Photoproduction prospects at the EIC

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PHOTON 2017 CERN, Geneva May 24, 2017

Many thanks to T. Ullrich and the BNL EIC Task Force for providing material to this talk!

Electron-Ion Collider

Investigate with precision the structure of nuclei (and p)

Central themes:

- Probe the gluon densities and the onset of saturation in nucleons and nuclei
- Map the transverse spatial and spin distributions of partons in the gluon-dominated regime



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Requirements:

- Collider \Rightarrow Kinematic reach well into gluon-dominated regime
- Electron beams \Rightarrow Precision of the electromagnetic interaction
- Polarized e&p beams \Rightarrow Correlations of gluon distributions with the nucleon spin
- Heavy ion beams \Rightarrow Amplification, access large gluon densities

EIC science

EIC Will be the the Ultimate QCD machine:

- The world's first polarized electron-polarized proton collider
- The world's first electron-heavy ion collider
- Luminosities: a hundred to up to a thousand times HERA

Some important questions

- What is the fundamental quark-gluon structure of light and heavy nuclei?
- What is the role of saturated strong gluon fields
- How does the proton spin add up to 1/2
- How do partons hadronize, how does the nucleus affect this? Study confinement.

Photo- (and electro)production is a powerful tool to study hadron structure!



One key task: access the small-x gluon

Ever growing $G(x,Q^2)$?



Avoid violating unitarity: Non-Linear Evolution

- Recombination compensates gluon splitting
- New evolution equations at low-x & low to moderate Q²
- Saturation of gluon densities characterized by scale $Q_s(x)$
 - Color Glass Condensate effective theory of QCD

Large gluon densities at the EIC

Enhancement of Q_S with $A \Rightarrow$ saturation regime reached at significantly lower energy (and cost) in nuclei



EIC can go deep inside the saturation region



Key Measurements - Diffraction

Diffractive physics will play a major role in the EIC Especially in eA



 $t\,$: momentum transfer squared $M_X\,$: mass of diffractive final-state

- HERA surprise: ~15% of the DIS events are diffractive!
- Sensitive to gluons, at LO two-gluon exchange $\sigma \sim [g(x,Q^2)]^2$

t can be measured only in exclusive processes (e.g. X=J/ψ) • Access spatial gluon distribution (Fourier conjugate to b)

EIC capabilities

Explore nuclear structure in a new kinematical domain

Coverage for exclusive processes in the small-x region



What do the diffractive cross sections tell us

 $\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{\mathrm{coh}}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{1}{16\pi} \left| \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle \right|^2$ **Coherent:** target remains intact ~ average density **Incoherent**: target dissociation ($f \neq i$) $\propto \sum \langle i | \mathcal{A} | f \rangle^{\dagger} \langle f | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle$ $\sigma_{
m incoh}$ $f \neq i$ $= \sum_{f} \langle i | \mathcal{A} | f \rangle^{\dagger} \langle f | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle - \langle i | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle^{\dagger} \langle i | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle$ Incoherent/Breakup do/dt $= \langle i | |\mathcal{A}|^2 | i \rangle - |\langle i | \mathcal{A} | i \rangle|^2 = \langle |\mathcal{A}|^2 \rangle - |\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle|^2$ **Coherent/Elastic** Variance of amplitude \mathcal{A}

 \Rightarrow measure of fluctuating source density

H. I. MIETTINEN AND J. PUMPLIN PHYS. REV. D18 (1978) 1696

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 $\mathsf{E}_{1} \mathsf{I}_{1} \mathsf$ t₂

|t|

 $t_i \sim 1/R^2$

t1

Exclusive Vector Meson Production

Describing diffractive scattering at high energy: dipole picture

$$\mathcal{A} = \int \mathrm{d}^2 b \mathrm{d}^2 r \mathrm{d} z e^{-ib \cdot \Delta} \Psi_{\gamma}(r, z, Q^2) \sigma_{\mathrm{dip}}(r, b, x) \Psi_{\mathrm{VM}}^*(r, z, M^2)$$



