GLUON SATURATION SEARCH AT x<10⁻⁴

Not including CEP and UPC processes



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Where Gluon Saturation is Expected ?





Gluon Saturation in p+A Collisions





Gluon density is enhanced by the Lorentz contraction of the nucleus at the probe rest frame.

 $Q_{S,A}^2 \propto A^{1/3} Q_{S,p}^2$

Saturation scale would be seen at a x and Q2 smaller than in pp collisions.

H. Kowalski, T. Lappi, and R. Venugopalan PRL100, 022303 (2008)



Forward rapidity detectors at LHC using pPb data are at the right spot to observe gluon saturation using perturbative processes.

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Competing Nuclear Effects



Coherent Multiple interactions

Energy Loss



The probe is larger than the contracted nucleon in the nucleus.

Causes a yield/nucleon reduction at small-x (shadowing).

Review of initial state effects can be found in Nucl.Phys.A 972, 18, 2018



The probe loses energy before the hard scattering.

The scattering products lose energy in the medium.

Causes yield/nucleon reduction.

Early Measurements





Jet probes in pPb





PRC 100, 034903 (2019)



Modest nuclear modification at small-x and large Q²

Electroweak Probes in pPb



LHCb-CONF-2019-003

LHCb 8.16 TeV (p^{μ} >20 GeV, 2< η^{μ} <4.5)

LHCb 5.02 TeV (p_{-}^{μ} >20 GeV, 2< η^{μ} <4.5) ALICE 5.02 TeV (p_{μ}^{μ} >20 GeV, 2.5< η^{μ} <4) CMS 5.02 TeV ($p_{\pi}^1 > 20$ GeV, $|\eta^1| < 2.4$) ATLAS 5.02 TeV (full lepton phase space)

2

0

pQCQ + NNPDF31 + nCTEQ15





Mid-rapidity charged particles and neutrals in pPb



arXiv:2104:03116

Systematic observation of suppression at p_T <2 GeV/c.

Contrast with Cronin effect observed in PbPb collisions.

Small-x Physics - Cesar da Silva

Forward charged particles and neutrals in pPb

PRL 128 (2022), 142004



Pion average fragmentation fraction z~0.2.

An 1 GeV/c pion may come from a $Q^2>20$ GeV jet.

The smallest x measured by LHCf







Hard Probes R_{pA} scaling in pPb





arXiv:2201.12363



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nPDF Universality



• nPDF constrained by LHC data (EPPS16-Shao) describes RHIC J/psi data at forward rapidity.

D-meson nuclear modification in pPb and Pbp collisions



CAVEAT : x is an approximation given that most of heavy flavor are produce from gluon splitting in LHC EPPS21 based on DGLAP evolution, may not be valid in a non-lineal gluon saturated regime

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 R_{pPb}

HOW TO ISOLATED SATURATION EFFECTS ?



Important to measure in x for unambiguous interpretation of the gluon suppression.

x shift in D^o yields



Another way to study sources of gluon suppression at small-x.



FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Photon probes in pPb







Precise measurement of x in nucleus

Can measure $Q^2 < 10 \text{ GeV}^2$ where shadowing and gluon saturation is favored.

Photon probes in pPb





²⁰ ^{30 40} **ρ_T (GeV/c)**

Photon probes in pPb







Bremsstrahlung



Thermal



Can probe Q²<10 GeV²

Isolated photons (not belonging to jets)



• $\Delta \phi$ line shape of direct photons from inverse Compton processes is unique

Fraction of direct photons <5% for $p_T < 5$ GeV/c

Drell-Yan





Plots obtained from PYTHIA and scaled to pQCD calculations [PRD65, 034006 (2002)]

Small p_T probes sea quarks

 $p_T > m_{DY}$ probes gluons

Challenging given the large heavy flavor background

Light meson enhancement from gluon-gluon ?



