Small x physics: from HERA, through LHC to EIC

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Lecture 1

- DIS paradigm: collinear factorization and DGLAP evolution
- Why small *x* ? A bit of Pomeron history
- BFKL evolution at small *x*
- NLL BFKL and the problems with convergence
- Collinear resummation at small *x*
- Parton saturation
- Nonlinear evolution equation. Saturation scale
- Impact parameter dependence(*)

Lecture 2

- Is BFKL needed ? DGLAP success
- Hints of small *x* physics in the structure function data
- Two-scales processes
 - Forward jet in DIS
 - $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ at LEP
 - Mueller-Navelet jets at pp collider
- Searching for saturation: small *x* and/or large *A*
- Diffraction at small *x* and nuclei

Deep Inelastic Scattering



x has the interpretation of the longitudinal momentum fraction of the proton carried by the struck quark (in the frame where proton is fast) $x \simeq \xi$

Deep Inelastic Scattering: structure functions

Inclusive DIS cross section for $lp \rightarrow lX$ (*l* charged lepton, $Q^2 \ll M_Z^2$, $s \gg M_p^2$)

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dxdQ^2} = \frac{2\pi\alpha_{\rm em}^2}{Q^4x} [(1+(1-y)^2)F_2(x,Q^2) - y^2F_L(x,Q^2)]$$

$$y = \frac{p \cdot q}{p \cdot k} = Q^2/(sx) \quad \text{inelasticity}$$

Structure functions encode all the information about the proton(hadron) structure

$$F_T(x, Q^2) = F_2(x, Q^2) - F_L(x, Q^2)$$
 transversely polarized photons
 $F_L(x, Q^2)$ longitudinally polarized photons

Often experiments give reduced cross section

 $Y_{+} = 1 + (1 - y)^{2}$

$$\sigma_{r,NC} = \frac{d^2 \sigma_{NC}}{dx dQ^2} \frac{Q^4 x}{2\pi \alpha_{\rm em} Y_+} = F_2 - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L$$

Dominated by the F_2 structure function except for large y

Deep Inelastic Scattering at large Q^2

- Lepton undergoes wide angle scattering at high Q^2
- Over short distance scale the struck parton interaction with the rest of target can be neglected
- Incoming parton can be approximately treated as free particle
- Single struck quark dominates since other partons are separated from it by hadronic scale $\sim 1 \text{ fm} \gg \frac{1}{\Omega}$





Collinear factorization

Schematic picture of

collinear factorization in DIS



$$F_{2,L}(x,Q^2) = x \sum_{q} e_q^2 \sum_{j} \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} C_{2,L}^j(x/z,Q^2/\mu^2,\alpha_s) f_j(z,\mu^2)$$

 $C_{2,L}^{j}(x/z, Q^{2}/\mu^{2}, \alpha_{s})$ Coefficient functions: calculable order by order in perturbation theory

 $f_j(z,\mu^2)$

Parton densities: non-perturbative distributions in longitudinal momentum fractions *z* at a given scale μ^2

Parton model

















...and even more...





Collinear approach



Focusing on gluon emissions Large parameter

$$Q^2 \to \infty$$

x is fixed

Probing small distances

Strong ordering in transverse momenta $Q^2 \gg k_{1\perp}^2 \gg k_{2\perp}^2 \gg k_{3\perp}^2 \dots \gg k_{n\perp}^2$

Resummation of large logarithms

$$\int_{\mu_0^2}^{Q^2} \frac{dk_{1\perp}^2}{k_{1\perp}^2} g^2 \int_{\mu_0^2}^{k_{1\perp}^2} \frac{dk_{2\perp}^2}{k_{2\perp}^2} g^2 \int_{\mu_0^2}^{k_{2\perp}^2} \frac{dk_{3\perp}^2}{k_{3\perp}^2} g^2 \cdots \int_{\mu_0^2}^{k_{n-1\perp}^2} \frac{dk_{n\perp}^2}{k_{n\perp}^2} g^2 \simeq \left(g^2 \log \frac{Q^2}{\mu_0^2}\right)^n$$

