

# Mapping Hadronic Structure at Small $x$

Matthew D. Sievert



**RUTGERS**  
UNIVERSITY | NEW BRUNSWICK

Thomas Jefferson National  
Accelerator Facility

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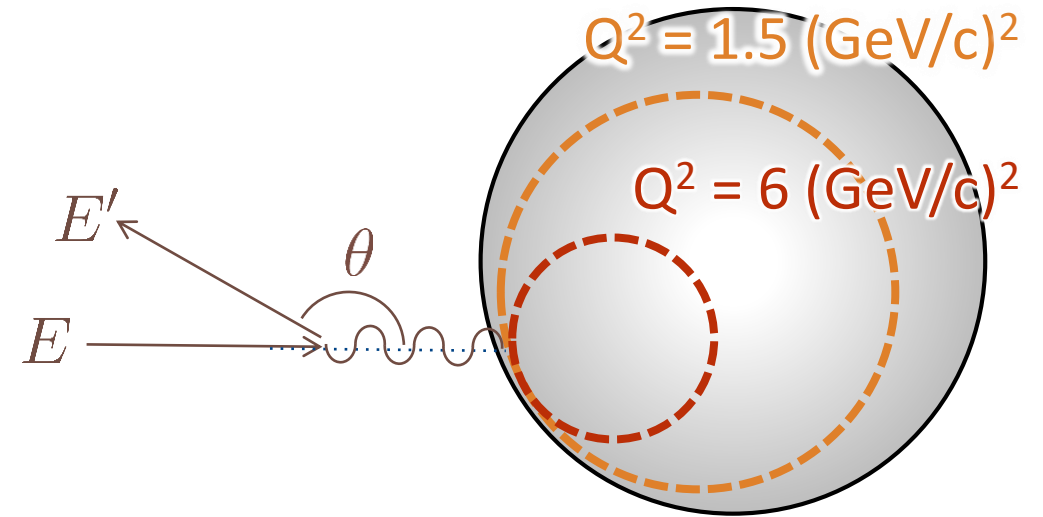
# What Do We Learn From Small x?

- In DIS, Bjorken  $x$  measures the **Ioffe “exposure time”** of the virtual photon

*Ioffe, Phys. Lett. B30 (1969) 123*

- The **small- $x$  limit** is equivalent to the **high-energy limit** :

- Time dilation** at higher energies can reveal **more ephemeral** quantum fluctuations



$$x = \frac{Q^2}{s + Q^2}$$

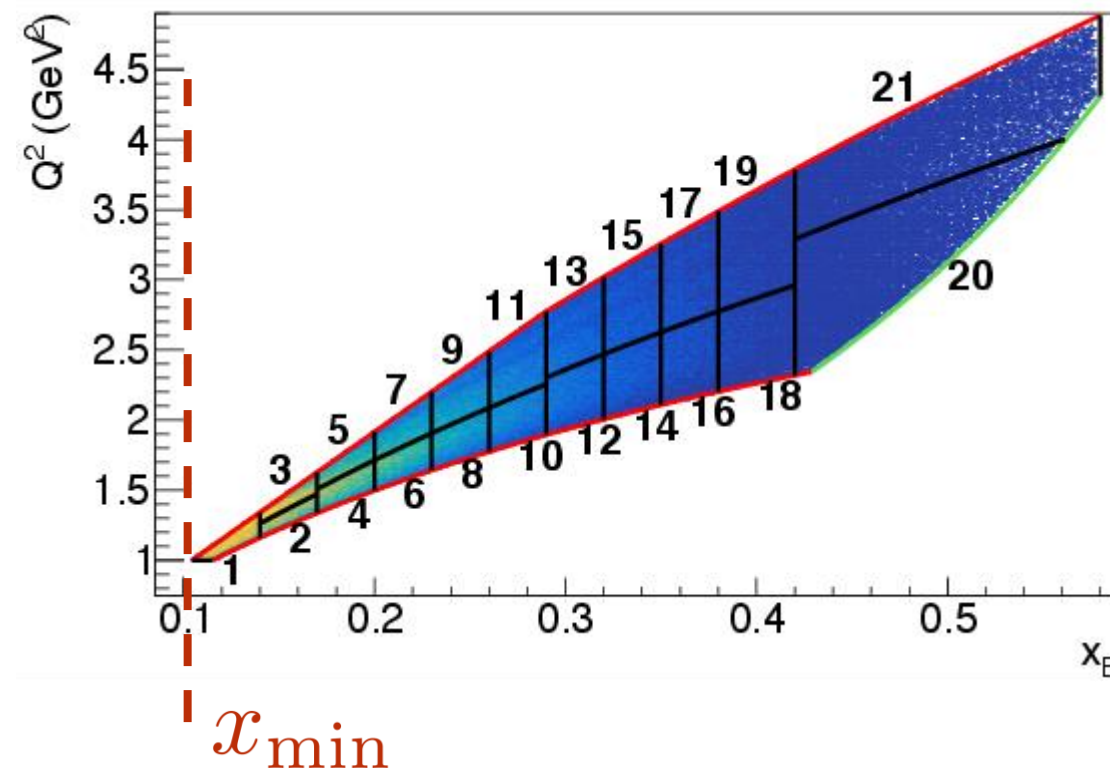
**“Exposure time”**

$$\Delta t \sim \frac{1}{mx}$$

# The Limits of Finite Energy

CLAS Collaboration, Phys. Rev. C98 (2018) 045203

- Any **finite-energy experiment** is limited to a **minimum value of  $x$**
- There are always **small- $x$  tails** of structure functions which are **inaccessible to experiment**



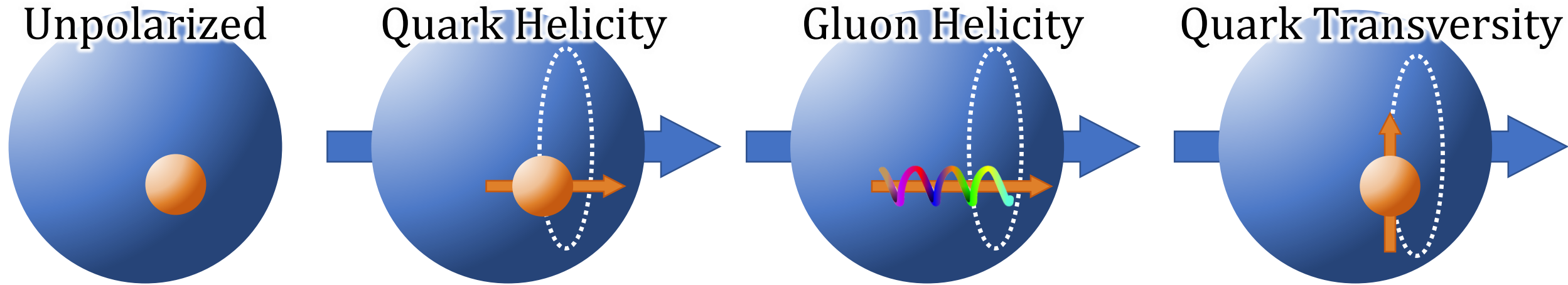
# What Could be Hiding at Small $x$ ?

- **Hidden contributions** to the **proton spin budget**
- **Unitarization** of QCD into a **UV complete** theory
- Exotic **gluon-dominated phase** of nuclear matter
- **Bridge** between local operators calculated in **lattice QCD** and nonlocal structure functions measured in **experiment**



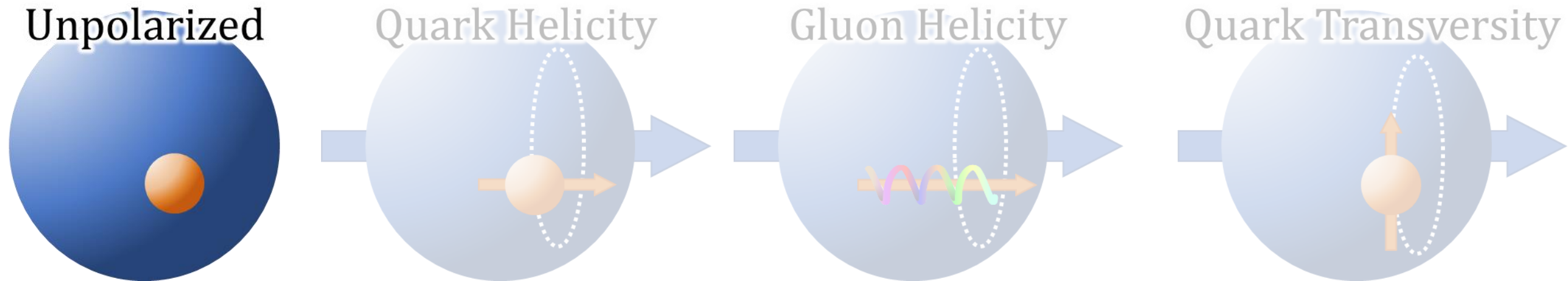
$x_{\min}$

# Outline: Small-x Asymptotics

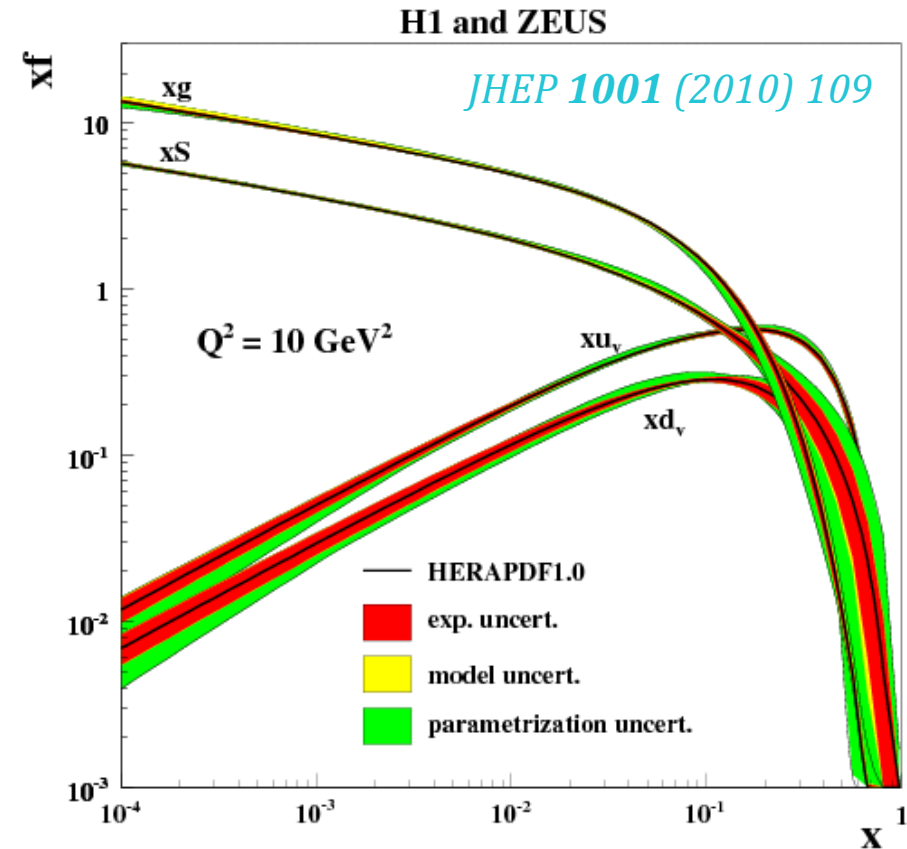
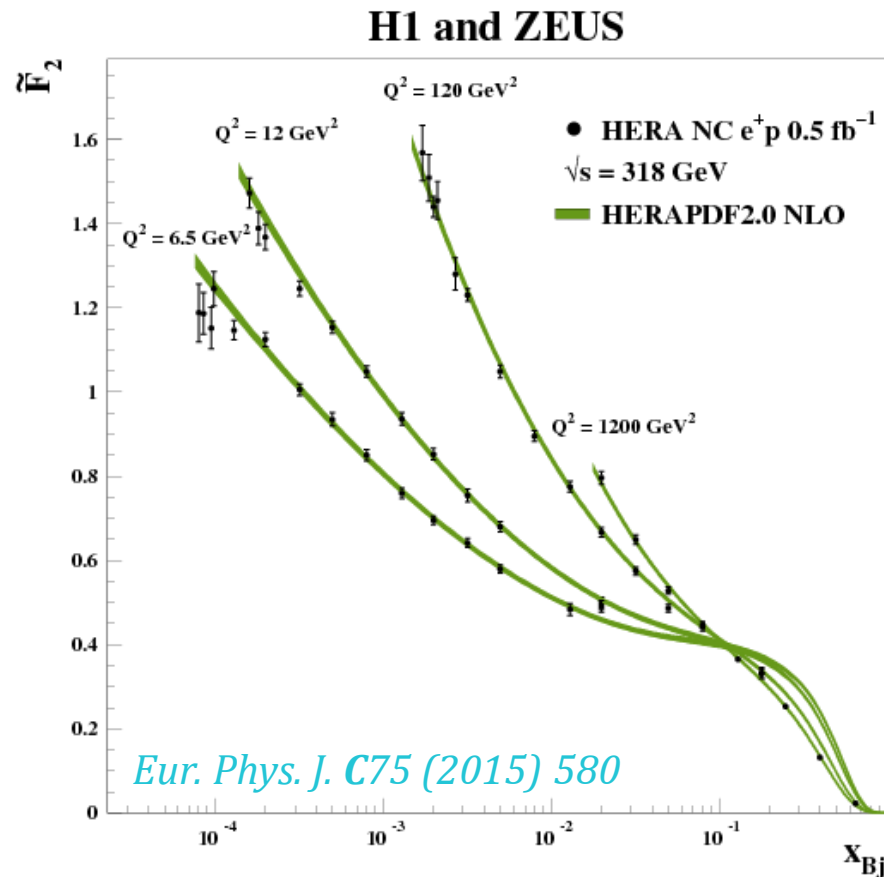


1. Unpolarized Quarks and Gluons
2. Quark Helicity
3. Gluon Helicity
4. Quark Transversity

# Unpolarized Quarks and Gluons: The Conceptual Part



# Unpolarized Structure Functions from HERA



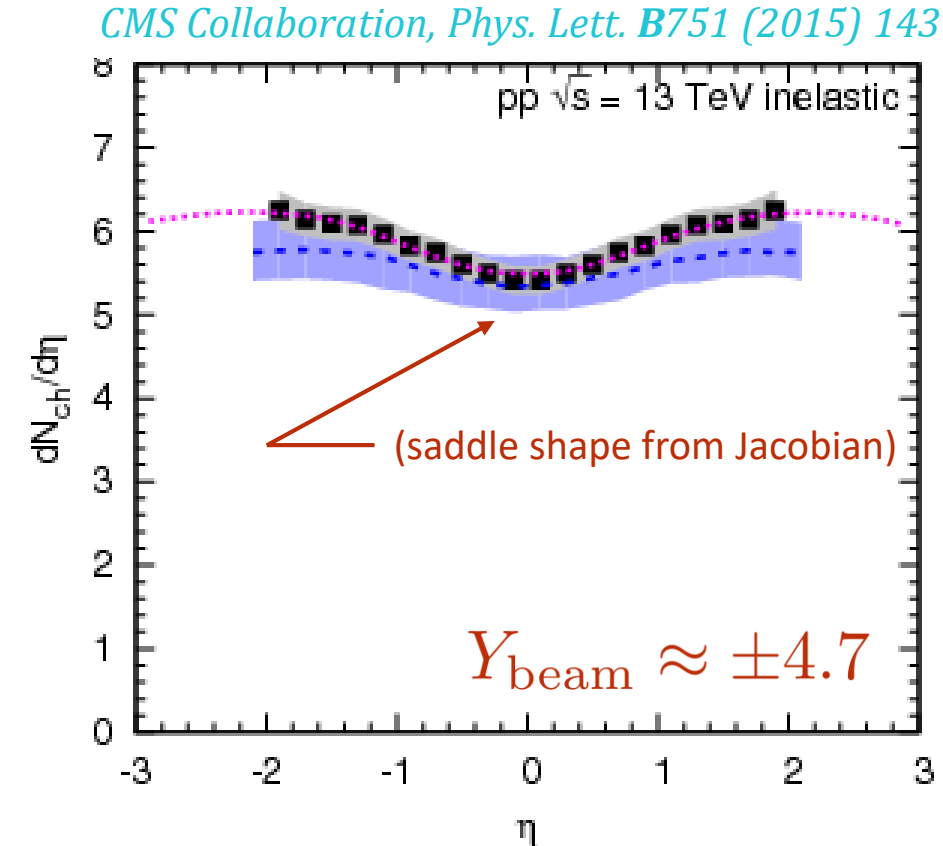
- At HERA, the proton structure functions **increase strongly at small  $x$**
- Reflects a **power-law growth** of **gluon** and **sea quark densities**

# Non-Abelian Bremsstrahlung at High Energies

- At high energies, **QCD radiates soft gluons uniformly** around **mid-rapidity**
- Intrinsic feature of **non-Abelian** field theories

$$\frac{d\sigma^G}{dy} = \alpha_s \times (\text{const})$$
$$\frac{\sigma_{tot}^{(pp+G)}}{\sigma_{tot}^{(pp)}} \propto \alpha_s \Delta Y_{tot}$$

(small coupling) (large phase space)



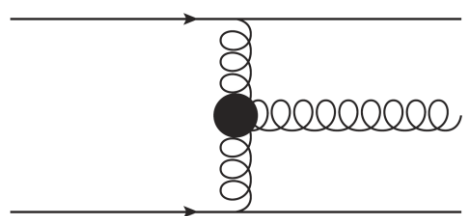
$$\Delta Y \sim \ln \frac{s}{\Lambda^2} \sim \ln \frac{1}{x}$$



