

NLO BFKL in $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ collisions

A. Papa

Università della Calabria & INFN - Cosenza

Low-x 2008

6-10 July, 2008, Kolimbari (Crete, Greece)

In collaboration with F. Caporale and D.Yu. Ivanov

- 1 The $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ total cross section
 - Introduction and Motivations
 - The BFKL approach
- 2 Theoretical background
 - Build-up of the amplitude
 - Series representation
- 3 Numerical results
- 4 Discussion and conclusions

- 1 The $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ total cross section
 - Introduction and Motivations
 - The BFKL approach
- 2 Theoretical background
 - Build-up of the amplitude
 - Series representation
- 3 Numerical results
- 4 Discussion and conclusions

Introduction and Motivations

$\sigma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*}$ for large photon virtualities is fully **under the control of perturbative QCD**

- Fixed-order calculations
 - LO (quark box) [V.M. Budnev et al. (1974)] [I. Schienbein (2002)]
 - NLO [M. Cacciari et al. (2001)]
- All-order resummations
 - Double logs [J. Bartels and M. Lublinsky (2003), (2004)]
 - Leading log BFKL [J. Bartels, A. De Roeck and H. Lotter (1996)]
[A. Bialas, W. Czyz and W. Florkowski (1998)]
[S.J. Brodsky, F. Hautmann and D.E. Soper (1997)]
[J. Kwiecinski and L. Motyka (1999), (2000)]
[M. Boonekamp et al. (1999)]
[J. Bartels, C. Ewerz and R. Staritzbichler (2000)]
[N.N. Nikolaev, J. Speth and V.R. Zoller (2001), (2002)]
 - Next-to-leading log BFKL [S.J. Brodsky et al. (1999), (2002)]

- 1 The $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ total cross section
 - Introduction and Motivations
 - The BFKL approach
- 2 Theoretical background
 - Build-up of the amplitude
 - Series representation
- 3 Numerical results
- 4 Discussion and conclusions

The BFKL approach

Forward scattering $\gamma^* + \gamma^* \text{ for } s \rightarrow \infty$

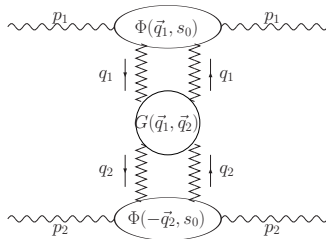
- BFKL approach: convolution of the **Green's function** of two interacting Reggeized gluons and of the **impact factors** for the $\gamma^* \rightarrow \gamma^*$ transition

- Valid both in **LLA** (resummation of all terms $(\alpha_s \ln s)^n$)
NLA (resummation of all terms $\alpha_s (\alpha_s \ln s)^n$)

- The **Green's function** is determined through the **BFKL equation**
[Ya.Ya. Balitsky, V.S. Fadin, E.A. Kuraev, L.N. Lipatov (1975)]

- The forward kernel of the BFKL equation is completely known in the NLA
[V.S. Fadin, L.N. Lipatov (1998)] [G. Camici, M. Ciafaloni (1998)]

- The calculation of the $\gamma^* \rightarrow \gamma^*$ impact factors has been completed
[V.S. Fadin, D.Yu. Ivanov, M.I. Kotsky (2003)]
[J. Bartels et al. (2001-2004)]



- 1 The $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ total cross section
 - Introduction and Motivations
 - The BFKL approach
- 2 **Theoretical background**
 - **Build-up of the amplitude**
 - Series representation
- 3 Numerical results
- 4 Discussion and conclusions

Build-up of the amplitude

$$\mathcal{I}m_s(\mathcal{A}) = \frac{s}{(2\pi)^2} \int \frac{d^2\vec{q}_1}{\vec{q}_1^2} \Phi_1(\vec{q}_1, s_0) \int \frac{d^2\vec{q}_2}{\vec{q}_2^2} \Phi_2(-\vec{q}_2, s_0) \int_{\delta-i\infty}^{\delta+i\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right)^\omega G_\omega(\vec{q}_1, \vec{q}_2)$$

$$\text{BFKL equation: } \delta^2(\vec{q}_1 - \vec{q}_2) = \omega G_\omega(\vec{q}_1, \vec{q}_2) - \int d^2\vec{q} K(\vec{q}_1, \vec{q}) G_\omega(\vec{q}, \vec{q}_2)$$

