

# Exclusive quarkonium photoproduction



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ERC adG YoctoLHC

## Outline:

- UPCs as real-photon probes of nucleus and proton structure in QCD
- Coherent exclusive  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in Pb-Pb UPCs at the LHC: leading-twist nuclear shadowing at small  $x$ , higher Fock states in dipole picture
- Exclusive  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in p-p UPCs at the LHC: tamed collinear factorization and small- $x$  gluons in proton
- Summary and Outlook

# Ultrapерipheral collisions as photon-hadron collider

- **Ultrapерipheral collisions (UPCs)**: ions pass each other at large impact parameters  $b \sim \mathcal{O}(50 \text{ fm}) \gg R_A + R_B \rightarrow$  strong interactions suppressed  $\rightarrow$  interaction via quasi-real photons in Weizsäcker-Williams equivalent photon approximation, Budnev, Ginzburg, Meledin, Serbo, Phys. Rept. 15 (1975) 181
- Photon flux scales as  $Z^2$  and photon energy as  $\gamma_L \rightarrow \gamma\gamma, \gamma p$  and  $\gamma A$  interactions at high energies.
- Pioneering studies of UPCs at RHIC, recent impetus at the LHC  $\rightarrow W_{\gamma p} = 5 \text{ TeV}, W_{\gamma A} = 700 \text{ GeV}/A, W_{\gamma\gamma} = 4.2 \text{ TeV}.$
- In UPCs, real photons are used as probes to study open questions of nucleus and proton structure (e.g., small- $x$  PDFs) and strong interaction dynamics in QCD as well as to search for new physics.

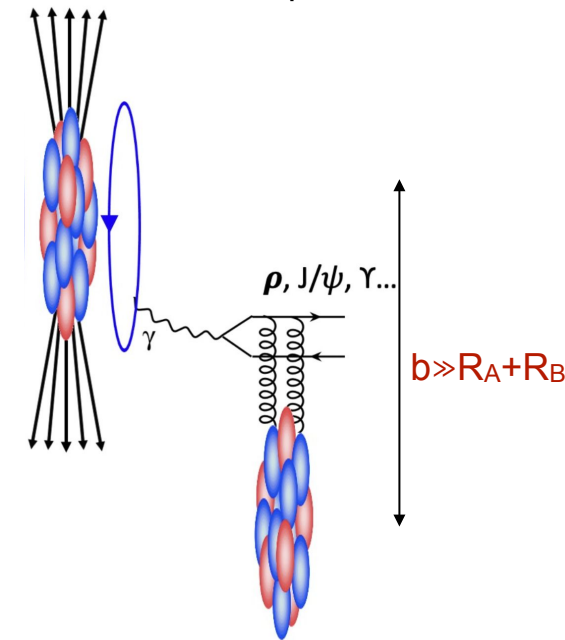


Figure credit: A. Stahl, LPCC CERN Seminar, 6.12.2022

# Coherent and incoherent scattering in UPCs

- **UPCs** have very distinct experimental signatures → two leptons from  $J/\psi$  decay (two pions from  $\rho$  decay) in otherwise **empty detector**.
- The underlying **photon-nucleus scattering** can be **coherent** (target stays intact) and **incoherent** (target breaks up) → distinguished by measuring  $p_T$  of lepton pair ( $J/\psi$ ) and comparing to STARlight Monte Carlo, Klein, Nystrand, Seger, Gorbunov, Butterworth, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* 212 (2017) 258

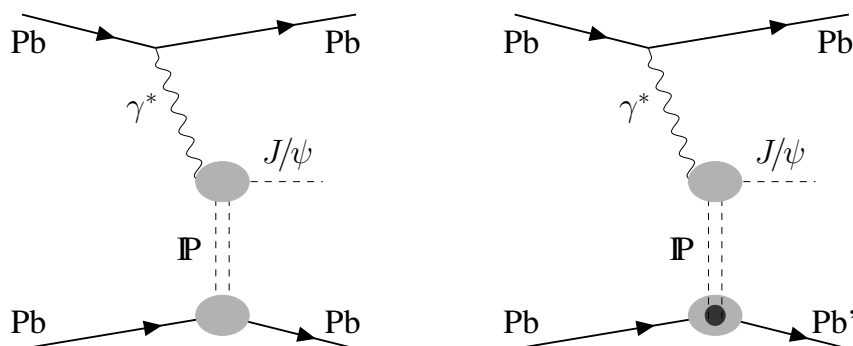
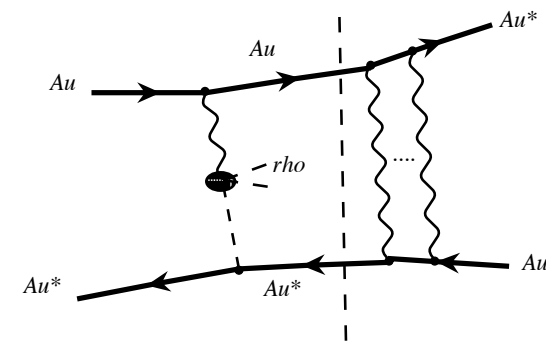


Figure credit: Aaij et al [LHCb], *JHEP* 07 (2022) 117

- Both coherent and incoherent scattering can be accompanied by mutual e.m. excitation of colliding ions followed by forward neutron emission, Pshenichnov et al, *PRC* 64 (2001) 024903; Baltz, Klein, Nystrand, *PRL* 89 (2002) 012301 → UPCs in different channels (0n0n, 0nXn, XnXn) separate  $W^\pm$  terms → probe lower x, Guzey, Strikman, Zhalov, *EPJC* 74 (2014) 7, 2942

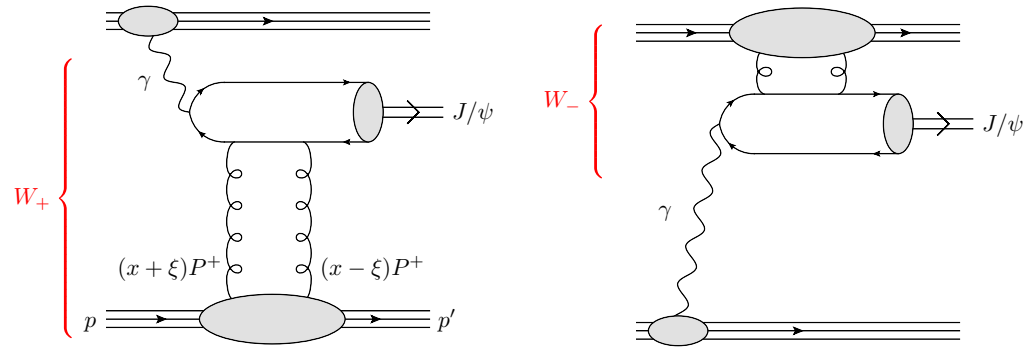


Ions de-excite by emitting neutrons detected in ZDCs

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ photoproduction

- Most thoroughly studied process in UPCs.

- In UPCs, both ions can be a source of photons and a target  $\rightarrow$  cross section is a sum of two terms for high  $W^+$  (high photon momentum  $k^+$ ) and low  $W^-$  (low photon momentum  $k^-$ ):



$$\frac{d\sigma^{AB \rightarrow AJ/\psi B}}{dy} = \left[ k \frac{dN_{\gamma/B}}{dk} \sigma_{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A} \right]_{k=k^+} + \left[ k \frac{dN_{\gamma/A}}{dk} \sigma_{\gamma B \rightarrow J/\psi B} \right]_{k=k^-}$$

Photon flux from QED + Glauber-model suppression of soft strong interactions for  $b < 2R_A$  (rapidity gap survival probability)

Photoproduction cross section

$$k dN_{\gamma/A}^{\text{pl}}(k) = \frac{2Z^2 \alpha_{\text{e.m.}}}{\pi} \left[ \zeta K_0(\zeta) K_1(\zeta) + \frac{\zeta^2}{2} (K_0^2(\zeta) - K_1^2(\zeta)) \right]$$

$$\zeta = 2R_A k / \gamma_L$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z} \rightarrow k^\pm = \frac{M_{J/\psi}}{2} e^{\pm y}$$

$$W^\pm = \sqrt{(k^\pm + E_A)^2}$$

- Ambiguity in relating  $J/\psi$  rapidity  $y$  to photon momentum  $k \rightarrow$  ambiguity in momentum fraction  $x_A = (M_{J/\psi})^2 / W^2 \rightarrow$  difficult to probe small  $x_A$  since  $N_\gamma(k^+) \ll N_\gamma(k^-)$

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ photoproduction at LO

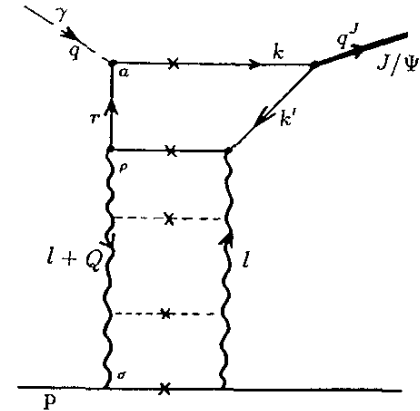
- Hard scale by charm quark mass  $m_c \rightarrow$  in leading  $\ln(Q^2) \ln(1/x)$  double logarithmic approximation of perturbative pQCD and static approximation for  $J/\psi$  vertex, Ryskin, Z. Phys. C57 (1993) 89

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi p}(t=0)}{dt} = \frac{12\pi^3 \Gamma_V M_V^3}{\alpha_{\text{e.m.}} (4m_c^2)^4} [\alpha_s(Q_{\text{eff}}^2) x g(x, Q_{\text{eff}}^2)]^2 C(Q^2=0)$$

$\Gamma_V$  is  $J/\psi$  leptonic decay width

Gluon density at  $x=(M_{J/\psi})^2/W^2$  and  $Q_{\text{eff}}^2=O(m_c^2)$

Depends on charmonium distribution amplitude;  $C(Q^2=0)=1$  in NR limit.



