

# Heavy quarkonium production (“in vacuum”): theory overview

Maxim Nefedov<sup>1</sup>

QaT-2024,  
Aussois



This project is supported in parts by the European Union's Marie Skłodowska Curie action "RadCor4HEF"

(grant agreement No. 101065263)

---

<sup>1</sup>IJClab, Orsay

## Motivations (I): understanding hadronisation

Description of production of any high- $p_T (\gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$  hadrons in QCD = (perturbative) production of quarks/gluons + *hadronisation*.

1. For light and heavy-light hadrons, hadronisation is studied phenomenologically:
  - ▶ **Fragmentation Functions**: based on factorisation theorems, fitted to describe data (first attempts to compute on the lattice)
  - ▶ **Monte-Carlo models**: hard to derive from QCD Lagrangian (string-based in Pythia, cluster hadronisation in Herwig,...)
2. Quarkonia – “Hydrogen atoms of QCD”  $\Rightarrow$  corrections to the “naive” quark model should be suppressed by powers of relative velocity ( $v$ ) of heavy quarks in the bound state:

$$\begin{aligned} |J/\psi\rangle &= O(1) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3S_1^{(1)} \right] \right\rangle + O(v) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3P_J^{(8)} \right] + g \right\rangle \\ &+ O(v^{3/2}) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^1S_0^{(8)} \right] + g \right\rangle + O(v^2) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3S_1^{(8)} \right] + gg \right\rangle + \dots, \end{aligned}$$

3.  $\Rightarrow$  let's try to use understand production of quarkonia. **This understanding will be a small- $v$  limit for any future theory of hadronisation!**

## Motivations (II): quarkonia as tools

*If hadronisation mechanism was well understood, then quarkonium production would be:*

1. An excellent tool to study gluon content of a proton/nucleus:
  - ▶ Small (or negligible) “valence”  $c$  and  $b$  content – production predominantly through coupling to gluons at high energies
  - ▶ Clean experimental signatures for  $J/\psi$ ,  $\Upsilon(nS)$ , ...
  - ▶ relatively small  $M_{J/\psi} \simeq 3\text{GeV}$  – access to very small  $x \sim Me^{-y}/\sqrt{s} \sim 10^{-4} - 10^{-6}$  at the LHC.
2. A tool to study double/multiple parton scattering: due to significant cross sections of multiple/associated production and lower  $p_T$ /scales in comparison to vector bosons/jets
3. A probe for QGP: melting/recombination/parton energy loss could be studied
4. A tool to study of  $c$ -Higgs and  $b$ -Higgs couplings through associated production and Higgs decays
5. ...

# Quarkonium production models

Unfortunately no existing model can describe all data on inclusive quarkonium hadro/photo/electro/ $e^+e^-$  production and polarisation observables.

## Old ideas:

1. **Colour Singlet Model**: only **colour-singlet**  $Q\bar{Q}$  pairs with the same orbital momentum/spin as corresponding potential-model state hadronise to the quarkonium.
2. **NRQCD factorisation**: based on the hierarchy of different colour/orbital momentum/spin states of the  $Q\bar{Q}$ -pair in the  $v$ -expansion for the quarkonium state
3. **(Improved) Colour Evaporation Model** assumes “democracy” of colour/orbital momentum/spin states of the  $Q\bar{Q}$ -pair

**New ideas:** Potential NRQCD, Soft-gluon factorisation, Shape-functions, ...

Motivation for new ideas:

- ▶ reduction of the number of free parameters
- ▶ improvement of perturbative convergence
- ▶ phenomenological problems

# Quarkonium in the potential model

Cornell potential:

