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## S-wave quarkonia production by $\gamma^*\gamma$ in eA collision

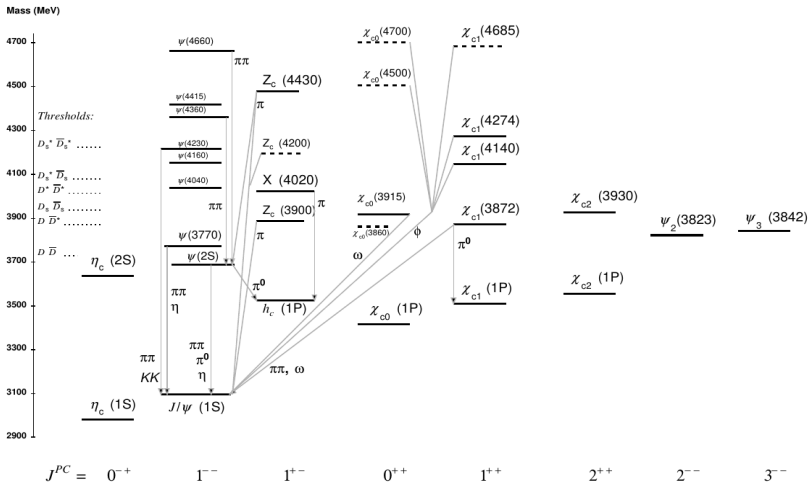
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Joint ECFA-NuPECC- APPEC workshop  
"Synergies between the EIC and the LHC"  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2025



# Spectrum of charmonium system and beyond

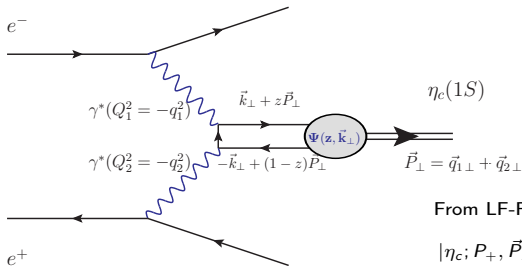


R.L. Workman et al. (Particle Data Group), Prog.Theor.Exp.Phys. 2022, 083C01 (2022)

$J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$  - pseudoscalar ;  $0^{++}$  - scalar ;  $1^{--}$  - vector ;  $1^{++}$  - axial vector

# Transition form factor $\gamma^* \gamma^*$ to S-wave ( $c\bar{c}$ ) bound system

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mu\nu}(\gamma^*(q_1)\gamma^*(q_2) \rightarrow \eta_c) = 4\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}(-i)\varepsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}q_1^\alpha q_2^\beta F(Q_1^2, Q_2^2)$$



space-like photons, their virtualities:  $Q_i^2 > 0$

$F_{\gamma^* \gamma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}}$  - provide information, how photons couple to  $c\bar{c}$  state  
-  $2\gamma$  can couple only to quarkonia with even charge parity

$\psi(z, \vec{k}_\perp)$  -  $c\bar{c}$  light-cone wave function

$z$  - the fraction of the longitudinal momentum carried by quark

$$\vec{k}_\perp = (1-z)\vec{p}_{Q\perp} - z\vec{p}_{\bar{Q}\perp}$$

From LF-Fock state expansion

$$|\eta_c; P_+, \vec{P}_\perp\rangle = \sum_{i,j,\lambda,\bar{\lambda}} \frac{\delta_j^i}{\sqrt{N_c}} \int \frac{dz d^2 \vec{k}_\perp}{z(1-z)16\pi^3} \Psi_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}(z, \vec{k}_\perp) \times |Q_{i\lambda}(zP_+, p_Q) \bar{Q}_{\bar{\lambda}}^j((1-z)P_+, p_{\bar{Q}})\rangle + \dots$$

$$F(Q_1^2, Q_2^2) = e_c^2 \sqrt{N_c} \cdot \int \frac{dz d^2 \vec{k}_\perp}{z(1-z)16\pi^3} \psi(z, \vec{k}_\perp) \times \left\{ \frac{1-z}{(\vec{k}_\perp - (1-z)\vec{q}_{2\perp})^2 + z(1-z)\vec{q}_{1\perp}^2 + m_c^2} + \frac{z}{(\vec{k}_\perp + z\vec{q}_{2\perp})^2 + z(1-z)\vec{q}_{1\perp}^2 + m_c^2} \right\}.$$

[Phys.Rev.D100\(2019\)5, 054018](#)