- Application to nuclear targets:

$$\sigma^{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A}(W) = \frac{d\sigma^{\gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi p}(W, t=0)}{dt} \left[ \frac{x g_A(x, Q_{\text{eff}}^2)}{A x g_p(x, Q_{\text{eff}}^2)} \right]^2 \int_{|t_{\text{min}}|}^{\infty} dt |F_A(-t)|^2$$

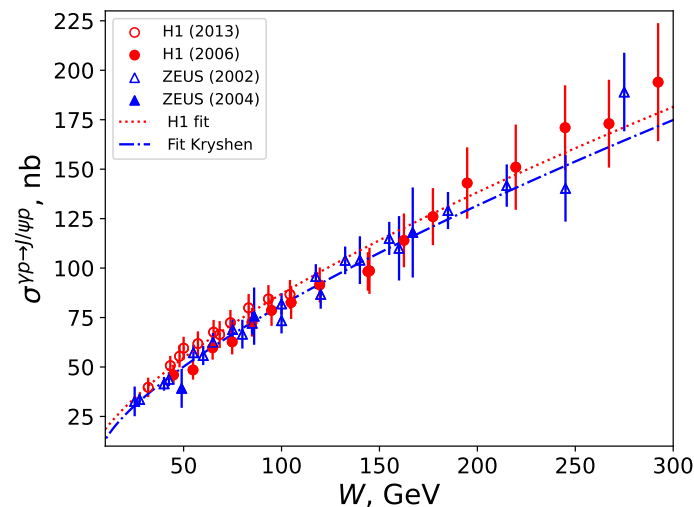
Nuclear form factor

From fits to HERA data

Ratio of nucleus and proton gluon densities

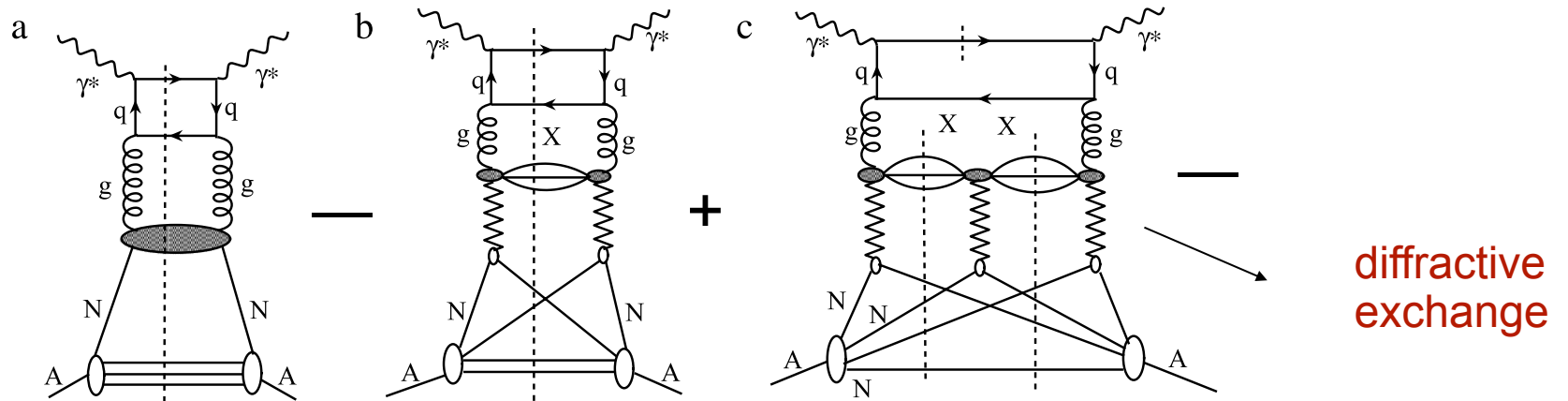
Global QCD analyses of nPDFs, T. Jezo talk on Monday

Dynamical models of nuclear shadowing



# Leading twist model of nuclear shadowing

- Combination of Gribov-Glauber theory with QCD factorization theorems for inclusive and diffractive DIS  $\rightarrow$  prediction for small-x nPDFs at input scale  $Q_0$ , Frankfurt, Strikman, EPJ A5 (1999) 293; Frankfurt, Guzey, Strikman, Phys. Rept. 512 (2012) 255



$$xf_{j/A}(x, Q_0^2) = Ax f_{j/N}(x, Q_0^2) - 8\pi A(A-1) \Re e \frac{(1-i\eta)^2}{1+\eta^2} B_{\text{diff}} \int_x^{0.1} dx_{\mathbb{P}} \beta f_j^{D(3)}(\beta, Q_0^2, x_{\mathbb{P}})$$

$$\times \int d^2b \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz_1 \int_{z_1}^{\infty} dz_2 \rho_A(\vec{b}, z_1) \rho_A(\vec{b}, z_2) e^{i(z_1-z_2)x_{\mathbb{P}}m_N} e^{-\frac{A}{2}(1-i\eta)\sigma_{\text{soft}}^j(x, Q_0^2) \int_{z_1}^{z_2} dz' \rho_A(\vec{b}, z')}$$

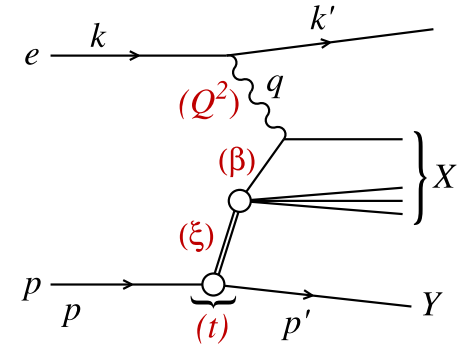
nuclear density

Interaction with N=2  
nucleons in terms of proton  
diffractive PDFs from HERA

$N \geq 3$  terms: model-  
dependent effective cross  
section

# Leading twist model of nuclear shadowing (2)

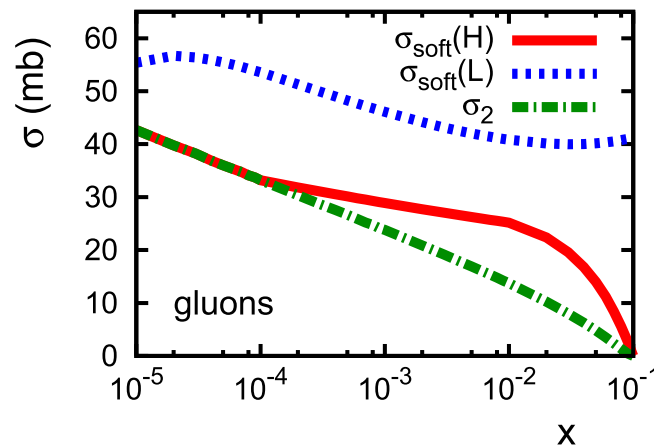
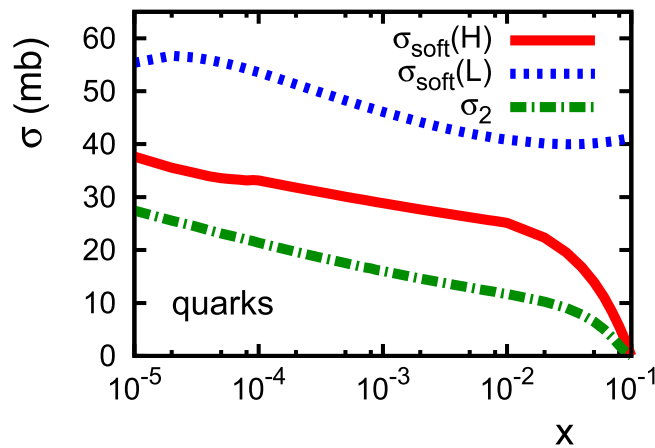
- Essential input: universal, leading twist (LT) diffractive PDFs of proton, [Collins, PRD 57, 3051 \(1998\); PRD 61, 019902 \(2000\)](#)
- Extracted from HERA data on diffraction in ep DIS, [Aktas et al \[H1\], EPJ C48, 715 \(2006\), EPJC 48, 749 \(2006\); Chekanov et al \[ZEUS\], NPB 831, 1 \(2010\)](#)



- Interaction with 2 nucleons model-independently in terms of diffractive (Pomeron) PDFs:

$$\sigma_2^j(x, Q^2) = \frac{16\pi}{(1 + \eta^2)x f_{j/N}(x, Q^2)} \int_x^{0.1} dx_{\mathbb{P}} \beta f_j^{D(4)}(\beta, Q^2, x_{\mathbb{P}}, t_{\min}).$$

- Interaction with  $N \geq 3$  nucleons modeled using hadronic fluctuations of photon

