Twist corrections to exclusive vector meson production in a saturation framework

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based on

R. Boussarie, M. Fucilla, L. Szymanowski, S. W. [arXiv:2407.18115]
R. Boussarie, M. Fucilla, L. Szymanowski, S. W. [arXiv:2407.18203]

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Deeply virtual meson production (DVMP)

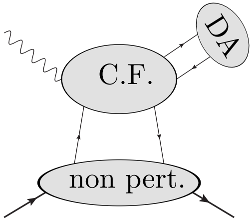
- Exclusive vector meson leptoproduction

$$\gamma^{(*)}(p_\gamma) + P(p_0) \to \rho(p_\rho) + P(p_0')$$

- Extensively studied at HERA
- Collinear factorization proven at all order for

$$\gamma_L^*(p_\gamma) + P(p_0) \to \rho_L(p_\rho) + P(p_0')$$

[Collins, Frankfurt, Strikman (1997)]
[Radyushkin (1997)]

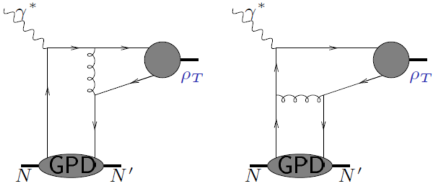


- NLO corrections to the production of a longitudinally polarized ρ-meson at small-x
  - à la BFKL: **[Ivanov, Kotsky, Papa (2004)]**
  - with saturation: **[Boussarie, Grabovsky, Ivanov, Szymanowski, SW (2017)]**
  - with saturation: **[Mäntysaari, Pentalla (2022)]**

The special case of transversally polarized vector meson production

Transversally polarized vector meson production starts at **twist-3**

- the dominant DA of ρ_T is of twist 2 and chiral-odd ($[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu]$ coupling)
- *unfortunately* $\gamma^* N^\uparrow \to \rho_T N' = 0$
  - This cancellation is true at any order : such a process would require a helicity transfer of 2 from a photon.
  - lowest order diagrammatic argument:



$$\gamma^\alpha[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu]\gamma_\alpha \to 0$$

[Diehl, Gousset, Pire (1999)], [Collins, Diehl (2000)]

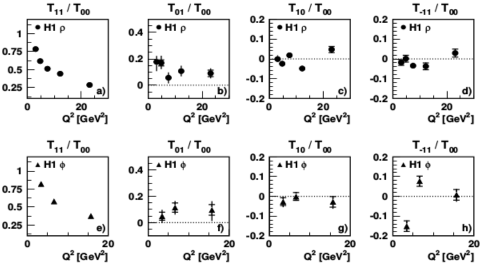
Collinear treatment at twist-3 leads to **end point singularities**

[Mankiewicz, Piller (2000)] **[Anikin, Teryaev (2002)]**

Transversely polarized vector meson production

- HERA data for the ρ and ϕ meson **[F.D. Aaron et al. (2010)]**

$$\gamma^*(\lambda_\gamma)p \to V(\lambda_V)p \qquad \lambda_\gamma = 0, 1, -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_V = 0, 1, -1$$



- Exclusive vector meson production at the twist-3 in the dilute (BFKL) limit and forward case: *thus restricted to s-channel helicity conserving*

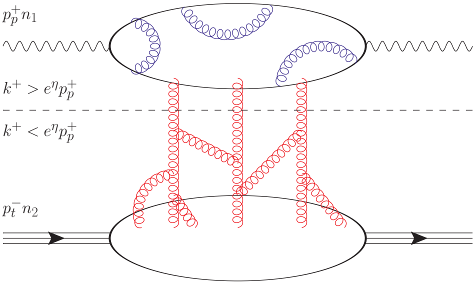
  [Anikin, Ivanov, Pire, Szymanowski, SW (2009)]

- Phenomenological studies at small-x:
  - à la BFKL **[Anikin, Besse, Ivanov, Pire, Szymanowski, SW (2011)]**
  - with saturation **[Besse, Szymanowski, SW (2013)]**

    [Bolognino, Szczurek, Schäfer, Celiberto, Ivanov, Papa (2018-2021)]

Shockwave approach

- High-energy approximation $s = (p_p + p_t)^2 \gg \{Q^2\}$



$$p_p = p_p^+ n_1 - \frac{Q^2}{2p_p^+} n_2$$

$$p_t = \frac{m_t^2}{2p_t^-} n_1 + p_t^- n_2$$

$$p_p^+ \sim p_t^- \sim \sqrt{\frac{s}{2}}$$

$$n_1^2 = n_2^2 = 0 \quad n_1 \cdot n_2 = 1$$

- Separation of the gluonic field into "fast" (quantum) part and "slow" (classical) part through a rapidity parameter $\eta < 0$

