

# *Exclusive factorization beyond leading twist meets saturation physics*

Lech Szymanowski

National Centre for Nuclear Research, Warsaw

in collaboration with

Renaud Boussarie, Michael Fucilla and Samuel Wallon

based on

[R. Boussarie, M. Fucilla, LS, S. Wallon (2407.18203, 2407.18115)]

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Exclusive light vector meson production at the **twist-3** within the shockwave approach

- i.* DVMP in the **non-linear** regime in the transversely polarized case
- ii.* Both **forward** and **non-forward** results
- iii.* **Beyond SCHC** amplitudes
- iiii.* **Coordinate** and **momentum space** representations
- iiiii.* Linearization [**Caron-Huot (2013)**]  $\implies$  **BFKL** results

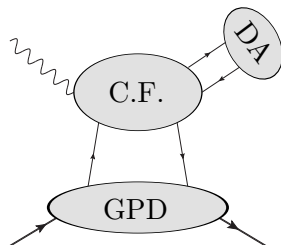
# Deeply virtual meson production (DVMP)

- Exclusive  $\rho$ -meson leptonproduction

$$\gamma^{(*)}(p_\gamma) + P(p_0) \rightarrow \rho(p_\rho) + P(p'_0)$$

- Extensively studied at HERA

- NLO corrections to the production of a longitudinally polarized  $\rho$ -meson at small- $x$



[Ivanov, Kotsky, Papa (2004)]

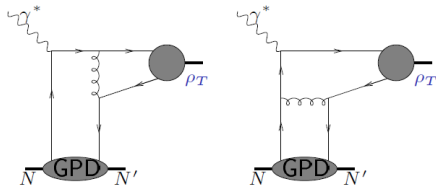
[Boussarie, Grabovsky, Ivanov, LS, Wallon (2017)]

[Mäntysaari, Pentalla (2022)]

# The special case of transversally polarized vector meson production

## Transversally polarized vector meson production starts at **twist-3**

- ▶ the dominant DA of  $\rho_T$  is of twist 2 and chiral-odd ( $[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu]$  coupling)
- ▶ *unfortunately*  $\gamma^* N \rightarrow \rho_T N' = 0$ 
  - ▶ This cancellation is true at any order : such a process would require a helicity transfer of 2 from a photon.
  - ▶ lowest order diagrammatic argument:



$$\gamma^\alpha [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] \gamma_\alpha \rightarrow 0$$

[Diehl, Gousset, Pire (1999)], [Collins, Diehl (2000)]

Collinear treatment at twist-3 leads to **end point singularities**

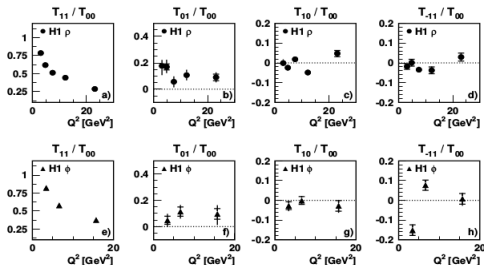
[Mankiewicz, Piller (2000)] [Anikin, Teryaev (2002)]

# Transversely polarized vector meson production

- HERA data for the  $\rho$  and  $\phi$  meson

[F.D. Aaron et al. (2010)]

$$\gamma^*(\lambda_\gamma)p \rightarrow V(\lambda_V)p \quad \lambda_\gamma = 0, 1, -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_V = 0, 1, -1$$



# *Transversely polarized $\rho$ -meson production*

- Momentum space impact factor for the exclusive  $\rho$ -meson production at the twist-3 in the dilute limit (BFKL scheme) and forward case

[Anikin, Ivanov, Pire, LS, Wallon (2009)]

- Phenomenological studies at small- $x$

[Besse, LS, Wallon (2013)]

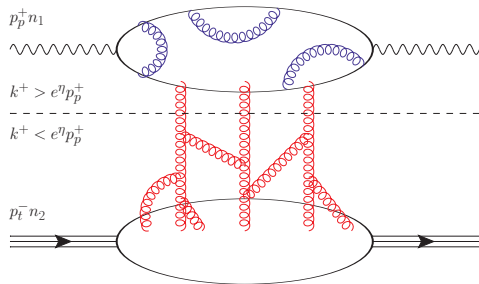
[Bolognino, Celiberto, Ivanov, Papa (2018)]

[Bolognino, Szczurek, Schäfer (2019)]

[Mäntysaari, Pentalla (2022)]

# Shockwave approach

- High-energy approximation  $s = (p_p + p_t)^2 \gg \{Q^2\}$



$$p_p = p_p^+ n_1 - \frac{Q^2}{2p_p^+} n_2$$

$$p_t = \frac{m_t^2}{2p_t^-} n_1 + p_t^- n_2$$

$$p_p^+ \sim p_t^- \sim \sqrt{\frac{s}{2}}$$

$$n_1^2 = n_2^2 = 0 \quad n_1 \cdot n_2 = 1$$

- Separation of the gluonic field into “fast” (quantum) part and “slow” (classical) part through a rapidity parameter  $\eta < 0$

[I. Balitsky (1996-2001)]

