Universality of TMD correlators

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Abstract. In a high-energy scattering process with hadrons in the initial state, color is involved. Transverse momentum dependent distribution functions (TMDs) describe the quark and gluon distributions in these hadrons in momentum space with the inclusion of transverse directions. Apart from the (anti)-quarks and gluons that are involved in the hard scattering process, additional gluon emissions by the hadrons have to be taken into account as well, giving rise to Wilson lines or gauge links. The TMDs involved are sensitive to the process under consideration and hence potentially nonuniversal due to these Wilson line interactions with the hard process; different hard processes give rise to different Wilson line structures. We will show that in practice only a finite number of universal TMDs have to be considered, which come in different linear combinations depending on the hard process under consideration, ensuring a generalized universality. For quarks this gives rise to three Pretzelosity functions, whereas for gluons a richer structure of functions arises.

1 Introduction

In the description of hadronic scattering processes, one has to consider both hard scattering contributions as well as parton distribution functions (PDFs) that describe the hadrons initiating the interactions. We consider transverse momentum dependent PDFs (TMDs) by including transverse directions in momentum space in the description of these objects. New phenomena appear and manifest themselves for example in the form of angular correlations between the particles involved in the process. Another effect is the sensitivity to polarization modes of the hadron and constituent partons that would not have been possible without the inclusion of these transverse directions. It is therefore relevant to study these TMDs.

In these proceedings, which are based on the Refs. [2, 3], we focus on the universality properties of these TMDs. In a color gauge invariant description, gauge links, path ordered exponentials, have to be included in the definition of TMDs. These gauge links appear as a result of gluon emissions coupling to the (colored) particles in the hard scattering process. It is this interplay between gauge links and the hard process that introduces a sensitivity and potential process dependence of the TMDs to the process in which they appear, since the gauge link structure is process dependent itself. We refer to Ref. [4] for a tabulation of which it appears, since the gauge link structure is process dependent as well.

In order to proceed, we present some general conclusions and a brief discussion of the results.

2 Quarks

For quarks, the matrix element describing the correlator is given by

\[ q_{ij}(x, p_T; \xi) = \int \frac{d^2 \xi}{(2\pi)^2} e^{i p_T \cdot \xi} \times |P| \langle 0 | U_{[0, \xi]} \psi_i(\xi) | P \rangle |_{\xi = 0}, \]

which contains a bilocal combination of quark fields connected by a gauge link \( U_{[0, \xi]} \). This gauge link, ensuring color gauge invariance in the process, consists of a path ordered exponential. As will be explained later, the path depends on the process under consideration and is constructed out of staple like pieces, running through light cone infinity. They are of the form \( U_{[0, \xi]} = \prod_{n=0}^{n} U_{[0, B_n]} \), with \( n \) being the direction along the light cone and \( T \) the direction in the transverse plane. The two simplest paths are indicated in Fig. 1 connecting the fields through either plus or minus light cone infinity. These gauge links emerge due to soft gluon emission from the quark correlator coupling to the particle involved in the hard process. Initial state interactions (ISIs) give rise to minus gauge links and final state interactions (FSIs) imply plus gauge links.
The two simplest gauge links for quark distribution functions. The dots indicate the positions 0 and $\xi$ of the two quark fields in the correlator, while the path of the gauge link is indicated by the line connection the two positions. In the simplest configuration the gauge link runs through either plus or minus light cone infinity, illustrated in (a) and (b) respectively. Figures taken from Ref. [5].

The second way to describe the correlator is by writing an expansion in terms of transverse momentum dependent parton distribution functions (TMDs). The contributions for an unpolarized hadron are given by

$$\Phi^{U}(x, p_{T}^{2}, n) = \left( f^{U}_{1}(x, p_{T}^{2}) + i h^{U}_{1}(x, p_{T}^{2}) \right) \frac{p_{\perp}}{M} \frac{p}{2},$$

with $h^{U}_{1}(x, p_{T}^{2})$ being the Boer-Mulders function, the function describing transversely polarized quarks in an unpolarized proton, whereas $f^{U}_{1}(x, p_{T}^{2})$ describes the unpolarized quark in an unpolarized proton. By including linearly or transversely polarized hadrons more TMDs have to be included in the parametrization, for which we refer to Ref. [6].

