

TRANSVERSE MOMENTUM DEPENDENT PARTON DISTRIBUTIONS AND AZIMUTHAL ASYMMETRIES IN LIGHT-CONE QUARK MODELS

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Abstract

We review the information on the spin and orbital angular momentum structure of the nucleon encoded in the T-even transverse momentum dependent parton distributions within light-cone quark models. Model results for azimuthal spin asymmetries in semi-inclusive lepton-nucleon deep-inelastic scattering are discussed, showing a good agreement with available experimental data and providing predictions to be further tested by future CLAS, COMPASS and HERMES data.

1 TMDs and Light-Cone CQMs

A convenient framework for the analysis of hadronic states is quantization on the light-cone. The proton state, for example, can be represented as a superposition of light-cone wave functions (LCWFs), one for each of the Fock components (qqq), ($qqq\bar{q}$), ... of the nucleon state. This light-cone representation has a number of simplifying properties [1]. In particular it allows one to describe the hadronic matrix elements which parametrize the soft-contribution in inclusive and exclusive reactions in terms of overlap of LCWFs with different parton configurations. In principle, there is an infinite number of LCWFs in such an expansion. However, there are many situations where one can confine the analysis to the contribution of the Fock components with a few partons. For example, light-cone models limited to the minimal Fock-space configuration of valence quarks are able to reproduce the main features of the hadron electromagnetic form factors [2] as well to account for the behaviour of the hadron structure functions in deeply inelastic processes at large values of the Bjorken variable x [3, 4].

Here the LCWFs of constituent quark models (CQMs) will be used to describe transverse momentum dependent parton distributions (TMDs) which are a natural extension of standard parton distributions from one to three-dimensions in momentum space. In particular, to disentangle the spin-spin and spin-orbit quark correlations encoded in the different TMDs, we expand the three-quark LCWF in a basis of eigenstates of orbital angular momentum. In the light-cone gauge $A^+ = 0$, such an expansion involves six independent amplitudes corresponding to the different combinations of quark helicity and orbital angular momentum. Explicit expressions for the light-cone amplitudes have been obtained in Ref. [5] representing the light-cone spinors of the quarks through the unitary

Melosh rotations which boost the rest-frame spin into the light-cone. Furthermore, assuming SU(6) symmetry, the light-cone amplitudes have a particularly simple structure, with the spin and isospin dependence factorized from a momentum-dependent function which is spherically symmetric. Under this assumption the orbital angular momentum content of the wave function is fully generated by the Melosh rotations and therefore matches the analytical structure expected from model-independent arguments [6]. The model dependence enters the choice of the momentum-dependent part of the LCWF, as obtained, for example, from the eigenvalue equation of the Hamiltonian with a specific potential model for the bound state of the three quarks. Using a more phenomenological description, we choose this part by assuming a specific functional form with parameters fitted to hadronic structure constants. This is the strategy adopted also in Ref. [7] through a fit of the LCWF to the anomalous magnetic moments of the nucleon. The same wave function was also used to predict many other hadronic properties [8], providing a good description of available experimental data, and being able to capture the main features of hadronic structure functions, like parton distributions [4], generalized parton distributions (GPDs) [3] and TMDs [5].

The eight leading twist TMDs, f_1 , f_{1T}^\perp , g_1 , g_{1T} , g_{1L}^\perp , h_1 , h_{1T}^\perp , h_{1L}^\perp , and h_1^\perp , are defined in terms of the same quark correlation functions entering the definition of ordinary parton distributions, but without integration over the transverse momentum. Among them, the Boer-Mulders h_1^\perp [9] and the Sivers f_{1T}^\perp [10] functions are T-odd, i.e. they change sign under “naive time reversal”, which is defined as usual time reversal, but without interchange of initial and final states. Since non-vanishing T-odd TMDs require gauge boson degrees of freedom which are not taken into account in our light-cone quark model, our model results will be discussed only for the T-even TMDs.

