

q_T/Q correction for unpolarized Drell-Yan process in TMD factorization

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QCD Evolution 2026

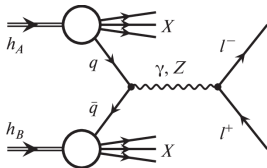
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- 1 Introduction to TMD factorization theorem
- 2 Power corrections in TMD factorization
- 3 Leading TMD approximation
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Introduction to TMD factorization theorem

Drell-Yan reaction

- $h_A(p_1) + h_B(p_2) \rightarrow \gamma^*/Z^*(q) + X \rightarrow \ell^-(l) + \ell^+(l') + X.$



- Differential cross section and angular coefficients.

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q d\Omega} \sim \sum_n S_n(\theta, \phi) \Sigma_n, \quad \Sigma_n \sim \mathfrak{L}_n^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu}^{GG'}$$

$$W_{GG'}^{\mu\nu} = \int \frac{d^4y}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-iqy} \langle p_1, p_2 | J_G^\mu(y) J_{G'}^\nu(0) | p_1, p_2 \rangle$$

- Split original QCD fields into two **background** and one **dynamical** component.

$$q = q_{\bar{n}} + q_n + \psi, \quad A^\mu = A_{\bar{n}}^\mu + A_n^\mu + B^\mu$$

Background fields obey EOMs. Dynamical fields must be integrated out.

- Λ is a low-energy scale of QCD. TMD factorization is derived in the limit

$$Q^2 \gg \Lambda^2, \quad Q^2 \gg \mathbf{q}_T^2,$$

where

$$Q^2 = q^2, \quad q^2 = \tau^2 - \mathbf{q}_T^2, \quad \tau^2 = 2q^+ q^-$$

- \bar{n} -collinear and n -collinear modes ($\{k^+, k^-, k_T\}$).

$$k_{\bar{n}}^\mu \lesssim \{1, \lambda^2, \lambda\} Q, \quad k_n^\mu \lesssim \{\lambda^2, 1, \lambda\} Q, \quad \lambda \sim \frac{\Lambda}{Q}$$

Same power counting for gluon fields components.

- “Good” and “bad” spinorial components ($\gamma^+ = n \cdot \gamma$, $\gamma^- = \bar{n} \cdot \gamma$).

$$\xi_{\bar{n}} = \frac{\gamma^- \gamma^+}{2} \mathbf{q}_{\bar{n}} \sim \lambda, \quad \eta_{\bar{n}} = \frac{\gamma^+ \gamma^-}{2} \mathbf{q}_{\bar{n}} \sim \lambda^2, \quad \eta_{\bar{n}} = -\frac{\gamma^+}{2} \frac{1}{D_+[A_{\bar{n}}]} \not{D}_T[A_{\bar{n}}] \xi_{\bar{n}}$$

- Leading term of hadronic tensor.

$$\widetilde{W}_{\text{LP}}^{\mu\nu} \sim \mathbb{C}_{\text{LP}} \left(\frac{\tau^2}{\mu^2} \right) \left\{ \text{Tr} \left(\gamma_G^\mu \bar{\Gamma}_m^+ \gamma_{G'}^\nu \bar{\Gamma}_n^- \right) \Phi_{11}^{[\Gamma_n^+]}(x_1, b; \mu, \zeta) \bar{\Phi}_{11}^{[\Gamma_m^-]}(x_2, b; \mu, \bar{\zeta}) + \text{c.c.} \right\}$$

Twist-(1+1) TMD correlator.

$$\Phi_{11}^{[\Gamma]}(x, b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{-ix\lambda p^+} \langle p, s | \bar{\xi} W^\dagger(\lambda n + b) \frac{\Gamma}{2} W \xi(0) | p, s \rangle$$

- Unpolarized case, $\Phi_{11}^{[\gamma^+]}(x, b) = f_1(x, b)$.