# A Large Phase Space for Soft Gluons

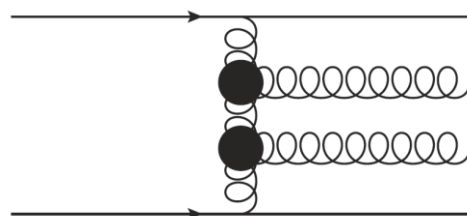
- Perturbation theory in pQCD relies on a **hierarchy of contributions**

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{LO} & \text{NLO} \\ \alpha_s & \gg \alpha_s^2 \gg \dots \end{array}$$



$$\langle N_G \rangle_{LO} \sim \alpha_s \Delta Y$$

$\gg$



$$\langle N_G \rangle_{NLO} \sim (\alpha_s \Delta Y)^2$$

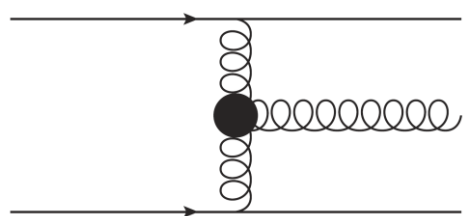
$\gg \dots$

$$\langle N_g \rangle \ll 1$$

# A Large Phase Space for Soft Gluons

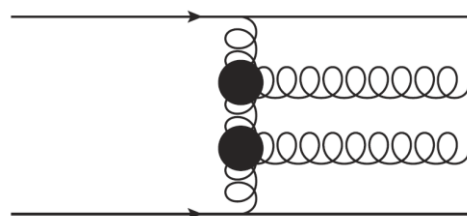
- Perturbation theory in pQCD relies on a **hierarchy of contributions**

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{LO} & \text{NLO} \\ (\alpha_s \Delta Y) \sim (\alpha_s \Delta Y)^2 \sim \dots \end{array}$$



$$\langle N_G \rangle_{LO} \sim \alpha_s \Delta Y$$

$\sim$



$$\langle N_G \rangle_{NLO} \sim (\alpha_s \Delta Y)^2$$

$\sim \dots$

$$\langle N_g \rangle \gtrsim 1$$

- At high energies (small  $x$ ), the **large logarithmic phase space enhances** the probability of **soft gluon radiation**

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Y &\sim \ln \frac{1}{x} \\ \alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x} &\sim \mathcal{O}(1) \end{aligned}$$

# The Small-x Gluon Cascade

- Recast the systematic enhancement as a **differential equation**

$$\frac{d\langle N_G \rangle}{dY} = \langle N_G \rangle \times \left[ \text{diagram of gluon splitting} \right]$$

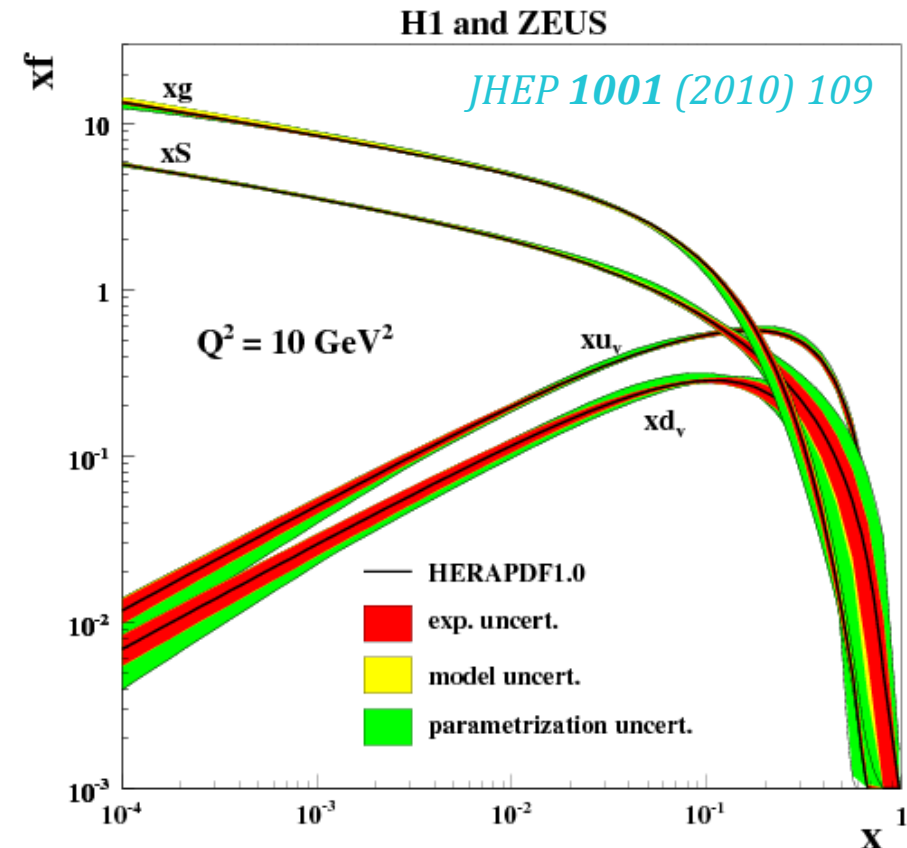
- **Power-law growth** of the **gluon density** at small  $x$

*Kuraev, Lipatov, and Fadin, Sov. Phys. JETP 45 (1977) 199*

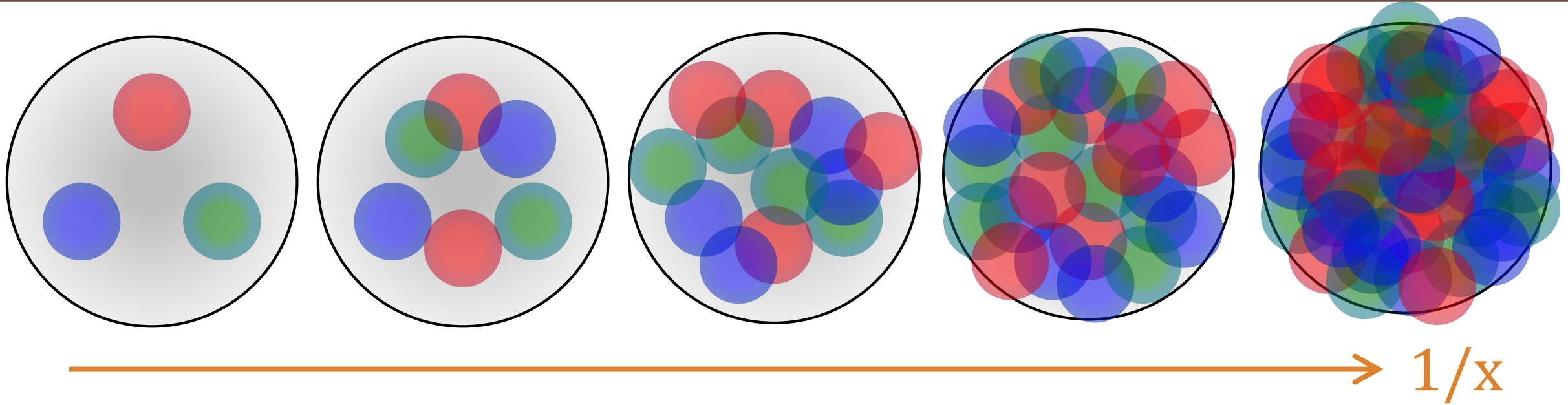
*Balitsky and Lipatov, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 28 (1978) 822*

$$\langle N_G \rangle \sim \left( \frac{1}{x} \right)^{(2.65 \alpha_s)}$$

“Pomeron Intercept”



# Color Screening at High Densities



- Emission of **many gluons** with **random colors**: **dynamical color screening**
- The size of **coherent color domains** **shrinks** as we approach **small  $x$**
- The **growing color charge density** defines an **emergent length scale**

# An Emergent Saturation Scale

- At **high enough densities**, gluon **recombination** competes with bremsstrahlung

*L. V. Gribov, E. M. Levin, and M. G. Ryskin, Phys. Rept. **100** (1983) 1*  
*A. H. Mueller and J. W. Qiu, Nucl. Phys. **B268** (1986) 427*

- Saturation** of the gluon density

$$\frac{d\langle N_G \rangle}{dY} = \langle N_G \rangle \times \left[ \text{diagram of gluon emission} \right] - \langle N_G \rangle^2 \left[ \text{diagram of gluon recombination} \right]$$

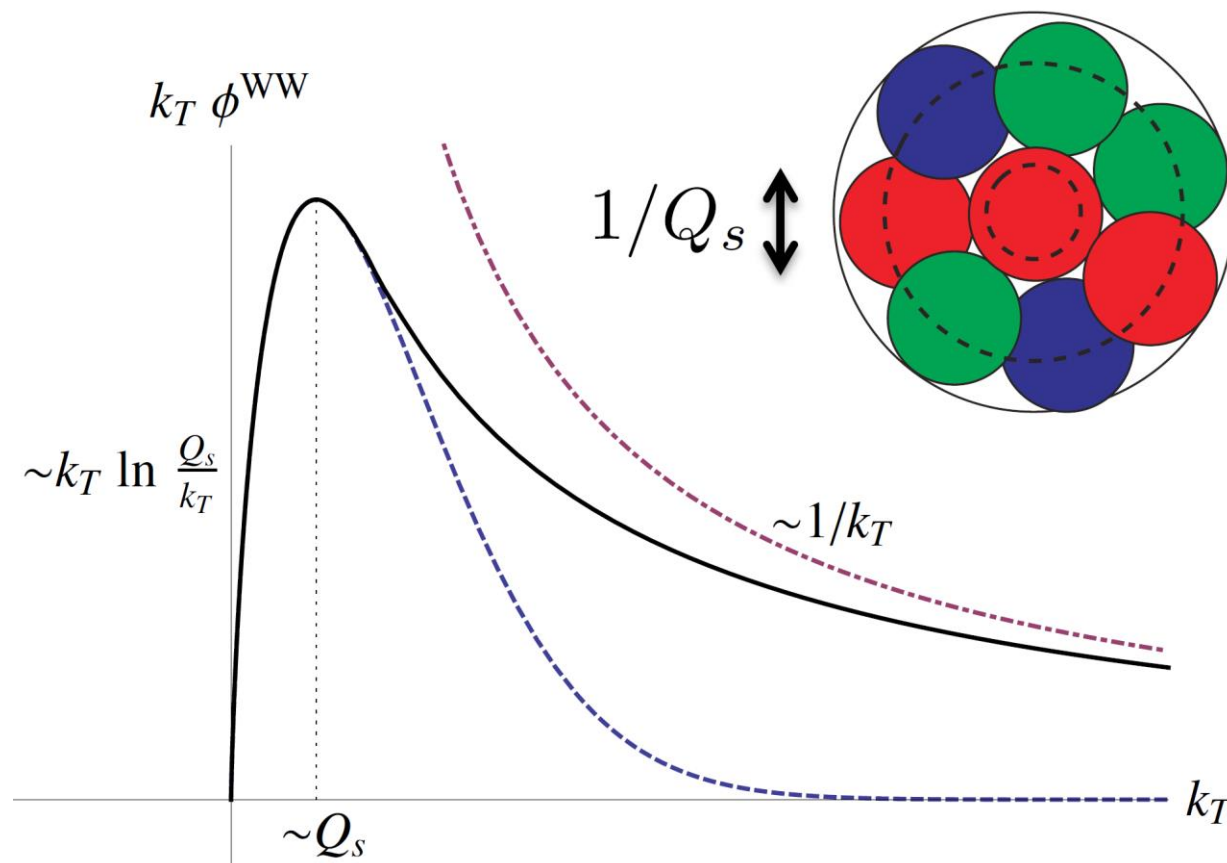
$$\frac{d\rho_G}{dY dQ^2} = \underbrace{\left( \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \right) \frac{\rho_G}{Q^2}}_{\text{bremsstrahlung}} - \underbrace{\left( \frac{\alpha_s^2 N_c \pi}{2C_F} \right) \left( \frac{\rho_G}{Q^2} \right)^2}_{\text{Equilibrium point: } Q_s^2}$$

- The **saturation momentum scale** grows with the density

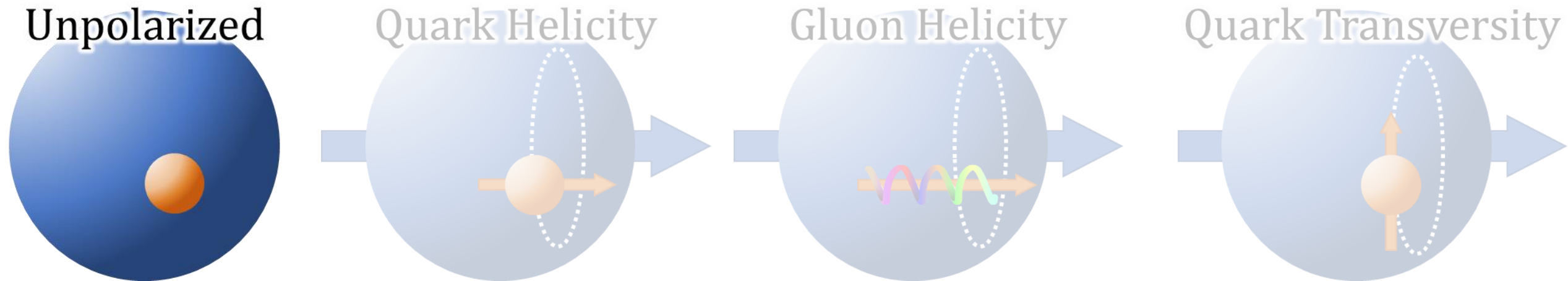
$$Q_s^2(Y) \sim \alpha_s \rho(Y)$$

# The Perturbative High-Density Limit

- Parton transverse momentum distributions are **dynamically screened below  $Q_s$**
- If the **density is large enough** that  $Q_s$  becomes a (semi)hard scale, the dynamics become **perturbative**
- With high energies and heavy nuclei, a future **Electron-Ion Collider** may peek into this regime.



# Unpolarized Quarks and Gluons: The Technical Part

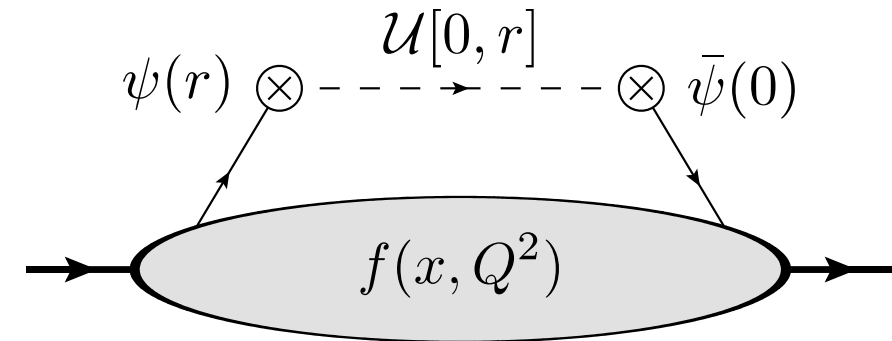
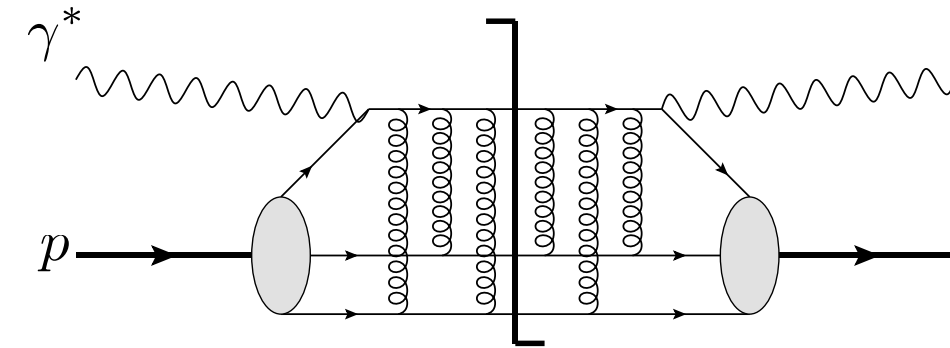


# Factorization: Quark Knockout at Moderate x

- Collinear (or TMD) **factorization** provides a one-to-one correspondence between the (SI)DIS **cross section** and hadronic structure: **PDFs / TMDs**

$$\frac{Q^2}{4\pi^2\alpha_{EM}} \frac{d\sigma^{(\gamma^* p)}}{\underline{dx dQ^2}} = F_2(x, Q^2) \stackrel{L.O.}{=} \sum_f e_f^2 \underline{xq_f(x, Q^2)}$$

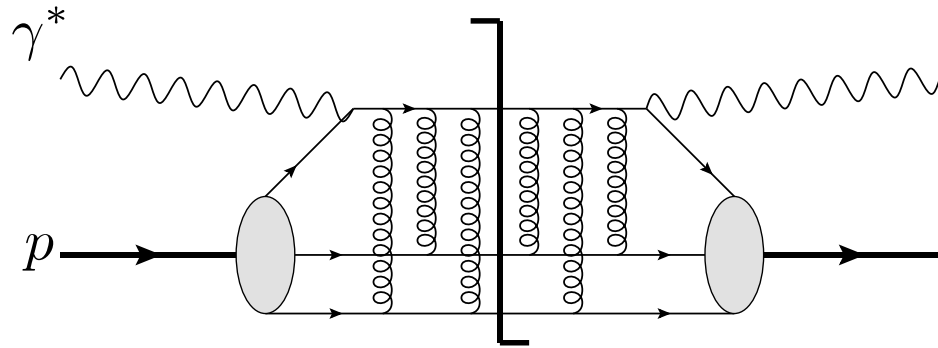
$$\underline{q(x, Q^2)} = \int \frac{dr^-}{2\pi} e^{ixp^+r^-} \langle p | \bar{\psi}(0) \mathcal{U}[0, r^-] \frac{\gamma^+}{2} \psi(r^-) | p \rangle$$



