

Transition form factors of C-even quarkonia in photon-photon processes

Wolfgang Schäfer ¹

¹Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences, ul. Radzikowskiego 152, PL-31-342 Kraków, Poland

Exotic heavy meson spectroscopy and structure with EIC:
Next-level physics and detector simulations
CFNS, Stony Brook University, USA
April 14 – 17, 2025



THE HENRYK NIEWODNICZAŃSKI
INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



NARODOWE CENTRUM NAUKI



I. Babiarez, V. P. Goncalves, R. Pasechnik, W. Schäfer and A. Szczurek, Phys. Rev. D **100** (2019) no.5, 054018 doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.100.054018 [arXiv:1908.07802 [hep-ph]].



I. Babiarez, R. Pasechnik, W. Schäfer and A. Szczurek, JHEP **09** (2022), 170 doi:10.1007/JHEP09(2022)170 [arXiv:2208.05377 [hep-ph]].



I. Babiarez, V. P. Goncalves, W. Schäfer and A. Szczurek, Phys. Lett. B **843** (2023), 138046 doi:10.1016/j.physletb.2023.138046 [arXiv:2306.00754 [hep-ph]].

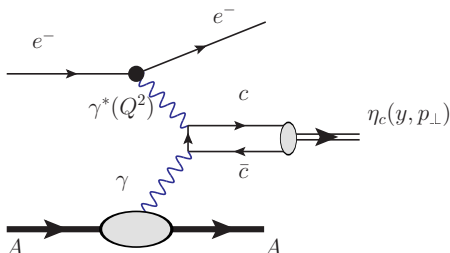


I. Babiarez, R. Pasechnik, W. Schäfer and A. Szczurek, Phys. Rev. D **107** (2023) no.7, L071503 doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.107.L071503 [arXiv:2303.09175 [hep-ph]].



I. Babiarez, R. Pasechnik, W. Schäfer and A. Szczurek, JHEP **06** (2024), 159 doi:10.1007/JHEP06(2024)159 [arXiv:2402.13910 [hep-ph]].

Electron-ion collisions



the nuclear radius: $R_A = r_0 A^{1/3}$, with $r_0 = 1.1$ fm

$$\omega_e = \frac{\sqrt{M^2 + p_\perp^2}}{2} e^{+y}$$

$$\omega_A = \frac{\sqrt{M^2 + p_\perp^2}}{2} e^{-y}$$

$$p_\perp^2 = \left(1 - \frac{\omega_e}{E_e}\right) Q^2$$

$$\sigma(eA \rightarrow e\eta_c A) = \int d\omega_e dQ^2 \frac{d^2 N_e}{d\omega_e dQ^2} \times \sigma(\gamma^* A \rightarrow \eta_c A)$$

$$\sigma(\gamma^* A \rightarrow \eta_c A) = \int d\omega_A \frac{dN_A}{d\omega_A} \times \sigma_{\text{TT}}(\gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \eta_c; W_{\gamma\gamma}, Q^2, 0)$$

$$W_{\gamma\gamma} = \sqrt{4\omega_e \omega_A - p_\perp^2}$$

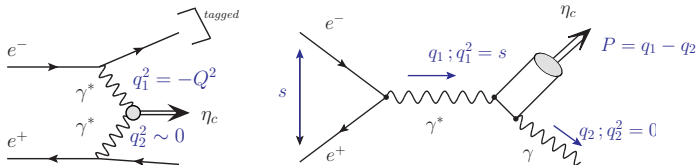
$$\frac{dN_A}{d\omega_A} = \frac{2Z^2 \alpha_{em}}{\pi \omega_A} \left[\xi K_0(\xi) K_1(\xi) - \frac{\xi^2}{2} (K_1^2(\xi) - K_0^2(\xi)) \right]$$

$\xi = R_A \omega_A / \gamma_L$, K_0 and K_1 -modified Bessel functions
i.e.: [Ann.Rev.Nucl.Part.Sci.55, 271\(2005\)](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.nucl.55.1.271)

$$\frac{d^2 N_e}{d\omega_e dQ^2} = \frac{\alpha_{em}}{\pi \omega_e Q^2} \left[\left(1 - \frac{\omega_e}{E_e}\right) \left(1 - \frac{Q_{min}^2}{Q^2}\right) + \frac{\omega_e^2}{2E_e^2} \right]$$

$$Q_{min}^2 = m_e^2 \omega_e^2 / [E_e (E_e - \omega_e)] \text{ and } Q_{max}^2 = 4E_e (E_e - \omega_e)$$

