

Some Anecdotes of Lev Lipatov:

In 1999, Dominique Vautherin held a meeting on small x physics in Paris. Lev Lipatov arrived by plane but his plane was late and there were no more buses from the airport to downtown. So Lev slept the night in the airport. He arrived at the meeting the next morning just in time to give his talk. He had no time to prepare his lecture so he gave it on the board. I soon realized that since he was very tired, all of his explanations were much slower and simpler than was the case in an ordinary presentation. I understood I had a small chance to understand what he was saying. So I began asking him question after question. It was the first talk of Lev that I understood from beginning to end. It was then I understood he had a very simple underlying picture of the physics, and I began to understand the language he was using to describe the small x physics. I also understood our thinking was not much different but our languages of understanding were far apart.

From conversations I had with Lev, I began to understand he did not like (at least early on) the words Color Glass Condensate. He did not understand at that time, if you truly hated a name, then the name was very effective and had achieved its desired effect. That is the irony of strong emotion, and a trick for naming things.

At a DIS meeting in Stara Lesnia Poland, a young student and later postdoc of mine, Yoshi Hatta, was excited to meet Lev. He started talking with Lev one afternoon, and they talked continuously, although not entirely non-stop, for three days. I think after this talk, Yoshi would be thought of by Lev as a “Real Russian Physicist” and that is I think the ultimate complement from a Russian theoretical physicist.. Yoshi developed a deep respect for Lev, and learned about Lev’s intensity. I think it was the only time I saw Lev be a little tired. The experience was a very inspiring one for Yoshi. Yoshi was very young at the time, and he was not tired.