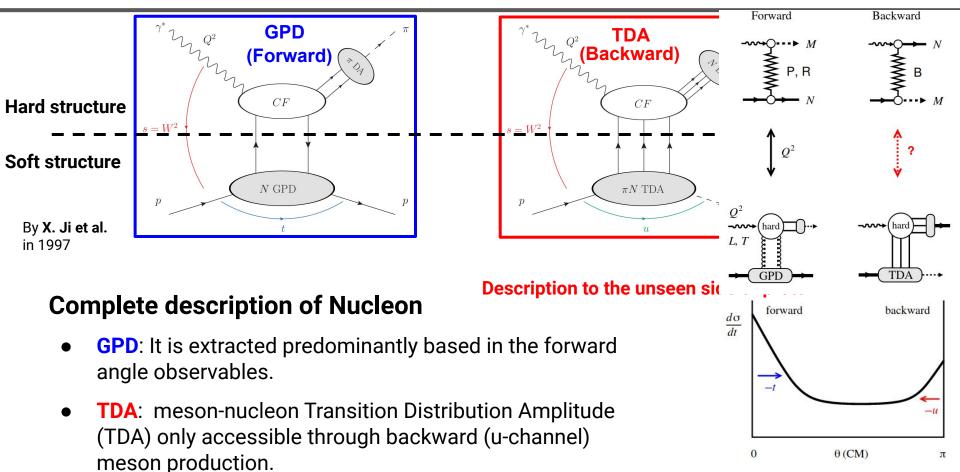
Diffractive & Tagging meeting on Dec 9th 2021

Wenliang (Bill) Li

GPD, SPD and TDA (Hard Structure)



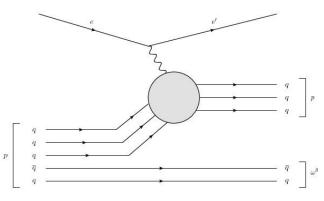
t-Channel π^{+} vs u-Channel ω Production

Primary reaction for Fpi-2

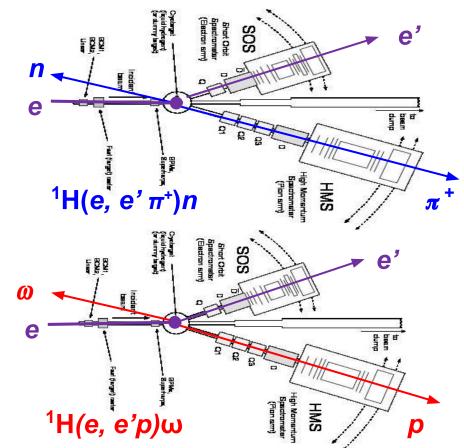
- \circ H(e, e' π^+)n
- o n (940 MeV)
- \circ π^+ (140 MeV)

Unexpected reaction:

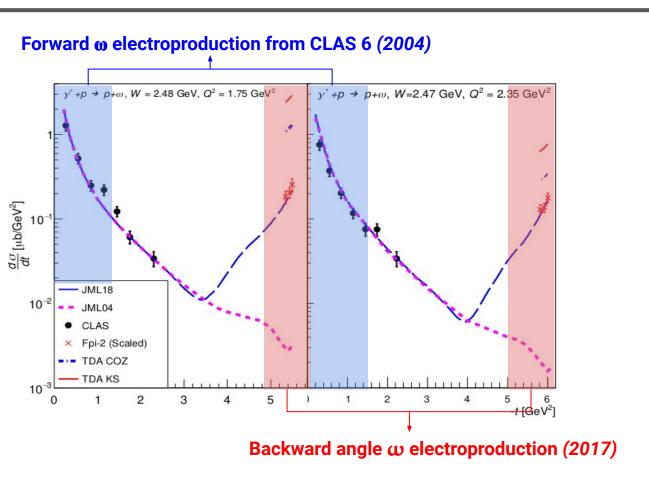
- \circ H(e,e'p) ω
- *p* (940 MeV)
- ω (783 MeV)

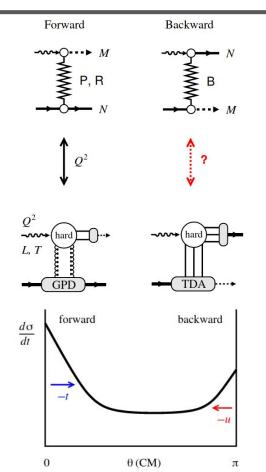


Mark Strikman & Christian Weiss: A proton being knocked out of a proton process



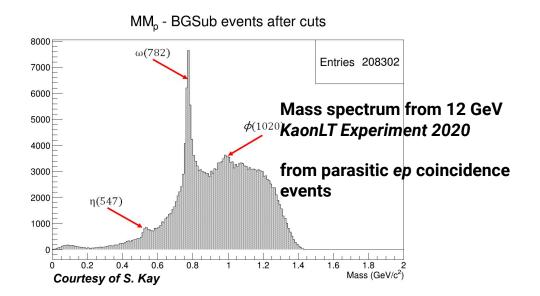
Results on Backward Angle Electroproduction

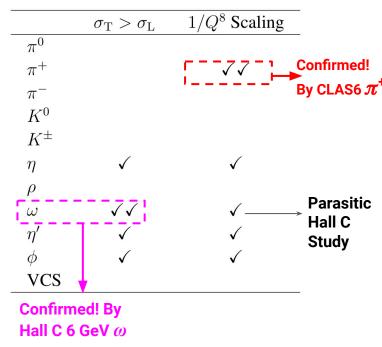




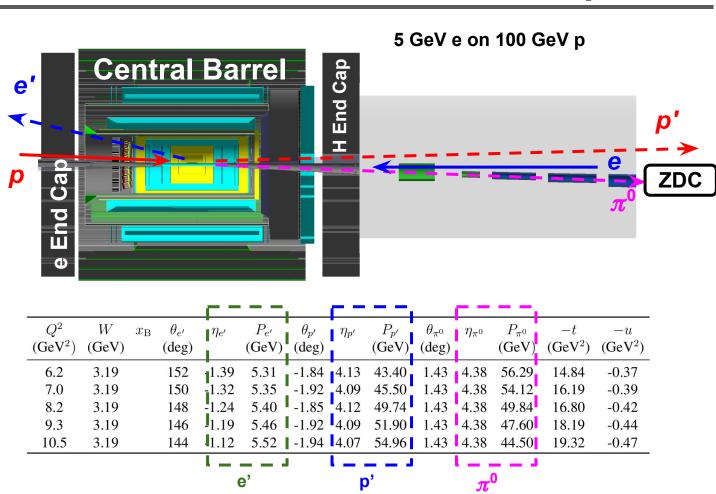
Question: *u*-channel peaks for other processes?

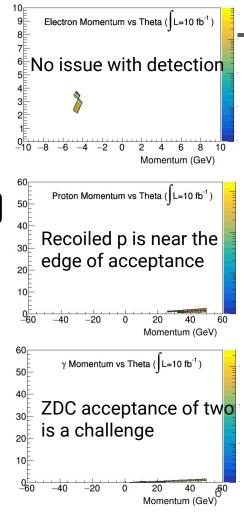
- Is there a u-channel peak for other processes?
 - Answer: Yes
- Evidences:
 - 6 GeV pioneering analysis efforts from Hall C and CLAS 6
 - Parasitic data from 12 GeV Hall C experiments





u-Channel Meson Production Setup





u-Channel studies at EIC

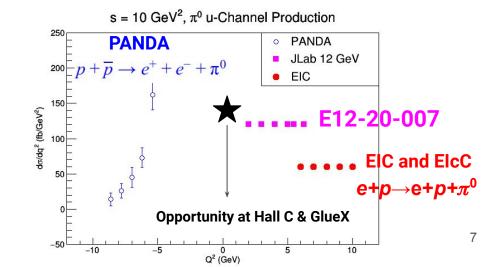
7.4 Understanding Hadronization

There is great potential also in studying **new particle production mechanisms** such as exclusive backward *u*-channel production. Given its high luminosity the EIC may be able to discover fundamental QCD particle production processes with low cross sections such as via hard (perturbative) C-odd three gluon exchange.

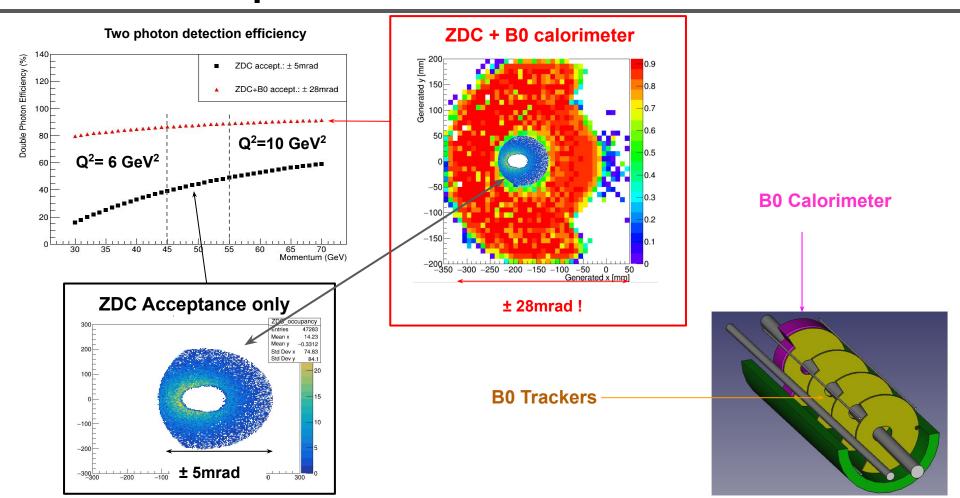




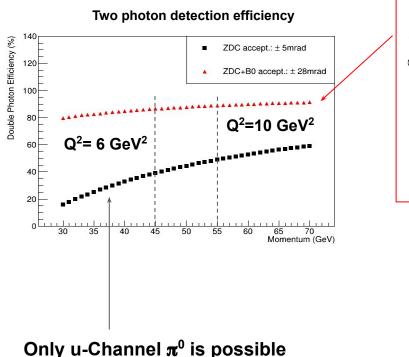
- As postdoctoral fellow at JLab EIC Center: developed Backward $\pi^{\,\theta}$ program for EIC
 - Offers synergy to other planned data set
 - Feasibility studies included as part of the EIC
 Yellow report (published last week)