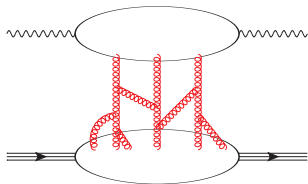
$$\mathcal{A}^\mu(k^+, k^-, \vec{k}) = A^\mu(k^+ > e^\eta p_p^+, k^-, \vec{k}) + b^\mu(k^+ < e^\eta p_p^+, k^-, \vec{k})$$

$$e^\eta \ll 1$$

# Shockwave approach

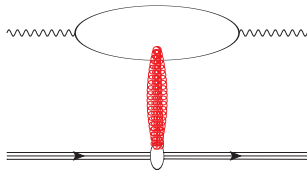
- Large longitudinal boost:  $\Lambda = \sqrt{\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta}} \sim \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_t}$

$$\begin{cases} b^+(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) &= \Lambda^{-1} b_0^+(\Lambda x^+, \Lambda^{-1} x^-, \vec{x}) \\ b^-(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) &= \Lambda b_0^-(\Lambda x^+, \Lambda^{-1} x^-, \vec{x}) \\ b^i(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) &= b_0^i(\Lambda x^+, \Lambda^{-1} x^-, \vec{x}) \end{cases}$$



$$b_0^\mu(x)$$

boost  $\rightarrow$



$$b^\mu(x^+, x^-, \vec{x}) = \delta(x^+) \mathbf{B}(\vec{x}) n_2^\mu + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-1})$$

*Shockwave* approximation

- Light-cone gauge  $A \cdot n_2 = 0$

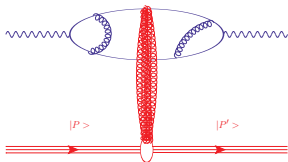
$A \cdot b = 0 \implies$  *Simple effective Lagrangian*





# Shockwave approach

- Factorization in the shockwave approximation



$$\mathcal{M}^\eta = N_c \int d^d z_1 d^d z_2 \Phi^\eta(z_1, z_2) \langle P' | \mathcal{U}_{12}^\eta(z_1, z_2) | P \rangle$$

- Dipole operator

$$\mathcal{U}_{ij}^\eta = 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr} \left( V_{\vec{z}_i}^\eta V_{\vec{z}_j}^{\eta\dagger} \right)$$

- Evolution equations

- Balitsky-JIMWLK** evolution equations

[Balitsky (1995)]

[Jalilian-Marian, Iancu, McLerran, Weigert, Kovner, Leonidov]

- Large  $N_c \rightarrow$  **Balitsky-Kovchegov (BK)** non-linear equation

[Balitsky (1995)] [Kovchegov (1999)]

- Evolution at the NLO

[Balitsky, Chirilli (2007)] [Kovner, Lublinsky, Mulian (2013)]

# Theoretical framework

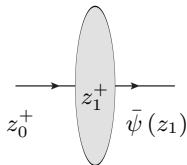
- **Effective background field operator** formalism of small- $x$  physics

$$[\psi_{\text{eff}}(z_0)]_{z_0^+ < 0} = \psi(z_0) - \int d^D z_2 G_0(z_{02}) (V_{z_2}^+ - 1) \gamma^+ \psi(z_2) \delta(z_2^+)$$

$$[\bar{\psi}_{\text{eff}}(z_0)]_{z_0^+ < 0} = \bar{\psi}(z_0) + \int d^D z_1 \bar{\psi}(z_1) \gamma^+ (V_{z_1} - 1) G_0(z_{10}) \delta(z_1^+)$$

$$[A_{\text{eff}}^{\mu a}(z_0)]_{z_0^+ < 0} = A^{\mu a}(z_0) + 2i \int d^D z_3 \delta(z_3^+) F_{-\sigma}^b(z_3) G^{\mu\sigma\perp}(z_{30}) (U_{z_3}^{ab} - \delta^{ab})$$

e.g. of antiquark effective operator:



free quark propagator:  $G_0(z) = \int \frac{d^D l}{(2\pi)^D} e^{-il \cdot z} \frac{i \not{k}}{k^2 + i0}$

- ▶ A fermionic line starts at the light-cone time  $z_0^+ < 0$
- ▶ freely propagates to  $z_1^+$
- ▶ it interacts eikonally at  $z_1^+$  with the background shockwave field.

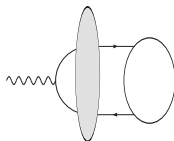
## Effective background field operators cntd

- ▶ Such operators serve to construct amplitudes involving non-perturbative matrix elements of general off light-cone correlators, i.e. **without any reference to the twist-expansion**
- ▶ Proof by induction
- ▶ Shockwave effective Feynman rules are reproduced