A. Cisek, A Szczurek PRD 103, 114008 (2021)



• The gluon fusion which causes saturation may also enhance some exclusive light meson production

Upgrades aiming gluon saturation search



FOCAL in ALICE



FOCAL (forward calorimeter) will put ALICE in the game of forward physics with photons and neutrals.

3.4 < eta < 5.8 p_T > 2 GeV/c

Magnet Station in LHCb



A scintillator-based tracker inside the dipole magnet to measure particles from very low Q² processes.

 $1.8 < eta < 4 \quad p_T > 0.1 \text{ GeV/c}$

Schedule 2028-

Schedule 2028-



- Nuclear modification factors have limited discrimination between gluon saturation and pQCD effects
- Most pA probes (maybe none so far) don't reach the saturation scale Qs²<10 GeV² expected at the forward rapidity LHC
- Novel manners for gluon saturation search should be explored. My modest suggestions :

TAKE AWAY

- Q² vs. x scanning with the inverse Compton process
- x shift measurements
- Exclusive light meson production from gluon fusion
- Low mass Drell-Yan
- New detectors are expected to come online in few years dedicated to small-x physics in nucleus.
- SURGE is a great opportunity to suggest new measurements, make predictions and discuss results

BACKUP SLIDES



Light and Hard Probes R_{pA} scaling in pPb



Proton Distribution os Alamos EST. 1943 $E_e \simeq 27.5 \text{ GeV}$ $E_{p} = 920 \text{ GeV}$ $\sqrt{s} \approx 320 \text{ GeV}$ **DIS at HERA** JHEP01(2010)109 H1 and ZEUS H1 and ZEUS xf xf $\mathbf{O}^2 = \mathbf{10} \; \mathbf{GeV}^2$ $O^2 = 1.9 \text{ GeV}^2$ **HERAPDF1.0 HERAPDF1.0** 0.8 0.8 exp. uncert. exp. uncert. model uncert. model uncert. xu, parametrization uncert. xu_v parametrization uncert. 0.6 0.6 $xg (\times 0.05)$ 0.4 0.4 xd_v xd_v xS (× 0.05) 0.2 0.2 xg (× 0.05) xS (× 0.05) **10⁻³ x**¹ 10-2 **10⁻¹** 10-4 10⁻³ **10⁻² 10⁻¹** \mathbf{x}^{1} 10-4

Sea quarks dominate small-x and very small Q² Gluon density grows toward small-x for larger Q²















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Precision and large kinematic coverage is key to understand competing effects.

Small-x at RHIC







Away-side peak broadening predicted by color-glass condensate not seen.

Suppression can be reproduced by shadowing+energy loss Phys.Rev. D85 (2012) 054024.

Accessing gluon-x with inverse Compton process



$$\begin{array}{lll} p_{T,\gamma} &=& p_{T,q} \\ x_{p_z>0} &=& \displaystyle \frac{p_{T,\gamma}}{\sqrt{s_{NN}}} \left(e^{y_\gamma}+e^{y_q}\right) \\ x_{p_z<0} &=& \displaystyle \frac{p_{T,\gamma}}{\sqrt{s_{NN}}} \left(e^{-y_\gamma}+e^{-y_q}\right) \\ Q^2 &=& \displaystyle p_{T,\gamma}^2 \left(1+e^{y_q-y_\gamma}\right) \sim 2 p_{T,\gamma}^2 \end{array}$$



Being a 2->2 process, inverse Compton process provides a precise measurement of the gluon-x.

- Search of the saturation scale
- Check of any x shift from shadowing or energy loss

Result under internal LHCb review. Expect a public release early 2023.

- GeV/c,
- MeV/c,

Light meson enhancement from gluon-gluon ?

A. Cisek, A Szczurek PRD 103, 114008 (2021)



- The gluon fusion which causes saturation may also enhance some exclusive light meson production
 - +h correlation
 - isolated

Idea not explored by theorists yet Other hadrons ? What about glueballs ?