

# **Gluon Double-Spin Asymmetry at Small-x and $k_T$ -Factorization**

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Y. Kovchegov and M. Li, JHEP **05** (2024) 177.

# Outline

- Introduction and Motivation
- Gluon double-spin asymmetry at Small- $x$  in Gluon+Proton Collisions
- Generalization of gluon double-spin asymmetry to Proton+Proton Collisions
- $K_T$ -Factorization and Small- $x$  Helicity Evolution

# Origin of Nucleon Spin

## Jaffe-Manohar spin sum rule for proton

*The RHIC Spin Collaboration (2015)*

$$S_q + L_q + S_G + L_G = \frac{1}{2}$$

Quark Spin

$$S_q(Q^2) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 dx \Delta\Sigma(x, Q^2)$$

$$S_q(Q^2 = 10\text{GeV}^2) \approx [0.15, 0.20]$$

$$x \in [0.001, 0.7]$$

Gluon Spin

$$S_G(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx \Delta G(x, Q^2)$$

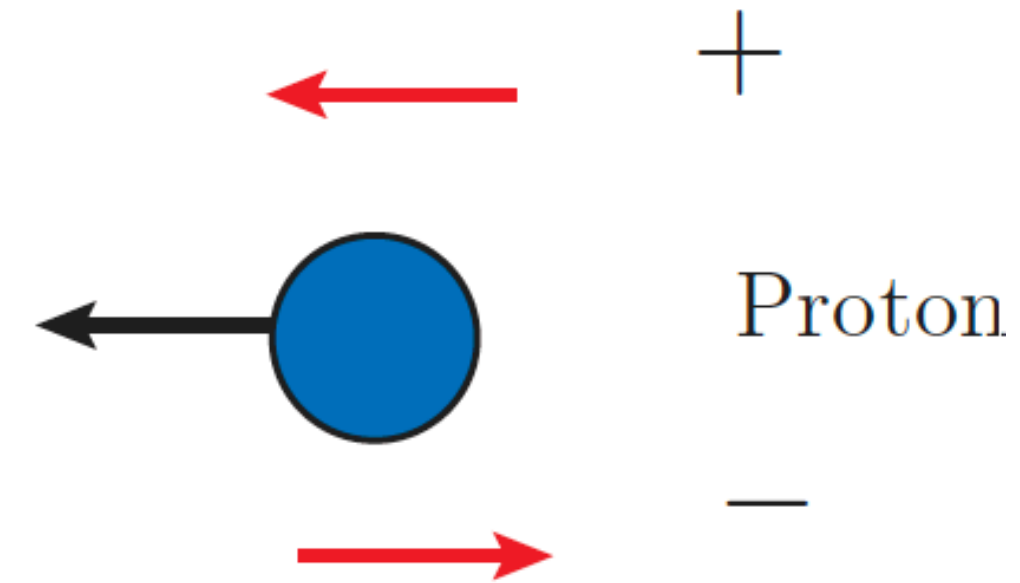
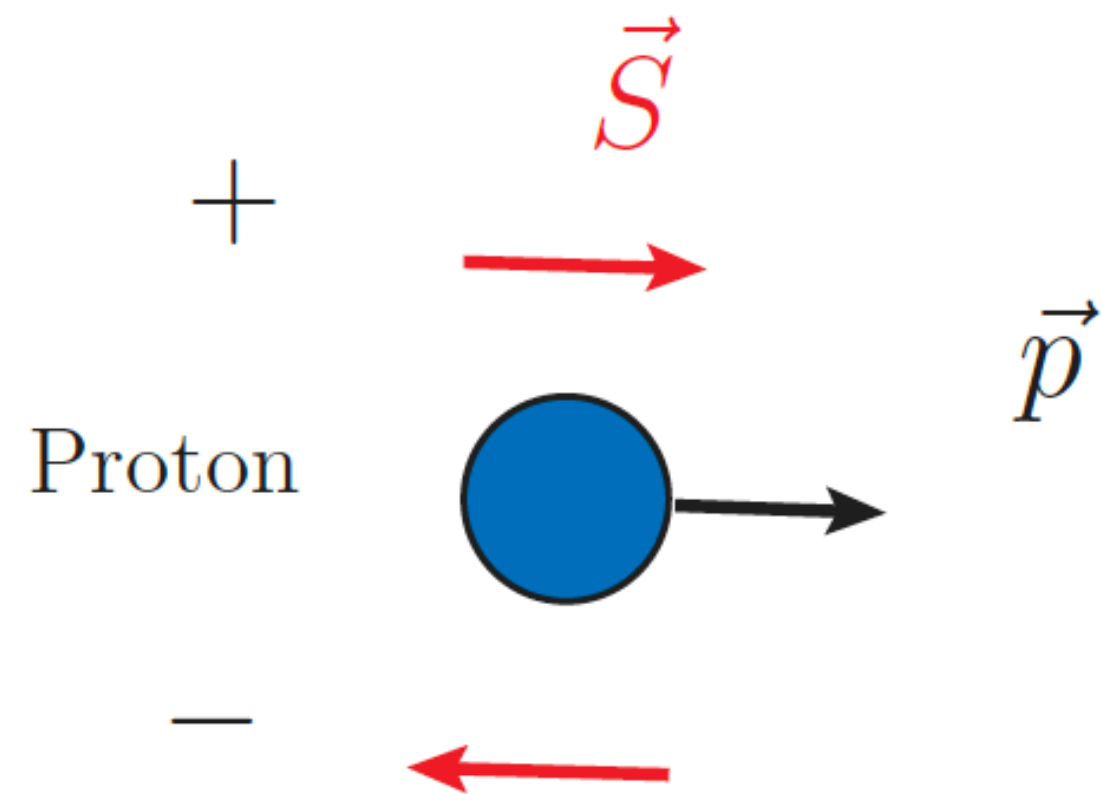
$$S_G(Q^2 = 10\text{GeV}^2) \approx [0.13, 0.26]$$

$$x \in [0.05, 0.7]$$

**Missing spin of the proton maybe in quark and gluon orbital angular momentum  $L_q$  and  $L_G$  and/or smaller values of  $x$**

# Longitudinal Double-Spin Asymmetry

How to measure quark and gluon intrinsic spin inside a proton?



$$A_{LL} \equiv \frac{d\Delta\sigma}{d\sigma} \equiv \frac{d\sigma^{++} - d\sigma^{+-}}{d\sigma^{++} + d\sigma^{+-}}$$

RHIC has measured  $A_{LL}$  for the productions of jets, dijets,  $\pi^0$ ,  $\pi^\pm$ , direct photons...  
 at mid-rapidity, intermediate rapidity, forward rapidity...  
 at  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$  and  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 510 \text{ GeV}$

*RHIC Spin Collaboration, arXiv: 2302.00605*

# Longitudinal Double-Spin Asymmetry

Longitudinal double-spin asymmetry is related to parton helicity distribution.

$$A_{LL} \equiv \frac{d\Delta\sigma}{d\sigma} \equiv \frac{d\sigma^{++} - d\sigma^{+-}}{d\sigma^{++} + d\sigma^{+-}}$$

**Collinear Factorization (also parity invariance)**

*Babcock, Monsay and Sivers (1979),  
(DSSV) De Florian, Sassot, Stratmann and Vogelsang (2008)(2014)*

$$d\Delta\sigma = \sum_{ab} \int dx_a \int dx_b \Delta f_a(x_a, Q^2) \Delta f_b(x_b, Q^2) d\Delta\hat{\sigma}_{ab}(x_a, x_b, p_T, \alpha_s(Q^2), p_T/Q)$$

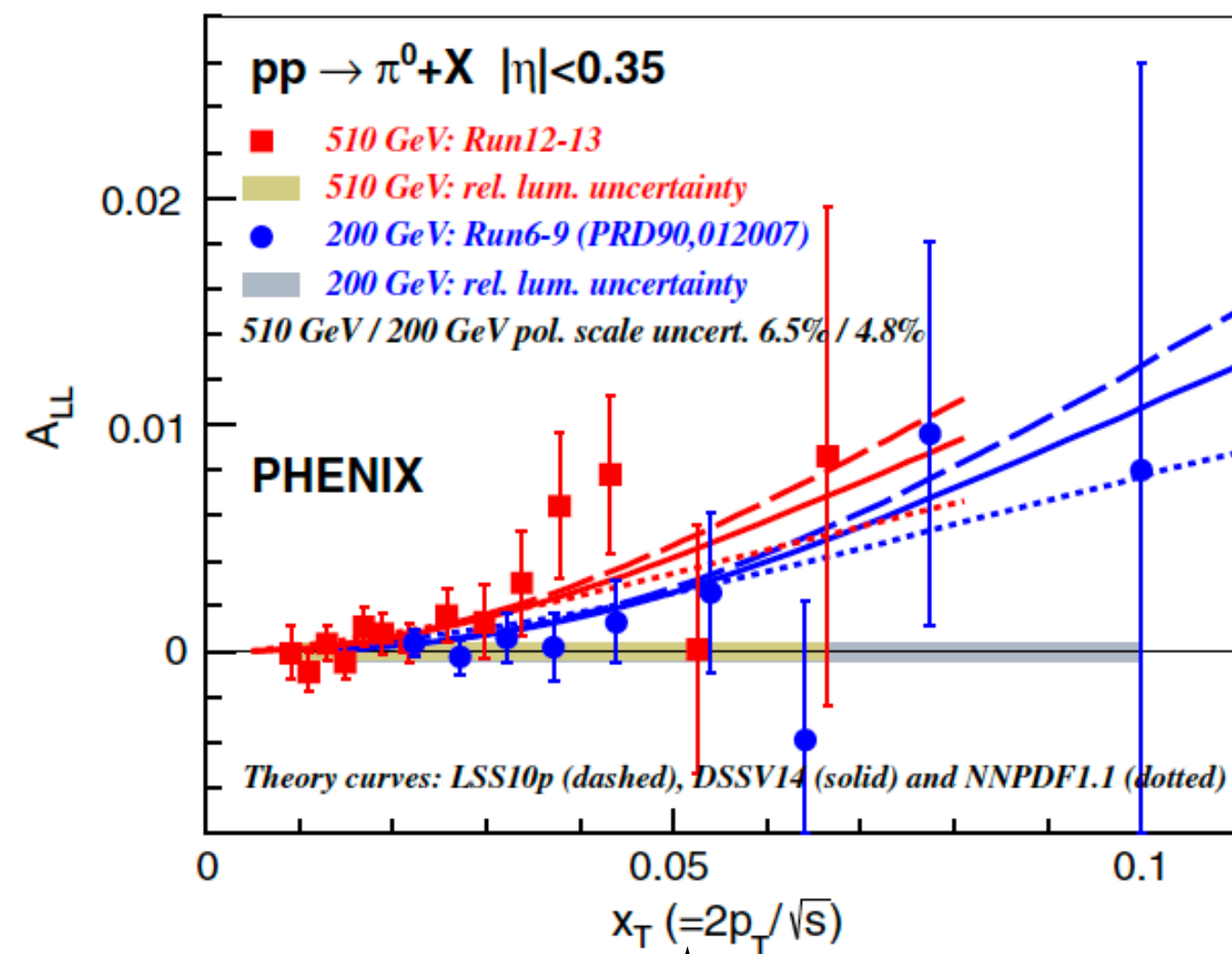
(Anti) quark and gluon helicity distribution  $\Delta f_j(x, Q^2) \equiv f_j^+(x, Q^2) - f_j^-(x, Q^2)$

