

# Signatures of gluon saturation from structure function measurements

And connection to particle production in  $p + A$  collisions

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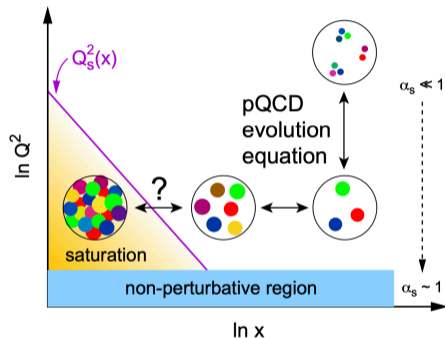
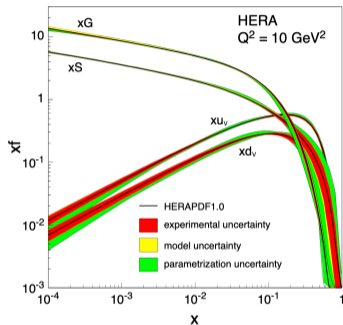
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# Lessons from HERA

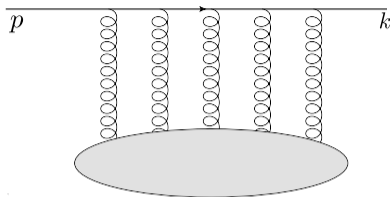
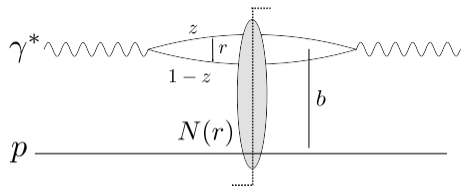
HERA total  $\gamma^* + p$  cross section data: parton densities  $\sim x^{-\lambda}$ , eventually violates unitarity



Non-linear QCD effects at small  $x$  (e.g.  $gg \rightarrow g$ ) should tame this growth  
 $\Rightarrow$  Saturated state of gluonic matter at small  $x$  and moderate  $Q^2$

- Large densities  $\sim A^{1/3}$  in nuclei
- Accessible also in  $p+A$  at the LHC (at smaller  $x$ ), but  $\gamma^*$  a much cleaner probe

# DIS $\leftrightarrow$ forward particle production at the LHC



## Inclusive cross section

Optical theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^{\gamma^* p} &\sim \Psi^* \otimes \Psi \otimes N \\ &\sim \text{dipole } N \sim \text{“gluon structure”} \end{aligned}$$

## Hadron production in $p + A$

- Quark in amplitude
  - Antiquark in c.c. amplitude
- $$\sigma^{p+A \rightarrow \pi^0 + X} \sim \text{dipole } N$$

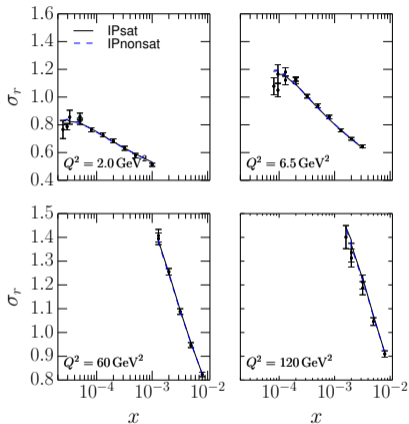
DIS (HERA, EIC) – LHC complementarity

- DIS: precise and theoretically clean structure function measurements, pointlike probe
- FOCAL: Particle production at forward rapidity, much smaller  $x$ , complicated probe

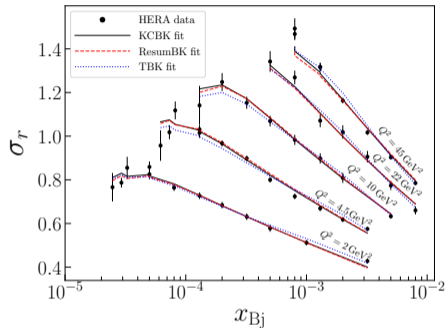
Dipole  $N = 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr } V(\mathbf{x}) V^\dagger(\mathbf{y})$  is a convenient d.o.f. at high energy