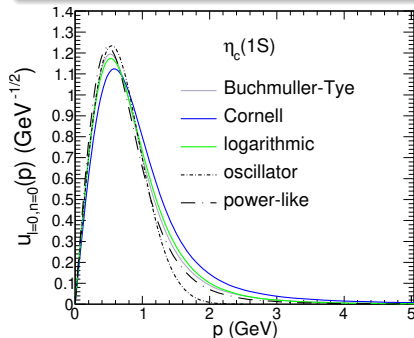
# Light-front wave functions from the rest-frame

## Rest-frame wave functions for $J = 0$ :

$$\Psi_{\tau\bar{\tau}}(\vec{p}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\xi_Q^{\tau\dagger}\hat{O}i\sigma_2\xi_{\bar{Q}}^{\bar{\tau}*}}_{\text{spin-orbit}} \underbrace{\frac{u(p)}{p}}_{\text{radial}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}};$$

where  $\hat{O} =$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{I} & \text{spin-singlet, } S = 0, L = 0. \\ \frac{\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{k}}{k} & \text{spin-triplet, } S = 1, L = 1. \end{cases}$$



## mapping rest frame momentum to light-front representation:

$$\vec{p} = (\vec{k}_\perp, k_z) = (\vec{k}_\perp, \frac{1}{2}(2z - 1)M_{c\bar{c}}),$$

$$M_{c\bar{c}}^2 = \frac{\vec{k}_\perp^2 + m_Q^2}{z(1-z)},$$

## Melosh-transf. of spin-orbit part:

$$\xi_Q = R(z, \vec{k}_\perp)\chi_Q, \quad \xi_{\bar{Q}}^* = R^*(1-z, -\vec{k}_\perp)\chi_{\bar{Q}}^*$$

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

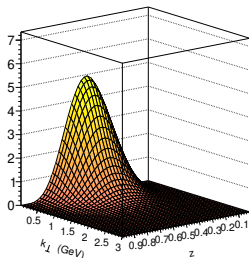
$$\hat{O}' = R^\dagger(z, \vec{k}_\perp)\hat{O}i\sigma_2R^*(1-z, -\vec{k}_\perp)(i\sigma_2)^{-1}$$

# S-wave light-front wave function for $J = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}(z, \vec{k}_{\perp}) &= \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{++}(z, \vec{k}_{\perp}) & \Psi_{+-}(z, \vec{k}_{\perp}) \\ \Psi_{-+}(z, \vec{k}_{\perp}) & \Psi_{--}(z, \vec{k}_{\perp}) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \begin{pmatrix} -k_x + ik_y & m_Q \\ -m_Q & -k_x - ik_y \end{pmatrix} \psi(z, \vec{k}_{\perp})\end{aligned}$$

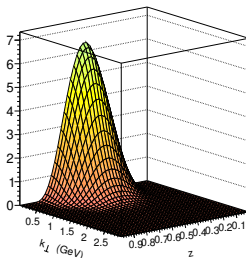
$$\begin{aligned}\psi(z, \vec{k}_{\perp}) &= \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2M_{c\bar{c}}}} \frac{u(p)}{p} \\ M_{c\bar{c}}^2 &= \frac{\vec{k}_{\perp}^2 + m_Q^2}{z(1-z)}\end{aligned}$$

$\psi(z, k_{\perp})$  (GeV<sup>2</sup>)  $\eta_c$  (1S)



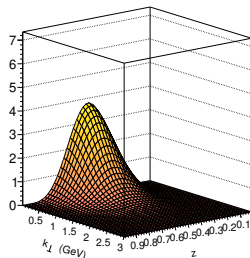
Buchmüller-Tye  
 $m_c = 1.48$  GeV

$\psi(z, k_{\perp})$  (GeV<sup>2</sup>)  $\eta_c$  (1S)



harmonic oscillator  
 $m_c = 1.4$  GeV

$\psi(z, k_{\perp})$  (GeV<sup>2</sup>)  $\eta_c$  (1S)



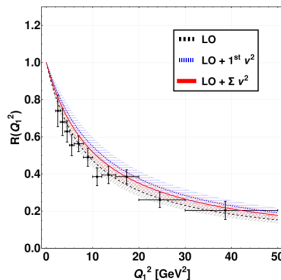
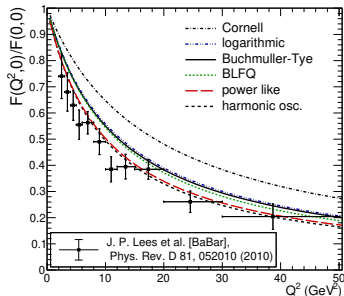
power-like  
 $m_c = 1.33$  GeV