Partonic level double-spin asymmetry  $d\Delta\hat{\sigma} = d\hat{\sigma}^{++} - d\hat{\sigma}^{+-}$

# Longitudinal Double-Spin Asymmetry at small x

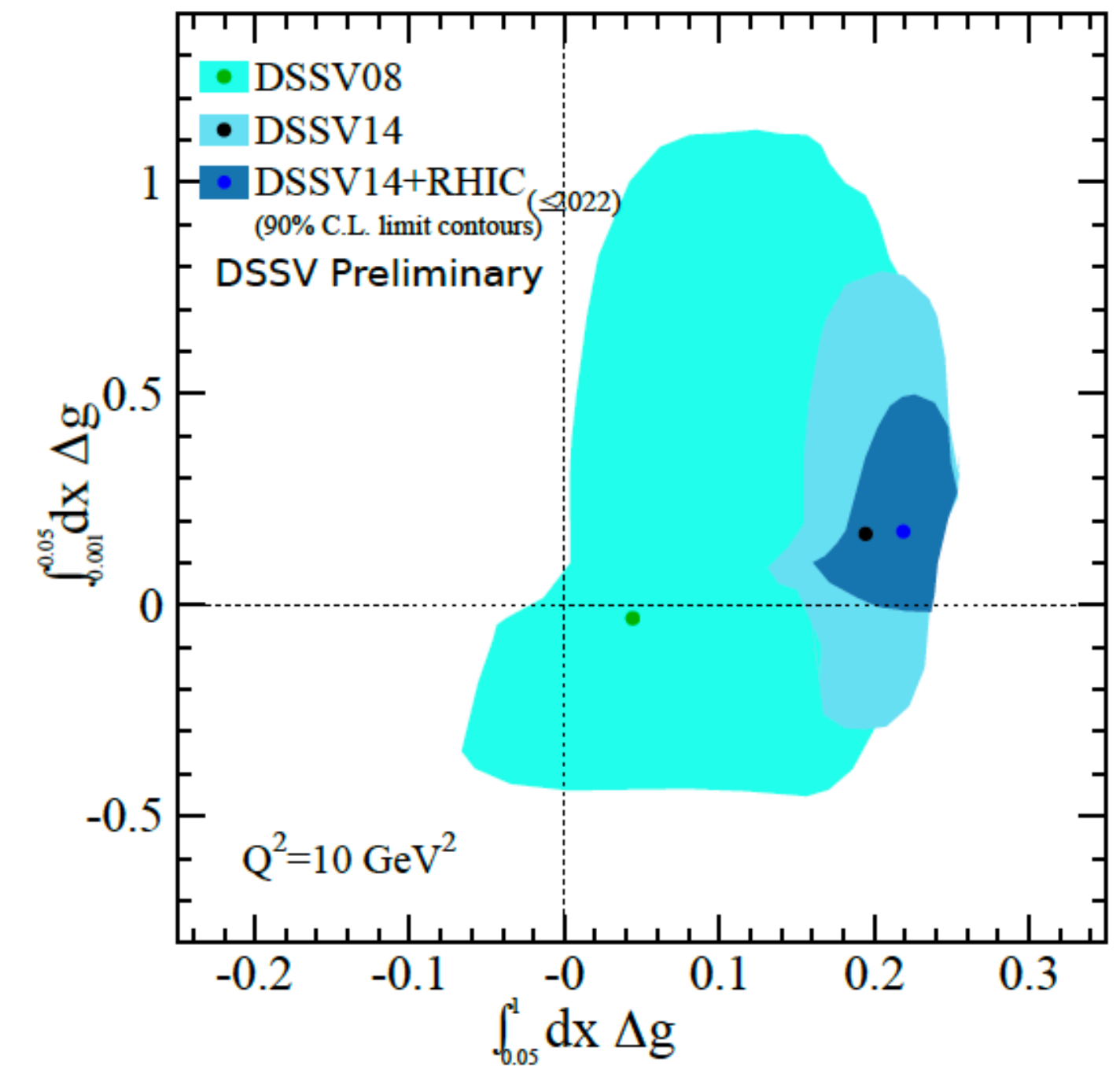
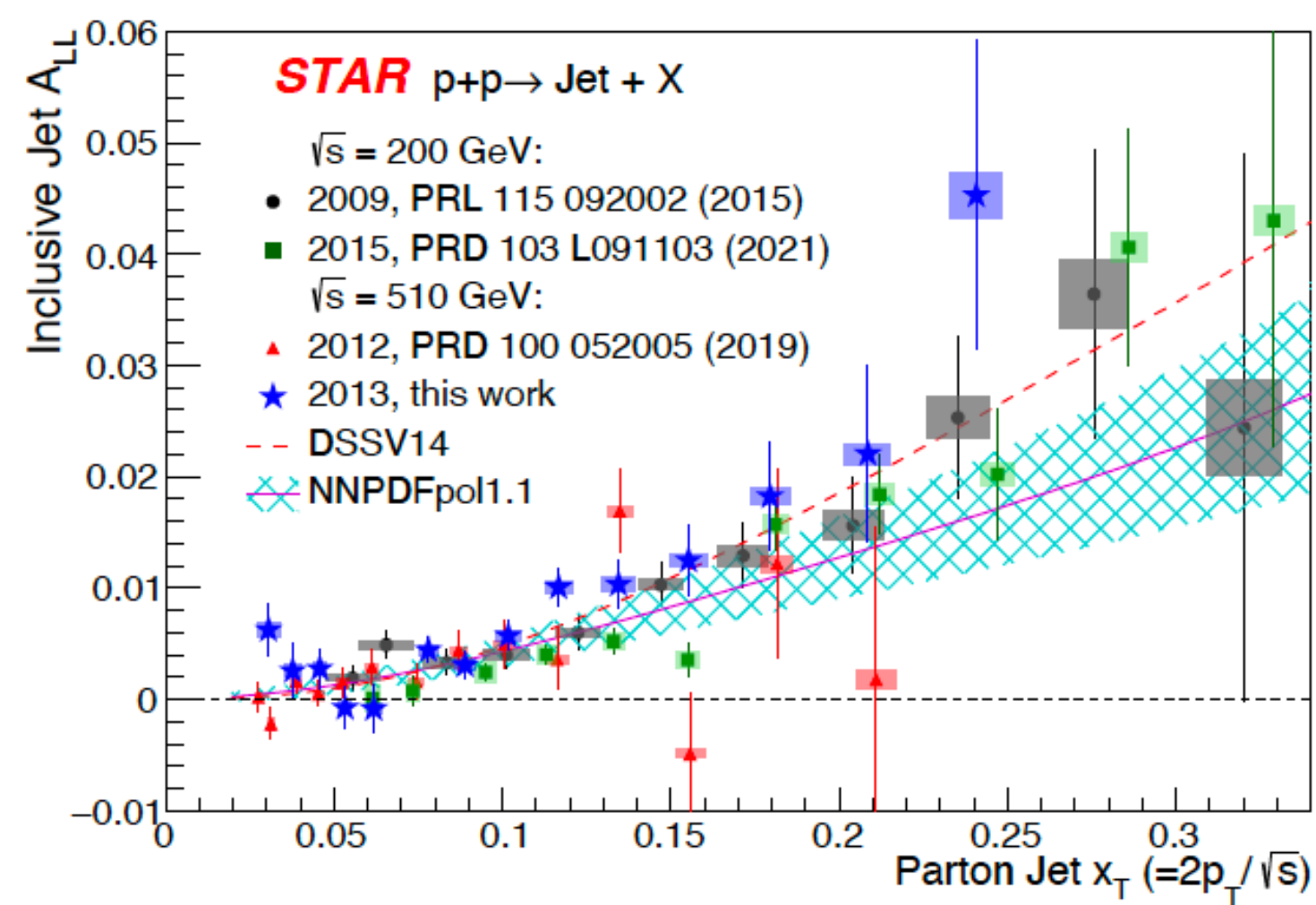
RHIC Spin Collaboration (2015, 2023)

$A_{LL}$  for inclusive neutral pion and inclusive jet productions at mid-rapidity



↑ 5 GeV (12.5 GeV)

Low transverse momentum region, sensitive to small x gluons, collinear factorization probably breaks down.

