Probing the odderon through η_c production in diffractive collisions at the EIC

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Benić, Horvatić, Kaushik, Vivoda, in preparation

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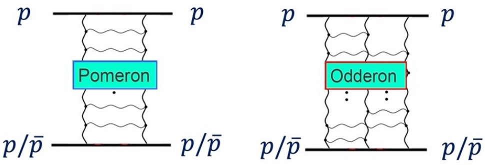
Odderon

C-odd counterpart of the C-even pomeron: a colour-neutral t-channel strong exchange.

- First suggested as mechanism to explain differences in pp vs $p\bar{p}$ elastic cross-sections

  Łukaszuk, Nicolescu, LNC 8 (1973) 40

- At lowest order in QCD, exchange of three gluons in a colour singlet state: $d^{abc}A^a_\mu A^b_\nu A^c_\lambda$



https://blog.hip.fi/the-discovery-of-the-odderon/

- Recent results by TOTEM and D0 indicate a non-zero odderon

  TOTEM, D0, PRL 127 (2021) 6, 062003

How do we understand it in a perturbative QCD framework?

Exclusive η_c production: $ep \to e + p + \eta_c$

Production of C-even mesons in *ep* collisions offer a clean environment to probe the odderon

- η_c has been suggested as a golden probe: η_c has $C = +1$, photon has $C = -1$, therefore strong exchange should have $C = -1$.
- Charm quark production ensures sensitivity to gluon content of proton.
- So far no exclusive measurements of η_c production. Could be measured at the Electron-Ion Collider.

Exclusive η_c production: $ep \to e + p + \eta_c$

Lots of work done on this probe:

Czyzewski, Kwiecinski, Motyka, Sadzikowski, PLB 398 (1997) 400 [Erratum PLB 411 (1997) 402]
Engel, Ivanov, Kirschner, and Szymanowski, EPJC 4 (1998) 93
Bartels, Braun, Colferai, Vacca, EPJC 20 (2001) 323
Ma, NPA 727 (2003) 333
Goncalves, NPA 902 (2013) 32
Dumitru, Stebel, PRD 99 (2019) 094038

- Studies so far focussed on dilute regime, moderate-x, gluon density not too large
- Newer calculations sugggest far smaller differential cross-sections than older calculations: $d\sigma/d|t| \sim O(\text{fb}/\text{GeV}^2)$ vs $O(\text{pb}/\text{GeV}^2)$

In this work:

- We focussed on the dense regime, small-x, where gluon density is larger and saturation effects may be relevant
- We considered nuclear targets as well, which can be studied at the EIC and which again offer a dense gluon environment

Odderon in a CGC framework

Small-x regime, dense target $\Longrightarrow$ Colour-Glass condensate framework

- Gluon distributions are given through correlators of Wilson lines

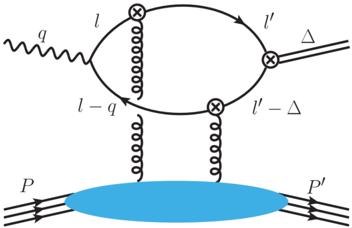
$$V(\mathbf{z}_\perp) = \mathcal{P} \exp \left\{ ig \int dz^- A^+(z^-, \mathbf{z}_\perp) \right\}$$

- Odderon is the imaginary parton of the dipole distribution,

$$\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}_\perp, \mathbf{y}_\perp) \equiv -\frac{1}{2iN_c} \mathrm{tr} \langle V(\mathbf{x}_\perp) V^\dagger(\mathbf{y}_\perp) - V(\mathbf{y}_\perp) V^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_\perp) \rangle$$

- Energy evolution given by JIMWLK equations, reduces to coupled BK equations for the odderon and the pomeron in the large N_c limit

Calculating η_c production in a CGC framework



$$\mathcal{S}_\lambda = (eq_c)\int_{ll'} \mathrm{Tr}\left[S(l)\not\epsilon(\lambda,q)S(l-q)\tau(l-q,l'-\Delta)S(l'-\Delta)(i\gamma_5)S(l')\tau(l',l)\right]$$