# Normalized transition form factor at on-shell point

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

$$\psi_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}(z, \vec{k}_\perp) = e^{im\phi} \tilde{\psi}_{\lambda\bar{\lambda}}(z, k_\perp); \quad \tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\downarrow}(z, k_\perp) \rightarrow \frac{m_c}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \psi(z, k_\perp); \quad \tilde{\psi}_{\uparrow\uparrow}(z, k_\perp) \rightarrow \frac{-|\vec{k}_\perp|}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \psi(z, k_\perp)$$

BLFQ: [Phys. Rev. D96\(2017\)016022](#)

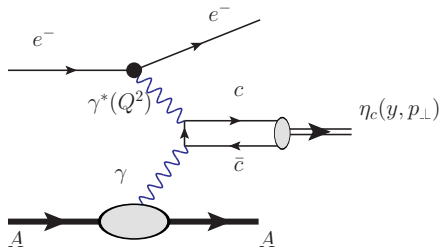


Transition Form-Factor for  $\eta_Q$  at NNLO in the strong coupling constant and with all order  $v^2$  resummation

I.B., Ch. A. Flett, M. A. Ozcelik, W. Schäfer, A. Szczurek, [2509.15310]

$$\Gamma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \eta_c) = \frac{\pi}{4} \alpha_{em}^2 M_{\eta_c}^3 |F(0, 0)|^2$$

# Application to electron-ion collisions



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

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

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

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

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

$\xi = R_A \omega_A / \gamma_L$ ,  $K_0$  and  $K_1$  -modified Bessel functions

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

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

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

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

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

$\sigma_{\text{TT}}(\gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \eta_c)$  cross-section

$$\sigma_{\text{TT}}(W_{\gamma\gamma}, Q_1^2, Q_2^2) = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{X}} \frac{M_{\eta_c} \Gamma_{\text{tot}}}{(W_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - M_{\eta_c}^2)^2 + M_{\eta_c}^2 \Gamma_{\text{tot}}^2} \mathcal{M}^*(++) \mathcal{M}(++)$$

the helicity amplitude  $\mathcal{M}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = e_\mu^1(\lambda_1) e_\nu^2(\lambda_2) \mathcal{M}^{\mu\nu}$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mu\nu}(\gamma^*(q_1) \gamma^*(q_2) \rightarrow \eta_c) = 4\pi \alpha_{\text{em}} (-i) \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} q_1^\alpha q_2^\beta F(Q_1^2, Q_2^2).$$

$X = (q_1 \cdot q_2)^2 - q_1^2 q_2^2$ , in the limit  $Q_2^2 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\sqrt{X} = q_1 \cdot q_2 = (M_{\eta_c}^2 + Q^2)/2$

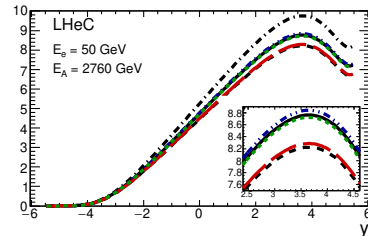
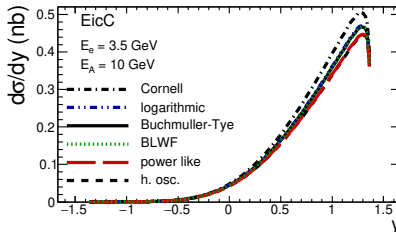
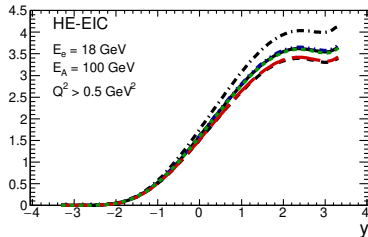
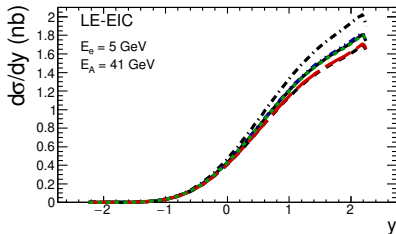
$$\sigma_{\text{TT}}(W_{\gamma\gamma}, Q^2, 0) = 2\pi^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 \frac{M_{\eta_c} \Gamma_{\text{tot}}}{(W_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - M_{\eta_c}^2)^2 + M_{\eta_c}^2 \Gamma_{\text{tot}}^2} (M_{\eta_c}^2 + Q^2) F^2(Q^2, 0).$$

we can take advantage of the relation  $\Gamma(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \eta_c) = \frac{\pi}{4} \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 M_{\eta_c}^3 |F(0, 0)|^2$

