

Double Logarithms Resummation in Exclusive Processes: The Surprising Behavior of DVCS[§]

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Abstract: Double logarithms resummation has been much studied in inclusive as well as exclusive processes. The Sudakov mechanism has often been the crucial tool to exponentiate potentially large contributions to amplitudes or cross-sections near phase-space boundaries. We report on a recent work where a very different pattern emerges: the DVCS quark coefficient function $C^q(x, \xi)$ develops near the particular point $x = \xi$ a non-alternate series in $\alpha_s^n \log^{2n}(x - \xi)$ which may be resummed in a $\cosh[K\sqrt{\alpha_s} \log(x - \xi)]$ factor. This result is at odds with the known result for the corresponding coefficient function for the pion transition form factor near the end point $C^q(z)$ although they are much related through a $z \rightarrow x/\xi$ correspondence.

Keywords: Collinear gluon radiation, DVCS, quark coefficient function, resummation, semi-eikonal approximation, soft gluon radiation.

1. INTRODUCTION

While perturbative calculations are widely used in quantum field theory, their summation is always a formidable task, unreachable but in the simplest, not to say most simplistic, occurrences. From elementary particle to atomic and to solid state physics, resummation techniques have been developed to go beyond a fixed order perturbation estimate through the sampling and evaluation of an infinite class of diagrams shown to dominate in a limited kinematical region for some given observables. The result of such procedures is often an exponentiated factor as in the famous Sudakov case [1], $\exp(-Kg^2 \log^2 z)$, where g is the coupling constant and z is the ratio of two different characteristic scales, which governs both QED and QCD calculations of exclusive form factors. As explained in detail in [2] we obtain for a specific case of exclusive scattering amplitude, namely the deeply virtual Compton scattering in the generalized $\cosh(Kg \log z)$ orken regime, a very different resummed result of the form $\cosh(Kg \log z)$ where z is a momentum fraction. To our

knowledge, this form never previously emerged in field theoretic calculations. The process that we focus on is the most studied case of a class of reactions - exclusive hard hadronic processes - which are under intense experimental investigation. The result presented here provides an important stepping-stone for further developments enabling a consistent extraction of the quantities describing the 3-dimensional structure of the proton.

In the collinear factorization framework the scattering amplitude for exclusive processes such as deeply virtual Compton scattering (DVCS) has been shown [3] to factorize in specific kinematical regions, provided a large scale controls the separation of short distance dominated partonic subprocesses and long distance hadronic matrix elements, the generalized parton distributions (GPDs) [4]. The amplitude for the DVCS process

$$\gamma^{(*)}(q)N(p) \rightarrow \gamma(q')N'(p'), \quad (1)$$

with a large virtuality $q^2 = -Q^2$, factorizes in terms of perturbatively calculable coefficient functions $C(x, \xi, \alpha_s)$ and GPDs $H(x, \xi, t)$, where the scaling variable in the generalized Bjorken limit is the skewness ξ defined as

$$\xi = \frac{Q^2}{(p+p') \cdot (q+q')}. \quad \text{The calculation of first order perturbative corrections to the partonic amplitude has shown}$$

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that terms of order $\frac{\log^2(x \pm \xi)}{x \pm \xi}$ play an important role in the region of small $(x \pm \xi)$ i.e. in the vicinity of the boundary between the domains where the QCD evolution equations of GPDs take distinct forms (the so-called ERBL and DGLAP domains). We scrutinize these regions and demonstrate that they are dominated by soft fermion and gluon propagation. This explains why they can be exponentiated using quasi-eikonal techniques.

2. MAIN STEPS OF OUR ANALYSIS

To set up our notations, let us remind the reader of the known results for the NLO corrections to the DVCS amplitude (1), specializing to the quark contribution to its symmetric part. After proper renormalization, it reads

$$\mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu} = g_r^{\mu\nu} \int_{-1}^1 dx \left[\sum_q^{n_F} T^q(x) H^q(x, \xi, t) \right], \quad (2)$$

where the quark coefficient function T^q reads [5]

$$T^q = C_0^q + C_1^q + C_{coll}^q \log \frac{|Q^2|}{\mu_F^2}, \quad (3)$$

$$C_0^q = e_q^2 \left(\frac{1}{x - \xi + i\epsilon} - (x \rightarrow -x) \right), \quad (4)$$

$$C_1^q = \frac{e_q^2 \alpha_s C_F}{4\pi(x - \xi + i\epsilon)} \left\{ \log^2 \left(\frac{\xi - x}{2\xi} - i\epsilon \right) - 9 \right. \\ \left. - 3 \frac{\xi - x}{\xi + x} \log \left(\frac{\xi - x}{2\xi} - i\epsilon \right) \right\} - (x \rightarrow -x). \quad (5)$$

The first (resp. second) terms in Eqs. (4) and (5) correspond to the s -channel (resp. u -channel) class of diagrams. One goes from the s -channel to the u -channel by the interchange of the photon attachments. Since these two contributions are obtained from one another by a simple $(x \leftrightarrow -x)$ interchange, we now restrict mostly to the discussion of the former class of diagrams.