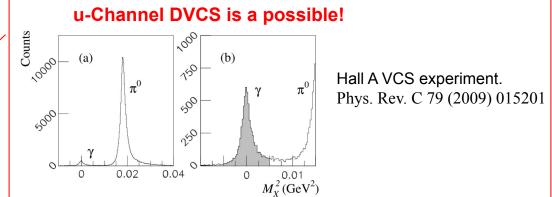


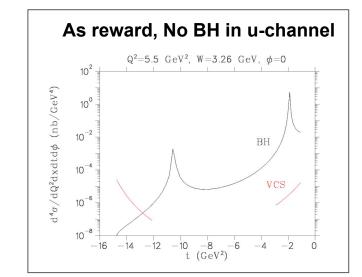
Enhanced acceptance and resolution with B0 calorimeter



Enhanced acceptance and resolution with B0 calorimeter







Enhanced acceptance and resolution with B0 calorimeter

Probing the Darkside of Proton: u-channel Meson Production from Jefferson Lab to EIC

Wenliang 'Bill' Li

Joint postdoc at W&M and JLab EIC Center

Invited Colloquium at Ohio University
18/October/2021

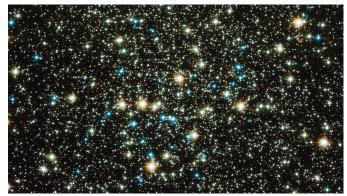








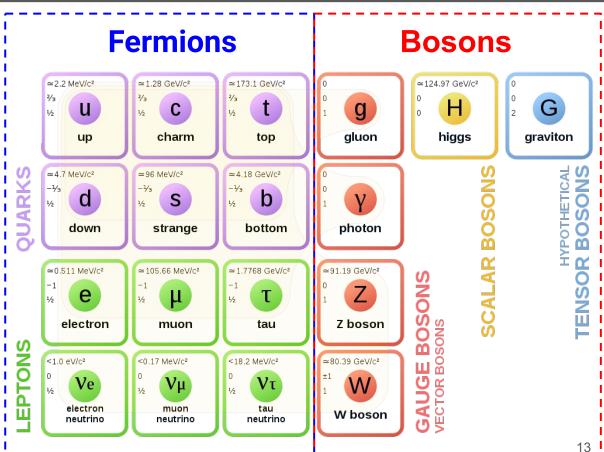
Standard Model: Simple but powerful



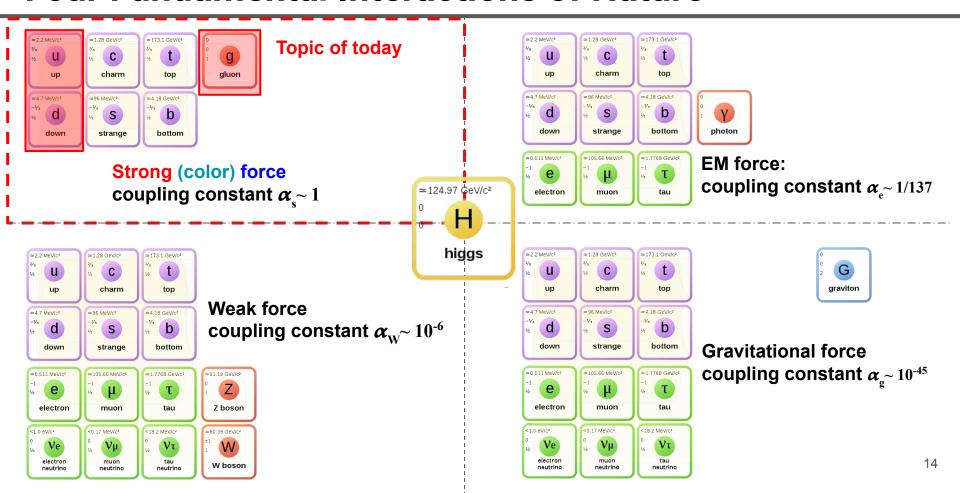
Fermions: Building blocks of known universe

Bosons: Force carriers

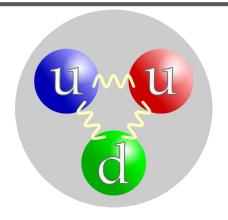
Higgs provide a linkage to other force carriers Z and W bosons.



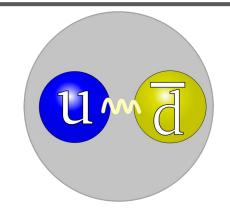
Four Fundamental Interactions of Nature



Strong interaction and Particle Structure



Baryons consists 3 quarks Example: Proton (uud)



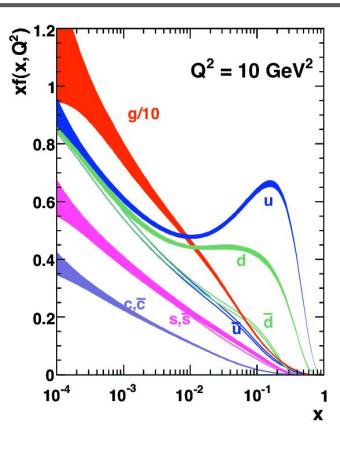
Mesons consists 2 quarks Example: π^+

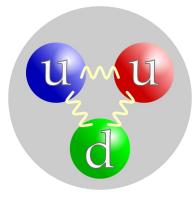
Hadrons: includes **baryons** and **mesons**.

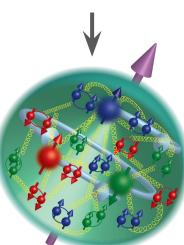
All hadrons are color neutral

Proton and **Neutrons** are nucleons, forming the stable universe **How do quarks distribute themselves within the proton?**

Parton Distribution Function







Parton: Internal part of a proton

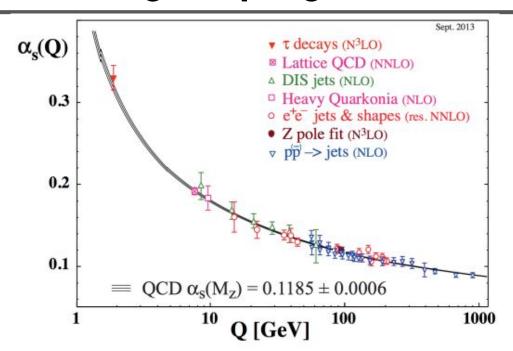
Parton distribution function is complicated! it includes:

- Valence quark (larger quarks)
- Sea quark pairs (pairs)
- Gluons

Proton mass: 938 MeV

Single quark mass: ~4 MeV

Strong Coupling Constant: a running constant!

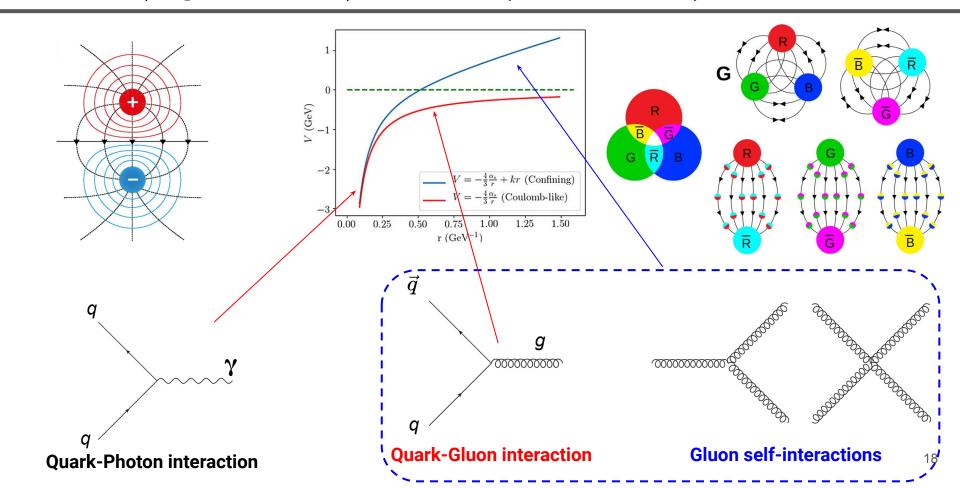


- Strong coupling constant is not a constant!
- Internal structure of proton changes as the resolving power changes!

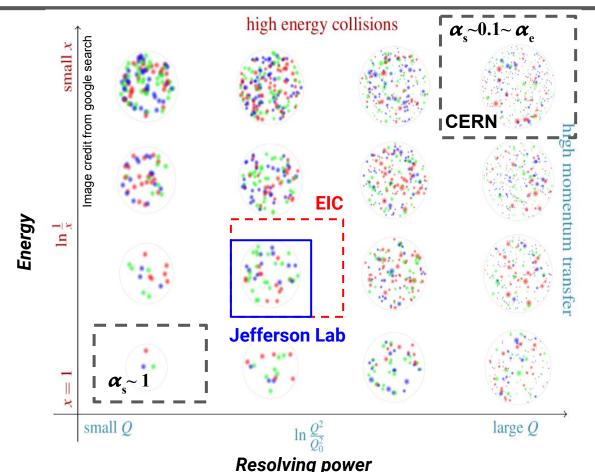
Q: Momentum exchange between the probe and struck parton

Q is equivalent to the resolving power

QED (Dipole Field) vs QCD (Color Field)

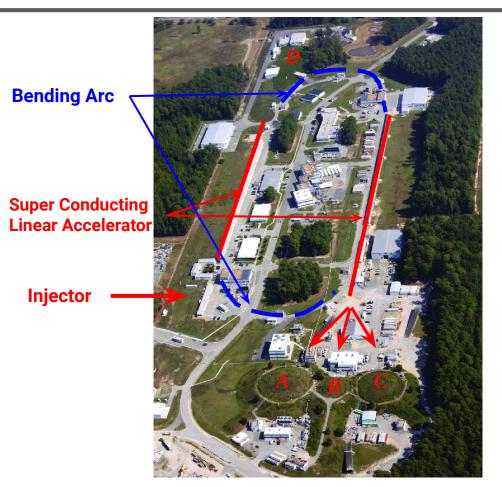


Dynamic Structure of the Nucleon



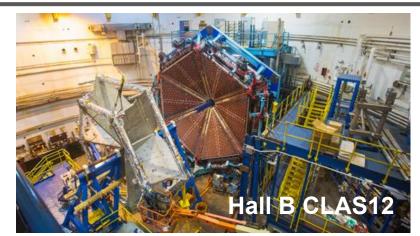
- $\alpha_s \sim 0.1 \sim \alpha_E$: Quark behaviour is described by perturbative methods; validated by CERN experiments.
 - $\alpha_{\rm s}\sim 1$: Not measurable
- Taking snapshots of proton structure at intermediate energy
- We need powerful theoretical tools to do the extrapolation!

