

# Birefringent photon spectrum from a nonlinear interaction with strong magnetic field

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in collaboration with Kazunori Itakura (KEK)

**4<sup>th</sup> ATHIC, 15<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2012**

KH and K. Itakura, [hep-ph/1209.2663].

“Vacuum birefringence in strong magnetic fields:

(I) Photon polarization tensor with all the Landau levels”

KH and K. Itakura, in preparation.

“Vacuum birefringence in strong magnetic fields:

(II) Complex refractive index in the lowest Landau level approximation”

# What is “Birefringence” ?

Two polarization modes of a propagating photon have different refractive indices.

*How is in the vacuum with external magnetic field ?*

+ ~~Lorentz~~ & Gauge symmetries  $\rightarrow n \neq 1$  in general

+ Oriented response of the Dirac sea  $\rightarrow$  Vacuum birefringence

## Table of contents

+ Strong magnetic fields in heavy-ion collisions

+ Our analytic calculation of the photon vacuum polarization tensor  
 $\rightarrow$  Refractive indices (“Vacuum birefringence”)

+ Some features of the obtained refractive index

Extremely strong magnetic fields in peripheral collisions induced by **strongly accelerated heavy nuclei**

$$v_N > 0.9999 c$$

$$Z = 79 \text{ (Au)}, 82 \text{ (Pb)}$$

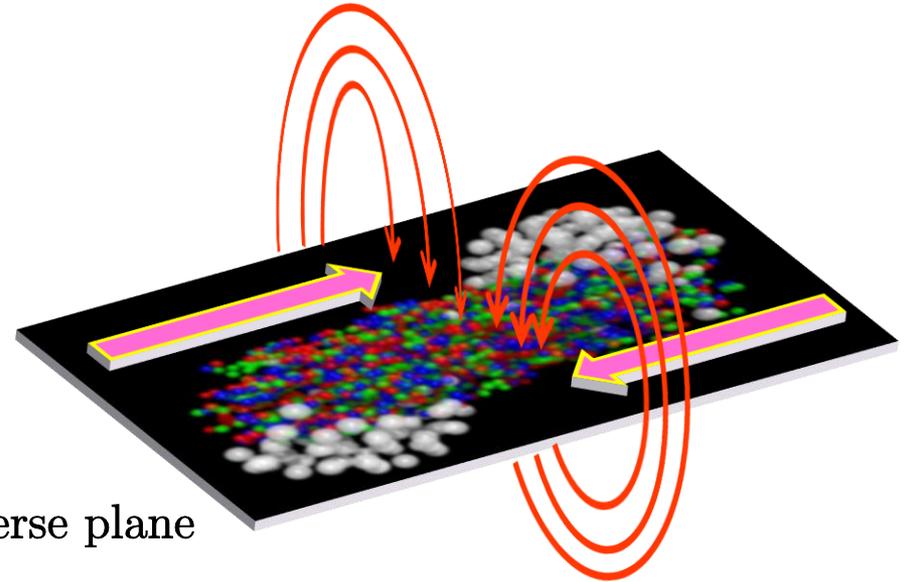
Geometry in peripheral collisions

Lienard-Wiechert potential

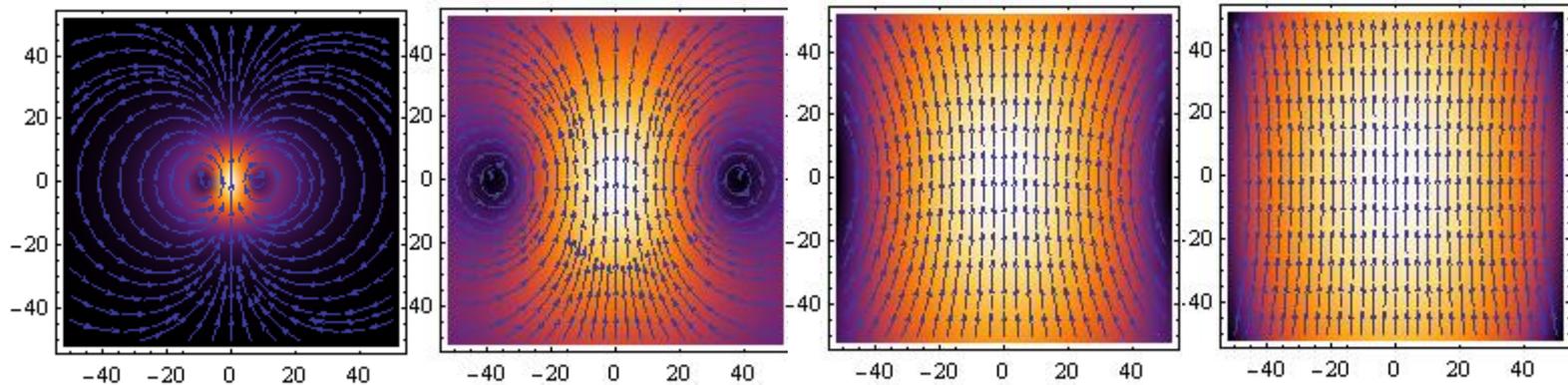
$$e\mathbf{B} = \frac{\alpha_{EM} Z \sinh(Y) (\mathbf{x}_\perp \times \mathbf{e}_z)}{[|\mathbf{x}_\perp|^2 + \tau^2 \sinh^2(Y - \eta)]^{3/2}}$$

$Y = \tanh^{-1} v_N$ : beam rapidity

$\mathbf{x}_\perp$ : distance from the beam in the transverse plane



Superposition of circulating magnetic fields in the transverse plane



$t = 0.1 \text{ fm/c}$

$0.5 \text{ fm/c}$

$1 \text{ fm/c}$

$2 \text{ fm/c}$

# Strong magnetic fields in nature and laboratories

## How strong?

1 Tesla =  $10^4$  Gauss

0.6 Gauss

Earth's magnetic field

100 Gauss

A typical hand-held magnet

$8.3 \times 10^4$  Gauss

Superconducting magnets used in LHC

$4.5 \times 10^5$  Gauss

The strongest steady magnetic field

(Nat. High Mag. Field Lab. at Florida)

$10^{12}$  Gauss

Typical neutron stars

$4 \times 10^{13}$  Gauss

"Critical" magnetic field of electrons  $\sqrt{eB_c} = m_e$

$10^{15}$  Gauss

Magnetars  $\rightarrow$  On the third day  $= 0.5 \text{ MeV}$

$10^{17}$  Gauss

Noncentral heavy-ion coll. at RHIC

$10^{18}$  Gauss

Noncentral heavy-ion coll. at LHC

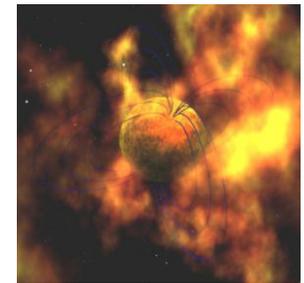
$\sqrt{eB} \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$

"Color" magnetic fields  
in heavy-ion coll.

