

# Impact factor of $\gamma^* \rightarrow \rho_T$ with twist three accuracy

Samuel Wallon <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratoire de Physique Théorique  
Université Paris Sud  
Orsay

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in collaboration with

I. V. Anikin (JINR, Dubna), D. Yu. Ivanov (SIM, Novosibirsk), B. Pire (CPHT, Palaiseau) and L. Szymanowski (SINS, Warsaw)

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# Introduction

## Exclusive processes at high energy in QCD

Since a decade, there have been much developpements in hard exclusive processes.

- form factors, Distribution Amplitudes → Generalized Distribution Amplitudes
- DVCS → Generalized Parton Distributions, Transition Distribution Amplitudes

These tests are possible in **fixed target** experiments

- $e^\pm p$ : HERA (HERMES), JLab, COMPASS...

as well as in **colliders, mainly for medium  $s$**

- $e^\pm p$  colliders: HERA (H1, ZEUS)
- $e^+e^-$  colliders: LEP, Belle, BaBar, BEPC

At the same time, **at large  $s$** , the interest for phenomenological tests of hard Pomeron and related resummed approaches has become pretty wide:

- **inclusive** tests (total cross-section) and semi-inclusive tests (diffraction, forward jets, ...)
- **exclusive** tests (meson production)

These tests concern all type of collider experiments:

- $e^\pm p$ : HERA: (H1, ZEUS)
- $p\bar{p}$  and  $pp$ : TEVATRON (CDF, D0); LHC (CMS, ATLAS, ALICE)
- $e^+e^-$ : (LEP, ILC)

## Introduction

Exclusive  $\rho$ -production

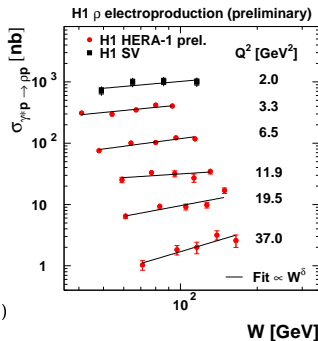
Our studies attempt to describe exclusive processes involving the production of  $\rho$ -mesons in diffraction-type experiment. We choose  $t = t_{min}$  for simplicity.

- $\gamma^*(q) + \gamma^*(q') \rightarrow \rho_T(p_1) + \rho(p_2)$  process in  $e^+ e^- \rightarrow e^+ e^- \rho_T(p_1) + \rho(p_2)$  with double tagged lepton at ILC
- $\gamma^*(q) + P \rightarrow \rho_T(p_1) + P$  at HERA

This process was studied by H1 and ZEUS

- the total cross-section strongly **decreases with  $Q^2$**
- dramatic **increase with  $W^2 = s_{\gamma^* P}$**  (transition from soft to hard regime governed by  $Q^2$ )

(from X. Janssen (H1), DIS 2008)



## Introduction

Exclusive  $\rho$ -productionPolarization effects in  $\gamma^* P \rightarrow \rho P$  at HERA

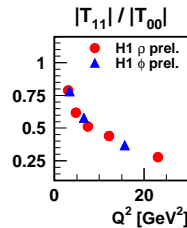
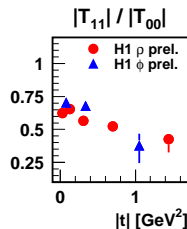
- one can experimentally measure all spin density matrix elements
- at  $t = t_{min}$  one can experimentally distinguish

$$\begin{cases} \gamma_L^* \rightarrow \rho_L : & \text{dominates} & (\text{twist 2 dominance}) \\ \gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T : & \text{sizeable} & (\text{twist 3}) \end{cases}$$

- S-channel helicity conservation:**

$$\begin{cases} \gamma_L^* \rightarrow \rho_L & (\equiv T_{00}) \\ \gamma_{T(+)}^* \rightarrow \rho_{T(+)} , \quad \gamma_{T(-)}^* \rightarrow \rho_{T(-)} & (\equiv T_{11}) \end{cases}$$

dominate with respect to all other transitions



(from X. Janssen (H1), DIS 2008)

# Introduction

## Exclusive $\rho$ -production

The processes with vector particle such as rho-meson probe deeper into the fine features of QCD.

