

Probing Electromagnetic Structure of Proton using Two Photon Interaction

Nikhil Krishna

Institute of Nuclear Physics, Krakow Supervisors: dr.hab. Mariola Klusek Gawenda dr. Rafal Staszewski

Cracow School of Theoretical Physics, June 15, 2025

Outline

- Motivation: Understanding the proton's internal structure (charge radius)
- Electromagnetic form factors and radius extraction
- Photon-Photon interactions in proton-proton collision
- Momentum space Approach
- Impact parameter space Approach
- Conclusion

• Over the past 110 years, since its discovery, the proton has evolved



Figure: From point-like particle to composite particle made of quarks and gluons (QCD).

• Over the past 110 years, since its discovery, the proton has evolved



Figure: From point-like particle to composite particle made of quarks and gluons (QCD).

• Electromagnetic(charge) radius quantifies the distribution of charge within the proton.

• Over the past 110 years, since its discovery, the proton has evolved



Figure: From point-like particle to composite particle made of quarks and gluons (QCD).

- Electromagnetic(charge) radius quantifies the distribution of charge within the proton.
- The "Proton Radius Puzzle" refers to disagreement between measurements from electron-proton scattering and hydrogen spectroscopy.



Figure: The proton charge radius determined from ep elastic scattering, spectroscopic experiments and world-data compilation from CODATA since 2010(ref:10.3390/universe9040182)

Proton-Proton Collision at LHC



Figure: High energy proton collision at LHC producing numerous particles

Proton-Proton Collision at LHC



Figure: High energy proton collision at LHC producing numerous particles

• Significant fraction of p-p collision contains **quasi-real** photons- effectively can be treated as **Photon-Photon collision**.

Proton-Proton Collision at LHC



Figure: High energy proton collision at LHC producing numerous particles

- Significant fraction of p-p collision contains **quasi-real** photons- effectively can be treated as **Photon-Photon collision**.
- Studying these type of interactions in p-p collision gives information about photons from protons and enables calculating related cross sections. We primarily focus on exclusive lepton production processes.

Form factors are Fourier transform of charge densities

$$F(Q^2) = \int \rho(r) e^{-q^2 r^2} d^3 r$$



Table: Relation between charge distribution and form factors



Figure: Form factors as a function of square of the momentum transfer $_{\rm June\ 15,\ 2025}$

• The slope of the form factor at $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$ is used to extract the proton radius.

- The slope of the form factor at $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$ is used to extract the proton radius.
- Taylor expanding the form factor and keeping only the lowest two terms:

$$egin{aligned} F(Q^2) &= 1 - rac{1}{6}Q^2 \langle r^2
angle \ rac{dF(Q^2)}{dQ^2} &= -rac{\langle r^2
angle}{6} \ \langle r^2
angle &= -6rac{dF}{dQ^2} \end{aligned}$$

- The slope of the form factor at $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$ is used to extract the proton radius.
- Taylor expanding the form factor and keeping only the lowest two terms:

$$F(Q^2) = 1 - \frac{1}{6}Q^2 \langle r^2$$
$$\frac{dF(Q^2)}{dQ^2} = -\frac{\langle r^2 \rangle}{6}$$
$$\langle r^2 \rangle = -6\frac{dF}{dQ^2}$$

Form factor	Radius
$\mathcal{F}_{ m pl}(Q^2)=1$	$r = 0 { m fm}$
${oldsymbol{{\cal F}}_G(Q^2)=\exp\left(-rac{Q^2}{2\Lambda^2} ight)}$	$r = 0.404 \mathrm{fm}$
${oldsymbol{{\sf F}}_D(Q^2)=\left(1+rac{Q^2}{\Lambda^2} ight)^{-2}}$	$r = 0.809 \mathrm{fm}$

Table: Proton radius for point-like, Gaussian, and dipole form factors; $\Lambda^2=0.71\,{\rm GeV}^2.$



Figure: Photon-photon fusion interactions to the process $pp \rightarrow pp \ell^+ \ell^-$: left – *t*-channel, right – *u*-channel.