Jefferson Lab



- Facility cost: \$ 2B
 - Two Superconducting LINAC
 - Four experimental Halls
 - Electron beam energy up to 12 GeV
 - Duty cycle~99%
- Annual operating budget: ~\$200 M
 - 95% is electricity cost
- Peak Power Consumption: 1.2 M Watts
 - Ford-class aircraft carriers A1B reactor effective output
- Standard 6 month/year operation
 - Electricity cost per day to run experiments: \$ 800K

Jefferson Lab Experimental Halls at 12 GeV



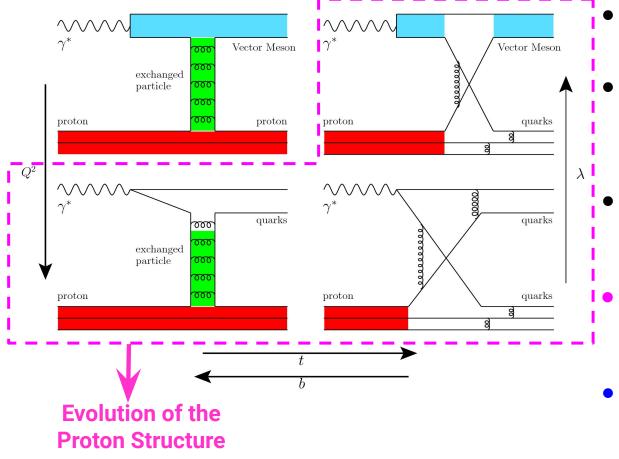




Each Experimental Hall carry unique scientific objectives:

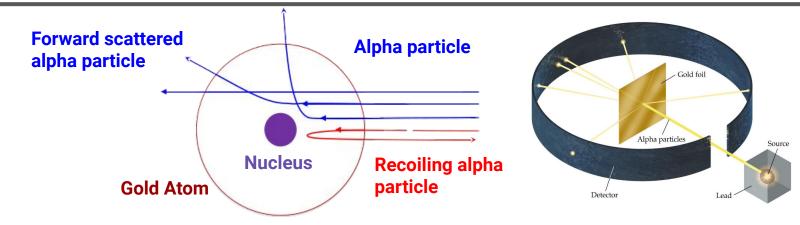
- Hall A: upgrading, not shown
- Hall B: low lumi. beam, large acceptance. Study multiple interactions simultaneously.
- Hall C: High Res. Spectrometers. High intensity beam. Study nucleon structure, LT separation.
- Hall D: photon beam, large acceptance.

Hadronic Model: Transition (Evolution) of Proton Structure



- Physical parameters:
 - In x, W (or s), <mark>Q²</mark>, **t**, **u**
- x Evolution:
 - Parton momentum fraction: 0.2-0.3 valence quark distribution is pronounced
- W Evolution:
 - Dictate if a process is in the resonance region
- Q^2 Evolution
 - Wavelength of the probe, or resolving power
- *t* Evolution
 - Inversely related to the Impact parameter b

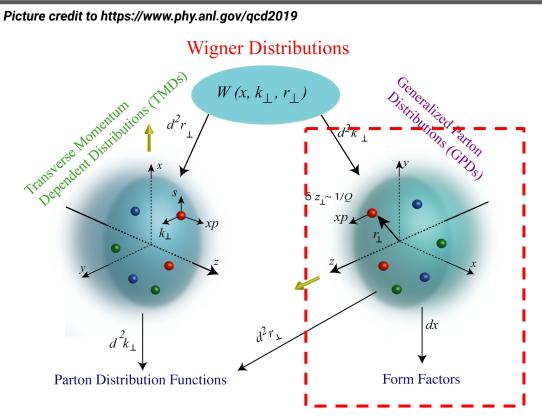
Probing Full Structure of Atom





- Forward scattered alpha particle: extracting the interaction radius of the nucleus and mapping out the transverse structure of the atom (mostly empty)
- Recoiling alpha particle: stiffness of the "point-like" structure.
- Full structure = forward angle + backward angle observables.

Modern Description of Nucleon Structure



Wigner distribution:

 Complete of momentum and position information

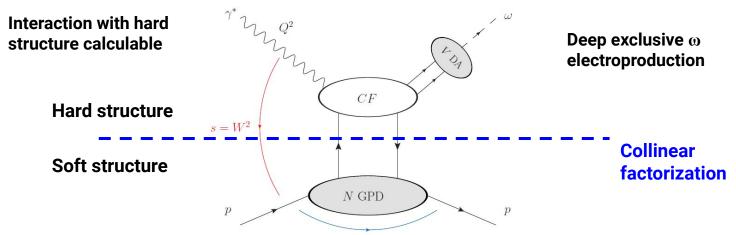
Generalized Parton Distribution (GPDs):

- Integrated over all momentum operators
- Complete position information of quarks inside nucleon
- Directly translate to charge nucleon distribution

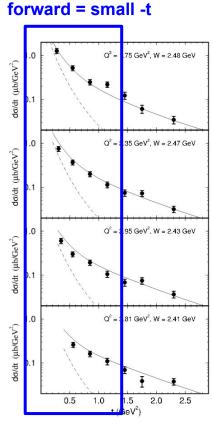
Transverse Momentum Distribution (TMDs):

- Integrated over all space
- Complete Momentum information of quarks inside nucleon

Generalized Parton Distribution

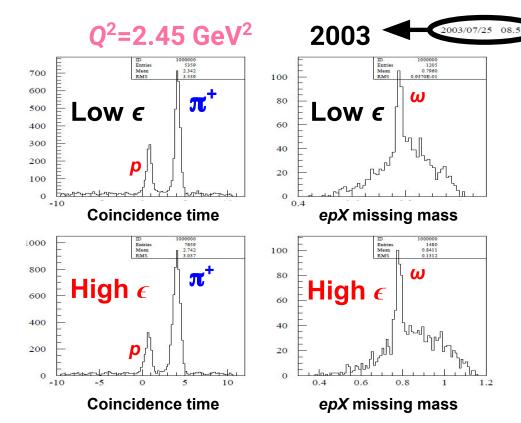


- Proton structure is divided into Hard and Soft structures:
 - Hard structure is calculable by perturbative methods
 - Framework uses Hard structure information to extrapolate to the Soft structure
- Condition for Factorization Scheme:
 - At sufficiently large momentum transfer
 - Produced meson fragments scatter to extreme forward.
 - Framework ignores the structure information from backward-angle interactions
- Question: missing the description for backward structure of proton?



Gifted Backward-angle Observables

- Fpi-2 (E01-004) 2003
 - Spokesperson: Garth Huber, Henk Blok
 - Standard HMS and SOS (e) configuration
 - Electric form factor of charged π through exclusive π production
- Primary reaction for Fpi-2
 - \circ H(e, e' π^+)n
- In addition, the experiment fortuitously received
 - p(e,e' p)ω
- Kinematics coverage
 - $_{\circ}$ W= 2.21 GeV, Q^2 =1.6 and 2.45 GeV²
 - $_{\circ}$ Two ϵ settings for each Q^2



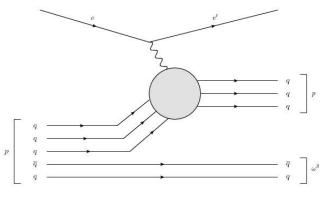
t-Channel π^{+} vs u-Channel ω Production

Primary reaction for Fpi-2

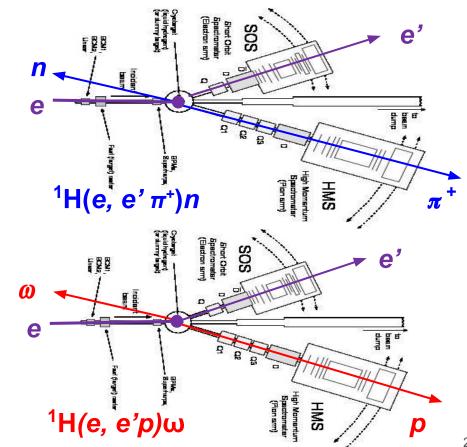
- \circ H(e, e' π^+)n
- o n (940 MeV)
- \circ π^+ (140 MeV)

Unexpected reaction:

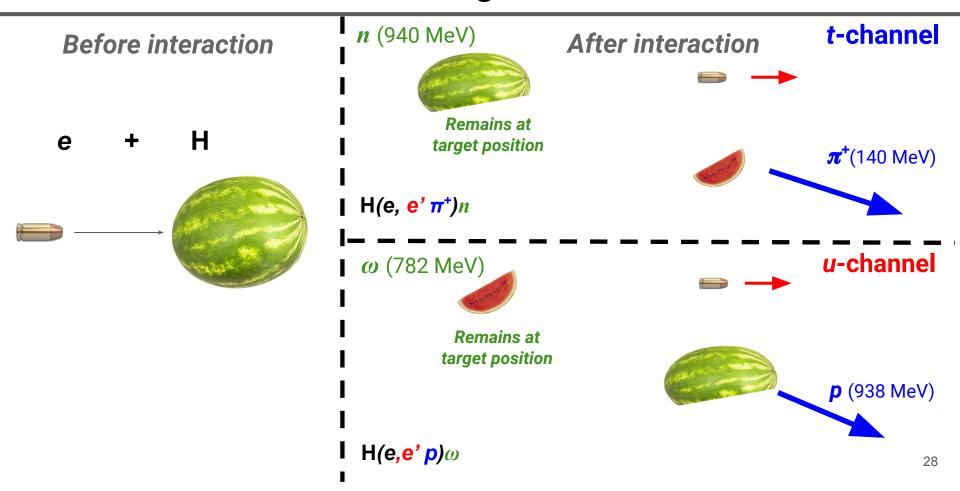
- \circ H(e,e'p) ω
- o p (940 MeV)
- ω (783 MeV)



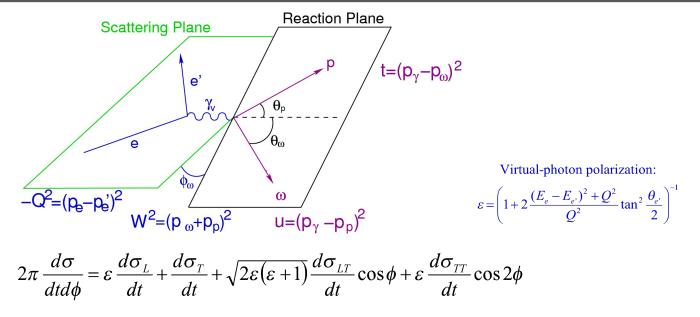
Mark Strikman & Christian Weiss: A proton being knocked out of a proton process