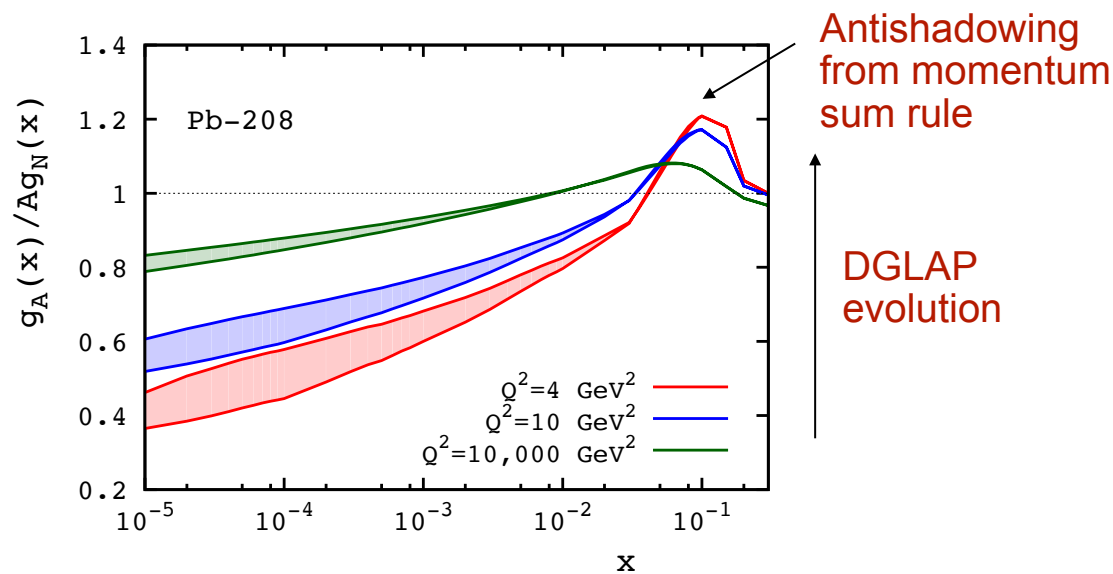
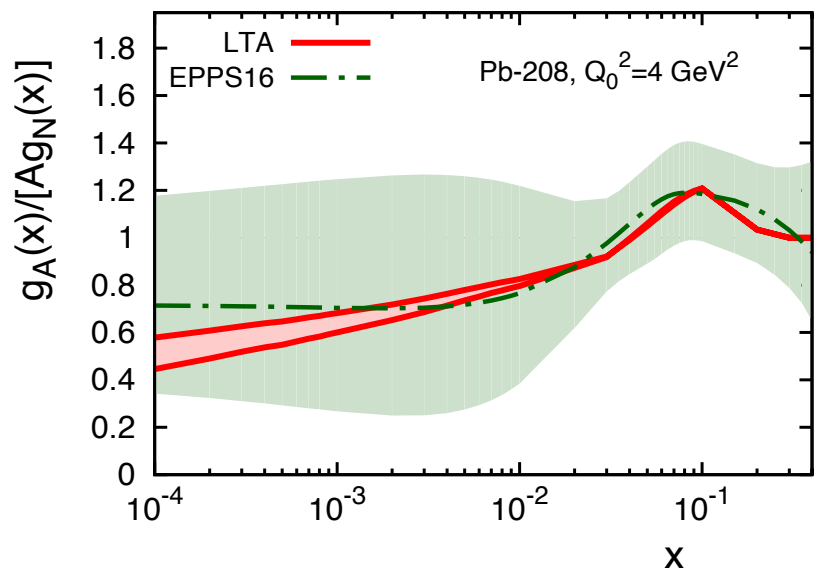


Spread in  $\sigma_{\text{soft}} \rightarrow$  uncertainty of LTA predictions

- LT in the name comes from HERA analysis, but higher twist effects in diffraction at low  $Q_0$  could be significant, [Motyka, Sadzikowski, Slominski, PRD 86 \(2012\) 111501; Maktoubian, Mehraban, Khanpour, Goharipour, PRD 100 \(2019\) 054020.](#)

# LTA predictions for nPDFs

- HERA analysis: perturbative Pomeron is made mostly of gluons → LTA model naturally predicts large gluon nuclear shadowing, Frankfurt, Guzey, Strikman, Phys. Rept. 512 (2012) 255



- Alternative, complementary point of view: shadowing is mixture of leading and higher twist (HT) effects in dipole picture with saturation, Kowalski, Lappi, Venugopalan, PRL 100 (2008) 022303, or a purely HT effect, Qiu, Vitev, PRL 93 (2004) 262301.

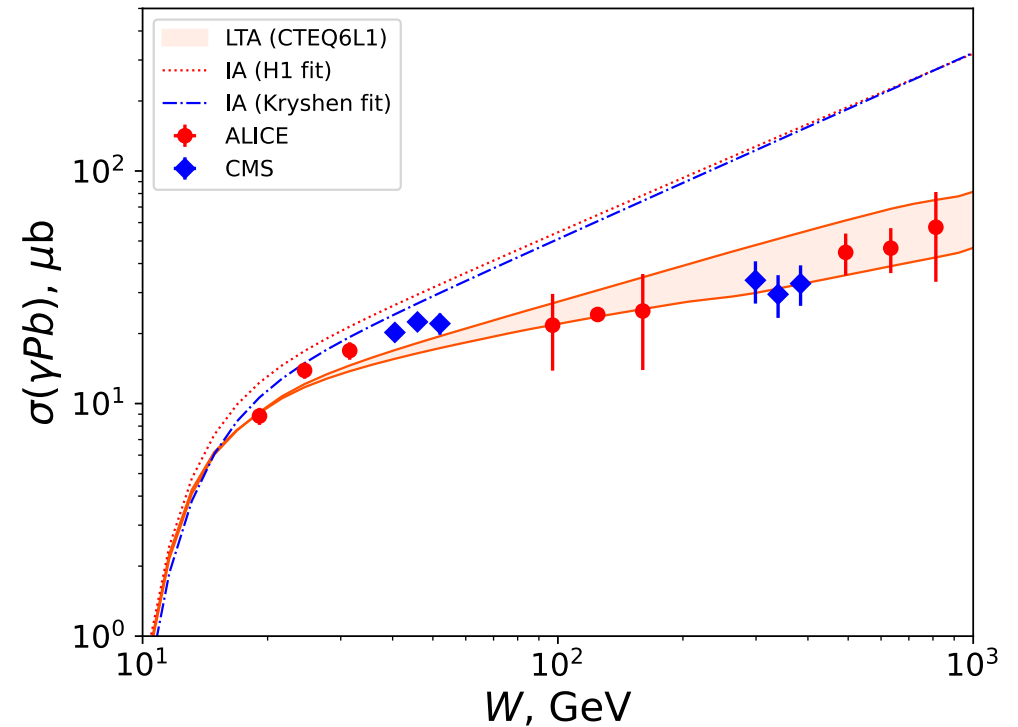
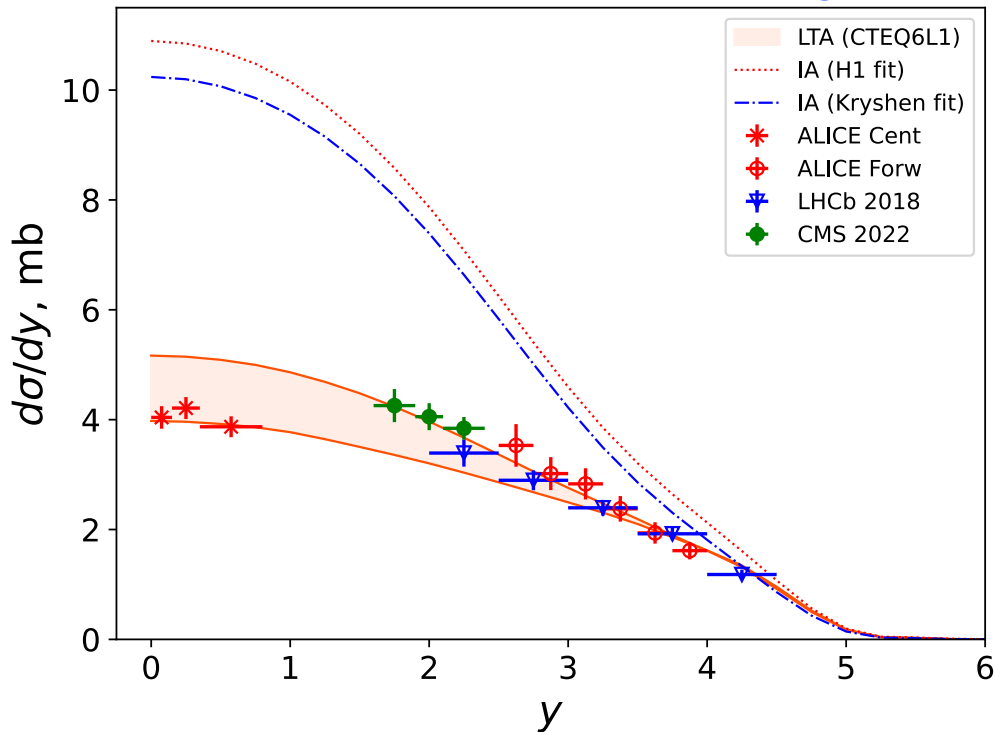
- Electron-Ion Collider has potential to discriminate models of NS due to:
  - wide  $x$ - $Q^2$  coverage
  - measurements of the longitudinal structure function  $F_L^A(x, Q^2)$  sensitive to gluons
  - measurements of diffraction in eA DIS



# LTA shadowing vs. Run 2 LHC data

- Left: rapidity-differential cross section of coherent  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in Pb-Pb UPCs at 5.02 TeV, Acharya *et al.* [ALICE], EPJC 81 (2021) no.8, 712 and PLB 798 (2019), 134926; Aaij *et al.* [LHCb], JHEP 06 (2023), 146; Tumasyan *et al.* [CMS], arXiv:2303.16984 [nucl-ex]

- Right: cross section of  $J/\psi$  photoproduction on Pb as function of  $W$  from UPCs with forward neutrons, [ALICE], arXiv:2305.19060 [nucl-ex]; Tumasyan *et al.* [CMS], arXiv:2303.16984 [nucl-ex]; **O. Villalobos Baillie talk on Tuesday**