# 1. Inclusive DIS

# Looking for gluon saturation



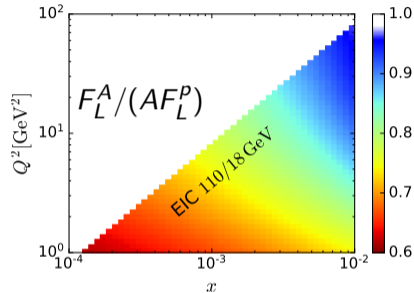
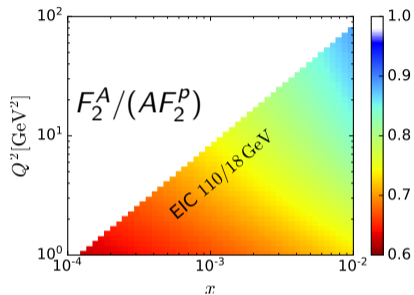
- Equally good description with and without non-linear dynamics [H.M, P. Zurita, 1804.05311](#)



- CGC calculations entering NLO era
- Good agreement with HERA data

[Beuf, Hänninen, Lappi, H.M, 2007.01645](#)

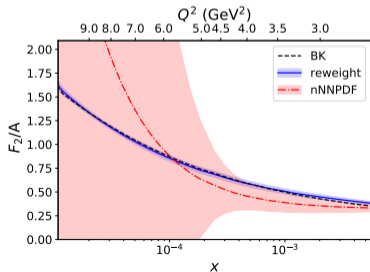
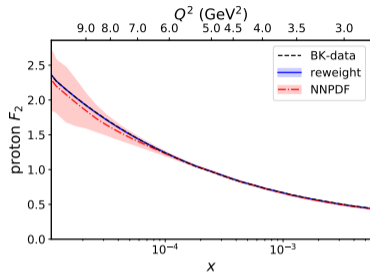
# Non-linear QCD dynamics in inclusive cross section



Based on Lappi, H.M., 1309.6963

- Significant nuclear suppression expected for  $F_2$  and  $F_L$
  - $F_L$  probes more directly dipole sizes  $r \sim 1/Q \Rightarrow$  stronger  $Q^2$  and  $x$  dependence
  - $F_2$  sensitive to non-perturbatively large dipoles, so  $F_L$  and  $F_{2,c}$  theoretically better
- Diffraction structure functions also very interesting!

# Extracting genuine signals of saturation from QCD evolution



Both DGLAP (no saturation) and BK (saturation) based calculations can usually be fitted to one set of data

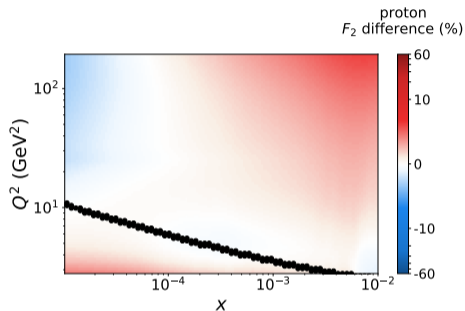
Remove the effect of the non-perturbative initial condition:

- Require  $F_2(\text{BK}) = F_2(\text{DGLAP})$  at  $Q^2 = 10Q_s(x)^2$
- Both approaches expected to be valid in this kinematics
- Technically: reweight PDF sets
- Construct DGLAP evolution that matches BK at  $Q^2 = 10Q_s(x)^2$
- Probe genuine differences in evolution when moving away from the matching line

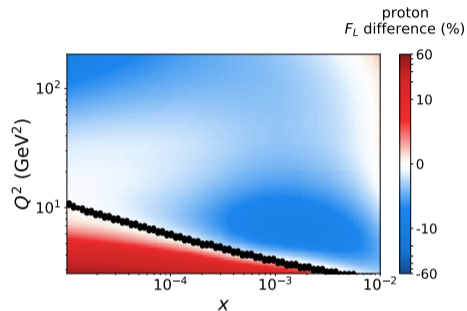
Details: NNPDF 3.1 for protons, nNNPDF2.0 for nuclei, 1000 MC replicas reweighted

[Armesto, Lappi, H.M, Paukkunen, Tevio, 2203.05846](#)

# Evolution dynamics I: protons



$$\frac{F_2^{\text{BK}} - F_2^{\text{Reweight}}}{F_2^{\text{BK}}}$$



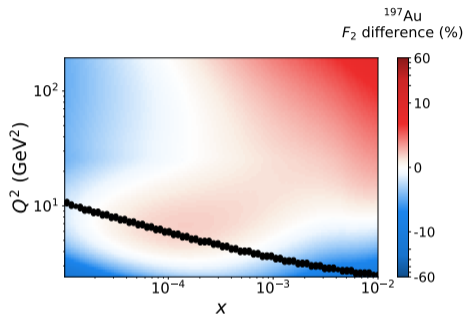
- Quantify differences in evolution when moving away from the matching line  
⇒ how precisely  $F_{2,L}$  need to be measured to see signals of non-linear dynamics
- Only  $\sim$  few percent differences in  $F_2$  in the EIC energy range
- $F_L$  more sensitive, differences up to  $\sim 10\%$  at the EIC – but more difficult to measure

