

# Spin at Small $x$

Dialing in on Sub-Eikonal Physics

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*RBRC Workshop:  
Small- $x$  Physics in the EIC Era*

*12/16/2021*

# The Proton Spin Budget in QCD

**Jaffe-Manohar Spin Sum Rule:**  $\frac{1}{2} = S_q + S_G + L_q + L_G$   
Jaffe and Manohar, Nucl. Phys. **B337** 509 (1990)

- Quark Polarization:  $S_q(Q^2) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{f, \bar{f}} \int_0^1 dx \Delta q_f(x, Q^2)$

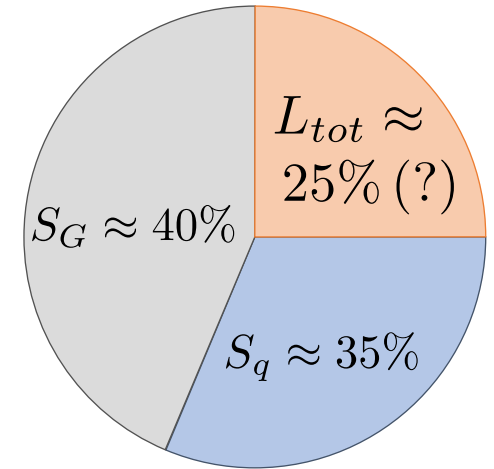
$$\Delta q(x, Q^2) = \int \frac{dr^-}{2\pi} e^{ixp^+r^-} \left\langle pS_L \left| \bar{\psi}(0) \mathcal{U}[0, r] \frac{\gamma^+ \gamma^5}{2} \psi(r) \right| pS_L \right\rangle$$

➤ Nonlocal generalization of the **axial vector current**  $j_5^\mu = \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \psi$

- Gluon Polarization:  $S_G(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx \Delta G(x, Q^2)$

$$\Delta G(x, Q^2) = \frac{-2i}{xp^+} \int \frac{dr^-}{2\pi} e^{ixp^+r^-} \left\langle pS_L \left| \epsilon_T^{ij} \text{tr} \left[ F^{+i}(0) \mathcal{U}[0, r] F^{+j}(r) \mathcal{U}'[r, 0] \right] \right| pS_L \right\rangle$$

➤ Circular **azimuthal correlation** of gluon field strengths



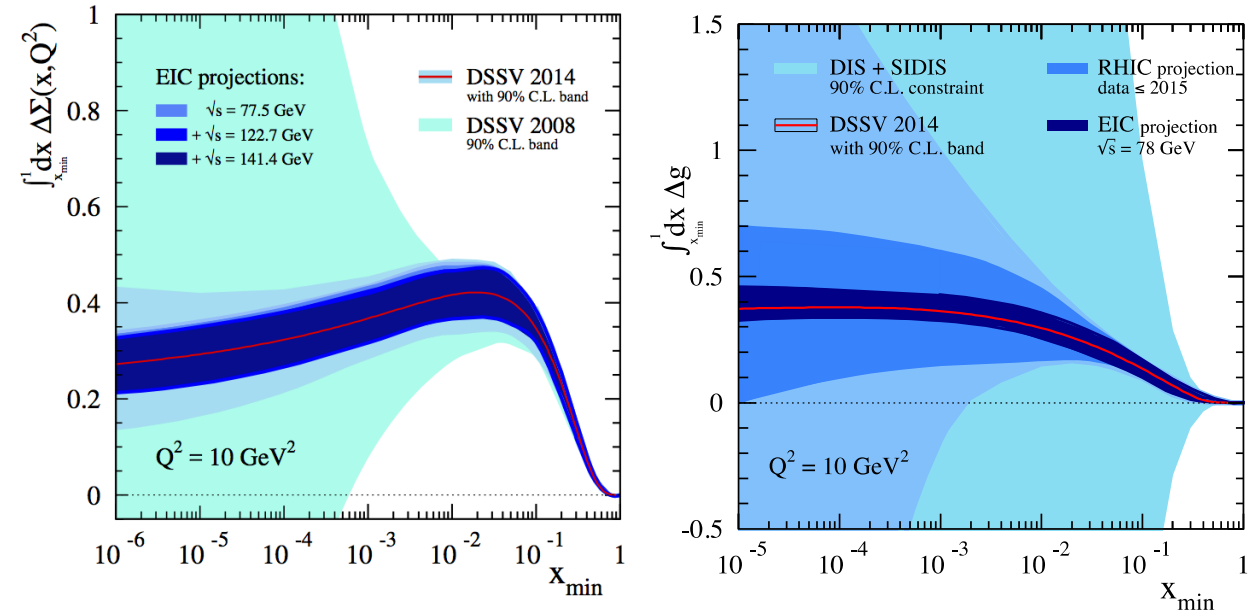
# Why Should We Care About Spin at Small x?

$$\Delta q^+ \equiv q + \bar{q}$$

$$\Delta\Sigma(Q^2) = \sum_q \int_0^1 dx \Delta q^+(x, Q^2)$$

$$\Delta G(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx \Delta g(x, Q^2)$$

Aschenauer et al., Phys. Rev. **D92** (2015) no. 9 094030

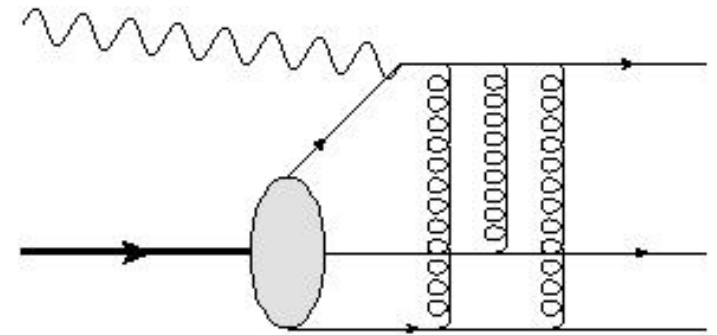


- Determination of the partonic origin of proton spin **requires extrapolation to x=0**
- Extractions based on **DGLAP** are **not predictive of the x dependence**
  - Inevitable that the **uncertainty blows up** once **data constraints run out**
  - Controlled extrapolation to x=0 **requires a theory** which **predicts spin at small x**