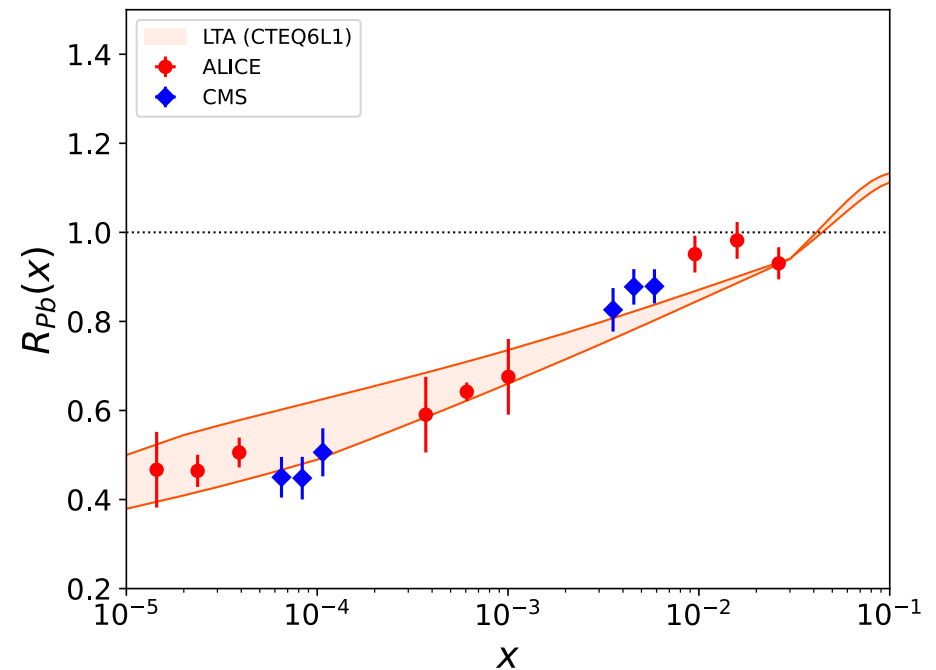
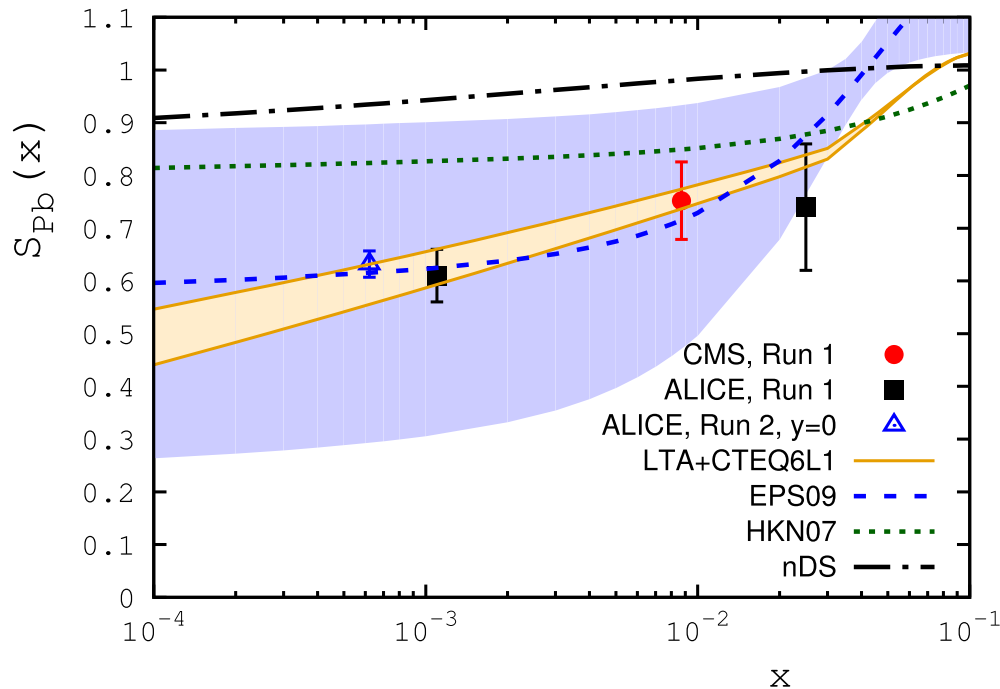
- Small- $x$  nuclear shadowing down to  $x \sim 10^{-5}$  is captured by LTA model.
- $\rightarrow$  also good description by EPPS21, nCTEQ15 down to  $x \sim 10^{-3}$ .

# Nuclear suppression factor

- Nuclear suppression factor  $S_{Pb}(x)$  from UPC data  $\rightarrow$  direct comparison to  $R_g(x) = g_A(x)/g_p(x)$ , Guzey, Kryshen, Strikman, Zhavoronkov, PLB 726 (2013) 290; Guzey, Zhavoronkov, JHEP 1310 (2013) 207

$$S_{Pb}(W) = \left[ \frac{\sigma^{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A}(W)}{\sigma_{IA}^{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A}(W)} \right]^{1/2} = \frac{g_A(x, \mu^2)}{A g_p(x, \mu^2)}$$

$$\sigma_{IA}^{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A}(W) = \frac{d\sigma^{\gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi p}(W, t=0)}{dt} \int_{|t_{\min}|}^{\infty} dt |F_A(-t)|^2$$



- Good agreement with data at small  $x \rightarrow$  direct evidence of large gluon shadowing,  $R_g(x=6 \times 10^{-4} - 0.001) \approx 0.6$  and further decreasing down to  $x \sim 10^{-5} \rightarrow$  nice confirmation of LTA predictions.

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ photoproduction in NLO pQCD

- Collinear factorization for hard exclusive processes, Collins, Frankfurt, Strikman, PRD 56 (1997) 2982

- $\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A$  amplitude in terms of generalized parton distribution functions (GPDs), Ji, PRD 55 (1997) 7114; Radyushkin PRD 56 (1997) 5524; Diehl, Phys. Rept. 388 (2003) 41

- To next-to-leading order (NLO) of perturbative QCD, Ivanov, Schafer, Szymanowski, Krasnikov, EPJ C 34 (2004) 297, 75 (2015) 75 (Erratum); Jones, Martin, Ryskin, Teubner, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 43 (2016) 035002

$$\mathcal{M}^{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A} \propto \sqrt{\langle O_1 \rangle_{J/\psi}} \int_{-1}^1 dx [T_g(x, \xi) F_A^g(x, \xi, t, \mu_F) + T_q(x, \xi) F_A^q(x, \xi, t, \mu_F)]$$

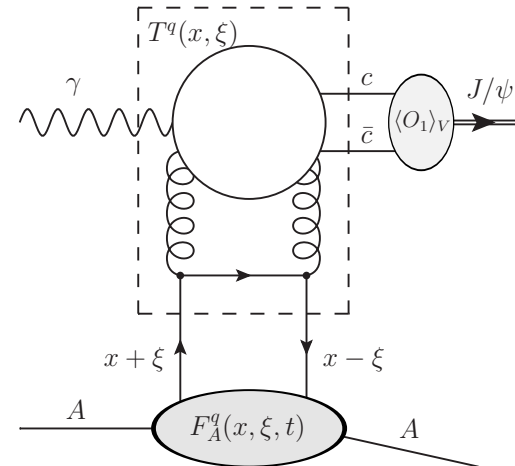
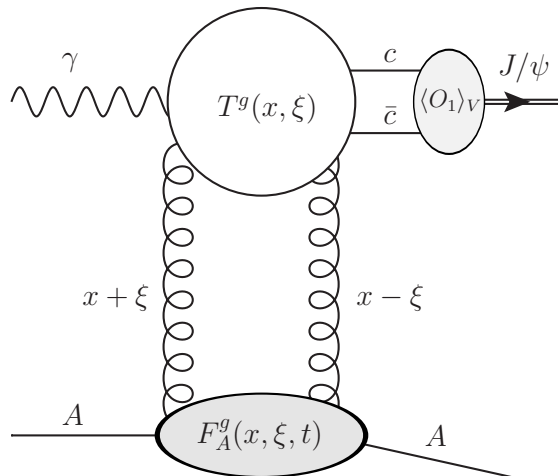
NRQCD matrix element from  $J/\psi$  leptonic decay

pQCD coefficient function

Gluon GPD

Quark contribution

- To leading order (LO), only gluons; both quarks and gluons at NLO.



skewness  
 $\xi = (1/2)(M_{J/\psi})^2/W^2 \ll 1$

# Exclusive $J/\psi$ photoproduction in NLO pQCD (2)

- In the limit of **high  $W$**  corresponding to **small  $\xi=(1/2)(M_{J/\psi})^2/W^2 \ll 1$**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}^{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A} \propto & i\sqrt{\langle O_1 \rangle_{J/\psi}} \left[ F_A^g(\xi, \xi, t, \mu_F) + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \ln \left( \frac{m_c^2}{\mu_F^2} \right) \int_{\xi}^1 \frac{dx}{x} F^g(x, \xi, t) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{\pi} \ln \left( \frac{m_c^2}{\mu_F^2} \right) \int_{\xi}^1 dx (F^{q,S}(x, \xi, t) - F^{q,S}(-x, \xi, t)) \right] \quad \text{+ less singular and non-log terms} \end{aligned}$$

→ helps to qualitatively understand the features of our numerical calculations.

