

# Photon induced processes from semi-central to ultraperipheral heavy-ion collisions

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## Peripheral/ultraperipheral collisions

Weizsäcker-Williams fluxes of equivalent photons

## Coherent diffractive photoproduction of $J/\psi$

diffractive production on the free nucleon

production on nuclear target, comparison to UPC

## From ultraperipheral to semicentral collisions

dileptons from  $\gamma\gamma$  production vs thermal dileptons from plasma phase

density matrix/Wigner function generalization of the Weizsäcker-Williams approach



A. Łuszczak and W. Schäfer, Phys. Rev. C **99** (2019) no.4, 044905 [arXiv:1901.07989 [hep-ph]].



A. Łuszczak and W. Schäfer, [arXiv:2108.06788 [hep-ph]].



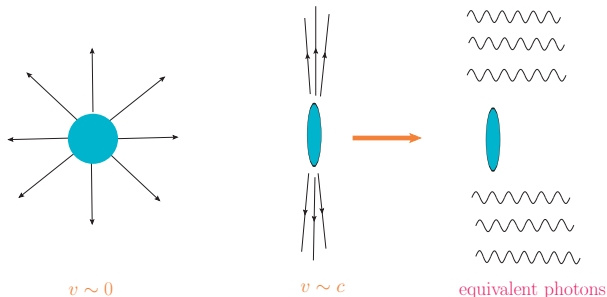
M. Kłusek-Gawenda, R. Rapp, W. S. and A. Szczurek, Phys. Lett. B **790** (2019) 339 [arXiv:1809.07049 [nucl-th]].



M. Kłusek-Gawenda, W. Schäfer and A. Szczurek, Phys. Lett. B **814** (2021), 136114 [arXiv:2012.11973 [hep-ph]].

## Fermi-Weizsäcker-Williams equivalent photons

Heavy nuclei  $Au, Pb$  have  $Z \sim 80$



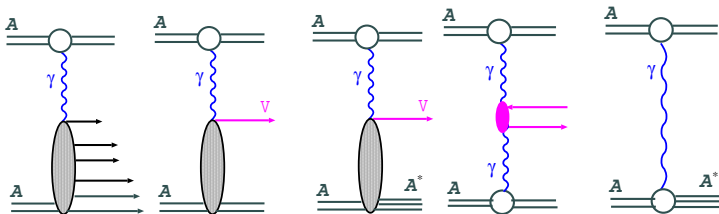
- ion at rest: source of a Coulomb field, the highly boosted ion: sharp burst of field strength, with  $|\mathbf{E}|^2 \sim |\mathbf{B}|^2$  and  $\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \sim 0$ . (See e.g. J.D Jackson textbook).
- acts like a flux of “equivalent photons” (photons are collinear partons).

$$E(\omega, \mathbf{b}) = -i \frac{Z \sqrt{4\pi\alpha_{em}}}{2\pi} \frac{\mathbf{b}}{b^2} \frac{\omega b}{\gamma} K_1\left(\frac{\omega b}{\gamma}\right); N(\omega, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{1}{\omega} \frac{1}{\pi} |E(\omega, \mathbf{b})|^2$$

$$\sigma(AB) = \int d\omega d^2\mathbf{b} N(\omega, \mathbf{b}) \sigma(\gamma B; \omega)$$

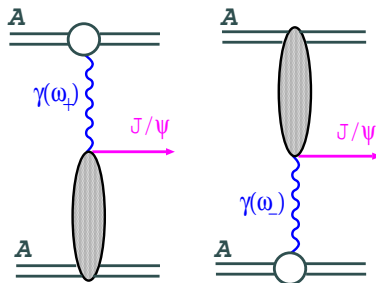
# Ultra-peripheral collisions

some examples of ultra-peripheral processes:



- photoabsorption on a nucleus, at LHC we have  $E = \sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  or  $5$  TeV, so very high energy photon-nucleus subprocesses are possible.
- diffractive photoproduction with and without breakup/excitation of a nucleus
- $\gamma\gamma$ -fusion.
- electromagnetic excitation/dissociation of nuclei. Excitation of Giant Dipole Resonances.
- the intact nuclei in the final state are not measured. Each of the photon exchanges is associated with a large rapidity gap.
- very small  $p_T \sim 1/R_A$  of the photoproduced system.