As of now, we have two descriptions, which should be related to each other. In order to do so, we use transverse moments, weightings with transverse momenta, a procedure which can be applied at the level of both the TMDs and the matrix elements. For the matrix elements, the result of a single transverse weighting is given by [7]

$$\Phi^{U}_{\alpha}(x) = \int d^{2}p_{\perp} \Phi^{U}(x, p_{T}^{2})$$

$$= \left( \Phi^{\alpha}_{D}(x) - \Phi^{\alpha}_{A}(x) \right) + \Phi^{U}_{G}(x)$$

$$= \Phi^{\alpha}_{D}(x) + \Phi^{U}_{G}(x).$$

The matrix element $\Phi^{U}_{G}(x)$ is referred to as gluonic pole or Efremov-Teryaev-Qiu-Sterman matrix element [8] and appears multiplied with a gluonic pole prefactor $C^{U}_{G}$. All process dependence is isolated in these calculable gluonic pole prefactors. The matrix elements in Eq. 3 are defined through [9]

$$\Phi^{\alpha}_{D}(x) = \int d x_{1} \Phi^{\alpha}_{D}(x - x_{1}, x_{1}|x),$$

$$\Phi^{\alpha}_{A}(x) = \int d x_{1} PV \frac{i}{x_{1}} \Phi^{\alpha}_{F}(x - x_{1}, x_{1}|x),$$

$$\Phi^{\alpha}_{G}(x) = \pi \Phi^{\alpha}_{F}(x, 0|x),$$

with

$$\Phi^{\alpha}_{D}(x - x_{1}, x_{1}|x) = \int d^{2}p_{\perp} \frac{d \eta}{(2\pi)^{2}} e^{i p_{\perp} \cdot P_{\perp}} e^{i \eta \cdot P_{\perp}} \xi \langle P|\bar{\psi}_{j}(0)$$

$$\times U(0|\eta) i D^{\perp}_{\alpha}(\eta) U(0|\xi)\psi_{i}(\xi)|P \rangle_{LC}.$$
momenta are defined as the symmetric and traceless tensors, e.g.,
\[ p_{ri} = p_{ri} - \frac{1}{2} p_i^2 g_{ri}. \] (10)

For a single transverse weighting, we have to multiply Eq. (9) with \( p_{ri} \) and integrate over transverse momentum. Due to the definitions of the transverse momentum tensors, on the r.h.s. only the matrix elements with the prefactor \( p_{ri} \) survive, i.e. the integrated versions of \( \Phi_G(x, p_i^2) \) and \( C_G^{[U]} \Phi_G(x, p_i^2) \). This can be generalized for transverse weightings with an arbitrary number of arbitrary rank.

Applying the transverse weightings on TMDs, we obtain the weighted functions
\[ f_{\omega[U]}(x, p_i^2) = \left( \frac{-p_i^2}{2M^2} \right) f^U(x, p_i^2). \] (11)

Usually only the integrated functions \( f_{\omega[U]}(x) \) are referred to as transverse moment. We will extend this name to functions that still depend on \( p_i^2 \), but are azimuthally averaged. The behavior of the TMDs under time reversal symmetry is known. E.g. \( f_1 \) is T-even, while the Boer-Mulders function \( h_1^{2T} \) is T-odd. We could therefore identify (at the level of transverse moments) which TMD corresponds to which matrix element in the expansion in Eq. (9). For example, \( h_1^T \) corresponds to \( C_G^{[U]} \Phi_G(x, p_i^2) \), see e.g. Ref. [7], whereas \( f_1 \) corresponds to \( \Phi(x, p_i^2) \). This way, all TMDs could be associated with one or more matrix elements.

For the rank 2 Pretzelocity function a complication arises, since it corresponds to the matrix elements \( \Phi^{[U]}_G(x, p_i^2) \) and \( C_{GG}^{[U]} \Phi_{GG}(x, p_i^2) \), the latter coming in two color contributions, see the Refs. [2, 10]. Therefore, we have three Pretzelocity functions,
\[ h_1^{[U]}(x, p_i^2) = h_1^{A[U]}(x, p_i^2) + C_{GG}^{[U]} h_1^{B[U]}(x, p_i^2) + C_{GG}^{[U]} h_1^{B[U]}(x, p_i^2). \] (12)

Note that we strictly speaking only make the identification at the level of transverse moments using our methods. Incidentally, for both Drell-Yan and SIDIS we get the same linear combination of them, namely
\[ h_1^{[A]}(x, p_i^2) = h_1^{A[U]}(x, p_i^2) + h_1^{B[U]}(x, p_i^2). \] (13)

Nevertheless, it still is important to realize the underlying structure of these functions.

