

## RECENT RESULTS ON COHERENT J/Y PHOTOPRODUCTION AND POLARIZATION IN HEAVY-ION COLLISIONS WITH ALICE

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Assemblée Générale 2023 du GDR QCD

## Groupement de recherche **QCD** Chromodynamique quantique

## Using the LHC as YY, YPb and yp collider



The most powerful collider not only for pp and Pb-Pb collisions, but also for photon-photon and photon-hadron interactions







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## Equivalent photon approximation in heavy-ion collisions

Later, this method was extended to relativistic region known as Weizsacker-Williams Method [2.3]

[1] E. Fermi, Nuovo Cim.,2:143-158, arXiv:hep-th/0205086 (1925) [2] C.F. von Weizsacker, Z. Phys. 88, 612 (1934) [3] E. J. WILLIAM S, Kgl. Danske Videnskab. Selskab Mat.-Fys. Medd. 13, 4 (1935)]

```
Strongest EM fields in the Universe
|E| \sim 5 \times 10^{16} - 10^{18} \text{ V/cm}
|B| \sim 10^{14} - 10^{16} T
V. Skokov et al, Int.J.Mod.Phys.A 24 (2009) 5925-5932
Magnetic field (B) created in other systems
Pulsar ~ 10<sup>11</sup> T
Earth ~ 10^{-5} T
```

EM fields can be treated in terms of photon quanta

$$E_{\rm Y,max} \approx \gamma \hbar c/R$$

photon energy ~ 80 GeV @ LHC





UltraPeripheral Collisions (UPCs) :  $b > R_1 + R_2$ 



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## Photon-induced processes in heavy-ion collisions

### Types of interactions

### Peripheral Collisions (PC) : large b, $b \leq R_1 + R_2$



**Photon-induced** processes are present both in UPCs and PCs with nuclear overlap

-> Good probe to test QCD and QED phenomena

QCD

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## Photon-induced processes in heavy-ion collisions



Photon flux density  $\propto Z^{2}$ , (expected to modified of photon flux from UPC to PC as geometrical constraints on impact parameter, impact of nuclear overlap...) Hadronic interactions are dominant Electromagnetic interactions are observed







t: Mandelstam variable = -  $p_T^2$ 

Clean experimental signature and probing different photoproduction mechanisms

Imaging of nuclear gluon distributions in nuclei at low Bjorken-x





## The ALICE Apparatus



### VO : triggering, centrality determination, background rejection

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5

### Data sample : 2015 + 2018 Pb—Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.02$ TeV (Run 2)



## VM photoproduction : experimental observations in UPC



### Cross section vs. rapidity (y)



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## VM photoproduction : experimental observations in UPC

Nuclear suppression factor (shadowing) = 
$$S_{pPb} = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{\gamma} p_b}{\sigma_{\gamma} P_b}}$$
  
Impulse approximation: [PRC88, 014910 (2013)]  
STARLIGHT: [Comp. Phys. Comm. 212 (2017) 258]  
EPS09 LO (GKZ): [PRC. 93(5), 055206 (2016)]  
LTA (GKZ): [Phys. Rep.512, 255–393 (2012)]  
IIM BG (GM): [P.RC 90, 015203 (2014)] and [J. Phys.G 42(10), 105001 (2  
Ipsat (LM) : [PRC. 83,065202 (2011)] and [PRC. 87, 032201 (2013)] BGK-I  
[PRC. 99(4), 044905 (2019)]  
GG-HS (CCK): [PRC. 97(2), 024901 (2018)], and [PLB 766, 186–191 (2017)]  
b-BK (BCCM): [PLB 817, 136306 (2021)]

$$x = \frac{m_{J/\psi}}{\sqrt{s_{\rm NN}}} \times \exp(\pm y)$$

Models including nuclear shadowing are in agreement with the measurement, but cannot describe at the same time the mid and forward rapidity cross section









## VM photoproduction in Pb-Pb collisions in PCs

### PRL 116, 222301(2016)

STARlight MC : Comp. Phys. Comm. 212 (2017) 258.