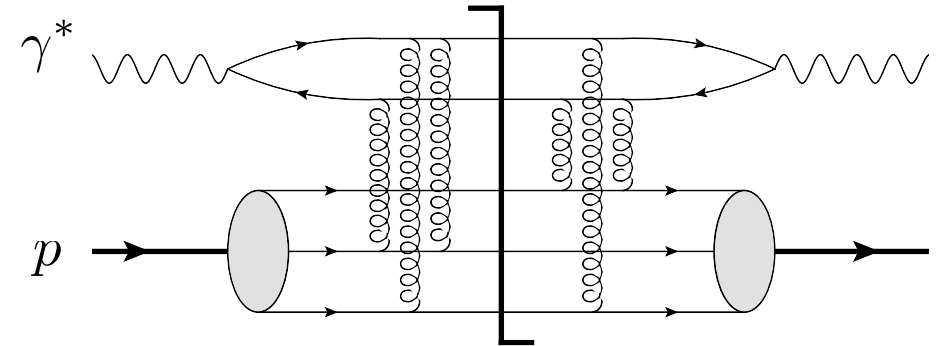


# Dipole DIS at Small x

“Knockout” DIS



“Dipole” DIS

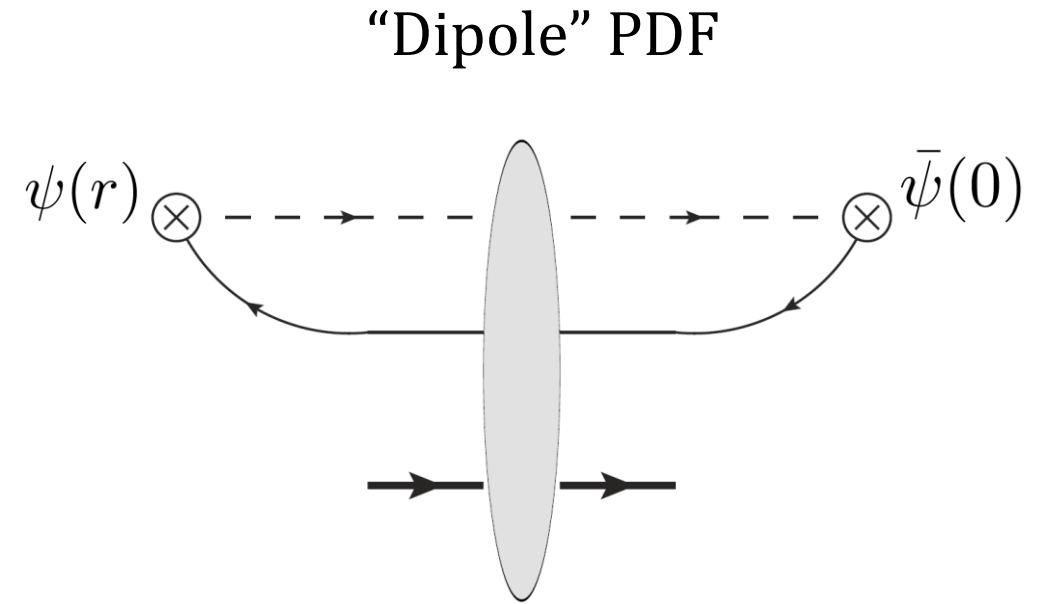


- At small  $x$ , the lifetime of the DIS photon becomes much larger than the size of the proton
- Photon fluctuates into a long-lived  $q\bar{q}$  dipole when then scatters on the proton

$$\Delta t \sim \frac{1}{mx} \gg \frac{1}{m}$$

# Wilson Lines: Propagators in a Background Field

- The **PDF operator** also looks different at small  $x$   
*(Note: Light-cone gauge  $A^- = 0$ )*
- The proton is **Lorentz-contracted** to  $\delta(x^-)$
- The operators **create / annihilate antiquarks** instead, which propagate through the proton fields as **Wilson lines**



$$V_{\underline{x}} = \mathcal{P} \exp \left[ ig \int dz^- \hat{A}^+(0^+, z^-, \underline{x}) \right]$$

# From PDFs to Dipoles



- The PDF operator is reformulated in terms of **dipole scattering amplitudes**

$$xq_f(x, Q^2) = \frac{Q^2 N_c}{4\pi^2 \alpha_{EM}} \int \frac{d^2 x_{10} dz}{4\pi z(1-z)} \sum_{L,T} |\Psi(x_{10}^2, z)|^2 \int d^2 b_{10} \left[ 2 - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(zs)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_1 V_0^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(zs)} \right]$$

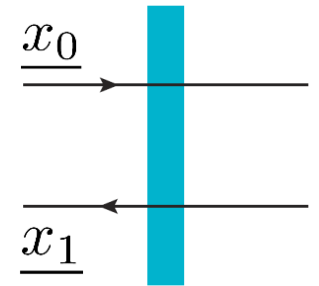
Photon splitting wave functions

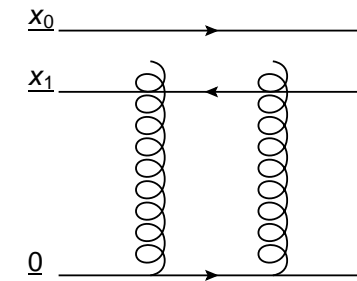
Non-interacting terms

Dipole amplitudes

# The Small-x Operator: The Dipole Amplitude

- The **x-dependence of the PDF** (TMD) is governed by the **energy dependence of the dipole amplitude**
- Arises from the **phase-space enhanced quantum corrections** in the **background field** of the proton
- The **initial conditions** can be taken from PDF fits at large x or, e.g.) the quark target model

$$\frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^\dagger \right] \right\rangle_{(zs)}$$




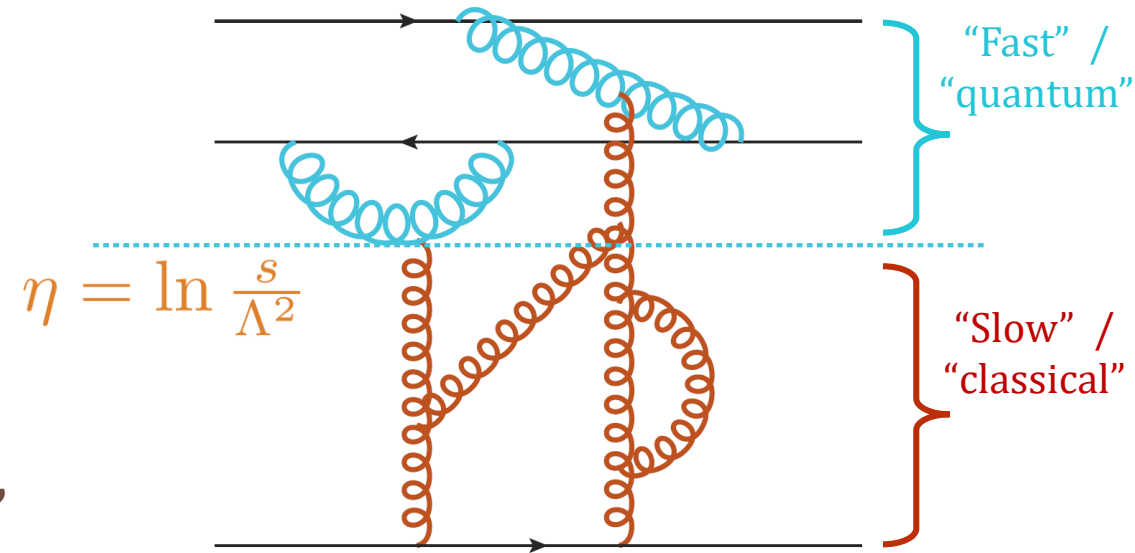
$$\frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^\dagger \right] \right\rangle_{(zs)}^{(0)} = \frac{2\alpha_s^2 C_F}{N_c} \ln^2 \frac{x_{0T}}{x_{1T}}$$

# Quantum Evolution in a Classical Background

- Quantum evolution is obtained through the **background field method**

$$A^\mu(x) = A^\mu_{\text{classical}}(x) + a^\mu_{\text{quantum}}(x)$$

- Arbitrary rapidity cut  $\eta$**  between “fast, quantum modes” and “slow, classical modes.”
- Compute corrections from the “**quantum**” **fields** in the “**classical**” **background** if they cross the proton.
- RG evolution** with respect to the **arbitrary cutoff** generates quantum evolution



*I. Balitsky, Nucl. Phys. **B463** (1996) 99*

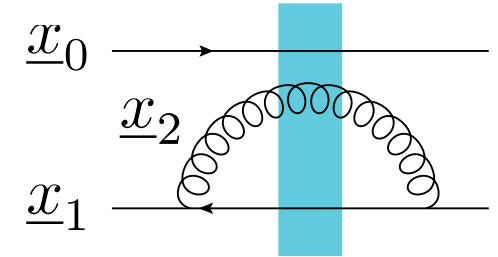
*I. Balitsky, Phys. Rev. **D60** (1999) 014020*

*I. Balitsky and A. Tarasov, JHEP **1510** (2015) 017*

# Types of Corrections: Real and Virtual

- **“Real” gluon emissions** propagate through the **classical background** of the proton

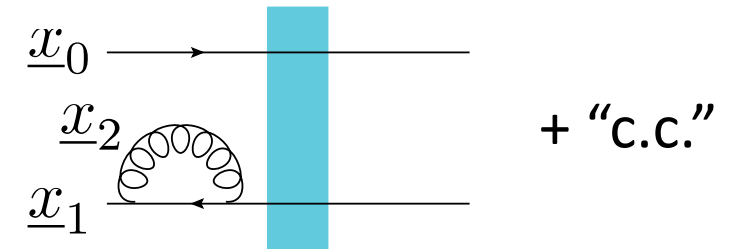
$$\frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 t^a V_1^\dagger t^b \right] U_2^{ba} \right\rangle_{(z' s)}$$



$$(x_2^-)_i < 0^- < (x_2^-)_f$$

- **“Virtual” gluon emissions** propagate through the **vacuum**

$$-\frac{C_F}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^\dagger \right] \right\rangle_{(z' s)}$$



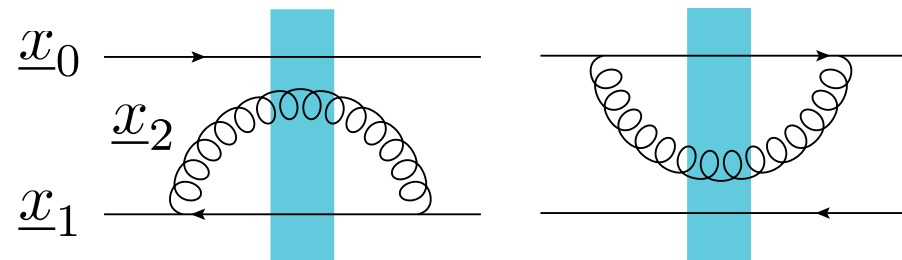
$$(x_2^-)_i, (x_2^-)_f < 0^-$$

$$0^- < (x_2^-)_i, (x_2^-)_f$$

# Types of Corrections: Ladder and Non-Ladder

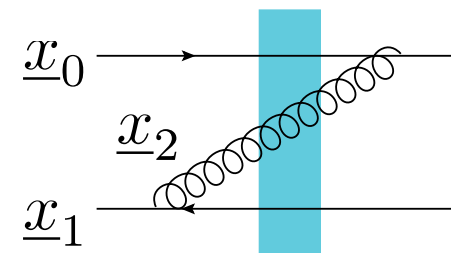
- **“Ladder” emissions** are emitted and absorbed by the same parton

$$\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi^2} \int \frac{dz'}{z'} \int d^2 x_2 \left( \frac{1}{x_{21}^2} + \frac{1}{x_{20}^2} \right) \times [\text{operator}]$$

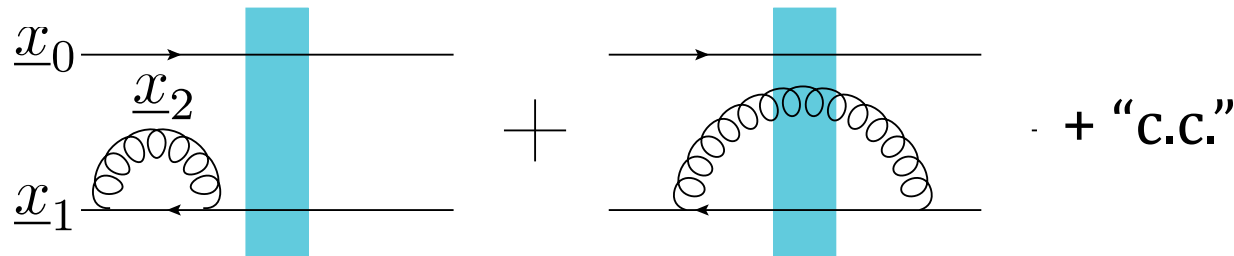


- **“Non-ladder” emissions** are emitted and absorbed by different partons

$$\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi^2} \int \frac{dz'}{z'} \int d^2 x_2 \left( -2 \frac{\underline{x}_{21} \cdot \underline{x}_{20}}{x_{21}^2 x_{20}^2} \right) \times [\text{operator}]$$



# Color Transparency of Small Fluctuations



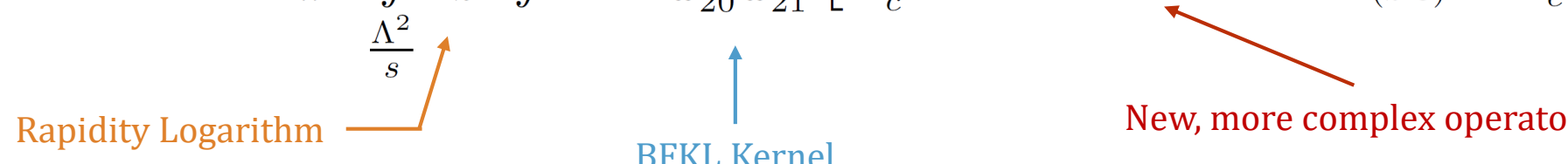
$$\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int \frac{d^2 x_2}{x_{21}^2} \times \left[ \frac{1}{N_c^2} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_2 V_1^\dagger] \text{tr} [V_0 V_2^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(z's)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \right]$$

- “Ladder” emissions of **small-sized fluctuations are enhanced**
- Potentially divergent... a **second logarithm?**
- **No: Cancellation** of real + virtual diagrams due to **color transparency**



# The Balitsky Operator Hierarchy

$$\frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(zs)} = \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(zs)}^{(0)} + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int \frac{dz'}{z'} \int d^2 x_2 \frac{x_{10}^2}{x_{20}^2 x_{21}^2} \left[ \frac{1}{N_c^2} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_2 V_1^\dagger] \text{tr} [V_0 V_2^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(z's)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \right]$$



- The dipole evolves into **increasingly complex operators**....
- Equivalent to a **functional differential equation**....