$\gamma^* \gamma^*$ transition form factor



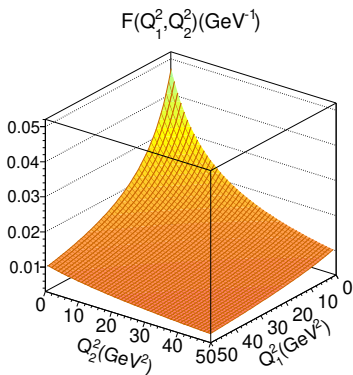
- We are interested in the coupling of η_Q to two (off-shell) photons

$$\mathcal{M}(\gamma^*(q_1)\gamma^*(q_2) \rightarrow \eta_Q) = i 4\pi\alpha_{\text{em}} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \epsilon_1^\mu \epsilon_2^\nu q_1^\alpha q_2^\beta \underbrace{\mathcal{F}_{\eta_Q}(t_1, t_2)}_{\text{transition FF}} \quad t_1 = \frac{q_1^2}{m_Q^2}, \quad t_2 = \frac{q_2^2}{m_Q^2}.$$

- the $\gamma^* \gamma^*$ **transition form factor** describes the following observables:

- 1 **on-shell:** $t_1 = t_2 = 0$: the decay width $\eta_Q \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$.
- 2 **space-like region:** $t_1 < 0, t_2 = 0$: exclusive production of η_Q in *single-tagged* e^+e^- collisions. $t_1 < 0, t_2 < 0 \rightarrow$ *double tagged* e^+e^- collisions.
- 3 **time-like region:** $t_1 > 0, t_2 = 0$: exclusive production of $\eta_Q\gamma$ in e^+e^- annihilation; Dalitz decay $\eta_Q \rightarrow \gamma\ell^+\ell^-$ or $\eta_Q \rightarrow 4\ell$.

$\gamma^* \gamma^* \rightarrow \eta_c(1S)$ Transition Form Factor



- In a Drell-Yan like frame, where $q_1 = q_1^+ n^+ + q_{1\perp}$, $q_2 = q_2^- n^- + q_{2\perp}$, and $q_i^2 = -q_{i\perp}^2$, the transition factor has a light-front wave function representation.
Brodsky & Huang '99.

$$n^{+\mu} n^{-\nu} M_{\mu,\nu}(\gamma^*(q_1) \gamma^*(q_2) \rightarrow \eta_c) \\ = -i4\pi\alpha_{em}(q_1^x q_2^y - q_1^y q_2^x) F(Q_1^2, Q_2^2)$$

$$F(Q_1^2, Q_2^2) = e_c^2 \sqrt{N_c} 4m_c \cdot \int \frac{dz d^2 \mathbf{k} \psi_S(z, \mathbf{k})}{z(1-z)16\pi^3} \left\{ \frac{(1-z)}{(\mathbf{k} - (1-z)\mathbf{q}_2)^2 + \epsilon^2} + \frac{z}{(\mathbf{k} + z\mathbf{q}_2)^2 + \epsilon^2} \right\}, \\ Q_i^2 = \vec{q}_{i\perp}^2, \epsilon^2 = z(1-z)\mathbf{q}_1^2 + m_c^2$$

- $z, 1-z$ are LF-"+" momentum fractions of quark/antiquark, $\mathbf{k}$ is relative transverse momentum. NR-limit: $\mathbf{k} \rightarrow 0, z \rightarrow 1/2$.

Two approaches to quarkonium light front wave functions

Terentev substitution - LFWF from potential model

- Quark three-momentum in bound state rest frame

$$\vec{k} = (\mathbf{k}, k_z), \quad k_z = \left(z - \frac{1}{2}\right) M_{c\bar{c}} \quad M_{c\bar{c}}^2 = \frac{\mathbf{k}^2 + m_c^2}{z(1-z)}$$

- radial WF $u_{nP}(k)$ becomes (with appropriate Jacobian) radial LFWF $\psi(z, \mathbf{k})$
- canonical spin is substituted by LF helicity via **Melosh transform**

$$\xi_Q = R(z, \mathbf{k}) \chi_Q, \quad \xi_{\bar{Q}}^* = R^*(1-z, -\mathbf{k}) \chi_{\bar{Q}}^* \quad R(z, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{m_c + zM_{c\bar{c}} - i\vec{\sigma} \cdot (\vec{n} \times \mathbf{k})}{\sqrt{(m_c + zM_{c\bar{c}})^2 + \mathbf{k}^2}}$$

- We use a variety of interquark potentials summarized in [Eur. Phys. J. C 79 \(2019\) no.6, 495](#)

Basis light front quantization (BLFQ)

- bound state WFs from effective LF-Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{eff}}|\chi_c; \lambda_A, P_+, \mathbf{P}\rangle = M_{\chi}^2|\chi_c; \lambda_A, P_+, \mathbf{P}\rangle,$$

- we use LFWFs from Y. Li, P. Maris and J. P. Vary, [Phys. Rev. D 96 \(2017\), 016022](#)
- effective Hamiltonian which contains a term motivated by a “soft-wall” confinement from LF-holography, as well as a longitudinal confinement potential supplemented by one gluon exchange including the full spin-structure.

