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Gluon TMDs

Summer School

Light-ion physics in the EIC era: from nuclear structure to high-energy process

Florida International University, Miami, FL

25 June 2025

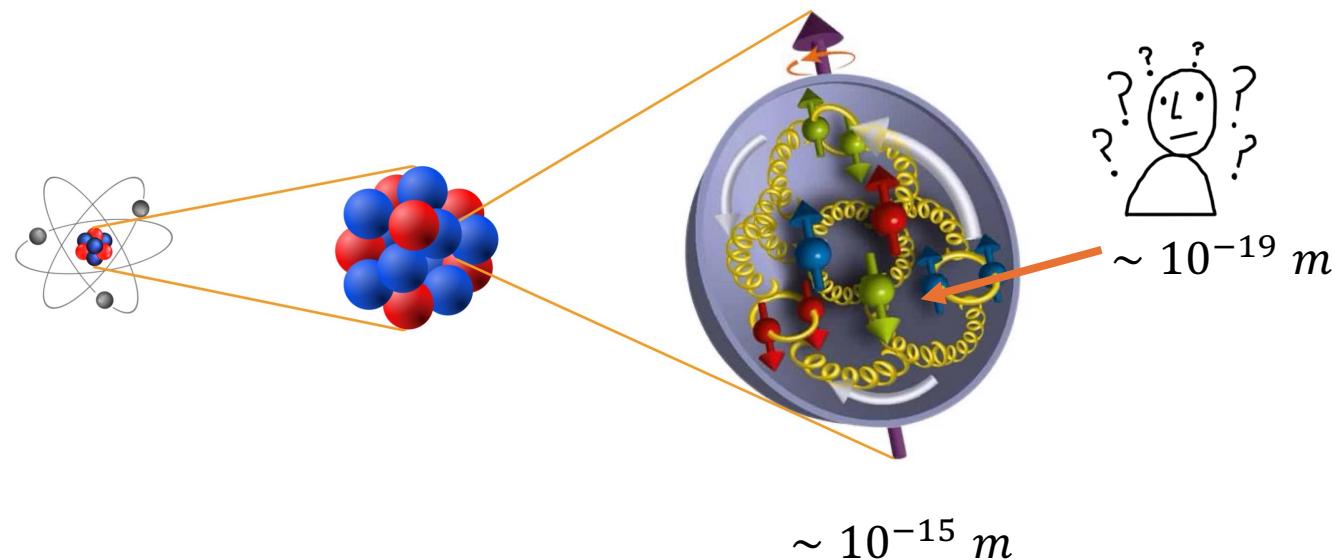
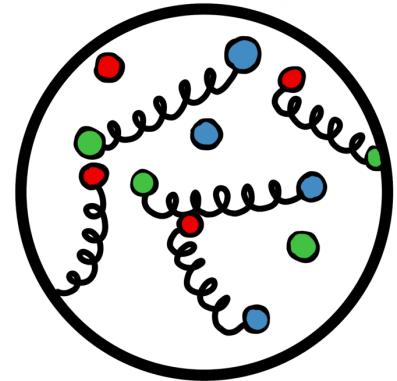
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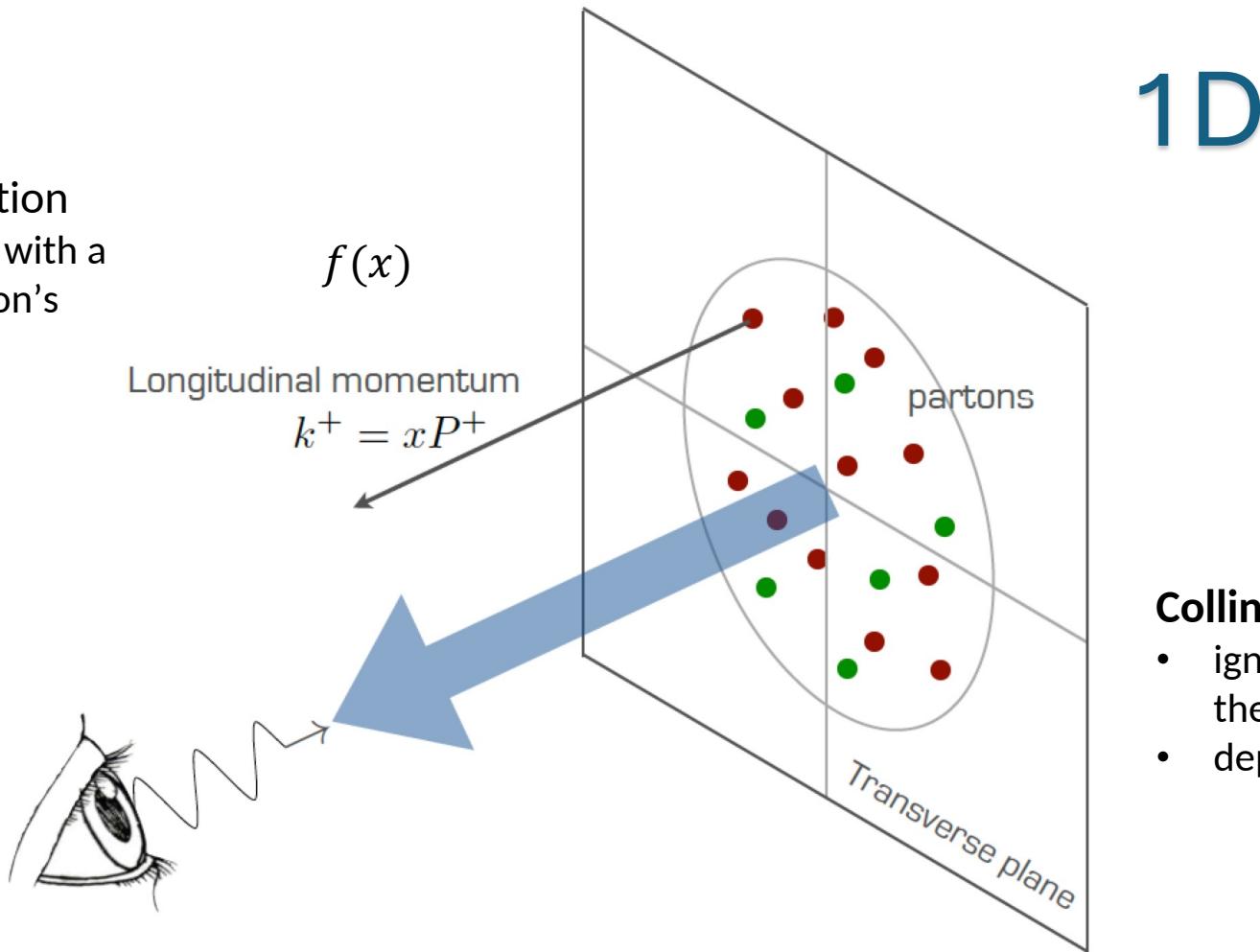
Introduction