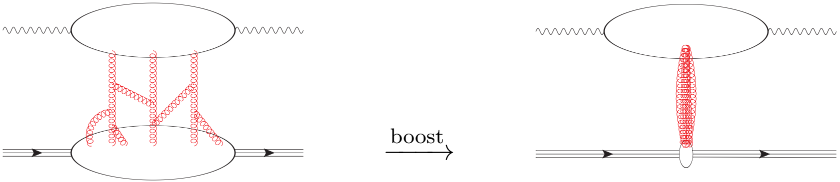
  [McLerran and Venugopalan (1994)] [Balitsky (1996-2001)]

$$\mathcal{A}^\mu(k^+, k^-, \vec{k}) = A^\mu(k^+ > e^\eta p_p^+, k^-, \vec{k}) + b^\mu(k^+ < e^\eta p_p^+, k^-, \vec{k}) \qquad e^\eta \ll 1$$

Shockwave approach

- Large longitudinal boost: $\Lambda = \sqrt{\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta}} \sim \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_t}$

$$\begin{cases} b^+(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) & = \Lambda^{-1} b_0^+(\Lambda x^+, \Lambda^{-1} x^-, \vec{x}) \\ b^-(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) & = \Lambda b_0^-(\Lambda x^+, \Lambda^{-1} x^-, \vec{x}) \\ b^i(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) & = b_0^i(\Lambda x^+, \Lambda^{-1} x^-, \vec{x}) \end{cases}$$



$b_0^\mu(x)$

$b^\mu(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) = \delta(x^+)\mathbf{B}(\vec{x})\, n_2^\mu + \mathcal{O}\left(\Lambda^{-1}\right)$

Shockwave approximation

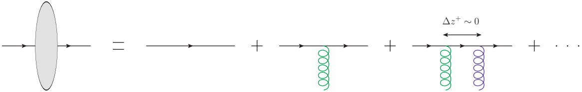
- Light-cone gauge $A \cdot n_2 = 0$

$$A \cdot b = 0 \implies \textit{Simple effective Lagrangian}$$

Shockwave approach

- Multiple interactions with the target → ***path-ordered Wilson lines***

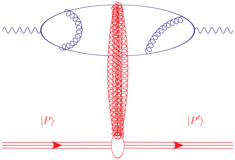
$$V_{\vec{z}}^{\eta} = 1 + ig \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dz_i^+ b_\eta^- \left(z_i^+, \vec{z}_i\right) + (ig)^2 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dz_i^+ dz_j^+ b_\eta^- \left(z_i^+, \vec{z}_i\right) b_\eta^- \left(z_j^+, \vec{z}_i\right) \theta\left(z_{ij}^+\right) + \ldots$$



$$V_{\vec{z}}^{\eta} = \mathcal{P} \exp\left[ig \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dz_i^+ b_\eta^- \left(z_i^+, \vec{z}\right)\right]$$

- Factorization in the Shockwave approximation

$$\mathcal{M}^{\eta} = N_c \int d^d \boldsymbol{z}_1 d^d \boldsymbol{z}_2 \, \Phi^{\eta}(\boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2) \langle P' \left| \mathcal{U}_{12}^{\eta}(\boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2) \right| P \rangle$$



- **Dipole operator**

$$\mathcal{U}_{ij}^{\eta} = 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \mathrm{Tr}\left(V_{\vec{z}_i}^{\eta} V_{\vec{z}_j}^{\eta\dagger}\right)$$

- **Balitsky-JIMWLK** evolution equations **[Balitsky (1995)]**

[Jalilian-Marian, Iancu, McLerran, Weigert, Kovner, Leonidov]

Theoretical framework

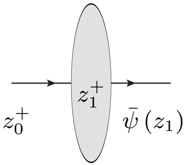
Effective background field operators (1)

$$\left[\psi_{\text{eff}}\ (z_0)\right]_{z_0^+<0} = \psi\left(z_0\right) - \int \mathrm{d}^D z_2 G_0\left(z_{02}\right)\left(V_{\boldsymbol{z}_2}^{\dagger} - 1\right)\gamma^+\psi\left(z_2\right)\delta(z_2^+)$$

$$\left[\bar{\psi}_{\text{eff}}\ (z_0)\right]_{z_0^+<0} = \bar{\psi}\left(z_0\right) + \int \mathrm{d}^D z_1 \bar{\psi}\left(z_1\right)\gamma^+\left(V_{\boldsymbol{z}_1} - 1\right)G_0\left(z_{10}\right)\delta(z_1^+)$$

$$\left[A_{\text{eff}}^{\mu a}\ (z_0)\right]_{z_0^+<0} = A^{\mu a}\left(z_0\right) + 2i\int \mathrm{d}^D z_3 \delta(z_3^+) F_{-\sigma}^{b}\left(z_3\right) G^{\mu\sigma_\perp}\left(z_{30}\right)\left(U_{\boldsymbol{z}_3}^{ab} - \delta^{ab}\right)$$

e.g. of antiquark effective operator:



free quark propagator: $G_0(z) = \int \frac{d^D l}{(2\pi)^D} e^{-il\cdot z} \frac{i\not{k}}{k^2+i0}$

- A fermionic line starts at the light-cone time $z_0^+ < 0$
- freely propagates to z_1^+
- it interacts eikonally at z_1^+ with the background shockwave field.

