



**Pion and Kaon Form Factor Measurements  
at the EIC**

**Stephen JD Kay  
University of Regina**

**EIC Detector 1 E/D WG  
06/06/22**

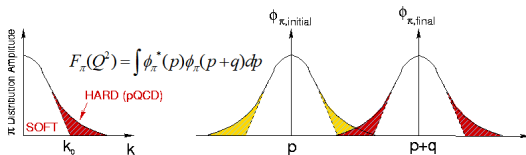
# Outline

- Meson form factors
- Form factors at the EIC through DEMP
- Kaon form factors at the EIC - Outlook

Cover Image - Brookhaven National Lab, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/brookhavenlab/>

# Meson Form Factors

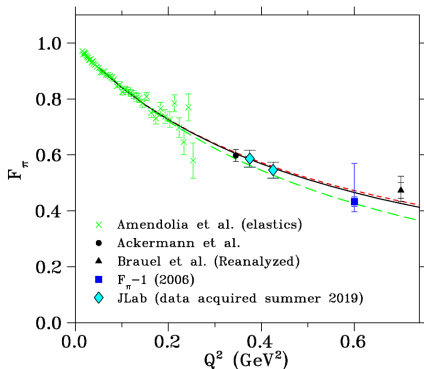
- Charged pion ( $\pi^\pm$ ) and Kaon ( $K^\pm$ ) form factors ( $F_\pi$ ,  $F_K$ ) are key QCD observables
  - Describe the spatial distribution of partons within a hadron



- Meson wave function can be split into  $\phi_\pi^{\text{soft}}$  ( $k < k_0$ ) and  $\phi_\pi^{\text{hard}}$ , the hard tail
  - Can treat  $\phi_\pi^{\text{hard}}$  in pQCD, cannot with  $\phi_\pi^{\text{soft}}$
  - Form factor is the overlap between the two tails (right figure)
- $F_\pi$  and  $F_K$  of special interest in hadron structure studies
  - $\pi$  - Lightest and simple QCD quark system
  - $K$  - Another simple system, contains strange quark

# Measurement of $F_\pi$ - Low $Q^2$

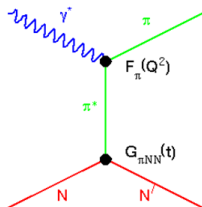
- At low  $Q^2$ ,  $F_\pi$  can be measured model independently
  - High energy elastic  $\pi^-$  scattering from atomic electrons in  $H$
- CERN SPS - 300 GeV pions to measure  $F_\pi$  up to  $Q^2 = 0.25 \text{ GeV}^2$
- Used data to extract pion charge radius -  $r_\pi = 0.657 \pm 0.012 \text{ fm}$
- Maximum accessible  $Q^2$  approximately proportional to pion beam energy
  - $Q^2 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2$  requires 1 TeV pion beam (!)



Amendolia, et al., NPB 277(1986) p168, P. Brauel, et al., ZPhysC (1979), p101, H. Ackermann, et al., NPB137 (1978), p294

# Measurement of $F_\pi$ at Higher $Q^2$

- To access  $F_\pi$  at high  $Q^2$ , must measure  $F_\pi$  indirectly
  - Use the “pion cloud” of the proton via  $p(e, e'\pi^+)n$
- At small  $-t$ , the pion pole process dominates the longitudinal cross section,  $\sigma_L$
- In the Born term model,  $F_\pi^2$  appears as -
$$\frac{d\sigma_L}{dt} \propto \frac{-tQ^2}{(t - m_\pi^2)} g_{\pi NN}^2(t) F_\pi^2(Q^2, t)$$
- We do not use the Born term model
- Drawbacks of this technique -
  - Isolating  $\sigma_L$  experimentally challenging
  - Theoretical uncertainty in  $F_\pi$  extraction
    - Model dependent  
(smaller dependency at low  $-t$ )



# Form Factors at the EIC

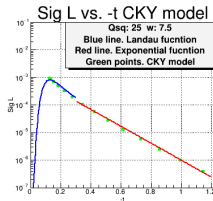
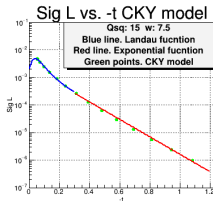
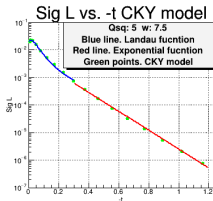
- Upcoming JLab measurements push the  $Q^2$  reach of pion ( $F_\pi$ ) and kaon ( $F_K$ ) form factor data considerably
- Still can't answer some key questions regarding the emergence of hadronic mass however
- Can we get quantitative guidance on the emergent pion mass mechanism?  
→ Need  $F_\pi$  data for  $Q^2 = 10 - 40 \text{ GeV}c^{-2}$
- What is the size and range of interference between emergent mass and the Higgs-mass mechanism?  
→ Need  $F_K$  data for  $Q^2 = 10 - 20 \text{ GeV}c^{-2}$
- Beyond what is possible at JLab in the 12 GeV era
  - Need a different machine → **The Electron-Ion Collider (EIC)**