$$\begin{aligned}
 [v_{\alpha}^{ij}(p_{\bar{q}}, z_0)]_{z_0^+ < 0} &\equiv [\psi_{\text{eff}, \alpha}^j(z_0)]_{z_0^+ < 0} |i, p_{\bar{q}}\rangle = -\frac{(-i)^{d/2}}{2(2\pi)^{d/2}} \left(\frac{p_{\bar{q}}^+}{-z_0^+}\right)^{d/2} \theta(p_{\bar{q}}^+) \theta(-z_0^+) \\
 &\times \int d^d z_2 V_{\bar{z}_2}^{ij \dagger} \frac{-z_0^+ \gamma^- + \hat{z}_{20\perp}}{-z_0^+} \gamma^+ \frac{v(p_{\bar{q}})}{\sqrt{2p_{\bar{q}}^+}} \exp \left\{ i p_{\bar{q}}^+ \left( z_0^- - \frac{\bar{z}_{20}^2}{2z_0^+} + i0 \right) - i \vec{p}_{\bar{q}} \cdot \bar{z}_{20} \right\} \\
 G_{ij}(z_2, z_0) |_{z_2^+ > 0 > z_0^+} &\equiv \overbrace{\psi_i(z_2)} \left[ \overbrace{\psi_{\text{eff}, j}(z_0)} \right]_{z_0^+ < 0} \\
 &= \frac{i\Gamma(d+1)}{4(2\pi)^{d+1}} \int d^d \bar{z}_1 V_{ij}(\bar{z}_1) \frac{(z_2^+ \gamma^- + \hat{z}_{21\perp}) \gamma^+ (-z_0^+ \gamma^- + \hat{z}_{10\perp})}{(-z_0^+ z_2^+)^{\frac{D}{2}} \left( -z_{20}^- + \frac{\bar{z}_{21}^2}{2z_2^+} - \frac{\bar{z}_{10}^2}{2z_0^+} + i\varepsilon \right)^{d+1}} \theta(z_2^+) \theta(-z_0^+)
 \end{aligned}$$

# $\rho$ -meson production: diagrams

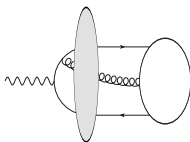
- **Two-body contribution**



- i. Dependence of the leading Fock state wave function – with a minimal number of (valence) partons – on **transverse momentum**

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = -ie_f \int d^D z_0 \theta(-z_0^+) \langle P(p') M(p_M) | \bar{\psi}_{\text{eff}}(z_0) \hat{\varepsilon}_q e^{-i(q \cdot z_0)} \psi_{\text{eff}}(z_0) | P(p) \rangle$$

- **Three-body contribution**

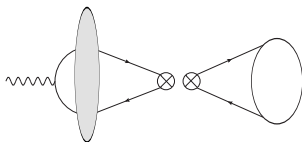


- i. Distribution with a **non-minimal parton configuration**

$$\mathcal{A}_{3,q} = (-ie_q) (ig) \int d^D z_4 d^D z_0 \theta(-z_4^+) \theta(-z_0^+) \times \langle P(p') M(p_M) | \bar{\psi}_{\text{eff}}(z_4) \gamma_\mu A_{\text{eff}}^{\mu a}(z_4) t^a G(z_40) \hat{\varepsilon}_q e^{-i(q \cdot z_0)} \psi_{\text{eff}}(z_0) | P(p) \rangle$$

# $\rho$ -meson production: factorization

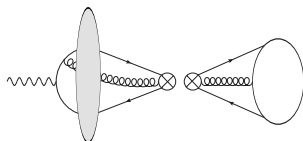
- **Two-body contribution**



$$\mathcal{A}_2 = ie_f \int d^D z_0 \int d^D z_1 \int d^D z_2 \theta(-z_0^+) \delta(z_1^+) \delta(z_2^+) \langle M(p_M) | \bar{\psi}(z_1) \Gamma^\lambda \psi(z_2) | 0 \rangle$$
$$\times \langle P(p') | 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} (V_{z_1} V_{z_2}^\dagger) | P(p) \rangle \frac{1}{4} \text{tr}_D [\gamma^+ G_0(z_{10}) \hat{\varepsilon}_q e^{-i(q \cdot z_0)} G_0(z_{02}) \gamma^+ \Gamma_\lambda]$$

**hard part**

- **Three-body contribution**



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{q3} = & -ie_q \int d^D z_4 d^D z_3 d^D z_2 d^D z_1 d^D z_0 \theta(-z_4^+) \delta(z_3^+) \delta(z_2^+) \delta(z_1^+) \theta(-z_0^+) e^{-i(q \cdot z_0)} \\ & \times \langle P(p') \left| \text{tr} \left( V_{z_1} t^a V_{z_2}^\dagger t^b U_{z_3}^{ab} \right) \right| P(p) \rangle \langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(z_1) \Gamma^\lambda g F_{-\sigma}(z_3) \psi(z_2) \right| 0 \rangle \\ & \times \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1} \text{tr}_D \left[ \gamma^+ G_0(z_{14}) \gamma_\mu G^{\mu\sigma\perp}(z_{34}) G_0(z_{40}) \hat{\varepsilon}_q G_0(z_{02}) \gamma^+ \Gamma_\lambda \right] - \text{n.i.} \end{aligned}$$

**hard part**

Expression of  $U_{z_3}^{ab}$  in adjoint through fundamental representation:

$$\text{tr} \left( V_{z_1} t^a U_{z_3}^{ab} V_{z_2}^\dagger t^b \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \text{tr} \left( V_{z_1} V_{z_3}^\dagger \right) \text{tr} \left( V_{z_3} V_{z_2}^\dagger \right) - \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} \left( V_{z_1} V_{z_2}^\dagger \right) \right].$$