Interested in absolute values? See backup for 1d plots

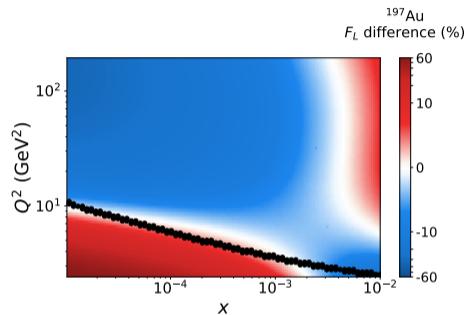
Armesto, Lappi, H.M, Paukkunen, Tevio, 2203.05846



# Evolution dynamics II: nuclei



$$\frac{F_2^{\text{BK}} - F_2^{\text{Reweight}}}{F_2^{\text{BK}}}$$



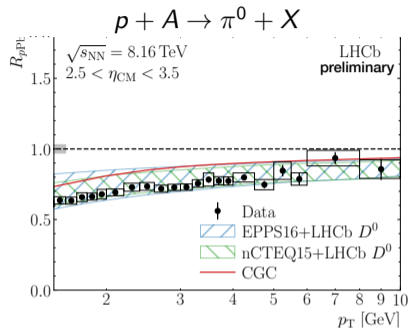
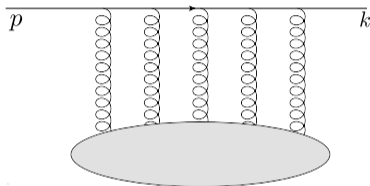
- Larger effects in nuclei, as  $Q_s^2 \sim A^{1/3} \Rightarrow$  stronger non-linear phenomena
- $F_2$  is needed in  $\sim 10\%$  precision in EIC kinematics, for  $F_L \sim 15\%$  accuracy is enough
- **Much** larger differences in LHeC/FCC-he energy range

Armesto, Lappi, H.M, Paukkunen, Tevio, 2203.05846

## 2. Connection to inclusive particle production

See also next talk by Jamal

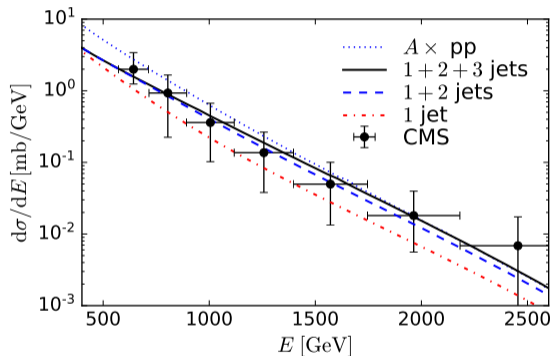
# Inclusive hadron production at forward rapidity



LHCb, 2204.10608 and talk at QM2022

- LO CGC:  $1 \rightarrow 1$  process (note: LO = resum  $\alpha_s \ln 1/x$ ). NLO:  $q \rightarrow qg$  ( $1 \rightarrow 2$  kinematics)
- Same dipole amplitude appears,  $d\sigma/dp_T^2 \sim xg(x, \mu^2) \int d^2\mathbf{r} e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{r}} (1 - N(\mathbf{r}, x))$
- DIS data: fit initial condition,  $x$  dependence of  $N$  perturbative (BK/JIMWLK)
  - $p \rightarrow A$ : optical Glauber, no free parameters
- $p_T$  shape of the nuclear suppression well described, less suppression than in the data (LO)

