

# *High-energy QCD evolution*

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# Outline

## ★ *Picture of a hadron at high energy*

*Basic features of quantum chromodynamics*

*Heuristic discussion of quantum fluctuations*

*Evolution of hadronic states towards higher energies: the color dipole model*

*The BFKL equation, the Balitsky-Kovchegov equation and their solutions*

## ★ *Probing hadronic wave functions in physical processes*

*(Mean) parton densities in deep-inelastic scattering*

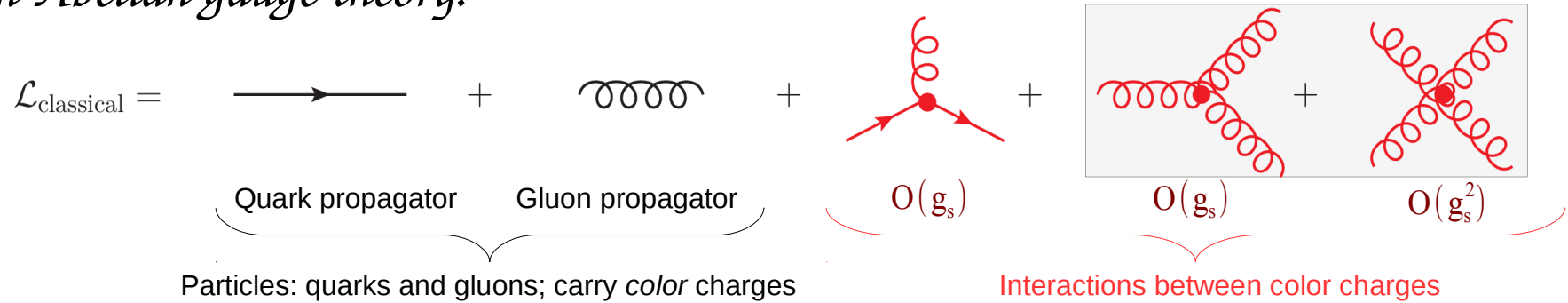
*Density effects in DIS: How the Balitsky-Kovchegov equation appears*

*How to “see” high-energy evolution in proton-nucleus scattering*

# Quantum chromodynamics

Theory of the strong interaction

Non-Abelian gauge theory:

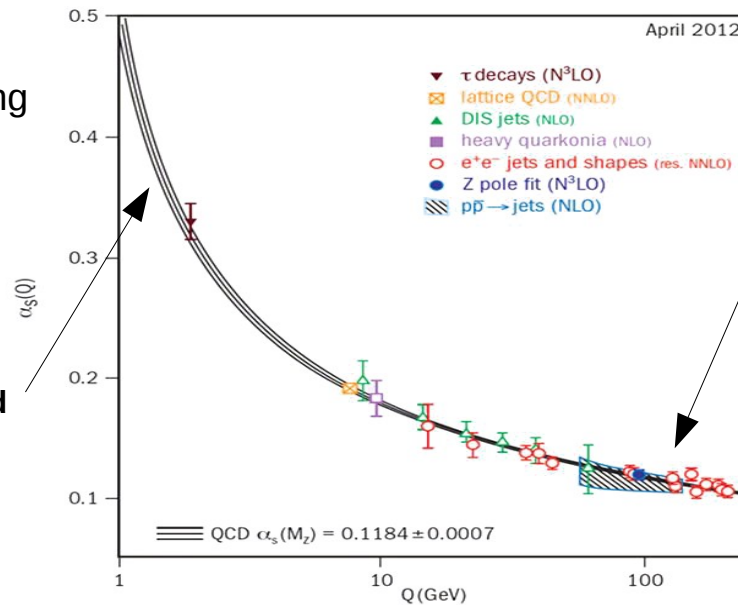


Asymptotically free:

Effective coupling constant:

$$\alpha_s = \frac{g_s^2}{4\pi}$$

Strongly coupled at large distance



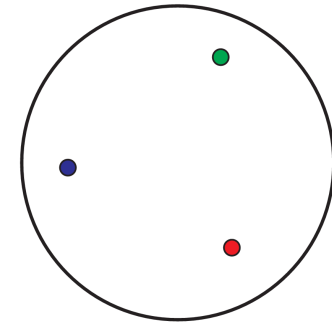
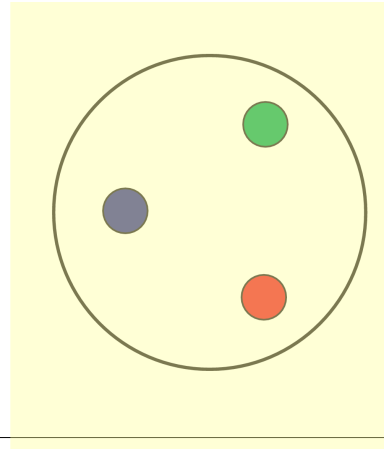
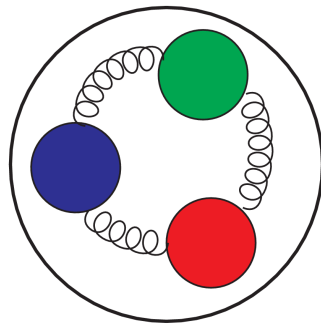
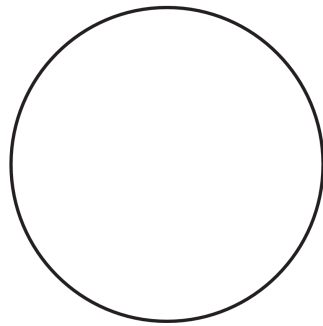
Free theory at small distance = trivial!

[Larger momentum = shorter distance]

*Thanks to asymptotic freedom, QCD is a theoretically sound theory, which can also be expanded around the (trivial) free theory at large momenta/small distances!*

# How a hadron looks at different resolutions

⚠ (Over)simplified picture



[Larger momentum  
= shorter distance  
= higher "resolution"]

**This talk: momenta  
of a few GeV**

**Large distances (several fm)**

Colorless extended object  
(size ~ 1 fm)

$$\alpha_s = O(1)$$

**Strongly coupled quantum field theory**  
*No analytical methods...*

**A fraction of a fm**

"Constituent"  
quarks

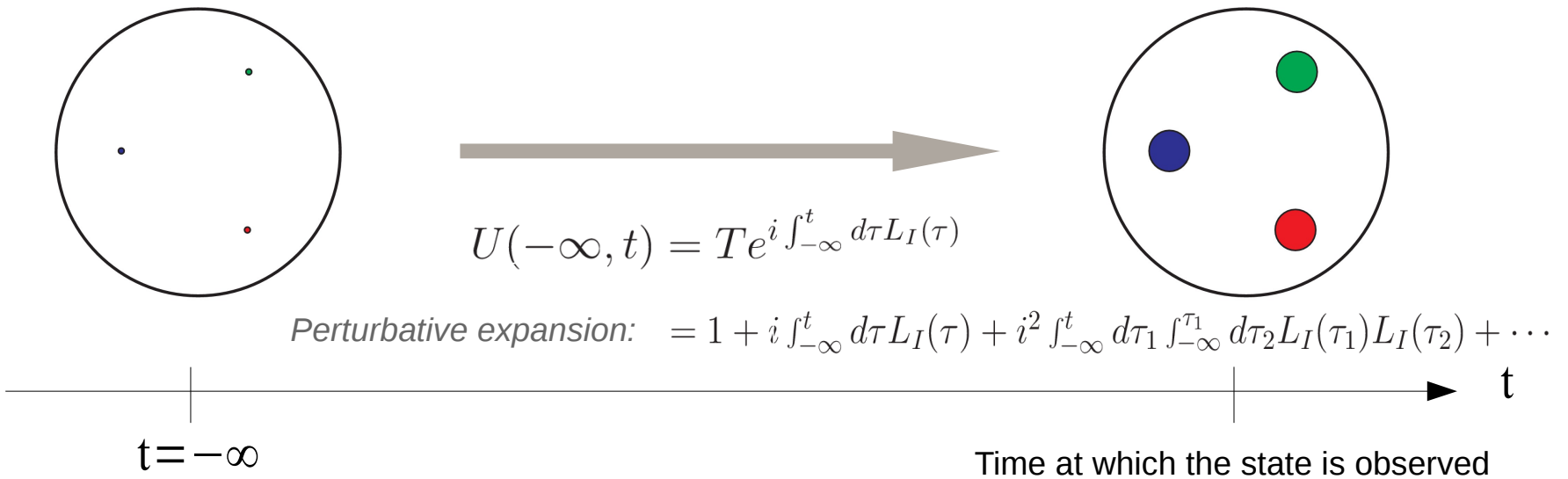
**Small distances (much less than 1 fm)**

Almost free quarks  
Pointlike: apparent size given by the  
spatial resolution

$$\alpha_s \ll 1$$

**The interactions are small corrections**  
*Perturbation theory applies!*

# Quantum dynamics

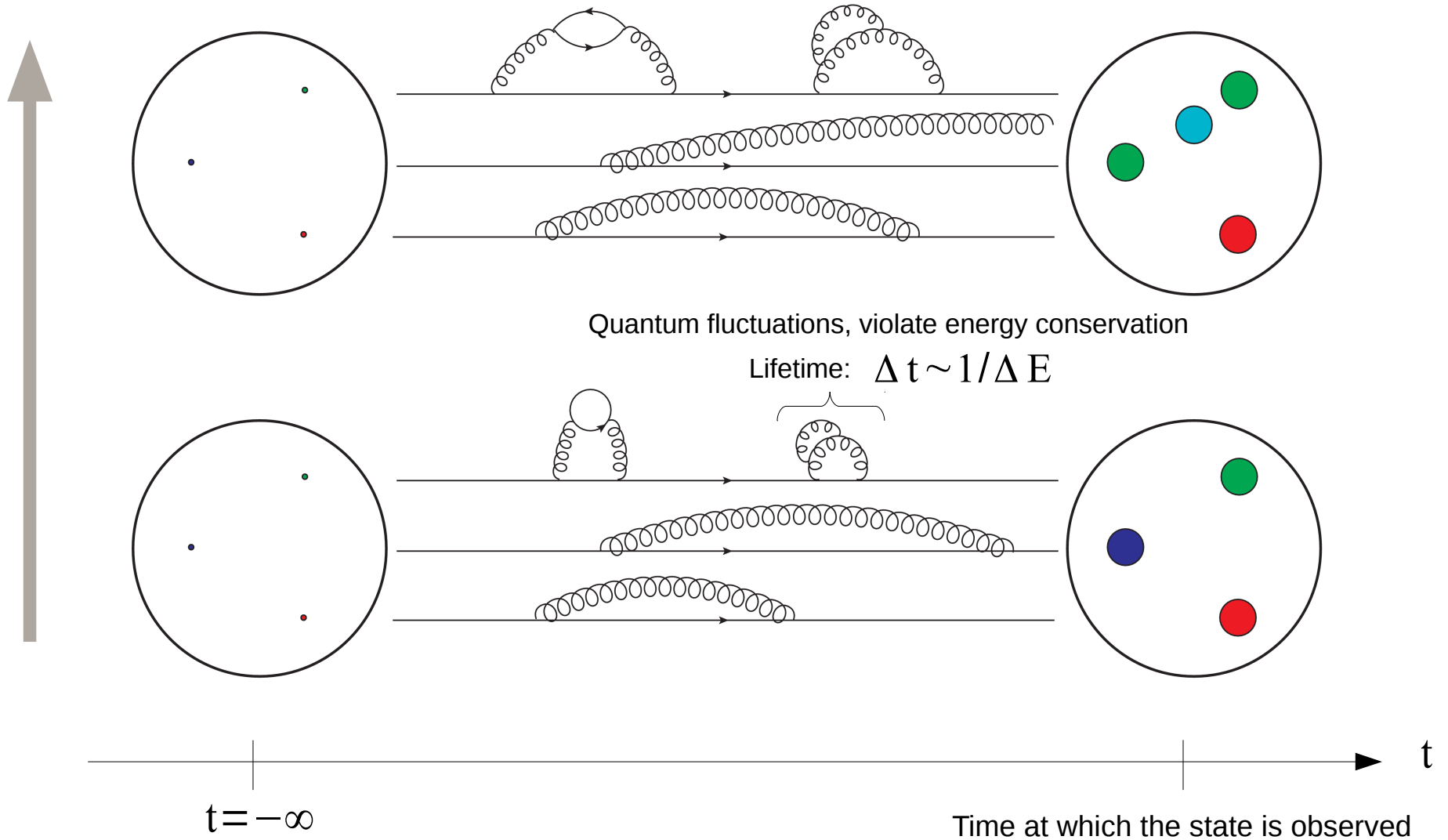


Proton in its ground state  
= 3 pointlike quarks

# Quantum dynamics

Faster hadron in the frame of the observer:

*Fluctuations are longer-lived due to Lorentz time dilation!*



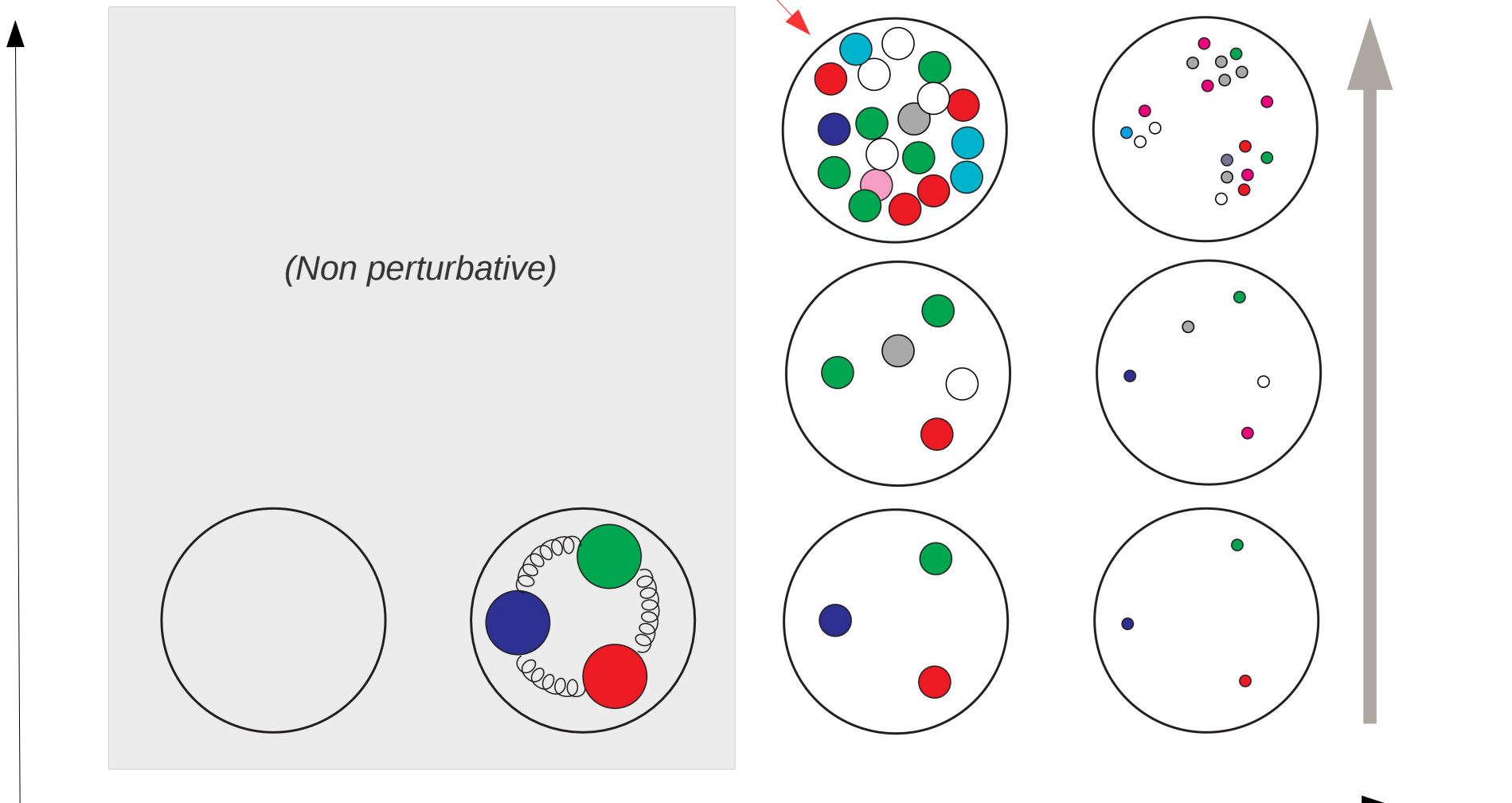
Proton in its ground state  
= 3 pointlike quarks

# Picture of a hadron

[Higher energies  
= faster hadron  
= better "time resolution"]

*Fluctuations seen at high  
energies are essentially gluons*

*Towards a dense  
gluonic state!*



# QCD calculation: the color dipole model

To simplify, we start with a **color neutral quark-antiquark pair** (=meson) of given transverse size.