# DEMP Studies at the EIC

- Measurements of the  $p(e, e'\pi^+n)$  reaction at the EIC can potentially extend the  $Q^2$  reach of  $F_\pi$  measurements even further
- A challenging measurement however
  - Need good identification of  $p(e, e'\pi^+n)$  triple coincidences
  - Conventional L-T separation not possible  $\rightarrow$  would need lower than feasible proton energies to access low  $\epsilon$
  - Need to use a model to isolate  $d\sigma_L/dt$  from  $d\sigma_{uns}/dt$
- Utilise new EIC software framework to assess the feasibility of the study with updated design parameters
  - Feed in events generated from a DEMF event generator
  - Multiple detector concepts to evaluate
- Event generator being modified to generate kaon events

# DEMP Event Generator

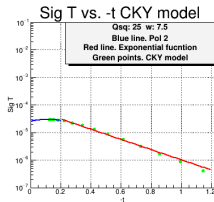
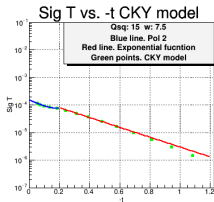
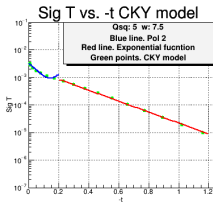
- Want to examine **exclusive** reactions
  - $p(e, e'\pi^+n)$  **exclusive reaction** is reaction of interest
    - $\rightarrow p(e, e'\pi^+)X$  SIDIS events are background
- Generator uses Regge-based  $p(e, e'\pi^+)n$  model from T.K. Choi, K.J. Kong and B.G. Yu (CKY) - arXiv 1508.00969
  - MC event generator created by parametrising CKY  $\sigma_L, \sigma_T$  for  $5 < Q^2 < 35, 2 < W < 10, 0 < -t < 1.2$



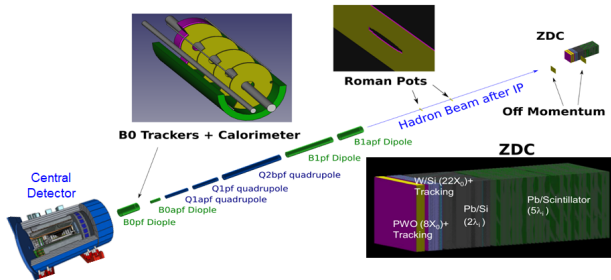


# DEMP Event Generator

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# EIC Detector Overview



- Feed generator output into detector simulations
- Far forward detectors critical for form factor studies
- Current simulation effort has been focused on the EIC Comprehensive Chromodynamics Experiment (ECCE)
  - <https://www.ecce-eic.org/>

# Selecting Good Simulated Events

- Pass through a full Geant4 simulation (ECCE)
  - More realistic estimates of detector acceptance/performance than earlier studies
- Identify  $e'\pi^+n$  triple coincidences in the simulation output
- For a good triple coincidence event, require -
  - **Exactly two tracks**
    - One positively charged track going in the  $+z$  direction ( $\pi^+$ )
    - One negatively charged track going in the  $-z$  direction ( $e'$ )
  - **At least one hit in the zero degree calorimeter (ZDC)**
    - For 5 ( $e'$ , GeV) on 100 ( $p$ , GeV) events, require that the hit has an energy deposit over 40 GeV
- Both conditions must be satisfied
- **Determine kinematic quantities for remaining events**

# Simulation Results - Neutron Reconstruction

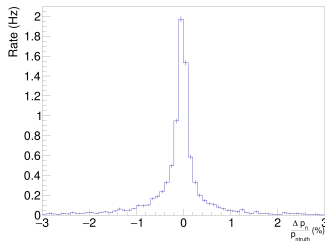
- High energy ZDC hit requirement used as a veto
  - ZDC neutron ERes is relatively poor though

$$\frac{35\%}{\sqrt{E}} \oplus 2\%$$

- However, position resolution is excellent,  $\sim 1.5$  mm
- Combine ZDC position info with missing momentum track to reconstruct the neutron track

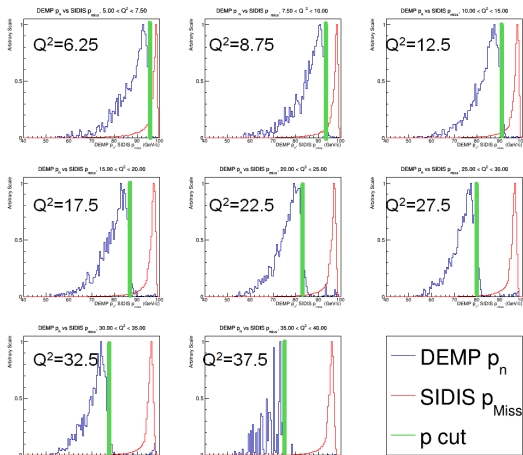
$$p_{miss} = |\vec{p}_e + \vec{p}_p - \vec{p}_{e'} - \vec{p}_{\pi^+}|$$

