

Topic 6 — QED for Hadrons

Cheat-Sheet (2 cols)

Big picture (slides logic)

Hadrons are **composite** (made of quarks), so in EM processes the hadronic EM current is a QCD current:

$$j_{\text{QCD}}^\mu = \sum_{j=u,d,s,\dots} q_j \bar{\psi}_j \gamma^\mu \psi_j, \quad \partial_\mu j_{\text{QCD}}^\mu = 0.$$

We handle compositeness by:

- **Form factors** (low/intermediate energies): parameterize matrix elements using symmetries.
- **DIS/parton model** (large Q^2): photons see quasi-free point-like constituents (partons).
- **QCD** (underlying theory): local $SU(3)$ color gauge theory with gluons (neutral partons), asymptotic freedom, chiral symmetry (approx.).

6.1 Composite particles: EM current & form factors

Elementary QED (many flavors):

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QED}} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{\psi}_j (i\gamma^\mu D_\mu^j - m_j) \psi_j, \quad D_\mu^j = \partial_\mu + iq_j A_\mu.$$

Global rephasings $\psi_j \rightarrow e^{i\theta_j} \psi_j$ ($\theta_j \neq \theta_j(x)$) $\Rightarrow n$ conserved flavor charges. Interaction:

$$\mathcal{L}_I = - \sum_{j=1}^n q_j \bar{\psi}_j \gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi_j \equiv -j^\mu A_\mu.$$

For hadrons: replace “hadron EM current” by j_{QCD}^μ and **parameterize** unknown QCD matrix elements.

Pion EM form factor: $e^- e^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$
Need matrix element (unknown in QCD):

$$\langle \pi^+(\vec{p}_1) \pi^-(\vec{p}_2) | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(x) | 0 \rangle.$$

Use translation invariance (P^μ momentum operator):

$$\langle \pi\pi | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(x) | 0 \rangle = e^{-i(p_1+p_2)\cdot x} \langle \pi\pi | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(0) | 0 \rangle.$$

Lorentz invariance:

$$\langle \pi\pi | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(0) | 0 \rangle = e(p_1+p_2)^\nu \tilde{F}_\pi(s) + e(p_2-p_1)^\nu F_\pi(s), \quad s = (p_1+p_2)^2.$$

Current conservation $(p_1+p_2)_\nu j^\nu = 0$:

$$0 = (p_1+p_2)_\nu \langle \pi\pi | j^\nu | 0 \rangle = 2s \tilde{F}_\pi(s) \Rightarrow \tilde{F}_\pi(s) = 0.$$

Result (pion)

$$\langle \pi^+ \pi^- | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(0) | 0 \rangle = e(p_2-p_1)^\nu F_\pi(s)$$

All compositeness is encoded in $F_\pi(s)$.

Low energy: pion looks pointlike $\Rightarrow F_\pi(s) \simeq 1$ for $s \lesssim 4m_\pi^2$ (slides statement).

Proton form factors: $e^- p \rightarrow e^- p$
Need

$$\langle p(\vec{p}_2, \lambda_2) | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(x) | p(\vec{p}_B, \lambda_B) \rangle = e^{-i(p_2-p_B)\cdot x} \bar{u}_{\lambda_2}(\vec{p}_2) D^\nu(p_2, p_B) u_{\lambda_B}(\vec{p}_B), \quad q = p_A - p_1,$$

with $q \equiv p_2 - p_B$ ($q^2 = t$).

Most general Dirac structure + discrete symmetries; parity \Rightarrow remove γ_5 terms; current conservation $q_\nu j^\nu = 0$ reduces to **two** independent form factors. Using Gordon identity, choose:

$$D^\nu(p_2, p_B) = e F_1(q^2) \gamma^\nu + \frac{e}{2m_p} F_2(q^2) i\sigma^{\nu\rho} q_\rho.$$

Low $q^2 \simeq 0$:

$$F_1(0) \simeq 1, \quad F_2(0) \simeq \kappa_p = \frac{g_p}{2} - 1 \simeq 1.79 \quad (\text{neutron: } F_1(0) \simeq 0, F_2(0) \simeq \kappa_n \simeq -1.91). \quad L_e^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu} = 4E_A E_1 \left(W_2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + 2W_1 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right),$$

Non-minimal Pauli term (unique dim-5, gauge/Lorentz/discrete symm.):

