

Backward Hadronic Calorimeter for ePIC

A detector for diffractive physics at the EIC

Leszek Kosarzewski, for the ePIC Collaboration

The Ohio State University

CIPANP2025 6/9/2025

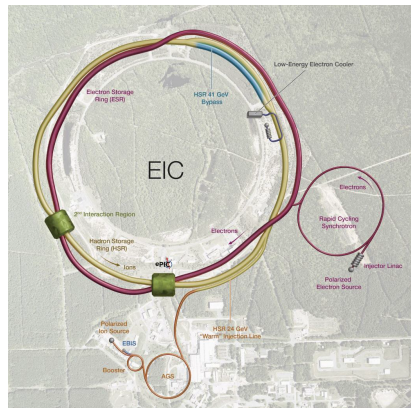


THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

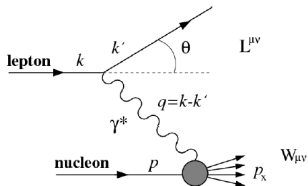
- 1 Introduction
 - Electron Ion Collider (EIC)
 - ePIC detector (Electron-Proton Ion Collider Experiment)
- 2 Backward Hadronic Calorimeter for ePIC
 - Motivation for nHCal
- 3 Diffractive physics
 - Diffractive vector meson production
 - Diffractive dijet production
- 4 Design
 - Tile tests
 - Neutron detection efficiency
 - Position resolution
- 5 Summary

Electron Ion Collider (EIC)

- To be built at Brookhaven National Laboratory
 - Modify RHIC
 - Add electron ring
 - More info here:
<https://www.bnl.gov/eic/>
- Collisions of polarized (except A):
 - $e + p$ $5 \times 41 - 18 \times 275$ GeV
 - $e + A$ $5 \times 41 - 18 \times 110$ GeV
 - Wide spectrum of ion species $A = d, U...$
- High luminosity $10^{33} - 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
(100 – 1000 $\times$ HERA)
- High polarization $\sim 70\%$
- Large coverage in x (longitudinal momentum frac. of p) and Q^2 (resolution)
- First data expected in early 2030s
- Physics questions:
 - Study spin and mass origin of the proton/nuclei
 - Imaging of nucleon and nuclei (TMDs and GPDs, diffractive processes)
 - Gluon saturation
 - Nuclear modifications and flow
 - QCD in unexplored kinematics
 - EW, BSM physics and more...



Deep inelastic scattering (DIS)



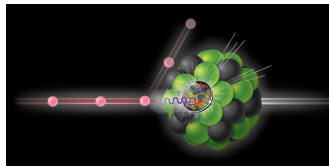
$$Q^2 = -q^2 = -(k - k')^2$$

$$W^2 = (q + P)^2$$

$$y = \frac{q \cdot P}{k \cdot P}$$

Bjorken scaling variable

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2p \cdot q}$$



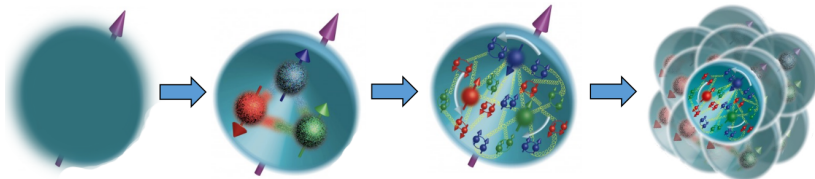
The Proton

Early 1900s

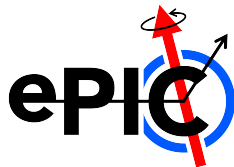
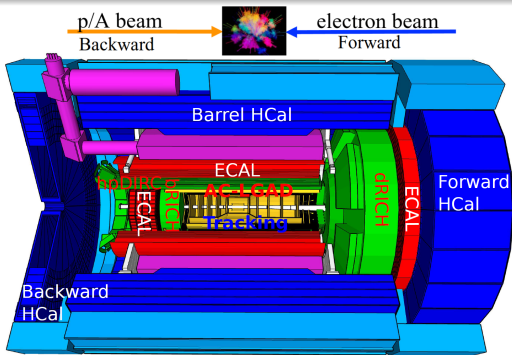
1970s