- Use ZDC angles,  $\theta_{ZDC}$  and  $\phi_{ZDC}$  rather than the missing momentum angles,  $\theta_{pMiss}$  and  $\phi_{pMiss}$
- Adjust  $E_{Miss}$  to reproduce  $m_n$
- After adjustments, reconstructed neutron track matches “truth” momentum closely



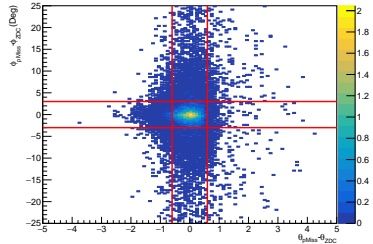
# $\vec{p}_{miss}$ Cut - $Q^2$ bin dependent

- Cut on  $\vec{p}_{miss} \rightarrow \vec{p}_{miss} = \vec{p}_e + \vec{p}_p - \vec{p}_{e'} - \vec{p}_{\pi^+}$
- Cut varies by  $Q^2$  bin
- Cuts simulate removal of SIDIS background
- SIDIS events at larger  $\vec{p}$  and  $-t$  than DEMP events



# $\Delta\theta$ and $\Delta\phi$ Cuts

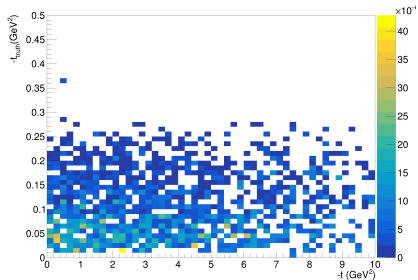
- Make use of high angular resolution of ZDC
- Compare hit  $\theta/\phi$  positions of neutron on ZDC to calculated  $\theta/\phi$  from  $p_{miss}$
- If no other particles produced, quantities should be correlated
  - True for DEMP events
- Energetic neutrons from inclusive background processes will be less correlated
  - Additional lower energy particles produced



- $\theta_{pMiss} - \theta_{ZDC}$  and  $\phi_{pMiss} - \phi_{ZDC}$  cut upon, in addition to other cuts
- $|\theta_{pMiss} - \theta_{ZDC}| < 0.6^\circ$ ,  
 $|\phi_{pMiss} - \phi_{ZDC}| < 3.0^\circ$

# Simulation Results - $t$ Reconstruction

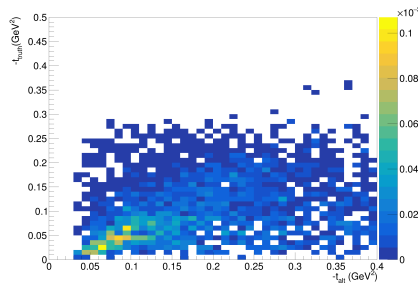
- Reconstruction of  $-t$  from detected  $e'$  and  $\pi^+$  tracks proved highly unreliable
  - $-t = -(p_e - p_{e'} - p_\pi)^2$
- Calculation of  $-t$  from reconstructed neutron track matched “truth” value closely
  - $-t_{alt} = -(p_p - p_n)^2$
- Only possible due to the excellent position accuracy provided by a good ZDC



- Note that the x-axis  $-t$  scale here runs to 10  $\text{GeV}^2$ !

# Simulation Results - $t$ Reconstruction

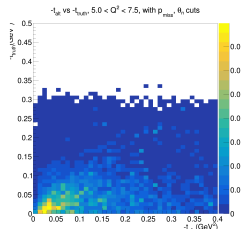
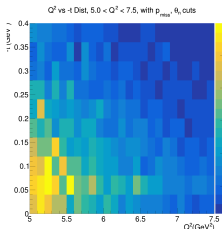
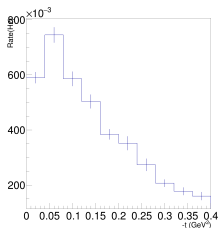
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- Calculation of  $-t$  from reconstructed neutron track matched "truth" value closely
  - $-t_{alt} = -(p_p - p_n)^2$
- Only possible due to the excellent position accuracy provided by a good ZDC



- x-axis  $-t$  scale an order of magnitude smaller now!

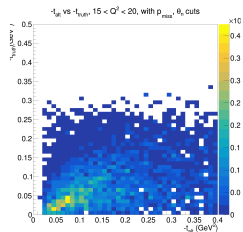
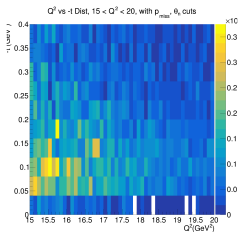
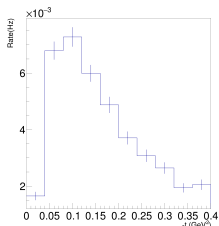