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{e \kappa_p}{2m_p} \bar{\psi} \sigma_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \psi.$$

Unpolarized $e^- p \rightarrow e^- p$: **hadronic tensor form**

Instead of amplitude-level form factors, for unpolarized scattering define:

$$e^2 L_p^{\mu\nu}(p_B, p_2) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\lambda_B=\pm} \sum_{\lambda_2=\pm} \langle p_2, \lambda_2 | j_{\text{QCD}}^\mu(0) | p_B, \lambda_B \rangle \langle p_2, \lambda_2 | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(0) | p_B, \lambda_B \rangle^*.$$

Lorentz + parity:

$$L_p^{\mu\nu} = -2m_p^2 G_1 \gamma^{\mu\nu} + G_2 p^\mu p^\nu + G_3 q^\mu q^\nu + G_4 (p^\mu q^\nu + q^\mu p^\nu), \quad p \equiv p_B + p_2.$$

Current conservation $q_\mu L_p^{\mu\nu} = 0$:

$$G_4 = 0, \quad G_3 = \frac{2m_p^2}{q^2} G_1,$$

so

$$L_p^{\mu\nu} = 2m_p^2 G_1 \left(-g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^2} \right) + G_2 p^\mu p^\nu.$$

Leptonic tensor:

$$L_e^{\mu\nu}(p_A, p_1) = -q^2 \left(-g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^2} \right) + (p_A + p_1)^\mu (p_A + p_1)^\nu, \quad q = p_A - p_1.$$

Matrix element squared:

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = \frac{e^4}{q^4} L_e^{\mu\nu} L_p^{\mu\nu}.$$

LAB cross section and Sachs form factors

Slides give (unpolarized, LAB):

$$L_e^{\mu\nu} L_{\mu\nu}^p \Big|_{\text{LAB}} = 16m_p^2 E_A E_1 \left(G_1 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + G_2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right),$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{\text{LAB}} = \frac{\alpha^2 E_1^2}{4E_A^3 \sin^4(\theta/2)} \left(G_2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + G_1 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right).$$

Often reparameterize:

$$G_2 = \frac{G_E^2 - \frac{q^2}{4m_p^2} G_M^2}{1 - \frac{q^2}{4m_p^2}}, \quad G_1 = -\frac{q^2}{2m_p^2} G_M^2, \quad Q^2 \equiv -q^2 > 0.$$

Empirical (slides):

$$G_E \simeq \frac{1}{1 + Q^2/Q_0^2}, \quad G_M \simeq \frac{g_p}{2} G_E, \quad Q_0^2 \simeq 0.71 \text{ GeV}^2.$$

6.2 Deep Inelastic Scattering (DIS): $e^- p \rightarrow e^- + X$

Final hadronic state $|f\rangle$ is **inclusive** (unobserved). Replace single-proton phase space by a sum over hadronic states:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_f \int \left(\prod_f \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_f}{(2\pi)^3 2E_f} \right) \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\lambda_B} \sum_{\lambda_f} \langle f | j_{\text{QCD}}^\mu(0) | p_B, \lambda_B \rangle \langle f | j_{\text{QCD}}^\nu(0) | p_B, \lambda_B \rangle^* \\ \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(p_A + p_B - p_1 - \sum_f p_f) \equiv 4\pi m_p W^{\mu\nu}(p_B, q). \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

with

$$\nu \equiv \frac{q \cdot p_B}{m_p} = q^0 = E_A - E_1 \text{ (LAB)}, \quad Q^2 \equiv -q^2.$$

Lorentz + parity + current conservation:

$$\begin{aligned} W^{\mu\nu} = W_1(Q^2, \nu) \left(-g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^2} \right) \\ + W_2(Q^2, \nu) \left(p_B^\mu - \frac{p_B \cdot q}{q^2} q^\mu \right) \left(p_B^\nu - \frac{p_B \cdot q}{q^2} q^\nu \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Then (slides):

$$L_e^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu} = 4E_A E_1 \left(W_2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + 2W_1 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right),$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dE_1 d\Omega} \right)_{\text{LAB}} = \frac{4\alpha^2 E_1^2}{q^4} \left(W_2(Q^2, \nu) \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} + 2W_1(Q^2, \nu) \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \quad (3)$$

Bjorken scaling and variables

For elementary fermion target (muon) the structure functions depend on

$$\omega \equiv -\frac{2m\nu}{q^2} = \frac{2m\nu}{Q^2} \Rightarrow \nu W_2, 2mW_1 \text{ depend only on } \omega.$$

SLAC data for $e^- p \rightarrow e^- + \text{hadrons}$ show approximate scaling at large Q^2 .