- CGC vertex:
  $\tau(p,p') = (2\pi)\delta(p^- - p'^-)\gamma^-\mathrm{sgn}(p^-)\int_{\mathbf{z}_\perp} e^{-i(\mathbf{p}_\perp - \mathbf{p}'_\perp)\cdot\mathbf{z}_\perp} V^{\mathrm{sgn}(p^-)}(\mathbf{z}_\perp)$

Calculating η_c production in a CGC framework

After some algebra,

$$\langle \mathcal{S}_\lambda \rangle = -\langle \mathcal{M}_\lambda \rangle (2\pi)\delta(q^- - \Delta^-)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{M}_\lambda \rangle = (eq_c) \int_{\mathbf{r}_\perp} \int_{ll'} (2\pi)\delta(l^- - l'^-)\theta(l^-)\theta(q^- - l^-)\mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}(\boldsymbol{l}'_\perp - \boldsymbol{l}_\perp - \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\Delta}_\perp)\cdot \mathbf{r}_\perp}$$
$$\times (-\mathrm{i}N_c)\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{\Delta}_\perp)\mathrm{tr}\left[S(l)\not{\epsilon}(\lambda, q)S(l-q)\gamma^- S(l'-\Delta)(\mathrm{i}\gamma_5)S(l')\gamma^-\right],$$

$$\mathbf{r}_\perp = \mathbf{x}_\perp - \mathbf{y}_\perp, \qquad \boldsymbol{b}_\perp = \frac{\mathbf{x}_\perp + \mathbf{y}_\perp}{2}$$

General features of amplitude:

- Longitudinal polarisation $\lambda = 0$ decouples, only transverse photon $\lambda = \pm 1$ contributes

$$\langle \mathcal{M}_\lambda \rangle = q^- \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\lambda\phi_\Delta}\lambda \langle \mathcal{M} \rangle$$

- Amplitude proportional to m_c: γ splits into a spin 1 $q\bar{q}$ state which transitions to an spin 0 meson - need a spin flip provided by m_c

Accounting for small-x effects: BK equation

The Balitsky-Kovchegov equation describes the small-x evolution of the dipole distribution:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)}{\partial Y} = \frac{\alpha_S N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}} \frac{\mathbf{r}_\perp^2}{\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}^2 \boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}^2} \left[\mathcal{D}(\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_{1\perp}) \mathcal{D}(\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_{2\perp}) - \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) \right]$$

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp} = \mathbf{r}_\perp - \boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) \equiv \frac{1}{N_c} \mathrm{tr} \left\langle V\left(\boldsymbol{b}_\perp + \frac{\mathbf{r}_\perp}{2}\right) V^\dagger\left(\boldsymbol{b}_\perp - \frac{\mathbf{r}_\perp}{2}\right) \right\rangle = 1 - \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) + i\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)$$

BK nonlocal in $\boldsymbol{b}_\perp$: $\boldsymbol{b}_{1\perp} = \boldsymbol{b}_\perp + (\mathbf{r}_\perp - \boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp})/2\,,\ \boldsymbol{b}_{2\perp} = \boldsymbol{b}_\perp - \boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}/2$
and Odderon explicitly depends on $\boldsymbol{b}_\perp$

- In principle, we need to solve the fully impact parameter dependent BK
- In practice, we treat impact parameter $\boldsymbol{b}_\perp$ as an external parameter
  Lappi, Mäntysaari, PRD 88 (2013) 114020

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp} << \boldsymbol{b}_\perp$$

BK equation

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)}{\partial Y} = \int_{\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}} \mathcal{K}_{\mathrm{Bal}}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}) \big[\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) + \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) - \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) + \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) - \mathcal{O}(\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)\mathcal{O}(\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) \big] ,$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)}{\partial Y} = \int_{\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}} \mathcal{K}_{\mathrm{Bal}}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}) \big[\mathcal{O}(\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) + \mathcal{O}(\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) - \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) - \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)\mathcal{O}(\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) - \mathcal{O}(\boldsymbol{r}_{1\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp)\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{r}_{2\perp}, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) \big] .$$