With operator notation in the transverse momentum space:

$$\hat{1} = (\omega - \hat{K}) \hat{G}_\omega \quad \longrightarrow \quad \hat{G}_\omega = (\omega - \hat{K})^{-1}$$
$$\hat{K} = \bar{\alpha}_s \hat{K}^0 + \bar{\alpha}_s^2 \hat{K}^1, \quad \bar{\alpha}_s = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi}$$

LO eigenfunctions of the LLA kernel: $\{|\nu\rangle\}$

$$\hat{K}^0|\nu\rangle = \chi(\nu)|\nu\rangle, \quad \chi(\nu) = 2\psi(1) - \psi\left(\frac{1}{2} + i\nu\right) - \psi\left(\frac{1}{2} - i\nu\right)$$

$$\langle\vec{q}|\nu\rangle = \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{2}} (\vec{q}^2)^{i\nu - \frac{1}{2}}, \quad \langle\nu'|\nu\rangle = \int \frac{d^2\vec{q}}{2\pi^2} (\vec{q}^2)^{i\nu - i\nu' - 1} = \delta(\nu - \nu')$$

$\sigma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*}$ in leading log BFKL

$$\sigma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*}(s, Q_1, Q_2) = \sum_{i,k=T,L} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 Q_1 Q_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2}\right)^{i\nu} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right)^{\bar{\alpha}_s \chi(\nu)}$$

$$F_T(\nu) = F_T(-\nu) = \alpha \alpha_s \left(\sum_q e_q^2\right) \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\left(\frac{3}{2} - i\nu\right) \left(\frac{3}{2} + i\nu\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - i\nu\right)^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} + i\nu\right)^2}{\Gamma(2 - i\nu)\Gamma(2 + i\nu)}$$

$$F_L(\nu) = F_L(-\nu) = \alpha \alpha_s \left(\sum_q e_q^2\right) \pi \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} - i\nu\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + i\nu\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - i\nu\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} + i\nu\right)}{\Gamma(2 - i\nu)\Gamma(2 + i\nu)}$$

Next-to-leading log BFKL Green's function

$$\hat{G}_\omega = (\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \hat{K}^0)^{-1} + (\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \hat{K}^0)^{-1} \left(\bar{\alpha}_s^2 \hat{K}^1 \right) (\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \hat{K}^0)^{-1} + \mathcal{O} \left[\left(\bar{\alpha}_s^2 \hat{K}^1 \right)^2 \right]$$

Action of the **full NLA** kernel on the LLA eigenfunctions:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{K}|\nu\rangle &= \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)\chi(\nu)|\nu\rangle + \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R) \left(\chi^{(1)}(\nu) + \frac{\beta_0}{4N_c}\chi(\nu)\ln(\mu_R^2) \right) |\nu\rangle \\ &+ \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R)\frac{\beta_0}{4N_c}\chi(\nu) \left(i\frac{\partial}{\partial\nu} \right) |\nu\rangle, \quad \beta_0 = \frac{11N_c}{3} - \frac{2n_f}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\chi^{(1)}(\nu) = -\frac{\beta_0}{8N_c} \left(\chi^2(\nu) - \frac{10}{3}\chi(\nu) - i\chi'(\nu) \right) + \bar{\chi}(\nu)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\chi}(\nu) &= -\frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{\pi^2 - 4}{3}\chi(\nu) - 6\zeta(3) - \chi''(\nu) - \frac{\pi^3}{\cosh(\pi\nu)} \right. \\ &+ \left. \frac{\pi^2 \sinh(\pi\nu)}{2\nu \cosh^2(\pi\nu)} \left(3 + \left(1 + \frac{n_f}{N_c^3} \right) \frac{11 + 12\nu^2}{16(1 + \nu^2)} \right) + 4\phi(\nu) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\phi(\nu) = 2 \int_0^1 dx \frac{\cos(\nu \ln(x))}{(1+x)\sqrt{x}} \left[\frac{\pi^2}{6} - \text{Li}_2(x) \right]$$

$$\hat{G}_\omega = (\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \hat{K}^0)^{-1} + (\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \hat{K}^0)^{-1} \left(\bar{\alpha}_s^2 \hat{K}^1 \right) (\omega - \bar{\alpha}_s \hat{K}^0)^{-1} + \mathcal{O} \left[\left(\bar{\alpha}_s^2 \hat{K}^1 \right)^2 \right]$$