Define DIS variables (slides):

$$x \equiv \frac{Q^2}{2m_p\nu}, \quad y \equiv \frac{p_B \cdot q}{p_B \cdot p_A}.$$

Parton model (slides)

Proton = free partons with momentum fraction x :

$p_i = x p_B$, $f_i(x) \equiv$ probability density that parton i carries fraction x .

For spin-1/2 parton (slides) one finds the proton structure functions:

$$F_2(x) = \sum_i f_i(x) Q_i^2 x, \quad F_1(x) = \sum_i f_i(x) Q_i^2 \frac{1}{2},$$

and

$$2xF_1(x) = F_2(x) \quad (\text{Callan-Gross, characteristic of spin-1/2 partons}).$$

If partons had spin 0 (slides note): $F_1(x) = 0$.

At large $s \gg m_p$ (slides exercise result):

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dx dy} \sim \frac{2\pi\alpha^2 s}{q^4} F_2(x) \left(1 + (1-y)^2\right).$$

PDFs and quark content (slides)

Assume partons are quarks and only u, d, s relevant:

$$\frac{F_2(x)}{x} = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 (u + \bar{u}) + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 (d + \bar{d}) + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 (s + \bar{s}), \quad i(x) \equiv f_i(x).$$

Split into valence + sea: $i(x) = i_v(x) + i_s(x)$. For proton/neutron: $s_v = 0$ and ($SU(3)$ sea assumption in slides) $u_s = d_s = s_s = \bar{u}_s = \bar{d}_s = \bar{s}_s \equiv s(x)$.

Then (slides):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{F_2^p(x)}{x} &= \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 u_v(x) + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 d_v(x) + \frac{4}{3} s(x), \\ \frac{F_2^n(x)}{x} &= \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 d_v(x) + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 u_v(x) + \frac{4}{3} s(x), \\ \frac{F_2^p(x)}{F_2^n(x)} &\xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 0} 1, \quad \frac{F_2^p(x)}{F_2^n(x)} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{4u_v + d_v}{4d_v + u_v}, \quad \frac{1}{4} \leq \frac{F_2^p}{F_2^n} \leq 4, \\ \frac{F_2^p(x)}{x} - \frac{F_2^n(x)}{x} &= \frac{1}{3} (u_v(x) - d_v(x)). \end{aligned}$$

Normalization & momentum sum rules (slides)

Valence number:

$$\int_0^1 dx u_v(x) = 2, \quad \int_0^1 dx d_v(x) = 1.$$

Momentum:

$$1 = \int_0^1 dx x (u + \bar{u} + d + \bar{d} + s + \bar{s} + g(x)) \equiv I_{uv} + I_{dv} + 6I_s + I_g.$$

Slides use measured

$$I_p \equiv \int_0^1 dx F_2^p(x) \simeq 0.18, \quad I_n \simeq 0.12$$

to infer $[4I_g > I_{uv} + I_{dv}]$: electrically neutral partons carry lots of momentum \Rightarrow gluons.

Scaling violations: PDFs develop mild Q^2 dependence; strong at very low x (slides remark).

6.3 QCD (slides)

Requirements listed in slides (summary):

- Quarks carry color $SU(3)$ and flavor; only color singlets physical.
- Approx. chiral symmetry $SU_L(N_f) \otimes SU_R(N_f)$ for small quark masses.
- Spontaneous chiral breaking to diagonal $SU(N_f)$.
- Asymptotic freedom: $\alpha_s(\mu) \rightarrow 0$ as $\mu \rightarrow \infty$ (quarks look free at high Q^2).
- Need neutral constituents (gluons) to satisfy momentum sum rule.