Diffractive amplitude: FT coordinate space

momentum space



Sensitive to geometry

Proton structure

Recall: incoherent cross section ~ fluctuations coherent cross section ~ average density



Incoherent cross section clearly underestimated with only color charge fluctuations

Proton structure

 $\gamma p \rightarrow J/\Psi p, W = 75 \,\mathrm{GeV}$

Recall: incoherent cross section ~ fluctuations coherent cross section ~ average density



HERA data requires large geometric fluctuations

Vector Meson Production in eA



- Diffractive pattern for coherent (non-breakup) part
- Saturation effects seen especially in light meson production
- Need: t resolution, kinematical reach, luminosity for x binning

T. Toll and TU, PRC 87 (2013) 024913

Spatial Gluon Distribution from do/dt

Diffractive vector meson production: $e + Au \rightarrow e' + Au' + J/\psi$

• Momentum transfer $t = |p_{Au}-p_{Au'}|^2$ conjugate to b_T



Can extract transverse profile of small-x gluons!

Fluctuations in the nuclear structure

For nuclear targets, two sources of fluctuations

- Nucleon positions
- Sub-nucleon fluctuations



 $Pb + Pb \rightarrow J/\Psi + Pb + Pb, \sqrt{s} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}, y = 0$ 10^{3} Geometric and Q_s fluctuations in the nucleons No subnucleon fluctuations 10^{2} $d\sigma/dtdy \ [mb/GeV^2]$ 10^{1} Incoherent 10^{0} Coherent 10^{-1} 10^{-2} 0.50.10.20.3 0.40.6 0.70.0 $|t| \, [\text{GeV}^2]$ H.M., B Schenke, arXiv:1703.09256 ~0.4 fm

J/ψ photoproduction in γ+Pb sensitive to smallscale fluctuations

EIC can study

- Q² dependence
- · A dependence

In a more clean environment

Access rare configurations

In incoherent diffraction a largish p_T kick is localized in a nucleon-size area

One nucleon receives a large kick

- Scatters off other nucleons on its path out
- More "ballistic nucleons" in the central events



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- Scatters off other nucleons on its path out
- More "ballistic nucleons" in the central events
- 2nd component of nucleons:
 - Thermal spectra in the rest frame
 - Different p_T!

Ballistic protons seen in Roman pots

• Centrality estimator



Access rare configurations

Larger saturation scale in central events

• Expect to see larger suppression for lighter mesons



Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering

Hard scale provided by virtuality Q²

- Experimentally very clean
- Not affected by VM wave function uncertainty

Access Generalized Parton Distribution Functions







DVCS impact



Inclusive diffraction

Diffractive production of a system of particles with mass M_X^2

Saturation models generally predict more diffractive events in eA compared to ep



Diffractive/total cross section: clear signature of saturation "Day-1" measurement

Inclusive diffraction at large mass

Large mass: nuclear suppression (higher Fock states)



Black disk limit approached more quickly with nuclear targets

Need large center-of-mass energies!

EIC realization

DOE Nuclear Physics Long Range Plan 2015: *"Highest priority for new facility construction"*

Option 1: electron beam to RHIC tunnel

• Focus on energy $eA \sqrt{s} = 90 \, GeV$



Option 2: hadron machine to JLAB

• Focus on luminosity $eA \sqrt{s} \approx 40 \,\text{GeV}$



Status now: NAS review in progress until ~early 2018

Conclusions

- Diffractive processes at the EIC provide a precise tool to study proton and nuclear structure at small-x
- Access saturation phenomena in nuclei
- Map transverse quark and gluon profile of protons and nuclei

Also many other physics opportunities not discussed here

- Nuclear PDFs
- Polarization and spin structure
- Transverse momentum dependent PDFs
- Hadronization/confinement

BACKUPS

Kinematical coverage for vector mesons



Coverage of the saturation region



Diffractive Events: Experimental Side



t can be measured only in exclusive processes (e.g. X=J/ψ)
 Access spatial gluon distribution (Fourier transform t - b)