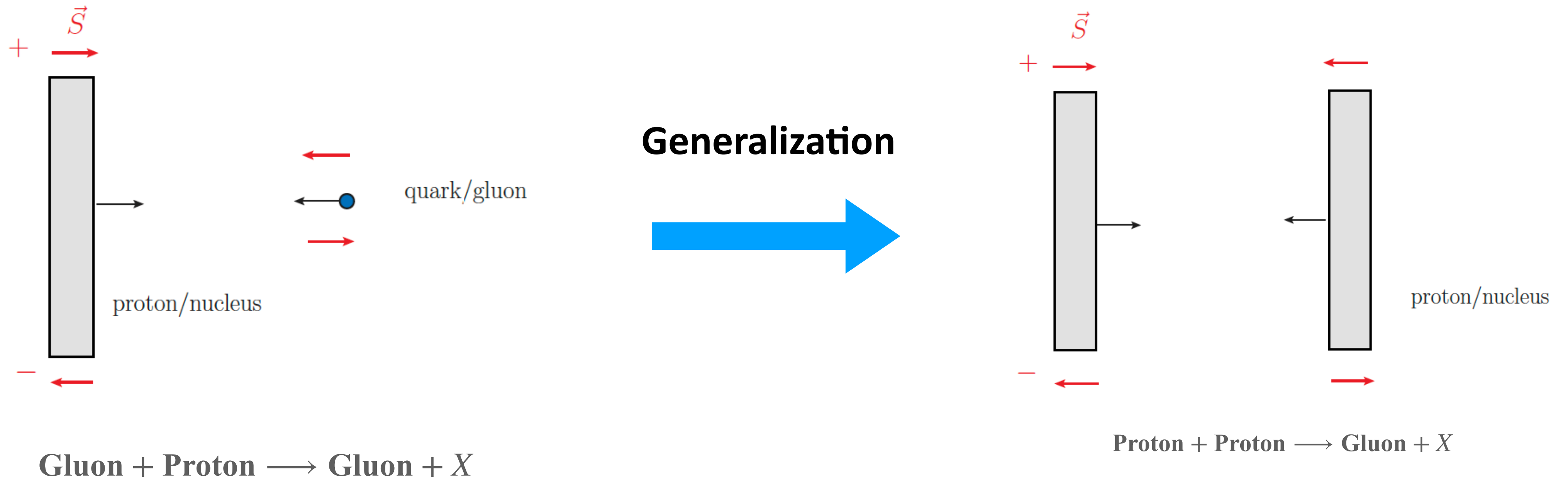


very large uncertainty in constraining the small-x region of gluon helicity PDF using the collinear factorization formalism.

Transverse momentum dependent framework + Small-x helicity evolution equations, to describe  $A_{LL}$  in the low transverse momentum region and to constrain gluon helicity at smaller values of x.

# Gluon Double-Spin Asymmetry at Mid-Rapidity

Goal:  $A_{LL}$  at small-x for Gluon production at mid-rapidity



$$A_{LL} \equiv \frac{d\Delta\sigma}{d\sigma} \equiv \frac{d\sigma^{++} - d\sigma^{+-}}{d\sigma^{++} + d\sigma^{+-}}$$



What we calculate



The leading order unpolarized gluon production at small-x has already been calculated.

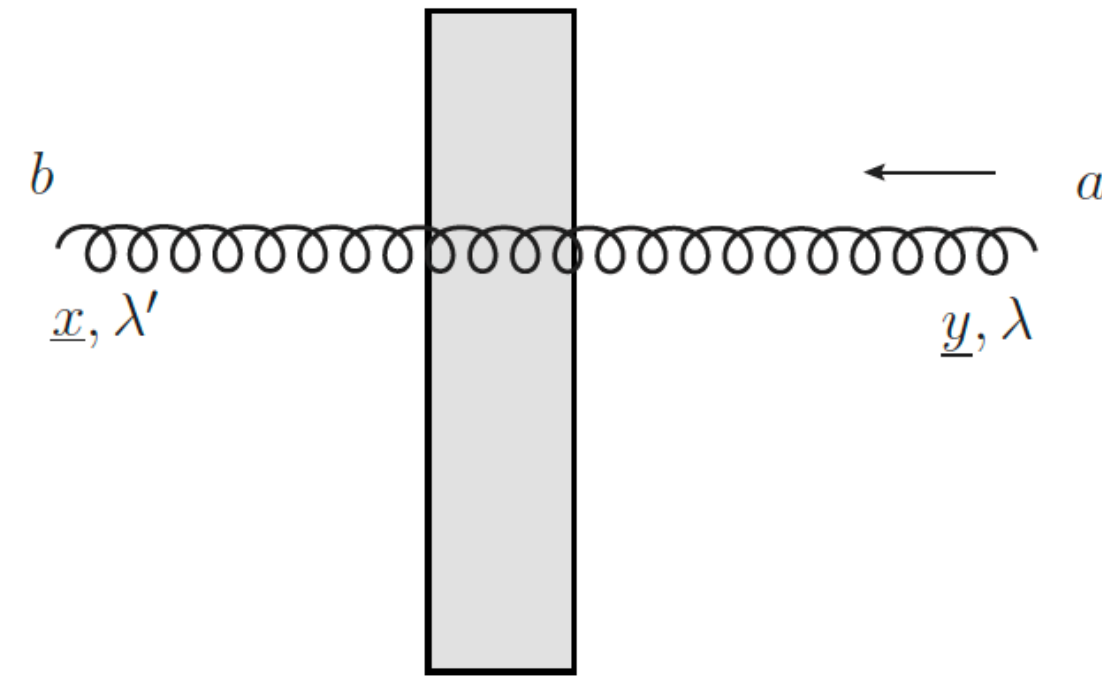
*Kovchegov and Mueller (1998), Kopeliovich, Tarasov and Schafer(1999),  
Dumitru and McLerran (2002)*



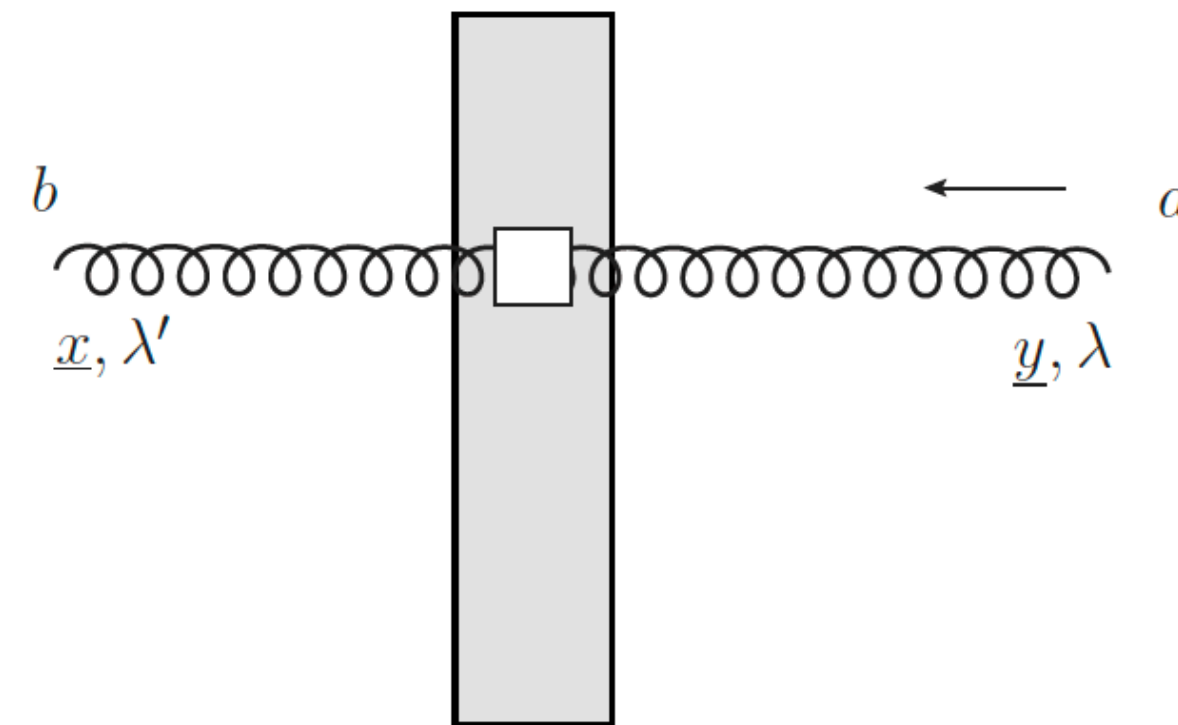
# Wilson Lines at Sub-eikonal Order

We use the shockwave formalism for small-x physics and extend the analysis to sub-eikonal order for spin physics.

$$(U_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}; \lambda', \lambda})^{ba} \equiv (U_{\underline{x}})^{ba} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) \delta_{\lambda, \lambda'} + \lambda \delta_{\lambda, \lambda'} (U_{\underline{x}}^{G[1]})^{ba} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) + \delta_{\lambda, \lambda'} (U_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{G[2]})^{ba} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{s^2}\right)$$



$$U_{\underline{x}}[x_f^-, x_i^-] = \mathcal{P} \exp \left[ ig \int_{x_i^-}^{x_f^-} dx^- \mathcal{A}^+(0^+, x^-, \underline{x}) \right]$$



*Kovchegov, Chirilli, Altinoluk, Beuf...*

**Chromomagnetic Field**

$$U_{\underline{x}}^{G[1]} = \frac{2igp_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx^- U_{\underline{x}}[\infty, x^-] \mathcal{F}^{12}(x^-, \underline{x}) U_{\underline{x}}[x^-, -\infty]$$

$$U_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{G[2]} = -\frac{ip_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz^- d^2z U_{\underline{x}}[\infty, z^-] \delta^2(\underline{x} - \underline{z}) \overleftarrow{\mathcal{D}}(z^-, \underline{z}) \overrightarrow{\mathcal{D}}(z^-, \underline{z}) \delta^2(\underline{y} - \underline{z}) U_{\underline{y}}[z^-, -\infty]$$



$$U_{\underline{x}}^{iG[2]} \equiv \frac{igp_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx^- x^- U_{\underline{x}}[\infty, x^-] \mathcal{F}^{+i}(x^-, \underline{x}) U_{\underline{x}}[x^-, -\infty]$$