2000s

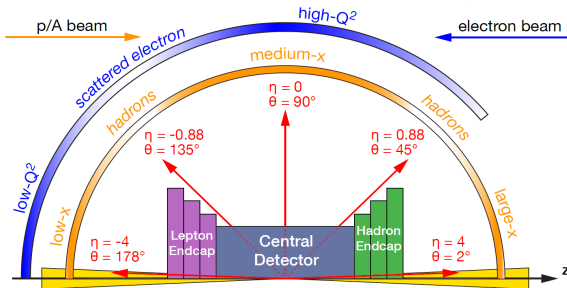
The Proton
in a nucleus



ePIC detector (Electron-Proton Ion Collider Experiment)



- First detector to be built at the EIC
- Webpage:
<https://www.epic-eic.org/>
- Large acceptance
 $-4.2 < \eta < 4.2$, 1.7 T solenoidal field

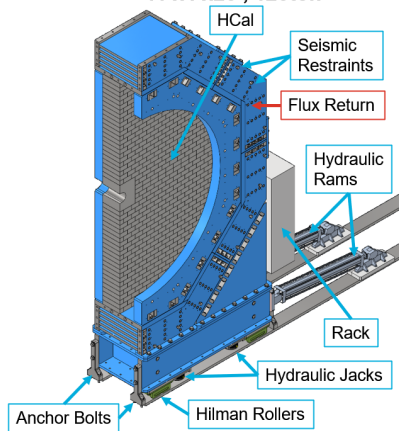


- **nHCal - Negative Hadronic Calorimeter**, a tail catcher
- Started as part of Mobility Project at CTU in Prague - few months in BNL
- Detector Subsystem Leader (DSL)
 - L. Kosarzewski
- Participating institutions: OSU, CTU in Prague, UIUC, help from BNL
- Members of H1 at HERA recognized that the lack of a backward HCal hurt several important physics measurements, especially low-x related studies. SPACAL was part of first upgrade.
 - [NIM A386 (1997) 397-408]
 - [DESY 08-053]

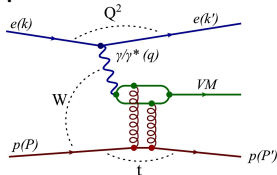
Acceptance

$$-4.16 < \eta < -1.16$$

Backward Endcap (BE)
11'x4'x25', 125ton

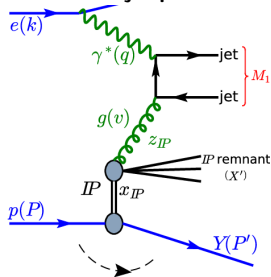


Diffractive vector meson production



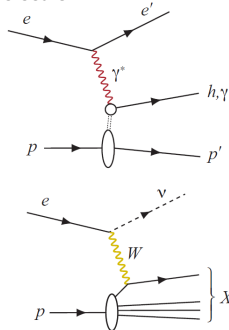
- VM: J/ψ , ϕ ...
- $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu\mu$
- Crucial for EIC: [Nuclear Physics A 1026 (2022) 122447]
[BNL-98815-2012-JA; JLAB-PHY-12-1652]
- $\phi \rightarrow KK \rightarrow \mu\mu$
- $\phi \rightarrow K_L^0 K_S^0$
- Muon ID helps discriminating against scattered beam electron

Diffractive dijet production



- [Phys. Rev. D 107, 094038]
- [Phys. Rev. D 101, 072003 (2020)]
- Access to very low x
- Identify jets with neutral component
- Measure low energy neutrons
- Improve resolution by identifying charged only jets