# Simulation Results - $Q^2$ 5 – 7.5 $\text{GeV}^2$



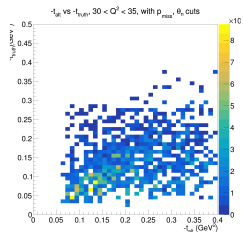
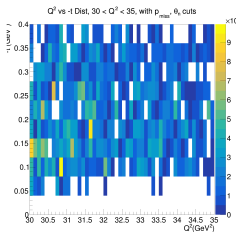
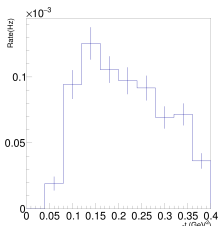
- Predicted  $e'\pi^+n$  triple coincidence rate, binned in  $Q^2$  and  $-t$ 
  - 5 ( $e'$ ,  $\text{GeV}$ ) on 100 ( $p$ ,  $\text{GeV}$ ) events
  - $\mathcal{L} = 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  assumed
  - $-t$  bins are  $0.04 \text{GeV}^2$  wide
  - Cuts on  $\theta_n$  ( $\theta_n = 1.45 \pm 0.5^\circ$ ),  $\vec{p}_{\text{miss}}$ ,  $|\Delta\theta|$  and  $|\Delta\phi|$
- $-t_{\text{min}}$  migrates with  $Q^2$  as expected

# Simulation Results - $Q^2$ 15 – 20 $\text{GeV}^2$



- Predicted  $e'\pi^+n$  triple coincidence rate, binned in  $Q^2$  and  $-t$ 
  - 5 ( $e'$ , GeV) on 100 ( $p$ , GeV) events
  - $\mathcal{L} = 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  assumed
  - $-t$  bins are  $0.04 \text{ GeV}^2$  wide
  - Cuts on  $\theta_n$  ( $\theta_n = 1.45 \pm 0.5^\circ$ ),  $\vec{p}_{miss}$ ,  $|\Delta\theta|$  and  $|\Delta\phi|$
- $-t_{min}$  migrates with  $Q^2$  as expected

# Simulation Results - $Q^2$ 30 – 35 $\text{GeV}^2$



- Predicted  $e'\pi^+n$  triple coincidence rate, binned in  $Q^2$  and  $-t$ 
  - 5 ( $e'$ ,  $\text{GeV}$ ) on 100 ( $p$ ,  $\text{GeV}$ ) events
  - $\mathcal{L} = 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  assumed
  - $-t$  bins are  $0.04 \text{GeV}^2$  wide
  - Cuts on  $\theta_n$  ( $\theta_n = 1.45 \pm 0.5^\circ$ ),  $\vec{p}_{miss}$ ,  $|\Delta\theta|$  and  $|\Delta\phi|$
- $-t_{min}$  migrates with  $Q^2$  as expected

# Isolating $\sigma_L$ from $\sigma_T$ in an e-p Collider

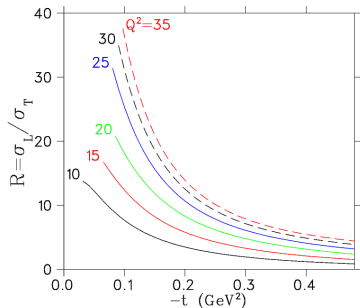
- For a collider -

$$\epsilon = \frac{2(1-y)}{1+(1-y)^2} \quad \text{with} \quad y = \frac{Q^2}{x(s_{tot} - M_N^2)}$$

- $y$  is the fractional energy loss
- **Systematic uncertainties in  $\sigma_L$  magnified by  $1/\Delta\epsilon$** 
  - Ideally,  $\Delta\epsilon > 0.2$
- To access  $\epsilon < 0.8$  with a collider, need  $y > 0.5$ 
  - Only accessible at small  $s_{tot}$
  - Requires low proton energies ( $\sim 10$  GeV), luminosity too low
- **Conventional L-T separation not practical, need another way to determine  $\sigma_L$**

# $\sigma_L$ Isolation with a Model at the EIC

- QCD scaling predicts  $\sigma_L \propto Q^{-6}$   
and  $\sigma_T \propto Q^{-8}$
- At the high  $Q^2$  and  $W$  accessible at the EIC, phenomenological models predict  $\sigma_L \gg \sigma_T$  at small  $-t$
- Can attempt to extract  $\sigma_L$  by using a model to isolate dominant  $d\sigma_L/dt$  from measured  $d\sigma_{UNS}/dt$
- Critical to confirm the validity of the model used!



Predictions are assuming  $\epsilon > 0.9995$  with the kinematic ranges seen earlier

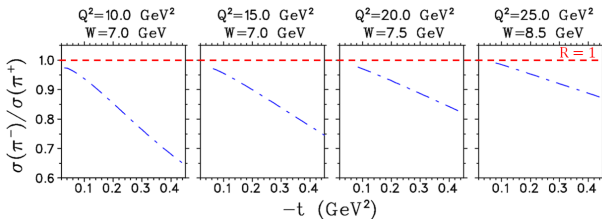
T.Vrancx, J. Ryckebusch, PRC 89(2014)025203

# Model Validation via $\pi^-/\pi^+$ ratios

- Measure exclusive  ${}^2H(e, e'\pi^+n)n$  and  ${}^2H(e, e'\pi^-p)p$  in same kinematics as  $p(e, e'\pi^+n)$
- $\pi$   $t$ -channel diagram is purely isovector  $\rightarrow$  G-Parity conserved