**Chromoelectric Field**

**Background fields**

**Eikonal Order:**  $\mathcal{A}^+(x^-, \underline{x})$

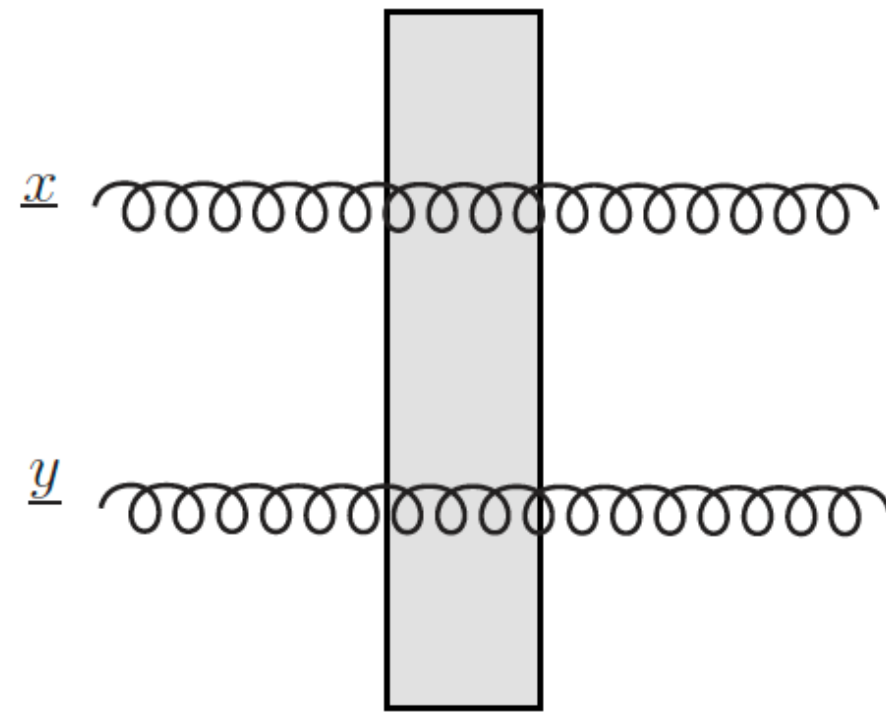
**Subeikonal Order:**  $\mathcal{A}^+(x^-, \underline{x}), \mathcal{A}^i(x^-, \underline{x})$

*Cougoulic and Kovchegov (2020), M.Li arXiv:2402.17568*



# Polarized Wilson Line Correlators

*Unpolarized gluon dipole correlator*



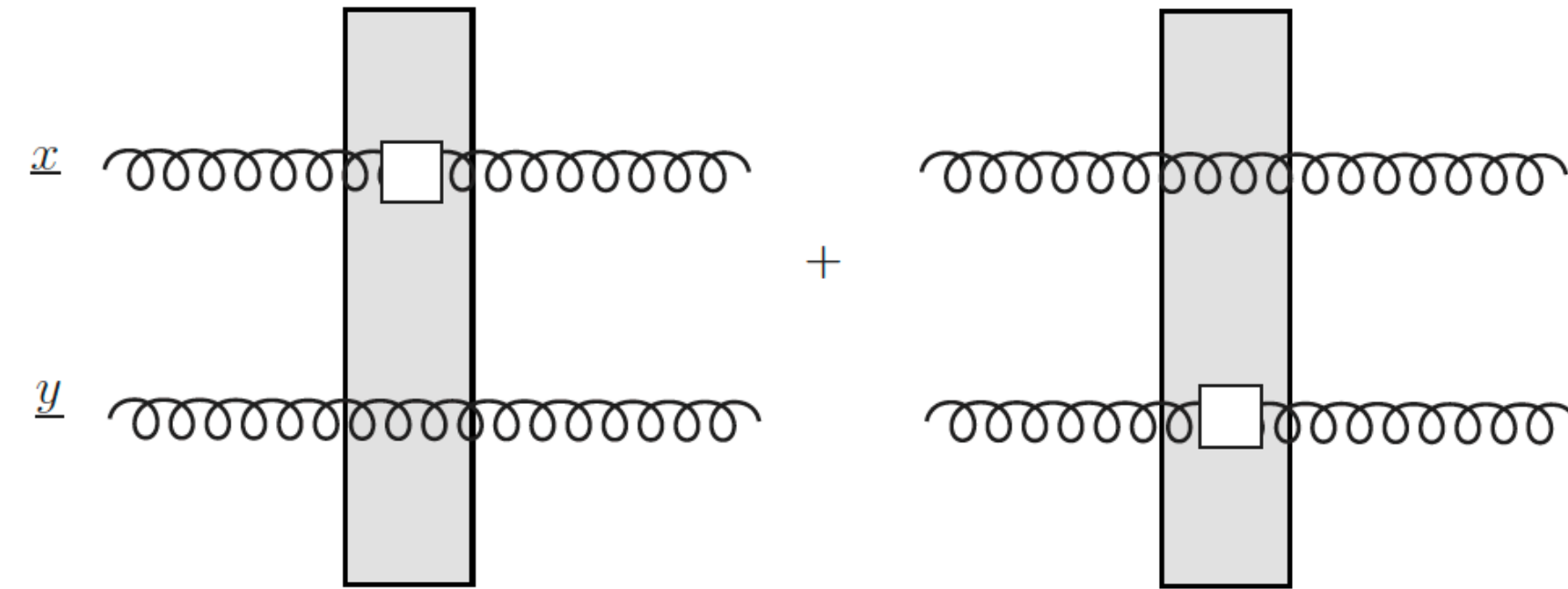
$$D_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}} \equiv \frac{1}{(N_c^2 - 1)} \left\langle \text{Tr} \left[ U_{\underline{x}} U_{\underline{y}}^\dagger \right] \right\rangle$$

**Averaging under Two-Gluon-Exchange Approximation**

$$D_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}} \simeq 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi \alpha_s^2 N_c}{C_F} |\underline{x} - \underline{y}|^2 \ln \frac{1}{\Lambda^2 |\underline{x} - \underline{y}|^2} + \dots$$

**Quadratically approaches 1 as  $\underline{y} \rightarrow \underline{x}$**

*Chromo-electromagnetically polarized gluon dipole correlators*



$$G_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{\text{adj}}(s) \equiv \frac{1}{2(N_c^2 - 1)} \left\langle \left\langle \text{Tr} \left[ U_{\underline{x}}^{\text{G}[1]} U_{\underline{y}}^\dagger \right] + \text{Tr} \left[ U_{\underline{x}} U_{\underline{y}}^{\text{G}[1] \dagger} \right] \right\rangle \right\rangle$$

$$G_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{i, \text{adj}}(s) \equiv \frac{1}{2(N_c^2 - 1)} \left\langle \left\langle \text{Tr} \left[ U_{\underline{x}}^{i, \text{G}[2]} U_{\underline{y}}^\dagger \right] - \text{Tr} \left[ U_{\underline{x}} U_{\underline{y}}^{i, \text{G}[2] \dagger} \right] \right\rangle \right\rangle$$

$$G_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{\text{adj}} \simeq \lambda' 2 \frac{\pi \alpha_s^2 N_c}{C_F} \ln s |\underline{x} - \underline{y}|^2 + \dots$$

$$G_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{i, \text{adj}} \simeq \lambda' \frac{\pi \alpha_s^2 N_c}{C_F} \epsilon^{ij} (\underline{x} - \underline{y})^j \ln \frac{1}{\Lambda^2 |\underline{x} - \underline{y}|^2} + \dots$$

**Logarithmically/linearly approaches 0 as  $\underline{y} \rightarrow \underline{x}$**

# Relating to Gluon TMDs at Small-x

Polarized Wilson line correlators are related to the small-x limit of various gluon helicity TMDs.

$$\Gamma^{\mu\nu;\rho\sigma}(k, P, S) = \int \frac{d^4\xi}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik\cdot\xi} \langle P, S | \text{Tr} \left[ F^{\mu\nu}(0) \mathcal{U}^{[+]}(0, \xi) F^{\rho\sigma}(\xi) \mathcal{U}^{[-]}(\xi, 0) \right] | P, S \rangle \quad \text{Mulders and Rodrigues (2001)}$$

$$\mu\nu; \rho\sigma = +i; +j$$

$$\int dk^- \Gamma^{+i;+j}(k, P, S_L) = \frac{i}{4} x P^+ S_L \epsilon^{ij} g_{1L}^G(x, k_T^2)$$

$$x \rightarrow 0$$

$$g_{1L}^G(x, k_T^2) = -\frac{N_c}{\alpha_s 4\pi^4} i \epsilon^{ij} \underline{k}^i \int d^2\xi d^2\zeta e^{-i\underline{k}\cdot(\underline{\xi}-\underline{\zeta})} G_{\underline{\xi}, \underline{\zeta}}^j(s)$$

**Dipole Gluon helicity TMD**

*Cougoulic, Kovchegov, Tarasov and Tawabutr (2022)*

$$\mu\nu; \rho\sigma = ij; l+$$

$$\int dk^- \Gamma^{ij;l+}(k; P, S_L) = -\frac{i}{4} S_L \epsilon^{ij} k^l \Delta H_{3L}^\perp(x, k_T^2)$$