- Odderon and pomeron evolution coupled by nonlinear terms

Small $r_\perp$ limit: system decouples, odderon exponentially suppressed

$$\mathcal{O} \sim \exp(-cY)$$

Large $r_\perp$ limit: $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) \to 1$, nonlinear terms result in exponential suppression

$$\mathcal{O} \sim \exp(-cY)$$

Initial conditions

For pomeron, we use a fit to HERA data,

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) = 1 - \exp\left[-\frac{1}{4}\mathbf{r}_\perp^2 A T_A(\boldsymbol{b}_\perp)\frac{\sigma_0}{2} Q_{S,0}^2 \log\left(\frac{1}{r_\perp \Lambda_{\mathrm{QCD}}} + e_c \mathrm{e}\right)\right]$$

Lappi, Mäntysaari, PRD 88 (2013) 114020

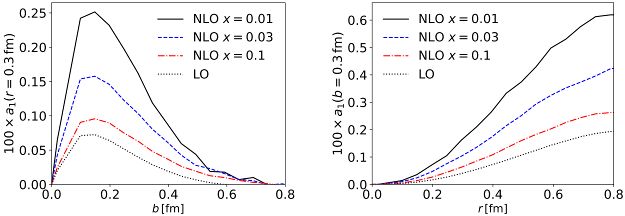
Woods-Saxon transverse profile:

$$T_A(\boldsymbol{b}_\perp) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}z \frac{n_A}{1 + \exp\left[\frac{\sqrt{\boldsymbol{b}_\perp^2 + z^2} - R_A}{d}\right]}$$

Initial conditions

For odderon, depending on the target,

1. **DMP**: For proton, we use a recent light-front NLO calculation of the odderon by Dumitru, Mäntysaari and Paatelainen
   Dumitru, Mäntysaari, Paatelainen, PRD 107 (2023) 1, L011501



- Initial $x = 0.01$ (black curve)
- Odderon peak lies well within the proton $\sim\ 0.25 \times R_p$

Initial conditions

2. **JV**: For nuclear targets, we adopt the Jeon-Venugopalan model with impact parameter dependence introduced

$$W[\rho] = \exp\left[-\int_{\mathbf{x}_\perp}\left(\frac{\delta_{ab}\rho^a\rho^b}{2\mu^2} - \frac{d_{abc}\rho^a\rho^b\rho^c}{\kappa}\right)\right]$$

Jeon, Venugopalan, PRD 71 (2005) 125003

$$\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) = \frac{\lambda}{8}\left[R_A \frac{\mathrm{d}\, T_A(\boldsymbol{b}_\perp)}{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{b}_\perp} A^{2/3}\frac{\sigma_0}{2}\right] A^{1/2}(Q_{S,0}^3 r_\perp^3)(\hat{\boldsymbol{r}}_\perp \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{b}}_\perp)\log\left(\frac{1}{r_\perp \Lambda_{\mathrm{QCD}}} + e_c \mathrm{e}\right)$$
$$\exp\left[-\frac{1}{4}\mathbf{r}_\perp^2 A T_A(\boldsymbol{b}_\perp)\frac{\sigma_0}{2} Q_{S,0}^2 \log\left(\frac{1}{r_\perp \Lambda_{\mathrm{QCD}}} + e_c \mathrm{e}\right)\right] ,$$