# Results: two-body contribution

- **Dipole amplitude**

$$A_2 = \int_0^1 dx \int d^2\mathbf{r} \Psi_2(x, \mathbf{r}) \int d^d\mathbf{b} e^{i(\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{p}_M)\cdot\mathbf{b}} \left\langle P(p') \left| 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} \left( V_{\mathbf{b}+\bar{x}\mathbf{r}} V_{\mathbf{b}-x\mathbf{r}}^\dagger \right) \right| P(p) \right\rangle$$

- **Coordinate-space impact factor**

$$\Psi_2(x, \mathbf{r}) = e_q \delta \left( 1 - \frac{p_M^+}{q^+} \right) \left( \varepsilon_{q\mu} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\mu \right) \\ \times \left[ \phi_{\gamma^+}(x, \mathbf{r}) \left( 2x\bar{x}q^\mu - i(x - \bar{x}) \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp\mu}} \right) + \varepsilon^{\mu\nu+-} \phi_{\gamma^+\gamma^5}(x, \mathbf{r}) \frac{\partial}{\partial r_{\perp\nu}} \right] K_0 \left( \sqrt{x\bar{x}Q^2\mathbf{r}^2} \right)$$

- Two-body vacuum to meson matrix elements

$$\phi_{\gamma^+}(x, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dr^- e^{ixp_M^+ r^-} \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(r) \gamma^+ \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0}$$

$$\phi_{\gamma^+\gamma^5}(x, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dr^- e^{ixp_M^+ r^-} \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(r) \gamma^+ \gamma^5 \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0}$$

at this stage,  $r^2$  is arbitrary, in principle off the light-cone.



# Results: three-body contribution

- Three-body amplitude: involves dipole and double dipole contributions

$$A_3 = \left( \prod_{i=1}^3 \int dx_i \theta(x_i) \right) \delta(1 - x_1 - x_2 - x_3) \int d^2 z_1 d^2 z_2 d^2 z_3 e^{iq(x_1 z_1 + x_2 z_2 + x_3 z_3)}$$

$$\times \Psi_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3) \left\langle P(p') \left| \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_1 \mathbf{z}_3} \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_3 \mathbf{z}_2} - \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_1 \mathbf{z}_3} - \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_3 \mathbf{z}_2} + \frac{1}{N_c^2} \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_1 \mathbf{z}_2} \right| P(p) \right\rangle$$

- **Coordinate-space impact factor** (with  $Z = \sqrt{x_1 x_2 z_{12}^2 + x_1 x_3 z_{13}^2 + x_2 x_3 z_{23}^2}$ )

$$\Psi_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3) = \frac{e_q q^+}{2(4\pi)} \frac{N_c^2}{N_c^2 - 1} \left( \varepsilon_{q\rho} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\rho \right)$$

$$\times \left\{ \chi_{\gamma^+ \sigma} \left[ \left( 4i g_{\perp\perp}^{\rho\sigma} \frac{x_1 x_2}{1 - x_2} \frac{Q}{Z} K_1(QZ) + T_1^{\sigma\rho\nu}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{z_{23}^2} K_0(QZ) \right) - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right] \right.$$

$$\left. - \chi_{\gamma^+ \gamma^5 \sigma} \left[ \left( 4\epsilon^{\sigma\rho+} \frac{x_1 x_2}{1 - x_2} \frac{Q}{Z} K_1(QZ) + T_2^{\sigma\rho\nu}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{z_{23}^2} K_0(QZ) \right) + (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right] \right\}$$

- Three-body vacuum to meson non-perturbative matrix elements

$$\chi_{\Gamma\lambda, \sigma} \equiv \chi_{\Gamma\lambda, \sigma}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3) =$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz_1^-}{2\pi} \frac{dz_2^-}{2\pi} \frac{dz_3^-}{2\pi} e^{-ix_1 q^+ z_1^- - ix_2 q^+ z_2^- - ix_3 q^+ z_3^-} \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(z_1) \Gamma^\lambda g F_{-\sigma}(z_3) \psi(z_2) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{z_{1,2,3}^+ = 0}$$

Again, at this stage,  $z_1^2, z_2^2, z_3^2$  are arbitrary, in principle off the light-cone.

# Light-cone collinear factorization

- *Light-cone collinear factorization*

[Ellis, Furmanski, Petronzio (1982)] [Anikin, Teryaev (2002)]

- Factorization around the dominant **light-cone direction** is naturally implemented in **momentum space**
- **Overcomplete set of distributions** must be reduced exploiting QCD equations of motion

$$\langle i(\hat{D}(0)\psi(0))_{\alpha}\bar{\psi}_{\beta}(z)\rangle = 0 \quad \langle i\psi_{\alpha}(0)(\bar{\psi}(z)\overleftarrow{D}(z))_{\beta}\rangle = 0$$

- Invariance of the amplitude under **rotation on the light-cone**

[Anikin, Ivanov, Pire, LS, Wallon (2009)]

*i.* Independence of the amplitude from the choice of  $n$

*ii.* Given a “natural” choice  $n_0$ , we can define

$$n^{\mu} = \alpha p^{\mu} + \beta n_0^{\mu} + n_{\perp}^{\mu}$$

*iii.* Imposing  $p \cdot n = 1$  and  $n^2 = 0 \rightarrow \beta = 1, \alpha = -n_{\perp}^2/2$

*iiii.* The freedom is parametrized in terms of the transverse component

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{A}}{\partial n_{\perp}^{\mu}} = 0$$

