

# The Curious Story of the Photon

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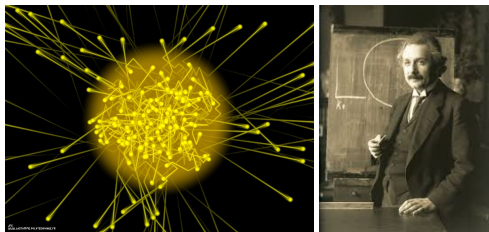
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- S. Klein, A. Mueller, BX, F. Yuan, 1811.05519; 2003.02947;
- Y. Shi, L. Wang, S. Y. Wei, BX, L. Zheng, 2008.03569

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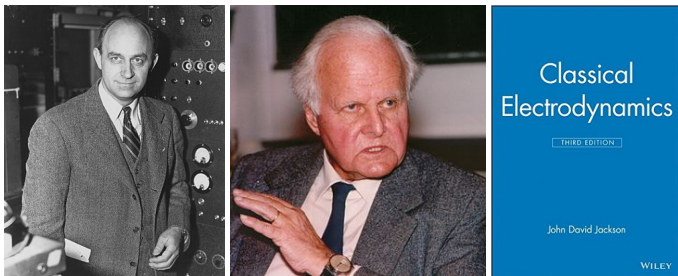
## Early History of the Photon



- Photons are quanta of EM radiation and represent the particle nature of light.
- **A. Einstein** was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics (1921)  
“for his services to Theoretical Physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the **photoelectric effect**.”
- This led us into the **quantum world** and the concept of Wave-Particle duality.



## Classical Electrodynamics and Virtual Quanta

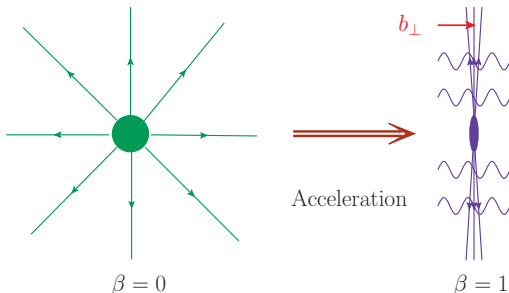


- Following [Fermi](#)[24], [Weizsäcker](#) [34] and [Williams](#) [35] discovered that the EM fields of a relativistically moving charged particle are almost **transverse**.
- This is equivalent to say that the charged particle carries a cloud of **quasi-real photons**, which are ready to be **radiated if perturbed**.
- [Weizsäcker-Williams](#) method of virtual quanta (Equivalent Photon Approximation).
- Application in QCD: WW gluon distribution. [[McLerran](#), [Venugopalan](#), 94; [Kovchegov](#), 96; [Jalilian-Marian](#), [Kovner](#), [McLerran](#) and [Weigert](#), 97]



## EPA and Weizsäcker-Williams Photon Distribution

Boost the static potential to the infinite momentum frame ( $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$ ):  
 [Jackiw, Kabat and Ortiz, 92] and HW problem (P11.18) in [Jackson]



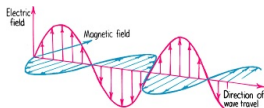
Static electric fields  $\Rightarrow$  **Electro-Magnetic Wave**  
 $\Rightarrow$  The EM pulses are equivalent to a lot of photons

$$A_{Cov}^+ = -\frac{q}{\pi} \ln(\lambda b_{\perp}) \delta(t - z),$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{q}{2\pi} \frac{\vec{b}_{\perp}}{b_{\perp}^2} \delta(t - z),$$

$$\vec{B} = \frac{q}{2\pi} \frac{\hat{v} \times \vec{b}_{\perp}}{b_{\perp}^2} \delta(t - z),$$

$$\vec{A}_{\perp}^{LC} = -\frac{q}{2\pi} [\vec{\nabla}_{\perp} \ln(\lambda b_{\perp})] \theta(t - z).$$



- The gauge potentials  $A_{\mu}$  in Covariant gauge and LC gauge are related by a gauge transformation.  $\lambda$  is an irrelevant parameter setting the scale.
- **Classical EM: transverse EM fields**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **QM: Co-moving Quasi-real photons.**