DGLAP evolution

 $k_{3\perp}$

 $k_{n-1\perp}$

 $k_{n\perp}$

000000000

Dokshitzer-Gribov-Lipatov-Altarelli-Parisi

NLO

DGLAP evolution equations for parton densities

$$\mu^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu^2} \begin{pmatrix} q_i(x,\mu^2) \\ g(x,\mu^2) \end{pmatrix} = \sum_j \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \begin{pmatrix} P_{q_iq_j}(z,\alpha_s) & P_{q_ig}(z,\alpha_s) \\ P_{gq_j}(z,\alpha_s) & P_{gg}(z,\alpha_s) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q_j(\frac{x}{z},\mu^2) \\ g(\frac{x}{z},\mu^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

 q_i : quark density, g: gluon density

Splitting functions calculated perturbatively $P_{ab}(z,\alpha_s) \equiv P_{b\to a}(z,\alpha_s) = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ab}^{(0)}(z) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^2 P_{ab}^{(1)}(z) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^3 P_{ab}^{(2)}(z) + \dots$ LO

Leading order splitting functions

$$\begin{aligned} P_{qq}^{(0)}(z) &= C_F \left[\frac{1+z^2}{(1-z)_+} + \frac{3}{2} \delta(1-z) \right] \\ P_{qg}^{(0)}(z) &= T_R \left[z^2 + (1-z)^2 \right] \\ P_{gq}^{(0)}(z) &= C_F \left[\frac{z^2 + (1-z)^2}{z} \right] \\ P_{gg}^{(0)}(z) &= 2C_A \left[\frac{z}{(1-z)_+} + \frac{1-z}{z} + z(1-z) + \delta(1-z) \frac{11C_A - 4n_f T_R}{6} \right] \end{aligned}$$

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NNLO

Successful description of HERA data



DGLAP parton densities



¹ NLO vs NNLO small x behavior ^{xg} What happens at small x? ^{0.8} Small x means large energy HERAPDE2.0 NLO



Properties of S matrix:

- Lorentz invariance
- crossing
- unitarity
- analyticity



ex. 2 to 2 scattering



Properties of S matrix:



Amplitude dominated by exchange of the Regge trajectory $\alpha(t) = \alpha(0) + \alpha' t$

Properties of S matrix: t • Lorentz invariance $\mathcal{A}(s,t)$ • crossing S ex. 2 to 2 scattering • unitarity • analyticity $[a_6, f_6]$ 6 $[\rho_5]$ t = const $\rightarrow \infty$ negative-t $a_{4}, [f_{4}]$ $J = \alpha$ ω_3, ρ_3 $\mathcal{A}(s,t) \sim \tilde{\beta}(t) s^{\alpha(t)}$ $\alpha(t)$ f_2, a_2 2 ρ. ω 0 exchange of the Regge trajectory $\alpha(t) = \alpha(0) + \alpha' t$ 2 4 6 8 0 $M^2 = t (GeV)^2$



From optical theorem
$$\sigma_{\rm tot} = s^{-1} {\rm Im} \mathcal{A}(s,0) \sim s^{\alpha(0)-1}$$

Intercept $\alpha(0)$ of Regge trajectory determines the behavior of the cross section

Pomeron

Pomeron:

- Reggeon with intercept greater than unity.
- Corresponds to the exchange of the vacuum quantum numbers.
- Dominates the cross section at asymptotically high energies



Soft Pomeron

$$\alpha_P(t) = 1.11 + 0.165 \text{GeV}^{-2} t$$

However, such soft pomeron power behavior is potentially in conflict with Froissart bound which stems from unitarity requirements:

$$\sigma^{\rm tot}(s) \le C \log^2(s/s_0)$$

Note: the exact value of the constant C is of crucial importance here.

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Donnachie, Landshoff

Okun,Pomeranchuk; Foldy,Peierls

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Pomeron in QCD



Pomeron in QCD



Gluon emissions at small x



Large logarithms

High energy or Regge limit Large parameter $s \gg Q^2 \gg \Lambda^2$ $s \to \infty$ Q^2 fixed, perturbative Light cone proton momentum $p^+ = p^0 + p^z$ $k_i^+ = x_i p^+$ Strong ordering in longitudinal momenta $x \ll x_1 \ll x_2 \ll \cdots \ll x_n$ Perturbative coupling but large logarithm $\ln\frac{1}{x} \simeq \ln\frac{s}{Q^2} \gg 1$ $\bar{\alpha}_s \ll 1$ Leading logarithmic resummation $\left(\bar{\alpha}_s \ln \frac{1}{r}\right)^n \qquad \left(\bar{\alpha}_s \ln \frac{s}{s_0}\right)^n$ $\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{1} \frac{dz}{z} = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \ln \frac{1}{x} = \bar{\alpha}_s \ln \frac{1}{x}$

