|A_{\sigma}^{\dagger}(0)A_{\mu}(y_{1})|P_{1}\rangle e^{-ib_{1T}\cdot\Delta_{1T}}$$

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# **Classical field approximation**



$$\begin{split} \sigma &= \frac{Z^4 e^4}{2\gamma^4 v^3} \int d^2 \boldsymbol{b}_T d^2 \boldsymbol{b}_{1T} d^2 \boldsymbol{b}_{2T} \int \frac{d\omega_1 d^2 \boldsymbol{p}_{1T}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d\omega_2 d^2 \boldsymbol{p}_{2T}}{(2\pi)^3} \\ &\times \int \frac{d^2 \boldsymbol{p}'_{1T}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i\boldsymbol{b}_{1T} \cdot (\boldsymbol{p}'_{1T} - \boldsymbol{p}_{1T})} \frac{F^* (-\bar{p}_1'^2)}{-\bar{p}_1'^2} \frac{F(-\bar{p}_1^2)}{-\bar{p}_1^2} \\ &\times \int \frac{d^2 \boldsymbol{p}'_{2T}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i\boldsymbol{b}_{2T} \cdot (\boldsymbol{p}'_{2T} - \boldsymbol{p}_{2T})} \frac{F^* (-\bar{p}_2'^2)}{-\bar{p}_2'^2} \frac{F(-\bar{p}_2^2)}{-\bar{p}_2'^2} \\ &\times \int \frac{d^3 k_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{k1}} \frac{d^3 k_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{k2}} (2\pi)^4 \delta^4 (\bar{p}_1 + \bar{p}_2 - k_1 - k_2) \\ &\times \sum_{\text{spin of } l\bar{l}} \left[ u_{1\mu} u_{2\nu} L^{\mu\nu} \right] \left[ u_{1\sigma} u_{2\rho} L^{*\sigma\rho} \right] \delta^2 (\boldsymbol{b}_T - \boldsymbol{b}_{1T} + \boldsymbol{b}_{2T}) \end{split}$$

Nuclear charge form factor

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# **High energy expansion**

Ward identity:

 $p_{1\mu}L^{\mu\nu} = p_{2\nu}L^{\mu\nu} = 0$ 

 $\frac{p_1^+}{\omega_1}, \frac{p_2^-}{\omega_2} \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \qquad \qquad \frac{p_1^i}{\omega_1}, \frac{p_2^i}{\omega_2} \sim \mathcal{O}(\gamma^{-1})$ 

 $\frac{p_1^-}{\omega_1}, \frac{p_2^+}{\omega_2} \sim \mathcal{O}(\gamma^{-2}) \qquad \qquad \frac{p^2}{\omega^2} \sim \mathcal{O}(\gamma^{-2})$ 

$$\begin{aligned} u_{1\mu}u_{2\nu}L^{\mu\nu} &= \gamma^2 v^2 \frac{p_1^i}{\omega_1} \frac{p_2^j}{\omega_2} L^{ij} \\ &- 2\gamma^2 v^2 \left( \frac{p_1^i}{\omega_1} \frac{p_2^+}{\omega_2} L^{i-} + \frac{p_1^-}{\omega_1} \frac{p_2^j}{\omega_2} L^{+j} \right) \\ &+ 4\gamma^2 v^2 \frac{p_1^-}{\omega_1} \frac{p_2^+}{\omega_2} L^{+-} \end{aligned}$$

 It implies that the photons are almost on-shell at Ultrarelativistic limit

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 + \delta\sigma$$

# **Equivalent Photon Approximation**

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 + \delta \sigma$$
Beyond EPA

$$\sigma_{0} = \int d^{2}\boldsymbol{b}_{T} d^{2}\boldsymbol{b}_{1T} d^{2}\boldsymbol{b}_{2T} \int d\omega_{1} d^{2}\boldsymbol{p}_{1T} d\omega_{2} d^{2}\boldsymbol{p}_{2T}$$

$$\times \boldsymbol{n}_{A1}(\omega_{1}, \boldsymbol{p}_{1T}, \boldsymbol{b}_{1T}) \boldsymbol{n}_{A2}(\omega_{2}, \boldsymbol{p}_{2T}, \boldsymbol{b}_{2T})$$

$$\times \delta^{2}(\boldsymbol{b}_{T} - \boldsymbol{b}_{1T} + \boldsymbol{b}_{2T}) \sigma_{\gamma\gamma \to l\bar{l}}(\omega_{1}, \omega_{2})$$