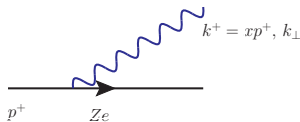


## Transverse Momentum Dependent (TMD) Photon Distribution

The photon distribution (flux) for a **point particle** can be computed from  $\vec{A}_{\perp}^{LC}$

$$xf_{\gamma}(x, b_{\perp}) = \frac{Z^2 \alpha}{\pi^2} x^2 m^2 K_1^2(xm b_{\perp}) = \frac{Z^2 \alpha}{\pi^2 b_{\perp}^2} \Big|_{m \rightarrow 0} \quad \text{with } q = Ze.$$

The photon distribution in the transverse momentum space



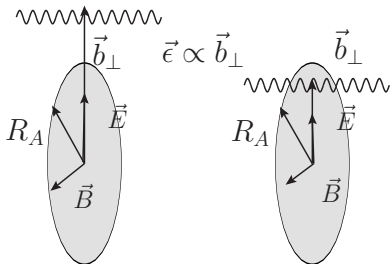
$$xf_{\gamma}(x, \vec{k}_{\perp}) = \int \frac{d\xi^- d^2 \xi_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^3} e^{-ixp^+ \xi^- - ik_{\perp} \cdot \xi_{\perp}} \left\langle A \left| F^{+i} \left( \frac{\xi}{2} \right) F^{+i} \left( -\frac{\xi}{2} \right) \right| A \right\rangle$$

$$\simeq \frac{Z^2 \alpha}{\pi^2} \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{(k_{\perp}^2 + x^2 M^2)^2} F_A^2(k^2).$$

- $F_A(k^2)$  is the charge form factor with  $k^2 = k_{\perp}^2 + x^2 M^2$ .  $F_A = 1$  for point charge
- Wood-Saxon or Gaussian models for realistic nuclei.
- Typical transverse momentum of the photon is  $1/R_A$ , which is 30MeV for *Pb*.



## Linearly Polarized Photon



- $E$  is linearly polarized along the impact parameter  $b_{\perp}$  direction;
- $\vec{B} \perp \vec{E}$ ;
- The LC gauge potential  $A_{\perp} \propto \vec{b}_{\perp}$ ;
- Polarization vector  $\vec{\epsilon}_{\perp} = \vec{b}_{\perp}/b_{\perp}$ .
- Similar case in momentum space.

- WW photon distribution is maximally polarized, since  $xf_{\gamma} = xh_{\gamma}$ .

$$xf_{\gamma}^{ij}(x; b_{\perp}) = \int \frac{d^2 \Delta_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{i\Delta_{\perp} \cdot b_{\perp}} \langle A, -\frac{\Delta_{\perp}}{2} | F^{+i} F^{+j} | A, \frac{\Delta_{\perp}}{2} \rangle,$$

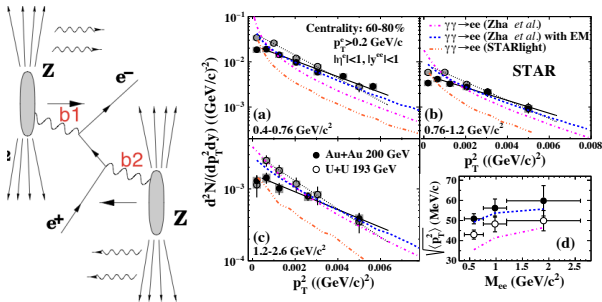
$$xf_{\gamma}^{ij}(x; b_{\perp}) = \frac{\delta^{ij}}{2} xf_{\gamma}(x; b_{\perp}) + \left( \frac{b_{\perp}^i b_{\perp}^j}{b_{\perp}^2} - \frac{\delta^{ij}}{2} \right) xh_{\gamma}(x; b_{\perp}) = \frac{b_{\perp}^i b_{\perp}^j}{b_{\perp}^2} xf_{\gamma},$$

$$xh_{\gamma}(x, b_{\perp}) = xf_{\gamma}(x, b_{\perp}) = 4Z^2 \alpha \left| \int \frac{d^2 k_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{ik_{\perp} \cdot b_{\perp}} \frac{\vec{k}_{\perp}}{k^2} F_A(k^2) \right|^2$$