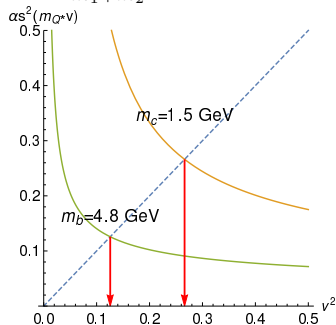
$$V(r) = -C_F \frac{\alpha_s(1/r)}{r} + \sigma r,$$

neglect linear part, because quarkonium is “small” ( $\sim 0.3$  fm)  $\rightarrow$  Coulomb wavefunction (for effective mass  $\frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{m_Q}{2}$ ):

$$R(r) = \frac{\sqrt{m_Q^3 \alpha_s^3 C_F^3}}{2} e^{-\frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2} m_Q r}$$

$$\langle v^2 \rangle = \frac{C_F^2 \alpha_s^2}{2}, \langle r \rangle = \frac{3}{2 C_F} \frac{1}{m_Q v}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha_s^2(m_Q v) \simeq v^2}$$



# Non-relativistic QCD

The velocity-expansion for quarkonium eigenstate is a copy of corresponding arguments from atomic physics:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |J/\psi\rangle &= O(1) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3S_1^{(1)} \right] \right\rangle + O(v) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3P_J^{(8)} \right] + g \right\rangle \\
 &+ O(v^{3/2}) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^1S_0^{(8)} \right] + g \right\rangle + O(v^2) \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3S_1^{(8)} \right] + gg \right\rangle + \dots,
 \end{aligned}$$

for validity of this arguments, we should work in *non-relativistic EFT*, dynamics of which conserves number of heavy quarks. In such EFT,  $Q\bar{Q}$ -pair is produced in a point, by local operator:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{NRQCD}} = \langle J/\psi + X | \chi^\dagger(0) \kappa_n \psi(0) | 0 \rangle,$$

Different operators “couple” to different Fock states:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \chi^\dagger(0) \psi(0) &\leftrightarrow \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^1S_0^{(1)} \right] \right\rangle, \quad \chi^\dagger(0) \sigma_i \psi(0) \leftrightarrow \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3S_1^{(1)} \right] \right\rangle, \\
 \chi^\dagger(0) \sigma_i T^a \psi(0) &\leftrightarrow \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^3S_1^{(8)} \right] \right\rangle, \quad \chi^\dagger(0) D_i \psi(0) \leftrightarrow \left| c\bar{c} \left[ {}^1P_1^{(8)} \right] \right\rangle, \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

squared NRQCD amplitude (=LDME):

$$\sum_X |\mathcal{A}|^2 = \langle 0 | \underbrace{\psi^\dagger \kappa_n^\dagger \chi a_{J/\psi}^\dagger a_{J/\psi} \chi^\dagger \kappa_n \psi}_{\mathcal{O}_n^{J/\psi}} | 0 \rangle = \langle \mathcal{O}_n^{J/\psi} \rangle,$$

# Non-relativistic QCD

Velocity-scaling of LDMEs follows from velocity-scaling of corresponding Fock states and of operators  $\chi^\dagger \kappa_n \psi$ :

	$1S_0^{(1)}$	$3S_1^{(1)}$	$1S_0^{(8)}$	$3S_1^{(8)}$	$1P_1^{(1)}$	$3P_0^{(1)}$	$3P_1^{(1)}$	$3P_2^{(1)}$	$1P_1^{(8)}$	$3P_0^{(8)}$	$3P_1^{(8)}$	$3P_2^{(8)}$
$\eta_c$	1		$v^4$	$v^3$					$v^4$			
$J/\psi$		1	$v^3$	$v^4$					$v^4$	$v^4$	$v^4$	$v^4$
$h_c$			$v^2$		$v^2$							
$\chi_{c0}$				$v^2$		$v^2$						
$\chi_{c1}$				$v^2$		$v^2$		$v^2$				
$\chi_{c2}$				$v^2$		$v^2$		$v^2$				

Note that:

- ▶ Colour-singlet LDMEs are LO in  $v$  for  $S$ -wave states  $\Rightarrow$  *Colour-Singlet Model*
- ▶ For  $P$ -wave states the CS and CO LDMEs are of the same order  $\Rightarrow$  *mixing*
- ▶ Connection between LDMEs for  $\eta_c$  and  $J/\psi$  through *Heavy-Quark Spin Symmetry*

Matching procedure between QCD and NRQCD:

$$v \ll 1 : \mathcal{A}_{\text{QCD}}(gg \rightarrow Y_{Q\bar{Q}(v)}) = \sum_n f_n \langle Y_{Q\bar{Q}(v)} | \chi^\dagger(0) \kappa_n \psi(0) | 0 \rangle + O(v^\#),$$

$\Rightarrow$  NRQCD factorization formula (“theorem”) [Bodwin, Braaten, Lepage 95] :

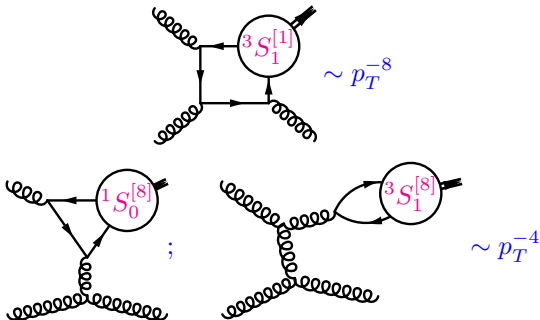
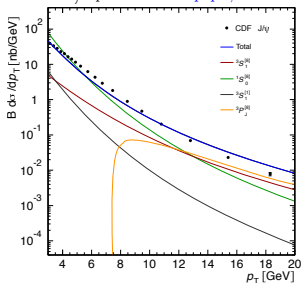
$$\sigma(gg \rightarrow \mathcal{H} + X) = \sum_n \sigma(gg \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[n] + X) \langle \mathcal{O}_n^{\mathcal{H}} \rangle.$$

# NRQCD factorisation: $p_T$ -behaviour in $pp$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dp_T^2}(pp \rightarrow \mathcal{H} + X) = \sum_n \frac{d\sigma}{dp_T^2}(pp \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[n] + X) \langle \mathcal{O}_n^{\mathcal{H}} \rangle.$$

At LO:

NLO, plot from [hep-ph/1403.3970](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/1403.3970) :

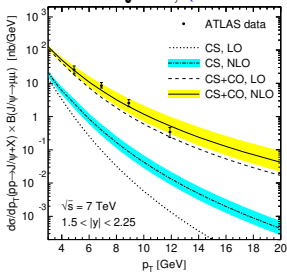




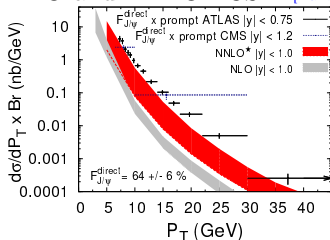
# NRQCD factorisation: what does work?

- ▶ *Un-polarized*  $p_T$  distributions of  $J/\psi$ ,  $\chi_{cJ}$  in hadro- and photoproduction, as well as  $e^+e^-$  data can be described. The same is true for  $\Upsilon(nS)$ ,  $\chi_{bJ}(nS)$ .
- ▶ Solves the problem of non-cancelling IR divergence at NLO in CSM for  $P$ -wave states production and decay through mixing with  $^3S_1^{(8)}$  or  $^1S_0^{(8)}$  states at  $O(v^2)$ .
- ▶ Covers the gap between CSM (@LO and NLO) and data at high- $p_T$  in hadroproduction, due to contribution of CO states. **If NNLO corrections in CS are as large as needed to close this gap, then perturbative expansion is just useless and we should stop doing quarkonia.**

## NLO NRQCD, [Butenschön, Kniehl, '11]



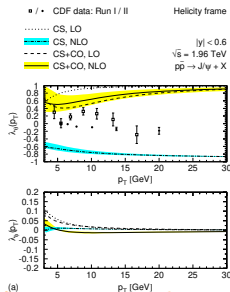
## NLO and NNLO\* CSM [Lansberg '11]