- Goal: study the internal **structure of the hadrons** in terms of their elementary constituents, quarks and gluons
- We investigate **Transverse Momentum Dependent PDFs (TMD PDFs)**
- Why focus on on **gluon TMDs**? Less studied compared to quarks, they provide crucial insights into the intrinsic motion of gluons within hadrons



Collinear PDFs

Parton Distribution Function
Probability of finding a parton with a
fraction of the parent hadron's
momentum



1D

- Collinear PDFs:**
- ignore motion of partons on the transverse plane
 - depend just on x

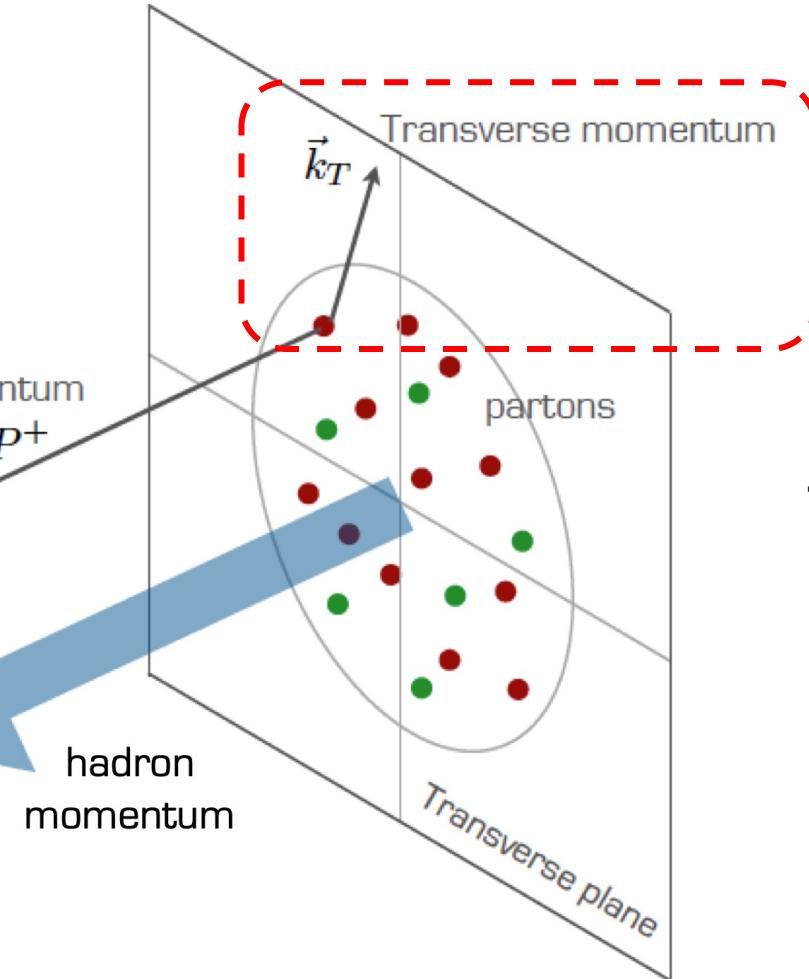
Transverse Momentum Dependent PDFs

Transverse Momentum Dependent PDF:

Parton whose momentum has **longitudinal** and **transverse components** with respect to the parent hadron momentum

$$f(x, \vec{k}_T)$$

probe

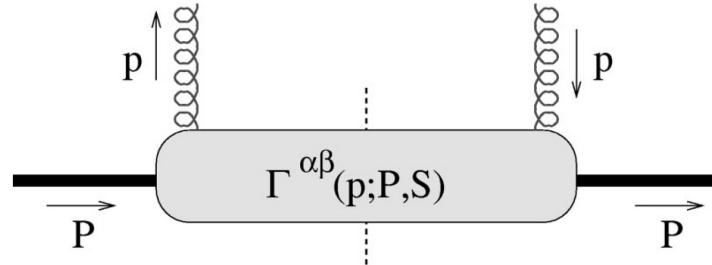


3D

TMD PDFs:

- encode all the possible **spin-spin** and **spin-momentum** correlations between the proton and its constituents
- more informations than PDFs
- depend on x and \vec{k}_T

Transverse Momentum Dependent PDFs



P, S = hadron's momentum & spin
p = gluon's momentum

Gauge link:

$$\mathcal{U}_{[0,\xi]}^c = \mathcal{P} \exp \left(-ig \int_{\mathcal{C}[0,\xi]} ds_\mu A^\mu(s) \right)$$

Gluon correlator:

$$\Gamma_g^{[\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{U}']^{\alpha\beta}}(x, \mathbf{p}_T) \propto \langle P, S | \text{Tr} [F^{\alpha+}(0) \mathcal{U}_{[0,\xi]} F^{\beta+}(\xi) \mathcal{U}'_{[\xi,0]}] | P, S \rangle \Big|_{\text{LF}}$$

Gluon field strength tensor

Proton state vector

The Lorentz structure of the correlator is fixed by hermiticity and parity conservation:

$$\text{Hermicity: } \Gamma^{\rho\sigma; \alpha\beta*}(p; P, S) = \Gamma^{\alpha\beta; \rho\sigma}(p; P, S)$$

$$\text{Parity: } \Gamma^{\alpha\beta; \rho\sigma}(p; P, S) = \Gamma_{\alpha\beta; \rho\sigma}(\bar{p}; \bar{P}, -\bar{S})$$

Individual TMDs can be projected out of the correlator

Leading-twist gluon TMDs

		Gluon Operator Polarization		
		Unpolarized	Circular	Linear
Nucleon Polarization	U	$f_1^g = \bullet$ Unpolarized		$h_1^{\perp g} = \bullet\bullet + \bullet\bullet$ Linearly Polarized
	L		$g_{1L}^g = \bullet\bullet \rightarrow - \bullet\bullet \rightarrow$ Helicity	$h_{1L}^{\perp g} = \bullet\bullet \rightarrow + \bullet\bullet \rightarrow$ Worm-gear L
	T	$f_{1T}^{\perp g} = \bullet - \bullet$ Sivers	$g_{1T}^{\perp g} = \bullet\bullet - \bullet\bullet$ Worm-gear T	$h_{1T}^g = \bullet\bullet + \bullet\bullet$ Transversity $h_{1T}^{\perp g} = \bullet\bullet + \bullet\bullet$

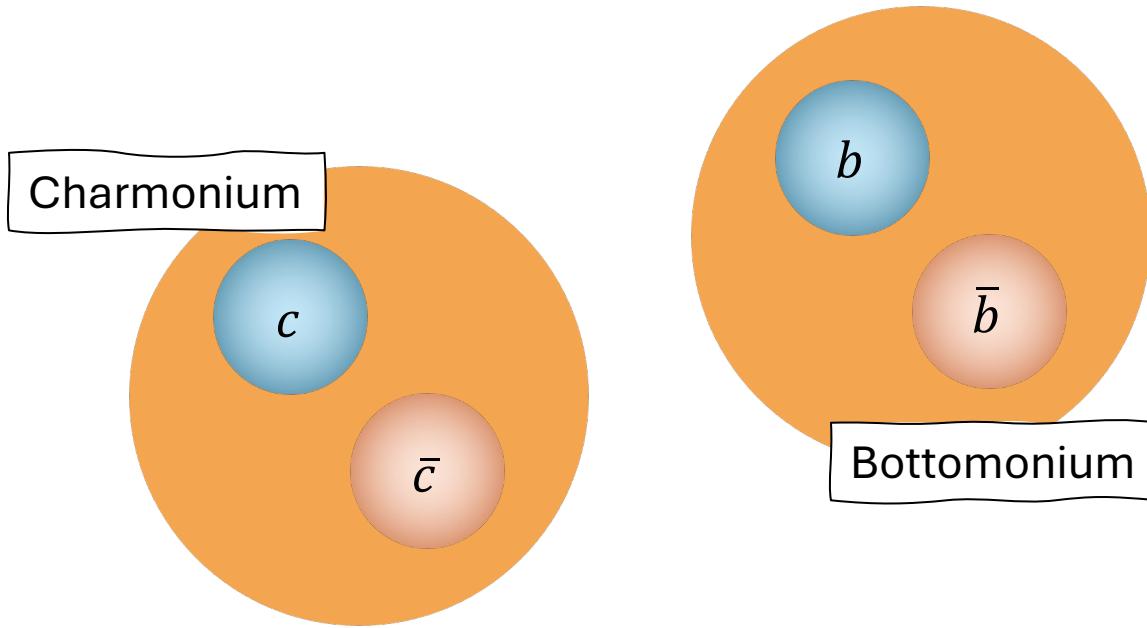
The gluon correlator is parametrized in terms of **8 gluon TMDs**.