*I. Balitsky, Nucl. Phys. **B463** (1996) 99*

*I. Balitsky, Phys. Rev. **D60** (1999) 014020*

*Jalilian-Marian et al., Phys. Rev. **D59** (1998) 014015*

*Jalilian-Marian et al., Phys. Rev. **D59** (1998) 014014*

*Iancu et al., Phys. Lett. **B510** (2001) 133*

*Iancu et al., Nucl. Phys. **A692** (2001) 583*

# Dilute Limit: the BFKL Equations

- The equations **linearize** in the **dilute limit** (BFKL)

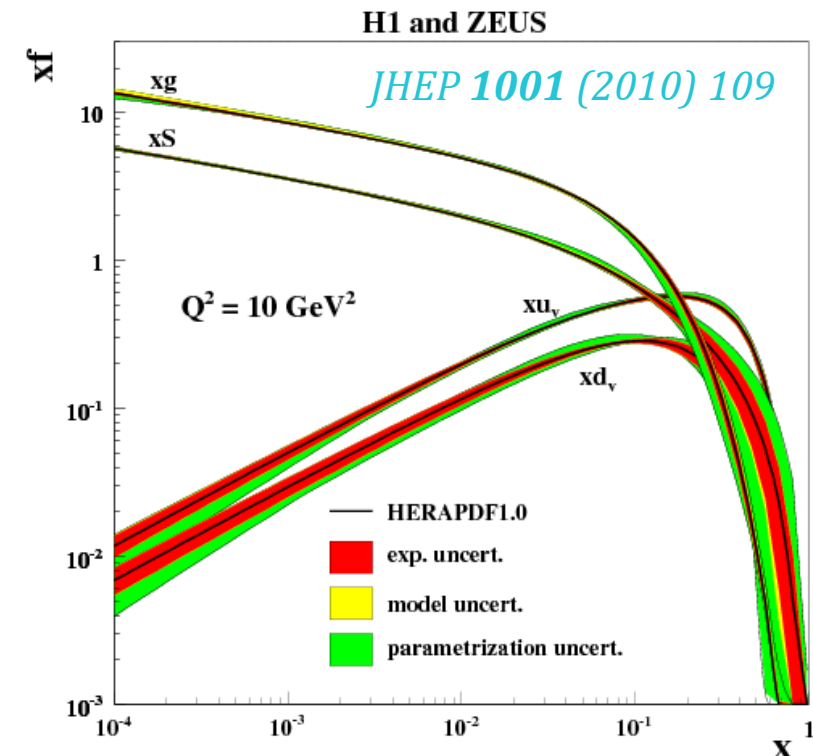
*Kuraev, et al., Sov. Phys. JETP 45 (1977) 199*

*Balitsky and Lipatov, Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 28 (1978) 822*

$$\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int d^2 x_2 \frac{x_{10}^2}{x_{20}^2 x_{21}^2} \left\langle \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} [V_2 V_1^\dagger] + \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} [V_0 V_2^\dagger] - \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^\dagger] - 1 \right\rangle_{(z's)}$$

- Leads to **power-law growth** in the PDFs at small x

$$xq(x, Q^2) \sim xG(x, Q^2) \sim \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{\frac{4\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \ln 2}$$



# The BFKL and BK Equations

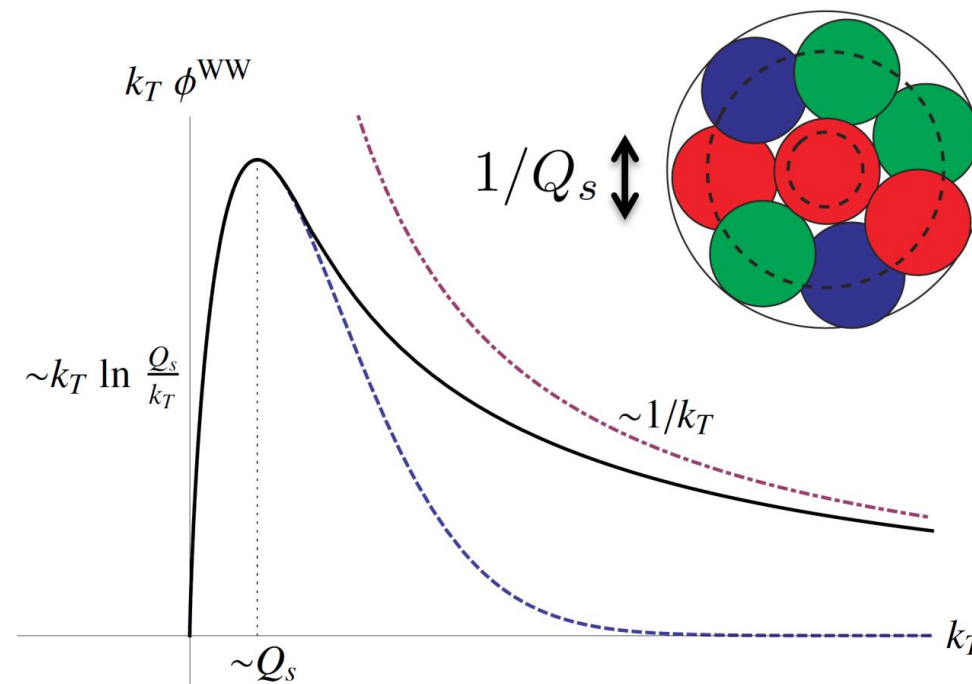
- The operator **hierarchy closes** in **large- $N_c$  limit** (BK)

*Balitsky, Nucl. Phys. **B463** (1996) 99*  
*Balitsky, Phys. Rev. **D60** (1999) 014020*  
*Kovchegov, Phys. Rev. **D60** (1999) 034008*  
*Kovchegov, Phys. Rev. **D61** (2000) 074018*

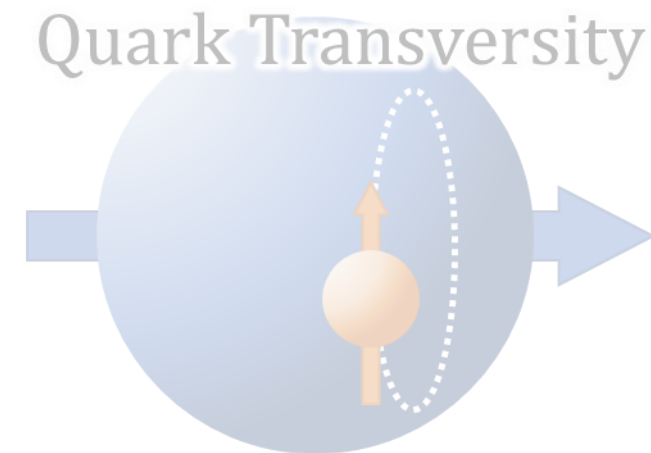
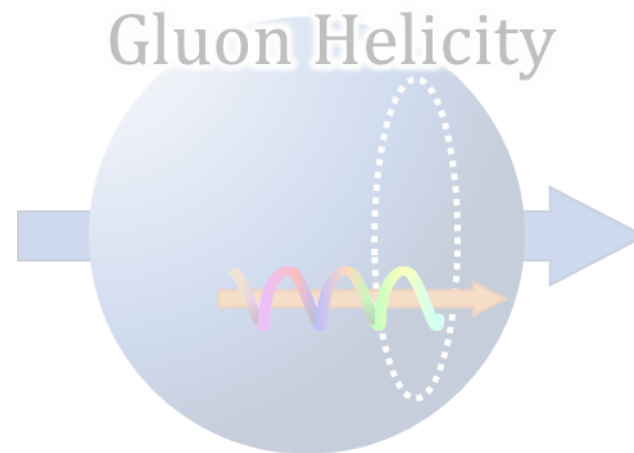
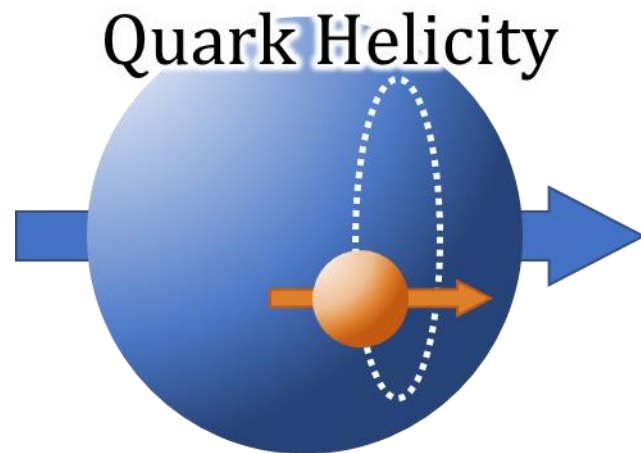
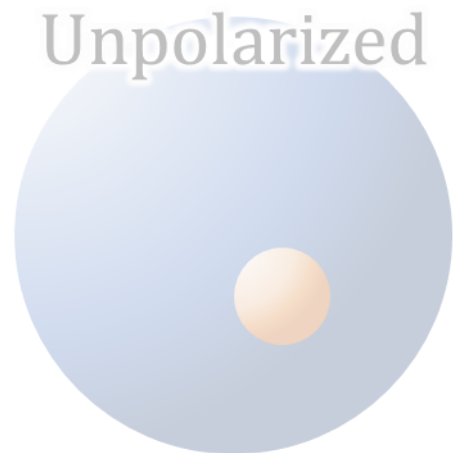
$$\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int d^2 x_2 \frac{x_{10}^2}{x_{20}^2 x_{21}^2} \left[ \frac{1}{N_c^2} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_2 V_1^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \times \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_2^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(z's)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \right]$$

- Nonlinear gluon recombination leads to **saturation** of the small- $x$  PDFs.

$$Q_s^2(x) \sim \left( \frac{1}{x} \right)^{0.3}$$

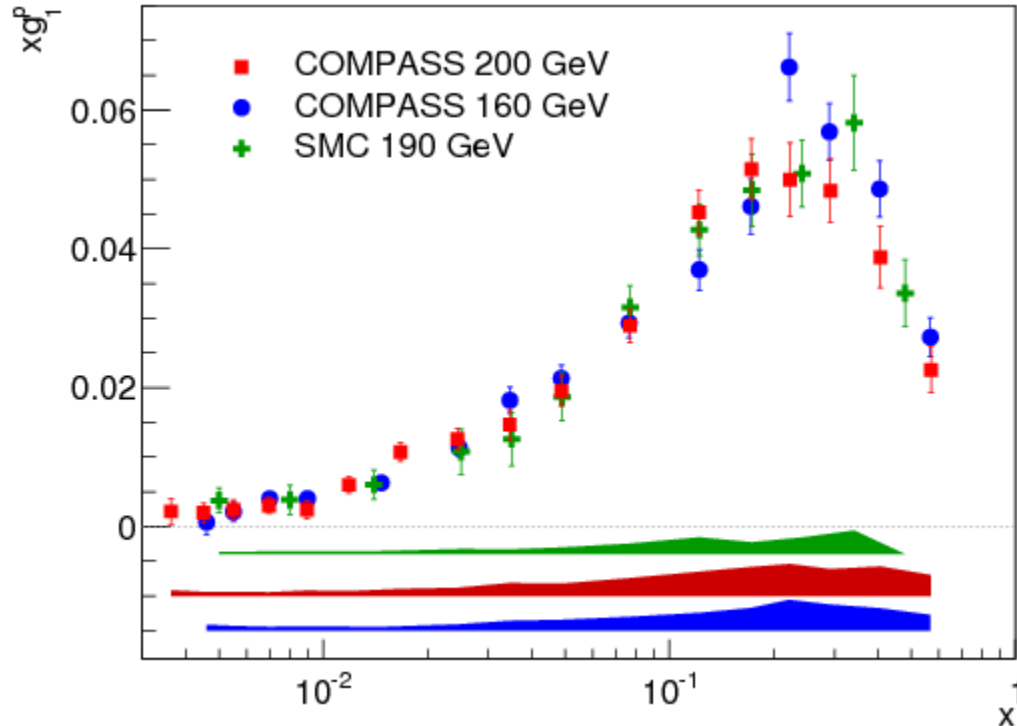


# Quark Helicity and the Proton Spin

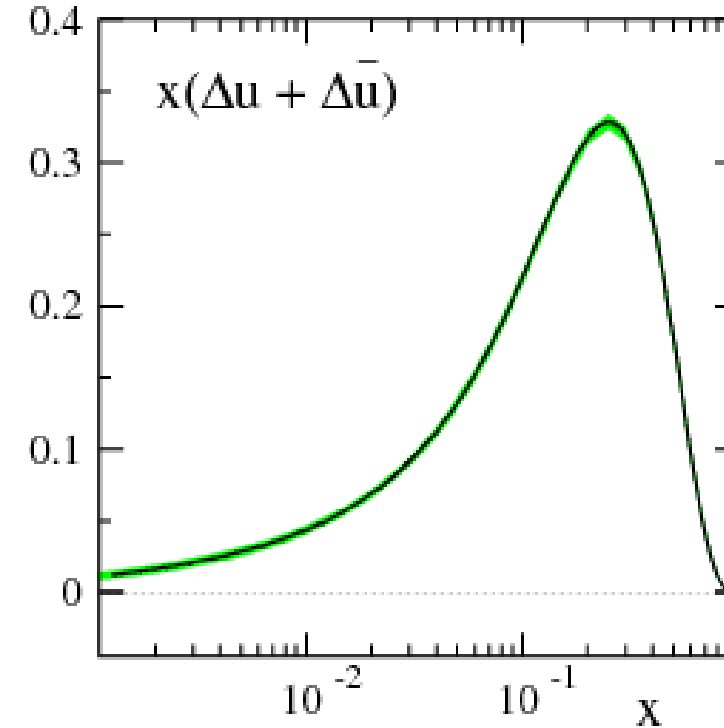


# Quark Helicity: What Do We Know?

COMPASS Collaboration, *Phys. Lett. B* **753** (2016) 18



De Florian et al., *Phys. Rev. D* **80** (2009) 034030



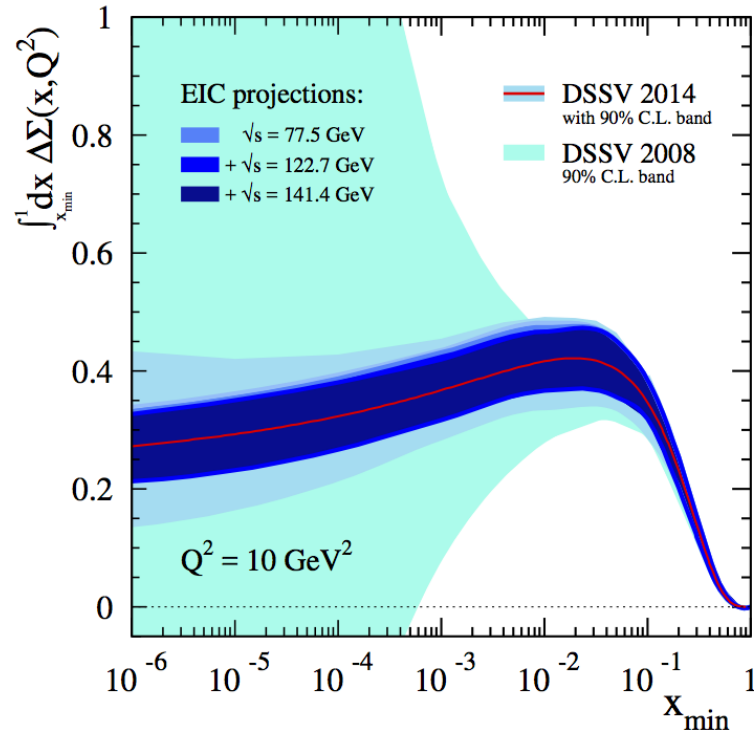
- **Polarized structure functions** are measured e.g.) by COMPASS and JAM

*J. J. Ethier et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 (2017) 132001*

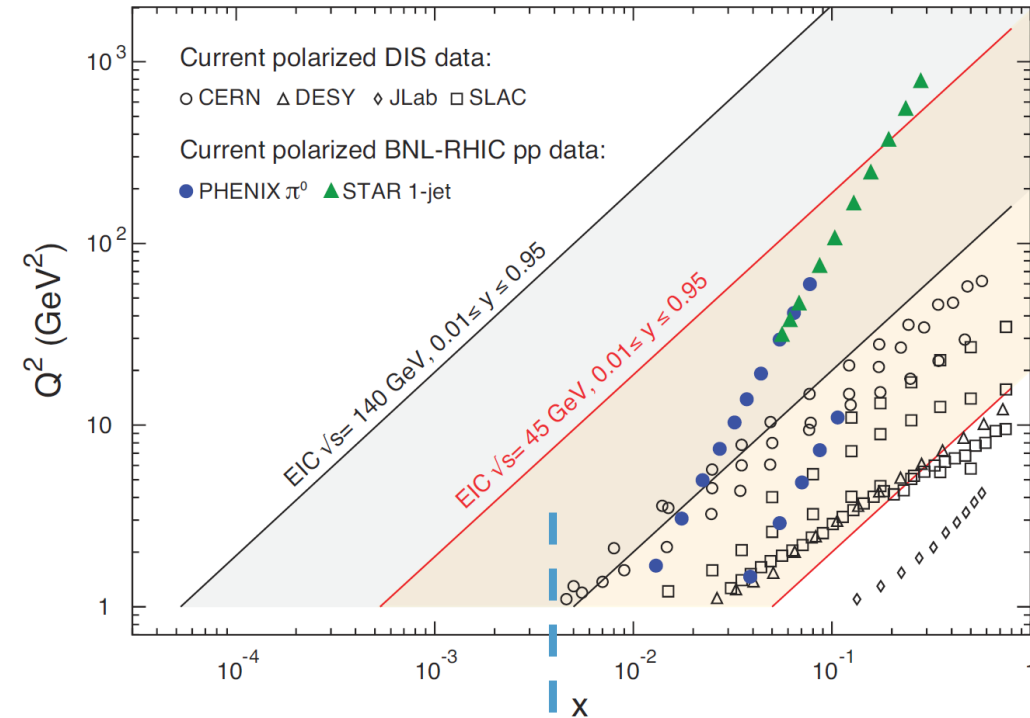
- The polarized structure functions **decay at small x**

# How Much Polarization is there at Small x?

*E.-C. Aschenauer et al., Phys. Rev. D92 (2015) 094030*



*A. Accardi et al., Eur. Phys. J. A52 (2016) 268*



- **Polarized DIS data** runs out below  $x \sim \text{few} \times 10^{-3}$
- The running integral of  $\Delta\Sigma$  is **not converging quickly enough** to strongly constrain the quark contribution to the proton spin budget.

