Small x physics: from HERA, through LHC to EIC

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

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 LHC
- Angular correlations of dihadrons/dijets
- Diffraction at small *x* and nuclei



Saturation scale: divides dilute and dense regimes. Enhanced in nuclei

$$Q_s^2 \sim Q_0^2 \, x^{-\lambda} \, A^{1/3}$$

Opportunities at the EIC to test saturation using nuclei

Capabilities of EIC

Beams with different A: from *light nuclei* to the *heavy nuclei*

Polarized electron and nucleon beams. Possibility of polarized light ions.

Variable center of mass energies 20 -140 GeV

High luminosity $10^{33} - 10^{34} cm^{-2} s^{-1}$



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- Nuclear structure functions, precision extraction of nuclear PDFs, testing the limits of collinear factorization in nuclei. Initial conditions for hot QCD.
- Explore the onset of saturation in eA, DGLAP vs non-linear evolution, x,A, and Q dependence. Precise measurement of F_L needed (variable energies)
- Extraction of diffractive nuclear PDFs possible for the first time, potential for F_L^{D} . Prospects for measuring Reggeon. Diffractive to inclusive ratios needed to distinguish between the different scenarios (saturation vs leading twist shadowing).
- Exclusive diffraction of vector mesons, excellent process to map spatial distribution and test saturation. Experimental challenges.

Successful description of HERA data



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Small x resummation and the HERA data

Ball, Bertoni, Bonvini, Marzani, Rojo, Rottoli

- Perform fits to data with the cut on small *x*/small Q² region
- Observe the variation or lack of variation in χ^2





- χ^2 changes for DGLAP at NNLO when more small *x* data are included
- NNLO+NNLLx gives best description
- Interestingly NLO and NLO+NLLx do not differ by a lot

Improved description of ${\cal F}_L$

Ball, Bertoni, Bonvini, Marzani, Rojo, Rottoli



Resummation improves the description of longitudinal structure function at small x

Small x resummation: future DIS facilities

Ball,Bertone,Bonvini, Marzani,Rojo,Rottoli

- Perform extrapolation of the calculations to the higher energy range (smaller *x*).
- Simulations with and without the resummation
- Compared with the pseudodata

CERN DIS proposals

LHeC: ep at $\sqrt{s} = 1.3$ TeV, eA at $\sqrt{s} = 812$ GeV FCC-eh: ep at $\sqrt{s} = 3.5$ TeV, eA at $\sqrt{s} = 2.2$ TeV



- Structure function in the LHeC/FCC-eh range can discriminate between different scenarios
- Longitudinal structure function particularly sensitive to the resummation vs fixed order
- **EIC**: lower energy, so likely in **preasymptotic** regime, but can measure longitudinal structure function **with precision**, thanks to **high luminosity and varying energies**

Testing saturation through inclusive structure functions at EIC

Study differences in evolution between **linear DGLAP** evolution and **nonlinear** evolution with **saturation Matching** of both approaches in the region where saturation effects expected to be small Quantify differences away from the matching region: **differences in evolution dynamics**



Heavy nucleus: difference between DGLAP and nonlinear are few % for F_2^A and up to 20% for F_L^A .

Longitudinal structure function can provide good sensitivity at EIC

Deep Inelastic Scattering: structure functions

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

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

structure functions

$$y = \frac{p \cdot q}{p \cdot k} = Q^2/(sx) \quad \text{inelasticity}$$
Structure functions encode all the information about the proton(hadron) structure

$$F_T(x,Q^2) = F_2(x,Q^2) - F_L(x,Q^2) \quad \text{transversely polarized photons}$$

$$F_L(x,Q^2) \quad \text{longitudinally polarized photons}$$

reduced cross section

$$\sigma_{r,NC} = \frac{d^2 \sigma_{NC}}{dx dQ^2} \frac{Q^4 x}{2\pi \alpha_{\rm em} Y_+} = F_2 - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L \qquad Y_+ = 1 + (1 - y)^2$$

Measurement of F_L requires varying energies s. Possible at EIC

Two scale processes

Consider a process with two large scales (ex. $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ scattering, two jets,...) 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