Depend on:

- Bjorken-x
- Transverse momentum of the gluon
- Polarization of nucleon and gluon

Quarkonium production

It's a bound state of heavy quark-antiquark pair



We investigated C-even quarkonia:

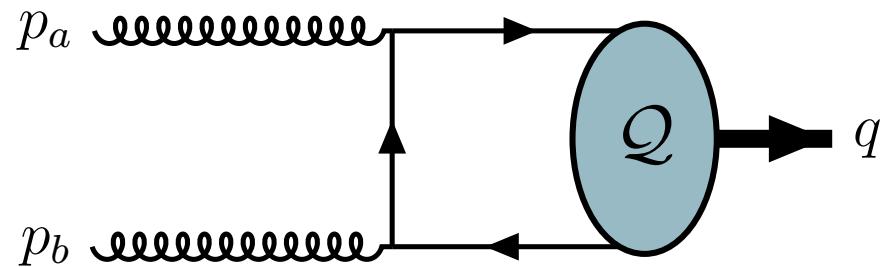
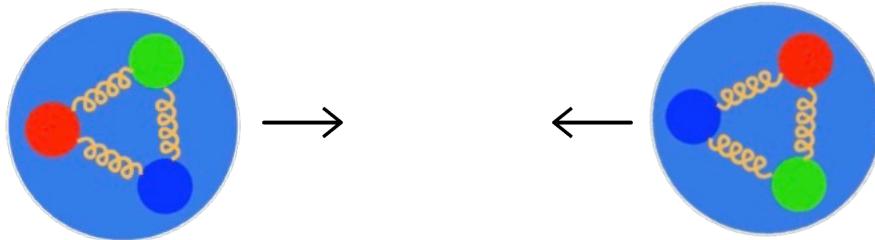
1S_0 states: η_c, η_b

3P_0 states: χ_{c0}, χ_{b0}

3P_2 states: χ_{c2}, χ_{b2}

Quarkonium production

$$p(P_A, S_A) + p(P_B, S_B) \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[^{2S+1}L_J^{(1)}](q) + X$$



$$g(p_a) + g(p_b) \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}[^{2S+1}L_J^{(1)}](q)$$

In the kinematic region where $q_T \ll M$, we expect TMD factorization to be applicable

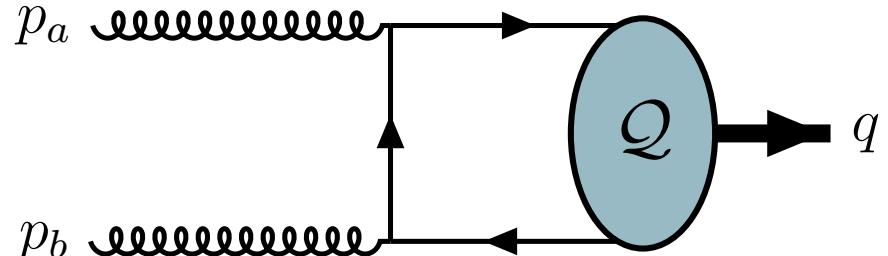
Gluon correlator

$$d\sigma \propto \Gamma_g^{\mu\nu}(x_a, \mathbf{p}_{aT}) \Gamma_g^{\rho\sigma}(x_b, \mathbf{p}_{bT}) \mathcal{A}_{\mu\rho} (\mathcal{A}_{\nu\sigma})^*$$

Amplitude

Non relativistic QCD

The model used to describe quarkonium production is called **Non-Relativistic QCD (NRQCD)**



- Double power expansion $\begin{array}{c} \nearrow \alpha_S \\ \searrow v \end{array}$
- Partonic subprocess $gg \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$ in pQCD
- Hadronization of the pair into the bound state (non perturbative) encoded in the LMDE

$$v_c^2 \simeq 0.3$$

$$v_b^2 \simeq 0.1$$

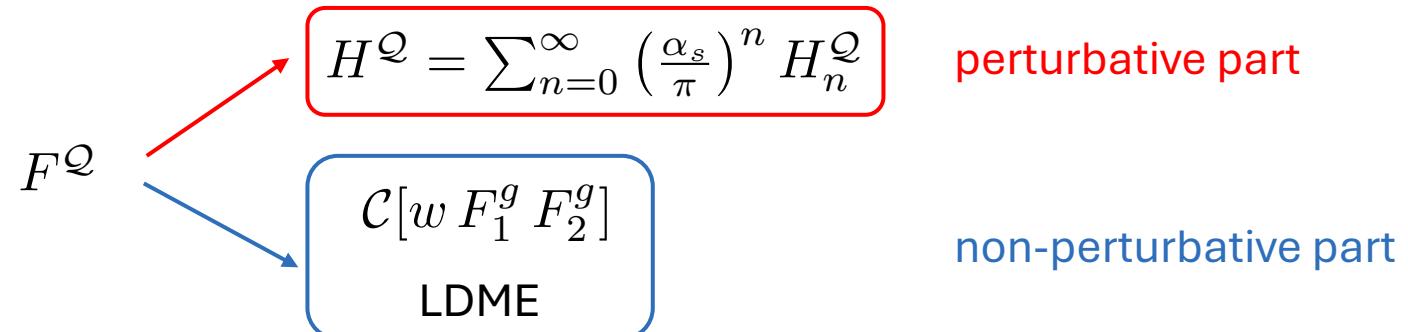
[G. T. Bodwin, E. Braaten, G. P. Lepage, PRD 51 \(1995\)](#)