# Factorization at Moderate x

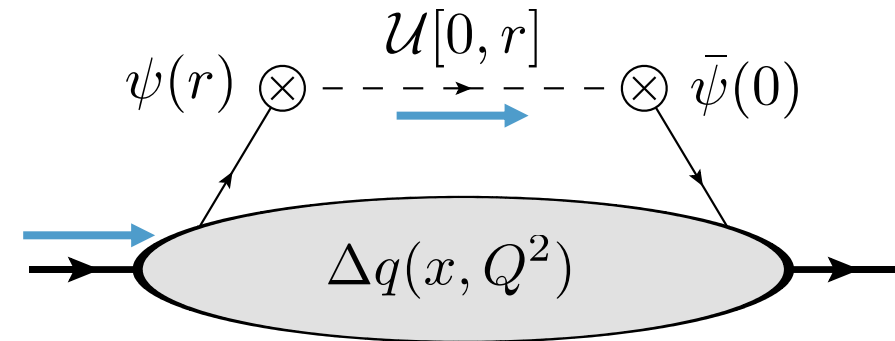
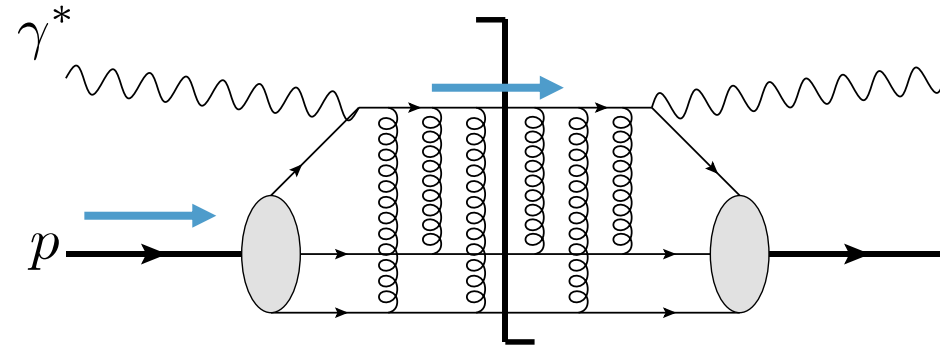
- The **DIS polarized structure functions** are related via factorization to the **quark helicity PDFs**

$$\frac{Q^2}{4\pi^2\alpha_{EM}} \frac{d \Delta\sigma(\gamma^* p)}{dx dQ^2} = 2x g_1(x, Q^2) \stackrel{L.O.}{=} \sum_f e_f^2 x \Delta q_f(x, Q^2)$$

- The quark hPDFs are non-local matrix elements of the **axial vector current**

$$\Delta q(x, Q^2) = \int \frac{dr^-}{2\pi} e^{ixp^+r^-} \langle p | \bar{\psi}(0) \mathcal{U}[0, r^-] \frac{\gamma^+ \gamma^5}{2} \psi(r^-) | p \rangle$$

Light-Cone Spin Projection:  $S^+$



# The Naïve Translation to Dipoles at Small x



- Naively, we get **dipole amplitudes** at small x which are sensitive to **polarization**

*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., JHEP 1601 (2016) 072*

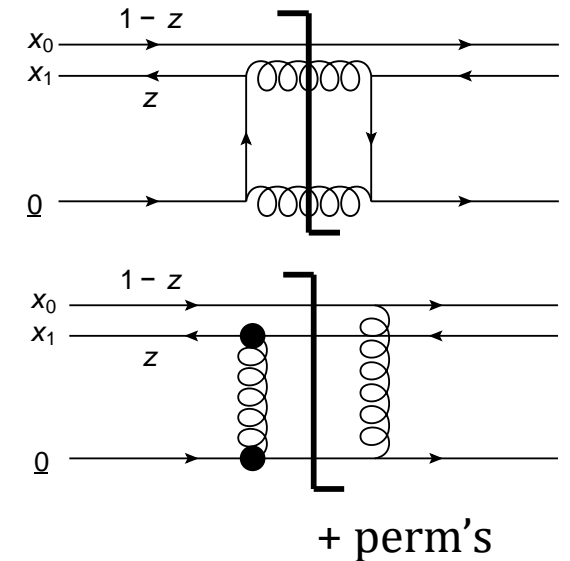
- The “squared” contributions are **insensitive to the proton spin**.

$$x\Delta q_f(x, Q^2) = \frac{Q^2 N_c}{4\pi^2 \alpha_{EM}} \int \frac{d^2 x_{10} dz}{4\pi z(1-z)} \sum_{L,T} |\Delta\Psi(x_{10}^2, z)|^2 \int d^2 b_{10} \left[ \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^{pol\dagger}] \right\rangle_{(zs)} + \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} [V_1^{pol} V_0^\dagger] \right\rangle_{(zs)} \right]$$



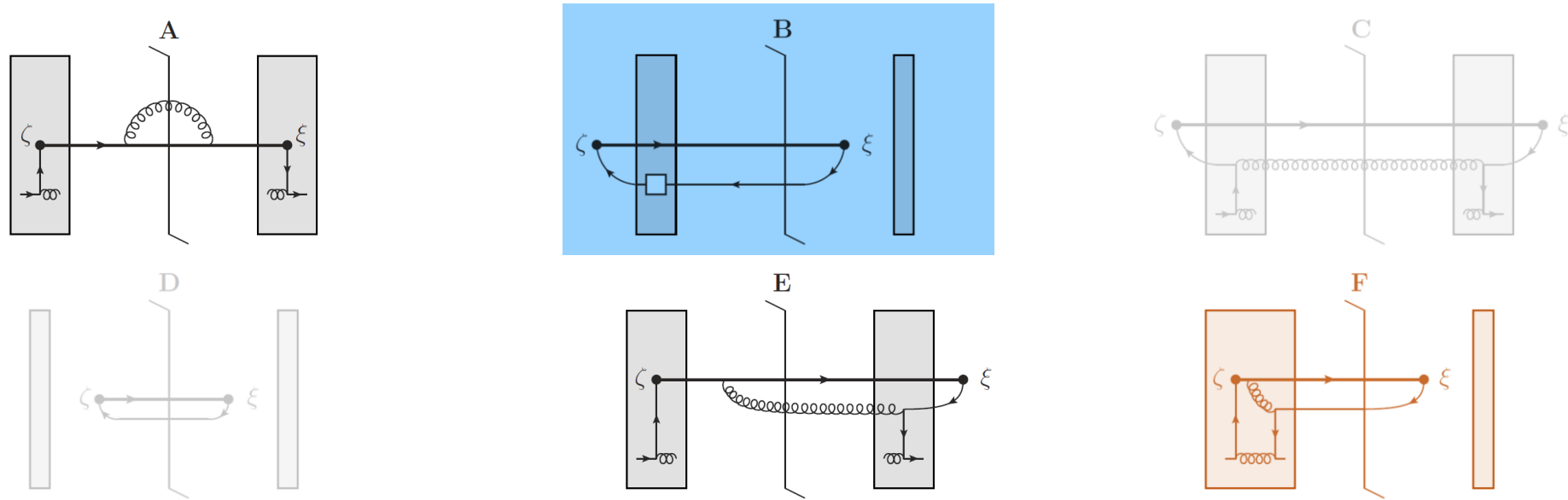
# Spin Transfer is Power-Suppressed at Small x

- The leading-power interaction at small x (i.e., a Wilson line) is **spin-independent**.
- The initial conditions for spin-dependent scattering are **suppressed by one power of s** (or x).
- **Spin transfer is sensitive** to several effects which would be negligible **power-suppressed corrections** to the unpolarized PDFs
  - T-channel **quark exchange** is now a leading contribution



$$\frac{d \Delta\sigma^{Born}}{d^2b} \sim x \sim \frac{1}{s}$$

# A More Delicate Transition to Dipoles at Small $x$



- Since the **hPDF itself is power-suppressed**, the handbag diagram and other “knockout” processes can contribute.

*Y. Kovchegov, M.S, arXiv: 1808.09010*

- Using the **Ward identity**, the potential evolution corrections coming from “knockout” channels (A + E + cc) **cancel after all**.

# Helicity-Dependent Propagation in a Background Field

- The “polarized dipole” contains an antiquark **exchanging spin** while propagating through the **background field of the proton**

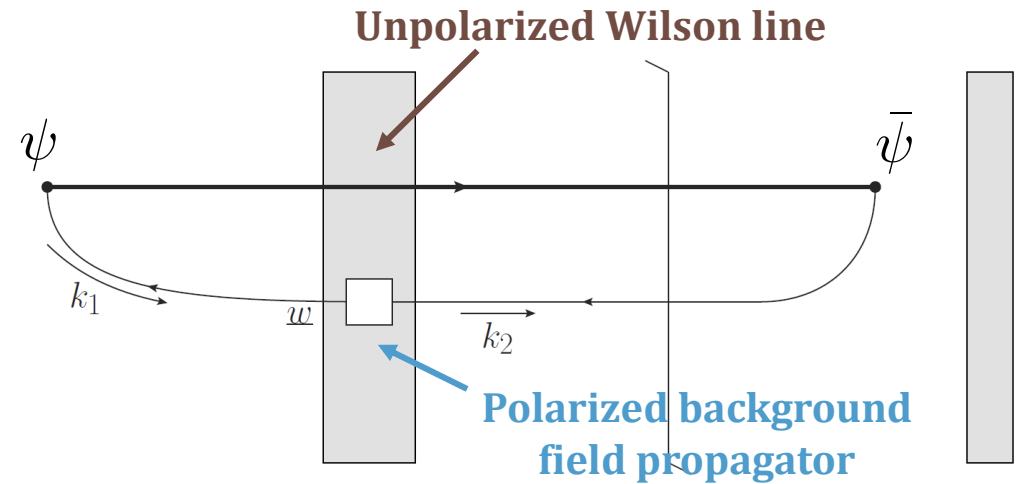
$$\overline{\psi}_\alpha^i(\xi) \psi_\beta^j(\zeta) = \int d^2w \frac{d^4k_1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4k_2}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik_1^+ \zeta^-} e^{i\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot (\mathbf{w} - \underline{\zeta})} e^{-ik_2^+ \xi^-} e^{i\mathbf{k}_2 \cdot (\underline{\xi} - \mathbf{w})}$$

$$\times \left\{ \left[ \frac{-i\not{k}_1}{k_1^2 + i\epsilon} \right] \left[ \left( \hat{V}_w^\dagger \right)^{ji} (2\pi) \delta(k_1^- - k_2^-) \right] \left[ -\not{k}_2 (2\pi) \delta(k_2^2) \right] \right\}_{\beta\alpha}$$

Free propagator

General Background  
Field Propagator  
(Dirac matrix)

Cut free propagator

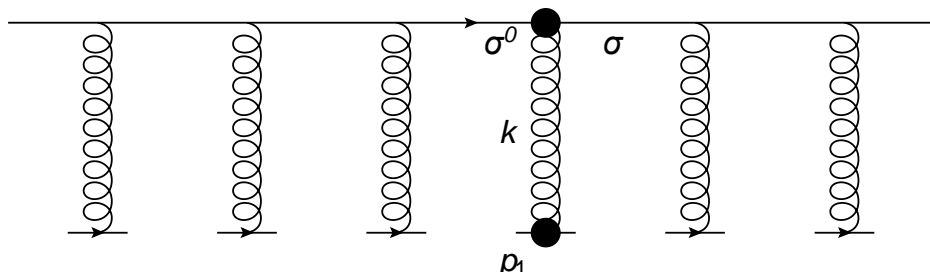


*Y. Kovchegov, M.S, arXiv: 1808.09010*  
*G. Chirilli, arXiv: 1807.11435*

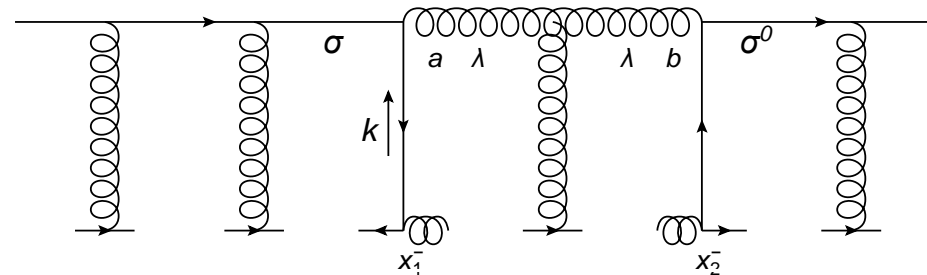
- After performing the  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  integrals and replacing the Dirac structure with spinor sums, we can **pick out any desired spin projections**.

# Polarized Wilson Lines

Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., JHEP 1710 (2017) 198



Y. Kovchegov, M.S., arXiv: 1808.09010



- Each **spin-dependent coupling** to the background field is **power suppressed**
- A “polarized Wilson line” contains **one spin-dependent operator**, dressed with  **$O(1)$  Wilson lines**

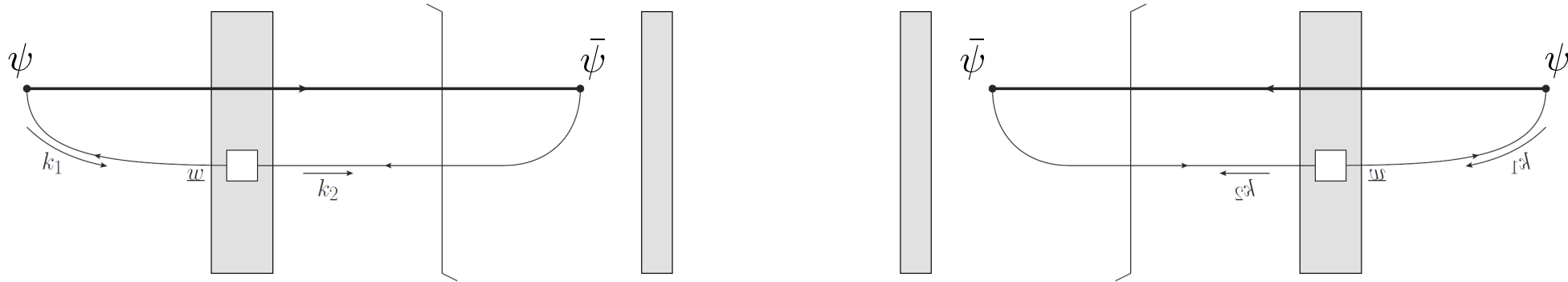
$$V_{\underline{x}}^{pol} = \frac{igp_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx^- V_{\underline{x}}[+\infty, x^-] F^{12}(x^-, \underline{x}) V_{\underline{x}}[x^-, -\infty]$$

←  $\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B}$  coupling to the background gluon field

$$- \frac{g^2 p_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_1^- \int_{x_1^-}^{\infty} dx_2^- V_{\underline{x}}[+\infty, x_2^-] t^b \psi_{\beta}(x_2^-, \underline{x}) U_{\underline{x}}^{ba}[x_2^-, x_1^-] \left[ \frac{1}{2} \gamma^+ \gamma^5 \right]_{\alpha\beta} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha}(x_1^-, \underline{x}) t^a V_{\underline{x}}[x_1^-, -\infty].$$

← Flavor-changing Wilson line

# Helicity-Dependent Propagation in a Background Field



- The quark helicity PDF is built from **polarized dipole amplitudes**, as expected:

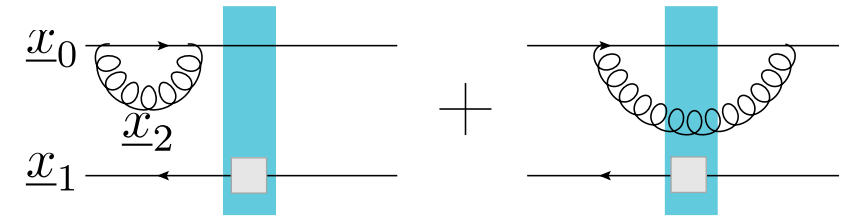
$$\Delta q(x, Q^2) = \frac{N_c}{8\pi^3} \int_{\Lambda^2/s}^1 \frac{dz}{z} \int_{1/zs}^{1/zQ^2} \frac{dx_{10}^2}{x_{10}^2} \int d^2b_{10} \left\langle \underbrace{\frac{zs}{N_c} \text{tr} [V_0 V_1^{pol \dagger}] + \frac{zs}{N_c} \text{tr} [V_1^{pol} V_0^\dagger]}_{\text{Polarized Dipole Amplitude: } 2 G_{10}(z s)} \right\rangle_{(zs)}$$

Scale out suppression factor

Extra logarithm...!

# Quantum Evolution: Beyond Color Transparency

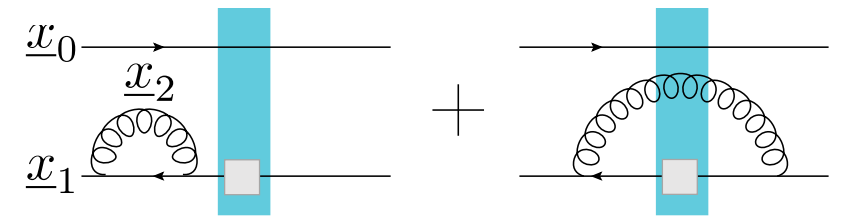
- Ladder emissions from the **unpolarized Wilson line** possess **color transparency** at short distances



$$\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int \frac{d^2 x_2}{x_{20}^2} \times \left[ \frac{1}{N_c^2} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_2 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_2^\dagger \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \right]$$

Cancels when  $\underline{x}_2 \rightarrow \underline{x}_0$

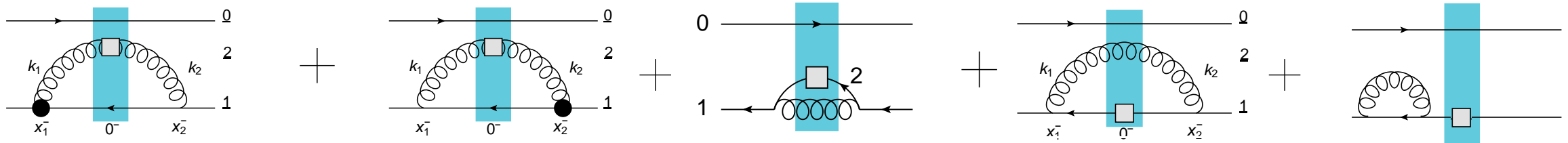
- But for ladder emissions from the **polarized Wilson line**, color transparency is **violated by spin**



$$\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int \frac{d^2 x_2}{x_{21}^2} \times \left[ \frac{1}{N_c^2} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_2 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_2^\dagger \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} - \frac{1}{N_c} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^{pol \dagger} \right] \right\rangle_{(z's)} \right]$$

Does NOT cancel when  $\underline{x}_2 \rightarrow \underline{x}_1$

# Double Logarithmic Helicity Evolution



- Short-distance fluctuations about the polarized Wilson line generate **double logarithms** of the energy.

$$\alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{1}{x} \sim 1$$

- Helicity evolution is **stronger** than unpolarized one evolution, but starts off power-suppressed.