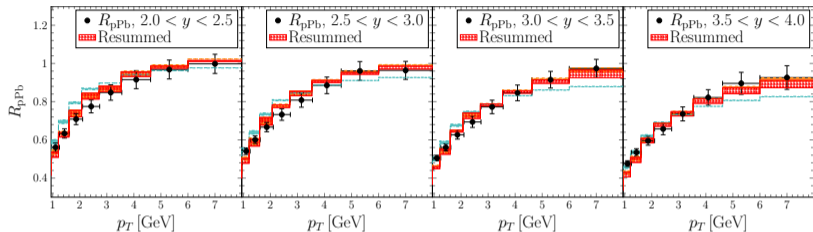
# Saturation and forward jets



Paukkunen, H.M, 1910.13116. CMS-CASTOR data: 1812.01691

- CMS has a forward calorimeter CASTOR at  $5.2 < \eta < 6.6$
- Access very small  $x$ , but can only see total jet energy
- LO CGC calculation with possibility to simultaneously produce  $> 1$  jets
- Good description of the data, and significant suppression seen at low  $E$
- Suppression compatible with CGC calculation

# CGC is approaching precision level



- Recent progress towards precision level: NLO single inclusive hadron production

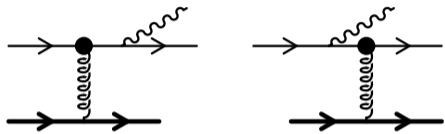
Chirilli, Xiao, Yuan, 1112.1061, later e.g. Stasto, Xiao, Zaslavsky, 1307.4057; Ducloué, Iancu, Lappi, Mueller, Soyez, Triantafyllopoulos, Zhu, 1712.07480

- NLO  $h^\pm$  production with LO small- $x$  evolution: excellent agreement with LHCb data

Shi, Wang, Wei, Xiao, 2112.06975

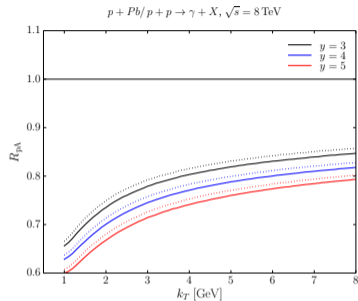
- All necessary ingredients available for full NLO accuracy consistently with NLO DIS

# Isolated photons at forward rapidity



Quark passes through the target + emits  $\gamma$

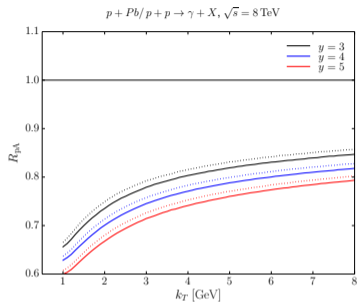
Gelis, Jalilian-Marian hep-ph/0205037



Ducloue, Lappi, H.M, 1710.02206

- Again same ingredients: collinear large- $x$  quark in amplitude + c.c. amplitude  $\Rightarrow$  dipole
- Need to impose an isolation cut  $\sqrt{(y_\gamma - y_q)^2 + (\phi_\gamma - \phi_q)^2} > R$
- Weak dependence on cone size (solid  $R = 0.4$ , dotted  $R = 0.1$ )
- Significant suppression at large  $k_T$  at LHC energies (RHIC:  $R_{pA} \approx 1$  for  $k_T \gtrsim 3\text{GeV}$ )

# Photons vs hadrons

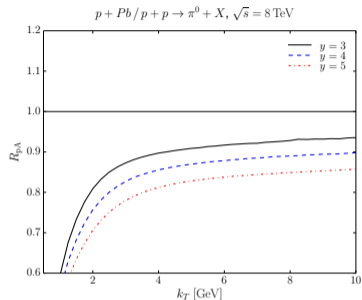


Ducloue, Lappi, H.M, 1710.02206

- $1 \rightarrow 2$  kinematics
- Can have large photon  $p_T$  with target gluon  $k_T \sim Q_s$

More suppression for photons, but expect NLO single inclusive to be more similar to photons

- NLO small- $x$  evolution may also have a significant role, open question...



Ducloue, Lappi, H.M, 1710.02206

- $1 \rightarrow 1$  kinematics
- Large pion  $p_T \Leftrightarrow$  target gluon  $k_T \gg Q_s$

## Inclusive DIS

- Significant nuclear effects expected in the EIC energy range
- Determine initial condition for small- $x$  evolution
- When looking for genuine saturation effects:  
important to minimize the effect of the fitted non-perturbative initial condition

## Forward particle production at the LHC

- Significant nuclear effects already seen by LHCb
- Simultaneous description of structure functions and hadron production crucial in order to see signals of non-linear dynamics