Quarkonium production cross section

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\sigma[\mathcal{Q}]}{dy d^2\mathbf{q}_T} = & F_{UU}^{\mathcal{Q}} + F_{UL}^{\mathcal{Q}} S_{BL} + F_{LU}^{\mathcal{Q}} S_{AL} + F_{UT}^{\mathcal{Q}, \sin \phi_{S_B}} |\mathbf{S}_{BT}| \sin \phi_{S_B} + F_{TU}^{\mathcal{Q}, \sin \phi_{S_A}} |\mathbf{S}_{AT}| \sin \phi_{S_A} \\ & + F_{LL}^{\mathcal{Q}} S_{AL} S_{BL} + F_{LT}^{\mathcal{Q}, \cos \phi_{S_B}} S_{AL} |\mathbf{S}_{BT}| \cos \phi_{S_B} + F_{TL}^{\mathcal{Q}, \cos \phi_{S_A}} |\mathbf{S}_{AT}| S_{BL} \cos \phi_{S_A} \\ & + |\mathbf{S}_{AT}| |\mathbf{S}_{BT}| \left(F_{TT}^{\mathcal{Q}, \cos(\phi_{S_A} - \phi_{S_B})} \cos(\phi_{S_A} - \phi_{S_B}) + F_{TT}^{\mathcal{Q}, \cos(\phi_{S_A} + \phi_{S_B})} \cos(\phi_{S_A} + \phi_{S_B}) \right)\end{aligned}$$

NK, L. Maxia, C. Pisano, PRD 110 0234028 (2024)

Every **structure function** F can be factorized:



$\phi_{S_A(B)}$ = azimuthal angle of the spin vector $S_{A(B)}$

Structure functions

Unpolarized and single-transversely polarized structure functions.

$$F_{UU}^{\eta_Q} \propto \left(\mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g] - \mathcal{C}[w_{UU} h_1^\perp g h_1^\perp g] \right)$$

$$F_{UU}^{\chi_{Q0}} \propto \left(\mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g] + \mathcal{C}[w_{UU} h_1^\perp g h_1^\perp g] \right)$$

$$F_{UU}^{\chi_{Q2}} \propto \mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g]$$

$$F_{UT}^{\eta_Q, \sin \phi_{SB}} \propto \left(-\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^f f_1^g f_{1T}^\perp g] + \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^h h_1^\perp g h_1^\perp g] - \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h^\perp} h_1^\perp g h_{1T}^\perp g] \right)$$

$$F_{UT}^{\chi_{Q0}, \sin \phi_{SB}} \propto \left(-\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^f f_1^g f_{1T}^\perp g] - \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^h h_1^\perp g h_1^\perp g] + \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h^\perp} h_1^\perp g h_{1T}^\perp g] \right)$$

$$F_{UT}^{\chi_{Q2}, \sin \phi_{SB}} \propto -\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^f f_1^g f_{1T}^\perp g]$$

$$w_{UU} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^2 \mathbf{p}_{bT}^2}{4M_p^4} \cos[2(\phi_a - \phi_b)]$$

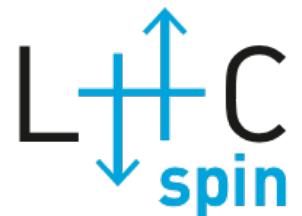
ϕ_a = azimuthal angle of p_{aT}
 ϕ_b = azimuthal angle of p_{bT}

$$w_{UT}^f = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{M_p} \cos \phi_b$$

$$w_{UT}^h = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^2 |\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{4M_p^3} \cos(\phi_b - 2\phi_a)$$

$$w_{UT}^{h^\perp} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^2 |\mathbf{p}_{bT}|^3}{8M_p^5} \cos(3\phi_b - 2\phi_a)$$

Observables measurable with **LHCSpin project**, a fixed target experiment planned at LHC



Single Spin Asymmetries (SSAs)

Proton A unpolarized
Proton B transv. polarized

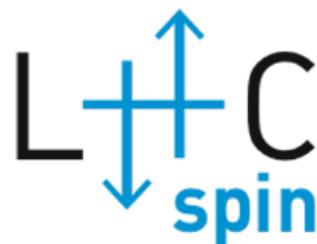
$$A_N^{\mathcal{Q}, \sin \phi_S} = 2 \frac{\int d\phi_S \sin \phi_S [d\sigma(\phi_S) - d\sigma(\phi_S + \pi)]}{\int d\phi_S [d\sigma(\phi_S) + d\sigma(\phi_S + \pi)]} = \frac{F_{UT}^{\mathcal{Q}, \sin \phi_S}}{F_{UU}^{\mathcal{Q}}}$$