$$W_{\text{LP}, f_1 \bar{f}_1}^{\mu\nu} \sim \mathbb{C}_{\text{LP}} \left(\frac{\tau^2}{\mu^2} \right) \int d^2 \mathbf{k}_{1T} d^2 \mathbf{k}_{2T} \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{q}_T - \mathbf{k}_{1T} - \mathbf{k}_{2T})$$

$$\boxed{g_T^{\mu\nu}} [f_1(x_1, k_{1T}; \mu, \zeta) \bar{f}_1(x_2, k_{2T}; \mu, \bar{\zeta}) + \text{c.c.}]$$

- Gauge invariance is preserved at LP, but broken at NLP.

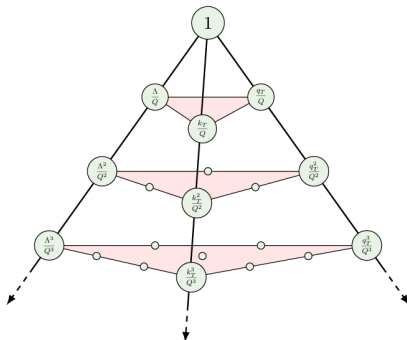
$$q_\mu W_{\text{LP}}^{\mu\nu} = \mathcal{O}(\lambda^5)$$

- Valid only for $q_T \ll Q \rightarrow$ power corrections!

Power corrections in TMD factorization

Power corrections

- Three types of power corrections. Each triangle of the pyramid has the same power counting in λ . [A. Vladimirov, 2307.13054]
 - ★ $\Lambda/Q \rightarrow$ higher-twist contributions.
 - ★ $k_T/Q \rightarrow$ parton transverse momentum.
 - ★ $q_T/Q \rightarrow$ transverse component of gauge boson momentum.



Kinematic Power Corrections

- k_T/Q , k_T^2/Q^2 , etc. correspond to transverse derivatives of twist-two TMD correlators. This series can be summed up.
- Unpolarized case.

$$W_{\text{KPC}, f_1 f_1}^{\mu\nu} \sim \mathbb{C}_{\text{LP}} \left(\frac{Q^2}{\mu^2} \right) \int d\xi_1 d\xi_2 \int d^4 k_1 d^4 k_2 \delta^{(4)}(q - k_1 - k_2) \\ \delta(k_1^+ - \xi_1 p_1^+) \delta(k_2^- - \xi_2 p_2^-) \delta(k_1^2) \delta(k_2^2) \\ \boxed{((k_1 k_2) g^{\mu\nu} - k_1^\mu k_2^\nu - k_2^\mu k_1^\nu)} [f_1(\xi_1, k_T; \mu, Q^2) \bar{f}_1(\xi_2, k_T; \mu, Q^2) + \text{c.c.}]$$

where $\xi_{1,2} = \xi_{1,2}(\mathbf{k}_{1T}^2, \mathbf{k}_{2T}^2)$.

- Restoration of gauge invariance and frame invariance.

$$q_\mu W_{\text{KPC}, f_1 f_1}^{\mu\nu} = (k_{1\mu} + k_{2\mu}) W_{\text{KPC}, f_1 f_1}^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

- Numerical improvement as $q_T \rightarrow 0$, but also for small values of Q .

Leading TMD approximation

- The genuine NLP hadronic tensor contains twist-three TMD correlators.

$$\Phi_{21,\mu}^{[\Gamma]}(\{z\}, b) = g \langle p, s | \bar{\xi}[z_1 n + b, z_2 n + b] F_{\mu+} W^\dagger(z_2 n + b) \frac{\Gamma}{2} W \xi(z_3 n) | p, s \rangle,$$

$$\Phi_{12,\mu}^{[\Gamma]}(\{z\}, b) = g \langle p, s | \bar{\xi} W^\dagger(z_1 n + b) \frac{\Gamma}{2} W(z_2 n) F_{\mu+} [z_2 n, z_3 n] \xi | p, s \rangle$$