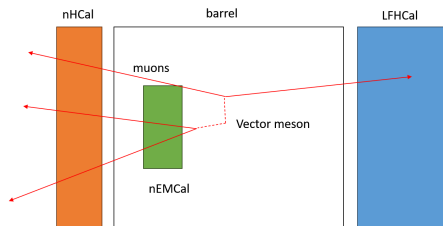
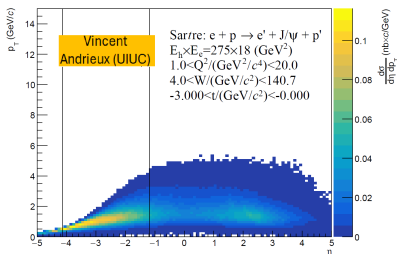
Hermeticity/scattered electron ID



- Need hermetic coverage to make sure no extra particles for exclusive process
- Determine event kinematics via hadronic final state at low-x
 - photoproduction
 - charged current interactions

Sartre simulation of diffractive $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ production

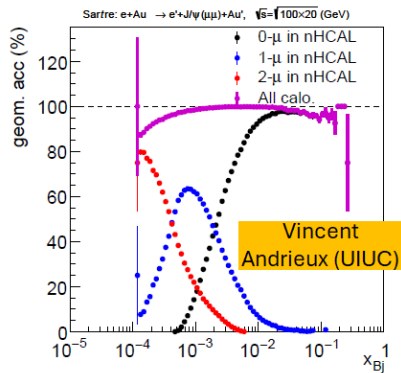
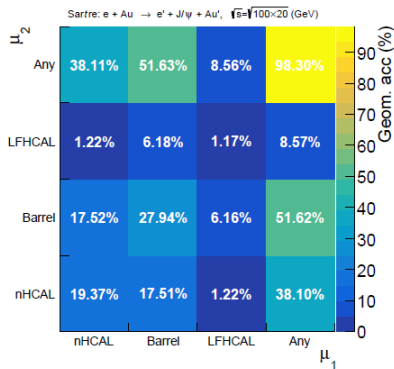
J/ψ vs (η , p_T)



- Backward acceptance needed to access full available diffractive cross section
- Most J/ψ produced in backward direction

- Increases acceptance and gives access to different topologies and kinematics:
 - nHCal & nHCal
 - nHCal & barrel HCal
 - nHCal & LFHCAL

Sartre simulation of diffractive $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ photoproduction



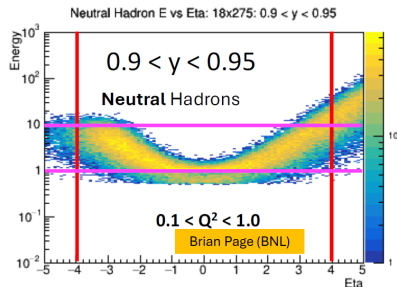
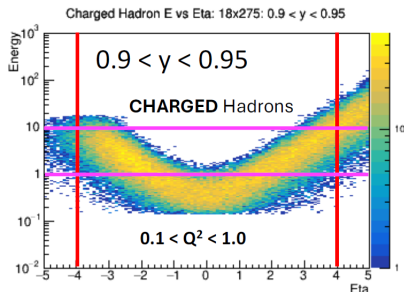
- Fraction of events with muons in acceptance of each detector
- nHCAL+any: 38% of J/ψ produce muons in acceptance of nHCAL and any other hadronic calorimeter
 - Missing nHCAL means loss of large fraction of J/ψ

- nHCAL required to access $x < 10^{-3}$
- No ambiguity with scattered electron when using dimuon channel