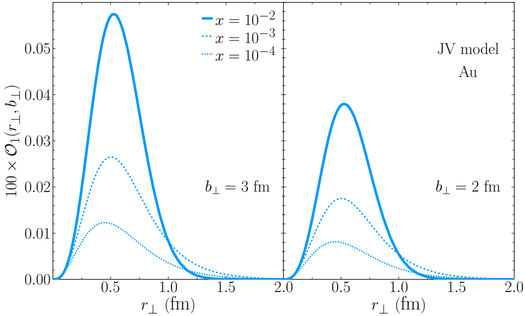
- $\lambda_{\mathrm{JV}} = -\frac{3}{16}\frac{N_c^2-4}{(N_c^2-1)^2}\frac{Q_{S,0}^3 A^{1/2} R_A^3}{\alpha_S^3 A^2}$
- We also explore different strengths for λ

Solutions of BK evolution

- Negligible higher harmonics induced in the odderon by non-linear terms

Yao, Hagiwara, Hatta PLB 790 (2019) 361   Motyka, PLB 637 (2006) 185

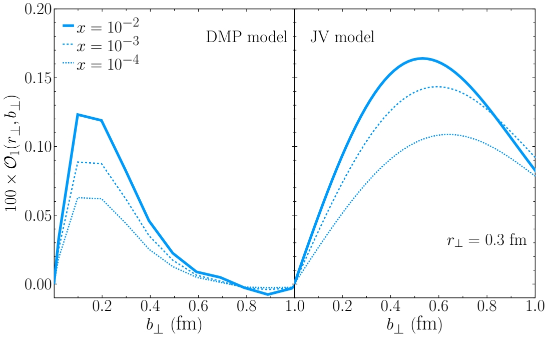
$$\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}_\perp, \boldsymbol{b}_\perp) = \mathcal{O}_1(r_\perp, b_\perp)\cos(\phi_{rb}) + \mathcal{O}_3(r_\perp, b_\perp)\cos(3\phi_{rb}) + \ldots$$



- Odderon decreases significantly with evolution
- Peak position around $r_\perp \sim Q_S$. Changes slowly with evolution
- No geometric scaling

Yao, Hagiwara, Hatta PLB 790 (2019) 361
Motyka, PLB 637 (2006) 185   Hagiwara, Hatta, Ueda PRD 94 (2016) 094036

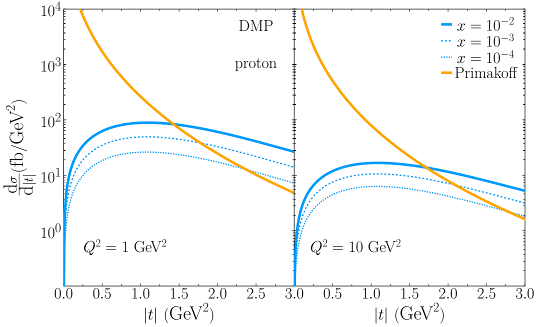
Solutions of BK evolution



- Peak position dictated by $\frac{dT_A(\boldsymbol{b}_\perp)}{db}$ in JV model, close to the edge of the system, increases slowly with evolution
  $\rightarrow$ Gluon radius $\uparrow$ as $x \downarrow$

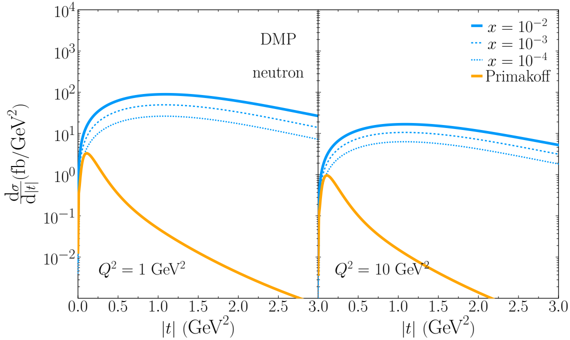
Results: $ep \to e + \eta_c + p$ with DMP odderon

Important QED background: Primakoff process. Photon ($C = -1$) from proton can also result in η_c. Can be calculated from well known electromagnetic charge form factor.