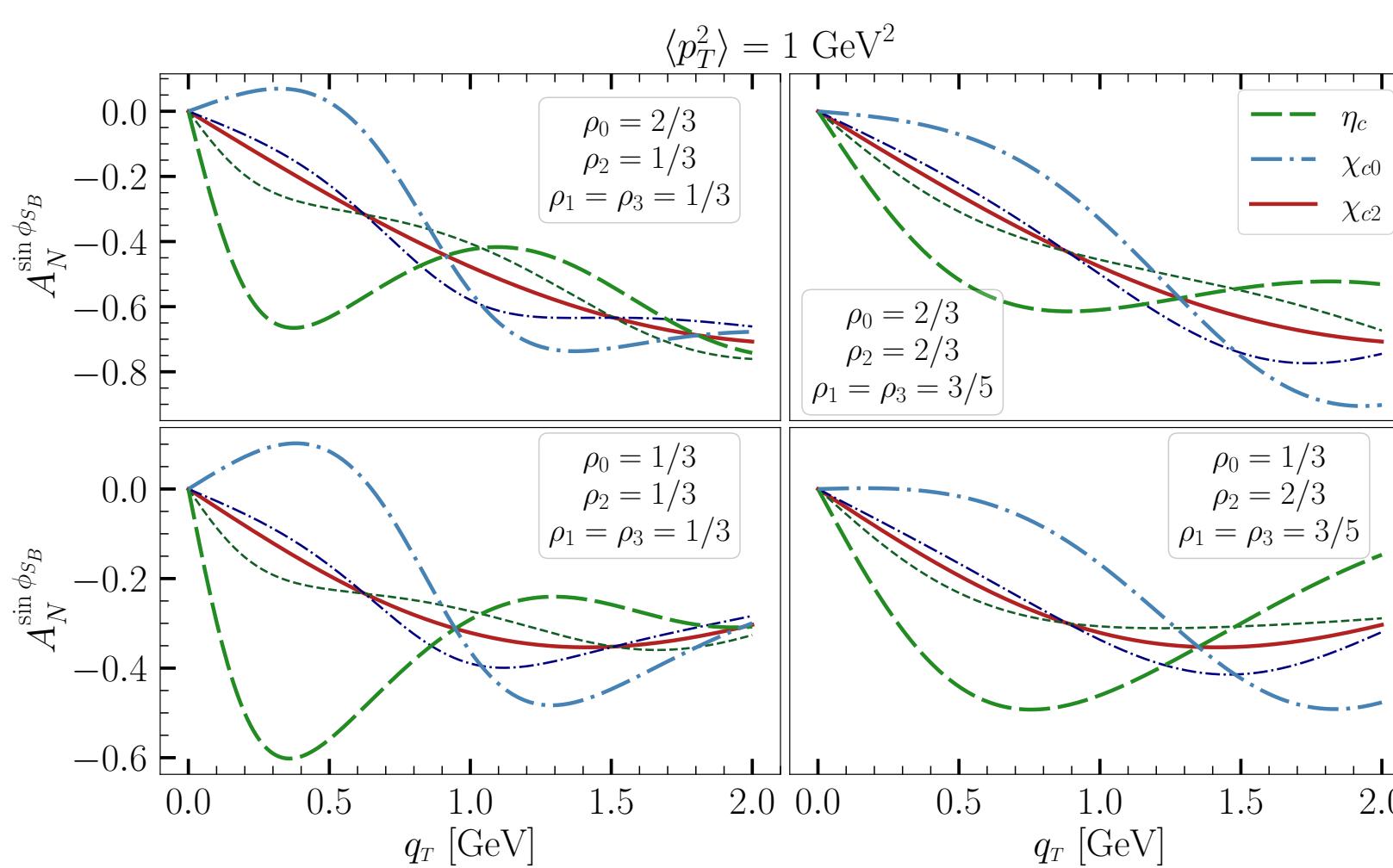
Gaussian parametrization of the gluon TMDs:

$$f_1^g(x, \mathbf{p}_T^2) = \frac{f_1^g(x)}{\pi \langle p_T^2 \rangle} \exp \left[-\frac{\mathbf{p}_T^2}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right] \quad \text{unpolarized gluon TMD}$$

Process accessible at the future LHCSpin, the fixed target experiment planned at LHC



Numerical results: upper bounds for SSAs



$$A_N^{\eta_Q, \sin \phi_{SB}} = \frac{-R_{UT}^f + R_{UT}^h - R_{UT}^{h\perp}}{1 - R_{UU}}$$

$$A_N^{\chi_{Q0}, \sin \phi_{SB}} = \frac{-R_{UT}^f - R_{UT}^h + R_{UT}^{h\perp}}{1 + R_{UU}}$$

$$A_N^{\chi_{Q2}, \sin \phi_{SB}} = -R_{UT}^f$$

SSA for the production of χ_{Q2} depends only on the Sivers function!

By comparing the SSAs for η_Q and χ_{Q0} states with those for χ_{Q2} we can reveal the impact of the combined effects of the linearly polarized gluon TMDs

Matching relations

TMDs are functions of x and b (Fourier conjugated to the transverse momentum of the parton k_T)

TMD distributions are **non-perturbative** functions and should be extracted by data

HOWEVER

They can be evaluated in terms of **collinear PDFs** in the limit of large- q_T (or small- b)



Matching procedure

- Increases theoretical predictive power
- Reduces parametric freedom in model building

Matching relations

How can we find the matching relations?

At small values of b , a TMD distribution can be related to collinear distributions with a general form given by the [Operator Product Expansion](#) (OPE)

$$f(x, \mathbf{b}) = C(x, \ln(\mu b)) \otimes f(x, \mu)$$

Main steps:

- Expand the gluon operator
- Extract the leading and next-to-leading twist components \rightarrow spinor formalism
- Compute the gluon correlator by taking the matrix element of the gluon operator
- Find the matching relation

Matching relations

Contribution for twist-2 gluon TMD PDFs onto the leading and next-to-leading collinear PDFs

An example: unpolarized distribution

$$f_1^g(x, b) = f_g(x) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!(k-1)!} \left(\frac{x^2 M^2 b^2}{4} \right)^k \int_0^1 du \left(\frac{\bar{u}}{u} \right)^{k-1} \delta(x - uy) f_g(y)$$