- These twist-three TMD correlators behave as $1/b$ in the $b \rightarrow 0$ limit. The idea is to make a redefinition of twist-three TMD correlators.

$$\Phi_{3,\mu}^{[\Gamma]} = \widehat{\Phi}_{3,\mu}^{[\Gamma]} + \frac{b^\nu}{b^2} [S \otimes \Phi_2]_{\mu\nu}^{[\Gamma]}, \quad \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} \widehat{\Phi}_{3,\mu}^{[\Gamma]} = \text{finite}$$

The kernel S can be computed perturbatively.

- Integrating over the transverse distance yields

$$d\sigma^{\text{gNLP}} = \widehat{d\sigma}^{\text{gNLP}} + \frac{q_T}{Q} d\sigma^{\text{L-TMD}}, \quad \widehat{d\sigma}^{\text{gNLP}} \sim \frac{\Lambda}{Q}$$

Operator Product Expansion (OPE)

- 1 Write the twist-three TMD correlators in the path integral formalism and apply background field method.

$$q \rightarrow q + \psi, \quad A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu + B_\mu$$

The QCD action splits as

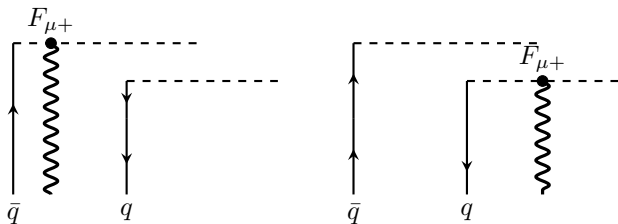
$$S_{\text{QCD}}[q + \psi, A + B] = S_{\text{QCD}}[q, A] + S_{\text{cov.}}[B, \psi] + S_{\text{int}}$$

Last term contains interaction terms between background and dynamical fields.

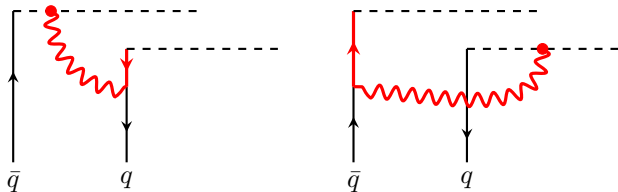
- 2 Take leading order (LO) term and fix light-cone gauge ($A_+ = 0$). Take terms from S_{int} and contract dynamical fields.
- 3 After computing the integral, restore gauge invariance.

Quark contribution

- Twist-three TMD correlator.

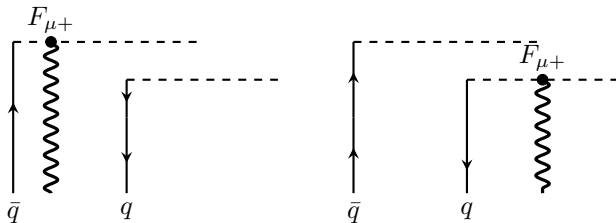


- Projection onto twist-two quark TMD correlator.

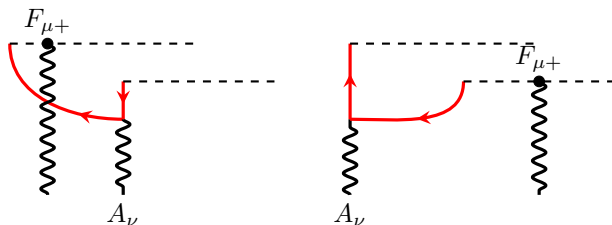


Gluon contribution

- Twist-three TMD correlator.



- Projection onto twist-two gluon TMD correlator.