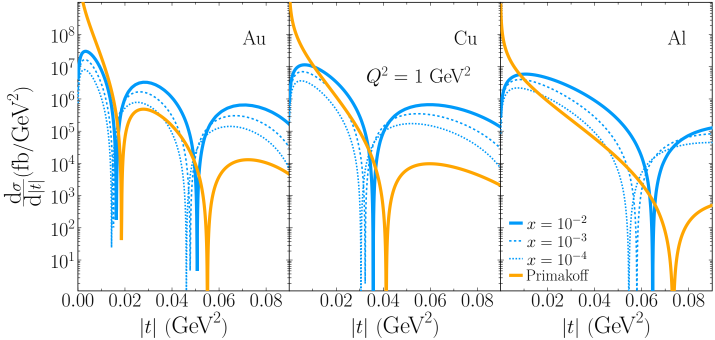
- Odderon contribution has rather small slope in $|t|$
  $\to$ proton can remain intact at large momentum transfers if three gluons in the odderon couple to different quarks.
- Primakoff contribution dominates at small $|t|$. Need $|t| \gtrsim 1.5$ to access odderon.
- Similar to earlier results in the dilute regime by Dumitru and Stebel Dumitru, Stebel, PRD 99 (2019) 094038

Results: $en \to e + \eta_c + n$ with DMP odderon



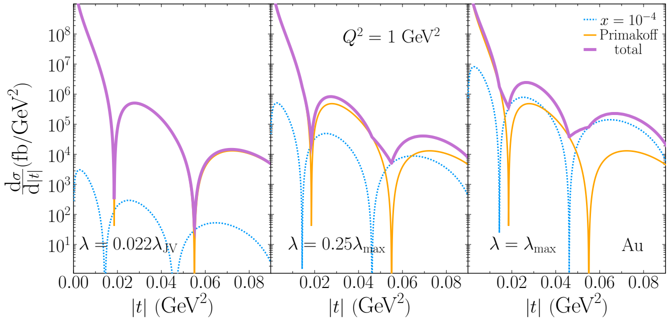
- Primakoff contribution negligible
- Odderon accesible even at low momentum transfers

Results: $eA \to e + \eta_c + A$ with JV odderon



- Diffractive patterns of geometric origin (c.f. leading twist estimates)
- Multiple scattering effects $\implies$ diffractive dips shifted to smaller $|t|$ w.r.t Primakoff case
- Shifts more pronounced as $x \downarrow$ or $|t| \uparrow$

Results: $eA \to e + \eta_c + A$ with JV odderon



Scenarios:

1. JV coupling inspired by DMP: Cross-section dominated by Primakoff component. Odderon too small to produce visible effect.
2. Odderon component still lower than Primakoff, but difference in diffractive pattern "fills out" Primakoff dips.
3. Odderon component larger than Primakoof. Diffractive pattern would be shifted wrt the known pattern from nuclear charge form factors.

Conclusions

For proton target:

- Isolating odderon requires large momentum transfer $|t| \gtrsim 1.5\text{-}3\ \text{GeV}^2$ for $x \sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-4}$.
- Similar to conclusions drawn for the dilute regime.
- Small-x evolution does not alter $|t|$ slope, but cross-section reduces in magnitude.

For neutron target:

- Negligible Primakoff component. Can probe odderon at low $|t|$.
- Could be performed with deuteron or He^3 targets with spectator proton tagging in the near forward direction.

For nuclear targets:

- Saturation effects in Odderon distribution distort diffractive pattern w.r.t known QED contributions!
- Effect $\sim$ few percent and accumulates for small-x/large momentum transfers.

Thank you!

Leading twist estimates

- Odderon:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d|t|} \simeq \frac{9\pi q_c^2 \alpha \alpha_S^6 A^2 C_{3F}^2 \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{P}}^2(0)}{4 N_c m_c^5} \frac{|t| T_A^2(\sqrt{|t|})}{m_c^4} .$$

- QED (Primakoff):

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}|t|} \simeq \frac{\pi q_c^4 \alpha^3 Z^2 N_c \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{P}}^2(0)}{m_c^5} \frac{\mathcal{T}_A^2(\sqrt{|t|})}{|t|}$$