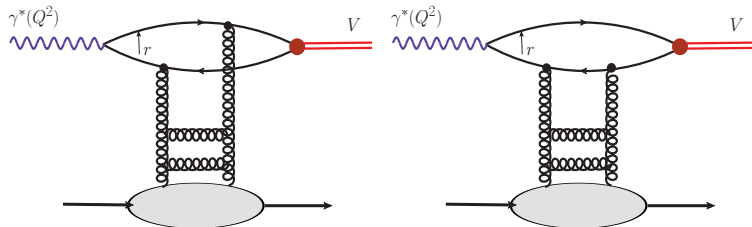
# Coherent photoproduction of $J/\psi$ in heavy ion collisions



- Exclusive vector meson production in HI collisions. Pioneering works: Klein & Nystrand ('99), Goncalves & Machado ('05). For the interference, see also Baur et al. ('06), WS & Szczurek ('07).
- Interference induces **azimuthal correlation**  $(\mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{p}_2)/(t_1 t_2)$ , where  $\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2$  = transverse momenta of outgoing ions; concentrated at very low  $p_T$  of  $J/\psi$  and can be neglected in rapidity distributions.
- At midrapidity, the  $\gamma A$ -cm energy  $W$  is  $W = 92.5$  GeV for  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  TeV and  $W = 125$  GeV for  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5$  TeV.
- The rapidity-dependent cross section for exclusive  $J/\psi$  production from the Weizsäcker-Williams fluxes of quasi-real photons  $n(\omega)$  as:

$$\frac{d\sigma(AA \rightarrow AAJ/\psi; \sqrt{s_{NN}})}{dy} = n(\omega_+) \sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A; W_+) + n(\omega_-) \sigma(\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A; W_-)$$

## Color dipole/ $k_{\perp}$ -factorization approach



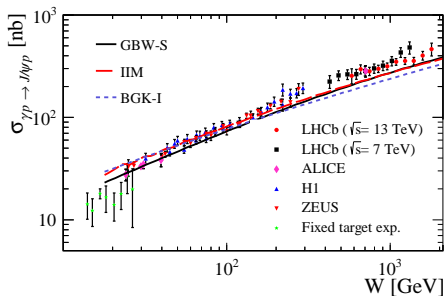
### Color dipole representation of forward amplitude:

$$A(\gamma^*(Q^2)p \rightarrow Vp; W, t = 0) = \int_0^1 dz \int d^2\mathbf{r} \psi_V(z, \mathbf{r}) \psi_{\gamma^*}(z, \mathbf{r}, Q^2) \sigma(x, \mathbf{r})$$

$$\sigma(x, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{4\pi}{3} \alpha_S \int \frac{d^2\kappa}{\kappa^4} \frac{\partial x g(x, \kappa^2)}{\partial \log(\kappa^2)} \left[ 1 - e^{i\mathbf{\kappa} \mathbf{r}} \right], \quad x = M_V^2/W^2$$

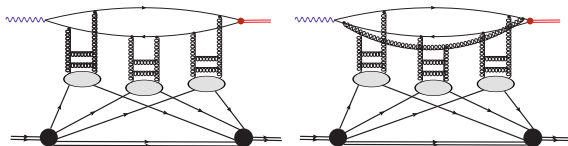
- impact parameters and helicities of high-energy  $q$  and  $\bar{q}$  are conserved during the interaction.
- scattering matrix is “diagonal” in the color dipole representation. Color dipoles as “Good-Walker states”.
- dipole cross section fitted to HERA DIS structure function data (the  $\gamma^*p \rightarrow \gamma^*p$  forward amplitude.)
- corrections for real part, finite momentum transfer/“skewedness”

# Exclusive diffractive $J/\psi$ photoproduction on the proton



- besides the BGK-fit of Łuszczak & Kowalski, we show to other dipole cross section fits which incorporate heavy quarks:
  - ① 'IIM' (Iancu, Itakura & Munier, which is a parametrization inspired by BFKL/BK-asymptotics).
  - ② a recent re-fit of the Golec-Biernat-Wüsthoff form of the dipole cross section obtained by Golec-Biernat & Sapeta (2018).
- light-cone wave functions of  $J/\psi$  from Kowalski, Motyka & Watt ('06).
- the data at high energies were in fact extracted from exclusive diffraction in pp-collisions by LHCb.
- note: for our applications on nuclear targets, the region of  $W \sim 30 \div 100$  GeV is the most relevant.