Example of two scale processes

Forward jets in DIS $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ in $e^+e^$ $e^+(p'_1)$ J. $e^{+}(p_{1})$ $\gamma^{\star}(q_1)$ Quark box hadrons Soft gluon radiation 300000000000 $\gamma^{\star}(q_2)$ k $e^{-}(p_2)$ ► Forward jet $\overline{\mathcal{T}}_{\theta_2}$ k_{iet} ka $e^{-}(p'_{2})$ р Proton remnants Mueller-Navelet in pp $\mathbf{k}_{J,1}, \phi_{J,1}, x_{J,1}$ 20000 00000 00000 00000 $\downarrow \mathbf{k}_2, \phi_2$ $\mathbf{k}_{J\!,2}, \phi_{J\!,2}, x_{J\!,2}$

Forward jet/particle in DIS



Forward jet in DIS: $\gamma^* + p \rightarrow \text{jet} + X$

$$k_j = x_j^p p + x_j^\gamma q' + \mathbf{k}_{jT}$$

p four-momentum of the proton *q* four-momentum of the photon *q'* light-like vector: q' = q + xp



To suppress DGLAP evolution need: $Q^2 \simeq k_{iT}^2$



Forward jet at HERA



Cross section increases steeply towards small x

Predictions obtained from DGLAP parton shower simulations fall below measurements ARIADNE comes close to data (has unordered emissions, similar to BFKL) DGLAP region $E_T^2 \ll Q^2$, predictions based on DGLAP come closer to the data In the region, $E_T^2 \gg Q^2$, measurements tend to be above predictions



- Identified particles like π^0 allow for access to low transverse momenta and hence low x
- Calculations based on BFKL describe data well
- Also calculations which include resolved photon structure
- The latter one includes the contributions from the partonic component of the photon at low Q^2
- Can be interpreted as part of the BFKL framework



$$e^+(p_1)e^-(p_2) \longrightarrow e^+(p_1')e^-(p_2')X$$

- Anti-tagged or no-tag (none of leptons observed): quasi-real photon scattering $Q_2^2 \sim Q_2^2 \sim 0$
- Single-tagged (one lepton observed): DIS like on a real photon $Q_2^2 \gg Q_2^2 \sim 0$
- Double-tagged (both electrons observed): high virtualities, virtual photon scattering $Q_2^2, Q_2^2 \gg 0$
- Tractable in pQCD, great process for BFKL searches if $Q_2^2 \sim Q_2^2 \gg 0$
- Measured at LEP by L3 and OPAL experiments

$\gamma^*\gamma^*$ scattering into hadrons: contributions

Fixed order contributions to $\gamma^*\gamma^* \to X$



Gluonic exchanges

Constant in energy: Born diagram of single gluon exchange



Exchange of BFKL Pomeron. Process enhanced by $\alpha_s \ln s/s_0$

Resummation in $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ scattering

Need to apply resummation to properly describe this process

LO overestimates the data, NLO underestimates the data

Perform resummation of the gluon Green's function (evolution equation)

Perform resummation of the impact factors (currently available to NLO)



gluon Green's function (from resummed BFKL)

$$\sigma^{(jk)}(s,Q_1,Q_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi Q_1 Q_2} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right)^{\omega} \int \frac{d\gamma}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2}\right)^{\gamma-\frac{1}{2}} \Phi^{(j)}(\omega,\gamma) \mathcal{G}(\omega,\gamma) \Phi^{(k)}(\omega,1-\gamma)$$
cross section
Resummed impact factors

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Results for $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ cross section



Fixed order (quark box) decreasing with energy

Overall : resummation calculation consistent with the data (LL BFKL overestimates the data, NLL underestimates)

Caveat: calculation is for $n_f = 3$ light (massless) flavors, need to include charm with mass effect

Mueller-Navelet process in proton-proton collision

Two jets in hadronic collisions separated by large rapidity: $p + p \rightarrow 2jets(\Delta Y) + X$



Large rapidity difference: phase space for BFKL evolution

Can select jets with similar transverse momenta $\mathbf{k}_{J1}^2 \sim \mathbf{k}_{J2}^2$, suppress DGLAP evolution

Can study azimuthal (de)correlations. Multiple emissions between jets will lead to decorrelation

Quantifying azimuthal (de)correlations

Decompose the cross section into Fourier series in decorrelation angle: angle between jets, minus π