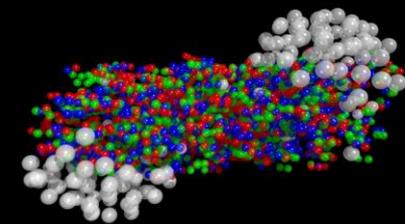
$\sqrt{gB} \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$   
at RHIC



Magnet in Lab.



Magnetar

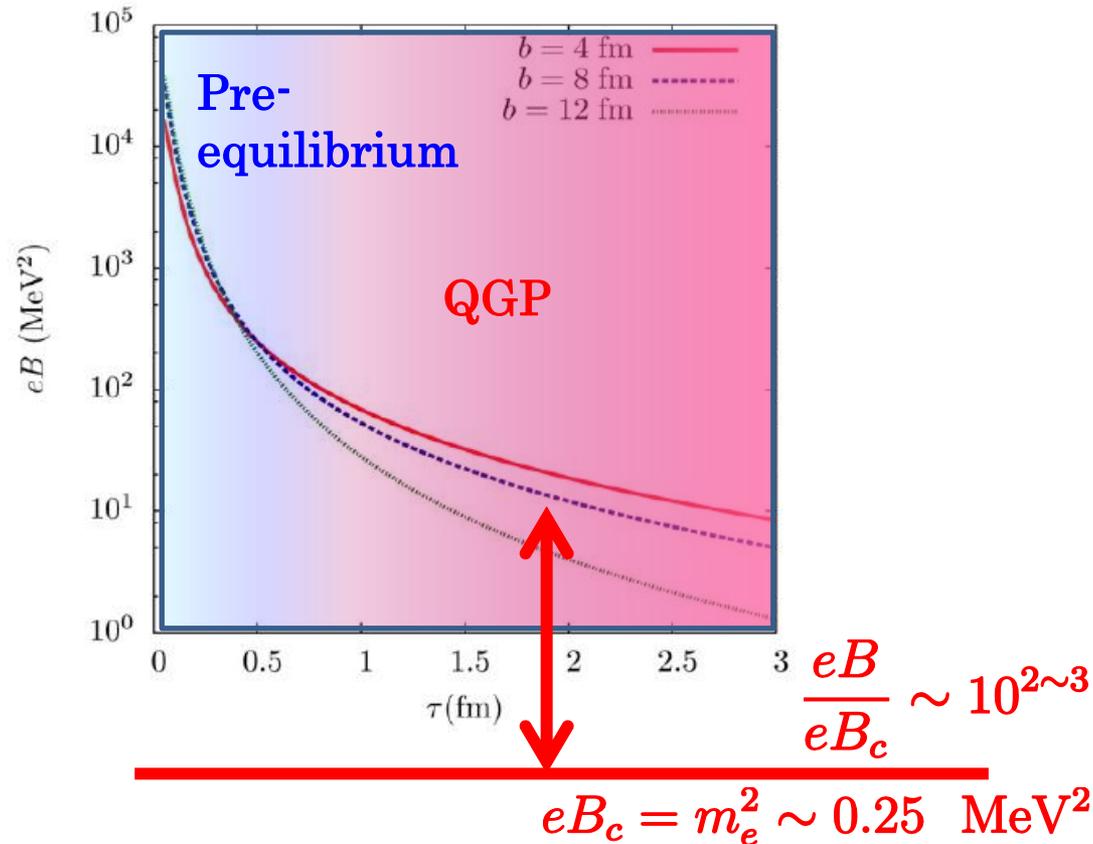


Heavy ion collisions

# Time evolution of the magnetic field after collisions

*Simple estimates by Lienard-Wiechert potential*

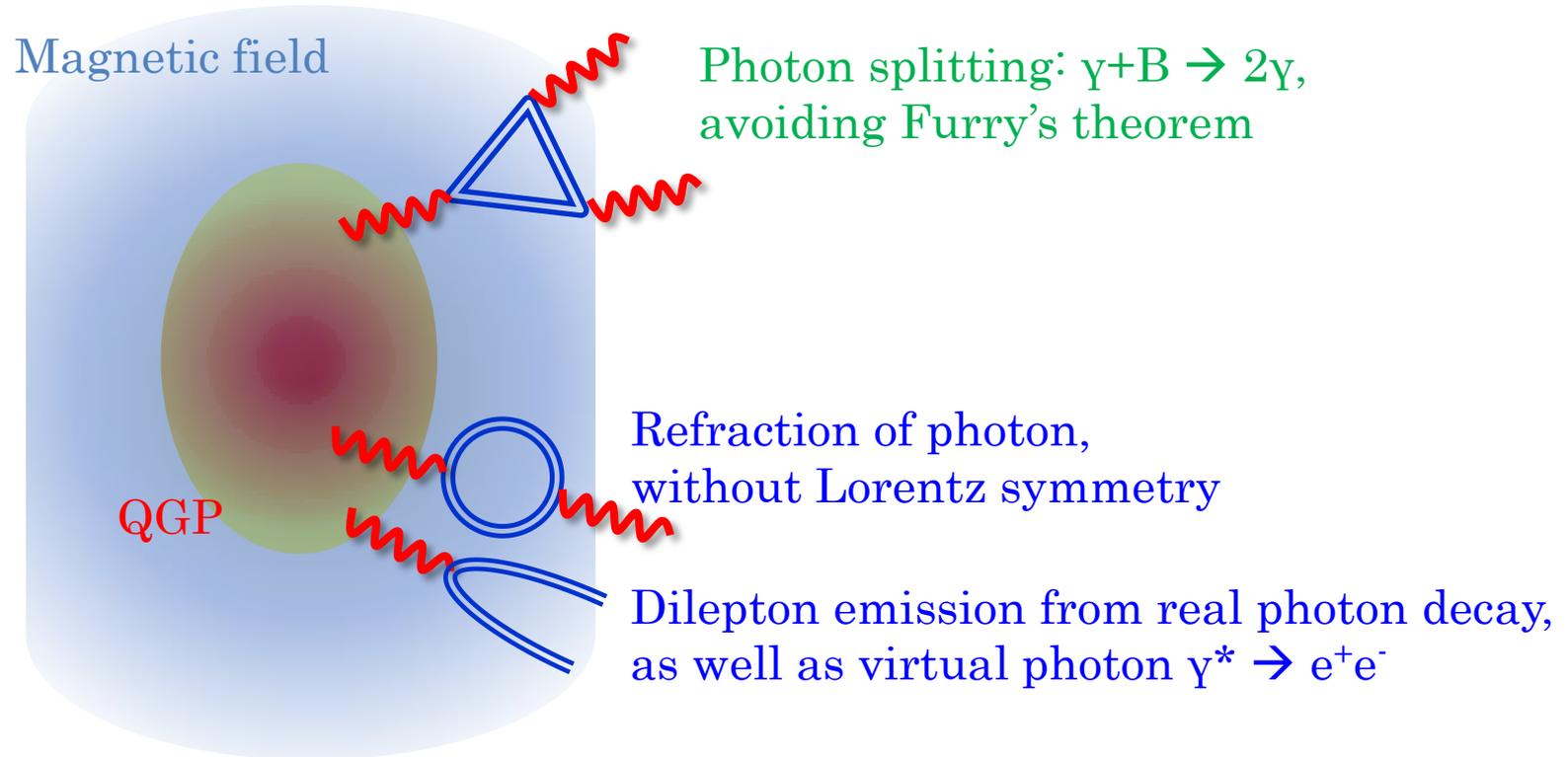
Analytical modeling of colliding nuclei,  
Kharzeev, McLerran, Warringa, NPA (2008)



Still a few orders stronger than the “critical field”

# Modifications of photon propagations by nonlinear QED effects

EM probes would carry away info of initial stage.