# Glauber–Gribov theory for $c\bar{c}$ and $c\bar{c}g$ states



- For the nuclear targets color dipoles can be regarded as eigenstates of the interaction and we can apply the standard rules of Glauber theory
- The Glauber form of the dipole scattering amplitude for  $l_c \gg R_A$  (the coherence length is much larger than the nuclear size) is:

$$\Gamma_A(x, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{r}) = 1 - \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\sigma(x, \mathbf{r})T_A(\mathbf{b})\right]$$

- at very high energies/small- $x$  ( $x \ll x_A \sim 0.01$ ) we need to take into account also the contribution of the  $c\bar{c}g$ -Fock state. The dipole cross section for the  $q\bar{q}g$  state on the nucleon is (Nikolaev & Zakharov '93):

$$\sigma_{q\bar{q}g}(x, \rho_1, \rho_2, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{C_A}{2C_F} \left( \sigma(x, \rho_1) + \sigma(x, \rho_2) - \sigma(x, \mathbf{r}) \right) + \sigma(x, \mathbf{r})$$

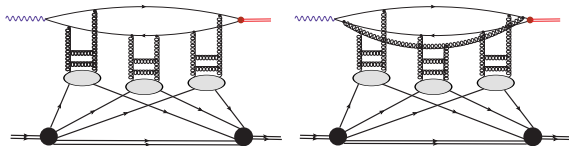
Here  $\rho_{1,2}$  are the transverse  $q - g$  and  $\bar{q} - g$  distances, while  $\mathbf{r}$  refers to the  $q\bar{q}$  separation.

- Integrating over all variables but the dipole size  $\mathbf{r}$ , the effect of the gluon is a change of the  $q\bar{q}$  dipole amplitude:

$$\Gamma_A(x, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{b}) = \Gamma_A(x_A, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{b}) + \log\left(\frac{x_A}{x}\right) \Delta\Gamma(x_A, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{b})$$



# Glauber–Gribov theory for $c\bar{c}$ and $c\bar{c}g$ states



- the  $c\bar{c}g$  contribution contains the nonlinear piece associated with a triple-Pomeron vertex. Closely related to (one iteration of) Balitsky-Kovchegov equation.

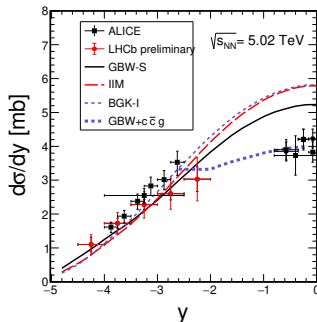
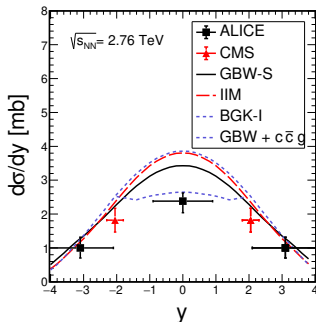
## $q\bar{q}g$ -contribution:

$$\Delta\Gamma(x_A, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{b}) = \int d^2\rho_1 |\psi(\rho_1) - \psi(\rho_2)|^2 \left\{ \Gamma_A(x_A, \rho_1, \mathbf{b} + \frac{\rho_2}{2}) + \Gamma_A(x_A, \rho_2, \mathbf{b} + \frac{\rho_1}{2}) - \Gamma_A(x_A, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{b}) - \Gamma_A(x_A, \rho_1, \mathbf{b} + \frac{\rho_2}{2}) \Gamma_A(x_A, \rho_2, \mathbf{b} + \frac{\rho_1}{2}) \right\}$$

- The quark  $\rightarrow$  quark + gluon light-cone wavefunction is probed in the **nonperturbative** regime.
- finite gluon propagation radius  $R_c$ , following color dipole phenomenology of Nikolaev, Zakharov & Zoller.