Acceptance

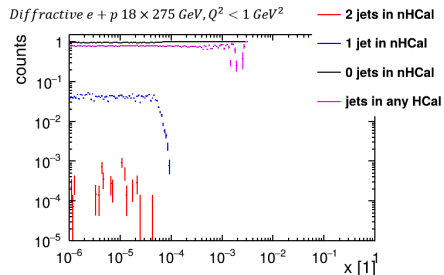
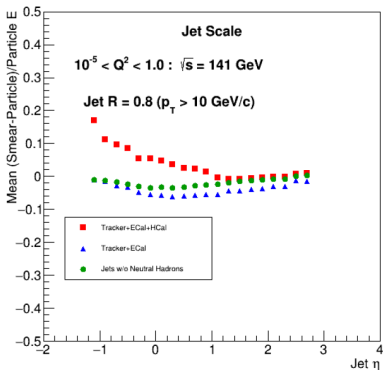
"The importance of jet probes was reflected in the EIC Yellow Report where they touched on nearly every major physics topic" [Nuclear Physics A 1026 (2022) 122447]

PYTHIA simulation, diffractive events (not all are jets) [Phys. Rev. D 101, 072003 (2020)]

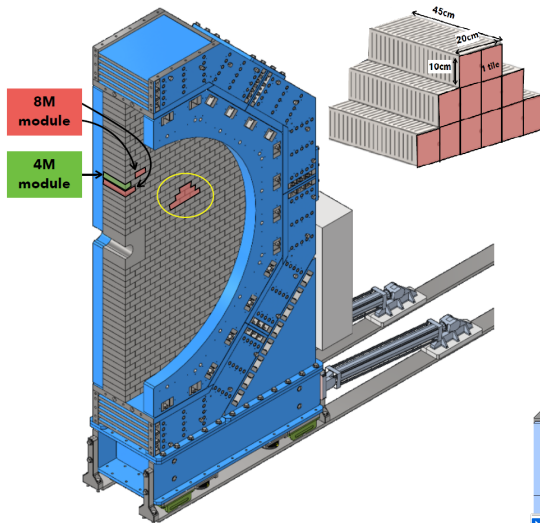


- Low- x and high- y events produce activity both in backward and forward direction
- Need good neutron detection efficiency and position resolution to distinguish neutral and charged clusters in a jet
 - Typical neutron kinematics: $\langle E \rangle = 1.38 \text{ GeV}$, $\langle p \rangle = 2.12 \text{ GeV}/c$, $E_{low} = 0 \text{ GeV}$, $p_{low} = 0 \text{ GeV}/c$
 - Reach as low as possible

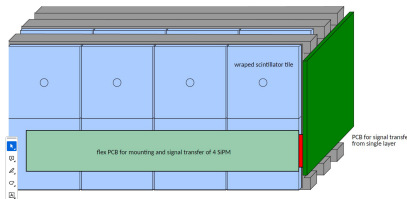
PYTHIA simulation, diffractive events (not all are jets)

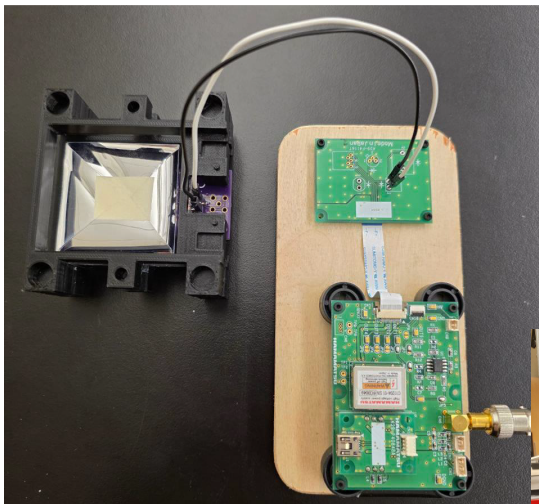


- Distinguishing charged only and jets with neutrals improves jet energy resolution
- Diffractive dijets offer an even lower reach in $x < 10^{-4}$