Significant J/ $\psi$  excess for  $p_T$  < 0.3 GeV/c in 70–90% Pb–Pb collisions at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$  and 5.02 TeV.

8

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### Associated with a dramatic increase of the RAA arXiv:2204.10684

Model: W. Shi et al., Phys. Lett. B 777 (2018)



Observed also by STAR [PRL 123, 132302 (2019)] and LHCb [PRC. 105 (2022) L032201].

$$R_{AA} = \frac{Y_{J\psi}^{Pb-Pb}}{\langle T_{AA} \rangle \sigma_{J/\psi}^{Pp}}$$

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## Coherent $J/\psi$ photoproduction : centrality dependence



Coherent  $J/\psi$  photoproduction : Rapidity (y) dependence

Models predict a strong y-dependence of the VM photoproduction cross section M.B. Gay Ducati et. al, PRD 97, 116013 (2018)



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Additional differential measurements are needed to better constrain models, as done in UPC



 $J/\psi$  signal extraction from the invariant-mass distribution of the decay daughters



**ALI-PERF-538924** 





The J/ $\psi$  cross section in pp collisions and the J/ $\psi$  R<sub>AA</sub> are used as inputs for modeling the expected hadronic J/ $\psi$  yield  $J/\psi$  excess yield =  $J/\psi$  raw yield -  $J/\psi$  hadronic yield The coherent  $J/\psi$  yield is obtained by correcting the excess yield for the fraction of incoherent  $J/\psi$  and the fraction of coherent  $\psi(2S) \rightarrow J/\psi$  evaluated in UPC.

The R<sub>AA</sub> largely increases for  $p_T < 0.3$  GeV/c and it has a hierarchy in y, the most forward R<sub>AA</sub> is the least enhanced

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## Modelization of hadronic J/ $\psi$ yield contribution for $p_T$ < 0.3 GeV/c









ALI-PREL-548022

13

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## $J/\psi$ photoproduction cross section vs. y

### A strong rapidity dependence is seen



## $J/\psi$ photoproduction cross section vs. y



### ALI-PREL-547942

3



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Models initially developed for VM photoproduction in UPC and modified for PC are able to describe qualitatively the magnitude of the cross







**ALI-PREL-547985** 

The three scenarios are qualitatively describing the cross section Any effect related to the nuclear overlap is expected to be small in the peripheral 70-90% centrality range Understanding the impact of the nuclear overlap on the VM photoproduction cross section measurement is a theoretical challenge

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13

## $J/\psi$ photoproduction cross section vs. y

Photon energy ambiguity

### Each colliding nucleus could serve as a photon emitter, the other acts as a target $(\pm y)$

Ambiguity due to sign in the rapidity of the photon emitter



4

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![](_page_17_Picture_10.jpeg)

Photon energy ambiguity

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

Proposed solution by [J. G. Contreras, PRC 96, 015203 (2017)] Measurement of cross section

i) Electromagnetic dissociation nuclei (EMD): Different neutron emission (arxiv:2305.19060)

ii) Rapidity measurement in UPC and PCs ( both integrated and differential measurement)

Photon flux at rapidity ±y in the impact parameter range (b1,b2)  $\frac{d\sigma_{\rm PbPb}}{d\sigma} = n_{\gamma}(y; b_{1,2}(\sigma_{\gamma \rm Pb}(y)) + n_{\gamma}(-y; b_{1,2}(\sigma_{\gamma \rm Pb}(-y)))$ Photonuclear cross section: QCD!