• General form for the cross section can be written as:

$$\sigma = \int \frac{1}{2s} \overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2} (2\pi)^4 \,\delta^4 \left(p_a + p_b - p_1 - p_2 - p_3 - p_4 \right) \\ \times \frac{d^3 p_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_1} \frac{d^3 p_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_2} \frac{d^3 p_3}{(2\pi)^3 2E_3} \frac{d^3 p_4}{(2\pi)^3 2E_4} \,.$$
(1)

• Using the following transformation:

$$\frac{d^3 p_i}{E_i} = dy_i \, d^2 p_{i\perp} = dy_i p_{i\perp} dp_{i\perp} d\phi_i \tag{2}$$

• We can rewrite the cross section as,

$$\sigma = \int \frac{1}{2s} \overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2} \delta^4 \left(p_a + p_b - p_1 - p_2 - p_3 - p_4 \right) \frac{1}{(2\pi)^8} \frac{1}{2^4} \\ \times \left(dy_1 p_{1\perp} dp_{1\perp} d\phi_1 \right) \left(dy_2 p_{2\perp} dp_{2\perp} d\phi_2 \right) \left(dy_3 d^2 p_{3\perp} \right) \left(dy_4 d^2 p_{4\perp} \right) .$$
(3)

where $p_{i\perp}$ are transverse momenta of outgoing protons and leptons in the final state, ϕ_1 , ϕ_2 are azimuthal angles of the outgoing protons.

• Introducing new variable,

 $\mathbf{p}_{mt} = \mathbf{p}_{3\perp} - \mathbf{p}_{4\perp}$

• Using 4-D Dirac delta function, cross section becomes,

$$\sigma = \int \frac{1}{2s} \overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2} \delta \left(E_a + E_b - E_1 - E_2 - E_3 - E_4 \right) \delta^3 \left(p_{1z} + p_{2z} + p_{3z} + p_{4z} \right) \frac{1}{(2\pi)^8} \frac{1}{2^4} \times \left(dy_1 p_{1\perp} dp_{1\perp} d\phi_1 \right) \left(dy_2 p_{2\perp} dp_{2\perp} d\phi_2 \right) dy_3 dy_4 d_m dp_m \ d\phi_{p_m} \ .$$
(4)

• For fine structuring at low p_T region,

$$p_{i\perp} \to \xi_i = \log_{10} \left(p_{i\perp} \right) \tag{5}$$

The lepton helicity-dependent amplitudes for the *t*-channel diagram is given by:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda_{3},\lambda_{4}}^{(t)} = e \operatorname{\mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{E}}}(\mathbf{q}_{1})(p_{a}+p_{1})^{\alpha} \frac{-ig_{\alpha\mu}}{q_{1}^{2}+i\varepsilon} \bar{u}(p_{3},\lambda_{3}) i\gamma^{\mu} \frac{i[(\not p_{3}-\not q_{1})+m_{l}]}{(q_{1}-p_{3})^{2}-m_{l}^{2}}$$
$$\times i\gamma^{\nu} v(p_{4},\lambda_{4}) \frac{-ig_{\nu\beta}}{q_{2}^{2}+i\varepsilon} (p_{b}+p_{2})^{\beta} e \operatorname{\mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{E}}}(\mathbf{q}_{2})$$

The *u*-channel amplitude is:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda_{3},\lambda_{4}}^{(u)} = e \operatorname{\mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{E}}}(\mathbf{q}_{1})(p_{a} + p_{1})^{\alpha} \frac{-ig_{\alpha\mu}}{q_{1}^{2} + i\varepsilon} \bar{u}(p_{3},\lambda_{3}) i\gamma^{\nu} \frac{i[(\not p_{3} - \not q_{2}) + m_{l}]}{(q_{2} - p_{3})^{2} - m_{l}^{2}}$$
$$\times i\gamma^{\mu} v(p_{4},\lambda_{4}) \frac{-ig_{\nu\beta}}{q_{2}^{2} + i\varepsilon} (p_{b} + p_{2})^{\beta} e \operatorname{\mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{E}}}(\mathbf{q}_{2})$$