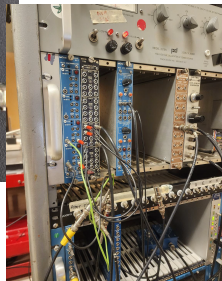
- Tail catcher sampling calorimeter
- Similar design to Forward Hadronic Calorimeter (LFHCAL)
- Initial design to be optimized:
 - 10 layers $\approx 2.4\lambda_0$
 - 4 cm non-magnetic steel
 - 4 mm plastic scintillator tiles
- SiPMs used for light collection
- SiPM placed on tile inspired by CALICE
 - [JINST 18 P11018]
 - First ever test in collider mode [Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A, 1047:167866, 2023]
 - Tile size TBD: 5 cm $\times$ 5 cm or 10 cm $\times$ 10 cm



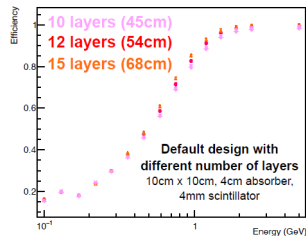
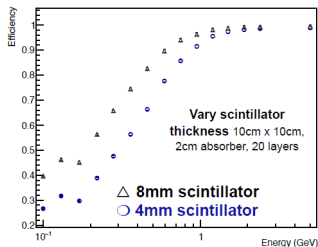
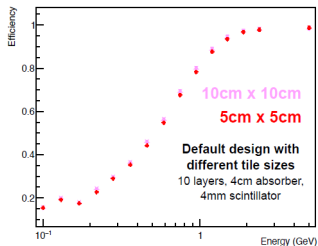


Yevheniia Khyzhniak
Maria Stefaniak (OSU)

- Tile tests using cosmic ray muons in progress
 - Light yield, MIP response, efficiency
- Uniformity tests with a sealed source and translation table
- Test setup:
 - 3D printed tile frame
 - SiPM on the test board (purple)
 - Hamamatsu MPPC evaluation circuit C12332-02
 - Configure via USB with PC/Laptop
 - Analog SMA output to DAQ
 - DAQ system with NIM modules and CAMAC

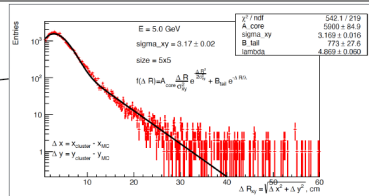
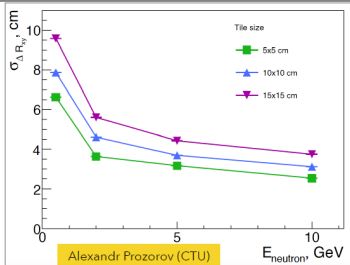


- Investigated different geometry configurations
- Tile size has a small impact
- Increasing the number of layers improves efficiency
 - 5% increase going from 10 $\rightarrow$ 15 layers
- Scintillator thickness vs. absorber
 - 20% increase when changing from 4 mm $\rightarrow$ 8 mm
- Work in progress



Sam Corey (OSU)

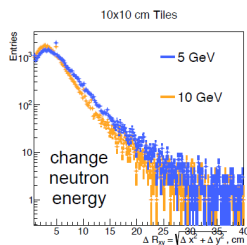
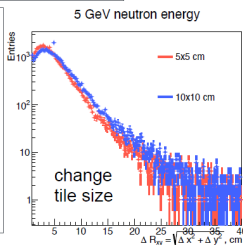
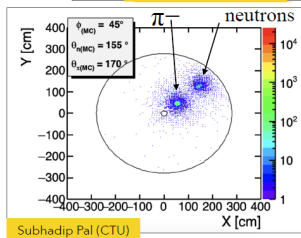
Position resolution



$$\Delta R_{xy} = \sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2}$$

$$\Delta x = x_{cluster} - x_{MC}$$

$$\Delta y = y_{cluster} - y_{MC}$$



- Varied tile size for default design (in progress)
- Used single neutrons and reconstructed clusters to estimate position resolution
- Tile size has a very small impact on the resolution
 - Hadronic showers are much larger than tile size
- Also investigated 2-particle position resolution
 - neutrons and pions can be separated down to ~ 30 cm