Probability of observing 1 gluon fluctuation when one increases the rapidity  $y$  by  $dy$ :

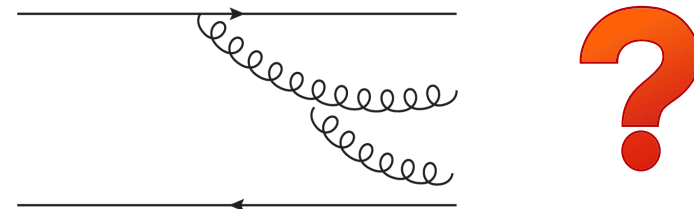
$$dP = \left[ \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} \right] dy \frac{\alpha_s (N_c^2 - 1)}{\pi N_c} \frac{r_0^2}{r_1^2 (r_0 - r_1)^2} \frac{d^2 r_1}{2\pi}$$

$r_1 =$  position of the gluon with respect to the quark

Singular when the gluon is close to the quark or to the antiquark  
**Collinear singularity**

When  $y \sim \frac{1}{\alpha_s (N_c^2 - 1) / N_c}$ , the probability to observe a fluctuation with  $|r_1| \sim |r_0|$  is  $O(1)$

One needs to consider higher-order fluctuations:

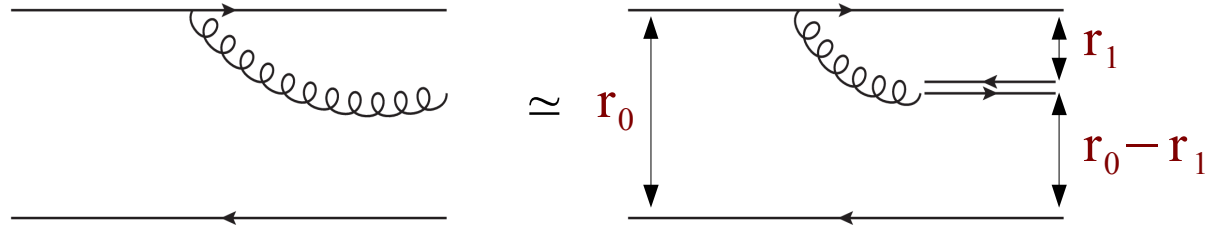




# QCD calculation: the color dipole model



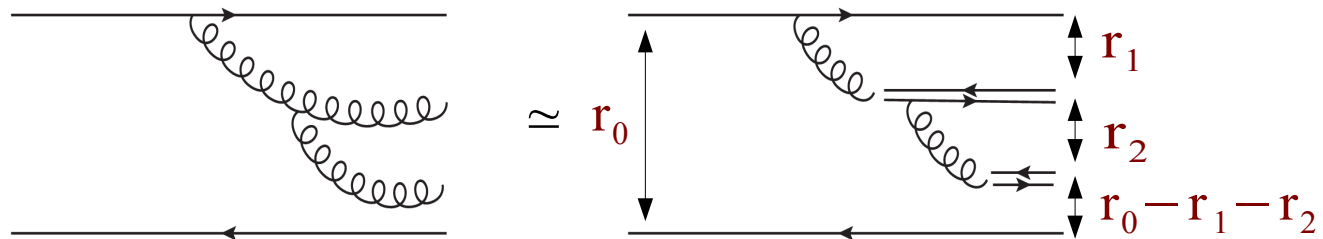
Trick: large number-of-color limit!



Gluon emission is interpreted as a color-dipole splitting, with proba.

$$dP = dy \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \frac{r_0^2}{r_1^2 (r_0 - r_1)^2} \frac{d^2 r_1}{2\pi}$$

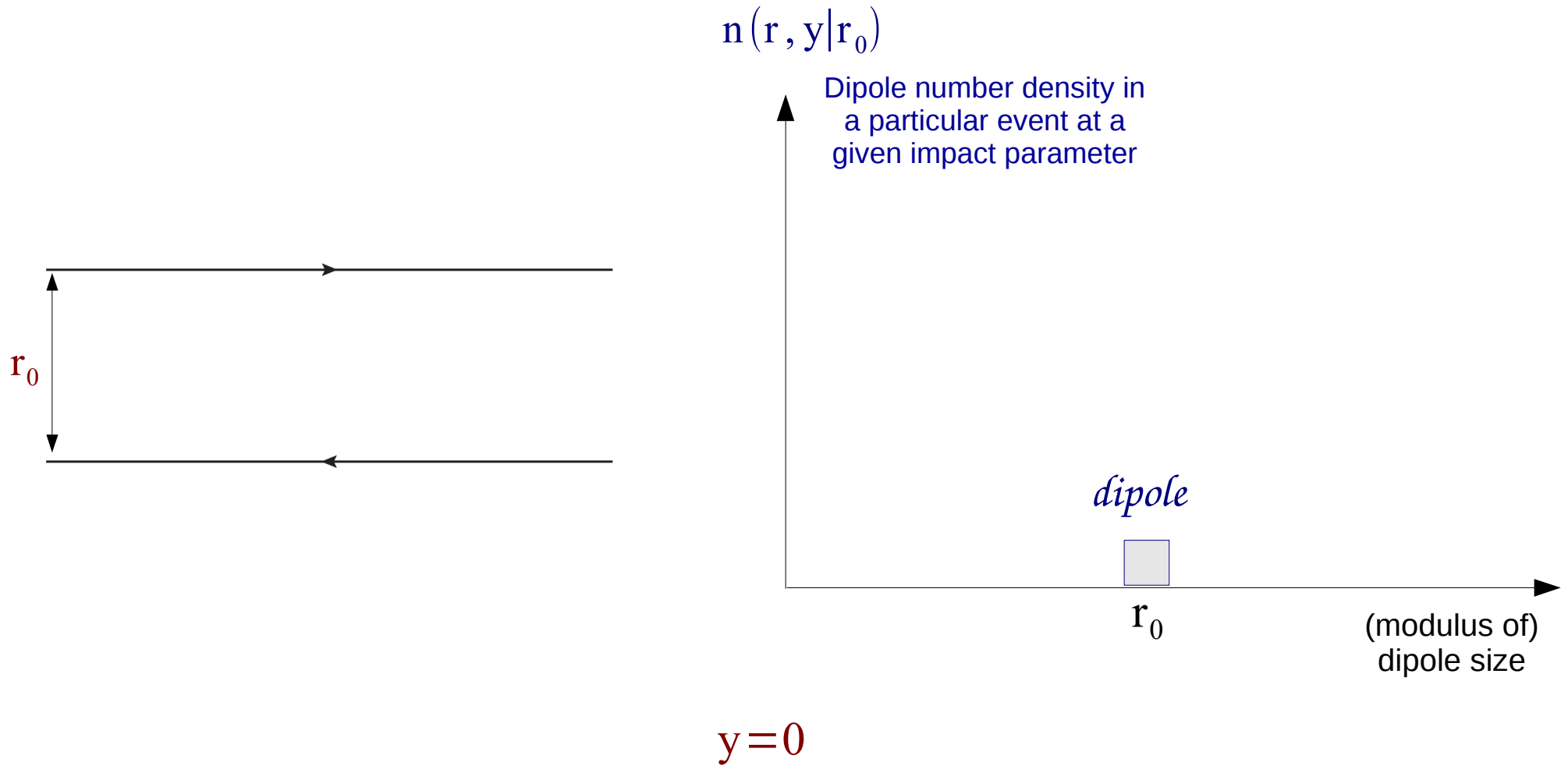
Higher-order fluctuations are generated by a branching process:



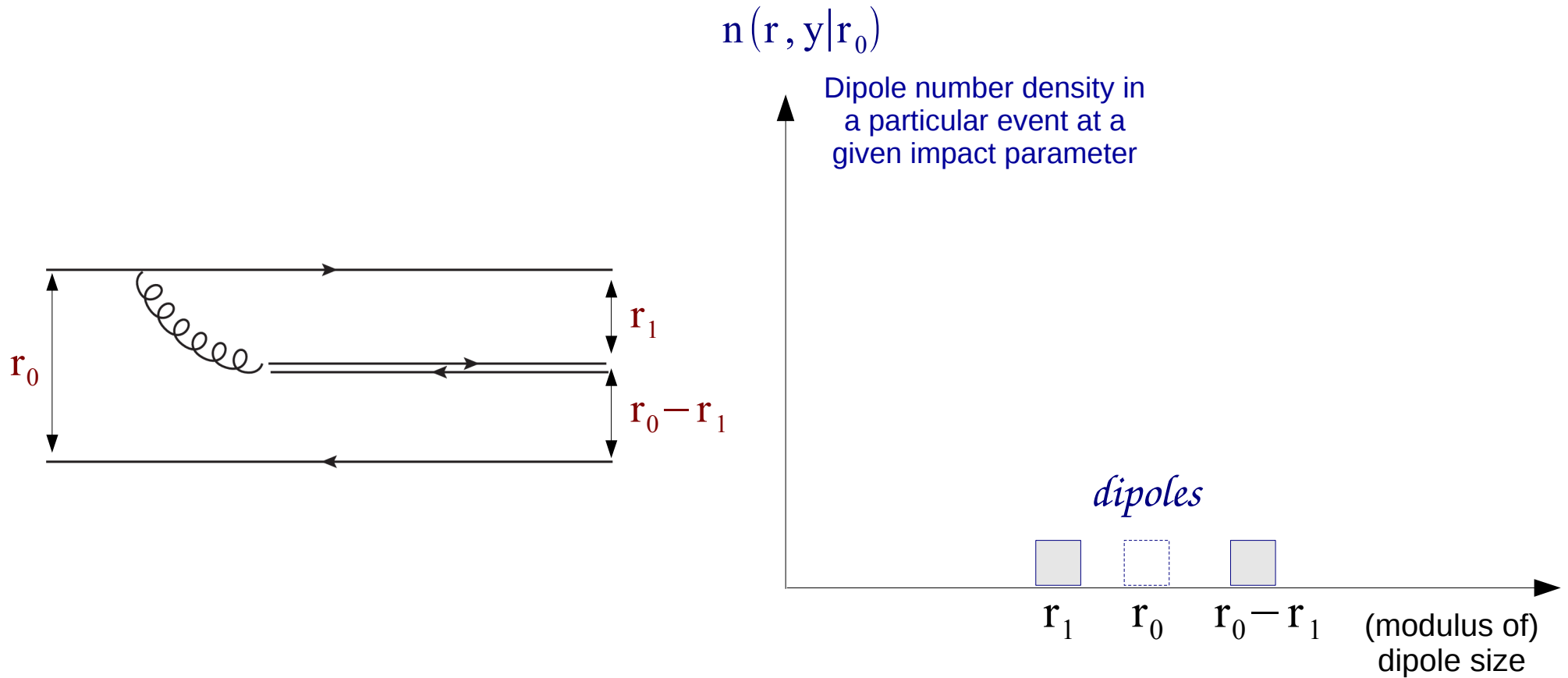
Two successive dipole branchings

Gluons density of momentum  $k \sim$  mean density of dipoles of size  $1/k$

# How the dipole model works

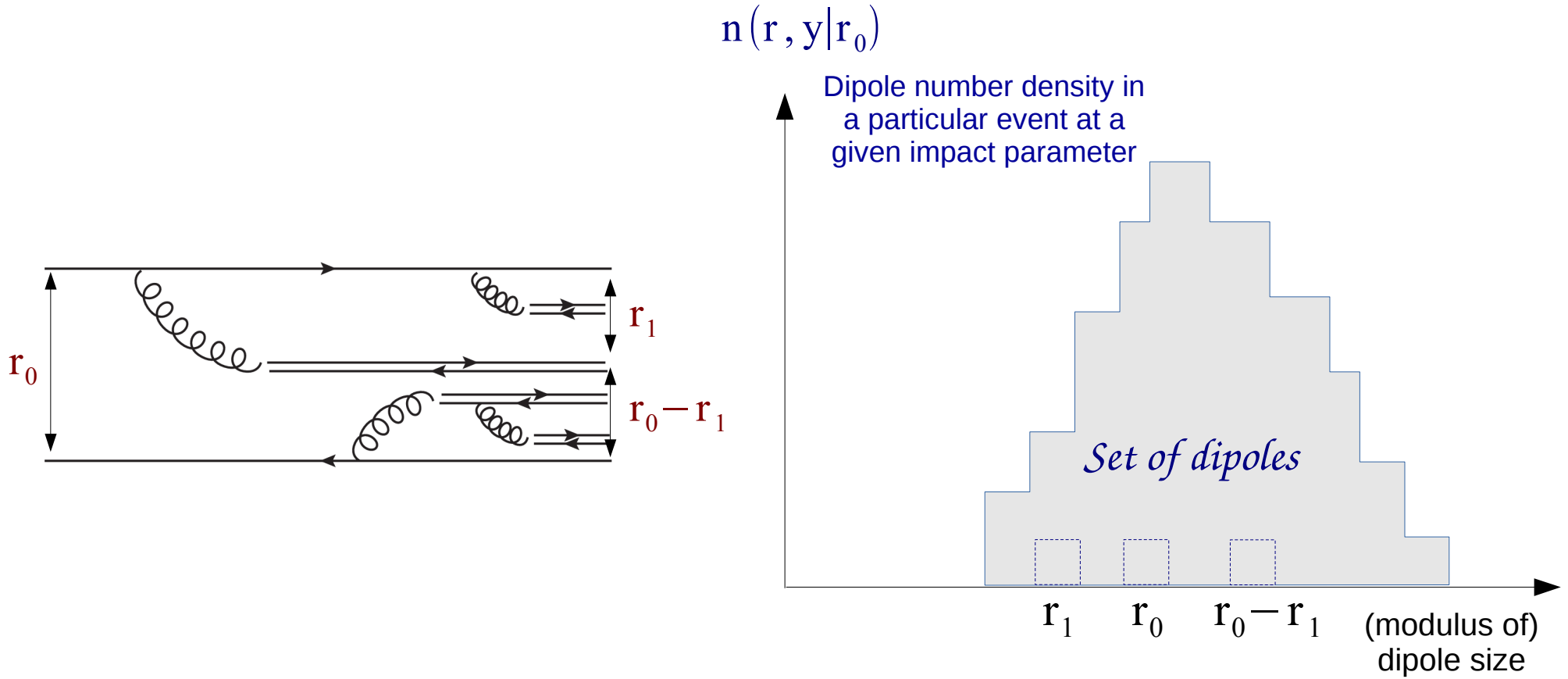


# How the dipole model works



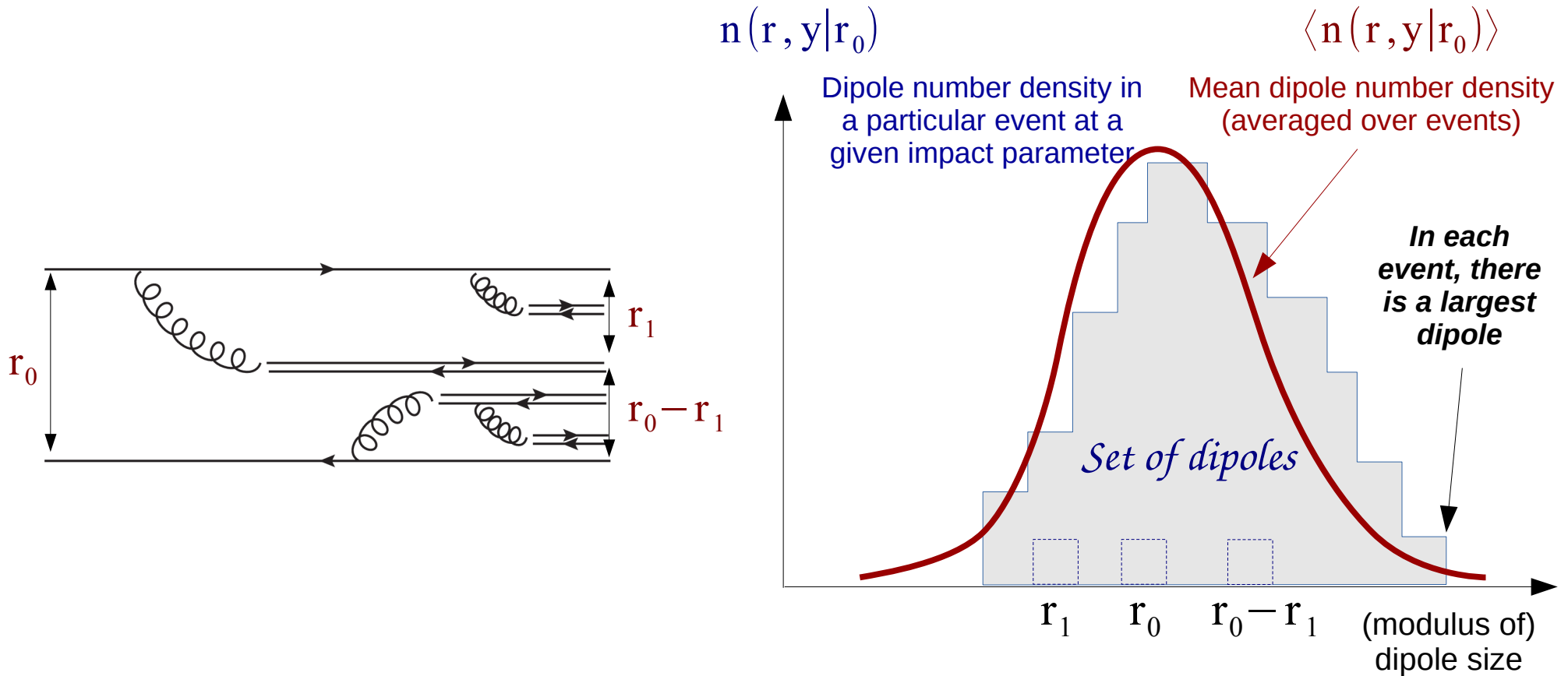
$$y \sim \frac{1}{\alpha_s N_c}$$

# How the dipole model works



$$y \gg \frac{1}{\alpha_s N_c}$$

# How the dipole model works

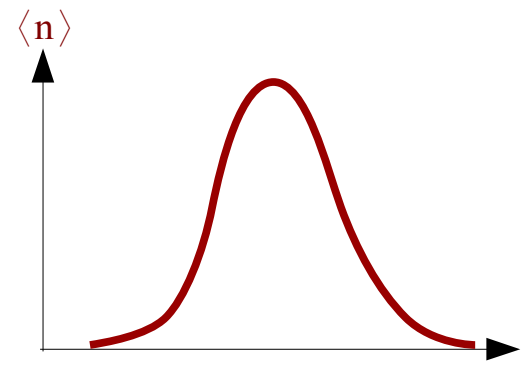


$$y \gg \frac{1}{\alpha_s N_c}$$

*Now, establish and solve equations for the mean dipole number density, and for the probability distribution of the size of the largest dipole!*

# *Mean dipole number density*

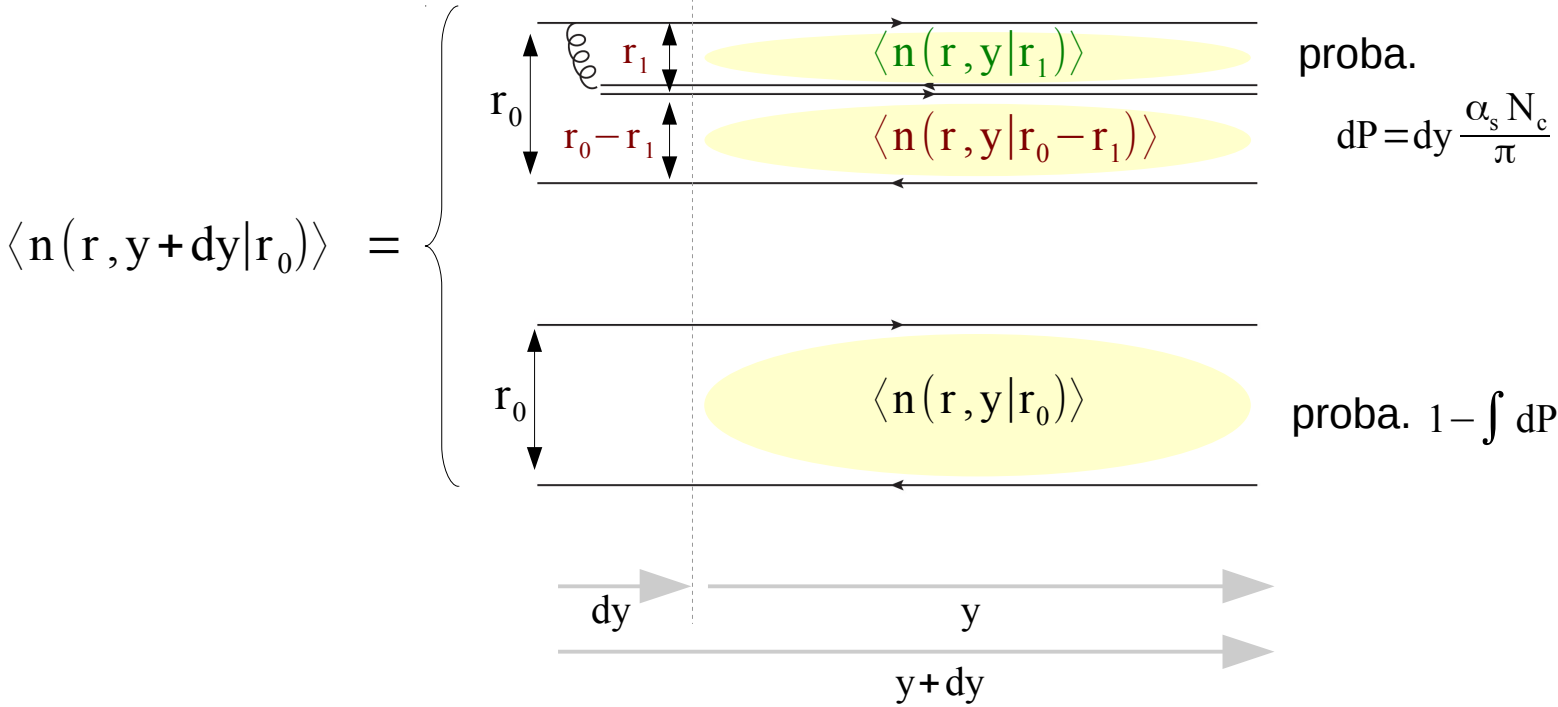
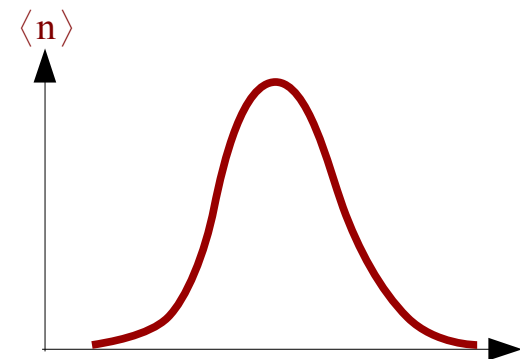
$\langle n(r, y|r_0) \rangle$  = mean density of dipoles of size  $r$  at rapidity  $y$



$\langle n(r, y+dy|r_0) \rangle$  = functional of  $\langle n(r, y|r_0) \rangle$

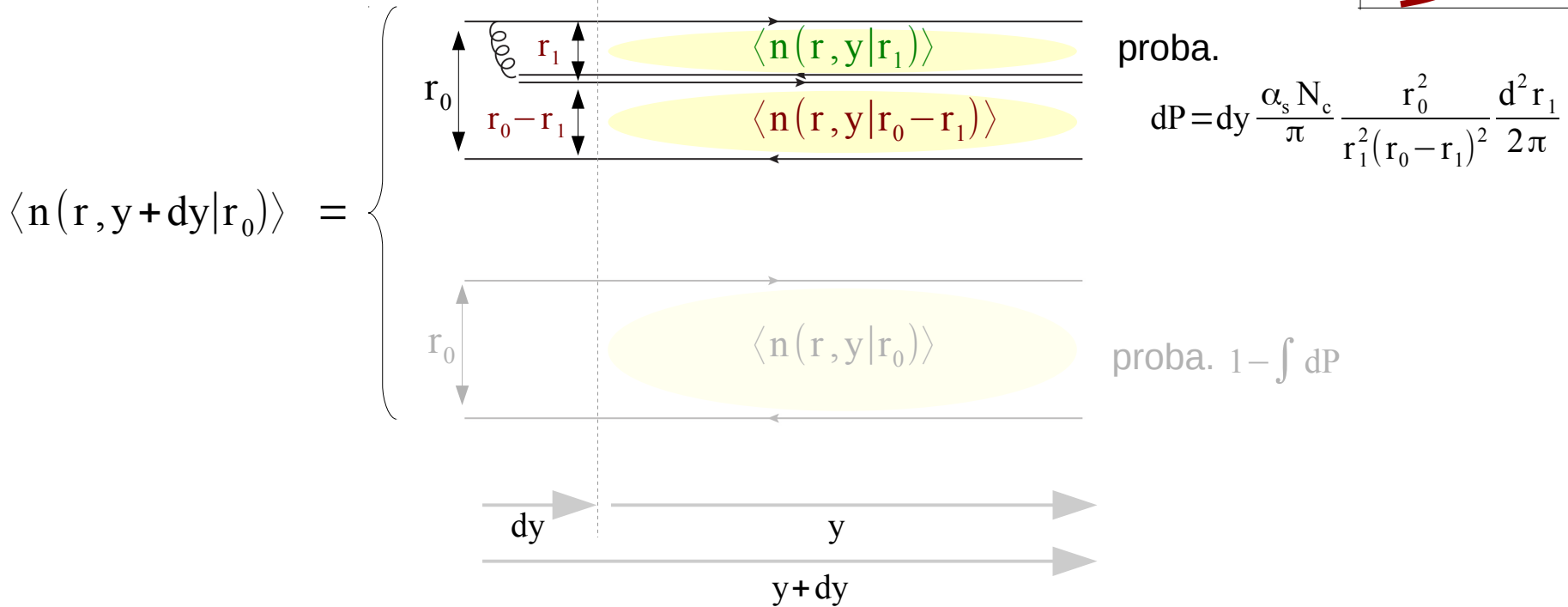
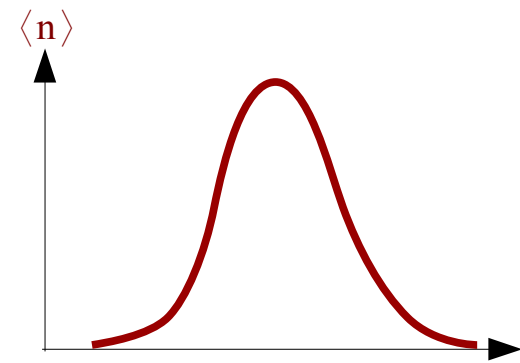
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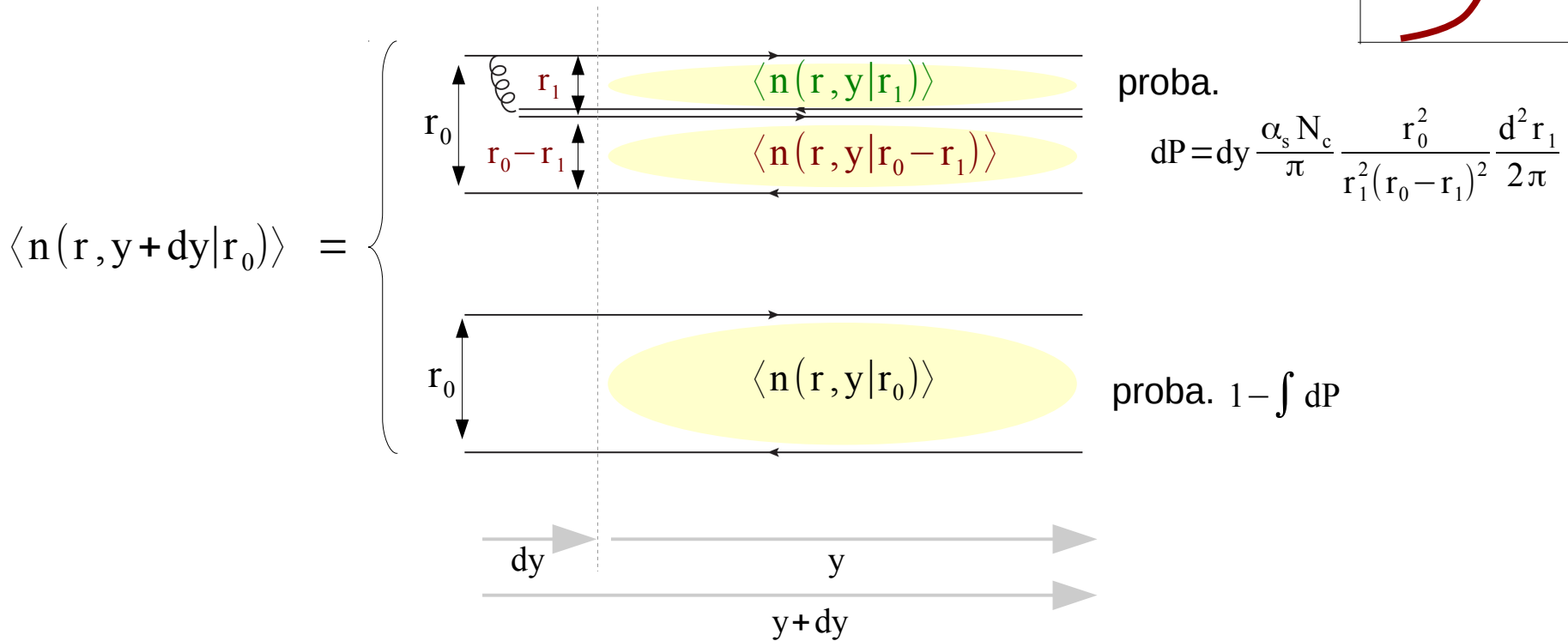
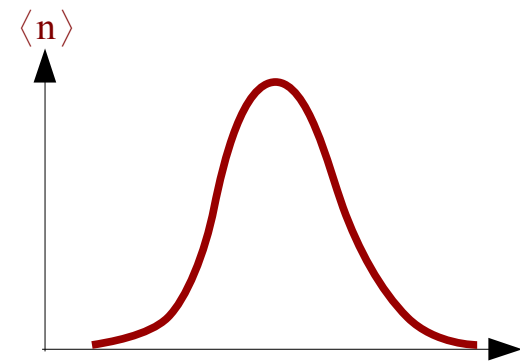


$$\langle n(r, y + dy | r_0) \rangle = \int dP [\langle n(r, y | r_1) \rangle + \langle n(r, y | r_0 - r_1) \rangle]$$