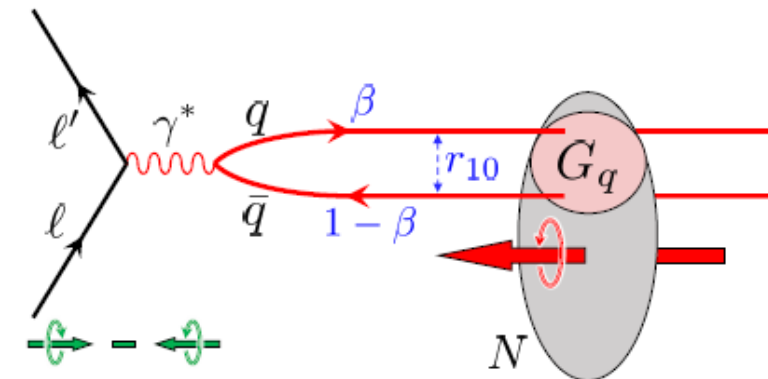
# Spin: Beyond the Eikonal Limit

- At **large  $x$** , DIS is dominated by a **“Knockout” process**
  - At **small  $x$** , the leading channel is a **“dipole” process**
- **Leading-power** dipole scattering is **spin-independent**
  - Pure eikonal **Wilson lines** (gluons)
- **Spin at small  $x$**  selects on **different, sub-eikonal** dynamics
  - Spin observables are sensitive to **novel small- $x$  physics**

c.f) **Large  $x$** : “Knockout” DIS



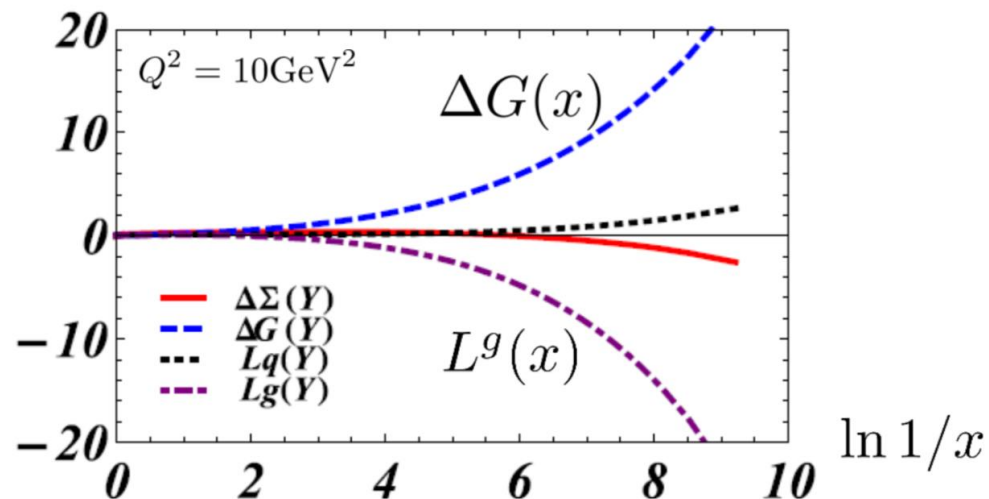
**Small  $x$** : “Dipole” DIS



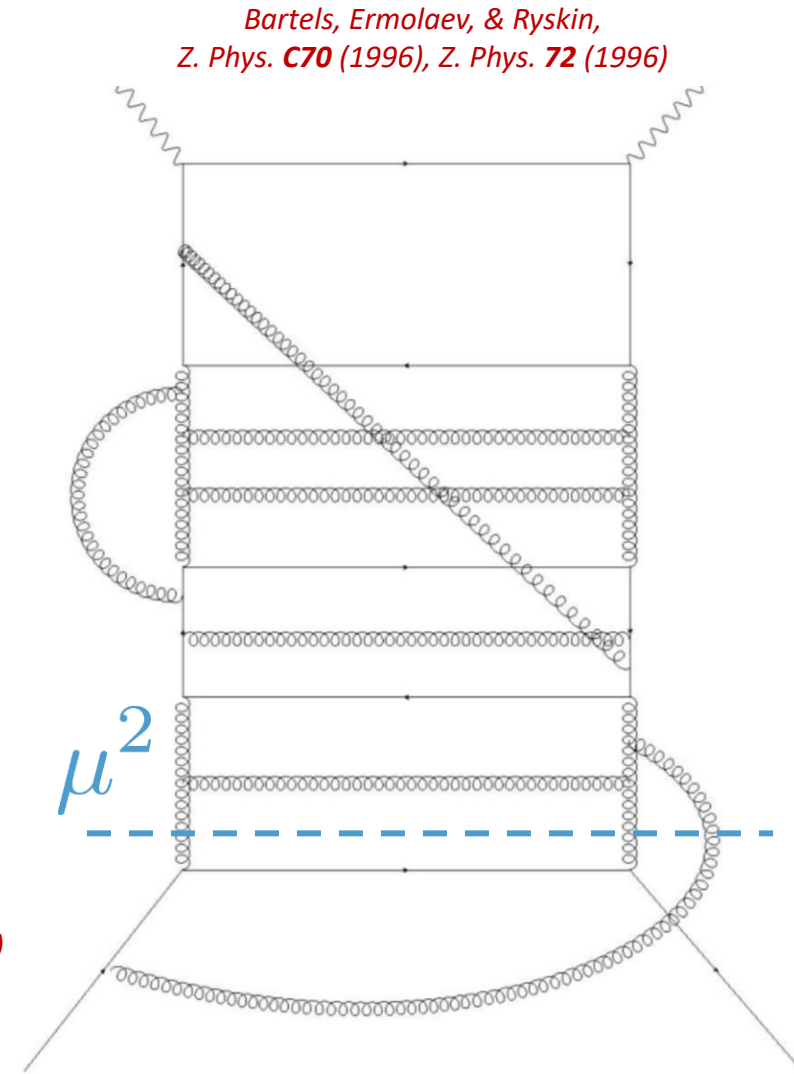
# First Approach: Infrared Evolution Equations

