Recent (and future) JLab results on threshold charmonium photoproduction Lubomir Pentchev (GlueX Collaboration)



Hall D GlueX $\gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi p \rightarrow e^+e^-p$



HMS spectrometer

- Recent J/ψ results from Hall C & D
- ... and their interpretation
- Higher-mass charmonium states and prospects with CEBAF energy upgrade using GlueX detector

J/ψ threshold region coverage





- Event-by-event weighting by luminosity
- Dots mean energy and t-value for the corresponding bin
- Results reported at mean energy for corresponding slice
- Deviations due to bin averaging included in the systematic errors

Differential cross sections from J/ψ -007 and GlueX



- 10 energy bins in J/ψ -007
- Results for the three
 GlueX energy bins
 compared to closest Hall C
 (J/ψ-007) energies
- Scale uncertainties: 20% in GlueX and 4% in Hall C results
- Good agreement within the errors; note also differences in average energies

S.Adhikari et al. (GlueX), Phys. Rev. C 108, 025201

Uniqueness of exclusive threshold charmonium photoproduction - relation to gluonic properties of proton



- J/ψ-nucleon interaction at threshold dominated by gluon exchange (Brodsky Miller, Phys. Lett. B412 1997) considering light-meson and even open-charm exchange!
- VMD reduces $\gamma p \rightarrow J/\psi p$ to $J/\psi p \rightarrow J/\psi p$
- If $m_c \rightarrow \infty$ interaction via gluon exchange, at threshold sensitive to trace of EMT (*Kharzeev, Satz, Syamtomov, Zinovjev 1996-1999*) and its contribution to proton mass (*Ji 1995*)
- GPD factorization valid for $m_c \rightarrow \infty$ at threshold (*Gun*, *Ji*, *Liu* 2021, *Hatta*, *Strikman* 2021)
- *t*-dependance of the amplitudes related to gluon gravitational form factors, $A_g(t)$, $B_g(t)$, $C_g(t)$, $\bar{C}_g(t)$ \rightarrow mass radius of the proton, D-term (Hatta, Kharzeev, Ji et al. 2018-2021)

Such ambitious program requires detailed studies of the reaction mechanism to justify these assumptions.

Extracted Gravitational Form Factors - J/ψ -007



Extracted Gravitational Form Factors - J/ψ -007 & GlueX

Revised GPD analysis by Guo, Ji, Liu, Yan arXiv:2305.06992 (2023), ξ expansion valid for high ξ global fit of both Hall C & D $d\sigma/dt(t)$:



GPD factorization models



Ivanov, Sznajder, Szymanowski, Wagner (2022)

- GPD LO calculations
- Big uncertainties in NLO, data can help to constrain gluon GPDs

Guo, Ji, Liu, Yang arxiv:2305.06992 (2023), in $m_c \rightarrow \infty$ limit, $\xi \rightarrow 1$ expansion

(Hatta,Strikman 2021):

- factorization valid near threshold
- connection to gravitational FFs



Other reaction mechanisms: open-charm, 5q exchange







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Gluon or charm exchange: JPAC interpretation



JPAC arxiv:2305.01449 (2023) Global fit of both Hall C & D $d\sigma/dt(t)$ and Hall D $\sigma_{tot}(E_{\gamma})$ Phenomenological model based on s-channel PW expansion ($l \leq 3$):

- (1C) $J/\psi p$ interaction
- (2C) $J/\psi p$ and $ar{D}^*\Lambda_C$
- (3C-NR) $J/\psi p$, $\bar{D}\Lambda_C$, $\bar{D}^*\Lambda_C$ (non-resonant solution)
- (3C-NR) $J/\psi p$, $\bar{D}\Lambda_C$, $\bar{D}^*\Lambda_C$ (resonant solution)

No stat. significant preference:

- 9 GeV structure requires sizable contribution from open charm
- Severe violation of VMD and factorization not excluded
- s-channel resonance not excluded
- t-enhancement indicates schannel contribution: due to proximity to threshold or opencharm exchange

Threshold J/ψ photoproduction - summary

- Differential cross sections for $|t| < 3 \ GeV^2$ generally consistent with gluon exchange, however enhancement at higher |t| indicates contribution beyond t-channel
- Total cross section is consistent with some GPD models assuming factorization, however the structure at 9 GeV, if statistically significant, require sizable contribution from opencharm exchange (or s-channel resonance), that will obscure the relation to the proton gluonic properties.

Precise measurements are critically important to disentangle the reaction mechanisms and study mass properties of proton:

- GlueX:
 - has on tape and started already analysis with x2 more statistics
 - assuming same running conditions expect another x2 for the rest of phase-II
 - test running with x3 higher intensity, submitted LOI (requires tagger modification)
- Hall B: projections with existing data show similar statistics as with GlueX-I, expect much more assuming CLAS12 luminosity upgrade
- SoLID: the ultimate J/ψ factory, including electroproduction (2π acceptance, may not have full near-threshold coverage with all final state particles detected, limited by 11GeV beam energy).

C-event charmonium states at threshold with GlueX

 $\gamma p \rightarrow \chi_c p \rightarrow (J/\psi \gamma) p \rightarrow (e^+ e^- \gamma) p$



First ever evidence for photoproduction of C-even charmonium

C-even charmonium states with GlueX C-odd $(J/\psi, \psi')$ vs C-even (η_c, χ_c) production



Dumitru, Skokov, Stebel, PRD 101 (2020), Dumitru, Stebel, PRD 99 (2019)



 High energies - perturbative calculation - Odderon (odd-parity Pomeron) 3g exchange



• Low energies - non-perturbative approach, vector meson exchange

C-even charmonium states with GlueX C-odd $(J/\psi, \psi')$ vs C-even (η_c, χ_c) production

• Dramatic difference: χ_c distribution in (E_{γ}, t) w.r.t. J/ψ



At threshold other possible mechanisms may dominate:

S-channel exchange of 5q



Open-charm exchange



Hall D Apparatus with 17+ GeV electron beam



Moving end point from 12 GeV to 17+ GeV:
 - higher flux (and polarization) toward higher energies, while low energies less affected (no load on detectors)

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Charmonium polarization measurements at 22 GeV







Any deviation from the expected (via gluon exchange) naturality indicates contribution of mechanism different from what is needed to study mass properties of the proton

Conclusions

- The recent JLab total and differential cross sections of J/ψ photoproduction near threshold are generally consistent with gluon exchange (t-slope, GPD factorization), except some features consistent with open charm exchange or other s-channel contribution.
- It is important to separate between the gluon exchange, open-charm exchange, or any other contribution (resonances (P_c's), u-channel) and possibly find a kinematic region that can be used to constrain gGPDs, extract proton GFFs and study mass properties of proton. Need precise data!
- First ever evidence for C-even charmonium photoproduction important tool to understand reaction mechanism, complementary to J/ψ (C-odd charmonium) studies
- JLab energy increase would be critical in understanding the charmonium photoproduction near threshold and justify this reaction as a method to study mass properties of the proton