Electroproduction of φ mesons off ⁴He

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CLAS Collaboration Meeting February 25th 2016

Coherent production of J/ Ψ and ϕ at EIC

• **EIC White Paper**: Tull and Ullrich^[1,2]: Measurements of Diffractive Events (p.83)



^[1]EIC white paper (arXiv:1212.1701) ^[2]Phys. Rev. C 87, 024913 (2013) (arXiv:1211.3048) ^[3]Nucl.Phys. B603 (2001) 427-445 (arXiv:hep-ph/0102291)

$c\overline{c}$ or $s\overline{s}$ production to probe gluon distributions

- Diffractive scattering occurs when the DIS electron interacts with a colorneutral vacuum excitation:
 - Within a perturbative QCD framework, this vacuum excitation can be represented by a combination of 2+ gluons (Pomeron).
- Hard diffractive cross-section is proportional to the square of the gluon density.
 - Most sensitive tool to access gluon density distributions



For J/Ψ and φ production, flavor disparity between target and meson suppresses direct quark exchange!

Tull, Ullrich dipole model formalism for diffractive DIS production amplitude on protons:

$$\mathcal{A}_{T,L}^{\gamma^* p \to V p}(x, Q, \Delta) = i \int \mathrm{d}r \int \frac{\mathrm{d}z}{4\pi} \int \mathrm{d}^2 \mathbf{b} \left(\Psi_V^* \Psi\right)(r, z)$$
$$\times 2\pi r J_0([1-z]r\Delta) e^{-i\mathbf{b}\cdot\Delta} \frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{q\bar{q}}^{(p)}}{\mathrm{d}^2 \mathbf{b}}(x, r, \mathbf{b}) \ (1)$$

$\gamma^* + p \rightarrow p + \phi$ (CLAS12 proposed)

 Recent proposal in CLAS12 approved with a "B+" rating to study the gluonic density distribution on Hydrogen.



Proposal to Jefferson Lab PAC39 Exclusive Phi Meson Electroproduction with CLAS12

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- In the GPD framework, the light-cone momentum fractions are: $x_{1.2} = x \pm \xi$
- The momentum transfer is then: $\xi = x_B/(2-x_B)$
- and the gluon GPD is written: $H_g(x,\xi;t)$ with $H_g(x,\xi=0,t=0) = xg(x)$
- The longitudinal cross-section is then written:

$$\frac{d\sigma_L}{dt} = \frac{\alpha_{\rm em}}{Q^2} \frac{x_B^2}{1 - x_B} \left[(1 - \xi^2) |\langle H_g \rangle|^2 + \text{ terms in } \langle E_g \rangle \right]$$

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 A useful parameter to describe the gluon density distribution is the reduced gluon distribution:

 $\rho_g(x,b) \equiv g(x,b)/g(x)$

• Then, defining a gluonic form-factor as:

$$F_g(x,t) \equiv H_g(x,\xi=0,t)/H_g(x,\xi=0,t=0)$$

• One can extract the gluon distribution via Fourier transform:

$$\rho_g(x,b) = \int \frac{d^2 \Delta_T}{(2\pi)^2} e^{i(\boldsymbol{\Delta}_T \boldsymbol{b})} F_g(x,t) = -\boldsymbol{\Delta}_T^2$$

The red and blue curves correspond respectively to an exponential or dipole parameterization of the cross-section.





 $\gamma^* + p \rightarrow p + \phi$ (CLAS12 proposed)

 One can also access the gluonic radius in xspace by defining the average gluonic transverse radius as:

$$\langle b^2 \rangle_g \equiv \int d^2 b \ b^2 \ \rho_g(b, x) = 4 \frac{\partial F_g}{\partial t} (t = 0)$$

 J/Ψ studies have been performed at HERA and FNAL to extract the gluon radius.





X

Electroproduction of φ near threshold

- There is a predicted resonance (LHCb pentaquark) at threshold in the p + J/ $\!\Psi$ channel.
 - Early measurements have shown a possible signature as a threshold enhancement.
- A similar type of threshold enhancement is seen in the φ photoproduction data.