- Based on identifying where the softest momentum scale  $\mu$  lives in a complex diagram
- Close relation to DGLAP
- Goal is to resum **all** double logarithms

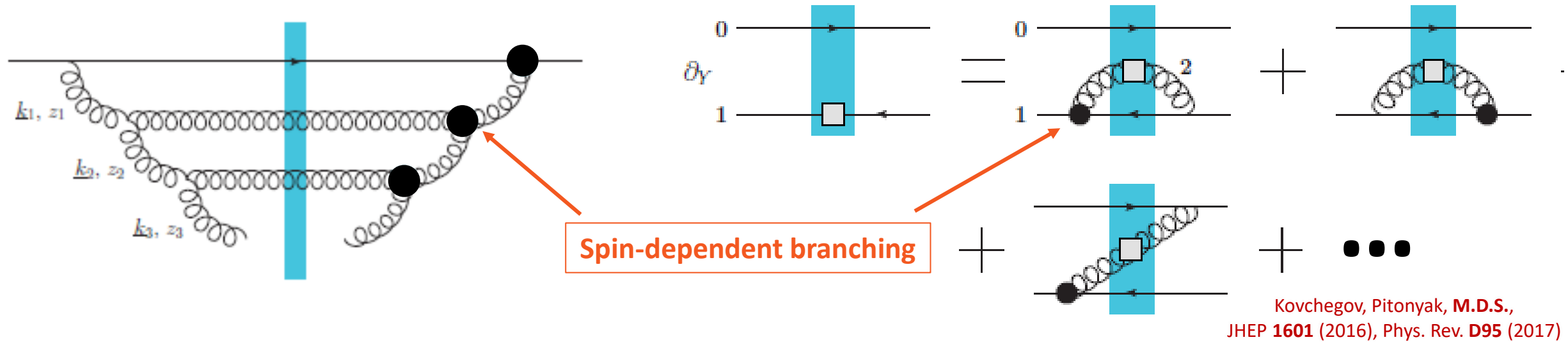
$$\alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{1}{x} \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \quad \alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x} \ln \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$



Hatta & Yao, Phys. Lett. **B798** (2019)  
 Boussarie, Hatta, & Yuan, Phys. Lett. **B797** (2019)  
 Hatta & Yang, Phys. Lett. **B781** (2018)  
 Hatta et al., Phys. Rev. **D95** (2017)



# Second Approach: Polarized Dipoles



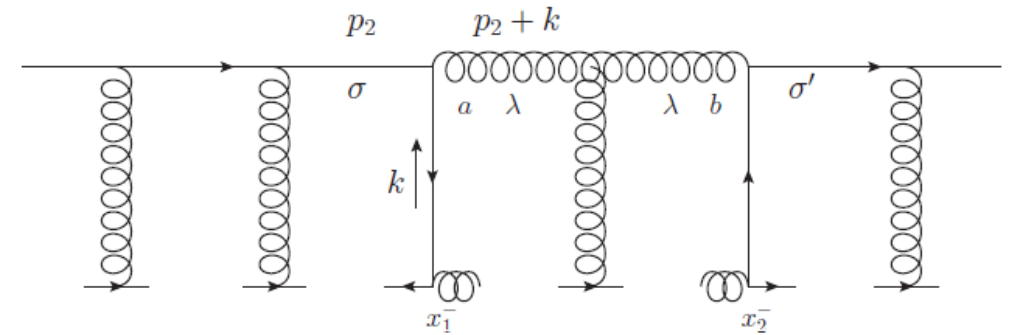
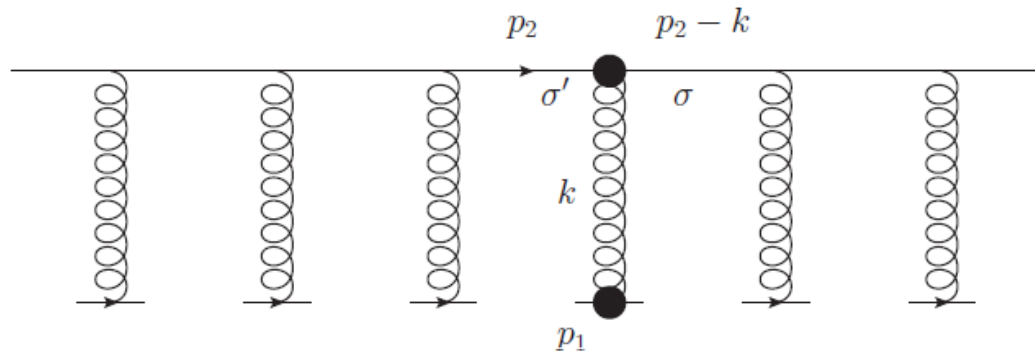
- **Spin information** from the valence sector (large  $x$ ) is **transmitted to small  $x$**  by **spin-dependent branching**

Also G. Chirilli, JHEP **1901** (2019)

- **Suppressed** by the **coupling**  $\alpha_s$  but **enhanced** by the **phase space**  $\ln \frac{1}{x}$ 
  - Resummation leads to **quantum evolution of spin at small  $x$**
  - Analogous to **BFKL evolution** for unpolarized gluons



# Polarized Wilson Lines: A Sub-Eikonal Correction



QCD Stern-Gerlach:  $\gamma \vec{S} \cdot \vec{B}$

$$V_{\underline{x}}^{pol} = \frac{igp_1^+}{s} \int dx^- V_{\underline{x}}[+\infty, x^-] F^{12}(x^-, \underline{x}) V_{\underline{x}}[x^-, -\infty]$$