#### Photon flux:

$$\begin{split} n_{A1}(\omega_{1}, \boldsymbol{p}_{1T}, \boldsymbol{b}_{1T}) &= \frac{Z^{2} \alpha}{\omega_{1} \pi^{2}} \int \frac{d^{2} \boldsymbol{p}_{1T}'}{(2\pi)^{2}} |\boldsymbol{p}_{1T}| |\boldsymbol{p}_{1T}'| e^{-i\boldsymbol{b}_{1T} \cdot (\boldsymbol{p}_{1T}' - \boldsymbol{p}_{1T})} \\ &\times \frac{F^{*}(-\boldsymbol{p}_{1}'^{2})}{-\boldsymbol{p}_{1}'^{2}} \frac{F(-\boldsymbol{p}_{1}^{2})}{-\boldsymbol{p}_{1}^{2}} \\ n_{A1}(\omega_{1}, \boldsymbol{b}_{1T}) &= \int d^{2} \boldsymbol{p}_{1T} n_{A1}(\omega_{1}, \boldsymbol{p}_{1T}, \boldsymbol{b}_{1T}) \\ &= \frac{4Z^{2} \alpha}{\omega_{1}} \left| \int \frac{d^{2} \boldsymbol{p}_{1T}}{(2\pi)^{2}} e^{i\boldsymbol{b}_{1T} \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_{1T}} \frac{F(-\boldsymbol{p}_{1}^{2})}{-\boldsymbol{p}_{1}^{2}} \right|^{2} \end{split}$$

- $\sigma_{\text{twist 2}} = \sigma_0$
- Ultra-relativistic limit lead to the results of gEPA

## **Numeral calculations**

#### Nuclear charge form factor:



$$F(q) = \frac{4\pi\rho^{0}}{q^{3}A} [\sin(qR_{A}) - qR_{A}\cos(qR_{A})] \frac{1}{a^{2}q^{2} + 1}$$

$$a = 0.7 \text{ fm} \qquad F(q \to 0) = 1$$

$$R_{A} = 1.2A^{\frac{1}{3}} \text{ fm} \qquad \rho^{0} = \frac{3A}{4\pi R_{A}^{3}}$$
S. Klein and J. Nystrand, 9902259

High-dimensional integrals:

ZMCintegral

J.-J. Zhang, H.-Z. Wu, S. Pu, G.-Y. Qin, and Q. Wang, 1912.04457

# Numerical results ( $P_T^{ee}$ distribution)



- The transverse momentum of initial photons has an  $b_T$ dependence, which plays an important role in understanding the  $P_T^{l\bar{l}}$  broadening effects.
- Need high order correction: Sudakov factor.

RJW, Shuo Lin, Shi Pu, Yifei Zhang, Qun Wang, Received by PRD

## Numerical results (Azimuthal asymmetry)



- The linear polarization information of photons is important for understanding the azimuthal asymmetry of the lepton pair.
- The  $\cos 2\varphi$  modulations of  $\mu^+\mu^-$  are higher than  $e^+e^-$  case.

C. Li, J. Zhou, and Y.-J. Zhou, 1903.10084, 1911.00237.

#### RJW, Shuo Lin, Shi Pu, Yifei Zhang, Qun Wang, Received by PRD

## Numerical results (Invariant mass distribution)



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- A general form of the lepton pair photoproduction cross section was derived in terms of photon distributions which depend on the transverse momentum and coordinate based on the wave packet form of nuclear wave functions.
- $\gamma\gamma$  processes: test QED under extreme conditions, may provide a baseline for the medium effect in PC.
- The information on the transverse momentum and polarization for photons are essential to describe the experimental data.
- High order corrections need to be considered.



# **Thanks for your attention!**