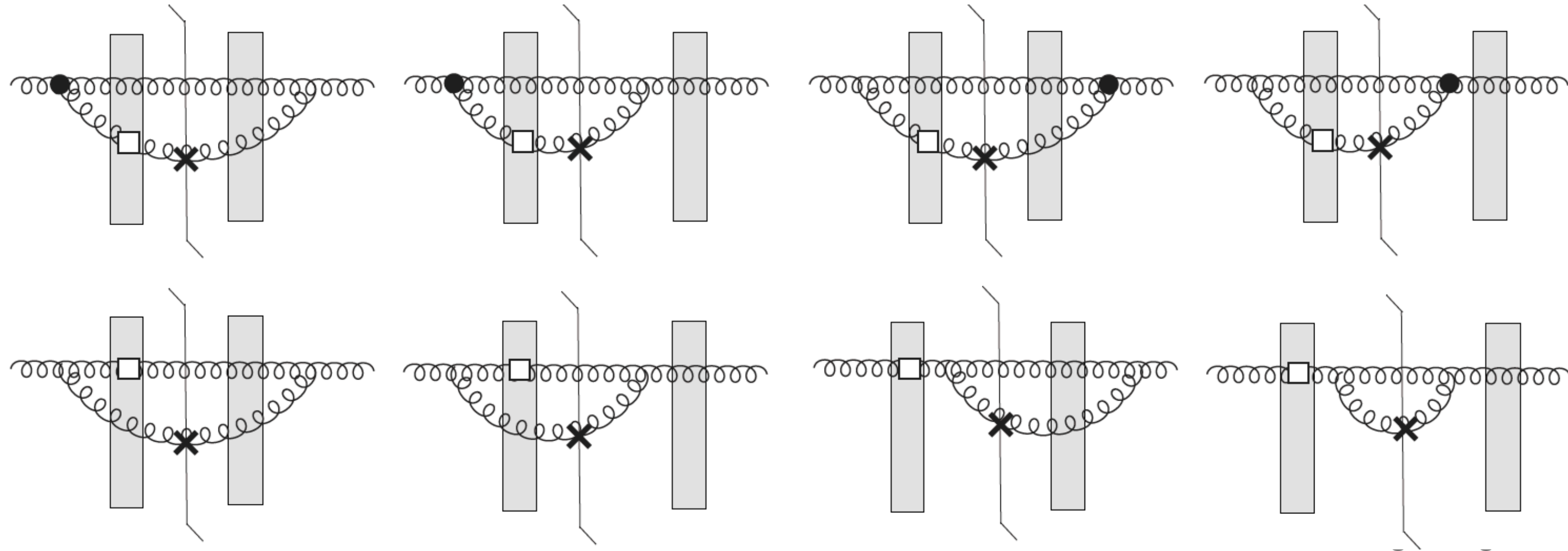
$$x \rightarrow 0$$

$$\Delta H_{3L}^\perp(x, k_T^2) = \frac{N_c}{\alpha_s 4\pi^4} \int d^2\xi d^2\zeta e^{-i\underline{k}\cdot(\underline{\xi}-\underline{\zeta})} G_{\underline{\xi}, \underline{\zeta}}(s)$$

**Twist-3 gluon helicity-flip TMD**

# Gluon + Proton $\longrightarrow$ Gluon + $X$

The calculation is performed in transverse coordinate space.



**Black dot:** Subeikonal order gluon splitting wavefunction.

Gluon momentum  $p_2 = (0^+, p_2^-, \underline{0})$

Proton momentum  $p_1 = (p_1^+, 0^-, \underline{0})$

$$\beta = \frac{k^-}{p_2^-}, \quad \alpha = \frac{k^+}{p_1^+}$$

impact parameter

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma(\lambda)}{d^2k_T dy} = & \lambda \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi^4} \frac{1}{s} \int d^2x d^2y d^2b e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)} \left\{ \frac{\underline{x} - \underline{b}}{|\underline{x} - \underline{b}|^2} \cdot \frac{\underline{y} - \underline{b}}{|\underline{y} - \underline{b}|^2} \left[ \left( G_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{\text{adj}}(\beta s) - G_{\underline{x}, \underline{b}}^{\text{adj}}(\beta s) \right) \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. - \frac{1}{4} \left( G_{\underline{b}, \underline{y}}^{\text{adj}}(\beta s) + G_{\underline{b}, \underline{x}}^{\text{adj}}(\beta s) \right) \right] - 2i k^i \frac{\underline{x} - \underline{b}}{|\underline{x} - \underline{b}|^2} \times \frac{\underline{y} - \underline{b}}{|\underline{y} - \underline{b}|^2} G_{\underline{x}, \underline{b}}^{i \text{adj}}(\beta s) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int d^2b G_{\underline{b}, \underline{b}-\underline{x}}^{\text{adj}}(\beta s) &= G^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s), \\ \int d^2b G_{\underline{b}, \underline{b}-\underline{x}}^{i, \text{adj}}(\beta s) &= x^i G_1^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) + \epsilon^{ij} x^j G_2^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s). \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma(\lambda)}{d^2k_T dy} = \lambda \frac{2\alpha_s N_c}{\pi^3} \frac{1}{s} \int d^2x e^{-ik \cdot x} \left[ \ln \left( \frac{1}{x_\perp \Lambda} \right) G^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) - i \frac{\underline{x}}{|\underline{x}|^2} \cdot \frac{\underline{k}}{|\underline{k}|^2} \left( \frac{3}{2} G^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) + 2 G_2^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) \right) \right]$$

# Sanity Check: Leading Perturbative Result

We calculated  $A_{LL}$  for gluon production in Gluon+Proton collisions:

$$\frac{d\sigma(\lambda)}{d^2k_T dy} = \lambda \frac{2\alpha_s N_c}{\pi^3} \frac{1}{s} \int d^2x e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{1}{x_\perp \Lambda}\right) G^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) - i \frac{\vec{x}}{|\vec{x}|^2} \cdot \frac{\vec{k}}{|\vec{k}|^2} \left( \frac{3}{2} G^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) + 2 G_2^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) \right) \right]$$

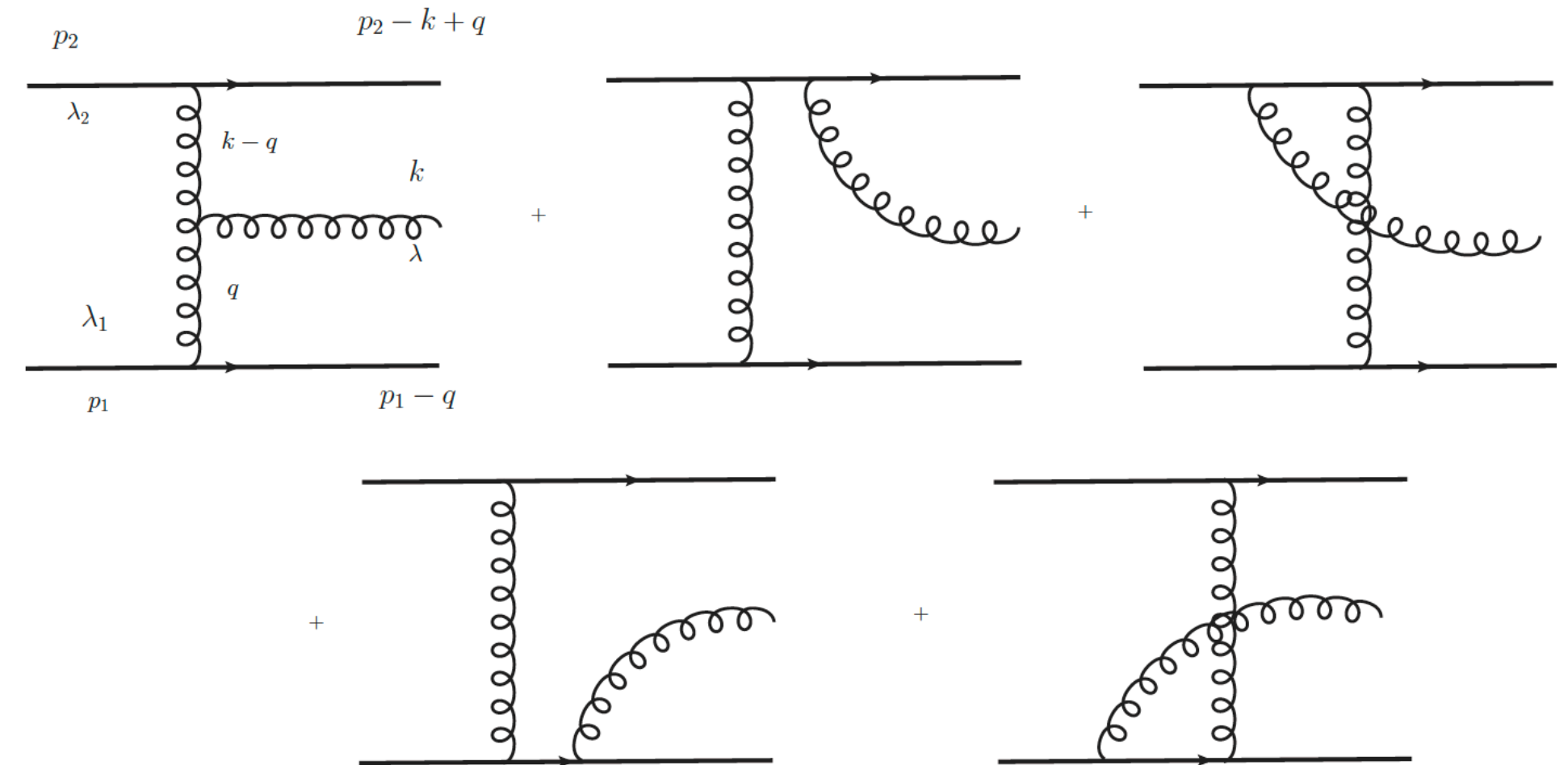
How to obtain  $A_{LL}$  for gluon production in Gluon+Gluon collisions?