Let us first point out that in the same spirit as for evolution equations, the extraction of the soft-collinear singularities which dominate the amplitude in the limit $x \rightarrow \pm \xi$ is made easier if one uses the light-like gauge $p_1 \cdot A = 0$ with $p_1 = q'$. We argue (and verified) that in this gauge the amplitude is dominated by ladder-like diagrams. We expand any momentum in the Sudakov basis p_1, p_2 , as $k = \alpha p_1 + \beta p_2 + k_\perp$, where p_2 is the light-cone direction of the two incoming and outgoing partons ($p_1^2 = p_2^2 = 0$, $2p_1 \cdot p_2 = s = Q^2 / 2\xi$). In this basis, $q_\gamma = p_1 - 2\xi p_2$.

We now restrict our study to the limit $x \rightarrow +\xi$. The dominant kinematics is given by a strong ordering both in longitudinal and transverse momenta, according to (see Fig. 1):

$$x \sim \xi \gg |\beta_1| \sim |x - \xi| \gg |x - \xi + \beta_1| \sim |\beta_2| \gg \dots$$

$$\dots \gg |x - \xi + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \dots + \beta_{n-1}| \sim |\beta_n|, \quad (6)$$

$$|k_{\perp 1}^2| \ll |k_{\perp 2}^2| \ll \dots \ll |k_{\perp n}^2| \ll s \sim Q^2, \quad (7)$$

$$|\alpha_1| \ll \dots \ll |\alpha_n| \ll 1. \quad (8)$$

This ordering is related to the fact that the dominant double logarithmic contribution for each loop arises from the region of phase space where both soft and collinear singularities manifest themselves. When $x \rightarrow \xi$ the left fermionic line is a hard line, from which the gluons are emitted in an eikonal way (which means that these gluons have their all four-components neglected in the vertex w.r.t. the momentum of the emitter), with an ordering in p_2 direction and a collinear ordering. For the right fermionic line, eikonal approximation is not valid, since the dominant momentum flow along p_2 is from gluon to fermion, nevertheless the collinear approximation can still be applied.

When computing the coefficient functions, one faces both UV and IR divergencies. On the one hand, the UV divergencies are taken care of through renormalization, which manifest themselves by a renormalization scale μ_R dependency. On the other hand, the IR divergencies remain, but factorization proofs at any order for DVCS justify the fact that they can be absorbed inside the generalized parton distributions and result in finite coefficient functions. In our study, we are only interested into finite parts. Thus, using dimensional regularization, in a factorization scheme like \overline{MS} , any scaleless integral can be safely put to zero although it contains both UV and IR divergencies. Following this line of thought, we can thus safely deal with DVCS on a quark for our resummation purpose.

Finally, the issue related to the $i\epsilon$ prescription in Eq. (5) is solved by computing the coefficient function in the unphysical region $\xi > 1$. After analytical continuation to the physical region $0 \leq \xi \leq 1$, the final result is then obtained through the shift $\xi \rightarrow \xi - i\epsilon$.

We define K_n as the contribution of a n -loop ladder to the coefficient function. Let us sketch the main steps of the derivation of K_1 and then generalize it for K_n .

2.1. The Ladder Diagram at Order α_s

A careful analysis [2] shows that among the one loop diagrams and in the light-like axial gauge $p_1 \cdot A = 0$, the box diagram is dominant for $x \rightarrow \xi$. Starting from the dominant part of the numerator of the Born term which is $\theta = -2p_1$, the numerator of the box diagram is

$$\text{tr} \{ p_2 \gamma^\mu [k + (x - \xi)p_2] \theta [k + (x + \xi)p_2] \gamma^\nu \} d^{\mu\nu}. \quad (9)$$

In the limit $x \rightarrow \xi$, while the left fermionic line is hard with a large p_2 momentum, the gluonic line is soft with respect to the left fermionic line. So we perform soft gluon approximation in the numerator by taking $k + (x + \xi)p_2 \rightarrow (x + \xi)p_2$. The dominant contribution comes

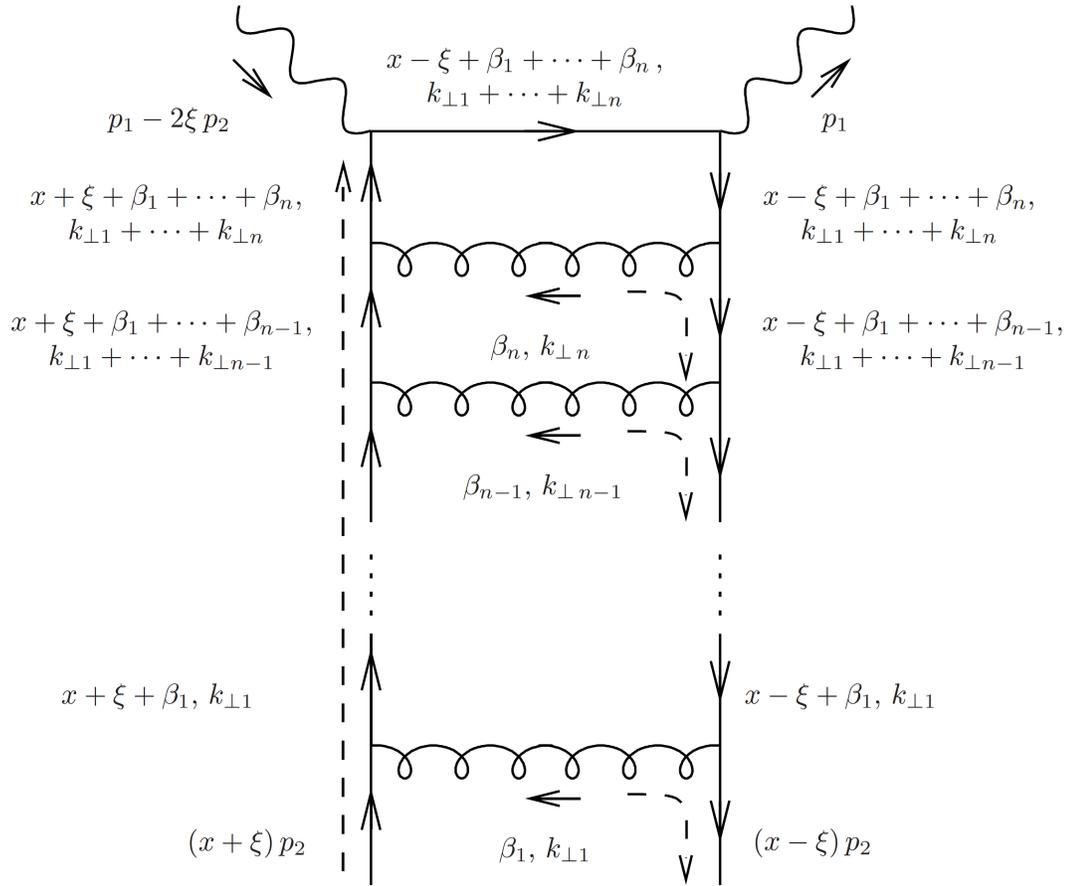


Fig. (1). The ladder diagrams which contribute in the light-like gauge to the leading $\alpha_s^n \ln^{2n}(\xi - x)/(x - \xi)$ terms in the perturbative expansion of the DVCS amplitude. The p_2 and \perp momentum components are indicated. The dashed lines show the dominant momentum flows along the p_2 direction.

from the residue of the gluonic propagator. Thus, the numerator of the on-shell gluon propagator, $d^{\mu\nu}$, is expressed in terms of transverse polarizations, i.e. $d^{\mu\nu} \approx -\sum_{\lambda} \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\mu} \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\nu}$.