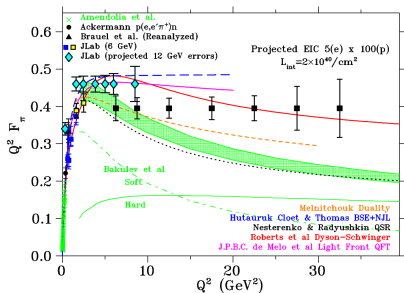
$$R = \frac{\sigma [n(e, e'\pi^-p)]}{\sigma [p(e, e'\pi^+n)]} = \frac{|A_V - A_S|^2}{|A_V + A_S|^2}$$

- $R$  will be diluted if  $\sigma_T$  not small or if there are significant non-pole contributions to  $\sigma_L$
- Compare  $R$  to model expectations



# EIC $F_\pi$ Data

- ECCE appears to be capable of measuring  $F_\pi$  to  $Q^2 \sim 32.5 \text{ GeV}^2$
- Error bars represent real projected error bars
  - 2.5% point-to-point
  - 12% scale
  - $\delta R = R$ ,  $R = \sigma_L / \sigma_T$
  - $R = 0.013 - 0.14$  at lowest  $-t$  from VR model
- Uncertainties dominated by  $R$  at low  $Q^2$
- Statistical uncertainties dominate at high  $Q^2$

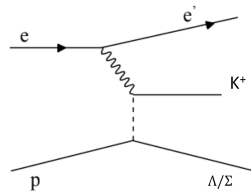


- Results look promising, need to test  $\pi^-$  too
- More details in upcoming ECCE NIM paper

# $F_K$ at the EIC - Challenges and Possibilities

- $F_K$  at the EIC via DEMP will be extremely challenging
- Would need to measure two reactions
  - $p(e, e' K^+ \Lambda)$
  - $p(e, e' K^+ \Sigma)$
  - Need both for pole dominance tests

$$R = \frac{\sigma_L [p(e, e' K^+ \Sigma^0)]}{\sigma_L [p(e, e' K^+ \Lambda^0)]} \rightarrow R \approx \frac{g_{pK\Sigma}^2}{g_{pK\Lambda}^2}$$



- Consider just the  $\Lambda$  channel for now
  - $\Lambda$  plays a similar role to neutron in  $\pi$  studies
  - Very forward focused, **but**,  $\Lambda$  will decay
    - $\Lambda \rightarrow n\pi^0$  -  $\sim 36\%$
    - $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$  -  $\sim 64\%$
  - Neutral channel potentially best option
    - **Very challenging 3 particle final state**



# $F_K$ at the EIC - Challenges and Possibilities

- Need to update DEMPGen with a kaon module
- Regina MSc student (Love Preet) is working on this module
  - Parametrisation based upon previous data and Vrancx/Ryckebusch Regge model guidance
  - <http://rprmodel.ugent.be/calc/>
- Use similar approach to pion model in generator
  - Need  $\Lambda$  and  $\Sigma$  modules
- In parallel, will begin studies of  $\Lambda$  reconstruction in ZDC
  - Can use particle gun
  - May need to use likelihood analysis for  $\Lambda$  reconstruction
  - Should also examine charged decay channel
- Kaon model updates and simulations will be focus over the summer

# Form Factors at the EIC - Outlook

- EIC has the potential to push the  $Q^2$  reach of  $F_\pi$  measurements into the 30  $\text{GeV}^2$  range
  - Can we measure  $F_K$  too?
- $F_\pi$  work already featured in the EIC yellow report
- Worked closely with the ECCE proto-collaboration
  - Carrying out feasibility studies
  - Existing DEMP event generator utilised
  - Kaon event generator and simulations in progress
  - Activities were a priority for the ECCE Diffractive and Tagging group
  - Will continue to develop simulations with Detector 1 collaboration
- Results from simulation have been written up in an ECCE analysis note and NIM paper
  - Expect to see this soon!

R. Abdul Khalek et al. EIC Yellow Report. 2021. arXiv:2103.05419, Sections 7.2.1 and 8.5.1

Thanks for listening, any questions?



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**EIC-Canada**

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The University of Regina is situated on the territories of the nehiyawak, Anihsināpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation. The University of Regina is on Treaty 4 lands with a presence in Treaty 6.

Backup Zone

# Understanding Dynamic Matter

- Interactions and structure are not isolated ideas in nuclear matter
  - Observed properties of nucleons and nuclei (mass, spin) emerge from this complex interplay
  - Properties of hadrons are emergent phenomena
- Mechanism known as **Dynamical Chiral Symmetry Breaking (DCSB)** plays a part in generating hadronic mass
- QCD behaves very differently at short and long distances (high and low energy)
  - How do our two distinct regions of QCD behaviour connect?
- **A major puzzle of the standard model to try and resolve!**
- How can we examine hadronic structure?