Projecting the correlator for quarks of definite longitudinal (s_L) or transverse (\mathbf{s}_T) polarizations, one obtains in nucleon states described by the polarization vector $\mathbf{S} = (S_L, \mathbf{S}_T)$ the following spin densities in the momentum space

$$\tilde{\rho}(x, \mathbf{k}_T^2, s_L, \mathbf{S}) = \frac{1}{2} \left[f_1 + S_T^i \epsilon^{ij} k_T^j \frac{1}{m} f_{1T}^\perp + s_L S_L g_{1L} + s_L S_T^i k_T^i \frac{1}{m} g_{1T} \right], \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\rho}(x, \mathbf{k}_T^2, \mathbf{s}_T, \mathbf{S}_T) = & \frac{1}{2} \left[f_1 + S_T^i \epsilon^{ij} k_T^j \frac{1}{m} f_{1T}^\perp + s_T^i \epsilon^{ij} k_T^j \frac{1}{m} h_1^\perp + s_T^i S_T^i h_1 \right. \\ & \left. + s_T^i (2k_T^i k_T^j - \mathbf{k}_T^2 \delta^{ij}) S_T^j \frac{1}{2m^2} h_{1T}^\perp + S_L s_T^i k_T^i \frac{1}{m} h_{1L}^\perp \right], \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

where the distribution functions depend on x and \mathbf{k}_T^2 . The unpolarized TMD f_1 , the helicity TMD g_{1L} , and the transversity TMD h_1 in Eqs. (1) and (2) correspond to monopole distributions in the momentum space for unpolarized, longitudinally and transversely polarized nucleon, respectively. They can be obtained from the overlap of LCWFs which are diagonal in the orbital angular momentum, but probe different transverse momentum and helicity correlations of the quarks inside the nucleon. All the other TMDs require a transfer of orbital angular momentum between the initial and final state. In particular, g_{1T} and h_{1L}^\perp correspond to quark densities with specular configurations for the quark and nucleon spin: g_{1T} describes longitudinally polarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon, while h_{1L}^\perp gives the distribution of transversely polarized quarks in longitudinally polarized nucleon. Therefore, g_{1T} requires helicity flip of the nucleon which is not

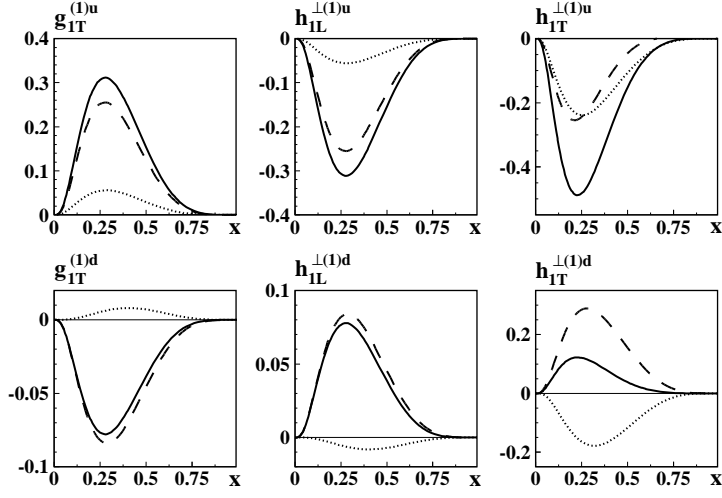


Figure 1. Transverse moments of TMDs as function of x for up (upper panels) and down (lower panels) quark. The solid curves show the total results, sum of the partial wave contributions. In the case of $g_{1T}^{(1)}$ and $h_{1L}^{\perp(1)}$ the dashed and dotted curves give the results from the S-P and P-D interference terms, respectively. In the case of $h_{1T}^{\perp(1)}$, the dashed curve is the result from P-wave interference, and the dotted curve is due to the interference of S and D waves.

compensated by a change of the quark helicity, and viceversa h_{1L}^{\perp} involves helicity flip of the quarks but is diagonal in the nucleon helicity. As a result, in both cases, the LCWFs of the initial and final states differ by one unit of orbital angular momentum and the associated spin distributions have a dipole structure. Finally, for transverse polarizations in perpendicular directions of both the quarks and the nucleon, one has a quadrupole distribution with strength given by h_{1T}^{\perp} . In this case, the nucleon helicity flips in the direction opposite to the quark helicity, with a mismatch of two units for the orbital angular momentum of the initial and final LCWFs.