## The Need of Photon Wigner Distribution from Experiments

STAR[1806.02295], ATLAS ([CONF-2019-051]) and CMS[PAS-HIN-19-014] collaborations observe  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow l^+l^-$  azimuthal angular correlations in AA collisions with different impact parameter  $b_{\perp} = b_{1\perp} - b_{2\perp}$



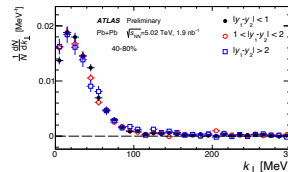
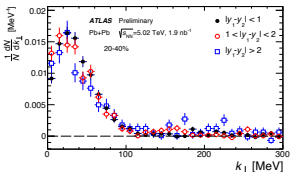
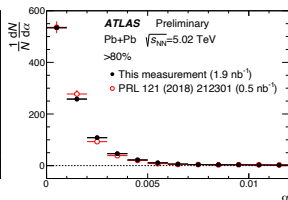
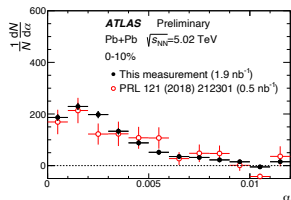
- Need the incoming photon  $k_{\perp}$  distribution at fixed impact parameter  $b_{\perp}$ .
- [Vidovic, *et al.*, 93; Hencken, *et al.*, 94; Zha, *et al.*, 18; Li, Zhou, Zhou, 19; etc]
- STAR: "This level of broadening is measurable and may indicate the possible existence of high magnetic fields (trapped in a conducting QGP)". ???



## The Need of Photon Wigner Distribution from Experiments

ATLAS ([CONF-2019-051; 2206.12594]) measures the acoplanarity

$\alpha \equiv 1 - |\Delta\phi|/\pi$  ( $\Delta\phi = \phi_{l^+} - \phi_{l^-}$ ) and the total momentum imbalance  $k_{\perp}$  of the muon pair in *PbPb* collisions with different centralities (impact parameter  $b_{\perp}$ )

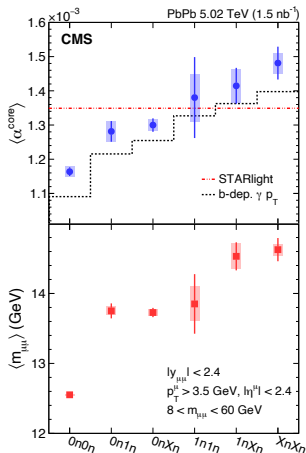


- Need the incoming photon  $k_{\perp}$  distribution at fixed impact parameter  $b_{\perp}$ .
- Mysterious and interesting displaced peaks (dips) in central collisions.





## CMS Results

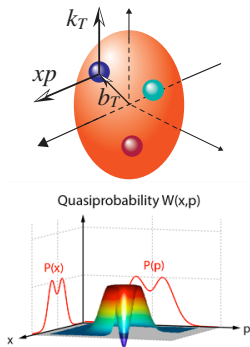
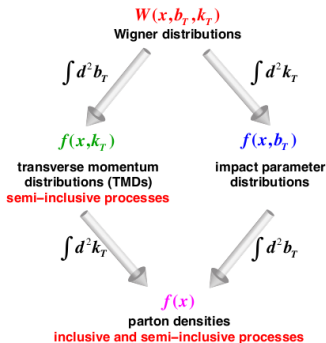


- CMS[PAS-HIN-19-014] measures the number of **neutrons** in the very forward region in UPC.
- Higher neutron multiplicity corresponds to smaller  $\langle b \rangle$  on average, and vice versa.
- This measurement demonstrates the transverse momentum imbalance and energy of photons (invariant mass of the dilepton) emitted from relativistic ions have impact parameter dependence.
- Great way to select events with  $\langle b \rangle$ . Even measure various asymmetries.