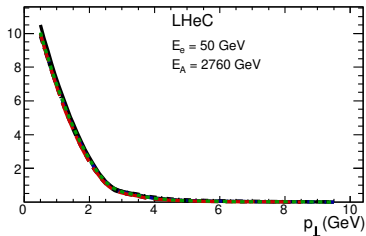
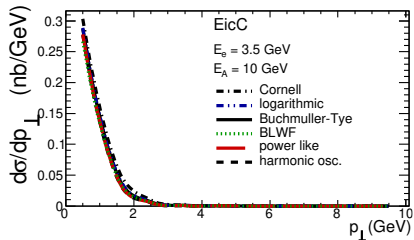
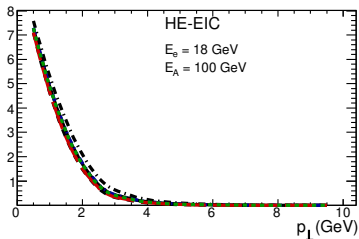
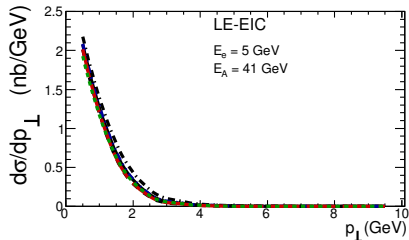
$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{TT}}(W_{\gamma\gamma}, Q^2, 0) &= 8\pi \frac{\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma} \Gamma_{\text{tot}}}{(W_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - M_{\eta_c}^2)^2 + M_{\eta_c}^2 \Gamma_{\text{tot}}^2} \left(1 + \frac{Q^2}{M_{\eta_c}^2}\right) \left(\frac{F(Q^2, 0)}{F(0, 0)}\right)^2 \\ &\approx 8\pi^2 \delta(W_{\gamma\gamma}^2 - M_{\eta_c}^2) \frac{\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}}{M_{\eta_c}} \left(1 + \frac{Q^2}{M_{\eta_c}^2}\right) \left(\frac{F(Q^2, 0)}{F(0, 0)}\right)^2 \end{aligned}$$



# Differential distribution in $\eta_c$ rapidity



# $\eta_c$ transverse momentum distributions



- The transition form factor for two off-shell photons  $F(Q_1^2, Q_2^2)$  was presented.
- We estimate the rapidity, transverse momentum, and  $Q^2$  distributions considering the energy configurations expected in the future electron-ion colliders at the BNL(USA)  $\rightarrow$  EIC , CERN  $\rightarrow$  LHeC, and in China  $\rightarrow$  EicC.
- Our results indicate that the electron-ion colliders can be considered as an alternative and provide supplementary data to those obtained in  $e^+e^-$  colliders.
- The results indicate the cross sections for the future electron-ion colliders
  - LE EIC  $\sim 3$  nb
  - HE EIC  $\sim 10$  nb
  - EicC  $\sim 0.3$  nb
  - LHeC  $\sim 20$  nb

## References

- arXiv: 2509.15310
- Phys.Lett.B 843 (2023) 138046
- Phys.Rev.D 100 (2019) 5, 054018

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Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee

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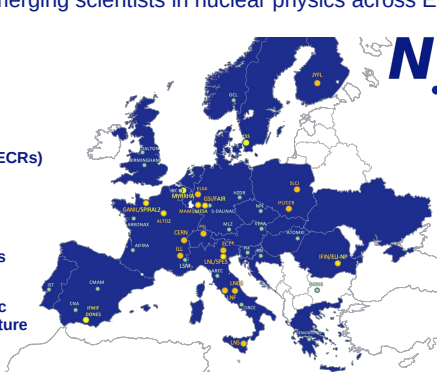
Support early-career researchers (ECRs) in nuclear physics across Europe

Provide visibility and recognition to young scientists

Represent their needs and interests in the NuPECC decision making

Encourage participation in strategic discussions that determine the future of nuclear science in Europe

Inform about opportunities for development



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