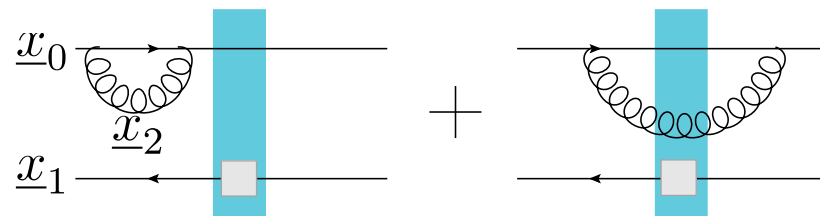
$$- \frac{g^2 p_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_1^- \int_{x_1^-}^{\infty} dx_2^- V_{\underline{x}}[+\infty, x_2^-] t^b \psi_{\beta}(x_2^-, \underline{x}) U_{\underline{x}}^{ba}[x_2^-, x_1^-] \left[ \frac{1}{2} \gamma^+ \gamma^5 \right]_{\alpha\beta} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha}(x_1^-, \underline{x}) t^a V_{\underline{x}}[x_1^-, -\infty].$$

Flavor-changing Wilson line

Since  $m=0$ : Quark helicity conservation

# Quantum Evolution: Beyond Color Transparency

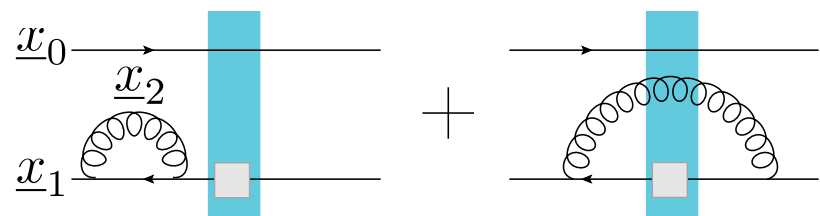
- Ladder emissions from the **unpolarized Wilson line** possess **color transparency** at short distances



$$\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int \frac{d^2 x_2}{x_{20}^2} \times \left[ \frac{1}{N_c^2} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_2 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_2^\dagger \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \right]$$

Cancels when  $\underline{x}_2 \rightarrow \underline{x}_0$

- But for ladder emissions from the **polarized Wilson line**, color transparency is **violated by spin**



$$\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int \frac{d^2 x_2}{x_{21}^2} \times \left[ \frac{1}{N_c^2} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_2 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_2^\dagger \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \right]$$

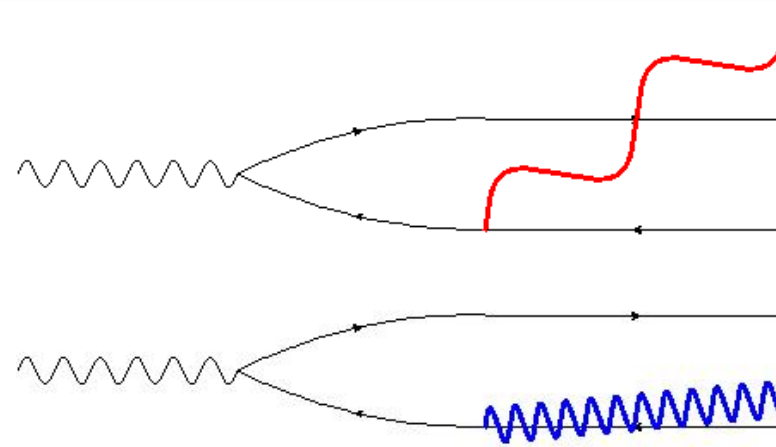
Does NOT cancel when  $\underline{x}_2 \rightarrow \underline{x}_1$



# Polarized vs. Unpolarized Small-x Evolution

Longitudinal + transverse  
logarithmic phase space

$$dP \sim \alpha_s \frac{dx}{x} \frac{d^2 k}{k_T^2}$$



Long wavelength/IR

Short wavelength/UV

- Unpolarized (BFKL) evolution:

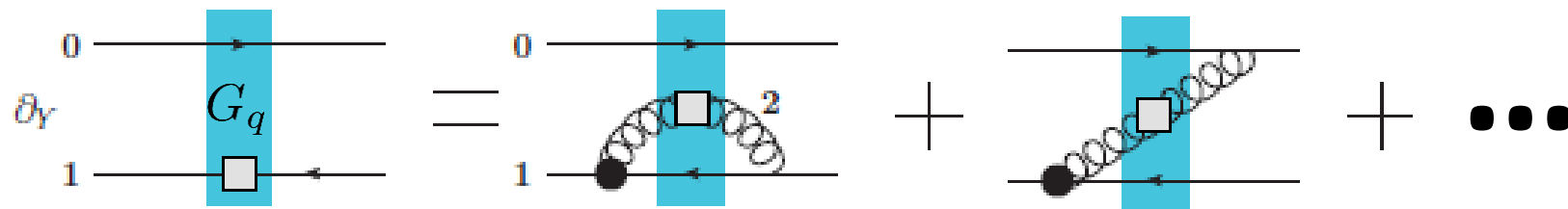
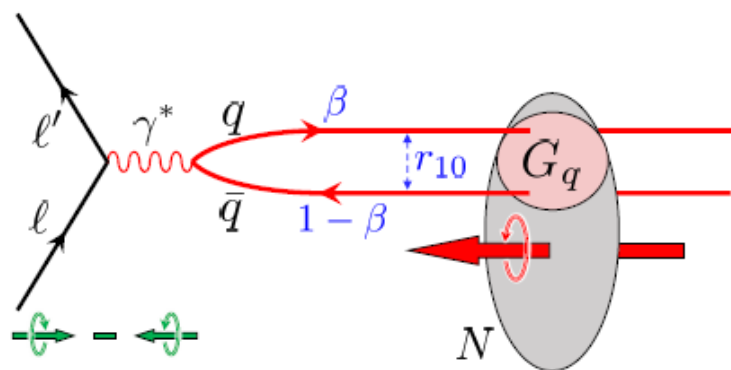
- **Transverse logs cancel** (neutrality in the IR, transparency in the UV)
- Only **longitudinal** phase space is logarithmic:  $\alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x} \sim O(1)$

- Polarized (KPS) evolution:

- **No transparency of spin:** dominance of **UV transverse logs**
- **Double-logarithmic** evolution:  $\alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{1}{x} \sim O(1)$
- Sensitive to **lifetime ordering** (c.f. NLO BFKL), less sensitive to saturation