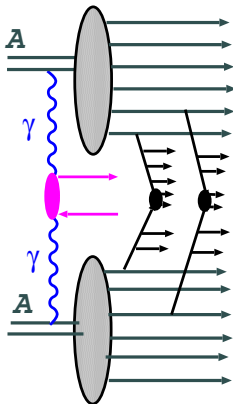
$$\psi(\rho) = \frac{\sqrt{C_F\alpha_s}}{\pi} \frac{\rho}{\rho R_c} K_1(\rho/R_c) \text{ with } R_c \sim 0.2 \div 0.3 \text{ fm.}$$

## Color dipole/ $k_{\perp}$ -factorization approach



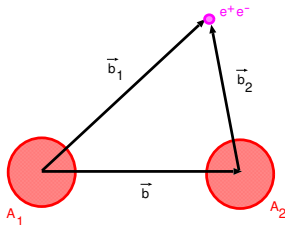
- Contribution of  $c\bar{c}g$ -state is related to nuclear gluon shadowing in other approaches (V. Guzey et al. '13, C. Henkels et al. '20).
- Glauber-Gribov rescattering of  $c\bar{c}$  pair sums up nuclear higher twists & nonperturbative contributions.
- a rather small gluon propagation radius  $R_c \sim 0.2$  fm is needed. This is *not a perturbation theory* calculation.
- NB: we are talking about a “hard” process with scale  $Q^2 \sim 2.25 \text{ GeV}^2$ .

# Dilepton production in semi-central collisions



- dileptons from  $\gamma\gamma$  fusion have peak at very low pair transverse momentum.
- can they be visible even in semi-central collisions?
- WW photons are a coherent “parton cloud” of nuclei, which can collide and produce particles. Nuclei create an “underlying event, in which e.g. plasma can be formed.
- Early considerations in N. Baron and G. Baur, Z. Phys. C **60** (1993).
- a first hint of the relevance of photoproduction mechanisms: a strong enhancement of  $J/\psi$  with  $P_T < 300$  MeV in peripheral reactions: J. Adam *et al.* [ALICE], Phys. Rev. Lett. **116** (2016) (for early estimates, see M. Kłusek-Gawenda and A. Szczurek, Phys. Rev. C **93** (2016) ).
- Dileptons are a “classic” probe of the QGP: medium modifications of  $\rho$ , thermal dileptons... What is the competition between the different mechanisms?

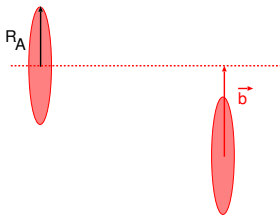
# Dilepton production in semi-central collisions



$$\frac{d\sigma_{ll}}{d\xi d^2\mathbf{b}} = \int d^2\mathbf{b}_1 d^2\mathbf{b}_2 \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b}_1 - \mathbf{b}_2) N(\omega_1, b_1) N(\omega_2, b_2) \frac{d\sigma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow l^+l^-; \hat{s})}{d(-\hat{t})},$$

where the phase space element is  $d\xi = dy_+ dy_- dp_t^2$  with  $y_{\pm}$ ,  $p_t$  and  $m_l$  the single-lepton rapidities, transverse momentum and mass, respectively, and

$$\omega_1 = \frac{\sqrt{p_t^2 + m_l^2}}{2} (e^{y_+} + e^{y_-}), \quad \omega_2 = \frac{\sqrt{p_t^2 + m_l^2}}{2} (e^{-y_+} + e^{-y_-}), \quad \hat{s} = 4\omega_1\omega_2.$$



- we adopt the impact parameter definition of centrality

$$\frac{dN_{||}[C]}{dM} = \frac{1}{f_C \cdot \sigma_{AA}^{\text{in}}} \int_{b_{\text{min}}}^{b_{\text{max}}} db \int d\xi \delta(M - 2\sqrt{\omega_1 \omega_2}) \left. \frac{d\sigma_{||}}{d\xi db} \right|_{\text{cuts}},$$

- e.g. from optical limit of Glauber:

$$\frac{d\sigma_{AA}^{\text{in}}}{db} = 2\pi b(1 - e^{-\sigma_{NN}^{\text{in}} T_{AA}(b)})$$

$\sigma_{AA}^{\text{in}} \sim 7 \text{ barn}$  for Pb at LHC.