Action of the **full NLA** kernel on the LLA eigenfunctions:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{K}|\nu\rangle &= \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)\chi(\nu)|\nu\rangle + \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R) \left(\chi^{(1)}(\nu) + \frac{\beta_0}{4N_c} \chi(\nu) \ln(\mu_R^2) \right) |\nu\rangle \\ &+ \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R) \frac{\beta_0}{4N_c} \chi(\nu) \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial \nu} \right) |\nu\rangle, \quad \beta_0 = \frac{11 N_c}{3} - \frac{2n_f}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\chi^{(1)}(\nu) = -\frac{\beta_0}{8N_c} \left(\chi^2(\nu) - \frac{10}{3} \chi(\nu) - i\chi'(\nu) \right) + \bar{\chi}(\nu)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\chi}(\nu) &= -\frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{\pi^2 - 4}{3} \chi(\nu) - 6\zeta(3) - \chi''(\nu) - \frac{\pi^3}{\cosh(\pi\nu)} \right. \\ &+ \left. \frac{\pi^2 \sinh(\pi\nu)}{2\nu \cosh^2(\pi\nu)} \left(3 + \left(1 + \frac{n_f}{N_c^3} \right) \frac{11 + 12\nu^2}{16(1 + \nu^2)} \right) + 4\phi(\nu) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\phi(\nu) = 2 \int_0^1 dx \frac{\cos(\nu \ln(x))}{(1+x)\sqrt{x}} \left[\frac{\pi^2}{6} - \text{Li}_2(x) \right]$$

$\sigma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*}$ with next-to-leading log BFKL Green's function

$$\sigma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 Q_1 Q_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2}\right)^{i\nu} \left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right)^{\bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)\chi(\nu)} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \times \left\{ 1 + \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R) \ln\left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right) \left[\bar{\chi}(\nu) + \frac{\beta_0}{8N_c} \chi(\nu) \left(-\chi(\nu) + \frac{10}{3} + 2 \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2} \right) \right] \right\}$$

Invariance under renormalization group and under change of the energy scale s_0 in the NLA \rightarrow

$$\sigma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 Q_1 Q_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2}\right)^{i\nu} \left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right)^{\bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)\chi(\nu)} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \times \left\{ 1 + \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R) A(s_0) + \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R) B(\mu_R) + \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R) \ln\left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right) \left[\bar{\chi}(\nu) + \frac{\beta_0}{8N_c} \chi(\nu) \left(-\chi(\nu) + \frac{10}{3} + 2 \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2} \right) \right] \right\}$$

$$A(s_0) = \chi(\nu) \ln \frac{s_0}{Q_1 Q_2} \quad B(\mu_R) = \frac{\beta_0}{2N_c} \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2}$$

$\sigma_{\gamma^* \gamma^*}$ with next-to-leading log BFKL Green's function

$$\sigma_{\gamma^* \gamma^*} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 Q_1 Q_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right)^{\bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)\chi(\nu)} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \\ \times \left\{ 1 + \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R) \ln \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) \left[\bar{\chi}(\nu) + \frac{\beta_0}{8N_c} \chi(\nu) \left(-\chi(\nu) + \frac{10}{3} + 2 \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2} \right) \right] \right\}$$