*Cougoulic and Kovchegov (2020)*

Use the Born level expressions:

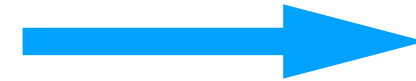
$$G^{\text{adj}(0)}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) = 2\alpha_s^2 \pi \frac{N_c}{C_F} \ln(\beta s x_\perp^2),$$

$$G_2^{\text{adj}(0)}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) = \alpha_s^2 \pi \frac{N_c}{C_F} \ln\left(\frac{1}{x_\perp^2 \Lambda^2}\right).$$



$$\frac{d\sigma_{LO}^{GG \rightarrow GGG}}{d^2k_T dy} = \frac{8\alpha_s^3 N_c}{\pi s k_T^2} \left\{ 3 \ln \frac{k_T^2}{\Lambda^2} + \ln \left( \frac{\min\{\alpha, \beta\} s}{\Lambda^2} \right) \right\}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{LO, \text{unpolarized}}^{GG \rightarrow GGG}}{d^2k_T dy} = \frac{4\alpha_s^3 N_c^2}{\pi C_F k_T^4} \ln \frac{k_T^2}{\Lambda^2}$$



$$A_{LL} \sim \frac{k_T^2}{s}$$

**Quadratically dependent on  $k_T$   
at large external transverse momentum**



# Proton + Proton $\longrightarrow$ Gluon + X

We calculated  $A_{LL}$  for gluon production in Gluon+Proton collisions:

$$\frac{d\sigma(\lambda)}{d^2k_T dy} = \lambda \frac{2\alpha_s N_c}{\pi^3} \frac{1}{s} \int d^2x e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{1}{x_\perp \Lambda}\right) G_T^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) - i \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^2} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{k}}{|\mathbf{k}|^2} \left( \frac{3}{2} G_T^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) + 2 G_{2T}^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) \right) \right]$$

It is projectile-target asymmetric!!!

How to obtain  $A_{LL}$  for gluon production in Proton+Proton collisions?

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{x_\perp \Lambda}\right) \sim G_{2P}^{\text{adj}(0)}(x_\perp^2, \alpha s)$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{x}^i}{|\mathbf{x}|^2} \sim c_1 \partial^i G_P^{\text{adj}(0)}(x_\perp^2, \alpha s) + c_2 \partial^i G_{2P}^{\text{adj}(0)}(x_\perp^2, \alpha s)$$

*For unpolarized gluon production,  
Kovchegov and Tuchin(2002)*

Born level expressions for projectile proton:

$$G_P^{\text{adj}(0)}(x_\perp^2, \alpha s) = 2 \alpha_s^2 \pi \frac{N_c}{C_F} \ln(\alpha s x_\perp^2),$$

$$G_{2P}^{\text{adj}(0)}(x_\perp^2, \alpha s) = \alpha_s^2 \pi \frac{N_c}{C_F} \ln\left(\frac{1}{x_\perp^2 \Lambda^2}\right).$$

$\longrightarrow$  **Step 0: Integration by parts.**

$$\int d^2x e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{1}{x_\perp \Lambda}\right) - 2i \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|^2} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{k}}{|\mathbf{k}|^2} \right] G^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s)$$

$$= - \int d^2x e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \ln\left(\frac{1}{x_\perp \Lambda}\right) \frac{1}{k_T^2} \nabla_\perp^2 G^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s).$$

$\longrightarrow$   $G_P^{\text{adj}(0)} \longrightarrow G_P^{\text{adj}}, \quad G_{2P}^{\text{adj}(0)} \longrightarrow G_{2P}^{\text{adj}}$

The final expression should be projectile and target symmetric ( $T \leftrightarrow P$ ).

# $k_T$ -Factorization

The  $A_{LL}$  for gluon production in Proton+Proton collisions:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^2k_T dy} = \frac{C_F}{\alpha_s \pi^4} \frac{1}{s k_T^2} \int d^2x e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \left( G_P^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \alpha s) \quad G_{2P}^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \alpha s) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} \hat{\nabla}_\perp \cdot \vec{\nabla}_\perp & \hat{\nabla}_\perp^2 + \hat{\nabla}_\perp \cdot \vec{\nabla}_\perp \\ \vec{\nabla}_\perp^2 + \hat{\nabla}_\perp \cdot \vec{\nabla}_\perp & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G_T^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) \\ G_{2T}^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, \beta s) \end{pmatrix}$$

In momentum space:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^2k_T dy} = -\frac{C_F}{\alpha_s \pi^4} \frac{1}{s k_T^2} \int \frac{d^2q}{(2\pi)^2} \left( G_P^{\text{adj}}(q_T^2, \alpha s) \quad G_{2P}^{\text{adj}}(q_T^2, \alpha s) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} \underline{q} \cdot (\underline{k} - \underline{q}) & \underline{q} \cdot \underline{k} \\ \underline{k} \cdot (\underline{k} - \underline{q}) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G_T^{\text{adj}}((\underline{k} - \underline{q})^2, \beta s) \\ G_{2T}^{\text{adj}}((\underline{k} - \underline{q})^2, \beta s) \end{pmatrix}$$

In terms of dipole gluon helicity TMD and twist-3 helicity-flip TMD:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^2k_T dy} = -\frac{32\pi^4 \alpha_s}{N_c} \frac{1}{s k_T^2} \int \frac{d^2q}{(2\pi)^2} \left( \Delta H_{3L}^{\perp,P}(q_T^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\alpha s}) \quad g_{1L}^{G,P}(q_T^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\alpha s}) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \underline{q} \cdot (\underline{k} - \underline{q}) & \underline{q} \cdot \underline{k} \\ \underline{k} \cdot (\underline{k} - \underline{q}) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta H_{3L}^{\perp,T}((\underline{k} - \underline{q})^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\beta s}) \\ g_{1L}^{G,T}((\underline{k} - \underline{q})^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\beta s}) \end{pmatrix}$$

This equation is only applicable in the small-x regime.

$$\alpha s = 2p_2^- k^+ = \sqrt{2} p_2^- k_T e^{-y},$$

$$\beta s = 2p_1^+ k^- = \sqrt{2} p_1^+ k_T e^y$$

# $k_T$ -Factorization

The  $A_{LL}$  for gluon production in Proton+Proton collisions:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^2k_T dy} = -\frac{32\pi^4 \alpha_s}{N_c} \frac{1}{s k_T^2} \int \frac{d^2q}{(2\pi)^2} \left( \Delta H_{3L}^{\perp,P}(q_T^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\alpha s}) \quad g_{1L}^{G,P}(q_T^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\alpha s}) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \underline{q} \cdot (\underline{k} - \underline{q}) & \underline{q} \cdot \underline{k} \\ \underline{k} \cdot (\underline{k} - \underline{q}) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta H_{3L}^{\perp,T}((\underline{k} - \underline{q})^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\beta s}) \\ g_{1L}^{G,T}((\underline{k} - \underline{q})^2, \frac{k_T^2}{\beta s}) \end{pmatrix}$$

1.  $\Delta H_{3L}^{\perp}(k_T^2, s)$  is a pure TMD effect that doesn't contribute to gluon helicity PDF.

$$\int_0^{1/Q^2} d^2k \Delta H_{3L}^{\perp}(k_T^2, s) \approx 0.$$

2. How to understand the  $2 \times 2$  matrix? Similar to the usual  $k_T$ -factorization approach?

*Collins and Ellis (1991)*

$$\sigma(s) = \int_0^1 dx_1 \int_0^1 dx_2 \int d^2k_1 d^2k_2 \mathcal{F}(x_1, \underline{k}_1, \mu) \mathcal{F}(x_2, \underline{k}_2, \mu) I_2(x_1 x_2 s, \underline{k}_1, \underline{k}_2).$$

$I_2$  : Impact factor (Off-shell, gauge-invariant partonic cross-section)

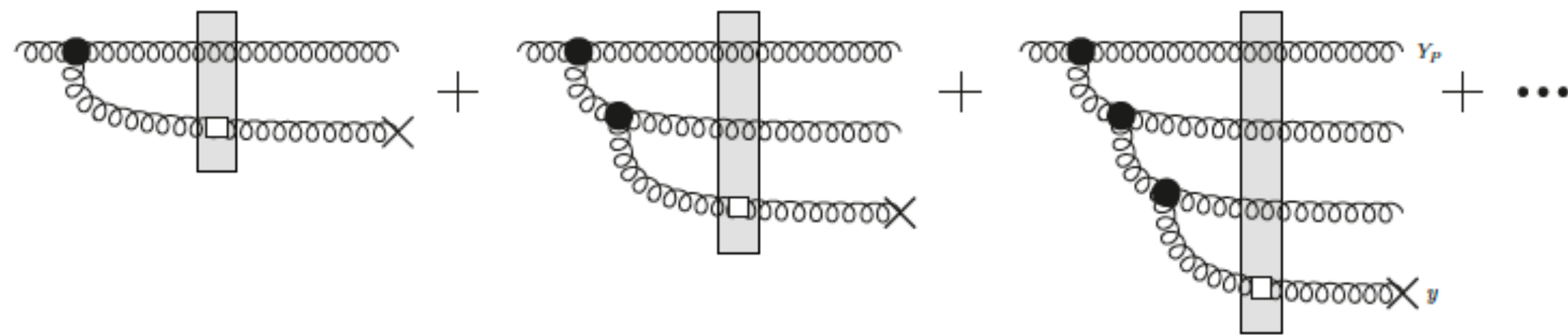
3. Collinear limit? From  $2 \rightarrow 3$  process to  $2 \rightarrow 2$  process?