### 3 Gluons

For gluons, a similar approach can be used and the matrix element for the gluon correlator is given by [4, 12, 13]
\[ \Gamma^{[U,U]}(x, p_i; n) = \int \frac{d \xi \cdot D \cdot \xi}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i p \cdot \xi} \{ P, S | F^{U[0]}(0) \}
\times U_{[0, \xi]} F^{U[\xi]} U_{[\xi, 0]} | P, S \} \}_{\xi | \xi}. \] (14)

Note that a color tracing is still required in the above definition. Since the gluon fields are color octets rather than color triplets, two gauge link contributions are required for a proper gauge invariant description, indicated by \( U \) and \( U' \) in the above equation. Both contributions consist of staple like gauge links, with optionally additional Wilson loops. The three types of structures that can be constructed this way in the relevant 2 \( \rightarrow \) 2 processes are given by

- **type 1**: \( \text{Tr} \left( F^{U[0]}(0) U_{[\xi, 0]} F^{U[\xi]} U_{[\xi, 0]} \right) \)
- **type 2**: \( \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr} \left( F^{U[0]}(0) U_{[\xi, 0]} F^{U[\xi]} U_{[\xi, 0]} \right) \)
- **type 3**: \( \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr} \left( F^{U[0]}(0) U_{[\xi, 0]} F^{U[\xi]} U_{[\xi, 0]} \right) \)

The first type corresponds to correlators containing a single color trace only, among them the four simplest gluon gauge link structures allowed, illustrated in Fig. 2(a)-(d). These four gauge link structures consist of the staple links going through plus or minus light cone infinity. Since there are two possibilities for both of them, it leaves us with four structures. More involved structures also allow for e.g. the situation that \( U \) and \( U' \) are a combination of three staple links, illustrated in more detail in Fig. 2(e). Correlators of the second type have two or more color traces and are extensions of the first type. Starting from the structure of the first type, one can allow for color traces containing gauge link loops only and multiply the type 1 correlator with them, see e.g. Fig. 2(f). In this, we define the gauge link loops as \( U^{[l]} = U_{[l]} U_{[\xi, \xi]} \) or \( U^{[l]} = U_{[\xi, \xi]} U^{[l]} \). Type 3 correlators are required too, see Fig. 2(g)-(h), but in these proceedings the focus will be on the type 1 and type 2 color structures.

Just as for quarks, the minus gauge links come from initial state interactions and the plus gauge links from final state interactions. A simple illustration for gluons involves...
Note that we omitted the gauge links themselves for the features involved) the matrix elements only. We then have (depending on the gauge link structure)

\[
\Gamma_{GG,3}^{\alpha_1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr}_c \left( \left[ G_t^{\alpha_1}(\xi), G_t^{\alpha_2}(\xi) \right] \right) \text{Tr}_c \left( F(0) F(\xi) \right),
\]

(17a)

\[
\Gamma_{GG,4}^{\alpha_1\alpha_2} \rightarrow \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr}_c \left( F(0) G_t^{\alpha_1}(\xi) \right) \text{Tr}_c \left( \left[ G_t^{\alpha_2}(\xi), F(\xi) \right] \right).
\]

(17b)

The parentheses around some indices in some of the above equations indicates a symmetrization over those indices. For contributions receiving \( \delta \) contributions only, defined through \( \text{i} \partial^a = i D_\mu^a - A_\mu^a \), we find that they always come in the commutator combination, i.e.

\[
\tilde{\Gamma}_{\delta}^{\alpha_1} \rightarrow \text{Tr}_c \left( F(0) \left[ \text{i} \partial^\alpha, F(\xi) \right] \right),
\]

(18a)

\[
\tilde{\Gamma}_{\delta}^{\alpha_2} \rightarrow \text{Tr}_c \left( F(0) \left[ \text{i} \partial^\alpha, \left[ \text{i} \partial^\alpha, F(\xi) \right] \right] \right),
\]

(18b)

\[
\tilde{\Gamma}_{\delta\delta}^{\alpha_2} \rightarrow \text{Tr}_c \left( F(0) \left[ \text{i} \partial^\alpha, \left[ \text{i} \partial^\alpha, F(\xi) \right] \right] \right) \right). \tag{18c}
\]

On top of this, also a number of mixed terms exists that have both gluonic pole and \( \delta \) contributions. A full list of all these contributions (and the gluonic pole contributions not shown above) can be found in Ref. [13]. Again writing down the expansion of the correlator in terms of matrix elements containing gluonic poles and \( \delta \) contributions, we find [13,15]

\[
\Gamma^{\alpha_1}(x, p^2_r) = \Gamma(x, p^2_r) + \frac{p_{\alpha_1}}{M^2} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\alpha_1}(x, p^2_r) + \frac{p_{\alpha_1} p_{\alpha_2}}{M^2} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\alpha_1\alpha_2}(x, p^2_r) + \ldots
\]
We could find this by looking at the r.h.s. of Eq.\[19\]. Only the rank 2 objects on the r.h.s. of that equation survive weighing over two transverse momenta, the reason for which is analogues to the explanation we gave at the end of Section\[2\] for transverse weighting of the quark correlator. Among the surviving matrix elements are specific contributions with zero, one and two gluonic poles which come in different color configurations, hence the summation over the index $c$.