![](_page_18_Picture_9.jpeg)

Photon energy ambiguity

### Perform two independent measurements at the same rapidity, but different impact parameter, then solve the equations.

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{\rm PbPb}}{dy} \right)_{A} = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\}_{A})\sigma_{\gamma\rm Pb}(y) + n_{\gamma} \\ \left( \frac{d\sigma_{\rm PbPb}}{dy} \right)_{B} = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\}_{B})\sigma_{\gamma\rm Pb}(y) + n_{\gamma}$$

For example, use peripheral and ultra-peripheral collisions JGC, PRC **96**, 015203 (2017)

![](_page_19_Figure_7.jpeg)

Observable :

OYPO VS. WYPO OT X

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![](_page_19_Picture_11.jpeg)

## Photo production of VM: oypb vs. Wypb or x

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Further theoretical inputs are needed to understand from low-x to high-x regions

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15

Recent measurement photo nuclear cross section ( $\sigma_{\gamma Pb}$ ) access to go low-x  $(10^{-5})$ 

At low -x data favors both saturation and shadowing models

Using new results rapidity dependence of PC and UPC, further understanding can be done on photo-nuclear cross section calculation

![](_page_20_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_11.jpeg)

## Polarization : Coherent vector meson photoproduction

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Polarization** refers to the particle spin alignment with respect to a chosen direction

s-channel helicity conservation (SCHC): helicity or polarization of photon transferred to vector meson (J/ $\psi$ ) Vector meson (VM) has retained same helicity and polarization as that of the initial photon that interacted with the target Phys. Lett. B 31 (1970) 387-390, JETP Lett. 68 (1998) 696-703

### Helicity frame **z-axis (polarization axis):** flight direction of the $J/\psi$ in its rest frame

![](_page_21_Figure_6.jpeg)

16

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### Dilepton decay angular distribution

P. Faccioli et al., Eur.Phys.J.C69:657-673, 2010

$$W(\cos\theta,\phi) \propto \frac{1}{3+\lambda_{\theta}} \cdot (1+\lambda_{\theta}\cos^2\theta+\lambda_{\phi}\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta+\lambda_{\theta\phi}\sin^2\theta)$$

![](_page_21_Figure_13.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_14.jpeg)

## Polarization : Coherent vector meson photo production in UPC

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

17

Additional challenge w.r.t UPC measurement : deal with a contamination from hadronic  $J/\psi$ 

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### Do we expect similar observation for $J/\psi$ at low $p_T$ (< 0.3 GeV/c) in Pb—Pb collisions with nuclear overlap (70–90 %)

![](_page_22_Picture_8.jpeg)

## $J/\psi$ signal extraction in angular intervals for $p_T < 0.3$ GeV/c

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

 $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ , 70-90%, 2.5 < y < 4, p<sub>T</sub> < 0.3 GeV/c

![](_page_23_Figure_4.jpeg)

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$$m^2 = E^2 - \overrightarrow{p}^2 = (E_{\mu^+} + E_{\mu^-})^2 - (\overrightarrow{p_{\mu^+}} + E_{\mu^+})^2 - ($$

### $J/\psi$ signal is extracted in six cos $\theta$ intervals using the dimuon invariant mass distribution

![](_page_23_Figure_10.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

A hint for transverse polarization from  $\cos\theta$  angular distribution

The  $\lambda_{\theta}$  parameter is consistent with the UPC measurement for coherently photoproduced J/ $\psi$  within uncertainties  $\rightarrow$  As expected in this kinematic region, where J/ $\psi$  coherent photoproduction dominates over the J/ $\psi$  hadronic production [arXiv:2204.10684]

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19

Inclusive J/ $\psi$  polarization in Pb-Pb collisions for  $p_T < 0.3$  GeV/c

![](_page_24_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_10.jpeg)

## Summary and Outlook

Rapidity dependence cross section measurement :

✓First y-differential measurement of coherent J/↓ photopr overlap at √s<sub>NN</sub> = 5.02 TeV for p<sub>T</sub> < 0.3 GeV/c</p>

Shows a strong y-dependence similar to that observed in Ultraperipheral collisions (UPC).

Measurements are qualitatively described by a large number of vector meson photoproduction models developed for UPC and extended to PC, but fail at reproducing the y-dependence (similarly to UPC)

### Polarization measurement:

∑First inclusive J/↓ polarization measurement for p<sub>T</sub> < 0.3 GeV/c in peripheral Pb-Pb collisions with nuclear overlap at √s<sub>NN</sub> = 5.02 TeV

In agreement with the transverse polarization scenario (SCHC hypothesis) and consistent with a major contribution from a photoproduction process in the region of study.