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dy_{J_1}dy_{J_2}\,d|\vec{k}_{J_1}|\,d|\vec{k}_{J_2}|d\phi_{J_1}d\phi_{J_2}} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left[\mathcal{C}_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2\cos(n\phi)\,\mathcal{C}_n \right]$$

where $\phi = \phi_{J_1} - \phi_{J_2} - \pi$ and the coefficient of expansion are defined by

$$\mathcal{C}_n \equiv \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi_{J_1} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi_{J_2} \, \cos[n(\phi_{J_1} - \phi_{J_2} - \pi)] \, \frac{d\sigma}{dy_{J_1} dy_{J_2} \, d|\vec{k}_{J_1}| \, d|\vec{k}_{J_2}| d\phi_{J_1} d\phi_{J_2}}$$

- Fourier coefficients C_n are equal to the average cosines of the decorrelation angle $\phi = \phi_{J_1} \phi_{J_2} \pi$
- Very sensitive to parton dynamics
- If two hard jets are in the final state, they will be **approximately back-to-back** in the azimuthal plane
- Due to **parton radiation** the angular distribution has a non-zero width determined by Fourier coefficients
- In **BFKL** one expects increasing **decorrelation** with increasing rapidity interval due to the increased parton emissions
- In DGLAP strong ordering implies that, their emission will not affect jet correlation as much and should not depend on the rapidity

Azimuthal decorrelations of Mueller-Navelet jets at LHC



- BFKL calculation at NLL provides satisfactory description of the data at high ΔY
- MC generators provide good description at small values of ΔY, with wide spread at larger values.
- Color coherence plays
 important role . MPI do
 not seem to change the
 results
- More theory and experimental studies are needed

Testing small x and saturation in (de)correlations of hadrons at EIC

Azimuthal (**de**)correlations of two hadrons (dijets) in DIS in eA: direct test of the **unintegrated gluon distribution**

Instead of looking for two jets separated by large rapidity, look for two hadrons/dijets at small x



$\frac{d\sigma^{\gamma^* + A \to h_1 + h_2 + X}}{dz_{h1} dz_{h2} d^2 p_{h1T} d^2 p_{h2T}} \sim \mathcal{F}(x_g, q_T) \otimes \mathcal{H}(z_q, k_{1T}, k_{2T}) \otimes D_q(z_{h1}/z_q, p_{1T}) \otimes D_q(z_{h2}/z_q, p_{2T})$

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Clear differences between the ep and eA: **suppression** of the correlation peak in **eA** due to **saturation** effects (including the **Sudakov resummation**)

Further observables: azimuthal correlations of dihadrons/dijets in diffraction, photon+jet/dijet. These processes will allow to test various **CGC correlators**



Diffraction in DIS



In order for the rapidity gap to exist it needs to be mediated by the **colorless** exchange

Diffraction: a reaction characterized by a **rapidity** gap in the final state

Diffractive kinematics in DIS



Standard DIS variables:

electron-proton cms energy squared:

$$s = (k+p)^2$$

photon-proton cms energy squared: $W^2 = (q + p)^2$ inelasticity



Target is scattered elastically: elastic scattering

It can also dissociate into a state Y with the same quantum numbers, but still separated from the rest of particles

Diffractive DIS variables:

$$\xi \equiv x_{IP} = \frac{Q^2 + M_X^2 - t}{Q^2 + W^2}$$

$$\beta = \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 + M_X^2 - t}$$

$$t = (p - p')^2$$

momentum fraction of the Pomeron w.r.t hadron

momentum fraction of parton w.r.t Pomeron

4-momentum transfer squared

x =

Deep Inelastic Scattering : non-diffractive



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10% events at HERA were of diffractive type

Large portion of the detector void of any particle activity: **rapidity gap** Proton stays intact despite undergoing violent collision with a 50 TeV electron (in its rest frame)

Phase space (x,Q²) EIC–HERA in diffraction



e

X

Diffraction in DIS

Why diffraction ?

- Dynamics of **color singlet** object (Pomeron). Relation to confinement
- Sensitivity to gluon content, low *x* dynamics and saturation
- Relation to shadowing
- Limits of **factorization** and **universality** of diffractive PDFs
- Provides information about **spatial** distribution of the gluons in the target

In nuclei, also possible **incoherent** diffraction, when nucleus breaks up, but rapidity gap still present

On protons, one can have **diffractive dissociation** (proton breaks up but there is rapidity gap)



Diffractive cross section, structure functions

Diffractive cross section depends on 4 variables (ξ , β , Q^2 ,t):

$$\frac{d^4 \sigma^D}{d\xi d\beta dQ^2 dt} = \frac{2\pi \alpha_{\rm em}^2}{\beta Q^4} Y_+ \sigma_{\rm r}^{\rm D(4)}(\xi, \beta, Q^2, t)$$
$$Y_+ = 1 + (1 - y)^2$$

Reduced cross section depends on two structure functions:

$$\sigma_{\rm r}^{{\rm D}(4)}(\xi,\beta,Q^2,t) = F_2^{{\rm D}(4)}(\xi,\beta,Q^2,t) - \frac{y^2}{Y_+}F_L^{{\rm D}(4)}(\xi,\beta,Q^2,t)$$

Upon integration over *t*:

$$F_{2,L}^{D(3)}(\xi,\beta,Q^2) = \int_{-\infty}^{0} dt \, F_{2,L}^{D(4)}(\xi,\beta,Q^2,t) \qquad \text{Dimensions:} \\ [\sigma_n^{D(4)}] = 0$$

$$[\sigma_{\rm r}^{\rm D(4)}] = {\rm GeV}^{-2}$$

 $\sigma_{
m r}^{{
m D}(3)}$

Dimensionless

Ω

Example: pseudodata for $\sigma^{D(3)}$ in ep at EIC



Armesto, Newman, Slominski, Stasto

Possibilities for $F_L^{D(3)}$ at EIC

Why F_L^D is interesting?

$$\sigma_{\rm r}^{\rm D(3)} = F_2^{\rm D(3)} - \frac{y^2}{Y_+} F_L^{\rm D(3)}$$

 F_L^D vanishes in the parton model

Gets non-vanishing contributions in QCD

As in inclusive case, particularly sensitive to the diffractive gluon density

Expected large higher twists, provides test of the non-linear, saturation phenomena

Experimentally challenging...

Measurement requires several beam energies

 F_L^D strongest when $y \to 1$. Low electron energies

H1 measurement: 4 energies, E_p =920, 820, 575, 460 GeV, electron beam E_e =27.6 GeV

Large errors, limited by statistics at HERA

Careful evaluation of systematics. Best precision 4%, with uncorrelated sources as low as 2%

Simulated measurement of $F_L^{D(3)}$ vs β in bins of (ξ ,Q²)

Uncorr. systematic error 1%, 5 MC samples to illustrate fluctuations



Armesto, Newman, Slominski, Stasto

Small differences between S-17 and S-9, small reduction to range and increase in uncertainties. More pronounced reduction in range and higher uncertainties in S-5.

An extraction of F^D_L possible with EIC-favored set of energy combinations

Example : inclusive diffraction in eA DIS

Diffractive to inclusive ratio of cross sections sensitive probe to different models



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Example : diffractive elastic vector meson production



Final state contains only vector meson, scattered lepton and proton



J/ ψ vector meson: charm -anti charm system Upsilon vector meson: bottom - anti bottom system m = 3.09 GeVm = 9.46 GeV

Elastic vector meson production



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Diffraction in hadronic physics: analogy with optics





Source: Wikipedia Author: Epzcaw



Circular aperture

Rectangular aperture

The diffraction pattern (far away from obstacle) is a Fourier transform of the apertured field.

Diffraction pattern



Source: Wikipedia

Diffraction can provide very detailed information about the structure of an object. The object cannot be destroyed in this process. Diffractive elastic vector meson production as a way to study nucleon structure



Radius measured in diffractive scattering of vector mesons

Proton charge radius

 $R \approx 0.84 \div 0.87 \text{ fm}$

$b\approx 0.5\div 0.6~{\rm fm}$

Experiments on elastic VM production suggest gluons are concentrated in smaller regions than quarks





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Elastic vector meson production at EIC



EIC, White paper

EIC: lower energy than HERA, different kinematics. Very high statistics, high precision

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Profile function from elastic vector meson production



EIC, White paper



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Coherent:

Depends on the shape of the source, average distribution

Incoherent:

Provides information about the fluctuations or lumpiness of the source

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- Extraction of diffractive nuclear PDFs possible for the first time, potential for F_L^{D} . Prospects for measuring Reggeon. Diffractive to inclusive ratios needed to distinguish between the different scenarios (saturation vs leading twist shadowing).
- Exclusive diffraction of vector mesons, excellent process to map spatial distribution and test saturation. Experimental challenges.