Light-Front Wave Functions from rest-frame: $J = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \psi_{NR}(\vec{p}, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) &= \sum_{m_l, m_s} Y_{l m_l}(\hat{p}) \underbrace{\langle \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}, \lambda_1 \lambda_2 | S, m_s \rangle \langle L, S, m_l m_s | J J_z \rangle}_{\text{spin-orbit}} \underbrace{\varphi(|\vec{p}|)}_{\text{radial}} \\
 &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \xi_Q^{\tau\dagger} \hat{O} i \sigma_2 \xi_{\bar{Q}}^{\tau*}}_{\text{spin-orbit}} \underbrace{\frac{u_{nl}(p)}{p}}_{\text{radial}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}};
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{p} = (\vec{p}_\perp, p_z) = \left(\mathbf{k}, \frac{1}{2}(2z - 1)M_{Q\bar{Q}} \right).$$

Spherical harmonic for S-wave ($l=0$):

$$Y_{00} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4\pi}}$$

Spherical harmonic for P-wave ($l=1$):

$$Y_{10} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos(\theta),$$

$$Y_{11} = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin(\theta) e^{i\phi},$$

$$Y_{1-1} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin(\theta) e^{-i\phi}.$$

$$\hat{O} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{I} & S=0, L=0. \\ \frac{\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{p}}{p}, & S=1, L=1. \end{cases}$$

Clebsch-Gordan coefficients

$$\langle L=1, S=1; m_l, m_s | J=0, J_z=0 \rangle,$$

$$\langle 1, 1; +1, -1 | 00 \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}},$$

$$\langle 1, 1; -1, +1 | 00 \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}},$$

$$\langle 1, 1; 0, 0 | 00 \rangle = -\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}},$$

Light-Front Wave Functions from rest-frame: $J = 0$ - Melosh-transf.

Melosh-transformation of spin-orbit part: $\xi_Q = R(z, \mathbf{k})\chi_Q$, $\xi_Q^* = R^*(1 - z, -\mathbf{k})\chi_Q^*$,

$$R(z, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{m_Q + zM - i\vec{\sigma} \cdot (\vec{n} \times \mathbf{k})}{\sqrt{(m_Q + zM)^2 + \mathbf{k}^2}}$$

$\hat{O}' = R^\dagger(z, \mathbf{k})\hat{O}i\sigma_2 R^*(1 - z, -\mathbf{k})(i\sigma_2)^{-1}$ from Pauli matrices properties: $i\sigma_2 \vec{\sigma}^* (i\sigma_2)^{-1} = -\vec{\sigma}$

$$\hat{O}' = R^\dagger(z, \mathbf{k})\hat{O}R(1 - z, -\mathbf{k}).$$

Pseudoscalar (S-wave)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{++}(z, \mathbf{k}) & \Psi_{+-}(z, \mathbf{k}) \\ \Psi_{-+}(z, \mathbf{k}) & \Psi_{--}(z, \mathbf{k}) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\psi_S(z, \mathbf{k})}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \begin{pmatrix} -k_x + ik_y & m_Q \\ -m_Q & -k_x - ik_y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\psi_S(z, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2M}} \frac{u_{n0}(p)}{p}$$

Scalar (P-wave)

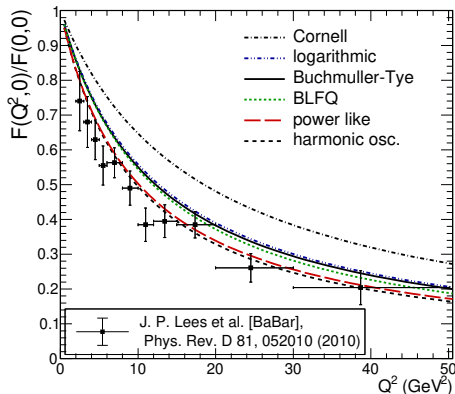
$$\begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{++}(z, \mathbf{k}) & \Psi_{+-}(z, \mathbf{k}) \\ \Psi_{-+}(z, \mathbf{k}) & \Psi_{--}(z, \mathbf{k}) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{-\psi_P(z, \mathbf{k})}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \begin{pmatrix} k_x - ik_y & m_Q(1-2z) \\ m_Q(1-2z) & -k_x - ik_y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\psi_P(z, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\pi\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{M^2 - 4m_Q^2}} \frac{u_{n1}(p)}{p}$$

