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#### The Birth of Experimental Low x Physics



• Biggest HERA discovery: strong increase of quark density  $(F_2)$  and gluon density  $(d F_2 / d \ln Q^2)$  with decreasing x in newly explored regime.

Low x, `large'  $Q^2$  is high density, low coupling limit of QCD ...

#### Current Status of Low × Physics

RHIC, Tevatron and HERA have taught us a lot, ... but many questions are not fully answered...

• Are non-DGLAP parton evolution dynamics visible in the initial state parton cascade?

- How and where is the parton growth with decreasing x tamed (unitarity) ... barely separated from confinement region?
- Large (~ constant?) fraction of diffraction?

Problem is that low x kinematically correlated to low  $Q^2$ , which brings problems with partonic interpretation







Decrease x

## Reminder : Dipole models

• Description of interesting low x region, where  $Q^2$  small and partons not appropriate degrees of freedom ...



- Simple unified picture of many inclusive and exclusive processes ... strong interaction physics in (universal) dipole cross section  $\sigma_{\text{dipole}}$ . Process dependence in wavefunction  $\Psi$  Factors
- qqbar-g dipoles also needed to describe inclusive diffraction

#### An Example Dipole Approach to HERA Data

Forshaw, Sandapen, Shaw hep-ph/0411337,0608161 ... used for illustrations here

Fit inclusive HERA data with dipole models containing varying assumptions for  $\sigma_{dipole}$ .



- FS04 Regge (~FKS): 2 pomeron model, no saturation FS04 Satn: Simple implementation of saturation CGC: Colour Glass Condensate version of saturation
- All three models can describe data with  $Q^2 > 1GeV^2$ , x < 0.01
- Only versions with saturation work for 0.045 <  $Q^2$  < 1 GeV<sup>2</sup>
- Similar conclusions from final state studies

# LHeC Inclusive Kinematics



Unprecedented lumi = 10<sup>33</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> !!!
eA mode possible using LHC ion beam

 $E_e = 70 \text{ GeV}$   $E_p = 7 \text{ TeV}$   $\sqrt{s} = 1.4 \text{ TeV}$ (5 × HERA)

• Extension to higher Q<sup>2</sup> in x range covered By HERA

• Extension of low x (high W) frontier

 $W \le 1.4 \text{ TeV}$  $x \ge 5.10^{-7} \text{ at}$  $Q^2 \le 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ 

## The LHeC for Low x Investigations

2 modes considered:

LHeC - Low x Kinematics

1) Focusing magnet To optimise lumi ... detector acceptance to  $170^{\circ}$  ... little 10 acceptance below  $Q^{2}=100 \ GeV^{2}$ 

2) No focusing ... acceptance to  $179^{\circ} \rightarrow access$ to Q<sup>2</sup>=1 for all x (x > 5 x 10<sup>-7</sup>!) Lumi ~ 1 fb<sup>-1</sup> / yr



#### Hadronic Final State Detector Considerations



Considerably more asymmetric beam energies than HERA!

 Hadronic final state at newly accessed lowest x values goes central or backward in the detector ©
 At x values typical of HERA (but large Q2), hadronic final state is boosted more in the forward direction.

• Full Study of low x /  $Q^2$  and of range overlapping with HERA, with sensitivity to energy flow in outgoing proton direction requires forward acceptance for hadrons to  $1^\circ$ 

# Example F<sub>2</sub> with LHeC Data



Precise data in LHeC region (1° acceptance)

- Cleanly establish saturation at Q<sup>2</sup> values where partonic language applicable

-Distinguish between models of saturation

Statistical precision < 0.1%, systematics 1-3%

## Example 2: Interpreting Geometric Scaling

- $\sigma_{\gamma^*p}(\tau \text{ only}), \tau = Q^2 R_0^2(x)$
- $R_0^2(x)$  is "saturation radius"
- Change of behaviour near  $\tau$ =1 often cited as evidence for saturation
- ... but data below  $\tau = 1$  are very low Q<sup>2</sup> - various theoretical difficulties and confinement / change to hadronic dof's
- Need to see transition in a Q<sup>2</sup> region where partonic interpretation unquestionable



#### Geometric Scaling at the LHeC



## Another Model: Avsar, Gustafson, Lonnblad

Linked Dipole Chain Model (~ CCFM): Interacting dipole chains in onium-onium scattering -Linearly ("1 pomeron") - Non-linearly (~ saturation) via multiple interactions 10<sup>3</sup> & "swing" mechanism  $\rightarrow$ recoupling within chains. Effects important in 10<sup>2</sup> but so is (non-scaling) saturation curve, 10<sup>1</sup> Predict breaking of scaling for  $\tau < 1$  if data with Q<sup>2</sup>>1 become available 10<sup>0</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup> (e.g. from LHeC)



## LHeC Comparison with Predictions



'1 pom only' already disfavoured at HERA

• Subtle effects such as swing mechanism can be established cleanly at high W (low x) at LHeC



# **DVCS Measurement**

... can be tackled as at HERA through inclusive selection of  $ep \rightarrow ep\gamma$  and statistical subtraction of Bethe-Heitler background



## Example of DVCS at LHeC

σ(nb)

DVCS (10 fb<sup>-1</sup>, stat errors only) 2.0 -1.8 Clearly 1.6  $Q^2=30 \text{ GeV}^2$  $b = 7 \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ 1.4 1.2 -1.0 -0.8 CGC FS2004 0.6 0.4 -0.2 HERA (Jeff Forshaw) 0.0 accessed 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 W (GeV)

(1° acceptance)

Statistical precision 1-4%

distinguishes different models which contain saturation.