Estimating the coherent φ electroproduction cross-section off ⁴He

• Phenomenological approach to production off proton:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dx_B dQ^2 dt} = \Gamma(Q^2, x_B, E) \left(\frac{d\sigma_T}{dt}(Q^2, x_B, t) + \epsilon \frac{d\sigma_L}{dt}(Q^2, x_B, t)\right)$$

- Longitudinal and transverse response functions
- Exponential t-dependance of $\boldsymbol{\varphi}$
- W, Q² dependence parameterized to world data.
- Kinematics are restricted to $e + {}^{4}He \rightarrow e' + {}^{4}He + \phi$.
 - Cross-section is calculated with (naively) modified "t" and "W":
 - "target nucleon" has random isotropically distributed fermi-momentum
 - "recoil nucleon" has (⁴He momentum)/4 + random fermi-momentum
- Helium charge form factor F_{c,4He} is calculated with both a Fourier-Bessel transform and DQSM for large Q².
 - $Q^2 \rightarrow |t t_{min}| = t'$, for calculation of all form-factors.
- Cross-section goes like:

 $\frac{d\sigma_{^4He}}{dx_B dQ^2 dt} = \frac{d\sigma_p}{dx_B dQ^2 dt} \left| \frac{A F_C(t')_{^4He}}{F_C(t')_p} \right|^2$

Identical parametrization as CLAS12 proposal for φ production off p



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EG6

- The CLAS6 run eg6 is a good place to start looking.
- Initial "easiest channel" was explored:

 $\gamma^* + {}^4 He \rightarrow ({}^4He) + K^+ + K^-$

- invariant mass of kaons = mass of phi.
- ⁴He left missing (no need for RTPC)
- More channels need to be explored:

$$\begin{split} \gamma^* + \, {}^4He &\to \, {}^4He + K^+ + (K^-) \\ \gamma^* + \, {}^4He &\to \, {}^4He + 3\gamma \\ (\phi \to \eta + \gamma, \ \eta \to \gamma + \gamma) \sim \text{0.5\% BR} \end{split}$$

- Model XS calculation allows MC simulation!
 - Should know soon what channels will yield what results.



CLAS12 and ALERT

- We plan on producing a proposal for φ electroproduction off ⁴He using the ALERT TPC detector to tag the scattered ⁴He.
- Procedure:
 - Generate events with a reasonable cross-section Done
 - Pass events through acceptance MC's
 - ALERT acceptance fast-MC for ⁴He momenta up to 1.5 GeV Done (preliminary, thanks to Gabriel Charles!)
 - (needs to be updated with latest MC as it is developed)
 - CLAS12 fast-MC
 - Geometrical acceptance through coatjava / groovy scripts. PROBLEM
 - Track smearing with C++ fast-MC function **Done**
 - Appropriate efficiencies for electron and kaon detection. To be done
 - Generate realistic background events To be done

java fast-MC issue?

- coatjava fast-MC (LUND)
 - IN:
 - Generated events
 - OUT:
 - Generated events
 - Geometrically accepted
 events
- Strange structure in the "OUT:Generated events" (not seen in the input).
- Could be a bug I have introduced.



Untagged ⁴He

- Since there is a problem with the ⁴He events, lets assume everything else is done correctly in the fast MC, and look at what can be seen with no detected recoil ⁴He.
- Rate calculation includes:
 - a luminosity of 1e35 cm⁻² s⁻¹
 - electron and kaons only detected in forward CLAS12 acceptance.
 - an additional 50% detection efficiency for accepted electrons
 - an additional 10% detection efficiency for accepted Kaons



Summary

- Electroproduction of φ mesons off ⁴He is a novel way of probing the gluon distributions of a light nucleus.
 - Threshold region is interesting!
- Experiments on the free proton are approved. Proposals are being prepared to study coherent φ off the nucleus at JLab.
- Simulations are underway to extract the exact precision that can be expected using the CLAS12 in concert with the ALERT TPC.

Thank You!