# Mean dipole number density

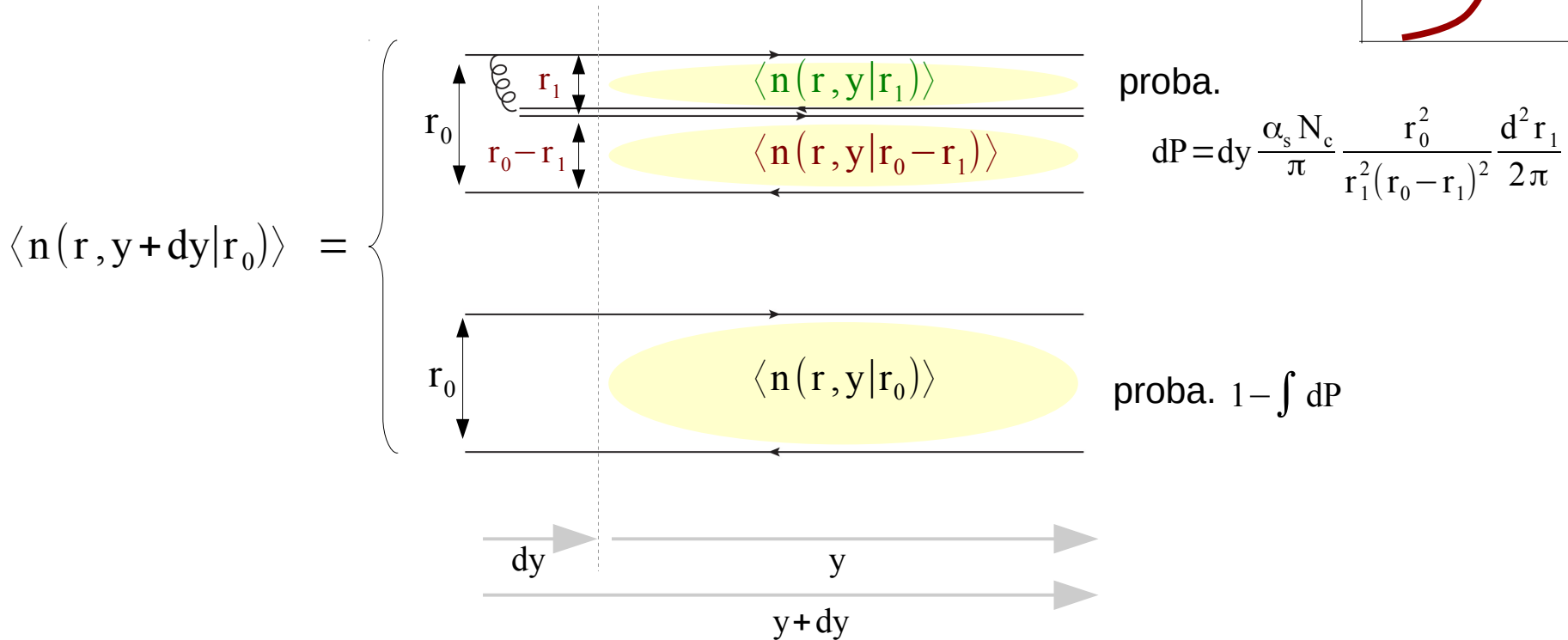
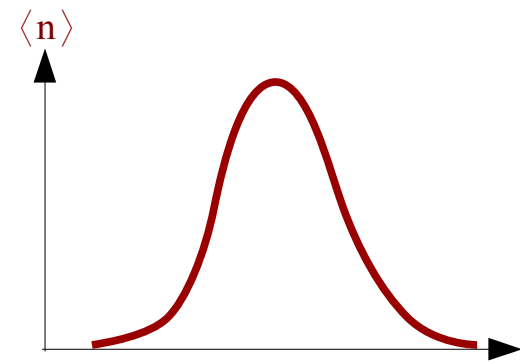
$\langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle$  = mean density of dipoles of size  $r$  at rapidity  $y$



$$\langle n(r, y + dy | r_0) \rangle = \int dP [\langle n(r, y | r_1) \rangle + \langle n(r, y | r_0 - r_1) \rangle] + (1 - \int dP) \langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle$$

# Mean dipole number density

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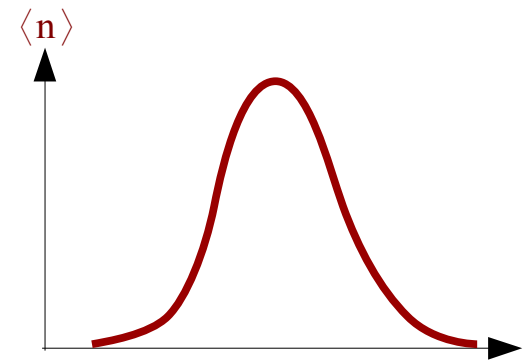
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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int \frac{d^2 r_1}{2\pi} \frac{r_0^2}{r_1^2 (r_0 - r_1)^2} [\langle n(r, y | r_1) \rangle + \langle n(r, y | r_0 - r_1) \rangle - \langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle]$$

**BFKL (linear) equation**

# The BFKL equation and its solution

$\langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle$  = mean density of dipoles of size  $r$  at rapidity  $y$



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int \frac{d^2 r_1}{2\pi} \frac{r_0^2}{r_1^2 (r_0 - r_1)^2} [\langle n(r, y | r_1) \rangle + \langle n(r, y | r_0 - r_1) \rangle - \langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle]$$

*Linear integro-differential equation*

*Standard method: look for functions which diagonalize of the kernel*

eigenfunctions  $\langle n(r | r_0) \rangle \sim (r^2 / r_0^2)^y$

eigenvalues  $\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \chi(y)$ ,  $\chi(y) \equiv 2\psi(1) - \psi(y) - \psi(1-y)$

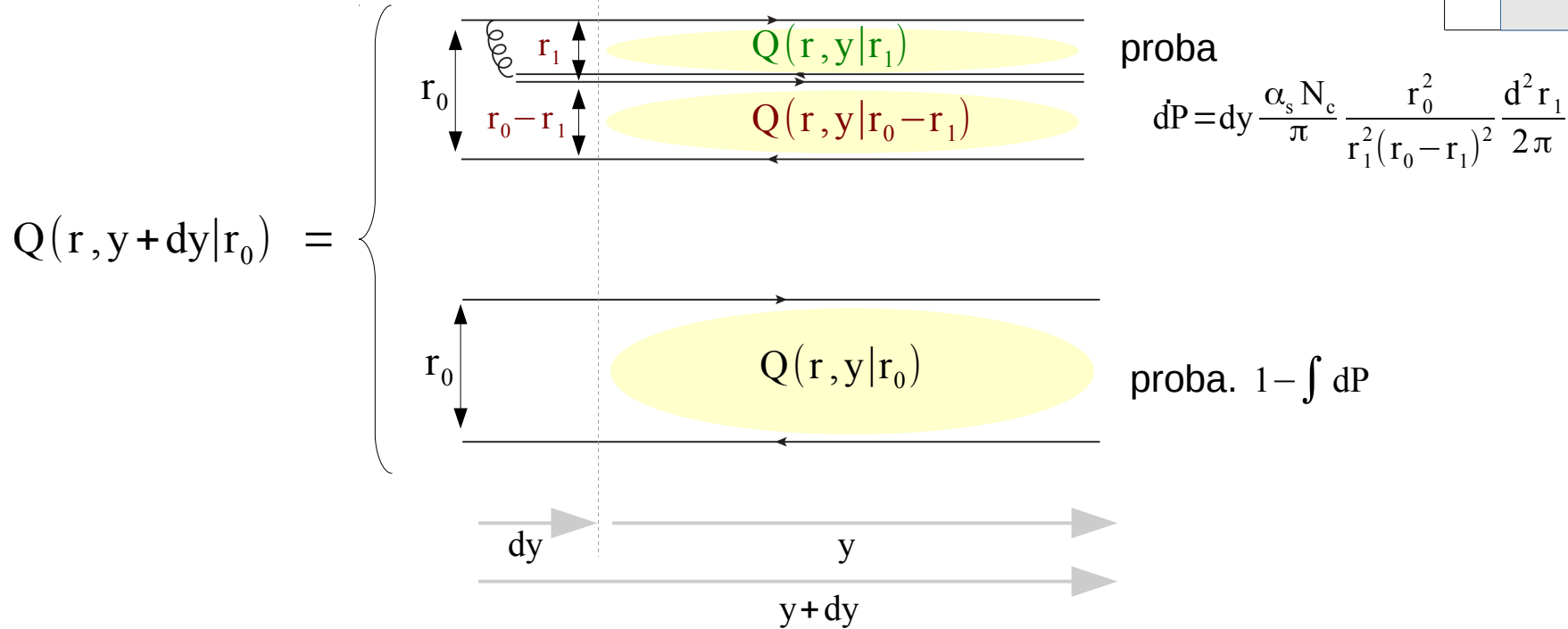
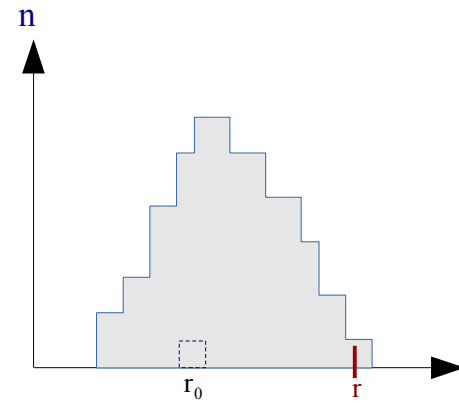
$$\text{Solution: } \langle n \rangle = \frac{1}{r^2} \int \frac{d^2 y}{2i\pi} \left( \frac{r^2}{r_0^2} \right)^y e^{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \chi(y) \times y}$$

*Main feature at large rapidity: exponential growth of the mean dipole density:*

$$\langle n \rangle \sim \exp\left(\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} 4 \ln 2 \times y\right)$$

# Probability distribution of the largest size

$Q(r, y|r_0)$  = probability that all dipoles have a size smaller than  $r$



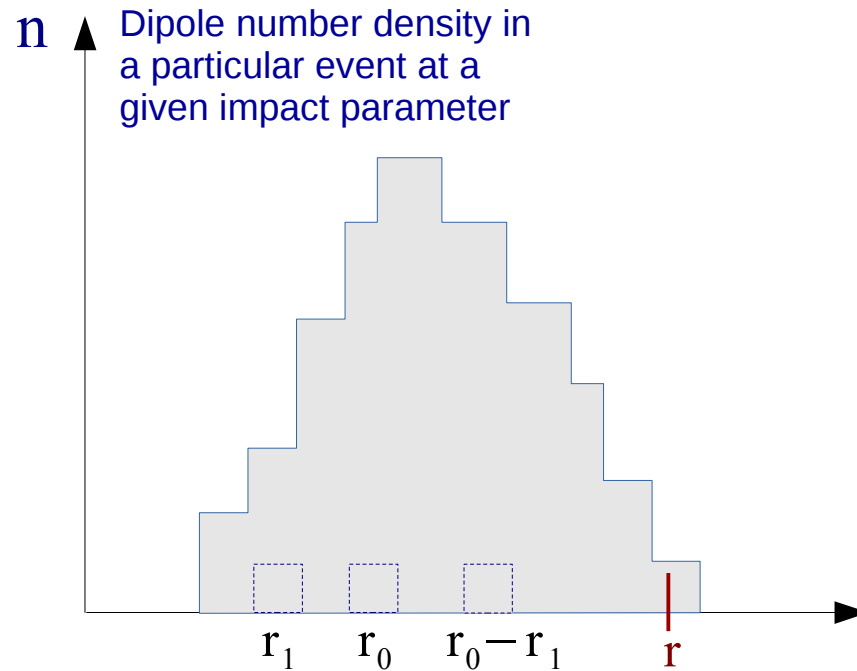
$$Q(r, y+dy|r_0) = \int dP [Q(r, y|r_1) \times Q(r, y|r_0-r_1)] + (1 - \int dP) Q(r, y|r_0)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} Q(r, y|r_0) = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int \frac{d^2 r_1}{2\pi} \frac{r_0^2}{r_1^2 (r_0 - r_1)^2} [Q(r, y|r_1) \times Q(r, y|r_0-r_1) - Q(r, y|r_0)]$$

**Balitsky-Kovchegov (nonlinear) equation!**

# The BK equation and its solution

$T = 1 - Q =$  probability that at least one dipole has a size larger than  $r$



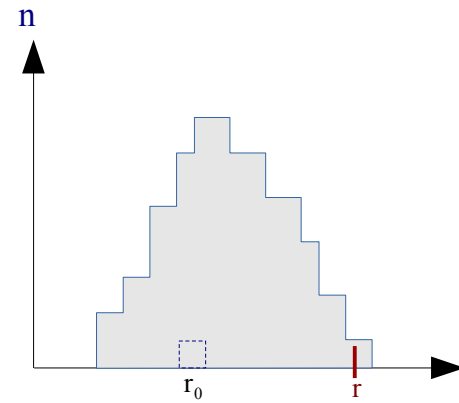
$$\partial_y T(r, y | r_0) = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int \frac{d^2 r_1}{2\pi} \frac{r_0^2}{r_1^2 (r_0 - r_1)^2} \left[ \underbrace{T(r, y | r_1) + T(r, y | r_0 - r_1) - T(r, y | r_0)}_{\text{Linear part: BFKL equation}} - T(r, y | r_1) T(r, y | r_0 - r_1) \right]$$

Linear part: BFKL equation

*Nonlinear integro-differential equation*

# The BK equation and its solution

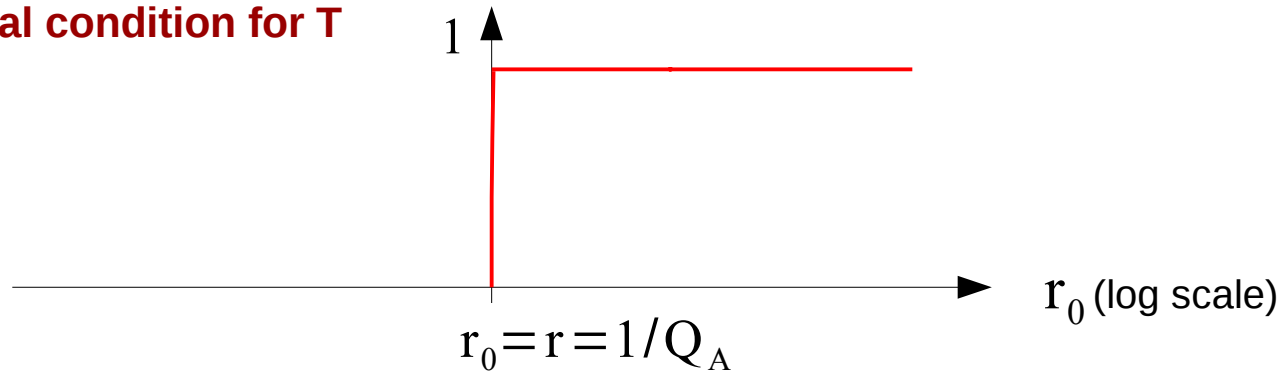
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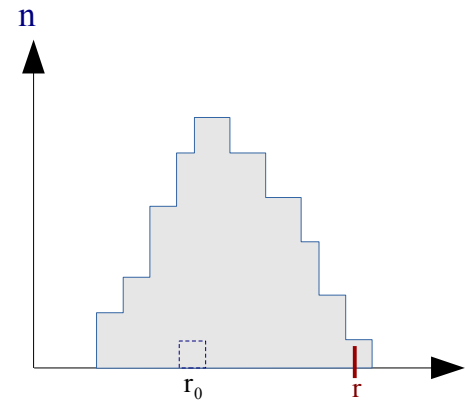
Linear part: BFKL equation

Initial condition for T



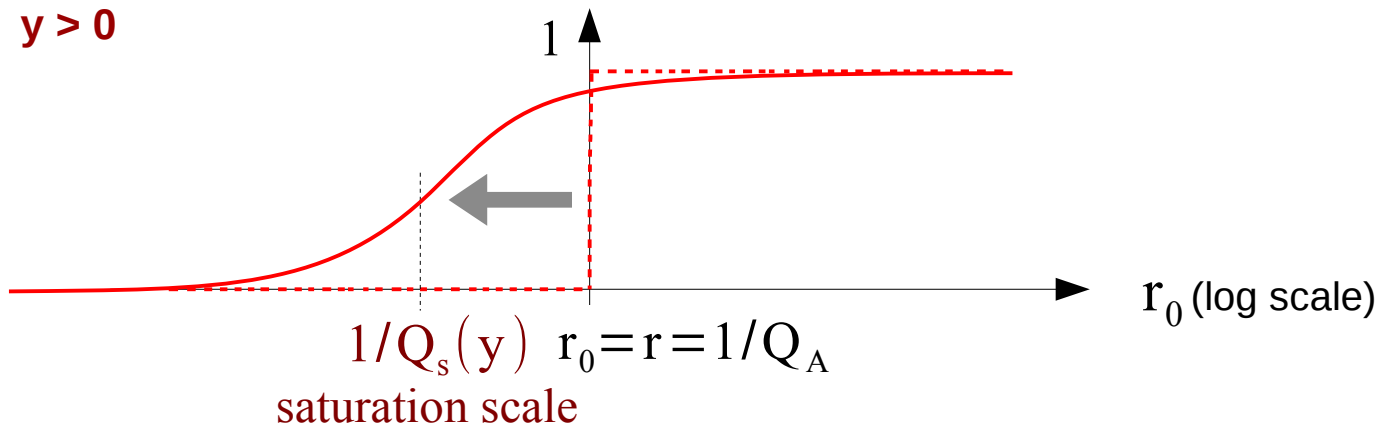
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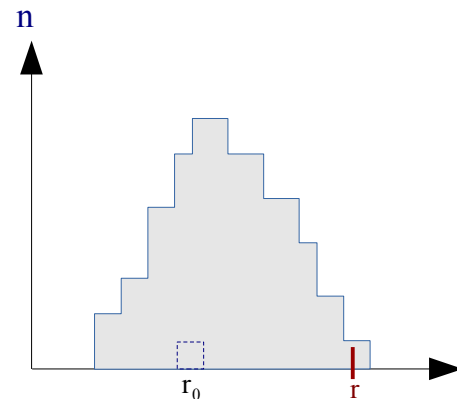
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Linear part: BFKL equation