# The KPS Evolution Equations

Kovchegov, Pitonyak, **M.D.S.**, JHEP **1601** (2016), Phys. Rev. **D95** (2017)



$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}} \ln \frac{\beta s}{\Lambda^2}, \quad s_{10} = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}} \ln \frac{1}{r_{10}^2 \Lambda^2},$$

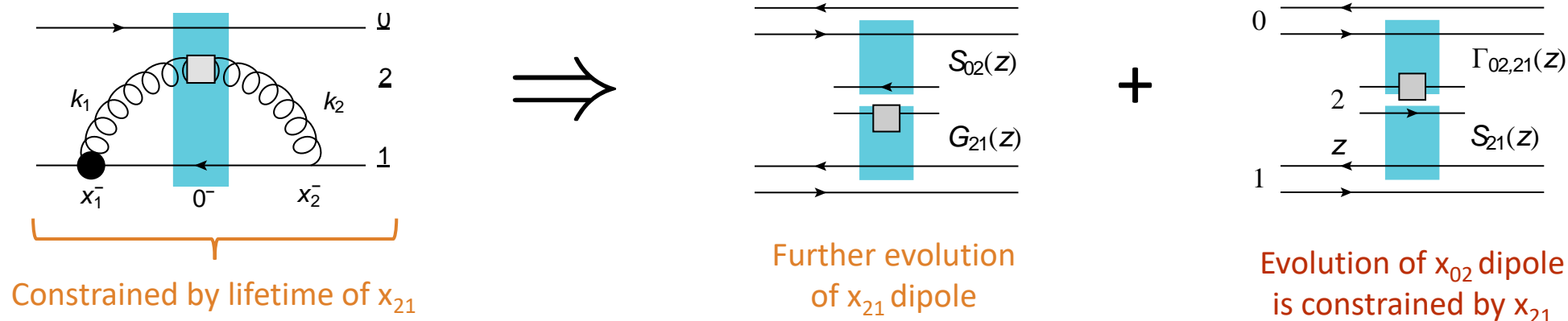
$$s_{32}^{\min} = \max\{s_{10}, s_{21} - \eta' + \eta''\}$$

$$G_q(s_{10}, \eta) = G_q^{(0)}(s_{10}, \eta) + \int_{s_{10}}^{\eta} d\eta' \int_{s_{10}}^{\eta'} ds_{21} [\Gamma_q(s_{10}, s_{21}, \eta') + 3 G_q(s_{21}, \eta')]$$

$$\Gamma_q(s_{10}, s_{21}, \eta') = G_q^{(0)}(s_{10}, \eta') + \int_{s_{10}}^{\eta'} d\eta'' \int_{s_{32}^{\min}}^{\eta''} ds_{32} [\Gamma_q(s_{10}, s_{32}, \eta'') + 3 G_q(s_{32}, \eta'')]$$

- **Double-logarithmic evolution** equations written with logarithmic variables  $\eta, s_{10}$
- Infinite tower of operators only **closes in certain limits** (large- $N_c$  or large- $N_c \& N_f$ )
- Auxiliary “**neighbor dipole**” **function  $\Gamma$**  necessary to enforce lifetime ordering

# The Neighbor Dipole Function



- These evolution equations describe another **operator hierarchy**
- Just like the BK equation, they do **close in the large- $N_c$  limit** (or large  $N_c$  &  $N_f$ )
- But because **lifetime ordering** constrains the history of the polarized gluon cascade, **not all dipoles are independent**.

Kovchegov, Pitonyak, **M.D.S.**, JHEP **1601** (2016)

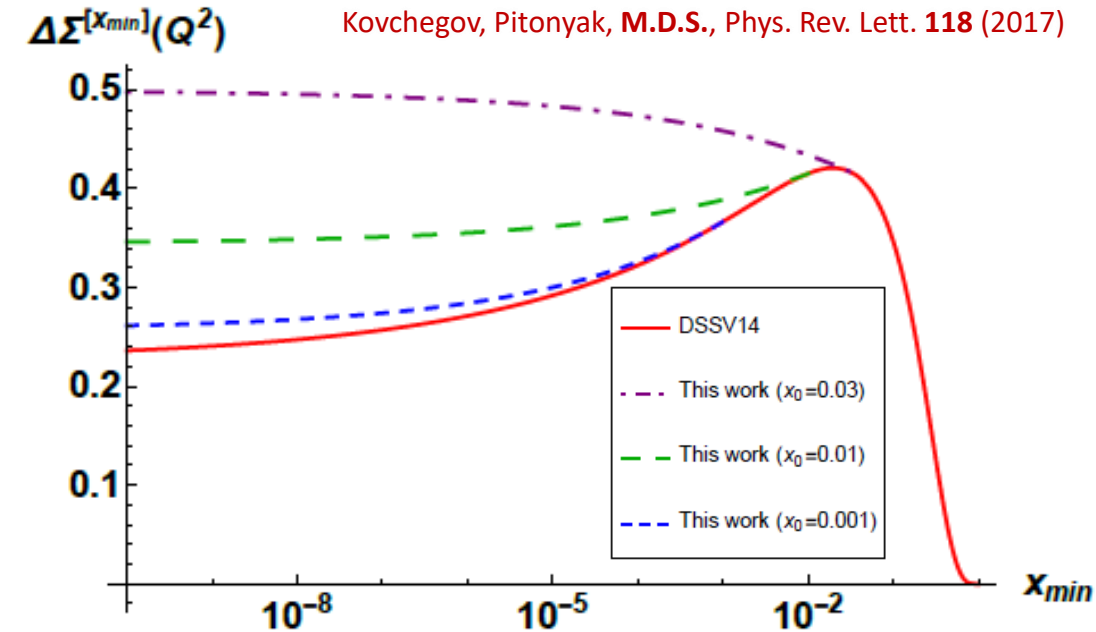
# A Bayesian Global Analysis of Polarized DIS