Forward and Backward Fragmentation of a Watermelon



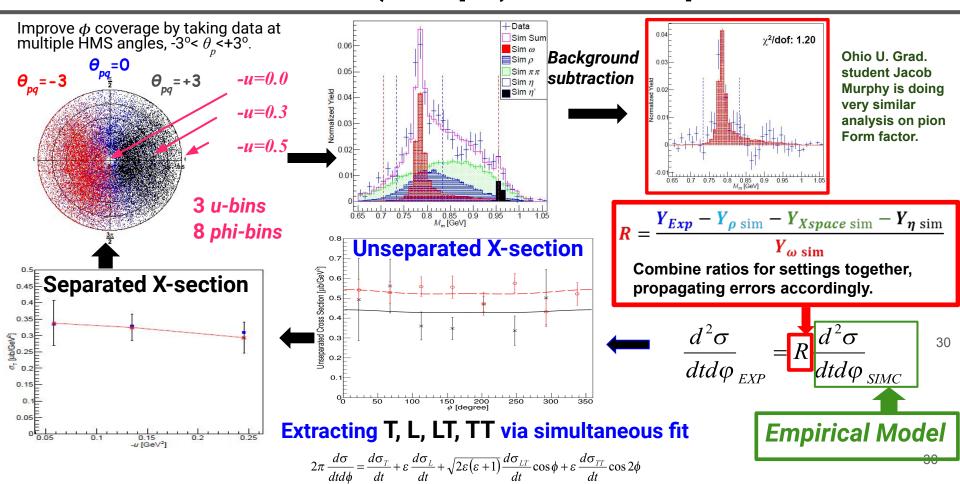
The Rosenbluth Separation



Rosenbluth Separation requirements:

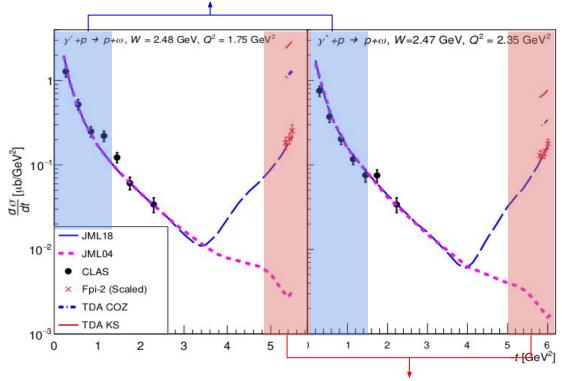
- Separate measurements at different ε (virtual photon polarization)
- All Lorentz invariant physics quantities: Q², W, t, u, remain constant
- Beam energy, scattered e angle and virtual photon angle will change as the result, thus event rates are dramatically different

Iterative Procedure (Recipe) to a LT Separation



Results on Backward Angle Electroproduction

Forward ω electroproduction from CLAS 6 (2004)

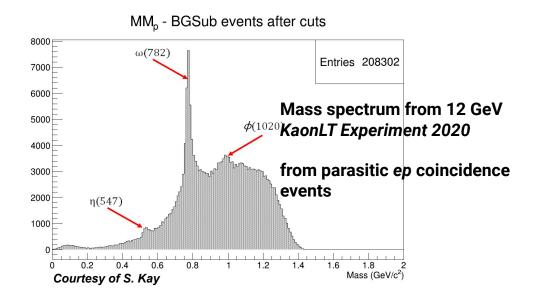


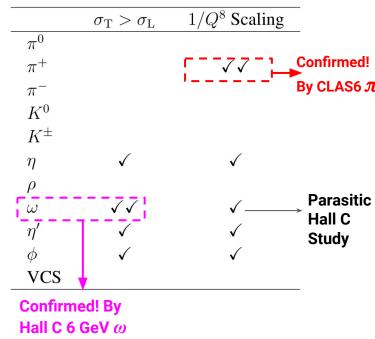
- Topic of my Ph.D
- Analysis: 2013-2017
- Results published in *Phys.* Rev. Let. (2019)
- The magnitude of u-channel peak is surprisingly large

Backward angle ω electroproduction (2017)

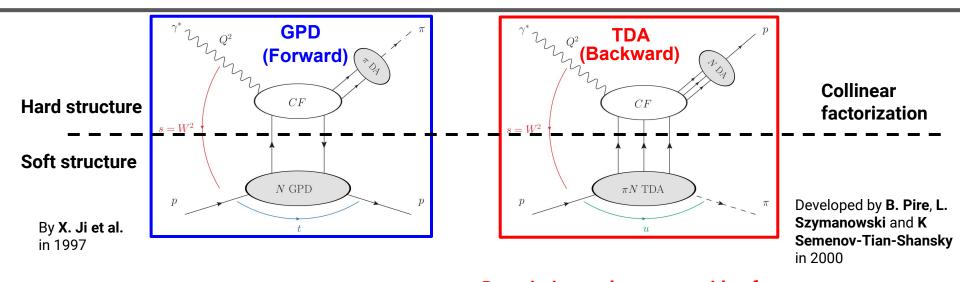
Question: *u*-channel peaks for other processes?

- Is there a u-channel peak for other processes?
 - Answer: Yes
- Evidences:
 - 6 GeV pioneering analysis efforts from Hall C and CLAS 6
 - Parasitic data from 12 GeV Hall C experiments





GPD, SPD and TDA (Hard Structure)

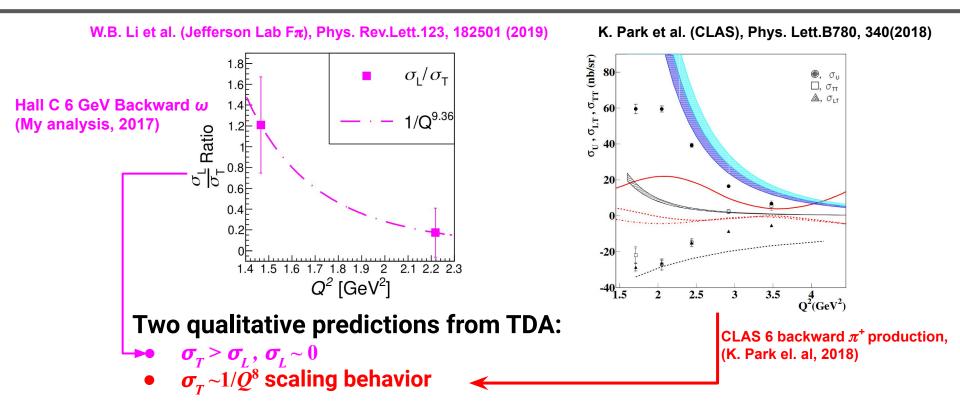


Complete description of Nucleon

Description to the unseen side of proton

- GPD: It is extracted predominantly based in the forward angle observables.
- TDA: meson-nucleon Transition Distribution Amplitude (TDA) only accessible through backward (u-channel) meson production.

Validation of TDA Factorization Scheme

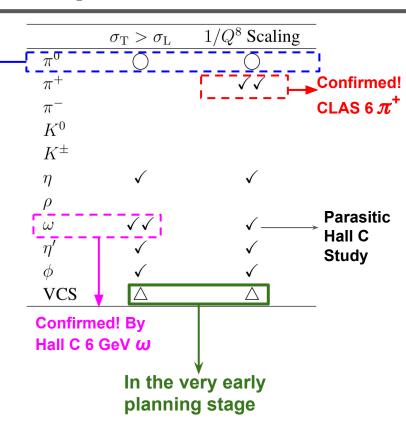


This is the time for a dedicated backward angle study:

Simultaneously testing both TDA predictions

First Dedicated Backward Angle Experiment

- Probing backward-angle (*u*-channel) electroproduction of π^0 : E12-20-007
 - First presented as Letter of Intent in 2018
 - Full proposal submitted in 2020
- Received full approval by JLab Program Advisory Committee (PAC):
 - Experiment fully approved for 29 PAC days
 - Projected beam time: 48 days (48 * \$800k = \$ 30M in electricity bill from tax payer)
- PAC recognized the pioneering nature of the measurement
 - The exploration of backward pion electroproduction is feasible, and JLab is an ideal venue at which to perform it.
- Significant symbolic meaning: First approved dedicated u-channel experiment



PR12-20-007 Collaborator List

Wenliang (Bill) Li, Justin Stevens, David Armstrong, Todd Averett, Andrew Hurley, Lydia Lorenti, and Amy Schertz

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, USA

Garth Huber, Muhammad Junaid, Stephen Kay, Vijay Kumar, Zisis Papandreou, Dilli Paudyal, and Ali Usman

University of Regina, Regina, SK Canada

Kirill Semenov-Tian-Shansky

National Research Centre Kurchatov Institute: Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, RU-188300 Gatchina, Russia

Bernard Pire

CPHT, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique, IP Paris, 91128-Palaiseau, France

Lech Szymanowski

National Centre for Nuclear Research (NCBJ), 02-093 Warsaw, Poland

Alexandre Camsonne, Jian-Ping Chen, Silviu Covrig Dusa, Filippo Delcarro, Markus Diefenthaler, Dave Gaskell, Ole Hansen, Doug Higinbotham, Astrid Hiller Blin, Mike McCaughan, Brad Sawatzky, and Greg Smith

Jefferson Lab, Newport News, Virginia, USA

Arthur Mkrtchyan, Vardan Tadevosyan, Hakob Voskanyan, and Hamlet Mkrtchyan

A. Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory (Yerevan Physics Institute). Yereven, Armenia

Stefan Diehl, Eric Fuchey, and Kyungseon Joo

University of Connecticut, Mansfield, Connecticut, USA

Werner Boeglin, Mariana Khachatryan, Pete E. Markowitz. and Carlos Yero

Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA

Moskov Amaryan, Florian Hauenstein, and Charles Hyde

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, USA

Gabriel Niculescu and Ioana Niculescu

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA

Paul King and Julie Roche
Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA

Darko Androic

University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Konrad Aniol

California State University, Los Angeles, California, USA

Marie Boer

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

Wouter Deconinck

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Maxime Defurne

CEA, Universite Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

Mostafa Elaasar

Southern University at New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Cristiano Fanelli

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Strong collaborators from Ohio U.