Color triplet quark field:

$$q(x) = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \\ q_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad q \rightarrow g(x)q, \quad \bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{q}g^\dagger(x), \quad g(x) \in SU(3).$$

Covariant derivative:

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig_s G_\mu, \quad G_\mu = T^a G_\mu^a, \quad G_\mu \rightarrow gG_\mu g^\dagger - \frac{i}{g_s} g\partial_\mu g^\dagger.$$

Field strength (Yang-Mills):

$$\begin{aligned} ig_s G_{\mu\nu} &\equiv [D_\mu, D_\nu], \quad G_{\mu\nu} = T^a G_{\mu\nu}^a, \quad G_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu G_\nu^a - \partial_\nu G_\mu^a - g_s f^{abc} G_\mu^b G_\nu^c, \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}} &= -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(G_{\mu\nu} G^{\mu\nu}) = -\frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu}. \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} &= -\frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu} + \sum_{j=u,d,s,\dots} \bar{q}_j (iD_\mu - m_j) q_j. \end{aligned}$$

Unlike QED, QCD has gluon self-interactions. Flavor rephasings $q_j \rightarrow e^{i\theta_j} q_j$ (global) \Rightarrow flavor conserved. For $m_j = 0$, chiral symmetry $SU_L(N_f) \otimes SU_R(N_f)$.

$R(e^- e^+ \rightarrow \text{hadrons})$ (duality)

Define (slides):

$$R \equiv \frac{\sigma(e^- e^+ \rightarrow \text{hadrons})}{\sigma(e^- e^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)}.$$

Duality hypothesis at high energy:

$$\sigma(e^- e^+ \rightarrow \text{hadrons}) \simeq \sigma(e^- e^+ \rightarrow \text{quarks + gluons}) \simeq \sum_j \sigma(e^- e^+ \rightarrow q_j \bar{q}_j) \quad (\sqrt{s})$$

Hence

$$R \simeq \sum_{j=u,d,s,\dots} Q_j^2 N_c.$$

Slides list stepwise predictions as thresholds open (e.g. u, d, s then add c , then b , then t).

Heavy quarks: NRQCD, HQET, quarkonium (slides)

For heavy $m_Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$, $\alpha_s(m_Q)$ small and motion non-relativistic:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NRQCD}} = \psi^\dagger \left(iD_0 + \frac{\vec{D}^2}{2m_Q} + \vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B} + \dots \right) \psi, \quad \vec{\mu} \sim \frac{g_s}{m_Q} \vec{S}.$$

Heavy-light hadron $H = (Q l)$ (slides):

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HQET}} \simeq \psi^\dagger iD_0 \psi, \quad M_H = m_Q + \Lambda_l^0 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{m_Q}\right), \quad M_{H^*} - M_H = \frac{\Lambda_l^2}{m_Q} +$$

Heavy quarkonium $H = (Q \bar{Q})$: non-relativistic potential picture; decays to light hadrons via gluons. Slides state:

$$J^{P+} \rightarrow gg, \quad J^{P-} \rightarrow ggg, \quad \frac{\Gamma(J^{P-} \rightarrow ggg)}{\Gamma(J^{P+} \rightarrow gg)} \sim \alpha_s(m_Q) \ll 1,$$

and quote that experimentally the corresponding ratios for $J/\psi, \Upsilon$ vs η_c, η_b are very small (numerical accident mentioned in slides).

Ultra-compact checklist (Topic 6)

- Composite hadrons \Rightarrow use QCD current $j_{\text{QCD}}^\mu = \sum q_j \bar{\psi}_j \gamma^\mu \psi_j$ and symmetries to parameterize matrix elements.
- Pion: $\langle \pi\pi | j^\mu | 0 \rangle = e(p_2 - p_1)^\mu F_\pi(s)$; low-s: $F_\pi \simeq 1$.
- Proton: $\langle p | j^\mu | p \rangle = \bar{u} \left(e F_1 \gamma^\mu + \frac{e}{2m_p} F_2 i \sigma^{\mu\nu} q_\nu \right) u$; $F_2(0) = \kappa_p$.
- Unpolarized ep: hadronic tensor depends on two functions G_1, G_2 ; often rewrite via Sachs G_E, G_M .
- DIS: inclusive tensor $W^{\mu\nu}$ with W_1, W_2 ; scaling at large Q^2 .
- Partons: PDFs $f_i(x); F_2(x) = \sum f_i Q_i^2 x$; $[2xF_1 = F_2]$ for spin-1/2 partons.
- Momentum sum rule forces neutral partons \Rightarrow gluons.
- QCD: local $SU(3)$ with gluons; asymptotic freedom explains scaling; non-perturbative for chiral breaking.
- $R(e^+ e^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons}) \simeq \sum Q_j^2 N_c$ at high energy (duality).
- Heavy quarks: NRQCD/HQET mass and spin-splitting scaling with $1/m_Q$.