Invariance under renormalization group and under change of the energy scale s_0 in the NLA \rightarrow

$$\sigma_{\gamma^* \gamma^*} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 Q_1 Q_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right)^{\bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)\chi(\nu)} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \\ \times \left\{ 1 + \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R) A(s_0) + \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R) B(\mu_R) \right. \\ \left. + \bar{\alpha}_s^2(\mu_R) \ln \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) \left[\bar{\chi}(\nu) + \frac{\beta_0}{8N_c} \chi(\nu) \left(-\chi(\nu) + \frac{10}{3} + 2 \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2} \right) \right] \right\} \\ A(s_0) = \chi(\nu) \ln \frac{s_0}{Q_1 Q_2} \quad B(\mu_R) = \frac{\beta_0}{2N_c} \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2}$$

- 1 The $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ total cross section
 - Introduction and Motivations
 - The BFKL approach
- 2 Theoretical background
 - Build-up of the amplitude
 - Series representation
- 3 Numerical results
- 4 Discussion and conclusions

Series representation

$$Q_1 Q_2 \sigma_{\gamma^* \gamma^*} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left\{ \mathbf{b}_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)^n \mathbf{b}_n \left[\ln^n \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) + d_n(s_0, \mu_R) \ln^{n-1} \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) \right] \right\}$$

$$b_n = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \frac{\chi^n(\nu)}{n!}$$

$$d_n = n \ln \frac{s_0}{Q_1 Q_2} + \frac{\beta_0}{4N_c} \left[\frac{b_{n-1}}{b_n} \left((n+1) \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2} + \frac{5}{3}(n-1) \right) - \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \right] \\ + \frac{1}{b_n} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \frac{\chi^{n-2}(\nu)}{(n-2)!} \bar{\chi}(\nu)$$

Series representation

$$Q_1 Q_2 \sigma_{\gamma^* \gamma^*} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left\{ \mathbf{b}_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)^n \mathbf{b}_n \left[\ln^n \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) + d_n(s_0, \mu_R) \ln^{n-1} \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) \right] \right\}$$

$$\mathbf{b}_n = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \frac{\chi^n(\nu)}{n!}$$

$$d_n = n \ln \frac{s_0}{Q_1 Q_2} + \frac{\beta_0}{4N_c} \left[\frac{b_{n-1}}{b_n} \left((n+1) \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2} + \frac{5}{3}(n-1) \right) - \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \right]$$
$$+ \frac{1}{b_n} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \frac{\chi^{n-2}(\nu)}{(n-2)!} \bar{\chi}(\nu)$$

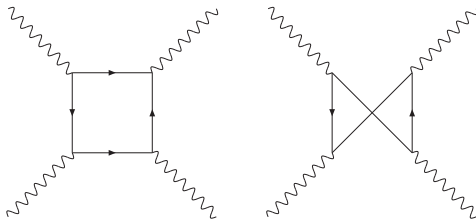
Series representation

$$Q_1 Q_2 \sigma_{\gamma^* \gamma^*} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left\{ \mathbf{b}_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \bar{\alpha}_s(\mu_R)^n \mathbf{b}_n \left[\ln^n \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) + d_n(s_0, \mu_R) \ln^{n-1} \left(\frac{s}{s_0} \right) \right] \right\}$$

$$\mathbf{b}_n = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \frac{\chi^n(\nu)}{n!}$$

$$d_n = n \ln \frac{s_0}{Q_1 Q_2} + \frac{\beta_0}{4N_c} \left[\frac{b_{n-1}}{b_n} \left((n+1) \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{Q_1 Q_2} + \frac{5}{3}(n-1) \right) - \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \right]$$
$$+ \frac{1}{b_n} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \left(\frac{Q_1^2}{Q_2^2} \right)^{i\nu} \sum_{i,k=T,L} F_i(\nu) F_k(-\nu) \frac{\chi^{n-2}(\nu)}{(n-2)!} \bar{\chi}(\nu)$$

Inclusion of low-energy terms



$$\sigma_{QBOX}^{\gamma^* \gamma^*}(s, Q_1, Q_2) = \sum_q e_q^4 \left(\sigma_{TT} + 2\sigma_{TS} + \sigma_{SS} \right)$$

[V.M. Budnev et al. (1974)]

$$\sigma_{QBOX}^{\gamma^* \gamma^*}(s, Q_1, Q_2) \sim \alpha_s^2 (\ln s)/s$$

Numerical analysis - The “pure” BFKL regime

$$Q_1 = Q_2 \equiv Q \quad \text{“pure” BFKL regime}$$

Series representation

LLA: b_n coefficients (Q -independent)