Applying transverse weightings on the TMDs, using the definition in Eq.\[11\] we can identify which TMD corresponds to which matrix element in the expansion in Eq.\[15\]. It turns out that $h_{1}^{1}$ is the only gluon TMD contributing at rank 2. It is a T-even function (this function is multiplied by two factors of $p_{F}$ in Eq.\[15\] and could therefore correspond to both $\Gamma_{\text{odd}}(p_{F})$ and $C_{[U]}^{\text{U}}\Gamma_{\text{odd}}(p_{F})$, with $c$ running from 1 to 4, since there are four possibilities to trace the color. This implies that there are five $h_{1}^{1}$ functions, which depending on the process under consideration appear in different linear combinations, since four of them come with a process dependent gluonic pole factor. There is no identification with $\Gamma_{\text{odd}}(p_{F})$, since there are no T-odd rank 2 contributions at leading twist that could be identified with it. Including the results for the TMDs not explicitly mentioned in Eq.\[15\] this leads for the gluon TMDs to the results

\begin{align}
  h_{1}^{\text{g}[U]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) &= \sum_{c=1}^{2} C_{G,c}^{[U]} h_{1}^{\text{g}[Ac]}(x, p_{T}^{2}), \\
  h_{1}^{\text{g}[U]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) &= \sum_{c=1}^{2} C_{G,c}^{[U]} h_{1}^{\text{g}[Ac]}(x, p_{T}^{2}), \\
  h_{1}^{\text{gl}[U]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) &= \sum_{c=1}^{2} C_{G,c}^{[U]} h_{1}^{\text{gl}[Ac]}(x, p_{T}^{2}), \\
  h_{1}^{\text{g}[U]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) &= \sum_{c=1}^{2} C_{G,c}^{[U]} h_{1}^{\text{g}[Ac]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) + \sum_{c=1}^{2} C_{GG,c}^{[U]} h_{1}^{\text{g}[Bc]}(x, p_{T}^{2}), \\
  h_{1}^{\text{gl}[U]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) &= \sum_{c=1}^{2} C_{G,c}^{[U]} h_{1}^{\text{gl}[Ac]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) + \sum_{c=1}^{2} C_{GG,c}^{[U]} h_{1}^{\text{gl}[Bc]}(x, p_{T}^{2}).
\end{align}

The three TMDs not mentioned above in the Eqs.\[24\]-\[25\] namely $f_{1}^{g}$, $g_{1}$ and $g_{1}^{\text{g}[T]}$, are process independent.

To illustrate this generalized universality for the $h_{1}^{1}$, consider the situations for the three diagrams illustrated in Fig.\[5\]. We find for both the Higgs production through gluon fusion and the scattering of a gluon on a Higgs particle that

\begin{align}
  h_{1}^{\text{g}[-1]g}[x, p_{T}^{2}] &= h_{1}^{\text{g}[A]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) + h_{1}^{\text{g}[B]}(x, p_{T}^{2}), \\
  h_{1}^{\text{g}[+1]g}[x, p_{T}^{2}] &= h_{1}^{\text{g}[A]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) + h_{1}^{\text{g}[B]}(x, p_{T}^{2}).
\end{align}

whereas we find for the color splitting example in Fig.\[3\]c) that

\begin{align}
  h_{1}^{\text{g}[-1]g}[x, p_{T}^{2}] &= h_{1}^{\text{g}[A]}(x, p_{T}^{2}) + h_{1}^{\text{g}[B]}(x, p_{T}^{2}).
\end{align}

In order to find the functions $h_{1}^{\text{g}[B3]}(x, p_{T}^{2})$ and $h_{1}^{\text{g}[B4]}(x, p_{T}^{2})$ more complicated diagrams have to be considered.

4 Conclusions

For the quarks, a result of applying the method of generalization of universality is the discovery of three Pretzelocity functions rather than one. In any process in particular it is a linear combination of these functions that appears. It is the gauge link structure of the diagram under consideration that determines which linear combination appears. For Drell-Yan and SIDIS one does find the same linear combination of Pretzelocity functions. Nevertheless it is still important to know the precise operator structure underlying the TMDs, since it is important for studies wherein the operator structures involved become relevant, e.g. in lattice calculations.

For the gluon TMDs $f_{1}^{\text{g}[U]}$, $h_{1}^{\text{g}[U]}$, $h_{1}^{\text{gl}[U]}$, $h_{1}^{\text{g}[L]}$ and $h_{1}^{\text{gl}[L]}$ multiple functions appear and linear combinations of these functions have to be considered. This brings the number of TMDs operator-wise at 23, although there still are only 8 observable TMD structures. Nevertheless, it can be calculated how each of these observable structures are constructed out of the 23 objects for any given process.

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References


