Discussion for the UPC contribution paper for Snowmass 2021 – EF06

Spencer Klein and Daniel Tapia Takaki

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## Plan of this talk

- Report on the submitted Letter of Interest by the community
  - Review recent results and discussion of prospects for future measurements
- Discussion for the outline of the contributed paper

#### Snowmass2021 - Letter of Interest

#### New opportunities at the photon energy frontier

**Coordinators of this LoI:** Spencer Klein (LBNL)<sup>1</sup> and Daniel Tapia Takaki (U. Kansas)<sup>2</sup>

Authors: Jaroslav Adam<sup>9</sup>, Christine Aidala<sup>40</sup>, Aaron Angerami<sup>3</sup>, Benjamin Audurier<sup>47</sup>, Carlos Bertulani<sup>17</sup>, Christian Bierlich<sup>24</sup>, Boris Blok<sup>35</sup>, James Daniel Brandenburg<sup>9</sup>, Stanley Brodsky<sup>34</sup>, Aleksandr Bylinkin<sup>2</sup>, Veronica Canoa Roman<sup>42</sup>, Francesco Giovanni Celiberto<sup>52</sup>, Jan Cepila<sup>0</sup>, Grigorios Chachamis<sup>46</sup>, Brian Cole<sup>22</sup>, Guillermo Contreras<sup>0</sup>, David d'Enterria<sup>14</sup>, Adrian Dumitru<sup>28</sup>, Arturo Fernández Téllez<sup>20</sup>, Leonid Frankfurt<sup>10,50</sup>, Maria Beatriz Gay Ducati<sup>19</sup>, Frank Geurts<sup>23</sup>, Gustavo Gil da Silveira<sup>11</sup>, Francesco Giuli<sup>26</sup>, Victor P. Goncalves<sup>16</sup> Iwona Grabowska-Bold<sup>5</sup>, Vadim Guzey<sup>12</sup>, Lucian Harland-Lang<sup>32</sup> Martin Hentschinski<sup>29</sup>, T. J. Hobbs<sup>25</sup>, Jamal Jalilian-Marian<sup>28</sup> Valery A. Khoze<sup>15</sup>, Yongsun Kim<sup>36</sup>, Spencer R. Klein<sup>1</sup>, Simon Knapen<sup>21</sup>, Mariola Kłusek-Gawenda<sup>48</sup>, Michal Krelina<sup>0</sup>, Evgeny Kryshen<sup>12</sup>, Tuomas Lappi<sup>38</sup>, Constantin Loizides<sup>7</sup>, Agnieszka Luszczak<sup>44</sup>, Magno Machado<sup>39</sup>, Heikki Mäntysaari<sup>38</sup>, Daniel Martins<sup>7</sup>, Ronan McNulty<sup>45</sup>, Michael Murray<sup>2</sup>, Jan Nemchik<sup>0</sup>, Jacquelyn Noronha-Hostler<sup>33</sup>, Joakim Nystrand<sup>6</sup>, Alessandro Papa<sup>51</sup>, Bernard Pire<sup>37</sup>, Mateusz Ploskon<sup>1</sup> Marius Przybycien<sup>5</sup>, John P. Ralston<sup>2</sup>, Patricia Rebello Teles<sup>18</sup> Christophe Royon<sup>2</sup>, Björn Schenke<sup>9</sup>, William Schmidke<sup>9</sup>, Janet Seger<sup>8</sup>, Anna Stasto<sup>10</sup>, Peter Steinberg<sup>9</sup>, Mark Strikman<sup>10</sup>, Antoni Szczurek<sup>48</sup>, Lech Szymanowski<sup>31</sup>, Daniel Tapia Takaki<sup>2</sup>, Ralf Ulrich<sup>49</sup>, Orlando Villalobos Baillie<sup>41</sup>, Ramona Vogt<sup>3,4</sup>, Samuel Wallon<sup>30</sup>, Michael Winn<sup>43</sup>, Keping Xie<sup>27</sup>, Zhangbu Xu<sup>9</sup>, Shuai Yang<sup>23</sup>, Mikhail Zhalov<sup>12</sup>, and Jian Zhou<sup>13</sup>