Writing the gluon polarization vectors in the light-like $p_1 \cdot A = 0$ gauge through their Sudakov decomposition

$$\epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\mu} = \epsilon_{\perp(\lambda)}^{\mu} - 2 \frac{\epsilon_{\perp(\lambda)} \cdot k_{\perp}}{\beta s} p_1^{\mu}, \tag{10}$$

allows us to define an effective vertex for the gluon and outgoing quark through the polarization sum

$$\sum_{\lambda} \epsilon_{\perp(\lambda)} \cdot k_{\perp} \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\mu} = -k_{\perp}^{\mu} + 2 \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{\beta s} p_1^{\mu}. \tag{11}$$

The numerator, $(Num)_1$, is α -independent and reads

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{-4(x + \xi)}{\beta} \text{tr} \{ \not{p}_2 (\not{k}_{\perp} - 2 \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{\beta s} \not{p}_1) [\not{k} + (x - \xi) \not{p}_2] \not{p}_1 \} \\ & = -4(x + \xi) s \frac{2k_{\perp}^2}{\beta} \left[1 + \frac{2(x - \xi)}{\beta} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

We now calculate the integral over the gluon momentum k , using dimensional regularization $\int d^d k \rightarrow \frac{S}{2} \int d\alpha d\beta d^{d-2} \underline{k}$, ($k_{\perp}^2 = -\underline{k}^2$). The Cauchy integration of the gluonic pole which gives the dominant contribution reads

$$-2\pi i \frac{S}{2} \int_0^{\xi-x} \frac{d\beta}{s\beta} \int_0^{\infty} d^{d-2} \underline{k} \frac{(Num)_1}{L_1^2 R_1^2 S^2} \Big|_{\alpha=\frac{k^2}{\beta s}} \tag{13}$$

with the denominators $L_1^2 = -\underline{k}^2 + \alpha(\beta + x + \xi)s$, $R_1^2 = -\underline{k}^2 + \alpha(\beta + x - \xi)s$, $S^2 = -\underline{k}^2 + (\beta + x - \xi)s$ and $k^2 = -\underline{k}^2 + \alpha\beta s$. The relevant region of integration corresponds to small $|\beta + x - \xi|$. The β and \underline{k} integrations results in our final one-loop expression :

$$K_1 = \frac{i}{4} e_q^2 \left(-i C_F \alpha_s \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \right) \frac{4}{x - \xi} \frac{2\pi i}{2!} \log^2(a(x - \xi)), \tag{14}$$

where we kept only the most singular terms in the $x \rightarrow \xi$ region and have no control of the value of a within our approximation. To fix a , we match our approximated one-loop result with the full one-loop result (5). This amounts to

cut the \underline{k}^2 integral at Q^2 . The $i\mathcal{E}$ term is included according to the same matching. This leads to

$$K_1 = \frac{i}{4} e_q^2 \left(-i C_F \alpha_s \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \right) \frac{4}{x-\xi+i\mathcal{E}} \frac{2\pi i}{2!} \log^2 \left(\frac{\xi-x}{2\xi} - i\mathcal{E} \right), \quad (15)$$

which is the known result. This is a positive test of the validity of our approximation procedure that we now generalize to the n -rung ladder.

2.2. The Ladder Diagram at Order α_s^n

Let us now turn to the estimation of all $\log^{2n}(x-\xi)$ terms in the diagram shown on Fig. (1). Assuming the strong ordering (7, 8) in k_\perp and α_s , the distribution of the poles generates nested integrals in β_i as :

$$\int_0^{\xi-x} d\beta_1 \int_0^{\xi-x-\beta_1} d\beta_2 \cdots \int_0^{\xi-x-\beta_1-\cdots-\beta_{n-1}} d\beta_n. \quad (16)$$

The numerator for the n^{th} order box diagram is obtained as:

$$(Num)_n = -4s(x+\xi)^n \frac{2k_{\perp 1}^2}{\beta_1} \left[1 + \frac{2(x-\xi)}{\beta_1} \right] \frac{2k_{\perp 2}^2}{\beta_2} \left[1 + \frac{2(\beta_1+x-\xi)}{\beta_2} \right] \cdots \frac{2k_{\perp n}^2}{\beta_n} \left[1 + \frac{2(\beta_{n-1}+\cdots+\beta_1+x-\xi)}{\beta_n} \right], \quad (17)$$

and the denominators of propagators are, for $i=1 \cdots n$,

$$\begin{aligned} L_i^2 &= \alpha_i(x+\xi)s \\ R_i^2 &= -\underline{k}_i^2 + \alpha_i(\beta_1 + \cdots + \beta_i + x - \xi)s, \\ S^2 &= -\underline{k}_n^2 + (\beta_1 + \cdots + \beta_n + x - \xi)s. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Using dimensional regularization and omitting scaleless integrals, the integral reads:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{\xi-x} d\beta_1 \cdots \int_0^{\xi-x-\beta_1-\cdots-\beta_{n-1}} d\beta_n \int_0^\infty d^{d-2} \underline{k}_n \cdots \int_0^{k_1^2} d^{d-2} \underline{k}_1 (-1)^n \\ & \times \frac{4s(2\pi i)^n}{x-\xi} \frac{1}{\beta_1+x-\xi} \cdots \frac{1}{\beta_1+\cdots+\beta_{n-1}+x-\xi} \\ & \times \frac{1}{\underline{k}_1^2} \cdots \frac{1}{\underline{k}_n^2} \frac{1}{\underline{k}_n^2 - (\beta_1 + \cdots + \beta_n + x - \xi)s} \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