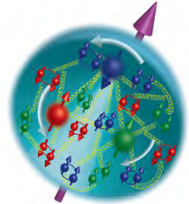


Image - A. Deshpande, Stony Brook University

# The Pion in pQCD

- At very large  $Q^2$ ,  $F_\pi$  can be calculated using pQCD

$$F_\pi(Q^2) = \frac{4}{3}\pi\alpha_s \int_0^1 dx dy \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{yQ^2} \phi(x)\phi(y)$$

- As  $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$ , the pion distribution amplitude,  $\phi_\pi$  becomes -

$$\phi_\pi(x) \rightarrow \frac{3f_\pi}{\sqrt{n_c}} x(1-x) \quad f_\pi = 93 \text{ MeV}, \quad \pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \text{ decay constant}$$

- $F_\pi$  can be calculated with pQCD in this limit to be -

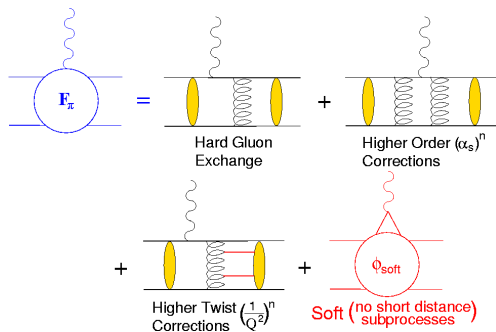
$$Q^2 F_\pi \xrightarrow{Q^2 \rightarrow \infty} 16\pi\alpha_s(Q^2) f_\pi^2$$

- This is a **rigorous** prediction of pQCD
- $Q^2$  **reach of existing data doesn't extend into this region**
  - Need unique, cutting edge experiments to push into this region

Eqns - G.P. Lepage, S.J. Brodsky, PLB 87, p359, 1979

# The Pion in pQCD

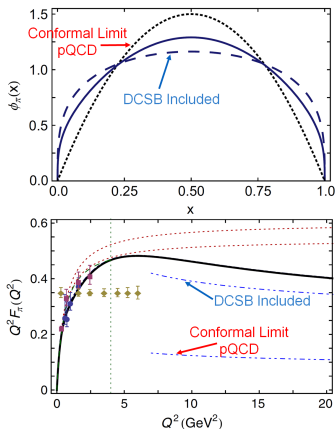
- At experimentally accessible  $Q^2$ , both the hard and soft components contribute



- Interplay of hard and soft contributions poorly understood
- Experiments can study the transition from soft to hard regime

# Connecting Pion Structure and Mass Generation

- $\phi_\pi$  as shown before has a broad, concave shape
- Previous pQCD derivation (conformal limit) did not include DCSB effects
- Incorporating DCSB changes  $\phi_\pi(x)$  and brings  $F_\pi$  calculation much closer to the data
  - “Squashes down” PDA
- Pion structure and hadron mass generation are interlinked
- How can we measure  $F_\pi$  or  $F_K$ ?

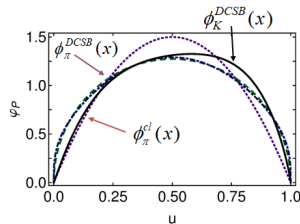
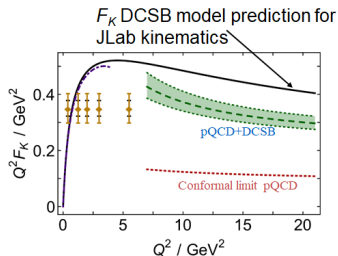


L. Chang, et al., PRL110(2013) 132001,  
PRL111(2013), 141802



# What About the Kaon?

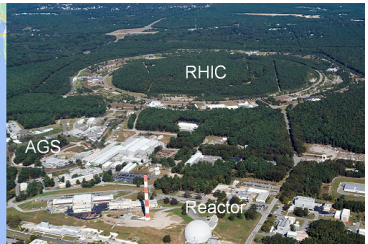
- $K^+$  PDA ( $\phi_K$ ) is also broad and concave, but asymmetric
- Heavier  $s$  quark carries more bound state momentum than the  $u$  quark



C. Shi, et al., PRD 92 (2015) 014035, F. Guo, et al., PRD 96(2017) 034024 (Full calculation)

# The Electron-Ion Collider

- Major announcement in January 2020
  - Brookhaven National Lab (**BNL**) was chosen as the site of the future Electron-Ion Collider (**EIC**)
  - BNL is situated on Long Island, New York
  - Existing site of the **Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)** and the **Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS)**



# Upgrading RHIC - eRHIC

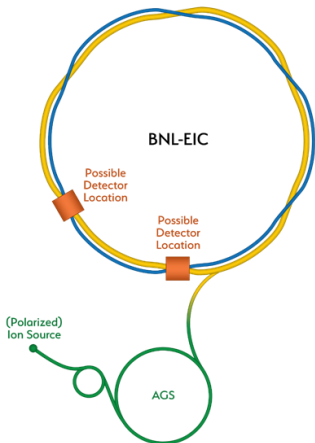


Image - Brookhaven National Lab

- Use existing RHIC
  - Up to 275 GeV **polarised proton beams**
  - Existing tunnel, detector halls, hadron injector complex (AGS)
- **New 18 GeV electron linac**
  - New high intensity electron storage ring in existing tunnel
- Achieve high  $\mathcal{L}$ , high E e-p/A collisions with full acceptance detectors
- **High  $\mathcal{L}$  achieved by state of the art beam cooling techniques**