Stuart Fegan

University of York, Heslington, York, UK
Carlos Ayerbe Gayoso

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, USA

Narbe Kalantarians

Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA, USA

Daniel Lersch

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

Rafayel Paremuzyan

University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, USA

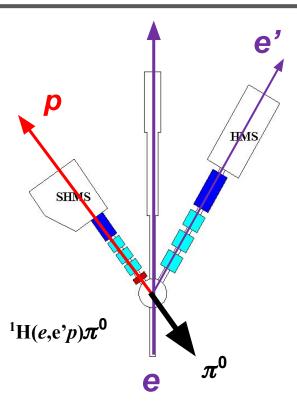
Kijun Park

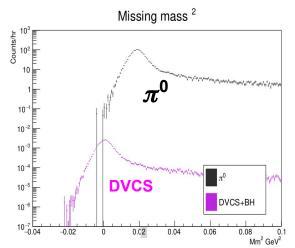
Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute, Hampton, Virginia, USA

Igor Strakovsky

The George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

E12-20-007 Backward-angle 1 H $(e,e'p)\pi^{0}$



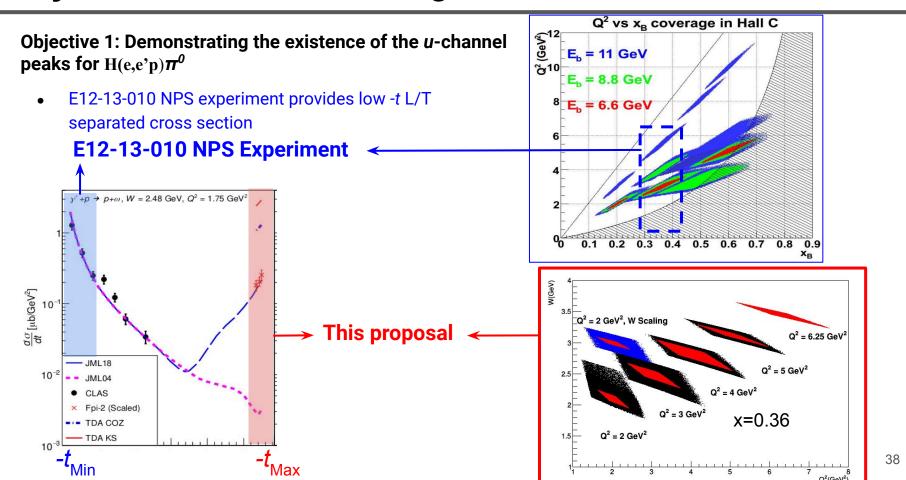


Q ² GeV ²	W GeV	ε	x	$ heta_{ extsf{pq}}$ Degree
2.0	3.00	0.32	0.20	-3, 0
		0.79	0.20	-2.8, 0, +3
2.0	2.11	0.52	0.36	-3, 0, +3
		0.94	0.36	-3, 0, +3
3.0	2.49	0.54	0.36	-3, 0, +3
		0.86	0.36	-3, 0, +3
4.0	2.83	0.56	0.36	-3, 0, +3
		0.73	0.36	-3, 0, +3
5.0	3.13	0.26	0.36	-3, 0
		0.55	0.36	-3, 0, +3
6.25	3.46	0.27	0.36	0

First dedicated *u*-channel electroproduction study above the resonance region:

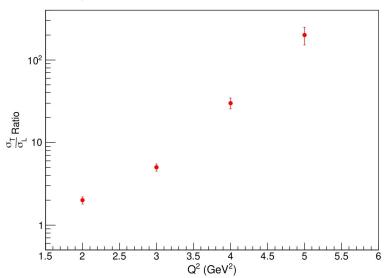
- Q^2 coverage: $2.0 < Q^2 < 6.25 \text{ GeV}^2$, at x = 0.36 and W > 2 GeV L/T separated cross section @ $Q^2 = 2$, 3, 4 and 5 GeV².
- $u \text{ coverage: } 0 < -u' + 0.5 < 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$
- Additional W scaling check @ Q² = 2 GeV²
- Additional Q² scaling check @ Q² = 6.25 GeV²

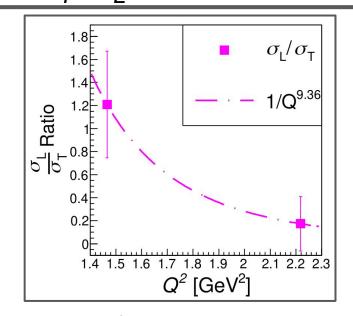
Objective 1: Backward-angle Peaks



Objective 2: *TDA Prediction #1* $\sigma_{\tau} > \sigma_{l}$

Projected T/L ratio vs Q^2 (this proposal)



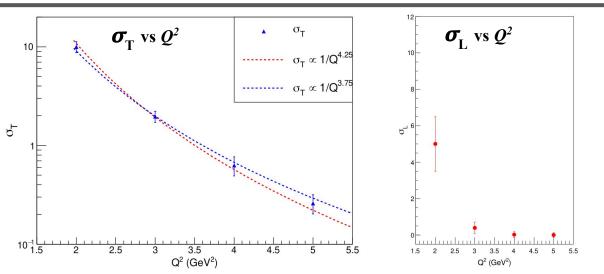


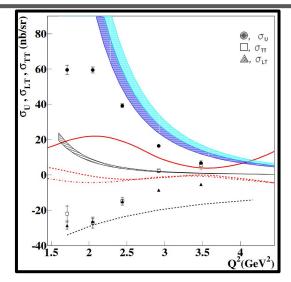
L/T ratio vs Q² (6 GeV F_{π} -2 experiment for ω)

Objective 3: L/T Separated Cross section

- TDA predicts $\sigma_{\rm T} > \sigma_{\rm L}$
- Experimental criteria for concluding $\sigma_{\rm T}$ dominance: $\sigma_{\rm T}/\sigma_{\rm L}$ increases as a function of Q^2 and reaches $\sigma_{\rm T}/\sigma_{\rm L} > 10$ at $Q^2 = 5~{\rm GeV^2}$

Objective 3: TDA Prediction #2, $\sigma_T \propto 1/Q^8$ Scaling





 $\sigma vs Q^2$ (CLAS 6 π^+ result)

Objective 4: L/T Separated Cross section

- TDA predicts σ_T ∝ 1/Q⁸.
- TDA predicts $\sigma_1 \sim 0$, not a leading order leading twist contribution effect.
- Experiment designed to $(Q^2)^n$, 3.75 < n < 4.25

Research Plan: time projection JLab to EIC

JLab GlueX Analysis (KKpi+u-channel)

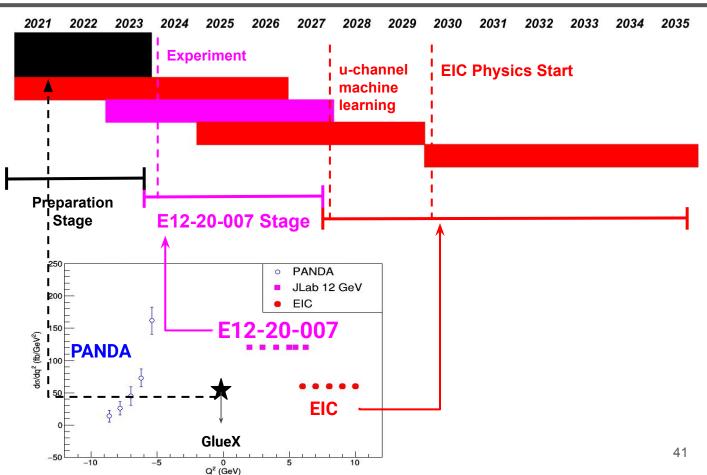
JLab Hall C Parasitic u-Channel studies

EIC Preliminary u-Channel Studies

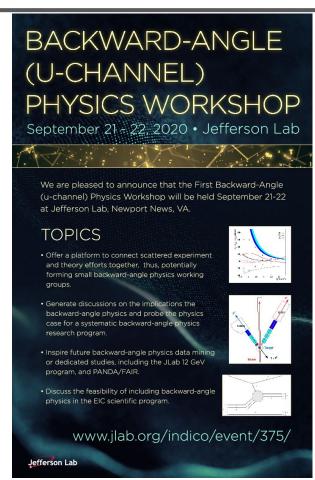
JLab Hall C E12-20-007

EIC Detector R&D

EIC Data Analysis

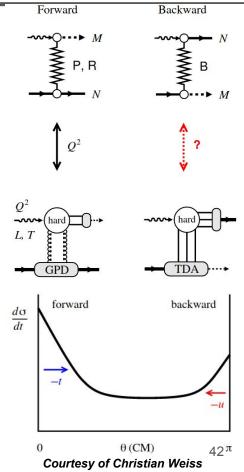


u-channel Process Workshop (September 2020)

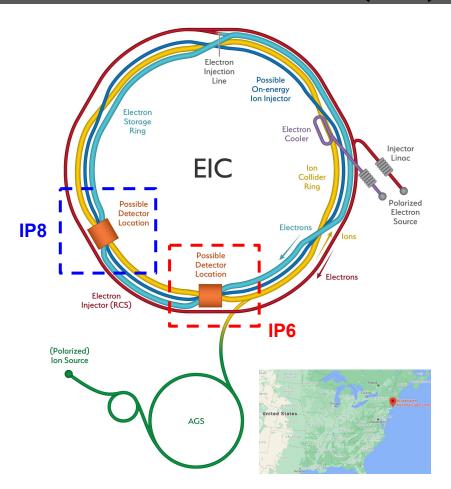


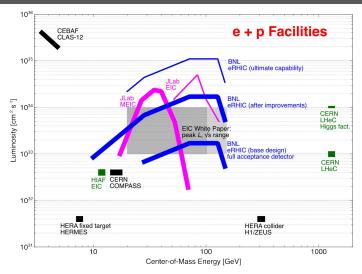
- Workshop participation:
 - o 20 contributed talks, 2 discussion sessions.
 - Number of individual Participants: 51
- Objectives:
 - Connect scattered experiment and theory efforts
 - Discussions on systematic backward-angle physics research program.
 - Inspire future backward-angle physics studies.
- A workshop whitepaper submitted for publication:

https://arxiv.org/pdf/2107.06748.pdf



Electron Ion Collider (EIC) @ BNL

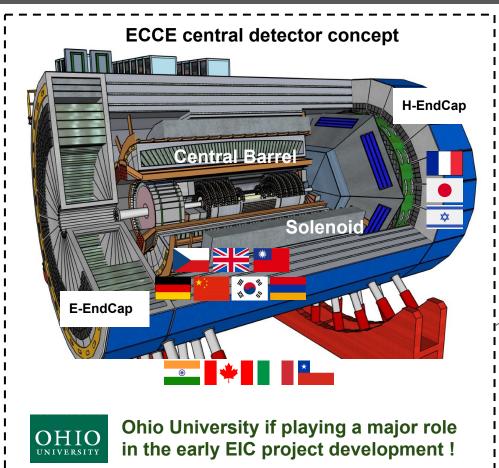


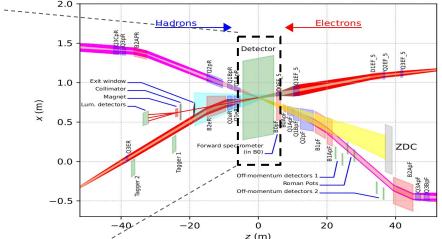


The Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) is the next generation "Dream Machine" for Nuclear Physics Research.