It deserves theoretical developpement to describe HERA data in its special kinematical range:

- large  $s_{\gamma^* P} \Rightarrow$  small-x effects expected, within  $k_t$ -factorization
- large  $Q^2 \Rightarrow$  hard scale  $\Rightarrow$  perturbative approach and collinear factorization  $\Rightarrow$  the  $\rho$  can be described through its chiral even Distribution Amplitudes

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \rho_L & \text{twist 2} \\ \rho_T & \text{twist 3} \end{array} \right.$$

The main ingredient is the  $\gamma^* \rightarrow \rho$  impact factor

- For  $\rho_T$ , special care is needed: a pure 2-body description would violate gauge invariance.
- We show that:
  - Including in a consistent way all twist 3 contributions, i.e. 2-body and 3-body correlators, gives a gauge invariant impact factor
  - Our treatment is free of end-point singularities and does not violates the QCD factorization

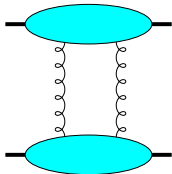
## Impact factor for exclusive processes

## Theoretical motivations

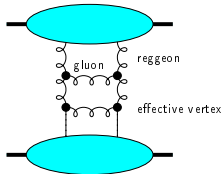
## QCD in perturbative Regge limit

- In this limit, the dynamics is dominated by gluons (dominance of spin 1 exchange in  $t$  channel)
- BFKL (and extensions: NLL, saturations effects, ...) is expected to dominate with respect to Born order at large relative rapidity.

Born order:



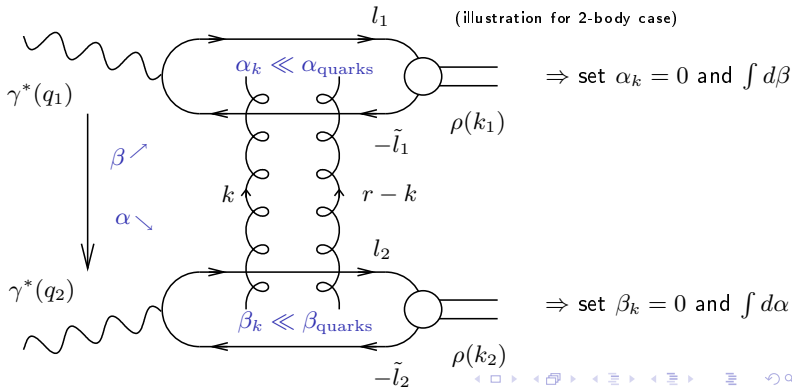
BFKL ladder:



## Impact factor for exclusive processes

 $k_T$  factorization $\gamma^* \gamma^* \rightarrow \rho \rho$  as an example

- Use **Sudakov** decomposition  $k = \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + k_\perp$  ( $p_1^2 = p_2^2 = 0$ ,  $2p_1 \cdot p_2 = s$ )
- write 
$$d^4k = \frac{s}{2} d\alpha d\beta d^2k_\perp$$
- $t$ -channel gluons with **non-sense** polarizations ( $\epsilon_{NS}^{up} = \frac{2}{s} p_2$ ,  $\epsilon_{NS}^{down} = \frac{2}{s} p_1$ ) dominates **at large  $s$**





## Impact factor for exclusive processes

 $k_T$  factorization

impact representation

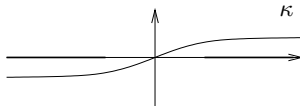
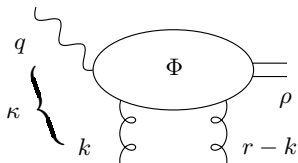
 $\underline{k} = \text{Eucl.} \leftrightarrow k_{\perp} = \text{Mink.}$ 

$$\mathcal{M} = is \int \frac{d^2 \underline{k}}{(2\pi)^2 \underline{k}^2 (\underline{r} - \underline{k})^2} \Phi^{\gamma^*(q_1) \rightarrow \rho(p_1^{\rho})}(\underline{k}, \underline{r} - \underline{k}) \Phi^{\gamma^*(q_2) \rightarrow \rho(p_2^{\rho})}(-\underline{k}, -\underline{r} + \underline{k})$$