## Covariant collinear factorization = non-local OPE (1)

- expansion in powers of the hard scale  
= expansion of **string operators** in powers of deviation from the light-cone  
**[Balitsky, Braun (1989)]**

e.g. **up to twist 3:**

- *2-body*: expansion in powers of  $r^2$  ( $r^2 \rightarrow 0$ ) of

$$\left\langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(r) \gamma^+ \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0} \quad \text{and} \quad \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(r) \gamma^+ \gamma^5 \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{r^+=0}$$

- *3-body*: expansion in powers of  $(z_3 - z_1)^2, (z_2 - z_3)^2$   
 $((z_3 - z_1)^2, (z_2 - z_3)^2 \rightarrow 0)$  of

$$\left\langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(z_1) \Gamma^\lambda g F_{-\sigma}(z_3) \psi(z_2) \right| 0 \right\rangle_{z_{1,2,3}^+=0}$$

- each coefficient of this OPE expansion  
= finite sum of **on-light-cone non-local correlators**
- for each term in this Taylor expansion:  
vacuum-to-meson matrix elements contribute to **different kinematic twist**:
  - matrix element = linear combination of  $p_{M\mu}, r_\mu, \varepsilon_{M\mu}^*$  (**now**  $r^2 = 0$ )
  - coefficients depend on the available Lorentz inv.  $p_M \cdot r, \varepsilon_M \cdot r, m_M^2$
  - these quantities have **different scaling** in the  $Q \rightarrow \infty$  limit

## Covariant collinear factorization = non-local OPE (2)

- example: *parametrization of the 2-body vector matrix element* (up to twist 3)

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle M(p_M) \left| \bar{\psi}(r) \gamma^\mu [r, 0] \psi(0) \right| 0 \right\rangle \Big|_{r^2=0} \\ & \sim f_M m_M \int_0^1 dx e^{ix(p_M \cdot r)} \left[ p_M^\mu \frac{(\varepsilon_M^* \cdot r)}{(p_M \cdot r)} \phi(x) + \varepsilon_{M,T}^{*\mu} g_\perp^{(v)}(x) \right] \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \sim Q \qquad \qquad \qquad \sim 1 \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{twist 2} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{twist 3} \end{aligned}$$

- up to twist 3:**  
**only the first term in the Taylor expansion of the off-light-cone matrix elements survives**

the next one is twist 4, i.e.  $z^2$  suppressed

we keep twist 2 and twist 3 terms:

2-body:  $\rightarrow$  twist-2 and twist-3 (kinematic) (see above example)

3-body:  $\rightarrow$  twist-3 (genuine)

# Covariant collinear factorization

- Covariant collinear factorization

[Braun, Filyanov (1990)]

[Ball, Braun, Koike, Tanaka (1998)]

- i.* Minimal basis of independent distributions
  - ii.* Minimal numbers of parameters
  - iii.* Easy to perform the calculation directly into coordinate space
- 2 and 3-body operators in gauge invariant form, on the light-cone  $z^2 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle M(p_M) | \bar{\psi}(z) \Gamma_\lambda [z, 0] \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \\ & \langle M(p_M) | \bar{\psi}(z) \gamma_\lambda [z, tz] g F^{\mu\nu}(tz) [tz, 0] \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \\ & \langle M(p_M) | \bar{\psi}(z) \gamma_\lambda [z, tz] g \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}(tz) [tz, 0] \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

where

$$[z, 0] = \mathcal{P} \exp \left[ ig \int_0^1 dt A^\mu(tz) z_\mu \right]$$

## A subtlety: making contact with covariant collinear factorization

- before twist expansion, our result does not contain gauge links between fields
- this should be taken into account, through:

$$\mathcal{P} \exp \left[ ig \int_0^1 dt A^\mu(tz) z_\mu \right] = 1 + ig \int_0^1 dt A^\mu(tz) z_\mu + \dots ,$$

- it does not affect the 3-body twist-3 result
- it **does contribute** to the 2-body twist-3 result

Reminder:

- **Dipole amplitude**

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \int_0^1 dx \int d^2\mathbf{r} \Psi_2(x, \mathbf{r}) \int d^d\mathbf{b} e^{i(\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{p}_M)\cdot\mathbf{b}} \left\langle P(p') \left| 1 - \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} \left( V_{\mathbf{b}+\bar{x}\mathbf{r}} V_{\mathbf{b}-x\mathbf{r}}^\dagger \right) \right| P(p) \right\rangle$$

- Three-body amplitude: with **dipole** and **double dipole** contributions

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_3 = & \left( \prod_{i=1}^3 \int dx_i \theta(x_i) \right) \delta(1 - x_1 - x_2 - x_3) \int d^2\mathbf{z}_1 d^2\mathbf{z}_2 d^2\mathbf{z}_3 e^{i\mathbf{q}(x_1\mathbf{z}_1 + x_2\mathbf{z}_2 + x_3\mathbf{z}_3)} \\ & \times \Psi_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3) \left\langle P(p') \left| \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_1\mathbf{z}_3} \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_3\mathbf{z}_2} - \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_1\mathbf{z}_3} - \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_3\mathbf{z}_2} + \frac{1}{N_c^2} \mathcal{U}_{\mathbf{z}_1\mathbf{z}_2} \right| P(p) \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