- Luminosity with 100 GeV p on 5 GeV e: 10 x10³³ cm⁻²s⁻¹ mi
- Project Location: Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), NY.
- Additional Information:
 - CD-0 approved ~ \$2 B
 - o Physics starts in 2031

EIC (ECCE) Detector Concept @ IP6





Main Features:

- Utilize babar magnet (1.4T)
- \$ 200M
- A international effort
- Collaboration from ANL, ONL, JLab, LANL, LBL
- More to come!

u-Channel studies at EIC

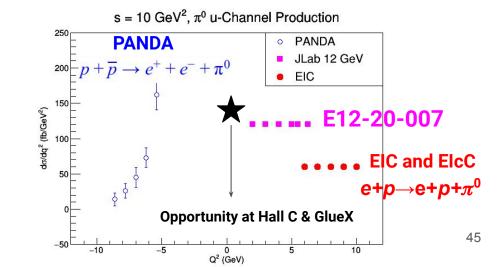
7.4 Understanding Hadronization

There is great potential also in studying **new particle production mechanisms** such as exclusive backward *u*-channel production. Given its high luminosity the EIC may be able to discover fundamental QCD particle production processes with low cross sections such as via hard (perturbative) C-odd three gluon exchange.

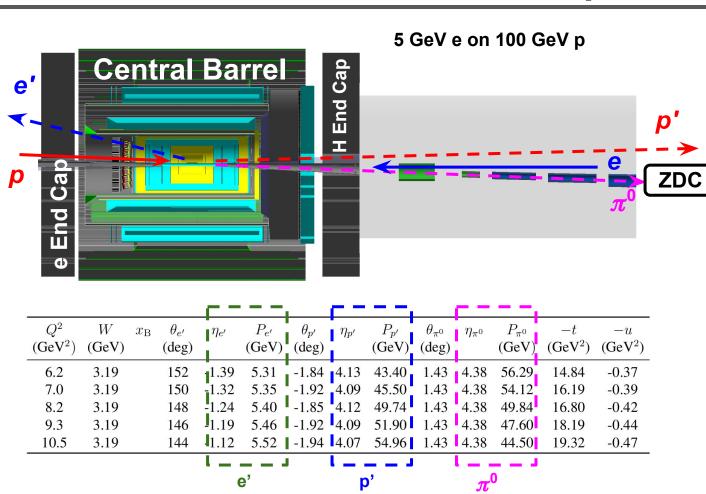


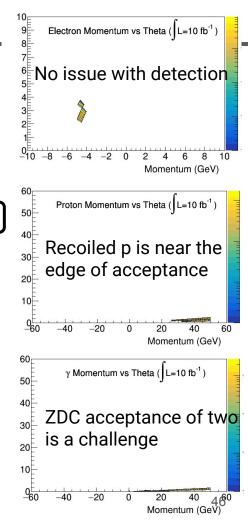


- As postdoctoral fellow at JLab EIC Center: developed Backward $\pi^{\, heta}$ program for EIC
 - Offers synergy to other planned data set
 - Feasibility studies included as part of the EIC
 Yellow report (published last week)



u-Channel Meson Production Setup

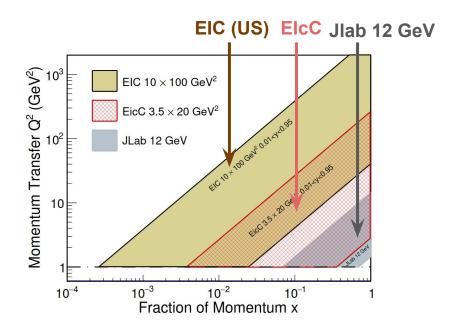




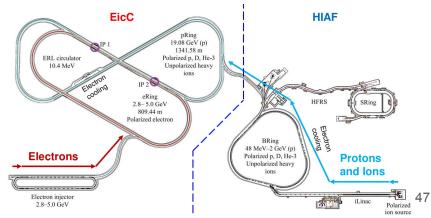
u-channel π^0 at EIC in China (EIcC):

The Electron-Ion Collider in China (ElcC):

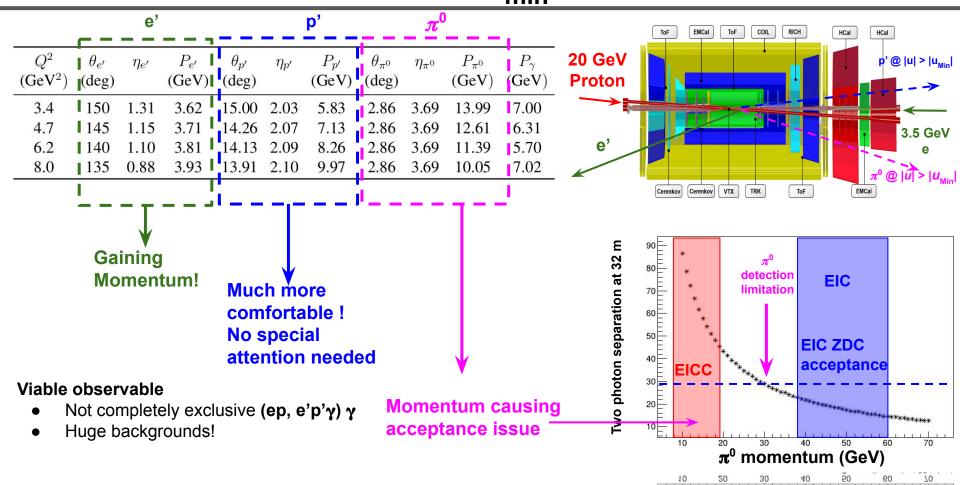
- Nominal energy: 3.5 GeV e on 20 GeV proton
- Luminosity reaches 10³³ cm⁻² s⁻¹ (comparable to EIC)
- Physics ready by 2031
- Is ElcC competitor to the ElC?



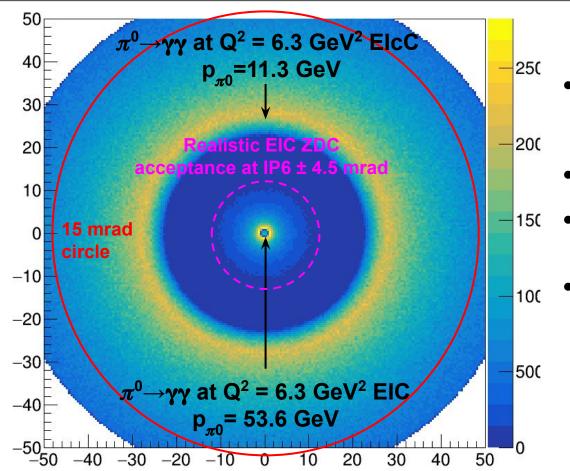




Kinematics Table for $u = u_{\min}$, $s = 10 \text{ GeV}^2$

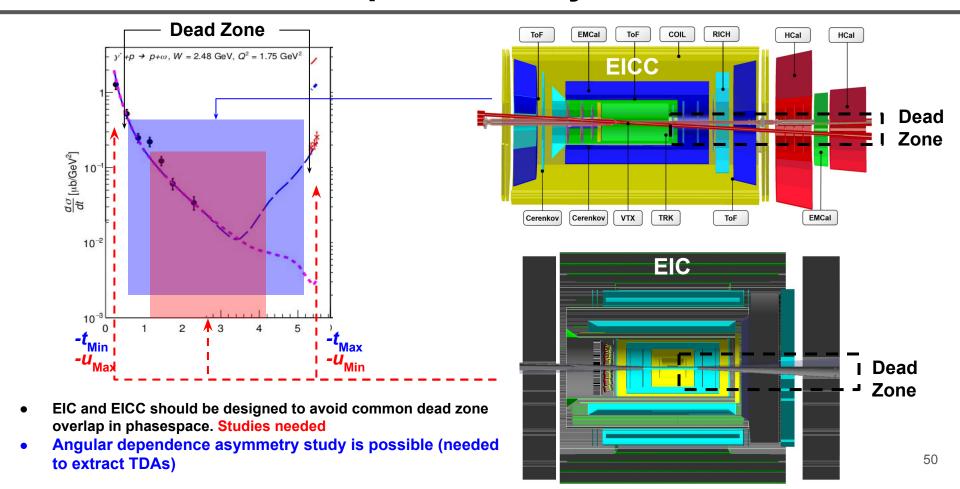


Why ZDC is less important for u-Channel π^0 at ElcC



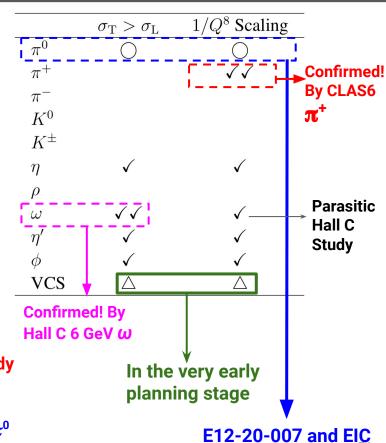
- At Q² = 6.3 GeV², s = 10 GeV. • EIC: $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ (p_{π0} = 53.6 GeV) • EicC: $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ (p_{π0} = 11.3 GeV)
- Assumption: ZDC is at 30m from IR.
- Conclusion: ZDC acceptance at EicC must exceed ± 15mrad.
- Recommendation: minimized the the ZDC acceptance and reduce the dead zone near the beamline.