Effective background field operators (2)

- Such operators serve to construct amplitudes involving non-perturbative matrix elements of general off light-cone correlators, i.e. **without any reference to the twist-expansion**
- Proof by induction
- Shockwave effective Feynman rules are easily reproduced

$$\left[v_{\alpha}^{ij}\left(p_{\bar{q}}, z_0\right)\right]_{z_0^+<0} \equiv \left[\psi_{\text{eff},\alpha}^{j}\left(z_0\right)\right]_{z_0^+<0} |i, p_{\bar{q}}\rangle = -\frac{(-i)^{d/2}}{2(2\pi)^{d/2}} \left(\frac{p_{\bar{q}}^+}{-z_0^+}\right)^{d/2} \theta(p_{\bar{q}}^+)\theta(-z_0^+)$$

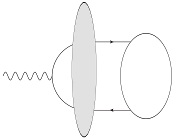
$$\times \int d^d z_2 V_{\vec{z}_2}^{ij\dagger} \frac{-z_0^+\gamma^- + \hat{z}_{20\perp}}{-z_0^+}\gamma^+ \frac{v(p_{\bar{q}})}{\sqrt{2p_{\bar{q}}^+}} \exp\left\{ip_{\bar{q}}^+\left(z_0^- - \frac{\vec{z}_{20}^{\,2}}{2z_0^+} + i0\right) - i\vec{p}_{\bar{q}}\cdot\vec{z}_{20}\right\}$$

$$G_{ij}\left(z_2, z_0\right)\big|_{z_2^+>0>z_0^+} \equiv \psi_i(z_2)\left[\bar{\psi}_{\text{eff},j}\left(z_0\right)\right]_{z_0^+<0}$$

$$= \frac{i\Gamma(d+1)}{4(2\pi)^{d+1}} \int d^d\vec{z}_1 V_{ij}\left(\vec{z}_1\right) \frac{\left(z_2^+\gamma^- + \hat{z}_{21\perp}\right)\gamma^+\left(-z_0^+\gamma^- + \hat{z}_{10\perp}\right)}{\left(-z_0^+z_2^+\right)^{\frac{D}{2}}\left(-z_{20}^- + \frac{\vec{z}_{21}^2}{2z_2^+} - \frac{\vec{z}_{10}^2}{2z_0^+} + i\varepsilon\right)^{d+1}} \theta(z_2^+)\theta(-z_0^+)$$

ρ-meson production: diagrams

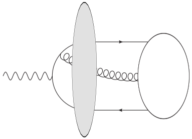
- **Two-body contribution**



Dependence of the leading Fock state wave function – with a minimal number of (valence) partons – on **transverse momentum**

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = -ie_f \int \mathrm{d}^D z_0 \theta(-z_0^+) \left\langle P\left(p'\right) M\left(p_M\right) \middle| \overline{\psi}_{\text{eff}}\left(z_0\right) \hat{\varepsilon}_q \mathrm{e}^{-i(q\cdot z_0)} \psi_{\text{eff}}\left(z_0\right) \middle| P\left(p\right) \right\rangle$$

- **Three-body contribution**



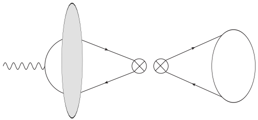
Distributions with a **non-minimal parton configuration**

$$\mathcal{A}_{3,q} = \left(-ie_q\right)\left(ig\right) \int \mathrm{d}^D z_4 \mathrm{d}^D z_0 \theta(-z_4^+)\theta(-z_0^+)$$

$$\times \left\langle P\left(p'\right) M\left(p_M\right) \middle| \overline{\psi}_{\text{eff}}\left(z_4\right) \gamma_\mu A^{\mu a}_{\text{eff}}(z_4) t^a G(z_{40}) \hat{\varepsilon}_q \mathrm{e}^{-i(q\cdot z_0)} \psi_{\text{eff}}\left(z_0\right) \middle| P\left(p\right) \right\rangle$$