## 2-body twist-3 expanded result

coordinate space

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_2(x, \mathbf{r}) = & e_q m_M f_M \delta \left( 1 - \frac{p_M^+}{q^+} \right) \left( \varepsilon_{q\mu} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\mu \right) \left( \varepsilon_{M\alpha}^* - \frac{\varepsilon_M^{*+}}{p_M^+} p_{M\alpha} \right) \\ & \times \left[ -ir_\perp^\alpha (h(x) - \tilde{h}(x)) \left( 2x\bar{x}q^\mu + (x - \bar{x}) \frac{-i\partial}{\partial r_{\perp\mu}} \right) \right. \\ & \left. + \epsilon^{\mu\nu+-} \epsilon^{+\alpha-\delta} r_{\perp\delta} \left( \frac{g_\perp^{(a)}(x) - \tilde{g}_\perp^{(a)}(x)}{4} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial r_\perp^\nu} \right] K_0 \left( \sqrt{x\bar{x}Q^2 \mathbf{r}^2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

with

$$h(x) = \int_0^x du \left( \phi(u) - g_\perp^{(v)}(u) \right),$$

$$\tilde{h}(x) = \frac{f_{3M}^V}{f_M} \int_0^x dx_q \int_0^{1-x} dx_{\bar{q}} \frac{V(x_q, x_{\bar{q}})}{(1 - x_q - x_{\bar{q}})^2},$$

$$\tilde{g}_\perp^{(a)}(x) = 4 \frac{f_{3M}^A}{f_M} \int_0^x dx_q \int_0^{1-x} dx_{\bar{q}} \frac{A(x_q, x_{\bar{q}})}{(1 - x_q - x_{\bar{q}} + i\epsilon)^2}.$$



## 3-body twist-3 expanded result

coordinate space

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \Psi_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3) \\
 &= \frac{e_q m_M c f}{8\pi} \delta\left(1 - \frac{p_M^+}{q^+}\right) \left(\varepsilon_{q\rho} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\rho\right) \left(\varepsilon_M^{*\mu} - \frac{p_M^\mu}{p_M^+} \varepsilon_M^{*+}\right) \left(\prod_{j=1}^3 \theta(x_j) \theta(1-x_j) e^{-i x_j \mathbf{p}_M \mathbf{z}_j}\right) \\
 & \times \left\{ -i f_{3M}^V g_{\sigma\mu} V(x_1, x_2) \left[ \left( 4i g_{\perp\perp}^{\rho\sigma} \frac{x_1 x_2}{1-x_2} \frac{Q}{Z} K_1(QZ) + T_1^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x_i\}) \frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{z_{23}^2} K_0(QZ) \right) - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right] \right. \\
 & \left. - \epsilon_{-\sigma\beta} f_{3M}^A g_{\perp\perp\mu}^\beta A(x_1, x_2) \left[ \left( 4\epsilon^{\sigma\rho\mu} \frac{x_1 x_2}{1-x_2} \frac{Q}{Z} K_1(QZ) + T_2^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x_i\}) \frac{z_{23\perp\nu}}{z_{23}^2} K_0(QZ) \right) + (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right] \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$V(x_1, x_2)$  = genuine twist-3 vector DAs

$A(x_1, x_2)$  = genuine twist-3 axial DAs

$f_M^V$  and  $f_M^A$  = normalization constants

## 3-body twist-3 expanded result

momentum space

- Fourier transform

$$\Phi_3(\{x\}, \{\mathbf{p}\}) = \left( \prod_{j=1}^3 \int d^2 \mathbf{z}_j e^{-i \mathbf{z}_j \mathbf{p}_j} \right) \Psi_3(\{x\}, \{\mathbf{z}\})$$

- **Momentum space impact factor** (after twist expansion)

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_3(\{x\}, \{\mathbf{p}\}) &= \frac{e_q m_M}{4} c_f \left( \varepsilon_{q\rho} - \frac{\varepsilon_q^+}{q^+} q_\rho \right) \left( \varepsilon_M^{*\beta} - \frac{p_M^\beta}{p_M^+} \varepsilon_M^{*+} \right) \delta \left( 1 - \frac{p_M^+}{q^+} \right) \\ &\times \left( \prod_{j=1}^3 \frac{\theta(1-x_j)\theta(x_j)}{x_j} \right) \frac{(2\pi)^3 \delta^{(2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \mathbf{p}_i + x_i \mathbf{p}_M \right)}{\left[ Q^2 + \sum_{i=1}^3 (\mathbf{p}_i + x_i \mathbf{p}_M)^2 / x_i \right]} \left\{ g_{\beta\sigma} f_{3M}^V V(x_1, x_2) \left( 4g_{\perp\perp}^{\rho\sigma} \frac{x_1 x_2}{1-x_2} \right. \right. \\ &+ \tilde{T}_1^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x\}) \Big|_{\mathbf{k}_i = -x_i \mathbf{p}_M} \frac{x_1 x_2 (p_3 + x_3 p_M)_{\perp\nu} - x_1 x_3 (p_2 + x_2 p_M)_{\perp\nu}}{(\mathbf{p}_1 + x_1 \mathbf{p}_M)^2 + x_1 (1-x_1) Q^2} \Big) - \epsilon_{-\sigma\beta} f_{3M}^A A(x_1, x_2) \\ &\times \left( 4 \frac{x_1 x_2}{1-x_2} \epsilon^{\sigma\rho+} + i \tilde{T}_2^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x\}) \Big|_{\mathbf{k}_i = -x_i \mathbf{p}_M} \frac{x_1 x_2 (p_3 + x_3 p_M)_{\perp\nu} - x_1 x_3 (p_2 + x_2 p_M)_{\perp\nu}}{(\mathbf{p}_1 + x_1 \mathbf{p}_M)^2 + x_1 (1-x_1) Q^2} \right) \Big\} \end{aligned}$$