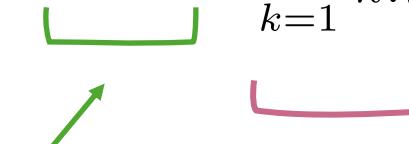


Matching relations

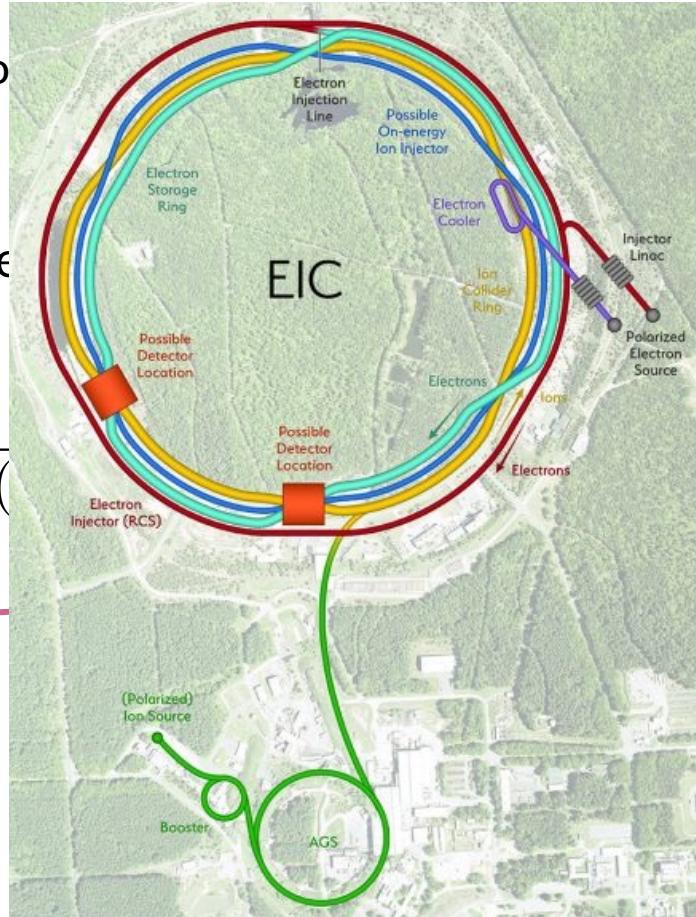
Contribution for twist-2 gluon

$$f_1^g(x, b) = f_g(x) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} ($$

An ϵ correction



Order zero term



next-to-leading collinear PDFs

$$\left(\frac{\bar{u}}{u} \right)^{k-1} \delta(x - uy) f_g(y)$$


Our results can be useful for the future Electron Ion Collider (EIC)

A photograph of a university campus under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, a large, mature tree with thick, gnarled branches stands on a grassy lawn. A paved walkway leads towards a modern, multi-story building with a light-colored facade and large windows. The letters "FIU" are prominently displayed in black on the top left corner of the building's exterior. Several people are walking along the path and sitting on the grass, suggesting a sunny day.

Thanks!

A wide-angle photograph of a university campus under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the center background, a large, modern concrete building features the letters "FIU" prominently on its facade. The foreground is a well-maintained green lawn with several large, leafy trees. A paved walkway runs across the lawn, where several students are walking or sitting. The overall atmosphere is sunny and academic.

Backup

Gaussian parametrization of the gluon TMDs

$$f_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_T^2) = \mathcal{N}_0(x) \frac{f_1^g(x)}{\pi \langle p_T^2 \rangle^{3/2}} M_p \sqrt{\frac{2(1 - \rho_0)}{\rho_0}} \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\mathbf{p}_T^2}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right]$$

$$h_1^g(x, \mathbf{p}_T^2) = \mathcal{N}_1(x) \frac{f_1^g(x)}{\pi \langle p_T^2 \rangle^{3/2}} M_p \sqrt{\frac{2(1 - \rho_1)}{\rho_1}} \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\rho_1} \frac{\mathbf{p}_T^2}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right]$$

$$h_1^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_T^2) = 2 \mathcal{N}_2(x) \frac{f_1^g(x)}{\pi \langle p_T^2 \rangle^2} M_p^2 \frac{(1 - \rho_2)}{\rho_2} \exp \left[1 - \frac{1}{\rho_2} \frac{\mathbf{p}_T^2}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right]$$

$$h_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_T^2) = 2 \mathcal{N}_3(x) \frac{f_1^g(x)}{\pi \langle p_T^2 \rangle^{5/2}} M_p^3 \left[\frac{2(1 - \rho_3)}{3\rho_3} \right]^{3/2} \exp \left[\frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{\rho_3} \frac{\mathbf{p}_T^2}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right]$$

$$0 < \rho_i < 1$$

Gaussian parametrization of the gluon TMDs

$$R_{UU} = \mathcal{C}[w_{UU}^h h_1^{\perp g} h_1^{\perp g}] / \mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g]$$

$$= \frac{1}{16\langle p_T^2 \rangle^2} \frac{(1-\rho_2)^2}{\rho_2} (\mathbf{q}_T^4 - 8\rho_2 \langle p_T^2 \rangle \mathbf{q}_T^2 + 8\rho_2^2 \langle p_T^2 \rangle^2) \exp \left[2 - \frac{1-\rho_2}{\rho_2} \frac{\mathbf{q}_T^2}{2\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right],$$

$$R_{UT}^f = \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^f f_1^g f_{1T}^{\perp g}] / \mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g]$$

$$= \frac{2}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle^{1/2}} \sqrt{\frac{2(1-\rho_0)}{\rho_0}} \left(\frac{\rho_0}{1+\rho_0} \right)^2 |\mathbf{q}_T| \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-\rho_0}{1+\rho_0} \frac{\mathbf{q}_T^2}{2\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right],$$

$$R_{UT}^h = \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^h h_1^{\perp g} h_1^g] / \mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g]$$