# Problems: Polarisation

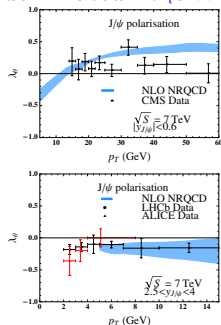
LDME fit	$J/\psi$ hadropr.	$J/\psi$ photopr.	$J/\psi$ polar.	$\eta_c$ hadropr.
Butenschön et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 3$ GeV)	✓	✗	✗
Chao et al. + $\eta_c$	✓ ( $p_T > 6.5$ GeV)	✗	✓	✓
Zhang et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 6.5$ GeV)	✗	✓	✓
Gong et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 7$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗
Chao et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 7$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗
Bodwin et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 10$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗

## Global fit [Butenschön, Kniehl, '12]



(a) Strong transverse polarisation due to  $^3S_1^{[8]}$  and  $^3P_J^{[8]}$  states at high  $p_T$

## Example hadroproduction dominated fit [Chao et al., '14]



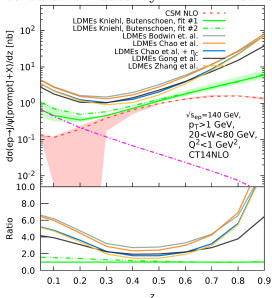
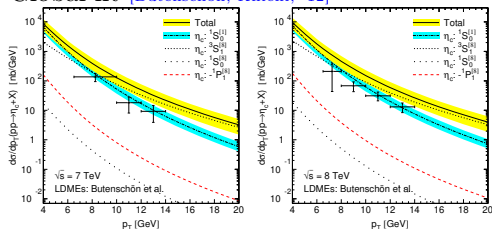
# Problems: HQSS and photoproduction

LDME fit	$J/\psi$ hadropr.	$J/\psi$ photopr.	$J/\psi$ polar.	$\eta_c$ hadropr.
Butenschön et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 3$ GeV)	✓	✗	✗
Chao et al. + $\eta_c$	✓ ( $p_T > 6.5$ GeV)	✗	✓	✓
Zhang et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 6.5$ GeV)	✗	✓	✓
Gong et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 7$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗
Chao et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 7$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗
Bodwin et al.	✓ ( $p_T > 10$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗

$J/\psi$ -photoproduction at the EIC  
vs  $z = (p_{J/\psi} P)/(qP)$ , using NLO

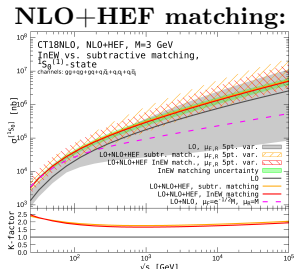
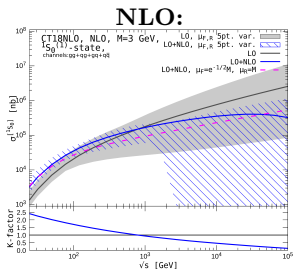
calculation data by M. Butenschön

Global fit [Butenschön, Kniehl, '12]

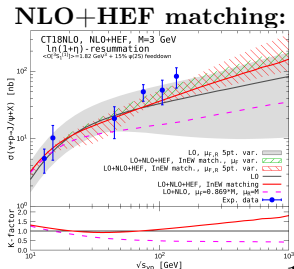
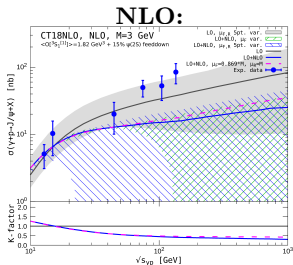


# $p_T$ -integrated cross sections, another “puzzle”?

Inclusive  $\eta_c$ -hadroproduction (CSM): [Lansberg, Ozcelik '20; Lansberg, M.N., Ozcelik '22]