+ (1 ↔ 2)

## 3-body twist-3 expanded result cntd

momentum space

where

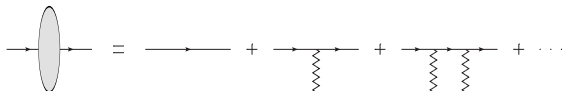
$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_1^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x\}) = & 4 \left[ 2 \frac{x_1(\bar{x}_1 + x_2)}{x_3} g_{\perp}^{\sigma\nu} q^{\rho} - (k_1 - p_1)_{\perp\mu} \right. \\ & \left. \times \left( \frac{(\bar{x}_1 + x_2)(\bar{x}_1 - x_1)}{\bar{x}_1 x_3} g_{\perp}^{\sigma\nu} g_{\perp}^{\rho\mu} - \frac{1}{\bar{x}_1} (g_{\perp}^{\nu\rho} g_{\perp}^{\sigma\mu} - g_{\perp}^{\rho\sigma} g_{\perp}^{\nu\mu}) \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_2^{\sigma\rho\nu}(\{x\}) = & \frac{4i}{\bar{x}_1} \left[ 2x_1\bar{x}_1 q^{\rho} \epsilon^{\nu\sigma+-} + (k_1 - p_1)_{\perp\mu} \right. \\ & \left. \times \left( \left( 1 + \frac{2x_2}{x_3} \right) (g_{\perp}^{\sigma\mu} \epsilon^{\nu\rho+-} - g_{\perp}^{\rho\sigma} \epsilon^{\nu\mu+-}) + (x_1 - \bar{x}_1) g_{\perp}^{\rho\mu} \epsilon^{\nu\sigma+-} \right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

# Dilute regime: two-body contribution

- **Reggeon** definition [**Caron-Huot (2013)**]  $R^a(z) \equiv \frac{f^{abc}}{gC_A} \ln(U_z^{bc})$
- Expansion of the *Wilson line* in Reggeized gluons

$$V_{z_1} = 1 + ig\mathbf{t}^a R^a(z_1) - \frac{1}{2}g^2\mathbf{t}^a\mathbf{t}^b R^a(z_1)R^b(z_1) + O(g^3)$$



- **BFKL  $k_T$ -factorization**

$$\mathcal{A}_2^{\text{dilute}} = \frac{g^2}{4N_c} (2\pi)^d \delta^d(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p}_M - \mathbf{\Delta}) \int \frac{d^d\ell}{(2\pi)^d} \mathcal{U}(\ell) \int_0^1 dx$$

$$\times \underbrace{\left[ \Phi_2\left(x, \ell - \frac{x - \bar{x}}{2} \mathbf{\Delta}\right) + \Phi_2\left(x, -\ell - \frac{x - \bar{x}}{2} \mathbf{\Delta}\right) - \Phi_2(x, \bar{x} \mathbf{\Delta}) - \Phi_2(x, -x \mathbf{\Delta}) \right]}_{\Phi_{2,\text{BFKL}}(x, \ell, \mathbf{\Delta})}$$

- $\mathcal{U}(\ell) \rightarrow k_T$ -**unintegrated gluon density** (UGD) in the BFKL sense

$$\mathcal{U}(\ell) \equiv \int d^d\mathbf{v} e^{-i(\ell \cdot \mathbf{v})} \left\langle P(p') \left| R^a\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{2}\right) R^a\left(-\frac{\mathbf{v}}{2}\right) \right| P(p) \right\rangle,$$

- $\Phi_2$  is the Fourier transform of  $\Psi_2$

# Explicit two-body term in the dilute and $\Delta = 0$ limit

- **BK impact factor**

$$\Phi_{2,\Delta=0}(x, \mathbf{l}) = 2\pi m_M f_M e_q \delta(1 - p_M^+/q^+) \\ \times \left[ \frac{2\mathbf{l}^2}{[\mathbf{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2]^2} T_{\text{f.}} \phi_{2,\text{f.}}(x) - \frac{x\bar{x}Q^2}{[\mathbf{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2]^2} T_{\text{n.f.}} \phi_{2,\text{n.f.}}(x) \right]$$

- Helicity (flip and non-flip) structures and DAs combinations

$$T_{\text{n.f.}} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_q \cdot \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_M^* \quad \phi_{2,\text{n.f.}}(x) = (2x - 1)(h(x) - \tilde{h}(x)) + \frac{g_{\perp}^{(a)}(x) - \tilde{g}_{\perp}^{(a)}(x)}{4} \\ T_{\text{f.}} = \frac{(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_q \cdot \mathbf{l})(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_M^* \cdot \mathbf{l})}{\mathbf{l}^2} - \frac{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_q \cdot \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_M^*}{2} \quad \phi_{2,\text{f.}}(x) = (2x - 1)(h(x) - \tilde{h}(x)) - \frac{g_{\perp}^{(a)}(x) - \tilde{g}_{\perp}^{(a)}(x)}{4}$$