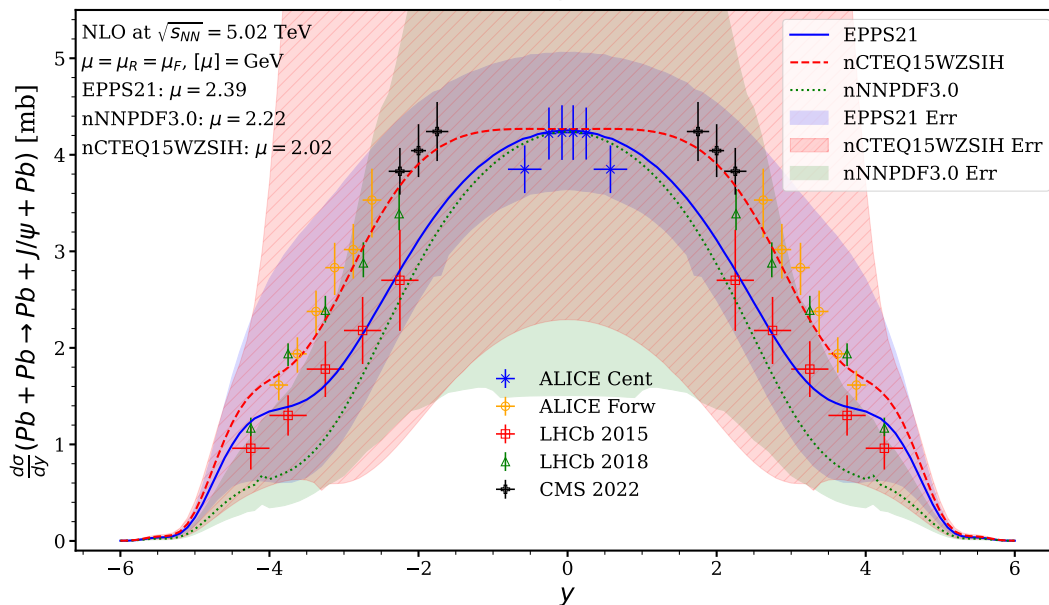
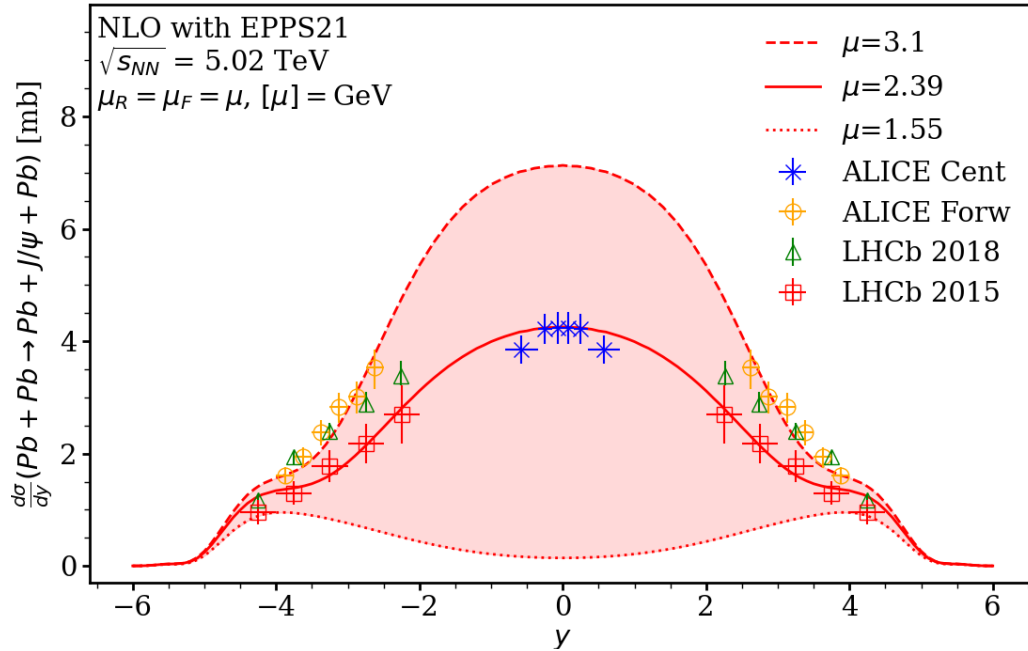
- GPDs are hybrid distributions interpolating between **usual PDFs** and **form factors** → depend on momentum fractions  **$x$**  and  **$\xi$**  and momentum transfer  **$t$** .
- Connection between GPDs is necessarily model-dependent. However, at **small  $\xi$ ,  $Q^2$  evolution** washes out information on input GPDs → GPDs in terms of PDFs, Shuvaev, Golec-Biernat, Martin, Ryskin, PRD 60 (1999) 014015; Dutrieux, Winn, Bertone, PRD 107 (2023) 11, 114019

$$F_A^g(x, \xi, t, \mu_F) = x g_A(x, \mu_F) F_A(t)$$

←  
Nuclear PDFs: EPPS16, nCTEQ15,  
nNNPDF2.0 + update with EPPS21,  
nCTEQ15WZSIH, nNNPDF3.0

↓  
Nucleus (Woods-Saxon) form factor

# NLO pQCD predictions for $J/\psi$ photoproduction in Pb-Pb UPCs at LHC



- Scale dependence for  $m_c \leq \mu \leq 2m_c$  is expectedly **very strong** → consequence of  $\ln(m_c^2/\mu^2)\ln(1/\xi)$  terms in NLO coefficient functions.

- Can find an “**optimal scale**”  $\mu=2.39$  GeV (EPPS21) giving simultaneously fair description of Run 1&2 UPC data → **note that  $\gamma+p \rightarrow J/\psi+p$  proton data is somewhat overestimated.**

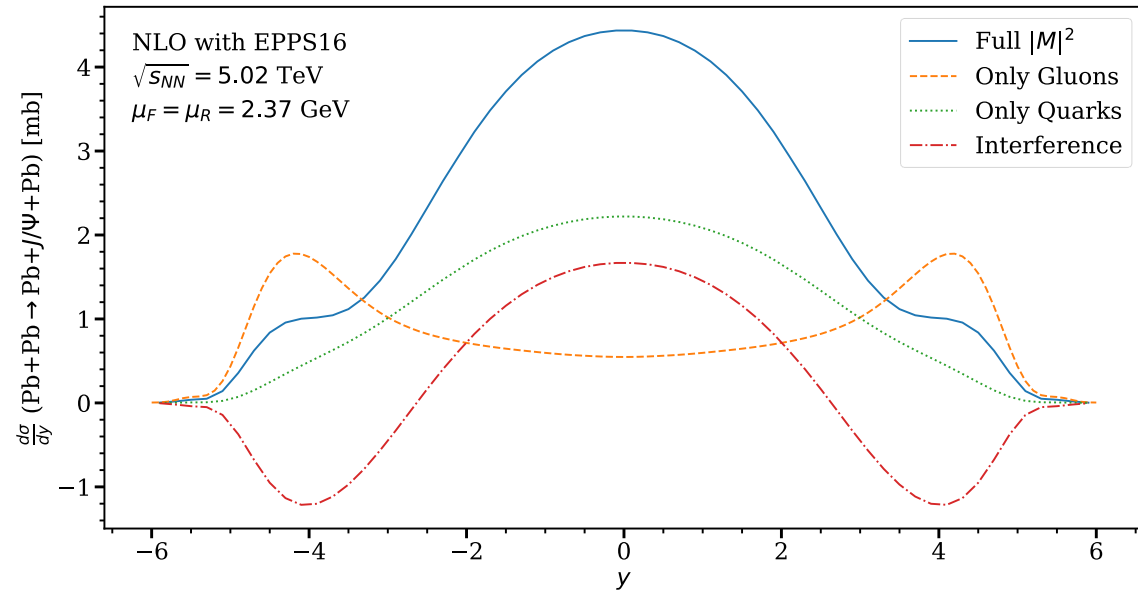
- Uncertainties due nPDFs are quite significant → **opportunity to reduce** them using these data.

Eskola, Flett, Guzey, Löytäinen, Paukkunen, PRC 106 (2022) 3, 035202 and PRC 107 (2023) 4, 044912

Shown data: Acharya et al [ALICE], EPJC 81 (2021) no.8, 712 and PLB 798 (2019) 134926; Aaij et al [LHCb], JHEP 07 (2022) 117

# Dominance of quark contribution in NLO pQCD

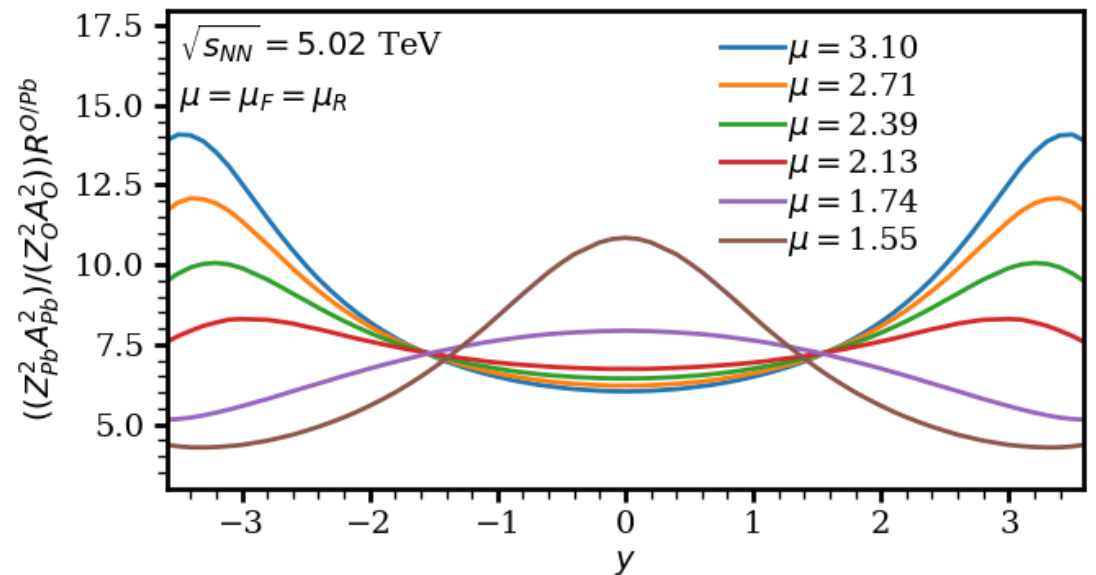
- Consequence of very large NLO corrections → **dominance of quark contribution** for  $|y| < 2$  due to strong cancellations between LO and NLO gluons, Eskola, Flett, Guzey, Löytäinen, Paukkunen, PRC 106 (2022) 3, 035202



- At the face value, **this totally changes** the interpretation of data on coherent  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in heavy-ion UPCs as a probe of small-x nuclear gluons.

- Perturbative stability of NLO pQCD improves for scaled **ratio of oxygen and lead UPC** cross secs:

$$\left(\frac{208Z_{Pb}}{16Z_O}\right)^2 \frac{d\sigma(O + O \rightarrow O + J/\psi + O)/dy}{d\sigma(Pb + Pb \rightarrow Pb + J/\psi + Pb)/dy}$$



# Exclusive $J/\psi$ photoproduction in dipole picture

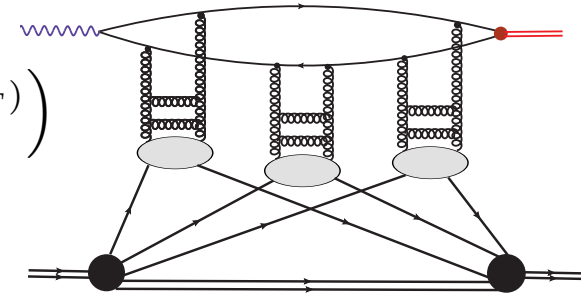
- Space-time picture of strong interaction at high energies in target rest frame  
 $\rightarrow$  photon is a superposition of long-lived  $q\bar{q}$ ,  $q\bar{q}g, \dots$  dipoles.
- Dipoles successively, elastically scatter on target nucleons  $\rightarrow$  high-energy factorization for  $\gamma+A \rightarrow J/\psi+A$  amplitude:

$$\mathcal{M}^{\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A} = \int d^2 \mathbf{r}_T \int \frac{dz}{4\pi} \int d^2 \mathbf{b}_T [\Psi_{J/\psi}^* \Phi_\gamma] 2 \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\text{dip}}(\mathbf{r}_T) T_A(\mathbf{b}_T)} \right)$$

Overlap of photon (QED) and  $J/\psi$  (model) wf's

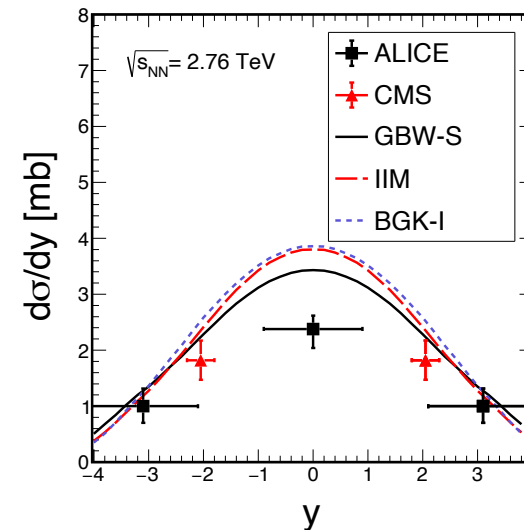
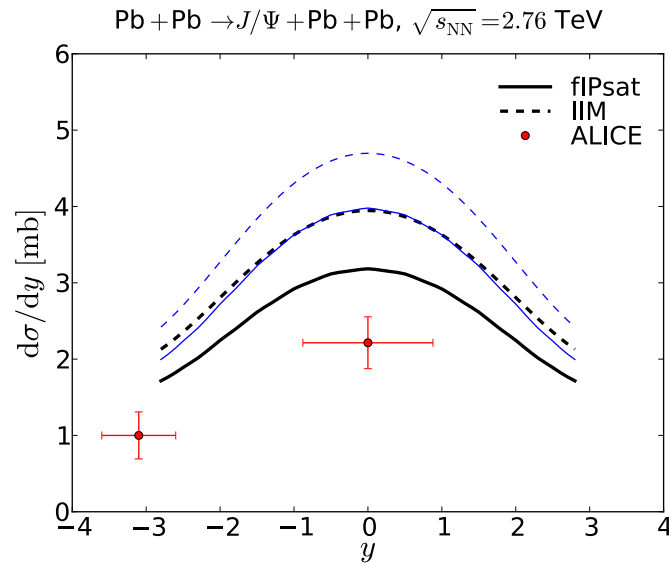
Dipole cross section from fits to HERA

Nuclear density



Lappi, Mäntysaari, PRC 87 (2013) 3, 032201

Luszczak, Schäfer, PRC 99 (2019) 4, 044905



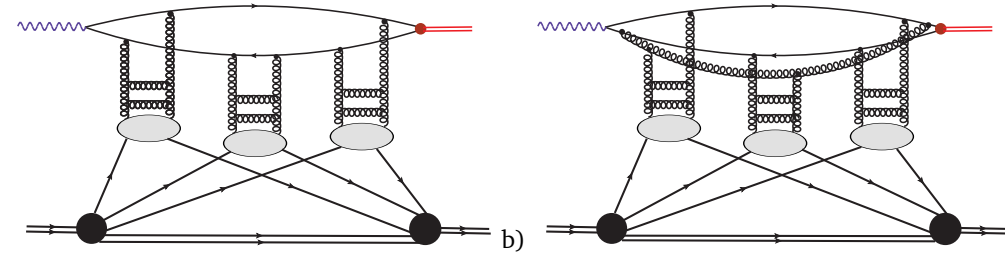
- This implementation **over-predicts** the data at  $y=0$  since nuclear shadowing due to rescattering of small dipoles with  $\langle r_T \rangle \sim 0.3$  fm is too weak.

# Dipole picture: role of $q\bar{q}$ dipoles

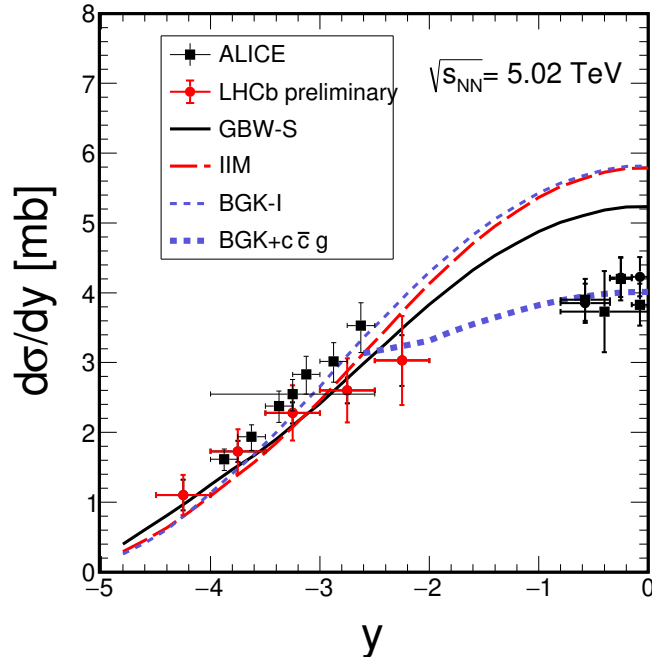
- Small- $\langle r_T \rangle$   $q\bar{q}$  dipoles provide higher-twist contribution to  $\gamma+A \rightarrow J/\psi+A$  as well as to other nuclear observables, e.g. longitudinal structure function  $F_L^A(x, Q^2)$ ,

Frankfurt, Guzey, McDermott, Strikman, JHEP 02 (2002) 027

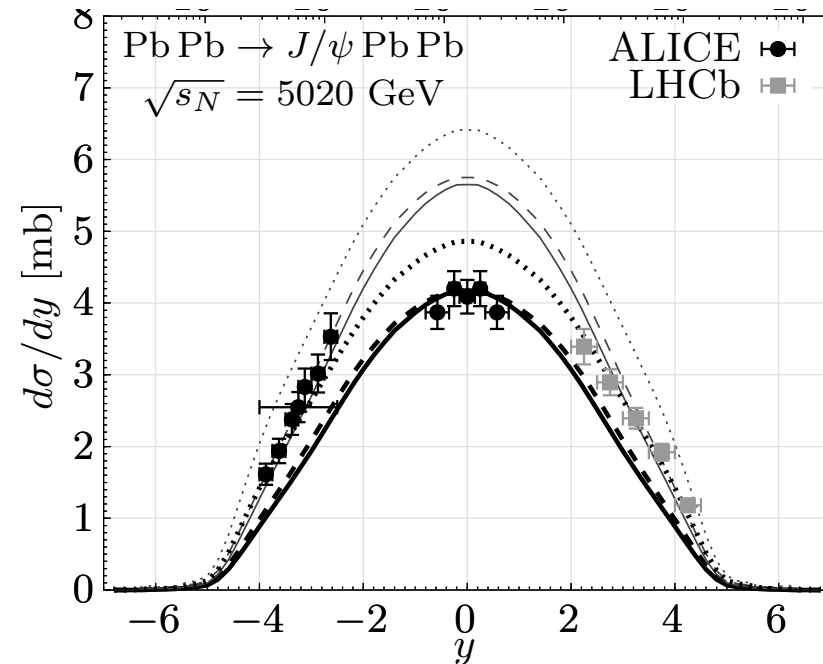
- Need to include higher  $q\bar{q}g$  Fock states  $\rightarrow$  modeling of 3-body “dipole” cross section and wave function.



Luszczak, Schäfer, SciPost Phys.Proc. 8 (2022) 109, arXiv:2108.06788 [hep-ph]



Kopeliovich, Krelina, Nemchik, Potashnikova, PRD 107 (2023) 5, 054005



- Includes elastic and inelastic nuclear shadowing  $\rightarrow$  good description of data.



# Dipole picture: saturation in nuclei

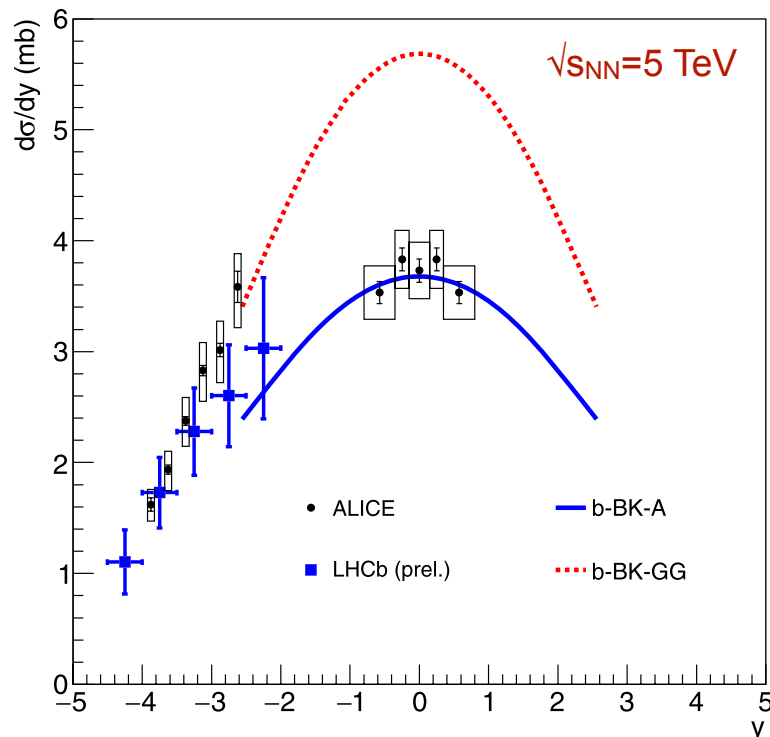
- Instead of Glauber-type dipole-nucleus scattering → nuclear geometry in initial condition for **Balitsky-Kovchegov equation** → **saturation in nuclei**, but not necessarily in nucleons.

$$\frac{\sigma_{\text{dip}}^A(\mathbf{r}_T, \mathbf{b}_T)}{d^2\mathbf{b}_T} = 2\mathcal{N}_{\text{BK}}(\mathbf{r}_T, \mathbf{b}_T, x)$$

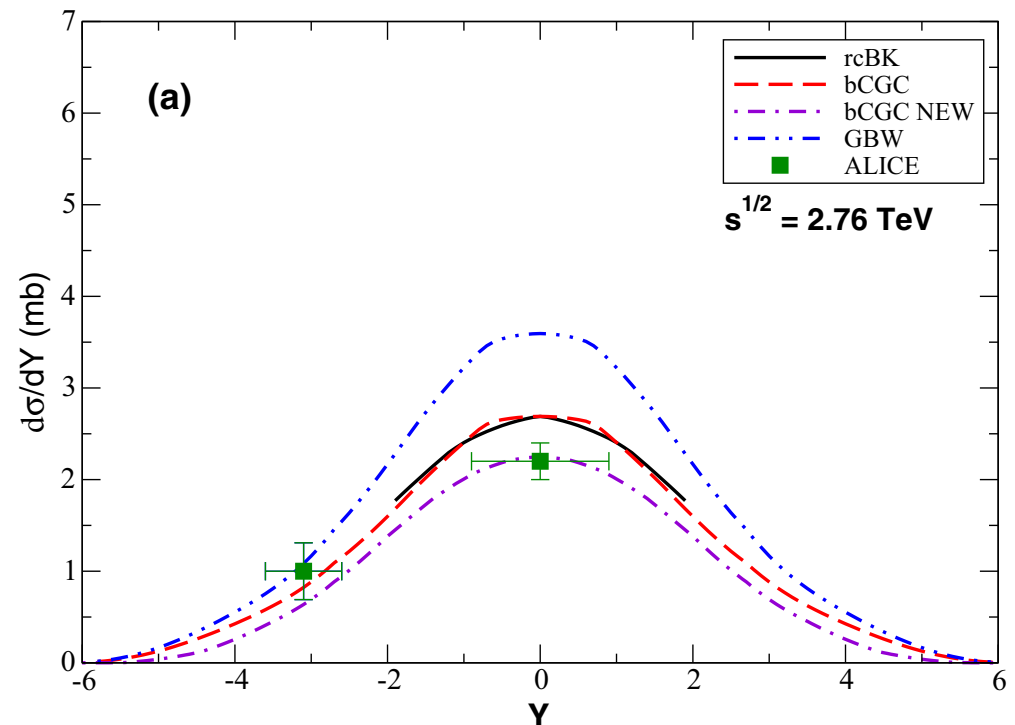
- Should be taken with grain of salt → predictions strongly depend on models for the dipole cross section and  $J/\psi$  wave function.

Bendova, Cepila, Contreras, Matas, PLB 817 (2021) 136306

Goncalves, Moreira, Navarra, PRC 90 (2014) 015203



Shown Run 2 data: Acharya et al [ALICE], EPJC 81 (2021) no.8, 712 and PLB 798 (2019) 134926; Aaij et al [LHCb], JHEP 07 (2022) 117

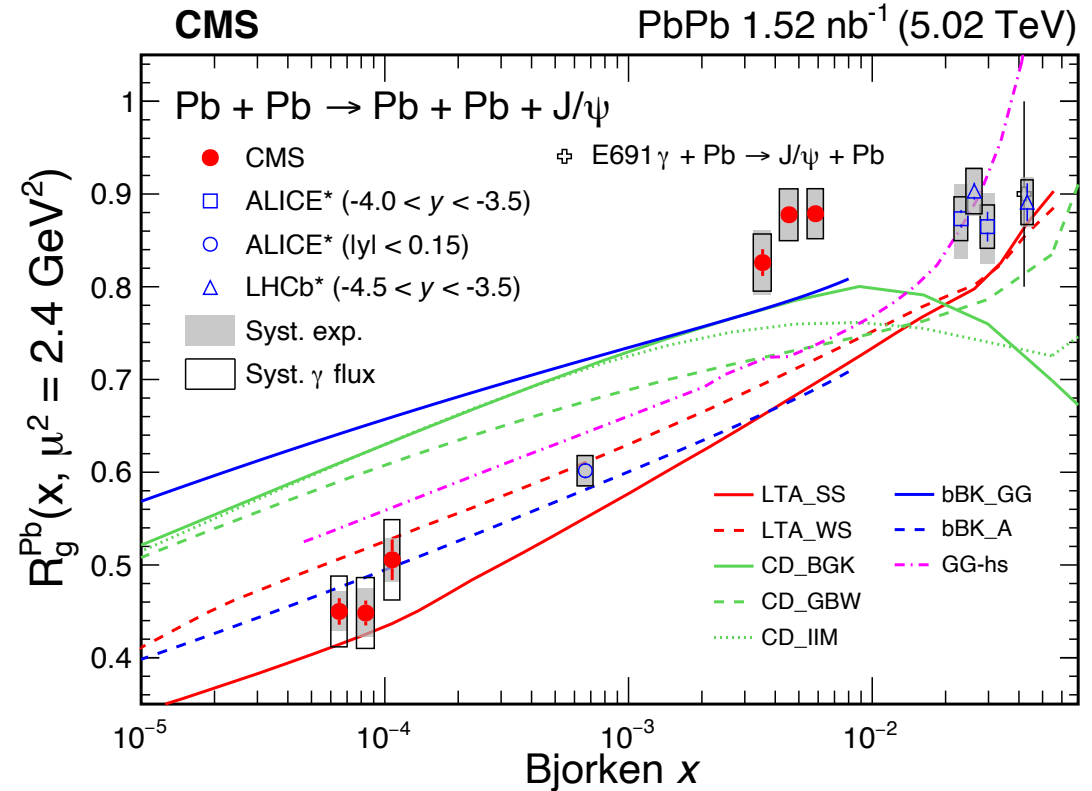
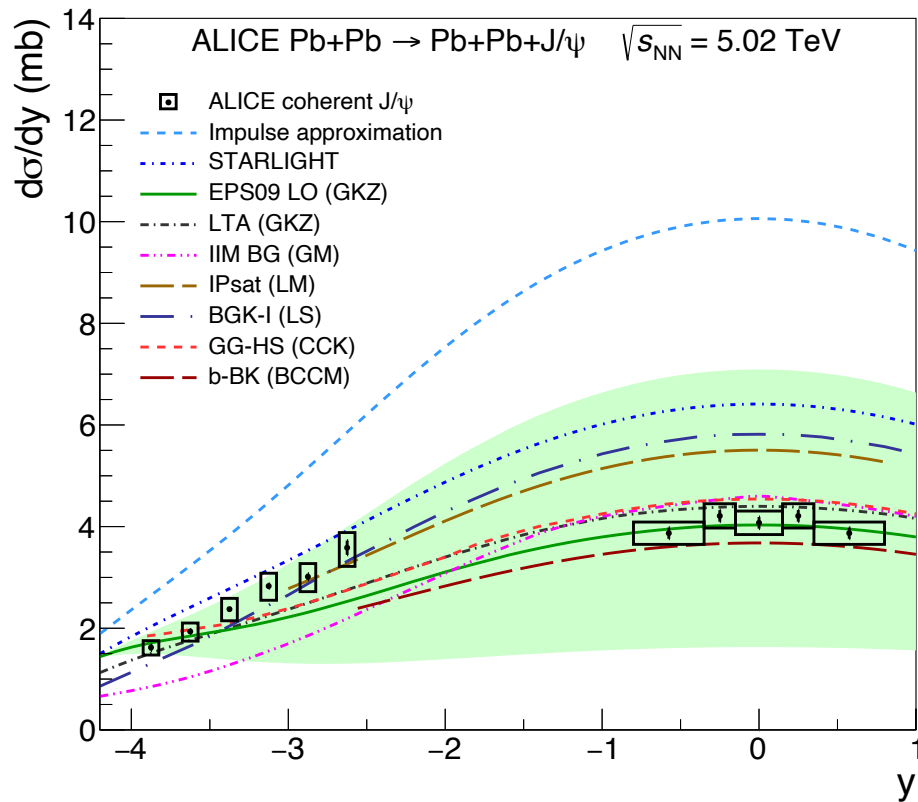


Shown Run 1 data: Abelev et al. [ALICE], PLB718 (2013) 1273; Abbas et al. [ALICE]

# Coherent $J/\psi$ photoproduction in Pb-Pb UPCs

Acharya et al [ALICE], EPJC 81 (2021) no.8, 712

CMS], arXiv:2303.16984 [nucl-ex]



- None of the approaches describe the data in the entire range of  $J/\psi$  rapidity  $y$ .
- Suppression at  $y=0$  → strong leading-twist gluon shadowing at small  $x$ , importance of  $q\bar{q}g$  dipoles, or a sign of saturation in nuclei.
- Behavior at large  $|y|$  and  $x_A > 0.01$  → all approaches close to the border of applicability → require refinements: e.g., earlier onset of antishadowing,...

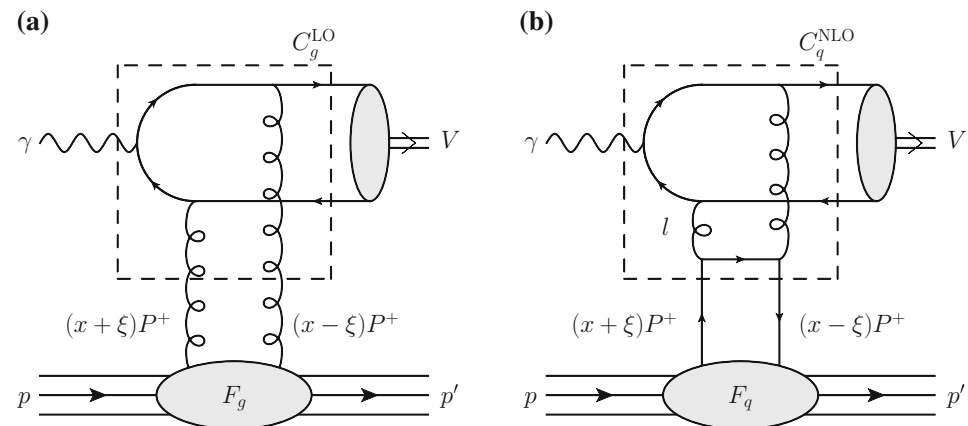
# Tamed collinear factorization

- Stability of perturbation series for exclusive  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in NLO pQCD can be improved in 2 steps:

- Choose factorization scale  $\mu_F = \mu_c$  to transfer  $\ln(m_c^2/\mu_F^2) \ln(1/\xi)$  terms of NLO coefficient function to LO GPDs  $\rightarrow$  resummation in spirit of DGLAP  $\rightarrow$  residual  $\mu_f$  dependence is weak, Jones, Martin, Ryskin, Teubner, J. Phys. G 43 (3) (2016) 035002

$$A^{(0)}(\mu_f) + A^{(1)}(\mu_f) = C^{(0)} \otimes F(\mu_F) + \alpha_s C_{\text{rem}}^{(1)}(\mu_F) \otimes F(\mu_f)$$

- Subtraction of  $I_T < Q_0 \sim m_c$  contribution from NLO coefficient functions to avoid double counting (included in LO gluons)  $\rightarrow$   $Q_0$  subtraction method, Jones, Martin, Ryskin, Teubner, EPJC 76 (2016) 633



- $Q_0$ -subtraction addresses  $\mathcal{O}(Q_0^2/m_c^2)$  power suppressed terms  $\rightarrow$  numerically important for  $J/\psi$  and much less important for DIS with  $\mathcal{O}(Q_0^2/Q^2)$ .

# Tamed collinear factorization: gluons in proton

- Restores the gluon dominance and allows for sensible comparison to data.

- Tamed NLO pQCD predictions using existing proton PDFs vs. HERA and LHCb pp UPC data on  $\gamma+p \rightarrow J/\psi+p$ , Flett, Jones, Martin, Ryskin, Teubner, PRD 101 (2020) 9, 094011

- Predictions are stable, but description of LHCb data is poor.

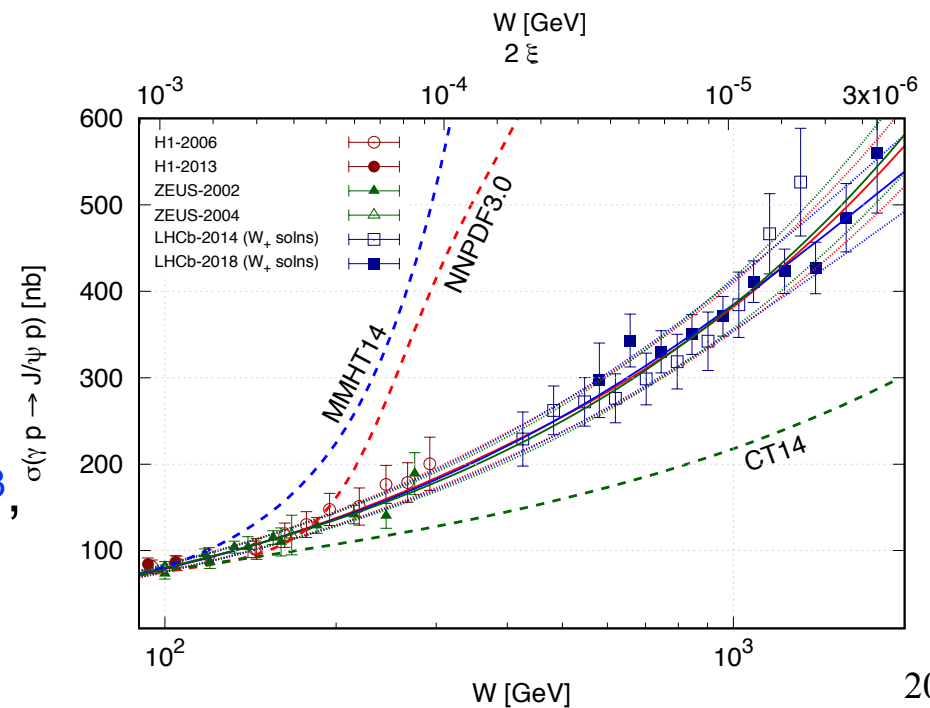
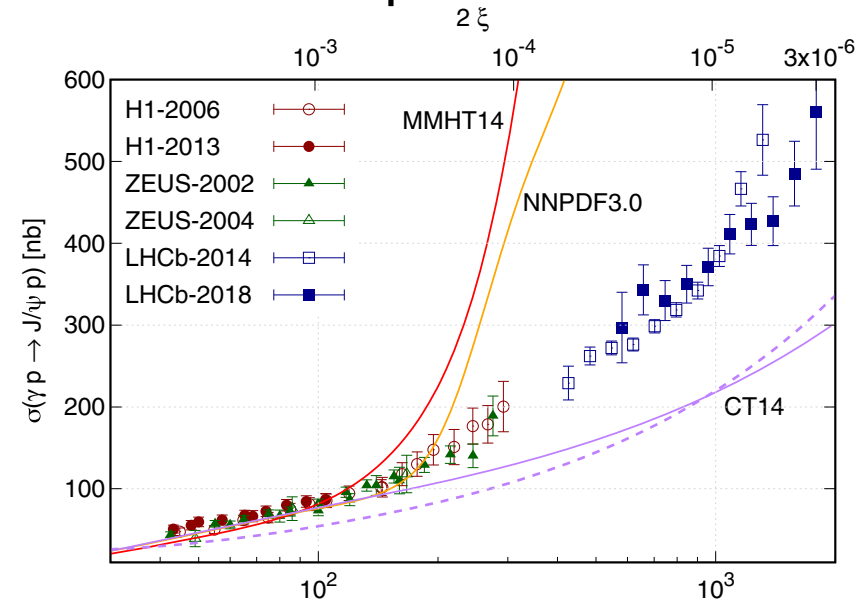
- Extraction of gluon PDF for  $x < 10^{-3}$  using global analysis of data on  $\gamma+p \rightarrow J/\psi+p$ , Flett, Martin, Ryskin, Teubner, PRD 102 (2020) 114021

$$xg(x, \mu_0^2) = C xg^{\text{global}}(x, \mu_0^2) + (1 - C) xg^{\text{new}}(x, \mu_0^2)$$

$$xg^{\text{new}}(x, \mu_0^2) = nN_0 (1 - x) x^{-\lambda}$$

- Constraints on  $xg_p(x, \mu)$  for  $3 \times 10^{-6} < x < 10^{-3}$ , no signs of saturation.

Shown LHCb data: Aaij et al [LHCb], J. Phys. G41 (2014) 055002 and JHEP 1810 (2018) 167.



# Summary and Outlook

- There is continuing interest in UPCs at the LHC and RHIC to obtain new constraints on proton and nucleus PDFs and on the small- $x$  dynamics of QCD.
- The data challenges both collinear factorization and dipole model frameworks.
- Strong nuclear suppression of coherent  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in Pb-Pb UPC  $\rightarrow$  **large gluon shadowing at small  $x$ ,  $q\bar{q}g$  dipoles, or a sign of saturation in nuclei**  $\rightarrow$  important to test in  $Y$  photoproduction, where theory predictions are cleaner.
- $J/\psi$  photoproduction in pp UPCs constrains  $g_p(x, Q^2)$  down to  $x \sim 10^{-6}$ .
- Extraction of nuclear PDFs is feasible using **ratios of AA/pp UPCs cross sections**, where strong scale dependence, modeling of GPDs, and relativistic corrections partially cancel.
- The outstanding challenges are the consistent treatment of  **$J/\psi$  vertex in NRQCD** ( $q\bar{q}$  and  $q\bar{q}g$  distribution amplitudes) and taming of **small- $\xi$**  behavior of NLO coefficient functions.
- I didn't have time to cover  $t$ -dependence and incoherent  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in Pb-Pb UPCs  $\rightarrow$  complement. constraints on shadowing in LT and dipole pictures,