Inclusive  $J/\psi$ -photoproduction (CSM): [Lansberg et al. '21; Lansberg, M.N., Ozcelik, '23]



# High-Energy Factorisation

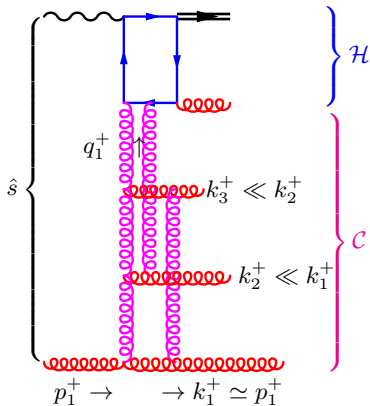
The **LLA** ( $\sum_n \alpha_s^n \ln^{n-1}(\hat{s}/M^2)$ ) formalism is due to [Collins, Ellis, 91'; Catani,

Ciafaloni, Hautmann, 91',94']

Physical picture in the  
**LLA** for photoproduction:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\text{HEF}}(\hat{s}) \propto \int_0^{\hat{s}/M^2} \frac{dy}{y} \int_0^\infty d\mathbf{q}_{T1}^2 \mathcal{C} \left( \frac{yM^2}{\hat{s}}, \mathbf{q}_{T1}^2, \mu_F, \mu_R \right) \\ \times \mathcal{H}(y, \mathbf{q}_{T1}^2) + \text{NLLA} + O(M^2/\hat{s}).$$

- ▶ The resummation factor  $\mathcal{C}$  is the solution of the LL **BFKL** equation with collinear divergences subtracted,
- ▶ The coefficient function  $\mathcal{H}$  can be calculated at LO and NLO (needed for **NLLA**),
- ▶ For consistency with fixed-order **DGLAP** evolution the anomalous dimension  $\gamma_{gg}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  should be taken at LO:  $\gamma_{gg} = \hat{\alpha}_s C_A / (\pi N)$ .
- ▶ Expansion of  $\hat{\sigma}_{\text{HEF}}(\hat{s})$  in  $\alpha_s$  **correctly reproduces**  $\hat{\sigma}_{\text{NLO}}(\hat{s} \gg M^2)$  and predicts the LLA term in  $\hat{\sigma}_{\text{NNLO}}(\hat{s} \gg M^2)$ .



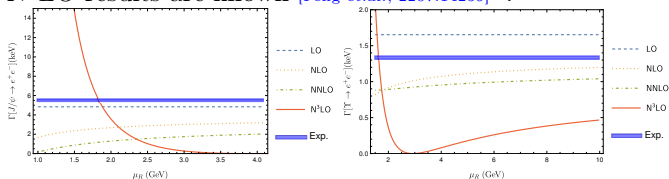
Glauber exchanges ( $k_+ k_- \ll \mathbf{k}_T^2$ )  
form the **Reggeized gluon** in the  
 $t$ -channel.

[MN, Lansberg, Ozcelik, '23]

# Prospects for NNLO

There is no NNLO calculations for heavy quarkonium **production** yet, but the calculations for **decay rates** are rather advanced:

1. For  $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  the NNLO<sub>[Beneke, Smirnov]</sub> and (very recent!) N<sup>3</sup>LO results are known <sub>[Feng et.al., 2207.14259]</sub> :



2. For  $\eta_c \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  the NNLO result was obtained in <sub>[Abreu et.al., 2211.08838]</sub> and similar behaviour of radiative corrections was found.

- ▶ Should we expect strong perturbative instability for production cross section at  $p_T < M$  due to bound-state effects? Maybe separation of corrections between LDMEs and hard part is not optimal in NRQCD?
- ▶ The NLO corrections to parton  $\rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[n]$  fragmentation functions tend to be moderate  $\Rightarrow$  NNLO will stabilize at  $p_T > M$  and  $p_T \gg M$ .