The  $\gamma_{L,T}^*(q)g(k_1) \rightarrow \rho_{L,T}g(k_2)$  **impact factor** is normalized as

$$\Phi^{\gamma^* \rightarrow \rho}(\underline{k}^2) = e^{\gamma^* \mu} \frac{1}{s} \int \frac{d\kappa}{2\pi i} \text{Disc}_{\kappa} T_{\mu}^{\gamma^* g \rightarrow \rho g}(\underline{k}^2),$$

with  $\kappa = (q + k)^2 = \beta s - Q^2 - \underline{k}^2$

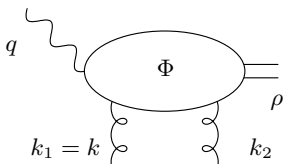


# Impact factor for exclusive processes

## Gauge invariance within subleading twists

### Gauge invariance

- **QCD gauge invariance** (probes are colorless)  
 $\Rightarrow$  impact factor should **vanish** when  $\underline{k} \rightarrow 0$  or  $\underline{r} - \underline{k} \rightarrow 0$
- In the following we will restrict ourselves to the case  $t = t_{min}$ , i.e. to  $\underline{r} = 0$



$$k_1 = \frac{\kappa + Q^2 + k^2}{s} p_2 + k_\perp$$

$$k_2 = \frac{\kappa + k^2}{s} p_2 + k_\perp,$$

$$k_1^2 = k_2^2 = -\underline{k}^2$$

This kinematics takes into account **skewedness effects** along  $p_2$

$\Rightarrow$  restriction to the transitions  $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0 & \rightarrow 0 \quad (\text{twist } 2) \\ (+ \text{ or } -) & \rightarrow (+ \text{ or } -) \quad (\text{twist } 3) \end{array} \right.$

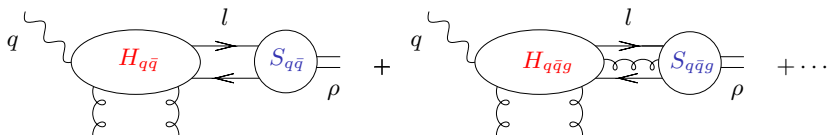
- At twist 3 level (for  $\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T$  transition), gauge invariance is a non trivial statement which **requires 2 and 3 body correlators**

# Collinear factorization

## Light-Cone Collinear approach

- The impact factor can be written as

$$\Phi = \int d^4l \dots \text{tr}[\underbrace{H(l \dots)}_{\text{hard part}} \underbrace{S(l \dots)}_{\text{soft part}}]$$



- At the 2-body level:

$$S_{q\bar{q}}(l) = \int d^4z e^{-il \cdot z} \langle \rho(p) | \psi(0) \bar{\psi}(z) | 0 \rangle,$$

- $H$  and  $S$  are related by  $\int d^4l$  and by the summation over spinor indices

## Collinear factorization

Light-Cone Collinear approach: 2 steps of factorization (2-body case)

## 1 - Momentum factorization (1)

- Use **Sudakov** decomposition in the form ( $p = p_1$ ,  $n = 2p_2/s$ )

$$l_\mu = xp_\mu + l_\mu^\perp + (l \cdot p)n_\mu, \quad x = l \cdot n$$

$$\text{scaling:} \quad 1 \quad 1/Q \quad 1/Q^2$$

- decompose  $H(k)$  around the  $p$  direction:

$$H(l) = \underbrace{H(xp)}_{\text{twist 2}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial H(l)}{\partial l_\alpha} \Big|_{l=xp}}_{\text{kinematical twist 3}} (l - xp)_\alpha + \dots \quad \text{with } (l - xp)_\alpha \approx l_\alpha^\perp$$

- In **Fourier** space, the **kinematical twist 3** term  $k_\alpha^\perp$  turns into a derivative of the **soft term**  
 $\Rightarrow$  one will deal with  $\int d^4z e^{-il \cdot z} \langle \rho(p) | \psi(0) i \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{\alpha\perp} \bar{\psi}(z) | 0 \rangle$