The total amplitude is the sum of the t- and u-channel contributions:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda_3,\lambda_4} = \mathcal{M}^{(t)}_{\lambda_3,\lambda_4} + \mathcal{M}^{(u)}_{\lambda_3,\lambda_4}$$



Figure: Differential cross section as a function of $p_{m_T} = p_{t_{\mu^+}} - p_{t_{\mu^-}}$ without any cuts

Figure: Differential cross section as a function of $\xi = log_{10}(p_{t_{u^{\pm}}})$ without any cuts

Comparison with Experimental Results

Kinematical Constraints	σ_D	σ_{G}	$oldsymbol{\sigma}_{exp.}$	
$pp ightarrow pp \mu^+ \mu^-; \ \sqrt{s_{pp}} = 7 { m TeV}$				
$M_{\mu^+\mu^-} > 20$ GeV, $\ p_T > 10$ GeV, $ \eta < 2.4$	0.70	0.90	0.628 ± 0.038	
$M_{\mu^+\mu^-} > 11.5$ GeV, $\ \ ho_T > 4$ GeV, $ \eta < 2.1$	4.00	5.15	3.38 ± 0.61	
$pp ightarrow ppe^+e^-; \ \sqrt{s_{pp}}=7 \ { m TeV}$				
$M_{e^+e^-} > 24$ GeV, $p_{\mathcal{T}} > 12$ GeV, $ \eta < 2.4$	0.43	0.53	0.428 ± 0.039	
$pp ightarrow pp \mu^+ \mu^-; \ \sqrt{s_{ m pp}} = 13 { m TeV}$				
$M_{\mu^+\mu^-}=12 ext{}30$ GeV, $\ \ p_{\mathcal{T}}>6$ GeV, $ \eta <2.4$	2.83	3.47	2.64 ± 0.15	
$M_{\mu^+\mu^-}~=~$ 30–70 GeV, $~~ ho_T~>~$ 10 GeV, $~~ \eta ~<$	0.49	0.59	0.52 ± 0.04	
2.4				
$M_{\mu^+\mu^-}=$ 12–70 GeV, $\ \ p_T>$ 6 GeV, $ \eta <$ 2.4	4.04	4.25	3.12 ± 0.16	

Table: Total cross sections (in pb) for $pp \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ ($\ell = e, \mu$) at $\sqrt{s_{pp}} = 7$ and 13 TeV.

Comparison with Experimental Results



Ref: ATLAS Collaboration, Morad Aaboud et al., Phys.Lett.B 777 (2018) 303,

"Measurement of the exclusive $\gamma\gamma o \mu^+\mu^-$ process in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s}=13$ TeV with the ATLAS

15 / 24

Comparison with Experimental Results



"Exclusive $\gamma\gamma
ightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ production in proton-proton collision at $\sqrt(s)=7\, TeV$ "



The impact parameter space approach provides GEOMETRICAL CONTROL over the proton-proton collision.



The impact parameter space approach provides GEOMETRICAL CONTROL over the proton-proton collision.

In the Equivalent Photon Approximation, the electromagnetic field of a fast-moving proton is effectively described by a flux of transverse equivalent photons.



Figure: Equivalent photon flux as a function of $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ and b

$$egin{aligned} &\sigma(pp o pp \, \ell^+ \ell^-) = \int n(\omega_1, ec{b_1}) \, n(\omega_2, ec{b_2}) \, \sigma_{\gamma\gamma o \ell^+ \ell^-}(W_{\gamma\gamma}) \ & imes \, S^2_{\gamma\gamma}(ec{b}) rac{W_{\gamma\gamma}}{2} \, d^2ec{b_1} \, d^2ec{b_2} \, dW_{\gamma\gamma} \, dY_{\ell^+ \ell^-} \end{aligned}$$

$$S_{\gamma\gamma}^2=(1-e^{rac{-b^2}{2B}})^2$$



- $W_{\gamma\gamma}$ energy in the $\gamma\gamma$ system
- $Y_{\ell^+\ell^-}$ rapidity of the outgoing lepton pair
- $b_1, \vec{b_2}$ distance to the interaction point from each proton
- $S^2_{\gamma\gamma}(\vec{b})$ survival probability factor