4. Solving  $\Delta H_{3L}^{\perp}(k_T^2, x)$  and  $g_{1L}^G(k_T^2, x)$  from the small-x helicity evolution equations.



# Including Small-x Helicity Evolutions

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^2k_T dy} = \frac{C_F}{\alpha_s \pi^4} \frac{1}{s k_T^2} \int d^2x e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \left( G_P^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, Y_P - y) \quad G_{2P}^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, Y_P - y) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\nabla_\perp^2} \nabla_\perp \cdot \nabla_\perp & \nabla_\perp^2 + \nabla_\perp \cdot \nabla_\perp \\ \nabla_\perp^2 + \nabla_\perp \cdot \nabla_\perp & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G_T^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, y - Y_T) \\ G_{2T}^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, y - Y_T) \end{pmatrix}$$



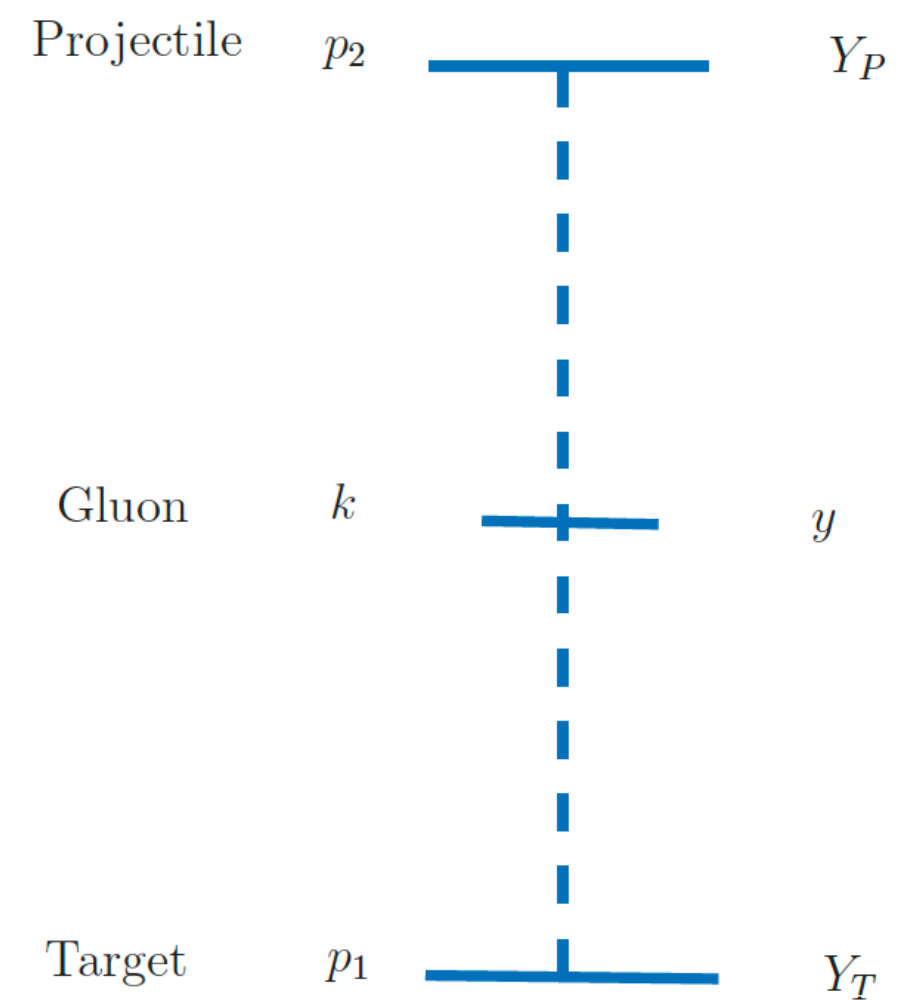
In the double-logarithmic approximation:

$$\alpha_s \ll 1, \quad \ln \frac{1}{x} \gg 1. \quad \longrightarrow \quad \alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x} \ll 1, \quad \alpha_s \ln^2 \frac{1}{x} \sim 1.$$

single-logarithmic terms can be discarded.

**The small-x helicity evolution equations under double-logarithmic approximation, which close at large- $N_c$ , have been derived.**

*Kovchegov, Pitonyak and Sievert (2015-2019)  
Cougoulic, Kovchegov, Tarasov and Tawabutr (2022)*



When  $\alpha_s(Y_P - y)^2 \sim 1$ , including small-x helicity evolution on the projectile side.

When  $\alpha_s(y - Y_T)^2 \sim 1$ , including small-x helicity evolution on the target side.

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$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^2k_T dy} = \frac{C_F}{\alpha_s \pi^4} \frac{1}{s k_T^2} \int d^2x e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \left( G_P^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, Y_P - y) \quad G_{2P}^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, Y_P - y) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \vec{\nabla}_\perp \cdot \vec{\nabla}_\perp & \vec{\nabla}_\perp^2 + \vec{\nabla}_\perp \cdot \vec{\nabla}_\perp \\ \vec{\nabla}_\perp^2 + \vec{\nabla}_\perp \cdot \vec{\nabla}_\perp & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G_T^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, y - Y_T) \\ G_{2T}^{\text{adj}}(x_\perp^2, y - Y_T) \end{pmatrix}$$

In the double-logarithmic approximation, large- $N_c$  and dilute limit:

$$G(x_{10}^2, zs) = G^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, zs) + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi} \int_{\frac{1}{sx_{10}^2}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int_{\frac{1}{z's}}^{x_{10}^2} \frac{dx_{21}^2}{x_{21}^2} \left[ \Gamma(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z's) + 3G(x_{21}^2, z's) + 2G_2(x_{21}^2, z's) + 2\Gamma_2(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z's) \right],$$

*Kovchegov, Pitonyak and Sievert (2015-2019)*  
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$$\Gamma(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z's) = G^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, z's) + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi} \int_{\frac{1}{sx_{10}^2}}^{z'} \frac{dz''}{z''} \int_{\frac{1}{z's}}^{\min[x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2 \frac{z'}{z''}]} \frac{dx_{32}^2}{x_{32}^2} \left[ \Gamma(x_{10}^2, x_{32}^2, z''s) + 3G(x_{32}^2, z''s) + 2G_2(x_{32}^2, z''s) + 2\Gamma_2(x_{10}^2, x_{32}^2, z''s) \right],$$

$$G_2(x_{10}^2, zs) = G_2^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, zs) + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^z \frac{dz'}{z'} \int_{\max[x_{10}^2, \frac{1}{z's}]}^{\min[\frac{z}{z'} x_{10}^2, \frac{1}{\Lambda^2}]} \frac{dx_{21}^2}{x_{21}^2} \left[ G(x_{21}^2, z's) + 2G_2(x_{21}^2, z's) \right],$$

$$\Gamma_2(x_{10}^2, x_{21}^2, z's) = G_2^{(0)}(x_{10}^2, z's) + \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int_{\frac{\Lambda^2}{s}}^{z' \frac{x_{21}^2}{x_{10}^2}} \frac{dz''}{z''} \int_{\max[x_{10}^2, \frac{1}{z's}]}^{\min[\frac{z'}{z''} x_{21}^2, \frac{1}{\Lambda^2}]} \frac{dx_{32}^2}{x_{32}^2} \left[ G(x_{32}^2, z''s) + 2G_2(x_{32}^2, z''s) \right].$$

$$G^{\text{adj}} = 4G, \quad G_2^{\text{adj}} = 2G_2.$$

$\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma_2$  have the same operator definition as  $G$  and  $G_2$ , respectively. But they have different life time ordering constraints.

# Conclusions

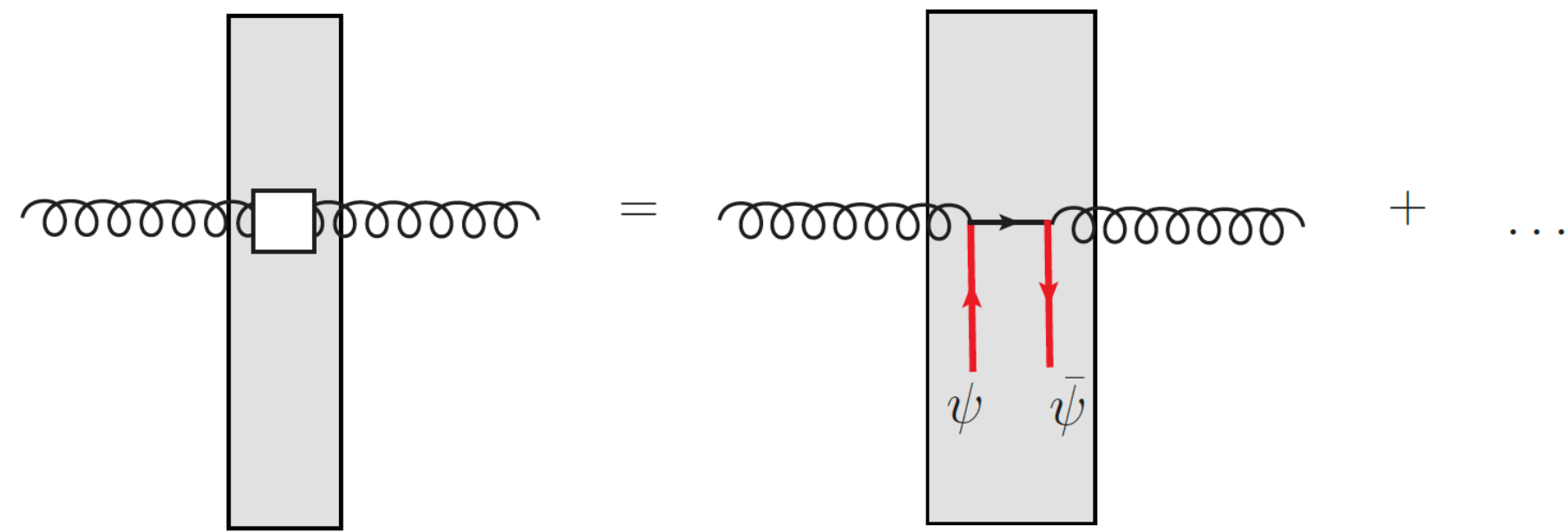
- We derived the first-ever transverse momentum dependent small- $x$  expression for double-spin asymmetry of gluon production at mid-rapidity in longitudinally polarized proton-proton collisions.
- In the pure glue case, the expression contains dipole gluon helicity TMDs and twist-3 helicity-flip TMDs from both the projectile and the target in a projectile-target symmetric form.
- The expression exhibits  $k_T$ -factorization. Together with the small- $x$  helicity evolution equations under double-logarithmic approximation, it can be used to constrain gluon helicity distribution at small- $x$  using experimental data from RHIC on  $A_{LL}$  for inclusive jet and neutral pion productions. (ongoing work by Nicholas Baldonado and Matthew Sievert)
- Including quarks.