Projection of twist-3 onto twist-2 (I)

- Notation: $\theta_{ij} = \theta(x_i, x_j) - \theta(-x_i, -x_j)$. Twist-(1+2) TMD correlator:

$$\Phi_{12,\mu}^{[\Gamma]} \Big|_{\text{quark}} = a_s \frac{C_F}{2} \frac{b^\nu}{b^2} \theta_{12} \text{Tr} \left[\bar{\Gamma}_k^- \left(\gamma_{T\mu} \gamma_{T\nu} - \frac{x_1}{x_3} \gamma_{T\nu} \gamma_{T\mu} \right) \Gamma \right] \Phi_{11}^{[\Gamma_k^+]}(x_3, b),$$

$$\Phi_{12,\mu}^{[\Gamma]} \Big|_{\text{gluon}} = -\frac{a_s}{4} \frac{b_\nu}{b^2} \theta_{13} \text{Tr} \left[\left(\frac{x_1}{x_2} \gamma_T^\nu \gamma_T^\alpha - \frac{x_3}{x_2} \gamma_T^\alpha \gamma_T^\nu \right) \gamma^- \Gamma \right] \Phi_{\mu\alpha}(-x_2, b)$$

- Technical note: special rapidity divergence must be subtracted. Substitute the parametrization for the TMD-twist-(1+1) TMD correlators.

$$\Phi_{11}^{[\gamma^+]}(x, b) = f_1(x, b) + \dots,$$

$$\Phi_{11}^{[\gamma^+ \gamma^5]}(x, b) = \dots,$$

$$\Phi_{11}^{[i\sigma^{\alpha+} \gamma^5]}(x, b) = i\epsilon_T^{\alpha\mu} b_\mu M h_1^\perp(x, b) + \dots$$

- Find the corresponding expressions for $\Gamma \in \{\gamma^+, \gamma^+ \gamma^5, i\sigma^{\alpha+} \gamma^5\}$.

Projection of twist-3 onto twist-2 (II)

- Compare with the parametrization for the twist-(1+2) TMD correlator.

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{12,\mu}^{[\gamma^+]}(x_{1,2,3}, b) &= i b^\mu M^2 \mathbf{f}_{12}^\perp(x_{1,2,3}, b), \\ \Phi_{12,\mu}^{[\gamma^+ \gamma^5]}(x_{1,2,3}, b) &= -i \epsilon_T^{\mu\nu} b_\nu M^2 \mathbf{g}_{12}^\perp(x_{1,2,3}, b) + \dots, \\ \Phi_{12,\mu}^{[i\sigma^{\alpha+} \gamma^5]}(x_{1,2,3}, b) &= \epsilon_T^{\mu\alpha} M \mathbf{h}_{12}(x_{1,2,3}, b) + \dots \\ &\quad + (b^\mu \epsilon_T^{\alpha\beta} + b^\alpha \epsilon_T^{\mu\beta}) b_\beta M^3 \mathbf{h}_{12}^\perp(x_{1,2,3}, b) + \dots\end{aligned}$$

- After some combinations of distributions, we get twist-three TMDPDFs in terms of twist-two ones.

$$\mathbf{f}_2^\perp \Big|_{\text{L-TMD}} = \frac{a_s}{b^2 M^2} \left[4 C_F \theta_{23} (f_1(-x_1, b) - f_1(x_3, b)) + \frac{x_1}{x_2} \theta_{13} f_g(-x_2, b) \right],$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}}_2^\perp \Big|_{\text{L-TMD}} = \frac{-a_s}{b^2 M^2} \left[4 C_F \theta_{23} (\bar{f}_1(-x_1, b) - \bar{f}_1(x_3, b)) + \frac{x_1}{x_2} \theta_{13} f_g(-x_2, b) \right]$$

- gNLP coefficients in the L-TMD approximation.

$$\Sigma_1^{\text{L-TMD}} = \frac{8\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}^2}{3N_c s Q^2} \sum_{f,G,G'} Q^4 \Delta_G^* \Delta_{G'} \boxed{\frac{-2|\mathbf{q}_T|}{Q}} z_{+l}^{GG'} z_{+f}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_+^{\text{L-TMD}},$$

$$\Sigma_3^{\text{L-TMD}} = \frac{8\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}^2}{3N_c s Q^2} \sum_{f,G,G'} Q^4 \Delta_G^* \Delta_{G'} \boxed{\frac{-4|\mathbf{q}_T|}{\tau}} z_{-l}^{GG'} z_{-f}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_-^{\text{L-TMD}}$$

- Convolutions finite at $q_T \rightarrow 0$. First TMDPDF evaluated at (x_1, b) . Second one evaluated at (x_2, b) .