**First y-differential measurement of coherent J/** photoproduction cross section in peripheral Pb-Pb collisions (PC) with nuclear

![](_page_25_Figure_12.jpeg)

□ The coherent J/↓ photoproduction cross section measurement can be exploited to extract photonuclear cross sections in two Bjorken-x regions [J.G. Contreras, Phys. Rev. C 96, 015203 (2017)]

### □ ALICE Run 3 will provide a large Pb-Pb data sample :

will permit to study  $J/\psi$  photoproduction in the most central collisions, to better constrain models (especially the role of spectator nucleons in the coherence condition) -> precision and more differential measurements

Look at heavier vector mesons could become also possible to pin down possible QGP effects on the measured probes and precision polarization measurement of J/ψ other VMs

![](_page_26_Picture_8.jpeg)

## Event display : first Run 3 Pb-Pb collisions, 2023

### Run 3 A start and and an abanda and a land Pb—Pb, 5.36 TeV

Thank you for your kind altention!

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Ind. 1 -4

![](_page_27_Picture_6.jpeg)

# stay tuned for more to come!

![](_page_27_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

**ALI-PREL-547942** 

### A strong rapidity dependence is seen

Models initially developed for VM photoproduction in UPC and modified for PC are able to describe qualitatively the magnitude of the cross section, but fail at reproducing the y-dependence, similarly to UPC.

23

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## $J/\psi$ photoproduction cross section vs. y

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![](_page_28_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Energy/Bjorken-x dependence of coherent production from Run 2: Models

![](_page_29_Figure_3.jpeg)

24

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## photo nuclear cross section

![](_page_29_Picture_8.jpeg)

Nuclear shadowing

![](_page_30_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Energy/Bjorken-x dependence of coherent production from Run 2: Shadowing

![](_page_30_Picture_11.jpeg)

## **Photon energy ambiguity : Experimentally**

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

How to extract the photonuclear cross section if the photon fluxes are known?

$$x_B = (m_{J/\psi}/\sqrt{s_{\rm NN}}) \times \exp(\pm y)$$

use PC measurement with the previous UPC measurement to disentangle the contribution from the low and high energy photon-nucleus interaction. Caveat: this suggestion considers the photon-nucleus cross sections in both PC and UPC to be the same.

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26

Perform two independent measurements at the same rapidity, but different impact parameter, then solve the equations.

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{\rm PbPb}}{dy} \right)_{A} = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\}_{A})\sigma_{\gamma\rm Pb}(y) + n_{\gamma}(-y; \{b\}_{A})\sigma_{\gamma\rm Pb}(-y)$$
$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{\rm PbPb}}{dy} \right)_{B} = n_{\gamma}(y; \{b\}_{B})\sigma_{\gamma\rm Pb}(y) + n_{\gamma}(-y; \{b\}_{B})\sigma_{\gamma\rm Pb}(-y)$$

For example, use peripheral and ultra-peripheral collisions JGC, PRC **96**, 015203 (2017)

![](_page_31_Figure_12.jpeg)

Photon energy ambiguity : Neutron emission

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_8.jpeg)

Photon energy ambiguity : Neutron emission

$\frac{d\sigma_{PbPb}^{0N0N}}{dy} = n_{0N0N}(\gamma, +y) \cdot \sigma_{\gamma Pb}(+y) + n_{0N0N}(\gamma, -y) \cdot \sigma_{\gamma Pb}(-y)$ $\frac{d\sigma_{PbPb}^{0NXN}}{dy} = n_{0NXN}(\gamma, +y) \cdot \sigma_{\gamma Pb}(+y) + n_{0NXN}(\gamma, -y) \cdot \sigma_{\gamma Pb}(-y)$				
у	$n_{\gamma}(0n0n)$	$n_{\gamma}(0nXn+Xn0n)$	$n_{\gamma}(XnXn)$	$\sigma_{\gamma Pb}^{IA}$ (µb)
3.5 < y < 4	178.51	18.18	6.34	10
3 < y < 3.5	162.99	18.19	6.34	14
2.5 < y < 3	147.46	18.19	6.34	19
0.2 < y < 0.8	77.88	17.88	6.33	48
-0.2 < y < 0.2	62.86	17.47	6.27	58
-0.8 < y < -0.2	48.31	16.75	6.18	71
-3 < y < -2.5	3.91	4.97	2.78	176
-3.5 < y < -3	1.22	2.15	1.42	215
-4 < v < -3.5	0.26	0.61	0.48	262