BFKL evolution



compare with DGLAPcollinear approach Resummation performed by BFKL evolution equation Balitsky-Fadin-Kuraev-Lipatov (BFKL)

$$\frac{\partial f_g(x, k_T)}{\partial \ln 1/x} = \int \frac{d^2 k'_T}{\pi k'^2_T} \mathcal{K}(k_T, k'_T) f_g(x, k'_T)$$

Branching kernel (perturbative expansion)

$$\mathcal{K} = \bar{\alpha}_s \mathcal{K}^{LLx} + \bar{\alpha}_s^2 \mathcal{K}^{NLLx} + \bar{\alpha}_s^3 \mathcal{K}^{NNLLx} + \dots$$
OCD N=4 SYM

Unintegrated, (transverse momentum dependent) gluon density

$$f_g(x, k_T)$$

$$\frac{\partial f_i(x,Q^2)}{\partial \log(Q^2)} = \sum_j \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} P_{j\to i}(z) f_j(\frac{x}{z},Q^2)$$

Solution to BFKL

$$\frac{\partial f_g(x, k_T)}{\partial \ln 1/x} = \int \frac{d^2 k'_T}{\pi k'^2_T} \mathcal{K}(k_T, k'_T) f_g(x, k'_T)$$

Mellin space:
$$\tilde{g}(\omega) = \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} x^{\omega} g(x)$$
 $\tilde{h}(\gamma) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk_T^2}{k_T^2} (k_T^2)^{-\gamma} h(k_T^2)$ Mellin variables: $\gamma \leftrightarrow \ln k_T^2$ $\omega \leftrightarrow \ln 1/x$

$$\tilde{f}(\omega,\gamma) = \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} x^{\omega} \int_0^\infty \frac{dk_T^2}{k_T^2} (k_T^2)^{-\gamma} f(x,k_T^2) \qquad \bar{\alpha_s}\chi(\gamma) = \int \frac{dk_T'^2}{k_T'^2} \mathcal{K}(k_T,k_T') \Big(\frac{k_T'^2}{k_T^2}\Big)^{\gamma}$$

$$\tilde{f}(\omega, \gamma) = \underbrace{\frac{\tilde{f}^{(0)}(\omega, \gamma)}{\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \chi(\gamma)}}_{\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \chi(\gamma)}$$
 Inhomogenous term

Singularity determining the energy behavior

Solution to BFKL



Solution to BFKL

 $\gamma \leftrightarrow \ln k^2$ LL kernel in Mellin space $\psi(z) = \Gamma'(z) / \Gamma(z)$ $\chi_0(\gamma) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(\gamma) - \psi(1 - \gamma) \simeq \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{1 - \gamma}$ collinear & anti-collinear poles 10 2 -3 -2 -1 1 Solution to the gluon density $f_{\sim}(x, k_T) \sim x^{-\omega_P}$

$$\omega_P = \bar{\alpha}_s \chi(\gamma = 1/2) \rightarrow 4 \ln 2\bar{\alpha}_s \simeq 2.77 \bar{\alpha}_s = 2.77 \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi}$$
$$\sigma_{\gamma^* p}^{DIS} \sim s^{\omega_P}$$

BFKL vs DGLAP



BFKL evolution is sensitive to the **non-perturbative** region

Diffusion into infrared

Consider a process with two large scales (ex. $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ scattering) with $Q_1^2 \sim Q_2^2 \gg \Lambda_{QCD}^2$ Large comparable scales to suppress DGLAP, large rapidity for BFKL evolution, keep perturbative



Diffusion of transverse momenta towards IR and UV.

For large energies momenta can diffuse to low scales even when starting from large scales.
Diffusion into infrared with running coupling in BFKL



Large non-perturbative effects for large energies.