## Collinear factorization

Light-Cone Collinear approach: 2 steps of factorization (2-body case)

## 1 - Momentum factorization (2)

- write

$$d^4l \longrightarrow d^4l \delta(x - l \cdot n) dx$$

- $\int d^4l \delta(x - l \cdot n)$  is then absorbed in the soft term:

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{S}_{q\bar{q}}, \partial_{\perp} \tilde{S}_{q\bar{q}}) &\equiv \int d^4l \delta(x - l \cdot n) \int d^4z e^{-il \cdot z} \langle \rho(p) | \psi(0) (1, i \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\perp}) \bar{\psi}(z) | 0 \rangle \\ &= \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{-i\lambda x} \int d^4z \delta^{(4)}(z - \lambda n) \langle \rho(p) | \psi(0) (1, i \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\perp}) \bar{\psi}(z) | 0 \rangle \\ &= \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{-i\lambda x} \langle \rho(p) | \psi(0) (1, i \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\perp}) \bar{\psi}(\lambda n) | 0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

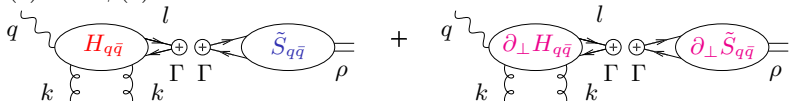
- $\int dx$  performs the longitudinal momentum factorization

## Collinear factorization

Light-Cone Collinear approach: 2 steps of factorization (2-body case)

## 2 - Spinorial (and color) factorization

- Use Fierz decomposition of the Dirac (and color) matrices  $\psi(0) \bar{\psi}(z)$  and  $\psi(0) i \overrightarrow{\partial}_\perp \bar{\psi}(z)$ :



- $\Phi$  has now the simple factorized form:

$$\Phi = \int dx \left\{ \text{tr} [H_{q\bar{q}}(xp) \Gamma] S_{q\bar{q}}^\Gamma(x) + \text{tr} [\partial_\perp H_{q\bar{q}}(xp) \Gamma] \partial_\perp S_{q\bar{q}}^\Gamma(x) \right\}$$

$\Gamma = \gamma^\mu$  and  $\gamma^\mu \gamma^5$  matrices

$$S_{q\bar{q}}^\Gamma(x) = \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{-i\lambda x} \langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(\lambda n) \Gamma \psi(0) | 0 \rangle$$

$$\partial_\perp S_{q\bar{q}}^\Gamma(x) = \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{-i\lambda x} \langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(\lambda n) \Gamma i \overrightarrow{\partial}_\perp \psi(0) | 0 \rangle$$

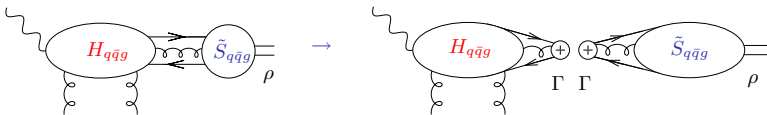
- choose axial gauge condition for gluons, i.e.  $n \cdot A = 0 \Rightarrow$  no Wilson line

# Collinear factorization

Light-Cone Collinear approach: **2 steps of factorization** (3-body case)

## Factorization of 3-body contributions

- 3-body contributions start at **genuine twist 3**  
 $\Rightarrow$  no need for Taylor expansion
- Momentum factorization goes in the same way as for 2-body case
- Spinorial (and color) factorization is similar:



# Collinear factorization

Parametrization of vacuum-to- $\rho$ -meson matrix elements (DAs): 2-body correlators

2-body **non-local** correlators

$\rho_L$

**twist 2**

- vector correlator

$$\langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(z) \gamma_\mu \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \stackrel{\mathcal{F}}{=} m_\rho f_\rho \left[ \varphi_1(x) (e \cdot n) p_\mu + \varphi_3(x) e_\mu^T \right]$$

$\rho_T$

**kinematical twist 3 (VW)**

**genuine twist 3**

**genuine + kinematical twist 3**

- axial correlator

$$\langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(z) \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \stackrel{\mathcal{F}}{=} m_\rho f_\rho i \varphi_A(x) \varepsilon_{\mu\lambda\beta\delta} e_\lambda^T p_\beta n_\delta$$