# Potential NRQCD

The NRQCD logic can be pushed even further by assuming that  $mv^2 \ll mv$  and dynamics at the scale  $mv^2$  is strongly-coupled [Brambilla et.al., '22]. **At LO in  $v$ :**

$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{\mathcal{H}}(^3S_1^{[1]}) \rangle = \frac{3N_c}{2\pi} |R_{\mathcal{H}}(0)|^2,$$

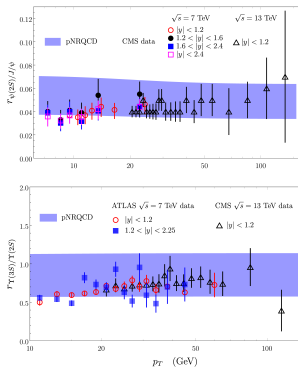
$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{\mathcal{H}}(^3P_J^{[8]}) \rangle = \frac{2J+1}{18N_c} \frac{3|R_{\mathcal{H}}(0)|^2}{4\pi} \mathcal{E}_{00},$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{\mathcal{H}}(^1S_0^{[8]}) \rangle = \frac{1}{6N_c m^2} \frac{3|R_{\mathcal{H}}(0)|^2}{4\pi} c_F^2 \mathcal{B}_{00},$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}^{\mathcal{H}}(^3S_1^{[8]}) \rangle = \frac{1}{2N_c m^2} \frac{3|R_{\mathcal{H}}(0)|^2}{4\pi} \mathcal{E}_{10;10},$$

where  $|R_{\mathcal{H}}(0)|^2$  – radial wave function at the origin from **potential model** for the quarkonium  $\mathcal{H}$ , and  $\mathcal{E}_{00}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_{00}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{10;10}$  – chromo electric/magnetic field correlators over QCD vacuum (i.e. **independent on  $\mathcal{H}$**  up to RG running  $m_c \rightarrow m_b$ ).

Prompt cross section ratios:



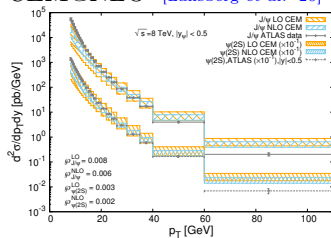
# Colour Evaporation Model

The  $c\bar{c}$  pairs with  $M_{c\bar{c}} < 2m_D$  **can not** hadronise to the pair of  $D$ -mesons. Where do they go?

CEM assumes that all of them hadronise to quarkonia with the same probability  $F_{J/\psi}$ ,  $F_{\psi(2S)}$ , ... :

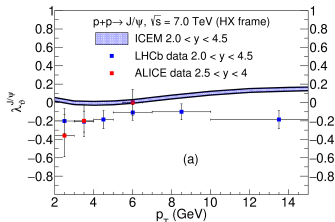
$$\sigma_{J/\psi} = F_{J/\psi} \times \int_{m_{J/\psi}}^{2m_D} dM_{c\bar{c}} \frac{d\sigma_{c\bar{c}}}{dM_{c\bar{c}}}.$$

CEM@NLO [Lansberg et al. '20]



Unpolarised production at high- $p_T$

[Voet, Chung '21]

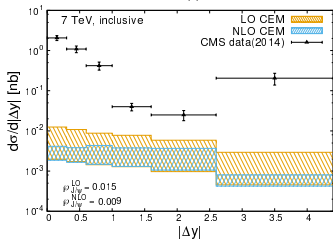
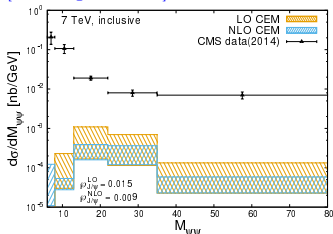




# Problems of CEM

Pair production ( $F_{2J/\psi} = (F_{J/\psi})^2$ )