## Wigner distribution

Wigner distributions [Ji, 03; Belitsky, Ji, Yuan, 2004] ingeniously encode all quantum information of how partons are distributed inside hadrons.



- Quasi-probability distribution; Not positive definite.
- Need to smear over  $k_T$  and  $b_\perp$  → Husimi distribution. [Hagiwara, Hatta, 14]



## Photon Wigner Distribution and Generalized TMD

Def. of Wigner distribution:

$$xf_\gamma(x, \vec{k}_\perp; \vec{b}_\perp) = \int \frac{d\xi^- d^2\xi_\perp}{(2\pi)^3 P^+} \int \frac{d^2\Delta_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-ixP^+ \xi^- - ik_\perp \cdot \xi_\perp} \\
\times \left\langle A, +\frac{\Delta_\perp}{2} \left| F^{+i} \left( \vec{b}_\perp + \frac{\xi}{2} \right) F^{+i} \left( \vec{b}_\perp - \frac{\xi}{2} \right) \right| A, -\frac{\Delta_\perp}{2} \right\rangle,$$

Def. of GTMD

$$xf_\gamma(x, k_\perp, \Delta_\perp) \equiv \int d^2b_\perp e^{-i\Delta \cdot b_\perp} xf_\gamma(x, \vec{k}_\perp; \vec{b}_\perp).$$

- For a heavy nucleus with charge  $Ze$ , the GTMD reads

$$xf_\gamma(x, k_\perp; \Delta_\perp) = xh_\gamma(x, k_\perp; \Delta_\perp) \\
= \frac{4Z^2\alpha}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{q_\perp \cdot q'_\perp}{q^2 q'^2} F_A(q^2) F_A(q'^2), \\
q_\perp = k_\perp - \frac{\Delta_\perp}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad q'_\perp = k_\perp + \frac{\Delta_\perp}{2}$$



- $\int d^2b_\perp xf_\gamma(x, k_\perp, b_\perp) \Rightarrow$  TMD;  $\int d^2k_\perp xf_\gamma(x, k_\perp, b_\perp) \Rightarrow b_\perp$  distribution.
- EPA  $\rightarrow$  Generalized EPA.

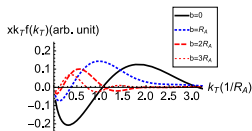
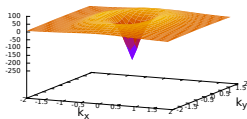
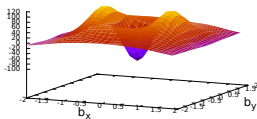


# The Oscillating Behavior of Wigner Distributions

Models of Wigner [Lorcé, Pasquini, 11; Lorcé, Pasquini, Xiong, Yuan, 11]

[Hagiwara, Hatta, 14]

[S. Klein, A. Mueller, BX, F. Yuan, 20]

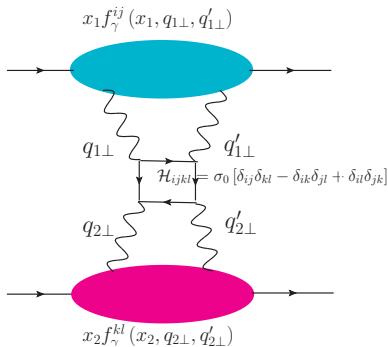


- Due to the uncertainty principle, Wigner distributions often has the oscillating behavior when one tries to measure  $b_{\perp}$  and  $k_{\perp}$  simultaneously.
- Will the **negative region** of the Wigner distribution cause a **serious problem**?
- Two observations: **diffractive dijets in DIS** and  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow l^+l^-$  in **PbPb collisions**.
- Opinion: No, it seems that the LO cross-sections are always positive-definite. (It will be interesting if one can prove this conjecture.)