NLL corrections to BFKL

NLL corrections to BFKL equation are **large** and **negative**

Main sources:

- running coupling (double poles)
- kinematical constraint (triple poles)
- DGLAP anomalous dimension (double poles)

LLx kernel in Mellin space

$$\chi_0(\gamma) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(\gamma) - \psi(1 - \gamma)$$

NLLx kernel in Mellin space

$$\begin{split} \chi_1(\gamma) = & \left[-\frac{b}{2} [\chi_0^2(\gamma) + \chi_0'(\gamma)] - \frac{1}{4} \chi_0''(\gamma) - \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{\pi}{\sin \pi \gamma}\right)^2 \right] \frac{\cos \pi \gamma}{\beta(1 - 2\gamma)} \left(11 + \frac{\gamma(1 - \gamma)}{(1 + 2\gamma)(3 - 2\gamma)} \right) \\ & + \left(\frac{67}{36} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} \right) \chi_0(\gamma) + \frac{3}{2} \zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^3}{4\sin \pi \gamma} \\ & - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \left[\frac{\psi(n + 1 + \gamma) - \psi(1)}{(n + \gamma)^2} + \frac{\psi(n + 2 - \gamma) - \psi(1)}{(n + 1 - \gamma)^2} \right] \end{split}$$

Collinear poles in NLL BFKL

$$\chi_1^{\text{coll}}(\gamma) = -\frac{1}{2\gamma^3} - \frac{1}{2(1-\gamma)^3} + \frac{A_1(0)}{\gamma^2} + \frac{A_1(0) - b}{(1-\gamma)^2}$$

LO DGLAP anomalous dimension

$$\gamma_{gg}^{(0)}(\omega) = \frac{\bar{\alpha}_s}{\omega} + \bar{\alpha}_s A_1(\omega) \qquad \qquad A_1(\omega) = -\frac{11}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\omega)$$

Difference of about 7% at most



double and triple poles

of the NLL part

Origin of NLL corrections in BFKL

NLLx kernel in Mellin space

$$\chi_{1}(\gamma) = \left[-\frac{b}{2}[\chi_{0}^{2}(\gamma) + \chi_{0}'(\gamma)] - \frac{1}{4}\chi_{0}''(\gamma) - \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{\pi}{\sin\pi\gamma}\right)^{2}\frac{\cos\pi\gamma}{3(1-2\gamma)}\left(11 + \frac{\gamma(1-\gamma)}{(1+2\gamma)(3-2\gamma)}\right) + \left(\frac{67}{36} - \frac{\pi^{2}}{12}\right)\chi_{0}(\gamma) + \frac{3}{2}\zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^{3}}{4\sin\pi\gamma} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^{n}\left[\frac{\psi(n+1+\gamma) - \psi(1)}{(n+\gamma)^{2}} + \frac{\psi(n+2-\gamma) - \psi(1)}{(n+1-\gamma)^{2}}\right]$$

Running coupling can be resummed into LL kernel

$$\begin{aligned} \text{DGLAP anomalous dimension} & \gamma_{gg}(\omega) = \int_{0}^{1} dz P_{gg}(z) z^{-\omega} \\ P_{gg}(z) &= \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{gg}^{(0)} + \dots \\ P_{gg}^{(0)}(z) &= 2C_A \big[\frac{z}{(1-z)_+} + \frac{1-z}{z} + z(1-z) + \delta(1-z) \frac{11C_A - 4n_f T_R}{6} \big] \\ \gamma_{gg}^{(0)}(\omega) &= \frac{\alpha_s C_A}{\pi} \big(\frac{1}{\omega} + A_1(\omega) \big) & A_1(0) &= -\frac{11}{12} \end{aligned}$$

Triple poles: kinematical constraint and energy scales

$$f_g(x, k_T) = f_g^{(0)}(k_T) + \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \int \frac{d^2 k_T'^2}{\pi k_T'^2} \mathcal{K}(k_T, k_T') f_g(\frac{x}{z}, k_T')$$

The integrals are unrestricted

However in Regge kinematics, virtualities of exchanged momenta dominated by transverse components



In the Mellin space: shift of poles

Kernel with kinematical constraint has **shifted pole**

$$\chi(\gamma,\omega) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(\gamma) - \psi(1 - \gamma + \omega)$$

Expanding to first order in ω

$$\chi(\gamma,\omega) \simeq \chi^{(0)}(\gamma) - \omega\psi'(1-\gamma) \simeq \chi^{(0)}(\gamma) - \omega\frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^2}$$

Using the solution at LL to eliminate ω

$$\omega = \bar{\alpha}_s \chi^{(0)}(\gamma) \simeq \bar{\alpha}_s \left(\frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{1-\gamma}\right)$$