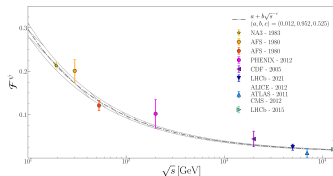
[Lansberg et al. '20] :



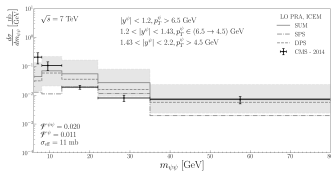
Energy-dependence

(=non-universality) of  $F_{J/\psi}$  [Saleev,

Chernyshev '22]



Pair production ( $F_{2J/\psi} \neq (F_{J/\psi})^2$   
+ DPS) [Saleev, Chernyshev '22] :



## The IR problem of $P$ -wave

It is well known that for the  $P$ -wave production, unexpected divergences appear.

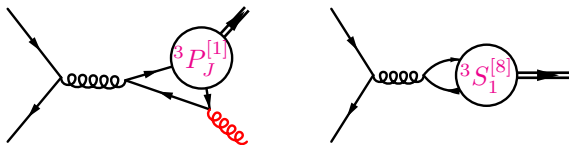
Simple example: The process

$$q + \bar{q} \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[{}^3P_J^{[1]}] + g,$$

naively should not contain IR-divergences, because  $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[{}^3P_J^{[1]}]$  transition is forbidden. However for  $\hat{s} \rightarrow M^2$ :

$$|\mathcal{M}(q + \bar{q} \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[{}^3P_J^{[1]}] + g)|^2 \sim \alpha_s(2J+1) \frac{(M^4 - \hat{t}^2)\hat{t}^2}{M^4(\hat{s} - M^2)^4} \\ \times |\mathcal{M}(q + \bar{q} \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[{}^3S_1^{[8]}])|^2.$$

This new IR divergence can be absorbed through mixing between  ${}^3P_J^{[1]}$  and  ${}^3S_1^{[8]}$  LDMEs.



## Soft-gluon factorisation

Usually in NRQCD, the fragmentation function  $g^* \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[{}^3P_J^{[1]}]$  has nasty IR behaviour:

$$D(z) = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram: } P^+ \rightarrow \text{gluon} \rightarrow \text{circle } ({}^3P_J^{[1]}) \rightarrow zP^+ \\ \text{with a red gluon loop} \end{array} \right]^2 \sim \alpha_s^2 \left( \frac{\delta(z-1)}{\epsilon} + \frac{1}{(1-z)_+} + \dots \right).$$

Recently it has been proposed to re-factorise it using SGF [\[Ma, et.al., '23\]](#):

$$D_{g \rightarrow {}^3P_J^{[1]}}(z, \mu_0) = \sum_{n, n' = {}^3P_J^{[1]}, {}^3S_1^{[8]}} \int_0^1 dx \hat{D}_{n, n'}(z/x, \mu_0, M) F_{n, n'}(x, M),$$

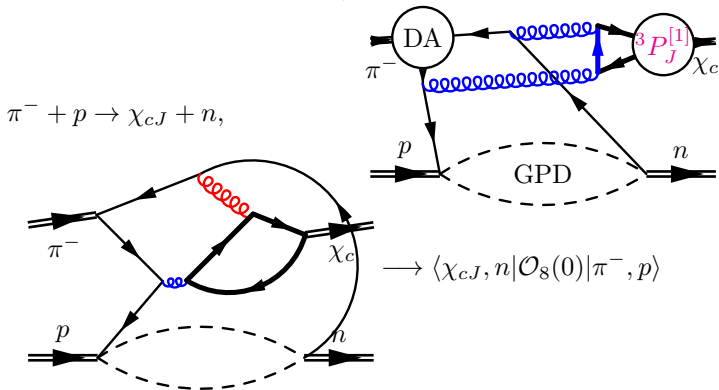
where all “bad” terms at  $x \rightarrow 1$  are absorbed into SGF  $F_{n, n'}(x, M)$ .