Normalisation

$$1 = \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z(1-z)} \int \frac{d^2\vec{k}_\perp}{16\pi^3} \sum_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}} |\Psi_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}(z, \mathbf{k})|^2 = \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z(1-z)} \int \frac{d^2\vec{k}_\perp}{16\pi^3} 2M_{c\bar{c}} \psi(z, \mathbf{k})$$

Normalized transition form factor: $\gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \eta_c$



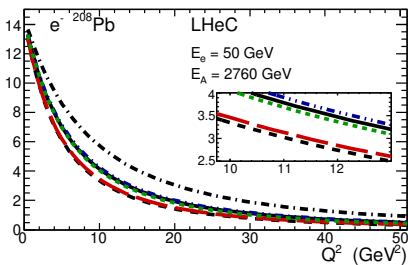
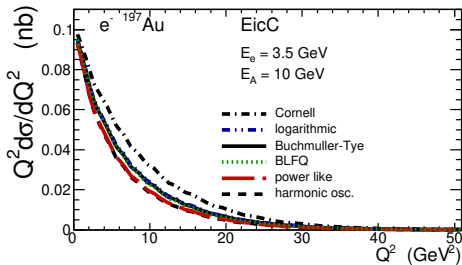
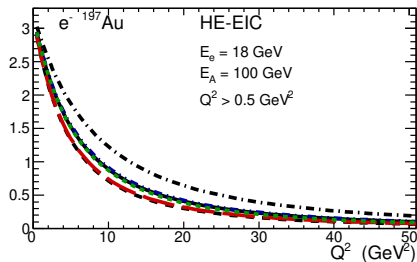
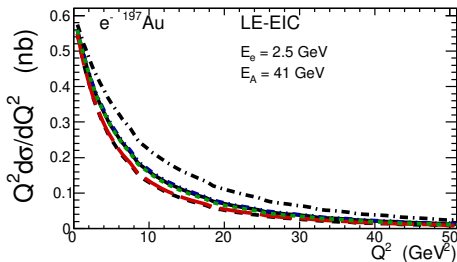
In the Melosh spin-rotation formulation $\tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\downarrow}(z, k_{\perp})$, $\tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\uparrow}(z, k_{\perp})$, are related to the same radial wave function $\psi(z, k_{\perp})$ as:

$$\tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\downarrow}(z, k_{\perp}) \rightarrow \frac{m_c}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \psi(z, k_{\perp}),$$

$$\tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\uparrow}(z, k_{\perp}) \rightarrow \frac{-|\vec{k}_{\perp}|}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \psi(z, k_{\perp}),$$

$$F(Q^2, 0) = e_c^2 \sqrt{N_c} 4 \int \frac{dz d^2 \vec{k}_{\perp}}{\sqrt{z(1-z)} 16\pi^3} \left\{ \frac{1}{\vec{k}_{\perp}^2 + \epsilon^2} \tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\downarrow}(z, k_{\perp}) + \frac{\vec{k}_{\perp}^2}{[\vec{k}_{\perp}^2 + \epsilon^2]^2} \left(\tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\downarrow}(z, k_{\perp}) + \frac{m_c}{k_{\perp}} \tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\uparrow}(z, k_{\perp}) \right) \right\},$$

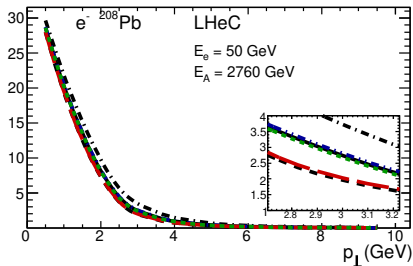
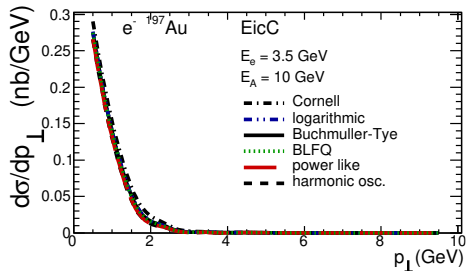
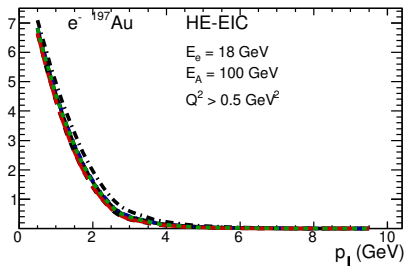
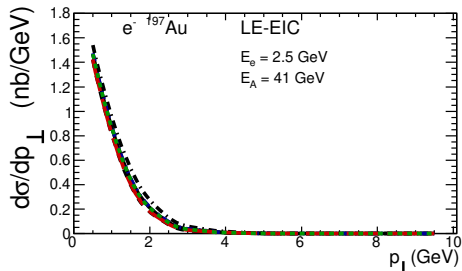
Differential distribution in photon virtuality