**Backup**

# Including Quarks (work in progress)

Scattering amplitudes depend on background (anti) quark fields.

$$(U_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}; \lambda', \lambda})^{ba} \equiv (U_{\underline{x}})^{ba} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) \delta_{\lambda, \lambda'} + \lambda \delta_{\lambda, \lambda'} \left( U_{\underline{x}}^{G[1]} + U_{\underline{x}}^{q[1]} \right)^{ba} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) + \delta_{\lambda, \lambda'} \left( U_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{G[2]} + U_{\underline{x}}^{q[2]} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) \right)^{ba}$$

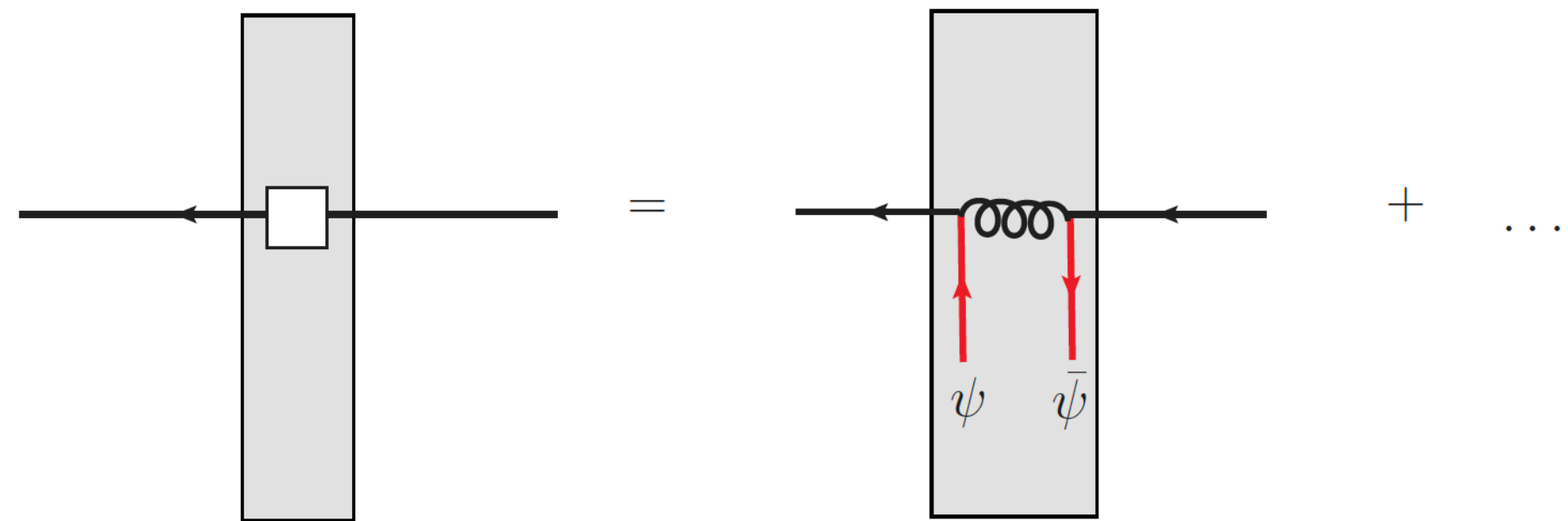


$$(U_{\underline{x}}^{q[1]})^{ba} = \frac{g^2 p_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_1^- \int_{x_1^-}^{\infty} dx_2^- (U_{\underline{x}}[\infty, x_2^-])^{bb'} \bar{\psi}(x_2^-, \underline{x}) t^{b'} V_{\underline{x}}[x_2^-, x_1^-] \frac{\gamma^+ \gamma^5}{2} t^{a'} \psi(x_1^-, \underline{x}) (U_{\underline{x}}[x_1^-, -\infty])^{a'a} + c.c.$$

$$(U_{\underline{x}}^{q[2]})^{ba} = -\frac{g^2 p_1^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_1^- \int_{x_1^-}^{\infty} dx_2^- (U_{\underline{x}}[\infty, x_2^-])^{bb'} \bar{\psi}(x_2^-, \underline{x}) t^{b'} V_{\underline{x}}[x_2^-, x_1^-] \frac{\gamma^+}{2} t^{a'} \psi(x_1^-, \underline{x}) (U_{\underline{x}}[x_1^-, -\infty])^{a'a} - c.c.$$

We also need the subeikonal order quark Wilson lines:

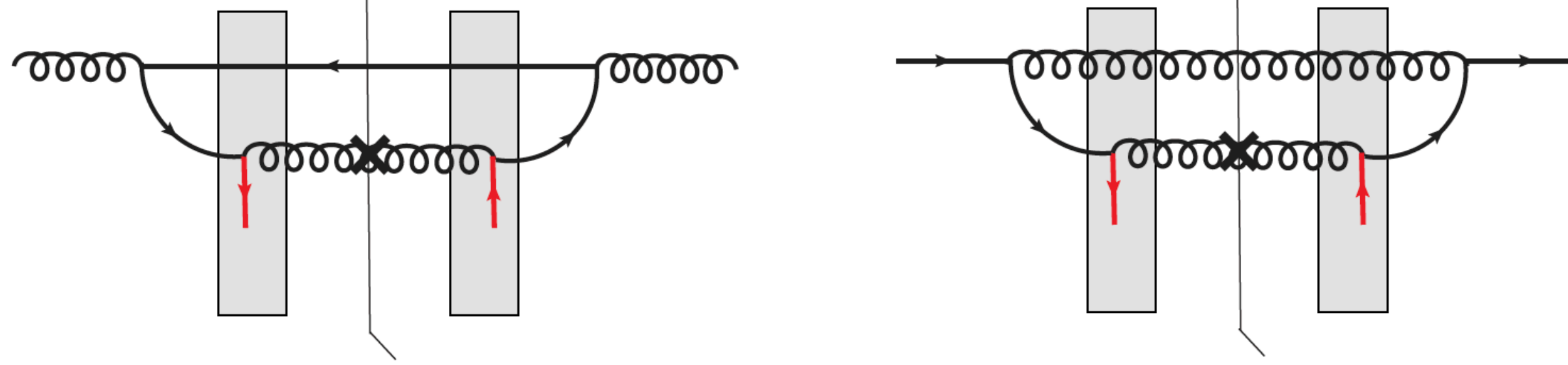
$$(V_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}; \sigma', \sigma})^{ij} \equiv (V_{\underline{x}})^{ij} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) \delta_{\sigma, \sigma'} + \sigma \delta_{\sigma, \sigma'} \left( V_{\underline{x}}^{G[1]} + V_{\underline{x}}^{q[1]} \right)^{ij} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) + \delta_{\sigma, \sigma'} \left( V_{\underline{x}, \underline{y}}^{G[2]} + V_{\underline{x}}^{q[2]} \delta^{(2)}(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) \right)^{ij}$$



**Quark initiated channels: Quark + Proton  $\longrightarrow$  Gluon + X**

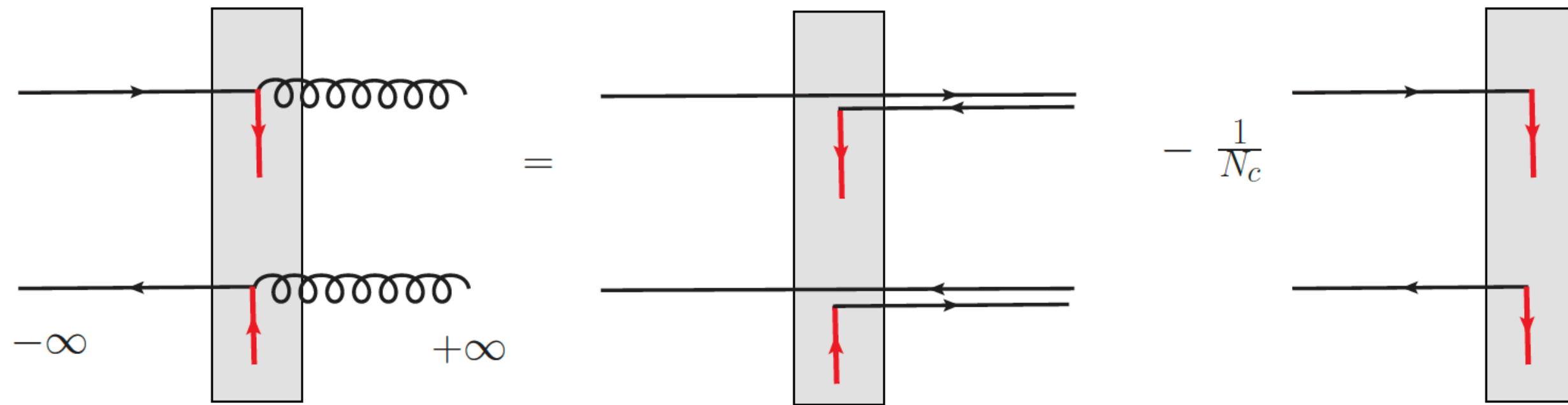
# Including Quarks (work in progress)

New types of diagrams contributing to gluon production.



*Altinoluk, Armesto and Beuf (2023)*

$$\hat{O}(\underline{x}, \underline{y}) = \frac{g^2 P^+}{s} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dx^- \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dy^- U_{\underline{y}}^{ce}[+\infty, y^-] \bar{\psi}(y^-, \underline{y}) \left( t^e V_{\underline{y}}[y^-, -\infty] V_{\underline{x}}^\dagger[x^-, -\infty] t^d \right) \left[ \frac{\gamma^- \gamma^5}{2} \right] \psi(x^-, \underline{x}) U_{\underline{x}}^{cd}[+\infty, x^-] + c.c.$$



The new operator is related to the small-x limit of quark helicity TMD.

*Chirilli (2021)*

We have extended the small-x helicity evolution equations to include the quark-gluon (gluon-quark) transition operators in the large  $N_c$  &  $N_f$  limit.

*Borden, Kovchegov and Li, work in progress.*