## The Factorization of Wigner distribution in the lepton pair production

The **GEPA factorization** at LO, and compute the hard factor  $\mathcal{H}$



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{d\sigma(AB[\gamma\gamma] \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)}{dy_1 dy_2 d^2 p_{1T} d^2 p_{2T} d^2 b_\perp} \\
 &= \int d^2 k_{1T} d^2 k_{2T} \int \frac{d^2 \Delta_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i\Delta_\perp \cdot b_\perp} \\
 & \quad \times x f_\gamma^{ij}(k_{1T}; \Delta_\perp) x_2 f_\gamma^{kl}(k_{2T}; \Delta_\perp) \mathcal{H}_{ijkl} \\
 & \quad \times \delta^{(2)}(p_T - k_{1T} - k_{2T}) \\
 & \propto \int d^2 b_{1\perp} d^2 b_{2\perp} \delta^{(2)}(b_\perp - b_{1\perp} + b_{2\perp}) \\
 & \quad \times x f_\gamma^{ij}(k_{1T}; b_{1\perp}) x_2 f_\gamma^{kl}(k_{2T}; b_{2\perp}) \mathcal{H}_{ijkl}
 \end{aligned}$$

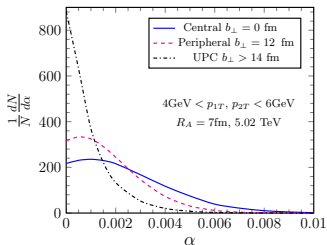
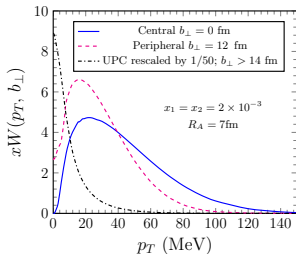
- Notations for the momenta:  $q_\perp = k_T - \frac{\Delta_\perp}{2}$ , and  $q'_\perp = k_T + \frac{\Delta_\perp}{2}$ .
- Need the off-diagonal momenta  $\Delta_\perp$  to access impact parameter  $b_\perp$ .
- Will negative region of Wigner Dist  $x f_\gamma^{ij}(k_T; b_\perp)$  ever be catastrophic?



## Results of GEPA

If we define  $G^{ik} = \int \frac{d^2k_{1T}}{(2\pi)} e^{ik_{1T} \cdot b_{\perp}} k_{1T}^i k_{2T}^k \frac{F(k_1^2)}{k_1^2} \frac{F(k_2^2)}{k_2^2}$ , and note  $k_{1T} + k_{2T} = p_T$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy_1 dy_2 d^2p_{1T} d^2p_{2T} d^2b_{\perp}} = \sigma_0 \left[ (G^{11} - G^{22})(G^{11*} - G^{22*}) + (G^{12} + G^{21})(G^{12*} + G^{21*}) \right] \geq 0$$

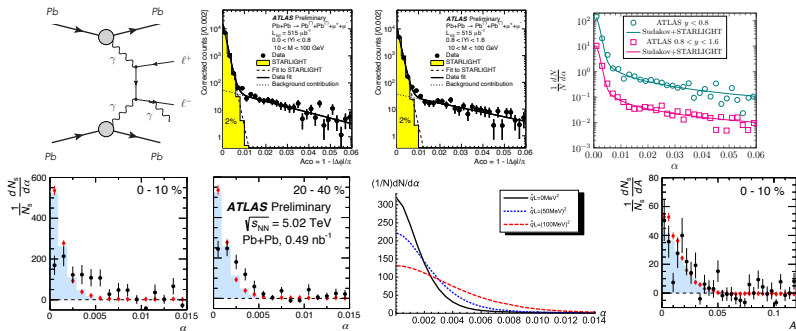


- The cross section = 0 when  $b_{\perp} = 0$  and  $p_T = 0$  ( $G^{11} = G^{22}$  and  $G^{12} = -G^{21}$ )
- Explains the **dip** (displaced peak, ATLAS) in central AA.  $\sigma \sim xW(p_T, b_{\perp})$
- However, the dip becomes much less significant after averaging over momenta.
- Qualitatively explains recent ATLAS [CONF-2019-51](#) data. Still a bit puzzling.