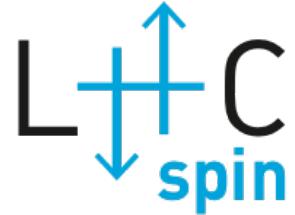
$$= \frac{1}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle^{3/2}} \sqrt{\frac{2(1-\rho_1)}{\rho_1}} (1-\rho_2) \frac{{\rho_1}^2 \rho_2^2}{(\rho_1 + \rho_2)^4} |\mathbf{q}_T| (\mathbf{q}_T^2 - 2(\rho_1 + \rho_2) \langle p_T^2 \rangle) \exp \left[\frac{3}{2} - \frac{2-\rho_1-\rho_2}{\rho_1 + \rho_2} \frac{\mathbf{q}_T^2}{2\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right],$$

$$R_{UT}^{h^\perp} = \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h^\perp} h_1^{\perp g} h_{1T}^{\perp g}] / \mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g]$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle^{5/2}} \left[\frac{2(1-\rho_3)}{3\rho_3} \right]^{3/2} (1-\rho_2) \frac{\rho_2^2 \rho_3^4}{(\rho_2 + \rho_3)^6} |\mathbf{q}_T| (\mathbf{q}_T^4 - 6(\rho_2 + \rho_3) \langle p_T^2 \rangle \mathbf{q}_T^2 + 6(\rho_2 + \rho_3)^2 \langle p_T^2 \rangle^2) \\ &\quad \times \exp \left[\frac{5}{2} - \frac{2-\rho_2-\rho_3}{\rho_2 + \rho_3} \frac{\mathbf{q}_T^2}{2\langle p_T^2 \rangle} \right], \end{aligned}$$

$$0 < \rho_i < 1$$

The LHCSpin project



The project: implementation of a new-generation **fixed target polarized gas** in the LHCb spectrometer allowing spin physics at LHC for the first time

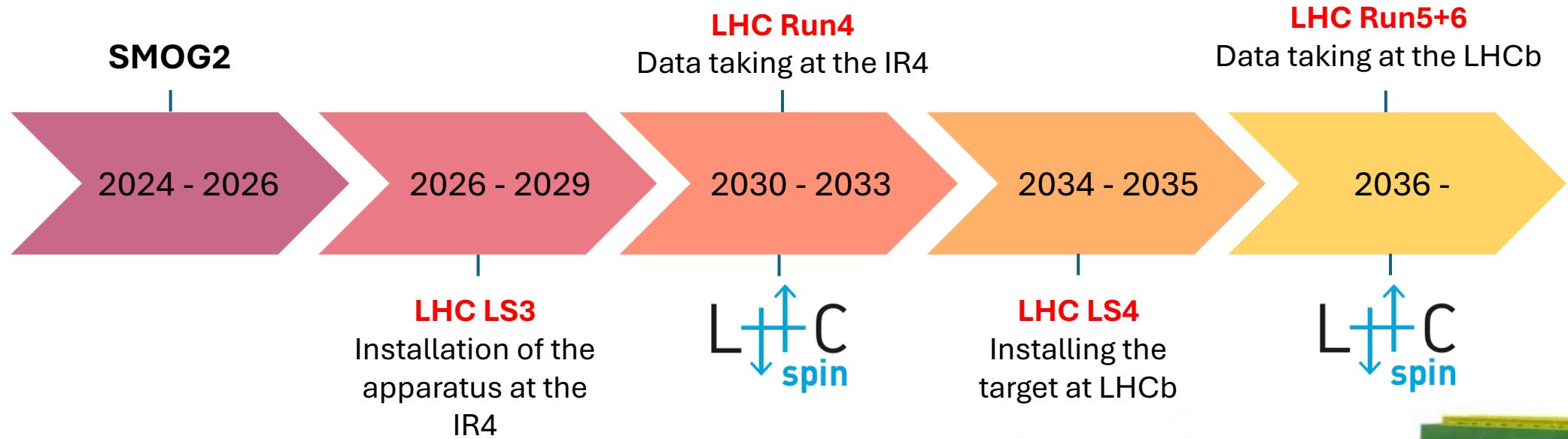
Goals:

- Multi-dimensional nucleon structure in a previously unexplored kinematic region at LHC energies
- Measure experimental observables sensitive to both **polarized quarks and gluons TMDs, PDFs, and GPDs**
- Heavy-ion physics: probe collective phenomena in heavy-light systems through **ultra-relativistic collisions** of heavy nuclei with transv. pol. deuterons

Evolution of fixed target systems at LHCb:



LHCSpin timeline



The LHCspin apparatus consists of a new-generation HERMES-like polarized gaseous fixed target to be installed upstream of the VELO.

With its installation, LHCb will be the first experiment to simultaneously collect data from unpolarized beam-beam collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV and polarized and unpolarized beam-target collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 100$ GeV.