EIC and EicC Complementarity



Timeline Recap of Events in Backward Proton Structure Study

- 2000: TDA framework first published
- 2003: JLab 6 GeV experiment collected parasitic ω and π
- 2017: u-Channel ω analysis completed (my graduation)
- 2018:
 - CLAS u-Channel π^+ published
 - u-Channel π^0 letter of intent submitted to JLab PAC
- 2019: u-Channel ω result published
- 2020:
 - CLAS 6 u-channel π^0 Beam Spin Asymmetry result published
 - u-Channel π^0 full proposal approved by PAC
 - JSA Post-doctoral Award given to *u*-channel programs
 - Our JLab EIC fellowship awarded to investigate u-channel π^0 at EIC
 - First u-channel physics workshop was hosted
- 2021 (present): EIC yellow report published with *u*-channel π^0 study
- 2025: Experiment E12-20-12 runs at Hall C
- 2031: Physics start at EIC and EIcC, data available for u-channel π^0

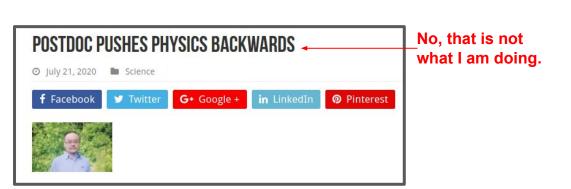


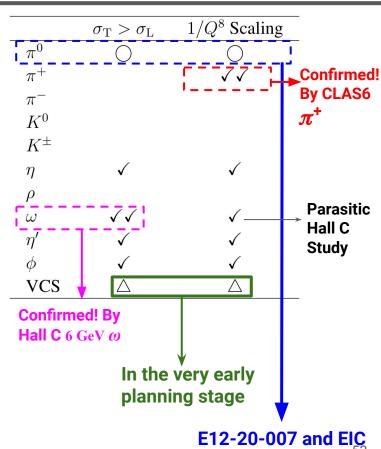
Summary

We are introducing a new path to probe the unseen side of a nucleon

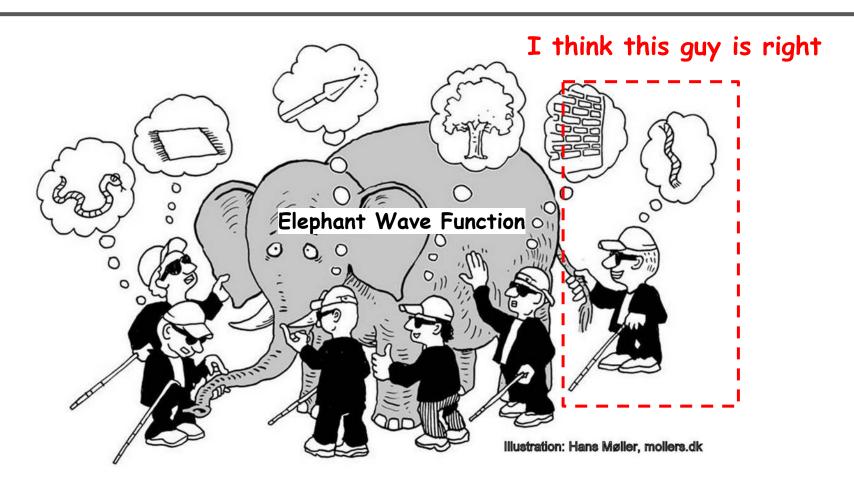
In 10 years:

- Together to push backward angle physics forward
- To guide and inspire more young scientists to study this dark side of proton.





Thank You!



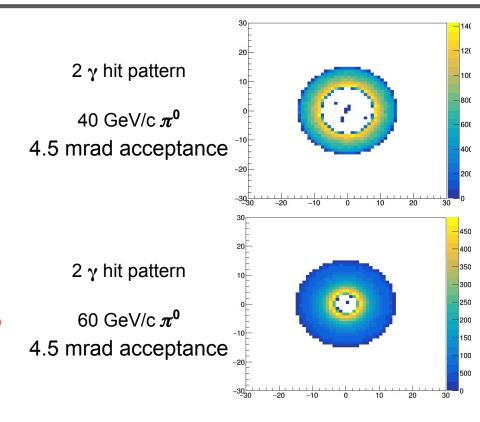
Physics background (to our current best knowledge)

Double photon case:

- Primary reaction: e+p-> e'+p' + π⁰
- Ideal expected trigger: e'+p'+ 2 γ
- Physics background: none
- Less than ideal trigger: e'+2 γ
- Background: Λ ->n+ π ⁰

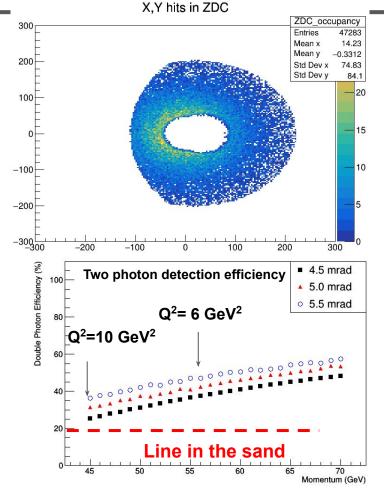
Single photon case:

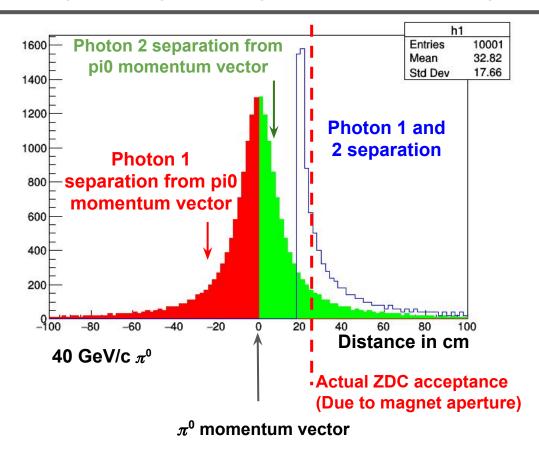
- Primary reaction: $e+p-> e'+p' + \pi^0$
- Ideal expected trigger: e'+p'+ γ
- Physics background: DVCS, eta, Λ ->n+ π ⁰
- Less than ideal trigger: e'+γ
- Background: many many possibility



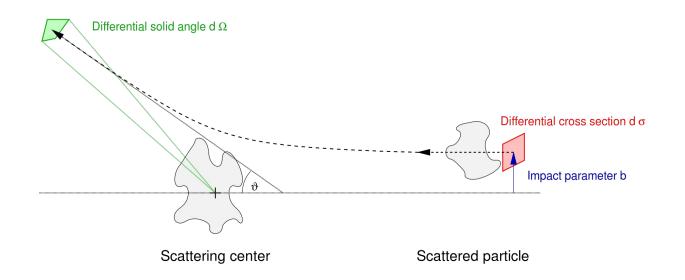
We can use the double photon event to normalize the single photon events

Realistic ZDC Acceptance (through magnets Aperture)

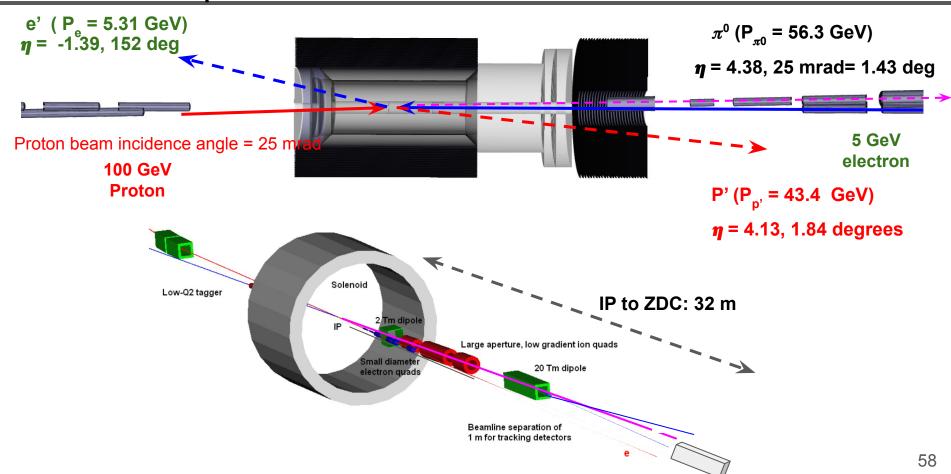




Rutherford Scattering



Interaction picture



Manpower & Funding Required to Complete E12-20-007

- Mississippi State as leading institution for Completing E12-20-007
 - Man power for experiment: Faculty members + 2 Ph.D students + 1 postdoc
 - Additional theory support to achieve publication: 1 theory postdoc
 - Other in kind contributions from other institution (Regina, W&M, etc)
- DOE early career award:
 - Include 2 Ph.D students + 1 Postdoc
 - Fallback: standard DOE research grant
- External funding:
 - Funding commitment from JLab Hall C leadership for ⅓ to ½ post-doc: ~\$27K
 - ½ theory postdoc funding provided by JLab theory center ~\$ 27k
 - Student/Postdoc Fellowship through JLab EIC Center
 - As 2020 recipient: 36K (salary+admin) + travel expenses
 - Student: 13K
- A guaranteed success if the experiment adapt the existing MSU infrastructure by Dipangkar and Lamiaa!

Two Cherenkov Detectors experiences and EIC R&D

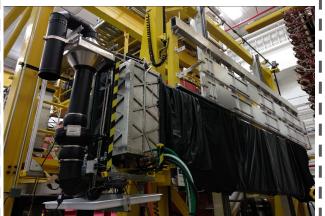
Heavy Gas Cherenkov Detector Construction for JLab Hall C

- 2009-2017
- Led by Dr. G. Huber
- My contribution: Design, prototyping, Geant4 simulation, final assembly

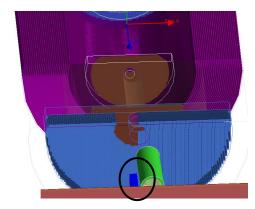


GlueX DIRC Detector

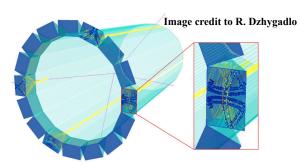
- 2017-Present
- Led by Dr. J. Stevens
- My contribution: Prototyping, final assembly, maintenance, data analysis



EIC Detector R&D

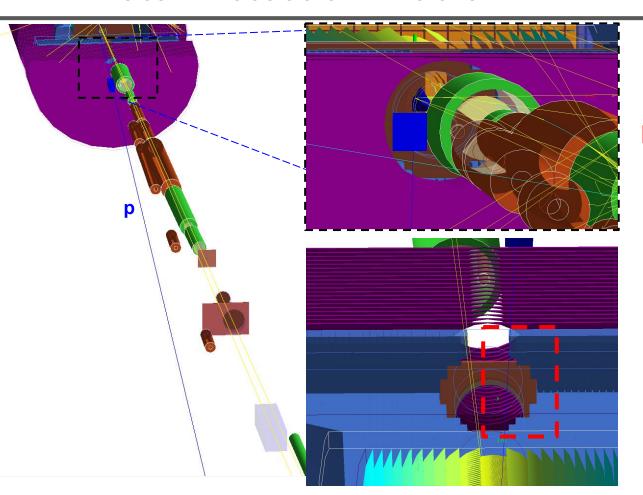


High Eta Counter for backward π^0



High-performance-DIRC: CUA,JLab, W&M, GSI (Germany), University of Hawaii, Indiana University