Figure: Schematic view of two protons and transverse distances

Motivation for additional variables: \bar{b}_x and \bar{b}_y

$$\sigma(pp \to pp \,\ell^+ \ell^-) = \int n(\omega_1, \vec{b}_1) \, n(\omega_2, \vec{b}_2) \, \sigma_{\gamma\gamma \to \ell^+ \ell^-}(W_{\gamma\gamma}) \qquad \vec{b}_1 = \left(\vec{b}_x + \frac{b}{2}, \, \vec{b}_y\right) \\ \times S^2_{\gamma\gamma}(\vec{b}) \frac{W_{\gamma\gamma}}{2} \, 2\pi b \, db \, \vec{b}_x \, \vec{b}_y \, dW_{\gamma\gamma} \, dY_{\ell^+ \ell^-} \quad \vec{b}_2 = \left(\vec{b}_x - \frac{b}{2}, \, \vec{b}_y\right)$$

- $W_{\gamma\gamma}$: energy in the $\gamma\gamma$ system
- $Y_{\ell^+\ell^-}$: rapidity of the outgoing lepton pair
- b: impact parameter between protons
- $\bar{b_x}, \ \bar{b_y}$: components of $\vec{b_1}$ and $\vec{b_2}$

$$\mathbf{ar{b}_x} = rac{b_{1x} + b_{2x}}{2}, \quad \mathbf{ar{b}_y} = rac{b_{1y} + b_{2y}}{2}$$



Momentum and Impact Parameter Space Comparison

Calculations in both momentum (p) and impact parameter (b) space are done in full phase space for comparison.



Figure: Comparison of differential cross section $\frac{d\sigma}{dM_{\tau+\tau^{-}}}$ for $pp \rightarrow pp\tau^{+}\tau^{-}$ in momentum (*p*) and impact parameter (*b*) space.

σ (pb)	Point-like	Dipole
<i>p</i> -space	268.34	178.41
<i>b</i> -space	291.64	170.75
<i>b</i> -space $ imes S_{\gamma\gamma}^2$	256.998	167.10

Conclusion

- Studying Two Photon interactions opens a way to explore proton's inner structure with accurate measurements.
- The behaviour of the electromagnetic form factor at low momentum transfer is used to determine the radius.
- Cross sections were calculated using 8 kinematic variables in momentum space and 5 variables in impact parameter space, and the results were compared to study consistency between the two approaches.
- Momentum space results are compared with ATLAS and CMS data, while impact parameter space allows differential cross sections with kinematic cuts.
- The impact parameter space approach provide full geometrical control over the collision, and since the process is purely QED, it enables a precise determination of the proton radius.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING

Back up

• For applying experimental cuts, we replace it with a differential form in $z = \cos \theta$:

$$\sigma_{\gamma\gamma o \ell^+ \ell^-}(W_{\gamma\gamma}) \quad \longrightarrow \quad rac{d\sigma_{\gamma\gamma o \ell^+ \ell^-}}{dz}(W_{\gamma\gamma},z)$$

• This allows us to impose experimental cuts on kinematic variables for individual leptons

$$\begin{split} E_{\ell^{\pm}} &= \frac{W_{\gamma\gamma}}{2} & p_{z} = z \cdot p \\ p_{\ell^{\pm}} &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{W_{\gamma\gamma}}{2}\right)^{2} - m_{\ell}^{2}} & p_{T} = \sqrt{1 - z^{2}} \cdot p \\ y_{\ell^{\pm}} &= Y_{\ell^{+}\ell^{-}} \pm y_{\ell^{\pm}/\ell^{+}\ell^{-}}(W_{\gamma\gamma}, z) \end{split}$$