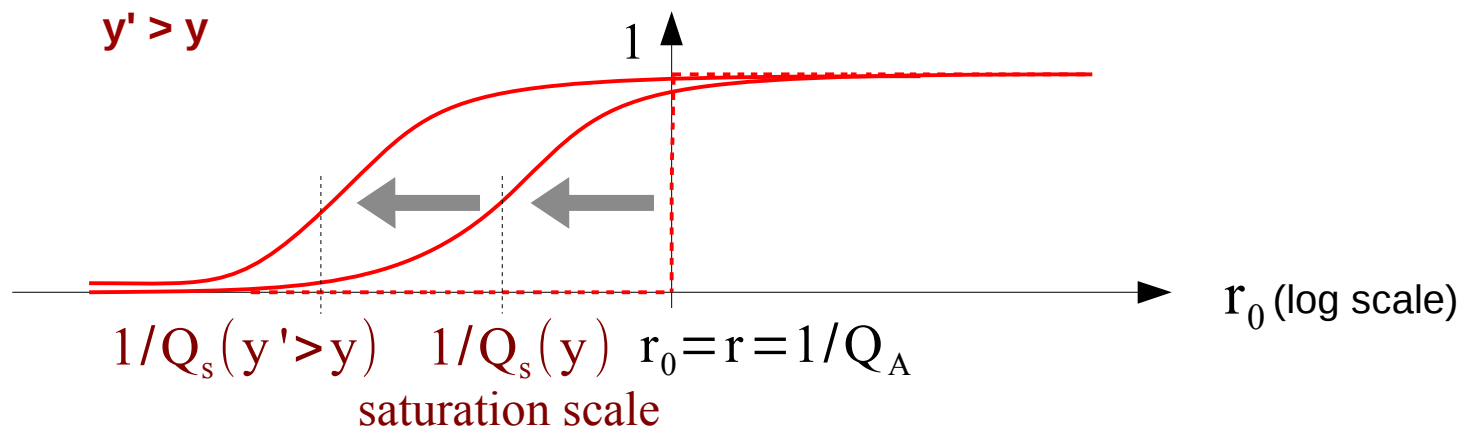


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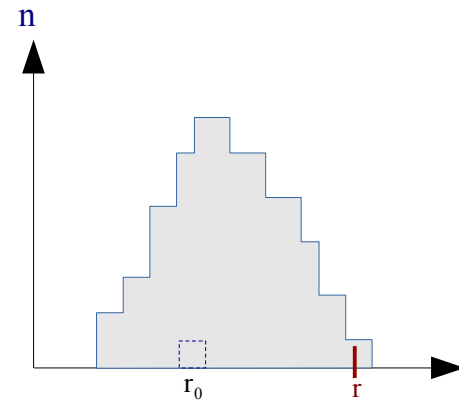
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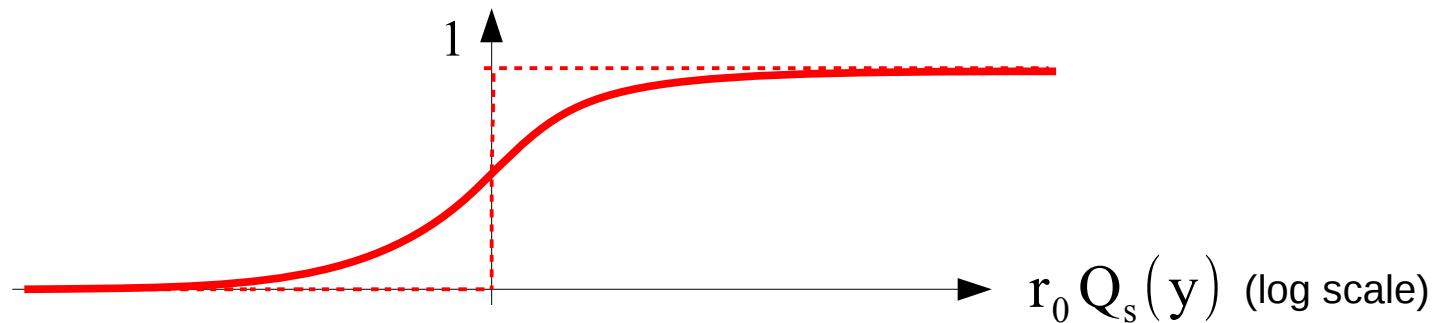
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Linear part: BFKL equation

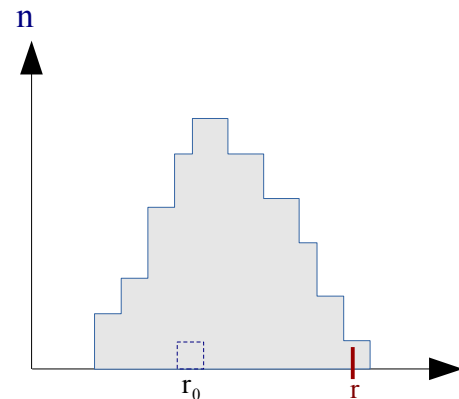


$$T(r, y | r_0) \underset{y \gg \frac{1}{\alpha_s N_c}}{\sim} \text{function of } (r_0 Q_s(y))$$

*Traveling wave property*

# The BK equation and its solution

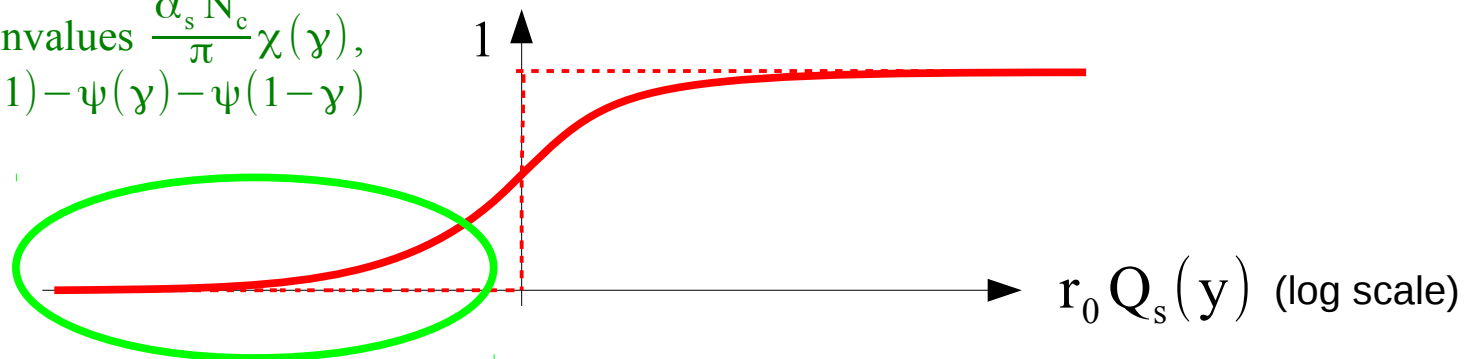
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$$\partial_y T(r, y | r_0) = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \int \frac{d^2 r_1}{2\pi} \frac{r_0^2}{r_1^2 (r_0 - r_1)^2} \left[ T(r, y | r_1) + T(r, y | r_0 - r_1) - T(r, y | r_0) - T(r, y | r_1) T(r, y | r_0 - r_1) \right]$$

eigenfunctions  $T(r | r_0) \sim (r_0^2 / r^2)^y$ , Linear part: BFKL equation

eigenvalues  $\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \chi(y)$ ,  
 $\chi(y) \equiv 2\psi(1) - \psi(y) - \psi(1-y)$



$T(r, y | r_0) \underset{y \gg \frac{1}{\alpha_s N_c}}{\sim} 1$  function of  $(r_0 Q_s(y))$

*Traveling wave property*

$$T_{r_0 Q_s(\tilde{y}) \ll 1} \ln \frac{1}{r_0^2 Q_s^2(y)} \left( r_0^2 Q_s^2(y) \right)^{y_0}$$

$$Q_s^2(y) \simeq Q_A^2 e^{\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \chi'(y_0) y}$$

$$y_0 \text{ solves } y_0 \chi'(y_0) = \chi(y_0)$$

# Intermediate recap

- *A fast (= "rapid") hadron appears as a **dense state of gluons**.*
- *The building up of these quantum states as rapidity increases can be represented by the **color dipole model**, which provides a **systematic perturbative QCD calculation** in the limit of high rapidity and of large number of colors.*
- *The dipole model reduces QCD evolution to a **statistical branching process**. Such processes are quite general, and appear in many different fields of science.*
- *The **mean dipole density** obeys the **linear BFKL evolution equation**, while the **event-by-event distribution of the size of the largest dipole** (= statistics of extremes) obeys the **nonlinear BK evolution equation**.*

*NB: This particular interpretation of the BK equation is not the only possible one!*

*Can one measure the properties of these quantum states generated by high-energy QCD evolution in actual experiments?*

# Outline

## *★ Picture of a hadron at high energy*

*Basic features of quantum chromodynamics*

*Heuristic discussion of quantum fluctuations*

*Evolution of hadronic states towards higher energies: the color dipole model*

*The BFKL equation, the Balitsky-Kovchegov equation and their solutions*

## *★ Probing hadronic wave functions in physical processes*

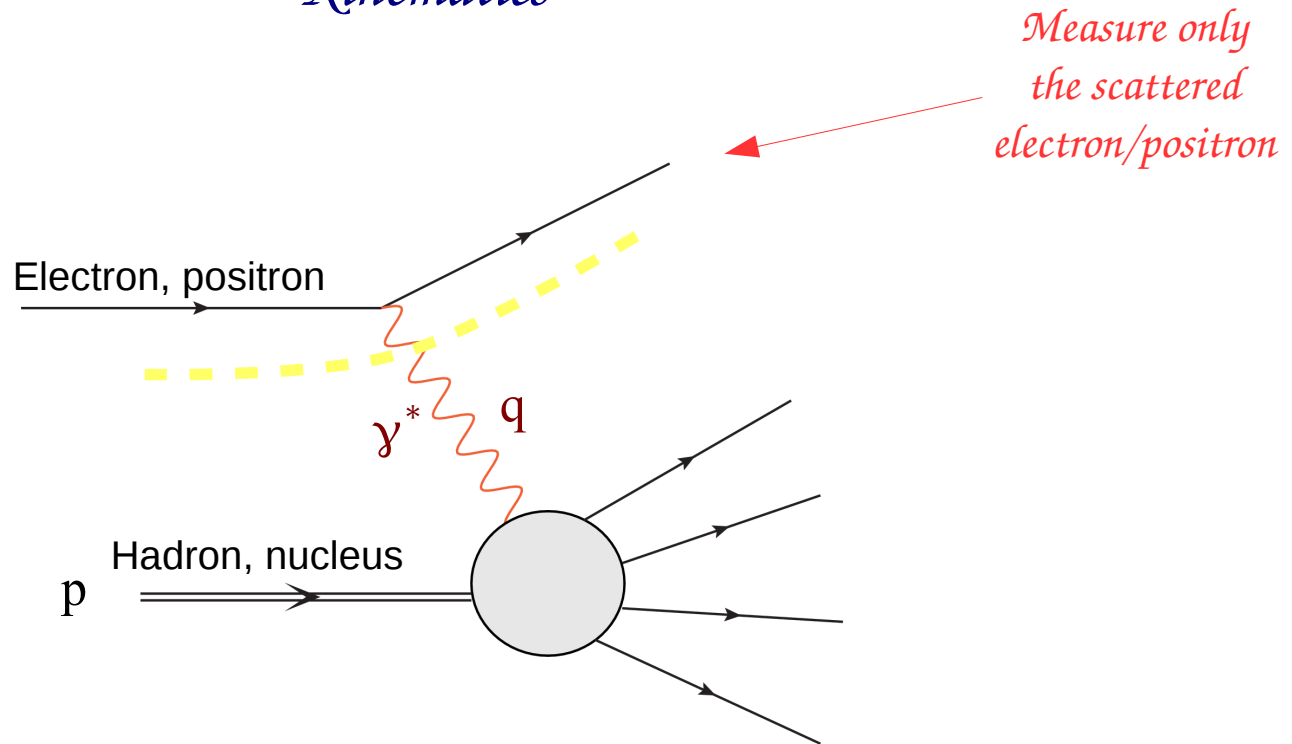
*(Mean) parton densities in deep-inelastic scattering*

*Density effects in DIS: How the Balitsky-Kovchegov equation appears*

*How to “see” high-energy evolution in proton-nucleus scattering*

# Deep-inelastic scattering

## Kinematics



Variables:  $p, q \Rightarrow Q^2 \equiv -q^2, x_{Bj} \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2p \cdot q}$

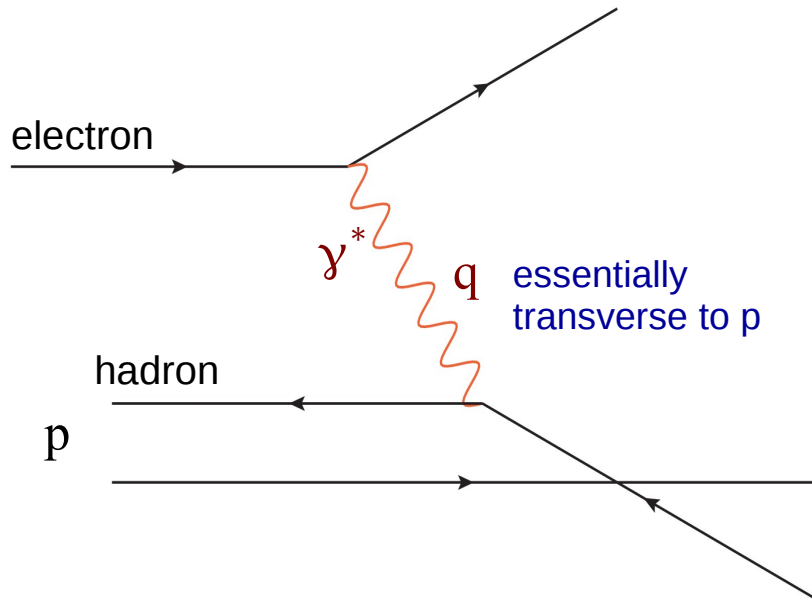
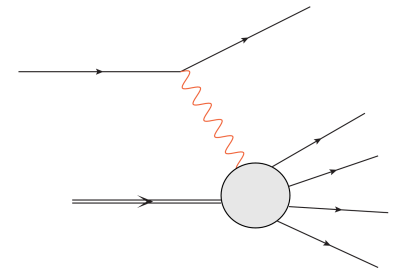
Rapidity:  $y = \ln \frac{1}{x_{Bj}} \simeq \ln \frac{(p+q)^2}{Q^2}$

Large  $y$  = small  $x$  = high energy

Observable:  $\sigma^{\gamma^* h}(Q^2, x_{Bj})$

# Deep-inelastic scattering

Picture in the Bjorken frame



Low rapidity  $y$

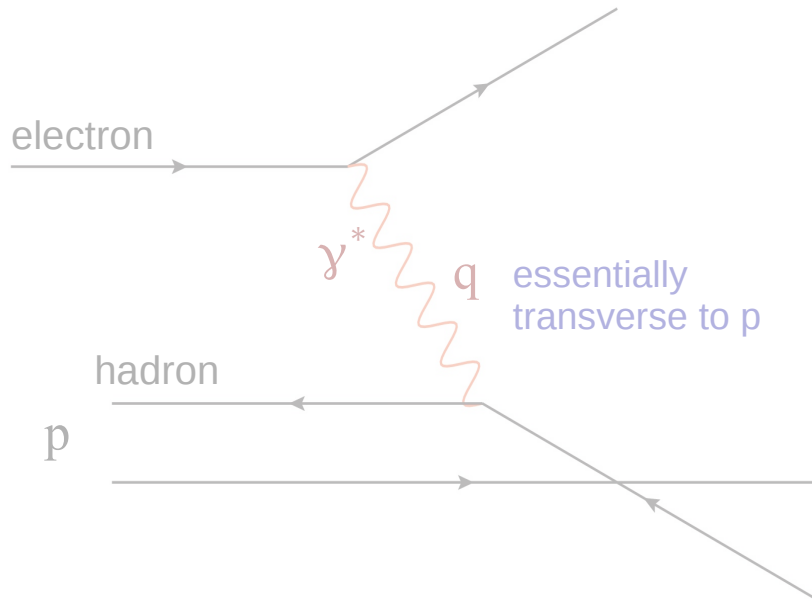
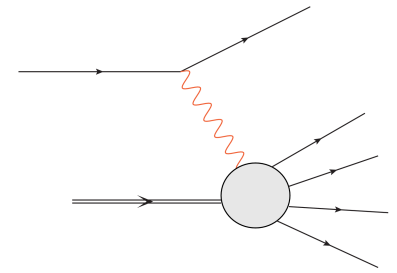
$$y = \ln \frac{1}{x_{Bj}}$$

