Non-linear QCD at high energies

E. Levin
Department of Particle Physics, School of Physics and Astronomy, Raymond and Beverly
Sackler Faculty of Exact Science Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, 69978, Israel

Abstract
In this talk I give a mini-review on recent development in the non-linear
QCD (at low $x$).

This year is a jubilee year: 25 years ago Leonid Gribov, Michael Ryskin and me published
our GLR paper [1] in which we set a new field, so called, high parton density QCD or non-
linear QCD. In this paper we formulate the main physical question that we need to answer: what
happens with the system of partons when their density becomes so large that the partons start
to interact. This interaction was omitted in linear evolution but has to be important to suppress
the power like growth of the deep inelastic cross section which follows from linear evolution and
contradicts the Froissart theorem. The non-linear evolution equation which nowadays goes under
the name Balitsky-Kovchegov equation [2] was suggested; the new scale: saturation momentum
($Q_s$), was introduced and the equation for this scale was derived; as well as the phenomenon of
the saturation of the parton densities was foreseen.

During the quarter of century we have understood a lot: the role of the large number of
colours in the approach [3], a geometrical scaling behaviour of the scattering amplitude [4,5], the
equation for the diffractive dissociation processes [6] and many other results. However, I think,
we have had two major breakthroughs: the dipole approach [7] and the colour glas condensate
approach(CGC) [8, 9]. The dipole approach leads to a new understanding what we calculate
(dipole scattering amplitude), considerably simplified all calculations and gives rise to statistical

treatment of the problem. CGC reduces the problem of saturation to the theory of classical field
in QCD giving the explanation of this phenomenon and developing a new theoretical method for
the solution. I firmly believe that we are now in the middle of the third breakthrough since we
have started to attack the most difficult and challenging problem: the dynamical correlations in
the QCD cascade which is known under slang name of summing Pomeron loops. Therefore, the
largest part of this talk I will spend on the discussion of this theoretical problem but I would like
to start with more practical question: are we ready for the LHC.

1. Practical impact on the LHC physics. The honest answer to the above question is
firm no. I see two reasons for this sad fact: first the saturation physics is not the hottest problem
that the LHC hopes to resolve in spite of having ALICE collaboration for ion-ion collisions
where the saturation effect will be more pronounced. Second, is a kind of contradiction between
the theoretical approach and the reality. Let me repeat what we are doing in hd QCD in more
formal language. In the kinematic region where $\alpha_S \ln s \approx 1$ the asymptotical behaviour of QCD
amplitude is known [10] to be power-like as $A \propto \alpha_s^2 s^{\Delta}$ (BFKL Pomeron) where $s$ is the energy
and $\Delta$ can be expanded as $\Delta = C_1 \alpha_s + C_2 \alpha_s^2$ with known coefficient $C_1$. The calculation of
$C_2$ has been performed [11] but these corrections will be important only for $\alpha_s \ln s \geq 1/\alpha_s$. 


However, for lower energy, another type of interaction turns to be essential, namely, the exchange of two and more BFKL Pomerons. Such exchange leads to the contribution which is of the order of $\left( \alpha_S^2 s^{\Delta_{LO}} \right)^n$. Therefore when $\alpha_S^2 s^{\Delta_{LO}} \approx 1$ we need to sum all contributions due to BFKL Pomeron exchanges. In terms of energy this is the range $1 \leq \alpha_S \ln s \leq \ln(1/\alpha_S^2)$. In simple words, theoretically first we need to solve the problem of high parton density QCD and only for higher energies we should take care about next-to-leading order corrections to $\Delta$. However, the life turns out to be more complicated and these corrections numerically are so huge that for any practical applications we have to account for them. The sad truth is we have not learned how to do this. As far as I know there is only one attempt to include them in non-linear evolution [12] which is still very approximate. It means that, frankly speaking, we cannot guarantee the value of the possible high parton density effects at the LHC.

At the moment we can give some estimates to illustrate how essential can be the high density collective effects at the LHC. The most important result has been achieved during the past year. It turns out that the contribution of the semi-hard processes (with the typical transverse momenta of the order of the saturation scale) to the survival probability of the diffractive Higgs boson production is large and it could lead to a substantial suppression of the QCD calculated cross section (see Refs. [13, 14]. The estimates were obtained for different contributions: the fan diagrams in Ref. [13] and the enhanced diagrams in Ref. [14] with the same results. Namely, all diagrams of these types should be summed. The model attempt to perform such a summation with the result that the survival probability is as small as 0.4%. This is a good example that we need to concentrate our efforts on LHC physics even in the case of the first wave of experiments, in particular in Higgs search.

2. Statistical approach: its beauty and problems. Based on the probability interpretation of the non-linear equation in the dipole approach [7] we have tried to develop the more general statistical-like scheme that would include the Pomeron loops (see review [15] and references therein). The hope is to rewrite the QCD evolution equations including Pomeron loops in the form of Langevin equation (\(\otimes\) stands for all needed integrations):

$$
\frac{dN}{d\ln s} = \alpha_S K \otimes (N - N^2) + \zeta \quad \text{with} \quad \langle |\zeta| \rangle = 0, \quad \langle |\zeta \cdot \zeta| \rangle \neq 0
$$

(1)

In Ref. [17] it was proven that in QCD we can obtain Eq. (1) but the form of $\langle |\zeta \cdot \zeta| \rangle$ is so complicated that, I think, there is no chance of solving Eq. (1). The attempts to solve Eq. (1) were made in the QCD motivated models with a lot of assumptions. All these assumptions (especially that impact parameter is much larger than the dipole sizes) are such that we are losing the possibility to calculate the Pomeron loops. The main physical result from these models and statistical like approach is the violation of the geometrical scaling behaviour [16]. I do not think we can trust this prediction.