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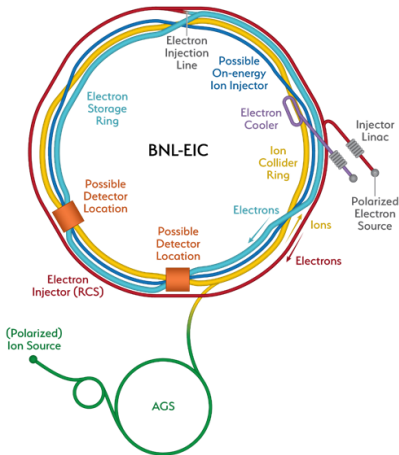
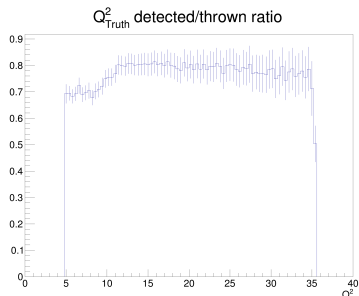


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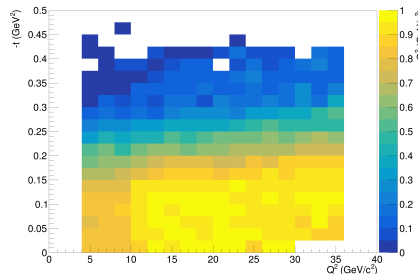
# Simulation Results - Detection Efficiency

- Can examine truth quantities too, quick check of detection efficiency
- $\text{Efficiency} = \frac{\text{Accepted}}{\text{Thrown}}$
- Detection efficiency fairly high,  $\sim 80\%$
- Nearly independent of  $Q^2$
- Detection efficiency highest for low  $-t$ 
  - Falls off rapidly with increasing  $-t$
  - Dictated by size of ZDC



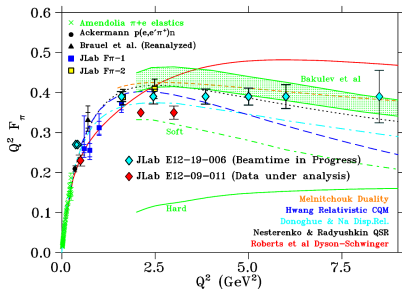
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# Current and Projected JLab $F_\pi$ Data

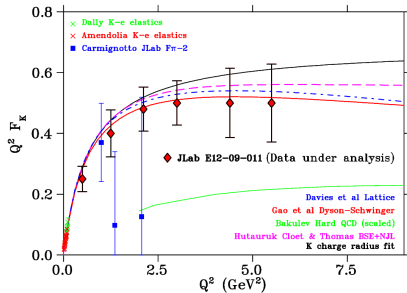
- JLab 12 GeV program includes measurements of  $F_\pi$  to higher  $Q^2$
- JLab Hall C is the only facility worldwide that can perform this measurement
- Projected error bars show on plot, y positioning of points arbitrary
- Models all disagree!
  - Contributions from sea quarks and gluons highly uncertain at high  $Q^2$



- A world leading, high impact measurement

# Current and Projected JLab $F_K$ Data

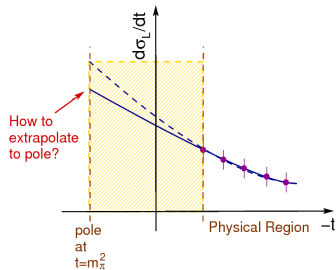
- Data has all been acquired and analysis is in progress
- Projected error bars,  $y$  positioning of points arbitrary
- **No existing data above  $Q^2 \sim 2.25 \text{ GeV}^2$**
- Error bars on sparse existing data are very large
- **Kaon structure even more poorly known than the pion**





# Chew-Low Method to determine $F_\pi$

- $p(e, e'\pi^+)n$  data obtained away from  $t = m_\pi^2$  pole
- “Chew Low” extrapolation method - must know analytical dependence of  $d\sigma_L/dt$  in unphysical region
- Extrapolation method last used in 1972 by Devenish and Lyth
- Very large systematic uncertainties
- Failed to produce a reliable result
- Different polynomial fits equally likely in physical region
  - Form factor values divergent when extrapolated
- **We do not use the Chew-Low method**



# Extracting $F_\pi$ at JLab

- Only reliable approach for extracting  $F_\pi$  from  $\sigma_L$  is to use a model that incorporates the  $\pi^+$  production mechanism and the spectator nucleon
- JLab  $F_\pi$  experiments so far use the VGL Regge model
  - Reliably describes  $\sigma_L$  across a wide kinematic domain
- Ideally, want a better understanding of the model dependence of the result
- There has been considerable recent interest
  - T.K. Choi, K.J. Kong, B.G. Yu, arXiv 1508.00969
  - T. Vrancx, J. Ryckebusch, PRC 89(2014)025203
  - M.M. Kaskulov, U. Mosel, PRC 81(2010)045202
  - S.V. Goloskokov, P.Kroll, EPJC 65(2010)137
- We aim to publish our experimentally measured cross section data so that updated values of  $F_\pi$  can be extracted as the models improve