# Dilepton productions in AA collisions

[ATLAS, 1806.08708; 2019 Conf-51]; [Klein, Mueller, Xiao, Yuan, 18; 20]

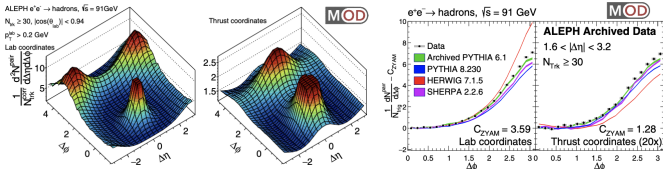


- Acoplanarity  $\alpha \equiv 1 - \Delta\phi/\pi$  and asymmetry  $A \equiv ||p_T^+|| - ||p_T^-|| / ||p_T^+|| + ||p_T^-||$ .
- Initial photon  $k_\perp$  distribution plus photon radiation describes the background.
- $p_T$  broadening  $\hat{q}_{\text{QED}}L \sim (50\text{MeV})^2 \sim \frac{\alpha_s^2}{\alpha_s^2} \hat{q}_{\text{QCD}}$  but QED energy loss is weak.
- Independent final state medium broadening, since the typical distance between  $l^+$  and  $l^-$  in QGP is much **larger** than the coherence length  $1/P_T$ .



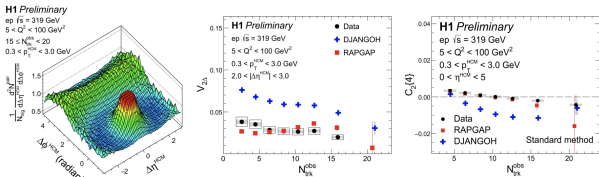
# Search for collectivity in $e^+e^-$ collisions at LEP and in DIS at HERA

Two-Particle Correlations in  $e^+e^-$  with ALEPH data [\[Badea et al, 19\]](#) [▶ Link](#)



- No significant enhancement of long-range correlations is observed.

Search for collectivity at HERA [\[Chuan Sun For H1 Collaboration, IS2021\]](#) [▶ Link](#)



- No collectivity observed at HERA. Data agree with RAPGAP.





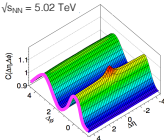
# Collectivity (correlation, flow) is everywhere!

In **high multiplicity events**, large azimuthal angle correlations are observed:

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_n\{2\} &\equiv \{e^{in(\phi_1 - \phi_2)}\} = \frac{\int d\phi_1 d\phi_2 e^{in(\phi_1 - \phi_2)} \frac{dN}{d\phi_1} \frac{dN}{d\phi_2}}{\int d\phi_1 d\phi_2 \frac{dN}{d\phi_1} \frac{dN}{d\phi_2}} \\
 &= \{e^{in(\phi_1 - \phi_{RP})}\} \{e^{in(\phi_{RP} - \phi_2)}\} = v_n^2\{2\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

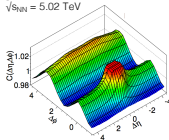
**Pb+Pb**

$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV



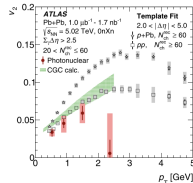
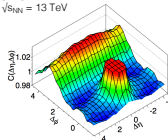
**p+Pb**

$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$  TeV



**p+p**

$\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 13$  TeV

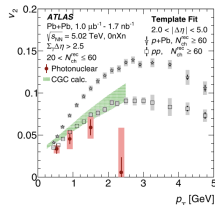
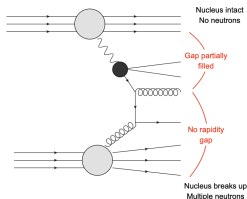
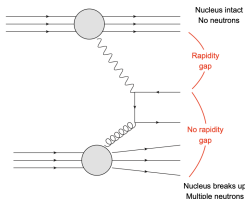


- Collectivity is used to describe the particle correlation. It is observed in both **large and small** systems and for **light and heavy** hadrons!
- New exciting results for **UPC** in PbPb collisions.



## Collectivity at EIC?

### Two-particle correlations in photonuclear (Pb+Pb) UPC by ATLAS [▶ Link](#)



- **New exciting results** for **UPC** in PbPb collisions. (Mini-EIC)
- WW equivalent photon approximation: Small virtuality, like a plane wave.
- Photons with energy up to 80 GeV at the LHC + the high-energy nuclei.
- What about predictions for the collectivity at the EIC on the horizon?