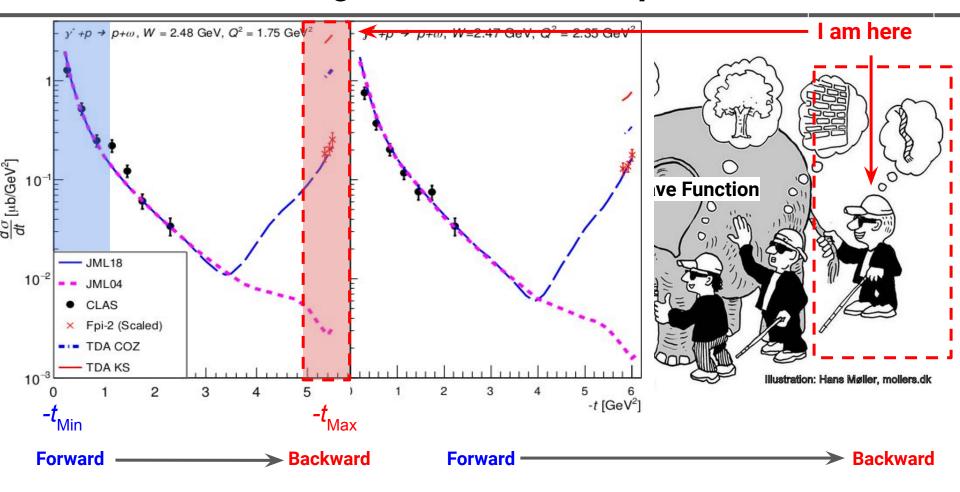
A Proton Detection Problem



Proton detector issue!

- Proton will NOT be detector due to ventilation hole!
- Blue cube: new detector dropped in to help with acceptance study
- Completing feasibility study is critical now! (designing stage)

Probing the "dark" side of proton

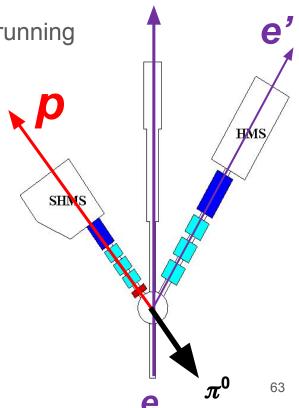


Requirements

PAC has approved 29 days of beam (requested 29.4 days)

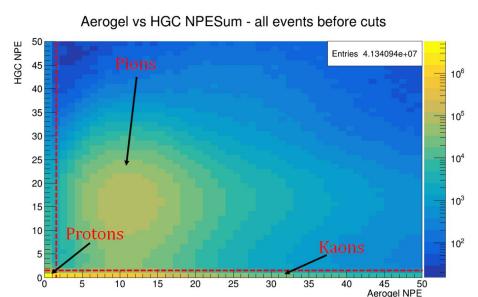
 Beam request: standard beam tune during the time of running with standard polarization

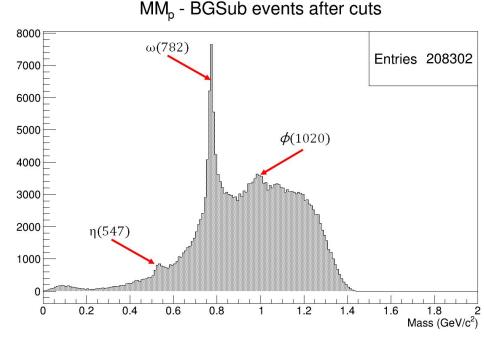
- Equipment refurbishment:
 - HMS Aerogel PMT Replacement (new request)
 - SHMS Aerogel tray of n=1.0003 (already planned)
- Special detector configuration:
 - Installing NGC for SHMS
 - SHMS aerogel tray n=1.0003
 - HMS aerogel tray n=1.0011
 - Using Moller polarimeter



More u-channel studies from other Hall C Experiments

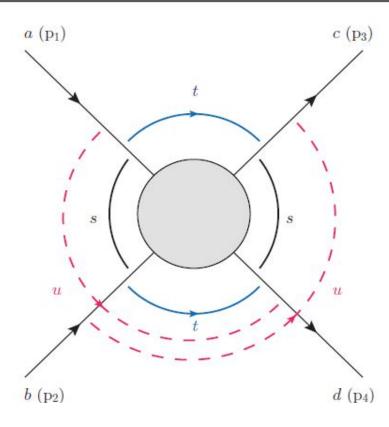
 Missing mass reconstruction of ep events from Kaon LT experiment showing resonance peaks for multiple meson productions





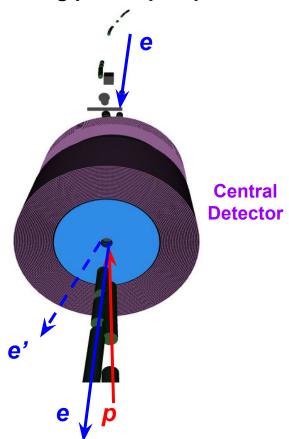
Plots provided by S. Kay

Mandelstam Variable

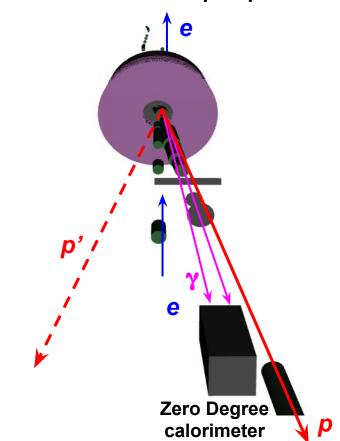


Visualizing *u*-channel π^0

Incoming proton perspective



Incidence electron perspective

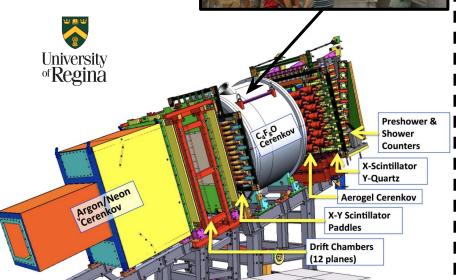


My Contribution to JLab 12 GeV: HGC and DIRC

Heavy Gas Cherenkov Detector for Hall C

- Master Student
- 2009-2013
- Led by Dr. G. Huber (University of Regina, Canada)

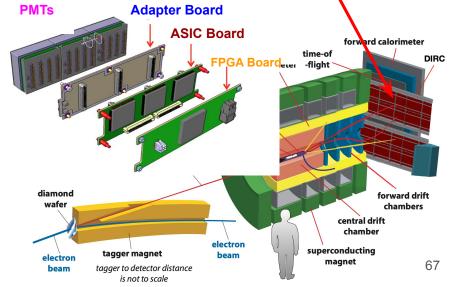




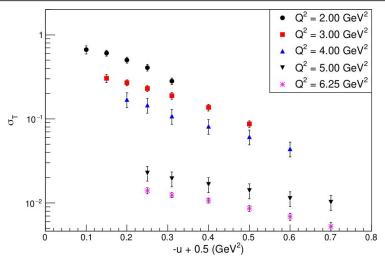
GlueX DIRC Detector for Hall D

- Postdoc
- 2017-Present
- Led by Dr. J. Stevens (W&M)





Objective 2: *u***-***dependence*



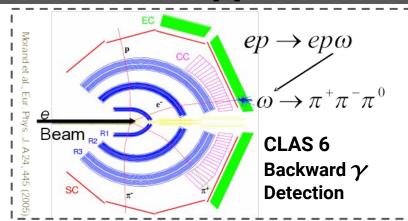
Objective 2: u-dependence of the separated cross section

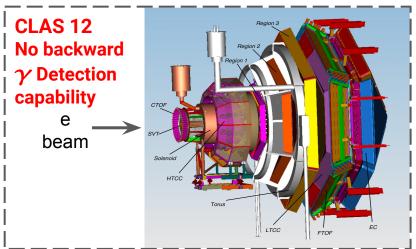
• Extracting -u dependence of the unseparated cross section and interaction radius:

$$\sigma = A e^{-b \cdot |u|}, \quad r_{int} = \sqrt{b} \, \hbar \, c$$

• Study of parameter Γ_{int} as function of Q^2 , probe the proton structure transition from hadronic to partonic degrees of freedom. (Similar to the study by Halina Abramowicz, Leonid Frankfurt, Mark Strikman, arXiv:hep-ph/9503437, 1995.)

u-Channel Opportunities at CLAS 12



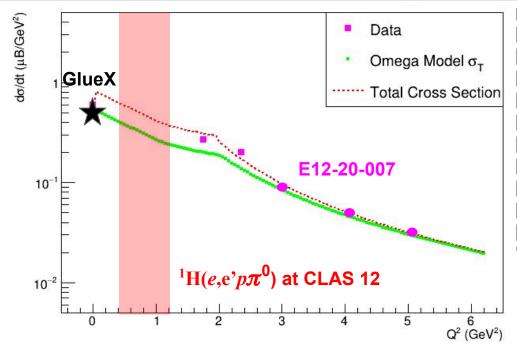


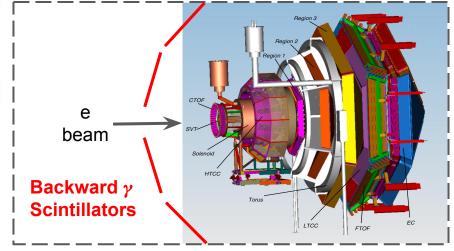
Harvesting u-channel meson production cross section at near u_{\min} kinematics at Hall B CLAS 12 (consulted with S. Diehl)

- π^0 : good acceptance for -t of 5-6 GeV². u-channel measurements not possible.
- π^+ : full coverage of the t and u acceptance.
- $\rho/\omega \to \pi^+\pi^-$: decay well measured, full coverage of the t and u acceptance.
- $\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-$: full coverage of the t and u acceptance, very limited statistics at small u.

Possibility to address *u*-channel π^0 issue?

u-Channel Opportunities at CLAS 12





- Adding Scintillators allows u-channel π^0
- 0 < Q² < 1.2 GeV kinematics only available with CLAS 12
- Offering unique opportunity