In Fig. 1 is shown the interplay between the different partial-wave contributions to the transverse moments $g_{1T}^{(1)}$, $h_{1L}^{\perp(1)}$ and $h_{1T}^{\perp(1)}$, defined as $g_{1T}^{(1)}(x) = \int d^2\mathbf{k}_T (\mathbf{k}_T^2/2m^2) g_{1T}(x, \mathbf{k}_T^2)$, etc. While the first two functions $g_{1T}^{(1)}$ and $h_{1L}^{\perp(1)}$ are dominated by the contribution due to P-wave interference, in the case of $h_{1T}^{\perp(1)}$ the contribution from the D wave is amplified through the interference with the S wave. The total results for up and down quarks obey the SU(6) isospin relation, i.e. the functions for up quarks are four times larger than for down quark and with opposite sign. This does not apply to the partial-wave contributions, as it is evident in particular for the terms containing D-wave contributions.

Among the distributions in Eqs. (1) and (2), the dipole correlations related to g_{1T} and h_{1L}^{\perp} have characteristic features of intrinsic transverse momentum, since they are the only ones which have no analog in the spin densities related to the GPDs in the impact parameter space [11, 12]. The results in the light-cone quark model of Ref. [5] for the densities with longitudinally polarized quarks in a transversely polarized proton are shown in Fig. 2. The sideways shift in the positive (negative) x direction for up (down) quark due to the dipole term $\propto s_L S_T^i k_T^i \frac{1}{m} g_{1T}$ is sizable, and corresponds to an average deformation $\langle \mathbf{k}_x^u \rangle = 55.8$ MeV, and $\langle \mathbf{k}_x^d \rangle = -27.9$ MeV. The dipole distortion $\propto S_L s_T^i k_T^i \frac{1}{m} h_{1L}^{\perp}$ in the case of transversely polarized quarks in a longitudinally polarized proton is equal but with

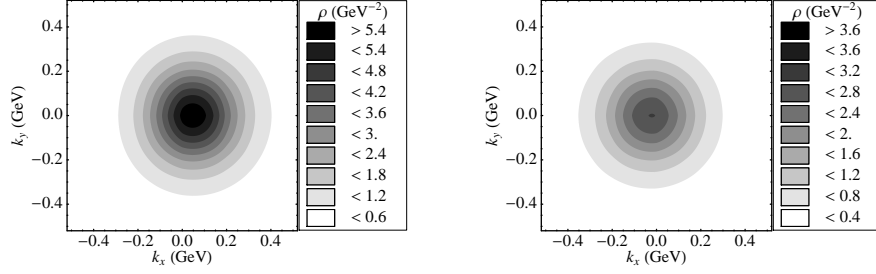


Figure 2. Quark densities in the \mathbf{k}_T plane for longitudinally polarized quarks in a transversely polarized proton for up (left panel) and down (right panel) quark.

opposite sign, since in our model $h_{1L}^\perp = -g_{1T}$. (Also other quark model relations among TMDs [13] are satisfied in our model, see [5].) These model results are supported from a recent lattice calculation [14, 15] which gives, for the density related to g_{1T} , $\langle \mathbf{k}_x^u \rangle = 67(5)$ MeV, and $\langle \mathbf{k}_x^d \rangle = -30(5)$ MeV. For the density related to h_{1L}^\perp , they also find shifts of similar magnitude but opposite sign: $\langle \mathbf{k}_x^u \rangle = -60(5)$ MeV, and $\langle \mathbf{k}_x^d \rangle = 15(5)$ MeV.

2 Results for azimuthal SSAs

In Ref. [16] the present results for the T-even TMDs were applied to estimate azimuthal asymmetries in SIDIS, discussing the range of applicability of the model, especially with regard to the scale dependence of the observables and the transverse-momentum dependence of the distributions. Here we review the results for the Collins asymmetry $A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi+\phi_S)}$ and for $A_{UT}^{\sin(3\phi-\phi_S)}$, due to the Collins fragmentation function and to the chirally-odd TMDs h_1 , and h_{1T}^\perp , respectively. In both cases, we use the results extracted in [17] for the Collins function. In the denominator of the asymmetries we take f_1 from [18] and the unpolarized fragmentation function from [19], both valid at the scale $Q^2 = 2.5 \text{ GeV}^2$.

