ePIC Light Meson Form Factors: Early Physics

> Stephen JD Kay University of York

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EDT Meeting 16/09/24

- Opportunities for meson structure studies very early
- Electron-deuteron collisions in Y2



Opportunities for meson structure studies very early

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- Electron-deuteron collisions in Y2
- $\pi^+$  production from proton, main DEMP reaction of interest for  $F_{\pi}$

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- $\, \circ \,$  Also interesting physics in  $\pi^+/\pi^-$  ratios from deuterium
  - Hard-soft factorisation and GPD insights

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$$rac{d\sigma_L}{dt} \propto rac{-tQ^2}{(t-m_\pi^2)} g_{\pi NN}^2(t) F_\pi^2(Q^2,t)$$



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- Theoretical uncertainty in  $F_{\pi}$  extraction
  - Model dependent (smaller dependency at low -t)



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  - Measure Deep Exclusive Meson Production (DEMP)



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$$2\pi \frac{d^2\sigma}{dtd\phi} = \epsilon \frac{d\sigma_L}{dt} + \frac{d\sigma_T}{dt} + \sqrt{2\epsilon(\epsilon+1)} \frac{d\sigma_{LT}}{dt} \cos\phi + \epsilon \frac{d\sigma_{TT}}{dt} \cos 2\phi,$$

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• Physical cross section for the electroproduction process is  $d^2\sigma \quad d\sigma_I \quad d\sigma_T \quad d\sigma_{IT} \quad d\sigma_{TT} \quad c$ 

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•  $\epsilon \rightarrow$  Virtual photon polarisation

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- Need data at lowest -t possible, σ<sub>L</sub> has maximum pole contribution here
- Measure at 2(+) values of  $\epsilon$



• For a collider -

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

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• 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  $\sigma_T \propto Q^{-8}$ 

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## Predictions are assuming $\epsilon > 0.9995$

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

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- Examine π<sup>+</sup>/π<sup>−</sup> ratios as a test of the model → Deuterium data

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• Measure exclusive  ${}^{2}H(e, e'\pi^{+}n)n$  and  ${}^{2}H(e, e'\pi^{-}p)p$  in same kinematics as  $p(e, e'\pi^{+}n)$ 



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- Compare R to model expectations



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

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- Proposed programme promising for light meson form factors
- Good early challenge for FF detectors

# Thanks for listening, any questions? UNIVERSITY Science and Technology **Facilities Council**

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