![](_page_33_Picture_6.jpeg)

Photon energy ambiguity : Neutron emission

![](_page_34_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

## RAA modelization for estimate photoproduction contribution

via channel  $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ 

 $J/\psi$  decay branching ratio Integrated luminosity of the Pb-Pb data sample

$$M_{AA}^{J/\Psi excess} \rightarrow N_{J/\Psi}^{coh} = \frac{N_{AA}^{J/\Psi excess}}{1 + f_I + f_D}$$

![](_page_35_Picture_12.jpeg)

## RAA modelization for estimate photoproduction contribution

in each dy,  
[0 < pr < 0.3  
geV/c]
$$\begin{split} & \beta_{AA}^{hJ/\Psi} = \mathscr{N} \cdot \int_{0}^{0.3} \frac{d\sigma_{pp}^{hJ/\Psi}}{dp_{T}} * \beta_{AA}^{hJ/\Psi} \\ & \beta_{AA}^{hJ/\Psi} = \mathscr{N} \cdot \int_{0}^{0.3} \frac{d\sigma_{pp}^{hJ/\Psi}}{dp_{T}} * \beta_{AA}^{hJ/\Psi} \\ & \text{transition} \\ & \text{consideration} \\ & \text{formatisation} \\ & \text{formatisation} \\ & \text{formatisation} \\ & \text{formatisation} \\ & \beta_{A}^{hJ/\Psi} = \beta_{AA}^{hJ/\Psi} (\mathscr{A} * \varepsilon) \beta_{AA}^{hJ/\Psi} (\mathscr{A} + \varepsilon) \beta_{A}^{hJ/\Psi} (\mathscr{A}$$

![](_page_36_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_6.jpeg)

## Polarization : photoproduction of vector mesons

### ρ<sup>0</sup> meson measurement : consistent with SCHC

Phys. Rev. D 7, 3150, (1970) by SLAC Collaboration Z. Phys. C 53, 581–594, (1992) by CERN SPS

 $\rho^{0}[1]$ ,  $\omega[2]$  and  $\phi$  [3] photoproduction by CLAS Collaboration : SCHC violation [1] Eur. Phys. J. A 39, 5–31, (2009) [2] Int. J. Mod. Phys. Conf. Ser. 26,1460063, (2014) [3] Phys.Rev.C 90, 019901, (2014)

ρ0 photoproduction by STAR Collaboration : consistent with SCHC Phys. Rev. C 77 (2008) 034910

Exclusive J/ $\psi$  photoproduction by H1 and ZEUS collaborations : consistent with SCHC Eur. Phys. J. C 46, 585–603 (2006)

[2] Nucl. Phys. B 695, 3–37 (2004)

Do we see similar observation for  $J/\psi$  at low  $p_{\tau}$  ( < 0.3 GeV/c) in Peripheral Pb-Pb collisions with nuclear overlap?

 $\checkmark$  Is the J/ $\psi$  transversely polarized and therefore obey the SCHC hypothesis ?

- $\checkmark$  Another way to test the **production mechanism** at the origin of the J/ $\psi$  very low  $p_{\tau}$  excess
- ✓ Also complementary to the UPCs measurement

**Observables :** Extract angular variables and spin density matrix element

32

![](_page_37_Figure_14.jpeg)

$$r_{00}^{04} = rac{1-\lambda_{ heta}}{3+\lambda_{ heta}}$$
  
 $r_{1,-1}^{04} = rac{\lambda_{arphi}}{2} \cdot (1+r_{00}^{04})$ .

![](_page_37_Picture_20.jpeg)