Unpolarized:  $x < e^{1/\alpha_s}$

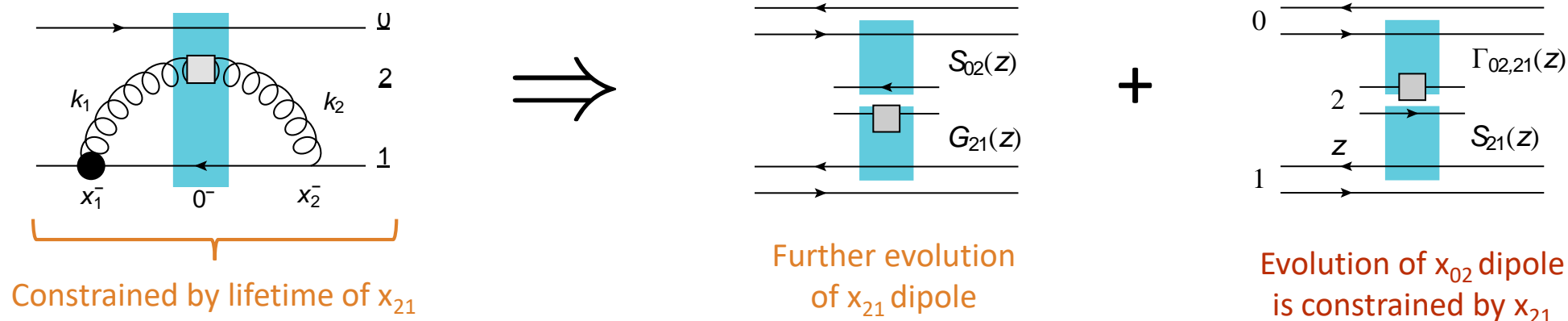
- The transverse logarithm: **more sensitive** to the structure and ordering in the transverse plane

Helicity:  $x < e^{1/\sqrt{\alpha_s}}$

- Strict **lifetime ordering** (NLO for unpolarized evolution) is a **leading order effect for helicity**

*Kirschner and Lipatov, Nucl.Phys. B213 (1983) 122*  
*Bartels, Ermolaev, and Ryskin, Z.Phys. C70 (1996) 273*  
*Griffiths and Ross, Eur.Phys.J. C12 (2000) 277*

# The Neighbor Dipole Function



- These evolution equations describe another **operator hierarchy**
- Just like the BK equation, they do **close in the large- $N_c$  limit** (or large  $N_c$  &  $N_f$ )
- But because **lifetime ordering** constrains the history of the polarized gluon cascade, **not all dipoles are independent.** *Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., JHEP 1601 (2016) 072*



# Evolution Equations at Large Nc

*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., JHEP 1601 (2016) 072*

$$G(x_{10}^2, z) = G^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, z) + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi} \int_{\frac{1}{x_{10}^2 s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int_{\frac{1}{z' s}}^{x_{10}^2} \frac{dx_{21}^2}{x_{21}^2} [\Gamma(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z') + 3G(x_{21}^2, z')]$$

$$\Gamma(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z') = G^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, z') + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi} \int_{\frac{1}{x_{10}^2 s}}^{z'} \frac{dz''}{z''} \int_{\frac{1}{z'' s}}^{\min[x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2 \frac{z'}{z''}]} \frac{dx_{32}^2}{x_{32}^2} [\Gamma(x_{10}^2, x_{32}^2, z'') + 3G(x_{32}^2, z'')]$$

- Even at large-Nc, lifetime ordering leads to a **system of coupled equations** through the with **auxiliary “neighbor dipole” function**

# Solution: The Quark Helicity Intercept

- After evolving for a few units in rapidity, a **scaling behavior** sets in
- Makes it possible to solve the large- $N_c$  equations **analytically**
- The  $x$  (energy) dependence approaches a **universal power-law behavior**:

$$\alpha_h^{q,S} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}}$$

$$\alpha_h^{q,NS} = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}}$$

$$G(x_{10}^2, zs) \sim G(zs x_{10}^2)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} G(x_\perp^2, zs) &\sim (zs)^{\alpha_h^q} \\ g_1(x, k_T^2) &\sim \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{\alpha_h^q} \\ \Delta q(x, Q^2) &\sim \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{\alpha_h^q} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

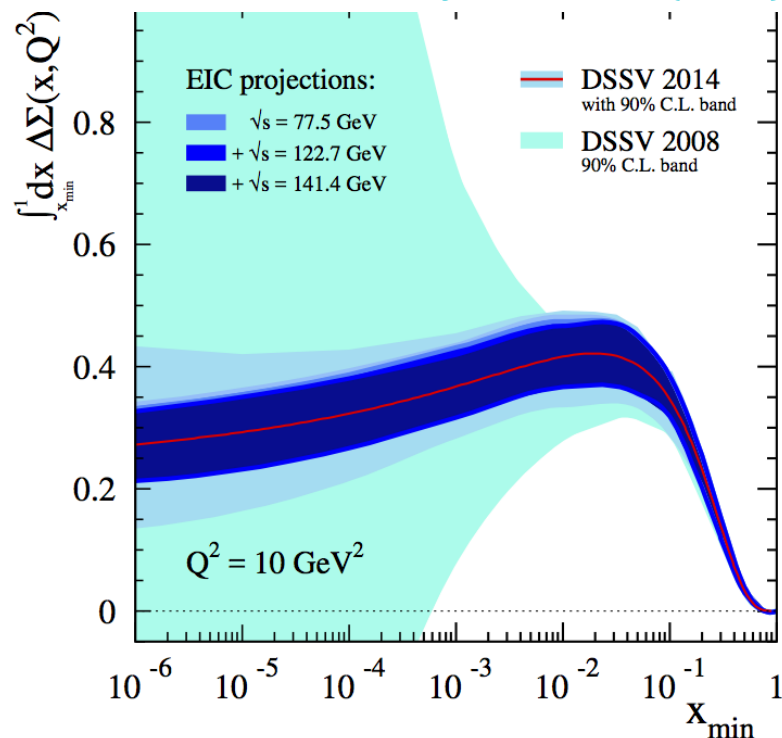
*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, **M.S.**,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **118** (2017) 052001*

*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, **M.S.**,  
Phys. Lett. **B772** (2017) 136*

*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, **M.S.**,  
Phys. Rev. **D95** (2017) 014033*

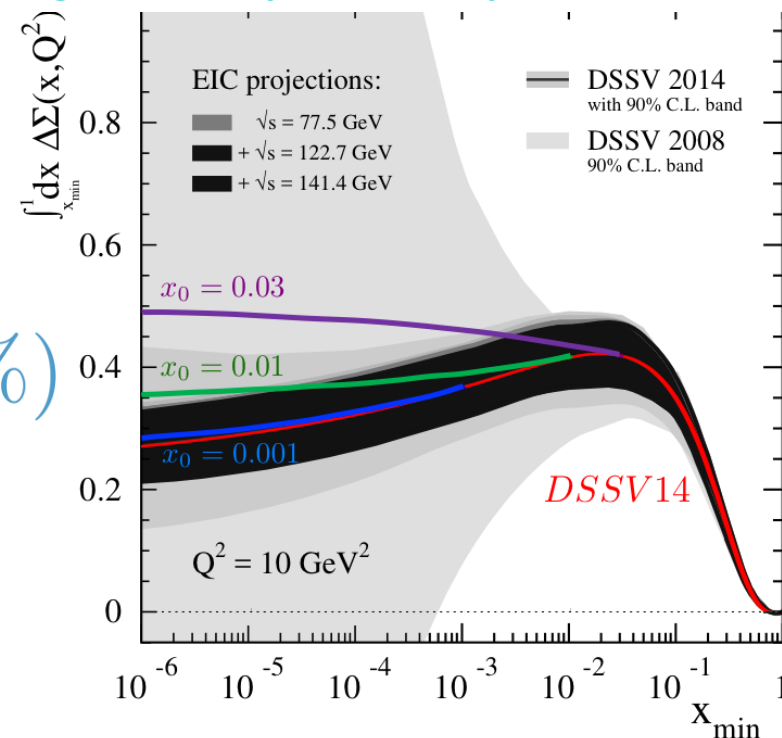
# A Crude Phenomenological Estimate

*E.-C. Aschenauer et al., Phys. Rev. D92 (2015) 094030*



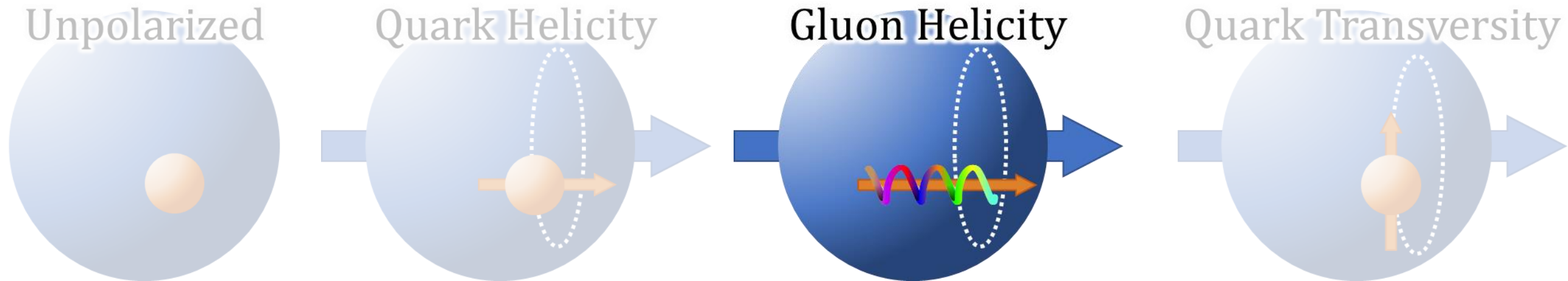
*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., Phys. Rev. Lett. 118 (2017) 052001*

$\mathcal{O}(20\%)$



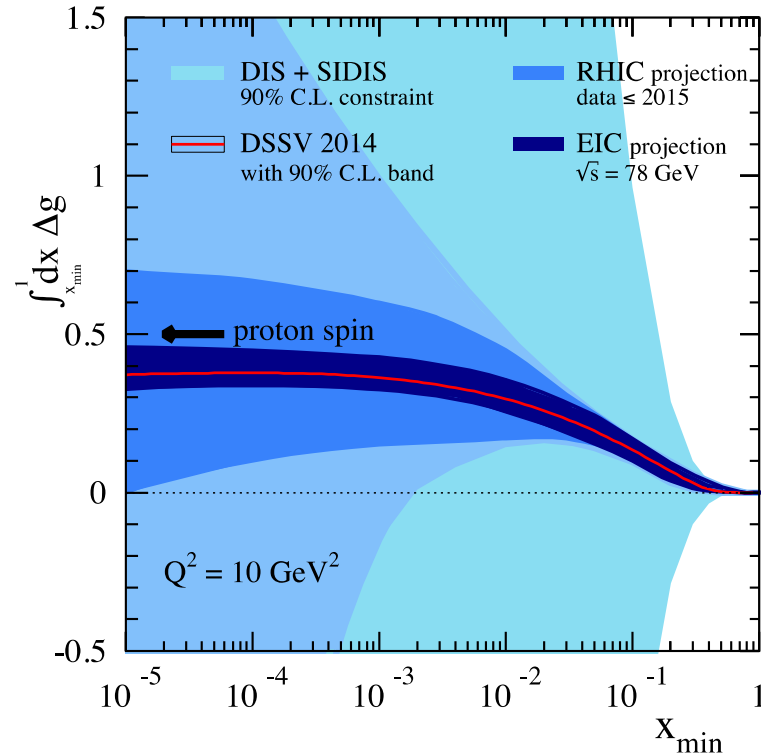
- Depending on when our asymptotic behavior is turned on, the **added contribution to the proton spin** at small  $x$  could be **significant**.
- The theory **doesn't tell you** when the **small- $x$  effects set in**.

# Gluon Helicity and the Proton Spin

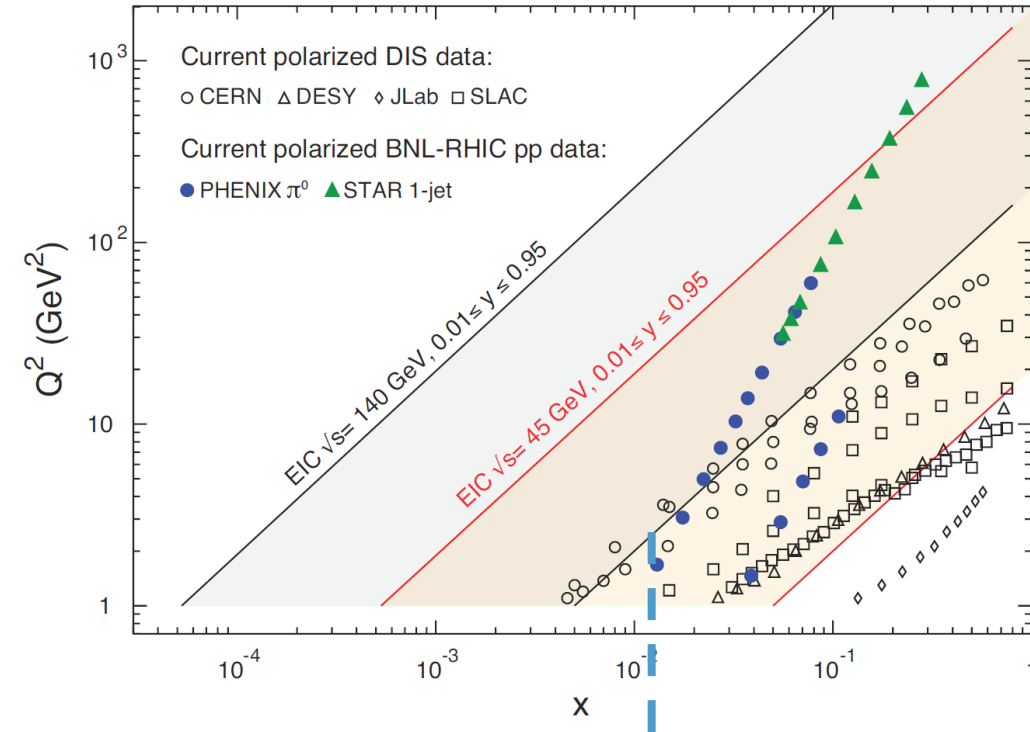


# Gluon Helicity: What Do We Know?

*E.-C. Aschenauer et al., Phys. Rev. D92 (2015) 094030*

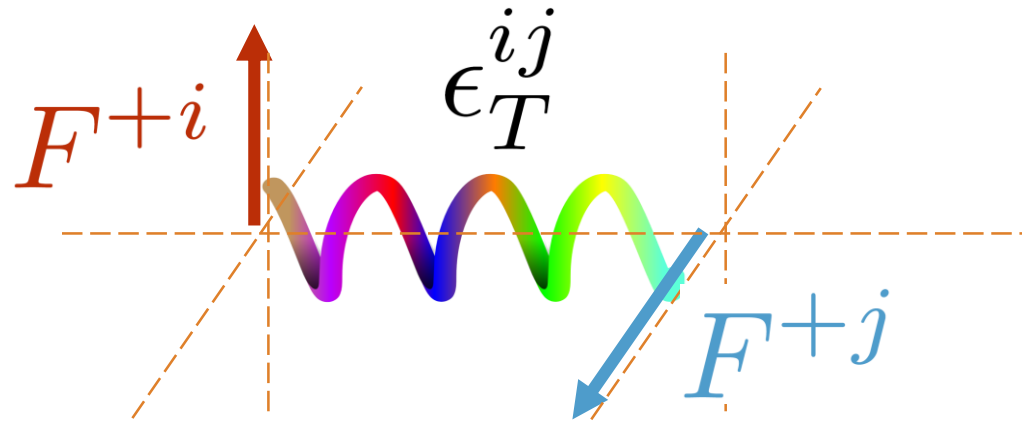


*A. Accardi et al., Eur. Phys. J. A52 (2016) 268*



- Data on polarized gluons runs out by  $x \sim 10^{-2}$
- The gluon contribution to the proton spin is **far less constrained** at small  $x$

# Definition of Gluon Helicity

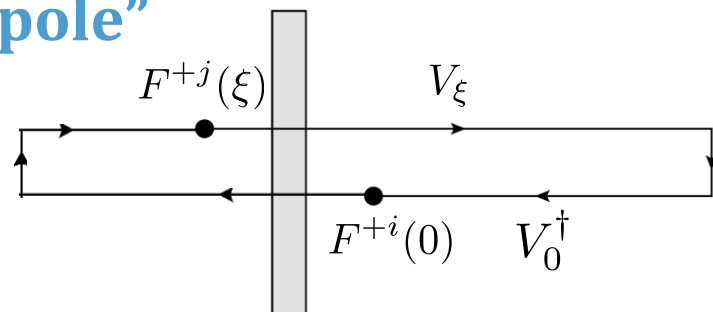


$$g_{1L}^G(x, k_T^2) = \frac{-2i}{x P^+} \int \frac{d\xi^- d^2\xi}{(2\pi)^3} e^{ik \cdot \xi} \langle P, S_L | \epsilon_T^{ij} \text{tr} [\underline{F^{+i}(0)} \mathcal{U}[0, \xi] \underline{F^{+j}(\xi)} \mathcal{U}'[\xi, 0]] | P, S_L \rangle_{\xi^+=0}$$

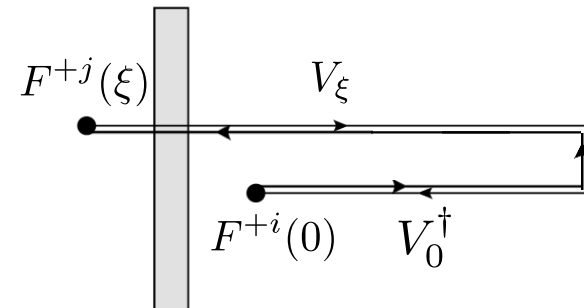
- Gluon helicity is a **very different object** than quark helicity
- A **circular flow** of the gluon field-strength:
  - Requires **preserving azimuthal correlations**