- **Forward limit matching**

$$\Phi_{2,\Delta=0}^{\text{BFKL}}(x, \mathbf{l}) = 2 (\Phi_{2,\Delta=0}(x, \mathbf{l}) - \Phi_{2,\Delta=0}(x, \mathbf{0}))$$

- **BFKL impact factor**

$$\Phi_{2,\Delta=0}^{\text{BFKL}}(x, \mathbf{l}) = 4\pi m_M f_M e_q \delta(1 - p_M^+/q^+) \\ \times \left[ \frac{2\mathbf{l}^2}{[\mathbf{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2]^2} T_{\text{f.}} \phi_{\text{f.}}(x) + \frac{\mathbf{l}^2(\mathbf{l}^2 + 2x\bar{x}Q^2)}{x\bar{x}Q^2 [\mathbf{l}^2 + x\bar{x}Q^2]^2} T_{\text{n.f.}} \phi_{\text{n.f.}}(x) \right]$$

# Explicit three-body term in the dilute and $\Delta = 0$ limit

- The 3-body BFKL impact factor is a combination of 12 BK impact factors

$$\Phi_3(\{x\}, \{\mathbf{p}\}) = \left( \prod_{j=1}^3 \int d^2 \mathbf{z}_j e^{-i \mathbf{z}_j \mathbf{p}_j} \right) \Psi_3(\{x\}, \{\mathbf{z}\})$$

- Transverse to transverse transition in the **forward** and **dilute** limit

$$c_f = N_c^2 / (N_c^2 - 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{3T, \Delta=0}^{\text{dilute}} &= e_q m_M \frac{g^2}{N_c} (2\pi) \delta \left( 1 - \frac{p_M^+}{q^+} \right) (2\pi)^2 \delta^2(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p}_M) \int \frac{d^d \ell}{(2\pi)^d} \mathcal{U}(\ell) \\ &\times \left( \prod_{i=1}^3 \int_0^1 \frac{dx_i}{x_i} \right) \frac{\delta(1 - x_1 - x_2 - x_3)}{x_3} \frac{\ell^2}{Q^2} \left\{ T_{\text{f.}} \left[ f_{3M}^V V(x_1, x_2) - f_{3M}^A A(x_1, x_2) \right] \right. \\ &\times 2x_1 \left( \frac{x_3 c_f}{\ell^2 + \frac{x_2 x_3}{x_2 + x_3} Q^2} + \frac{x_3 c_f}{\ell^2 + \frac{x_1 x_3}{x_1 + x_3} Q^2} - \frac{\bar{x}_3 (1 - c_f)}{\ell^2 + \frac{x_1 x_2}{x_1 + x_2} Q^2} + \frac{x_2 - \bar{x}_1 c_f}{\ell^2 + x_1 \bar{x}_1 Q^2} + \frac{x_1 - \bar{x}_2 c_f}{\ell^2 + x_2 \bar{x}_2 Q^2} \right) \\ &\quad \left. - T_{\text{n.f.}} \left[ f_{3M}^V V(x_1, x_2) + f_{3M}^A A(x_1, x_2) \right] \right. \\ &\times \left. \left( \frac{(1 - c_f) x_1 \bar{x}_3}{\bar{x}_3 \ell^2 + x_1 x_2 Q^2} - \frac{c_f x_3^2}{\bar{x}_1 \ell^2 + x_2 x_3 Q^2} - \frac{(x_2 - \bar{x}_1 c_f) x_1 x_2}{\bar{x}_1 (\ell^2 + x_1 \bar{x}_1 Q^2)} - \frac{(x_1 - \bar{x}_2 c_f) \bar{x}_2}{(\ell^2 + x_2 \bar{x}_2 Q^2)} \right) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

- The forward and dilute limit matches our previous result**

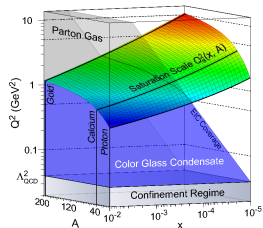
[Anikin, Ivanov, Pire, LS, Wallon (2009)]

BFKL approach + twist-expansion via **light-cone collinear factorization**

- **Transversally polarized light vector meson production**
- DVMP in the **non-linear** regime in the transversely polarized case
- Both **forward** and **non-forward** results and **s-channel non-conserving helicity amplitudes**
- **Coordinate** and **momentum space** representations
- Reggeized gluon expansion [**Caron-Huot (2013)**]  $\implies$  **BFKL results**
- To be used for a complete description of **HERA** and future **EIC** data
- Higher-twist corrections are essential to describe medium energy data of exclusive processes:

data for  $ep \rightarrow e\pi^0 p$  need a twist 3  $\pi^0$  DA [M. Defurne et al. (2016)]

- **Method to deal with twist corrections at small- $x$  including saturation**
- what's next? what about the NLO frontier?
  - **Wandzura-Wilczek** approximation: no genuine twist-3, i.e. no  $q\bar{q}g$  3-body in principle, "straightforward"
  - Full NLO? Out of reach for the moment without a full automatization of the calculations...



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION !!