

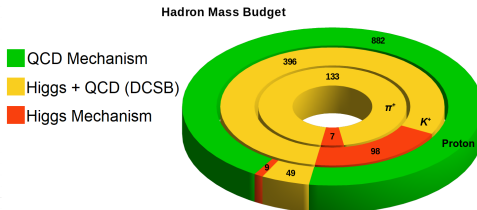
Light Meson Structure from Early EIC Physics

Stephen JD Kay
University of York

EIC/ePIC UG Meeting
15/07/25

Stephen JD Kay, Garth Huber, Love Preet
Meson Structure WG

Why Meson Structure - Hadron Mass Budgets

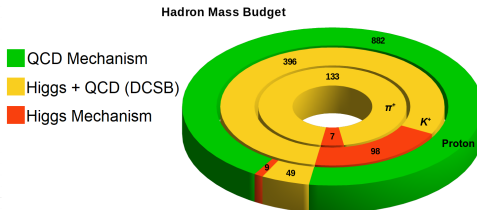


Revealing the structure of light pseudoscalar mesons at the electron-ion collider

J Arrington¹, C Ayerbe Gayoso², P C Barry^{3,4}, V Berdnikov⁵, D Binios⁶, L Chang⁷, M Diefenthaler⁸, M Ding⁹, R Ent¹⁰, T Frederico¹¹, Y Furlitova¹², T J Hobbs^{13,14}, T Horn^{15,16}, G M Huber¹⁷, S J D Kay¹⁸, C Keppel¹⁹, H-W Lin²⁰, C Mezzag²¹, R Montgomery²², I L Pegg²³, K Raya²⁴, P Reimer²⁵, D G Richards¹, C D Roberts^{27,28}, J Rodriguez-Quintero²⁹, D Romanov³⁰, G Salmé³¹, N Sato³², J Segovia³³, P Stepanov³⁴, A S Tadehall³⁵ and R L Trotta³⁶

Image - G. Huber, modified figure from paper listed.

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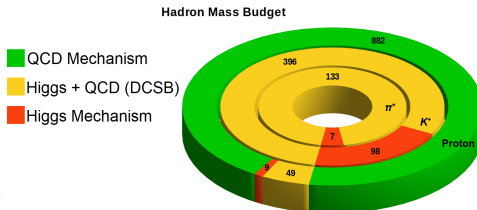
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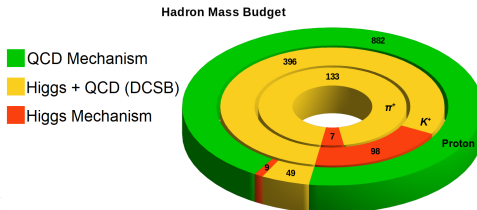


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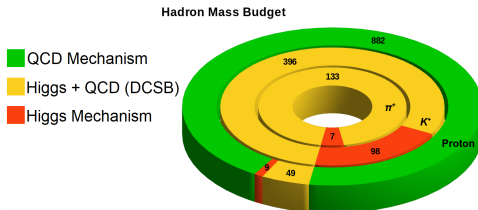


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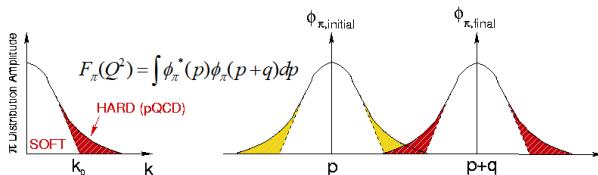
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- What can we examine to look at their structure?

Quantifying Meson Structure - Meson Form Factors

- Charged pion (π^\pm) and kaon (K^\pm) form factors (F_π , F_K) are key QCD observables
 - Momentum space distributions of partons within hadrons

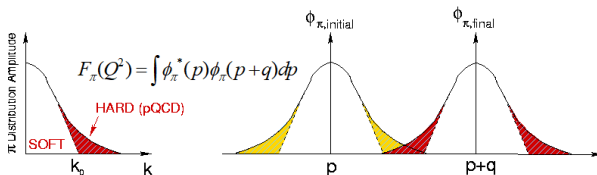
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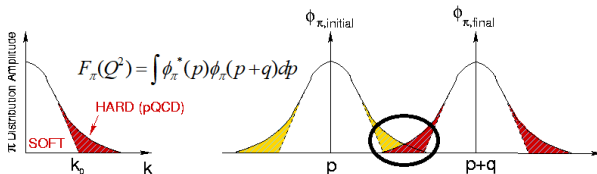
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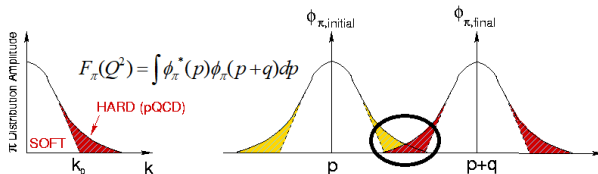
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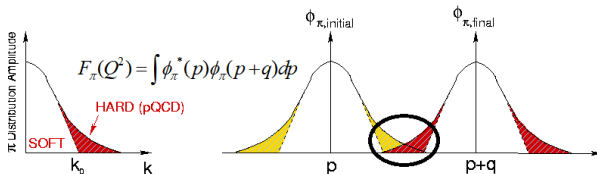
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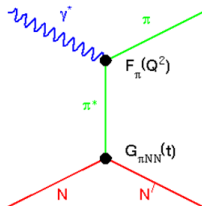
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- F_π and F_K of special interest in hadron structure studies
 - π - Lightest QCD quark system, simple
 - K - Another simple system, contains strange quark

Measurement of F_π at High Q^2

- To access F_π at high Q^2 , must measure F_π indirectly
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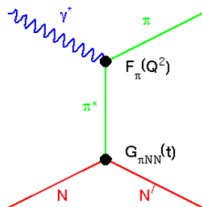
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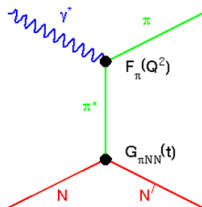


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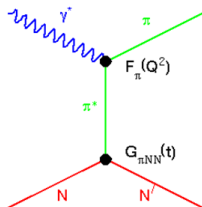


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(smaller dependency at low $-t$)



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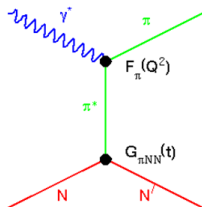
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(smaller dependency at low $-t$)
- At a collider, must isolate $d\sigma_L/dt$ from measured $d\sigma_{uns}/dt$, using a model
- Measure **D**ep **E**xclusive **M**eson **P**roduction (**D**EMP)

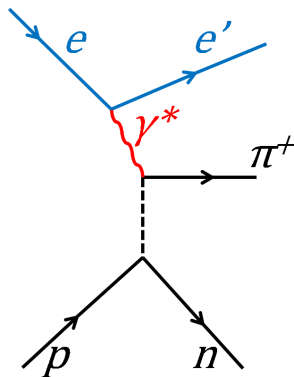


Ingredients for DEMP

- DEMP as a process is fairly self descriptive!
- Consider the $p(e, e'\pi^+ n)$ reaction

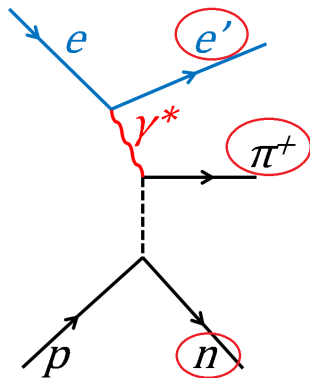
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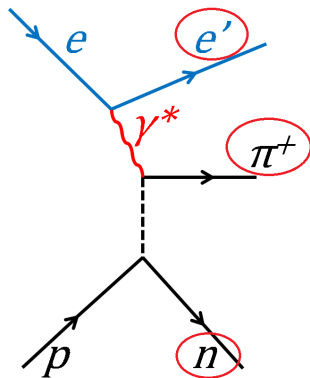
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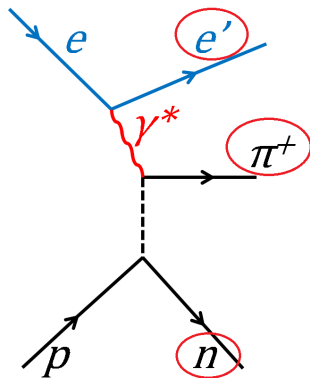
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 - Can also measure $n(e, e'\pi^- p)$ in $e + D$ collisions
 - Kaon DEMP, $\pi^+ \rightarrow K^+$ and $n \rightarrow \Lambda^0$
 - (or Σ^0)
 - So just need $e + p$ or $e + D$ collisions



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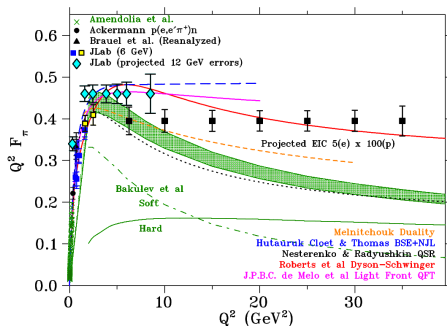
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- Assume $\int \mathcal{L} = 5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ in projections

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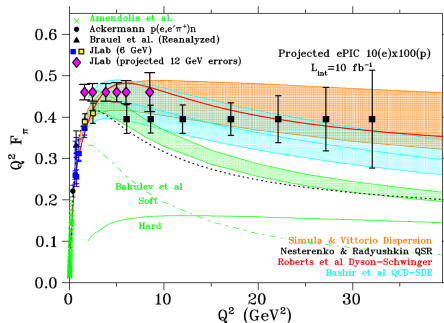
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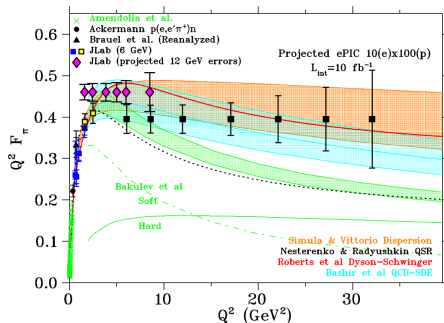
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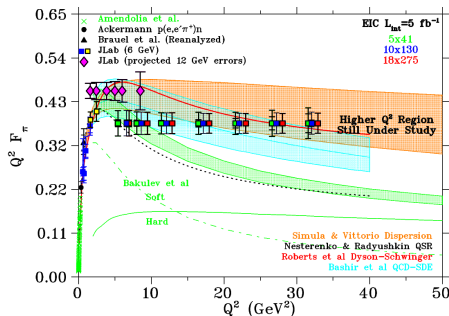
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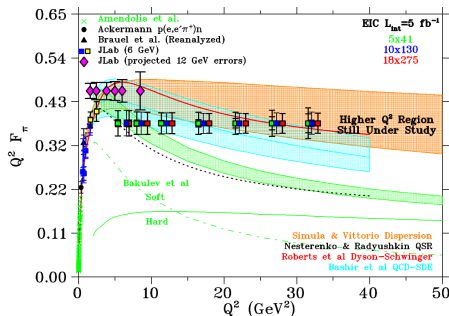
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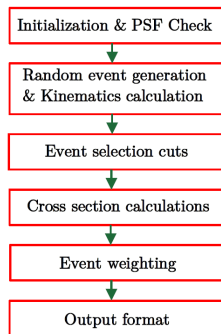
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- Need to provide a new release for DEMPgen and submit latest files as a sim campaign request

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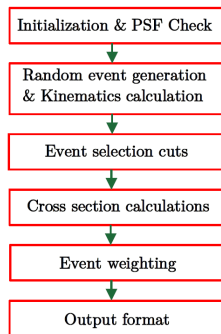
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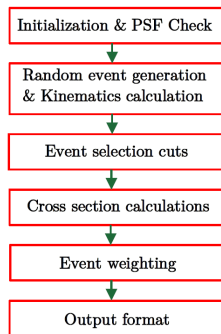
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- Further details in [recent paper](#)



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2024.109444>

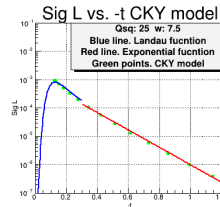
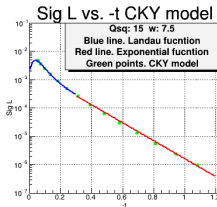
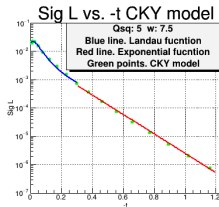
DEMPgen - Parametrisation

- DEMPgen uses parameterised Regge-based models
 - Uses the **CKY model** for $p(e, e'\pi^+n)$

Authors of model are - T.K. Choi, K.J. Kong and B.G. Yu - **CKY**

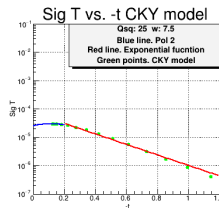
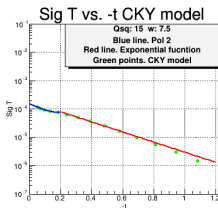
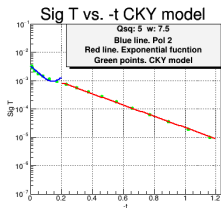
DEMPgen - Parametrisation

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- Parameterise σ_L and σ_T across broad kinematic range applicable to EIC
 - $5 < Q^2 < 35$, $2 < W < 10$, $0 < -t < 1.3$



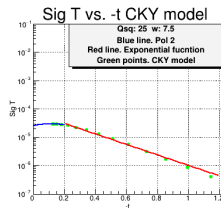
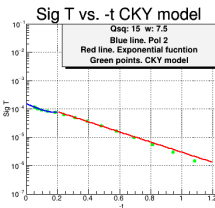
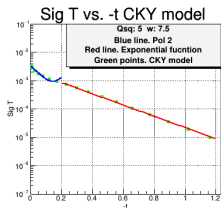
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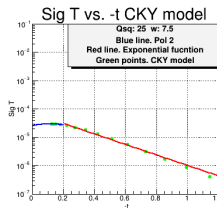
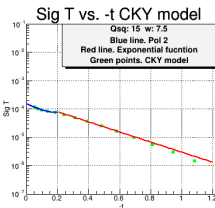
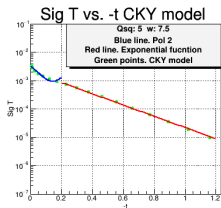


- Kaon reactions → Use **VGL model**

Authors of model are - M.Vanderhaeghen, M. Guidal and J.-M.Laget - **VGL**

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- Kaon reactions → Use **VGL model**
- To access $Q^2 > 35 \text{ GeV}^2$, need to parameterise model in this range and add to generator

Simulation Overview

- Generated new 10x130 and 10x250 files from DEMPgen

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Used $\mathcal{L} \approx 0.2629 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, based upon assumptions on per fill $\int \mathcal{L}$ in [Elke's slides](#). * - A modified version, will provide a v1.2.4 release soon.

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 - Roughly $\sim 400\text{k}$ generated per Q^2 range
- Constrained $-t$ to $< 0.4 \text{ GeV}^2$

Technically, actually a cut on the range of $\theta_{e'}$ values, directly feeds into Q^2

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 - Plots shown are from own simulation

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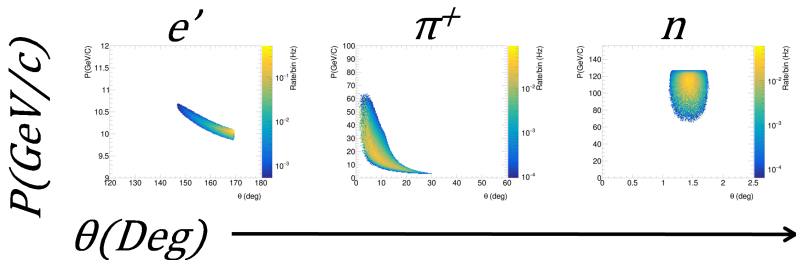
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- **Need to produce new release of DEMPgen, then will update campaign files and request**

DEMP Kinematics - Truth Distributions

- A quick reminder of DEMP kinematics with 10×130 events

DEMP Kinematics - Truth Distributions

- A quick reminder of DEMP kinematics with 10x130 events
- e' and π^+ hit the central detector, neutron in FF detectors
 - ZDC in particular critical for low $-t$ neutrons
- Note that the Z scale is a rate in Hz



Beam effects *not* removed here.

Note, in η the ranges are $-1.15 < \eta_{e'} < -2.45$, $0 < \eta_{\pi^+} < 0.9$ and $4 < \eta_n < 5.1$.

DEMP Analysis Overview - Event Selection Cuts

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 - $E_n > 40 \text{ GeV}$ ($> 120 \text{ GeV}$ for 10x250)
 - $\theta_n^* < 4 \text{ mrad}$

θ^* is after a rotation of 25 mRad around the proton axis to remove the crossing angle

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- Cut on difference between ZDC hit and p_{Miss} track angles
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 - $|\Delta\phi^*| < 55^\circ$ ($|\Delta\phi^*| < 80^\circ$ for 10x250)
 - $1.8 * E_{e\text{Beam}} < \sum (E - P_z) < 2.2 * E_{e\text{Beam}}$

$$\vec{P}_{\text{Miss}} = (\vec{e} + \vec{p}) - (\vec{e}'_{\text{Rec}} + \vec{\pi}_{\text{Rec}}) - \text{More on this in a moment}$$

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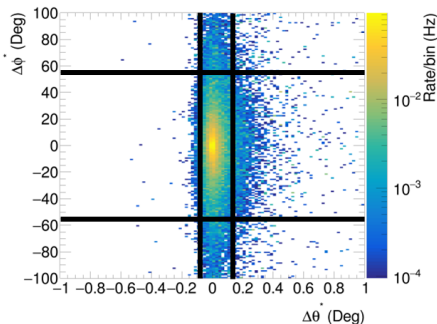
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- PID using PDG code assignment not used currently

DEMP Analysis Overview - $\Delta\theta^*$ and $\Delta\phi^*$ Cuts

- P_{Miss} vector should correspond with hit location on the ZDC
- For a non-exclusive event, P_{Miss} vector should not correspond to a real ZDC hit/cluster
 - Effectively an additional “exclusivity” constraint

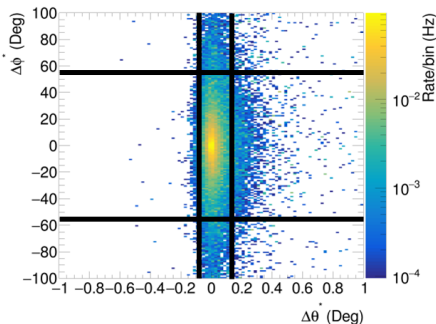
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- Simulation is **exclusive only**, inclusive events spread over broader range



DEMP Analysis Overview - $-t$ Reconstruction

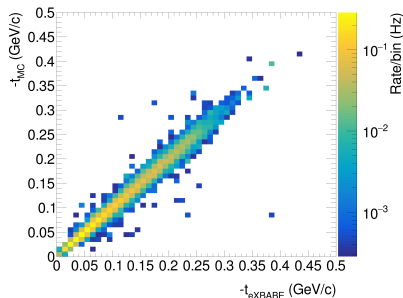
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- “Best” way for DEMP is $\rightarrow -t_{eXBABE} = (\vec{p} - \vec{n}_{Corr})^2$

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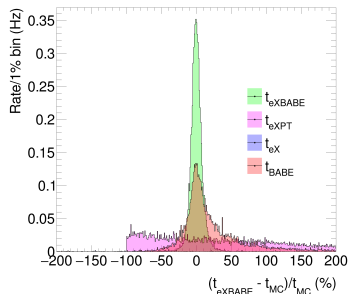
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- Exploit exclusive nature of the reaction, generic implementation [available in code here](#)
- $-t_{eXBABE}$ correlates well with truth
- Far better than methods using **uncorrected neutron track** (t_{BABE}) and methods utilising **electron information** (t_{eX}) and **electron P_T** (t_{eXPT}) info



$\sigma(eXBABE) = 10.95$, $\sigma(eXPT) = 83.05$, $\sigma(eX) = 110.2$, $\sigma(BABE) = 42.82$. All $e'\pi^+n$ triple coincidence events

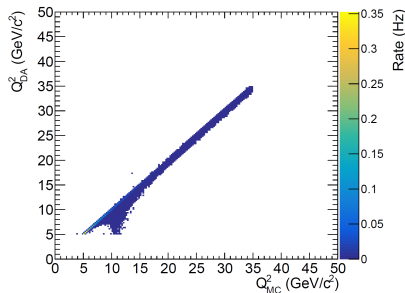
Kinematic Reconstruction - Q^2

- Various ways to calculate Q^2 (and $\therefore x, y$)
- Evaluated the **electron**, **JB**, **DA** and **sigma** methods

See details of each calculation in [this tutorial](#)

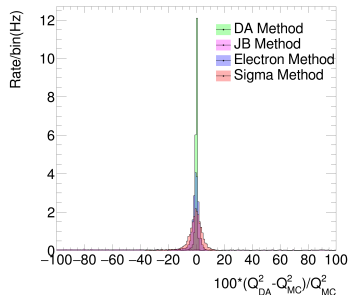
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- Evaluated the **electron**, **JB**, **DA** and **sigma** methods
- **DA method** appears to perform best for DEMP across broad kinematic range
- Q_{DA}^2 correlates well with truth
- **Electron** and **sigma** methods perform OK, but not as well.
- **JB** method clearly not valid for these kinematics



$$\sigma(DA) = 1.359, \sigma(JB) = N/a, \sigma(Electrom) = 3.623, \sigma(Sigma) = 6.877.$$

Analysis Status - QA Plot Overview

Kinematic reconstructions	quantity	Reco	Truth	Response (2D)	Purity/bin migration	detector acceptance-only corrected	Unfolding/full correction
(electron,JB, DA,sigma, e-sigma)	Q2						
	x						
	y						
	dQ2/Q2						
	dx/x						
	dy/y						
	e' energy						
	e' theta						
	HFS (E-pz)						
	HFS (pT)						
Event level							
	E-pz (e'+HFS)						
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	Calo clusters						
Observable of interest							
	e.g., t,etc.						
Detector specific variables	Depends						
PID quantities:	Add when it comes						

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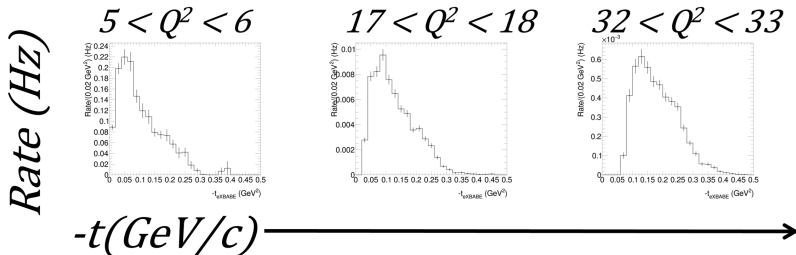
- Applies to both beam energies under study
- Code produces a pdf of main (green) QA plots, will tidy up and add to note (more on the note soon!)

DEMP Analysis Results - $Q^2, -t$ Binning

- After applying cuts, bin in Q^2 and $-t$

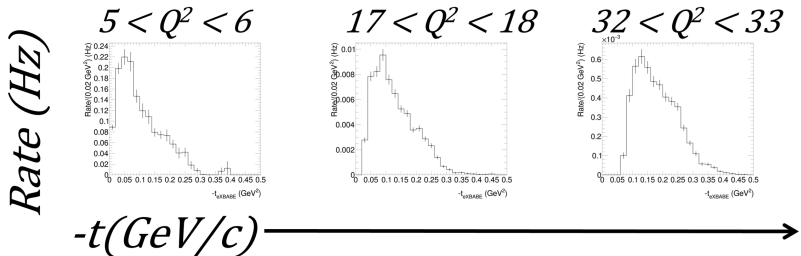
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DEMP Analysis Results - $Q^2, -t$ Binning

- After applying cuts, bin in Q^2 and $-t$
 - $-t$ bins $0.02 \text{ GeV}/c$ wide
 - Q^2 bins 1 GeV^2 wide
 - **Rebin if stats low**
- From rate per bin, extrapolate to number of events with $\int \mathcal{L} = 5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$, project to F_π

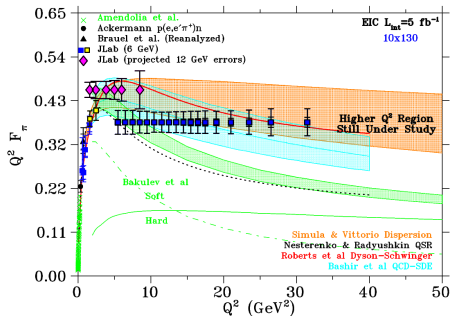


DEMP Analysis Results - F_π Projections

- ePIC opens up high Q^2 F_π regime

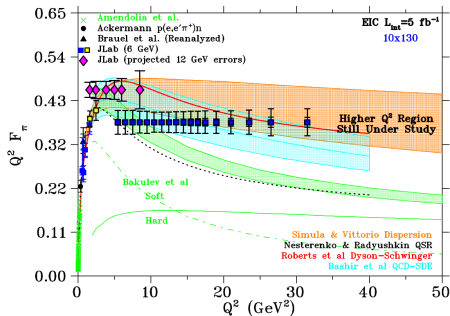
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- ePIC opens up high Q^2 F_π regime
- Error bars represent real projected error bars
 - Inner bar - statistical
 - Outer bar - systematic
 - $\delta R = R$, $R = \sigma_L/\sigma_T$
 - $R = 0.013 - 0.014$ at lowest $-t$ from VR model



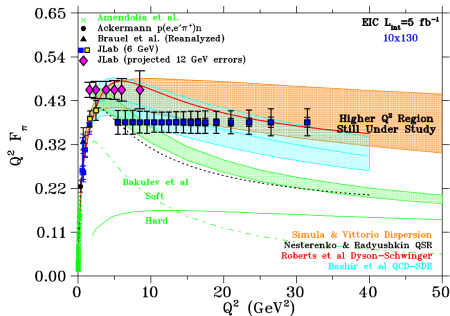
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- Even from modest $\int \mathcal{L}$ in early science programme, looks promising!
- How high in Q^2 will be possible with full \mathcal{L} ?

Analysis Note Status

- Analysis note writing in progress

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- Background/motivation text incorporated
- Need to write simulation overview and event selection sections still

1 Introduction

Pions and kaons are among the most prominent strongly interacting particles next to the nucleon, since they are the Goldstone bosons of QCD. Thus, it is important to study their internal structure and how this reflects their Goldstone boson nature; a question particularly relevant for understanding the origin of mass generation in QCD.

The hard contribution to the π^+ form factor can be calculated exactly within the framework of pQCD, and at asymptotically high Q^2 it takes a particularly simple form, $F_\pi(Q^2) \xrightarrow{Q^2 \rightarrow \infty} 16\pi\alpha_s(Q^2) f_\pi^2 / Q^2$ [1], where f_π is the π^+ decay constant. In general, the pion also contains soft contributions, which are expected to dominate at lower Q^2 . The actual behavior of F_π as a function of Q^2 , as QCD transitions smoothly from the non-perturbative (long-distance scale) confinement regime to the perturbative (short-distance scale) regime, is an important test of our understanding of QCD in bound hadron systems. Since QCD calculations cannot yet be performed rigorously in the confinement regime, experimental data from JLab play a vital role in validating the theoretical approaches employed. In particular, due to the charged pion's relatively simple quark-antiquark ($q\bar{q}$) valence structure and its experimental accessibility, the pion elastic form factor (F_π) offers our best hope of directly observing QCD's transition from color-confinement at long distance scales to asymptotic freedom at short distances. It is worth highlighting that in QCD the difference between the kaon and pion charge form factors is of the scale of 20% at $Q^2 \sim 5 \text{ GeV}^2$ [2] and disappears at asymptotic Q^2 as $\ln(Q^2)$. Thus, the acquisition of experimental data for both form factors covering a wide Q^2 range should be a high priority.

Current experimental information on the pion and kaon form factors is limited, particularly at large Q^2 [3]. Measurement of the π^+ electromagnetic form factor for $Q^2 > 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2$ can be accomplished by the detection of the exclusive reaction $p(e, e'\pi^+)n$ at low $-t$. This is best described as quasi-elastic (t -channel) scattering of the electron from the virtual π^+ cloud of the proton, where $t = (p_p - p_n)^2$ is the Mandelstam momentum transfer to the target nucleon. Scattering from the π^+ cloud dominates the longitudinal photon cross section ($d\sigma_L/dt$), when $|t| \ll m_p^2$. To reduce background contributions, one preferably separates the components of the cross section due to longitudinal (L) and transverse (T) virtual photons (and the LT, TT interference contributions), via a Rosenbluth separation. A Rosenbluth separation involves the absolute subtraction of two measurements determined at

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1 Introduction

Pions and kaons are among the most prominent strongly interacting particles next to the nucleon, since they are the Goldstone bosons of QCD. Thus, it is important to study their internal structure and how this reflects their Goldstone boson nature; a question particularly relevant for understanding the origin of mass generation in QCD.

The hard contribution to the π^+ form factor can be calculated exactly within the framework of pQCD, and at asymptotically high Q^2 it takes a particularly simple form, $F_\pi(Q^2) \xrightarrow{Q^2 \rightarrow \infty} 16\pi\alpha_s(Q^2) f_\pi^2 / Q^2$ [1], where f_π is the π^+ decay constant. In general, the pion also contains soft contributions, which are expected to dominate at lower Q^2 . The actual behavior of F_π as a function of Q^2 , as QCD transitions smoothly from the non-perturbative (long-distance scale) confinement regime to the perturbative (short-distance scale) regime, is an important test of our understanding of QCD in bound hadron systems. Since QCD calculations cannot yet be performed rigorously in the confinement regime, experimental data from JLab play a vital role in validating the theoretical approaches employed. In particular, due to the charged pion's relatively simple quark-antiquark ($q\bar{q}$) valence structure and its experimental accessibility, the pion elastic form factor (F_π) offers our best hope of directly observing QCD's transition from color-confinement at long distance scales to asymptotic freedom at short distances. It is worth highlighting that in QCD the difference between the kaon and pion charge form factors is of the scale of 20% at $Q^2 \sim 5 \text{ GeV}^2$ [2] and disappears at asymptotic $Q^2 \sim \ln(Q^2)$. Thus, the acquisition of experimental data for both form factors covering a wide Q^2 range should be a high priority.

Current experimental information on the pion and kaon form factors is limited, particularly at large Q^2 [3]. Measurement of the π^+ electromagnetic form factor for $Q^2 > 0.3 \text{ GeV}^2$ can be accomplished by the detection of the exclusive reaction $p(e, e'\pi^+)n$ at low $-t$. This is best described as quasi-elastic (t -channel) scattering of the electron from the virtual π^+ cloud of the proton, where $t = (p_p - p_{e'})^2$ is the Mandelstam momentum transfer to the target nucleon. Scattering from the π^+ cloud dominates the longitudinal photon cross section ($d\sigma_L/dt$), when $|t| \ll m_p^2$. To reduce background contributions, one preferably separates the components of the cross section due to longitudinal (L) and transverse (T) virtual photons (and the LT, TT interference contributions), via a Rosenbluth separation. A Rosenbluth separation involves the absolute subtraction of two measurements determined at

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- **Generator updates also planned**
 - Parameterise broader Q^2 range
 - Incorporate improvements from kaon module to pion module
 - New student at University of Regina will look at this when they start (Autumn)

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<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.12346> S.J. Paul et. al.

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- Of course, when generator refinements are made, will also need to re-process

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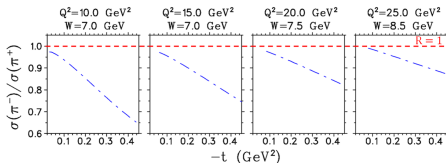
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- Compare R to model expectations



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- Last but not least, need to get text into analysis note!
 - Plots all ready, just need placing in

Thanks for listening, any questions?



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