ρ-meson production: factorization

- **Two-body contribution**

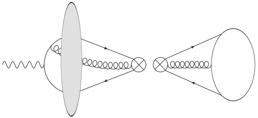


$$\mathcal{A}_2 = ie_f \int \mathrm{d}^D z_0 \int \mathrm{d}^D z_1 \int \mathrm{d}^D z_2 \theta(-z_0^+)\delta(z_1^+)\delta(z_2^+)\left\langle M\left(p_M\right)\left|\overline{\psi}\left(z_1\right)\Gamma^\lambda \psi\left(z_2\right)\right|0\right\rangle$$

$$\times \left\langle P\left(p'\right)\left|1 - \frac{1}{N_c}\mathrm{tr}\left(V_{\boldsymbol{z}_1} V^\dagger_{\boldsymbol{z}_2}\right)\right|P\left(p\right)\right\rangle \frac{1}{4}\mathrm{tr}_D\left[\gamma^+ G_0\left(z_{10}\right)\hat{\varepsilon}_q \mathrm{e}^{-i(q\cdot z_0)} G_0\left(z_{02}\right)\gamma^+\Gamma_\lambda\right]$$

hard part

- **Three-body contribution**



$$\mathcal{A}_{q3} = -ie_q \int \mathrm{d}^D z_4 \mathrm{d}^D z_3 \mathrm{d}^D z_2 \mathrm{d}^D z_1 \mathrm{d}^D z_0 \theta(-z_4^+)\delta(z_3^+)\delta(z_2^+)\delta(z_1^+)\theta\left(-z_0^+\right)\mathrm{e}^{-i(q\cdot z_0)}$$

$$\times \left\langle P\left(p'\right)\left|\mathrm{tr}\left(V_{\boldsymbol{z}_1} t^a V^\dagger_{\boldsymbol{z}_2} t^b U^{ab}_{\boldsymbol{z}_3}\right)\right|P\left(p\right)\right\rangle \left\langle M\left(p_M\right)\left|\overline{\psi}\left(z_1\right)\Gamma^\lambda g F_{-\sigma}\left(z_3\right)\psi\left(z_2\right)\right|0\right\rangle$$

$$\times \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1}\mathrm{tr}_D\left[\gamma^+ G_0\left(z_{14}\right)\gamma_\mu G^{\mu\sigma_\perp}\left(z_{34}\right) G_0\left(z_{40}\right)\hat{\varepsilon}_q G_0\left(z_{02}\right)\gamma^+\Gamma_\lambda\right] - \text{n.i.}$$

hard part

Results: two-body contribution

- **Dipole amplitude**

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \int \mathrm{d}^2\boldsymbol{r}\, \Psi_2(x, \boldsymbol{r}) \int \mathrm{d}^d\boldsymbol{b}\, \mathrm{e}^{i(\boldsymbol{q}-\boldsymbol{p}_M)\cdot\boldsymbol{b}} \left\langle P(p') \left| 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \mathrm{tr}\left(V_{\boldsymbol{b}+\bar{x}\boldsymbol{r}} V^\dagger_{\boldsymbol{b}-x\boldsymbol{r}} \right) \right| P(p) \right\rangle$$

- **Coordinate-space impact factor**

$$\Psi_2(x, \boldsymbol{r}) = e_q \delta \left(1 - \frac{p_M^+}{q^+} \right) \left(\varepsilon_{q\mu} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\mu \right)$$

$$\times \left[\phi_{\gamma^+}(x, \boldsymbol{r}) \left(2x\bar{x}q^\mu - i(x-\bar{x}) \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp\mu}} \right) + \epsilon^{\mu\nu+-} \phi_{\gamma^+\gamma^5}(x, \boldsymbol{r}) \frac{\partial}{\partial r_\perp^\nu} \right] K_0\left(\sqrt{x\bar{x}Q^2\boldsymbol{r}^2} \right)$$

- Two-body vacuum to meson non-perturbative matrix elements

$$\phi_{\gamma^+}(x, \boldsymbol{r}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dr^- e^{ixp_M^+ r^-} \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \overline{\psi}(r) \gamma^+ \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0}$$

$$\phi_{\gamma^+\gamma^5}(x, \boldsymbol{r}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dr^- e^{ixp_M^+ r^-} \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \overline{\psi}(r) \gamma^+ \gamma^5 \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0}$$

at this stage, r^2 is arbitrary, in principle off the light-cone.

Results: three-body contribution

- Three-body amplitude: involves **dipole** and **double dipole** contributions

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \left(\prod_{i=1}^{3} \int dx_i \theta(x_i)\right) \delta(1 - x_1 - x_2 - x_3) \int d^2\boldsymbol{z}_1 d^2\boldsymbol{z}_2 d^2\boldsymbol{z}_3 e^{i\boldsymbol{q}(x_1\boldsymbol{z}_1 + x_2\boldsymbol{z}_2 + x_3\boldsymbol{z}_3)}$$

$$\times \Psi_3\left(x_1, x_2, x_3, \boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2, \boldsymbol{z}_3\right) \left\langle P\left(p'\right) \middle| \mathcal{U}_{\boldsymbol{z}_1\boldsymbol{z}_3}\mathcal{U}_{\boldsymbol{z}_3\boldsymbol{z}_2} - \mathcal{U}_{\boldsymbol{z}_1\boldsymbol{z}_3} - \mathcal{U}_{\boldsymbol{z}_3\boldsymbol{z}_2} + \frac{1}{N_c^2}\mathcal{U}_{\boldsymbol{z}_1\boldsymbol{z}_2} \middle| P\left(p\right) \right\rangle$$