Parton model formula:

$$\sigma^{y^*h}(Q^2, x_{Bj}) = \frac{4\pi^2 \alpha_{em}}{Q^2} \sum_q e_q^2 \left[ \underbrace{x_{Bj} q(x_{Bj}) + x_{Bj} \bar{q}(x_{Bj})}_{\text{(Mean) integrated (valence) quark density}} \right] \quad \sim \text{Bjorken scaling (pointlike quarks)}$$

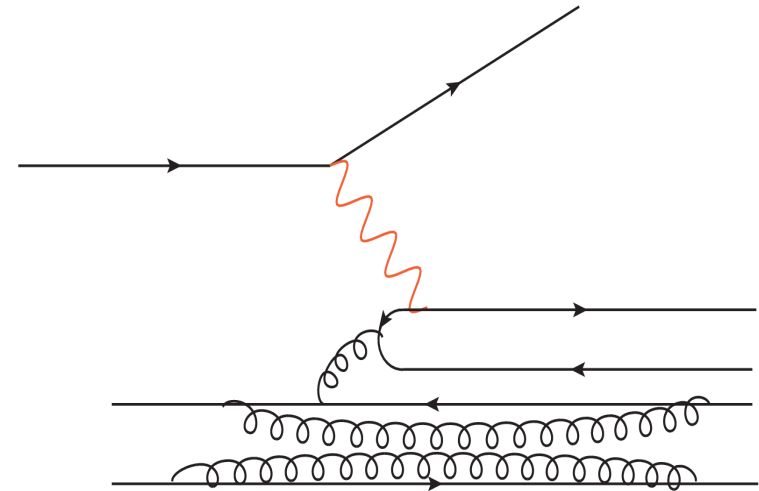
# Deep-inelastic scattering

Picture in the Bjorken frame



Low rapidity  $y$

$$y = \ln \frac{1}{x_{Bj}}$$



Higher rapidity  $y$

Parton model formula "improved":

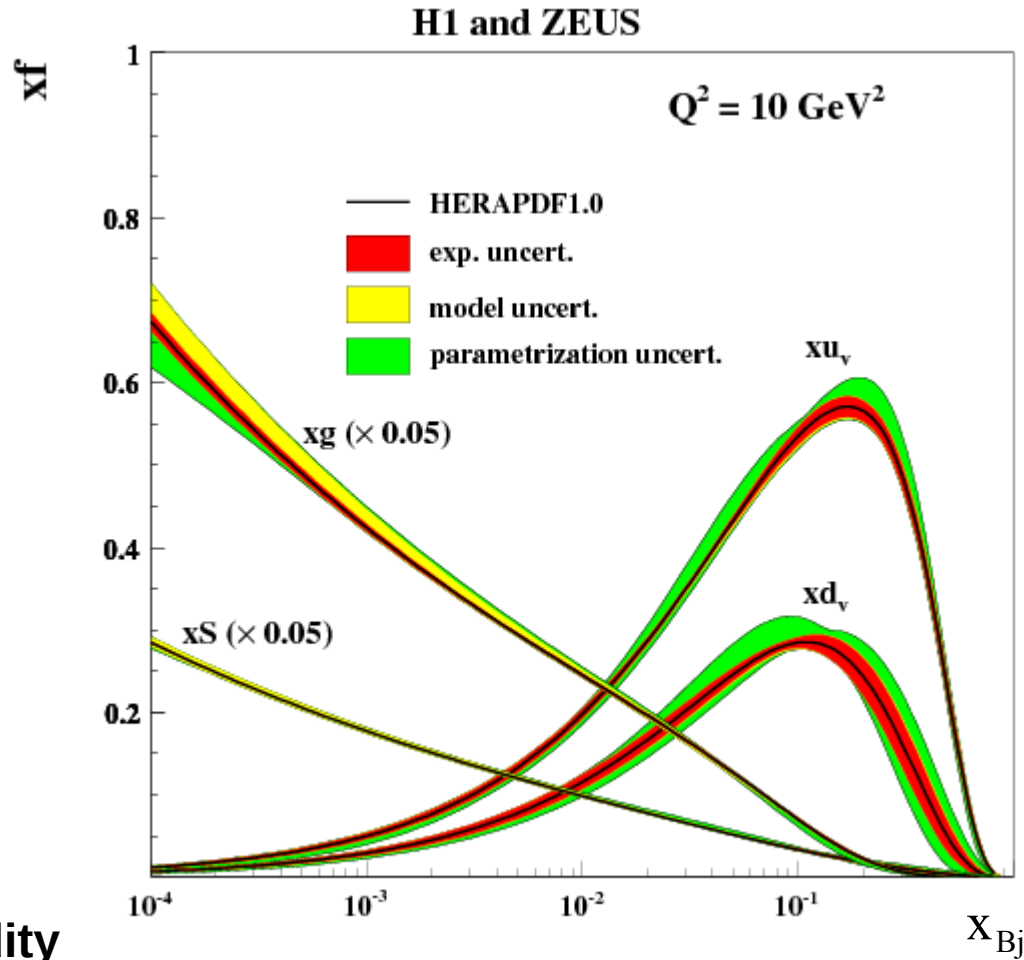
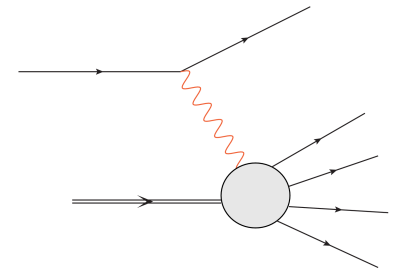
$$\sigma^{y^*h}(Q^2, x_{Bj}) = \frac{4\pi^2 \alpha_{em}}{Q^2} \sum_q e_q^2 \left[ x_{Bj} q(x_{Bj}, Q^2) + x_{Bj} \bar{q}(x_{Bj}, Q^2) \right]$$