# Two Different Gluon Distributions

“Dipole”



“Weizsäcker-Williams”



	Inclusive	Single inclusive	DIS dijet	$\gamma$ +jet	dijet in pA
$xG_{WW}$	×	×	✓	×	✓
$xG_{DP}$	✓	✓	×	✓	✓

*B.-W. Xiao, Nucl. Phys. A967 (2017) 257*

- There are **two distinct kinds of gluon TMDs** with different **gauge link structures**.
- The two are **measured experimentally in different processes**

# The Gluon Helicity Operators at Small x

*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., JHEP 1710 (2017) 198*

$$g_{1L}^{G dip}(x, k_T^2) = \frac{-4i}{g^2(2\pi)^3} \int d^2x_{10} d^2b_{10} e^{+i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}_{10}} \underline{k_{\perp}^i \epsilon_T^{ij}} \left\{ \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_{\underline{0}} (\underline{V_{\underline{1}}^{pol \dagger}})^j_{\perp} \right] \right\rangle + \text{c.c.} \right\}$$

$$g_{1L}^{G WW}(x, k_T^2) = \frac{4}{g^2(2\pi)^3} \int d^2x_{10} d^2b_{10} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}_{10}} \underline{\epsilon_T^{ij}} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ (\underline{V_{\underline{1}}^{pol}})^i_{\perp} V_{\underline{1}}^{\dagger} V_{\underline{0}} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial (x_0)^j_{\perp}} V_{\underline{0}}^{\dagger} \right) \right] + \text{c.c.} \right\rangle$$

- The two different gluon helicity distributions correspond to **different operators at small x**
- Both invoke a **circular flow (curl) of a preferred direction** in the polarized Wilson line



# The Difference Between Quark and Gluon Polarization

*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., JHEP 1710 (2017) 198*

- Polarized quarks couple to a **local curl** of the gluon field

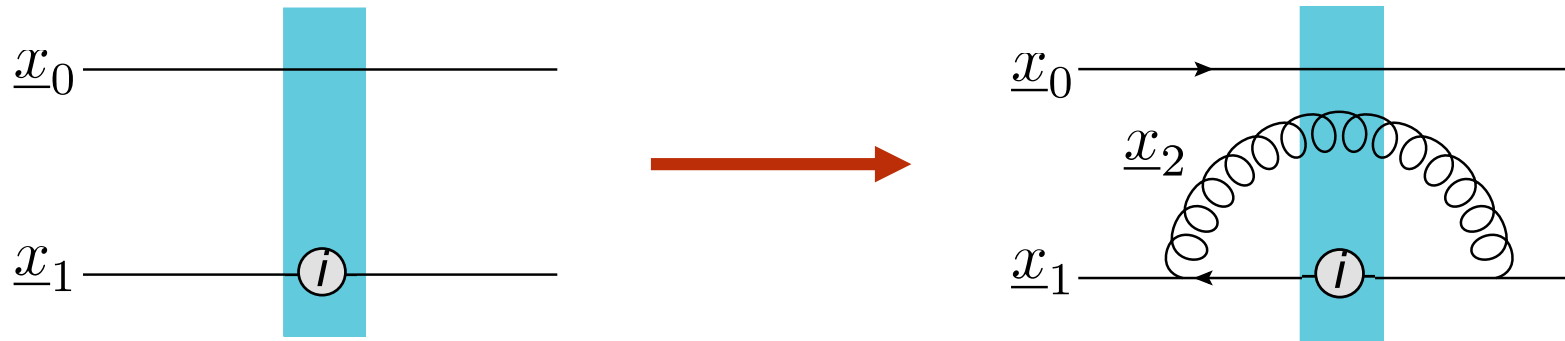
$$V_{\underline{x}}^{pol} \Big|_{\text{quarks}} = \int dx^- V_{\underline{x}}[\infty, x^-] \left( igp^+ \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{A(x)} \right) V_{\underline{x}}[x^-, -\infty]$$

- Polarized gluons couple to a **global curl**, after multiple rescattering

$$\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{(V_{\underline{x}})} \Big|_{\text{gluons}} = \underline{\nabla} \times \left[ \int dx^- V_{\underline{x}}^{pol}[\infty, x^-] \left( igp^+ \underline{A(x)} \right) V_{\underline{x}}[x^-, -\infty] \right]$$

- That **azimuthal correlation** can **get washed out by multiple scattering**.

# Quarks are Forever, but Gluons can Forget



- Real unpolarized emissions are **isotropic** and can **wash out the azimuthal correlations** necessary for gluon helicity.
- These **vanish** after **angular averaging**.
- Leads to a **depletion** of the gluon distribution

$$\int d^2 x_2 \rightarrow 0$$

# Gluon Helicity: Evolution Equations

*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S.,  
JHEP 1710 (2017) 198*

$$G_2(x_{10}^2, zs) = G_2^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, zs) - \left( \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{3\pi} \frac{1}{\alpha_h^q} G_0 \right) (zs x_{10}^2)^{\alpha_h^q} \ln \frac{1}{x_{10} \Lambda}$$

$$- \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi} \int_{\frac{1}{x_{10}^2 s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int_{\frac{1}{z' s}}^{x_{10}^2} \frac{dx_{21}^2}{x_{21}^2} \Gamma_2(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z' s),$$

Quark helicity evolution

Neighbor dipole

$$\Gamma_2(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z' s) = G_2^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, z' s) - \left( \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{3\pi} \frac{1}{\alpha_h^q} G_0 \right) (z' s x_{10}^2)^{\alpha_h^q} \ln \frac{1}{x_{10} \Lambda}$$

$$- \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi} \int_{\frac{1}{x_{10}^2 s}}^{z'} \frac{dz''}{z''} \int_{\frac{1}{z'' s}}^{\min \left[ x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2 \frac{z'}{z''} \right]} \frac{dx_{31}^2}{x_{31}^2} \Gamma_2(x_{10}^2, x_{31}^2, z'' s).$$

- Gluon helicity evolution has **similar structure to quark helicity evolution**
- Receives **feed-in** from fluctuating into a **polarized quark**

# Gluon Helicity: Evolution Equations

~20% smaller exponent

$$\left. \begin{aligned} G_2(x_\perp^2, zs) &\sim (zs)^{\alpha_h^G} \\ g_1^{G, dip}(x, k_T^2) &\sim \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{\alpha_h^G} \\ \Delta G(x, Q^2) &\sim \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{\alpha_h^G} \\ g_1^{G, WW}(x, k_T^2) &\sim \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{\alpha_h^G} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\alpha_h^G = \frac{13}{4\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}}$$

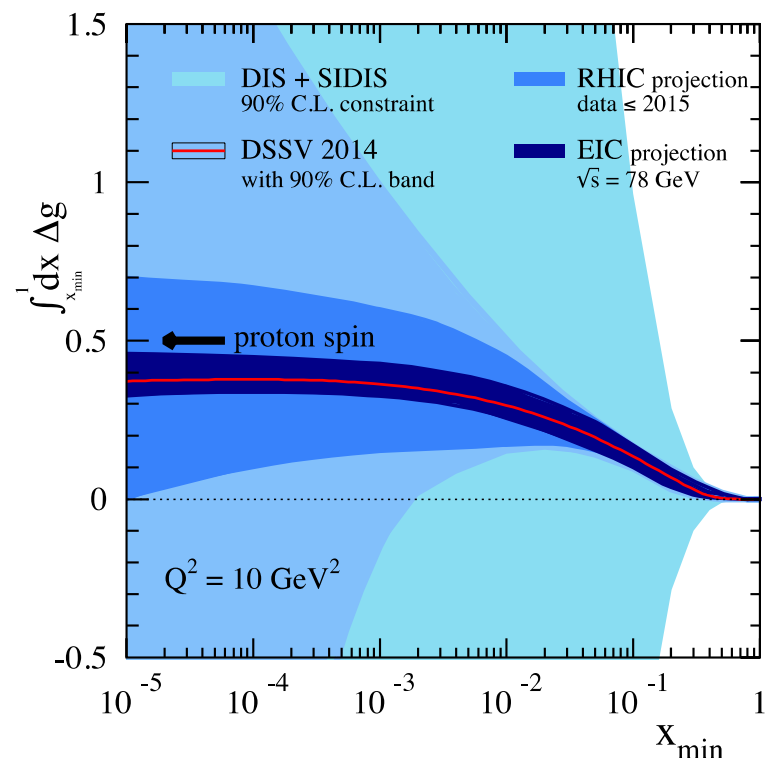
c.f.

$$\alpha_h^{q,S} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}}$$

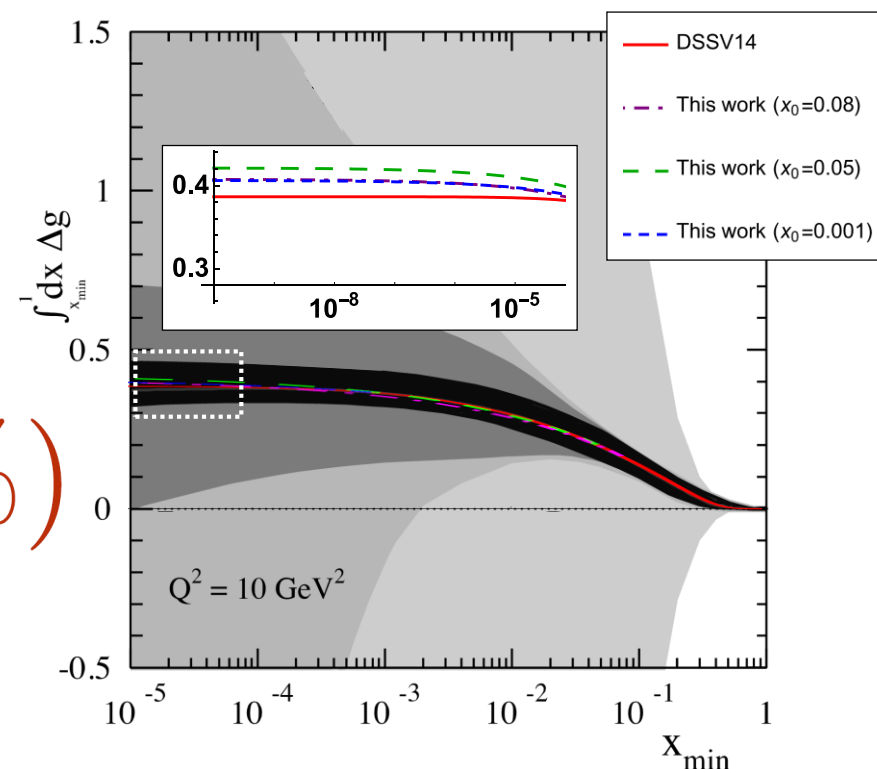
- Because **multiple scattering dilutes the gluon polarization**, it **decays faster at small  $x$**  than for quarks.

# A Crude Phenomenological Estimate

*E.-C. Aschenauer et al., Phys. Rev. D92 (2015) 094030*



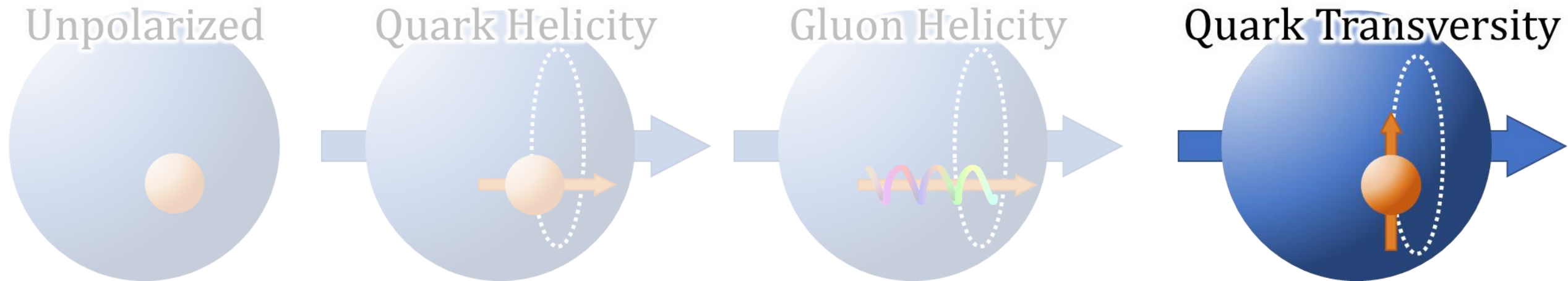
*Y. Kovchegov, D. Pitonyak, M.S., JHEP 1601 (2016) 072*



$\mathcal{O}(5\%)$

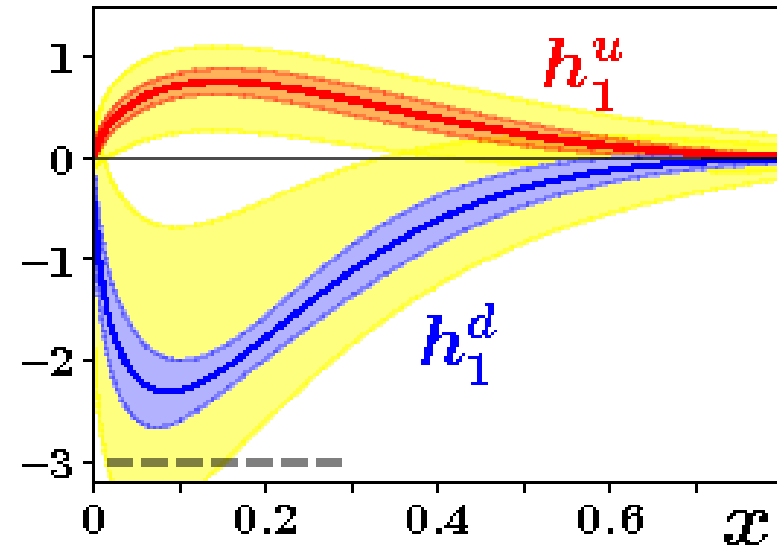
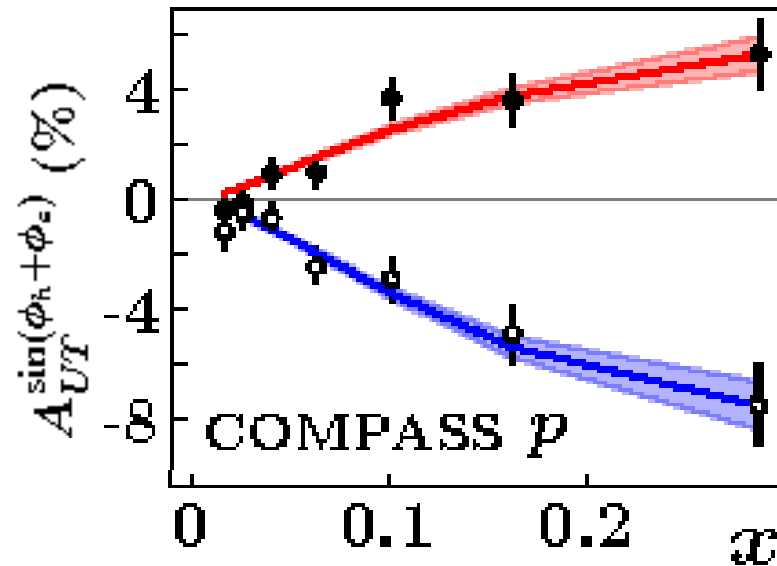
- The **enhancement** of gluon polarization at small  $x$  is **much milder** than for quarks
- **Not very important** for constraining the **gluon contribution** to the proton spin

# A Taste of Quark Transversity



# Quark Transversity: What Do We Know?

*H.-W. Lin et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 120 (2018) 152502*



- Transversity is **notoriously difficult to extract**
- **Chiral odd PDF** convoluted with **another chiral odd distribution** in observables

# Transversity and the Tensor Charge

*A. Courtoy et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **115** (2015) 162001*

*T. Bhattacharya et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **115** (2015) 212002*

## Tensor Charge

$$g_T^q(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx \left[ h_1^q(x, Q^2) - h_1^{\bar{q}}(x, Q^2) \right]$$

Potential imprints  
of BSM Physics

Neutron EDM:

$$\langle n | \bar{\psi}(0) \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma^5 \psi(0) | n \rangle$$

Neutron Beta Decay:

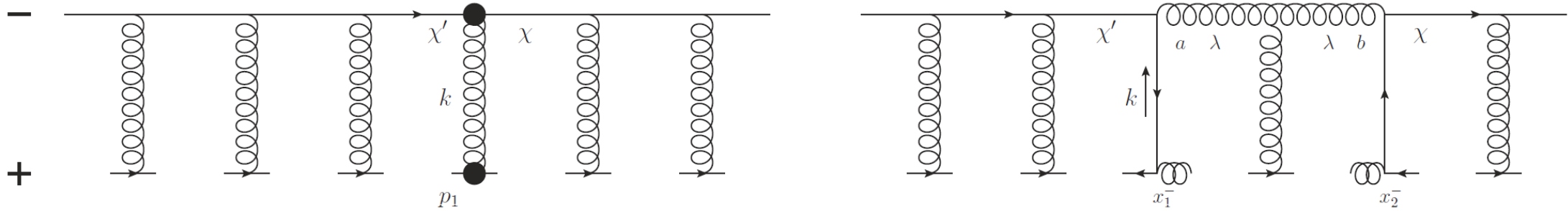
$$\langle p | \bar{u}(0) \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma^5 d(0) | n \rangle$$