$Q^2 > 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$

[Phys.Lett.B 843\(2023\)138046](#)

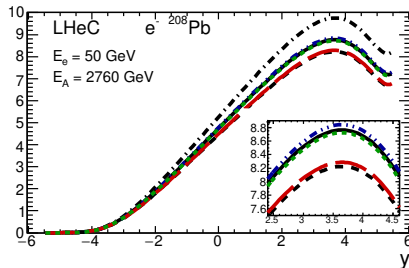
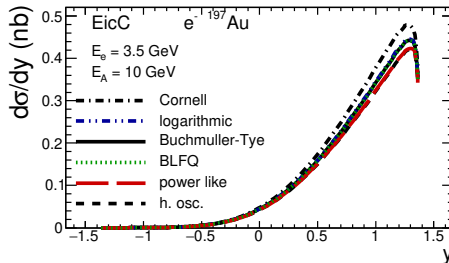
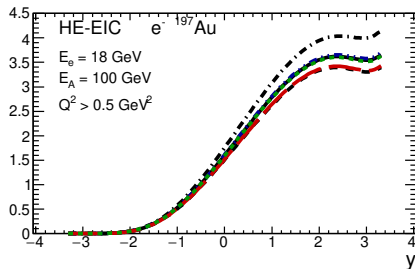
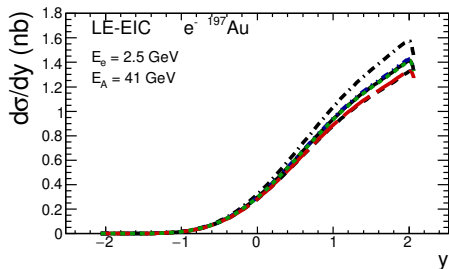
Differential distribution in transverse momentum of η_c



$Q^2 > 0.5$ GeV²

[Phys.Lett.B 843\(2023\)138046](#)

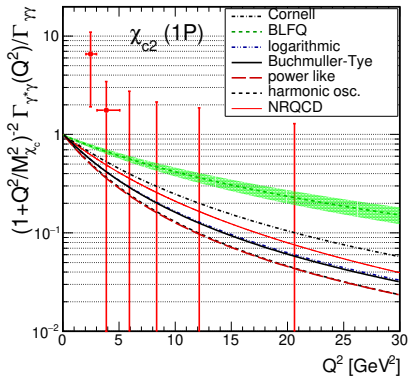
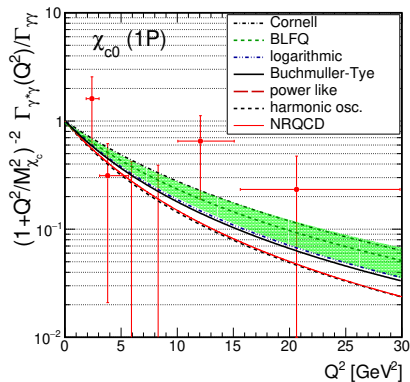
Differential distribution in rapidity of η_c



$Q^2 > 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$

[Phys. Lett. B 843\(2023\)138046](#)

$\gamma^*\gamma$ cross-section and off-shell width



Off-shell decay width $\Gamma^*(Q^2)$ for χ_{c0} (on the l.h.s.) and χ_{c2} (on the r.h.s.) compared to the Belle data [Phys.Rev.D 97 \(2018\) 5, 052003](https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.05203).

$$\Gamma_{\gamma^*\gamma}(Q^2) = \Gamma_{\text{TT}}^*(Q^2) + \epsilon_0 2\Gamma_{\text{LT}}^*(Q^2)$$

$$\Gamma^*(Q^2) = \frac{(4\pi\alpha_{\text{em}})^2}{16\pi M} F_{\text{TT}}^2(Q^2).$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{TT}}^*(Q^2) = (4\pi\alpha_{\text{em}})^2 \left\{ \frac{F_{\text{TT2}}^2(Q^2)}{80\pi M} + \frac{M^3 F_{\text{TT0}}^2(Q^2)}{120\pi} \left(1 + \frac{Q^2}{M^2}\right)^4 \right\}.$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{LT}}^*(Q^2) = (4\pi\alpha_{\text{em}})^2 \frac{1}{160\pi} \left(1 + \frac{Q^2}{M^2}\right)^2 M Q^2 F_{\text{LT}}^2(Q^2).$$

$\gamma^* \gamma^*$ -transition form factors for $J^{PC} = 1^{++}$ axial mesons

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}} \mathcal{M}_{\mu\nu\rho} &= i \left(q_1 - q_2 + \frac{Q_1^2 - Q_2^2}{(q_1 + q_2)^2} (q_1 + q_2) \right)_\rho \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} \frac{M}{2X} F_{\text{TT}}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2) \\ &+ ie_\mu^L(q_1) \tilde{G}_{\nu\rho} \frac{1}{\sqrt{X}} F_{\text{LT}}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2) + ie_\nu^L(q_2) \tilde{G}_{\mu\rho} \frac{1}{\sqrt{X}} F_{\text{TL}}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2). \end{aligned}$$

- Above we introduced

$$\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} = \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} q_1^\alpha q_2^\beta, \quad X = (q_1 \cdot q_2)^2 - q_1^2 q_2^2$$

and the polarization vectors of longitudinal photons

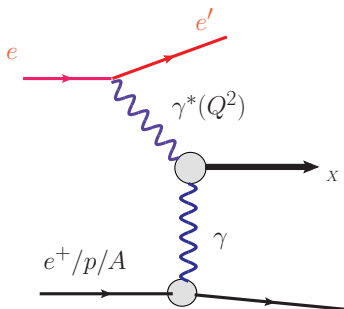
$$e_\mu^L(q_1) = \sqrt{\frac{-q_1^2}{X}} \left(q_{2\mu} - \frac{q_1 \cdot q_2}{q_1^2} q_{1\mu} \right), \quad e_\nu^L(q_2) = \sqrt{\frac{-q_2^2}{X}} \left(q_{1\nu} - \frac{q_1 \cdot q_2}{q_2^2} q_{2\nu} \right).$$

- $F_{\text{TT}}(0, 0) = 0$, there is **no decay to two photons** (Landau-Yang).
- $F_{\text{LT}}(Q^2, 0) \propto Q$ (absence of kinematical singularities).

$$f_{\text{LT}}(Q^2) = \frac{F_{\text{LT}}(Q^2, 0)}{Q}$$

- $f_{\text{LT}}(0)$ gives rise to so-called “reduced width” $\tilde{\Gamma}$.

Accessing transition form factors

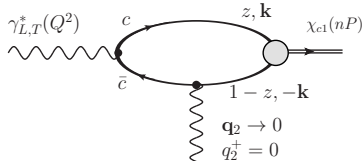


- We want to have at least **one virtual photon** to study the Q^2 -dependence of transition FFs. For 1^{++} states it is strictly necessary to obtain finite cross section. This excludes ultraperipheral heavy ion collisions, where photons are quasi-real.
- Electron scattering gives us access to finite Q^2 and a whole polarization density matrix of virtual photons.
- Feasible options are:
 - 1 single tag e^+e^- collisions. Here the tagged lepton couples to the virtual photon, while photons from the lepton “lost in the beampipe” are quasisreal.
 - 2 electron-proton or electron-ion scattering. Here especially heavy ions which have large charge give rise to a large quasisreal photon flux enhanced by Z^2 .

Ion	Cu	Ru	Au	Pb
Z	29	44	79	82

- Ion is scattered at very small angle, not measured. Photon exchange is associated with rapidity between produced system and ion.

Transition amplitude in the Drell-Yan frame



LF-Fock state expansion

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\chi_{c1}; \lambda, P_+, \mathbf{P}\rangle &= \sum_{i,j,\sigma,\bar{\sigma}} \frac{\delta_j^i}{\sqrt{N_c}} \int \frac{dz d^2\mathbf{k}}{z(1-z)16\pi^3} \Psi_{\sigma\bar{\sigma}}^\lambda(z, \mathbf{k}) \\
 &\times \left| Q_{i\sigma}(zP_+, \mathbf{p}_Q) \bar{Q}_{\bar{\sigma}}^j((1-z)P_+, \mathbf{p}_{\bar{Q}}) \right\rangle + \dots \\
 \mathbf{k} &= (1-z)\mathbf{p}_Q - z\mathbf{p}_{\bar{Q}} \quad \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{p}_Q + \mathbf{p}_{\bar{Q}}
 \end{aligned}$$

- We evaluate the $\gamma^*\gamma^* \rightarrow \chi_{c1}$ amplitude in the Drell-Yan frame where $q_{1\mu} = q_{1+}n_\mu^+ + q_{1-}n_\mu^-$ and $q_{2\mu} = q_{2-}n_\mu^- + q_{2\perp}^\perp$, using the light front plus-component of the current:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \chi_{c1}(\lambda) | J_+(0) | \gamma_L^*(Q^2) \rangle &= 2q_{1+} \sqrt{N_c} e^2 e_f^2 \int \frac{dz d^2\mathbf{k}}{z(1-z)16\pi^3} \\
 &\times \sum_{\sigma,\bar{\sigma}} \Psi_{\sigma\bar{\sigma}}^{\lambda*}(z, \mathbf{k}) (\mathbf{q}_2 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}}) \Psi_{\sigma\bar{\sigma}}^{\gamma_L}(z, \mathbf{k}, Q^2) \propto i\mathbf{q}_2 \langle \chi_{c1}(\lambda) | \mathbf{r} | \gamma_L^*(Q^2) \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

- for *spacelike* photons, the plus component of the current is free from parton number changing or instantaneous fermion exchange contributions.
- "Transition dipole moment" with dipole sizes controlled by photon WF

$$r \sim 1/\sqrt{m_c^2 + Q^2/4} < 0.15 \text{ fm.}$$

- photon-photon cross sections:

$$\sigma_{ij} = \frac{32\pi(2J+1)}{N_i N_j} \frac{\hat{s}}{2M\sqrt{X}} \frac{M\Gamma}{(\hat{s} - M^2)^2 + M^2\Gamma^2} \Gamma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*}^{ij}(Q_1^2, Q_2^2, \hat{s}),$$

where $\{i, j\} \in \{T, L\}$, and $N_T = 2$, $N_L = 1$ are the numbers of polarization states of photons. In terms of our helicity form factor, we obtain for the LT configuration, putting at the resonance pole $\hat{s} \rightarrow M^2$, and $J = 1$ for the axial-vector meson:

reduced width

$$\tilde{\Gamma}(A) = \lim_{Q^2 \rightarrow 0} \frac{M^2}{Q^2} \Gamma_{\gamma^*\gamma^*}^{\text{LT}}(Q^2, 0, M^2) = \frac{\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}^2 M}{3} f_{\text{LT}}^2(0),$$

- provides a useful measure of size of the relevant e^+e^- cross section in the $\gamma\gamma$ mode. For a $c\bar{c}$ state:

$$f_{\text{LT}} = -e_f^2 M^2 \frac{\sqrt{3N_c}}{8\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{dk k^2 u(k)}{(k^2 + m_c^2)^2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{M_{c\bar{c}}}} \left\{ \frac{2}{\beta^2} - \frac{1 - \beta^2}{\beta^3} \log\left(\frac{1 + \beta}{1 - \beta}\right) \right\}, \quad \beta = \frac{k}{\sqrt{k^2 + m_c^2}}$$

- nonrelativistic limit:

$$\tilde{\Gamma}(A) = \frac{2^5 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 e_c^2 N_c}{M_\chi^4} |R'(0)|^2$$

Table: Reduced width of $\chi_{c1}(1P)$

potential model	m_c (GeV)	$ R'(0) $ (GeV ^{5/2})	$\tilde{\Gamma}(\chi_{c1})_{NR}$ (keV)	$\tilde{\Gamma}(\chi_{c1})$ (keV)
power-law	1.33	0.22	0.97	0.50
Buchmüller-Tye	1.48	0.25	0.82	0.30
Cornell	1.84	0.32	0.56	0.09
harmonic oscillator	1.4	0.27	1.20	0.53
logarithmic	1.5	0.24	0.72	0.27

- Considerably larger values of $\tilde{\Gamma}(\chi_{c1})$ are quoted in the literature. For example Danilkin & Vanderhaeghen (2017) report a value of $\tilde{\Gamma}(\chi_{c1}) \approx 1.6$ keV from a sum rule analysis. Li et al. (2022) obtain $\tilde{\Gamma}(\chi_{c1}) \approx 3$ keV from a LFWF approach.
- A measurement of the reduced width would therefore be very valuable.