3. BFKL Pomeron calculus: overlapping singularities. The important news is the fact that everything that has been done during the past three years is nothing more than understanding of the BFKL Pomeron calculus [17]. Therefore we have to return back to this calculus to re-examine how to include the Pomeron loops in our approach. In doing so, Refs. [18, 19] found that the Pomeron interaction generates a new state with the intercept large than intercept of two BFKL Pomerons. In spite of the lack of room I will try to illustrate this result calculating the first
fan diagram (see Fig. 1).

The expression for this diagram includes the integral over anomalous dimensions, dipole sizes in the triple Pomeron vertices which leads to $\delta$ - function, shown in Fig. 1, and the integral over $\omega$ which has the form:

$$A \propto \frac{1}{z^2} \int_{e^{-i\infty}}^{e^{+i\infty}} d\omega e^{\omega Y} \frac{1}{\omega - \omega(\gamma) - \omega(\gamma_1) - \omega(\gamma_2)}$$

One can see that we can close the contour over $\omega$ on two poles: $\omega(\gamma)$ and $\omega(\gamma_1) + \omega(\gamma_2)$, which lead to contribution $\exp(\omega(1/2)Y)$ and $\exp(2\omega(1/2)Y)$. However, in the integral over $\gamma$ there exists $\gamma = \gamma_0$ which is a solution to the equation: $\omega(2\gamma_0 - 1) = 2 \omega(\gamma_0)$. For $\gamma_0$ we have a double pole and the amplitude behaves as $A \propto Y^2 \exp(\omega(1/2)Y)$. This new singularity we call overlapping singularity. Its appearance is kind of disaster since it means that even in 'fan' diagrams the partons from different parton showers, which are described by exchange of two Pomerons, interacts. In particular, overlapping singularities destroy the non-linear Balitsky-Kovchegov equation even for the scattering with nucleus, preserving nevertheless the Balitsky chain of equations [2, 20]. So, the truth is that we have to start from the beginning not only in summing the Pomeron loops but also in the mean field approximation.

4. BFKL Pomeron calculus: solution for $\alpha_s \ln s < 1/\alpha_s$. Therefore, the first thing that we need to do is to suggest our way to overcome the difficulties related to the overlapping singularities.

Fig. 1: The first fan diagram.

Fig. 2: The calculation of the first fan and enhanced diagrams.

Our observation is the following: $\gamma_0 > \gamma_{cr}$ therefore, two Pomerons ($\gamma_1$ and $\gamma_2$) are inside the saturation region while one upper Pomeron is outside. Inside the saturation region we cannot use the BFKL kernel to determine $\omega(\gamma)$ but we need to use the expression found in Ref. [4], namely, $\omega_{sat}(\gamma) = \frac{\omega(\gamma_{cr})}{1-\gamma_{cr}} (1-\gamma)$. Noticing that equation $2\omega_{sat}(\gamma_0) = \omega_{pert}(2\gamma_0-1)$
has no solution, we can conclude that as the first try we can neglect the overlapping singularities. However, we have to check the self consistency of our approach, namely, obtaining a solution to calculate back the diagrams and show that they indeed give a small contribution.

Our main idea [19] that in this case and for the kinematic region $\alpha_s \ln s < 1/\alpha_s$ we are dealing with the system of non-interacting Pomeron loops, Fig. 2, in which we present the calculation of the first fan and the first enhanced diagrams, illustrates this idea. One can see in Fig. 2 that these diagrams can be reduced to the system of non-interacting Pomeron since in the kinematic region under consideration the corrections to the Pomeron intercept turn out to be small. (see Fig. 2). Having this fact in mind we can use for summing Pomeron loops the Iancu-Mueller-Patel-Salam approximation [21], improved by the renormalization of the scattering amplitude at low energies. This approach is nothing more than the $t$-channel unitarity constraint adjusted to the dipole approach.

However, the first part of the problem: to find the sum of fan diagrams we need to solve using a different method. We were able to do this for the simplified BFKL kernel in which we took into account only the leading twist part of the full BFKL kernel. We heavily use the fact that in Ref. [22] the solution for this kernel has been found. The simplified kernel looks as follows

$$\omega(\gamma) = \alpha_s \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\gamma} & \text{for } r^2 Q_s^2 \ll 1 \text{ summing } (\alpha_s \ln(1/(r^2 Q_s^2)))^n; \\ \frac{1}{1-\gamma} & \text{for } r^2 Q_s^2 \gg 1 \text{ summing } (\alpha_s \ln(r^2 Q_s^2))^n; \end{cases}$$

For this kernel we obtain: the solution that includes the Pomeron loops, with the following main properties: geometrical scaling behaviour and rather slow approaching the asymptotic value, namely $1 - N \propto \exp(-z)$ where $z = \ln(r^2 Q_s^2)$.

Resume. One my friend, a good experimentalist, told me, that what I am doing, is the same as string theorists are doing: the approach is complicated and a lot of promises but no delivery (no connection with the reality). I agree with him that the problem is not simple and during the last 25 years we learned how difficult it is. However, the main difference with the string theory is that we are solving a well formulated theoretical problem about the nature while string theory is dealing with the imaginary world without any chance to approach reality and in attempts to include the principle property of the nature they have to build models for each well established phenomenon: running $\alpha_s$; confinement of quarks and gluons; and the violation of chiral symmetry. Accepting the fact that we have not prepared yet the experimental program for the LHC for measuring saturation effect we are developing fast in this direction and I firmly believe that I will report very soon to my friend about such program beating his second claim.

References