*The SGF can be understood as the analog of LDME with  $x$ -dependence:*

$$F_{{}^3S_1^{[8]}, {}^3S_1^{[8]}}(x) = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram: } P^+ \rightarrow \text{circle } ({}^3S_1^{[8]}) \rightarrow \text{circle } ({}^3P_J^{[1]}) \rightarrow xP^+ \\ \text{with a red gluon loop} \end{array} \right]^2 + O(1-x).$$

# Colour-octet for exclusive processes?

Recently, together with [L. Szymanowski](#) we have found a manifestation of the same problem in the hard exclusive reaction (see the talk by Saad Nabebacus about GPD formalism):



Similar problem arises in exclusive decays of  $\chi_{cJ}$  [[N. Kivel, '18](#)]

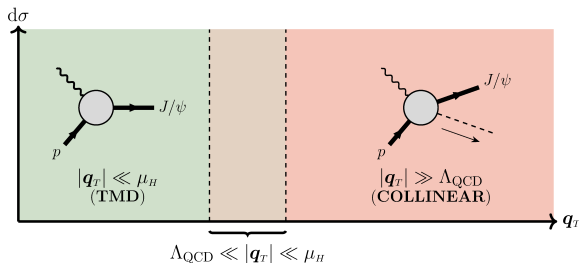
# TMD factorization for heavy quarkonia?

Due to  $^1S_0^{(1)}$ -dominance of the  $\eta_c$ -production at small  $p_T$ , the factorization violation arguments for hadron-pair production are not valid for this state ?! But TMD factorization for the  $p_T \ll M$  regime of  $\eta_c$  production is not simple. It includes new object – **TMD shape function** [Echevarria, 19'; Fleming, Makris, Mehen, 19'; J.Bor et al. '23] :

$$S(\mathbf{b}_T) = \langle 0 | \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{b}_T) \kappa_n^\dagger \chi(\mathbf{b}_T) a_{J/\psi}^\dagger a_{J/\psi} \chi^\dagger(0) \kappa_n \psi(0) | 0 \rangle,$$

where transverse coordinate  $\mathbf{b}_T$  is Fourier-conjugate to the transverse momentum ( $\mathbf{k}_T$ ) of the  $Q\bar{Q}$ -pair in the quarkonium, relative to the “light cloud”.

The case of SIDIS: [J.Bor et al. '23]



## Conclusions and outlook

- ▶ NRQCD factorisation can consistently describe hadroproduction data but the global description of *hadro*, *photoproduction* and *polarization* data has not been achieved at NLO
- ▶ This is attributed either to violation of universality of LDMEs across collision systems or problems of factorisation at  $p_T \lesssim M$
- ▶ An important piece of the puzzle are high-energy enhanced corrections
- ▶ Theory effort is concentrated on consolidating the description of hadroproduction data at  $p_T \gg M$  either by reducing the number of free parameters (pNRQCD) or improving the perturbative stability (SGF)
- ▶  $\text{SGF} \simeq \text{Shape-functions}$  ?
- ▶ There exist CO contributions not only in inclusive but also in exclusive physics

**Thank you for your attention!**

# LDME fits

LDME fit	$J/\psi$ hadropr.	$J/\psi$ photopr.	$J/\psi$ polar.	$\eta_c$ hadropr.	$J/\psi + Z$
Butenschön et al.	✓( $p_T > 3$ GeV)	✓	✗	✗	✗
Chao et al. + $\eta_c$	✓( $p_T > 6.5$ GeV)	✗	✓	✓	✗
Zhang et al.	✓( $p_T > 6.5$ GeV)	✗	✓	✓	✗
Gong et al.	✓( $p_T > 7$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗	✗
Chao et al.	✓( $p_T > 7$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗	✗
Bodwin et al.	✓( $p_T > 10$ GeV)	✗	✓	✗	✗
Brambilla et al.	✓( $p_T > 9$ GeV)	✗	✓	(✗✓)	✓