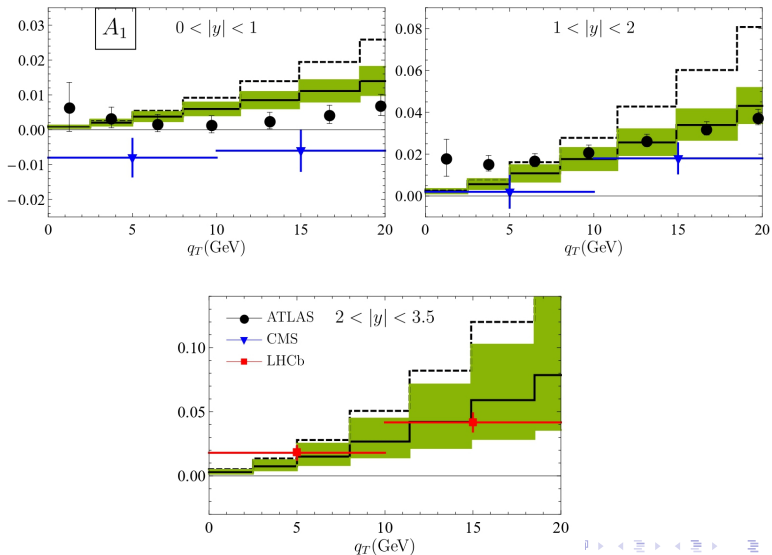
$$\mathcal{J}_{\pm}^{\text{L-TMD}} = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty \frac{b db}{2\pi} (J_0(b|\mathbf{q}_T|) + J_2(b|\mathbf{q}_T|)) \left(\frac{\tau^2}{\zeta\mu}\right)^{-2\mathcal{D}(b,\mu)} \left\{ \begin{aligned} & s_{qq} \otimes f_1 \bar{f}_1 \pm s_{qq} \otimes \bar{f}_1 f_1 - f_1 s_{qq} \otimes \bar{f}_1 \mp \bar{f}_1 s_{qq} \otimes f_1 \\ & + s_{qg} \otimes f_g (f_1 \pm \bar{f}_1) - (f_1 \pm \bar{f}_1) s_{qg} \otimes f_g \end{aligned} \right\}$$

- Quark and gluon coefficient functions (at a_s order):

$$s_{qq}(x) = \frac{4a_s C_F}{(1-x)_+}, \quad s_{qg}(x) = a_s(1-x), \quad s \otimes f(x) = \int_x^1 \frac{dy}{y} s(y) f\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$$

Theoretical prediction vs. experimental data

- Coefficient $A_1 = \Sigma_1/\Sigma_U$. $Q \in [80, 100]$ GeV; ATLAS, CMS and LHCb; $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV run. [A. Arroyo-Castro, I. Scimemi, A. Vladimirov, 2503.24336].

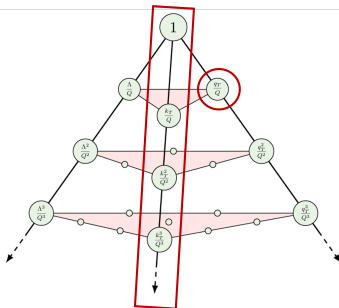


Final remarks

- Conclusions.