In Fig. 3 the results for the Collins asymmetry in DIS production of charged pions off

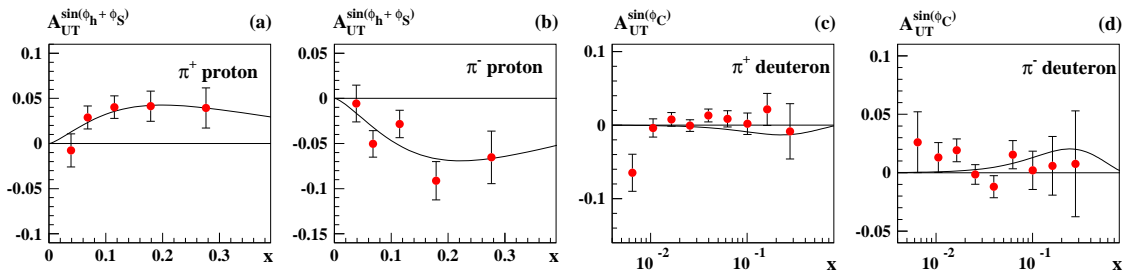


Figure 3. The single-spin asymmetry $A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_h+\phi_S)} \equiv -A_{UT}^{\sin\phi_C}$ in DIS production of charged pions off proton and deuterium targets, as function of x . The theoretical curves are obtained on the basis of the light-cone CQM predictions for $h_1(x, Q^2)$ from Ref. [4, 5]. The (preliminary) proton target data are from HERMES [20], the deuterium target data are from COMPASS [21].

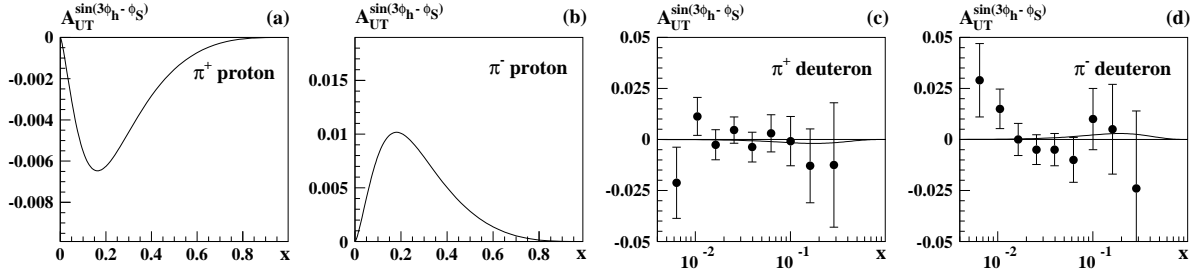


Figure 4. The single-spin asymmetry $A_{UT}^{\sin(3\phi_h - \phi_S)}$ in DIS production of charged pions off proton and deuterium targets, as function of x . The theoretical curves are obtained by evolving the light-cone CQM predictions for $h_{1T}^{\perp(1)}$ of Ref. [5] to $Q^2 = 2.5 \text{ GeV}^2$, using the h_1 evolution pattern. The preliminary COMPASS data are from Ref. [24].

proton and deuterium targets are shown as function of x . The model results for h_1 evolved from the low hadronic scale of the model to $Q^2 = 2.5 \text{ GeV}^2$ ideally describe the HERMES data [20] for a proton target (panels (a) and (b) of Fig. 3). This is in line with the favourable comparison between our model predictions [4] and the phenomenological extraction of the transversity and the tensor charges in Ref. [22]. Our results are compatible also with the COMPASS data [21] for a deuterium target (panels (c) and (d) of Fig. 3) which extend down to much lower values of x .

In the case of the asymmetry $A_{UT}^{\sin(3\phi - \phi_S)}$ we face the question how to evolve $h_{1T}^{\perp(1)}$ from the low scale of the model to the relevant experimental scale. Since exact evolution equations are not available in this case, we “simulate” the evolution of $h_{1T}^{\perp(1)}$ by evolving it according to the transversity-evolution pattern. Although this is not the correct evolution pattern, it may give us a rough insight on the possible size of effects due to evolution (for a more detailed discussion we refer to [16]). The evolution effects give smaller asymmetries in absolute value and shift the peak at lower x values in comparison with the results obtained without evolution. The results shown in Fig. 4 are also much smaller than the bounds allowed by positivity, $|h_{1T}^{\perp(1)}| \leq \frac{1}{2}(f_1(x) - g_1(x))$, and constructed using parametrizations of the unpolarized and helicity distributions at $Q^2 = 2.5 \text{ GeV}^2$. Precise measurements in range $0.1 \lesssim x \lesssim 0.6$ are planned with the CLAS 12 GeV upgrade [23] and will be able to discriminate between these two scenarios. There exist also preliminary deuterium target data [24] which are compatible, within error bars, with the model predictions both at the hadronic and the evolved scale.

Acknowledgments

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