- **Coordinate-space impact factor** (with $Z = \sqrt{x_1x_2\boldsymbol{z}_{12}^2 + x_1x_3\boldsymbol{z}_{13}^2 + x_2x_3\boldsymbol{z}_{23}^2}$)

$$\Psi_3\left(x_1, x_2, x_3, \boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2, \boldsymbol{z}_3\right) = \frac{e_q q^+}{2(4\pi)} \frac{N_c^2}{N_c^2 - 1} \left(\varepsilon_{q\rho} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\rho\right)$$

$$\times \left\{ \chi_{\gamma^+\sigma} \left[\left(4ig_{\perp\perp}^{\rho\sigma} \frac{x_1x_2}{1 - x_2} \frac{Q}{Z} K_1(QZ) + T_1^{\sigma\rho\nu}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{\boldsymbol{z}_{23}^2} K_0(QZ) \right) - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right] \right.$$

$$\left. -\chi_{\gamma^+\gamma^5\sigma} \left[\left(4\epsilon^{\sigma\rho+-} \frac{x_1x_2}{1 - x_2} \frac{Q}{Z} K_1(QZ) + T_2^{\sigma\rho\nu}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{\boldsymbol{z}_{23}^2} K_0(QZ) \right) + (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right] \right\}$$

- Three-body vacuum to meson non-perturbative matrix elements

$$\chi_{\Gamma^\lambda,\sigma} \equiv \chi_{\Gamma^\lambda,\sigma}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2, \boldsymbol{z}_3) =$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}z_1^-}{2\pi} \frac{\mathrm{d}z_2^-}{2\pi} \frac{\mathrm{d}z_3^-}{2\pi} \mathrm{e}^{-ix_1q^+z_1^- - ix_2q^+z_2^- - ix_3q^+z_3^-} \left\langle M\left(p_M\right) \middle| \overline{\psi}\left(z_1\right) \Gamma^\lambda g F_{-\sigma}\left(z_3\right) \psi\left(z_2\right) \middle| 0 \right\rangle_{z_{1,2,3}^+ = 0}$$

Again, at this stage, z_1^2, z_2^2, z_3^2 are arbitrary, in principle off the light-cone.

Covariant collinear factorization = non-local OPE (1)

- expansion in powers of the hard scale
  = expansion of **string operators** in powers of deviation from the light-cone
  [Balitsky, Braun (1989)]

  e.g. **up to twist 3:**

  - *2-body:* expansion in powers of r^2 $(r^2 \to 0)$ of

$$\left\langle M(p_M) \left| \overline{\psi}(r)\, \gamma^+ \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0} \quad \text{and} \quad \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \overline{\psi}(r)\, \gamma^+ \gamma^5 \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0}$$

  - *3-body:* expansion in powers of $(z_3 - z_1)^2, (z_2 - z_3)^2$ $((z_3 - z_1)^2, (z_2 - z_3)^2 \to 0)$ of

$$\left\langle M(p_M) \left| \overline{\psi}(z_1)\, \Gamma^\lambda g F_{-\sigma}(z_3)\, \psi(z_2) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{z^+_{1,2,3}=0}$$

- each coefficient of this OPE expansion
  = finite sum of on-light-cone **non-local** correlators
- for each term in this Taylor expansion:
  vacuum-to-meson matrix elements contribute to **different kinematic twist:**
  - matrix element = linear combination of $p_{M\mu}, r_\mu, \varepsilon^*_{M\mu}$ **(now** $r^2 = 0$)
  - coefficients depend on the available Lorentz inv. $p_M \cdot r,\ \varepsilon_M \cdot r,\ m_M^2$
  - these quantities have **different scaling** in the $Q \to \infty$ limit

Covariant collinear factorization = non-local OPE (2)

- example: *parametrization of the 2-body vector matrix element* (up to twist 3)

$$\left\langle M(p_M) \left| \overline{\psi}(r)\,\gamma^\mu [r,0] \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle \Big|_{r^2=0}$$

$$\sim f_M m_M \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \mathrm{e}^{ix(p_M \cdot r)} \left[p_M^\mu \frac{(\varepsilon_M^* \cdot r)}{(p_M \cdot r)} \phi(x) + \varepsilon_{M,T}^{*\mu}\, g_\perp^{(v)}(x) \right]$$

$\sim Q$ — twist 2; ~ 1 — twist 3

- **up to twist 3:**
  only the first term in the Taylor expansion of the off-light-cone matrix elements survives
  the next one is twist 4, i.e. z^2 suppressed
  we keep twist 2 and twist 3 terms:
  2-body: $\rightarrow$ twist-2 and twist-3 (kinematic) (see above example)
  3-body: $\rightarrow$ twist-3 (genuine)