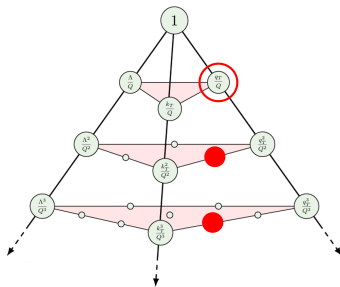
q_T/Q correction is “hidden” in twist-three terms

Leading TMD approximation is in complete agreement with data



- What are we working on?

Compute $k_T q_T / Q^2$, $k_T^2 q_T / Q^3$, $k_T^3 q_T / Q^4$, etc.



- Long-term goals? Compute q_T^2 / Q^2 , q_T^3 / Q^3 , etc.

Thank you for your attention!

Back up

Composite background field method

- Path integral. (Anti-)causal sectors.
- We split fields into **background** (which obey EOMs) and **dynamical** components:

$$q^{(\pm)} = q_{\bar{n}}^{(\pm)} + q_n^{(\pm)} + \psi^{(\pm)},$$
$$A_{\mu}^{(\pm)} = A_{\bar{n},\mu}^{(\pm)} + A_{n,\mu}^{(\pm)} + B_{\mu}^{(\pm)}.$$

- Background field gauge:

$$D_{\mu}[A_{\bar{n}}^{(\pm)} + A_n^{(\pm)}]B^{(\pm)\mu} = 0.$$

- Hadronic tensor is matrix element of effective operator:

$$\mathcal{J}_{GG'}^{\mu\nu}(y) \sim J_G^{\mu(-)}[q](y) J_{G'}^{\nu(+)}[q](0) e^{iS_{\text{int}}^{(+)} - iS_{\text{int}}^{(-)}} \Big|_{q=\psi+q_{\bar{n}}+q_n}.$$

- Light-cone gauge:

$$A_{\bar{n}}^{+(\pm)} = 0, \quad A_n^{-(\pm)} = 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{Q}{2M} \Pi_1^{\text{gNLP}} &= z_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{f_1 \mathbf{f}_2^\perp + \mathbf{f}_2^\perp f_1\}_A] - 2r_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\ominus + \mathbf{h}_\ominus h_1^\perp\}_A] \\ &\quad + z_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{f_1 \mathbf{g}_2^\perp + \mathbf{g}_2^\perp f_1\}_A] - 2r_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\oplus + \mathbf{h}_\oplus h_1^\perp\}_A], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathcal{T}}{4M} \Pi_3^{\text{gNLP}} &= z_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{f_1 \mathbf{f}_2^\perp + \mathbf{f}_2^\perp f_1\}_S] + 2ir_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\oplus + \mathbf{h}_\oplus h_1^\perp\}_S] \\ &\quad + z_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{f_1 \mathbf{g}_2^\perp + \mathbf{g}_2^\perp f_1\}_S] - 2ir_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\ominus + \mathbf{h}_\ominus h_1^\perp\}_S], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathcal{T}}{2M} \Pi_6^{\text{gNLP}} &= z_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{f_1 \mathbf{g}_2^\perp + \mathbf{g}_2^\perp f_1\}_S] - 2ir_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\ominus + \mathbf{h}_\ominus h_1^\perp\}_S] \\ &\quad - z_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{f_1 \mathbf{f}_2^\perp + \mathbf{f}_2^\perp f_1\}_S] - 2ir_{-q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\oplus + \mathbf{h}_\oplus h_1^\perp\}_S], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{Q}{4M} \Pi_7^{\text{gNLP}} &= z_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{f_1 \mathbf{g}_2^\perp + \mathbf{g}_2^\perp f_1\}_A] - 2r_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1^R [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\oplus + \mathbf{h}_\oplus h_1^\perp\}_A] \\ &\quad - z_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{f_1 \mathbf{f}_2^\perp + \mathbf{f}_2^\perp f_1\}_A] + 2r_{+q}^{GG'} \mathcal{J}_1' [\{h_1^\perp \mathbf{h}_\ominus + \mathbf{h}_\ominus h_1^\perp\}_A] \end{aligned}$$