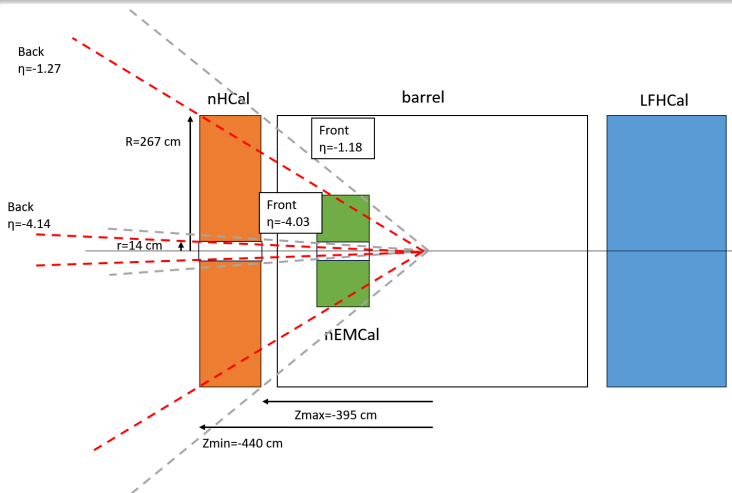
Conclusions

- nHCal for ePIC is a crucial detector for diffractive physics
- Covers low- x kinematics, which is the frontier for proton and nuclear structure and one of the goals of EIC construction
- Enables measurements of $VM \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$
 - Avoids ambiguity with scattered electron
- Measures neutral component of jets to identify charged only jets

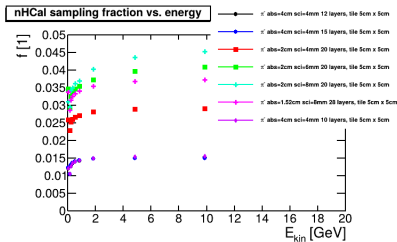
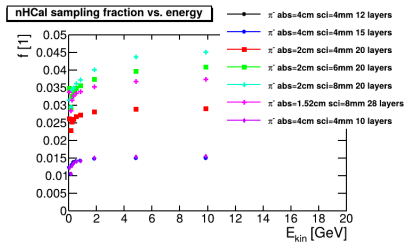
New opportunities for groups to join the effort!

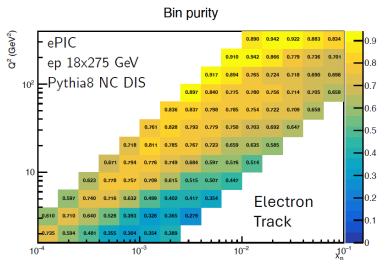
- Lots of tasks and experience for students and postdocs
 - Simulations, testing, hardware work, reconstruction, machine learning
- Perfect for small groups
- Very easy to start!

BACKUP



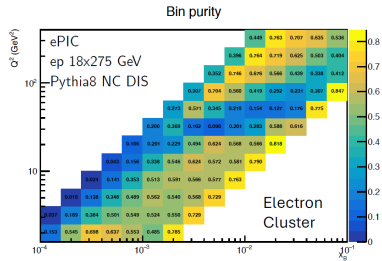
- Front geometry limit: $-4.03 < \eta < -1.18$
- Back geometry limit: $-4.14 < \eta < -1.27$
- Clusters: $-3.95 < \eta < -1.25$
- MC particles showering in nHCal(with hits): $-4.16 < \eta < -1.16$





$$P = \frac{N_{gen+rec}}{N_{rec}}$$

Tyler Kutz



$$P = \frac{N_{gen+rec}}{N_{rec}}$$

Kinematic resolutions