Covariant collinear factorization = non-local OPE (3)

[Braun, Filyanov (1990)]

[Ball, Braun, Koike, Tanaka (1998)]

- Minimal basis of *independent distributions* (twist-3 collinear DAs)
- *Minimal numbers of parameters*
- Easy to perform the calculation directly in coordinate space
- 2 and 3-body operators in gauge invariant form, on the light-cone $z^2 = 0$

$$\langle M(p_M)|\overline{\psi}(z)\Gamma_\lambda\,[z,0]\,\psi(0)|0\rangle$$
$$\langle M(p_M)|\overline{\psi}(z)\gamma_\lambda\,[z,tz]\,gF^{\mu\nu}(tz)\,[tz,0]\,\psi(0)|0\rangle$$
$$\langle M(p_M)|\overline{\psi}(z)\gamma_\lambda\gamma^5\,[z,tz]\,g\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}(tz)\,[tz,0]\,\psi(0)|0\rangle$$

where

$$[z,0] = \mathcal{P}_{\exp}\left[ig\int_0^1 dt A^\mu\,(tz)\,z_\mu\right]$$

Results: twist 3 expansion

A subtlety: making contact with covariant collinear factorization

- before twist expansion, our result does do not contain gauge links between fields
- this should be taken into account, through:

$$\mathcal{P}\exp\left[ig\int_0^1 dt A^\mu(tz)z_\mu\right] = 1 + ig\int_0^1 dt A^\mu\,(tz)\,z_\mu + \dots\,, \qquad (2)$$

- it does not affect the 3-body twist-3 result
- it does contribute to the 2-body twist-3 result

Results: twist 3 expansion

3-body twist-3 expanded result

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\Psi_3\left(x_1, x_2, x_3, \boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2, \boldsymbol{z}_3\right) \\
&= \frac{e_q m_M c_f}{8\pi}\delta\left(1-\frac{p_M^+}{q^+}\right)\left(\varepsilon_{q\rho}-\frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+}q_\rho\right)\left(\varepsilon_M^{*\mu}-\frac{p_M^\mu}{p_M^+}\varepsilon_M^{*+}\right)\left(\prod_{j=1}^{3}\theta(x_j)\theta(1-x_j)e^{-ix_j\boldsymbol{p}_M\boldsymbol{z}_j}\right) \\
&\times\left\{-if_{3M}^V g_{\sigma\mu}V(x_1,x_2)\left[\left(4ig_{\perp\perp}^{\rho\sigma}\frac{x_1x_2}{1-x_2}\frac{Q}{Z}K_1(QZ)+T_1^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x_i\})\frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{\boldsymbol{z}_{23}^2}K_0(QZ)\right)-(1\leftrightarrow 2)\right]\right. \\
&\left.-\epsilon_{-+\sigma\beta}f_{3M}^A g_{\perp\perp\mu}^{\beta}A(x_1,x_2)\left[\left(4\epsilon^{\sigma\rho+-}\frac{x_1x_2}{1-x_2}\frac{Q}{Z}K_1(QZ)+T_2^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x_i\})\frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{\boldsymbol{z}_{23}^2}K_0(QZ)\right)+(1\leftrightarrow 2)\right]\right.
\end{aligned}
$$

$V(x_1, x_2)$ = genuine twist-3 vector DAs

$A(x_1, x_2)$ = genuine twist-3 axial DAs

f_M^V and f_M^A = normalization constants

2-body twist-3 expanded result

$$\Psi_2(x,\boldsymbol{r}) = e_q m_M f_M \delta \left(1 - \frac{p_M^+}{q^+}\right)\left(\varepsilon_{q\mu} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\mu\right)\left(\varepsilon^*_{M\alpha} - \frac{\varepsilon_M^{*+}}{p_M^+} p_{M\alpha}\right)$$
$$\times \left[-i r_\perp^\alpha \left(h(x) - \tilde{h}(x)\right)\left(2x\bar{x}q^\mu + (x-\bar{x})\frac{-i\partial}{\partial r_{\perp\mu}}\right)\right.$$
$$\left. + \epsilon^{\mu\nu+-}\epsilon^{+\alpha-\delta} r_{\perp\delta}\left(\frac{g_\perp^{(a)}(x) - \tilde{g}_\perp^{(a)}(x)}{4}\right)\frac{\partial}{\partial r_\perp^\nu}\right] K_0\left(\sqrt{x\bar{x}Q^2\boldsymbol{r}^2}\right),$$