The integrals over $\underline{k}_1 \cdots \underline{k}_n$ are performed similarly as in the one-loop case, resulting in:

$$K_n = \frac{i}{4} e_q^2 \left(-i C_F \alpha_s \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \right)^n \frac{4}{x-\xi+i\mathcal{E}} \frac{(2\pi i)^n}{(2n)!} \log^{2n} \left(\frac{\xi-x}{2\xi} - i\mathcal{E} \right), \quad (20)$$

where the matching condition introduced in one-loop case is extended to n -loops.

3. THE RESUMMED FORMULA

Based on the results Eqs. (15, 20), one can build the resummed formula for the complete amplitude; we get with

$$D = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2\pi}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} K_n &= \frac{e_q^2}{x-\xi+i\mathcal{E}} \cosh \left[D \log \left(\frac{\xi-x}{2\xi} - i\mathcal{E} \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{e_q^2}{x-\xi+i\mathcal{E}} \left[\left(\frac{\xi-x}{2\xi} - i\mathcal{E} \right)^D + \left(\frac{\xi-x}{2\xi} - i\mathcal{E} \right)^{-D} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

In the absence of a next to leading logarithmic calculation, the minimal and most natural resummed formula which has the same $O(\alpha_s)$ expression as the full NLO result, reads, :

$$\begin{aligned} (C_0 + C_1)^{res} &= \frac{e_q^2}{x-\xi+i\mathcal{E}} \{ \cosh [D \log (\frac{\xi-x}{2\xi} - i\mathcal{E})] \\ & - \frac{D^2}{2} [9 + 3 \frac{\xi-x}{x+\xi} \log (\frac{\xi-x}{2\xi} - i\mathcal{E})] \} - (x \rightarrow -x). \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

4. THE GLUON COEFFICIENT FUNCTION

For several decades the effects of gluons on many high energy processes has been widely studied. Specifically the theory of "Color Glass Condensate" shows that at very high energies the behavior of the scattering amplitudes are dominated by gluons [6]. Recently it was also shown that even at moderate energies, there are significant $O(\alpha_s)$ corrections to scattering amplitudes due to gluonic contributions for spacelike and timelike virtual Compton scatterings [7]. With the above mentioned motivations performing a similar resummation procedure for gluon coefficient function of DVCS and TCS would result in a more trustful extraction gluon GPDs.

SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

We have demonstrated that resummation of soft-collinear gluon radiation effects can be performed in hard exclusive reactions amplitudes. The resulting formula for coefficient function stabilizes the perturbative expansion, which is crucial for a trustful extraction of GPDs from experimental data. A related expression should emerge in various reactions, such as the crossed case of timelike Compton scattering [8] and exclusive meson electroproduction.

Giving these results, a question should be raised : what is the physics beyond this result, or in other words, why is the Sudakov resummation [9] familiar to experts of hard exclusive processes not applicable here? An even more precise question may be: how is our analysis compatible with the discussion of soft effects in the pion transition form factor, a quantity which has been much discussed [10] recently thanks to the experimental results of BABAR and BELLE? Let us stress that the coefficient function of this quantity is identical to the ERL part of the coefficient function of the DVCS amplitude after a rescaling $z \rightarrow x/\xi$. Our result thus may be applied to the transition form factor. In [11], it has been argued that the $\alpha_s \log^2(1-z)$ factor in the one loop expression of the coefficient function had to be

understood as the sum of two very distinct terms, one of them exponentiating in a Sudakov form factor. To advocate this fact, the authors allow themselves an excursion outside the collinear factorization framework and use the familiar detour into the coordinate space framework. Our procedure is different and we resum the complete one loop result. In other words, one may ask to the authors of [11]: what happens to the remnant term proportional to $\alpha_s \log^2(1-z)$? If indeed the usual resummation procedure of the transition pion form factor must be revised following our new results, one may ask whether the understanding of the meson form factor [12] should also be reconsidered.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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