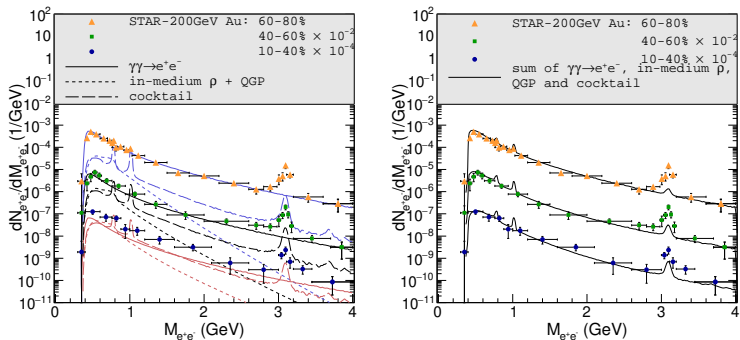
- fraction of inelastic hadronic events contained in the centrality class  $C$ ,

$$f_C = \frac{1}{\sigma_{AA}^{\text{in}}} \int_{b_{\text{min}}}^{b_{\text{max}}} db \frac{d\sigma_{AA}^{\text{in}}}{db}.$$

- experimentally, centrality is determined by binning in multiplicity and/or transverse energy.

# Dilepton production in semi-central collisions

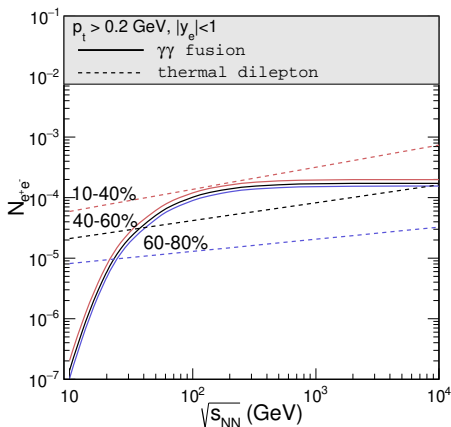
M. Kłusek-Gawenda, R. Rapp, WS & A. Szczurek, PLB 790 (2019).



Left panel: Dielectron invariant-mass spectra for pair- $P_T < 0.15$  GeV in Au+Au ( $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$  GeV) collisions for 3 centrality classes including experimental acceptance cuts ( $p_t > 0.2$  GeV,  $|\eta_e| < 1$  and  $|y_{e^+e^-}| < 1$ ) for  $\gamma\gamma$  fusion (solid lines), thermal radiation (dotted lines) and the hadronic cocktail (dashed lines); right panel: comparison of the total sum (solid lines) to STAR data.

- data from J. Adam *et al.* [STAR Collaboration], Phys. Rev. Lett. **121** (2018) 132301.
- includes thermal QGP + in-medium  $\rho$  contribution (Rapp).
- also added is a contribution from decays of final state hadrons "cocktail" supplied by STAR.
- the  $J/\psi$  contribution has been described e.g. in W. Zha, L. Ruan, Z. Tang, Z. Xu and S. Yang, Phys. Lett. B **789** (2019), 238-242 [arXiv:1810.02064 [hep-ph]].

# Dilepton production in semi-central collisions



Excitation function of low- $P_T$  ( $<0.15$  GeV) dilepton yields from  $\gamma\gamma$  fusion (solid lines) and thermal radiation (dashed lines) in collisions of heavy nuclei ( $A \simeq 200$ ) around midrapidity in three centrality classes, including single- $e^\pm$  acceptance cuts.

# Impact parameter dependence of $P_T$ -distribution, M. Kłusek-Gawenda, WS & A. Szczurek, PLB 814 (2021)

- Electric field vector

$$E(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \propto \frac{\mathbf{q} F(q^2)}{q^2 + \frac{\omega^2}{\gamma^2}}$$

- Then we introduce the Wigner-type density matrix

$$N_{ij}(\omega, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{q}) = \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{Q}}{(2\pi)^2} \exp[-i \mathbf{b} \mathbf{Q}] E_i \left( \omega, \mathbf{q} + \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2} \right) E_j^* \left( \omega, \mathbf{q} - \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2} \right)$$

when summed over polarizations it reduces to the well-known WW flux after integrating over  $\mathbf{q}$ , and to the TMD photon flux after integrating over  $\mathbf{b}$ .