Precision level (NLO) CGC phenomenology: almost there





# Gluon saturation and the Color Glass Condensate

- Very high occupation number  $xg(x, Q^2)$ , apparent size  $1/Q^2$

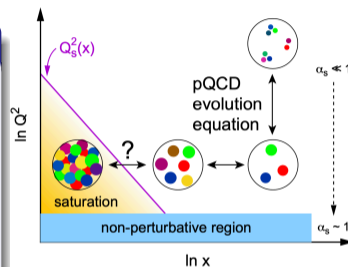
## Non-linear dynamics important when

$$\pi R_p^2 = \alpha_s xg(x, Q^2) \frac{1}{Q^2}$$

Emergent saturation scale  $Q^2 = Q_s^2 > \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$

Characterizes the target wave function

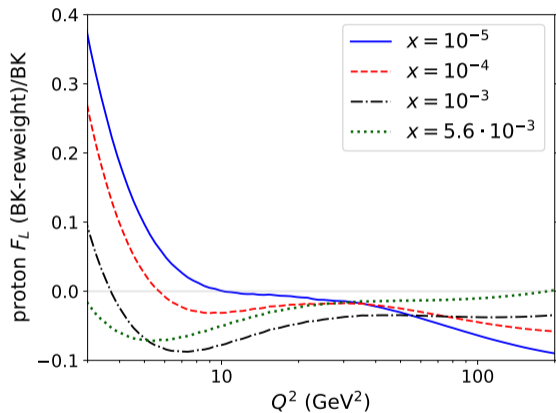
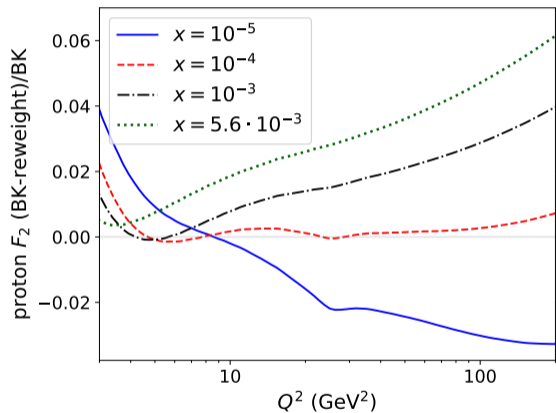
- DIS or particle production in  $p + A$ : scale  $Q^2$  or  $p_T^2 \sim Q_s^2$ : probe transition to saturated region



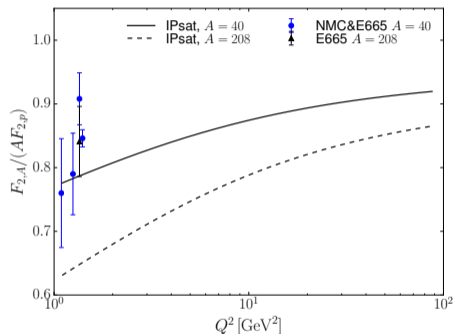
## Color Glass Condensate

- Effective theory of QCD in the high energy limit
- Large  $x$ : static color charge  $\rho$ , small  $x$ : classical gluon field  $A_\mu$
- Unitarity built in, relevant d.o.f. is dipole-target amplitude  $N \leq 1$

# Relative differences: proton $F_2$ and $F_L$



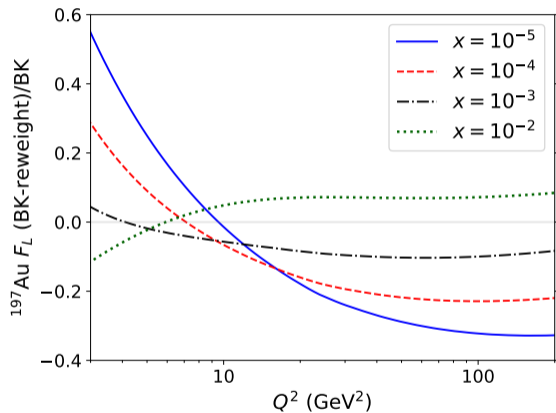
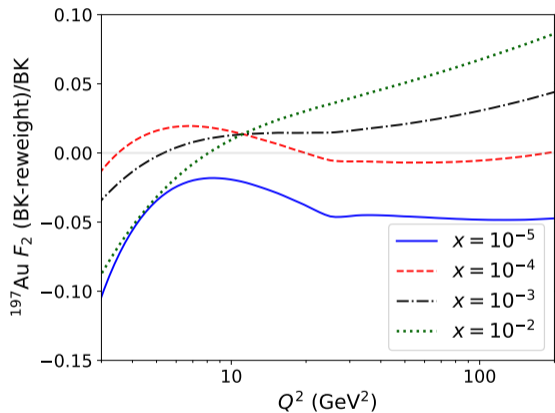
# Nuclear suppression in structure functions before the EIC