- vector correlator with transverse derivative

$$\langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(z) \gamma_\mu i \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_\alpha^T \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \stackrel{\mathcal{F}}{=} m_\rho f_\rho \varphi_1^T(x) p_\mu e_\alpha^T$$

- axial correlator with transverse derivative

$$\langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(z) \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu i \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_\alpha^T \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \stackrel{\mathcal{F}}{=} m_\rho f_\rho i \varphi_A^T(x) p_\mu \varepsilon_{\alpha\lambda\beta\delta} e_\lambda^T p_\beta n_\delta,$$

where  $x$  ( $\bar{x} = 1 - x$ ) = momentum fraction along  $p \equiv p_1$  of the quark (antiquark) and  
 $\stackrel{\mathcal{F}}{=} \int_0^1 dx \exp[ix p \cdot z]$ , with  $z = \lambda n$



## Collinear factorization

Parametrization of vacuum-to-rho-meson matrix elements: 3-body correlators

## 3-body non-local correlators

genuine twist 3

- vector correlator

$$\langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(z_1) \gamma_\mu g A_\alpha^T(z_2) \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \stackrel{\mathcal{F}_2}{=} m_\rho f_\rho B(x_1, x_2) p_\mu e_\alpha^T,$$

- axial correlator

$$\langle \rho(p) | \bar{\psi}(z_1) \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu g A_\alpha^T(z_2) \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \stackrel{\mathcal{F}_2}{=} m_\rho f_\rho i D(x_1, x_2) p_\mu \varepsilon_{\alpha\lambda\beta\delta} e_\lambda^T p_\beta n_\delta,$$

where  $x_1, \bar{x}_2, x_2 - x_1 =$  quark, antiquark, gluon momentum fraction

and  $\stackrel{\mathcal{F}_2}{=} \int_0^1 dx_1 \int_0^1 dx_2 \exp[i x_1 p \cdot z_1 + i(x_2 - x_1) p \cdot z_2]$ , with  $z_{1,2} = \lambda n$

# Collinear factorization

## Symmetry properties

From **C-conjugation** on the previous correlators, one gets:

- 2-body correlators:

$$\varphi_1(y) = \varphi_1(1-y)$$

$$\varphi_3(y) = \varphi_3(1-y)$$

$$\varphi_A(y) = -\varphi_A(1-y)$$

$$\varphi_1^T(y) = -\varphi_1(1-y)$$

$$\varphi_A^T(y) = \varphi_A^T(1-y)$$

- 3-body correlators:

$$B(x_1, x_2) = -B(1-x_2, 1-x_1)$$

$$D(x_1, x_2) = D(1-x_2, 1-x_1)$$

# Collinear factorization

## Equations of motion

### Equations of motion

twist 2  
kinematical twist 3 (WW)  
genuine twist 3  
genuine + kinematical twist 3

- Dirac equation leads to

$$\langle i(\overrightarrow{D}(0)\psi(0))_\alpha \bar{\psi}_\beta(z) \rangle = 0 \quad (i\overrightarrow{D}_\mu = i\overrightarrow{\partial}_\mu + A_\mu)$$

- Apply the Fierz decomposition to 2 and 3-body correlators above

$$-\langle \psi(x)\bar{\psi}(z) \rangle = \frac{1}{4}\langle \bar{\psi}(z)\gamma_\mu\psi(x) \rangle\gamma_\mu + \frac{1}{4}\langle \bar{\psi}(z)\gamma_5\gamma_\mu\psi(x) \rangle\gamma_\mu\gamma_5.$$

- ⇒ Equation of motion:

$$\int dx_1 [2x_1 \bar{x}_1 \varphi_3(x) + (x_1 - \bar{x}_1) \varphi_1^T(x_1) + \varphi_A^T(x_1)] \\ + 2 \int dx_1 dx_2 x_1 [B(x_1, x_2) + D(x_1, x_2)] = 0$$