(Mean) integrated  
(valence) quark density

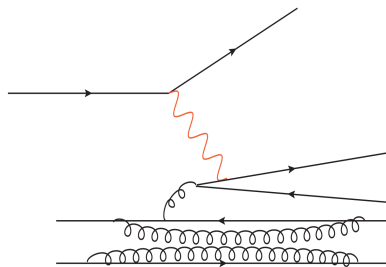
~~~ Bjorken scaling  
(pointlike quarks)~~

# Deep-inelastic scattering

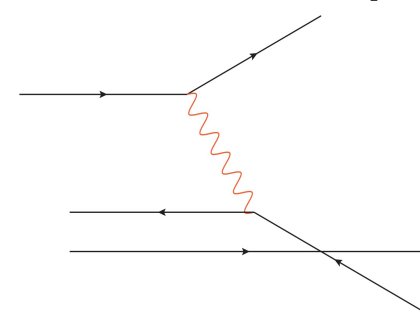
Picture in the Bjorken frame



High rapidity



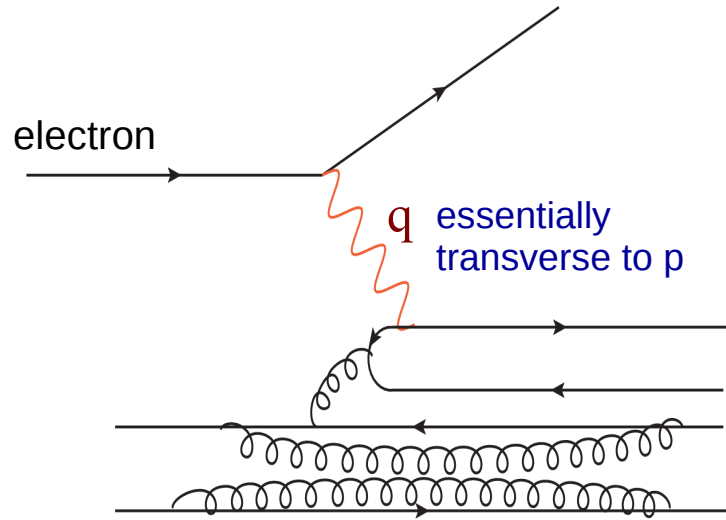
Low rapidity



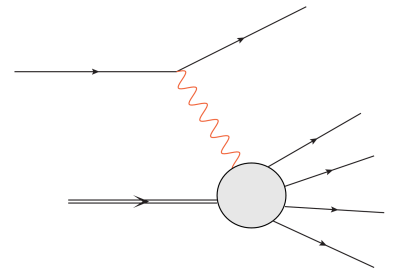


# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

*Picture in the dipole frame*

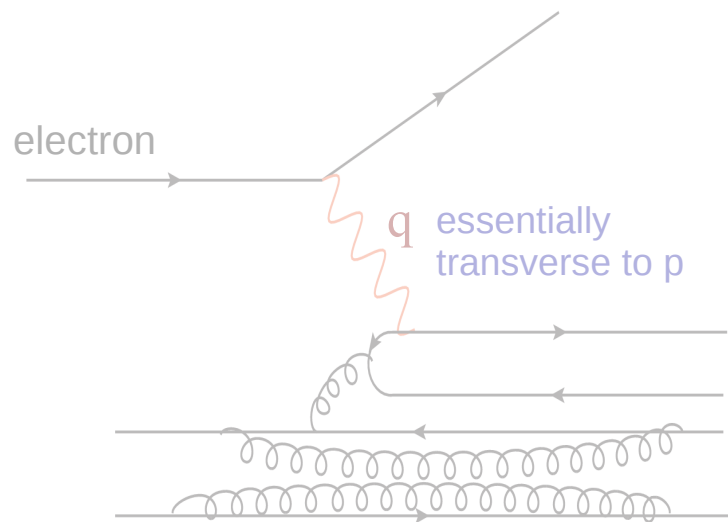


**Bjorken frame**

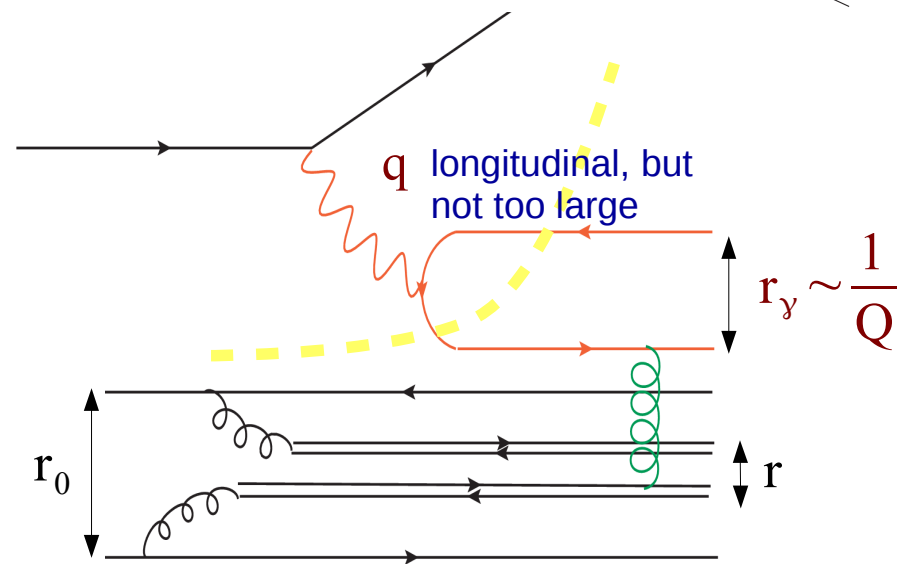


# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

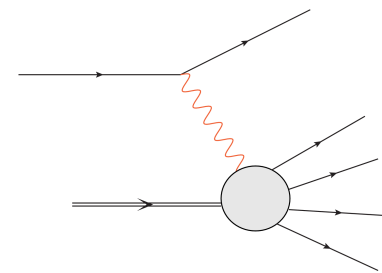
Picture in the dipole frame



Bjorken frame

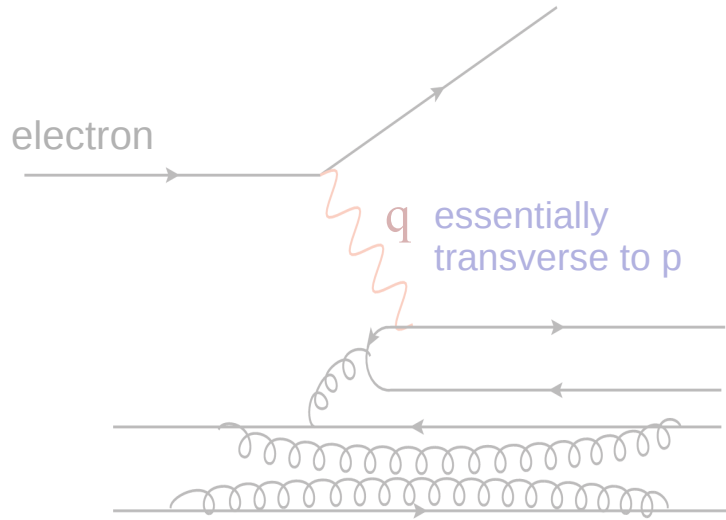


Dipole frame

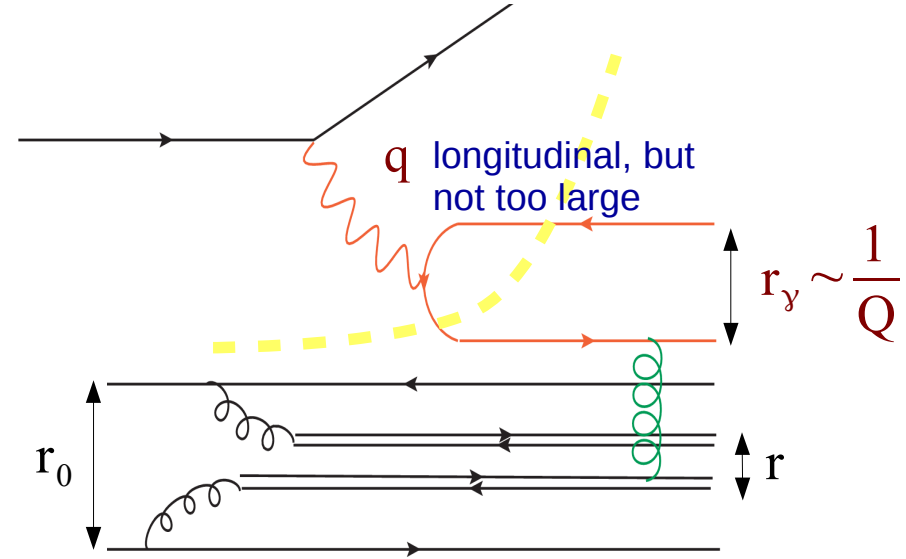


# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

Picture in the dipole frame



Bjorken frame



Dipole frame

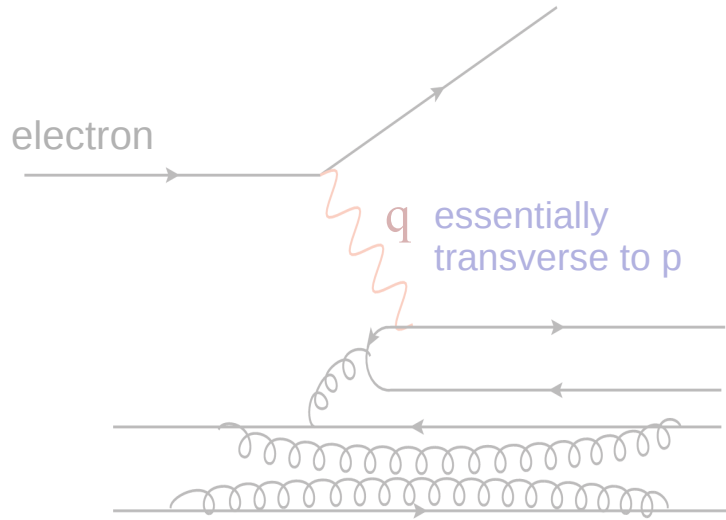
$$\sigma^{y^*h}(Q^2, x_{Bj}) =$$

$\text{Proba}(\gamma^* \rightarrow q\bar{q}(r_y))$

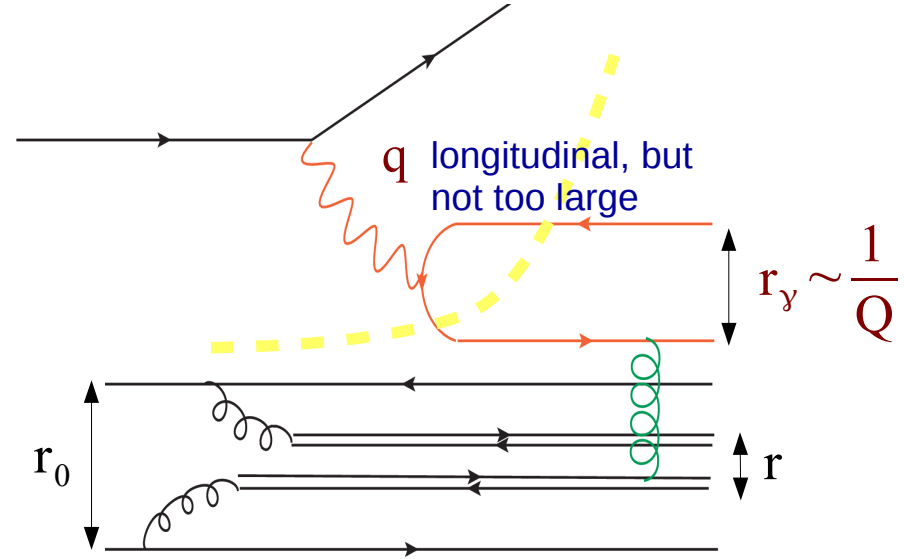
Distribution of quark-antiquark pairs  
in the photon (QED)

# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

Picture in the dipole frame



Bjorken frame



Dipole frame

Dipole-target cross section

$$\sigma^d(r_y, y = \ln 1/x_{Bj})$$

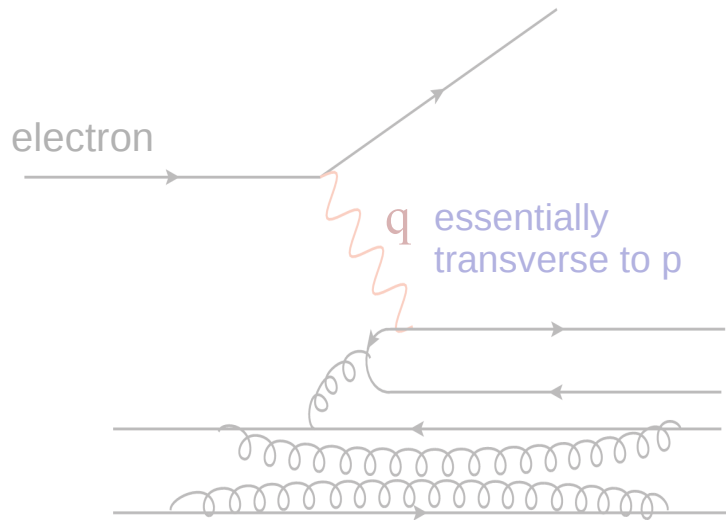
$$\sigma^{y^*h}(Q^2, x_{Bj}) = \int d^2 r_y \text{Proba}(y^* \rightarrow q \bar{q}(r_y)) \times$$

Distribution of quark-antiquark pairs in the photon (QED)

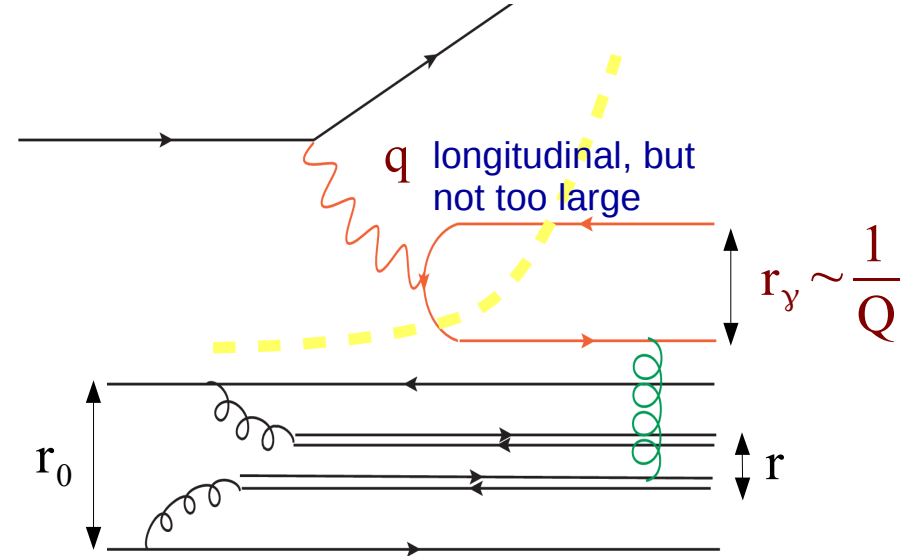
*DIS can be interpreted as dipole scattering off a given target*

# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

Picture in the dipole frame



Bjorken frame



Dipole frame

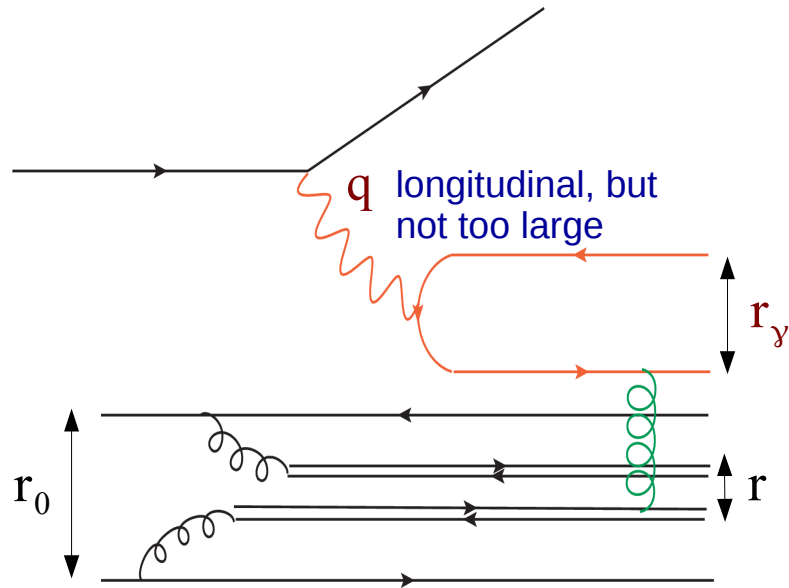
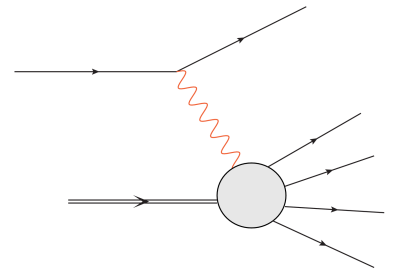
$$\sigma^{y^*h}(Q^2, x_{Bj}) = \underbrace{\int d^2 r_y \text{Proba}(\gamma^* \rightarrow q\bar{q}(r_y))}_{\text{Distribution of quark-antiquark pairs in the photon (QED)}} \times \underbrace{\int d^2 r \sigma^{dd}(r_y, r)}_{\substack{\text{Elementary dipole-dipole} \\ \text{cross section} \\ \text{Exchange of one gluon}}} \times \underbrace{\langle n(r, y|r_0) \rangle}_{\substack{\text{(Mean) dipole number density} \\ \text{y-dependence from BFKL}}}$$

*DIS can be interpreted as dipole scattering off a given target*

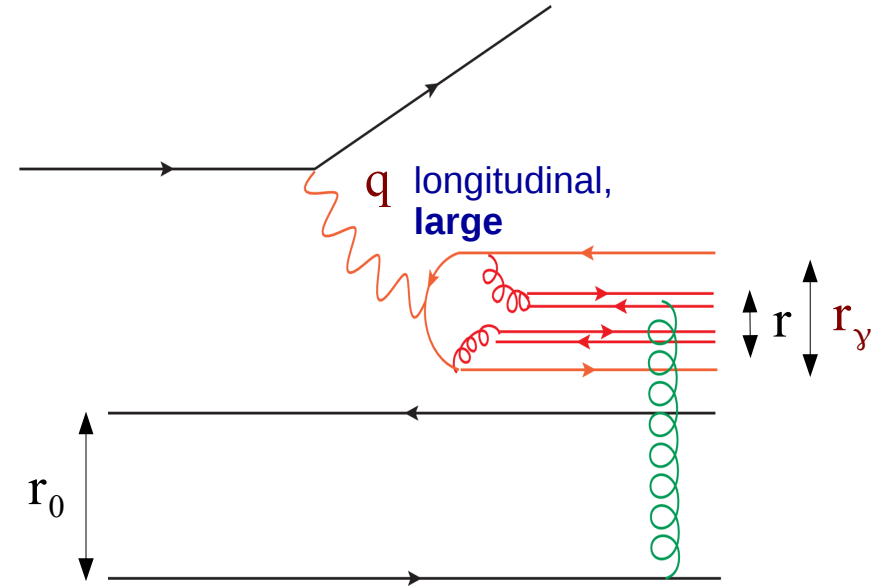
It "measures" the mean dipole (=gluon) density in the target, of size  $\sim 1/Q$

# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

Picture in the target restframe



Dipole frame



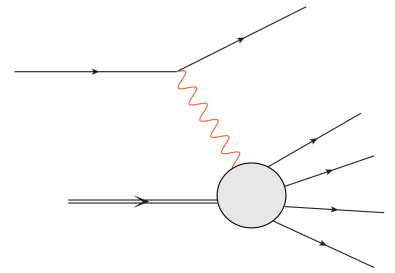
Target restframe

$$\sigma^{y^*h}(\mathbf{Q}^2, \mathbf{x}_{Bj}) = \int d^2 r_y \text{Proba}(y^* \rightarrow q \bar{q}(r_y)) \times \begin{cases} \int d^2 r \sigma^{\text{dd}}(r_y, r) \times \langle n(r, y | r_0) \rangle & \text{(dipole frame)} \\ \int d^2 r \langle n(r, y | r_y) \rangle \times \sigma^{\text{dd}}(r, r_0) & \text{(target restframe)} \end{cases}$$

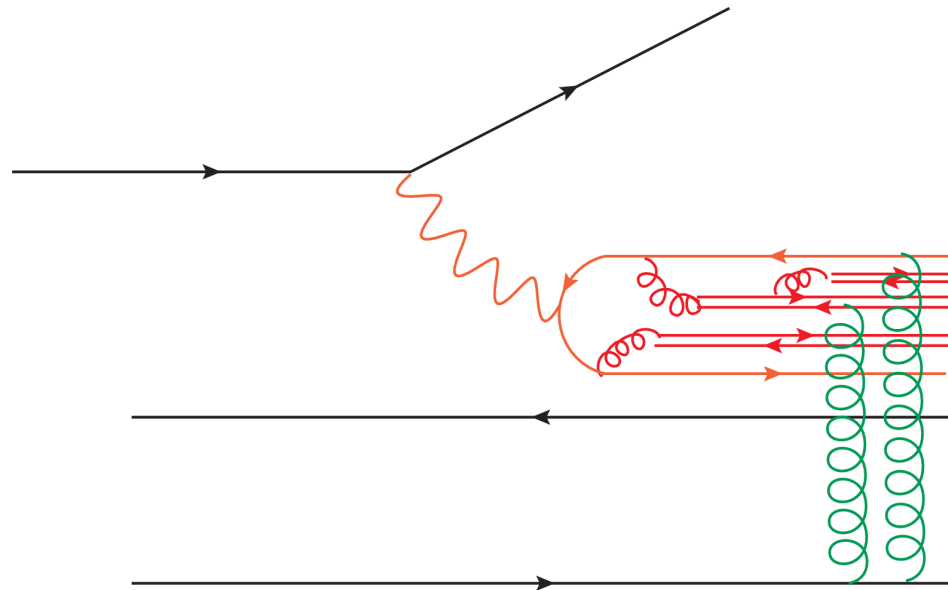
In the target frame, DIS “measures” the mean dipole density in the photon

# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

*Picture in the target restframe*



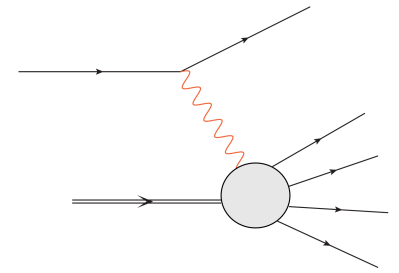
*When the rapidity becomes even higher, then the probability that **multiple scatterings** occur becomes significant:*



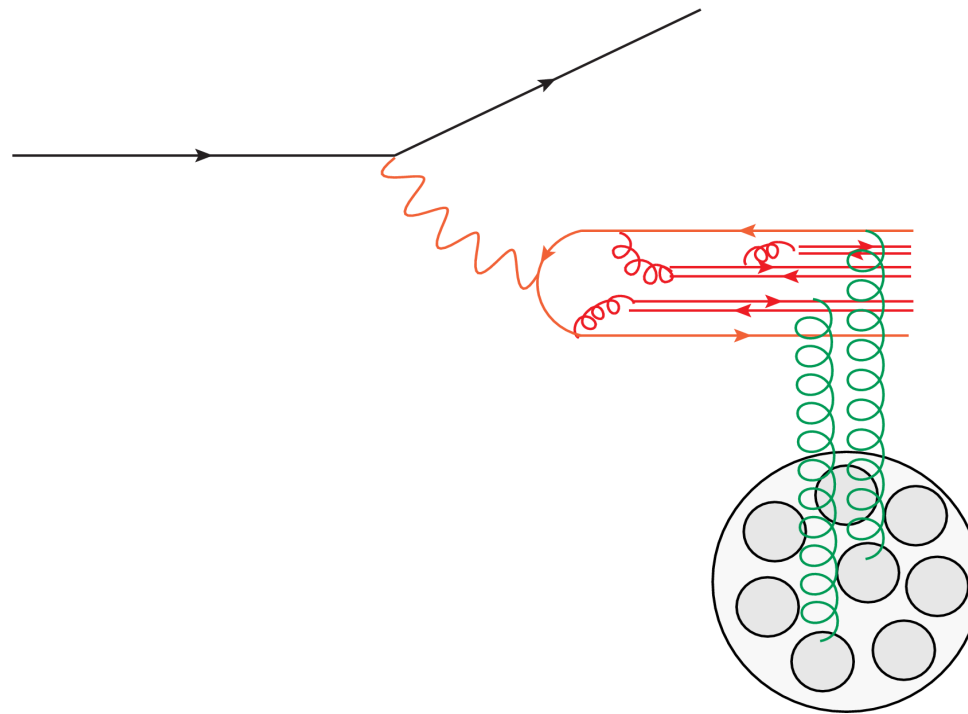
*Such processes are very difficult to formulate if the target is a dilute object (meson, proton, single dipole).*

# Deep-inelastic scattering at high energy

*Picture in the target restframe*



*However, if the target is a **large nucleus** (= dense system of independent nucleons)...*

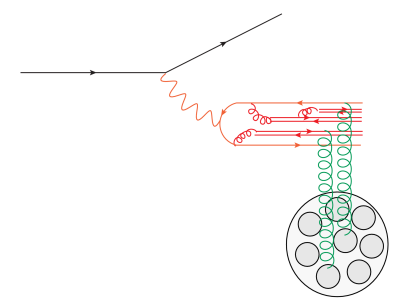


*...then the formulation turns out to simplify, since one may assume that all exchanged gluons scatter with different nucleons.*

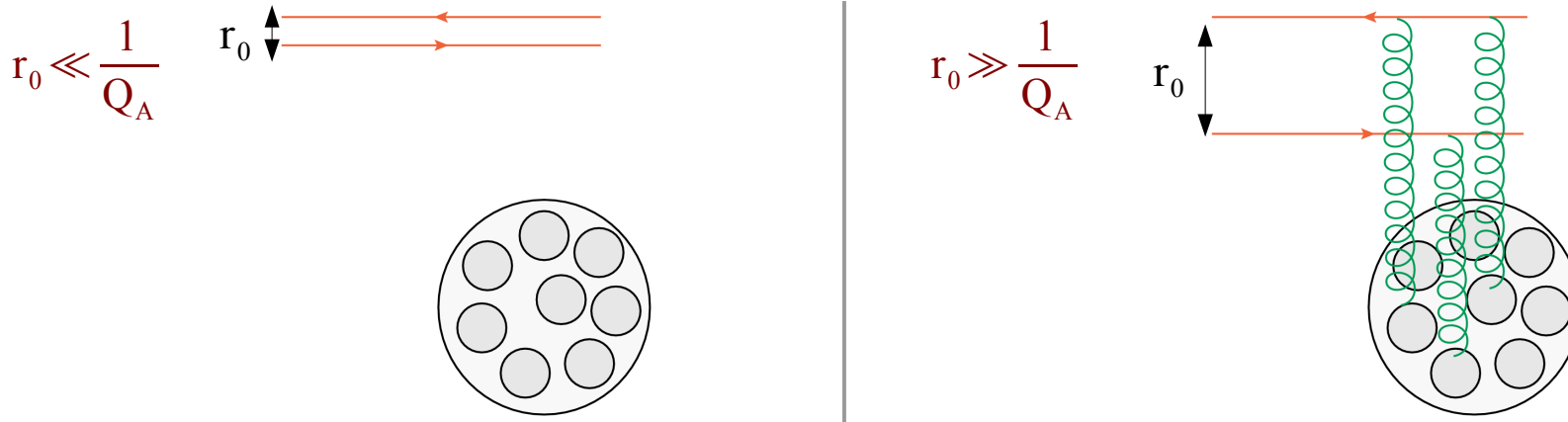


# Deep-inelastic scattering off a nucleus

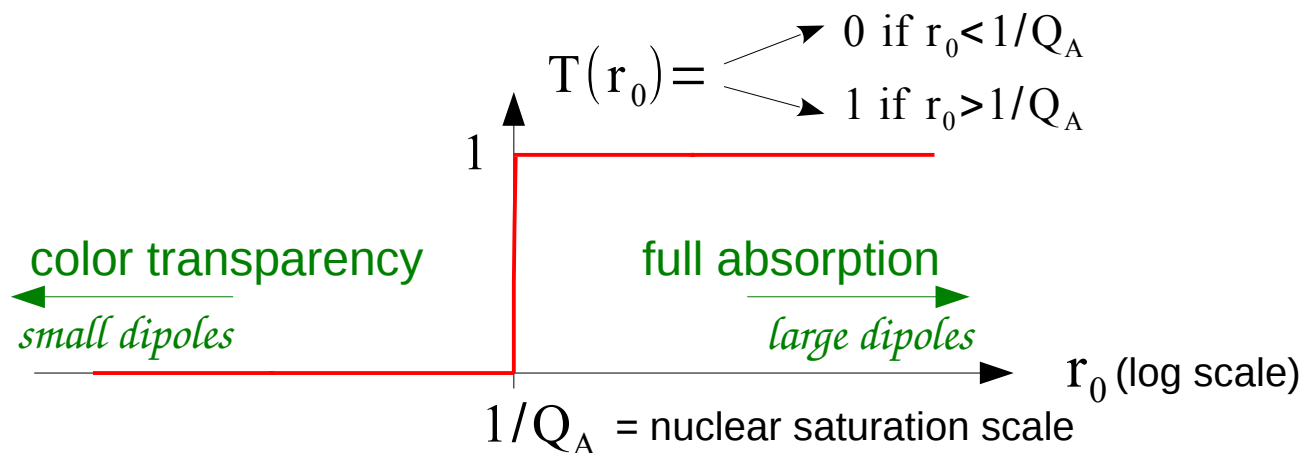
*Low rapidity*