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} b_0 = 875.90 & b_1 = 1977.90 & b_2 = 2400.76 & b_3 = 1997.37 & b_4 = 1270.78 & \\ & b_5 = 654.99 & b_6 = 284.05 & b_7 = 106.34 & b_8 = 35.04 & \end{array}$$

NLA: $d_n(s_0, \mu_R)$ coefficients ($s_0 = Q^2 = \mu_R^2$, $n_f = 4$)

$$\begin{array}{cccc} d_1 = 0. & d_2 = -4.24 & d_3 = -13.16 & d_4 = -26.78 \\ d_5 = -45.15 & d_6 = -68.28 & d_7 = -96.20 & d_8 = -128.91 \end{array}$$

Large NLA corrections!

d_n coefficients negative and increasingly large in absolute value.

Optimization of the perturbative expansion needed!

- Principle of minimal sensitivity (PMS) [P.M. Stevenson (1981)]: require the minimal sensitivity to the change of both s_0 and μ_R .
- **Strategy**: for each fixed s calculate the amplitude for varying s_0 and μ_R , up to finding the optimal values for which the amplitude is least sensitive to variations of them.
- In practice, there are wide regions in s_0 and μ_R where the amplitude is very weakly dependent on s_0 and μ_R ; the stationary point in the (s_0, μ_R) -plane is typically a (local) maximum.

BLM method

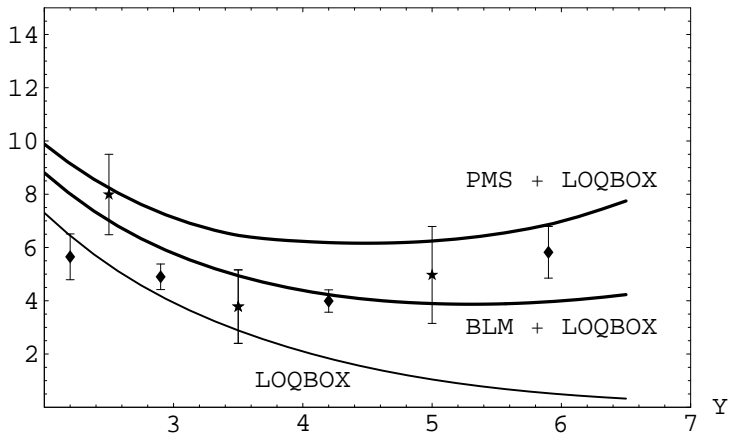
- [S.J. Brodsky, G.P. Lepage, P.B. Mackenzie (1983)] optimization method: perform a finite renormalization to a physical scheme and then choose the renormalization scale in order to remove the β_0 -dependent part.

Strategy:

- finite renormalization to the MOM-scheme ($\xi=0$)

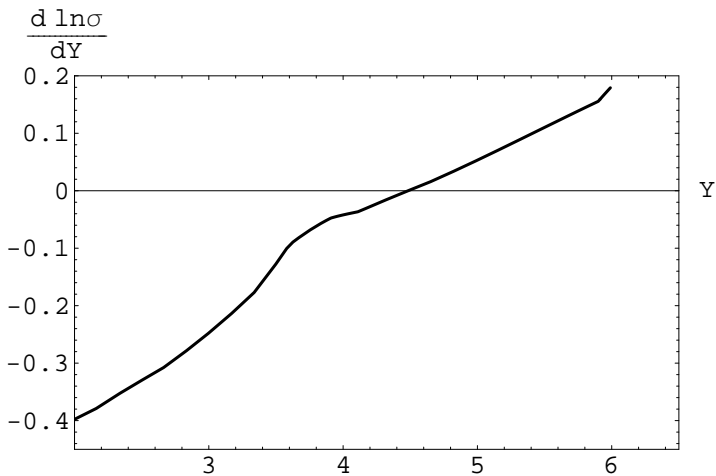
$$\alpha_S \rightarrow \alpha_S \left[1 + T_{MOM}(\xi=0) \frac{\alpha_S}{\pi} \right]$$
$$T_{MOM}(\xi=0) = T_{MOM}^{conf} + T_{MOM}^{\beta}$$
$$T_{MOM}^{conf} = \frac{N_C}{8} \frac{17}{2} l \quad T_{MOM}^{\beta} = -\frac{\beta_0}{2} \left[1 + \frac{2}{3} l \right] \quad l \simeq 2.3439$$