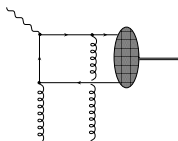
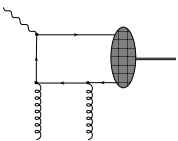
- In WW approximation: genuine twist 3 = 0

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_A^T(x) = \frac{1}{2}[(x - \bar{x}) \varphi_A^{WW}(x) - \varphi_3^{WW}(x)] \\ \varphi_1^T(x) = \frac{1}{2}[(x - \bar{x}) \varphi_3^{WW}(x) - \varphi_A^{WW}(x)] \end{cases}$$

# Computation and results

## 2-body Diagrams

- without derivative



twist 2  $(\gamma_L^* \rightarrow \rho_L)$

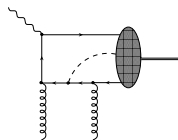
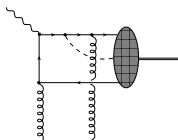
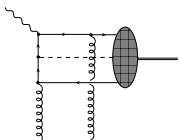
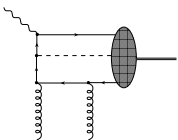
twist 3  $(\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T)$

- practical trick for computing  $\partial_\perp H$ : use the Ward identity

$$\frac{\partial}{p_\mu} \rightarrow p \quad = \quad \rightarrow p \quad \bullet \quad \rightarrow p$$

$\gamma^\mu$

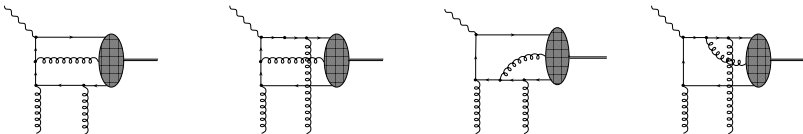
where  $\rightarrow p = \frac{1}{m - \not{p} - i\epsilon}$



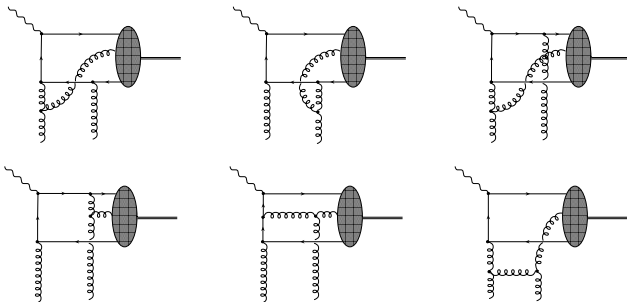
# Computation and results

## 3-body Diagrams

- “abelian” type



- “non-abelian” type



# Computation and results

Recall:  $\gamma_L^* \rightarrow \rho_L$  impact factor

$\gamma_L^* \rightarrow \rho_L$  impact factor

$$\Phi^{\gamma_L^* \rightarrow \rho_L}(\underline{k}^2) = -i \frac{4C_F e_q f_\rho}{Q} \int dx \varphi_1(x) \frac{\underline{k}^2}{x \bar{x} Q^2 + \underline{k}^2}$$

pure twist 2 scaling

## Computation and results

Results:  $\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T$  impact factor $\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T$  impact factor:

Spin Non-Flip/Flip separation appears

$$\Phi^{\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T}(\mathbf{k}_T^2) = \Phi_{n.f.}^{\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T}(\mathbf{k}_T^2) T_{n.f.} + \Phi_{f.}^{\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T}(\mathbf{k}_T^2) T_{f.}$$

where

$$T_{n.f.} = -(e_\gamma e^*) \quad \text{and} \quad T_{f.} = \frac{(e_\gamma k)(e^* k)}{\vec{k}^2} + \frac{(e_\gamma e^*)}{2}$$

non-flip transitions  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + \rightarrow + \\ - \rightarrow - \end{array} \right.$

flip transitions  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + \rightarrow - \\ - \rightarrow + \end{array} \right.$