- **Previous estimates:**

- **Potentially substantial contribution** to the proton spin from small- $x$  quarks
- **Exploratory methods:** instantaneous transition from large- $x$  fit (DSSV) to power-law asymptotics of KPS evolution

- **This work:** D. Adamiak et al., Phys. Rev. **D104** (2021)

- **JAM Bayesian analysis** code N. Sato et al., Phys. Rev. **D93** (2016)
- **Global analysis** of world polarized DIS data (SLAC, EMC, SMC, COMPASS, HERMES)
- **Proton, “neutron”** (d,  $^3\text{He}$ ) targets
- **Inclusive DIS** only
  - Avoid complication of fragmentation



$$A_1 \approx \frac{g_1}{F_1}$$

$$A_{||} \propto A_1$$

**Data Cuts:**  $N_{pts} = 122$

$$x < 0.1$$

$$Q^2 > 1.69 \text{ GeV}^2$$

$$W^2 > 4 \text{ GeV}^2$$

# The Approach

1. Parameterize an **initial condition** for the polarized dipole amplitude at **large  $x > x_0$** 
  - Generalized form of Born approximation
  - **Frozen initial condition** at  $x > x_0$
2. **Solve KPS eqns. numerically** for  $x < x_0$  to determine  $g_1$  structure function
3. **Compute spin asymmetries**  $A_1, A_{\parallel}$  and compare with experimental data
  - $F_1$  taken from **previous JAM fits**
4. **Scan parameter space** using Bayesian inference with JAM Monte Carlo framework
  - **6 parameters** scanned ( $a, b, c$  for p, n) **+  $x_0, \Lambda$**

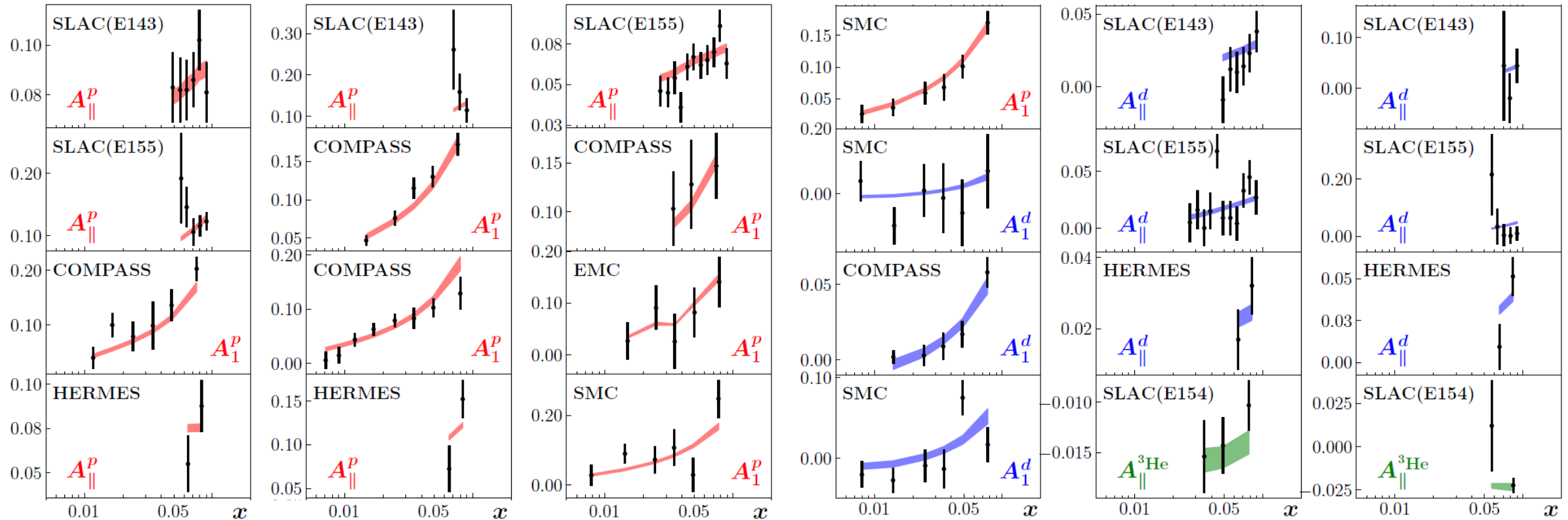
$$G_q^{(0)}(s_{10}, \eta) = a_q \eta + b_q s_{10} + c_q$$

$$\Delta q^+(x, Q^2) = \frac{1}{\alpha_s \pi^2} \int_0^{\eta_{\max}} d\eta \int_{s_{10}^{\min}}^{\eta} ds_{10} G_q(s_{10}, \eta)$$

$$g_1(x, Q^2) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_q e_q^2 \Delta q^+(x, Q^2)$$

$$A_1 \approx \frac{g_1}{F_1} \quad A_{\parallel} \propto A_1$$

# The KPS Formalism is Able to Describe World Data



- **Nontrivial test:** purely small- $x$  theory is able to describe the world DIS data
  - Most constraining: a few data points below  $x = 0.01$