- The **flavor non-singlet moment** of transversity gives the **tensor charge**
- Like the proton spin sum rules, requires **extrapolation to small x**
- Sensitive to contributions from **Beyond the Standard Model physics**



# Transverse Spin is Doubly Suppressed

*Y. Kovchegov and M. S., arXiv: 1808.10354*



Coupling to gluons is proportional to the mass


$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{\underline{x}}^{pol,T} = & \frac{2g m (p_1^+)^2}{s^2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dx^- V_{\underline{x}}[+\infty, x^-] S^i [i \epsilon^{ij} F^{-j}(x^-, \underline{x})] V_{\underline{x}}[x^-, -\infty] \\
 & - \frac{g^2 (p_1^+)^2}{2 s^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_1^- \int_{x_1^-}^{\infty} dx_2^- V_{\underline{x}}[+\infty, x_2^-] t^b \psi_{\beta}(x_2^-, \underline{x}) U_{\underline{x}}^{ba}[x_2^-, x_1^-] \left[ \left( i \gamma^5 \underline{S} \cdot \overleftarrow{D} - \underline{S} \times \overleftarrow{D} \right) \gamma^+ \gamma^- \right. \\
 & \left. + (i \gamma^5 \underline{S} \cdot \underline{D} - \underline{S} \times \underline{D}) \gamma^- \gamma^+ \right]_{\alpha\beta} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha}(x_1^-, \underline{x}) t^a V_{\underline{x}}[x_1^-, -\infty].
 \end{aligned}$$

- Coupling to transverse spin is suppressed by **two powers** of energy

# The Transversely Polarized Dipole

$$h_{1T} \sim h_{1T}^\perp \sim \frac{(zs)^2}{2N_c} \text{Re} \left\langle \text{tr} \left[ V_0 V_1^{pol T \dagger} \right] \pm \text{tr} \left[ V_1^{pol T} V_1^\dagger \right] \right\rangle$$

Flavor singlet / non-singlet



- Transversity (and pretzelosity) are both governed by a **similar transversely-polarized dipole amplitude**
- The flavor singlet and non-singlet transversities evolve **differently**

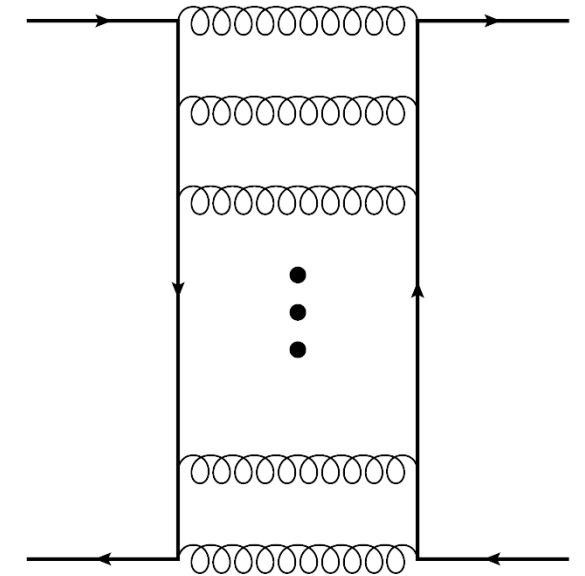
# Nonsinglet Quark Transversity

- The **flavor-singlet** evolution is **complicated**...
- But the **flavor non-singlet** evolution for transversity has exactly the same structure as for **non-singlet helicity**

$$h_{1T}^{NS}(x, k_T^2) \sim h_{1T}^{\perp NS}(x, k_T^2) \sim \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{-1+2\sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}}}$$

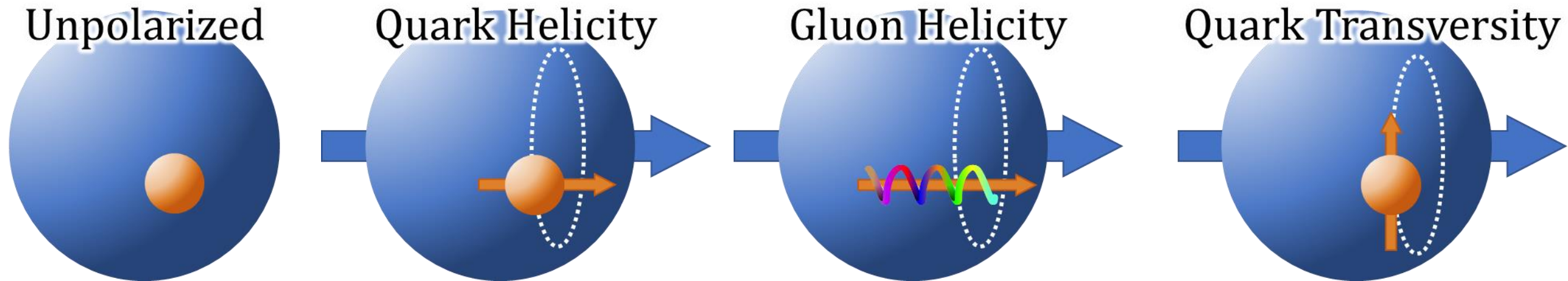
- Phenomenologically: **very small**, not likely to contribute much to the tensor charge.

*Itakura et al., Nucl. Phys. A730 (2004) 160*



$$\sim x^{0.243}$$

# Conclusions and Outlook



# The General Procedure

1. Approximate the **general operator** with **small-x kinematics**
2. Construct the appropriate **polarized Wilson lines** and dipole operators
3. Evolve using the **background field method**
4. Try to solve using **Laplace-Mellin** techniques

# Other Operators of Interest

*Y. Hatta et al., Phys. Rev. **D95** (2017) 114032*

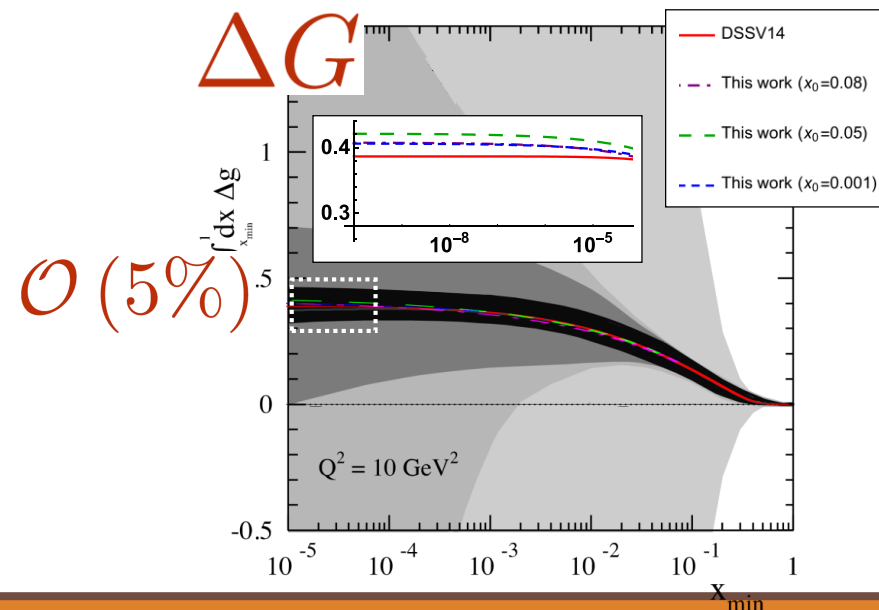
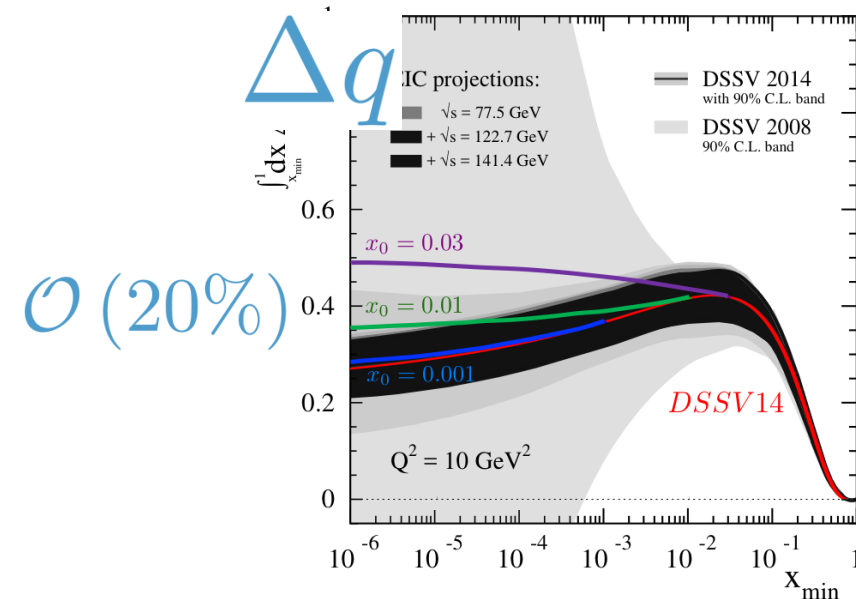
*S. Bhattacharya et al., Phys. Lett. **B771** (2017) 396*

- Quark and gluon **Orbital Angular Momentum**
  - At small  $x$ , the operators appear to be governed by the **same polarized dipole as the gluon helicity**
  - Enter with **different weights** in the integrand...
- **Gluonic transversity** (for the deuteron, etc.)
- **Other TMDs**: worm-gear, etc...
  - Do they follow the evolution of the **t-channel spin exchange**?

# Summary

- We are **building a framework** to study the whole **map of hadronic structure at small x**

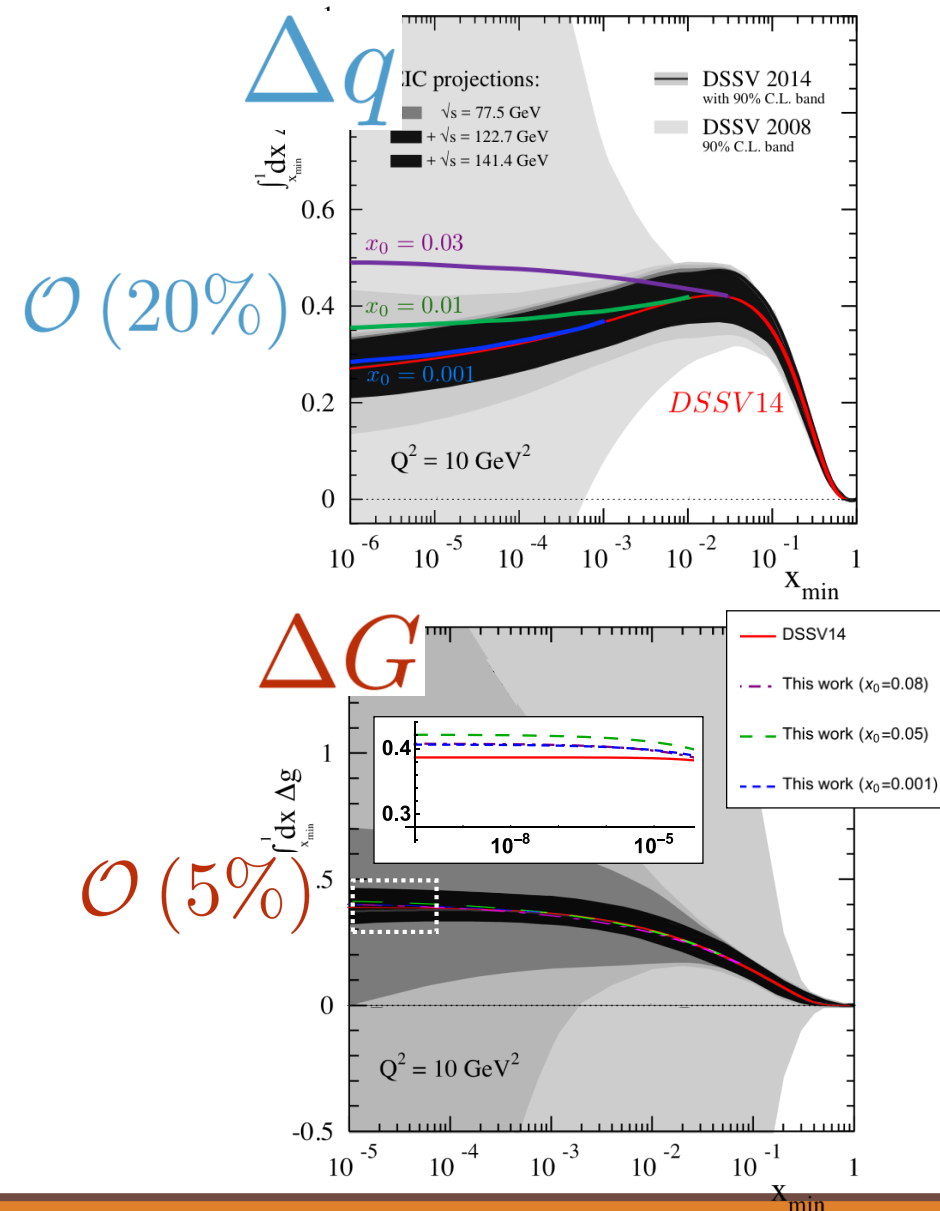
- **Quark helicity:** Potentially large contribution
- **Gluon helicity:** More modest contribution
- **Non-singlet transversity:** Very small (?)



# Summary

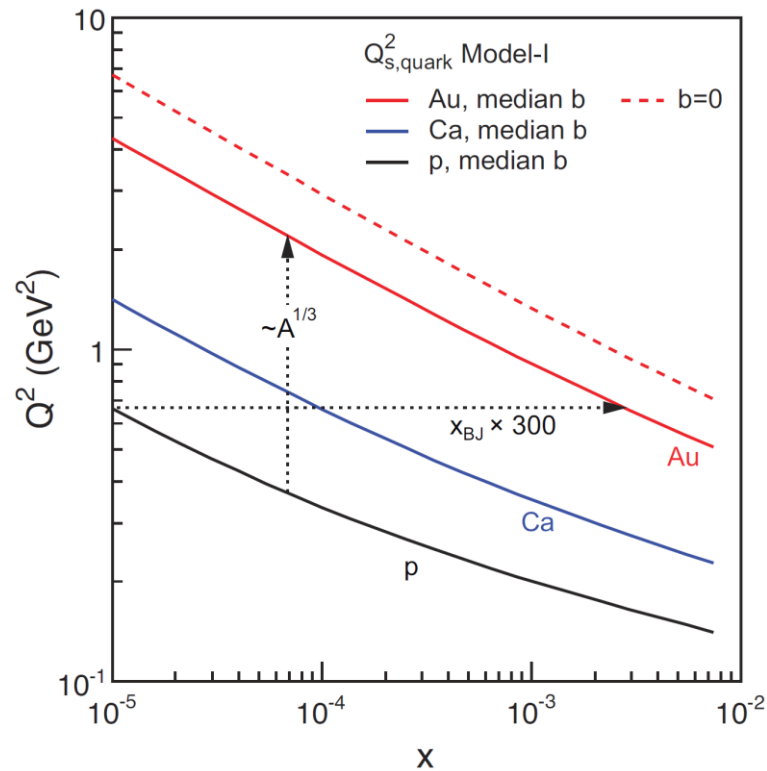
- **Future applications:**

- **OAM** and other operators
- Systematically improve the **precision**
- Connections with **other subfields** (jets, heavy ions, etc.)

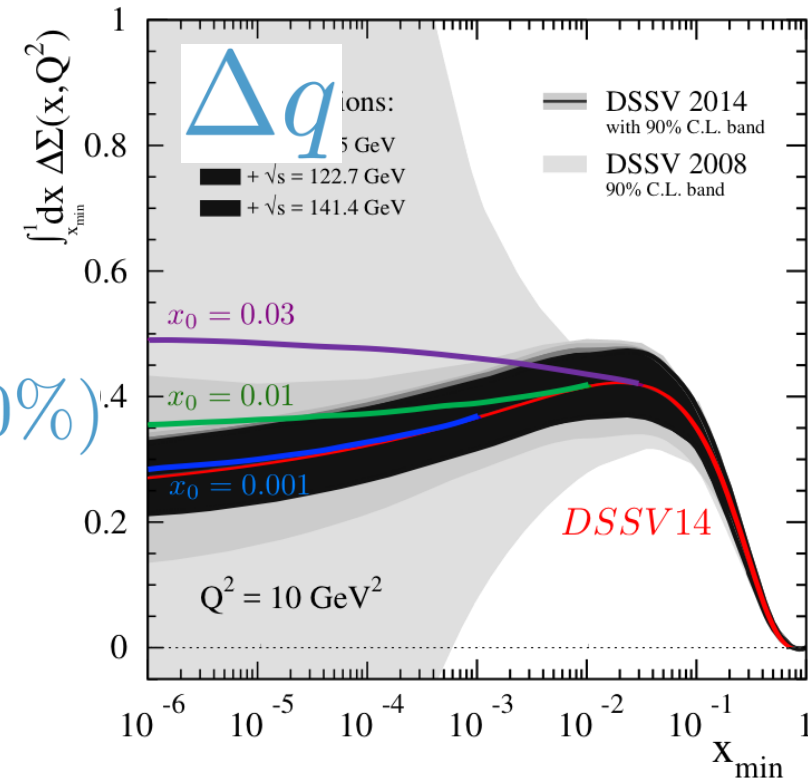




# Perspective: What Do We Lose If We Lose Small x?



$\mathcal{O}(20\%)$



- How great a **lever arm in x** do we need to really **solve the Proton Spin Puzzle**?
- Can we **quantify this** to better inform the **design capabilities of an EIC**?
- What **other tools** can help fill the gap? (Quasi-PDFs?)