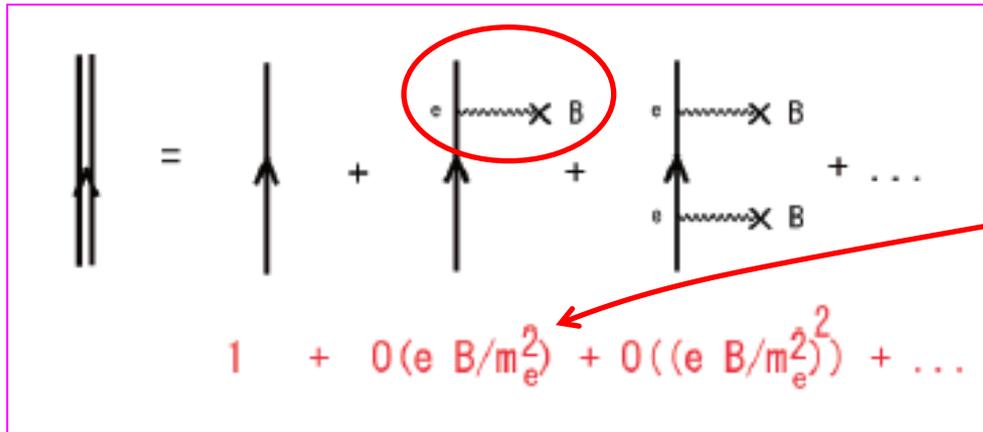
Modified Maxwell eq.:  $\{ q^2 \eta^{\mu\nu} - q^\mu q^\nu - \Pi_{\text{ex}}^{\mu\nu}(q^2) \} A_\nu(q) = 0$

Photon vacuum polarization tensor with the dressed fermion propagators:

$$i\Pi_{\text{ex}}^{\mu\nu}(q) = -(-ie)^2 \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr} [ \gamma^\mu G(p|A) \gamma^\nu G(p+q|A) ]$$

# Break-down of naïve perturbation in strong magnetic fields

## Dressed fermion propagator



Critical field strength  
 $B_c = m_e^2 / e$

In heavy ion collisions,  
 $B/B_c \sim O(10^4) \gg 1$

Naïve perturbation breaks down when  $B > B_c$

→ Need to take into account all-order diagrams

## Resummation w.r.t external legs by “proper-time method” Schwinger

$$\begin{aligned}
 G(p|A) &= \frac{i(\not{p} - e\not{A} + m)}{(\not{p} - e\not{A})^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \\
 &= i(\not{p} - e\not{A} + m) \times \frac{1}{i} \int_0^\infty d\tau e^{i\tau\{(\not{p} - e\not{A})^2 - (m^2 - i\epsilon)\}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$\tau$  : proper-time

Nonlinear to the external field

# Photon propagation in a constant external magnetic field

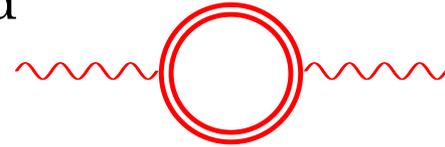
Lorentz and gauge symmetries lead to a tensor structure,

$$\Pi_{\text{ex}}^{\mu\nu}(q^2) = - \{ \chi_0 P_0^{\mu\nu} + \chi_1 P_1^{\mu\nu} + \chi_2 P_2^{\mu\nu} \}$$

$$P_0^{\mu\nu} = q^2 \eta^{\mu\nu} - q^\mu q^\nu$$

$$P_1^{\mu\nu} = q_{\parallel}^2 \eta_{\parallel}^{\mu\nu} - q_{\parallel}^\mu q_{\parallel}^\nu$$

$$P_2^{\mu\nu} = q_{\perp}^2 \eta_{\perp}^{\mu\nu} - q_{\perp}^\mu q_{\perp}^\nu$$



$$q_\mu \Pi_{\text{ex}}^{\mu\nu}(q) = 0$$

Eigen-equations from the modified Maxwell eq.

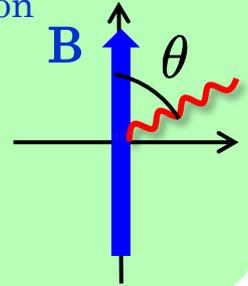
$$\rightarrow \begin{cases} \{ (1 + \chi_0) q^2 \} \pi_0^\mu = 0 \\ \{ (1 + \chi_0) q^2 + \chi_2 q_{\perp}^2 \} \pi_1^\mu = 0 \\ \{ (1 + \chi_0) q^2 + \chi_1 q_{\parallel}^2 \} \pi_2^\mu = 0 \\ \xi_g^{-1} q^2 \pi_3^\mu = 0 \end{cases}$$

$\theta$ : angle btw B-field and photon propagation

$$q^\mu = (q^0, q_{\perp}, 0, q^3)$$

$$q_{\parallel}^\mu = (q^0, 0, 0, q^3)$$

$$q_{\perp}^\mu = (0, q_{\perp}, 0, 0)$$



“Vacuum birefringence”

Dielectric constant/refractive index :  $\epsilon = n^2 = \frac{|\mathbf{q}|^2}{\omega^2}$

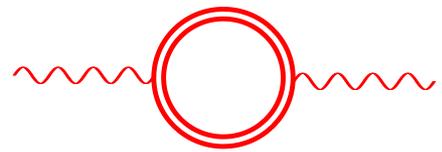
Following from the tensor structure, we obtain distinct eigenmodes!!

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_{\parallel} = \frac{1 + \chi_0 + \chi_1}{1 + \chi_0 + \chi_1 \cos^2 \theta} \\ \epsilon_{\perp} = \frac{1 + \chi_0}{1 + \chi_0 + \chi_2 \sin^2 \theta} \end{cases} \quad \text{with eigenvectors,} \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{E}_{\parallel} \propto ((1 + \chi_0 + \chi_1) \cos \theta, 0, -(1 + \chi_0) \sin \theta) \\ \mathbf{E}_{\perp} \propto (0, 1, 0) \end{cases}$$

Melrose and Stoneham

$\epsilon_{\parallel} = \epsilon_{\perp} = 1$  when  $\theta = 0$ , because of a boost invariance along B-field

Scalar coefficient functions  $\chi$  by the proper-time method



Given by a double integral wrt proper time variables associated with two fermion lines

$$\chi_i(r_{\parallel}^2, r_{\perp}^2, B_r) = \frac{\alpha B_r}{4\pi} \int_{-1}^1 d\beta \int_0^{\infty} d\tau \frac{\Gamma_i(\tau, \beta)}{\sin(\tau)} e^{-i(\phi_{\parallel} + \phi_{\perp})\tau}$$

$$i = 0, 1, 2$$

Schwinger, Adler, Shabad, Urrutia, Tsai and Eber, Dittrich and Gies

Analytic integration without any approximation

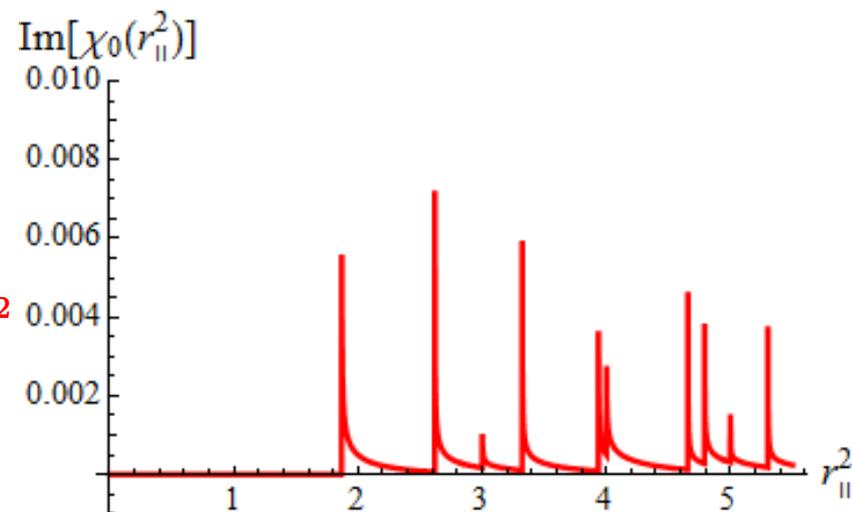
Decomposition into a double infinite sum

$$\chi_i = \frac{\alpha B_r}{4\pi} e^{-\eta} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \Omega_{\ell i}^n$$

Polarization tensor has an imaginary part above

$$q_{\parallel}^2 = \left[ \sqrt{m^2 + 2\ell eB} + \sqrt{m^2 + 2(\ell + n)eB} \right]^2$$

$\ell$  and  $n$ : “Landau levels” of a pair excitation

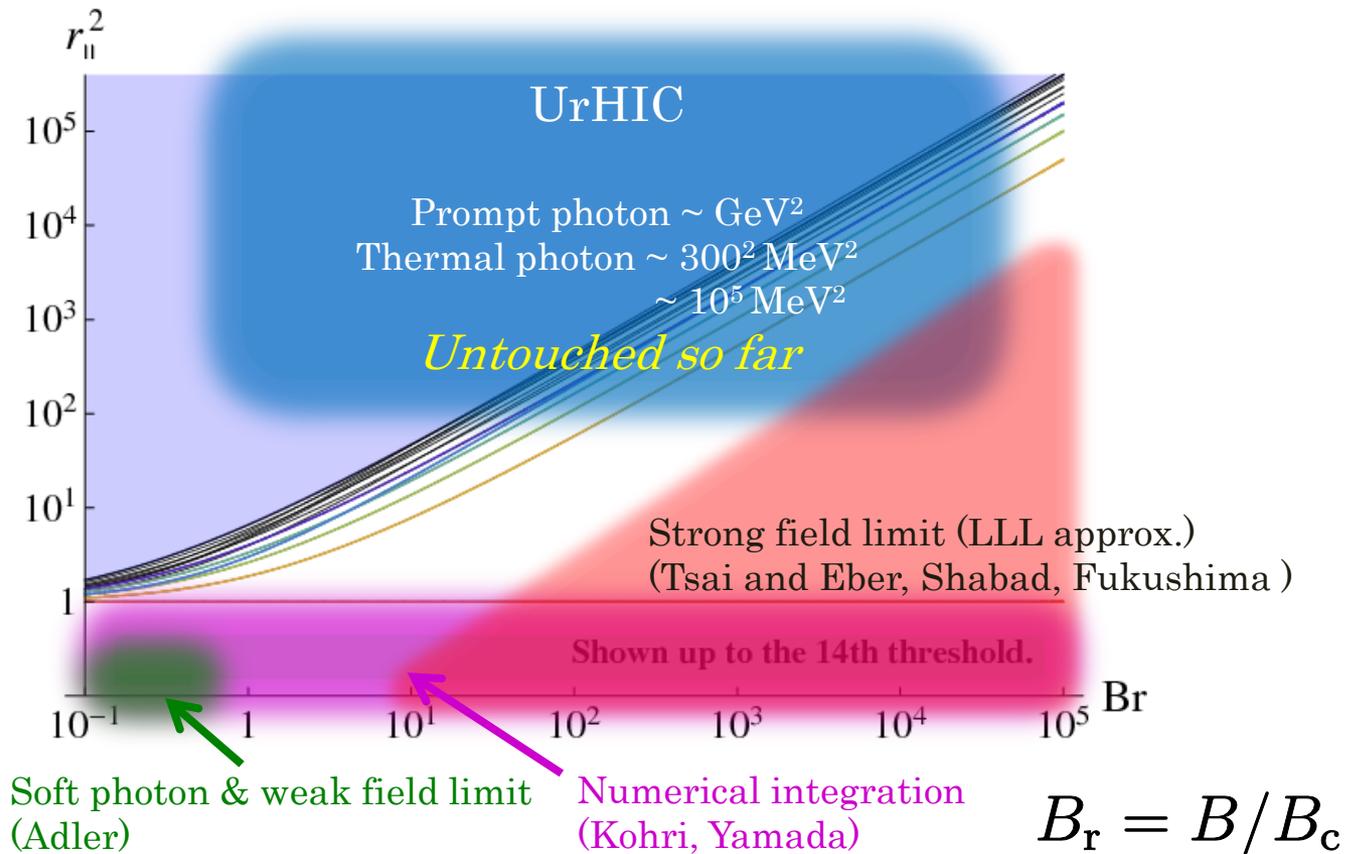


# Summary of relevant scales and available calculations for $\chi$ 's

$$r_{\parallel}^2 = \frac{q_{\parallel}^2}{4m_e^2}$$

(Photon momentum)

The first threshold  
(lowest Landau level):  
 $q_{\parallel}^2 = 4m_e^2 = 1 \text{ MeV}^2$



*Complex dielectric constants  
from the vacuum polarization tensor*

$$\epsilon_{\parallel} = \frac{1 + \chi_0 + \chi_1}{1 + \chi_0 + \chi_1 \cos^2 \theta}$$
$$\epsilon_{\perp} = \frac{1 + \chi_0}{1 + \chi_0 + \chi_2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

*and the complex refractive indices*

$$n_{\parallel}^2 = \epsilon_{\parallel}$$
$$n_{\perp}^2 = \epsilon_{\perp}$$

## *Dielectric constant at the lowest-Landau-level*

The first term  $(\ell, n) = (0, 0)$  in the double infinite series :

$$\chi_0 = 0$$

$$\chi_1 = \frac{\alpha B_r}{4\pi} e^{-\frac{|\mathbf{q}_\perp|^2}{2|eB|}} \times \frac{1}{r_\parallel^2} \left\{ I_{0\Delta}^0(r_\parallel^2) - 2 \right\}$$

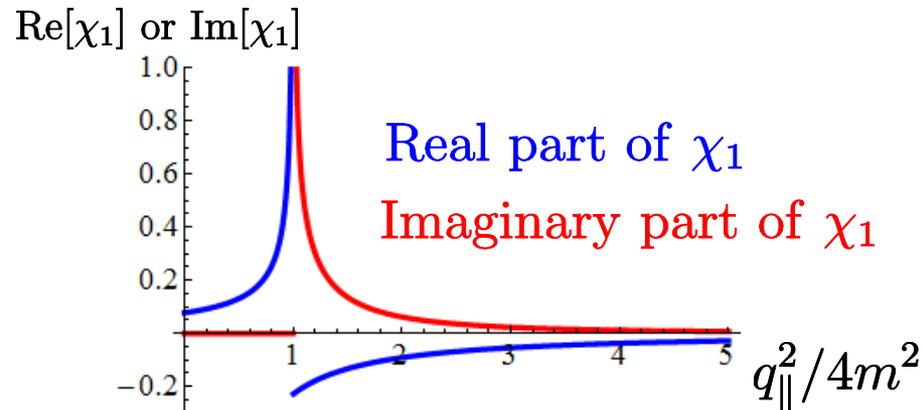
$$\chi_2 = 0$$

$$I_{0\Delta}^0(r_\parallel^2) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{r_\parallel^2(1-r_\parallel^2)}} \arctan \left( \frac{r_\parallel^2}{\sqrt{r_\parallel^2(1-r_\parallel^2)}} \right)$$

ArcTan : source of an imaginary part above the lowest threshold

## *Dielectric constant at the LLL*

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_\parallel = \frac{1+\chi_1}{1+\chi_1 \cos^2 \theta} \\ \epsilon_\perp = 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{Polarization excites only along the magnetic field}$$



# Consistent solution wrt the real and imag. parts

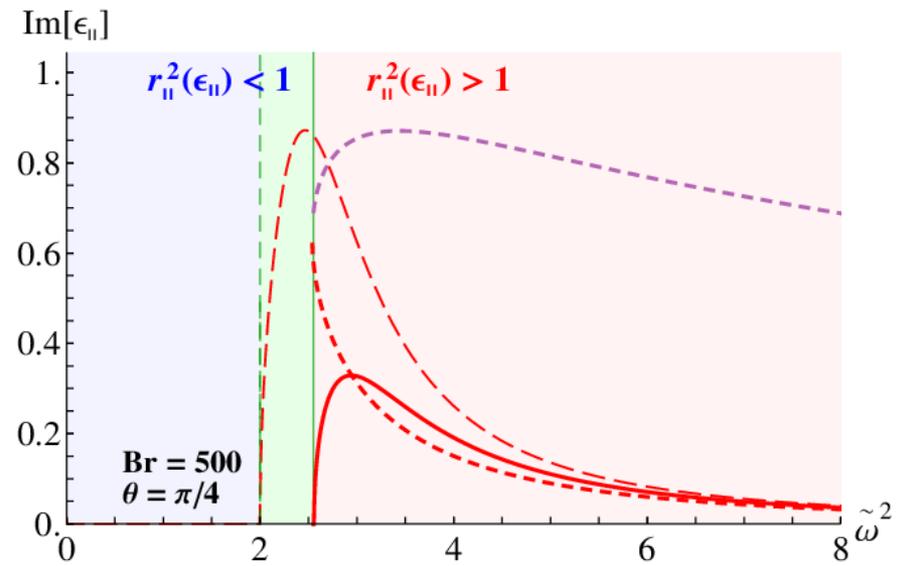
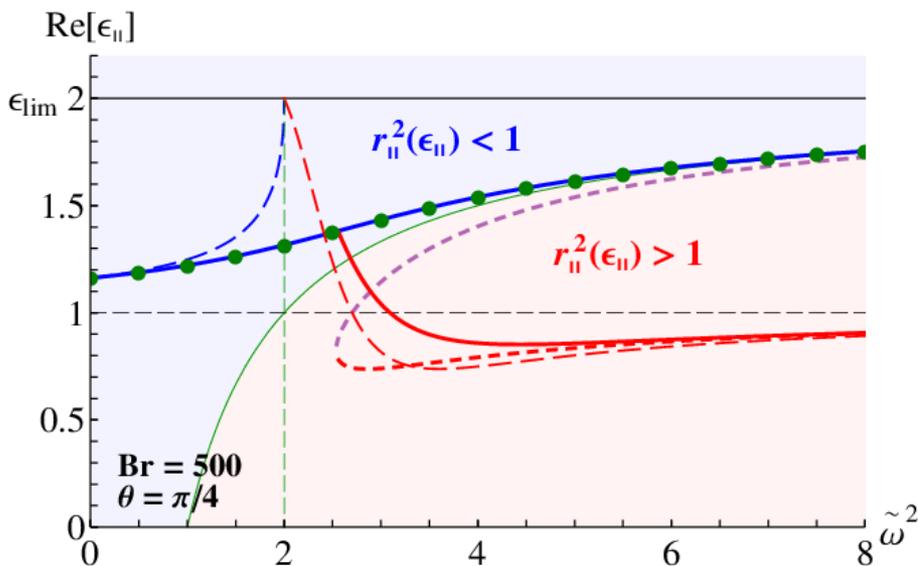
$$\epsilon = \frac{1 + \chi_1}{1 + \chi_1 \cos^2 \theta}$$

$$\chi_1(q_{\parallel}^2, q_{\perp}^2; B_r)$$

$$q_{\parallel}^2 = \omega^2 - q_z^2 = \omega^2(1 - \epsilon \cos^2 \theta)$$

$$q_{\perp}^2 = -|\mathbf{q}_{\perp}|^2 = -\epsilon \omega^2 \sin^2 \theta$$

Damping of the incident photon field due to decay into a fermion pair



# Complex refractive index

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &= \epsilon_r + i\epsilon_i & n^2 &= \epsilon \\ n &= n_r + in_i & \longrightarrow & \left\{ \begin{aligned} n_r &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{|\epsilon| + \epsilon_r} \\ n_i &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{|\epsilon| - \epsilon_r} \end{aligned} \right. \end{aligned}$$

Some plots of refractive index were shown here.

For details, please contact the speaker (Koichi Hattori)  
by email: [khattori@yonsei.ac.kr](mailto:khattori@yonsei.ac.kr)

# Phenomenological aspects

Based on the plots of the refractive index, we discussed application to the photon spectrum in HIC here.

Effects on photon HBT interferometry

Modified refraction index induces a distorted HBT image

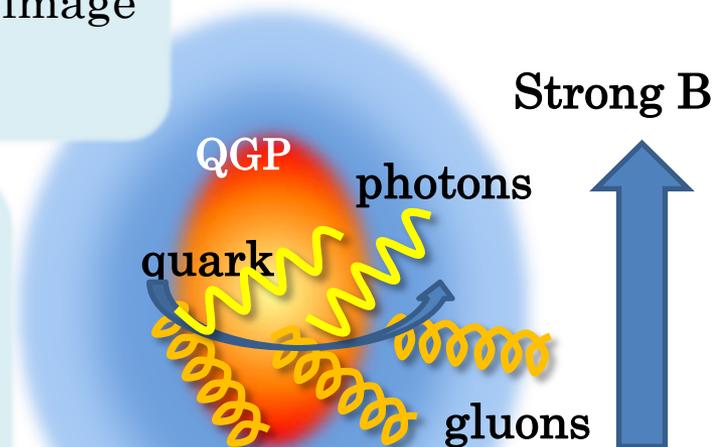
K.Itakura and KH, (2011)

Magnetic field induced photon/gluon emissions

Synchrotron radiation of photon/gluon from quark

K.Tuchin, PRC (2010), [hep-ph/1209.0799] (2012)

See K.Itakura's talk in "Parallel 3C"



## *Summary*

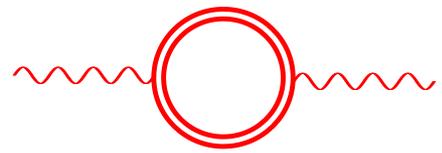
- We **analytically** evaluated the photon vacuum polarization tensor in external magnetic fields.
- We inspected the complex dielectric constant/refraction index around the lowest-Landau-level threshold with a self-consistent treatment.

## *Prospects*

- Application to photon spectra in heavy-ion collisions. **In progress**
- Quarkonia in strong fields  
**In progress, in collaboration with S. H. Lee**

Let's see a direct approach to the initial stage in HIC events by probing phenomena that uniquely occur in strong fields





Scalar coefficient functions  $\chi$  in the proper-time method

Given by a double integral wrt proper time variables associated with two fermion lines

$$\chi_i(r_{\parallel}^2, r_{\perp}^2, B_r) = \frac{\alpha B_r}{4\pi} \int_{-1}^1 d\beta \int_0^{\infty} d\tau \frac{\Gamma_i(\tau, \beta)}{\sin(\tau)} e^{-i(\phi_{\parallel} + \phi_{\perp})\tau}$$
$$i = 0, 1, 2$$

Dimensionless variables

$$B_r = \frac{B}{B_c}, \quad r_{\parallel}^2 = \frac{q_{\parallel}^2}{4m^2}, \quad r_{\perp}^2 = \frac{q_{\perp}^2}{4m^2}$$

$$q^{\mu} = (q^0, q_{\perp}, 0, q^3)$$
$$q_{\parallel}^{\mu} = (q^0, 0, 0, q^3)$$
$$q_{\perp}^{\mu} = (0, q_{\perp}, 0, 0)$$

Integrands having strong oscillation

$$\begin{cases} \Gamma_0(\tau, \beta) = \cos(\beta\tau) - \beta \sin(\beta\tau) \cot(\tau) \\ \Gamma_1(\tau, \beta) = (1 - \beta^2) \cos(\tau) - \Gamma_0(\tau, \beta) \\ \Gamma_2(\tau, \beta) = 2 \frac{\cos(\beta\tau) - \cos(\tau)}{\sin^2(\tau)} - \Gamma_0(\tau, \beta) \end{cases}$$

Schwinger, Adler, Shabad, Urrutia,  
Tsai and Eber, Dittrich and Gies

$$\phi_{\parallel}(r_{\parallel}^2, B_r) = \frac{1}{B_r} \{1 - (1 - \beta^2) r_{\parallel}^2\}$$
$$\phi_{\perp}(r_{\parallel}^2, B_r) = -\frac{2r_{\perp}^2}{B_r} \cdot \frac{\cos(\beta\tau) - \cos(\tau)}{\sin(\tau)}$$

Exponentiated trig-functions generate strongly oscillating behavior with arbitrarily high frequency.

# Analytic calculation of the double integral

$$\chi_i(r_{\parallel}^2, r_{\perp}^2, B_r) = \frac{\alpha B_r}{4\pi} \int_{-1}^1 d\beta \int_0^{\infty} d\tau \frac{\Gamma_i(\tau, \beta)}{\sin(\tau)} e^{-i(\phi_{\parallel} + \phi_{\perp})\tau}$$

$$\phi_{\perp}(r_{\parallel}^2, B_r) = \eta \cdot \frac{\cos(\beta\tau) - \cos(\tau)}{\sin(\tau)}$$

$$\eta = -2 \frac{r_{\parallel}^2}{B_r} = \frac{|\mathbf{q}_{\perp}|^2}{2|eB|}$$

$$u = \eta / \sin \tau$$

## Two important relations

$$\star e^{-iu \cos(\beta\tau)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2 - \delta_{n0}) I_n(-iu) e^{in\beta\tau}$$

$$\star e^{i\eta \cot \tau} I_n(-iu) = \eta^n e^{-\frac{|\mathbf{q}_{\perp}|^2}{2|eB|}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\ell!}{(\ell+n)!} [L_{\ell}^n(\eta)]^2 (1 - e^{-2i\tau}) e^{-(2\ell+n)i\tau}$$

Associated Laguerre polynomial

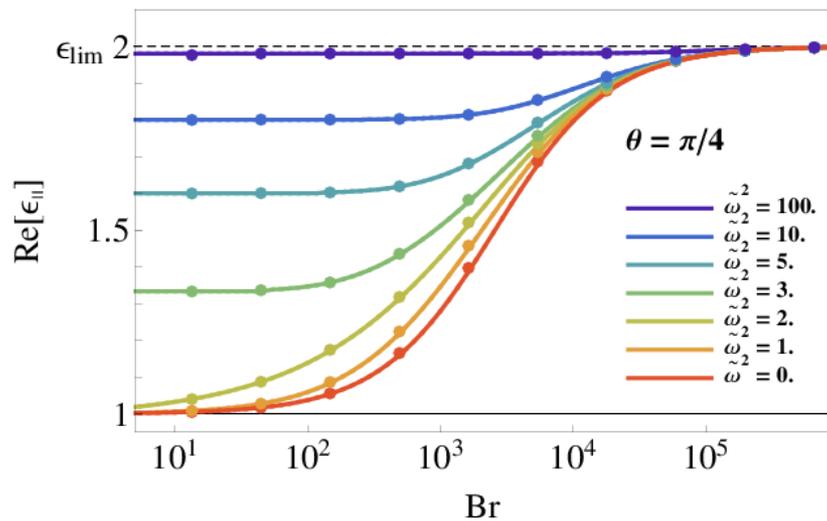
## Any term reduces to either of elementary integrals.

$$F_{\ell}^n(r_{\parallel}^2, B_r) = \frac{i}{B_r} \int_{-1}^1 d\beta \int_0^{\infty} d\tau e^{-i(\phi_{\parallel} + 2\ell - n\beta + n)\tau}$$

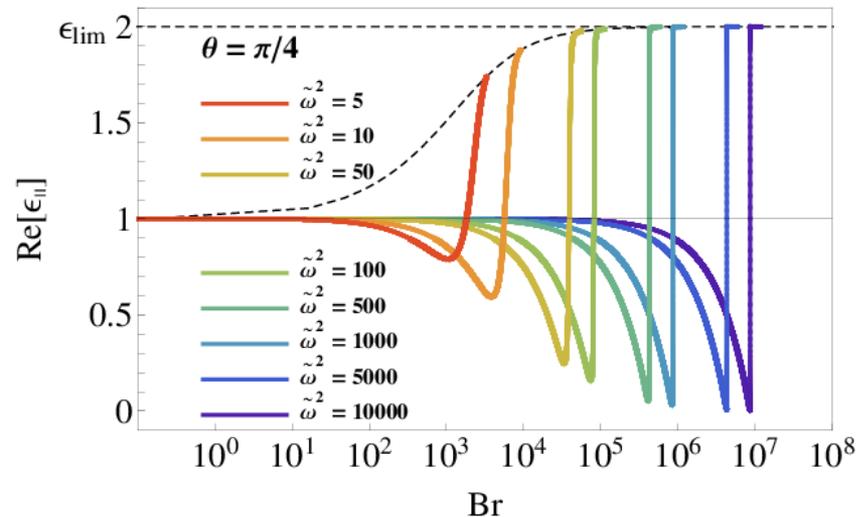
$$G_{\ell}^n(r_{\parallel}^2, B_r) = \frac{i}{B_r} \int_{-1}^1 d\beta \int_0^{\infty} d\tau \beta e^{-i(\phi_{\parallel} + 2\ell - n\beta + n)\tau}$$

$$H_{\ell}^n(r_{\parallel}^2, B_r) = \frac{i}{B_r} \int_{-1}^1 d\beta \int_0^{\infty} d\tau \beta^2 e^{-i(\phi_{\parallel} + 2\ell - n\beta + n)\tau}$$

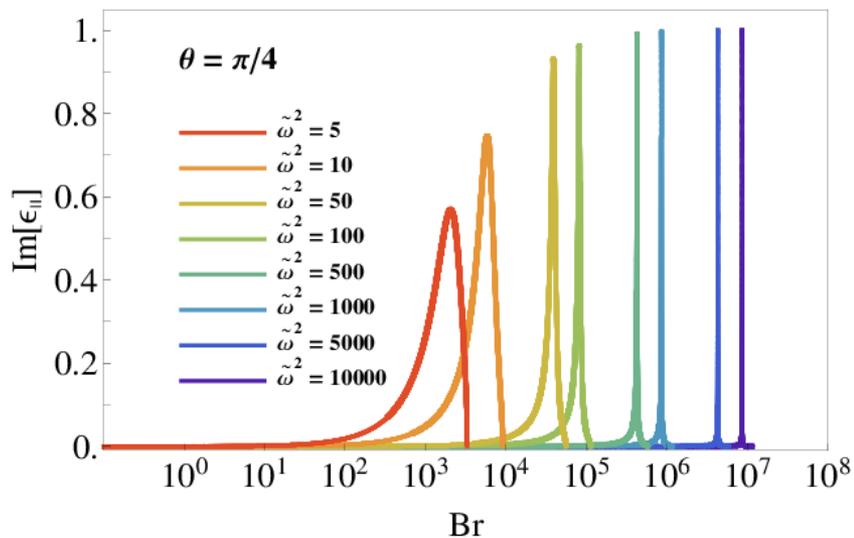
Real part of  $\varepsilon$  on stable branch



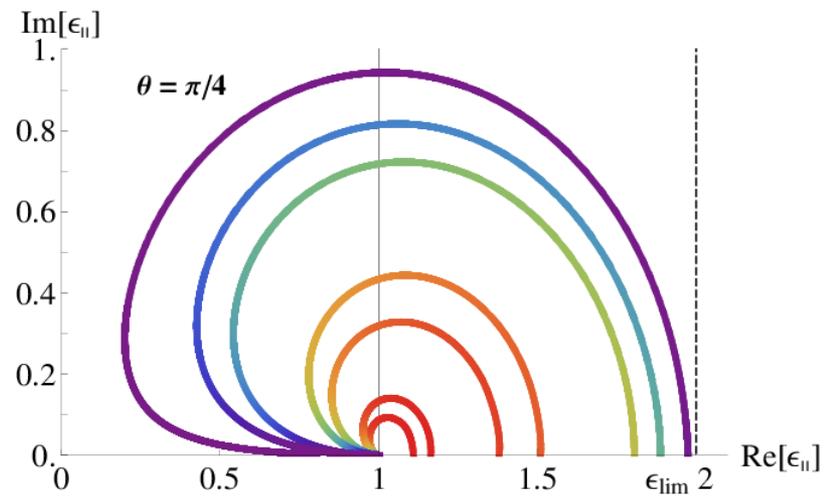
Real part of  $\varepsilon$  on unstable branch



Imaginary part of  $\varepsilon$  on unstable branch



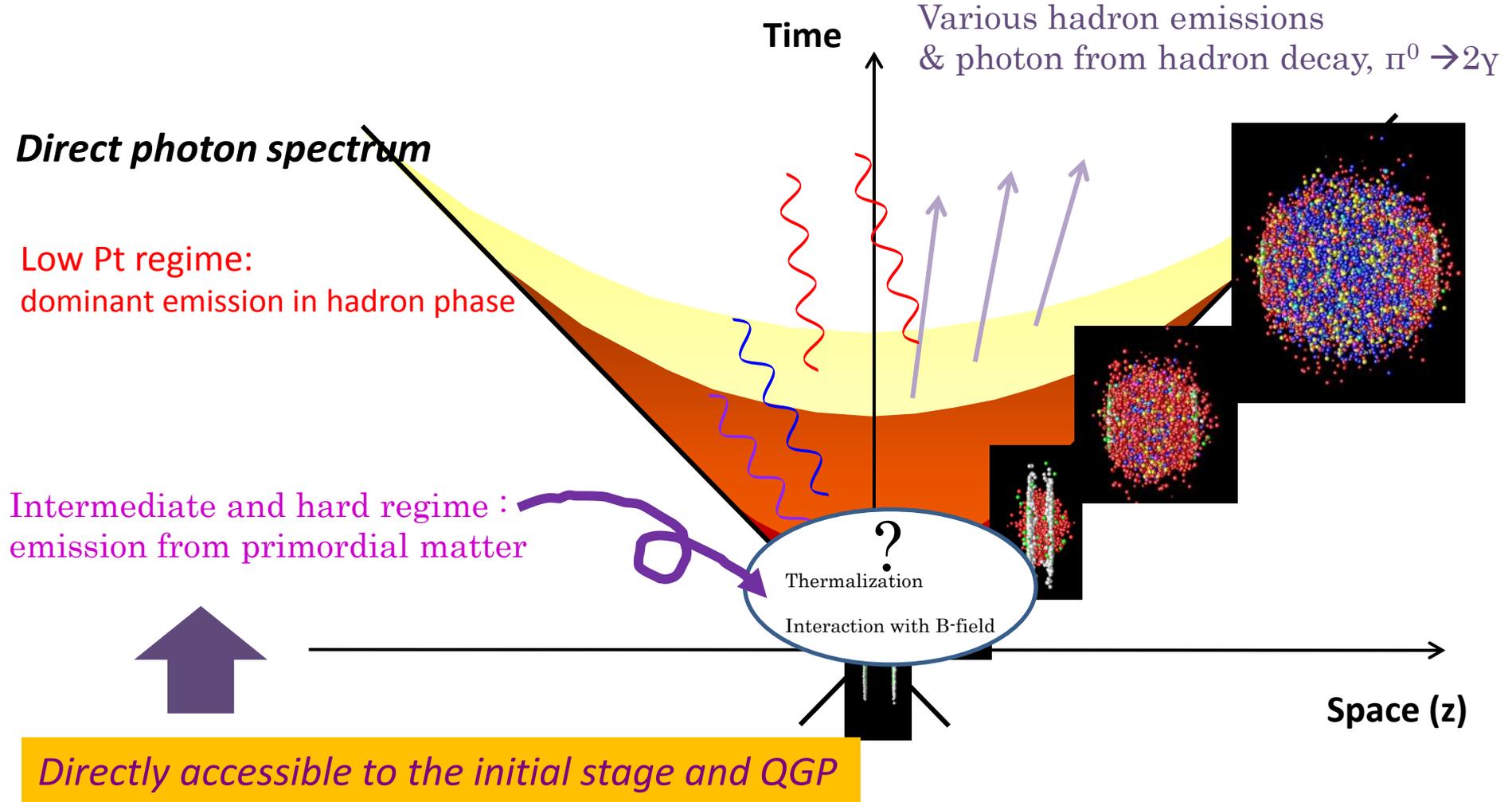
Relation btw real and imaginary parts on unstable branch



$Br = (50, 100, 500, 1000, 5000, 10000, 50000)$

# Direct photon from initial stage in UrHIC

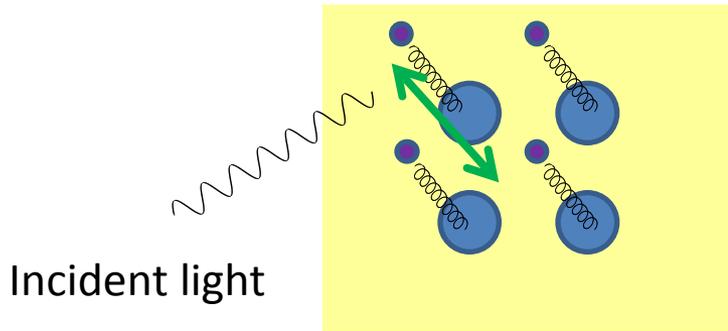
## *Initial and background photons*



Detecting photon from the initial stage  
 $\Leftrightarrow$  Detecting effects of B-field

# Schematic picture of the birefringence

Polarization in dielectric medium :  
a classical argument



$$\mathbf{P} = qN\mathbf{x} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} q : \text{charge} \\ N : \text{density of dipoles} \\ \mathbf{x} : \text{displacement} \end{array} \right.$$

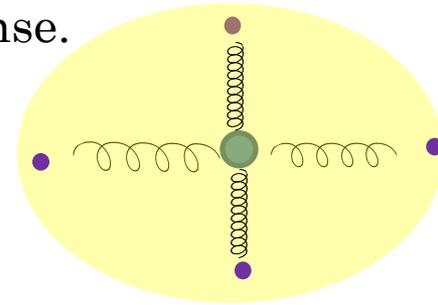
Lorentz-type dispersion :



$$\chi \propto \frac{1}{\omega^2 - \omega_0^2 + i\gamma\omega}$$

with characteristic frequency :  $\omega_0^2 = U/m$

Anisotropic constants result  
in an anisotropic response.



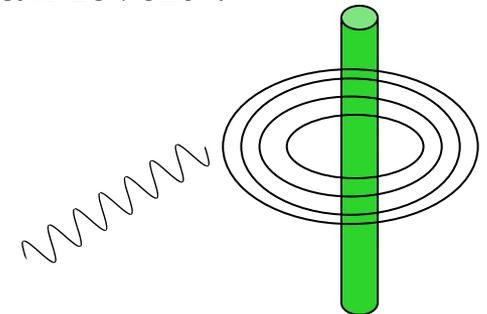
What happens with the anisotropic (discretized)  
spectrum by the Landau-levels ?

$$m\ddot{\mathbf{x}} + \gamma\dot{\mathbf{x}} + U\mathbf{x} = q\mathbf{E}$$

Dissipation

Linear bound force

Incident light field



# Close look at the integrals

*What dynamics is encoded in the scalar functions ?*

$$\begin{aligned} F_\ell^n(r_\parallel^2, B_r) &= I_{\ell\Delta}^n(r_\parallel^2) \\ G_\ell^n(r_\parallel^2, B_r) &= \mathcal{G}_\ell^n [ I_{\ell\Delta}^n(r_\parallel^2) ; r_\parallel^2, B_r ] \\ H_\ell^n(r_\parallel^2, B_r) &= \mathcal{H}_\ell^n [ I_{\ell\Delta}^n(r_\parallel^2) ; r_\parallel^2, B_r ] \end{aligned}$$

$$I_{\ell\Delta}^n(r_\parallel^2) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}} \left[ \arctan \left( \frac{b + 2a}{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}} \right) - \arctan \left( \frac{b - 2a}{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}} \right) \right]$$

$$a = r_\parallel^2, \quad b = -nB_r, \quad c = (1 - r_\parallel^2) + (2\ell + n)B_r$$

**An imaginary part representing a real photon decay**

$$b^2 - 4ac = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (-nB_r)^2 - 4r_\parallel^2 [(1 - r_\parallel^2) + (2\ell + n)B_r] = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \quad q_\parallel^2 = \left[ \sqrt{m^2 + 2\ell eB} + \sqrt{m^2 + 2(\ell + n)eB} \right]^2$$

**Invariant mass of a fermion-pair in the Landau levels**

# Analytic results!

*Applicable to any momentum regime and field strength !*  
*Applicable to both on-shell and off-shell photon!*

$$\chi_i = \frac{\alpha B_r}{4\pi} e^{-\eta} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2 - \delta_{n0}) \Omega_{\ell i}^n [ F_\ell^n, G_\ell^n, H_\ell^n ]$$

Sum wrt Landau levels

Combination of known functions

Photon decay channel opens at every Landau level

$$I_{\ell\Delta}^n(r_{\parallel}^2) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{(r_{\parallel}^2 - s_-)(r_{\parallel}^2 - s_+)}} \log \left| \frac{a-c-\sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{a-c+\sqrt{b^2-4ac}} \right| & (r_{\parallel}^2 < s_-) \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{|(r_{\parallel}^2 - s_-)(r_{\parallel}^2 - s_+)|}} \left[ \arctan \left( \frac{b+2a}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}} \right) - \arctan \left( \frac{b-2a}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}} \right) \right] & (s_- < r_{\parallel}^2 < s_+) \\ \frac{1}{2\sqrt{(r_{\parallel}^2 - s_-)(r_{\parallel}^2 - s_+)}} \left[ \log \left| \frac{a-c-\sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{a-c+\sqrt{b^2-4ac}} \right| + 2\pi i \right] & (s_+ < r_{\parallel}^2) \end{cases}$$