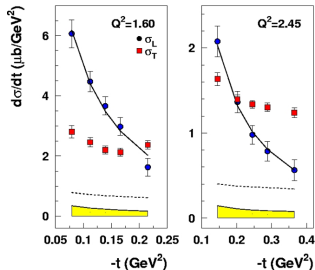
VGL - Vanderhaeghen-Guidal-Laget Model - Vanderhaeghen, Guidal, Laget, PRC 57(1998) 1454

# $F_\pi(Q^2)$ from JLab Data

VGL model incorporates  $\pi^+$  production mechanism and spectator neutron effects

- Feynman propagator -  $\frac{1}{t-m_\pi^2}$  replaced by  $\pi$  and  $\rho$  Regge propagators
- Represents the exchange of a **series** of particles, compared to a **single** particle
- Free parameters -  $\Lambda_\pi, \Lambda_\rho$  - Trajectory cutoff parameters
- **At small  $-t$ ,  $\sigma_L$  only sensitive to  $F_\pi$**

$$F_\pi = \frac{1}{1 + Q^2/\Lambda_\pi^2}$$



Error bars indicate statistical and random (pt-pt) systematic uncertainties in quadrature. Yellow band indicates the correlated (scale) and partly correlated (t-corr) systematic uncertainties.

$$\Lambda_\pi^2 = 0.513, 0.491 \text{ GeV}^2, \Lambda_\rho^2 = 1.7 \text{ GeV}^2$$

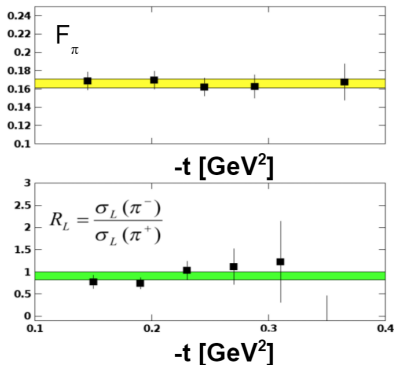
T. Horn, et al., PRL 97(2006) 192001

# Two $F_\pi$ Validation Methods

- Test #1 - Measure  $F_\pi$  at fixed  $Q^2/W$ , but vary  $-t$ 
  - $F_\pi$  values should not depend on  $-t$
- Test #2 -  $\pi^+$  t-channel diagram is purely isovector
- Use a deuterium target to measure  $\sigma_L [n(e, e'\pi^-)p]$
- Examine the ratio -

$$R = \frac{\sigma_L [n(e, e'\pi^-)p]}{\sigma_L [p(e, e'\pi^+)n]} = \frac{|A_V - A_S|^2}{|A_V + A_S|^2}$$

- Will test at  $Q^2 = 1.6, 3.85, 6.0 \text{ GeV}^2$



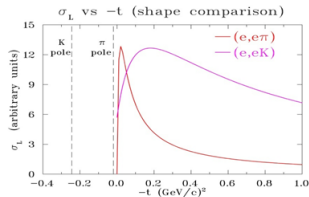
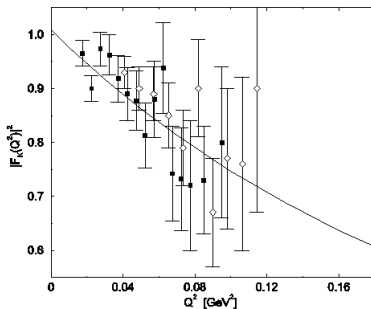
T. Horn, C.D. Roberts, J. Phys. G43 (2016) no.7, 073001  
 G. Huber et al, PRL112 (2014)182501  
 R. J. Perry et al., arXiv:1811.09356 (2019)

# $F_K$ Measurement at JLab

- Similar to  $F_\pi$ , elastic  $K^+$  scattering from  $e^-$  used to determine  $F_K$  at low  $Q^2$
- Can “kaon cloud” of the proton be used in the same way as the pion to extract  $F_K$  from electroproduction?
- Kaon pole further from kinematically allowed region

$$\frac{d\sigma_L}{dt} \propto \frac{-tQ^2}{(t - m_K^2)} g_K^2(T) F_K^2(Q^2, t)$$

- Issues are being explored and tested in JLab E12-09-011



Amendolia, et al., PLB178(1986)435

# $F_K$ Validation

- Again, low  $Q^2$  data is an important test
- Due to experimental setup, can simultaneously study  $\Lambda^0$  and  $\Sigma^0$  channels
- Can conduct a pole dominance test through the ratio -

$$\frac{\sigma_L [p(e, e'K^+)\Sigma^0]}{\sigma_L [p(e, e'K^+)\Lambda^0]}$$

- Should be similar to ratio of  $g_{pK\Lambda}^2/g_{pK\Sigma}^2$  if t-channel exchange dominates