Theoretical approach

- New twist-3 TMD correlators:

$$\widehat{\Phi}_{\bullet,\mu}(x_{1,2,3}, b; \mu) = \Phi_{\bullet,\mu}(x_{1,2,3}, b; \mu) - \frac{b^\nu}{b^2} [S_\bullet \otimes \Phi_{11}]_{\mu\nu}(x_{1,2,3}, b; \mu)$$

such that $\lim_{b \rightarrow 0} \widehat{\Phi}_{\bullet,\mu}^{[\Gamma]}(x_{1,2,3}, \mu) = \text{finite}$.

- Operator Product Expansion (OPE) for the twist-2 TMD correlator:

$$\Phi_{11}(x, b) = C_{2/f}(\mathbf{L}_b; \mu_{\text{OPE}}) \otimes f_{\text{coll}}(x; \mu_{\text{OPE}}) + \mathcal{O}(b^2), \quad \mathbf{L}_b = \ln(\mu_{\text{OPE}}^2 b^2)$$

This relation can be inverted perturbatively (set $\mu_{\text{OPE}} = \mu$):

$$f_{\text{coll}}(x; \mu) = C_{2/f}^{-1}(\mathbf{L}_b; \mu) \otimes \Phi_{11}(x, b) + \mathcal{O}(b^2)$$

- Twist-3 OPE:

$$\Phi_{\bullet}^{\mu}(x_{1,2,3}, b; \mu) = \frac{b_\nu}{b^2} C_{3/f}^{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{L}_b; \mu) \otimes f_{\text{coll}}(x; \mu) + \mathcal{O}(b^0)$$

- Altogether:

$$[S_\bullet \otimes \Phi_{11}]^{\mu\nu}(x_{1,2,3}, b; \mu) = C_{3/f}^{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{L}_b; \mu) \otimes C_{2/f}^{-1}(\mathbf{L}_b; \mu) \otimes \Phi_{11}(x, b)$$

Matching of twist-three TMD distributions

$$f_2^\perp = \frac{1}{b^2 M^2} \left[4a_s C_F \theta_{23} (f_1(-x_1, b) - f_1(x_3, b)) + a_s \theta_{13} \frac{x_1}{x_2} f_g(-x_2, b) \right],$$

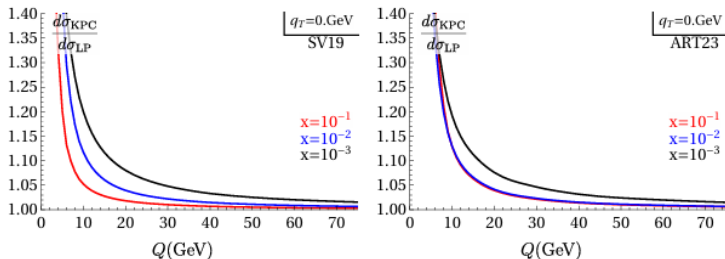
$$\mathbf{g}_2^\perp = 0,$$

$$\bar{f}_2^\perp = \frac{-1}{b^2 M^2} \left[4a_s C_F \theta_{23} (\bar{f}_1(-x_1, b) - \bar{f}_1(x_3, b)) + a_s \theta_{13} \frac{x_1}{x_2} f_g(-x_2, b) \right],$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{g}}_2^\perp = 0$$

Kinematic Power Corrections

- Ratio between KPCs and LP Drell-Yan cross section at $q_T = 0$ [A. Vladimirov, 2307.13054].



- Fraction momentum.

$$\xi_1 = \frac{x_1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{k_{1T}^2}{\tau^2} - \frac{k_{2T}^2}{\tau^2} + \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(k_{1T}^2, k_{2T}^2, \tau^2)}}{\tau^2} \right)$$