- cross section:

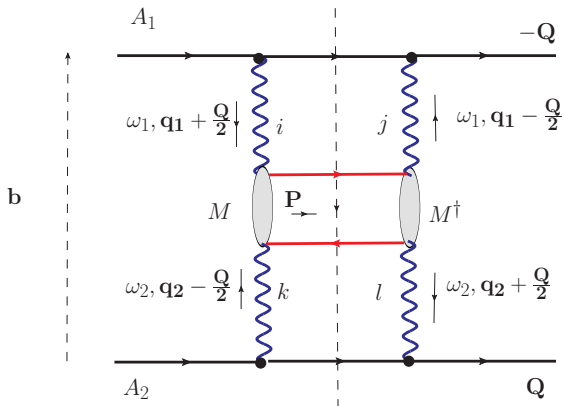
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{d^2 \mathbf{b} d^2 \mathbf{P}} &= \int d^2 \mathbf{b}_1 d^2 \mathbf{b}_2 \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2) \int \frac{d\omega_1}{\omega_1} \frac{d\omega_2}{\omega_2} d^2 \mathbf{q}_1 d^2 \mathbf{q}_2 \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_2) \\ &\times N_{ij}(\omega_1, \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{q}_1) N_{kl}(\omega_2, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{q}_2) \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} M_{ik} M_{jl}^\dagger d\Phi(I^+ I^-). \end{aligned}$$

- no independent sum over photon polarizations!
- other approaches: M. Vidovic, M. Greiner, C. Best and G. Soff, Phys. Rev. **C47** (1993); K. Hencken, G. Baur and D. Trautmann, Phys. Rev. C **69** (2004) 054902; S. Klein, A.H. Mueller, B.-W. Xiao, F. Yuan, Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020).



# Wigner function approach

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d\sigma}{d^2b d^2P} &= \int \frac{d^2Q}{(2\pi)^2} \exp[-i\mathbf{b}Q] \int \frac{d\omega_1}{\omega_1} \frac{d\omega_2}{\omega_2} \int \frac{d^2q_1}{\pi} \frac{d^2q_2}{\pi} \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_2) \\
 &\times E_i\left(\omega_1, \mathbf{q}_1 + \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) E_j^*\left(\omega_1, \mathbf{q}_1 - \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) E_k\left(\omega_2, \mathbf{q}_2 - \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) E_l^*\left(\omega_2, \mathbf{q}_2 + \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) \\
 &\times \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} M_{ik}^{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} M_{jl}^{\lambda\bar{\lambda}\dagger} d\Phi(l^+l^-).
 \end{aligned}$$



## Wigner function approach

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d\sigma}{d^2\mathbf{b}d^2\mathbf{P}} &= \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{Q}}{(2\pi)^2} \exp[-i\mathbf{bQ}] \int \frac{d\omega_1}{\omega_1} \frac{d\omega_2}{\omega_2} \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{q}_1}{\pi} \frac{d^2\mathbf{q}_2}{\pi} \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_2) \\
 &\times E_i\left(\omega_1, \mathbf{q}_1 + \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) E_j^*\left(\omega_1, \mathbf{q}_1 - \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) E_k\left(\omega_2, \mathbf{q}_2 - \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) E_l^*\left(\omega_2, \mathbf{q}_2 + \frac{\mathbf{Q}}{2}\right) \\
 &\times \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} M_{ik}^{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} M_{jl}^{\lambda\bar{\lambda}\dagger} d\Phi(I^+ I^-).
 \end{aligned}$$

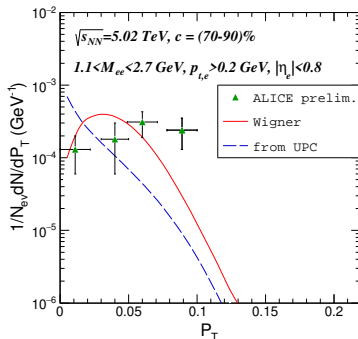
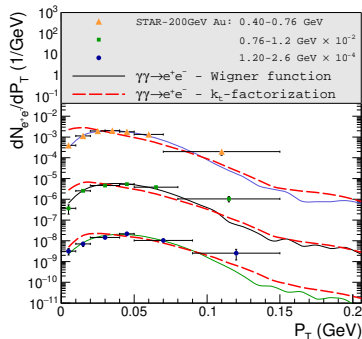
with

