

The eSTARlight Monte Carlo Package for the Electron-Ion Collider

Zachary Sweger
University of California, Davis
working with Spencer Klein,
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Supported in part by



Zachary Sweger



2/28/2025



CALIFORNIA EIC
CONSORTIUM

POETIC, Miami



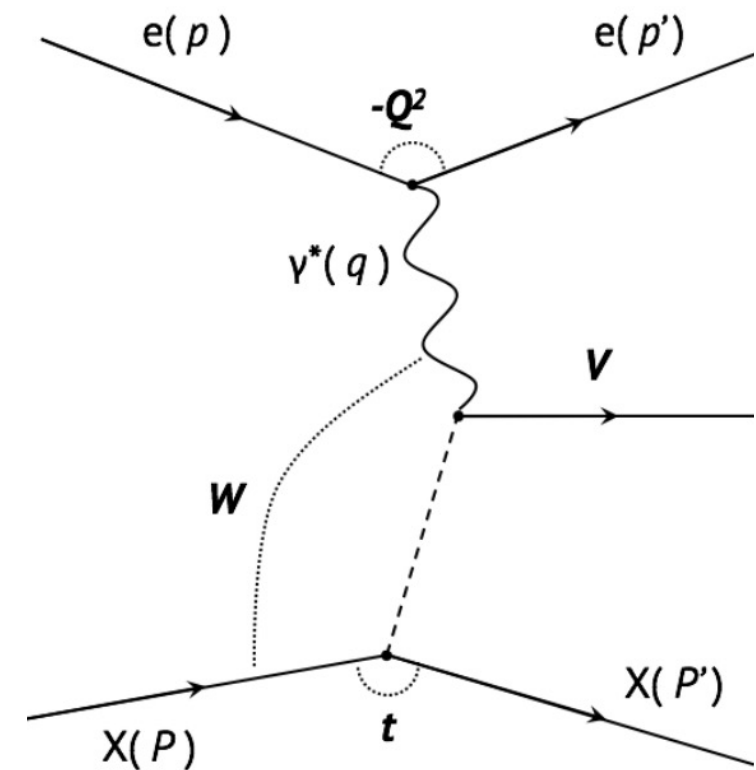
BERKELEY LAB

Bringing Science Solutions to the World



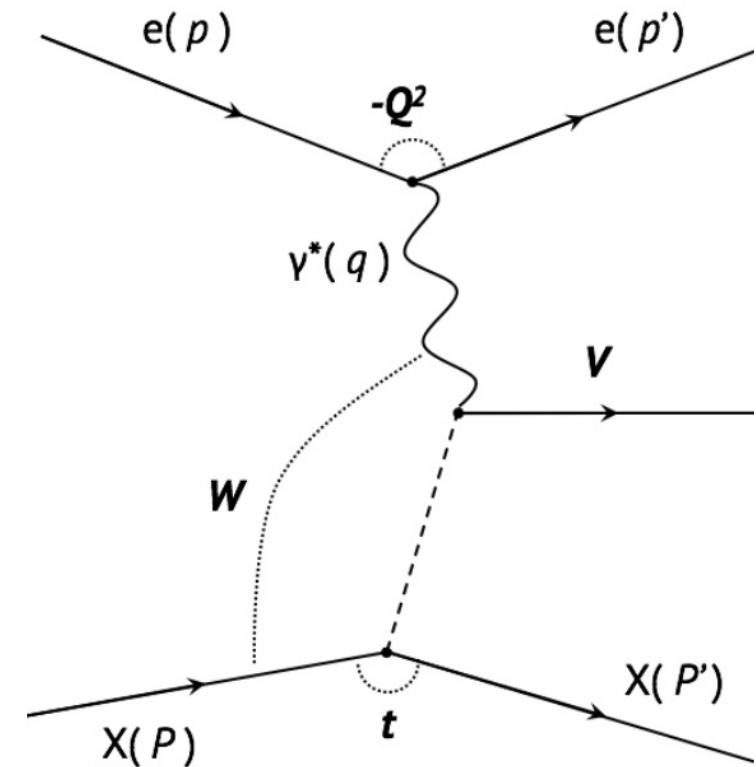
What is eSTARlight?

- eSTARlight was created by Michael Lomnitz and Spencer Klein
- You can read more about the physics behind it at
 - *Exclusive Vector Meson Production at an Electron-Ion Collider*, M. Lomnitz & S. Klein, Phys Rev C 99, 015203 (2019)
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.99.015203>



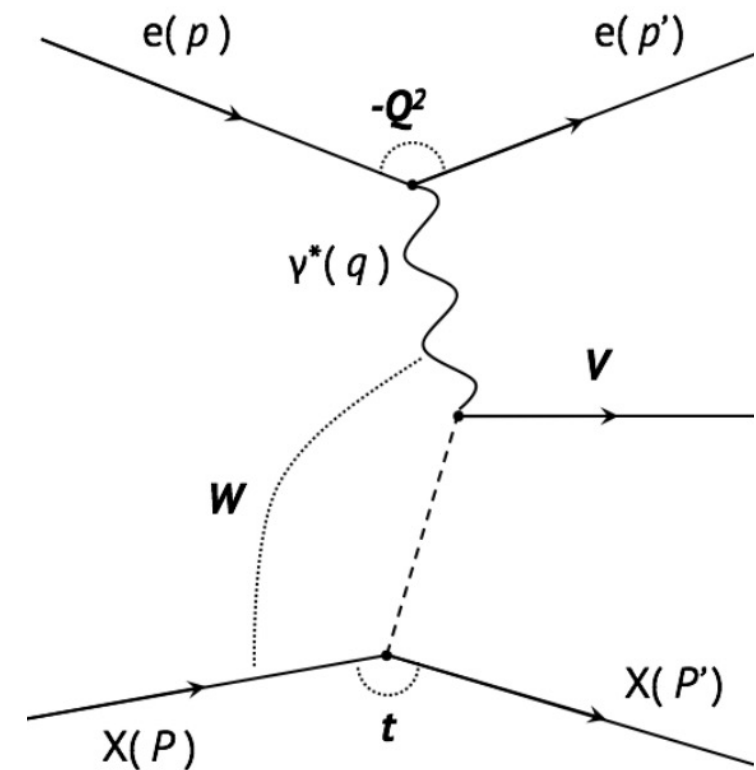
What is eSTARlight?

- eSTARlight was created by Michael Lomnitz and Spencer Klein
- You can read more about the physics behind it at
 - *Exclusive Vector Meson Production at an Electron-Ion Collider*, M. Lomnitz & S. Klein, Phys Rev C 99, 015203 (2019)
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.99.015203>
- It is available at <https://github.com/eic/estarlight>
- Evolved from STARlight Monte Carlo which models UPC cross-sections and final states



What is eSTARlight?

- eSTARlight was created by Michael Lomnitz and Spencer Klein
- You can read more about the physics behind it at
 - ❑ *Exclusive Vector Meson Production at an Electron-Ion Collider*, M. Lomnitz & S. Klein, Phys Rev C 99, 015203 (2019)
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.99.015203>
- It is available at <https://github.com/eic/estarlight>
- Evolved from STARlight Monte Carlo which models UPC cross-sections and final states
- Models exclusive photoproduction and electroproduction of vector mesons in ep and eA
- Generates final states and cross sections



Why Use eSTARlight?

Why Use eSTARlight?

1. It's fast! I generated 100k exclusive ρ events in 25 seconds on my laptop

Why Use eSTARlight?

1. It's fast! I generated 100k exclusive ρ events in 25 seconds on my laptop
2. It's easy to use \rightarrow compile in minutes using CMake

Why Use eSTARlight?

1. It's fast! I generated 100k exclusive ρ events in 25 seconds on my laptop
2. It's easy to use \rightarrow compile in minutes using CMake
3. Easy control of processes: easily set W , Q^2 , final state, p_T range

Why Use eSTARlight?

1. It's fast! I generated 100k exclusive ρ events in 25 seconds on my laptop
2. It's easy to use \rightarrow compile in minutes using CMake
3. Easy control of processes: easily set W , Q^2 , final state, p_T range
4. It's flexible!

Why Use eSTARlight?

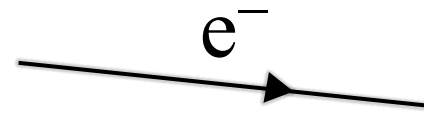
1. It's fast! I generated 100k exclusive ρ events in 25 seconds on my laptop
2. It's easy to use \rightarrow compile in minutes using CMake
3. Easy control of processes: easily set W , Q^2 , final state, p_T range
4. It's flexible!
 - You can parameterize a production cross section yourself
 - It works for any target nucleus: think early science EIC, Ru/Cu
 - Wide range of final states
 - Can write to default (txt), Pythia, HepMC3, Lund formats

Why Use eSTARlight?

1. It's fast! I generated 100k exclusive ρ events in 25 seconds on my laptop
 2. To summarize: in 10 minutes from *now* you could have downloaded
 3. and installed eSTARlight, generated 1M events with realistic J/ψ production, and be comparing the final-state e^+e^- to EPIC's
 4. acceptance
- It works for any target nucleus: think early science EIC, Ru/Cu
 - Wide range of final states
 - Can write to default (txt), Pythia, HepMC3, Lund formats

eSTARlight Output

- Included in eSTARlight output are 4-vectors for:



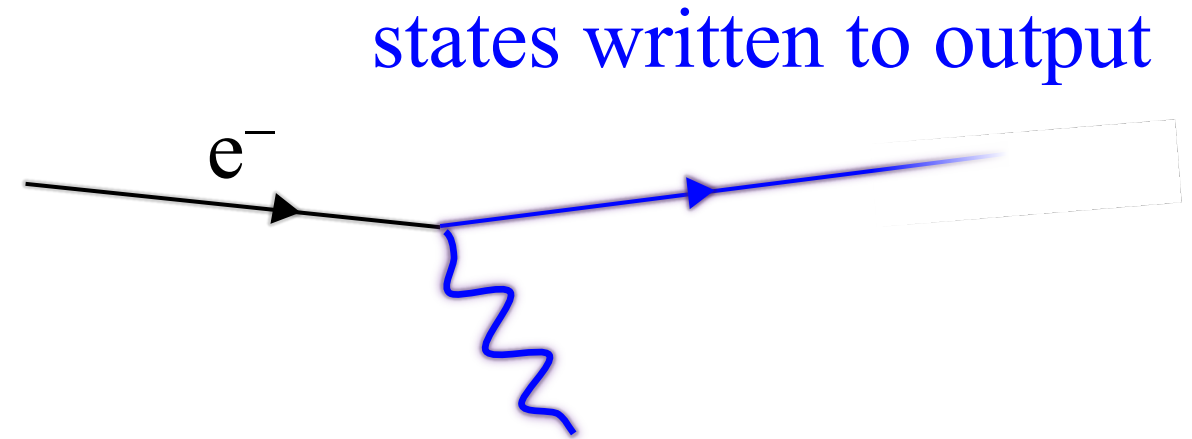
eSTARlight Output

- Included in eSTARlight output are 4-vectors for:
 - ✓ the scattered electron



eSTARlight Output

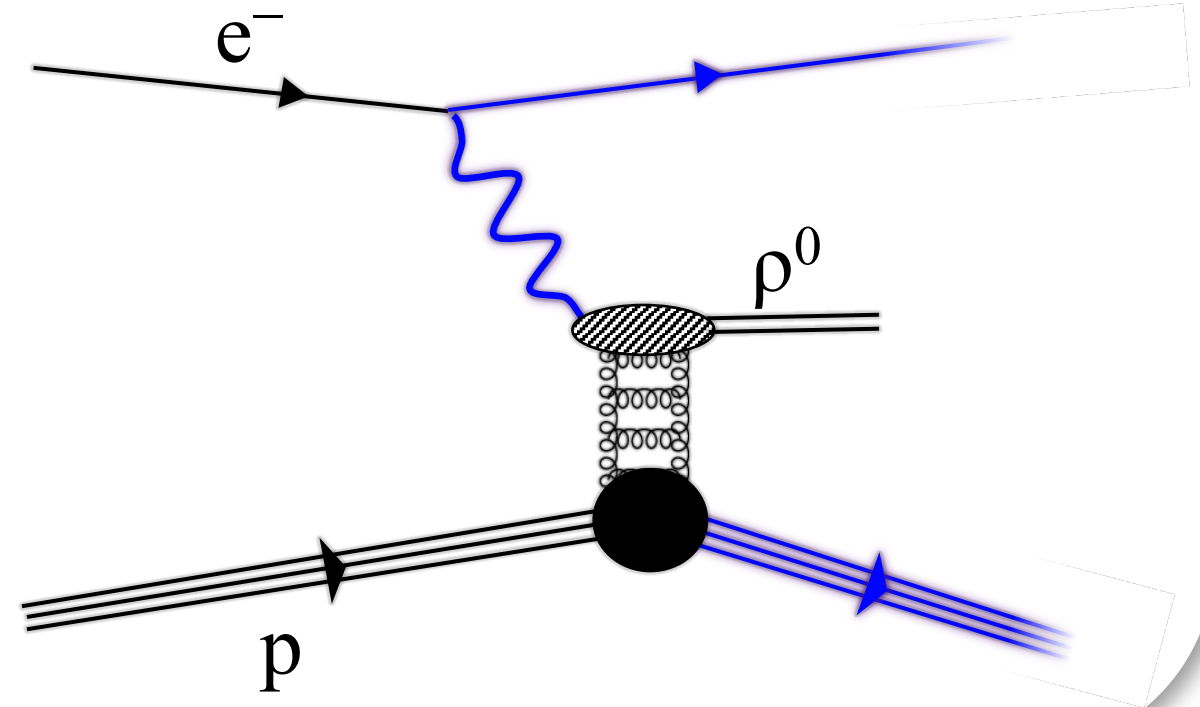
- Included in eSTARlight output are 4-vectors for:
 - ✓ the scattered electron
 - ✓ the virtual photon



eSTARlight Output

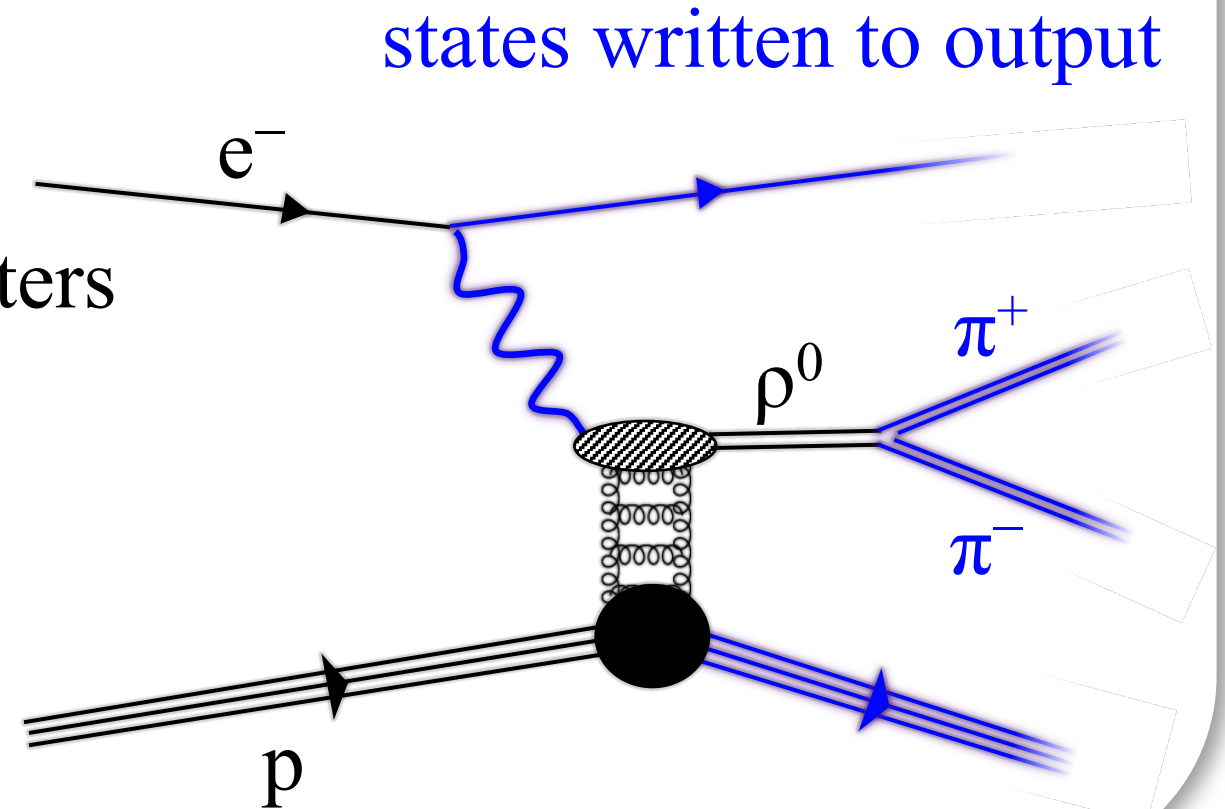
- Included in eSTARlight output are 4-vectors for:
 - ✓ the scattered electron
 - ✓ the virtual photon
 - ✓ the scattered proton/ion

states written to output



eSTARlight Output

- Included in eSTARlight output are 4-vectors for:
 - ✓ the scattered electron
 - ✓ the virtual photon
 - ✓ the scattered proton/ion
 - ✓ meson final-state daughters



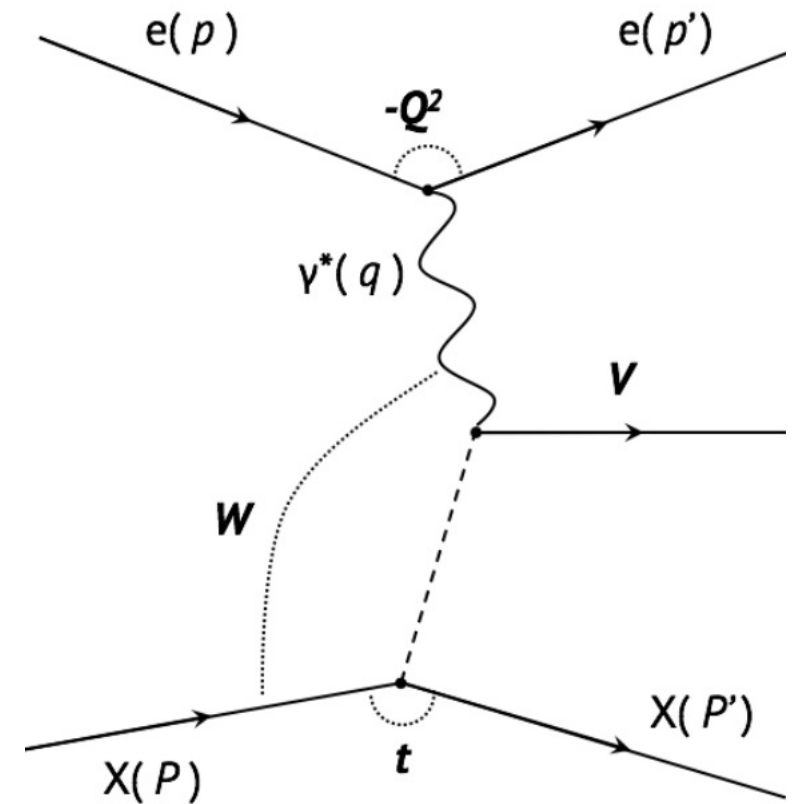
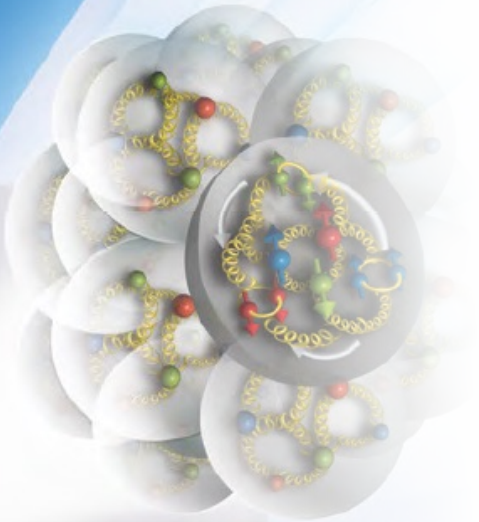
- Meson-production channels are

- Meson-production channels are
 - ρ, ω, ϕ
 - $\rho'(1600) \rightarrow 4\pi, \psi'$
 - ρ (interference from direct 2π)
 - J/ψ (1s, 2s), Y (1s, 2s, 3s)

- Meson-production channels are
 - ρ, ω, ϕ
 - $\rho'(1600) \rightarrow 4\pi, \psi'$
 - ρ (interference from direct 2π)
 - J/ψ (1s, 2s), Y (1s, 2s, 3s)
- Simple final states are decayed in eSTARlight with photon polarization informing angular distributions
- Complex decays handled via PYTHIA with loss of photon polarization info

Kinematic Selection

$$\sigma(eA \rightarrow eAV) = \int \frac{dW}{W} \int dk \int dQ^2 \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dk dQ^2} \sigma_{\gamma^* A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2)$$



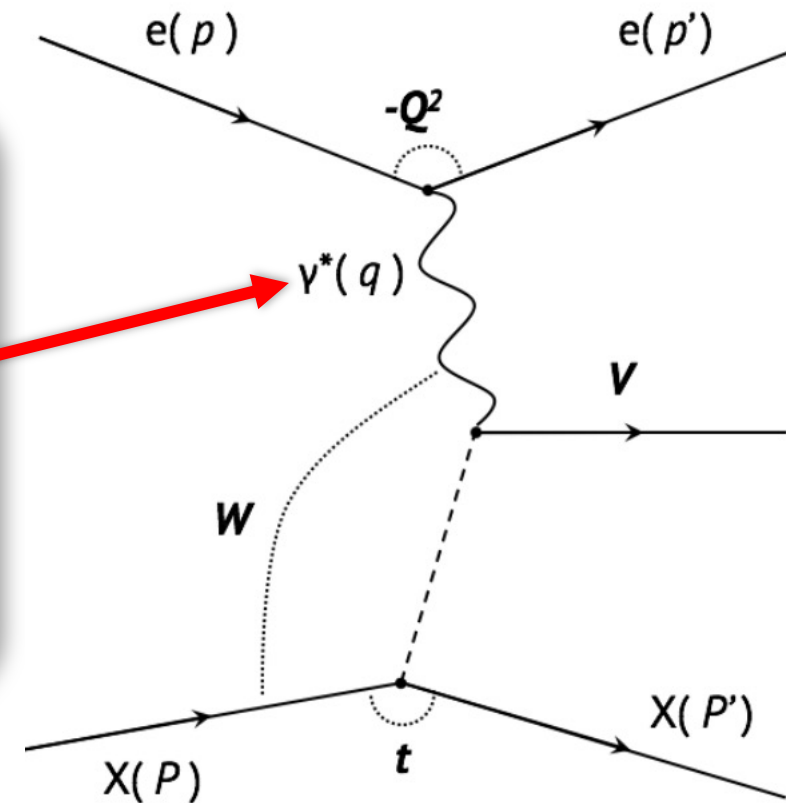
Kinematic Selection

$$\sigma(eA \rightarrow eAV) = \int \frac{dW}{W} \int dk \int dQ^2 \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dk dQ^2} \sigma_{\gamma^* A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2)$$

- First sample virtual photon from photon flux given by

$$\frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dk dQ^2} = \frac{\alpha}{\pi k Q^2} \left[1 - \frac{k}{E_e} + \frac{k^2}{2E_e^2} - \left(1 - \frac{k}{E_e} \right) \left| \frac{Q_{\min}^2}{Q^2} \right| \right]$$

V. Budnev, *et al.*, Phys. Rep. **15**, 181 (1975)

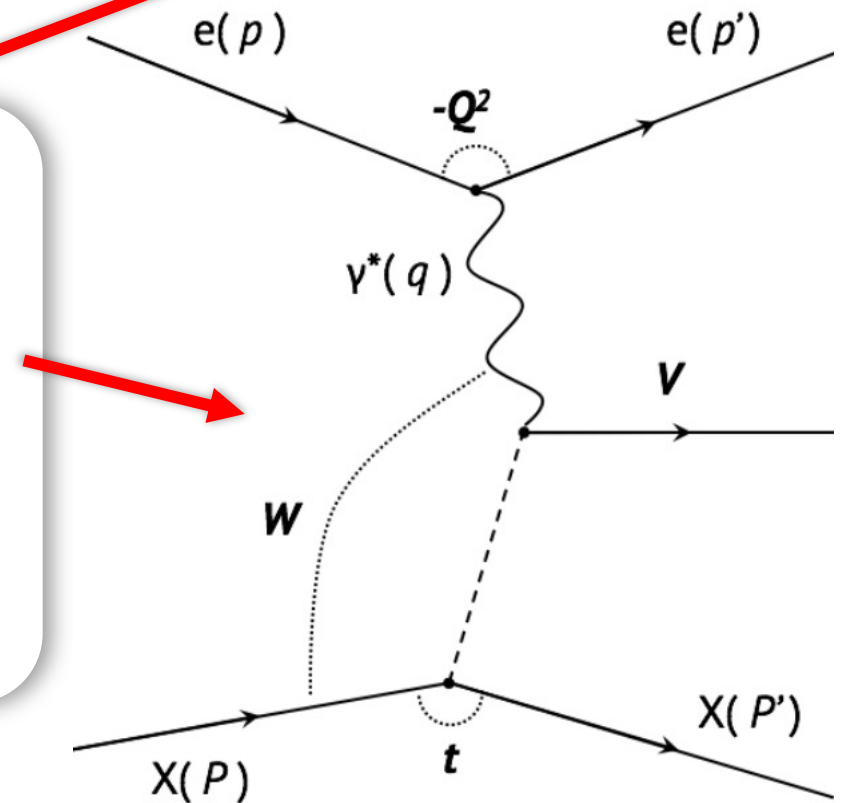


Kinematic Selection

$$\sigma(eA \rightarrow eAV) = \int \frac{dW}{W} \int dk \int dQ^2 \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dk dQ^2} \sigma_{\gamma^* A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2)$$

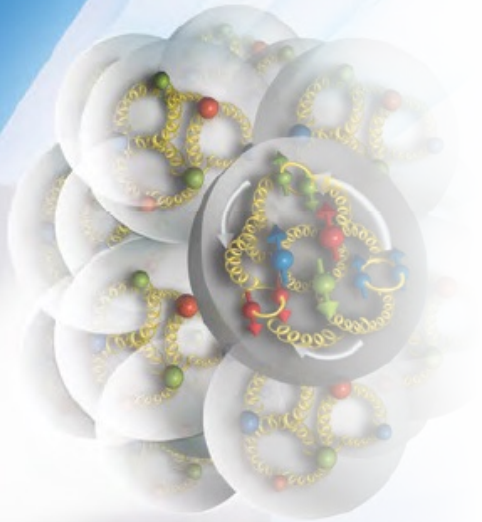
- Accept $A\gamma^*$ interaction according to cross section in W and Q^2

$$\sigma_{\gamma^* A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2) \sim \sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_V^2}{M_V^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$



eSTARlight Q^2 Scaling

$$\sigma_{\gamma^* A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2) \sim \sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_V^2}{M_V^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$



eSTARlight Q^2 Scaling

$$\sigma_{\gamma^*A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2) \sim \sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_V^2}{M_V^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$

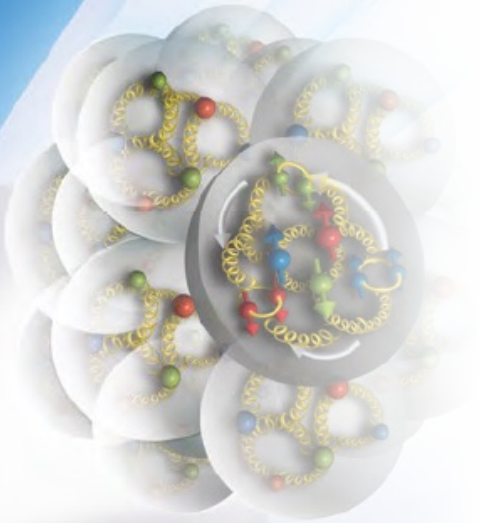
$$n = c_1 + c_2(Q^2 + M_V^2)$$

- Cross-section's Q^2 -dependence follows exponential
- Scalings from HERA measurements
F. D. Aaron et al., J. High Energy Phys. 05 (2010) 032
- Where scaling data isn't available, scaling for similar mesons is used

Meson	c_1	c_2 (10^{-2}GeV^{-2})
ρ	2.09 ± 0.10	0.73 ± 0.18
ϕ	2.15 ± 0.17	0.74 ± 0.46
J/ψ	2.36 ± 0.20	0.29 ± 0.43

eSTARlight W Scaling

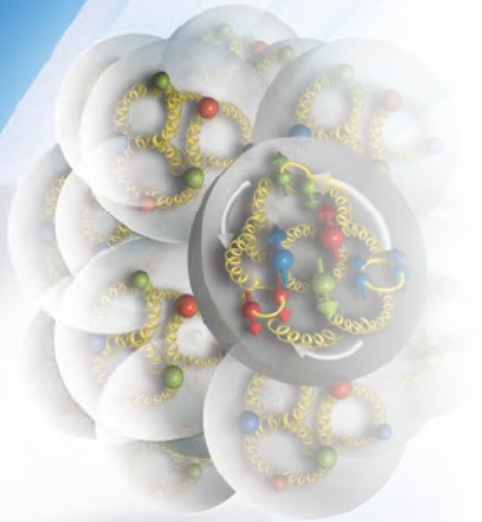
$$\sigma_{\gamma^* A \rightarrow V_A}(W, Q^2) \sim \sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_V^2}{M_V^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$



eSTARlight W Scaling

$$\sigma_{\gamma^*A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2) \sim \sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_V^2}{M_V^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$

$$\sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) = \sigma_P W^\epsilon + \sigma_M W^\eta$$



eSTARlight W Scaling

$$\sigma_{\gamma^* A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2) \sim \sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_V^2}{M_V^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$

$$\sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) = \sigma_P W^\epsilon + \sigma_M W^\eta$$

Pomeron-exchange
scaling ($\epsilon > 0$)

Reggeon-exchange
scaling ($\eta < 0$)

S. R. Klein and J. Nystrand, Phys. Rev. C 60, 014903 (1999)

eSTARlight W Scaling

$$\sigma_{\gamma^*A \rightarrow VA}(W, Q^2) \sim \sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_V^2}{M_V^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$

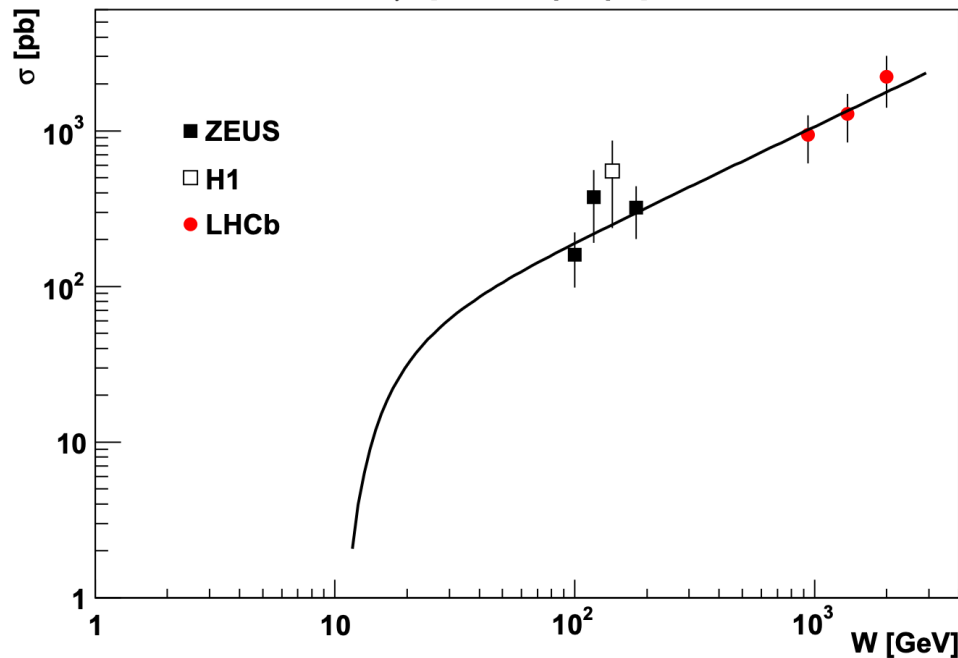
$$\sigma(W, Q^2 = 0) = \sigma_P W^\epsilon + \sigma_M W^\eta$$

$$\sigma_P \cdot \left[1 - \frac{(m_p + m_V)^2}{W_{\gamma p}^2} \right]^2 \cdot W_{\gamma p}^\epsilon$$

- J/ψ , ψ' , and Υ have additional factor to suppress Xsec near threshold

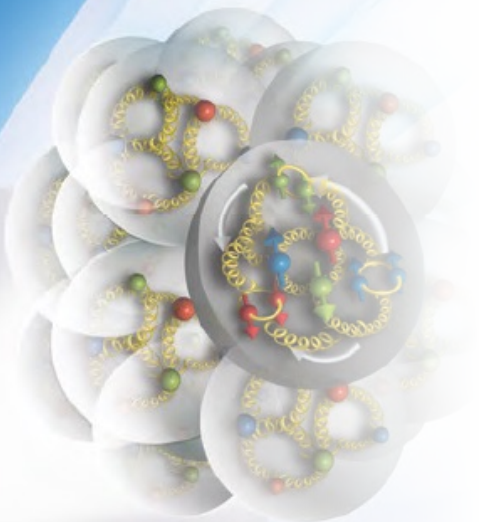
S.R. Klein, J. Nystrand, J. Seger, Y. Gorbunov, J. Butterworth,
Comput.Phys.Commun. 212 (2017) 258-268

$\gamma+p \rightarrow \Upsilon(1S)+p$



Momentum Transfer t

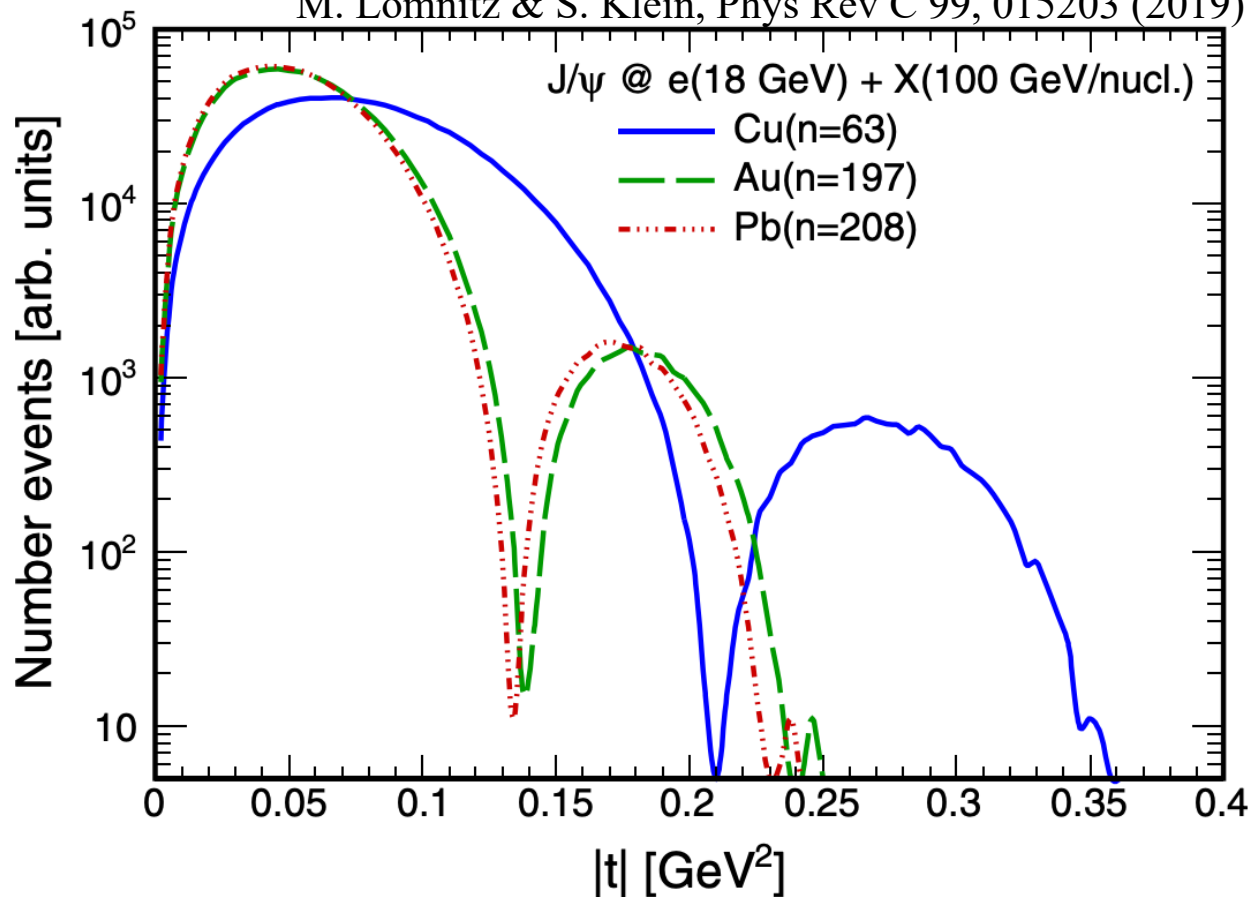
$$\sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow V A) \sim \int_{t_{\min}}^{\infty} dt \frac{d\sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow V A)}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} |F(t)|^2$$



Momentum Transfer t

$$\sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow V A) \sim \int_{t_{\min}}^{\infty} dt \left. \frac{d\sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow V A)}{dt} \right|_{t=0} |F(t)|^2$$

M. Lomnitz & S. Klein, Phys Rev C 99, 015203 (2019)



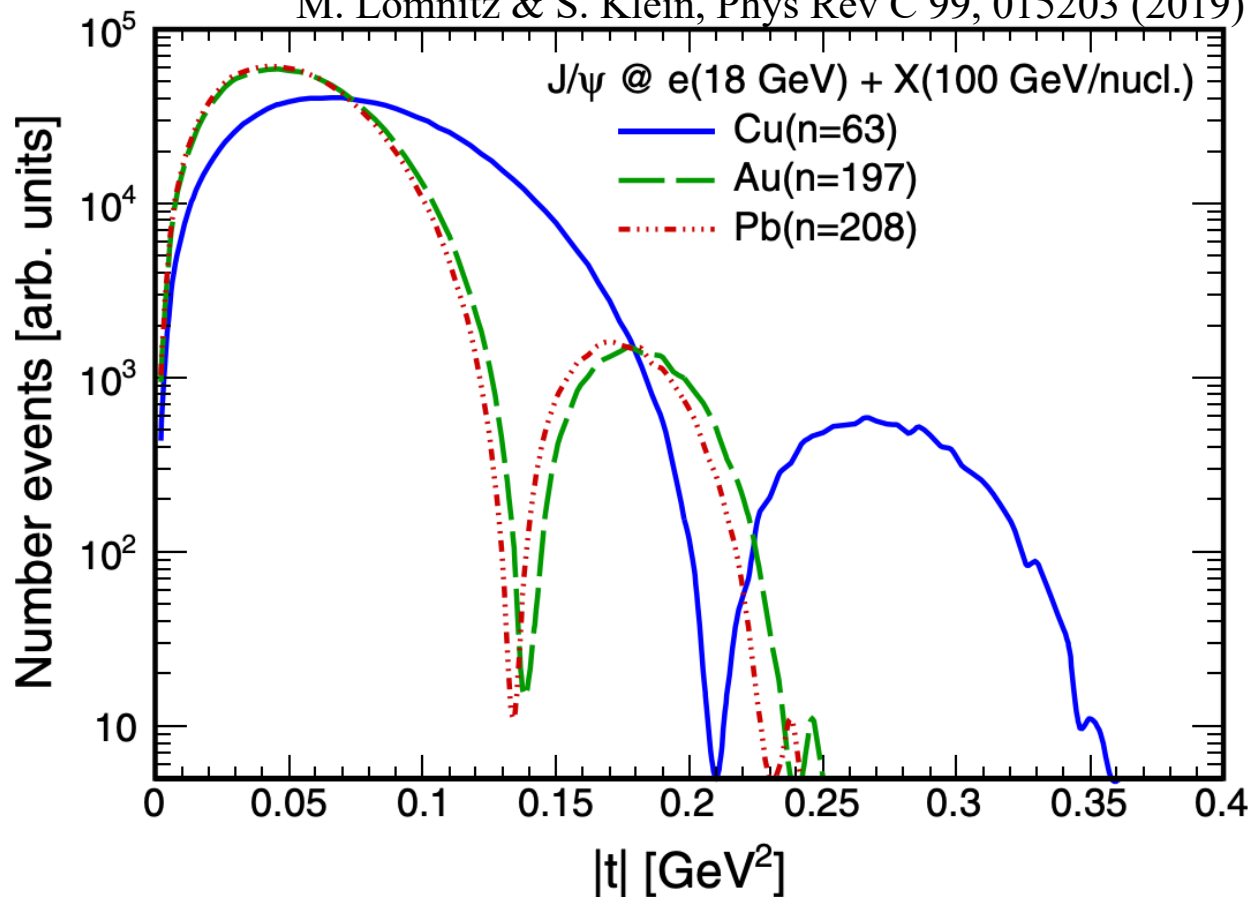
- Momentum transfer to the ion is determined by the form factor
- Heavy ions: convolution of hard sphere with Yukawa

$$F(t) = \frac{4\pi\rho_0}{Aq^3} [\sin(tR_A) - tR_A \cos(tR_A)] \left(\frac{1}{1 + a^2t^2} \right)$$

Momentum Transfer t

$$\sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow V A) \sim \int_{t_{\min}}^{\infty} dt \left. \frac{d\sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow V A)}{dt} \right|_{t=0} |F(t)|^2$$

M. Lomnitz & S. Klein, Phys Rev C 99, 015203 (2019)



- Momentum transfer to the ion is determined by the form factor
- Heavy ions: convolution of hard sphere with Yukawa

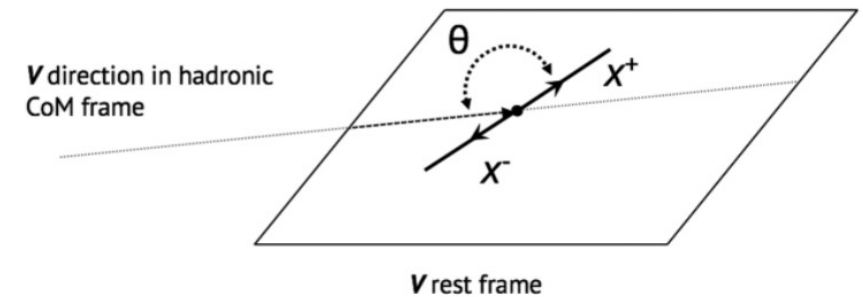
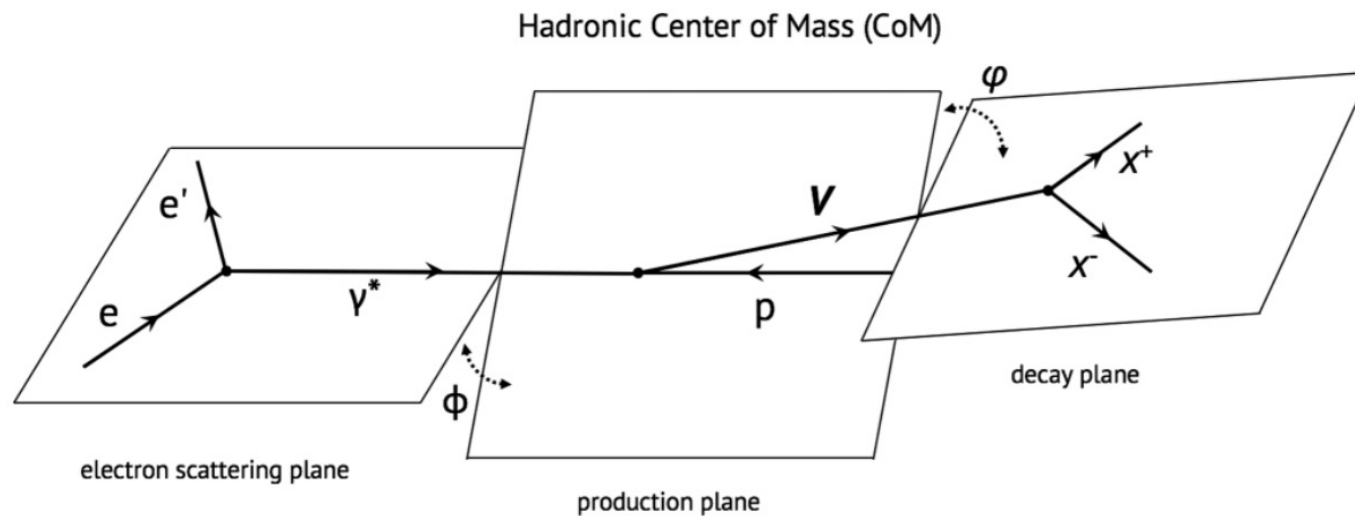
$$F(t) = \frac{4\pi\rho_0}{Aq^3} [\sin(tR_A) - tR_A \cos(tR_A)] \left(\frac{1}{1 + a^2t^2} \right)$$

- Protons: dipole form factor

$$F(t) = \frac{1}{(1 + q^2/0.71 \text{ GeV}^2)^2}$$

eSTARlight Decay Distributions

- Vector mesons produced with polarization from virtual photon
- s -channel helicity conservation (SCHC) approximation

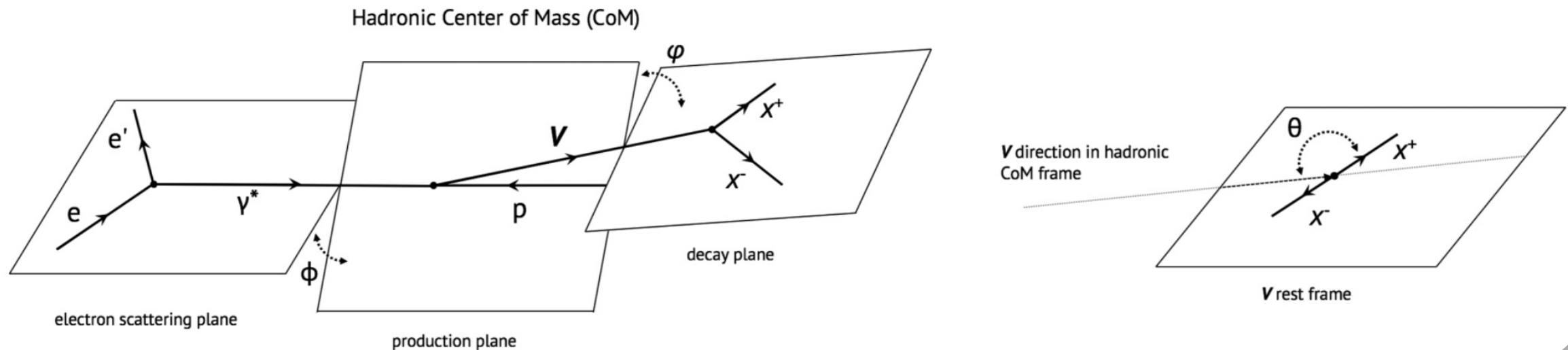


eSTARlight Decay Distributions

- Vector mesons produced with polarization from virtual photon
- s -channel helicity conservation (SCHC) approximation
- Decay anisotropically according to:

$$\text{spin-0 daughters: } \Omega(\cos \theta) \propto 1 - r_{00}^{04} + (3r_{00}^{04} - 1) \cos^2(\theta)$$

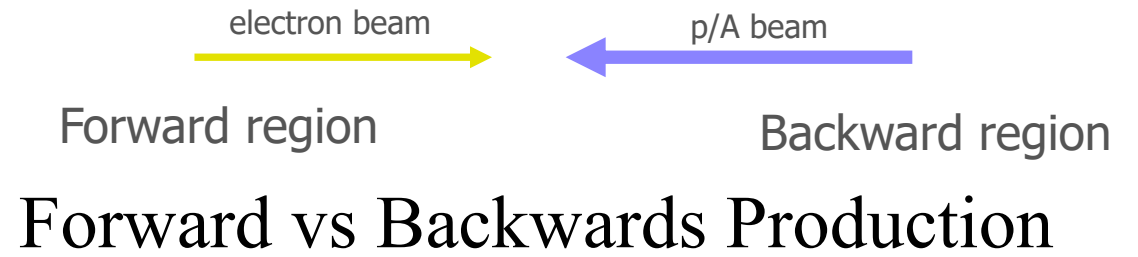
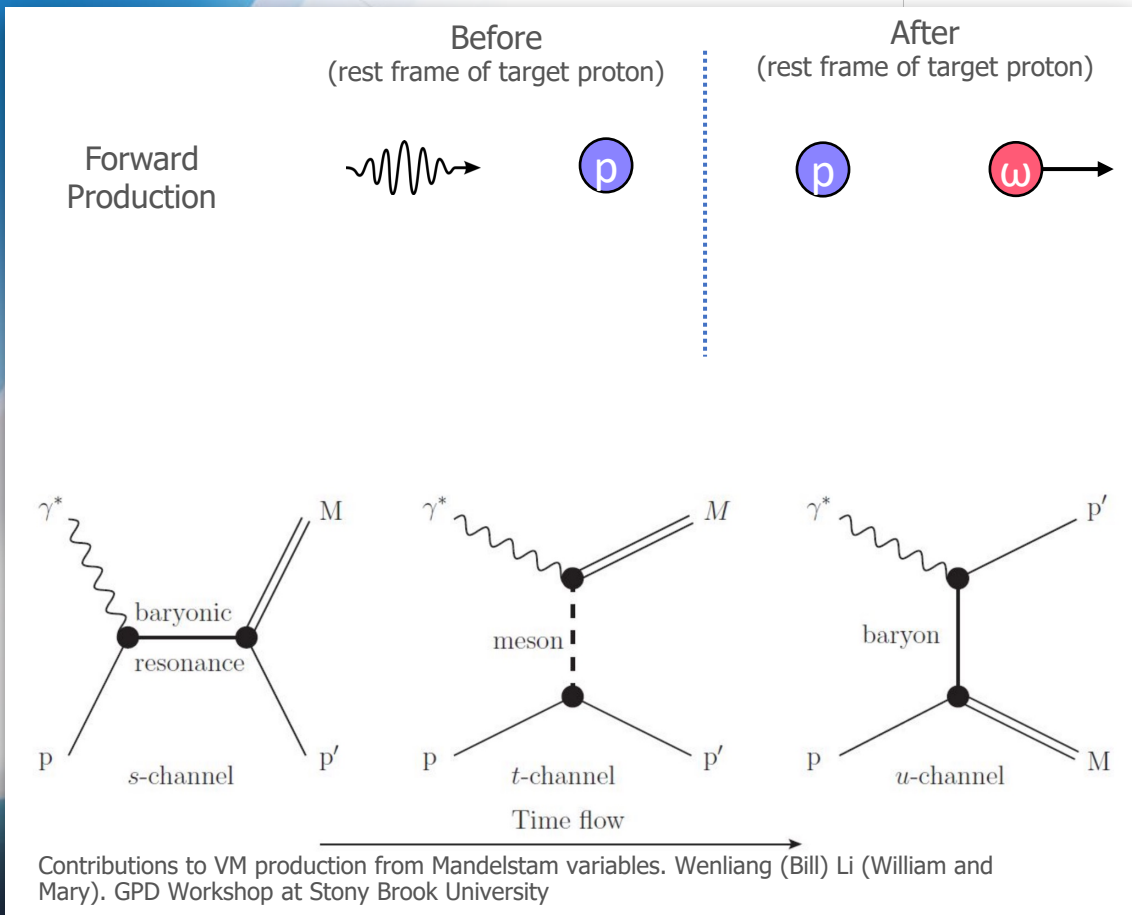
$$\text{spin-1/2 daughters: } \Omega(\cos \theta) \propto 1 + r_{00}^{04} + (1 - 3r_{00}^{04}) \cos^2(\theta)$$



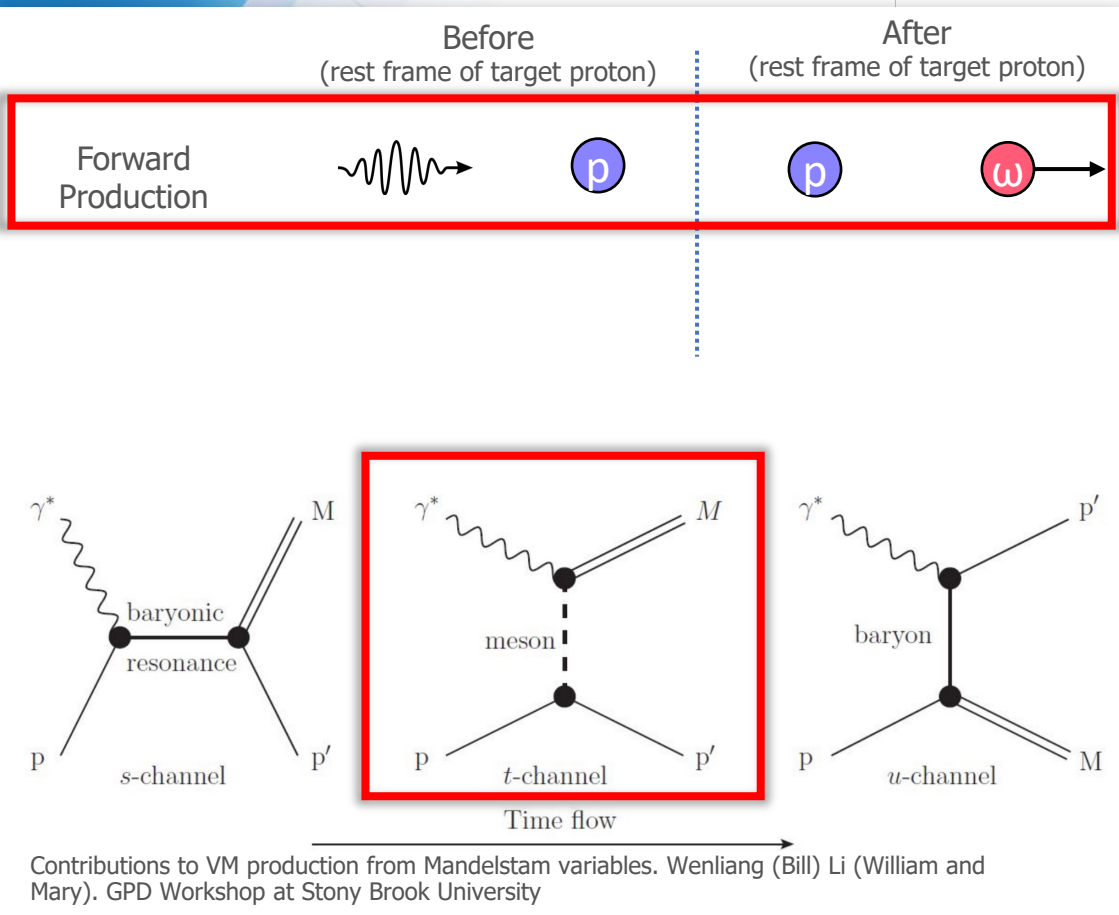


An Example Case: Modifying eSTARlight to simulate *u*-channel production

Backwards (u -channel) Production



Backwards (u -channel) Production



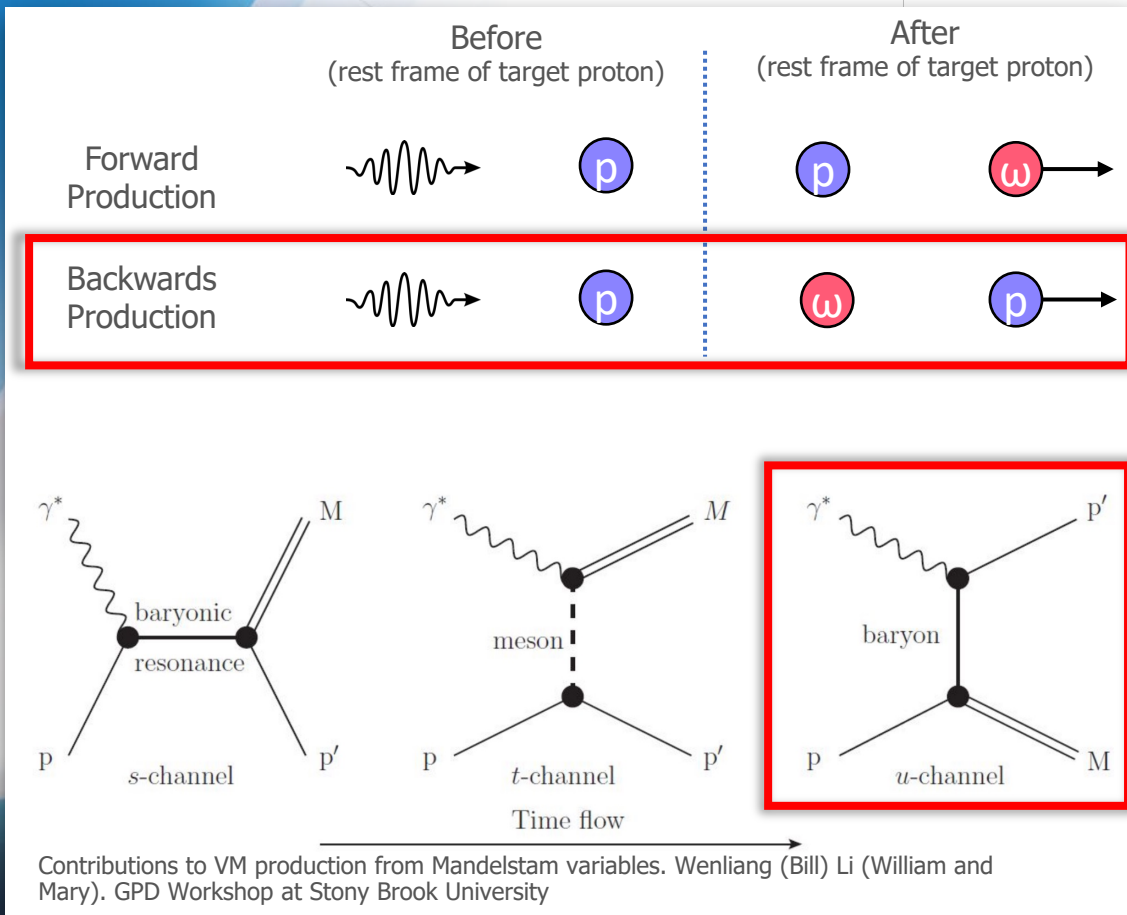
Forward region

Backward region

Forward vs Backwards Production

- Forward Production
 - t -channel: low Mandelstam t , high u
 - Momentum transfer from target is small
 - VM is produced in backwards (e^- -going) direction
 - Proton in forward direction
 - Proton rapidity only slightly modified

Backwards (u -channel) Production



Contributions to VM production from Mandelstam variables. Wenliang (Bill) Li (William and Mary). GPD Workshop at Stony Brook University

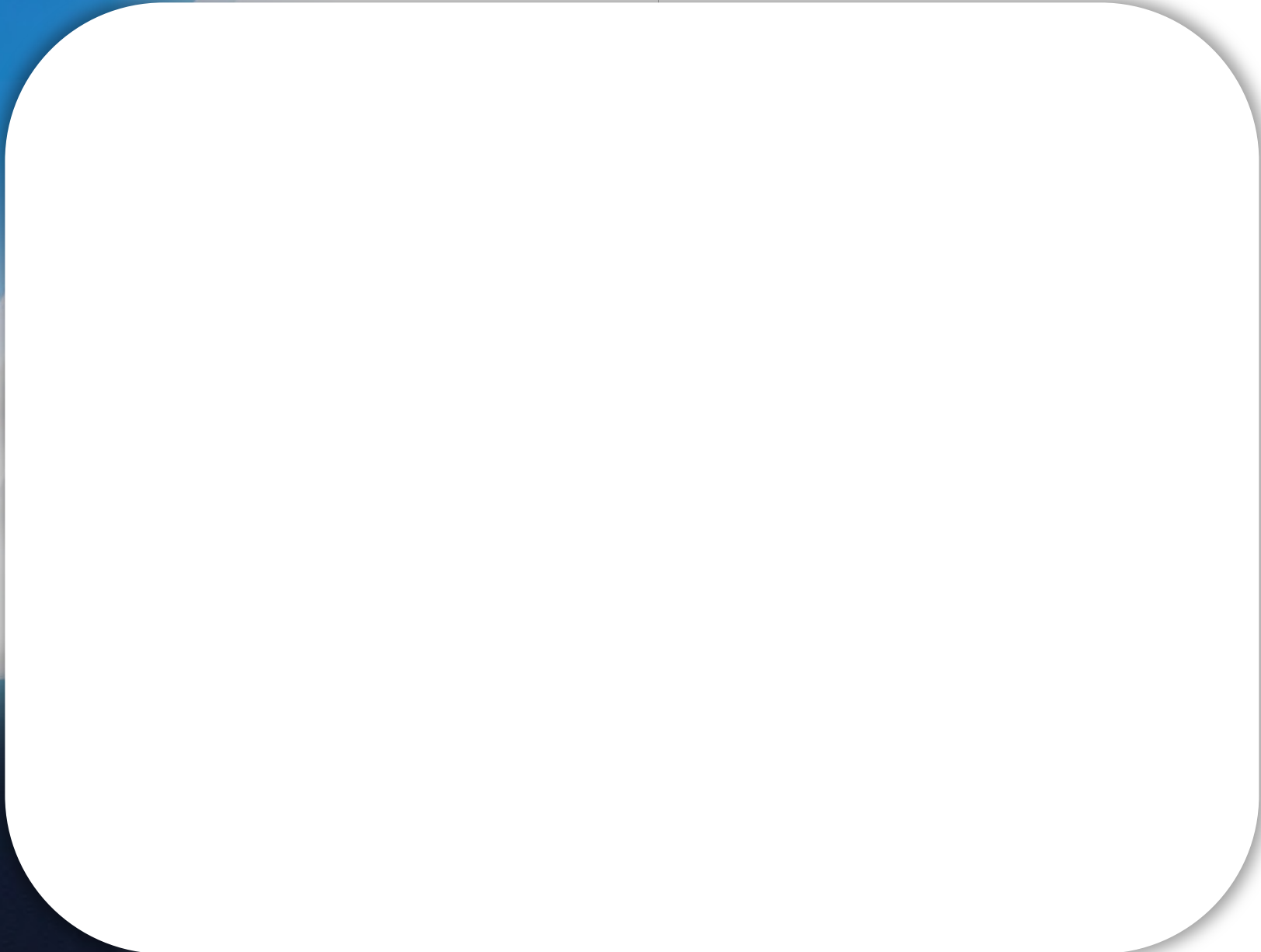


Forward region Backward region

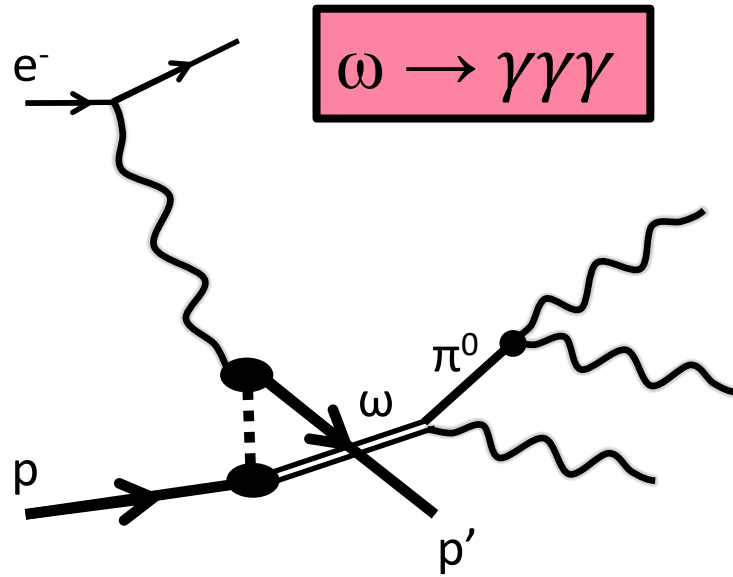
Forward vs Backwards Production

- Forward Production
 - t -channel: low Mandelstam t , high u
 - Momentum transfer from target is small
 - VM is produced in backwards (e^- -going) direction
 - Proton in forward direction
 - Proton rapidity only slightly modified
- Backwards Production
 - u -channel: low Mandelstam u , high t
 - Momentum transfer from target is large
 - VM produced in forwards (p -going) direction
 - Proton in backwards direction
 - Proton shifted many units in rapidity
 - Similarities with stopping in heavy ion collisions

u-channel Processes We've Simulated

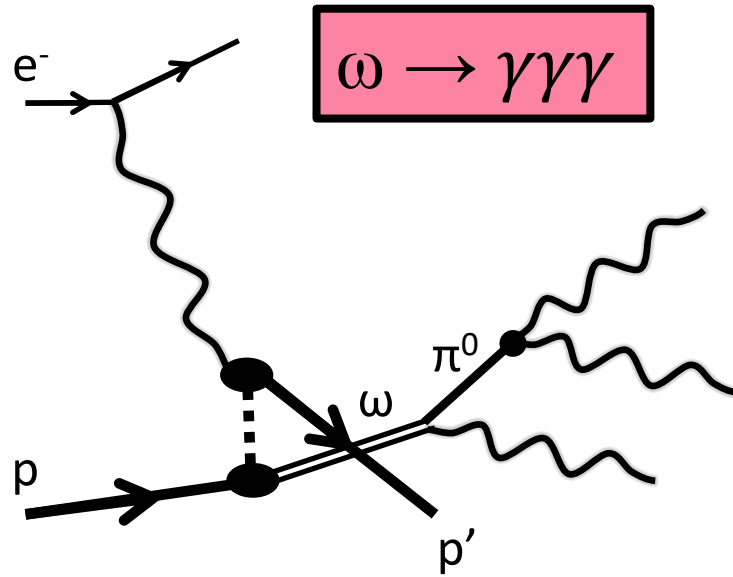


u -channel Processes We've Simulated

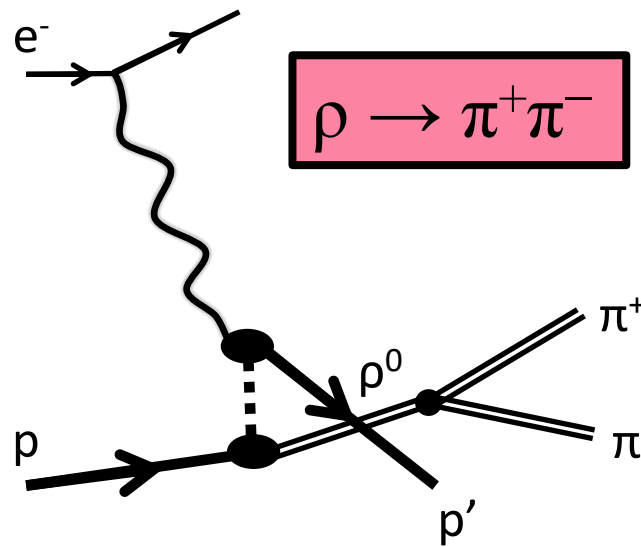


- u -channel vector meson production at the EIC
Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)

u -channel Processes We've Simulated



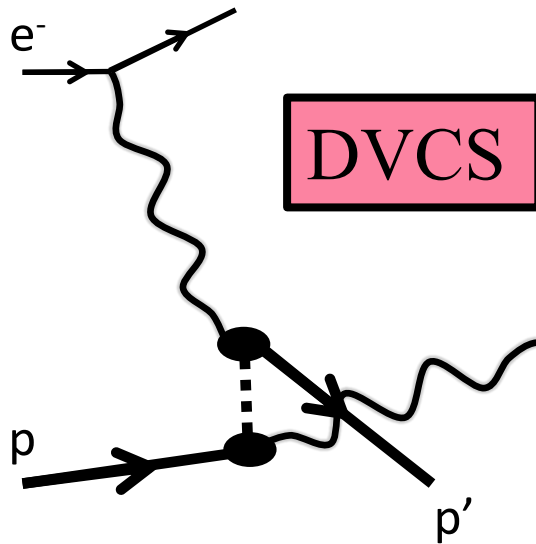
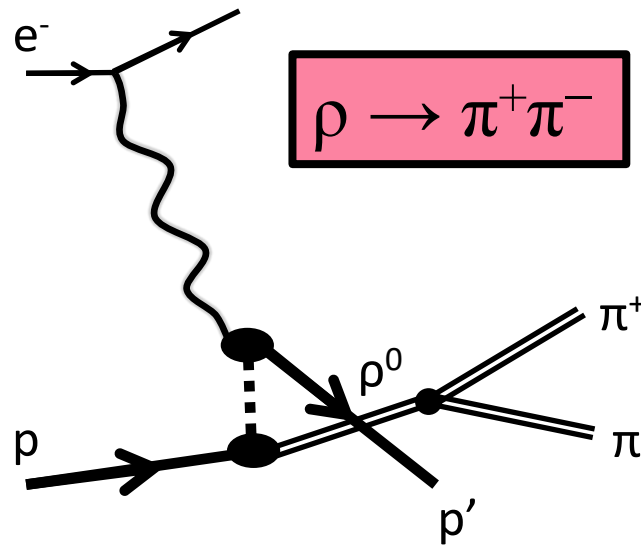
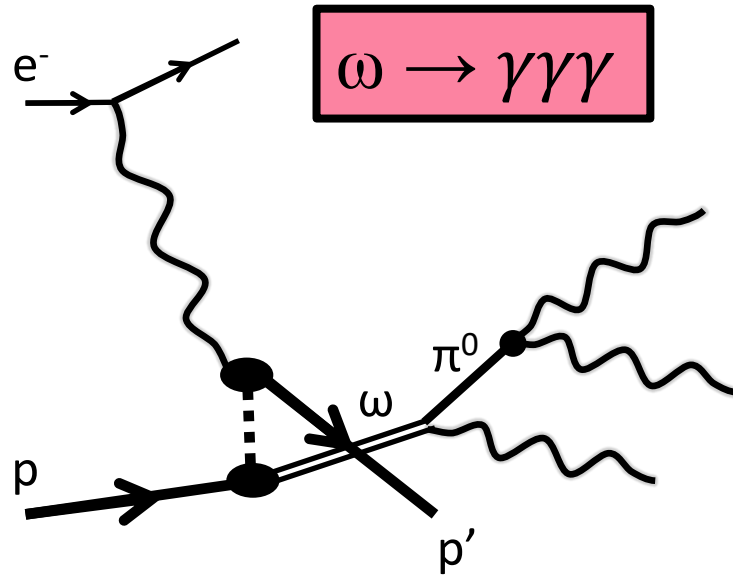
$\omega \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$



$\rho \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$

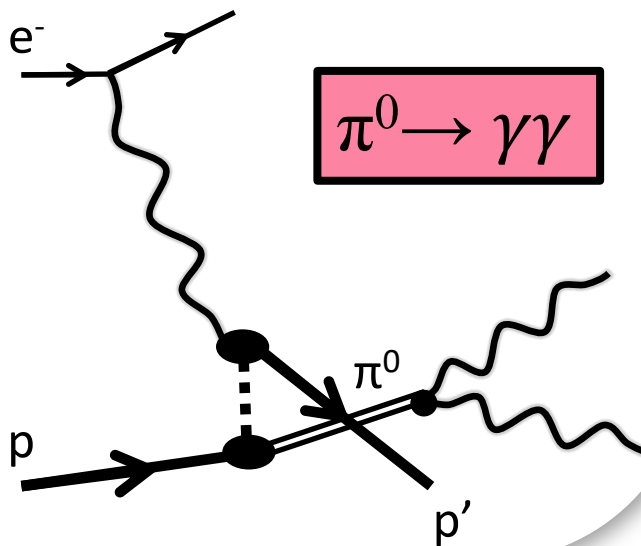
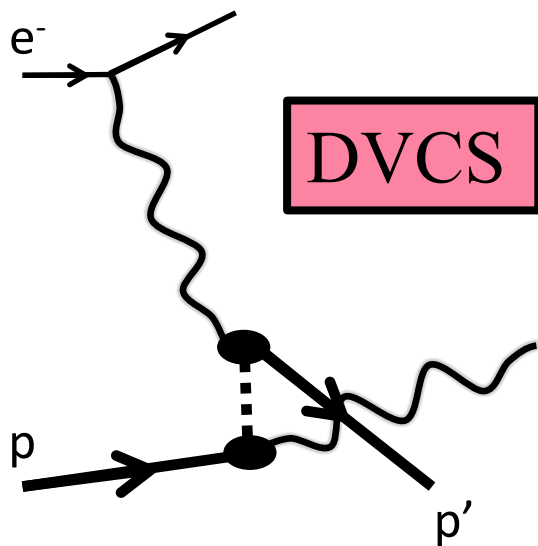
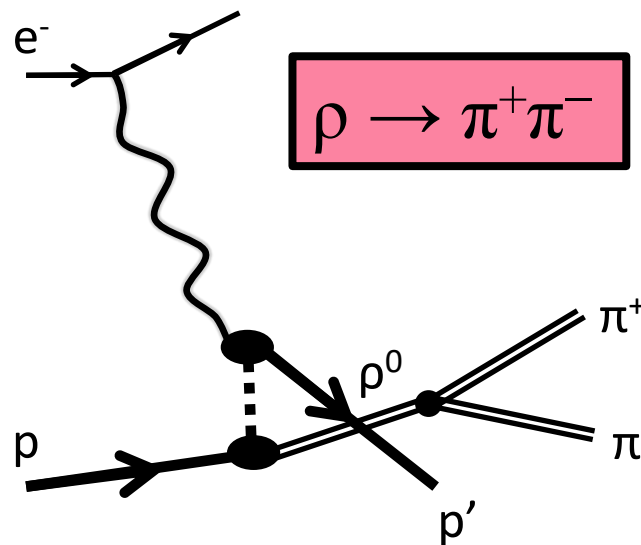
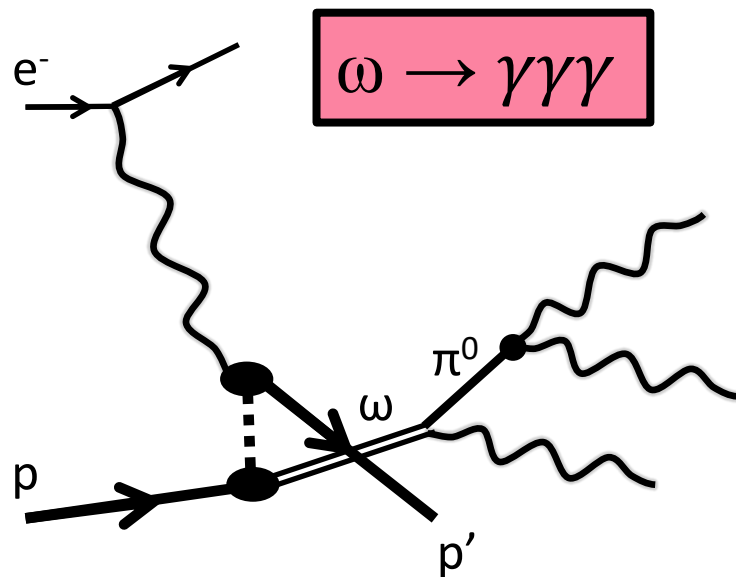
- u -channel vector meson production at the EIC
Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)

u -channel Processes We've Simulated



- u -channel vector meson production at the EIC
Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)
- u -channel virtual Compton scattering and π^0 production at the EIC
Phys. Rev. C 108, 055205 (2023)

u -channel Processes We've Simulated

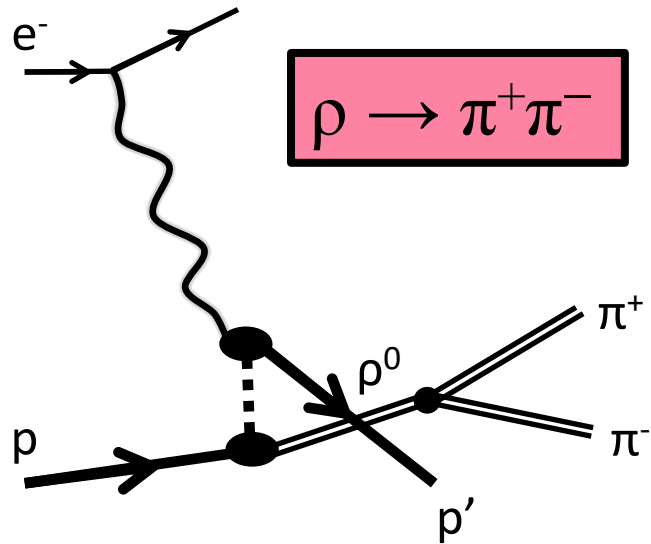


- u -channel vector meson production at the EIC
Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)

- u -channel virtual Compton scattering and π^0 production at the EIC
Phys. Rev. C 108, 055205 (2023)

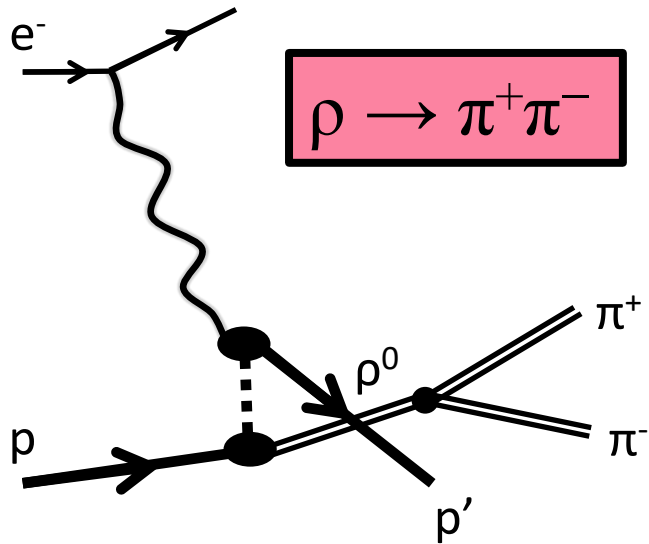
Modifying eSTARlight for u -channel $\rho \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$

Modeling u -channel Production



Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)

Modifying eSTARlight for u -channel $\rho \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$

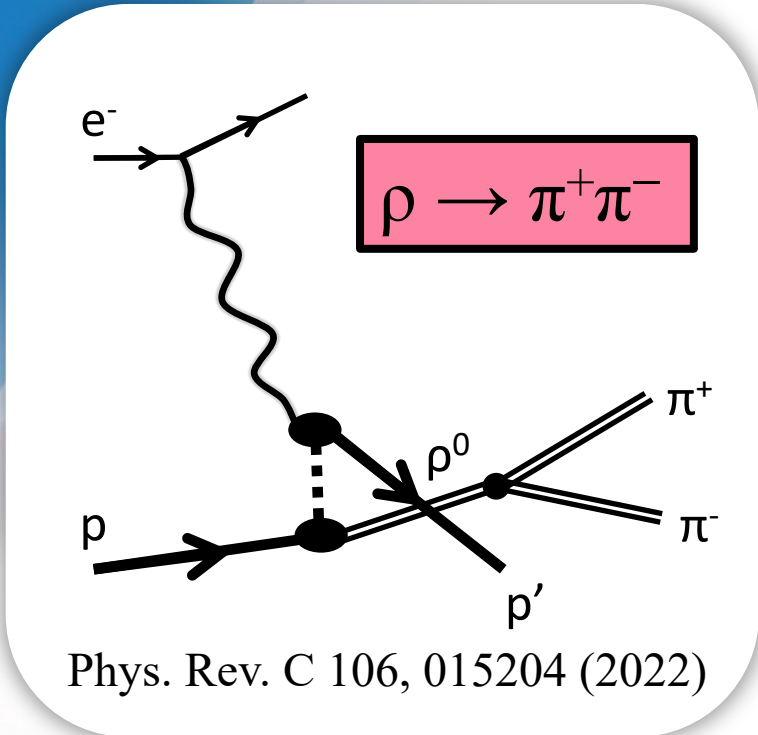


Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)

Modeling u -channel Production

- eSTARlight has been modified include backward production!
- **The strategy: exploit similarities to t -channel**

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} \sim e^{-Bt} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{d\sigma}{du} \sim e^{-Cu}$$

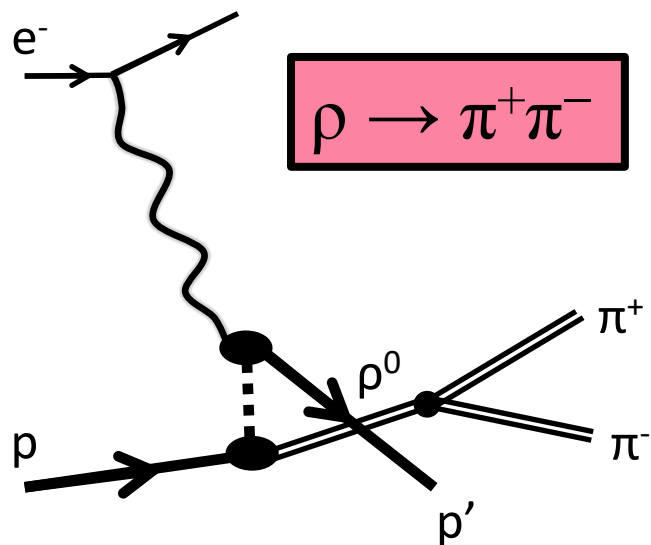


Modeling u -channel Production

- eSTARlight has been modified include backward production!
- **The strategy: exploit similarities to t -channel**

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} \sim e^{-Bt} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{d\sigma}{du} \sim e^{-Cu}$$

- Scaling depends on the meson produced
- B and C relate to size of production region which differs in t and u channels due to role of meson vs baryon exchange trajectories



Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)

Modeling u -channel Production

- eSTARlight has been modified include backward production!
- The strategy: exploit similarities to t -channel**

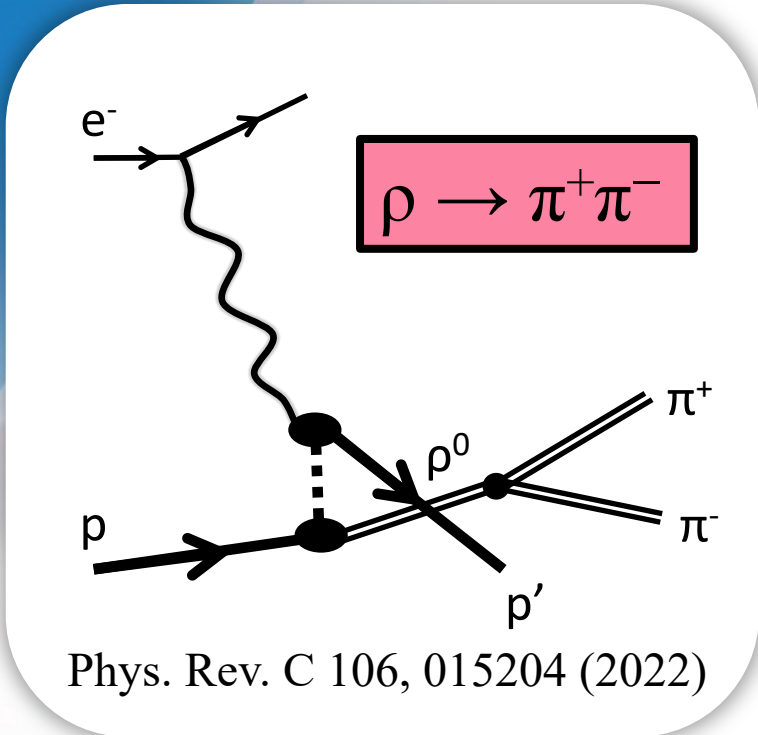
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} \sim e^{-Bt} \longrightarrow \frac{d\sigma}{du} \sim e^{-Cu}$$

- Scaling depends on the meson produced
- B and C relate to size of production region which differs in t and u channels due to role of meson vs baryon exchange trajectories
- Effect of photon virtuality estimated with similar behavior to t -channel

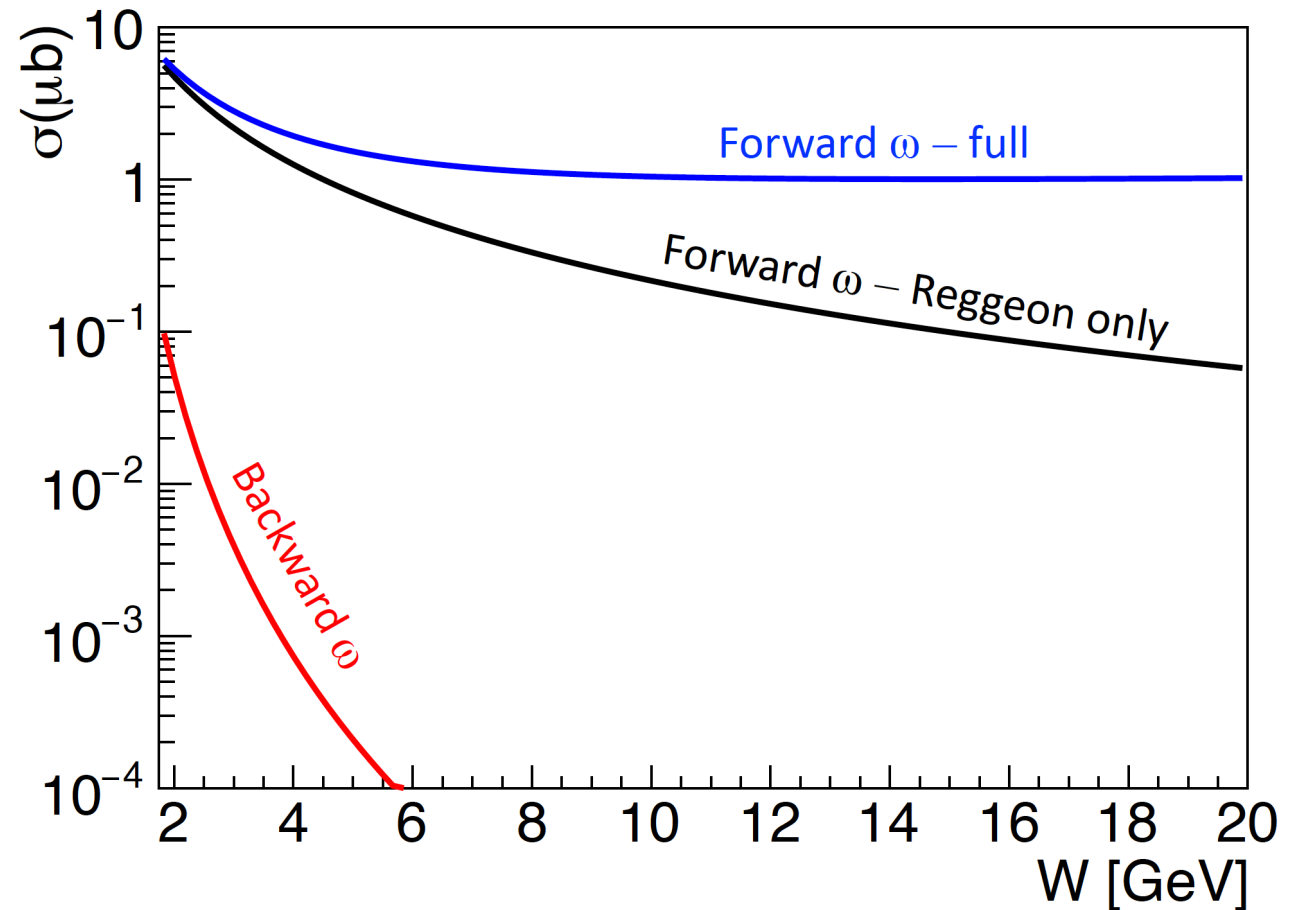
$$\sigma_{\gamma^* p \rightarrow \omega p}(W, Q^2) = \sigma_{\gamma^* p \rightarrow \omega p}(W, Q^2 = 0) \left(\frac{M_\omega^2}{M_\omega^2 + Q^2} \right)^n$$