## The Structure of Photons

Photons can have a very rich QCD structure

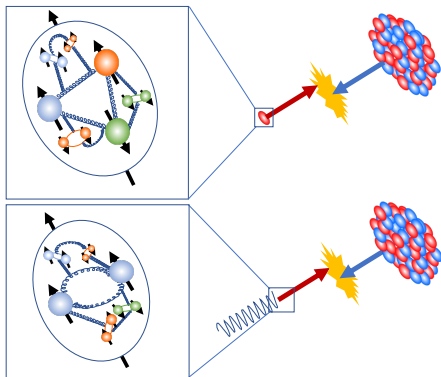
$$|\gamma\rangle = |\gamma_0\rangle + \sum_{m,n} |m q \bar{q} + n g\rangle + \sum_{\rho,\omega,\dots} |V\rangle + \dots,$$

- Point like (high  $Q^2$ )
- Partonic
- VMD [Sakurai, 60]

Strong similarity between  $\gamma^*A$  and  $pA$  collisions when  $\gamma^*$  has a long lifetime.

$$t_{\text{lifetime}} \sim \frac{1}{q^-} = \frac{q^+}{Q^2} \gg \frac{m_p}{P^-} R \Rightarrow x_B \ll \frac{1}{m_p R}$$

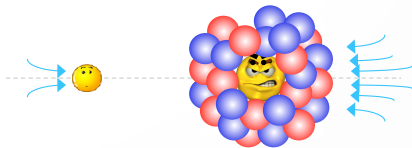
Opinion: collectivity in  $\gamma^*A$  collisions regardless the underlying interpretation.



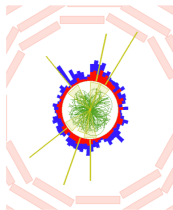
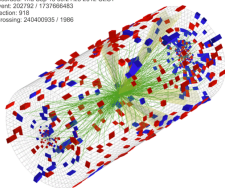
## Collectivity in high multiplicity events in pA collisions

Qualitative understanding of high multiplicity events and correlation.

- **Many active partons**  
 $|P\rangle = |qqq\rangle + |qqqng\rangle + \dots$
- **Fluctuation in parton density**  
 Stronger  $Q_s$  in nuclei.
- **Correlated multiple scatterings**  
 Non-trivial color correlation.
- **Possible stronger parton shower.**  
 Shower produce soft particles due to hard collisions.



CMS Experiment at LHC, CERN  
 Date recorded: Thu Sep 13 05:21:23 2012 CEST  
 Run/Event: 202792 / 1737866483  
 Lumi section: 910  
 Orca/Crossing: 240400935 / 1986



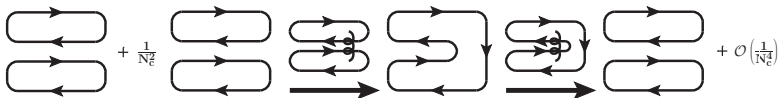
A CGC model for correlation based on the above three pillar in **Red**.

- Let us pick two **initially uncorrelated collinear partons** (say  $q + q$ ) from proton, and consider their interactions with the target nucleus.
- Correlation can be generated between them due to multiple interaction.
- Due to **Unitarity**, the un-observed partons do not affect the correlation of the system.



## Correlations in CGC

Correlations between uncorrelated incoming quarks (gluons) are generated due to **quadrupole** as  $N_c$  corrections. [Lappi, 15; Lappi, Schenke, Schlichting, Venugopalan, 16; Dusling, Mace, Venugopalan, 17; Davy, Marquet, Shi, Xiao, Zhang, 18]



$$\frac{d^2 N}{d^2 k_{1\perp} d^2 k_{2\perp}} = \int d^2 r_{1\perp} d^2 r_{2\perp} e^{-ik_{1\perp} \cdot r_{1\perp}} e^{-ik_{2\perp} \cdot r_{2\perp}} \times \frac{1}{N_c^2} \langle \text{tr} [V(x_1) V(x_2)^\dagger] \text{tr} [V(x_3) V(x_4)^\dagger] \rangle$$

where

$$\frac{1}{N_c^2} \langle \text{tr} [V(x_1) V(x_2)^\dagger] \text{tr} [V(x_3) V(x_4)^\dagger] \rangle \neq \frac{1}{N_c^2} \langle \text{tr} [V(x_1) V(x_2)^\dagger] \rangle \langle \text{tr} [V(x_3) V(x_4)^\dagger] \rangle$$

$$= e^{-\frac{Q_s^2}{4}(r_1^2 + r_2^2)} \left[ 1 + \frac{(\frac{Q_s^2}{2} \mathbf{r}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_2)^2}{N_c^2} \int_0^1 d\xi \int_0^\xi d\eta e^{\frac{\eta Q_s^2}{8} [(r_1 - r_2)^2 - 4(b_1 - b_2)^2]} \right]$$

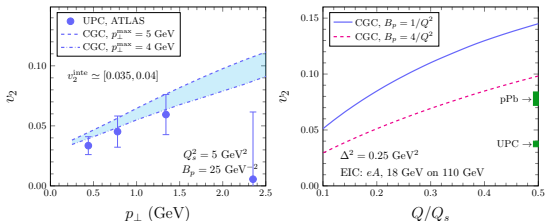
■ At leading  $N_c$ ,  $\frac{d^2 N}{d^2 k_{1\perp} d^2 k_{2\perp}} = \left( \frac{dN}{d^2 k_{1\perp}} \right) \left( \frac{dN}{d^2 k_{2\perp}} \right)$ , there are no correlations.

■ The correlations only come in as higher order  $N_c$  corrections as shown above.



## $v_2$ Predictions in $\gamma A$ collisions from CGC

[Shi, Wang, Wei, Xiao, Zheng, Phys. Rev. D **103**, 054017 (2021)] [▶ Link](#)

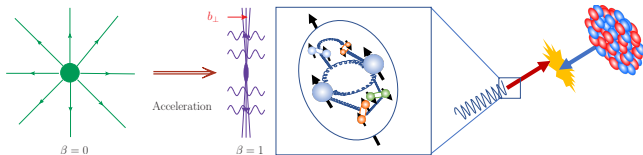


- **New results** from **UPC** in PbPb collisions at LHC. (Mini-EIC)
- Photons can have a rich QCD structure due to fluctuation.
- Consider the photon-resolved (hadron like) processes in CGC.  $\Rightarrow$  similar  $v_2$
- Selecting different  $Q^2$  and  $y$  bins  $\Rightarrow$  handles to change system size and energy.
- Comment on ep collisions at **HERA**: saturation effect may not be sufficient, and the number of high multiplicity events is also a limiting factor. ( $\sim 20$  trks)
- It will be interesting to compare the **future EIC** data with **HERA** data.



# Summary

Several curious and interesting aspects of the photon



- Wigner distribution  $\Rightarrow$  Interesting measurements and theoretical issue.
- Linear polarization  $\Rightarrow$  Non-trivial correlations in dilepton. (See Zhou's talk)
- Rich partonic structure  $\Rightarrow$  Collectivity at the future EIC.



## Backup: PhD student recruitment

### 2023年博士项目夏令营

#### 报名方式

线上报名，扫描二维码可以进入申请界面。

<https://apply.cuhk.edu.cn/matrix-base/tsc/login>



#### 面向群体

2024年毕业的本科生或硕士研究生，应具有理工相关教育背景。

\*就读于教育部认可的大学或机构，截止申报前成绩不低于二级荣誉或不低于“B”或平均分80分以上（评审委员会将对申请者的教育背景进行评估与筛选）

#### 活动安排

Day 0: 7月6日 注册报到、入住校园；

Day 1: 7月7日 集体开营仪式、理工学院博士项目介绍、导师科研项目分享；

Day 2: 7月8日 导师见面会、数学项目笔试、博士项目面试；

Day 3: 7月9日 博士项目面试。

#### 申请流程

申请者需在报名界面选择希望参加的博士项目，并上传系统所述的相关材料。

报名截止时间为2023年6月20日下午16:00。

入选者将在6月30日前收到邮件通知；未入选者，将不另行通知。