## Computation and results

Results:  $\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T$  impact factor

pure twist 3 scaling

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Phi_{n.f.}^{\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T}(\underline{k}^2) \\
= & \frac{i m_\rho f_\rho}{Q^2} \left\{ -2 C_F \int dx_1 \frac{(\underline{k}^2 + 2 Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_1)) \underline{k}^2}{x_1 (1 - x_1) (\underline{k}^2 + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_1))^2} \left[ (2x_1 - 1) \varphi_1^T(x_1) + \varphi_A^T(x_1) \right] \right. \\
& + 2 \int dx_1 dx_2 [B(x_1, x_2) - D(x_1, x_2)] \frac{x_1 (1 - x_1) \underline{k}^2}{\underline{k}^2 + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_1)} \left[ \frac{(2 C_F - N_c) Q^2}{\underline{k}^2 (x_1 - x_2 + 1) + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_2)} \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \frac{N_c Q^2}{x_2 \underline{k}^2 + Q^2 x_1 (x_2 - x_1)} \right] - 2 \int dx_1 dx_2 [B(x_1, x_2) + D(x_1, x_2)] \left[ \frac{2 C_F + N_c}{1 - x_1} \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \frac{x_1 Q^2}{\underline{k}^2 + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_1)} \left( \frac{(2 C_F - N_c) x_1 \underline{k}^2}{\underline{k}^2 (x_1 - x_2 + 1) + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_2)} - 2 C_F \right) \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + N_c \frac{(x_1 - x_2) (1 - x_2)}{1 - x_1} \frac{Q^2}{\underline{k}^2 (1 - x_1) + Q^2 (x_2 - x_1) (1 - x_2)} \right] \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Phi_{f.}^{\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T}(\underline{k}^2) = \frac{i m_\rho f_\rho}{Q^2} \left\{ 4 C_F \int dx_1 \frac{\underline{k}^2 Q^2}{(\underline{k}^2 + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_1))^2} \left[ \varphi_A^T(x_1) - (2x_1 - 1) \varphi_1^T(x_1) \right] \right. \\
& - 4 \int dx_1 dx_2 \frac{x_1 \underline{k}^2}{\underline{k}^2 + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_1)} [D(x_1, x_2) (-x_1 + x_2 - 1) + B(x_1, x_2) (x_1 + x_2 - 1)] \\
& \left. \times \left[ \frac{(2 C_F - N_c) Q^2}{\underline{k}^2 (x_1 - x_2 + 1) + Q^2 x_1 (1 - x_2)} - \frac{N_c Q^2}{x_2 \underline{k}^2 + Q^2 x_1 (x_2 - x_1)} \right] \right\}
\end{aligned}$$



# Computation and results

## Discussion

- The obtained results are gauge invariant:

$$\Phi^{\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{when} \quad \underline{k} \rightarrow 0$$

- the  $C_F$  part of the abelian 3-body contribution cancels the 2-body contribution **after using the equation of motion**
- the  $N_c$  part of the abelian 3-body contribution cancels the 3-body non-abelian contribution
- thus  $\gamma_T^* \rightarrow \rho_T$  impact factor is **gauge-invariant only provided the 3-body contributions have been taken into account**
- **Our results are free of end-point singularities**, in both **WW** approximation and full twist-3 order calculation:
  - the flip contribution obviously does not have any end-point singularity because of the  $\underline{k}^2$  which regulates them
  - the potential end-point singularity for the non-flip contribution is spurious since  $\varphi_A^T(x_1), \varphi_1^T(x_1)$  vanishes at  $x_1 = 0, 1$  as well as  $B(x_1, x_2)$  and  $D(x_1, x_2)$ .

# Conclusions

- We have performed a full up to twist 3 computation of the  $\gamma^* \rightarrow \rho$  impact factor, in the  $t = t_{min}$  limit
- Our result respects gauge invariance
- It is free of end-point singularities (this should be contrasted with standard collinear treatment, at moderate  $s$ , where no  $k_T$ -factorization is applicable: see [Mankiewicz-Piller](#)).
- In this talk we relied on the [Light-Cone Collinear approach](#) ([Anikin, Teryaev](#)), which is non-covariant, but very efficient for practical computations. We also performed calculations of the same impact factor using the fully [covariant approach in the coordinate space](#) ([Braun, Ball](#)). We got identical results and developed the corresponding dictionary between the two approaches.
- Phenomenological applications will be done in the near future