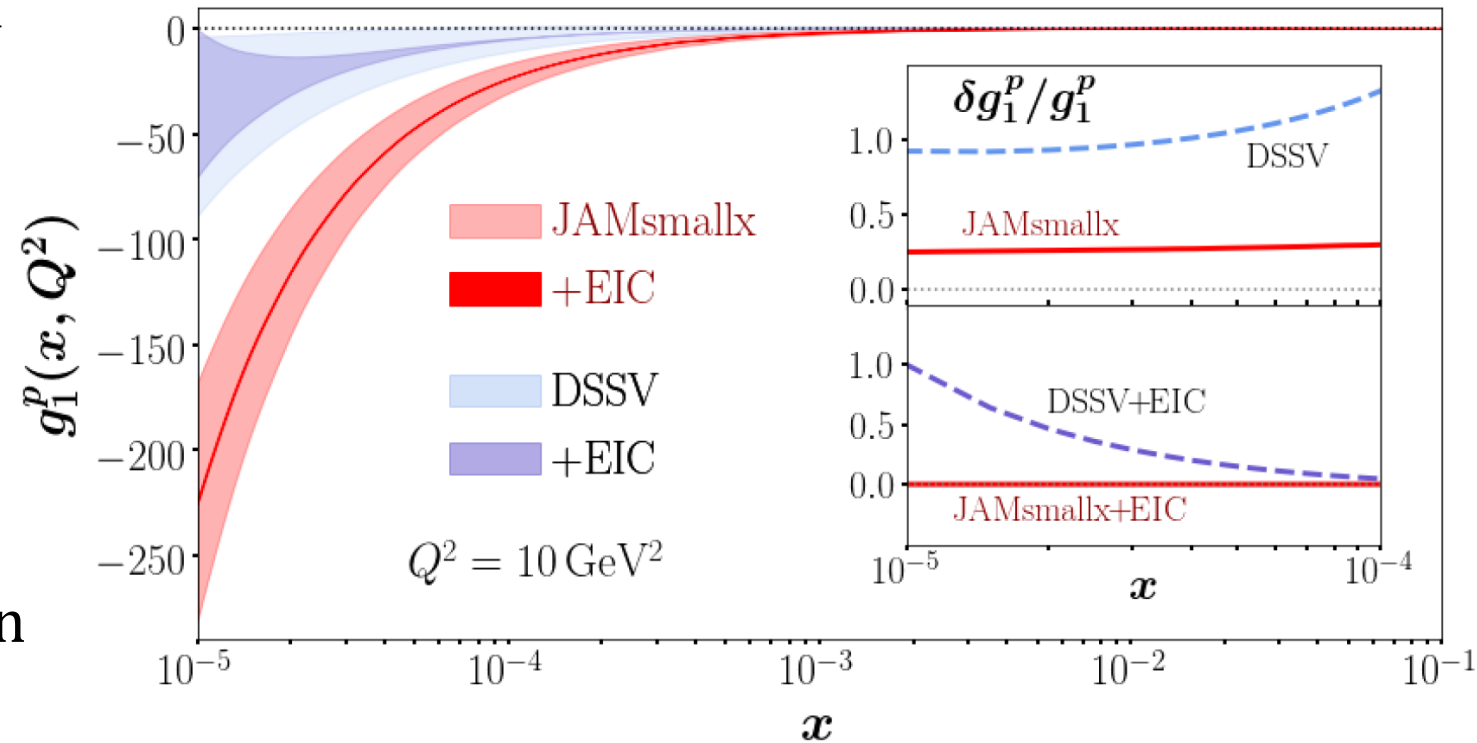
$$\text{JAMsmallx: } \chi^2/N_{pts} = 1.01$$

$$\text{c.f. JAM16: } \chi^2/N_{pts} = 1.07$$



# Results: Prediction of Stronger Negative $g_1$

- **Structure function  $g_1$**  determined down to **low  $x$**
- **Large, negative  $g_1$**  is a robust prediction of the analysis
  - Data requires that the **dominant term** be **negative**
  - **Predictive power** at small  $x$ : controlled error in extrapolation
- The procedure **cannot describe everything**
  - Fails for **too-large  $x$**  (as expected)
  - $\frac{\chi^2}{N_{pts}} = 5.66$  for  $x_0 = 0.3$

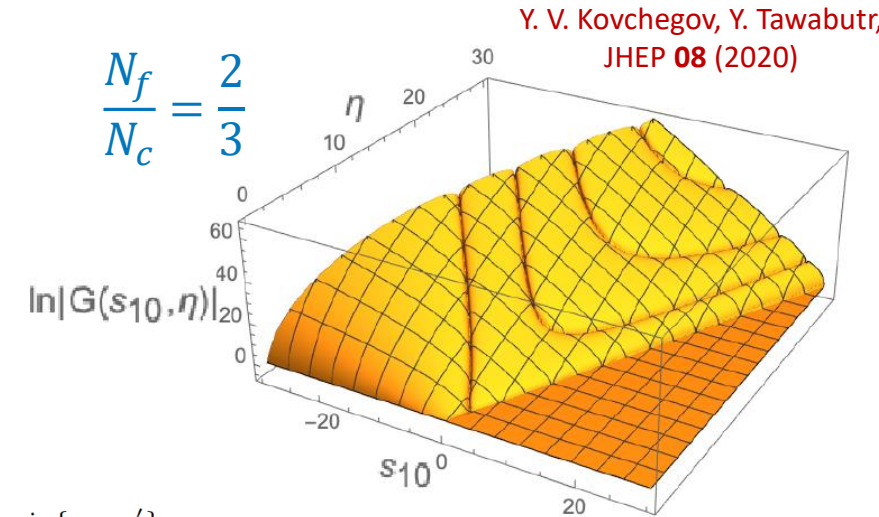


**Error band:** Bayesian  $1\sigma$  confidence level  
**Statistical impact of EIC data** (thin red band)

DSSV: de Florian et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **113**  
(2014), Phys. Rev. **D100** (2019)

# Other Developments: Quark-Driven Evolution

- KPS evolution in the **simultaneous large- $N_c$  &  $N_f$  limit**
  - Dynamical quark loops in KPS evolution
- Numerical solution exhibits **oscillations in  $x$** 
  - Long period (many units of rapidity)



$$G(s_{10}, \eta) = 1 + \int_{\max\{0, s_{10}\}}^{\eta} d\eta' \int_{s_{10}}^{\eta'} ds_{21} \left[ \Gamma(s_{10}, s_{21}, \eta') + 3G(s_{21}, \eta') - \frac{N_f}{N_c} \bar{\Gamma}(s_{10}, s_{21}, \eta') \right] - \frac{N_f}{N_c} \int_0^{\eta} d\eta' \int_{s_{10}+\eta'-\eta}^{\min\{s_{10}, \eta'\}} ds_{21} Q(s_{21}, \eta'),$$

$$\Gamma(s_{10}, s_{21}, \eta') = 1 + \int_{\max\{0, s_{10}\}}^{\eta'} d\eta'' \int_{\max\{s_{10}, s_{21}+\eta''-\eta'\}}^{\eta''} ds_{32} \left[ \Gamma(s_{10}, s_{32}, \eta'') + 3G(s_{32}, \eta'') - \frac{N_f}{N_c} \bar{\Gamma}(s_{10}, s_{32}, \eta'') \right] - \frac{N_f}{N_c} \int_0^{\eta'+s_{10}-s_{21}} d\eta'' \int_{s_{21}+\eta''-\eta'}^{\min\{s_{10}, \eta''\}} ds_{32} Q(s_{32}, \eta''),$$