## Structure of the Lol

- UPCs as the energy frontier
- Photoproduction and parton distributions

### Many of these topics discussed in Z. Citron *et al.*

Report from Working Group 5 : Future physics opportunities for high-density QCD at the LHC with heavy-ion and proton beams

- Light-by-light scattering, W pair and dilepton production
- Strong fields, quantum correlations and quantum tomography
- UPCs at the FCC and synergies with future colliders



## Inclusive dijet photoproduction

#### Fairly direct probe of the gluon distribution

NLO pQCD cross section of dijet photoproduction in PbPb UPCs & preliminary ATLAS data

V. Guzey Phys.Part.Nucl.Lett. 16 (2019) 5, 498-502



## Experimental evidence of nuclear effects in the Pb at high energies, low Bjorken-x





## Projections for nuclear suppression factor Vector meson photoproduction



Pseudodata points are derived from EPS09-based photoproduction

## Incoherent production & fluctuations





#### ALICE JHEP 1509 (2015) 095



L. Frankfurt et al. Phys.Lett. B752 (2016) 51-58

Both ALICE and STAR find measured cross section ~40% lower than predicted by Glauber, ....although works fine at fixedtarget experiments

Nuclei does not behave like individual nucleons

# t-dependence gives access to the transverse profile of the target

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

In UPC can study spatial distribution of target scatters in nucleus

## Onset of gluon saturation effect

![](_page_11_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Energy and t dependence of UPC Rho0

## New measurements with UPCs at the LHC

- Charm photoproduction
- Event-by-event fluctuations in the nuclear configuration using incoherent photoproduction
- Spatial distribution of target scatters in nucleus
- Perturbative Pomeron dynamics
- Color fluctuations in the photon
- Gluonic Sivers function
- Search for the Odderon

## From theory

• Next-to-leading (NLO) order calculations for UPC processes: one of the future directions of the theoretical program

Sub-Eikonal Frontier

• Connecting small and large x

Nice summary of recent theory prospects in M. Sievert talk

https://indico.cern.ch/event/751767/contributions/3840641/at tachments/2048640/3433170/Sievert\_Plenary.pdf

## Two-photo physics, LbyL scattering

- Two-photon reactions are sensitive to many beyond-standard-model processes
- The subprocess γγ → γγ proceeds only via a charged-particle box diagram. The cross section is sensitive to all charged particles, including BSM particles such as vector fermions, GeV- mass axion-like particles (ALPs) and magnetic monopoles. The reaction also probes non-linear (BSM) corrections to electromagnetism.
  - ATLAS and CMS have recently observed this process
- Limits on anomalous quartic gauge couplings

![](_page_14_Figure_5.jpeg)

## Light-by-light scattering

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

Exclusion limits on ALP-photon coupling  $(1/\Lambda a)$  vs. ALP mass, from light-by-light scattering and other processes

## New measurements on two-photon physics

- Extend results
- Probe low-mass light-by-light scattering using ALICE and LHCb (m <5 Gev)
- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \tau\tau$
- Two-photoproduction of heavy flavors
- Search for pentaquarks, tretaquarks and other exotica

# Strong fields, Quantum correlations and quantum tomography

- Very strong fields to explore reactions involving multiple photon exchange
- EPR (Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen)-type experiments
- Quantum tomography techniques can probe quantum correlations and entanglement

### New detectors. For example, ALICE FoCal for Run 4 (2026)

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Observables:**

- π<sup>0</sup>
- Direct (isolated) photons
- Jets

Advantage in ALICE: forward region not instrumented; 'unobstructed' view of interaction point

#### https://cds.cern.ch/record/2696471

# UPCs at the FCC and synergies with future colliders

- FCC and proposed LHeC probing higher energies than LHC:
  - Extensive BSM physics
  - Top photoproduction
  - Two-photon production of the Higgs

## Outline of contributed paper on UPC

- Introduction
- Strategies for observing nonlinear and gluon saturation effects in photon – nucleus scattering
- QCD dynamics using photonuclear processes
- Quantum mechanics effects and UPCs
- Two-photon physics at the LHC
- Electromagnetic effects in peripheral events
- Synergies between UPCs at RHIC and LHC and EIC and beyond

Will work with collaborators and authors of LoI to complete these sections