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} M_{ik}^{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} M_{jl}^{\lambda\bar{\lambda}\dagger} &= \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} \left| M_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}^{(0,+)} \right|^2 + \epsilon_{ik} \epsilon_{jl} \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} \left| M_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}^{(0,-)} \right|^2 \\
 &+ P_{ik}^{\parallel} P_{jl}^{\parallel} \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} \left| M_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}^{(2,-)} \right|^2 + P_{ik}^{\perp} P_{jl}^{\perp} \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} \left| M_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}^{(2,+)} \right|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\delta_{ik} = \hat{x}_i \hat{x}_k + \hat{y}_i \hat{y}_k, \quad \epsilon_{ik} = \hat{x}_i \hat{y}_k - \hat{y}_i \hat{x}_k, \quad P_{ik}^{\parallel} = \hat{x}_i \hat{x}_k - \hat{y}_i \hat{y}_k, \quad P_{ik}^{\perp} = \hat{x}_i \hat{y}_k + \hat{y}_i \hat{x}_k$$

- In the  $\gamma\gamma$  CM, colliding photons can be in the  $J_z = 0, \pm 2$  states.

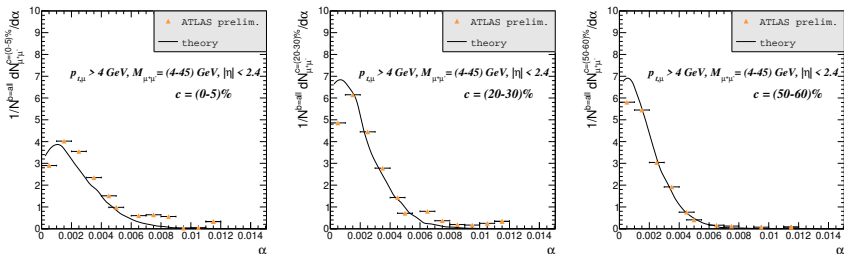
# Dilepton production in semi-central collisions



$P_T$ -pair spectrum of dielectrons, left: ( $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$  GeV) for centralities 60 - 80 %, right: for 70-90% centrality Pb + Pb collisions at ( $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=5020$  GeV).

- Wigner function approach leads to improvement of  $P_T$ -distribution at RHIC energy.
- At LHC energy it remedies a major failure of the naive  $b$ -integrated result: peak does not run away to  $P_T \rightarrow 0$  with increasing energy, as in the distribution shown by dashed line "from UPC".

# Dilepton production in semi-central collisions: acoplanarity distributions



Acoplanarity distributions (in bins of centrality) of dielectrons for Pb + Pb collisions at ( $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=5020$  GeV).

- The dilepton system carries a finite total  $P_T$ , therefore dileptons are not back-to-back in the transverse plane.
- Acoplanarity:  $\alpha = 1 - \frac{\Delta\phi}{\pi}$ . Azimuthal decorrelation of electrons.
- N.B: no free parameters, only the known e.m. form factors/charge distributions of nuclei enter.
- Perhaps some room for additional decorrelation effects (multiphoton exchanges, bremsstrahlung ...) at larger  $\alpha$ .
- Main features are very well described by the Wigner function approach.

# Summary

- Exclusive diffractive  $J/\psi$  production in forward rapidity region is well described by Glauber-Gribov rescattering of  $c\bar{c}$ -dipoles. Dipole cross section fixed by HERA data.
- At midrapidity additional suppression is needed. Reasonable description is obtained after inclusion of  $c\bar{c}g$  state, with a rather small gluon propagation radius  $R_c \sim 0.2$  fm. The additional shadowing corresponds to a (moderate) shadowing of the **nuclear glue**.
- We have studied low- $P_T$  dilepton production in ultrarelativistic heavy-ion collisions, by a systematic comparisons of **thermal radiation** and **photon-photon fusion** within the coherent fields of the incoming nuclei.
- Comparison to recent **STAR data**: good description of low- $P_T$  dilepton data in Au-Au( $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$  GeV) collisions in three centrality classes, for invariant masses from threshold to  $\sim 4$  GeV.
- Coherent emission dominant for the two peripheral samples, and comparable to the cocktail and thermal radiation yields in semi-central collisions.
- Impact-parameter dependent dilepton  $P_T$  distribution is described by a **Wigner function generalization of the Weizsäcker-Williams fluxes**. Different weights of  $J_z = 0, \pm 2$  channels of the  $\gamma\gamma$ -system. For  $e^+e^-$  pairs the  $J_z = \pm 2$  channels dominate.
- **Parameter free** Wigner function approach gives very good description of centrality dependence of pair transverse momentum and lepton azimuthal decorrelation.