with

$$h(x) = \int_0^x \mathrm{d}u \left(\phi(u) - g_\perp^{(v)}(u)\right),$$

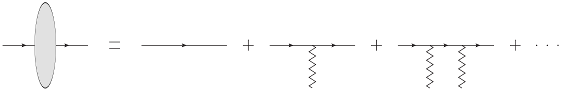
$$\widetilde{h}(x) = \frac{f_{3M}^V}{f_M}\int_0^x \mathrm{d}x_q \int_0^{1-x} \mathrm{d}x_{\overline{q}} \frac{V\left(x_q, x_{\overline{q}}\right)}{\left(1 - x_q - x_{\overline{q}}\right)^2},$$

$$\widetilde{g}_\perp^{(a)}(x) = 4\frac{f_{3M}^A}{f_M}\int_0^x \mathrm{d}x_q \int_0^{1-x} \mathrm{d}x_{\overline{q}} \frac{A\left(x_q, x_{\overline{q}}\right)}{(1 - x_q - x_{\overline{q}} + i\epsilon)^2}.$$

Dilute regime: two-body contribution

- **Reggeon** definition **[Caron-Huot (2013)]** $\quad R^a(\boldsymbol{z}) \equiv \frac{f^{abc}}{gC_A} \ln\left(U^{bc}_{\boldsymbol{z}}\right)$
- Expansion of the *Wilson line* in Reggeized gluons

$$V_{\boldsymbol{z}_1} = 1 + ig\boldsymbol{t}^a R^a(\boldsymbol{z}_1) - \frac{1}{2}g^2 \boldsymbol{t}^a \boldsymbol{t}^b R^a(\boldsymbol{z}_1) R^b(\boldsymbol{z}_1) + O\left(g^3\right)$$



- **BFKL $\boldsymbol{k}_{\mathrm{T}}$-factorization**

$$\mathcal{A}_2^{\text{dilute}} = \frac{g^2}{4N_c}(2\pi)^d \delta^d(\boldsymbol{q} - \boldsymbol{p}_M - \boldsymbol{\Delta}) \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^d \ell}{(2\pi)^d} \mathcal{U}(\ell) \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x$$

$$\times \underbrace{\left[\Phi_2\left(x, \boldsymbol{\ell} - \frac{x-\bar{x}}{2}\boldsymbol{\Delta}\right) + \Phi_2\left(x, -\boldsymbol{\ell} - \frac{x-\bar{x}}{2}\boldsymbol{\Delta}\right) - \Phi_2(x, \bar{x}\boldsymbol{\Delta}) - \Phi_2(x, -x\boldsymbol{\Delta})\right]}_{\Phi_{2,\mathrm{BFKL}}(x, \boldsymbol{l}, \boldsymbol{\Delta})}$$

- $\mathcal{U}(\boldsymbol{l}) \to k_T$-unintegrated gluon density (UGD) in the BFKL sense

$$\mathcal{U}(\boldsymbol{\ell}) \equiv \int \mathrm{d}^d \boldsymbol{v} \mathrm{e}^{-i(\boldsymbol{\ell}\cdot\boldsymbol{v})} \left\langle P\left(p'\right) \middle| R^a\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{v}}{2}\right) R^a\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{v}}{2}\right) \middle| P(p) \right\rangle ,$$

- Φ_2 is the Fourier transform of Ψ_2

Explicit two-body term in the dilute and $\Delta = 0$ limit

- **BK impact factor**

$$\Phi_{2,\boldsymbol{\Delta}=0}\left(x,\boldsymbol{l}\right) = 2\pi m_M f_M e_q \delta(1-p_M^+/q^+)$$
$$\times \left[\frac{2\boldsymbol{l}^2}{\left[\boldsymbol{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2\right]^2} T_{\text{f.}}\ \phi_{2,\text{f.}}(x) - \frac{x\bar{x}Q^2}{\left[\boldsymbol{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2\right]^2} T_{\text{n.f.}}\ \phi_{2,\text{n.f.}}(x)\right]$$

- Helicity (flip and non-flip) structures and DAs combinations

$$T_{\text{n.f.}} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_q \cdot \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_M^* \qquad \phi_{2,\text{n.f.}}(x) = (2x-1)(h(x) - \tilde{h}(x)) + \frac{g_\perp^{(a)}(x) - \tilde{g}_\perp^{(a)}(x)}{4}$$

$$T_{\text{f.}} = \frac{(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_q \cdot \boldsymbol{l})(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_M^* \cdot \boldsymbol{l})}{\boldsymbol{l}^2} - \frac{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_q \cdot \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_M^*}{2} \qquad \phi_{2,\text{f.}}(x) = (2x-1)(h(x) - \tilde{h}(x)) - \frac{g_\perp^{(a)}(x) - \tilde{g}_\perp^{(a)}(x)}{4}$$

