

# Breakdown of QCD factorization in hard diffraction

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**Abstract.** Factorization of short- and long-distance interactions is severely broken in hard diffractive hadronic collisions. Interaction with the spectator partons leads to an interplay between soft and hard scales, which results in a leading twist behavior of the cross section, on the contrary to the higher twist predicted by factorization. This feature is explicitly demonstrated for diffractive radiation of abelian (Drell-Yan, gauge bosons, Higgs) and non-abelian (heavy flavors) particles.

## 1 QCD factorization in diffraction

QCD factorization in inclusive processes is nowadays one of the most powerful and frequently used theoretical tools [1]. In spite of lack of understanding of the soft interaction dynamics, the contributions of the soft long-distance and hard short-distance interactions factorise. Making a plausible (not proven) assumption about universality of the former, one can measure it with electro-weak hard probes (DIS, Drell-Yan process) and apply to hard hadronic processes. Although it is tempting to extend this factorization scheme to diffractive, large rapidity gap processes, it turns out to be heavily broken [2, 3], as is demonstrated below.

*Ingelman-Schlein picture of diffraction* [4].

It looks natural that on analogy of DIS on a hadronic target, DIS on the Pomeron probes its PDF (parton distribution function), like is illustrated in Fig. 1. Once the parton densities in the Pomeron



**Figure 1.** DIS on a hadron target (left) and on the Pomeron, treated as a target (right).

were known, one could predict any hard diffractive hadronic reaction.

*The Good-Walker mechanism of diffraction* [6–8].

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According to this quantum mechanical treatment of diffraction, the diffractive amplitude is given by the difference between the elastic amplitudes of different Fock components in the projectile particle. In the dipole representation hard diffraction of a hadron comes from the difference between elastic amplitudes of hadronic states with and without a hard fluctuation,

$$A_{diff}^h \propto \sigma_{\bar{q}q}(R+r) - \sigma_{\bar{q}q}(R) \propto rR \sim 1/Q, \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma_{\bar{q}q}(R)$  is the total dipole-nucleon cross section [9];  $R$  characterises the hadronic size, while small  $r \sim 1/Q \ll R$  is related to the hard process [10, 11]. Apparently such a mild  $Q$ -dependence contradicts factorization prediction, based on the DIS relation,

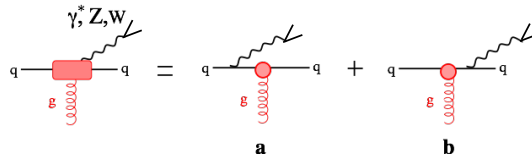
$$A_{diff} \propto \sigma_{\bar{q}q}(r) \propto r^2 \sim 1/Q^2, \quad (2)$$

which is a higher twist effect.

## 2 Drell-Yan reaction: annihilation or bremsstrahlung?

Parton model is not Lorentz invariant, interpretation of hard reactions varies with reference frame. E.g. DIS is treated as a probe for the proton structure in the Bjorken frame, but looks differently in the target rest frame, as interaction of hadronic components of the photon. Only observables are Lorentz invariant.

The Drell-Yan reaction in the target rest frame looks like radiation of a heavy photon (or  $Z$ ,  $W$ ), rather than  $q$ - $\bar{q}$  annihilation [12, 13], as is illustrated in Fig. 2



**Figure 2.** Radiation of a heavy photon, or gauge bosons in the target rest frame, corresponds to  $\bar{q}q$  annihilation in the boson rest frame.

The cross section, expressed via the dipoles [12, 13], looks similar to DIS,

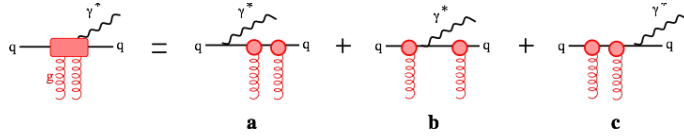
$$\frac{d\sigma_{inc}^{DY}(qp \rightarrow \gamma^* X)}{d\alpha dM^2} = \int d^2r |\Psi_{q\gamma^*}(\vec{r}, \alpha)|^2 \sigma(\alpha r, x_2), \quad (3)$$

where  $\Psi_{q\gamma^*}(\vec{r}, \alpha)$  is the distribution function for the  $|\gamma^* q\rangle$  Fock component of the quark;  $\alpha = p_{\gamma^*}^+ / p_q^+$  is the fractional light-cone momentum of the heavy photon.

In DY diffraction the Ingelman-Schlein factorization is broken. Indeed, diffractive radiation of an abelian particle vanishes in the forward direction [13], due to cancellation of the graphs a, b and c depicted in Fig. 3,

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma_{inc}^{DY}(qp \rightarrow \gamma^* qp)}{d\alpha dM^2 d^2 p_T} \right|_{p_T=0} = 0. \quad (4)$$

In both Fock components of the quark,  $|q\rangle$  and  $|\gamma^* q\rangle$  only quark interacts, so they interact equally, and according to the Good-Walker picture cancel in the forward diffractive amplitude. This conclusion holds for any abelian diffractive radiation of  $\gamma^*$ ,  $W$ ,  $Z$  bosons, Higgs.



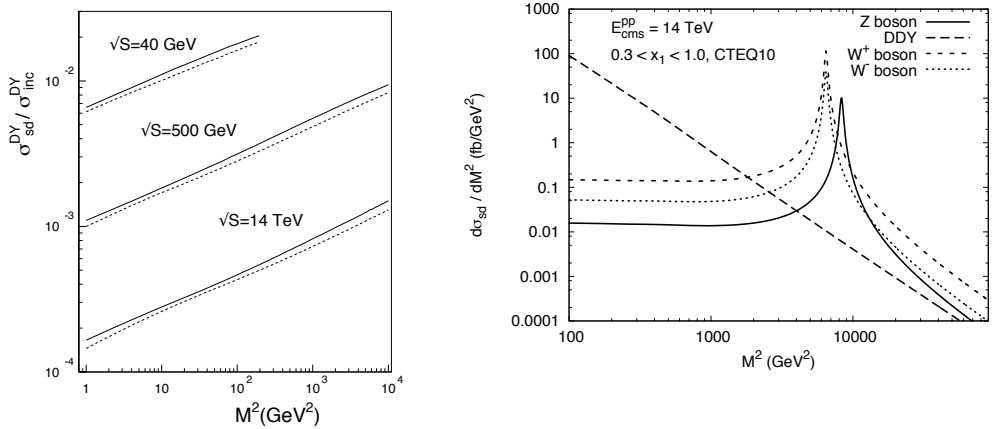
**Figure 3.** Feynman graphs for diffractive radiation of a heavy photon by a quark.

Diffractive DIS is dominated by soft interactions [2, 14]. On the contrary, diffractive Drell-Yan gets the main contribution from the interplay of soft and hard scales [10, 11] (see Eq. (2)).

The saturated shape of the dipole cross section,  $\sigma(R) \propto 1 - \exp(-R^2/R_0^2)$ , leads to the unusual features of diffractive Drell-Yan cross section (compare with (2)),

$$\frac{\sigma_{sd}^{DY}}{\sigma_{incl}^{DY}} \propto [\sigma(R+r) - \sigma(R)]^2 \propto \frac{\exp(-2R^2/R_0^2)}{R_0^2} \quad (5)$$

As a result, the fractional diffractive Drell-Yan cross section is steeply falling with energy, but rises with the scale, because of saturation, as is shown in Fig. 4.

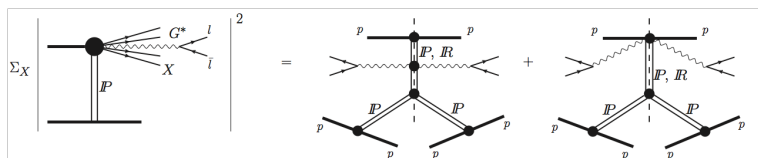


**Figure 4.** *Left:* Fractional DY cross section vs the dilepton mass squared and at different c.m. energies. *Right:* Diffractive gauge boson production cross section as function of di-lepton invariant mass squared.

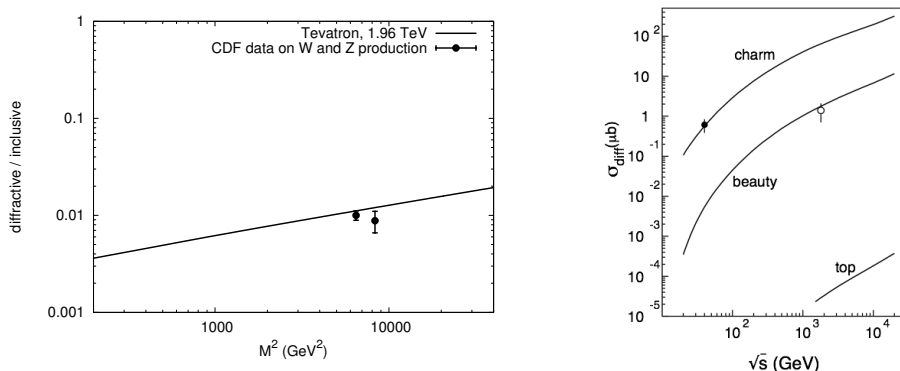
### 3 Diffractive Z and W production

Abelian diffractive radiation of any particle is described by the same Feynman graphs, only couplings and spin structure are different [15]. In Fig. 4 (right panel) we present the results for the single diffractive cross sections for  $Z^0$ ,  $\gamma^*$  (diffractive DY) and  $W^\pm$  bosons production, differential in the di-lepton mass squared,  $d\sigma_{sd}/dM^2$ .

The single diffractive process  $pp \rightarrow Xp$  at large Feynman  $x_F \rightarrow 1$  of the recoil proton is described by the triple Regge graphs, as is illustrated in Fig. 5. The results for the fractional diffractive cross sections of Z and W production is compared with the CDF measurements in Fig. 6 (left panel).



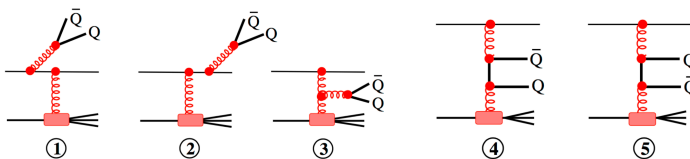
**Figure 5.** Triple-Regge description of the process  $pp \rightarrow Xp$ , where the diffractively produced state  $X$  contains a gauge boson decaying to a lepton pair.



**Figure 6.** *Left:* The diffractive-to-inclusive ratio vs dilepton invariant mass squared in comparison with the CDF measurements. *Right:* Cross section of diffractive production of heavy flavors in comparison with the CDF data for charm and beauty (see details in [16]).

### 4 Diffractive heavy flavor production

The dynamics of inclusive heavy flavor production can be classified as : (i) bremsstrahlung (like in  $DY$ ); and (ii) production mechanisms [16], in accordance with the Feynman graphs presented in Fig. 7. The amplitudes for the two mechanisms are expressed via the amplitudes  $A_i$  corresponding to



**Figure 7.** Feynman graphs contributing to inclusive production of a heavy quark pair.

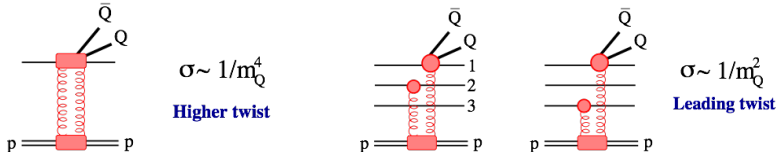
the graph numbering in Fig. 7. The bremsstrahlung and production amplitudes have the form,

$$A_{Br} = A_1 + A_2 + \frac{Q^2}{M^2 + Q^2} A_3; \tag{6}$$

$$A_{Pr} = \frac{M^2}{M^2 + Q^2} A_3 + A_4 + A_5. \tag{7}$$

For diffractive production one has to provide a colorless two-gluon exchange. Diffractive excitation of a quark turns out to be a higher twist effect, as is depicted in Fig. 8, left, similar to diffractive

Drell-Yan. In this case interaction with spectators again plays crucial role, providing a leading twist contribution, as is shown in Fig. 8, right [16]. Numerically, the leading twist production mechanism



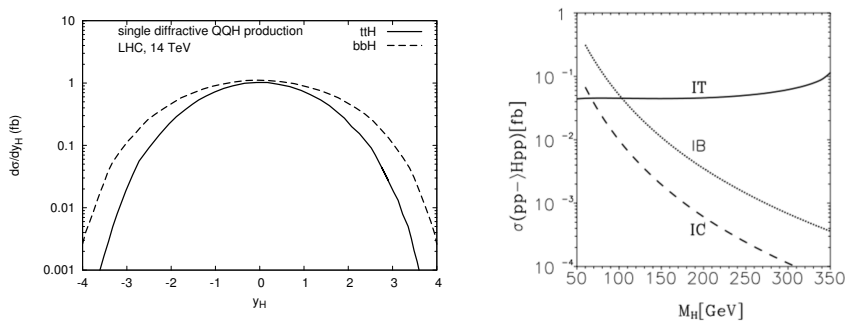
**Figure 8.** *Left:* Diffractive production of a heavy quark pair in a quark-proton collision. *Right:* Diffractive production of heavy quarks in a proton-proton collision.

is much larger compared with the bremsstrahlung mechanism.

The leading twist behavior  $1/m_Q^2$  of the diffractive cross section is confirmed by CDF data, as is demonstrated in Fig. 6, right panel.

## 5 Diffractive Higgsstrahlung

Diffractive Higgsstrahlung is similar to diffractive DY, Z, W, since in all cases the radiated particle does not participate in the interaction. However, the Higgs decouples from light quarks, due to smallness of the coupling, so the cross section of higgsstrahlung by light hadrons is small. Although light quark do not radiate Higgs directly, they can do it via production of heavy flavors. Therefore the mechanism is closely related to non-abelian diffractive quark production, presented in the previous section. The rapidity dependent cross section of diffractive Higgs production, evaluated in [17], is plotted in Fig. 9, left. The cross section is rather small, below 1fb.



**Figure 9.** *Left:* The differential cross section of single diffractive Higgs boson production in association with heavy quark pair vs Higgs rapidity (see details in [17]). *Right:* The cross section of diffractive exclusive Higgs production, vs its mass, for different intrinsic heavy flavors [18].

Higgs boson can also be diffractively produced due to intrinsic heavy flavors in light hadrons. Exclusive Higgs production,  $pp \rightarrow Hpp$ , via coalescence of heavy quarks was evaluated in [18, 19].

The cross section of Higgs production was calculated fixing 1% of intrinsic charm in the proton, and assuming that heavier flavors scale as  $1/m_Q^2$  [20]. At the Higgs mass 125 GeV intrinsic bottom and top give comparable contributions, as is demonstrated in Fig. 9, right.

## 6 Summary

Factorization of short and long-distance interactions is heavily broken in hard diffractive hadronic collisions. In particular, forward diffractive radiation of direct photons, Drell-Yan dileptons, and gauge bosons  $Z$ ,  $W$ , by a parton is forbidden. Nevertheless, a hadron can diffractively radiate in the forward direction due to a possibility of soft interaction with the spectators. This property of abelian radiation breaks down diffractive factorization resulting in a leading twist dependence on the boson mass,  $1/M^2$ .

Non-abelian forward diffractive radiation of heavy flavors is permitted even for an isolated parton. However, interaction with spectators provides the dominant contribution to the cross section. It comes from the interplay between large and small distances. Data well confirm the leading twist behavior.

Diffractive higgsstrahlung is possible due to a double-step process, via heavy quark production. Therefore, the main contribution comes for Higgs production in association with a heavy quark pair. Another important contribution to diffractive Higgs production comes from coalescence of intrinsic heavy quarks in the proton. For  $M_H = 125$  GeV dominance of intrinsic bottom and top is expected.

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