Interpretation in terms of GPDs much cleaner at larger Q<sup>2</sup> values

VMs similar story

# Diffractive DIS at HERA

`Discovery' at HERA (~10% of low x events are of type ep -> eXp)

 Parton-level mechanism, relations to diffractive pp scattering, inclusive DIS, confinement still not settled.

• QCD Factorisation: Diffractive parton densities (DPDFs) universal to diffractive DIS (apply to both HERA and LHeC)

... can also be used to predict pp with additional `gap survival' factors



## LHeC Diffractive Kinematics

- Tests of factorisation and evolution dynamics: DPDFs extracted at HERA predict LHeC cross section at moderate /large  $\beta$ , higher Q<sup>2</sup> using DGLAP.
- $\bullet$  New dynamics: LHeC opens new low  $\beta$  region parton saturation, BFKL etc showing up first in diffraction?
- •Large Diff. Masses: Z, W, b production, studies of new 1-- states







(1° acceptance)

• Diffractive structure function poorly known for  $\beta <\sim 0.01$  ... large extrapolation uncertainties.

 Plenty to learn from LHeC, including the proper way to saturate a qqbar-g dipole

Large Rapidity Gap method assumed. Statistical precision ~0.1%, systematics ~5%

# Final States in Diffraction

- Factorisation tests done at HERA with gluon initiated jet / charm processes... BUT ...
- Kinematically restricted to high  $\beta$  region where  $F_2^{D}$  is least sensitive to the gluon!
- Kinematically restricted to low  $p_T < M_x/2$  where scale uncertainties are large.
- $\gamma p$  surprises  $\rightarrow$  understanding gap survival?... Diff H @ LHC?





# Final States in Diffraction at the LHeC

• At LHeC, diffractive masses  $M_x$  up to hundreds of GeV can be produced with low  $x_{\rm IP}$ 

- Low  $\beta$ , low  $x_{IP}$  region for jets and charm accessible
- Final state jets etc at higher pt
   ... much more precise factorisation
   tests and DPDF studies (scale uncty)
- New diffractive channels ...
   beauty, W / Z bosons
- Unfold quantum numbers / precisely measure exclusively produced new / exotic 1<sup>-</sup> states



#### **Diffractive Detector Considerations**

η<sub>max</sub> (lab)

- Accessing  $x_{IP} = 0.01$  with rapidity gap method requires  $\eta_{max}$  cut around 5 ...forward instrumentation essential!
- Roman pots, FNC should clearly be an integral part
- Not new at LHC: Roman pots already integrated into CDF, Atlas via Totem, FP420, FP220)





Long HERA program Fo to understand parton cascade emissions by direct observation of jet pattern in the forward direction. ... DGLAP v BFKL v CCFM v resolved  $\gamma^*$ ...

Conclusions limited by kinematic restriction to high x (>~  $2.10^{-3}$ ) and detector acceptance.

At LHeC ... more emissions due to longer ladder & more instrumentation  $\rightarrow$  measure at lower x where predictions really diverge.



#### Beauty as a Low x Observable!!!



Statistical errors ~1%, systematics ~5%

## With AA at LHC, LHeC is also an eA Collider



• Rich physics of nuclear parton densities.

• Limited x and  $Q^2$ range so far (unknown For x <~  $10^{-2}$  and  $Q^2 > 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ )

- LHeC extends by orders of magnitude towards lower x.
- With wide range of x,  $Q^2$ , A, opportunity to extract and understand nuclear parton densities in detail
- Symbiosis with ALICE, RHIC, EIC ... disentangling Quark Gluon Plasma from shadowing or parton saturation effects

# Simple Model of Gluon Saturation

- Saturation point when  $xg(x) \sim Q^2 / \alpha_s(Q^2)$
- Nuclear enhancement of gluon density a  $A^{1/3}$
- Compare extrapolated (NLO) gluon density from HERA



Saturation point reached in ep at LHeC for Q<sup>2</sup> <~ 5 GeV<sup>2</sup>
Reached in eA for much higher Q<sup>2</sup>

## Uncovered Topics

This talk contained an (embarrassingly) limited number of studies, which only scratches the surface of the low x physics potential of the LHeC.

Some obvious omissions:

- Lots of eA physics!
- All sorts of low x jet measurements
- All sorts of low x charm measurements
- **F**<sub>L</sub>
- Prompt photons
- Photoproduction and photon structure
- Leading neutrons and other semi-inclusives
- Exclusive vector meson production

... studies of these and many other topics are very welcome, to evaluate the physics case for such a facility!

#### Summary

To further pursue low x physics with <u>unpolarised</u> targets, the natural next step is an extension to lower x (i.e. higher energy)

For its relative theoretical cleanliness, ep should be a large feature of this.

For its enhanced sensitivity to high parton densities, eA should also be a large part of the programme.

All of this is possible in the framework of the LHC - a totally new world of energy and luminosity!... Why not exploit it for lepton-hadron scattering?

First conceptual design exists ... no show-stopper so far ... some encouraging first physics studies shown here.

Much more to be done to fully evaluate physics potential and determine optimum running scenarios!