Generate triple poles:

$$-\bar{\alpha}_s \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3}$$

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Scale choices

This is related to the scale choice in BFKL. Consider a high energy process

$$\sigma_{AB}(s;Q,Q_0) = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi i} \frac{d^2 \mathbf{k}}{\mathbf{k}^2} \frac{d^2 \mathbf{k}_0}{\mathbf{k}_0^2} \left(\frac{s}{QQ_0}\right)^{\omega} h_{\omega}^A(Q,\mathbf{k}) \mathcal{G}_{\omega}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{k}_0) h_{\omega}^B(Q_0,\mathbf{k}_0)$$
Impact factors
$$\omega \mathcal{G}_{\omega}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{k}_0) = \delta^2(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}_0) + \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{k}'}{\pi} \mathcal{K}_{\omega}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{k}') \mathcal{G}_{\omega}(\mathbf{k}',\mathbf{k}_0)$$
Gluon Green's function



Different possible scale choices:

symmetric (ex. two photons)

DIS type configuration

 $egin{aligned} s_0 &= Q Q_0 & Q \sim Q_0 \ s_0 &= Q^2 & Q^2 \gg Q_0^2 \ s_0 &= Q_0^2 & Q^2 \ll Q_0^2 \end{aligned}$

Triple poles: scale choice

Different scale choices matter beyond LLx

Need to put different kinematical constraints

Kernel will be different

asymmetric scale choice

$$\chi^{u}(\gamma,\omega) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(\gamma) - \psi(1 - \gamma + \omega)$$
$$\chi^{l}(\gamma,\omega) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(\gamma + \omega) - \psi(1 - \gamma)$$

symmetric scale choice

$$\chi^s(\gamma,\omega) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(\gamma + \frac{\omega}{2}) - \psi(1 - \gamma + \frac{\omega}{2})$$

The shift resums towers of subleading terms to **all orders**

Shift of poles: triple poles

Expansion reproduces higher order poles (NLL):

symmetric scale choice

$$\chi^s(\gamma,\omega) \simeq \chi^{(0)}(\gamma) - \frac{1}{2}\frac{\bar{\alpha}_s}{\gamma^3} - \frac{1}{2}\frac{\bar{\alpha}_s}{(1-\gamma)^3}$$

The same poles (with the exact same coefficients are in QCD and N=4 sYM) In N=4 sYM NNLO result is available, can check if shifts reproduce the poles

$$\chi^{(2)}(\gamma) \sim +\frac{1}{2}\frac{\bar{\alpha}_s^2}{\gamma^5} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\bar{\alpha}_s^2}{(1-\gamma)^5} + \dots$$

Coincides with the result obtained by

Gromov,Levkovich-Masyluk,Sizov;Velizhanin; Caron-Huot, Herranen

Form of resummed kernel

CCSS resummation (RGI renormalization group improved small x evolution):

- Include kinematical constraint : leads to shifts of poles
- Include DGLAP splitting function and running coupling in the leading part
- Suitable subtractions to avoid double counting, guarantee momentum sum rule
- Motivation in Mellin space, final equation in the momentum space



Can the gluon density rise forever ? How fast ?



H1 and ZEUS

Small x physics: from HERA, through LHC to EIC, CFNS-CFEQ School, Stony Brook, June 15-16, 2023 χ_g $\mu_f^2 = 10 \text{ GeV}^2$

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- Both small x and large A (nuclear effects) can be addressed in this formalism.

Towards the non-linear equation



Towards the non-linear equation



Radiation of gluons: Bremsstrahlung

Renormalized charge

The effect of the additional gluon emission is to renormalize the effective color charge.

Towards the non-linear equation



Recombination vs multiple scattering

Now the nucleus is at rest. The photon develops a small x wave function in terms of many quark-antiquark dipoles



Multiple scattering in rest frame of the nucleus is viewed as **recombination** of gluons in the frame in which the nucleus moves very fast.