A nucleus is a dense object, characterized by a scale  $Q_A$ , which is essentially **transparent** to dipoles of size smaller than  $1/Q_A$  and fully **absorptive** to larger dipoles:

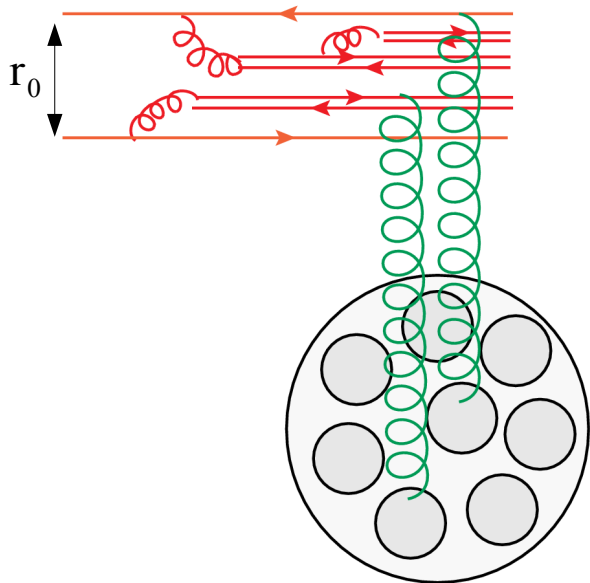
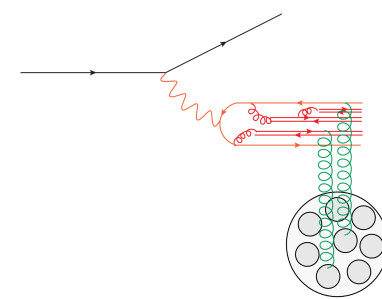


Dipole-nucleus cross section (fixed impact parameter) = scattering probability:

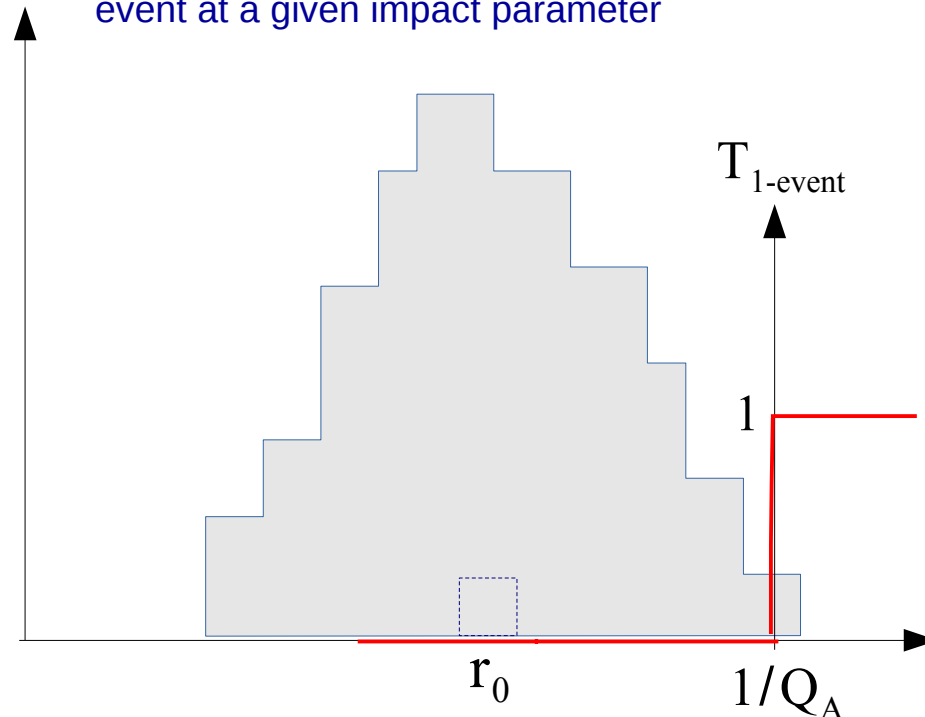


# Deep-inelastic scattering off a nucleus

High rapidity



$n$  Dipole number density in a particular event at a given impact parameter



*This particular evolved quantum state scatters if and only if at least one dipole at the time of the interaction is larger than the inverse nuclear saturation momentum.*

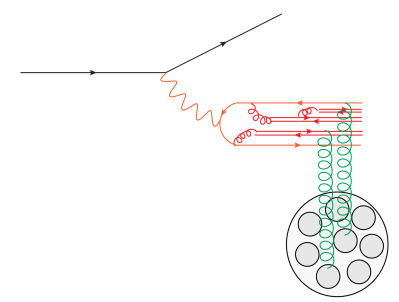
*The measured amplitude is the average over events:  $T = \langle T_{1\text{-event}} \rangle_{\text{events}}$*

*In this case, DIS amplitude  $\sim$  probability distribution of the largest dipole size.*

*Solves the BK equation!*

# Deep-inelastic scattering off a nucleus

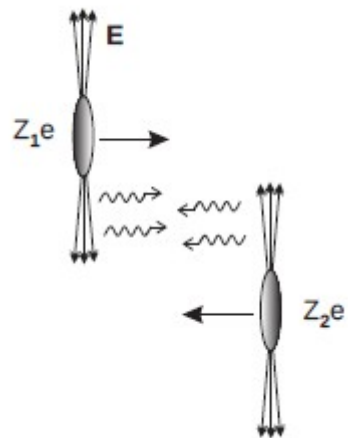
Experimentally?



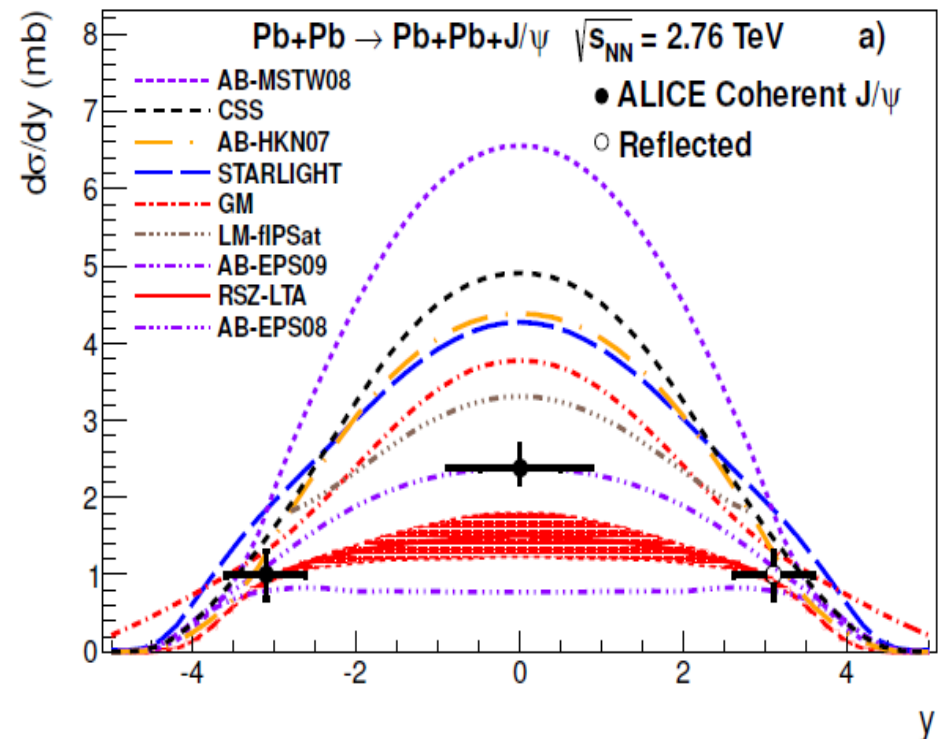
- At HERA, no nuclei, only protons... but one may extrapolate the theoretical results obtained for the nucleus (solution of the BK equation) to protons!

See dipole models: Golec-Biernat and Wüsthoff, Kowalski et al.

- At the LHC, "kind of" DIS off nuclei: ultraperipheral AA collisions!



$$\gamma A \rightarrow J/\psi A'$$



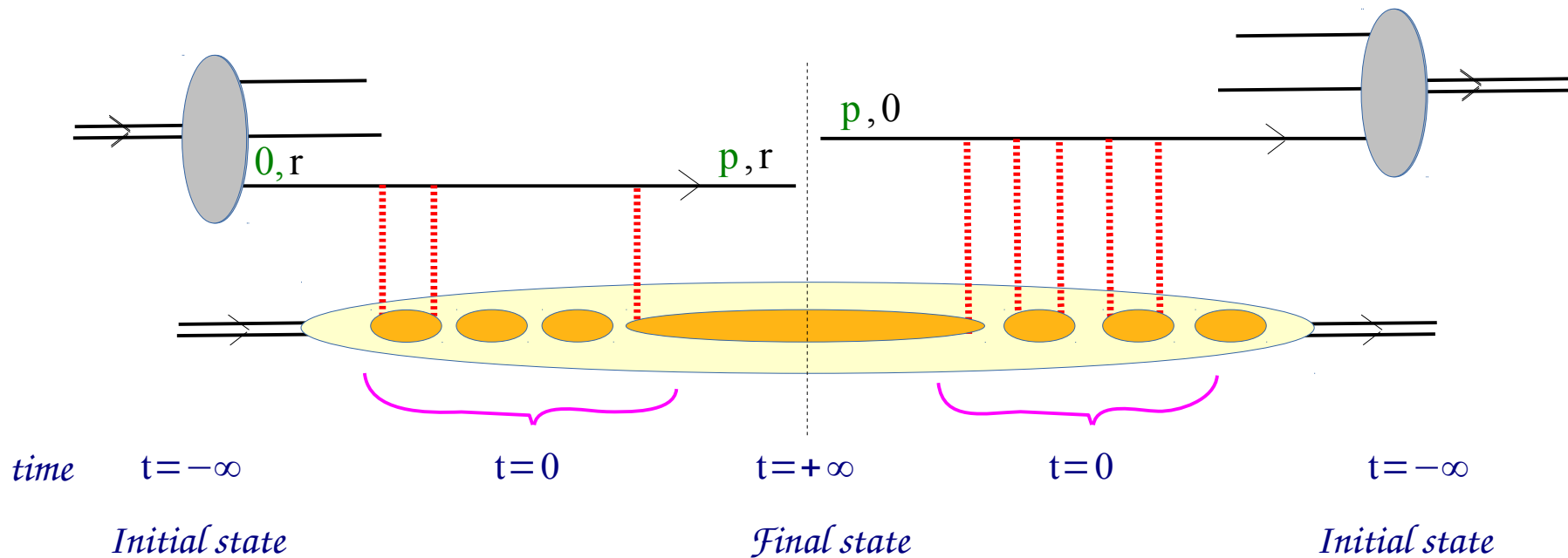
# Intermediate recap

- *The interpretation of deep-inelastic scattering depends on the frame one considers.*
- *In the **Bjorken frame**, the parton model formula relating the DIS cross section to the “usual” quark + antiquark densities is manifest.*
- *In the **dipole frame**, the DIS cross section is manifestly related to the **dipole-hadron cross section**, which in turn, for moderate energies, probes the **mean dipole density**, whose high-energy evolution is given by the **(linear) BFKL equation**.*
- *In the target restframe, the quantum evolution is transferred to the virtual photon.*
- *For higher rapidities or for a dense target like a nucleus, the quantum evolution becomes **nonlinear**, and the **BK equation** becomes the relevant evolution equation. The DIS cross section can be related to the distribution of the **fluctuations of the size of the largest dipole** in the quantum evolution of the virtual photon.*

# Proton-nucleus scattering

Example: Transverse momentum broadening

Measure a jet in proton-nucleus collisions



Distribution of the transverse momentum of this jet:

$$\frac{dN}{d^2 \mathbf{p}} = \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{x}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r}} [\text{cross section for a dipole of size } r]$$

*This formula is also true when quantum evolution is included, and the latter is given by the BK equation for the dipole cross section! (NB: up to next-to-leading order)*

# Summary

*At high energies, hadrons look like dense states of gluons (sometimes called “color glass condensates”), very far from the valence picture. This is a property of QCD.*

*The evolution of hadronic wave functions towards high energy can be computed in QCD. It is quite **universal**. The **color dipole model** is a convenient implementation of this evolution.*

---

*Different properties of the evolution can be investigated experimentally, most easily in **DIS**, but also in **pA** collisions in which processes like **broadening** may formally be related to DIS.*

*DIS off a hadron at moderate rapidity probes the evolution of the **mean dipole number density**, given by the BFKL equation.*

*DIS off a nucleus, or broadening, probe instead the **fluctuations in the tail of the dipole size distribution**.*

---

*Outlook: The event-by-event fluctuations of the total multiplicity in pA scattering may be related to the fluctuations of the total integrated dipole number!*

*Recent textbook on high-energy QCD: Kovchegov and Levin, CUP, 2012*