- **Forward limit matching**

$$\Phi_{2,\boldsymbol{\Delta}=0}^{\text{BFKL}}\left(x,\boldsymbol{l}\right) = 2\left(\Phi_{2,\boldsymbol{\Delta}=0}\left(x,\boldsymbol{l}\right) - \Phi_{2,\boldsymbol{\Delta}=0}\left(x,\boldsymbol{0}\right)\right)$$

- **BFKL impact factor**

$$\Phi_{2,\boldsymbol{\Delta}=0}^{\text{BFKL}}\left(x,\boldsymbol{l}\right) = 4\pi m_M f_M e_q \delta(1-p_M^+/q^+)$$
$$\times \left[\frac{2\boldsymbol{l}^2}{\left[\boldsymbol{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2\right]^2} T_{\text{f.}}\ \phi_{\text{f.}}(x) + \frac{\boldsymbol{l}^2(\boldsymbol{l}^2 + 2x\bar{x}Q^2)}{x\bar{x}Q^2\left[\boldsymbol{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2\right]^2} T_{\text{n.f.}}\ \phi_{\text{n.f.}}(x)\right]$$

Explicit three-body term in the dilute and $\Delta = 0$ limit

- The 3-body BFKL impact factor is a combination of 12 BK impact factors

$$\Phi_3\left(\{x\},\{\boldsymbol{p}\}\right) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^{3}\int d^2\boldsymbol{z}_j e^{-i\boldsymbol{z}_j\boldsymbol{p}_j}\right)\Psi_3\left(\{x\},\{\boldsymbol{z}\}\right)$$

- Transverse to transverse transition in the **forward** and **dilute** limit

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{dilute}}_{3T,\boldsymbol{\Delta}=\mathbf{0}} = e_q m_M \frac{g^2}{N_c}(2\pi)\delta\left(1-\frac{p_M^+}{q^+}\right)(2\pi)^2\delta^2\left(\boldsymbol{q}-\boldsymbol{p}_M\right)\int\frac{\mathrm{d}^d\boldsymbol{\ell}}{(2\pi)^d}\mathcal{U}(\boldsymbol{\ell})$$
$$\times\left(\prod_{i=1}^{3}\int_0^1\frac{dx_i}{x_i}\right)\frac{\delta(1-x_1-x_2-x_3)}{x_3}\frac{\boldsymbol{\ell}^2}{Q^2}\left\{T_{\text{f.}}\left[f^V_{3M}V\left(x_1,x_2\right)-f^A_{3M}A\left(x_1,x_2\right)\right]\right.$$
$$\times 2x_1\left(\frac{x_3c_f}{\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+\frac{x_2x_3}{x_2+x_3}Q^2}+\frac{x_3c_f}{\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+\frac{x_1x_3}{x_1+x_3}Q^2}-\frac{\bar{x}_3\left(1-c_f\right)}{\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+\frac{x_1x_2}{x_1+x_2}Q^2}+\frac{x_2-\bar{x}_1c_f}{\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+x_1\bar{x}_1Q^2}+\frac{x_1-\bar{x}_2c_f}{\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+x_2\bar{x}_2Q^2}\right)$$
$$-T_{\text{n.f.}}\left[f^V_{3M}V\left(x_1,x_2\right)+f^A_{3M}A\left(x_1,x_2\right)\right]$$
$$\left.\times\left(\frac{\left(1-c_f\right)x_1\bar{x}_3}{\bar{x}_3\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+x_1x_2Q^2}-\frac{c_fx_3^2}{\bar{x}_1\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+x_2x_3Q^2}-\frac{\left(x_2-\bar{x}_1c_f\right)x_1x_2}{\bar{x}_1\left(\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+x_1\bar{x}_1Q^2\right)}-\frac{\left(x_1-\bar{x}_2c_f\right)\bar{x}_2}{\left(\boldsymbol{\ell}^2+x_2\bar{x}_2Q^2\right)}\right)\right\}$$

- **The forward and dilute limit matches our previous result**

[Anikin, Ivanov, Pire, Szymanowski, SW (2009)]

BFKL approach + twist-expansion via light-cone collinear factorization

Summary

- **Transversally polarized light vector meson production**
- DVMP in the **non-linear** regime in the transversely polarized case
- Both **forward** and **non-forward** results and **s-channel non-conserving helicity amplitudes**
- **Coordinate** and **momentum space** representations
- Reggeized gluon expansion **[Caron-Huot (2013)]** $\Longrightarrow$ **BFKL results**
- To be used for a complete description of HERA and future EIC data
- Higher-twist corrections are essential to describe medium energy data of exclusive processes:

  data for $ep \to e\pi^0 p$ need a twist 3 π^0 DA **[M. Defurne et al. (2016)]**

- Method to deal with twist corrections at small-x including saturation
- what's next? what about the NLO frontier?
  - Wandzura-Wilczek approximation: no genuine twist-3, i.e. no $q\bar{q}g$ 3-body in principle, "straightforward"
  - Full NLO? Out of reach for the moment without a full automatization of the calculations...