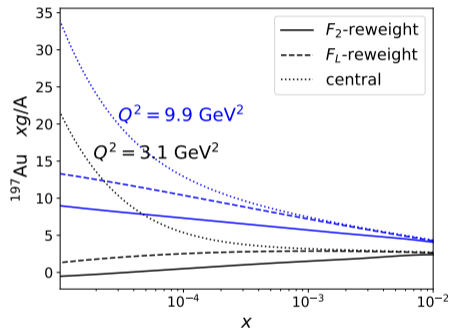
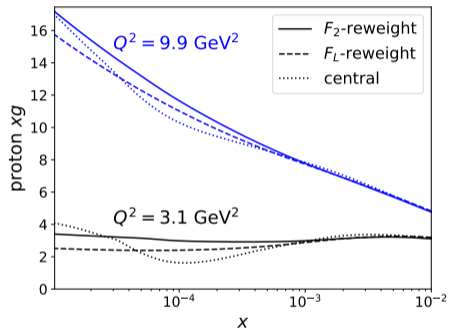
Here  $x \sim 0.01$  [H.M, Zurita, 1804.05311](#)

- Before the EIC: very limited nuclear structure function data available at small- $x$
- Roughly consistent with saturation model calculations
- $x, Q^2, A$  systematics from the EIC important
- Another important observable: *diffractive* structure functions, never measured for nuclei (would require a separate talk)

# Relative differences: nuclear $F_2$ and $F_L$



Result of the reweighting procedure: (n)PDFs that match BK evolution



- Matching/reweighting using either BK-evolved  $F_2$  (solid) or  $F_L$  (dashed)
- Small effect on proton PDFs – setups describe the HERA data in this kinematical domain
- Significant reduction of nuclear gluon at small  $x$

Armesto, Lappi, H.M, Paukkunen, Tevio, 2203.05846

# Theory developments: towards NLO

Most of the CGC phenomenology so far: LO (resumming  $\alpha_s \ln 1/x$ )

Recent progress to calculate exclusive processes at NLO

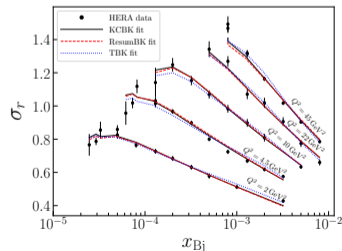
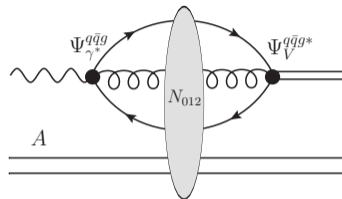
Ingredients

- Photon wave function at NLO [Beuf, Hänninen, Paatelainen, Lappi 2018-2022](#)
- Heavy vector meson wave function at NLO [Escobedo, Lappi, 1911.01136](#)
- Relativistic corrections to wave function: [H.M, Lappi, Penttala, 2104.02349](#)
- Small-x evolution equations [Balitsky 0710.4330](#)
- Initial condition fitted to  $F_2$  data [Beuf, Hänninen, Lappi, H.M, 2007.01645](#)

Cross sections for exclusive processes

- Light meson at NLO [H.M, Penttala, 2203.16911](#) , [Boussarie et al, 1612.08026](#)
- Heavy meson at NLO [H.M, Penttala, 2204.14031, 2104.02349](#)

Also much more progress towards NLO not listed here



# Dipole amplitude from the CGC

## Color charge distribution at $x = 0.01$

- Event-by-event random color charge distribution  $\rho^a$
- McLerran-Venugopalan model  $\langle \rho^a(\mathbf{x}) \rho^b(\mathbf{y}) \rangle \sim \delta^{ab} \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) g^4 \mu^2$
- $g^4 \mu^2 \sim Q_s^2(\mathbf{b}) \sim T_p(\mathbf{b})$  e.g. from HERA data

## Small- $x$ evolution

- Perturbative JIMWLK evolution (event-by-event)
- Infrared regulator to suppress gluon emission at long distance

## Dipole-target amplitude

- $N(\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) = 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \langle V^\dagger(\mathbf{x}) V(\mathbf{y}) \rangle$
- $V(\mathbf{x}) = P \exp \left( -ig \int dx^- \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x})}{\nabla^2 - m^2} \right)$