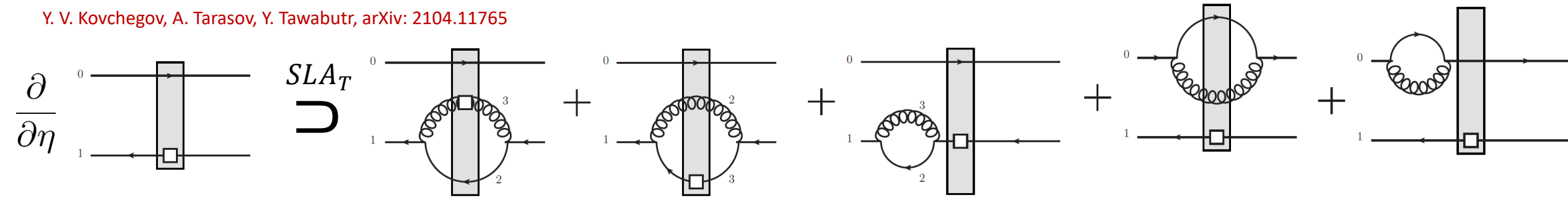
$$\Delta\Sigma(x, Q^2) \Big|_{\text{large-}N_c \& N_f} \sim \left( \frac{1}{x} \right)^{\alpha_h^q} \cos \left[ \omega_q \ln \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) + \varphi_q \right]$$

$$\alpha_h^q \Big|_{\text{large-}N_c} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}},$$

$$\omega_Q = \omega_G \approx \frac{0.22 N_f}{1 + 0.1265 N_f}$$

# Other Developments: Single-Log Evolution

Y. V. Kovchegov, A. Tarasov, Y. Tawabutr, arXiv: 2104.11765



KPS (2016):  $\alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{1}{x} \gtrsim 1 \xrightarrow{\text{resums}} \Delta\Sigma \sim \left( \alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{1}{x} \right)^n$

KTT (2021):  $\alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x} \gtrsim 1 \xrightarrow{\text{resums}} \Delta\Sigma \sim \left( \alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{1}{x} \right)^n + \left( \alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x} \right)^{n'}$

- Calculate the **single-logarithmic corrections** to the double-logarithmic KPS eqs.
  - Exact kinematics destroy one logarithm of  $x$
  - Also sensitive to **running coupling** corrections
  - Derived closed equations for both **large- $N_c$**  and **large- $N_c \& N_f$**  limits

# Other Developments: Role of the Axial Anomaly

- **Quark helicity** shares an intimate connection with the **axial vector current**

Jaffe and Manohar, Nucl. Phys. **B337** 509 (1990)

A. Tarasov, R. Venugopalan,  
Phys. Rev. **D100** (2019), **D102** (2020), arXiv: 2109.10370

$$\Delta q(x, Q^2) = \int \frac{dr^-}{2\pi} e^{ixp^+ r^-} \left\langle pS_L \left| \bar{\psi}(0) \mathcal{U}[0, r] \frac{\gamma^+ \gamma^5}{2} \psi(r) \right| pS_L \right\rangle$$

- The **total quark helicity** leads to a **local matrix element** of the **axial vector current**.

$$\Delta\Sigma(Q^2) = \sum_q \int_0^1 dx (\Delta q + \Delta\bar{q})(x, Q^2) = \frac{1}{p^+} \sum_q \langle pS_L | \bar{\psi}(0) \frac{\gamma^+ \gamma^5}{2} \psi(0) | pS_L \rangle \sim \frac{\langle j_5^+ \rangle}{p^+}$$

- Explicitly sensitive to the **axial anomaly**

➤ Different **interpretation**...?

➤ Or a different **contribution to  $\Delta\Sigma$** ...?

$$\partial_\mu j_5^\mu = \frac{\alpha_s N_f}{2\pi} \text{tr} \left( F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \right)$$

# Other Developments: Role of the Axial Anomaly

A. Tarasov, R. Venugopalan,  
Phys. Rev. **D100** (2019), **D102** (2020), arXiv: 2109.10370

- Chiral symmetry breaking appears as a **pole** in the **forward-scattering limit**

$$\langle p' S_L | j_5^\mu | p S_L \rangle = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{\ell^\mu}{\ell^2} \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \text{tr} F_{\alpha\beta}(k) \tilde{F}^{\alpha\beta}(-k - \ell) \quad p' = p + \ell$$

- Subtle nuances of **pole cancellation** among the isoscalar axial vector charge and pseudoscalar charge associated with **mass generation of the  $\eta'$  meson**.

G. Shore, G. Veneziano, Phys Lett. **B244** (199),  
Nucl. Phys. **B381** (1992)

- “[The] structure function  $g_1$  measured in polarized deeply inelastic scattering is dominated by the triangle anomaly in both Bjorken and Regge asymptotics.”
- “[Our result] brings into question the applicability of QCD factorization for quantities such as  $g_1$  that are sensitive to the anomaly”



# Conclusions

- The properties of **spin at small  $x$**  force us to generalize **beyond the eikonal limit**
  - Strategic use of the **spin quantum number** to **select on sub-eikonal physics**
  - Double-logarithmic evolution, lifetime ordering, neighbor dipole amplitude...
- Significant recent progress in both **EIC phenomenology** and **fundamental theory**
  - **Viable global analyses** of world small- $x$  polarized DIS data based on **KPS evolution**
  - **Single-log evolution** (comparable to BK) and **quark-induced oscillations**
- Important long-standing questions about **nonperturbative contributions / interpretation** of the **axial anomaly** in total quark spin.