F.D. Aaron et al. (H1), JHEP 05, 032 (2010)

Modifying eSTARlight for u -channel $\rho \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$

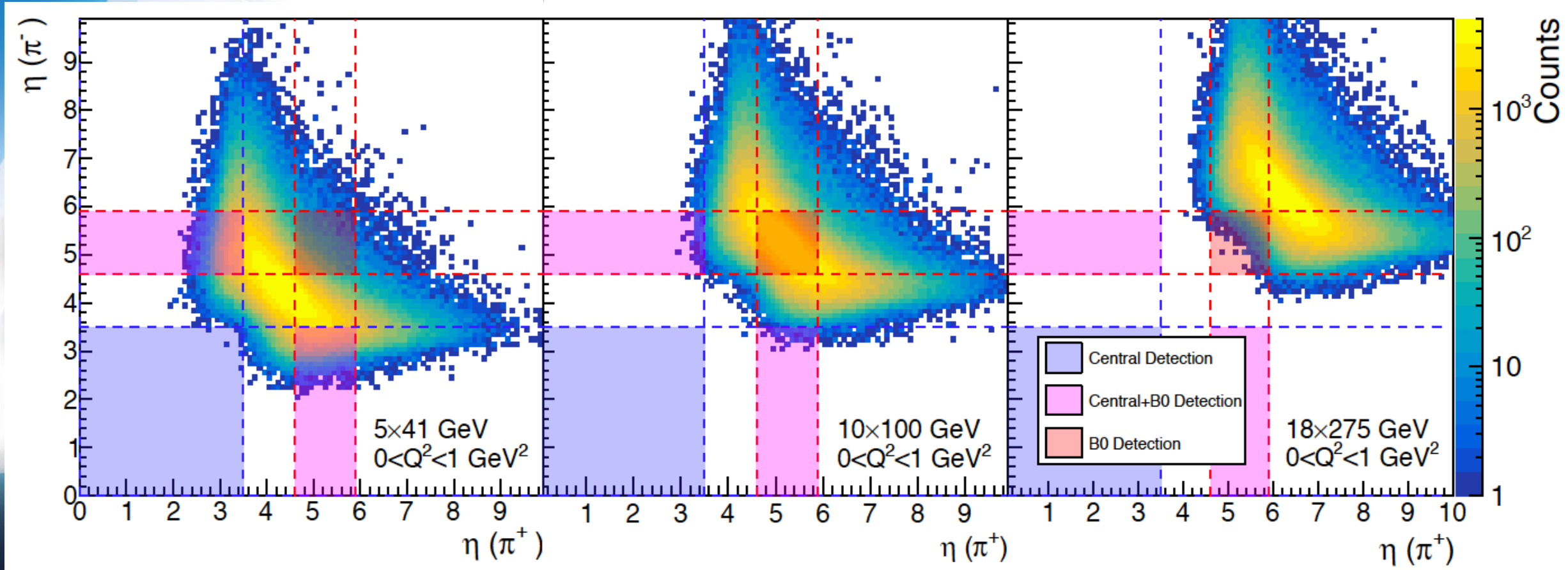


- Backward cross sections fall faster with increasing center-of-mass energy due to Reggeon exchange trajectories



u -channel $\rho \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$ at the EIC

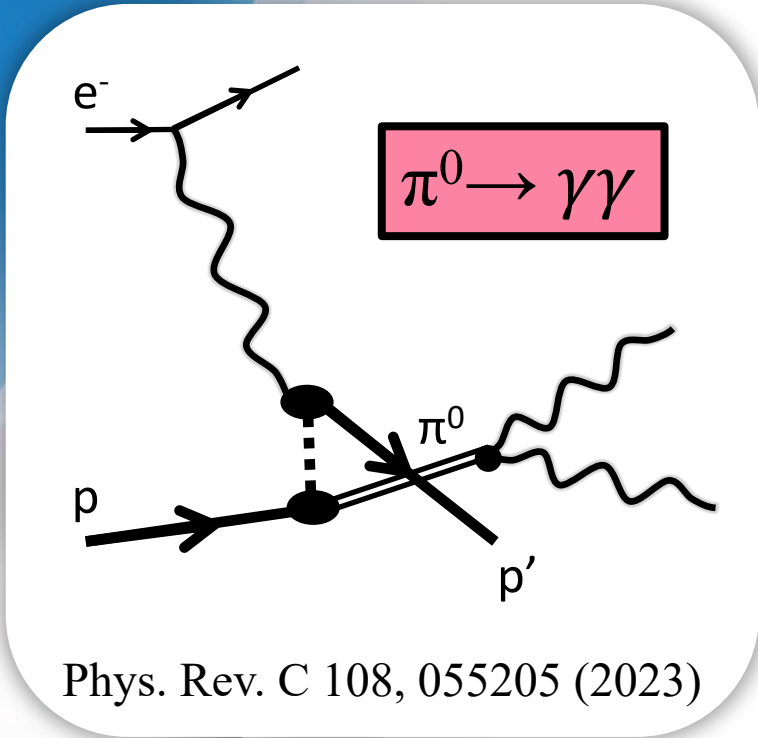
- We can use this to start evaluating whether this channel will be observable



Phys. Rev. C 106, 015204 (2022)

Proton beam energy	ρ eff. cent.+B0
41 GeV	13%
100 GeV	49%
275 GeV	0.7%

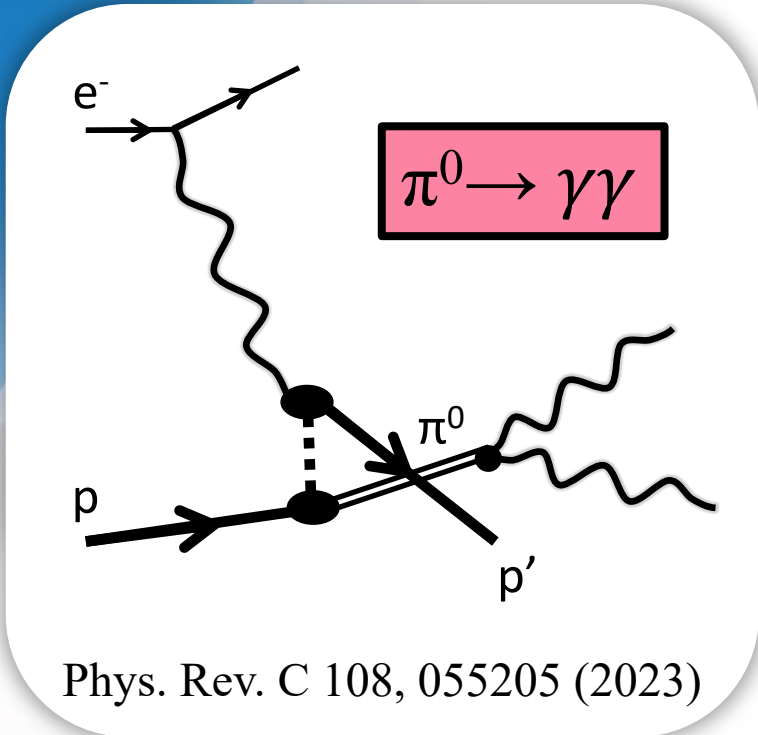
u -channel $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ at the EIC



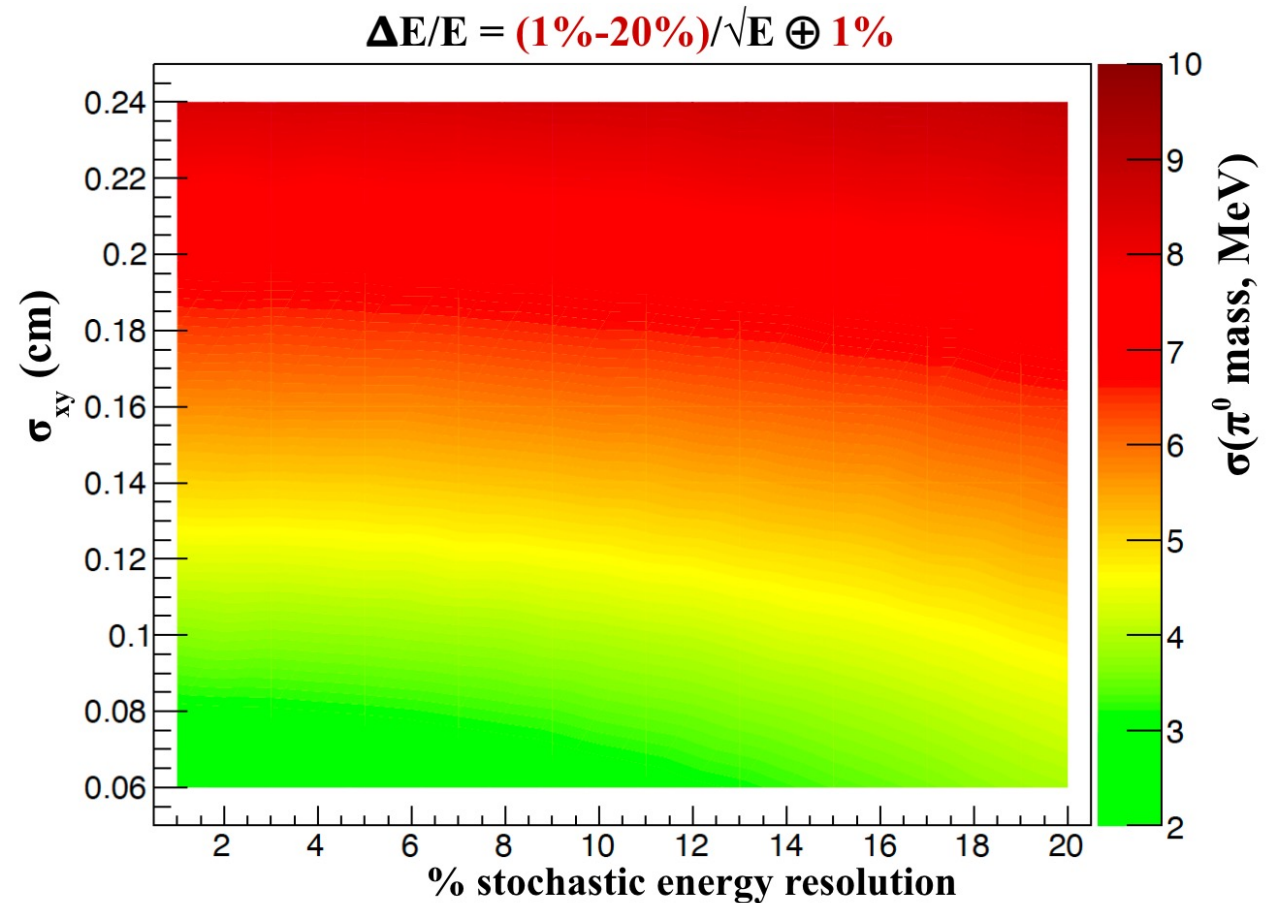
- Use similar method to simulate backward $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ in the ZDC
- Apply realistic energy and spatial resolutions to smear photons

Phys. Rev. C 108, 055205 (2023)

u -channel $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ at the EIC



- Use similar method to simulate backward $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ in the ZDC
- Apply realistic energy and spatial resolutions to smear photons
- Use changes to π^0 reconstruction to inform detector design



Phys. Rev. C 108, 055205 (2023)

Conclusions

- eSTARlight is a fast and flexible Monte Carlo for simulating vector-meson production in ep and eA
- More details about the physics behind the code available at <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.99.015203>
- Code is available on GitHub: <https://github.com/eic/estarlight>
- eSTARlight is easy to modify to simulate novel processes



**Electron Ion Collider:
The Next QCD Frontier**

Understanding the glue
that binds us all



Thank you for your attention!

zwsweger@ucdavis.edu