- s_0 and μ_R chosen in order to make the term proportional to β_0 in the resulting amplitude vanish (the β_0 -dependence in the series representation of the amplitude is hidden into the d_n coefficients)
- optimal values for s_0 and μ_R determined according to “minimum sensitivity”

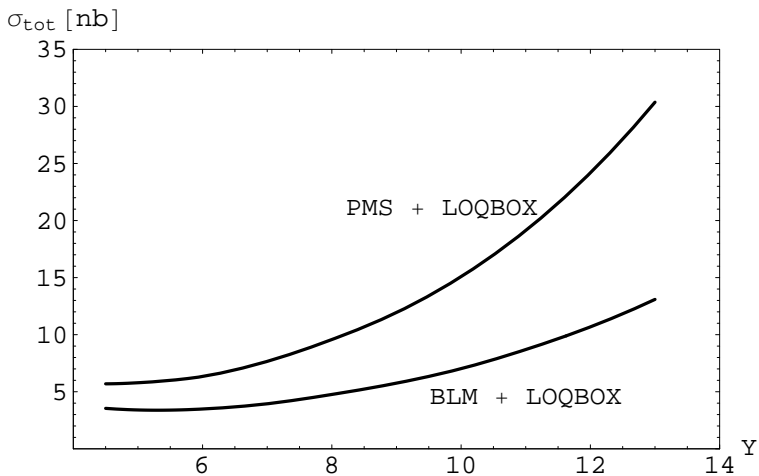
$\sigma_{\text{tot}} [\text{nb}]$ 

$$Q^2 = 17\text{GeV}^2 \quad (n_f = 4), \quad Y \equiv \ln\left(\frac{s}{Q^2}\right)$$

Experimental data: OPAL (stars, $Q^2=18 \text{ GeV}^2$), L3 (diamonds, $Q^2=16 \text{ GeV}^2$)



$$Q^2 = 17\text{GeV}^2 \quad (n_f = 4), \quad Y \equiv \ln\left(\frac{s}{Q^2}\right)$$



$$Q^2 = 20\text{GeV}^2 \quad (n_f = 5), \quad Y \equiv \ln\left(\frac{s}{Q^2}\right)$$

Discussion and conclusions

The approximation of using LO impact factors + NLO BFKL Green's function is not new:

- $\gamma^*\gamma^* \rightarrow VV$, with V a light vector meson [Enberg et al. (2005)]
- $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ total cross section [Brodsky et al. (2002)]

Novelties in our approach w.r.t. the latter:

- optimization procedures performed on the amplitude itself and not on the NLO Pomeron intercept
- LO impact factors with “mandatory” NLO terms
- two optimization methods used to have a control of systematic effects

The reason for being PMS systematic higher than BLM could be that the stationary points in the space of parameters (s_0, μ_R) turn to be always maxima.

Looking forward to $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ collisions in NLO BFKL
(instead of NLO BFKL in $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ collisions!)

Discussion and conclusions

The approximation of using LO impact factors + NLO BFKL Green's function is not new:

- $\gamma^*\gamma^* \rightarrow VV$, with V a light vector meson [Enberg et al. (2005)]
- $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ total cross section [Brodsky et al. (2002)]

Novelties in our approach w.r.t. the latter:

- optimization procedures performed on the amplitude itself and not on the NLO Pomeron intercept
- LO impact factors with “mandatory” NLO terms
- two optimization methods used to have a control of systematic effects

The reason for being PMS systematic higher than BLM could be that the stationary points in the space of parameters (s_0, μ_R) turn to be always maxima.

Looking forward to $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ collisions in NLO BFKL
(instead of NLO BFKL in $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ collisions!)