Evolution equation for the dipole-hadron(nucleus) scattering amplitude:

$$\frac{dN(\mathbf{b}_{01}, \mathbf{x}_{01}, Y)}{dY} = \bar{\alpha}_s \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{x}_2 \, \mathbf{x}_{01}^2}{\mathbf{x}_{20}^2 \, \mathbf{x}_{12}^2} \left[N(\mathbf{b}_{01} + \frac{\mathbf{x}_{12}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{20}, Y) + N(\mathbf{b}_{01} - \frac{\mathbf{x}_{20}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{12}, Y) - N(\mathbf{b}_{01} + \frac{\mathbf{x}_{12}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{20}, Y) N(\mathbf{b}_{01} - \frac{\mathbf{x}_{20}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{12}, Y) \right]$$

Dipole amplitude is related to the unintegrated gluon density $N(b, r, Y = \ln 1/x) \iff f(x, k_T)$ $r \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{k_T}$ (impact parameter neglected)

$$\frac{\partial f_g(x,k_T)}{\partial \ln 1/x} = \int \frac{d^2 k_T'}{\pi k_T'^2} \mathcal{K}(k_T,k_T') f_g(x,k_T') - \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\mathbf{b_0}_1} \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} (\mathcal{J}_g(x,k_T))^2$$

Linear term is the BFKL evolution

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Linear term is the BFKL evolution

I.Balitsky, Y.Kovchegov; J.Jalilian-Marian, E.Iancu, L.McLerran, H.Weigert, Leonidov

Nonlinear evolution equation for dipole-hadron(nucleus) scattering amplitude

$$\frac{dN(\mathbf{b}_{01}, \mathbf{x}_{01}, Y)}{dY} = \bar{\alpha}_s \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{x}_2 \, \mathbf{x}_{01}^2}{\mathbf{x}_{20}^2 \, \mathbf{x}_{12}^2} \left[N(\mathbf{b}_{01} + \frac{\mathbf{x}_{12}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{20}, Y) + N(\mathbf{b}_{01} - \frac{\mathbf{x}_{20}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{12}, Y) - N(\mathbf{b}_{01} + \frac{\mathbf{x}_{12}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{20}, Y) N(\mathbf{b}_{01} - \frac{\mathbf{x}_{20}}{2}, \mathbf{x}_{12}, Y) \right]$$



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Gluon density saturates: parton saturation

• X₁

Saturation scale

Dynamically generated saturation scale

Regulates the diffusion into infrared

Saturation scale

Regulates the diffusion into infrared

 $\frac{A \times xg(x, Q_s^2)}{\pi A^{2/3}} \times \frac{\alpha_s(Q_s^2)}{Q_s^2} \sim 1 \qquad \qquad Q_s^2 \sim A^{1/3} Q_0^2 \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$

Dynamically generated saturation scale

For a nucleus there is an enhancement factor related to the nuclear size. The dense region is approached either by selecting larger nucleus and probing smaller impact parameters or by decreasing value of x.

Saturation scale: nuclear enhancement

Dynamically generated saturation scale

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Bonus: impact parameter dependence and small x

Impact parameter dependence



Usual approximation:

$$N(Y;r,b) \to N(Y;r)$$

- The target has infinite size.
- Local approximation suggests that the system becomes more perturbative as the energy grows.
- But this cannot be true everywhere (IR in QCD)

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Impact parameter profile



Why do we care about impact parameter?

Impact parameter profile can provide the information how close the amplitudes are to the unitarity limit. Important to address the issue of correlations and in the double parton scattering context.

Impact parameter representation for total, elastic and inelastic



Impact parameter amplitude provides information about the unitarity limit.

Small x physics: from HERA, through LHC to EIC, CFNS-CTEQ School, Stony Brook, June 15-16, 2023

Emission of particles, with some transverse momenta

Gribov

leads to the diffusion in impact parameter space. Rapidity η plays a role of `time'



Emission of particles, with some transverse momenta leads to the diffusion in impact parameter space. Rapidity η plays a role of Gribov `time' k_{T1}, η_1 k_{T2}, η_2 Assumption: each emission leads to the change of impact parameter of the order of some scale k_{Tn}, η_n $b \sim \frac{1}{\mu}$





Impact parameter dependence in BK equation



Impact parameter dependence in BK equation



Impact parameter dependence in BK equation



Impact parameter profile of scattering amplitude

Kovner, Wiedemann

It was argued that the nonlinear equation leads to saturation but there will be long Coulomb tails due to the massless gluons.



- Saturation for small impact parameters
- No saturation for large impact parameters (system is still dilute)
- Initial impact parameter profile is not preserved
- Power tail in impact parameter is generated

Perturbative LL QCD gives leads to the power tails: lack of confinement, conformal invariance