$\chi_{c1}(3872)$ – the $[c\bar{c}] 2^3P_1$ component

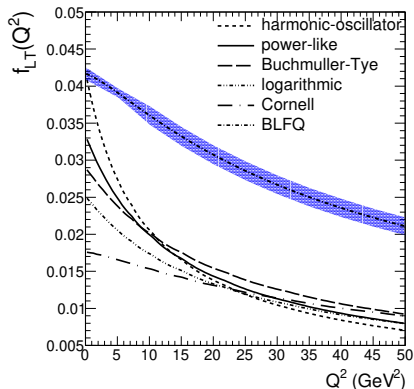


Figure: The dimensionless $\gamma_L^* \gamma \rightarrow \chi_{c1}(2P)$ transition form factor $f_{LT}(Q^2)$.

- We use LFWFs for $n = 1$ radial excitation of the p -wave charmonium.
- We trace the different Q^2 -dependences to differences of the z -dependence and constituent c -quark mass used in different models.
- error band for BLFQ reflects dependence on basis-size as proposed by its authors.

Reduced $\gamma_L^*\gamma$ width for $\chi_{c1}(3872)$

Table: The reduced width of the $\chi_{c1}(2P)$ state for several models of the charmonium wave functions with specific c -quark mass.

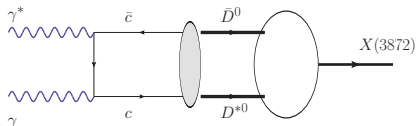
$c\bar{c}$ potential	m_c (GeV)	$f_{LT}(0)$	$\tilde{\Gamma}_{\gamma\gamma}$ (keV)
harmonic oscillator	1.4	0.041	0.36
power-law	1.334	0.033	0.24
Buchmüller-Tye	1.48	0.029	0.18
logarithmic	1.5	0.025	0.14
Cornell	1.84	0.018	0.07
BLFQ	1.6	0.044	0.42

- First evidence for the production of $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ in single-tag e^+e^- collisions was reported by Belle [Phys. Rev. Lett. 126 \(2021\) no.12, 122001](#) From three measured events, they provided a range for its reduced width, $0.02 \text{ keV} < \tilde{\Gamma}_{\gamma\gamma} < 0.5 \text{ keV}$. Recent update by Achasov et al. [Phys. Rev. D 106 \(2022\) no.9, 093012](#) using a corrected value for the branching ratio $\text{Br}(\chi_{c1}(3872) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^- J/\psi)$ and reads

$$0.024 \text{ keV} < \tilde{\Gamma}_{\gamma\gamma}(\chi_{c1}(3872)) < 0.615 \text{ keV}$$

- all our results, including the BLFQ approach, lie **well within the experimentally allowed range**. Therefore, $\gamma\gamma$ data do not exclude the $c\bar{c}$ option, although there is certainly some room for a contribution from an additional meson-meson component.

Possible molecule contribution to $\tilde{\Gamma}$?



- apparently nothing (?) is known about “hadronic molecule” contribution to the reduced width.
- Spins of heavy quarks in $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ are entangled to be in the spin-triplet state (M. Voloshin, 2004). But near threshold the $c\bar{c}$ state produced via $\gamma\gamma$ -fusion is in the 1S_0 state. (It’s different for gluons, where color octet populates 3S_1 !)
- $\rightarrow$ “handbag mechanism” suppressed in heavy quark limit.
- What about purely hadronic models?

- The LFWF representation of $\gamma^*\gamma^*$ transition form factors includes relativistic corrections.
- Very sparse experimental information even for ground-state charmonia. Babar have measured $\gamma^*\gamma \rightarrow \eta_c$. For χ_{c2} and χ_{c0} off-shell widths from single tag cross-section we compared to Belle data (2017).
- We propose to investigate photon-photon fusion mechanisms also in future electron-ion colliders. Differential distributions for photon virtuality for η_c production have been shown for LE-EIC, HE-EIC, EicC and LHeC. The estimated cross-section is in the range: (0.1 – 60) nb.
- More detailed simulation of distributions and hadronic background necessary. There also is background from diffractive J/ψ production via $J/\psi \rightarrow \eta_c \gamma$.
- The reduced width of the ground state $\chi_{c1}(1P)$, for one longitudinal and one real photon $\tilde{\Gamma}$ is obtained in the ballpark of ~ 0.5 keV.
- In the case of $\chi_{c1}(3872)$, the values obtained for a 2^3P_1 charmonium are well within the range of the first Belle data. This suggests an important role of the $c\bar{c}$ Fock state for production in the $\gamma^*\gamma$ mode. (Of course there is still room for additional contributions.)
- Electroproduction of $\chi_{c1}(1P)$, $\chi_{c1}(3872)$ in the Coulomb field of a heavy nucleus may give access to form factor $f_{LT}(Q^2)$. This is additional information on the structure. We know how to estimate it for $c\bar{c}$ states.